

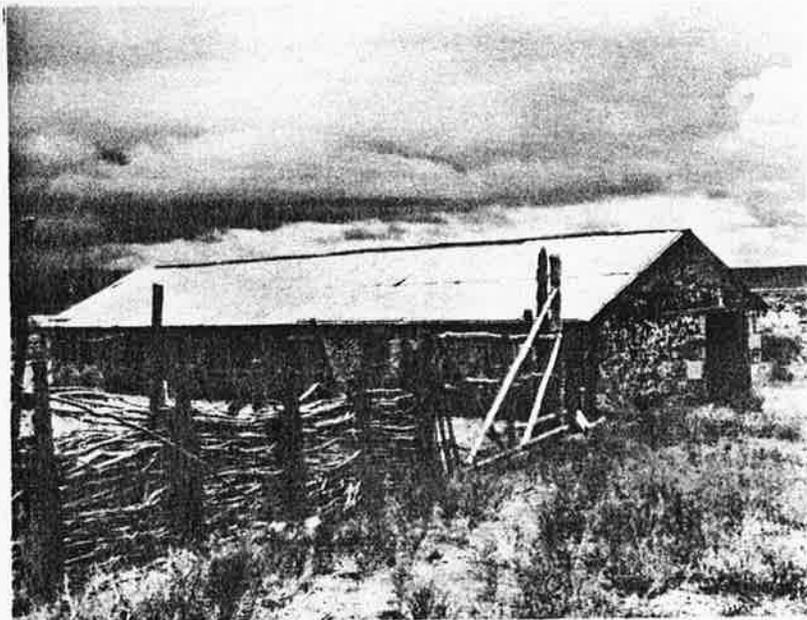


**CULTURAL  
RESOURCE  
INVENTORY:**

**Sheldon National  
Wildlife Refuge**

**Hart Mountain National  
Antelope Refuge**

**REGION ONE  
U.S. FISH &  
WILDLIFE SERVICE  
February 1985**



CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:  
HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGE  
SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Region 1  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Portland, Oregon

February 1985

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Marge Stephen, Buzz Miller, and all the others whose love of this immense land and its history has helped preserve a bit of it for all of us.

## ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an intensive survey and inventory of eight historic resources located on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Its primary purpose is to document and evaluate sites of historical and architectural interest in order to provide an information base to guide planning, development, interpretation, and maintenance activities, and to make preliminary recommendations for management of the resources. Each site was evaluated to determine its eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Field procedures and techniques included an examination of primary and secondary source materials, extensive interviews with people knowledgeable about the area, and on-site inspection of each site. The report has three major parts. A general overview provides a framework for the examination and evaluation of the sites. The following section is organized on a site-by-site basis and includes the following information for each resource: brief narrative of historical development; evaluation of historical/architectural significance; recommendations; and photographs with physical description of each building/structure. This section is designed so that different parts can be extracted to form separate management documents. The third section consists of a general overview of findings and general recommendations for management of the resources. A bibliography of the sources used is appended.

The historic sites documented in this report are extremely significant cultural resources, five of which are determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Last Chance Ranch, Gooch Camp horsetrap, McKenney (Kinney) Camp, Shirk Ranch, and Hart Mountain Headquarters. The attrition rate for sites of this type is high. Several of the resources have been severely damaged over the years. Action to protect and stabilize the sites from further deterioration should be taken immediately. Finally, several of the resources have interpretive potential and should be given consideration in development of an interpretive program.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS . . . . .	i
ABSTRACT . . . . .	ii
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW . . . . .	8
THE SITES	
IXL Ranch . . . . .	16
Last Chance Ranch . . . . .	26
Gooch Camp . . . . .	36
Kinney Camp, 1000 Creek Ranch, and Dufurrena Ranch . . . . .	39
Shirk Ranch . . . . .	57
Hart Mountain Headquarters . . . . .	71
SUMMARY . . . . .	82
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS . . . . .	84
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	86
APPENDIX A . . . . .	90

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a survey and inventory of eight historic sites located on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in south-central Oregon and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Nevada. It was prepared by the staff historian in the Portland Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during fiscal year 1984.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required by federal law to identify and evaluate cultural resources on public land under its jurisdiction, and to ensure that agency-authorized and agency-initiated actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy cultural resources. Although these requirements can lead to complicated and time-consuming compliance processes, they serve to protect and conserve the nation's rapidly vanishing and non-renewable cultural resources. Federal laws mandating these requirements include the Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and Executive Order 11593 (1971). This report represents a significant step by the Sheldon Hart Mountain Refuge Complex in the implementation of these directives.

The purpose of the investigation is to document the physical characteristics and condition, and historic and architectural significance of each resource based on criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and to provide preliminary recommendations regarding their management. NRHP criteria are as follows:

districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- 1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- 2) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- 3) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- 4) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (36 CFR 800.10 (a))

The District supervisor and Refuge staff determined which resources were included in the study. Criteria for selection was based on:

- 1) degree of deterioration and need for stabilization/restoration;
- 2) association with events and/or people important in the history of the area; and
- 3) local community interest.

The following resources were investigated:

SHELDON

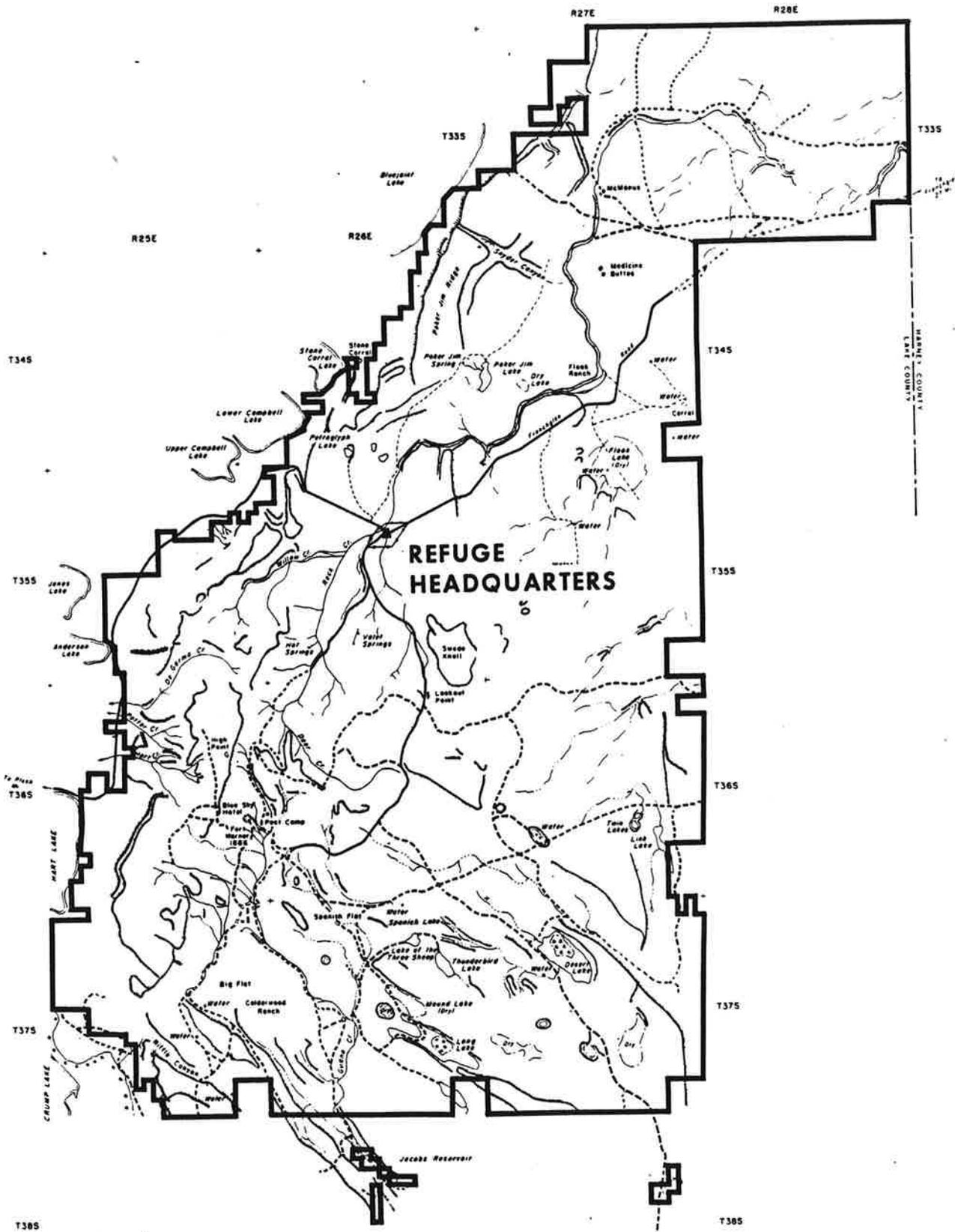
IXL Ranch  
 Last Chance Ranch  
 Gooch Camp  
 Dufurrena Ranch  
 Kinney Camp  
 Thousand Creek Ranch

HART MOUNTAIN

Headquarters  
 Shirk Ranch

The report consists of three major parts. A general overview of the area's history provides a framework for the examination and evaluation of the resources. It is based on major themes, identified during research, as being of particular importance in the historical development of the area. The second section is organized on a site-by-site basis and includes the following information for each: brief narrative of historical development; evaluation of historic/architectural significance; recommendations, and photographs and physical descriptions of each building/structure. This section is designed so that different parts can be extracted to form separate management documents.

The third section consists of a synthesis of the findings and general recommendations. A comprehensive bibliography of sources consulted is appended which should prove useful to future investigations of historic cultural resources on the refuges.

