

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 JUN 6 1984  
 JUN 21 1984

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

James Cant Ranch Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Oregon Rte. 19

CITY, TOWN

Dayville

 VICINITY OF  
 CODE

 NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Oregon

COUNTY

Grant

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**
 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT
**OWNERSHIP**
 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED
**STATUS**
 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO
**PRESENT USE**
 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:
**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service - Pacific Northwest Region

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2001 - 6th Avenue - Westin Building, Room 1920

CITY, TOWN

Seattle,

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Grant County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rte. 395

CITY, TOWN

Canyon City

STATE

OR

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Classified Structures Field Inventory - NPS

DATE

1976/Updated 1983

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

NPS - Pacific Northwest Region

CITY, TOWN

Seattle,

STATE

WA

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

\_EXCELLENT      \_DETERIORATED  
\_GOOD            \_RUINS  
\_FAIR              \_UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

\_UNALTERED  
\_ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

\_ORIGINAL SITE  
\_MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

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7. Cant Ranch: Physical Description

The Cant Ranch is situated along the bottomlands of the natural basin formed by the John Day River that has traditionally been called Turtle Cove. The ranch's irrigated fields extend approximately 2-1/4 miles north from the exit of Picture Gorge, varying in width from a few feet to a couple hundred yards. Rising steeply to the east and the west from the edge of these fields are the basalt escarpments that define the basin. Beyond these escarpments are elements of the Blue Mountain range that rings the basin. The most dramatic local prominence is Sheep Rock, which rises to 3360' directly southeast of the ranch buildings. The greenbelt formed by the ranch's irrigated fields distinctly contrasts with the dusky colors and sparse vegetation of the surrounding hills.

The ranch complex is situated on the west bank of the John Day River. It now includes 11 structures: ranch house, barn and sheepshearing stalls, cabin, bunkhouse, privy, chicken coop, feed storage shed, workshop, shed, sheep pens, and watchman's hut. The cabin, a small, one-room, one-story log structure originally built over a dirt-wall cellar, is the oldest building in the group.<sup>1</sup> Dating from the Officer homestead period (c. 1881-1910), it was used by the Cant family primarily for storage of supplies and foodstuffs. Pack horses were tied up outside of it to be loaded with supplies for the shepherders.

The most prominent building is the main ranch house. Built circa 1915-18,<sup>2</sup> it is an imposing 2-1/2-story, hip-roofed structure, with drop siding and porches that extend the full-length of the east and west elevations and approximately halfway along the north and south. The central plan incorporates a central stairhall running west to east, living room, dining room, kitchen, parlor, bedroom, baths and storage on the first floor; six bedrooms and a bath on the second; and a large open room in the attic story. Family sources maintain that the plan is based on a design from The Radford American Homes, a book of 100 house plans published in 1903 by the Radford Architectural Company of Chicago, Illinois. A review of the copy of the book still in family hands suggests that Cant's carpenters--Andrew Cress and Clarence Bisbee--may have taken ideas from several plans (for example, Nos. 126, 142, and 560) and combined them to arrive at the final plan for the Cant House. At present the house is used as a visitors' facility, with exhibits on the first floor, offices on the second, and storage on the third.

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North of the main house is the barn, built circa 1920. One and one-half stories high and 120 feet long, it is timber-framed with vertical board siding and a wood-shingled gable roof. The twelve-bay interior encloses a series of holding pens and stalls. Attached to the north elevation is a one-story rectangular structure, approximately 60' long and 20' wide, which is divided into stalls for sheep shearing. Sections of the shearing equipment are still in place. Additional wood frame sheep pens northwest of the barn are on the verge of collapse. East of the barn is a small, one-room, wood frame hut that housed shepherders during lambing season. To the west of the barn is the workshop and a small storage shed. Both are one-story, wood frame, shingle-roofed structures. The workshop has been rehabilitated for use as a park maintenance facility.

Other outbuildings in the complex--the chicken coop, feed storage shed, bunkhouse, and privy--are in proximity to the house. All are of similar wood frame, shingled-roof construction. All but the privy have received new roofs in the last 5 years and are in active use. The bunkhouse has been rehabilitated to house exhibits; chickens occupy the chicken coop; and the feed shed is used to store maintenance equipment.

The irrigated fields on the east side of the river, across from the main complex, were reached by two small, hand-operated cable cars erected by the Cant family. The closest is approximately 1/4 mile south of the main house; the other is another mile to the south. Only the cable car closest to the house is still operable. Northeast of the ranch on the east bank is a small, one-story, wood frame structure with vertical board siding known as Christina's Cabin. The history of the cabin is somewhat obscure, but it may have been originally built to establish a homestead claim for Cant's oldest daughter. It is now in deteriorated condition.

The Cant Ranch is one of the best-preserved examples of the early 20th century ranching operations in the John Day River Valley. The National Park Service has included the structures on its List of Classified Structures and has actively taken steps to stabilize and preserve the key buildings. The main house, bunkhouse, cabin, feed storage shed and workshop are all in good-to-excellent condition; the barn and sheep shearing stalls, chicken coop, shed, and watchman's hut are in fair-to-good condition; and the privy and sheep pens are in poor condition. Further study of the barn is planned to determine what steps will be necessary to insure its future structural stability.

*Privy  
Sheep pens*

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In addition to these structures, the National Park Service also purchased a collection of historic farm implements and machinery from James Cant, Jr., in January 1978. These items have been cataloged and key pieces of equipment are undergoing stabilization for future use in the interpretation of ranch life.

The area defined by the boundaries established in this nomination is that in which the activities of the ranching operation were historically focused. It includes all of the remaining structures of the ranch complex and the system of ditches and irrigated fields along the John Day River that supported the home operation. It should be noted that included within the boundary is the Sheep Rock Overlook, a 3-acre area directly off of Route 19, approximately 1/2 mile south of the ranch buildings. The overlook is a popular stop for visitors to observe the area's spectacular scenery. It is also the proposed site for the Monument's Thomas Condon Visitor Center, the construction of which is as yet unscheduled. Preliminary planning, however, has emphasized the need for a sensitive design that will present a minimal intrusion on the natural and cultural resources of the Sheep Rock Unit of the park. In addition, its completion will result in the removal of NPS offices and paleontological exhibits from the main house and permit the development of an enhanced program for interpreting local ranching history.

