

THE HORSE RANCH, WORKSHOP-GENERAL SHED
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity ^{Joe} Eagle Cap wilderness Area
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Columbia Cascades Support Office
National Park Service
909 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Workshop/Generator Shed

HABS NO. OR-165-A

Location: The Horse Ranch is located within the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The ranch lies in a valley along the Wild and Scenic Minam River in Wallowa County. It is approximately nine air miles northeast of Cove, Oregon and thirteen air miles southwest of Enterprise, Oregon. SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, Township 2S, Range 41E, Willamette Meridian.

The workshop/generator shed is more specifically located at the south end of the main ranch complex, east of the barn and the associated corrals.

Significance: The workshop/generator shed, built in 1946-47, is significant as it relates to the Horse Ranch building complex. As Red Higgins expanded the facilities at the ranch in 1946 to accommodate more guests, a maintenance shed or workshop became necessary. A workshop was a crucial support building for the dude ranching operations.

According to the Determination of Eligibility for the National Register (letter dated, May 1, 1996) between the State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Forest Service, the workshop/generator shed is a non-contributing building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: The workshop/generator shed is a one room, rectangular structure with a dirt floor. The building is a light pole frame structure, sheathed with hand-split shakes and is similar in construction to the barn. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and it is supported by purlins which project out further on the west elevation than the east. There are four multi-paned windows and an off centered wood plank door on the south elevation. A wide plank door is on the west elevation and a large door openings is on the east elevation. The east end of the building was extended in the 1960s to accommodate a large generator. This building houses a large diesel generator and also serves as a shop and is wired for electricity. The workshop/generator shed is in fair condition.

Historical Context:

The original portion of the workshop/generator shed was built in 1946-47 under Red Higgins' ownership. The building originally functioned as a workshop for the ranch. It was used for tool storage and for repair work. In the 1960s, Higgins added onto the workshop to provide shelter for a large diesel generator. The generator was originally part of an aircraft carrier in Portland and was flown into the site by helicopter (Cason interview). Prior to the installation of the diesel generator, a small gas generator was located in the generator shed. This small generator supplied only electricity for lights at the ranch; the "new" generator provided power for washing facilities and refrigeration.

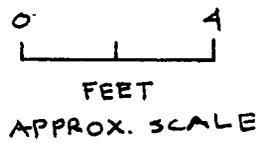
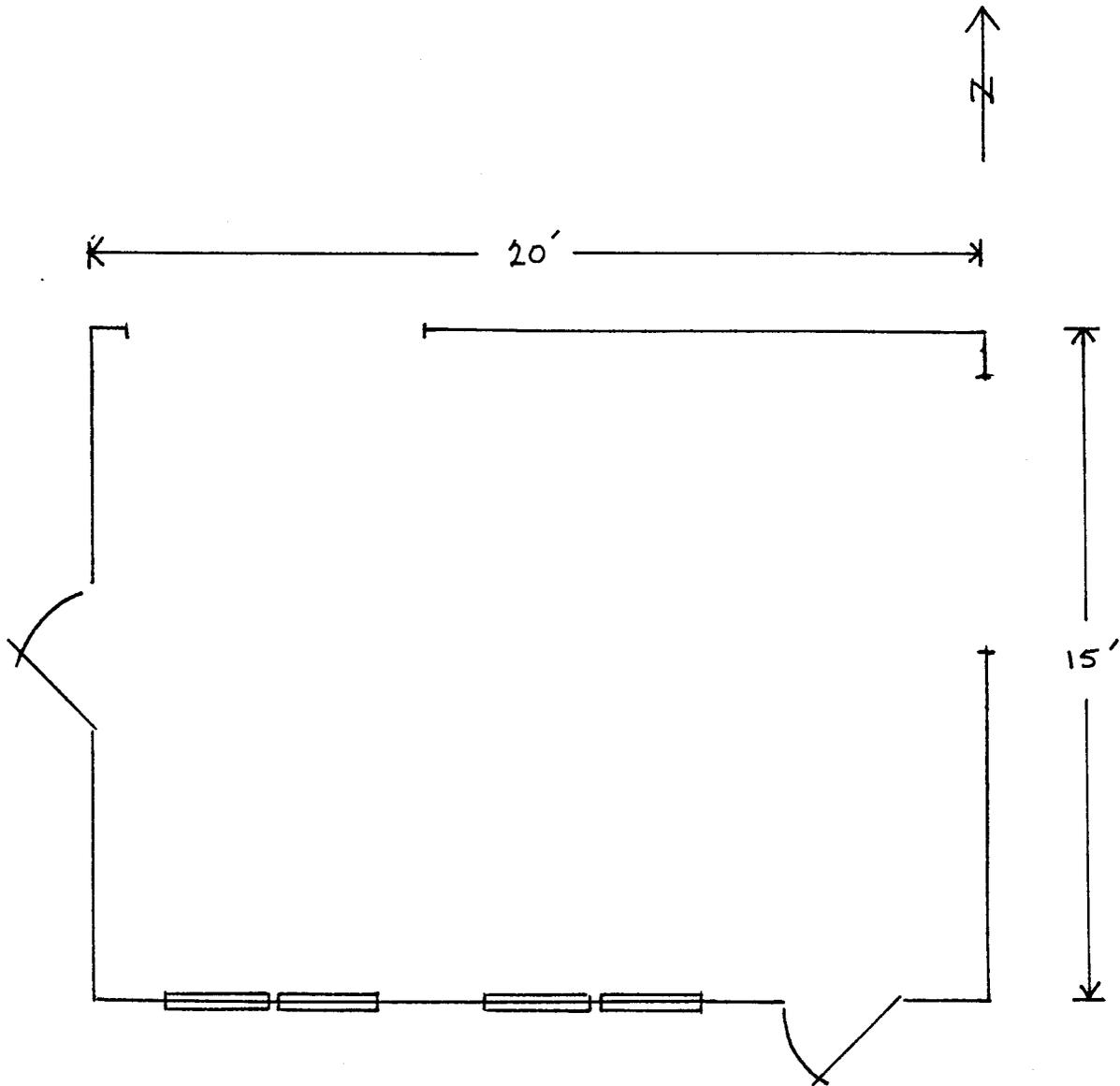
Sources: Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, National Register Determination of Eligibility. Site analysis by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan, August 1996.

Project Information:

In 1994, the Horse Ranch (Red's Horse Ranch) was acquired for inclusion in the National Wilderness System by the USDA Forest Service. As a result of the property acquisition, the USDA Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Analysis Report and Future Use Determination for the site. This process will enable the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to establish management direction and priorities for the property. As part of the environmental analysis, a Determination of Eligibility report was completed in the spring of 1996.

Project Supervisors: Contracting Officer R.A. Cunningham, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Bruce Womack, Contracting Officer's Representative, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

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WORKSHOP/GENERATOR SHED