LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: 66953 Roba Ranch Rd
assoc addresses: Paulina vcty, Crook County (97751)
location descr: Appr 10 mls N of Paulina

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: Building
elig evaluation: height (stories): 2.0
prim constr date: 1910
second date:
primary orig use: Single Dwelling
second orig use: AGRICULTURAL: General
primary style: Victorian Era: Other
secondary style: Not Applicable
primary siding: Stone:Other/Undefined
secondary siding: Shingle
plan type:

comments:

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

Not associated with any surveys or groupings.

SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: 11/07/2007
ILS survey date:
RLS survey date:

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

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 hill sides 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 each edge 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 bottom a hill near the end of the 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 front 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 door 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 tall, double-hung, two-over-two, divided light, wood sash windows, while the rear gable dormers have more modest casement windows. The center dormer contains a false, rounded, vertically divided two-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 6-inch trim. The utility door is a solid metal gate with a 2 by 2-inch frame. The meat storage/cooling room consists of an enclosed dining/sunroom and single-pane windows with 1 by 2-inch trim facing 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 tongue and groove framing on the gable ends is cut with a wood muntin and window surround painted green is located on the east wall of the living room. Upper Floor A steep and narrow-staircase is located at the north end of the east wall of the living room with a 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 recessed 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 well and beveling located on the south wall. The northeast and northwest corner bedrooms both have one single-light casement window located on the north wall. The small, half-bath is located in the middle of the north side, with one, single-light casement window also on the north wall. A small closet with a single-panel door is located just to the west of the bathroom. Access to the attic is through a single-panel, 4-light door also located at the west wall. Wood trim throughout the upper level is varied, including ½-inch and ¾-inch. The oldest building on the Roba Ranch is the log-framed, broken-gable roof barn built in circa 1889. The 52 by 26-foot building originally had a wood shingle roof, but is now covered with corrugated metal. The barn sits on a knoll over 180 feet from the east side of ranch house and is clad in rough-sawn, vertical wood-board siding. The vertical boards are random in widths of 6, ½, 8, 10, 11, and 12 inches, with 2 by 6-inch thick boards. The doors are doublehung, sit on tubular metal rollers, and have been reinforced with steel rods. 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. The east section is a 14 by 32-foot structure, with a wood-plank floor. The west section is a 20 by 40-foot structure, with a 4 by 4-foot privy constructed in circa 1900. It is made of 1 by 4-inch wide rough-sawn boards and 1 by 11-inch wide vertical boards. It has a front gable, door with a roof, a door on the south wall. Pump House The pump house was constructed in circa 1900. The front gable, wood-framed building is 5 by 10-foot and is located next to the barn. The roof is covered in wood shingles, with a wide, thick log post supporting it. The interior is four rooms, each with a separate opening and one, single-light wood sash window. In some of the earliest photographs (1920s) in the family’s photograph collection. Corral Located at the top of a hill to the north of the ranch house and barn is the corral, chutes, and fences constructed during the late 1890s. Most fence posts are 6 to 8-inch diameter peeled juniper logs, with 4-inch wide rails of rough-sawn pine. Supporting the corral fence posts are rock cribs and rock jacks. The rock cribs are made of rough-cut logs cribbed in a 2 by 4-foot frame and are capped with a 2 by 4-foot log. The rock jacks are made from rock and split in a 2 by 4-foot frame and are capped with a 2 by 4-foot log. A wood frame and roof were added to the north end that is walled off to enclose a chicken coop and storage area. This has a wood-plank floor. The opening is filled with a corrugated metal roof beam set on a bed of stones. The opening is corrugated as part of a calk frame, which is corrugated in the room. The roof is covered in corrugated metal. The face of 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 bathroom in the house, in what was then the entry foyer. The opening is filled with corrugated metal, single-light window set above three glass blocks followed by four courses of in-kind tuff stone blocks left over from the original construction of the house. Another door to the left of the original front door is now filled in with a fixed pane window of the same size as the other double-hung windows and two courses of matching tuff stone blocks. The rear of the house also had tall, double-hung or fixed pane windows as evident by the stone detailing and stone sill location. A one-story addition added to the northeast corner of the ranch house was constructed during the early 1950s by George and Mary Roba’s sons. The addition spans from the middle of the east facade and extends past the rear of the house by approximately 20 feet. The addition was added to provide space for a second bathroom, a dining/sun room, entrance, utility room, and a meat storage/cooling room. The original house is connected to the addition through a single-panel, 10-light door that replaced a window opening on the east side. NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES Equipment/building 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. 