National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2007

# Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company
Mojave National Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West
Regional Office
Seattle

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Seattle, WA 98104

Cultural Resource
Programs

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# CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY (CLI)
# 2007

## Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company
Mojave National Preserve

Mojave National Preserve concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **B: Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

9-20-07

Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve — Date

Please return to:

Erica Owens
Historical Landscape Architect
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office - Seattle
909 First Avenue, Floor 5
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

H32

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

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**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**
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COPY

June 8, 2007

Dr. Bob Bryson
Chief of Cultural Resources
United State Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mojave National Preserve
2701 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311

Subject: **Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company**
**National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Dr. Bryson:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Rick Springs Land and Cattle Company National Register nomination which I have signed as commenting authority. In my opinion, the property meets National Register criterion A in the area of agriculture during the years 1894 to 1954 for its association with the rise of cattle ranching and related industry in California.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this nomination. If you have any questions, please call Cynthia Howse, Supervisor, Registration Unit, at 916-653-9054.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

## Table of Contents

# Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

## Inventory Summary

### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

### CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B); and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI maintained by Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, is the official source of cultural landscape information.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included on the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history,

significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist or the nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of the landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work.

In contrast, the CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It, therefore, requires an additional level of research and documentation both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape in order to recommend preservation treatment that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

### Inventory Unit Description:

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District comprises about 854,000 acres of high desert in the vicinity of Needles and Barstow, California. The vast property, in use as cattle range from the 1880s to 2001, is scattered with hundreds of buildings, structures and features dating from the 19th century to the present, most of which are related to water distribution. Between 1928 and 1931 the original million-acre ranch was broken up to include the Kessler Springs Ranch of about 300,000 acres, the OX Ranch of about 400,000 acres and the Valley View Ranch of about 300,000 acres. The new owners during the 1930s developed their ranches into well-organized, post-Taylor Grazing Act cattle raising operations, setting the scene for their successors who ranched the lands in a traditional manner until recently. The period of significance for the district is 1894 to 1954. It possesses historic integrity in regard to aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Due to its continuing use, the extant features are generally in good to fair condition.

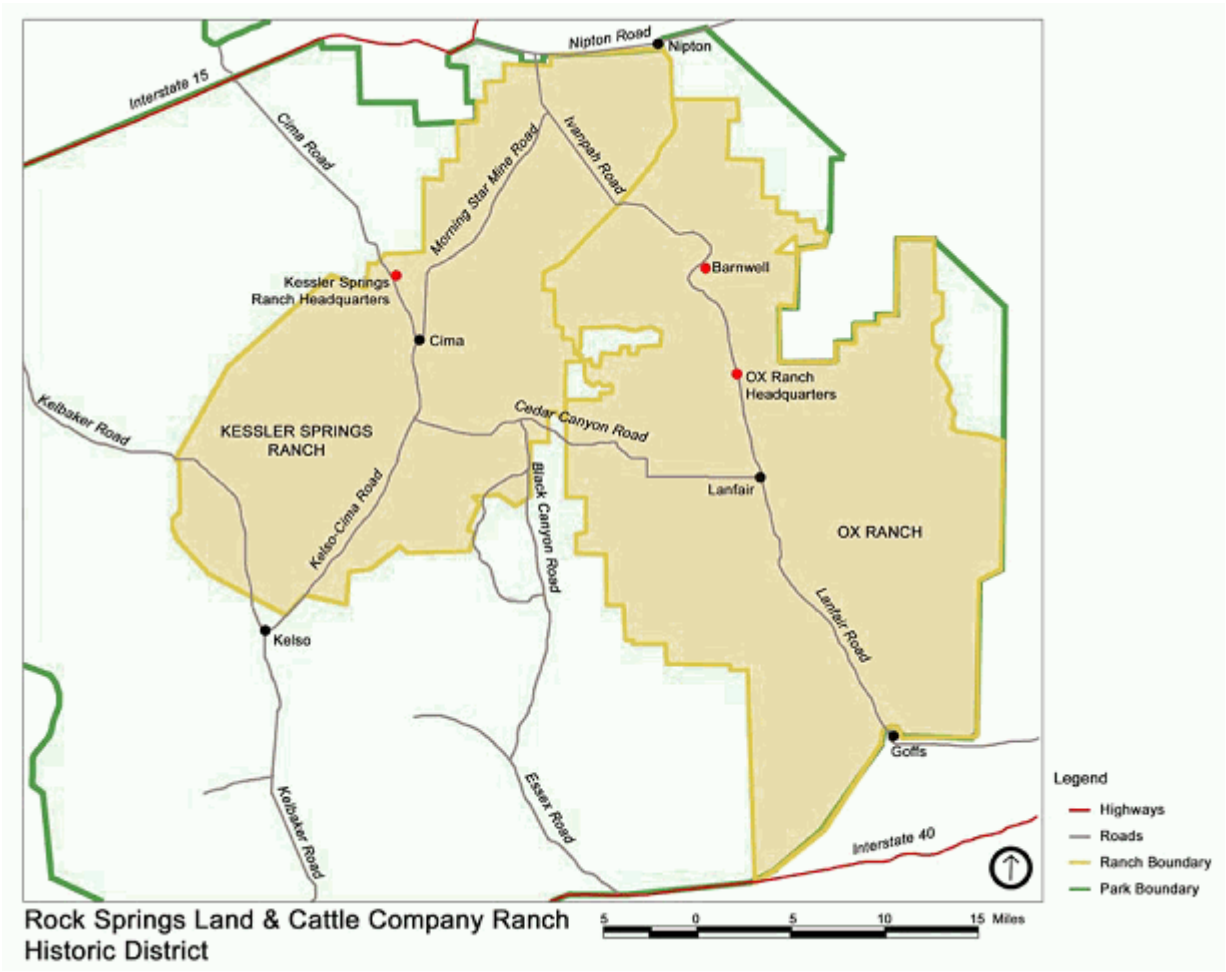
All of the subject property lies within the boundaries of Mojave National Preserve, established in 1994 as a result of the California Desert Protection Act. The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District, located in the east Mojave Desert area of San Bernardino County, is bounded roughly on the east by the Piute Range; on the south by old Route 66 and the Providence Mountains; on the west by the Kelso and Providence Mountains and Soda Lake; and on the north by Nipton Road in the Ivanpah Valley, the Mescal Range and Interstate 15. The property includes the New York Mountains, Mid Hills and portions of the Lanfair, Ivanpah, Shadow and Kelso valleys. Its estimated acreage is 854,000 acres, although historic sites and features are scattered across the landscape and comprise 100-200 acres in total. Major highways in the vicinity include Interstate 40 on the south and Interstate 15 to the northwest. Roads maintained by San Bernardino County cross the property, including Lanfair Road, Ivanpah Road, Cedar Canyon Road, Morning Star Mine Road, Cima Road and Kelso-Cima Road. Some of these roads are unpaved but maintained. Dozens of minor dirt roads and tracks also cross the subject district.

Much of the region is arid and appears practically barren, while high mountains provide a scenic backdrop. This part of the Mojave Desert contains several diverse mountain ranges, the Kelso dune system, dry lakebeds and evidence of volcanic activity in the form of domes, lava flows and cinder cones. Elevations range from about 3,000 feet at the lowest portions near Goffs to the 6,600-foot Drum Peak in the central part of the subject property. Topography varies from level and gently sloping to steep and rocky mountainous terrain. Plant diversity is high, with Joshua trees, yucca, barrel cactus and cholla dominant in the lower elevations and piñon pine, juniper and oaks found in the upper elevations. The Joshua tree forest in Lanfair Valley is considered to be the finest in the world. Various shrubs and grasses contributed to the region's success as a cattle range, as forage is found from the lowest to highest elevations. The extreme variations in temperature also affected the grazing regimen, as livestock moved to higher elevations as the thermometer rose to levels above 100 degrees in the lower valleys. Adversely, snow covers the mountains during the winter while the conditions are mild in the lower desert.

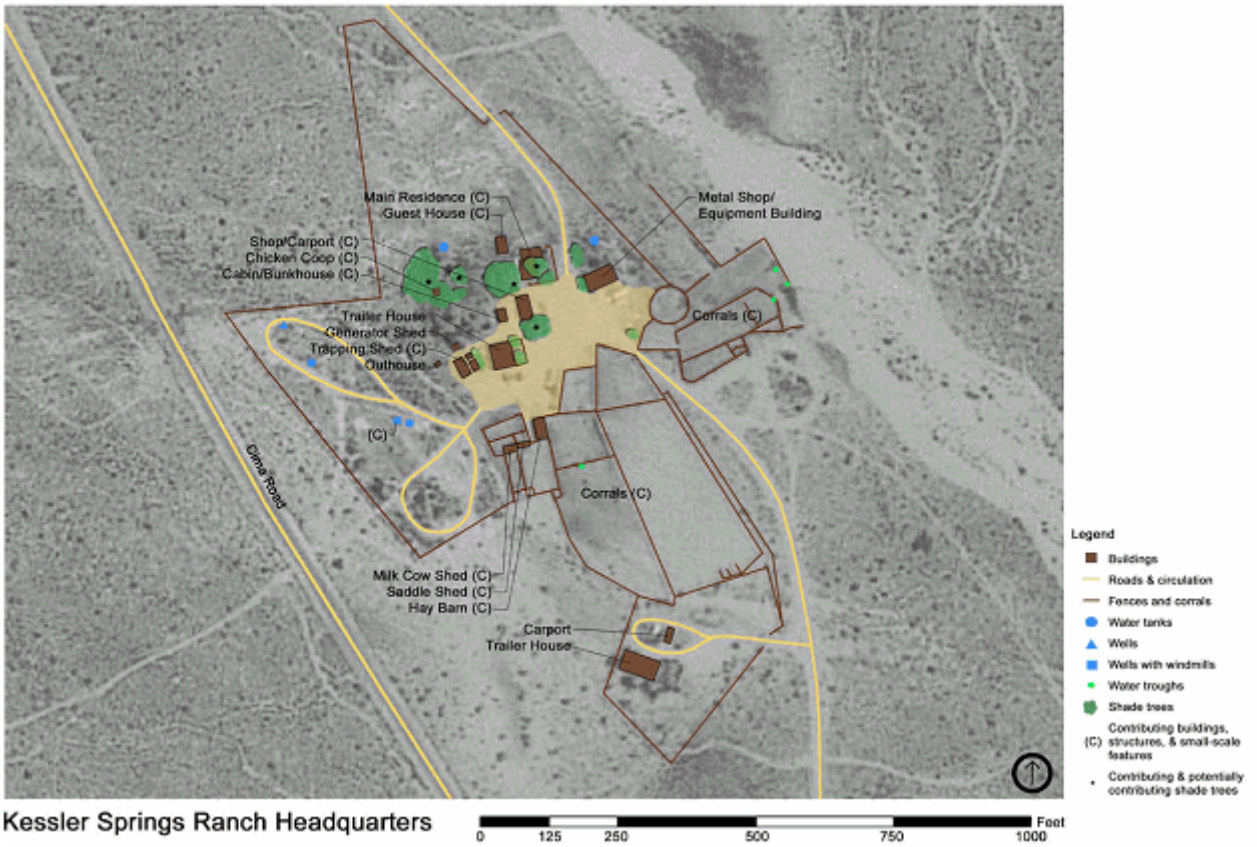
The lands and features of the Kessler Springs, OX and Valley View ranches are a patchwork of deeded land parcels and former BLM leaseholds, all under control of the National Park Service since 2001-2003. Numerous smaller private parcels are also found within the district. The properties are scattered with springs and wells, pipelines and storage tanks, watering troughs, corrals, fences, roads and three building complexes that acted as headquarters for the three ranch enterprises. The landscape characteristics that contribute to the historic integrity of the district are Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Cluster Arrangement, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Small-scale Features, Vegetation, and Archeological Sites.

The primary source of information for this document is the National Register nomination for Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company, prepared by Dewey Livingston in 2007.

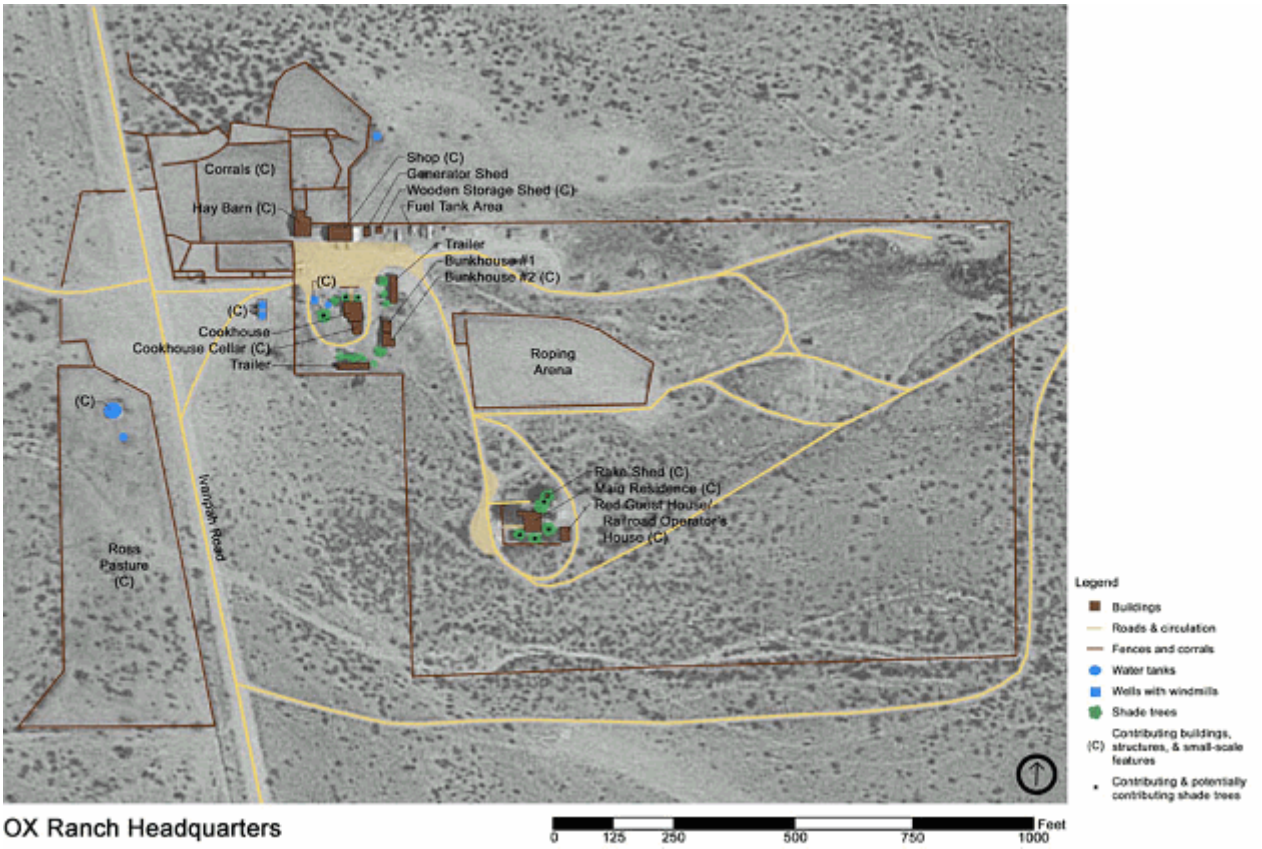
## Site Plan



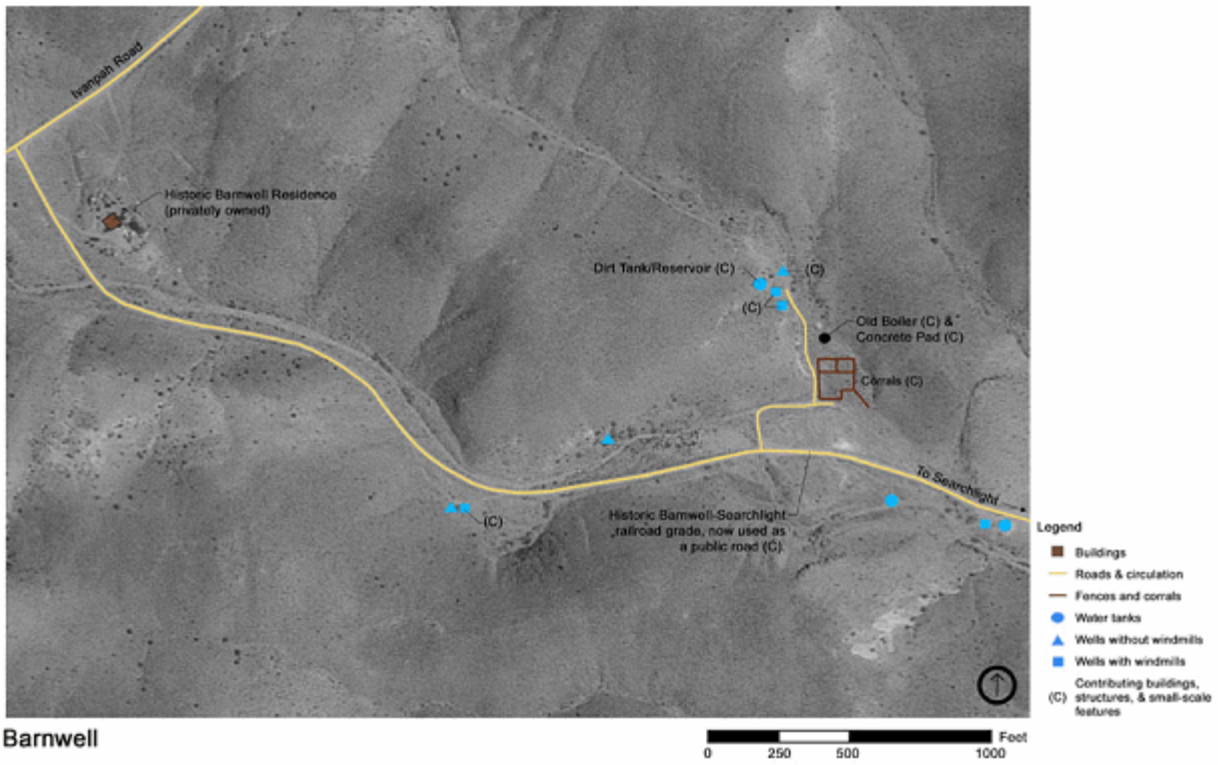

*Site plan of Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District. See appendix for a larger version of this map.*




*Site plan of Kessler Springs Ranch Headquarters. See appendix for a larger version of this map.*




*Site plan of OX Ranch Headquarters. See appendix for a larger version of this map.*




*Site plan of Barnwell, the historic headquarters for Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company. See appendix for a larger version of this map.*

## Property Level and CLI Numbers

| | |
|---|---|
| **Inventory Unit Name:** | Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company |
| **Property Level:** | Landscape |
| **CLI Identification Number:** | 725541 |
| **Parent Landscape:** | 725541 |

## Park Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Park Name and Alpha Code:** | Mojave National Preserve -MOJA |
| **Park Organization Code:** | 8380 |
| **Park Administrative Unit:** | Mojave National Preserve |

## CLI Hierarchy Description

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Ranch (RSL&CC Ranch) is a single landscape with no

component landscapes. Component landscapes are smaller physical units within the larger landscapes that are individually eligible for the National Register and warrant individual documentation to adequately record their physical character and significance.

Within the cultural landscape boundary are four major historic development areas: Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, OX Ranch headquarters, Barnwell, and Valley View Ranch Headquarters, which are separated by open grazing lands. The grazing lands are interspersed with fences, watering sites, corrals, roads, and trails.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

**Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

Fieldwork was conducted in 2003 by Erica Owens and Shaun Provencer. The CLI was updated and finalized in 2007 by Erica Owens following the completion of a National Register Nomination by Dewey Livingston.

**Concurrence Status:**

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes

**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 09/20/2007

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 06/08/2007

**National Register Concurrence Narrative:**

The National Register Nomination for the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District was signed by the California SHPO in June 2007. The nomination adequately documents the landscape and associated features.

**Data Collection Date:** 02/10/2003 **Recorder:** E. Owens and S. Provencher

**Data Entry Date:** **Recorder:** E. Owens and S. Provencher

# Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District encompasses approximately 854,000 acres within the boundaries of Mojave National Preserve, California. The boundaries of the district are identical with the legal boundaries of the Overson Ranches (Kessler Springs Ranch and the OX Ranch) and the Blincoe Valley View Ranch excepting those portions that fall outside of the Preserve boundary. The boundary of the historic district can be described as follows:

OX Ranch: on the east, the boundary follows section lines in a southeasterly stair-step pattern, broken by the protruding Hart Mine property, to a point east of the Piute Range, then to a southerly tangent broken once by Homer Mountain, to the railroad tracks five miles east of Goffs; on the south, following the north side of the railroad right-of-way between five miles east of Goffs to Fenner on Interstate 40; on the west the boundary heads north and west to the Woods Mountains, then in a curving line through the Mid Hills using the geographical features as barriers to Cedar Canyon Road, then north on section lines through the higher portions of the southern New York Mountains to the railroad tracks and right-of-way near Brant, then following the east side of the railroad tracks to a point approximately three miles south of Nipton; on the north in a straight line about three miles directly east to the point of origin.

Kessler Springs Ranch: on the east, the boundary follows the west side of the railroad tracks from Nipton to Brant, then heads south along section lines in the New York Mountains and Mid Hills to a point on Macedonia Canyon Road; on the south from Macedonia Canyon Road in a jagged pattern westerly to a point on Cima-Kelso Road approximately two miles north of Kelso, then following the west side of Cima-Kelso Road about a mile; on the west by a widely curving line that crosses Kelbaker Road into the Kelso Mountains and then north/northeast to near the summit of Cima Dome, then in a jagged line mostly following section lines north/northeasterly to Nipton Road near the junction of Ivanpah Road, then east along the south side of Nipton Road to the point of beginning.

Valley View Ranch: on the east, the boundary follows an irregular pattern from Interstate 15 south to the Ivanpah Valley; on the north by Interstate 15; on the west by Soda Lake; on the south a common boundary with Kessler Springs Ranch described above.

Boundary Justification
Historically, The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company’s boundaries were vague, primarily because the grazing range was informal and defined largely through use and the area's natural features. Early references contended that one million acres was in the company’s control. The boundaries were legalized and defined after passage of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 while under the ownership of Boy Williams, Claud Halsell and Slim Skinner, and the grazing leases eventually came under the purview of the BLM. The boundaries of the historic district are those as surveyed by the BLM and the NPS and approximate the range of the owners during the 1930s and 1940s. This boundary is justified by the continuing historic use by the successors to RSLCC, Boy Williams, Claud Halsell and Slim Skinner, up to the management until 2001-2003 by members of the Overson family.

**State and County:**

**State:** CA

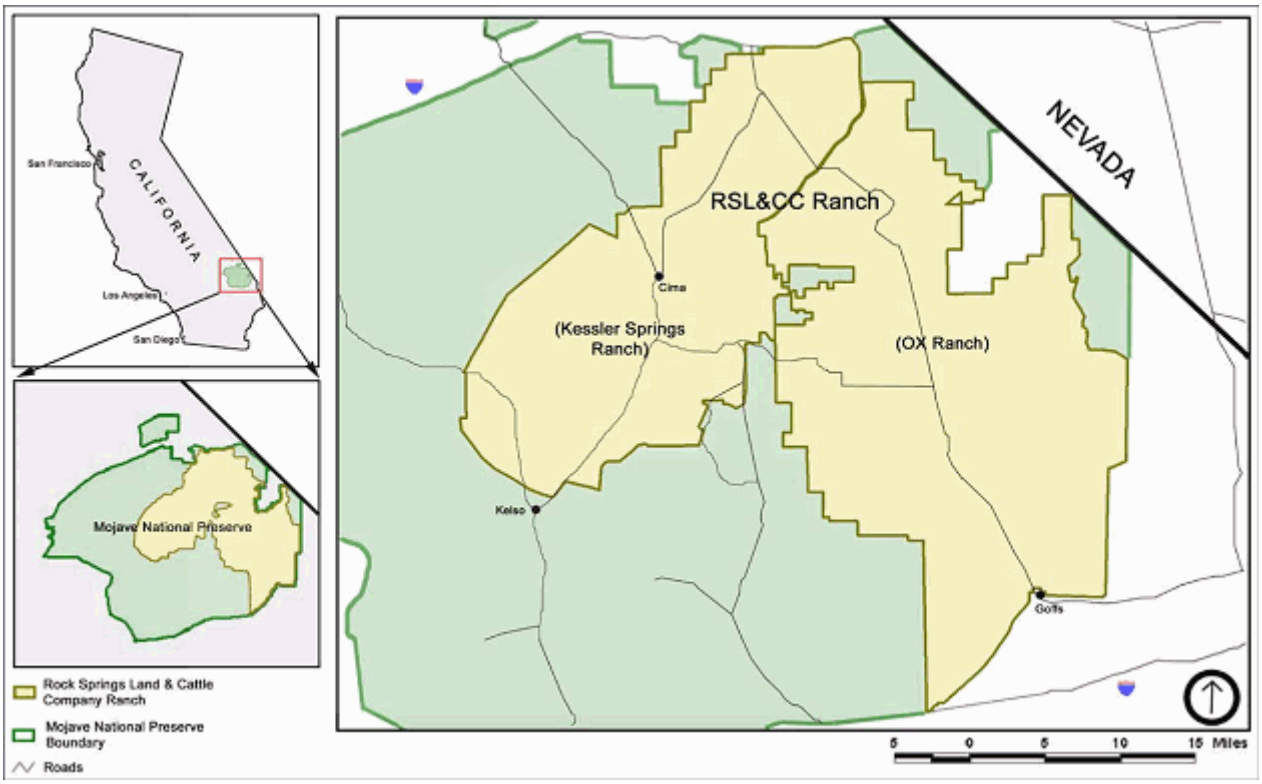
**County:** San Bernardino County

**Size (Acres):** 854,000.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

| Source | Type of Point | Datum | UTM Zone | UTM Easting | UTM Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 656,889 | 3,925,918 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 657,938 | 3,921,207 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 671,015 | 3,909,787 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 667,293 | 3,898,513 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 672,058 | 3,898,550 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 677,414 | 3,909,056 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 680,405 | 3,909,093 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 686,494 | 3,891,550 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 686,340 | 3,880,531 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 684,109 | 3,866,162 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 677,689 | 3,866,101 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 675,976 | 3,865,459 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 664,970 | 3,853,627 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 664,603 | 3,871,971 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 653,882 | 3,874,488 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 648,664 | 3,893,513 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 644,425 | 3,886,257 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 641,000 | 3,887,031 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 640,470 | 3,882,262 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 629,831 | 3,877,452 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 624,735 | 3,876,677 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 614,829 | 3,885,156 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 615,278 | 3,890,130 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 628,771 | 3,905,987 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 636,516 | 3,907,862 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 636,353 | 3,914,303 |
| USGS Map 1:24,000 | Area | NAD 83 | 11 | 643,405 | 3,924,209 |

**Location Map:**




*Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District is located within Mojave National Preserve. The district was divided into two smaller ranches in the 1930s: Kessler Springs Ranch and OX Ranch.*

## Regional Context:

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

California holds an important place in American history due in part to its contributions to agricultural production industries. The first industry in California, predating even the American era, was stock raising for purposes of providing food and clothing. This industry grew to become one of the hallmarks of California's economy during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and helped it maintain its position as the country's leading agricultural producer.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

The Mojave National Preserve lies at the convergence of three of America's great desert regions: the Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin Deserts. This part of the Mojave Desert contains several mountain ranges, the Kelso dune system, dry lake beds and evidence of volcanic activity in the form of domes, lava flows and cinder cones. Topography varies from level and gently sloping to steep and rocky mountainous terrain. Elevations range from 3,000 feet at the lowest portions near Goffs to the 6,600-foot Drum Peak in the central part of the proposed historic district. Plant diversity is high, with Joshua trees, yucca, barrel cactus and cholla dominant in the lower elevations and piñon pine, juniper and oaks found in the upper elevations.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

The proposed historic district property is located within San Bernardino County and lies entirely within the boundaries of the Mojave National Preserve, established in 1994 as part of the California Desert Protection Act. The lands and features of the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Ranch are a patchwork of deeded land parcels and former BLM leaseholds, all under control of the National Park Service since 2001. Numerous smaller private parcels are also found within the proposed historic district. Portions of the property are Federally designated wilderness.

# Management Information

## General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 06/08/2007

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Ranch meets all of the following criteria for Management Category B (Should Be Preserved and Maintained): the inventory meets National Register Criteria; the inventory unit is compatible with the park's legislated significance; the inventory unit has a continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function. The California SHPO found the historic district eleigible for listing on the National Register in 2007.

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Adjacent lands (lands outside the boundaries of the preserve) are associated with the developments of the RSL&CC Ranch. The Walking Box portion of the former RSL&CC-owned lands, located in Nevada, were historically a part of the working ranch (prior to 1928).

# National Register Information

## Existing National Register Status

### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The National Register Nomination for the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District has been forwarded to the Keeper and is awaiting review.

## National Register Eligibility

| | |
|---|---|
| **National Register Concurrence:** | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| **Contributing/Individual:** | Individual |
| **National Register Classification:** | District |
| **Significance Level:** | Local |
| **Significance Criteria:** | A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history |

**Period of Significance:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Time Period:** | AD 1894 - 1954 |
| **Historic Context Theme:** | Creating Social Institutions and Movements |
| **Subtheme:** | Ways of Life |
| **Facet:** | Ranching Communities |
| **Other Facet:** | None |
| **Time Period:** | AD 1894 - 1954 |
| **Historic Context Theme:** | Developing the American Economy |
| **Subtheme:** | The Cattle Frontier |
| **Facet:** | Ranches |
| **Other Facet:** | None |

**Area of Significance:**

| Area of Significance Category | Area of Significance Subcategory |
|---|---|
| Agriculture | None |

## Statement of Significance:

The former Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company ranch, divided between 1928-1931 into the Kessler Springs Ranch, the OX Ranch and the Valley View Ranch and now located within Mojave National Preserve, is significant on a local level for its contributions to the settlement, industry and economy of San Bernardino County and, specifically, the east Mojave Desert of California. This huge arid-country ranch operated for more than 110 years under adverse conditions yet managed to be an important part of California's cattle and beef industry. The period of significance for the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District is 1894 to 1954. Although the ranch has seen a continuity of traditional use through 2001-2003, it was the labors of the owners into the 1940s that established the important extant physical attributes of the ranch, while the owners of the last 50 years continued to improve features in a compatible manner but did not add to the significance of the ranch.

The ranch is significant under Criterion A for its association with the rise of cattle ranching and related industry in California. The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company ranked as one of the largest cattle firms in California between 1894 and 1930, and its successors continued to be important San Bernardino County businesses. This food-producing business contributed to the economic vitality of southern California during the region's major growth period (1890-1930), and was an important livestock-based contributor to California's leading industry, agriculture. By the time the Overson family sold the ranches in 2001, the Kessler Springs and OX Ranches remained the most important ranching operations in the east Mojave Desert region.

The District features a remarkably intact system of vernacular buildings, structures and landscapes. The approximately854,000-acre ranch is comprised of buildings, fence lines, corrals, water systems and roads that possess excellent historical integrity, having been used for more than a century until only recently. The buildings range in age from 100 years to less than 25 years; their styles range from a 60-year-old comfortable and attractive desert ranch home to nondescript, aging barns and sheds. Corrals found on the ranch include rare, intact juniper post livestock enclosures and sturdy "shotgun" corrals built of railroad ties, pipe and wire in a traditional manner. Extensive water lines from springs and wells to troughs have been in use for over 100 years, with many features remaining from early in the last century. Alterations made subsequent to the period of significance tend to be compatible to the historic scene. As a rural historic landscape, the ranch is intact, in fair to good condition and possesses historic integrity in regard to aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Context

After California gained statehood in 1850, its vital cattle industry turned from Mexican-era production of hides and tallow to beef raising and dairy ranching, driven by the need to provide food to the swelling masses of miners and settlers. While northern coastal California dominated the dairy industry, the central and southern parts of the state became its "cow country" composed of large cattle ranches whose sole product was beef and hides. Until the great drought of the early1860s, Los Angeles County was the most important beef producer; afterwards, coastal ranchers for the most part turned to sheep raising, farming and land development. The cattlemen moved farther out into the country, establishing vast ranches in San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino and other counties. Los Angeles acted as the

headquarters city for many of these enterprises while the expansion of the railroads in the southern part of the state aided the growth of the ranches by providing transportation to market. Cattle ranching and beef production remained a strong industry through the 19th and 20th centuries, and with it preserved a traditional way of life now fast disappearing.

California historians tended to write off the Mojave Desert as a wasteland; the area typically rated mention only with the crossing of this challenging landscape by a pioneer party or in reporting an uprising of Mojave or Piute Indians. Barelyknown is the fact that the Mojave Desert provided range for large herds of cattle that contributed to the state's development. The cattle industry, long dominated by the colossal firm of Miller and Lux which controlled millions of acres of rangeland in three western states, has been long acknowledged as one of the state's leading and historic economic enterprises. The subject ranch was the largest in the region and played a major and permanent part in the history of San Bernardino County and the east Mojave Desert.

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District in the Mojave Desert derives its significance not only from its physical size or economic contribution, but more as a unique and intact example of how cattlemen survived and at times flourished in the inhospitable desert climate while contributing to the other historic activities of the area such as water development, mining and transportation. The grand dimensions of the ranch provide evidence of the particular ranching styles necessary in such arid environments: sparse forage required dispersal of livestock across miles of land, while water had to be available at regular intervals. In the context of people's response to the environment, these early ranchers were forced to develop a practical, working system that would allow their cattle business to provide livelihoods for numerous families that would last more than a century, leaving an intact historic infrastructure for preservation and discovery.

This labor-intensive enterprise required harnessing water resources from every available source, through the use of wells, springs, pipelines and storage tanks, and distributing it across a huge piece of property in an efficient manner. When the big ranch was broken up around 1930, the new ranchers further improved the facilities in response to the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, adding more water infrastructure and an extensive system of fencing stretching for hundreds of miles. The significance of this large district is illustrated by the vast and intact overlay of ranching improvements including pipelines, watering stations, corrals, fences, roads and historic vegetation. The methods of harnessing water resources, in the context of California's significant history of water resources manipulation for the advance of society, is documented and preserved on these ranches, and provide insight into the key characteristics of desert ranching in a vast landscape.

The early cattle industry in the East Mojave Desert had a close relationship with mining interests, providing food products as the mines and their camps came and went. The cattle industry also had an important role in the development of railroads and roads into the area. The cattlemen's settlement of the area and development of water sources aided in the expansion of the railroads, and provided traffic to the new transportation companies. Ranchers developed road systems across this remote area, encouraging further settlement and development and setting the transportation patterns that remain in use. The cattle industry in the East Mojave Desert is indelibly tied to the panorama of historic uses of

the area: mining, railroads, roads, water development and settlement. The ranches' contribution to the southern California cattle industry is strong, and the remaining resources, set in this vast landscape, retain importance as examples of California's agricultural heritage.

## National Historic Landmark Information

**National Historic Landmark Status:** No

## World Heritage Site Information

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

# Chronology & Physical History

## Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Livestock

**Primary Current Use:** Automobile

| Other Use/Function | Other Type of Use or Function |
|---|---|
| Automobile | Historic |
| Landscape-Other | Both Current And Historic |

**Current and Historic Names:**

| Name | Type of Name |
|---|---|
| Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company | Both Current And Historic |
| OX Ranch | Both Current And Historic |
| Kessler Springs Ranch | Both Current And Historic |
| Valley View Ranch | Both Current And Historic |

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

Although a formal ethnographic survey has not been conducted, related information can be found in the following document:

"Background to Historic and Prehistoric Resources of the East Mojave Desert Region" by Chester King and Dennis G. Casebier, 1976.

## Chronology:

| Year | Event | Annotation |
|---|---|---|
| AD 1870 - 1879 | Settled | In the 1870s, John Domingo settled in the central part of the present-day Preserve (today's 7IL Ranch) and raised horses and livestock to support mining activities in the mountains. |
| | Settled | In the 1870s, Daniel Kistler built a small cabin at Kessler Springs and brought cattle into the area to sell meat to the miners and nearby soldiers until 1881. |
| AD 1875 | Ranched/Grazed | Circa 1875, G. S. Briggs at Marl Springs and T. L. Blackburn at Government Holes were considered to be among the first cattlemen of the area. |
| AD 1883 | Built | Construction of the Southern Pacific rail line between San Francisco and Needles provided daily service between the two cities, consequently, the area attracted permanent cattle ranchers. |
| AD 1885 | Established | In the mid-1880s, T. L. Blackburn & Co. was one of the first cattle partnerships in the area. The lands they controlled included public lands stretching from Needles to the Kelso Valley and up to Vanderbilt and Ivanpah. |
| AD 1886 | Expanded | T. L. Blackburn & Co. focused on obtaining water rights through purchase or claim. |
| AD 1893 | Built | The Nevada Southern Railway added a line between the Southern Pacific stop at Goffs and Barnwell to service local mining operations. A California Eastern Railway branch to the northwest ran between Barnwell and the mining town of Ivanpah. |
| AD 1894 | Established | Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company (RSL&CC) was incorporated by T. L. Blackburn & Co. Headquarters was established at Barnwell. |
| | Developed | RSL&CC pursued the development of springs in the Hackberry Mountains and elsewhere. The company likely constructed the first ranch house and corrals at Kessler Springs headquarters. |

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| AD 1896 | Built | By this year, well #7 had been constructed at Barnwell. |
| AD 1904 | Purchased/Sold | By 1904, Los Angeles entrepreneurs Earle J. Greening and John Ewing Jenison purchased control of the RSL&CC. |
| | Established | The brand “88” was adopted by RSL&CC. Cattle was transported by rail from Barnwell, Goffs, Leastalk (Ivanpah) and other points to the feed lots at Norwalk, CA. |
| AD 1907 | Built | The Santa Fe Railroad Company constructed the 23.22-mile line between Barnwell and Searchlight. This line provided daily access to cattle markets in San Francisco and later to Los Angeles. |
| AD 1910 | Land Transfer | Earle Greening died and his son Walter assumed management of RSL&CC Ranch. |
| AD 1913 | Developed | By this year, Barnwell had a train depot, post office, school, store, two blacksmith shops, a saloon, the “88” headquarters, and a butcher. |
| AD 1910 - 1926 | Homesteaded | During this time, clashes between homesteaders and ranchers heightened over water rights. |
| AD 1916 | Established | By this year, the RSL&CC controlled a tract of land more than fifty miles square, most of which lay in California, with a small portion in Nevada. |
| | Expanded | By this year, water pipelines from Barnwell, Kessler Springs and Hackberry Springs transported water twenty miles to tanks and troughs spread across the range. More than forty springs and twelve wells provided water for the cattle. |
| AD 1919 | Developed | An inventory of RSL&CC assets showed 9,223 head of bulls, steers and cows, supported by an array of springs, water lines, galvanized metal water troughs, corrals, camp outfits, saddle horses, and buildings including bunkhouses and line camps. |
| | Built | By this year, the unique railroad tie corral with iron brackets was in place at Barnwell. |

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| AD 1920 | Land Transfer | By the 1920s, RSL&CC stock was controlled by J. E. Jenison and the four heirs of Earle Greening. |
| AD 1923 | Purchased/Sold | Ernest Hass, husband of J. E. Jenison's daughter Girlie, purchased various homesteads in the valley beginning in 1923. |
| AD 1923 - 1940 | Maintained | "Boots" Yates died at age 47 in 1923, and his widow continued operation of the Valley View Ranch with the help of James Palmer and "Boy" Williams. |
| AD 1925 | Ranched/Grazed | By the mid-1920s, the company maintained line camps at Kessler Springs, Government Holes, Searchlight, and Ledge (now OX Ranch headquarters). |
| AD 1926 | Purchased/Sold | A series of dry years caused the homesteading efforts to fail; only a handful of families remained. RSL&CC bought some of the parcels for re-inclusion into the company's rangeland. |
| AD 1927 | Land Transfer | J. E. Jenison died. His daughter, Mrs. Girlie Hass, inherited the Jenison interest in the company. |
| AD 1928 | Purchased/Sold | Financial reverses and a severe drought spurred the RSL&CC to sell off its land, grazing and water rights, and livestock to other parties. The ranch was divided into three major parcels: Kessler Springs, OX Ranch, and the Nevada lands. |
| AD 1930 | Purchased/Sold | Sidney E. "Boots" Yates and his wife Bessie Parker Yates bought the northern part of the "88" property, which would become Valley View Ranch. |
| AD 1931 | Purchased/Sold | The RSL&CC had sold the OX Ranch portion of their lands to Hollywood movie actors Guinn "Big Boy" Williams, and Jack Moore, and a Texas-born businessman Claude E. Halsell, Sr. for under $100,000. |
| | Purchased/Sold | Within the first year, Halsell bought out the interest of his partners. Halsell lived at Barnwell and incorporated the ranch as the OX Cattle Company. |

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| | Purchased/Sold | In the early 1930s, Halsell purchased a handful of homesteads that had been previously bought by Hass, including the homestead of Mrs. E. J. Jacoby at Ledge that soon became the headquarters of the OX Cattle Company. |
| AD 1931 - 1932 | Developed | Several buildings were added to OX Ranch headquarters: the former Ledge “dagger factory” (moved from across the road), a barn (moved from Lanfair), wooden storage sheds, a cookhouse, root cellar, windmill, and water tanks (on west side of Ivanpah Road). |
| AD 1931 | Built | The corral system and dipping vat were constructed at OX Ranch in the 1930s. A single circular concrete trough already existed from the RSL&CC days and was incorporated into the corrals. |
| AD 1931 - 1939 | Developed | At OX Ranch in the 1930s, Halsell cleaned the springs and wells, added pipeline (approximately 70 miles), improved and added watering sites, repaired and built corrals, fenced pastures, and built corrals at Goffs near the railroad. |
| AD 1934 | Established | The 1934 Taylor Grazing Act required ranchers to obtain permits for grazing on public lands, led to widespread fencing of the range, and dispersal of water resources to promote good range management. |
| | Developed | At Kessler Springs Ranch, Williams built fences, developed new corrals, and extended water lines. Abandonment of the rail line between Goffs and Ivanpah produced an ample supply of railroad ties that were used for fences and corrals. |
| AD 1935 - 1940 | Developed | At Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, by the late 1930s, Williams and Yates had added a kitchen, root cellar, and porch to the ranch house; built a guest house; and moved a bunkhouse from Valley Wells. |
| | Developed | At Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, by the late 1930s, Williams and Yates had constructed a hay barn, a saddle shed, a milk cow shed, two wells, and a windmill. They also planted ornamental plants, a garden, and trees. |

