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# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITIONCHECKONECHECKONE\_\_EXCELLENT\_\_DETERIORATED\_\_UNALTEREDXORIGINAL SITE\_\_GOOD\_\_RUINSXALTERED\_\_MOVEDDATE\_\_\_\_\_XFAIR\_\_UNEXPOSED\_\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Landmarks of historical significance include: a workshop, carriage shed, grainery, chicken coop, cabin, stone cellar, bunk house, main house, barn, beef wheel and stockade fences. The barn is a unique structure, built in the 1880's but still in remarkably good condition, due to its' continued use over the years. The barn measures 120' X 50', and the center span is 28-30' high. It has a manger rack/feed rack arrangement full length on both east and west sides, and an alleyway in the middle to accomodate a large load of hay. During the CCC days the roof was replaced with pine shakes (similar to the original). In recent years these have deteriorated and the roof again needs replacing. The beef wheel is in need of restoration, with all pieces stored at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. The beef wheel is a good historical attraction as few remain today. The stockade fences still demonstrate that type of fencing. The old stone cellar was built in 1900, shown on an inscription in the keystone of the door arch, along with the F-G brand of the French and Glen partnership. The building is 24' X 36' and is in a poor state of preservation. Parts of the sod roof and stone walls have caved in. The building has considerable historical significance and may be worthy of restoration. The site of the ranch is graced by large trees which were planted in 1892 by Emanuel Clark.

Of the original ranch buildings, seven of ten remain, essentially unaltered. Some buildings have been reroofed but retain their original character. As a subheadquarters of the famous P Ranch, the Sod House Ranch is an intact remnant of French's innovative and expedient architectural style. The willow corrals were razed in the 1930's and replaced with pine pole fencing, but original stockade fences of hand hewn juniper slabs are still functional today.

Buildings are constructed of native materials including pine lumber, hand hewn aspen boards, juniper posts and poles and locally quarried stone.



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PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION -
1400 1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	XAGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X-1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
x 1900 <b>1977</b>	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XOTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		Historic

### SPECIFIC DATES 1870's to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sod House Ranch with its buildings and related ranch facilities virtually intact is, according to the Oregon Historical Society, one of the finest examples of an Eastern Oregon Ranch remaining in the State. Its restoration is being considered as Harney County's major Bicentennial project to be completed in 1976.

The Sod House Ranch area was first acquired under the Swamp Act by A. H. Robie in the 1870's. Robie sold his interests in the Diamond and Blitzen Valleys to Pete French in 1877, and the ranch became a subheadquarters for French's cattle operations out of the P-Ranch. It was probably first occupied in the 1880's, with the barn undoubtedly one of the first improvements. Emanuel Clark, who planted the trees in 1892, operated the ranch as French's foreman for a long time. The lumber for the barn came from the Robie sawmill near King Mountain north of Burns, Oregon.

The purchase of the Sod House Ranch properties (43,000 acres) is representative of the era of rapid and easy acquisition and control of public lands by powerful cattle barons. Peter French, celebrated in book and story as one of the most colorful of them all, was a progressive ranch manager and a vigorous builder who combined the Texas tradition of running large herds of half-wild cattle on the open range with the English methods of stockfarming. He carefully controlled the breeds and strains of his stock, harvested the abundant native hay for winter feed, and irrigated thousands of acres of meadowland. Local citizens still find his methods and merits a subject of hot debate.

Sod House Ranch was named because of its proximity to the first permanent residence (constructed of sod blocks) in the county. The ranch has been used in cattle operations for 100 years and has been in federal ownership as part of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge since 1935.

A detailed history and plan for stabilization, restoration, and interpretation have been prepared by refuge personnel. It is hoped that, once restored, the ranch will be opened to the public since it offers unique opportunities for interpretation of land use patterns and ranching trends significant in the history of the western U.S.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackman, E.R. & Long, R.A., <u>The Oregon Desert</u>; 1967; The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho: p. 120. Brimlo, George Francis; <u>Harney County, Oregon, and Its Range</u> <u>Land</u>; 1951; The Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon: ;. 18, 62, 63. French, Giles, <u>Cattle Country of Pete French</u>; 1964; Binfords and Mort, Portland, Oregon: Pp. 43, 89, 90, 151-153. Friedman, Ralph; <u>Oregon For The Curious</u>; 1973; The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho: ;. 207.

# **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

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c[1,1] [3]4,8]0,7,5 [4,7]9,0[6,0,0]	DI11 34480+751 47190800
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	

.8 (8/10) mi. south of Sod House Lane  $SW_{\frac{1}{4}}$  of  $SE_{\frac{1}{4}}$  of  $NW_{\frac{1}{4}}$  of Sect. 3, T27S, R31E.

- 41° - 1

 $(1,1,2,\dots,N,N)$ 

LIST ALL STATES	AND COUNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOU	NDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	······································	CODE
<b>11</b> FORM PREPAR	ED BY	······		
Joseph P. Mazzoin,	Refuge Mangger			
ORGANIZATION	<i>[i</i>		DATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Malheur National Wi	ildlife Refuge		November 16	1977
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
P. O. Box 113			503-493-23	23
CITY OR TOWN				
Burns	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	, i	Oregon	97720
	ON OF NOMINATI	TION OFFICER RECOMM	MENDATION See	attached
	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVAT	OIN TION OFFICER RECOMM	MENDATION ( See	attached
	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVAT YES NO	TION OFFICER RECOMM	TE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	N OFFICER SIGNATURE
In compliance with Executiv Historic Preservation Office	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVAT YES NC ve Order 11593, I hereby nomin r has been allowed 90 days in v e evaluated level of renticance	TION OFFICER RECOMN DNON STA nate this property to the which to present the non	TE HISTORIC PRESERVATION National Register, certify	N OFFICER SIGNATURE
In compliance with Executiv Historic Preservation Office evaluate its significance. The	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVAT YES NC ve Order 11593, I hereby nomin r has been allowed 90 days in v e evaluated level of renticance	TION OFFICER RECOMN DNON STA nate this property to the which to present the non	TE HISTORIC PRESERVATION National Register, certify mination to the State Rev	N OFFICER SIGNATURE
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)       HARNEY         FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY DATE         (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)         NAME         COMMON: SOD HOUSE RANCH         AND/OR HISTORIC: SAME         COMMON: SOD HOUSE RANCH         SOD HOUSE RANCH         AND/OR HISTORIC: SAME         COLCATION         STATE: OREGON         CODE COUNTY: OREGON         CATEGORY (Check One)         CATEGORY (Check One)         OWNERSHIP         STATUS         ACCESSIBL CATEGORY (Check One)         OWNERSHIP         STATUS         ACCESSIBL CATEGORY (Check One)         OWNERSHIP         STATUS         ACCESSIBL COCupied         Public Public Acquisition: Cocupied         STATUS         ACCESSIBL COCUPIE		ATES DEPARTMENT FIONAL PARK SERVI			OREGON	
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SOD HOUSE RANCH         AND/OR HISTORIC: SAME         COCATION         STREET AND NUMBER: 					/////////////////////////////	<u>an 69 1913</u>
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.8 (8/10) m1. south of Sod House lane SW# of SB# of NW# of Sect.3, T275, R         CITY OR TOWN: MAINEDW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BURNS       CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: CONGRESSIONAL				<u></u>		•
CITY OR TOWN: MAINEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, BURNS       CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: CO	STREET AND NUMBER:	ith of Sod Hou	use Jane SW <sup>1</sup>	of SR1	of NW <sup>1</sup> of Soa	+ 2 0000 001
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CATEGORY (Check One)       OWNERSHIP       STATUS       ACCESSIBL TO THE PUB         M District       Building       Public       Public Acquisition: District       Occupied       Yes: Monocupied       Yes: Monocupied         Site       Object       Both       In Process       Unoccupied       Yes: Monocupied			41	ł	IARNEY	025
Site       Structure       Private       In Process       Unoccupied       Restricted         Object       Both       Being Considered       Preservation work       Uncestricte         PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)       Preservation work       Uncestricte         Mapricultural       Government       Park       Transportation       Comments         Commercial       Industrial       Private Residence       More as Appropriate)       More of the (Specify)         Reducational       Military       Religious       More of the (Specify)       RANCH         Commercial       Military       Religious       Structure       Other (Specify)         REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS:       (If applicable)       STREET AND NUMBER:       U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE       1500 NE Irving         Citry or town:       FORTIAND       OREGON 97208       41         Cocartion of LEGAL DESCRIPTION       OREGON 97208       41         courrhouse, registry of DEEDS, etc:       HARNEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE       STREET AND NUMBER:         BUENA VISTA       Citry or town:       BUENA       STATE:       code         BURNS       STATE:       COME ON       41         REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS       TITLE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State <td>CATEGORY</td> <td></td> <td>OWNERSHIP</td> <td></td> <td>STATUS</td> <td>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</td>	CATEGORY		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Agricultural       Government       Park       Transportation       Comments         Commercial       Industrial       Private Residence       Mother (Specify)         Educational       Military       Religious       Mother (Specify)         Entertainment       Museum       Scientific       Mother (Specify)         AGENCY       Street and number:       1500 NE Irving         City of town:       Street and number:       0RECON 97208       41         LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION       Coope       97208       41         COUNTY COURTHOUSE       STATE:       00P       97208      <	Site Structure	Prívate	In Process	;	Unoccupied	Restricted
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE       1500 NE Irving         CITY OR TOWN:       STATE:       CODE         PORTIAND       OREGON 97208       41         LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION       COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:       HARNEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE         STREET AND NUMBER:       BUENA VISTA       CODE         CITY OR TOWN:       STATE:       CODE         BUENA VISTA       CODE       CREGON         CITY OR TOWN:       STATE:       CODE         BURNS       STATE:       CODE         CITY OR TOWN:       STATE:       CODE         BURNS       STATE:       CODE         CITY OR TOWN:       STATE:       CODE         BURNS       STATE:       CODE         CITY OR TOWN:       STATE:       CODE         BURNS       NONE       CREGON       41         REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS       NONE       DATE OF SURVEY:       NONE         DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local         DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:       State       State       State       Local		ndustrial [	Private Residence	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Other (Specify)	
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**SEEINSTRUCTIONS** 

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DESCRIPTION	t				•	•
	1			(Check One)		
CONDITION	Excellent	🔲 Good	🗙 Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check One	•)		(Check C	Dne)
	Alte	red	Unaltered		] Moved 🛛 🗙	Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

landmarks of historical significance include: a workshop, carriage shed, grainery, chicken coop, cabin, stone cellar, bunk house, main house, barn, beef wheel and stockade fences. The barn is a unique structure, built in the 1880's but still in remarkably good condition, due to its' continued use over the years. The barn measures  $120^{\circ} \times 50^{\circ}$ , and the center span ia 28-30° high. It has a manger rack/feed rack arrangement full length on both east and west sides, and an alleyway in the middle to accommodate a large load of hay. During the CCC days the roof was repalced with pine shakes (similar to the original). In recent years these have deteriorated and the roof again needs replacing. The beef wheel is in need of restoration, with all pieces stored at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters. The beef wheel is a good historical attraction as few remain today. The stockade fences still demonstrate that type of fencing. The old stone cellar was built in 1900, shown on an inscription in the keystone of the door arch, along with the F-G brand of the French and Glen partnership. The building is 24' x 36' and is in a poor state of preservation. Parts of the sod roof and stone walls have caved in. The building has considerm able historical significance and may be worthy of restoration. The site of the ranch is graced by large trees which were planted in 1892 by Emanuel Clark.

Of the original ranch buildings, seven of ten remain, essentially unaltered. Some buildings have been reroofed but retain their original character. As a subheadquarters of the famous P Ranch, the Sod House Ranch is an intact remnant of French's innovative and expedient architectural style. The willow corrals were razed in the 1930's and replaced with pine pole fencing, but original stockade fences of hand hewn juniper slabs are still functional today.

Buildings are constructed of native materials including pine lumber, hand hewn aspen boards, juniper posts and poles and locally guarried stone.

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<u> accorden</u>	SIGNIFICANCE PERIOD (Check One or More as A			
	Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
-	15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
···+	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	10/0	s to present	
1	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec			
1971	Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
		Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
	Historic	Industry	losophy	
	🗙 Agriculture 🗙 Architecture	Invention	Science	
	Art	Lands cape Architecture	Sculpture	
	Commerce	Literature	itarian	
	Communications	Military	Theater	
	Conservation	Music	Transportation	
Ļ	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
S E	occupied in the 1880 provements. Emanuel ranch as French's for from the Robie sawmi The purchase of the is tative of the era of lands by powerful ca story as one of the is manager and a vigoro large herds of half- of stockfarming. He stock, harvested the thousands of acres o and merits a subject	Clark, who play preman for a long ill near King Mou Sod House Ranch rapid and easy ttle barons. Pe most colorful of us builder who co wild cattle on t carefully contr abundant native f meadowlamd. I of hot debate.	the trees in l trees in lumber intain north of Bur properties (43,000 acquisition and co ter French, celebra them all, was a p ombined the Texas he open range with olled the breeds a hay for winter fe ocal citizens stil	1892, operated the r for the barn came ms, Oregon. acres) is represen- ntrol of public ated in book and rogressive ranch tradition of running the English methods nd strains of his ed, and irrigated
	Sod House Ranch was residence (construct used in cattle opera	named because of	it's provimity to	
1	as part of the Malhe A detailed history a	tions for 100 ye ur National Wild	) in the county. ars and has been i life Refuge since	n fed <b>eral o</b> wnership 1935.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RÉFERENCES				· · ·	
Jackman, E.R. & Long, R.A., <u>Th</u> Caldwell, Idaho: p. 120.	ne Ore	goi	<u>n Desert</u> . 1967. T	he Caxton Pri	nters,
Brimlo, George Francis. Harne					1951.
The Metropolitan Press, Po					
French, Giles. <u>Cattle Country</u>	r of Point	et	e French. 1964. Bin	fords and Mor	t,
Portland, Oregon: Pp. 43, Friedman, Ralph. Oregon for th				n Printers (	-ble
well, Idaho: p. 207.		10	<u>us</u> . 1)/ ). Inc oaxoo	n rinters, e	aru-
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA					
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATE	5		LATITUDE AND LONG		
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROP		O R	OF LESS THAN		RTY
CORNER LATITUDE LONGITU		-	LATITUDE	LONGITUD	
Degrees Minutes Seconds         Degrees Minutes Seconds           NW         43°         15'.26''.         118° 51'.           NE         43°         15'.26''.         118° 51'.           SE         43°         15'.19.5'.         118° 51'.           SW         43°         15'.19.5'.         118° 51'.           SW         43°         15'.19.5'.         118° 51'.	37.7"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' ''	Degrees Minutes °,	Seconds ,,
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPE			Exactly 10 acres		
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERT STATE:	CODE		APPING STATE OR COUNTY E COUNTY:	OUNDARIES	CODE
OREGON	41	-	HARNEY		025
STATE:	CODE		COUNTY:		CODE
STATE:	CODE		COUNTY:		CODE
STATE:	CODE	_	COUNTY:		CODE
11. FORM PREPARED BY					
NAME AND TITLE:				DATE:	
Richard B. Gritman Public	Use S	pe	cialist	June 10,	1975
Malheur National Wildlife Refu	IGO				
STREET AND NUMBER:	6e			PHONE:	
P. O. Box 113				503-493-2	323
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		CODE
2. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION			Oregon NATIONAL REGIST		41
					<u> </u>
State Liaison Officer recommendation:			I hereby certify that this pro	operty is included i	n the
Ves No			National Register.		
☐ None		Λ			, ,
State Liaison Officer Signature		$\square$		SAN.	
		X	MULA PY	-1000	И
In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I he		4	Director, Office of Archeology	and Historic Preserv	ation
nominate this property to the National Register, ing that the State Liaison Officer has been allo					
days in which to present the nomination to the s		.			
view Board and to evaluate its significance. Th		- 11	Date		
mended lever of significance is Dational	🗙 State		ATTEST:		
- Local Children alt					
- Hart Fill - IR	47 Ê				
Federal Bepresentality Signature Dat	e		Keeper of The Nat	tional Register	
Title in the	ter :				
1=a's Hesten ? Restartart	ι γ		Date		
Office	-			,GP (	938-449

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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