

William Guild House

Near Kemnay, Manitoba



R.R. Rostecki

April 1988

History

William Guild homesteaded the northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 10, Range 20W in 1883. This section was to be found about a mile and a half northeast of a Canadian Pacific Railway Station, now known as Kemnay, which is located eight miles west of Brandon. Guild and his wife, the former Anna Duff Lumsden, raised four boys and a girl on this plot of land. William Guild operated this farm until his retirement in 1937, whereupon his son Tom ran the farm until it was sold to Alfred Poole in 1944. Currently, the property belongs to one of Mr. Poole's daughters, Edith and her husband Glenn Mowat.¹

The original Guild house was a sod shanty which, many years later, was remembered by his daughter, Christina or Christine Guild Bredt. An improved home was built of logs sometime in the later eighties or early nineties, and this structure remained in use until well into the new century. However, it is the middle years of the Guild ownership that are the ones of prime interest to the paper. Though documentation is sparse, the Guild family erected a new farmhouse sometime around the year 1916. This is the present structure. Mrs. Bredt's family believes that the twenty-five year old Christina designed the entire structure, for she submitted the floor plans of what became the family house to a Manitoba Agricultural College competition either prior to or subsequent to the construction of the house.

In the late spring of 1916, the College:

in cooperation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, inaugurated a Better Farm Homes Competition, open to the farm women of the Province. It was hoped by this method to learn what type of house the housewife on the farm actually needed for our Western Canadian conditions; for who can tell what is necessary in the farm home better than the women whose life work is in these houses?²

There were no first, second or third prizes. Instead, five equal awards of twenty-five dollars each in cutlery or silverware were given to the women whose floor plans were selected by three judges. These included L.J. Smith, Professor of Agricultural Engineering; Margaret Kennedy, Professor of Household Art, both at the Manitoba Agricultural College; and Mrs. M.E. McBeath, a "well known pioneer Manitoba farm woman" from Headingley. (Plate 1) The winners were chosen by early August 1916.³



Over 130 women had applied to the College for cross-sectional drawing paper and competition directions. The competition was for the best layout. Therefore, the contestants only had to submit floor plans without elevations or perspectives of what the building would look like. Sixty-three plans were submitted, leading to a final selection of five finalists. From this point, the College compiled "plans of farm homes in which will be incorporated the ideas that the women have furnished." Indeed, the floor plans were drafted into perspective plans by two Winnipeg residents, A.S. Corrigill, an Architecture student, and Francis H. Parr, an Architect, as the original competition was "not in draughtsmanship, but rather in ideas."⁴

The first of the award-winning plans were published in the rural press in the latter part of June 1917.⁵ By the time of the issuance of "Better Farm Homes" in December 1917 (Appendix One), The Agricultural College had sold 34 sets of plans to interested members of the public.⁶ The subsequent use of these "sold plans" is unknown. The designs were allocated letters from A through E, and the prizes were awarded to the following parties:

Mrs. R. Robbins, Glenella, Plan A
Mrs. T.T. Baird, Crystal City
Mrs. F.E. Garvin, Bird's Hill
Mrs. G.S. Gudmanson, Framnes
Miss Christine Guild, Kemnay, Plan E

A Sixth individual, Mrs. Henry Waller of Binscarth was responsible for Plan D, though she may have won a prize for her effort.⁷

Of the five published designs, only Plan E, that of the Guild House, appears to have ever existed physically. It must be remembered that the competition was held to find the best ideas for floor plans. It was the responsibility of the architects to design perspective drawings to complement each plan. Thus, the prize-winning floor plans were not always in existence, nor did they have to be used by their sponsors. Indeed, when the Wallers built their new house in Binscarth around 1920, it was a one and a half storey bungalow instead of the two storey house envisioned in Plan D.⁸ In the case of Plan E, even Parr's perspective is significantly different from the actual Guild design. The Parr version shows a house with a higher roof profile, another porch system, and slightly different fenestration. (Plate 2) The "Collaboration" between the architects and the farmwomen was considered to be a happy occurrence for:

There are many farmer's wives who have some excellent ideas in regard to how country houses should be planned so as to be most convenient and practical. Yet in the face of this fact, there has always been a dearth of ready prepared and complete plans of farm homes that are happily adapted to the farm conditions of this country. The trouble has been that the ideas of the country women in regard to details and the professional skill of the architect who will take these ideas and incorporate them into a set of finished plans have never been brought together.⁹

Style

This house was designed with an informal Classical Revival styling, which was common at the time. The form is visible in the boxy massing of the house. The influence of Classicism is also evident in the Tuscan porch columns, being topped by a frieze and lastly by undecorated pediments. The styling of the Guild House could be said to be largely vernacular, for its exterior incorporated many popular styling idioms of the era.

The former Guild House is of wood frame construction set atop a poured concrete foundation. This was a very common mode of building on the prairies in the era prior to the First World War. This was because of the ease of erecting such a structure, as well as its relatively low cost in comparison to brick or stone. Indeed, there was a great influx of lumber from British Columbia to meet the large demand of the prairies. At one point, it was estimated that the Prairie Provinces consumed some sixty percent of British Columbia's lumber production. This was enough to prompt the B.C. government to appoint a "Prairie Lumber Commissioner".¹⁰ (Plate 3) The use of concrete as a foundation material was also becoming common at that time, as it was perceived as being superior to the field stone which had hitherto been utilized. Like wood framing, concrete was also easy to work with, and required less construction time than did the setting of stones. The application of insul-tex siding to this house appears to have been done in the 1940s or 1950s in an attempt to better insulate this building. It also cut down on the amount of exterior maintenance while attempting to "improve" the appearance of the place by putting an imitation stone covering over the old siding.

Design

This structure is a derivation of the typical central hall plan. It features an uncommon corner entrance to the dwelling, along with corresponding cutaway corners at this aperture. This cutaway allowed circulation of air beneath the floor of the sleeping-porch immediately above. (Plate 4) The enclosure of the sleeping porch within the body of the house is an unconventional



element, as most dwellings that had them, featured the porch as a second storey add-on to the rear of the structure. While this would have been a very serviceable feature in the summer, its winter utility is somewhat doubtful. Given the circulation of cool winter air below the floor, it is not believed the sleeping porch was very utilitarian, aside from storage uses, in the winter! The cutaway corner entrance is hidden behind the unusual corner verandah, which never had wings along the outside walls, being intended to give a view in three directions.

The interior of this house became the main feature of this design, and was considered quite good by the judges. In the words of the *Better Farm Houses* Extension Bulletin:

This plan comes the nearest of the prize plans to meeting the average requirements as to size, according to an average of the plans submitted in the competition, it being 30 x 32".

It is quite different from the other plans shown, having a corner porch from which one can look out in three directions; and a front hall or reception room with attractive front stairs. If so desired, a coat closet could be had at "C" 1.

Many wish a small room on the first floor apart from the others and yet easily accessible. The den or study will meet such a requirement. Some might prefer to combine the hall space with that of the den, and have a large common room with a fire-place; but the hall with its large archway between is really a part of the living room.

The kitchen has but one outside wall; but with the arrangement of doors, there should be no difficulty in securing ample ventilation in warm weather. The pantry is located conveniently between the kitchen and dining room. In the corner is a clothes chute leading down from the bathroom. The chute does not detract from the pantry, since the space that it occupies would be hard to utilize, being in the corner between shelves on the left and the little table-cupboard under the window at the right. Many would put a slide in the partition between the pantry and the dining room.

The back stairs lead up from the washroom to a little landing, which opens on the hired men's bedroom or into the hall near the bathroom. There is a small window at the turn of the stair (not shown in the plan) to give plenty of light.

There are three good-sized, well lighted and ventilated bedrooms besides the men's room. Each has a good closet. There is also a good linen closet conveniently located off the upper hall. The attic stairs lead to a nice attic bedroom with good closets.



Many will appreciate the little sleeping porch. From it, one can step out on the upper verandah, which commands a splendid view of the surrounding country, and which is very useful for airing, bedding, and during house cleaning time.

[In the layout of the kitchen, one may note] the built-in ironing board, a very convenient arrangement. The diner wagon may stand here also, or be left in the little back hall between the kitchen and dining room. The table may be in the centre of the kitchen or by the window, according to what it is being used for. There is also a ventilated cleaning cupboard in the corner of the washroom behind the door.

The basement is conveniently arranged. It is intended that the laundry work will be done in the basement. A large concrete cistern is planned for, underneath the concrete cellar floor, thus occupying no cellar space.

During the intervening seventy years, the design of this house, with its emphasis on good ventilation has been changed very little by its subsequent owners who seem to have a high regard for its innovations. Small changes, mostly cosmetic, have taken place. The larger ones include the construction of a triangular fireplace and hearth in one corner of the dining room, and the removal of one wall to enlarge the kitchen space. The design, therefore, has worked very well over the course of time.

Interior

Aside from changes in wall finishes and the removal of an interior wall, the former Guild House is little changed. This indicates that its interior has worked well over the ensuing seven decades. The finish and quality of this interior is that of a well-to-do farm family of the World War I era. There is nothing too pretentious or wealthy-looking, yet the place has an atmosphere of informal comfort.

Integrity

- i) the Guild House occupies its original site.
- ii) Despite having had insul-tex added to its outer walls, and the minor interior changes noted earlier, this house has suffered very little alteration.
- iii) The Guild House is in apparently good structural condition.

Streetscape

This is a rural setting, of course, and the Guild House sits within an enclosed farmyard. It possesses a number of outbuildings, which are also of some interest.



Architect/Contractor

While Christina Guild (1891-1985) submitted the floor plan for this house to the Better Farm Homes Competition, it is not certain that she designed the entire structure. Tradition within the Bredt family says that they believe she designed the entire house, though they also state that she never spoke much about the competition or the house itself. As the architects worked up the floor plans into perspective drawings, there has arisen a confusion regarding the design of the Guild House. The main question is: Did Christina Guild design the entire house? To attempt to answer this, one must recapitulate the competition chronology:

1. Mid-May, 1916 - Farm women were asked to submit floor plans for a contest. The announcement spoke of prizes to be given, with the best designs being taken by professional architects and designed into finished plans and perspectives.
2. Early August, 1916 - The Agricultural College announced that there were sixty-three contestants, and gave a list of final winners.
3. Winter, 1916-17 - The Women's floor plans were worked up by Corrigan and Parr into finished building plans.
4. Early June, 1917 - Plans and drawings began to appear in the farm press. Plan "E", as the Guild plan was now identified, did not appear until late December 1917. At that time, there was no photograph shown of the Guild House in the farm press.
5. December 1917 - This marked the publication of the Better Homes bulletin. Though dated December 1917, it is possible that the bulletin appeared during 1918. The house was completed by this date as Plan E, now showed a photograph of the house in addition to Francis Parr's drawings of a house. It was the only plan to have an actual photograph attached to it. This was the first known photograph of the Guild House.

As a result, there are a number of possible design scenarios for the Guild House:

- a) That Christina Guild designed the entire house, either before or after the competition. This is possible, given the fact that an exact date is not known for this house. The house may have been built in 1916-17, but there is no documentation to prove this notion, just as there is none to disprove that it may have been built somewhat earlier (c. 1912 to c. 1915). This scenario accounts for the family's belief of the total Christina design.
- b) That Miss Guild submitted floor plans to the competition, and these were worked up into a perspective and plans by Francis Parr. These were sent to Miss Guild, who reworked the perspective, changing details to suit herself and her parents. This may have resulted in the Guild House as built, which bears a resemblance to the Parr design, with a different roof, porch and fenestration. (Plates 2 and 3). This gives a possible reason why the photograph



of the house showed up at the end of 1917. It may have just been built, thus giving it a date of 1917.

- c) That the Guild House was built sometime prior to 1916, and that Miss Guild merely submitted the floor plans of her parents' home. She may or may not have had design input into this structure.

At the present time, the dearth of solid data on this building, options A and B are both about equal for possibility. While the layout of the submitted floor plan was considered innovative by the judges, neither the Parr or Guild designs for the body of the house shown much that is unusual, aside from the corner verandah and sleeping porch. The similarity between the Parr and Guild designs might suggest that Miss Guild embellished Parr's designs to create her own design. Of course, the exact reverse could also be true, that Parr reworked the Guild design. It is unlikely that additional information exists which would confirm the exact roles of Parr and Guild in the design of the house. In any case, it appears most likely that Guild was solely responsible for the floor plans of the house.

Christina Guild was born in 1891 at Kemnay, Manitoba. She is known to have had a home economics background from the University of Manitoba.¹¹ She was a member of a local home economics society, an organization which evolved by 1919 into the local Women's Institute.¹² As well, in attempting to better the lot of Manitoba farm women, "concern for proper child care and household management preoccupied local societies during their earliest years..."¹³

As far as is presently known, this was the only house Miss Guild designed. Her husband, Paul Bredt, whom she married c.1919 was the President of the Manitoba Wheat Pool for many years. At the time of Mr. Bredt's sudden death on 28 November 1940, she had three children¹⁴, and eventually went from Winnipeg to British Columbia. She died on 31 May, 1985 at the age of ninety-four.

Contractor

The builder of this structure was quite likely William Guild, assisted by his family.

Person/Institution

The Guild House is one of the products of the better life movement propagated by the Manitoba Women's Institutes.



The first Women's Institutes of Manitoba were established in the communities of Morris and Valley River in 1910 -- part of what may be regarded both as national, and as an international movement. In the Canadian West, local Institutes were an important and even life-promoting response to pioneer women's needs. Manitoba Institutes were affiliated with the provincial department of agriculture. They provided a vital, versatile forum for the sharing among members of ideas and problems. Institute programs included community service projects, lectures and regular informational meetings important to family health and the quality of life on the prairies.

Throughout their history, the institutes have fielded a series of timely contributions to the social development of the West. Some challenges met by the Institutes were shared with the women of urban Canada, but others -- were peculiar to the life circumstances of rural women.¹⁵

The fiftieth anniversary of the Women's Institutes along with the social contributions of these organizations was commemorated in 1960 by the Historic Sites Advisory Board. The Build House was erected as a result of a desire to construct a better farmhouse, and in this instance, it was Miss Guild, with her association to the Institutes that left her mark on the Manitoba landscape.

Event

The Better Farm Homes Competition of 1916 was the catalyst in rendering this remarkable house. Prior to that time, publications devoted to farm homes had been devised and published by men with little advice from women. The Better Farm Homes Competition was claimed at the time to have been the first contest to stress that women spent a lot of time working in these homes, and therefore, their advice was most valuable in designing convenient layouts.¹⁶ While the claim of a formal collaboration between the architect/builder and the farmwife is quite likely true, it is also probably true that much informal discussion took place between wives and builders as any new farmhouse took shape. This would include the placement of conveniences, rooms and windows that would make the structure more habitable.

Context

The circumstances surrounding the erection of the Guild House and its designer winning a layout competition were elements in the growing role of women in what had hitherto been a male dominated society. This had its roots in the suffragette movement of the 1890s and early



1900s, and its future in the feminism of the latter twentieth century. The Better Farm Homes Competition and the Build House were two parts of the larger feminist picture.

The role of women in either erecting or designing the family abode has had a long history in Manitoba. It began during pre-European contact times when the women of the native family units were responsible for erecting and maintaining tipis. After the arrival of European settlers, women undoubtedly played a role in planning the frontier homes. Unfortunately, this role was never more formalized, and as a result, the woman's relationship to the design process of farm homes came to be either underutilized or understated. Because of this, many houses of less than ideal characteristics were constructed on Manitoba's farms.

This led to a variety of publications emerging which featured house plans. Most were designed by urban male architects who had little to do with rural settings, as their creations could fit into either urban or rural settings. Many plan books of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were created by men for women, and most books by women for women tended to stress domestic operations rather than good, convenient design. This practice led to the Better Farm Homes Competition of 1916 with its reliance upon the ideas of the inmates of the farm homes themselves, the Manitoba farm women.

In terms of relationship of Miss Guild to the role of women in professional building design, it is worthy to note that the first female graduate of the University of Manitoba's Bachelor of Architecture program was Ethelyn Wallace in 1932. Unfortunately, she did not register with the Manitoba Association of Architects, (MAA) and appears not have practised in Manitoba. Furthermore, the first Diploma of Interior Decoration was earned by Helen Semmens in 1939. The first female architect registered with the MAA was Elizabeth M. Lord in 1945. She had a long and distinguished career in Winnipeg. Lastly, the first four female graduates with a Bachelor of Interior Design came out of the University of Manitoba in 1949.¹⁷

Landmark

Despite its somewhat unusual appearance and distinctive history, the former Guild House does not stand out as an area landmark because it is a distance from the road, is surrounded by trees, and is in a slight valley. Its associated outbuildings stand out in far greater prominence, and are more easily noticed from the road than is the house. Once inside its shelter belt of trees, the house becomes quite prominent in the yard.



COUNTRY LIFE IN CANADA

July, 1916

Five prizes, each of the value of \$25, are offered to Manitoba women who are members of the Home Economics Societies, or who are living or have lived on the farm, by the Manitoba Agricultural College. These prizes are for the best ideas in farm house planning. In order to assist the contestants to present their ideas clearly, cross-section paper will be furnished free to each contestant, also a sample drawing will be sent. When the plans are all in, the College staff will compile plans of farm homes in which will be incorporated the ideas that the women have furnished. The whole scheme is planned so as to demand no previous skill in drawing on the part of contestants; this competition is not in draughtsmanship but rather in ideas. A folder giving details may be obtained by writing President Reynolds, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

PLATE 1 This was one of the original announcements indicating that a competition was taking place for a better farm home. (Legislative Library of Manitoba, Country Life in Canada, July 1916, p. 14)



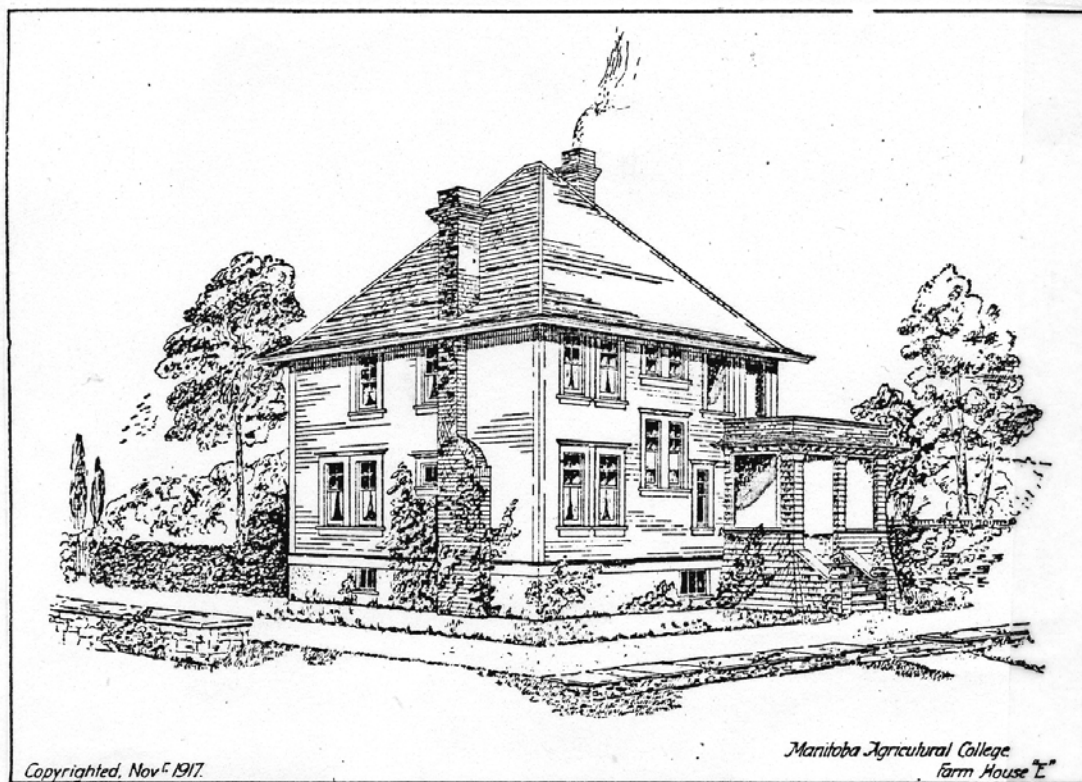


PLATE 2 Perspective Plan for Farm House 'E', as envisioned by Francis H. Parrr based upon a floor plan submitted by Christina Guild, Kemnay, Manitoba. Parr's design was somewhat different than that of the actual house. (L.J. Smith, *Better Farm Homes, A Bulletin of House Plans*. (Winnipeg: Manitoba Farmers' Library, Extension Bulletin No. 21, December 1917, p. 17)



PLATE 3: The William Guild House, as it originally appeared in 1917. The most conspicuous changes in this building have been the removal of the railings on the verandah, and the addition of insul-tex siding to the outer walls. (L.J. smith, Better Farm Homes, A Bulletin of House Plans. (Winnipeg: Manitoba Farmers' Library, Extension Bulletin No. 21, December 17, p. 17)

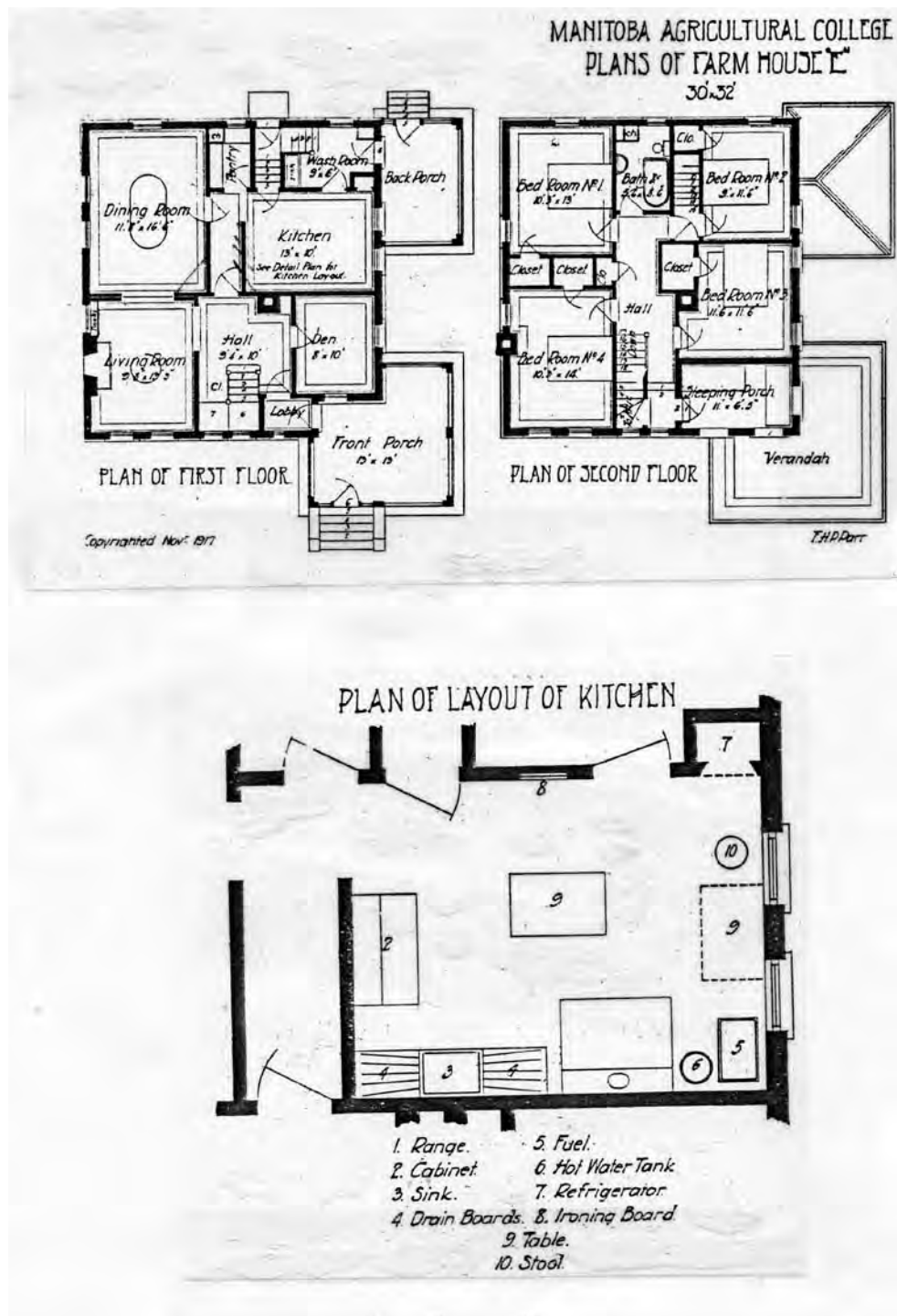


PLATE 4: Floor Plan of Farm House 'E', as worked up by Francis H. Parr, from a layout submitted by Christina Guild, Kemnay, Manitoba. This plan was very similar to the Guild House as it was built. (L.J. Smith, Better Farm Homes, a Bulletin of House Plans. (Winnipeg: Manitoba Farmers' Library, Extension Bulletin No. 21, December 17, p. 16)



Better Farm Homes

INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 1916, the Manitoba Agricultural College, in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, inaugurated a Better Farm Homes Competition, open to the farm women of the Province. It was hoped by this method to learn what type of house the housewife on the farm actually needed for our Western Canadian conditions; for who can tell what is necessary in the farm home better than the women whose life work is in these houses?

