

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cabin Creek Ranch
other names/site number 10VY143

2. Location

street & number Payette National Forest not for publication
city, town Krassel Ranger District vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Valley code 85 zip code 83677

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>20</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Wanda D. B. Brown 4-12-90
Signature of certifying official Date
USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Thomas J. Allen 11/30/89
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Autumnelle Ghee

July 27, 1990

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/Single Dwelling
- Domestic/Secondary Structure
- Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuilding
- Agriculture/Animal Facility
- Agriculture/Agricultural Field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood/Log

walls Wood/Log

roof Wood/Shake

other Stone/Cobbles

Metal/Aluminum

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION

Cabin Creek Ranch is a rural historic property located in a remote portion of central Idaho. The ranch was occupied from 1894 until 1974, and is an exceptional example of homesteading and ranching in the Idaho wilderness.

This 620 acre property is located in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness of central Idaho. Cabin Creek is a north-to-south flowing tributary of Big Creek, the largest west-to-east flowing tributary of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The mouth of Cabin Creek is approximately 15 miles from the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The Cabin Creek valley contains a natural meadow along the drainage which extends about 200 meters across the valley. It is the largest expanse of flat land along the Big Creek drainage. Several small, intermittent drainages empty into Cabin Creek.

Vegetation in the Cabin Creek area is dense, due in part to the system of irrigation ditches developed since the late 1890's. Grasses, willows, cottonwood, and Ponderosa pine are common on the ranch property, while the steep hillsides to the east and west are covered by brush.

Natural conditions favored the development of a complex operation at Cabin Creek. The original ranch was a small permanent homestead. Successive owners expanded the operation and in some cases combined homesteads. In the 1930's Cabin Creek Ranch was consolidated into one property for cattle ranching. The ranch was divided again in 1953, recombined in 1963, and operated as a guest ranch for hunters during the 1960's and 1970's. Cabin Creek Ranch was acquired by the Forest Service in 1974, for inclusion in the Wilderness area.

A consultation and negotiation process between the Forest Service, State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Keeper of the Register resulted in an approved action plan for the Cabin Creek Ranch property. Part of this action plan called for the removal of all nonsignificant features within the Cabin Creek landscape.

See continuation sheet

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Over 50 cultural features were identified within the boundaries of Cabin Creek Ranch. These features range from small aboriginal lithic scatters to an airfield. In accordance with wilderness management plans, almost all the recent nonsignificant buildings and structures have been removed. Significant historic components of the rural historic landscape were retained. Those features deemed historically significant are associated with early ranching activities. Contributing resources within the Cabin Creek Ranch District include buildings, structures, ruins, and sites which retain architectural value, historic character, or historic archaeological potential.

The Cabin Creek Ranch District is organized into three major locales corresponding to overlapping periods of occupation. The earliest occupation was at the south end of the site. Cabin ruins and foundations date from 1894 to approximately 1910 in this area. Another set of buildings was constructed from 1910 to the mid 1920's. These features were located in the lower half of the property, but one homestead, the Bellingham place, was located in the north part of the property. A few buildings were constructed during the 1930's in the central site area, and most of the latter guest ranch facilities also occupied the northern and central portion of the ranch. These late barns, buildings and cabins were built after 1953.

Significant buildings in the Cabin Creek Ranch District represent the survival of log, frame, and board-and-batten construction techniques in an isolated setting. The earliest buildings exhibit types of folk construction, and used materials native to the area. Cabins built during the early 1930's represent diluted, late survivals of these folk techniques. With the economic shift to big game hunting and the use of aircraft, the native folk pattern changed dramatically. Some of the buildings constructed during the guest ranch period exhibited a local adaptation of the nostalgic log cabin revival architecture still popular in Idaho today. Though the style was reminiscent of earlier buildings, the construction techniques were very different.

Building materials such as concrete, metal roofing, finished lumber and large glass windows were flown into the ranch, and drastically altered the native folk architecture. Frame construction was employed for the majority of new buildings. Although log construction was used in a few recent buildings, they differed from earlier structures. Instead of the traditional

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alternating tiers of horizontal logs, tiers of wall logs were laid even with one another in what is known as "false corner timbering". This technique suggests the idea of true log construction, but is a much weaker system.

In two cases, local informants indicate that cabins were built in a single day for E. K. Hollenbeak. Small frame buildings with vertical siding and horizontal clapboards were built for staff housing. No attempt was made to build these cabins in a style compatible with existing buildings. Another distinct change in later construction techniques involves repair and remodeling of existing buildings. In many such cases materials were not matched, and buildings were patched or sided with any available material, however incongruous.

Almost all the intrusive, nonsignificant structures have been removed. One noncontributing but compatible cabin was retained for administrative purposes. There are three prehistoric archaeological sites at the south end of the property. These small lithic scatters have been collected by occupants over the years and have been severely impacted by cultivation. Although three sites were recorded in 1971, later surveys were able to relocate only one of these sites. There is also a poorly defined rock feature in the central area that may have aboriginal association.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The first known occupants of Cabin Creek Ranch were the Caswell brothers, Ben, Lew, and Dan. The Caswells were in the Big Creek area by 1894, and possibly earlier. These men constructed the original buildings which consisted of a small cabin, a rootcellar, a blacksmithy, and other outbuildings. The brothers made a living by trapping, saddlemaking, selling hides, and prospecting for gold. They raised hay and kept a few cattle, horses, and sheep on their property. They hunted, fished and planted a garden near their cabin. Remnants from this period of Cabin Creek Ranch history include Structures 30 - 34 and Features 5, 6, and 12 at the south end of the District.

After the Caswell brothers made their big strike in 1901, John Conyers bought the ranch and made several improvements. GLO survey notes for 1906 refer to Conyers' place near the mouth of Cabin Creek. He sold the ranch in 1910 to Orlando Mel Abel and John Routson. Routson sold out after a year. Archie Bacon a former

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railroad engineer, and Abel's sister Elizabeth Bellingham filed homestead entries on land to the north and east of Abel's place in 1917 and 1919. When Abel was murdered in 1920, Abel's nephew, Edward M. Barnes, inherited his land and cattle. Conyers and his wife came back to Cabin Creek and ran the place for Bellingham. Local tradition holds that the Abel, Bacon, and Bellingham homesteads were run as one operation for several years. There remained a small portion of land between the Bellingham and Abel/Bacon homesteads. Conyers filed an application on 40 acres south of Bellingham's homestead. In 1922 the Forest Service examined the land and reported it was unimproved and used for grazing. The Forest Service recommended increasing the homestead to 95 acres to avoid isolating parcels of National Forest Lands. From 1924 to 1930 four different men filed for Homestead Entry on this parcel (John Conyers in 1924, Chas. Heffner in 1925, Ernest Elliot in 1927 and Merle Wallace in 1930). Conyers relinquished the land in late 1925, when his employer, Bellingham, sold her last 160 head of cattle. The entry was cancelled for Heffner and Elliot. Only Wallace proved up on the property and his homestead was patented in 1937.

Structures from this period of Cabin Creek history include Structure 29 (Conyer's Cabin), Structure 20 (Post Office), Structure 4 (Conyer's Second Cabin/Wallace's Lodge), Structures 1-3 (Bellingham's Cabin, Shed, and Stable), and Features 1 (Historic Dump), and 8 (Historic Foundation). Structures 2 and 4 were dismantled in the early 1970's. Features 13, 14, 15 and 16 (Agricultural Fields) may have been used at this time.

The Bacon homestead was sold to James A. Kesgard in 1928. In 1934 it was sold to Merle Wallace, who added it to his homestead in the central portion of the site. Wallace consolidated this land with his own homestead to the northeast. He ran both homesteads as the Flying W Ranch. It is possible that Bellingham leased the other two homesteads to Wallace at this time. This seems probable as the location of the Wallace air field was on Bellinghams' homestead. The original air field was located in the area of Feature 16. Cultivation of this field has eradicated surface traces of the first airfield. The second and current airfield was built in its present location sometime after 1939.

