

THE HORSE RANCH, BARN
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity [^] Eagle Cap Wilderness Area
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-B

HABS
CRE
32 - JOS.V,
1 B -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Columbia Cascades Support Office
National Park Service
909 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Barn

HABS NO. 165-B

Location: The Horse Ranch is located within the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The ranch lies in a valley along the Wild and Scenic Minam River in Wallowa County. It is approximately nine air miles northeast of Cove, Oregon and thirteen air miles southwest of Enterprise, Oregon. SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, Township 2S, Range 41E, Willamette Meridian.

The barn is more specifically located at the south end of the main building complex near the corrals, the workshop, milking barn, chicken house, and tack shed.

Significance: The barn is an integral part of the Horse Ranch complex. Considered a building of primary significance, the barn is one of the earliest buildings dating from ca. 1912. The barn is an utilitarian structure crucial to the operations of the complex as both a sheep and cattle ranch and a dude ranch. Although it has been altered over time, it retains integrity of massing, materials, setting, and location.

According to the Determination of Eligibility for the National Register (letter dated, May 1, 1996) between the State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Forest Service, the barn is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: The transverse-frame barn is square in plan, measuring approximately 50 ft. x 50 ft. It is two stories in height and is covered with a gable roof sheathed with brown corrugated metal roofing. A shed roof extension is on the east elevation. The roof structure consists of closely spaced peeled log purlins. A hay hood extends from the west end of the ridge forming a triangular projection often called a hanging gable (shelters the hay loft opening).

The walls are comprised of Palisade style logs except for the west and east elevations where the upper half of the building is sheathed with hand-split shakes. The Palisade walls rest on a log sill that sits on concrete foundation. The corner logs on all four corners extend below the concrete foundation and rest on large boulders or piers.

The upper third of the west elevation is a hay loft opening. There are three wood framed window openings (no glass) on the north and south elevations, and two openings with multi-pane windows on the east elevation. Two hinged doors (plank and peeled log construction) are located on the east elevation and two hinged doors are on the west elevation. Two openings (one with hinged door) are on the second floor level of the west elevation.

The interior of the barn is divided into three bays by rows of log posts which extend east/west. Feed cribs and hay lofts are on either side of the central bay. The floor is dirt except for the poured concrete floor in the tack room which is located along the eastern elevation of the building. A ladder leads to a platform above the one story enclosed tack room. The building is in good condition.

Alterations to the barn made under Red Higgins' ownership are as follows: the concrete tack room floor (1960s) and the vertical Palisades style logs were added in the late 1940s.

Historical Context:

According to John Van Schoonhoven, the barn was constructed ca. 1912 by William Ogden, an early owner of the ranch. The barn has been used continuously throughout the years to shelter cattle, horses, and mules associated with the operations at the ranch. Originally, the barn was covered with hand-split shakes as evident on upper portion of the west elevation. The exterior was altered with the installation of Palisade log wall in the 1960s under Red Higgins' ownership.

Sources:

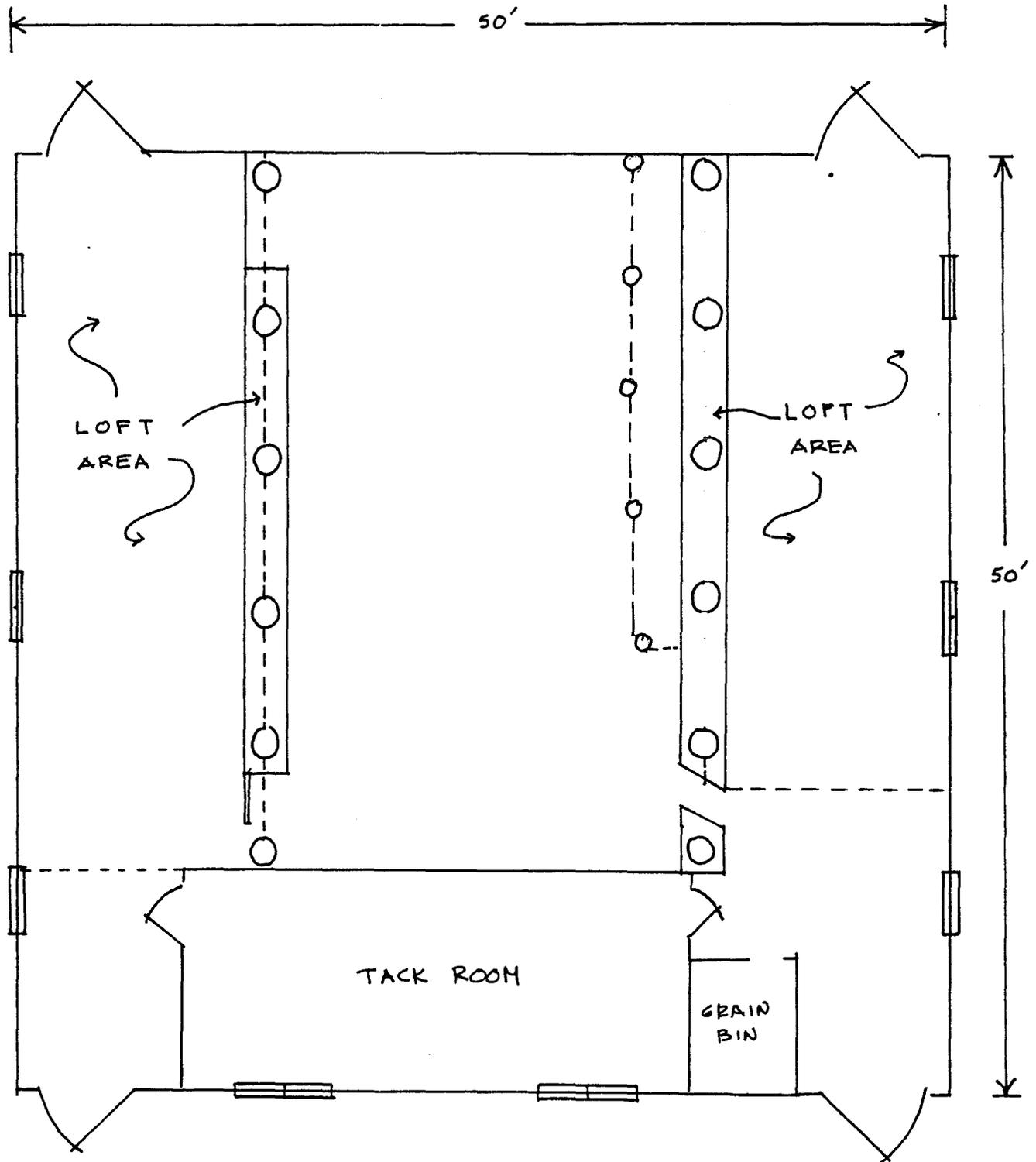
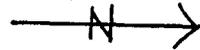
Richards, Cecil, 8/12/96, La Grande, Oregon, former owner of the Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan. Van Schoonhoven, John, 8/11/96, Cove, Oregon, local Historian, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan. Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, National Register Determination of Eligibility. Site analysis by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan, August 1996.

Project Information:

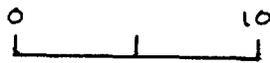
In 1994, the Horse Ranch (Red's Horse Ranch) was acquired for inclusion in the National Wilderness System by the USDA Forest Service. As a result of the property acquisition, the USDA Forest Service is preparing an Environmental Analysis Report and Future Use Determination for the site. This process will enable the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to establish management direction and priorities for the property. As part of the environmental analysis, a Determination of Eligibility report was completed in the spring of 1996.

Project Supervisors: Contracting Officer R.A. Cunningham, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Bruce Womack, Contracting Officer's Representative, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

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BARN



FEET

APPROX. SCALE