

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon	
COUNTY: Harney	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,941,0004	DATE 9/10/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Pete French Round Barn

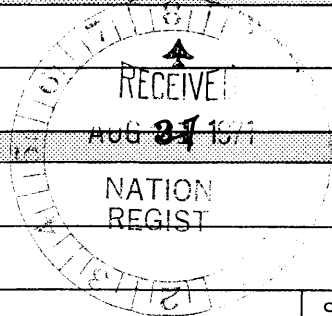
AND/OR HISTORIC: Barton Lake Ranch Barn

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Diamond Sta. (Burns) vicinity

STATE: Oregon 97722 CODE: 41 COUNTY: Harney CODE: 025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historic feature</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Oregon Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 1230 S. W. Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Oregon 97205 CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Oregon Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 1230 S. W. Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Oregon 97205 CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Oregon State Highway Division, Parks & Recreation Section

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Harney

ENTRY NUMBER: 71,941,0004

DATE: 9/10/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The enclosed corral built by cattleman Pete French in 1883 or 1884 ca. 50 miles SE of Burns is, today, unique among utilitarian structures in the state. In French's livestock operation, nearly 300 head of horse and mule colts were foaled each year. Some of the horses and mules were sold, but most were kept to work the spread. Used for exercising and training horses during the winter, the barn was placed on high rangeland for drainage purposes. It is believed to have been the largest of three similar enclosed corrals once standing in Harney County, and it is the only one to have survived intact. Another was sited on French's "P" Ranch and was torn down in the 1920 s. A third was located on the Three Mile Ranch in Catlow Valley.

The Barton Lake Ranch barn is 100 feet in diameter and encloses a masonry corral 64 feet in diameter and a 16-foot-wide circular paddock inside the containing wall. In the dry weather of the High Desert country, the barn has remained in good condition, generally. In 1918 the conical roof was recovered with nearly 50,000 cedar shingles.

The masonry corral stands about 9 feet high. The first four of approximately 18 courses of stone were carefully laid up. The remainder were laid somewhat more hastily and chinked with mud. Doorways and openings in the corral wall are simply framed with 6 x 24-inch lumber. The paddock, or containing wall of studs and horizontal planks is covered with boards and battens. To mark an entry way on the northeast, a gable was built over a sector of the roof.

The most striking feature of the interior is the roof support system. The frame is carried by trusses attached to plates atop the corral wall and by 14 peeled juniper poles which describe a circle inside the corral. Braces radiating in umbrella fashion from the center pole, also a juniper tree, support the apex of the cone. The barn is 25 feet in height at this point, roughly equivalent to a three-story building.

The source of milled lumber for the construction is not documented, but the lumber is reported to have been hauled from Fort Bidwell in California, or the Robie sawmill north of Burns where timber was available.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1883 - 1916

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In California, around 1870, the old Mexican land grants were breaking up and cattlemen looked for open rangeland into which they might expand. Return of U. S. Army regulars to Oregon after the War Between the States appeared to remove the threat of Indian uprisings East of the Cascades, and the Basin-Range area north of the California border began to be investigated.

The setting of one of the most extensive ranching operations established in Oregon as a result of this outreach was the grass lands of the Blitzen Valley in Harney County. The Donner und Blitzen River drains the Steens Mountain (actually a massive fault scarp 9,000 feet in elevation) into Lake Malheur.

"Pete" French was born John William French on a small sheep farm near Red Bluff, California in 1849. He was foreman for the powerful Sacramento Valley wheat rancher Dr. Hugh James Glenn, when, in 1872, he and six Mexican vaqueros were instructed to ride north with 1200 head of Shorthorn cows, some bulls, horses and stores to transplant Glenn's livestock operation to Southern Oregon.

French selected the Blitzen Valley, acquired land and equipment, hauled lumber, raised buildings and erected fences. Through draining and irrigating and creative management, he improved both the land and his cattle. He is credited with being one of the first big cattlemen of the West to breed beef toward the consumer's taste. His steers were driven some 200 miles to Winnemucca, Nevada, where they were classed on the market among the "reputation brands."

In 1883 Dr. Glenn was killed, and the French-Glenn Livestock Company was formed by Pete French and Dr. Glenn's heirs. At about this time, the Barton Lake Ranch barn was erected for the purpose of working horses during the bitterly cold winters. The barn is known to have been completed and in use in 1884.

Before French's own murder in 1897, the Livestock Company controlled more than 130,000 acres of land, 30,000 head of cattle, 3,000 horses and mules; water-holes, streams and vantage points. The combined holdings were known by the name of "P" Ranch. After the "P" Ranch headquarters burned in 1946, the Round Barn at Barton Lake became the most potent surviving landmark of the Pete French era.

Today, a major portion of the former "P" Ranch is administered by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife as Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The rest is under mixed ownership, predominantly private. The Round Barn, recently acquired by the Oregon Historical Society to be restored and maintained as a historic feature, falls within an area of private ownership.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conkling, Charles, Jackman, E. R., and Scharff, John, Steens Mountain in Oregon's High Desert Country (Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1967), 143-149.
 Corning, Howard McKinley, Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1956), 94.
 French, Giles, Cattle Country of Peter French (Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1965).
 Prospector, Cowhand, and Sodbuster, Historic Places Associated with the Mining, Ranching, and Farming Frontiers in the Trans-Mississippi West, Vol. XI, The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1967), 232. French's "P" Ranch is listed among "Other Sites Considered."

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 08 ' 00 "	118 ° 38 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres (2.5 in fee, ca. 3 under easement)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elisabeth Walton, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: July 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name R. C. [Signature]

Title State Highway Engineer

Date Jul 28 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 10 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

SEP 3 1971

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

130-2-71
 HHS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Harney	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 11,941,0004	DATE 9/10/71

(Number all entries)

PETE FRENCH ROUND BARN

2. Location

The property is located in SE 1/4 SE 1/4 sec. 16, T. 28 S., R. 33 E., of the Willamette Meridian, in Harney County, Oregon.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

ca. 1960

National Park Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Code: 11





③

NPS Number 71.9.41.0004

Title: Pete French Round
Barn

Loc. Harney Co, Oregon
Detail of roof
support

②

OREGON

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PETE FRENCH ROUND BARN

HARNEY COUNTY

Spec. Ht. Line Comp. Site Broad

Width 16 ft Depth 15 ft Focus 55 %

Illus No. A228

Jacket
533-183

②



2
NPS Number 71.9.41.0004

Title: Pete French Round

Barn

Loc. Harney Co, Oregon

Interior view

OREGON

PETE FRENCH ROUND BARN

HARNEY COUNTY

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER