

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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received AUG 13 1987

date entered
SEP 23 1987National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Meinert Ranch Cabin

and/or common n/a

2. Location1.8 miles southwest of Red River Hot Springs on
street & number Red River - Beargrass Road No. 234 (secondary road) n/a not for publicationcity, town Elk City ☒ vicinity of

state Idaho code 016 county Idaho code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	n/a ☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name	Gertrude Maxwell (0.65 acre)	John A. Feyk (0.10 acre)
street & number	Elk Head Ranch	2727 San Ramon Drive Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90274

city, town Elk City ☒ vicinity of state Idaho 83525**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House (Idaho County Recorder's Office)

street & number Main Street (no street number)

city, town Grangeville state Idaho 83530

6. Representation in Existing SurveysSite #002436, Idaho
title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate July 1978 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho 83702

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☒ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Meinert Ranch cabin was built in 1915 and is 1-1/2 stories with the first story of horizontal-log construction. The logs are notched on the ends so that they are rectangular. Most cabins were built that way at that time, but most were also erected as rapidly as possible whereas the Meinert cabin was put together with care. The logs are chinked on the outside with angular pieces of log and dabbed with mud from the Red River flowing about 50 yards from the cabin. The exterior, as viewed from the southeast and as it appeared in 1925, is shown on page 180 of My Yesterdays in Elk City by Gertrude Maxwell. The cabin interior is shown on page 181. The roof is gambrel and of shakes except that about 10 years ago corrugated metal was added to protect the structure from rain and snow. The original shake roof was not removed but just covered by the metal. The shakes were made from tamarack bolts that had been cut at a considerable distance and hauled to the cabin site by wagon. Using a froe, the bolts were split into shakes. The gable at the southeast end (facing the county road) retains the original shakes. The gable at the opposite end is original board and batten. The lumber was obtained from trees growing on the ranch. A water-powered sawmill that the Meinerts constructed on the ranch was used to saw logs into boards.

The front of the cabin is at the northwest end facing the old road and has the only door but no windows. A porch, which was on the northwest end and of board construction, has fallen due to a heavy snow load. There are no windows on the northeast side. However, the southwest side has two windows in the lower story and, for the top story, two dormer windows, without gable coverings, set into the hip portion of the roof. This arrangement of windows protruding from the roof is unique to cabin construction in the area. The ornamental hop vines that Mrs. Meinert planted on the southwest side about 65 years ago are still growing despite years of no care. There are two windows on the southeast end, one window for the first floor and the other for the upper floor. The picture in My Yesterdays in Elk City shows a wing on the northeast side. This wing, the lower portion of which is of horizontal-log construction, was used as a storeroom. The storeroom rotted badly and so has been removed and the resulting opening on the side of the main structure boarded. Exclusive of the collapsed porch and the removed storeroom, the exterior is rectangular with the northeast and southwest sides 26-1/3 feet. The other (gable) sides are 14 feet. The first story exterior height is 7-1/2 feet, and the height of the roof peak is 20 feet.

The interior floor is of boards except where the cookstove sat. The original bark is still on many of the logs on the sides facing inside the cabin. The inside has been papered with newspapers. There is a vandalized staircase to the second floor. This staircase has a landing followed by a right-angle bend. The two upstairs bedrooms have a clothes closet between. A small attic above the bedrooms has been used as a sleeping area. The original chimney holes for cookstove and heating stove have been covered by the metal roofing. Inside dimensions are 24 feet by 12 feet. There is a 7 foot 5 inch ceiling height at the first story and a 6 foot 11 inch ceiling height upstairs.

The cabin has deteriorated (arrested by the addition of the metal roof) but has not otherwise been altered except for the back porch having collapsed and the storeroom having been removed. There has unfortunately been glass breakage and other acts of vandalism. However, the core building, representing the cabin of early settlers, is composed of its original materials and could be restored.

The Meinert Ranch had an outbuilding to the west used as a workshop but now partially vandalized for firewood. This workshop is located on the other side of the old road to the Red River Hot Springs and, along with a portion of the old road, is included in the nominated area. The

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Continuation sheet Meinert Ranch Cabin

Item number 7 and 8

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Item Number 7 -- continued

nominated area extends east to the county road and is meadowland at an elevation of about 4750 feet. The cabin is about 125 feet west of the county road, and there is nothing to obstruct visibility of the cabin from the road. A bronze plaque designating the Meinert Ranch cabin has been ordered and will be placed on a monument between the cabin and the county road. Except for the adjacent private land, since originally there were three contiguous homesteads, the area is completely surrounded by the Nezperce National Forest. The Meinert Ranch, one of these homesteads, has been subdivided into 12 parcels in addition to the parcel on which the cabin stands. Although construction of vacation housing on adjacent private land is accelerating, the surrounding meadow, Red River, and forest have changed little since the Meinerts built their cabin in 1915.