Also included within the proposed boundaries are 10 acres owned by James Cant, Jr. NPS holds a scenic easement on the property, thus protecting the physical and visual integrity of the parcel within the district. Mr. Cant will be contacted as part of the legal review of the nomination to provide him with an opportunity to comment on the inclusion of his property as part of the listed district.

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1. During the 1983 stabilization and rehabilitation of the cabin, it was necessary to construct some partial concrete footings where the eroding dirt walls threatened the cabin's stability. These footings are visible only from inside the cellar.

2. Different informants have provided several different dates within this time frame for construction of the house. Research conducted in 1983 in Grant County tax and assessment records failed to pinpoint the date of construction any more precisely than 1915-20 (when the assessed value of improvements on the parcel where the main ranch complex is located was increased from \$250 to \$1,000), because of the county's 5-year assessment schedule.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1910-1934

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Cress/Bisbee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

*for 1910-1934*  
*✓*  
*manufactured goods*



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8. Cant Ranch: Statement of Significance

The Cant Ranch has been a local landmark in the John Day River Valley of eastern Oregon since the construction of its imposing main house was completed circa 1918. Nestled below Sheep Rock along the John Day River, just north of Picture Gorge, the ranch is one of the most intact remaining examples of early 20th century ranching operations in the valley.<sup>3</sup> The Sheep Rock Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, in which the ranch is located, incorporates the initial 357 acres in Grant County purchased by James Cant, Sr., in 1910. In addition to the main house, the ranch complex still includes the barn, sheepshearing stalls (among the best preserved of their type still known to exist in the region), watchman's hut, bunkhouse, and an assortment of outbuildings. James Cant, Sr., a Scottish immigrant, became one of the more prominent ranchers in the valley. The ranch remained in the Cant family until it was purchased by the National Park Service in 1975, 3 years after Cant's death at age 92.

The land on which the Cant Ranch was built was first homesteaded by Floyd Officer, a member of one of the first families to settle in the John Day River Valley. Officer moved to his claim from the Dayville area (about 5 miles to the east) circa 1881<sup>4</sup>. The small log cabin standing behind the main house is the only structure known to remain from the Officer homestead. Officer's daughter recalls that the cabin was used for storage and that the family lived in a larger log house that stood southwest of the cabin.<sup>5</sup> The log house was taken down by the Cant family circa 1919 following the construction of the present main house.<sup>6</sup>

Floyd Officer sold his homestead to James Cant, Sr., and Johnny Mason in 1910 for \$4,000.<sup>7</sup> Cant, who arrived in eastern Oregon in 1905, was part of a wave of Scottish migrants that settled in the John Day River valley at the turn-of-the-century. Many, like Cant, got their start by working for other already-established ranchers, usually fellow Scots. Cant was hired by Alexander Murray, who had one of the larger ranches in the area and was known in the community for his efforts in bringing his countrymen to the States.<sup>8</sup> Cant worked for Murray from 1905-1910, taking as his wages 50 percent of the lamb crop to build his own band.<sup>9</sup>

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Cant came to the States experienced in dealing with stock operations. His parents owned a butcher shop and stockyard in Scotland, and he had worked for several years, beginning in 1900, for a Scottish stock firm, traveling to Portugal and Argentina to purchase merino bucks. He had also briefly been in business for himself in Argentina, raising mules for military use during the Boer War.<sup>10</sup>

Cant's future wife, Elizabeth Grant, also immigrated to Oregon from Scotland, arriving in 1907.<sup>11</sup> Married in 1908, the Cants both continued to work on the Murray Ranch--she as a cook--for 2 more years. When they were ready to set up their own operation, they purchased the Officer homestead and moved into the log house on the property with their first-born, James Cant, Jr.

Over the next six decades, the Cant operation expanded ten-fold. A 1965 article in the Western Livestock Journal reported that the ranch consisted of 6500 acres of deeded land plus 4500 acres leased from BLM; another 600 acres within the Thomas Condon Fossil Beds had recently been purchased by the State of Oregon for a park.<sup>12</sup> During the peak of the sheep operation, Cant ran bands on leased mountain ranges in the Malheur National Forest. Many thousands more sheep from neighboring ranches annually came through the shearing pens. Along with many of their neighbors, the Cants switched to a cattle operation in the mid-forties. Low wool prices and the difficulty of locating good herders had made sheep ranching increasingly unprofitable.<sup>13</sup> The Journal reported in 1965 that the Cant Ranch was producing 500-600 head of cattle annually.

The Cants were prominent members of the valley community.<sup>14</sup> Cant, Sr., was a member, often a founder, of numerous community organizations and business associations, including the Oregon Wool Growers' Association; the Grant County Stockgrowers' Association; the Patrons of Husbandry, Grange No. 627; and the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon; and served as District Clerk for the local school district.<sup>15</sup> He and his family were noted for their hospitality. Travelers through the valley were welcomed and given a meal and, when needed, a bed. When Oregon Route 19 was constructed, Mrs. Cant boarded the road crews. Family members recall that the need to accommodate the frequent travelers and houseguests was one of the reasons Cant built such a large house. With seven bedrooms, each large enough to accommodate two beds, he was confident that his family would not have to give up their beds when guests arrived.

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The upper basin area's first school was started at the Cant Ranch in 1919. Classes were first held in the old log house; shortly afterwards, when the Cants decided to tear that house down, the school was moved to the third floor of the new house. School was taught by a young woman from Kentucky whose aunt was the wife of one of the neighboring ranchers; she boarded with the Cants and, several years later, married Cant's cousin.<sup>16</sup>

The third floor of the main house, and the grounds of the ranch, were also the scene of many social gatherings for the Scottish community. Bagpipes and kilts were often brought out for these occasions and the thick Scottish accents that many of the original settlers never lost are recalled by surviving participants.

The ranch is now part of the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The monument was established by Congress in 1974 to preserve one of the nation's most important deposits of mammalian fossils--a unique uninterrupted seven-million-year fossil record. The State of Oregon began purchasing land in the vicinity in the 1930s to preserve these deposits through the establishment of State Parks; one of these purchases was the above-mentioned 600 acres acquired from the Cants. Sections of these State lands were incorporated within the National Monument. Today, the ranch headquarters serves as a visitor center, offering exhibits on geology and local ranching history.

3. The John Day River Valley has not been surveyed by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office for the purposes of identifying, evaluating and nominating eligible structures to the National Register of Historic Places. This evaluation of the significance of the Cant Ranch is based on several sources: a review of the properties in the area that have been recorded by the SHPO; interviews with park staff, local informants and an Oregon State researcher, all of whom are familiar with the area and its ranching history; review of written references to the ranch and the Cant family; and a partial windshield survey of the valley.

