

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received **JAN - 9 1984**  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic Red River Multiple Resource Area

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number See continuation sheets for individual properties N/A not for publication

city, town Red River and vicinity X vicinity of

state New Mexico code county Taos code

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> resource	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreation;

## 4. Owner of Property

storage; vacant

name Multiple; see continuation sheets

street & number

city, town Red River N/A vicinity of state New Mexico

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Taos County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Taos state New Mexico

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys (See Continuation Sheet)

title N.M. Historic Building Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 6/2 - 4/83 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N.M. Historic Preservation Division, 228 E. Palace Ave, Room 101

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico 87503

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☒ moved date unknown

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Red River Multiple Resource Area encompasses the narrow three-mile-long valley in which the town of Red River is located, high in New Mexico's northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Laid out in grid pattern on either side of the Red River, the town has received much new development as one of the state's most popular year-round resorts. Eight historic structures dating from Red River's period of mining settlement survive in the valley and compose the Multiple Resources of Red River. These buildings are a schoolhouse and a miners' hospital, both clad with pressed-metal siding; a brick house; two dog-trot log cabins; two single pen log cabins (one square and one rectangular) with "shed room" additions; and a "four square four" pen log house of one-and-a-half stories.

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys:

The Red River Schoolhouse was entered in the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties on December 1, 1982, site #909.

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7. Description:

The community of Red River is located in a narrow valley in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The crescent-shaped valley extends for about three miles and closes at either end with steep canyons. At its greatest width, the valley is no wider than a quarter of a mile. The town of Red River occupies about one and a half miles of the widest part of the valley in the center of the crescent. Situated at 8,676 feet, it is sided by the steep forested slopes of mountains that rise to more than 10,000 feet. The mountains are part of the Carson National Forest and are snow-capped for much of the year. The Red River (originally Rio Colorado), named for the red color of the mud it carries, courses through the town. When first settled, the valley contained rolling meadows and groves of tall conifers. Some of these meadows and trees remain, although much of the valley is now occupied by resort development.

The original community typified the appearance of most Rocky Mountain pioneer mining towns of the turn of the century, with the majority of buildings constructed of log and raw lumber. In the heyday of Red River's mining boom, the town is said to have had as many as thirteen saloons, seven boarding houses, two bunkhouses, a schoolhouse, a post office, a blacksmith shop, an assay office, newspaper offices, two general merchandise stores, a dance hall, a hospital, a livery stable, a barber shop, a drugstore, a book-store and stationery shop, and numerous dwellings. Gold, silver and copper lode mines were located in the surrounding mountains and placer mining was practiced in the valley streams.

Red River is today a hunting, fishing and ski resort community. Much new construction has taken place in the town in recent years. Scattered about the valley, eight structures from the town's mining years still stand. These eight buildings maintain their original appearance and demonstrate many of the pioneer building types as well as the variety of construction materials and techniques employed in the pioneer settlement: log and squared log, plank, brick, and pressed tin. Represented are a schoolhouse, a miners' hospital, and six residences.

The early architecture of Red River was Anglo-American in origin and showed little influence from the Hispanic architectural traditions of New Mexico. Adobe and rock construction were not used. The chief building materials were log and rough milled lumber. A limited amount of brick was used, made in kilns on Orin Mallette's Willow Placer Mining Claim at the west end of the valley. Pressed tin siding, patterned to simulate rusticated stone and wooden fish-scale shingles, was used on at least two public buildings.

Red River's historic architecture was typical of that of Colorado and other parts of the central and northern Rocky Mountains. To shed snow and rain, roofs were gabled and hipped rather than flat in the Spanish tradition of New Mexico. The settlers of Red River were Anglo and Franco-Americans who brought with them northern European building types that had been imported to the eastern United States.

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One of these types was the dogtrot log cabin, two examples of which remain in Red River (The Edward Westoby and Orin Mallette Cabins). The dogtrot was formed by two log pens separated by an open passage and spanned by a gabled roof. (A pen is a unit of four log walls fastened together with corner notching.) With its open breezeway, the dogtrot house was best suited to warm climates and is most commonly found across the inner coastal plain of the Deep South, from Georgia into East Texas. The American form of the dogtrot is thought to have originated in Virginia and Tennessee and spread to the Gulf Central Plain. It occurs as far north as Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, and it is found in northern New Mexico.

