American Small Houses (c. 1940)
Merriman Avenue - Wilmore Historic District
Fifty-six houses, costing from $5,000 to $15,000, planned by America’s foremost architects in the small-house field, with complete floor plans and elevations.

These houses are designed to comply with the standards and construction requirements of the F.H.A. (Federal Housing Administration).

The electrical layout has been checked and approved by the National Adequate Wiring Bureau.

COMPLETE BLUEPRINTS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVERY HOUSE AT NOMINAL COST.
Architectural Characteristics

- Compact, one-story
- Gable Roof
- Simply, tightly massed
- Simply detailed
- 3-5 Rooms
- Multiple floor-plan options
- Optional Features:
  - Small portico or stoops
  - Porches
  - Dormers
  - Fireplaces
  - Side garages or carports
Recommended Best Practices

• The simplicity of the American Small House form is considered its primary character-defining feature.

• Large alterations to the footprint, such as additions that alter the front facade or modify the roofline, should be considered significant and disqualify the property from individual contributing status for National Register purposes.

• To maintain significance, an American Small House should:
  – Retain original massing, and additions, if present, do not detract from the historic appearance
  – Retain original exterior siding materials, or materials appear original
  – Retain original doors and windows
  – Retain original roofline (incompatible dormers and second story additions are not acceptable)