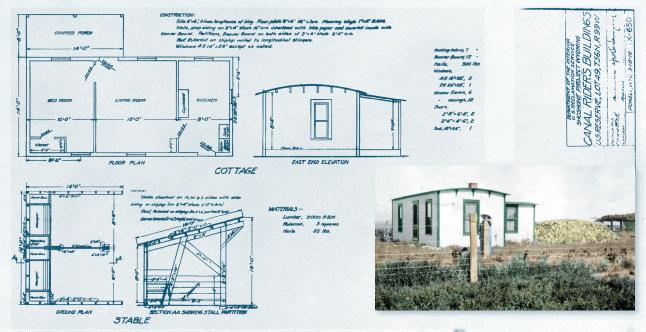
Car Top Construction

In the early days of Camp Colter, the Reclamation Service constructed buildings with "car tops" for their Canal Riders, who were ditch riders responsible for delivering water to the landowner's property. "Car top" refers to the rounded shape of the roofline of train cars (see blueprint). This design was simple, inexpensive and shed rain and snow. The house measures 28 feet by 12 feet, and a

small 12 foot addition was added on as a kitchen.

The Reclamation Service made blueprints available for this type home to homesteaders. It is still uncertain whether O.E. Bever constructed his home from scratch or if it was purchased and relocated to the homestead site. It is one of the only structures of its kind remaining in the Powell Flat. It is an excellent example of the size and constraints a young homesteading family would have experienced in their first years of life on the Powell Flat.



Renovation of Bever Homestead



The original site of the Bever Homestead was on Lane 9, southeast of Garland. It stood there for almost 100 years. The

homestead is the only one of its time that remains in a near-original condition.

The structure, without the kitchen addition, was moved to the Homesteader Museum in 2002. Renovations, under the direction of Burchell Hopkin, began in 2004.

Layers of wallpaper covered the thin layer of turn-

of-the-century sheet rock on the ceiling and walls (see shadow box). The wood floors are original, as is the wood siding. Each plank of the siding was turned over to re-create the look of a new homestead. This homestead did not originally have insulation and the windows are recycled from another home.



The renovations provide a secure future for the history of homesteading and the comfort of museum visitors.