European origins of the dogtrot have been variously suggested as the "paired cottages" of Sweden and Finland, the double-crib barn of Germany, and the central-hall house of Europe. Many dogtrots were later enclosed to form a central hall, further suggesting the central-hall house as a prototype for the dogtrot. In America, other vernacular terms for the dogtrot were the "dog run", "two pens and a passage", "two P", and "central passage." In the mountains of northern New Mexico, the dogtrot was sometimes called a "fly", in reference to an oilcloth or tarpaulin that was attached to the front or rear of the passage and extended out as an open tent to cover an outdoor cooking area.

The dogtrot passage served as an outdoor living area in summer. Its function was to funnel cooling breezes. In the open passage, the family dined and entertained visitors. Children slept in the dogtrot on summer nights and, as indicated by its name, domestic animals also enjoyed the breezeway.

There was prestige attached to a log cabin with a breezeway. It was a status symbol among pioneer dwellings, and this partly accounts for its widespread popularity. But it was not entirely practical in the cold winters of New Mexico's northern mountains. Probably for this reason, many New Mexico dogtrots were later enclosed to form a central hall. The two surviving dogtrots in Red River received this treatment.

Another type of Eastern dwelling represented among the surviving pioneer houses of Red River is the single pen with shed room. The name "shed room" is derived from the single-slope shed roofs covering these additions which were usually attached to the rear of the cabin. Because of the difficulty of attaching a new log wall to an existing one, shed rooms were usually built of frame or some material other than log. However, both plank and log shed-room additions are exhibited in surviving Red River cabins (Melson-Oldham and Vet Mallette Cabins). Shed rooms originated in England. They are most common in western England and are thought to have been introduced from that region to the Chesapeake Tidewater.

Single pen log cabins are common throughout the eastern and southern United States. They represent the oldest form of log house in America, and the poorest form socio-economically. During the westward movement, the single pen was usually hastily constructed to house the family until the larger house could be built. The small cabin was then either incorporated into the larger house or relegated to use by the animals.

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Single pens are of two types: square and rectangular. The square single pen is said to be descended from the one-bay house of Medieval England. In British terminology a "bay", or "rod", is 16 feet square. The unit originated in the dimensions of a space wide enough to house four oxen side-by-side. (From this origin, the term "bay" came to designate vertical divisions of the exterior or interior of a building marked not by walls but by fenestration, an order, buttresses, units of vaulting, roof compartments, etc.)

Log pens measuring roughly 16 feet by 16 feet are common in the United States. They are said to derive from the simple one-room house of this size introduced into America, as a frame structure, by the English colonists of the Virginia and Maryland Tidewater. Constructed of log in the Virginia back country, it traveled westward with the colonists. In Red River, the Melson-Oldham Cabin is an example of the approximately 16 feet square cabin, with later additions.

The rectangular single pen was first introduced into the Middle Atlantic colonies by Scotch-Irish and Germans. Typically, the rectangular pen has a front and rear wall dimension exceeding that of the side gable walls by five feet or more. In Red River, these dimensions are exhibited in the Edward Westoby, Vet Mallette, and Orin Mallette Cabins.

In floor plan, rectangular pens were often divided into rooms by interior partitions. However, larger dwellings were often created by the erection of multiple units of adjoining rectangular or square pens. A fine demonstration of this practice in Red River is the Pierce-Fuller House which has a square floor plan composed of four connecting square log pens each measuring 16 feet square, the Old English bay unit originally devised to house four oxen.

In Medieval Europe, humans and animals shared the same structures, first in one undivided building, and then in compartmented dwellings. It is thought that traditional dimensions of units of compartmentalization were retained after the animals were expelled from human housing. On the American frontier, expediency and climatic conditions often prompted a return to the old tradition of joint housing for humans and domestic animals. An example of this practice in Red River is the Edward Westoby dogtrot cabin, in which one unit served as Westoby's living quarters and one unit served to stable his horse.

Also of interest in surviving Red River log cabins are the various methods of log construction. Different types of corner notching include the V-notch, saddle notch, half notch, square notch, and the half-dovetail notch. Some logs are unhewn, and others are square hewn or half-hewn. Also demonstrated in Red River is log slab construction.

In addition to log cabins, three other buildings surviving from Red River's mining "boom" reflect the period of short-lived prosperity in their style and construction materials, as well as their use: the schoolhouse, the hospital, and the Young house. The schoolhouse and hospital were frame constructed and clad with pressed metal in the

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pattern of rusticated stone. The hospital has pressed metal in the gables imitating wooden fish-scale shingles. With the use of this material, some decorative allusions were made to the Queen Anne Style. The Young House was constructed of brick made in a local kiln. Its segmented arched windows reflect the Italianate Style. The stylistic design of Red River's historic architecture never advanced beyond such occasional efforts at decorative refinement.

In 1983 an historic building survey was conducted by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division of the entire valley in which the town of Red River is located. Eight unaltered historic buildings dating from Red River's mining period were located. Of these eight buildings, six are located in the town of Red River. Two log cabins are located outside of the town limits, one at the east end of the valley and the other at the west end of the valley. The Red River Multiple Resource Area encompasses the valley and consists of these eight historic structures. The crescent-shaped valley is about three miles long and no wider than a quarter of a mile at its greatest width. The boundary of the Red River Multiple Resource Area circumscribes the valley at the point where the river bottom, meadows and hills meet the mountainsides.

Over the years, minor modifications have been made to each of the eight buildings that compose this nomination. These modifications, which include minor additions and new roofing, are described in the continuation sheets for each individual property. They are characteristic of the on-going renovation and maintenance traditionally given pioneer structures, and they do not obscure the integrity of the earlier construction.

## 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1915	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1882 to 1915 **Builder/Architect** various

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Multiple Resources of Red River consist of eight structures that are architecturally and historically significant as representational of pioneer mining settlement in the Rocky Mountains, particularly New Mexico's northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Historically, the buildings are associated with pioneer prospector-settlers who came to the Red River Valley in the 1880s and 1890s. Architecturally, the buildings serve to illustrate aspects of the historic lifestyle of the mining community, as well as design and construction features of pioneer architecture of the westward movement. The log dwellings are good examples of building types that derived from European house forms imported to the American colonies of the Eastern seaboard and transported westward by pioneers in the form of log construction. Red River's dogtrot and single pen cabins are model examples of those types. The "foursquare four" pen, one-and-a-half story Pierce-Fuller House is a fine example of this large pioneer log house form, rare anywhere in the United States. The brick Young House is a rare example of the use of brick in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and exhibits unusual brick interpretations of Spanish adobe fireplace forms in an Anglo-American house type. The schoolhouse and miners' hospital, both sided with decorative pressed-metal, are representations of the phase of permanent settlement towards the end of the town's mining boom. These two public buildings, erected about 1914–15, signify the final stage of mining prosperity reached by "Red River City," which had been platted in 1895.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets.

## 10. Geographical Data

See continuation sheets for individual properties.

Acres of nominated property less than one acre for each property <sup>2/1/84 Kathleen Brooker</sup>  
Quadrangle name Red River <sup>9/1/84</sup> Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute  
UTM References See continuation sheets for individual properties

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets for individual properties

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

state	N/A	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Swanson, Architectural Historian

organization New Mexico Historic Preservation Division date September 1983

street & number 228 E. Palace Avenue, Room 101 telephone (505) 827-8320

city or town Santa Fe state New Mexico 87503

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Thomas W. Muhl*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-6-84

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

*See Continuation Sheet for Listings* date  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Red River Multiple Resource Area

8. Significance:

After the Civil War, a gold rush in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains brought prospectors to the Red River area. During the late 1860s, a large mining town with a population of about 7000, named Elizabethtown, sprang up 12 miles to the southeast of the site of Red River. In 1869-70 prospectors from Elizabethtown traversed the difficult mountain pass into the Red River canyon. Both lode and placer gold deposits were discovered in the area. The Waterbury Company built a smelter on the site of the present town in 1879, but this enterprise proved unsuccessful, was abandoned within a year, and burned down in 1889.

The first miners to permanently settle in the Red River valley did so in the 1880s. The surviving pioneer dwellings in Red River belonged to these earliest settlers. Among the prospector settlers were three brothers who had come to New Mexico as fur trappers: Orin, George and Sylvester M. (Vet) Mallette. Two log cabins built by the Mallettes survive. Also among the earliest settlers was Edward P. Westoby, born in England, who made his livelihood in Red River as a trapper, miner, writer, taxidermist and deputy sheriff. Several buildings associated with Westoby survive.

A cabin also survives that belonged to another set of prospector-brothers, Nathan K., Richard A., Lowmy, Morgan Read and George L. Oldham, who had begun to take up claims in the area in 1893. Yet another important pioneer of Red River whose house still stands was Brigham Jesse Young. A relative of Mormon leader Brigham Young, he had come to Red River in about 1895, at the time that the town was platted. He and his sons ran a general merchandise store and the post office, dealt in real estate, and operated a sawmill to supply lumber for building construction in the new town.

Until 1895, the Red River settlement had the unplanned appearance of most mining camps of the Rockies, with several buildings, and a few dug-outs and tents scattered helter-skelter about the valley. But, in that year, three promoters based in the adjacent county of Colfax, where mining activities were flourishing, laid out the town-site of "Red River City." The three developers, Edward I. Jones, Frank M. Jones, and Harry C. Bailey, incorporated the "Red River City Town and Mineral Company" on May 10, 1895 with one million dollars in stock. The articles of incorporation stated that the object was to acquire placer mining claims. Edward Jones was the president of the corporation and Frank Jones was the secretary.

The Instrument of Plat for Red River City was executed on July 1, 1895 and was notarized in Colfax County. It stated that the placer mining claim known as the Gilt Edge, consisting of 140 acres and "embracing part of the unsurveyed public domain in the Red River Mining District of Taos County, Territory of New Mexico," was to be surveyed and platted into lots. The patent for the Gilt Edge Placer Mining Claim was granted in 1898 (recorded 1899) by President William McKinley to the Red River City Town and Mineral Company.

The Gilt Edge Claim consumed most of the Red River valley. The western end of the

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valley was occupied by the smaller Willow Placer Mining Claim, which had been claimed by Orin D. Mallette in 1893. Orin Mallette's brothers, George and Sylvester, and other prospectors are said to have occupied the Gilt Edge Claim in the center of the valley prior to acquisition of that claim by the Red River City Town and Mineral Company. The town developers are said to have bought out the previous, unpatented claims of these prospectors.

Within a few years, businesses, hotels and boarding houses, numerous saloons, and other structures lined a grid-pattern of streets, and the population is said to have briefly soared to several thousand residents. The town could boast of a dance hall with a great, mirrored, mahogany bar, a hospital, a schoolhouse (which was also used for church services) and several newspapers: the Red River Record, the Red River Prospector, the Red River News, and the Red River Sun.

Mining ventures at Red River had limited success. The country was not easily accessible. The nearest railroad was a long distance away, and removing ore from the mountainous region was difficult. Smelters that were established in the valley did not operate properly. Furthermore, the ore was largely low-grade and the miners used poor methods of obtaining it. Intermittent rich, but short-lived strikes kept mining activity alive in Red River. Mining claims with colorful names like the Jay-hawk, Last Chance, Yankee Maid, Ragged Pants Dick, Golden Treasure, Sure-thing, Rock of Ages, Wild Rose, Copper King, Jacks and Sixes, Inferno, Golden Goose, Deadwood, and Silver Tip were scattered throughout the surrounding mountains.

The first important mine in the entire county was the Questa Molybdenum (Moly) mine, located three miles west of the town of Red River. (Molybdenum is a metal used as an alloy with iron in making hard cutting tools.) Production began at this mine in 1922 and it was for many years one of the largest producers of molybdenum in the world. Some of the residents of Red River worked at this mine but, by the 1920s, Red River's base of income was beginning to turn to tourism.

Even as early as 1905, a State promotional publication, New Mexico Mines and Minerals, remarked that "Red River is a beautiful mountain town and is fast gaining reputation as a summer resort." George B. Anderson, in his 1907 History of New Mexico, also noted that "Red River City ... is a beautiful mountain town and is both a [mining] camp and a summer resort." The scenery attracted landscape painters and photographers. The 1905 New Mexico Business Directory listed two photographers in the community which then had a population of 200: Charles Cleland and Reason William Penn (who later operated the Del Rio Hotel). Tourists were also attracted by the cool temperatures and the hunting and fishing opportunities.

None of the earliest tourist accommodations, most of which were crude, rustic shacks, still stand. In fact, only a few intrepid tourists from the East ventured into the Red River canyon in the early years because of the hazards of the steep mountain grade that had to be descended to reach the valley floor. From the summit of Red

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River Pass, which at 10,000 feet divides the watersheds of the Mississippi and the Rio Grande, the road dropped 1000 feet to the valley at a twenty-percent grade. Before wagons made the descent, a tree was cut and chained to the back of the wagon, then the tree was dragged down the incline as a brake. The process was described by early resident Winifred Hamilton:

"The old wagon road down the gigantic mountain side was so steep that it made travel, even in the old buckboard, quite dangerous into Red River. At the top of the hill trees and logs were tied to wagons, the brakes were set, and everybody held on for dear life. Even then the old buckboard sometimes ran upon the horses' heels. At the foot of the hill the trees and logs were discarded and left to be gathered for firewood. An old timer told he had seen three trees, left at the foot of the hill, to be one hundred feet in length."

In 1916, the United States Forest Service completed a new pass road to open Red River and the recently established Carson National Forest to automotive travel. The dirt road consisted of a series of sharp switchbacks and was considered to be an amazing engineering feat of its time. But in 1917, the United States entered World War I. Both the mining industry and tourism in Red River nearly ceased. The Red River City Town and Mineral Company was dissolved and the community remained a small, isolated village until the 1930s when tourism began to grow. Today the town of Red River is one of New Mexico's most popular year-round resorts.

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Miss Florence Oldham  
Mr. Robert Prunty  
Mr. Lester Lewis  
Mrs. Hal (Ruth) Yeager  
Mr. Gary E. Pendley

Interview by Mrs. Judy Brunson with  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene (Doris) Young

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Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Red River Multiple Resource Area

State Toas County, New Mexico

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

34 1. Westoby, Edward P., Cabin **Substantive Review**

Keeper Return T

Attest

— 2. Red River Miners' Hospital-Westoby House  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper Return TS

Attest

3. Red River Schoolhouse

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 2/23/84

Attest

— 4. Pierce-Fuller House **Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 2/23/84

Attest

5. Young, Brigham J., House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Shelene Byers 2/23/84

Attest

— 6. Mallette, Sylvester M., Cabin  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 2/23/84

Attest

7. Melson-Oldham Cabin

for Keeper Shelene Byers 2/23/84

Attest

— 8. Mallette, Orin, Cabin  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 2/23/84

Attest

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Keeper

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Keeper

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
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Taos County, Red River  
Red River Multiple Resource Area

1. Name: Mallette, Orin, Cabin (Red River <sup>M.P.A.</sup> Multiple Resource Area)
2. Location: ~~at the River Ranch Resort, one mile west of the town~~ <sup>W</sup> of Red River,  
~~on the south side of Highway 38.~~
4. Owner: Jack and Earline Luse  
P.O. Box 300  
Red River, New Mexico 87558
7. Description: The Orin Mallette Cabin is a one-story dogtrot log house with a gabled roof and later additions of vertical log slab construction. One pen is constructed of unhewn logs and the other of hewn logs. The two pens and dogtrot passage measure about 70 feet in length and about 20 feet in width.

The west pen, which was the first structure erected, is built of round, unhewn logs and measures 25' 6" across the front and 19' 19" along the side (gabled ends). The present windows and doors were added at some time after the original construction. The original openings were probably few and small. Near the roofline on each facade, more than six feet above ground level, is a gunslot notch. The logs are chinked with strips of wood, and mud and concrete. The corners are variously joined by crudely cut half-notches, saddle notches and V-notches. The log sills rest on the ground.

