



County Curry
Theme 10-A, 5-B
Name
(Common) Rocky Reef Ranch
(Historic) Colebrook (Frederick W.) House
Address e. of Highway 101 near Frankport, 2
miles n. of Ophir, Ore.
Present Owner Winston W. Chambers
(Address) Box 124, Ophir, Ore. 97464
Original Use Residence
Date of Construction 1890

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Rocky Reef Ranch house is located east of Highway 101 on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean near Frankport, Oregon. Frankport is a sometime harbor (with no structures) at the Sisters Rocks, two miles north of Ophir, Oregon. A plaque on the house states that it was built in 1890. The structure is a two story, wood frame building with a one story "T" attached on the west elevation. The house faces to the east toward the old coast trail that once ran between Port Orford and Gold Beach. The house has late, Classical Revival lines with a gable roof, partial eave returns, and symmetrical six-over-six double hung sash windows. There is a recessed porch on the kitchen wing (north elevation). Shutters are attached to the windows. The house has four bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, and bathroom. The living room has a brick fireplace and wood wainscoting. Some of the windows in the living room are four-over-four.

This property has been a sheep ranch for nearly a century. The 600 acres are presently leased by Wilbur Moore for cattle and sheep. The house in 1976 is rented by Ona and James Carter. This site was a cattle ranch in 1854 and was developed by Herman Francis Reinhart. Later it was settled by Frederick W. Colebrook who was born in Scotland, October 13, 1816. Colebrook came to Oregon about 1858 and settled on the Carey Sheep Ranch. He died on May 21, 1889, leaving his wife, the former Mary Smith, and six children.

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 3 May 1976 Sources Consulted:

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Moore, Wilbur. Interview by Dow and Anna M. Beckham, April 1, 1976, Ophir, Ore.

Please enclose map Township 34 ^N _S Range 14 ^E _W Section 32 (Over)

E. Walton
7-30-71

NOTE ON THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF THE WINSTON W. CHAMBERS PROPERTY
OPHIR VICINITY, CURRY COUNTY

General History

The Chambers property embraces the 600-acre homestead settled by Frederick William Colebrook, a British emigre, for whom Colebrook Butte was named. Colebrook is said to have arrived in Oregon about 1858. He is said to have taken several acres on the Carey sheep ranch between Mussel Creek and Eucher Creek. He then was elected county surveyor and surveyed much of Curry County. In 1875 he married Mary A. Shmitt and took up 520 acres which he developed as a prosperous livestock ranch. At this juncture he was 57 years of age. His seven children were born between 1877 and 1886. Upon his death in 1889, Colebrook's family continued the ranching operation.

Present owners of the property have estimated the date of the existing farmhouse to be about 1890. This date is based upon testimony of a man named Charlie Wakeman, now deceased, who helped to cut timbers for the place. It is likely that the house was planned and started by the patriarch for his growing family shortly before his demise May 21, 1889. Reportedly, the house became a way station on the old ridge road between Port Orford and Ophir.

Condition of the House

The house is in good repair, having been extensively refurbished by the present owners after its acquisition in 1942. Except for a paint color of modern manufacture and the addition of decorative shutters, and the addition of a bathroom shed on the kitchen wing, the exterior retains the general appearance of its historic period. The interior trim, including stair railing, door and window frames and wainscoting, is intact. Walls have been covered with sheet rock and papered. Some of the floors and ceilings have been covered with new material.

The environment of the house is relatively unchanged. The old barn was torn down and a yard planted. The only modern additions are a sheep barn and a vacation cottage built by the Chambers after the Second World War.

Evaluation

The Chambers property falls under the interpretive theme of Ranching and Farming which, according to earlier recommendations, might account for as much as 10 per cent of historical park development within the State Park System. This livestock industry is historically important in Curry County. In early days when most products of the locale were shipped from Port Orford to San Francisco, Curry County wool was valued because of its constant growth uninterrupted by extremes in weather and its "consequent strong fibre." However, this story can be related more effectively on the Hughes Ranch on Cape Blanco recently acquired by the State. There, scenic quality, ease of access, available documentation of family history and integrity of the family farmhouse are more favorable, and related themes, such as Sixes River gold mining and lighthouse service provide greater scope for interpretation.

Conclusion

While the Colebrook House is distinctly an asset to the property and is of importance in the context of Curry County history, when evaluated according to the criteria of statewide significance, suitability, educational value, feasibility and environmental considerations, it does not possess the qualities which justify its acquisition by the State for park purposes.

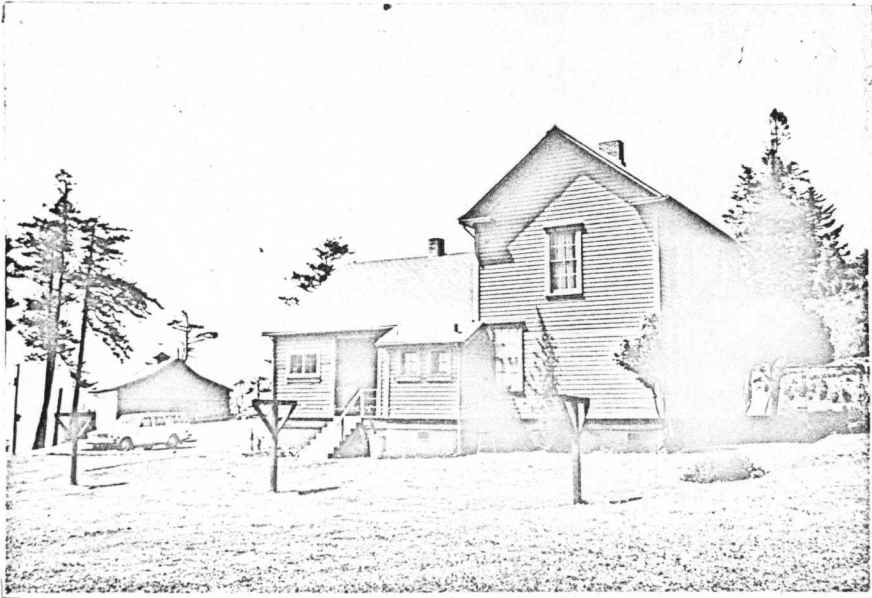
Elisabeth Walton
Park Historian



Attachments

photographs
investigation work sheet
evaluation sheet

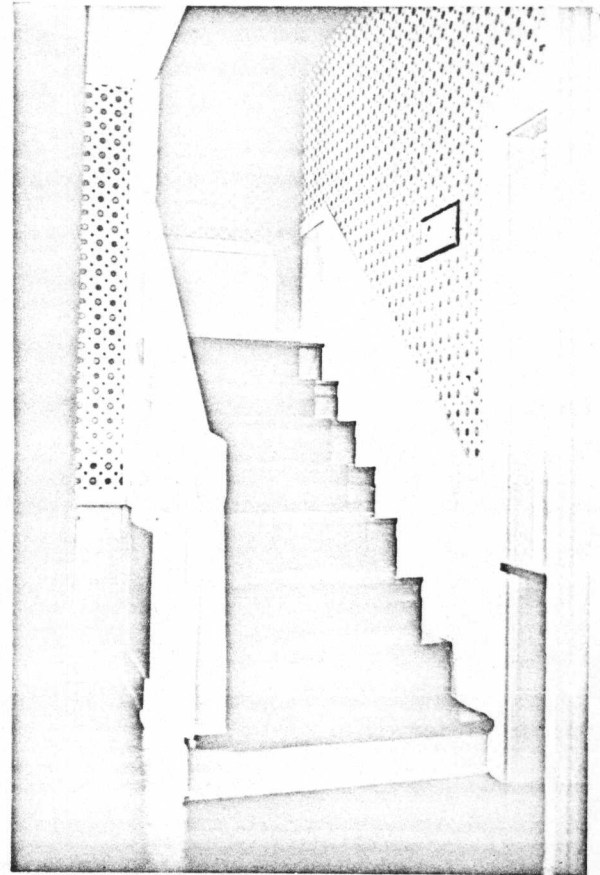
COLEBROOK HOUSE
OPHIR VICINITY
CURRY COUNTY



