

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Outhouse
20 feet Northwest of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-C

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MONT
47-MEL.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM AND LUCINA BOWE RANCH,
OUTHOUSE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The William and Lucina Bowe Ranch is on the east side of the lower Big Hole River Valley in southwest Montana. It lies in Silver Bow County about 0.1 mile south of the community of Melrose and 35 miles north of Dillon. County Road 40 passes through the property and crosses the river approximately 0.1 mile to the southwest.

The outhouse is on the north side of the ranch, about 20 feet northwest of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368620; Northing 5053845

Date of Construction: ca. 1900s

Present Owners: Dale and Rosanna Carpenter
P.O. Box 26
Melrose, MT 59740

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The outhouse contributes to the significance of the William and Lucina Bowe Ranch. It is linked to the site's important association with the agricultural development of the lower Big Hole Valley in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The outhouse also serves as an example of a vernacular building form common to the period in which it was built.

Historian: Mary McCormick
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana
March 1998

II. HISTORY

None of the sources consulted provided a construction date for the outhouse. However, the relatively poor condition of the building combined with the exclusive use of wire nails suggest that it was built around the turn-of-the-century.

III. DESCRIPTION

The outhouse stands immediately north of the modern garden shed (MT-104-B) behind the house (MT-104-A). It is a small wood-frame structure (4'8" x 6'3") resting on timber sills and topped by a gable roof. Vertical boards sheath the exterior walls. The gable roof has 2 x 6 rafters and board decking covered by wood shingles. Ends of the rafters are exposed under the eaves. Centered on the front (north) wall is a vertical board door with a few missing boards. Both the east and west sides have a small window vent framed by boards. Wire nails are present throughout.

The interior of the outhouse retains the original fixtures. On the south wall there is a two-seater wood box; a wood vent pipe stands between the two seats, extending up from the box to the roof. A smaller, child-sized box is on the east wall. Privy holes are still evident beneath the outhouse.