

PH0671941

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAY 19 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

* *

Lonely Dell

AND/OR COMMON

Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Page

☒ VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Coconino

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

80225

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Coconino County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Birch Street

CITY, TOWN

Flagstaff

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

"Archeological Survey of Glen Canyon"

DATE

1956-1963

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSUtah Statewide Archeological Survey: Glen Canyon Series
University of Utah

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
—GOOD
☒FAIR

☒DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒UNALTERED
—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District consists of a cemetery, an orchard, farmlands, remnants of an irrigation system, two water settling ponds, and five historic structures. The 160 acres that comprise the historic district were originally homesteaded by John D. Lee and his wife Emma in the 1870's, and were purchased by the National Park Service in 1974. The structures, agricultural lands, and the surrounding arid territory all help support the theme of the historic district as being a typical subsistence farm/ranch of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the American Southwest.

Lee's Cabin, Building No. 7, may have been constructed by John D. Lee, but that fact is uncertain. This one-story, one room cabin was built with the remnants of boats or rafts, and has random notching. The cabin has shake shingles on a gabled roof, with rafter ends extended for eaves. On the east side of the structure there is a modern flagstone porch, covered by a shed roof.

The east elevation contains a doorway with a board and batten door, and the west elevation has a window opening with a double-hung sash. A sliding sash window is at the south elevation, and the north elevation has a doorway with a board and batten "dutch" door.

The interior of the cabin has been whitewashed.

Building No. 8 is known as the Blacksmith Shop and like Lee's Cabin this structure may have been built by Lee. The cabin is constructed of hewn logs, probably the remnants of river craft, and has a gabled roof with shake shingles.

There are single window openings at both the north and west elevations. The east wall has a doorway with a board and batten door, and the south elevation is unfenestrated.

The Dugout Cellar, Building No. 9, maybe one of the original structures completed by Lee after his arrival at the site. The cellar has one room, masonry walls, and a "flattened" gabled roof with four log purlins supporting the pole and dirt roof.

Building No. 10, the Weaver Ranch House, was originally built by the Grand Canyon Cattle Company in 1916. It is a one-story, fenestrated, uncoursed rubblestone masonry structure with a gabled roof. On the west end of the house there is a small masonry vestibule. In the late 1930's Leo Weaver, the owner at that time, added a gabled roof, frame addition to the east end of the building giving the house its present T-shape. This three bedroom structure with multiple pane sash is connected to the original stone structure by two breezeways.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

List of Classified Structures Inventory
An on-going Federal survey
National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Denver, Colorado

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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1

The Barn (Building No. 11) is of log construction, with reverse saddle notching. There is a widened entrance to this structure that originally had a sod roof, now covered with boards.

At the north end of the ranch there is a cemetery, which has twenty known grave sites, and contains wind-eroded headstones dating from 1879 to 1928. To the east of the cemetery there is a cultivated field, the farmlands, and on the west border of this area there are the remnants of an irrigation system built by Lee and improved on by subsequent owners. Near here there are also two water settling ponds that made the water from the Paria River useable, and at the southern end of the ranch is an orchard.

Within the district there are several modern U.S.G.S. structures, a gaging station, and a cableway that have no historic value.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☒ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		Southwest pioneer settlement

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-1939 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Uncertain

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lonely Dell was an important link in the Southwest expansionist policies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the late nineteenth century. The ranch is located at what was once the important crossing of the Colorado River near its confluence with the Paria River, and served as a "way-stop" for Mormon immigrants traveling to the Little Colorado River valley in northern Arizona. Here at the threshold to the new lands John Doyle Lee, then an exiled Mormon leader, established a subsistence farm/ranch. Today, Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District typifies pioneer subsistence efforts in the Southwest during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Lonely Dell was established by the then infamous pariah of the Mormon Church, John Doyle Lee. Having been excommunicated from the Church of Latter-Day Saints in 1870 for his involvement in the Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857, Lee, on the advice of a friend, left Utah to settle at that junction of the Colorado and Paria Rivers in the Arizona Territory.

Lee's destination was the only point for several hundred miles along the Colorado River where travelers could descend to the river with little difficulty, and then cross the turbulent Colorado waters. That fact assured the future importance of the area for Lee.

Lee arrived at the location around Christmas in 1871 with two of his nineteen families. Soon after their arrival at the isolated spot Lee's wife, Emma Bachelor Lee, who was to be settled at the site commented: "Oh, what a lonely dell."¹ Emma's phrase appealed to Lee, who subsequently named the area Lonely Dell. The group then set about the task of establishing a ranch that would support Emma and her children, and any passersby who happened to stop when traveling between Utah and Arizona.

¹ Juanita Brooks, John Doyle Lee: Zealot-Pioneer-Scapegoat (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1962), p. 307.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brooks, Juanita. John Doyle Lee: Zealot-Pioneer-Scapegoat. Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1962.

Scamehorn, H. Lee. "Historic Structure Report, Lee's Ranch: Historical Data Section." Manuscript, National Park Service, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 160

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	4,4,7	4,0,0	4,0,8,0	8,7,5	B	1,2	4,4,7	4,0,0	4,0,8,0	1,2,5
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,2	4,4,6	5,7,5	4,0,8,0	1,2,5	D	1,2	4,4,6	5,7,5	4,0,8,0	8,7,5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The East boundary begins at a point on the escarpment northeast of the Paria River, and goes in a southerly direction for 804.67 meters (2,640 ft.). The boundary then turns west for the same distance - across the Paria River, along a fence, and across the access road to the ranch - to form the South border. The boundary goes north, for 804.67 meters again, crossing some high ground and the Paria River to a point northwest of the cemetery. The North boundary goes in an easterly direction for the same distance to the point where the East boundary began.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James A. Muhn, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DATE

April 27, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-2764

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Dorothy H. Hall

DATE

2-8-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *William Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/19/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-12-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The year 1873 saw the start of an organized Mormon effort to settle the valley of the Little Colorado River, and therefore the need of a regular ferry operation near the confluence of the Colorado and Paria Rivers, Lees Ferry. Since Lee was located near the site the Mormon Church offered him the responsibility of managing the ferry, and Lee gladly accepted. He helped the Church construct a better ferry and access road to the landing area, and then kept the operation running. Late in 1873 and into the next year, Lee was frequently absent from Lonely Dell because of his fear of being arrested by federal authorities for his part in the Mountain Meadows incident. He was finally arrested in late 1874, and after two trials was executed.

In 1879, the ranch was obtained by the Mormon Church from Emma Lee. Responsibility for the operation of the ranch and ferry was given to an agent of the Church, Warren Johnson. Tragedy struck that same year when a diphtheria epidemic hit the ranch, and four of Johnson's children died, being buried in the cemetery at the ranch.

In 1909, after the ferry lost its importance, the Mormon Church sold the ranch to the Grand Canyon Cattle Company. Subsequently, the ranch went through the ownership of Jeremiah Johnson, one of Warren Johnson's sons, and then it was repurchased by the Mormon Church. In 1936, the ranch was bought by Leo Weaver, who hoped to convert it into a tourist resort but failed. Between 1939-1974, Lonely Dell had several owners until it was obtained by the National Park Service as a part of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in 1974.

Currently, the National Park Service is stabilizing and preserving the log structures for supportive interpretation of the Lees Ferry story. A suitable adaptive use is being explored for the Weaver Ranch House, and limited farming is being carried out at the ranch, including the maintenance of the orchard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District
Coconino County, ARIZONA
78000277

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

 11/16/97

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 1 (Addendum)

Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District

Addendum Summary:

In 1997, resources at Lonely Dell Ranch and adjacent Lee's Ferry 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 60.14 -60.15 36 CFR 80) precluded concurrent de-listing of the original Lees Ferry Historic District and Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District. The following amendments to Sections 7 and 10 identify the variations between this (1978) and the most-recent (1997) evaluation of Lee's Ferry resources.