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| | Developed | Throughout the Kessler Springs Ranch, by the late 1930s, Williams' had built distinctive "shotgun" corrals, replaced older corrals, constructed concrete water troughs, and added to the original water system. |
| AD 1937 | Purchased/Sold | Bessie Yates sold her interest in the ranch to Williams, who, with his new wife Edna continued to improve the property. |
| | Established | The Yates family formed the Yates Valley View Ranch. |
| AD 1939 | Land Transfer | By the end of the 1930s, Halsell moved to San Bernardino and put the OX Ranch operations into the hands of his son, Claude Halsell, Jr. |
| AD 1940 | Purchased/Sold | Around 1940 the Yates' sold the Valley View property to Fred Twisselmann, who soon turned the property over to his daughter and son-in-law, Lucille and "Slim" Skinner. |
| | Built | In the 1940s, wells #1, #2, and #4 were installed at Barnwell. The date of wells #5 and #6 is unknown, but they were likely constructed during this time. |
| | Ranched/Grazed | By the early 1940s, Kessler Springs ranch supported 3,000 head of cattle and up to fourteen employees. |
| AD 1940 - 1941 | Built | Claude Halsell, Jr. built a new house and rake shed at OX Ranch headquarters. Halsell, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth operated the ranch through World War II and continued to add BLM grazing permits to the OX holdings. |
| AD 1940 - 1975 | Expanded | Skinner made major improvements to the Valley View Ranch, installing new buildings, water systems, fencing and corrals. |
| | Built | Twisselmann built a handful of structures at Rock Tank and lived there. |
| AD 1942 | Purchased/Sold | Williams sold the Kessler Springs Ranch to J. Kell Houssels. |
| AD 1942 - 1949 | Altered | Houssels added stucco to the exterior of the Kessler Springs ranch house in the 1940s, but few other improvements appear to date from this time. |

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| AD 1946 | Purchased/Sold | The Halsells sold the OX Ranch to a newly-formed partnership, Bozarth & Rudnick, which started with 1,000 head of cattle and eventually owned 5,000 head of cattle. |
| AD 1950 - 1968 | Purchased/Sold | Following Houssels, a number of owners operated Kessler Springs Ranch, including Martin Martin and Peter Belluomini (1946-1961), Donald and Lilas Sawyer (1961-1968), and Phil Stadtler. |
| AD 1950 - 1959 | Moved | In the early 1950s, a railroad telegraph operator house was moved from Goffs to the OX Ranch headquarters as a guest house behind the main residence. |
| | Built | A landing strip was constructed to the northeast of the OX Ranch headquarters. |
| | Purchased/Sold | In the early 1950s, the Barnwell property was sold to private owners, first to John and Betty (Bozarth) Farmer and then to owners not associated with the OX Ranch. |
| AD 1955 | Purchased/Sold | Bozarth & Rudnick sold OX Ranch, including 400,000 acres of leased land rights and scattered parcels of deeded land, to Ed and Nell Eldridge. Elridge kept a herd between 1200 and 3500 head of cattle. |
| AD 1955 - 1959 | Built | In the late 1950s at OX Ranch, Eldridge added drift fences, extended water lines, and constructed new corrals. At the headquarters, he installed a greaserack, built a carport, and likely constructed the generator shed. |
| | Purchased/Sold | In the late 1950s, Eldridge purchased more homestead land, including the Ross homestead. |
| AD 1955 | Established | By this time, shipping of cattle shifted from trains to vehicles. |
| AD 1955 - 1956 | Built | Eldridge tore down Halsell's cookhouse at OX Ranch and built a new one in its place with cinder blocks and metal sash windows. |
| AD 1969 | Ranched/Grazed | Stadtler turned the operation of the Kessler Springs Ranch over to Gary Overson. |

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| AD 1969 - 1979 | Developed | Overson made numerous improvements on the Kessler Springs Ranch including the extension of water lines farther north into Ivanpah Valley and the replacement of leaking water tanks. He spent over $50,000 in his first seven years. |
| | Developed | At Kessler Springs, Overson made a number of structural improvements including: construction of the generator shed, pipe shed, outhouse, carport, steel tank #1, windmill head, steel tank at the windmill, and the steel tank behind the ranch house. |
| | Built | At Kessler Springs, Overson made a number of structural improvements to the ranch headquarters including: moving the metal shop to the site, enclosing the porches on the ranch house, and building the garden enclosure. |
| AD 1970 - 1976 | Purchased/Sold | Overson bought out his partners and purchased five acres of homestead land near Cima called the Landreman place to house ranch workers. |
| AD 1975 - 1979 | Purchased/Sold | The Skinner family sold their Valley View Ranch holdings in 1975 to Andy Anderson, who then sold to Richard Blincoe of Idaho in 1979. |
| AD 1979 - 2003 | Maintained | Tim Overson took over management of the Valley View Ranch. |
| AD 1980 - 1989 | Built | Overson installed the trailer at the center of the Kessler Springs headquarters complex and added a pen onto the chicken coop. |
| AD 1986 | Purchased/Sold | Eldridge sold the OX Ranch holdings to Overson. |
| | Altered | Overson and his son Clay invested in many improvements at the OX, including the replacement of water tanks, troughs and pipelines, usually leaving the older ones in place. |
| AD 1986 - 1987 | Built | At the OX Ranch headquarters, the Oversons installed the white entrance gate, replaced the cookhouse roof, installed a doublewide trailer for hired help, planted trees and a garden in the main ranch house yard, and built the roping area. |

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| | Ranched/Grazed | The Oversons ran an average of 3,500 head of cattle between the two ranches. |
| AD 1995 - 1999 | Expanded | By the end of the century, the OX Ranch contained 200 miles of fencing and 110 miles of water pipe. |
| AD 1994 | Established | The Mojave National Preserve was established. Although the intent to retain historic cattle grazing was included in the legislation, retirement of grazing leases was encouraged for environmental reasons. |
| AD 2001 | Purchased/Sold | The Overson family sold their properties to the federal government for inclusion into Mojave National Preserve and left the area. |
| | Removed | The Oversons removed their cattle. The ranch buildings, for the most part, were vacated and the water systems shut down. |
| AD 2003 | Purchased/Sold | Valley View Ranch was purchased for inclusion in Mojave National Preserve. |
| | Damaged | Portions of the OX Ranch hay barn roof and walls were blown down in a windstorm. The barn was repaired. |

## Physical History:

### 1775 to 1893 Early Exploration, Ranchers, and the Railroads

The first description of potential grazing values in the east Mojave Desert was reported by the expedition of Francisco Garces during his attempt to find a trade route between Alta California and New Mexico during 1775-1776. Garces described the Lanfair Valley as fine pasturage, and noted that the mountains “abound in grass.” Lt. A. W. Whipple whose expedition crossed the Lanfair Valley in 1854 noted the “wide prairies of rich grama grass.” Within ten years, military drovers crossed the desert on the Mojave Road with cattle and sheep destined for Fort Mojave and other points. These parties made regular stops at Marl Springs and Rock Spring for water and pasture; the locations afforded a chance for the traveling cattle to rest and graze. During the 1870s and 1880s herds of cattle and sheep passed through the area on drives between the coast and ranches in Arizona and New Mexico. There is no doubt that these early travelers made note of the range conditions then existing in this high desert environment and told others about it. These seemingly barren lands now part of Mojave National Preserve contained dozens of good springs of water, an absolute necessity for successful cattle ranching, and hundreds of thousands of acres of viable grazing range, most of which was open for the taking.

By 1880 settlers had arrived in the huge and isolated area lying between Needles, Barstow and Las Vegas. While many were prospectors and miners, not of a type prone to permanent settlement, a small group of men established cattle ranches to serve the hungry miners in the mountains and the soldiers at lonely desert outposts. George S. Briggs at Marl Springs and T. L. Blackburn at Government Holes were considered to be among the first cattlemen of the area, settling there about 1875. Daniel Kistler brought cattle into the area near present-day Cima to sell meat to the miners and nearby soldiers; Kessler Spring is named for him. John Domingo settled in the central part of the present-day Preserve (today’s 7IL Ranch) and raised horses and livestock to support the mining activities. The market to mining camps proved to be volatile, as mines went from boom to bust and so did the small operations serving them. However, as the construction in 1883 of the Southern Pacific rail line between Needles and San Francisco provided reliable long-distance transportation, the area attracted permanent cattle ranchers who commenced building one of the largest ranching operations in the state.

This group of men included Briggs and Blackburn, Daniel Murphy, Frank Monaghan and George Nay who eventuallyformed a partnership called T. L. Blackburn & Co. Newspaper accounts followed the progress of the ranches, referring to Briggs and Nay as the “Fenner cattle kings” and noting the “thousands of fat cattle” on the ranges northwest of Needles. Land controlled by the syndicate included public lands stretching from Needles to the Kelso Valley and up to Vanderbilt and Ivanpah. Beginning in 1886 the men focused on obtaining water rights through purchase or claim using various forms of U. S. government scrip.

### 1894 to 1954 The Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company and Its Successors

On April 17, 1894, the five partners incorporated the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company with a capital stock of $60,000, and dissolved their former syndicate. At some point the company established its headquarters in Barnwell (called Manvel for a short time), a

high-elevation point on the Nevada Southern Railroad. This rail line had been constructed in 1893 from the main line at Goffs to the mining districts high in the New York Mountains and would serve the ranchers for shipping and delivery of supplies, albeit under successive names and owners. The cattle company continued to pursue development of springs in the mountains of the area, including a series of sources developed in the Hackberry Mountains in 1894.

By 1904 Los Angeles entrepreneurs Earle J. Greening and John Ewing Jenison had purchased control of the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company. Greening, a native of Arkansas and Civil War veteran, owned a large stockyard and slaughterhouse in Norwalk, near Los Angeles, which became the destination for much the company cattle. While Jenison acted as the financial backer and minority partner, Greening assumed day-to-day operations of the ranch. He stationed himself and his family at the headquarters in Barnwell. Greening adopted the brand "88" after finding that the original brand, "53" had been corrupted by re-branding into an "88" by rustlers; he registered the latter brand to thwart the counterfeiters and for many years the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company was known as the "88". Cowboys loaded steers off the range onto rail cars at Barnwell, Goffs, Leastalk (Ivanpah) and other points for their trip to the fattening yards at Norwalk. Greening also owned butcher shops in Las Vegas and at Barnwell, the latter serving local miners from as far away as Searchlight, Nevada. Eventually Greening opened a butcher shop in Searchlight.

Barnwell grew with the increasing interest in cattle ranching, mining and prospecting. By 1913 the town boasted a depot, post office, school, store, two blacksmith shops, a saloon and the "88" headquarters and butcher shop. The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company building, which still stands but under private ownership, was located near the railroad tracks and had its own well.

During the heyday of the "88" the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company controlled a tract of land more than fifty miles square, most of which lay in California but with a large tract falling over the Nevada line. Greening continued the work of his predecessors in obtaining all of the water rights in the area. The open range was almost entirely government land with rights of traditional use passed on through the various owners. Upward of 10,000 head of cattle ranged in the area carrying the "88" brand; early in the century the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company was considered to be only second in size to San Francisco's famous Miller & Lux cattle outfit that controlled much of the Central Valley.

By 1916, water pipelines from sources at Barnwell, Kessler Springs and Hackberry Springs transported water for 20 miles to tanks and troughs spread across the range. The company built a number of distinctive permanent circular concrete troughs as well as placing moveable galvanized metal troughs at dozens of locations. A total of more than 40 springs and twelve wells provided water for the expanding herds. An inventory of company assets in 1919 showed 9,223 head of bulls, steers and cows, supported by an array of springs, water lines, galvanized metal water troughs, corrals, camp outfits, saddle horses, and buildings including bunkhouses and line camps. By the late 1920s, the company maintained line camps at Kessler Springs, Government Holes, Searchlight and Ledge. Employees included the long-time ranch manager, John Woolf, seven or eight full-time, year-round cowboys and four or five additional cowboys

hired on a seasonal basis at roundup time. Only a small amount of the range was fenced as the ranchers relied on their cowboys, brands and natural features to retain control of their cattle. Earle Greening died at age 67 in 1910 at Kessler Springs Ranch and the business fell to his heirs; son Walter took the reins at the ranch. At this time, homestead lands became available in the Lanfair Valley and other parts of the region including Pinto Valley, Gold Valley and the vicinity of Cima. To the cattle operator, the homesteaders posed a threat not only in the taking of valuable grazing land but also in their need for water; at the time, the ranchers controlled most of the water and eventually sold water by the barrel to some of the new settlers. The homesteaders commenced fencing their small claims, digging and drilling wells, and attempting to farm the land. Pioneer homesteader Ernest Lanfair tapped a spring on the west side of the valley that would soon bear his name and piped it seven miles to his homestead where he had constructed a large concrete reservoir. By 1917, Lanfair had 130 voters, two schools, several post offices including Lanfair, Dunbar and Maruba, and a store. That year the train between Goffs and Searchlight, Nevada ran through the Lanfair Valley six days a week, with a Sunday train to Ivanpah. When flagged, the train stopped at Vontrigger, Blackburn, Lanfair, Ledge, Purdy and Barnwell. At the latter location the branch to Searchlight headed southeast into Nevada.

Walter Greening and his cowboys regularly clashed with the homesteaders; many are the tales of “88” cowboys cutting fences in the night so that company cattle could enter and destroy the crops. The ranchers accused the homesteaders, sometimes with merit, of cattle rustling. At least one gun battle has been recorded. A series of dry years caused the homesteading efforts to fail; by 1926 only a handful of families remained. Associates of the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company and their successors bought some of the parcels for re-inclusion into the cattle company’s rangeland.

By the 1920s, Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company stock was controlled by J. E. Jenison and the four heirs of Earle Greening. Upon Jenison’s death in 1927 his daughter, Mrs. Girlie Hass, inherited the Jenison interest in the company. Walter Greening also owned ranches in San Diego County and relied on John Woolf, hired by Earle Greening around 1905, to run the Mojave operation. Financial reverses and a severe drought in the late 1920s spurred the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company to sell off its land, grazing and water rights and livestock to other parties, these sales resulting in a division of the ranch into four major parcels: Kessler Springs west of the New York Mountains including much of the Ivanpah Valley, Cima Dome, Kelso vicinity and western New York Mountains; what would become the OX Ranch east of the mountains including the Lanfair Valley, and portions of the New York Mountains and eastern Ivanpah Valley; the northern section, what would become Valley View Ranch overlooking Shadow Valley; and the Nevada lands. In consideration of his many years with the company, Wolff was given the Nevada portion of the ranch as a gift; he immediately sold the property to movie star Rex Bell (real name: George Francis Beldam), whose relationship and subsequent marriage with Clara Bow was the talk of Hollywood at the time. This Nevada portion of the original ranch, lying outside the boundaries of Mojave National Preserve, is not part of this nomination. However, the Kessler Springs Ranch, the OX Ranch and the Valley View Ranch, as direct successors to the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company and located almost entirely within the Preserve, are the focus of this nomination. A narrative of their

individual histories follows.

Kessler Springs Ranch

The first major pieces of property to change hands included the subject Kessler Springs Ranch, with headquarters located near Cima in the broad pass dividing Ivanpah Valley and Kelso Valley. These holdings stretched from Nipton to Kelso and from Cima Dome to the New York Mountains. Deeded land included mostly springs while grazing rights to about a quarter million acres of federal land were transferred as well. On September 5, 1928, Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company sold four parcels to L. E. "Boy" Williams and Bessie E. Yates. Yates, half-Navajo and raised on an Arizona reservation, and her husband Sidney had settled in the area many years before; Sidney "Boots" Yates owned the neighboring Valley Wells Ranch, had been a foreman for the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company and was a good friend of Earle Greening. The couple lived at Valley Wells in the Shadow Valley about 12 miles northeast of Kessler Springs.

Sidney Yates' nephew, called "Boy" Williams for his lifetime, had reportedly worked for the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company for some years as well; he moved to the old line shack on the ranch and performed much of the work. Included in the sale were Cut Springs and White Rock Springs, located on the eastern slopes of Cima Dome and developed with tunnels, pipes and watering troughs, as well as Marl Springs. The former line camp at Kessler Springs became the headquarters for Bessie Yates' and Boy Williams' "T-Bar" ranch.

Kessler Springs derived its name from Daniel Kistler, a stock raiser born in Indiana who settled there before 1881. Kistler, who supplied local mining camps with fresh beef and produce, lived in a remote cabin, presumably at the springs, with more than 200 head of cattle when he was killed by a Piute Indian named Win. The 1881 killing caused a stir in the area and the alleged killer was arrested but then hung by vigilantes. Since that time the area was called Kessler, a misspelling of the pioneer's name, with geographical points including Kessler Springs and Kessler Peak. Kessler Springs lay along an old route to the mountains and was a regular watering stop for travelers.

Yates and Williams restocked the ranch and set to work improving the watering and livestock gathering systems. They also purchased rights to Murphy Wells, near Nipton, and acquired more grazing and water rights. The 1934 Taylor Grazing Act compelled ranchers all over the west to obtain and pay for permits for their public lands grazing and led to widespread fencing of the range and dispersal of water resources in order to promote good range management. Williams spent years building fences, developing new corrals and extending water lines in a successful effort to create a viable post-Taylor Grazing Act cattle ranch. The abandonment of the rail line between Goffs and Ivanpah produced an ample supply of railroad ties that were used for fence posts and corral walls.

Bessie Yates sold her interest in the ranch to Williams in 1937; she had been living on her Valley Wells Ranch in the Shadow Valley north of Kessler Springs. Williams and his new wife Edna continued to improve the property. He added a kitchen, root cellar and porch to the old

ranch house, built a guest house, moved a bunkhouse over from Valley Wells, dug wells and built corrals out of railroad ties in a distinctive “shotgun” shape that funneled cattle into a traditional circular corral enclosure. He also replaced older corrals, sometimes retaining the juniper posts but most often using railroad ties. Williams reportedly added forty miles of pipeline to the original water systems. By the early 1940s the Williams’ ranch supported 3,000 head of cattle and up to 14 employees.

One homestead property that eventually became part of the Kessler Springs Ranch is still called the Thomas Place. Disabled veteran Lewis M. Thomas arrived in the early 1930s and staked out 640 acres on the western slope of the Mid Hills near Cima. He fenced the land, built a corral and developed a water source in the nearby mountains. In 1935 and 1936 Lewis constructed a four-bedroom house, a substantial garage and a storehouse. He received a patent on his land in 1937. Later the house burned, and the parcel was purchased by Gary Overson.

Boy Williams defined the Kessler Springs Ranch as a new entity, separate from the even more vast Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company ranch. He built a headquarters and developed an amply fenced and watered post-Taylor Grazing Act ranch that set the tone for his successors.

L. E. “Boy” Williams sold the ranch in 1942 to J. Kell Houssels, the wealthy owner of Nevada casinos including the Las Vegas Club and part of the Tropicana. Little is known of the Houssels era at the ranch. It appears that during the time of Houssels’ ownership the ranch house was remodeled with a stucco exterior, but few other improvements seem to date from this era. For part of this period, Isaac “Nig” Graham managed the ranch; Graham had previously worked for Boy Williams and reportedly convinced Houssels to purchase the property as an investment. A neighbor considered that Houssels eventually sold the ranch to get rid of Graham, who was called a “mean character” by the neighbor.

A number of owners operated Kessler Springs Ranch during the 1950s and 1960s, including Martin Martin and Peter Belluomini (1946-1961), Donald and Lilas Sawyer (1961-1968), and Phil Stadtler who reportedly bought it at auction with a group of investors. At that time, the ranch had been vacant for a number of years and Stadtler made a few improvements before he turned operation of the ranch over to Gary Overson in 1969. Overson, raised in Goffs and a former cowpuncher on the neighboring OX Ranch, made numerous improvements at Kessler Springs, including the extension of water lines farther north into Ivanpah Valley and the replacement of dozens of leaking water tanks; he claimed to have spent over $50,000 in his first seven years there. Within ten years he bought out his silent partners. Overson purchased five acres of homestead land near Cima called the Landreman place, to which he brought water and used as a residence for ranch workers. Overson raised a family at Kessler Springs and eventually bought the neighboring OX Ranch. In 2001, the Overson family sold their properties to the federal government for inclusion into Mojave National Preserve and left the area.

OX Ranch

By 1930 the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company had disposed of its western and Nevada lands but the pastoral Lanfair Valley remained under the company’s control. Ernest Hass,

husband of J. E. Jenison's daughter Girlie, had purchased various homesteads in the valley beginning in 1923, and these parcels would prove to be key components of the future OX Ranch.

Newspapers announced in September of 1931 that the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company had sold its "great cattle range" to Hollywood movie actors Guinn "Big Boy" Williams and Jack Moore for under $100,000. The duo, known for their roles in westerns, may have been tipped off to the sale by their new neighbors, actor Rex Bell and his new wife, the famous silent movie star Clara Bow. Williams and Moore entered the deal with a partner, Texas-born businessman Claud E. Halsell, Sr. who owned a number of movie houses in Los Angeles. Within the first year Halsell, a man already experienced in cattle ranching, bought out the interest of his partners and commenced building up a large and important southern California cattle ranch.

Halsell took up residence in the old company headquarters at Barnwell. He incorporated the ranch as the OX Cattle Company. Halsell brought 1,000 head of Hereford cattle from Mexico, offloading at Goffs and driving them up the road into the Lanfair Valley where the new cattle received the OX brand. Halsell then imported bulls and set his employees to work cleaning out springs and wells, adding pipeline (building the system up to approximately 70 miles of water line), improving and adding watering spots, repairing and building new corrals, and fencing the pastures in compliance with the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. Eventually the OX Cattle Company built corrals by the railroad tracks at Goffs to handle shipping traffic. Most extant historical features on the ranch appear to date from Halsell's period.

Halsell had purchased, along with the old "88" ranch holdings, a handful of homesteads that had been bought by Ernest Hass in the 1920s. Among these was the homestead of Mrs. E. J. Jacoby at Ledge (Maruba post office). Mrs. Jacoby and her neighbors grew vegetables and fruit, including a large orchard and watermelon patch. The parcel already had a deep well and windmill, developed by Mrs. Jacoby's predecessor Mr. Barbour, and a couple of buildings including a former store and an abandoned "dagger factory" where yucca leaves had been processed into fiber during the war effort. Halsell established a cowboy camp here that soon became the headquarters of the OX Cattle Company.

Ranch workers moved a number of buildings to Ledge, including the former factory from across the road, a barn from Lanfair and various sheds. Halsell built a cookhouse with a root cellar and a small house for the cook's family. With a full complement of buildings by the end of the 1930s, the OX Cattle Company no longer used Barnwell as its headquarters and eventually sold that historic property to others.

Also included with the sale to Halsell was an older homestead property known as the White Ranch. The California Gold & Copper Company mines, established in 1890, saw their heyday between 1905 and 1915. Until the demise of the mine a virtual town had been built of about 20 buildings including a store, boarding house and several cottages. Mrs. M. L. White settled nearby, and by 1917 irrigated an orchard of peach and apple trees. Mrs. White owned a house with outbuildings and had a substantial 20,000-gallon concrete cistern constructed which was kept filled by a pipeline from Vontrigger Spring nearby. Mrs. White was apparently gone from

the area at the time Halsell arrived.

Like Walter Greening before him, Claud Halsell reportedly also didn't get along with the remaining homesteaders and eventually bought most of them out, thereby adding to the ranch's acreage and water supply. What follows is a brief background of homesteads that became part of the OX Ranch between the 1930s and 1950s.

Ernest L. Lanfair arrived in the valley that would eventually bear his name in 1910 and constructed a house, barn, store and a water system fed by seven miles of pipe. Lanfair drilled wells and built two concrete reservoirs, one of which was a huge structure that apparently never filled with water. Lanfair sold his place to fellow homesteader Zack Farmer, who sold it to Halsell in 1931. Claud Halsell's brother lived in the old Lanfair house until it burned. Shortly after, the OX crew moved the barn up to Ledge.

George Carruthers of Nevada settled in the New York Mountains in 1916, choosing 240 acres in a beautiful small canyon overlooking Lanfair Valley. By 1921 he had cleared 50 acres and put 35 acres under cultivation with barley. He built a house and garage and drilled at least one well. Carruthers sold his homestead to the OX Cattle Company in 1931, and the Carruthers water line is now one of the major improvements on the ranch.

Mark Pettit, owner of the 7IL ranch in Gold Valley, filed on his 40-acre homestead entry in nearby Round Valley in 1929 and developed water and a corral. Pettit relinquished the claim in 1933, and the OX Cattle Company obtained the homestead through a federal land trade. More recently, the Pettit property has been operated as part of the Kessler Springs Ranch. Other former homestead properties include the Watson Well, sold to the OX in 1938, and the Martin place, sold in 1940. Both featured valuable water sources, although the Martin parcel was never developed by Halsell.

Lewis A. Ross filed a patent on 320 acres west of Ledge in 1918. Ross, who made his living with an ice route in Alhambra during the hot summer months, built a house in 1914 with a cellar, a barn, cistern, corral and a three-mile road to Maruba (Ledge). He fenced 40 acres and planted crops of rye, wheat, melons, sunflowers, corn and other vegetables and fruits. He later claimed an adjacent 320 acres that he used for grazing, fenced and cross-fenced with a dirt reservoir measuring thirty by one hundred feet. Ross's heirs sold the homestead to later OX owners Ed and Nell Eldridge in 1982.

By the end of the 1930s, Claud Halsell lived in San Bernardino and put the ranch operations into the hands of his son through a co-ownership. In 1940-1941, Claud Halsell, Jr. had a new house built at Ledge. Neighboring rancher Fleet Southcott constructed a wood frame house with stucco exterior and porches facing the New York Mountains. Southcott reportedly used salvaged lumber from homesteaders' houses in the construction. Halsell, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth operated the ranch during World War II and continued to add BLM grazing permits to the OX holdings. When Claud and Elizabeth's child grew old enough for school, the ranch holdings were sold.

Like Boy Williams on the adjacent Kessler Springs Ranch, Claud Halsell and his son defined the OX Ranch as a distinctive but compatible entity. Like Williams, Halsell built a new headquarters and developed a well fenced and watered post-Taylor Grazing Act ranch that set a pattern of development for his successors.

The Halsells sold the OX Ranch on October 10, 1946 to a newly-formed partnership, Bozarth & Rudnick. Russian immigrant Oscar Rudnick, a successful Bakersfield rancher with holdings throughout the west including a 950,000-acre ranch at Seligman, Arizona, reportedly provided the financial backing for the transaction. Waldo Bozarth, raised in a pioneer family of Prescott, Arizona, was an experienced cowboy and cattleman, himself owning the Cienega Ranch in Arizona. Rudnick provided the capital and Bozarth would run the ranching operation. Bozarth moved his family, including four daughters, into the relatively new Halsell House and hired a number of hands, including his Cienega foreman Pete Esquerra and local man John Farmer, raised at Lanfair and soon to marry one of the Bozarth daughters.

Bozarth & Rudnick reportedly started with 1,000 head of cattle and built it up to 5,000, all of which were shipped to Rudnick's feedlots in Bakersfield. The ranch employed up to ten cowboys who lived in the bunkhouse at headquarters and at various line camps on the ranch. Bozarth hired 14-year-old Gary Overson of Goffs as a cowboy; Overson ended up owning the ranch 35 years later. Bozarth & Rudnick made use of the old White Ranch as a line camp where the foreman's family raised vegetables. Foreman Pete Esquerra and his wife Mercedes (Mercy) later lived in a small house behind the cookhouse that was eventually moved and joined with the bunkhouse. Employees moved a small house from Goffs in the early 1950s for use as a guest house, placing it behind the Halsell house. It was during the Bozarth & Rudnick period that the historic property at Barnwell was sold to private owners, first to John and Betty (Bozarth) Farmer and then to owners not associated with the OX ranch.

In 1949 a devastating winter storm dropped fifty inches of snow, enough to bury fence lines and cut off cattle from their feed. The state provided emergency aid, dropping feed to stranded cattle by military aircraft. The cattle company lost more than 500 head and spent the early 1950s working to restock their allotments. The following year workers built an airstrip; Rudnick owned an airplane that he used to visit the ranch. Bozarth's daughter recalled that she convinced some passing mining engineers to construct the airstrip in trade for a batch of ranch cook Mercy Esquerra's excellent pies.

Bozarth, allegedly using some trickery in the form of a beautiful daughter, bought Bert Smith's homestead at Rock Spring in the 1950s for $10,000. Smith's rock house came into occasional use as a line camp. All across the ranch, Bozarth & Rudnick extended some water lines but didn't change fence lines or make any major improvements on the ranch.

Valley View Ranch

In 1930, members of the Yates family bought the northern part of the "88" property, which adjoined their ranch at Valley Wells. Sidney E. "Boots" Yates was born in 1876 in Kern County, and had driven cattle to Valley Wells in 1894, the year of incorporation for Rock

Springs Land & Cattle Company. He and his wife Bessie Parker Yates ran cattle in the vicinity of the current Valley View Ranch. “Boots” Yates died at age 47 in 1923, and his widow continued operation of the ranch with the help of James Palmer and “Boy” Williams. In 1937 the family formed the Yates Valley View Ranch.

Around 1940 the Yates’ sold the Valley View property to Fred Twisselmann, who soon turned the property over to his daughter and son-in-law, Lucille and “Slim” Skinner. Skinner made major improvements to the ranch, installing new buildings, water systems, fencing and corrals. He extended water for dozens of miles west, north and east of the ranch headquarters. Skinner enlarged the ranch complex on the slope of Cima Dome, making it headquarters of the Valley View, while Twisselmann built a handful of structures at Rock Tank and lived there. Members of the Yates family continued to operate Valley Wells Ranch to the north across the highway.

*History #1: Kessler Springs in 1901. (Gary Overson Collection, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

*History #2: Cottonwood in front of early house configuration in mid-teens, note shadow to right of second tree. (Jack Greening Collection, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

*History #3: The town of Barnwell at the turn of the century. (Myrick 1963, 847)*

*History #4: Private residence and former headquarters of the RSL&CC at Barnwell in the 1920s. (L.W. Buck McClanahan Collection, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

*History #5: Boy Williams, Alice, and Edna at Kessler Springs, ca. 1930. (Williams Family Collection, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

*History #6: The Kessler Springs ranch house and other buildings in the early 1940s. (Williams Family Collection, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

*History #7: The Kessler Springs ranch at the height of its period of significance, ca. 1940s. (Williams Family Collection, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

*History #8: Contemporary photograph showing the historic homestead site where a gun fight between homesteaders and ranchers ocurred (Dewey Livingston, 2001).*

**1955 to present**

Bozarth & Rudnick sold their entire holdings, including 400,000 acres of leased land rights and the scattered parcels of deeded land, to Ed and Nell Eldridge in October of 1955. The Eldridges moved to the ranch the following year. Ed Eldridge, born on an Arizona ranch in 1907, was an experienced rancher and farmer. At the OX he kept a herd of between 1200 and 3500 head of cattle on about 400,000 fenced acres. By this time all shipping was done by truck. Eldridge added cross fencing in the form of “drift fences” to regulate the herd locations during the seasons; during the hot summer months the cattle grazed the upper elevations, then moved down as the weather got colder. The lowest areas near the railroad at Goffs acted as the

winter range. Eldridge added 75 sections of rangeland south of the railroad near Goffs and Fenner and purchased more homestead land, including the Ross homestead west of the OX headquarters. Among other improvements made by Eldridge were water line extensions, a few corrals and a carport at the ranch headquarters. Eldridge tore down Halsell's cookhouse and built a new one in its place with cinder blocks and metal sash windows. The Eldridges owned and operated the OX Cattle Company for 30 years.

The Skinner family sold their Valley View Ranch holdings in 1975 to Andy Anderson, who then sold to Richard Blincoe of Idaho in 1979. Tim Overson, raised in the area and a veteran cowpuncher from the OX and other ranches, took over management of the Valley View Ranch and its cattle.

In 1986 Ed and Nell Eldridge sold the OX Ranch holdings to Gary and Linda Overson, owners of the neighboring Kessler Springs Ranch. Overson, raised in Goffs and having worked on the OX during the 1950s, now controlled 700,000 acres in the east Mojave Desert. Overson and his son Clay invested in many improvements at the OX, including the replacement of water tanks, troughs and pipelines, usually leaving the older ones in place. The corrals at the headquarters were rebuilt into a different configuration. Also at headquarters, the Oversons replaced the roof on the cookhouse, installed a doublewide trailer for cowboys and planted trees in the yard. Now in control of two vast, contiguous ranches, the Oversons ran an average of 3,500 head of cattle between them, a lighter stocking rate than their predecessors and less than half of the numbers posted by the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company some 75 years earlier. By the end of the century, the OX Ranch contained 200 miles of fencing and 110 miles of water pipe.

The establishment of Mojave National Preserve, a key component in the 1994 Desert Protection Act, placed pressure on the Overson's ranches. Although the intent to retain historic cattle grazing in the preserve had been included in the legislated agreement, retirement of grazing leases was encouraged for environmental reasons. Private parties donated the funds to buy out the Overson family and thereby end long-time ranching operations in the area. In 2001 the Overson families at both the OX Ranch and Kessler Springs Ranch removed their cattle and moved out of the state. The Valley View Ranch was purchased for inclusion in Mojave National Preserve in 2003. The ranch buildings, for the most part, are now vacant and flows in the water systems have been halted.

*History #9: Aerial view of the OX Ranch center in 1987. (Dennis Casebier, Mojave Desert Archives, Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, Goffs, CA.)*

# Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Ranch remains today as an example of a prominent cattle-ranching landscape of the Mojave Desert. The landscape retains features that were developed to support cattle ranching activities during the period of significance, as well as features that were added as ranching continued as late as 2001. Despite improvements made by subsequent owners after 1954, the landscape appears much today as it did from 1894 to 1954, as many of these later improvements are compatible with the historic scene. Today, the RSL&CC Ranch continues to retain eight cultural landscape characteristics from the period of significance: natural systems and features, spatial organization, cluster arrangement, circulation, buildings and structures, small scale features, vegetation, and archeology.

The most influential natural systems at the RSL&CC Ranch have been geomorphology, hydrology, climate, and native vegetation. The current alignments of the roads follow the historic routes of least resistance in response to the topography of the land. Distribution of historic springs and wells remain as indications of the historic availability of water throughout the landscape. With the cattle's presence until just three years ago, the ecology of the land still remains much as it has since the introduction of cattle during the period of significance.

RSL&CC Ranch was developed and organized to meet the needs of the cattle-ranching operation in the desert ecosystem of the Mojave. This includes the spatial organization of ranch headquarters, corrals and minor roads in relation to water availability and proximity of major roads and railroad lines. The historic cluster arrangement patterns of buildings and structures includes the arrangement of buildings and features associated with the cattle operation in a pragmatic, functional way that met the needs of both cattle and ranch workers. These patterns are still evident at Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters complex, OX Ranch headquarters complex, Valley View headquarters, the Barnwell complex, and the numerous developed watering sites distributed throughout the grazing lands. The historic system of main roads, minor roads, remaining railroad grades, and cattle grazing/round-up/corral systems remains predominantly intact.

Buildings and structures found throughout the RSL&CC Ranch were predominantly built to meet utilitarian needs of the ranch operations. Their style and method of construction are vernacular, reflecting availability of building materials and the construction skills of local ranchers. Buildings predominantly include houses, barns, shops, and sheds. Structures include those features associated with the watering systems, corral and fences: springs, wells, pipelines, windmills, corrals, and fences. While a number of small-scale features have been lost since the period of significance, there are numerous examples of small-scale features including historic water troughs, salt troughs, and other miscellaneous features. The most predominant contributing vegetation features at the RSL&CC Ranch are shade trees (typically, cottonwood or elm) at ranch headquarters and watering sites. Those archeological sites that are considered to be potentially contributing to the ranch consist of sites whose remains are part of the physical history of the RSL&CC Ranch and have the potential to yield additional information about the site during the historic period. Predominant archeological sites include three town

sites, ruins of buildings.

Contributing and Non-contributing Features
All features dating from the period of significance are contributing elements to the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District, with the exception of ruins. These include buildings, structures and landscape features such as roads, pipelines, objects and historic vegetation; these items are collected in sites, which together make up the larger district. The district is the entire ranch property comprised of the facilities of three individual former ranch operations; the sites are the clusters of cattle-related water and/or containment features at any particular location within the district, always named (i.e. Murphy Well or Government Holes); they are comprised of buildings, structures and features.

Due to the large number of features and lack of complete and detailed documentation in many areas, precise determination of the origin of all features may not be possible. This CLI follows the findings of the National Register nomination which errs on the side of preservation. Dozens of older galvanized steel troughs are found throughout the region, most of which are undocumented as to exact origin. As the RSL&CC was known to use this type of trough, all of these types are considered contributing until information surfaces that will allow positive identification.

Determination of contributing/non-contributing is based on feature styles, and those individual features positively known to be of recent origin are considered to be non-contributing. Non-contributing features will include: commercial welded galvanized steel tanks, commercial embossed galvanized steel troughs, tire salt troughs, PVC and black plastic pipe, fence lines with a majority of steel posts, trailers, and features known to be less than 50 years old. As has been stated above, a majority of the non-contributing modern features have been removed by the owners in fulfillment of transfer agreements made with Preserve management at the time of sale. Debris, scattered and in piles, is considered contributing until examined by archeologists or historians.

Integrity
Integrity has been evaluated on a dual level, the final objective being a determination of integrity of the district as a whole. Buildings, structures and features were evaluated individually during resources surveys 2001-2007 for the purposes of inventory and evaluation. These items, often in poor condition having been deteriorated by time, weather and use, are considered to have integrity if their use and importance remains visible in the context of the site and district. It is the cluster of features typical to these sites that provides the best information about the historic uses of the site: a cattle gathering location typically consisted of water distribution elements, salt lick and corral, although not always the latter. Further, the cluster of sites across the district (and the routes, pipelines and landscapes that connect them), tells the bigger story about the historic cattle ranching enterprise, exhibiting its scope and unique characteristics as this sparsely vegetated desert landscape required that cattle be spread across a million acres of land and watering sites be located miles apart. The distribution of water is a large part of this story, and the elements of the water infrastructure provide a like percentage of contributing features.

The historic district has been determined to possess integrity because of the intact network of sites

bound as a whole in historic context, the individual features that make up each site, and their natural setting.. The integrity of each feature type that contributes (or does not contribute) to the district has been evaluated as follows. (Please note that these features do not have to be in working order or good condition to retain integrity, and must not be overwhelmed by non-contributing replacement features.) These features are described in the Buildings and Structures, Circulation, and Small Scale Features sections.

Springs, Wells and Windmills: a spring head must be largely intact and include evidence of development by digging and/or installation of structural elements; a well must retain its characteristics as a hand-dug hole in the ground and, if applicable, retain adequate structural elements of lining and cover; a windmill tower must be standing and its head and fan intact.

Pipelines: intact iron or steel pipe must be evident, especially at the spring head/well and at the trough and/or tank. Although portions of the pipelines are buried, they will not be considered archeological resources because of their essential relationship to aboveground resources.

Tanks and Troughs: tanks must be largely intact and standing; troughs must retain adequate fabric, but as objects of historical interest may have been moved a short distance from their original location.

Corrals and Fences: corrals must retain enough fabric to exhibit original materials and continue to delineate the expanse of the enclosure (only in few cases does a corral retain less than 75% of its original fabric, and two historic corrals have been destroyed by fire since the inventory was initially completed); fences must retain a high percentage of standing posts and barbed wire or boards, adequately delineating the line of demarcation.

Roads and Trails: the route must be visible, delineated by evidence of tracks and transport uses, and in the same location over the past 50 years.

In addition, aspects of setting that help to convey the historic character of the RSL&CC Ranch are described in the Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Cluster Arrangement, and Vegetation sections.

## Landscape Characteristic:

### Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development of a landscape, such as geomorphology, geology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and vegetation.

The Mojave National Preserve lies at the convergence of three of America’s great desert regions: the Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin Deserts. To ensure a successful cattle business in the harsh, yet fragile Mojave Desert, ranchers were obliged to develop and use their property as dictated by the natural systems and features of the landscape. The desert setting required ranchers to carefully balance the number of cattle with the availability of water and food

resources and to carefully place their ranch developments in relation to water and accessibility. Geomorphology and hydrology played a large role in the locations of ranch headquarters, watering sites, corrals, and circulation routes. Hydrology, climate, and native vegetation played a role in the movement of cattle throughout the seasons and the availability of grazing lands. Together, these natural systems and features shaped ranching practices that are reflected in the RSL&CC Ranch landscape that exists today.

Geomorphology

The Mojave Desert National Preserve contains several mountain ranges, the Kelso dune system, dry lake beds and evidence of volcanic activity in the form of domes, lava flows and cinder cones. The RSL&CC Ranch, a portion of the greater preserve, is predominantly comprised of large open grazing lands of rolling hills and valleys that are contrasted by sharply rising mountain ranges that intermittently break up the horizontal plain of the desert. Elevations range from 3,000 feet at the lowest portions near Goffs in the Lanfair Valley to the 6,600-foot Drum Peak in the central part of the ranch. The eastern slopes of Cima Dome and the Marl Mountains mark the western edge of RSL&CC Ranch. These mountains also delineate the southwestern edge of Ivanpah Valley that is aligned along a southwest to northeast axis. The valley rises to the south and east to form the New York Mountains and the Mid Hills. To the east of these mountains is the Lanfair Valley that runs roughly northwest-southeast, bounded by the Piute Mountains at the eastern edge of the ranch boundary.

The arrangement of mountains and valleys heavily influenced the alignment of roads through the landscape and the placement of ranch headquarters. The main roads through the ranch follow the lines of least resistance. The majority of roads follow along the valley bottoms and are fairly straight. However, some roads traverse mountain passes, becoming more curvilinear to address the grade change.

Hydrology

Due to the ranch's desert location, water availability was a key resource in development of the RSL&CC Ranch. The western side of the ranch had numerous natural springs that were improved to water cattle. Thus, the Kessler Springs portion of the district has a large concentration of developed spring heads. The eastern half of the ranch was much drier, requiring wells to be dug. As a result, higher concentrations of windmill powered wells are found on the OX portion of the ranch.

Spring and well locations became prime candidates for development as either a ranch headquarters or a watering site. Barnwell had a reliable spring and, after a rail line was extended to the area, became the main headquarters for RSL&CC. The Barnwell headquarters was moved to OX ranch circa 1930 where a well had been previously developed by homesteaders. Kessler Springs headquarters was sited at a spring along Cima Road that historically served as a watering spot for travelers along Cima Road. Over time, the spring has been supplemented with wells. Historic spring heads and wells still remain as signs of the historic (and current) availability of water throughout the landscape.

As water was essential for the success of a cattle operation in the desert, water rights were a major concern of the RSL&CC. The company controlled most of the water rights in the Mojave Desert and defended those rights from the homesteaders. Under NPS management, most springs and wells will no longer be maintained and will return to their natural state, however, some may be maintained as water sources for wildlife.

Climate
The preserve experiences extreme variations in temperature and rainfall throughout the year. From May to October temperatures are typically in excess of 100 degrees, often reaching 120 degrees. During winter months temperatures can drop to freezing. Rainfall ranges from four inches per year at lower elevations to over ten inches at higher elevations, predominantly falling between November and March. During August and September, occasional thunderstorms are carried in with warm and moist tropical air from the Gulf of California and the Gulf of Mexico. The climate at the RSL&CC Ranch influenced where cattle grazed throughout the year. Allowed to move freely through the grazing lands, cattle would seek out comfortable temperatures (Overson, 2003). As a result, the cattle could be found at higher elevations in the summer where the temperatures were cooler and at lower elevations in the winter where it was warmer.