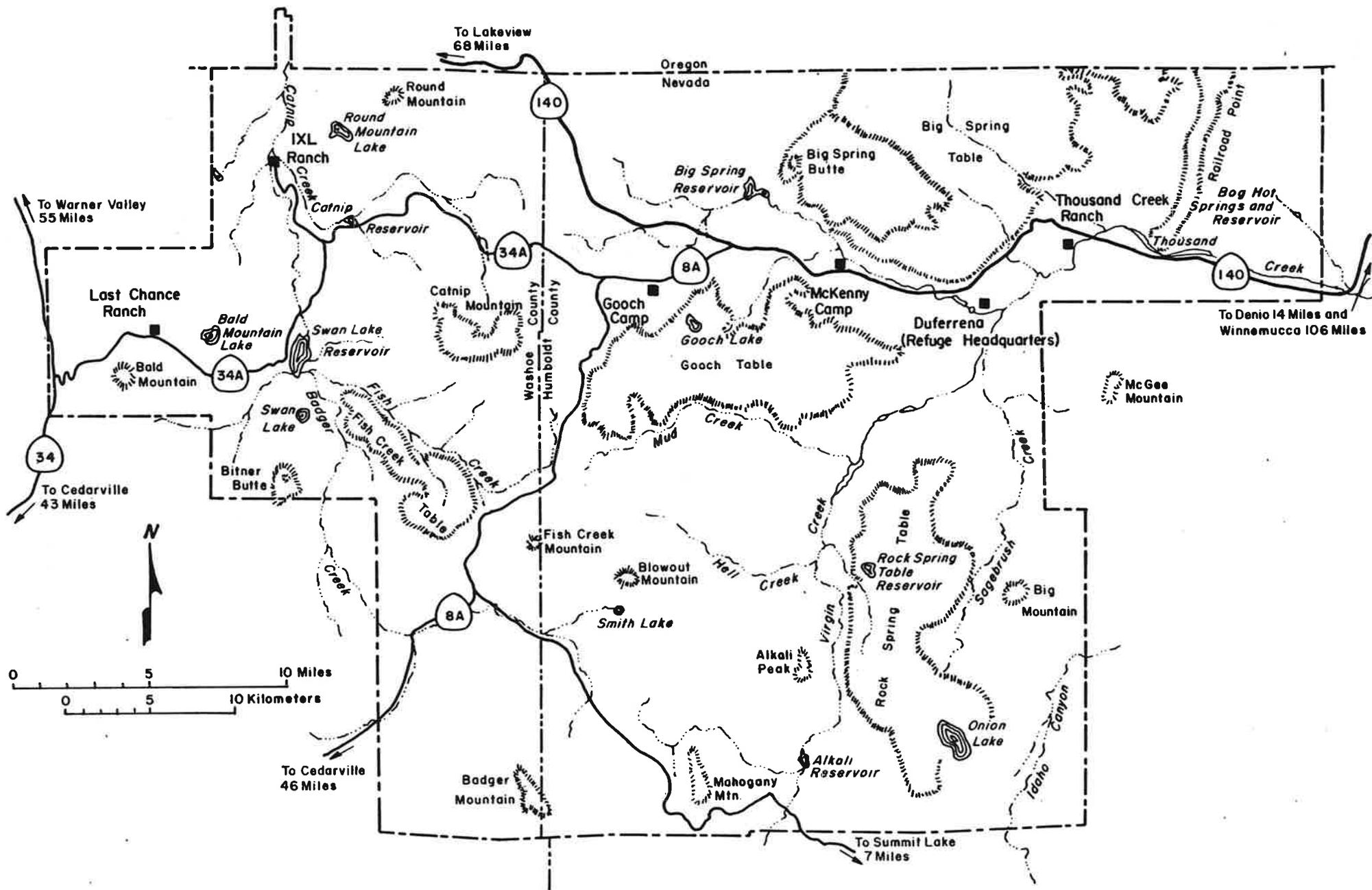


**REFUGE HEADQUARTERS**

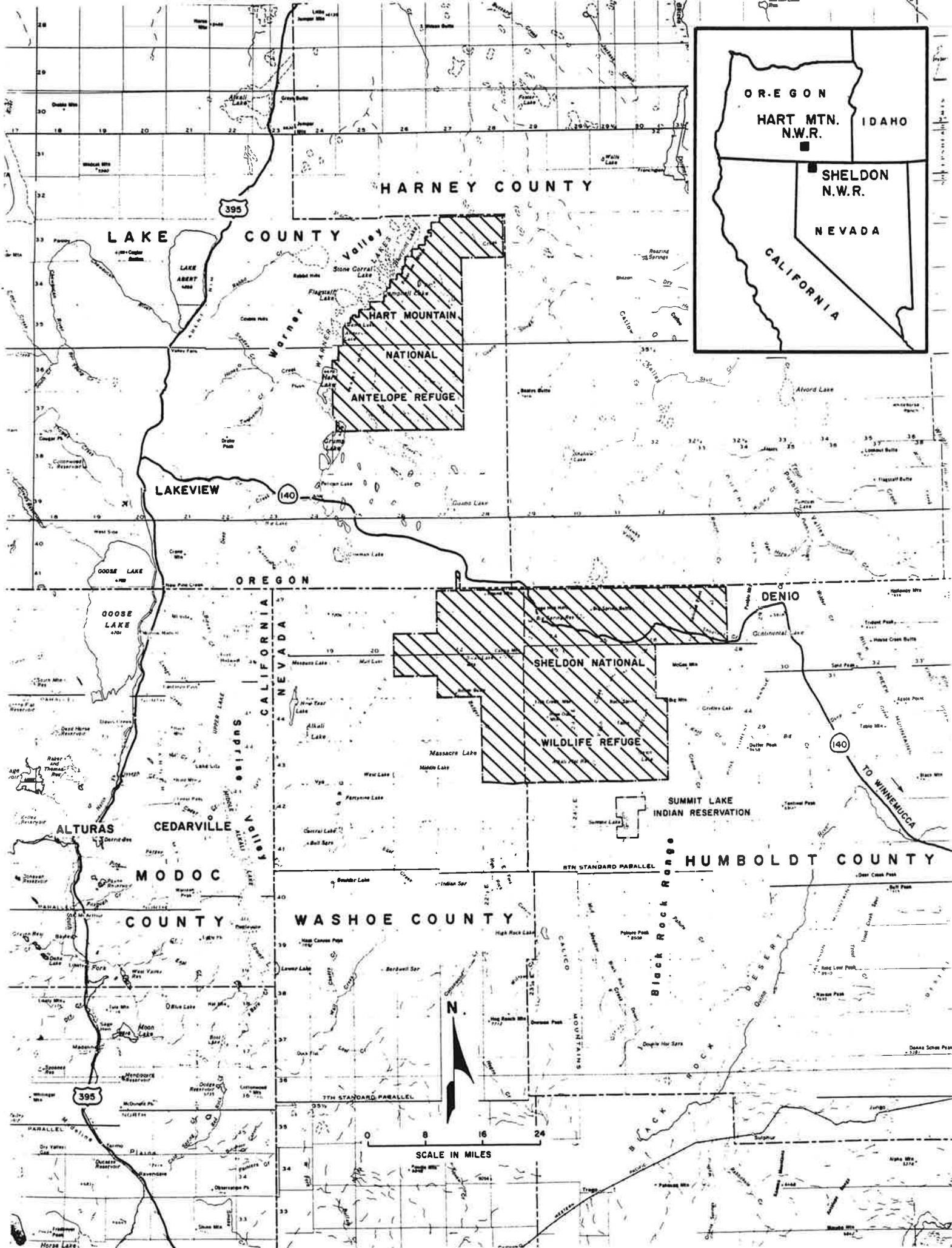
**SHIRK RANCH**

**HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGE**  
LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

HART MOUNTAIN  
LAKE COUNTY, OREGON



SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



HARNEY COUNTY

LAKE COUNTY

HART MOUNTAIN  
NATIONAL  
ANTELOPE REFUGE

LAKEVIEW

OREGON

CALIFORNIA

NEVADA

SHELDON NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

DENIO

140

TO WINNEMUCA

SUMMIT LAKE  
INDIAN RESERVATION

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

MODOC COUNTY

WASHOE COUNTY

N

SCALE IN MILES

BLACK ROCK RANGE

7TH STANDARD PARALLEL

8TH STANDARD PARALLEL

CASCADE MOUNTAINS

DESERT

ROCK

PLAINS

PLAINS

PLAINS

PLAINS

PLAINS

## THE STUDY AREA

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge are administered jointly out of the complex office in Lakeview, Oregon. Hart Mountain Refuge is located in south-central Oregon about 35 miles northwest of Sheldon Refuge, the northern boundary of which is the Oregon/Nevada state line. The boundaries of Hart Mountain Refuge encompass an area of approximately 275,000 acres located in Lake County. Sheldon Refuge, located in northwestern Nevada, includes large portions of Washoe and Humboldt counties and encompasses about 575,000 acres. Scattered inholdings within the refuges' boundaries are primarily mining patents and ranches. The area in and around the refuges is a land of wide spaces, its small population concentrated in the communities of Adel, Plush, and Lakeview, Oregon; Denio, Nevada; and Cedarville, California. The major economic activity is the range livestock industry. Tourism is limited, but growing rapidly.

## DESCRIPTION OF INVESTIGATION

The first phase of the investigation was the literature search which consisted of an examination of existing documentary and archival records and a trip to the refuges to conduct a preliminary inspection of the resources. The literature search began the last week in October 1983 and continued until January 20, 1984, consisting of 19 workdays. During this period visits were made to the University of Oregon Library in Eugene; the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and State Archives in Salem; and the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. During the last week of January a trip to Reno/Carson City was made to

consult the Nevada SHPO files; the Nevada Historical Society; and Washoe County tax records. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted. Also during this period informant contacts were made as well as a review of pertinent records at the Regional Office.

The project historian visited the refuges in early November to become familiar with the types of resources, their general condition, location, and geographic setting. At this time it was decided to proceed with the fieldwork in late November in the hope of beating the first snowfall. The weather did not conform and actual on-site examination of the resources was delayed until April.

The second phase of the project commenced April 13 and continued until July 11. During this period three trips were made to the refuge to conduct the field survey and informant interviews. Some additional research was also conducted at this time: refuge files were consulted as well as Humboldt County records in Winnemucca. Time required to travel long distances and inclement weather conditions which prohibited access to some sites increased time spent in the field.

Fieldwork consisted of a systematic examination of each structure and building, and preparation of a physical description which includes the following information:

- 1) building type
- 2) general dimensions
- 3) condition of resource
- 4) distinguishing features

All resources were measured and photographed.

Due to lack of documentary data for this area most information regarding specific sites was collected through oral interviews with descendants of the people who lived or worked on the ranches, as well as past and present refuge staff, and other residents in the community knowledgeable about the area. It required 18 workdays to complete the fieldwork.

The final phase of the project overlapped with the second phase. Beginning in June, data collected during the literature search and in the field was reviewed and organized. Preparation of the final document began July 16.

#### PREVIOUS HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN THE AREA

Professional historians have conducted little historical research of Hart Mountain or south-central Oregon in general. To date the most significant work from the perspective of cultural resource management has taken two forms. The first is The Cultural Resource Overview of the BLM Lakeview District, South-Central Oregon prepared by Rick Minor, Kathryn Anne Toepel and Stephen Dow Beckham for the Bureau of Land Management in 1979. The historical narrative component of this document is based primarily on documentary sources. It is organized thematically and provides a relatively detailed framework for placing resources in some historic perspective.

The second investigation, almost exclusively site-oriented, is The Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings for Lake County, compiled by Stephen Dow Beckham in 1976. The inventory provides good, though brief, data on specific sites and is a useful tool for determining the relative abundance

of historical resources and developing a typology for vernacular building types. Collectively these studies function adequately as a tool for aiding cultural resource identification and evaluation on Hart Mountain Refuge.

Historical investigations on Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge are virtually non-existent with the exception of a brief historical narrative included in A Cultural Resource Overview for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge prepared by Robert Elston and Phillip Earl in 1979. Here some attempt is made to provide the thematic background necessary for identifying potential historic resources on the refuge. All research was documentary in nature. There was no field investigation. The principal shortcoming of this study is that it primarily assembles data with little attempt to evaluate or interpret them in order to understand the potential significance of a given resource. To date there have been no site-specific surveys to identify or record historic sites on the refuge. A comprehensive framework for identifying and evaluating historic cultural resources on Sheldon has not been developed.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Sheldon and Hart Mountain refuges lie in the western portion of the Great Basin, a region characterized by internal drainage systems, block faulted mountain ranges, and volcanic tablelands. The area receives little rainfall due to the barrier against Pacific storms formed by the Cascade Range and Sierra Nevada. In addition, the climate is characterized by low relative humidity, rapid evaporation, abundant sunshine, and extreme ranges in temperature.

The natural vegetation found on the refuges varies according to soil type, climate, elevation, and geography. The dominant vegetation community is shrub - grassland with sagebrush at lower levels and juniper and mountain mahogany occurring at higher elevations. Stands of willow are frequently present along waterways.

Limitations imposed by this harsh environment have had a major impact on the type of activities that have characterized the area's history since the mid-nineteenth century. The arid land covered mostly by sagebrush did not permit production of marketable foodstuffs but was sufficient for grazing. The range livestock industry which grew up in the area did not require much in the way of technology and was characterized by use of local resources. Ranches were almost always established at springs, or areas where streams flowed down from higher elevations. Natural meadows often existed near these water sources.

When they didn't, ranchers developed irrigation systems to grow native hay and later alfalfa. Until well into the twentieth century ranch buildings and accessory structures were constructed of local materials such as stone, juniper, willow, and sod. The history of land use and occupation on the refuges is best described as adaptation to the environment rather than manipulation or modification of it. Although the impact of this inhospitable environment has been softened by transportation and technological developments, it is still desert country, and its history is best understood within the context of that environment. This theme is an integral part of the narrative which follows.

#### THE SITES

The ranches inventoried in this project were established in the late nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth century. Developed for stock raising they had in common their location along transportation routes, as well as proximity to water and grazing necessary for ranching operations. For the most part, the buildings and associated structures are products of the local environment.

A variety of nationalities participated in the settlement and agricultural development of the area. Irish were represented by ranchers such as the Barry family - a descendent of whom still leases the Shirk Ranch. George Hapgood, who owned a large ranch near Calcutta Lake as well as the Last Chance Ranch on Sheldon, was of English descent. William Ebeling, the original owner of several of the ranches documented in this report, came from Germany. Tom Dufurrena, one of the largest property owners on Sheldon when the government bought it, was a Basque; one of the most frequently mentioned national groups,

which contributed significantly to the expansion of the area's sheep industry in the early twentieth century.

The ranches, regardless of location, age, ethnic origins of its owner, or type of livestock, generally consisted of one or more houses and an assortment of barns, sheds, corrals and miscellaneous outbuildings. If the operation was relatively large, there might be a bunkhouse. This shelter is called by different names depending on location and use including line camp, and bunkhouse. A bunkhouse is a small house on the home ranch that serves as permanent home for ranchhands. With one or more rooms, there is space for cooking, eating, sleeping, and storing horse gear and equipment. Temporary shelters, called line camps were placed strategically at long distances from the home ranch. Ranch hands bunked there for short periods while tending cattle. Line camp refers to both the building and the place and may consist of a canvas tent set on the ground or sturdily constructed stone buildings such as the one at Gooch Camp.

There are three predominant types of bunkhouses and/or line camps in northern Nevada and southeastern Oregon - two house types well known in other parts of North America, and one type introduced to the region by Alpine Italian Masons (Marshall 1981:41). All three types are found on Sheldon and Hart Mountain and documented in this report. The first type is a continuation of the house form known for hundreds of years in Europe, the single pen house. Built either square or rectangular, it is found all over the United States, constructed of various materials. This type was first built of sod by one of the earliest homesteaders in the study area, George Hapgood, and in stone and wood by later ranchers. Its primary features are its one-room square or rectangular shape with door in the long side and a gable roof.

The second type is a version of the single pen house but the house plan has been turned and the door placed in the gable end rather than in the long side. Bunkhouses of this type are usually frame. Both of the single pen forms are often divided into two small rooms inside, but the general rule calls for one open room. The Shirk Ranch has an excellent example of each type. Both are wood frame box construction called "single-wall construction" by people in the area. This framing technique uses no vertical bracing but depends instead on a strong wall of vertical boards made rigid by the roof system. Second and third layers of battens and horizontal boards were usually added. The first type is an end-opening structure with one room; the second is side-opening with two small rooms. Line camp cabins may be either of these two forms. The structure at Gooch Camp which serves as a line camp for the M-C Cattle Company, is a single pen house of the second type, but with a hip roof rather than gable, and two adjacent doors, each opening into a separate room.

The third type of bunkhouse is a one and one-half to two-story building constructed of stone, sometimes in combination with wood. It is a derivation of a building type common to northern Italy and brought to Nevada by Italian stone masons: several of these structures remain on ranches south of the study area near Winnemucca (Marshall 1981:41). The only fully intact example found in the study area is at Kinney Camp. The first floor is partly underground and was used as a cellar or meat room. The buckaroos and ranch hands lived in the second story, reached by an outdoor staircase. The building is roughly square with thick rock walls to the second floor line with wood above, and hip roof. Bunkhouses of this type are known to have existed at Dufurrena as well as Thousand Creek Ranch (Stephens 1984).

All of the ranches had a barn although large barns were uncommon. A notable exception is the long barn at Shirk Ranch. Other ranch structures included chicken houses, sheds for machinery, wagons, and other equipment, and on large operations, a blacksmith shop.

Most of the ranches had less than eight functional buildings, although it is not uncommon to find ranches in the area with more. Generally speaking, a large number of buildings, many in stages of disrepair and disuse, reflects a long history of occupation where new structures were erected as needed and the other buildings gradually abandoned. Both the Shirk and IXL ranches are noteworthy in this respect. Initially established in the 1880's and in continual operation as working ranches since that time they reflect a continuum of ranching history from early settlement of the area to the present.

Materials used in construction of ranch buildings and structures had in common their ready accessibility and low cost. In a region of long distances and fairly primitive transportation, the cost of manufactured building materials, such as milled lumber or brick, tended to be prohibitive. Barbed-wire was also expensive at first; and when used was often to enclose large areas of ground such as pasture, while juniper stakes and willow branches were commonly used for the ranches' corrals and pens.

Ranch houses and auxiliary buildings tended to have a long, low rectangular shape with a shallow-pitched gable or shed roof. Most of the residences and animal sheds have entrances in the long side, while the barn entrance was almost always in the gable end. Wall materials were generally rough, although window and door openings were often framed with milled lumber. Roofs were

usually shingled although sod roofs were common on root cellars and animal sheds. The stone buildings at Hart Mountain headquarters built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930's carry on this vernacular building type employing local stone in construction of the walls and echoing many of the forms and shapes of these early ranch buildings.

Stone construction was used almost exclusively at each of the sites, principally due to the availability of the material. There is however, some amount of variety in construction methods. In most instances, undressed stone was stacked up dry (the Poindexter Cabin on Hart Mountain is a good example of this method) or with a rough concrete or mud mortar. If rocks were extremely irregular, the resulting wide joints were sometimes filled with small stones and bits of wood, and then mortar applied to the face of the wall. The interior wall surfaces in houses and barns were frequently plastered.

The dugout, or root cellar, found on the Shirk and Last Chance Ranches, as well as Kinney Camp was almost always lined with stone. Usually within 10 to 15 feet of the main dwelling, it was a relatively simple structure, excavated into the slope of a hill, with a dirt roof. The only fully intact example of a root cellar is found at Kinney Camp. It provides an excellent illustration of sod roof construction: a trimmed tree trunk acts as a ridgepole into which the rafters, composed of smaller peeled limbs, are connected. Willow branches are then spread over the rafters and a layer of dirt placed over the whole.

Several of the stone structures which date from the early 1900's show slightly more attention to detail and "style" than is the case with older buildings, such as the simple, almost austere, Last Chance Ranch house built in 1885, as

well as various crude stone outbuildings on the Shirk and IXL ranches. The barns and chicken sheds at Thousand Creek and Kinney Camp (circa 1912) have clearly quoined corners which add strength structurally and are decorative as well. The shop at Dufurrena, built in 1936, is constructed of well-dressed stone and was built by a professional stone mason. A simple but decorative touch are the radiating voussoirs over window and door openings. A small, rectangular animal shed at Dufurrena (circa 1900) displays an unusual variation and delightful decorative touch in stone construction. The main walls are composed of narrow, dry stacked slabs of rubble which are sheathed on the exterior with brightly colored "panels" of red and pink sandstone giving an overall patchwork-quilt effect. The stone at the top of the walls projects slightly probably to prevent the dirt roof from washing off and also giving the appearance of a cornice.

The sandstone used on the exterior of this structure is found on numerous buildings throughout the study area. In some instances, such as the shop at Dufurrena, it is the major structural element. In other instances its use is decorative as well as functional as seen in the window and door jambs on the chicken houses at Thousand Creek Ranch and Kinney Camp.

The sandstone comes from a large quarry just south and east of Sheldon refuge sub-headquarters at Dufurrena. The quarry was in commercial operation for many years before shutting down in 1965. The stone, shipped to points throughout the Northwest and California, was a popular building veneer. The "mud saw" remaining on the site was used to cut the stone after it had been broken out of the bed with cables. It was built by the Wagman brothers shortly after they began working the quarry in the fifties (Wagman 1985).

Wood construction was less common in the study area; however, it did occur on the Shirk, IXL, and Last Chance Ranches. In each instance vertical plank construction was used both with and without battens. Horizontal shiplap siding appears on the main dwelling at the Shirk ranch as well as the water tower and outhouse.

Despite the present lack of detailed, site-specific information for many historic cultural resources on the refuges, it is clear that the ranches inventoried in this report have much to reveal about the historical and environmental circumstances of the region's agricultural settlement and subsequent development. The physical characteristics of ranches - number, form, type, and arrangement of buildings and structures, the materials and methods of construction - can tell a great deal about how people and their livestock lived, both in relationship to each other and to their natural surroundings. The collective history of the ranches whether abandoned or still active operations, gives sharp focus to the interconnectedness of human activities in the region. Ranchers and their families were significant participants in the settlement of this area. Raising of sheep, horses, and cattle contributed to the importance of the livestock industry and, in a larger context, ranchers' efforts to use, and yet conserve, the land and its fragile plant and water resources contributed to the development of new public policy regarding the western range.

## IXL RANCH

### HISTORY

The IXL Ranch was consolidated out of several small homesteads beginning in the mid 1880's. The earliest recorded occupation of southern Guano Valley was 1881 when Joseph Wheeler filed for 120 acres in a meadow north of the present ranch complex. Wheeler did not stay on the property long. It was deeded to R.F. McConnaughty shortly afterwards and by him to John Webster Cratty in 1889 (Wasco County Deeds: 1880-1889). At this time Cratty was the largest private property owner in the southern end of the valley with 835 acres which included water rights to several major springs and improvements valued at over \$1,000 (Wasco County Assessor: 1881-1890). Scattered amongst Cratty's property were holdings belonging to two other men, William T. Cressler and Adam E. Rinehart, both of Cedarville, California, who collectively held title to over 1,000 acres. According to Rinehart's grandson, Ed Rinehart of Paiute, Idaho, these three men were part of the original partnership which established the ranch. Cratty died some time prior to 1889 and Cressler bought his interest. By 1905 Cressler was sole owner of the ranch which included close to 2,000 acres having bought Rinehart out shortly after Cratty's death (Wasco County Deeds: 1905).

Bill Rinehart, Adam's son, became ranch foreman in the early 1890's and remained there until 1926. He oversaw development of the ranch, including construction of a large complex of buildings, corrals, reservoirs, and fencing of springs (Rinehart 1984). The operation grew steadily under his supervision. Tax rolls for 1900 indicate Rinehart was running 350 head of cattle, by 1915 the number was close to 2,000, and he controlled approximately 4,000 acres of grazing land and water rights to almost all the major springs in the area.

Buzz Miller, who buckarooed for a nearby rancher shortly after the turn of the century, recalls the IXL was "one of the finest cattle ranches around, with the best lookin' cattle anywhere."

Although William Cressler never lived at the ranch he played an important role in its development as well as the development of numerous other ranches in northwest Nevada, south-central Oregon, and northeast California. Originally from Pennsylvania, ill health forced him to give up a career practicing law and in 1860 he joined an emigrant train bound for California. He lived in Red Bluff, California for seven years where he taught school and worked as a clerk in the hardware store. While in Red Bluff Cressler formed a partnership with John H. Bonner and in 1867 they established a small store on the site where Cedarville now stands (Modoc County Historical Museum: Genealogy Files).

In addition to their mercantile interests Bonner and Cressler also went into banking and their firm became well-known throughout northern California, southern Oregon and northwest Nevada. They assisted in the agricultural development of the area by loaning money to stockmen during lean times. After a particularly bad year Dave Shirk, whose Guano Valley ranch is documented in this report, was ready to give up ranching altogether, and changed his mind only after Cressler made a long, rough trip by horse and buggy from Cedarville to loan him money and encourage him to give it one more try (Rinehart 1984) (Lake County Deeds: 1890-1900). After Bonner's death Cressler became active in politics and ranching. He was elected to the state legislature from Siskiyou County in 1874 on the platform that Modoc county be created out of the eastern portion of Siskiyou County. Cressler pushed this through the legislature during his first session in office earning him the nickname "Father of Modoc

County" (Modoc County Historical Museum: Genealogy Files). Cressler was also known as a successful cattleman. Besides the IXL, he owned 4,000 acres in Warner Valley devoted to stock-raising which is still in the Cressler family today, and 2,000 acres of farmland in Surprise Valley. Newspaper sources indicate Cressler was "proud of the fact he could drive his cattle from his Nevada and Oregon ranches to a shipping point on the N-C-O railroad and stop on his own property every night" (Ibid). Cressler died in 1926 and left the IXL to his son Sam, a banker in Lakeview, Oregon. Sam resided intermittently at the IXL until his death in 1928 when administration of the ranch was turned over to trustees in Cedarville (Robinson 1984). The federal government bought the property in 1936 for incorporation into the Sheldon Antelope Refuge. Since that time it has been leased to a permittee who continues to run cattle and produce hay on the property.

The ranch is located in the southern end of Guano Valley along the banks of Catnip Creek. The major water sources for the ranch are Swan Lake and Catnip Reservoir. Between 1907 and 1910 ranch foreman Bill Rinehart oversaw construction of the water control structures at these places (Rinehart 1984). With a more stable water supply for both cattle and irrigation Rinehart significantly increased ranch production. Prior to 1907 he harvested approximately 40 tons of hay per year, by 1911 it increased to 1500-1600 tons per year (Ibid).

With the exception of the main ranch house which burned in 1950, all of the major buildings and structures from the earliest period of occupation are still standing. The machine shed north of the barn and the metal-sided bunkhouse south of the house were built circa 1928 under Sam Cressler's direction and the

metal-sided storage shed/garage was constructed sometime after 1938 (Rinehart 1984). However, the barn, chicken house, blacksmith shop, long shed, bunk-house/cooler (which now serves as a living quarters) and the rock walls and corrals were probably constructed prior to 1907 and possibly as early as 1880 (Ibid).

#### EVALUATION

The IXL Ranch is determined not to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the site is associated with William Cressler who played an important role in Modoc County history the fact that he never actually lived at the ranch and the existence of another building of landmark status more directly linked to Cressler (the store in Cedarville) diminish this associative value. The ranch is representative of processes in the historical development and settlement of the area, however, other ranches including the Shirk Ranch, retain better ensemble feeling and contain buildings of greater architectural interest.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No action should be taken to process a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
2. The refuge should consider using materials from this site at the Shirk Ranch which is potentially eligible for inclusion in the NHRP. This includes old tools, machinery, and other implements associated with ranching activities which could be used in interpretive displays as well as building materials which could be used in repair and replacement of materials on structures at Shirk Ranch.



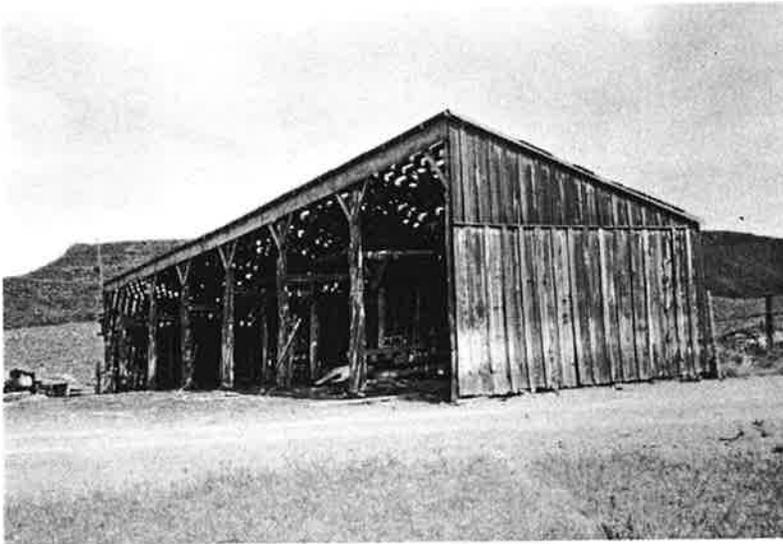
Original ranch house, west view: destroyed by fire. Photo taken ca. 1900. Pictured from left to right: Effie Rinehart, Grace Rinehart, Marion Rionehart, Harry Rinehart and wife Eva, Adam Rinehart (one of original partners in ranch), and Bill Rinehart (ranch foreman for many years under William Cressler). Wood portion of house (to right) was bunkhouse for hired men. Note wash stand and basin far right on porch. Small structure on far left was well house. Water piped in wooden pipe approx. one mile from spring and run into hole (approx. 4'x4'x6'). Overflow piped to corral for stock water.



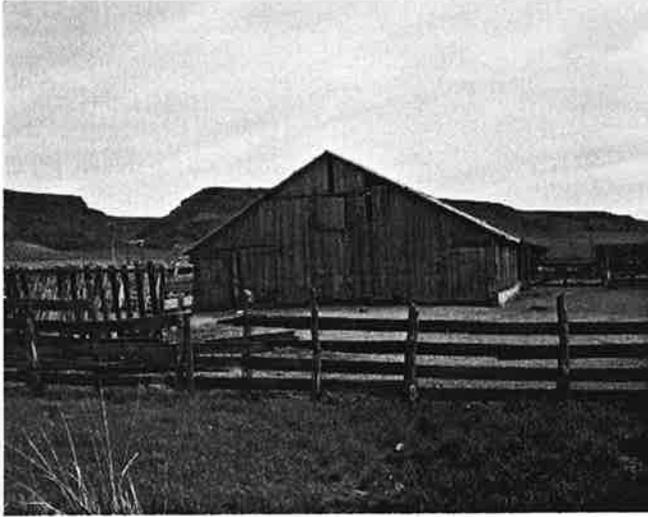
Residence (former bunkhouse and cooler), northeast view: ca. 1907; 43'3"x19'14"; rectangular, one and one-half story, wood frame and masonry structure, uncoursed rubble to second story floor line, wood frame above sheathed with wide shiplap, corner and rake boards. Wood shingle medium gable roof with broad slopes. Narrow one-over-one double-hung sash window, two small rectangular windows on east elevation. Three door openings on west elevation: paneled wooden door offset center to south; one story, central projecting entry, diagonal plank door; stairway to roof of first floor entry provides access to second floor, vertical plank door. No apparent material or structural alterations. Masonry cracked; mortar deteriorating. Fair condition.



Blacksmith Shop, northwest view: ca. 1907; 20'x20'; rectangular, one-story, wood frame, vertical plank walls with exterior batts. Medium gable roof, wood shingle, lean-to on west elevation. Dry stone foundation. Small, 4-light window in east elevation. Two vertical plank doors offset center in south (gable end) elevation, Z-bracing, falling off hinges. Exterior siding warped and deteriorating. Roof materials missing. Fair condition.



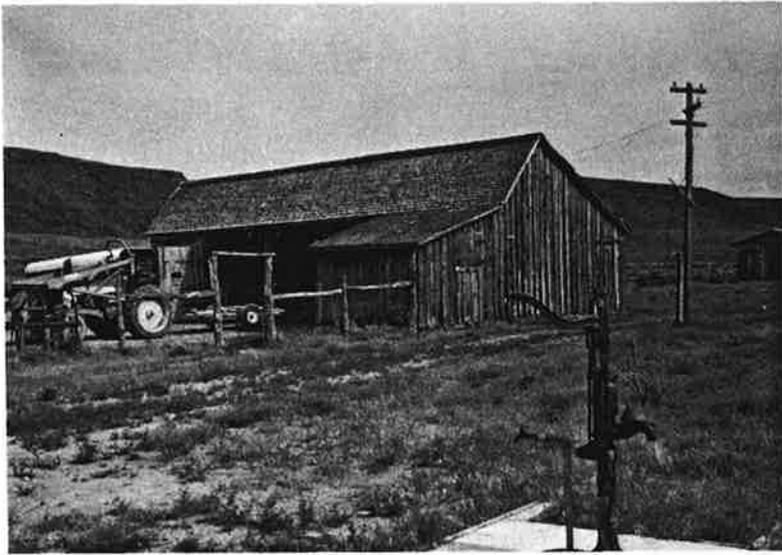
Shed, southwest view: n.d.; 80'x15'; rectangular, one story, shed roof, wood, shingle. Enclosed on three elevations by vertical boards with wide exterior batts, north elevation open, roof supported by large juniper posts. Roof materials missing. Fair condition.



