

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Log Bunkhouse
110 feet West of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-H

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V,
14-

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 BUNKHOUSE

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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 bunkhouse is on the north side of the ranch, approximately 110 feet west of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368575; Northing 5053825

Date of Construction: ca. 1890s

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

Present Use: Guest Cabin

Significance: The log bunkhouse 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
March 1998

II. HISTORY

None of the sources consulted provided a construction date for the log bunkhouse. However, the use of both cut and wire nails in the door and window jambs suggest that it was built in the 1890s.

III. DESCRIPTION

The bunkhouse is a single-pen log cabin (15'6" x 16') at the center of the building complex on the north side of the ranch. Its round log walls are square-notched at the corners and daubed with mortar on the exterior. The entire roof has been replaced in recent years, raising the cabin about 2' in height. The roof addition is a prominent front-gable structure that extends about 4' beyond the front (south) wall, lending the bunkhouse a Rocky Mountain style appearance. It has board decking covered by asphalt shingles, and features molded fascia boards and wide boxed eaves with board-lined soffits. Asphalt shingles covers the gable ends, but the tips of the original roof purlins remain exposed at the rear (north) gable. The extension of the roof is supported on log posts, and shelters an open front porch with a concrete and rock deck. Centered on the front (south) wall is a paneled-wood door with a half-window covered by metal sheeting. The only window is a six-over-six, double-hung unit located north of center on the east wall. A stucco and brick chimney protrudes through the southeast corner of the roof.

The one-room interior of the bunkhouse has pine flooring and round log walls chinked with ¼-round wedges. A cast-iron wood stove stands in the southeast corner and is vented by the brick chimney. Furnishings include a bed and table and chairs.