NPS Form 10-900a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000042 Date Listed: 3/1/2010

Moon-Randolph Ranch — Missoula — MT
Property Name — County — State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 3/1/2010

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Function:
The Historic Functions are amended to read:
Domestic: single dwelling (house, cabin);
Domestic: secondary structure (outhouse, root cellar)
Agriculture/Subsistence: Animal facility (barn, coop, hog shed, etc)
Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural outbuilding (milk house, sheds)
Agriculture/Subsistence: Agricultural field (fields, orchard, gardens)
[Whenever possible the function codes should include both a category and subcategory term taken from our standardized list.]

Significance:
The Period of Significance is revised to read: *1889—1956.*
[This corresponds to the death of the original long-tern owners and developers of the farm Emma & Will Randolph, and the period of general decline for the subsistence operation in the post-war years.]

U. T. M. Coordinates:
The correct UTM Coordinate from point "I" should read:

12 E 271720 N 5197476

These clarifications were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Moon-Randolph Ranch

other name/site #: Randolph Farm, Randolph Dairy, Moon Homestead, Moon-Randolph Homestead

2. Location

street & number: 1515 Spurlock Road **not for publication:** N/A
vicinity: N/A

city/town: Missoula

state: Montana **code:** MT **county:** Missoula **code:** 063 **zip code:** 59802

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_ 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 _x_ meets __ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __ statewide _x_ locally. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. F. Barnes / SHPO — 1/6/2010
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

_✓_ entered in the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet — 3/1/2010

_____ determined eligible for the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ removed from the National Register
_____ see continuation sheet

_____ other (explain)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	**Noncontributing**	
14	0	**building(s)**
6	0	**Sites**
5	1	**Structures**
1	0	**Objects**
26	1	**Total**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Current Function:
RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
OTHER: wood-frame, salvaged materials

MATERIALS:
foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD: weatherboard/METAL: tin
roof: WOOD: shingle/METAL: tin
other:

Narrative Description:

Summary

The Randolph Ranch is a small-scale diversified family farm that lies immediately north of the City of Missoula in the North Hills, where steep grassy hillsides rise from the valley floor and overlook the city proper. The ranch consists of a complex of simple, shabby wood buildings (including several residences and numerous outbuildings) nestled in a large bowl-shaped draw; associated agricultural lands; and a small on-site coal mine. The historic adjoining lands, which by the height of production (ca. 1945) totaled 414 acres, include two distinct areas—intensively cultivated lands containing gardens and orchards close to the building cluster and outlying fields devoted to feed crops and pasture. The ranch property is generally open, with significant tree cover limited to the draw that contains the ranch buildings. There, thickets of native plum are interspersed with mature box elder, locust and other trees as well as shrubs like lilac and currant. The site's proximity to the urban center of Missoula is of central importance to its historical development.

The buildings on the Randolph Ranch all sit on the original 80 acres that the Randolphs purchased in 1907. Most date to the tenure of Ray Moon, who with his family first homesteaded the land (as part of a 160 acre claim) in 1889. The buildings and associated gardens and orchards occupy the most hospitable area of Moon's homestead claim: the low-lying depression at the bottom of the draw offered intermittent moisture from a seasonally spring-fed stream (which ran annually into summer) and protection from wind, and enabled the growth of volunteer and introduced trees and bushes.[1]

See continuation page, Section 7.

[1] Randolph family members remember running water in this gully every spring and into the summer. This hydrology has been altered considerably since the historic period, possibly by the drilling of wells in the heavily developed adjacent Rattlesnake Valley or by seismic activity.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A
Significant Person(s): N/A
Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Areas of Significance: Agriculture
Period(s) of Significance: 1889-1960
Significant Dates: 1889
Architect/Builder: Moon and Randolph families

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Moon-Randolph Ranch is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level of significance, for its association with broad patterns in the settlement of the Missoula Valley and the subsequent development and demise of regional agriculture and food supply systems. The period of significance extends from initial settlement in 1889 to the end of the historic period. During this time, the Moon-Randolph Ranch exemplified the trajectory of small-scale, diversified truck farms in Montana and the United States. Such farms flourished through World War II, when national changes in the structures of agriculture and food supply undermined their viability. Contributing resources include numerous historic buildings as well as associated areas of distinct land use, including orchards, garden sites, cultivated fields, and grazing lands. The ranch also contains an extensive material and documentary archive that enriches its integrity and contributes to its ability to convey its historic associations. Threats to integrity stem primarily from neglect and the resultant condition of buildings (see Narrative Description for details).

The Randolph family ran their ranch as a small-scale, diversified operation that provided a variety of products for home consumption as well as for sale to local residents, retailers, and food processors. They produced, sold and consumed fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, chickens, pigs, cows, honey and – through an on-site coal mine – fuel. This mixed-use is today evident not only in the variety of outbuildings and features (chicken coop/goat shed, milk house, cattle and horse barn, root cellar, winch shed, wells, etc.), but also in the creative reuse of materials, which attests to the many, varied means of making ends meet. In a cash-poor economy on marginal lands, all that was reusable was reused. Buildings are cobbled together of myriad salvaged materials in a sequence of additions. They speak to creative efforts to meet changing needs with limited money for supplies and skilled professional carpenters, as well as to the ranch's particular connections to Missoula's historic Northside Railroad district: salvaged boxcar siding, much of it with original stenciling still visible, is the predominant building material throughout. Car parts, shovels, and bed frames are incorporated in fence systems. Much of the farm machinery appears to be handmade (often based on original design, judging from historic drawings in Bill Randolph's estate). The property today stands as a rich, remarkably complete representation of historic agricultural patterns and the food supply system of which small, diversified farms were an integral part.

See continuation page, Section 8.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Primary and Secondary Sources

Archival Collections

Randolph Ranch on-site archive
North Missoula Community Development Corporation collection, Missoula, Montana.

Secondary Sources

AR Appraisal, "North Hills Appraisal," 1996. Copy on file at North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.

Babcock, Jessica. *Redeveloping a Montana Food Processing Industry: The Role of Food Innovation Centers.* Missoula: unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Montana, 2008.

Babcock, William. *Cook Farm.* National Register of Historic Places Form #24MO0551, 1995.

Beaverhead County History Book Association. *The History of Beaverhead County, Vol. I (1800-1920).* Logan, UT: Herff-Jones, Inc., 1990.

Butte Montana Standard, "Localvores: Movement to Buy Montana Products Helps Boost Agricultural Economy," July 18, 2009.

Caywood, Janene, Delia Hagen, and C. Milo McLeod. *Results of a Cultural Resources Inventory of Montana Department of Transportation's North of Stevensville-North Project Area, Ravalli County, Montana.* Helena: unpublished report prepared for MDT, 2009.

Chaffin, Glenn. *The Last Horizon: The Rambling Chaffin Clan Settles in the Bitter Root Valley of Western Montana in 1864 and Helps Develop this Lovely Land.* Somerset, CA: Pine Trail Press, 1971.

Clary, Jean, et al. *First Roots: The Story of Stevensville, Montana's Oldest Community.* Stevensville: Stoneydale Press Publishing Company, 2005.

Comer, Daniel S. *Historic Settlement of the Rattlesnake Creek Drainage, Montana: An Archaeological and Historical Perspective.* n.p., 2005.

Coon, Shirley Jay. *The Economic Development of Missoula, Montana.* Chicago: unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1926.

DeSilvey, Caitlin. *Butterflies and Railroad Ties: A History of a Montana Homestead.* Missoula: North Missoula Community Development Corporation, 2002.

Emmons, Ann, and Sarah Scott Adamson, *DRAFT Moon-Randolph National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, Helena: unpublished report for the MT SHPO, 2007.

Hagen, Delia and Janene Caywood. *Morgan-Case Homestead.* National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Site #24GN0195, 2004.

See continuation page, Section 9

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
X Other -- Specify Repository: Randolph Ranch and North Missoula Community Development Corporation, both in Missoula, Montana

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 414

UTM References: See continuation page, Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description

The SW ¼ of Section 10 T13N R19W; 5 acres in the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 9 T13N R19W; the NW ¼ of Section 15 T13N R19W; and 89 acres in the SW ¼ Section 15 T13N R19W. See attached site map.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries conform to the legal limits of land owned and used by the Randolph family during the period of significance, together known as the Moon-Randolph Ranch.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Delia Hagen
organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office
date: October 2009
street & number: 660 River Court **telephone:** 406 721-0120
city or town: Missoula **state:** MT **zip code:** 59801

name/title: Ann Emmons/historian (2000); updated by Sara Scott Adamson/architectural historian (2007)
organization: North Missoula Community Development Corporation/City of Missoula
date: June 2000; March 2007
street & number: 819 Stoddard **telephone:** 406 829-0873
city or town: Missoula **state:** MT **zip code:** 59802

Additional Documentation

See attached continuation sheets, current-condition photographs; historic photographs; and site maps.

Property Owner

name/title: City of Missoula (The Moon-Randolph Ranch is managed as "the Moon-Randolph Homestead" by North Missoula Community Development Corporation, in cooperation with the City of Missoula)
street & number: 435 Ryman **telephone:** 406 552-6001
city or town: Missoula **state:** MT **zip code:** 59802

Narrative Description (continued)

The building complex is divided into three components by the main access road, which enters the ranch from the west and curves southeast through the building cluster before turning west (and ending at the most recent of the ranches residential buildings, now used as the caretaker's quarters). A tightly spaced domestic cluster is located in the low, sheltered pocket in the center of the draw. It is composed of the two oldest ranch residences (with the original claim cabin located in the very center of the ranch complex), the outhouse, the root cellar, the milk house, the 1907 well, a shed (located between features 1 and 5, and in immediate danger of collapsing), the tack shed/wood shed, and one of the remaining hog sheds. A layer of agricultural buildings rings the domestic cluster on the (uphill) south and west sides. It contains the 1946 residence (originally built as a chicken coop), the chicken coop/goat shed, the second extant hog shed (which marks the location of what was originally a line of "low open sheds running along the west edge of the orchard"), and the barn with its associated barnyard, corrals, and livestock loading chute. A coal mine area is located north of the domestic cluster, on a raised bench on the other side of the access road. It contains the mine adit, a nearby winch shed, and the tin shed with attached outhouse. The building complex also historically contained a granary (located near the chicken/goat shed and lost to fire in 1945) and an ice house (located next to the milk house on its west side, lost at some point to causes unknown). Most of the buildings have shed roofs and are sided with lumber salvaged from railroad boxcars, and are visually unified by these architectural similarities.

Additional cultural resources on site include a variety of small-scale features, associated agricultural sites, and circulation systems, including primary and secondary access roads. Fences and gates delineate the domestic cluster, the livestock yards around the barn and chicken coop/goat shed, and cultivated fields, gardens, and orchards. Several garden areas, two orchard sites, and three alfalfa fields are integral parts of the extant cultural landscape. These components of the cultural landscape are character-defining features, and are described in detail below.

Land Uses and Activities

Patterns of Spatial Arrangements

From initial settlement through the end of the historic period, the Moon-Randolph Ranch was a small-scale diversified agricultural operation. Today this mixed use remains evident in an orchard, three fenced alfalfa fields, and three distinct areas of land use: the building cluster, nearby cultivated lands (including an orchard and fenced historic alfalfa fields), and outlying pasture lands (located on the broader expanse of arid ridgeline that forms the middle-distance view from the building cluster). These three areas are closely related to topography and the availability of water, with buildings concentrated within the low-lying depression at the bottom of the ravine, within the umbrella of the shelter-belt. Cultivated lands are concentrated in the sheltered depression around to the building cluster, facilitating access and allowing irrigation from a spring and the developed wells. Together, these two intensively developed clusters represent approximately 18 acres of the 414-acre ranch. Arid and unirrigable grazing land, much of it acquired after purchase of the original homestead claim, extends beyond the confines of the bowl-shaped ravine. These outlying lands are relatively steep and rocky, and were historically used only as pasture. As a result, development of outlying areas is largely limited to perimeter fencing.

Vegetation Related to Land Use

Soil profiles for the property reveal a predominance of Bigarm Gravelly loams on slopes from 15 percent to 30 percent. Typical inclusions for this classification include clayey soils. Land capability is generally not suited to the mechanized

production of commonly grown field crops and there is a hazard of water erosion due to slope. Surface soil tends to be droughty and cobbly with depth to water classified as deep.[2]

Historically, native prairie bunch grasses included bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and rough fescue. By 2001, the entire property was infested with spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, hound's tongue and (to a lesser degree) dalmation toadflax. In 1997, the county weed board estimated that these heavy infestations limit livestock carrying capacity to 20 to 30 percent of potential use.[3] Since 2001, a sheep grazing and hand-pulling weed program has largely controlled weeds, and only small patches of infestation remain. Sufficient moisture occurs seasonally in the ravine at the center of the building site to support a heavy growth of cottonwood, box elder, and native plum. The plums are native to the region, rare and probably were dropped here by native people traveling the high trail in the North Hills.[4] Within this gully, only the orchard is known to be a deliberate planting of non-native species. The black locust, however, is an introduced species and might have been planted. Given the extreme limits to natural flow in the intermittent gully, the cottonwood and box elder that dominate the shelter-belt are also presumed to have been introduced to the site. The orchard undergrowth is smooth brome grass and native snowberry.

As throughout the low-lying valleys of Missoula County, the Moon-Randolph Ranch receives an average of 13 inches of precipitation a year, much of this falling as snow or as rain during the perennially wet months of May and June. Cultivation of fruits and vegetables demanded irrigation. Except in years of marked drought, the naturally occurring precipitation would have proved adequate for grain and alfalfa hay; yields, however, would be dramatically enhanced by irrigation.[5]

Ornamentals are currently limited to several clusters of lilacs, currant, and box elder planted near the domestic building cluster. Additional exotic food plantings include a thriving rhubarb patch. These plantings in sum contribute to the significance of the agricultural landscape, yet, as small-scale features, have not been included in the resource count.

Boundary Demarcations

Boundary demarcations delineate areas of ownership and land use. They also separate smaller areas having special functions, such as the barnyard. Interstate 90 forms the site's south boundary and delineates the separation between Missoula's urban/industrial Northside and the largely undeveloped North Hills, a separation which the interstate itself made much more severe than was historically the case. Within the limits of historic land ownership, the Moon-Randolph property is currently perimeter fenced (modern metal post and wire) with a modern cross fence running east and west along the quarter section line of Section 15. Within the developed heart of the ranch, historic fences define the orchard, the barnyard and livestock loading system, a small forage yard adjacent to the chicken coop/goat shed, and the historic alfalfa fields located south of the building cluster and historically including the second orchard site.

Buildings and Structures

The building complex reflects the variety and evolution of productive activities on the property. As aforementioned, ranch buildings include a tightly spaced domestic cluster composed of the two oldest ranch residences (with the original claim cabin located in the very center of the ranch complex), the outhouse, the root cellar, the milk house, the 1907 well, a shed in immediate danger of collapsing, the tack shed/wood shed, and a hog shed; a layer of agricultural buildings containing the 1946 residence/chicken coop, the chicken coop/goat shed, a hog shed and the barn; and the coal-mine adit, winch shed, and tin shed with attached outhouse. All of these buildings contribute to the historic significance of the site.

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[2] AR Appraisal, "North Hills Appraisal," 1996, p. 40. Copy on file at North Missoula Community Development Corporation, Missoula.
[3] Cited in "North Hills Appraisal," p. 67.
[4] Personal communication, John Pierce to Philip Maechling, 2006.
[5] State Engineer's Office, Water Resources Survey. Missoula County, Montana, Part I: History of Land and Water Use on Irrigated Areas (Helena: State Engineer's Office, 1960), pp. 11-12.

The individual integrity of the 1946 residence was compromised by a major remodel in 2004/2005, but when the ranch complex is considered as a whole, the building (by virtue of its location, orientation, shape, scale, and basic design), can still convey its historic use as a chicken coop which was converted to a residence.

Ranch structures include wells and an irrigation system, corrals and a loading chute, and a series of fences and gates. With the exception of the irrigation system, all these structures are contributing components of the Moon-Randolph Ranch cultural landscape. The irrigation system retains little physical integrity and is non-contributing.

Randolph family members report that most buildings were present upon purchase in 1907. During the Randolph's 88-year tenure at the ranch, the family dug a second well (in 1907), added-on to the barn twice (to the east end in 1909 and to the west end around 1912), built the milk house (in 1923), the tin shed (in 1954) and the attached outhouse (1970s), added the wood shed to the west end of the tack shed (date unknown), and converted the western chicken coop into a residence for Keith and Bonnie and their young daughters in the early 1930s, which they then substantially remodeled into a home for William and Emma in 1946.

Moon Claim Cabin (1 contributing building)

The Moon Claim cabin (24'5" x 12'7") is rectangular, east-west oriented, single-story building that stands just west of the access road, in the center of the ranch building complex. It has a shed roof and wood-frame walls supported by a poured concrete Sonotube foundation.[6] Cedar shakes cover the roof and planed 1" x 5" tongue-and-groove boards, like those on the interior floor, cover the walls. Vertical rough sawn 1" x 6" boards are attached at 4-foot intervals to the siding, apparently to cover joints. Fenestration is limited to two door openings and two window openings. The main door opening is at the south end of the west elevation, and is filled with a manufactured, four-light glazed-and-paneled door (26" x 79"). A second door opening on the north wall is the only feature on that wall, and is filled with a door (32" x 73") that was constructed on-site from the same 1"x 5" planed boards that were used as flooring and siding. Both window openings are on the south elevation, and are symmetrically placed—one in the each half of the wall—so that each window lights one of the two interior rooms. The window openings (26 ½" x 34") are filled with four-light, fixed-sash wood windows.

Evidence suggests that the Moons constructed this building as a semi-temporary shelter while they staked their claim to their 160 acre homestead. By June 21, 1889, when Moon filed his homestead application, they had built a "frame house" and had about one acre plowed and fenced. The 1894 "Homestead Proof" document lists the only residence as a twelve by twenty-four foot frame house. The only building at the site with these approximate dimensions is this one.[7] Construction details of the building suggest the Moons built the cabins two rooms at different times: the structural members of the west half overlap those of the east, indicating that the east half was completed first. Furthermore, the exterior walls of the two rooms were constructed differently.

After purchasing the property in 1907, the Randolphs used the Claim Cabin as housing for extended family members who periodically stayed on the ranch, and they referred to it as "the cabin." William Randolph's brother Elmer and his mother, Cynthia, lived there from 1909 until 1917, and Emma's brother Bob lived there "off and on" over the years. After 1920 the building may occasionally have been used as a bunkhouse. By the 1940s it appears to have served primarily as a wood- and metal-working shop.

In 2003, the cabin was rehabilitated. The structure was given a new, concrete, Sonotube foundation (it originally had no foundation). The walls were dismantled, rebuilt using 2" x 4"s sheathed with plywood, and reclad with the original siding

[6] The height of the south facing and north facing walls measure 9'3" and 6'3", respectively.

[7] The gable-roof main house has several components, but none of these resemble the building described by Moon in 1894.

on the exterior. The floors of the building were also replaced, and a new, cedar shingle roof was built. This roof mimicked the original roof pitch, shape and cladding, but was built with different, professional framing methods and with milled rough sawn lumber instead of the salvaged scraps originally used. During the remodel, carpenters identified what appeared to be a filled-in doorway on the west end of the south elevation. The location of the old doorway was marked by a rectangle, 36" wide by 73" tall, on which the siding ran vertically instead of horizontally.[8]

Main House (1 contributing building)

The Main House is located west of the Claim Cabin, at the west end of the domestic building cluster. It is an east-west oriented, single-story, wood-frame building with an irregular footprint composed of an original central component and several subsequent additions. The original central component (14'6" x 17'6") has a steeply pitched, front-gable roof. The one-room addition that forms the easternmost section of the building (10'6" x 17' 6") has a gable-with-wings roof that runs perpendicular to the original central component. The kitchen that forms the western section of the house (11' x 17'6") has a low-pitched shed roof and, judging from siding and fenestration details, was probably built during original construction. A shed-roof pantry/cold storage addition (11' x 11'), constructed of stone walls and set into the hillside, forms the southwest section of the building, and a small shed-roof entryway addition (3'6" x 5'6"), is attached to the east elevation of the pantry and the south elevation of the original component. Overall the farmhouse covers about 760 square feet. All roof surfaces are covered with multiple layers of wood shingles and corrugated tin sheets. Roof features are limited to a stove pipe in the southwest corner of the kitchen component and a vent pipe in the pantry component. There is no evidence of a foundation under the farmhouse. The only exception is the stone/concrete retaining wall in the addition to the west.

The exterior is sided with a variety of materials that include drop-lap siding, 1" x 6" tongue-and-groove boards that appear to have been salvaged from railroad boxcars, 1" thick boards in various widths and lengths, plywood, tin, and other obviously salvaged materials. The walls around the walk-in pantry are poured concrete. The west wall in the kitchen is a short-framed wall sitting on top of a short stone retaining wall The exterior siding on the east addition is laid over the eastern part of the north elevation of the original component. This overlapping was done crudely, apparently in an attempt to visually integrate the addition with the original building.

The main entrance to the Main House is located on the south side of the building in the shed-roof entryway addition. That addition has a site-built, single-light, glazed-and-paneled door in its east elevation, and this door provides access to an interior doorway in the stone-and-mortar wall of the east elevation of the pantry component which in turn provides the primary access to the house. The pantry doorway is filled with a manufactured four-panel wood door, and the floor of the entryway is paved with 3" x 3" x 3" bricks. The shed-roof entryway addition has no other features. The façade (south elevation) of the original component has two features, both centered in their respective walls—a 2-over-2 double-hung wood-frame window on the ground floor and a homemade wood-plank door in the gable end that is apparently the only access to the building's attic. Additional features in the south elevation of the building are limited to what appears to be a window opening (but may have once been a doorway) centered in the wall of the eastern addition. The opening is now filled-in with boards.

The east wall of the eastern addition features only one doorway, located in the southern wing and filled with a vertical plank wood door built of 1" x 6" salvaged railroad boxcar lumber. Centered in the north wall of the eastern addition is a window opening filled with a 1 x 1 fixed-sash, wood-frame window. The north wall of the original center component contains a primitive, centered bay window, apparently a modification dating to the historic period, that is filled with a 1x1 fixed-sash, wood-frame window. The north wall of the kitchen component contains a doorway, located at the east end of the wall where it adjoins the central component, filled with a two-light glazed-and-paneled manufactured door. The earth-

[8] This rectangle also featured different insulation material than the rest of the exterior walls, with a layer of newspaper underneath the siding instead of the heavy roofing felt that encased the exterior elsewhere.

bermed west wall of the kitchen component and the earth-bermed west and south walls of the pantry are featureless (and are mostly obscured by the hillside into which they are built). These walls have been reinforced at some point by sloppily poured concrete applied over the original retaining wall structures. Photographic evidence shows that, sometime in the last several years, someone built a drain gutter on the west wall of the kitchen component out of salvaged materials. The gutter appears to be part of a water collection system, and it is not identifiable as a modern modification.

The Main House was constructed during the tenure of the Moon family. William and Emma Randolph inhabited the four-room farmhouse for almost 40 years, from 1907 until 1946. The west component was their kitchen, the pantry component their storage (wood shelves along the west wall are extant), and the central and eastern components were combined living/sleeping areas. Their son Bill may have lived in the house until 1956, at which point he moved into the 1946 residence after his parents died. By 2002, the farmhouse was in deplorable condition, due both to neglect and to its inadequate original construction. The west wall of the building was collapsing. The north wall of the kitchen was so far out of square that the exterior door wouldn't close properly. The pantry walls were crumbling and the interior shelving sagged. Floors throughout the house were uneven and rotting and walls weren't plumb. The windows were in poor condition. The roof leaked in places and some of the wall framing and siding was badly very deteriorated. Some initial salvage work began in July 2002 and in the spring of 2007, workers stabilized the west wall of the original component, repaired roof leaks, and braced unstable roof sections.

Outhouse (1 contributing building)

The outhouse, located just north of the northeast corner of the Main House, is thought to have been constructed prior to the 1946 remodel of the western chicken coop and the subsequent abandonment of the Main House. It is 5' x 5', of typical wood-frame outhouse design, with a shallow-pitched front-gable roof. The roof is covered with tin sheeting, and the exterior walls are covered with wide, horizontally hung boards. There is no foundation under the building, though the there is some stonework evident in the waste hole beneath the extant wood seat. The outhouse lacks windows. There only feature on the building is a door on the south elevation, facing the Main House. The doorway, at the east end of the elevation, is a manufactured one-light glazed-and-paneled wood door; plywood presently fills the light instead of glass.

The outhouse is in relatively good condition. The roof seems sound and the walls are fairly plumb, however, the door doesn't swing shut. The outhouse may originally have had two seats, located side by side on the south wall. One seat is extant.

Root Cellar (1 contributing building)

The root cellar is built into the hill immediately west of the Main House. It is large, subterranean, north-south running rectangle (35' long and 11' deep with a ceiling height of 7'9") accessed by an elaborate airlock entryway centered on the east hillside. The entryway has concrete framing for the doorways and roof, and each doorway (one leading from the outside into the entryway and one leading from the entryway to the interior of the cellar) is filled with a well-built hand-made door composed of vertical planks sheathed in metal and hung with strap hinges. Drylaid, uncoursed stone retaining walls form an outside, east-west running hallway leading to the entryway and extend north and south of the entryway hall to support the east-facing hillside. These walls were rebuilt in the last several years and deviate from the original construction in that they used mortar to secure the stonework, although this mortar is not visible.

The roof is composed of an 8"-12" layer of sod over a ceiling of 4"-5" diameter peeled tightly abutted log poles. This roof/ceiling rests on a framework of peeled 8" diameter log beams spaced about every 4' on center and spanning the 11-foot depth of the root cellar. On the north half of the building these log beams are held up with 5" x 8" posts. The walls of the building, visible only from the interior, differ. In the north half of the building (to the right of the entryway) the walls are stone and mortar. In the south half of the building the walls are dirt except for the far end wall, which is made

up of stacked timbers (perhaps old railroad ties). Other interior details include, in the southern half, remnants of storage shelves built on either side of a central hallway and deep wooden bins along the earthen walls.

Randolph neighbors report that the root cellar was reinforced in 1975, when poured concrete was added to the interior walls to prevent erosion of the bank. The root cellar is in fair condition, but its integrity is threatened by a large hole in the roof structure of the north half. That hole has expanded rapidly in recent years, growing from 2' square to 6' square between 2002 and 2009 and is causing the roof to cave in.

Tack Shed with attached Wood Shed (1 contributing building)

The tack shed/wood shed is located east of the outhouse, roughly midway between the original Claim Cabin and the Main House. It is composed of two distinct, foundationless sections, both single-story wood-frame, that together form an east-west oriented rectangle. The tack shed was built first, and forms the east half of the building. It is 10' long and 7' wide, and has a shed-roof. Tin panels cover the roof and are wrapped around, and nailed to, the face of the fascia boards. It is sided with tongue-and-groove 1" x 6" boards salvaged from railroad box cars and installed vertically. Features on the tack shed are limited to a doorway, located in the center of the south wall and filled with a site-built door made of 1" x 6" pine boards butted together and nailed on to bevel-edged 1" x 4" boards running across the top and bottom, and a window opening located in the west wall (which now divides the tack shed from the wood shed) and filled with a six-light wood frame, fixed-sash window.

The wood shed, poorly built and of more recent vintage, is attached to the west end of the tack shed. It measures 11' x 7' and its front (south) wall is open on its west half, providing ground to ceiling access to the stored firewood still stacked inside. The walls are sided with a combination of plywood, board scraps, roofing tin, and lumber salvaged from railroad boxcars. The almost-flat shed roof is covered with scrap pieces of plywood and roofing tin. Some of the roof-framing members are held in place with commercially manufactured or hand made joist hangers. This is the only building where joist hangers appear to have been used. On top of the rafters are random widths and lengths of 1x lumber that run wildly out the west side of the building.

The tack shed appears to be in fine overall condition: the walls are plumb, the roof seems sound and the door swings freely. The period of intense draft horse use at the homestead extended from 1910-1950, and the tack shed is still protecting tack left over from the Randolph's tenure. The wood shed, although haphazardly constructed (even compared to the other buildings on the homestead), still functions well for its intended purpose – to house firewood.

Domestic Hog Shed (1 contributing building)

The domestic hog shed is located south of the tack shed at the center of the domestic building cluster (unlike the other historic hog sheds, which were located along the orchard). Like its extant orchard counterpart, the east-west oriented domestic hog shed is a simple, low, shed-roof, wood-frame building (6' long by 6' wide, 4'9" high on the tall side and 22" high on the short side) with a south-facing entry opening. The east, north, and west walls are sheathed with 1" x 6" recycled railroad boxcar siding hung vertically. The roof is covered with tin sheets. The south wall entry opening is filled with double, side-hinged homemade hog doors constructed of short, horizontal boards.

The hog shed has deteriorated since it was originally constructed: the walls are out of plumb, the structure is racked and leans slightly, roof material is loose, and the top boards of the doors are missing. It remains sound enough, however, to be able to serve its original purpose—sheltering hogs.

Shed (1 contributing building)

East of the domestic hog shed, between the Claim Cabin and the Milk House, is another shed-roof, wood-frame outbuilding. It is one story with an east-west oriented rectangular footprint (about 6' x 10'). The shed has no foundation. The walls are covered with horizontally-hung 1" x 8" shiplap siding. Cedar shakes originally covered the roof but at some point during the historic period tin roofing was applied over the shakes.

This building is in extremely poor condition. It is collapsing to the northwest. The roof appears to have been repaired in the not-too-distant past, and two wood brace posts hold up the northwest corner (and keep the entire building from collapsing), but no further rehabilitation has been undertaken—apparently the roof was repaired without straightening (or re-plumbing) the walls.

1907 Well (1 contributing structure)

In 1907, upon purchasing the property, William Randolph hand-dug a second well at the southeast corner of the domestic building cluster, where it was more convenient for daily use. The well is now in the center of the concrete pad that was poured off of the east elevation of the milk house when that building was completed in 1923. This well is currently boarded over as a safety precaution. According to documentary evidence, the well was originally 30' deep.

Milk House (1 contributing building)

The east-west oriented, rectangular Milk House (10' x 12'8") is located at the southeast corner of the domestic building cluster, adjacent to the 1907 well (which was incorporated into the concrete pad poured off the east end of the Milk House in conjunction with its construction). It is a single-story, shed-roof, wood-frame building on a massive concrete foundation that appears to have been formed and poured directly onto the gently sloping ground. An uncovered porch, 5' deep, runs the length of the façade (north) elevation, and a concrete pad extends off the east elevation past the 1907 well. Within the boundaries of the concrete pad, the well is encircled by a one-foot high poured concrete wall, on which sits a wood cover. The concrete pad is inscribed with the date "1923" and Keith Randolph's initials. The pad also features a poured concreted box (5' x 2' x 2') located against the east exterior wall of the milk house. A wood-and-corrugated-tin lid covers the concrete box, which likely held milk cans or other items associated with dairying. The front (north) wall, and the upper parts of the side walls (beneath the roof), is sided with 1" x 6" tongue-and-groove boards salvaged from railroad boxcars. The rear wall, and the lower parts of the side walls, is covered with intact railroad boxcar doors, hung so their boards run horizontally. The roof is covered with sheets of corrugated tin. The tin is bent around and nailed to the face of the fascia boards as well as to the rafter boards. Fenestration on the building is limited to the façade (north) elevation, and includes two symmetrically-placed window openings flanking a central doorway. The window openings, unlike most on the ranch, are trimmed and have frames and sloped sills. They are filled with six-light, wood-frame windows. The centered doorway has only a screen door. The one-room interior of the Milk House has a heavy, smooth concrete floor that slopes to a drain in the southwest corner, which funnels drainage out of the back of the building through a clay-tile pipe set in the foundation. A scattering of bricks at the southeast corner of the building may be the remnants of a non-extant historic feature.

The Randolphs constructed the milk house in 1923 to comply with Missoula municipal sanitary codes. At that time (in 1922), there were 37 dairies "licensed to do business in the city." The Randolph archival collection includes undated specifications for construction of a sanitary and efficient milk house. The specifications called for milk houses that were conveniently located between the house and barn and near a water source; featured a raised foundation (providing insulation and also supporting the heavy concrete floor); and were too small to encourage storage of potentially unsanitary tools. This building conforms to these specifications, although the Moons or Randolphs foreswore the recommended masonry construction in favor of wood framing. The facility originally included an attached icehouse and a cream

separator, though both of these are now gone. A stove was once centered on the rear wall. It appears that Bill Randolph used the milk house as a storage shed for several decades after the Randolphs ceased commercial dairying.

In 2002, the original porch (the deck of which consisted of various lengths and widths of mostly 2" thick lumber) was in shambles. It had no foundation and was supported by short pieces of 2" lumber, split pieces of firewood, or discarded pieces of iron. The porch was totally rebuilt in August 2002. The replacement porch was built to mimic the old: it has the same dimensions and features a deck built of random length and width recycled lumber intended to match the historic porch's appearance. Upgrades to the porch's foundation and famed structure are, for the most part, unobtrusive.

The milk shed is perhaps in better condition than any of the other homestead buildings: the foundation is solid, the walls are plumb, and the roof is fairly well built.

1946 Residence/converted chicken coop (1 contributing building)

The 1946 residence is an east-west oriented, single-story building located on the raised bench immediately to the south of the west end of the domestic building cluster. The shed roof, the south-facing façade, and the rectangular footprint of the central component evoke the building's original use as a chicken coop, as does its placement near the historic alfalfa fields, where poultry could forage. This original component is modified by two front-gable, cinderblock additions constructed when the building was extensively remodeled for residential use in 1946. The additions—a smaller one built off the east end of the south wall and a larger one built off the west end of the south wall, and wrapping around the west wall of the original component—create an overall building footprint that is roughly U-shaped. The building is clad mainly in board-and-batten siding-- the upper halves of the addition walls are the exception and are covered in corrugated metal sheets. Standing seam metal covers all roof surfaces. Roof features include wide eaves (most notably on the shed roof of the original component) and exposed rafters. Window openings and doorways were rearranged in the 2004/2005 remodel, and are filled with modern doors and windows. Windows and are wood-frame and primarily three-over-one, double-hung sash or nine-light fixed-sash.

This building, used as a residence since the 1930s and substantially remodeled in 1946 and again in 2004/2005, appears to have originally been a chicken coop. The 2004/2005 remodel ruined the building's integrity of materials and workmanship and undermined its integrity of design and feeling. It retains its integrity of setting, location, and association. It is currently used as a caretaker's residence.

Chicken Coop/Goat Shed (1 contributing building)

The chicken coop/goat shed (30' long x 13' wide) is located east of the 1946 residence/chicken coop. Like its western counterpart, the chicken coop/goat shed, in its basic design, location, and orientation, is typical of chicken coops of the period. It is an east-west oriented, single-story building with a shed roof, south-facing façade, and rectangular footprint. It has no foundation. The roof is covered with corrugated tin. The front (south) is covered with vertically-installed tongue-and-groove 1" x 6" boards salvaged from railroad box car. The rear (north) and side walls are covered with 1" x 6" drop-lap siding hung horizontally. The chicken coop has two pedestrian doorways, one leading into each half of the building through the side (east and west) walls. The doorways are both filled with doors that appear to have been handmade with the same materials used to build the chicken coop. Additional fenestration is limited to the south (front) elevation, and includes three window openings, located high in the wall and paired with homemade wood shutters, as well as various boarded-over chicken doors at the ground level.

The chicken coop is surrounded by a fence that creates a chicken run/goat pen on the north and south sides. The fence is constructed of a mixture of chicken wire, sheep wire, slat fence and vertical boards secured to railroad tie and split rail posts.

The chicken coop has two separate halves and interior spaces divided into pens and nesting beds. The interior on the west half of the building is divided into what were presumably stalls for goats and the interior on the east side has nesting beds for the chickens. Egg laying drawers remain on interior shelves.

Bill Randolph kept goats in the last decades of his life, and housed them in this shed. The building now houses chickens and goats.

The chicken coop appears to be in serviceable condition: the walls are mostly plumb and the roof seems mostly sound. There is a built-up purlin in the west half that is rotting out and failing due to a long time leak in the roof. There is some amount of rot at the bottom of the walls due to moisture and direct contact with the ground. The rear wall bulges inward in two places due to two large trees growing too closely to the building.

Orchard Hog Shed (1 contributing building)

The orchard hog shed is located northeast of the chicken coop/goat shed, along the southern edge of the main orchard. Like the domestic hog shed, the east-west oriented orchard hog shed is a simple, low, shed-roof, wood-frame building (6' long by 6' wide, high side 4'9", low side 22") with a south-facing entry opening. The east, north, and west walls are sheathed with 1" x 6" recycled railroad boxcar siding hung vertically. The roof is covered with tin sheets. The south wall entry opening has no doors, but remnant hinges suggest that at one point it had a gate or doors similar to those on the domestic hog shed and three pieces of belt-like leather that are tacked above the opening may also have held some sort of cover material such as a piece of canvas to help protect the hogs from harsh weather.

The hog shed has deteriorated since it was originally constructed: the walls are out of plumb, the structure is racked and leans downhill to the west, the roof has a big dent above the front opening, the two rear corners of the roof have been bent, and the bottom plates and the lower part of most of the sheathing boards show signs of rot and deterioration.

The Orchard Hog Shed's function, and its location near the main orchard, contributes to our understanding of small-scale, diversified agriculture in the historic period. Hogs historically foraged the orchard, gleaning windfall fruit. Additional hog sheds, no longer extant, reportedly followed the west and/or south edges of the orchard.

Main Orchard (1 contributing site)

The main orchard is just north of the orchard hog shed, on the gently sloping floor of the draw below the barn and 1889 well. It currently contains over 40 mature apple, sour cherry, pear, and crab apple trees.[9] The rectangular orchard is composed of trees spaced 10'-12' apart that are six rows wide (north to south) and ten rows long (east to west), with an additional small, square section extending off the south half of the west end. The orchard originally contained 75 trees.[10] This orchard has been partially replanted, using historic planting patterns and fruit varieties, as part of site reconstruction.

[9] A Missoula County horticulturalist identified the apple varieties as Duchess, McIntosh, and Yellow Transparent. Shirley Verworn remembers that Winesap were also grown.

[10] Ray Moon noted the planting of 75 fruit trees in his 1894 patent entry and voids in the distinct linear planting pattern suggest about the same.

Original Garden (1 contributing site)

The original garden site located at the base (west end) of the primary orchard, is still identifiable by virtue of its flat, cultivable expanses surrounded by trees, shrubs, and buildings. A portion of it is now enclosed in a modern, high wire fence to prevent deer damage, and has been replanted.

1889 Well (1 contributing structure)

The original well is northeast of, the main orchard and north of the original garden, near the barn. It has been mostly filled in, but remains identifiable as a rock-lined, oval hole (3' x 4'). The well was dug by Moon around 1889 to provide water for both irrigation and consumption.

Barn (1 contributing building)

The east-west oriented, wood-frame barn is built into the hillside at the northeast corner of the ranch building complex, where it overlooks the orchard, garden, and other buildings arranged downhill to the west and south. It has a long rectangular footprint (about 20' 6" wide and 84' long) composed of three separate sections: a central, one-and-a-half story original gambrel-roof component (20' long) and two single-story additions with low lofts. The larger east-end addition (41' long) has a low-pitched offset gable-roof and the smaller west-end addition (23' long) has a shed roof. The roofs on all three sections of the barn are covered with tin roofing material similar to that found on other buildings on the homestead. The tin appears to be the original roofing material. There is no evidence of previous cedar shingle application. The ridgepole of the original gambrel roof extends about 5' past the face of the sidewall of the center section of the barn and appears to have been part of a hayloft loading system before construction of the west addition. The walls are mostly sided with short pieces of tongue-and-groove 1" x 6" boards that appear to have been salvaged from railroad boxcars and installed vertically. Some of the siding is rough-cut 1" thick boards. None of the siding boards are long enough to run from the top of the building to the ground or from corner to corner.

Fenestration on the front (south) wall of the barn includes an uneven ribbon of hayloft door openings running the length of the west and central components and three high, horizontal windows openings in the eastern component. The eastern component openings were once filled with wood-frame windows, most of which are no longer extant. The south elevation also features two large doorways fronted by sliding barn doors made of salvaged railroad boxcar doors (replete with their original hardware). Haphazard patches in the siding of the south elevation suggest the barn underwent several changes in its door and window configuration during the historic period. Features on the west wall are limited to a large doorway (filled with a large, hinged double wood barn door) and a window opening once filled with a 6-light, wood-frame, fixed-sash window. The north wall is built into the hillside; portions of the wall that are above ground level do not contain any features. Where the wall meets the ground, a crude water diversion was constructed in an attempt to direct water away from the barn walls. The water diversion consists of rocks piled along the length of the north side and topped with poured concrete covered with sheets of tin roofing. The east elevation of the barn contains only a single window opening. The original gambrel component contains horse and cattle stalls, as well as a hayloft. Small stalls were constructed in the east and west additions.

The east-elevation addition was reportedly constructed by Randolph as the first of three chicken coops associated with commercial egg, chick, and chicken sales. The function and date of construction of the west-elevation addition is unknown.

The barn is in poor condition. Inadequately built to begin with, it is slowly shifting downhill, causing the front (south facing) walls of the barn to buckle and bow outwards. The north wall displays rotting due to continual contact with the dirt of the hillside into which the barn is built, and due to water damage from barn-roof and hillside run-off, both of which

flow directly onto the north wall. The tin roofing appears to be functioning adequately. Overall, this is a relatively unstable and dangerous building. Some preventive maintenance and stabilization, including the removal of a large store of hay in the central component of the barn was carried out in spring of 2007. Additional stabilization is still necessary.

Barnyards and corral system/loading chute (1 contributing structure)

Two rectangular barnyards, enclosed by wood-post and wire fences, connect to the barn. One extends off of the barn's east elevation, and one extends off the south elevation and wraps part way around the west elevation. The fence joining the two barnyards has a gate made of an old iron bed frame headboard and the south edge fence of each barnyard also has a gate, one is made from a bedframe headboard and the other is built of wire. A wooden corral and loading chute system is located at the east end of the western barnyard. It consists of a large corral to the north (now open to the barnyard but previously fenced off to allow for controlling stock movement) that adjoins a smaller corral (accessed via a wood gate) to the south. The smaller corral funnels stock onto a wooden loading chute at its east end. The loading chute is oriented southward, toward the main access road.

Two small picket-fenced enclosures extend off the south edge of the western barnyard. Each has a wooden gate. These enclosures encircle historic rhubarb patches that were previously fenced with barbed wire (to keep out Bill Randolph's goats). The current fences were constructed ca. 2002. Additional modern modifications include a plastic water collection system erected in the western barnyard along the south elevation of the original, central component of the barn.

Mine Adit, and Winch Shed (1 contributing structure; 1 contributing building)

The subterranean coal mine and associated winch shed are located directly west of the barn. The location affords a narrow view of the Missoula Valley through the west end of the draw. The mine adit, about 8' tall and 8' wide, protrudes from the south face of the hillside, above the farm access road. It faces south and is enclosed by side walls of horizontally stacked railroad ties. The portal is constructed of railroad ties and a homemade wood door covered in tar paper. The exposed roof portion of the adit is also built of railroad ties, covered with aluminum sheeting. No data is available regarding the mine's length, depth, or productivity.

As befits its function, the winch shed stands in front (to the southwest) of the mine adit. It is a one-story, rectangular building (16' 6" across the front and 10" long on the sides) oriented southwest-northeast. The building has no foundation, and an historic addition on the back northeast wall has totally collapsed. The wood-frame walls are covered with tongue-and-groove 1" x 6"s and the front-gable roof is covered with pressed tin ceiling panels. Features on the winch shed are limited to the southwest-facing façade, and include an eight-light, fixed-sash, wood frame window (boarded over on the outside with a sheet of plywood) and an unfilled door opening. The winch remains in place inside the shed.

The winch shed is in very poor condition and, without intervention, will collapse entirely in the coming years. The walls and roof structures were poorly and inadequately built. Some of the framing members used are severely weathered or completely missing. Wall and roof sheathing boards are missing or badly weathered. The rear addition has completely collapsed. A couple of years ago, volunteers used several 2" x 4"s and 2" x 6"s to stabilize the building.

Tin Shed with attached outhouse (1 contributing building)

Located south of the mine/winch shed area is a shed clad with tin and an attached outhouse. It is oriented southeast-northwest and has no foundation. It consists of two distinct components, a well-built shed-roof tin shed on the southeast end and a shed-roof two-seat outhouse added to the northwest elevation. The walls of the tin shed are sided with horizontal lapped boards covered with tar paper and the roof is covered with composition shingles. The walls of the outhouse are sided with unlapped vertical planks and the roof is covered with sheets of corrugated tin. Features on the building are limited to a single door accessing each component. The door to the tin shed is vertical wood plank door in the southeast elevation. A plywood door in the northeast wall elevation provides access to the outhouse.

Alfalfa/Wheat Fields, including 1946 Garden (3 contributing sites)

Soon after the Randolphs purchased the core of their ranch (and possibly continuing planting patterns begun by Moon), they planted two adjoining alfalfa fields just south of the building cluster. The two fields are separated by a small north-south running draw that flows into the larger draw (occupied by the building cluster), and cover about 10 acres. This 10 acres encompassed the extent of land flat enough to accommodate a horse-drawn plow.[11] These alfalfa fields are currently marked only by historic perimeter fencing. By 1910, the flat open bench just west of and upslope from the Main house had also been planted, first in wheat and then alfalfa. When the Randolphs moved into the converted chicken coop in 1946, part of this wheat/alfalfa field was converted to a garden. By virtue of the extant perimeter fence and the flat topography that defines the historic plow zone the field remains clearly identifiable. These two historic fields and one historic field/garden have each been classified as contributing sites.

Secondary Orchard (1 contributing site)

During the historic period, a second orchard was located at the south end of the small side draw, south of the original alfalfa fields near a spring. The original number, species, and layout of its trees remains unknown, though family members recall that the "upper orchard was all apples." The Randolphs removed this orchard in the 1950s and only one tree is extant.

Small-Scale Elements

Fences (1 contributing structure)

A series of fences and associated gates mark spaces put to different purposes and are contributing features of the Moon-Randolph Ranch rural cultural landscape. Fences delineate the main domestic building cluster, the livestock yards adjoining the chicken/goat house and barnyard, the primary orchard, the current garden area, and the historic alfalfa fields. Several of those in the center of the homestead site date to the 1960s, when Bill intensified his goat production after his parents died.

The fences are strung with a variety of materials, including barbed-, sheep-, and pig-wire. Diverse items, many salvaged, function as fence posts: round posts, railroad ties, and split rail posts predominate, and are supplemented with an occasional 2" x 4", shovel, car chassis, telephone pole, or rooted tree trunk. Modern metal posts appear in the more far-flung fences that enclose pasture lands around the perimeter of the ranch. Gates are ingeniously constructed of head- and foot-boards from brass and iron beds. These pervasiveness of recycled materials in the fences, as in the buildings, reflects not only the more conservationist character of American society before the post-WWII rise in consumption but also the paucity of cash on small-scale agricultural operations: truck farming in general proved a cash-poor endeavor. At the Moon-Randolph Ranch, conservation and re-use were taken to an extreme, and demonstrate the family's particular commitment to adaptive re-use (though they would have phrased it differently). Small-scale resources throughout the ranch demonstrate the economic imperative of small-scale agriculture and inventive conservation commitment of the Randolph family.

Irrigation System, ca. 1900-ca. 1980 (1 non-contributing structure)

Historically, the garden and orchard were irrigated with water pumped from the coal mine and the two wells. By the late 1930s, when the coal mine was abandoned, water pumped from the mine was also used for irrigation. In later years, and possibly historically, irrigation water was transported via raised pipe. Remnants of the pipe run from the mine entrance south, under the access road, up the slope and past the Main House to the high, flat field where alfalfa (and later a garden) was planted. The orchard was presumably irrigated from the old well by the barn, which ultimately went dry (possibly, family members report, as a result of changes in the

[11] This field may have been located down slope from a spring that would have allowed irrigation.

water table initiated by extensive development of the adjacent Rattlesnake Valley). At this point, insufficient documentary and physical material is extant to accurately reconstruct the course of historic irrigation systems. The remnant system has been evaluated as a noncontributing structure. This classification could change if further field inventory and research establish a fuller understanding of the historic system.

Machinery (counted as 1 contributing object)

Additional small-scale elements include a substantial scatter of building materials, historic debris, and abandoned farm machinery. This machinery is clustered in the vicinity of the original orchard. It includes wagons, plows, cultivators, harrows and a grain binder. The machinery is counted as one contributing object. Some of the machinery dating to the historic period is occasionally used as part of living history demonstrations.

Integrity

Beyond the loss of several historic outbuildings and the extensive remodel of another, the Moon-Randolph Ranch has suffered little modification since the historic period. Its historical significance is conveyed by an impressively complete array of buildings, structures, and sites. The many original buildings, as a whole, retain a remarkable degree of all seven aspects of integrity. The historic integrity of the building complex is reinforced by extant associated structures which flesh out the complex productive activities involved in running diversified farms like the Randolphs'. The wells, the corral system and the coal mine (replete with original winch infrastructure) enrich the sites' ability to convey its historic significance. Moreover, the Randolph agricultural lands are intact, undeveloped and identifiable in terms of their distinct historic land uses. The primary orchard has been pruned and re-planted as needed, and clearly conveys its original extent and planting pattern as well as its historic function. Historic alfalfa fields, as distinguished from garden plots and pasture land, are indicated by existing fence lines, and the secondary orchard is marked by a remnant tree. The ranch's location in a low depression shields it from the sights and sounds of nearby modern development, and further strengthens its ability to convey its historic associations.

The main threat to integrity is the condition of the buildings, most of which are in need of repair. This threat is significant: some of the buildings are on the verge of being unrecoverable. The strong sense of abandonment that pervades the ranch also threatens its integrity of feeling, association, and setting—neglected, overgrown and littered in places with modern debris, it does not currently convey the feeling of a working farm or ranch despite its ostensible "living history" function. These threats to integrity are reversible with sufficient resources (primarily human labor) dedicated to sensitive stabilization and restoration. The current managers and owners appear eager to undertake such work when resources are available. Invasion of non-native vegetation once also constituted a significant threat to physical and associative integrity, but progress has been made that front.

Construction of Interstate 90 in the mid-1960s effectively segregated the Moon-Randolph Ranch from neighboring Missoula commercial and residential areas. The interstate therefore adversely affects integrity of setting and association, as the ranch's close relationship with the Missoula community is of paramount importance to its historical development and significance. However, as aforementioned, the interstate is not visible from the homestead building cluster, and once on-site it is easy to imagine a more pastoral time and a seamless blending of city and farmstead. This quality would be strengthened by planned off-site parking, which would encourage non-motorized access that conjured the pace, and spatial relationship, of town-farm intercourse.

Resource Summary

Resource	Contributing/Noncontributing	Number on Map
Moon Claim Cabin	1 Contributing Building	1
Main House	1 Contributing Building	2
Outhouse	1 Contributing Building	15
Root Cellar	1 Contributing Building	3
Tack Shed with attached Wood Shed	1 Contributing Building	4
Domestic Hog Shed	1 Contributing Building	8
Shed	1 Contributing Building	25
1907 Well	1 Contributing Structure	19
Milk House	1 Contributing Building	5
1946 Residence/Converted Chicken Coop	1 Contributing Building	14
Chicken Coop/Goat Shed	1 Contributing Building	13
Orchard Hog Shed	1 Contributing Building	20
Main Orchard	1 Contributing Site	6
Original Garden	1 Contributing Site	7
1889 Well	1 Contributing Structure	9
Barn	1 Contributing Building	10
Barnyards and Corral System/Loading Chute	1 Contributing Structure	17
Mine Adit	1 Contributing Structure	23
Winch Shed	1 Contributing Building	11
Tin Shed with attached Outhouse	1 Contributing Building	12
Alfalfa/Wheat Fields (including 1946 garden)	3 Contributing Sites	16
Secondary Orchard	1 Contributing Site	24
Fences	1 Contributing Structure	21
Irrigation System	1 Noncontributing Structure	18
Machinery	1 Contributing Object	22

Narrative History

Western Montana and the Missoula Valley Through 1860

Beginning in the seventeenth century, contests between European powers for resources and souls in North America created extensive interaction among groups participating in the fur trade. In their quest for currency in the form of glossy beaver pelts and other furs, Indians and Europeans first plied waterways easily accessed from either coast. As they moved inland up innumerable drainages, they relied on and created intercultural relationships spanning great distances. Indian and European trappers, traders and freighters traveled extensively and often intermarried with the Indian groups they encountered. By the late eighteenth century, fur trade activity combined with long-standing intertribal interactions to create a mixed milieu in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain areas that would become Montana. In 1783, fur trade businessmen organized the North West Company to compete with the long-dominant Hudson's Bay Company. Competition between these two British Canada-based companies accelerated fur trade activity in the West: a mere ten years later officers of the North West Company, traveling on an Indian trail, had penetrated overland as far as the Pacific Ocean.[12]

Lewis and Clark's 1805-1806 journeys through the region, during which they traded for horses with Salish Indians in Western Montana's Bitter Root valley, fired American imaginations about the prospect of profit in the Rockies. Fur companies based in St. Louis and elsewhere looked to extend their operations into Montana watersheds. British interests beat them to it; in 1808-1809, David Thompson and Finan McDonald established North West Company trading posts on the eastern shore of Lake Pend d'Oreille, along the Kootenai River near present-day Libby, and on the Clark Fork River near present-day Thompson Falls. The Hudson's Bay Company moved to claim its share of the western Montana market in 1810, when Joseph Howse established Howse House on the northern shore of Flathead Lake. By the time trappers employed by the American-owned Rocky Mountain Fur Company worked the region in 1828 "they found the Hudson's Bay Company entrenched in the area."[13]

The mixed and mobile fur trade society fostered cultural, as well as economic and social, amalgamation. Among the trappers who moved through western Montana in the first decades of the nineteenth century were several Iroquois tribal members who married and settled with the Bitter Root Salish. The Iroquois originally hailed from the northeastern United States/Canada border region, where Catholic missionaries had established Caughnawaga Mission in 1676. Converts of that mission, the Iroquois Salish, encouraged their new in-laws to embrace Catholicism, and in 1831 the Bitter Root community sent a delegation to St. Louis in the first of several attempts to entice Jesuits to western Montana. Ten years later, they succeeded in persuading a group of missionaries led by Father Pierre Jean De Smet to settle in their territory.

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[12] James McClellan Hamilton, *History of Montana: From Wilderness to Statehood,* 2d ed., Portland, OR: Binford & Mort, 1970 (1957), p. 60; Michael Malone, Richard Roeder, and William Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries,* revised ed., Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991 (1976), p. 42; Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee and Elders Cultural Advisory Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, *The Salish People and the Lewis and Clark Expedition,* Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 2005, p. 82.

[13] Jeanne O'Neill and Riga Winthrop, *Fort Connah: A Page in Montana's History,* Stevensville: Stoneydale Press Publishing Company, 2002, p. 26-27; Stevensville Historical Society, *The Bitter Root Valley, A Traveler's Guide,* Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1976, introduction; Glenn Chaffin, *The Last Horizon: The Rambling Chaffin Clan Settles in the Bitter Root Valley of Western Montana in 1864 and Helps Develop this Lovely Land,* Somerset, CA: Pine Trail Press, 1971, p. 76.

Salish solicitation of resident missionaries made sense in Salish terms: "behind their intense desire for the blackrobes lay a conviction that through such offices they could defeat their enemies and preserve themselves."[14]

The Jesuits and their hosts set about constructing St. Mary's mission and an agricultural infrastructure to support it near present-day Stevensville, Montana. They erected a chapel and cabins, a saw mill and a grist mill. From Fort Colville packers hauled oat and wheat seeds for mission fields while drovers brought cattle to graze the surrounding prairie.[15] In the mission garden, people planted potatoes, corn, peas, turnips and carrots.[16] A series of irrigation ditches soon wove through the fields, carrying water to newly planted crops. Salish and Jesuit efforts initially seemed to pay off. After Father Anthony Ravalli took charge of St. Mary's mission in 1845, a construction campaign expanded the settlement substantially. Within a year St. Mary's boasted a new chapel, a new "priests house" and 11 other new houses, as well as enlarged gardens, a haystack, and fencing for livestock.[17]

Despite this early promise, the halcyon days of St. Mary's proved fleeting. Father Ravalli's arrival and the associated expansion of the mission coincided with rising conflict between some of the many groups in the region, including the Salish, the Blackfeet, and the missionaries. Though they strove to learn Salish, the missionaries sought to eradicate other aspects of Salish society they found objectionable, and began trying to interfere with native hunting and fighting practices. The Jesuits further alienated their hosts when they planned to proselytize among the Blackfeet, with whom the Salish then warred. At the same time, the Blackfeet increased their harassment of the mission settlement, and other regional residents reportedly worked to undermine the mission by "dispensing liquor and disparaging the teachings of the Fathers."[18] The foment reflected broader regional, national, and international developments: Great Britain ceded its claim to the Pacific Northwest to the United States in 1846, and Euro-American interest in, and immigration to, the region accelerated. Many areas of the west were thrown into turmoil in the late 1840s, as miners rushed to California, farmers flowed into Oregon territory, and American armies seized Mexico's northern lands (and their inhabitants) for the United States. The Jesuits abandoned the mission in 1846.

