

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 8 1976
DATE ENTERED	

*Boundary purchase 8/4/77*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Schellbourne

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Schellbourne

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 43 miles north of Ely off U. S. Highway 93, 3 miles east  
on State 2

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Ely

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Nevada

STATE  
Nevada

CODE  
32

COUNTY  
White Pine

CODE  
033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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

Ruth H. Russell

STREET & NUMBER

21 East Vine Street

CITY, TOWN

Tooele

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

White Pine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ely,

STATE  
Nevada

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Nevada Historical Sites

DATE

1968

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Desert Research Institute, Stead Facility  
Center for Western Studies, University of Nevada

CITY, TOWN

Reno,

STATE

Nevada

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The picturesque setting includes a six foot wide, mountain-fed, year-round stream. The site is on the edge of the Pinion-Juniper Tree belt with the actual site growth being huge silver poplars that were planted by the pioneers. Grass covered streets of the old town form pleasant open areas beneath the huge trees. The site is now the headquarters for a cattle ranch; absentee owners utilizing the old residence of the ranch as a summer home. The old town of Schellbourne included several stores, blacksmith shops, livery stables, a boarding house, post office and a newspaper. A portion of these buildings remain and are utilized by the ranching operation. The site of Schellbourne is on a slope, with native trees and brush in the marsh area below to the stream. Pioneer cabins remain along the stream edge.

From the site one can look down to the broad valley floor and toward the Egan range to the west and to the east into the half circle of the Schell mountains. A good hard surface road leads from U.S. Highway 93, alternate 50, three miles east to the historic site of Schellbourne and on through Schellbourne Pass into the Goshute Indian Reservation. A hard surfaced loopback leads on south down the east side of the Schell Range 53 miles to Conners Pass, (Major's Place) and thence 28 miles back north to Ely.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1859 - Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Various/Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Schellbourne has been a Shoshone Indian village, Overland Stage and Mail stop, Pony Express Station, a location on the route of the Overland Telegraph, base of military operations, mining camp, and a location on the Lincoln Transcontinental highway. Its strategic location with shade trees, grass and water have made it a desirable, natural stopping place for travelers. It has never been entirely abandoned.

Captain James Simpson, seeking a route across the Great Basin shorter than the Humboldt River Trail, passed through the site of Schellbourne in 1859. Later that year an Overland Stage and Mail station was built there. In 1860, the Pony Express established Schell Creek Station with corral and station house. The Overland Telegraph passed over the same route in 1861.

The site briefly took the name Fort Schellbourne in 1862 after a detachment of troops camped here to head off troublesome Indians who harassed the stages and mails. Later in the decade, after the Indians were subdued, the troops were transferred elsewhere. The stage station declined after 1869 when the Central Pacific Railroad was completed further north.

Gold discoveries in the surrounding hills in 1869 led to the founding of a mining camp 2 years later. Silver ore was discovered in the mountains to the east of Schellbourne in the early 1870's and the camp became a part of the Aurum Mining District in 1871. An active mining camp developed with a population of over 500 persons. Freight brought from Toano on the Central Pacific Railroad was \$25 per ton. Timber, consisting of nut pine, fir, cedar, and mahogany was found in abundance all over the district. The town included several stores, blacksmiths shops, livery stables, a boarding house, post office, and a newspaper, the Schellbourne Prospect.

Sensational ore discoveries at Cherry Creek, ten miles across Steptoe Valley, drained all but a few people from Schellbourne near the close of 1872. Although its promising silver ledges had scarcely been worked, houses and machinery were hauled from Schellbourne to the new silver

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Angel, Myron, ed. HISTORY OF NEVADA - 1881, Thompson and West, Oakland, California 1881. Reprinted by Howell-North, Berkeley, California 1958.  
 Mordy, Brook D. and McCaughey, D.L. NEVADA HISTORICAL SITES, University of Nevada, 1968.  
 Paher, Stanley. NEVADA GHOST TOWNS AND MINING CAMPS, Howell-North, Berkeley, California 1970.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 520 (Area within reference points 1,280 ac.)

UTM's  
added  
Phase II  
D.R.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 1	6 9, 7	8 0, 0	4, 4	0, 7	5, 0, 0	B	1, 1	6 9, 7	8, 0, 0	4, 4	0, 5	9, 0, 0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1, 1	6 9, 4	7 0, 0	4, 4	0, 5	9, 0, 0	D	1, 1	6 9, 4	7, 0, 0	4, 4	0, 7	5, 0, 0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Legal Description of Nominated Property:

S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1;  
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; N $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; Sec. 12;  
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; N $\frac{1}{2}$  S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 11;  
 T22N., R.64E., M.D.B.&M.

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

STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. E. Wieprecht, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Nevada State Park System

DATE Original 8/25/71

Revision 9/1/76

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street, Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE

702/885-4370

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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



TITLE

*Historic Sites*

DATE

SEP 30 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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Schellbourne

strike. Late in the 1870's, the mines resumed production and the camp was lively; but by 1880 Schellbourne had declined to 50 residents.

In succeeding years, ranchers have used the stone and log buildings in this tree-studded area as their ranch headquarters, as do the present owners.

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Latitude and Longitude Coordinates  
Defining a Rectangle Locating the Property

	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	48	16	114°	43	41
NE	39°	48	16	114°	41	45
SE	39°	47	24	114°	41	45
SW	39°	47	24	114°	43	41