Though it was a busy season, over 130 women applied for cross-sectional drawing paper and directions for entering the competition. Sixty-three plans were submitted, and of these five were selected by the judges as being the best; five equal prizes of \$25.00 each in cutlery or silverware being given. The judges were Miss Margaret Kennedy, Professor of Household Art, Manitoba Agricultural College; Mrs. M. E. McBeath, a well-known pioneer Manitoba farm woman, and the writer. The prize winners were:

Mrs. T. T. Baird, Crystal City.
Mrs. F. E. Garvin, Bird's Hill.
Miss Christine Guild, Kemnay.
Mrs. R. Robbins, Glenella.
Mrs. G. S. Gudmanson, Framnes.

The plans submitted ran from 20 x 24' to 38 x 38', with a large single storey addition at the rear for kitchen, laundry, etc. The average size of the houses submitted was 28 x 34' or 30 x 32'. The average size of the kitchens was 11½ x 15'. A large number, however, were to be used as kitchen and dining room. The detailed kitchen layouts, showing the arrangement and location of the equipment, were done in consultation with Miss Ethel Eadie, our Professor of Household Science.

The architectural drawings of plans "A" and "B" were done by A. S. Corrigill, a Manitoba University student in Architecture, now with the Royal Flying Corps; while the other plans ("C," "D," "E") were executed by F. H. P. Parr, a Winnipeg architect.

HOW TO SECURE WORKING DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS AND BILLS OF MATERIAL

Complete working drawings and specifications of these plans have been prepared by capable draftsmen under the direction of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, whose Instructor in Carpentry, Mr. R. Mitchell, has gotten out complete bills of material for each plan. These working drawings, specifications and bills of material of house plans shown may, by writing the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg, be had for the nominal sum of \$3.00 paid by Manitoba applicants, and \$5.00 by those residing elsewhere. We have already filled orders for 34 sets of these plans.





Figure 1

House Plan "A"

House plan "A" is the first of the prize plans. It was submitted by Mrs. R. Robbins, of Glenella, Manitoba, and is the smallest of the prize houses, being only 26 x 28'; yet the house contains four rooms on the first floor and four bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor. It was necessary to make a few minor changes from the original to allow

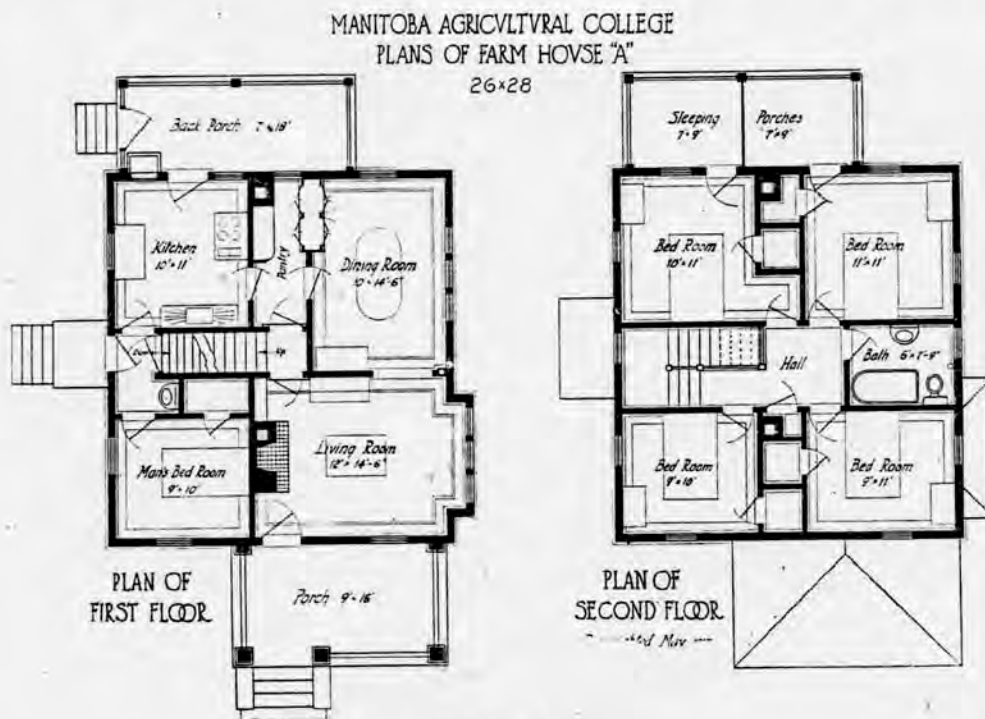
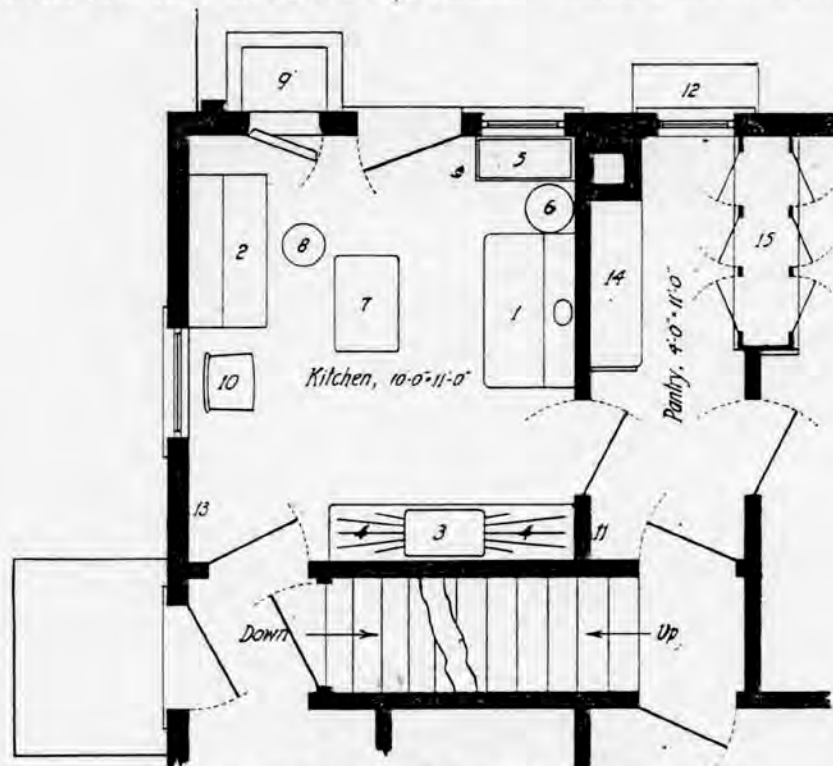


Figure 2

for stair space, etc. Figure 1 shows the exterior. It has a neat, compact appearance and represents a simple and pleasing type of construction, free from the ornamentation common to transient styles of architecture. Being nearly square, it has a hip roof. The front hall, so common to the city house, is missing. The stairs rise from the centre of the first floor (figure 2), being equally convenient to the kitchen, dining room and living room. One can go upstairs from the kitchen without passing through the dining room or the living room. The cellar stair is underneath that leading to the second floor, which is the most economical arrangement as regards the saving of space. By means of the side entrance one can take ashes up from the cellar without tracking dirt through any part of the house or causing cold draughts by opening doors in winter, an important item in northern latitudes. The side door also makes possible another very desirable feature, namely: a man's bedroom entirely separate from the rest of the house. The little entry between the side door allows for the wash bowl and pegs for hanging working clothes. Where a man and his wife



PLAN SHOWING LAYOVT OF KITCHEN

Copyrighted, May, 1917.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Range. | 6. Hot water tank. | 11. Collapsible dinner wagon. |
| 2. Cabinet. | 7. Movable small table. | 12. Drop shelf. |
| 3. Sink. | 8. Adjustable stool. | 13. Brooms. |
| 4. Drain boards. | 9. Refrigerator. | 14. Shelves. |
| 5. Fuel. | 10. Chair. | 15. Cupboard. |

Figure 3

are employed on the farm, the arrangement here shown is very good. It is also of decided advantage when hired men are employed, as is so commonly the case in the North-west, where labor is scarce, with little knowledge of who the men are or where they come from. By the arrangement shown here the second floor of the house is as private as in any city home.

The long back porch is screened in and is large enough to be used as a dining room in the summer. Why not eat outdoors, where it is cool, on the farm as well as at a summer cottage at some watering place?

There is no waste hall space on the second floor. The feature

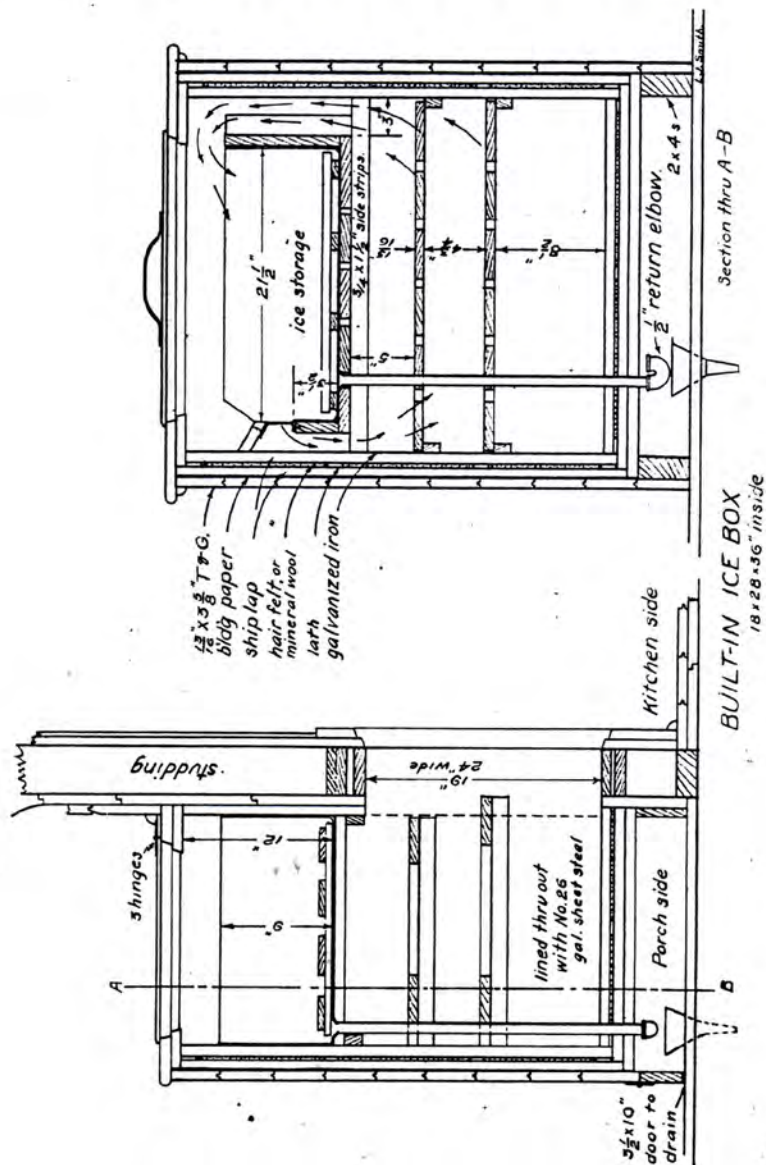


Figure 4

on this floor is that separate sleeping porches are provided for two bedrooms. The sleeping porch is one of the latest but one of the most important of the modern improvements of the home, and one whose value will be appreciated only with the coming years.

The detailed kitchen layout shown (figure 3) will be of interest to the housewife. The built-in ice box saves kitchen space, and, being on the porch, is filled outside, thus doing away with the extra dirt and confusion in the kitchen, as well as doing away with ice in cold weather. Figure 4 shows a detailed drawing of such an ice box, which can be made from the waste pieces from the building. The sink is convenient to the pantry. By means of the drop shelf (12) food and dishes in the pantry can be conveniently passed out of the window for use on the porch table in the summer.

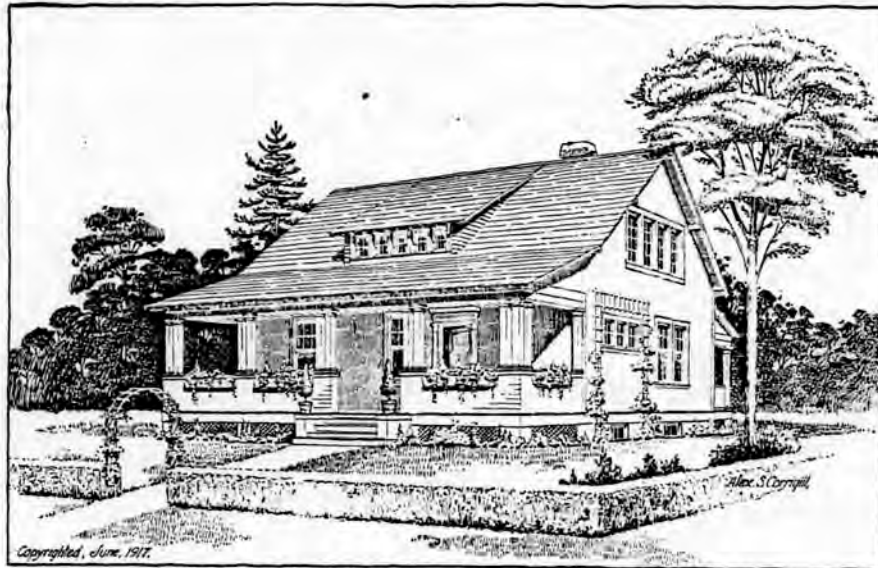
The back porch would be better eight feet wide; in fact the house would possibly be better a little larger, but the evident aim of Mrs. Robbins' plan was to get as much as possible in as little space as possible, and, since the demand in the majority of cases from farmers is for a small house, and especially so at the present time when building is so expensive, it was not thought wise to make this plan larger*.

The basement allows for coal, wood, fruit and vegetable storage and for a dairy and laundry. There is also space for lines for drying clothes in winter. The cistern is placed below the basement floor. By doing away with the larger galvanized iron basement tank, so commonly used in the North-west for rain water storage, more basement space is provided. A detailed plan of the basement is shown in the working drawings.

Anyone who attempts to plan an ideal house will soon come to this conclusion: that it is impossible to get all the desirable features in a limited amount of space. One thing crowds out another. This is especially true of the small home. The smaller it is, the harder it is to plan so as to get what is wanted. So with this House Plan "A." It is not perfect; but the writer has seen few plans adapted to farm conditions that have made such good use of the limited space and incorporated as many good ideas as are to be found in House Plan "A."

The working drawings for House Plan "A" show the front and two side elevations, sectional elevation, basement plan, exterior and interior details (6 sheets 14 x 24").

*Since 1912, the cost of building materials has increased nearly 60 per cent.



MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, FARM HOUSE "B", 28½' x 35'

Figure 5

House Plan "B"

Comparatively few plans of bungalows were submitted in the Better Farm Homes Competition. This fact should not be taken too seriously as evidence that the bungalow has no place on the farms of the Northwest. From the standpoint of external appearance, the bungalow is

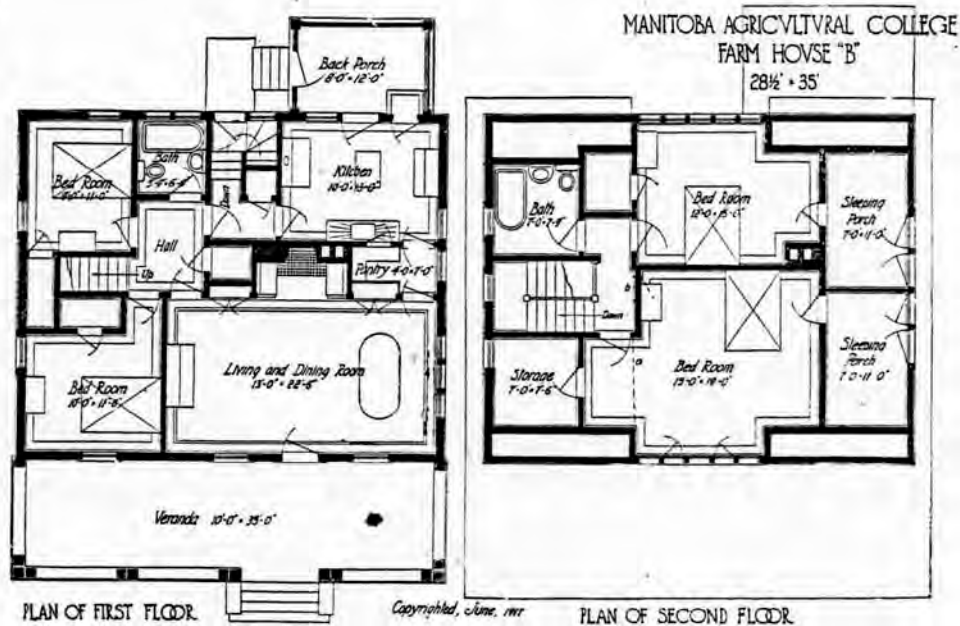


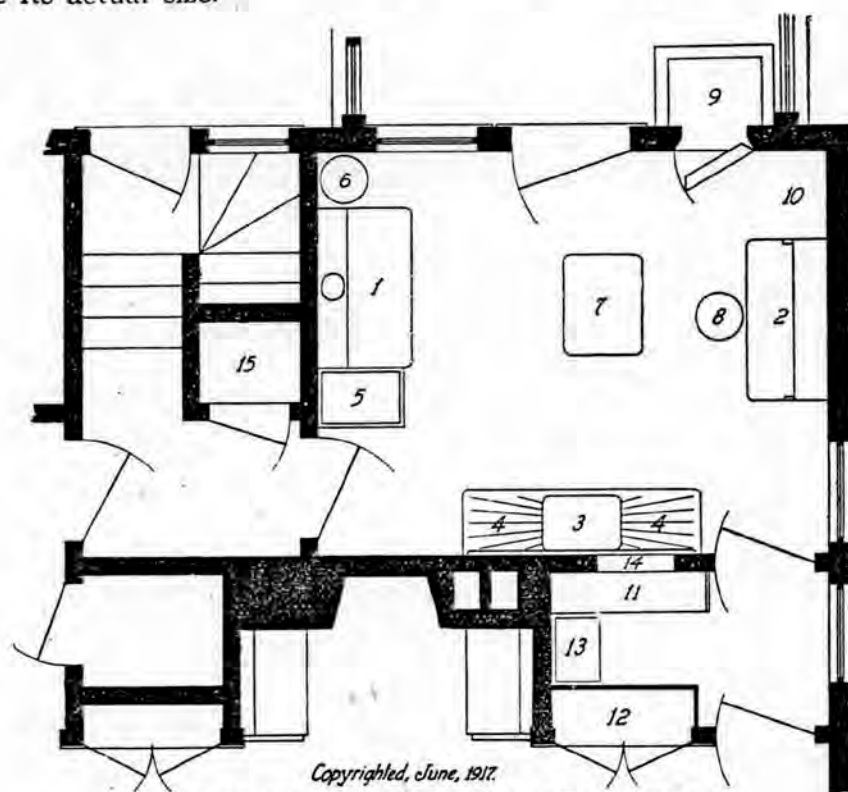
Figure 6



splendidly suited to our prairies. The housewife finds the work much less burdensome, where all or most of the rooms are on the one floor. Without doubt, the farm woman would in most cases prefer the bungalow to the full two storey house. The reason that more plans of this type were not submitted is rather that the average farm woman has had no experience with bungalows, and therefore, in such a competition, naturally she thinks and plans in terms of the two storey house. A similar competition in California or in British Columbia, where bungalows are in such common use, would result in a large majority of the plans submitted being bungalows.

House plan "B" is the best of the bungalow plans, and also compares very favorably with the other prize plans. Figure 5 shows the perspective. The bungalow would not look out of place on any farm.

Of moderate size, $28\frac{1}{2} \times 35'$, it has simple lines, and does not appear as if it had been taken from a row of city houses. The wide verandah across the entire front, together with the low walls and broad stretches of roof, will give this house a massive, substantial appearance which will belie its actual size.



PLAN SHOWING LAYOVT OF KITCHEN

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Range | 6. Hot water tank | 11. Shelving |
| 2. Cabinet | 7. Movable small table | 12. Built-in Buffet |
| 3. Sink | 8. Adjustable stool | 13. Dumb waiter |
| 4. Drain boards | 9. Refrigerator | 14. Small door |
| 5. Fuel | 10. Dinner wagon | 15. Closet with shelves |

Figure 7



The screened verandah, 10 x 35', is large enough to serve as an outdoor living room. Opening directly off the verandah is the living room and dining room, figure 6 (13' x 22'6"), a well-designed room free from the objectionable multiplicity of doors which so often take up nearly all the wall space. Opposite the outside door is the fireplace with built-seats, bookcase and buffet. At either end of the room on the fireplace side are the two inside doors, one opening into the pass-pantry, and the other into a small hall off which is a handy closet for wraps.

The pass-pantry, though small (4 x 7'), is convenient, provision being made for a dumb waiter, and a small door communicating with the draining board of the sink, overcomes unnecessary carrying of dishes and other utensils from the kitchen to their place in the pantry.

The kitchen, of which an enlarged layout is shown (figure 7), is well lighted and ventilated by two windows in opposite corners. The range is placed directly in the light of one window, and the sink and draining board are just across the doorway from the other. The wood-box and range-boiler are shown close to the range, but some might prefer their positions reversed, in order that the fuel might be replenished from the back porch. Another feature of this kitchen is the built-in refrigerator, which is iced from the outside.

The remainder of the ground floor is given over to two bedrooms, a bathroom and the stairs. The stairs to the second storey is between the bedrooms, the space beneath the steps and half landing being utilized for two closets. This is a somewhat novel arrangement, as there is no loss of space above these closets, as is usually the case. The cellar stairs is between the kitchen and bathroom, opening off the passage from the kitchen to the hall. A grade entrance to these stairs is also provided, making a very convenient cellar stair.

The second storey consists of two large bedrooms, a bathroom, storeroom under the eaves, and two sleeping porches, which are a part of the building and could be used as regular bedrooms if desired. They communicate with the two large bedrooms, and would make room for harvest or other temporary help.

The working drawings show the front and two side elevations, sectional elevations, exterior and interior details (7 sheets 14 x 24").



Figure 8

House Plan "C"

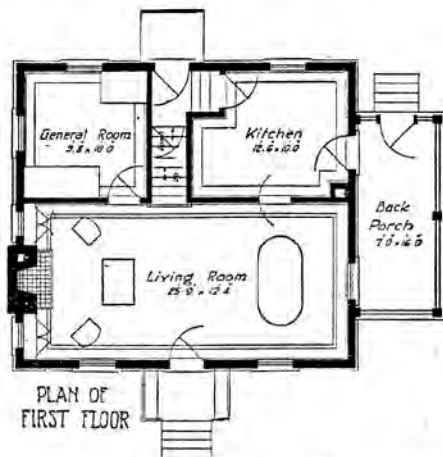
It was hoped that the Farm Homes Competition would give some good plans of small houses, but very few plans were entered of homes smaller than 28 x 30'. There is, however, a strong demand from the newly settled districts for a small modern home, and Plan "C" has been gotten out in the hope that it will meet this demand.

The small, two storey house is the architect's most difficult problem, when one is anxious to secure a good external appearance, as well as economy. A study of the perspective of Plan "C" (figure 8) will convince the reader that the architect has solved the problem.

In working out these plans, the main effort was to secure as economical a house as possible without sacrificing convenience. The house is 24 feet deep, and has a 27 feet frontage. The gambrel roof gives a pleasing appearance, and at the same time, a very economical and compact style of construction.

The first floor (figure 9) has but three rooms. The large room right across the front of the house gives a convenient and comfortable living and dining room. A fireplace in one end would add to the cheerfulness of the room, and under no circumstances should be omitted. The dining table can be run lengthwise with the room when it is desired to accommodate a large number, as at harvest, or a Christmas or New Year's dinner, and by removing the table altogether, a large space is available for parties and other social gatherings.

The 9'8" x 10' general purpose room off the living room will be



MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
PLANS OF FARM HOUSE C
27' x 24'

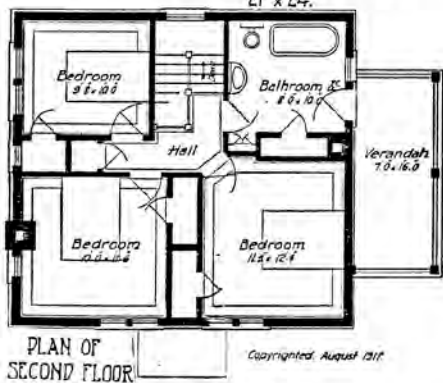


Figure 9

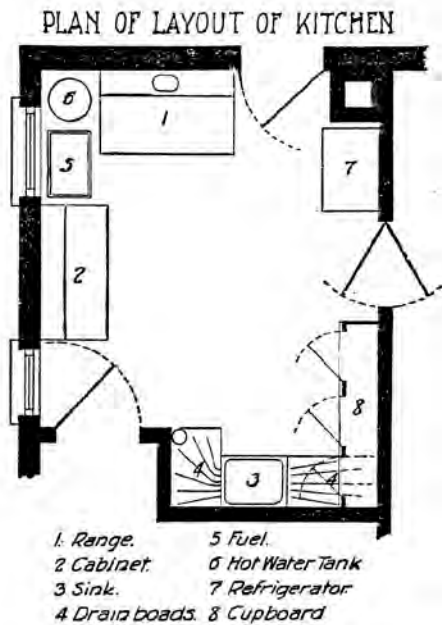


Figure 10

handy for sewing, for use in case of sickness, or when visitors come, and for various social events. It also affords a quiet place to put the youngster for his daily nap, and thus avoid climbing to the second floor. If desired, it can be used as a regular bedroom.

This plan has been used by one of the churches as a house for its Minister. In such cases, the small room on the first floor would make an excellent study.

The front hall and stairs are generally unnecessary in the smaller country home where, in the winter months at least, the front door is not used to the extent that it would be if it were a city home. The stairs rise directly out of the centre of the living room, and are much more convenient to the kitchen than the ordinary front hall stairs. It also makes a very convenient arrangement for the cellar stairs. Four steps lead from the kitchen down to a landing, which has an outside door at ground level. By this arrangement anything going into or coming out of the cellar does not have to pass through the kitchen. The advantages are obvious. The cellar stairs lead to about the centre of the

cellar, making all parts equally accessible, and allowing for a convenient arrangement of the basement. A full basement should be planned for. In it will be placed the furnace, wood and coal storage, a vegetable room, fruit storage, soft water tank, pneumatic tank and pump, the lighting system, space for drying clothes in winter, and laundry and dairy arrangement, if desired. A basement can be far better utilized than attic space, and is much more accessible.

The kitchen (figure 10) is not large but is conveniently arranged. The sink is in the proper position for washing and putting away dishes, and is conveniently located for use in cooking.

The outer kitchen door is planned to have glass in the upper half. The position of the doors and window makes possible plenty of ventilation to keep the kitchen cool in summer, a most important consideration.

The large kitchen porch will be especially appreciated in summer. Here, out in the cool fresh air, a great deal of the kitchen work can be done; here, the youngsters can play; here, also, a table can be provided, and the family can eat their meals outside in warm weather. A summer's experience of this sort makes one very loth to eat inside even when fall comes.

No house is considered modern in these days unless it has a sleeping porch. This can be provided above the kitchen porch by having a door off the bath room. It is planned to have a gas pipe frame work upon which canvas may be stretched, for protection from the weather, while the sleeping porch is being used. Some might prefer to have the door to the porch open off the adjacent bedroom, rather than off the bathroom.

The upper hall is three feet wide and does not take up much space. The window at the stair landing gives ample light and ventilation. A linen closet is provided for off the hall.

A large bathroom is conveniently located at the head of the stairs, and being above the kitchen, is most economically located from the plumbing standpoint. In case the modern plumbing system is not installed at once, the room can be used as a single bedroom.

There are two large and one small bedrooms, with ample closets which will appeal to the housewife.

To many, this plan might seem lacking in bedroom space. The room on the first floor can be used by the family when visitors come, for the modern davenport is an equally good bed; thus the old spare bedroom is dispensed with. Then, again, often the farm hands live in a separate bunk house, or the hired man may be married and live in the old house and board the other men, thus giving more privacy to the owners of the farm, and lifting a big load from the shoulders of the housewife.

With a large house on the farm, the time often comes when the young people have gone to homes of their own; then the big place with its extra rooms and upkeep becomes a burden instead of a pleasure.

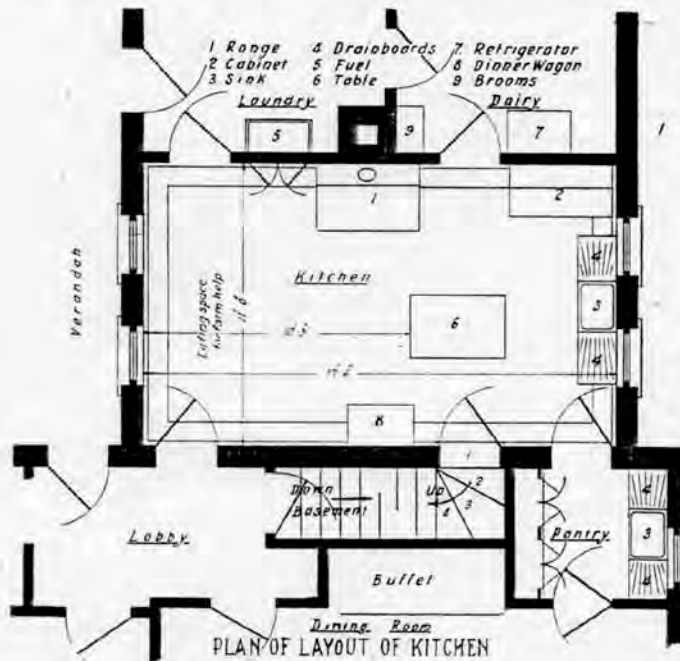


Figure 12

addition it is more expensive than the ordinary large farm house 30 x 32' or 32 x 34'.

There are two small halls on the first floor; the feature (figure 11) however, is the arrangement of the back portion of the first floor. The kitchen and dining room arrangement, with the pantry between and opening on the corner of the dining room, is very good; also the back stairs to the second floor and to the cellar with the built-in buffet

and coat space filling in the space between the kitchen and the dining room. By this arrangement, the buffet takes up no space in the room itself. The arrangement of doors and wall space in that side of the room is symmetrical, and will give the dining room a very pleasing appearance. The arrangement of the back lobby is especially good. Here the help

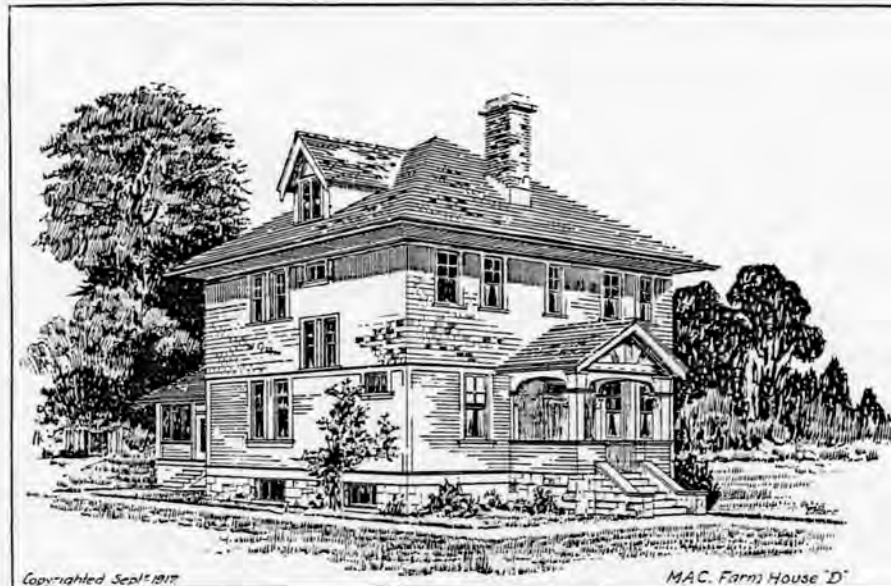


Figure 13

have a convenient washroom and large bedroom directly off the lobby and verandah, and can enter the dining room from the lobby without going through the kitchen or any other part of the house. The kitchen might be considered too large by many, but the kitchen equipment proper is conveniently grouped at the half of the kitchen nearest the pantry as shown in figure 12, which gives a nice eating space for the help if so desired. Should a married couple be assisting on the farm, this would be an ideal arrangement.

The front hall and stairs will be quite a feature in this home. It is warm and convenient to all the front rooms. The fire-place took some careful planning, but is not to be omitted in a house of this size.

There are three good double bedrooms, and two single ones for the young folks, on the second floor, and two comfortable attic rooms. The large sleeping porch will be a feature in this house. The full basement affords ample room for fuel and vegetable storage, large soft water tank, lighting system, etc. There is also an outside entrance. The exterior has a good substantial appearance (figure 13), and is a plain style of architecture that will not look out of date ten years hence.

An architect would charge not less than \$150 for the working drawings and specifications for a house of this size.



House Plan "E"

This is the last of the prize plans from the Women's Farm Homes Competition. It was submitted by Miss Christine Guild, of Kemnay, Manitoba. This plan comes the nearest of the prize plans to meeting the average requirements as to size, according to an average of the plans submitted in the competition, it being 30 x 32'.

It is quite different from the other plans shown (figure 14), having a corner porch from which one can look out in three directions; and a front hall or reception room with an attractive front stairs. If so desired, a coat closet could be had at "C" 1.

Many wish a small room on the first floor apart from the others and yet easily accessible. The den or study will meet such a requirement. Some might prefer to combine the hall space with that of the den, and have a large common room with a fire-place; but the hall with its large archway between is really a part of the living room.

The kitchen has but one outside wall; but with the arrangement of doors, there should be no difficulty in securing ample ventilation in warm weather. The pantry is located conveniently between the kitchen and dining room. In the corner is a clothes chute leading down from the bathroom. The chute does not detract from the pantry, since the



MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE PLANS OF FARM HOUSE "E"

30' x 32'

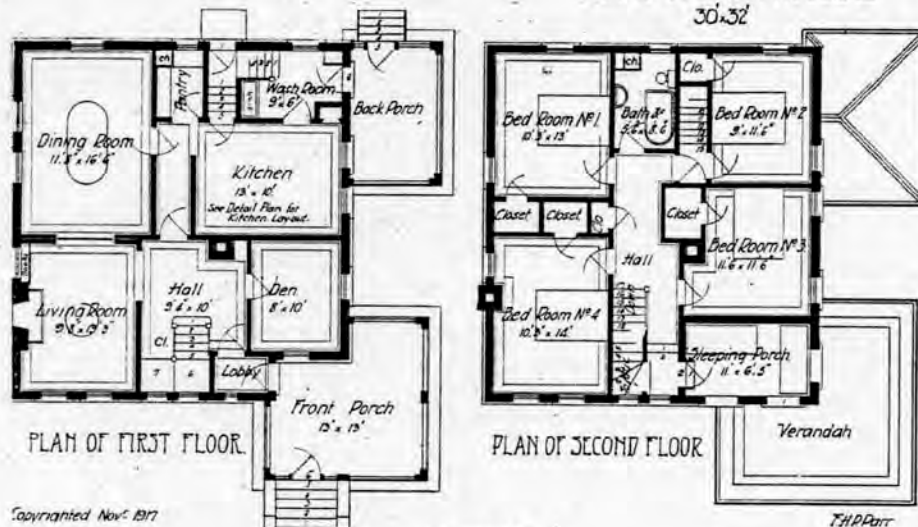


Figure 14

space that it occupies would be hard to utilize, being in the corner between shelves on the left and the little table-cupboard under the window at the right. Many would put a slide at "S" in the partition between the pantry and the dining room.