Four years later, in 1850, Major John Owen, who had come west as an army trader and had since been discharged, purchased the mission's property and established a trading post.[19] Owen "planted crops and an orchard, purchased more livestock and continued to operate the Jesuits' grist and saw mills."[20] Fort Owen, as the post was known, served as the focal point for trade and agricultural activity in the region for the rest of the decade, until businessmen founded Hell Gate trading post, four miles west of present-day Missoula, in 1860.[21]

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[14] Daniel Richter, *The Ordeal of the Longhouse: The Peoples of the Iroquois League in the Era of European Colonization*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1992, p. 120; Jean Clary, et al., *First Roots: The Story of Stevensville, Montana's Oldest Community*, Stevensville: Stoneydale Press Publishing Company, 2005, p. 33, quoting De Smet.

[15] Clary, p. 18.

[16] Clary, p. 24.

[17] Stevensville Historical Society, *Montana Genesis: A History of the Stevensville Area of the Bitterroot Valley*, Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1971, p. 46.

[18] Clary, p. 30.

[19] Clary, p. 30-31, 85.

[20] Clary, p. 88.

[21] Montana State Engineer's Office, *Water Resources Survey, Missoula County, Part 1: History of Land and Water Use on Irrigated Areas,* Helena: State Engineer's Office, 1958, p. 6-7; Montana State Engineer's Office, *Water Resources Survey, Ravalli County, Part 1: History of Land and Water Use on Irrigated Areas,* Helena: State Engineer's Office, 1960, p. 6-10.

Hell Gate initially catered to the Indian, Metis, and Euro-American people who traveled through the Missoula Valley to and from regional trading posts, hunting grounds, and harvesting areas, for the Missoula Valley was a crossroads of several important travel routes (at least one of which, the Walla Walla Trail, crossed the lands that would become part of the Randolph Ranch). The fledgling settlement at Hell Gate also served the first of Missoula's agricultural settlers, who by 1858 had moved north from the Bitter Root and begun farming in the drainages surrounding the valley.[22] Its customer base would soon explode, for in 1860 western Montana stood poised on the brink of transformation.

The Montana Gold Rush and Settlement of the Missoula Area, 1862-1880

A combination of factors transformed Montana in the early 1860s. While the U.S. army completed the Mullan Road between Fort Benton and Walla Walla, Congress passed the Homestead Act, which opened the west to wholesale agricultural settlement. In 1862, as these grand developments unfolded, a man named John White found gold on Grasshopper Creek in Beaverhead County. White's discovery, while not the first recorded in the area that now composes the state of Montana, spawned a surge of immigration into the region and became the West's next, and Montana's first, "real strike."[23] As news of the strike spread, "miners rushed to the new 'diggins'" from all directions.[24]

With the events of 1862, immigration to Western Montana soared. Many of the excited immigrants traveled via the Mullan Road, which passed through the Missoula Valley near what would become the Moon-Randolph Ranch. In its first six years of existence, between 1860 and 1866, some 20,000 travelers and $1 million in freight passed over the new route.[25] Although the Missoula Valley wasn't officially surveyed for homestead settlement until the 1870, "a horde of settlers" came to the area. Most turned their energies to agriculture, earning a more dependable, if less romantic, income than they might by prospecting. Farmers sold meat, flour, and vegetables "almost entirely to the thousands of hungry miners in the gold camps."[26] Their products earned a handsome return: foodstuffs "were worth almost their weight in gold dust" at mining camps like that described by Granville Stuart, "where men were subsisting on wild meat . . . [until] the arrival of Bitter Root farmers freighting in wagonloads of produce, fresh meat, and dairy products."[27]

When United States surveyors arrived in the wake of waves of miners and those who supplied them, they mapped existing man-made features as well as natural attributes of the land. On the north hills, crossing the acres that would later be homesteaded by the Moon family, they marked the route of an ancient, and at that point still active, "Indian trail" called the "Old Trail to Walla Walla."[28]

Itself home to no major mining strikes, the Missoula Valley experienced a slower, steadier growth than many of the region's settlements. Upon creation of Montana Territory in 1864, Hell Gate became the seat of the original Missoula County, and its function as a political center underwrote the area's permanence. While mining towns in western Montana exploded and collapsed in instant succession, Missoula Valley residents undertook the more tedious, long-term work of

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[22] Caitlin DeSilvey, *Butterflies and Railroad Ties: A History of a Montana Homestead,* Missoula: North Missoula Community Development Corporation, 2002, p. 7; Betty Wetzel, *Missoula, the Town and the People,* Helena: Montana Magazine, 1987.

[23] K. Ross Toole, *Montana, an Uncommon Land,* Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1959, p. 69; Beaverhead County History Book Association, *The History of Beaverhead County, Vol. I (1800-1920),* Logan, UT: Herff-Jones, Inc., 1990, p. 18.

[24] Beaverhead County History Book Association, p. 18; Montana State Engineer's Office, *Water Resources Survey, Ravalli County,* p. 6-10.

[25] Wetzel, p. 13.

[26] Chere Jiusto, *Montana Mainstreets Vol. 4: A Guide to Historic Hamilton,* Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2000, p. 8.

[27] Stevensville Historical Society, *Montana Genesis,* p. 59-60; Clary, p. 34.

[28] DeSilvey, p. 8-9.

cultivation. In 1867, the Helena Gazette reported "Missoula county is strictly a farming community, it being the only county in Montana in which there is no mining operation."[29] By 1869, a traveler passing through the valley on a September day effused that "[I]f it is Hell Gate one way it opens abruptly into an Eden on the other—the extensive, beautiful, productive valley of Missoula county, land of the vine and the leaf, of flowers and fruits, and golden grain . . . the very garden of all of Montana."[30]

Many of Missoula's early farmers, especially those on more marginal lands, clung on only by cobbling together a living out of a variety of pursuits, supplementing farming with wage labor, prospecting, and other endeavors.[31] The processing of agricultural products, however, could pay handsomely, and infrastructure erected to process farm products soon resulted in a shift in the locus of the valley's activity: by the mid-1860s most new building centered around Missoula Mills, which several business partners erected near the north side of the Clark Fork River, on Rattlesnake Creek, to saw logs and grind grain.[32]

Through the 1870s, the town of Missoula, and surrounding agricultural operations, gradually expanded, aided not only by everyday immigration to the region but also by the heightened military presence in Montana that followed the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. Regional forts constructed in the wake of that conflict, including Fort Missoula (completed southwest of the town center in 1877), helped assuage settler fears of armed Indian resistance and buoyed the economies of nearby commercial centers by creating an aura of security as well as a demand for goods to support soldiers.[33] Gradual expansion in the Missoula Valley during these years allowed some landowners to consolidate large tracts on the valley floor, for many immigrants still dreamt of instant mineral riches and settled instead in the innumerable surrounding mountain drainages. Among those who bet on the profitability of the Missoula Valley bottomlands were "four private owners" who, by 1880, controlled "most of the land surrounding the original townsite of Missoula, which was located near Front Street and Higgins Avenue, just north of the Clark Fork River."[34] These four men found themselves in an advantageous position when railroads reached Western Montana in 1880. The following year they struck a deal with the Northern Pacific Railroad that helped propel Missoula into its enduring position as the largest and most important city in the region. The railroad began making plans to lay track through Missoula's northern fringes and locate divisional headquarters and repair shops along them.[35]

The Arrival of Railroads Transforms Western Montana and Missoula, 1880-1900

Although the tracks themselves didn't reach Missoula until 1883, lands flanking the rail line's projected path immediately became more attractive, and hopeful homeseekers and speculators eyed marginal parcels that had previously gone unclaimed. The areas around the still-small settlement of Missoula proved particularly alluring, and experienced something of a homesteading boom even before the railroad arrived. Some families chose to homestead the upper

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[29] Tom Haines, *Flouring Mills of Montana Territory*, Missoula: Friends of the University of Montana Library, 1984, p. 47.

[30] Wetzel, p. 18; DeSilvey, p. 8 (quoting from M. A. Leeson, *History of Montana: 1739-1885*, Chicago: Warner, Beers, and Co., 1885, p. 872).

[31] Delia Hagen and Janene Caywood, Morgan-Case Homestead, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Site 24GN0195, 2004.

[32] Haines, p. 47.

[33] Don Miller and Stan Cohen, *Military and Trading Post of Montana*, Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1978, p. 60-65.

[34] Allan Mathews, *Northside Missoula Railroad Historic District,* National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Site 24MO547, 1994.

[35] Ibid.

Rattlesnake Valley. Others filed claims on parcels covering the grassy hillsides north of the Missoula townsite. There "between 1881 and 1888 four homesteading families . . . tried and failed to carry out their five year tenancy in quarter sections adjacent to the land" that became the Moon-Randolph Ranch.[36]

The increased attractiveness of the Missoula area was, of course, by design: the large landowners around the original townsite transferred hundreds of lots to the Northern Pacific in exchange for the railroad's promise to route through, and locate its division headquarters and repair shops in, the riverside settlement. While the land transaction was being finalized, Missoula incorporated as a town, and with the line's arrival in 1883, the surrounding region, and the town itself, entered an era of frenzied expansion. In the ensuing years "settlers from all parts of the country, but more especially from the middle-west, poured into" the region.[37] Homesteaders continued to move into the open lands near the townsite as well as into mountain drainages farther afield, while wage-workers clustered close to their workplaces.[38] New neighborhoods arose outside of the original townsite center, as industry and its workforce grew in the wake of the railroad's arrival. Millworkers' homes flanked the many lumber mills that made Missoula "the hub of Montana's timber industry," and railroad workers' housing spread over the area on the north side of the Northern Pacific tracks, amid a "flurry of construction activity" in an area previously occupied only by several scattered farm houses. Missoula's new Northside neighborhood soon housed hundreds of people as well as a variety of businesses, including a lumber mill, the railroad hospital, stores, saloons, billiards halls, and boarding houses.[39] By 1890, Missoula served as the commercial center for dozens of surrounding logging, mining, and agricultural communities. In the ten years since 1880, it had grown from several hundred residents to a population of some 3,500.[40]

Among the many who descended on the Missoula area in the years after the railroad's arrival was a Minnesota native by the name of Ray F. Moon. In the Spring of 1889, Ray, his wife Luella, and "their small children," decided to settle on 160 acres in the grass-covered hills north of Missoula's Northside neighborhood. That June they filed a homestead application on their parcel, and thereby initiated the five-year "prove up" period stipulated by the Homestead Act of 1862. Passed in the midst of the Civil War in hopes of encouraging colonization of western lands for farms, the Homestead Act offered 160 acres to non-Indian people over the age of 21 who would reside on and "improve," or cultivate and build upon, lands claimed under its provisions. The United States then conveyed legal title homesteaders who provided proof of having done so for a period of five years.[41]

Many would-be homesteaders, especially those who staked claims to marginal lands like those in Missoula's North Hills, failed to fulfill the stipulations of the Homestead Act. The Moons, however, succeeded in securing title to their claim. They started by building "a simple shed-roofed [wood-frame] 'claim shack', twelve by twenty-four feet with two south-facing windows. On the slight slope above the house, where the grass grew high," they broke an acre of ground and planted a vegetable garden. Soon thereafter they built "a twenty-three by twenty-seven foot barn" to provide hay storage and shelter for the "few cows [that] supplied the family with milk and meat," and dug a well nearby. Over the next several years the Moons' single cultivated acre expanded to five, then twenty, and then to thirty acres growing garden

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[36] Daniel S. Comer, *Historic Settlement of the Rattlesnake Creek Drainage, Montana: An Archaeological and Historical Perspective*, no page, 2005, p. 73; DeSilvey, p. 11.

[37] Mathews; Chaffin, p. 98.

[38] Mathews; Hagen, *Morgan-Case Homestead.*

[39] Wetzel, p. 18; Mathews.

[40] Delia Hagen, Janene Caywood, and Ann Emmons, *Results of a Cultural Resources Inventory of the Russell Street Expansion Corridor, Missoula County, Montana*, Missoula: unpublished report prepared for Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc., 2001; Comer, p. 24.

[41] DeSilvey, p. 3, 9-12; Robert Hine and John Mack Faragher, *The American West, A New Interpretive History*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000, p. 333-334.

vegetables and alfalfa for animal feed. They ran some 580 rods of fencing within and around their claim and planted an orchard of seventy-five trees. The orchard, located "on the gentle slope near the barn and corrals, adjacent to the well," contained trees bearing sour cherries, pears, and numerous varieties of apples, including Duchess, McIntosh, Yellow Transparent, and Winesap.[42] The Moons' hard work paid off. With the help of neighboring homesteaders' testimony regarding their residence and improvements, they received a certificate of patent from the United States on July 2nd, 1894. The following day Ray and Luella conveyed their 160-acre quarter section to Helen and George Moon, who were presumably their relatives.[43]

George and Helen owned the homestead for the next 13 years. During that time they made significant changes to the parcel, not the least of which was reducing its size. In September of 1894 they sold the east half of the original quarter section to a woman by the name of Jenny Thomas. On the 80 acres they retained, George and Helen constructed several additional outbuildings ("perhaps the harness shed and one or both of the chicken houses") and may have built the small, gable-roofed farmhouse that continues to stand "against the sheltering berm of the hill." During their tenure, they may also have discovered, and begun mining, the seam of coal that ran along the north edge of the farm.[44] Their small agricultural operation was apparently much like many others scattered across the large and small drainages in the Missoula region: similar claims existed in the valleys of Grant Creek, Butler Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, Rock Creek and other streams, as well as along the irrigable bottom lands of the several nearby rivers. On these modest farms, folks scratched out a living by cultivating gardens, raising an array of livestock and growing hay. Many engaged as well in other productive activities such as hunting wild game and gathering berries, trapping for furs and hides, mining, and logging to supply the many small sawmills in the area. They often supplemented these endeavors with wage labor when they could find it.[45]

Missoula and Western Montana Agriculture Grow Together, 1900-1945

The continuing growth of Missoula's urban population drove demand for the diverse products of surrounding agricultural operations, for the town flourished in the decades around the turn of the century. By 1910, Missoula counted almost 13,000 residents, its expansion fueled by the region's thriving lumber, railroad, and agricultural industries (especially dairying and orcharding) and by the steady growth of the State University, (established in Missoula by the Montana Legislature in 1893) and the United States Forest Service (which established its regional headquarters in Missoula in 1908). In the first decade of the new century, the acreage of improved farmland in the Missoula area doubled, and production of dairy products, chickens and eggs increased as well. Most livestock products "were consumed locally," as was a portion of the harvests, the remainder of which was shipped out via rail from Missoula to urban centers throughout the nation.[46] Producers who lived close to town often sold their products directly to consumers. In Missoula, as in other large Montana towns, horses pulled wagons full of fresh produce and animal products through the streets. Their drivers

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[42] DeSilvey, p. 12, 53; Ann Emmons and Sarah Scott Adamson, *DRAFT Moon-Randolph National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, Helena: unpublished report for the MT SHPO, 2007.

[43] DeSilvey, p. 12, 53.

[44] DeSilvey, p. 13-14. A "three-room house" existed when the Randolphs purchased the parcel, and is not listed on Ray Moons final proof documentation for his homestead claim. As per Homestead Act regulations, Ray Moon had to swear that he had no knowledge of any mineral deposits on his claim (the presence of minerals would subject the land to a different set of regulations).

[45] Emmons; William Babcock, *Cook Farm*, National Register of Historic Places Form #24MO0551, 1995; Hagen, *Morgan-Case Homestead*; Comer.

[46] Wetzel, p. 42; Shirley Jay Coon, *The Economic Development of Missoula, Montana.* Chicago: unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1926, p. 173, 187-189, 191.

"would go out on their route, ringing a bell on the wagon and hollering, "Meat" [etc.]. Interested women would stop the wagons and buy what they wanted."[47]

The immigrants to Missoula during the opening years of the twentieth century included a young couple by the name of William and Emma Randolph. William and Emma had come to Montana with their respective families years earlier, and they met and married in White Sulphur Springs in 1900. Shortly after honeymooning in Idaho, the Randolphs moved to Missoula, where Emma earlier "trained as a teacher in the first class of students admitted to the University of Montana." Emma raised the two boys she soon bore (Keith in 1901 and Robert in 1903) while "William worked various jobs across the state" to support them. William also worked to develop mechanical inventions, like the mowing machine that he discussed with a patent attorney in Washington, D.C. in 1905.[48] By the following year, William found work as a laborer in Missoula, which was just beginning a second phase of railroad-driven growth as the Northern Pacific enlarged and straightened its "main line to compete for passenger service with its newly arrived rival, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad."[49]

Railroad expansion provided employment for many workers, and lured large numbers of Greek, Italian, German, and Japanese immigrants, among other groups, to Missoula. These recent arrivals often settled in boarding houses vacated by their more established counterparts, many of whom began moving into single family homes that they bought, built, or rented on the Northside. The neighborhood became "identifiable to the average person" as one of 'railroad worker houses.'[50] Inhabitants of the modest Northside homes worked primarily at urban occupations, and depended on the small farmers of the surrounding countryside to produce the foods they consumed.

This fact underwrote the viability of nearby agricultural operations, and may have been part William and Emma Randolph's calculations when they decided to purchase the Moon Homestead, on the north edge of Missoula's then-booming Northside, in 1907. After signing a purchase contract in which they agreed to pay George and Helen Moon $1,900 in installments, they moved to the west 80 acres of the original claim with their two sons in April of that year. Upon transfer, the farm was "fully fenced, with a three-room house and an orchard that was already producing fine crops of apples," as well as an abundant assortment of outbuildings.[51] With an eye to commercial production, the Randolphs plowed a "garden plot at the bottom of the orchard with an Oliver 'Star' plow." They decided they needed a second well, closer to the house than the original well (located between the barn and the orchard), and William "dug the thirty feet by hand." The new well, located roughly at the center of a cluster of outbuildings comprising the milk house, tack shed and claim cabin, soon watered the "kitchen garden" Emma planted "just north of the house." By July they were harvesting pie cherries, and by September their first crop of apples.[52]

In their early years on the farm, the Randolphs developed a mixed operation model that endured, with adaptations, for decades. They planted about 10 acres of alfalfa "on the shallow slope extending up[hill] from the orchard and building cluster." The alfalfa covered most of the land "flat enough to accommodate a horse-drawn plow" and may have been irrigated by an upslope spring. Land closest to the building cluster the Randolphs dedicated to intensive gardening and to

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[47] Lenora Koelbel, *Missoula the Way it Was: A Portrait of an Early Western Town,* Missoula: Gateway Printing and Litho, 1972, p. 118.

[48] DeSilvey, p. 14-15.

[49] DeSilvey, p. 15; Mathews.

[50] Mathews.

