

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Log Root Cellar
110 feet Southwest of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-N

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V
IN-

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,
LOG ROOT CELLAR

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V,
IN-

HABS No. MT-104-N

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 log root cellar is on the north side of the ranch, approximately 110 feet southwest of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368580; Northing 5053805

Date of Construction: ca. 1870s

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

Present Use: Storage

Significance: The log root cellar contributes the significance of the William and Lucina Bowe Ranch. It is an important reflection of the site's role in the agricultural development of the lower Big Hole Valley. It also embodies log carpentry technologies and design concepts representative of the period in which it was built.

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

II. HISTORY

The log root cellar probably was built in the mid- to late 1870s. It and the adjacent two cabins (MT-104-L and MT104-M) not only served as the domestic facilities for the Bowe Family but also were part of the and stage station until about the early 1880s, when William Bowe brought in a wood-frame dwelling (MT-104-A).

III. DESCRIPTION

The log roof cellar (24' x 26') is hemmed between the one-room log cabin (MT-104-L) to the north, the two-room log cabin to the east (MT-104-M), and the post-and-beam garage to the west (MT-104-K). Its round wall logs meet in V-notched corners and are daubed on the exterior with mortar. A thick layer of sod covers the flat roof. At the northeast corner of the root cellar there is a narrow walkway enclosed by boards. It serves as the sole means of access into the root cellar, and can only be reached by passing through the adjacent two-room log cabin (MT-104-M).

The north half of root cellar contains a room lined by stone masonry walls. The floor of this room is excavated about 1' below the ground surface. It remains dirt. Two rows of log posts stand in the center of the room and support three ceiling beams. Poles lie across the beams, covering the ceiling. The south half of the cellar is no longer accessible.