Vegetation
The native vegetation of the RSL&CC landscape is comprised of plants that have evolved to tolerate the harsh climate of the Mojave Desert. At lower elevations, the native vegetation is predominantly Joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia), yucca (Yucca schidigera), barrel cactus (Ferocactus acanthodes), and cholla (Opuntia spp.). At higher elevations, pinyon pine (Pinus monophylla), juniper (Juniperus californica), and oaks (Quercus spp.) are most common. Interspersed between the larger native vegetation is a combination of low-growing native and non-native perennial and annual grasses. Most of the annual grasses were introduced into the landscape through cattle grazing practices and were historically the mainstay of the cattle diet.

The cattle moved through the grazing lands according to available feed in season. In early spring and after heavy rains, the cattle would feed on the flowers and seedpods of Joshua trees and various cacti. During the drier, warmer summer seasons, they would move to higher elevations to find green grasses. During cattle roundups, the taller vegetation (Joshua trees, piñon pines, and juniper) and the prickly cacti made maneuvering horses difficult and decreased visibility. However, according to Tim Overson, a former ranch hand, no efforts were made to remove or thin the large vegetation because the blooms and seedpods provided an invaluable food source for the cattle. These plant communities that historically provided food resources for cattle continue to characterize the upper and lower elevations of the ranch as they did during the period of significance.

Summary
Natural systems and features that influenced the way the landscape was developed still remain

today. The most influential natural systems at the RSL&CC Ranch have been geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Distribution of historic springs and wells remain as indications of the historic availability of water throughout the landscape. Although cattle no longer remain on the RSL&CC Ranch lands, the climate and vegetation species that influenced cattle grazing and ranching practices remain as a defining feature of the landscape. Consequently, natural systems and features is a landscape characteristic that contributes to the setting of the RSL&CC Ranch.

*Natural Systems and Features #1: The RS:&CC Ranch is predominantly comprised of large, open grazing land that is contrasted by sharply rising mountain ranges. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Natural Systems and Features #2: At higher elevations, pinyon pine, juniper, and oaks become common species. Juniper clusters can be seen in the middle ground of this photo. (PWRO, 2004)*

*Natural Systems and Features #3: At lower elevations, Joshua trees are the predominant large, native vegetation. (PWRO, 2003)*

### Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined as the three dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

Historically, the RSL&CC Ranch was developed and organized to meet the needs of a cattle raising operation in a desert ecosystem. Located within a dry and isolated environment, access to water and railroad lines were key factors that determined the arrangement of housing, storage, springs, wells, corrals, pastures, and roads in the landscape. In addition, the distribution of natural springs and the topography played a role in the arrangement and number of cattle watering sites, corrals, roads, and pastures.

The RSL&CC Ranch consisted predominantly of large open grazing lands of rolling hills and gentle slopes rising to the feet of mountain ranges that intermittently broke up the horizontal plain of the desert. Divided into three ranches by the early 1930s, Kessler Springs Ranch comprised the western portion the original RSL&CC Ranch, OX Ranch comprised the eastern, and larger, part of the old ranch, and Valley View Ranch comprised the northwestern portion. Within the Kessler Springs Ranch portion is included much of the Ivanpah Valley, parts of the western New York Mountains and Mid Hills, and the eastern slopes of Cima Dome and the Marl Mountains north of Kelso. The OX property encompasses the Lanfair Valley and New

York Mountains, with a portion of the northwestern property falling in the Ivanpah Valley.

Interspersed throughout the grazing lands, ranchers developed dense clusters of buildings and structures that served as ranch headquarters or watering sites. The Kessler Springs, OX, and Valley View Ranches had a headquarters complex that functioned as a center of business, social, and residential life for each ranch. The ranches also had numerous watering sites throughout the grazing lands that served as watering holes for the cattle and as working stations for the wranglers as they rounded up their herds. By developing water sources for the cattle, ranchers were in effect expanding the distance that cattle could travel in search of food and thus creating more usable land.

The locations of the headquarters complexes were determined by several factors, but the two primary factors were a reliable source of water and proximity to rail lines for the transportation of cattle to market. The current ranch headquarters for Kessler Springs, OX, and Valley View Ranches, and the historic RSL&CC Ranch headquarters at Barnwell, met both of these factors. The Kessler Springs, Valley View, and Barnwell headquarters had reliable springs that were developed as early as 1894 by the RSL&CC. Kessler Springs and Valley View were located along a well traveled road (today's Cima Road) which provided access to the railroad depot at Cima. Barnwell, which became the headquarters for the RSL&CC in 1894, already had a railhead at the time. In the early 1930s, Barnwell was replaced by the OX headquarters site as the center of OX Ranch. The site had a well developed by previous homesteaders and was adjacent to the rail line between Goffs and Barnwell.

Main roads through the ranch properties provided access between the ranch headquarters, and established towns, as well as railroad stations. From each main road, a minor system of roads extended into the grazing lands providing access to watering sites and corrals, often linking a series of watering sites. The roads that connected the watering sites typically followed pipelines that began at the water source, linking watering site to watering site. By following the pipelines, the roads provided access for maintenance and repair of the pipelines, corrals, water tanks, and water troughs at each site.

Today, the RSL&CC Ranch is organized in the same manner as it was during the period of significance. The predominant spatial pattern is comprised of broad expanses of open grazing lands interspersed with mountain ranges and clusters of development (headquarters complexes and watering sites). The arrangement of the development clusters reflects the split of the ranch into two separate ranches, each with their own ranch headquarters: the Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, OX Ranch headquarters, and Valley View headquarters. The locations of the headquarters and watering sites still correspond to basic ranching needs: a water source and means of transportation. All headquarters and corrals have a source of water in the form of a spring or a well and are connected by a system of roads branching off the main roads and following the sources of water into the pastures. This spatial organization was developed in the most efficient manner for running a cattle operation in a desert ecosystem and continues to be evident in the landscape today.

Summary
The spatial organization of the RSL&CC Ranch was developed to meet the needs of the cattle ranching operation in the desert ecosystem is still intact today as it was developed historically. This includes the spatial organization of ranch headquarters, corrals and minor roads in relation to water availability and proximity of major roads and railroad lines. As a result, spatial organization is a landscape characteristic that contributes to the setting of the historic district.

## Cluster Arrangement

Cluster arrangement is defined as the location and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated spaces in the landscape.

The cluster arrangement of historic buildings and features found on the RSL&CC Ranch was established in response to the historic needs of both cattle and ranch workers. The most noticeable clusters of buildings and features on the ranch are the headquarters complexes. The four historic ranch headquarters (Barnwell, Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, OX Ranch headquarters, and Valley View Ranch headquarters) were established to function as the business, residential, and social centers of the ranches. Less obvious clusters of historic features, but equally as important to ranching operations, are the developed watering sites dispersed throughout the ranch lands. Developed watering sites served to provide water for the cattle, make more land accessible for grazing, and provide wranglers work areas to gather cattle for branding, vaccinations, and sorting for shipment. The arrangement of buildings and features within the ranch headquarters and the developed watering sites are described below.

RANCH HEADQUARTERS COMPLEXES
General patterns of building type and building arrangement are common to the Kessler Springs, OX ranch, and Valley View headquarters. Each ranch has a dense cluster of buildings for residential and utilitarian uses located at a source of water. Each headquarters has a main house where the head rancher's family historically resided, a bunkhouse for hired help, a barn for hay storage, a shop for equipment repair and storage, a saddle shed, a milking shed or calf shed, water tanks, a horse corral, cattle corrals, and fenced pastures. These buildings and structures are pragmatically arranged in a way that facilitated the historic functions of the ranch. For example, buildings related to the maintenance of horses (the hay barn, saddle shed, and horse corrals) are located adjacent to each other. Features of cluster arrangement that are unique to each headquarters area are described below.

Kessler Spring Ranch Headquarters
The Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters complex is located on Cima Road, four miles northwest of Cima and twelve miles southeast of Interstate 15. The ranch complex lies east of the road on a slight slope and is reached by a dirt road that once served as the Cima Road before it was rerouted to bypass the ranch complex. Use of the Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters complex site reportedly dates to the 1870s or earlier by Kistler and as a watering site for travelers along the road. Many of the remaining historic structures appear to be between fifty and one hundred years old. Although the ranch is a mix of developments spanning the late nineteenth century to the recent times, the majority of structures reflect the ranching

landscape of the 1930s. The hay barn, saddle shed, milk cow barn, trapping shed and workshop, were all built during that era.

Before Cima Road was realigned during the period of significance, the complex was divided in half by the road. After the road was realigned to bypass the complex to the west, the old road remained as the entry road to the ranch complex and continued to function as the main feature around which all the buildings and corrals were arranged. The old road alignment still widens at the center of the building complex and continues through the ranch as a minor road leading into the mountains. Arranged around the widening of the road are several buildings, corrals, and structures. The greatest concentration of buildings are in the northern and western portions of the complex, including all the historic residential buildings. Work-related buildings tended to be clustered together, making the layout efficient for ranch-related activities. Corrals and related livestock buildings are mostly located within the southern and eastern portions of the complex, located close to one another for efficiency of caring for the animals. Pastures are located on the western outskirts of the complex on the other side of the current Cima Road alignment where vast amounts flat land were located. The arrangement of buildings and corrals reflect the efficiency of a working ranch.

The Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters is comprised of a mixture of historic and non-historic buildings and structures. Although the core of the Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters includes much of the historic fabric, some buildings have been added (the trailer residence and associated development to the south, a triple-wide trailer near the blacksmith shop, and the metal shop/equipment shed) some buildings have been moved to new locations (the shed near the triple-wide trailer and the hay barn). Despite these additions and changes, the cluster arrangement of the Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters remains relatively intact at its core historic developed area. The historic buildings, except the hay barn, remain in their original locations and relate to one another as they did during the period of significance. Residential and utilitarian buildings critical to the operation of a cattle ranch remain clustered closely together around an open space in the middle that provides easy access and circulation through the ranch core. The greatest threat to integrity of Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters is the southern trailer residence expansion to the south.

OX Ranch Headquarters
The OX Ranch headquarters is located on Ivanpah Road, five miles north of Cedar Canyon Road and twenty miles north of Old Route 66 at Goffs. New York Mountain Road, which leads up to Carruthers Canyon, terminates Ivanpah Road at this location. The majority of the buildings and structures lie east of Ivanpah road, although a large water tank and a fenced pasture are found on the west side of the road. Previously developed by a homesteader and railroad company, Claud Halsell, Sr. moved OX Ranch headquarters from Barnwell, the original RSL&CC Ranch base of operations, to this site in the 1930s. The ranch complex, which was in continuous use as the OX Ranch headquarters for approximately seventy years, is a mixture of development spanning the late nineteenth century to recent times, the majority of buildings and structures date to Halsell's era in the 1930s and 1940s.

The ranch headquarters is accessed by a short entry road off of Ivanpah Road. To the left of the entrance gate are two water tanks on a raised platform dating to the railroad era. Once through the entrance gate, the road widens to an open space surrounded by buildings, structures, and corrals. The greatest concentration of buildings are in the southern portion of the complex where all of the historic residences and related buildings, (including the bunkhouse, windmill, well, the original cookhouse, root cellar, and the cook's residence) are located. The main residence is in the furthest southeastern portion and is accessed by a road that continues southeast from the central open area. Associated with the main residence is a garage foundation, rake shed, and a guest house. A horse corral, horse pasture, cattle corral, and related livestock buildings (the hay barn with attached calf shed), shop, and wooden storage shed are located in the northern portion of the complex. Two additional pastures (the Bull Pasture (2-mile square, divided into 4 sections) and Ross Pasture) and water tanks area located in the western outskirts of the complex on the other side of Ivanpah Road.

The OX Ranch headquarters is comprised of a mixture of historic and non-historic buildings and structures. Although the core of the OX Ranch headquarters includes much of the historic fabric, some buildings have been added since the period of significance (the new cookhouse, a single wide trailer residence to the south of the cookhouse, a generator shed, an addition to the north end of the historic bunkhouse, and a doublewide trailer residence to the north of the bunkhouse). One building was removed, the historic cook's residence. Despite these additions and removal, the cluster arrangement of the OX Ranch headquarters remains relatively intact at its core historic developed area. The historic buildings remain in their original locations and relate to one another as they did during the period of significance. The new buildings fit within the historic development core. The new cookhouse was built in the same location as the historic cook's residence. Residential and utilitarian buildings critical to the operation of a cattle ranch remain clustered closely together within the historically developed core around an open space that provides access within the ranch core.

Valley View Ranch Headquarters
The headquarters for the Valley View Ranch are located ten miles south of the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15. Its main entrance off Cima Road is a two-mile dirt road located ten miles from the freeway. The ranch is situated at an elevation of 5,000 feet (1525 meters) on the broad, sloping north side of Cima Dome, about 1.5 miles northwest of Teutonia Peak; inhabitants of the ranch enjoy a wide vista over the Shadow Valley, the Mescal Range and the Clark Range. The ranch headquarters complex is composed of three adjacent components: the residential area, the barn/shop area and the corral/waters area. Dirt roads and water pipelines extend in three directions from the headquarters area.

WATERING SITES
The most common cluster developments found at the RSL&CC Ranch are the watering sites that are distributed throughout the grazing lands. These watering sites vary from a simple spring or water trough fed by a pipeline to a more complex development with corrals and fenced

pastures and remnant homesteads. Typical features associated with the watering sites are water tanks, pipelines, springs, wells, windmills, water troughs, corrals or fences.

Below is a description of the basic organization of typical watering sites. For more detailed descriptions of individual watering sites, refer to the Buildings and Structures section.

All watering sites have a developed water source in the form of a spring head, a well with a windmill and jackpump, or a pipeline coming from a nearby spring or well. They are also usually equipped with water storage tanks, water troughs and salt troughs. Those wells and springs that distribute water to other watering sites have a pipeline system extending into the grazing lands, often miles long, in addition to features listed above. Those watering sites that double as a place for wranglers to work the cattle have, in addition to the above features, one or more corrals. Some sites also have what is called a “trap,” which is a smaller version of a fenced pasture used to keep cattle overnight (Overson 2003). Many of the oldest wells and spring heads were developed and maintained by homesteaders who built residences, root cellars, and sheds, or the military who built small forts and corrals at these key sites earlier in the nineteenth century. At many watering sites, remnants of these developments remain.

Structures at watering sites were placed in a practical fashion to meet the needs of ranch workers and cattle. Corrals were sited close to roads to transport cattle from the watering site to headquarters or train depot by vehicle. Salt troughs and watering troughs were kept inside the corrals where penned cattle could access them. Water tanks were placed at high points in the landscape or on raised platforms to take advantage of gravity to feed the water troughs.

Since the period of period of significance, the Overson’s continued to maintain a majority of the historic watering sites and added new ones. Often at the historic watering sites, those structures not integral to the cattle operation were removed or neglected. Many of the homestead sites no longer have their original buildings, but still have building foundations, root cellars, and other clues of past development. Old fort sites often have remnant stone walls. At a majority of the historic watering sites, the original spring heads, wells, windmills, corrals, traps, water tanks, water troughs, and salt troughs still remain. At some of the historic sites, worn-out features have been replaced with newer ones over the last fifty years. These newer features do not contribute to the integrity of cluster arrangement, but are often compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Barnwell
Barnwell was the original headquarters for the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company, but was used primarily as a watering site by the 1930s. It originated as a rail stop on the Nevada Southern Railroad that built tracks over the pass in 1893. No doubt the reason for placement of the RSL&CC headquarters at this site was the availability of water and the high elevation, which gave relief from the high temperatures in the desert below. As of 1916 the company had extended a water line here for a distance of about ten miles. While the lots containing buildings at Barnwell were eventually sold, the water systems remained under control of the OX Cattle

Company. The wells at Barnwell feed a 20-mile pipeline with seven water stations along the way.

Historically, a small town consisting of a train depot, post office, school, store, two blacksmith shops, a saloon and the RSL&CC headquarters building, Barnwell has little remaining from its earliest development. The features that do remain tell more of its historic use in the 1930s and 1940s as a watering site. Remaining features include a corral, several windmills and wells, pipeline, steel tanks, a rock and concrete tank in the ground, fencing around the tank, concrete troughs, and a boiler. In addition, the RSL&CC headquarters building still remains as a private residence on a private property inholding, within the CLI study boundaries. These historic features remain clustered within a small valley that once protected the historic town of Barnwell.

The historic entrance to Barnwell is at the intersection of Ivanpah and Hart Roads. At this intersection is the main residence of the historic headquarters. As Hart Road is followed eastward, a windmill is found to the south and a grove of mesquite trees is seen on the north side where an old abandoned well is tucked underneath the thick trees. Continuing eastward, a corral is located on the north side of the road at an intersection of Hart Road and a dirt road. If Hart Road is followed further east, it passes a windmill, an abandoned well, and a water tank. If the dirt road at the corral is followed north, it terminates with a small turnaround where another abandoned well is located. At the western edge of the turnaround, a windmill is sited up on a hillside with a water tank dug into the ground and lined with mortared rock. On the eastern side of the turnaround are a concrete slab and an old boiler. This may have been the location of a historic shed or small dwelling.

Historic buildings were either removed or left to decay. As a result, Barnwell's pre-1930s use as a ranch headquarters is no longer as clearly evident as Kessler Springs and OX Ranch headquarters. However, Barnwell's later historic use (post-1930s) as a corral for herding and watering cattle is still clearly evident in the remaining arrangement of watering features and corral that have been maintained by recent ranch owners.

The Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company National Register nomination grouped contributing resources by site and found the following sites to be contributing. Features associated with watering sites are further described and listed in the following sections: Buildings and Structures (buildings, springs, wells, windmills/jackpumps, pipelines, tanks, corrals and pens) and Small Scale Features (water troughs and salt troughs).

Sites Listed as Contributing in the National Register Nomination:
Kessler Springs Ranch Headquarters:
OX Ranch Headquarters
Valley View Ranch Headquarters
Barnwell Water Line
The Thomas Place

8 Mile
Pettit
Sacaton Spring
Cottonwood Spring
Cabin Spring
Live Oak Spring
White Rock Spring
Cut Spring
Cut Tank
Chicken Water Spring
Murphy Well
Marl Spring
Mexican Spring
Bullock Spring
Wildcat Spring
Coyote Spring
Cedar Canyon Spring
6 Mile
10 Mile
Morning Star Well
Lower New Trough
Hart Corral
Lainfair Homestead Rainshed
Martin
Hackberry Water Line
Hackberry Corral
Lanfair Corral
Piute Dry Corral
Payne
Smithson Mine
Lecyr
Dove
Mail Spring
Vontrigger Spring
White Ranch
Government Holes
Rock House
Woods Canyon Spring
Watson Well
Eagle Well
Upper Carruthers Canyon
Carruthers
Waldo’s Water

Middle Carruthers
Southwest Corner Ross Pasture
No Water Haul
Ross Pasture
Brant Spring
Hidden Spring
Willow Spring
Barnett Well
Headquarters Corral
Headquarters Waters
Deer Spring
Kessler Springs
Twisselmann Tank #1
Twisselmann Tank #2
Twisselmann Tank #3
Twisselmann Tank #5
Twisselmann Tank #6
Twisselmann Tank #9
Twisselmann Tank #10
Cow Cove
Black Tank
Natural Corral
Indian Spring
Middle Water
Rock Tank
Henry Spring
Ord Tank
Seven Mile
Big Flat Trough

Sites Listed as Non-Contributing in the National Register Nomination:
Black Mesa Dirt Tank
Upper Black Mesa Dirt Tank
Landreman House
Burro Spring
Twisselmann Tank #4
Twisselmann Tank #4½
Twisselmann Tank #7
Twisselmann Tank #8
Turtle Valley
Twin Peaks

Summary

The historic cluster arrangement patterns of buildings and structures found within headquarter complexes and watering sites throughout the RSL&CC Ranch are relatively intact from the period of significance. This includes the arrangement of common buildings and features associated with the cattle operation in a pragmatic, functional way that met the needs of both cattle and ranch workers. These patterns are still evident at Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, OX Ranch headquarters, Valley View headquarters, and Barnwell and the numerous watering sites distributed throughout the grazing lands. As a result, Cluster Arrangement is a landscape characteristic that contributes to the setting of the historic district.

*Cluster Arrangement #1: Historic portion of the Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters development. Buildings are clustered around a large open area. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Cluster Arrangement #2: Photo of OX Ranch headquarters, showing the southern portion of the cluster of buildings. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Cluster Arrangement #3: Photo of OX Ranch headquarters, showing the northern portion of the cluster of buildings. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Cluster Arrangement #4: Government Holes is an example of a cluster arrangement of a developed watering site. (PWRO, 2003)*

### Buildings and Structures

For purposes of the CLI, buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, while structures are defined as functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity. The CLI references the List of Classified Structures (LCS), the National Park Service's inventory for buildings and structures. The CLI records buildings and structures as features of the landscape, however, the LCS provides details that are not typically found in the CLI and should be referenced for more definitive structure information.

Buildings and structures found throughout the RSL&CC Ranch are predominantly built to meet utilitarian needs of the ranch operations. Their style and method of construction are vernacular, reflecting availability of building materials and the construction skills of the locals. The following descriptions of contributing buildings and structures are adapted from the "Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company National Register Nomination" (Livingston 2005). The major concentrations of buildings and structures are found at Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, OX Ranch headquarters, and Valley View Ranch headquarters. Numerous other buildings and structures are found at watering sites and small developments throughout the ranch grazing lands.

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Springs, Wells and Windmills
The typical spring head on the ranches is a hand-dug tunnel strengthened with timbers, averaging four feet square. Some springs are merely seeps emanating from a dugout slope. Often the spring head is not visible due to vegetation. Wells are typically vertical shafts, either hand-dug and cased with timbers or masonry, or drilled and capped with concrete leaving a protruding pipe. The windmills on the ranch largely date from the 1930s and 1940s, with repairs and replacement of the heads accomplished in recent years. Windmills are measured by the size of their rotors, and so a 20-foot windmill will actually be about 50-60 feet tall. A pumpjack, powered by either the windmill or a gasoline engine, often pulled the water from the well; the pumpjacks stood on concrete bases, many of which remain.

Pipelines
The older types of pipe are iron or steel, sometimes galvanized, and ranging in diameter from one inch to three inches, with a few larger exceptions. Occasionally an example of insulated iron pipe (Hackberry) or wrapped wood pipe (Lanfair) can be found. Pipe materials in use since 1950 include early black plastic pipe, PVC and the newest, Gold Label pipe. All remaining plastic pipe is non-contributing.

Tanks and Troughs
Water storage tanks were often equipped with float valves to regulate their capacity, as well as a riser pipe, outlet pipe, overflow pipe and a steel ladder. The older tanks were riveted or bolted galvanized steel, often corrugated. Newer, noncontributing tanks were welded galvanized steel. Most of the tanks were placed on an informal foundation of railroad ties. Most of the larger tanks are built on concrete and rock foundations.
Watering troughs come in a number of styles. Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company used at least two styles: the circular reinforced concrete trough, ten feet in diameter with a three-foot circular float chamber in the center, usually poured into corrugated metal forms; and galvanized metal troughs averaging four feet wide by twelve to fourteen feet long, with either round or flat bottom. These were supported by a wood framework composed of horizontal boards under the lip of the edge and short vertical posts, often railroad ties, sunk into the ground as support. In some cases, the rancher made use of a surplus steel crate. Later ranchers used these troughs as well, and also built rectangular reinforced concrete troughs of similar dimensions to the metal ones. The most recent trough is a commercial, embossed galvanized steel tub, either circular or

oval; these are non-contributing and were found at practically all of the watering sites, having been installed by the Oversons after 1969 (Kessler), 1975 (Valley View) and 1986 (OX).

Salt troughs are used to distribute needed salt supplements to the cattle. A small number of older wooden salt troughs remain, most of which are broken up. Most of the salt troughs are recent and non-contributing, composed of a used tractor or truck tire lying on the ground. The owners have removed most non-contributing modern tanks and troughs.

Corrals and Fences
The corral, used for sorting cattle for shipment and for isolating cattle for treatments such as vaccination, branding and castration, is a simple structure yet one requiring sturdy construction. A typical corral will have two pens with gates on either side of each pen that allows flow through the corral. The oldest corrals on the subject property are constructed out of juniper (called cedar by locals) poles held in a circular shape by long lengths of bent pipe held in place with wire. These average fifty feet in diameter. During the 1920s, the later part of the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company era, the juniper-post corral gave way to a similar structure built of railroad ties. It was reportedly Boy Williams who built the many “shotgun” corrals on the Kessler Springs Ranch. These were a 50-foot-diameter round corral with a 120-foot-long pie-shaped pen attached that acted as a funnel for sorting cattle into the circular enclosure. These shotgun corrals were also built out of railroad ties, pipe and wire. Otherwise, the simple and typical rectangular corral is found, but mostly on the OX portion of the ranch. These were constructed from railroad ties and page wire (a wire mesh), and often with added strands of barbed wire. Most corrals had a single wing fence that aided the cowboys in driving the cattle into the enclosure.

Fence materials included juniper posts on the older lines, and railroad ties, often split. The posts were strung with page wire and/or barbed wire and often had stays between posts of split lumber or ties. More recent enclosures were built with steel posts and barbed wire. H-braces, used for structural strength at corners and intervals along the line, were exclusively built of railroad ties or heavy timber.

The following descriptions of contributing buildings and structures are adapted from the “Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company National Register Nomination” (Livingston 2005). The major concentrations of buildings and structures are found at Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, OX Ranch headquarters, and Valley View Ranch headquarters. Numerous other buildings and structures are found at watering sites and small developments throughout the ranch grazing lands.

KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH

Kessler Springs Ranch Headquarters
The ranch complex is located on Cima Road, 4 miles northwest of Cima and 12 miles southeast of Interstate 15. The ranch complex lies east of the road on a slight slope and is reached by a dirt road that once served as the Cima Road before it was rerouted to bypass the ranch

complex. The resources at Kessler Springs headquarters include buildings both residential and utility, corrals, water facilities and other features including landscaping.

Use of the site reportedly dates to the 1870s or earlier; many of the structures appear to be between 50 and 100 years old. The ranch is a mix of developments spanning the late 19th century to the recent past. Most of the structures reflect the ranch life of the 1930s, with its hay barn, saddle shed, milk cow barn, trapping shed and workshop, all built during that era and retaining integrity.

RANCH HOUSE (contributing)
The main ranch house has evolved from the original building that served as a line camp for the RSL&CC. The house may have been built or used by Daniel Kistler (circa 1880-1881) for whom the area was named. Notable alterations commenced during the Houssels period (1941-1950), with numerous alterations performed by Overson between 1969 and 2001.

The 1,600 square foot wood frame house has three bedrooms, a concrete foundation and floor, with stucco exterior textured to resemble a stone wall, corrugated metal gable roofs, and a combination of wood sash and aluminum windows. Porches have been enclosed after 1969, and shed-roofed additions made. A cellar with a tin roof was excavated on the northwest side in the late 1930s. A white metal yard fence features decorative spheres on top of the posts.

GUEST HOUSE (contributing)
Boy Williams built the guest house in the late 1930s. The three-room house measures 14’ by 28’. It is of wood frame construction with a stucco exterior to match the nearby main house, a concrete foundation and floor, corrugated metal gable roof, wood sash and aluminum windows.

CABIN/BUNKHOUSE (contributing)
The bunkhouse was reportedly moved to the ranch in the 1930s from Valley Wells Station (now on I-15). The wood frame building is sheathed with shiplap siding and has a corrugated metal gable roof. The two rooms each have a door and two wood sash windows. The bunkhouse measures14’ by 21’ and rests on a wood sill foundation.

TRIPLEWIDE TRAILER RESIDENCE (non-contributing)
The Oversons installed this residence in the 1980s. It is a modern commercial house trailer with shed addition.

SHOP/CARPORT (contributing)
This is an old wood frame building with corrugated metal walls and gable roof, dirt floor, 18’ by 32’. It has wood sash windows, small and large wood doors on the east and a door on the west façade. After 1969 the Oversons added a carport 13’ by 18’ with corrugated metal shed roof and dirt floor. The structure was reportedly moved a short distance to this site from another location in the yard more than 30 years ago. It was either built by Boy Williams or moved here from another location in the 1930s.

OUTHOUSE (non-contributing)
Reportedly built by Gary Overson after 1969 from salvaged materials, this wood frame two-hole outhouse has a corrugated metal flat roof and sides and measures 10’ by 6’.

PIPE SHED (non-contributing)
Another structure reportedly built by Overson after 1969 from salvaged materials, this 16’ by 32’ wood frame shed has corrugated metal walls and a gable roof, dirt floor, wood doors on the south facade.

TRAPPING SHED (contributing)
Boy Williams reportedly built this 14’ by 18’ shed in the 1930s. It is wood frame with corrugated metal walls and a steep pitched gable roof, dirt floor and a metal door.

HAY BARN (contributing)
Boy Williams probably built the barn in the 1930s. It held feed for the horses, milk cows and corralled cattle. The 20’ by 40’ wood frame building has corrugated metal walls and gable roof, and a dirt floor.

SADDLE SHED (contributing)
Boy Williams constructed this building in the 1930s as a tack shed. The 8’ by 19’ structure is built out of railroad ties and has a wood floor, corrugated metal roof and a concrete foundation.

MILK COW SHED (contributing)
Boy and Edna Williams kept a cow for milk, cream and butter in the 1930s. The 12’ by 12’ milking shed is open to the south, with a wood frame and corrugated metal gable roof, dirt floor with stalls and feed troughs.

METAL SHOP/EQUIPMENT BUILDING (non-contributing)
The Oversons moved this large prefabricated building to the site from the nearby power lines right-of-way after 1969. The 28’ by 45’ wood frame building has sheet metal walls and roof, a dirt floor and railroad tie foundation, aluminum sash windows and large rolling doors.

CHICKEN COOP (contributing)
The chicken shed may date from the Boy Williams era; the Oversons added the pen. The chicken coop has corrugated metal walls and a shed roof, with an enclosed chicken wire pen.

HOUSING SOUTH OF RANCH COMPLEX (non-contributing)
After 1969, the Oversons installed a triple wide trailer, shed, metal shed, plywood carport, gas tank and perimeter fencing at a location a short distance south of the ranch complex. The grouping is reached by a dirt driveway.

Utilitarian and Landscape Features

HAND DUG WELL (contributing)
Boy and Edna Williams dug this well, located behind the main house and near the guest house, in the late 1930s.

STEEL TANK #1 (non-contributing)
The Oversons installed this large tank after 1969. It is a welded galvanized steel tank, approximately 12' high by 8' wide with large outlet pipe for loading water haul trucks, on a tall platform built of steel I-beams with concrete footings.

WELL and WINDMILL (contributing)
Boy Williams reportedly installed the windmill in the 1930s, and the Oversons replaced the windmill head after 1969. The 8' windmill has a galvanized steel frame approximately 35' high with concrete footings.

PIPELINE (steel pipe contributing, plastic pipe non-contributing)
Installed since 1930, various types of pipe connect the wells, tanks and troughs.

STEEL TANK at windmill (non-contributing)
The Oversons installed this commercial steel water tank after 1969.

STEEL TANK behind main house (non-contributing)
The Oversons installed this commercial steel water tank after 1969.

CORRAL (contributing)
The RSL&CC constructed corrals at Kessler Springs before 1916. Boy Williams may have built the extant corral during the 1930s, and the Oversons rebuilt part of the corral complex after 1969. The extant corral is a rectangular enclosure adjacent to the hay barn, with juniper and railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire. A juniper post crowding pen and tie/pipe loading chute are appended to the corral, with board gates.

PENS AND FENCES (contributing)
The Oversons rebuilt and redeveloped many of the at least nine enclosures adjacent to hay barn and the entrance road, as well as fence lines surrounding the ranch complex and delineating the lay down yard, roping arena and other enclosures. The layout of the pens during the period of significance is not known. Materials include railroad ties, steel and juniper posts, page wire and V-mesh wire. There are numerous gates, mostly metal. They are considered to be contributing, as their exact construction dates are not known.

KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH: ALLOTMENTS AND DEEDED LAND

The Thomas Place
The former Lewis Thomas homestead, dating from the 1930s, is located in the eastern part of

the one-square-mile Thomas Pasture on Cedar Canyon Road two miles east of the railroad tracks and almost three miles from the water source at Live Oak Spring. Once inhabited, the Thomas Place is comprised of two abandoned buildings, ruins and cattle gathering and watering facilities. Its water supply originated at Live Oak Spring in the western Mid Hills.

Features at the Thomas Place include two discarded corrugated steel tanks, six steel troughs of which two are noncontributing modern commercial types, and a corral. The corral appears to have been built by Boy Williams although it is likely that he either built the corral for Thomas, or that Thomas copied Williams' distinctive corral design; Thomas recorded the construction of a corral on the homestead in 1937. It is a "shotgun" corral shaped like keyhole with a lower (west) pie-shaped addition and pen. It is constructed of railroad tie posts tied with steel pipe and wire, although the lower corral is tied with steel cable. Two fences lead off the corrals built of ties and page wire. The circular corral in the center is about 52' diameter; the overall corral complex is about 350' long. There is a crowding pen and loading chute on the east end, and a crowding chute on the west end that feeds into a pen that measures 200' by 72', narrowing to 45' on east end.

Also remaining on the site are the remains of buildings from the Lewis Thomas era, circa 1931-1950. A two-room rectangular garage measuring 20' by 30' was built in 1936 with railroad tie framing, walls of ties and tongue-and-groove boards covered with chicken wire and stucco, a corrugated metal gable roof and partial concrete foundation. The walls and roof are entirely failing. Nearby, a store house cellar was dug into a low slope and partially buried in 1936, measuring 15' by 11', with a gable roof with 10" by 12" beam supported by pipes, a plank ceiling covered by concrete and earth with metal chimney pipe, timber door frame with corrugated metal walls at either side, and a small window in east side. It is abandoned. The former Thomas house, built in 1935, burned and its noncontributing ruin remains on the site. The partial structure of a simple milk cow house remains standing.

8 Mile
This water development marks the end of the Live Oak Spring water line. It is located about 1/2 mile west of Cima/Kelso Road and the railroad tracks, opposite the western terminus of Cedar Canyon Road. It is comprised of an old corrugated steel tank, an old concrete trough, and a Williams-era "shotgun" corral, approximately 54' in diameter, with the "shotgun" portion 110' long by 45' at wide point, all built of railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire.

Pettit
Mark Pettit's former homestead, developed between 1929 and 1933, is a picturesque location on Black Canyon Road 2.5 miles south of Cedar Canyon Road on the east boundary of the Kessler Springs allotment. Pettit failed at his homesteading effort but left a well, corral and trough for use by the next owners, the OX Cattle Company. Sale to Boy Williams in 1939 put Pettit Wells into the purview of the Kessler Springs Ranch. Pettit owned the neighboring 7IL ranch during the period he developed the homestead. A fire in 2005 burned all the vegetation in the vicinity, and destroyed the corral.

Pettit is comprised of a well, windmill and pipeline that leads to a water tank. A long-abandoned concrete trough, built by Mark Pettit in 1930 and so inscribed, is found in the brush south of the complex. The inscription reads, “M PETTIT / 7IL / JULY 1930”. In the burned corral enclosure is an older concrete trough, probably built by the early OX Cattle Company or by Boy Williams after 1939. Farther south on Black Canyon Road can be found a concrete trough once fed by seeps from a rocky hillside. It is badly deteriorated and cracked.

The corral, built by Pettit between 1929 and 1933, was a rare “shotgun”-type juniper post corral; it was entirely burned, leaving only eight charred posts and the circle of pipe and wire that held its shape. Despite the loss of this significant corral, the remaining features portray the uses of the overall site, which retains integrity.

Landreman House
This former homestead parcel was developed at a later period, apparently the 1950s or 1960s as a vacation or retirement home. The Oversons purchased the Landreman property in the 1970s and used it as crew quarters. It is located about ½-mile southwest of the junction of Cima Road at the power lines crossing, 2.5 miles northwest of Cima. The enclosed yard contains a concrete brick house, a large carport and a doublewide trailer, all in good condition, and an array of older buildings that likely were moved to the site from elsewhere. These include a shop, a dog house, an outhouse, three old sheds and a pair of water tanks on a high railroad tie platform. The yard is surrounded by a barbed wire fence with split rail posts (steel posts on the north side). A rock-lined dirt driveway leads from the road into the complex. Various trees shade the complex including Joshua trees and cottonwoods. While the Landreman complex is non-contributing, the older sheds and debris should be evaluated for preservation.

Sacaton Spring
This 19th century water development is located on the west slope of the New York Mountains, about 3 miles south of 10 Mile Corral and ¾ mile south of the railroad tracks near the eastern boundary of Kessler Springs Ranch. Sacaton Spring is comprised of two springs and a trough and has not been in use for many years. A RSL&CC document noted a corral at Sacaton Spring in 1919.

Cottonwood Spring
This spring complex, dating from the RSL&CC era, is located six miles east/southeast of Cut Tank on the northwestern slope of the New York Mountains. Cottonwood Corral and its water developments are almost two miles north/northwest of the originating springs. All reached by poor dirt roads. It consists of three spring heads in two separate canyons, pipelines, an abandoned steel trough and the remains of an old corral. The rectangular corral is placed with a wash running down the center and is constructed of railroad tie posts, page wire and V-mesh wire. Below the east spring head are two older steel troughs and the Cottonwood Corral. The rectangular corral has three pens and measures approximately 62’ by 150’, built of railroad tie posts and page wire with a curving wing of ties and barbed wire. The Oversons added a

crowding pen and loading chute.

Cabin Spring
The non-contributing ruins of a cabin lie near this 19th century water source; it was occupied by persons unknown. The RSL&CC map of 1916 notes the spring only. Cabin Spring is located on the northwestern slope of the New York Mountains, five miles southeast of Cut Tank, one mile southwest as the crow flies from Cottonwood Spring. It is reached by poor dirt roads. Cabin Spring is actually five springs, all dug out and developed at one time or another with pipelines to two older troughs. Another trough is built of concrete and is located in a "shotgun" corral dating from Boy Williams or before. It is a typical older corral built of railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire. Most of the posts are gone except for the 50' diameter circular portion. Trap fences, sans wire, lead off in various directions. No gates remain. All of these features are in poor condition. Located on a slope next to the creek below Cabin Spring is the ruin of a cabin approximately 8' by 10' with corrugated metal walls and roof and a minimal rock foundation; as a ruin it is non-contributing. Another corral dating from the early period is found downstream; it is built of railroad ties, measures approximately 75' by 40' and is falling down.

Live Oak Spring
Part of the Kessler Springs Ranch water system dating to the RSL&CC era, the waters of Live Oak Spring were distributed by pipeline to three sites found on the western portion of Cedar Canyon Road: the Thomas Place, Leppy and Lower Leppy (the latter two have been removed by the former owners). The line continues across the railroad tracks and Kelso-Cima Road to a fourth, extant, site called 8 Mile. The entire pipeline is about seven miles long. Of particular historic interest at the spring is the inscription found in a large tree near and across the creek from a trough. Still readable, the carved letters read, "BECK / 1894."

The three springs are located on the west slope of the southern New York Mountains, five miles southeast of Cima and 1.5 miles southwest of Cabin Spring. Access is by poor dirt roads. The site is comprised of three spring heads with pipe from various eras delivering the water to two troughs, one old and abandoned sheet metal trough and one noncontributing commercial trough.

White Rock Spring
Another of the older water sources for the RSL&CC, White Rock Spring is located on the southwest slope of Cima Dome about two miles southwest of Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, and is reached by driving southwest on the power line road for two miles, then north two miles on a dirt road from White Rock corral, which has been removed. The pipeline fed developments adjacent to the well and White Rock corral to the south.

The site is comprised of a series of wells, the most recent having been developed by Boy Williams in the 1930s. Three wells in a row, with interesting structures (raised wood-plank boxes with decorative pressed tin skins) date from the pre1928 period. A windmill stands above

the newer well. A modern, non-contributing steel tank stores water from the spring. Of particular historical interest is the intact circular concrete water trough dating from the RSL&CC era. It is the only example of this type not poured into corrugated metal forms, but instead with smooth walls. A rock and concrete apron surrounds the trough. At the north, east, south and west sides are imprinted, using a tin can, "88", not seen on any other trough of this type. This is the best example of the "88" trough, and a unique version. Another concrete trough, probably dating from the Williams era, is located nearby. Two contributing old board salt troughs are found in the area.

The corral appears to date from the RSL&CC era. It is a shotgun corral shaped like keyhole with a rectangular extension to the south, built of railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire; it is a 55' diameter circle with a 110'-long shotgun. A pen extends from the corral, measuring 70' by 30' and built of ties and V-mesh wire. A pasture fence extends north and south from the corral walls. Part of the corral wall is falling.

Cut Spring
Another of the old water sources that date to the 19th century, Cut Spring is located on the southeastern slope of Cima Dome, almost two miles southwest of Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters. Its pipeline runs southeast to Middle Cut and Cut Tank. The site is on the boundary with the Valley View Ranch (and a privately-owned windmill serving the settlement of Cima stands on agreement with property owners) and has been owned by the Overson/Blincoe partnership. Cut Spring is comprised of a well and a circular concrete trough dating from the RSL&CC era. The corral, dating from either the 88 or the Boy Williams eras, is a classic railroad tie shotgun corral measuring about 69' by 155' by 60' with a double circle corral; four fences lead off from the corral to enclose adjacent pastures.

Cut Tank
Boy Williams built this watering and gathering site in the 1930s. It is situated near the railroad tracks, one mile southeast of Morningstar Mine Road at the power line crossing, 3.5 miles southeast of Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters and 3.5 miles southeast from source at Cut Spring. It is accessed via a dirt road off Morningstar Mine Road. Cut Tank is comprised of a large old corrugated steel tank, three old concrete troughs and a railroad tie salt trough ruin. A unique shotgun corral is different from the others at the ranch: it is a 48' circular corral broken by a crowding pen, with two small pens adjacent to a 180' shotgun corral. All are built of railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire. An adjacent pen is 60' by 200' built of ties and page wire. A loading chute feeds a fenced cattle trail leading toward the railroad tracks.

Chicken Water Spring
The origin of this development is unknown, and it appears to have been used for only a relatively short time. It is located five miles east of New Water (a water development on Kelso-Cima Road), one mile northeast of Bullock Spring. Reached by poor dirt roads, the site is abandoned. It is comprised of a spring head, pipeline, a small, 8' by 8' concrete reservoir, a unique brick and concrete trough, a non-contributing modern steel trough and a corral. The

rectangular 45’ by 50’ corral enclosure is joined with a 54’ square pen and is constructed of railroad tie posts and page wire. A railroad tie wing fence joins a corner of the corral. A broken concrete slab is located nearby. About 10% of the corral posts were charred in a 2005 wildfire.

Murphy Well
Murphy Well has a long history providing water to the northern reaches of the Boy Williams-era Kessler Springs Ranch and its predecessor, the RSL&CC. The features at the site span a period of 100 years and the well complex illustrates the resourcefulness of early ranchers in its remote and barren location. A 1919 inventory noted a corral and house at Murphy Well, and a 1930 inventory showed a 14-foot windmill, two 5,000-gallon tanks, two page wire corrals, a well and a camp house. Murphy Well is located in a flat plain a short distance south of Nipton Road, four miles west of Nipton.

The well, developed by RSL&CC or a previous landowner, was more recently pumped by a windmill with a 10-foot rotor, which has been removed by the owner. A couple of abandoned pumpjack bases are found under the windmill site. A large, bolted steel water tank with a wood frame conical roof dwarfs two unused corrugated steel tanks. The latter tank had reportedly served the nearby railroad and was moved here and an undetermined time. An abandoned steel trough is located nearby. An 8’ by 12’ shed that dates from the RSL&CC era has a corrugated metal gable roof, board and batten siding, wood floor and a metal chimney.

The corral at Murphy Well was in place by 1919 and is constructed out of railroad posts and page wire. The two pens measure approximately 100 by 160 feet and a crowding pen and solid tie loading chute are located on the south side. Inside the corral is a RSL&CC-era circular reinforced concrete trough poured into corrugated metal forms.

Marl Spring
This historic location figures in Mojave Desert history previous to the ranching era. The Mojave Road passes this spot where early travelers, miners and military detachments obtained water and shelter. During 1866-1868 the U. S. Army operated a relay post here. The ruin of a rock building and an arrastra remains at the site. Although not relevant to ranching and the subject of this CLI, the earlier features in the forms of ruins and archeology are potentially contributing to a future Mojave Road CLI.

Early ranchers including RSLCC founder George Briggs used Marl Spring as a headquarters. This being the only water source for many miles around, the RSL&CC included Marl Spring in its holdings and the ranchers from Boy Williams through Gary Overson used the spring and its corresponding developments. Marl Spring is located in the Marl Mountains, 12 miles north of Kelso and 7.5 miles west of Chase at the point of the junction of Kelso-Cima and Cedar Canyon Roads.

Marl Spring is comprised of two spring heads, one appearing as a timber-lined well. The second spring is a rough-hewn tunnel that leads down into a cut bank. Various types of pipe lead into

the corral to feed a RSL&CC circular concrete trough. The concrete base of a tank is also located in the corral. The corral, reportedly built by Boy Williams in the 1930s to replace an older one, is an off-shape rectangular corral with two pens, approximately 300' by 115', with railroad tie posts, page wire and one strand of barbed wire. Crowding pen of solid ties and loading chute are located on the southeast side of the corral. There are a number of board gates and abandoned trigger gates. The site, however, possesses integrity and potential significance in historical archeology as mentioned above.

Mexican Spring
This old spring development is located about a ¼-mile east of Bullock Spring, four miles east of Kelso-Cima Road at New Water. It is reached by poor dirt roads, and is no longer in use. It is comprised of a spring head that is covered by vegetation, a pipeline of steel and non-contributing plastic pipe and an old sheet metal trough with a board frame and tie support posts.

Bullock Spring
This site is documented in the RSL&CC's 1919 inventory as a corral, while a 1920s source notes that water was piped to two troughs. It is located in the mountains four miles east of Kelso-Cima Road in the southeastern corner of Kessler Springs Ranch. Bullock Spring consists of a well-like spring head, steel pipeline, an old steel trough and remains of a recently burned corral. The RSL&CC-era corral was round, approximately 50' diameter, built of juniper posts tied by steel pipe and wire.

Burro Spring
Located at a remote site in the foothills three miles southeast of Cima, Burro Spring was developed by parties unknown and has not been in use for many decades. Two spring heads, dug out of their respective rocky banks in a dry wash, once fed a circular steel trough and another rectangular one. The ruin of a corral lies downstream, consisting of only four wood posts and some page wire. The site's features are in poor condition and it does not retain integrity.

Wildcat Spring
This RSL&CC-era spring development is located five miles northeast of the Kelso-Cima Road at New Water and is reached by poor dirt roads. The site, consisting of a spring head, pipeline and old steel trough, has been long abandoned.

Coyote Spring
This RSL&CC-era spring development, noted on the company's 1916 map as a spring with a lengthy pipeline, is located five miles northeast of the Kelso-Cima Road at New Water and is reached by poor dirt roads. The site, consisting of a spring head, pipeline and old steel trough, has been long abandoned.

Cedar Canyon Spring

This abandoned site's origin is not known. It is located up a gulch south from Cedar Canyon Road about five miles east of Kelso-Cima Road. It consists of a spring head, pipeline, a riveted steel tank and a corrugated steel trough. Lack of information about this site hinders determination of eligibility. It will be considered contributing unless new information is found indicating it is not.

6 Mile
6 Mile, developed by Boy Williams, is located on Morningstar Mine Road eight miles northeast of Cima and three miles northwest of 3 Mile. The water line between the two runs along the county road. At this point the line leaves the road and follows a dirt road east and northeast to the next developments. 6 Mile is comprised of a concrete and steel tank, an old steel trough with apron located in the corral, an additional concrete trough and a shotgun corral built by Boy Williams. The corral measures approximately 180' by 50' in a keyhole shape and is constructed of vertical railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire, with a loading chute added later.

10 Mile
10 Mile is located on a dirt road 12 miles northeast of Cima and four miles east of 6 Mile. It is comprised of a large railroad tie platform that once held a larger, wooden tank, and an older concrete trough. The corral is a classic Williams-built shotgun corral built of railroad tie posts tied by steel pipe and wire, measuring about 175' by 55' with a crowding pen and loading chute added by the Oversons. Various types of debris are located nearby.

Morning Star Well
Located in the vicinity of Morning Star Mine, about 12 miles north of Cima on poor dirt road, this site reportedly dates from the Boy Williams era and deserves further study. It is comprised of a deep hand-dug well with concrete and steel lining and four windmill footings, and an old rectangular concrete trough. All have been abandoned for many years. Earthworks, either mine prospects or water excavations are found nearby. The site potentially possesses integrity but its history is unclear.

KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH: PASTURES, FENCES, AND TRAPS

Fencing systems are of utmost importance in a ranching operation, as they control movement of cattle among water developments, allow separation of herds by age and type, provide for pasture rotation if needed and prevent encroachment by livestock on roads and rail lines. Fenced pastures, of which there is one on Kessler Springs Ranch, are smaller subdivisions of the ranch acreage, ranging from one to four square miles in size and used for placing particular herds such as bulls, horses and young cattle.

Fences at Kessler Springs Ranch are found in two categories: pasture fences that fully enclose pieces of property with specific uses and boundary fences. Most of these fence lines are post and barbed wire, although on a number of the pasture fences page wire (mesh) was used. Post materials range from commercial steel posts to juniper branches, with surplus railroad ties the

most common.

Cattle guards, developed to eliminate the need for gates at road crossings, are found on roads in the allotment where a fence line crosses. All are steel, factory-built cattle guards eight feet wide and ranging in length from 12 to 24 feet. Cattle guards are flanked on each side by an A-shaped steel attached to the fence line with wire or cable. The cattle guards were installed less than 50 years ago and are not contributing.

THOMAS PLACE PASTURES (contributing)
This is a former homestead parcel located along the north line of Cedar Canyon Road, stretching between 1.5 and 2.5 miles east of Kelso-Cima Road. Lewis Thomas developed the homestead in the 1930s. Owners of Kessler Springs Ranch added most of the cattle-oriented improvements. The remarkably grassy lower pasture features a fence that surrounds half a section or about 2.5 linear miles; the upper pasture is an addition towards the east forming a half-moon of about 1.25 linear miles, with a .75-mile dividing fence running north-south. The fences are built of railroad ties, steel posts and page wire with barbed wire. The pasture is a mix of native shrubs and grasses, and introduced grasses.

6 MILE TRAP (contributing)
This cattle trap evolved over time up to the Overson era. It is located south of 6 Mile corral on Morningstar Mine Road and is comprised of 2.5 linear miles of fence constructed from railroad ties with some steel posts, page wire and barbed wire.

10 MILE TRAP (contributing)
This cattle trap evolved over time up to the Overson era. It is located north of 10 Mile corral in Ivanpah Valley. The fence runs 2.5 linear miles and is constructed from railroad ties with some steel posts, page wire and barbed wire, and one board gate.

MURPHY WELL TRAP (contributing)
Located south of Nipton Road at Murphy Well, this trap dates from the Boy Williams era. The land is sparsely vegetated in this area with alkaline soils. The fence runs about 2.5 linear miles, constructed of railroad tie and some steel posts with page wire, with one board gate.

CUT TANK TRAP (contributing)
This trap, located at Cut Tank south of the corral, has evolved from the Williams period. The fence runs 1.5 linear miles, with steel posts and railroad ties, page wire and 4-6 strands of barbed wire. There is one cattle guard on the pasture fence at a road crossing.

MARL SPRING TRAP (contributing)
Boy Williams developed this trap at Marl Spring corral. The fence runs 1.2 linear miles, constructed of railroad tie and some steel posts with three strands barbed wire.

MACEDONIA TRAP (contributing)

This remote enclosure is located in the mountains south of Macedonia Canyon Road on Macedonia fence line. It appears to have evolved from the Williams period and is comprised of one linear mile railroad tie fencing with three strands of barbed wire.

KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH: FENCE LINES

SACATON FENCE (non-contributing)
The Oversons installed this fence that runs from the railroad tracks west of Brant, southward to the mountain range near Sacaton Spring. It is one mile long with steel posts and four strands of barbed wire.

NIPTON ROAD FENCE (non-contributing)
Built by the Oversons after 1969, the fence mostly follows the south side of Nipton Road between Ivanpah Mountains and Nipton. It is 9.5 miles long with steel posts and three strands of barbed wire with wire stays. There is one cattle guard, on Ivanpah Road south of Nipton Road.

PINTO MOUNTAIN FENCE (contributing)
This is an older fence dating from the Boy Williams era but has been maintained and repaired by the Oversons. It runs north from near Cedar Canyon Road through the Pinto Mountains to the New York Mountains near Butcher Knife Spring. It is 7 miles long with juniper and some steel posts, 4-5 strands barbed wire. There is a cattle guard on the dirt road to Bathtub Spring.

CIMA FENCE (non-contributing)
This Overson-era fence runs southeast from the power lines west of Landreman to a site south of Cima on Kelso-Cima Road. It is two miles long, constructed of railroad ties and three strands barbed wire. A cattle guard is located on the dirt power lines road east of White Rock corral. The fence and cattle guard are less than 50 years old and are not contributing features.

CATTLE GUARDS (non-contributing)
All cattle guards, placed on roadways at fence crossings, were installed less than 50 years ago and are not contributing.

OX RANCH

The OX Ranch consists of the southeastern, and larger, part of the old Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company holdings. This study does not include the adjacent Walking Box portion of the former RSL&CC lands that lie mainly in Nevada. The 400,000-acre subject property stretches from Dove Springs near the Nevada border to the north, Goffs and old Route 66 to the south, Piute Canyon to the east and Ivanpah and the Mid Hills to the west. Its major geographical features are the Lanfair Valley and the New York Mountains, with a portion of the northwestern property falling in the Ivanpah Valley. Numerous parcels of private land, both large and small, are interspersed within the subject property. The OX lands are defined by their use by the company's cattle and the developments, mostly for water, that are scattered across

the country.

Historic resources on the OX Ranch include the ranch headquarters complex in Lanfair Valley, water sources and their often-extensive distribution systems, corrals and fencing systems, roads and trails, and natural features. Many of the structures date from the RSL&CC era (1894-1931) while most appear to date from the Halsell era (1931-1946) and later. Bozarth & Rudnick (1946-1955) made few known improvements. All non-contributing features were built or installed during the Eldridge (1955-1985) or Overson (1985-2001) periods of ownership. As a vernacular ranching district, the OX Ranch retains historic integrity as seen in these numerous features.

OX Headquarters
The OX Ranch headquarters are located on Ivanpah Road, five miles north of Cedar Canyon Road and 20 miles north of Old Route 66 at Goffs. New York Mountain Road, which leads up to Carruthers Canyon, terminates Ivanpah Road at this location. The ranch complex lies east of the road, although a large water tank, a cattle lot and other resources are found on the west side of the road. The resources at OX Headquarters include many buildings both residential and utility, corrals, water facilities and other features including landscaping.

Some time in the 1930s Claud Halsell, Sr. moved the OX Ranch headquarters from Barnwell, the original RSL&CC base of operations, to this site, a former rail depot called Ledge. Here, he and his family developed a ranch complex consisting of houses, bunkhouses, barns, sheds and corrals. Mrs. Jacoby, a homesteader, had previously developed a good water source at the site. The ranch complex, in continuous use as OX Ranch headquarters for about 70 years, is a mix of Halsell's developments and those of subsequent owners, although some structures date from the railroad and homesteader eras. A number of the buildings were moved here from other locations in the 1930s and 1940s.

HAY BARN (contributing)
A wood frame, board and batten hay barn was moved to the site around 1932 from the old homesteaders settlement of Lanfair. The barn was built by pioneer settler Ernest Lanfair and later sold; after Lanfair's house burned, the barn was appropriated and moved. The building has a galvanized metal gable roof and a foundation of railroad tie sills. The windows are mostly boarded up. An older open calf shed of corrugated metal painted red has been added on the north. More recently, sliding doors were added. It measures 30' by 44' and the calf shed measures 14' by 16'. The barn is now painted red and was stabilized in 2004.

SHOP (contributing)
Local residents believe that the shop building originated across Ivanpah Road as a fiber-processing factory in use during the homesteading era, 1910-1925, and was moved by Claud Halsell in the 1930s. Extant concrete foundations in that location may provide evidence of such a move. This 25' by 45' wood frame building has unpainted galvanized metal siding and a metal gable roof. Large rolling doors on the front open to a well-laid out workshop. It has a

wood sill foundation. More recently, owners added a plywood shed on the east side to house a tack room and tractor shed.

GENERATOR SHED (non-contributing)
This 10’ by 22’ building was constructed during the Eldridge era (1956-1986) in two sections: the rear section has a gable roof while the front section has a shed roof. All is sheathed in galvanized metal siding and rests on a wood sill foundation. The building houses a generator, which provides power to the ranch complex.

WOODEN STORAGE SHED (contributing)
This small building appears to be, as so many of its neighbors, brought to the location from the former homesteads nearby. It is a wood frame structure, 10’ by 10’ with board-and-batten siding, a composition shingle gable roof and concrete foundation. It is leaning and deteriorating.

DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER (non-contributing)
Used as a residence until recently, this commercially built doublewide trailer was brought to the ranch after 1986 by the Oversons.

COOKHOUSE (non-contributing)
Ed Eldridge had the cookhouse built on the site of the former, Halsell-era cookhouse some time between 1956 and 1980. The Oversons changed the roof from a flat roof to a low gable after 1986. The cookhouse, measuring 26’ by 28’, is of concrete cinder block construction with a concrete foundation and a galvanized metal gable roof. It has industrial metal sash windows and a fireplace.

BURIED COLD ROOM (contributing)
A buried 8’ by 18’ cold room pantry, dating from the Halsell era or earlier, is located at the rear of the building, covered in dirt with concrete and railroad tie bulkheads.

TRAILER (non-contributing)
Ed Eldridge brought this older model travel trailer to the ranch some time between 1956 and 1986 for use as a residence. It is an older trailer style with rounded lines.

BUNKHOUSES (contributing)
Two bunkhouses abut each other, each of a distinct construction style. The older of the two was moved from a nearby location in the yard where it had been a singular cabin, while the newer building, apparently constructed by Claud Halsell between 1932 and 1946, was constructed in place. The older is a wood frame, 18’ by 24’ shack with board and batten siding, a galvanized metal gable roof and concrete foundation. It is connected to a slightly larger, 18’ by 28’ wood frame building with stucco exterior walls and three red doors. It has a gable roof with roll roofing and a concrete foundation. A 9’ by 12’ shed addition on the rear makes for a saltbox appearance. The buildings have deteriorating roof materials and numerous battens missing on the board and batten shack.

MAIN RESIDENCE (contributing)
Neighboring rancher Fleet Southcott built this residence, the most substantial of all the ranch buildings, for owner Claud Halsell, Jr. around 1940. Until that time the owners of the ranch were located at Barnwell and may have bunked with the cowboys here when necessary. The building date coincides with the period when Claud Halsell, Sr. transferred part ownership of the ranch to his son; unlike his father, Halsell, Jr. reportedly made the OX Ranch his principal residence and livelihood. The house has seen few changes since it was built.

The OX main residence is a wood frame building, 30’ by 42’ and 14’ by 15’, with a sandy-colored stucco exterior. The white trim and galvanized metal roof make for an attractive desert residence. The roof is laid out in opposing gables, and a covered porch greets visitors. The residence has a concrete foundation, has been well maintained.

RAKE SHED (contributing)
Behind the main residence is a small shed, built to match the house, which was probably built for Halsell by Southcott in 1940. The 8’ by 8’ shed is wood frame with a stucco exterior painted gray. It has deteriorating roll roofing on its gable roof, and a concrete foundation.

GUEST HOUSE (contributing)
The railroad company in Goffs built this small dwelling to house a telegraph operator, probably before the turn of the century. As Goffs declined in importance as a rail center, the house was moved to this location for use as a guest house in the early 1950s. It has been altered with an enclosed front porch but much of the original fabric is intact. The guest house is an 18’ by 28’ wood frame building with board and batten siding (no battens on front addition) painted red with white trim. It has a wood shingled gable roof and a galvanized metal roof on the front shed addition. It apparently rests on a wood sill foundation.

Utilitarian Landscape Features

WELL (contributing)
The OX Ranch owners obtained water for the ranch complex and corrals from a well developed by Mrs. Jacoby in 1911 at the time the site was called Ledge. The well would largely be the reason that Claud Halsell moved the OX Ranch headquarters from Barnwell to here in the 1930s. It has been in continuous use since it was developed. Until recently the well was pumped by a windmill but now consists of a pipe sunk in concrete to a submersible pump at 500’.

WINDMILL (contributing)
The 20-foot (fan diameter) Aermotor windmill remains as a relic of Claud Halsell’s ownership of the OX. Its galvanized steel frame is approximately 60 feet high and stands on concrete footings. The massive rotors are chained to keep from turning. Three concrete pumpjack bases are found in the vicinity of the windmill and well.

WATER TANKS (contributing)
Water from the well is distributed to three steel storage tanks, then by gravity to livestock troughs, the cookhouse and the residences. Two of the storage tanks sit side by side on a 6' high 11' by 20' platform constructed of heavy timbers and railroad ties on concrete piers, located between the road and the ranch complex. The tanks are galvanized steel with conical tops, approximately 10' high by 8' wide with riser pipes, outlet pipes and steel ladders. This tank structure evolved through time since Halsell developed the ranch, with the most recent additions as late as 1980.

Another, much larger steel tank is located in the Water Lot across the road from headquarters. Its age is uncertain. It is constructed on a concrete/rock and railroad tie base of bolted steel plates, is approximately 8' high by 35' wide and has a float gauge, riser pipe, outlet pipe supported on a vertical post and a steel ladder. Ranch owners painted "OX Cattle Co." in large letters facing Ivanpah Road. While the water tanks may date from past the period of significance, they are considered to contribute to the historic landscape of the ranch complex having replaced previous tanks in the location.

CORRALS AND LIVESTOCK PENS (contributing)
An extensive and complicated array of pens and corrals are located east of Ivanpah Road and northwest of the ranch complex buildings. These have developed into their present configuration between 1930 and 1986. At least 12 enclosures include separating pens, crowding pens, a horse pen, and a calf pen. A non-contributing steel squeeze chute used for branding and doctoring, two non-contributing loading chutes and a large non-contributing concrete-floored livestock scale with salvaged steel sides and wood and steel ramps are integral parts of the livestock area and should be retained despite their recent origins. Fence materials are a mixture of railroad ties, peeled wood posts, steel posts and split stays, with page wire, barbed wire, chain link fencing, pipe fence and guardrail. Crowding pens are built of solid vertical railroad ties.

There are 31 steel pipe gates, four board gates and 33 steel panels. In one of the corrals is a feed trough. Farther to the east are a non-contributing pigpen and a recent-vintage roping arena. While the corrals have been altered after the period of significance, they are considered to contribute to the historic integrity of the headquarters reflecting the evolution of the historic corral systems.

CATTLE DIPPING VAT (contributing)
The appearance of Foot and Mouth Disease in the late 1930s caused considerable concern among area ranchers. In response, and guided by state agricultural advisors, cattle ranchers installed dip vats wherein the cattle were bathed in chemicals to kill the disease and prevent infection. Two were constructed in the Lanfair Valley, both on OX lands. The dip vat at the OX headquarters, located at the east end of the corrals, is composed of buried concrete walls and floor forming a six-sided circular corridor with entry and exit ramps. The vat has not been

used in decades and is partly filled with debris.

GREASE RACK (non-contributing)
Ed Eldridge (1956-1986) reportedly installed this pit with a concrete and steel vehicle stand with a railroad tie approach ramp.

Miscellaneous Features

CARPORT FLOOR SLAB (non-contributing)
Ed Eldridge (1956-1986) reportedly installed an open-sided carport adjacent to the main residence. After a fire, all that remains is a concrete slab.

OX RANCH: ALLOTMENTS AND DEEDED LAND

Barnwell Water Line
The Barnwell water system originates approximately seven miles north of OX Ranch headquarters on Hart Road approximately 1/2 mile east of Ivanpah Road. Four sources compose the Barnwell system: a well and windmill up the canyon from Barnwell corral; three wells and two windmills at Barnwell corral; two wells across the wash from Barnwell corral; and a well and windmill at the large steel tank below Barnwell. Water from Barnwell is delivered by a pipeline in a southeast direction to New Trough and Lower New Trough. Below Lower New Trough the line splits: eastward to Hart Pasture and corral and the Black Mesa area, and continuing southeast to 12 Mile and a tank at the end of the line, for a total of approximately 20 miles. The RSL&CC reportedly developed the original system between 1894 and 1927, with improvements made by Claud Halsell and subsequent owners since 1930. The Oversons maintained the Barnwell system until 2001.

WELL #1 (contributing)
Claud Halsell reportedly developed this 150’ well in the 1930s. It is located a short distance below the former town of Barnwell on the Hart Road. A 10-foot windmill drives a modern non-contributing pumpjack, feeding water into a pipeline that delivers water to Hart Pasture and beyond. A non-contributing discarded corrugated metal water tank is located in the wash downstream from Well #1; it has been destroyed after apparently being washed down the streambed.