Structures from this period of Cabin Creek history include Structure 15 (Wallace's Cabin), Structure 19 (Spring House), Structure 21 (Tool Shed), Structure 23 (Outhouse), and Feature 11

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(Air Field). At some point prior to 1930 Wallace lived in Structure 20 (Post Office), and moved the Post Office to its present location after 1936. Wallace also added on to the two story cabin built by Conyers (Structure 4) at some time after 1925.

Bellingham sold her interest in the Bellingham and Abel homesteads to Edward A Barnes, in 1949. Barnes immediately sold the land and it passed through three owners before it was purchased by L. K. Hollenbeak in 1956. Hollenbeak built some cabins on the north end of Cabin Creek, and used the property as a base camp for his outfitting business until 1963. Meanwhile the Wallaces sold out to Powerline Construction Company of Pocatello, Idaho in 1953. Rex Lanham, one of Powerlines' executives, purchased this property from the company in 1963. At that time he also purchased the rest of the Cabin Creek property from Hollenbeak. Lanham operated Cabin Creek Ranch for several years, and raised hay, developed the irrigation system, and grazed stock. He added facilities for guests and used the ranch as a base camp for his hunting and fishing guide services.

Structures built during this period of Cabin Creek occupation include Structure 5 (Red Cabin), Structure 6 (Woodshed), Structure 7 (Grey Cabin), Structure 8 (Hangar), Structure 9 (Skinning House), Structure 10 (Horse Barn), Structure 11 (Sawmill), Structure 12 (Outhouse), Structure 13 (Equipment Shed), Structure 14 (Motel/Duplex), Structure 16 (Laundry Annex), Structure 17 (Managers House), Structure 18 (Lodge), Structure 21 (Cabin), Structure 22 (Outhouse), Structure 24 (Powerhouse), Structure 25 (Lanham Cabin), Structure 26 (Rootcellar), Structure 27 (Barn), Structure 28 (Hay Derrick), Feature 2 (Sawmill Site), Feature 3 (Cement Pad), Feature 4 (Irrigation Gate), Feature 7 (Hydro Dam), Feature 9 (Rock Feature), and Feature 10 (Corral).

In 1974 the USDA Forest Service purchased the Cabin Creek holdings from Rex Lanham for a reputed 1.6 million dollars. Lanham used some of the buildings on the property to construct packing crates (Structures 4 and 6), and the Forest Service removed a few structures (Structure 4 remains, Structure 12, Structure 28, and Structure 2), for health and safety purposes at that time. From 1974 until 1982 an intermittent caretaker lived at Cabin Creek Ranch. Since then the ranch was occasionally used by Forest Service work crews or cooperating agencies, such as the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. There has also been some unauthorised use of the buildings by outfitters in the Big Creek area. In 1979

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the Forest Service drew up a plan to manage Cabin Creek Ranch according to the standards outlined by proposed wilderness legislation. The actions outlined in the Environmental Assessment Report include disposing of all improvements incompatible with the Wilderness designation.

Cabin Creek Ranch is a complex collection of structures spread over a large area. The first team to record Cabin Creek assigned a number to each feature. Successive recordings used this system, and most data on Cabin Creek Ranch is organized according to this method. Although the cultural landscape has changed since the original recording, original and secondary site documentation refers to this numbering system. This nomination will continue to utilize the system, noting when changes have occurred. The following descriptions detail Contributing and Noncontributing cultural features present at Cabin Creek Ranch. A concise list of these features is located with other documentation at the end of this nomination.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Structure 20 Post Office

This building was originally located in the lower central portion of the Cabin Creek property. An informant claims it was located on the foundation known as Feature 8, and was occupied by Elizabeth Bellingham prior to 1919. A 1906 GLO survey team noted John Conyers had a cabin near the location of Feature 8. The original location of the cabin was on the homestead of Archie Bacon who filed in 1917. The style of construction is different from that of Bellingham's later residence, and it is likely that the Post Office was built by Bacon or Conyers.

The Post Office was occupied by Merle Wallace prior to 1936. At that time the Post Office was moved to its present location in an irrigated field. It was used as a tack shed, and Mrs. Wallace cooked for ranch hands and boarders under the gable porch. There is no record of the cabin's use as an official U. S. Post Office.

The Post Office is a two story log building with an extended gable, a Rocky Mountain style cabin. The round logs are 1/2 dovetail notched. The exterior logs have mud chinking with some split poles held in place by both wire and cut nails. The front of the structure has fieldstone piers under the corners and gable

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supports, while the rest of the foundation is sill logs. The floor is unfinished wooden planks, with floor joists that are not tied to sill logs. The interior walls are chinked with split poles and newspapers dated 1928-1935. The roof has log purlins and a log ridge pole. Boards, felt paper and shakes overlay the purlins. The second story loft is supported on log joists with tenon notching. The door frame and three windows are framed with milled lumber. A lean-to was added to the rear of the cabin. Round logs with square notching supported a metal roof.

The Forest Service made an assessment of structures at Cabin Creek Ranch in 1987. At this time an action plan was developed which called for stabilization of historically significant structures. In 1988 stabilization was completed on the Post Office in compliance with restoration standards for historic structures. At that time the rear lean-to, and interior plank floor were removed. The decayed piers were replaced by concrete footings with rock piers mortared to them. The rotted sill logs were replaced with 1/2 dovetail notched logs removed from a recent barn, and painted with a preservative. The interior was chinked with quarter split poles and mortise slots were sealed. The exterior logs were chinked with alder poles, local clay, twigs, grass and moss. The roof was removed and the substrate replaced. Shakes were taken from a modern building on site and used to shingle the Post Office. The doorway was reframed and the door was enlarged and rehung. Broken panes of glass were replaced in the three framed windows. The stabilization undertaken on the Post Office is consistent with original construction methods, and all materials used during this project were obtained on site, as were the original materials. There is a remnant apple orchard near the Post Office and some rhubarb, as well. These probably postdate the move from the original location after 1936.

CONTRIBUTING SITES

Structure 1 Bellingham Cabin (Ruin)

This cabin was probably the second residence of Elizabeth Bellingham at Cabin Creek, and the prove-up cabin for her homestead. It is located on the northern end of the Cabin Creek property within the homestead boundary patented in 1920. The cabin was probably built by Bellingham's brother O.M. Abel, in 1919. Although the Bellingham Cabin is badly deteriorated, it is possible to tell the cabin was a single story log structure. The lower half

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of the walls are four logs high. Some of these logs are peeled, and some have been adzed. The corner notching is 1/2 square. The walls are 1/4 pole chinked on the interior and the walls are partially covered with cardboard. Newspaper fragments behind the chinking are dated 1936. The upper portion of the walls is frame construction covered with vertical boards and shingles. There are two openings for windows which are covered with metal screening. The door is missing, but the doorway was framed with rough sawn lumber nailed to studs with wire nails. The sill logs rest directly on the ground, and the floor is rough sawn lumber laid directly on the ground, with no floor joists evident. The gable roof was supported by split pole purlins and a round ridge pole. There was a double layer of shakes on roof which may have been insulated with dirt at one time.

The cabin is badly deteriorated and is covered with hops. It is associated with Structures 2 and 3.

Structure 2 Woodshed (Removed)

This building was demolished by the Forest Service in 1974. It was originally built with a pole frame and canvas cover, and was associated with Structures 1 and 3, as part of the Bellingham Homestead which dates to approximately 1920. There may be historic archaeological deposits in the area where this structure was located.

Structure 3 "Stable" (Ruin)

This building was a one story log structure built prior to 1920. The building is located near the Bellingham cabin and is constructed in a similar style. It was probably built by O. M. Abel. It is constructed of peeled and unpeeled logs, some of which have been adzed. The corners are 1/2 square notched and there is no evidence of chinking. The gable roof was supported by a log ridge pole with no purlins. There were pole rafters covered with rough sawn lumber. Roofing paper was laid over the lumber and held in place by lath. A window on the north wall was framed with poles and lumber, while a large opening on the south wall was unframed. A large doorway on the north wall was partially framed with rough sawn lumber. The sill logs rest directly on the dirt floor. Informants claim there was a canvas breezeway connecting Buildings 1-3 in 1920.

