DATA_SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY:						
1	Curry					
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	EDERAL PROPER		E	NTRY DATE			
(Type all entries	(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)			OEC	2 9 1975		
NAME				,			
Rogue River Ranch			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Billings Trading	Company						
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Star Rt., Box 78	(See Contin	uation She	et for des	scription)	· ·		المراجع المراجع
CITY OR TOWN: Wolf Creek	ens whe			4th	CO.		
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PRESENT USE (Check One or I							
X Agricultural X Go	overnment] Park		Transportation	Comments		
Commercial In	dustrial] Private Residen	ce 🔲	Other (Specify)		-	
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REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: Medford District ((If applicable) Office			nd number: t Sixth Stree	t	REG	ü
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EPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			<u> ~(</u>			
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	Highway Dîvi	sion, Parks	and Recr	eation Branch		1975	USE
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Salem			Ore	gon	4/12		2

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	(Check One)			(Check One)				
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1880's -

First structure built on site - small mining cabin.

1903

Two story ranch house was constructed of local whip sawed lumber. The main floor was used as a trading post and the upstairs served as a living area. The large living area had no solid partitions.

1903-1908

Red River Mining Company constructed a large two story house with various outbuildings on west side of Mule Creek. This mining enterprise exploited the previous placer deposit claim. No Lode mining occurred, therefore no permanent surface structures or apparatus related to ore treatment ever existed.

The barn, known as the tabernacle was built.

1927-1960

The original development was changed considerably by the addition of a caretaker's house, bunkhouse, barn, tack room, chicken house, a storage shed, blacksmith shop and expansion of the main house to include a large living room on the ground floor, partitioned rooms upstairs, plumbing and electricity. The Red River Mining Company buildings located on the west side of Mule Creek were torn down, save one small outbuilding which is still in existence today. The tabernacle remains relatively unchanged.

1973 - Present Condition

The actual age of the buildings is far greater than their effective age because of the program of redecorating and maintenance.

Main Residence - Original construction date - 1903. Area 2,408 SF on two floors, covered porch 174 SF, breezeway 136 SF. Concrete foundation with vapor barrier, painted lap siding, new composition shingle roof, and wood frame windows, some thermal-pane.

The first floor is comprised of living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, and bath. The second floor is comprised of four bedrooms and two baths. Floors are wood with inlaid linoleum cover and wall-to-wall carpeting. Walls and celings are painted plaster.

The downstairs bath has toilet, tub with shower, Pullman lavatory and base cabinets. The upstairs baths have toilet, lavatory, and medicine cabinets. One has a tub with shower, and the other has a steel shower unit. The living room and dining room have a 5½ foot artificially grained wainscot, and open beam ceiling, and are separated by a mortared rock fireplace with wood mantle and rock hearth. The kitchen has a double stainless steel sink with preformed Formica drain and splash, metal hood and vent, and good base and wall cabinets. Closets and storage are good. Gas heat. Condition is very good.

<u>Caretaker's Residence</u> - Approximate construction date - 1950. Area 1,609 SF on two levels, covered porch 40 SF. Concrete foundation, painted vertical

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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REGISTER LOCATION

The site is located on the northerly bank of the Rogue River, approximately 45 miles downstream from Grants Pass and approximately 45 miles upstream from Gold Beach, near the confluence of Mule Creek with the Rogue River, in Section 9, T. 33 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian. The address listed in item 2 of the blue form is the ranch's mail address. The ranch itself is in Curry 3. CLASSIFICATION - ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC County code 015

Access to the site is by trail, river and low standard dirt road. The Rogue River Trail passes through the site. Parking facilities are not available at the site. Access is limited mainly to the recreation users of the Rogue Wild River Area. At present manpower and funds are not available to open the buildings to the public or conduct tours.

7. DESCRIPTION - Caretaker's Residence (Continued)

tongue and groove siding, and composition roof.

First level has concrete floor and half-walls and finished wood upper walls. Divided into three areas by drywall and hardware cloth partitions. Rooms contain shelving, water heater, and laundry trays. Second level is comprised of kitchen, living room, hallway, 2 bedrooms, and bath. Wood floor with linoleum cover. Walls and ceilings are drywall.

Bath contains toilet, wall lavatory, and tub with shower and curtain. Wood stove. Kitchen has double sink, linoleum drain and splash, and painted wood base and wall cabinets. Storage is adequate. Screen porch. Condition is good. Honda portable generator.

<u>Tabernacle</u> - Construction date - 1908. Area 1,560 SF on two floors, covered porch and stairs 75 SF, and attached shed 112 SF. Wood and rock or concrete foundation, board and batt siding, gabled corrugated aluminum roof, wood doors.

First floor divided into two rooms by wood partitions. Floors are wood, supports and stringers are hand-hewn timbers. Second floor is the same. Access to second floor is by exterior stairway only.

Heavy wood work bench, open shelving, storage cabinets with drawers, cup boards, and enclosed bins. Wood stove. Condition is good for vintage.

Blacksmith Shop - Construction date approximately 1927. Area 348 SF with overhang 287 SF. Rock foundation, peeled pole and wood frame, hand-split board exterior siding, old shake, 90 pound paper, and corrugated aluminum roof. Door at one end, and open at the other. Overhang has earth floor. Good to fair condition.

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7. DESCRIPTION - Caretaker's Residence (Continued)

Chicken House - Recent construction. Area 207 SF with overhand 82 SF. Concrete slab foundation, wood frame, lapped board siding, and composition shingle roof. Condition is good.

Generator Building - Construction date approximately 1935. Area 495 SF. Concrete foundation, painted lap siding, and composition shingle roof.

Building is divided into two areas: living, and generators. The living area is comprised of large pantry-storeroom and small bedroom and bath. Wood floors and Firtex walls and ceilings. Bathroom contains toilet, wall lavatory, plaster stall shower with curtain, and medicine cabinet with mirror.

The generator portion has concrete floor and bases for 2 generators. Electric equipment is as follows: Kohler 1½ kw 4 cylinder gasoline generator, auto demand system, 20 years old, recently rebuilt; Kohler 5 kw 4 cylinder gasoline generator, auto demand system, 7 years old; heavy electric panels, with separate circuits for the main residence, caretaker's residence, tabernacle, and for each generator. Condition is good.

Tack House - Recent construction. Area 339 SF with overhang 103 SF. Concrete foundation, wood frame, lapped board siding, and composition shingle roof.

Interior has mortared rock floor and corner fireplace. Partial peeled pole frame and painted plywood walls. Peeled log bar with hand-hewn wood top. The overhand has a concrete slab deck. Condition is good.

Equipment Shed - Recent construction. Area 800 SF. Earth floor, open wood frame on concrete piers, and gabled composition shingle roof. Good condition.

Barn - Effective age 30 years. Area 1,107 SF with overhang 675 SF. Concrete slab foundation, wood frame, board and board siding, well painted and maintained. 5 stalls, some wood flooring. Roof is corrugated metal covered with composition shingles and roll composition. Condition is good.

Wood Shed - Recent construction. Area 210 SF. Earth floor, peeled pole and wood frame, board and board siding, and roll composition roof. Good condition.

Other Ranchstead Improvements - Land and yard improvements include a garden, deciduous fruit and nut trees, shade trees, flag pole, two grape arbors, rock barbeque, lawn, other plantings, and extensive cedar post and rail fencing and cedar pole and woven wire fencing.

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7. Description

Red River Mining Company (continued)

As the Red River Mining Company, and most other mining activity in the area made use of placer mining, no permanent structural evidence of the activity presently exists. In contrast to lode mining, which sinks shafts into the earth, placer mining sifts through river gravels by means of portable dredges or hand worked equipment like sluice boxes or long toms. All physical remains of the Red River Mining Company's placer activities were temporary in nature, and were either removed from the claim, or scrapped for other uses. The area which was mined is located just south of Marial Road on the map illustrating modern improvements to the ranch.

