

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Post-and-Beam Garage
135 feet Southwest of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-K

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V,
1K-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM AND LUCINA BOWE RANCH,
POST-AND-BEAM GARAGE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The William and Lucina Bowe Ranch is on the east side of the lower Big Hole River Valley in southwest Montana. It lies in Silver Bow County about 0.1 mile south of the community of Melrose and 35 miles north of Dillon. County Road 40 passes through the property and crosses the river approximately 0.1 mile to the southwest.

The post-and-beam garage is on the north side of the ranch, approximately 135 feet southwest of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368575; Northing 5053800

Date of Construction: 1920s

Present Owners: Dale and Rosanna Carpenter
P.O. Box 26
Melrose, MT 59740

Present Use: Wagon restoration shop

Significance: The post-and-beam garage contributes to the significance of the William and Lucina Bowe Ranch. It is linked to the site's important association with the agricultural development of the lower Big Hole Valley in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The post-and-beam garage also serves as an example of a vernacular building form common to the period in which it was built.

Historian: Mary McCormick
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana
March 1998

II. HISTORY

The post-and-beam garage reportedly was built by an itinerant farm worker in the 1920s.¹

III. DESCRIPTION

This large garage (30' x 60') is about 35 feet south of the granary (MT-104-J). The structural system consists of log beams and half-log posts on concrete footers. It carries a front gable roof comprised of pole rafters and lateral bracing, and 2x6 purlins covered by corrugated metal sheeting. Exterior walls of the garage are sheathed by vertical boards which, in turn, have been covered by insul-Brick siding. Vertical boards frame the wall corners. On the east half of the front (north) wall there is a large opening covered by a sliding garage door suspended from a metal runner. The garage's only window is a small one-over-one double-hung unit located at the north end of the west wall.

The interior of the garage is an open, unfinished room. It serves as shop where the current owner refurbishes historic wagons.

IV. ENDNOTES

1. Jon Axline, "William Bowe Ranch, "Montana Cultural Resource Inventory Form," April 1996.