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This building has collapsed and is not a candidate for stabilization. There may be subsurface archaeological materials in the area of Structure 3.

Structure 4 Conyers Cabin/Wallace's Lodge (dismantled)

This building was a two story log cabin built by Conyers and later remodelled by Wallace. Its location on the Bellingham property suggests that it was constructed when Conyers returned to the ranch after the death of Abel in 1920. Conyers filed for a homestead just south of this property in 1924 and relinquished the claim in 1925, so it is probable that Structure 4 was built between 1920 and 1924, while he was employed by Bellingham. Wallace modified the building with a one story extension some time later. This addition was a balloon frame with clapboard siding. Structure 4 was demolished in 1974 by Lanham to construct packing crates when he sold the property to the Forest Service. Although none of this structure remains there may be historic archaeological deposits in the site area.

Structure 29 Conyer's Cabin (Ruin)

Conyers Cabin is located in the lower central portion of the Cabin Creek property. Local tradition holds that this cabin was originally located on the stone foundation known as Feature 8. The Cabin has obviously been moved from its original foundation and is one of the oldest buildings at Cabin Creek Ranch. An informant states this cabin was originally located near the mouth of Cabin Creek, possibly on the foundation known as Structure 33, and moved to its present location by O. M. Abel. This cabin was used to store Abel's body after his murder in 1920.

Conyers Cabin is a one story log building constructed of peeled logs with steeple notching. The exterior has mud and split pole chinking, and the cabin sits directly on the ground surface, with a small drainage flowing through it. There is an extended gable roof, in the Rocky Mountain style. The roof is supported by a log ridge pole and log purlins. The double layer roof has a split plank interior and a shake exterior, with dirt insulation between the two. There are no windows. The door frame was originally pegged in place, but was repositioned using wire nails. The door is missing.

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Conyers Cabin is badly deteriorated. The lower wall logs were exposed to standing water for an unknown period of time, the gable porch roof is missing and the cabin has slumped. Conyers Cabin is not a candidate for stabilization.

Structure 30 Blacksmith Shop (Ruin)

The blacksmith shop is located at the southern end of the property and is badly deteriorated. It is situated in the area used by the Caswell brothers, Conyers, and Abel. Conyers made a living as a blacksmith after he left Cabin Creek, and he may have constructed this building when he originally lived on the ranch from 1903 through 1910.

The blacksmith shop was a one story log building with steeple notching. There was a gable roof, supported by a log ridgepole and log purlins. The roof was covered by shakes. There is a dry stone masonry foundation. The building has collapsed, and further information regarding windows, chinking or the interior is not available. A superficial examination suggests similarities in construction with Structure 29, Conyers Cabin.

This building is in very poor condition and is not a candidate for stabilization. There is the possibility that historic archaeological deposits remain in this area.

Structure 31 Rose Bush Cabin (Ruin)

This badly deteriorated building is located at the southern end of the property in the area used by the Caswells, Conyers, Routson and Abel. The Rose Bush Cabin is situated in the area of earliest occupation. Buildings in this section of Cabin Creek Ranch date from 1894 through 1910. The building is a one story log cabin, with either hog-trough, hog-pen or square corner notching. The gable roof is supported by a log ridge pole. The roof is covered with shakes. No other features are visible due to the deteriorated condition of the building. There is a remnant garden area near this cabin. Rhubarb and lilac still grow wild near here.

This structure is not a candidate for stabilization, but there may be subsurface cultural deposits in the area.

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Structure 32 Stone Foundation or Cellar

This river cobble structure is located in the southern end of Cabin Creek Ranch, in the area used by the Caswells, Conyers, Routson and Abel. Buildings in this section of Cabin Creek Ranch date from 1894 through 1910. There was undoubtedly a wooden superstructure, but no evidence of it remains. It is possible that historic archaeological deposits may be present in the area of Structure 32.

Structure 33 Cabin Foundation

This river cobble structure is located in the southern end of Cabin Creek Ranch, in the area used by the Caswells, Conyers, Routson and Abel. Buildings in this section of Cabin Creek Ranch date from 1894 through 1910. This structure is adjacent to two root cellar foundations, and was probably a cabin foundation. An informant claims that this foundation was the original site of Conyers Cabin (Structure 29). It is possible that historic archaeological deposits may be present in the area of Structure 33.

Structure 34 Cellar Foundation

This river cobble structure is located in the southern end of Cabin Creek Ranch, in the area used by the Caswells, Conyers, Routson and Abel. Structure 34 is associated with a cabin foundation, and another root cellar foundation. Buildings in this section of Cabin Creek Ranch date from 1894 through 1910. There was undoubtedly a wooden superstructure, but no evidence of it remains. It is possible that historic archaeological deposits may be present in the area of Structure 34.

Feature 1 Historic Dump

This feature is a dump adjacent to Structures 1 - 3 at the northern end of the property. This dump may be associated with these structures, which are part of the original Bellingham homestead. Materials from this occupation would date from 1919. Recent surveys have noted only modern trash at this feature, but it is possible earlier materials may lie underneath recent debris. For this reason Feature 1 is included with other contributing sites. It is possible that historic archaeological deposits may be present in the area of Feature 1.

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Feature 8 Cabin Foundation

This river cobble foundation is located in the lower central portion of the Cabin Creek property. An informant claims the Post Office (Structure 20), was located on the foundation known as Structure 8, and was occupied by Elizabeth Bellingham prior to 1919. A 1906 GLO survey team noted John Conyers had a cabin in the vicinity of Structure 8. It is possible that subsurface historic artifacts may be present at this Structure. There may also be a dump and privy in this area, but no surface indications of such features were noted.

Feature 12 Agricultural Field

Feature 12, at the mouth of Cabin Creek, was the earliest land to be cultivated at Cabin Creek. This field was originally planted by the Caswells, and was probably used by each successive occupant, since it is the largest expanse of fertile, flat ground in the area. There are still plow furrows in this area which date to the Lanham occupation between 1953 and 1974.

Feature 13 Agricultural Field

Feature 13 is a field located in the lower central area of the property, in the vicinity of Structure 29, Conyer's Cabin. This cabin straddles a diverted stream or irrigation ditch in Feature 13.

Feature 14 Agricultural Field

Feature 14 is a field located in the upper central area of the property. Feature 4, an irrigation gate probably diverted some water to this field.

Feature 15 Agricultural Field

Feature 15 is located in the upper area of the Cabin Creek Property on the original Bellingham homestead. This area was probably cultivated as a field at different times in the past. Recently a shop, and corral were sited in this area.

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Feature 16 Agricultural Field

Feature 16 is a large field located in the upper northeast portion of the property, on the original Bellingham homestead. This is the location of the original air field. All traces of the airfield have been erased by cultivation.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Feature 5 Rock Alignment

This feature is located in the southern end of Cabin Creek Ranch, in the area used by the Caswells, Conyers, Routson and Abel. Feature 5 is composed of river cobbles and probably represents clearing of an adjacent field. Buildings in this section of Cabin Creek Ranch date from 1894 through 1910. It is possible that historic archaeological deposits may be present in the area of Feature 5.

Feature 6 Stone Wall

This feature is located in the southern end of Cabin Creek Ranch, in the area used by the Caswells, Conyers, Routson and Abel. Feature 6 is a dry laid stone wall of river cobbles. The wall holds up a bank above a dirt road. Buildings in this section of Cabin Creek Ranch date from 1894 through 1910. It is possible that historic archaeological deposits may be present in the area of Feature 6.

