

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,  
Log Chicken House  
120 feet Northwest of House  
Melrose Vicinity  
Silver Bow County  
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-F

HABS  
MONT  
47-MEL.V,  
IF-

**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,  
LOG CHICKEN HOUSE

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MONT  
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IF-

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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 log chicken house is on the north side of the ranch, about 120 feet northwest of the house.

**Quad:** Melrose

**UTM:** Zone: 12; Easting 368575; Northing 5053850

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1920s

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

**Present Use:** Chicken House

**Significance:** The log chicken house 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 building also embodies log carpentry technologies and design concepts representative of the period in which it was built.

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

## II. HISTORY

None of the sources consulted made mention of the log chicken house. However, the presence of a concrete foundation and boxed rather than notched wall corners suggest that it was built well after the turn of the century. Based on these factors, combined with the current condition of the building, it is speculated that the chicken house dates to the 1920s.

## III. DESCRIPTION

The chicken house is a single-crib log building (13'6" x 19'6") immediately west of the equipment shed (MT-104-E) on the north side of the ranch. It is constructed of round logs with hewn ends that meet in box corners. Wall logs are daubed on the exterior with mortar. The sill logs lie on a foundation of poured concrete. The side gable roof has 4 x 6 rafters supporting board decking. Most of the roof decking is covered by corrugated metal sheeting except a large segment on the south-facing slope. The roof eaves extend about 1-½ feet beyond the walls, and the rafter tips are exposed under the overhang. Two layers of vertical boards cover the gable ends. Offset to the east on the front (south) wall is a paneled-wood door swinging on strap hinges. A long rectangular opening covered by wood-framed screen windows is west of the door. There are no other openings on the building except a wood-framed window vent on the just under the eave on the north wall. Wire nails are evident throughout.

The log chicken house contains an open room and an attic loft. Board decking for the loft is supported on 4 x 4 tie beams. The floor is dirt.