

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 12 1978

DATE ENTERED

JAN 29 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

SOD HOUSE RANCH

AND/OR COMMON

SOD HOUSE RANCH

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE -- .8 (8/10) mi. south of Sod
House Lane SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 3, T27S, R31E.

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

BURNS

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CONGRESSMAN AL ULLMAN

02

STATE

OREGON

CODE

41

COUNTY

HARNEY

CODE

025

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: RANCH**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

STREET & NUMBER

LLOYD 500 BUILDING, SUITE 1692, 500 N.E. MULTINOMAH ST.

CITY, TOWN

PORTLAND

-- VICINITY OF

STATE

OREGON 97232

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. HARNEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER

450 NORTH BUENA VISTA

CITY, TOWN

BURNS

STATE

OREGON 97720

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☒ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Landmarks of historical significance include: a workshop, carriage shed, grainery, chicken coop, cabin, stone cellar, bunk house, main house, barn, beef wheel and stockade fences. The barn is a unique structure, built in the 1880's but still in remarkably good condition, due to its' continued use over the years. The barn measures 120' X 50', and the center span is 28-30' high. It has a manger rack/feed rack arrangement full length on both east and west sides, and an alleyway in the middle to accomodate a large load of hay. During the CCC days the roof was replaced with pine shakes (similar to the original). In recent years these have deteriorated and the roof again needs replacing. The beef wheel is in need of restoration, with all pieces stored at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. The beef wheel is a good historical attraction as few remain today. The stockade fences still demonstrate that type of fencing. The old stone cellar was built in 1900, shown on an inscription in the keystone of the door arch, along with the F-G brand of the French and Glen partnership. The building is 24' X 36' and is in a poor state of preservation. Parts of the sod roof and stone walls have caved in. The building has considerable historical significance and may be worthy of restoration. The site of the ranch is graced by large trees which were planted in 1892 by Emanuel Clark.

Of the original ranch buildings, seven of ten remain, essentially unaltered. Some buildings have been reroofed but retain their original character. As a subheadquarters of the famous P Ranch, the Sod House Ranch is an intact remnant of French's innovative and expedient architectural style. The willow corrals were razed in the 1930's and replaced with pine pole fencing, but original stockade fences of hand hewn juniper slabs are still functional today.

Buildings are constructed of native materials including pine lumber, hand hewn aspen boards, juniper posts and poles and locally quarried stone.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1977	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Historic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870's to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sod House Ranch with its buildings and related ranch facilities virtually intact is, according to the Oregon Historical Society, one of the finest examples of an Eastern Oregon Ranch remaining in the State. Its restoration is being considered as Harney County's major Bicentennial project to be completed in 1976.

The Sod House Ranch area was first acquired under the Swamp Act by A. H. Robie in the 1870's. Robie sold his interests in the Diamond and Blitzen Valleys to Pete French in 1877, and the ranch became a subheadquarters for French's cattle operations out of the P-Ranch. It was probably first occupied in the 1880's, with the barn undoubtedly one of the first improvements. Emanuel Clark, who planted the trees in 1892, operated the ranch as French's foreman for a long time. The lumber for the barn came from the Robie sawmill near King Mountain north of Burns, Oregon.

The purchase of the Sod House Ranch properties (43,000 acres) is representative of the era of rapid and easy acquisition and control of public lands by powerful cattle barons. Peter French, celebrated in book and story as one of the most colorful of them all, was a progressive ranch manager and a vigorous builder who combined the Texas tradition of running large herds of half-wild cattle on the open range with the English methods of stockfarming. He carefully controlled the breeds and strains of his stock, harvested the abundant native hay for winter feed, and irrigated thousands of acres of meadowland. Local citizens still find his methods and merits a subject of hot debate.

Sod House Ranch was named because of its proximity to the first permanent residence (constructed of sod blocks) in the county. The ranch has been used in cattle operations for 100 years and has been in federal ownership as part of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge since 1935.

A detailed history and plan for stabilization, restoration, and interpretation have been prepared by refuge personnel. It is hoped that, once restored, the ranch will be opened to the public since it offers unique opportunities for interpretation of land use patterns and ranching trends significant in the history of the western U.S.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackman, E.R. & Long, R.A., The Oregon Desert; 1967; The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho: p. 120. Brimlo, George Francis; Harney County, Oregon, and Its Range Land; 1951; The Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon: ;. 18, 62, 63. French, Giles, Cattle Country of Pete French; 1964; Binforde and Mort, Portland, Oregon: Pp. 43, 89, 90, 151-153. Friedman, Ralph; Oregon For The Curious; 1973; The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho: ;. 207.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 348275 4790800

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 11 348275 4790600

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 11 348075 4790600

D 11 348075 4790800

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

.8 (8/10) mi. south of Sod House Lane SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 3, T27S, R31E.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oregon	41	Harney	025
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph P. Mazzoni, Refuge Manager

ORGANIZATION

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 113

CITY OR TOWN

Burns

DATE

November 16, 1977

TELEPHONE

503-493-2323

STATE

Oregon

97720

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

(see attached old farm)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William F. Moffett

TITLE

FWS Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11/27/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/29/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William F. Moffett

DATE

11/26/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	OREGON
COUNTY:	HARNEY
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 6 8 1979

1. NAME				
COMMON: SOD HOUSE RANCH				
AND/OR HISTORIC: SAME				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: .8 (3/10) mi. south of Sod House Lane SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 3, T27S, R31E.				
CITY OR TOWN: MAIHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BURNS		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: CONGRESSMAN AL ULLMAN 02		
STATE: OREGON	CODE 41	COUNTY: HARNEY	CODE 025	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) RANCH				
4. AGENCY				
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE		STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 NE Irving		
CITY OR TOWN: PORTLAND		STATE: OREGON	97208	CODE 41
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: HARNEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE				
STREET AND NUMBER: BUENA VISTA				
CITY OR TOWN: BURNS		STATE: OREGON		CODE 41
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

landmarks of historical significance include: a workshop, carriage shed, grainery, chicken coop, cabin, stone cellar, bunk house, main house, barn, beef wheel and stockade fences. The barn is a unique structure, built in the 1880's but still in remarkably good condition, due to its' continued use over the years. The barn measures 120' x 50', and the center span is 28-30' high. It has a manger rack/feed rack arrangement full length on both east and west sides, and an alleyway in the middle to accommodate a large load of hay. During the CCC days the roof was replaced with pine shakes (similar to the original). In recent years these have deteriorated and the roof again needs replacing. The beef wheel is in need of restoration, with all pieces stored at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters. The beef wheel is a good historical attraction as few remain today. The stockade fences still demonstrate that type of fencing. The old stone cellar was built in 1900, shown on an inscription in the keystone of the door arch, along with the F-G brand of the French and Glen partnership. The building is 24' x 36' and is in a poor state of preservation. Parts of the sod roof and stone walls have caved in. The building has considerable historical significance and may be worthy of restoration. The site of the ranch is graced by large trees which were planted in 1892 by Emanuel Clark.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1870's to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☒ Historic

☒ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DEC 12 1978

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackman, E.R. & Long, R.A., The Oregon Desert. 1967. The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho: p. 120.
 Brimlo, George Francis. Harney County, Oregon, and Its Range Land. 1951. The Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon: Pp. 18, 62, 63.
 French, Giles. Cattle Country of Pete French. 1964. Binford and Mort, Portland, Oregon: Pp. 43, 89, 90, 151-153.
 Friedman, Ralph. Oregon for the Curious. 1973. The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho: p. 207.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 43° 15' 26"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 118° 51' 44.2"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	43° 15' 26"	118° 51' 37.7"				
SE	43° 15' 19.5"	118° 51' 37.7"				
SW	43° 15' 19.5"	118° 51' 44.2"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Exactly 10 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
OREGON	41	HARNEY	025
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard B. Gritman Public Use Specialist		DATE: June 10, 1975
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge		
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 113		PHONE: 503-493-2323
CITY OR TOWN: Burns	STATE: Oregon	CODE: 41

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☐ National ☒ State ☐ Local

[Signature]
 Federal Representative Signature Date **11/27/75**

Title

[Signature]
 FWS Historic Preservation Officer

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MALHEUR NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

RANCH

SOD HOUSE LANE

34

REFUGE BOUNDARY

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 3, T27S, R31E

SOD
HOUSE
RANCH
SITE

- 1-Sod House BARN
- 2- Cabin
- 3- Stone CELLAR
- 4- Beef Wheel
- 5- Carriage Shed
- 5a-Grain Storage Building
- 5b-Chicken Coop
- 5c-Hide Shed
- 6- Work Shop
- 7- Stockade Fences
- 8- Main house
- 9- Bunk House

La $43^{\circ}13'26''$
Lo $118^{\circ}51'44.2''$

La $43^{\circ}15'26''$
Lo $118^{\circ}51'37.7''$

La $43^{\circ}15'19.5''$
Lo $118^{\circ}51'44.2''$

La $43^{\circ}15'19.5''$
Lo $118^{\circ}51'44.2''$

Scale: 8"=1 mile

MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



HS 2-20A

Sod House Ranch

Harney County

Looking SW.

#1 of 12

JAN 29 1979



HS 2-25A

Sod House Ranch
Harney County
Looking NE.
#20812

JAN 29 1979



HS 2-24A

Sod House Ranch
Harney County
Looking NW.
#30712

JAN 29 1979



HS 2-12A

Sod House Ranch

HARNEY County

Looking NW.

JAN 29 1979

4 of 12



HS 2-15A

Sod House Ranch
Harney County
Looking S.E.

50712

JAN 29 1979



HS 2-9

Sad House Ranch
Harney County
Looking N.E.

#6 of 12

JAN 29 1979



Sod House Ranch
Harney County
Looking South

#70712

JAN 29 1979



HS 2-3

Sod House Ranch
Harney County
Looking N.W.

80712

JAN 29 1979



HS 1-29

Sod House Ranch
Harney County
Looking East

#90712

JAN 29 1979



SODHOUSE RANCH

BLOGS. # 5a & 5b.

L. 1/2 - 5a GRAINERY

R 1/2 - 5b CHICKEN COOP

WEST SIDE

S. END

#28

HS 1-28

Harney County

#10 of 12

JAN 29 1979



HS 1-21

Sod House Ranch
Harvey County
looking WNW.

#11 of 12

JAN 29 1979

JAN 20 1979



SODHOUSE RANCH
BLDG #5
N. END & E. SIDE
#27

HS 1-27
Carriage shed

Harney County
#12 of 12

JAN 29 1979