

## Granaries

Although only small amounts of grain were grown during the early years, most Ukrainian farmyards in the planning district included at least one granary. Most granaries were simple, one-roomed log structures with wooden floors and gable roofs (Figure 33).

The walls were carefully chinked, and the exterior was whitewashed to give the building a traditional Ukrainian appearance. Granary walls were rarely given a mud plaster coating.

In later years the interiors of many of the granaries were sheathed with tin to better seal the structure and to help prevent losses to rodents. Bulk grain was not normally handled until the appearance of the self-propelled combine during the late 1930s and early 1940s, at which time granaries of modern design and frame construction were built (Figure 34).



**Figure 33**  
Babiak granary, NE 1-18-3E, ca. 1925.



**Figure 34**  
Granary, SE 33-21-3E, ca. 1940.

## Chicken Coops

The chicken coop was an integral part of the Ukrainian farmyard for many years. The raising of poultry was an important facet of pioneer life; they could be used for food, sale, or for feather tick bedding. When the settlers' first house was replaced with a new structure, the original was often converted into use as a chicken coop. The poultry structures were usually low-pitched gable roofed buildings with earth floors and mud plastered exterior walls and ceilings (Figure 35).

Most had only one room, although a few of the remaining examples had a small feed storage room inside the main doorway. A characteristic of these structures, which clearly distinguished them from other small farmyard buildings, was the large window openings along the south wall. This feature provided a bright interior that was necessary for good egg production. A well-constructed chicken coop at SW 27-24-3E is an example that was combined with a hog shed (Figure 36).

After the 1920s, individual structures were constructed especially for this function. Frame lumber structures began to appear during the 1930s on the farms where large flocks of poultry were raised (Figure 37).



**Figure 35**  
Chicken coop, SW 8-18-4E.



**Figure 36**  
Stelmach coop and hog barn, SW 27-24-3E, 1922.



**Figure 37**  
Chicken coop, NW 10-22-3E.

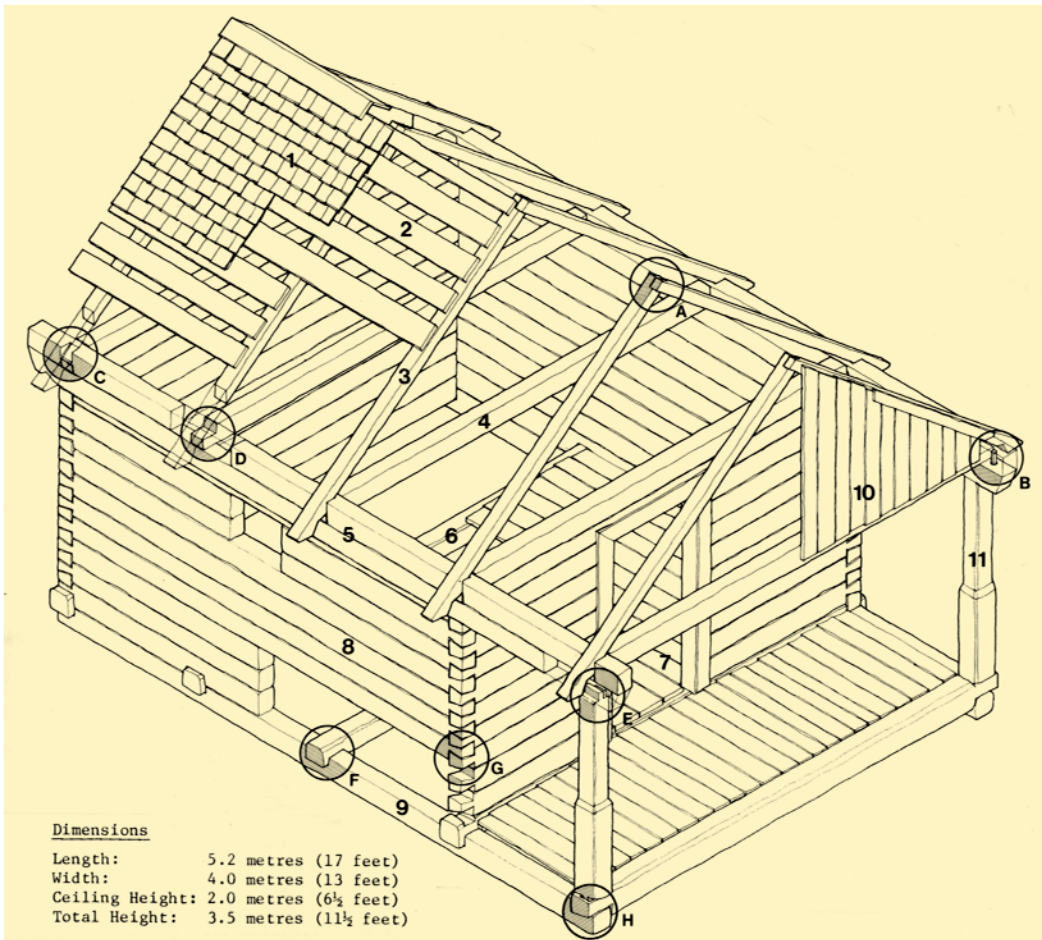
## Tool Sheds

Another standard component of early Ukrainians farmyards was the "komora" or tool shed, which was used to store harnesses, hand tools, small equipment and other items. Like the granaries and chicken coops, the tool sheds were small, single-storeyed, one-roomed log structures usually with wooden floors and in some cases, prominent gable front projections (Figure 38).

This projection, accessed from the interior, not only provided additional storage space but sheltered an exterior work area as well. On the Lemecha komora, posts support the overhang, which has a raised wooden platform below. Its expert construction features a variety of carefully cut and fitted connections (Figure 39). One example, at NE 16-21-3E, had a shed-roofed front projection that is now enclosed (Figure 40).



**Figure 38**  
Lemecha komora, SW 23-21-3E, ca.  
1920.



**Figure 39**

Lemecha komora: construction details.

Building Materials

- 1) Roofing: split wooden shingles
- 2) Roof sheathing: 25 mm (1") unplanned lumber; 100-300 mm (4-12") widths
- 3) Rafters: 100 mm (4") square hewn timbers
- 4) Ceiling joists: 125-150 mm (5-6") square hewn timbers
- 5) Twin top plates: 150x175 mm (6x7") hewn timbers
- 6) Floor joists: 125-150 mm (5-6") square hewn timbers
- 7) Floor: 35 mm (1½") planks of various widths; nailed
- 8) Walls: 150x175 mm (6x7") hewn timbers
- 9) Sill beams: 150x175 mm (6x7") hewn timbers
- 10) Gable boarding: 25 mm (1") unplanned lumber of various widths
- 11) Porch columns: 100x125 mm (4x5") at top; 150x165 mm (6x6½") at bottom

Connections

- A) Rafter lap-joint at apex
- B) Top plates pinned together with 35 mm (1½") diameter wooden dowels
- C) Rafter seat notched into top plate; nailed
- D) Ceiling joist lap-joint at wall (top plate)
- E) Column forms mortise and tenon joint at sill and plate
- F) Floor joist and sill beam form lock joint
- G) Corner joint: dovetail
- H) Sill beam corner: half-dovetail



**Figure 40**  
Moga komora, NE 16-21-3E, ca. 1920.



## Summer Kitchens

The summer kitchen, or kuchny, apparently had few antecedents in the Ukraine, but it quickly became a common part of the farmyard complex in the Eastern Interlake.

With the food preparation done in the kuchny during the warm summer months the house was left comfortably cool and relatively free from insects. These structures often doubled as a spare bedroom. Nearby the kuchny stood the traditional outdoor clay bake oven which was used for baking bread and other pastry products (Figure 41).

Only four summer kitchens were identified in the planning district. One featured the gable front projection more commonly found on the tool sheds (Figure 42), while the others had simple gable roofs.



**Figure 41**  
An early bake oven.  
(Provincial Archives Manitoba)



**Figure 42**  
Summer kitchen, SE 30-24-3E.