

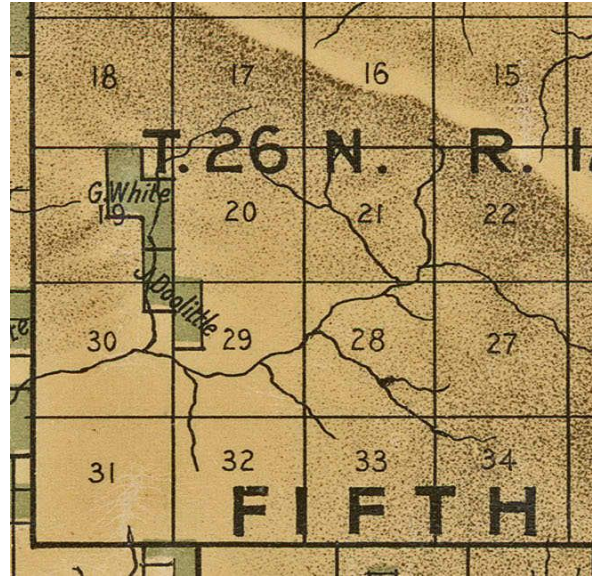
HA01

Red Mountain House

The W.H. Doolittle, Frank Doolittle, William Sidney Willburn Families

HA01 Map 7: T26N, R12W, S. 19. See the directory file for additional images.

The original homestead entry record for this land entry was not available. Further information on this tract may be found in the TC clerk's office or in the land records at SRNF. It appears to have been filed under the 1862 Homestead Act at some point, as the tract is recorded on Lowden's 1894 map (HA01: Map 1).



HA01 Map 1 (A2: 5)

Lowden's 1894 Trinity County survey map shows the Doolittle homestead labeled: "J Doolittle."

Location and Mapping:

Given the problems with the early GLO surveys in this area (see Appendix 2 for a discussion of the problems with GLO surveys and maps), I have relied on Lowden's 1894 map that clearly shows a 160 acre parcel centered on Red Mountain Fields as being owned by "J. Doolittle." Also referenced is the USGS Black Rock Mountain 7.5 map since it was used in the site record (see below). For that reason, as with most parcels in this area, the original parcel property lines do not match exactly with contemporary surveys and Section lines. Note the perfectly uniform Section lines for the townships on Lowden's map (HA01: Map 1). Cadastral surveys in the 1980s revealed that in this region Section lines were off by as much as a half a mile in some places. It is obvious, given the updated USGS maps, that initially, these parcels had not been properly surveyed. Lowden's 1894 map also recorded a quarter-Section parcel directly to the north that was owned George White (HA02). Refer to that entry for more information on this general area.

Background

I first visited Red Mountain House in May of 1986, along with Robert Thomas, a forester, who worked on the Mad River Ranger District. Robert was also "certified" to help work on archaeological surveys. Robert was an avocational archaeologist who was very knowledgeable about the area and was great to work with. At that time, the parcel of land that Red Mountain House is located on was owned by Larry Brown of the Flying AA Ranch. Our job was to survey the parcel as part of a land exchange (Brown Land Exchange Report CRIR 05-10-472 SRNF) between Brown and the Forest Service. The land exchange was eventually approved and the Red Mountain House parcel is now part of Six Rivers National Forest. Since the area was within the upper Red Mountain Creek drainage, classified at that time as a roadless area within what is now part of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness, Robert and I hiked in on trail HTMR22 from the "Line Cabin" near the head of Willow Creek (owned by Brown and used by hunters and some of his employees). We camped overnight and spend the better part of two days exploring and recording features and artifacts in the general area.

Robert and I again visited the area in September of 1987 along with archaeologist Scott Williams during the Travis Fire. We actually drove the old jeep trail (basically the same route as HTMR-22) from the line cabin down to the Red Mountain meadows (given the emergency situation we did not hike in since it was still private property at the time and Brown's cowboys were still occasionally using the jeep road so it was in fair condition). When we arrived, the fire was burning just to the east of Red Mountain Fields on the southwest facing slope of Red Mountain and along Jones Ridge. It was creeping slowly to the west down slope (the winds were driving the fire generally to the east and north into the upper Mad River watershed). We easily managed to put out the few hot spots that jumped the tractor line and hung around for about eight hours to assure that the area centered on Red Mountain House site did not burn. Since our earlier visit, everything was still pretty much the same. Given its remote location and limited public access (only via the Red Mountain Trail from Jones Ridge), it appears to have had very few visitors although the area was pretty heavily grazed and cattle were congregating on the knoll with the graves (see below) and causing some minor erosion problems.

The features discussed in the site record are described in detail below. Briefly, when we recorded the site little remained of the homestead in the way of artifacts or features. The most prominent feature was the rock foundation of Red Mountain House--roughly 30' x 30' (Images 2, 9, and 10). There were several other features that are described in the site record perhaps the most notable was a small knoll with what appears to be two burials; both at one time had wooden grave markers that had fallen over and were in an advance state of decomposition (Images 15-18, Diagrams 3 and 4). The graves were surrounded by a small picket fence that had collapsed.

Unfortunately, cattle were congregating on the knoll and causing some erosion problems and damaging the surviving historic wooden boards. It is likely by now (2016) that no evidence remains of the grave markers or indentations where the graves were situated.

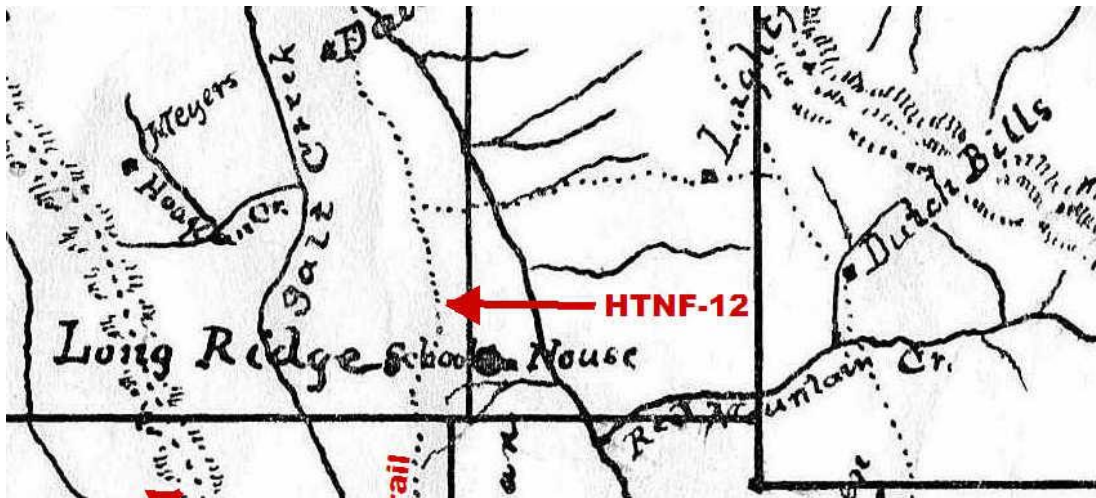
History

Much of the background information in this section is taken from Keter 1994a and site record 05-10-54-308 (Keter 1986). Some of the original information in the site record was incorrect and is corrected in this section. In my numerous North Fork studies, I have for the most part refrained from discussing Native American sites and giving specific locational information on historical sites. This location is, however, identified in the ethnographic literature and in many of the histories of Trinity County.

The Red Mountain House played an important part in the history of southwestern Trinity County. In 1864 soldiers followed a group of "Mendocino Indians" (probably Wailaki) into the Red Mountain Fields area (Thomson 1963:86). It is not certain exactly when or who the first Euro-Americans were to settle in the region to the east of the NFER. The first documented settler was Hull Doolittle who homesteaded a 160 acre parcel along with his wife, Josephine, and son Frank at Red Mountain Fields. The 1880 census recorded his name as "Hull J. Doolittle." On Lowden's TC map (HA01: Map 2) the parcel is labeled "Dutch Bills."

15	48	Doolittle, Hull J.	M	M	52		1	Head of
		Josephine	W	F	44	Wife	1	Keeping House
		Frank J.	M	M	21	Adopted	1	Laborer

Image HA01-1
1880 Census Record
(A3: 1880-5)



HA01: Map 2 (A2: 04)
"Dutch Bills"; Lowden's mid 1880s to early 1890s map (no date on map).
The Long Ridge School was constructed in 1879. HTNF-12 is the Long Ridge Trail.

The Doolittles may have settled here during the late 1860s and certainly no later than the late

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1870s. Identified on some maps as "Red Mountain Fields" (A2: 21b), it is the location of some of the best flowing perennial springs within the NFERW (personal observation; in September of 1987 numerous springs were flowing at a substantial rate just to the east of the jeep road). At the time the land was homesteaded much of this parcel was open grassland and scattered white and black oaks with a few widely spaced mature pines and cedars.

The exact date the Doolittles settled here is not clear--they may have been "squatting" on the land prior to the GLO surveys and filed for a homestead under the Preemption Act after the surveys were recorded by the GLO. What is clear is that by the late 1870s or early 1880s the Doolittles were living year around at Red Mountain Fields. The Doolittle family grew hay, had livestock (most homesteads had a few horses, cows, pigs, and chickens or turkeys), and planted a number of fruit trees. During the late 1880s or early 1890s--at some point prior to 1895--the Doolittles established a "roadhouse" at their homestead at Red Mountain Fields; the Red Mountain House (Image HA01-2). The Red Mountain House provided a meal and a bed and some companionship to the weary traveler in this remote and isolated country. During the 1890s it was known as a hangout for the gunmen who lived in the lawless "Long Ridge Country." One history of the area (*Trinity Yearbook* 1957:22) noted (with some embellishment and hyperbole) that:

"[t]he Red Mountain House, located on the Red Mountain trail, had long been the hangout of the Long Ridge rustlers and gunmen. Here they could gamble, swill rot gut likker, and receive the favors of transient ladies of easy virtue"

No other documentation could be found supporting the assertion that ladies of "easy virtue" were living at Red Mountain House, but quite likely there was plenty of "likker" and gambling.

One of the most infamous murders in the history of Trinity County took place about a mile and a half south of Red Mountain House along the Covelo to Weaverville Trail. It was said that the perpetrators of the Jack Littlefield lynching departed from Red Mountain House (RMH) to commit their crime (see B07, HTNF11, and Littlefield entry). Two men camped just below RMH heard some of the gunshots related to the incident. As can be seen in the photos, the sheriff (as well as the sheriff of Mendocino County) visited RMH during the murder investigation. The historical photos in this section are from the murder trial that later took place in Weaverville. The trail, covered statewide by the press, almost bankrupted Trinity County (see Keter 1994a and Carranco and Beard 1981 for a complete overview of the murder and trial of Jack Littlefield).

The notorious George White (Keter 1994a) owned a parcel of land near Red Mountain Fields immediately to the north of the Doolittle homestead. This parcel (see HA-02; it was also involved in the land exchange) was the site of a seasonal sheep camp; however, it is possible due to its strategic location it may have been inhabited year around. The Doolittle's had poor relations with White as did many of the homesteaders. It even appears that White may have tried without success to drive the Doolittles off their homestead (Keter 1994a).



Image HA01-2

Trinity County Sherriff Tom Bergin at Red Mountain House (view to northeast) interviewed witnesses here concerning the murder of Jack Littlefield in October 1895. Left to Right: Retty Doolittle, Tom Crabtree, Jim Willburn, Al Stall, Rebecca Doolittle, Dan Hall (Mendocino District Attorney), Bill Howe, Tom Bergin, and "Dutch Bill" (W.H. Doolittle).

(TCHS)

One of the ways to earn hard currency in this region was to sell deer hides in the central valley where they were made into gloves for use by men working in the gold fields. This was a widespread practice (despite being illegal) during the first few decades of the historic era (Keter 1990, 1994a). The North Fork region had a large winter deer population (Keter 1995). In 1895, Frank Doolittle--considered one of the "Red Mountain Men" of Trinity County--was sentenced to jail in Alameda on charges of perjury related to trafficking in deer hides (Carranco and Beard 1981: 158). The original crime was perpetrated by Joe Gregory--one of the men implicated and convicted for the murder of Jack Littlefield.

Feature 4 (see below) is identified on the site map (Diagram 1) and shows the location of two graves on a small knoll to southeast of where Red Mountain House was located. Hull Doolittle is buried here and his wooden grave marker was engraved (when the site was recorded in 1986) with "W. H. Doo>>>" ---the last part of the name was not legible (see images and sketch below). The second grave is possibly that of Doolittle's wife Josephine. It should be noted that there is a possibility of a third grave according to some sources (see Robb 1981: 363) although given the size of the knoll and fenced area (when it was standing) it appears unlikely.

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Frank Doolittle Family

Unfortunately, the census records for 1890 for this area were lost. The 1900 census shows Frank Doolittle (occupation recorded as "stock raiser") living here with his "Indian" wife Rebecca (Images HA1-5a, 5b) and that they had been married for five years. As was the practice at the time, although Rebecca's father was born in Missouri, her mother was Indian; therefore she was recorded by the census taker as "Indian."

The children, given their ages, and the fact that Rebecca was 30 years old at the time of the census, indicates that she was not the children's natural mother (Image HA01-3). Andrew Scheubeck (A8) indicated that a woman named "Mary" was Frank Doolittle's first wife and that she drowned in the Eel River:

Enoch, Bill and Ed Gibson--- Howe Woodford--- who, in recent years lived near Kekawaka Station, on the railroad. Amos Powers came to the Mina area at an early date others were Abijah Ackerly and Charles Diggins. Charlie Diggins raised a family here, but I never knew them, a daughter, Mary, was Frank Doolittles first wife. She was drowned in the Eel River at the mouth of Bear Canyon trying to cross the river, that crossing was still known as the Larry Diggins Crossing. [From the original.]

This information seems highly reliable given Mr. Scheubeck's knowledge of the area. It appears therefore that Mary was Doolittle's first wife--quite likely she was Indian as the children are classified as "Indian" on the 1900 census (below). If she was lost in the river far from RMH, it also tends to support the conclusion that there are only two graves on the knoll.

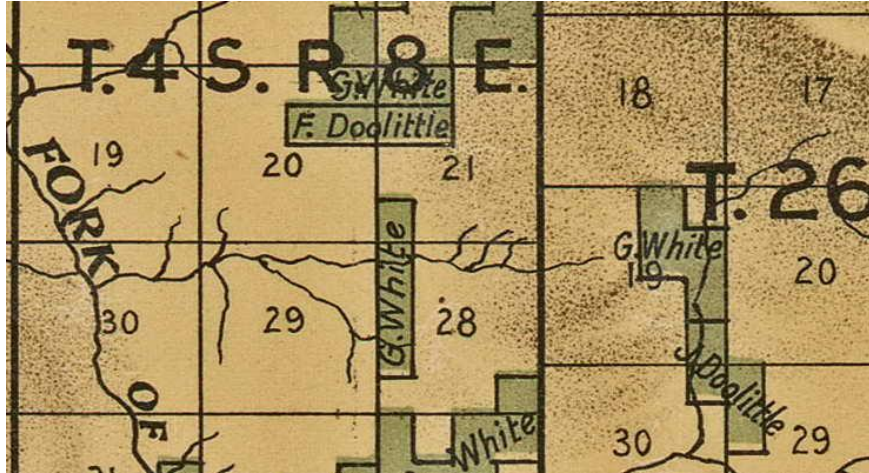
It is not clear when the elder Doolittle died. Since he does not show up on the 1900 census, it is clear that his death occurred somewhere after October of 1895 (see Image HA01-2) and prior to the 1900 census (Image HA01-3). Likewise, since his wife Josephine is not in the 1895 photograph it is likely that she had already died prior to 1895.

59	39	Doolittle Frank F	Head	M	M	Mar	1856	44	M	5		
		Rebecca J *	Wife	M	I	Mar	1870	30	F	5	3	3
		Ostwell M *	Son	M	M	Dec	1881	18	S			
		Reatus *	Son	M	M	Apr	1884	16	F			

Image HA01-3
1900 census record.
(A03: 1900-5)

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There are some unanswered questions and no documents (that have been found) concerning the Doolittles whereabouts from about the late summer of 1901--when records show that the Willburns established the Caution Post Office (F20a Location #1 established on August 31, 1901, Mary L Willburn, postmaster *Trinity Yearbook* 1971: 24), although it appears at some point the Doolittles moved to a tract of land just to the south of Long Ridge (F32). To make things even more confusing, Lowden's 1894 TC map (A2: 04) shows another tract of land owned by Frank Doolittle to the northeast of the RMH. No other reference to this tract was found.



Lowden's 1894 map showing a tract owned by Frank Doolittle in Sections 20 and 21 to the NW of HA01.

According to homestead records (HA03 Appendix 1) William Sidney Willburn acquired the Red Mountain House tract on May 19, 1904. Thus, there is a period from 1901 to 1904 when it appears that the Doolittles still owned this property. As noted in the F32 entry for Frank Doolittle:

The confusion stems from the fact that Frank Doolittle, according a homestead entry application, declared entry in 1903 for a tract of land (T5S R7E S 26 & 25), in the same area at the southern end of Long Ridge. However, his father (W. H. Doolittle) appears to have already owned a tract of land in this area. Given the problems with the GLO surveys, it is not clear if this is two different but adjacent tracts or not. Further research is needed on this issue.

Interestingly (as noted at F32), a sworn statement by local resident Augustus Russ (see IF02) contained in Doolittle's homestead entry application for the above tract of land on Long Ridge, dated June 22, 1910, indicated that Doolittle had been living on the land: "the past six or seven years and *possibly longer*" (emphasis added). Thus, it is possible that the Doolittle family "squatted" (did not file a formal entry under the 1862 Homestead Act) on this land in 1901 or 1902 prior the creation of the TNF in April of 1905. For the biographical information on Frank and Rebecca Doolittle after they moved to a location near the southern end of Long Ridge refer to entry F32 in the People and Places section.

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1904: William and Georgia Willburn purchase the Red Mountain House

It appears from the above chronology that the Willburns (there was one "l" in the census listing—see below--however, the homestead application for HA03 uses "ll") may have moved on to the RMH property prior to their buying it. According to the TC Clerk's Office, William S. and his wife Georgia Anne Willburn did not legally acquire the Red Mountain House until May 19, 1904.

Note that the census has Sidney W. Willburn listed as "William S. Willburn." He was the son of James S. Willburn (Sr.). See B05 for more on the extended Willburn family.

Thus, there is a period from about 1901 to 1904 where it is unclear on just who was residing at Red Mountain House-- although it appears to be the Willburns since, as noted above, the Caution Post Office (F20-location #1) was established here on August 31, 1901, with Georgia Ann Willburn listed as postmaster. This gives added weight to the possibility that the Doolittle's moved to a new homestead sometime in the summer or fall of 1901 (see Caution Post Office entry).

The 1910 census show the "Wilburns" and their 16 year old daughter were still living at RMH.

99	12	Willburn, William S.	Head	M	39	40	11/1/18			California	Missouri	California
		Georgia A.	Wife	F	38	38	7/4/18	3	1	California	Missouri	California
		Merinda A.	Daughter	F	16	16	5			California	California	California

Image HA01-6
1910 Census (A3: 1910-8)

Caution

The name Caution was suggested by John S. Reid who later became Trinity County district attorney (*Trinity Yearbook* 1971: 24). The mail was first carried in from Alderpoint via Hoaglin by Henry Reed. According to consultants this was known as the Ben Duncan Mailbox Trail (HTNF-05)--the last portion is labeled trail HTNF-23 on the NFER trails map.

The post office in about 1910 was moved to Hiram Willburn's place (Sidney Willburn's brother) about 2 miles to the west (F20-location #2, site record #05-10-54-314); His daughter Mary L Willburn was the new postmaster. The 1910 census (A3: 1910-7a) recorded Mary's age as 21 and her occupation as "post mistress." It was here for about a decade before it was then moved to Long Ridge (location #3) in about 1915 (*Trinity County Yearbook* 1956:25).

Beginning in 1904, William Shannon carried the mail from Hoaglin to Caution (by this time the post office had moved to location #2). Ted Shannon (ms.) writes that his father:

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...carried the mail from Hoaglin to Caution for eight years [1904 to 1912]. There was a cable crossing the main Northfork [sic] branch of Eel River near Bob Hoaglin [sic] place. When the river was too high father tied the horse and walked the four miles to Caution and carried the mail on his back.

The mail was brought in from Hoaglin twice a week. For his services Shannon was paid \$30 a month. Although the Caution Post Office moved several times during its existence it was always a community gathering place. No special building was constructed--it was just located in the ranch house of the post mistress (Robb 1981:363).

In the summer of 1912, TNF ranger John Gray evaluated a homestead entry application (HA03) for William Willburn for a 160 acre parcel just to the north of RMH. Gray noted that the RMH homestead where Willburn was still living at the time included: "fences, house, barn and other out buildings." He recorded that Wilburn owned about 15 cattle, 6 horses and a few hogs that grazed on open range.

The records in the homestead file HA03 are incomplete. It appears, however, that Willburn appealed the decision rejecting his entry claim and that a hearing was set in the case (U.S. vs. William S. Willburn, H.E. 0911) before R. L. Carter county clerk at Weaverville on August 29, 1916, and a final hearing was held at the Land Office in Eureka on September 15, 1916. No decision for the hearings is recorded in the homestead record file; however a letter from the Department of Interior Central Land Office dated May 4, 1921, indicates that the decision to cancel the homestead entry was made closing the case. It is likely from the continuance of the court case that until about 1916 the Willburns were still living at Red Mountain House. No data could be located that indicated exactly when Red Mountain House was abandoned.

This is as far as I have traced the history of the parcel at RMH. It appears that sometime before the 1920 census the Willburns abandoned the homestead as they do not show up on the 1920 census. Max Rowley (A5: I#444) indicated the tract was eventually acquired by the McCullough family. A male member of this family married a Travis woman and took over the Travis Ranch which had previously owned these parcels. The FS acquired the parcel in the late 1980s from rancher Larry Brown (Flying Double A Ranch) after the Brown Land Exchange (CRIR 05-10-47, Keter 1986, SRNF).

Trails

There were a number of trails leading to Red Mountain House (refer to Base Map). The Red Mountain House was on the Covelo to Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11). This trail led north from Covelo and passed through Summit Valley. It then dropped down to cross the NFER at the mouth of Hull's Creek. The trail then headed north paralleling the river for about 1.5 miles. Here, it crossed the North Fork at Jack's Flat (named after Jack Littlefield [B07]). It is situated across from a huge rock outcropping (several hundred feet high) and headed up slope to the east to just to the south of Wylackie Hill. At Antone Ridge, it then crossed over into the

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headwaters of Littlefield Creek (Image HA01-7) and dropped down to Red Mountain House. From there the trail headed east climbing Red Mountain to Jones Ridge. At that point, the trail headed north to Three Forks and eventually crossed over South Fork Mountain continuing on to Weaverville via Hayfork.

Besides the Covelo to Weaverville Trail, several other trails (HTMR 22, 23, 25, HTNF-01, 42) are associated with Red Mountain Fields (see NFER Historic Trails section) and linked the RMH with the outside world. Trail HTMR-22 led from the RMH northwesterly to the Line cabin indicated on current USGS maps in T4S, R8E, Section 16. Here it connected with the main north-south trail (HTMR-10 and HTMR-11) now roughly the route followed by a FS road.

Another trail (HTMR-23) led from the Fannie Willburn place (near the location of Caution Post Office #2) east past Climbing Springs and around the head of an unnamed creek and down a ridgeline to Little Red Mountain Creek to a point about where the Covelo to Weaverville Trail takes off to the east just to the north of the RMH. In 1986 portions of this blazed trail were followed east from the Willburn homestead for about one mile where it was lost. The terminus near Little Red Mountain Creek was also located. Several blazed trees were noted, and the trail was followed west up a ridge to the west but was lost (due to limited time no significant effort was made to follow this trail it is likely it could be followed further if the effort was made).

The Blue Jay Mine Trail (HTMR-25) begins about where the Covelo-Weaverville Trail heads to the east as it climbs Red Mountain to Jones Ridge. Trail HTMR-25 heads north and easterly crossing site 05-10-54-309 as it climbs a trending ridge to the Blue Jay Mine (F19 T26N, R12W, Section 27, MDM) in the Hayden Roughs area. The trail was developed into a road during the era the Blue Jay mine was open to provide access to the mine east to Jones Ridge.

During our original survey of the Red Mountain House parcel an unmapped or recorded blazed trail, HTNF-01, was located. From the Covelo-Weaverville Trail, just to the north of Red Mountain Creek, the unnamed trail headed in a southeasterly direction around southwestern and south facing slopes of Red Mountain paralleling Red Mountain Creek. The trail was followed for almost one mile passing through small openings surrounded by dense brush (manzanita), and one stand of conifers. It was eventually lost in dense manzanita. It appears to be a very old trail and was not noted on any of the historic maps that I reviewed (see Appendix 2).

Environmental Setting

Red Mountain Fields was recognized early in the historic period as being one of the best locations in the region to establish a homestead due to its abundant perennial springs. The area was used intensively during the ethnographic period. Given Wailaki burning practices (Keter 1987), Red Mountain Fields was likely very open surrounded by grasslands and oak woodlands except immediately to the east where laterite soils dominated the western

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slopes of Red Mountain as it dropped down to the meadows. The knoll (F4) appears to be an outcrop of fractured gray sandstone.

When the Doolittle homestead was established the area was much more open. Note in the attached images that young Douglas firs are invading the meadow along its edges. It was clear during my overnight visit in 1986 that much of the surrounding oak woodlands were being over-topped by young aggressive Douglas firs within the site boundary (Images HA01: 08-12).

Within the young Douglas firs invading the opening --along with dead and dying oaks-- were scattered individual mature ponderosa pines and cedars. They are not shade tolerant and obviously grew in a more open environment. Other tree species adjacent to the meadows included oaks, ponderosa pines, Jeffery pines, incense cedars, and Douglas firs; there also some pepperwoods and buckeyes in the vicinity to the west. A few gray pines were growing in opportunistic locations (poor soils on well-drained sites see Keter 1985), and some cottonwoods and alder were growing along Little Red Mountain Creek. Undergrowth included a substantial amount of manzanita in places--especially to the east and upslope from the jeep road as the soils transitioned into laterite dominated soils.



Image HA01-7

Photo possibly taken in the early 1900s--no documented date.
(George Ward Collection)

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Information on Image HA01-7

View from Antone Ridge north towards Red Mountain House. The route of the Round Valley-Weaverville Trail is generally to the center right in the photo--to the east of Littlefield Creek as it descends to Red Mountain Creek. The third (small) meadow from the bottom of photo is about where Littlefield is buried (see Keter 1994a and HTNF-11). The fifth meadow was the site of Red Mountain House. Note that Red Mountain (upper right) is mostly brush on its southwestern slope. In the background--far upper right--is South Fork Mountain. The top center of the photo is Hayden Roughs. Trail HTMR-22 passes through the two openings on the upper left leading to the Willow Creek watershed and the Rock Creek Wagon Road (HTMR-10). Also note that by the time this photograph was taken young Douglas firs were already invading the meadows. When I visited and recorded Littlefield's grave in 1987 it was under an even-aged (+/- 50 to 75 year old) Douglas fir canopy. See the Littlefield grave (B07), the site record, and photos.

Consultant interviews

Max Rowley (A5: I#444):

The consultant noted the Red Mountain House [only the foundation now remains] was one story high and during a visit in 1949 although it was on the ground except for one corner, the boards and timbers were in good shape. He believes that the shakes had rotted off and this began the deterioration of the rest of the building. He noted no other standing buildings. The picket fence on the knoll [around the two burials] had fallen down. He could read the inscriptions on the wooden headboards. Both were inscribed "Doolittle."

Images of the Red Mountain House Area



Image HA01-08

View to NW from knoll (F4); Jeep road upper right. The RMH structure was located in about the center of the photo to the left of the pointed vertical rock (datum on site map). Note the young DF invading the edges of the meadow along Little Red Mountain Creek.

(T. K. 1986)



Image HA01-09

View west of the old fence line (see site map) from the jeep road west to Little Red Mountain Creek. The two trees along the creek to the left of the oak fence posts are fruit trees. To the left of the fruit trees is a gray pine.

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(T. K. 1986)



Image HA01-10

Roughly the same view as previous photo but closer to the creek. Note the two fruit trees to the right of the gray pine.

(T. K. 1986)



Image HA01-11

View to SW towards the confluence of Red Mountain and Little Red Mountain Creeks. Photo taken from the jeep trail on site map (dashed loop of the jeep trail). The grave site (F4) on the bald knoll is located to the upper left.

(T. K. 1986)

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Image HA01-12

**Travis Fire 1987: view from Red Mountain Trail NW to Haden Roughs.
The 1987 Travis Fire burned hot above RMH all the way to Jones Ridge.
(T. K. 1987)**



Image HA01-13

**View SW to the confluence of Red Mountain and LRM Creeks.
(T. K. 1981)**

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Image HA01-14

View to the northwest--the knoll with the grave is in the background.
Note the water flowing from one of the best springs in the entire region.
(T.K. 1986)



Image HA01-15

View north from knoll with graves to edge of meadow. The 1987 Travis fire burned down slope to a fire line constructed along the old trail.

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Image HA01-16

Photo taken prior to the Travis Fire. View from the knoll with graves to Little Red Mountain Creek. The two fruit trees are at lower left of image.
(T.K. 1986)

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HA01-17

Prior to the Travis Fire: note even-aged pine with some invading Douglas fir. Location is at the foot of the Covelo-Weaverville Trail where it begins to ascend Red Mountain. (T.K. 1986)

Red Mountain House Homestead Site Map

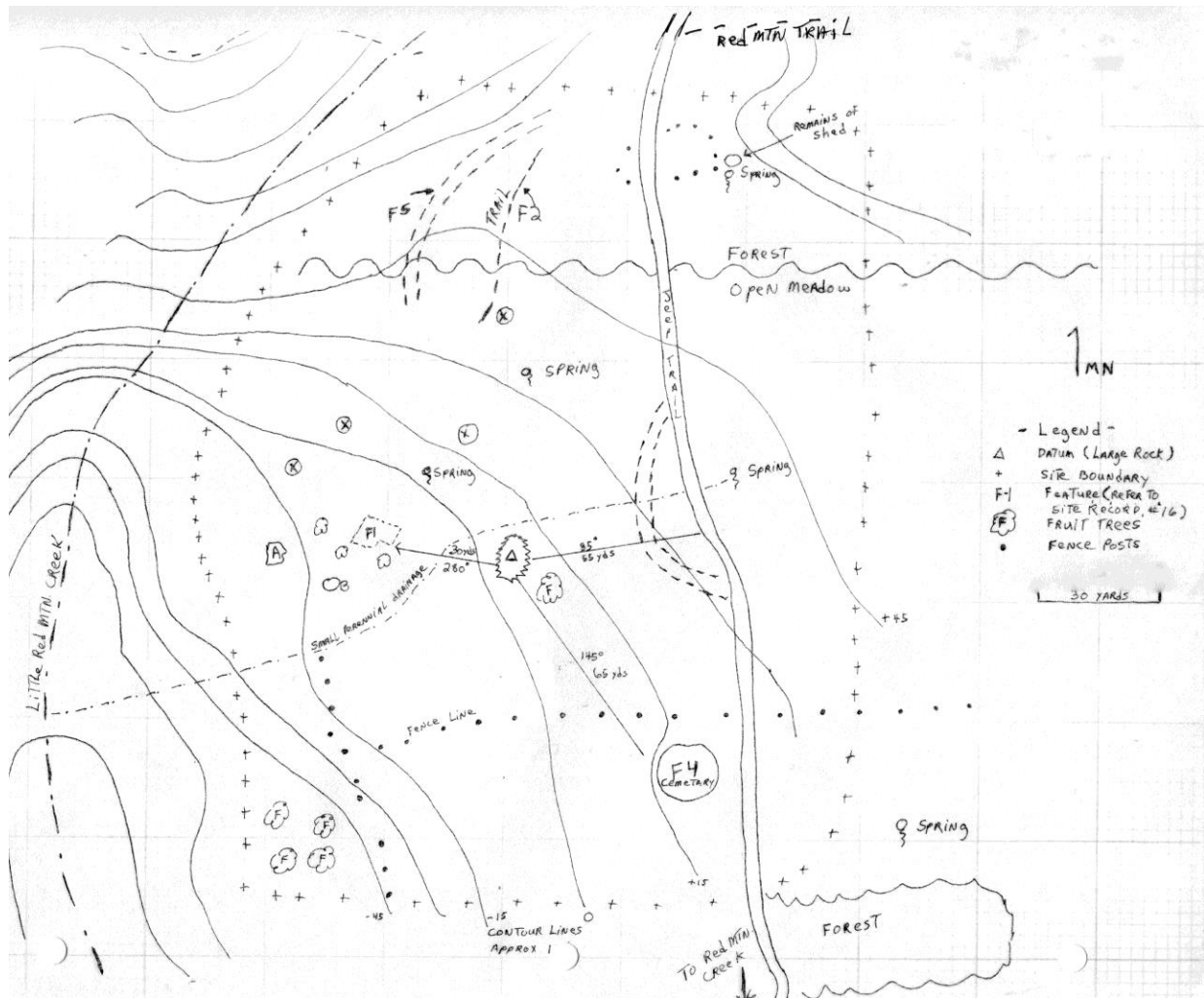


Diagram 1
Site Map of Red Mountain Homestead
(T. Keter 1986)

Features (see Diagram 1)

F1 Red Mountain House

This was the location of the Red Mountain House (Images HA01: 13 and 14). There is no construction date but it appears, given its condition in the photos, it was well before 1895 (date of the earliest photo). There were numerous artifacts (broken glass, etc. see site record) present within and adjacent to the remaining stone foundation. There were square and round nails but only small fragments (2" x 2" x 2") of lumber. This suggests the place was abandoned earlier in time rather than later; as many of the homestead cabins that I

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recorded within the NFERW during the early to mid-1980s dating to the late 1920s and early 1930s still had some evidence of logs or saw-timber. There were, however, fire scars on the cedar immediately to the southwest of the foundation suggesting the possibility that the house burned down.

Nothing of the structure remained except the rock foundation. Still visible were the remains of the large rock fire hearth. Two other unidentified features--possibly minor outbuilding structures--were associated with the house (see A and B on the site map).

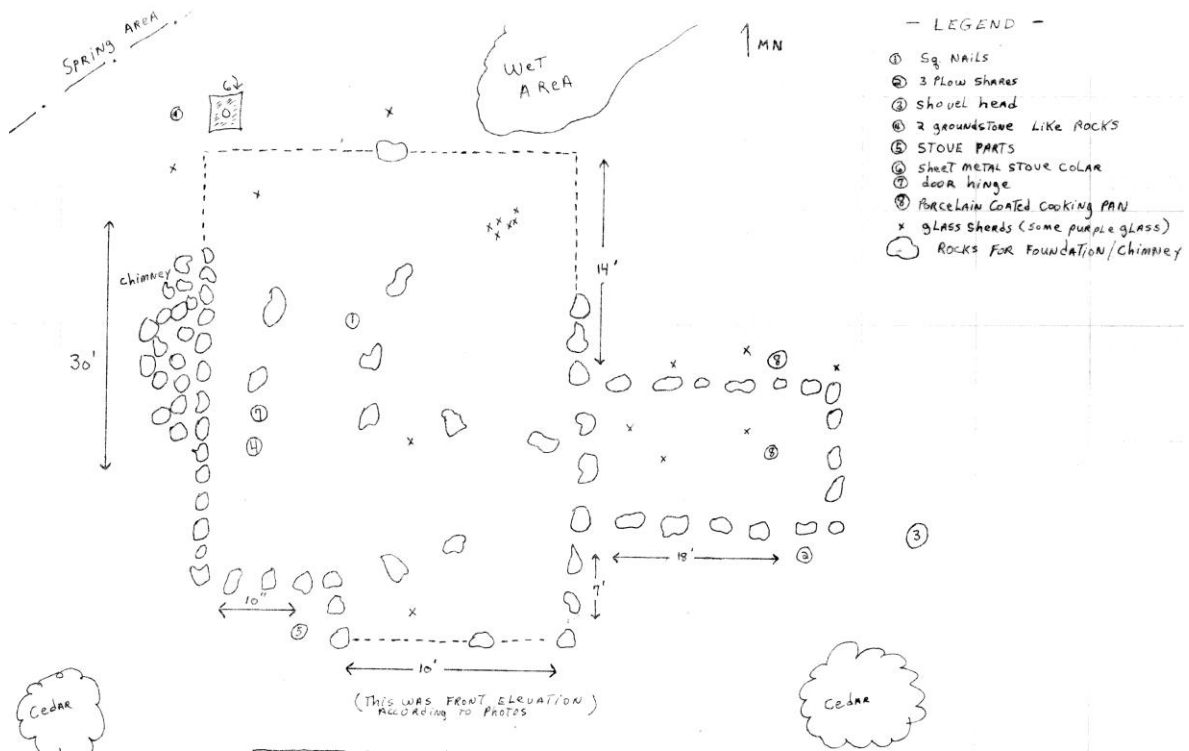


Diagram 2
Red Mountain House stone foundation

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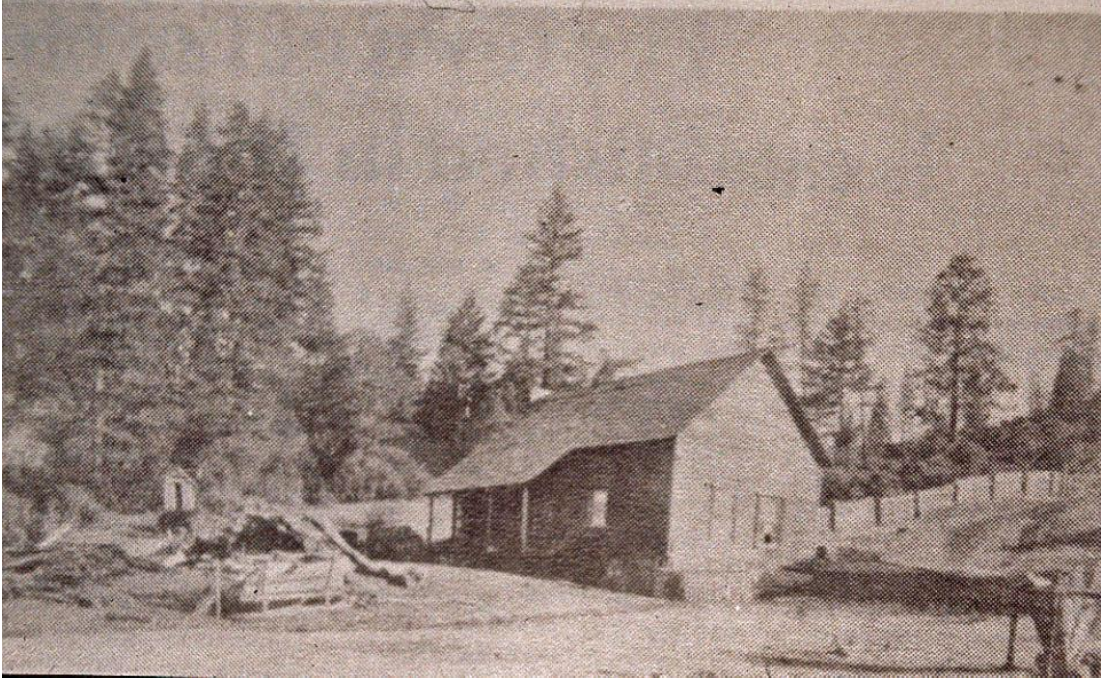


Image HA01-18

View to NE note lack of Douglas firs. This undated photo appears to predate the photo below. Compare the condition of the broken windows on the SE elevation and the condition of the fencing (right of RMH) between the two photos.

(Robert Lee)



Image HA01-19

View to NE--note that condition of the windows and fencing compared to the above photo. (No date probably early 20th century--Robert Lee)

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Feature 2

There were a number of standing oak posts (they last the longest compared to fir, pine, or cedar) in roughly a circular pattern--this appears to be a stock pen. There was also a small collapsed structure along the east side of the fence at the foot of the slope of Red Mountain. It is unclear when it was constructed. It was built of either pine or Douglas fir poles. An excellent spring is located adjacent to the feature and the current jeep road bisects the fenced area.

Feature 3

This is a section of a deep-cut foot or mule trail. It is over 18" deep and leads from the vicinity of feature 2 to the house.

Feature 4 Cemetery

As noted earlier, it appears there are two burials here (Images HA01: 15-18). One of the reasons for this supposition is that while the knoll is mostly barren (except for some brush to the south of the graves) the two graves were discerned by slight depressions in the ground level (possibly topped with some top soil) and had some grasses growing on them.

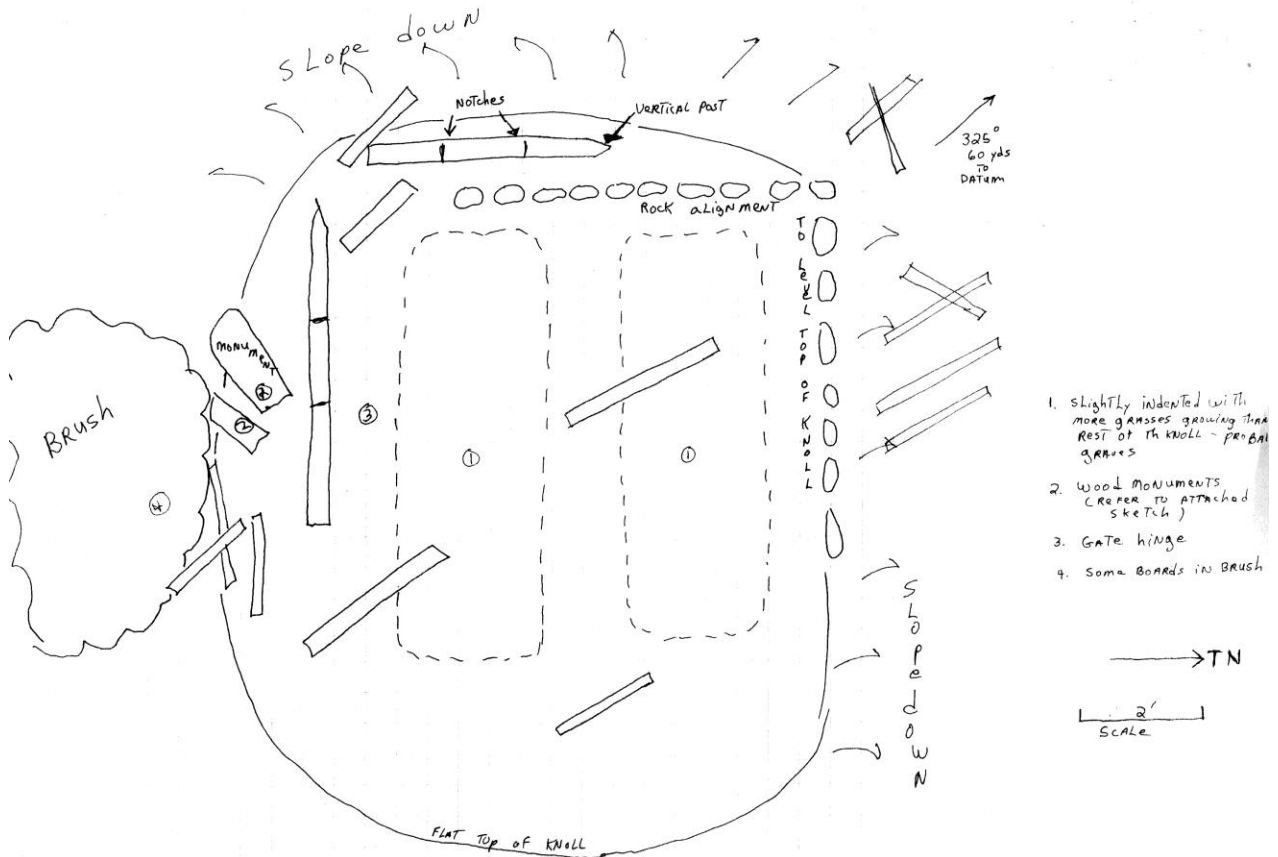
Although it appears that there are two graves, The publication *Trinity County Historic Sites* indicates that "Mrs. Doolittle is said to have drowned in the river near here and there are at least two graves on a large rock above the house site" (Jones 1981:363). Garcelon (ms) visited the area and thought that there might be three graves; he did not have a name for a possible third individual (he also may have been influenced by Jones article).

It is unlikely there were three graves. The second grave is most likely that of Josephine Doolittle. Note that the second grave marker had deteriorated much more than the "Doolittle" grave marker suggesting it was older. This issue of the identity of the second burial remains unresolved at this time. Although a third burial is unlikely, this possibility should be considered if any stabilization work is ever done in this area. Refer to the census data below for more on this subject.

At one time a fence (Diagram 5) surrounded the graves. The cemetery appears to have been well-kept until relatively recently (given the condition of the fence remains) and a considerable time and effort were expended leveling the site and building the fence. The knoll was so small that an area on the northwest corner of the knoll was built-up using rock backfilled with soil to enlarge it so that it could accommodate two graves and the fencing. The burials appeared to be oriented east to west with the grave markers likely to have been positioned on the west side of the enclosure with a possible gate or some type of entrance on east side. During my visits I observed that cattle were congregating on the knoll. I found the wooden grave marker remains under the edge of the manzanita (#4 on Diagram 4)--it

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most likely protected them from being totally destroyed by cattle (they may even have been placed there for that reason). The cattle were also badly damaging the wooden fencing lying on the ground and were causing significant ground disturbance. I tried to move the grave markers further under the manzanita in an effort to protect them. Given the amount of water in this area it is not surprising that cattle congregate here.



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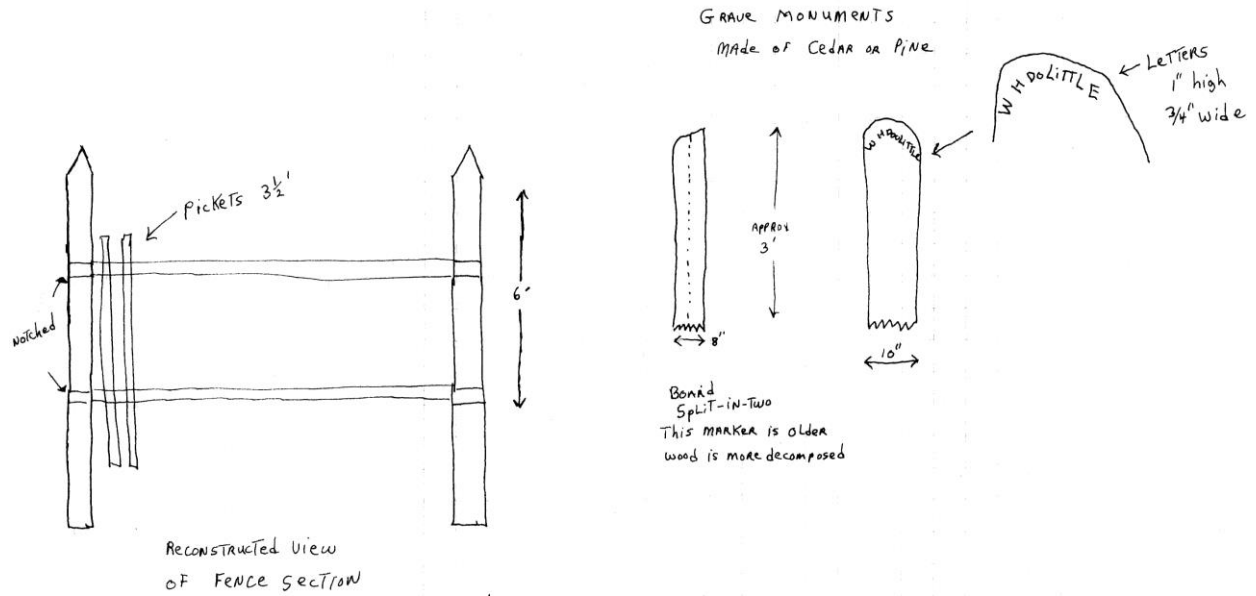


Diagram 4

Dimensions of the fence and grave marker Feature 4; the last part of the name on the grave marker is shown for illustrative purposes and was not entirely visible on the marker.



Image HA01-20

Feature 4: grave monument inscribed; "W. H. Doo"--the rest is illegible.
(T. K. 1986)

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Image HA01-21

Feature 4: grave monument inscribed; "W. H. Doo"--the rest is illegible.
(T. K. 1986)



Image HA01-22

Feature 5: full view of Doolittle monument.
(TK 1986)

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Image HA01-23

Collapsed fence that surrounded the graves; view west to Little Red Mountain Creek.
(TK 1986)

Feature 5

Possible trail--this feature appears to predate the jeep trail cutting across the top of the prairie since it leads directly to RMH.

Feature 6

This was possibly a barn (Diagram 6). There is a stone foundation on three sides. Given the fact it is known that both Doolittle and Wilburn grew hay it was quite possibly used to store hay.

Feature 7

Feature 7 is located on a small flat to the west of the house. There may have been a small outbuilding there as there is evidence of a rock-aligned foundation.

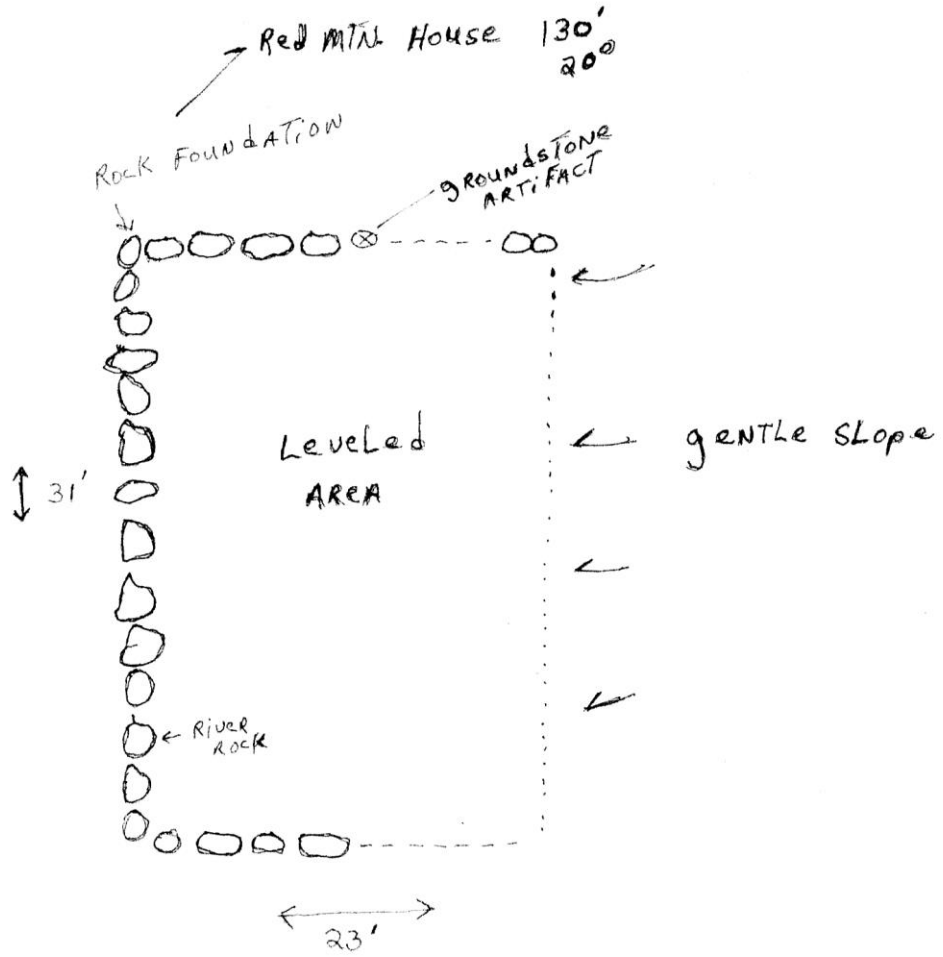


Diagram 6
Feature 7: Rock foundation