The back stairs lead up from the wash room to a little landing, which opens on the hired men's bedroom (No 2) or into the hall near the bathroom. There

is a small window at the turn of the stair (not shown in the plan) to give plenty of light.

There are three good-sized, well lighted and ventilated bedrooms besides the men's room. Each has a good closet. There is also a good linen closet conveniently located off the upper hall. The attic stairs lead to a nice attic bedroom with good closets.

Many will appreciate the little sleeping porch. From it one can step out on the

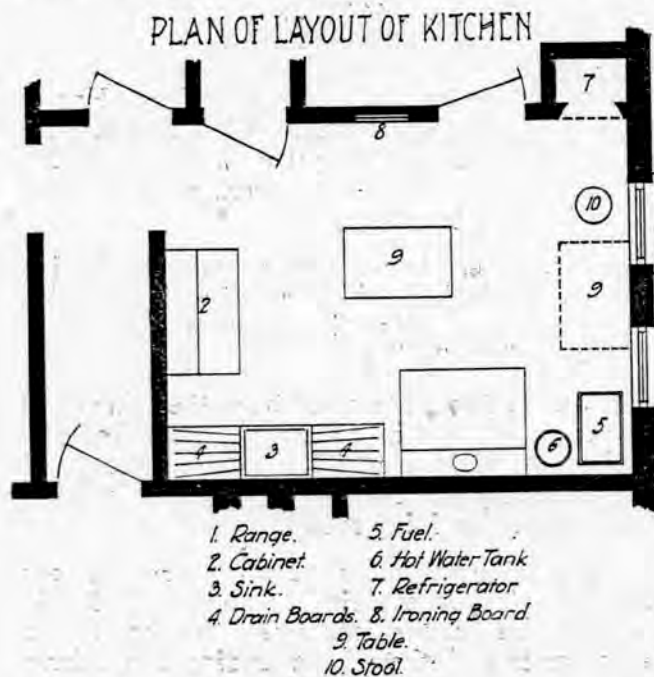


Figure 15

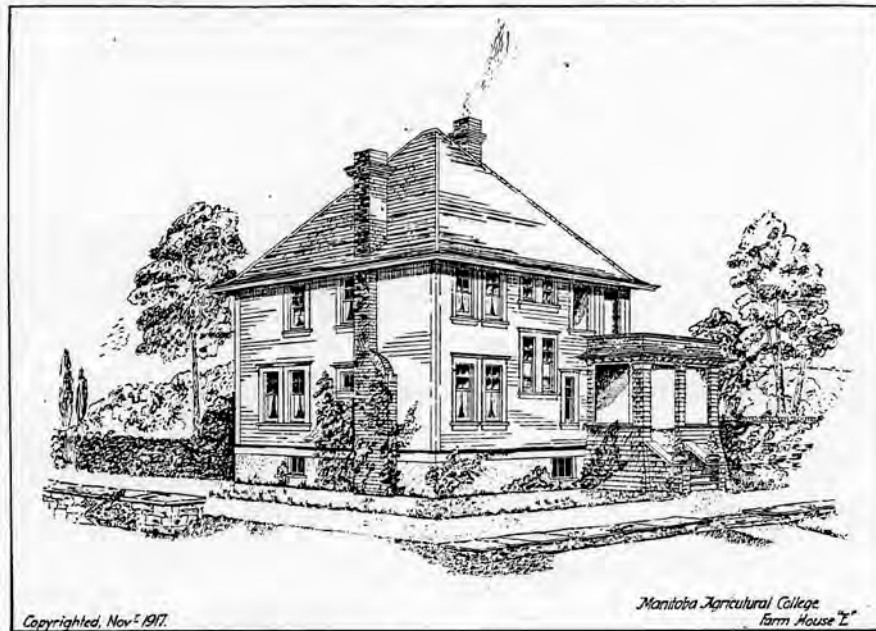


Figure 16

upper verandah, which commands a splendid view of the surrounding country, and which is very useful for airing, bedding, and during house-cleaning time.

Figure 15 shows the layout of the kitchen. Note the built-in ironing board, a very convenient arrangement. The dinner wagon may stand here also, or be left in the little back hall between the kitchen and dining room. The table may be in the centre of the kitchen or by the window, according to what it is being used for. There is also a ventilated cleaning cupboard in the corner of the washroom behind the door.

The basement is conveniently arranged. It is intended that the



Figure 17

laundry work will be done in the basement. A large concrete cistern is planned for, underneath the concrete cellar floor, thus occupying no cellar space.

The perspective of plan "E" is shown in figure 16. The roof looks a little "high" in the figure, the object being to get sufficient head room for a room in the attic, but the working drawings will show the roof lines to be not so steep as indicated in the perspective. Figure 17 shows the exterior as built near Kemnay. Here the roof has a more gentle slope, which makes a more attractive exterior. The porch roof here shown is different from that in figure 16.

oooooooo

The Twice Planned Farm House

The writer has received requests from a number of Western farmers who wish to build a small house complete in itself; but which can be added to later, after the owner gets a start on his new farm, to make finally a complete and convenient larger permanent home. The following plans are provided in an attempt to meet this demand, which is so common in the great, newly settled agricultural districts of our Western Provinces and of the border States to the South. Figure 18 is the first and second floor plans of the part to build first. It is a four-roomed house, 14 x 27'; 16 x 27' would be a better size and the increased cost would not be great. It has a small front hall with a coat closet and

small pantry between the stairs and the kitchen. The stair is thirty inches wide. Meals can be eaten in the kitchen in the winter, and in the living room in the summer. The upper hall is well lighted and ventilated by a window at the landing. There are two good bedrooms and closets on the second floor. Figures 19 and 20 show the completed house. It has a corner porch and convenient entry. A large living room is added to the front of the old house with a three foot sliding door leading into the general room. The old front window of the kitchen is changed to a door leading to the dining room, and the

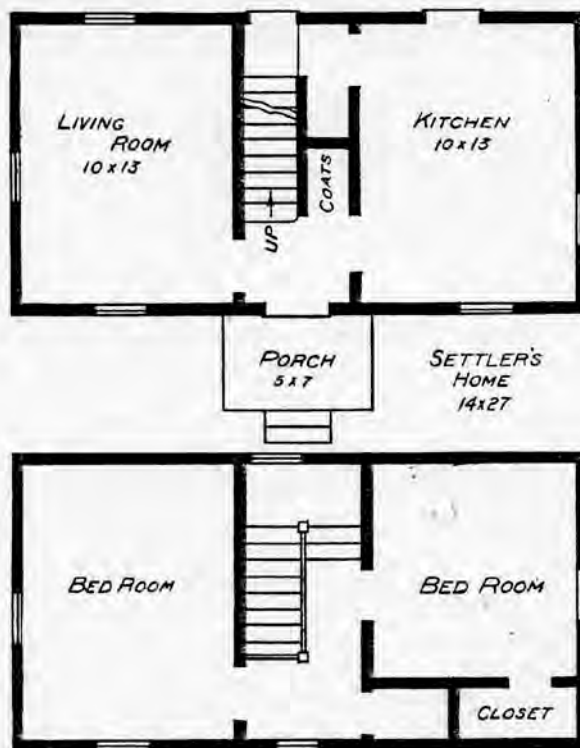


Figure 18



Figure 19

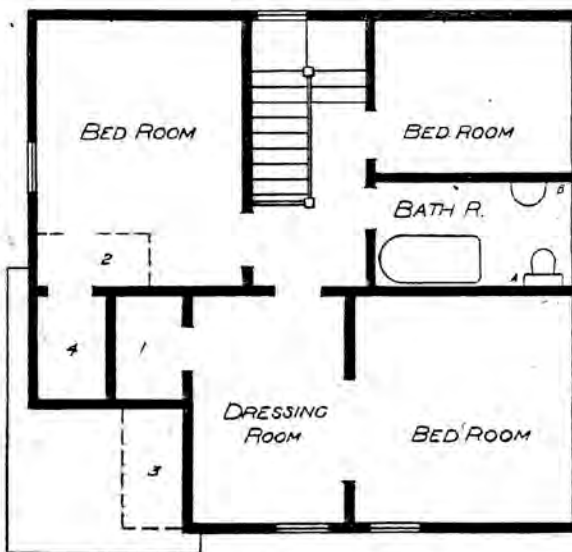
outer kitchen door and the other window are interchanged. A narrow bathroom takes the place of the old closets on the second floor, leaving a small back bedroom.

The space above the living room is given over to a large bedroom and a dressing room. The ample closet space off the dressing room and large back bedroom will be variously arranged according to how the roof slopes above the porch and entry. If the porch roof is a continuation of the roof above

the dressing room, the closets will be at "1" and "2", or, better still, "1" and "3." If the porch roof is a continuation of the front slope of the roof of the original house, the closets can be at "1" and "4."

The location of the bathroom fixtures and door will depend upon the plumbing stack, which, with the layout shown, will be at "A;" in which case, the door between the kitchen and the living room must be far enough to the left to allow for the stack. This should be kept in mind when locating the front kitchen window of the small home. If the stack is to be at "B," one must be careful about locating the door below. In this case the bath tub and toilet would be on the same side of the room as "B," and the bathroom door would be changed to the other side of the room. One might locate the stack in the corner of the small bedroom nearest "B," if the kitchen door interferes with the location at "B."

From the above discussion, one can see the necessity for very careful planning if a good house is to be inexpensively secured by adding to the original

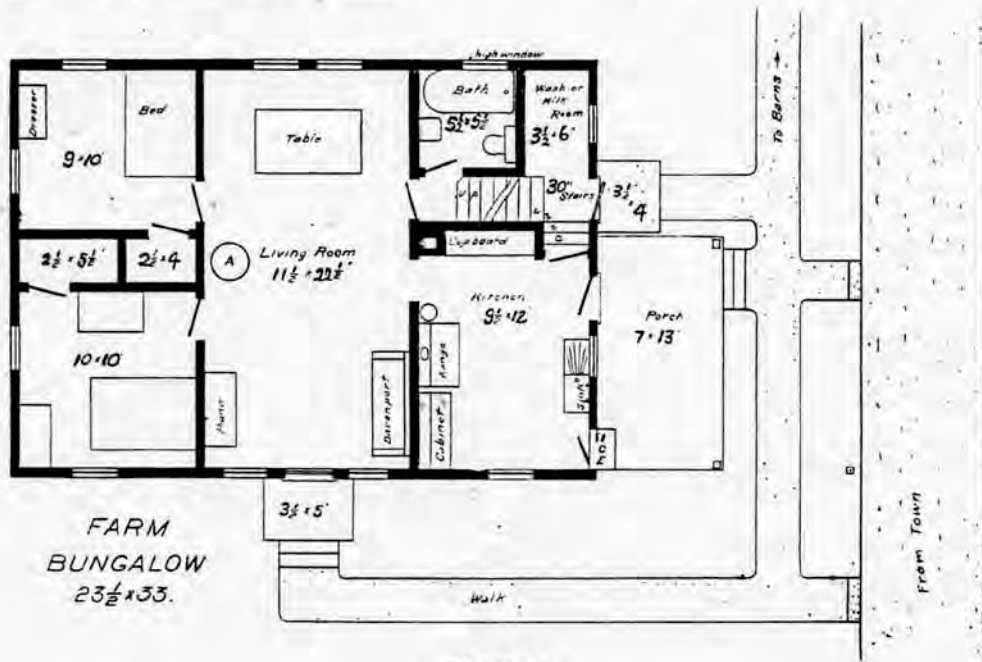


small house. It is not impossible for such an arrangement to be completely planned out at the start before the small house is built. It is hoped that the suggestion just given will awaken an interest in this, the greatest problem in house building in the newly settled agricultural districts. Let us do away with the unsightly shack and plan for a good small home right on the start. If a sufficient number of Western farmers are interested in the above plans, we will make complete working drawings, specifications and bills of material of the same for distribution.

oooooooo

Small Cottage for the Hired Man

Often on a large farm, the question of providing shelter for the married hired man brings up an important problem in building. The plan of the bungalow shown in figure 21 is offered as suggestive of some good ideas, and can be changed in various ways. The bathroom and the small wash-room might be changed into a small single bedroom. If no furnace system of heating were used, a good heater in the living room at "A" between the bedroom doors, and the kitchen range would heat the bungalow very well. The plan is $23\frac{1}{2} \times 33'$. It might be cut to $21 \times 33'$ and be practically the size of the Uncle Sam Farm Tenant House (figure 22) by W. A. Etherton, Architect. This is a splendid plan. The corner porch is equally convenient to both the living room and the kitchen. The chief objection to it, from the standpoint of our climatic conditions, is that no inside toilet facilities are possible, nor is there any provision for getting to the cellar. The kitchen of this plan is worthy of a careful study.



