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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms and How to Complete the National Register Registration Form (National Register Bulletins 16 and 16A, respectively). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dos Lomitas Ranch

other names/site number Blankenship Well, Rattlesnake Ranch, Gray Ranch

2. Location Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

street & name Postal Route 1, Box 100 N/A not for publication

city, town Ajo X vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Pima code 019 zip code 85321

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____ No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

See continuation sheet.

James Grogan. AZSAP 3/28/94
 Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
 State or Federal agency or bureau

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

See continuation sheet.

Edna Benson 4/7/94
 Signature of commenting or other official Date

Chief Historian National Park Service
 State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 — See continuation sheet

Ref. R. Purgina 5/6/94

— determined eligible for the National Register. — See continuation sheet

— determined not eligible for the National Register.

— removed from the National Register
— other, (explain:)

tc Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions Current Functions (enter
(enter categories from instructions) categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE-animal facility

VACANT/NOT IN USE

DOMESTIC-single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification Materials
(enter categories from instructions) (enter categories from instructions)

Main Ranch House = Sonoran Tradition

foundation earthen floor

walls adobe

plastered with stucco

roof earth, blacktop, saguaro ribs

other ramada of saguaro ribs,

mesquite poles, and metal

pipes

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The main ranch house built of adobe in 1920 by Robert Louis Gray, Sr., (Appleman and Jones 1969:37) and associated with him and his sons -- dominant figures in the Sonoran Desert cattle raising connected with what is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument -- is the primary building at the Dos Lomitas Ranch. With its stuccoed adobe walls, flat earthen roof, wooden beams, floor of original earthen surface, and L-shaped floor plan, its architecture is in the Sonoran Tradition of the Spanish-Mexican Frontier Style (Stewart 1974:7, 17-22). This vernacular ranch style of frontier regional architecture is characterized by thick adobe walls either exposed or stuccoed, beamed ceilings, flat roof and floors of packed earth, and often with a floor plan shaped like an L (Stewart 1974:24).

The side walls and roof of a nearby frame saddle shed or tack house still stand, showing flume-stave siding, which was apparently salvaged from somewhere in the region from a circular flume or wooden pipe to convey water (Appleman and Jones 1969:50; Garrison 1992). One estimate puts the outside diameter of the wooden pipe at 10 inches (Conrad 1992). This building is being stabilized (Smith 1994), and the distinctive feature -- flume-stave siding -- is readily visible on the east and west side walls. A corral of railroad ties and mesquite logs with a concrete watering trough is mostly extant as well as a windmill/well. The steel tower of the windmill is standing in its original place. The vane is stored in the main ranch house. The wind wheel with its sails is missing. The vane has "AERMOTOR" and "CHICAGO" stencilled on it plus its symbol, a captial "C" around a smaller captial "O" (Pennington 1994; Smith 1994).

Aermotor steel windmills have been manufactured since the 1880s (Baker 1985:383-384). Model 502 was made in 1915 only, the year that self-oiling was introduced. Model 602 was manufactured from 1916 to 1933. Model 702 was made in Chicago from 1933 to 1958 and elsewhere until 1981. Model 802 began in 1981 and is still in production (Baker 1985:116-117).

"All of the Aermotor windmills were made by the Aermotor Company of Chicago until 1958, when the firm began the first of several changes in corporate ownership" (Baker 1985:117). Subsequently they have been made in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Argentina. "By far the most popular water-pumping windmill of the twentieth century, the Chicago-built self-oiling Aermotor mills have been called the Cadillac of the windmills because of their outstanding design and quality of workmanship. Even today old reconditioned 702 Model mills command prices almost as high as those of factory-fresh new mills" (Baker 1985:116).

Two Dos Lomas outbuildings are in ruins and are classified as sites in this nomination -- a building that may have been used for grain storage just southeast of the saddle shed/tack house, and a railroad-tie/corrugated-metal building about 150 feet to the northwest of the corral and windmill. Apparently, this railroad-tie/corrugated-metal building was constructed in the 1930s on the foundation of the original 1914 adobe ranch house (Hoy 1976:166; Greene 1977a:85).

The main ranch house and the saddle shed/tack house constitute the buildings that are contributing elements. The sites with ruins are contributing elements also because they are part of the same overall context of the rest of the Dos Lomas property -- cattle raising in southern Arizona. The corral and the well/windmill are considered contributing elements as structures. The watering trough is included as part of the structure of the corral. As mentioned in more detail below, the property is located in the southeastern quadrant of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument about four and three-quarter miles southeast of Lukeville, Arizona, along the international border with Mexico.

Location and Setting

The Dos Lomas property is located in a scenic, arid setting in which two plant communities predominate--a saltbush community in the immediate vicinity of the ranch along the international border paralleling the intermittent Rio Sonoyta, which is in Mexico, and a mixed-cactus/paloverde community that is characteristic of the types of vegetation in the larger southeastern quadrant of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Two low hills are situated nearby the main ranch house, for which the property takes its name, Dos Lomas (Hoy 1976:166). The Sierra de Santa Rosa are about 7 1/2 miles to the east, a southern extension of the rugged Ajo Mountains, the highest range in the area.

Dos Lomas is reached from Highway 85 in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument by taking a dirt road, El Camino de Dos Republicas, about 1 mile north of Lukeville and driving 5 miles southeast to its terminus at the ranch. The Camino de Dos Republicas literally skirts the international border to the ranch for the last 3 miles from the Gachado Well and Line Camp. The Gachado property was part of the ranching operations of the Grays and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The border setting of Dos Lomas Ranch remains much the same as it was in the heyday of the Gray Partnership, which began here at this cattle ranch in 1919 and lasted at Dos Lomas until 1962 and the death of Robert Louis Gray, Sr. "It was the Gray family...[who] actually developed the ranching potentials of the desert country on the northern side of the International Boundary in the Sonoita valley and the desert country beyond" (Appleman and Jones 1969:22).

