

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

HABS No. OR-165-AC

HABS
ORE
32-JOS.V,
1 AC-

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), Sawmill

HABS NO. OR-165-AC

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 sawmill is located at the western edge of the property west of the main building complex where the valley begins to slope upwards into forest. The ground is very marshy.

Significance: The sawmill is significant as it relates to the building complex. Constructed sometime in the 1960s, the sawmill was used in the construction of the kitchen/dining hall building. It was used much less than was originally expected.

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

Description: The sawmill, measuring approximately 20' E.W. x 36' N.S. is an open post and beam structure with an open truss roof system. Eight posts support the peeled log lintels and roof trusses. The high-pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. Additional support is provided by cross wire ties and 2" x 4" exterior bracing of the posts. The structure has no foundation and the posts are buried in the ground and have begun to deteriorate. The marshy location has contributed to this deterioration. The structure is in poor condition.

Historical Context:

Built in the early 1960s, the sawmill was used in the construction of the kitchen/dining hall addition. Other than this addition, the saw mill was used mostly for repairs and maintenance of the ranch. The structure shelters the saw mill equipment.

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.

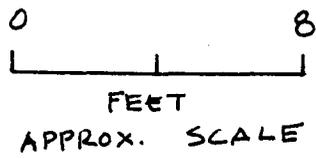
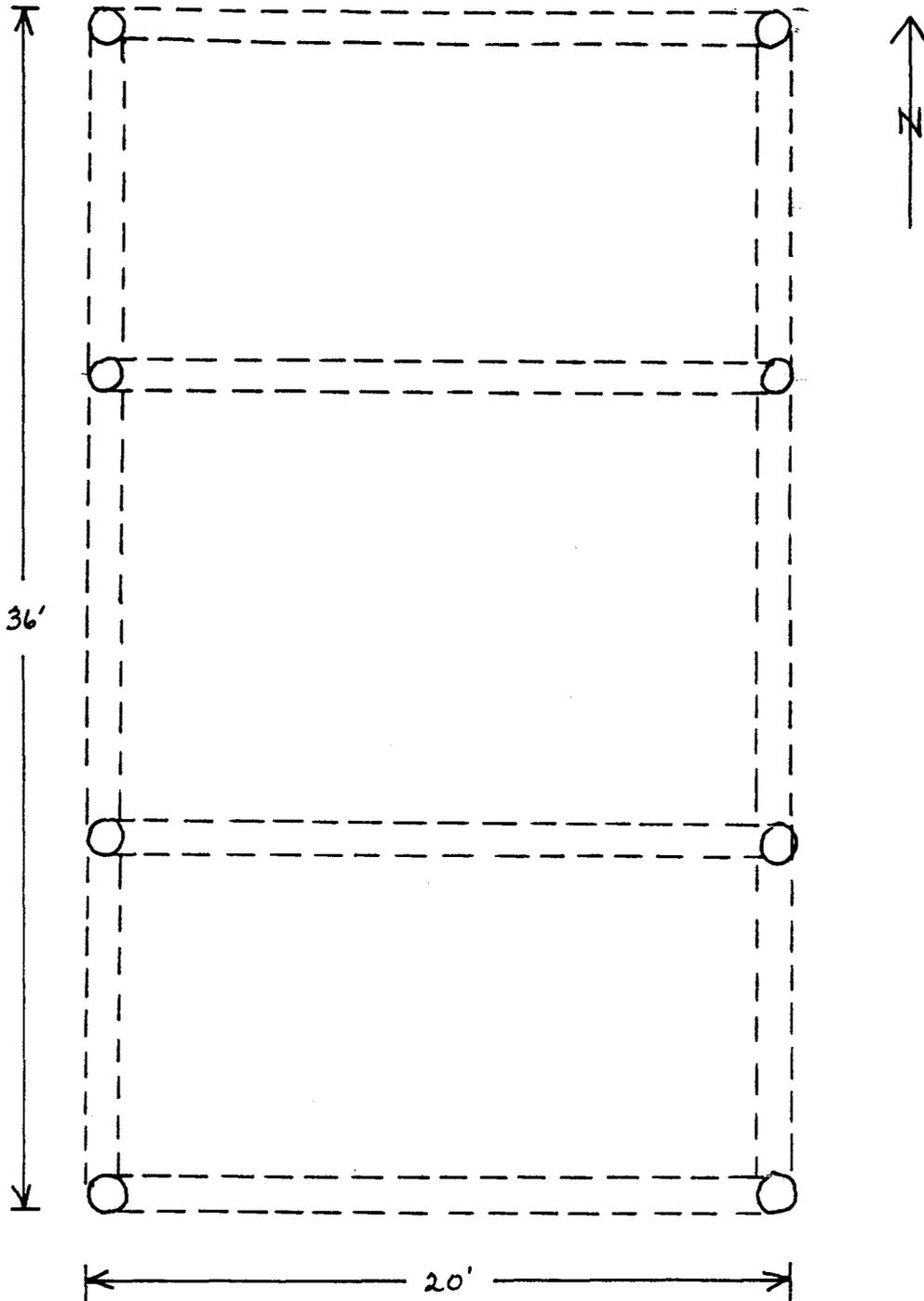
Project Information:

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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SAW MILL