

THE HORSE RANCH, BUNKHOUSE NO. 1
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity *Eagle Cap Wilderness Area*
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-I

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32-JOS.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Columbia Cascades Support Office
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Bunkhouse #1

HABS NO. OR-165-I

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 bunkhouse is more specifically located on slight bluff on the east side of the ponds in the center of the ranch complex. The adjacent bunkhouse (#2) is located directly north of the cabin and the privy and generator is located to the south.

Significance: Bunkhouse #1 is significant as it relates to the building complex. The bunkhouse was important to the operations of the ranch both in its history as a working ranch and a dude ranch. The bunkhouses provided accommodations for the ranch hands and may have been used to house workers employed by the Minam Lumber Company in the late 1910s. The bunkhouse is one of the oldest buildings in the ranch complex, dating from the late 1910s.

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, bunkhouse #1 is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: This rectangular structure, measuring approximately 16' E.W. x 18' N.S., is covered with a low gable roof sheathed with painted, corrugated metal. The roof is supported by closely spaced continuous purlins spaced about 22" to 24" on center. The purlins project over the face of the east and west walls creating an overhang. The fascia is covered with corrugated metal. Two metal chimney pipes cap the roof.

The bunkhouse is constructed of horizontal peeled ponderosa pine logs with saw-cut V-shaped saddle notched ends. Chinking consists of a soft, light colored mortar. The mortar is missing in some places. Small wood slats are nailed to the top of the logs. The north elevation is covered with long hand-split shakes (paper insulation has been stuffed between the shakes and the logs).

Visible portions of the foundation are constructed of rock. The front porch floor is built of wood planks. The building is lit by five multi-pane windows; two, fixed six light windows on the front (east) side and one multi-pane hinged window on the other three elevations. The windows are trimmed with rough-sawn plain casings and trim boards.

The central vertical plank door is on the east elevation. The door has a simple wood and metal latch. Large antler hang over the entry. Above the door casing, "EST 1893" has been carved into the wood and painted white. The origin of the inscription is unknown, however, the date is questionable due to the fact that the land was not in public ownership until 1900. According to local sources, the cabin was built between 1918 and 1921 by the Minam Lumber Company (Richards interview).

The interior of the cabin is composed of one room. The purlins extend east-west and are insulated with wooden slats that are located between the purlins and metal roofing. The interior walls are covered with wooden shakes with the exception of the north wall which has the horizontal wood logs exposed. The windows are trimmed with plain wood frames. A combination of plywood and linoleum covers the floor.

A wood burning cook stove is located in the southeast corner of the room and a wood burning heating stove is in the center of the room. The sink and counter are built along the west wall. The interior is lit by natural light and Coleman lanterns; the structure is not wired for electricity. Used equipment is around the perimeter of the building and two mature lilac trees abut the building on the south. The bunkhouse is in good condition.

Historic Context:

According to local sources, the bunkhouse was built between 1918 and 1921, when the ranch was used as a base camp for the logging operations of the Minam Logging Company (Van Schoonhoven and Richards). The company is thought to have built the kitchen/dining hall and two bunkhouses (#1, #2). The bunkhouse has been used throughout the years to house ranch hands. During the Richard's ownership, the building served as a storeroom and occasional sleeping quarters.

Sources:

Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Richards, Cecil, former resident, site interview, August 1996, by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan. 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.

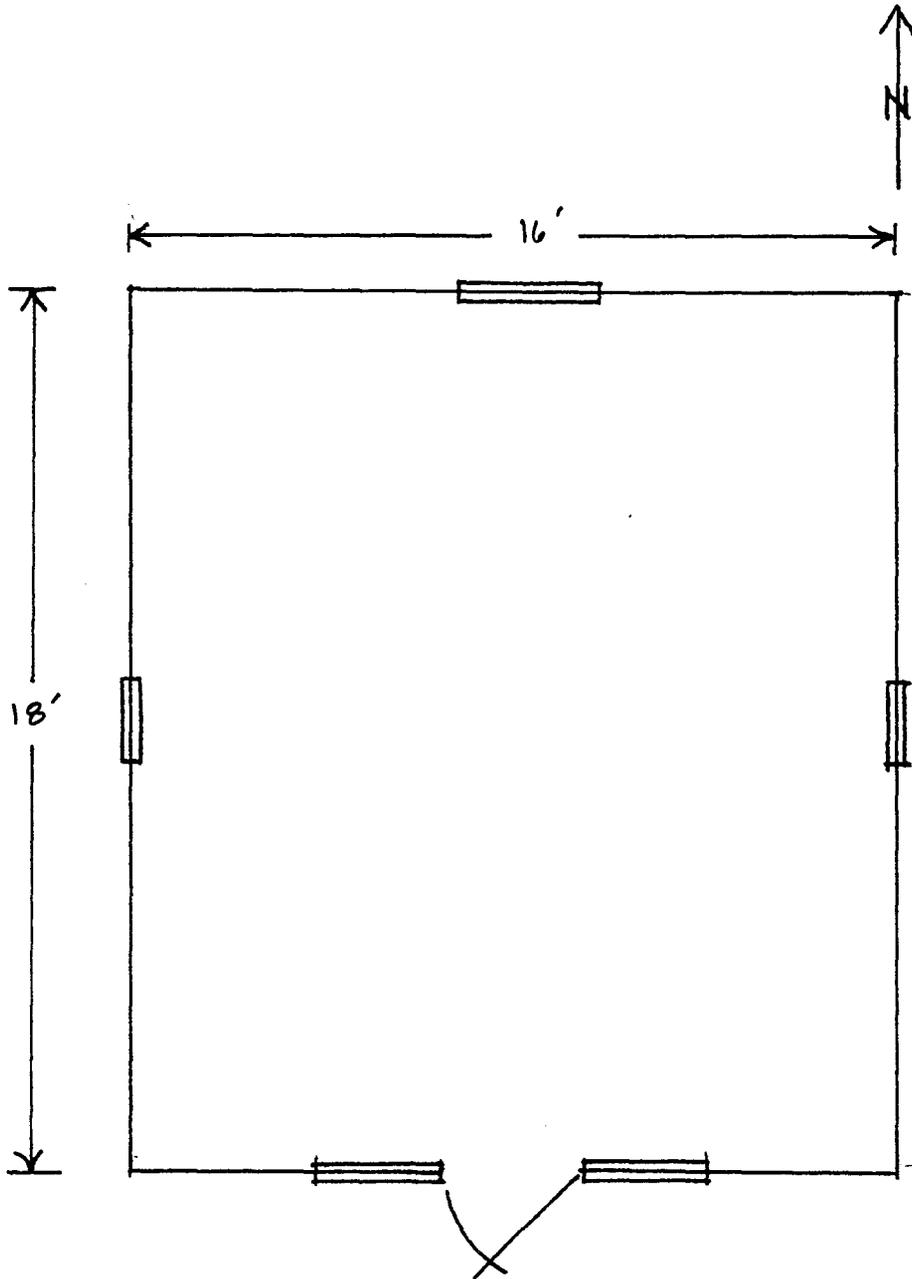
Project Information:

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.

THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch),
Bunkhouse #1
HABS NO. OR-165-I (Page 3)

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BUNKHOUSE



APPROX. SCALE