

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Livestock Barn
330 feet Southwest of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-R

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V,
IR-

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,
LIVESTOCK 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 livestock barn is on the south side of the ranch, approximately 330 feet southwest of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368610; Northing 5053700

Date of Construction: ca. 1930s

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

Present Use: Livestock Barn

Significance: The livestock 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 in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The livestock barn 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 livestock barn. However, the design and materials of the barn suggest that it was built around the 1930s.

III. DESCRIPTION

This livestock barn is about 15 feet south of the draft horse barn (MT-104-Q), and faces east toward the center of the corral complex. It is a crudely constructed wood-frame building (20'6" x 30'6") without a foundation. The walls are sided on the exterior by vertical board-and-batten siding. The front gable roof is made of 2x8 rafters and board decking covered by corrugated metal sheeting. Horizontal boards surface the gable ends. On the east wall there is a pair of outswinging doors at center and a person-sized door to the south; each of these doors is made vertical board-and-batten. The west wall displays the same entry configuration but the doors have been removed from the opening at center. A 2' x 2' opening without a cover is at the bottom of the south wall. It presumably is where manure can be shoveled out of the barn.

The interior of the barn contains an open, unfinished room. A thick layer of manure covers the floor.