

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 9 1975

DATE ENTERED

OCT 6 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Kyle Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

Kyle Ranch

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER Losee at Carey Roads

CITY, TOWN

North Las Vegas

VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Nevada

STATE

Nevada

CODE

32

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME The City of North Las Vegas Bicentennial Committee

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2200 Civic Center Drive

CITY, TOWN

North Las Vegas

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

6115 Clarice Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

STATE

Nevada

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Chicago Title Insurance Company/No Statewide H.P. Survey

DATE

May 8, 1963

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Chicago Title Insurance Company

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

STATE

Nevada

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original adobe brick hut, the seven, frame houses, a cement block house, various outbuildings, and a swimming pool form the core of a guest ranch considered to be, at one time, the showplace of the entire south-west.

The "Showplace" description was justified despite the fact that no one building was an architectural masterpiece nor were the grounds the work of a master landscape architect. What justified the description were the well-maintained buildings set amid equally well-maintained grounds, orchards and vineyards. Beyond the borders of the ranch stretched the vast, barren Mojave Desert and the crude village known as Las Vegas just over the brow of a nearby hill.

Recently urban growth encroached on the ranch and in 1966 ranching operations were abandoned. An ever-lowering water table dried the surface spring. The city of North Las Vegas' utility department drilled a well and pumped the remaining subterranean water into the city system. The ranch then returned to desert and fell prey to encroaching sands and vandalism.

The property was purchased by the city of North Las Vegas Bicentennial Committee and it is under the administration of the city of North Las Vegas, Department of Parks and Recreation. Cleanup of the site has begun; restoration of historic structures and demolition of nonhistoric ones are planned. The object is to develop a historic park to explain local history.

Since its beginning, the ranch has been known by the following names:

1. Indian Ranch
2. Kiel Ranch ("Kyle" is actually a misnomer; however, it is the name by which it is known locally.)
3. Park Ranch
4. Taylor Ranch "Boulderado"
5. Losee Ranch

Descriptions of the buildings:

1. Adobe hut-a two-room adobe brick structure, one story high with a cellar. The gable end roof has rolled asphalt sheathing over cedar shingles. No records show the original roofing, but it is presumed to be willow bundles sealed with clay, as was the practice in southern Nevada at that time. A narrow stoop across the front appears to be a later addition and is also constructed of adobe brick. Light was admitted by two small windows on the north and east sides; entry was via one door. The cabin was built in 1867 by Paiute Indians under the direction of Conrad Kiel and his son, Edward. They were later joined by Kiel's other son, William. They lived in the cabin until 1894

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	XAGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	XXEDUCATION	__MILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

1855 to present

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Various
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Conrad Kiel and his sons opened the trading post at the ranch, it gave the mining camps to the south and east a much needed source for supplies and helped initiate Las Vegas Valley as a center of commerce for southern Nevada. Water from the springs on the ranch made it possible to grow hay for beef cattle and dairy cows, raise horses and grow limited amounts of wheat for their own use. They planted vineyards and produced wine for sale to the miners throughout the area. The adobe hut they constructed and used as a trading post remains as a dwindling example of adobe construction, one of only three in the Las Vegas Valley dated to this era.

Senator William Clark bought the ranch in 1903. He wanted the water for his Salt Lake Railroad. As plans for rail connections to the rich mining areas in Tonopah and Rhyolite progressed, Las Vegas attained greater significance as a rail hub. Soon the ranch was producing fresh fruit for communities along the rail routes, as well as for local residents. There were orchards of pears and apricots, melon fields and vineyards of several grape varieties imported from Europe. To facilitate irrigation, Clark had the spring dammed and constructed a small reservoir. Extending from the reservoir was a rather sophisticated network of concrete channels carrying water for the orchard and vineyards. Some of the pear trees and portions of a concrete channel remain today.

About 1910, John S. Park constructed for Senator Clark the large ranch house (White House) that is the principle remaining structure on the ranch. The house was a marked departure from the existing structures in the valley. While towns such as Goldfield, Tonopah and Rhyolite were expounding their riches with up-to-date hotels and banks, Las Vegas had remained primarily a tent community with only a scattering of false-front wood structures. This house, featuring central heating from a furnace in the cellar, interior plumbing and spacious rooms, helped bring a sense of permanency to the community.

With the burgeoning interest in nostalgia spurred on by the country's bicentennial celebration, the ranch has become a point of interest for educational groups. The Department of Anthropology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, recently exhumed the remains of three persons from the burial plot found on the ranch and have them under study. The White House will be restored as a museum, both for itself and to contain artifacts of the area. It will serve the educational programs of the local schools and historical society.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"History of the Las Vegas Mission"-Andrew Jenson, Nevada State Historical Society Papers., Vol. V, pp. 115-284.

"Journal of Octavius Gass"-Squires Collection, University of Nevada Las Vegas-Special Collections.

"Las Vegas-As it Began, As it Grew"-Stanley Paher, Nevada Publications, Las Vegas-1971.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 26

UTM REFERENCES

A 

11	667	4010	40	08	260
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

B 

11	667	4010	40	07	880
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

C 

11	667	21010	40	07	880
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

D 

11	667	11010	40	08	010
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Exhibit "A"

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wilbur E. Wieprecht

August 20, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Nevada State Park System

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street, Nye Building, Room 221, Capitol Complex

702/885-4370  
TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada 89710

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Eric Lombite*

TITLE

S. H. P. O. / Adm. NEV. STATE PARK SYSTEM DATE 9-2-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*AP [Signature]*

DATE 10/6/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE OCT 2 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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7. Description

when the father died. It continued to be occupied by Edward and William until Edward shot William and then himself in 1900. This building will be restored as a display model.

2. White House-built by John S. Park, Manager of the Las Vegas Land and Water Company. The company was formed by Senator William Clark to acquire land and water sources for his San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad. He acquired the ranch from the Kiel estate in 1903 and Park began construction of a large, single story, frame house with clapboard siding in 1907. The style is unique, with a deep porch under a common roof across the front. The structure features a high, semiopen cellar underneath and a double roof separated by a crawl (vent) space. The lower roof is of hip-frame construction and the upper structure is a flat built-up roof. The house is in poor condition, appearance wise, but it is structurally sound. It will be rehabilitated and utilized by the city of North Las Vegas, Department of Parks and Recreation as a museum of local history.
3. Brown House-In 1910, Dr. William Park, son of John Park, finished constructing the large frame guest house, then known as the Willow House. The style, like that of the White House, is unique as there are two houses connected by an enclosed passageway. The structure has a gable roof. Vertical board and batten siding are broken by horizontal accent strips above and below the windows and across the toe of the gables. Roofing material is asphalt shingles overlaid on wood shingles. Both the roof and supporting structure are in poor shape. Tentative plans call for restoration of this six-bedroom house.
4. Foreman's House-Fourteen years after construction of the Brown House, the next structure was constructed by Edwin Taylor, a new owner. This is a simple gable end frame structure with a large glass and screen porch across the front. The siding is vertical board without battens. Roofing is rolled asphalt over shingles. This structure and the adjoining ranch hands house will be torn down as being without architectural or historical merit.

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7. Description

5. Blue House-This was originally a schoolhouse. It was moved onto the site, enlarged and converted into a duplex by Edwin Losee in 1939. It is a single story, frame structure with a gable roof, board and batten siding on three sides and clapboard on the third. Roofing is rolled asphalt and felt. The house is in poor condition and will be demolished as not having historical or architectural merit.
  
6. Cement Brick House-Another duplex built in 1939 by Edwin Losee. It is similar in outline to the Blue House, but features a full porch across the front as part of the concrete slab under the structure. The styling is Western Ranch. A simple rectangle with a low pitch roof featuring a massive cement lock chimney serving both sides. Window frames and mullens are metal hinged to open from the sides. The structure is in poor condition and will be torn down as it does not have historical or architectural merit.

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8. Significance

Social humanitarian significance-for years the Kyle Ranch had been the social center of Las Vegas though known by different names. At one time there was a small theater on the ranch for quests; however, on further inquiry, we deem that it has "no particular historic significance."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Letters from Helen Stewart to Pioche Record, July 26, 1884.  
Testimony of a Mr. Moore of Moapa as recorded in the Pioche Record,  
July 26, 1884.  
Pioche (Lincoln County) Courthouse Records-January, 1894.



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10. Geographical Data

E 11/667100 4008120  
F 11/667050 4008120  
G 11/667050 4008360  
H 11/667120 4008360  
I 11/667340 4008260



EXHIBIT "A"

KYLE RANCH HISTORIC SITE

A part of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 15, Township 20 South, Range 61 East, M.D.M., more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the center of Section 15, Township 20 South, Range 61 East, M.D.M., City of North Las Vegas, County of Clark, Nevada; thence South  $0^{\circ}27'37''$  West 1069.65 feet along the West line of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of said Section 15; thence South  $89^{\circ}32'23''$  East 126.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continuing South  $89^{\circ}32'23''$  East 33.63 feet; thence along a curve concave to the Southwest having a radius of 350.00 feet through a central angle of  $37^{\circ}56'53''$  an arc distance of 231.81 feet; thence South  $51^{\circ}35'30''$  East 582.80 feet; thence along a curve concave to the Northeast having a radius of 300.00 feet through a central angle of  $33^{\circ}40'37''$  an arc distance of 202.51 feet; thence North  $89^{\circ}43'53''$  East 126.02 feet; thence South  $0^{\circ}16'07''$  East 1073.47 feet to the North line of Carey Avenue (100 feet wide); thence North  $89^{\circ}55'20''$  West parallel to an 50.00 feet distant from the South line of Section 15, 599.97 feet; thence North  $0^{\circ}04'40''$  East 307.47 feet; thence North  $43^{\circ}09'52''$  West 522.36 feet; thence North  $0^{\circ}27'37''$  East 420.00 feet; thence North  $89^{\circ}32'23''$  West 170.00 feet; thence North  $0^{\circ}27'37''$  East parallel to and 30.00 feet distant from the West line of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4), Section 15, 365.00 feet; thence South  $89^{\circ}32'23''$  East 96.00 feet; thence North  $0^{\circ}27'37''$  East 101.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

