

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Mexico	
COUNTY: San Miguel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.30.0015	DATE 10/6/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bell Ranch Headquarters

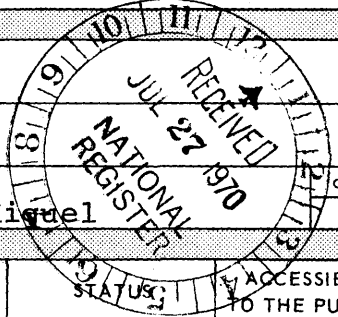
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bell Ranch vicinity

STATE New Mexico	CODE 88441	COUNTY: San Miguel	CODE 47
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
William N. Lane

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bell Ranch

STATE: New Mexico	CODE 88441
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office, San Miguel County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Las Vegas

STATE: New Mexico	CODE 87701
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Mexico Cultural Properties Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: November 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Fe

STATE: New Mexico	CODE 30
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original ranch building, which is the central portion of the existing structure, consists of two adobe-walled rooms dating from approximately 1860.

Adjoining rooms of brick construction are accurately dated from 1873. The southwest wing of the ranch headquarters, built of stone, dates from 1914, when it was added to the existing house under the direction of C. M. O'Donel, manager of the company that owned the ranch.

At the present time, the big ranch house, a wide, shallow U-shaped structure facing southeast, sits in a grove of giant cottonwoods. It is 204 feet wide and 76 feet deep, and is fronted by a steep-roofed portal opening onto a spacious lawn. Even though the building period stretches from the 1860's to 1914, the composite result, some twenty-five rooms, is well integrated and visually pleasing.

Beyond the grounds and driveway stand buildings housing the post office, the office of the ranch manager, the commissary, the mess hall and kitchen, as well as other typical ranch operations. The barns and corrals are to the northeast of the headquarters.

Tasteless efforts at architectural modernization have been avoided, and the warm earth yellows and reds employed throughout the complex draw the various units into a harmonious whole, around which there is an air of gracious age. The integrity of each functional unit has been maintained, and the immaculate condition of both buildings and equipment reflects the care of the family who manage the ranch.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860, 1870, 1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Ranching</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Bell Ranch, which comprised 719,000 acres, was made up of the Pablo Montoya Grant, dating from 1824, the overlapping Baca Location No. 2, and other smaller properties. The Montoya heirs sold their interest in the grant in 1869 to Wilson Waddingham, an Englishman who had been involved earlier as an agent in the purchase of the Maxwell Land Grant. In 1870, Waddingham added Baca Location No. 2 to his holdings, and subsequently purchased other small properties in the area. In March, 1875 Waddingham recorded the Bell brand, which is based on a natural landmark in San Miguel County, a small hill called La Campaña in Spanish.

In the 1880's and 90's, Waddingham ran into financial difficulties, and in 1898-99 his backers Day and Stoddard took over the property, bought out the remaining settlers in the area, and brought the total acreage to 719,000. They operated as the Red River Valley Company. The first reduction in the size of the ranch occurred in 1917-18, when the Atarque country and a six-mile strip off the north end of the Pablo Montoya Grant were sold to the Trigg Brothers.

In 1944, the Bell Ranch comprised 453,000 acres. Two years later stock in the Red River Valley Company was purchased by Albert Mitchell, Harry Leonard, and Ed Springer, who divided the ranch into six smaller units. Today "the Bell" spreads over an area of 130,855 acres in the heart of the old Pablo Montoya Grant.

The Bell Ranch and its headquarters are important historically and architecturally. Pablo Montoya, the recipient of the 656,000-acre grant which was the major property concerned, was alcalde of Santa Fe in 1824 when the grant was made by the Mexican government. Baca Location No. 2 was one of five properties granted to the heirs of Luis Maria Baca on June 21, 1860 by Act of Congress. These locations were granted in lieu of lands claimed by the heirs which had been confirmed by Congress to the town of Las Vegas, amounting to 496,447 acres. Luis Maria Baca of Peña Blanca was a rancher and prominent citizen of the area. His name and those of his heirs appear frequently in the records

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

C. De Baca, Fabiola, We Fed Them Cactus, Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press, 1934
 Callon, M. W., Las Vegas, New Mexico - The Town That Wouldn't Gamble, Las Vegas, The Las Vegas Publishing Co., Inc., 1962
 Chavez, Fr. Angelico, Origins of New Mexico Families, Santa Fe, The Historical Society of New Mexico, 1959
 Culley, J. H., Cattle, Horses, and Men, Los Angeles, The Ward Ritchie Press, 1940
 Ellis, Martha D., Bell Ranch, Places and People, Clarendon, Texas,

