

THE HORSE RANCH, BUNKHOUSE NO. 2
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity *Edge Camp Wilderness Area*
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-J

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Bunkhouse #2

HABS NO. OR-165-J

Location: The Horse Ranch is located within the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Willamette 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 bunkhouse is located east side of the ponds in the center of the main building complex. The bunkhouse #2 is located directly north of bunkhouse #1 and the dining hall/kitchen is located northeast of the building. A grassy lawn area is located to the east and the corrals are south and southeast of the bunkhouse.

Significance: Bunkhouse #2 is significant as it relates to the building complex. The bunkhouse was important to the operations of the ranch both in its history as a working ranch and a dude ranch. The bunkhouses provided accommodations for the ranch hands and may have been used to house workers employed by the Minam Lumber Company. The bunkhouse is one of the oldest buildings in the ranch complex, dating from the late 1910s.

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, bunkhouse #2 is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: This rectangular structure, measuring approximately 22' E.W. x 20' N.S., is covered with a low gable roof sheathed with painted, corrugated metal roofing. The roof is supported by closely spaced continuous purlins. The purlins project over the face of the east and west walls creating an overhang. The east overhang projects out about eight feet creating a covered area for wood storage. The overhang is supported by two posts which have been set in the ground. The fascia is sheathed with corrugated metal. The building is unheated.

The bunkhouse is constructed with horizontal peeled ponderosa pine logs with V-shaped saddle notched corners (the same construction as bunkhouse #1). Chinking consists of a soft light colored mortar. The chinking is missing on a majority of the building. Small wooden slats have been nailed to the top of the log to cover the cracks between the logs. Visible portions of the foundation are constructed of rock.

The building is lit by two multi-pane windows; one six light window on the north side and one window on the west side. The windows are trimmed with rough-sawn plain casings and trim boards. The bunkhouse has two doors; one on the south elevation (not used and centered) and the main entrance (offset) on the north elevation. Both doors are constructed of vertical planks with a plain trim board and log threshold. A wooden plank stoop is in front of the north door. A sign saying "Little Minam River" with an arrow pointing to the river is located west of the north door.

The interior of the bunkhouse is composed of one room. The interior walls are lined with aircraft aluminum which was most likely salvaged from an airplane that crashed near the ranch. Masonite covers the interior wood plank floors. The interior at one time was wired for electricity. The building is used for storage at the present time.

Wood is stacked up against the building on the east elevation under the overhang and equipment is stored against the west elevation of the cabin. Two hitching posts are located adjacent to the building; one on the north elevation (constructed August, 1996) and the other hitching post is along the west elevation. Bunkhouse #2 is very similar in construction and materials to bunkhouse #1.

Historical Context:

According to local sources, the bunkhouse was built between 1918 and 1921, when the ranch was possibly used as a base camp for the logging operations of the Minam Logging Company (Van Schoonhoven and Richards). The company is thought to have built the kitchen/dining hall and two bunkhouses (#1, #2). The bunkhouse (#2) has been used throughout the years to house ranch hands. During the Richard's ownership, the building served as a storeroom and occasional sleeping quarters. It is currently (1996) being used as a storeroom and wood shed.

Sources:

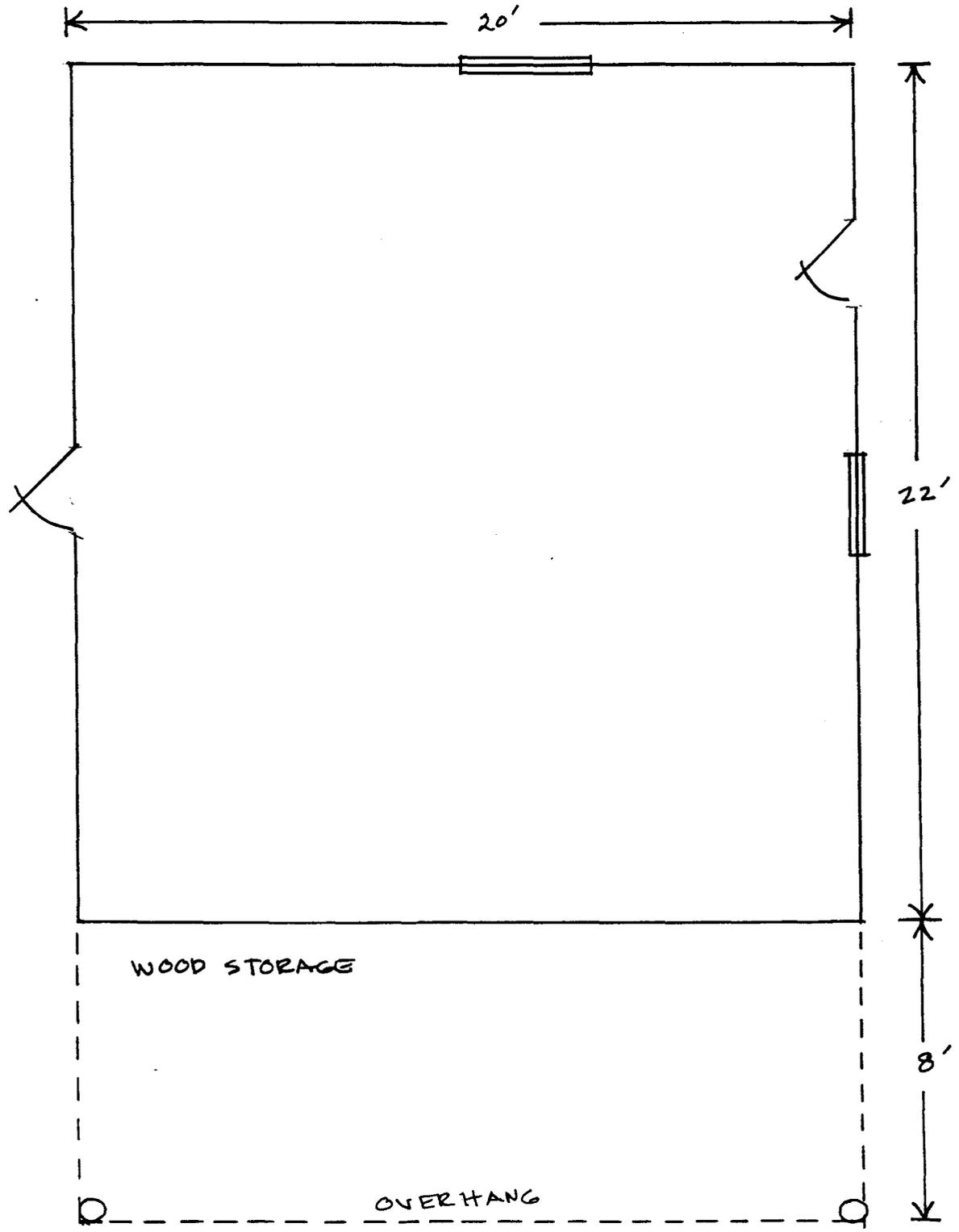
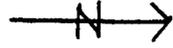
Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Richards, Cecil, previous resident, interview on site by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan, August 1996. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, 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.

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BUNKHOUSE

