

William and Lucina Bowe Ranch,
Log Horse Barn
195 feet South of House
Melrose Vicinity
Silver Bow County
Montana

HABS No. MT-104-V

HABS
MONT
47-MEL.V
IV-

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 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 horse barn is on the south side of the ranch, approximately 195 feet south of the house.

Quad: Melrose

UTM: Zone: 12; Easting 368690; Northing 5053737

Date of Construction: ca. late 1870s/early 1880s

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

Present Use: Cattle Ranch

Significance: The log 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.

II. HISTORY

The log horse barn probably dates to the late 1870s or early 1880s, and was listed as one of the improvements at the ranch in the 1904.¹ A pre-1890s construction date is supported by the use of cut nails in the door jambs.

II. DESCRIPTION

The horse barn is a log outbuilding (26' x 26'6") at the northeast end of the corral complex. It is about 50 feet east of the log calving barn (MT-104-T), and faces north toward the county road. The barn features hand-hewn log walls, joined by half-dove tail notching at the corners and daubed on the exterior with mortar. The roof is a front gable structure made of log rafters and purlins, and two layers of board decking covered by wood shingles. Fascia boards cover the purlin tips projecting at the gable ends. The front (north) wall has a wide entry; boards have been nailed over west side of the entry, but the east side retains the original Dutch door made of vertical boards. A single, Dutch door of vertical boards is also centered on the rear (south) wall, and there is a vertical board door on the west wall to the south. The horse barn has no windows.

The interior of the barn has animal stalls on either side of a central passageway that runs north-to-south between the doors. Log post-and-beam lines divide the passageway from the stalls, and help support the roof trusses. Plank flooring remains in the stalls, but the gates and side walls have been removed.

IV. ENDNOTES

1. Silver Bow County Clerk of the Court, Probate Record No. 1624.