

# 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:	California
COUNTY:	Riverside
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 5 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Ryan House and Lost Horse Well or Spring (H.S.-8)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**(Lost Horse Well, later called Ryan Well)**

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Joshua Tree National Monument**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Twentynine Palms**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**43**

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Riverside** CODE: **065**

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public * <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
*life tenure to private party			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

### 4. AGENCY

**National Park Service**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
**Western Region**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**San Francisco**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 450 Golden Gate Ave., 36063**

STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Joshua Tree National Monument**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Twentynine Palms**

STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

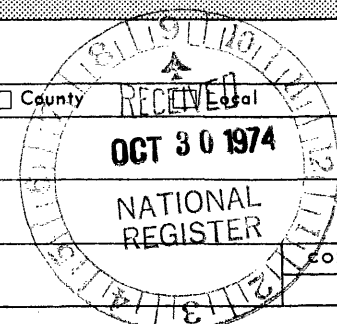
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:     Federal     State     County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:    STATE:    CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California  
COUNTY: Riverside  
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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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 1/2-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)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1890s**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>mining</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____   |

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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library

Benjamin Levy, "Lost Horse Mine, Historic Structures Report, Part I, Historical Data," Division of History, NPS, Washington, March 1969

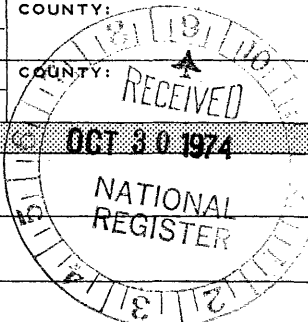
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 33° 59' 11"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 116° 08' 58"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ' ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ' ' "	
NE	33° 59' 11"	116° 08' 46"				
SE	33° 59' 01"	116° 08' 46"				
SW	' ' 01"	116° 08' 58"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **16 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California	06	Riverside	065
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian** DATE: **Dec. 1971**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Denver Service Center, NPS**

STREET AND NUMBER: **7200 West Alameda** PHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

*[Signature]*  
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

Local  
*[Signature]* **MAR 28 1974**  
Federal Representative Signature Date  
**ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR,**  
**WESTERN REGION**

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

*[Signature]*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/5/75

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 2 1975



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)

STATE California	
COUNTY	
Riverside	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 5 1975	DATE

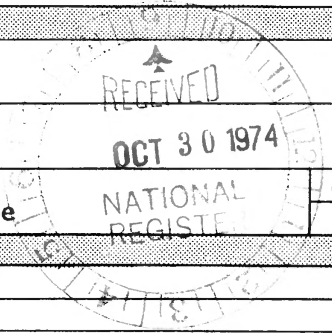
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AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
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CITY OR TOWN:  
Twentynine Palms  
STATE: California CODE 06 COUNTY: Riverside CODE 065



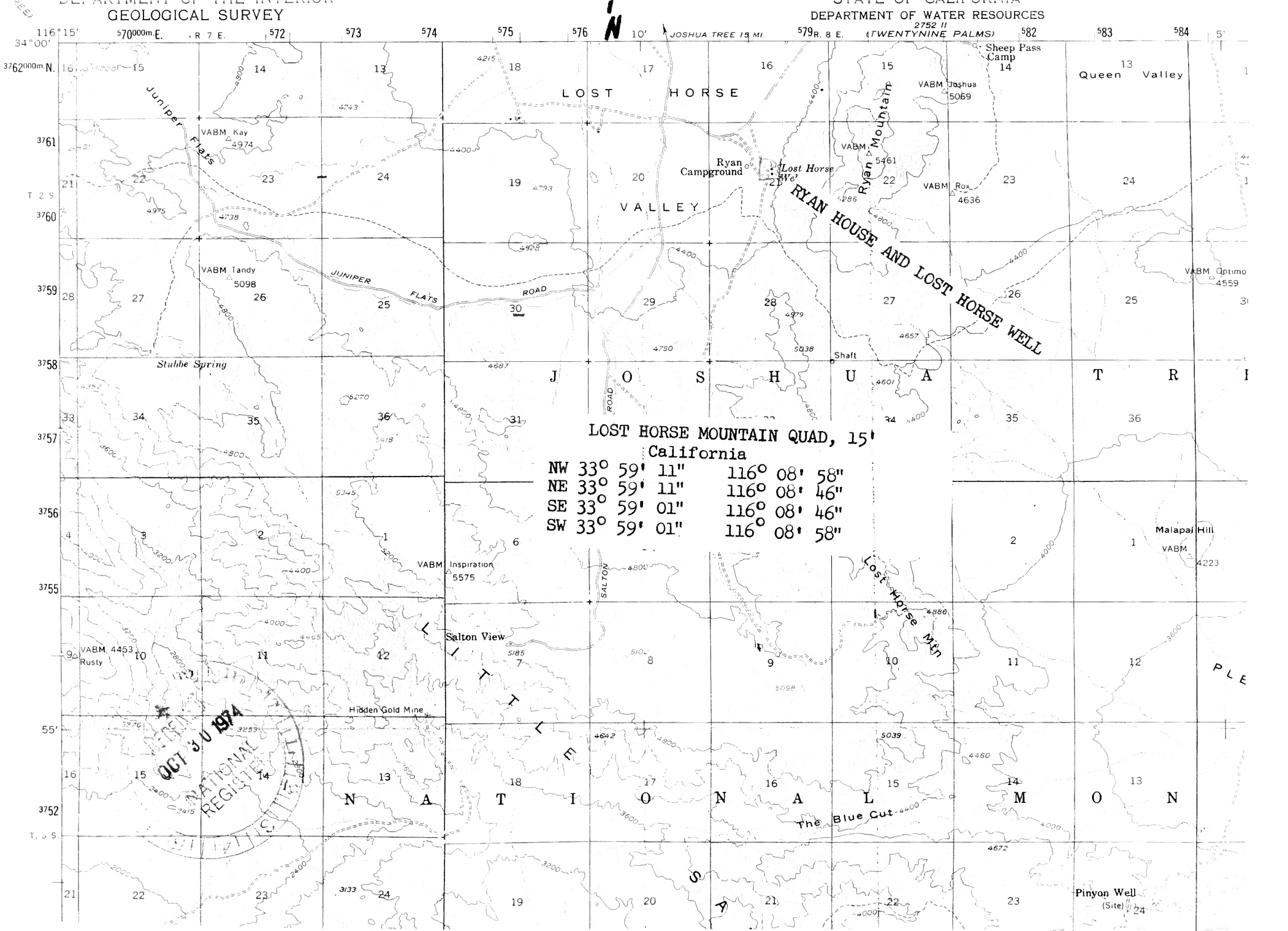
3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service  
DATE OF PHOTO: December 1971  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Joshua Tree National Monument  
Twentynine Palms, California

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
Drive to the end of the property entrance road. Look northeast to see the front and west side of the Ryan House.

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**



LOST HORSE MOUNTAIN QUAD, 15'

California

NW	33° 59' 11"	116° 08' 58"
NE	33° 59' 11"	116° 08' 46"
SE	33° 59' 01"	116° 08' 46"
SW	33° 59' 01"	116° 08' 58"

OCT 30 1974  
 NATIONAL REGISTER