

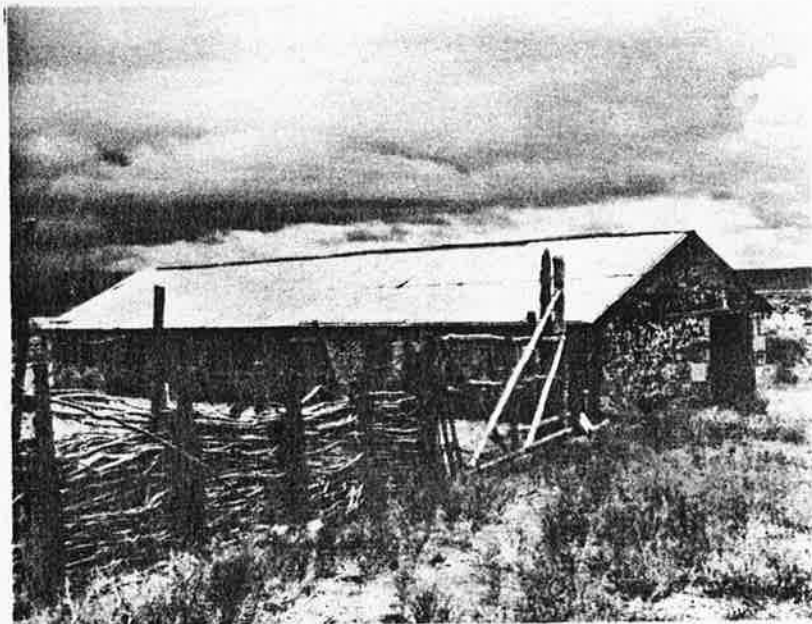


**CULTURAL
RESOURCE
INVENTORY:**

**Sheldon National
Wildlife Refuge**

**Hart Mountain National
Antelope Refuge**

**REGION ONE
U.S. FISH &
WILDLIFE SERVICE
February 1985**



CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:
HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGE
SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Region 1
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Portland, Oregon

February 1985

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Marge Stephen, Buzz Miller, and all the others whose love of this immense land and its history has helped preserve a bit of it for all of us.

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an intensive survey and inventory of eight historic resources located on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Its primary purpose is to document and evaluate sites of historical and architectural interest in order to provide an information base to guide planning, development, interpretation, and maintenance activities, and to make preliminary recommendations for management of the resources. Each site was evaluated to determine its eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Field procedures and techniques included an examination of primary and secondary source materials, extensive interviews with people knowledgeable about the area, and on-site inspection of each site. The report has three major parts. A general overview provides a framework for the examination and evaluation of the sites. The following section is organized on a site-by-site basis and includes the following information for each resource: brief narrative of historical development; evaluation of historical/architectural significance; recommendations; and photographs with physical description of each building/structure. This section is designed so that different parts can be extracted to form separate management documents. The third section consists of a general overview of findings and general recommendations for management of the resources. A bibliography of the sources used is appended.

The historic sites documented in this report are extremely significant cultural resources, five of which are determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Last Chance Ranch, Gooch Camp horsetrap, McKenney (Kinney) Camp, Shirk Ranch, and Hart Mountain Headquarters. The attrition rate for sites of this type is high. Several of the resources have been severely damaged over the years. Action to protect and stabilize the sites from further deterioration should be taken immediately. Finally, several of the resources have interpretive potential and should be given consideration in development of an interpretive program.

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a survey and inventory of eight historic sites located on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in south-central Oregon and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Nevada. It was prepared by the staff historian in the Portland Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during fiscal year 1984.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required by federal law to identify and evaluate cultural resources on public land under its jurisdiction, and to ensure that agency-authorized and agency-initiated actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy cultural resources. Although these requirements can lead to complicated and time-consuming compliance processes, they serve to protect and conserve the nation's rapidly vanishing and non-renewable cultural resources. Federal laws mandating these requirements include the Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and Executive Order 11593 (1971). This report represents a significant step by the Sheldon Hart Mountain Refuge Complex in the implementation of these directives.

The purpose of the investigation is to document the physical characteristics and condition, and historic and architectural significance of each resource based on criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and to provide preliminary recommendations regarding their management. NRHP criteria are as follows:

districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- 1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- 2) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- 3) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- 4) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (36 CFR 800.10 (a))

The District supervisor and Refuge staff determined which resources were included in the study. Criteria for selection was based on:

- 1) degree of deterioration and need for stabilization/restoration;
- 2) association with events and/or people important in the history of the area; and
- 3) local community interest.

The following resources were investigated:

SHELDON

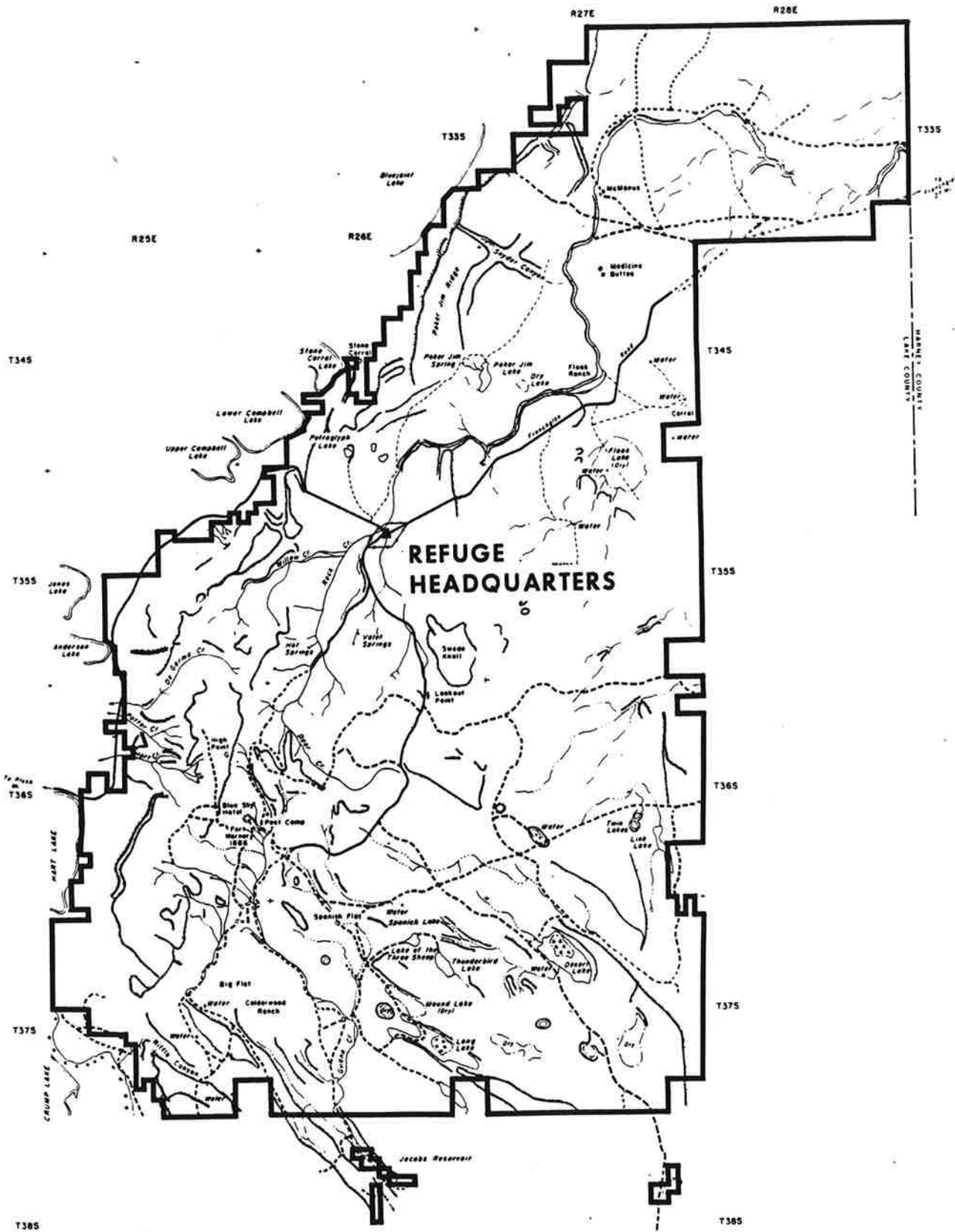
IXL Ranch
 Last Chance Ranch
 Gooch Camp
 Dufurrena Ranch
 Kinney Camp
 Thousand Creek Ranch

HART MOUNTAIN

Headquarters
 Shirk Ranch

The report consists of three major parts. A general overview of the area's history provides a framework for the examination and evaluation of the resources. It is based on major themes, identified during research, as being of particular importance in the historical development of the area. The second section is organized on a site-by-site basis and includes the following information for each: brief narrative of historical development; evaluation of historic/architectural significance; recommendations, and photographs and physical descriptions of each building/structure. This section is designed so that different parts can be extracted to form separate management documents.

The third section consists of a synthesis of the findings and general recommendations. A comprehensive bibliography of sources consulted is appended which should prove useful to future investigations of historic cultural resources on the refuges.



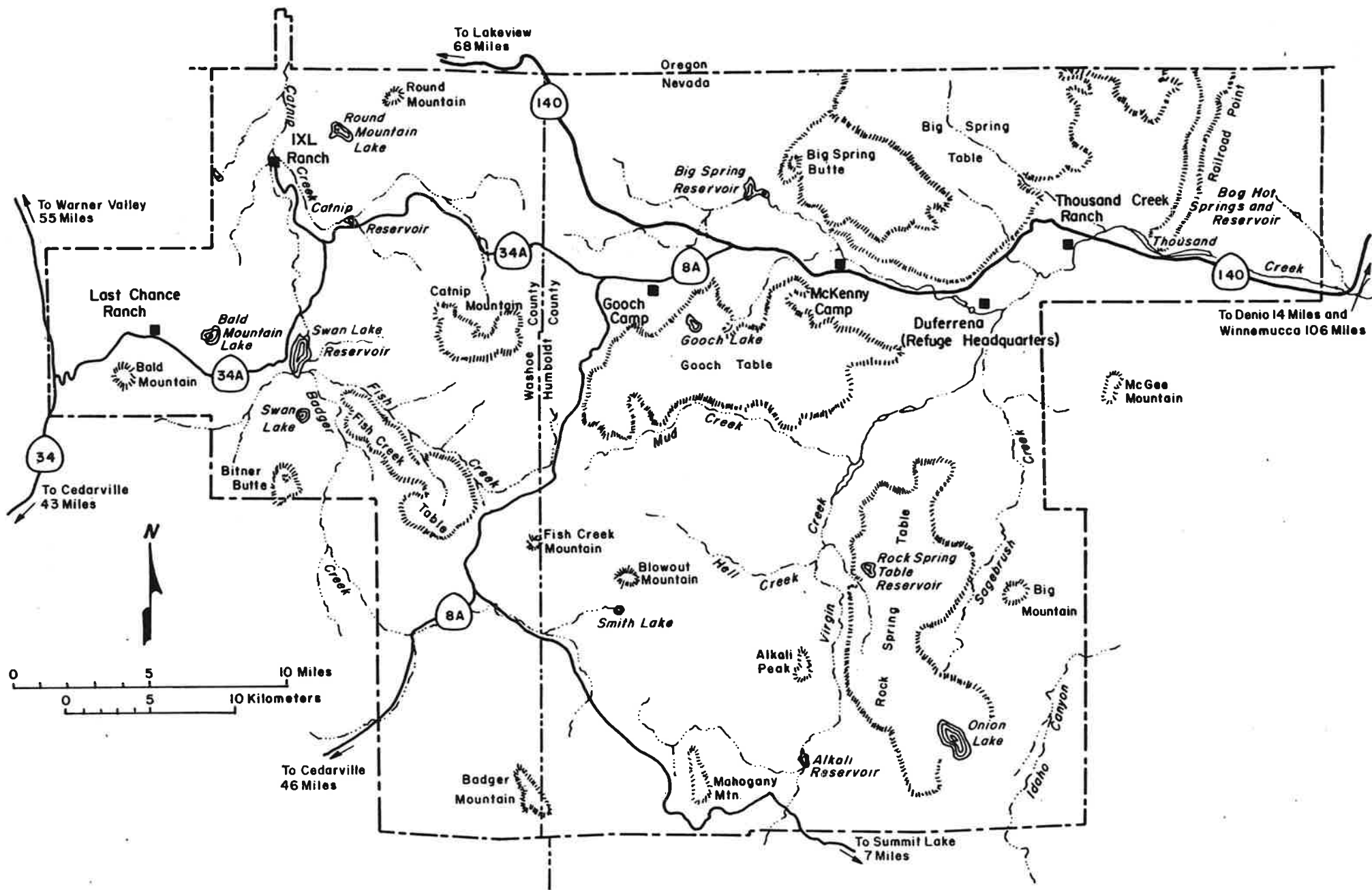
REFUGE HEADQUARTERS

SHIRK RANCH

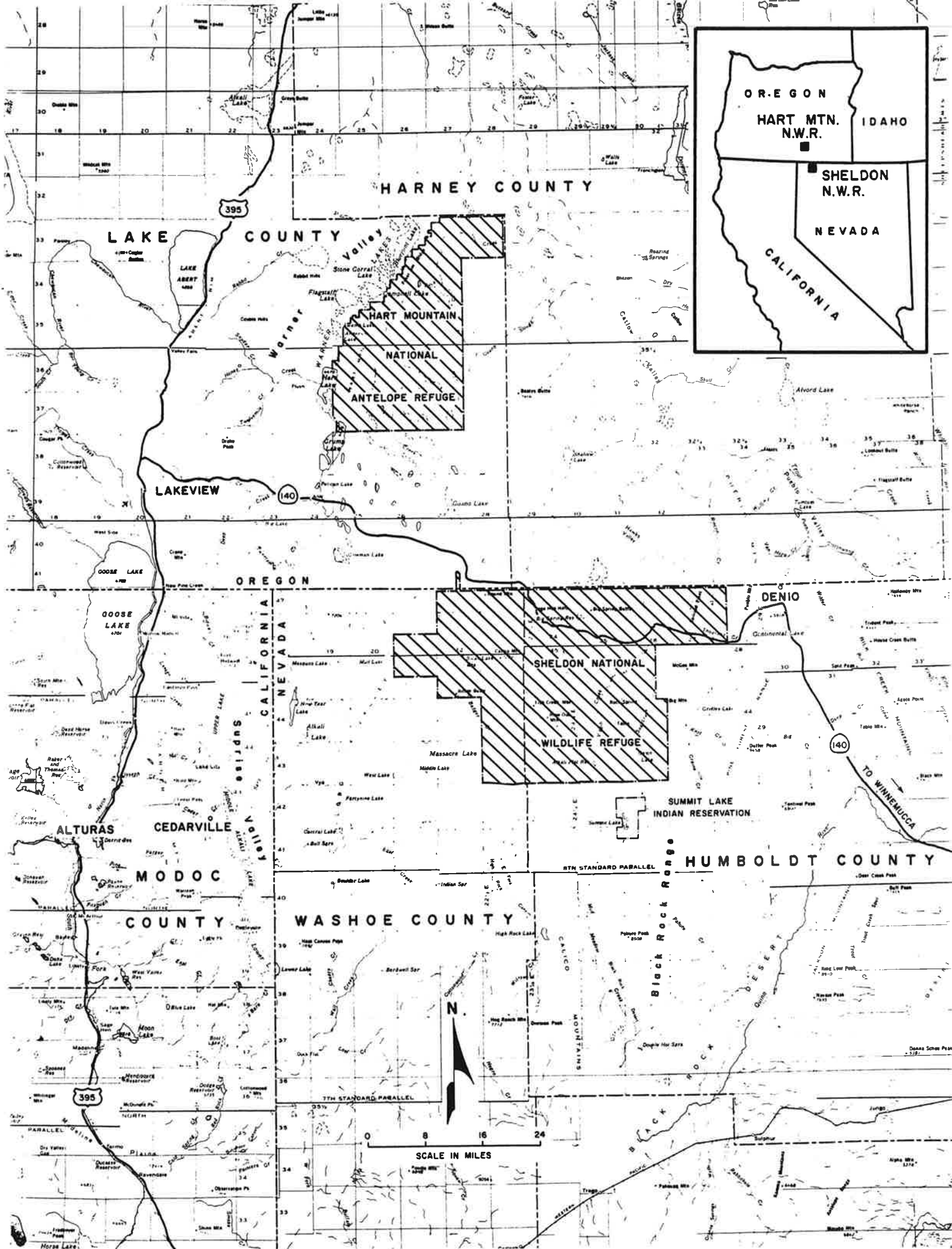
HART MOUNTAIN NATIONAL ANTELOPE REFUGE
LAKE COUNTY, OREGON



HART MOUNTAIN
LAKE COUNTY, OREGON



SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



HARNEY COUNTY

LAKE COUNTY

HART MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL
ANTELOPE REFUGE

LAKEVIEW

OREGON

CALIFORNIA
NEVADA

SHELDON NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

DENIO

ALTURAS

CEDARVILLE

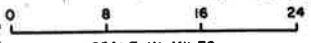
MODOC COUNTY

WASHOE COUNTY

HUMBOLDT COUNTY



SCALE IN MILES



395

140

TO WINNEMUCA

8TH STANDARD PARALLEL

7TH STANDARD PARALLEL

BLACK ROCK RANGE

CALICO MOUNTAINS

DESERT

Alpha Mts. 1212'

Alpha Mts. 1212'

THE STUDY AREA

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge are administered jointly out of the complex office in Lakeview, Oregon. Hart Mountain Refuge is located in south-central Oregon about 35 miles northwest of Sheldon Refuge, the northern boundary of which is the Oregon/Nevada state line. The boundaries of Hart Mountain Refuge encompass an area of approximately 275,000 acres located in Lake County. Sheldon Refuge, located in northwestern Nevada, includes large portions of Washoe and Humboldt counties and encompasses about 575,000 acres. Scattered inholdings within the refuges' boundaries are primarily mining patents and ranches. The area in and around the refuges is a land of wide spaces, its small population concentrated in the communities of Adel, Plush, and Lakeview, Oregon; Denio, Nevada; and Cedarville, California. The major economic activity is the range livestock industry. Tourism is limited, but growing rapidly.

DESCRIPTION OF INVESTIGATION

The first phase of the investigation was the literature search which consisted of an examination of existing documentary and archival records and a trip to the refuges to conduct a preliminary inspection of the resources. The literature search began the last week in October 1983 and continued until January 20, 1984, consisting of 19 workdays. During this period visits were made to the University of Oregon Library in Eugene; the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and State Archives in Salem; and the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. During the last week of January a trip to Reno/Carson City was made to

consult the Nevada SHPO files; the Nevada Historical Society; and Washoe County tax records. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted. Also during this period informant contacts were made as well as a review of pertinent records at the Regional Office.

The project historian visited the refuges in early November to become familiar with the types of resources, their general condition, location, and geographic setting. At this time it was decided to proceed with the fieldwork in late November in the hope of beating the first snowfall. The weather did not conform and actual on-site examination of the resources was delayed until April.

The second phase of the project commenced April 13 and continued until July 11. During this period three trips were made to the refuge to conduct the field survey and informant interviews. Some additional research was also conducted at this time: refuge files were consulted as well as Humboldt County records in Winnemucca. Time required to travel long distances and inclement weather conditions which prohibited access to some sites increased time spent in the field.

Fieldwork consisted of a systematic examination of each structure and building, and preparation of a physical description which includes the following information:

- 1) building type
- 2) general dimensions
- 3) condition of resource
- 4) distinguishing features

All resources were measured and photographed.

Due to lack of documentary data for this area most information regarding specific sites was collected through oral interviews with descendants of the people who lived or worked on the ranches, as well as past and present refuge staff, and other residents in the community knowledgeable about the area. It required 18 workdays to complete the fieldwork.

The final phase of the project overlapped with the second phase. Beginning in June, data collected during the literature search and in the field was reviewed and organized. Preparation of the final document began July 16.

PREVIOUS HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN THE AREA

Professional historians have conducted little historical research of Hart Mountain or south-central Oregon in general. To date the most significant work from the perspective of cultural resource management has taken two forms. The first is The Cultural Resource Overview of the BLM Lakeview District, South-Central Oregon prepared by Rick Minor, Kathryn Anne Toepel and Stephen Dow Beckham for the Bureau of Land Management in 1979. The historical narrative component of this document is based primarily on documentary sources. It is organized thematically and provides a relatively detailed framework for placing resources in some historic perspective.

The second investigation, almost exclusively site-oriented, is The Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings for Lake County, compiled by Stephen Dow Beckham in 1976. The inventory provides good, though brief, data on specific sites and is a useful tool for determining the relative abundance

of historical resources and developing a typology for vernacular building types. Collectively these studies function adequately as a tool for aiding cultural resource identification and evaluation on Hart Mountain Refuge.

Historical investigations on Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge are virtually non-existent with the exception of a brief historical narrative included in A Cultural Resource Overview for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge prepared by Robert Elston and Phillip Earl in 1979. Here some attempt is made to provide the thematic background necessary for identifying potential historic resources on the refuge. All research was documentary in nature. There was no field investigation. The principal shortcoming of this study is that it primarily assembles data with little attempt to evaluate or interpret them in order to understand the potential significance of a given resource. To date there have been no site-specific surveys to identify or record historic sites on the refuge. A comprehensive framework for identifying and evaluating historic cultural resources on Sheldon has not been developed.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Sheldon and Hart Mountain refuges lie in the western portion of the Great Basin, a region characterized by internal drainage systems, block faulted mountain ranges, and volcanic tablelands. The area receives little rainfall due to the barrier against Pacific storms formed by the Cascade Range and Sierra Nevada. In addition, the climate is characterized by low relative humidity, rapid evaporation, abundant sunshine, and extreme ranges in temperature.

The natural vegetation found on the refuges varies according to soil type, climate, elevation, and geography. The dominant vegetation community is shrub - grassland with sagebrush at lower levels and juniper and mountain mahogany occurring at higher elevations. Stands of willow are frequently present along waterways.

Limitations imposed by this harsh environment have had a major impact on the type of activities that have characterized the area's history since the mid-nineteenth century. The arid land covered mostly by sagebrush did not permit production of marketable foodstuffs but was sufficient for grazing. The range livestock industry which grew up in the area did not require much in the way of technology and was characterized by use of local resources. Ranches were almost always established at springs, or areas where streams flowed down from higher elevations. Natural meadows often existed near these water sources.

When they didn't, ranchers developed irrigation systems to grow native hay and later alfalfa. Until well into the twentieth century ranch buildings and accessory structures were constructed of local materials such as stone, juniper, willow, and sod. The history of land use and occupation on the refuges is best described as adaptation to the environment rather than manipulation or modification of it. Although the impact of this inhospitable environment has been softened by transportation and technological developments, it is still desert country, and its history is best understood within the context of that environment. This theme is an integral part of the narrative which follows.

THE SITES

The ranches inventoried in this project were established in the late nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth century. Developed for stock raising they had in common their location along transportation routes, as well as proximity to water and grazing necessary for ranching operations. For the most part, the buildings and associated structures are products of the local environment.

A variety of nationalities participated in the settlement and agricultural development of the area. Irish were represented by ranchers such as the Barry family - a descendent of whom still leases the Shirk Ranch. George Hapgood, who owned a large ranch near Calcutta Lake as well as the Last Chance Ranch on Sheldon, was of English descent. William Ebeling, the original owner of several of the ranches documented in this report, came from Germany. Tom Dufurrena, one of the largest property owners on Sheldon when the government bought it, was a Basque; one of the most frequently mentioned national groups,

which contributed significantly to the expansion of the area's sheep industry in the early twentieth century.

The ranches, regardless of location, age, ethnic origins of its owner, or type of livestock, generally consisted of one or more houses and an assortment of barns, sheds, corrals and miscellaneous outbuildings. If the operation was relatively large, there might be a bunkhouse. This shelter is called by different names depending on location and use including line camp, and bunkhouse. A bunkhouse is a small house on the home ranch that serves as permanent home for ranchhands. With one or more rooms, there is space for cooking, eating, sleeping, and storing horse gear and equipment. Temporary shelters, called line camps were placed strategically at long distances from the home ranch. Ranch hands bunked there for short periods while tending cattle. Line camp refers to both the building and the place and may consist of a canvas tent set on the ground or sturdily constructed stone buildings such as the one at Gooch Camp.

There are three predominant types of bunkhouses and/or line camps in northern Nevada and southeastern Oregon - two house types well known in other parts of North America, and one type introduced to the region by Alpine Italian Masons (Marshall 1981:41). All three types are found on Sheldon and Hart Mountain and documented in this report. The first type is a continuation of the house form known for hundreds of years in Europe, the single pen house. Built either square or rectangular, it is found all over the United States, constructed of various materials. This type was first built of sod by one of the earliest homesteaders in the study area, George Hapgood, and in stone and wood by later ranchers. Its primary features are its one-room square or rectangular shape with door in the long side and a gable roof.

The second type is a version of the single pen house but the house plan has been turned and the door placed in the gable end rather than in the long side. Bunkhouses of this type are usually frame. Both of the single pen forms are often divided into two small rooms inside, but the general rule calls for one open room. The Shirk Ranch has an excellent example of each type. Both are wood frame box construction called "single-wall construction" by people in the area. This framing technique uses no vertical bracing but depends instead on a strong wall of vertical boards made rigid by the roof system. Second and third layers of battens and horizontal boards were usually added. The first type is an end-opening structure with one room; the second is side-opening with two small rooms. Line camp cabins may be either of these two forms. The structure at Gooch Camp which serves as a line camp for the M-C Cattle Company, is a single pen house of the second type, but with a hip roof rather than gable, and two adjacent doors, each opening into a separate room.

The third type of bunkhouse is a one and one-half to two-story building constructed of stone, sometimes in combination with wood. It is a derivation of a building type common to northern Italy and brought to Nevada by Italian stone masons: several of these structures remain on ranches south of the study area near Winnemucca (Marshall 1981:41). The only fully intact example found in the study area is at Kinney Camp. The first floor is partly underground and was used as a cellar or meat room. The buckaroos and ranch hands lived in the second story, reached by an outdoor staircase. The building is roughly square with thick rock walls to the second floor line with wood above, and hip roof. Bunkhouses of this type are known to have existed at Dufurrena as well as Thousand Creek Ranch (Stephens 1984).

All of the ranches had a barn although large barns were uncommon. A notable exception is the long barn at Shirk Ranch. Other ranch structures included chicken houses, sheds for machinery, wagons, and other equipment, and on large operations, a blacksmith shop.

Most of the ranches had less than eight functional buildings, although it is not uncommon to find ranches in the area with more. Generally speaking, a large number of buildings, many in stages of disrepair and disuse, reflects a long history of occupation where new structures were erected as needed and the other buildings gradually abandoned. Both the Shirk and IXL ranches are noteworthy in this respect. Initially established in the 1880's and in continual operation as working ranches since that time they reflect a continuum of ranching history from early settlement of the area to the present.

