

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,  
Log Hayloft Barn  
280 feet Northwest of House  
Melrose Vicinity  
Silver Bow County  
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-G

HABS  
MONT  
47-MEL.V,  
1G-

**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 HAYLOFT BARN

HABS  
MONT  
47-MEL.V,  
16-

HABS No. MT-104-G

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 hayloft barn stands near the river, approximately 280 feet northwest of the house.

**Quad:** Melrose

**UTM:** Zone: 12; Easting 368550; Northing 5053880

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1880s

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

**Present Use:** Equipment storage.

**Significance:** The log hayloft barn 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 during 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  
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## II. HISTORY

None of the sources consulted made mention of the log hayloft barn. However, the exclusive use of cut nails suggests a construction date before about 1890.

## III. DESCRIPTION

This V-notched log outbuilding stands by itself at the far northwest end of the ranch near the river. It is a modest, single-crib barn (16' x 16') with a tall side-gable roof enclosing a hayloft. The wall logs are round on the exterior but have been hewn on the interior. They are daubed on the exterior by mud. There once was an entry on the south, but most of this wall has been removed, presumably so that large pieces of farm equipment could be moved inside for storage. There are no doors or windows on the east, west, or north walls. The gable roof is constructed of 2 x 6 rafters and board decking covered by wood shingles. Vertical boards cover the gable ends. A hayloft door (2½' wide by 4' tall) is in the east gable end just north of center. It is constructed of vertical boards and opens on metal strap hinges. Access from the ground to the hayloft door is provided by a ladder of split logs nailed on the exterior of the east wall. Only cut nails are evident at the gable end walls and the ladder.

The interior of the barn has been opened from floor to roof by the removal of the tie beams and decking for the hayloft. (The ends of log tie beams remain exposed on the exterior of the barn). The floor is dirt. Currently housed in the barn is the blade of a hay mower.