National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2009

Cant Ranch Historic District
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Cant Ranch Historic District
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **B: Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Good**

James F. Hammett 5/5/09

Superintendent, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807

JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
Cant Ranch Historic District

Oregon SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility

Actions Requested:

1) SHPO concurrence that the landscape characteristics as identified in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Cant Ranch Historic District (see the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Spatial Organization, Natural Systems and Features, Land Use, Circulation, Vegetation, Buildings and Structures, Small-Scale Features):

I concur X, I do not concur _____ that the landscape characteristics as described in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Cant Ranch Historic District.

2) SHPO concurrence with the list of contributing and non-contributing structures to the Cant Ranch Historic District. (See tables below and the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Circulation; and Buildings and Structures):

Contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as contributing features of the Cant Ranch Historic District:

Contributing Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do not Concur
Entrance walkway #1	c. 1920	X	
Entrance walkway #2	After 1930	X	
Upper orchard	1930-1949	X	
Lower orchard	1895-1904	X	
Main house (Ranch House)	1917-1918	Has Oregon SHPO concurrence: listed in the National Register Nomination that was certified on June 21, 1984.	
Sheep barn (Barn)	1920		
Sheep shearing pens (Sheepshearing stalls)	1920		
Log cabin (Cabin)	1895-1900		
Feed storage shed	1930-1940		
Chicken coop	1930-1940		
Shed	1920-1930		
Bunk house	1930-1935		
Watchman's Hut	1920-1930		
Workshop (blacksmith shop)	1920-1930		
Christina's Cabin	1932		
Rock Creek Ditch- ranch complex segment (part of system of ditches)	1895-1904		
Titanic Ditch (part of system of ditches)	1912		
Fences and Gates	Within period of significance	X	
Stone columns	1920-1929	X	

Contributing Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do not Concur
Large feed rack	1930	X	
Smaller feed rack	1930	X	
Lower cable car crossing	1930-1940	X	
Upper cable car crossing	1940-1950	X	

Non-contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as non-contributing features of the Cant Ranch Historic District:

Non-contributing Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do Not Concur
Old road	Before 1920, Altered after period of significance	X	
Entrance driveway (visitor parking lot)	After 1976	X	
Maintenance parking lot	After 1990	X	
Entrance walkway #3	After 1976	X	
Interpretive trails	After 2000	X	
Field #4 pump house (privy)	1930-1940, Moved and Altered in 2003-04	X	
Replica privy	2005	X	
Rock Creek Ditch segment	1895-1904, Removed after period of significance	X	
Spring box	After period of significance	X	
Fire cache	1996	X	
Privy- removed since NR nomination		X	

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

Christi Cunn — 8/21/2009

Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, Assoc. Deputy — Date

Please return form to the attention of:
Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807
510-817-1407, vida_germano@nps.gov

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B); and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI maintained by Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, is the official source of cultural landscape information.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included on the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history,

significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist or the nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of the landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work.

In contrast, the CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It, therefore, requires an additional level of research and documentation both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape in order to recommend preservation treatment that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Inventory Unit Description: (see next page)

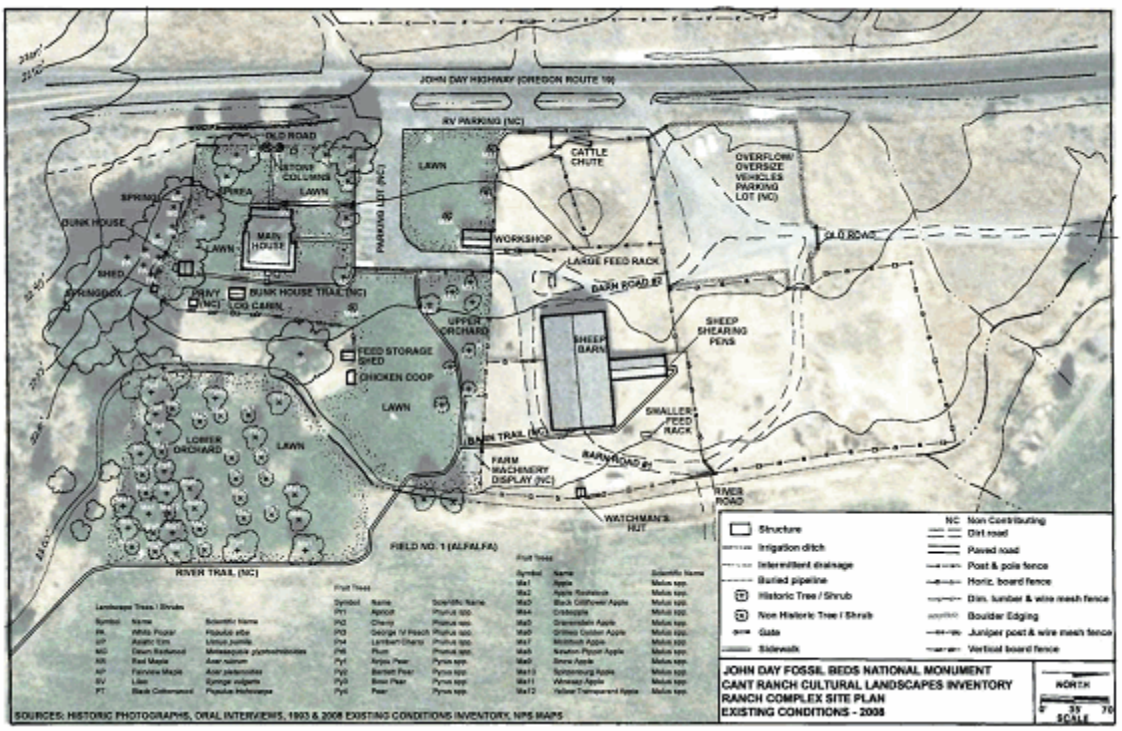
The Cant Ranch Historic District (Cant Ranch) is located in the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in eastern Oregon. The monument was established in 1974 with the purpose to "preserve, protect, and interpret the extensive tertiary fossils found in the geologic formations of these areas." The Cant Ranch Historic District, as established in the 1984 National Register nomination, is a 200-acre vernacular landscape that documents early 20th century ranching operations in the John Day River Valley.

The ranch is located along the John Day River which flows through the Columbia Plateau physiographic region which covers most of eastern Oregon. Access to the ranch is along the John Day Highway (Highway 19) which runs through Butler Basin. The basin is defined on the south by Picture Gorge, a steep narrow basalt canyon cut by the John Day River, and the geologic formation called Goose Rock to the north. Within the basin, the river has carved a flat valley that varies in width from about four hundred to eighteen-hundred-feet, and is approximately three and one-half miles long. The river corridor is bounded on the east and west by ridges composed of basalt and multicolored ash beds. Agricultural fields, actively used since the turn of the century, stretch along both sides of the John Day River the entire length of the valley. The Cant Ranch complex is situated on the west side of the river, about two miles north of Picture Gorge. Southeast of the ranch complex, Sheep Rock, the most prominent feature in the corridor, rises to an elevation of 3360-feet.

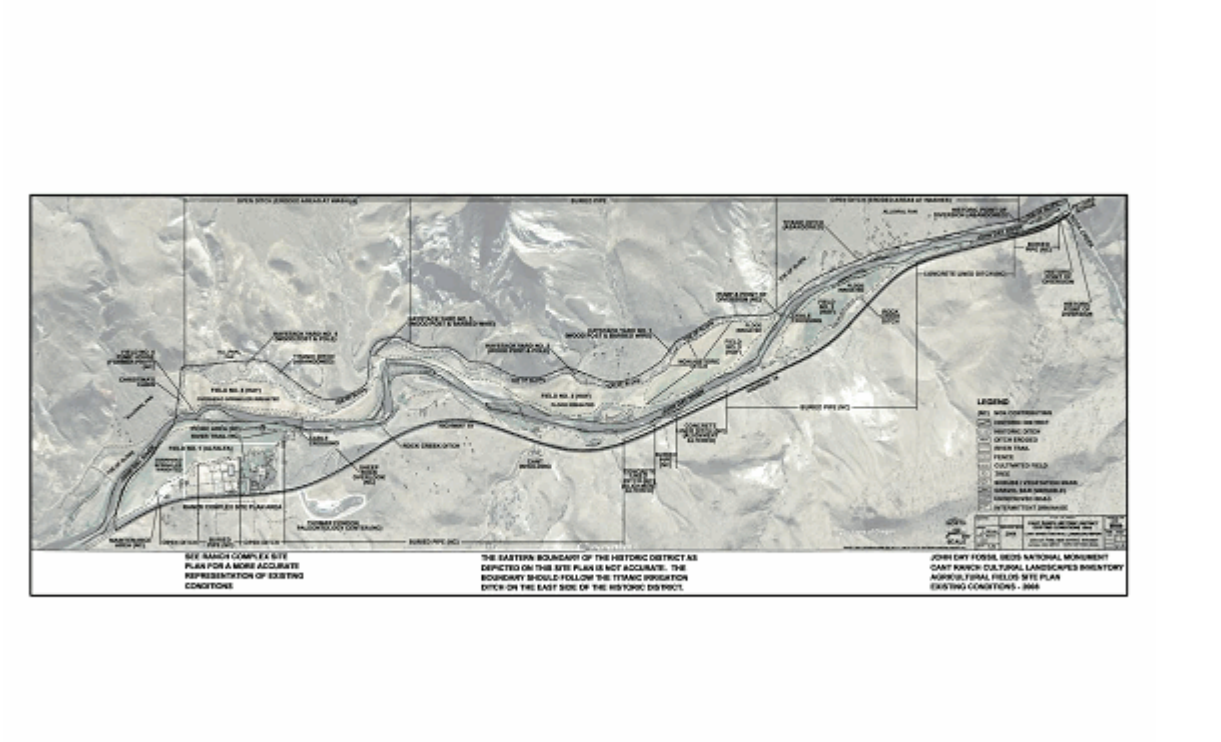
The ranch is locally significant under Criterion A as an intact example of a successful, early 20th century ranch within the John Day area. Cant Ranch has three historic periods represented within the district including the Officer Homestead era (1890-1909), Cant Sheep Ranch era (1910-1946), and the Cant Cattle Ranch era (1946-1975). While both the ranch complex and the agricultural fields contain landscape resources from all three historic periods, the majority of structures and features relate to the sheep ranch era, 1910-1946. The period of significance established in the Cant Ranch Historic District National Register nomination is 1910-1975.

The character of the historic district is evident in the following landscape characteristics: spatial organization, natural systems and features, circulation, and buildings and structures. Based on the evaluation of these characteristics, the cultural landscape at Cant Ranch exhibits key patterns, relationships, and features that convey the historical significance of the district.

Site Plan



See the Supplemental Information section for a full 11"x17" version of site plan.



See the Supplemental Information section for a full 11"x17" version of site plan.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Cant Ranch Historic District
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	400016
Parent Landscape:	400016

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	John Day Fossil Beds National Monument -JODA
Park Organization Code:	9325
Park Administrative Unit:	John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This inventory builds upon the 1996 CLR and the National Register nomination (listed in 1984). Field work for the CLR was initially conducted by Terri Taylor and Cathy Gilbert (PWR, Seattle). Erica Owens (PWRO, Seattle) and Jason Biscombe (PWRO, Oakland) completed additional field work in 2008 to update the existing conditions from the CLR. This inventory was written and prepared by Jason Biscombe. Much of the text was extracted from the CLR. Editing was undertaken by Vida Germano (PWR-Oakland).

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 05/05/2009

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 08/21/2009

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

This CLI documents the landscape characteristics and updates the 1984 nomination. The SHPO concurred with this update.

Data Collection Date: 12/01/1993 **Recorder:** T. Taylor

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Cant Ranch Historic District boundary description as described in the National Register nomination:

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

Correction to Agricultural Fields Site Plan:

The eastern edge of the boundary as depicted on the Agricultural Fields Site Plan is incorrectly depicted in the CLR and this CLI. The CLR was the source for the site plan, which depicts the eastern edge of the boundary as being just uphill from Titanic Ditch. In contrast, the CLR text and the National Register nomination text both describe the eastern boundary as following the Titanic Ditch, which includes only one of the four haystack yards. The other three haystack yards have poor integrity and therefore, do not merit extending the district boundary.

State and County:

State: OR

County: Grant County

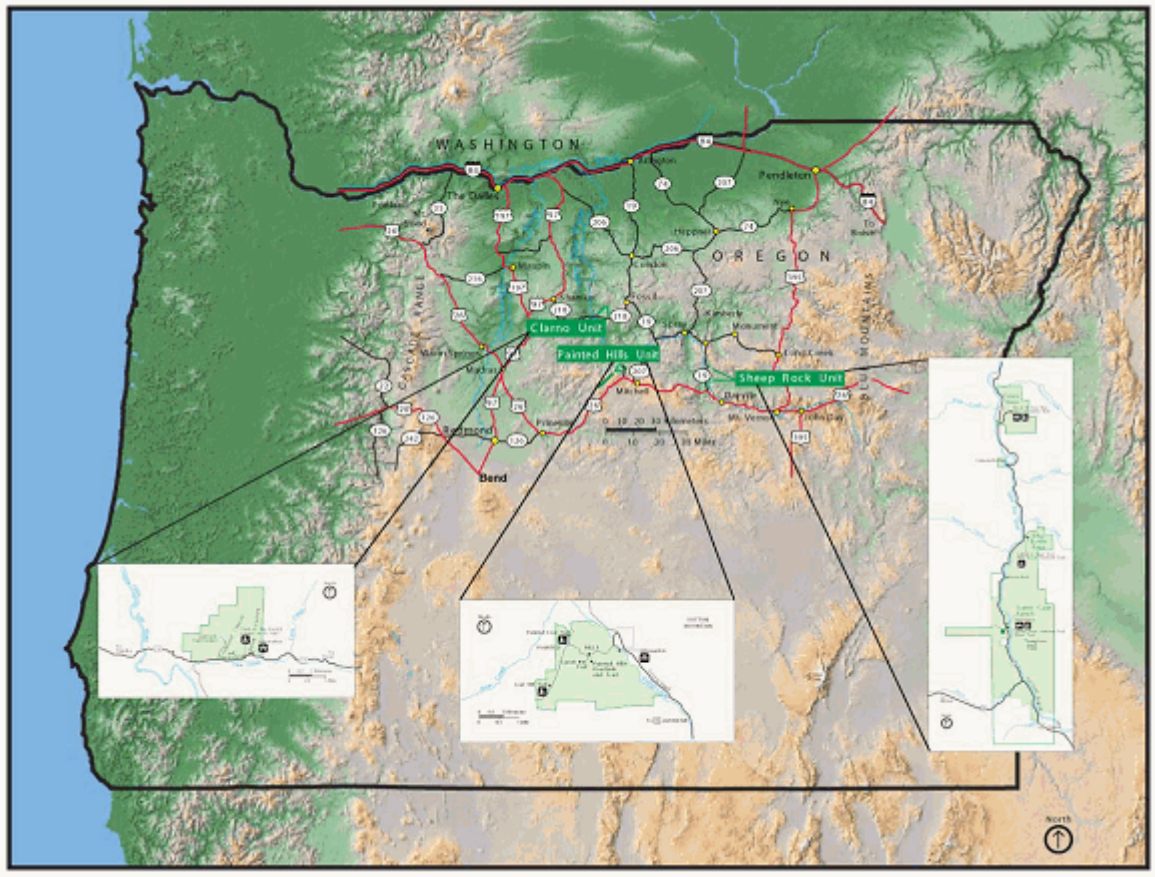
Size (Acres): 200.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	291,750
UTM Northing:	4,933,250
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	291,700
UTM Northing:	4,933,850
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	291,300
UTM Northing:	4,935,650
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	291,250
UTM Northing:	4,936,475
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	291,000
UTM Northing:	4,936,700
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	290,600
UTM Northing:	4,936,800
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	11
UTM Easting:	290,800
UTM Northing:	4,984,850

Location Map:



Cant Ranch is located in the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (JODA). JODA consists of three units and Sheep Rock is the easternmost unit. (NPS 2008)

The ranch complex is designated on the park brochure as "James Cant Ranch." See the Agricultural Fields Site Plan for the boundaries of the Cant Ranch Historic District. (NPS 2008)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 05/05/2009

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

When the environmental statement for the authorization of the National Monument was prepared, it recommended that the Cant Ranch be purchased and that it should be "maintained as an integral part of the monument and would not be obliterated or substantially altered." Because the preservation of the inventory unit is specifically legislated, the management category should be A: Must be Preserved and Maintained.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Expiration Date: 11/15/2010

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The only management agreement we have is for the leasing of the historical fields to "cultivate, irrigate, harvest, and remove hay in accordance with the attached scope of work lease agreement at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument." The existing lease started April 1, 2005 and ends November 15, 2010. The amount of bid is $20/ton for the harvested hay.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The lands that contribute to the inventory unit are located within the park boundary.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Cant Ranch Historic District (Cant Ranch) was listed on the National Register on June 21, 1984. The ranch is locally significant under Criterion A as an intact example of a successful, early 20th century ranch within the John Day area. The period of significance is 1910 – 1975. The landscape of the historic district was not documented in detail in the National Register nomination form. The Cant Ranch landscape contributes to the significance of the Cant Ranch Historic District.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Cant, James, Ranch Historic District
NRIS Number:	84003000
Other Names:	Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	06/21/1984

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1910 - 1975
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Animal Husbandry (Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry)
Time Period:	AD 1910 - 1975
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	The Farmer's Frontier
Facet:	Later Settlements And Farming In The California Valley, Oregon And Washington
Time Period:	AD 1910 - 1975
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Ways of Life
Facet:	Ranching Communities

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Agriculture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance: (see next page)

The Cant Ranch Historic District (Cant Ranch), located within the Sheep Rock Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 21, 1984. The ranch is locally significant under Criterion A as an intact example of a successful, early 20th century ranch within the John Day area. Cant Ranch has been a local landmark in the John Day River Valley of eastern Oregon since the construction of its large main house was completed circa 1918. The period of significance begins in 1910 with the purchase of the land by James Cant and ends in 1975 when the Cant Ranch was sold by the Cant family to the NPS.

The following narrative is excerpted from the original nomination:

Early 20th Century Ranching in Central Oregon
Nestled below Sheep Rock along the John Day River, just north of Picture Gorge, the ranch is one of the most intact remaining examples of early 20th century ranching operations in the valley. The Sheep Rock Unit (one of three units that make up the National Monument) incorporates the initial 357 acres in Grant County purchased by James Cant, Sr., in 1910. In addition to the main house, the ranch complex still includes the barn, sheepshearing stalls (among the best preserved of their type still known to exist in the region), Watchman's Hut, bunkhouse, and an assortment of outbuildings. James Cant, Sr., a Scottish immigrant, became one of the more prominent ranchers in the valley. The ranch remained in the Cant family until it was purchased by the National Park Service in 1975, 3 years after Cant's death at age 92.

Cant, who arrived in eastern Oregon in 1905, was part of a wave of Scottish migrants that settled in the John Day River valley at the turn-of-the-century. Like Cant, many got their start by working for other already-established ranchers, usually fellow Scots. Cant was hired by Alexander Murray, who had one of the larger ranches in the area and was known in the community for his efforts in bringing his countrymen to the States. Cant worked for Murray from 1905-1910. Cant came to the States experienced in dealing with stock operations. His parents owned a butcher shop and stockyard in Scotland, and he had worked for several years, beginning in 1900, for a Scottish stock firm, traveling to Portugal and Argentina to purchase merino sheep. Merino sheep are prized for their wool, having the finest and softest wool of any sheep. He had also briefly been in business for himself in Argentina, raising mules for military use during the Boer War. Cant's future wife, Elizabeth Grant, also immigrated to Oregon from Scotland, arriving in 1907. Married in 1908, the Cants both continued to work on the Murray Ranch--she as a cook--for 2 more years.

The land on which the Cant Ranch was built was first homesteaded by Floyd Officer, a member of one of the first families to settle in the John Day River Valley. When they were ready to set up their own operation, the Cant's purchased the Officer Homestead and moved into the log house on the property with their first-born, James Cant, Jr. Over the next six decades, the Cant operation expanded ten-fold. A 1965 article in the Western Livestock Journal reported that the ranch consisted of 6500 acres of deeded land plus 4500 acres leased from BLM and another 600 acres within the Thomas Condon Fossil Beds had recently been purchased by the State of Oregon for a park. During the peak of the sheep operation, Cant ran bands of sheep on leased mountain ranges in the Malheur National Forest. Many thousands more sheep from neighboring ranches annually came through the shearing pens. Along with many of their neighbors, the Cants switched to a cattle operation in the mid-forties. Low wool prices

and the difficulty of locating good herders made sheep ranching increasingly unprofitable. The Journal reported in 1965 that the Cant Ranch was producing 500-600 head of cattle annually.

Along with their success in ranching, the Cants became prominent members of the valley community and played an important role in the area's development. Cant, Sr., was a member, often a founder, of numerous community organizations and business associations, including the Oregon Wool Growers' Association; the Grant County Stockgrowers' Association; the Patrons of Husbandry, Grange # 627; and the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon; and served as District Clerk for the local school district. He and his family were noted for their hospitality. Travelers through the valley were welcomed and given a meal and, when needed, a bed. When Highway 19 was constructed, Mrs. Cant boarded the road crews. Family members recall that the need to accommodate the frequent travelers and houseguests was one of the reasons Cant built such a large house. With seven bedrooms, each large enough to accommodate two beds, he was confident that his family would not have to give up their beds when guests arrived.

The upper basin area's first school was started at the Cant Ranch in 1919. Classes were first held in the old log house. Shortly afterwards, when the Cants decided to tear that house down, the school was moved to the third floor of the new house. School was taught by a young woman from Kentucky whose aunt was the wife of one of the neighboring ranchers; she boarded with the Cants and, several years later, married Cant's cousin. The third floor of the main house, and the grounds of the ranch, were the scene of many social gatherings for the Scottish community. Bagpipes and kilts were often brought out for these occasions and the thick Scottish accents that many of the original settlers never lost are recalled by surviving participants.

The ranch is now part of the Sheep Rock Unit of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The monument was established by Congress in 1974 to preserve one of the nation's most important deposits of mammalian fossils--a unique uninterrupted seven-million-year fossil record. The State of Oregon began purchasing land in the vicinity in the 1930s to preserve these deposits through the establishment of State Parks; one of these purchases was the above-mentioned 600 acres acquired from the Cants. Sections of these State lands were incorporated within the National Monument. Today, the Cant Ranch main house serves as the Park Administration building, with visitor services and local ranching history exhibits for the visiting public situated on its main floor and the administration offices on the second floor.

Since the Cant Ranch was listed on the National Register, other local ranches from the same era have fallen into disrepair or have been significantly altered to incorporate new ranching technologies. As a result, the Cant Ranch is the best preserved example of a ranch development from the early 20th century in the John Day area. The major Cant Ranch contributing features that have been preserved and maintained by the park include the main house, sheep barn, sheep shearing pens, Watchman's Hut, other outbuildings, two orchards, a residential lawn, ornamental vegetation, vehicle and pedestrian circulation systems, cable car crossings, irrigation ditches, fences and gates, and four agricultural fields. The sheep shearing pens and related equipment date back to the pre-Rural Electrification Administration days of mechanical clippers driven by belts from an overhead shaft with power provided

from the power take-off on a farm tractor or other engine. The NPS restored the sheep shearing pens in 2006 and they are some of the best examples of local sheep shearing pens from the period of significance. The park continues to irrigate and lease the four agricultural fields in order to continue crop production. The harvesting of hay and alfalfa on the four fields continues the historic land use on a substantial portion of lands included in the National Register historic district.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Livestock

Primary Current Use: Leisure-Passive (Park)

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Single Family House	Historic
Agricultural Field	Historic
Barn	Historic
NPS Class IV Primitive Road	Both Current And Historic
Interpretive Trail	Current
Multi-Use Building	Current

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Cant Ranch	Both Current And Historic
Officer Homestead	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1890	Homesteaded	Land which would later become a part of the Cant Ranch was first homesteaded by Floyd Lee Officer.
AD 1895 - 1900	Built	Log cabin constructed.
AD 1895 - 1904	Developed	By the late 1890s or early 1900s the basic layout of the ranch appears to have been well-established. The building complex included at least eight structures, ornamental trees, fences and corrals, a garden, and an orchard. An irrigation system (Rock Creek Ditch) consisting of a main ditch with lateral ditches was also constructed during this time, providing water to cultivated fields along the river.
	Planted	Ornamental shade trees planted around house including black locusts and white poplar (silver maple).
AD 1900	Moved	According to the HABS documentation, the log cabin was relocated to its present site. This claim is not substantiated in other documentation.
AD 1902	Established	Water rights were obtained for the spring located to the west of the ranch.
AD 1910	Purchased/Sold	James Cant Sr. and his partner John Mason purchased the Officer Homestead.
AD 1912	Built	Titanic Ditch was constructed on the east side of the John Day River. The main ditch had its point of diversion on the John Day River near the confluence of Rock Creek with the John Day River.
AD 1915	Purchased/Sold	James Cant Sr. bought John Mason`s half-interest in the ranch.
AD 1917 - 1918	Built	Main house constructed.
AD 1920 - 1925	Built	Highway 19 was constructed through Picture Gorge. The gravel and dirt road superseded the former road, a trace of which remains in front of the main house.

	Built	By the mid-1920s new structures were constructed including a garage and a small shed that housed the light-plant.
AD 1920	Built	Sheep barn was constructed.
	Built	Sheep shearing pens were constructed.
AD 1920 - 1930	Built	Watchman`s Hut was constructed.
	Built	Workshop (blacksmith shop) was constructed.
	Built	Privy was constructed. This may be the privy listed on the National Register nomination that no longer exists.
	Built	Shed (incubation shed) was constructed. According to the LCS, this shed may have initially been the generator/ power house.
AD 1920 - 1929	Demolished	The Officer Homestead house was torn down.
	Built	Two stone balustrades were constructed for the front porch of the main house.
	Built	Two stone columns were constructed at the entry gate on the west side of the front yard.
	Built	The yard was fenced with a wood post and wire mesh fence.
	Built	Two walkways were built: the first one leads from the entry gate to the house. The second, built after the John Day Highway, leads from the driveway to the porch on the north side of the house.
AD 1920 - 1939	Planted	Additional shade trees were planted around the house, including Asiatic elms (on the north and west sides of the yard just inside the fence), globe locusts, a heavenly palm tree, and an almond tree. Ornamental shrubs and flower beds were planted in the front yard of the house.

AD 1930 - 1940	Altered	The second-story front porch was enclosed on the main house.
AD 1930 - 1935	Built	The bunk house was constructed to house hired hands.
AD 1930 - 1940	Built	The lower cable car, located near the ranch complex, was the first of two cable cars constructed on the property.
AD 1930	Altered	The John Day Highway was paved, regraded, and portions of the road were realigned.
AD 1930 - 1949	Planted	The upper orchard was planted in the 1930s and 1940s.
AD 1930 - 1940	Built	Approximately 1900 linear feet of fencing and gates were installed in the 1930s.
	Moved	Privy (pump house) thought to have been moved from Dayville, Oregon, was relocated to the Cant Ranch workshop area.
	Built	The chicken coop was constructed in the 1930s.
	Moved	The chicken coop was moved to a location southeast of the log cabin.
AD 1930	Built	A large feed rack and smaller feed rack were constructed.
AD 1930 - 1940	Built	A feed storage shed was built.
AD 1932	Built	Christina`s Cabin was constructed. This cabin was constructed circa1932 as a homestead cabin for James and Elizabeth`s daughter, Christina, who hoped to prove up the claim and add the land to the Cant Ranch.
AD 1940 - 1955	Removed	Ice house appears to have been removed by the 1940s or early 1950s.
AD 1940 - 1950	Built	Upper cable car was installed to facilitate a river crossing near the south end of the property.

AD 1940 - 1946	Moved	A feed storage shed was moved.
AD 1946	Ranched/Grazed	The land use changed from sheep to cattle ranching.
AD 1946 - 1959	Altered	Sheep corrals were made taller by adding extra boards or poles and continued to be used for cattle. The westernmost corral was divided into two sections and a cattle loading chute was added.
AD 1950 - 1959	Rehabilitated	The shed was converted to an incubation shed when the chicken coop was moved north of the orchard.
	Built	A small grain shed was built outside the back fence of the house.
	Moved	A privy (pump house) was moved from Dayville to Cant Ranch in the 1950s where it was placed northwest of the workshop.
	Altered	In the mid-1950`s improvements were again made to Highway 19 and the curve in the road just north of the ranch was straightened. The new road right-of-way encompassed a portion of the Rock Creek Irrigation Ditch and as a consequence segments of the ditch had to be moved.
	Moved	Chicken coop and the feed storage shed were moved to the northwest corner of the lower orchard.
AD 1953	Established	Electricity was installed at the ranch.
	Removed	The light-plant shed that housed the generator was removed after the introduction of electricity in 1953.
AD 1960 - 1970	Moved	Christina`s Cabin constructed in 1932 was moved.
AD 1965	Ranched/Grazed	By 1965, the Cant Ranch had grown to 6500 acres of deeded land plus 4500 acres of land that was leased from the Bureau of Land Management.

AD 1975	Purchased/Sold	The National Park Service purchased the Cant Ranch to be incorporated into John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.
	Altered	The main house began serving as the Park`s Visitor Center, providing interpretive exhibits and limited visitor services. The residence served as the Park Headquarters.
AD 1976 - 1983	Restored	Restoration of the exterior of the Cant Ranch House to its 1920s appearance included the removal of the second story front porch enclosure.
AD 1976	Rehabilitated	The workshop was rehabilitated and its metal gable roof replaced by shingles after 1976.
AD 1976 - 1993	Removed	Buildings that were in ruins such as the garage, fuel storage shed, the old blacksmith shop, and the hog pen and shed, were removed. The picket fence in the front yard was removed. The shed attached to the workshop was removed.
AD 1976 - 2008	Restored	Fences and corrals were stabilized or restored.
AD 1976 - 1993	Altered	The Cants` driveway and informal parking area was paved and a new parking lot created for visitors and staff. The original lawn at the Cant house was greatly expanded to cover the entire yard, the lower orchard, upper orchard, and old corral area.
AD 1976 - 2008	Neglected	Most of the shrubs and flowers at the main house disappeared over the years. The orchards were retained and interpreted but not maintained until around 1990.
AD 1978	Rehabilitated	The workshop was rehabilitated as a maintenance facility.
AD 1980	Restored	The Watchman`s Hut was restored.
AD 1981 - 1982	Restored	The bunk house was restored. The roof was replaced and the building raised to provide some earth-wood separation. Walls were replaced using wood salvaged from a neighboring structure.

	Restored	NPS replaced the corrugated metal roof of the feed storage shed with shingles.
AD 1982	Restored	The NPS replaced the corrugated metal roof of the chicken coop with wood shingles.
AD 1983 - 1994	Restored	The main house was restored.
AD 1983 - 1990	Rehabilitated	The sheep barn was stabilized including reroofing, structural framing, and repairs to the foundations, wall framing, and siding.
AD 1983 - 1985	Stabilized	Christina`s Cabin was stabilized.
AD 1983	Rehabilitated	The log cabin`s foundation was stabilized and deteriorating logs and chinking were replaced.
AD 1983 - 1986	Moved	The original point of diversion for Titanic Ditch was relocated in 1983 and a new pump installed at the south end of Field #3 in 1986.
AD 1986 - 1993	Rehabilitated	The lower cable car near the ranch complex was rehabilitated.
AD 1988	Planted	The dawn redwoods were planted by the NPS in 1988 or shortly thereafter. They were planted in the riparian corridor to the south of the main house. Dawn redwoods are Oregon`s State Fossil and were planted to reflect the broader story of JODA.
AD 1990	Planted	Fruit trees were planted in lower orchard to fill in gaps in rows.
	Rehabilitated	The bunk house converted to a paleontology lab by the NPS.
AD 1990 - 1996	Abandoned	The Titanic Ditch was abandoned.
AD 1995	Built	A maintenance area was constructed.

AD 2000 - 2004	Restored	The upper cable car near the south end of the historic district was restored.
AD 2002 - 2005	Planted	Fruit trees were planted in lower orchard to fill in gaps in rows.
AD 2003 - 2004	Moved	A privy was moved from west of the workshop to Field #4 near Christina`s Cabin and converted to a pump house.
AD 2003 - 2005	Altered	The Rock Creek Ditch was filled except at the ranch complex. The pipe that replaced the ditch function was buried within the former ditch. In two locations, where the historic alignment of the ditch was altered by improvements to Highway 19, the ditch is still open but concrete lined.
AD 2004 - 2005	Preserved	All the small outbuildings were repaired. Rim joists at the base of many of the outbuildings were replaced and the buildings were placed on stones to give some earth-wood separation. Some of the outbuildings had their entire wood exterior replaced in-kind.
AD 2004	Preserved	Feed racks were dismantled in 2004. Most of the wood was replaced, but the heavier metal hardware was reused.
	Altered	The Titanic Ditch was filled, leveled and replaced by pipe along the east edge of Field #3.
AD 2005	Rehabilitated	The main house was rehabilitated as the administrative building for JODA with structural and electrical upgrades and some interior restoration work. Visitor services and human settlement exhibits for the visiting public situated on its main floor.
	Restored	Christina`s Cabin was restored including reroofing, residing, and replacement of some of the battens.
	Stabilized	Watchman`s Hut stabilized. The flooring in the hut and its substructure were replaced and the joists raised up on stones to provide limited earth/wood separation.
	Preserved	The chicken coop was preserved. Additional research would be required to determine how the structure was preserved.

	Stabilized	The shed was stabilized. The base of shed was replaced and it was placed on stones to give some earth-wood separation.
	Built	A replica of a historic privy was constructed and placed on the ranch complex site near where a privy stood during the period of significance.
	Rehabilitated	A workshop was converted to a meeting/ conference/ class room by the NPS. New siding was installed on the entire building.
	Restored	Some logs were replaced, new floors were installed, and drainage/ base conditions were addressed on the log cabin. The interior fossil demonstration additions were removed.
	Restored	The feed storage shed was restored.
AD 2006	Preserved	Sheep sheering pens were repaired. Decayed wood in contact with the earth and framing were replaced in-kind. It was also repaired for interpretive use including accessibility.
	Rehabilitated	The sheep barn was repaired including drainage and sheep pen repairs. It was also repaired for interpretive use including accessibility and lighting for exhibits.
AD 2007	Altered	The steps to entrance of the workshop were constructed.

Physical History:

Introduction

The physical history section is extracted from the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) with a few minor updates. See the CLR for endnotes and references. See the Cultural Landscapes Inventory chronology section for changes to the historic district taking place after the completion of the CLR in 1996.

Pre-Contact and Early Euro-American Settlement

Prior to Euro-American settlement of the John Day Valley in the late nineteenth century, the area between the Southern Columbia Plateau and the Northern Great Basin was occupied and used by several American Indian peoples, including the Tenino and Umatilla, who were historically part of the Columbia Plateau peoples, and the peoples of the northern Great Basin, the Northern Paiute. Territories claimed by these groups in the upper John Day Valley were frequently disputed and boundaries fluctuated over time. However, documentation indicates that the most recent pre-contact occupant of the Picture Gorge area was the Hunipui band of the Northern Paiute who wintered in the area and had a seasonal hunting, fishing, and gathering economy.

Euro-American settlement of the John Day Valley occurred relatively late in the history of the Oregon Territory, primarily because most settlers tended to avoid the arid country east of the Cascade Mountains, preferring instead the fertile Willamette Valley and the Pacific Coast region. Except for the occasional fur trapper or prospector, few non-Native Americans traveled through this area until 1862, when the discovery of gold on Canyon Creek brought a large influx of miners into the area (soon to be the site of Canyon City, Oregon). Between 1864 and 1869, development of the area was spurred again when the Dalles Military Road Company constructed a wagon road between the Dalles, on the Columbia River, and Canyon City which provided a much needed freight route linking the mining towns to the Columbia River. By 1870 the gold boom of Canyon City was over and the population of the area declined dramatically. However, the ranching economy in the valley, which had developed to supply the gold miners, continued to expand as word spread about the luxuriant grazing lands of Grant County.

As the fertile lands of western Oregon became populated, a second generation of settlers began to pour into the region east of the Cascades, and they brought their livestock with them. A summary of this exodus was noted by a writer in 1871 who wrote:

“As the Willamette Valley settles up and the old families find half a dozen boys to provide for, it is a very common thing to send some of them east of the mountains to locate, and eastern Oregon is becoming every year more and more a stock raising country, which is its natural use. The cattle of the Willamette are purchased when young and taken up the Columbia, and are brought back several years after, well fatted beef for the butcher stalls of our cities.”

Overall migration in the West, and in eastern Oregon, was spurred by the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 which granted free title to 160 acres if necessary claim requirements

("proofs") were met. In addition to settlers from western Oregon, immigrants to eastern Oregon came directly from Scotland, England, Ireland, and some from Germany.

Agriculture in Grant County first began as a mix of livestock and grain production to provide essential supplies for gold mining communities which were isolated from large supply markets at the Dalles. By the late 1870s and 1880s, livestock ranching in Grant County expanded significantly as settlers recognized the potential of bottom lands along the John Day River for hay production, and the summer grazing lands available in the surrounding hills and mountains. In fact, livestock ranching grew so rapidly that even at this early date overgrazing began to take its toll on the rich native grasslands, a practice that would continue to plague the West well into the twentieth century.

While cattle were more numerous during the early development of the region, by the 1890s sheep outnumbered cattle due in large part to the influx of Irish, Scottish, and Basque immigrants, all experienced sheep herders. Among early settlers of the upper John Day Valley was a large community of Scottish immigrants including Alexander Murray. Murray came to the valley in 1871 and later hired James Cant to assist in the establishment of a sheep ranch, later known as Cant Ranch.

Officer Homestead Era: ca. 1890 - 1909

Settlement in the John Day country in the 1860s and early 1870s began along the Dalles Military Road. This road bypassed the relatively rough and difficult terrain along the John Day River north of Picture Gorge to the confluence of the North Fork, and this area remained unsettled for several years. In 1864 an early resident of the area named Sam Snook led Thomas Condon, a Congregationalist minister from the Dalles, on a fossil collecting trip into two geographical basins north of Picture Gorge, about seven miles west of present-day Dayville. Condon was an amateur fossil collector who became known as a local authority on the subject and later joined the staff of the University of Oregon. Condon named the area "Turtle Cove." The two individual basins within this area were later named "Butler Basin" (the location of the Cant Ranch) and "Big Basin."

While Condon and other early well-known fossil collectors such as Leander Davis, William Day, Charles Sternberg, J.L. Wortman, Capt. Charles E. Bendire, and John C. Merriam, continued exploration of the John Day Basin from the 1870s through the 1920s, access into Turtle Cove continued to be difficult, and settlement came slowly to the area. Some of the first settlers in the immediate vicinity of Turtle Cove included William R. Mascall, who established a ranch just southeast of Picture Gorge (ca. 1872), and Frank Butler, apparently the first resident of Turtle Cove and namesake of Butler Basin. Another pioneer family that contributed over a period of three generations to the settlement and development of both western and eastern Oregon, and eventually established the first ranching operations in Butler Basin, was the Officer family.

In 1890, land which would later become part of the Cant Ranch was homesteaded by Floyd Lee Officer. Floyd Officer was the grandson of James Officer and Evelyn Cooley Officer, early pioneers in western Oregon who settled in the Willamette Valley in 1845, and he was the

son of Eli Casey Officer, one of the original settlers and livestock ranchers in the John Day Valley. Eli Officer moved with one of his brothers from the Willamette Valley in 1861 and was part of a group of early settlers who organized and developed Grant County. He and his brother were also credited for bringing the first flock of sheep to the area. Eli Officer settled on a claim one-half mile from present-day Dayville, Oregon, where he raised sheep and cattle until 1881, before moving to Butler Basin. Eli Officer continued to raise livestock until his death in 1896. Floyd Officer, born in 1870, learned the livestock business on his father's ranch and eventually filed on his own homestead in Butler Basin where he raised sheep and cattle.

Floyd Officer's sheep ranch was located approximately two miles north of Picture Gorge on the west side of the John Day River. The ranch was primitive and isolated, and with no road through Picture Gorge, access into the Basin was difficult and circuitous. In 1889, the Princeton Expedition, a group of fossil collectors sent to explore Turtle Cove, described access to the area as "fearfully rough." A primitive foot or horse trail through the gorge may have existed as an alternate route to Dayville, but it could not be used by wagons which were required for hauling major supplies.

While little is known of the landscape development of Floyd Officer Homestead, by the late 1890s or early 1900s the basic layout of the ranch appears to have been well-established. The building complex included at least eight structures, ornamental trees, fences and corrals, a garden, and an orchard. An irrigation system consisting of a main ditch with lateral ditches was also constructed during this time, providing water to cultivated fields along the river.

The building complex consisted of two clusters of structures which were separated by an open area. Four structures were located on the south side of the site; the house, storage cabin, a cellar, and a small unidentified structure. The house was located a few yards north of a small natural spring. It was a one-story wooden structure with a gable roof, a front and back porch, and a fireplace on the south side. The interior had a sitting room with a fireplace, a dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms. A small irrigation ditch from the spring crossed in front of the house and continued down the north side. Two plank walkways extended from the front porch of the house, west across the ditch to a wooden, gable-roofed cellar, and another unidentified wooden building. East of the house was a one-story, gable-roofed log cabin that was used for storage.

The house was located in a small grove of black locust trees on the north and white poplars (also known as silver maples) on the south. Several unidentified trees (probably native black cottonwoods) grew down in the ravine along the spring. The black locust and white poplars were introduced species that were commonly used for shade, building material, and ornamental purposes on farms and ranches throughout eastern Oregon. Other known ornamental species included two lilacs planted behind the house. On the north side of the site, separated from the house by an open space, was a cow barn, chicken house, and shop. The cow barn was a wood-frame structure with a shed roof. A wood post and horizontal pole (six pole) corral was attached to the west side of the barn. This fence also extended to enclose a knoll located just north of the barn. East of the barn was a wooden shop with a shed roof, and southwest of the barn was a small wood-frame chicken house with a hip roof. The chicken house was enclosed on the front with a post and wire fence. The open areas between the barn and shop, and the

house and storage cabin, were enclosed by wood and wire fences, with wood post and horizontal pole gates.

Just east of the building complex was a cultivated field and a fruit orchard. The fields were watered by an irrigation ditch that originated on Rock Creek at its confluence with the John Day River. The main ditch traveled north along the John Day River with smaller lateral ditches constructed to carry water into the fields. The ditches were dug by hand using a 16-foot 2 by 4 with a level on it to maintain the necessary grade for the ditch.

While the construction date of the ditch is uncertain, the first water rights for the Rock Creek diversion were claimed in 1899 by Floyd Officer, his brother Albert Officer, and Finlay Morrison who had a homestead just north of the Officer Homestead. This water permit also included the right to irrigate, for agricultural purposes, up to 55 acres of land. Although only the location of the field directly east of the building complex has been confirmed, the location of the other irrigated fields was probably the same as the fields later cultivated by the Cant family since the physiographic features of the site such as soil, vegetation, and topography, limited the location and amount of easily arable land. In 1902, a water right for the spring west of the ranch was obtained for domestic irrigation of 9.3 acres of land. While some grains may have been raised, the primary agricultural crop was most likely hay, grown to supplement livestock feed.

A fruit orchard was located down a short, abrupt slope just east of the storage cabin. It contained apple, peach, pear, apricot, and plum trees. Water for the orchard could have been supplied by either of two sources: the spring, which ran down a ravine to the southwest corner of the orchard; or the main irrigation ditch that ran along the west edge of the orchard.

In 1898, Floyd Officer married Sylvia Kline and the Officer family grew rapidly. They had eight children, four from Sylvia's first marriage and four of their own, all born in the next decade on the ranch. Although not much information is available about life on the ranch, it appears that because of the isolated nature of the site, the ranch became a relatively self-sufficient operation. This proved to be essential as Floyd Officer's family grew. While Sylvia Officer often made horseback trips to Dayville to pick up minor supplies in exchange for eggs and butter from the ranch, major supplies were purchased twice a year when Floyd took a team of horses and wagons to the Dalles or Heppner, Oregon. Otherwise, food was mainly raised at the ranch. Fruit from the orchard and produce from the large garden provided enough for the family and for canning. In addition to raising sheep and cattle to sell commercially, sheep, cattle, and pigs were also raised to provide meat and dairy products for the family.

In 1910, after twenty years at the ranch, the Officer family decided to sell the ranch and move closer to the school in Dayville. The Officers purchased another ranch near Dayville where they continued to raise livestock. As his father and grandfather before him, Floyd Officer was recognized for his contributions to the settlement of Oregon. In “The Centennial History of Oregon, 1911- 1912,” he was noted as "one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of Grant County, in the progress and development of which he takes an active interest by co-operating in promoting its various public utilities and advancing the welfare of the community generally." At

the time of the sale of the ranch in 1910, it consisted of approximately 677 acres, one band of sheep (1200 sheep) and some cattle. The new owners of the Officer Homestead were James Cant and John Mason.

The ranch complex as established during the Officer Homestead Era, divided into a residential area to the right and a work area to the left. The division is retained into the present. (Unknown photographer, JODA archives, no neg. #.)

Cant Sheep Ranch Era: 1910 - 1946

James Cant was born in 1879 in Chapleton Moss, Scotland. He learned the livestock industry by working in his family's butcher shop and stockyard. In 1900, at the age of 21, James struck out on his own, traveling to Portugal and Argentina to purchase merino bucks for a Scottish stock company. Later, during the Boer War, he went into business for himself raising mules for the military. After a brief return to his home in Scotland, Cant immigrated to Dayville, Oregon in 1905. Cant was part of a second wave of Scottish immigrants that settled in the John Day Valley, a group that often gained a foothold in the ranching business by working for established ranchers. Cant was employed by Alexander Murray, a Scottish sheep rancher who owned a ranch located on Battle Creek, west of Dayville. While working at the Murray Ranch, Cant began taking half his wages in sheep so he could begin building his own band of sheep. In 1907, after raising enough money, he sent for his childhood sweetheart Elizabeth Grant from Elgin, Scotland. In October 1908, James and Elizabeth were married in Canyon City and worked on

the Murray Ranch for two more years. In 1909, their first son, James (Jim) Cant Jr., was born on the Murray Ranch. In July 1910, having acquired enough money and sheep to make a start in the sheep ranching business, James Cant Sr. and his partner John Mason purchased the Officer Homestead. At the time of the purchase, the Officer property included 357.41 acres in Grant County, a desert claim of 320 acres in Wheeler County, and the undivided two-thirds interest to the water rights and irrigation ditch of Rock Creek. In 1915, James Cant Sr. bought John Mason's half-interest in the ranch.

When the Cants first moved to the Officer ranch, access to the site was still primitive and difficult. The primary wagon route to the ranch was the rough road east of Picture Gorge. This road originated at the Mascall Ranch, which was located just south of the gorge. From there it passed behind Sheep Rock up around Wind Point, and down Deer Gulch to the John Day River. The road continued south along the river until it reached the ranch. If traveling by foot or horseback, access was often along the rough trail which ran through Picture Gorge, crossing the river two or three times before arriving at the site. In addition to these routes, some reached the ranch using the Lone Pine Trail, which crossed the hill west of the ranch and continued down to Rock Creek on the west side of the gorge. Some used a county road from Dayville that started about 1½-mile from town, went up over Rudio Mountain and down to the Munro Ranch located on the John Day River north of the Cants and Humphreys.

Although little documentation exists describing the early development of the Cant Ranch, it appears that between 1910 and 1917, much of the landscape and many individual structures built by the Officers continued to be used by the Cants, including several buildings, the corral, orchard, spring, irrigation system, and cultivated fields. However, as the sheep herds grew, some changes were required. For example, agricultural operations expanded dramatically in 1912 when a new irrigation system was constructed on the east side of the river. Named the "Titanic Ditch" to commemorate of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the main ditch had its point of diversion on the John Day River at the confluence of Rock Creek and the John Day River. The ditch was constructed by the Cants and John Mason using an adapted V-shaped plow turned upside down and pulled along the ground. The new water rights associated with this ditch allowed an additional 73 acres of land to be put into cultivation using flood irrigation.

During the early years, visitors often stopped or stayed overnight at the ranch. With the neighboring Bales Ranch about a days travel down river (ten miles) from the Cant Ranch, and Dayville located about ten miles southeast, the ranch was a convenient stopping place for travelers through the area. But over time as the Cant family grew and visitors continued to stop over, the family began to outgrow their small house. A room was added on the north end of the Officer house, but it was not enough.

In 1917, determined to build a house large enough for the family and still provide room for visitors, the Cants began building a new home. The house was a 2½-story, wood-frame structure with shiplap siding, a cedar-shingled hipped roof, and porches along the east and west elevations and halfway along the north and south.

The new house was located just north of the Officer's house, near the spring and within the

existing framework of the Officer Homestead. Two carpenters, Andy Cress and Clarence Bisbee, began construction in 1917. The house was based on design elements from several house plans found in a 1903 book called “Radford American Homes.” With additional help from Cress's sons and hired hands at the ranch, the house was completed June 18, 1918. In the fall of 1919, with some of the interior of the house still unfinished, the Cants had a housewarming party that would mark the beginning of many memorable social gatherings at the house, gatherings that usually included members of the large Scottish community in the area. The large house easily accommodated both visitors and the family, which grew to include four children, James Cant Jr. (Jim), Charles, Christina, and Lillian. Visitors were almost always offered something to eat or drink, if not an invitation to stay for the night. In addition, the Cants sometimes used the extra rooms in the house for boarders.

The construction of the house marked the beginning of a fairly rapid period of growth and change at the ranch as the Cants acquired more land and more sheep. By the mid-1920s, the Cant's sheep-ranching complex included a number of new structures including the house and a garage, a barn and sheep-shearing sheds, a Watchman’s Hut, and a small shed that housed the light-plant. As these new buildings were constructed, old structures from the Officer Ranch were reused, moved, or torn down. For example, the Officer's house was used as a school for a short period after the construction of the Cant house. When it proved too difficult to heat, the old house was torn down and the school was moved to the third floor of the Cant house for a year. Also, the Officer's cellar, which was located southwest of the house, was moved during this time and sited at the north end of (perpendicular to) the Officer's log cabin. The Cants continued to use the log cabin for storage, primarily to store the pack outfits that were used by the men who trailed the sheep.

The garage was a one-story structure with a gable roof, horizontal board siding, and a small window on the east side. It was sited northwest of the house and painted white to match. The light-plant was soon moved out of the log cabin into a shed that was located north of the house along the dirt road that led into the barn complex. The barn, constructed circa 1920, measured 66 feet by 120 feet, and was a 1½-story wood-frame structure. Sheep shearing pens were contained in an open wood-frame structure that extended from the north end of the barn. The Watchman’s Hut was a small, one-story, rectangular building with a cedar-shingle gable roof and vertical board siding. It was used as a shelter by the sheep herders during the lambing season and was built about the same time.

In addition to building new structures, other changes slowly transformed the ranch landscape in the mid-1920s. One major change was the construction of the first road (Highway 19) through Picture Gorge. The road was surveyed about 1919 and constructed during the early to mid-1920s. This road ran directly in front of the Cant house, past the garage where it turned east and ran through the middle of the open area north of the barn. Direct access through the gorge increased the numbers of cars in the valley and essentially marked the end of the ranch's isolation. The Cants soon purchased a car and could easily make the trip to Dayville for supplies.

Construction of the road also benefited the ranch indirectly through improvements made to the

Cant house and surrounding landscape. These improvements occurred when Mrs. Cant hired the highway surveyors, who were boarding at the house, to construct a water system from the large spring located about a half a mile southwest of the ranch. This system not only provided a ready and large source of water for indoor plumbing, it also allowed the installation of an irrigation system for the lawn which surrounded the house.

By the early to mid-1930s, the Cant sheep ranching complex appears to have reached the height of its development. Primary access to the ranch complex was still Highway 19, but beginning in 1930, the highway was paved, regraded, and portions of the road were realigned. In front of the ranch complex the highway was moved slightly west of the old road and the north portion of the road was straightened so it no longer curved east beyond the barn. By this time the ranch consisted of at least sixteen buildings, several corrals, two gardens, two orchards, ornamental trees and shrubs, and extensive agricultural lands with their associated irrigation systems.

Like the Officer Homestead, the building complex of the Cant Ranch consisted of two primary building clusters. The cluster on the south included the main house and garage, light-plant shed, a bunkhouse, a privy, the log cabin, storage shed, chicken house, and hog pen. The bunkhouse and privy were located south of the house just outside the fenced yard. The bunkhouse was a one-story, wood-frame structure constructed by Charles Cant during the early 1930s. It was used to house the hired hands who worked on the ranch. The privy, which was located between the bunkhouse and the irrigation ditch, was a three-seater used by the family and hired hands up until the 1920s when the plumbing was installed in the house. The hired hands living in the bunkhouse continued to use this privy after the house was plumbed. There were bee hives just outside the fence west of the bunkhouse.

The first chicken house at the ranch was located somewhere near the barn, but by the 1930s it was moved to a location southeast of the log cabin. Down the slope from these structures, on the east side of the irrigation ditch, was a small hog shed and fenced pen. North of the building cluster was a garden that existed until 1930, and a fruit orchard with apple, peach, and plum trees, called the "upper orchard", planted by the Cants in the 1930s or 1940s.

The landscape around the Cant house also improved considerably during the 1920s. Shortly after the house was completed, Angus Morrison, a local stone mason, built two stone balustrades for the front porch and two stone pillars at the entry gate on the west side of the front yard. About the same time the yard was fenced with a wood post and wire mesh fence, and two walkways were built; one in the front yard leading from the house to the entry gate, and one from the porch on the north side of the house to the driveway. In addition to the lawn and irrigation system being added when the plumbing system was constructed, the Cants also began planting ornamental trees and shrubs.

As with the Officer Homestead, shade trees were very important additions to ranches. During the 1920s and 1930s, elms, black locusts, Lombardy poplars, and Russian olive trees, all fast growing species, were popular plantings on ranches. Accordingly, Mrs. Cant planted a row of Asiatic elm (Ulmus pumila) trees on the north and west sides of the yard, just inside the fence.

Along with the black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) trees (no longer exist) and white poplar (Populus alba) trees (no longer exist) remaining from the Officer Homestead, other ornamental species planted around the house included a globe locust (Robinia pseudoacacia cv.'Umbraculifera') (Robinia pseudoacacia) (no longer exist), a "heavenly palm" tree (unknown species) (no longer exists), and an almond tree (Prunus dulcis). By the mid-1920s, several large Lombardy poplars (Populus nigra) (no longer exist) were located along Highway 19 about a mile north of Picture Gorge, and another large one (no longer exist) was located down by the "lower orchard" (Officer orchard). Native cottonwood trees (Populus trichocarpa) and willows (Salix spp.) could be found along the small spring south of the house and along the irrigation ditch south of the orchard. Ornamental shrubs and flower beds were also planted in the front yard of the house.

The back yard and southeast part of the yard, which were not covered with lawn, contained a clothesline and appeared more like the work/service areas just outside the fences. Beyond the fenced enclosure around the house, the landscape character changed to that of a working ranch. There were no ornamental plantings and the ground was covered by whatever grasses or shrubs could grow in an area trampled by stock.

The second building cluster, on the north side of the complex, consisted of structures associated with the working operations of the ranch. The barn and sheep shearing pens were located in the center of the cluster with outlying buildings such as sheep sheds (sun sheds), the blacksmith shop, Watchman's Hut, and an ice house located nearby. The blacksmith shop was a one-story wood-frame structure with a gable roof. Construction details about the Cant's ice house are limited, but it was probably similar to other ice houses in the region which were simple wood-frame, shed roof structures consisting of rails on top of the ground, covered by a layer of straw, followed by a layer of ice that was covered with sawdust. There were at least three long sheep sheds on the ranch that were located along the fence lines of the corral, east and north of the barn. The sheds were used during lambing season for shade and were wood-frame structures with vertical boards, and shed roofs. They were approximately six-feet high and eight-feet wide and were open on both ends.

The barn was surrounded by sheep corrals on the west, east, and north sides. Two other corrals were located west of the barn next to Highway 19. The first corral was a small fenced area across from the house, used on occasion to keep pet lambs or sometimes a bull. The second corral was used to hold the horses and the dairy cattle raised at the ranch. Documentation indicates that the corrals were a combination of wood post and pole (or rail) fences, and post and horizontal board fences. The wood came from local sources and consisted of both milled and unmilled lodgepole pine and cottonwood.

Other small-scale features included a water trough just inside the main gate to the corral, on the west side of the barn. Outside the fence along Highway 19 there was a tub with a continuously running faucet, that provided water for travelers passing by the ranch, and water for flood irrigation in the upper orchard.

On the west side of Highway 19, a secondary work area for the ranch included a large corral

divided into four spaces. This area acted as a temporary holding area for the sheep before they trailed them to the summer grazing range. South of this area an irregularly-shaped area enclosed by a barbed wire fence was used as a vegetable garden for the ranch and as a temporary holding corral for the horses or sheep. The garden was a very important source of food at the ranch and almost every kind of vegetable was grown in it including potatoes, carrots, beans, corn, and cucumbers. The south part of the fenced area may also have been used periodically as a hay field during the sheep ranching period. It was irrigated with water from the main spring.

The agricultural fields along the narrow John Day Valley began just north of Picture Gorge and extended about three miles along the river, ending past the ranch complex. On the west side of the river the fields were flood irrigated, using the ditches constructed by Floyd Officer. The fields cultivated by the Cants included the fields used by the Officers, and a twelve-acre field north of the ranch that was originally part of Finlay Morrison's homestead, referred to as "the Morrison field." The east side of the river was irrigated by the Titanic Ditch.

During the 1930s, as the sheep herds grew, the fields along the river were expanded to increase hay production. The irrigation ditches required a great deal of maintenance and were cleaned once, if not twice a year depending on spring runoff. At first the ditches were cleared by hand which was so time- consuming that a couple of men were sometimes hired just to maintain them. Later, the ditches were cleaned using mechanized equipment.

Four haystack areas were established on the east side of the river to store the cut hay. The haystack yards were probably enclosed with a wide variety of fencing materials including board, rails, barbed wire, wood pickets, or a combination of styles and materials. Haystack yards were located upslope of the Titanic Ditch approximately equal distances apart. Also situated on the east side of the river, across from the ranch complex, was a small homestead cabin called "Christina's Cabin." This cabin was constructed about 1932 as a homestead cabin for James and Elizabeth's daughter Christina, who hoped to "prove up" the claim and add the land to the Cant Ranch. The cabin was not winterized and Christina lived in the cabin only during the warmer months of the year. It was a one-room cabin with a bed, cupboards, dishes, and other household items. Although the claim was never filed, the cabin continued to be used; usually for storage. Access to the east side of the river was by a cable car constructed by the Cants (southeast of the ranch complex), by foot, or horse during dry seasons when the river was low enough to cross. The gravel bar located at the bend of the river northeast of the barn was often dry in the summer and provided a good crossing point.

Most of the crops grown on the irrigated land at the ranch consisted of hay and some feed grains. They did not have room or time to grow wheat for flour, but sometimes they grew barley and rye on the non-irrigated land along the river. The primary hay crop was alfalfa. The Cants usually allowed the alfalfa to reseed itself for two years using a harrow in the spring to loosen the soil and tear up the weeds. On the third year, the fields were turned over, and barley and oats were grown for a year as a cover crop. Then alfalfa was sown again and the cycle repeated. During the growing season there were two to three cuts of hay, with each crop varying in texture and quality. The first crop was coarser and had more weeds; the second was

finer and had less weeds. If they started early enough in the season a third crop was grown, with some grain seed added in because of the shorter growing time. The sheep preferred the second and third cuts and the hay was stacked according to the quality and cutting order to keep them separate. The hay was dried in the fields, cut with a mower, gathered into piles with a rake, and stacked (loose) with a hay boom (or hay stacker). Horse-drawn hay bucks were initially used to haul the hay, and later, when machinery replaced horses and mules, they used an old Model-T Ford modified by Jim Cant Jr. for the hay buck. On the west side of the river some of the hay was stored in the barn and the largest stack was located in the corral north of the barn. On the east side it was stacked in haystack yards. Even with a majority of their irrigated land along the river in hay production, the Cants always had to buy additional hay from local ranchers to have enough to last through the year.

Sheep ranching at the Cant Ranch was typical of other ranches in the area. The life of a sheep rancher progressed on a yearly cycle although lambing and shearing both took place in the spring, making it the most active season of the year. Lambing usually occurred in late March and April and about this time the "drop band" (ewes ready to give birth) were enclosed in the corral east of the barn. The ewes were tended around the clock and normally gave birth at night or in the morning. The night man helped the sheep during the night and used the Watchman’s Hut for cooking and shelter during the cold spring weather. A light was hung on the northeast corner of the barn to keep the area lit. After the lambs were born, up to thirty or forty a night, the ewes and their lambs were moved to the sheep pens ("sheep alley”) in the barn, either into a single pen or a double pen depending on if there were twin lambs or single lambs. When the lambs were eating well and were steady enough on their feet, usually within a day or two, they were moved to the corrals west and north of the barn. During the lambing period the sheep were fed chopped hay with molasses mixed in to keep up their interest in the food. The lambs were castrated (marked), their tails were removed (docked), and they were branded (with black or sometimes red paint). Then the sheep were moved into the corral across the highway where the ewes were sometimes divided according to those with single or twin lambs. Lambing lasted about six weeks and normally required three or four men to keep the operation running smoothly.

Sheep shearing began in May or June. When the Cants first started their ranch, like other ranchers, they trailed their sheep to the Ringsmeyer's Ranch and later to the Murray Ranch near Dayville, to be sheared. After the Cants built their own sheep shearing sheds, ranchers from around the area came to the Cant Ranch for shearing. Sheep shearing was a huge event and thousands of sheep moved through the Cant ranch during the shearing season every year. The work was carried out by sheep shearing crews of eight to twelve men that were boarded and fed at the ranch during the operation. The sheep were held in the corral east of the barn, or in the barn if it was rainy weather, and then loaded five at a time into each of the ten pens in the shearing shed. Then, one by one the sheep were sheared in the shearing pen that was separated from the larger pen by a sheet. Anywhere from 60 to 120 sheep could be sheared by a man in a day, depending on the skill of the shearer, the size of the sheep, and the quality of the wool. After they were sheared the sheep were loaded into the chute along the northwest side of the barn where they were branded with paint and turned out into the corral west of the barn. As the wool was sheared it was collected by the wool tier who tied wool on the decking

behind the pens and stacked it in piles. Then the wool sacker placed the wool into large sacks that weighed three or four hundred pounds when they were full. These sacks were loaded onto wagons (and later trucks) and shipped to a railroad town. The Cants probably shipped their wool to Heppner, OR before the road went through the Gorge, and after that to Prairie City, OR.

After shearing, the sheep were moved up to the corrals above the highway or into the hills near the ranch. On June 15th, all but the yearlings, who stayed and grazed on the home range, were trailed to the forest allotment in the Aldrich Mountains. At the height of the ranch operations, the Cants had two bands of sheep (1200 sheep made up a band) which was considered a moderately sized ranch for the area. The herder essentially spent the summer alone tending the sheep, except for a weekly visit by the camp tender who traveled from the ranch with supplies. In late September, the older sheep were trailed to Seneca or Heppner to be shipped by railroad to market, and the rest of the sheep returned to the ranch where they grazed on the home range. The Jersey cows that the Cants raised sometimes grazed down near the river on the lush grass that grew just outside the hay fields.

As soon as the Cant children were old enough, they helped out on the ranch, which was typical of ranching families. As Jim Cant Jr. explained, "We really all helped all we could... . You couldn't just fool around. Somebody was working, you went to help them... ." Despite the constant work required on the ranch, there was also time for play and for social activities. Dances and parties were popular events and included an occasional "skip-to-my-loo party" (a dance party) held in the Cant house attic, and Scottish American dances held in Dayville. Other activities included hunting, breaking horses, horseback riding, impromptu rodeos, swimming, ice skating in the winter, gardening, and handwork (sewing projects). With visitors often passing by or staying over, there was often time in the evenings for socializing and for playing music with them.

In addition to fellow ranchers, Warm Springs Indians also visited the ranch periodically during the 1920s and apparently made quite an impression on the children. They traveled in large groups of between 50 and 130 people which were made up of families that traveled from the Dalles to John Day country every summer and returned to the Dalles again in the fall. They camped along the mountain streams and fished and hunted deer. Some traveled by way of the John Day River where they interacted with ranchers including the Cants. These Native Americans traded Indian ponies, made deer skin gloves and collected wool that had been caught on brush and fences or from dead sheep to weave into blankets.

By the mid-1930s, the Cant children had grown up and, except for Jim Cant Jr. and occasional periods when Charles moved back, they left the ranch to start lives of their own. Jim stayed at the ranch to carry on the family ranching business. In 1932, Jim married Freda Erikson who was born in John Day, Oregon, and grew up at the Erikson Ranch and sawmill located several miles northeast of the Cant Ranch. Jim and Freda moved to a house about a half a mile away from the ranch complex where they subsequently raised a family of their own (Elizabeth, Kathleen, Kerma, and James) and continued to work and live at the Cant Ranch. Jim would eventually take on more responsibility as the years passed and played an active role in its

management during the sheep ranching and cattle ranching eras.

During the first 20 years of the ranch, livestock operations were influenced by larger regional and national events. At the turn of the 19th century, the once uncontrolled livestock operations of the West, with unlimited access to range lands, began to change. Between 1900 and the end of World War I, homesteaders continued to stream to the West and into eastern Oregon encouraged by the Enlarged Homestead Act (1909) which expanded the allowable homestead claim to 320 acres, and the Stock Raising Homestead Act (1916) which doubled the acreage again to 640 acres. While much of the best land was already occupied by this time, homesteaders continued to arrive. These new arrivals were bad news for established ranchers who witnessed more fencing and more restricted public grazing land. However, some of the more successful livestock ranches were able to expand during this time by purchasing failed homesteads or homesteads that were settled with the sole intent of selling them once they were "proved up." Large ranches often vied for strategic grazing lands and controlling water rights became increasingly critical for success.

Although these two homestead acts were established in response to the limited production capacity of the arid lands of the West, the ensuing success of the acts had a dramatic influence on the landscape. Not only did fences now begin to fragment the once open range, but the increased pressure on grazing lands resulted in serious depletion of range land resources. This overgrazing ultimately led to the dust bowl conditions of the 1920s and 1930s and increased tension between cattlemen and sheep men who competed intensely, and occasionally violently, for grazing land.

In the 1930s, the livestock industry in the West was faced with many other problems as grasslands continued to be depleted, prices dropped and the Depression hit; many ranches folded during these hard times. In the John Day Valley, the sheep ranchers that survived the Depression did so largely through the help of a government financed organization called the Production Credit Association, which provided low interest loans for ranchers who were forced to borrow money. One of its first members was James Cant Sr.. Many of the ranches that survived also made it because they had children who were able or willing to stay and work on the ranch without being paid. Although this was also a difficult time at the Cant Ranch, James Cant was a good businessman and managed to continue in the sheep ranching business.

After the Depression, sheep ranching became profitable again for a short time. However, by 1940, the sheep industry in the John Day Valley began to decline as men left for World War II and the shipyards, or for higher paying jobs in sawmills which were rapidly becoming a major industry. Many ranchers changed to cattle ranching during this time because cattle ranching was more lucrative. In 1946, when they were no longer able to find skilled sheep herders and hired men to work at the ranch, the Cant family changed from sheep to cattle, beginning a new era on the ranch.

Looking N from Picture Gorge towards Cant Ranch (circa 1925). Field #2 is visible on the left side of John Day River. Field #3 had been recently added on the right side of the river N of Field #2. (Unknown photographer, JODA archives, neg. # 417.)

Looking SE towards the main house, constructed 1917-18. The photo probably was taken in the early 1920s. Note the open porch on the 2nd floor. Note the use of shade trees on the SW side of the house. (Unknown photographer, JODA archives, neg. # 65.)

Cant Cattle Ranch Era: 1946 – 1975

Cattle operations at the Cant Ranch began around 1946, and would continue for the next three decades. During this time, some buildings were adapted or moved, and new building were constructed to accommodate the new use of the complex. In spite of these changes however, the spatial organization of the complex, and most of the associated land uses essentially remained the same as they were during the sheep ranching period. On the south side of the complex, the house, garage, bunkhouse, and log cabin all continued to be used by the family and hired hands, much as they had been during the sheep ranching days. The landscape around the house also remained similar, although a white picket fence was installed in the front yard and some trees were removed.

In the 1950s, a minor building phase began as older structures fell into disrepair and new ones were required. During this time Charles Cant returned to live at the ranch for a short time and was responsible for building or rebuilding many of these structures. Changes included moving the chicken house and the storage shed (originally the Officer's cellar) from their previous locations to the northwest corner of the lower orchard. The chicken house continued to be used for the chickens but the storage shed was converted and used as a feed shed.

In place of the old chicken house near the Cant house, a small shed was built southeast of the bunkhouse and was used to incubate the chicks. A small grain shed was built outside the back fence of the house. A fuel storage shed, new blacksmith shop, and privy were also constructed in the 1950s. The fuel storage shed, which was sited at the end of the driveway, was a one-story, wood-frame structure with a shed roof and horizontal siding. A new blacksmith shop was built outside of the west corral, replacing the original structure by the barn. The new structure was a one-story wood-frame building with a gable roof and horizontal siding. A small wood-frame privy was also moved nearby. In 1953, electricity came to the ranch, and the house, which had been wired for electricity since its construction, was converted from generator power. Sometime after this, the light-plant shed that used to house the generator was removed.

The orchards at the ranch continued to be used but began to diminish in size during this period. While both the upper and lower orchards continued to produce fruit, as trees died they were not replaced. The large garden across the highway was still used by the family, and for a short time in the 1950s, Charles planted another small garden across the highway between the main garden and the large corral.

Most of the structures associated with sheep ranching activities on the north side of the ranch complex continued to be used during the cattle era. The barn and sun shed south of the barn were used for the cattle operations, and the sun shed north of the barn, the shearing sheds and probably the Watchman’s Hut were used for storage.

The sheep corrals were made taller by adding extra boards or poles and continued to be used for cattle. The westernmost corral was divided into two sections and a cattle loading chute was added. The ice house appears to have been removed by the 1940s or early 1950s, and during the 1960s, the sun sheds generally fell into disrepair.

On the west side of the highway, the original sheep corral was used in the spring as temporary holding pasture for the cattle before they were moved to the summer grazing allotment. The fenced area south of this continued to be used for a garden and temporary pasture, although it was also used to grow alfalfa during the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s after an irrigation system was installed.

The Cants continued to use and maintain the irrigation ditches on both sides of the John Day River. Sometime during this period, possibly the 1940s, another cable car was added to facilitate a river crossing on the south end of the irrigated fields. The agricultural lands remained in hay production during the cattle ranching era, and the haystack yards were still used to store the cut hay, although it was still necessary to purchase extra hay to supplement what was grown on the ranch.

In the mid-1950s, improvements were again made to Highway 19 and the curve in the road just north of the ranch was straightened. The new road right-of-way encompassed a portion of the Cant's irrigation ditch and it had to be removed. The highway department compensated for this

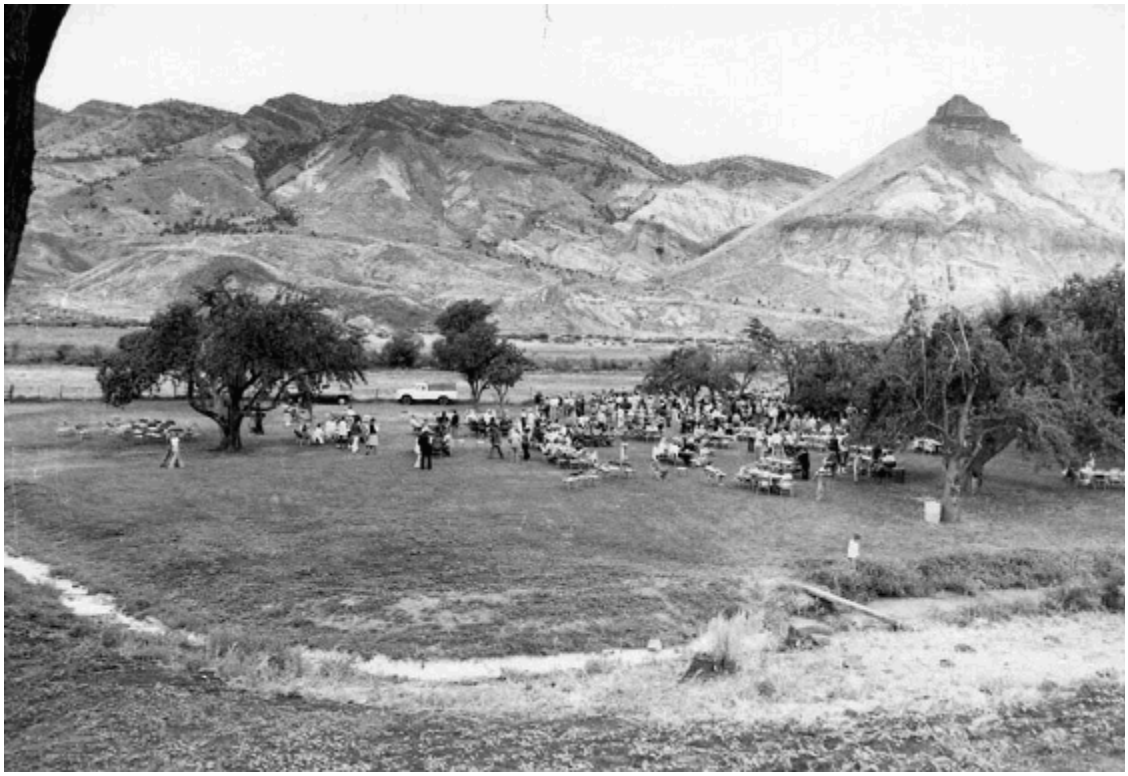
removal by installing a sprinkler system for the Morrison field, using water supplied from the river. The extra pipe from the construction of this sprinkler system was also used to irrigate the southernmost enclosure across the highway.

The first year or two after switching to cattle, the Cants took out a non-use grazing permit while they built up their cattle herd, then they started using their Aldrich Mountain allotment again for summer grazing land. Shortly after this, the Cants traded it for the Murderer's Creek allotment to help a rancher who owned the ranch adjacent to the Aldrich allotment so he would no longer have to drive his cattle a long distance. The Cants had continued to purchase property throughout their sheep and cattle ranching operations as they needed more grazing land to accommodate the increased numbers of livestock and to avoid over-using the land. By 1965, the Cant Ranch had grown to 6500 acres of deeded land plus 4500 acres of land that was leased from the Bureau of Land Management. At this time they were producing 500-600 head of cattle annually.

In the 1950s and 1960s, James and Elizabeth Cant continued to take part in ranching decisions, although Jim and Freda Cant gradually took on more responsibilities. When James and Elizabeth Cant died in 1972 and 1973, respectively, they were recognized by the community for the prominent role they played in the settlement of the John Day Valley. James Cant Sr. was remembered not only as a good business man and a well-respected sheep rancher, but for his outgoing personality and good sense of humor. Elizabeth was known for her hospitality, and the frequent help she extended to neighbors when they needed support during hard times. James was a member, and often a founder, of a number of businesses and community organizations including the Oregon Wool Grower's Association; the Grant County Stock-growers' Association; the Patrons of Husbandry, Grange # 627; and the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association. He also served as District Clerk for the local school district.

Jim Cant Jr. and Freda Cant continued to run the ranch until 1975 when the National Park Service purchased the Cant Ranch to be incorporated into John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

Main house (1976). Elms, black locusts, & white poplars enclose house. Visible are the post & wire fence, stone columns, lilacs and entrance walk. Bunk house behind house. Ranch hand in photo. (Unknown photographer, JODA archives, unknown neg. #.)



1978 dedication reception in lower orchard soon after acquisition by NPS. Some of the fruit trees have died, leaving gaps in the rows of trees. Field #1 is visible beyond the orchard. (Unknown photographer, JODA archives, neg. # 224 C.)

National Park Service Era: 1975 – Present

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument was established October 8, 1975 to preserve the nationally significant geological and paleontological resources of the John Day Basin. When the environmental statement for the authorization of the National Monument was prepared, it recommended that the Cant Ranch be purchased and that it should be "maintained as an integral part of the monument and would not be obliterated or substantially altered." Subsequently, the National Park Service (NPS) purchased 878 acres of the Cant Ranch which included the ranch complex and agricultural lands along the John Day River. Upon its purchase, the Cant Ranch was designated as the primary visitor contact point for the entire National Monument, and the Cant Ranch main house began serving as the park's Visitor Center, providing interpretive exhibits, limited visitor services, and offices for NPS personnel.

In 1976, the NPS prepared a Classified Structure Field Inventory Report for the ranch as a first step in determining the significance of the site and individual structures. This report initiated a number of changes to the ranch including an evaluation of condition, and recommendations for stabilization and restoration of significant structures, and removal of some structures and landscape features. Some of these changes included restoration of the exterior of the Cant Ranch House to its 1920s appearance.

The interior of the house was adapted for interpretive and administrative uses. The bunkhouse was restored and the interior adaptively reused as a paleontological laboratory and the log cabin nearby was rehabilitated as a fossil demonstration laboratory. The paleontological laboratory and fossil demonstration functions were removed from these buildings with the construction of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, leaving the historic buildings as interpretive exhibits at the Cant Ranch. The blacksmith shop was rehabilitated for use as the NPS maintenance workshop then later converted to a conference/ meeting/ training room. The barn and sheep shearing sheds were also restored to their 1920s appearance and used for storage. The Watchman's Hut, privy, chicken house, feed storage shed and small chicken incubation shed were stabilized and/or restored for use as interpretive exhibits. Buildings that were in ruins such as the garage, fuel storage shed, the old blacksmith shop, and hog pen and shed, were removed. Fences and corrals were stabilized or restored although the sheep corral north of the barn was torn down. The Cant's driveway and informal parking area was paved and a new parking lot created for visitors and staff. The original lawn at the Cant Ranch main house was greatly expanded to cover the entire yard, the lower orchard, upper orchard, and old corral area. The picket fence in the front yard was removed and most of the associated shrubs and flowers have disappeared over the years. The orchards were retained and interpreted, although until recently they were not well cared for.

In addition to the structures at the ranch, the agricultural operations were also recognized as a major contributing feature of the historic district. One vehicle for the preservation of the agricultural operations was NPS-38, "Historic Property Leasing Guideline," and Special Directive 82-12, "Policy on Historic Property Leases and Exchanges." In 1983, a National Register nomination for the Cant Ranch Historic District was prepared, in part, to facilitate the historic property leasing program at the monument, and in June of 1984, the Cant Ranch became the second agricultural land lease in the National Park Service. The lease program was implemented in an attempt to preserve the historic landscape character and agricultural operations of the historic district in addition to preserving the buildings at the ranch.

Since the establishment of the monument, the limitations of the ranch as both a visitor center/interpretive area for the geological and paleontological resources, and administrative offices have been recognized. The construction of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center in 2005 allowed the paleontological displays to be moved from the ranch complex to an area just outside the historic district. The main house and the Cant Ranch outbuildings are now focused on the interpretation of the ranching history. The main house now serves as the John Day Fossil Beds administration building, with visitor services and human settlement exhibits for the visiting public situated on its main floor.

Many of the treatments suggested in the CLR have been implemented at the historic district. See the "Treatment Section" of the CLR. The analysis and evaluation section of the CLI provides information on changes made to the historic district since the completion of the CLR in 1996.

Ranch complex (1985) taken from W side of the ranch. Note shade trees & residential cluster on right . Note work area on left . Field #1 is behind ranch complex and Field #4 is on the far side of John Day River. (J. Morris, JODA archives, neg. #7298.)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary: (see next page)

The analysis and evaluation of the Cant Ranch Historic District (Cant Ranch) is based on historical research and documentation of existing conditions in the study area. The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) builds on the efforts of the 1996 Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Much of the text of the CLI is from the CLR, with updates and additional information included where appropriate. By 2008, when the CLI effort began, the park had implemented the CLR's proposed treatments. The goal of the CLI is to document the existing condition of the cultural landscape as of 2008, reflecting changes that have taken place since the completion of the CLR in 1996, as well as providing additional information not included in the CLR. Because the 200-acre ranch is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the purpose of the evaluation is to supplement the existing documentation and to identify any previously unidentified landscape characteristics that contribute to the significance of the district.

There are three historic periods represented within the district including the Officer Homestead era (ca. 1890-1909), Cant Sheep Ranch era (1910-1946), and the Cant Cattle Ranch era (1946-1975). While both the ranch complex and the agricultural fields contain landscape resources from all three historic periods, the majority of structures and features relate to the sheep ranch era, 1910-1946. This is considered the primary period of significance. The Cant Sheep Ranch era and the Cant Cattle Ranch era are subsets of the period of significance established in the Cant Ranch Historic District National Register nomination (1910-1975).

Integrity Statement

The Cant Ranch retains the key patterns, relationships, and features that contribute to the historical integrity of the district and the ability of the property to convey its significance as an agricultural landscape. Although the entire 200-acre historic district is viewed as a single property, there are two areas that have distinct landscape characteristics. The first area is the ranch complex that is a combination of a residential and work area, which is composed of the main residence, the majority of structures associated with the sheep and cattle operations, historic orchards, circulation systems, fences, and spatial patterns reflecting historic land use. The second area includes the agricultural fields that extend along both sides of the John Day River through the small valley between Picture Gorge and Goose Rock, containing the fields and associated structures such as irrigation ditches, haystacks yards, cable car crossings, and Christina's Cabin. These two areas define the overall character of the property and together convey the significance of this agricultural landscape. The overall organization of the site, which was established early during the Officer Homestead era, has remained intact through subsequent eras. Especially significant is the division of the site into a concentrated work/ living area and a relatively large-scale agricultural operation along the John Day River, including construction of the two irrigation ditches and early irrigation systems for the orchard and fields.

The ranch, despite adaptations and additions to it by James Cant between 1910 and 1946 (and modified between 1946 and 1972), remains largely intact and retains a high degree of integrity. In addition to overall landscape organization and land use, landscape resources that contribute to the district include circulation features (primary entrance, walkways, and informal paths through the barnyard), vegetation

(elms around the house, lilacs and other ornamentals in the yard), historic structures including a variety of outbuildings, and a number of small-scale features (feed racks, cable cars, fences and gates). These landscape characteristics contribute to the district because they display a continuum of agricultural use through different eras and convey the historical agricultural trends of the local area.

The historic district maintains its early 20th century ranching design, typical of its location within the John Day River Valley. The features of the ranch complex have retained their clustered character, representing an efficient use of space. The historic ranch's thirst for water in the relatively dry climate of eastern Oregon is reflected in the design, with the living area clustered near a spring and two long irrigation ditches running along the agricultural fields. Individual features within the ranch complex were often moved and reused during the historic period, but the division of the ranch into a work area and living area was maintained. The placement of the fields in the relatively fertile soils along the river is reflected in the continued use of the fields for crop production in the present day. The layout of the orchards, the form of the fruit trees, and the placement of the orchards in the residential area near abundant water is reflected in the remaining fruit trees.

Historic materials and workmanship dating to early 20th century sheep ranching are retained with a few modifications and additions dating to the cattle ranching era. The buildings and structures of the ranch complex are vernacular in design and consist primarily of wood. The main house was the only structure that was not vernacular by design, but was based on several published plans. Generally, compatible materials and techniques have been used in the stabilization and rehabilitation of the existing historic features. The roads retain their simple rugged dirt road character. Substantial segments of the irrigation ditches have been filled, but the retained segments demonstrate the work involved in establishing a slight downhill grade to encourage water flow along a dirt ditch over long distances. The continued production of crops on the agricultural fields reflects the historic agricultural materials and workmanship. The orchard trees popular in the region in the late 19th and early 20th century reflect the remaining fruit trees. The individual fruit trees still retain the character of the historic pruning techniques necessary to establish the desired tree form of the period.

The setting of early 20th century ranching in the John Day River Valley has not been modified. Retained is the open agricultural fields enclosed by steep basalt escarpments. Very little modern development is visible within the confines of the historic district. The clustered ranch complex maintains its location below the imposing Sheep Rock. The ranch still retains the feeling of a working ranch with a retained ranch complex cluster and surrounding agricultural fields. This association with sheep ranching established during the early 20th century is maintained through the relationship of the landscape characteristics within the historic district. Overall, the landscape character of the historic district has been maintained with open agricultural fields embracing the John Day River and a core working and living area clustered near a spring marked by the a small riparian corridor just to the south of the living area.

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined for the purposes of the CLI as the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground,

vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

Historically, the Cant Ranch was physically structured and organized into three primary landscape areas including the main building complex (ranch complex), agricultural fields along the John Day River, and grazing lands (located outside the historic district boundaries) extending miles into the surrounding hills. The building complex, which was established during the Officer Homestead era, was the heart of the ranch and consisted of two small clusters of buildings. On the south side of the complex, just north of a natural spring and ravine, was a cluster of structures related to domestic agriculture and subsistence. During the Officer Homestead era, these structures included a house, log cabin, cellar, shed, and fruit orchard. Structures located on the north side of the complex related more to the working character of the ranch and consisted of a barn, workshop, chicken coop, and corrals.

The existing spatial organization demonstrates the high priority placed on access to water during the historic period. The ranch complex was sited near a spring and the agricultural fields are located along the John Day River.

During the early development of the ranch, all large-scale agricultural operations were located on the west side of the John Day River and extended from the confluence of Rock Creek and the John Day River, to a field below the ranch complex. Grazing lands were located in the hills and small canyons that surrounded the ranch complex and agricultural fields.

As operations expanded at the ranch during the Cant eras, many of these early patterns remained in place. For example, the location and function of the two original building clusters established by Officer were maintained. At the height of development, the southern building cluster consisted of the main house, a log cabin, a chicken coop, a bunk house, and an orchard. The north side of the complex consisted of structures associated with sheep ranching including the sheep barn and sheep shearing pens, several corrals, sun sheds, and the Watchman's Hut. By the early 1920s, the ranch site was bordered on the west by the John Day Highway (Highway 19) and two temporary holding pastures (one that contained a large garden) were located on the west side of the highway. The large-scale agricultural operations at the ranch also expanded during this period when the Titanic Ditch was constructed in 1912 and new agricultural fields were established on the east side of the John Day River. Grazing lands extended many miles into the mountains. Landscape organization during the cattle ranching era remained essentially the same, although some outbuildings and small-scale features were moved, adapted for cattle ranching operations, or in some cases, removed altogether.

The NPS has maintained these patterns of organization through preservation of significant building clusters, individual structures, landscape patterns and relationships, vegetation, and small-scale features such as troughs and fences. One considerable change to the historic district was the addition of the maintenance area, a cluster of buildings, just to the north of the ranch complex, allowing the park to move maintenance activities out of the ranch complex. The NPS strategically sited the cluster on the far side of a hill and below the highway grade to

diminish its visual impact on the historic landscape. Also, the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center constructed in 2005 was sited on the far side of Highway 19 just outside the historic district. The paleontology center can be seen by visitors approaching the Cant Ranch along State Highway 19, but the one story building was found in the environmental analysis to have no adverse effect on the landscape's overall integrity. The NPS has also relocated fences and corrals to reflect their historic locations.

Today, the overall organization of the property reflects historic patterns and contributes to the integrity of the district.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Ranch complex. The main house and ornamental trees dominate the residential area on the right. The sheep barn and corrals dominate the work area on the left. Fields #1 & #4 are visible beyond the ranch complex. (PWRO staff 2008)

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems refer to the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape.

The success of many ranches in eastern Oregon depended in large part on the proximity to, and use of, natural resources. Particularly critical in the John Day Valley's arid conditions was the availability of water for domestic purposes and for irrigation, and access to suitable summer and winter grazing lands for livestock. Both of these resources were fundamental in the establishment of the Officer Homestead and the subsequent development of the Cant Ranch over a seventy year period.

The John Day River through Picture Gorge runs into a relatively narrow river valley, contained and defined on the east and west by ridges and steep slopes. Alluvial soils along the river terraces historically provided lands suitable for crops and grazing livestock, the river itself providing all the water necessary for maintaining irrigated fields associated with the ranch. The structural complex of the ranch, sited and established by Floyd Officer in the 1890s, took advantage of these natural systems. The topography along the river also allowed for the establishment of an extensive flood irrigation system consisting of a main ditch at the base of the slopes and lateral ditches running into the adjacent fields.

The main house and early structures associated with the ranch were sited about two miles north of Picture Gorge on the widest portion of the river valley, which could accommodate buildings, corrals, barn yard, orchard, and garden. This complex was located above the flood plain, about seven-hundred-feet west of the John Day River, next to a natural spring and located on the lower slope of a hill protecting the house from severe winter storms. As the ranch expanded over the next seventy years to take advantage of the rich floodplain soils, these natural features and resources continued to influence land use and structural development. Historically, livestock was grazed on lands along the river and on the hillsides east and west of the complex, during the winter. In the summer, livestock was grazed on mountain lands within a few days travel from the ranch.

Historically, the dominant native plant communities of the Columbia Basin Province, which includes much of eastern Oregon, consisted of steppe and shrub-steppe communities. Prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans and their livestock, fire and grazing exerted minimal influence on these communities. However, when cattle and sheep were introduced to the area in the mid-1800s and range fires (caused by settlers) became more common, native vegetation throughout the region was altered dramatically. One change was the temporary reduction of the two major shrub species, big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata) and bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata), due to fire. Another change was the replacement of native perennial grasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass (Agropyron spicatum) and Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis), which cannot adapt to heavy unregulated grazing, with alien grasses, which tend to increase under heavy grazing. The native plant community of the Sheep Rock unit of John Day Fossil Beds was originally the big sagebrush/ bluebunch wheatgrass (Artemisia tridentata/ Agropyron spicatum) community.

Today, due to decades of grazing, the dominant vegetation communities in the lower elevations of the Sheep Rock Unit have been replaced by big sagebrush/ Sandberg's bluegrass (Artemisia tridentata/ Poa sandbergii) community. Additional plant communities include the agricultural lands of the Cant Ranch, riparian, greasewood/ cheatgrass (Sarcobatus vermiculatus/ Bromus tectorum), and shadscale/ Sandberg's bluegrass (Atriplex confertifolia/ Poa sandbergii) communities. The riparian vegetation includes, willow (Salix spp.), chokecherry (Prunus virginiana), black hawthorne (Crataegus douglasii), and black cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa).

Development of the ranch and the land use patterns established by the Officer family and expanded by the Cants, reflect the successful adaptation and use of the natural resource systems including natural topography in the siting of primary structures and landscape organization, the use of arable lands along the river for agriculture, wood concentrated near springs and other water sources for the construction of structures, water resources for crops and domestic use, and grassland vegetation for grazing livestock. With the exception of the native grassland communities that have been altered by decades of grazing, the large-scale natural systems remain intact and provide a physical framework for the historic district.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

The John Day River cuts through the center of the historic district. The ranch complex is upslope and out of the floodplain. Field #1, between the river and the ranch complex, takes advantage of the deposited soils of the floodplain. (PWRO staff 2008)

Land Use

Land use is defined as the principal activities in the landscape that have formed, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human activity.

Land use patterns at the Cant Ranch historically correspond to activities associated with the three phases of development in ranch operations: subsistence agriculture, sheep ranching, and cattle ranching.

Each of these uses was physically tied to, and was built upon, the previous development and structure at the site. In addition to these three general land uses, the ranch was also the home site for both the Officer and Cant families, occupying the south side of the complex. Early in the development of the site, a garden and orchard were established to provide some level of self-sufficiency prior to the establishment of a road to the ranch. Early buildings also reflected basic needs providing shelter and accommodating functions of the working ranch. As the ranch grew during the Cant eras, these land use patterns were maintained and in some cases, expanded within the physical framework established during the Officer era. For example,

agricultural lands along the John Day River were expanded to the east side, doubling the amount of land under cultivation. The structural complex of the ranch also expanded significantly with the addition of several new buildings and corrals. Most significant in terms of land use is that this expansion occurred within the framework of existing land use patterns and functions. These land-use patterns are evident within the historic district today.

Substantial portions of Fields #1 – 4 are used to raise hay and alfalfa, reflecting a continuum of historic land use of the fields. The continued irrigation of the fields allows the historic district to maintain its water rights and exhibits the historic use of the land. Also, the two orchard remnants demonstrate that fruit growing was possible in the John Day Valley.

The irrigation ditches and agricultural fields were used and maintained throughout the sheep and cattle ranching eras. Ranching operations continued even after being purchased by the NPS, on a limited basis, up until December 1982. Some agricultural activities continued when the monument began participating in the Historic Property Lease Program in 1984 in an effort to maintain the historic use and appearance of the agricultural features of the Cant Ranch. This lease consisted of seventy-four acres (four fields) of irrigated land to be used for hay production and for interpretive purposes. The lease program is still underway.

The ranch complex itself is an interpretive landscape allowing visitors to passively experience the ranch as established during the historic period. The newly constructed trails allow pedestrian access to the primary features of the ranch complex as well as the John Day River.

The construction of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center outside the historic district allowed the interpretation of paleontology to be moved away from the ranch complex so that the focus of Cant Ranch would be on the historic agricultural landscape. Administration offices are still located on the second floor of the main house. To the north and out of view of the ranch complex is the newly-constructed, non-contributing maintenance area where most maintenance activities (workshop, work area, storage) are concentrated. The construction of the maintenance area allowed the park to move the maintenance hub out of the ranch complex.

Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

The isolation of the ranch between 1900 and 1919 was due in large part to the primitive and difficult access to the site. During this period the primary road to the site was a rough wagon road that extended from the Mascall Ranch, located south of Picture Gorge, winding behind Sheep Rock up and around Windy Point, and down Deer Gulch to the east side of the John Day River. Then the road turned back south along the river until it crossed to the west side just below the ranch complex. During the early days of the Cant Ranch, and possibly earlier, there was also a county wagon road that originated about a mile-and-a-half west of Dayville, passed up over Rudio Mountain and down to the east side of the John Day River about three miles north of the Cant Ranch (at a site that became the Munro Ranch). There was also a trail called the Lone Pine Trail that was sometimes used to travel around the west side of Picture Gorge.

This trail extended over the hill west of the ranch complex, crossed behind Picture Gorge, and down to Rock Creek.

In the early to mid-1920s, the isolated nature of the Cant Ranch essentially ended when the rugged foot trail through the gorge was finally replaced by the John Day Highway (Highway 19), though only a gravel and dirt road. The highway then became the primary route to the ranch with improvements continuing from about 1930 onward when it was paved and realigned.

Circulation within the ranch complex and to the agricultural fields during the Cant Ranch sheep and cattle eras consisted of dirt roads, cable cars, informal paths, and walkways around the house. With the construction of Highway 19 in the 1920s, main access into the complex was from the highway just past the Cant house where a gate opened onto a dirt driveway that ran past the garage. Before the highway was improved, when the road and house were on the same grade, formal access into the house was from the west through the stone gates in front of the house. After highway improvements, entry was along a walkway located on the north side of the house.

In front (west) of the main house, a light trace of the old road remains along the western fence line as well as the walkway leading up to the front of the house. From previous research, it appears that the old road (replaced by the highway) continued on the same alignment as the existing road between the overflow/oversize parking lot and the maintenance area. From the maintenance area the road continues north where it jogs over to a second ford of the John Day River. This second section of the old road is still used and maintained, though the road appears to have been improved and widened substantially, losing its historic character.

Access to the agricultural fields on the east side of the river was achieved by fording the river, or by a cable car located south of the ranch complex. A popular spot for crossing the river was located at the gravel bar at the bend in the river below (northeast) the barn. During the 1940s, another cable car was constructed at the south end of the agricultural fields.

Today, several features of the historic circulation system are still used. Primary access to the ranch is, as it has been since the 1920s, from the John Day Highway (located outside the historic district). Historic circulation routes within the district include the entrance to the complex (now the NPS visitor parking lot), informal routes through the barnyard, and the two cable car crossings to the east side of the river. While the dirt road from the barn to the river that dates from the Officer Homestead is currently not in use, the corral gate at the head of the road and the gravel bar where the river was forded at low water, still exist. The east side of the river can also be reached from a dirt road originating at the Goose Rock Bridge which is on Highway 19 about one mile north of the ranch complex. This dirt road heads south along the river on what appears to be part of the pre-Highway 19 main route to the ranch (road from Dayville via the Mascall Ranch, around Windy Pt., etc.)

Though the John Day Highway (Highway 19) was important to the development of Cant Ranch

from its construction in the 1920s, the NPS does not have legally enforceable interest in the highway and therefore the highway is excluded from the historic district.

Two cable car crossings were installed over the John Day River during the period of significance to allow access to the two fields on the far side of the River. The lower cable car crossing (constructed in the 1930s) provided access to field #4 from field #1. A second cable car crossing (upper cable car crossing) was installed in the 1940s to provide access between fields #2 and #3. For more information on the cable car crossings see the "Small Scale Features" section of the CLR.

River Road (Ruin)
The road from the sheep barn to the John Day River heading east from the ranch complex work area is no longer used and any traces have been obliterated through repeated plowings of Field #1. Only the corral gate remains.

Entrance Walkway #1 (Contributing)
Constructed at some point between 1920 and 1929, the linear concrete paved walkway leading to the main house from the west through the stone columns provided a pedestrian connection between the original old road and the primary entrance to the house. From archival photographs it appears that the entrance walkway was paved with concrete during the period of significance. Entrance walkway #1 is a remnant circulation path that reflects the primary pedestrian access to the main house during the 1920s.

Entrance Walkway #2 (Contributing)
The second concrete walkway leads to the main house from the entrance driveway to the north. This linear walkway was added after the construction of the John Day Highway (1920s). The highway and later improvements to the highway moved the primary parking area and entrance to the house to the northern side away from the earlier entrance walkway #1. From archival photographs, it appears that the entrance walkway was paved with concrete during the period of significance. Entrance walkway #2 contributes to our understanding of how pedestrian circulation changed over time at the ranch.

Old Road (Non-Contributing)
Segments of the old road, replaced by the John Day Highway, remain in the vicinity of the ranch complex. The segment of the old road running in front of the house is in a ruined state, but the road trace assists in conveying why the stone columns and primary entrance are located on the west side of the house. A second segment of the old road has retained its location heading north from the work area of the ranch complex, but it has been considerably altered through recent improvements including a substantial widening of the road. Though sections of the old road are retained, they are either in a ruined state, or have lost their historic character through modernization, and thus the road does not contribute to the historic district.

Entrance Driveway (NPS visitor parking lot) (Non-Contributing)

Though sharing its original location, the entrance driveway has lost its historic character in its expansion and conversion into a parking lot and no longer contributes to the historic district. The location of the entrance driveway assists in interpreting the historic landscape.

Overflow/Oversize Vehicles Parking Lot (Non-Contributing)
A gravel surfaced parking area has been installed northwest of the sheep barn. The rectangular parking area radiates from the location of the old road. The parking lot is enclosed by a dry stacked boulder edging reaching a height of approximately two-feet with large rocks placed intermittently along the top of the stacked boulders. The overflow/oversize parking lot is a contemporary addition and does not contribute to the historic district and its location on the far side of a hill and its simple character minimizes the impact on the historic character of the ranch complex.

Entrance Walkway #3 (Non-Contributing)
A third entrance walkway was constructed soon after the NPS acquired Cant Ranch in 1976. Entrance walkway #3 is a linear concrete paved walkway that provides access to the earlier primary entrance of the house on the west side from the parking lot located along the entrance driveway. As a contemporary addition, the walkway does not contribute to the historic district, but its character is compatible with the historic entrance walkways of the ranch complex.

Interpretive Trails (Non-Contributing)
After 2000, the NPS constructed three pedestrian trails to allow passive recreational access to the primary features of the ranch complex and the John Day River. The River Trail is a quarter mile long path leading from the main house to the John Day River where a picnic table, bench and interpretive panel are clustered underneath a large Asiatic elm tree. The trail passes the upper orchard, the sheep barn, the irrigation ditch, the lower orchard, and Field #1. Branching off the River Trail is the barn trail (constructed in 2006), a 400-foot long path that leads to the sheep barn passing the farm machinery display area and the sheep sheering pens. Both the river and barn trails are approximately four-feet wide and were constructed with a mixture of 1/4" gravel and pit reject (loose soil) bounded with six-inch by six-inch railroad ties and dimensional lumber. The addition of the loose soil in the surface material allows the color of the trail to blend in with the bare soil of the work area and the associated paths and roads. Both trails lay lightly on the topography and do not present a major visual intrusion in the district. A third trail, the 200-foot long bunk house trail, leads from the main house parking lot to the bunk house, passing the main house and log cabin. The bunk house trail is approximately four-feet wide and has a brick paver surface. The brick paver surface appears overly formal for the vernacular agricultural landscape. Although the brick design has a different visual character than the other trails within the district, the trail is compatible with the pedestrian circulation system within the residential area of the district. Along each trail is a series of interpretive panels interpreting the cultural and natural history of Cant Ranch. As contemporary additions, the three trails do not contribute to the historic district, but the river and barn trails were constructed from gravel with soil additives to harmonize the trail surface with the exposed soil of the work area.

Barn Road #1 (Undetermined)
An informal dirt road leads from the workshop along the south side of the sheep barn, past the primary barn doors, to the river road located northeast of the barn. The location of this road may reflect the historic location of a work area road, constrained by the location of the corral gates established during the sheep ranching era. Further research would be necessary to determine if the road follows an historic alignment. This road connected to the river road which provided access to the fields and stock during the period of significance. The road continues northwest from the river road towards a corral gate that dates to the cattle ranching era.

Barn Road #2 (Undetermined)
A second informal dirt road leads north from the workshop to the overflow/oversize vehicles parking lot. The location of this road through the work area is constrained in location by the corral gates established during the sheep ranching era. Further research would be necessary to determine if this road follows an historic alignment.

Field Roads (Undetermined)
Several simple single lane dirt roads provide access to the agricultural fields of the historic district. Further research would be necessary to determine if these roads follow historic road alignments. The field roads often run along the outer edge of fields, allowing for large unbroken expanses of crops. Though the roads reflect the likely simple dirt road character of the historic period, they will be considered non contributing unless future research indicates that the field roads reflect their historic locations.

Summary

The circulation system of the Cant Ranch Historic District consists of roads, driveways, walkways and cable cars. The circulation patterns established during the historic period have been retained along with the simple construction techniques. In general, the remaining circulation features contribute to the historic district and aid in conveying the circulation system as established during the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Entrance walkway #1

Feature Identification Number: 135158

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entrance walkway #2

Feature Identification Number: 135160

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Old Road

Feature Identification Number: 135162

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Entrance driveway (visitor parking lot)

Feature Identification Number: 135164

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Overflow/oversize vehicles parking lot

Feature Identification Number: 135166

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Entrance walkway #3

Feature Identification Number: 135168

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Interpretive trails

Feature Identification Number: 135170

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Barn road #1

Feature Identification Number: 135172

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Barn road #2

Feature Identification Number: 135174

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Field roads

Feature Identification Number: 135176

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Entrance walkway #1, the primary pedestrian access to the main house until the John Day Highway was constructed in the 1920s. Note the stone columns (Park # CR-17; LCS # 100426; contributing) and lilacs which framed the entry gate. (PWRO Staff 2008)

Vegetation

Vegetation refers to the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced into the landscape.

Early ranches in eastern Oregon and the John Day Valley were typically isolated, self-sustaining operations. The need for domestic produce and livestock feed had a dramatic effect on existing natural vegetation as irrigated fields, orchards, gardens, and ornamental materials were introduced and slowly altered the natural landscape. The Officer Homestead era marked the beginning of the introduction of agricultural and ornamental species to the southern portion of Butler Basin.

There are three types of vegetation related to historic land use that define the cultural landscape of the ranch. These include: native plant communities (see the description under located in the “Natural Systems and Features” section of the CLI); agricultural resources such as cultivated fields and grazing land, orchards, and gardens; and ornamental plants around the main house.

Agriculture

Vegetation associated with agricultural operations includes fruit orchards, gardens, the establishment and cultivation of fields, and adjacent grazing lands.

Orchards
The first orchard on the ranch was planted by Officer and was located downslope (east) of the log cabin. This is referred to as the lower orchard. Based on existing trees, it consisted of apple, peach, pear, apricot, and plum trees, and was laid out in an east-west grid pattern with trees planted about twenty-five-feet on center (about forty-five trees). The Officers also had a large garden although its location is unknown. During the sheep ranching era, the Cant family continued to maintain and use the lower orchard and they planted a new fruit orchard south of the barn. This was referred to as the upper orchard. It included apple, peach, and plum trees which were planted in a three by nine grid pattern with trees approximately twenty-feet on center (about twenty-seven trees). Although both orchards were used and maintained to some degree during the cattle ranching era, they began to decline during this time.

In addition to the orchards, self-sufficiency was enhanced by the establishment of two gardens during the sheep ranching era. A small garden was located south of the upper orchard; it was cultivated up until about 1930. A larger garden (located outside the historic district) that the Cants continued to use into the 1970s was located southwest of the ranch complex across the John Day Highway.

Since the National Park Service (NPS) purchased the ranch, the orchards have been used for interpreting life at the ranch. Some maintenance of the orchards have been carried out such as the removal of dying trees and pruning dead limbs. Today, only about one-third of the original trees still exist in each orchard. In recent years, approximately 40 new trees have been planted in the lower orchard, 11 of which have died. The newly planted trees follow the planting pattern established by Officer and maintained by the Cant family. The new trees are of the same genus as the original plants with the exception being the addition of a cherry tree in the lower orchard. No new trees have been planted in the diminished upper orchard. Three fruit trees have recently been planted to the west of the workshop in what was historically a corral and where there is no historic precedent for fruit trees.

The existing fruit trees located in the upper and lower orchards includes: Apple, Apple Rootstock, Black Gilliflower Apple, Crabapple, Gravenstein Apple, Grimes Golden Apple, McIntosh Apple, Newton-Pippin Apple, Snow Apple, Spitzenburg Apple, Winesap Apple, Yellow Transparent Apple, Apricot, Cherry, George IV Peach, Lambert Cherry, Plum, Anjou Pear, Bartlett Pear, Bosc Pear, and Pear. See the ranch complex Site Plan for the locations of the fruit trees including an indication of which trees date to the historic period.

Though some of the fruit trees in the orchards have lost numerous limbs, the form of the individual trees established during the period of significance can still be perceived in the

remaining trees. The trees are consistent with the orchards of 1881–1945 when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) educated a generation of orchardists. The trees are short headed compared to the earlier golden age of pomology and they reflect the lollipop form recommended by the USDA. The lower orchard is in fair to good condition when compared to the condition of other orchards of the same period retained in parks in the Western United States.

The lower and upper orchards reflect the location and use of orchards during the historic period. The rectilinear rows and columns of trees reflect the historic planting patterns. The addition of new fruit trees in the lower orchard aids in the interpretation of the geometry of the original orchard.

Cultivated Fields and Grazing Land

The use of native grasslands for grazing livestock and the cultivation of fields began during the Officer Homestead era. Cultivated fields were primarily planted with hay for livestock feed. These fields were located along the main irrigation ditch which was constructed by the Officers on the west side of the John Day River. Two cultivated fields were located near the ranch complex, the large field east of the complex, and in 1902, there was a field southwest of the complex (the site of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center today). The exact locations and sizes of the other fields are not known but it is likely that they were the same fields used later by the Cants since the only arable land was limited to the narrow river plain. The exact location of grazing land used by Officer is also unknown, although, it is likely the land adjacent to the ranch complex and fields were used.

Cultivated fields doubled in size during the sheep ranching era. In addition to the fields on the west side of the river, the Cants began cultivating new fields on the east side of the river with the construction the Titanic Ditch in 1912. Alfalfa was the primary crop cultivated at the ranch although some feed grains were planted. The Cants usually allowed the alfalfa to reseed itself for two years using a harrow in the spring to lightly loosen the soil and tear up the weeds. On the third year, the fields were turned over and barley and oats were grown for a year as a filler crop. Then alfalfa was sown again and the cycle repeated. During the growing season there were two to three cuts of hay, with each crop varying in texture and quality. The first crop was coarser and had more weeds, the second was finer and had less weeds. If they started early enough in the season a third crop was grown, with some grain seed added in because of the shorter growing time. The sheep preferred the second and third cuts and the hay was stacked according to the quality and cutting order to keep them identifiable.

Field #1, which is due east of the ranch complex, is approximately seventeen acres which have been planted with alfalfa (Variety: Pioneer 54Q25). Irrigation at Field #1 was converted from flood irrigation to overhead sprinkler irrigation circa 1998. The change to sprinkler irrigation is reversible, but not compatible with the historic use of flood irrigation at Cant Ranch, though the continued production of crops at Field #1 helps maintain the historic agricultural field character established during the historic period. Field #2 consists of approximately twelve acres and in

2007 was planted with a grass hay mixture which consists of Premium Livestock Pasture Mix (Potomac orchard grass at 19.17%, pizza orchard grass at 17.52%, fleet meadow brome at 19.59%, bull tall fescue at 9.83%, treasure timothy at 9.98%, tetraploid perennial ryegrass at 14.72%, and max annual ryegrass at 4.95%). Flood irrigation, the historic irrigation technique, is still used at Field #2 and Field #3. Field #3 (approximately 29 acres) and Field #4 (approximately 16 acres) were seeded with a mixture of hay seed in the late 1990s. Historically, Field #3 and #4 were irrigated by the Titanic Ditch. Sometime after 1990, the Titanic Ditch was abandoned and new irrigation ditches were established on the east side of the John Day River in Field #3. Field #4 is irrigated by overhead sprinkler system.

Ornamental Vegetation

Ornamental plant materials were a common addition to early ranches in eastern Oregon used for both functional purposes, such as shade and wind breaks, and for aesthetic enjoyment. Commonly introduced trees and shrubs included black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), white poplar (Populus alba cv. ‘nivea’), Lombardy poplar (Populus nigra), and lilacs (Syringa spp.). In the 1920s and 1930s, elms (Ulmus spp.), and Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) trees became popular. This plant palette created a familiar and distinct visual appearance for ranches in the area, an appearance that is still evident today at many older ranches throughout the region.

At the Officer Homestead, ornamental species historically included white poplar and black locust trees (no longer exist) which were planted around the house, and two lilac (Syringa vulgaris) shrubs (no longer exist) which were planted behind (east of) the house.

Documentation suggests the Cants retained many if not all of the Officer's black locust and white poplar trees and expanded these ornamental plantings to include at least ten Asiatic elms (Ulmus pumila), a globe locust (Robinia pseudoacacia cv. ‘Umbraculifera’) (no longer exists), a "heavenly palm" (species unknown) tree (no longer exists), and an almond (Prunus dulcis) tree (no longer exists) that were all planted around the house. By the mid-1920s, several large Lombardy poplars were located along the John Day Highway about a mile north of Picture Gorge and another large one was located down by the lower orchard. Ornamental shrubs planted at the house included lilac, spirea (Spirea spp.), juniper (Juniperus spp.) (no longer exists), honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.) (no longer exists), and holly (Ilex spp.) (no longer exists). In addition, there were flower beds (no longer exist) on each side of the walkway (with a two-foot strip of lawn in between the bed and sidewalk). Flowers in the planting beds included iris, peony, and rose. In addition to trees and shrubs, the Cants also installed an irrigation system and lawn for the front yard and part of the north and south side yards. Maintenance of the landscape included mowing the lawn with a push mower and heavy pruning, or pollarding trees surrounding the house. The tree pollarding, which was common on ranches in the John Day Valley at the time, was practiced to keep large branches from breaking and falling and was thought to help maintain the health of the tree.

During the cattle ranching era, the ornamental landscape at the house was maintained. A few more shrubs were planted, and as mature or damaged trees were removed, they were usually not replaced. Also, the earlier, more systematic pollarding of elm trees declined during the later years of the ranch.

Since the NPS purchased the ranch, some of the ornamental trees and shrubs were retained around the house, although several in poor condition have since been removed. For example, because the elm trees are no longer pollarded, safety concerns about weakened limbs resulted in the removal of some trees and close monitoring of remaining trees. Some of the elms that were removed have been replaced with trees not commonly planted at ranches. The surviving ornamental trees that enclosed the south, west and north sides of the main house include two Asiatic elms and a white poplar. To the south of the main house is a riparian corridor that includes six white poplar trees dating to the historic period.

Trees that were planted by the NPS to replace historic ornamental trees enclosing the main house include three fairview maples and two red maples. These recently planted trees are not typical of ranches in the region during the period of significance nor do they reflect the growth habit, form, shape, texture, and mass of the historic trees they replaced. These contemporary trees were not planted in the same location as the historic elm trees. The contemporary trees were planted along the same fence line which aids in maintaining the tree-lined enclosure associated with the historic period.

Only a few of the original shrubs (lilac and spirea) remain today and small flower beds along the front walkway and in front of the house are planted seasonally. Two lilacs, surviving from the historic period, frame the entrance gate to the west of the main house, which was the primary entrance to the house until the John Day Highway was constructed in the 1920s. A third lilac, dating to the historic period, is located along the west façade of the main house. Spirea located at the southwest corner of the main house is in its historic location, though apparently cut back at some point to encourage new growth. The lawn at the Cant house has been enlarged beyond the boundaries of the historic lawn and now encompasses the entire southern portion of the ranch complex, which is the primary visitor interpretive-use area.

In 1988, the park planted three dawn redwoods (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) in the riparian corridor located to the south of the main house. These trees, the same species as “Oregon’s State Fossil,” were planted to interpret the fossil record associated with the Park. The trees were planted amongst riparian vegetation and in this location they do not substantially alter the historic spatial organization.

Summary

The Officer Homestead laid the foundation for the existing patterns (location of fields, orchard, and ornamental plants). Features from the Officer era that still exist today include cultivated fields (Field #1 and #2, west side of the John Day River), the lower orchard, native riparian

vegetation along the spring corridor (cottonwoods), and some ornamental vegetation (white poplars). Vegetative features dating from the Cant's occupation that are present today include the upper orchard, cultivated fields (Field #3 and #4, east side of the John Day River) and ornamental plants (elms, lilacs, spirea).

The cultivated fields, native grasslands (grazing), orchards, gardens, and ornamental plants at the Cant Ranch were all significant features in the cultural landscape and played a critical role in the development of a self-sustaining and successful ranch. Although the historic character of some of these features has changed, the remaining vegetation is an integral part of the cultural landscape and contributes to our understanding of how the ranch complex developed and functioned over time.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Upper orchard

Feature Identification Number: 135184

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lower orchard

Feature Identification Number: 135186

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Lower orchard (contributing) with rows of fruit trees dating to the Officer Homestead era. Note the new fruit trees planted by the NPS to recreate the rows that existed during the period of significance. (PWRO staff 2008)

Buildings and Structures

The primary structures at the ranch include buildings and irrigation ditches. With the exception of the main house, which was a design based on a pattern book, the majority of the buildings on the site represent a vernacular style architecture that was typical of the John Day Valley.

The building and structure histories and descriptions were extracted from the 1996 Cant Ranch Historic District Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) authored by Terri Taylor and Cathy Gilbert. The histories and descriptions were modified to reflect any changes taking place since the completion of the CLR. The List of Classified Structures (LCS) occasionally offers a different history than the version described in the CLR. These evaluations were conducted independently of each other. The CLR was performed later and was more thorough than the initial LCS so in most cases, where the LCS and CLR differ, the CLR version of the history was selected for the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI). There are a few exceptions where the LCS history was selected over the CLR history for various reasons which are described in the text.

Buildings

The ranch complex during the Officer Homestead era consisted of seven vernacular style buildings including the house, log cabin, cellar (feed storage shed), chicken coop, barn, workshop, and one unidentified building. With the exception of the log cabin, those buildings were simple wood-frame structures with gable or shed roofs. Today, the log cabin and the cellar are the only two buildings surviving from this period. The log cabin is still located on its original site, but the cellar which was adapted and reused by the Cants, has been moved twice.

When the Cants first moved to the site in 1910 they continued using several of the existing structures. However, starting in 1917 numerous new buildings were constructed and most of the early buildings constructed by Officer were either removed, adapted for new uses, or moved to fill new functions. During the height of the sheep ranching operations (the early to mid-1930s) there were at least seventeen buildings at the ranch complex. These included the main house and garage, bunk house, log cabin (Officer era), feed storage shed (Officer era cellar), privy, chicken coop, hog pen, light plant shed, sheep barn, old blacksmith shop, Watchman's Hut, three sun sheds, sheep shearing pens, Christina's Cabin, and an ice house. The main house and garage were the only buildings that were painted. Seven buildings constructed during this period still remain on the site: the main house, sheep barn, sheep shearing pens, chicken coop, Watchman's Hut, bunk house, and Christina's Cabin.

When the ranch changed from sheep to cattle, many of the existing structures at the ranch were adapted to accommodate cattle-raising operations. During the 1950s some changes occurred that included the construction of new buildings, and the relocation of others. Much of this new construction can be attributed to Charles Cant who had returned to the ranch to live for a short time. Two buildings constructed during this period, the workshop (blacksmith shop) and the incubation shed (shed), remain on the site.

When the NPS purchased the Cant Ranch in 1976, the site became the primary developed zone for John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and included two structures from the Officer Homestead era, seven buildings from the sheep ranching era, and two from the cattle ranching era. Most of the remaining buildings at the ranch were stabilized, restored to their historic appearance, or removed. The garage, fuel storage shed, old blacksmith shop (ruins), and hog pen and shed (ruins) were removed. Today, there are eleven historic buildings at the ranch.

Main House (Park # CR-4; LCS # 023381) (Contributing)
Constructed between 1917 and 1918, the main house is a two and one-half story, 40-foot by 45-foot house built by two carpenters, Andrew Cress and Clarence Bisbee. The design was based on several design plans from the "Radford American Homes," published in 1903 by the Radford Architectural Company of Chicago, Illinois. The house has shiplap siding, a cedar-shingled hipped roof, and porches along the east and west elevations and halfway along the north and south. As designed, on the first floor there was a central stairway running east to west, a living room, dining room, kitchen, parlor, bedroom, and storage space. The second floor

had six bedrooms and a bath, and the third floor was a large open attic. The house was heated by three big wood stoves and a wood cook stove in the kitchen. Power for the house and ranch was provided by a 110 volt Kohler light-plant (generator) that was initially located in the log cabin. The lumber for the house was special ordered from several local mills. The exterior of the house was painted white with green trim and in the interior the ceilings were painted a blue and white color combination that Mrs. Cant had mixed. Recognized as a local landmark after its construction, the design for the house was said to have been influential in the design of three other ranch houses in the area.

Today, the main house serves as the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument administration building, with visitor services and settlement exhibits for the visiting public situated on its main floor. The exterior of the house was restored to its 1920 appearance and the interior adapted for NPS interpretive displays, NPS administrative offices, and visitor facilities.

Sheep Barn (Park # CR-1; LCS # 100275) (Contributing) and Sheep Shearing Pens (Park # CR-3; LCS # 100277) (Contributing)
Constructed circa the 1920s, the sheep barn is a 66-foot by 120-foot, one and one-half-story wood-frame structure with vertical board siding, a cedar-shingled gable roof, and sliding door entrances on the east and west sides. Historically the interior contained individual sheep pens along the north side, horse and mule stalls, a tackroom, and milking stations on the southwest side. A loft in the southeast corner was used to store grain, and the loose hay was stacked in the center of the west half of the barn. The sheep shearing pens, which ran all along the north wall of the barn, were called “Sheep Alley.” The pens for ewes and single lambs were located along the wall, and the larger pens that were used for ewes with twins were located on the aisle. Outside, on the northwest side of the barn was a chute for loading sheep which no longer exists.

The sheep shearing pens are contained in an open-walled wood frame structure that extended north from a door located at the north end of the barn. The 20-foot by 60-foot structure has a cedar-shingled gable roof and is divided into a waiting aisle on the west side, then shearing stalls, and a main aisle. The shearing equipment was first powered by a one-cylinder engine, then a Fordson tractor. The sheep shearing pens are among the best preserved of their type in the area. The barn and sheep shearing sheds have been restored to their 1920s appearance and are used for storing NPS and ranching materials and interpreting the history of the ranch.

Log Cabin (Park # CR-10; LCS # 023380) (Contributing)
Constructed at some point between 1895 and 1900, the 12’4” x 16’10” log cabin is a one-story, one room structure with a cedar shingle gable roof. The cabin was part of the Officer Homestead. According to the 1988 Historic American Buildings Survey, the log cabin was built elsewhere, floated down the John Day River, and placed on its present site in 1900 (this finding was not substantiated in the LCS or the CLR). The Cants used the cabin for storage in both the sheep and cattle ranching eras. The NPS restored and adapted the cabin for use as a fossil demonstration laboratory and to interpret the ranch. With the completion of the Thomas Condon

Paleological Center in 2005, the interior fossil demonstration additions were removed.

Feed Storage Shed (Park # CR-13; LCS # 100423) (Contributing)
The feed storage shed was constructed at some point between 1890 and 1910 and moved twice. It is a 7-foot by 12-foot wood-frame structure with horizontal board and batten siding, and a gable roof with cedar shingles. The history of the feed shed is a good illustration of how working ranches evolved over time as buildings and materials were recycled, adapted and reused. The shed initially served as the Officer Homestead cellar and was located west of the current Cant house. It was moved during the Cant sheep ranching era to the north side of the log cabin and used for storage. In the cattle ranching era it was moved to its present location and used as a feed shed. The building was restored as a feed storage shed by the NPS to interpret the history of the Cant Ranch.

Chicken Coop (Park # CR-6; LCS # 100278) (Contributing)
Constructed at some point between 1910 and 1929, the chicken coop is a 1-story 4'x15.5' wood-frame structure with a shed roof, cedar shingles, and vertical board siding. The chicken coop dates from early in the Cant sheep ranching era when it was originally located somewhere near the sheep barn. Later in the sheep ranching development period it was moved southeast of the house. It was moved to its present location and reduced to half its original size during the 1950s, which was during the cattle ranching development period. The NPS restored the chicken coop exterior and uses the structure for interpretation.

Shed (Park # CR-5; LCS # 023375) (Contributing)
Constructed at some point between 1920 and 1930, the shed is a small (6'x6') wood-frame structure with vertical siding and a shed roof with cedar shingles. According to the LCS, shelves on the interior back wall and a hole in the siding give clues that this may have originally been the generator/power house for the ranch (electricity didn't come to the ranch until 1953). According to the CLR, the shed became an incubation shed in the 1950s when the chicken coop was moved north of the orchard. At this point, the shed was located southeast of the Cant house, near its current location. It was rehabilitated by the NPS for exhibit and interpretive purposes.

[In this case, the construction date of 1920 – 1930 was taken from the LCS instead of the CLR which indicated a construction date of circa 1950s. The LCS date was selected because the LCS narrative said that the shed may have been used as a generator/power house at an earlier date.]

Bunk House (Park # CR-8; LCS # 100279) (Contributing)
Constructed circa early 1930s, the bunk house is a rectangular 1-story, 12'x18', wood-frame structure with horizontal beveled siding, cedar-shingled gable roof, and a front center gable-end entrance. This one room building was constructed by Charles Cant and was used to house the hired hands who worked on the ranch for the duration of the Cant's occupation. The bunk house was rehabilitated by the NPS for interpretive purposes and the interior adapted as a

paleontological laboratory. The interior modifications were removed, floors repaired, and roof and siding replaced in kind in 2005 after the new Thomas Condon Paleological Center was opened.

Watchman's Hut (Park # CR-7; LCS # 023377) (Contributing)
Constructed at some point between 1920 and 1939, the Watchman's Hut is a small one-story 12-foot by 6½-foot rectangular building with a cedar-shingle gable roof and vertical board siding. It was used as a shelter by the sheepherders during the lambing season and was built about the same time, or possibly shortly before, the barn was constructed. The hut was restored by the NPS for interpretive purposes.

Workshop (Blacksmith Shop) (Park # CR-9; LCS # 100280) (Contributing)
Constructed at some point between 1920 and 1930, the workshop is a one-story 19-foot by 33-foot wood-frame structure with a gable roof and horizontal board siding, located next to the northwest corral, north of the Cant house. It replaced the old blacksmith shop by the barn. The workshop was restored by the NPS and a small 1940s or 1950s addition was removed at some point between 1976 and 1993. The Park adaptively rehabilitated the workshop in 2005 for use as a meeting/conference/class room. The location and exterior appearance of the building assists in the interpretation of the ranch complex.

[In this case, the construction date from the LCS (1920 – 1930) was selected over the construction date listed in the CLR (1950s). The LCS date was selected because the CLR construction date was inconsistent with other CLR text which indicated that a small addition was removed between 1940 and 1959.]

Christina's Cabin (Park # CR-4; LCS # 023374) (Contributing)
Constructed circa 1932, Christina's Cabin is an 11'4"x14'7" one room, wood-frame structure with vertical board siding and a shingle, gable roof. It was constructed as a homesteading cabin for the Cant's daughter and was moved late in the period of significance, between 1960 and 1970. The homestead claim was never filed but the cabin was sometimes used for the storage of agricultural equipment. The cabin was stabilized between 1983 and 1985, restored in 1986, and rehabilitated in 2005. Today it is used for interpretive purposes.

Field #4 Pump House (Privy) (Park # CR-2; LCS # 100276) (Non-Contributing) and Replica Privy (Non-Contributing)
The Field #4 pump house was a privy until 2003 or 2004 when it was moved from the work area to Field #4 and converted to a pump house. The privy was moved from Dayville to Cant Ranch in the 1950s where it was placed northwest of the workshop. The small (6'x5') wood-frame structure has a gable roof, vertical board and batten siding, and a shed roof. With the recent relocation and change of use, the pump house (privy) no longer contributes to the historic district. The pump house has retained its historic character and provides a pump enclosure compatible with other structures located in the historic district. Apparently, this privy was not listed on the National Register nomination.

A second privy, described in the 1984 National Register nomination being located in proximity to the main house, has been removed from the property.

To replace the privy listed on the National Register, a replica privy was constructed in 2005 by the NPS and placed to the east of the bunk house, just inside the fence enclosing the main house yard. This location is in the vicinity of the historic privy listed on the National Register nomination. The replica privy is compatible with the historic character of the district and aids in the interpretation of the site.

Irrigation Ditches

There are two primary irrigation ditches listed as contributing features in the National Register nomination that extend the length of the district on the west and east sides of the John Day River.

Rock Creek Ditch (Non-Contributing)
The Rock Creek Ditch on the west side of the river was the earlier of the two ditches. This ditch originated on Rock Creek at the confluence of the John Day River and Rock Creek and continued past the Officer Homestead to Goose Rock on the Finlay Morrison Homestead. To achieve the necessary gradient required to sustain an adequate flow along the nearly four mile length of the ditch, the ditch followed the base of the hills and alluvial fans that bordered the river valley. Construction and maintenance of this route often required cutting into the existing slopes creating large earthen berms on the downslope side of the ditch. Lateral ditches were constructed off of the main ditch to carry water to individual fields. The Cants continued to use and maintain the Rock Creek Ditch and later, by purchasing the Finlay Morrison property and water rights, extended use of the ditch up to Goose Rock.

During the 1950s, the John Day Highway was improved and expanded, constricting the river corridor, requiring some segments of the Rock Creek Irrigation Ditch to be moved. Other than the segment of the ditch at the ranch complex, these are the only segments of the ditch that are now open air. These realigned segments have been paved with concrete. [The site plan indicates a historic point of diversion for the Rock Creek Ditch on the John Day River. The superintendent claims that the point of diversion has always been on Rock Creek, in its contemporary location.]

The Rock Creek Ditch continued to be used and maintained during the cattle ranching era. The NPS established the 1984 Agricultural Lease Program for the Cant Ranch which resulted in the continued use and maintenance of the Rock Creek Ditch.

Up until recently, the Rock Creek Ditch was maintained and viable to the north end of the ranch complex. Only a few small segments of the ditch had been relocated and lined with concrete when the John Day Highway was improved in the 1950s. In 2003-2005, the majority

of the Rock Creek Ditch was piped and then backfilled. By backfilling the irrigation ditch, the form of the historic ditch was lost. The location of the ditch is still visible as demarcated by the outer edge of the fill and the level top of the former ditch, which is now used as a vehicular maintenance corridor. With one exception, the Rock Creek Ditch no longer contributes to the historic district, but the remnants help interpret the location of the ditch.

Rock Creek Ditch - ranch complex Segment (Contributing)
There is one important segment of the Rock Creek Ditch that still contributes to the historic district. The park has preserved the segment of the ditch adjacent to the ranch complex, where visitor access is concentrated. The historic location and open air construction is highly visible in the retained ranch complex segment of the Rock Creek Ditch.

Titanic Ditch (Contributing)
In 1912 the Cants constructed the Titanic Ditch on the east side of the John Day River, doubling the amount of irrigated land on the ranch. The Titanic Ditch was also dug by hand although the steeper topography on the east slopes required more cutting and berming to maintain a useful grade.

Like the Rock Creek Ditch, the Titanic Ditch continued to be used and maintained during the cattle ranching era. The NPS established the 1984 Agricultural Lease Program for the Cant Ranch which resulted in the continued use and maintenance of the Titanic Ditch.

However, in 1983, washouts and erosion problems on the Titanic Ditch resulted in abandonment of the original point of diversion for the John Day River water permit, and the installation of a pump at the south end of Field #3 (the south field). Continued blow-outs and erosion problems with the ditch eventually led to the abandonment of the portion of the ditch that irrigated the northern field (Field #4). Sometime after 1990, the entire historic Titanic Ditch was abandoned and a new ditch was constructed beside the historic ditch in Field #3. Several other contemporary ditches (not identified) assist in the flood irrigation of Field #3. In circa 2004, a pipe was installed along the bottom of the Titanic Ditch along most of Field #3. The pipe was then backfilled and leveled. As a result of the earthwork, there is no visible remnant of the irrigation ditch from the point of diversion near the upper cable crossing to the end of the pipe, which stops after travelling along almost two thirds of Field #3. Though unmaintained, the Titanic Ditch is retained for much of its length from the end of the Field #3 pipe to the north end of Field #4. Also retained is the portion of the Titanic Ditch leading from the abandoned point of diversion to the upper cable crossing. Neither of the retained segments have been maintained, and portions of the historic irrigation ditch have been eroded and washed out. Even with segments of the irrigation ditch missing, including the middle third, the two retained segments of the ditch are substantial in length, and help interpret the mechanics and location of the historic irrigation ditch associated with Cant Ranch. Therefore, the Titanic Ditch contributes to the historic district.

Summary

Today, numerous historic structures exist at the ranch including the house, barn, watchman's hut, chicken coop, shed, feed storage shed, log cabin, bunk house, privy, workshop, and irrigation ditch segments. Although these structures do not all date from the same historic periods, they reflect the evolving nature of a livestock ranch that operated from 1890 until 1975 and are an essential part of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Main house (Park # CR-4; LCS # 023381)

Feature Identification Number: 135212

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23381

Feature: Sheep barn (Park # CR-1; LCS # 100275)

Feature Identification Number: 135214

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100275

Feature: Sheep shearing pens (Park # CR-3; LCS # 100277)

Feature Identification Number: 135216

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100277

Feature: Log cabin (Park # CR-10; LCS # 023380)

Feature Identification Number: 135218

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23380

Feature: Feed storage shed (Park # CR-13; LCS # 100423)

Feature Identification Number: 135220

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100423

Feature: Chicken coop (Park # CR-6; LCS # 100278)

Feature Identification Number: 135224

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100278

LCS Structure Name: Cant Ranch Chicken Coop

LCS Structure Number: CR-6

Feature: Shed (Park # CR-5; LCS # 023375)

Feature Identification Number: 135226

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23375

LCS Structure Name: Cant Ranch Shed

LCS Structure Number: CR-5

Feature: Bunk house (Park # CR-8; LCS # 100279)

Feature Identification Number: 135228

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100279

LCS Structure Name: Cant Ranch Bunk House

LCS Structure Number: CR-8

Feature: Watchman`s Hut (Park # CR-7; LCS # 023377)

Feature Identification Number: 135230

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23377

LCS Structure Name: Cant Ranch Watchman's Hut

LCS Structure Number: CR-7

Feature: Workshop (Blacksmith Shop) (Park # CR-9; LCS # 100280)

Feature Identification Number: 135232

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100280

LCS Structure Name: Cant Ranch Work Shop

LCS Structure Number: CR-9

Feature: Christina`s Cabin (Park # CR-4; LCS # 023374)

Feature Identification Number: 135236

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 23374

LCS Structure Name: Cant Ranch Christina's Cabin

LCS Structure Number: CR-4

Feature: Field #4 pump house (privy) (Park # CR-2; LCS # 100276)

Feature Identification Number: 135238

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Replica privy

Feature Identification Number: 135240

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Rock Creek Ditch

Feature Identification Number: 135242

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Rock Creek Ditch - ranch complex segment

Feature Identification Number: 135244

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Titanic Ditch

Feature Identification Number: 135246

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Main house (Park # CR-11; LCS # 023381; contributing). The Asiatic elm on the left and the lilac beside the front porch both date to the Sheep Ranching era. The dimensional lumber and wire mesh fence follows its historic alignment. (PWRO staff 2008)

South and west facades of the Sheep Barn (Park # CR-1; LCS # 100275; contributing). Note the large feed rack (Park # CR-16; LCS # 100425; contributing) to the left. Barn roads are visible in the foreground. (PWRO staff 2008)

West façade of the sheep shearing pens (Park # CR-3; LCS # 100277; contributing) that project from the north façade of the barn. A simple barn road is in the foreground. Behind the pens are Fields #1 & #4 divided by the John Day River. (PWRO staff 2008)

Feed storage shed (Park # CR-13; LCS # 100426; contributing) located downslope from the house. The west end of the chicken coop (Park # CR-6; LCS # 100278; contributing) is on the left. The lower orchard is visible in the background. (PWRO staff 2008)

The Watchman's Hut (Park # CR-7; LCS # 023377; contributing) located east of the sheep barn. Note the horizontal board fence behind the structure. (PWRO staff 2008)

Christina's Cabin (Park # CR-4; LCS # 023374; contributing) located on the northern edge of Field #4. (PWRO staff 2008)

Residential area. To the right of the main house are the log cabin (Park # CR-10; LCS # 023380; contributing), replica privy, and bunk house (Park # CR-8; LCS # 100279; contributing). Also visible are the riparian area & a white poplar. (PWRO staff, 2008)

The contributing segment of the Rock Creek Irrigation Ditch below the main house. The sheep barn is visible in the background. (PWRO 2008)

The Titanic Ditch running along the eastern edge of Field # 4. The light colored soil marks the base of the irrigation ditch. Though abandoned, substantial portions of the ditch remain. In the background are the main house and the sheep barn. (PWRO 2008)

Small Scale Features

Small-scale features at the ranch historically consisted of fences and gates, feed racks, cable cars, and a spring box. These features were a significant part of the landscape in four ways: they were functional (corrals, haystack yards, cattle chutes, feed racks, fences, spring box); they helped define the overall organization of the complex (fences and corrals); they were part of the circulation system (cable cars); and they provided a degree of ornamentation (fences and gates). The eclectic appearance created by reusing available materials to construct many of these features reflects the realities of living in a rural area where replacement parts are difficult to obtain.

Fences and Gates (Park # CR-15; LCS # 100424) (Contributing)

Fences were used to delineate and enclose corrals, haystack yards, cattle chutes, and boundaries. During the Officer Homestead era there were two fence types. The corral was a wood post and pole (rail) fence, and the ranch complex was enclosed with a wood post and wire fence. Most fence gates appeared to be wood post and pole.

There were several fence styles used during the sheep ranch era. Most common were wood post and pole, and wood post and horizontal board fences used for the corrals. Individual portions of the fence were very rustic in appearance constructed using whatever material was available. For example, posts used for corral fences were often made out of bark covered tree trunks, with both posts and boards often varying in size. In addition, another fence style was created when one of the sun sheds near the barn deteriorated and the remaining vertical board wall was incorporated into the existing corral. The four haystack yards located on the east side of the river were also constructed with a variety of fence styles, including wood post and horizontal board, wood post and pole, wood post and barbed wire, pickets, and often a combination of styles.