List of Contributing and Noncontributing Elements

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Built</u>	<u>Element</u>
Main Ranch House	1920	1 building
Saddle Shed/Tack House	c. 1920	1 building
Well/Windmill	c. 1917	1 structure
Corral	c. 1917	1 structure
Outbuilding near Saddle Shed	c. 1920	1 site (ruins)
Railroad-Tie/Corrugated-Metal Building	c. 1930	1 site (ruins)

TOTAL contributing elements: 6, comprised of 2 buildings, 2 structures, and 2 sites with ruins.

<u>Noncontributing</u>	<u>Built</u>	<u>Element</u>
TOTAL noncontributing elements: none.		

Present Appearance of Contributing Elements

The main ranch house "is a fine example of United States-Mexican border adobe construction" (Appleman and Jones 1969:49). It contains four rooms and is a one-story, L-shaped adobe building about 40 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 10 feet high. It actually has been measured at 39 feet 6 inches in length, 29 feet 3 5/8 inches in width, and 9 feet 6 inches in height (Appleman and Jones 1969 -- "Blankenship [Dos Lomitas] Ranch House," first architectural drawing opposite Plate 27). It has an earthen floor, five windows, three doors, and one fireplace/chimney. Attached to the front is a ramada or portico, which has a flat roof made of saguaro cactus ribs and iron pipes, covered by earth and some blacktop, capped by stones, and supported by mesquite posts. The exterior of the house is covered with stucco, which helps prevent the adobe fabric from eroding.

The ramada of the main ranch house has been subject to repair from time to time. For example, it partially collapsed because of vandalism during the spring of 1989 and certain sections were extensively rebuilt. Thus the ramada and the rest of the ranch house continue to be stabilized. The ramada is a very distinctive feature of the house and merits this attention. The house otherwise appears to be in good condition, except for some water damage to the interior and exterior in a few places, which is being monitored and stabilized. The ranch house remains in good condition because it is one of the major beneficiaries of the monument's stabilization program. It received attention, for example, during the winter months of 1993-1994.

The saddle shed/tack house, which has been called Outbuilding Number 1 (Appleman and Jones 1969:50), is about 50 feet southeast of the main ranch house and is in poor condition in that the siding is missing in the front and in the rear. The building itself tends to lean out of plumb, but wooden bracing has been added to straighten and stabilize it.

The saddle shed/tack house contributes to the ambience of the Dos Lomitas property, depicting Sonoran Desert cattle ranching operations, and will continue to be stabilized. It's flume-stave siding is evidence of the adaptive nature of the frontier -- making do with what was at hand and creatively putting available materials to new uses. In other words, this building is a frontier example of "a typical structure erected by persons unskilled in the building trade, but nevertheless ingenious, using miscellaneous building materials that were available" (Appleman and Jones 1969:51). Although these words were written by historian Roy Appleman and architect Russell Jones about the railroad-tie/corrugated-metal building at Dos Lomitas that was extant at the time, they are equally true of the saddle shed/tack house with its flume-stave siding. What Appleman and Jones specifically say about the saddle shed/tack house is that it "is typical of a small building erected by ranch hands using miscellaneous materials" (1969:50).

A large, irregularly shaped corral exists on the property to the east of the main house, measuring approximately 118 feet by 97 feet (Appleman and Jones 1969:54). It has three compartments and may be said to be three corrals in one with a loading chute and ramp. It is made up partly of railroad ties and partly of mesquite poles for posts with mesquite limbs laid up between the posts to form the sturdy corral walls.

The corral or a portion of it apparently dates to Donald Blankenship "who had ranched there since 1914 with this wife and two sons, Donald, Jr., and Joe" (Hoy 1976:166). By 1917, the well near the corral had been dug because it was described and evaluated by Kirk Bryan that year (Bryan 1925:342; Greene 1977a:84).

The southwestern compartment of the corral, which contains the concrete watering trough, has a trigger gate that was characteristic of all the Gray ranches and line camps in the area that is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. At roundup, thirsty cattle would come in for water from the open range of the desert. Wanting a drink from the trough inside the corral, an animal would push on closed, V-shaped gates held together with a piece of stretchy rubber like an inner tube for an automobile or truck tire. The gates could be pushed open enough by an animal for it to get through. Then the gates would snap shut at the point of the V, trapping the animal inside the corral (Hoy 1976:169; Wilson 1987:11).

Most of the corral is in good condition. However, a few sections on the southern side are missing their mesquite walls; here the railroad-tie posts alone remain. People from south of the border have been known to take the wood and put it to uses seemingly more utilitarian in their view than historic preservation. The result is actually useful in interpreting the ranching story to visitors since various stages in corral construction may be readily visualized.

The well with windmill is located about twelve feet west of the northwestern corner of the corral. The chute connects to the corral at this corner on the northern side. The metal tower of the windmill is on site and intact, but, as noted above, the vane and sails are not in position. The vane is being stored in the main ranch house; the sails are missing. If restored, the story could be told better of the critical importance of water sources to human habitation in the desert at spots like Dos Lomitas.

Outbuilding Number 2 (Appleman and Jones 1969:50) is just to the east of the saddle shed/tack house and is now in ruins. Originally built of wood planking and saguaro ribs, historian Jerome Greene (1977a:85) in his historic resources study says that it was probably used to store grain.

