### Inventor - Nomination Form for Federal Properties

#### Name
- **Common**: Lees Ferry Historic District
- **Historic**: Lees Ferry Fort

#### Location
- **Street and Number**: SW 1/4, SE 1/4, T.40N., R.7E & R.8E, Lees Ferry Quadrangle
- **City or Town**: Lees Ferry District, Glen Canyon NRA
- **State**: Arizona
- **Code**: 04
- **County**: Coconino
- **Entry Date**: MAR 15 1976

#### Classification
- **Category (Check One)**: District
- **Ownership (Check One)**: Public
- **Public Acquisition (Check One)**: In Process
- **Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate)**: Agricultural, Commercial, Educational, Commercial, Cultural, Entertainment, Educational, Scientific

#### Agency
- **U.S. National Park Service - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area**
- **Regional Headquarters**: Page, AZ
- **Curtains, Register of Deeds, Etc.**: Salt Lake City, UT

#### Legal Description
- **Establishing Legislation for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area**
- **Depository for Survey Records**: Utah Statewide Archeological Survey: Glen Canyon Series

#### Representation in Existing Surveys
- **Title of Survey**: Archeological Survey of Glen Canyon
- **Date of Survey**: 1956-1963
- **Depository for Survey Records**: Department of Anthropology - University of Utah

**Additional Information**
- **Comments**: recreation - jump off point for Colorado River trips
6. Representation In Existing Surveys

Title: Historic American Buildings Survey #Ariz 58
Date: October, 1966 Federal
Depository: Division of History Studies - National Park Service
Address: Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

7. The Charles H. Spencer (#7), a steamboat 92' long and 26' wide, rests just under the surface of the Colorado River upstream from the Spencer Building. It can be seen partially exposed at low water and through the clear water at high water. Its superstructure has been stripped for salvage but the prow, steam boiler and rear paddle wheel are still discernable. It was part of Spencer's American Placer Corporation mining venture and operation of the 1912 period.

The main ferry site (#8), used during high water from 1873 to 1898 and exclusively from 1898 to 1928, is located at the east end of the district. Ruinous foundations of 2 cabins and 2 corrals are present with a road and dugway leading to the location; pieces of anchor cable are also present.

Historic American Building Survey Ariz. 58 includes drawing for the Fort, Post Office, Chicken House, Root Cellar and Spencer Building.

Future plans for this district include preservation/stabilization/interpretation. Lees Ferry will remain the major jump off point for river running trips through the Grand Canyon, bringing alive to participants the adventure and discovery experienced by Major Powell and the men who followed him.

8. Lees Ferry Historic District contains remnants and evidence of man's activities dating at least from 1776 to present day. Its historic resources trace periods of exploration, pioneer settlement and colonization, frontier commerce, and early southwest mineral exploration and mining activities. That such varied activity over such a lengthy time period should occur in this 120 acre district illustrated the importance of Lees Ferry and its significance in the human history of the southwest territories.
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lees Ferry Historic District is about 120 acres on which are located several significant historical sites that trace the area's history from 1776 to about 1930.

The Dominguez-Escalante October 1776 campsite of San Benito Salsipuedes is located at the west end of the district close to the point of the Shinarump ridge near the river. The general location of this campsite was determined from the Escalante diary; it is doubtful that an archeological investigation could pinpoint the exact campsite since the site has been subjected to Colorado River flooding for about 180 years. Development plans for Lees Ferry include recognition/interpretation of this site.

Lees Lookout site; is a rounded knoll in the northwest part of the district where it is said that John D. Lee had a lookout post. On the knoll is a crude circle of rocks of about 25 feet in diameter which may be a foundation. Major Powell reported this rock circle in October, 1871, 2 months before the arrival of J.D. Lee. The site may be of prehistoric significance but no archeological investigation has ever been conducted.

The Lees Ferry Fort (#1) and associated structures; i.e., the chicken house (#2) and the root cellar (#3) are believed to have been built around 1874. The Fort is a 2 room 34'x20' cut sandstone structure with a sod roof. While there was some preservation work accomplished in the late 1960's, the condition of the Fort is poor. The Chicken House is roughly a 8'x8' sandstone structure with only remanents of the log and twig roof remaining; the walls are in ruinous condition. The Root Cellar located directly north of the Fort is partly dugout in nature measuring 12'x 12'. The earth and log roof has collapsed and the sandstone walls are ruinous. Located midway in the district this complex is in need of a historic resource study to determine its exact history and its overall relationship to the history of Lees Ferry. Preservation/Interpretation will be based on that report.

A short distance west of Lees Ferry Fort is a 20'x 18' rough stone structure with a sod roof supported by beams and lattices. It is referred to as the Post Office (#4) but very little information is available on it. It is believed to have been constructed post 1910. Its condition is poor and the roof is being supported by log props. A historic resources study will determine its exact place in Lees Ferry history.

The Spencer addition (#5) to Lees Ferry Fort was a 26'x 20' structure added to the west wall of Lees Fort in 1911 when Charles Spencer used the complex as a mess hall for his mining operation. There is no roof and the rock and stone walls are ruinous today.

The Spencer Building (#6) is a 30'x 19' rockwall structure with composition and wood roof. This structure is believed to have been built by Charles Spencer in 1913 and used as a bunk house, but a historic resource study is necessary to verify its history. The structure is in fair condition. This is the only one of several Spencer structures remaining that were located in that immediate area.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century
- 19th Century

SPECIAL DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1776 - 1930

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1776 two Franciscan Fathers, Domínguez and Escalante, began exploring for a more direct route from Santa Fe, NM to Monterey, CA, while unsuccessful in their major objective, their discovery and mapping of portions of the canyon country of the southwest was a significant achievement. During their 5 month trip they camped several days and nights at Lees Ferry while trying to cross the Colorado River at that point. They were the first white men to cross Glen Canyon and certainly the information and maps that resulted from their journey aided future southwest exploration.

Jacob Hamblin, a celebrated Mormon scout, explorer, & missionary made the first crossing at Lees Ferry in October of 1869 with 40 men on driftwood rafts fastened together with withes. He was enroute to do missionary work with the Hopi Indians. In the same year Major John Wesley Powell camped one night at Lees Ferry on his first voyage of the Colorado River and used Lees Ferry as a layover point on his second voyage in 1871.

In the early 1870's the Mormon Church established a ferry service at Lees Ferry to provide an avenue of Mormon colonization and settlement between Utah and Arizona. It is the only place below Moab, Utah down river to below the Grand Canyon that the Colorado could be reached without descending into a canyon. Between 1873 and 1929 Lees Ferry served as a major crossing point for a 500 mile stretch of the Colorado River.

In 1874, Lees Ferry Fort was built as a trading post and was meant to serve as a fort in the event of Indian uprisings. It was utilized as a trading post until about 1877, after which it received little use until 1911 when the American Placer Corporation used it as a mess hall for its miners. The Lees Ferry Post Office was established in 1879.

About 1883 gold fever spread through the Glen Canyon region and because of its topography, make up a unique chapter in the mining history of the United States. Robert Brewster Stanton and his Hoskaninni Company used Lees Ferry as a headquarters for mining operations of the lower Glen Canyon region about 1897-1898. The company failed in 1901. In 1911 Charles H. Spencer and his American Placer Corporation set up their main headquarters at Lees Ferry with plans to remove gold through hydraulic mining techniques. Spencer also failed to remove enough gold to make mining worthwhile and his corporation went bankrupt. His company's failure marked the last extensive gold mining in the Glen Canyon region. Lees Ferry remains the only mining field in Glen Canyon not now inundated by Lake Powell.
Pageant in the Wilderness, Herbert E. Bolton, Utah State Historical Society
Salt Lake City, Utah 1972
Lees Ferry Historical Report, C. Gregory and W.L. Rusho, January 1965,
N.P.S. Archives
University of Utah, Anthropological Papers, Glen Canyon Series #9 Outline
History of the Glen Canyon Region 1776-1922, No. 42, September 1959
University of Utah, Anthropological Papers, Glen Canyon Series #12, Histori­
cal Sites in Glen Canyon: Mouth of San Juan River to Lees Ferry, No. 46,
June 1960

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
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<td>36° 52' 12&quot;</td>
<td>111° 34' 28&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>36° 51' 51&quot;</td>
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<tr>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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See insert for revised coordinates and acreage figures.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 120 of which approx. 30 is Class VI

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

<table>
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<th>STATE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Temple A. Reynolds, Superintendent
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 1507
CITY OR TOWN: Page
STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

DATE: 10-14-74
PHONE: 602-645-2471

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation: ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ None

Jennifer McCarthy
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is: National ☐ State.

Deputy Assistant Secretary
Title SEP 22 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ None

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date 3/15/76

ATTEST:
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-14-76
Lees Ferry
Coconino County, ARIZONA
76000374

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED
Addendum Summary:
In 1997, resources at Lee’s Ferry and the adjacent Lonely Dell Ranch were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a single historic district ("Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District"). Restrictions on changes and revisions to properties listed in the National Register prior to December 13, 1980 (see 36 CFR 80) precluded concurrent de-listing of the original Lees Ferry Historic District (1976) and Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District (1978). The following amendments to Sections 7, 8, and 10 identify the variations between the 1976 and the most-recent (1997) evaluation of Lee's Ferry resources.

1. Name of Property
Lee's Ferry is referenced as "Lees Ferry" on, for example, current topographic maps and the 1976 National Register Nomination. The 1997 nomination uses "Lee's Ferry," a name consistently used in historical sources and reflective of the site’s important association with John D. Lee.

