

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

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)

STATE:	Utah
COUNTY:	Grand
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 20 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Turnbow Cabin

AND/OR HISTORIC:
~~Wolfe Ranch Historical District~~

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *W of Moab in Arches Natl Monument*
13½ miles north of Arches Visitor Center at Delicate Arch trailhead

CITY OR TOWN: Moab *vic.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Utah CODE 49 COUNTY: Grand



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building	☒ Public	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☐ Private	☒ Unoccupied	☒ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered		☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. AGENCY

National Park Service,		STATE: UTAH
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Rocky Mountain Region	STREET AND NUMBER: 655 Parfet	COUNTY: GRAND
CITY OR TOWN: Denver	STATE: Colorado	CODE 05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Park Service files, Federal Building	
STREET AND NUMBER: 446 South Main	
CITY OR TOWN: Moab	STATE: Utah CODE 49

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Structures Inventory	
DATE OF SURVEY: Nov., 1965	☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service	
STREET AND NUMBER: U. S. Department of the Interior	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C. CODE 08

STATE: UTAH	COUNTY: GRAND	ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 20 1975	DATE: NOV 20 1975
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

☐ Excellent☐ Good☒ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The remaining structures of Wolfe Ranch are located near the bank of Salt Wash, in a desolate valley flanked by the upturned strata of the Salt Valley Anticline. Because rainfall is scanty (less than ten inches per year), the wash is often dry, but flash floods commonly occur after summer cloudbursts. Sagebrush, greasewood, and saltbush dominate the uplands; tamarisk and various grasses and sedges line the wash. The valley is floored by the green shale of the Morrison Formation. The Morrison, with its high concentrations of selenium and salts, produces a heavy soil, poorly suited for agricultural purposes. A strong flowing, freshwater spring is located in a narrow side canyon about three quarters of a mile from the structures.

The Wolfe Ranch includes a small cabin (HS 1), a dugout cellar (HS 2), and a corral (HS 3). The walls and foundations of the cabin and cellar are of unhewn, knotted cottonwood and juniper logs. The roofs are also of log, with shale and juniper bark on top and in the cracks. The one room cabin is 15' X 17', with one doorway and one window. There is no ceiling, and in the middle of the rough plank floor, a large juniper post supports the roof. The dugout cellar is 12' X 12', with one doorway and no floor. The corral is approximately 50' X 75', with juniper posts and rails.

In November and December of 1967, emergency stabilization was carried out. Plastic and canvas material was incorporated into the roofs of the cabin and the cellar to prevent leakage. Additional shale and juniper bark was placed on the roofs and in wall crevices. Excess dirt was removed from the inside of the dugout cellar. All corral posts were removed and reset, rotten posts were replaced with new posts from a similar corral on BLM land.

The cabin and cellar were built in 1907 by John Wesley Wolfe, his son Fred, and his son-in-law, Ed Stanley. Wolfe sold the ranch in 1910 to Tommy Larson. Marvin Turnbow bought the ranch in 1914 and the cabin became locally known as Turnbow Cabin. In 1938 the ranch became a part of Arches National Monument. In 1971 the site was officially dedicated as Wolfe Ranch Environmental Study Area.

The appearance of the structures has changed very little since 1907. Due to flooding, Wolfe's dam, irrigation ditches, and garden have been almost totally lost.

Preservation is the recommended level of treatment. Significance is local, 3rd order.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1888 - present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☒ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Because of hostile Indians and rugged terrain, permanent settlement was slow to come to southeast Utah. In 1877, Moab, on the Colorado River at the foot of the LaSal Mountains was established. By 1883, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was completed and Indian hostilities had become less frequent.

In 1888, John Wesley Wolfe, a disabled Civil War veteran from Ohio and his son, Fred, arrived in the area and either bought or built a cabin on the banks of Salt Wash, in an isolated valley about halfway between Moab and the railroad at Thompson Springs. They dammed the wash and irrigated a garden with the impounded water. Drinking water came from a spring about three quarters of a mile away. They grazed cattle under the Bar DX brand. In 1906 Wolfe's daughter, son-in-law, and their two small children arrived, and a new cabin and a dugout cellar were built for them in the spring of 1907. The logs for the structures came from banks of the Colorado, six miles away. The newcomers stayed for less than two years and then moved to Moab. In 1910 Wolfe sold the ranch and he and Fred moved back east. Shortly thereafter the original cabin was destroyed in a flash flood; the "new" cabin and dugout cellar were left unharmed.

Historically, the activities of man on the Colorado Plateau have been a function of his ability to exploit and control its meager water resources. Wolfe's ranching operation on Salt Wash is an excellent example of early subsistence farming and grazing in a marginal environment.

The crudeness of the remaining structures reflects the harshness of the environment, not a lack of skill in construction. Because building materials were so scarce, no two logs used were of the same size or shape. By expertly fitting the logs together, these men created durable, unique structures, which are all that remains of one of the earliest ranches in Southeast Utah.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grand Memories, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1972

Esther Rison, written communication, Park files, Arches National Park

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 38 ° 44 ' 31.21	Degrees Minutes Seconds 109 ° 30 ' 31.50 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	38 ° 44 ' 31.21	109 ° 31 ' 30.38 "	48			
SE	38 ° 44 ' 9 "	109 ° 31 ' 30.38 "	48			
SW	38 ° 44 ' 9 "	109 ° 30 ' 31.50 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 70

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Utah	49	Grand	019
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David B. Loope, Seasonal Park Ranger		DATE: May 28, 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Canyonlands National Park		
STREET AND NUMBER: 446 South Main		PHONE: (801) 259-7167
CITY OR TOWN: Moab	STATE Utah	CODE 49

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

William J. Smith
 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

Charles W. Loope SEP 5 1975
 Federal Representative Signature Date
 Deputy Assistant Secretary
 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

LeRoy L. Rogers
 Acting
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/20/75

ATTEST:

Charles W. Loope
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 11.14.75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	SEP 9 1975
DATE ENTERED	NOV 20 1975

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

Wolfe Ranch Historical District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

Summary Statement of Significance

The Wolfe Ranch Historical District is significant as an example of how man learned despite the harshness of the environment to exploit and control this country in southeast Utah; man's survival in this country was constantly threatened by hostile Indians, the rugged terrain, and the absence of an adequate water supply. The structures the settlers like John Wesley Wolfe erected are a testimonial to their ingenuity. Moreover, because of the scarcity of building materials, which required a great measure of implementation to "make do" with what they had, the structures erected while durable were unique. They reflected little uniformity in construction as no two logs were of the same size or shape. Such structures as still stand are all that remains of the earliest ranches in this country.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Utah	
COUNTY Grand	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 20 1975	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Turnbow Cabin			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Wolfe Ranch Historical District			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Arches National Park, 13½ mi. north of Visitor Center			
CITY OR TOWN: Moab			
STATE: Utah	CODE 49	COUNTY: Grand	CODE 019
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: D. B. Loope			
DATE OF PHOTO: 3/15/74			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arches National Park, Moab, Utah			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking northwest from knoll above swinging bridge.			

