

THE HORSE RANCH, PRIVY NO. 1  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
Joseph vicinity *← Eagle Cap Wilderness Area*  
Wallowa County  
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-H

*HABS  
ORE  
32-JOS.V,  
IH-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS  
ORE  
32- JOS.V,  
1H-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Privy #1

HABS NO. OR-165-H

**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 privy is more specifically located directly west of the tack shed in the central lawn area of the building complex.

**Significance:** Privy #1 is significant as it relates to the building complex. Privies provided the only sanitation facilities in the ranch complex until 1946 when indoor plumbing was introduced. Only two privies remain in the main ranch complex. This privy is still used during the winter as the primary sanitation facility.

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, privy #1 is a non-contributing building within the Horse Ranch complex.

**Description:** The privy, measuring approximately 5' x 5', is a wood frame structure covered with wide machine-sawn horizontal planks. The medium gable roof is covered with machine cut wood shingles and has exposed rafters. A hinged door, made of two vertical planks, is on the front (south) elevation. It has a wood threshold and wood plank floor. "Basement Apartment for Rent" is painted on the east side of the privy. The building is in good condition and is the primary sanitation facility during winter months.

**Historical Context:**

Donna Case, Ernest Hudspeth's daughter, does not remember a privy in this location, thus the privy was probably built during Red Higgins' ownership. In 1946-47, indoor plumbing was installed in the recreation cabins near the river, however, no plumbing was located in bunkhouses #1 and #2. These bunkhouses are located near the privy which served as the main sanitation facility for the ranch hands staying in the buildings. The privy was centrally located near the bunkhouses, kitchen/dining hall, and barn.

According to Richard Cason (former resident), this building has been here since at least 1948 when he first started coming to the ranch, however it has probably been rebuilt several times since the exterior sheathing materials appear to be newer than 1948. Case and Cason both remember another outhouse located south of the main building complex which is no longer extant.

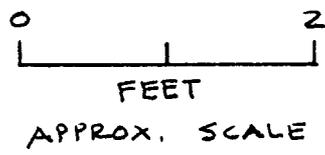
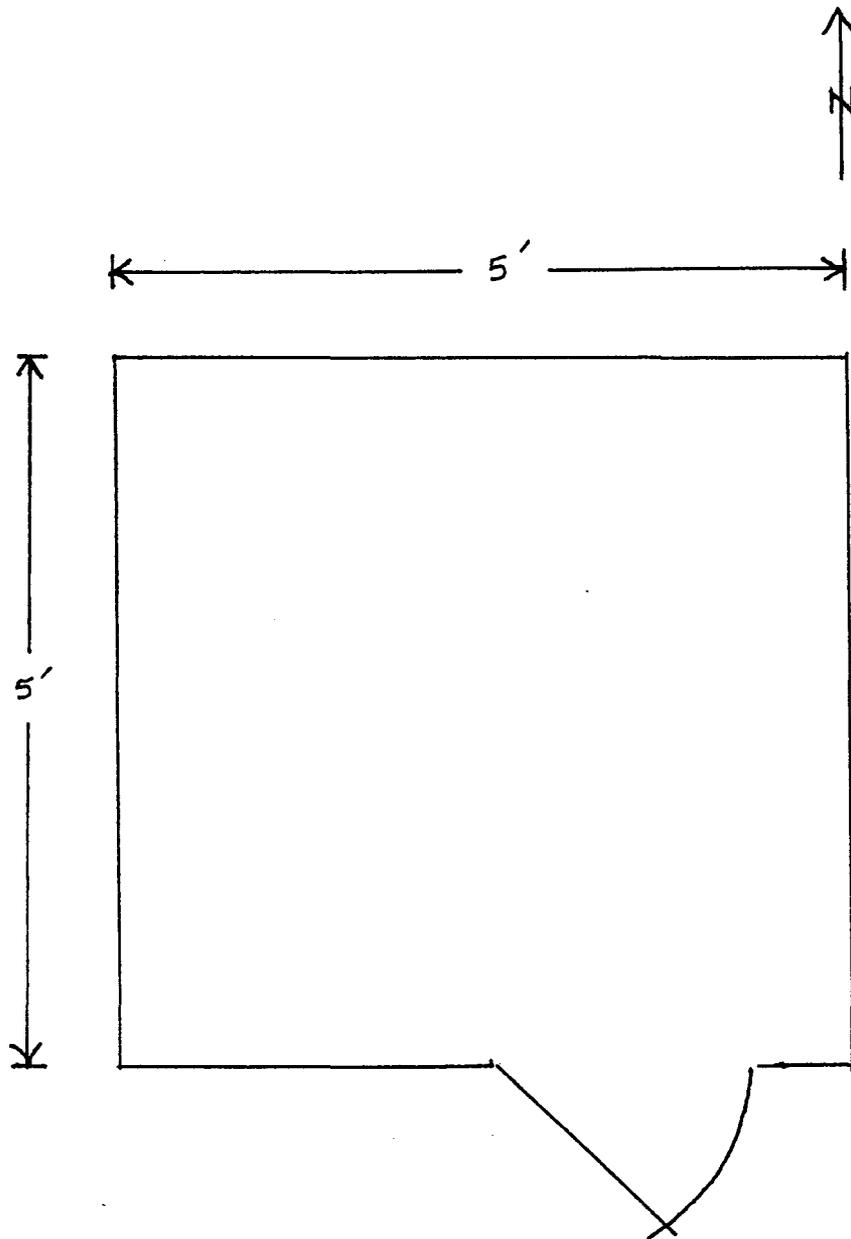
**Sources:** Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Case, Donna, former resident, phone interview by Kimberly Lakin, December 1996. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman 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.

Prepared by: Sally Donovan and Kimberly Lakin  
Title: Historic Preservationist/Architectural Historian  
Affiliation: Donovan/Lakin Joint Venture  
Date: December 1996



PRIVY