

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Harney
Theme 5-b
Name (Common) "71" Bar Ranch
(Historic) (same)
Address former Camp Curry site

Present Owner Jean and Carl Mayo
Address Riley, OR
Original Use ranching
Date of Construction 1871

Place Photo Here

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The "71" Bar Ranch, named for its date of establishment in the last century (1871), is one of the few ranches left in the county that has been held continually in the same family for over 100 years. Located at the historic site of the former Camp Curry (abandoned in 1866), the ranch was established by two hardworking brothers.

In 1871, William Carroll Cecil and Logan Cecil from Prineville were trailing their horses and mules towards Grimes, California, looking for good grazing land. Not only was this oasis used by the military in earlier years, but before the white man ever came into the valley it is thought the Indians used the verdant grasslands in this area. This site was called Indian Springs at one time.

The two men probably owned about 640 acres. According to one of their descendants, Carrol and Logan probably originally "squatted" on this land. At that time land was in such abundance and free for use that many felt there was no need to purchase property that incurred taxes. The brothers built a log cabin in 1871 and used it as their headquarters. Later the two brothers married the daughters of A. D. Bedell, a homesteader who lived near the Cecil Ranch.

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Recorded by Royal G. Jackson & Jennifer A. Lee Date 1978

For Harney County Planning Commission and Harney County Historical Society Sources Consulted: See Bibliography Notes: 4.21, 3,48,60,161,162,205,260
with comprehensive planning grant assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Please enclose map. Township 22 S 26 E W Section 30

Unfortunately, their cabin burned in 1890 and another house, now part of the kitchen of the contemporary residence, was constructed by the two families.

At times throughout their partnership the brothers separated. Logan would move to the land in Grimes, California, and Carroll would remain at Currey Springs.

Carroll and his wife Ollie had four children: Homer, James, Louise, and Viva, all of whom grew up on the ranch. By 1917 the family found it no longer economically feasible to sell horses and mules. As the use of automobiles and machines increased, the need for mules and horses decreased. Reluctantly, the family turned to cattle raising as a livelihood.

After Carroll Cecil died leaving no will, the Cecil Ranch was bought by the second oldest son James. James "Pat" Cecil married a Willamette Valley woman, Jessie Bibee, in 1915, and they had two children, Jim and Jean. The Cecils continued ranching and added more land and stock to their holdings.

When the Great Depression of the 1930's hit the country, the family had to mortgage their lands, as many others did too, and move to Burns to find jobs. While in Burns, the daughter Jean met and married Carl Mayo in 1939. The family paid back all the loans on the "71" Bar, and Jean and Carl moved back to the ranch in 1941.

Today the Mayo Ranch still uses the "71" brand and has added even more property and stock to the operation. Jean and Carl still manage the ranch with the help of their son Mark and his wife. It is their hope that the ranch will indefinitely remain within the family and continue its significance in Harney County history.

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County Harney
Theme 4-a
Name
(Common) Camp Currey
(Historic) (same)
Address "71" Bar Ranch

Present Owner Carl and Jean Mayo
Address Riley, OR
Original Use military camp
Date of Construction 1865

Place Photo Here

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Camp Currey was named for Colonel George B. Currey, an officer of the First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, who became commander of the Columbia District on the death of General Wright. The camp was a temporary installation established at Indian Springs on what is now known as Silver Creek, about forty-five miles from Camp Harney. The camp was never very important militarily in Harney County and in fact did not have a formally declared reservation at the time of its abandonment. It operated about nine months, being abandoned in May of 1866. During this period it was occupied by several military units as follows:

- September 30, 1865: Companies D and I, 4th California Infantry
Detachment of Company E, 1st Washington Territorial Infantry
Detachment of Company K, 1st Oregon Infantry
- November 30, 1865: 2nd Battalion, 14th U.S. Infantry
Company K, 1st Oregon Infantry

Camp Currey was commanded on September 30, 1865, by Captain L. S. Scott, Company D, 4th California Infantry. On November 30, 1865, a new commander assumed the post, 1st Lieutenant Frank W. Perry of Company E, 2nd Battalion,

(over) continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Royal G. Jackson and Jennifer A. Lee Date 1978

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):
See Bibliography Notes: 12,2,3,20,48,60,122,161,
162,260

For Harney County Planning Commission and Harney County Historical Society with comprehensive planning grant assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Please enclose map. Township 22 N S 26 E W Section 30

14th U.S. Infantry. Commander Perry continued in command until the post was abandoned in May of 1866.

The century-old "71" Bar Ranch occupies the site of the military camp today. J. C. Cecil recalled in 1943 that over the years the family had dug up foundation stones of about forty cabins which had made up the camp. He thought that the cabins were about 10 by 12 feet and probably constructed of hewn logs. An excavation exists on the hillside behind the ranch buildings that may have been used as a cellar or storehouse. Cecil remembered at least three graves that existed in back of the camp. Indian Springs had long been used by the Indians in the arid high desert country when the whites arrived to Harney County. A major east-west artery for transportation also passed by the Springs during the period of pioneer settlement in Harney County. Nothing remains today of Camp Currey.