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Form 10-306 (Oct. 1972) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE		STA	Orego	n	*	
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC	PLACES	CO	UNTY: Curry			
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FO			FOR NPS I	ISE ONLY		-
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES		EN	TRY DATE			
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NAME   COMMON:		<i>,</i>				***
Rogue River Ranch						
AND/OR HISTORIC: E Billings Trading Company						
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Star Rt., Box 78 (See Continuati			L DISTRICT:		<b>t</b>	~ ^
Wolf Creek atness vic.			4th		e vr	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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19 1 1 2 m	-					
DESCRICTION						
			•	k One)		· •
CONDITION	Excellent		<b>Fair</b>	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
		(Check One)			(Check	•
			altered		Moved X	] Original Site
	RESENT AND O	RIGINAL (if known)	PHYSICAL APPE	ARANCE		
1880's -						
First struc	ture built	on site - sr	nall mining	cabin.		
<u>1903</u>			. 1 6 1		1 1 1	m1 *
-				-		er. The main
		rading post a	-		red as a	living area.
The large I	Lving area	had no solid	i partition	S.		
1903–1908						
	ining Comp	any construct	-od a larco	two stors	house w	ith various
Authuilding	con west	any construct	Creek Th	is mining	enterpri	se exploited
the previou	s placer de	eposit claim.	No Lode	mining occ	curred, t	se exploited herefore ño ment ever exi <b>s</b> t
permanent s 1908	urface stru	ictures or ap	oparatus re	lated to c	ore treat	ment ever exist
	nown as the	e tabernacle	was built.			
					*	
1927-1960						
the second se	l developm	ent was chang	ged conside	rably by t	he addit	ion of a care-
U U	-	use, barn, ta		• •		
		xpansion of t				
room on the	ground flo	oor, partitic	oned rooms	upstairs,	plumbing	and electric-
ity. The R	ed River M	ining Company	y buildings	located o	on the we	st side of Mule
Creek were	torn down,	save one sma	all outbuil	ding which	n is stil	l in existence
today. The	tabernaclo	e remains rel	latively un	changed.		
<u> 1973 - Pres</u>	ent Condit:	Lon				
[[]]		hud Idimon de	for succh	an than th	oir offo	ativo aco ha-
		of redecorati			lett ette	ctive age be-
cause of th	e program (	JI IEUECOIAL	ing and mar	incenance.		
Main Reside	nce - Orig	inal construc	tion date	- 1903.	rea 2.40	8 SF on two
floors cov	ared norch	174 SF, bree	ezeway 136	SF. Conci	ete foun	dation with
		d lap siding				
		hermal-pane.	,			
	,	<b>-</b>			•	
The first f	loor is com	nprised of 1	Lving room,	dining ro	oom, kite	hen, bedroom,
		floor is con				
Floors are	wood with	inlaid linol	eum cover a	nd wall-to	-wall ca	rpeting. Walls
and celings	are paint	ed plaster.				
					_	
						ory and base
cabinets.	The upstai	rs baths have	e toilet, l	avatory, a	and medic	ine cabinets.
One has a t	ub with she	ower, and the	e other has	a steel s	shower un	it. The
living room	and dining	g room have a	a $5\frac{1}{2}$ foot a	rtificial	Ly graine	d wainscot, and
open beam c	eiling, an	d are separa	ted by a mo	rtared ro	ck firepl	ace with wood
mantle and	rock heart	h. The kitcl	nen has a d	ouble sta:	inless st	eel sink with
preformed F	ormica dra	in and splash	n, metal ho	od and ver	nt, and g	ood base and
wall cabine	ts. Close	ts and stora;	ge are good	. Gas hea	at. Cond	ition is very
good.						
-						
Cometalianta	Postdoneo	- Approvima	to construc	tion date	- 1950.	$\Delta r_{02} = 1.609$

Caretaker's Residence - Approximate construction date -1950. Area 1,609 SF on two levels, covered porch 40 SF. Concrete foundation, painted vertical

