Form 10-306

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON:
Ryan House and Lost Horse Well or Spring (H.S.-8)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(Lost Horse Well, later called Ryan Well)

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Joshua Tree National Monument

CITY OR TOWN:
Twenty nine Palms

STATE:
California

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
43

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
[ ] District  [ ] Site  [ ] Object
[ ] Building  [ ] Site  [ ] Structure
[ ] Structure  [ ] object

OWNERSHIP
[ ] Public  [ ] Private  [ ] Both
[ ] Public  [ ] Private  [ ] Both

STATUS
[ ] Occupied  [ ] Unoccupied  [ ] Preservation work
[ ] In Process  [ ] Being Considered  in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[ ] Yes  [ ] Restricted  [ ] Unrestricted
[ ] No

PRESENT USE
[ ] Agricultural  [ ] Government  [ ] Park
[ ] Commercial  [ ] Industrial  [ ] Private Residence
[ ] Educational  [ ] Military  [ ] Religious
[ ] Entertainment  [ ] Museum  [ ] Scientific
[ ] Other (Specify)  [ ] Comments

4. AGENCY
National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Western Region

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 450 Golden Gate Ave., 36063

CITY OR TOWN:
San Francisco

STATE:
California

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Joshua Tree National Monument

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Twenty nine Palms

STATE:
California

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
[ ] Federal  [ ] State  [ ] County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
JUN 5 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER
OCT 30 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
Preservation/restoration recommended

This complex consists of an adobe residence, two small adobe structures, a well, a graveyard, and the remains of a corral.

The residence apparently was originally a building roughly 30'x40'. In later years a wood and metal attachment was added to the rear. To the front a screen porch with concrete floor was also added. The adobe bricks of the wall are quite weathered and worn.

The two small adobe buildings, one approximately 10'x20' and the other roughly 10'x30', may have been built later since their adobe bricks are less worn. The smaller structure is rapidly decaying to ruins; part of one wall has already fallen in. The larger structure is in much better condition and appears to be still in use. About half of this building is plastered.

The corral was originally composed of huge boulders with wood and pipe fencing filling the gaps between them. All that is left today are a few pieces of boards and some pipes suggesting the enclosure.

The graveyard has approximately 10 graves, only a few of which have stone markers. Depressions suggest the location of the other graves.

Lost Horse Well is 70 feet deep. Over it is a windmill and pump. Nearby is a stone and concrete water storage tank (12'x12'x4'6'') as well as a steel storage tank six feet high and seven and a half feet in diameter. The stone storage tank is original and the steel one was added in recent years. Early day engines used to pump the water are at the site.

Boundary: The Ryan House and associated structures are located near the southwestern base of Ryan Mountain. A short 1/2-mile dirt road leads from JOTR Route #2 into the area. The most important area that includes the existing building, graveyard and well site, would be within 500 feet of the old ranch house. It is located in the center of Section 21, T2E, R8E, Lost Horse Mtn. Quad).

Class VI lands: 16 acres

Cost: $9,000 (emergency stabilization)
The Ryan complex was established by the Ryan family (brothers Tom and Jepp and their descendants). The Ryans were the later developers of the Lost Horse Mine, the most profitable one in the area. The Ryans came to this vicinity in the 1890s and during that decade, according to local tradition, erected the now standing adobe residence.

The Lost Horse Spring supplied water, by pump, to the Lost Horse Mine, 750 feet higher and about three miles away.

In the early 1890s, Lang and his Lost Horse Mine partners had a two-stamp mill at the spring. In 1896 the Ryans acquired the mine and established a 10-stamp mill at the mine, piping the water from Lost Horse Spring to the mine. In 1905 a well was dug at the spring, thus changing the name of it to Lost Horse Well.

The complex today continues to exhibit a way of life in the desert and is associated significantly with the early history and successful mining endeavors of the area.
### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Latitudes and Longitudes Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>33° 59' 11&quot;</td>
<td>116° 08' 58&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>33° 59' 11&quot;</td>
<td>116° 08' 46&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<td>116° 08' 46&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>01° 01&quot;</td>
<td>116° 08' 58&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:** 16 acres

**List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Form Prepared By**

F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian

Denver Service Center, NPS

7200 West Alameda

**Certification of Nomination**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☑ Yes

Federal Representative Signature: [Signature]

**National Register Verification**

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

[Signature]

Date: 6/5/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Date: JUN 2, 1975