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 air. The east end holds two steps, 2 by 4-foot. The enclosed workshop is 5 by 10-foot. The building was constructed in the 1980s, this is a long, front-gabled, wood-framed barn sheathed in vertical wood. The gable line of the roof breaks slightly as it descends for a "lean-to" effect. Giant batten doors provide access to 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 riverine watercourses, the ranchers at Roba Ranch represent a type of landowner with time-honored agricultural interests as prominent a sheep ranch, both the history and architecture of the Roba Ranch were influenced by the settlement patterns of family-run ranching operations, but also by the sheep and cattle wars fought in Crook County during the period of significance. The period of significance begins with the Roba’s acquisition of the ranch in 1892 and ends with the completion of the Roba Ranch house by George and Mary Roba in 1910. EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF CROOK COUNTY Initially bypassed by early Euro-Americans settlers in the mid-1850s in favor of agricultural opportunities abundant in the Willamette Valley, the area now known as Crook County in central Oregon was first inhabited by the Paiute for thousands of years. The desert and rimrock landforms of this high elevation region of the Columbia Plateau provided Euro-American explorers, trappers, and wagon train parties had passed through present-day central Oregon earlier, large-scale Euro-American settlement of Crook County did not occur until the late 1860s with the completion of a wagon road between Linn County and the Deschutes River in 1866. Initially developed with the interest of the Euro-American stockraisers who arrived here with thousands of barbed wire or non-barbed wire stock fences, the early homesteads on the river were site of an early settlement, with the Town of Prineville. In 1885, the first city in Crook County, was founded in 1868 with the establishment of a combination saloon, blacksmith shop, and general store building. Located over 50 miles east of Prineville, Paulina, the geographic center of Oregon, was established shortly thereafter, and quickly became “that necessary town.” Named after a Paiute chief of the Wapato tribe, a post office was later established in the town in 1880, with the first permanent house not being constructed until 1885. Although the town was small, it was home to an active community and small towns in the surrounding ranches in the county. The area was populated with ranchers, farmers, and cattlemen, and celebrate with other members 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 food for the livestock and beef. 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 the central and southeastern Oregon during this period, small-scale, family-run cattle ranching also appeared alongside. The introduction of sheep onto the open ranges of...
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. 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, due, in part, to a series of difficult and devastating winters during the 1880s and 1890s. Open range cowboys and sheep herders perished in the thousands. By 1892 in Jewett, a small community in southern Oregon, the town was referred to as “BABB City” in the old-time log-cabin mode of the old-timers. George was the first name later anglicized to “George,” arrived in the United States at age 20 in January 1882 aboard the SS Suevia. His passage paid for by his brother Andros (anglicized to Andrew), who had arrived at their ranch at the same time in 1878. George began work in the small coal mining community of Jermyn, Pennsylvania, where his brother had also secured a job. Initially unable to understand or speak English, George began studying the language, and soon began to learn other languages, such as Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian. In 1889, George and his family moved to the United States to the newly established town of Prineville in central Oregon. Upon arrival, they boarded a train in Pennsylvania, and later arrived in Oregon. George, who had been working at this time in Skiannato, 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 cook for a survey party working for the Union Pacific Railroad. During the winter three years prior to their arrival, the sheep were herded for George in desert locations and he earned wages in order to buy a new home. George purchased a homestead in 1893 on the north fork of the Crooked River, near where George would later establish his ranch. Typically, ranchers owned a comparatively small parcel of land, usually under 200 acres. As the average family farm in the United States was about 160 acres, they would also work as laborers on other farms. In this way, sheep ranches were also a way to support a family. The 1880s saw the rise of sheep as a profitable commodity that were not only well-designed and stylish, but also a necessity for ranchers and farmers in the area. In 1905, George invested $18,000, only part of the $35,000 he needed to begin his sheep ranching operation immediately. According to author J. Orin Oliphant, “unlike cattle raising, which required a much larger initial investment and much longer period of maturation, sheep could be raised more cheaply on unclaimed range lands.” Crook County Assessment Rolls show that by 1895, George and his partner (presumably Giorgy) had approximately 1,400 sheep, 6 cattle, and 5 horses and mules. By this time, George and his family were well-liked and respected in the Paulina community. Even though George had a sizeable, family-run ranching operation, George also worked odd jobs, especially leathermaking, and was remembered for helping his neighbors. SHEEP AND CATTLE WARS IN THE PAULINA AREA The concern over the raising of sheep east of the Cascades was documented as early as the summer of 1872, when the Walla Walla Union brought up the discussion of the “sheep question,” as growing herds of sheep were perceived “eating out the pastureage” and “poisoning and scenting the grass,” thereby preventing cattle from grazing in the same area. By 1895, there were seven times more sheep than cattle on the open ranges. George and his family moved to Paulina in 1889 and became involved in a dispute with a neighboring ranch. Rather than pit himself against his neighboring cattlemen and anti-sheep organizations, George began selling his sheep. Even though he had been coerced into selling his sheep, the demand for wool at this time was high, and George made a substantial profit off of part of his herd. By the spring of 1900, George’s sheep herd 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 shepherders who crowded George’s remaining sheep off the high basalt cliffs to their deaths, a method of killing called “rimrocking.” TRANSITION ON THE ROBA RANCH By 1893, George and his family had engaged in business with Lee Miller at the Paulina general store and the range wars were winding down. George began plans to build a new one-and-one-half-story house to replace the house his family had lived in since arriving at the ranch in 1892. Due to the unusual appearance of the ranch house, such as the exaggerated, clipped gable ends and multiple gable dormers, it is plausible that George may have designed the house based on architectural forms and styles of Oregon Historic Preservation Office

