

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 29 1985

date entered

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

DEC 13 1985

1. Name

historic Bath Ranch

and/or common Stone Ranch

2. Location

street & number Herrick Lane Road

not for publication

city, town Laramie

X vicinity of

state Wyoming

code 056

county Albany

code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input checked="" 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 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 Marie Sherwood

street & number 1517 Reynolds

city, town Laramie

vicinity of

state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albany County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Grand

city, town Laramie

state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title University of Wyoming History Class has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Cheyenne

state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bath ranch stone house and barn are outstanding examples of late 19th century native stone construction practiced by the Bath family in and around Laramie. The eighteen inch thick stone buildings are located 15 miles northwest of Laramie off Interstate 80 and continue to convey a strong sense of time and place. Located in a more recent wood construction ranch complex, boundaries for the stone buildings are easily defined by historical cultural landscape boundaries which define the site. This nomination includes only the stone house and barn and excludes the more recent buildings which are not associated with the Bath family.

The house is a square $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gabled roof building. The roof is long at the back of the building providing room for the single story kitchen and dining area. The upper portion on the front served as bedrooms. At the rear is a small gabled two room rectangular stone building constructed for smoke house and food storage. It has one original wood door on each room with plain surrounds. The front facade of the house features a central front door with radiating stone arched head and two light transom. This stone arch is repeated in the two first floor front windows which also have rounded heads and wood sills. These windows flank the front door. The upper story windows are all rectangular with wood sills and lintels. All windows are narrow double hung 1/1. There are also windows in the gable side of the building. The building has planked eave overhang and primitive stone quoining on the corners. It has been abandoned for a number of years, thus there is no glass in window frames. There is a hipped roof wooden porch on the back side which may be a more recent addition. There are two interior brick chimneys.

The barn is a massive $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gambrel still functioning in its original capacity. The gambrel portion of the building is unusually wide and features board siding. The main portion of the barn is stone and features the same construction techniques as the house. There are square loft openings in the front and side and small four light square windows spaced evenly along the sides. Two double doors on the front feature original hardware and swinging and vertical rolling doors. This is repeated on the back of the barn.

Together the two buildings serve as excellent examples of state-of-the-art Bath family stone construction and are the only known rural structures associated with the Baths, remaining in the state.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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. 1875 **Builder/Architect** Henry Bath

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bath Stone Ranch house and barn are excellent examples of Bath family construction retaining integrity of setting, design, location, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. They convey a strong sense of time and place and are associated with the beginnings of the cattle ranching frontier, an episode which significantly influenced the broad patterns of Wyoming's economic, political and social history. Additionally, the buildings are exemplary of Bath construction and associated with the Bath family who made significant economic impacts locally. The buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of 19th century vernacular stone construction that was once more common but has for the most part disappeared. It is unique in that its construction coincided with the last native American uprisings in the late 19th century. Reflecting the relative insecurity of this period and location, the structures feature walls 18 inches thick which extend well below the ground. Designed to repel possible Indian attack the stone ranch buildings still stand as a rustic fortress in miniature and are deserving of enrollment in the National Register.

See Addendum

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bath, Frederick C. "Musings of a Pioneer: an authentic account of life in early Wyoming." Date of composition/submission unknown -- 198? -- discovered in biographical archives, Albany County Public Library.
Burns, Gillespie, Richardson. Wyoming's pioneer ranches. See Addendum.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Alsop Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3
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4	3	0	9	6	0
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4	5	8	3	7	6	0
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B

1	2
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4	3	0	9	2	0
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4	5	8	3	8	0	0
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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Site is located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33 (Township 17, Range 75). The acreage contains other buildings (including a house and barn) which are not in current use. USGS Quadrangle Alsop Lake mislabels this area "Kisler Ranch" (actually east of the Interstate). See addendum

