THE HORSE RANCH, CABIN NO. 6
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Eagle Cap Wilderness Area
Joseph vicinity
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-AA

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
THE HORSE RANCH (Red's Horse Ranch), Cabin #6

HABS NO. OR-165-AA

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 south of the Minam River approximately 110 ft., this cabin is one of two extant cabins in the hay field (concrete slab north of cabin #26 indicates another cabin). A hay field surrounds the cabin on three sides, and the pond lined with cottonwoods is south of the cabin. A hitching post is also south of the cabin.

Significance: Cabin #6 is significant as it relates to the function of a dude ranch. 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 #6 is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

Description: *Exterior:* This small, rectangular building, measuring 11' 6" N.S. by 15' E.W., consists of one room. The medium-pitched gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and is cantilevered approximately 4' 2" over the entrance door on the east side. A chimney pipe projects from the northeast corner of the roof. The walls are constructed of peeled pine logs, joined with square notching. Small slats nailed to the top of some of the logs seal cracks in the log joints; most of the chinking is missing.

The front door, on the east elevation, is constructed of vertical pine boards. There is no front. Windows are on all the elevations except the front (east) elevation. The hinged windows on the west and south sides are multi-pane (4 and 6 pane); the window on the north side is missing.

Interior: The interior of the cabin is comprised of a single room. Wood plank flooring covers the original floor. A bunk bed like sleeping loft is located against the west wall. The stove has been dismantled and on the floor. It was originally in the northeast corner of the room. There is no electricity in the cabins or insulation.

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 location (in the middle of the hay field) away from 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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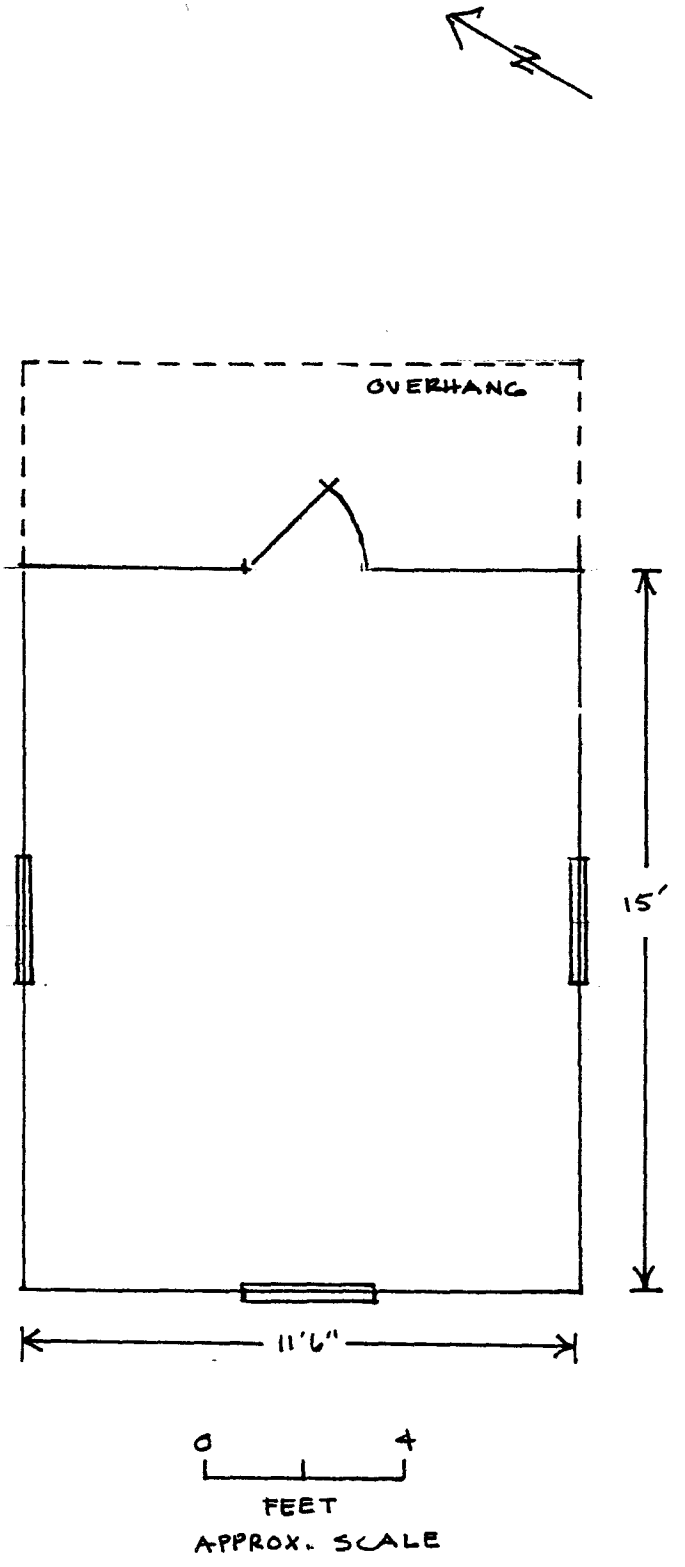

CABIN