

#14 Temporary Laboratory

The “Temporary Laboratory”, which measured 51’ x 21’, was the first building occupied at the Fairport Biological Station and was fully operational in June 1910. This building served as the research lab until construction was completed on the “Main Laboratory” in the summer of 1914. The Temporary Lab was then used to house a “battery of hatching jars for experiments or hatching operations (Coker. 1916).” The Temporary Lab also served as the Director’s office from 1910-1914. After mussel propagation efforts terminated in the early 1930s, the Temporary Lab was converted to office space. The 1941 inventory indicates the building was used as office space that included two rooms.

The Temporary Lab was a 1-story, wood-frame bungalow with two rooms, a large wrap-around porch on the north facade, entrances on the east and west sides, several windows on all sides, and a pebble-dash stucco exterior. Only one room was heated, originally by coal and later by an oil stove. Although the 1941 inventory states there was no water supply to the building, a 1916 map shows a water pipeline extended from the “Temporary Pumphouse” to the “Temporary Laboratory.” Apparently once the building no longer functioned as a research facility, the water supply to the structure was terminated. In 1954 the Temporary Lab, original carpenter shop, and the Superintendent’s Cottage (and an adjacent one-car garage) were sold to Pace and Sons, Inc. and moved to Muscatine. The current Pumphouse was constructed on top of the former Temporary Laboratory in 1967.



Overview of the Temporary Laboratory in 1910, facing southeast.



Fairport Biological Station staff in front of Temporary Laboratory circa 1916.



Overview of the Temporary Laboratory in 1910, facing southwest.

