DESCRIPTION SUMMARY The Roba Ranch, located at the east end of Paulina Valley approximately ten miles east of Paulina in Crook County, Oregon, was one of the first ranches established in the area and has continued as a working ranch for nearly 120 years. The George and Mary Roba family moved to the ranch in 1892, where they constructed a corral, fencing, a pump house, ranch house, and other buildings. Today, the Roba Ranch includes four contributing buildings and one contributing structure that are historically associated with late nineteenth and early twentieth century family-run ranching in the area. SETTING The entire Roba Ranch contains approximately 1,480 acres. 5.6 acres of the ranch that contain the main buildings are nominated for listing. This area is situated in a remote and sparsely populated area of eastern Crook County, just south of the Ochoco National Forest. The ranch is accessed via a dirt road leading north from Paulina up a steep grade before winding down along the edge and through Paulina Valley to Roba Ranch Road. This road is on slightly higher ground than the flat, and often wet, valley floor. The Paulina Valley is a large expanse of grasslands suitable for ranching and farming, surrounded by hillsides covered in juniper and pine trees, and volcanic rock. The Roba Ranch is visible from most points along the valley. The buildings and one structure cluster on the edge of a gentle hill rolling down to the valley to the south. Two year-round creeks flow on either side of the hill surrounded by pine and juniper trees. Both of the shallow, terr- to thirty-foot wide creeks flow from the foothills into the valley and are about a quarter of a mile apart when they reach the nominated area. A large, old, non-native Buckeye tree stands on a slight rise between the ranch house and the original barn. The contributing 1910 ranch house, contributing circa 1900 pump house, and a non-contributing metal machine shop are located at the bottom of the hill. Remnants of an apple orchard are located west of the house. A shallow gabled, wood-frame, non-contributing vehicle/equipment storage building is located just behind the ranch house. The contributing circa 1888-1889 barn with a broken-gable roof and a small contributing privy are situated less than 200 feet from the northeast corner of the ranch house. A non-contributing board and batten, broken-gable roofed barn sits at the top of a small rise behind the ranch house, with the contributing circa 1890s corral. All of the contributing buildings, and corral and fences are constructed of lumber and uncut logs harvested on the ranch. Tuff stone used in the c. 1888/89 barn foundation and the 1910 ranch house was locally quarried within two miles of the house. CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES Ranch House Exterior Description The 1910 one and one-half story, tuff stone ranch house is situated at the east end of Paulina Valley. The massed, side-gabled Folk Victorian house was constructed primarily by the Roba’s eldest children, and includes full-length back and front porches with a facade balcony and two brick chimneys. The building’s unusual six gable dormers, exaggerated clipped gable ends, and carvings in the tuff stone give the house a unique appearance. The upper level and roof of the ranch house are wood framed. Exaggerated clipped gable ends run the width of the house with three-sets of gable dormers on the front and rear sides. The front center gable dormer is slightly wider and taller than its flanking gable dormers. The top portions of the main gable ends and the front gable dormers are finished with fishscale wood shingles, complete with Late Victorian era detailing of the frieze boards, fascia boards, and brackets. A wood framed porch with simple square posts and an upper-level balcony is located on the front facade. The tuff stone blocks used as the foundation and walls up through the lower portion of the upper level of the house were individually hand quarried from a location near the ranch. Many of the stones have unique carvings, such as diamond, chevron, inverted-V, twigs and leaves, and star shapes to decorate the blocks. Other designs include concentric circles, and bulls-eye modillions run along the cornice detail above windows and doors, approximately every two and one-half to three feet. The gable roof with prominent clipped gable ends is a unique feature and an unusual form for the Folk Victorian style. Typical roof forms of this era were front-gabled, side-gabled or pyramidal. Family members believe that the house’s style may have been derived from the family’s roots in Czechoslovakia, but these beliefs are unsubstantiated. A one-story, front gable, 1950s addition with board-and-batten siding and a small gabled rear porch is attached to the northeast corner of the house. South and North (Front and Rear) Facades The front facade has three gable dormers, with the center dormer slightly wider and taller, all clad in fishscale wood shingles. The fishscale shingle siding is finished with a scalloped edge, and flat frieze board on the dormers. The slight eaves are boxed with scrolled brackets and a scalloped edge fascia board throughout. The front dormer barge boards are arched with a return and have the same scalloped edge as the fascia boards. These also feature a rounded edge pendant with two carved teardrop openings on the barge board at the ridge. Trim on the rear dormers are all simple flat boards of similar proportions to the decorative boards on the front of the house. The front dormers have tail, double-hung, two-over-two, divided light, wood sash windows, while the rear gable dormers have more modest casement windows. The front center dormer contains a false, rounded, vertically divided double-light window above a one-panel, ten-light door. Four wooden