I. INTRODUCTION

The Olallie Meadow Cabin, 663 EA 32, is located in Marion County in Section 24 of Township 8 south, Range 8 east of the Willamette Meridian, within the Clackamas Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. This area is approximately 42 air miles southeast of Estacada.

This simple log building sits on the western edge of Olallie Meadow, a flat, moist area covered with a variety of sedges and rushes. The cabin is surrounded on the north, south and west by a forest of lodgepole pine, with some spruce and true fir. These forested areas have an understory of huckleberry and beargrass. The soil of the meadow consists of humified organic matter: whereas that of forested areas is made up of light brown gravelly loams. The average elevation of the site is 4,500 feet.

The Olallie meadow cabin is the oldest extant building, as well as the only pre-depression era ranger station, on the Clackamas Ranger District. Built in 1910, it served as the primary residence for Forest Service personnel charged with protecting the Mt. Jefferson/Olallie Lakes area during the summer months. In 1920 the Skyline trail, which passes 500 feet west of the cabin, was officially opened. Reconstruction activities in the 1920's transformed this trail into the first automobile road into the Clackamas area. By 1925 the road reached Olallie Meadow. Two years later it opened up the Olallie Lakes area to automobile traffic. Because of this improved access, Olallie Lake became a popular area for fishing as well as other recreational pursuits. This heavy visitation necessitated the construction of a guard station at the north end of Olallie Lake in 1932. After this date the Olallie Meadow cabin was used as more of a work center than a guard station: providing trail crews, and other Forest Service personnel visiting the region, with a place to sleep, cook, work, and relax.

The Olallie Meadow cabin is a 16' X 22' one-room building with a partial attic and a dropped roof porch. The entire cabin was built with native materials: lodgepole pine logs, cedar shakes, and fieldstone. The steep roof pitch (45%), as well as some of the cabin's unique architectural features, can be attributed to the designer's overriding concern with heavy snow loading during the severe winter months. Close examination of the cabin seems to indicate that it was hastily and inexpensively constructed. This also accounts for much of the cabin's architectural uniqueness. See Phillips (1980) for a detailed description of the cabin.
Considering its age, the cabin is in very good condition. The only structural elements that are in urgent need of repair are the log sills on the north and west elevations.

II. 36 CFR 60.6 NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association; and

(a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) that embody the distinctive characteristic 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 may lack individual distinction; or

(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

III. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Olallie Meadow Cabin Site retains most of its integrity of location, design, and setting. The cabin has never been moved from its present location. Its basic floor plan has remained unchanged for all of its 70 year history. The natural setting of meadow, surrounded by open, undisturbed woodland, also has changed little since 1910. With the exception of two outhouses, Olallie Meadow Cabin remains the only building at the site. A small, primitive campground nearby is usually empty except on major holidays when it serves the overflow of visitors that are unable to find a camp site at Olallie Lake.

The cabin retains most of its integrity of materials and workmanship. The various repairs and alterations that have taken place over the years seem to have caused little visual impact to the exterior of the building. Inside, however, additions — such as plywood panelling on the gable ends and under one-half of the roof — are visually incongruous and should eventually be removed.

Other repairs and alterations:

1. Porch supports, originally peeled poles, have been replaced with 4 X 4's.
2. The original decking (probably edge butt decking) has been replaced with 6" tongue-and-groove (1960's).

3. Some of the peeled pole purlins have been replaced with 1 X 6's (1960's).

4. Sashes on the east elevation have been replaced with single light sashes (1980).

5. The original shakes on the front door have been replaced with a plywood panel (late 1950's).

6. A vergeboard of cedar shakes has been added to the east and west gable verges.

7. A window has been added to the front (east) gable end (date unknown).

Most all of the above alterations could easily be removed to return the cabin to its original appearance.

The Olallie Meadow Cabin Site retains its integrity of feeling and association. Because of the virtually unaltered environmental setting, and the cabin's integrity of design and materials, the site imparts a feeling that must be quite similar to that of years past. As has always been the case, the meadow is used by a small number of visitors. Although summer traffic sometimes gets quite heavy on the unimproved Skyline Road, a 500 foot wide barrier of native vegetation helps to buffer the cabin from much of this noise and visual disturbance.

Because of its isolated locale, the cabin is not closely associated with other districts or buildings. Its association, therefore, is with its environmental surroundings. This partnership is strengthened by the cabin's simple, rustic appearance which allows it to blend comfortably and unobtrusively into its natural surroundings.

a. The Olallie Meadow Cabin is the only building on the Clackamas Ranger District that is representative of the early phase of Forest Service land management; and it is one of just a few such early Forest Service structures remaining on the Mt. Hood National Forest. It is therefore felt that the cabin is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

b. Through the years, visitors to the site have written their names on the cabin's door jamb and window frames. Some of these individuals now hold, or have held, important positions within the Federal Government. Other individuals, many of whom worked on forest crews, are important to local history. Therefore, the cabin is associated with the lives of persons significant in local and regional history. The cabin is not, however, associated with individuals of national importance.
c. The Olallie Meadow Cabin embodies distinctive characteristics of a period and method of construction. As mentioned earlier, it appears as though the cabin was hastily and inexpensively constructed. Some interesting architectural features seem to be the result of this: reversed round notching (sacrificing better weather protection for speed and ease of construction), rafters not notched where they intersect the top plate, no ridgepole — the cabin depends on a jetty system of eave beams, butting poles, and pole columns for roof support — and numerous wooden wedges used to skim up loose joints at the four corners. These architectural features not only give the Olallie Meadow cabin a distinctive character, but also reflect the concerns and values of the Forest Service during these early years.

d. This site is of potential research value in the field of historical archaeology, either in the elucidation of cultural patterns or in the classification and interpretation of the building and its architectural features. The site may also have research value for the architectural historian interested in chronicling stylistic details or changes through time.

IV. MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Three management alternatives are presented for the Olallie Meadow Cabin Site. One of these alternatives would have an adverse impact on the cabin, one would protect the cabin, and one would protect as well as rehabilitate the cabin.

ALTERNATIVE A. This is the no action alternative. No attempt would be made to up-grade the structural deficiencies caused by the aging of the building. This would be an adverse effect to the cabin, as no maintenance would lead to further degradation, and the eventual destruction of this cultural resource.

ALTERNATIVE B. This is the no effect (preservation) alternative. The aim of this alternative would be to maintain the form and extent of the building as it now exists. Such a maintenance program would involve halting further deterioration and assuring that the building is structurally stable. This program would call for the removal and replacement in-kind of the two severely decayed log sills on the north and west side of the cabin. The project would involve placing jacks under the sleepers (floor joists): jacking the cabin up just enough to remove the decayed sills: positioning the new sills: and adding new fieldstone, as necessary, to assure that the new log sills rest securely on the existing foundations.

ALTERNATIVE C. This is the no adverse effect (rehabilitation) alternative. It calls for the replacement in-kind of all log sills, the replacement of the fieldstone foundation with a concrete footing, and the eventual return of the cabin to its 1910 appearance. The log sill and concrete footing phase of the project would involve placing jacks under sleepers: excavating trenches on all four
sides of the cabin: photographing and drawing profiles of the fieldstone foundation; removing the foundation; dropping out the decayed log sills; positioning the new sills tight against the logs above; pouring a concrete foundation in the trenches; and lowering the cabin so that the sills mold to the foundation. After the concrete has set, the cabin would be completely lowered and the area around the foundation backfilled.

Before the log sill and concrete footing program can be initiated, each of the four sides of the cabin should be subjected to an archaeological examination. This would involve excavating units with trowel, and screening the soil through 1/4" mesh.

Other projects included as parts of this alternative: 1) replacing the porch posts with peeled poles, 1) returning the door to its original appearance, 3) replacing the two lower sashes on the front elevation with six light sashes, 4) removing the window in the front gable end, 5) removing all plywood panelling and tar paper, 6) replacing 1 X 6 purlins with peeled pole purlins, and 7) removing the vergeboards. These seven objectives would be met as time, materials, and money permit, probably over a two year period.

Because of current budget, time, and manpower limitations, alternative B is recommended. This program would afford the Olallie Meadow Cabin protection with a minimum of money and time invested.

STEVEN J. PHILLIPS
District Archeologist
July 30, 1981
OLALLIE MEADOW (looking east)

OLALLIE MEADOW CABIN

EAST ELEVATION
INTERIOR VIEW

DETAIL of EAVES

- Rafters
- Butting Pole
- Eave Beam
- Column
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

(date unknown)

1963
REFERENCES

Glassow, Michael A.

Marvin, Susan

Phillips, Steven
1980 Olallie Meadow Cabin Site, (663 EA 32), R6 Site Record Form. Report on file at the Mt. Hood National Forest, Gresham, OR.

U.S. Department of Interior


Wildesen, Leslie
FOREST SERVICE - Region Six
CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
Record Form

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Present Condition:
- Excellent
- Fair
- Deteriorated/disturbed
- Hazardous
- Useable
- Vandalized
- Altered

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Inventory type:
- Tickler (verified? yes)
- no)
- Overview
- Recon.
- Survey
- Incidental

Reference:
- U.S.G.S.

Attachments:
- Sketch map
- Photos

Recorded by

Instructions in FSR CRM Guidebook

R6-2360-18(10/77)
The frame is made of steel, supported by iron supports. The frame is held down by a couple of bolts. The steel is painted black. The frame is approximately 16' long. The building is 2 stories high. The lowest projection of the roof is 6' 6". The walls are brick. The building is approximately 25' high.

INTERIOR: There are a few rooms filled by painted pole joists and 1/2" sheathing. A division wall provides a separation. All interior legs are square notched, bored and braced.
PRESENT CONDITION - slightly aged. Some damage has been noted. Some of the trees are leaning. There are large ant hills on some of the steps. I have not seen them reported.

TEMPORARY pipes are not used at replacement.

REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS:
- Plywood sheets have been used for sheltering materials on the east side of the building. Trench is filled in with concrete and graded.
- Climbing poles and surfaces were replaced a few years ago.
- Parapet supports (originally wooden poles) have been replaced with steel.
- The floor has been replaced with new tongue and groove boards.
- It appears that the drain pipe has been replaced.
- Some of the parapets have been repaired with lead.
- Plywood sheets are used to protect the materials in the trench.
- A new drain is installed. The drain pipe is shown in the plan. An outlet is shown at the west.
- Mesh has been installed to windows for security reasons.
- Roof has been re-shingled.
History
GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Olallie Meadows cabin is a 16' by 22' one-room building with a partial attic (see floor plan). The entire cabin was built with native materials: lodgepole pine logs, cedar shakes, and fieldstone.

The steep roof pitch (45%), as well as some of the cabin's unique architectural features, can be attributed to the designer's overriding concern with heavy snow loading during the severe winter months. Close examination of the cabin seems to indicate that it was hastily and inexpensively constructed. This also accounts for much of the cabin's architectural uniqueness.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

The cabin has a simple gable roof covered with 32" cedar shakes. Eave beams project out to form jetties along the north and south elevations. These beams are round notched to receive the butting pole. The beams are in turn supported by peeled pole columns (see photo__). The butting poles are shallowly hewn to provide a flat area for the peeled pole rafters to butt up against. The rafters are shallowly hewn where they rest upon the top plate of the cabin walls. The rafters are toe-nailed to the top plate as well as to the two butting poles. The cabin has no ridge pole. Instead, two small discontinuous poles serve as the upper termination for the rafters. Cross struts provide support for the end rafters on the west elevation. The jetty columns and the cross struts all rest on flat fieldstones.

A heavy gauge doubled wire attached to the two butting posts serves as a tie rod. A "turnbuckle" has been fashioned from a stout flat piece of wood. Tension on the tie rod is maintained by placing the turnbuckle in a joint formed by wall logs.

Gable ends are sharked. A vergeboard has been fashioned from the same 32" shakes that provide the roof covering. Walls of the cabin are constructed of "reversed" round notched, peeled logs. The corners of the building are vertically sawed. Joints between logs are sealed with chinking poles and moss oakum. Wedge-shaped scraps of pine have been used to fill the gaps left by mismatches in the corner notching. Walls are 8 feet high from log sill to top plate, and 6'-6" from decking to top plate.

The foundation consists of east-west running log sills resting on fieldstone. These sills are square notched every 24" to receive the adze-hewn sleepers (floor joists). These sleepers are covered by 6" tongue-and-groove decking.

A shed roof provides the cabin with a porch. This dropped roof is supported by a log beam and three 4 by 4's. The porch floor consists of flat fieldstone. Two half-logs on stepped wood supports make up the steps leading to the front door.

The back (south) gable end window is hinged at the top; all other windows are fixed sash. Originally, all of the windows had six lights, but all of the windows on the front of the cabin have been replaced with single light sashes.

The top jamb and sill of all windows is formed by square notching wall logs to the required dimensions. Side jambs are made of hewn pine boards. Windows measure 28" wide, 24" high.

The door is made of plywood -- not the original material -- supported by a hewn board frame with three horizontal members. All door jambs are
hand hewn. The wooden threshold may be a manufactured replacement item. A simple thumb latch, consisting of a carved latch bar and keeper, is operated by way of a draw string. The door measures 32" by 72".

There is an 8 foot deep attic formed by peeled pole joists (2' o.c.) and 6" decking. An adze-hewn wooden ladder provides access to this area.

The height of the cabin, from ground level to ridge, is approximately 16 feet.
WEST ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION
Photos taken August 1980

South Elevation

North Elevation
INTERIOR VIEW

DETAIL OF EAVES
Steeple
Log Sill
Chimney Pole
Oak

Exterior Wall Detail

System Support Roof