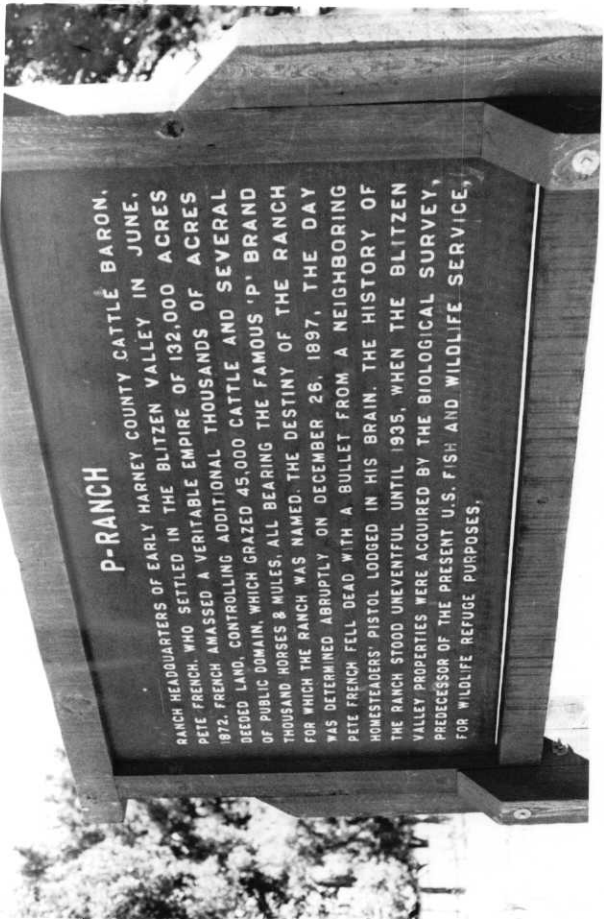


STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310



County Harney
 Theme 9-F, 5-B
 Name (Common) P-Ranch Landmark
 (Historic) (same)
 Address Malheur Wildlife Refuge Headquarters
Frenchglen, Oregon
 Present Owner U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Address Washington, D.C.
 Original Use Landmark
 Date of Construction _____

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The P-Ranch Landmark is a wood sign mounted on two wood posts that stands near the site of the home of Peter French. The sign reads:

"P-Ranch. Ranch headquarters of early Harney County cattle baron, Pete French, who settled in the Blitzen Valley in June, 1872. French amassed a veritable empire of 132,000 acres deeded acre controlling additional thousands of acres of public domain, which grazed 45,000 cattle and several thousand horses & mules, all bearing the famous 'P' brand for which the ranch was named. The destiny of the ranch was determined abruptly on December 26, 1897, the day Pete French fell dead with a bullet from a neighboring homesteaders' pistol lodged in his brain. The history of the ranch stood uneventful until 1935, when the Blitzen Valley properties were acquired by the Biological Survey, predecessor of the present U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for wildlife refuge purposes."

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 4 Sept. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Sources Consulted:

Please enclose map Township 32 ^N _S 32 1/2 ^E _W Section 6

French, Giles. Cattle Country of Peter French
Portland, Ore.: Binforde & Mort, 1965.

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Harney

Theme 5-b

Name "P" Ranch
(Common)

(Historic) (same)

Address Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Present Owner Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Address P. O. Box 113, Burns, OR 97720

Original Use ranching

Date of Construction 1872

Place Photo Here

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Peter French and the widely known "P" Ranch have played a dominant role in Harney County history since 1872 when the "P" Ranch was established as the headquarters for the French-Glenn Livestock Co. In June of that year French entered the Blitzen River Valley with 1200 head of cattle, 20 saddle horses, wagons, supplies, and six Mexican vaqueros. This central location at the head of the Blitzen Valley came to be the headquarters for a ranch empire that extended 250 miles by 70 miles, which was ruled over with feudal sovereignty, and was often in conflict with advancing waves of homesteaders.

French was the son-in-law of Dr. Hugh Glenn whose daughter was regarded as a city-bred socialite who never desired to live at the "P" Ranch. The famous White House, which was designed in the image of one of the Glenn family homes, was to serve as the home base of the largest and best-known cattle empire in the Pacific Northwest. The French-Glenn Livestock Co. controlled more than 100,000 acres, 30,000 head of cattle, and 3,000 horses and mules. Its range land extended from the Blitzen River to Harney Lake with over 500 miles of wire fence. The "P" Ranch holdings were built up over a period from 1872 until 1897 through purchases from settlers, land distribution programs

(over) continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Royal G. Jackson & Jennifer A. Lee Date 1978

For Harney County Planning Commission and Harney County Historical Society Sources Consulted: See Bibliography Notes: 4.17, 3,9.13,14,20,28,49,50,91,111,112,134, 146,149,202,233,236,238.
with comprehensive planning grant assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. E

Please enclose map. Township 31 S 30 W Section 6

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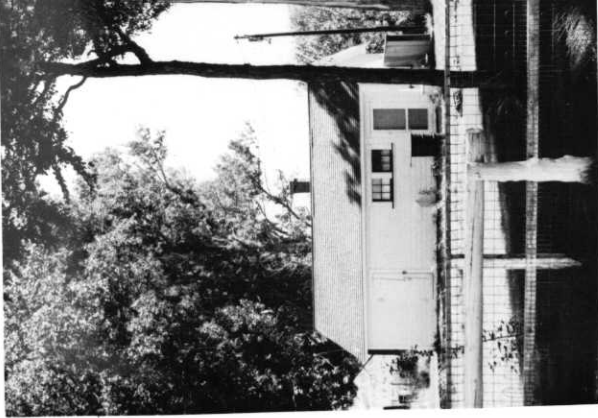
for the state and federal government such as the Swamp Act, outright possession, and other techniques. Substations of the "P" Ranch were developed at Buena Vista, Diamond, Riddle Ranch, Barton Lake, and Sod House. Some writers believe that French's cattle operation was perhaps the best managed and balanced empire ever assembled in the West.

Peter French's place in Western history was already well established by December 26, 1897, when he met an untimely death by Ed Oliver, a disgruntled homesteader. Following his death, the ranch passed through many ownerships including Estate Builders, Henry J. Corbett of Portland, the Eastern Oregon Livestock Co. with Louis Swift as principal stockholder, and the Federal government. Portions of the huge holdings were purchased by Gill Cattle Co. of Exeter, California, Allied Properties, and several other interests.

Today the original "P" Ranch headquarters is located on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The only remains of the stately White House which French so carefully constructed for his bride is a free standing chimney of red brick which was not destroyed in a fire in 1947. Other landmarks of historical significance are the old willow fences, the long barn and the old beef wheel. The fences and barn date from about 1886. The barn is 150 feet by 50 feet, with juniper post supports, board walls, wood shingle roof and dirt floor. The height in the middle of the barn is about 30 feet. The historic assessment of the man who founded the "P" Ranch continues even today in Harney County with both detractors and supporters in vociferous abundance.







Frenchglen, Oregon

Present Owner U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Address Washington, D.C.

Original Use house site

Date of Construction c. 1880's

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Near Frenchglen, Oregon, in the valley of the Blitzen River, Peter French erected in the late nineteenth century a rambling, two story, wood frame house. This building served for many years as the headquarters of the famous P-Ranch, a property that encompassed 132,000 deeded acres by the time of French's murder in 1897. This building burned in the 1960's. Yet standing at the site is a tall, brick chimney and several trees which were planted around the ranch house.

This site is at the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge at Frenchglen, Oregon.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 4 Sept. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Sources Consulted:

Please enclose map Township 32^N 32^{1/2}W Section 6 French, Giles. Cattle Country of Peter French. Portland, Ore.: Binford & Mort, 1965, pp. 86-87, photos.

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310



County Harney
 Theme 5-B
 Name
 (Common) P-Ranch Beef Wheel
 (Historic) (same)
 Address Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
Headquarters
Frenchglen, Oregon
 Present Owner U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Address Frenchglen, Oregon
 Original Use Beef Wheel
 Date of Construction Prior to 1897

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The P-Ranch Beef Wheel is a square wheel for use as a winch or hoist to lift slaughtered beef from the ground where it could be more easily butchered. The wheel stands in a corral near the banks of the Blitzen River at the headquarters of the P-Ranch. The wheel is mounted on two vertical logs which are placed upright in the ground. The wheel is near the long barn (see file sheet).

According to Giles French, author of Cattle Country of Peter French, this beef wheel was operated by winding a rope around the square frame. This wound another rope around the shaft and lifted the beef into the air. He noted: "If French learned that a family was short of meat in the winter, he would send half a beef over to them--but more often the settler took care of that problem himself."

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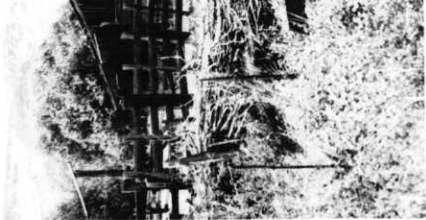
Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 4 Sept. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Please enclose map Township 32^N 32^{1/2}W Section 6

Sources Consulted:

French, Giles. Cattle Country of Peter French
Portland, Ore.: Binforde & Mort, 1965,
p. 38, photos.



Address Frenchglen, Oregon
 Original Use Barn
 Date of Construction c. 1880

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Peter French Long Barn is a long, rectangular, wood frame structure which stands near the banks of the Blitzen River at the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. This site was once the headquarters of the 133,000 acre P-Ranch owned, until his murder in 1897, by Peter French. The barn has a low, gable roof and a vertical board and batten exterior. The interior of the barn is framed of peeled logs and has a drive-through for wagons down the length of the center of the barn. The structure has three sets of double doors on its south (front) elevation and has a diamond window above the center set of doors. The structure is in good condition. This barn is the last remaining structure at the P-Ranch headquarters which dates from the days of Peter French.

Peter French settled in the Blitzen Valley in 1872. Over the next two decades he accumulated more than 133,000 deeded acres and ran more than 45,000 head of cattle on his range. He was murdered in 1897 by a neighboring homesteader.

1. French (Pete) Long Barn, Frenchglen, Ore.

Braymen, Pauline. "Bid Begins to Preserve Harney County Ranch,"
Oregonian, 1 Feb. 1977, photo.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Bedkham Date 4 Sept. 1976

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Sources Consulted:

enclose map Township 32^N 32^{1/2}W Section 6

French, Giles. Cattle Country of Peter French.
 Portland, Ore.: Binfords & Mort, 1965, p.
 36, photo.