

THE HORSE RANCH, CABIN NO. 4
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Eagle Cap Wilderness Area
Joseph vicinity
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-Y

HABS
ORE
32-JOS.V,
14-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Cabin #4

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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.

Situated on the bank on the Minam River facing south, this cabin is one of seven cabins built on the banks of the Minam River. The building varies from the other cabins in that it is oriented to the south. It is approximately 32' south of the river. The hay field is to the south and a split-rail fence surrounds the cabin on three sides. A mature conifer is located on the west side of the cabin; the roots system is pushing against the cabin.

Significance: Cabin #4 is significant as it relates to the function of a dude ranch. It is one of a group of cabins which are situated along the banks of the Minam River. The cabin functioned historically as a bunkhouse for packers in the 1930s when the ranch was an active outfitter guide operation. It represents the early period of the ranch when it was being developed as a dude ranch.

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, cabin #4 is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: *Exterior:* This small, rectangular building, measuring 20' N.S. by 15' E.W., consists of one room. The medium-pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and is cantilevered approximately 7' 10" over the entrance door on the south side. The closely spaced purlins support the cantilever which shelters the porch area. A chimney pipe projects from the east side of the roof. The walls are constructed of peeled pine logs filled with fine mortar daubing and joined with square notching. Small slats nailed to the top of some of the logs seal cracks in the joints.

A concrete slab, broken into pieces, serves as the front step. The front door, in the center of the south elevation, is constructed of knotty pine boards. The door handle is wrought iron. The windows on the east and west elevations are fixed, multi-pane windows and the window on the north elevation is a multi-pane hinged window. Windows are located on all the elevations except the front (south elevation).

Interior: The interior of the cabin is comprised of a single room. The log ceilings have insulation battens between the purlins and the metal roofing. The floors are concrete which has buckled and cracked due to tree roots. The windows are trimmed with plain boards. A wood burning stove (1970s model) is located in the southeast portion of the room. The interior is wired for electricity.

Historical Context:

The cabin was built during the Hudspeth's ownership (1930s). The cabin functioned historically as a bunkhouse for packers in the 1930s when the ranch was an active outfitter guide operation. The building is less decorative, constructed of horizontal logs, and does not have the amenities of the cabins built during Red Higgins' ownership. The cabin's orientation (not facing the river) also reflects the 1930s use as a bunkhouse rather than a "recreation" cabin.

Sources:

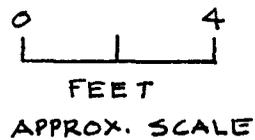
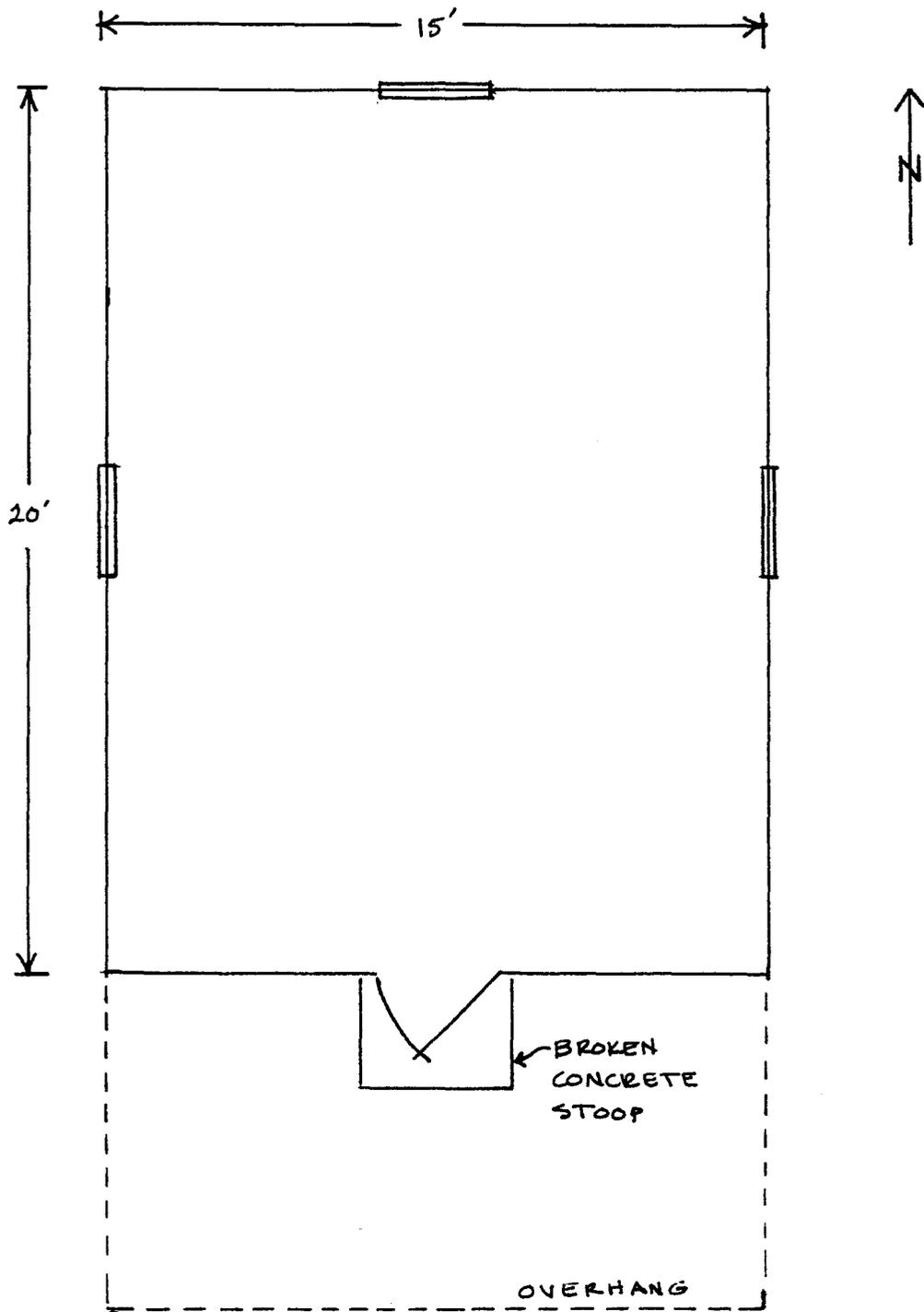
Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, National Register Determination of Eligibility. Site analysis by Kimberly 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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CABIN