The east pen is built of hewn logs and measures 24' across the front and 17' 9" along the side. The logs are hewn on two sides, the sides forming the wall surfaces. They are joined by square and half-notching. The chinking is presently concrete. Vertical log-slab additions were made to all three sides of this pen in the late 1930s.

The dog-trot measures 20' 10" wide by 19' 19" on one side, and 17' 19" on the other. At some point, it had been enclosed with bricks made on the property, but is now open. The bricks had also been used as insulation in the interior walls of the gables. The exterior gable ends are filled with vertical board-and-batten. The plank roof is covered with asphalt roll roofing.

The cabin is situated within a few feet of the Red River. The east pen with its additions is in good repair and is used as a gift shop and "headquarters" for the River Ranch Resort. The dogtrot and west pen are used as recreation areas. The west pen has not been restored but is roofed and is in stable condition. Other rustic resort cabins of later dates are scattered about in the woods of the resort property.

8. Significance: The Orin Mallette Cabin is significant both architecturally and historically. It is significant architecturally as a good example of the dogtrot form of log house and as a representation of a pioneer building type of the settlement years of the mining town of Red River. It is historically significant by association



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National Park Service**

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Taos County, Red River  
Red River Multiple Resource Area

Mallette, Orin, Cabin (Red River Multiple Resource Area)

with its owner/builder, Orin Mallette, a pioneer figure of Red River.

The Orin Mallette Dogtrot Cabin is typical of many dogtrots in that the two pens were constructed at different times and by differing means of construction. The west pen, with its crudely joined, unhewn logs and gun notches high in the walls, was probably hastily constructed, and was the first erected. The east pen was better crafted with its hewn logs and well-fitted joints. A photograph taken in the early 1900s shows Orin Mallette and his wife and their five children seated before the east wall of the west pen, before the dogtrot and the east pen were added. These additions were undoubtedly made shortly thereafter to help house his large family.

The Orin Mallette Cabin also demonstrates the traditional proportion of the dimensions of rectangular log pens. Both pens have front and rear walls that exceed the length of the side walls by about five feet. This proportion derived from traditional dimensions of rectangular housing first introduced into the Middle Atlantic colonies by Scotch-Irish and German immigrants.

The 1910 census report lists Orin D. Mallette as a 53-year-old farmer from Ohio. His wife Julia was 28 years old and was from Colorado. They had been married for five years and had three children at that date. Also living with them was Orin's elderly father, Ozias Mallette. He was an 83-year-old widower born in New York in 1816. Orin Mallette was a veteran of the Union Army. He and his brother Sylvester are said to have fought with Federal forces in the decisive Civil War battle of the West which took place in 1862 at Glorieta Pass, a few miles southeast of Santa Fe.

The brothers Orin, Sylvester and George Mallette had come to the Red River valley in 1882 to trap beaver, and they stayed to prospect for gold. Each took up mining claims in the valley. Sylvester (Vet) located in the center of the valley. George established a claim in Bob Cat Canyon where he later ran a dairy, and Orin filed for a claim in the eastern end of the valley in 1893. It was recorded as "beginning at that point in the Cañon of the Red River about 12 miles from the mouth of the Cañon, where it widens out into what is commonly known as the 'Vega' [meadow] running thence one mile in an easterly direction along the Red River, and one quarter of a mile in width so as to include all the bottom, or cañon of the Red River, and containing 160 acres."

In 1901, Orin Mallette was granted by President William McKinley a patent to 96 acres of this land, which had been designated by the Surveyor General as the Willow Placer Mining Claim. It adjoined on the west the Gilt Edge Placer Claim which by this time had been platted as "Red River City." Also in 1901, Orin and his wife Julia granted Sylvester Mallette an undivided half interest in the Willow Placer Mining Claim for the sum of \$1.00. In 1924, Orin Mallette acquired an additional 14 acres of homestead land adjoining his property from President Calvin Coolidge.