Retailabive Review

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

ADJACH SALIURISQUE

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received 0CT 2.9 1985 date entered

	s in <i>How to Complete I</i> —complete applicable			9861 8 1 3344
1. Nam	ie		5.00	ANS TO THE PERSON OF THE PERSO
historic Ba	ath Ranch			
and or common	Stone Ranch			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Herrick Lane Roa	ad		not for publication
city, town Lara	amie	vicinity of		
state Wyomi	ing ¢de	le 056 county	Albany	code 001
	sification		7 NI 021 V	
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership public both Public Acquisitionn/a in processn/a being considered	Status occupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted	entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name Marie	e Sherwood			
street & number	1517 Reynolds	,		
city, town Larat		vicinity of	state	Wyoming
	ation of Leg			yog
courthouse regis	stry of deeds, etc. Alba	any County Courthou	200	
street & number	7,1100		150	
	5th and Grand			
city, town	Laramie			Vyoming
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title Unive	rsity of Wyoming Hi	story Class has this p	roperty been determined eli	gible? yes _X_ no
date 1984			federal stat	e county _X_ local
depository for su	urvey records State	Historic Preservatio	n Office	
city, town Ch	neyenne		state	Wyoming

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one Lambda unaltered altered	Check one _X_ original site moved date N/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bath ranch stone house and barn are outstanding examples of late 19th century native stone construction practiced by the Bath family in and around Laramie. The eighteen inch thick stone buildings are located 15 miles northwest of Laramie off Interstate 80 and continue to convey a strong sense of time and place. Located in a more recent wood construction ranch complex, boundaries for the stone buildings are easily defined by historical cultural landscape boundaries which define the site. This nomination includes only the stone house and barn and excludes the more recent buildings which are not associated with the Bath family.

The house is a square $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gabled roof building. The roof is long at the back of the building providing room for the single story kitchen and dining area. The upper portion on the front served as bedrooms. At the rear is a small gabled two room rectangular stone building constructed for smoke house and food storage. It has one original wood door on each room with plain surrounds. The front facade of the house features a central front door with radiating stone arched head and two light transom. This stone arch is repeated in the two first floor front windows which also have rounded heads and wood sills. These windows flank the front door. The upper story windows are all rectangular with wood sills and lintels. All windows are narrow double hung 1/1. There are also windows in the gable side of the building. The building has planked eve overhang and primitive stone quoining on the corners. It has been abandoned for a number of years, thus there is no glass in window frames. There is a hipped roof wooden porch on the back side which may be a more recent addition. There are two interior brick chimneys.

The barn is a massive $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gambrel still functioning in its original capacity. The gambrel portion of the building is unusually wide and features board siding. The main portion of the barn is stone and features the same construction techniques as the house. There are square loft openings in the front and side and small four light square windows spaced evenly along the sides. Two double doors on the front feature original hardware and swinging and vertical rolling doors. This is repeated on the back of the barn.

Together the two buildings serve as excellent examples of state-of-the-art Bath family stone construction and are the only known rural structures associated with the Baths, remaining in the state.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	_,	community planning conservation economics education engineering X exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Ca. 1875	Builder/Architect Hen	nry Bath	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bath Stone Ranch house and barn are excellent examples of Bath family construction retaining integrity of setting, design, location, materials, work-manship, feeling and association. They convey a strong sense of time and place and are associated with the beginnings of the cattle ranching frontier, an episode which significantly influenced the broad patterns of Wyoming's economic, political and social history. Additionally, the buildings are exemplary of Bath construction and associated with the Bath family who made significant economic impacts locally. The buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of 19th century vernacular stone construction that was once more common but has for the most part disappeared. It is unique in that its construction coincided with the last native American uprisings in the late 19th century. Reflecting the relative insecurity of this period and location, the structures feature walls 18 inches thick which extend well below the ground. Designed to repel possible Indian attack the stone ranch buildings still stand as a rustic fortress in minature and are deserving of enrollment in the National Register.

See Addendum

9. Majo	r Bibl	iograp	<u>phica</u>	I Refe	renc	es	
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10. Ge	ograp	hical I	Data				
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For NPS use	-						
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for Keeper of the	Mational He	yist e ľ	U				

date

Attest:

GPO 911-399

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Bath Ranch

Item number

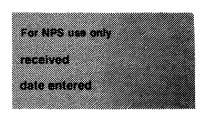
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When Henry Bath arrived with his wife and children in Laramie in July of 1868 -a mere two months after the town's inception -- he had little intention of confronting the ardors of ranch life on the Laramie plains. A cabinet maker by trade. Henry Bath built Laramie's first frame structure, a hotel he called the New York House. Lacking winter feed for his oxen, Bath turned them loose on the prairie expecting to find them half-starved or dead by spring. Contrary to expectation, spring's arrival revealed four oxen who were "fat and slick". This discovery stimulated Bath's desire to try his hand at ranching. Henry Bath was one of the first to ranch on the plains of what is today Albany County, an area that eventually became and continues to function as one of the most prosperous areas in the state for cattle grazing. He established a crude homestead on the Little Laramie river at what is now the "Stone Ranch" sometime between 1869 and The original structures, consisting of a modest cabin and a small barn, no longer exist. In 1875, however, Henry and his sons quarried stone for and built the two imposing structures that still stand on Herrick Lane. The construction occurred during a period marred by the last coordinated native American uprisings of the 19th Century (culminating with, among others, the Meeker, Thornburgh, and Custer "massacres"). The stone ranch reflects the relatively insecure period and location of its construction. The edifice sports walls eighteen inches thick (which extend, in addition, well below ground level to the cellar floor) and was designed -- according to several sources -- to repel Indian attacks. The structure is completely unique in this respect and unlike any other in the region -- a rustic fortress in miniature. The buildings are the best remaining example of a vernacular architectural style that once was more common in the area but which in most cases has tumbled down, been torn down, or covered with stucco. The Bath ranch house and barn retain integrity of setting, design, location, workmanship, materials, feeling and association, and convey a strong sense of time and place, thus they deserve enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places. Finally one must, in considering the historical significance of the stone ranch, take into account its general as well as particular context. The impact of the Bath family as a whole on local history was profound, ranging from the establishment of a brewery, several hotels, and an entire block of stone houses (Bath Row), to the slaughter of the last buffalo on the Laramie plains by Henry's brother, William (a dubious distinction if ever there was one -- but one well remembered by the county's pioneer inhabitants as a grand symbol of "progress"). The stone ranch then, is as much a symbol of a period and the triumphs of an entire family as it is, a symbol of the first attempts by Henry (and others) to ranch along the Little Laramie.

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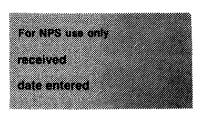
Laramie: Top-of-the-World Press, 1955.

Dunn, Vallie Bath. "The Bath Family -- the future begins in the past", Laramie: Laramie Daily Boomerang, Saturday, 7/10/76. Vol.96 Number 106.

Pence, Mary Lou. The Laramie Story. Laramie, 1968

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The boundary for the bath stone ranch and buildings is defined by the yard fence which provides a logical dividing point for separating the stone buildings from newer structures on the site. The boundary (beginning at point A) is located at the northeastern corner of the barn approximately 20 feet from the barn. The boundary follows the fence south to the point where it meets the yard fence (point B) and then proceeds east to the corner of the yard fence (point C) and then proceeds south again to the corner of the yard fence located approximately 30 feet from the southeast corner of the house (point D). The boundary then follows the fence west to the southwest corner of the yard fence (point E), proceeds north to point F a shared point with point B. The boundary then follows the fence west across the cattle guard (point G) and then follows the west side of the road to an arbitrary point (H), approximately 20 feet from the southwest corner of the barn and then follows an arbitrary line north to join the fence (point I). The boundary then follows the fence east to the point of beginning.

This boundary encompaces the original stone ranch buildings and excludes other newer structures from a later period. Because of the scale of the map and the difficulty of providing UTM coordinates for all boundary points-coordinates have been provided for the two contributing structures along with a site plan showing the relationship of the buildings to each other.