Form 10-300g . UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE
Form 10-3000 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (July 1969) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Oregon
A C NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY Curry
RECEIVED TO INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE
(MADIGNALie)	
REGISTER LOCATION The site is located on the northerly bank of the Rog 45 miles downstream from Grants Pass and approximate from Gold Beach, near the confluence of Mule Creek w Section 9, T. 33 S., R. 10 W., Willamette Meridian. of the blue form is the ranch's mail address. The 3. CLASSIFICATION - ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Count Access to the site is by trail, river and low standa River Trail passes through the site. Parking facili at the site. Access is limited mainly to the recrea Wild River Area. At present manpower and funds are the buildings to the public or conduct tours. 7. DESCRIPTION - Caretaker's Residence (Continued) tongue and groove siding, and composition roof. First level has concrete floor and half-walls and fi Divided into three areas by drywall and hardware clo	aly 45 miles upstream with the Rogue River, in The address listed in ite ranch itself is in Current by code 015 and dirt road. The Rogue ties are not available ation users of the Rogue not available to open anot available to open
Divided into three areas by drywall and hardware clo contain shelving, water heater, and laundry trays. of kitchen, living room, hallway, 2 bedrooms, and ba linoleum cover. Walls and ceilings are drywall. Bath contains toilet, wall lavatory, and tub with sh stove. Kitchen has double sink, linoleum drain and base and wall cabinets. Storage is adequate. Scree good. Honda portable generator.	Second level is comprised th. Wood floor with ower and curtain. Wood splash, and painted wood
<u>Tabernacle</u> - Construction date - 1908. Area 1,560 S porch and stairs 75 SF, and attached shed 112 SF. W foundation, board and batt siding, gabled corrugated doors.	ood and rock or concrete
First floor divided into two rooms by wood partition supports and stringers are hand-hewn timbers. Secon Access to second floor is by exterior stairway only.	d floor is the same.
Heavy wood work bench, open shelving, storage cabine boards, and enclosed bins. Wood stove. Condition i	
Blacksmith Shop - Construction date approximately 19 overhang 287 SF. Rock foundation, peeled pole and we board exterior siding, old shake, 90 pound paper, an roof. Door at one end, and open at the other. Over Good to fair condition.	ood frame, hand-split d corrugated aluminum
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Form 10-300a · (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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7. DESCRIPTION - Caretaker's Residence (Continued)

Chicken House - Recent construction. Area 207 SF with overhand 82 SF. Concrete slab foundation, wood frame, lapped board siding, and composition shingle roof. Condition is good.

Generator Building - Construction date approximately 1935. Area 495 SF. Concrete foundation, painted lap siding, and composition shingle roof.

Building is divided into two areas: living, and generators. The living area is comprised of large pantry-storeroom and small bedroom and bath. Wood floors and Firtex walls and ceilings. Bathroom contains toilet, wall lavatory, plaster stall shower with curtain, and medicine cabinet with mirror.

The generator portion has concrete floor and bases for 2 generators. Electric equipment is as follows: Kohler  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kw 4 cylinder gasoline generator, auto demand system, 20 years old, recently rebuilt; Kohler 5 kw 4 cylinder gasoline generator, auto demand system, 7 years old; heavy electric panels, with separate circuits for the main residence, caretaker's residence, tabernacle, and for each generator. Condition is good.

Tack House - Recent construction. Area 339 SF with overhang 103 SF. Concrete foundation, wood frame, lapped board siding, and composition shingle roof.

Interior has mortared rock floor and corner fireplace. Partial peeled pole frame and painted plywood walls. Peeled log bar with hand-hewn wood top. The overhand has a concrete slab deck. Condition is good.

Equipment Shed - Recent construction. Area 800 SF. Earth floor, open wood frame on concrete piers, and gabled composition shingle roof. Good condition.

Barn - Effective age 30 years. Area 1,107 SF with overhang 675 SF. Concrete slab foundation, wood frame, board and board siding, well painted and maintained. 5 stalls, some wood flooring. Roof is corrugated metal covered with composition shingles and roll composition. Condition is good.

Wood Shed - Recent construction. Area 210 SF. Earth floor, peeled pole and wood frame, board and board siding, and roll composition roof. Good condition.

Other Ranchstead Improvements - Land and yard improvements include a garden, deciduous fruit and nut trees, shade trees, flag pole, two grape arbors, rock barbeque, lawn, other plantings, and extensive cedar post and rail fencing and cedar pole and woven wire fencing.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ON	LY	
	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
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7. Description

Red River Mining Company (continued) As the Red River Mining Company, and most other mining activity in the area made use of placer mining, no permanent structural evidence of the activity presently exists. In contrast to lode mining, which sinks shafts into the earth, placer mining sifts through river gravels by means of portable dredges or hand worked equipment like sluice boxes or long toms. All physical remains of the Red River Mining Company's placer activities were temporary in nature, and were either removed from the claim, or scrapped for other uses. The area which was mined is located just south of Marial Road on the map illustrating modern improvements to the ranch.

Main House (continued)

As can be seen from illustrations A--D (A and B marked "Billings Trading Company--1913", C and D marked "Rogue River Ranch, main house--1974"), the main house has undergone considerable change since 1913. Around 1963, the living room, at the southeastern edge of the house, was enlarged. A 13'x27' flat roofed, one story addition was built onto the living room at that time (compare A and C). A fire place was constructed in the living room.

The stairs have been moved into what was originally the store, and an interior wall was moved (see C). The store has been converted into a bedroom with the addition of a bathroom and storage room. The kitchen is smaller because of the enlargement of the living room.

At the north end of the building, a storage room, crew quarters including a bathroom, and a generator room, were attached to the main building by a porch.(see C).

The second floor changes are as follows (compare B and D). The original canvas partitions have been replaced by solid walls, and two bathrooms have been added.

The exterior of the building has been changed by the addition of a concrete foundation. In 1956, the buildings color was changed from its original off-white with marcon trim to red with white trim.



ERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
🔲 15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 1880 to	<b>1910</b>	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropria	te)	
Aboriginal	📺 Education	Political	🔲 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	🗳 Other (Specify)
Historic	🔲 Industry	losophy	<u>General area</u>
X Agriculture	Invention	Science	history.
Architecture	🛄 Lands cape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	🔄 Social/Human-	
X Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	🔲 Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

. . . . . .

The site is the homestead of the first white settlers in the remote Rogue River Canyon area now known as Marial, Oregon. The site was the center of mining and pioneer life; serving at one time as a mining camp, trading post, farm, dance hall, post office, and church.

John Billings and his sons, George, age 18 years, and Tom, age 16, first came to the area in the 1880's. They settled on Mule Creek near the Rogue, built a small cabin and established a placer mining operation there.

In 1887, a homestead claim was filed in the name of Tom Billings; however, it was transferred to George less than a year later. George then worked the area until 1903 when he established a trading post to serve the increasing number of people coming into or passing through the area. Using only local whipsawed lumber, he built the two-story structure which is now the main house of the Rogue River Ranch. The main floor of the building was used for the trading post with the upstairs serving as the living area for the Billings family and occasional passers-by who were always welcome in the house. The large living area had no solid partitions so curtains were merely drawn to partition separate sexes, families and rooms.

Shortly after opening the trading post, George located a mining claim on what was then called Douglas Bar on the west side of Mule Creek; however, he later sold it to the Red River Mining Company for the sale and development of investment stock. They promptly built a large two-story house with various outbuildings and developed an extensive operation up Mule Creek. Within four years, the venture proved unsuccessful and George reacquired the original claim and patented it and the homestead in 1913.

In 1908, during the time the Red River Mining company was in operation, George built the large barn, now known as the tabernacle, to stable horses and mules. Hay was stored in the upstairs loft. The animals were used in transporting goods for the trading post as well as later carrying the mail for the post office which was moved from the Meadows to the trading post in 1916. In subsequent years, use of the barn began to decline and was used more as a community hall. Though animals were still kept on the ground level, use of the upstairs loft ranged from a dance hall on Saturday night to church the following morning. The barn thus acquired the designation, "Tabernacle".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE Oregon

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

# INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance

Contradicting the typical succession of settlement phases in the west, Oregon was first occupied by pioneers desirous of the rich farm lands in the Willamette Valley. Then followed a mining phase, which occurred after California placer mines and other western states' lode mines began playing out. The Rogue River Ranch site represents not only the placer mining stage of Oregon history, but later developments in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well.

Although placer mining was an influencing factor in the initial settlement of the Rogue River Valley, permanent ranches and farms, homesteaded by people like the Billings proved more stable as occupation bases in the area.

Before parcel post service arrived in 1912, the Billings Trading Company provided an important service to placer miners and settlers in the area. Further development of the ranch site illustrates a succession of settlement use. After its use as a mining camp and trading post, it became, in effect, a self-contained social center for the area. As towns near the Rogue River Ranch were established, the ranch reverted to an agricultural base.



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COUNTY	
Curry	

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DATE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

## (Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

## Statement of Significance (Continued)

In 1927, Stanley Anderson purchased the property from George Billings. In following years the original development was changed considerably.

In 1970, the U. S. Government purchased the site under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program which had been initiated on the Rogue.

Though much has changed over the years, the Tabernacle remains relatively unchanged, the main house is in an excellent state of repair and the large black walnut tree in front of the main house, which was planted at the birth of Marial Billings in 1894 for whom the settlement was later named, stands as a marker and a tribute to the early pioneers who settled this rugged and beautiful area.



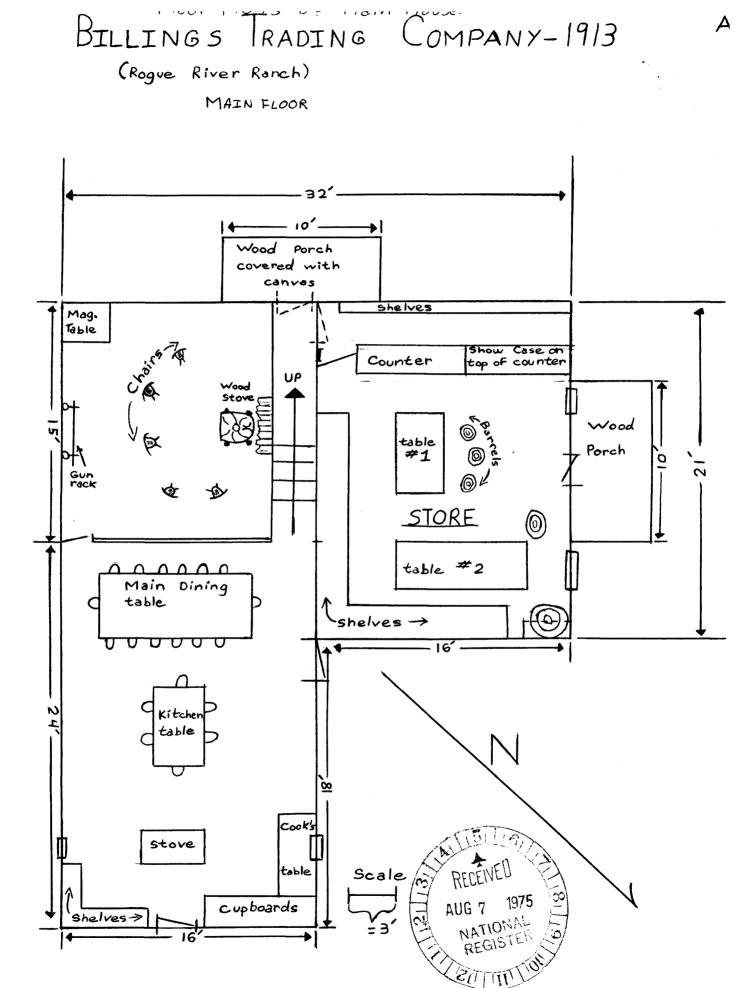
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Appraisal - John Anderson Tract	- Sis	kiyou National	Forest -	•	,
Contract No. P 134					
Tanad intorviewa with Ivan Pill	ince o	nd Marial Billi	inco Akooo	on on fil	o ot
Taped interviews with Ivan Bill the Bureau of Land Management,					eal
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	1	1			
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROP		O DEFINING THE			
CORNER LATITUDE LONGITU	JDE	R LATITUDE		LONGITUD	` E
Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes		Degrees Minutes	Seconds Deg	grees Minutes	Seconds
NW         42 °         43 '         16 ''         123 °         53 '           NE         42 °         43 '         16 ''         123 °         52 '		0,	**	ο,	**
	45 "				
sw 42° 42′ 56″ 123° 53′	01 "				
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPE		70 acres	31	14/	Ì
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	CODE	COUNTY:			CODE
None		-	A REC	ÊÎVED 🌾	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	OCT 3	0 1973	CODE
		COUNTY:	NATI		ļ
STATE:	CODE		REGI	ONAL E	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	Y	SIER S	CODE
			Toi	116	
FORM PREPARED BY					
NAME AND TITLE: Thomas J. Abbett - Recreation P	lanner		1	DATE: June 14, 1	973
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Bureau of Land Management, Medf	ord Di	strict Office	<b>I</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: 310 West Sixth Street				рноме: 779-2351	
CITY OR TOWN:	······································	STATE			CODE
Medford		Oregon			46
CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION		NATIONAL	REGISTER	ERIFICATION	•
State Liaison Officer recommendation:		I hereby certify tha	t this property	is included in	the
XX Yes		National Register			
	•			1	Ē
None Keyembaldu	m	Acting	H/		
State Lief on Officer Signature		(less	s/1	سر	> 1
In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I her	reby	Director, Office f A	rcheology and	li toric Preservi	ation
nominate this property to the National Register,			l		
ing that the State Liaison Officer has been allo		12	las la	Λ	
down in which as proceed the cominction to the C	state Re-	Date	29/7.	<u> </u>	
days in which to present the nomination to the S view Board and to evaluate its significance. Th	e recom-		4		1
days in which to present the nomination to the S view Board and to evaluate its significance. Th mended level of significance is  National		ATTEST:			1.
view Board and to evaluate its significance. Th			A.A.	$\sim$	
view Board and to evaluate its significance. Th mended level of significance is 🛛 National	🔲 State	ATTEST:	actu	m	<b>)</b>
view Board and to evaluate its significance. Th mended level of significance is Dational Local	🔲 State	ahartu	The National	Register	2