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 G. Todd Greenhalgh

organization none

date 12/4/84

street & number 1311 Custer

telephone (307) 742-5013

city or town Laramie

state Wyoming

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

Robert D. Bush

title Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/23/85

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

William B. Bushong
for Keeper of the National Register

date 12/13/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Bath Ranch

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When Henry Bath arrived with his wife and children in Laramie in July of 1868 -- a mere two months after the town's inception -- he had little intention of confronting the ardors of ranch life on the Laramie plains. A cabinet maker by trade, Henry Bath built Laramie's first frame structure, a hotel he called the New York House. Lacking winter feed for his oxen, Bath turned them loose on the prairie expecting to find them half-starved or dead by spring. Contrary to expectation, spring's arrival revealed four oxen who were "fat and slick". This discovery stimulated Bath's desire to try his hand at ranching. Henry Bath was one of the first to ranch on the plains of what is today Albany County, an area that eventually became and continues to function as one of the most prosperous areas in the state for cattle grazing. He established a crude homestead on the Little Laramie river at what is now the "Stone Ranch" sometime between 1869 and 1870. The original structures, consisting of a modest cabin and a small barn, no longer exist. In 1875, however, Henry and his sons quarried stone for and built the two imposing structures that still stand on Herrick Lane. The construction occurred during a period marred by the last coordinated native American uprisings of the 19th Century (culminating with, among others, the Meeker, Thornburgh, and Custer "massacres"). The stone ranch reflects the relatively insecure period and location of its construction. The edifice sports walls eighteen inches thick (which extend, in addition, well below ground level to the cellar floor) and was designed -- according to several sources -- to repel Indian attacks. The structure is completely unique in this respect and unlike any other in the region -- a rustic fortress in miniature. The buildings are the best remaining example of a vernacular architectural style that once was more common in the area but which in most cases has tumbled down, been torn down, or covered with stucco. The Bath ranch house and barn retain integrity of setting, design, location, workmanship, materials, feeling and association, and convey a strong sense of time and place, thus they deserve enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places. Finally one must, in considering the historical significance of the stone ranch, take into account its general as well as particular context. The impact of the Bath family as a whole on local history was profound, ranging from the establishment of a brewery, several hotels, and an entire block of stone houses (Bath Row), to the slaughter of the last buffalo on the Laramie plains by Henry's brother, William (a dubious distinction if ever there was one -- but one well remembered by the county's pioneer inhabitants as a grand symbol of "progress"). The stone ranch then, is as much a symbol of a period and the triumphs of an entire family as it is, a symbol of the first attempts by Henry (and others) to ranch along the Little Laramie.

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Laramie: Top-of-the-World Press, 1955.

Dunn, Vallie Bath. "The Bath Family -- the future begins in the past",
Laramie: Laramie Daily Boomerang, Saturday, 7/10/76. Vol.96 Number 106.

Pence, Mary Lou. The Laramie Story. Laramie, 1968

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The boundary for the bath stone ranch and buildings is defined by the yard fence which provides a logical dividing point for separating the stone buildings from newer structures on the site. The boundary (beginning at point A) is located at the northeastern corner of the barn approximately 20 feet from the barn. The boundary follows the fence south to the point where it meets the yard fence (point B) and then proceeds east to the corner of the yard fence (point C) and then proceeds south again to the corner of the yard fence located approximately 30 feet from the southeast corner of the house (point D). The boundary then follows the fence west to the southwest corner of the yard fence (point E), proceeds north to point F a shared point with point B. The boundary then follows the fence west across the cattle guard (point G) and then follows the west side of the road to an arbitrary point (H), approximately 20 feet from the southwest corner of the barn and then follows an arbitrary line north to join the fence (point I). The boundary then follows the fence east to the point of beginning.

This boundary encompasses the original stone ranch buildings and excludes other newer structures from a later period. Because of the scale of the map and the difficulty of providing UTM coordinates for all boundary points—coordinates have been provided for the two contributing structures along with a site plan showing the relationship of the buildings to each other.

BATH·STONE RANCH

NOT TO SCALE

