

# DATA SHEET

PH ~~0145386~~  
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Form 10-300  
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arizona
COUNTY: Coconino
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: <b>MAR 15 1976</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Lee's Ferry Historic District

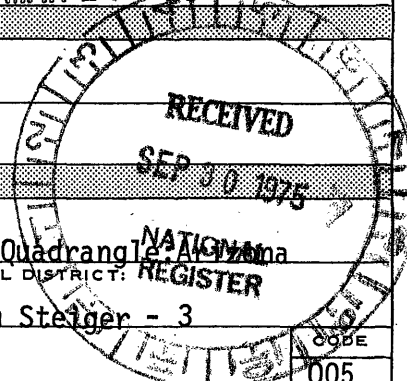
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Lee's Ferry Fort

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 5000 Page at Lee's Ferry  
Sections 13 & 18, T.40N., R.7E. & R.8E. Lees Ferry Quadrangle

CITY OR TOWN: Page, Ariz. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Arizona  
Lee's Ferry District, Glen Canyon NRA Rep. Sam Steiger - 3

STATE: Arizona CODE: 04 COUNTY: Coconino CODE: 005



### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>recreation - jump off point for Colorado River trips</u>

### 4. AGENCY

U.S. National Park Service - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

CITY OR TOWN: Page STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 1507

STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Establishing legislation for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Archeological Survey of Glen Canyon

DATE OF SURVEY: 1956-1963     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Utah Statewide Archeological Survey: Glen Canyon Series

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of Anthropology - University of Utah

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

STATE: Arizona
COUNTY: Coconino
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 15 1976
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

continued on 10-300a

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Arizona	
COUNTY	Coconino	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 15 1976

(Number all entries)

6. Representation In Existing Surveys

Title: Historic American Buildings Survey #Ariz 58  
Date: October, 1966 Federal  
Depository: Division of History Studies - National Park Service  
Address: Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

7. The Charles H. Spencer (#7), a steamboat 92' long and 26' wide, rests just under the surface of the Colorado River upstream from the Spencer Building. It can be seen partially exposed at low water and through the clear water at high water. Its superstructure has been stripped for salvage but the prow, steam boiler and rear paddle wheel are still discernable. It was part of Spencer's American Placer Corporation mining venture and operation of the 1912 period.

The main ferry site (#8), used during high water from 1873 to 1898 and exclusively from 1898 to 1928, is located at the east end of the district. Ruinous foundations of 2 cabins and 2 corrals are present with a road and dugway leading to the location; pieces of anchor cable are also present.

Historic American Building Survey Ariz. 58 includes drawing for the Fort, Post Office, Chicken House, Root Cellar and Spencer Building.

Future plans for this district include preservation/stabilization/interpretation. Lees Ferry will remain the major jump off point for river running trips through the Grand Canyon, bringing alive to participants the adventure and discovery experienced by Major Powell and the men who followed him.

8. LEES FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT CONTAINS REMNANTS AND EVIDENCE OF MAN'S ACTIVITIES DATING AT LEAST FROM 1776 TO PRESENT DAY. ITS HISTORIC RESOURCES TRACE PERIODS OF EXPLORATION, PIONEER SETTLEMENT AND COLONIZATION, FRONTIER COMMERCE, AND EARLY SOUTHWEST MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING ACTIVITIES. THAT SUCH VARIED ACTIVITY OVER SUCH A LENGTHY TIME PERIOD SHOULD OCCUR IN THIS 120 ACRE DISTRICT ILLUSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE OF LEES FERRY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HUMAN HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWEST TERRITORIES.



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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

The Lees Ferry Historic District is about 120 acres on which are located several significant historical sites that trace the areas history from 1776 to about 1930.

The Dominguez-Escalante October 1776 campsite of San Benito Salsipuedes is located at the west end of the district close to the point of the Shinarump ridge near the river. The general location of this campsite was determined from the Escalante diary; it is doubtful that an archeological investigation could pinpoint the exact campsite since the site has been subjected to Colorado River flooding for about 180 years. Development plans for Lees Ferry include recognition/interpretation of this site.

Lees Lookout site is a rounded knoll in the northwest part of the district where it is said that John D. Lee had a lookout post. On the knoll is a crude circle of rocks of about 25 feet in diameter which may be a foundation. Major Powell reported this rock circle in October, 1871, 2 months before the arrival of J.D. Lee. The site may be of prehistoric significance but no archeological investigation has ever been conducted.

The Lees Ferry Fort (#1) and associated structures; i.e., the chicken house (#2) and the root cellar (#3) are believed to have been built around 1874. The Fort is a 2 room 34'x20' cut sandstone structure with a sod roof. While there was some preservation work accomplished in the late 1960's, the condition of the Fort is poor. The Chicken House is roughly a 8'x8' sandstone structure with only remanents of the log and twig roof remaining; the walls are in ruinous condition. The Root Cellar located directly north of the Fort is partly dugout in nature measuring 12'x 12'. The earth and log roof has collapsed and the sandstone walls are ruinous. Located midway in the district this complex is in need of a historic resource study to determine its exact history and its overall relationship to the history of Lees Ferry. Preservation/Interpretation will be based on that report.

A short distance west of Lees Ferry Fort is a 20'x 18' rough stone structure with a sod roof supported by beams and lattices. It is referred to as the Post Office (#4) but very little information is available on it. It is believed to have been constructed post 1910. Its condition is poor and the roof is being supported by log props. A historic resources study will determine its exact place in Lees Ferry history.

The Spencer addition (#5) to Lees Ferry Fort was a 26'x 20' structure added to the west wall of Lees Fort in 1911 when Charles Spencer used the complex as a mess hall for his mining operation. There is no roof and the rock and stone walls are ruinous today.

The Spencer Building (#6) is a 30'x 19' rockwall structure with composition and wood roof. This structure is believed to have been built by Charles Spencer in 1913 and used as a bunk house, but a historic resource study is necessary to verify its history. The structure is in fair condition. This is the only one of several Spencer structures remaining that were located in that immediate area.

continued on 10-300a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1776 - 1930

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | exploration   |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |   |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1776 two Franciscan Fathers, Dominguez and Escalante, began exploring for a more direct route from Santa Fe, NM to Monterey, CA. While unsuccessful in their major objective, their discovery and mapping of portions of the canyon country of the southwest was a significant achievement. During their 5 month trip they camped several days and nights at Lees Ferry while trying to cross the Colorado River at that point. They were the first white men to cross Glen Canyon and certainly the information and maps that resulted from their journey aided future southwest exploration.

Jacob Hamblin, a celebrated Mormon scout, explorer, & missionary made the first crossing at Lees Ferry in October of 1869 with 40 men on driftwood rafts fastened together with withes. He was enroute to do missionary work with the Hopi Indians. In the same year Major John Wesley Powell camped one night at Lees Ferry on his first voyage of the Colorado River and used Lees Ferry as a layover point on his second voyage in 1871.

In the early 1870's the Mormon Church established a ferry service at Lees Ferry to provide an avenue of Mormon colonization and settlement between Utah and Arizona. It is the only place below Moab, Utah down river to below the Grand Canyon that the Colorado could be reached without descending into a canyon. Between 1873 and 1929 Lees Ferry served as a major crossing point for a 500 mile stretch of the Colorado River.

In 1874, Lees Ferry Fort was built as a trading post and was meant to serve as a fort in the event of Indian uprisings. It was utilized as a trading post until about 1877, after which it received little use until 1911 when the American Placer Corporation used it as a mess hall for its miners. The Lees Ferry Post Office was established in 1879.

About 1883 gold fever spread through the Glen Canyon region and because of its topography, make up a unique chapter in the mining history of the United States. Robert Brewster Stanton and his Hoskaninni Company used Lees Ferry as a headquarters for mining operations of the lower Glen Canyon region about 1897-1898. The company failed in 1901. In 1911 Charles H. Spencer and his American Placer Corporation set up their main headquarters at Lees Ferry with plans to remove gold through hydraulic mining techniques. Spencer also failed to remove enough gold to make mining worthwhile and his corporation went bankrupt. His company's failure marked the last extensive gold mining in the Glen Canyon region. Lees Ferry remains the only mining field in Glen Canyon not now inundated by Lake Powell.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Pageant in the Wilderness, Herbert E. Bolton, Utah State Historical Society Salt Lake City, Utah 1972  
 Lees Ferry Historical Report, C. Gregory and W.L. Rusho, January 1965, N.P.S. Archives  
 University of Utah, Anthropological Papers, Glen Canyon Series #9 Outline History of the Glen Canyon Region 1776-1922, No. 42, September 1959  
 University of Utah, Anthropological Papers, Glen Canyon Series #12, Historical Sites in Glen Canyon: Mouth of San Juan River to Lees Ferry, No. 46, June 1960

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	36 °	52	12 "	111 °	35	20 "	See insert for revised coordinates and acreage figures.		
NE	36 °	52	12 "	111 °	34	28 "			
SE	36 °	51	51 "	111 °	34	28 "			
SW	36 °	51	51 "	111 °	35	20 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 120 of which approx. 30 is Class VI

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
None			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: <b>Temple A. Reynolds, Superintendent</b>	DATE: <b>10-14-74</b>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <b>Glen Canyon National Recreation Area</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>P.O. Box 1507</b>	PHONE: <b>602-645-2471</b>
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Page</b>	STATE <b>Arizona</b>
	CODE <b>04</b>

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:  
 Yes  
 No  
 None

*Dennis McCarthy*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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

*Robert Wheeler* 20-75  
 Federal Representative Signature Date  
 Deputy Assistant Secretary  
 Title

**SEP 22 1975**

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

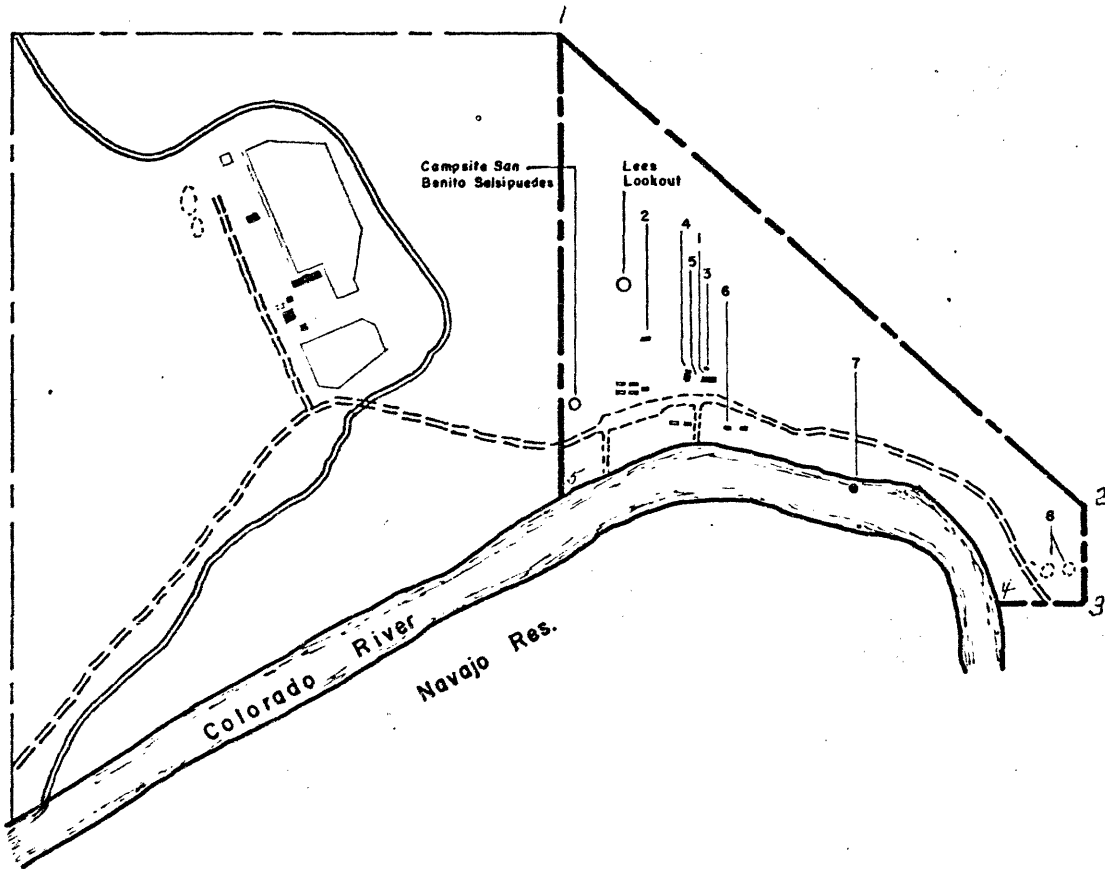
*Clayton R. Rye*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **3/15/96**

ATTEST:  
*Robert B. Relling*  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date **3-14-76**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



- 1 Lee Ferry
- 2 Chicken House
- 3 Root Cellar
- 4 Post Office
- 5 Spencer Addition
- 6 Spencer Building
- 7 Spencer Steamboat
- 8 Main Ferry Site

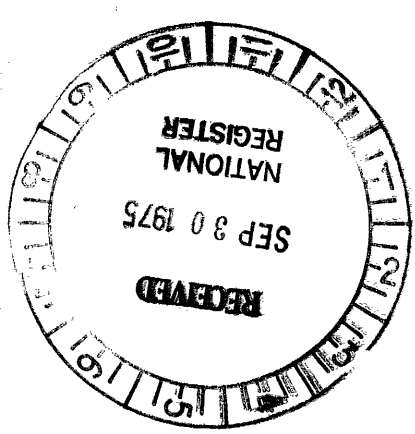


NO SCALE

Lee's Ferry Historic District

**LEES FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
 Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Latitude</u>
36° 52' 26"	111° 35' 17"
36° 51' 53"	111° 34' 28"
36° 51' 48"	111° 34' 28"
36° 51' 48"	111° 34' 36"
36° 51' 53"	111° 35' 17"



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

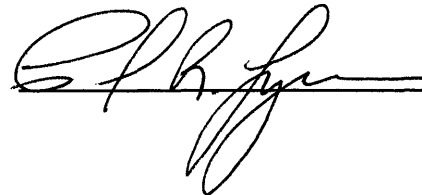
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Lees Ferry  
Coconino County, ARIZONA  
76000374

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

 11/16/97



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 1,7

Page 1 (Addendum)

Lees Ferry Historic District

### Addendum Summary:

In 1997, resources at Lee's Ferry and the adjacent Lonely Dell Ranch were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a single historic district ("Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District"). Restrictions on changes and revisions to properties listed in the National Register prior to December 13, 1980 (see 60.14 -60.15 36 CFR 80) precluded concurrent de-listing of the original Lees Ferry Historic District (1976) and Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District (1978). The following amendments to Sections 7, 8, and 10 identify the variations between the 1976 and the most-recent (1997) evaluation of Lee's Ferry resources.

### 1. Name of Property

Lee's Ferry is referenced as "Lees Ferry" on, for example, current topographic maps and the 1976 National Register Nomination. The 1997 nomination uses "Lee's Ferry," a name consistently used in historical sources and reflective of the site's important association with John D. Lee.

### 7. Description

In the new Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch nomination, the following Lee's Ferry resources were defined as contributing and noncontributing components. Without exception, these resources are located within the boundaries of the original (1976) nomination, although many were not identified in the text or specifically evaluated for their contribution to the historic district. Only the Spencer Trail, partially included within the boundaries of the original nomination, yet not identified as a contributing resource, has been excluded from the boundaries of the new district.