numbers that spell out “1910” are applied to the arched window head trim. Windows in the three-sets of gable dormers on both sides of the main roof ridge provide additional light and ventilation in the upstairs rooms. The windows on the main level of the house are double-hung or fixed pane wood windows. The reconstructed front porch spans the entire length of the house with 4 by 4-inch columns and the deck is skirted with vertical boards. The balcony railing has 4 by 4-inch newel posts and a simple rail with 1 by 10-inch vertical balusters. The original porch appeared to span across the front of the house from the exterior side of the two outside dormers, rather than the full length of the house. The rear facade has three equally spaced openings, with one currently serving as the main entry door. The rear, full-width porch has a shed roof, with six, plain 4 by 4-inch columns. West and East Facades The west and east facades have substantially clipped gable ends, with wood scrolled brackets, scalloped edges, wood fascias, and simple flat frieze boards. The edges of the clipped gable ends stop short of the upper-level window heads, allowing for full-height interior walls on these ends. The three upper level windows of the west and east facade gable ends are equally spaced, wood casement windows with a center divider of the same proportion as one sash of the main floor double-hung windows.
The three main windows on the west facade and the two main windows on the east facade are a mix of double-hung and fixed pane. Interior Description Main Floor The entrance to the house is through the north end of the house addition. A long hallway runs north and south with eight, 4-light fixed windows on the west wall. A bathroom, utility room, and meat storage/cooling room are located in the east part of the addition. The full-bathroom is located in the northeast corner of the addition and includes two, 4-light windows on the north wall, with simple 1 by 2-inch trim. The utility room consists of a laundry area with washer, dryer, and a utility sink, with 1 by 2-inch trim. The meat storage/cooling room is directly east of the utility room and includes one, 4-light window on the north wall with simple 1 by 2-inch trim. The meat storage/cooling room addition consists of an enclosed dining/sunroom and single-pane windows with 1 by 2-inch trim located to the south and east. A 2-panel, 4-light wood door is centered on the south wall. The main floor of the ranch house is accessed through a single-panel, 10-light door placed in the original exterior of the house, originally a window space. The painted timber frame is typical of many single-story, log-framed buildings. The balcony access door wraps around the front of the house and access to the living room is through the balcony. The living room faces out to the north, west, and south. On the north wall is a single-panel, 15-light wood door, with a plain wood surround. The west wall contains three, evenly-spaced windows. The outer two windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows, while the eastern window is a one-over-one, fixed pane, wood sash window. The doors and windows are framed with simple 1 by 2-inch trim. The facade on the south side is clean with stone masonry. A fireplace with running bond and soldier bond brick with a wood mantel and wood surround painted green is located on the east wall of the living room. Upper Floor A steep and narrow-step staircase is located in the middle of the east wall of the living room with a single 4 by 4-inch baluster in the southwest corner supporting ½-inch round railing. The stair steps are rounded with trim. There is also ½-inch round trim on the ceiling of the stairwell. A single-panel wood door and a doorjamb are located approximately half-way up the staircase. There is a single wood, 4 by 4-inch baluster topped with decorative moulding and railing on either side at the top of the staircase. The staircase leads to the upper level of the house that contains four bedrooms, a half-bathroom, and hallway leading to the balcony to the south. Floor to ceiling built-in drawers and cupboards line the entire east side of the hallway. The bedrooms are located in each corner of the upper-level of the house, with the bathroom centered on the north wall, and the staircase and hallway taking up the center space. All of the upper-level bedrooms have one slanted wall on the gable-side of the building, and accessed single-light casement windows on the gable ends. Each bedroom also has built-in closets, with one-panel wood doors, carpet, and ceiling tile. The southeast and southwest corner bedrooms both have one, two-over-two, double-hung wood sash window with a deep window sill and beading. Non-Contributing Resources Equipment/vehicle storage building Built in the 1980s, this is a shallow gabled, wood-frame building in the style of a pole barn. A break in the ridge line reveals two separate sections. Both are sheathed in board-and-batten with a wood-shingle roof, and have one long side open to the air, with the roof above supported by wood posts. There is one interior partition. Machine shop The machine shop is a modern wood-frame building with walls and roof of corrugated sheet metal. Half of the long side of the building is open to the north, and the remaining half holds two small windows. A door that opens to the enclosed area is located on the east side. Concrete slab and gravel floors. The building is covered with corrugated metal sheets. Constructed in the 1980s, this is a long, front-gabled, wood-frame barn sheathed in vertical boards. The gable line of the barn roof breaks slightly as it descends for a "lean-to" effect. Giant batten doors provide access at the gable end. Small square windows offer light. The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal.

HISTORY
(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY The Roba Ranch, scenically located at the end of the Paulina Valley, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with late nineteenth and early twentieth century family-owned ranching patterns in Crook County, Oregon, and under Criterion C for the collective architectural significance of the four contributing buildings and one contributing structure on the property. Ideally situated near two year-round creeks, forested hills, and open grasslands, the family-run Roba Ranch was typical of other ranches in the area. Initially envisioned as primarily a sheep ranch, the ranch house originally had an off-center door to the east on the first level and a symmetrical upper level door. This opening was enclosed to add a main floor balcony on the south facade of the house. The modest kitchen is situated in the northeast corner of the house with the dining room to the south and the living room to the west. Two equally spaced, one-over-one windows with glass blocks underneath are located on the north wall of the kitchen. Centered on the south wall is a range backed with brick veneer and a stainless steel range hood. The dining room includes two, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows on the south and east facades with deep windowsills. A single-pane window is located in the kitchen. The bathroom consists of a single-pane window on the west wall with a double-hung sash window on the east wall with brick masonry. The facade on the south side is clean with stone masonry. A fireplace with running bond and soldier bond brick with a wood mantel and wood surround painted green is located on the east wall of the living room. A space to buy goods, gather, and celebrate with others of the community, and its existence was directly related to the open range sheep and cattle operations in the area. Ranching operations in Crook County were important to initial Euro-American settlers who used the business to sustain themselves on the land. Settlers in the county were at first limited agriculturally by the low annual rainfall received in the region, and poor access to irrigation necessary for successful farming. The open grasslands of the area, however, were ideal for grazing cattle and sheep. As a result, the economy of Crook County became inextricably tied to the development of open range sheep and cattle ranching. In addition to ranching operations, Crook County settlers also practiced subsistence farming, whereby gardens, orchards, and other livestock, including poultry, were kept to provide for food. With the increased accessibility to grazing lands east of the Cascades for western Oregon cattle ranchers, cattle were first introduced to the area in large numbers beginning in the 1860s. Although large-scale cattle ranches appeared within
Crook County occurred later than cattle ranching, but also proved extremely profitable. Initially unregulated tracts of land, open ranges during this period were shared by all locals. By the 1880s and 1890s, the number of cattle and sheep herds increased dramatically east of the Cascades and in Crook County, “as new rail lines allowed producers to ship both wool and cattle to the expanding markets across the United States.” Although exact numbers are unknown, sheep outnumbered cattle approximately 7 to 1 (approximately 300,000 sheep; 40,000 cattle) in the county by 1899. In 1895, in an effort to diminish the problem, cattle owners in the area formed the Network of Oregon Cattle Owners (NOCO) to discourage sheep grazing.

By the time he had engaged in business with Lee Miller at the Paulina general store, and the range wars were waning, George began plans to build a new, larger home in Paulina, ranch. The general store served residents throughout the area, and was often a place to gather Saturday nights for dances and community events. George was both the owner and manager of the store, and had been in business for several years. He played a key role in the community, and was respected for his integrity and fair dealings.

Sheep grazing rights on all federal lands in central and eastern Oregon. With the end of the open range, cattle and sheep ranchers alike were issued permits for specific land use, as George moved from ranching sheep, to keeping a few dozen head of cattle primarily for subsistence and to provide hides for his leather goods. Between 1899 and 1900, he built a small, wood-framed storage building that sits on log skids was constructed in approximately 1900.

By 1903, two more anti-sheep groups had formed: the Silver Lake and Camp Creek Sheepshooters, and the Crook County Sheep Shooting Association. By 1905, thousands of sheep had been killed across central Oregon, equating to staggering losses for sheep ranchers in the area. It was during this time that George began to receive threatening letters explaining that his sheep were grazing beyond the “deathline” and advising him to sell the herd quickly.

George did not openly side with other sheep ranchers, and thought he was well-known and liked enough by the area’s cattlemen to stave off any confrontation. As a result, these shooting associations initiated a period of violence against property and people. After 1896, sheep herders from areas west, north, and east of Crook County began grazing their sheep closer to Paulina Creek near the Roba Ranch due to the creation of the Cascade Forest Reserve, thereby “making incursions on historic cattle grazing land” in the Paulina area. This act effectively closed the Cascades to grazing, forcing sheep ranchers east into the Ochocos and Blue Mountains in search of summer pastures. Concerned about the growing population of sheep defoliating range land in their area, in 1898, a group Paulina cattlemen organized the Paulina Sheepherders Association with the help of the Izee Sheepshooters, six miles due east of the Roba Ranch. Together, the two sheepherding associations established a “deathline,” a boundary that confined sheep to specific grazing areas, usually marked by tree blazes, and strips of cloth and pieces of tin attached to trees.

The first violent act of the Paulina Sheep Shooters was the killing of a band of sheep approximately eight miles northwest of the Roba Ranch. As many as 10,000 sheep were killed over a period of three years. During the winter season, sheep herders were forced to pasture their sheep along the rivers, as there was no snow for the sheep to browse on. The sheep herders would then drive the sheep up to the high basalt cliffs where the sheep would be left unattended to fend for themselves. Depending on the weather and food supply, the death rate of sheep during the winter months varied from year to year. By the spring of 1899, George and Giorgio had accumulated a substantial herd of ewes (it was customary to give a share of ewes to shepherders) and enough money to send for George’s wife and two children. Mary, who did not speak English, and the children boarded a train in Pennsylvania, and later arrived in Oregon. George, who had been working at this time in Paulina, then the largest wool gathering center in the world, borrowed a wagon and team from Hugh Lister and was able to meet his family in The Dalles. Upon their arrival at Rabbit Valley, near Paulina, George was employed as a camp sheep herder. During the winter season, he would work with the sheep herders, and during the summer season, he would work as a shepherd. George supplemented his income by doing odd jobs for the Rancher, leatherworking, and leather repair, and a saloon owner of which income on which George would come to rely well into the twenty-first century. During his time working for Lister on the open ranges near Paulina Valley, George was forced to move his family to The Dalles due to a severe drought in the area.

In 1899, George and his partner (presumably Giorgio) had approximately 1,400 sheep, 6 cattle, and 5 horses and mules. By this time, George and his family had settled on a homestead in the Paulina area. George was a skilled craftsman, and had a sizeable workshop in the Pauma, and sheep ranch he was building. George was also involved in several anti-sheep organizations in the area. By 1903, the number of sheep in the area had increased to approximately 70,000, with about 60,000 sheep on the open range in the county. By 1903, there were seven anti-sheep groups in the area, and the sheep herders were forced to move their sheep to the open range in order to avoid conflict with the cattlemen.

The sheep herders were coerced into selling their sheep, the demand for wool at this time was high, and George made a substantial profit off part of his herd. By the spring of 1900, George’s sheep herds had diminished to just a few hundred. He had decided to graze these remaining sheep by the upper falls of the North Fork of the Crooked River through the spring and summer, and sell them just before fall when the price would be highest. Left unattended, however, the herds were eventually killed by the sheepshooters. As a result, the sheep herders were forced to move their sheep to the open range in order to avoid conflict with the cattlemen.

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buildings he had seen in his homeland. Evidence for this theory, however, is scant. What is apparent, though, is that the original one-and-one-half story house the Robas had made their home in for over a decade proved too small to house George, Mary, and their nine children. No doubt the money George had made selling her sheet weaving, and the Paulina in general store proved too little time to construct a new house on the ranch. The property dates the entire month, when business was slow at the store, George and his sons, Joseph and George Jr., began to cut large, tuff stones from a nearby quarry located on the property. These stones were then loaded on a large hand-hauled ox-drawn cart to the main road, then moved by hand and placed with stone masons. Tuff stones were used extensively in buildings constructed in central and eastern Oregon, due to its prevalence in the region, its easy-to-work physical characteristics, and its ability to naturally insulate buildings if used as exterior cladding. Evidence of its easy workability can be seen in the drawings and carvings, such as leaves, tree limbs and branches, etc., and other designs on many of tuff stones that clad the Roba Ranch house. Progress on the property was slow, as George Roba strived to split his time between work at the store in Paulina, and his ranch. After laying the foundation and constructing a portion of the northwest corner of the house, George left his 20-year-old son, Joseph, and 19-year-old daughter, Anna, in charge of finishing the building. Business at the store in Paulina was growing, and George was unable to spend more time at the house. Joseph hand planed all the lumber used in the construction of the house, as well as constructed the paneling, trim, and decorative stone work. The completion of the one-and-one-half-story, tuff stone house in 1910 could not have come sooner, as by 1907 the town of Mitchell had been established for nearly 10 years. While George was building the 1890s when the Paulina general store caught fire. As a result, George turned his attention to running his general store and leatherworking. His wife, Mary, died at the age of 68 in 1933, and George died at the age of 77 from tuberculosis. After his death, the Roba’s daughter, Ruby Rose, inherited the property for the sum of one dollar. ARCHITECTURE OF THE ROBA RANCH The Roba Ranch is architecturally significant for its four contributing buildings and one contributing structure that are representative of late nineteenth and early twentieth century family-run ranching operations in Crook County. While the barn is the only building remaining of the original ranch owned by the Roba’s in 1929, the construction of the other contributing resources on the property are directly related to the early operation of the ranch during the 1890s. While George Roba’s coerced decision to sell his sheep made him well-off during the early 1900s, and thus financially capable of undertaking several building projects, it is evident that George became more wary of ranching as the sheep and cattle wars continued. Instead of only focusing on his sheep ranching, as he had done through the 1890s when only the corrals, chutes, and fencing were constructed, George began to focus more on the success of his general store in Paulina and on improving his family’s life through the construction of several domestic-related buildings on the ranch. The Roba family ran an orchard, a garden, and a small farm, which were known as by this time the tenth and eleventh Roba children had been born, with a twelfth child born three years later in 1913. George spent his time after 1910 mainly focused on the operation of the general store in Paulina. While still engaged in his small family-run ranch, orchards, and garden, George undertook no other major building projects on the property. George’s partnership with Lee Miller ended in 1929 when the Paulina general store caught fire. As a result, George turned his attention to running his general store and leatherworking. His wife, Mary, died at the age of 68 in 1933, and George died at the age of 77 from tuberculosis. After his death, the Roba’s daughter, Ruby Rose, inherited the property for the sum of one dollar. 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corral, pump house, outhouse, corrals, ranch house, and movable storage building. The massed, side-gabled, one and one-half story Folk Victorian house, with a prominent centerboard, was the main house constructed from two smaller tuff stone dormer fife, located wholly quarried by the Roba family. Author Arthur A. Hart explains, “a feature of farms and ranches east of the Cascades [was] the frequency with which local stone was used.” The Roba Ranch was distinctly different, as it was not situated along main roads running through Crook County, and thus was not subject to the same pressures from road building and development. The Roba Ranch is architecturally significant for its four contributing buildings and one contributing structure that are representative of late nineteenth and early twentieth century family-run ranching operations in Crook County. While the barn is the only building remaining of the original ranch owned by the Roba’s in 1929, the construction of the other contributing resources on the property are directly related to the early operation of the ranch during the 1890s. While George Roba’s coerced decision to sell his sheep made him well-off during the early 1900s, and thus financially capable of undertaking several building projects, it is evident that George became more wary of ranching as the sheep and cattle wars continued. Instead of only focusing on his sheep ranching, as he had done through the 1890s when only the corrals, chutes, and fencing were constructed, George began to focus more on the success of his general store in Paulina and on improving his family’s life through the construction of several domestic-related buildings on the ranch. The Roba family ran an orchard, a garden, and a small farm, which were known as

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