

OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION (PEE) FORM  
 FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**Instructions**

Please complete all blanks and write neatly. Provide as much information about the interior and exterior as possible, such as the square footage, number of stories and rooms, and style under "General Description." Under "Building History," include any information about the architect, builder, original owners and subsequent occupants, and historic activities or events that occurred at the property. If available, attach historic photos, newspaper clippings, obituaries, and other documentation to help the reviewer better understand your property. Use additional sheets if necessary. Submit current color exterior (all sides) and interior photographs of main rooms (entry, living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom, hallway spaces, etc) etc.). If the property has outbuildings, include photos of these as well (please note that photos will not be returned).

Mail completed forms to National Register Coordinator, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or email them to [ian.johnson@state.or.us](mailto:ian.johnson@state.or.us) with "PEE" in the subject line. Emailed submissions must be under 15MB in size and include digital photos of the property. Mail submissions must include printed photographs. PEEs are reviewed within two to four weeks after submission.

**Applicant Information**

Name	Lisa Mahon (Eagle Cap Resource Conservation & Development)
Mailing Address	401 NE1st St., Suite E
City/State/Zip	Enterprise, OR 97828
Phone Number	541-426-4521 ext. 108
E-mail	Lisa.mahon@or.nacdnet.net

**Property Information**

Historic Name, if known	Cornucopia Jail House
Date of Construction	1880's
Street Address	Second Street
City/Town	Cornucopia
County	Baker

**Owner Information**

*Complete only if the applicant is not the owner. Response to this PEE will be sent to the applicant and owner. Private property cannot be listed in the National Register of Historic Places without the consent of the owner.*

Name/Institution	Pine Valley Museum Association
Contact Name	Dale Taylor
Mailing Address	37539 Goodwin Sawmill Lane
City/State/Zip	Halfway, OR 97834
Phone Number	541-742-7194

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ALL STATE AND FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS**

Local Government Contact, name and phone	_____
Contractor name and phone, if applicable	_____
Grant Cycle	_____

**Exterior Description**

Siding material(s). Original or replacement?  
 Original board and batten siding

Window type(s) & material(s). Original or replacement?  
 Original double hung glass pane windows

## Exterior Description, Continued

### General Description:

- 12' by 14', with a 6' x 12' addition
- 2 Stories
- 1<sup>st</sup> story- has an "addition" which enclosed the staircase that goes to the second floor. You then walk through the doorway and enter into a small room which is where the large wooden doors to the two cells are located.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> story-is a small room that contains the office
- The exterior is board and bat siding
- There are remnants of an old chimney (which in restoration will be rebuilt)

### Significant Architectural Features: How does your building stand out?

Everything on this building is from the 1800's which is difficult to find in older buildings. This building is a great step restoring our history.

### Alterations and Approximate Dates:

No known alterations.

## Interior Description

### Significant features: How does your building stand out?

The jail cells still have the benches intact and the toilet cans, plumbing, and toilet paper holders are still there. All the original hinges and most of the building are in the original condition. In the office a wooden desk and a bench are still present. Very little has been altered in this building, allowing it to maintain most of its original structure

### Alterations and Approximate Dates:

Unknown when any alterations were completed.

## Building History

*Please explain what events and persons are associated with this property and if the resource's architecture or construction methods used to build it are noteworthy. Use additional pages if necessary.*

Close to the Idaho border, off of highway 86, east of Baker is the ghost town of Cornucopia. The town was hastily constructed when gold was discovered in 1880 (1884). It is said its gold ore was so rich nuggets would literally fall out of the rock. Official records show that three mines, the Union-Companion, the Red Jacket, and the Last Chance Mine produced \$1,008,000 prior to 1903. Between 1903 and 1904 some records exist stating 272,776.64 ounces of gold and 1,088,000 ounces of silver were recovered from the 983,927 tons of ore. Copper recovered between 1933 and 1941 amounted to 671,788 pounds.

In 1898 the town relocated a quarter mile to a new location, and it grew quickly. Like many gold mining operations, the activity fluctuated widely, influenced by the quality of the ore, operating costs, the national economy, and gold prices. Cornucopia's most prosperous years came long after the initial discoveries, during the 1920s and 1930s.

Cornucopia got its name around 1885, when a miner by the name of William Usher, who lived in Eagle Valley and later laid out the town site of Richland, suggested "Cornucopia", meaning "horn of plenty". After many names no one agreed upon this one seemed to finally fit.

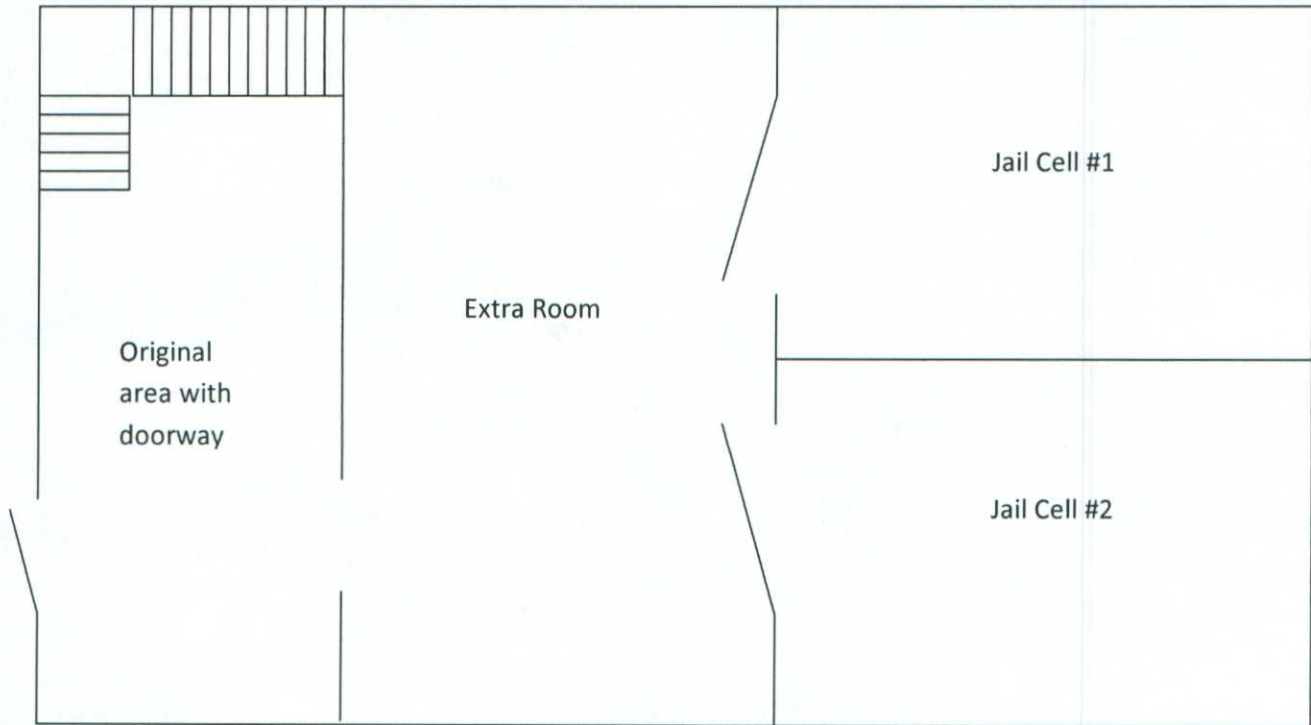
The mines faded, the post office closed in 1942 after mining ceased, and by 1970 the town was abandoned. By contrast to other mining towns of the 80s and 90, Cornucopia was somewhat orderly as it had few shootings and killing during its brief history. To date the Cornucopia jail house is the only building still standing and has recently been transferred to the Pine Valley Museum Association.

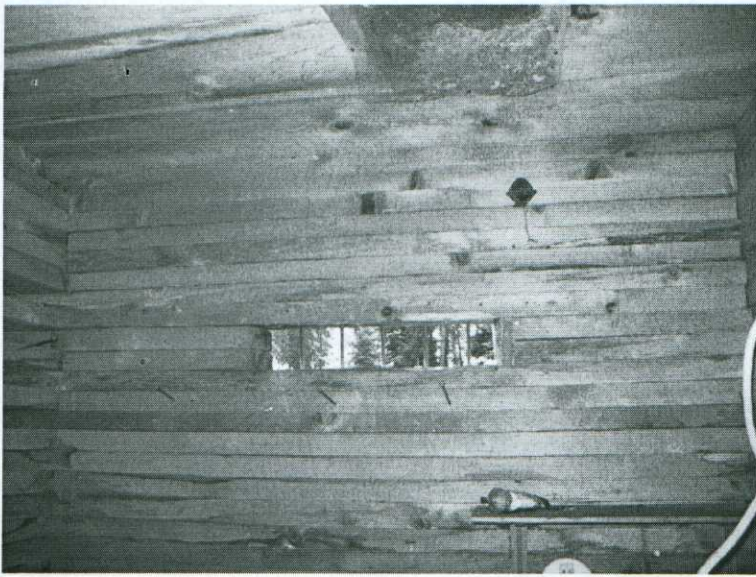


*Cornucopia Jail*

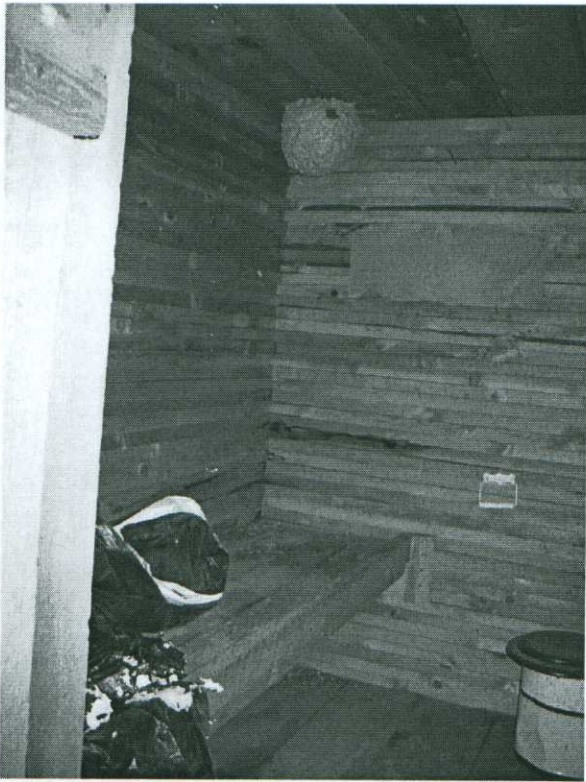
*([oregongeneology.com](http://oregongeneology.com))*

Here is a diagram to give you an idea of how the jail house is laid out.  
The second floor office is over the jail cells and extra room. This is not to scale.

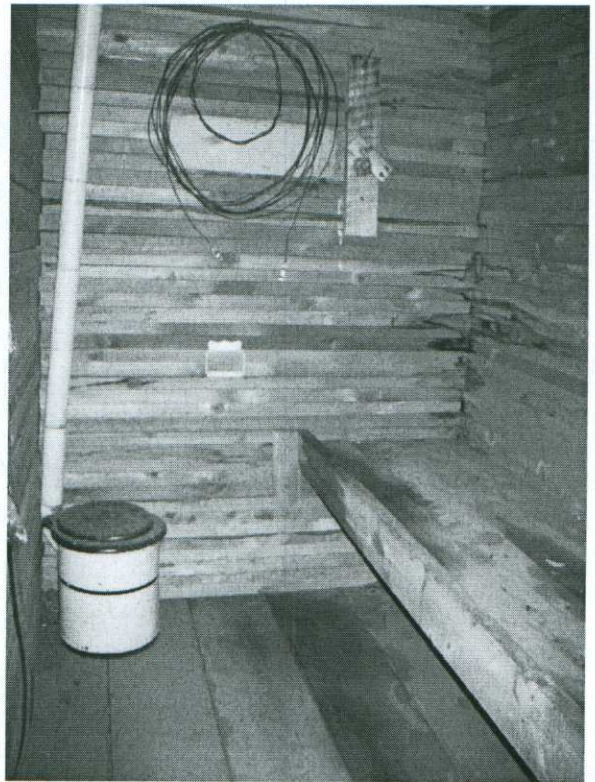




Extra Room.



Jail Cell #1



Jail Cell #2



The two doors and latches to the jail cells.



The upstairs office.



Exterior of the building where you enter.



Other side of the building. The upper boards are covering the windows that are in the upstairs office.