

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Log Draft Horse Barn
280 feet Southwest of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-Q

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V
1Q-

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 DRAFT HORSE BARN

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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 draft horse barn is on the south side of the ranch, approximately 290 feet southwest of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368620; Northing 5053730

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

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

Present Use: Horse Barn

Significance: The log draft horse 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
March 1998

II. HISTORY

None of the sources consulted made mention of the log draft horse barn. However, the presence of a concrete foundation and the exclusive use of wire nails suggest that the barn post-dates the other notched log buildings at the site. It clearly is an historic building, likely constructed in the early 1900s.

III. DESCRIPTION

The draft horse barn is a single-pen log building (21'6" x 25'6") immediately south of the loafing shed (MT-104-S) at the northwest end of the corral complex. The barn faces east toward the main corral complex, and is backed by fenced corral. Its round wall logs meet square-notching at the corners and are daubed with mortar. The sill logs rest on a foundation of pour concrete. The front-gable roof is comprised of log purlins and board decking sheathed by corrugated metal. Fascia boards cover the purlin tips at the gable ends, and the eaves are boxed. There are two horse-sized entries toward the south end of the barn, one on the east (front) wall and the other on the west. Each of these entries features a Dutch door constructed vertical boards on the interior and horizontal boards on the exterior. A small, wood-framed awning window pierces the east gable end, and a window vent is at the west gable end.

The interior of the barn has animal stalls on the north side and a passageway on the south. An east-west half-wall made of poles divides the area but contains a gate for clear passage between the doors. The animal stalls have plank floors and hay bins constructed of poles. Wall logs are chinked with ¼-round wedges. Several sets of very old horse tack hang from the east and south walls.