

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

796

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 2 2015

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Douglass-Frey Ranch

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Other names/site number: Robert L. Douglass Ranch; Charles Frey Ranch; Island Ranch

Name of related multiple property listing:
Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1075 Dodge Lane

City or town: Fallon State: NV County: Churchill

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

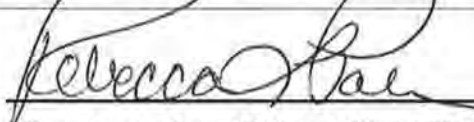
I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A x B x C D

	<u>9/18/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

By Barbara Loyall 11-17-15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS / Prairie School

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STUCCO, TERRA COTTA,
WOOD/Weatherboard

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Douglass-Frey Ranch is a historic ranching complex south of Fallon in the Lahontan Valley, established by Robert L. Douglass, a prominent local rancher and developer, and currently owned and operated by the Frey family. Sitting to the northwest of Carson Lake at the eastern extent of the Carson River watershed, the ranch rests within a well-watered area that has sustained ranching for a century and a half. The nominated area encompasses eleven acres comprising that portion of the Douglass Ranch that represents agricultural production in the valley in the early- and mid-twentieth century. This includes a Prairie-style ranch house, the Bunk House, a barn, a shed, a portion of an irrigation channel, and a historic farm field used currently as a vineyard. There are also several ornamental landscape features around the main ranch house including tree alleys and open grass lawns.

Narrative Description

The Douglass-Frey Ranch sits south of Fallon in an area called the Island District, an uplifted section of land amid irrigated wetlands watered by the Carson River in Lahontan Valley and used for irrigated agriculture since the mid-nineteenth century. To the northeast are Naval Air Station Fallon and the Stillwater Marsh (NRIS# 75001104). Just southeast of the ranch is Carson Lake, a riparian area at the southern extreme of the Carson River wetlands. The Carson River, with its headwaters in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of eastern California, runs north and west through Douglas, Carson, and Lyon counties before entering Churchill County and the Lahontan Valley. The valley is broad and flat, allowing the river to break into multiple channels, creating

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marshes and wetlands before ultimately emptying into the Carson Sink, a large dry lake bed northeast of Fallon. While much of Nevada is dominated by sagebrush steppe, the moist, sandy soils of the wetlands provided ideal ranching land for grazing and feed crops. The wetlands are interspersed with cottonwood (*Populus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.), bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.), cattails (*Typha* sp.), and various rushes. The trees, shrubs, and rushes provide ample feeding grounds for several hundred migratory bird species utilizing the Pacific flyway. In peripheral areas with a high water table, Great Basin wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*), wheatgrasses (*Agropyron* sp.), lovegrass (*Eragrostis* sp.), and Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) all provide ample forage to herbivores. It is these comparatively lush wetlands that attracted the *Toidikadi*, or Cattail eaters of the Northern Paiute, and later Euro-American ranchers and farmers into the valley. It is a primary reason why Robert L. Douglass chose to headquarter his ranching operations at this site by 1918.¹

The nominated area centers on the main ranch house, the Douglass Mansion, with other historically-related resources and landscape features surrounding it. The district reflects the establishment and development of the ranch by the Douglass family between 1916 and 1944. The Mansion is surrounded by a planted grass lawn maintained by the Frey family, with a primary driveway running east-to-west twenty-five meters south of the house. The lawn extends east from the house, and includes a modern pavilion and the historic Bunk House built in 1916 of similar construction as the Mansion built two years later. A sub-surface concrete-lined irrigation ditch daylight southwest of the house at the driveway. The uncovered portion of the ditch runs along the west edge of the lawn. The ditch turns to the east thirty meters northwest of the house, and then runs sixty-five meters before turning north again. From the turn, the ditch runs north for 115 meters before connecting with a larger irrigation channel at the edge of the nominated area. A wood frame barn and open-front shed rest north of the main house, and are important representations of agricultural buildings from the Douglass period of ranching. Extending to the north and west of the lawn area is an irrigated field currently used as a vineyard, although historically it has been used for a variety of different crops including a rotation of grass hay, alfalfa hay, and various grains.

Douglass-Frey Ranch Resources

Resource #	Resource Name	Date/Period	Resource Type	Status
1	Bunk House	1916	Building	Contributing
2	Douglass Mansion	1918-1920	Building	Contributing
3	Barn	c.1920s	Building	Contributing
4	Shed	c.1920s	Structure	Contributing
5	Pavilion	1995	Structure	Non-contributing
6	Northwest Field	c.1910s	Site	Contributing
7	Ranch Landscape and Grounds	c.1910s	Site	Contributing

¹ Catherine S. Fowler, *In the Shadow of Fox Peak: An Ethnography of the Cattail-Eater Northern Paiute People of Stillwater Marsh*, (U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1992), 9-12.

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Site History

After the earliest phase of ranching in the Lahontan Valley in the 1850s and 1860s, William S. Bailey began amassing a large ranch along the Carson River known by the 1870s as Island Ranch, and totaling between 15,000 and 17,000 acres. This included the land now comprising the Douglass Ranch historic district. John Sheehan, one of Bailey's many employees during the late-nineteenth century, recalled that the Bailey ranch was:

...the biggest ranch in the country. [Bailey] was the biggest cattleman in the country. The fence from the lake to the opposite end of the ranch was twelve miles long. There was [sic] miles of tules. That was where they cut 3500 tons of hay. The balance was in pasture.²

After the large property transferred to Joseph Douglass in 1891, it retained much of this undeveloped character as Douglass continued to operate the Island Ranch. When Robert Douglass acquired the property in 1906, he built a one-room school and a Protestant church for the surrounding community and his first wife, Marie Eleanor Ernst. The school and church have since been demolished, but were originally located a quarter of a mile west of the Schurz Highway (present-day U.S. Highway 95). In a 1992 interview, Eleanor Scofield, daughter of Robert L. Douglass, recalled traveling by horseback from the ranch north and west to the school.³

North of the house was an orchard planted by Douglass. He also added a golfing area north of the house with between three and five greens. Currently there are Carolina Poplars (*Populus canadensis*) interspersed throughout the landscape, planted in 1918. Eleanor Scofield, Robert Douglass' daughter, remembered that a different irrigation network than currently exists was in place in the earlier years of the ranch's operation. She indicates that a moderately-sized river lay to the west of the main ranch complex between "the main road" (likely what is now U.S. Highway 95) and the barn, and that a fence along the bank was covered in roses planted by Douglass. The grounds were open to the children when they were younger, with the bell at the Bunk House bringing them in for meals in the evenings.⁴

The complex also included related outbuildings: a "barn, lambing sheds, etc., and...artesian wells for watering stock, with complete facilities, including corrals and feed racks, for feeding cattle." The entire complex was fenced at the time with "woven wire."⁵ An article in the *Fallon Standard* four years after the ranch's completion described the complex in detail:

Mr. Douglass has taken a keen interest in the development of the Island district which is largely from his original holdings, which once comprised a solid body of fine agricultural lands, totaling 12,040 acres. Mr. Douglass sold small subdivisions from this total until his

² Roberta Childers, *Magee Station and the Churchill Chronicles*, (Reno: Jamison Station Press, 1985), 129.

³ Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," 8; Eleanor Douglass Scofield, oral history interview with Marian Lavoy, June 6, 1992, (transcribed by Glenda Price), Churchill County Museum, p15; Bunny Corkhill, "Where in the Oasis Am I?," *In Focus* 8(1994-1995): 100.

⁴ Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," 1, 8; Scofield interview, pp14-15, 27.

⁵ "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," 1, 6.

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individual land holding in the district now comprise about [illegible, 1200?] acres. He plans to maintain this acreage as a splendid farm plant and will further devote the virgin lands owned by him as soon as labor and material prices will allow. He earlier gave the district the fine Island chapel which is now used as a school and a community center as well as the headquarters of religious gatherings. This chapel was given by Mr. Douglass to the district without strings and comprises one of the neat edifices of the Newlands project, reflecting credit on the donor and holding forth advantages that are distinct. It is proper to mention here that what was once a great cattle ranch holding has been transformed into a district where man can live and prosper, the Island district being one of the most desirable in the Newlands project. Fruits, cereals, hay and other products go from the farms there to market...every year and advances have been very marked there during the last few years.⁶

The ranch was a mechanized operation using a rotation of crops, with Douglass' ranch hands raising wheat and alfalfa, with a sizeable orchard shading the property as well. The orchard covered much of the area north and west of the main house that now comprise the vineyard. Nearer the Mansion, Douglass had trenches dug and fertilized to support peonies and roses. There were also duck ponds to the southeast of the main house.

In 1944, Charles P. Frey, Sr., purchased the property from Douglass. The Frey family still owns the ranch and has operated it for agricultural production since that time. As is typical of agricultural properties that remain in service, the Frey family has updated and upgraded the infrastructure of the complex. As late as 1997, the Freys used the grounds and surrounding fields for alfalfa and hay production, and currently use it to sustain a winery founded by Charles Frey, Jr., in 2001, and a distillery founded by Colby Frey (son of Charles Frey, Jr.) in 2014. The nominated area includes contributing developments from the Douglass period, and the Frey operation of the ranch to 1965, with ongoing significance to the present.⁷

1. Bunk House, c.1916, Contributing Building

Built in 1916 forty meters east of the main house, the Bunk House is a two-story, stucco house with no formal style but with apparent Colonial Revival influences. The roof is a low-pitch, hipped roof with boxed eaves. Windows are either one-over-one sash windows or fixed replacement windows where the bottom half of the window port has been in-filled with stucco. There are small basement lights as well. All windows have one-over-one screen covers. The east elevation includes a small, hipped-roof extension that served as an entrance, and formerly included an enclosed privy. A wooden staircase with a rail extends to the east and north. What appears to have been an open porch extension on the north elevation has a hipped roof, and is enclosed with large, single-pane metal windows with screen covers, and wood-panel walls. A concrete stairwell leads up from the east and the west to this secondary entrance. A lean-to

⁶ "Within Churchill County and the Newlands Project," *Fallon Standard*, March 30, 1921; the reference to the Newlands project refers to the Carson-Truckee Irrigation Project established under the 1902 Congressional act that created the U.S. Reclamation Service. The Carson-Truckee Irrigation Project is discussed in greater depth in Section 8.

⁷ Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," 8; Scofield interview, p42.

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carport extends away from the porch, added by Charles Frey, Sr., in the late 1950s. The stucco appears to have been re-plastered recently as part of ongoing maintenance.⁸

The Bunk House was used historically as multi-purpose quarters for ranching staff. The building included a cook's bedroom on the second floor as well as an open area for temporary workers to sleep. The first floor contained the kitchen and a large dining room for employees. There was a small privy outside. There was also a washroom at the front of the building for employees to clean themselves before meals. There is a large bell still used to signal meal times on the property, although it has since been moved by the Frey Family from its original location north of the Bunk House to a new location northwest of the Mansion. In the 1940s, just prior to selling to the Freys, the Douglass family remodeled the interior, dividing the upstairs floor plan into separate bedrooms for family members and ranching staff. Charles Frey, Sr., continued to use the house as quarters for his ranch hands, including his cook, Bea Whalen, and additional milkers hired on between 1955 and 1965 to support an expanded dairying operation. The house was described historically as "a two-story cookhouse and bunkhouse, of the same tile block construction, and modern in equipment including bath" as well as "numerous cabins for help."⁹

2. The Douglass Mansion, c.1918-1920, Contributing Building

Designed by Frederick DeLongchamps and built between 1918 and 1920, the Douglass Mansion (also currently known as "the big house") is the main resource of the Douglass Ranch. It is a two-story, Prairie-style house at the center of the ranching complex. The house has a low-pitch, hipped roof, with broad, boxed eaves. Its exterior is stucco over terracotta brick, supported by a wood frame. Retaining much of the original DeLongchamps design, the house is a two-story rectangular plan, measuring thirty feet wide at the façade and forty feet long. The hipped roof has a low pitch and is clad with a metal, standing seam sheathing. The roof framing is supported by 1" by 6" diagonal bracing throughout. Windows throughout the building are a combination of steel casement windows and wooden sash windows, with four steel picture window replacements on the façade and west elevation. Sash windows are generally six-over-one patterns, while casements are two-by-five, true divided glazing. Windows appear in single, paired, or three-unit sets. The home includes earthquake protection features, including steel cables installed in the concrete foundation and an additional cable wrapped around between the bricks and the mortar, installed by Douglass as part of the original design. The exterior includes decorative ventilation features underneath the primary and secondary eaves on multiple elevations.¹⁰

The south façade is dominated by an 18' by 34' sun room enclosed with tall, multi-light French windows. A porte cochere extends the south elevation by twelve feet at the southeast corner. On its northeast pillar, toward the base, is an imprinted cornerstone in the stucco that reads "RLD XVIII." The main entrance to the Mansion is centered within the porte cochere. On the east elevation north of the port cochere is an entrance added in approximately 1960 by the Frey

⁸ Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015.

⁹ "Frey Ranch"; "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," 1, 6; Scofield interview, p15; Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015.

¹⁰ F.J. DeLongchamps, "Residence for R.L. Douglas [sic]," NAA1-075, Nevada Architectural Archives, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Nevada, Reno; "Frey Ranch"; Amy Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," *Lahontan Valley News/FallonEagle Standard*, August 2, 1997, 1, 8.

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family. Initially, the door was sliding, but was replaced in 1980 with a swinging door, and replaced again in 2014 with the current hardwood door. Near the center of the east elevation is a grape arbor added by Douglass at an unknown date. The arbor is topped with east-west running joists laid over two 2"x6" beams with angled ends, resting on six squared, Classical support posts. At the northeast corner is a two-story extension completed by the Frey family, including a secondary port cochere on the first floor, and an extension of the original sun porch on the second. The sun porch originally had screen windows, but in 1986, the Frey family replaced these with glass picture windows with sliding side-lights.¹¹

The rear (north) elevation is dominated by the sun porch on the second floor. The porch was originally flush with the main wall, but was extended outward (to the east) in the 1950s by Charles Frey, Sr. On the first floor is the opening for the carport, added along with the sun porch extension. The original swinging garage door is still present near the first floor's northwest corner, and includes a pedestrian doorway in the center. Sometime prior to selling the property to the Freys, Douglass added the second garage opening east of the original garage entrance. It appears that the Frey family has since replaced the door with a new sliding track unit. Charles Frey, Sr. added a modern wooden patio deck at the northwest corner of the main portion of the house in 1986, which rests on a large stucco-over-concrete foundation.¹²

The west elevation is relatively undecorated and unbroken. The first floor includes steel window replacements and flush screen covers. The original coal chute near the southwest corner remains, but is closed off with a hopper window. The first floor sash and casement windows remain, but also have divided screen covers.

The interior is accessed via the entry within the porte cochere, which is the original wood, full-view door. The entry is small, opening into an interior hallway that leads to the southwest living room, the stair to the second floor, and a hallway leading to the rear of the house. The hallway was modified out of an original downstairs bedroom. The western half of the first floor is now a single open room with some secondary partition walls having been removed, with a heavily remodeled kitchen toward the rear. The second floor retains its central hallway off the top of the stairway. What were two bedrooms at the south end of the first floor have been combined, with a bathroom that retains its original c.1920 fixtures.

A *Fallon Standard* article in 1921 described the appearance of the home shortly after construction:

This is one of Nevada's finest rural homes and is located on Mr. Douglass' farm, comprising 1200 acres in the Island district eight miles south of this city. Built in 1917 it cost in excess of \$20,000 and would cost today probably twice this sum. It is built of hollow burned tile, being the only structure of the type in this part of the state. It comprises 12 rooms, has a full basement, is steam heated and is served with light and water from individual plants installed by Mr. Douglass. The Douglass family have been

¹¹ Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015; "Frey Ranch," undated memorandum, Frey Ranch LLC, provided by Debbie Frey.

¹² Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015.

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spending the winter in San Mateo, California, but will re-occupy this home on June 1st and plan to make the farm the permanent family home.¹³

During the period of significance, the first floor included the dining room, kitchen, and pantry toward the rear of the house. Projecting off the rear of the house was a wash room and a small screen porch, with the rear entry extending off the north side of the porch. A central staircase from the kitchen led to the basement. The second floor contained five bedrooms, a bathroom, and a sleeping porch above the porte cochere. Douglass later modified the sleeping porch into a multi-purpose space, occasionally used for parties by his second wife, Mantee Douglass. The bathroom floors were concrete with coved baseboards. Finished rooms in the home had ten-foot ceilings, and there was also a full basement and a full attic. There was a vertical enclosed laundry chute from the second floor to the basement. The basement contains the floor joist beams which are 2" by 12", carrying the stamp of Verdi Lumber Co. The basement was used by Douglass to store and wash his automobiles. The southwest basement window contained a chute to feed coal to the basement furnace. Above the ramp to the basement, resting on the roof, was a hunting platform installed by Douglass that has since been enclosed.¹⁴

Since construction, there have been few modifications to the overall features of the residence, with most significant alterations occurring within the period of significance. As designed by DeLongchamps, the hipped roof was predominantly clad in wooden shingles, with a flat, tin deck at its center broken by a paired-flume chimney. The roof has since been replaced with standing metal seam. Upstairs, two bedrooms were combined into one, and an additional full bathroom added. Rooms retain their original wood floors, with wood molding and one-foot base boards. The hunting platform was eventually screened into a sun porch, and the east side above the porte cochere was opened. The platform was used as a roof top garden and Douglass frequently used it for golf driving practice. Douglass later converted the porte cochere to a screened porch since older vehicles tended to leak oil and visitors would track the oil into the house. Charles Frey Sr. covered the open half and screened it in to match the west side at an unknown date. Charles P. Frey, Jr., restored the porte cochere in 1986, but replaced the screens with picture windows with sliding sidelights. The first floor windows along the west elevation have been replaced with steel picture windows with sliding side-lights. All windows have white screen covers on their exterior that match the muntin pattern of the wood windows underneath.¹⁵

A 1944 article about the Frey's purchase described the residence as a "twelve room tile block house, with a full basement, including four car garage underneath," containing "three bath rooms and two fine sleeping porches and...equipped with all the modern conveniences." However, a 1997 article on the house mentioned that the interior had received remodeling by the two generations of Freys that had lived there through that year (and continue to use the home). These renovations have largely preserved the original floor plan of the building, including primary

¹³ "Within Churchill County and the Newlands Project," *Fallon Standard*, March 30, 1921.

¹⁴ DeLongchamps, "R.L. Douglas,"; Scofield interview, p26.

¹⁵ "Frey Ranch"; Scofield interview, p13.

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passage-ways, the entry and stairwell, and the porches. The stucco also appears to have been replastered recently as part of ongoing maintenance.¹⁶

3. Barn, c. 1920s, Contributing Building

A wood frame, gable roof barn constructed by Douglass rests north of the Bunk House and is the only remaining historic barn on the property. While its date of construction cannot be confirmed, it appears to be from the early twentieth century, and was likely constructed by the 1920s when the Douglass family began living at this location permanently. It was used by both the Douglass and Frey families to house smaller livestock, mostly sheep. The barn has board-and-batten walls and a track for what was a sliding door (now missing) on its east elevation. The barn has a combination of fixed wood frame windows of varying sizes, including single-light and paired windows on the south elevation, and a two-by-three divided light window on the east elevation. The roof slope is divided irregularly, with an elongated extension to the north.¹⁷

4. Shed, c. 1920s, Contributing Structure

There is a small shed-roof, wood frame shelter west of the Barn, facing east with an open east elevation and simple wood framing. It was used to shelter a combination of equipment and livestock, mostly sheep. Its date of construction is not apparent, but it is likely that it was constructed as part of the larger complex in either the late 1910s or early 1920s and was present on the property by 1944 when sold to Charles Frey, Sr.¹⁸

5. Pavilion, 1995, Non-contributing Structure

The Pavilion sits twenty meters east of the Mansion and was built in 1995 for a wedding for Charles Frey, Jr.'s eldest daughter. It sits on a concrete foundation that flares upward and outward. It has a decagonal, hipped roof with steel framing and standing seam sheathing. At the center is a small cupola that extends approximately two feet above the main roof. There is a decorative beaded spire extending from the cupola roof. The metal railing and round pillars include decorative, Victorian-inspired detailing. A concrete ramp extends west to a brick-paved walkway that leads to the Mansion's east elevation and porte cochere.¹⁹

6. Northwest Field, c.1910s, Contributing Site

To the north and west of the Mansion is an eight-acre agricultural field currently used as part of the Frey family's vineyard. The field is flat like much of this area of Lahontan Valley, due to sedimentary processes and many decades of plowing and tilling from use as a grain and feed field, and is bounded by Dodge Lane to the south, the Mansion and Barn grounds on the east, a large irrigation ditch to the north, and Flying K Ranch Lane to the west. The portion of the field north of the Mansion was the orchard planted and maintained by the Douglass family. Subsequent decades of agriculture demolished the orchard and replaced it with other crops including alfalfa, grass hay, and grains. The west extent of the Northwest Field was regraded to create an irrigation pond in 2003. Currently, the entire extent of the Northwest Field is a

¹⁶ "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," *Fallon Eagle*, January 8, 1944, 1, 6; Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," 8.

¹⁷ Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015.

¹⁸ Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015.

¹⁹ Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini (NVSHPO), August 7, 2015.

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vineyard. There is an irrigation lateral on its east border, and a larger irrigation ditch on its north border. There is an access road that bounds the north and west extents of the field. The field retains the majority of its historic extent, minus the addition of an irrigation reservoir constructed by the Freys in 2003 at its northwest corner.²⁰

7. Ranch Landscape and Grounds, c.1910s, Contributing Site

Immediately surrounding the Mansion, Bunk House, and Barn is a vernacular ornamental landscape, dominated by a planted grass lawn area that is a result of both Douglass and Frey occupation of the site. The lawn is bordered to the south and east by the Entry Road off the Flying K Ranch Lane. The Entry Road extends east to the southeast corner of the district, and then turns north. The dirt road then splits, leading west to the garage access on the north elevation of the Mansion, and leading north along the east elevation of the Barn. The majority of the road has a poured concrete border. The lawn area and road are both bordered by lines of deciduous trees dominated by Fremont Cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*), and including two remaining Carolina Poplars (*Populus canadensis*) planted during the Douglass period, located along Dodge Lane southeast of the Mansion. Historic images suggest that the poplars lined most of the roadways where there are now cottonwoods. Southwest of the Mansion, a brick-lined walkway extends east to the Pavilion and south to a curved turnout off of Dodge Lane.

Historic Associated Feature – Ranch Entry Road and Driveway, c.1918 – The Ranch Entry Road includes all of the dirt roads and vehicle paths within the district, most of which are lined with poured concrete curbs. This is anchored by the primary driveway entering the property and running east from the ranch entrance off of Flying K. Ranch Lane. The Road runs east past the Mansion, turning north along the east extent of the main yard and north to the Barn before ending at an irrigation ditch that defines the north edge of the property parcel. South of the barn, the Driveway, a secondary dirt road, turns to the west and meets with the north elevation of the Mansion, providing access to the garage space in the basement.

Historic Associated Feature – Irrigation channel, c.1918 – A concrete-lined irrigation channel runs through much of the historic district. The channel daylights along the Entry Road, southwest of the Mansion, running straight north for seventy meters, then east for sixty-five meters, then north for 115 meters to its headgate with a regional irrigation ditch and the edge of the historic district. There are several iron or steel headgates along the channel to divert water, mostly used to flood irrigate the Northwest Field. Several headgate features include early-twentieth century metal work, suggesting the channel was constructed as part of Douglass' development of the property in 1918.

Historic Associated Feature – Poplar and Cottonwood Alleys, c.1918 – Lining the dirt roads along the southern and eastern edges of the historic district are Fremont

²⁰ Historical imagery available from GoogleEarth shows an open field on December 14, 2002, and shows the construction of the new reservoir by October 4, 2003; Debbie Frey, personal communication to Jim Bertolini, July 18, 2015.

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Cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) and two Carolina Poplars (*Populus canadensis*). The poplars date from 1918 when Douglass began the construction of the DeLongchamps-designed Mansion. The cottonwoods surrounding the lawn area are of sufficient age to date from either the late Douglass or early Frey periods of operation. A younger alley of cottonwoods has been planted along the Entry Road, likely planted in the 1980s, judged by their height.

Historic Associated Feature – Brick pathway, mid.19th century – The brick pathway is comprised of red, fired brick laid in a herringbone pattern and curbed with poured concrete. It extends along the east elevation of the Mansion, through and east of the porte cochere before terminating at the Entry Road south of the Mansion. The pathway appears to be an historic feature laid as part of the porte cochere feature on the mansion, although it has been re-graded and repaired during the Frey ownership, including the addition of the poured concrete curb. In 1995, the Frey family added a matching walking path that extends east from the porte cochere to the Pavilion.

Historic Associated Feature – Bell, c.1918 – A large, cast dinner bell on an iron truss frame sits on the property just northwest of the Mansion's rear patio. It was originally next to the north elevation of the Bunk House, but moved to its current location, possibly in the 1950s coinciding with the addition of the carport to that building.

Historic Integrity of the Ranch

The Douglass-Frey Ranch retains strong overall integrity to the Douglass and early Frey periods of operation. The historic buildings and structures reflect strong integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, feeling, association, and location. The overall landscape of the complex also has good integrity, retaining its historic use and function as an agricultural farm and ranch, continuing traditions established in this region in the 1860s. The overall spatial organization and circulation patterns remain as established by 1918 when Robert Douglass oversaw the construction of the complex. Historic photographs of the ranch show that during the Douglass period, the grounds were relatively open as they are now. The Barn and Shed north of the Bunk House retain their original framing, sheathing and roofing, possessing good integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. Together, the ranching complex is a strong reflection of its historic significance as a ranch operated between 1916 and 1965.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1916 - 1965 (ongoing)

Significant Dates

1916 (Construction of Bunk House)

1918 (begin construction of Mansion)

1920 (complete Mansion and complex)

1944 (ranch sells to Charles P. Frey, Sr.)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Robert L. Douglass

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Frederick J. DeLongchamps

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Douglass-Frey Ranch is significant under Criteria A, B, and C as a reflection of the long-seated ranching traditions of Lahontan Valley, as the country home and ranch headquarters for Robert L. Douglass, and as a rare example of Prairie-style architecture by famed Nevada architect Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The Ranch is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture for its reflection of ranching and irrigated agricultural traditions that began in Lahontan Valley in the 1860s and continue to the present. The Ranch is significant under Criterion B in the area of Agriculture for its association with Robert L. Douglass, a prominent figure of Churchill County's early development who expanded the use of Lahontan Valley for farming and ranching through his business ventures. The Douglass Mansion, the main ranch house, is also significant under Criterion C as a rare reflection of Prairie-style architecture in

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Nevada, and as a prominent work by renowned Nevada architect Frederick J. DeLongchamps. Although Douglass purchased the property that would contain the ranch in 1906, the period of significance begins in 1916, corresponding with the construction of the Bunk House, the earliest known and earliest remaining physical development on the site. The period of significance ends in 1965, reflecting the ongoing significance of the property to ranching and agriculture in the Lahontan Valley. The district retains strong integrity to the period of significance. The Frey family has made modifications to the landscape and buildings, most of which are either historic in their own right, or compatible and relate to the historic functions of the resources and landscapes in the district.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Prior to the 1850s, the area that is now Churchill County was part of the Northern Paiute territory of the Great Basin. The *Toidikadi*, or Cattail-eaters, were a subsidiary of the Northern Paiute and called the Carson Sink and lands to its east their home. Stillwater Marsh (NRIS# 75001104) was, and still is, a center of the *Toidikadi* culture as it provides a rich biotic environment that has supported them for centuries. Among the first Euro-American visitors to Lahontan Valley were fur trading companies exploring the Humboldt and Carson River basins in the 1830s for their potential for beaver trapping. In the 1840s, the valley also became part of the Overland Trail network that funneled tens of thousands of settlers from eastern towns and cities to farming and mining communities on the west coast. The discovery of silver in the Comstock west of Churchill County precipitated the use of Lahontan Valley and Stillwater Marsh as a ranching landscape. Displacing the Paiutes in the valley, settlers moved into the well-watered valley to raise livestock and hay, and grow produce for the local mining towns and trail supply stations. The marshes that had once been hunting and horticultural grounds for the *Toidikadi* were highly prized grazing lands in an environment that often received less than five inches of precipitation each year.²¹

The Douglass family first established a residence in what became downtown Fallon in 1904. However, amid losses in the family and the stresses of finding hired help to maintain the house, the Douglass family moved to Island Ranch in November of 1906.

Ranching and Agriculture in Churchill County

The Douglass-Frey Ranch is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture for its reflection of early and mid-twentieth century farming and ranching practices in the Lahontan Valley, and as the hub of the Lahontan Valley's largest and most successful ranching operations. While the land has been used for agricultural purposes since the 1860s, the built ranching complex that comprises the historic district reflects the ranching practices of the Douglass and Frey families between 1916 and the present.

²¹ John M. Townley, *Turn This Water into Gold: The Story of the Newlands Project*, 2nd ed., (Reno and Fallon, Nev.: Nevada Historical Society, Churchill County Museum Association, and Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, 1998), 1; Fowler, 7-15.

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Churchill County rests within what became an agricultural center for western Nevada in the twentieth century. The Carson River runs from its headwaters in California north and east through Douglas, Carson, and Lyon counties in Nevada. As it enters the Lahontan Valley, the Carson channel divides into the several sloughs, branches, and marshes spreading throughout the broad, shallow valley, eventually emptying into the Carson Sink to the northeast of Fallon. This network of wetlands provided the impetus for cattle ranching and modest irrigated crop production in the valley in the late nineteenth century.²²

Spurring the growth of ranching in Lahontan Valley was the discovery of silver on the Comstock Lode in 1859. As prospectors traveled to Virginia City, Churchill County became a source for local produce, and more importantly, for hay and forage to supply travelers along the Overland Trail. Ranchers also raised livestock for the local meat markets, and tended to settle in the lowlands near waterways, including salt marshes and flats within the valley. Soon after settlement, area ranchers J.J. Cushman and David Wightman developed irrigation techniques that allowed for expanded pasture and hay-cutting fields. While the overland travel routes through Lahontan Valley drew several hundred people into the valley who established telegraph lines and freight stations, and mined local mineral claims, the decline in mining across the region by the end of the 1860s demanded a new market for the valley's agriculture. Ranchers who had purchased key water sources in the valley grazed their beef and dairy cattle in the lowlands in winter, summering their herds in the mountains in the public domain. Their ranch hands often included displaced *Toidikadi*. Early ranchers often grazed cattle and hogs on the grass and tules in the summer and burned the refuse in the fall. By 1870, irrigation networks supported thirty-six working ranches in the valley. As mining town markets declined, ranchers began driving their cattle to railroad junctions along the Central Pacific Railroad for delivery to markets in San Francisco and Sacramento. By 1880, much of the valley had been fenced or put to plow. Despite the expansion of ranching agriculture, Churchill County remained the smallest county in Nevada by population, with only 830 residents by 1900.²³

Improved irrigation allowed Lahontan Valley farmers and ranchers to increase produce agriculture alongside alfalfa and hay crops and sell them in nearby mining and railroad towns. Using flood irrigation, salt marshes could be flushed of salts, boosting production. Amid this development, William Bailey began to amass ranching and farmland within the Island Ranch area, that later became the Douglass-Frey Ranch. However, overgrazing and a lack of forage coupled with the harsh winter of 1889-1890 to devastate the cattle industry in the Lahontan Valley, compelling many borrowers to sell off their ranches. Followed by a drought through much of the early 1890s, the agriculture and ranching prospects diminished until the middle of that decade. However, the environmental risks inherent in western agriculture precipitated the expansion of irrigation in the valley on a much broader scale by the first decade of the twentieth century.²⁴

²² Townley, 1; Corkhill, 100.

²³ Townley, 3-7; Fowler, 21, James W. Hulse, *The Silver State: Nevada's Heritage Reinterpreted*, 3rd ed., (Reno & Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 2004), 227.

²⁴ Townley, 9-10; Hulse, 141.

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After Bailey sold his ranchland to the Douglass family, Robert L. Douglass achieved success in the ranching industry; a success that largely hinged upon the passage of the Reclamation Act by Congress in 1902. The Act not only created the U.S. Reclamation Service (now the Bureau of Reclamation), but authorized five new construction projects for irrigation networks in the west. The ultimate goal of these ambitious irrigation projects was to aid in the transfer of western lands from the public domain into private hands through various land sale authorities including the 1862 Homestead Act. In part due to Nevada Senator Francis G. Newlands' influence on sponsoring and passing the bill, Nevada's Truckee-Carson Project was among those five and sought to supplement irrigation water supplies along both the Carson and Truckee Rivers. Construction began on the Truckee-Carson Project in 1903 and continued periodically for much of the century, with the first water reaching project farms in 1906. The expanded influx of water in northwestern Nevada, along with an expansion of Congressional authority in public land sales, allowed the number of farms in the state to increase to 2,689 in 1913, covering a total of 710,000 acres. The project itself eventually watered 6,200 acres in Fernley and 66,700 acres in Lahontan Valley, despite claims that there would be sufficient water for 400,000 acres.²⁵

During the early twentieth century, Robert L. Douglass became one of the primary large-scale ranchers in the valley. Douglass took advantage of the Newlands system in the early twentieth century, and eventually amassed one of the largest grain-producing ranches in the state. Robert was the nephew of Joseph M. Douglass, a resident of Virginia City, who acquired what became the ranch property from William S. Bailey in 1891. The southern end of Lahontan Valley had mostly been claimed in the 1860s and 1870s by various farmers and ranchers under the Homestead Act, and referred to variously as Island Ranch, or as Big Island Ranch (south) and Little Island Ranch (north). Bailey acquired much of the area referred to as Island Ranch by 1869. Bailey built his ranch house approximately four and a half miles northwest of the future Douglass ranch. By 1874, Lahontan Valley resident Delia Brown asserted that "probably the largest ranch in Churchill is that of William Bailey, who has a 15,000 acre proposition...the Island Ranch." The hard winter of 1889-90 devastated Bailey's cattle herd of 6,000 head, compelling him to transfer the land to Mr. Douglass for payment of loans that Douglass had lent Mr. Bailey over the 1880s, totaling in excess of \$60,000 dollars. When Joseph Douglass passed away in 1904, the property passed to his nephews William J. and Robert L. Douglass. In 1906, Robert purchased the remainder of the property from his brother, thus acquiring the full 12,000-acre fenced ranch, a portion of which he retained and operated until 1944. Sources indicate that during that time, Douglass operated or built several ranching complexes south of Fallon on these holdings. The Lower Ranch appears to have been the ranch complex already present and perhaps built by Bailey or earlier ranches. Later, Douglass sold the Lower Ranch to the Dodge family, and it was thereafter known as the Dodge Ranch. Once the Mansion and surrounding complex was completed in 1920, the family referred to it as Island Ranch. An oral history interview from

²⁵ National Register of Historic Places, *Newlands Reclamation Thematic Resources* (MPDF), Nevada, NRIS# 64000529, pp1-6, 9; William D. Rowley, *The Bureau of Reclamation: Origins and Growth to 1945, Vol. I*, (Denver: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 2006), 101-103; U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, *Historical Context Study for the Dixie Valley Settlement Area – NAS Fallon*, by JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, (February 2013), 15.

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1992 indicates that the cook was for some time a Japanese man named Kay Kimachi, although he returned to Japan during the 1920s.²⁶

Alfalfa proved an important crop for the Douglass ranch and the valley, as it remains today, being the mainstay of the Lahontan Valley's agricultural production. However, area agriculturalists experimented with a variety of alternate crops between 1900 and 1940. Sugar beets were popular in the 1900s and 1910s, while melons took precedence in the 1910s and 1920s. By the 1920s and 1930s, eggs, poultry, dairying, and orchards dominated the valley for the next half-century, aided by dairy marketing by businessmen such as George Wingfield. The availability of Truckee-Carson Project water supported 300 farms by 1908, but lack of additional capacity forced the Reclamation Service to halt new farms in 1910. However, completion of the Lahontan Dam in 1914 provided additional capacity, supporting 906 farms by 1922. The community continued to grow, sustained both by agriculture and by defense spending at Naval Air Station Fallon that opened as an aerial gunnery school during the Second World War, and although closed immediately following the war, reopened permanently in 1951.²⁷

A national decline in the agricultural industry after the First World War led to a serious depression for farming and ranching in Nevada, affecting ranchers in Lahontan Valley like Robert Douglass. Precipitated both by falling commodity prices and severe drought in the west beginning in the 1920s, the income of Nevada's agricultural producers fell significantly. By 1921, Nevada Governor Emmet Boyle addressed the state legislature, acknowledging the damage to sheep and cattle ranching in prior years. Six years later, the assessed valuations of cattle, horses, and pigs in the state reached their lowest point of the decade. Declines in mining prices and production during the 1920s aggravated this trend, forcing many farmers and ranchers out of business. Those that remained put increasing pressure on the state legislature and the U.S. Reclamation Service to expand water storage in the Newlands Irrigation Project. Amid this decline, Robert Douglass subdivided and sold much of the land he had acquired in 1904. The largest of these sales was of the 1,360-acre Lower Ranch, purchased by the Dodge Brothers in 1928 and still operated as part of their estate as late as 1944. Although the Great Depression led to a steep decline in farming in the Lahontan Valley, New Deal policies and the market stimulus of the Second World War allowed agriculture to recover, with 729 farms supported by the Newlands Project by 1940. In 1944, Douglass sold the mansion and ranch to Charles Frey, Sr., of the Freys of Genoa.²⁸ An article in the *Fallon Eagle* described the property at the point of sale:

Sale of one of the finest ranch properties on this project, with a history dating back to the early days of Churchill county, was reported this week when R.L. Douglass announced that his Island District home ranch, including nearly 800 acres, had been purchased by Charlie Frey, well known young rancher of the Checkler district.

²⁶ Corkhill, 100-101; Childers, 83, 93, 121, 128-129; Scofield interview, pp1, 7, 12, 15; "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," p6

²⁷ "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," p6; Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," 8; Hulse, 321; *Newlands Reclamation Thematic Resources*, 10.

²⁸ Dana R. Bennett, "'The Up-Growth of New Industries': Transformation of Nevada's Economy, 1918-1929," *Nevada Historical Quarterly* 52, No. 3 (Fall 2009), 178-179; *Newlands Reclamation Thematic Resources*, 7-8, 10; "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," p6; Burton, "The Douglass Mansion," 8.

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The sale embraced everything on the ranch, including the mansion erected by Mr. Douglass, which was started in 1918 and completed in 1920 at a cost of more than \$30,000, furnished. Sale price of the property was reported at \$60,000.

Papers covering the transaction, drawn up in the law offices of Senator Andrew L. Haight, show that there are 790 acres in the tract that changed hands, and that it carries 468 acres of vested water right, with practically all of the water right land under cultivation. The rest of the tract includes some splendid pasture, duck ponds, etc. Most of the ranch has been in alfalfa. The new owner plans to put in about 100 acres of new ground and hopes to seed 30 acres to grain this year.²⁹

The Frey family worked the ranch property for the remainder of the twentieth century and maintains the ranching operation today. Supported by the Newlands project, the area experienced continued agricultural growth as the Reclamation Service continued to expand storage. By 1965, there were 990 farmers in the project, which expanded to 1,200 farmers by 1980. The third-generation of Frey family owners continues to operate the ranch, which was complemented by a winery in 2001 and a craft distillery in 2014. The Freys remain an important family within the ranching network of the Lahontan Valley, and continue agricultural production on over 1300 acres of land south of Fallon.³⁰

Robert L. Douglass³¹

The Douglass-Frey Ranch is eligible under Criterion B in the area of Agriculture for its association with leading Lahontan Valley rancher Robert L. Douglass, who constructed the ranching complex between 1916 and 1920, and continued to develop it until 1944. According to one local historian, by about 1910, the Douglass Ranch was the largest grain ranch in the state of Nevada.³²

Robert Lee Douglas was among Fallon's most influential early citizens. He was born on a farm in Louisiana, Missouri, on December 5, 1877. He moved to Nevada in 1900 by automobile. Douglass ventured west to join his uncle, Joseph M. Douglass, whose extensive land and cattle interests were headquartered in Virginia City. After Joseph requested help from the family in his business ventures, his nephews Robert and William moved to Nevada, Robert residing in Virginia City while William lived and worked in Reno. Robert tried mining on the Comstock, but also ventured to Alaska briefly to prospect for gold. He returned soon after and began working on his uncle's ranch in the Island District in Churchill County.³³

Upon the death of Joseph in 1904, the 12,000-acre ranch was left to Robert and his brother William. Robert purchased his brother's share and began operation of the tract, which he referred to as the Island district, or Island Ranch. The two brothers also received the other businesses

²⁹ "Douglass Ranch in Island District is Sold to Chas. Frey," *Fallon Eagle*, January 8, 1944, p1, 6.

³⁰ *Newlands Reclamation Thematic Resources*, 10.

³¹ The text under this heading has largely been reproduced and revised from the 2001 nomination for the Robert L. Douglass House in downtown Fallon: National Register of Historic Places, Douglass, Robert L., House, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada, NRIS# 01000822.

³² Corkhill, 101.

³³ Scofield interview, p1.

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owned by their uncle, including the Wells Fargo Bank, Crystal Bar, and the Washoe Club in Virginia City. That year on February 10, Robert married Eleanor Marie Ernst, the daughter of the Ernst family who operated a ranch on Old River north of Fallon, and ran a surveying office in Belmont. The *Churchill Standard* described the couple: "Mr. Douglass, or 'Bob' as he is familiarly called, is a young man of sterling worth and ranks as one of the wealthiest young men in Nevada. His gentlemanly course in life and his careful consideration for the feelings of others less favored in worldly affluence have made him a large circle of friends.... Miss Ernst is a youngest daughter of Senator Ernst...."³⁴

Douglass balanced involvement on the ranch with various business ventures in northwest Nevada. During the course of the construction of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation Project, Douglass initially refused to join with the local irrigation district by withdrawing his lands from water-right contracts. He may have felt the organization would fail, or he did not want to be tied to the federal government through water rights to his property. Supplementing his ranch work, in 1906, Douglass became president of the Churchill Bank, the first bank in Fallon, and he oversaw the construction of the modern, four-storeroom, stone-and-brick bank building that still stands on Fallon's Maine Street. Douglass was also involved with the Douglass-Jarvis Bank in Fairview, Nevada, and owned the Fallon Meat Company and the Douglass-Cano Hazon-Fallon Stage Line. Douglass also planned and mapped a community he named Island City, south of Fallon. In part due to Douglass' land sales, the density of farms in the area increased, although the town of Island City never came to fruition. A more lucrative real estate venture for Douglass was a joint venture with Howard Brown and another developer from Yerington who subdivided 400 acres in Cave Rock Cove along Lake Tahoe. Douglass built a vacation home for his family here, but he and his partners also sold homes in the subdivision to those who could afford them, including famed baseball player Ty Cobb in 1936.³⁵

Douglass was also involved in state and national politics, representing the county in the Nevada State Senate from 1907 to 1911 and serving as a Democratic presidential elector in 1916. From 1927 to 1932, he served as chairman for the Nevada State Fish and Game Commission, and he continued his work as an Internal Revenue agent for the state, a position he held for 18 years. He also remained active in the Democratic Party.

Throughout his time in Churchill County, Douglass continued to indulge his love of expensive automobiles. Involved in auto racing, Douglass purchased a six-passenger Pope-Toledo passenger car and entered it in the Hazen-Fairview run in 1906. By 1914, Stutz Bearcats were his preference. Flying proved another hobby for Douglass as the *Reno Evening Gazette* reported that his participation in a flight on September 20, 1919 made him the "first civilian to make a flight from Fallon to Reno."

Tragedy came in 1914 when Douglass' wife Eleanor died from malaria and rheumatism, complicated by jaundice. She was 32 years of age and left behind three children: Mary Martha

³⁴ Scofield interview, p2.

³⁵ Scofield interview, p4.

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(1904-1984), Robert Lee, Jr. (1909-1930), and Eleanor M. (1921-2001). Douglass was re-married to Mrs. Mantee Thorpe in 1918, and they had a daughter named Josephine.³⁶

Between real estate sales and a declining agricultural market, much of the ranch was sold over the 1920s and 1930s. In 1928, the largest land sale ever made in Churchill County was the 1,300 acres comprising the Island Ranch, purchased by the Dodge Brothers, whose family still owns this property. After 1930, in grief over the early death of his son Robert Lee, Jr., Robert L Douglass sold off most of the livestock and hired a caretaker to stay in the Bunk House. In 1944, Charles P. Frey purchased the rest of the Douglass ranch, and Robert and Mantee moved to Oakland, California. Seventy-seven years old and in ill health, Robert Lee Douglass died in Oakland in October of 1954 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Knights Templar conducted last rites for him in Fallon.³⁷

The Prairie Style and the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps³⁸

The Douglass Mansion is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the state level of significance. The Mansion is one of only two Prairie-style homes currently known to exist in Nevada, and the only Prairie-style work known to be from Frederick J. DeLongchamps' body of work.

The Douglass Mansion is a rare reflection of its style and type in Nevada. The only other known Prairie example in the state sits at 1600 Sixth Street in Minden and was designed by Fred Schadler in 1911 for John Dangberg. The Douglass Mansion is primarily defined by its hipped roof with wide eaves, symmetrical façade, and porte cochere on its south elevation.³⁹ Architectural historian Mella Rothwell Harmon elaborated on the importance of the Douglass ranch house in 2007:

The ranch house's most prominent feature is the broad porte cochere that would have accommodated Douglass' love of automobiles. Although it is the only example of Prairie-style architecture in DeLongchamps' extensive collection, it nevertheless confirms his versatility and his ability to focus on his clients' needs and tastes.⁴⁰

DeLongchamps is considered one of Nevada's premier architects and one of the most prominent practitioners of the art in the state during the early twentieth century. During the fifty-eight years that he practiced architecture in Nevada, DeLongchamps and his firm were responsible for the designs of 558 projects, a contribution that played a significant role in molding the architectural character of the state. The impact of this architect's work has become especially apparent in light of Nevada's topography and historical development. Seventh largest of the fifty states, Nevada

³⁶ Scofield interview, p16.

³⁷ Scofield interview, p38.

³⁸ This section is heavily excerpted from the Multiple Property Documentation Form filed in 1987; National Register of Historic Places, *Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps*, Nevada, NRIS 64000527.

³⁹ Mella Rothwell Harmon, "Frederick J. DeLongchamps," *In Focus* 20 (2006-2007), Churchill County Museum, Fallon, Nev., 48; Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 551.

⁴⁰ Harmon, 48.

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has remained predominantly rural outside of the metropolitan centers of Las Vegas and Reno. With its arid, high desert climate and basin-and-range topography, Nevada was inhospitable to many of the agriculturally-oriented settlers migrating west in the nineteenth century. However, the state has consistently relied upon mining and agriculture as the mainstay of its economy, with the latter dominated by ranching, and sustained through irrigated crop production. It was not until the first quarter of the twentieth century that the availability of water, improved transportation, the popularity of legal gaming venues, and recovery of the mining industry provided the impetus for expanded, permanent settlement in Nevada, during which DeLongchamps became the principal architect in the state.

The son of a French-Canadian immigrant, Frederick DeLongchamps was born in Reno on June 2, 1882. After securing a degree in mining engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1904, DeLongchamps briefly pursued a mining career before entering the field of architecture. After briefly working as a draftsman for the U.S. Surveyor's Office in Reno, DeLongchamps moved to San Francisco in 1906 and served an apprenticeship in architecture. Although the architect with whom he studied is, unfortunately, unknown, DeLongchamps' early work is strongly influenced by the formality and classicism characteristic of École des Beaux Arts training. In 1907, DeLongchamps returned to Reno and entered into a business partnership with Ira W. Tesch, a former colleague at the U.S. Surveyor's Office. Together, their architectural firm won commissions for approximately thirty buildings between 1907 and 1909.

DeLongchamps' solo career began in 1909 when he won the design competition for the Washoe County Courthouse, completed in 1910 (NRIS 86002254). The next ten years were a prolific period in the architect's career, resulting in the design for 103 buildings. Indicative of the architect's popular success during the period are his commissions for the Nevada buildings at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego the same year. According to the architectural themes selected for these expositions, DeLongchamps employed the Classical Revival style for the Panama-California Exposition and the Spanish Colonial Revival style for the Panama-California. DeLongchamps was awarded a silver medal by the Board of Consulting Architects of the Panama-Pacific Exposition for "having planned a structure that far surpasses those of many states." The architect was also one of eight finalists in the San Francisco Civic Center state building competition. DeLongchamps' drawings were published in March 1917 in the San Francisco-based journal, *The Architect and Engineer of California*.

Although DeLongchamps designed buildings in California, Florida, Wyoming and Oregon, the majority of his work was executed in his native state. His identification with Nevada increased in April 1919, when the Nevada Legislature appropriated \$520,000.00 for a capital building campaign and authorized the appointment of a Supervising Architect. State Engineer Scrugham appointed DeLongchamps to that position. However, the position of State Architect proved short lived, as the legislature abolished the office in 1921, re-established it again in 1923, and abolished it permanently in 1926. However, DeLongchamps held the office during both periods, providing architectural services to the state. During his tenure, DeLongchamps was responsible for the design of numerous state buildings. His notable projects for the state included the Nevada Industrial School in Elko (1919), the Nevada State Hospital in Sparks (1920), the Nevada State

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Building, Reno (1926) the Heroes Memorial Building in Carson City (1920), and the State Supreme Court Building, Carson City (1936) (the last two were both listed in the National Register as part of NRIS 87001625, "Carson City Public Buildings"). During the 1920s, DeLongchamps continued to expand his private practice. 130 buildings have been identified as DeLongchamps' designs from this decade and include buildings in an array of styles including English Country, Mediterranean, Tudor Revival, Gothic Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival.

The 1930s witnessed a slight decline in the volume of DeLongchamps' work. Approximately 86 buildings have been identified as DeLongchamps' designs during this period, many of which integrate Neo-Classical forms with Moderne ornamentation, including the Reno Main Post Office in Reno (1934 NRIS 90000135). In 1939 DeLongchamps entered into a partnership with architect George L.F. O'Brien, making permanent a professional association begun in 1916. The DeLongchamps & O'Brien partnership continued until both architects retired in 1965.

One of the few architects to practice in Nevada in the early twentieth century, DeLongchamps had a strong influence on the character of Nevada's built environment from that period. City Directories for Reno, the state's major urban center of the time, listed ten architects in 1912. The number had fallen to two in 1920-21 and included four in 1930-31. Throughout his career, DeLongchamps collaborated with many other practitioners in Nevada's small architectural community. He collaborated with famed Nevada architects George and Lehman Ferris on the Nevada State Building in Reno. Lehman Ferris received some of his professional training in DeLongchamps' office where he worked as a specifications writer in the late 1910s. DeLongchamps was active in community and professional associations. He was a chapter member of the Reno Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served as its first president in 1949. He maintained memberships in the Reno Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and the Elks Club. He served as president of the University of Nevada Alumni Association in 1918 and 1919. DeLongchamps was awarded the University of Nevada, Reno's Distinguished Nevadan Award in 1966. The architect died in Reno on February 11, 1969.

The Douglass Mansion reflects the only known inclusion of the Prairie style in DeLongchamps' body of work. The Prairie, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival styles of the early twentieth century were a partial rejection on the part of contemporary architects of the "chaotic, overly ornate eclecticism" of the late Victorian aesthetic. Developed predominantly by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the Prairie style was defined by its low, horizontal profile, open interior spaces, increased fenestration, and "simple harmonies" between architectural details. Wright's initial plans for Prairie residences between 1900 and 1909 inspired a proliferation of the style among other American architects, largely concentrated in Midwestern cities. Architectural historian Robert Twombly posited that the Prairie proved especially popular among conservative, upper middle class families because it represented "the security, shelter, privacy, family mutuality and other values it found increasingly important in a period of urban dislocation and conflict." The concentration of Wright's contracts in Illinois, mostly in greater Chicago, and the association of the Prairie corroborates this assertion. However, as Twombly clarifies, as much as

Douglass-Frey Ranch

Name of Property

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Wright intended the Prairie style to reflect the rural aesthetic of the Great Plains, the owners of the residences themselves tended to be urban and suburban dwellers.⁴¹

The location of the Douglass Mansion in a rural, ranching landscape is a unique setting in which to find a home of this style. The demand for Prairie-style plans came largely from suburban residents seeking to capture an image of a flat, open, prairie landscape that was difficult to read in the urban and suburban environments of the Midwest. In this case, the aesthetic source articulated by Wright was already present in the broad, shallow basin of Lahontan Valley. The ranching landscape of Churchill County was relatively insulated from the suburban and industrial middle class insecurities invoked by Wright's Prairie designs in Illinois. While the motivations for the selection of style are frequently dynamic, it is likely that Robert Douglass' status as a prominent area businessman and a patron of new technologies compelled him to request a modern style for what he hoped would be a modern ranch, and led him to seek plans from one of Nevada's premier architectural minds.

Aside from its geographic location, the two-story Mansion is a representative example of the Prairie style. Its symmetrical façade is dominated by multi-light fenestration and a single-story sun porch. The porte cochere and main entry on the south elevation not only anchored the exterior design of the building, but provided the storage for Douglass' small automobile collection. On the interior, typical of the style, the living room dominated the first floor, with a dining room and kitchen taking up much of the northeast corner of the house. The building also boasted six bedrooms (one downstairs and five upstairs), as well as a full bathroom on the second floor. There was also a sleeping porch on the second floor above the porte cochere. Every room included fenestration to maximize natural lighting and break down the barrier between in the interior and the broad, open landscape outside. In later years, when the Frey family made modifications to the interior, the fenestration and exterior features retained strong integrity to the original DeLongchamps plans, continuing to emphasize horizontality in the overall design.

Conclusion

The Douglass Ranch in Churchill County, Nevada, is a well-preserved example of the Lahontan Valley's early twentieth century agricultural development by the prominent area businessman Robert L. Douglass. It is significant at the local level under Criteria A and B in the area of Agriculture for its significance to early and mid-twentieth century ranching in Lahontan Valley as influenced by prominent businessman Robert L. Douglass, and after 1944, the Frey family. The Douglass Mansion in particular is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the state level of significance. The Mansion is a well-preserved example of a Prairie-style residence designed by one of Nevada's premier early twentieth century architects, Frederick DeLongchamps. Since 1944, the Frey family has continued the agricultural traditions begun by early ranchers in the area in the 1860s. The family has effected some changes to the ranch complex since 1944 to maintain its historic use, many of which have gained significance in their own right, and all of which are compatible with the historic and architectural character of the ranching complex. The complex now supports operations for the Churchill Vineyards (2001) and

⁴¹ Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four Square House Type in the United States," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 1 (1982), 51; Robert C. Twombly, "Saving the Family: Middle Class Attraction to Wright's Prairie House, 1901-1909," *American Quarterly* 27, No. 1 (March 1975), 57-64.

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

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the Frey Ranch Estate Distillery (2014), both of which contribute to the ongoing significance of agriculture and ranching to the Lahontan Valley.

Archaeological significance for the ranch complex was considered by the Nevada SHPO. Ranching properties such as these often possess the strong likelihood of sub-surface archaeological deposits that can reveal information about historic ranching life and both agricultural and domestic practices used at sites such as this. However, upon a site visit and brief pedestrian survey by NVSHPO staff on July 14, 2015, there are no known archaeological features to support a significance under Criterion D. Future excavation, either for research or development, might reveal deposits or archaeological features with information potential, especially around the agricultural buildings such as the Barn or Shed. In this event, this nomination may be amended to provide additional documentation for the record.

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Primary Sources

Churchill County Museum, Archives and Special Collections, Fallon, Nevada.
Nevada Architectural Archives. Special Collections and University Archives. University of Nevada, Reno.

Books and Articles

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- Townley, John M. *Turn This Water into Gold: The Story of the Newlands Project*, 2nd ed. Reno and Fallon, Nev.: Nevada Historical Society, Churchill County Museum Association, and Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, 1998.
- Twombly, Robert C. "Saving the Family: Middle Class Attraction to Wright's Prairie House, 1901-1909." *American Quarterly* 27, No. 1 (March 1975), 57-72.

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Navy. *Historical Context Study for the Dixie Valley Settlement Area – NAS Fallon*. JRP Historical Consulting, LLC. February 2013.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Nevada Architectural Archives, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Nevada, Reno (DeLongchamps drawings for Douglass Mansion); Churchill County Museum, Fallon, Nevada.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property _____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 11N

Easting: 348444

Northing: 4359381

Douglass-Frey Ranch

Churchill, Nevada

Name of Property

County and State

2. Zone: 11N	Easting: 348441	Northing: 4359318
3. Zone: 11N	Easting: 348496	Northing: 4359318
4. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348494	Northing: 4359178
5. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348417	Northing: 4359182
6. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348253	Northing: 4359197
7. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348205	Northing: 4359245
8. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348158	Northing: 4359246
9. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348157	Northing: 4359272
10. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348175	Northing: 4359273
11. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348176	Northing: 4359283
12. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348238	Northing: 4359287
13. Zone: 11N	Easting : 348240	Northing: 4359381

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the entrance to the district (SW corner, point #7 above), the district boundary runs north twenty-five meters along an access road, then eighteen meters east along the edge of the Northwest Field, then ten meters north along the same edge, then sixty-two meters east along an access road, then 94 meters north along the same access road, then 205 meters east along the north edge of the parcel, then sixty-three meters south along the east edge of the Northwest Field, then fifty-five meters east along the north edge of the complex, then 140 meters south along the east edge of the historic complex and a cottonwood alley, then seventy-five meters west along the south edge of the historic complex, then 165 meters west-northwest along the south embankment of the Entry Road, then sixty-eight meters northwest along the curving south embankment of the Entry Road, and then forty-seven meters west along the south embankment of the road to the beginning at point #7.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The selected boundaries use largely natural boundaries of the primary historic ranch complex and its adjacent agricultural land. The boundary excludes concentrations of non-contributing buildings constructed in the non-historic period (post 1965) which are concentrated along the southern and eastern edge of the district. While the non-contributing resources are functionally-related to the historic ranching complex, they are not of sufficient age to be considered historic. The resources within the boundary reflect the comprehensive historic

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

significance of the Douglass-Frey Ranch property, including designed buildings, farming buildings, and both ornamental and production landscapes, through 1965.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debbie Frey, (assistance and additions by Jim Bertolini - Nevada SHPO)
organization: Churchill Vineyards / Frey Ranch Estate Distillery
street & number: 1045 Dodge Lane
city or town: Fallon state: NV zip code: 89406-9280
e-mail: cpfrey@phonewave.net
telephone: 775-426-9017
date: 8/11/2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

Description of Photograph: Façade, porte cochere, and southeast corner of Douglass Mansion, looking northwest.
1 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: West elevation and northwest corner of the Douglass Mansion, looking southeast.
2 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Looking east from north of the Mansion, with the Irrigation channel in foreground left, and in the background, the Barn (left) and Bunk House (right).
3 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Rear (north) elevation of the Douglass Mansion, looking south.
4 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Interior of entry and stair on east side of the Douglass Mansion, looking northeast.
5 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

Description of Photograph: Douglass Mansion, second floor hallway, looking north toward the rear of the house from the top of the stair.
6 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Pavilion, looking southeast.
7 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: East elevation of the Douglass Mansion, showing the porte cochere (left), grape arbor (center), and sun porch extension/carport (right), looking west.
8 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Bunk House, northeast corner, showing north and east elevations including former privy (north side of east entry), looking southwest.
9 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Shed and lawn area north of the irrigation
10 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Barn, east entrance and east elevation, looking southwest.
11 of 17.

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Barn, south elevation and lawn area, looking north.
12 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Lawn area, with Entry Road to the south, and Douglass Mansion
and Pavilion in background, looking west-northwest.
13 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Bunk House, west and south elevations, looking northeast.
14 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Douglass Mansion, façade (south elevation), looking north.
15 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon
County: Churchill State: NV
Photographer: Jim Bertolini
Date Photographed: July 14, 2015
Description of Photograph: Northwest Field and Irrigation channel, looking west from north
of the Douglass Mansion.
16 of 17.

Name of Property: Douglass-Frey Ranch
City or Vicinity: Fallon

Douglass-Frey Ranch
Name of Property

Churchill, Nevada
County and State

County: Churchill State: NV

Photographer: unknown

Date Photographed: unknown (c.1920)

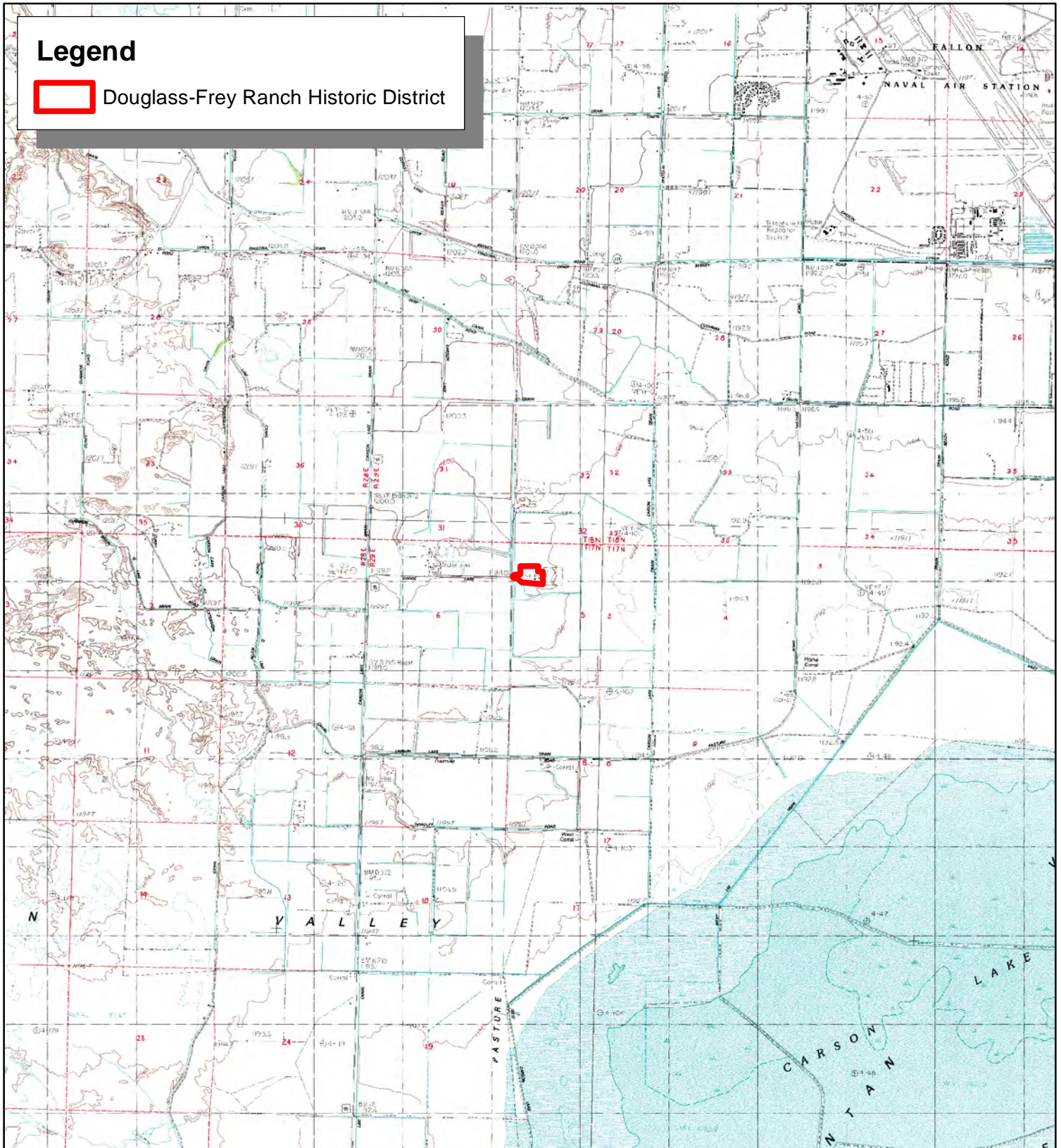
Description of Photograph: East elevation, looking west, showing house prior to additions and alterations by Frey family.

17 of 17.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

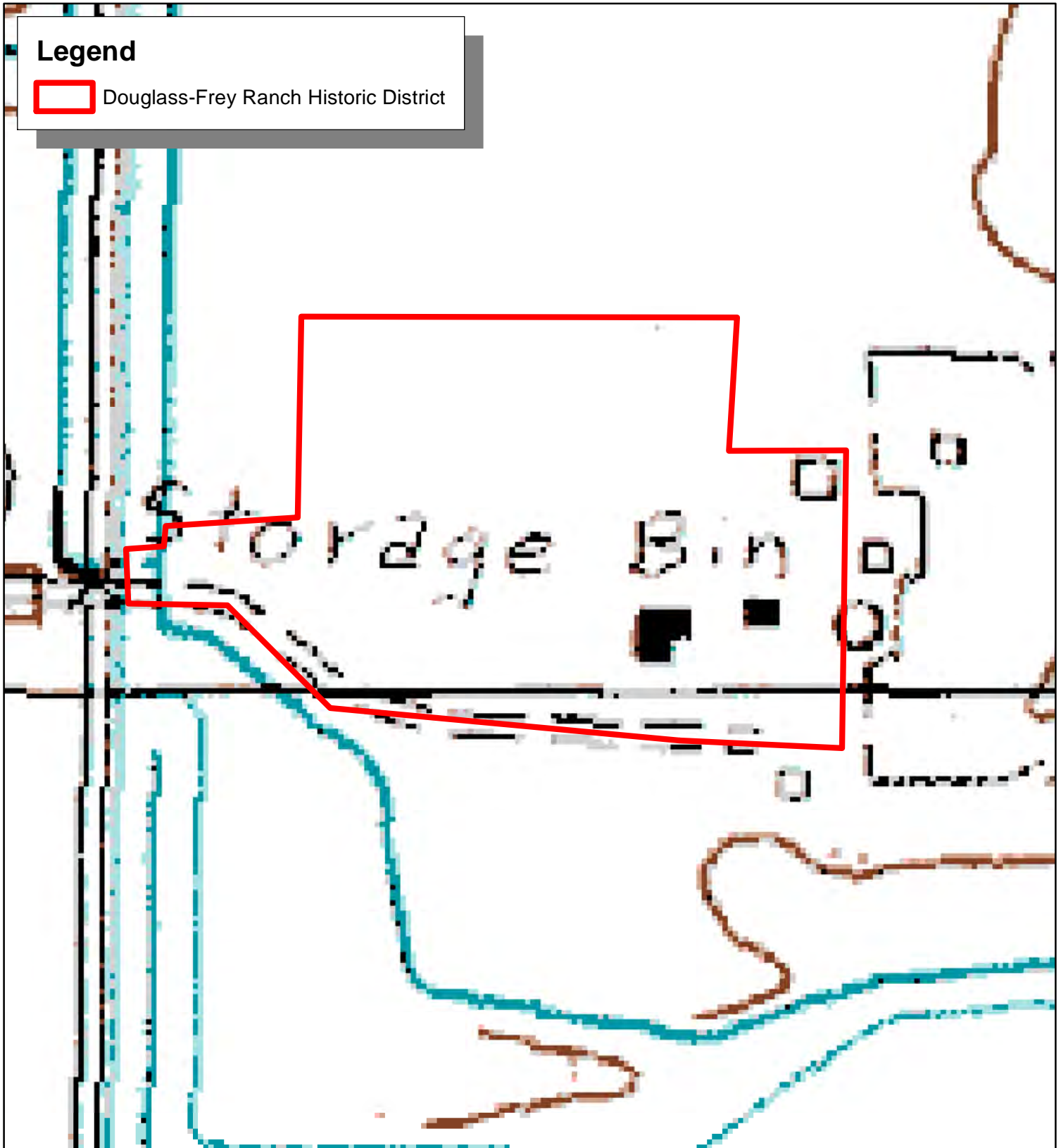
NRHP Boundary Map (large extent) Douglass-Frey Ranch Historic District South of Fallon and Fallon USGS Quadrangles



Author: NVSHPO (Bertolini)
Date: August 10, 2015
Datum: NAD 83
Projection: UTM Zone 11N



NRHP Boundary Map small extent)
Douglass-Frey Ranch Historic District
South of Fallon and Fallon USGS Quadrangles



Author: NVSHPO (Bertolini)
Date: July 15, 2015
Datum: NAD 83
Projection: UTM Zone 11N

NRHP Boundary Map Douglass-Frey Ranch

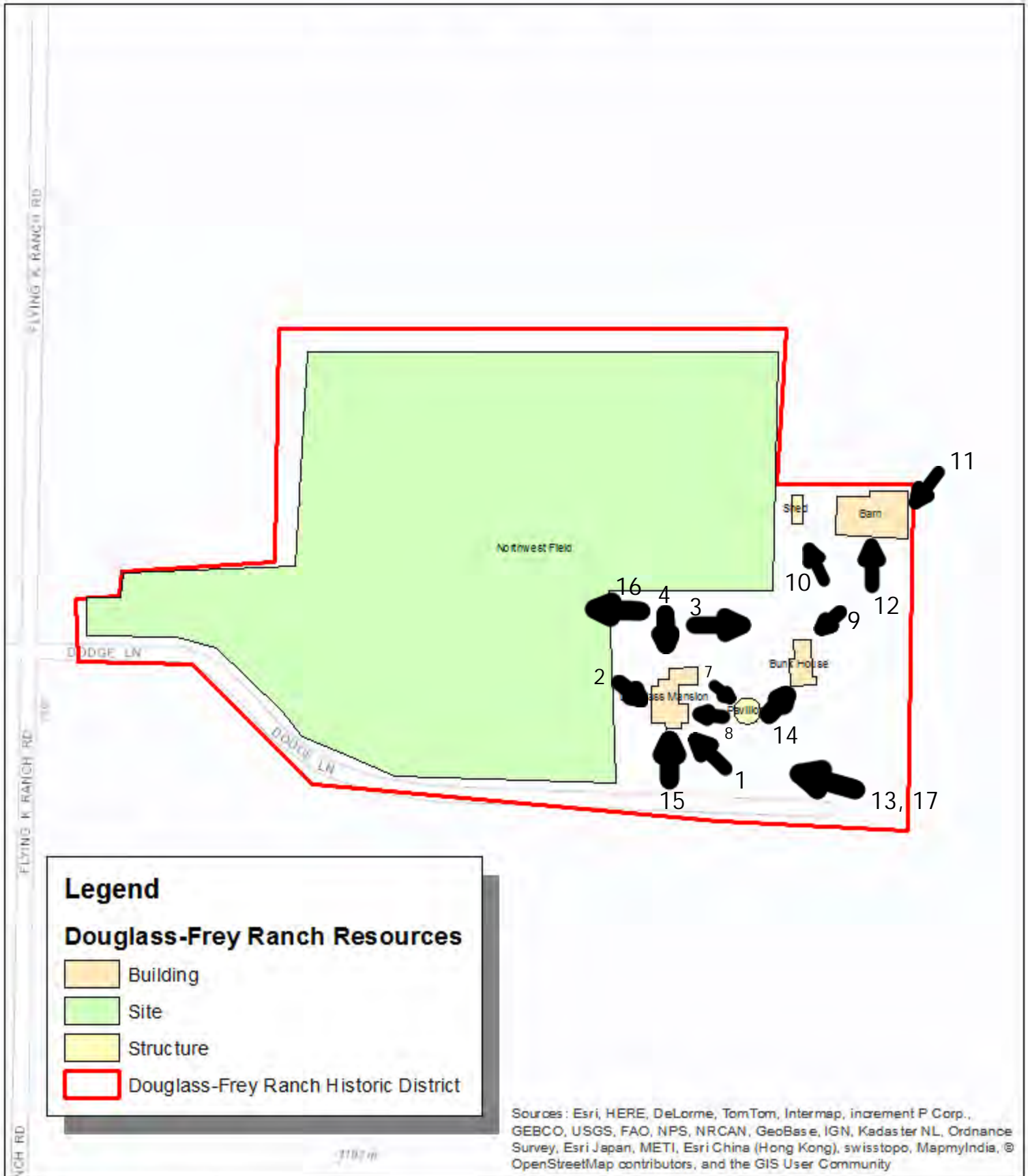


Author: NVSHPO (Bertolini)
Date: August 10, 2015
Datum: NAD 83
Projection: UTM Zone 11N

0 30 60 120
Meters



NRHP Photograph Key and Site Map Douglass-Frey Ranch



Legend

Douglass-Frey Ranch Resources

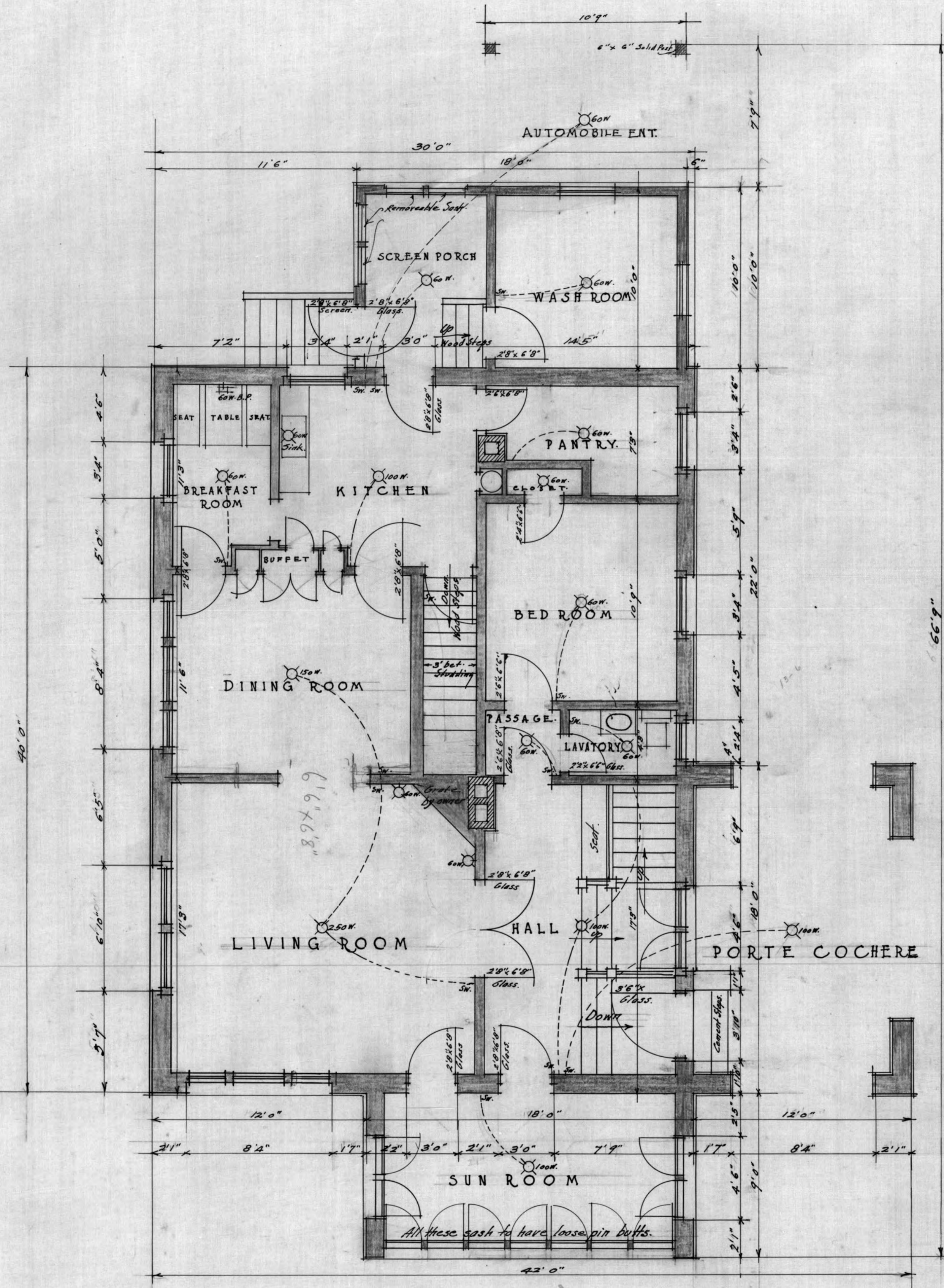
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Douglass-Frey Ranch Historic District

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Author: NVSHPO (Bertolini)
 Date: August 10, 2015
 Datum: NAD 83
 Projection: UTM Zone 11N

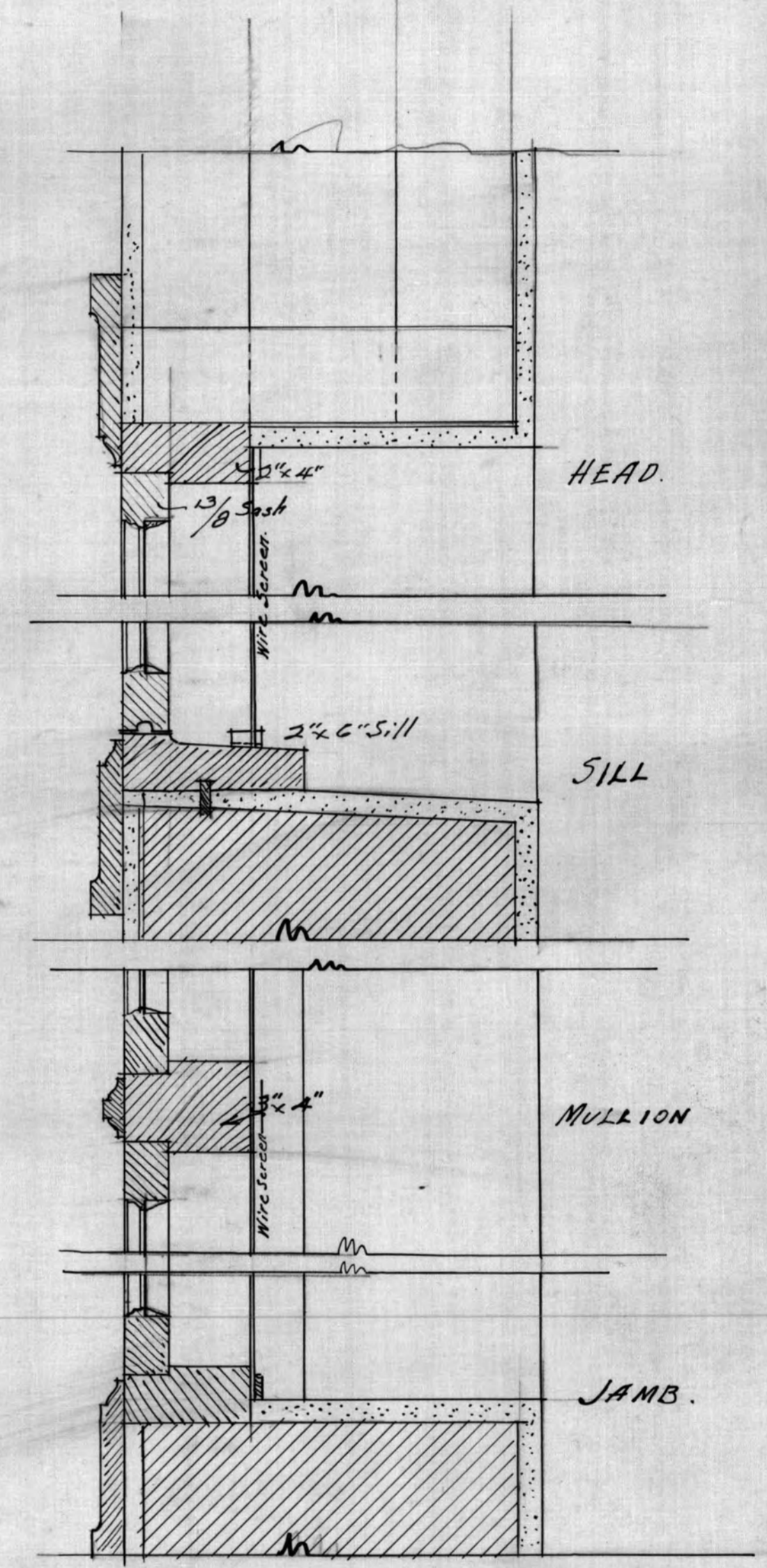
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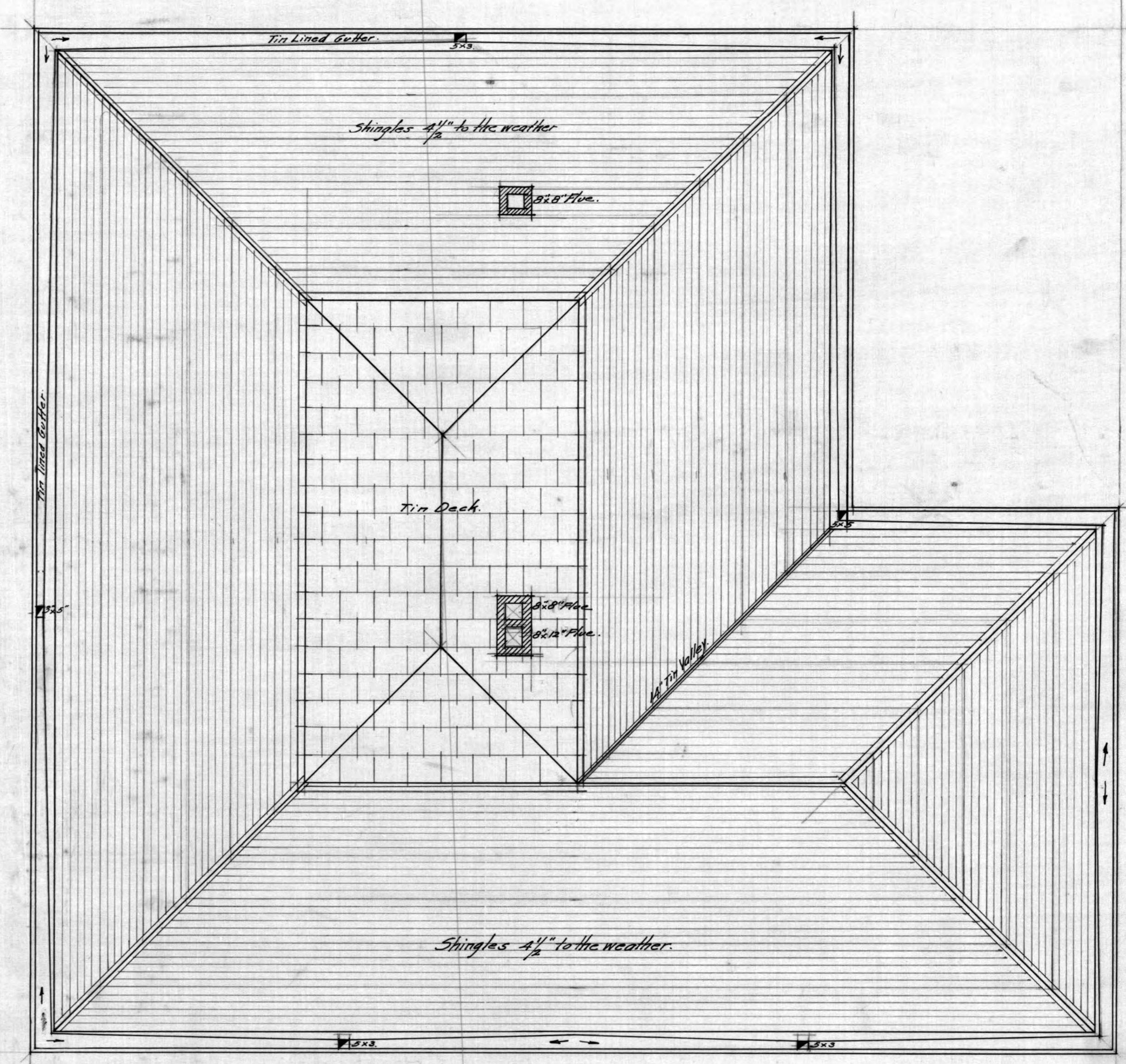
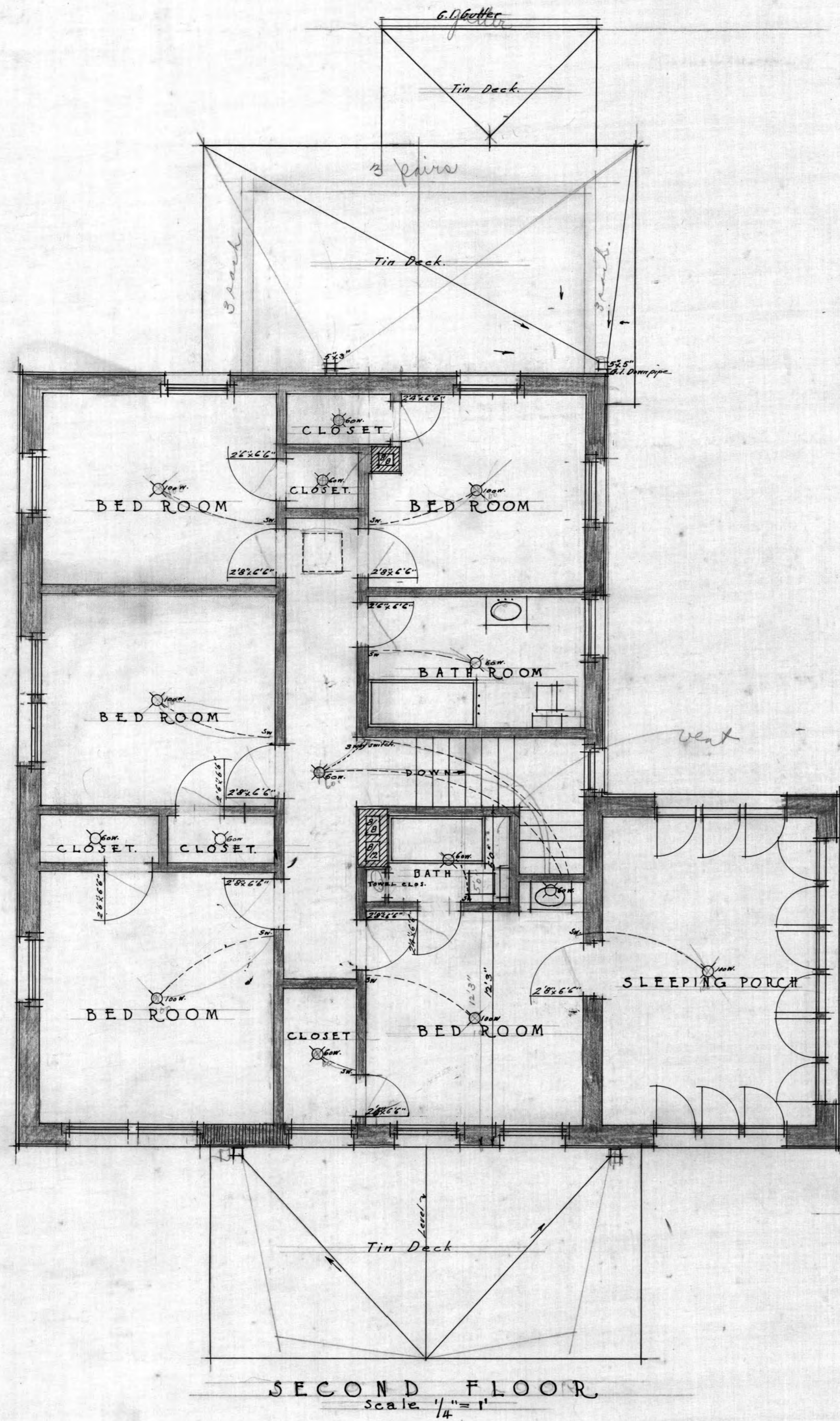


PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.
Scale 1/4" = 1'

RESIDENCE - FOR - R. L. DOUGLAS
CHURCHILL - COUNTY - NEVADA -
F. J. DE LONGCHAMPS, ARCHITECT, RENO NEVADA



DETAIL OF HINGED SASH IN
SUN ROOM, REAR PORCH AND SLEEPING PORCH.
Scale 3" = 1'



RESIDENCE FOR R. L. DOUGLAS
 CHURCHILL COUNTY NEVADA
 F. J. DE LONGCHAMPS ARCHITECT, RENO, NEVADA









A two-story house with a green metal roof and a covered driveway. The house has large windows and a prominent entrance. The driveway is paved and contains a black utility vehicle. The house is surrounded by greenery and a blue sky with clouds.

A black utility vehicle parked in the driveway.

Two large, reddish-brown pots or containers, one of which is covered with a white plastic sheet.



























Churchill County Museum Photograph Collection

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Douglass--Frey Ranch

MULTIPLE NAME: Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps TR

STATE & COUNTY: NEVADA, Churchill

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/28/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/12/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/17/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000796

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER Barbara Wyatt DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252 DATE 11-17-15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 2 2015

September 18, 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Barbara Wyatt, ASLA
National Register/NHL Programs
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: National Register Nomination, Douglass-Frey Ranch, Fallon (vicinity), Churchill County, Nevada

Ms. Wyatt,

The enclosed 2 disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Douglass-Frey Ranch to the National Register of Historic Places. Disk 1 includes the nomination form, related correspondence, historical data, and GIS data related to the property. Photographs for the submission are included on disk 2.

If you have any questions about the nomination, please contact Jim Bertolini, National Register Coordinator, at (775) 684-3436 or jbertolini@shpo.nv.gov

Sincerely,

Rebecca Palmer
State Historic Preservation Officer
Nevada SHPO
(775) 684-3443
rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov



Office of the
CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carl Erquiaga
Pete Olsen
Bus Scharmann

August 19, 2015



Ms. Rebecca L. Palmer
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Nomination of Douglass Ranch for placement on the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Palmer:

In reply to your August 4, 2015 letter regarding the nomination of the Douglass Ranch at 1075 Dodge Lane, in Fallon, Nevada, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, please be advised that the Churchill County Board of Commissioners approved support of the nomination at their board meeting held on August 19, 2015, for listing as the **Douglass Mansion and Frey Ranch.**

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

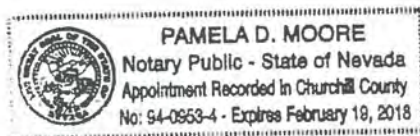
Sincerely,

H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Chairman,
Churchill County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA)
 : ss.
County of Churchill)

Acknowledged before me this 19th day of August, 2015, H. Peter Olsen, Jr.

NOTARY PUBLIC



CHURCHILL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

an interview with
ELEANOR DOUGLASS SCOFIELD

June 6, 1992

Rec from
Debbie Frey
May 2009

This interview was conducted by Marian LaVoy; transcribed by Glenda Price; edited by Norine Arciniega; final typed by Pat Boden; index by Gracie Viera; supervised by Myrl Nygren, Director of Oral History Project/Assistant Curator Churchill County Museum.

PREFACE

Eleanor Douglass Kopp Scofield greeted me as I entered the kitchen of the lovely home of Charles and Debbie Frey. She immediately said, "I love the way that Debbie and Charlie have decorated my old home and their hospitality is most appreciated." We all enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and a muffin and reminisced about "the old place." Eleanor had spent many years with the Russell family in Deeth, Nevada, and she and I chatted about some of the old families from Elko County. Charlie led us upstairs to the lovely glassed porch that overlooked green fields and lovely fruit trees. The cherry tree had produced some marvelous fruit that we ate as we continued with the interview.

Eleanor is a handsome woman, impeccably dressed and coiffed. She has all the bearings of one raised in a wealthy family and completely successful in her business ventures, but her simplicity and infectious laugh makes a stranger immediately feel as though she has known her for a long time. She has had unhappiness, too, but she does not dwell on it and has one of the most upbeat attitudes that I have ever encountered. Her sense of humor is contagious and her stories about naming her dolls is hilarious.

Her confidence in her creative endeavors leads one to wish that she was still designing children's clothing and creating woodland and animal designs for nursery furniture. The generosity of her father in letting his children order any materials and supplies that they wanted from the Sears catalogues, etc. so they could dress their dolls and make theater costumes undoubtedly gave Eleanor a start in her creative endeavors.

The researcher who reads this interview will receive a wonderful overview of life in Nevada for those who had the financial ability to take advantage of every activity from racing cars, to living at Lake Tahoe in its early years, to spending time in the San Francisco area as guests of grandparents and later as residents for several months each year. It is a lifestyle that no longer exists, but we are the richer for having tapped the crystal memory of a delightful woman who had the opportunity to live that life.

Interview with Eleanor Douglass Scofield

This is Marian Hennan LaVoy of the Churchill County Museum Oral History Project interviewing Eleanor Douglass Kopp Scofield at the home of Charles Frey, Jr., 1045 Dodge Lane, Fallon, Nevada. The date is June 6, 1992.

LaVOY: Good morning, Eleanor.

SCOFIELD: Good morning.

LaVOY: What a pleasure it is meeting you and talking to you. I've heard so much about you all these years.

SCOFIELD: Well, I'm so happy to be home and this is home, and last night I had the pleasure of sleeping in my own bedroom here when I was a little girl.

LaVOY: Well, that is marvelous. Your family played a very important part in the early years of Fallon, so if you don't mind, I'd like to start by asking you your parents' names.

SCOFIELD: My father's name on his birth certificate is Robert E. Lee Douglass.

LaVOY: And where was he born?

SCOFIELD: In Louisiana, Missouri. Obviously south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

LaVOY: Well, how did he happen to come to Nevada?

SCOFIELD: His uncle, Joseph McCune Douglass, of Virginia City has asked for several of the nephews to come from Missouri and work for him. My father was one of them and he learned the banking business from his uncle Joe. That's why he had banks in some of the towns such as Fairview, Wonder, and Fallon. Later in life he was part owner of Reno Security Bank. Then, when Uncle Joe died a bachelor, he left quite a fortune to my father and another nephew, William Douglass, who was of Reno, and they divided with another nephew they felt should have inherited. His name was Gib Douglass of Virginia City. Uncle Joe had made it very plain he was leaving nothing to Gib because he wouldn't keep it, which was the truth. However, Gib Douglass' daughter, only child, Ruth, has always been very close. We are third cousins. I use the word, "uncle," as an endearment. We did that, even though someone wasn't our uncle by blood relationship or married to a blood relationship. Now all of those people, of course, are gone.

LaVOY: Well, now tell me, this gentleman, whom you referred to

as "uncle," had a bank in Virginia City?

SCOFIELD: Yes, the Wells Fargo. Now he is my great uncle, Joseph Douglass.

LaVOY: Was he born in the south, too?

SCOFIELD: He was born in Missouri, and as a young man in St. Joseph, Missouri, he saw all the people coming west. He had his horse and twenty dollars, and, the owner of the store that he worked for offered him half interest if he would stay, but he said, "No," he was going west. So he went to Placerville [California] and came across the continent with I don't know which trail. Then he stayed in Placerville and knowing the business, he worked in stores. He came over to Virginia City, and he saw that the miners had lumbago. They had not wanted to bring long-handled shovels, due to the weight, in the Conestoga wagons, so they brought their short-handled shovels, and as they worked they got lumbago. Well, Uncle Joe imported long-handled shovels to Placerville, and he had them taken by mule back and warehoused in Virginia City. Then when the miners really had lumbago, he sold them for sixty dollars each, and that was his first real amount of money. So when he died, he owned Wells Fargo Bank, the Crystal Bar, the Washoe Club which was fancier than anything in San Francisco. And my son inherited the glass punch bowl and ladle from the Washoe Club where Hunington and all of the other men--it was a private club--and in all he owned twelve buildings. So my father inherited the twelve thousand acres here which Dad always called the Island Ranch, and it was known as the Great Bailey Tract. So that's how my father then owned the Island Ranch and married my mother who was born Eleanor Maria Ernst in Belmont, Nevada.

LaVOY: How did he happen to meet her in Belmont?

SCOFIELD: He didn't meet her there. She was born there. And she was graduated from Elko High School. Then Grandfather and Grandmother Ernst had a ranch at Old River. I've been asked where Old River is, and I get my directions a bit confused (chuckle), but it was the opposite side of Fallon than our ranch, and they had country dances, and that is how they met. Grandmother Ernst told us that my mother, as we know, played the piano and she sang and she was a very happy, outgoing person and that she asked her mother to wear her diamond ring; she said, "because I want to impress Bob Douglass."

LaVOY: Oh, my!

SCOFIELD: So I think that there was great attraction on both sides.

LaVOY: How did her parents happen to be in Belmont? Do you know that at all?

SCOFIELD: Yes. Grandfather Ernst had his office in Belmont, and among my photographs I do have a photograph of the building where he had his practice there.

LaVOY: What business was he in?

SCOFIELD: I believe it was law. He was a surveyor and he's well known for having surveyed the Sutro Tunnel with his old, old instruments, and it's just as accurate as can be. And he did many county lines.

LaVOY: I see. Then he moved to Fallon and that's where his daughter grew up--in Fallon?

SCOFIELD: You mean my mother?

LaVOY: Yes.

SCOFIELD: Well, my mother was graduated from Elko High School, and they lived there for a period. My cousin, Ellen [Mrs. Tony] Primeaux would know all of the details. Evidently, Grandmother and Grandfather--due to his surveying county lines--moved about Nevada. I don't believe ever in the southern part.

LaVOY: That stands to reason with him doing that type of work that he would be moving a great deal. Now, that's a very, very interesting start. Will you describe your father to me?

SCOFIELD: My father was tall and slender and he was very polite. He was very strict, and yet he gave us everything, but we had to behave. In San Francisco we always stayed at the Palace Hotel. He expected us to behave ourselves, be polite, and we could do what we wanted within those ranges. Then every summer we went to Lake Tahoe, and before he built a home up there--which was in later years--we stayed at Tahoe Tavern. It was considered quite the elegant place. It's on the California side and of course no longer in existence. But, one day we arrived and we dressed for dinner, which we always had, and I took my dolls, my dolls were always dressed for dinner, and they told my father, "The children have to be in the children's dining room," and my father said, "I always have dinner with my children," and he just

turned to us and he said, "Go and pack your bags. We're leaving." So, we did, and we drove down to Brockway. So, the first thing, he went in. He came out, and he said, "This is the place we'll stay. We'll have dinner here." And from then on, for many years, we always stayed at Brockway, and we loved it. The owners there--Bob Sherman was one--became so friendly that they would come down and stay with us here at the ranch and go duck hunting. So we had wonderful times. I couldn't have had a happier childhood.

LaVOY: I want to ask you. I'm going forward just a little bit. Didn't your father own a great deal of property at Lake Tahoe?

SCOFIELD: Dad, with two other men, Howard Brown and a man from Yerington, subdivided four hundred acres at Cave Rock Cove, and the idea was that these would be large lots and that they had to be a good-sized home put on them. One was sold to Ty [Tyrus] Cobb, the baseball player. Our home was the closest to Cave Rock. Dad built that in 1936, and the first time I visited was 1936 and 1937, and I brought my nine-months old son. So that would have been 1938 that summer and we stayed at the Lake. It was a beautiful, beautiful home.

LaVOY: Do you still own the home at the Lake?

SCOFIELD: No, that was sold to a woman who came from the East and loved the home. She had two little children, and her husband took some courses at University of Nevada, and Marian--her first name--became very good friends with Dad and would visit a great deal. Then she sold it to General William Orr [USMC] whose father had been a judge in Reno and he had married Dottie [Dorothy Orr] from Virginia. So as years went on and my children visited and we'd live at the Lake part of the time and have wonderful times and then I've had my children at Brockway. By this time my daughter was in high school and my son in college--both in California--and they said, "Oh, Mother, let's go see Granddaddy Douglass' home." And I said, "Well,"--course I was anxious too--well, I said, "No, it's been sold to a retired general and they have no children, so I don't think that we could possibly go to the house, but we could as far as the gates." So we got as far as the gates--now we were in our bathing suits with just a light wrap over it driving down and they said, "Doesn't look like any cars are there. Nobody's home. Can't we just drive in?" 'Cause there was a circle drive. And I said, "All right, but I will go to the front door and knock on the door." And do you know, no one answered? And so I

went to the car and I told my children, "Now I'm going to walk around the veranda and 'cause no one answered the door, maybe no one's here and I'd think it'd be all right that you could just look down on the boat house and all," 'Cause they'd had such wonderful times there. 'Cause in the boat house we always had a Chris Craft, a fishing boat, and some kayaks. So, I did that, and as I leaned over, there was a crowd of people down on the deck. I was just horrified and someone said, [in a singsong] "Dot-tie, you have com-pa-ny," and pointed at me, and I thought, "Oh, these elderly people," so I started down the stairway wondering what to say, and when I met who was Mrs. Orr, I said, "I'm trespassing! but my father built this house," and she said, "You're one of the Douglasses. Now, don't tell me. I'm going to guess." She said, "I know. You're Eleanor. You're the one with children. Where are your children?" And I said, "Well, they're in the car." So she called to her husband, "Look, Bill," she said, "Eleanor's children are in the car. Go get Eleanor's children." And so, with that, why, Doug and Tammy came down and they met the Orrs' niece and nephew from San Mateo [California], the Underwoods, and had a marvelous time and they went out in Bill's boat and visited, and I visited with Dottie and the Underwoods and the other friends they had, and they just felt very badly that we wouldn't stay for the barbecue. So it was kind of the most wonderful thing to have people living in the Lake house that loved it so much and were so marvelous to me and my children, the same as Charlie and Debbie Frey are with me now coming back to my old home. So that was the Lake house, and we were happy that they were there. Now, I drove down the other day, and I can't even pick out which house was ours. They are so changed and so enlarged. Ours was a large home. We had four bedrooms and bathrooms and, again, everything was made for that house. Navajo rugs and appropriate furniture. Dad rarely took anything from one house to another. It was always his idea, his dream, and it always came out just beautifully.

LaVOY: Well, that sounds like a wonderful, wonderful story. We're going to go back now to your mother and your father with their meeting. Where did they honeymoon? Do you have any idea?

SCOFIELD: Yes. At Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego.

LaVOY: When were they married? Do you remember?

SCOFIELD: It was early February, 1904, and Grandmother and Grandfather and my mother went by train, and one of the

Fallon men was at a little depot. They had to stop a train to take them down to San Francisco.

LaVOY: Excuse me, just a minute. Where were they married?

SCOFIELD: In San Francisco. In the Grand Hotel. Now, this is prior to the earthquake of 1906. At that time there was a passageway over Market Street between the Palace Hotel and the Grand Hotel and they were married in the Grand Hotel which is no longer there nor the overhead passage. I suppose that's why we always stayed at the Palace when we visited. Then Dad and my mother honeymooned at Hotel Del Coronado, and I have pictures taken of them at their honeymoon.

LaVOY: Then did they return to Fallon?

SCOFIELD: They returned to Virginia City, Nevada, and stayed at the Arlington which was like an inn, I'm told. It's no longer there and my sister was born there November 29, 1904, and she was named for the two grandmothers, Mary and Martha.

LaVOY: So her name was Mary . . .

SCOFIELD: Mary Martha.

LaVOY: Douglass. And tell me more now. They stayed in Virginia City and then when did they come to Fallon?

SCOFIELD: Ten days after Mary was born they moved into the house Dad had been building which is in Fallon.

LaVOY: And where is that?

SCOFIELD: On the corner of Williams and Carson.

LaVOY: 10 South Carson. Is that what it is?

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: That's the one that's referred to now as the big yellow house?

SCOFIELD: Yes. Of course, it was white and trimmed with green as I remember it.

LaVOY: How many rooms were in the home, do you recall at all?

SCOFIELD: No, I don't, but my brother was born in that house on March 4, 1909.

LaVOY: And what was his name?

SCOFIELD: He was named for my father so he was Robert Lee Douglass, Junior.

LaVOY: How long did they stay in the house?

SCOFIELD: My mother's brother, Clarence, who worked for my father in his bank, died of typhoid and my mother was very superstitious, and she refused to stay in the house. They moved out to the ranch house which we always called the Lower Ranch once the Island Ranch was built. I don't believe the house is still standing.

LaVOY: Was that what is now the Dodge Ranch?

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: Tell me, your father, what business was he in in Fallon at this point in time?

SCOFIELD: He owned the bank, and he always had run the ranches for his Uncle Joe so he knew ranching as well as banking, and he always had interest in mines as well.

LaVOY: Who were some of his friends in Fallon at that point in time?

SCOFIELD: His closest friend, like a buddy, was Art Keddie, and Art Keddie would ride with Dad when Dad raced Stutz Bearcats.

LaVOY: Oh! Where did he do this?

SCOFIELD: At the Reno Jockey Club and different places. Once in awhile in Elko, Nevada. I don't know all of the places, but he won the big cup in 1914 in Reno.

LaVOY: Now, you mentioned Mr. Keddie. I believe he was killed in a plane crash in Elko. Is that correct?

SCOFIELD: That's right. Dad and Art Keddie took flying lessons. After the war, someone in Reno gave flying lessons in the old Jenny planes, and Art was the first to solo. He came down in flames and some of my relatives, the Russells, saw the plane come down, and Art was killed instantly. Dad never took flying lessons again. He never would go near a plane until my brother was extremely ill and Dad then would fly to San Francisco where he was in the hospital.

LaVOY: Besides Mr. Keddie, who were some of his other close friends?

SCOFIELD: The Maupins. Dad knew the Maupins back in Louisiana, Missouri, and I have a photograph of my father on a bicycle and the elderly Mr. Maupin standing beside him. So Dad started racing bicycles in Missouri and then raced Stutz Bearcats here.

LaVOY: Moved from bicycles to automobiles.

SCOFIELD: Yes, and that's why the Maupin family came to Fallon. Mrs. Maupin was very friendly with my mother, and I have a postcard that my mother sent when I was born. I was born in Oakland due to my mother's ill health.

LaVOY: All right, and then I understand that your father was also in business with Joe Jarvis.

SCOFIELD: That's right. That was a butcher shop, and I believe he was in business with Joe Jarvis also out in Fairview.

LaVOY: The pictures that you showed me of the bank had the butcher shop on one side and the bank on the other.

SCOFIELD: Yes, isn't that interesting!

LaVOY: That's very unusual.

SCOFIELD: (laughing) That could only happen in a small town, I think.

LaVOY: Who were some of his employees in the bank?

SCOFIELD: Ernie Blair managed the bank and very, very friendly with his wife Minnie Blair, and we always admired how she raised these wonderful turkeys, and in later years they'd even be listed as the Fallon, Nevada turkeys on the big hotel menus in San Francisco.

LaVOY: Oh, really! I didn't realize that!

SCOFIELD: Yes, and then their daughter, Helen [Blair Millward], and I were very good friends, and Helen used to come out to the ranch and stay with me. Also, Charles Hoover, who had the Barrel House, was a close friend and his daughter, Josephine, was my closest friend from age eight. We met at a circus one day in Fallon and became very, very best friends all of our lives.

LaVOY: Where was the circus held in Fallon?

SCOFIELD: That circus was out on the edge of town of Williams Avenue as you would approach Fallon, and it was very exciting for us.

LaVOY: How old were you at this time?

SCOFIELD: I was eight.

LaVOY: And what impressed you most about the circus?

SCOFIELD: I think the trapeze artists. I always admired trapeze performers. I, myself, scared to death, but (laughing) I always liked them, and I loved the clowns. I liked everything about the circus.

LaVOY: Well, that is wonderful. You had moved out to the Island Ranch?

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: Actually, the Dodge Ranch is what it is now called.

SCOFIELD: No, when I was eight we lived here in the Island Ranch. This house.

LaVOY: All right, now, let's regress just a moment. Then when were you born?

SCOFIELD: I was born August 17, 1911, in Oakland, California, at my grandmother's home which was a beautiful Victorian, covered with ivy, and the address I still remember: 1537 Third Avenue, and it was near Lake Merritt. Then, I immediately came back to Fallon, and that would have been at what is now called the Dodge Ranch.

LaVOY: Why were you born in Oakland and your brother and sister were born in Fallon?

SCOFIELD: My mother was quite ill and so Grandfather had passed away and Grandmother always had help. Course my mother always had help. In fact, we always did.

LaVOY: You're referring to your Grandmother Ernst?

SCOFIELD: That's right, and so Dad took her to Oakland, and I was born in Grandmother's home. I was always so proud of the big brass bed where I had been born, and I used to love to go back to sleep in the very bed I was born in. I don't why but I was very impressed about that. (laughing)

LaVOY: Well, I think I would be, too.

SCOFIELD: So, then my mother came back and she developed blood poisoning, and Dad, again, took the whole family down to Oakland. My sister, Mary, said she had never seen such a Christmas as Dad had knowing that my mother probably would not survive. That's when Dad even went to Capwell's Store and bought a bisque doll that wore size four dresses as a display doll for Mary Martha, and the doll was dressed in everything from underwear with little corsets and the whole thing and, of course, I don't remember any of that. And then my mother died in the Peralto Hospital, and Dad brought us back and we were at the, which we call Lower Ranch, but it's now known as Dodge Ranch.

LaVOY: Excuse me just a minute. She passed away in Oakland.

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: What's the date, do you recall?

SCOFIELD: It's 1913.

LaVOY: With her being so ill, how did she get down to Oakland?

SCOFIELD: By train.

LaVOY: Had your father gotten the train himself?

SCOFIELD: Yes, it was a private train, and they sidetracked the train.

LaVOY: Excuse me, 'they' is whom?

SCOFIELD: Southern Pacific. And so, in a later date, there was a lawsuit.

LaVOY: Now, excuse me just a minute. Your father got the train and you and your brother and sister and mother and father went by private train to Oakland?

SCOFIELD: I believe so. I can't verify that.

LaVOY: And the train was sidetracked for what reason?

SCOFIELD: I don't know why it was sidetracked, but then my father with Ernie Maupin, Senior drove his Stutz Bearcat through--they were caught in a blizzard at Donner and Dad knew--it's forty miles of snowshed--and Dad knew the timetables, and he had a railroad watch and so they drove through the snowsheds in the Stutz Bearcat, and a

train came off schedule and went up the cow catcher. Dad told Ernie Maupin to hang on, but Ernie jumped, and he was in the hospital for several months and he had really minor injuries. Dad held on and he was all right. So in the lawsuit that followed Dad sued them for sidetracking my mother's train.

LaVOY: He felt that if she had got to the doctor sooner perhaps she could have been saved.

SCOFIELD: Yes, that's right. And so that is why from that lawsuit all tunnels have a sign above the entrance that no other vehicles may enter. That was a test case.

LaVOY: I'm just a bit confused now. They sidetracked the train for some reason that you don't know.

SCOFIELD: That's true.

LaVOY: Then they got down to Oakland and your mother passed away after Christmas.

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: Then you returned back home to what is now the Dodge Ranch, and at what point in time did your father and Ernie Maupin go through the tunnels?

SCOFIELD: I believe it was within a three-year period, but I cannot verify that. The lawsuit followed and my dad was sued by Southern Pacific Railroad for going through the tunnel. Well, Dad did that, of course, because he was caught in a blizzard, and there was no other way. So then Dad sued them for sidetracking my mother's train because he always believed if the train could have gone through, my mother's life would have been saved.

LaVOY: That's very tragic.

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: Now, you came home as a tiny baby.

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes.

LaVOY: Who cared for you then?

SCOFIELD: One nurse was Daisy Allen of the Allen family. A lovely person. In later years I visited her in Reno. She had the problem of my brother wouldn't let me sleep. It just seems that my mother went to sleep and

didn't wake up and my brother was always very fond of me as I was of him, so he would wake me up and that caused lots of problems. So my mother's sister, Daisy Ernst Russell, asked to take me to Deeth, Nevada, where her husband, Jim, ran seven ranches for Bill [William] Moffit called Union Land and Cattle Company. And so there I grew up as the baby of the Russell family, and then every summer I was down with Dad and Mary and Bob, and I was the baby of this family. So I guess I wasn't very bright because I didn't think that was unusual. No one else ever did that, but it just seemed that that's the way things were. We used to get into lots of mischief on that Lower Ranch, but I believe that my sister, Mary, thought it up, told my brother to do it, which he did, and then they blamed me because no one could spank the baby. And I didn't do anything but just sit there and listen to everything and I remember once Mary told Bob to hit some man with a plank because he was asleep on the steps and he ought to be out there working. (laughing)

LaVOY: And you got the blame?

SCOFIELD: Yes! and they said I did it. I'm sure I couldn't even have lifted the plank, (laughing) but no one can spank the baby. So, we had a great time. My sister.

LaVOY: Now tell me, when did you move down from Elko permanently?

SCOFIELD: Before my eighth birthday. I was seven. We were visiting Grandmother. Course I spent every summer here and while the house was being built, but we still slept down at the which I'll always call Lower Ranch. We had marvelous time with the house being built. We would take some of the bricks and make ovens right out here by the porte cochere and in the ovens we would bake potatoes, and then we'd run to the bunkhouse to get butter and whatever else we wanted to put on the potatoes, and we thought they were the best in the world 'cause we'd baked them.

LaVOY: Now tell me about the building of this lovely home.

SCOFIELD: It's built of hollow tile and that means, of course, that it's--I've forgotten the exact dimensions, but they're good-sized tiles, and Dad was ridiculed because he had cables put through the hollow tiles to earthquake proof the house. Of course there'd never been an earthquake in this area, but then years later when an earthquake did come there were only hairline cracks.

LaVOY: He thought ahead a great deal. Who built the home? Do you have any idea?

SCOFIELD: Lots of the help came from San Francisco [California].

LaVOY: And who designed it?

SCOFIELD: An architect in Reno and I've been struggling to remember his name. He was a very well-known architect.

LaVOY: A designer and architect from San Francisco designed the house.

SCOFIELD: No, from Reno. An architect in Reno, and Dad was very pleased. He always had very strong ideas on what he wanted, and they always said if Dad built anything no one could do anything. It would always stand. But Charlie and Debbie [Frey] have done wonders with the house and also Charlie's father and his wife, Judy, had remodeled earlier. I am just thrilled with it.

LaVOY: This lovely sun porch that we are sitting on, was this always glassed in or was this screened when you were here.

SCOFIELD: This was screened and only half the size, and the other half that was open is over what we called the summer garage that only held one car. We always had some Fords, pickup trucks and Ford coupes, something like that. The subterranean basement held three big cars that Dad always had. No one drove those cars except Dad.

LaVOY: What type were they?

SCOFIELD: Leland-built Lincoln, Packard Straight Eight, Stutz Bearcat, but there were always three, and that's all it would hold, actually. We spent one winter--Dad bought a house in California, San Mateo, and my brother came home with a golf ball and golf midiron and we had sunk a tin can in the lawn of the home in San Mateo and we were trying to putt. So Dad came home, and he had always ridiculed golfers in their caps and their knickers and their argyle socks, and he immediately took the golf club from Bob and started putting. Two days later Dad came home in knickers and argyle socks and caps and sweaters and golf clubs and he said, "Taking lessons from a young fellow named Bobby Jones." So, from then on, we all played golf. On this open spot Dad had, so that he could keep his golf swing, he had a ball that, was on a wire and when he hit that it

spun around and the dial on the top indicated how many yards he had hit so he could keep his golf game up in inclement weather.

LaVOY: My goodness! Where was that?

SCOFIELD: Right on this part of this porch. It was just open, see, so then that was out year round, and then Dad put in a golf course for us which is over in that area.

LaVOY: The north side of the house.

SCOFIELD: The north side, and I have forgotten whether it was three band greens or five but after dinner that's what we did and we all had our golf clubs the right height for each one of us.

LaVOY: That's marvelous!

SCOFIELD: So we had a wonderful time.

LaVOY: Who did he have as, I'll say, superintendent of these ranches at that point in time, or did he run them himself?

SCOFIELD: Dad ran the ranches himself. He never could get anyone to irrigate for him, and he slept on that porch across over there. See the porch?

LaVOY: The south porch?

SCOFIELD: South porch it would be.

LaVOY: The southeast porch.

SCOFIELD: Yes, southeast, and from there with his binoculars he could watch the irrigation go on and then he'd take one of the box Fords and with my dog which was an Australian Shepherd

LaVOY: What name?

SCOFIELD: I named him Toby. We spent that winter in San Mateo. The men couldn't remember the dog's name and one of them said, "Well, just call him Jack." So he was Jack the rest of his life, and Dad said he was better than any three men he'd ever hired 'cause he could divide cattle. It was just instinctive, I believe, and he went everywhere with Dad.

LaVOY: How many cattle did your father run at that point in time?

SCOFIELD: Oh, I was afraid you'd ask. I have no idea! People have said, "Well, head of cattle, how many?" The price of this, of that.

LaVOY: You were very young and it would be hard.

SCOFIELD: But I never was expected to do anything except learn to sew, embroidery, and paint China. Do ladylike things and ride my horse.

LaVOY: What was your horse's name?

SCOFIELD: I had a couple of horses, and it just depended really. Really, riding the horses was more transportation to the Island School. My brother and I rode. My sister at that time was in boarding school in California. So the two of us rode to the one-room schoolhouse, and it was right by the church my father had built for my mother in a grove of trees, and the horses didn't want to go to school. We had to urge them to go to school, and then we tied them up and they always had a bale of hay there the men would bring down for us. Then at recess we would take them to the canal, and sometimes they'd drink and sometimes they wouldn't, but we always . . . you wouldn't dream of not taking them to the canal at recess and again at lunch, and school was out at four o'clock, and then we'd ride home. The horses loved to head for the barn, and my brother urged them along. We had to make a right hand turn from the main road 'cause our ranch house is a mile from the main road. So we had to make that turn and then as we came hell bent for the barn and the river--it's different now--but we had a river and it wound around, and on one side was barb wire fence and my father had planted climbing roses so it was very beautiful. On the other side was the river, and I never knew which I was going to head into whether it'd be the roses and the barb wire fence or right into the river 'cause my brother would hit my horse's flank with his reins and we came hell bent for the barn, and I would never touch the horn. We both rode Western, of course. Once in awhile surcingle, but usually it was the Western saddle. Then we carried our horses down because that was part of it--always take good care of your horse. Our cook for many years was a Japanese man. He'd worked for my mother and through the years my father was a widower. Then my father had remarried. So as we came by the bunkhouse he always had something for us right out of the oven 'cause he'd see us coming. Whether it was shoestring potatoes, and he could just make those so marvelously or whatever, it was why we went in. We

could do no wrong. In his eyes we were just perfect.

LaVOY: What was his name?

SCOFIELD: Kay Kimachi and he liked our cats, and when he let us have mama cat stay in the pantry in a great big crock--a tremendous one--to have her babies, we were so pleased. But our stepmother thought--she was Pennsylvania Dutch and my brother always likened her to the woman on the Dutch cleanser cans chasing dirt with that stick--so Fourth of July came along, and everyone went to Fallon. I mean, the cooks, the men, everyone went, but this particular time my stepmother said no, she wanted to stay home. So we all took off. When we came back, 'course we went to see how mama cat and the babies were. They weren't there. She had cleaned Kay's kitchen and Kay's pantry, and he was very put out and we were very put out, and we had a hard time finding where mama cat had taken her babies. So, eventually then, Kay wanted to go back to Japan. That was the year I was in fourth grade in San Mateo, and he came to the front door. He'd never come to the front door. Ever. He was dressed in a high black silk hat, a black suit--of course, most Japanese gentlemen do. Arms loaded with gifts he had bought in San Francisco. He'd come down, found out how to get to San Mateo and he called on us, and that's the last we ever saw of Kay.

LaVOY: What a wonderful story! Now, you mentioned that your father remarried. What year did he remarry?

SCOFIELD: 1918.

LaVOY: And what was the lady's name?

SCOFIELD: Mantee. She was named for someone in the family named Samantha back in Illinois where she was from. Mantee Buckley and she had married. She was a young widow, and her husband's name was Thorpe. He, too, had been in Elko at one time, and he had died, and she came to Fallon with her sister and her husband and their young child by the name of Arlene Truevencill. That was in the Old River District.

LaVOY: And your father met her and they were married where?

SCOFIELD: They were married in San Francisco, and I was in Deeth at the time. But you see my father had many lady friends, and I had many dolls, and my dolls were all bisque head dolls which my daughter has now, and I named them after these different ladies who just always

seemed to adore me. So my very favorite one I even had to double up on names. That was Peggy Pearl, and Peggy had been a nurse at the hospital when Dad had some surgery.

LaVOY: Which hospital?

SCOFIELD: Again, that was Peralto Hospital, Oakland. I never thought that was odd at all, but everybody seemed to be very amused by it. My dolls had these different names. (laughing)

LaVOY: I think that's wonderful.

SCOFIELD: So I had a very nice childhood.

LaVOY: How long did you attend the Island School?

SCOFIELD: I was there third grade and fifth grade because fourth grade I was in San Mateo, and then they consolidated the school districts and we were bused to Oats Park Grammar School.

LaVOY: Tell me what you remember about Oats Park Grammar School.

SCOFIELD: It was so different from the Island Ranch or from the year I had been in the San Mateo school, but I met so many wonderful people. Of course, my friend, Josephine Hoover, attended, and I knew her very well. We were in the same class and I used to stay in town with the Hoovers, and Josephine used to come and spend a lot of time with me out at the ranch. I enjoyed it. I can't say I enjoyed it more than out at the Island.

LaVOY: Who was your teacher at the Island School?

SCOFIELD: We had a new teacher every year because no teacher ever wanted to return. My brother and Donald Renfro were the eldest. Just after we'd had a big sandstorm, why Bob would say, "Now, we always have our classes outdoors because this is Indian country and it's such a lovely day. We always have our classes out and then we hunt for arrowheads." And the teacher would always say, "That's a lovely idea! I'll bring the books and the bell," and she'd dismiss us and we'd grab our lunches from the cloakroom. That was the end. We never had any classes. We just hunted arrowheads. (laughing)

LaVOY: Did you find any?

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes. We would find arrowheads. The main thing was we had to figure out what time it was so that we rode home at four o'clock so we would get to the ranch at the proper time. So we'd make sundials. I'm sure that was educational. (laughing) But we had no trouble in going from one school to another.

LaVOY: Did the teachers not stay at the school because your father found out about the looking for arrowheads?

SCOFIELD: Oh, no. I don't think Dad ever knew, or if he did, why he never said anything. We had one teacher that gave us each a piece of paper. She said, "Your homework is put your name at the top of the page and write exactly what you think of me." So, that night Dad said, "What's your homework?" and we told him. He said, "What do you think of the teacher?" We said, "Nothing. Nothing." Dad said, "That's exactly right. Put your name at the top and just don't write anything at all." So we handed in a blank paper. Nothing was ever said. Then, one day, the new teacher, Mrs. Reed, had an appointment with my father, and my father's office was that porch that's glassed in there by the front of the house, the south part of the house, and that's where he had his big desk and telephone. Everything was right there. So Mrs. Reed came and she went in, and Dad closed the door, which you see in the living room there had been French doors, and Dad had those removed, and a bookcase. Bob and I had discovered that if you wanted to hear what was going on in the office all you had to do was sit there by the bookcase. You could hear every word and Mrs. Reed said, "Mr. Douglass, I understand that you own the church," and Dad said he did.

LaVOY: Now, excuse me. Which church is this?

SCOFIELD: By the Island Ranch. It was a charming . . . well, there was a little entryway and then the church with a center aisle and then a raised area where we had our Christmas plays or graduation or whatever, and every Sunday Dad had a protestant minister come in the old days. Now this was built in my mother's name and she was Episcopalian, but the people around were various protestant denominations. He would have a different minister come, and then as people had their own transportation to Fallon, of course, they went to their own churches, so it was not used as the church. It had a nice little organ in it, and it was a pretty little church and the belfry, of course. So she said, "I prefer not to live with a family. I would like to live in the church," and she said, "Mr. Douglass, I will never put my suitcase on the altar." And Dad went,

"Gr-r-rumph." We knew that Dad was almost ready to burst out laughing. He said, "Mrs. Reed, if you promise you will never put your suitcase on the altar you may live in the church."

LaVOY: Oh, how wonderful!

SCOFIELD: So, he helped her with providing things so she could live there. So my brother named her the Church Mouse. Well, one day she picked up a note about the Church Mouse, and she gave (sigh) a roomful of us a lecture. There were no mice in the church and this is the house of God and she went on and on about it. Well, she never realized that she was the Church Mouse. (laughing) So we had a variety of teachers.

LaVOY: Tell me the names of some of the students at that school.

SCOFIELD: The three Renfros: Donald, Della and I were in the same class, and then Eleanor Renfro about two years below us and then, I believe the Baumann children. At one time in the earlier part, the Connor family lived there. Mr. Connor played the organ at the church, and there was a boy named Anderson before I attended that class, and my cousin, Ruth Douglass, lived with us and taught. I was not there, but Mary and Bob were attending at that time and this Anderson boy put a dead snake in Ruth's desk, and when she opened it (and she's one of the family and has red hair and a good temper to go with it) she knew who would have done such a thing, so she picked up the dead snake, hung it around his neck and made him wear it all day.

LaVOY: Oh, my goodness! (laughing)

SCOFIELD: So, she didn't have any more trouble with any of the children.

LaVOY: Well, I imagine not. I'm amazed that she would even pick it up and put it around his neck.

SCOFIELD: Well, I wouldn't. (laughing)

LaVOY: I wouldn't either. (laughing)

SCOFIELD: But Ruth did. (laughing)

LaVOY: How long did you attend the Oats Park School?

SCOFIELD: Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Upon my graduation they called my name, Eleanor Marian Douglass. My

father was very surprised, but, you see, he had given me only a middle initial of M because my mother with the name of Maria her brothers and sisters used to tease her with some ugly sort of thing about Maria, Maria, and so Dad said that I would only have the middle initial M, but Josephine Hoover and I were the only two without middle names. She chose Dorothy, but my father's father's name was Marion, so I took Marion. But nothing was ever said about it, but I looked at Dad while my name was being called out, and he looked very surprised. (laughing)

LaVOY: Tell me about the graduation. Who were some of the people that graduated with you?

SCOFIELD: Josephine Hoover was the one that made the graduation speech because she was the only one in the class who had started in first grade at, I believe, it was called West End School and then to Oats Park and so she was the one that gave it, and she did it very well. Melba Rogers and she was a good friend of mine and she worked in the bank in later years in Fallon. Della Renfro and Mary Fallon. They were always the two best students in our class. They were each just a little older than we were, but I don't think that had anything to do [with it]. They were just wonderful students, and Bud Powell, Andy Danielson. I haven't thought of names for so long. It's kind of fun! Blanche Lucas. We had quite a schoolroom, so there are many, many more.

LaVOY: Who was the principal at the school, do you recall?

SCOFIELD: Mr. Beatty. Extremely strict and we didn't really like him. We thought he was mean to the boys.

LaVOY: Well, with all the snake episodes and . . .

SCOFIELD: Oh, that was the Island Ranch. (laughing)

LaVOY: I know, but that probably carried over into the town school, too.

SCOFIELD: And then Laura Mills was principal, and when my husband, Paul Scofield, and I attended church in Fallon one time I saw her and introduced myself, and she knew me immediately which surprised me, I'd been away so many years. Then she said the most interesting thing to me. She turned to my husband and she said, "She's also known as Weachie." Now this is my Indian name. It's a Shoshone name meaning either baby or baby girl. My mother called me that when I was born, and the name stayed with me.

LaVOY: How is that spelled?

SCOFIELD: Well, they spell it W-e-a-c-h-i-e. The word is Wechechi in Shoshone. You see my mother and her brothers and sisters travelling around with Grandfather doing county lines played with Indian children, and the Indians didn't want to learn English and so they learned Shoshone. We all grew up with knowing some Shoshone words. All I can remember is counting like [counts in Shoshone] so on and so on and a few words like queinatche [spelling approximate] for canary and neguanetchi [spelling approximate], a few words like that. In my early years I could understand quite a bit. A story about that was that I was never called Eleanor, and in Deeth living with the Russell family I was always Weachie, so they just assumed my last name was Russell. Mrs. Smiley gave a birthday party for her daughter, Geraldine. I was in first and second grade in Deeth. That was a two-room school house. We were all on our very good behavior, and Mrs. Smiley asked me if I would have some more cake or ice cream. She said, "Eleanor, would you have some?" and I said, "No, thank you." Mickey McDermott who hung around the saloon and used bad words, he said, "Her name's not Eleanor." And Mrs. Smiley said, "Her name is Eleanor Douglass." And Mickey McDermott said, "By God! that looks like Weachie Russell to me," and that story has followed me all of my life. Years later I've been in town and somebody will see me and they say, "By God! that looks like Weachie Russell." (laughing)

Last night I visited Dorothy Ernst Cann, and immediately I'm Weachie again. My cousin, Charles Russell, who was Governor [of Nevada] for eight years always called me Weachie. Always wrote to me, Weachie, and I had a wonderful time in Deeth. Charlie was the kind that called on all the little old ladies in Deeth and they made homemade soap and he would come home with it and he would sew doll clothes with me. One day on his birthday his friends at Deeth came over to do something special for him and they found that he was making doll clothes with me. Didn't bother Charlie one iota, and he was just always wonderful.

LaVOY: He was a wonderful governor, too.

SCOFIELD: Yes. Now, years and years later, Charlie and Alan

Bible came to Los Angeles and so we took Charlie out for dinner and my daughter, Tammy. Charlie said to Tammy, "Your grandfather was the most exciting man I ever knew. Even better than Tom Mix!"

LaVOY: Well, that's something.

SCOFIELD: And when I put Tammy to bed that night, she said, "Mother, who was Tom Mix?" because you see she was brought up Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and all of those heroes. (laughing)

LaVOY: This Russell family that you stayed with, tell me once again how you are related to them.

SCOFIELD: My mother and Daisy Ernst Russell were sisters and they were very close. Aunt Daisy was older than my mother, and she talked about how my mother'd come in and say, "Oh, I need a new party dress," and she'd say, "Next thing I knew I was making it." (laughing) They had a very close relationship.

LaVOY: Oh, it's wonderful. Then your mother's sister actually raised you as a small child.

SCOFIELD: Yes, for half of the school year. We had deep snow in Deeth and sometimes they had to dig trenches to the school house, to the general store, and her first born, Jim, whom we always called Fat Jim because he was very large like Grandfather Ernst, would carry me on his shoulders, and I could look over the snow then and see where we were going. He was wonderful to me and, as I said, Charlie was, and their daughter Ellen, always called Peaches, and Aunt Daisy said she could not have done it if we had not played well together. Course again, I was the baby of that family.

LaVOY: You mentioned that you took sleigh rides up in Deeth.

SCOFIELD: In Starr Valley, and those were wonderful with Uncle Jim singing at the top of his lungs, and he was lots of fun, and he was really a cattle man. So then he'd take us sometimes out to the various ranches that he ran for Bill Moffit, and when Bill Moffit would come--we adored him. Course he had a big home in Reno and he was a good friend of my father's as well, and he would come to Deeth and he'd always come with lots of packages and presents, and I'd sit on his lap. But when we knew he was to arrive, we'd be out there waiting for him at the train and we would fold newspapers to make newspaper hats. Then we'd have laths made into like swords, and it wasn't until later years that I heard that this was

a southern marching song. But what we did was, I was course the tail end. The baby of the family's always the last, you know, the pig tail. So when the train would stop we'd see him; we would start right in line with Jim, Charlie, Peaches, and then myself and we would chant, "Hay foot, straw foot. Mr. Moffit. Belly full of beans. Belly full of beans." And I'm told that's an old southern marching [song], but we put in "Mr. Moffit" you see.

LaVOY: And he loved it, I'm sure.

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes, he did. He was a wonderful person. And then I'm told that he wanted to adopt me. He had been married two or three times, no children, but, of course, my father wouldn't. I didn't know that until I was grown.

LaVOY: Well, that's an honor.

SCOFIELD: (laughing) Charlie, one time sitting on Bill Moffit's lap--Bill Moffit always carried a razor in his pocket--so no one was paying attention to Charlie but he took the razor out, playing with it, and he cut his tongue with it.

LaVOY: Oh!

SCOFIELD: And that was serious. In Deeth we had no doctors. Elko was the closest. But that healed. That was all right, so we had a wonderful time there.

LaVOY: I imagine if you'd gone to Elko it would have been Dr. [A. J.] Hood, probably.

SCOFIELD: Yes, I believe so.

LaVOY: Well, that just sounds like a marvelous, marvelous life. I want to just check one more thing with you. Back here you've graduated from eighth grade and you lived in the big yellow house for just such . . .

SCOFIELD: No, I never lived . . .

LaVOY: Your brother and sister did for a short time.

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: You mentioned something about the garage next to the big yellow house.

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes! That was really quite something. Dad had a

turntable put in so he'd drive his car onto the turntable and then manually turn the car around.

LaVOY: That is amazing. Do you have any idea who installed the turntable?

SCOFIELD: No, but I'm sure it was Dad's idea 'cause he'd get an idea he would see it through.

LaVOY: And the garage was to the south of the big yellow house?

SCOFIELD: To the side, yes. Williams Avenue on the other side, and it was there for many, many years. I don't know when it was removed. But my mother was superstitious, and that's why we did not stay and Dr. Nichols bought the house.

LaVOY: And used it as a hospital?

SCOFIELD: No, he used it as living quarters and then in the part where the cupola is on the first floor, that's where he did his eye examinations. When I was in eighth grade I went and I had a small eye problem, granulated eyelids.

LaVOY: Was he was an optometrist?

SCOFIELD: I would say yes, but, again, I can't be sure about that.

LaVOY: You have graduated from eighth grade and then what did you do?

SCOFIELD: Then I went to Fallon High School in my first year and then I went to College of Notre Dame to the high school division.

LaVOY: Is that Notre Dame de Namur?

SCOFIELD: No, it's Notre Dame in Belmont, California.

LaVOY: Is that the same one, do you know, that Cousie Nelson went to?

SCOFIELD: What is her maiden name? Well, there's one that became a nun that attended there later. Maudie Dunbar, Dr. Dunbar's daughter, went to the college, but I was in the high school.

LaVOY: Tell me, getting back to the Fallon High School, who was the principal of that high school?

SCOFIELD: McCracken. Mr. George McCracken.

LaVOY: Well, tell me your recollections of him.

SCOFIELD: Well, he was extremely strict, and I think that he was probably a very good principal. He did suspend anybody he caught chewing gum for three days which seems extreme. (laughing). Today I don't think that anybody could enforce that, but he did. I needed some extra help one time in algebra and geometry although those were my better subjects. He was very, very nice, and I think it was to enter Notre Dame and something was incomplete and he couldn't have been nicer.

LaVOY: What were some of the teachers' names that you had that you recall in that first year of high school?

SCOFIELD: "Daddy" Scott was the coach there. That's what we always called him. I don't remember his first name. He coached the basketball. My cousins, Daisy and Dorothy Ernst, were both quite stars on the basketball team.

Miss Allen taught Spanish. I'm sorry I'm just not coming up with the names. I suppose ten minutes from now I'll remember them. Olive Colpitts taught home ec. Helen Forest was an excellent teacher. She came from Reno, and she had, I think, tremendous ability, and she came and stayed one night at the ranch with me. And I had always taken sewing and embroidery, and my stepmother sewed beautifully and my sister did, too. In fact, growing up, Dad would let us order anything we wanted, so we would order shiny satin and maribou and fur, you name it, from Sears, Roebuck, and then we would make costumes. One time down at the Lower Ranch, I remember, we paraded out to show all the workmen. The Lower Ranch required many workmen. This ranch, the Island Ranch, was mechanized and very few workers. Only feeders for the cattle and a chore man and that was about it. But down there we had a lot of men, so we paraded out to show the costumes, but they were shingling the barn and that looked like much more fun, so we climbed up and in our fancy costumes with maribou and all, why we helped shingle the barn. When Dad came home, he thought that was pretty hilarious.

LaVOY: Did Helen Millward attend school at that time?

SCOFIELD: Yes, Helen was in my brother's class. She was Helen Blair, of course, in those days. Louisa Frazzini I had met in sixth grade and we became, and have today, been

very, very close friends. I'm in touch with her all of the time. She's not in Fallon right now. She's house hunting in Reno and had to go to Portola [California], so I will not see her on this trip. Evelyn Wallace was in my class.

LaVOY: I think you're doing very well remembering those names. Did you have parties in the eighth grade and your freshmen year of high school?

SCOFIELD: Not especially parties. My father was very strict. My stepmother had a ladies' party, then I had following because the fresh flowers always came from Reno and all, why then I would have a party for the girls, play games. Mostly in this room right here.

LaVOY: In the sun porch.

SCOFIELD: Yes. When I was eight I had an eighth birthday party and that was, I guess, more to see my cousins again and the neighbor ones that I'd be going to school with.

LaVOY: Now we have you through your first year of high school. Tell me, what do you remember about the town of Fallon at that point in time?

SCOFIELD: Well, of course, we never, as I said, walked on the wrong side of the street. Maine Street is very, very wide. I belonged to the Girl Reserves and after their meetings why we would go out and go skinny dipping at the rapids.

LaVOY: Where were the rapids?

SCOFIELD: It'd be toward Reno somewhere. I would not remember now. It was not dangerous place at all, and then the DeMolays would try to find us 'cause we'd go skinny dipping, but they never did. At least when I was there, thank goodness. (laughing) And we had parties at high school, and then the juniors always gave parties for the seniors but the whole school attended. So I've always thought that Fallon was a specially a pretty town entering on Williams Avenue where the trees touched overhead from one side to the other, and I miss that.

LaVOY: I think everyone that grew up in Fallon misses that.

SCOFIELD: Yes. Now the Williams family and Dad were always very close friends. Ada Williams Keddie and Cora Williams Hursh always close friends. Course we lived out on the ranch. That was different than the ones who lived in

town, but I would stay in town, oh, such as Halloween night with Josephine Hoover, and we'd make tic tacs, but we would never run them on anybody's window if there was a baby in the house. (laughing)

LaVOY: You mentioned that no one walked on the west side of Maine Street. Am I incorrect in thinking that the Barrel House was the only club that was on the east side of Maine Street?

SCOFIELD: I don't know. It was perfectly all right to be down by Woodliff's store which was on the west side. I think that was about the dividing line was that store which was perfectly respectable.

LaVOY: How did you happen to leave Fallon High School and go down to Notre Dame?

SCOFIELD: My sister had gone to boarding school, and Dad felt that California schools had more fringes which they did. I took painting; I took embroidery; I took many extra curricula ones, and it was very strict which Dad reared us in that way. So as children we had perfect freedom. Somebody'd come to the ranch and say, "Well, where are the children?" Dad'd say, "They've not missed a meal yet. You'll see them when the bell rings." And that was it. We could roam anywhere, ride anywhere, but as we grew older he became very strict with us, and I think that he felt that the schools were very good here, but they didn't have the fringe benefits, the extra things, so he sent us all to private schools. My brother went to Wentworth Military Academy, and my sister was graduated from Castelleja and I from Notre Dame in Belmont. Somebody said to Dad once, he said, "Well, Bob, you'd save money if you'd put your children in the same school if you're going to send them away. 'Specially the girls." And Dad said, "No school should have more than one of them at a time." (laughing)

LaVOY: Wonderful philosophy. Wonderful philosophy. When did you graduate from Notre Dame?

SCOFIELD: June of 1929. I didn't have any special school so I went to San Francisco State, and then I went to College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland where my sister had attended and Fine Arts in San Francisco. Then I met my first husband on board ship, and I eloped, but I continued in my school work after marriage.

LaVOY: Now, aboard ship. Explain that, please.

SCOFIELD: My roommate wanted to go to Los Angeles over Easter.

LaVOY: And who was your roommate?

SCOFIELD: Rosemarie McKenna and she was from that area. Her father worked on Midway and her mother was deceased, so she had friends in southern California, so that sounded like a lovely idea. In those days they had ships, like passenger ships, that went from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The Harvard and the Yale and then the Alexander boats did, too. So this particular time it was the Harvard and it was very reasonable and it was very exciting and so we spent Easter vacation, and on the way back why this tall handsome man asked me to dance and introduced himself as Fred Kopp. I knew he was re-e-ally clever because no one would have such a name, and I eloped with him and became Mrs. Frederick Kopp three months later.

LaVOY: (laughing) Where was he from?

SCOFIELD: Santa Monica, California. He was a commercial artist and I was an art student, so we had a lot in common, and everyday I'd buy the paper to see his ad because he did theatre ads.

LaVOY: Oh! What was his full name?

SCOFIELD: Frederick Hoyt Kopp. Hoyt is his mother's maiden name, but never from Nevada.

LaVOY: You were in what? Your final year of school when you eloped with him?

SCOFIELD: No, I was a sophomore.

LaVOY: Oh, just a sophomore. Where were you married?

SCOFIELD: We were married in a little town out of Oakland because they didn't publish the marriages, so we thought that was very important because I was really scared of what Dad'd say. But my sister liked my husband and then that coming Christmas I didn't want to come home, and so my sister wrote a very nice letter about him before
...

LaVOY: To your father in Fallon?

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes. And so I came home from school--now, this is prior to Christmas--and there was my husband. He'd had a haircut and he was all dressed up, and I had gotten off the cable car and went to the little corner grocery

store and bought a few things. I didn't know how to cook. Called my sister and asked her. She'd had to learn because we had no experience with cooking at all. So he said, "You're not cooking dinner. You're having dinner at the Palace Hotel tonight." I said, "The Palace?" He said, "Your father is in town." So, we went down to the Palace, and I saw Dad and introduced him, and all he said was, "Well, you're about as tall as my son was." We went right in for dinner. In the Palace they always had fresh flowers on the tables, so I saw which way Dad was going to sit, so I sat opposite and slunk down in my chair so I could hide behind the flowers. My sister wasn't in the dog house for once, and so she had a lovely time and my husband got through it very well. Then Dad said, "We will go to my room," and I thought, "Oh, here it comes." So all he said was, "Well, Weach, do you want to continue college?" and I said, "Yes." He said, "All right then you'll have your check every month for as long as you're in college." So my husband kept me in college six years.

LaVOY: (laughing)

SCOFIELD: Well, it was Depression days. (laughing)

LaVOY: (laughing) I surmise your stepmother was not with your father at this particular dinner.

SCOFIELD: Oh, no, no. She had nothing really to do . . . It was an arranged marriage, and I don't know this from my father, but I know it from many friends. She was a young widow, as I said, and she didn't drink, smoke, swear, chew, or any unladylike things, and she wanted to study her religion which was Christian Science which my father did not--well, I don't think approve is the correct word--but he didn't really go along with that, but I understand he settled some money on her and that she was to make a home for us. She was a very good housekeeper, and from that union when I was eleven my half sister was born. Josephine.

LaVOY: And Josephine . . .

SCOFIELD: Josephine McCune Douglass. She's married to Stan Meikle and lives in Piedmont.

LaVOY: Oh, I see. You mentioned you and your husband eloping, your father recovering from it nicely, and liking the young man. Did you have any children?

SCOFIELD: Yes, my first child, Gretchen, was born a few years after our marriage. In fact, I was so excited to have

a baby and I made everything for the nursery, and then the bassinet was made by my husband's mother and two sisters. They were thrilled about the baby coming, and I'd picked out the name; if it would be a girl it would be Gretchen. I, unfortunately, had a doctor that should have called in a specialist and I should have had a Caesarean, but the baby died on June 6, 1936. I realized today is June 6.

LaVOY: And then did you have any other children?

SCOFIELD: Yes, my son, Douglass, was born November 29, 1937, and my daughter, Tamsen Lee Kopp was born January 1, 1942. She was the first baby in Hollywood that year.

LaVOY: Oh! Well, I noticed that your son and your daughter were born in Hollywood. Did you live there at that time?

SCOFIELD: Yes, they were born at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital.

LaVOY: Why did you live in Hollywood? Just out of curiosity.

SCOFIELD: We lived in many areas in the Los Angeles area, and Hollywood was, in those days, quite nice. Very nice, and then when Tammy was five months old we had a terrible problem of buying a home, and so he put it through his Reno bank, the Security Bank, buying the house.

LaVOY: Your father did?

SCOFIELD: Yes. And when Tammy was five months old, we moved into this house and it was war time. Things were skyrocketing. People would buy homes not even going through them. They would just buy it at any price just to get a home. So then Dad paid off the house entirely and everything had to be even steven and he gave AT&T stock equally for the amount of our home to Mantee, Mary Martha, and Joe. They all had their own homes. I was the only one without a house in my name, and it was a lovely home. My husband, by that time, was art director of Universal Studios, and we chose it because it would be walking distance but he never walked. (laughing) That was the reason we were in the Hollywood Hills.

LaVOY: When did he become the art director of Universal Studios?

SCOFIELD: When Doug was about a year old. About 1938.

LaVOY: Tell me what this involved.

SCOFIELD: He was in charge of all the art advertising for Universal Studios, and, of course, we went to all the previews and we went to the parties and we had to do a great deal of entertaining of people.

LaVOY: Did you entertain any of the big stars at that time?

