

THE HORSE RANCH, SAUNA
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Eagle Cap Wilderness Area
Joseph vicinity
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-P
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32-JOS.V,
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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), Sauna

HABS NO. OR-165-P

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 log sauna sits against the eastern bluff north of the kitchen/dining hall building, and just north of the barbecue.

Significance: Although this building is quite new, there is precedent for buildings such as this being built as part of a recreational resort. As the popularity of saunas and hot tubs has grown, many resorts offered these facilities as an attempt to attract a wider variety of visitors. Saunas, however, were not typical of dude ranches in earlier periods, nor were they typical for working farms or ranches.

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 sauna is a non-contributing building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: This building was constructed by Tom Frazier, leasee, in 1993. It measures 12 E.W. and 8' N.S. and is constructed of peeled logs, saddle notched with protruding log ends. The protruding logs on the front (west) elevation creates a cantilevered roof that provides a sheltered area. The cantilevered roof projects approximately 5 ft.

The medium-pitched gable roof is comprised of small peeled poles rafters over which wood planks are laid and covered with a corrugated metal roof. The central front door is made of vertical wood planks with cross bracing. The building is caulked between the logs. The porch floor is concrete.

The interior is all wood with a wood burning stove that heats the interior. The building is in excellent condition.

Historical Context:

The sauna was built in 1993 by Tom Frazier, a leasee of the ranch. Although this building is quite new, there is precedent for buildings such as this being built as part of a recreational resort. As the popularity of saunas and hot tubs has grown, many resorts offered these facilities as an attempt to attract a wider variety of visitors. Saunas were not typical of dude ranches in earlier periods, nor were they typical for working farms or ranches.

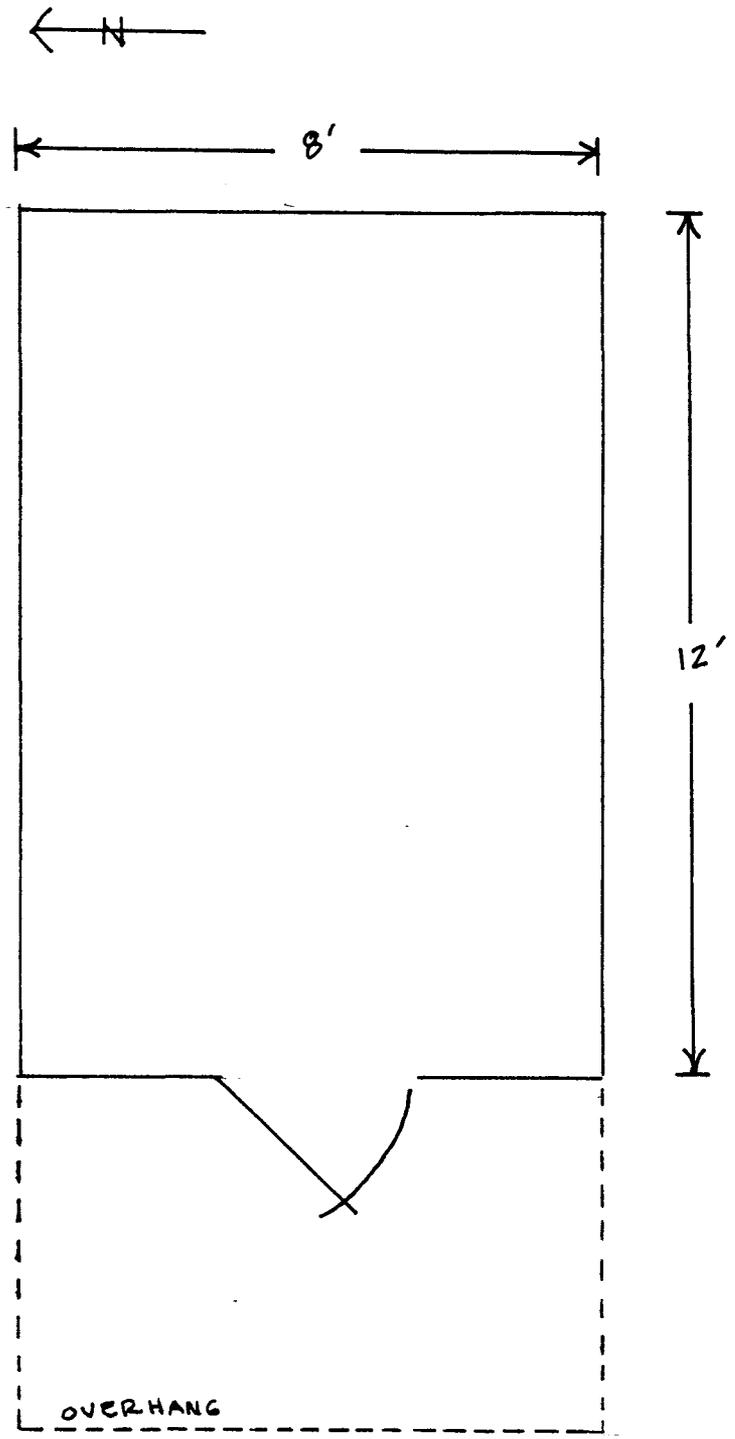
Sources: Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, National Register Determination of Eligibility. Site analysis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



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