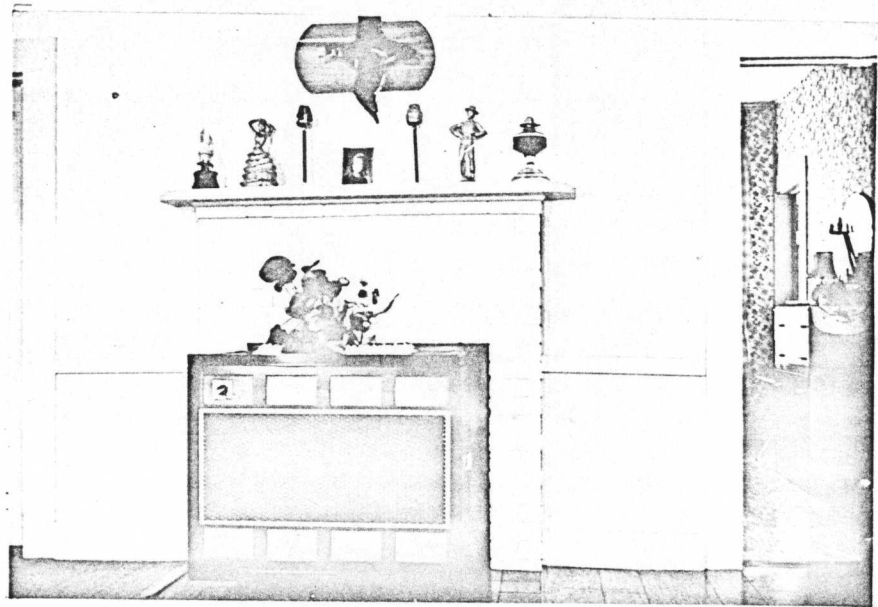
Southeast view, Colebrook House. Shed addition to kitchen wing is new bathroom. Barn in background was constructed after 1942.



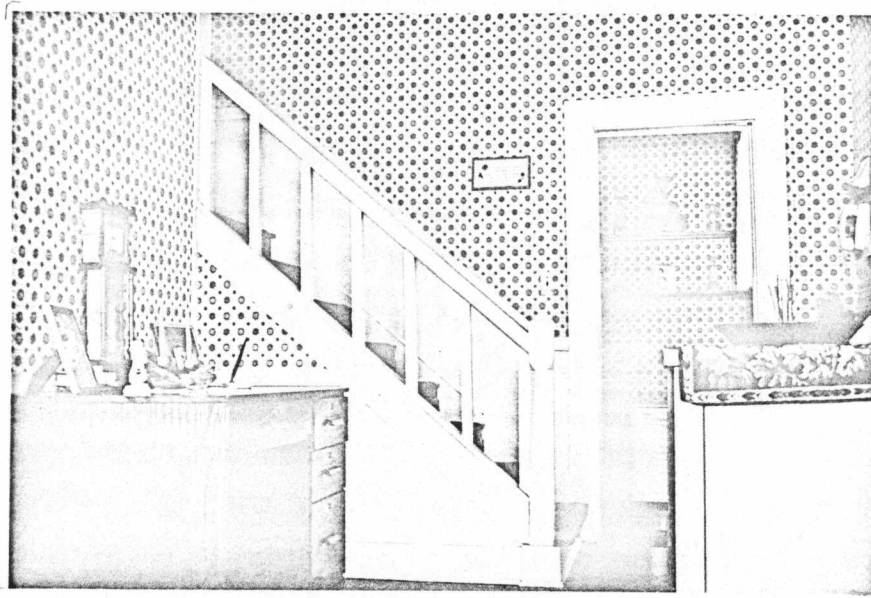
Northwest view, Colebrook House, showing entrance through recessed porch in kitchen wing.



Entrance hall, kitchen wing. Straight side stairs and wainscoting.



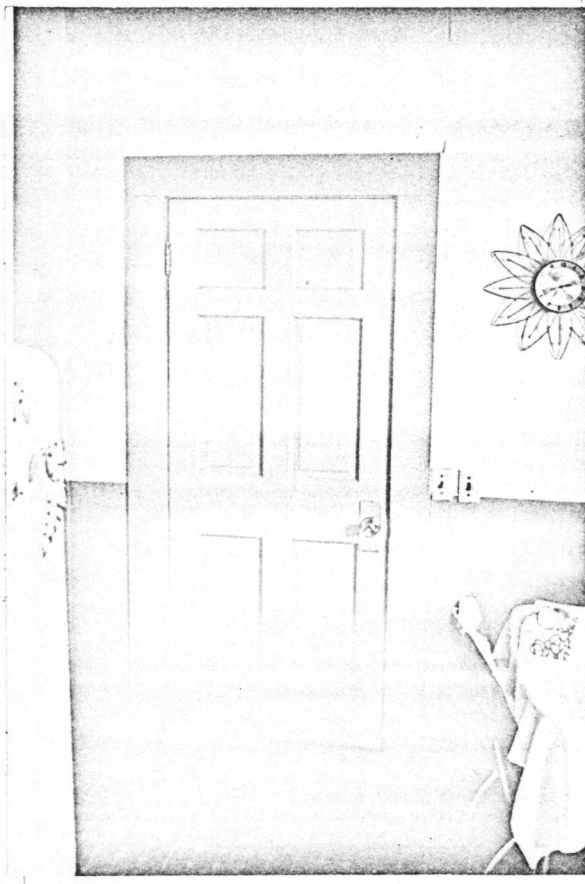
Remodeled chimneypiece. Chimneys originally for stoves?
Parlor. Note hearth, floor boards, wainscot, door frames.



