

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

HABS No. OR-165-T

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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), Duplex Cabin #1

HABS NO. OR-165-T

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.

Located on the banks of the Minam River facing north, this cabin is part of the second group of buildings which are situated at a lower elevation. This building is the first in a group of recreation cabins which line the banks of the river. It is closest to Red's cabin. Behind the building to the south is the hay field. It sits approx. 16' from the river with lodgepole and ponderosa pines nearby. A split rail fence extends along the east and west ends of the building bordering the hay field.

Significance: Duplex cabin #1 is significant as it relates to the function of a dude ranch. It is one of a group of four recreation cabins built during Red Higgins' ownership. Situated along the banks of the Minam River, these cabins were designed with the intention of providing guests with river views from their bedroom windows. Built in 1946, this cabin is one of two duplex cabins built in the Palisade style of log construction. It was built and furnished in the western rustic style. Each half of the duplex bears an Indian name: "Nez Perce" and "Yakima".

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, duplex cabin #1 is a contributing building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: *Exterior:* This rectangular duplex log building, measuring 31'6" E.W. and 17'3" N.S., is comprised of two units which share a common bath. The building has electricity and plumbing. The wall structure on the north and south elevations are composed of horizontal peeled ponderosa pines with square notched ends below the window sills and vertical (Palisades style) peeled logs from the sill to the top of the windows. A log beam tops the vertical logs. The east and west gable ends are filled with horizontal logs. Log purlins project from the gable ends. The spaces between the logs are filled with wire mesh and heavy cement mortar (identical to that on portions of the cook's cabin). Some areas of the walls are stuffed with insulation.

The central portion of the medium-pitched gable roof (sheathed with corrugated metal roofing) extends on the front elevation to form a covered porch. The porch is supported by three log posts. The porch roof shelters the two front doors which open into the respective units. The doors are made of horizontal knotty pine planks with simple iron latches. The porch floor is flagstone. On either side of each door is a large bank of windows which extend around the corners of the building to the east and west elevations. All window frames are painted brown. The concrete foundation/floor was poured in the early 1960s after the original wood floors had deteriorated.

On the front elevation are three sets of wooded fixed multi-pane windows. On the east and west elevations are paired wood frame multi-pane casement windows. The rear (south) elevation has five wood frame multi-pane casement windows. Also on the rear elevation are two random course rubble granite chimneys. The chimneys and fireplaces were built by Pete Decker. Between the chimneys are three casement windows. The remaining two windows are at the each end of the building.

Interior: The floor plan is comprised of two bedrooms flanking a common bath and hall. Each bedroom can be closed off and each has a private entrance. The concrete floor is covered with linoleum. The walls and ceiling are covered with wide knotty pine paneling and the ceiling is narrow knotty pine paneled. The windows have deep set knotty pine window sills and there is a granite fireplace at the rear of each room. The mantel-shelf is made of a split pine log. Casement windows flank the fireplace in each unit. Door and window frames have plain trim. There is a closet in each room near the front door. All hardware is wrought iron. The four bed frames, night tables, and chests are knotty pine. A double and a single bed are in each unit. The bed frames are made of the same paneling as the walls and were constructed on site. Small lamps are made from horseshoes. Wood curtain rods and brackets remain intact, though there are no curtains.

The bathroom has a narrow casement window on the south elevation. Walls are knotty pine paneling, and towel rods and toilet paper dispenser are also made of wood. The bathroom includes a sink, shower stall, toilet and hot water heater. The building is in excellent condition.

Historical Context:

Built in 1946, this cabin is one of two duplexes constructed early in Red Higgins' ownership. This cabin was one of the first cabins to be built as part of Higgins' plan for expansion of the dude ranch. The overall design of the cabin is similar to those cabins shown in various log construction plan books. The book, "How to Build Cabins and Ranch Houses", published in 1952, shows drawings of similar log vacation cabins.

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.

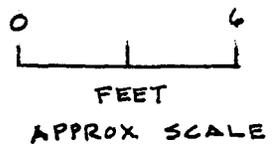
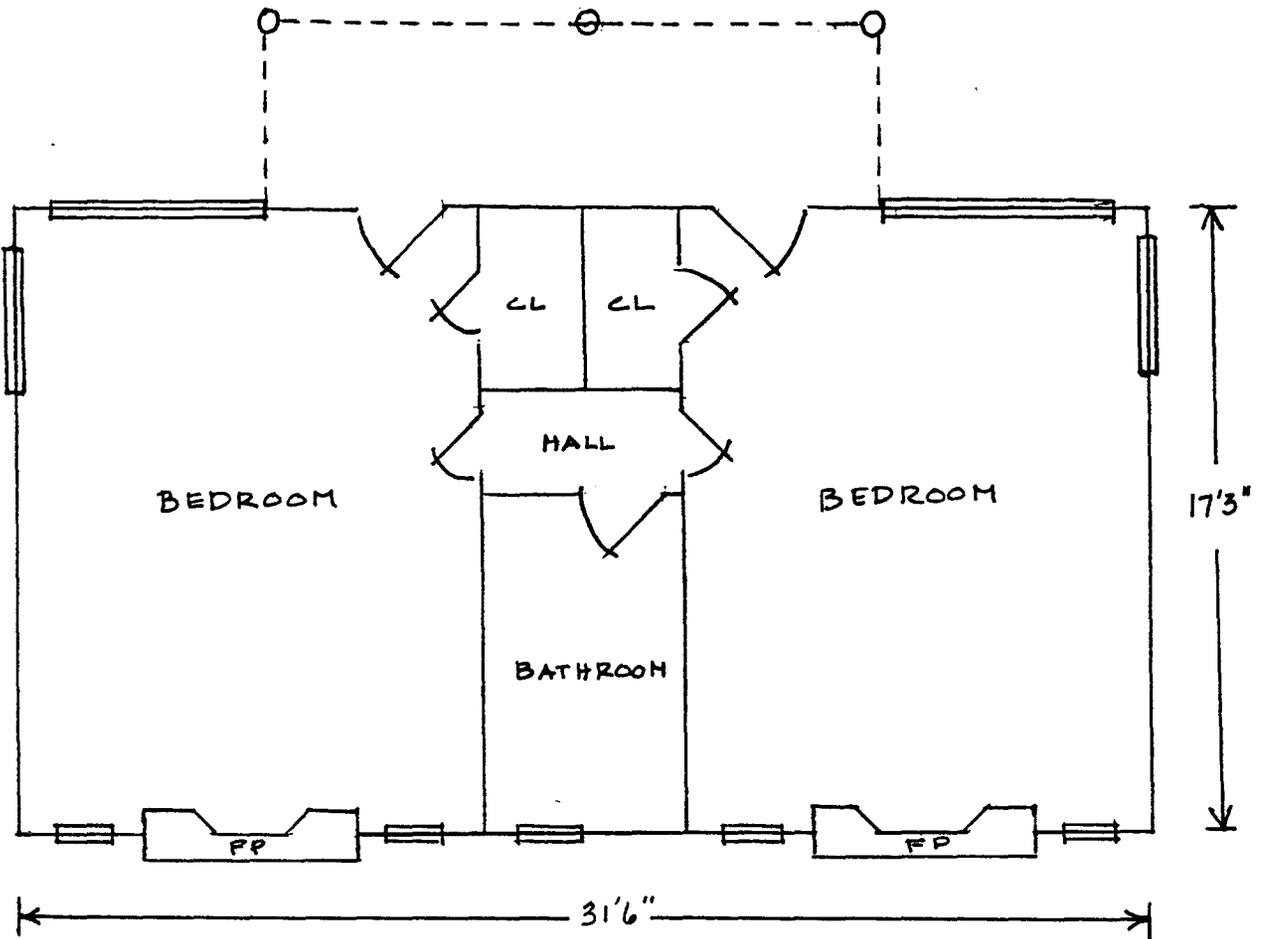
Project Information:

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.

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DUPLEX CABIN