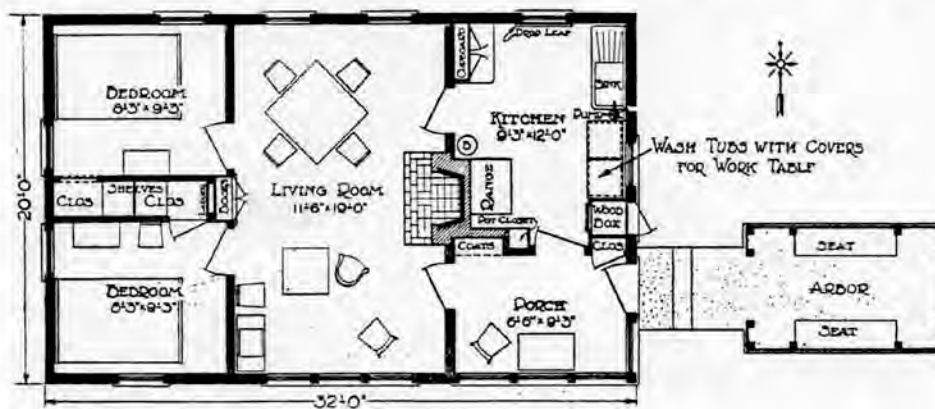
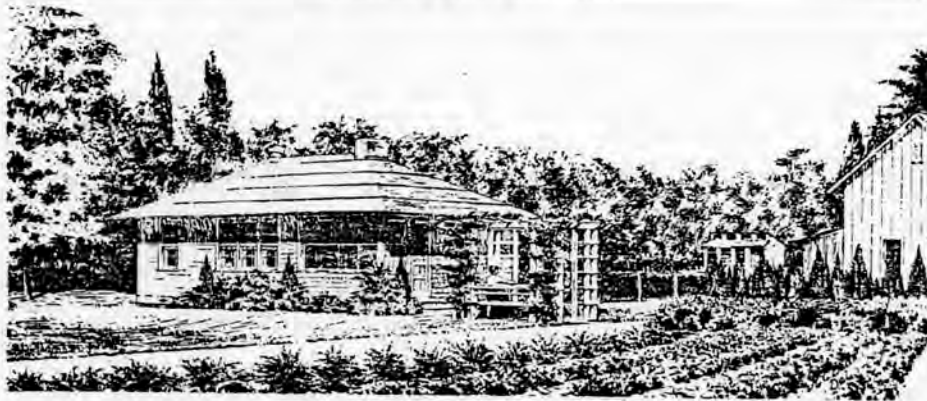


Figure 22

Miscellaneous Details

Laundry Tubs: Laundry tubs are often made of soft wood. White pine is the best material. When the house is being built, the carpenters might as well make a set of tubs. Figure 23 will give the details of a standard tub. Some might wish to change the height somewhat.

Moveable Drain Tables: Instead of the old type of stationary drainboard, the present idea is to use moveable drain tables. Figure 24 shows the side and front views of those designed and used in connection with a small sink by the Household Science Department, Manitoba Agricultural College. The length, width, and height will depend upon the available wall space, and the size and the height of the sink with which they will be used. The top should be white wood. Often, where there is sufficient space on each side of the kitchen sink, these tables are made 28 or 30 inches in length and have a shelf half way up from the floor. The drawer is very useful. Sometimes a strip of wood a half inch thick is nailed along the back edge of the drainboard, as shown by the dotted lines, to prevent soiling the wall.

The Dumb Waiter: The dumb waiter seems to be still in some demand in the country, though it would appear that the refrigerator

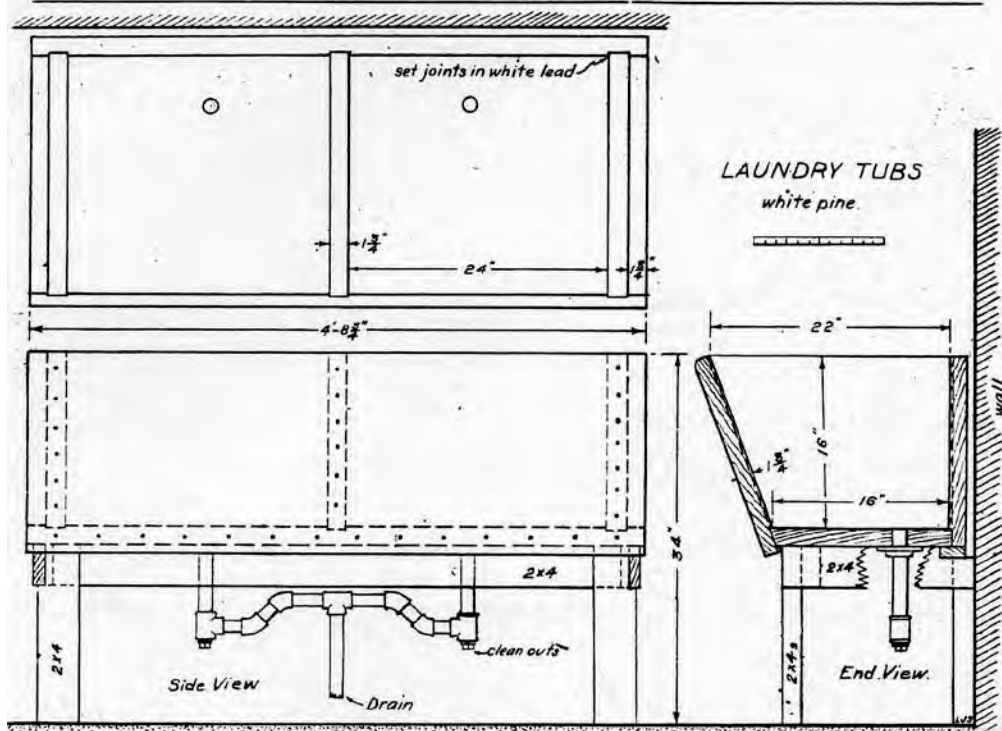


Figure 23

and the modern dairy appliances offer as cheap and more desirable methods of caring for perishable foods. Figure 25 is offered as a suggestion for those who still wish to instal a dumb waiter. It will at least give the carpenter something to look over as a basis for something better.

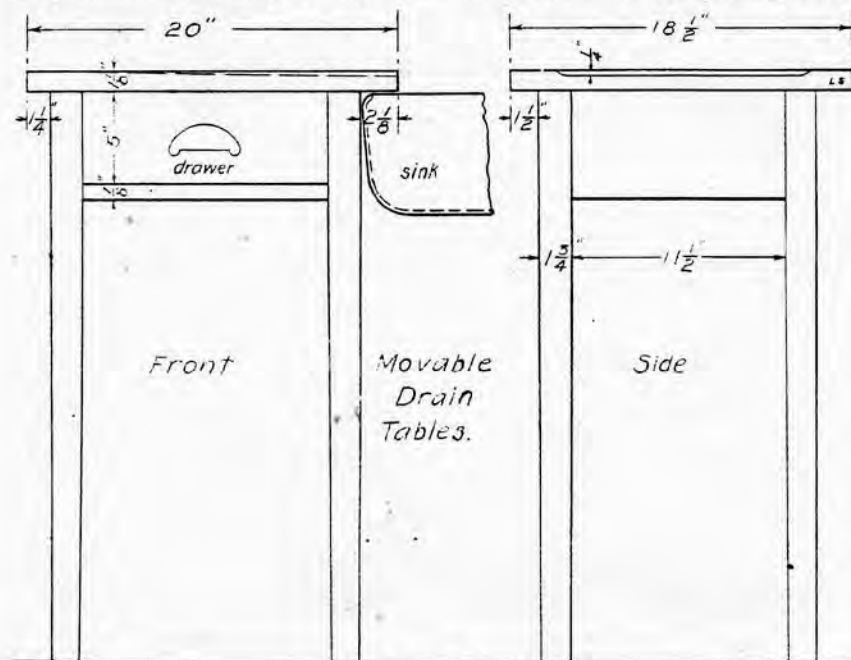
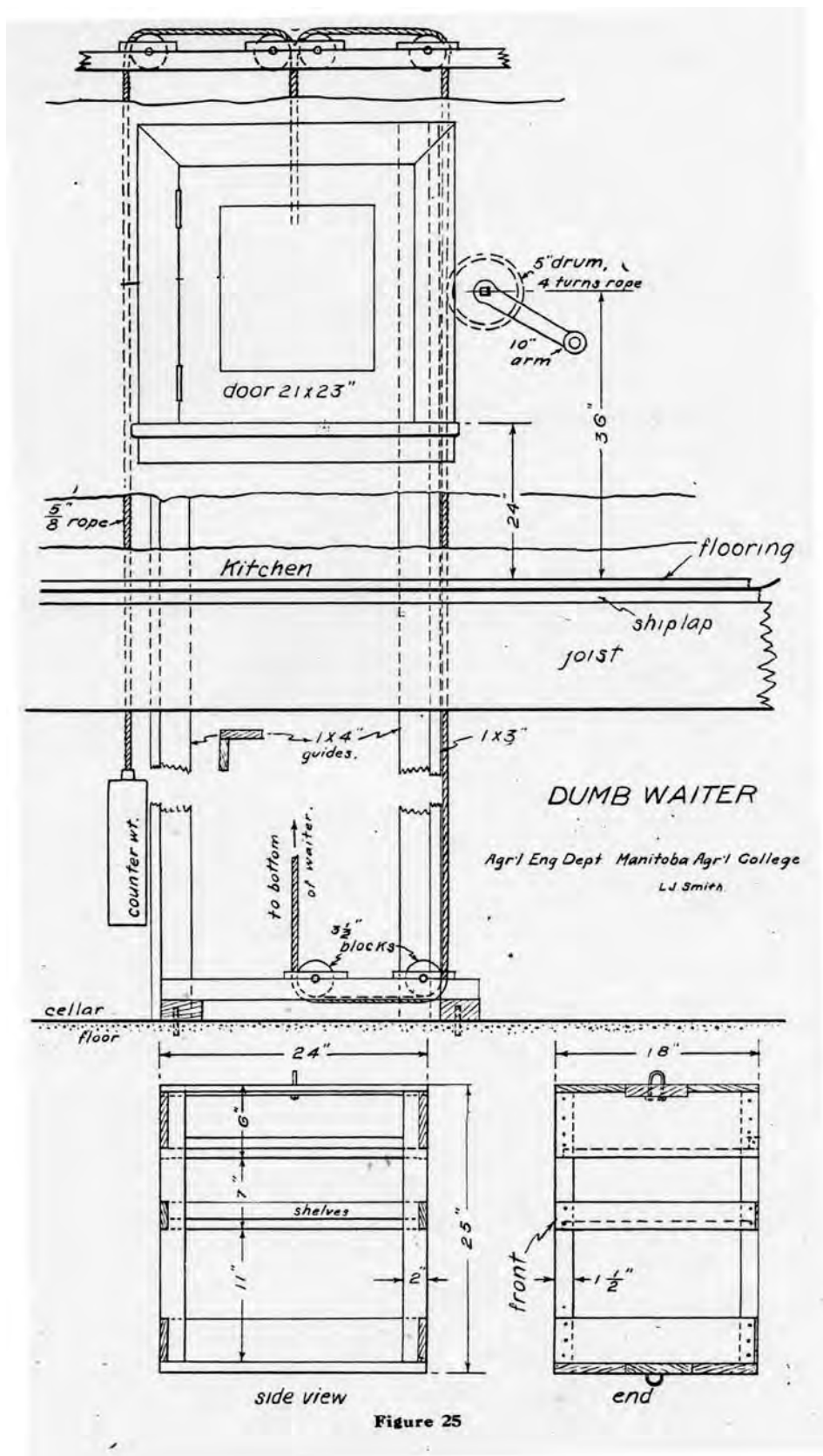
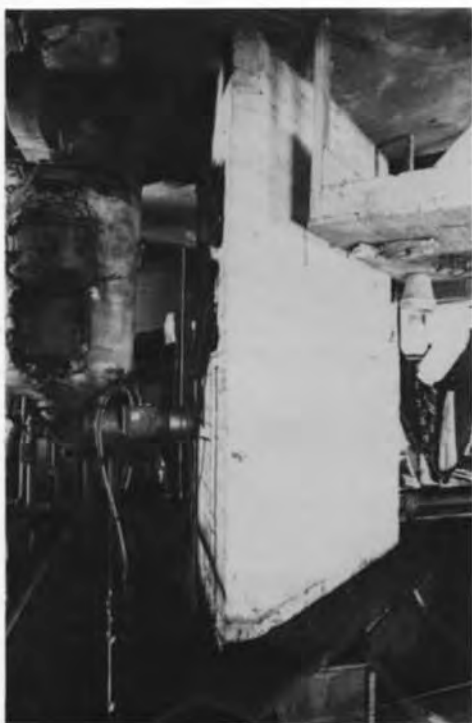
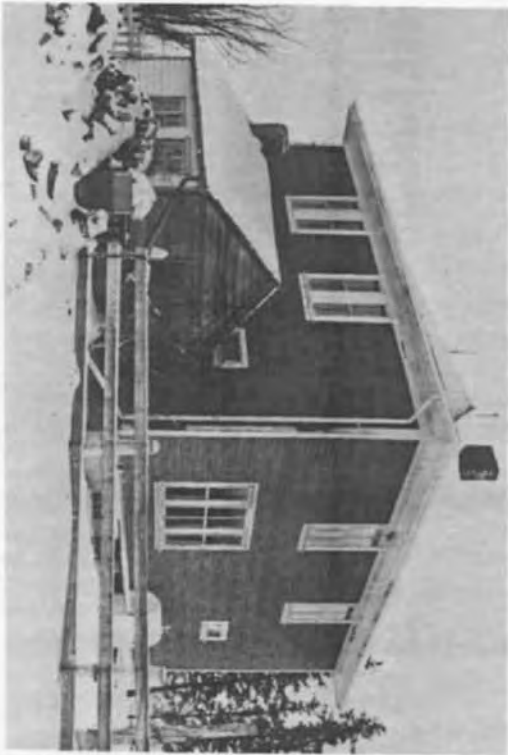
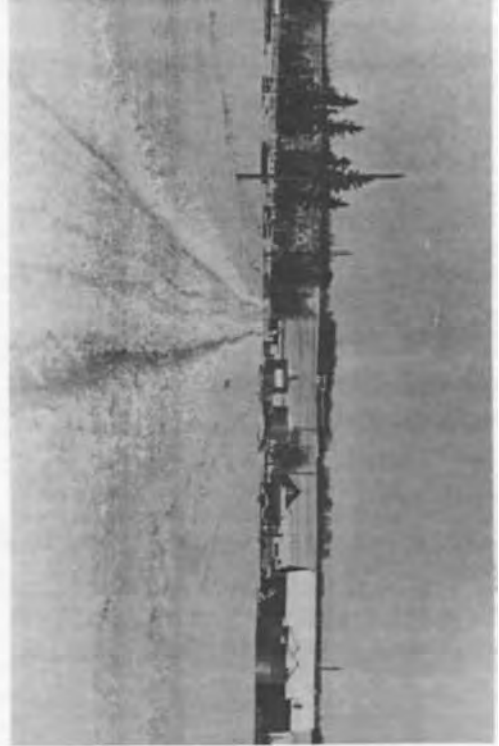
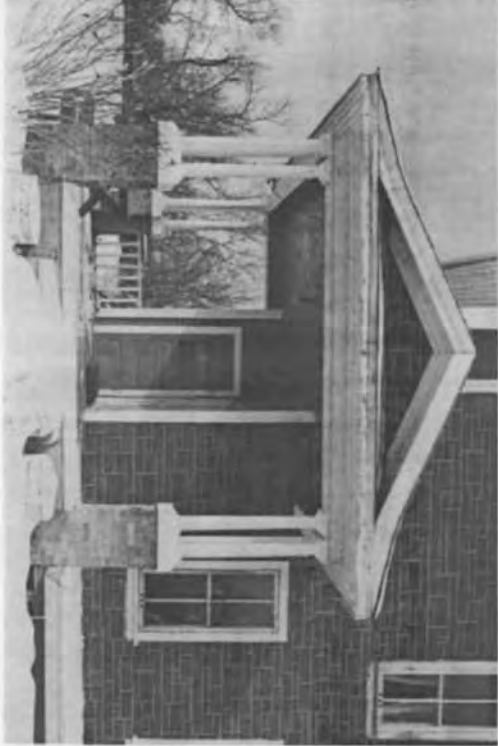


