

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 5 1980  
DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1980

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC California Ranch

AND/OR COMMON  
Scott's Dairy

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER E of Mica on  
Jackson and Belmont Roads

CITY, TOWN Mica VICINITY OF 5th - Thomas S. Foley  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Washington CODE 053 COUNTY Spokane CODE 063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 Archie Scott

STREET & NUMBER Route 1

CITY, TOWN Mica VICINITY OF Washington, 99023  
STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Spokane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER N. 1116 Broadway Avenue

CITY, TOWN Spokane STATE Washington, 99260

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Washington State Cultural Resource Survey: Spokane County

DATE 1979  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington, 98504

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The California Ranch, which served as a way station for early travelers and settlers, is located about a mile east of Mica, WA, and about 16 miles south-east of Spokane. The area is one of rolling hills, some covered with timber, others open farmland.

The way station was located a few hundred feet north of California Creek. The original house was a log cabin with a stone wine cellar located on top of the hill where the present house now stands. It was destroyed several years ago by fire. Several log outbuildings were located east of the barn. These were gone by the 1920s.

The only remaining structures of the way station are the granary and the barn that housed the teams of horses used by the many travelers who stopped at the ranch overnight. The exact dates that the buildings were constructed are unknown though the construction techniques, design and materials show the barn to be of the early period of settlement.

The barn is built against a sloping hillside which allows entry to its three different levels from the outside. The main plan of the building is rectangular. The central enclosed volume is about 50 x 90 feet and consists of two levels. The upper level, used for hay storage, is even with the north slope of the hill making it possible to drive a wagon into the barn through the large, centrally located, double doors. The lower level is a full, daylight basement used to house the stock.

A one-story lean-to extends the entire length of the south side of the barn and is set about 3 feet lower than the top section but 3 feet higher than the basement, giving the barn a split-level effect. Another lean-to extends across the back of the barn on the main floor level. A small, two-story addition is located in the rear.

The roof, a simple gable, is typical of early barns in the Northwest. Roof extensions over the lean-tos give the barn an interesting and unique roof line. A small gable cupola is centrally located along the ridge line of the roof. Gabled dormers extend out, one on each side of the long, sloping roof. The dormer on the north side forms part of the huge double doors that lead into the central portion of the barn. A long ventilation shaft extends down the outside wall from the ridgeline into the basement.

Small windows appear only in the dormers, along the southern lean-to, and into the basement on the north side. Most are not glazed. The foundation is made of local rock and extends around three sides of the building. No mortar was used even though the rock walls measure as high as 6 feet in places.

The lower level is entered by a large doorway in back of the barn. This area is still used for stock. A spring surfaces through the dirt floor and the original well with a hand pump is in place.

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The walls of this section are formed by the rock foundation on three sides. Huge logs and hewn timbers about 18 inches in diameter and about 7 or 8 feet high stand on end to support the floor of the upper level. The joists are also hand-hewn.

The original flooring in the basement was made of wooden blocks about 6 to 8 inches thick and stood on end. Sand was poured between the blocks. The walls were lined with horse stalls, manger, and hay chutes from the upper level. The flooring, stalls and mangers have since been removed. The mangers and flooring are still in place in the southern lean-to.

Wooden steps lead up to the central portion of the barn which is used to store hay. This section is open to the ridge line about 30 feet high. Twelve uprights are set about 13 feet apart to form the main structural system.

Built before stud, or balloon, construction was practical, the California barn used the braced frame construction typical of early frontier barns in the Pacific Northwest. The timbers are primarily 8 x 8 inches and are all hand-hewn. The frame consists of corner posts and vertical supports braced by horizontal timbers which form right angles with the corner posts. The joints are notched and pegged rather than nailed together. Vertical boards and battens form the outer sheath.

The hand-hewn braces which form the interior support system, are placed at different angles, also notched and pegged. The roof is constructed of sawed timbers or rafters.

Several harness pegs, notched and fitted without nails, remain in place. The hay trolley track is also intact.

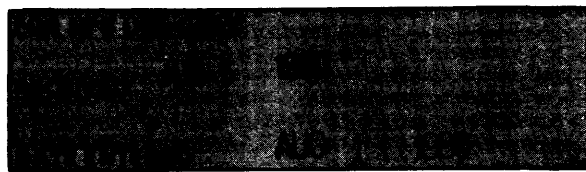
The granary stands about 100 feet north of the barn. It is a smaller, end-opening barn with lean-tos on either side of the central section. It is built on a rectangular plan with a central drive-through flanked by grain storage bins. A steeply pitched, gable roof covers the central portion and side lean-tos. A rock foundation similar to the one in the barn supports the center portion.

The granary's balloon frame construction shows that it was probably built after the barn. The studs are 4 x 6 inch lumber pegged together with large, square wooden pegs. The flooring and siding are nailed with square nails.

The building is sheathed in horizontal wood siding fitted together with ship lap construction. The siding consists of beveled boards, 4 inches wide, with a groove running horizontally through the center of each board.

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The center portion has a double thick plank floor made of 1 x 12 inch planks. Doors on either end of the granary allowed the farmer to drive his grain wagons into the barn, unload and drive straight out the other side.

There are six large bins, three on either side of the center driveway. Each bin is about 12 x 14 feet wide. Grain chutes between the bins and lean-tos allowed easy transfer of grain. A few of the chutes are still in place.

The upper floor of the two-story granary was sometimes used as living quarters or for local dances, parties and even wedding receptions. Two or three cookstoves heated the two large rooms. Cedar siding on the ceiling and interior walls is still intact. An outside stairway led to the upstairs but has been removed. Steps leading to the upper floor have been added inside the building.

Nearby, but NOT included in the nomination, are several other buildings which were later additions to the farm complex. A chicken house, bunk house, and machine shed are located north and east of the granary. A milking parlor, located along Jackson Road west of the barn, was built in the 1950s. The house, which stands on the site of Mulouine's original house, was moved onto the site in the 1940s. Mulouine's well-known rock-walled wine cellar was attached to the rear of the house but was torn down in the 1950s. Only the barn and granary are included in the nomination since they are the only buildings that were associated with Mulouine's way station.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 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 1864-1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Maxime Mulouine

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The California Ranch is the oldest, continually occupied farm or ranch in Spokane County, Washington, having been settled around 1864, some eight years before the arrival of the first wave of "permanent" settlers. As the ONLY established ranch along the Kentuck Trail between the Palouse and Spokane rivers in the 1860s, the ranch also served as an important way station and resting place for hundreds of miners, packers, and early settlers who passed through this region throughout the frontier period.

In addition to its historic importance, the barn at the California Ranch has architectural significance in its own right. The design, craftsmanship and materials used in this barn make it an outstanding example of early agricultural construction techniques.

While the California Ranch is frequently referred to in the reminscences of early travelers and settlers in Spokane County, little information can be verified as to the exact year that it was established or who the original owner was. An 1879 edition of the Spokan Times reports that a portion of the California Ranch had been under cultivation since 1864. The earliest referrence to the ranch is found in Henry Lueg's "Journal of a Trip from St. Paul to Portland, Oregon," written in 1867. He described it as "a house where some articles of necessity are to be had." He went on to explain that "intoxication drinks are sold at all the houses along the road, because most travellers have [the] idea [that] such drinks are necessary on the trips...."

The ranch was probably started in the mid-1860s when the Kentuck Trail was marked out between Walla Walla and the Spokane Bridge. This popular pioneer road was used extensively by miners and freighters (or packers) traveling to the mining districts in eastern Washington, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia from Walla Walla, the main outfitting point for the region.

There were no towns or settlements in the Spokane region at this time. Of the only two roads leading to the northern mining areas via the Spokane Bridge, the Kentuck Trail was the most direct route, about 35 miles shorter than the Mullan Military Road. The California Ranch was strategically located along the Kentuck Trail, just a day's ride from the Spokane Bridge. Traces of the old road can still be seen in the fields southwest of the ranch.

When Lueg's wagon train stayed overnight at the California Ranch in 1867, his friend sold a wagon to the owner of the ranch for the hefty sum of \$100 in gold. Unfortunately, Lueg doesn't tell us the name of this apparently well-to-do rancher but later sources identify him vaguely as a man named Knight.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Durham, N.W. History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County. Chicago, 1912.
- Edwards, Jonathon. An Illustrated History of Spokane County. n.p., 1900.
- Kaiser, Verle G. "Straight As An Arrow--The Kentuck Trail." Ms. Westerners Collection, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane, WA.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Freeman **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,1	4,8,5	4,1,5	5,2	6,6	9,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundary of the nominated property begins at a point 50 ft. due east of the intersection of Jackson and Belmont Roads and proceeds due east 100 ft., then north 175 ft., then west 100 ft., then south parallel to Jackson Road 175 ft. to the starting point. Only the barn and granary are included within this boundary.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
none			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Sara Patton Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION City/County Office of Historic Preservation DATE 20 December, 1979

STREET & NUMBER N. 721 Jefferson TELEPHONE (509) 456-2294 458-2536

CITY OR TOWN Spokane STATE Washington, 99206

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE X 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 Jeanne M. [Signature] DATE 5/30/80

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

[Signature] DATE 8/11/80

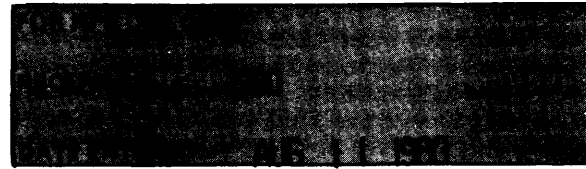
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 8-5-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Knight, the story goes, had been a freighter on the Kentuck Trail and drove teams and wagons to the mines in the region. He built the stop-over along the Kentuck Trail naming it and the creek that ran through it, "The California Ranch" in memory of his days as a "49-er" in the California Gold Rush.

The name most commonly associated with the California Ranch, however, was one of Spokane County's earliest pioneers, Maxime Mulouine, who bought out Knight's squatter's rights in 1871. Mulouine, a French-Canadian, had also followed the various gold rushes of the era, from California to Canada.

After buying Knight's squatter's rights, Mulouine also filed for a pre-emption land claim. Later, he took out a homestead claim to secure another parcel of land pre-empted by his brother who drowned in the Spokane River in 1879. The exact dates of these transactions cannot be verified because County land records do not exist prior to 1879 when the area was finally surveyed.

Like the exact dates of ownership, the original size of the ranch is also unknown. Local legend has it that the ranch extended from the Rockies west to the Columbia River, and from the Canadian border south to the Snake. Such claims in the days before land surveys, fences, or any settlement to speak of, may have been accurate. Cattle were often just left to roam at will with little attention paid to property lines.

More conservative estimates say that the ranch covered most of the territory between Saltse and Mica, about 15 square miles. Early histories of Spokane County, written during Mulouine's lifetime, reported that he had increased the size of the original ranch to 1800 acres, an unusually large ranch compared to the typical 160 acre homestead claims. About 400 acres were under cultivation by 1900.

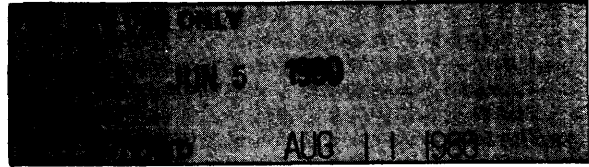
Under Mulouine's ownership, the ranch became an important and popular landmark for more than twenty-five years. Max took great pains to provide for the needs and comforts of his wayfaring guests, even building a large rock wine cellar of hand-pitched stone. A large barn, granary and blacksmith shop were added to replace the small log buildings.

The ranch later became the center of the beef industry in the local area and was used for many years as a stock yard where buyers could come to purchase beef from local cattlemen. A variety of community activities including local dances, parties and wedding receptions were held in the granary next to the barn.

Around the turn of the century, Mulouine began to sell some of his land to other farmers. In 1904, he platted a large portion of it for the townsite of Mica. He continued to live at the ranch until his death in 1916.

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The barn that Mulouine built as part of the way station is one of the few remaining examples of the construction methods and craftsmanship used in the agricultural area during the frontier period. The difficulty of attaining milled lumber and factory produced nails in the early days of settlement forced the builders of the California barn to rely on local material and their own ingenuity and skill as much as possible.

Typical of early barns of the northwest frontier, the California barn was built with a braced frame construction rather than balloon construction which was used in the area much later. Hand hewn timbers were notched and pegged to form an intricate support system without the use of nails. Harness pegs were also notched and fitted into place with wooden pegs. The foundation was constructed of local rock piled as high as six feet in places. No mortar was used to hold it together.

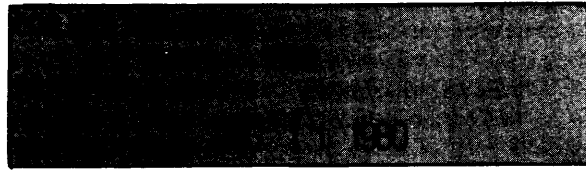
Because the barn was used to house a large number of horses, efficiency was another important factor in its construction. Hay chutes were installed between floors to allow the transfer of hay from the upper storage area to the animals housed on the lower floor. In the basement, a well was dug and fitted with a hand pump to provide easy access to water for the stock. A hay trolley, made of a wooden track and pulley system, was installed to permit the farmer to stack the loose hay higher than a pitchfork would allow. Later, a ventilation shaft was added to provide a better supply of fresh air to the lower floor after several horses supposedly suffocated.

The California Ranch continues to be recognized as an important local landmark, not only for the vanishing architectural methods and craftsmanship that it represents, but also for its link to the earliest days of pioneer travel and settlement in the area. The ranch represents an important period in the rich historical development of the Inland Empire of the Pacific Northwest.



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Kingston, Ceylon S. "The Northern Overland Route of 1867; Journal of Henry Lueg," Pacific Northwest Quarterly, vol. 41 (July 1950), 234-253.

Lueg, Henry. "Journal of a Trip from St. Paul to Portland, Oregon." Ms. Eastern Washington University Library, Cheney, WA.

Rosebush Papers, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane, WA.

Vaughn, Thomas and Ferriday, Virginia Guest, editors. Space, Style and Structure Building in Northwest America. Portland, Oregon, 1974.

Interviews;

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Scott  
Bill Kopp  
Mavis Van Hoff

Route 1, Mica, WA.  
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