The other site with ruins, Outbuilding Number 3 (Appleman and Jones 1969:51), is about 150 feet west of the corral. It bears the ruins of a building, mentioned earlier, that was put together by the Grays in the 1930s. This building apparently was erected upon the stone foundation of the adobe house of the original 1914 settler, Donald Blankenship. This 1930s building had a corrugated metal roof and walls that were constructed half of upright railroad ties and half of corrugated metal sheets over a wooden frame (Hoy 1976:166; Greene 1977a:85). The building burned in the late 1970s (Smith 1992). One charred railroad-tie post remains standing (see photographs 15, 16, and 17). The stone foundation is visible (see photographs 16, and 17), and occasionally bits and pieces of ranching tools and equipment are found as surface scatter (Smith 1992).

Historic Appearance

In 1919, when Donald Blankenship, Sr., sold his water rights, improvements, and 300 head of cattle at what we call the Dos Lomitas Ranch to Robert Louis Gray, Sr., the property included a small adobe ranch house. Later destroyed by a flash flood, it was built in 1914. Gray built the present L-shaped adobe ranch house in 1920 and subsequently added three outbuildings, two of which are in ruins today, as mentioned above (Appleman and Jones 1969:22,49-52; Hoy 1976:166-167; Greene 1977a:84-85).

The stucco that covers the exterior of the main ranch house and helps retard erosion of the adobe fabric was photographed in 1967 by historian William E. Brown. It revealed pieces of stuccowork that had fallen and exposed the adobe bricks, mostly on the western wall (Appleman and Jones 1969: plates 6 and 7). The Gray family still had possession of the property at the time, which suggests that the stucco may have been put on initially during the Gray period. It may have been originally applied early in the Gray period because mud stucco as an outer covering was part of the architectural style of the Sonoran Ranch Tradition (Stewart 1974:7). A 1973 reference when the National Park Service undertook repairs mentions the original stuccowork but gives no date: The "original...stucco of the exterior walls is peeling off or already missing" (Chambers 1973:28).

All three of the outbuildings demonstrate the custom, described above under "Present Appearance," of adaptively and creatively using miscellaneous materials at hand in frontier construction. Historian Jerome Greene (1977a:85) refers to the railroad-tie/corrugated-metal building as "one of the more unique structures at Dos Lomitas...a small building, composed of railroad ties and corrugated sheet metal...[with] the ties...placed upright around the perimeter of one-half of the structure, while the sheet metal forms the walls of the other half." It had two doors, two windows, and a corrugated-metal roof. As noted, it was lost to fire.

There is much of significance to preserve at Dos Lomitas in the forms of the main ranch house and corral and what remains of the saddle shed/tack house to commemorate the distinctive style of Sonoran Desert cattle raising established and practiced here in the early twentieth century and later in what became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. As noted above in the section on "Present Appearance," the main ranch house "is a fine example of United States-Mexican border adobe construction" (Appleman and Jones 1969:49). It is the only example of a multi-roomed ranch house in the monument in the style of frontier vernacular architecture known as the Sonoran Tradition. It nicely complements the one-room adobe house at the Gachado Well and Line Camp nearby, which is in the same Sonoran Tradition. As noted, Gachado is illustrative of the Gray cattle enterprise and frontier cattle raising in what became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

___ See continuation sheet.

Integrity

Except for the deterioration of the Gray outbuildings, described above, the property remains much the same as it was in the early days of the Gray family cattle-ranching enterprise in 1920 when Robert Louis Gray,

Sr., had the main ranch house built in the Sonoran Tradition by Mexicans from across the international border (Hoy 1976:167). Its present configuration of corrals, outbuildings, and main ranch house apparently was essentially complete by 1930 with the construction of the railroad-tie/corrugated-metal building over the stone foundation of the original Blankenship adobe ranch house.

The two outbuildings that are in ruins remain in their locations of construction and, thus, still show the spatial relations of the ranching pattern at Dos Lomitas plus some of the historic fabric in terms of the varied, miscellaneous types of materials typically used in frontier ranching construction. In other words, the ruins and, most importantly, the main ranch house, the corral, and the saddle shed/tack house vividly illustrate the frontier practice, widely employed by the Grays, of creatively putting available materials to new uses and, thus, making do in construction with what was at hand. At the ruins of the railroad-tie house, as noted, historical archeology has the potential of revealing additional information. The stone foundation is visible, and occasionally bits and pieces of ranching tools and equipment are found as surface scatter.

The main ranch house, corral, and saddle shed/tack house are representative of the distinctive pattern of Sonoran Desert cattle ranching developed by the Grays with main ranches and line camps, which are mentioned below in the sections on historical background and historic context. The Dos Lomitas property represents a very important and reasonably intact example of the frontier ranching pattern in Arizona typical of the Sonoran Desert during the first third of the twentieth century. As the home of Robert Louis Gray, Sr., Dos Lomitas is the main and original Gray property in what became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The ranching characteristics of Dos Lomitas should be emphasized, especially the ranch house as a fine, well preserved example of the Sonoran Tradition. Dos Lomitas is not just a ranch in southern Arizona of the historic period where cattle raising occurred. More importantly, it is a frontier, Sonoran Desert ranch. Here began the Gray family pattern of establishing ranches and line camps that spread over what became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Greene 1977a:58-60).

Photographs

1. Main Ranch House, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, March 8, 1989; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking northeast; Photograph No. 1, Dos Lomitas. Current conditions are reflected.

2. Main Ranch House, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, February 1, 1989; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking west; Photograph No. 2, Dos Lomitas. Current conditions are reflected.
3. Main Ranch House, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, February 1, 1989; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking north; Photograph No. 3, Dos Lomitas. Current conditions are reflected.
4. Main Ranch House, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking north; Photograph No. 4, Dos Lomitas.
5. Saddle Shed/Tack House/Outbuilding No. 1, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking south; Photograph No. 5, Dos Lomitas.
6. Saddle Shed/Tack House/Outbuilding No. 1, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, March 15, 1989; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking southwest; Photograph No. 6, Dos Lomitas. The building leans more today.
7. Saddle Shed/Tack House/Outbuilding No. 1, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, March 15, 1989; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking southwest; Photograph No. 7, Dos Lomitas, detail of curved siding. This distinctive feature of curved siding has not changed; it is still intact.
8. Ruins of Grain Shed/Outbuilding No. 2, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking south; Photograph No. 8, Dos Lomitas.
9. Corral, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking southeast; Photograph No. 9, Dos Lomitas.

10. Corral, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, February 1, 1989; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking southeast; Photograph No. 10, Dos Lomitas. This photograph reflects current conditions.

11. Corral, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking southeast; Photograph No. 11, Dos Lomitas.

12. Corral and Windmill/Well of Blankenship Well, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking north; Photograph No. 12 Dos Lomitas.

13. Windmill/Well of Blankenship Well, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking east; Photograph No. 13 Dos Lomitas.

14. Ruins of Railroad-Tie Building/Outbuilding No. 3, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking north; Photograph No. 14, Dos Lomitas.

15. Ruins of Railroad-Tie Building/Outbuilding No. 3, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking west; Photograph No. 15, Dos Lomitas.

16. Ruins of Railroad-Tie Building/Outbuilding No. 3, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Charles Conner, August 23, 1990; negative on file, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; looking north; Photograph No. 16, Dos Lomitas. Current conditions are reflected. See Photograph No. 17.

17. Ruins of Railroad-Tie Building/Outbuilding No. 3, Dos Lomitas Ranch; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Pima County, Arizona; taken by Lawrence F. Van Horn, July 16, 1992; negative on file, Branch of Planning, Western Team, Denver (Colorado) Service Center, National Park Service; looking north; Photograph No. 17, Dos Lomitas.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A X B C X D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

 A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Agriculture (Cattle Ranching)

1914-1944; 1914, 1917, 1919, 1920

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Gray, Robert Louis, Sr.

Architect/Builder

Robert Louis Gray, Sr.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Dos Lomitas Ranch is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria "A" and "B" (McClelland 1986:1, 1991:35-51) -- criterion "A" as a fine example of a 1920s Sonoran Desert ranch in Arizona, and criterion "B" as the main and most important cattle-ranching property associated with Robert Louis Gray, Sr. (1875-1962) in what is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Criterion "D" applies to the two sites with buildings in ruins. Occasionally bits and pieces of ranching tools and equipment are found as surface scatter, and a stone foundation is visible (Smith 1992). They contribute, along with the other resources to the context of cattle raising in southern Arizona and could yield additional information archeologically.

The main ranch house is regarded as "a rare example of a Sonoran, Mexican built ranch house on the [international] border that shows an earlier style" than its 1920 date of construction (Garrison 1992). It is in the Sonoran Tradition typified by Peter Kitchen's Ranch begun in 1867 north of present-day Nogales, Arizona (Stewart 1970:236, 249; 1974:15-23).

Robert Louis Gray, Sr., is historically significant locally as a cattleman who with his cattlemen sons, Henry, Jack, and Robert Jr., strongly influenced the cultural landscape of the monument with some fifteen properties devoted to cattle raising. One historian of the monument, Wilton Hoy (1976:170), regards Robert Louis Gray, Sr., as "the quintessential frontier cattleman" of the area. According to historian Jerome Greene (1977a:58,60), the preeminent cattle-ranching era in the region began with Robert Louis Gray, Sr. at Dos Lomitas and ended nearly six decades later in the monument with the deaths of his cattle-ranching sons, Jack in 1975 and Henry and Robert Louis, Jr. (Bobby) both in 1976.

Sonoran Desert cattle raising is important to Arizona history under the area of significance of the National Register entitled "Agriculture (Cattle Raising)." The property exhibits buildings and structures that are characteristic of the cattle-raising pattern that developed and expanded in the international-border area that is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument during the early and middle decades of the twentieth century. The period of significance for the property dates from 1914 to 1944. The former date represents the building of the first adobe ranch house there by Donald Blankenship who sold the property to Robert Louis Gray, Sr., in 1919. Although Dos Lomitas represents a continuous function of cattle raising on that property from 1914 until 1962, the year of Robert Louis Gray, Sr.'s death, the date of 1944 represents the fifty-year mark that ends the period of historic significance for consideration to be placed in the National Register.

Historical Background

With traces of the past in the form of ranch house, outbuilding, corral windmill, and sites with ruins (Johnson 1993:3T), the Dos Lomitas Ranch symbolizes the early occupation and settlement of southern Arizona along the international border by American cattlemen and their families. Donald Blankenship first came to the area to ranch sometime before 1914. He dug the present well, circa 1917, at what he called Rattlesnake Ranch and, with his wife and two sons Donald, Jr., and Joseph, ran several hundred head of cattle on lands now part of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. In 1919, Robert Louis Gray, Sr., started what was to become a trend of buying water rights, ranches, and line camps, when he bought the ranch and cattle from Donald Blankenship.

Dos Lomitas represents the expansion of Sonoran Desert cattle raising, which grew into a relatively large industry dominated in the monument by the Gray family -- Robert Louis Gray, Sr., and his sons Henry, Jack, and Robert, Jr., or Bobby -- known as the Gray Partnership. The Grays utilized the open range via a trigger gate to lure their cattle to water in their corrals at round-up time. The trigger gate of the Grays was indispensable to Sonoran Desert ranching (Wilson 1987:11).

Beginning in 1919, Robert Louis Gray, Sr. (Bob) (1875-1962) and later three of his sons -- Henry (1897-1976), Jack (1909-1975), and Robert, Jr. (Bobby) (1912-1976) -- eventually came to control as the Gray Partnership virtually all of the ranching interests in what in 1937 became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Bob Gray was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, but went off to Texas as a very young man to work for a big cattle outfit. By age 17 he had become a pretty seasoned cowboy and married Sara Amand Cope (known as Sallie), a cattleman's daughter from San Angelo, Texas. They moved to Fort Stockton, Texas, on Bob's becoming an independent cattleman about this time in 1892. They eventually had nine children -- five boys and four girls.

Sometime before 1912, the Gray family moved to San Simon, Arizona, where Bob and Sallie's youngest child, Robert, Jr., was born in 1912. They drove a wagon pulled by two mules and brought cattle with them, averaging fifteen to twenty miles a day (Hoy 1970:166). Two years later in 1914 the family moved again to a ranch in French Joe Canyon near Benson, Arizona. Following five years of ranching there, Bob Gray purchased a ranch, including a ranch house, from Lon Blankenship farther west and somewhat south in Arizona on the border with Mexico in what is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. That was in 1919, and this time those of the family not herding horses to their new ranch rode in a Model-T Ford touring car.

The route by automobile, incidentally, was west from Benson past Tucson and Indian Oasis, now Sells, to Ajo. Turning south, they took the Darby Well Road to Bates Well and on to Quitobaquito where they followed the international-boundary line southeast to Lon Blankenship's Rattlesnake Ranch, which Bob Gray renamed Dos Lomitas Ranch for the two small hills close to the ranch house (Hoy 1976:166). "The purchase included roughly 300 head of cattle, the Blankenship ranch house (built in 1914), Blankenship's corrals, windmill, Gachado and Dowling line-camps, Aguajita and Williams Springs, and virtually unlimited, unfenced grazing lands" (Hoy 1976:166).

Robert Louis Gray, Sr. (1875-1962), and three sons -- Henry, Jack, and Robert, Jr., out of his five sons and four daughters -- came to hold virtually all of the ranching interests in what became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in 1937. As noted, the senior Gray started buying ranches, line camps, and water rights in 1919, and he and his sons became the dominant ranchers in the Sonoran Desert below Ajo, Arizona, on the northern side of the international border. Dos Lomitas was but one of several Gray properties in what became the monument, including Aguajita Spring, Alamo Canyon Ranch, Bonita Well Line Camp, Bull Pasture, Cement Tank, Dos Lomitas Ranch, Dowling Ranch, Gachado Line Camp, Hocker Well, Pozo Nuevo Line Camp, Pozo Salado or Salt Well, Red Tanks Well, Wild Horse Tank, and Williams Spring. All of these properties are now owned by the National Park Service.

Robert Louis Gray, Sr., is further described by historian Wilton Hoy as "a feisty, indomitable, rawhide cattleman" (Hoy 1976:165). He apparently was straightforward, personable, gregarious, honest, hospitable, and opinionated and raised his children to stay out of trouble and to fit the same mold. Historian Jerome Greene adds that Bob Gray was an astute businessman and property manager (Greene 1977a:59). He and his sons, Henry, Jack, and Bobby, who all lived out their lives in what is now the national monument, would hire Tohono O'odham Indians and Mexicans when extra cowhands were needed "to help with round-up and branding work" (Hoy 1970:169). Some of these individuals were long in the employ of the Grays, such as Chico Suni, an O'odham who worked for Bob and then for Henry and who still lives in the area north of the monument.

Bob Gray and his family shopped, generally by horseback in the early days, both north and south of the international border, and he was known north in Ajo and south in Sonoyta as a colorful character as well as a respected member of the frontier community. He and his family became part of the border culture (Martinez 1988; Etulain 1994) and "learned to work with the desert and with their Anglo, O'odham, and Mexican neighbors very well" (Hoy 1976:169). These values of cross-cultural cooperation are indeed consistent with similar values of the national monument today. The fact that Robert Louis Gray, Sr., directed that the main ranch house at Dos Lomitas be built by Mexicans in the local vernacular Sonoran Tradition adds substance to the theme of cross-cultural cooperation found in the monument.

For better or worse, Bob Gray and his ranching sons -- Henry, Jack, and Bobby--shaped or influenced much of the cultural and natural landscape of what is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. His sons grew up at Dos Lomitas and learned their cattle raising there. Many of the cultural resources being interpreted today in the monument are former ranching properties of the Grays. These were either taken over from the former owners or established by the Grays. The distribution and historical function of these ranch headquarters and line camps were determined in a cultural-ecological way by the need to have watering spots for livestock in the trigger-gate/open-range pattern of Sonoran Desert ranching. The Grays consolidated this pattern and perpetuated it for fifty-seven years within what is now the monument. Unfortunately, they affected some of the natural resources by overgrazing, which was not uncommon among Arizona ranchers, and the monument may not as yet be fully recovered since the cessation of cattle raising in 1976.

At Dos Lomitas in 1919, with the cattle they shipped to Ajo by rail and herded south to their new ranch and the cattle they bought from Lon Blankenship, they had "roughly a thousand [1,000] head" (Hoy 1970:166). According to Kirk Bryan (1925:418), "as many as 2,000 head of cattle have been kept at Bates Well, but that number is more than the range can support." To compare the increase in the number of grazing cattle over

time, there were about 1,800 cattle in Pima County, Arizona, in 1870 (Clemensen 1989:61). "By 1892, the yield in cattle shipped from Pima County was 121,000 head" (Spicer 1986:137). "It appears to be a general practice of Desert Cattlemen in all sections of the country around Tucson, Arizona, to run all the range can carry in good years in the hope that during unfavorable seasons, such as the last winter [1941-1942] and present summer season [1942], enough of them will survive the drought and lack of feed [forage] that they can make up the difference in good years" (Ratcliff 1942, quoted in Hoy 1976:228). Over the years after the establishment of the monument, annual grazing permits issued by the National Park Service to the Gray Partnership ranged from 550 cattle to 1,050 a year.

Historic Context

The Dos Lomitas ranching property is in the context of early to mid-twentieth-century cattle raising in southern Arizona. Cattle were first brought into Arizona by Don Francisco Vásquez de Coronado on his expedition north from Mexico, 1540-1542. This journey was the precursor of the trail drive, an integral practice of the cattle industry to get the animals to market. Impetus to the actual raising of livestock in Arizona occurred late in 1696 and early in 1697 when Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino placed some cattle, sheep, goats, and horses with the Tohono O'odham (also known as Papago) Indians of Mission San Xavier del Bac and with the Sobaipuri Indians along the San Pedro River at the Quiburi Rancherías. "Thus began the cattle industry of Arizona," according to Kirk Bryan (1925:9) in his work on The Papago County, Arizona.

Cattle and other livestock raising from the very early days on into the nineteenth century was often coupled with horticulture and agriculture. That was true of the Spanish missions to the Indians in southern Arizona of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and it was characteristic of William Kirkland's 1857 operation along the Santa Cruz River at Canoa, about twenty miles north of Tubac. He is credited as being the first Anglo to take up ranching in Arizona. It was also true of Pete Kitchen's spread along the Santa Cruz in the 1860s near the present Mexican border when his outfit alone was able, with a fortified ranch house, to hold out against the constantly raiding Apaches. It was later true in the early twentieth century of the Robert Louis Gray, Sr., family at Dos Lomitas Ranch in what is now Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The Gray family "cultivated several acres of corn and squash on the northern base of the Dos Lomitas hills. They fenced and dry-farmed the crops using the time-honored methods of the [Tohono] O'odham [Indians, formerly known as the Papago Indians, their neighbors about ten miles to the east], that is, by planting crops in early summer and relying on summer floods to produce a harvest. The crops did well" (Hoy 1976:168).

After the Apaches were subdued by the United States Army in the 1870s and 1880s following the Civil War, the presence of Anglos increased as they began to enter and settle the area obtained from Mexico through the Gadsden Purchase in 1853-1854. The pursuit of ranching as a primary and specialized activity was a consequence of the so-called taming of the frontier, although frontier conditions still existed that indeed required a great deal of ingenuity to adaptively and creatively use a combination of local and regional materials for construction, that is, the use of miscellaneous materials at hand (Appleman and Jones 1969:50-51).

With the subjection of the Apaches, mining and cattle raising increased in southern Arizona. That begun by the Spanish was resumed by Anglos. Railroads were a stimulus also. In various parts of the state, cattle raising had assumed the aspects of a business enterprise by 1880, and the building of the Southern Pacific Railroad was of paramount historic importance towards that end. The Southern Pacific was the first railroad in Arizona and operated its first service there in 1877. The town of Ajo by 1916 had been linked with the Southern Pacific by the Tucson, Cornelia, and Gila Bend Railroad (Walker and Bufkin 1986:46; Dollar 1991:44). That coincided with the establishment of the New Cornelia [Copper] Mining Company at Ajo and the stimulation of the cattle industry in the vicinity of Ajo. The Ajo railhead eliminated the necessity for a long trail drive, and the developing mining community provided a local market for beef. Cattle raising by the 1920s had become a significant part of Arizona's economy along with copper mining, lumbering, sheep raising, and tourism.

The story of cattle raising in the Arizona portion of the Sonoran Desert is dominated by that of the Robert Louis Gray family. The setting sparsely contrasts with the more lush, grassy environment of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers to the east where ranching began in Arizona. Starting in 1919, Robert Louis Gray, Sr. (1875-1962) and three of his sons -- Henry (1897-1976), Jack (1909-1974), and Robert, Jr. (1912-1976), -- eventually came to control as the Gray Partnership virtually all of the ranching interests in what in 1937 became Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Grazing continued in the monument by way of a series of grazing permits issued over the years by the National Park Service. The Gray ranching operation only ended in 1976 with the deaths of Henry and Bobby Gray.

The frontier-border style of the Grays was noted for its use of miscellaneous building materials at hand and for a series of ranches and line camps about a day's ride apart with wells, corrals, and trigger gates, which were used to round up the cattle when they came in for water from the open range. According to Wilton Hoy in his 1976 compilation Organ Pipe Cactus Historical Research, "roundups...were...made by trapping the cattle at given water holes surrounded by a corral and a gate through which they could enter but not leave" (page 227).

The trigger gate was clever and representative of the Grays' distinctive pattern of cattle raising in the Sonoran Desert. Caroline Wilson, the interpretive specialist at the monument, in her 1987 brochure on Puerto Blanco Drive, emphasizes the uniqueness of the trigger gate as a very distinctive feature of Sonoran Desert ranching. "Rather than riding the range to round up cattle in the traditional manner of the American West, ranchers of Northwestern Papaguera, including the Gray family, selected the hot, drought season when natural [watering] holes dried up. They ran water inside the corrals and closed them with trigger gates. So when cattle entered the corral through the V-shaped gates that pointed into the corral, barely allowing passage in, they could not exit the gates" (Hoy 1976:169).

The properties within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument used by the Grays for various aspects of cattle raising include Aguajita Spring, Alamo Canyon Ranch, Bates Well Ranch, Bonita Well Line Camp, Bull Pasture, Cement Tank, Dos Lomitas Ranch, Dowling Ranch, Gachado Line Camp, Hocker Well, Pozo Nuevo Line Camp, Pozo Salado or Salt Well, Red Tanks Well, Wild Horse Tank, and Williams Spring. All are now managed by the National Park Service within the monument.

The Gachado Line Camp is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Bates Well and Dos Lomitas ranches are being nominated to the National Register as being on a par with the Gachado property in that, along with Gachado, they represent the best and most intact of the Gray properties and the cattle-raising theme within the monument. The ranches at Bates Well and Dos Lomitas complement the line camp at Gachado as the two main ranch headquarters of the Gray operation. The other ranching properties in the monument are considered ineligible because of integrity problems. In March 1990, Ann Howard and Patricia Stein of the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office personally visited and examined the Bates Well and Dos Lomitas properties and evaluated them as eligible for the National Register.

It is interesting to note that some of the same values described in the historical-background section for Bob Gray and his ranching sons of participating in a cross-cultural situation of mutual cooperation -- both north and south of the international border and west and east of the Ajo Mountains border with the Tohono O'odham Indians -- are valid goals today for the national monument. With their overgrazing, the Grays obviously did not stress the conservation of natural resources, but they did learn to live much in harmony with the Sonoran Desert and with different peoples and groups on both sides of the border. These latter values are symbolized and emphasized by the monument's status as an international biosphere reserve and corresponding participation in the Man in the Biosphere Program of the United Nations. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was so designated by the United Nations in 1976.

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____ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

____ previously listed in the National Register Primary location of additional data:

<input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Local government
	<input type="checkbox"/> University
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Specify Repository:
	<u>Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona</u>

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>3/ 3/ 5/ 3/ 5/ 0</u>	<u>3/ 5/ 2/ 5/ 8/ 5/ 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The southern limit of the Dos Lomitas Ranch plot is the international boundary between the United States of America and the Estados Unidos Mexicanos (Mexico). Starting at metal marker number 165 (Monument 165) of the international boundary, the boundary of the property proceeds east approximately 340 feet. It turns north at a stake and goes approximately 710 feet to another stake located 107 feet from the northeastern corner of the corral and 170 feet from the loading chute. At a stake there, the property boundary moves west 680 feet to a stake situated about 170 feet from the northwestern corner of the ranch house. The Dos Lomitas boundary then moves south 610 feet to the international border where it goes east 227 feet to the previously mentioned marker number 165 on the international border. All corners are marked with

stakes that are 2 inches by 2 inches in length and width, and all measurements are approximate, having been made with a ten-foot wheel by historian Jerome Greene for the 1977 National Register nomination. On July 16, 1992, using a four-foot wheel, the writer of this nomination confirmed the boundaries laid out by Greene (1977b).

___ See continuation sheet.

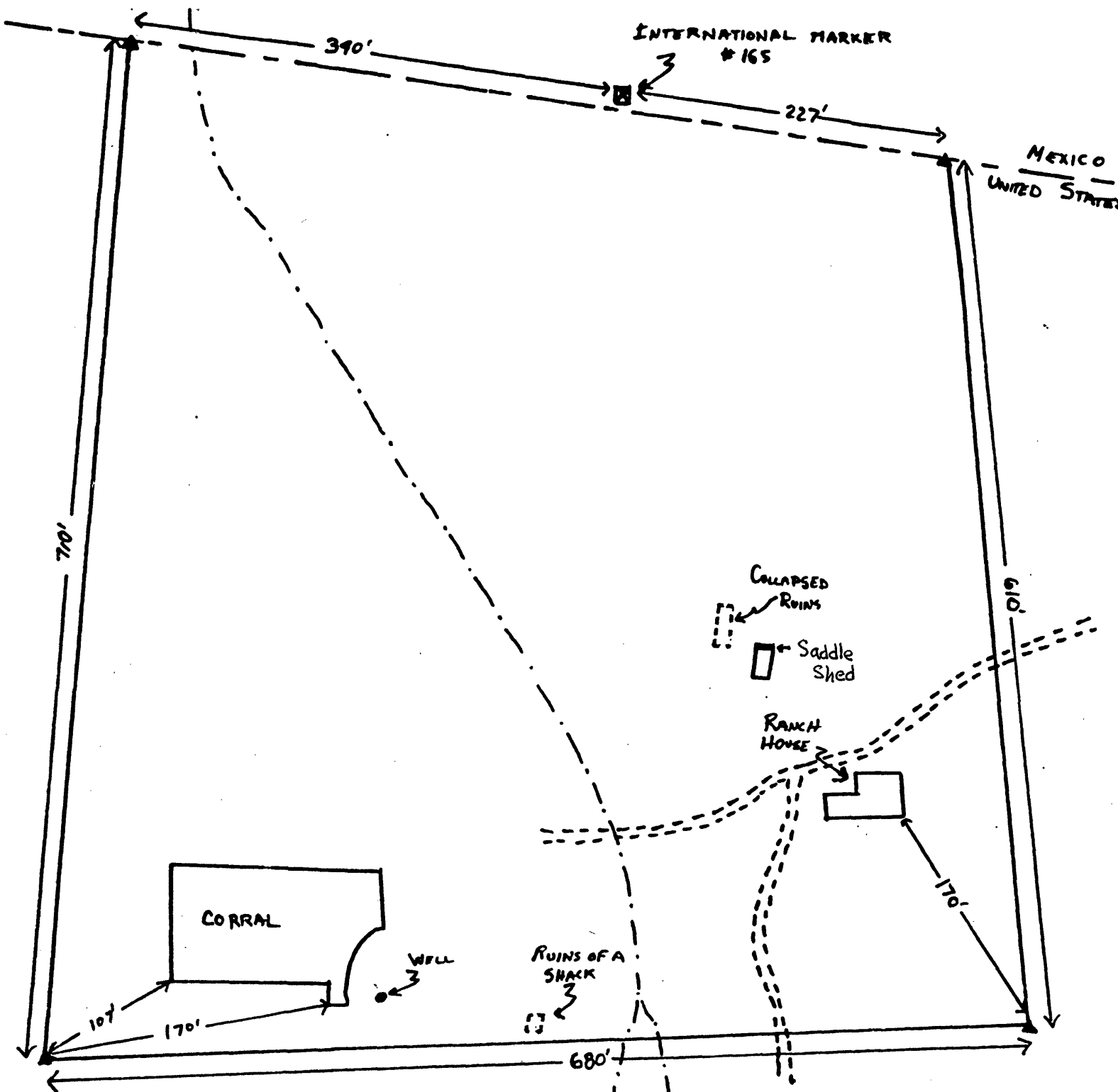
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the main ranch house, saddle shed/tack house, corral with windmill/well, and the two ruins. It follows the pattern of ranch house, outbuildings, and corral historically associated with the Gray period of ranching at Dos Lomitas.

___ See continuation sheet.

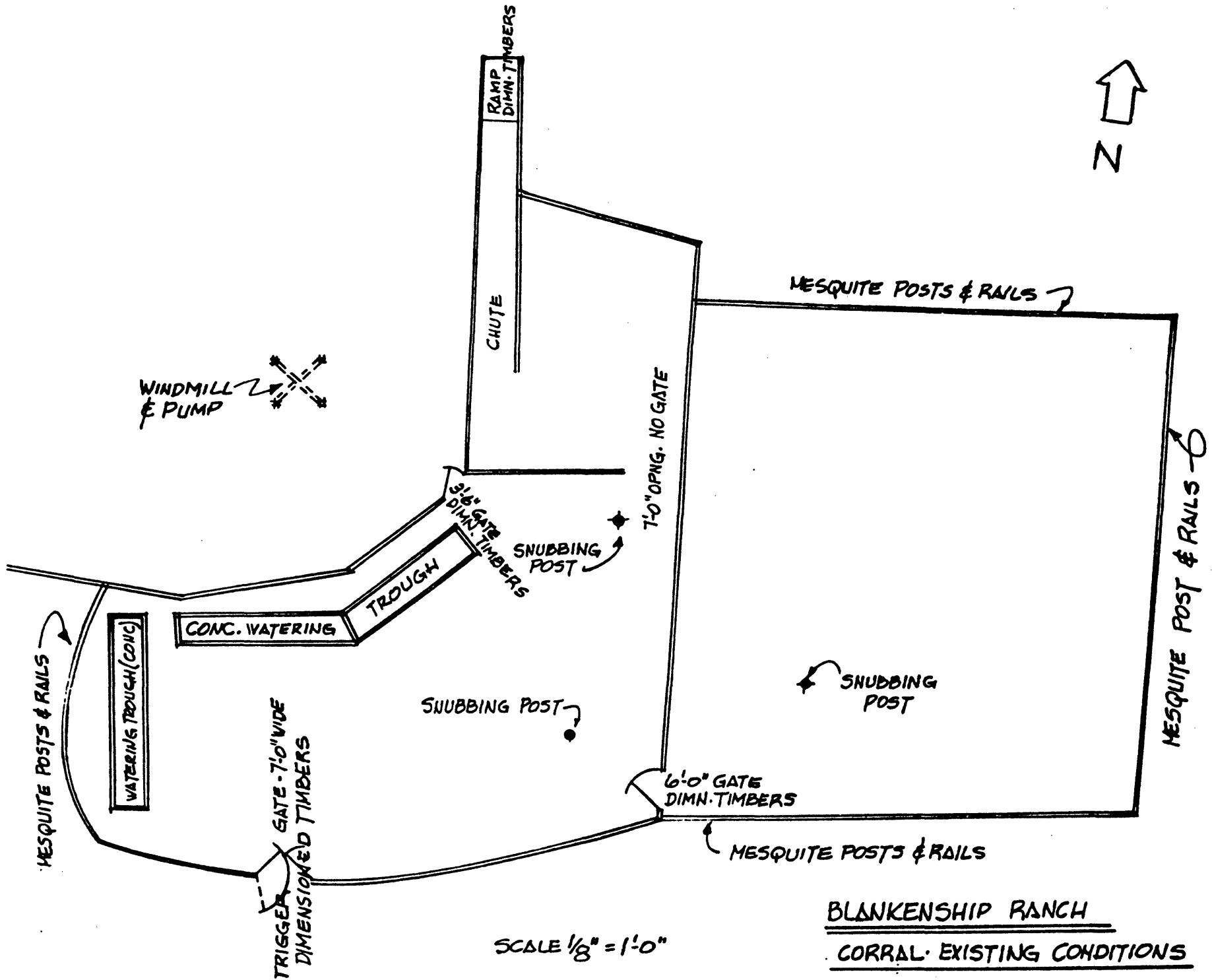
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lawrence F. Van Horn, Ph.D., Cultural Anthropologist
 organization National Park Service date March 17, 1994
 street & number 12795 West Alameda Parkway telephone (303) 969-2255
 city or town Denver state CO zip code 80225-0287



Dos LOMITAS
 JUNE 1989
 SCALE 1 in. = 100 ft.





BLANKENSHIP RANCH

CORRAL - EXISTING CONDITIONS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000426

Date Listed: 5/6/94

Dos Lomitas Ranch
Property Name

Pima
County

AZ
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Paul R. Swartz
Signature of the Keeper

5/6/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The nomination does not adequately justify the significance of the property under Criterion D. The two "ruins" (Outbuildings #2 & #3) strengthen our overall understanding of the layout, setting, and environment of a typical cattle ranching operation and therefore contribute to the significance of the property under criteria A and B.

The nomination is amended to drop Criterion D.

This information was confirmed with Ed Bearss, NPS FPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)