4. Interview with Eva Officer Murray (June 9, 1982) recorded by Royal G. Jackson, Oregon State University. Although the Officer family may have moved to their homestead claim in the early 1880s, Floyd Officer did not record his claim under the provisions of the 1862 Homestead Act until 1899 (Grant County Deed Record Book K, p. 263: Homestead Certificate #3131, 160 acres, January 30, 1899; on file at the Grant County Courthouse, Canyon City, Oregon).

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5. Eva Officer Murray interview (June 9, 1982).
6. Interviews with Stella Pigg Munro (June 24, 1982) and James Cant, Jr., (July 10, 1982), recorded by Royal G. Jackson, Oregon State University.
7. Floyd L. Officer and Sylvia A. Officer to James Cant and John Mason, 357.41 acres, Grant County, Oregon, for \$4,000, recorded in Grant County Deed Record 27, p. 609, July 7, 1910. Officer sold an additional 320 acres in adjacent Wheeler County to Cant and Mason on the same date (Grant County Mortgages Book I, p. 162). Total transaction was for 677.41 acres plus water rights for the sum of \$6,900. Cant bought out John Mason's one-half individual interest in the land in 1915 for \$10.00 (Grant County Deed Record 30, p. 388: March 10, 1914).
8. Stella Pigg Munro interview (June 24, 1982).
9. Western Livestock Journal (January 20, 1965), p. 10. (Interview with James Cant, Sr., who was being honored by the Malheur National Forest as its oldest permittee).
10. James Cant, Jr., interview (July 10, 1982).
11. "Elizabeth F. Cant" (1973 newspaper obituary on file at Cant Ranch Visitor's Center).
12. Western Livestock Journal (January 20, 1965), p. 10.
13. Dick Lawton, "Long History of Cant Ranch to end soon," Code 11 (April 1976) 16-17.
14. Stella Pigg Munro interview (June 24, 1982).
15. Receipts, clippings, and other miscellaneous documents pertaining to the Cant Family on file at Cant Ranch Visitor's Center.
16. Stella Pigg Munro interview (June 24, 1982).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Grant County, Oregon. Deed Record Books K, p. 263; 27, p. 609; 30, p. 388; and Mortgage Record Book I, p. 162. On file at Grant County Courthouse, Canyon City, Oregon.

Jackson, Royal G. Interviews with James Cant, Jr., Lillian Mascall, Eva Officer Murray and Stella Pigg Munro, 1982-1983. Transcripts on file at Department of Resource Recreation Management, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

Lawton, Dick. "Long history of Cant ranch to end soon." Code 11  
(April 1976) 16-17.

Miscellaneous Biographical Items related to the Cant Family on file at Cant Ranch Visitor's Center, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

Radford Architectural Company. The Radford American Homes.  
Chicago: 1903.

Western Livestock Journal (January 20, 1965) 10+.

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Section 10: Geographical Data

Acreage: approximately 200 acres

UTM References: A. 11/291000/4936700  
B. 11/291250/4936475  
C. 11/291300/4935650  
D. 11/291700/4933850  
E. 11/291750/4933250  
F. 11/290800/4934850  
G. 11/290600/4936800

Quad: Picture Gorge, Oreg.  
1:62,500

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary begins at the confluence of Rock Creek and the John Day River and proceeds in a northwesterly direction along the easternmost irrigation ditch to a juniper tree northeast of Christina's cabin and there turns west along an old fenceline to a point where the John Day River and the highway (Rt. 19) meet, just north of the Cant Ranch, then turns south and proceeds in a southeasterly direction along the highway until it meets the starting point at the confluence of Rock Creek and the John Day River.



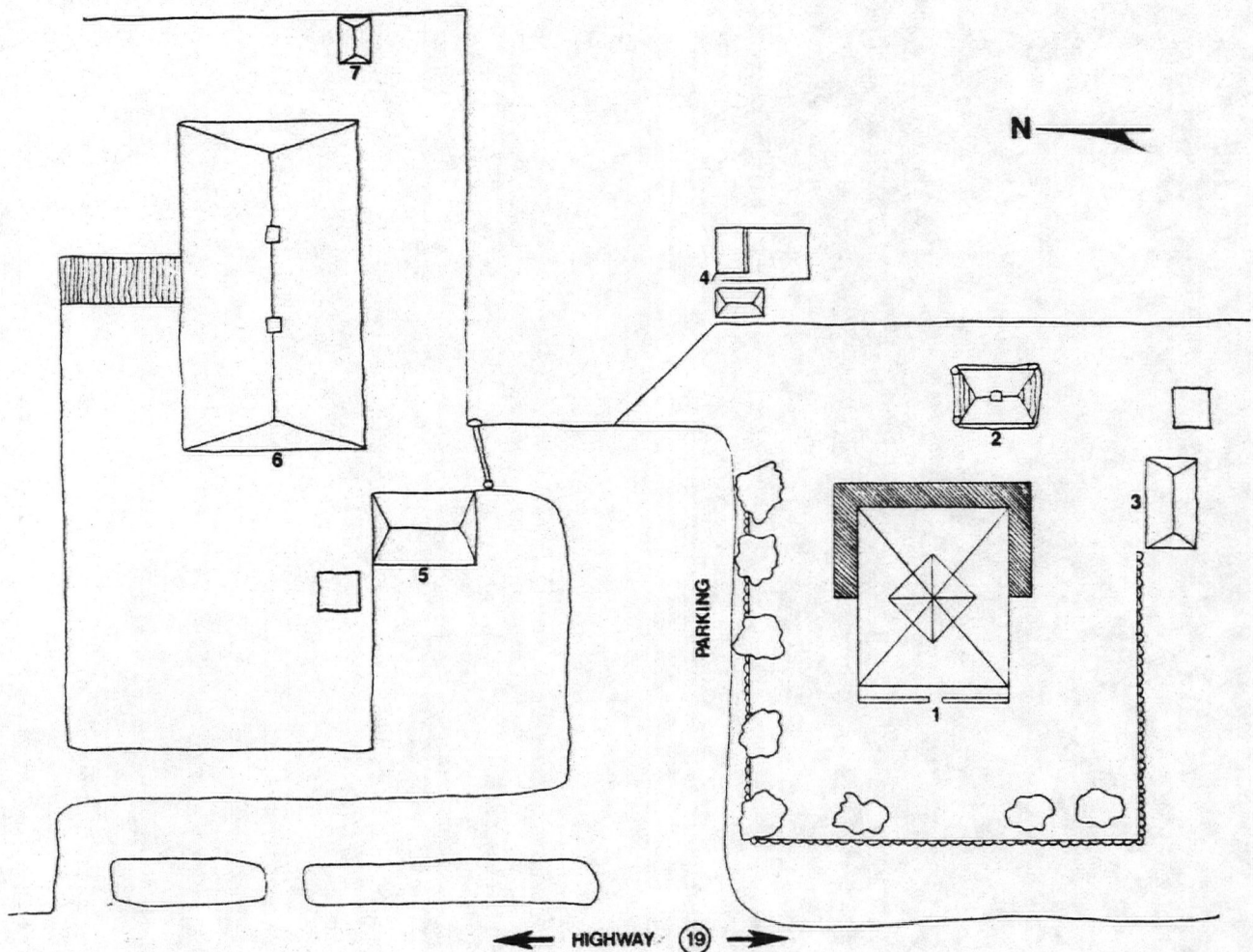
MAIN RANCH COMPLEX  
 JAMES CANT RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NM, OREGON

KEY:

- 1. Main Ranch House
- 2. Log Cabin
- 3. Bunkhouse  
(Privy is southeast of bunkhouse)
- 4. Feed Storage Shed and  
Chicken Coop

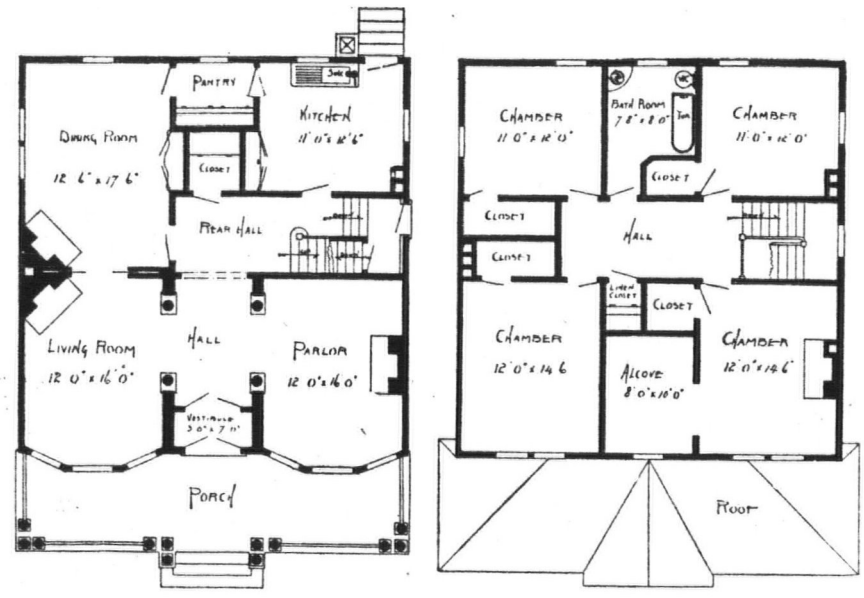
- 5. Workshop  
(small shed is north of shop)
- 6. Barn with Sheepshearing Pens
- 7. Watchman's Hut

Note: sheepholding pens are northwest of barn



Our blue prints show every line

### Floor Plans of Design No. 142



First Floor Plan

Second Floor Plan

Size: Width, 34 feet; length, 35 feet 6 inches, exclusive of porch

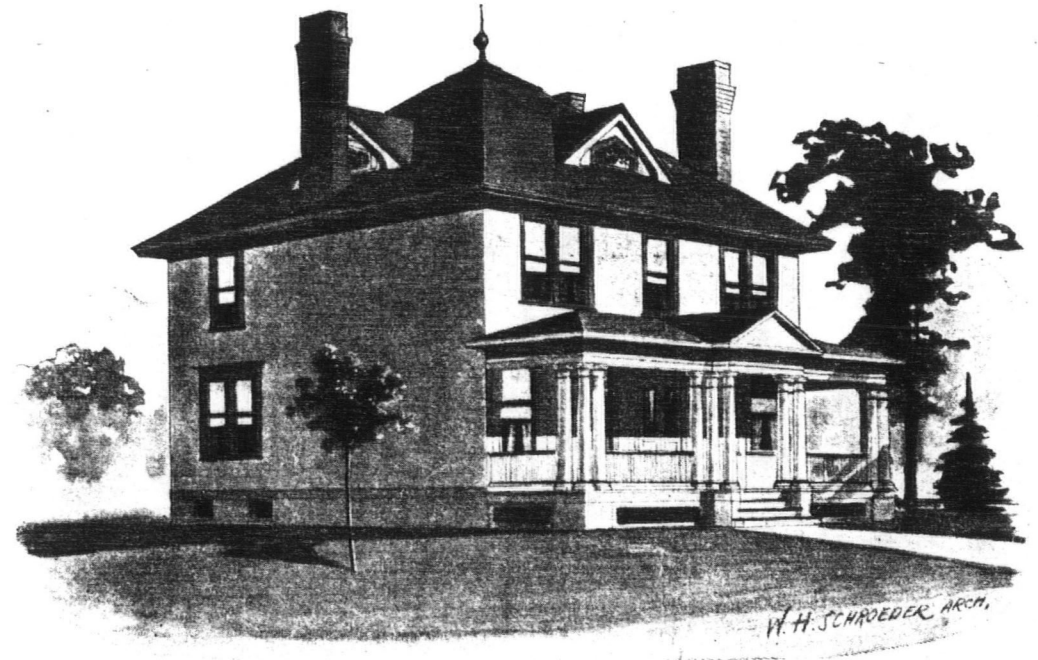
See opposite page for perspective of this house

Blue prints consist of cellar and foundation plan; roof plan; first and second floor plans; front, rear, two side elevations; wall sections and all necessary interior details. Specifications consist of about twenty pages of typewritten matter.

In the plans we illustrate, the prospective builder is sure to find some plan which will meet his requirements. If, however, no plan proves satisfactory, the ideas advanced in these illustrations are well worth the price of the book.

and figure perfect and distinct

### Price of Plans and Specifications \$5.00



House Design No. 142

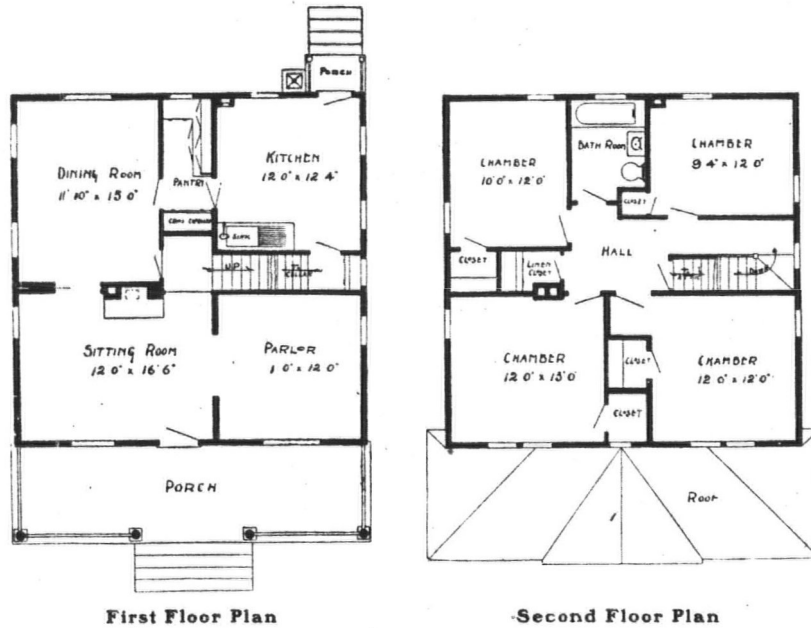
See opposite page for floor plans of this house

Full and complete working plans and specifications of this house will be furnished for \$5.00. Cost of this house is from about \$2,100.00 to about \$2,350.00, according to the locality in which it is built.

Ask your Insurance Agent about our fire insurance adjustment. We know that he will heartily approve of it. Insurance companies do not hesitate to pay claims when proof is abundant. All they want is what is right.

Have everything understood

### Floor Plans of Design No. 126



Size: Width, 29 feet 6 inches; length, 28 feet 6 inches, exclusive of porches

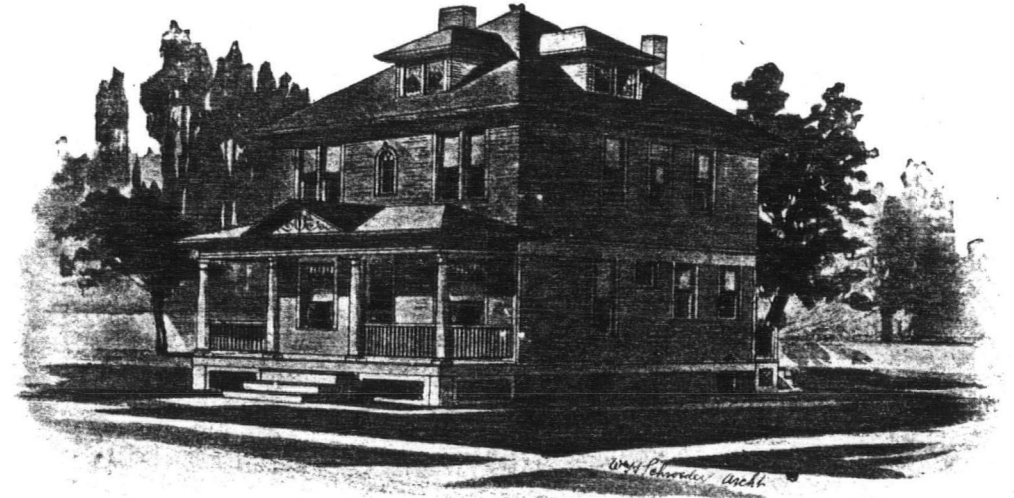
See opposite page for perspective of this house

Blue prints consist of cellar and foundation plan; roof and attic; first and second floor plans; front, rear, two side elevations; wall sections and all necessary interior details. Specifications consist of about twenty pages of typewritten matter.

These working plans and specifications can be made the basis of contract between contractor and home builder. They will prevent mistakes which cost money, and they will prevent disputes which are never settled satisfactorily to both parties.

Make our plans the basis of contract

### Price of Plans and Specifications \$5.00



### House Design No. 126

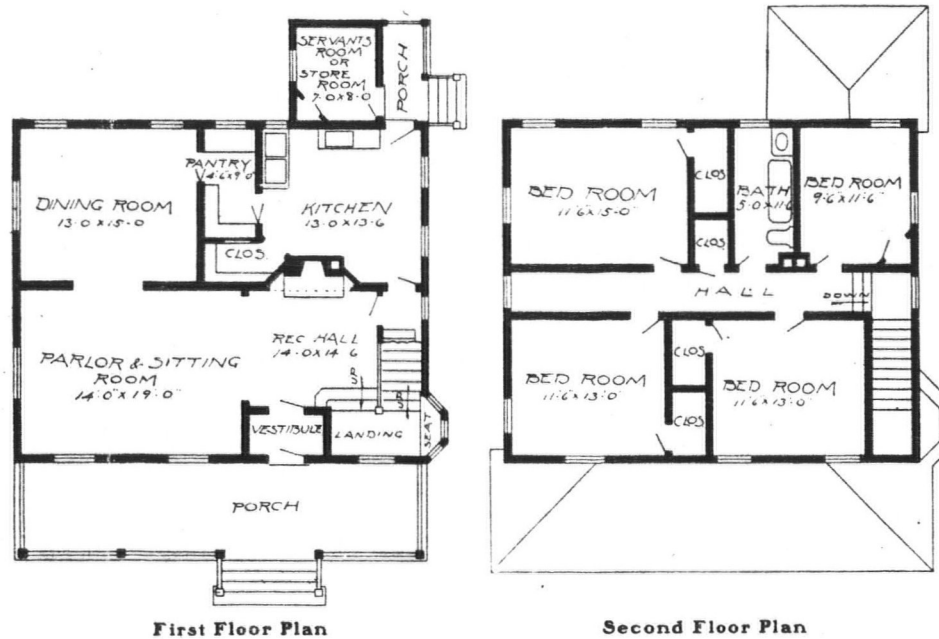
See opposite page for floor plans of this house

Full and complete working plans and specifications of this house will be furnished for \$5.00. Cost of this house is from about \$2,200.00 to about \$2,450.00, according to the locality in which it is built.

Without one cent of expense to you and without a particle of trouble, we keep a complete record of your plan, so that in time of loss, we furnish free of cost, the only reliable means to adjust your insurance.

Indefinite or partial instructions

### Floor Plans of Design No. 566



Size: Width, 35 feet; length, 28 feet 6 inches, exclusive of porches

See opposite page for perspective of this house

Blue prints consist of cellar and foundation plan; roof plan; first and second floor plans; front, rear, two side elevations; wall sections and all necessary interior details. Specifications consist of about twenty pages of typewritten matter.

Our plans are all substantially and artistically bound in cloth and waterproof paper. The specifications are bound in the same manner, and the two make a uniform set, worth many times the cost.

are always expensive for the builder

### Price of Plans and Specifications \$5.00



House Design No. 566

See opposite page for floor plans of this house

Full and complete working plans and specifications of this house will be furnished for \$5.00. Cost of this house is from about \$1,950.00 to about \$2,200.00, according to the locality in which it is built.

We want to assure our customers that they run no risk in ordering plans at a distance. We guarantee our plans to be complete, accurate and as well prepared as any you have ever received.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

*waived 15-day  
Commenting  
Period*

Cant, James, Ranch Historic District  
Grant County  
OREGON

Substantive Review

Working No. 6/6/84  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85  
Date Due: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action:  ACCEPT 6-29-84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: NPS

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The James Cant Ranch Historic District is locally significant for its historical associations with the settlement of this region of Oregon and for its importance as an architectural significant agricultural complex that reflects the work culture of ~~an~~ early 20th century sheep ranching in the west. Called regional historian S. Toothman and clarified period of significance which ends in mid-1930s due to the fact of significance is keyed to the development of sheep ranching. Called Ed Bearss to OK ~~xxx~~ change of date on ~~xxx~~ form from 1975 to 1934 for specific dates of period of significance.

Recom./Criteria Accept A, C  
Reviewer Bushong  
Discipline Historic  
Date 6/20/84  
see continuation sheet

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

---

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



James Cant Ranch Historic District  
(main house in foreground)

John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon

S. Toothman/1983/neg.#34/NPS-PNRO

Looking northeast from Rte. 19

Photo # 1



Main House

James Cant Ranch Historic District

John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon

S. Toothman/1983/neg.#30/NPS-PNRO

Looking east from Rte. 19

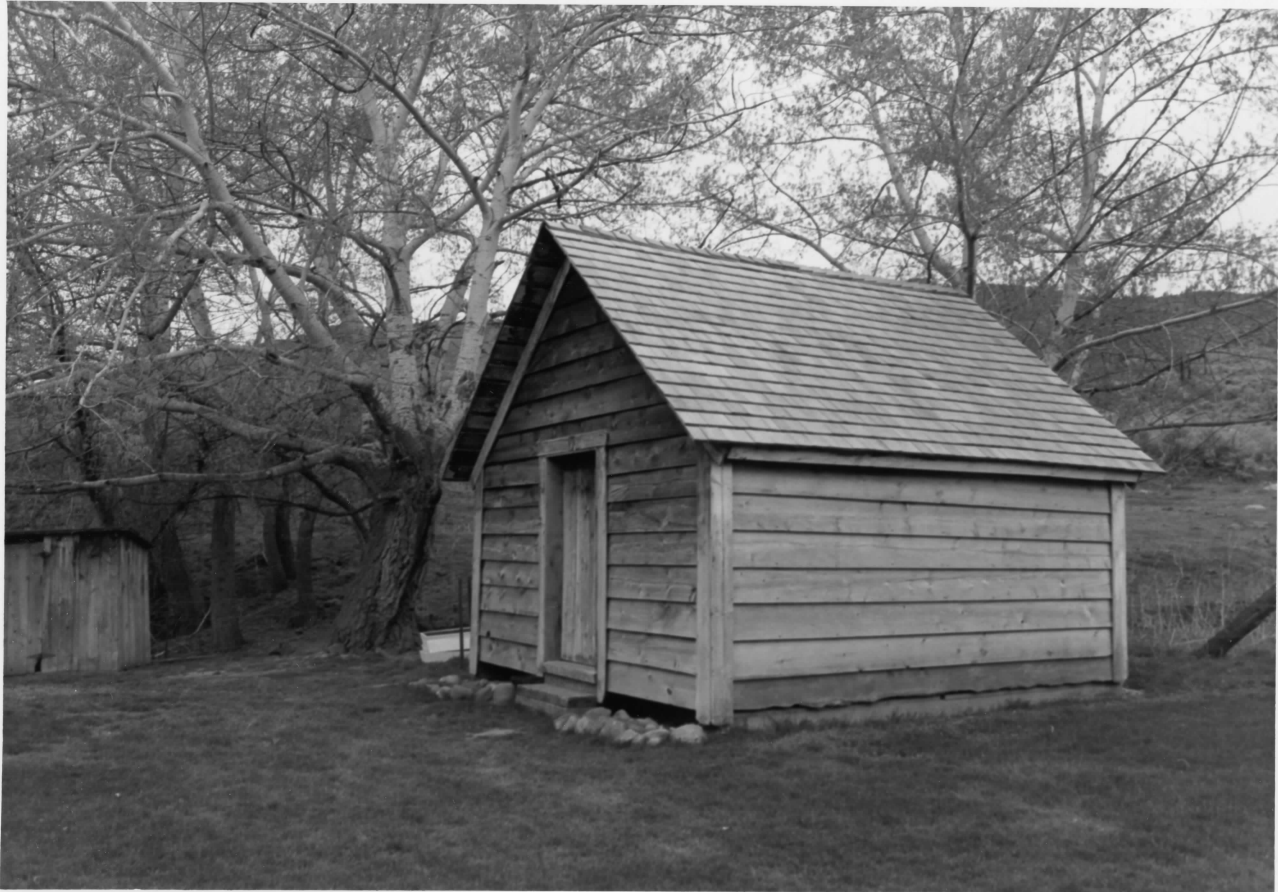
Photo #2



Main House and Log Cabin  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#29/NPS-PNRO  
Looking northeast from Rte. 19  
Photo #3



Main House (rear) and Log Cabin  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#20/NPS-PNRO  
Looking southwest  
Photo #4



Privy and Bunkhouse (1-r)  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#25/NPS-PNRO  
Looking southwest  
Photo # 5



Chicken Coop and Feed Storage Shed  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#18/NPS-PNRO  
Looking southeast  
Photo # 6



Workshop

James Cant Ranch Historic District

John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon

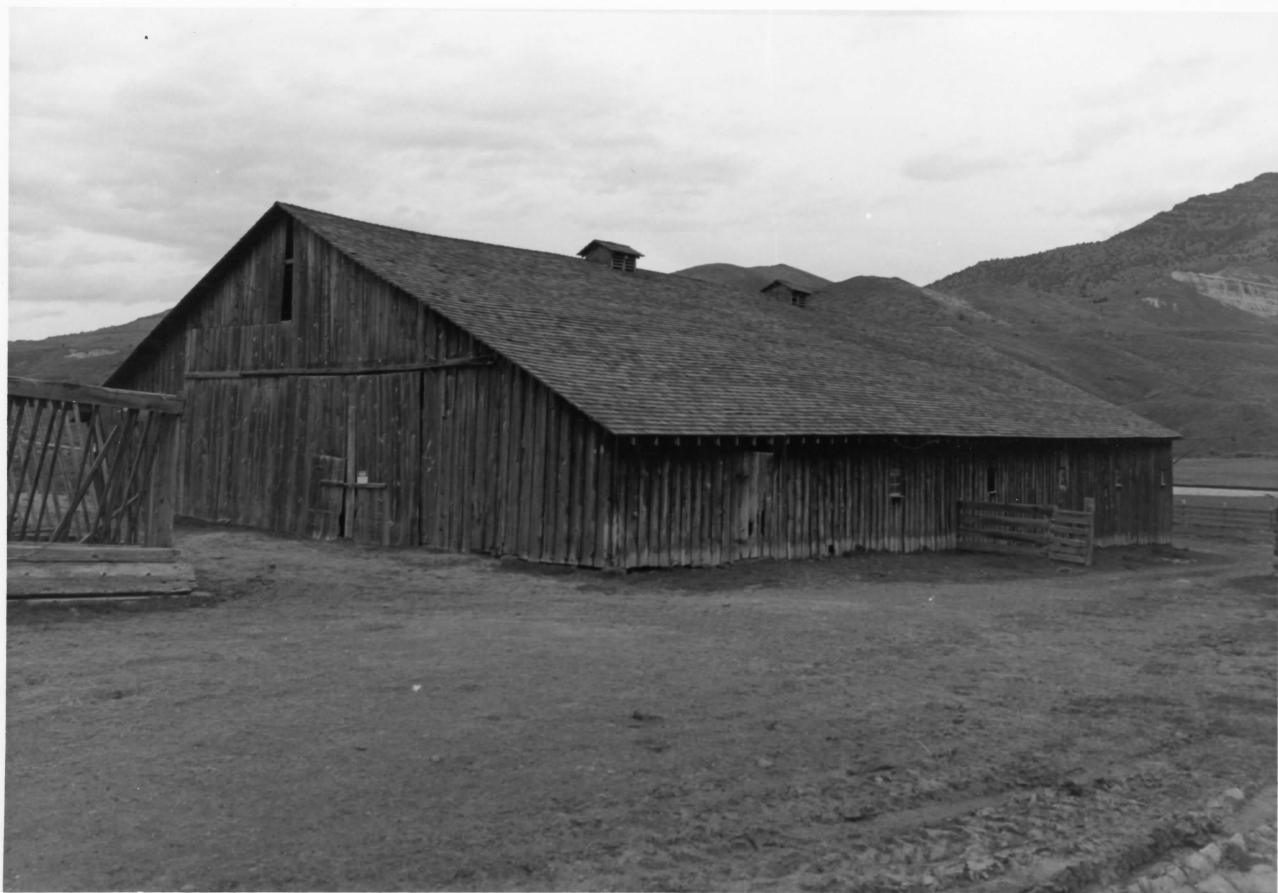
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#17/NPS-PNRO

Looking northeast

Photo #7



Workshop and shed  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#15/NPS-PNRO  
Looking south  
Photo #8



Barn

James Cant Ranch Historic District

John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon

S. Toothman/1983/neg.#11/NPS-PNRO

Looking northeast

Photo #9



Barn and Sheepshearing Pens  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman/1983/neg.#5/NPS-PNRO  
Looking southwest  
Photo #10



Watchman's Hut  
James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon  
S. Toothman, 1983/neg.#7/NPS-PNRO  
Looking southeast  
Photo #11



Sheep Pens

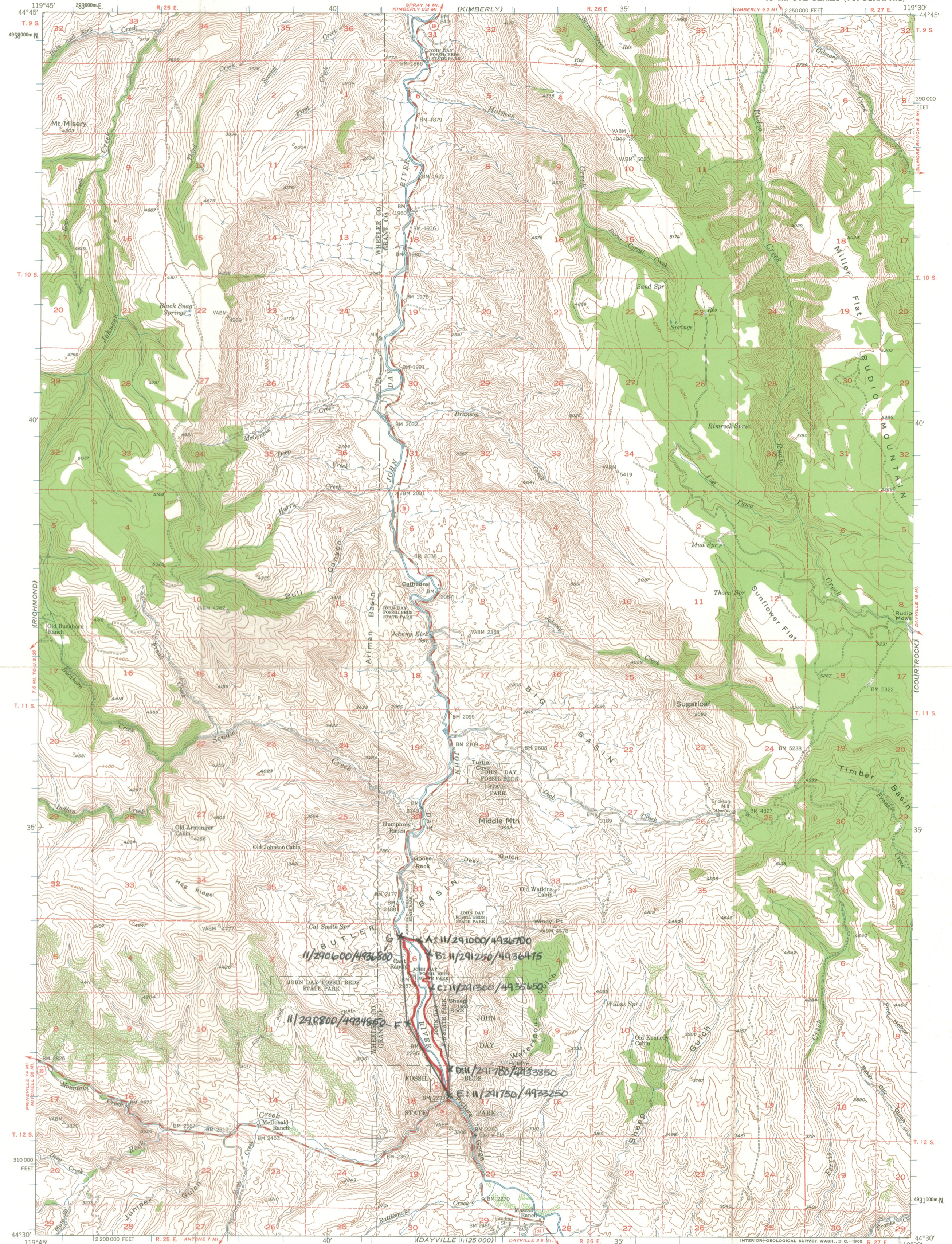
James Cant Ranch Historic District

John Day Fossil Beds NM, Oregon

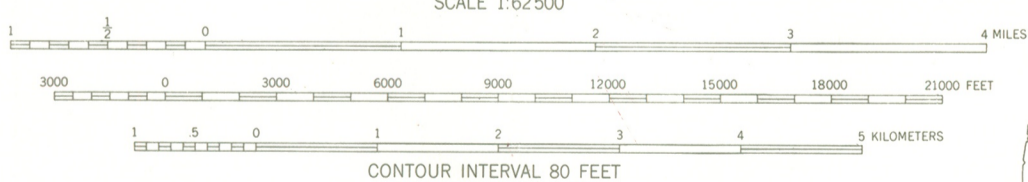
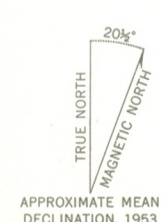
S.Toothman/1983/neg.#2/NPS-PNRO

Looking northeast

Photo #12



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and US&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1946. Field check 1953  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system, north zone  
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 11, shown in blue



**James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, OR**  
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

PICTURE GORGE, OREG.  
N4430-W11930/15  
1953

H30(418)

*File with  
individual wps  
nomination review  
and sheets  
Print CC  
B/R*

MAR 8 1984

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region

From: Chief Historian

Subject: Preliminary Review of National Register Nomination Form, James Cant Ranch Historic District, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Enclosed please find a copy of the subject National Register Nomination Form. It has been reviewed by Chief of Registration Shull and her staff and their comments are found on the attached Evaluation/Return Sheet. My staff has penciled in the the margins of the form a few minor editorial notations.

Both the National Register Staff and I wish to commend Regional Historian Toothman for providing us with a comprehensive and well written document.

Enclosures

*/s/ Edwin C. Bearss*

cc: 418  
422 Stamm  
413 Ms. Shull  
400 Reading File  
001 Reading File  
ECBearss:kpj:03/07/84  
(4A)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE 3/25/84  
TIME OF CALL 2:30 AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Stephanie Toothman

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Seattle. NPS. Reg. Of.

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

James Cant Ranch A.D.  
Oregon

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Stephanie is requesting that the Federal Register commenting period be waived for the nomination in order to ~~finalize~~ <sup>qualify</sup> the property for the NPS leasing program, as soon as possible. I said that there seemed to be sufficient reason to request the waiver and would see that notice was made and that the property was acted on as soon as possible.

Ed Beards will be delivering the nomination to us, as soon as possible (next week, likely).

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

McClelland

TITLE

Artist

OFFICE



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(418)

JUN 1 1984

Memorandum

To: Chief of Registration Shull, Interagency Resources Division

From: Chief Historian

Subject: Nomination of James Cant Ranch Historic District, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, to the National Register of Historic Places

Enclosed please find a copy of the subject form which is herewith submitted for inclusion in the National Register.

The documentation has been revised to incorporate the recommendations by your staff and my office in our preliminary review of the nomination. In addition, the revised nomination has been concurred with by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer following the recommendation by the Oregon State Review Board.

As the Pacific Northwest Regional Office is currently soliciting bids to lease portions of the district for grazing purposes under the Historic Property Leasing Program, anything you can do to expedite the listing of this property will be appreciated.

*Edna C. ...*

Enclosure

1983

James Cant Ranch Historic District  
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

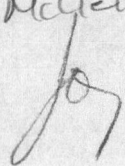
List of Photographs

1. Main house in foreground, barn in distance
2. Main house, front/west elevation
3. Main house (looking from northwest toward house), log cabin in rear
4. Main house, rear and north elevations; log cabin
5. Left, privy; right, bunkhouse
6. Left, chicken coop; right, feed storage shed; Sheep Rock in the background
7. Workshop
8. Left, workshop, north elevation; right, outbuilding
9. Barn, south and west elevations
10. Barn and sheepshearing pens
11. Watchman's hut
12. Sheep pens

Note: all photographs are labeled as illustrated on photograph 1  
on the reverse side.

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

Norma - This is the  
nominations that Stephanie  
Toothman needs executed --  
need signatures as soon  
as possible.  
Historic property lease  
is pending.

(See Linda McFelland for  
details)  


RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
8/16/03

The 15-day commenting period for the following property is to be waived in order to ~~XXXX~~ permit leasing <sup>a</sup> portions of the area/grazing purposes. ~~agreement which was for~~ <sup>agreement which will</sup> ~~contribute to~~ <sup>assist in</sup> the property's preservation.

OREGON

Grant County

Dayville vicinity, Cant, James, Ranch Historic District, OR 19