7. Description

In the 1997 Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch nomination, the following Lonely Dell Ranch resources were defined as contributing or noncontributing components. All historic above-ground resources included within the boundaries of the original Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District are also included within the boundaries of the new historic district. In addition, the boundaries have been expanded to the north to incorporate resources and the land base associated with the Lonely Dell "Upper Ranch."

Summary Table of Contributing/NonContributing Resources

Resource Name	National Register Status	Historic Structure No.
Emma's Cabin (aka Lee's Cabin or J.D. Lee Ranch House)	Contributing Building	HS-232
Blacksmith Shop	Contributing Building	HS-233
Warren Johnson House Foundation	Contributing Site	HS-237
Root Cellar (aka Dugout Cellar)	Contributing Building	HS-234
Bar Z Cattle Co. Bunkhouse/Weaver Ranch House	Contributing Building	HS-235
Jackson's Cabin(?) (aka "Picture Window Shack or Barn)	Contributing Building	HS-236
Settling Ponds	Noncontributing Structures (2)	N/A
Ranch Cemetery	Contributing Site	N/A
Irrigation System	Contributing Structure	N/A
Upper Ranch		
Two-room Frame Cabin	Contributing Building	N/A
Tack Shed	Contributing Building	N/A
Stone Hogan	Contributing Site	N/A
Corral	Noncontributing Structure	N/A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	10	Page	2 (Addendum)	Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District
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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. These earlier Lonely Dell Ranch boundaries excluded the Upper Ranch resources (including much of the irrigation system) and the upper-ranch land base. Additional research, undertaken as part of the 1997 evaluation, revealed that these resources were significantly associated with the ranch/ferry site and retained sufficient integrity to contribute to the historic district.

The boundaries of the combined historic district, as defined in the 1997 nomination, 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.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10, 11 Page 3 (Addendum) Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District

UTM references for the 1997 Lee's Ferry/Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District are listed below. Points A-G and M-P incorporate the Lonely Dell Ranch area. Please see the attached map, where the new boundaries are superimposed on the old.

POINT	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	12	4453600	40828200
B	12	4455600	40827600
C	12	4460000	40822500
D	12	4459100	40821500
E	12	4462800	40810900
F	12	4466700	40809350
G	12	4466100	40811000
H	12	4475200	40779950
I	12	4477300	40803500
J	12	4486500	40795100
K	12	4464700	40791300
L	12	4470000	40799100
M	12	4460800	40808700
N	12	4457500	40806600
O	12	4459900	40809700
P	12	4459400	40816900

11. Addendum Prepared By

name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian

organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc.

street & number: P.O. Box 7086

city or town: Missoula

state: MT

date: September 1997

telephone: 406 721-1958

zip code: 59807-7086



Colomino County

SUBJECT: Lonely Dell Ranch
Historic District

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Unknown

DATE: September 1974

NEGATIVE: National Park Service
Glen Canyon NRA

DESCRIPTION: Aerial view of Lonely Dell
Ranch looking south

PHOTO NUMBER: 1 ⁴⁸

MAY 19 1978

FEB 28 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Cocoma County

SUBJECT: Lee's Cabin (Bldg. #7)
Lonely Dell Ranch
Historic District

~~308~~

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA FEB 28 1978

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Olivieri

DATE: February 1976

NEGATIVE: National Park Service

Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking southwest at the
north and east elevations

PHOTO NUMBER: 248

MAY 19 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Coconino County

SUBJECT: Blacksmith Shop (Bldg. #8) ~~208~~

Lonely Dell Ranch

Historic District

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Olivieri

DATE: February 1976

NEGATIVE: National Park Service

Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking southwest at the
north and east elevations

PHOTO NUMBER: 3 *78*

FEB 28 1978
MAY 18 1978



Coconino County

SUBJECT: Dugout Cellar (Bldg. #9) ~~48~~

Lonely Dell Ranch

Historic District

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Olivieri

DATE: February 1976

NEGATIVE: National Park Service

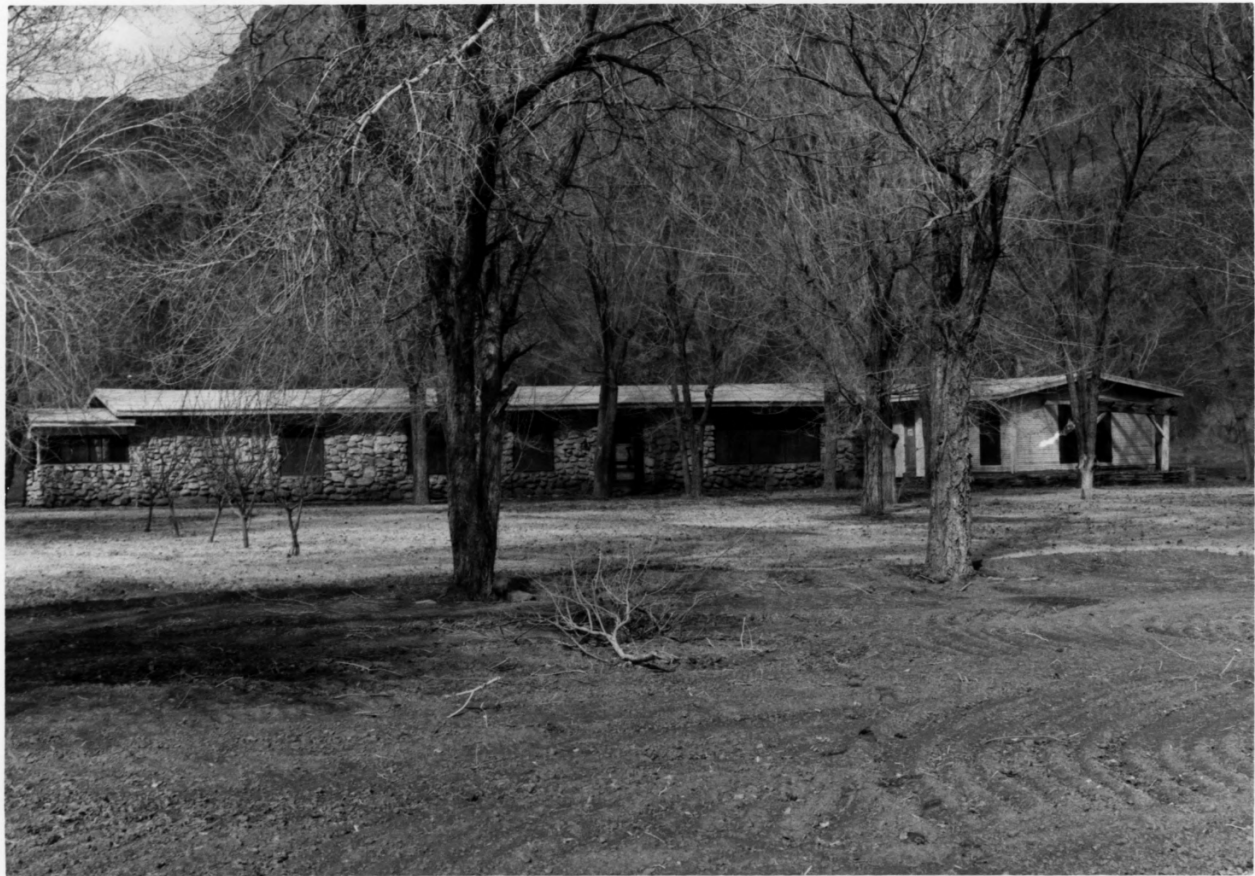
Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking at front elevation

PHOTO NUMBER: 4 ~~28~~

MAY 19 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Coconino County

SUBJECT: Weaver Ranch House (Bldg. #10)
Lonely Dell Ranch
Historic District

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Olivieri

DATE: February 1976

NEGATIVE: National Park Service

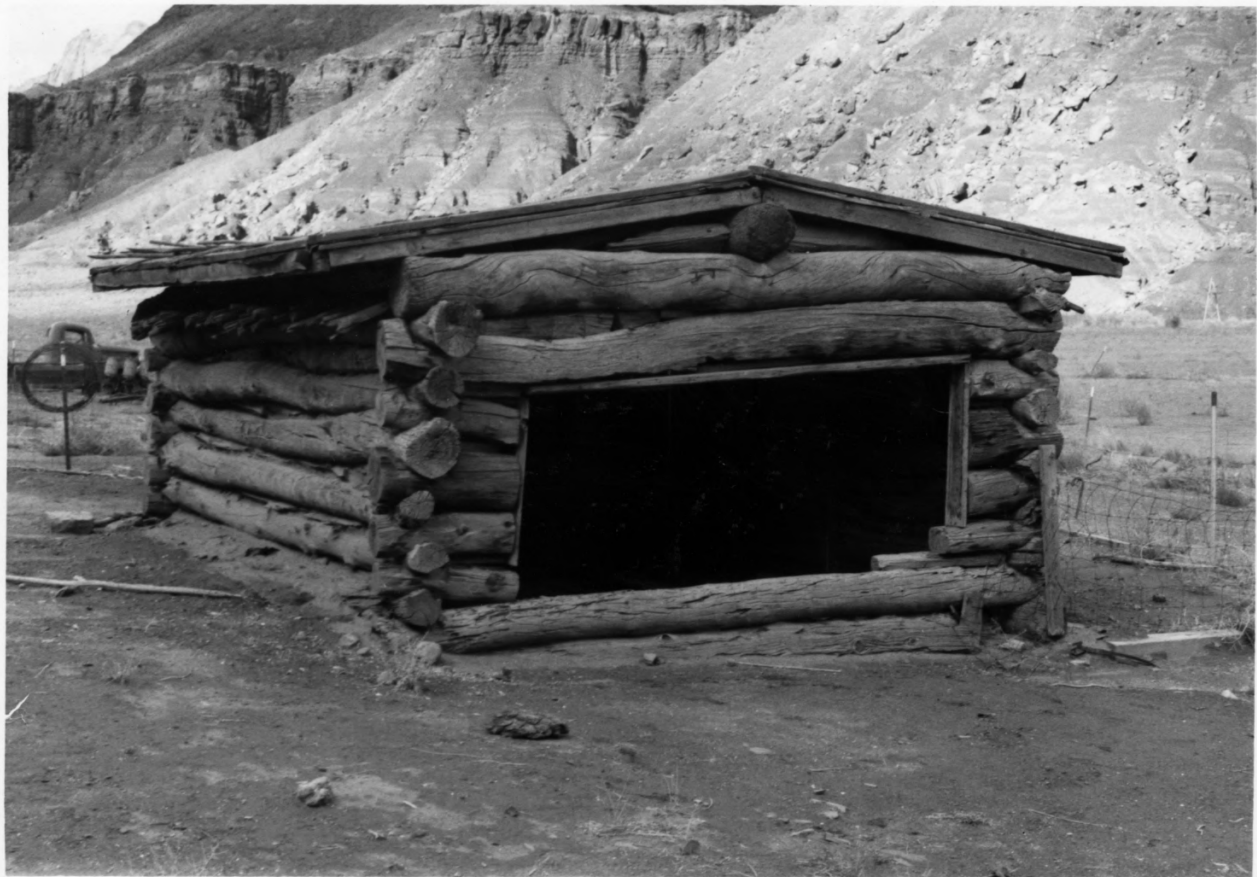
Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking north at the south
elevation

PHOTO NUMBER: 528

MAY 19 1978

FEB 28 1978



COCONINO County

SUBJECT: Barn (Bldg. #11)

Lonely Dell Ranch

Historic District

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Olivieri

DATE: February 1976

NEGATIVE: National Park Service

Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking northwest at the
south and east elevations

PHOTO NUMBER: 6 ⁷⁸

~~18~~
FEB 28 1978
MAY 19 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Coconino County