7. Description
In the new Lee’s Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch nomination, the following Lee’s Ferry resources were defined as contributing and noncontributing components. Without exception, these resources are located within the boundaries of the original (1976) nomination, although many were not identified in the text or specifically evaluated for their contribution to the historic district. Only the Spencer Trail, partially included within the boundaries of the original nomination, yet not identified as a contributing resource, has been excluded from the boundaries of the new district.

Summary Table of Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

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<tr>
<th>Resource Name</th>
<th>National Register Status</th>
<th>Historic Structure No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee’s Ferry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee’s Lookout</td>
<td>Contributing Site</td>
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<td>Lee’s Ferry Fort</td>
<td>Contributing Building</td>
<td>HS-220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>Contributing Building</td>
<td>HS-221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Coop</td>
<td>Contributing Building</td>
<td>HS-224</td>
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<td>Root Cellar</td>
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<td>East Hogan</td>
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<td>West Hogan</td>
<td>Contributing Site</td>
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<td>Spencer Bunkhouse (a.k.a. Old Spencer Cabin or Spencer Building)</td>
<td>Contributing Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles H. Spencer</td>
<td>Contributing Structure</td>
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### Summary Table of Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (continued)

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<th>Resource Name</th>
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<td>Spencer Boiler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spencer Trail</td>
<td>Excluded from district boundaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Ferry Site (includes ferry landing, and the ruins of two cabins and two stone corrals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Ferry Site</td>
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<td>USGS Building</td>
<td>Noncontributing Building</td>
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<td>NPS Comfort Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPS Parking Area and Launch Ramp</td>
<td>Noncontributing Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPS Maintenance Area</td>
<td>Noncontributing Buildings (4)</td>
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### 10. Geographical Data
The boundaries of the Lee’s Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District do not accord with the combined boundaries of the Lees Ferry Historic District and the Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District. The 1976 Lee’s Ferry boundaries -- a 150-acre box drawn to include all historic resources yet drawn irrespective of land contours and water courses -- include land not historically associated with Lee’s Ferry. This land is concentrated above (north and west) of the 3200’ contour and proceeds well beyond the Spencer Trail, the only historic, above-ground resource included within the boundaries of the 1976 nomination yet excluded from the boundaries of the 1997 nomination. No justification for these boundaries was included in (or required by) the original nomination.

The boundaries of the new combined district incorporate all extant historic resources associated with the upper and original ferry crossing, the Spencer mining operation, and the USGS camp at Colorado River Mile 0. At the south the boundaries follow the north bank of the river; at the east, west and north, they generally follow the 3200’ contour, incorporating Lee’s Lookout, Lonely Dell Ranch, and the Upper Ranch (to the point-of-diversion on the Paria River). At the formal request of the Navajo Nation, these boundaries exclude all land and significant associated resources on the south bank of the Colorado River (including the upper and lower dugways, rock inscriptions, and the USGS gauging station). With the exception of this artificially imposed limit, boundaries correspond to the historic limits of land use: the Paria and the Colorado rivers provide a physical link between seemingly disparate resources while the walls of Paria and Glen canyons and the limited opportunities for soil deposition or wagon access define the north, east, and west boundaries. (Total acreage: 470.)
UTM references for the 1997 Lee’s Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District are listed below. Points H-L incorporate the Lee’s Ferry area. Please see the attached map, where the new boundaries are superimposed on the old.

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11. Addendum Prepared By
name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian
organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc. date: September 1997
street & number: P.O. Box 7086 telephone: 406 721-1958
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807-7086
1. NAME
   COMMON: Lees Ferry Historic District
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Lees Ferry Fort

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Sections 13 & 18, T.40N., R.7E. Lees Ferry Quadrangle-Arizona
   CITY OR TOWN: Lees Ferry District, Glen Canyon NRA
   STATE: Arizona

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service - USD!
   DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Aerial view of Lees Ferry Historic District, looking NE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Lees Ferry Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lees Ferry Fort

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Sections 13 & 18, T.4ON., R.7E. Lees Ferry Quadrangle-Arizona

CITY OR TOWN:
Lees ferry District, Glen Canyon NRA

STATE:
Arizona

CODE:
04

COUNTY:
Coconino

CODE:
005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:
National Park Service - USDI

DATE OF PHOTO:
September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Main ferry site ruins
COMMON: Lees Ferry Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Lees Ferry Fort

STREET AND NUMBER: Sections 13 & 18, T.40N., R.7E. Lees Ferry Quadrangle, Arizona

CITY OR TOWN: Lees Ferry District, Glen Canyon NRA

STATE: Arizona

PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service - USDI

DATE OF PHOTO: September 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Lees Ferry Fort Complex - Chicken house in foreground, Lees Ferry Fort with Spencer Addition in left rear, and the Post Office in the right rear.
Historic District (1978)

Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District (1997).

Hatching indicates previously listed land excluded from 1997 historic district.