

100 Years of a Little House on the Prairie

100 years ago there was no frame house on the Cape ranch. In this 1915 photograph, looking north-west, we can see the “Soddy” on the right, the shed and windmill, and on the left, the roof of the barn. Starting in 1922, a new house was constructed. From this viewpoint, the frame house was placed in front of the windmill.



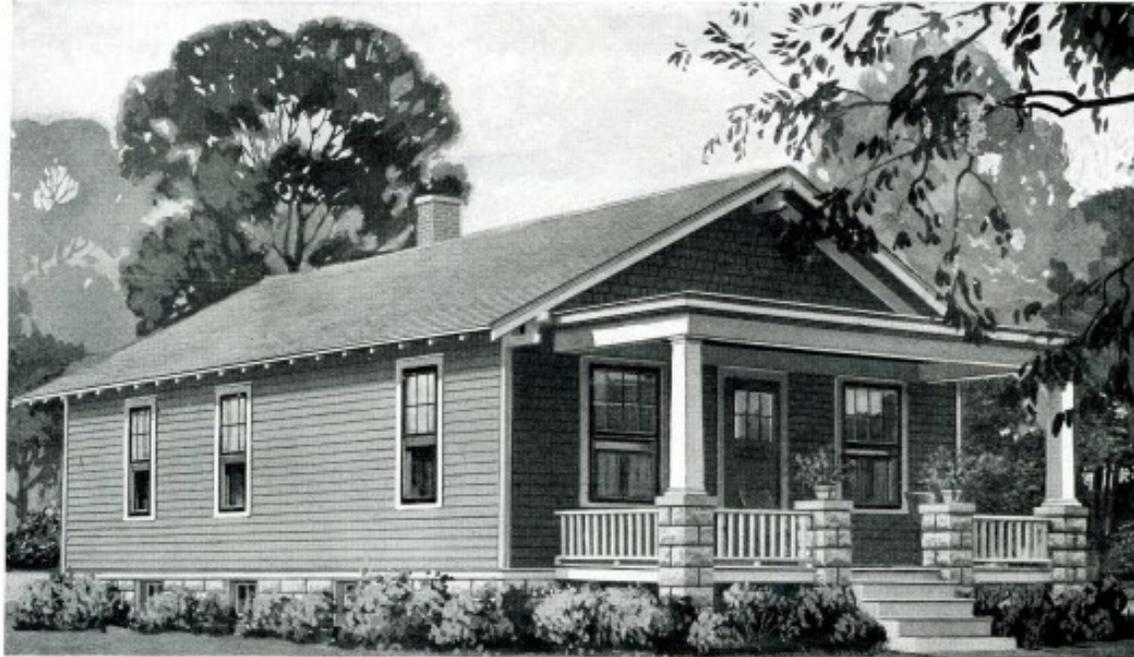
With their growing family (Robert and Mina Cape, Gladys, and Martin Cape [Robert’s father]), a larger and improved house was needed. The materials were ordered (possibly from Montgomery Wards or Sears) and delivered by rail. Wagon loads of pre-cut materials were brought in the proper order for construction while the boxcars sat on a siding. Typically two boxcars were needed to ship all of the parts to build a complete home.

The house was ordered and construction started in 1922. It’s not known whether it was completed in time for Martin Cape to be born there (January 1923), though I suspect it was. With the lumber pre-cut and numbered, it would not take long for Martin and Robert to assemble the pieces.

Through the years the house has been modified. More room was needed for the still growing family, so a basement was dug to provide three additional rooms. Indoor plumbing was added by turning the closet at the end of the kitchen into a bathroom. And the front porch was enclosed to make even another bedroom.

With all these additions, some bed sharing, and occasional placing of babies in dresser drawers, an entire generation of children were raised in this little house. 100 years later, it is still a house full of memories.

A similar design:



The "Kenmore"—A Practical, Convenient Home



Size of Home, 24 feet wide by 38 feet long

THE strong appeal which the "Kenmore" makes to home lovers is due to its charming simplicity and its distinctly practical and cozy interior. It occupies but little ground, yet provides a surprising amount of floor space—every inch being made conveniently available for comfortable living.

Living Room: From the big porch you enter directly into the spacious living room. Three windows provide good ventilation and light. Unusual wall space permits of many different arrangements of furniture.

Dining Room: Attractive French Doors separate living room from dining room. Twin windows make this room bright and cheerful.

Kitchen: A double-acting door connects dining room with the nicely planned kitchen. Twin windows of good proportions insure plenty of light and air. Steps leading down to basement are nearby. Throughout, the arrangement is one that the busy housewife will appreciate because everything possible has been done to make the room pleasant, convenient and labor saving.

Bedrooms and Bath: Rarely do you find so small a home with such a perfect arrangement of sleeping quarters. While the three bedrooms open off the living room, dining room and small hall, they are strictly private and insure the greatest possible quiet. Each has ample windows to provide light and ventilation, and the two front bedrooms each have large closet space. The bath opens off a small hall which connects dining room with back bedroom.

It would be difficult to build a home more economical or more convenient. The six comfortable rooms are all of generous size. Unusual sleeping accommodations and the roomy porch, which the entire family will enjoy throughout the summer, are points that will certainly appeal to you. You can be sure the "Kenmore" will prove an excellent investment, and a delightful home.

6 Rooms and Bath

\$1494

Price Includes

Complete set of Plans, All Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Flooring, Inside and Outside Finish and Mouldings, Doors, Windows, Frames, Nails, Hardware, Tinwork, Building Paper, Paint, Varnish. Everything to build your home with the exception of Heating, Lighting and Plumbing equipment, and masonry materials.

Unless otherwise requested, we furnish Colonial Yellow Paint for Body and White for Trim.

Options

Oak Floors and Woodwork for Living Room and Dining Room, \$98.50 additional.

Radio Slate Surface Asphalt Shingles with tight roof sheathing, \$37.80 additional.

Galvanized Wire Screens for all windows and outside doors, \$34.80 additional. Storm Sash and Doors, \$51.10 additional. High Grade Door and Window Shades (color optional) \$13.69 additional.

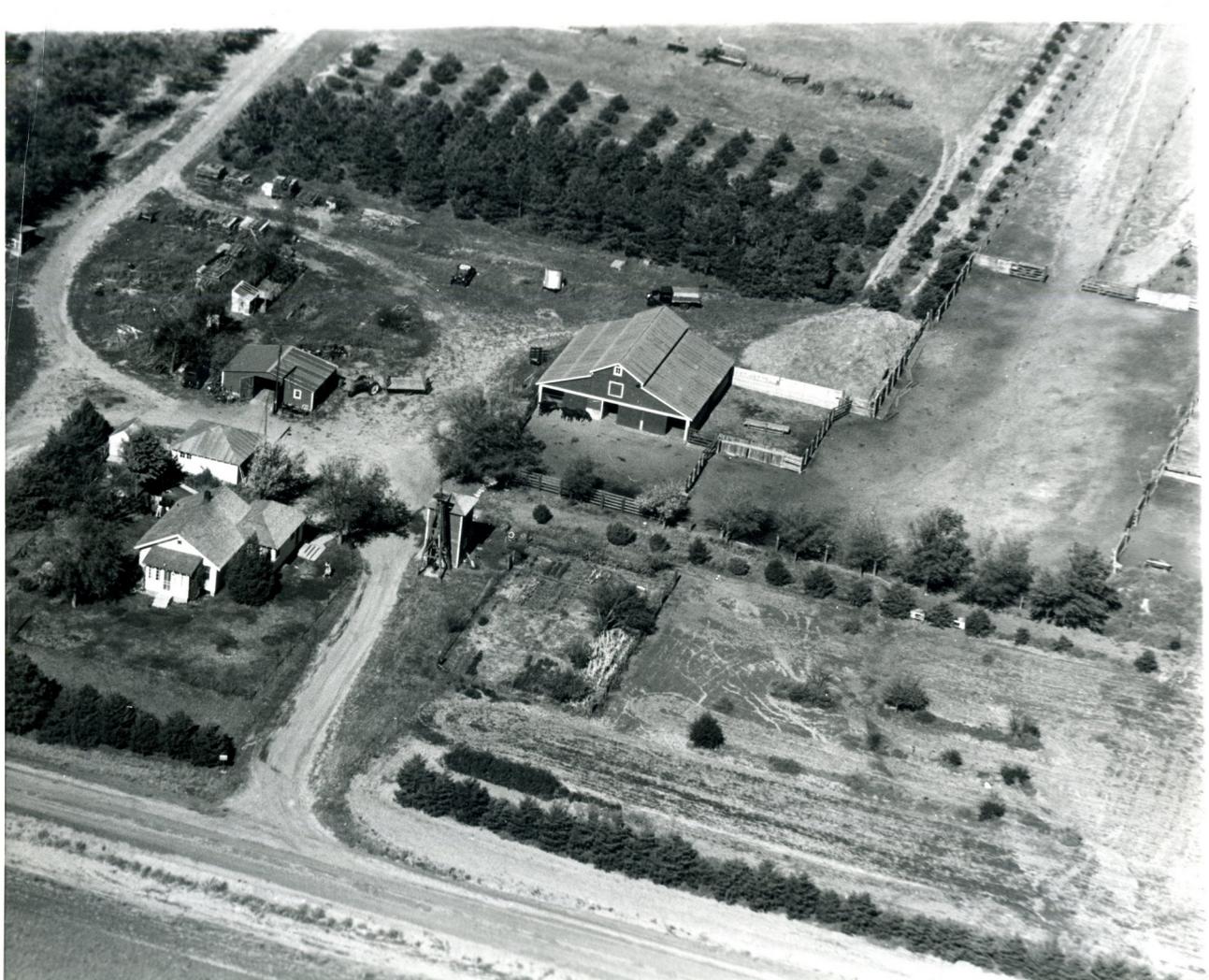
See complete descriptions of all options on Page 13.

See complete specifications on Pages 8 and 9, also Heating, Plumbing and Wiring information on Pages 91 to 96.

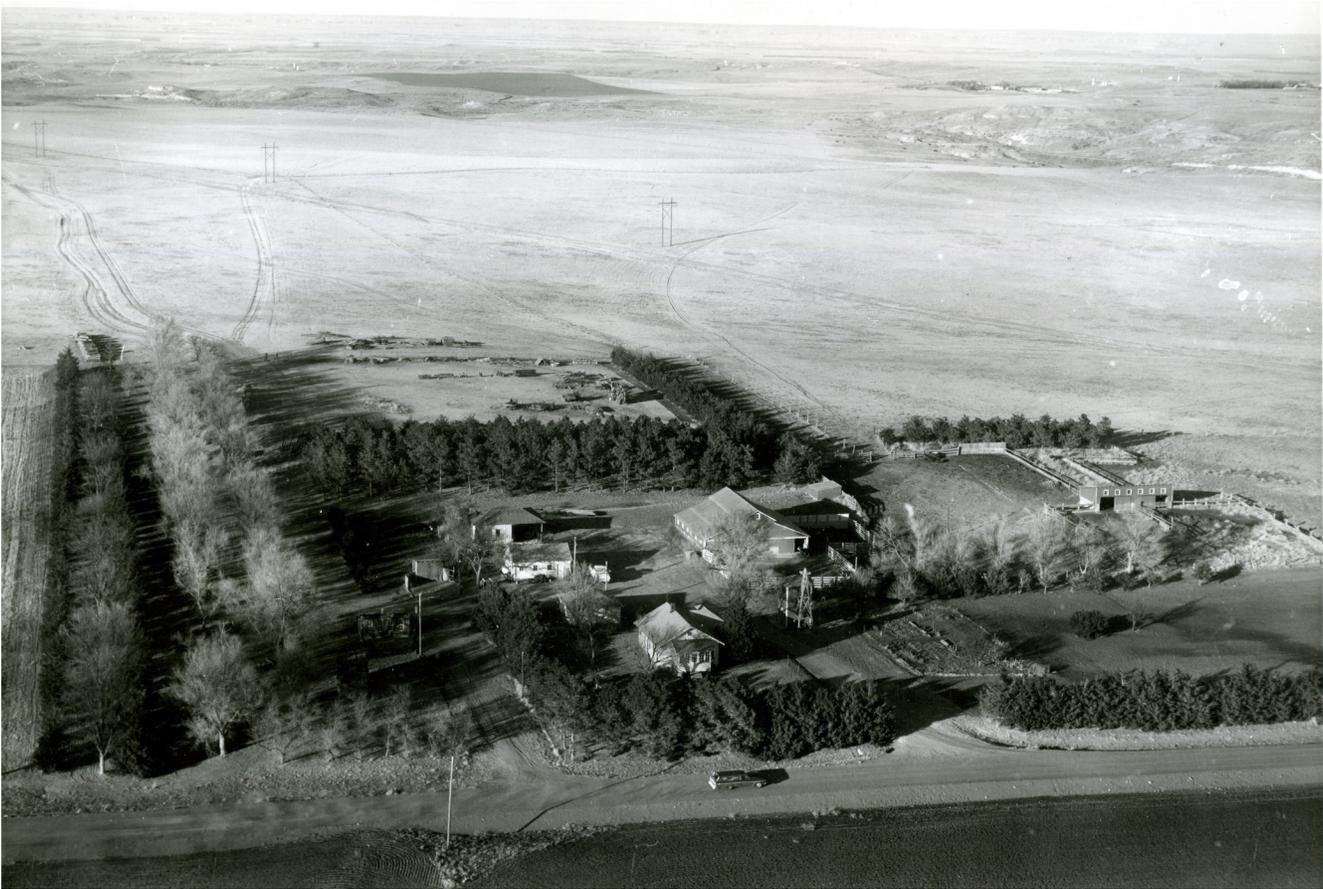
The house and ranch in 1948:



The house and ranch in 1957:



The house and ranch in 1967:



The house in 1983:



The house in 1989:

