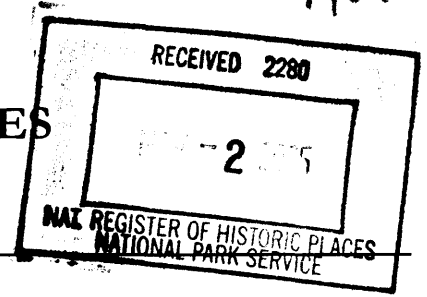


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 20 Russell Drive South

not for publication: na

vicinity: na

city/town: Cascade

state: Montana code: MT county: Cascade code: 013 zip code: 59421

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

Mark F. Baumber/STPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

OCT 31, 2005
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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:

- entered in the National Register see continuation sheet
- 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):

for
Signature of the Keeper
Edson Beall

Date of Action
12.16.05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Category of Property: Building	<u> 1 </u>	<u> 2 </u> building(s)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: na	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
Name of related multiple property listing: na	<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
	<u> 1 </u>	<u> 2 </u> TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
DOMESTIC/residence

Current Functions:
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

No Style

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD
roof: ASPHALT
other: METAL

Narrative Description

The town of Cascade is situated in Central Montana, an agricultural community nestled amid cottonwoods and prairie grasses on the banks of the Missouri River. The town is platted north-northeast to south-southwest, following the orientation of the Northern Pacific (now Burlington Northern) Railroad tracks. Thomas Gorham constructed the Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin as a bunkhouse for his homestead in 1887, the same year the town was platted.

Building Description

The small, rectangular, front-gabled building faces the railroad tracks to the west. A lean-to, shed kitchen addition adorns the rear (east) elevation and dates to the couple's tenure there from 1896-1897. Asphalt shingles cover the main gable roof, while rolled roofing protects the shed. Two metal pipes protrude from the ridge cap, one at center and the other at the east end of the gable. Stained dark brown, the original board and batten siding has recently been restored, using local milled lumber to replace rotted or missing material where necessary. The building rests on a modern concrete-wall foundation.

The cabin is fenestrated simply. The façade (west elevation) features a centered, wood-paneled door flanked by single, original, wood-frame two-over-two double-hung windows. The door, trims, frames, and muntins are painted white. The north elevation features two windows. A two-over-two wood-frame double hung, identical to those on the façade, is located in the east half of the gabled portion of the house. A single, one-light fixed window brightens the kitchen addition from the west half of its north elevation.

The rear entry door is situated on the west end of the lean-to's south elevation. Like the front door, it is a vintage five-paneled type, painted white with white milled trim. The north elevation contains no fenestration.

The Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin witnessed several incarnations through its long history. After the Russells left in 1897, successive owners built an addition to the north elevation, constructed a front porch, installed wallboard and other "modern" interior finishes, and even cut a picture window into the south elevation. Since acquiring the property in 2004, the current owner, Gene Dwyer, has worked to restore the cabin to its original configuration and finishes. A result, the interior of the cabin has been taken down to its original vertical wood-plank walls and studs, and features just the two rooms present during the period of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: B

Areas of Significance: ART

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): B

Period(s) of Significance: 1889-1897

Significant Person(s): Charlie and Nancy Russell

Significant Dates: September 9, 1896

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Thomas Gorham, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

The historical significance of this bunk house/honeymoon cabin is its association with renowned Western artist, Charles Marion Russell and his business-manger wife, Nancy Russell. Charlie first used this little building as temporary living quarters and art studio and later made it into his honeymoon cabin. He was allowed use of the building by his friend, Ben Roberts. This building witnessed the transformation of Russell from a bachelor cowboy to a (relatively) settled artist. After his marriage to Nancy Cooper in 1896, the pair worked to bolster his career and their bank account. For its association with the early careers of artist Charlie Russell and business manager Nancy Russell, the house is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion B.

Criteria Consideration B:

In 2004, the property owners moved the Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin twenty feet to the south in order to place it on a new foundation. The move did not change the building’s orientation, setting, or environment, as it remains within the lots historically associated with the property. The Honeymoon Cabin meets Criteria Consideration B as it is the most important property associated with the evolution of world-renowned artist Charles M. Russell from an itinerant cowhand to a full-time artist. He lived and worked in the cabin from 1889 until 1897. His decision to devote himself to art as a career unfolded during that period, and after their 1896 marriage, Russell and his business partner Nancy lived in the cabin.

Charlie Russell’s Early Days in Cascade, Montana

Charlie was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri where his main interest in life was artwork and traveling to the west. In 1880, at the age of 16, he traveled to the Montana territory via the Union Pacific and the Utah Northern railways, as far as the Red Rock, Montana. At that time the terminus of the latter line was located near the southern boarder of the new Montana State. From there he traveled by stagecoach to the Last Chance Gulch in Helena, Montana. As pre-arranged by his father, Charlie went to work for a sheep rancher in Judith Basin County. The job lasted a short time, as he did not like the sheep business. After quitting his job he became acquainted with a well-known trapper named Jake Hoover, with whom he stayed in the Utica country. By the age of 18, he was working as a wrangler on the open range in the Judith area, where he soon became known as “Kid Russell, The Cowboy Artist.”

During the off-season, the cowboy artist would occasionally stay at the ranch where he had worked the previous summer, visit his home back in Missouri, or travel different areas in Montana with other cowboys. He visited and became acquainted with many Indian people, visiting different tribal areas and developing life long friendships among them. No matter where the cowboy artist traveled he was painting and sculpting at every opportunity.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone 12 E 447190 N 5235180 (NAD 27)

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): SE ¼ SE ¼ NW ¼ of Section 35, Township 18North, Range 1West

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 11, Block 17, First Addition to Cascade, as per amended plat of the Original Townsite, together with that portion of vacated River Avenue, which attaches by operation of law thereto, being in Cascade County, Montana.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn, based on legally recorded boundary lines, to include the land surrounding the building that has been historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Eugene R. Dwyer
 organization: date: January 2005
 street & number: 162 Sheep Creek Road telephone: (406) 468-2817
 city or town: Cascade state: MT zip code: 59421

name/title: Kate Hampton
 organization: MTSHPPO date: October 2005
 street & number: 1410 8th Ave telephone: (406) 444-3647
 city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620-1202

Property Owner

name/title: Eugene R. and Frances J. Dwyer
 street & number: 162 Sheep Creek Road telephone: (406) 468-2817
 city or town: Cascade state: MT zip code: 59421

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Non-Contributing Buildings:

Two modern garages are located at the west side of the property, behind the cabin. Both are unadorned, frame, shed-roofed, one-story, rectangular buildings. The northernmost garage features two metal overhead garage doors within its west (front) elevation. Its south elevation contains a pedestrian door to the west and two wood-frame, one-over-one double hungs to the across the eastern two-thirds. The southern garage features a metal overhead garage door on its north elevation. On its west facade, the southern garage features a pedestrian door and a metal-framed, two-light window off-center to the south. The buildings postdate the period of significance, and do not contribute to the historic associations of the property.

Integrity:

Recent renovations on the property have resulted in restored integrity to the Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin. The integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and association are high. Original materials are present throughout the building, and where missing or rotted, have been replaced in kind. In an effort to prevent further deterioration of the original materials, the current owners chose to construct a new foundation for it. This concrete-wall foundation is located twenty feet south of the building's original location. Set on this new foundation the Cabin rests two feet off the ground. Landscaping obscures the raised walls of the foundation. The subdivision of the farmland surrounding the bunkhouse through the twentieth century has resulted in a diminishment of the rural setting. Despite these changes through time, the Cabin retains sufficient integrity to convey its important associations with the early career and marriage of Charlie and Nancy Russell.

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Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin
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A saddle maker in Helena, named Ben Roberts, heard about the cowboy artist and wanted to meet him to have him paint some illustrations to advertise his saddle business. They met in Helena in 1882 and developed a life-long friendship.¹ In 1884, Ben Roberts married the youngest daughter of Thomas Gorham, the founder of Cascade. Her name was Lela. In 1889, Ben and Lela and their three children moved to the Gorham house in Cascade, as her father had taken ill.²

Although Charlie's travels during the off-season took him to many places, his relationship with the Roberts family was such that Lela took it upon herself to correspond with Charlie's parents back in Saint Louis to keep them informed of his doings. Starting in the winter of 1889-90, while in Cascade, Charlie completed 22 paintings to illustrate his first book titled "Studies in Western Life". The paintings were done in the kitchen of the Roberts house. "Studies in Western Life," included twelve illustration plates devoted to depictions of cowboy life. Ben Roberts copyrighted and published the book in August 1890.

Charlie used the little bunkhouse as his living quarters and art studio periodically over the years up until 1896. His ink wash and graphite drawing ca. 1894, captioned "Contrast in Artist's Salons - Charlie Painting in His Cabin" shows the intensity of the artist despite working in ramshackle conditions. The window and walls are unadorned, tack hangs behind the easel, and Russell and his Indian companion sit on boxes rather than chairs. Russell referred to the bunkhouse as his little shack across from the railroad tracks in Cascade, Montana. On numerous occasions cowboys visited him by riding the rails and getting off at Cascade just across from the railroad tracks. At the end of 1893, with at least one major commission, Charlie decided to quit his job as wrangler and try to make a living as a full time artist. Nearing thirty years of age, Russell realized that being an artist was his primary goal, and, explains historian Ginger K. Renner, he "longed for a female companion of whom he could be proud and who would be accepted by his family. Even in the wild years when he was an itinerant cowboy, Russell knew that his cultural heritage had a claim on him. He wanted a woman with whom he could build the stable life he was finding more and more desirable."³

Charlie Russell Meets Nancy Cooper

In 1895, Ben and Lela Roberts took in Nancy Cooper, a young girl from Helena, to help with their children.⁴ The seventeen year old was born in Kentucky may 1878. Her parents, Texas Annie Mann and James Al Cooper had married on March 26, 1877 and separated before Nancy was born. Her mother remarried a man named James Thomas Allen in 1884, and had a daughter, Ella Carrie Allen, four years later. Allen wanted to go prospecting for gold and moved the family to Helena, Montana in late 1889, and then deserted them, leaving his wife to support the children as best she could. Texas Annie became ill, and Nancy assumed the burden of tending both her and Ella. Late in September 1894, Texas Annie died. "Thom" Allen arrived to claim his daughter Ella, but left Nancy behind in the care of others in Helena. Arrangements were made for Nancy to live with the Roberts in Cascade.

Nancy later described the October 1895 evening when she first met Charlie Russell, who had come to dine with the Roberts family:

There was something different about this man, " she once wrote. "He took off his coat, a double breasted blue serge, hung it on a chair-back, turned very square shoulders and straight back to me and walked over to the wash-bench. He was a little above average height and weight. His high-heeled riding breeches of heavy blue army cloth were snug fitting. They were held up by a wonderful bright colored half-breed sash

1 The details regarding the first meeting between Charlie Russell and Ben Roberts is a matter of some debate, but the story generally goes: "one the streets of Cascade, Roberts said 'Howdy Charlie.' Surprised, Russell asked this stranger how he knew his name and Roberts is reputed to have said 'I've been told that if I ever met another man as ugly as me, then it would be Kid Russell. An' you're it, so I reckon you're Russell.' They became fast friends and remained so through life." F. G. Renner, "Rangeland Rembrandt: The Incomparable Charles Marion Russell," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, (Vol. 7, No. 4, Fall, 1957), p. 24, fnt. 15.

2 Thomas Gorham died in 1891.

3 Ginger K Renner, "Charlie and the Ladies in His Life," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*,)Vol. 34 No. 3 (Summer 1984), pp. 53-54.

4 Charlie Russell Called Nancy by the nickname "Mamie."

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that slung just above the hips. The sash was wound around twice, the end twisted and turned into his hip pocket. He wore a gray flannel shirt unbuttoned at the throat with a necktie hanging loosely. It was worn because a tie was supposed to be a part of the civilized man's dress, not that it was needed or wanted by him.

His face with its square jaw and chin, large mouth, tightly closed firm lips, high cheek bones, gray deep-set eyes that seemed to see everything was one with an expression of honesty and understanding, and a face I could not forget. In time, I came to know that he could see wrong in nobody. He never believed anyone did a bad act intentionally, it was always an accident.

His hands were good sized, perfectly shaped with slender, long fingers. He loved jewelry and always wore three or four rings. They would not have been Charlie's hands any other way. When he talked, he used his hands a lot to emphasize what he was saying much as an Indian would do.

While he washed, I watched him as closely as possible without being observed. When he was drying his face, seemed to be good chance to take a look from the boots up. But the time my eyes reached his head, he was drying one side of his face and peeking out of the corner of the towel at me. He laughed and I almost dropped the plate of fried ham.

At the supper table, in the soft light of the coal oil lamp he talked: we could see the play of laughing wrinkles on that Indian-like face. He looked a blond Indian and had us fascinated with his stories of Western life.

They married September 9, 1896. A preacher performed the marriage ceremony in the Robert's home. After the ceremony the newlyweds walked to their honeymoon cabin a few hundred feet away. "With \$75 we furnished a one-room shack there in Cascade, where we lived for one year." That shack was the Robert's bunkhouse where Charlie had lived and worked intermittently for the preceding seven years. The wedding signaled:

...probably the most influential single occurrence in the life of Charlie Russell...If he had tried, he probably could not have entered into a union that seemed less certain to succeed, for she was the antithesis of nearly everything which stamped his personality. She was pretty and sophisticated – and fourteen years younger than Charlie's mature thirty-four. Very conceivable hazard was stacked against this matrimonial gamble. The best that it seemed to offer was artistic poverty and shiftless insecurity. However, the deep devotion that existed between these two, and how "Mamie" struggled and succeeded in guiding Charlie Russell to stability and the heights of success, is a story classic in itself. She not only rode herd on him as no one else had ever done, but she also provided the business acumen which brought him financial independence in his endeavors as an artist.⁵

Though art historians recognize the Russell partnership and that Nancy Russell did well to transform her husband's career and bring him to national prominence, Charlie's friends may have lamented the change in his lifestyle:

After his marriage in 1896 to Nancy Cooper, his carefree life was over. Within a few years his wife was able to organize, categorize and manage him, not only in a setting of Montana mountains and ranges, but on a worldwide stage that eventually brought him the recognition he deserved. But it cost him the old carefree comradeship of his cowboy cronies.⁶

⁵ Harold McCracken, "Great American Artist C.M.R." *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (October 1958), p. 11. This quote, while revealing is inaccurate, as Charlie was thirty-two, and Nancy was eighteen.

⁶ Paul T. Devore, "Saloon Entrepreneurs of Russell's Art and the Pilgrimage of One Collection," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, (Vol. 27, No. 4) October 1977, p. 36.

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Sketches drawn by Charlie go far to describe the transformation of this itinerant cowboy into a settled family man. One pair of these sketches is particularly telling. The first of the pair, captioned "As I Was" shows an unkempt Charlie in his sparse cabin, with rough sawn furniture, tack on the wall, clothes strewn on the floor, and pans on the table. In contrast, the following sketch, captioned "As I Am Now" shows the couple in the same cabin, formally dressed for dinner, with curtains, framed pictures on the wall, fine furniture, and linens. Another drawing, captioned "Mosquito Season in Cascade" is a less formal depiction of the couple during this time period. Though not likely a scene in the cabin, Nancy and Charlie stand in a sparingly decorated kitchen.⁷ The picture shows a domestic scene of the two washing the dishes together. Of course, mosquitoes encircle their heads. These three sketches, while humorous, are informative of the fundamental shift in Charlie's daily habits after the wedding. The first pair also serve as a physical description of the cabin itself.

After only a year in the cabin, the ambitious Nancy realized that a move would serve the couple's career well. Nancy recalled: "There was little chance to get orders for pictures in such a small town, so we moved to Great Falls...In 1900, Charlie got a small legacy from his mother, which was the nest egg that started the home we live in..."⁸ That home in Great Falls is now a National Historic Landmark (12/21/1965) called the Charles M. Russell House and Studio. The couple eventually bought a cabin in Glacier National Park they called "Bull Head Lodge and Studio." That property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 2/6/1984.

The Honeymoon Cabin in the Twentieth Century

After the Russells left Cascade in 1897, the house saw a succession of owners. The Roberts sold to H.F. Mortag and Charles H. Austin, and Austin owned the property with John C. Quigley by 1901. Four years later, Austin and Quigley sold the property to the Cascade Mercantile Company. The Great Depression Years of the 1930s witnessed a number of sheriffs' and tax deeds, and the property fell to the ownership of Cascade County. D.W. Munroe purchased it in 1942, and it remained in the Munroe family until Arthur J. and Ann I Lemire bought it in 1958. The Lemires stayed until 2002, when Eugene and Frances Dwyer purchased it.⁹

Through the years, the footprint of the house changed, as additions were constructed on the south side of the original building. The setting also shifted from the open fields of the Robert's family property to a residential addition in the town of Cascade. Indeed, prior to Mr. Dwyer's ownership, the Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin looked very different than it did during the period of significance. Successive owners had changed the footprint and siding as suited their needs. Fortunately, these changes proved reversible, as much of the original materials remained beneath more modern sidings and framing. The Dwyers continue to restore the cabin to its original design and character, keeping as much original material as possible, and milling local lumber to match missing boards and battens. They hope to open the house to the public as museum commemorating the Russell's time there.

⁷ The sketch could show the kitchen in the Robert's home.

⁸ Nancy Russell, ed. *Good Medicine: The Illustrated Letters of Charles M. Russell* (New York: Doubleday, 1930), p. 23.

⁹ Stewart Title Guaranty Company, "Chain of Title Guarantee," prepared for Eugene R> Dwyer, Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin National Register file, MTSHP0, Helena, MT.

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Russell, Nancy, ed. *Good Medicine: The Illustrated Letters of Charles M. Russell*. New York: Doubleday, 1930.

Stewart Title Guaranty Company, "Chain of Title Guarantee," prepared for Eugene R. Dwyer, Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin National Register file, MTSHPPO, Helena, MT.

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Orthophotoquadrant, Cascade, Montana, detail showing location of Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin.

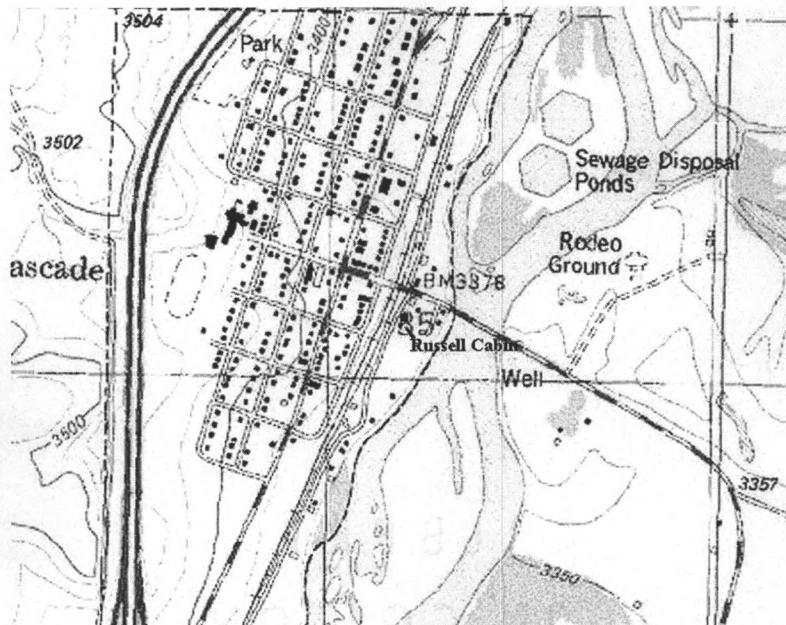
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Cascade 7.5 minute Quadrangle, showing location of Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin.

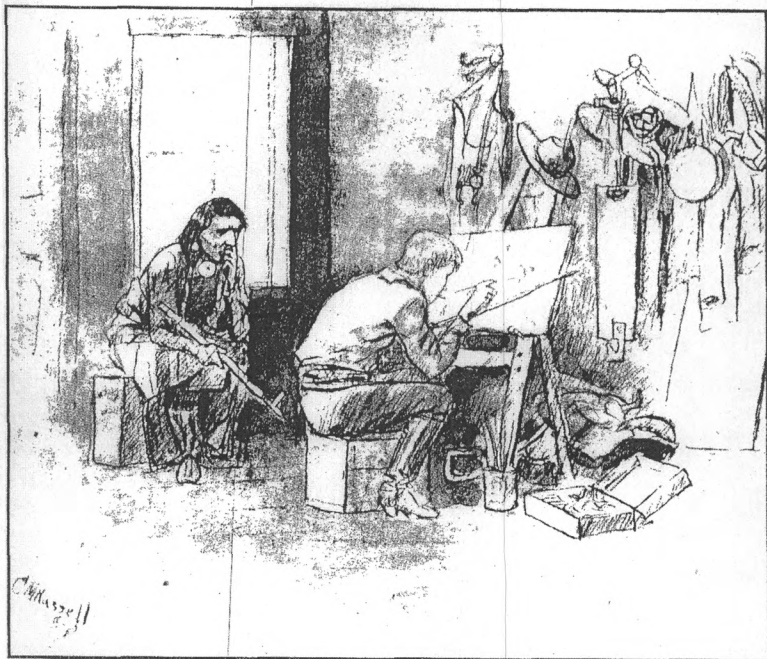
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Photographs and Drawings

Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin
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"Contrast in Artist Salons - Charlie Painting in His Cabin"
Ink and Wash Graphite, c. 1894.
Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

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Photographs and Drawings

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- As I was -

John T. Kelly
CMR 6/20

“As I Was”

This Russell sketch depicts the artist in his cabin prior to his marriage to Nancy.
Montana Historical Society Museum, Registration #86.06.04

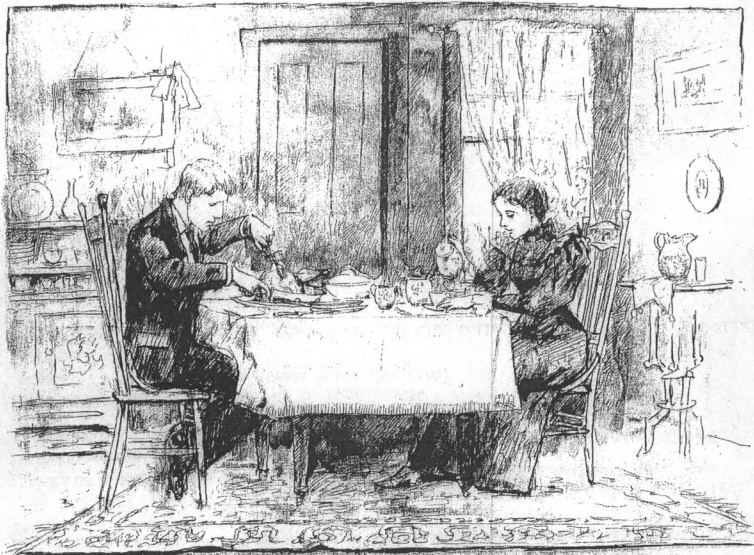
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- As I am now -

Yours Truly
C.M. Russell

"As I Am Now"

Companion piece to his sketch, "As I Was" this shows Nancy and the artist seated for dinner in their cabin after their marriage on September 9, 1896.

Montana Historical Society Museum, Registration #86.06.05

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"Mosquito Season in Cascade"

This sketch c. 1896, though a scene from the cabin, shows a tidy domestic scene with Charlie and Nancy washing the dishes. It is likely a picture of the Robert's kitchen, where the couple met.

Montana Historical Society Museum, Accession #54.06.01

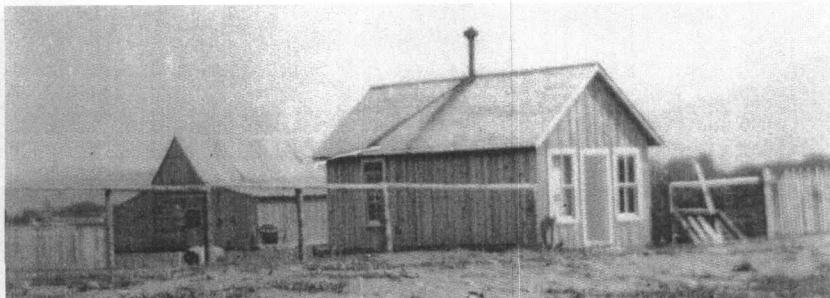
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Charlie and Nancy Russell Honeymoon Cabin c. 1889 – prior to the c. 1896 lean-to addition.



The cabin in 2000, prior to restoration.