The gates were usually the same style as the adjacent fence, and sometimes included a separate gate for pedestrians and for vehicles. One notable exception was the entry gate constructed by local stone mason, Angus Morrison. These gates (Stone columns; Park # CR-17; LCS # 100426; contributing), located in the front yard of the Cant house, were built shortly after the house was constructed. The house was completely enclosed with a fence that had wood 4 by 4 posts, a top 2 by 4 rail and square wire mesh.

During the cattle ranching era, the Cants continued to use the fences, corrals, and haystack yards. Some changes occurred as materials were replaced and/or they were adapted for cattle. For example, corrals were made taller and loading chutes were added. The cattle chutes were also rustic in appearance constructed with a combination of horizontal boards and wood poles with posts irregular in size and shape.

The NPS removed some fences (large sheep corral north of barn), introduced three new fence styles, and created some new enclosures (around the orchard, and two maintenance areas at the north end).

After the completion of the CLR, the fence configuration of the ranch's work area was restored to the configuration associated with the cattle ranch era (including the sheep corral), the last era of the period of significance. Newly introduced fence styles were replaced with historic fence styles associated with the cattle ranch era. The existing configuration of the fences in the work area now reflects both the sheep ranching and cattle ranching eras. The remaining historic corrals, fences, and gates have been repaired and replaced in the styles that existed when the ranch was operating. The styles of fence that date to the historic period that are retained in the ranch complex work area include: horizontal board fence (the most common fence style), post and pole fence, and vertical board fence. Just to the north of the historic work area is the overflow/oversize vehicle parking lot that has been recently enclosed by boulder edging (non contributing). The boulder edging consists of stones stacked approximately three-feet high, and is generally out of view from the ranch complex.

Other than the fence enclosing the main house, non-historic fencing in the living area has been

removed. The fence enclosing the main house has been restored to the configuration associated with the period of significance. The fence style associated with the main house during the period of significance was dimensional lumber and wire mesh. Approximately half of the historic fence style was replaced with a taller, non-historic style juniper post and wire mesh fence.

Haystack yards, located in the agricultural fields, have not been maintained. Three of the four historic haystack yards have fallen into ruin and have not been restored. Currently, haystack yard # 1 is partially in ruins; extant materials include wood posts with a combination of barbed wire and pickets. Haystack yard # 2 is a wood post and rail fence and is in fair condition. Only one half of haystack yard # 3 remains. Haystack yard # 4 is in the best condition of the four, and is constructed of wood posts and rails. Historically, these haystack yards were an integral part of the large-scale agricultural operations. Today, only haystack yard # 3 is within the historic district; the others are upslope from the Titanic Ditch, which is the current designated boundary for the district.

Feed Racks

Large Feed Rack (Park # CR-16; LCS # 100425) (Contributing)
Smaller Feed Rack (Park # CR-18; LCS # 516271) (Contributing)
Two wooden feed racks date from the sheep ranching era. The historic feed racks continued to be used during the cattle ranching era. Both of the feed racks have been rebuilt - the large feed rack in 2005 and the small feed rack in 2004. The feed racks were dismantled and most of the wood was replaced in kind, but the heavier metal hardware was reused. The rehabilitated feed racks were placed very close to their historic locations. The large feed rack west of the barn is approximately 7’x12' and the smaller feed rack northeast of the barn is about 6’x9’. The feed racks aid in the interpretation of the ranch landscape.

Cable Cars

Lower Cable Car Crossing (Park # CR-14; LCS # 100283) (Contributing)
Upper Cable Car Crossing (Park # CR-19; LCS # 516295) (Contributing)
The two cable car crossings provide access to Fields #3 and #4, both located on the far side of the John Day River from the ranch complex and Fields #1 and #2. The two cable cars at the Cant Ranch are metal frame structures with two seats, and metal pulleys on wire cables. Both cable car crossings were installed during the historic period and contribute to the historic district. The oldest car, the lower cable car, was constructed between 1930 and 1940 and is located south of the ranch complex. This cable car crossing provides access to Field #4 from Field #1. It has wood seats and metal mesh side and floorboards. The cable car crossing has wooden platforms on both sides of the river. The lower cable car was rehabilitated in 1986 and 1993. The other cable car, the upper cable car, was probably constructed in the 1940s and was located at the south end of the district. The sides and floors of the car are metal mesh, and the seats are wood. This cable car crossing allowed access to Field #3 from Field #2. The upper

cable car was rehabilitated at some point between 2000 and 2004. Both cable cars are still in use and contribute to the historic district.

[In this case, the construction date for the lower cable car was taken from the LCS because the CLR only gave the sheep ranching era for the construction date.]

Contemporary Structures

Spring Box (Non-Contributing)

There are two springs in the riparian zone located to the south of the main house. The presence of the springs in this location was essential in siting the Officer Homestead here. The Cant Ranch continued the use of the spring water throughout the period of significance. A spring box was constructed on the spring located directly behind the shed. The 44-inch wide spring box was constructed using one-inch plywood for the top, front, and both sides. Several rocks placed behind the front board aids in building a pool out of the spring. The spring has a PVC outflow pipe measuring 2½-inches in diameter. There is no documentation of the spring box, but it appears to have been constructed during the period of significance. An NPS staff member believed that the box was rebuilt in 1989.

Fire Cache (Non-Contributing)
A low profile fire cache structure was constructed in 1996 by the NPS. This small shed is located approximately 30-feet west of the sheep barn. This simple 6-foot 6-inch by 6-foot 2-inch structure is a single room board and batten structure with a cedar shingle, gable roof that stands approximately five-feet tall. The structure stores fire hose at the end of a pipe to the John River. A pump would be placed at this location to draw water if a wildfire was approaching. This utilitarian structure is compatible with the simple vernacular structures at the ranch complex.

Summary

Today, numerous small scale features dating to the period of significance remain at the ranch including fences and gates, feed racks, cable cars, and a spring box. Collectively, the remaining features aid in interpreting the agricultural heritage of the historic district and how it has evolved over time.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Fences and gates (Park # CR-15; LCS # 100424)

Feature Identification Number: 135256

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stone columns (Park # CR-17; LCS # 100426)

Feature Identification Number: 135258

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Large feed rack (Park # CR-16; LCS # 100425)

Feature Identification Number: 135260

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Smaller feed rack (Park # CR-18; LCS # 516271)

Feature Identification Number: 135262

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lower cable car crossing (Park # CR-14; LCS # 100283)

Feature Identification Number: 135264

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Upper cable car crossing (Park # CR-19; LCS # 516295)

Feature Identification Number: 135266

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Spring box

Feature Identification Number: 135268

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Fire cache

Feature Identification Number: 135270

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Horizontal board fence, the most common historic fence type at the ranch complex. The historic upper orchard is visible behind the fence. (PWRO 2008)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 05/05/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Overall, the inventory unit is in good condition with few signs of major negative disturbance and deterioration. The most noteworthy exceptions are the Titanic Ditch, which is in fair to poor condition as a result of unchecked erosion and washouts, and the orchards, which are in good condition but should receive appropriate maintenance in order to maintain the historic character of the individual trees.

Stabilization Measures:

In order to address erosion before more damage occurs to the Titanic Ditch, clear the ditches of vegetation. This can be accomplished by hand cutting woody materials, burning, or clearing the ditches using machinery. Consider seeding ditches to enhance long-term stabilization.

Some cyclic maintenance steps that could help stabilize the fruit trees of the two orchards includes:
1. Prune the dead wood from the fruit trees.
2. Don't remove the lower limbs of the trees that protect the trunk from sun scald.
3. Consider routine weed whacking around the base of the trees to remove root suckers which drain the trees of energy.
4. Continue a consistent watering scheme.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Erosion is negatively affecting the Titanic Ditch, particularly where washes cross the ditch.

Type of Impact: Inappropriate Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Filling the Rock Creek Ditch along segments of the Titanic Ditch has affected the integrity of the historic district by removing contributing features.

Type of Impact: Operations On Site

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description:	In the past, the NPS replaced some of the historic ornamental Asiatic elm trees that enclosed the main house. The replacement trees were not of the historic type, nor did they reflect the growth habit, form, shape, texture, and mass of the historic trees that they replaced. Also, the contemporary trees were not planted in the same location as the historic trees.
Type of Impact:	Other
Other Impact:	Pruning Practices
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	In the lower orchard, the contemporary replacement of fruit trees may not replicate the form of the historic fruit trees without appropriate pruning.
Type of Impact:	Planting Practices
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The historic form of the orchard is not maintained in cases where dwarf root stock was used for replacement trees.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	While the historic fruit trees are in very good condition, additional steps should be taken to extend their longevity. The expertise of an historic orchard specialist should be sought for guidance in maintaining the trees of the historic orchard.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The fence of the remaining haystack yard is decaying and needs immediate maintenance.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation

Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: 09/01/1996

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The 1996 CLR states:
"The primary treatments for the cultural landscape are preservation, encouraging stabilization and maintenance of contributing landscape resources, and rehabilitation, allowing for contemporary use of the site within the framework of overall significance."

According to the treatments suggested in the CLR:

Remaining irrigation ditches:
Consider developing and initiating a cyclic maintenance preservation program for the remaining segments of the Titanic Ditch. Routine maintenance activities might include hand cutting of woody materials, burning, and clearing with machinery to retain ditches. Consider seeding ditches to enhance long-term stabilization.

This issue was not addressed in the CLR, but should be addressed by the park in the future:

Orchards:
Have an expert in historic orchards evaluate the historic trees and provide guidance on the appropriate maintenance techniques to extend their lives. Also, obtain guidance from the orchard expert on the appropriate techniques for replicating the form of fruit trees from the historic period when planting new fruit trees.

Approved Treatment Completed: Yes

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 09/01/1996

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title: See Supplemental Information Section for Bibliography.

Supplemental Information

Title: Agricultural Fields Site Plan

Description: A larger version of the Agricultural Fields Site Plan is available from the JODA resource manager or the Pacific West Region's CLI coordinator.

Title: Bibliography

Description: Beckham, Stephen Dow and Florence K. Lentz. Rocks and Hard Places: Historic Resources Study. Seattle, Washington. 2000.

Luxenberg, Gretchen A. Historic American Buildings Survey: James Cant Ranch Historic District. Washington, DC. 1988.

Mark, Stephen R. Floating in the Stream of Time: An Administrative History of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Seattle, Washington. 1996.

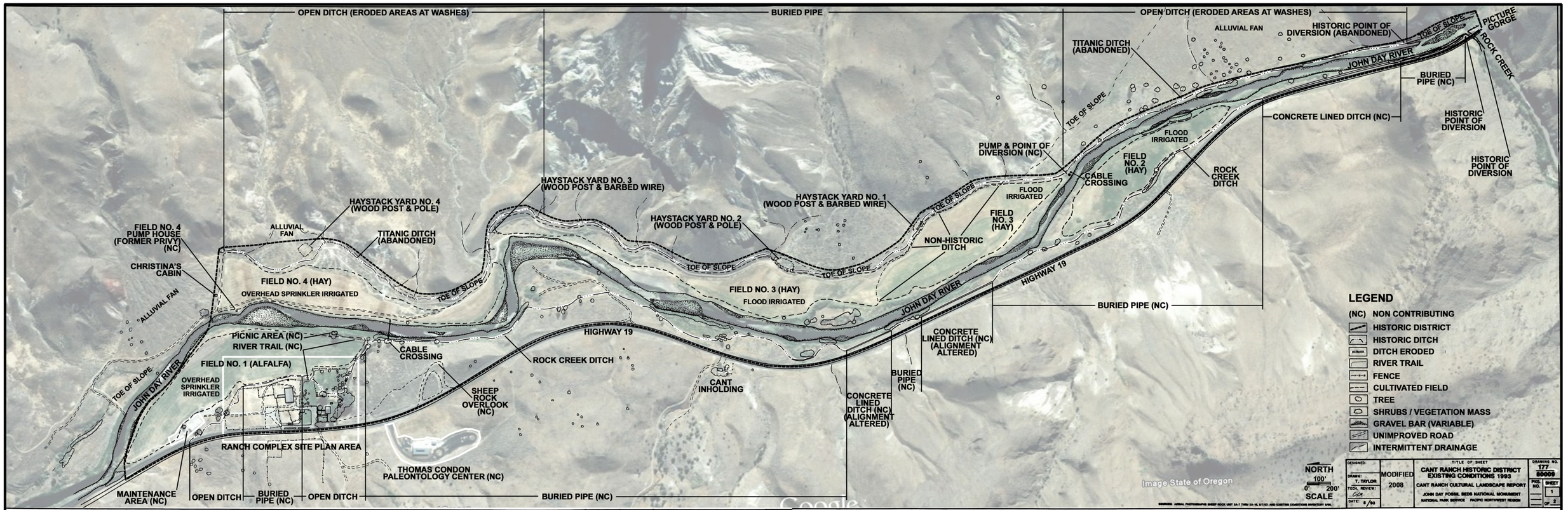
National Park Service: Park Brochure: John Day Fossil Beds. Washington, DC. 2004.

Taylor, Terry and Cathy Gilbert. Cultural Landscape Report: Cant Ranch Historic District. Seattle, Washington, National Park Service. 1996.

Toothman, Stephanie. National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form: James Cant Ranch Historic District. Seattle, Washington, National Park Service. 1984.

Title: Ranch Complex Site Plan

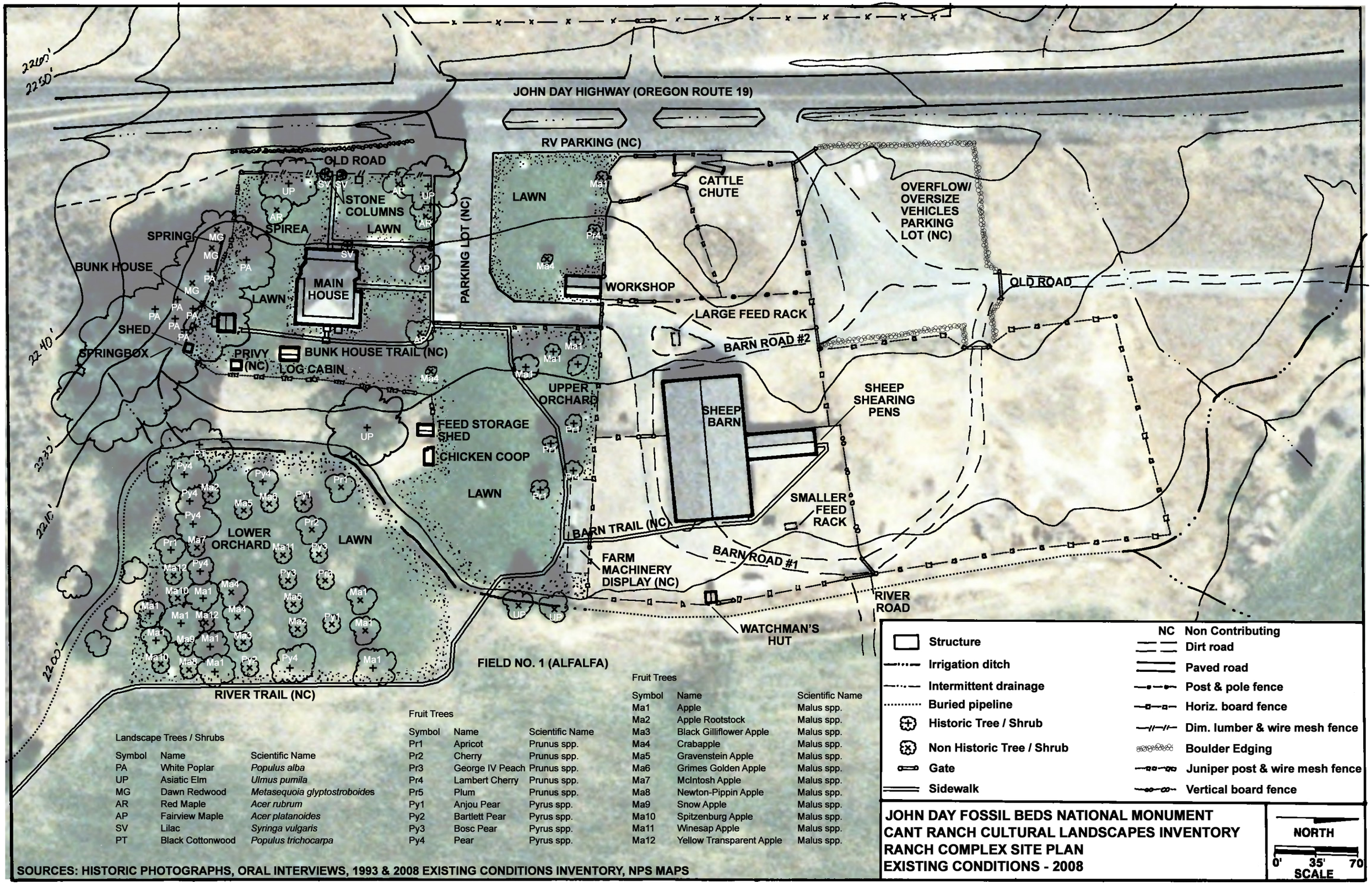
Description: A larger version of the Ranch Complex Site Plan is available from the JODA resource manager or the Pacific West Region's CLI coordinator.



SEE RANCH COMPLEX SITE PLAN FOR A MORE ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT AS DEPICTED ON THIS SITE PLAN IS NOT ACCURATE. THE BOUNDARY SHOULD FOLLOW THE TITANIC IRRIGATION DITCH ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT.

JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
CANT RANCH CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS SITE PLAN
EXISTING CONDITIONS - 2008



Landscape Trees / Shrubs

Symbol	Name	Scientific Name
PA	White Poplar	*Populus alba*
UP	Asiatic Elm	*Ulmus pumila*
MG	Dawn Redwood	*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
AR	Red Maple	*Acer rubrum*
AP	Fairview Maple	*Acer platanoides*
SV	Lilac	*Syringa vulgaris*
PT	Black Cottonwood	*Populus trichocarpa*

Fruit Trees

Symbol	Name	Scientific Name
Pr1	Apricot	Prunus spp.
Pr2	Cherry	Prunus spp.
Pr3	George IV Peach	Prunus spp.
Pr4	Lambert Cherry	Prunus spp.
Pr5	Plum	Prunus spp.
Py1	Anjou Pear	Pyrus spp.
Py2	Bartlett Pear	Pyrus spp.
Py3	Bosc Pear	Pyrus spp.
Py4	Pear	Pyrus spp.

Fruit Trees

Symbol	Name	Scientific Name
Ma1	Apple	Malus spp.
Ma2	Apple Rootstock	Malus spp.
Ma3	Black Gilliflower Apple	Malus spp.
Ma4	Crabapple	Malus spp.
Ma5	Gravenstein Apple	Malus spp.
Ma6	Grimes Golden Apple	Malus spp.
Ma7	McIntosh Apple	Malus spp.
Ma8	Newton-Pippin Apple	Malus spp.
Ma9	Snow Apple	Malus spp.
Ma10	Spitzenburg Apple	Malus spp.
Ma11	Winesap Apple	Malus spp.
Ma12	Yellow Transparent Apple	Malus spp.

SOURCES: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS, ORAL INTERVIEWS, 1993 & 2008 EXISTING CONDITIONS INVENTORY, NPS MAPS

NC Non Contributing

- Structure
- Irrigation ditch
- Intermittent drainage
- Buried pipeline
- Historic Tree / Shrub
- Non Historic Tree / Shrub
- Gate
- Sidewalk
- Dirt road
- Paved road
- Post & pole fence
- Horiz. board fence
- Dim. lumber & wire mesh fence
- Boulder Edging
- Juniper post & wire mesh fence
- Vertical board fence

JOHN DAY FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
CANT RANCH CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
RANCH COMPLEX SITE PLAN
EXISTING CONDITIONS - 2008

NORTH

0' 35' 70

SCALE