SCOFIELD: Gene Autry and some of those who were with Universal Studios. Then he went to Ruth, Roth and Ryan as art director when J. Arthur Rank came from England and bought Universal Studios and he chopped the heads off of all the departments including my husband's, and that was no disgrace whatsoever. At first, then, he just wanted to paint in oils, and I saw money going out and nothing coming in. A friend of ours who was west coast editor of Mademoiselle Magazine and her husband every time they'd come--by this time Tammy was growing up, a pre-schooler--Isabelle would say, "It is not fair that Tammy has clothes that other little girls can't have. Why don't you design in the wholesale market?" And I said, "Well, I can't. My husband's position, the whole thing. There's no way." So one day she said to me, "If you ever, ever consider designing, will you call me first?" So at this period with my husband just painting in oils in the backyard and all, why I phoned her and I said, "What do I do to prepare? And the second question is, would it ever be possible to work a half day?" And she said, "Yes." I said, "Well, what do I do?" She said, "You put Tammy's clothes in a suitcase and get to my office as fast as you can." Two hours later I was hired; and I worked in the Cooper building. I was absolutely delighted. I knew nothing. I'd never been inside of a plant or a factory, and the owner of this place was Armenian, and I learned later he had a very hot temper, but he told me that he would be leaving for New York in two days and I was to start--this was a Friday--on a Monday. So I went in on Monday morning and he said, "I have five thousand yards of red and white polka dot, five thousand yards of navy and white polka dot, and I want a reversible dress. Size four." I said, "Yes, Mr. Hanna." And he said, "Did you bring your blocks?" I'd never heard of blocks, so I said, "No, I didn't." He said, "I thought you would bring your blocks." I said, "Well, since you're leaving for New York, Mr. Hanna, is there anything wrong with your blocks?" He said, "No." So I said, "Well, then, why don't we use your blocks until you return?" So, he said, "Very well." His brother was head of pattern department, so I said, "I want the blocks and I want to hurry because I'm only working

half day and I would like a basic pattern." He immediately brought it to me. Well, it was very easy to see block. I had no idea, but blocks are simply a basic pattern without the seam allowance so you design with that. So, that was easy. I had that all figured out within an hour, so I went right ahead and I just made a big circle skirt, very basic, and a puff sleeve that was easy with double fabric. He came back from New York and his daughter, Amelia, was size four and her picture was taken, and it made the cover, in color, on Juvenile Trends so I had a job and I enjoyed it. I worked very hard and then within three months I was offered a position with a large volume house, and those times I had heard the word Little and Martin. I had no idea. I didn't ever know who they were until I kept watching in the magazines and things that the trade papers--which I'd never seen before--and they were the top house in Los Angeles in children's wear. They were not satisfied with their designer and anyone that saw the things, they'd always say, "You belong at Little and Martin." Well, anyway, it ended up that they hired me, and I did some showroom work. I'd had an interview and this woman had asked me to fill in on showroom work for her. So I did, and I answered the phone, and they asked for a Mary Cheely and I said, "She is out. She will return. I will take the message." He said, "Well, I'm anxious to talk with her." And I worked under my maiden name. He said, "Who am I speaking to?" This time I knew it was Ernest R. Little, the head of Little and Martin, and I very quietly said, "Eleanor Douglass." And he laughed. He said, "Well, that's what I was calling her about, but if you're running her showroom I know that she will give you a top recommendation. How soon could you start with us?" So, I was under contract with them for several years and enjoyed it thoroughly. So, you see, people say, "Well, here you were 'quote' 'a top designer' and how did that happen coming from a little cow town called Fallon, Nevada?" But I think it came from liking to sew and we always had very nice clothes. Dad took us to San Francisco. All our clothes were bought in San Francisco, and I think it was just liking quality and the art school training.

LaVOY: What were some of the clothes that you designed that you particularly recall?

SCOFIELD: I especially liked children's wear. Now, in San Francisco, I did women's suits and that's interesting, but I didn't like the firm I worked for.

LaVOY: And what was that?

SCOFIELD: They were very volatile people, and when we'd go through what they called the line and the line model has on your design and the head of every department's there with their pad and their pencil and the owner's wife would say, "I think it should be shorter. I think that the coat part should come up." And the owner'd say, "Pull it down." And I sat there seeing my design going up, down, up, down, and I laughed. It looked so funny to me. And with that the owner stormed out of the room. Then his brother who was head of production went out, came back, and said, "We will go through the line tomorrow." So I thought, "I'm wasting my time." I just went up, got my things, went home to Palo Alto where I lived at that time. I was out in the garden working and the phone rang and the brother said, "What happened? Why did you go home?" I said, "Well, I didn't think anything was productive." So, he said, "Well, now, you promise you'll never leave again and we'll expect you in the morning." I said, "Well, I really feel that I don't belong in your place. I enjoy women's suits and all." So I stayed there a very short time and then eased myself out because I've never like confrontations.

LaVOY: What company was that?

SCOFIELD: It was called Grant Avenue Fashions. They're still in business.

LaVOY: And then?

SCOFIELD: And then from that I helped a woman with a ballet costume because I had done some ballet costumes and I knew the principle and the French cut which is below the waistline where you have all the net coming from. I knew a few things, so I advised her on the costume and ended up by having her daughter coming to my home and I helped them with it. That night I thought, "There must be lots of little girls that need tutus and their mothers won't have them in the carnival-looking clothes that are cheap and glitzy, so I started the company of doing ballet costumes there not intending it to be very big.

LaVOY: This was your own company?

SCOFIELD: Yes.

LaVOY: And what did you call it?

SCOFIELD: Eleanor Douglass Designs because I worked under the

name, Eleanor Douglass. I own the name, and so with designs and then on anything for the dance studios I called it Danceable Costumes. I own the name. So I had all the dance ones. I had a large garage and I set my small, little plant up there, and my neighbors were all excited about it and they said, "We won't complain until we see fifty little Oriental girls coming in every morning and leaving every night." They were all supportive so I had a very good time doing the costumes. Then my children were out of school, and I wanted to sell my home, which I did, and do some traveling.

LaVOY: Now, excuse me just a minute. Approximately what year was this that you obviously left your husband?

SCOFIELD: Yes. 1952. We had a divorce. Highly contested. But when I worked, I supported a family of four, and I was happy to do it. I really was. But, my father died the next year, [1954] and I had a sizeable inheritance and a contested divorce, so I was in the courts about three years. I went to Honolulu and I designed over there. I thought it was just best to go there. My son was already in college and my daughter I could put in private school in Honolulu, but she chose to return to Ojai Valley where both my children attended school, so she came back for that. But Honolulu was too humid for me.

LaVOY: What company were you with in Honolulu?

SCOFIELD: Two. Nahali for children's wear in the morning and Sun Fashions in the afternoon. But the climate is so humid over there and the distance from my children and their wanting to continue school in California that I returned to San Francisco.

LaVOY: When did you retire from designing?

SCOFIELD: I never really retired. My second husband, when I was diagnosed as diabetic and lived as a diabetic for eight years on diet alone and then went to Scripps and was told I was never a diabetic, required me to quit work because of diabetes. Actually the work I did was my hobby, and I was very frustrated, but he meant well. So I said, "All right. Then, we travel." So we did.

LaVOY: What was your second husband's name?

SCOFIELD: Paul C. Scofield, and he's from Indiana. He was born in Terre Haute, August 24, 1907.

LaVOY: And where did you meet him?

SCOFIELD: I had met Paul and his first wife when we first arrived in southern California. We knew two other couples including Edwina Park whom you met this morning and her husband 'cause he was an engineer and Paul was an engineer. So the wives, the four of us, would play bridge on a rainy day--this was Depression days--and we'd play tennis on sunny days, and so that's how I became acquainted with the Scofields. Then we re-met years later after Paul was a widower and I was alone, and the other couples--one wife had passed away--and that husband was top animator for Disney Studio, so he was giving a dinner party and asked me if I would be hostess for him.

LaVOY: What was his name?

SCOFIELD: Milt Kahl and we'd known him in San Francisco as a commercial artist, too, so my friend from Palo Alto was coming in on the Princess Italia maiden voyage, so I called and told Milt and he said, "Well, of course, she can come." I said, "Well, Milt, there must be some nice gentleman out at Disney Studio to be a dinner partner for Betty." And so he called me back the next day and said, "No, they're old fogies or young punks and no one that would be nice enough for your friend." So, I said, "Who you having to this dinner party?" He said, "Oh, the Parks and the Kings and . . ." I said, "You know that's the group we used to be in. Whatever happened to Paul Scofield?" "Oh," he said, "that's a brilliant idea. I'll call the Parks and find out." So Paul Scofield came as Betty's dinner partner, and so then Paul called me and asked me to go to church with him the next Sunday. By this time Betty'd gone back to Palo Alto, of course, so that's how we started dating and then married two years later.

LaVOY: When were you married?

SCOFIELD: August 14, 1969. It was right at the time of Fallon High School's fiftieth graduation for the years had I attended. Had I been graduated from Fallon I would have been in that class, and Bud Berney sent me an invitation. So I wrote back. I said, "I'm not eligible, but I accept." So I had that planned, and we were planning to be married in Christmas when my cousin Ruth Douglass Nicholson from Reno phoned--I had written to her I was coming up for this and that Paul Scofield wanted to drive me up, and she said, "Well," (in the letter and Paul was there when I received the letter and I read it and I started laughing) "It'd be much

easier if you and Paul were married before the graduation and stay with us in Reno." So on our honeymoon we came to Fallon, Nevada, for the high school reunion.

LaVOY: That's wonderful.

SCOFIELD: And we were the newliest married, so we received a large dish with bluebirds on it, I remember, and we had it for many, many years. So that was our honeymoon. Paul had--this always struck me as very funny--a list of twelve cities that he would like to retire in. So we went to Chico [California] and Paradise [California]. Of course, I had friends, the Berney girls, Madge and Lois Berney, very close friends of mine; both lived in Paradise Valley. We looked at Laguna Beach on our honeymoon, so we ended up, finally, getting a weekend place at Escondido where we retired when Paul retired.

LaVOY: Oh, I see. Where were you and he married?

SCOFIELD: In the Christian Church in Inglewood, California, with only relatives present. Our children and grandchildren.

LaVOY: Well, that is wonderful. Something that I just want to go back and ask you. I understand that your brother died very suddenly. Is that correct?

SCOFIELD: No. He died in September, 1930. All of the boys in Fallon that he knew went off working on construction jobs and so they were going. Pat Sanford was one and interested Bob in going to work for Dodge Brothers on construction, and Dad knew where the construction was, and he objected strenuously. He said, "They will pull your insides out." I heard Dad say this right in the kitchen of this house, and I thought oh, that Bob should go with his friends and work 'cause the other boys had to work for their money for college but none of us had to. But Bob wanted to go off which was, to me, very understandable, and Dad said, "I'll pay you equal pay working here 'cause you can work all the machinery." We had lots of machinery on this ranch, but Bob wanted to go with the boys. So they did, and he was put on working a very strenuous machine and that's what caused the rupture of his kidney. Bob had his own car and a sizeable bank account, so he and Pat Sanford went fishing up around Elko. So Bob became ill and he told me later, "I was so sick. I could see Aunt Daisy's house, but I knew I had to get to a hospital." So Pat got him to Carson City to the hospital. I

answered the phone that night, and they wanted to operate on Bob. I woke Dad up, and he said, "There's no doctor in Carson City that is touching my son. You take him to St. Mary's, and I will have a doctor there." Then he talked to the doctor, this is in the middle of the night, and he said, "If you feel you must operate, go ahead, and if it's appendix you save those appendix because I want to see them." Dad left. We went up the next day, and my stepmother said, "Oh, excuse me, this isn't our son's room," and it was Bob. He looked terrible. Cheeks sunken and his eyes; 'course he had very large eyes, and it was Bob. So Bob and I were alone in the hospital room, and he said, "See if there's a mirror." There was and I put it in a drawer, and I said, "There's no mirror." He said, "You have compact." I gave him my compact, but he couldn't hold it very well, so he knew he didn't look recognizable. He was in St. Mary's with nurses--in those days it was a day nurse and a night nurse--for weeks and weeks, and it was not appendicitis. He'd had the operation but the appendix were perfect, and he had two open wounds on his back for drainage. Dad fainted when he first saw it. So he heard of a doctor. We knew it was kidney. Dr. Hinman of Boston. Again I heard Dad make the phone call and it was Dad that was no two ways. So he said that he wanted him to come. By this time he had Bob moved to San Francisco, University of California. So this was going on all summer. See, it was not a sudden death at all, and he'd had more exploratory examinations. Dad sent me to summer school, so I'd be there with Bob. Then, with Dr. Hinman, I heard Dad say, "You will get five thousand dollars today" because Hinman said he would not come without five thousand in advance. So Dr. Hinman came, and he was the one that found that Bob was born with connecting kidneys. Therefore when one ruptured, he had no kidneys. But the idea was that he could wear some kind of apparatus, but Bob told me he'd never be able to come home. Well, Maudie Dunbar fancied that he liked her very much. He liked her mother's cooking very much, so Maudie went down and spent the summer, and the private nurse was so cute. She was little and she'd told me that when she applied to be his day nurse, she said, "Bob just took one look at me and said, 'You can't turn me. You're too small. You can't lift me.'" And she said, "This is Depression days, you know. I'm trained and will you give me a one day chance?" So he did, and she fell very much in love with me. And then she'd tell me that every day that Maudie came Bob'd go off to sleep and wake up and ask for the bed pan. (laughing) Maudie would go flying out of the room. (laughing) Then

Maudie asked for Bob's signet ring after he had passed away, so Dad gave it to her, but there was never any . . . on Bob's part anyway.

LaVOY: Now, he died in 1930. What month?

SCOFIELD: September of 1930. I've forgotten the day. I was with him.

LaVOY: Are you telling me that this job that he took doing this extremely hard work just during that short period of time?

SCOFIELD: Yes, ruptured his kidney. It was very strenuous, hilly, mountainous work and I believe that it was in the northern part of the State because I know they went to Elko to fish when Bob was getting sick thinking that he needed a rest.

LaVOY: He was working as you said for . . .

SCOFIELD: Dodge Brothers. We have no hard feelings toward Dodge Brothers for that, but Bob in no way would refuse to do something that they asked him to do because he was, like Dad, very mechanically minded. He knew motors inside and out, and he was willing.

LaVOY: Well, I'm certain your father was devastated.

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes. He was. So he sold all of the livestock off of the ranch and had a caretaker in the bunkhouse. Everything in this house was covered with sheets, and he accepted a position of director of Internal Revenue and he was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. To my knowledge the only director who's ever had a presidential appointment, so his name never came up to renew.

LaVOY: And did he continue to have this appointment until his death?

SCOFIELD: No, for sixteen years and then he retired. He had been a Nevada senator in his early years here in Fallon.

LaVOY: I didn't realize that.

SCOFIELD: Yes. I've forgotten the years, but in the quotes of fifty years ago, seventy-five years ago, sometimes Louisa will send me, and it will say Senator Bob Douglass, and he worked on the Newlands Project.

LaVOY: Well, he was indeed a marvelous man.

SCOFIELD: Well, he was, I think, trying very hard to have Fallon succeed. Then they had the sugar beet factory that I.H. Kent and Mr. Berney and Dad equally, and that was not a successful venture. They each lost, as I recall, about sixty thousand dollars. I recall vividly one night I was in town with Dad, and they had to bring in extra help, so Dad told me when I got in the car--as I recall, it was a Packard-Straight Eight--and Dad said, "Now, when we go by the experimental farm, we will be shot at, but we will not be hit." And we were shot at, and we were not hit, but he had me get down in the front so that my head would be down.

LaVOY: Now, for what reason?

SCOFIELD: There were local people that resented the three partners for bringing in outside help.

LaVOY: For the sugar beet factory?

SCOFIELD: Yes, and the sugar beets had to be cultivated and processed, and there wasn't help enough, so they had to bring in outside workers.

LaVOY: You mentioned as you passed the agricultural extension place there, was that what it was at that point in time?

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes. Experimental farm. It had nothing to do, simply the location Dad'd been told that we'd be shot at.

LaVOY: How frightening!

SCOFIELD: Dad said, "We will not be hit," and Dad was always right, and I was not frightened. I just did what Dad said, and we were shot at and weren't hit.

LaVOY: These people that he brought in, were they from Mexico or were they people that just needed work very badly from California?

SCOFIELD: I honestly don't know. I imagine that possibly the Kent family or the Berney family might because their fathers were equally involved.

LaVOY: Tell me once again. When did your father pass away?

SCOFIELD: October, 1954. It was a suicide.

LaVOY: Oh, I didn't realize that.

SCOFIELD: Yes. He was in poor health, and we all felt very badly.

LaVOY: Where did this happen?

SCOFIELD: In Oakland. Dad had bought a home in Oakland, and he left a note, "I love you all very dearly." He went in the backyard, and he shot himself.

LaVOY: Was he still married to your stepmother?

SCOFIELD: Oh, yes. She was with him.

LaVOY: Very tragic.

SCOFIELD: It was.

LaVOY: Tragic in that such a full life that he had to . . .

SCOFIELD: Well, when I think back that my mother died at age thirty two, their second child, William, died at birth and then Bob died at age twenty two, and he tried to keep us together; he was a man of his word. He gave his word. In the old days, a handshake was as good as a written contract, and he built this house to get all of us children. My brother lived with Grandmother for a while, Mary in private school in Oakland, the Anna Head School, and myself with Aunt Daisy in Deeth. So he tried to keep us, get a roof over our heads.

LaVOY: Well, that's very commendable. The only bit that we do not know right at this moment is your sister [Mary Martha Douglass Osburn]. When did she pass away?

SCOFIELD: She died in Reno in 19 . . . she was born in 1904 and she was eighty years old.

LaVOY: 1984?

SCOFIELD: Yeah, would have to be.

LaVOY: And you are the remaining child.

SCOFIELD: Of the first marriage. And my half sister, Josephine, and her mother never liked Nevada. That was always something of "when we move to California, when we move to California." (laughing) And Dad really loved Nevada, and he loved the people here, and I share that.

LaVOY: And so she and your half sister lived in California.

SCOFIELD: She disliked Nevada very intensely, and eventually Dad did move to Oakland. First San Francisco, and they had a beautiful apartment. I think that he enjoyed that part very much because he'd watch all this shipping activities in the bay, and then they moved to Oakland and bought a home there and had just sold it and my father died. My stepmother then took an apartment in San Francisco, and her daughter, Josephine, was married to Stanley Meikle who had an electric store in Oakland and then my stepmother moved to Oakland, and she died there of cancer.

LaVOY: When did your father sell this Island Ranch property?

SCOFIELD: To Charles Frey, I believe, 19 . . . now I can't say. Charlie just said it, too.

LaVOY: 1944, I think, 1944, 1945.

SCOFIELD: I think so, yes.

LaVOY: I know it was right after World War II.

SCOFIELD: Yes, and he sold it, as Charlie said, sixty thousand dollars. Charlie, Junior said that this morning, and I remember that, and Dad said, "That's only the land. The buildings are going with it." But that Charles Frey was a young, hard-working young man, and he wanted to help him be able to buy the property and that all of the buildings just went with the land. The price of the land was sixty thousand, and he would arrange so that they could pay less in the lean years and more in the better years, and he was very, very happy with Charles Frey getting the ranch.

LaVOY: Now, something I don't quite understand. Since your father owned what we call the Dodge Ranch now, when was that sold?

SCOFIELD: Oh, much earlier. But, I don't know the date.

LaVOY: But your father sold that part of the ranch to the Dodge Brothers?

SCOFIELD: That's right. That's right.

LaVOY: You don't recall what price they paid for it?

SCOFIELD: No. No, I really . . .

LaVOY: So actually it was this new Island Ranch that Charles Frey bought.

SCOFIELD: Yes, and he would know the acreage on that, because this was a mechanized ranch. It was a cattle ranch, and it was rotation of crops. We had prize winning wheat, alfalfa. We had lots of fruit trees. You couldn't even see the bunkhouse for all of the trees and the truck garden down below; then Dad had trenches dug with special soil put in to raise peonies and roses. Dad loved to do that, and when starting Rotary Club he always took in all the fresh flowers for the Rotary Club and anybody else that wanted them. And, of course, the duck ponds were way out there.

LaVOY: To the southeast.

SCOFIELD: Yes, to the southeast, and when they froze over that's where we ice skated. We really had a wonderful life here.

LaVOY: Oh, I can certainly see that, and I'm very happy to see that the Freys have kept the place up so beautifully.

SCOFIELD: Just delightful.

LaVOY: Now that young Charlie and Debbie have it, they've done remodeling, and you're very pleased with that.

SCOFIELD: Marvelous, and they're so interested in the history of the house and everything about it. I couldn't be happier to have my home now their home.

LaVOY: Well, that's wonderful. How often do you get back to Fallon?

SCOFIELD: Not very often. My husband had Parkinson's disease and we bought a motorhome and we traveled extensively in that. Prior to that we traveled extensively in Europe, but in the motorhome we had wonderful times and we would come to Fallon and sometimes with another couple who also had their motorhome.

LaVOY: And where would you stay?

SCOFIELD: At the Bonanza in their area that had the facilities for hookups.

LaVOY: I was so amused as I drove up this morning and saw your license plate. Would you please say what it is?

SCOFIELD: (laughing) It's "Old Kids." Paul and I had been married just a short time when my son's daughter, Kimberley, came to visit and she was four years old.

She talked about the kids in nursery school and the kids in the neighborhood, and she looked up at us and said, "What are you old kids going to do today?" And we felt so accepted that it just pleased us, and that Christmas that family gave us ecology license plates so that's how that happened. We put those on, and then when we had the motorhome we had "Old Kids" on that. In many cities and places people would look in through our window and they'd say, "We just want to see what old kids look like." (laughing) So we've had lots of fun over it.

LaVOY: I can just tell by your life story that you've had a wonderful life. Very exciting and I'm delighted that we were able to record some of this for the Churchill County Museum, and on behalf of the Churchill County [Museum] Oral History Project I want to thank you very much for this wonderful, wonderful interview.

SCOFIELD: Well, thank you. I'm glad that you were interested in that because we did have a wonderful time here, and I'm always delighted to come back to Fallon..

LaVOY: Well, thank you, and this is the end of our interview.

Eleanor Scofield

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