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Structure 15 Wallace's Cabin

This structure is located in the central area of the Cabin Creek Ranch District. It was built by Wallace after he filed for homestead entry in 1930. The Forest Service claim investigation in 1936 notes a three room building under construction in this area. Wallaces Cabin originally had three rooms and was used by Mrs Wallace as a home after her divorce from Blackie Wallace around 1945. She lived in one room and rented the other two. This square 1 story cabin is constructed from peeled logs which are adzed on the interior surfaces. Some of the corner notching is half square, but most is false. There is a formal foundation of angular granite and river cobbles bound with cement. The interior floor consists

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of a cement pad poured within the log walls. There is concrete chinking on the exterior and split poles were quartered and nailed to the interior walls as chinking. The gable roof is supported by a log ridge pole and five purlins. The purlins extend two feet over the north and south elevations of the cabin walls. The roof consists of vertically placed sawmilled boards covered with aluminum sheeting. The interior ceiling is polished knotty pine tongue and grooved boards. There is a six-light double hung horizontal sash window on the east and west walls, a two-light casement and a four-light casement on the south wall, a six-light casement on the northwall which looks into Structure 16. A door on the north wall has been boarded shut, while the door on the west wall is made of pine planks. An informant says the cabin was remodelled in 1955, and again after 1963. When the Lanham's acquired the property in 1963 they jacked the cabin up, replaced the sill logs, installed the concrete floor. They apparently eliminated an exterior door, put in larger windows and added the river cobble fireplace and chimney. Lanham also added the Laundry Annex, Structure 16, in 1965 (see below). The Wallace Cabin had been used as a tack room at some point and a 1982 survey noted the presence of horse blankets and saddle racks.

In 1989 the Laundry Annex was removed from Wallace's Cabin. At that time other stabilization was carried out on Structure 15. The roof was repaired, a window screen nailed to an exterior window was removed, all electrical wiring removed and some quarter pole chinking that had fallen from the interior walls was replaced.

NONCONTRIBUTING SITES

Feature 9 Talus Pit

This rock feature is located in the central portion of the property, adjacent to a north-south running road. This feature may be aboriginal in nature, possibly utilized as a hunting blind. The proximity of the feature to the road may argue a historic context, the most probable being road clearing activity.

Feature 11 Airfield

The current airfield lies in the northeastern portion of the Cabin Creek property. The original airfield was farther north. The first time an air strip shows up on any maps is in 1934 on the USGS Payette National Forest map. At that time the "Cabin Creek Forest

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Service Landing Field" was located northeast of the Bellingham homestead, on the bench above the junction of Cabin Creek and Cow Creek. The 1938 USGS Payette National Forest map has the same site marked "Cabin Creek Landing Field". In 1939 the Division of Aeronautics map for the State of Idaho has Cabin Creek listed as an "Auxilliary Private U. S. Forest Service Emergency Field". The airfield is packed dirt and is still in use today.

10VY49 Aboriginal Lithic Scatter

This lithic scatter is located at the southern end of the Cabin Creek property near the original Caswell holdings. The site is located on the east side of Cabin Creek. In 1972, four artifacts were collected from this site. In 1979 a few flakes enabled survey crews to relocate the site. This site is severely impacted by cultivation and appears not to have subsurface deposits.

10VY50 Aboriginal Lithic Scatter

This lithic scatter is located on the west bank of Cabin Creek on an alluvial fan. It is a small lithic scatter which was recorded in 1972. No trace of the site was visible in 1989. Former residents of Cabin Creek collected artifacts from this site.

10VY51 Aboriginal Lithic Scatter

This small lithic scatter is located on the alluvial fan at the mouth of Cabin Creek, at the southern end of Feature 13, an agricultural field. The site is located on the east side of Cabin Creek, on a terrace above site 10VY49. One artifact was collected from this site in 1972. Attempts to relocate the site failed.

NONEXTANT BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND OBJECTS

A large number of structures at Cabin Creek Ranch have been removed. Structures were built, moved to other localities, modified, or razed according to the owners needs at the time. Many of the nonextant buildings were recorded during previous surveys, as an aid to developing a historic context. The following structures were recorded in some detail. This information is provided here to clarify the parameters of the period of significance.

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NONEXTANT BUILDINGS

Structure 5 Red Cabin

This cabin was built at the north end of the property by Hollenbeak in 1959. A local informant claims the cabin was built in one day by a crew of loggers from California who were visiting the Hollenbeaks. The cabin was then used as a residence for hired hands.

The Red Cabin was a one story balloon frame cabin with rough sawn horizontal clapboards and board and batten gable ends. The foundation was concrete and the gabled roof was metal. There was a pair of two-light double hung sash windows on the east, south and west walls, and a four-light casement and two-light horizontal sash window on the north wall. The interior contained 4 rooms and had linoleum covered wooden floors. The wall finish was beaver board and pine.

Structure 7 Grey Cabin

The grey cabin was built at the north end of the property by Hollenbeak in 1959. It was situated near the other Hollenbeak structures and was built at the same time as Structure 6. A local informant claims the cabin was built in one day by a crew of loggers from California who were visiting the Hollenbeaks. The cabin was then used as a residence for hired hands.

The Grey Cabin was a one story balloon frame cabin with roughsawn board and batten siding and horizontal clapboard on the gable ends. The foundation was masonry and the gabled roof was metal. There was an enclosed porch at the north end of the building. There was a four-light double hung sash window in the bathroom, a four-light casement on the south wall, and nine-light casements on the east, south, and west walls. The enclosed porch had a larged screened opening. The interior contained 4 rooms and had linoleum covered wooden floors. The wall finish was beaver board and pine.

Structure 9 Skinning House

This structure was located at the north end of the District, and was probably constructed in the early 1960's. It was used to process meat during the guest ranch period and may have been used

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as a smokehouse. The building was a framed lean-to with board and batten siding. The foundation was squared timbers, and the floor was dirt. The roof was metal and the door was double board and batten with metal hinges. Cracks between the interior boards were chinked with unidentified materials.

Structure 10 Horse Barn

This structure was located at the upper end of the District, near the Hangar and Skinning House. It was built by Hollenbeak in 1958. The Upper Barn was framed with peeled logs, and had rough sawn vertical boards for siding. The foundation was dry laid field stone, with a dirt floor. The gambrel roof had pole rafters and purlins covered with metal. The interior was divided into an open feeding area, an area with stalls, an overhead loft, and lean-to addition for storing tack. There were three unfinished openings on the south wall. There were large double doors on the east wall, and a door in the east wall of the tack room. The doors were made of rough sawn vertical boards.

Structure 13 Equipment Shed

This structure was located in a field in the lower northern section of Cabin Creek Ranch District. The shed was built by Lanham in 1968 and was used as a garage and shop. The west half of this structure was an open space which was roofed over. The eastern half of the building contained a shop and a garage area. This large outbuilding was built of peeled pole framework with vertical rough sawn boards on the south and west walls. The north and east walls had board and batten siding. The foundation was concrete and fieldstone, and the gabled roof was covered with corrugated metal. There were two large openings on the east wall. These were covered with plastic, plywood and roofing metal. Large double doors on the north wall were vertical board and batten and similar double doors on the south wall were rough sawn horizontal boards. The floor was dirt in the open storage area and garage. The shop had a concrete floor.

Structure 14 Motel Unit

This structure was located in the central area of Cabin Creek, and was built by Lanham between 1963 and 1968. The motel unit was associated with Structures 17, 18, and 25. All were examples of nostalgic log cabin revival architecture. Structure 14 was built

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to house guests of Lanham's outfitting business. This building was a one story structure with three units and a shed addition. The peeled logs were built in even tiered log construction and were held together by spikes. There was a wedge shape notch at the corners that may have been devised by Lanham. There was concrete chinking and a concrete and fieldstone foundation. The gable roof was supported by a log ridge pole and purlins. It was covered with roofing metal. There were three two- light double hung sash windows in the south wall, three four- light triple hung horizontal sash windows in each room, and two four-light casement bathroom windows in the east wall. The open sided woodshed was attached to the north end of the motel. This structure had vertical rough sawn boards with angle cuts forming a decorative zigzag on the gable end. There were two chimneys built above the cooking areas. These chimneys were cement and river cobbles.

Structure 16 Laundry Annex

This structure was built by Lanham in 1965 as an addition to Wallace's Cabin in the central area of the District. The one story ell was a frame building with rough sawn vertical board and batten sides. The foundation was concrete and fieldstone, and the shed roof was covered with metal. There were two sets of three six-light triple hung horizontal sash windows in the west wall and a pine plank door on the south wall. A concrete terrace was on the south side of the annex. In 1989 Forest Service personnel removed this annex. The removal of the Laundry Annex was part of a plan to restore the historic facade of Structure 16, Wallace's Cabin.

Structure 17 Manager's Cabin

This cabin was located in the central portion of the District, and was a one story log and frame building with a concrete and river cobble foundation. The logs were peeled and had false corner notching. They were chinked with cement. The gable roof was supported by a log ridge pole and purlins, and was covered with metal. There was a river cobble fireplace and river cobble steps at the front door. There were four rooms. One room was an addition at the north end of the cabin, and was framed with vertical board and batten siding. This cabin was probably built under the aegis of the Powerline Construction Company. It was built the year

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before Lanham bought the property from his partners, and he may have had a crucial part in the construction of the Manager's Cabin. The construction of the cabin was very similar to the remodeling done by Lanham on Wallace's Cabin a short time later.

Structure 18 Lanham's Lodge

This cabin was located in the central portion of the District, and was a one story log and frame building with a concrete and river cobble foundation. The logs were peeled and had false corner notching. They were chinked with reinforced cement. The gable roof was supported by a log ridge pole and purlins, and was covered with metal. There may have been an internal framework of cut lumber. Two bathrooms were added after the lodge was built, and were balloon frame with rough sawn vertical board and batten siding. The six interior rooms were finished with logs, pine boards and beaverboard. The interior doors were either pine plank or commercial manufacture hollow core with small single light casement windows. The floors were concrete, and there were two fieldstone fireplaces. There were two pairs of two-light horizontal sash windows separated by a two-light casement in the north wall. The west wall had two four-light transom windows. The south and east walls each had four two-light horizontal sash windows. The hallway had four sets of two four-light transom windows separated by one four-light transom.

Structure 21 Cabin

This structure was located in the central area of the Cabin Creek Ranch District. It was built by Wallace after he filed for homestead entry in 1930. The Forest Service claim investigation in 1936 noted two log buildings on the homestead in this area. The toolshed was a one room, one story building constructed from logs with false corner notching and cement chinking. The cabin sat on a concrete foundation, and the gable roof was supported by a log ridge pole and purlins. The roof was covered with metal, and a gable extension was added. A covered porch was formed by this roof extension. There was a four-light double hung horizontal sash window in the south wall. The door was pine plank with a small single light casement window. There was an exterior chimney for a stove. The lower part was fieldstone and mortar, while the upper part was cinder block. The cement floor and the cinder block portion of the chimney were modifications that date from 1963 - 1974.

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Structure 22 Outhouse

This outhouse was located in the central portion of the Cabin Creek property, near the Lanham's main lodge (Structure 18). The outhouse was a frame building made of rough sawn lumber covered with shakes. There was a metal shed roof, and a pine plank door. This outhouse may have been constructed by Lanham to replace a previous outhouse in the vicinity (Structure 23). This structure was removed by the Forest Service after it obtained the property.

Structure 25 Lanham Cabin

The Lanham Cabin was located in the central area of Cabin Creek Ranch. It was a one story, five room, peeled log house with a porch, and a fieldstone foundation, an example of nostalgic log cabin revival architecture. The peeled logs were laid in even tiers and the corners were held together by spikes. There was a wedge shape notch at the corners that may have been devised by Lanham. There was concrete chinking on the exterior of the cabin. The gable roof was supported by a log ridge pole and purlins. It was covered with shakes. A milled lumber floor was added across the outside east end of the cabin, forming a sheltered sitting area, under the extended gable. There were single light casements in the north, east, and west walls. A two-light horizontal sash hung in the north wall. A pair of single light horizontal sash windows and a two-light horizontal sash window were on the south wall. The door was pine plank with an exterior screen door. The interior was finished with beaverboard, varnished pine tongue and groove boards. The cement slab floor was covered with parquet squares and linoleum. There was no fireplace.

Structure 27 Barn

The lower barn was located in the lower central area of Cabin Creek Ranch. It was a framed with peeled logs and poles and sided with vertical rough sawn lumber. The barn was built directly on the ground, and there was a dirt floor except for the tack room which had a cement floor. The gambrel roof had pole rafters and purlins covered with metal. The interior was divided into an open hay storage area, an area with four stalls and a manger, and a tack room. The east wall had four openings which were framed, but never glazed. There are large double doors, and two single doors on the south wall, and there is a door in the east wall. The doors are made of rough sawn vertical boards.

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NONEXTANT STRUCTURES

Structure 6 Woodshed

Structure 6 was a woodshed, located in the northern end of the Cabin Creek property. It was probably built by Hollenbeak, after 1956. Lanham dismantled this shed when he moved from Cabin Creek in 1974. The woodshed was noted on previous site records.

Structure 8 Hangar

This structure was a covered shelter for small planes and contained a storage room. It was constructed between 1956 and 1959, probably by Hollenbeak. The building was constructed of local materials and had a frame structure with studs and braces. It was covered with rough sawn vertical boards and the roof was a metal lean-to type. There was a short overhang at the front of the hangar. The foundation was concrete posts, with a dirt floor. There were three unfinished openings in the west wall, with no glazing or screen. Two doors were made of rough sawn vertical boards, and were located in the north and south walls. The interior was unfinished, with crude shelving attached to the walls.

The hangar was also used by Lanham. In 1982 there was unauthorized use of the Hangar by an outfitter who stored feed and tack in the storage room. The hangar had been used by seasonal visitors to hold trash.

Structure 11 Sawmill

A sawmill site was noted in the extreme upper end of the Cabin Creek Ranch property in 1978. No site description was made at that time, and no structural features remain.

Structure 12 Outhouse

This outhouse was located in the northern portion of the Cabin Creek property, near the Grey Cabin (Structure 7). The outhouse was probably constructed by Hollenbeak circa 1959. It was removed after the Forest Service purchased the property in 1974.

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Structure 19 Springhouse

This structure was located in the central portion of the Cabin Creek Ranch District. An informant says the springhouse was built by Wallace, and later improved by Lanham. The Springhouse was built with a pole frame and was covered with shakes, and metal siding. The door was handmade with shakes covering a pole frame, and contained a screened window. The building sat on a stone foundation and had unfinished wood plank flooring. The gabled roof was covered with shakes. The springhouse was located near other structures built by Wallace in the early 1930's. Lanham added metal siding to the building sometime after 1953.

Structure 23 Outhouse Ruin

The outhouse ruin was located in the central area of the Cabin Creek property. This structure was a frame building covered with shakes. It may have been built by Wallace after 1936, when he built his cabin in this area. The structure had collapsed, with only a pile of shakes remaining.

Structure 24 Powerhouse

The Powerhouse was located in the central portion of the Cabin Creek property. This structure was built by Lanham after 1953 as part of his hydroelectric facility. The balloon frame structure was covered with vertical board siding. The structure sat on a raised cement foundation, and the lean-to roof was metal.

Structure 26 Rootcellar

This structure was located in the central area of Cabin Creek Ranch District. This root cellar was dug into a hillside, fronted with fieldstone and had a gabled roof which extended into a porch or covered work area. The three sides of the cellar in contact with soil had cement mortar. The front wall was constructed from unfinished rough sawn lumber and fieldstone masonry. This wall was double and the interstice was filled with dirt. The extended gable roof was supported on a peeled pole framework of rafters and joists. The roof was covered with shakes. There was a ventilation shaft at the rear of the structure that was constructed to resemble a chimney. The door was built from rough sawn planks, and a window in the front was boarded over. This cellar was probably built after 1953.

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Feature 2 Sawmill Site

The sawmill was located at the north end of Cabin Creek Ranch on the original Bellingham homestead. Hartung (1978) credits Wallace with building the sawmill. This would date the sawmill to the early 1930's, when Wallace was enlarging his holdings. A Forest Service informant believes the sawmill was built circa 1957. This would make Hollenbeck the builder. Hollenbeck did construct some outbuildings in the northern end of the property. The building was removed at some point prior to 1974.

Feature 3 Cement Pad

Feature 3 was a cement pad in the northern section of the property. This pad is not associated with any other features and was of unknown function.

Feature 7 Hydro Dam

This feature was a hydroelectric dam constructed by Lanham after 1953. It was constructed of river cobbles and diverted water to a pelton wheel. The hydroelectric dam provided electricity for several of the buildings used by Lanham.

Feature 10 Corral

This corral was built by Lanham at some point after 1953. It was constructed of poles, and was removed at some time prior to 1979.

NONEXISTANT OBJECTS

Feature 4 Irrigation Gate

This feature was a cement gate, probably constructed by Lanham after 1953. It was located in the central area of Cabin Creek Ranch. The gate controlled irrigation flow to the central hay field (Feature 14).

Object 28 Hay Derrick

The hay derrick was located in the central area of the Cabin Creek property, just south of the lower barn (Structure 27). It was removed by the Forest Service in 1974.

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SUMMARY OF CABIN CREEK RANCH BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SITES

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Structure 20 Post Office
Structure 29 Conyer's Cabin

CONTRIBUTING SITES

Structure 1 Bellingham Cabin
Structure 2 Woodshed (Dismantled)
Structure 3 Stable
Structure 4 Wallace's Lodge/Conyer's Cabin (Dismantled)
Structure 30 Blacksmith Shop Ruin
Structure 31 Rose Bush Cabin Ruin
Structure 32 Cabin Foundation
Structure 33 Cabin Foundation
Structure 34 Rootcellar Ruin
Feature 1 Historic Dump
Feature 8 Cabin Foundation
Feature 12 Agricultural Field
Feature 13 Agricultural Field
Feature 14 Agricultural Field
Feature 15 Agricultural Field
Feature 16 Agricultural Field

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CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Feature 5 Rock Alignment

Feature 6 Stone Wall

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Structure 15 Wallace's Cabin

NONCONTRIBUTING SITES

Feature 9 Talus Pit

Feature 11 Air Field

10VY49 Aboriginal Lithic Scatter

10VY50 Aboriginal Site

10VY51 Aboriginal Site

NONEXTANT BUILDINGS

Structure 5 Red Cabin

Structure 7 Grey Cabin

Structure 9 Skinning House

Structure 10 Horse Barn

Structure 12 Outhouse

Structure 13 Equipment Shed

Structure 14 Motel/Duplex

Structure 16 Laundry Annex

Structure 17 Manager's House

Structure 18 Lanham's Lodge

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Structure 21 Cabin
Structure 22 Outhouse
Structure 23 Outhouse ruin
Structure 25 Lanham Cabin
Structure 27 Barn

NONEXTANT STRUCTURES

Structure 6 Woodshed
Structure 8 Hangar
Structure 11 Sawmill
Structure 19 Springhouse
Structure 24 Powerhouse
Structure 26 Rootcellar
Feature 2 Sawmill
Feature 3 Cement Pad
Feature 7 Hydro Dam
Feature 10 Corral

NONEXTANT OBJECTS

Feature 4 Irrigation Gate
Structure 28 Hay Derrick

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Exploration/Settlement
Archeology/Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1894 - 1930

Significant Dates

1894

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cabin Creek Ranch is significant under Criteria A and D, as an example of historic ranching in the Idaho wilderness. The Cabin Creek Ranch District was one of the earliest settlements in the area and was continuously occupied from approximately 1894 to 1974. Although other activities took place on the property, ranching was the single unifying theme over the years. The frontier character of this area remained intact for an extended period due to the isolated rural setting of Cabin Creek Ranch. The Cabin Creek Ranch District qualifies for National Register listing under Criteria A, by the association of the ranch with early agricultural development in the Salmon River wilderness area, and satisfies Criteria D by its potential for recovering historic archaeological materials from areas of early occupation.

The extant buildings and ruins from the earlier periods of occupation at Cabin Creek Ranch retain elements of spatial organization and cluster arrangements, evidence of circulation networks, and significant structural features. There is also a sense of continuity in the panoramic landscape. The contained nature of Cabin Creek Valley within the surrounding terrain provides historic views that are similar to those of the period of significance.

HISTORY OF CABIN CREEK RANCH DISTRICT

Many historic events occurred in the Big Creek area near Cabin Creek. Although Cabin Creek Ranch did not play a central role in all these events, these themes affected the occupants of the ranch and are crucial to an understanding of the development of the Cabin Creek Ranch District.

See continuation sheet

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The Sheepeater War of 1879 took place in central Idaho, and three principal engagements and the final surrender took place within or adjacent to the Big Creek drainage. At the time of the Sheepeater Campaign, the central Idaho mountains were inhabited by small, scattered bands of Tukudeka, or Sheepeater Indians. There is not much ethnographic data regarding these Indians until 1879 when military reports and soldier's journals provide a glimpse of the protohistoric, aboriginal life style. Military records mention small, abandoned camps averaging four structures on flats along Big Creek. There is no mention of an Indian settlement at Cabin Creek, although soldiers did encounter an "Indian cage in a tree" which they destroyed. The soldiers also found a type of fish trap in Big Creek near this location. The three aboriginal sites located within the boundaries of Cabin Creek Ranch were small lithic scatters of debitage. Two of these sites could not be relocated. The remaining site has been almost eradicated by cultivation, and there is no surface or subsurface integrity left to this site (10VY49). A few artifacts were removed from these sites during the 1950's. It is likely that any diagnostic artifacts were collected from all three sites over the years. Although the existence of these sites may be of interest in documenting settlement and subsistence patterns of aboriginal occupants of the region, there is limited artifactual data remaining.

No military engagements took place at Cabin Creek, although soldiers camped at the mouth of Cabin Creek and crossed the lower end of property while following the Indians, and later, while retreating to Vinegar Hill. Although repeated attempts were made to locate evidence of military occupation within the Cabin Creek area, none was found. The military camp which was located at the mouth of Cabin Creek is on an alluvial fan which has been flooded and cultivated over the years. The last private owner of Cabin Creek Ranch was reported to have a collection of military artifacts from nearby Vinegar Hill, which is outside the boundaries of the District.

The Sheepeater Campaign opened a vast, unexplored region of central Idaho to Anglo-European settlement and exploitation. Some of the men involved in the campaign returned to settle in the area. The first known occupants of Cabin Creek Ranch were the Caswell brothers, Ben, Lou, and Dan. The Caswells were in the Cabin Creek area by 1894, and possibly earlier. These men constructed the original buildings, using Cabin Creek Ranch for their main residence. They kept stock, raised hay, and planted garden crops

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on the property. The Caswells supplemented their diet by hunting, fishing and trapping. They also prospected for gold a few weeks every year. This diverse round of subsistence activities was typical for the region at that time.

Prospecting in the area south of Big Creek, the Caswell brothers located the Golden Reef and Sunny Side mines near the headwaters of Monumental Creek. The sale of these mines for \$100,000 and \$125,000 started the Thunder Mountain Stampede in late 1901. Some ranches in the Big Creek region developed as support systems to supply these mines with meat and produce. Cabin Creek Ranch predates this mining boom and was a self supporting homestead throughout its period of significance.

The influx of miners brought many people into the isolated Salmon River wilderness, which includes the Big Creek drainage. In 1919 this area of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River was included in the National Forest system. National Geographic sponsored a boat trip down the River of No Return, and the region received national attention. Popular western novelist Zane Grey packed into the area as research for his novel "Thunder Mountain", and movie actor Wallace Beery purchased a ranch in the Chamberlain Basin above Big Creek. These visitors attracted media coverage, and depicted the area as an unspoiled wilderness.

When the Caswell's sold Cabin Creek Ranch in 1903, it passed through a succession of owners who raised stock, hay and produce to support their families. Throughout the early part of the twentieth century Cabin Creek Ranch operated as a series of family homesteads, often being worked as one property. Successive occupants of the Cabin Creek property improved the operation, and added, modified, razed and moved structures within the ranch boundaries.

The establishment of the Idaho Primitive Area in 1931 limited some activities and encouraged the use of the area for recreational purposes. With the establishment of an airfield in 1934, Cabin Creek Ranch became accessible to different types of cultural impacts, technologies, supplies and visitors: Until this time almost all materials used for construction were native to the site. With improved access into the area, came the introduction of new construction materials and technologies. Gradually the ranch lost its primary function as a self supporting ranch, and the emphasis shifted to recreational use. Beginning in the early 1950's there

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was limited use of Cabin Creek Ranch as a guest ranch for big game hunting. By 1956, E.K. Hollenbeak was running his Cabin Creek property as a commercial outfitting camp. When Rex Lanham acquired all the Cabin Creek homesteads in 1963 he operated the Ranch primarily as a guest ranch, though he continued to raise hay and kept some stock to support the commercial outfitting operation.

When the Forest Service acquired Cabin Creek Ranch in 1974 plans were developed to manage the property according to Wilderness standards. These plans called for the removal of those structures lacking historic significance. A preliminary determination of significance was requested from the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. At that time three structures were determined eligible for inclusion, Structures 1, 20 and 29.

Since that time, the Forest Service has performed additional survey and research on Cabin Creek Ranch. All of the collapsed early structures and foundations are considered historically significant and worthy of retention, and one structure exhibiting local vernacular architecture was stabilized. A cabin built during the 1930's was retained and its historic facade restored. All other buildings and structures were removed in accordance with approved management plans for the area. This has resulted in a restoration of the rural landscape to the period of significance.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CABIN CREEK RANCH DISTRICT

Cabin Creek Ranch evolved from a frontier homestead into a rural ranch headquarters over a period of approximately 35 years. This development took place in an isolated locale which helped to preserve local traditions and architecture from cultural impacts that affected other ranches of the same era. The significance of Cabin Creek Ranch District lies in the sense of continuity and the integrity of setting, workmanship, association, and materials exhibited in the landscape.

A number of factors contributed to the lack of development in the region. The physical isolation created a low population density. There were no roads into the area and all supplies had to be packed in over treacherous trails that were often impassable in winter. The growing season was very short, and there were very few tracts of land suitable for farming in the rugged terrain.

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Most arable land was located along the mouths of drainages emptying into larger rivers. Even this land was limited and the size of alluvial fans dictated small family homesteads rather than large commercial operations.

Cabin Creek Ranch is unique in its location and setting. The physical area of the property is very large by local standards, and the property supported four individual homesteads at one time. The fact that there were often several residents at the ranch may have contributed to its success and continuous operation. There would have been neighbors and assistance at hand at almost all times. The ranch was run as one operation for several years, under Abel, Routson, Bacon, Bellingham and Conyers, who overlapped from 1910 through the 1920's. Abel and Routson farmed Cabin Creek in 1910, and Abel, Bacon, and Bellingham worked the property until 1920 when Abel was murdered at his cabin. Bellingham had Conyers manage the property for her until 1925. At that time, Wallace was in the area, and he may have leased part of Cabin Creek Ranch from Bellingham.

Those features deemed historically significant are buildings, and sites associated with early ranching activities. The period of significance at Cabin Creek Ranch lasts through the early Wallace occupancy, until approximately 1930. Contributing resources within the Cabin Creek Ranch District include buildings, ruins, and sites which retain architectural value, historic character, or archaeological potential. These resources are historically significant at a local level, representing early ranching along Big Creek.

The significant cultural features of Cabin Creek Ranch District are sited in areas which do not intrude on arable land. The complexes of structures composing homesteads or outbuildings are located between agricultural fields and reflect a judicious choice of landscaping. The remaining features and nonextant buildings were situated in areas defined by homestead boundaries and local topographic features.

The first known occupants of the ranch, the Caswell brothers, are important figures in local mining development. These men used Cabin Creek as their primary residence although they maintained another cabin on Thunder Mountain for a few years. Diary entries of Lew Caswell detail a wide variety of activities at Cabin Creek Ranch, and he recorded improvements made to the homestead over a

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period of five years. The ruins and foundations at the south end of the District are especially significant since they date to this early period of occupancy on the property, and in the Big Creek area.

The structural remains may contain historic archaeological data which could yield information about settlement and subsistence in this isolated area. There may be cultural deposits near Structures 30-34, and Features 5, and 6, which would contribute to the archaeological record.

Those ruins and cabin foundations which postdate the Caswell occupation include one standing building (Structure 29, the Post Office), and two deteriorated cabins (Structure 1, the Bellingham Cabin, and Structure 29, Conyers Cabin), which exhibit strong "folk" characteristics as a result of isolation and a vigorous local architectural tradition. There may be subsurface archaeological deposits near these structures and in the vicinity of Structures 2, 4, and Features 1 and 8.

During the early phase of Wallace's occupancy he utilized existing buildings (Structure 20, the Post Office, Structure 4, Conyers Second Cabin) for residences. Wallace constructed a cabin and some outbuildings in 1936, to prove up on his homestead application. These structures were not consistent with earlier buildings. By this time the airstrip was operational and cement, some milled lumber, larger glass for windows, metal roofing and other materials were flown in to Cabin Creek Ranch and used in subsequent buildings. Although these structures were not in keeping with the historic character of the earlier buildings, Wallace built in a style that was at least visually compatible with existing structures. A surviving cabin from this period (Structure 15, Wallace's Cabin) was retained and the original facade restored.

The period from the mid 1930's through 1974 marks the evolution of Cabin Creek Ranch from a working ranch to a guest ranch/outfitting operation. This evolution is not unique in the area. Other ranches also shifted from homesteads to commercial outfitting operations, and better represent this change.

After preliminary determination of eligibility by the National Register, the structures and buildings associated with outfitting and big game hunting were not considered Register eligible. While these activities are of interest to the history of Cabin Creek

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Ranch, they are not unique to the area. The guest ranch operation began in 1953 and did not meet eligibility requirements for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The 50 year guideline excluded these guest ranch structures and they did not satisfy the architectural criteria established by 36 CFR 60.6. Viewed individually or collectively, the guest ranch structures were recent intrusions within Cabin Creek Ranch District and the Big Creek area. They lacked exceptional importance and were not essential to interpretation of the area's history, architecture or development.

These recent guest ranch structures lacked integrity of design and workmanship, and did not possess high artistic value. They exhibited irregular design and haphazard construction. The pattern of random additions and reconstruction reflected the absence of any unifying plan. The possible visual integrity provided by recent false log cabin additions to the property was severely diminished by the uncoordinated mixture of styles, techniques and materials manifested in workmanship, design, and siting of these structures. In some cases modern additions were added on to historic cabins, further diluting the integrity of the District.

With the removal of the intrusive, modern buildings by the summer of 1989, the significant historic landscape was restored. The present Cabin Creek Ranch District is distinguished by cabins and structural remnants of buildings that show continuous occupation from 1895 until 1930. These extant structures demonstrate a sense of cohesiveness in materials, workmanship, location and association that meet National Register standards.

Throughout the Cabin Creek Ranch District there may be subsurface remains of other structures from various periods of occupation. This is especially true of sheds, privies, and other outbuildings which are subject to abandonment or relocation. Archaeological testing could reveal the presence of these supporting structures, and increase knowledge of homestead composition in the District. Other archaeological work within Cabin Creek Ranch District could provide data which would clarify existing trade networks, building functions, household structure, food resources, and construction methods.

The setting of buildings in the landscape at Cabin Creek Ranch are an important aspect of its overall character. The study of existing buildings and sites within Cabin Creek Ranch District

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could aid in depicting historic lifeways in remote areas of central Idaho. By tracing the evolution of homesteads within the District it may be possible to evaluate the nature and direction of agricultural and technological developments over time. The siting of buildings within individual homesteads as well as between adjacent homesteads may provide insight in social behaviors in rural areas.

A comparison of Cabin Creek Ranch District with other ranches in the region would be valuable in documenting local differences, temporal and geographic variations or similarities and the assimilation of new materials and technologies.

Cabin Creek Ranch District contains the potential to add significant data to an understanding of early ranching in Idaho. It also possesses qualities of visual character which attract visitors and encourage recreational use. The natural setting, combined with continuous historic occupation of the ranch give Cabin Creek Ranch District a unique place in the history of the Salmon River Wilderness.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Payette National Forest

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 620 Acres

UTM References

A

--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kate O'Brien Reed
organization _____ date September 15, 1989
street & number 1010 S. Owyhee telephone (208) 336-9340
city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83705

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The Cabin Creek Ranch District is bounded by a polygon with the following UTM Coordinates:

A	11	662900	5001620
B	11	663325	5001220
C	11	663350	5000000
D	11	662960	4998800
E	11	662160	4998775
F	11	661340	4999160
G	11	661340	4999560
H	11	662500	5001600

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Cabin Creek Historical District is illustrated on the accompanying USGS 7.5 minute series map titled Vinegar Hill, Idaho 1962. Cabin Creek Ranch District is defined by the following legal description:

T21N; R12E; Section 24; NW 1/4 of NE 1/4.
Section 24; SW 1/4 of NE 1/4.
Section 24; SE 1/4 of NE 1/4.
Section 24; SE 1/4
Section 24; E 1/2 of E 1/2 of E 1/2 of SW 1/4.

T21N; R12E; Section 25; W 1/2 of NE 1/4.
Section 25; E 1/2 of NW 1/4.
Section 25; NW 1/4 of SE 1/4.
Section 25; NE 1/4 of SW 1/4.
Section 25; SW 1/4 of NW 1/4.

T21N;R12E; Section 26; SE 1/4 of NE 1/4.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for Cabin Creek Ranch District includes all legal boundaries of the four patented homesteads that comprise the ranch property.

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PHOTO RECORD

1. Structure 20, Post Office facing Southwest
2. Structure 20, Post Office in foreground, Structure 15, Wallace's Cabin in background. Facing North.
3. Structure 15, Wallace's Cabin. Facing Northwest.
4. Structure 30, Caswell Blacksmith SHop. Facing West.
5. Structure 32, Stone Foundation. Facing Northwest.

CABIN CREEK RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT

Vinegar Hill

CABIN CREEK RANCH BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND SITES

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

- Structure 20 Post Office
- Structure 29 Conyer's Cabin

CONTRIBUTING SITES

- Structure 1 Bellingham Cabin
- Structure 2 Woodshed (Dismantled)
- Structure 3 Stable
- Structure 4 Wallace's Lodge/Conyer's Cabin (Dismantled)
- Structure 30 Blacksmith Shop Ruin
- Structure 31 Rose Bush Cabin Ruin
- Structure 32 Cabin Foundation
- Structure 33 Cabin Foundation
- Structure 34 Rootcellar Ruin
- Feature 1 Historic Dump
- Feature 8 Cabin Foundation
- Feature 12 Agricultural Field
- Feature 13 Agricultural Field
- Feature 14 Agricultural Field
- Feature 15 Agricultural Field
- Feature 16 Agricultural Field

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

- Feature 5 Rock Alignment
- Feature 6 Stone Wall

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

- Structure 15 Wallace's Cabin

NONCONTRIBUTING SITES

- Feature 9 Talus Pit
- Feature 11 Air Field
- 10VY49 Aboriginal Lithic Scatter
- 10VY50 Aboriginal Site
- 10VY51 Aboriginal Site

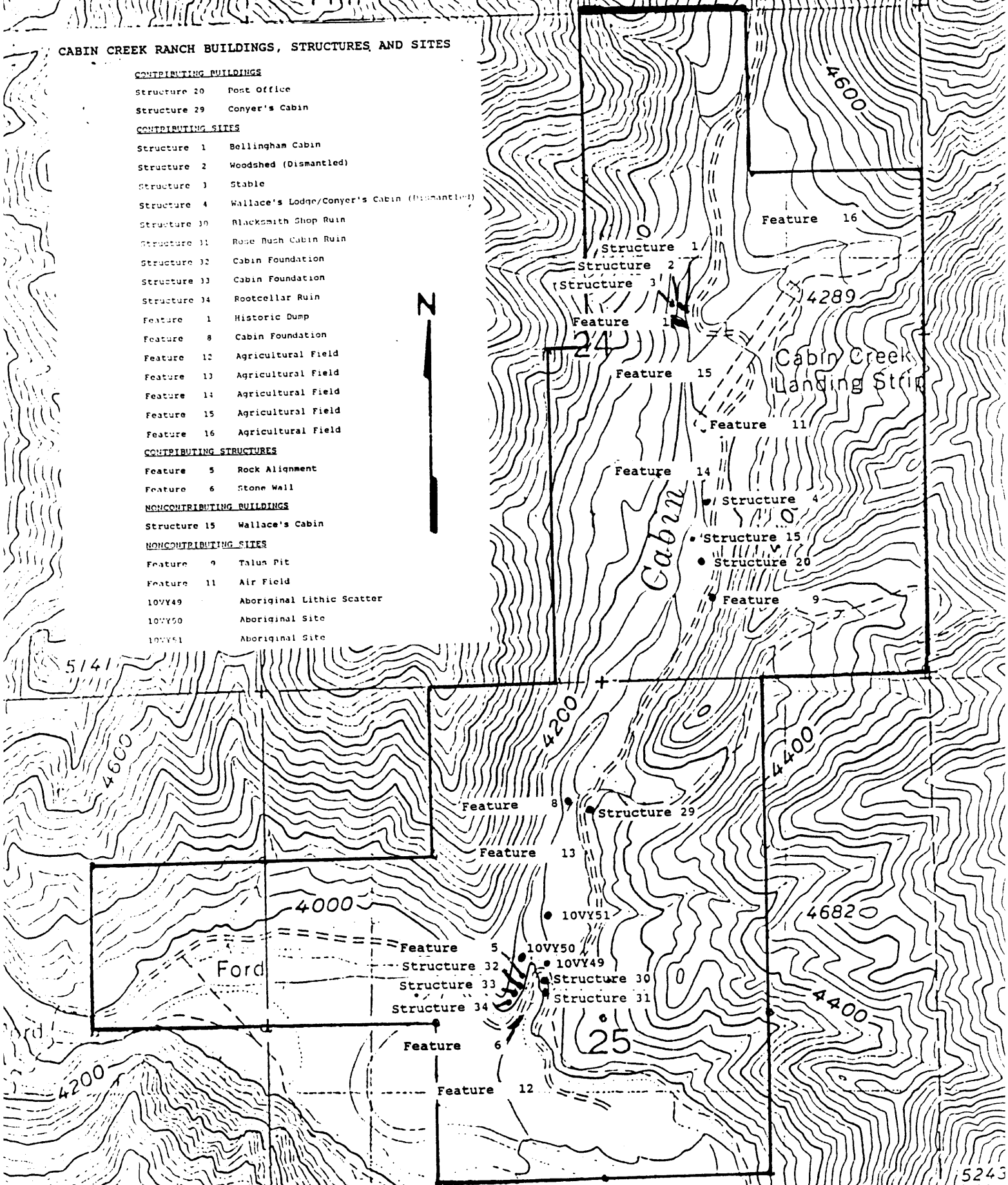




Photo 1

Post Office (#20)

Cabin Creek, Idaho

Summer 1989

Neg at Payette National Forest S.O.

Facing Southwest

Photo 1 by Larry Kingsbury



PHOTO 2 Cabin Creek

POST OFFICE (#20) IN FOREGROUND
WALLACE CABIN (#15) IN BACKGROUND

Neg. at Payette National Forest S.O.

Facing Southwest

Photo 1 by Larry Kingsbury



Photo 3

WALLACES CABIN (#15)

Cabin Creek Ranch, Idaho

Summer 1989

Neg. at Payette National Forest SO

Facing Northwest

Photo by Larry Kingsbury



Photo 4

CASWELL BLACKSMITH SHOP

Cabin Creek Ranch, Idaho

Summer 1989

Neg at Payette National Forest S.O.

Facing West

Photo by Larry Kingsbury



Photo 5

STONE FOUNDATION (# 32)

Cabin Creek Ranch, Idaho

Summer 1989

Neg at Payette National Forest S.O.

Facing Northwest

Photo by Larry Kingsbury