Ryan House and Lost Horse Well or Spring (H.S.-8)
(Lost Horse Well, later called Ryan Well)

STREET AND NUMBER: Joshua Tree National Monument
CITY OR TOWN: Twentynine Palms
STATE: California
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 43

OWNERSHIP: Public *
STATUS: Occupied
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Private Residence

OTHER (Specify):

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Joshua Tree National Monument
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 450 Golden Gate Ave., 36063
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco
STATE: California

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal
STATE: California
COUNTY: Riverside
ENTRY DATE: JUN 5 1975
RECEIVED: OCT 30 1974
NATIONAL REGISTER
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 ½-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)
### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

#### PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [x] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [ ] 19th Century
- [x] 20th Century

#### SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1890s

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [x] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [x] Other (Specify): mining

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

3rd Order

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.
Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 16 acres

WIND + LATITUDE

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<th>CORNER</th>
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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>33° 59' 11&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>33° 59' 11&quot;</td>
<td>116° 06' 46&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>01° 01&quot;</td>
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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<td>California</td>
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<td>Riverside</td>
<td>065</td>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Denver Service Center, NPS

STREET AND NUMBER: 7200 West Alameda

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

12. CERTIFICATION OF Nomination

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

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 ☐ Local ☐ National ☐ State

National Register Verification

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

DIRECTOR, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

Date
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<th>1. NAME</th>
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<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
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<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drive to the end of the property entrance road. Look northeast to see the front and west side of the Ryan House.</td>
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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER