**Form 10-306**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

**FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

**(Type all entries in complete applicable sections)**

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**1. NAME**

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Mc Bride Ranch

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**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

(see continuation sheet)

CITY OR TOWN: Amarillo, Texas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 13th District - Texas

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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY (Check One)**

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure
- Object
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**OWNERSHIP**

- Public
- Private
- Both

**STATUS**

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress
- Being Considered

**ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC**

- Yes:
  - Restricted
  - Unrestricted

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Agricultural
- Government
- Park
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Other (Specify)

- Educational
- Military
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

- Entertainment
- Museum
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

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**4. AGENCY**

U. S. Government, Site is on BOR lands; is administered by NPS

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Bureau of Reclamation/NPS

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC

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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Potter County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Amarillo

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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:** None

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

- Federal
- State

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**

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The ranch house is a partial dugout constructed of native limestone. It is a two room structure, the rooms being separated by a frame wall and a limestone fireplace facing into the north room. 12 x 12" bridge timbers form the ridge beams, which span from the end walls to the fireplace. The roof has a pitch of approximately 1 1/2:12, and is constructed of 2 x 6" joists approximately 18" on center. It is sheathed with 4" T & G fir flooring, and is roofed with 30# asphalt-impregnated rolled roofing secured at the seams with wood lath to prevent curling in the high winds typical of the area. The structure has 6 over 6 single hung windows in the north and west walls, and 6 light fixed windows in the south and east walls. The exact type of original door is unknown, but the structure presently contains 2 over 2 paneled doors typical to the area and period. All window and door openings were spanned by shallow segmental arches. The floors consisted of a trowelled mortar made in place with slaked quicklime paste and natural soil. The stone walls were plastered with a lime plaster made with sand from the nearby creek bed. All the lime was fired in a kiln on the ranch about 1/2 mile from the ranch house.

This structure has been carefully restored by the National Park Service in accordance with an approved Historic Structures Report prepared by A. Lewis Koue in 1970, with the exception that the windows and doors were replaced rather than just screened, the floor was repaired, and some replastering of the interior walls was undertaken. Wherever possible, the interior plaster (including the graffiti, some of which is in itself a historic document) was preserved. Additional historical research was carried out prior to the work in the form of personal interviews with Mrs. Monte Rockwell, daughter of Dave McBride and resident of the structure during part of her childhood. This resulted in one correction to the Koue report (the porch was never finished; the photograph contained in the report, rather than being taken during construction, was taken late in the occupancy of the McBrides, and shows it in a state of disrepair). These interviews also provided the basis for the type of windows and doors used in the restoration.

The restoration work consisted of straightening the toppling fireplace chimney, straightening the collapsing east wall and installing a subsurface drainage system and retaining wall to prevent future damage to the wall, reconstruction of the roof (substantial amounts of the roof remained to give us documentary evidence, but none was sound enough to be retained), repointing of the stone walls, replacement of the doors and windows, and repair to the interior floor and plaster. The chain-link fence surrounding the structure, although a visual intrusion, was retained for the time being to protect it from vandalism, since the structure is located in an infrequently patrolled area.

The remains of two other minor structures associated with the ranch house are still in existence. According to Mrs. Rockwell, there was an ice house constructed of salvage bridge timbers and insulated with hay bales. This structure has totally collapsed and there remains only a pile of heavy timbers within the fenced area. There is also a dugout storage shed or garage near the road several hundred feet to the south of the house. This structure does not date to the McBride period. It is relatively intact, but unsound.
The McBride House is the oldest remaining ranch house in Potter County and has been designated as being worthy of preservation by the Potter County Historical Survey Committee.

The initial establishment of ranches in the Lake Meredith area began in the late 1870's. At this time cattle companies were staking huge tracks of land throughout the Texas Panhandle. In 1897 David Nicholas McBride purchased four sections of land from a British concern, the American Pastoral Company, one of the large land and cattle companies which operated in this area. For a few years McBride and his family lived in a frame house on the land. Then, in 1903, he built his new home, a limestone rock building, in the area now known as McBride Canyon. Today the structure is the oldest remaining ranch house in Potter County and is one of the most substantial structures in the park which dates from the early ranching era. As McBride Canyon has become a focal point for recreational activities, the house is very accessible. It constitutes a worthwhile reminder of the initial and still important economic pursuit by Anglo-Americans in this area.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.2

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

STATE: CODE
STATE: CODE
STATE: CODE
STATE: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

David G. Battle, Historical Architect

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 728

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe,

STATE: New Mexico

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

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

State Liaison Officer Signature: [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

State Liaison Officer Signature: [Signature]

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/23/75

ATTEST:

Keepers of the National Register

Date: APR 22, 1975
2. LOCATION

The McBride Ranch House is located at the head of the McBride Canyon in Sanford Recreation Area. It is reached from Texas Route 136 by approximately 6 miles of paved road.
McBride House
Lake Meredith Recreation Area
April 6, 1975
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. NAME</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>COMMON: McBride Ranch House</td>
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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC: McBride Ranch House</td>
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<td>STREET AND NUMBER: (see continuation sheet)</td>
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<td>CITY OR TOWN: Lake Meredith Recreation Area</td>
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<td>STATE: Texas</td>
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<td>CODE: 48</td>
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<td>COUNTY: Potter</td>
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<td>PHOTO CREDIT: Richard W. Sellars</td>
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<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.: McBride Ranch House, west elevation</td>
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**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION**
# 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)**

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<td><strong>And/or Historic:</strong> McBride Ranch House</td>
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<td><strong>Photo Credit:</strong></td>
<td>David G. Battle</td>
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<td>3/9/72</td>
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<td><strong>Negative Filed At:</strong></td>
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**Property of the National Register**

### State: Texas
### County: Potter