

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 14 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 2 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

****** HISTORIC Sandstone Ranch
AND/OR COMMON
Spring Mountain Ranch

2 LOCATION

Five miles west of the Blue Diamond turnoff at the foot of the eastern slope of the Spring Mountain Range, twenty miles southwest of Las Vegas, Nevada
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Las Vegas VICINITY OF Nevada
STATE Nevada CODE 32 COUNTY Clark CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Nevada State Park System
STREET & NUMBER 201 South Fall Street
CITY, TOWN Carson City VICINITY OF Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Assessor's Office, Clark County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 200 Carson Avenue
CITY, TOWN Las Vegas STATE Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ranch began in 1867-68 with a one-room, cut sandstone cabin and a blacksmith shop. Between 1876 and 1900 a two-room frame cabin, corrugated metal shed, frame wagon shed and assorted corrals were added. The stone buildings, frame cabin and metal shed remain in poor to good condition and needing stabilization and maintenance. The reservoir constructed in 1895 is now unusable due to siltation and deterioration of the levees.

Between 1929 and 1935 two frame bungalows with stone foundations, a breaking corral and fieldstone chinchilla breeding sheds were built. Fig spring was covered by a cement structure and a chicken coop and milking barn were constructed. One bungalow was torn down about 1958, but the other remains in good repair.

The main house, constructed of cut stone with a shake roof and redwood frame siding, was constructed between 1948 and 1955. A generator shed was built in the pasture west of the main house, a new unlined reservoir constructed west of the old buildings and a cobblestone trough was constructed to replace the old wooden one at Fig Spring. Underground irrigation pipes were also laid from the new reservoir and a decorative fish pond was built west of the frame bungalow at the south end of the old reservoir. In 1950 the east wing of the main house was completed and a two-room bungalow was built south of the foreman's bungalow. This latter building is in poor condition and is used only for storage purposes.

Southwest of the reservoir Chet Lauck built a boys' camp with cement tent slabs, frame dining hall, bathhouse and metal storage shed. The dining hall later burned and the other buildings are in poor condition. In 1951 a Pelton generating wheel was installed in a small shed west of the reservoir to supply power to the old cabin.

Between 1956 and 1964, additional stone gateposts, board fences and corrals were built. The south wing was added to the west end of the main house, some modifications were made in other rooms and a swimming pool is empty and in need of maintenance. During this period, the Wilson family cemetery was fenced and a stone monument built on the site.

After 1967 the main house was redecorated and much of the rustic atmosphere was lost. The oak flooring was replaced with a shag carpet and a wet bar was installed. The flagstone surrounding the swimming pool was replaced with a concrete deck. A new aluminum building was put up west of the chinchilla shed to serve as a maintenance shop.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1830's-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Not Known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property is of state historical significance because of its location athwart several important trails and because of the part it played in the economy of southern Nevada over an extended period of time. By the mid-1830's a campsite on an Old Spanish Trail alternate route through Cottonweed Valley had been established at the creek on the ranch site. In 1844 the area was visited by an exploring expedition under the command of Captain John C. Fremont of the U.S. Army Topographical Corps. The Mormon Trail, in use from the 1840's until the early 1900's, also passed through the ranch site and in the 1850's the area was a stop-over on the route between the lead mines at Potosi and the Mormon Mission at Las Vegas.

A survey party under the leadership of Lieutenant George M. Wheeler visited the area in 1869, by which time several ranches had been established, most importantly that of Bill Williams. Two structures graced the property at that time, a small stone cabin and a blacksmith shop. Williams ran a few cattle on the property to supply meat to the mining camps in the vicinity and raised hay, fruit and vegetables which were sold to camp commissaries.

By the mid-1870's Williams had abandoned the property and it had been taken over by James B. Wilson who constructed a bunkhouse and added on to the cabin. Wilson continued the small-improvements on the property, most notably the ranch's irrigation system and a small earthen dam. These latter improvements date from the 1890's.

With the coming of the railroad in 1905, extensive cattle markets were developed in California and for the first time the ranch became an important cattle operation. Following Wilson's death in 1906, his two half-Paiute sons ran the ranch, but made some bad investments during World War 1 and nearly lost it to creditors.

Wilard George, a family friend, paid off the mortgage in 1929 and gave the two Wilson brothers a home on the ranch as long as they lived. In addition to continuing the cattle operation, George attempted to raise chinchillas for his fur business. In 1944 George leased the ranch to Chester Lauck of radio's "Lum and Abner" fame and four years later he purchased it. Newly named the Bar Nothing, Lauck used the ranch largely as a vacation retreat, although he continued to raise cattle and, in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elizabeth Warren, "Tentative Cronology, Spring Mountain Ranch Development Paper in preparation, 1975, Spring Mountain Ranch, Nevada.
Elizabeth Warren, "Guided Tour Outline, Spring Mountain Ranch," Mimeographed paper, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 517.86

UTM REFERENCES see attached page

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see attached page

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Phillip I. Earl, Curator of Exhibits, Nevada Historical Society

ORGANIZATION

Nevada State Park System

DATE

May 30, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street

TELEPHONE

702-885-4370

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada

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 Cronkrite

TITLE

S.H.P.O. / Adm. N.S.P.S.

DATE

10-6-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

Chuck Adams

DATE

7/2/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Chuck Adams

DATE

3-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Chuck Adams

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7 DESCRIPTION

Successive periods of ownership are reflected in the buildings still standing and in good repair and they maintain their original architectural integrity. The old part of the ranch, the old cabins and the blacksmith shop, retain their original appearance and do much to contribute to the atmosphere of the original Williams Ranch. The area is well-landscaped and maintained by the Park System personnel. A well drilled by the Hughes Tool Company in the late 1960's meets the current water needs of ranch residents since the installation of a larger pump by the Park System. The older structures are used interpretively only, but the main house is in use as a living area for Park System personnel and for offices and a visitor reception center.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

8 SIGNIFICANCE

addition, opened a boys' camp. Lauck built the main house on the ranch and the large reservoir to the west.

In 1955 Vera Krupp, the wife of the German industrialist, purchased the ranch. She continued the cattle operation on the 400,000 acre grazing allotment and lived there until 1964. In 1967 the property was sold to the Hughes Tool Company. Two Las Vegas businessmen, Fletcher Jones and William Murphy, purchased the property as a real estate speculation in 1972, but opposition from Las Vegas residents precluded the planned home and country club development. The property was subsequently offered for sale to the State of Nevada and the transaction was finalized in the spring of 1974. Guided tours and environmental education programs are currently offered on the property and recreational programs are currently awaiting the development of a master plan.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH

U T M Reference Points

Eastings	Northings
A. 11/639960	3993580
B. 11/639960	3992740
C. 11/639580	3992740
D. 11/639580	3992320
E. 11/639180	3992320
F. 11/639180	3991900
G. 11/638420	3991940
H. 11/638420	3991540
I. 11/637600	3991560
J. 11/637600	3991960
K. 11/638000	3991940
L. 11/638000	3992360
M. 11/638380	3992340
N. 11/638380	3992740
O. 11/638780	3992740
P. 11/638760	3993180
Q. 11/639160	3993160
R. 11/639160	3993580

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The proposed historic district encompasses a ranch site without immediate natural or man-made boundaries that could be described in a verbal description. Generally the ranch lies in a narrow basin against the western backdrop of massive sandstone bluffs of Spring Mountain. To the immediate east lies the barren, rocky profile of Blue Diamond Hill. To the north in the basin lie the BLM lands of the Red Rock Recreation Area. To the immediate south is the Bonnie Springs Ranch, a commercial recreation area dominated by a simulated "old west" village.