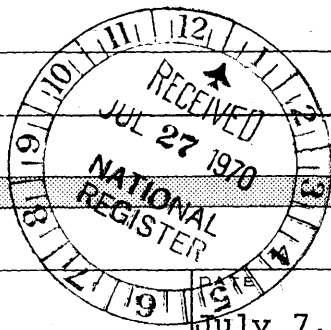
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		N. LATITUDE	W. LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	31'	46"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		104°	06'	00"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO
M
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Samuel Larcombe, Planning Technician**

ORGANIZATION: **State Planning Office**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Fe**

STATE: **New Mexico 87501** CODE: **30**

DATE: **July 7, 1970**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Eli S. Sutter*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: July 10, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
OCT 6 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William J. Montague
 Keeper of The National Register
AUG 19 1970

Date: _____

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Mexico	
COUNTY	
San Miguel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-10-30-0015	10/6/70

(Number all entries)

BELL RANCH HEADQUARTERS

8. Significance (continued)

of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

One of the best known of the great cattle empires, the Bell Ranch was the last to be broken up. Today the ranch which still bears the name is noted for the improvement of its stock by scientific breeding. Employees and former employees of the Red River Valley Company gather annually in July for a reunion.

9. (continued)

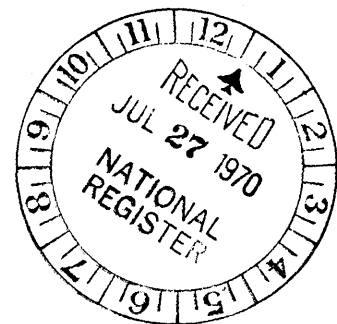
The Clarendon Press, 1963

Ellis, Martha D., Bell Ranch Sketches, Clarendon, Texas, The Clarendon Press, 1964

_____, Bell Ranch Recollections, Clarendon, Texas, The Clarendon Press, 1965

Spanish Archives of New Mexico, September 3-13, 1808, State Records Center, Santa Fe

Spanish Land Grants, Abstracts of Titles, State Records Center, Santa Fe



HARDING COUNTY
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

GRANT

65

MONTOYA

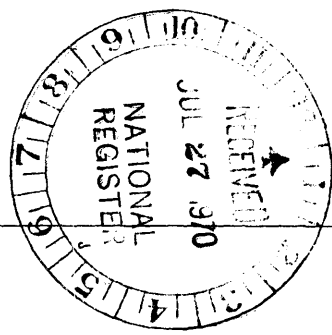
WAGGONER

WAGGONER

△ MONTOYA
5802'

PABLO

WAGGONER



△ PABLOIT
5367'



N. Latitude
35° 31' 46"

W. Longitude
104° 06' 00"

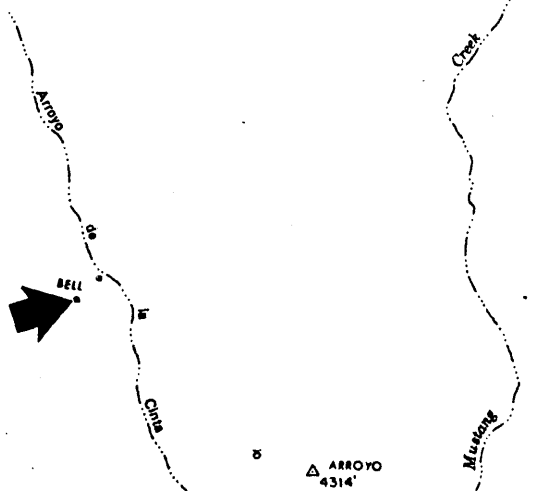
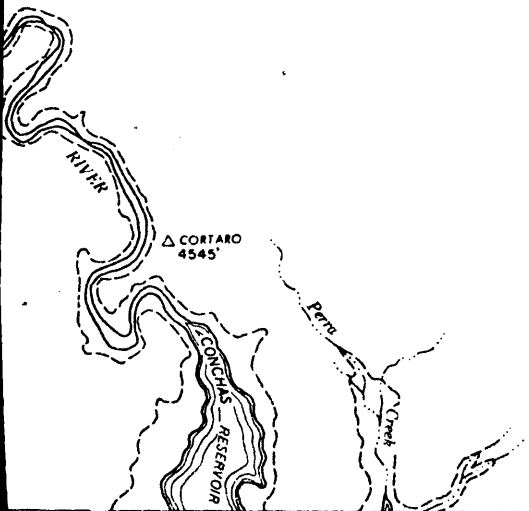
△ DING
4669'

△ DONG
4654'



BELL

△ ARROYO
4314'



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	New Mexico	
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		10/6/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **Bell Ranch**
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Bell Ranch

STATE:

New Mexico

CODE

30

COUNTY:

San Miguel

CODE

047

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

N.M. State Highway Commission, Roy 30 minute Series Quadrangle

SCALE:

1 inch = 2 miles

DATE:

1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