[51] DeSilvey, p. 1, 17. According to Randolph family members, all buildings except the 1946 residence and the additions to the barn pre-date the Randolphs' tenure. While this is not quite accurate—the site history identifies several buildings, including the milk house and tin shed with attached outhouse, as subsequent additions—it does suggest that many buildings on site pre-dated the Randolphs' purchase of the farm.

[52] DeSilvey, p. 8-9.

penning animals. They stored animal feed in the granary near the renovated chicken house, and augmented the main (orchard) and kitchen gardens with additional small garden plots scattered throughout the farm.

A variety of trees and shrubs planted in these early years helped to delineate land use areas. Lilacs, black locusts, native plums, box elders, and currants provided shade, fruit, and beauty, and set the building cluster apart from the surrounding fields. The outlying fields, which eventually reached down to the flats at the far north end of Missoula's Northside, "were used for summer pasture" while the innermost fields were planted to winter feed. Some of the outlying fields may also have been used intermittently to grow dryland crops. At different times the family raised wheat, barley and oats, and piles of stones along fencelines suggest historic clearing and cultivation of the flat saddle up on the ridge and the lower slope at the east boundary of the ranch.[53]

From this basic farm foundation the Randolphs engaged in varied and evolving productive activities. Their granddaughter remembers a periodic 'pick-your-own' pie cherry operation, and other relatives relate having helped "keep bees in the orchard and in an area near the harness shed, supplying the family with honey and ensuring crop and orchard pollination."[54] By 1909, William was peddling produce from farm gardens in his horse-drawn 'Casaba Wagon.' Sales from his in-town route, which he covered every day but Sunday, provided income through summer and fall and, with the help of root vegetables stored in the family's root cellar, into winter. The 1909 farm ledger showed sales of onions, lettuce, turnip greens, and peas beginning in June. In July potatoes became available. Green corn followed in August, and fall brought beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage and apples. Profits from each of these helped sustain the Randolph family. Apples sales alone accounted for $150 in the fall of 1909, and potato production that year totaled one ton. Less significant, but no less crucial, were sales of small amounts of products like butter and buttermilk, which the Randolphs sold only on those occasions when their cows produced a surplus beyond what the family could consume.[55]

The year 1909 also brought an increased emphasis on poultry production. In March and April the family purchased dozens of batches of Plymouth Rock eggs, an incubator, and two roosters. By the end of the year their flock had grown to several hundred brooder hens, and it produced almost $150 profit. In addition to William's 'Casaba Wagon' sales, Emma marketed "Eggs for Hatching from Finest Strain [and] White Leghorn Chickens" to Missoula townspeople. The early success of their poultry enterprise inspired construction of an addition to the barn "which served as a chicken coop and brooder house," as well as the printing of official business stationary for the poultry products of "Mrs. W. H. Randolph . . . Ranch located Two Miles North of the City."[56]

As with many small farmers of this period, non-agricultural efforts supplemented the products and profit of farm work. Early on, the Randolphs escalated extraction from the 'Little Phoebe' coal mine on their property. They used the coal for barter as well as for heating. All the while, William dabbled in other enterprises, including helping to start the Standard Lime and Brick Company, investing in real estate, working as a realtor, mining claims he'd staked in the Nine Mile drainage, and selling timber from a stand up Lolo Creek on behalf of a friend who'd moved to California.[57]

Income from poultry products, garden crops, and other sources sustained a growing farm. The homestead in the north hills, where there was always space and plenty of work to be done, became a magnet for different family members over the years. William's mother Cyntha and his brother Elmer inaugurated this tradition when they moved into the original shed-roofed claim cabin in 1909, remaining there until 1917. Other relatives would follow, including Emma's brother

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[53] Emmons.

[54] DeSilvey, p. 69.

[55] DeSilvey, p. 18-20.

[56] DeSilvey, p. 18-20.

[57] DeSilvey, p. 31-32; Comer.

Bob, who lived in the claim cabin "off and on" over the years.[58] In 1911, Emma gave birth to a third and final child, a boy christened William and called Bill.

While much of what the growing family ate came from their own place, cash was needed to purchase such groceries as coffee, candy, crackers, salt, soda, sugar, lard, yeast, cornmeal, honey, cornstarch, matches, soap, flypaper, suet, brooms, jar rubber (for sealing canned goods), beans, oatmeal, flour, bacon, beef, ham and, when the cow dried up in August, butter. The family also purchased fruits such as strawberries, watermelons, oranges and lemons, some of which were imported from afar and sold alongside Randolph garden goods in the 'Casaba Wagon.' After five years of operation, William and Emma were able to add to their acreage. They purchased the east half of the original Moon Homestead claim in 1912.[59]

The early success of the Randolphs' North Hills endeavors was the product of their hard work and resourcefulness in conjunction with the larger context of their efforts. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, good weather, strong markets, cheap credit, and new tillage methods produced a period of agricultural prosperity that would thereafter be known as the Golden Age of American Agriculture. More importantly, the structure of the food supply system at the time, along with the rarity of refrigeration, promoted the success of small, mixed farms close to urban areas in need of fresh produce and livestock products like meat, eggs, and milk. In these decades, dairying expanded "near Montana's growing towns, especially in expansive valleys" like Missoula: "milk, cheese, and butter all flowed" to the tables "of thousands."[60]

The resulting push to convert ever more land to cropping contributed to the United States government opening the Flathead Indian Reservation north of Missoula to non-Indian homesteading in 1908-1909, a move that created a momentary land rush in the region. Local confidence in the possibilities for successful, small-scale production also encouraged speculators to design grandiose development schemes on area bottomlands for subdivisions devoted to orchards. Among the earliest of these real estate schemes was the 2,500-acre Orchard Homes subdivision along the south side of the Clark Fork River. Around 1900, the subdivision's promoters divided their land into tracts ranging in size from two to twenty acres. Stressing the land's potential for producing cherries, apples, strawberries, and garden vegetables, the men advertised the subdivision throughout the state and the nation. In short order they sold 300 tracts, mainly to local residents who hoped to make a living off the orchards they envisioned.[61] Similar developments that followed in the Bitter Root were less enduring, and earned the distinction of creating "one of the more notorious land-booms in Montana."[62]

Development schemes devoted to monocropping proved more vulnerable to the ravages of climate, pests, and the market than their diversified counterparts, and highlighted the relative security of mixed agricultural operations like that run by the Randolphs. Throughout the region, operations of this type remained viable through the Golden Age of Agriculture and beyond. As the relative proportion of urban to rural populations increased across the nation, diversified farms near cities continued to supply neighboring metropoles even after an agricultural depression descended on the nation in the 1920s. During the 1920s and '30s, while depression combined with drought to produce widespread destitution and a mass exodus from farms in the dryland, small-grain producing counties of eastern Montana, the number and production of

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[58] DeSilvey, p. 20, 57, 69; Emmons.

[59] DeSilvey, p. 1, 18-20, 24-25.

[60] Chere Jiusto and Christine Brown, *Montana's Last Best Barns*, Helena, MT: Montana Historical Society Press, forthcoming 2009, Chapter 2.

[61] Coon, p. 179; Montana State Engineer's Office, *Water Resources Survey, Ravalli County*, p. 42; Hagen, *Results of a Cultural Resources Inventory of the Russell Street Expansion Corridor.*

[62] Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, p. 6, 16; Janene Caywood, Delia Hagen, and C. Milo McLeod, *Results of a Cultural Resources Inventory of Montana Department of Transportation's North of Stevensville-North Project Area, Ravalli County, Montana,* Helena: unpublished report prepared for MDT, 2009.

small, diversified farms in western Montana increased (as did an emphasis on dairying within those operations). Indeed, the two phenomena were directly related, as farm families fleeing collapse in the east flocked to population centers in wetter western drainages and to the farms that supplied those cities with food.[63]

On the Randolph Ranch in the interwar years, developments reflected the regional agricultural trajectory. Emma and William gradually expanded their herd of beef and dairy cattle as well as their drift of pigs, which "were sheltered in low open sheds along the west edge of the orchard." The animal herds grew in symbiotic relationship to one another, and to crop production: pigs drank any "excess milk and root[ed] for fallen apples in the orchard."[64] The Randolphs also invested in infrastructure improvements to support associated production, constructing a second addition to the barn and, in 1923, completing a milk house in compliance with prescribed commercial dairy sanitation standards. As cattle and dairying increased, their place became known in common parlance as the Randolph Ranch or the Randolph Dairy.[65]

The Great Depression reinforced existing patterns of income packaging on small, diversified agricultural operations like the Randolphs'. People sustained themselves through a combination of economic activities. William continued to supplement farming with varied odd jobs and off-farm endeavors.[66] Depression-era programs of the federal New Deal also provided some supplemental income. In 1939, the Randolphs enrolled part of their acreage in a Soil Conservation Act program aimed at encouraging stabilizing production and promoting soil-building and pasture regeneration. That year they earned $81 for doing so.[67] The labor of a variety of family members also helped the Randolph Ranch remain viable in the 1930s, as Emma's brother Bob moved into the claim cabin and Keith, his wife Bonnie, and their young daughters lived in "a large wood-frame shed-roof house at the top of a small rise" that likely housed the chicken and brooder poultry operation before being refurbished as a residence.[68]

The Randolphs also continually minimized their need for cash; they maintained and operated the farm with reused, scavenged, and homemade materials and machines whenever possible. Like people near and far, they relied increasingly on barter as a component of their household economy. They traded "produce, eggs, meat and coal for shoes, gas, medical services, and dry goods" and at times "accepted an offer of help in exchange for credit on overdue accounts."[69] Their constant, creative efforts paid off, and the family was able to add on to the farm despite the difficult economy. In the mid-1930s, they purchased the quarter section directly south of their own, and gave Keith and Bonnie a house lot at the southern edge of the new property.[70] By 1939, "the family ranch ranged over 414 acres, and included the entire south-facing hillside looking over downtown Missoula."[71]

The localized food supply system that sustained small, diversified farms like the Randolphs endured into WWII. Farmers sold their products directly to neighbors or to local processing and retail establishments. William Randolph continued to haul goods in his Casaba Wagon to his many Northside and Westside household accounts, as well as to businesses like the Blue Parrott Cafe and his sister Sarah Lunsford's grocery store on Toole Avenue. His printed price list showed costs for potatoes, dry beans, green beans, green corn, spinach, lettuce, carrots, rutabagas, cabbage, beets, and turnips—produce

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[63] Michael Malone, p. 283; Coon, p. 214-217, 222, 230-231, 255, 278, 328-341; Babcock, *Cook Farm*; Hagen, *Morgan-Case Homestead*; Comer; *Missoulian Centennial Edition*; *Missoulian Souvenir Edition*; Emmons.

[64] DeSilvey, p. 68; Emmons.

[65] Emmons.

[66] DeSilvey, p. 32.

[67] DeSilvey, p. 29.

[68] Emmons.

[69] DeSilvey, p. 25.

[70] DeSilvey, p. 28-29. The young couple built a house for their growing family on the lot, at 1410 Worden, where it still stands today.

[71] Desilvey, p. 29.

from his garden that he sometimes supplemented with more exotic oranges, bananas, grapefruits, and lemons purchased from the Pacific Fruit and Produce or Ryan Fruit Company warehouses on North 1st Street, along the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks. Hogs were sold at local auction or to Daily's Meats, and milk went to the Spruce Street Creamery or the Community Creamery on Nora Street.[72] The end products from these processing facilities probably made their way into local stomachs; in the pre-WWII era, the meat from Montana hogs was "for the most part marketed within the state" and "the greater portion of Montana creamery products [was] consumed within the state."[73]

The local food supply system supported not only small, diversified farms like the Randolphs but all manner of businesses, even before much of the growth of the interwar years. In 1922, with a population of about 15,000, the city of Missoula boasted some 26 retail grocers, 14 meat markets, seven bakeries, 24 restaurants and cafes, and several creameries making "cheese and ice cream in addition to butter" from the milk of the 37 dairies "licensed to do business in the city."[74]

Through the local food supply system, then, small producers like the Randolphs were integrated into the urban communities they fed. This relationship was reinforced by the proximity of truck farms like the Randolphs to the towns supplied, and was especially strong in the case of the Randolph family, whose ranch bordered town. Missoula not only provided the market for their products but also offered other labor and investment opportunities, as well as providing goods they didn't produce themselves. Their children walked to grade school at Whittier on Missoula's Northside and, like other members of their extended family, settled in town when they struck out on their own.

The Demise of Local Food Producers and the Moon-Randolph Ranch, 1946-present

A variety of developments in the wake of World War II transformed the food supply system in the United States, and in doing so eroded the viability of small, diversified operations producing for local markets. Energy policies, zealous consumption of fossil fuels, and improved transportation infrastructure and technology—especially the advent of truck haulage and refrigerated cars—enabled foods to be shipped greater distances, more quickly, and at lower costs, without spoilage. Small local retailers suffered alongside the farms that supplied them. The increased availability of ~~commercially~~ canned and frozen foods (and freezers to put them in) along with better roads and cars brought the demise of neighborhood meat markets and green grocers, as consumers could more easily drive about in search of one-stop shopping and volume discounts. New agricultural and food safety policies encouraged large, standardized corporate producers and processors. Huge firms began to monopolize large portions of the national packing and processing markets, a position that allowed them inordinate power in dictating the terms at which agricultural products were bought and sold.[75]

These developments came at the expense of smaller, more diversified producers and processors, who rarely benefited from farm legislation and frequently found compliance with (ever-increasing) national regulations cost-prohibitive. At the same time, modern mechanized farming methods required less labor and more capital, a difficult proposition for operations sustained by sweat more than by money. Furthermore, a variety of crops meant that expensive, specialized machines might see limited use on diversified farms. Accelerating agricultural mechanization after WWII favored large-scale production of single crops for a national market. Farm size increased and diversification decreased. All the while a steady stream of chemical inputs sustained a regime that otherwise would have depleted the soils and suffered from the particular vulnerability of monocultures to devastation by pests. Wartime munitions and poison gas plants were converted

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[72] DeSilvey, p. 24-25, 30.

[73] Coon, p. 333, 339.

[74] *Missoulian Souvenir Edition.*

[75] Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal*, New York: HarperCollins, 2002, p. 113; Marcia Herrin and Joan Dye Gussow, "Designing a Sustainable Regional Diet," *Journal of Nutrition Education*, Vol. 21, No. 6 (Dec. 1989), p. 271; Jessica Babcock, *Redeveloping a Montana Food Processing Industry: The Role of Food Innovation Centers*, Missoula: unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Montana, 2008, p. 7-8, 13.

to pesticide and fertilizer production, and the voluminous toxic chemicals left over from war manufactures flowed onto farm fields across the nation. This production pattern endures to this day. As India's physicist-farmer-activist Vandana Shiva puts it, "we are still eating the leftovers of World War II."[76]

In Montana, post-war changes in the food supply system mirrored those in the rest of the nation. Since 1941, the variety of agricultural commodities produced commercially by Montana farmers has decreased markedly, and the portion of Montana's food produced in-state has fallen apace. In 1941, Montana farmers and ranchers exported "grains, beef, pork, lamb, turkey, eggs, milk, cottage cheese, butter, lard, potatoes, dry beans, sugar, honey, cherries, green peas, and processed fruits and vegetables." These and other farm products provided some 70 percent of all food consumed by Montanans. By the mid-1980s, Montana exported only "grains, livestock, cottage cheese, potatoes, dry beans, honey, and cherries."[77] The state's farmers and ranchers currently supply less than 10 percent of the food Montanans consume.[78]

Statistics on locally supplied foodstuffs are even more striking for those commodities produced by truck farms like the Randolph Ranch. In 1941, local producers supplied 34 percent of the state's fruits and vegetables, 98 percent of its legumes, and 100 percent of its poultry products. By 1980, those figures had plummeted to only 7 percent of Montana's fruits and vegetables, 77 percent of legumes, and 31 percent of poultry products. The collapse of the local food system after WWII was even more pronounced in Montana's processing sector. In the 1930s and 1940s food processing was the largest employer in the state, and included over 100 flour mills alone. "There were vegetable canneries around the state and many small communities had slaughterhouses for local livestock." By the 1980s processing had been reduced to a few flour mills, creameries, and sugar beet factories along with a handful of custom meat packers and specialty foods suppliers.[79]

In 1944, William Randolph wrote a note on the back of a receipt. It read: "I have 414 acres I have put up 80 tons of hay. And plenty of pasture for my 30 head of dairy cattle. I raised 40 early spring pullets . . . I have sold 50 doz. eggs a week since the first of Feb. I raised a surplus of garden and potatoes to sell. I have a big crop of raspberries and cherries to sell. There will be 50 or 60 boxes of apples to sell. I took about 800 lb. of honey from 10 hives of bees."[80] In retrospect, William's notations appear a prescient epitaph for the Randolph's Ranch and the local food supply system of which it was a part. As with countless similar small-scale agricultural operations around the nation, the years around WWII marked the peak of production at the Randolph Ranch.

Thereafter, activities at the ranch declined. Emma and Will slowed with age, and their sons Keith and Robert took their families and made lives and livings elsewhere, depriving the ranch of much of the family labor on which it depended. A fire in 1945 destroyed much of the hay crop and the grainary, and operations never really seemed to fully recover. Emma, after years of continual farm labor "developed a bad case of 'milk leg' (phlebitis)" and increasingly struggled "to haul wood for the cookstove and keep up with her household chores." In 1946, the Randolphs renovated the chicken coop-cum-residence at the southwest corner of the domestic cluster to ease her days. The improved building "included two new rooms, constructed of sturdy cinderblock. It also boasted built-in drawers and closets in both bedrooms, a fully plumbed bathroom and kitchen, a white enamel gas [cook] stove ... and electric lights throughout." At the same time, they moved the vegetable garden up to the field west of the new house so Emma could continue to plant and tend a smaller patch of

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[76] *Butte Montana Standard*, "Localvores: Movement to Buy Montana Products Helps Boost Agricultural Economy," July 18, 2009; Schlosser, p. 119-120; Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*, New York: HarperCollins, 2007, p. 13-14; Michael Pollan, "What's Eating America," *Smithsonian Magazine*, July 2006.

[77] Herrin, p. 271; "Localvores: Movement to Buy Montana Products Helps Boost Agricultural Economy."

[78] "Localvores: Movement to Buy Montana Products Helps Boost Agricultural Economy."

[79] Herrin, p. 271; "Localvores: Movement to Buy Montana Products Helps Boost Agricultural Economy."

