

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME					
address:	15600 Deedon Rd La Pine vcty, Deschutes County		historic name:	Deedon, Ed and Genevieve, Homestead	
assoc addresses:			current/other names:	This'll Dew Ranch	
location descr:			block/lot/tax lot:		
			twshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:		
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS					
resource type:	district	height (stories):	1.0	total elig resources:	5
elig evaluation:	eligible/contributing			total inelig resources:	1
prim constr date:	1914	second date:	1916	NR Status:	Individually Listed
				date indiv listed:	03/06/2013
primary orig use:	Single Dwelling			orig use comments:	
second orig use:	Camp				
primary style:	Vernacular			prim style comments:	
secondary style:				sec style comments:	
primary siding:	Log: Other/Undefined			siding comments:	
secondary siding:	Shake				
plan type:				architect:	Edwin J. Deedon and Frank W. Deedon
				builder:	Edwin J. Deedon and Frank W. Deedon
comments/notes:					
Two contributing cabins, garage, outhouse, and well, non-contributing shed.					
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS					
Not associated with any surveys or groupings.					
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY					
NR date listed:	03/06/2013		106 Project(s):	None	
ILS survey date:			Special Assess Project(s):	None	
RLS survey date:			Federal Tax Project(s):	None	
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION					
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>					
<p>The 160-acre Ed and Genevieve Deedon Homestead is located in Section 28, Township 21 South, Range 10 East, Willamette Meridian at 15600 Deedon Road, La Pine in Deschutes County, Oregon. The homestead is located between the Deschutes River and the Little Deschutes River, on level land. The 160-acre Deedon homestead is covered with sparse stands of lodgepole pine trees and low-growing native plants, including bunchgrass and bitterbrush. The rural community in this township and the township to the east was known historically as Rosland. In 1910, the buildings in Rosland were moved to La Pine, which is four miles southeast of the homestead. The area retains its rural forest feeling, but is now dotted with residences on lots ranging in size from one acre to two-hundred acres. The U. S. Forest Service administrators about 17 square miles of the township, most of it being multi-use forest land. One working cattle ranch remains along Paulina Creek where it joins the Little Deschutes River. The homestead contains five, small, one-story buildings and a hand-dug water well clustered together in the southeast corner of the property on the 3.05 acres which are being nominated. They include (in order of construction) the 1914 water well and 1915 hand pump, 1914 guest cabin, 1914 outhouse, 1914 main cabin, 1915 garage, and a 1999 storage building. All are contributing structures with the exception of the non-historic storage shed. Three of the four contributing buildings and the well remain on the property in their original locations. The fourth contributing building, an outhouse, remains in use and is moved periodically for sanitation. A significant element of the homestead is that the two cabins, garage, outhouse and well are essentially as they were during the homesteader's lifetime and continue to reflect life during the historic period. The historic buildings are simple, functional and rectangular. They were constructed with logs, poles and rough-sawn lumber cut from trees harvested on site. Roofing includes hand-split cedar shakes and composition shingles. Decorative tin caps finish the ridges of the garage and kitchen porch. Window frames and doors are wood. None of the buildings has indoor plumbing or running water. All of the historic buildings were constructed by brothers Edwin J. Deedon and Frank W. Deedon and a neighboring homesteader, Edwin K. White, working together.</p>					
HISTORY					
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>					
<p>The Ed and Genevieve Deedon Homestead is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion A, exploration and settlement, for its association with the early-twentieth century development of the Rosland/La Pine area under the Homestead Act of 1862, as amended in 1912. The property is also eligible for listing under Criterion C, architecture, for the collective architectural significance of the four contributing buildings and one contributing structure that demonstrate the utilitarian vernacular construction commonplace on homesteads in southern Deschutes County. The Deedon Homestead is a good example of the homesteads that were entered in southern Deschutes County. It is the last intact group of primitive buildings constructed by the homesteader with assistance from his family and neighbors while he was frugally meeting the requirements of the amended Homestead Act. The period of significance begins in 1914 with the construction of the two log cabins, outhouse, and well. A garage/shop/boathouse and the kitchen porch were constructed in 1915. It ends in 1925 with the addition of a bedroom onto the main building. Central Oregon was passed over by the first waves of migrants to the Oregon Territory. But, by the late-nineteenth century, present-day Deschutes County's ponderosa pine timber and grassy meadows attracted lumber companies and ranch operations, which led to the founding of the region's first rural communities. The La Pine/Rosland area was attractive for settlement because of the plentiful fish and game, the ease of digging wells, the high water table, and the plentiful timber for firewood and to construct homes, barns and fences. Despite the plentiful resources and relatively flat land, many found that farming was not practical due to the 4,236-foot elevation, volcanic soils, long dry periods and frequent overnight freezes throughout the year. The area always has been isolated. Despite these challenges, many hopeful settlers took advantage of the 1862 Homestead Act to claim their 160 acres of still-available federal land in central Oregon. Homesteading became particularly attractive when the U.S. Congress approved a significant amendment to the Act in June 1912. Unlike previous reiterations of the law that required year-round occupation of the property, the new law allowed entrymen and entrywomen to leave their claims for up to five months a year after establishing a residence. As a participant in the early-twentieth century settlement of the La Pine area under the Homestead Act of 1862, as amended in 1912, Ed Deedon became one of the many individuals who claimed 160 acres in 1914. Unlike others taking advantage of the law, Deedon realized that the land could not support a profitable farm, and instead used the parcel as a summer retreat, fall hunting lodge and gathering place for his large extended family. While proving the claim, Deedon maintained his permanent residence in Portland and his job at a men's bath house. Nevertheless, in order to acquire title to the property, Deedon was obligated to meet the requirements of the Act, including living on the property for seven months of each year, cultivating at least 1/16 of the land for three years from the date of entry, and constructing permanent buildings on the claim. As a result, Deedon's recreational property exhibits all the essential characteristics of traditional homesteads established during this period, and therefore physically represents this important settlement trend in southern Deschutes County. In 1914, the year he established the claim, Deedon constructed the well, two log cabins, and an outhouse using available materials – logs, poles, rough-sawn lumber, hand-split shakes and a combination of salvaged and hand-constructed doors and windows. During the three-year period, these structures and the garage constructed in 1917 operated as the nucleus of an operating farm. The smaller "guest" log cabin served as a barn in the early years, and Deedon cultivated twenty acres, raised a small garden, and built a half mile of</p>					

ference. In 1918 Deedon received the patent for his claim after successfully completing his obligations under the law. Ed Deedon's regular employment in Portland for part of each year provided the income necessary to pay his taxes, purchase necessary supplies and maintain the property. Notably, the Deedon family's continued use of the parcel for the past 98 years as a seasonal home ensured the preservation of this representative and intact homestead, the only known resource of its type in southern Deschutes County. As noted in the analysis of nearby homesteads (See Appendix 3), about a third of the people who were awarded patents to their homesteads around the Deedon homestead lost their land when they were unable to pay their property taxes, including Ed Deedon's brother, Frank Deedon. Only ten of 78 homesteaders in the 36 square miles around Deedon's land owned their land longer than fifteen years. Many of the homestead buildings were deconstructed and materials were reused elsewhere by other homesteaders. Others disappeared by neglect or were demolished when the area was subdivided during the last sixty years. The two log cabins, outhouse, well and garage embody the homesteader's distinctive quickly-made log and rough-sawn lumber construction of small, habitable, utilitarian, vernacular buildings made from locally-harvested pine trees. The Deedon Homestead buildings remain in their original location and setting, have not been remodeled, and retain their historic feeling and association with the homesteader. Historic photos of area homesteads and photos in the local history books show that the cabins at the Deedon Homestead are typical of those built during the settlement era in the immediate area. The buildings are constructed of whole logs without foundations and are finished with medium-pitched gable roofs that are clad in hand-split shingles. Once common, homesteads and their collections of single or double-pen, single-story log cabins and associated outbuildings and structures fell into disrepair in the later-twentieth century and were demolished over time. A singularly unique resource, the Deedon Homestead retains the original buildings and structures, which maintain their historic integrity as expressed through the nearly intact original design, materials and workmanship. Remaining at their original location and within the same rural and forested setting, the buildings and the homestead as a whole retain their historic feeling and association. Unique and possessing a high degree of historic integrity, the Deedon Homestead is eligible for listing under Criterion A, exploration and settlement, and Criterion C, architecture, because the property uniquely conveys the history of the settlement of the La Pine/Rosland area under the Homestead Act and the vernacular construction typical of these small family farms.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

✓ Title Records	Census Records	✓ Property Tax Records	✓ Local Histories
✓ Sanborn Maps	✓ Biographical Sources	✓ SHPO Files	✓ Interviews
Obituaries	✓ Newspapers	State Archives	Historic Photographs
City Directories	Building Permits	State Library	

Local Library:

Historical Society:

University Library:

Other Repository:

Bibliography:

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