

THE HORSE RANCH, TACK SHED
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity *Eagle Cap wilderness Area*
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-F

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Columbia Cascades Support Office
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Tack Shed

HABS NO. OR-165-F

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. 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 tack shed is more specifically located north of the barn at the edge of the corral.

Significance: The tack shed is significant as it relates to the building complex. A tack shed is a typical support building to a ranching operation. The tack shed most like built by the Hudspeths in the 1930s and later expanded under Red Higgins' ownership. The original tack shed in the barn (east end of barn) was no longer large enough to accommodate the additional tack gear. The building is important to the function of the ranch.

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 tack shed is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: Built on a gentle slope, the elevation of the tack shed changes slightly from the east to west (slopes down towards the west). The front faces south into the corral area. This rectangular structure, measuring 39' E.W. x 16' N.S., is constructed of peeled ponderosa pine logs with square notched corners. Nails places at an angle reinforce the corner notching. No daubing is visible on the building, though there are wood slats nailed between the logs in some places and the mortar may have weathered off. A partial concrete foundation is under the west end (slightly cracked and partially falling).

The structure is covered by a medium-pitched gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The roof is supported by log purlins. The log walls continue up to the roofline and support the purlins. It is similar in construction to the milking barn, and cabins #4 through #6.

The building is divided north-south into two rooms; and it may have been constructed at different times or built as separate units as a result of its function. The east section of the building has window openings on the south, east, and north elevations. The east and north windows have multi-pane wood frame fixed windows; the opening on the south elevation is missing the glass. The building is wired for electricity.

The interior rooms of the tack shed are connected by doorway in the wall dividing the two rooms. The door is off-center. The eastern area contains seven saddle holders made of logs, two log benches (under the north and south windows), and wooden hooks. The floor is dirt. The west portion of the building is open on the south elevation and leads into the corral. A simple fence and gate with a center post keeps the animals out. Stalls for the animals are located in the western portion. Other than the crack in the foundation on the west elevation, the building is in good condition.

Historical Context:

The tack shed served as a blacksmith's shop for shoeing horses, tack/riding gear storage shed, and also may have been used as a place to slaughter deer and elk. The building was most likely built during the Hudspeths' ownership and later expanded during Higgins' ownership. The building faces south into the corral area.

Sources:

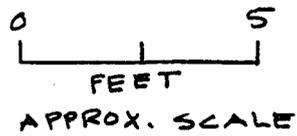
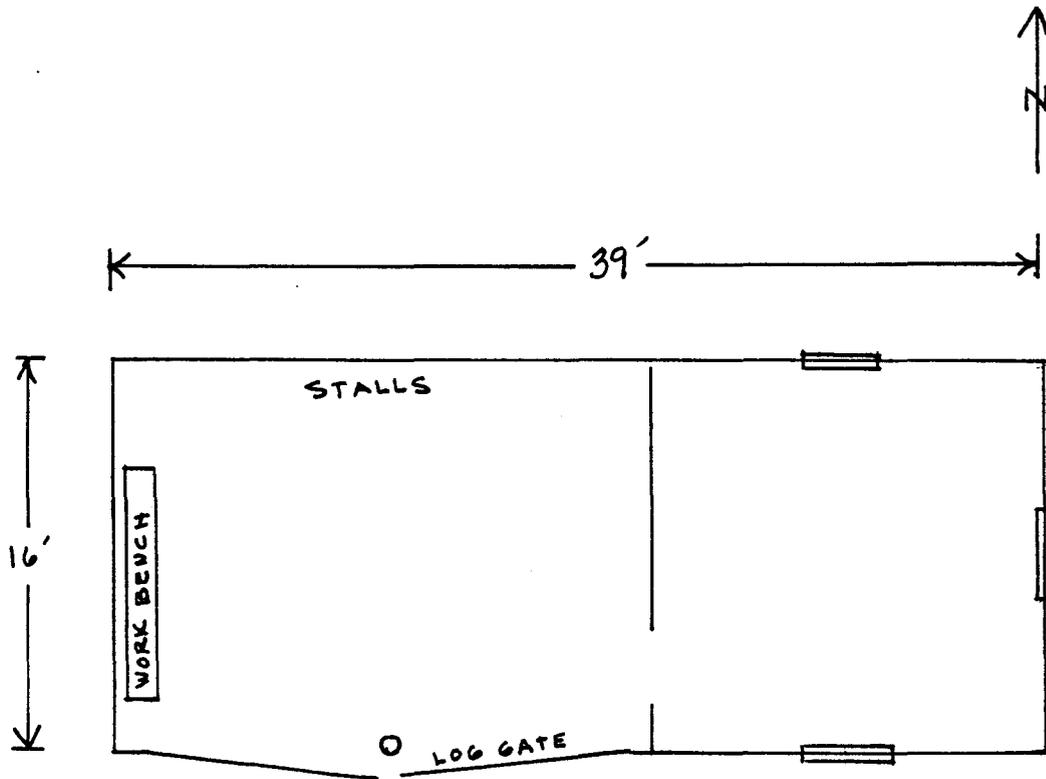
Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, National Register Determination of Eligibility. Site analysis by Kimberly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



TACK SHED