Materials used in construction of ranch buildings and structures had in common their ready accessibility and low cost. In a region of long distances and fairly primitive transportation, the cost of manufactured building materials, such as milled lumber or brick, tended to be prohibitive. Barbed-wire was also expensive at first; and when used was often to enclose large areas of ground such as pasture, while juniper stakes and willow branches were commonly used for the ranches' corrals and pens.

Ranch houses and auxiliary buildings tended to have a long, low rectangular shape with a shallow-pitched gable or shed roof. Most of the residences and animal sheds have entrances in the long side, while the barn entrance was almost always in the gable end. Wall materials were generally rough, although window and door openings were often framed with milled lumber. Roofs were

usually shingled although sod roofs were common on root cellars and animal sheds. The stone buildings at Hart Mountain headquarters built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930's carry on this vernacular building type employing local stone in construction of the walls and echoing many of the forms and shapes of these early ranch buildings.

Stone construction was used almost exclusively at each of the sites, principally due to the availability of the material. There is however, some amount of variety in construction methods. In most instances, undressed stone was stacked up dry (the Poindexter Cabin on Hart Mountain is a good example of this method) or with a rough concrete or mud mortar. If rocks were extremely irregular, the resulting wide joints were sometimes filled with small stones and bits of wood, and then mortar applied to the face of the wall. The interior wall surfaces in houses and barns were frequently plastered.

The dugout, or root cellar, found on the Shirk and Last Chance Ranches, as well as Kinney Camp was almost always lined with stone. Usually within 10 to 15 feet of the main dwelling, it was a relatively simple structure, excavated into the slope of a hill, with a dirt roof. The only fully intact example of a root cellar is found at Kinney Camp. It provides an excellent illustration of sod roof construction: a trimmed tree trunk acts as a ridgepole into which the rafters, composed of smaller peeled limbs, are connected. Willow branches are then spread over the rafters and a layer of dirt placed over the whole.

Several of the stone structures which date from the early 1900's show slightly more attention to detail and "style" than is the case with older buildings, such as the simple, almost austere, Last Chance Ranch house built in 1885, as

well as various crude stone outbuildings on the Shirk and IXL ranches. The barns and chicken sheds at Thousand Creek and Kinney Camp (circa 1912) have clearly quoined corners which add strength structurally and are decorative as well. The shop at Dufurrena, built in 1936, is constructed of well-dressed stone and was built by a professional stone mason. A simple but decorative touch are the radiating voussoirs over window and door openings. A small, rectangular animal shed at Dufurrena (circa 1900) displays an unusual variation and delightful decorative touch in stone construction. The main walls are composed of narrow, dry stacked slabs of rubble which are sheathed on the exterior with brightly colored "panels" of red and pink sandstone giving an overall patchwork-quilt effect. The stone at the top of the walls projects slightly probably to prevent the dirt roof from washing off and also giving the appearance of a cornice.

The sandstone used on the exterior of this structure is found on numerous buildings throughout the study area. In some instances, such as the shop at Dufurrena, it is the major structural element. In other instances its use is decorative as well as functional as seen in the window and door jambs on the chicken houses at Thousand Creek Ranch and Kinney Camp.

The sandstone comes from a large quarry just south and east of Sheldon refuge sub-headquarters at Dufurrena. The quarry was in commercial operation for many years before shutting down in 1965. The stone, shipped to points throughout the Northwest and California, was a popular building veneer. The "mud saw" remaining on the site was used to cut the stone after it had been broken out of the bed with cables. It was built by the Wagman brothers shortly after they began working the quarry in the fifties (Wagman 1985).

Wood construction was less common in the study area; however, it did occur on the Shirk, IXL, and Last Chance Ranches. In each instance vertical plank construction was used both with and without battens. Horizontal shiplap siding appears on the main dwelling at the Shirk ranch as well as the water tower and outhouse.

Despite the present lack of detailed, site-specific information for many historic cultural resources on the refuges, it is clear that the ranches inventoried in this report have much to reveal about the historical and environmental circumstances of the region's agricultural settlement and subsequent development. The physical characteristics of ranches - number, form, type, and arrangement of buildings and structures, the materials and methods of construction - can tell a great deal about how people and their livestock lived, both in relationship to each other and to their natural surroundings. The collective history of the ranches whether abandoned or still active operations, gives sharp focus to the interconnectedness of human activities in the region. Ranchers and their families were significant participants in the settlement of this area. Raising of sheep, horses, and cattle contributed to the importance of the livestock industry and, in a larger context, ranchers' efforts to use, and yet conserve, the land and its fragile plant and water resources contributed to the development of new public policy regarding the western range.

IXL RANCH

HISTORY

The IXL Ranch was consolidated out of several small homesteads beginning in the mid 1880's. The earliest recorded occupation of southern Guano Valley was 1881 when Joseph Wheeler filed for 120 acres in a meadow north of the present ranch complex. Wheeler did not stay on the property long. It was deeded to R.F. McConnaughty shortly afterwards and by him to John Webster Cratty in 1889 (Wasco County Deeds: 1880-1889). At this time Cratty was the largest private property owner in the southern end of the valley with 835 acres which included water rights to several major springs and improvements valued at over \$1,000 (Wasco County Assessor: 1881-1890). Scattered amongst Cratty's property were holdings belonging to two other men, William T. Cressler and Adam E. Rinehart, both of Cedarville, California, who collectively held title to over 1,000 acres. According to Rinehart's grandson, Ed Rinehart of Paiute, Idaho, these three men were part of the original partnership which established the ranch. Cratty died some time prior to 1889 and Cressler bought his interest. By 1905 Cressler was sole owner of the ranch which included close to 2,000 acres having bought Rinehart out shortly after Cratty's death (Wasco County Deeds: 1905).

Bill Rinehart, Adam's son, became ranch foreman in the early 1890's and remained there until 1926. He oversaw development of the ranch, including construction of a large complex of buildings, corrals, reservoirs, and fencing of springs (Rinehart 1984). The operation grew steadily under his supervision. Tax rolls for 1900 indicate Rinehart was running 350 head of cattle, by 1915 the number was close to 2,000, and he controlled approximately 4,000 acres of grazing land and water rights to almost all the major springs in the area.

Buzz Miller, who buckarooed for a nearby rancher shortly after the turn of the century, recalls the IXL was "one of the finest cattle ranches around, with the best lookin' cattle anywhere."

Although William Cressler never lived at the ranch he played an important role in its development as well as the development of numerous other ranches in northwest Nevada, south-central Oregon, and northeast California. Originally from Pennsylvania, ill health forced him to give up a career practicing law and in 1860 he joined an emigrant train bound for California. He lived in Red Bluff, California for seven years where he taught school and worked as a clerk in the hardware store. While in Red Bluff Cressler formed a partnership with John H. Bonner and in 1867 they established a small store on the site where Cedarville now stands (Modoc County Historical Museum: Genealogy Files).

In addition to their mercantile interests Bonner and Cressler also went into banking and their firm became well-known throughout northern California, southern Oregon and northwest Nevada. They assisted in the agricultural development of the area by loaning money to stockmen during lean times. After a particularly bad year Dave Shirk, whose Guano Valley ranch is documented in this report, was ready to give up ranching altogether, and changed his mind only after Cressler made a long, rough trip by horse and buggy from Cedarville to loan him money and encourage him to give it one more try (Rinehart 1984) (Lake County Deeds: 1890-1900). After Bonner's death Cressler became active in politics and ranching. He was elected to the state legislature from Siskiyou County in 1874 on the platform that Modoc county be created out of the eastern portion of Siskiyou County. Cressler pushed this through the legislature during his first session in office earning him the nickname "Father of Modoc

County" (Modoc County Historical Museum: Genealogy Files). Cressler was also known as a successful cattleman. Besides the IXL, he owned 4,000 acres in Warner Valley devoted to stock-raising which is still in the Cressler family today, and 2,000 acres of farmland in Surprise Valley. Newspaper sources indicate Cressler was "proud of the fact he could drive his cattle from his Nevada and Oregon ranches to a shipping point on the N-C-O railroad and stop on his own property every night" (Ibid). Cressler died in 1926 and left the IXL to his son Sam, a banker in Lakeview, Oregon. Sam resided intermittently at the IXL until his death in 1928 when administration of the ranch was turned over to trustees in Cedarville (Robinson 1984). The federal government bought the property in 1936 for incorporation into the Sheldon Antelope Refuge. Since that time it has been leased to a permittee who continues to run cattle and produce hay on the property.

The ranch is located in the southern end of Guano Valley along the banks of Catnip Creek. The major water sources for the ranch are Swan Lake and Catnip Reservoir. Between 1907 and 1910 ranch foreman Bill Rinehart oversaw construction of the water control structures at these places (Rinehart 1984). With a more stable water supply for both cattle and irrigation Rinehart significantly increased ranch production. Prior to 1907 he harvested approximately 40 tons of hay per year, by 1911 it increased to 1500-1600 tons per year (Ibid).

With the exception of the main ranch house which burned in 1950, all of the major buildings and structures from the earliest period of occupation are still standing. The machine shed north of the barn and the metal-sided bunkhouse south of the house were built circa 1928 under Sam Cressler's direction and the

metal-sided storage shed/garage was constructed sometime after 1938 (Rinehart 1984). However, the barn, chicken house, blacksmith shop, long shed, bunk-house/cooler (which now serves as a living quarters) and the rock walls and corrals were probably constructed prior to 1907 and possibly as early as 1880 (Ibid).

EVALUATION

The IXL Ranch is determined not to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the site is associated with William Cressler who played an important role in Modoc County history the fact that he never actually lived at the ranch and the existence of another building of landmark status more directly linked to Cressler (the store in Cedarville) diminish this associative value. The ranch is representative of processes in the historical development and settlement of the area, however, other ranches including the Shirk Ranch, retain better ensemble feeling and contain buildings of greater architectural interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. No action should be taken to process a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
2. The refuge should consider using materials from this site at the Shirk Ranch which is potentially eligible for inclusion in the NHRP. This includes old tools, machinery, and other implements associated with ranching activities which could be used in interpretive displays as well as building materials which could be used in repair and replacement of materials on structures at Shirk Ranch.



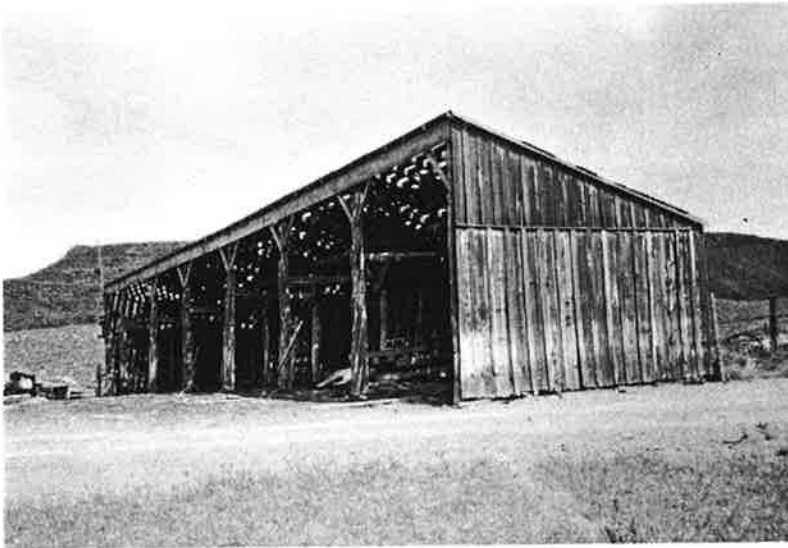
Original ranch house, west view: destroyed by fire. Photo taken ca. 1900. Pictured from left to right: Effie Rinehart, Grace Rinehart, Marion Rionehart, Harry Rinehart and wife Eva, Adam Rinehart (one of original partners in ranch), and Bill Rinehart (ranch foreman for many years under William Cressler). Wood portion of house (to right) was bunkhouse for hired men. Note wash stand and basin far right on porch. Small structure on far left was well house. Water piped in wooden pipe approx. one mile from spring and run into hole (approx. 4'x4'x6'). Overflow piped to corral for stock water.



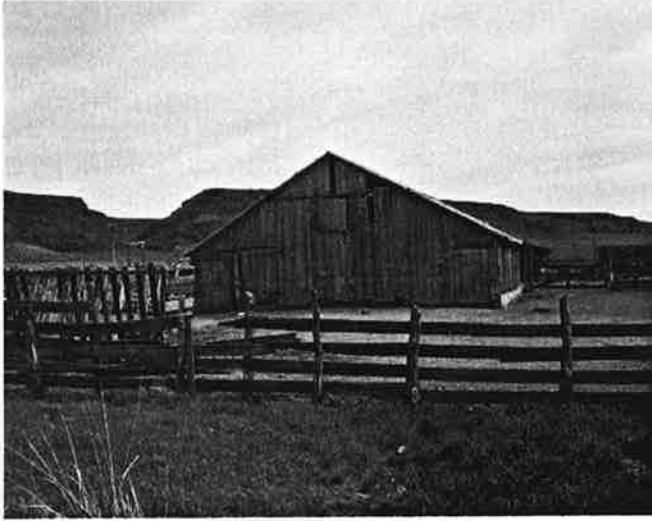
Residence (former bunkhouse and cooler), northeast view: ca. 1907; 43'3"x19'14"; rectangular, one and one-half story, wood frame and masonry structure, uncoursed rubble to second story floor line, wood frame above sheathed with wide shiplap, corner and rake boards. Wood shingle medium gable roof with broad slopes. Narrow one-over-one double-hung sash window, two small rectangular windows on east elevation. Three door openings on west elevation: paneled wooden door offset center to south; one story, central projecting entry, diagonal plank door; stairway to roof of first floor entry provides access to second floor, vertical plank door. No apparent material or structural alterations. Masonry cracked; mortar deteriorating. Fair condition.



