

Clackamas River Ranger District
Mt. Hood National Forest
Site Monitor and Addendum

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STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE

ADDENDING SITE: 663EA27

PERMANENT NUMBER:

SITE NAME: **Hawk Mtn. Cabin**TOWNSHIP: 8 SouthRANGE: 7 EastSECTION: 27USGS QUAD: Breitenbush Hot Springs7.5 min. 1997SHPO QUAD: Breitenbush Hot Springs SW15 min. 1982

Hawk Mtn. Cabin Restoration

This report is to document the restoration efforts undertaken on the Hawk Mtn. Cabin during the summer of 2002. During the week of September 9th, District Heritage personnel (Susan Rudisill and Merle Seidel) along with several District volunteers began the actual restoration. The majority of the volunteers spent most of the first day packing required supplies and tools almost two miles into the cabin location. This was a tremendous effort as use of the motorized trail packers required cutting of numerous logs which had fallen across the trail. Even with the logs cleared, the motorized packers were not suitable for the trail design or terrain and tipped over numerous times. Most of the supplies were physically packed the last quarter mile to the site with some of the more awkward pieces such as ladders and long trim boards, being hand carried the entire distance. This project would not have been completed without the dedicated assistance of the following District volunteers: Gary McCullough, Don Davison, Larry Reed, Tom Turner, Karen Muchmore, David Goodenough, Doug Runyon, Silke Düllmann, Glenda Goodwyne, Corissa Larvik, Dan Crump, Mark Schoenborn, and Site Steward, John Rice who assisted District heritage personnel in assessing needed repairs and taking measurements for replacement lumber earlier in the season.

There were several aspects to the restoration with the principle goal being to weatherproof the building and protect it from the elements. This involved replacement of the deteriorated shingle roof and the storm collar around the chimney, both of which were allowing water to penetrate to the interior of the cabin. Several of the windows were also broken and in need of replacement. A missing window casing and a several missing storm shutter boards, also allowed moisture inside the structure. Other elements needing attention were missing or deteriorated corner and window trim boards, decayed porch lumber, decayed log supports and rafters for the porch roof, and peeling or nonexistent paint, both interior and exterior. Each restoration stage will be discussed separately to document and date the different replacement elements. Although each stage of restoration is discussed separately, many occurred simultaneously.

Roof Replacement: The old sawn shingles and roofing nails were removed down to the beveled shiplap 1x5" roofing boards. Short sections of these boards (less than four feet in length) were decayed on the southeast side of the roof due to exposure from missing shingles. Decayed sections were removed and replaced with boards milled earlier in the summer to replicate the original shiplap. The replacement boards were milled to the same dimensions as the original boards but intentionally left 1/16th inch less in width to avoid problems retrofitting them between original roof boards left in place. The newly milled shiplap does not have beveled edges and is not visible in this application. While stripping the roof, the old chimney flashing was also removed.



Cabin and roof prior to restoration

Following shingle removal and replacement of the decayed boards, 15 pound roofing felt was layed out and fastened to the roof. Once this was complete, installation of the new shingles was started. Almost 3 squares (approximately 15 bundles) of #1 sawn cedar shingles were used for this project due to the 4 inch exposure of each row needed to match the original exposure (normal exposure is about 5 inches which would have required less shingles). After all shingles were installed, two 1x4" cedar boards 12 ½ feet in length were overlapped to form the ridge cap. Roofing activity took two people approximately two days to complete. This includes the time spent replacing roof boards and a short section of one 2x6" decayed rafter and "birdblock" in the extreme southeast corner, and installing the new chimney collar and flashing.



Cabin roof after completion

Windows and Interior Trim: The windows on the west side of the building were missing two pieces of interior trim and the northernmost of the two windows was missing the entire window casing along with the exterior mullion between the two windows. The missing pieces had allowed water to penetrate causing deterioration of structural wall members below the window. Removal of loose outside siding below the windows revealed previous structural repairs as was also evident inside where a vertical 1x4" board had been placed below the window trim. Interior wall boards above and below the window were also partially decayed, leaving voids outside the perimeter of the trim. After replacing the missing interior trim boards, the voids were covered by extending the trim pieces below and above the original trim outline. So as not to conflict with the original appearance, the upper trim board extension was cut in the same general pattern as the original board above the south windows. The window casing and mullion were replaced in kind although the window frame has settled through time causing it to be slightly out of square but still sealing the window when closed.



Trim repairs and scraped west wall

Five of the 10x12" window panes were broken. Three of these were in the west windows and two were in the south windows. These were replaced and glazed along with reglazing other windows where the old glazing was badly deteriorated. New metal rotating "bow tie" shaped fasteners were installed above the windows to replace the bent nails in the trim previously used to hold the windows in a closed position. Window screens were also found to be in need of replacement as all were torn or completely missing. This was not accomplished during restoration and new screen frames should be constructed for replacement next season (summer of 2003).

Painting: It had been agreed to match paint colors as closely as possible with the colors observed on the cabin and which were determined to be the original colors in 1983 Site Reports. The colors were "Cape Cod Gray" on the exterior and pale green on the interior. More recent observations indicated the floor to be a darker gray than the exterior gray. Recent observation also indicated the windows had earlier been painted a dark "forest green" color. Although not as certain as the windows, it was thought that the original window trim was also the same dark green. Paint chips for each color were collected from the cabin and the new paint was matched as closely as possible.

Scraping and painting of the interior first required removal of interior features such as the steel framed single bed, woodbox, and table bench along with other removable artifacts from the cabinets and walls. Once this was completed, numerous nails, tacks, and staples which at one time were used to fasten oilcloth fabric to the countertops and tabletop were removed. It was then possible to begin paint preparations by first scraping, sanding where needed, and then washing down (with water and

a mild detergent) all exposed interior surfaces. Volunteers then began painting the walls, ceiling, cabinets, and table. At the same time, following similar preparation, the woodbox and table bench were also painted (pale green) by volunteers outside. The steel bedframe was painted with rust inhibiting paint in a dark green color matching the interior and exterior trim.



Interior painting

Outside preparations prior to painting were mainly limited to scraping with some minor sanding around the windows and trim. The south and west sides of the exterior had very little of the old paint remaining and were mostly bare weathered wood. To avoid wood chips and sawdust from roofing activity settling on wet paint, initial painting was concentrated on the interior until the roofing work was nearly completed. Once the roof was done, exterior painting began in earnest. The weathered boards absorbed more paint than anticipated and we had only enough paint for one coat. It is recommended that a second exterior coat be applied next season. We were not able to paint the floor during the week of restoration due to time constraints. A return trip on October 1, 2002 encountered about 3 inches of snow at the site which made it unfeasible to keep the floor dry enough to paint. If not completed this fall, this could also be completed next season.

Corner Trim: The 1x4" trim boards at the four corners of the building were in various stages of deterioration. They were badly split, warped, or missing sections. In addition, it appeared that at some point in time the lower sections of full length trim boards had decayed and were cut off and replaced with short sections approximately two feet in length. The trim boards were removed entirely and replaced with new boards of full length.

Porch: Initial thinking was that one porch support would have to be replaced to return the sagging porch roof to its proper alignment. Upon closer inspection prior to restoration, it was discovered that there were more severe existing and potential problems. The 2x6" deck frame and several deck boards of the same dimension were broken and covered with a scrap piece of plywood to prevent falling through. It was determined that the entire deck would need to be rebuilt and leveled before a new log post could be installed to support the roof. The two wall ties which support the rafters, the two front rafters, and the crosstie between supports would also need replacement long before the new porch roof would need to be replaced again. To replace these peeled pole elements at a later date would involve removal of the new shingles and roof decking. Therefore, it was decided that all elements in doubt should be replaced prior to installing the new roof. Western redcedar poles were cut and peeled in late July (2002) in anticipation of what might be required.

After rigging a support to hold the main ridgepole and roof, almost the entire porch was disassembled. When the old deck and joists were removed it was discovered that a lower portion of the sill below the cabin door had some decay. After removing the decay, approximately two-thirds of the sill remained in good condition. Flat rocks were inserted to fill any voids before externally bridging this portion of the sill with the 2x6" face plate (which also serves as a joist for the decking). Following this, the remainder of the porch was framed matching the previous dimensions and decked with new 2x6" lumber. Instead of just one new support post, both support posts were installed along with the other pole structural members mentioned above. The roof boards were then replaced and covered with 15 pound roofing felt prior to installing the new shingles. Porch shingles were placed with a 4 inch exposure and capped at the ridge with cedar 1x4s. All components replaced on the porch match what was previously in place, both in materials and dimensions.



Corner trim and porch repairs

Storm Shutters: The storm shutters were in various stages of disrepair. Some had missing or broken hinges, and many had missing boards which allowed snow to build up inside the closed shutters. All shutters were removed for repairs. The missing shiplap boards were replaced and new hinges were installed where needed. They were then scraped and repainted before being reinstalled. New rotating fasteners were made of wood and installed above each window shutter to secure them in the closed position. New fasteners were not made to secure the storm shutter for the door but could easily be added at a later time.



Gary McCullough repairing storm shutters

This completes the description of repairs completed in the summer of 2002. With the repairs completed, the cabin should stand for years to come.



Ready for another winter

Merle Seidel
Merle Seidel, Cultural Resource Technician

Date: 10-29-02