Item Number 8 -- continued

was required for hot springs and ranch buildings. The sawmill was located about 300 yards from the cabin but destroyed by a forest fire in 1918 or 1919. The forest was very dry that summer, and a wind-fanned fire spread rapidly through the crowns of the pines and firs. The Meinerts did all that they could to encircle the mill with bare ground. However, when the fire ignited the cut lumber, the Meinerts ran to the Red River and took shelter there for over an hour. Before reaching the river, a spark set Emma's hair on fire and burned the hair on one side before Irad could smother the flames. The fire burned to the edge of the river, but the Meinerts were protected by being submerged in the water, by an overhanging bank, and by the wind shifting so that the fire did not jump the river to the cabin site.

Irad designed the ranch's cabin. It is unusual for the area because of the roof construction which gave more usable space to the upper story. The cabin logs were dragged to the cabin site or to the sawmill by horse team. Being younger and more agile, Emma was the teamster. She also handled the team as the logs were lifted to form the cabin walls. Her husband notched the corners and positioned the logs. The cabin remains at its original location close to Red River, which was the source of water. Very little original, horizontal-log homestead construction remains in the region. Many structures have burned, were destroyed by those purchasing from the original homesteaders, or have been altered to the point that there is little resemblance to the original.

Mr. Meinert, who was considerably older than his wife, died in 1945, and the hot springs lease was sold by Mrs. Meinert in 1946. She retired to her ranch to grow cattle, plant the garden, and keep the buildings and fences in repair. She died in a hospital in Sedro Woolley Washington in the winter of 1963 at the age of 98, the cabin having been unoccupied since her departure.

The region retains its original character as a source of timber and of grazing land. A limited amount of gold is still being obtained by placer mining the bed of Red River. Despite its ending at the hot springs, the county road is well traveled, there being no other roads nearby by means of which access to the region can be gained. However, the

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Item Number 8 -- continued

road is traveled more and more in conjunction with the recreational use initiated by the Meinerts as this activity promises to become the main industry of the area. Accordingly, the property is eligible for the National Register under criteria "a" (associated with historic events) and "b" (associated with important persons).

Item Number 10 -- continued

along the southeastern boundary of Lot 8 a distance of 275 feet to the point of beginning. Feyk portion: Beginning at the northerly terminus of the boundary 302.076 feet long of the Maxwell portion, bearing North 58° 29' West a distance of 60 feet, thence bearing South 31° 31' West a distance of 60 feet, thence bearing South 58° 29' East to the intersection with the 302.076-foot boundary of the Maxwell portion, thence along the boundary of the Maxwell portion to the point of beginning.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	 archeology-prehistoric	 community planning	 landscape architecture	 religion
..... 1400-1499	 archeology-historic	 conservation	 law	 science
..... 1500-1599	 agriculture	 economics	 literature	 sculpture
..... 1600-1699	 X architecture	 education	 military	 social/
..... 1700-1799	 art	 engineering	 music	 humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	 commerce	 X exploration/settlement	 philosophy	 theater
..... X 1900-	 communications	 industry	 politics/government	 transportation
		 invention		 other (specify)

Specific dates 1915

Builder/Architect Irad and Emma Meinert

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Meinert Ranch cabin is significant because of its association with early settlers, with their development of the region, and also as an example of horizontal-log construction planned for permanence. The cabin was the home of Irad and Emma Meinert, who developed Red River Hot Springs 1.8 miles by county road to the northeast. The area even today is without public power or telephone service, but when the Meinerts arrived at the turn of the century there was not even a road. Irad and Emma constructed the original road, which followed the upper reaches of the Red River and terminated at the hot springs. The cabin was located on this road. The ranch was used to develop the area, which included growing vegetables and livestock for the hot springs guests and constructing a water-powered sawmill on the ranch as the means for the Meinerts to produce boards from the trees growing there. The Meinerts were able to accomplish all this because he was an engineer very experienced in machinery and construction while she was considerably younger and dedicated to the necessary hard work.

The Meinert Ranch cabin represents the settlement of an area of the original 48 states, and even of Idaho, to which permanent residents have arrived relatively recently. Irad and Emma Meinert were married in Challis, Idaho on 8 August 1895. He was a mining engineer who had come from New England to work in California, South America, and Colorado prior to coming to Idaho to work for the Bunker Hill Mining Company. He also was the engineer for sawmills constructed at Florence, Montana and Warren, Idaho. While in the latter region, the Meinerts first heard of the Red River Hot Springs. These hot springs had been known to the Nez Perce Indians whose trail through Nez Perce Pass (the pass demarcates the border between Idaho and Montana) followed the Red River for some distance. The early mountain men and fur traders made use of the Nez Perce trail going to and from what is now Montana and the plains states. A spur trail led north along Red River and from there to the Selway River. The cabin area was a historical stopping point because it was the last open meadow and thus source of horse feed before climbing the high ridge separating the two rivers.

At the turn of the century, the mining economy of the remote Red River area was declining because of depletion. The Meinerts developed an economic resource related to but different from mining, timber, and farming - namely the Red River Hot Springs. The Meinerts thus initiated recreational development of the region. In 1901, they built a combination post office and sleeping quarters for guests at the hot springs. Buildings at the hot springs have been changed extensively in the intervening 85 years, the log portion of the restaurant being all that remains of the building done by the Meinerts. In 1908, the Meinerts obtained a Forest Service lease for 30 acres including the hot springs, a lease that was later extended to 99 years. The trail to the hot springs was originally along ridges, but about 1913 the Meinerts built a road that lies along Red River and is approximately where the county road exists today. The Meinerts had filed a 160-acre homestead - the Meinert Ranch - on which the cabin was located. The homestead was patented on 23 August 1915. The ranch was largely meadowland growing hay for cattle and horses but also was used to grow pigs, chickens, and vegetables to feed hot springs customers.

The Meinerts produced lumber by means of a water-powered sawmill built on the ranch at the mouth of Otterson Creek. They were able to operate the mill without outside help. The lumber

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maxwell, Gertrude. My Yesterdays in Elk City. Grangeville, Idaho: The Idaho County Free Press (1986).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.65 (Maxwell) + 0.10 (Feyk) = 0.75 total

Quadrangle name Sable Hill

Quadrangle scale 1:24000 (7.5 minute)

UTM References

A

1	1	6	3	8	1	8	0	5	0	7	0	0	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Maxwell portion: Beginning at the southeast corner of Lot 8, Meinert Acres Subdivision, bearing North 58° 29' West along the southwestern boundary of Lot 8 a distance of 45 feet, thence in a northerly direction a distance of 302.076 feet, thence bearing South 58° 29' East to the southeastern boundary of Lot 8, thence

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title John A. Feyk (owner of a portion of the nominated area)

organization n/a date 6 June 1986

street & number 2727 San Ramon Drive telephone 213 - 416 - 7227 (work)
213 - 833 - 2173 (home)

city or town Rancho Palos Verdes state California 90274

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Thomas J. Green

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/3/87

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

William B. Bushong
for Keeper of the National Register

date 9/23/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Meinert Ranch Cabin

Vicinity of Elk City, Idaho

Photographed by John A. Feyk on 3 Nov. 1986;
negative at 2727 San Ramon Drive,
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

View (facing north) of cabin and surroundings.
Nezperce National Forest in background.
Vandalized workshop at left. Red River
runs between cabin and trees in the back-
ground. Old road runs between cabin and
workshop.

Photograph no. 1.



Meinert Ranch Cabin

Vicinity of Elk City, Idaho

Photographed by John A. Feyk on 3 Nov. 1986;
negative at 2727 San Ramon Drive,

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

View (facing north) of cabin. Hops are seen
along the southwest wall. The metal roof
was added to protect the cabin, the
original roof being underneath.

Photograph no. 2.



Meinert Ranch Cabin

Vicinity of Elk City, Idaho

Photographed by John A. Feyk on 3 Nov. 1986;
negative at 2727 San Ramon Drive,
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

View (facing south) of cabin. Sign requests
that cabin not be vandalized. Collapsed
porch is in foreground. Boards on north-
east wall close off opening where store-
room was located.

Photograph no. 3.



Meinert Ranch Cabin

Vicinity of Elk City, Idaho

Photographed by John A. Feyk on 3 Nov. 1986;
negative at 2727 San Ramon Drive

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

View (facing south) through the entrance door. Upper portion of staircase intact but lower portion, at a right angle, partially dismantled. Log pieces are used to fill the chinks.

Photograph no. 4.

Th.

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Meinert Ranch Cabin

Vicinity of Elk City, Idaho

Photographed by John A. Feyk on 3 Nov. 1986;
negative at 2727 San Ramon Drive,

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

Closeup of wall adjacent to door (view
facing northwest). Remanents of the
newspaper wall covering remain.

Photograph no. 5.