Blacksmith Shop, northwest view: ca. 1907; 20'x20'; rectangular, one-story, wood frame, vertical plank walls with exterior batts. Medium gable roof, wood shingle, lean-to on west elevation. Dry stone foundation. Small, 4-light window in east elevation. Two vertical plank doors offset center in south (gable end) elevation, Z-bracing, falling off hinges. Exterior siding warped and deteriorating. Roof materials missing. Fair condition.



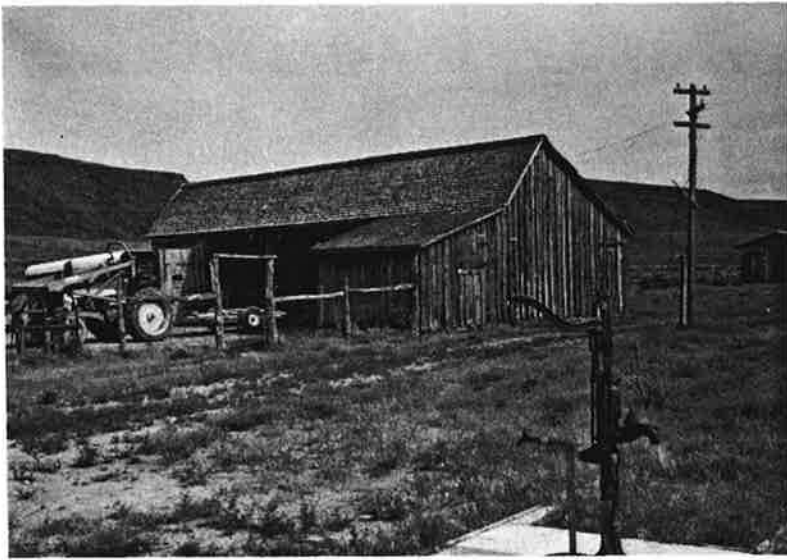
Shed, southwest view: n.d.; 80'x15'; rectangular, one story, shed roof, wood, shingle. Enclosed on three elevations by vertical boards with wide exterior batts, north elevation open, roof supported by large juniper posts. Roof materials missing. Fair condition.



Barn, south view: ca. 1907; 46'x42'; rectangular, wood frame, mortise and tenon joinery with wooden pegs. Medium gable roof covered with sheet metal. Board and batten siding, most batts missing. Large door openings in north and south (gable end) elevations, vertical plank, strap hinges. No major structural or material alterations. Wall boards deteriorating, some missing. Fair condition.



Chicken House, southeast view: ca. 1907; 18'x16'; rectangular, one story stone structure, uncoursed rubble walls 3' thick. Medium gable roof covered with wood shingles. Central, vertical plank door in west gable end. Small, six-light window in south elevation. Roof shingles deteriorating, some missing. Fair condition.



Machine Shop, southeast view: n.d.; rectangular, one-story, wood frame, vertical plank walls with exterior batts, shed-roofed wing on northeast corner. Wood shingle medium gable roof (catslide). Three bays on north elevation with juniper post supports. Large vertical plank doors with strap hinges. No apparent material or structural alterations. Fair condition.



Bunkhouse, west view: ca. 1927; rectangular, one-story, stone foundation, wood frame, sheet metal siding. Vertical wood plank addition on northwest corner, paneled wooden door. Six-over-six double-hung sash window south elevation. Low pitch gable roof covered with sheet metal. Recessed porch on east (gable end) elevation, enclosed with screen, vertical panel door offset center with ornate knob, narrow double-hung sash window with leaded glass. Bird and rodent infestation. Stairway to entrance on west elevation deteriorating. Fair condition.



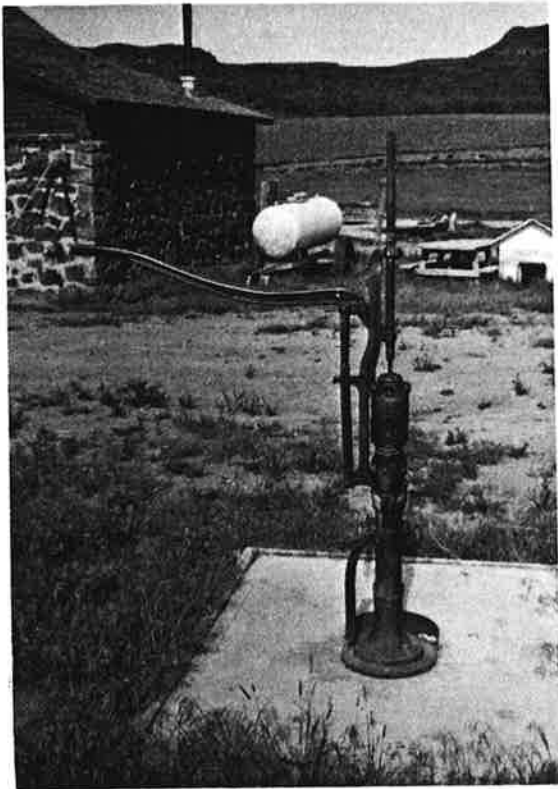
Garage, southeast view: ca. 1930; rectangular, one-story, stone foundation, wood frame, sheet metal siding. Low pitch gable roof covered with sheet metal. Door openings in north gable end, strap hinges. No windows. Good condition.



Corrals and Fences: Extensive system, variety of types and materials. Round corral constructed of vertical juniper posts set close together. Holding corrals, vertical juniper posts set several feet apart, with horizontal planks between. Rock wall (built ca. 1900), dry stacked rubble stone, several hundred yards long.



Outhouse #1, east view: n.d.; rectangular, one-story, wood frame with vertical plank siding. Wood shingle medium gable roof. Double seater. Door opening on west elevation, no door. Plank siding missing on facade. Poor condition.



Waterpump, east view: ca. 1900 vintage.

LAST CHANCE RANCH

HISTORY

The Last Chance Ranch was established by George Burt Hapgood in the early 1880's. Hapgood was born in Jeffersonville, Vermont in 1856 and came west sometime prior to 1880. Census records indicate he was living in northern Roop County (now Washoe County) in that year (1880 Federal Census, Roop County).

Between 1880 and 1889 Hapgood began acquiring the property now known as the Last Chance Ranch, so named because he believed it to be his last opportunity to establish a livestock operation with access to water and grazing in that area (Refuge Headquarters Archives: History file). In addition to this ranch Hapgood also established and maintained a ranch near Calcutta Lake, west of the Last Chance property. The Hapgood family lived at the Calcutta ranch during the harsh winter months and moved back to the Last Chance for the summer. Both ranches were geared to diversified livestock production although for many years the primary focus on Last Chance was horses (Hapgood 1984). George Hapgood died in 1927 and was buried in Cedarville, California. His sons, Jesse and True, took over operation of the ranches.

During the Hapgood occupation of the ranch numerous improvements were made including construction of a small sod house, barn, root cellar, main ranch house, and assorted smaller auxiliary structures and buildings. The only existing structures associated with this period are the ranch house and a small root cellar.

In the early twenties, E.R. Sans, Nevada superintendent of predatory animal control for the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey (now U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) visited the IXL Ranch just north and east of the Last Chance Ranch. While there he was given a tour by ranch foreman Bill Rinehart. Sans was impressed with the idea that the area would be ideal for the establishment of an antelope refuge due mainly to the fact that it was a favorite summer range of the animal and much of the land was still government owned (Refuge Headquarters Archives: History file). For many years William L. Finley and others had urged the creation of several large antelope and sage grouse refuges in the West, especially in northern Nevada and southeastern Oregon. At this time antelope were not protected by state or federal laws and competition from livestock had seriously depleted their numbers.

In July 1927 Sans discussed the possibility of establishing an antelope refuge with Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, who was in Nevada engaged in fieldwork. Ernest Greenwalt, a friend of Sans and first Sheldon refuge employee, relates the circumstances of Sans meeting with Pearson in a letter to former refuge manager Ben Hazeltine:

"The Sheldon was E.R. Sans big dream, and he was the guy who spark plugged the idea and carried it through from the start. He and Dr. Pearson got marooned overnight on Anaho Island in Pyramid Lake when winds came up and they couldn't reach the mainland. Sans spent the night selling Pearson on the idea of an antelope refuge and Pearson in turn sold it to the Boone and Crocket Club as a cooperative endeavor [with the Audubon Society].

Two months after their meeting Sans began negotiations with the Hapgood brothers for purchasing the Last Chance Ranch which was for sale at the time for \$20,000. The ranch controlled the water for the largest lambing grounds for antelope in the state. There were three good springs on the property, one of which, Hobble Springs, seldom ran dry even in the driest years.

At the same time, Pearson secured the support of the Boone and Crocket Club of New York which had expressed an interest in creating an antelope refuge as early as 1910. The club pledged to raise half of the asking price if the Audubon Society would match it. In this manner they jointly purchased 2,900 acres, which included the Last Chance Ranch. The property was turned over to the Bureau of Biological Survey as an antelope refuge with the condition that the federal government set aside 30,000 acres of adjacent land for the same purpose (Refuge Headquarters Archives: History file). In 1929 President Hoover temporarily withdrew from entry the stipulated public land on recommendation of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. The total area at the time was close to forty square miles.

President Hoover signed the executive order officially establishing the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range on January 26, 1931. Dr. Pearson was given the privilege of naming the refuge because of his participation in establishing it. Charles Sheldon was a friend of Pearson's who died in 1928. A member of the Boone and Crocket Club and an avid sportsman, explorer, and conservationist, Sheldon had been concerned about the plight of the antelope for many years.

In 1928 shortly after acquisition of the Hapgood property Ernest Greenwalt was hired as a custodian for the ranch and newly-created refuge. The Last Chance ranch house served as refuge "headquarters" from 1928 until 1934. The house was occupied by Greenwalt and his wife Judy during this time. Their son, Lynn, spent the first several years of his life here and later became director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For further discussion of early history and development of refuge headquarters on Bald Mountain see Elston and Earl, A Cultural Resources Overview for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

EVALUATION

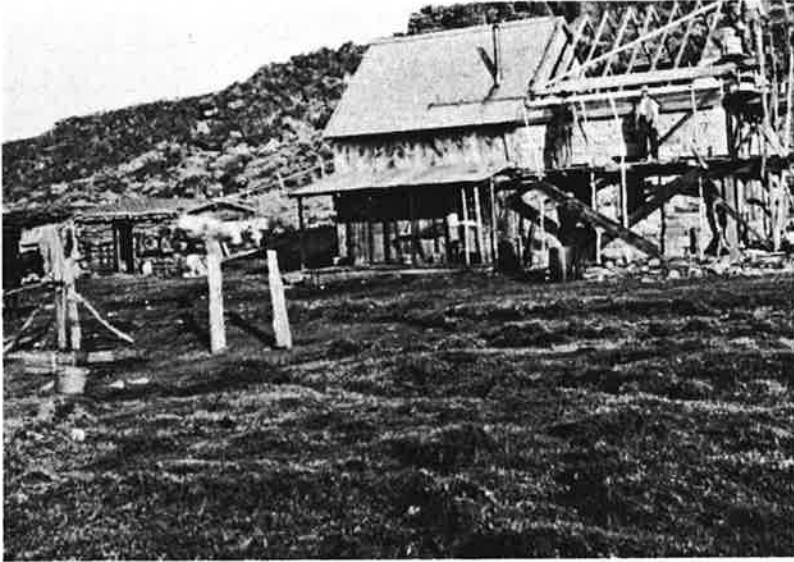
The Last Chance Ranch house is determined to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places based on its association with the establishment of the Charles Sheldon National Antelope Range. Establishment of the range was a cooperative effort between the Audubon Society, Boone and Crocket Club, and the Bureau of Biological Survey and was the first organized effort to provide a sanctuary for the pronghorn antelope. It came at a time when national concern for conservation of the country's natural resources was growing due to the depleted state of those resources. The resulting conservation movement had tremendous impact on the economic, political, and social makeup of the nation. Because the Last Chance Ranch is directly linked to the creation of the range which represents the historical values embodied in the conservation movement, the Last Chance Ranch may be said to be "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

Beyond this, the ranch house must also be assessed as to integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, and feeling that it retains. Because the ranch house is important for its association with a significant historic phenomena it should ideally retain some features pertaining to all of these areas although, in this case, integrity of design and workmanship are not as relevant.

The ranch house has had some alterations over the years, however, most of the original material is intact as well as integrity of setting and location, thus it retains an overall feeling and association with the historic period it represents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A NHRP or Determination of Eligibility form should be prepared for the site.
2. Prepare maintenance plan. Should be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (See Appendix A).
3. Because the Last Chance Ranch is significant in understanding the development of the refuge it would be an important component of interpretive program which seeks to illustrate refuge history. It should be given careful consideration in the I & R program review.



House under construction, northeast view: photo taken ca. 1910. Note small sod house to left of main house.



House, northeast view: 34'7" x 16'5"; built in two phases, wood portion to north, constructed ca. 1885, vertical plank walls, most batts missing Southern half, built ca. 1910, coursed, square rubble. Two halves share wood shingle, medium gable roof. Each half has door on west elevation, single leaf, four panel. Window openings boarded up, originally six-over-six double-hung sash on south elevation, openings on other elevations shorter and squattier. Shed roof porch on facade removed, n.d. Severe bird and rodent infestation. Mortar deteriorated, stone wall, south elevation, cracking. Some repair and replacement of materials, not incompatible. Roof resingled 1981. Fair condition.