

THE HORSE RANCH, CABIN NO. 3
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Eagle Cap Wilderness Area
Joseph vicinity
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-X

HABS
ORE
32-JOS.V,
IX-

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), Cabin #3

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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.

Situated on the bank on the Minam River facing northeast, this cabin is the last of seven cabins on the banks of the Minam River. It is approximately 30' south of the river. The hay field is to the south and is separated from the cabins by a split rail fence on the east and a barbed wire fence on the west. A mature pine tree is located near the northeast corner of the cabin.

Significance: Cabin #3 is significant as it relates to the function of a dude ranch. It is one of a group of cabins which are situated along the banks of the Minam River. The cabin functioned historically as a bunkhouse for packers in the 1930s when the ranch was an active outfitter guide operation. It represents the early period of the ranch when it was being developed as a dude 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, cabin #3 is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: *Exterior:* This small rectangular building, measuring 20' E.W. by 15' N.S., consists of one room. The medium-pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and is cantilevered approximately 5' 2" over the entrance door on the east side. The cantilever provides a sheltered porch area. The closely spaced purlins (10" to 16" on center) support the cantilever. A chimney pipe projects from the northeast corner of the cabin. The walls are constructed of peeled pine logs filled with fine mortar daubing and joined with square notching. Small wooden slats nailed to the top of some of wall logs seal cracks in the log joints.

A concrete slab serves as the front step. The front door, in the center of the east elevation, is a narrow door (approx. 2 ft.) constructed of knotty pine boards. The door handle is constructed of wood. A wooden shelf supported by diagonal bracing is directly north of the door. The windows are fixed, multi-pane windows and are located on all the elevations except the front (east elevation).

Interior: The interior of the cabin is comprised of a single room. The log ceilings have insulation battens between the purlins and the metal roofing. The floors are concrete with remnants of carpet on top. The windows are trimmed (on the sides only) with plain boards measuring 1" (thick) by 5 1/2" (wide). A wood burning stove is located in the northeast corner of the room. The interior is wired for electricity.

Historical Context:

The cabin was built during the Hudspeth's ownership (1930s). The cabin functioned historically as a bunkhouse for packers in the 1930s when the ranch was an active outfitter guide operation. The building is less decorative, constructed of horizontal logs, and does not have the amenities of the cabins built during Red Higgins' ownership. The cabin's orientation (not facing the river) also reflects the 1930s use as a bunkhouse rather than a "recreation" cabin.

Sources:

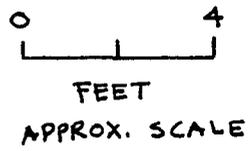
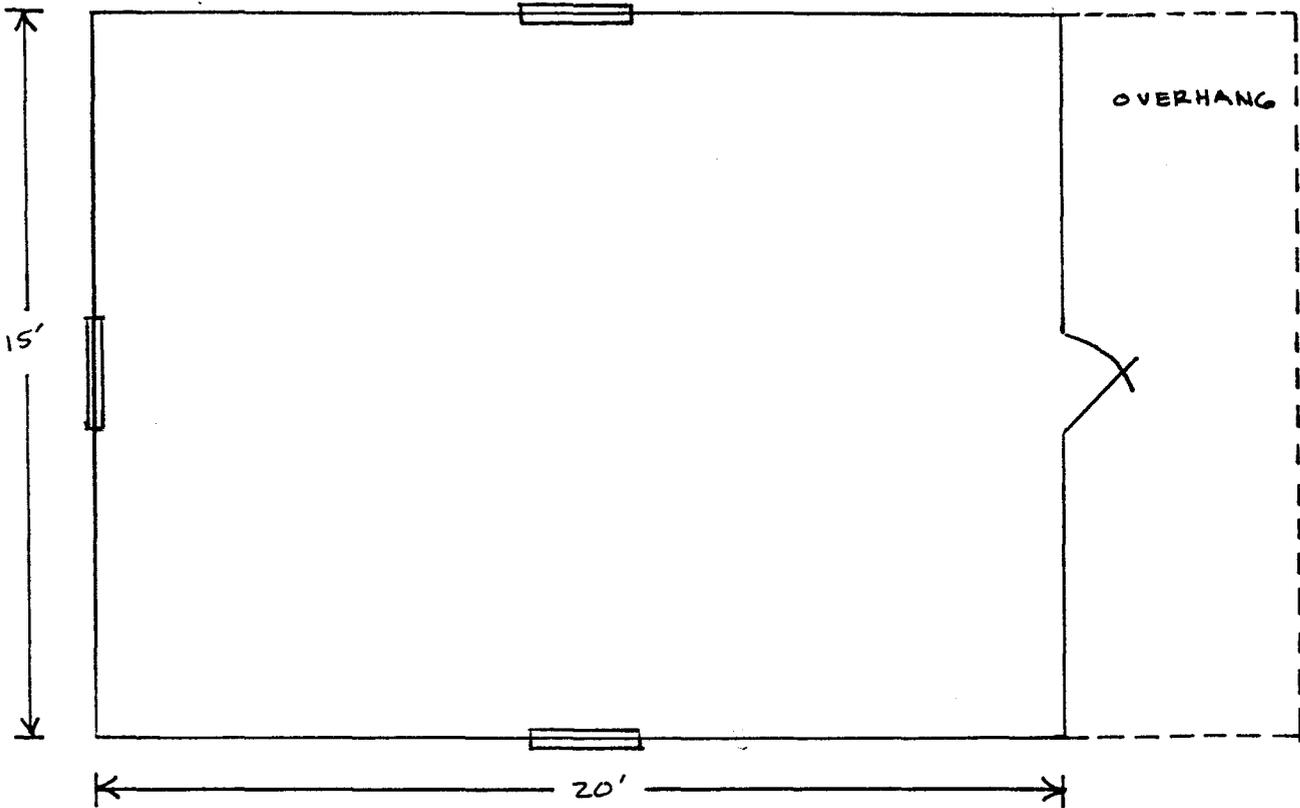
Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Hudspeth, Ernest, former owner, taped interview by John Van Schoonhoven. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 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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