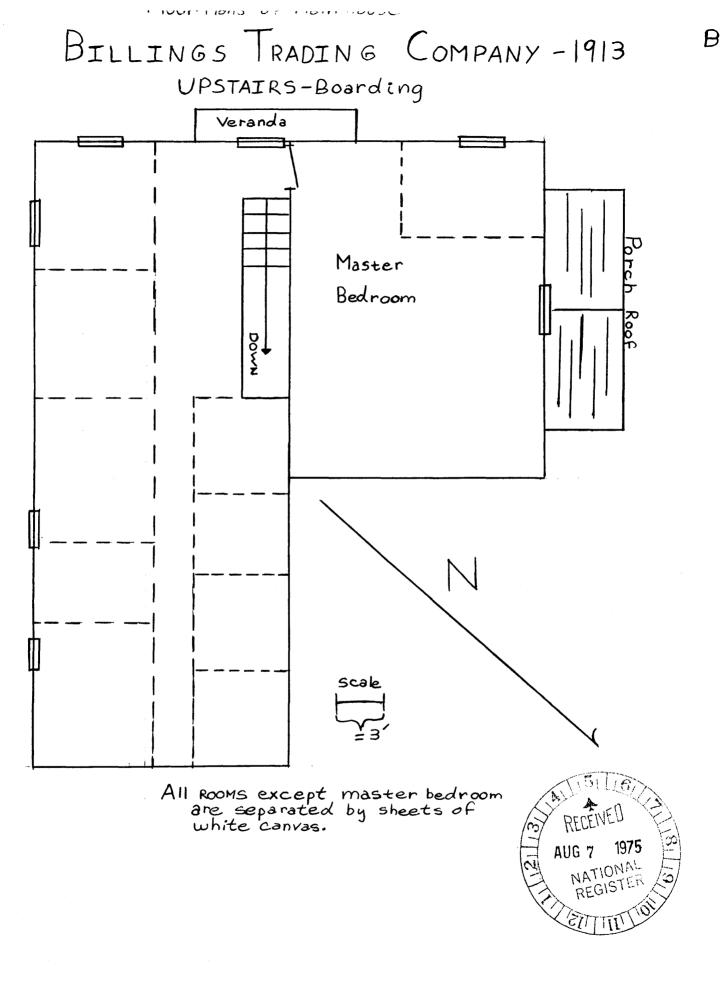
ANTISTICS.			
Form 10,000 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE		
(July 120) (JULY 120) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Oregon		
NECEIVED NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY		
AUG 7 1975 2 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	Curry		
NATIONAL	FOR NPS USE ONLY		
REGISTIC (Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE		
	DEC ~ 3 1975		
Rogue River Ranch, Early Personal Histories of the I Excerpts from personal interviews with Ivin B			
John Billings Born 1826Died 1908Ivin's	granfather		
1867 moved into Rogue River area from Klamath Coun married to an Indian girl, had 3 children. W area, had a total of 9.			
Lived at: AgnessShasta Costa Creek 1889 Big BendBillings Creek Douglas Barestablished placer cla: 1893-94 Big Meadows320 acres	im		
Pre-emption claim; John bought a homestead at Big Meadows from Antone Walker. 160 acres. John's wife being Indian claimed pre-empti- rights to 160 acres. (entitled to Indians).			
1926 John's wife died at the settlement. Her name was Adeline.			
George BillingsBorn 1865Died, 1950; Gold D	Beach		
189025 years of age, moved from Gold Beach into Dou to work for Sol and Herman Marxs in the mines. Ann Huntley who was a cook for the Marxs operat Gold Beach was named for her brother.	Met his wife Sarra		
1895Ivin was born in Roseburg and brought to the I was two to five weeks old. Birth date March			
1898Georges family moved to the Rogue River Ranch a lean-to until the first cabin was built.	property, and lived in		
1899Alpine Billings was born. George started his (trading post) in the original cabin. Also he building the big house.			
1903-4Completion of Big houseserved as home, st of the material used in the big house was for The present kitchen of the big house is when located. Big house was on a rock foundation men ran 5 whip saws on the property to supply ponderosa pines were cut for this purpose.	rom the original cabin. re the original cabin was n. Approximately 10		
Doors, frames, and trim were all hand made. named Moses Dorciler who lived in the house Mule Creek. (Later, it became part of the H	across the river from		

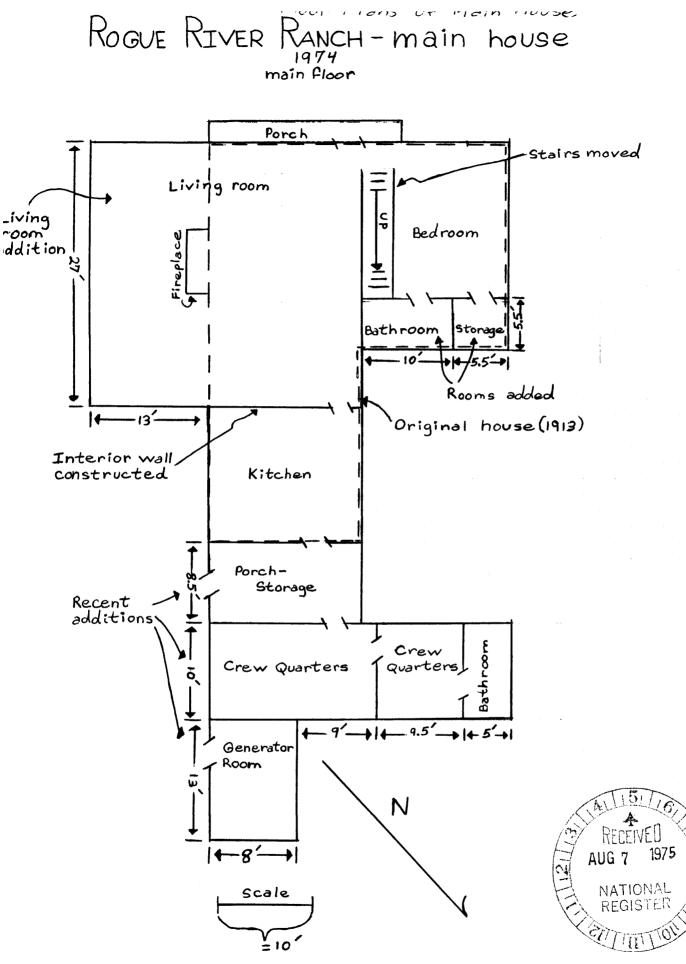
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Form 10,3003 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE
(PUS 1969) U NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Oregon
1975 MATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY
	Curry
	FOR NPS USE ONLY
REGISTER (Continuation Sheet)	050 2.9 1975
(Number all entries)	
Rogue River Ranch, Early Personal Histories of the E (continued)	illings family, et al
1912 Tabernacle was completed. By this time, the had been made to the property: Big house kitchen door. Chicken house, same location towards main house from tabernacle. Blacksm behind tabernacle.	with wood shed out main it is now. Barn, 60'
The mines started drying up and trade starte post came inbecause of these factors, a se never made it past the foundation stages of	parate store building
1913 Ivin was lookout for the Forest Service on M	t. Bolivar.
1914 Moved a two stamp mortar weighing 4800 lbs t Grants Pass by boat. (Ore processingmillin	
1916 Ivin was 21 years old and was the first time this time, he had not been out any farther th out working in the hay fields and logging cam then came back in,in order to run the Assay o	an West Fork. He stayed
1918 Ivin lost one eye due to a rifle accident w with an accident with some chemicals in the to Portland to have the eye removed and repl He met a nurse there that later became his w	Assay office. He went aced with a false eye.
1919After his operation, he rode a bicycle from stayed at Horseshoe bend the first night, an the next night. From this time on, Ivin was River area.	d made it to Blossom Bar
1925Zane Grey came into the Rogue River area. I (behind the scenes) for Zane Grey catching h Ivin gave him the tip that the commercial n recently at the mouth of the Rogue, and th next day. Zane decided to stay on an extra when he caught the first one. Ivin became Grey, and would spend months fishing with h	is first steelhead . ets were taken up just fish should be up the day, and was with Ivin fishing buddies with
1930Ivin's mother took ill, left the Ranch neve	r to return.
1931Ranch was sold to Stanley Anderson for \$5,0	00.00.
Living Community	
Marxs brothers mining company was established in Billings arrived. They sold out their mining oper	