Barn, south view: ca. 1907; 46'x42'; rectangular, wood frame, mortise and tenon joinery with wooden pegs. Medium gable roof covered with sheet metal. Board and batten siding, most batts missing. Large door openings in north and south (gable end) elevations, vertical plank, strap hinges. No major structural or material alterations. Wall boards deteriorating, some missing. Fair condition.



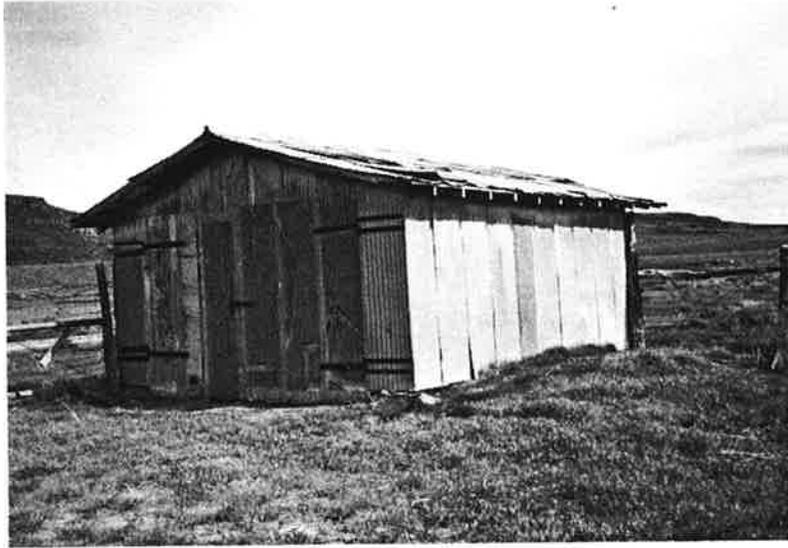
Chicken House, southeast view: ca. 1907; 18'x16'; rectangular, one story stone structure, uncoursed rubble walls 3' thick. Medium gable roof covered with wood shingles. Central, vertical plank door in west gable end. Small, six-light window in south elevation. Roof shingles deteriorating, some missing. Fair condition.



Machine Shop, southeast view: n.d.; rectangular, one-story, wood frame, vertical plank walls with exterior batts, shed-roofed wing on northeast corner. Wood shingle medium gable roof (catslide). Three bays on north elevation with juniper post supports. Large vertical plank doors with strap hinges. No apparent material or structural alterations. Fair condition.



Bunkhouse, west view: ca. 1927; rectangular, one-story, stone foundation, wood frame, sheet metal siding. Vertical wood plank addition on northwest corner, paneled wooden door. Six-over-six double-hung sash window south elevation. Low pitch gable roof covered with sheet metal. Recessed porch on east (gable end) elevation, enclosed with screen, vertical panel door offset center with ornate knob, narrow double-hung sash window with leaded glass. Bird and rodent infestation. Stairway to entrance on west elevation deteriorating. Fair condition.



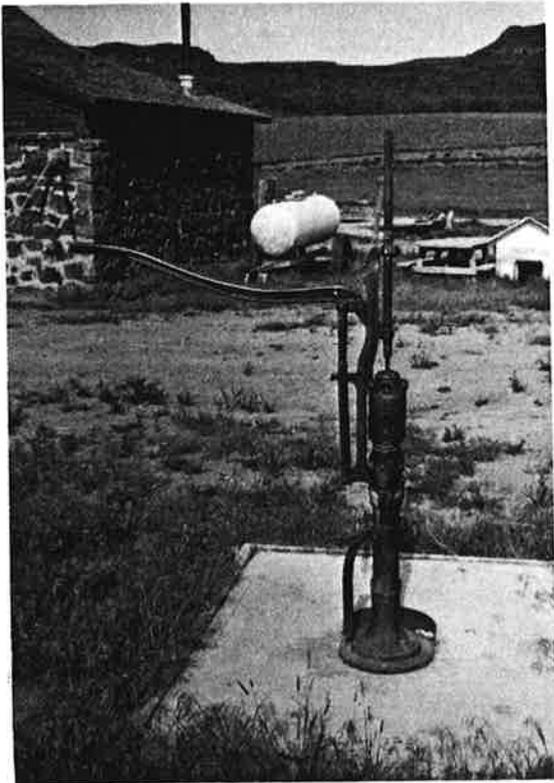
Garage, southeast view: ca. 1930; rectangular, one-story, stone foundation, wood frame, sheet metal siding. Low pitch gable roof covered with sheet metal. Door openings in north gable end, strap hinges. No windows. Good condition.



Corrals and Fences: Extensive system, variety of types and materials. Round corral constructed of vertical juniper posts set close together. Holding corrals, vertical juniper posts set several feet apart, with horizontal planks between. Rock wall (built ca. 1900), dry stacked rubble stone, several hundred yards long.



Outhouse #1, east view: n.d.; rectangular, one-story, wood frame with vertical plank siding. Wood shingle medium gable roof. Double seater. Door opening on west elevation, no door. Plank siding missing on facade. Poor condition.



Waterpump, east view: ca. 1900 vintage.

## LAST CHANCE RANCH

### HISTORY

The Last Chance Ranch was established by George Burt Hapgood in the early 1880's. Hapgood was born in Jeffersonville, Vermont in 1856 and came west sometime prior to 1880. Census records indicate he was living in northern Roop County (now Washoe County) in that year (1880 Federal Census, Roop County).

Between 1880 and 1889 Hapgood began acquiring the property now known as the Last Chance Ranch, so named because he believed it to be his last opportunity to establish a livestock operation with access to water and grazing in that area (Refuge Headquarters Archives: History file). In addition to this ranch Hapgood also established and maintained a ranch near Calcutta Lake, west of the Last Chance property. The Hapgood family lived at the Calcutta ranch during the harsh winter months and moved back to the Last Chance for the summer. Both ranches were geared to diversified livestock production although for many years the primary focus on Last Chance was horses (Hapgood 1984). George Hapgood died in 1927 and was buried in Cedarville, California. His sons, Jesse and True, took over operation of the ranches.

During the Hapgood occupation of the ranch numerous improvements were made including construction of a small sod house, barn, root cellar, main ranch house, and assorted smaller auxiliary structures and buildings. The only existing structures associated with this period are the ranch house and a small root cellar.

In the early twenties, E.R. Sans, Nevada superintendent of predatory animal control for the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey (now U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) visited the IXL Ranch just north and east of the Last Chance Ranch. While there he was given a tour by ranch foreman Bill Rinehart. Sans was impressed with the idea that the area would be ideal for the establishment of an antelope refuge due mainly to the fact that it was a favorite summer range of the animal and much of the land was still government owned (Refuge Headquarters Archives: History file). For many years William L. Finley and others had urged the creation of several large antelope and sage grouse refuges in the West, especially in northern Nevada and southeastern Oregon. At this time antelope were not protected by state or federal laws and competition from livestock had seriously depleted their numbers.

In July 1927 Sans discussed the possibility of establishing an antelope refuge with Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, who was in Nevada engaged in fieldwork. Ernest Greenwalt, a friend of Sans and first Sheldon refuge employee, relates the circumstances of Sans meeting with Pearson in a letter to former refuge manager Ben Hazeltine:

"The Sheldon was E.R. Sans big dream, and he was the guy who spark plugged the idea and carried it through from the start. He and Dr. Pearson got marooned overnight on Anaho Island in Pyramid Lake when winds came up and they couldn't reach the mainland. Sans spent the night selling Pearson on the idea of an antelope refuge and Pearson in turn sold it to the Boone and Crocket Club as a cooperative endeavor [with the Audubon Society].

Two months after their meeting Sans began negotiations with the Hapgood brothers for purchasing the Last Chance Ranch which was for sale at the time for \$20,000. The ranch controlled the water for the largest lambing grounds for antelope in the state. There were three good springs on the property, one of which, Hobble Springs, seldom ran dry even in the driest years.

At the same time, Pearson secured the support of the Boone and Crocket Club of New York which had expressed an interest in creating an antelope refuge as early as 1910. The club pledged to raise half of the asking price if the Audubon Society would match it. In this manner they jointly purchased 2,900 acres, which included the Last Chance Ranch. The property was turned over to the Bureau of Biological Survey as an antelope refuge with the condition that the federal government set aside 30,000 acres of adjacent land for the same purpose (Refuge Headquarters Archives: History file). In 1929 President Hoover temporarily withdrew from entry the stipulated public land on recommendation of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. The total area at the time was close to forty square miles.

President Hoover signed the executive order officially establishing the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range on January 26, 1931. Dr. Pearson was given the privilege of naming the refuge because of his participation in establishing it. Charles Sheldon was a friend of Pearson's who died in 1928. A member of the Boone and Crocket Club and an avid sportsman, explorer, and conservationist, Sheldon had been concerned about the plight of the antelope for many years.

In 1928 shortly after acquisition of the Hapgood property Ernest Greenwalt was hired as a custodian for the ranch and newly-created refuge. The Last Chance ranch house served as refuge "headquarters" from 1928 until 1934. The house was occupied by Greenwalt and his wife Judy during this time. Their son, Lynn, spent the first several years of his life here and later became director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For further discussion of early history and development of refuge headquarters on Bald Mountain see Elston and Earl, A Cultural Resources Overview for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

#### EVALUATION

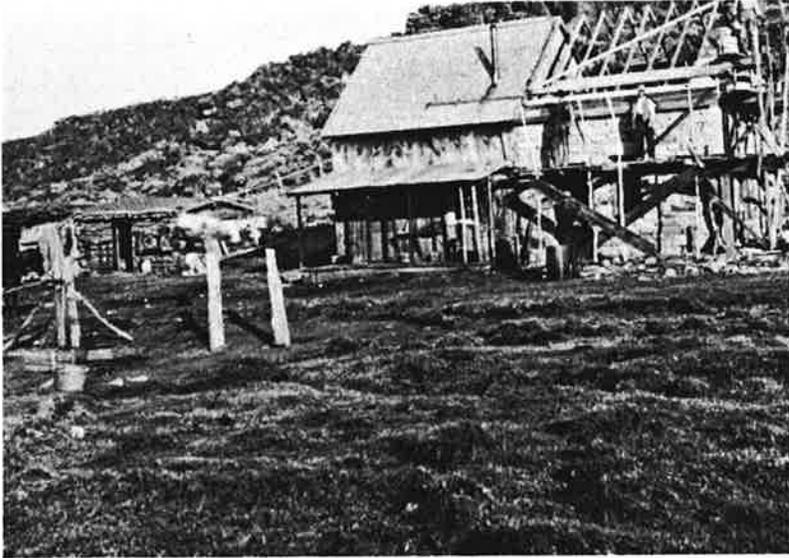
The Last Chance Ranch house is determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places based on its association with the establishment of the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range. Establishment of the range was a cooperative effort between the Audubon Society, Boone and Crocket Club, and the Bureau of Biological Survey and was the first organized effort to provide a sanctuary for the pronghorn antelope. It came at a time when national concern for conservation of the country's natural resources was growing due to the depleted state of those resources. The resulting conservation movement had tremendous impact on the economic, political, and social makeup of the nation. Because the Last Chance Ranch is directly linked to the creation of the range which represents the historical values embodied in the conservation movement, the Last Chance Ranch may be said to be "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

Beyond this, the ranch house must also be assessed as to integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, and feeling that it retains. Because the ranch house is important for its association with a significant historic phenomena it should ideally retain some features pertaining to all of these areas although, in this case, integrity of design and workmanship are not as relevant.

The ranch house has had some alterations over the years, however, most of the original material is intact as well as integrity of setting and location, thus it retains an overall feeling and association with the historic period it represents.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A NHRP or Determination of Eligibility form should be prepared for the site.
2. Prepare maintenance plan. Should be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (See Appendix A).
3. Because the Last Chance Ranch is significant in understanding the development of the refuge it would be an important component of interpretive program which seeks to illustrate refuge history. It should be given careful consideration in the I & R program review.



House under construction, northeast view: photo taken ca. 1910. Note small sod house to left of main house.



House, northeast view: 34'7" x 16'5"; built in two phases, wood portion to north, constructed ca. 1885, vertical plank walls, most batts missing Southern half, built ca. 1910, coursed, square rubble. Two halves share wood shingle, medium gable roof. Each half has door on west elevation, single leaf, four panel. Window openings boarded up, originally six-over-six double-hung sash on south elevation, openings on other elevations shorter and squattier. Shed roof porch on facade removed, n.d. Severe bird and rodent infestation. Mortar deteriorated, stone wall, south elevation, cracking. Some repair and replacement of materials, not incompatible. Roof resingled 1981. Fair condition.



Root Cellar, west view: 6'0"x5'0"; dug directly into bank approximately 10' off northeast corner of house, lined with roughly coursed stone. Roof is gone except for several large juniper logs. Vertical plank door falling off hinges. Poor condition.

## GOOCH CAMP

### HISTORY

Eugene C. Gooch was born in Alexander, Maine in 1841. He came to the study area some time prior to 1891, and took out a possessory claim of 160 acres in Section 33, T. 46 N, R. 24 E. He never gained title to the land however, and abandoned the property and the area in 1900. During the time he occupied the site, he made numerous improvements including construction of a sod house, large wooden barn, corrals and fences (Humboldt County Assessor: Land Assessments 1890-1900).

The same year Gooch left the area, a patent was registered on the property by Johanna Sophia Ebeling and subsequently deeded to her son William K. Ebeling, a local rancher. According to Buzz Miller, who was Ebeling's "vaquero boss" from 1912 to 1916, Gooch Camp was occupied on a periodic basis by buckaroos when rounding up livestock or harvesting the native grasses which grew in the meadow north of the barn. In 1920, Ebeling sold the property to Thomas Dufurrena who ran a large sheep operation out of his home ranch (current Sheldon sub-headquarters, now called Dufurrena) on Thousand Creek. Dufurrena continued to harvest hay on the property which also served as a line camp or temporary quarters for ranch hands during roundup (Stephens 1984). The federal government bought the property in 1936.

Of the buildings and structures built by Gooch, only the corrals remain. The barn burned in 1967. Some charred remains can be seen directly north of the rock corral. The site of the sod house was not located during the field investigation, however informants indicate it was north of the existing stone

house. This small building was built by Dufurrena some time after 1920 (Miller 1984). It is still used as a line camp by the MC Cattle Company and horse trappers.

The "camp" is located in a narrow canyon between Gooch Table and Catnip Mountain approximately 1/2 mile from an early wagon road which went to Cedarville, California. Water was supplied by a small stream which runs through the canyon. Besides proximity to the wagon road and a water supply, it is likely Gooch chose the site because of its advantages for trapping horses. Gooch Table and Catnip Mountain were home to herds of wild mustangs. Beginning in the late 1890's and well into the twentieth century, there was a good market for horses and ranchers frequently supplied the demand. Although there is no evidence that Gooch trapped horses, informants indicate that both Ebeling and Dufurrena used the site for that purpose. According to Dufurrena's daughter Marge Stephen of Denio, the horses were driven off the tables into the canyon, the walls of which served as a funnel to concentrate the herd into a compact mass. Two wings attached to either side of the opening in the round corral also helped funnel the animals into the "trap." The wings consisted of barbed-wire, with tin cans attached at various points, which was run up the sides of the canyon walls. As the horses approached the trap the wire was vigorously shaken which served to scare the horses into the corral (Rinehart 1984). The circular form of the juniper stake and board corral eliminated corners on which the animals could injure themselves. The rock corral adjoining the round corral is carefully stacked forming a remarkably smooth interior wall surface probably for the same purpose.

## EVALUATION

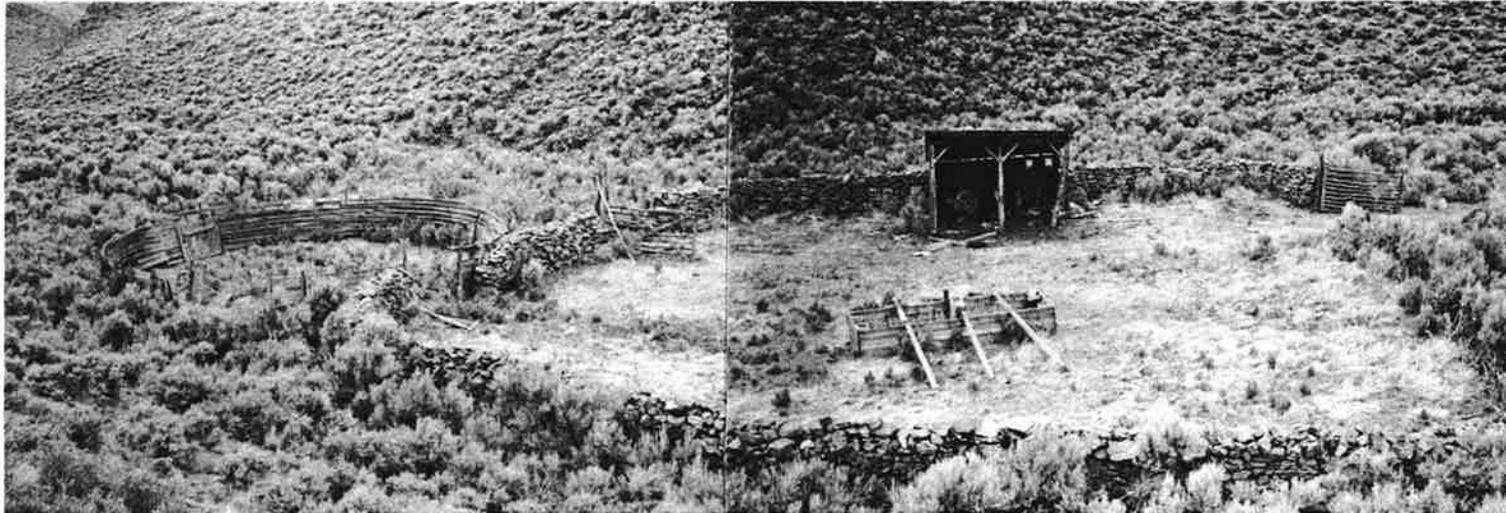
The horsetrap at Gooch Camp represents an important element in the region's agricultural development and is associated with "events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The structure provides a good illustration of local construction methods, use of native materials, and use of the natural landscape. The significance of the site is further enhanced by the fact that few traps of this type have been recorded and further study is likely to contribute to our knowledge of the forms, materials, and use of landforms which characterize horsetrap construction. It is a significant example of its type.

The stone house is not particularly significant. Although it is associated with "events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history" it is not unique in a way that will yield new information about lifeways or building types. It is typical of stone buildings built in the early 1900's in this area and others can be found that are of greater historic and architectural interest.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No further action/study is recommended for the stone house. However, preservation of the building is encouraged. It is still occasionally used as a line camp by employees of the MC Cattle Company.
2. A NHRP or Determination of Eligibility form should be prepared for the Gooch Camp horsetrap.
3. The round corral, small shed, and gates on the stone portion of the trap are in poor condition. Salvage as much original material as possible and use to repair and maintain in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (Appendix A).

4. As an integral part of the area's agricultural history and a rare example of its type the horsetrap would make an interesting and unusual component of an interpretive program perhaps as part of a self-guided auto tour of the refuge. It should be given serious consideration in the upcoming I&R program review.



Horsetrap, southwest view: ca. 1900; roughly rectangular, dry stacked, stone corral, 105'x864', 3' wide at base, 6' high in spots. Interior wall surface quite smooth. Stone wall runs from northeast corner of corral along base of hill approximately 50 yards. Small shed, 17'x14', on west side of corral. Two gates directly opposite one another on north and south walls of corral, peeled poles with x-bracing. Wooden feed bin in center. Wood frame construction, juniper post supports, open on east elevation. Poor condition. Round corral adjoins stone corral on south, 47' in diameter, vertical juniper posts set in ground approximately 3'-5' apart, horizontal planks form walls. Sections of corral collapsed. Gate separating stone corral from round corral deteriorated.



House, west view: ca. 1925; 27'10"x18'0"; rectangular, one story, truncated hip roof covered with sheet metal. Uncoursed rubble walls, 2' thick. Symmetrical facade, two doors, single leaf, paneled, flanked by one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows. Mortar is deteriorated. Fair condition. No major material or structural alterations.



Horsetrap, detail of rock corral, south view.

## DUFURRENA, KINNEY CAMP AND THOUSAND CREEK RANCH

### HISTORY

The histories of Dufurrena, Kinney Camp and Thousand Creek Ranch are closely linked. The original owner of each of these ranches was William K. Ebeling. Little is known of Ebeling's life except that he immigrated to the United States from Germany with his mother in 1871 (1900 Federal Census, Humboldt County). At that time he was twelve years old. His whereabouts between the time he arrived in the U.S. and the first record of his name in the Humboldt County Tax Assessor files is unknown. Ebeling appears in the 1890 tax roles as having filed on a possessory claim of 160 acres in T. 45 N, R. 24 E, Sections 2 and 3, current site of the Sheldon Refuge sub-headquarters (Humboldt County Assessor: Land Assessments 1890). This site was to become his Home Ranch (now called Dufurrena after a subsequent owner) and headquarters for overseeing the operation of three other ranches all devoted to raising livestock.

In November of 1895 Ebeling expanded his holdings, patenting two parcels of land of 160 acres each on nearby creeks. The first claim was located in T. 46 N, R. 25 E, Section 24, near the banks of Thousand Creek which runs across the broad alkali flats east of the mouth of Thousand Creek Gorge. This is the site of the present Thousand Creek Ranch. The second claim was located in T. 45 N, R. 25 E, Section 26 and 27, several miles below the mouth of Big Spring Gorge near Big Spring Creek (Humboldt County Assessor: Land Assessments 1890-1896). The ranch he built on this site is called Kinney Camp. According to local informants it was named after a man called McKenney who "squatted" on a small piece of land near the mouth of Big Spring Gorge some time around the turn of the century. He never filed on the property and nothing else is apparently

known about him (John 1984). Five years later, in 1900, Ebeling's mother filed a claim on the abandoned Gooch property (now called Gooch Camp) which was subsequently deeded to her son, and made a part of his overall ranching operations.

Tax assessment records do not indicate when the buildings at Thousand Creek Ranch or Kinney Camp were constructed. However they were in existence by 1912, the year that Buzz Miller was hired as Ebeling's "vaquero boss." Miller recalls that Ebeling ran a "mixed outfit," a few cattle, occasionally sheep, and predominantly horses (Miller 1984). He kept a hired man, sometimes with family, at both Thousand Creek and Kinney Camp year round. Gooch Camp was occupied on a seasonal basis during round-up. Ebeling harvested the native grasses that grew at each of these sites and later he raised alfalfa at Thousand Creek and Kinney Camp. All the ranches had large areas of meadow which were irrigated by water diverted from nearby creeks. During harvest haying equipment was moved down from the Home Ranch and several of the hired men would help harvest the hay.

Ebeling never married but Miller recalls there was always "a family" of eight to ten hired men who helped run the ranches. Ebeling lived and worked in the area for almost thirty years before selling out in approximately 1917. At that time he moved to Cedarville where he lived with his mother until his death in 1925 (Ibid).

Of the numerous buildings constructed by Ebeling on his Home Ranch only the barn and an animal shed remain. Henry John, former maintenance man at Sheldon Refuge, recalls talking to a man named Henry Howe who stopped at the Home Ranch

to show his companions the barn he helped build in 1900. Howe remembered the year because he celebrated his twentieth birthday hoisting the massive blocks of stone which form the barn walls. The stone was put in "buckets" made of pieces of cowhide sewn together and lifted to the top of the wall using a pulley similar to that employed in a "Mormon derrick". Tax assessor records verify the date of construction as 1900 (Humboldt County Assessor: Land Assessments 1895-1905). The animal shed was probably built about the same time. The oldest building known to have existed on the site was a small, one story, sod house built by Ebeling shortly after he arrived in the area (Miller 1984). It was located north of the present trailer house. The field survey did not locate any remains. A large, two story, stone house was built in 1911 and destroyed by fire in 1959. A trailer house now sits on the site.

All the major buildings at Ebeling's Home Ranch were at least partially constructed of pink sandstone from the nearby quarry. Construction is believed to have been supervised by the Koenig Brothers, stonemasons from Cedarville, who may have built the structures at Thousand Creek and Kinney Camp as well, however this was not verified (John 1984). With minor exceptions the buildings at Kinney Camp and Thousand Creek are remarkably similar exhibiting the same construction techniques, materials, and spatial arrangement. Only the house, barn, chicken shed, and bunkhouse foundation remain at Thousand Creek; all original buildings are still standing at Kinney Camp.

Ebeling sold his combined holdings to the Denio Land and Livestock Company owned by William Scott of Cedarville and Thomas Dufurrena of Moser. The company operated a large sheep outfit out of Denio, Nevada. Dufurrena bought Scott out several years after they acquired the Ebeling property and changed the company name to Thousand Creek Land and Livestock Company (Humboldt County

Assessor: Land Assessments 1910-1922). Dufurrena was a Basque by birth. He left the Pyrenees as a youth in 1900, stowing away on a ship bound for Mexico. Like many other young Basques in the area Dufurrena worked his way to Nevada via California. In 1911 he married Grace Yule, who had come to Nevada from Cincinnati for her health. They built a house in Moser, Oregon where they lived until approximately 1917 at which time they moved into the big stone house at Ebeling's Home Ranch (Stephen 1984). The Dufurrena's had three children, Raymond, Tom, and Marguerite (Marge). Their daughter Marge Stephen lives in Denio. Her recollections of life on the ranches from the late teens until 1936, when they were sold to the Government, were a valuable source of information.

The only existing structure built during the Dufurrena occupation of Ebeling's Home Ranch is the shop building, northernmost structure in the complex. It was built in 1936 shortly before Dufurrena sold out. The attention to detail and fine craftsmanship evident in the stone work indicate it was built by a professional stone mason. This is given further credence by Marge Stephen who believes it was constructed by an Italian stone mason from Cedarville, California.

#### EVALUATION

Dufurrena. The ensemble of buildings at this site is incomplete; the main house and several related outbuildings are gone. The barn, corrals, and animal shed which remain from the Ebeling occupation are good examples of local building methods and use of native materials, however, their primary value is aesthetic. Stone construction of this type is common to the area on both public and private land, and the buildings are neither unique nor significant

in a way that will yield new information. The same reasoning is applicable to the shop building constructed by Dufurrena in 1936. Although both Ebeling and Dufurrena were important participants in the development of the area there is another site on the refuge associated with these men that possesses greater integrity of materials and location and is more significant. The site is determined not to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Thousand Creek. Similar reasoning applies in evaluating the buildings at Thousand Creek Ranch. The integrity of the site is low due to the loss of the bunkhouse/cooler and historical and architectural values are better represented by other sites on the refuge such as Kinney Camp. It is determined not to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Kinney Camp. This site is determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register. It not only represents the processes of settlement and development of the area but also retains excellent integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and association with individuals significant in local history. Unlike Dufurrena and Thousand Creek all the original buildings are intact and in relatively good condition. The grounds around the ranch have not been disturbed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is not recommended that any of the structures at Dufurrena or Thousand Creek Ranch be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
2. A National Register of Historic Places or Determination of Eligibility form should be prepared for Kinney Camp.

3. Immediate steps should be taken to protect the structures at Kinney Camp from further deterioration. The main house , bunkhouse, chicken house, and barn should have temporary roofing installed to protect what remains of the original roofs and interiors. Sheet metal is one option; however it is an expensive temporary measure and given the high demand for this material in the area its use is questionable. More to the point is installing spaced sheathing to which roofing paper could be applied immediately, and shingles at a later date, should restoration be undertaken. All door and window openings on the bunkhouse, main house, and chicken house should be boarded over.
4. Despite the relative isolation and lack of facilities at this site the refuge should give serious consideration to preserving it for interpretive purposes. Not only is it an exceptionally beautiful example of a turn-of-the-century ranch but it exhibits remarkable integrity of materials and location. As such, it provides an excellent illustration of the form and arrangement of ranch buildings, use of local materials, and vernacular building types. The historic use of the site and surrounding area could constitute an important part of an interpretive program which seeks to increase visitors' understanding of the fragility of historic resources and the environment. The area adjacent to the ranch was once an irrigated, productive wet meadow, supplying hay for ranchers' livestock, and providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Now it is an inhospitable greasewood flat with a gaping gully running through it rapidly undercutting the road. The area is used little by wildlife. The site provides a good illustration of the effects of man's activities on the environment especially when compared to other areas on the refuges where ongoing irrigation and haying is providing wildlife habitat and

historic buildings are still in use. A self-guided auto tour incorporating sites such as Kinney Camp would be an excellent vehicle for increasing the public's appreciation of the refuge's management policies and objectives as well as enhancing significant cultural resources.

