

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Nevada</b>	
COUNTY: <b>White Pine</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>FEB 23 1972</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Fort Schellbourne**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Schellbourne**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**43 miles north of Ely off U.S. Hwy 93, 3 mi. east on State 2**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ely vicinity**

STATE <b>Nevada</b>	CODE <b>32</b>	COUNTY: <b>White Pine</b>	CODE <b>033</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <b>Cattle Ranch Headquarters</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Ruth H. Russell**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**21 E. Vine Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Tooele**

STATE: <b>Utah</b>	CODE <b>43</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**White Pine County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ely,**

STATE <b>Nevada</b>	CODE <b>32</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Nevada Historical Sites**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Center for Western Studies  
University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Stead Facility**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Reno, Nevada**

STATE: <b>Nevada</b>	CODE <b>32</b>
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7. DESCRIPTION

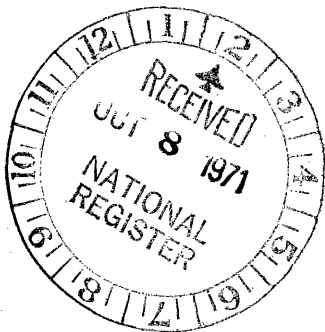
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Schellbourne is located in the foothills of the Schell Creek Mountain range some 40 miles north of Ely. The picturesque setting includes a six foot wide, mountain-fed, year-round stream. The site is on the edge of the Pinion-Juniper Tree belt with the actual site growth being huge silver poplars that were planted by the pioneers. Grass covered streets of the old town form pleasant open areas beneath the huge trees. The site is now the headquarters for a cattle ranch; absentee owners utilizing the old residence of the ranch as a summer home. The old town of Schellbourne included several stores, blacksmith shops, livery stables, a boarding house, post office and a newspaper. A portion of these buildings remain and are utilized by the ranching operation. The site of Schellbourne is on a slope, with native trees and brush in the marsh area below to the stream. Pioneer cabins remain along the stream edge.

From the site one can look down to the broad valley floor and toward the Egan range to the west and to the east into the half circle of the Schell mountains. A good hard surface road leads from U.S. Highway 93, alternate 50, three miles east to the historic site of Schellbourne and on through Schellbourne Pass into the Goshute Indian Reservation. A hard surfaced loop-back leads one south down the east side of the Schell Range 53 miles to Conners Pass, (Major's Place) and thence 28 miles back north to Ely.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Schellbourne has been a Shoshone Indian village, Overland Stage and Mail stop, Pony Express Station, a location on the route of the Overland Telegraph, base of military operations, mining camp, and a location on the Lincoln Transcontinental highway. Its strategic location with shade trees, grass and water have made it a desirable, natural stopping place for travelers. It has never been entirely abandoned.

Captain James Simpson, seeking a route across the Great Basin shorter than the Humboldt River Trail, passed through the site of Schellbourne in 1859. Later that year an Overland Stage and Mail station was built there. In 1860, the Pony Express established Schell Creek Station with corral and station house. The Overland Telegraph passed over the same route in 1861.

The site briefly took the name Fort Schellbourne in 1862 after a detachment of troops camped here to head off troublesome Indians who harassed the stages and mails. Later in the decade, after the Indians were subdued, the troops were transferred elsewhere. The stage station declined after 1869 when the Central Pacific Railroad was completed further north.

Gold discoveries in the surrounding hills in 1869 led to the founding of a mining camp 2 years later. Silver ore was discovered in the mountains to the east of Schellbourne in the early 1870's and the camp became a part of the Aurum Mining District in 1871. An active mining camp developed with a population of over 500 persons. Freight brought from Toano on the Central Pacific Railroad was \$25 per ton. Timber, consisting of nut pine, fir, cedar, and mohogany was found in abundance all over the district. The town included several stores, blacksmiths shops, livery stables, a boarding house, post office, and a newspaper, the Schellbourne Prospect.

Sensational ore discoveries at Cherry Creek, ten miles across Steptoe Valley, drained all but a few people from Schellbourne near the close of 1872. Although its promising silver ledges had scarcely been worked, houses and machinery were hauled from

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nevada Ghost towns and Mining Camps; Stanley Paher, Howell-North Berkeley 1970.

Nevada Historical Sites, Mordy and McCaughey, Univ. of Nevada 1968.

History of Nevada; Thompson and West, Angel, (Reproduction) Howell-North, 1958

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 48' 18"	114° 41' 20"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 48' 18"	114° 40' 46"				
SE	39° 47' 24"	114° 40' 46"				
SW	39° 47' 24"	114° 41' 20"				

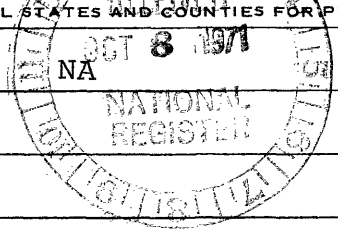
NO  
UTM  
CD

T. 22 N.  
R. 65 E.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **320 Acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. E. Wieprecht, Park Planner

ORGANIZATION: Nevada State Park System DATE: Aug. 25, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Nye Bldg., E. 2nd & Fall Sts.

CITY OR TOWN: Carson City, STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Eric Conblite*

Title: ADMINISTRATOR - S.L.O.

Date: 24 Sept. 71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Ernest A. Connelly*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**FEB 23 1972**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: *William M. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date **FEB 8 1972**

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Schellbourne

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Schellbourne to the new silver strike. Late in the 1870's, the mines resumed production and the camp was lively; but by 1880 Schellbourne had declined to 50 residents.

In succeeding years, ranchers have used the stone and log buildings in this tree-studded area as their ranch headquarters, as do the present owners.