SUBJECT: Cemetery
Lonely Dell Ranch
Historic District

FEB ~~6 8~~
28 1978

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Olivieri

DATE: February 1976

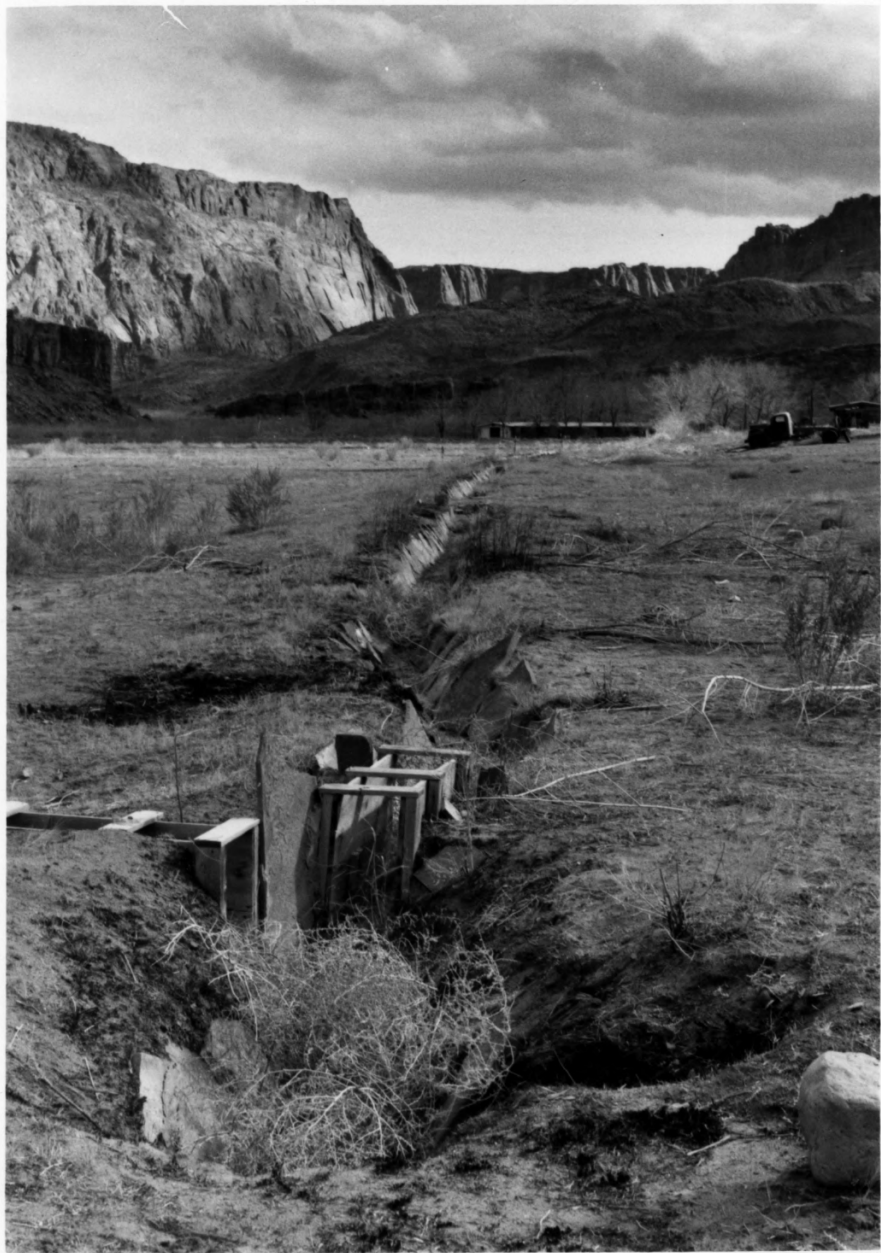
NEGATIVE: National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking southeast at
headstones in cemetery

PHOTO NUMBER: 7 48

MAY 19 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Cocoma County

SUBJECT: Irrigation Ditch
Lonely Dell Ranch
Historic District

FEB 28 1978

LOCATION: Glen Canyon NRA

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lance Williams

DATE: February 1976

NEGATIVE: National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office

DESCRIPTION: Looking southeast

PHOTO NUMBER: 8 88

MAY 19 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER