

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 21 1984
DATE ENTERED	JUL 5 1984

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Laws Spring or Laws Tank

AND/OR COMMON

Laws Natural (Forest Service site number AR-03-07-02-363)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

~~Chalender Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest~~ N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Williams vic

X VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arizona

04

Coconino

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	N/A STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

USDA, Forest Service, Southwestern Region

STREET & NUMBER

517 Gold Avenue, SW

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

87102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office

STREET & NUMBER

2400 Valley Bank Center

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona 85073

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Cultural Resource Site Files

DATE

Ongoing

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

USDA Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest

CITY, TOWN

Williams

STATE

Arizona 86046

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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

Summary

The Law's Spring Site is comprised of a natural spring and a small parcel of land immediately surrounding it. The spring is located approximately 14 miles northeast of Williams, Arizona on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and is identified on Forest Service maps as Laws Natural. It consists of a pool of water situated in a natural rock tank formed by large basalt boulders in the bottom of a shallow, unnamed drainage. Historic use of the spring as a water source and encampment area by early explorers, surveyors and migrants is indicated by a number of initials, names and dates engraved on the basalt boulders surrounding the water pool. Aboriginal use of the spring is evidenced by numerous petroglyphs near the pool and on the rocky bluff above the drainage. One of the historic engravings placed here in 1859 by a member of Lt. E.F. Beale's survey party identifies the location as Laws Spring. With the exception of some recently carved names and dates and a deteriorated fence, the spring is much as it must have appeared when first discovered by explorers in the mid 1800s.

Site Description

Laws Spring is situated at an elevation of 6840 feet in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27, T24N, R3E, Gila and Salt River Meridain on lands managed by the Kaibab National Forest. The drainage in which it is located runs generally from the southeast to the northwest. The spring is made up of two pools of water separated by 50 feet. The larger, downstream pool where the engraved names and dates are located (Photo no. 1) is a perennial water source, while the smaller, upstream pool contains water only seasonally. Vegetation in the vicinity of Laws Spring is primarily pinyon and juniper, but toward the south trees are sparse, and the area is best characterized as open grassland. The more moist conditions found in the drainage itself support the growth of ponderosa pine. Immediately north a rocky bluff of basalt rises 20 to 30 feet above the drainage. The basalt boulders forming the natural rock tank of the spring are part of this same outcrop.

The basalt boulders surrounding the perennial pool are incised with historic initials, names and dates (Photo no. 2). Included are the following: "Laws Spring" (Photo no. 3), "WWW" "CSM" "AWW" "UPRWED" "1868" (Photo no. 4), "RAE" "JB" "UPRR" "AP 1868" and three star symbols (Photo no. 5), "SBW 1883" (Photo no. 6), "C.R.M. 1883" (Photo no. 7), and "SA WALKER 1883" (Photo no. 8). Prehistoric petroglyphs around the pool and on the bluff overlooking it include geometric shapes and human and animal figurines (for example, Photo no. 9).

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According to one historic source (see Beale 1859:65) the Beale Road passed about 300 feet south of Laws Spring, although no physical evidence of the road is presently visible. A photograph taken by Alexander Gardner in 1868 (Photo no. 10) shows this location to be a camp area. Also included among the photographs is a recent shot taken from approximately the same spot (Photo no. 11). The boundary of the nomination has been drawn to include this camp area.

A few pieces of Deadmans Grey pottery, a ceramic type associated with the prehistoric Cohonina Indians between A.D. 700 and 1100, and numerous obsidian chips are found scattered along the rocky bluff above the spring and in the open grassland within the boundaries of the nomination.

Integrity

Laws Spring, which is still an active spring today, was described in 1859 as follows by E.F. Engle, one of Lt. Beale's assistants: "The spring is in a rocky ravine about 300 feet from the road. The water which is contained in two separate basins of rock is situated at the western edge of the ravine. The quality of water is excellent, and it is in sufficient quantities to water a large amount of stock. The testimony of all who have visited this spot shows that the water is permanent." Judging from the prehistoric petroglyphs found here (petroglyphs are typically associated with water sources), the spring has been active for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. The historic names and dates from the 1800s have not been defaced, although a number of names and dates have been added in recent years. The prehistoric petroglyphs have not been defaced either, but some are quite faint as a result of weathering. At some time in the past Page wire sheep fences were constructed around each water pool. These fences are now badly deteriorated and serve no function. They could be removed without disturbance to the site. Overall the Law's Spring site exhibits a high level of integrity.

Boundaries

Laws Spring is located in open woodland country, and no readily identifiable natural or cultural boundaries exist. The boundaries for the site have thus been drawn to encompass all associated features, including the two spring reservoirs, the historic and prehistoric petroglyphs, the camp area and that portion of the Beale Wagon Road which passes south of the spring. In order to include all features, the property is defined as a 400 X 600 foot rectangle surrounding the inscription "Laws Spring" with the long axis oriented true north/south. The inscription "Laws Spring" is centered east/west but lies 200 feet from the northern boundary and 400 feet from the southern boundary (See attached sketch map). The property encompasses 5.5 acres.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input 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 checked="" 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

1858 - 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

Laws Spring site is a natural landmark which can be directly linked with at least four factors significant in the historic development of Northern Arizona: 1) initial exploration of the area; 2) transcontinental transportation through the area; 3) transcontinental commerce through the area; and 4) early settlement of the area.

In 1857 Lt. Edward F. Beale explored the Northern Arizona area as a possible route for a transcontinental wagon road, which he subsequently developed in 1858-59. Journals kept by Beale on both trips identify Laws Spring as an important water source along the road. Once the Beale Wagon Road was established it served, over the next twenty to thirty years, as a major route for travel by immigrants and for movement of large herds of sheep and cattle. Although many immigrants as well as livestock herders simply traveled through Northern Arizona, some stopped here to settle and/or establish ranches.

Among the documented historic visitors to Laws Spring were a Union Pacific Railroad survey party in 1868 seeking a potential route through Northern Arizona for a transcontinental railroad, a Bureau of Land Management Survey crew who, in 1883, were mapping the Northern Arizona area for the first time, an early settler in the nearby Spring Valley area, and various immigrants who kept diaries of their journeys.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT/SIGNIFICANCE

When, in the mid 1800's, the United States Government became involved in exploration of the American West and appropriated monies for such purposes, one project to receive funding was construction of a wagon road along the 35th parallel from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to the Colorado River, a straight line distance of about 1200 miles. The task of establishing and improving this road fell to Navy Lt. Edward F. Beale. The Beale Wagon Road, as it came to be known, was one of the first federally funded highways in the western United States. Beale's initial trip in 1857 was restricted to the western portion of the road from Ft. Defiance, New Mexico to the Colorado River and was mainly exploratory in nature. He set about identifying the best route in relation to water sources as well as hunting and grazing areas. Laws Spring was located during this trip but not named at the time. It was also during this trip that Beale conducted his well known experiment

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Babbitt, James E., "Surveyors Along the 35th Parallel: Alexander Gardner's Photographs of Northern Arizona, 1867-1868". (The Journal of Arizona History, Autumn, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Arizona, 1981.)

Beale, Edward F., Wagon Road - Fort Smith to Colorado River. (House Executive

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	40,30,0,0	3,92,07,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is defined as a 400 X 600 foot rectangle surrounding the inscription "Laws Spring" with the long axis oriented true north/south. The inscription is centered east/west but lies 200 feet from the northern boundary and 400 feet from the southern boundary.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas R. Cartledge, Forest Archeologist and Judith L. Schwartz, Archeological Technician

ORGANIZATION

technician

DATE

Kaibab National Forest

November 1983

STREET & NUMBER

800 South 6th Street

TELEPHONE

(602) 635-2681

CITY OR TOWN

Williams

STATE

Arizona 86046

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X

NO

NONE

Donna J. Schober
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Evan J. DeStefano

TITLE AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE MAY 5 1984

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Marlene D. Stewart
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/5/84

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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testing the value of camels as beasts of burden in the American Southwest. Beale made a second trip in 1858-59 along the entire length of the road beginning at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, with a construction crew of fifty men for the purpose of building bridges and making other necessary improvements. It was during the return portion of this second trip that Laws Spring was named. It was named after Major W. L. Laws, a member of the military escort for Beale's party. The letters "LAWS SPRING" were apparently inscribed here in July 1859 by Peachy Breckenridge, a tombstone carver who was a member of Beale's party. Peachy was the son of John C. Breckenridge, Vice President under James Buchanan.

Once the Beale Wagon Road was established, it was used extensively over the next twenty to thirty years by numerous immigrant trains traveling to and from California, as well as by stockmen moving sheep and cattle in both directions. Diaries kept by some of these early travelers mention Laws Spring. For example, John Udell, who traveled the Beale Wagon Road in 1858 in the interval between Beale's trips, recorded having stopped at Laws. Mormon groups moving south out of present-day Utah joined the Beale Road at Hackberry, Arizona, then followed it eastward to settlements along the Little Colorado River. Diaries kept by some individuals on these trips, such as John Bushman and Ida Hunt, Congressman Morris Udall's grandmother, mention stopping at Laws Spring in 1877. No doubt the spring served as a water source at times for some of the hundreds of thousands of head of sheep and cattle brought into or driven through Northern Arizona. The Beale Road, although it is not so well known, probably rivaled or exceeded the famous Oregon Trail and its off-shoot the California trail as an immigrant and livestock movement route.

Additional direct evidence of historic visits to Laws Spring is shown by names and dates inscribed on the rocks around the spring. The inscriptions, "RAE" "JB" "UPRR" "AP 1868" and "AWW" "CSM" "WWW" "UPRWED 1868" (see accompanying photos) were placed at the spring in 1868 by a Union Pacific Railroad survey party. This party, led by Chief Engineer General W. W. Wright, worked extensively in Northern Arizona in 1867-68. They were considering the Beale Wagon Road as a possible route for a transcontinental railroad. Although the wagon road itself was not chosen specifically as a railroad route, the Atlantic and Pacific Line was constructed in the early 1880's within a few miles of the road, confirming the wisdom of the general route selected by Beale. The Atlantic and Pacific Line was the second transcontinental railroad constructed in this country, and its role in the development of Northern Arizona was of primary importance. Communities along the Beale road which subsequently sprung up with the coming of the railroad include Holbrook, Joseph City, Winslow, Leupp, Flagstaff, Seligman, Peach Springs, Hackberry, Kingman, Goldroad and Rivera.

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Of further historical significance is the fact that the Union Pacific survey party was accompanied by Alexander Gardner, the well known photographer of Abraham Lincoln and of Civil War battlefields. Two of the eighteen photographs which Gardner took in Northern Arizona were taken at Laws Spring. They constitute the earliest existing photographic record of Northern Arizona.

Other historic inscriptions at Laws Spring include the initials "SBW 1883" and "CRM 1883." These are thought to be the initials of the two members of a Bureau of Land Management Survey party involved in official mapping of the Northern Arizona area for the first time. S. A. Walker, who also inscribed his name at Laws Spring in 1883, is thought to have been an early settler in the Spring Valley area located about eight miles to the southeast.

Law Spring is thus historically significant due to its direct association in the mid to late 19th century with establishment of transportation and commerce routes across Northern Arizona. Together the Beale Wagon Road and the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad led to more rapid settlement of the southwestern United States. At the present time, historic camp areas along the Beale road are difficult to authenticate due to a lack of physical evidence. Laws Spring is one of only five locations across the State of Arizona with good evidence of association with the Beale road. One of the other five, Breckenridge or Beale Spring, has been largely destroyed by construction of a stock tank at the site.

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Document 42, 36th Congress, 1st Session, 1860).

Bowman, E. G. and J. Smith, "The Beal Road Through the Kaibab National Forest"
(Unpublished report prepared for the Kaibab National Forest. Copy of file Kaibab
National Forest, Williams, Arizona, 1978.)

Cline, Platt, They Came To The Mountain: The Story of Flagstaff's Beginnings
(Northern Arizona University, Old Town Press, Flagstaff, Arizona 1976.)

Verbal interviews with Jack Smith, January and June 1983.

LAW SPRING