Main House (continued)

As can be seen from illustrations A--D (A and B marked "Billings Trading Company--1913", C and D marked "Rogue River Ranch, main house--1974"), the main house has undergone considerable change since 1913. Around 1963, the living room, at the southeastern edge of the house, was enlarged. A 13'x27' flat roofed, one story addition was built onto the living room at that time (compare A and C). A fire place was constructed in the living room.

The stairs have been moved into what was originally the store, and an interior wall was moved (see C). The store has been converted into a bedroom with the addition of a bathroom and storage room. The kitchen is smaller because of the enlargement of the living room.

At the north end of the building, a storage room, crew quarters including a bathroom, and a generator room, were attached to the main building by a porch. (see C).

The second floor changes are as follows (compare B and D). The original canvas partitions have been replaced by solid walls, and two bathrooms have been added.

The exterior of the building has been changed by the addition of a concrete foundation. In 1956, the buildings color was changed from its original off-white with maroon trim to red with white trim.



SIGNIFICANCE			· •
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1880 to	1910	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropria	te)	
Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	(Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	General area
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Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site is the homestead of the first white settlers in the remote Rogue River Canyon area now known as Marial, Oregon. The site was the center of mining and pioneer life; serving at one time as a mining camp, trading post, farm, dance hall, post office, and church.

John Billings and his sons, George, age 18 years, and Tom, age 16, first came to the area in the 1880's. They settled on Mule Creek near the Rogue, built a small cabin and established a placer mining operation there.

In 1887, a homestead claim was filed in the name of Tom Billings; however, it was transferred to George less than a year later. George then worked the area until 1903 when he established a trading post to serve the increasing number of people coming into or passing through the area. Using only local whipsawed lumber, he built the two-story structure which is now the main house of the Rogue River Ranch. The main floor of the building was used for the trading post with the upstairs serving as the living area for the Billings family and occasional passers-by who were always welcome in the house. The large living area had no solid partitions so curtains were merely drawn to partition separate sexes, families and rooms.

Shortly after opening the trading post, George located a mining claim on what was then called Douglas Bar on the west side of Mule Creek; however, he later sold it to the Red River Mining Company for the sale and development of investment stock. They promptly built a large two-story house with various outbuildings and developed an extensive operation up Mule Creek. Within four years, the venture proved unsuccessful and George reacquired the original claim and patented it and the homestead in 1913.

In 1908, during the time the Red River Mining company was in operation, George built the large barn, now known as the tabernacle, to stable horses and mules. Hay was stored in the upstairs loft. The animals were used in transporting goods for the trading post as well as later carrying the mail for the post office which was moved from the Meadows to the trading post in 1916. In subsequent years, use of the barn began to decline and was used more as a community hall. Though animals were still kept on the ground level, use of the upstairs loft ranged from a dance hall on Saturday night to church the following morning. The barn thus acquired the designation, "Tabernacle".

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. Significance

Contradicting the typical succession of settlement phases in the west, Oregon was first occupied by pioneers desirous of the rich farm lands in the Willamette Valley. Then followed a mining phase, which occurred after California placer mines and other western states lode mines began playing out. The Rogue River Ranch site represents not only the placer mining stage of Oregon history, but later developments in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well.

Although placer mining was an influencing factor in the initial settlement of the Rogue River Valley, permanent ranches and farms, homesteaded by people like the Billings proved more stable as occupation bases in the area.

Before parcel post service arrived in 1912, the Billings Trading Company provided an important service to placer miners and settlers in the area. Further development of the ranch site illustrates a succession of settlement use. After its use as a mining camp and trading post, it became, in effect, a self-contained social center for the area. As towns near the Rogue River Ranch were established, the ranch reverted to an agricultural base.