### Summary Table of Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

Resource Name	National Register Status	Historic Structure No.
<b>Lee's Ferry</b>		
Lee's Lookout	Contributing Site	N/A
Lee's Ferry Fort	Contributing Building	HS-220
Post Office	Contributing Building	HS-221
Chicken Coop	Contributing Building	HS-224
Root Cellar	Contributing Site	HS-225
East Hogan	Contributing Site	N/A
West Hogan	Contributing Site	N/A
Spencer Bunkhouse (a.k.a. Old Spencer Cabin or Spencer Building)	Contributing Building	HS-222
<i>Charles H. Spencer</i>	Contributing Structure	N/A

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7,10

Page 2 (Addendum)

Lees Ferry Historic District

### Summary Table of Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (continued)

Resource Name	National Register Status	Historic Structure No.
<i>Navajo Paddlewheel</i>	Contributing Object	N/A
Spencer Boiler	Contributing Object	N/A
Spencer Trail	Excluded from district boundaries	N/A
Main Ferry Site (includes ferry landing, and the ruins of two cabins and two stone corrals)	Contributing Site	N/A
Lower Ferry Site	Contributing Site	N/A
USGS Building	Noncontributing Building	HS-223
NPS Comfort Station	Noncontributing Building	N/A
NPS Parking Area and Launch Ramp	Noncontributing Site	N/A
NPS Maintenance Area	Noncontributing Buildings (4)	N/A

### 10. Geographical Data

The boundaries of the Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District do not accord with the combined boundaries of the Lees Ferry Historic District and the Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District. The 1976 Lee's Ferry boundaries -- a 150-acre box drawn to include all historic resources yet drawn irrespective of land contours and water courses -- include land not historically associated with Lee's Ferry. This land is concentrated above (north and west) of the 3200' contour and proceeds well beyond the Spencer Trail, the only historic, above-ground resource included within the boundaries of the 1976 nomination yet excluded from the boundaries of the 1997 nomination. No justification for these boundaries was included in (or required by) the original nomination.

The boundaries of the new combined district incorporate all extant historic resources associated with the upper and original ferry crossing, the Spencer mining operation, and the USGS camp at Colorado River Mile 0. At the south the boundaries follow the north bank of the river; at the east, west and north, they generally follow the 3200' contour, incorporating Lee's Lookout, Lonely Dell Ranch, and the Upper Ranch (to the point-of-diversion on the Paria River). At the formal request of the Navajo Nation, these boundaries exclude all land and significant associated resources on the south bank of the Colorado River (including the upper and lower dugways, rock inscriptions, and the USGS gauging station). With the exception of this artificially imposed limit, boundaries correspond to the historic limits of land use: the Paria and the Colorado rivers provide a physical link between seemingly disparate resources while the walls of Paria and Glen canyons and the limited opportunities for soil deposition or wagon access define the north, east, and west boundaries. (Total acreage: 470.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10, 11 Page 3 (Addendum)

Lees Ferry Historic District

UTM references for the 1997 Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District are listed below. Points H-L incorporate the Lee's Ferry area. Please see the attached map, where the new boundaries are superimposed on the old.

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	12	4453600	40828200
B	12	4455600	40827600
C	12	4460000	40822500
D	12	4459100	40821500
E	12	4462800	40810900
F	12	4466700	40809350
G	12	4466100	40811000
H	12	4475200	40779950
I	12	4477300	40803500
J	12	4486500	40795100
K	12	4464700	40791300
L	12	4470000	40799100
M	12	4460800	40808700
N	12	4457500	40806600
O	12	4459900	40809700
P	12	4459400	40816900

### 11. Addendum Prepared By

name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian

organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc.

street & number: P.O. Box 7086

city or town: Missoula

state: MT

date: September 1997

telephone: 406 721-1958

zip code: 59807-7086