

THE HORSE RANCH, MILKING BARN  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
Joseph vicinity *< Eagle Cap Wilderness Area*  
Wallowa County  
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-C

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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), Milking Barn

HABS NO. OR-165-C

**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 milking barn is more specifically located directly west of the barn within the main ranch complex. The building faces east towards the barn. Corrals are on the north and east sides of the milking barn.

**Significance:** The milking barn is a contributing feature of the site as it relates to the operation of a ranch. A milking barn is a typical accessory feature of any ranching operation. It is one of the accessory buildings which aided in supplying fresh milk to the ranch. Built by 1947, the construction of the milking barn is similar to the tack shed and cabins #5 and #6 which were most likely built in the 1930s. The building retains the interior features common to milking barns such as the stanchions and concrete trough.

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 milking barn is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

**Description:** Measuring approximately 15 ft. N.S. x 20 ft. E.W., this rectangular building was originally used as a milking barn. The building has a medium pitched gabled roof which is covered with hand-split shakes (one of few buildings which retain wood shake roofing). The roof structure is comprised of purlins spaced 8" to 20" apart. The center purlin has been reinforced by the addition of two long boards on either side. The roof purlins project beyond the east and west walls, creating an 3' overhang.

The walls of the milking barn are constructed of horizontal peeled logs finished with square corner notching. Nails placed at an angle reinforce the corner notching. The walls rest on a granite rock pier foundation system. The log walls continue to the roofline and support the purlins. Mortar daubing is evident between the log walls though much of it is missing. The mortar consists of a fine sand mixture.

The north elevation has a window opening with a hinged flap made of wood planks. There are also wood framed window openings on the south and west elevations. An off-center door on the east elevation is hinged halfway down so the top and bottom can open separately. The door is constructed of vertical saplings. The threshold is made from the bottom sill log which has been notched, creating a one foot high step into the milking barn. Through this door is a hinged gate.

The interior of the milking barn consists of one room with a dirt floor. A raised concrete platform in the center of the room has a concrete trough for milking. Two milking stanchions and feed boxes are located along the northern elevation. The building is wired for electricity. The milking barn is in good condition and is presently used for storage.

**Historical Context:**

The exact construction date of the milking barn is unknown, however, the building was probably constructed during the Hudspeth ownership between 1931 and 1944. The square notching and wall/roof construction is similar to the tack shed and cabins #5 and #6 which were built by the Hudspeths. The milking barn faces east for easy access to the main barn. The inside of the buildings has milking stanchions and a concrete floor. According to Cecil Richards and Richard Cason (former residents of ranch), there was always a milking barn on the site. Because of its remote location, fresh milk was only accessible if there was a milk cow on the premises. All owners of the Horse Ranch recall having a milk cow. During Red Higgins' ownership, at least four cows were kept at the ranch.

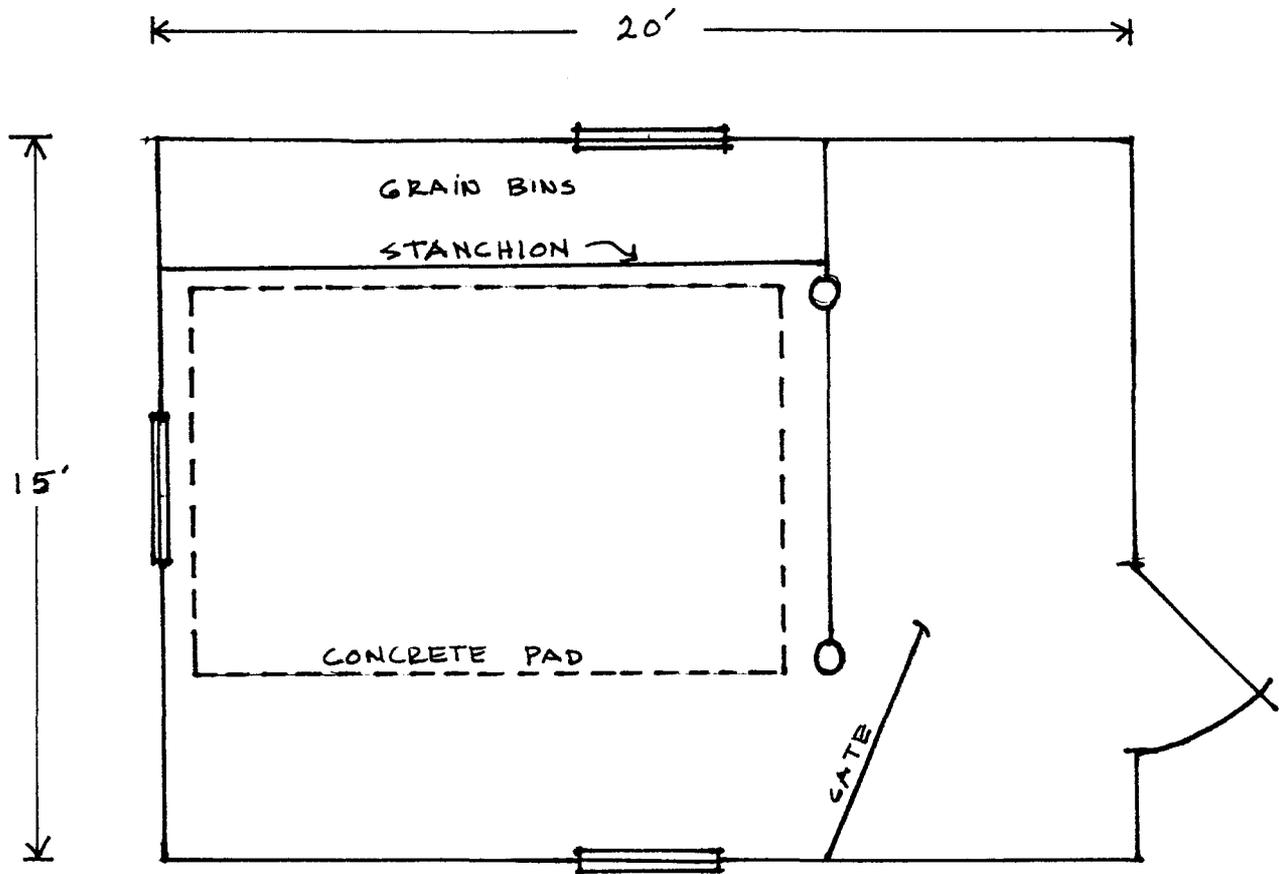
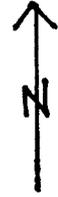
**Sources:**

Richards, Cecil, 8/12/96, La Grande, Oregon, former resident of the Horse Ranch, 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.

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Date: December 1996



MILKING BARN