Form 10-300a . (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance (Continued)

In 1927, Stanley Anderson purchased the property from George Billings. In following years the original development was changed considerably.

In 1970, the U. S. Government purchased the site under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program which had been initiated on the Rogue.

Though much has changed over the years, the Tabernacle remains relatively unchanged, the main house is in an excellent state of repair and the large black walnut tree in front of the main house, which was planted at the birth of Marial Billings in 1894 for whom the settlement was later named, stands as a marker and a tribute to the early pioneers who settled this rugged and beautiful area.



• Comment			
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES			
Appraisal - John Anderson Tract Contract No. P 134			-
Taped interviews with Ivan Bill: the Bureau of Land Management, I	_		esson on file at
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA			
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPE	ERTY U	OF LESS THAN T	INT OF A PROPERTY
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11. FORM PREPARED BY	<u> </u>	Ψ,	<u>uli 19</u>
Thomas J. Abbett - Recreation P	lanner		June 14, 1973
Business Address: Bureau of Land Management, Medf	ord Dis	trict Office	
street and number: 310 West Sixth Street			779-2351
Medford		oregon	code 46
12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION		NATIONAL REGISTE	R VERIFICATION
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nominate this property to the National Register,	11	/	l
ing that the State Liaison Officer has been allow	ll.	.0//	61
days in which to present the nomination to the S	- 11	Date	٧٦٠
view Board and to evaluate its significance. The mended level of significance is \(\sigma\) National [- 11	ATTEST:	
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Federal Representative Signature Daje	,	more at	and C

Deputy Assistant Secretary

GPO 938-449

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Rogue River Ranch, Early Personal Histories of the Billings Family, et al.

Excerpts from personal interviews with Ivin Billings.

John Billings-- Born 1826--Died 1908--Ivin's granfather

1867-- moved into Rogue River area from Klamath Country, Happy Camp. Was married to an Indian girl, had 3 children. When they moved into area, had a total of 9.

Lived at: Agness--Shasta Costa Creek
1889-- Big Bend--Billings Creek
Douglas Bar--established placer claim
1893-94 Big Meadows--320 acres

Pre-emption claim; John bought a homestead at Big Meadows from Antone Walker. 160 acres. John's wife being Indian claimed pre-emption rights to 160 acres. (entitled to Indians).

1926 -- John's wife died at the settlement. Her name was Adeline.

George Billings--Born 1865--Died, 1950; Gold Beach

- 1890--25 years of age, moved from Gold Beach into Douglas Bar where he started to work for Sol and Herman Marxs in the mines. Met his wife Sarra Ann Huntley who was a cook for the Marxs operation. Huntley Park in Gold Beach was named for her brother.
 - 1895--Ivin was born in Roseburg and brought to the Mule Creek area when he was two to five weeks old. Birth date March 19th.
 - 1898--Georges family moved to the Rogue River Ranch property, and lived in a lean-to until the first cabin was built.
 - 1899--Alpine Billings was born. George started his commercial operations (trading post) in the original cabin. Also he was in the process of building the big house.
 - 1903-4--Completion of Big house--served as home, store, and boarding. Much of the material used in the big house was from the original cabin. The present kitchen of the big house is where the original cabin was located. Big house was on a rock foundation. Approximately 10 men ran 5 whip saws on the property to supply the lumber. Big ponderosa pines were cut for this purpose.

Doors, frames, and trim were all hand made. Most of it by a man named Moses Dorciler who lived in the house across the river from Mule Creek. (Later, it became part of the Rogue River Ranch property).

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Rogue River Ranch, Early Personal Histories of the Billings family, et al (continued)

1912-- Tabernacle was completed. By this time, the following improvements had been made to the property: Big house-- with wood shed out main kitchen door. Chicken house, same location it is now. Barn, 60' towards main house from tabernacle. Blacksmith shop--Horse bridge, behind tabernacle.