Form 10-300a	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE
(July 1969)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Oregon
		Curry
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
	(Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE
(Number all entries)		
Rogue River Ranch, Early Personal Histories of the Billings Family, et al (continued)		
to the Red River Mining Company in 1907.		
George Billings let them build a large house on the land, just west of Mule Creek.		
Litigation resulted as to the classification of the property on the west side of Mule Creek. Red River Mining Company claimed it as mining land, and George Billings claimed it as homestead.		
John Price mined what now is known as Price Creek and only made \$8.00 in one year. This helped resolve the conflict and the property was claimed agricultural. (1912).		
1912Red River Mining Company pulled out. Both Marxs and Red River built flume systems in the area.		
Two mills, one was called the Tina-H, located up the west fork of Mule Creek till you come to the next little fork. This fork was called the Tina-H fork.		
Red River had a mill also up the east fork of Mule Creek, about 2 miles. Logging operations in the area are still evident today. They developed a log chute which brought the logs to the creek.		
This is now the location of Ivin's mining claim.		
Leo Fry estimated 75 people lived in the Mule Creek area at the same time. They even had a school.		
Trail systems		
1900Two main trail systems were developed, one along the River from Galice, and the other from West Fork. The latter trail passed through Nine Mile, Four Mile, Eden Valley, down the ridge to Mule Creek, back over to Cold Springs, and on to Camus Valley. (Ivin can clear this up). A side trail broke down the ridge to the Red River Mill.		
AUG 7 1975		

REGIO.







C

# ROGUE RIVER RANCH-main house