[80] Desilvey, p. 31.

ground nearby. Energetic even in her decline, Emma "planted caragna and currants in a hedge around the yard and tulips next to the house."[81]

In their final years, Will and Emma witnessed the simultaneous demise of their ranch and of the local food supply system that sustained it. The early 1950s brought the end of alfalfa production and the poultry operation, and around that time "Bill and his nephew Gordon pulled the trees out" of the second orchard, leaving one lone tree in testament to a more productive time.[82] In 1954, in a move symbolic of the shift in regional employment patterns, Hubert Hanson, Emma's brother Alfred's son, built the tin shed "to store his possessions when he was out in the woods working for the U.S. Forest Service."[83] By the time Emma and Will died, in 1956, production at the ranch paled in comparison to just a decade before. The same could be said for most of Montana's small-scale diversified producers. By the 1950s, agriculture in Missoula County generally took the form of a stock ranch with irrigated land to produce hay and other feed, a large unirrigated dryland farm dedicated to wheat, barley, or alfalfa, or a moderate-sized irrigated farm. Small-scale farms meeting the bulk of a family's subsistence needs and providing diverse products for local markets proved increasingly rare.[84]

For decades after his parents' deaths, Bill Randolph continued to work the farm in a reduced capacity. He devoted himself mainly to tending goats (for which he built many of the fences that currently run through the ranch building cluster) and producing a few vegetables for home consumption. Like many small producers who continued to reside on their farms long after they were commercially viable, Bill turned to wage labor to make ends meet. Even in this pursuit, however, he reflected his occupational and geographic ties; he took a job at the town stockyards, where he worked with livestock on Missoula's Northside. Bill supplemented his wages and farm activities by renting parts of the ranch for pasture or other uses. In the 1970s, one of these renters built the outhouse attached to the tin shed.[85]

Bill remained a lifelong bachelor, and the simple farm buildings continued to meet his needs until he died. His life choices and his commitment to keeping the ranch intact worked in concert with larger developments to prevent subdivision of the Randolph acres. In 1966 "the interstate tore through the south end of the pasture land," visually "severing the traditional link between the Randolphs' property" and Missoula proper. Three years later, the City Disposal Company established the county landfill just across Coal Mine Road. The Moon-Randolph Ranch was then encircled in the symbols and structures of the post-WWII food supply and consumption systems implicated in its demise.[86]

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[81] DeSilvey, p. 33.

[82] DeSilvey, p. 65.

[83] DeSilvey, p. 72.

[84] Emmons.

[85] Emmons; DeSilvey, p. 36, 72.

[86] Emmons; DeSilvey, p. 36.

Like other small farms undone by shifts in how America feeds itself, the Moon-Randolph Ranch remains much as it did during its peak production years. The swiftness and thoroughness of economic and agricultural change, combined with the Randolph family's own life cycles, spared it modification. The agricultural activities that might have led to modern modification of its infrastructure were abandoned, and its later use as bachelor's home placed little remodeling pressure on the primary residence. Changes to the place in Bill's final years are attributable primarily to external causes. In the early 1990s, both wells on the property went dry, possibly due to pressure on the water table as a result of development in the adjacent Rattlesnake and Grant Creek valleys. In 1992, Bill placed a conservation easement on much of his family's land. Three years later, he died.[87]

In 1996, the City of Missoula acquired the Moon-Randolph Ranch with money from open space bonds. In recent years the ranch has been cooperatively managed by the City and the North Missoula Community Development Corporation. Under this cooperative management, some restoration and remodeling has been completed (see narrative description for details). The most notable of these efforts is a major remodel of the 1946 residence, which diminished much of its historic integrity, and a more sensitive reconstruction of the claim cabin. Currently, the farm is used on occasion for living history events, especially during an annual harvest celebration held in early October. Living history activities have resulted in the construction of new gates, fences and many small features from salvaged materials, a practice which is problematic because it renders modern modifications indistinguishable from historic infrastructure.

[87] DeSilvey, p. 2, 36; Emmons.

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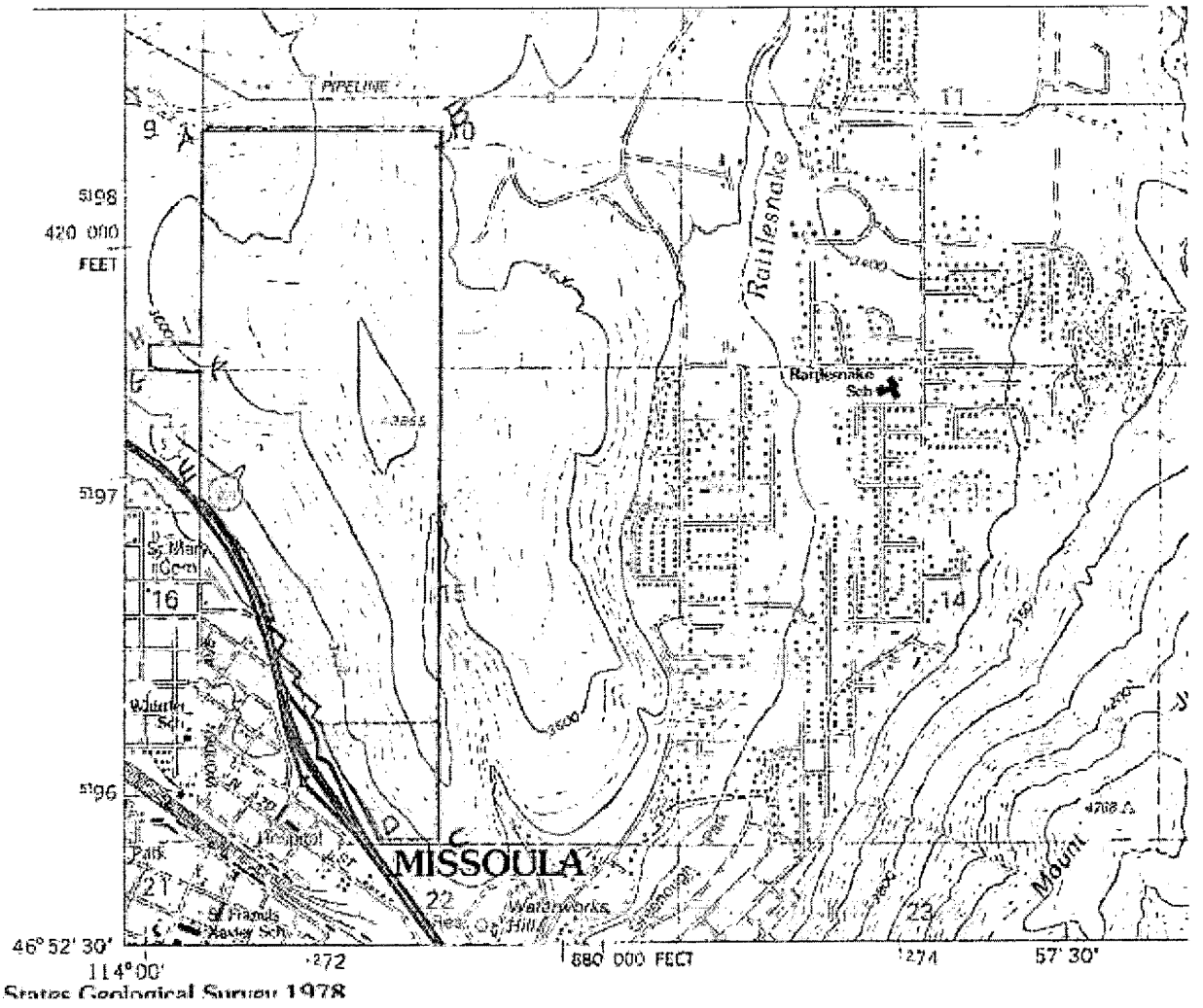
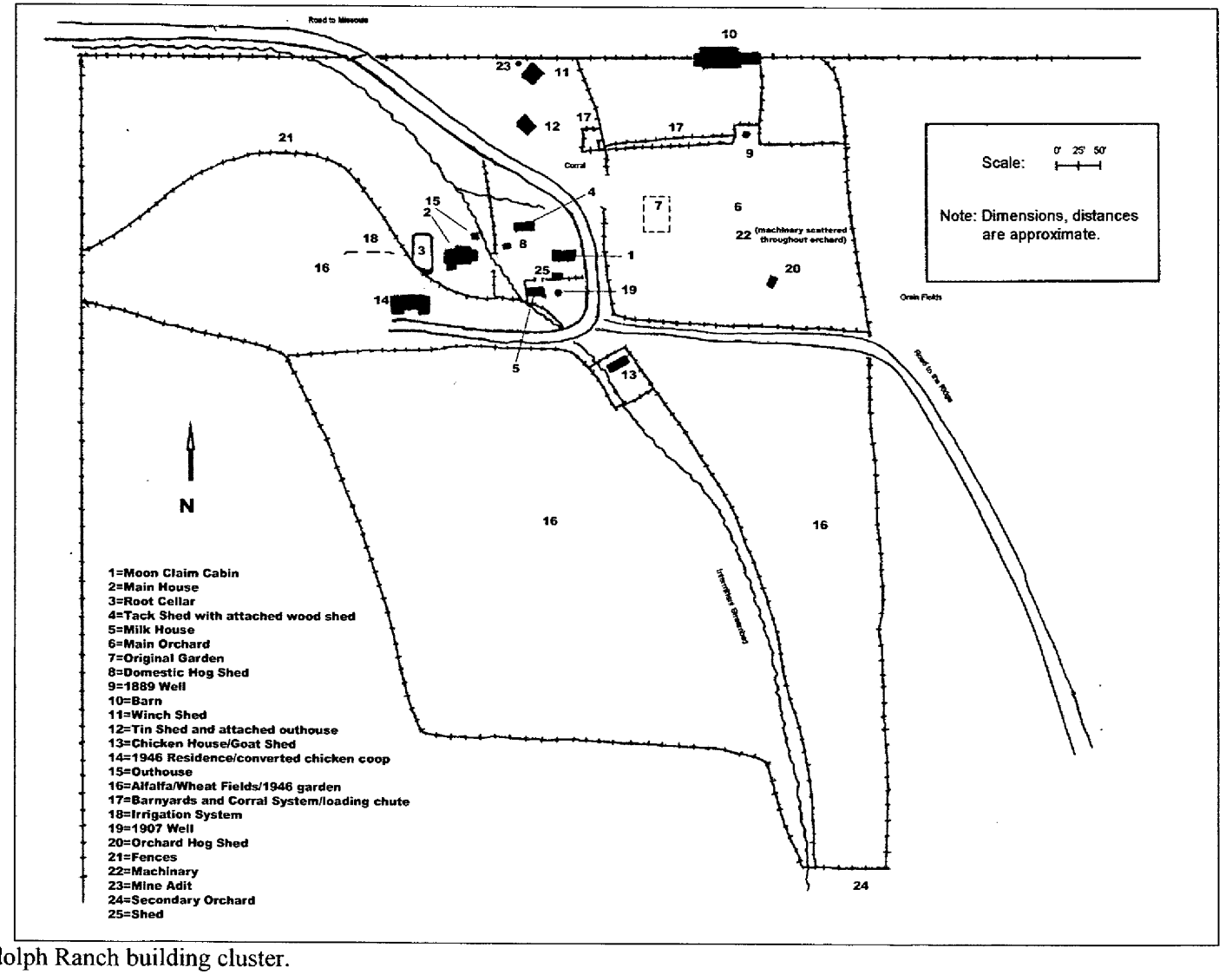
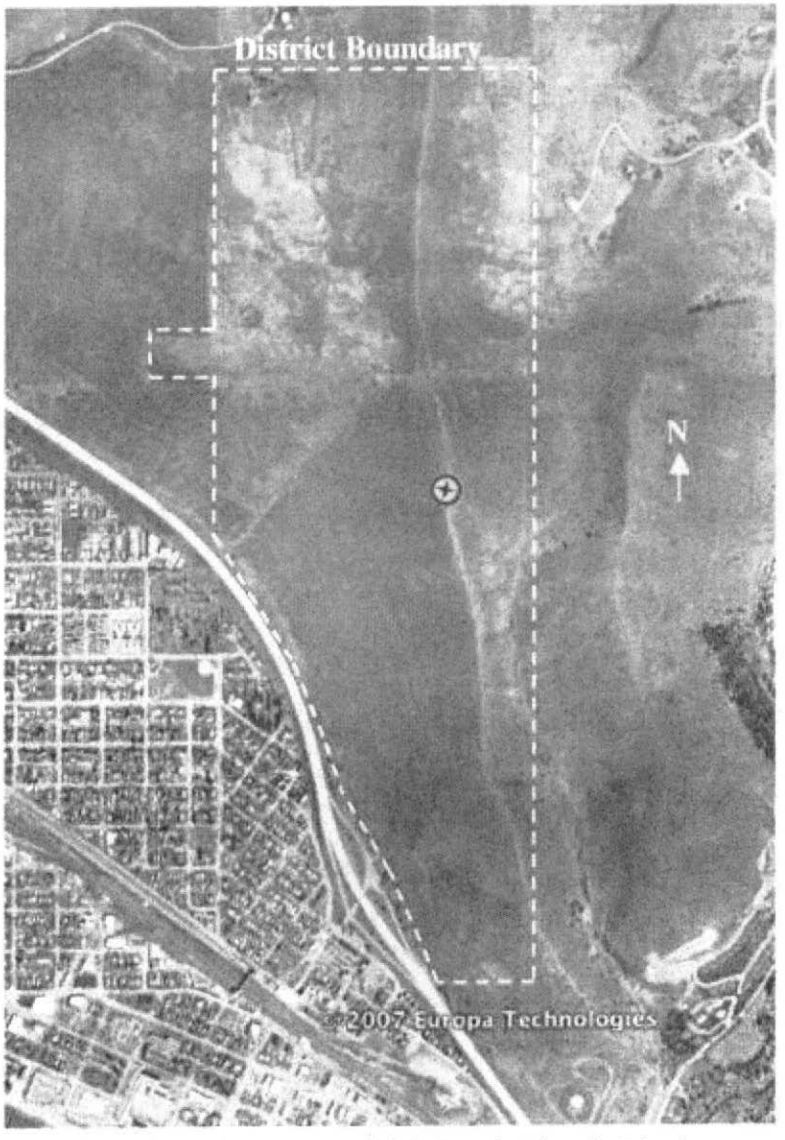
	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	271750	5198125
B	12	272566	5198125
C	12	272466	5195722
D	12	272265	5195722
E	12	271700	5196900
F	12	271716	5197350
G	12	271525	5197350
H	12	271525	5197476
I	12	271720	5271576



Northeast Missoula 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map, 1964 (photorevised 1978).
National Register boundary and UTM points for Moon-Randolph Ranch.

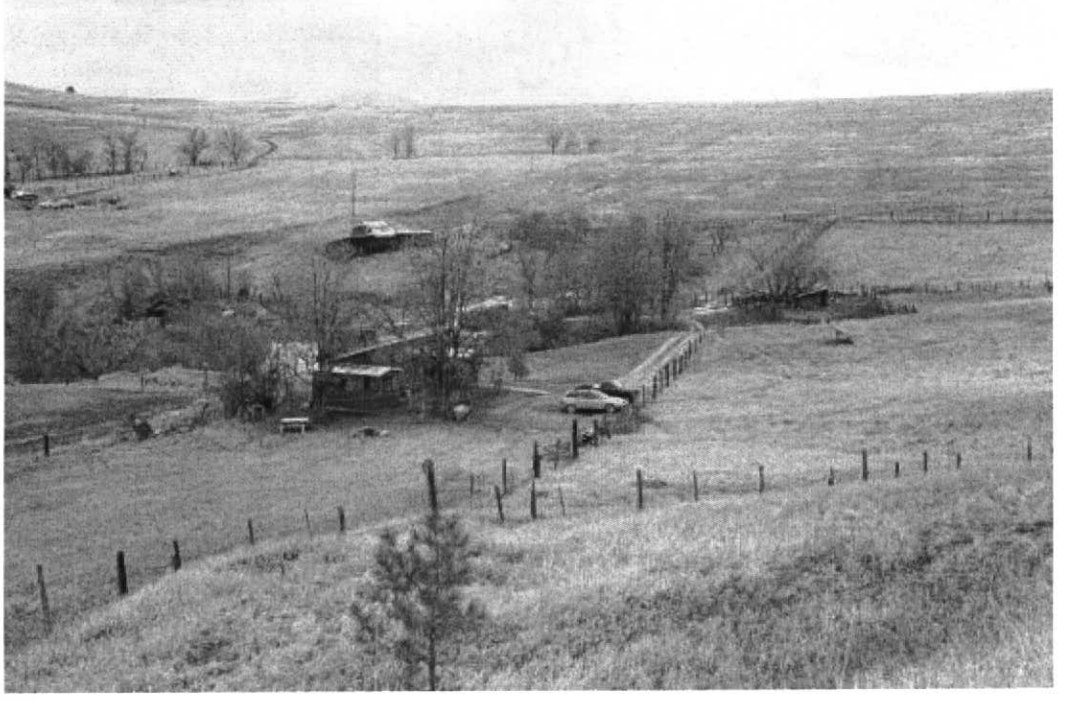


Detail of Moon-Randolph Ranch building cluster.



Aerial view of Moon-Randolph Ranch Historic District.

NR Photo #0001 – Ranch Cluster – view from northeast (L to R) Orchard, Garden Site, Chicken coop, 1946 residence, Tack shed, and "Tin Shed".



NR Photo #0002 – Ranch Cluster, view from southwest. 1946 Residence in foreground, Chicken coop/Goat Shed on the right, Winch Shed on left, Barn in background.

NR Photo #0003 – Moon Claim Cabin, view from southwest.

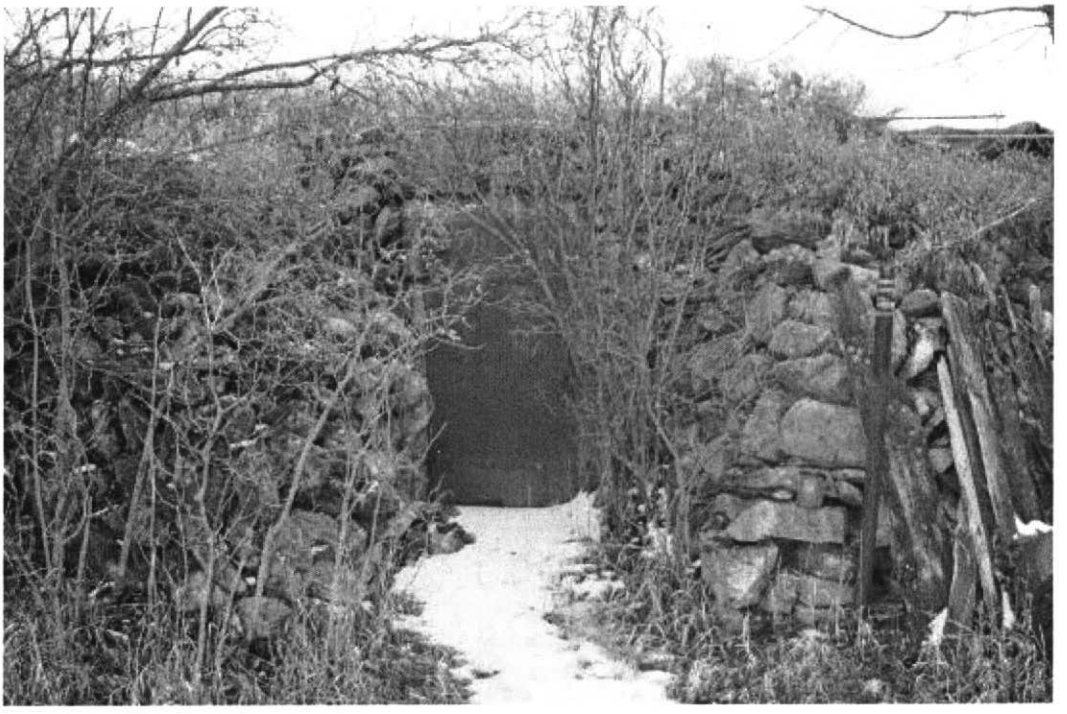
NR Photo #0004 – Moon Claim Cabin, view from northeast.

NR Photo #0005 – Main House view from southeast.

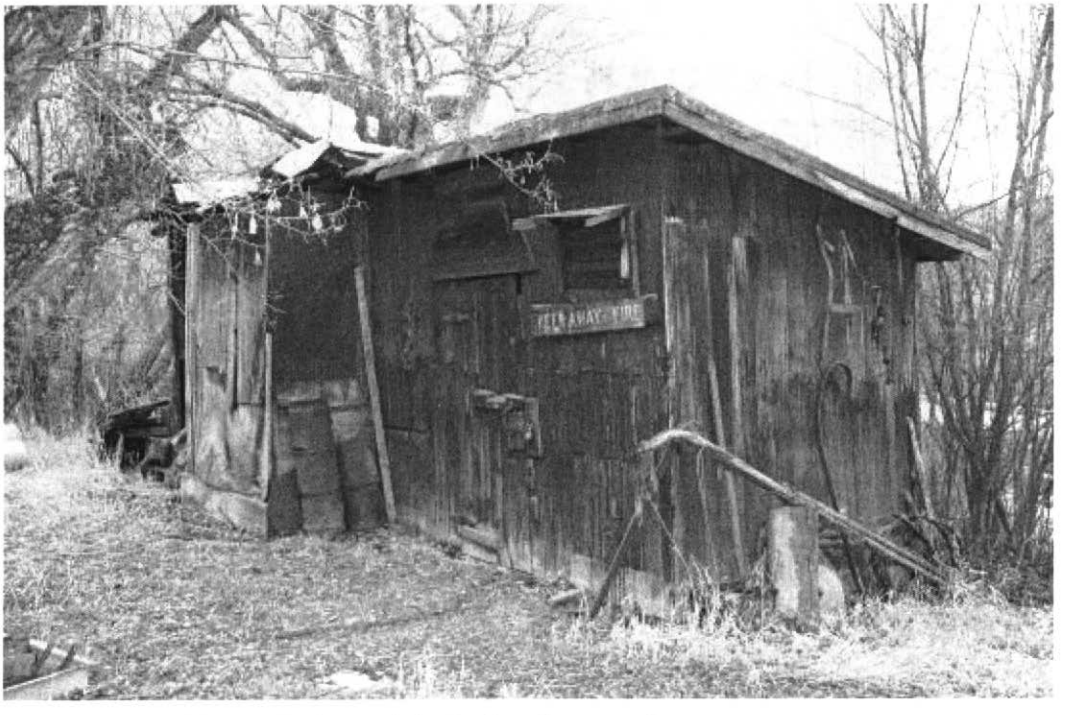
NR Photo #0006 – Main House, view from east.

NR Photo #0007 – Main House, view from northwest.

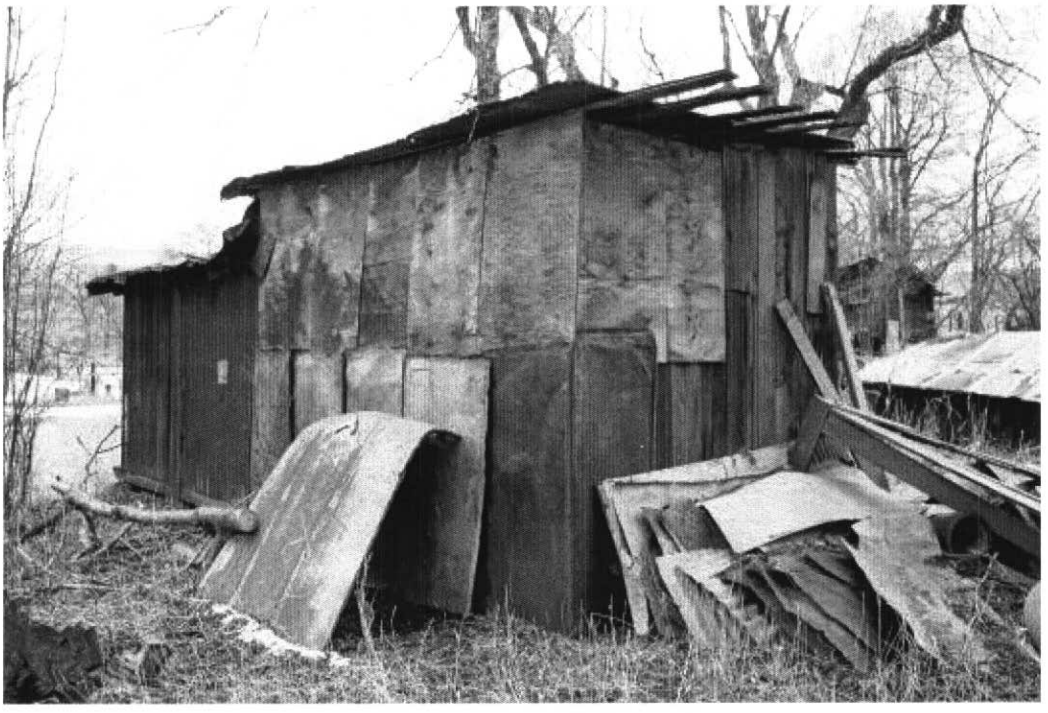
NR Photos #0008 and 0009 – Outhouse, view from southwest (0008) and northeast (0009).



NR Photo #0010 – Root Cellar, view from east.

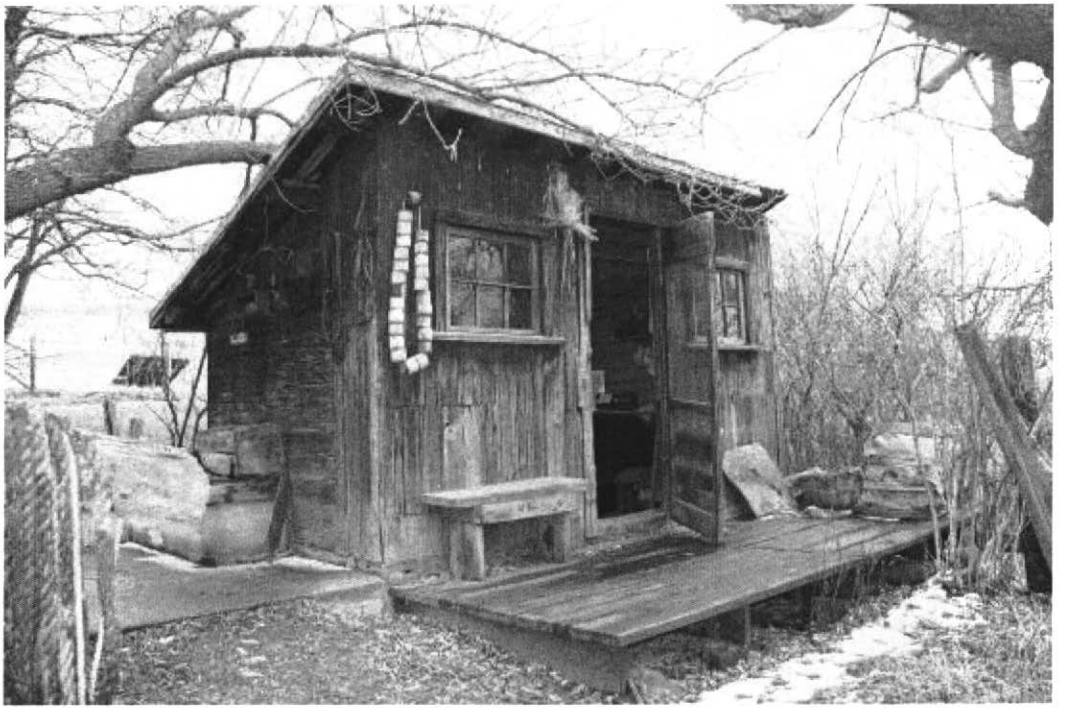


NR Photo #0011 – Tack Shed with attached wood shed, view from southeast.

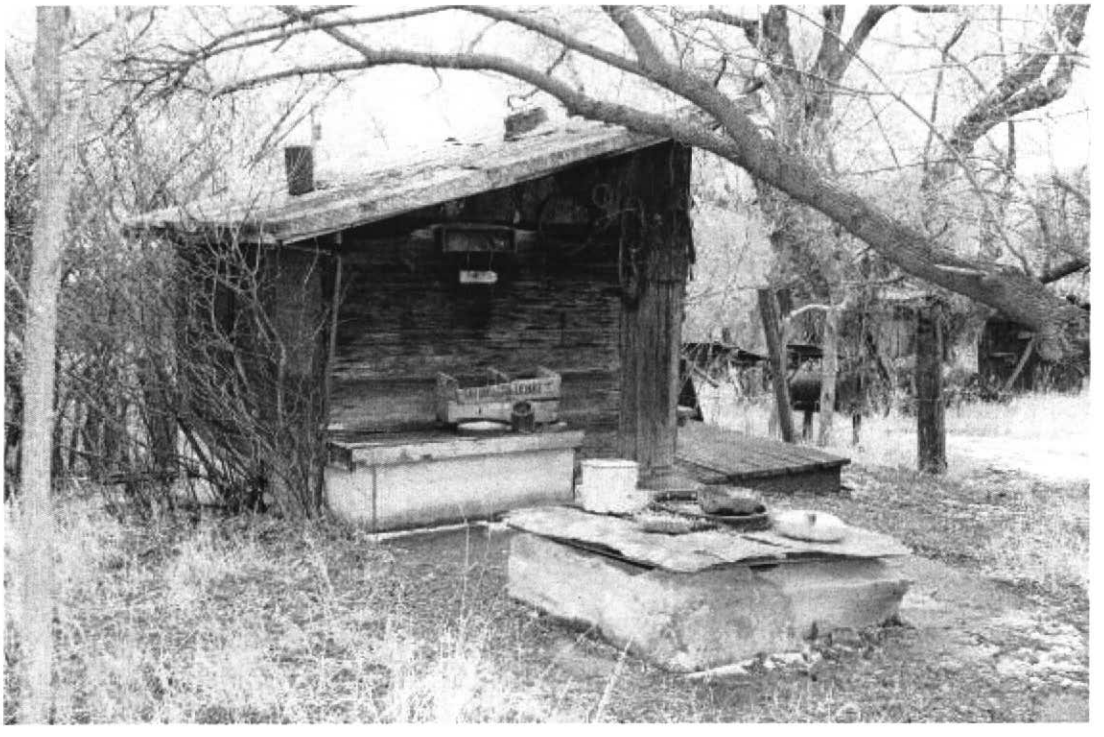


NR Photo #0012 – Tack Shed with attached wood shed, view from northwest.

NR Photo #0013 – Domestic Hog Shed, view from southeast.



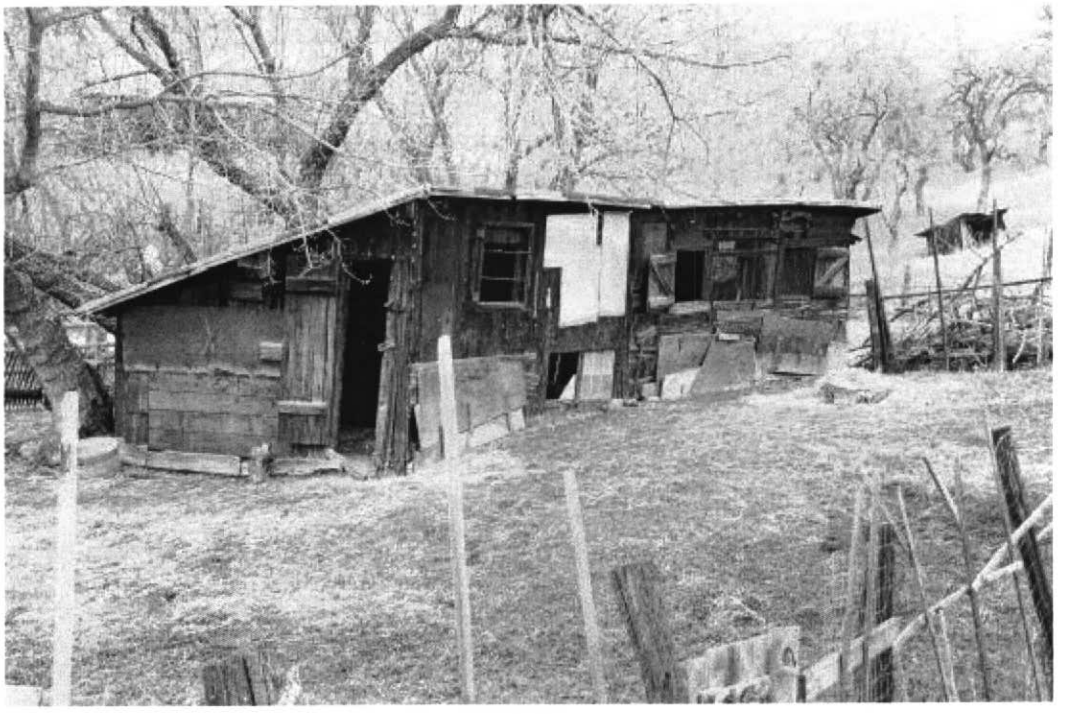
NR Photo #0014 – Milk House, view from northeast.



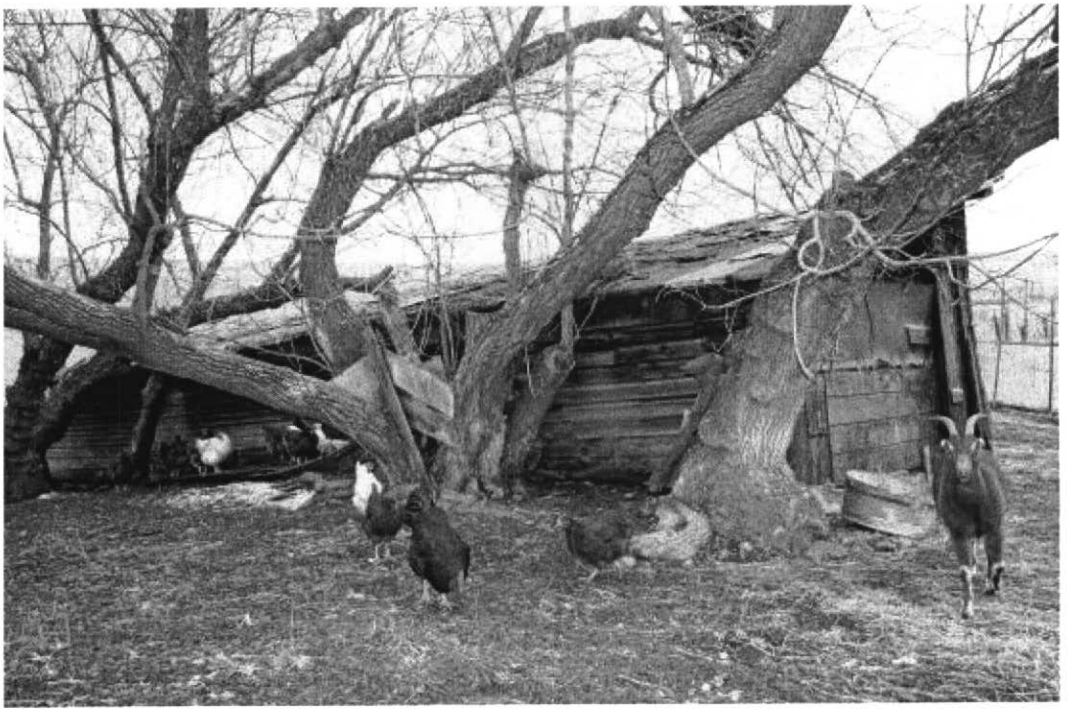
NR Photo #0015 – Milk House and 1907 Well, View from east.

NR Photo #0016 – 1946 Residence/converted chicken coop, view from southeast.

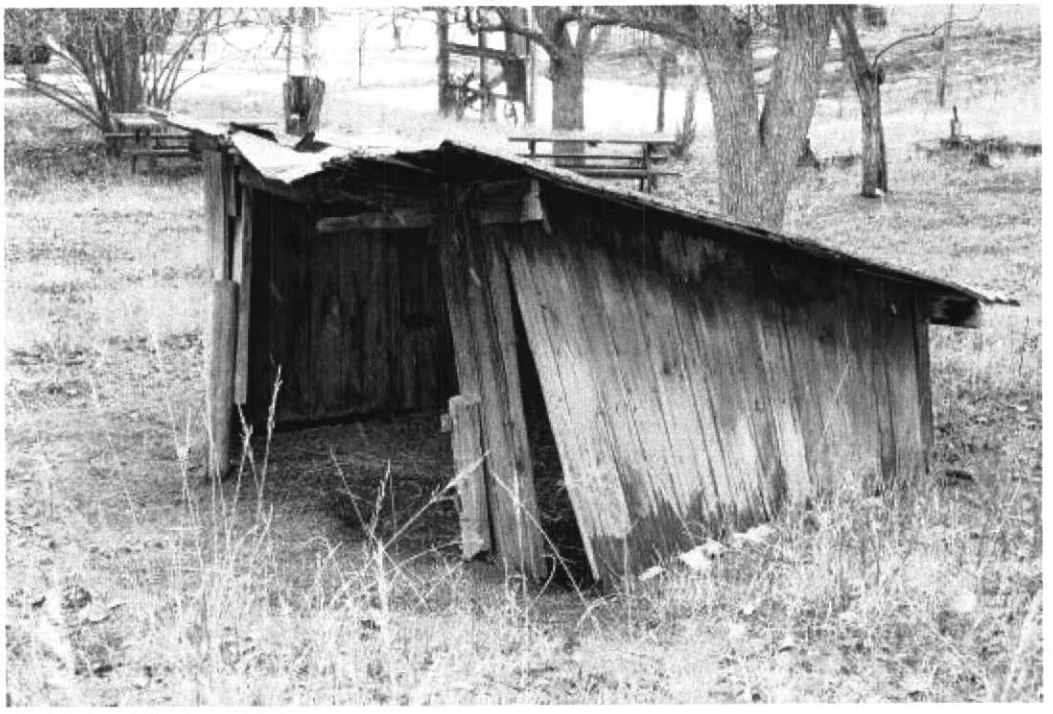
NR Photo #0017 – 1946 Residence/converted chicken coop, view from northeast.



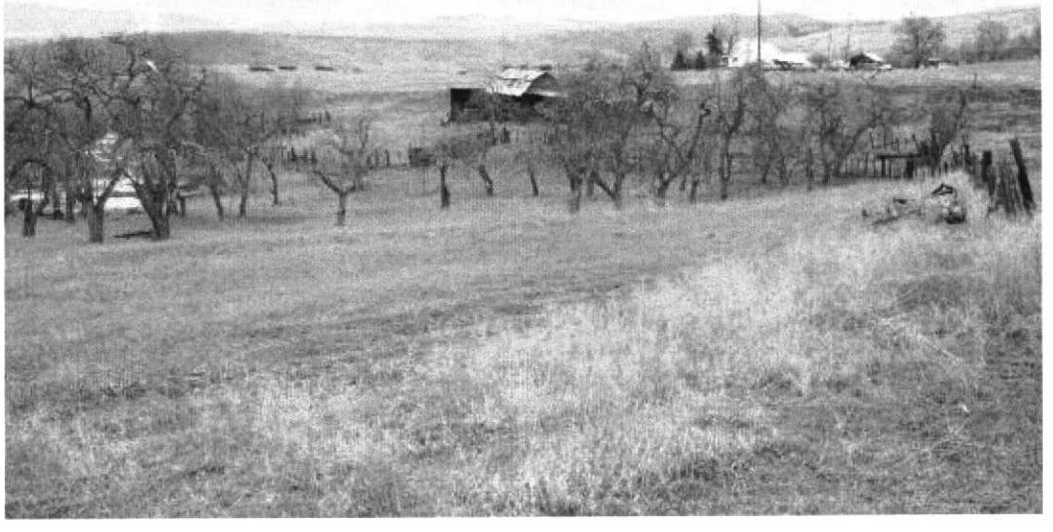
NR Photo #0018 – Chicken coop/Goat Shed, view from west.



NR Photo #0019 – Chicken coop/Goat Shed, view from north.



NR Photo #0020 – Orchard Hog shed, view from southeast.

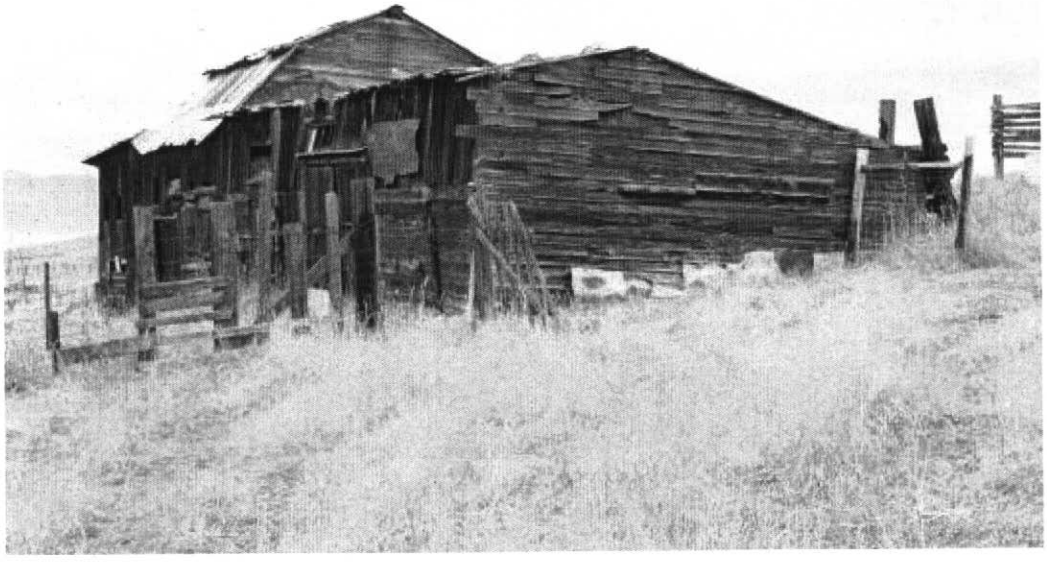


NR Photo #0021 – Main Orchard, view from southeast.

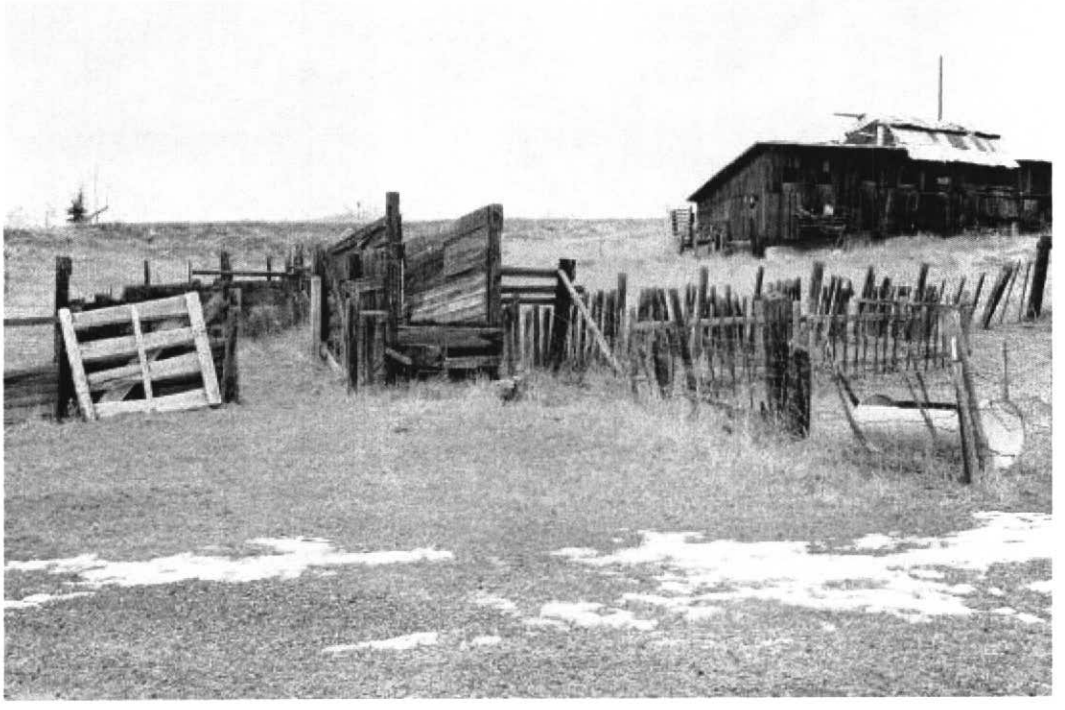
NR Photo #0022- 1889 Well, detail view.

NR Photo #0023 – Barn and Corral System, view from southwest.

NR Photo #0024 – Barn – view from southwest.



NR Photo #0025 – Barn, view from southeast.



NR Photo #0026 – Corral system and livestock loading chute, view from south.

NR Photo #0027 – "Tin Shed" with attached outhouse, view from north.

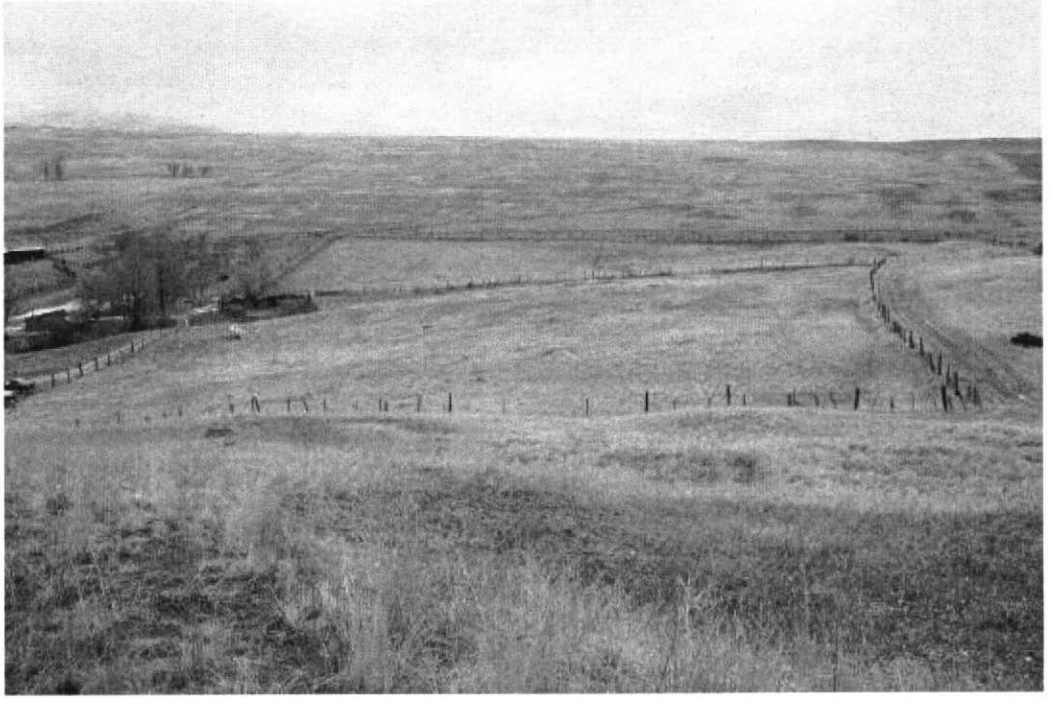
NR Photo #0028 – Mine adit portal, view from west.

NR Photo #0029 – Winch Shed, view from south.

NR Photo #0030 – Fences, orchard gate, view from north.

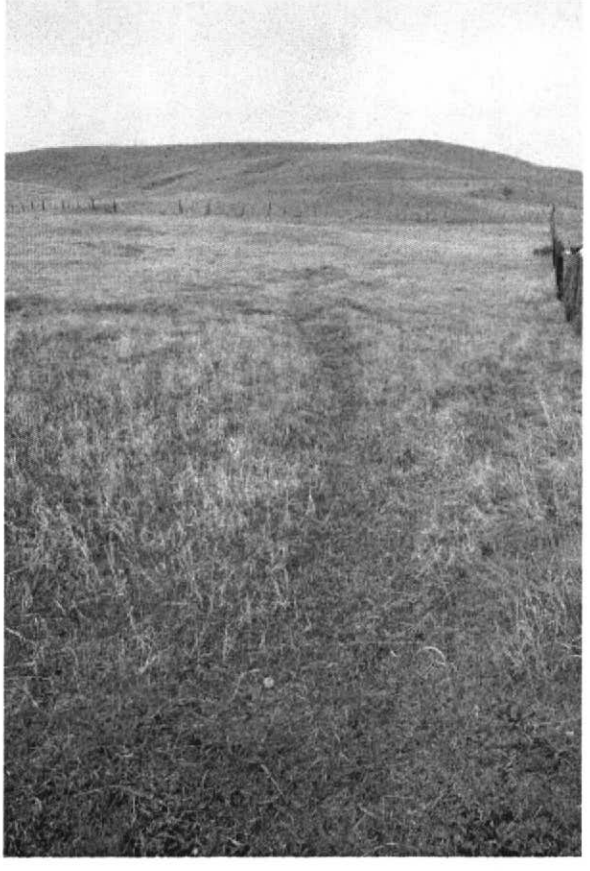
NR Photo #0031 – Machinery, detail view.

NR Photo #0032 – Machinery, detail view

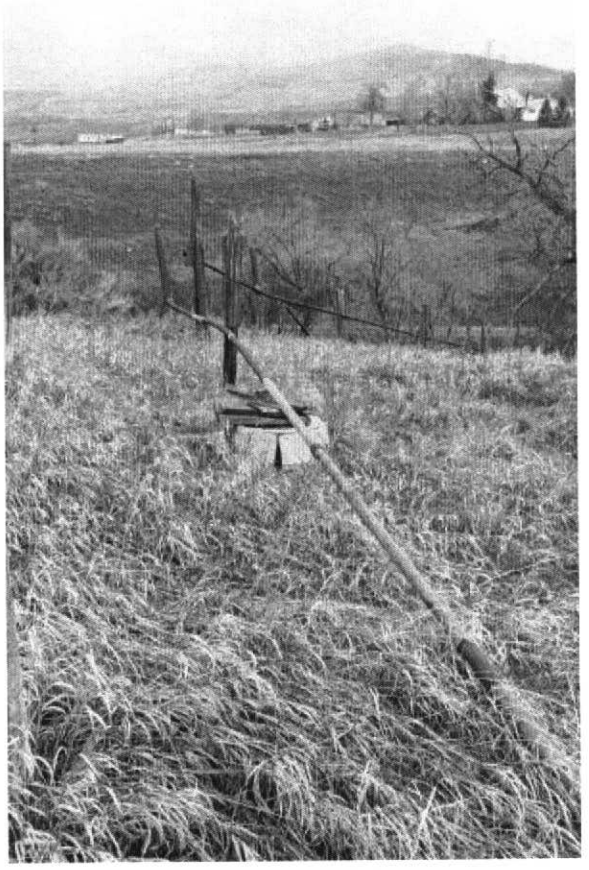


NR Photo #0033 – Wheat/Alfalfa Fields, view from the west of fields to the south of the ranch cluster.

NR Photo #0034 – Wheat/Alfalfa Field, view from south of on the bench west of 1946 Residence.

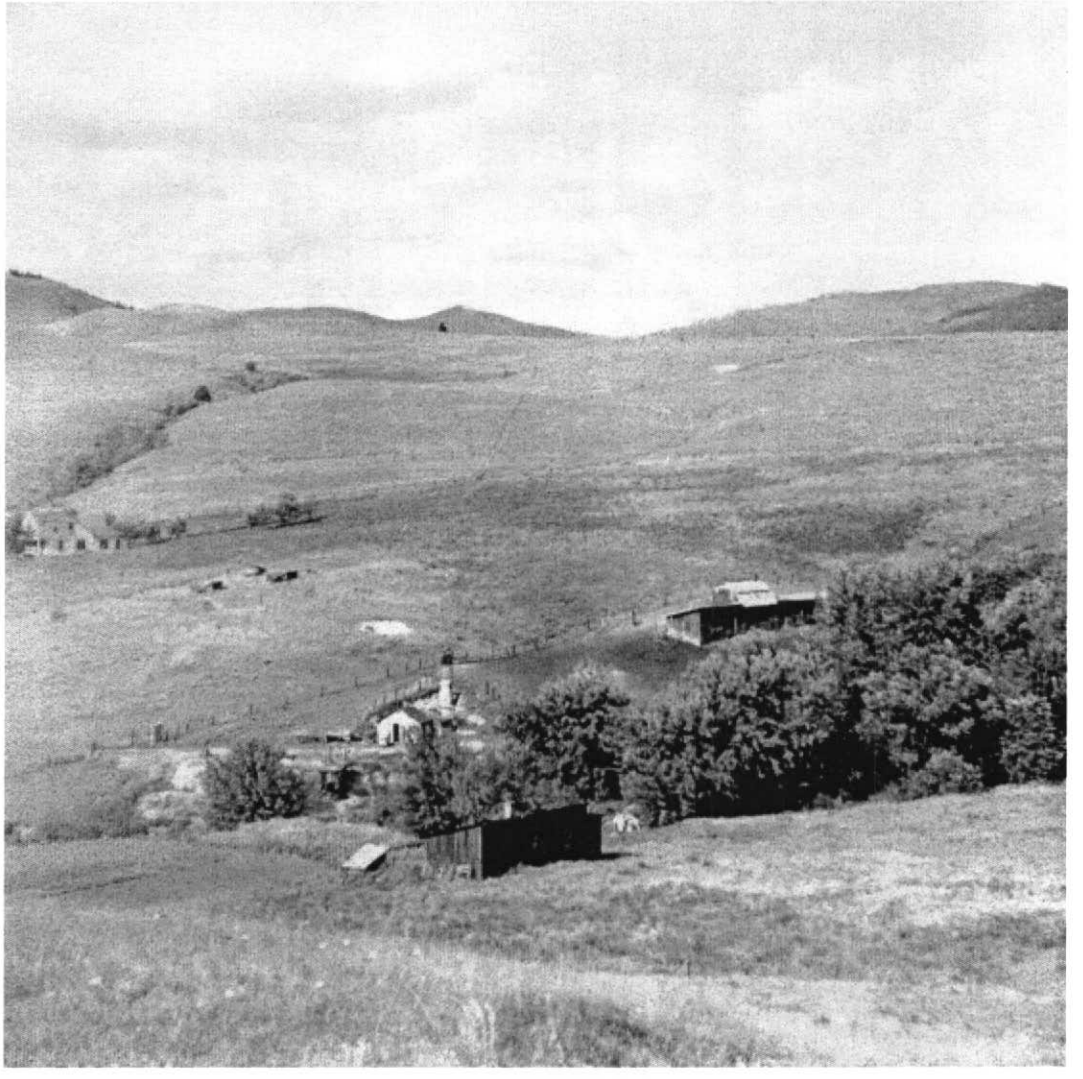


NR Photo # 0035 – Irrigation System, view from east.

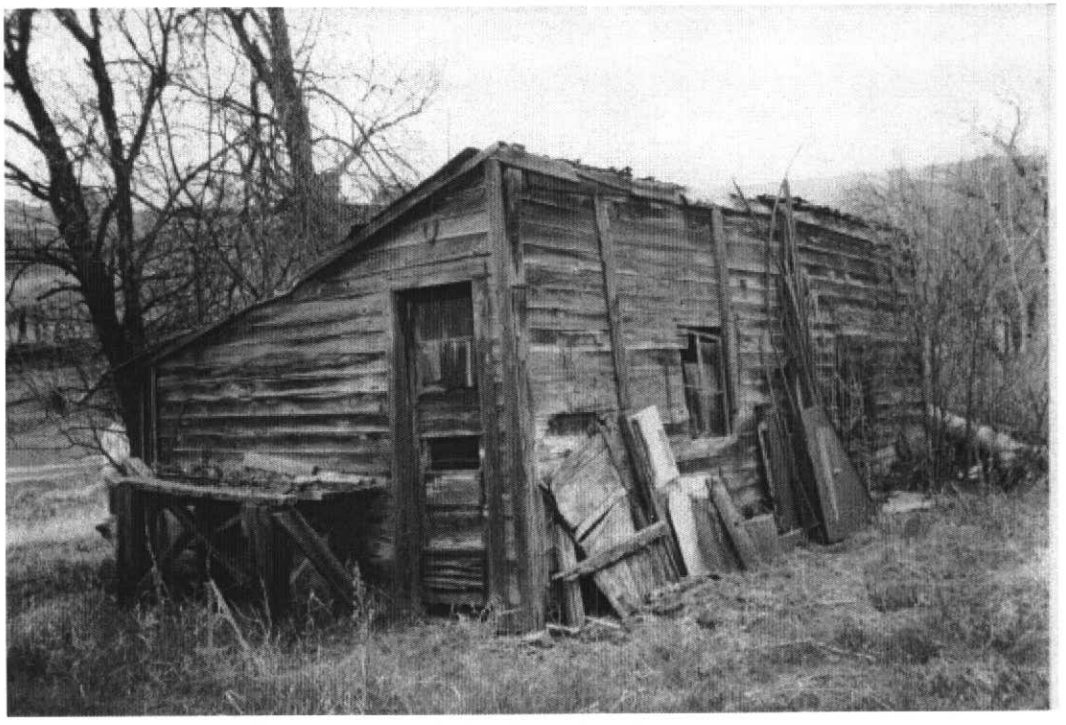


NR Photo #0036 - Irrigation pipes, view from south.

NR Photo #0037 – Secondary orchard, view from north.



NR Photo #0038 – Historic Photo (1920) view from west.



NR Photo #0039 – Moon Claim Cabin, 2001 prior to rehabilitation, view from southwest.

NR Photo #0040 – Moon Claim Cabin 2001, prior to rehabilitation, view from northwest.

KEEP AWAY FIRE

EXCHANGE