The mines started drying up and trade started diminishing, also parcel post came in-because of these factors, a separate store building never made it past the foundation stages of construction.

- 1913 -- Ivin was lookout for the Forest Service on Mt. Bolivar.
- 1914-- Moved a two stamp mortar weighing 4800 lbs to Blossom Bar from Grants Pass by boat. (Ore processing--milling equipment).
- 1916 -- Ivin was 21 years old and was the first time that he left home. Up to this time, he had not been out any farther than West Fork. He stayed out working in the hay fields and logging camps until December, and then came back in, in order to run the Assay office.
 - 1918 -- Ivin lost one eye due to a rifle accident while a child, compounded with an accident with some chemicals in the Assay office. He went to Portland to have the eye removed and replaced with a false eye. He met a nurse there that later became his wife.
 - 1919--After his operation, he rode a bicycle from Merlin to Blossom Bar, stayed at Horseshoe bend the first night, and made it to Blossom Bar the next night. From this time on, Ivin was in and out of the Rogue River area.
 - 1925--Zane Grey came into the Rogue River area. Ivin was responsible (behind the scenes) for Zane Grey catching his first steelhead. Ivin gave him the tip that the commercial nets were taken up just recently at the mouth of the Rogue, and th fish should be up the next day. Zane decided to stay on an extra day, and was with Ivin when he caught the first one. Ivin became fishing buddies with Grey, and would spend months fishing with him.
 - 1930 -- Ivin's mother took ill, left the Ranch never to return.
 - 1931--Ranch was sold to Stanley Anderson for \$5,000.00.

Living Community

Marxs brothers mining company was established in the area before John Billings arrived. They sold out their mining operations at Douglas Bar

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Rogue River Ranch, Early Personal Histories of the Billings Family, et al (continued)

to the Red River Mining Company in 1907.

George Billings let them build a large house on the land, just west of Mule Creek.

Litigation resulted as to the classification of the property on the west side of Mule Creek. Red River Mining Company claimed it as mining land, and George Billings claimed it as homestead.

John Price mined what now is known as Price Creek and only made \$8.00 in one year. This helped resolve the conflict and the property was claimed agricultural. (1912).

1912--Red River Mining Company pulled out. Both Marxs and Red River built flume systems in the area.

Two mills, one was called the Tina-H, located up the west fork of Mule Creek till you come to the next little fork. This fork was called the Tina-H fork.

Red River had a mill also up the east fork of Mule Creek, about 2 miles. Logging operations in the area are still evident today. They developed a log chute which brought the logs to the creek.

This is now the location of Ivin's mining claim.

Leo Fry estimated 75 people lived in the Mule Creek area at the same time. They even had a school.

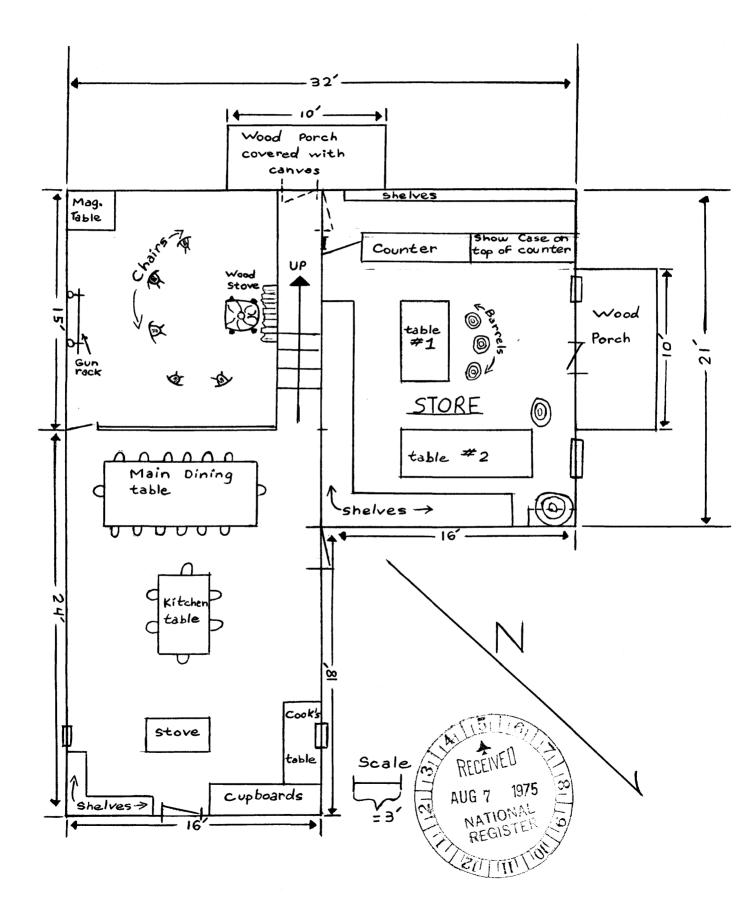
Trail systems

1900--Two main trail systems were developed, one along the River from Galice, and the other from West Fork. The latter trail passed through Nine Mile, Four Mile, Eden Valley, down the ridge to Mule Creek, back over to Cold Springs, and on to Camus Valley. (Ivin can clear this up). A side trail broke down the ridge to the Red River Mill.

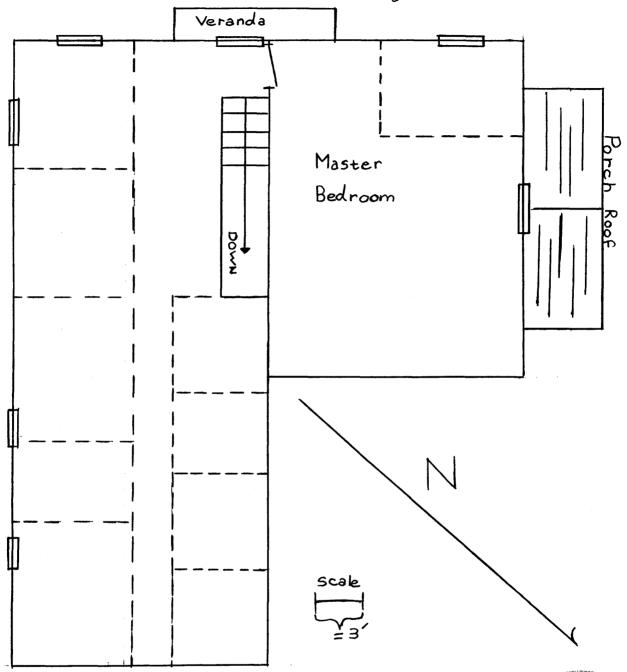


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MAIN FLOOR



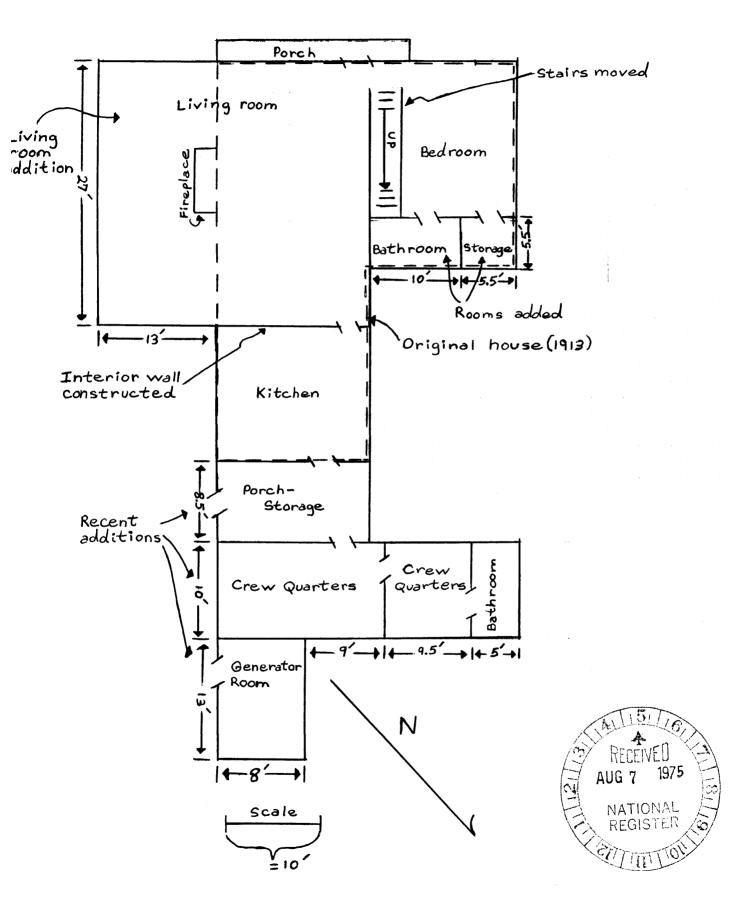
BILLINGS TRADING COMPANY-1913 UPSTAIRS-BOARding



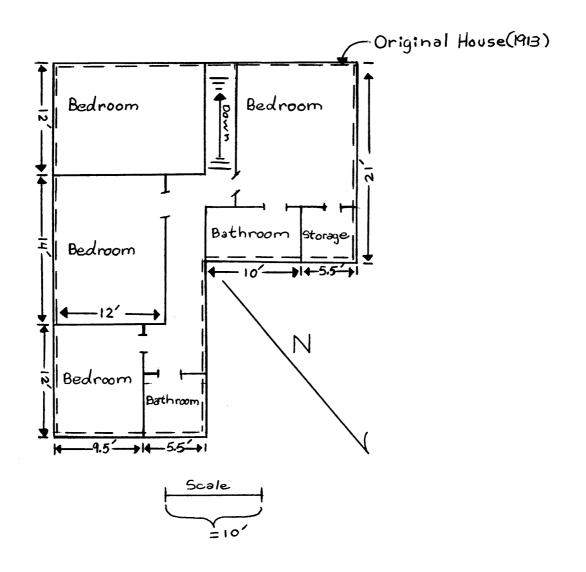
All ROOMS except master bedroom are separated by sheets of white canvas.



ROGUE RIVER RANCH - main house



ROGUE RIVER RANCH-main house







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FORM 10-301 A (6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME			val ₂
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Rogue River Ranch	Billings	Trading Co.	DEC "
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE		POT TIONAL	
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NATION	MEGATIVE FILED AT
Davi d Fromme, MAI	1970	NATIONA! REGIST	Medford District Office
4. IDENTIFICATION		1100	Bureau of Land Management

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Photo is a 1973 copy. View northeasterly across Mule Creek of ranch improvements. Main ranch house in center of photo, caretakers residence to the right.

Yours for "A ROAD DOWN THE ROGUE"-Geo. W. Billings



BILLINGS-Junction of Mule Creek and Rogue River

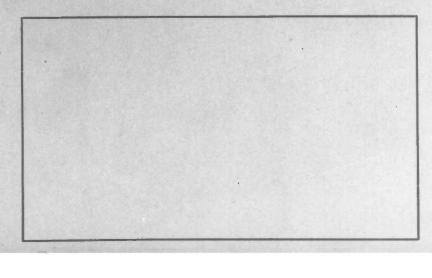
BILLINGS TRADING COMPANY

HEADQUARTERS FOR

GROCERIES, CLOTHING, SHOES, MINERS' SUPPLIES SPORTING GOODS, HAY AND GRAIN

PACK ANIMALS FURNISHED

BILLINGS, COUNTY , OREGON



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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	aur	· mule creek	<u>, </u>
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Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

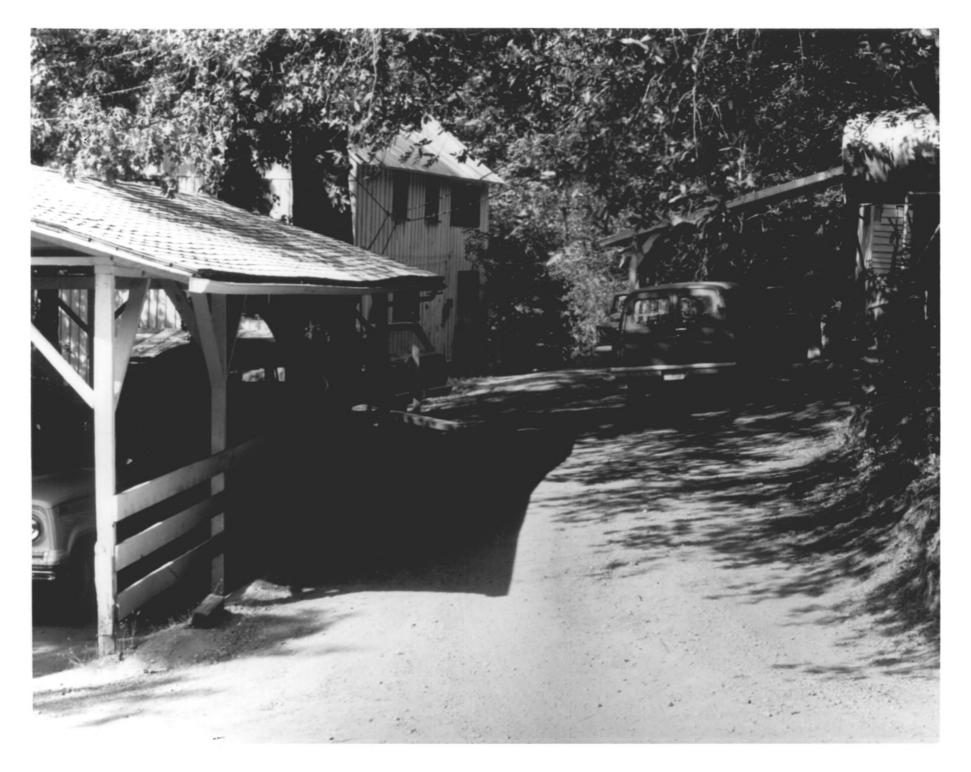
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DAT	Е ОГ РНОТО: 1970				-5
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DES	SCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	19		,	,
she (1e bu	70 photo of approximately same vie ows addition of outbuildings; care ower left), and tack room (far lef uilding (lower right hand corner)a f the existing structure, and a sm	taker: t). Budded	s house (co unkhouse, i on to; a no	enter), wood shed in front of main ortherly extensio	n

· Title: Roque Rener Ranch Curry County, aregon Loc. 1970 state of append. some new ~ cut buildings; curlinkers house, avon stee.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Num	iber /2/29/75
	Rogne Paner Ranch
	Curry County, Origon
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بي	nantenene blody (for hight), &
	orage shed (left foreground)

Photo 5 79



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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MPS Number 12/24/75
Title: Roque Riner Ranch
Cury County, Keyon
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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Photo 849

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTED MPS Number 12/29/15 Title: Rogue Rener Ranch Cury County, Oregon

John Intele



Photo 349

Bureau of Land Management Federal Bldg., U. S. Courthouse 310 West Sixth Street Medford, Oregon 97501

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

louler
MPS Number 12/24/15
Title: Rogne Rever Ranch
cump county Origin
1 Landing Co.
Loc. Looking S at Billings Trading Co.
belog, around 1913