

THE HORSE RANCH, WOOD SHED-WASH HOUSE
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Joseph vicinity *Eagle Cap Wilderness Area*
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-M

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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), Wood Shed/Wash House

HABS NO. OR-165-M

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 wood shed/wash house is located east of the ponds in the center of the complex. The structure is located directly north and west of the dining hall/kitchen and is connected to the building by a covered walkway. A lawn area is located west of the building and the cook's cabin is directly to the north separated by a concrete path.

Significance: The wood shed/wash house is significant as it relates to the ranch complex. The wood shed was an necessary building due to the remoteness of the site. The wood was used to stoke the wood burning cook stove and to heat the cabin.

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 woodshed/wash house is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: This rectangular building, measuring approximately 15' E.W. x 18' N.S., is covered with a low gable roof sheathed with painted, corrugated metal roofing. The roof is supported by closely spaced continuous purlins constructed of small peeled logs (about 4" to 6" in diameter). The purlins project slightly over the north and south walls of the cabin. The east side of the roof has been extended to create a covered walkway. The overhang, constructed of 2" by 6" finished lumber, extends from the ridge line to the kitchen/dining hall. The extension is covered with corrugated metal roofing. Vertical boards on top of the east wall supports the extension. The gable ends are covered with hand-split shakes.

The wood shed/wash house is constructed of horizontal peeled ponderosa pine logs with square corner notching. Chinking consists of a cement mortar mixture over a wire mesh and a softer mortar mixture. Other sections have no mortar remaining.

The foundation is constructed of rock and concrete block piers. The building is lit by a combination of fixed pane and multi-pane windows. A double, multi-pane window with narrow trim and a fixed pane casement window with wide trim boards punctuate the west elevation of the building. A double, single pane slider window is on the south elevation. The building has two doors on the east elevation. Both door openings are framed with 2" by 12" finished lumber. The southern door is constructed of knotty pine wood panels with iron hardware.

The interior of the wood shed/wash house is composed of two room. The space is divided in half east-west. The southern room is used as a restroom and contains a shower stall (concrete in stall says 1974), toilet, and sink. Wood paneling and wood planks cover the interior walls. The floor in the restroom is

concrete. A plank wall separates the two sections of the wood shed/washroom. The northern half of the building is used as a washroom. It contains sinks, freezer, washers, and miscellaneous equipment. The floors are constructed of wood planks. Both rooms are wired for electricity. The wood shed/wash house is very similar in construction methods and size to the adjacent cook's cabin. The building is in good-excellent condition.

Historical Context:

The wood shed/wash house, built around 1946-47, was originally a wood shed. The wood shed was located in close proximity to the kitchen. The wood was used to stoke the large wood burning range in the kitchen and also to heat the kitchen/dining hall. The building was later converted into a laundry and restroom facility in the mid-1970s (Cason, interview).

Sources:

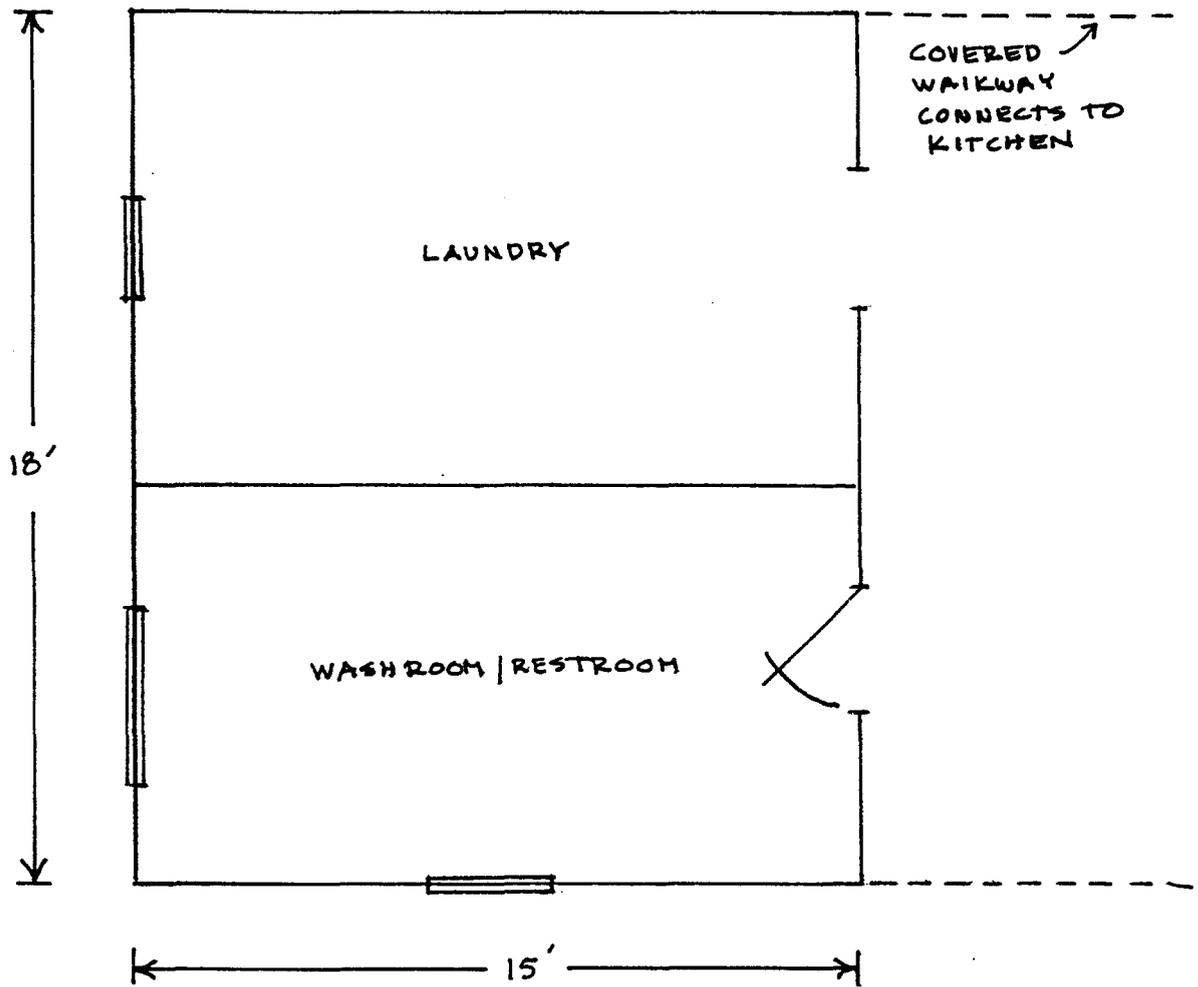
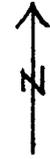
Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Cecil Richards, former resident of ranch, site interview by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan, August 1996. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, 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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Date: December 1996



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WOOD SHED/WASH HOUSE