Figure 24







Manitoba Farmers' Library

LIST OF BULLETINS OF THIS SERIES PUBLISHED TO DATE

- Extension Bulletin No. 1—Lightning Control.
Extension Bulletin No. 2—Barn Ventilation.
Extension Bulletin No. 3—Standing Crop Competitions and Seed Fairs.
Extension Bulletin No. 4—Control of the Sow Thistle in Manitoba.
Extension Bulletin No. 5—Hand Selection and Harvesting of the Seed Plot.
Extension Bulletin No. 6—Home Economics Handbook.
Extension Bulletin No. 7—Fattening, Killing and Dressing Chickens for Market.
Extension Bulletin No. 8—Sending the College to the Country.
Extension Bulletin No. 9—Common Breeds of Poultry.
Extension Bulletin No. 10—Boys' and Girls' Clubs.
Extension Bulletin No. 11—Management of the Brood Mare and Foal.
Extension Bulletin No. 12—Canning by the Cold Pack Method.
Extension Bulletin No. 13—Common Diseases and Disorders of the Foal.
Extension Bulletin No. 14—The Potato.
Extension Bulletin No. 15—Poultry Houses for Farm and Town.
Extension Bulletin No. 16—Cookery Recipes.
Extension Bulletin No. 17—Vegetable Storage.
Extension Bulletin No. 18—The Gas Engine.
Extension Bulletin No. 19—Autumn Cultivation for Weed Control.
Extension Bulletin No. 20—Cheese-Making on the Farm.
Extension Bulletin No. 21—Better Farm Homes.



are employed on the farm, the arrangement here shown is very good. It is also of decided advantage when hired men are employed, as is so commonly the case in the North-west, where labor is scarce, with little knowledge of who the men are or where they come from. By the arrangement shown here the second floor of the house is as private as in any city home.

The long back porch is screened in and is large enough to be used as a dining room in the summer. Why not eat outdoors, where it is cool, on the farm as well as at a summer cottage at some watering place?

There is no waste hall space on the second floor. The feature

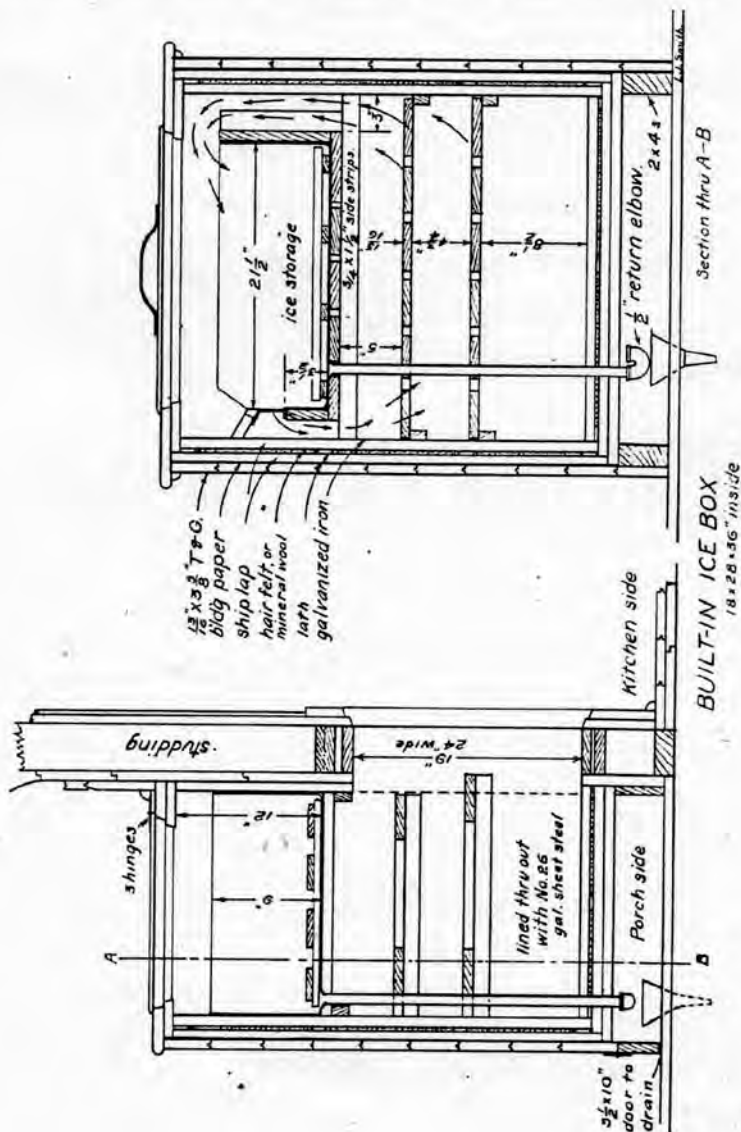


Figure 4

Endnotes

¹ See "William Guild Family", "The Poole Family", and the "James Gould Family", in Whitehead Wanderings (Brandon: Leech Printing, 1983) pp. 102; 186, 94.

² L.J. Smith, "Better Farm Homes", Extension Bulletin No. 21 in the Manitoba Farmers' Library (Winnipeg: Department of Agriculture and Immigration, December 1917), p. 2. Hereafter, cited as Smith.

³ Loc. cit. See also "News of the Prairie Provinces", in Country Life in Canada, July 1916, p. 14. Hereafter, cited as "News". See also "An Ideal Farm Home", Farmers' Tribune, 9 August 1916, p. 5.

⁴ News, loc. cit.

⁵ Nor'West Farmer, 20 June 1917, p. 130. The plans were reproduced in various other farm journals as well.

⁶ Smith, loc. cit. Unfortunately, it is not known what the nature of the breakdown in sales was for these plans. It is, therefore, impossible to gauge the popularity of any one design. The plans sold for 43.00 per set for Manitoba residents, and at \$5.00 for others.

⁷ There may have been six prizes, however, for the Western Home Monthly of July 1916, p. 54 states that as the number of awards. See also Binscarth Memories (Binscarth: History Committee, 1984), p. 256. This states that Mrs. Waller had won a prize with her entry, and that the prize was the material to build the house to that plan.

⁸ Loc. cit. It is believed by the local inhabitants that the bungalow was built to Mrs. Waller's prize-winning design.

⁹ "Farmers' Wives Asked to Plan Farm Houses", Farmers' Tribune, 24 May 1916, p. 5. Hereafter, cited as Farmers' Wives.

¹⁰ British Columbia. Province of. Report of the Forest Branch of the Department of lands (for the year ending 31 December 1915). Victoria: King's Printer, 1916), p. G11.

¹¹ Telephone conversation with P.W. Bredt (son), Hudson Heights, Quebec.

¹² The Women's Institutes of Manitoba, (Winnipeg: His

¹³ Ibid., p. 5.

¹⁴ "P. Bredt, of Wheat Pool Dies", Winnipeg Free Press, 29 November 1940, see also "Paul F. Bredit, Pool Elevator Executive, Dies in Calgary", Winnipeg Tribune, 29 November 1940, p. 23.

¹⁵ Institutes, op. cit., p. 1.

¹⁶ Farmers' Wives, loc. cit.

¹⁷ This information regarding female graduates and registered architects was compiled from the following sources: letter, Mary Clark to Judy Pestrak, Executive Secretary, Manitoba Association of Architects, 24 July 1986 -- list of results of nation-wide survey to determine the Registration of Women in Provincial Architectural Associations in Canada. The source for University of Manitoba graduates was Joan Harland, via Claude Deforest of the University of Manitoba Architecture faculty, 19 May 1988. The four graduates were: Racquelle Austmann, Eileen Crowther, Thelma Lee, and Margaret Wood.