Entrance stair hall in kitchen ell.



4-panel door, upstairs bedroom.



6-panel door, kitchen ell.

AREA INVESTIGATION WORK SHEET

1. County Curry Town or Vicinity Ophir Location East side of U.S. 101, roughly opposite Three Sisters Rocks.
2. Name Colebrook House ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Survey Number ~~XXXXXX~~ Legal NE 1/4 SW 1/4 sec. 32 T. 34 S., R. 14 W., W.M.
3. Original Owner F. W. Colebrook? or Present Owner Mr. and Mrs. Winston W. Chambers
descendent. Colebrook was born in Scotland in 1816. Arrived Oregon ca. 1858. Died 1889. P. O. Box 154, Ophir, Oregon
4. Date or Period Believed slave-runner in Old South. The Chambers are summer residents of property. When in residence, they occupy modern house located down the slope to the west.
5. Architect Estimated by owners to be ca. 1890, vernacular Builder on basis of testimony from Colebrook family and man unknown Present Use Dwelling and stage stop now deceased, who helped cut timbers.
6. Original Use named Charlie Wakeman, Present Use
7. Construction (material): frame. The Chambers acquired the property in 1942 and renovated the old house for their own use. After War, built present vacation house. Colebrook House currently being leased to tenant named Carter.
Number of stories 2 - gable roof, plain
Roof & features above eaves boxed cornice with
Plan - T-shaped. return.
Fenestration - regular, main block; double-hung sash windows with 6 lights over 6, and 4 over 4.
Foundation - covered with weather skirting. No basement.
Entrance (inc. porch) - through recessed porch in kitchen ell, north side.
Exterior trim - clapboards. Shutters are not original.
Interior finishing - plain trim, including 4 and 6-panel doors, wainscot in parlor, straight side stairs with quarter turn, simple railing, chamfered post.
8. Notable Features
9. Historical Significance F.W. Colebrook was a pioneer settler who located a 640-acre homestead near Colebrook Butte north of Bryant Creek. His house is said to have served as a stage station for travelers following the old road along the ridge above, between Ophir and Port Orford. Traces of the old wagon road are still visible on the upper slopes of the property.
10. Physical Condition (inc. renovation estimates) Grounds - well maintained residential.
Exterior - recently repainted, shutters added. The Chambers renovated the house for occupancy since 1942. Walls covered with sheet rock. New material laid over floors and ceilings. Added a bathroom. Original color believed yellow.
11. Value to: Nation State Community County XXX Other
Original barn torn down.
Chimney piece faced with brick. bathroom. Original color believed yellow.
12. Neighborhood Conditions
Vegetation - typical coastal.
View - new barn, new vacation cottage and ocean panorama down slope to west.
Zoning - agricultural.
Access - off U.S. 101, dirt road uphill to "Rocky Reef Ranch."
Existing facilities - electricity, water, sewerage.
Other historic sites in vicinity Houses of similar vintage in Ophir, Port Orford, and on Cape Blanco. An interpretive theme of interest pertains to the nearby site of Frankport, from which cove a narrow gauge railway or tram reportedly led to woods above Colebrook House and brought down tanbark for shipment to San Francisco. As late as WWII, the local bus schedule showed a stop at "Colebrook." A Johnny Moore, cousin of the Chambers' ranch manager, owns an old house up Euchre Creek from Ophir.
13. Possible Uses
Marked site XXX
Recreation
Historical interpretive facility
14. Documentary Sources
Photographs
Drawings
Documents
Publications ✓ McArthur, Lewis A., Oregon Geographic Names (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1965), 140. Dodge, Orvil, Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties (Salem: Capital Printing Co., 1898), 269, 21 (Appen.)
15. Date of investigation and interviews July 22, 1971. Mr. and Mrs. Winston W. Chambers.
Also recommended was Mr. Steve Spoerl, a neighbor, aged 86-87, and Mr. Louis Knapp of Langlois, a member of the newly-organized Curry County Historical Society.