5. Rehabilitation of Kinney Camp for interpretive purposes would not constitute a major undertaking. All of the buildings appear to be structurally sound, however the following items would need attention:

restore roofs on main house, bunkhouse, chicken house, and barn; and  
restore willow shed and corrals.

6. If the refuge decides to preserve the site a maintenance plan specific to the resource should be prepared according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. (See Appendix A).



Ranch house, southwest view: destroyed by fire. Photo taken ca. 1948. Built ca. 1911, for William Ebeling.



Haying at Dufurrena: buckrake and crew, photo taken approximately 1920.



Machine Shop, northwest view: 1936; no dimensions; rectangular, one-and-one-half story, concrete foundation. Medium gable roof covered with sheet metal. Cut stone wall construction, coursed, rough-faced pink sandstone. Double doors in gable end, vertical plank with Z-bracing; reinforced with plywood at later date. Single door on west elevation with diagonal boards and strap hinges. Small square windows on north and east elevations with stone sill and voussoir. Good condition.



Machine Shop, detail of door on west elevation.



Willow Corral, southwest view: n.d.; part of extensive system of willow corrals to south of barn. Tops of juniper posts sawn off ca. 1936. Southeast corner of barn in right foreground; chicken house in center background. Fair condition.



Chicken House, northwest view: n.d.; 15'x21'; rectangular, one story, dirt floor. Low pitched gable roof, large (timber) ridgepole, rough sawn lumber rafters covered with sod and willow branches. Stone wall construction 1.5' thick, narrow dry-stacked slabs of pink and red sandstone sheathed with "panels" of same. Single leaf, wood door on east elevation. Small square, 4-light window on north and south elevations. Reroofed 1983 using materials to match originals. Good condition.

## DUFURRENA



Barn, view to southwest: Koenig Bros., builders; 1900; 29'0" x 83'5"; rectangular, one and one-half story, dirt floor. Medium gable roof covered with sheet metal. Semi-coursed, rough cut blocks of pink sandstone to second floor line, vertical plank wood frame above. Wall on southeast corner cracked, may be structurally unsound. Vertical or horizontal plank sliding doors: one on each elevation. Door openings in upper gable ends. Fair condition.



Shed roof wing off northeast corner of barn, south view: n.d.; 22'x82'. Wood frame and rubble wall construction, large blocks of pink sandstone used for corner quoining. Juniper post supports. Roof covered with sheet metal. Two sets of hinged, rough sawn, vertical plank, double doors. No major material or structural alterations. Fair condition.

## THOUSAND CREEK RANCH



House, southwest view: photo taken 1948. Note one-story bunkhouse/cooler in background - only foundation remains.



House, view to southeast: ca. 1912; 29'x29'; rectangular one and one-half story, wood shingle, medium gable roof with wide eaves, central stone chimney with corbeled cap. Uncoursed rubble walls up to second floor line, wood frame above, wood shingle exterior. Window openings boarded up, various sizes, originals double-hung sash. Single leaf, paneled doors on east and south elevations. Corner quoining and door and window jambs, pink sandstone. No major alterations/additions to exterior. Significant interior alterations. Good condition.



Barn, view to southeast: ca. 1912; 22'10"x66'4"; rectangular, one-story, dirt floor. Low pitch gable roof covered with sheet metal, originally wood shingle (?). Uncoursed rubble walls, 2' thick. Large door openings on gable ends, jambs are massive blocks of pink sandstone, hand hewn timber lintel over door. Seven, small square windows on west elevation, pink sandstone surrounds. No apparent alterations or additions. Mortar deteriorating. Fair condition.



Barn, detail of entrance on west gable end.



Chicken House, southwest view: ca. 1912; 16'x14'; rectangular, one-story, dirt floor. Shed roof, peeled pole rafters originally covered with willow branches, now sheet metal. Tightly stacked, roughly squared, semi-coursed rubble walls, corner quoining and door jambs are large slabs of pink sandstone. Hinged, horizontal plank door. Peeled pole roost inside. No major alterations or additions. Good condition.



Bunkhouse/Cooler, rock foundation, west view: ca. 1912; 15'8" X 13'9"; excavated approximately three feet into ground. Uncoursed rock walls partially mortared, 3' thick. Square window openings, one each on north and south elevation. Building was originally one and one-half story with low pitched hip roof. Upper story was wood; accessed by exterior wood staircase on east elevation.

## KINNEY CAMP



Residence, northeast view: ca. 1912; 29'x29'; rectangular, one and one-half story. Wood shingle, medium gable roof. Central stone chimney with corbeled cap. Uncoursed rubble walls up to second floor line, wood frame above, wood shingle exterior. Single leaf, paneled doors, off center on north and west elevations. Window openings boarded over, originally double-hung sash. Roof in poor condition. Mortar deteriorating. Severe bird and rodent infestation. No major material or structural alterations. Fair condition.



Bunkhouse, northeast view: ca. 1912; 15' 8"x13' 9"; rectangular two story, low pitch hip roof with wide eaves, exposed rafters. First floor dug partially into ground, floor lined with large, smooth, slabs of pink sandstone. Uncoursed rubble walls, 1'10" thick, to second floor line, wood frame above, board and batten siding. Large, peeled log spans interior with nails and hooks, used to hang meat. Second floor originally used as bunkhouse. Juniper posts set in ground support wooden platform, ladder access to second story door opening, originally wooden staircase. Small square windows on west and east elevations. Roof materials missing. Wood siding deteriorating. Fair condition.



Root Cellar (to left of bunkhouse), southwest view: ca. 1912; 20'6"x14'8"; excavated into hillside, interior side walls lined with rubble; rear wall is natural rock, partially mortared rubble facade. Dirt floor, two large timbers in interior with hooks and nails for hanging/storage of foodstuffs, sod roof. Original door replaced, present door beaded paneling. No other apparent additions or alterations. Good condition.



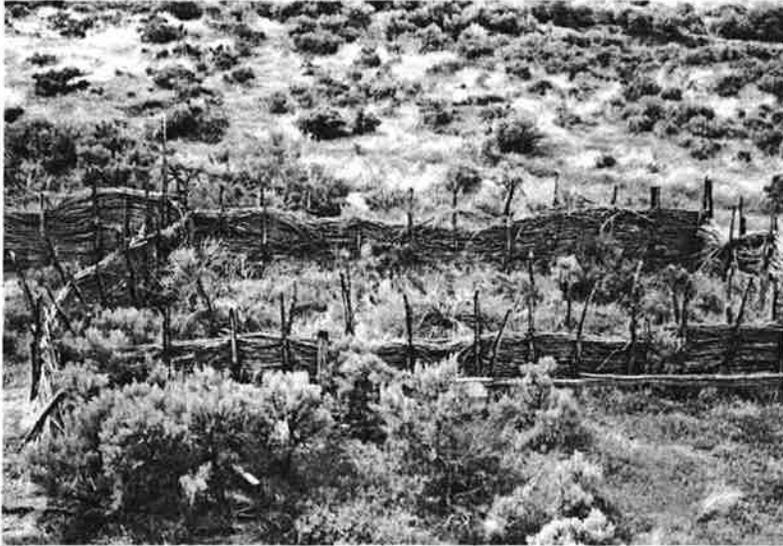
Chicken House, east view: ca. 1912; 14' 4"x16'6"; rectangular, one-story, dirt floor. Low pitch, medium gable roof, sod construction. Uncoursed rubble walls, 1'10" thick. Small, square window openings in east and west elevations, panes removed, hand hewn wood lintel, pink sandstone sill. Vertical plank door with wooden latch (off hinges) in north elevation. No major material or structural alterations. Some roof materials missing. Fair condition.



Barn, northeast view: ca. 1912; 23'0"x53'5"; rectangular, one-story, dirt floor. Uncoursed rubble walls. Low pitch, gable roof, original roof materials missing. Door openings on gable ends, pink sandstone jambs, hand-hewn timber lintels. Hinged doors, diagonal plank, X-bracing. Six small square windows, no panes, on east elevation; two on west elevation. Fair condition.



Willow shed, east view: ca. 1912; 16'8"x25'5"; rectangular, one story, shed roof, pole rafters supported by large juniper posts set in ground.



Willow corral, west view: ca. 1912; no dimensions. Adjoins north elevation of barn.



Barn, Chicken shed, House, southview.

## SHIRK RANCH

### HISTORY

The Shirk Ranch was one of the earliest ranches established in the vicinity of Hart Mountain. Located in the flats southeast of the mountain at the mouth of Guano Creek, it was adjacent to the Guano Valley Road which ran in a roughly north-south direction through the valley, crossing the Old Military Wagon Road, and on into Catlow Valley. The property was homesteaded by R. A. Turner in the early 1880's and shortly afterward deeded to William Herron of Cedarville (Lake County Assessor: Land Assessments 1880-1890), who in turn sold out to D.L. (Dave) Shirk, a cattleman from Catlow Valley. D.L. Shirk first appears in Lake County Tax Records in 1887 at which time he was recorded as owning 480 acres in T. 38 N, R. 27 E, Sections 35 and 26. Improvements to the property are listed at \$1,000 indicating that a great deal of construction had taken place by this time. Through deed and patent Shirk continued to expand his holdings and by 1899 had increased them to 1,080 acres (Ibid). Shirk had been a cattleman at his Home Ranch in Catlow Valley, however informants indicate that his primary focus at the Guano Valley ranch was horses. He had a reputation for the "finest horseflesh in the whole country" (Miller 1984).

Shirk sold the ranch in 1914 to the Lake County Land and Livestock Company (now the 7-T outfit), a large cattle operation, which housed their employees in the main house. No major additions or alterations appear to have been made to any of the buildings or structures during this period. In 1928 the property was acquired by the partnership of Mitchell and McDaniel of Cedarville. Soon afterward the Bank of Willows, California foreclosed on the ranch. Zetus Spaulding leased the ranch for a number of years from the Bank of Willows and

the government after it was acquired for inclusion in the refuge in 1942. Spaulding was married to Shirk's daughter Olive. They lived at the ranch until his death in 1945. Both he and his wife are buried in the Shirk family plot in Cedarville, California. The ranch has been leased to cattlemen on a more-or-less continuous basis since 1942.

Most of the biographical information about Dave Shirk is from his autobiography written shortly before his death. It deals primarily with his experiences on cattle drives from Texas to Oregon in the 1860's and sheds little light on his activities at the Guano Valley ranch. It is, however, significant for being a rare first-hand account of the early days of the cattle industry in southeastern Oregon and is full of colorful anecdotes.

Dave Shirk was born in Park County, Indiana in 1844. He left home at the age of 22 and with a friend traveled west. He spent several years working for cattlemen in Idaho at a time when they were prospering from sales of beef to the mining camps in Idaho and Oregon. Dave's younger brother William joined him in Oregon in 1876 and they each established a desert land claim along Home Creek in Grant County. Between the two of them they eventually acquired close to 50,000 acres and controlled much of the water in Catlow Valley (Hanley 190:93).

The Shirk's major competitor in the race for land and water was Peter French. During a skirmish over a land claim Dave Shirk shot and killed one of French's employees. He was brought to trial and acquitted in 1889 (Ibid). This experience may have been a factor in Shirk's decision to move his ranching operation to Guano Valley. It was not possible to determine at what point

Shirk turned to raising horses rather than cattle. The hard winter of 1889 was disastrous for stockmen throughout the area including the Shirk brothers who lost over 1,000 head of cattle. He may have turned to horses following that year. Shirk left Oregon in the early 1900's and moved to Berkeley, California where he died at the age of 82 in 1928. For several years after the move he continued to return to the ranch during the summer before finally selling out in 1914. He died in 1928 at the age of 82 (Schmitt 1965).

The ranch buildings and structures appear to have been built in two different phases. The earliest phase, ca. 1870-1890, includes a fireplace ruin (probably to the original house), a large stone foundation - possibly a barn, a work/blacksmith shop, and a small stone shed which was used as a chicken coop at one time, although its original use is unknown.

The second phase, ca. 1910, includes the existing house, water tower, root cellar, and partially collapsed barn. All of these buildings appear to have been painted at one time; the house and the water tower are sheathed with similar shiplap siding on the exterior and tongue and groove on the interior. Round nails were used in construction of these buildings. Similar hinges and other store-bought hardware were used in this building phase and appear on several of the structures.

The remaining buildings on the site, two frame bunkhouses, a wood shed, animal shed, and outhouse were probably built shortly after the second major phase of building.

In addition to the standing structures and buildings, there is abundant cultural material scattered throughout the site including a large midden to the

rear of the main residence, as well as a variety of old agricultural implements and other tools associated with ranch operations. There is also a fine collection of hand-carved furniture.

#### EVALUATION

The Shirk Ranch represents an important era in the history of southeastern Oregon and the West. The buildings and associated structures, all more or less intact, possess integrity of materials and location. Because the site has been in continual operation as a working ranch since its establishment it also reflects a continuum of ranching history from early settlement of the area to the present.

The ranch complex itself is an excellent example of late 19th and turn-of-the-century rural building types. A variety of construction methods and materials are represented in the site from crude stone outbuildings constructed of local stone to the large residence of milled lumber with hand-carved porch posts. The integrity of the site is excellent. There have been few alterations to the original structures although several of the outbuildings are in poor condition.

The ranch is a significant study in ranch building types and lifestyle. It is associated with the settlement and development of southeastern Oregon and an important symbol of the history of the area. It is determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prepare a National Register of Historic Places or Determination of Eligibility form for the site.

2. The significance of the property is due in large part to the wide variety of buildings, structures, and objects associated with ranching activities. The partially collapsed barn, water tower, stone shed, and root cellar are integral components of the ensemble. Each is in extremely poor condition. The barn may be beyond restoring. However, every effort should be made to preserve each of these structures.

Contract with historic architect to assess the structural and general physical integrity of these buildings and make recommendations concerning the technical and economic factors involved in preserving them. All recommendations to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Places. (See Appendix A). Minimally, the report should include the following items:

recommended steps for preservation, and restoration; a discussion of the basis for such recommendations; and preliminary drawings and engineering designs;

an identification and analysis of significant material, structural, natural, and human factors affecting preservation of the structure and recommended measures for dealing with them, including any constraints on proposed use;

an analysis of the impact of the proposed plan on the structure in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3, and on the site in general;

an engineering report on safety and load-bearing limits of the structure as warranted by the proposed use or apparent condition;

cost estimates to carry out recommendations.

3. Restoration of these structures will be expensive. A training session in historic structure preservation/restoration to get needed work accomplished should be considered. Session to be conducted under direction and guidance of historic architect familiar with repair of structures of this type. Session would serve two purposes:

Complete needed stabilization/restoration of structures and significantly reduce costs of work;

provide "hands-on" experience for cultural resource professionals and/or students who are not generally trained in technical aspects of identification and repair of buildings.

4. Because site is in continual use as a working ranch, ongoing maintenance and improvements are anticipated. To expedite these procedures and ensure that historic/architectural values are preserved a maintenance plan specifically designed for the complex should be prepared. Plan could easily be completed in conjunction with preparation of NRHP form. Plan to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (See Appendix A). It should include overall guidelines applicable to complex as a whole and specific guidelines and recommendations for each individual building.
5. The hand-carved furniture and old agricultural implements scattered throughout the site should be inventoried, catalogued, and carefully stored. Reconstruction of the barn would allow ample space for storage of these artifacts.



Residence, northwest view: ca. 1910; 30'4"x44'5"; two-story, wood frame, gable roof. T-plan. Shiplap siding with corner and rake boards. Symmetrical facade. Porch on each elevation, partially enclosed on northeast and northwest corners; hand-carved chamfered posts. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows with simple architrave molding. Doors are paneled, screen doors have rough wooden frames. Porch floorboards deteriorated. Some porch posts and window panes missing. Minor alterations on rear (north) elevation. House painted white at one time. No major material or structural alterations or additions. Fair condition.



Watertower, northeast view: ca. 1910; 15'6"x16'4"; pump and gravity system, rectangular, two story, dirt floor. Low pitch hip roof. Large sheet metal tank in second floor supported by floor boards and log joists resting on bents made of poles; bents sit on floor boards resting on earth. Exterior walls formed of sheathing nailed over bents; application of rubble stone applied over this. Stone wall partially collapsed; severe settlement. Props placed under tank to support weight of tank. Two door openings on east elevation: first floor door vertical board and batt with Z-bracing, strap hinges; pole ladder access to second story opening, no door. Loose hay packed around water tank. Poor condition.



Animal shed, northwest view: n.d.; 28'1"x9'1"; rectangular, one-story, dirt floor. Shed roof covered with sheet metal. Wood frame construction, peeled pole studs sheathed with rough sawn horizontal planks on north half, vertical board and batt on south end. Small, square, six-light window and two door openings in east elevation. Peeled pole roost suspended from ceiling with wire in south half of structure. Wood trough in north portion. Siding warped. Fair condition.



Outhouse, west view: n.d.; 5'0"x6'3"; rectangular, one-story, wood frame, two and one-half seater. Gable roof covered with sheet metal. Shiplap siding with corner boards, south elevation covered with sheet metal. Vertical plank door on north elevation. Good condition.



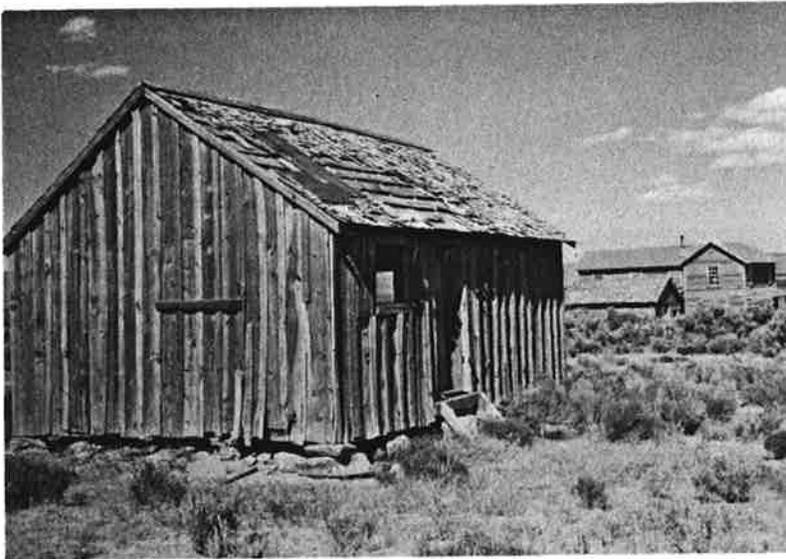
Woodshed, north view: ca. 1910; two adjoining rectangular structures, dirt floor, west portion 18'1"x6'8", shed roof covered with sheet metal. East half 14'2"x8'3", no roof. Both wood frame construction with board and batten siding. Each section has door opening on east elevation. Door opening on south elevation of east half. Fair condition.



Root cellar, west view: ca. 1910; approx. 8' x 10'. Dug into ground; accessed by wooden stairway. Roof has heavy log ridge pole, dimensional lumber purlins and top plates covered with earth, supported by approximately ten cedar posts. Boards are nailed to inside of posts to retain earth. Roof collapsing. Half-buried furniture includes pie-safe. Poor condition.



Bunkhouse #1, northwest view: n.d.; 12'7"x18'3"; rectangular, one-story, stone foundation, box frame. Medium pitch gable roof, shingled. Shiplap siding with corner boards. Single leaf paneled door on north and south (gable end) elevations, each flanked by small square window opening, no panes. Roof material missing, siding warped. Fair condition.



Bunkhouse #2, northeast view: n.d.; 22'1"x16'4"; rectangular, one-story, box frame, stone foundation, plank floor. Medium pitch gable roof, shingled. Vertical board and batten siding. Vertical plank, hinged door in south (side) and east (gable end) elevation. Small square window flanks each door, no panes. Roof materials missing. Siding warped. Porch stoop deteriorated. Fair condition.



Fireplace remnant, northwest view: n.d.; remains of former stone structure possibly original residence. Huge slabs of stone form walls and hearth, encased by smaller pieces of dry-stacked rubble. Nails with tin washers extend across top of opening - may have secured cover to reduce smoking. Mortar deteriorating; needs re-pointing to stabilize. Poor condition.



Blacksmith Shop, northeast view: ca. 1910; 30'7"x14'6"; rectangular, one story, dirt floor, box construction, stone foundation. Medium gable roof covered with sheet metal, lean-to on south elevation. Vertical plank door west elevation, double doors, hinged, on east elevation. Small, square six-light window in south elevation. New addition under construction on north elevation does not appear to alter fabric of main structure. Siding warped and deteriorating. Fair condition.



Shed, northwest view: n.d.; 8' 1" x 14' 6"; rectangular, one-story, box construction with exterior batts, exterior sheathed with dry-stacked stone, approx. 1' thick. Shed roof, shingled. Door opening on east elevation framed with rough sawn lumber and juniper posts, door locked from outside. No windows. Roof boards warped, most shingles missing. Exterior stone wall partially collapsed. Once used as chicken coop, original use unknown. Original boards square-nailed. Poor condition.



Barn, southeast view: ca. 1910; 46' x 112' rectangular; partially collapsed; no roof. Vertical plank walls with exterior batts. End-opening doors, strap hinges, x-bracing. Large juniper post supports in northern section; mortise and tenon joinery in what were probably lofts. Northern wall relatively intact; west wall rebuilt, n.d. Southern portion probably different date; entirely collapsed; juniper post are smaller, manger at center. Poor condition.



Barn interior, north view. Note juniper post concourse down center aisle.



Grave marker, east view. Located on small hill several hundred yards northwest of main house.



Juniper Post Corral, east view: n.d.; extensive system of corrals and fences include round corral of vertical juniper posts; board fences; willow fences. Various repair and replacement of materials over the years. Generally good condition.

## HART MOUNTAIN HEADQUARTERS

### HISTORY

The Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge was established by an Executive Order signed by President Roosevelt on December 21, 1936, a time when economic collapse and disastrous drought in the nation's agricultural areas had created a crisis in American society. The federal response to the Great Depression was unprecedented. On March 31, 1933 Congress passed the first major New Deal relief measure, Emergency Conservation Work. The intent of the bill as expressed by Congress was "to relieve the acute condition of widespread distress and unemployment existing in the United States, provide for restoration of the country's depleted natural resources, and advance an orderly program of useful public work." When enacted, the bill authorized the President to create a civilian conservation corps (CCC) from the ranks of the unemployed to be used for these purposes.

Over the nine years of its existence the CCC employed millions of American youths, local experienced men, and veterans, in conservation work throughout the nation. Their activities on Fish and Wildlife Service land in the west are important in understanding Pacific Northwest history as well as the history of the individual refuges. Soil conservation and range improvement projects helped stabilize an important forage resource for wildlife as well as the stock-raising industries. The Corps provided employment for many local men, and financial relief to their families. The rustic style of architecture represented in the CCC buildings at Hart Mountain illustrates a unique American design philosophy. Its non-intrusive expression made use of natural and native materials, and, being labor-intensive was ideally suited to the goals of the CCC.

The first CCC camp on Hart Mountain was established on October 16, 1937, less than a year after the refuge was created. It was composed of enrollees from Company 3442 previously stationed in Rutledge, Georgia. The camp was located at the base of the steep escarpment which forms the west side of Hart Mountain approximately 18 miles northeast of the small community of Plush. Tents served as temporary shelter for several weeks until the camp buildings were constructed and cooking was done out-of-doors on field ranges. Construction of camp buildings began in November, carried out by enrollees under the direction of U.S. Army personnel, and was completed in January. Numerous structures were built including several barracks buildings, a kitchen/mess hall, infirmary, 10-car garage, blacksmith shop, auto shop, equipment warehouse, office building, oil house, and miscellaneous smaller service buildings. The only structures remaining on the site today are the infirmary building and the stone entry post.

During the four years that CCC crews were assigned to Hart Mountain Refuge several different companies came and went. The enrollees came from many backgrounds and circumstances. Some had never had an outdoor experience in a rural environment and many had limited educations. Once enrolled, they received shelter, medical care, and food. An educational program was instituted to provide basic reading and writing skills in addition to the vocational training and work experience. They also had the opportunity to pursue recreational activities after working hours. A tremendous esprit de corps was developed in this way. Pride in new skills and enthusiasm for the job extended beyond the eight-hour workday. A CCC company assigned to Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, later transferred to Hart Mountain, volunteered to improve their own surroundings: by applying their newly-learned skills in stone masonry they

built a bathhouse and swimming pool. The last company on Hart Mountain was disbanded in 1941. With more job opportunities available in the recovering economy the enrollees left to look for employment elsewhere.

An important factor in the CCC program is that the work that was done was not "made work" but consisted of tasks that were vital to the development of the refuge. This included construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and dams, fire prevention and suppression, and construction of the refuge headquarters compound. During the time the base camp was constructed work plans and operating schedules were developed for a variety of other projects including construction of the headquarters complex. Planning was carried out by the refuge manager in conjunction with the Regional Office. A concerted effort was made to include anticipated future needs as well as immediately required facilities. The refuge was responsible for selection of an appropriate site for the proposed headquarters. The Lyon Ranch area, on the banks of Rock Creek in the northwest corner of the refuge, was chosen because of "less snow, more wind protection, and better conditions for building roads" (CCC Narrative Report, 1936). Throughout late winter and early spring the C's were kept busy constructing a road from base camp to the Lyon Ranch-Headquarters area, as well as razing the old Lyon Ranch buildings and cleaning and preparing the site for construction.

A site-specific plan was also developed during this period. Central to the plan was accessibility to and from the main road, circulation within the complex itself, and an arrangement that allowed for supervision and observation of general complex operations.

When the site plan was complete, designing of each individual building was begun. The refuge manager's residence was the first to be designed followed by

the service building, equipment building, and barn. The patrolman's residence was not included in the original plan but was added to it two years later. Although each building was designed for a specific function uniformity of style was achieved by use of native stone wall material and gable roofs repeated on all the buildings. Monotony was avoided by varying the size, position, and shape of each structure.

The office, or service building, is the focal point of the compound. Readily accessible to the public, it is positioned to serve as a control point for all traffic passing through the refuge. The service court is located to the south and east of the service building and behind the equipment shed. It is screened from public view probably to minimize scenic distraction. A number of smaller machine and equipment storage buildings are located in the service court with adequate space between them for maneuvering equipment. The horse barn, northeast of the service court, is an integral part of the group and retains sufficient space for corrals and access to pasture. The two residences are located on the west side of the compound, each with a large yard enclosed by a fence. The manager's residence, furthest south, has a relatively greater degree of privacy than the patrolman's dwelling which is across the road from the office. The patrolman's residence has a clear view of the complex and the road, presumably for service and security purposes.

Construction began in June 1938. The first building erected was the refuge manager's residence. The patrolman's residence, last to be completed, was finished in the fall of 1940. The stone used in construction of all the major structures in the compound was hauled from a quarry several miles from the building site. Milled lumber and other materials were brought by truck from

Lakeview; some lumber came from Klamath Falls. The detailed planning evident in the design of the compound produced visually pleasing and substantial buildings, compatible with their surroundings, and cohesive in unity of style, materials, color and texture. All of the major buildings have wood frames, poured concrete foundations and are veneered with native stone; several have a small amount of wood in the form of horizontal bevel siding. Each has a gable roof which varies slightly in pitch from structure to structure. The residences and office each have a chimney veneered with stone, repeating the material and texture of the exterior walls. Ornamentation was unnecessary as textural richness was achieved by sensitive use of materials and form proportional to the surrounding landscape.

#### EVALUATION

The National Register criteria for evaluation exclude properties which are less than fifty years old unless they are of exceptional importance. The Depression of the 1930's had tremendous impact on the economic, political, and social makeup of the nation, and the creation of the CCC represented an important federal response to the Depression. For this reason, properties associated with the CCC may be interpreted to be of exceptional importance to the history of the nation. Additionally these structures represent unique architecture because the construction programs and the conditions that motivated them no longer exist. Because they represent the distinctive characteristics of a type and period, the buildings are significant in American architectural history, in addition to exhibiting excellence of design. The complex as a whole retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is therefore determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prepare a National Register of Historic Places or Determination of Eligibility form for the site.
2. The complex consists of administrative, residential, and service buildings and has been in continual use for over forty years. It continues to service and house refuge employees. For this reason as well as stiffening health and safety codes, maintenance and improvements to the complex will be ongoing. Due to the historic significance of the site every effort must be made to preserve the integrity of the buildings and grounds. Recognizing the need for periodic repair and replacement or modification of existing features while preserving the values inherent in the site the following recommendation is made:

A maintenance plan specifically designed for the complex should be prepared in conjunction with the NRHP form. Plan to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Places. (See Appendix A). Plan should include overall guidelines applicable to complex as a whole. Minimally this would include the following:

- All existing stone work, used in the construction of buildings, walkways, walls, steps, bridges and foundations will be retained and maintained in an original design and with like-materials. Color and texture of replacement mortar and stone will attempt to match that of the existing features.

- Repairs, replacement, and modernization of building electrical, plumbing, water and sewer systems are determined as "no-effect" undertakings. These projects occur on the interiors of buildings and are determined necessary to keep them both safe and usable for continued occupancy. Only when work involving these systems incurs visible change to the exterior of a building, involves altering historic features determined critical to preserve, or detract from the Secretary's standards and guidelines, will prior notification of the R.O. be necessary.

The plan should also include specific guidelines and recommendations for each individual building. What work is needed to restore historical features and maintenance guidelines for both interior and exterior.



Manager's Residence, southwest view: 1939; 52'x30'; rectangular, one-story, concrete foundation, basement. Projecting, front-facing gable offset to north encloses porch. Composition-shingle, medium gable roof, finials at gable peaks. Offset stone chimney, four-inch concrete cap, copper flashing at base. Uncoursed stone walls, red and green rhyolite and grey basalt. Bevel cedar siding in upper gable ends. Six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, simple surrounds, wide stone sills. Storm windows and concrete block flower beds added at later date. Good condition. No major additions/alterations.



Patrolman's Residence, west view: 1941; 22'x31'; rectangular, one and one-half story, concrete foundation, basement. Composition-shingle medium gable roof, slightly offset stone chimney. Central, shed-roofed porch, enclosed with multi-light glass panels. Uncoursed stone walls to eaves, red and green rhyolite and grey basalt. Six-over-one, double-hung sash windows. Storm windows added at later date. Good condition. No significant structural or material alterations.



Service/Office Building, northeast view: 1939; 74'x28'; long, rectangular, one-story, concrete foundation. Composition-shingle, medium gable roof. Offset stone chimney, iron flashing at base. Uncoursed stone walls to eaves, red and green rhyolite and grey basalt. Four garage bays on south elevation, original doors replaced with paneled, lift doors. Entrance to office on west (gable end) elevation, single leaf door with glass panel. Six-over-six, double-hung sash, projecting stone sill. Good condition.



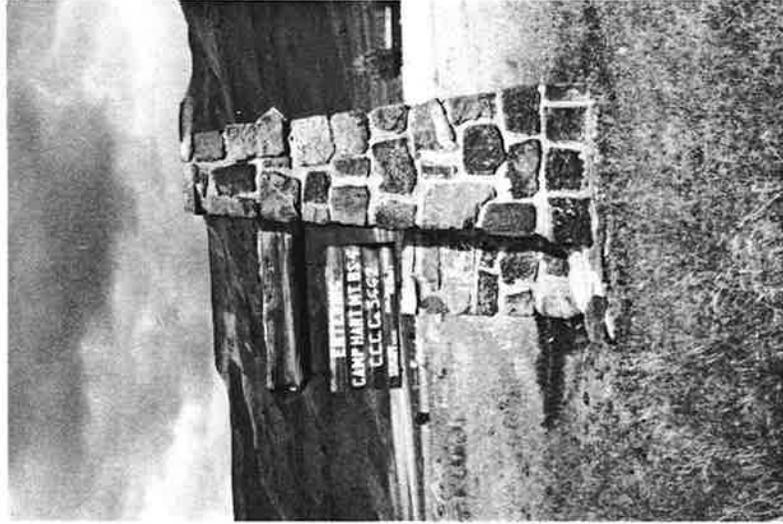
Equipment Shed, view to northeast; 1939: 69'x20'; rectangular, one and one-half story, concrete foundation. Composition-shingle medium gable roof. Uncoursed stone walls to eaves, red and green rhyolite and grey basalt. Three garage bays on west elevation. Sliding doors, diagonal wood. Good condition. No major alterations/additions.



Barn, view to northwest; 1940; 47'x40': rectangular, two-story, concrete foundation. Composition shingle, medium gable roof projects at end to support and protect hay lift and entry. Low, central, louvered cupola. Uncoursed stone walls, red and green rhyolite and grey basalt. Vertical, batten "Dutch" doors with strap hinges. Long, narrow, horizontal windows with radiating stone voussoirs, only decorative feature. Good condition. No major alterations/additions.



Hart Mountain Headquarters, aerial view of entire complex, northeast view.



Entry Post, Camp Hart Mountain, northeast view: 1936; uncoursed, battered stone post at entrance to CCC base camp. Infirmary building in background, only building remaining on site.

## SUMMARY

The historic resources documented in this report are representative of patterns of settlement and agricultural development that began in the late nineteenth century and in several instances have continued to the present. With the exception of Hart Mountain Headquarters all the properties were homesteaded in the 1880's and 1890's and are associated with the range livestock industry. The properties were acquired for incorporation into the refuges in the late 20's and 30's. Since that time the IXL and Shirk ranches have been leased to local ranchers who have continued to raise livestock and conduct associated activities. The CCC compound at Hart Mountain and Dufurrena are in continual use as refuge sub-headquarters and Thousand Creek ranch serves as temporary housing for refuge personnel. Last Chance Ranch and Gooch Camp are occasionally occupied by trappers and employees of the MC Cattle Company. Kinney camp is vacant. Active historic use and occupation of these sites thus covers almost a 100-year span, from the mid-1880's to the present. This use has left significant reminders in numerous buildings, structures, and objects in varying states of preservation.

None of these sites are presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both Oregon and Nevada SHPO's are compiling individual Statewide Inventories of Historic Sites. None of the properties on Sheldon are listed in the Nevada register. Hart Mountain Headquarters is listed on the Oregon Register; Shirk Ranch is not.

Based on information documented in this report, the following resources are determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places:

## SHELDON

Kinney Camp

Last Chance Ranch

Gooch Camp Horsetrap

## HART MOUNTAIN

Hart Mountain Headquarters

Shirk Ranch

Each of these sites exhibits remarkable integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, and association with events important in local and state history and possibly prehistory. Additionally, Shirk Ranch and Kinney Camp are likely to yield information that would address research issues and themes described in the Overview section of report. (For site-specific see site complex inventory in preceding section).

Thousand Creek, Dufurrena, and IXL Ranch are determined not to be eligible for the National Register primarily because the ensemble character of each site has been destroyed by removal of one or more of the primary structures or features. Each of these sites is represented by a similar resource on the refuge which possesses greater site integrity and potential for providing scientific/architectural information. The decision to exclude these sites was difficult because each contains buildings that, although not individually eligible for listing in the National Register, are still worthy of preserving. The barns and chicken houses at Dufurrena and Thousand Creek Ranch are striking in their use of materials and shapes and greatly enhance the visual environment. The chicken house at Dufurrena is particularly noteworthy for the unusual stone construction method, and wooden barns of the type at IXL Ranch, do not appear to be common to the area.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on research and evaluation documented in this report the following recommendations are made:

1. For those sites determined not to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP the documentation of their physical characteristics and history undertaken in this report constitutes adequate preservation of their information value. No further research/study is recommended.
2. A National Register of Historic Places or Determination of Eligibility form should be prepared for each of the sites which are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register.
3. Until management plans for these resources are developed every reasonable effort should be made to stabilize and protect these buildings from further deterioration or damage from weather or other natural intrusion, rodents, birds, etc. Several buildings at Shirk Ranch are in urgent need of stabilization measures and should be given first priority. All of the buildings at Kinney Camp, excluding the root cellar, should have temporary roofing installed to protect what remains of the original roofs and the structures themselves from weather and animal intrusions. This is primarily a protective measure. The structural integrity of these buildings is not in question. It is of secondary importance to stabilization at Shirk Ranch.

The following items apply to all structures and buildings determined to be potentially eligible for National Register listing. As much as possible:

1. Clear wood piles, vegetation, and/or other debris constituting a fire hazard away from the buildings.
2. Exterminate insects, rodents, and birds, remove their debris, and discourage their habitation.
3. Provide proper site and roof drainage to assure that water does not drain into foundation walls or toward the building.

The refuge should make every attempt to comply with the above recommendations at the earliest possible date. Several of the buildings investigated are in extremely poor condition and may be beyond saving. Some have already been lost through the cumulative effects of time and environment. Stabilization and protection should be the first priority prior to, or in conjunction with, setting management objectives.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adams, Ramon F.  
1959 The Rampaging Herd: A Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets on Men and Events in the Cattle Country. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
- Barry, Dan  
1984 Telephone Interview. July 1984.
- Barry, Jerry  
1984 Permitee on Shirk Ranch and long-time resident of area. Interview, Little Sheldon Headquarters. July 1984.
- Brady, David  
1978 Cattle Barons of Early Oregon. Prineville: Timberline Publications.
- Brimlow, George F.  
1951 Harney County Oregon and Its Rangeland. Portland: Binford and Mort.
- Civilian Conservation Corps  
1936 Narrative Reports. Camp Hart Mountain, BS-4, Oregon Region 1
- Clawson, Marion  
1950 The Western Range Livestock Industry. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Denton, Shelley Wright  
1947 Pages From a Naturalist's Diary. Boston: Alexander Printing Company.
- Douglas, William A.  
1975 Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World. Reno: University of Nevada Press.
- Elston, Robert and Phillip Earl  
1979 A Cultural Resources Overview for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sheldon-Hart Mountain Complex, Typescript.
- French, Giles  
1972 The Cattle Country of Peter French  
Portland: Binford and Mort.
- Georgetta, Clel  
1972 Golden Fleece in Nevada.  
Reno: Venture Publishing Company
- Gooch, Mrs. Clyde  
1984 Long-time resident of Cedarville and relative of Eugene Gooch. Interview. Cedarville, California, April 1984.

- Hanley, Michael  
1971 Owyhee Trails; The West's Nevada Nomads; A Story of the Sheep Industry. San Jose: Harlan-Young Press.
- Hapgood, Hillard  
1984 Grandson of George Hapgood, original owner of Last Chance Ranch. Interview. Cedarville, California, June 1984.
- Hardman, George and Howard G. Mason  
1949 Irrigated Lands of Nevada. University of Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin #183.
- Harney County, Oregon, Assessor  
Assessment Roles, 1880-1912, Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.
- Hazeltine, B., C. Saulisberry and H. Taylor  
1960 A Range History of Nevada. American Society of Range Management, Nevada Section. Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Hazeltine, Ben  
1961 Stockmen Wrote Silver State Range History. Western Livestock Journal, April 1961.
- Hazeltine, Ben  
1961 They came for Native Grass. Western Livestock Journal, May 1961.
- Hazeltine, Ben  
1961 They Came for Range and Left a Heritage. Western Livestock Journal, August 1961.
- Humboldt County, Nevada, Assessor  
Assessment Rolls, 1885-1935. Humboldt County Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada.
- John, Henry  
1984 Former maintenance man on Sheldon and Hart Mountain Refuges. Interview. Denio, Nevada, April 1984.
- Lake County, Oregon, Deed Records.  
1890's Book 9. Clerk's Office. Lake County Courthouse, Lakeview, Oregon.
- Lake County, Oregon, Assessor  
Assessment Rolls, 1880-1910. Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.
- Langston, Lige  
1984 Long-time buckaroo for cattle operations on and around Sheldon Refuge. Interview. Cedarville, California, April 1984.

- Miller, Buzz  
1984 Vaquero boss for Bill Ebeling 1912-1919. Interview. Cedarville, California, April 1984.
- Minor, Rick, Stephen Dow Beckham and Kathryn Anne Toepel  
1979 Cultural Resource Overview of the BLM Lakeview District, South Central Oregon. Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District. Typescript.
- Modoc County Museum  
Geneology Files, William T. Cressler. Alturas, California
- Nevada State Engineer  
Biennial Reports, 1903-04.
- Oliphant, J. Orin  
1947 The Cattle Herds and Ranches of the Oregon Country, 1860-1890. Agricultural History, October 1947.
- Oliphant, J. Orin  
1968 On the Cattle Ranges of the Oregon Country. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
1974 Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings: Lake County. Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Salem, Oregon.
- Refuge Headquarters Archives  
n.d. Correspondence, reports, files relating to acquisition and development of Sheldon and Hart Mountain Refuges. Refuge Headquarters, Lakeview, Oregon.
- Rinehart, Edward  
1984 Son of Bill Rinehart, long-time foreman at IXL Ranch. Telephone Interview. May 1984.
- Robinson, Goldia  
1984 Daughter-in-law of Sam Cressler, one-time owner of IXL Ranch. Interview. Lakeview, April 1984.
- Rouse, Charlie  
1984 Former refuge employee. Telephone Interview. January 1984.
- Sawyer, Brad Wall  
1971 Nevada Nomads: A Story of the Sheep Industry. San Jose: Harlan-Young Press.
- Schmitt, Martin F.  
1956 The Cattle Drives of David Shirk From Texas to the Idaho Mines 1871 and 1873. Portland: Champoeg Press.
- Short, Sheldon H.  
1965 The Nevada Cattlemen. M.A. Thesis, University of Nevada, Reno.

- Stephen, Marguerite  
 1984 Daughter of Thomas Dufurrena, owner of Gooch, IXL, Thousand Creek, Dufurrena and Kinney Camp. Interview. Denio, Nevada. April, June, July 1984.
- United States Census Bureau  
 1872 Ninth Census of the United States, Statistics of Population. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- 1883 Compendium of the Tenth Census, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- 1892 Compendium of the Eleventh Census, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- 1902 Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- 1916 Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Statistics of Oregon. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- Venstrom, Cruz and Howard Mason  
 1944 Agricultural History of Nevada. Ms., University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada.
- Wagman, Bob  
 1984 Maintenance man, Deer Flat NWR. Telephone interview. February 1985.
- Washoe County, Nevada, Assessor  
 Assessment Roles, 1889-1920. Washoe County Courthouse Annex, Reno, Nevada.
- Washoe County, Nevada, Deed Records  
 Deed Books, 1890-1910. Washoe County Courthouse, Reno, Nevada.
- Whiffen, Marcus  
 1969 American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press.
- Wilson, Harry Bill  
 1984 Lifelong resident of Humboldt County. Interview. April 1984.

APPENDIX A

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION

The Standards for Rehabilitation are as follows:

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its originally intended purpose.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
3. All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
4. Changes which may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.
5. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a building, structure, or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
6. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications

of feature, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.

7. The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archaeological resources affected by, or adjacent to any project.
9. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.
10. Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

