

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 30 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Stone Ranch Stage Station

and/or common

2. Location NW of Casper on US 20/26

street & number Raderville Route, Section 34, T35, R82 not for publication

city, town Casper vic. vicinity of

state Wyoming code 56 county Natrona code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Vernon Robinett

street & number 1808 Wilshire Court

city, town Casper vicinity of state Wyoming 82601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Natrona County Courthouse

street & number County Courthouse

city, town Casper state Wyoming 82601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission, 1920 Thomas Avenue

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Through the years, frame and metal buildings were constructed at the Stone Ranch Stage Station but the original native stone building, ca. 1890, remains intact. Located on the plains west of Casper, this stone, stage station structure has retained its architectural integrity, unlike many other Wyoming stage stations. The house is nominated because of its historical significance; the later frame buildings are excluded from the nomination. The stone house is a simple one story building with little ornamentation.

The stage station/house has a rectangular plan with a small frame addition on the rear facade. A small overhang covers one third of the front facade. The quarry faced native stone was laid in courses. Stone lintels decorate the window and doors. At some time, the mortar was sloppily repointed. The gable roof, probably covered originally with wood shingles, is now covered with metal roofing. The house is a three bay front with an irregular fenestration pattern.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates ca. 1890's to present **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The stage station at Stone Ranch is a representative structure from a short era in Wyoming's transportation history when stage, freight and mail lines carried supplies and passengers from the terminus of a railway line to communities not yet serviced by a railroad. Although many stage stations from this period once existed in Wyoming, most of them have been destroyed, are irreversibly altered or are in a state of rubble. Almost unaltered in appearance since the 1890's, the Stone Ranch stage station structure has retained its integrity in spite of several adaptive uses in the past 75 years. The building is a valuable example of transportation related structures associated with the stage, freight and mail line era of Wyoming's history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum, Item #9

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Emigrant Gap, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	3	3	6	5	5	2	0	4	7	5	7	7	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated area includes the original stage station and a 20' buffer zone on each side of the building. The structure is located in T35N, R82W, Section 34 of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$. The stage station lies right on the line dividing NW $\frac{1}{4}$ from NE $\frac{1}{4}$.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Gorman, Survey Historian

organization WY State Historic Preservation Office date September, 1982

street & number 1920 Thomes Avenue telephone 307-777-6301

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jan L. Hudson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 24, 1982

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

Linda McCallister
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/1/82

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Continuation sheet Significance-Addendum

Item number 8

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Physical evidence from transportation networks, both historic and prehistoric, are to be found within the boundaries of Natrona County. Prehistoric trails, the routes taken by early mountain men, emigrant trails, stage, freight, and mail routes as well as modern transportation corridors such as railways and highways have left imprints on the cultural landscape. Although current development destroyed many valuable historic structures from earlier periods, an outstanding example from the stage, freight, and mail route era remains virtually intact - the stage station at Stone Ranch.

Development came slowly to central Wyoming as the majority of visitors to the area in the 1800's only passed through on their way to another destination. A few people settled in the region either to provide goods and services to emigrants or to establish stock raising ventures. In 1883 a map published by G.L. Holt showed approximately 15 ranches in the county. Population growth, however, awaited the arrival of a dependable transportation system.

By the end of 1868 the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, part of a trans-continental transportation artery, was completed through Southern Wyoming. Thus the territory, and later the state, was provided a stimulus for growth. Although that stimulus was felt in greater Wyoming, its impact was most obvious in Southern Wyoming. Central Wyoming had to wait until 1906 for a railroad, and it was the Chicago and North Western (CNW) that first tapped the resources of that area of the state.

A precursor of the CNW, the Wyoming Central Railroad, laid rails from Nebraska into Wyoming and soon reached Lusk and Douglas (1886), Glenrock (1887) and Casper (1888). As the CNW did not construct track from Casper to Lander until 1905-06, the movement of freight, supplies and passengers from the Casper terminus of the existing railway line depended upon privately owned and operated stage routes.

One of these stage routes ran from Casper to Lander and Casper to Thermopolis. The first stop on the route was at the present day Stone Ranch. An abandoned stone building, twenty miles west of Casper on Casper Creek, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from Highway 20-26, served as a stage station. No traces of the stage coach route ruts can be detected but not far from this location both the earlier Bridger and Oregon Trails passed through the area.

Little documentary evidence about the stage station can be found. The station operated from 1897 to 1901 under the guidance of John (Jack) Clark as one of several stops operated by the Clark family. In 1902 the Utah-Nevada Express Company signed a four year contract to operate the stage line from Casper to Lander and Fort Washakie. Within six months this company failed and the U.S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore, bondsmen, took over the operation of the stage line. Stewart and Joe Nails were sent to take charge and continued in that task until the railroad reached Lander in October, 1906.

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Continuation sheet Significance - Addendum Item number 8 Page 3

A pioneer of Natrona County reminisced about chartering a four horse Concord stage coach from Jack Clark in the 1890's. Apparently Mr. Clark lacked a sufficient number of trained horses to supply all his customers' needs and unwitting travelers experienced an exciting trip in a stage coach pulled by broncos.

Food, if provided to stage travelers, was plain and might have included fried rabbit, pan-fried potatoes, hot baking powder biscuits with a simple dessert of plain cake. Although the stage stop was not far from Casper, visitors would have been welcomed as life on isolated ranches was often lonely.

The completion of the railway brought many new settlers to Central Wyoming. Stock raising ventures prospered with the arrival of a reliable method of transporting sheep and cattle to markets. However, stage freight lines could not compete with railroads and routes adjacent to the railway line ceased to be corridors of commerce. Most of the stage stations closed including the station at Stone Ranch. The structure became part of the building complex at the ranch and has served in many adaptive use capacities.

A series of people have been owners of the Stone Ranch through the years and yet the building remains virtually intact. In a landscape dotted with the visual evidence of modern development, the stone building which once served as a stage station stands as a lonely reminder of earlier transportation modes. The structure is a particularly well-preserved representative example of a short-term yet important period of time in Wyoming's history.

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Continuation sheet

Addendum

Item number 9

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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