

THE HORSE RANCH, MILLARD RANGER STATION  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
Eagle Cap Wilderness Area  
Joseph vicinity  
Wallowa County  
Oregon

HABS No. OR-165-AE

HABS  
ORE  
32-JOS.V,  
IAE-

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), Millard Ranger Station

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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.

The Millard Ranger Station is located at the southeast end of the airstrip in an open meadow surrounded by trees. It is approximately 95' southeast of the barn.

**Significance:** The Millard Ranger Station was an integral part of the operations of the National Forest. The cabin, constructed prior to 1917, was used by forest rangers in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The cabin represent the presents of the Forest Service in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The station's name is linked to the Horse Ranch; the second owner of the ranch was named Millard.

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 Millard Ranger Station is a primary building within the Horse Ranch complex.

**Description:** *Exterior:* This small, rectangular cabin, measuring approximately 15' N.S. by 25' E.W., consists of one room. The steeply-pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles as are the gable ends. The eave on the east elevation is flush with the wall surface. A metal storage bin is against the east elevation. A chimney pipe caps the north side of the roof.

A 6' cantilever projects over the entrance door on the west side and provides a cover for the porch. The cantilever is supported by dimension lumber or rafters; not an extension of the purlins like other log cabins in the main ranch complex. The sill and the top plate logs extend approximately 6' from the front wall of the cabin where they form the lateral support for the wooden deck and porch roof. The porch roof is supported by vertical log posts at the corners and peeled log cross-braces that are perpendicular to the top plate. The porch deck is constructed of finished lumber. The cabin has a concrete foundation.

The walls are constructed of peeled pine or tamarack logs fitted with narrow wood slats that fit tightly between the logs. The corners are joined with square notching. Windows are located on the north and south elevations and are multi-pane horizontal sliding windows. Expandable metal grates cover the windows. The side window trim is wider than the bottom and top trim boards. The off-centered front door is constructed with vertical planks. A wire-mesh grate with lock covers the wooden entrance door.

*Interior:* The interior of the cabin is comprised of a single room with a plywood ceiling supported by four beams. The interior log walls have been covered with tightly fitting wood slats; some insulation is evident between the slats. The floor is plywood and there is no trim around the windows. A wood burning stove is located in the northwest corner of the room. A table and cabinet are also located in the cabin. There is no electricity in the cabin.

**Historical Context:**

Edwin and Minnie Millard owned the Horse Ranch from 1901 to 1911. It is unclear whether this cabin was built by the Millards or simply named this by the Forest Service because it was near the Millard property. The former is the most likely since the building has always been under USFS ownership.

According to Bruce Womack, Forest Service Archeologist, "Although located in a state school land section, (36), the land on which the cabin lies was probably set aside as an administrative site shortly after the Wallowa Forest Reserve was withdrawn in 1902. A 1917 Forest Service map of the Minam National Forest identifies the site as the Millard Ranger Station" (Womack). Cecil Richards recalls two forest rangers who occupied the Millard Ranger Station during the 1920s; Charlie Hanson and Rich Robinson.

**Sources:**

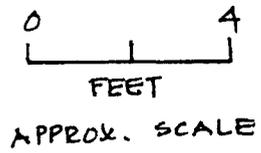
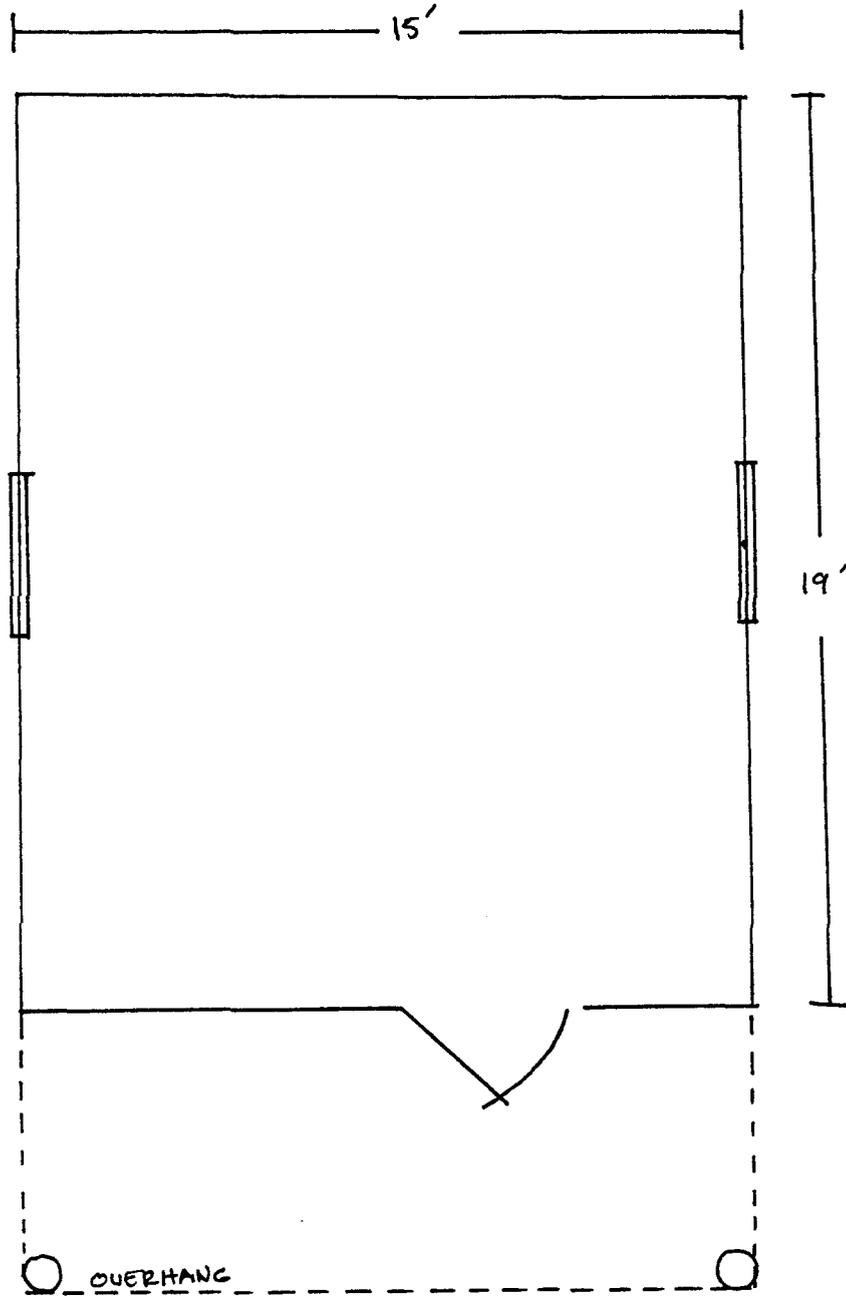
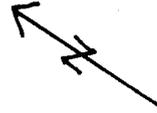
Cason, Richard, 8/12/96, Elgin, Oregon, former wrangler and pilot for Red's Horse Ranch, interviewed by Kimberly Lakin. Richards, Cecil, former resident, site interview by Kimberly Lakin and Sally Donovan, August 1996. Womack, Bruce, 8/96 and 10/96, Enterprise, Oregon, Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Wallowa-Whitman 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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MILLARD RANGER STATION