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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hampton's Ford Stage Stop was built of reddish colored limestone with walls two feet thick. The original two storied structure had a gabled roof with an extended rear shed type roof. The front porch, roof lines, and the rear portion have undergone considerable remodeling. However, many portions of both the exterior and interior remain little changed.

Originally the second floor had ten bedrooms, and though they lacked something in privacy, as access to some rooms could be had only through other rooms, the hotel did boast an indoor, wallpapered privy, a luxury usually unavailable at most stage stops, even to the women.

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The main floor contained eight rooms including bedrooms, a kitchen, large dining area, and a living room with fireplace.

The barn remains also with some slight changes. The front portion was added to when the structure was converted to use for sheep sheds; however, the original portions still remain with little modification of their interior. The metal roof is incongruous, but does secure the original structure underneath. As was true when the Stage Stop and "Bear River Hotel" were in active use, the road passes between the two structures to swing north across the river. Today's bridge crosses the Bear River in the approximate location of the old Ford. There were, however, three other fords on the lower river: Corinne Ford, one mile upriver from the town; Honeyville Ford, upriver about 200-300 yards from town; and Boise Ford, west of Elwood. None of these became as important as Hampton's Ford with its Stage Stop and Barn.

Per Molvin Smith of Utah:

Barn built c. 1867 or 2, additions made to south and north c. 1875 and 1898 respectively.

House altered by addition of porch at front plus change to roofline in 1917 or 18.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	[]] 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	XX 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Western Transportation was a dominant theme in early Utah History. Because of the location of several geographic features--Great Salt Lake, the Wasatch Ranges. Bear River, Snake River, Humboldt River, and the Salt Lake and Nevada deserts--the routes through Utah had limited options. To go from Salt Lake Valley west one had to turn either north or south. Those emigrants seeking a good wagon route struck north on the Salt Lake Cutoff, going from Salt Lake City to Bear River, which was usually crossed where Hampton's Ford Stage Stop and Barn was later constructed, between Collinston and Fielding on the Bear River.

Early trappers undoubtedly crossed the river, likely Jed Smith in 1826 and Peter Skene Ogden in 1828-1829. It appears that John C. Fremont also reached the site in September, 1943. But the first man to open the route was Captain Samuel J. Hensley, who crossed the river in late summer 1848, enroute to California. He met returning Mormon Battalion men who brought several hundred head of stock and 14 wagons through the ford, a few days later.

In 1849 Captain Howard Stansbury forded the river enroute to Fort Hall. He reported it was about 250 feet wide with steep banks. Later the crossing was used extensively by freighters going from northern Utah to the Montana goldfields.

In 1853, Benjamin Y. Hampton and William S. Godbe established a toll ferry across the stream, charging 10 cents for a horse and 25 cents for a wagon. In 1859, they built a bridge. Later (1866) a new toll bridge was built on the old piers. At this time the territorial legislature set the rates--\$3.00 for a wagon with two horses or oxen, \$2.00 for a loaded cart, & \$1.00 for pack horses.

They also built the big home, which served as a hotel. The barn was an important stop and feed center for animals.

The Holladay Overland Mail and Express made this site its first overnight stop north of Salt Lake City. However, teams were changed at approximately ten-mile intervals. Their run ended at Virginia City, Montana.

In 1875, James Standing purchased the property and operated the Bear River Hotel and toll bridge. A new bridge was built in 1892. Two years later, James Bigler bought the land, which has remained in the family. The present owner, L. Odell Bigler, received title in 1952.

This very important site remains in generally good condition, a reminder of the early transportation story in Utah. Utah Highway 30 passes between the old buildings to cross the river on a bridge of more recent vintage, but near the old ford and older bridges. The setting is remarkably unchanged.

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL RI	FERENCES									1
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As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional 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 XX State Local						I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.						
Milton L. Weilenmann Title Utah State Liaison Officer Date March 22, 1971						Date ATTEST:						

11.5 1.96.94



