

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Loafing Shed No. 1
235 feet Southwest of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-P

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V
IP-

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,
LOAFING SHED NO. 1

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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.

Loafing shed no. 1 is on the south side of the ranch, approximately 210 feet south-southwest of house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368620; Northing 5053740

Date of Construction: ca. 1930s

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

Present Use: Loafing Shed

Significance: Loafing shed no. 1 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 shed 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 mention the loafing shed. However, the design and materials of the structure suggest a construction date around the 1930s.

III. DESCRIPTION

This loafing shed is at the northwest end of the corral complex at the south side of the ranch. It is a tall structure (47'6" long x 21'6' maximum width) with a shed roof supported on poles. The south side is open and faces toward a corral. Vertical board siding is on the remaining three walls. Boards also cover the roof.