3 of 5
buildings he had seen in his homeland. For evidence 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 his sheep, leatherworking, and in the Paulina general store proved too meager for him to make any reasonable home for his family. During the winter months, 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 by hand into the small covered wagon and hauled over the high, rough terrain back to the store. George built several buildings by cutting the tuff into cubes and carving them into different shapes. Tuff stone was used extensively in buildings constructed in central and eastern Oregon, due to its ease-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 leaded, tree limb and branch designs, and other designs on many other tuff buildings that dot the landscape of the Roba Ranch. Progress on the building continued, slowly, as George began 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 ranch. 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 1910 the tenth and eleventh Roba children had been born, with a twelfth child to follow in late 1913. George spent his last days 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 small ranch and leatherworking. His daughter Mary died at the age of 68 in 1933 after suffering 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 obtained by the Roba’s in 1892, the construction of the other contributing resources on the property are directly related to the eventual operation of the ranch during the 1890s. While George Roba’s coerced decision to sell his sheep made him well-off during the early 1890s, 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 other contributing resources on the property demonstrate the shift in ranching that George undertook as a result of previous events, namely from market production ranching to a more subsistence ranching that could provide both hides for his leathermaking and food and clothing for his family. Common among ranches in the area, the Roba Ranch is comprised of several outbuildings and structures that aided in the day-to-day operations of the ranch. These include the barn, pump house, outhouse, corrals, ranch house, and movable storage building. The massive, side-gabled, one and one-half story Folk Victorian style, with a prominent center cupola, the barn was constructed from two smaller buildings added to a originally tuff stone, locally 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. Hundreds of farms were built of locally available volcanic rocks, either basaltic or tuff.” While designed and constructed primarily by the two eldest Roba children with the assistance of George Roba, the ranch house is architecturally interesting with its three gable dormers on the main facade, three matching gable dormers on the rear facade, a central gable, and a 10-by-15 foot gable roofed storage building that rests on log skids built by the Robas, located at the top of a hill that runs behind the ranch house and barn. Because of the presence of the log skids, the building was able to be moved from place to place wherever needed for agricultural storage, and therefore, is currently not located within the nominated area. Two of the secondary buildings on the Roba Ranch are more closely associated with the domestic functions of the ranch house, rather than the agricultural functions of the barn. Regardless, all of these buildings were necessary features to ensure the success of a family-run ranch. The small gable roofed pump house clad in vertical boards, located approximately 180 feet from the northeast corner of the ranch house and near the year-round Roba Creek, provided protection for the family’s water source. The small, 4-by-4 foot, tuff stone, side-gabled privy on the ranch is typical of most privies constructed in North America, due to its small footprint, simple design, and purpose-built function. Although located farther from the house than was usual, the privy was still situated close enough to remain convenient. RANCH COMPARISONS Properties are listed in order of closest proximity to the Roba Ranch. McColl Ranch, Prineville vicinity, Crook County, Oregon (not listed in NRHP): The Roba Ranch lies four cordons to the west, and is used primarily to raise sheep for market. The McColl Ranch consists of several contributing buildings and a large house, barn, and a horse barn. The architect-constructed, Colonial Revival house, dates from 1911. The associated horse barn was constructed between 1911 and 1915, and the dairy barn was constructed in circa 1917. Both the barn and 640 acres of land was given to Hal and Dorothy Lawson McCall by Dorothy’s father, Thomas Lawson, a wealthy copper mining owner, in 1910. The ranch is not listed in the National Register. The Roba Ranch differs from the McCall Ranch in several ways. Disregarding its distance, the Roba Ranch was established much earlier than the Roba Ranch and serves as one of the oldest examples of many outbuildings associated with ranching. In addition, the Roba family were of a much different socio-economic class than the McCalls, and therefore, established their ranching operations in a very different manner. The Roba Ranch also is associated with late nineteenth and early twentieth century ranching, while the McCall Ranch dates from a later period. Campbell, R.W., House and Barn, Mitchell vicinity, Wheeler County, Oregon (not listed in the NRHP): The R.W. Campbell House and Barn, located six miles east of Mitchell in rural Wheeler County and north of the Roba Ranch, includes two contributing resources. The two-story, wood frame house with a gable roof and shiplap siding, was constructed prior to 1883. The log frame barn with a gable roof dates from the 1880s. The ranch was reportedly used from the 1880s as the main stop for stage and freight lines running between The Dalles and Canyon City, located in central Grant County. The property is not listed in the National Register. In addition to its long distance from the Roba Ranch, the Campbell House and Barn does not have as many contributing resources as the Roba Ranch. The Campbell Historic Barn was located on the same property as the Campbell Historic Barn. The historical context for each property is different, as the Roba Ranch is more associated with late nineteenth and early twentieth century ranching in central Oregon then is the Campbell property, which was used as a main stage stop. Cant, James, Ranch Historic District, Dayville vicinity, Grant County, Oregon (listed in NRHP 06/21/1984): The James Cant Ranch Historic District in Grant County, located northeast of the Roba Ranch, includes eleven contributing buildings, including a house, barn, and chicken coop, all constructed between 1890 and 1920. The earliest building, a small one-story log cabin, is the oldest building in the group. The two and one-half story, hip-roofed main ranch house was built between 1915 and 1918, with the barn constructed in circa 1920. The Cant Ranch Historic District was a good example of early twentieth century ranching operations in the John Day River Valley, and is the only ranch listed in the National Register in this area of Oregon. Like the McCall and Campbell properties, the Cant Ranch Historic District is separated from the Roba Ranch by distance, a national forest, and county lines. Wh RESEARCH INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title Records</th>
<th>Census Records</th>
<th>Property Tax Records</th>
<th>Local History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanborn Maps</td>
<td>Biographical Sources</td>
<td>SHPO Files</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituaries</td>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>State Archives</td>
<td>Local Architectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Directories</td>
<td>Building Permits</td>
<td>State Library</td>
<td>Historic Photographs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Local Library:  

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<td>Other Repository:</td>
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</table>

Bibliography:  

Oregon Historic Preservation Office  

4 of 5
BIBLIOGRAPHY