WELL #2 (contributing)
Located at the Barnwell corral, this concrete-lined well appears to remain from the RSL&CC circa 1894-1928. It is constructed with concrete upper walls 6’ by 4.5’, with a 5-foot extension trough/pumpjack base and a metal ladder visible about 8’ below surface. The well has been long abandoned.

ROCK AND CONCRETE TANK (contributing)
The RSL&CC constructed this open reservoir before 1930. It is a circular structure dug into

the ground and lined with rock and mortar. It is approximately 35’ in diameter, and surrounded by a fence constructed of juniper posts that is approximately 45’ in diameter.

WELLS #3 and #4 (contributing)
Claud Halsell developed these wells in the 1930s. Each is pumped by a 10’ windmill, the south one using a modern noncontributing pumpjack.

BARNWELL CORRAL (contributing)
A rare example of a RSL&CC board corral constructed circa 1894-1919 is located at Barnwell (typical RSL&CC corrals were constructed of juniper posts). It is rectangular in shape, 115’ by 107’ with a 60’ wing fence. Railroad tie posts support a row of five horizontal boards attached with old iron hardware and bolts. Ed Eldridge constructed a crowding pen and pipe/railroad tie loading chute. There is a mix of six corral gates ranging from old to new. The corral is in poor condition, having been damaged by flooding in 2004. A non-contributing tire salt trough lies nearby. In the vicinity are a concrete slab and an old barrel boiler with a stone/mortar foundation, both of which contribute.

WELLS #5 and #6 (contributing)
These abandoned wells are located across from the Barnwell corral at the edge of the wash. They include concrete pads and two discarded steel tanks. As their origins are unknown, they are considered to contribute to the district until more information is found.

WELL #7 (non-contributing)
The Oversons developed this well after 1986. It is located a short distance downstream from the Barnwell corral. A galvanized steel windmill pumps water into a large bolted steel open-topped tank about 40 feet wide. Bozarth and Rudnick reportedly installed the tank circa 1946-1955.

Lower New Trough
Three miles southeast of Barnwell corral, one mile southeast of New Trough on the Barnwell pipeline is an old, RSL&CC-era circular concrete trough.

Hart Corral
This area appears to have been settled by miners, homesteaders or ranchers early in the century. Located approximately 5 miles southeast of Barnwell corral, the site features a ruin of an old house built on a loose rock foundation and surrounded by debris including boards, bedsprings, a stove, terra cotta pipe, cans and railroad ties. Nearby is an old, Halsell-era concrete-lined steel trough supported by juniper posts.

Inside the corral are two steel troughs that date from Halsell’s period. The corral was reportedly built for Bozarth & Rudnick, circa 1948-1955, by Slim Gilliam of Seligman, Arizona. The corral is divided in two sections: a rectangular 48’ by 65’ post-and-wire corral with a small crowding pen, added by Eldridge and built of vertical ties and pipe, and a recently- added

loading chute; and a circular corral built out of railroad tie posts is approximately 68’ in diameter and a wing fence constructed of juniper posts and page wire approximately is 80’ long. The corral has been determined contributing because its construction reportedly occurred approximately 50 years ago.

Black Mesa Dirt Tank
This Eldridge-built dirt berm collects water in large pond about 3.5 miles south of Black Mesa Corral. A modern tire salt trough sits nearby.

Upper Black Mesa Dirt Tank
Located 2 miles south/southwest of Black Mesa Corral, this Eldridge-era dirt berm collects water for livestock in a round pond.

Lanfair Homesteader Rainshed, Reservoir and Homestead Elements
Lanfair, a homesteading community named for pioneer homesteader Ernest Lanfair, is geographically spread across this central part of the Lanfair Valley. The many extant features of the period include ruins of houses, landscaping remnants and water collection facilities. Ranching-era corral and water developments are also located here, most dating from the Halsell period and later. Lanfair originated as a stop on the rail line between Goffs and Barnwell and was named for its founder. The old town site, which boasted a store, post office and residences, is located to the west on Lanfair Road near the intersection with Cedar Canyon Road. The area of Lanfair is reached on a dirt road one mile east of Lanfair town site. Features include homestead-era water collection facilities and OX Cattle Company ranching developments, the latter to be described later as part of the Hackberry water line.

WATER COLLECTION RAINSHED AND RESERVOIR (contributing)
Homesteaders built earth berms into a V-shape to collect water off the desert floor. The surface water was directed into a one-foot diameter, buried wooden pipeline made of slats of wood wrapped in heavy wire. This emptied into a massive concrete reservoir, eight feet deep, with buttresses on the interior walls and a high earth berm supporting the exterior. The reservoir survives but is broken down in one corner. It illustrates the phenomenal effort of the homesteaders to survive in this dry climate; needless to say, the effort failed and the reservoir stands as a monument to broken dreams. That the ranchers, always at odds with the “invading” homesteaders, survived is an important part of the story. Other remnants of the homesteading period in this area include ruined landscaping and utilitarian features, including a concrete walkway and unidentified small structures, scattered west of the reservoir. The homesteading period in Lanfair Valley is the subject of a future CLI.

Martin
The OX Cattle Company bought out the land interests of the homesteading Martin family in 1940, no doubt interested in the minor water developments there. Martin is located 3.5 miles north of Cedar Canyon Road on a dirt road that leads to Carruthers Canyon. The site includes an abandoned well with evidence of a former windmill, an eight-foot deep concrete reservoir

surrounded by a deteriorating fence and an abandoned metal trough.

Hackberry Waterline
The railroad company reportedly developed Hackberry Spring while construction was in progress on the line in Lanfair Valley in the early 1890s. By 1916 the RSL&CC was appropriating water from the springs and piping it to a number of locations to the east. The line continued in use until ranching ended in 2001. Three developed springs are located on the east side of the Hackberry Mountains, southwest of Lanfair. The water line runs northeast to Hackberry Corral, Bobcat and a spur east to Sleepy Calf, then north to Black Tank and Lanfair Corral, then east to the Piute developments. The spring heads were improved by digging and tunneling, with cement catchments built at some locations. Pipelines are comprised of an evolving array of iron, steel, non-contributing plastic and PVC pipe.

Hackberry Corral
About 1.5 miles northeast of Hackberry Spring and 1.75 miles southwest of Lanfair Road on a dirt road is this stick corral was built by the RSL&CC at some time before 1916. It is comprised of three circular corrals joined, constructed of vertical railroad tie walls held in place with iron or steel pipe and wire. Each corral averages 72’ in diameter. A wing fence about 150’ long extends to the west, constructed of railroad ties and barbed wire. In the corral are two Halsell-era steel troughs. A non-contributing earth berm reservoir was constructed nearby in the 1950s or 1960s.

Lanfair Corral
The Lanfair corral and water developments are located on a dirt road one mile east of Lanfair Road. Lanfair is a continuation of the water line from Hackberry Spring and serves as an auxiliary water source and cattle gathering area. It is also the site of a homesteading effort early in the century with extant features of the period, as noted previously. While connected to the Hackberry water line, the Lanfair site includes a producing well and a non-contributing modern windmill to supplement the supply. Adjacent to the abandoned homesteader’s reservoir (noted above) is a huge, 36-foot wide bolted steel water tank, with low concrete buttresses, which provides storage at this site. A RSL&CC-era circular concrete water trough, two Halsell-era concrete troughs and a non-contributing steel trough provided water to the livestock.

A concrete cattle dip, different in design to the one at the OX headquarters, is located near the corral. It is a sunken concrete structure in the shape of a mallet, with a main chamber 15’ by 17’ (now filled with concrete) and the extension 41’ long by 4’8” wide. The Halsell-era corral is V-shaped with railroad tie posts, page wire, V-mesh wire and barbed wire. Eldridge and Overson added a crowding pen and a steel pipe loading chute. The nearby rectangular cattle lot is enclosed by railroad tie posts, V-mesh wire and barbed wire. Much debris is found in the area.

Piute Dry Corral
This lone, RSL&CC-era corral is located on a dirt road ten miles east of Lanfair Road. It is so

named because there is no water at this site. It is a half-round corral with a rectangular pen on the north side, measuring overall approximately 55’ by 80’. The vertical split railroad tie posts average 6’ tall held by pipe wired to posts and wire tied near ground. A wing fence approximately 42’ long directed livestock into the corral. Despite its age, the dry corral is in good condition, and is an excellent example of historic desert ranching infrastructure.

Payne
The corral and water development called Payne is located about 1/2 mile north of Cedar Canyon Road on the dirt road to Martin Well. Claud Halsell established the site before 1946 and Eldridge and Overson improved it. The complex includes two wells with a windmill, a Halsell-era corrugated metal tank, a non-contributing steel tank and a historic corral. Water is not distributed elsewhere. The 80’ by 158’ corral, apparently constructed by Halsell, is constructed from railroad tie and split tie posts, page wire and barbed wire. It is divided into two pens and an Eldridge-era crowding pen and has no loading chute. Vegetation and flood debris have caused a negative impact on the corral fences.

Smithson Mine
This abandoned water development and corral is located about 2/3 miles south off Ivanpah Road on the dirt road leading to the abandoned Smithson mine, two miles east of New Ivanpah. The origin of this development is unclear, possibly occurring before 1930. It consists of a hand dug well with a 4’ square railroad tie frame box protruding above the ground, with a wood ladder descending into the well. It is hazardous and in poor condition. Nearby are a small corral, a double steel trough and a discarded steel trough. The corral, reportedly built by Eldridge circa 1950s, is constructed of railroad tie posts and split tie stays, page wire and barbed wire, and is laid out into an irregular shape approximately 120’ long and between 75’ and 44’ wide.

Lecyr
This picturesque water development dates from the RSL&CC and was named for stage driver Joseph LeCyr who had worked in the area around 1894-1910. It is located in the New York Mountains ¼ mile west of Ivanpah Road near Barnwell. It consists of two wells, at least one of which was dug by hand, an operable windmill and remains of a fallen windmill, two abandoned steel tanks, a concrete-lined corrugated steel float box, an abandoned concrete trough, a tank foundation and various debris. Adjacent to the site is an Eldridge-era dirt berm reservoir (noncontributing).

Dove
Dove Spring is found in the northern reaches of the OX Ranch allotments and Mojave National Preserve. It is on the northwest side of the New York Mountains range near Castle Peaks, reached by a dirt road leading approximately four miles from the old Searchlight railroad grade. Dove Spring feeds troughs at Dove Corral and a tank and trough at lower Dove, located about two miles northwest (downstream) of Dove Corral. Dove Corral and trough date from the RSL&CC, circa 1894-1916. Prehistoric pictographs can be seen on rock formations west of the corral.

Miners or the RSL&CC developed the spring before 1916 and maintained by successors. It is now a dug out hole in bank with an outlet pipe. At least four types of pipe drain the spring to the corrals and beyond; only the steel pipe is contributing. Some distance below the spring is a stick corral dating from before 1916. It is a double circular corral, the west corral being 62’ in diameter, and the east corral 68’ diameter. It is built of juniper posts, ranging in length from four to eight feet, with some railroad tie replacement posts, and is held in circles with iron or steel pipe and wire. Part of the corral is leaning and deteriorated, but it is an important relic of the RSL&CC. A debris pile, which may yield information about the site, can be found near the corral.

Mail Spring
This early development in the Barnwell region is located in the New York Mountains, approximately one mile southwest of Ivanpah Road at Lecyr on a dirt road. An inventory dated 1930 noted a 4-foot by 15-foot galvanized iron trough, a burned house and a stockade corral fifty feet in diameter. Today Mail Spring consists of a spring, pipeline, an old steel trough with juniper support posts on a concrete apron inscribed with the OX brand and remnants of a fence. All are long abandoned, although the site is historic and the OX inscription is of historical interest.

Vontrigger Spring
Vontrigger Spring, named for early miner, supplied water for various mining, homesteading and ranching operations over the years. The adjacent White Ranch was established by Mrs. M. L. White during the homesteading period and later used as a line camp and housing for OX Ranch employees. The former owners removed the house and adjacent features. The sites lie about 10 miles north of Goffs and about one mile east of Lanfair Road on dirt roads. The well site is in Vontrigger Wash with remaining developments at the White Ranch some ½ mile south/southeast. The entire complex and water system has been abandoned for some years.

VONTRIGGER SPRING [WELL] (contributing)
The hand dug well is located in a narrow, sandy wash at the edge of a slope. It is encased by a rock and concrete structure that shows about 10 feet to water. There is an unintelligible inscription at the corner of the well. Pipelines are found downstream from the well.

White Ranch
The White Ranch, originating as a homestead, now includes a reservoir, corral and other watering features. A circa 1940s small house has been removed along with its yard features. A well-finished concrete reservoir, once fed by Vontrigger Spring, is 4.5’ deep, 14’ by 22.5’ with battered walls 10 inches thick at the top and about 24 inches at the base, faced with scored cement to resemble block construction. Although long abandoned, it is in good condition. Nearby is a rectangular concrete livestock trough, faced and lined with cement.

Claud Halsell or Bozarth and Rudnick may have built the corral at White Ranch. It is relatively

small, with two pens and a small crowding pen, overall approximately 60’ by 95”, connected to a trap fence leading into the nearby mountain.

Government Holes
Government Holes is one of the older and more important historic sites in Mojave National Preserve and has been used by cattle outfits since before 1894. In the 1860s military troops camped and obtained water here, and travelers with livestock used the site as a watering place. The predecessors of the RSL&CC no doubt occupied Government Holes as well; one of the company’s founders T. L. Blackburn reportedly was stationed here in the 1870s. Government Holes is a scenic location near the east end of Gold Valley. It is located approximately 11 miles west of Lanfair Road on Cedar Canyon Road, and a short distance south of the latter route on a dirt road. A windmill, tanks and corral mark the spot.

The well at Government Holes probably dates from the 1860s. As it is closed by rock and concrete, the nature of the structure is undetermined. A 35-foot high Aermotor windmill stands above the well. An abandoned steel tank remains. The pipeline continues to a RSL&CC-era circular concrete trough down near the corral. An octagonal rock apron enclosed by railroad ties surrounds the trough. Another circular trough reportedly can be found ¼ mile northwest of the corral but was not located during this survey.

Before 1919 the RSL&CC constructed a rectangular corral approximately 135’ by 64’ with two pens. The corral is constructed of railroad tie posts with horizontal boards. Eldridge added a crowding pen and Overson added a loading chute and three steel gates; three older wood gates remain. There are two wings, the northerly one with cedar posts and no wire, the southerly 80’ long with pipe and juniper posts. The corral connects to a lot fence that encloses a few acres directly north of the Government Holes well and windmill. The lot was reportedly built by Halsell, of juniper and railroad tie posts and page wire. A fire in 2005 damaged the eastern side of the lot fence and burned vegetation in the area.

East of the windmill remains of a rock and earth dugout house and foundation of a house remains. The house was a line shack for the RSL&CC.

Rock House
At Rock Springs, east of Government Holes, stands Bert Smith’s homestead that was purchased by the OX Cattle Company around 1950. Smith built the house around 1930 and ran a small number of cattle here and on an adjoining parcel. The cabin is actually a wood frame building with a stone and mortar shell. Various remains of Smith’s homestead efforts are found in the area around the house, including a small corral; an abandoned ore bin and mill was destroyed in the 2005 fire.

Woods Canyon Spring
This isolated natural water source is situated on the east slope of the Mid Hills between Table Top and Twin Buttes, four miles south of Government Holes as the crow flies, but many miles

longer by dirt road via Watson Well and Woods Wash. The spring once fed a line to two troughs, one of which is in an old, unused corral. RSL&CC developed the system circa 1894-1927 but it apparently has not been used for at least a decade. The spring was dug out and is drained by Eldridge-era black plastic pipe. The pipeline leads down a wash to a pre-1930 circular concrete trough, long abandoned. A second, contemporary circular trough is located farther south in the wash, and a third to the west in an abandoned corral. The corral is in a circular layout approximately 54' diameter, constructed of juniper posts and wire (both smooth and barbed). Many posts are missing and the corral is largely broken down. Nearby, crossing the primitive road between Woods Wash and Gold Valley, is a remnant fence with five strands of barbed wire on juniper posts, and a couple of railroad tie H-braces at the road gate which is a metal frame with page wire. Overall, the resources at Woods Wash are very old and in poor condition but possess historical integrity.

Watson Well
Watson Well originated as a homestead claim early in the 1900s. Claud Halsell reportedly developed Watson Well into its current configuration during the 1930s and early 1940s. The well and corral are located one and a half miles southwest of Cedar Canyon Road and four miles southeast of Government Holes by dirt road. The water from Watson Well was once distributed through a six-mile pipeline southeasterly to three watering points, Middle Watson, Lower Watson and Watson Extension, but the owner has removed those modern improvements.

WATSON WELL (contributing)
Two wells, one abandoned, are located at Watson Well, as well as an abandoned steel tank. The lower corral was reportedly built by Halsell and added to by Eldridge after 1956. The upper corral, built by Eldridge, measures approximately 108' by 84' with railroad tie posts and page wire; a unique swinging gate is located on the east side, hung by cable from overhanging beam. The lower corral, built by Halsell, measures 92' by 60' with railroad tie posts and page wire. A crowding pen, reportedly built by Eldridge from split ties and pipe rail, completes the corral, and a wing fence heads northeast off northeast corner.

Eagle Well
Claud Halsell developed this well and watering spot circa 1930-1946. Ii is located in Lanfair Valley, 2 miles east of Lanfair Road and 2.5 miles north of Lanfair Corral on dirt roads. The deep well is pumped by a 40-foot-high windmill, hand labeled in paint: "Claude E. Halsell, Goff, Cal." There are two abandoned steel tanks. A non-contributing steel trough and two abandoned steel troughs remain. A non-contributing "dirt tank" reservoir, built by Eldridge, was once surrounded by a fence.

Carruthers Wells
George Carruthers homesteaded 240 acres in the canyon now bearing his name in 1916. The owners of the OX Cattle Company bought the old Carruthers homestead in 1931, no doubt to exploit the bountiful water resources there. The Carruthers water system originates from high

in the New York Mountains, near the head of Carruthers Canyon, and runs downhill south/southeast towards Cedar Canyon Road. Pipeline spurs head east/northeast to Purdy on Ivanpah Road and east/southeast to Ross Horse Corral. Originating at the now-defunct Carruthers Wells where four old well heads remain, the unused pipeline traverses the relatively level Upper Carruthers Canyon passing another defunct well, then arrives at the current water source called Carruthers whereupon the currently used water line commences. As the elevation decreases, a spur takes off east to No Water and Purdy; the main line continues to Waldo's Water and Middle Carruthers where it splits again. The east spur leads to Ross Pasture. The main line continues to another Ross Pasture watering area and ends at Lower Carruthers, about three miles north of Cedar Canyon Road on a dirt road. Total length of the system is about 13 miles.

Upper Carruthers Canyon
The original Carruthers system originated with four side-by-side wells near the head of Carruthers Canyon. Each had a windmill although those structures are gone and only the windmill footings and steel casings protruding from the sandy ground mark the wells. An abandoned metal pipeline extends from the wells, evident by occasional vent pipes. Downstream from the wells is a substantial masonry dam of undetermined origin. It has been suggested that Carruthers and other fellow homesteaders built the dam for irrigation some time between 1910 and 1925. The stone and concrete dam was built into rock formations with a battered face, fine masonry work, a layer of smooth cement as a cap walk, concrete spillway walls with slots for holding boards in place. The dam is approximately 56' long and 5.5' wide, and is backfilled with sand and gravel. The structure needs further research and recording. Farther downstream and near the dirt access road is a concrete and rock tank base, 42' in diameter. It is probably related to Carruthers' homesteading efforts. Below it is another abandoned well with windmill footings and pipe to an abandoned water tank.

Carruthers
This is the originating source for water in the later years of the OX Ranch. It is located approximately one mile south of the four wells in upper Carruthers Canyon, on the dirt access road. Carruthers consists of a large, open-topped water tank 40' in diameter, a well with windmill, and a short distance down the road a Halsell-era steel trough.

Waldo's Water
Waldo Bozarth, half owner of the OX Ranch between 1946 and 1955, reportedly installed this minor watering site. It is located one mile southeast of Carruthers Well on the dirt road and pipeline. It consists of an old style steel trough with a railroad tie platform.

Middle Carruthers
At this watering and gathering location the Carruthers water line splits, with the main line continuing south and a spur leading to Ross Pasture. It is located two miles southeast of water source at Carruthers on dirt road. An abandoned steel tank and a Halsell-era concrete trough are located here. The corral, reportedly built by Claud Halsell, measures 95' by 85' with a

crowing pen on the southeast side 65’ by 60’ narrowing to 48’ at the exit gate. Railroad tie posts and page wire with tall posts at the gates form the structure. Three board gates survive. An intact 58’ wing fence directed cattle into the corral.

Southwest Corner Ross Pasture
This facility watered livestock in the 2,000-acre Ross Pasture. It is located on the Carruthers main pipeline branch, 1.5 miles south of Middle Carruthers at the southwest corner of the Ross Pasture. It consists of a Halsell-era concrete trough.

No Water Haul
A pipeline did not serve this location, reportedly developed by Bozarth & Rudnick between 1946 and 1955; the ranchers hauled water here in a truck. It is located one half mile south of No Water on dirt road. It consists of a corrugated steel tank and a concrete trough on a rock and cement apron, both abandoned. The trough is unique, with a smooth cement cap with incised historical graffiti: “R D Carey” and “H. A. Martin Delux”. Nearby is a rare cattle rub: a railroad tie post and a short post connected by a cable.

Ross Pasture
The Ross Horse Pasture, four square miles on section lines, is located two miles west of the OX Ranch headquarters and two miles south of No Water. It is the former Lewis Ross family homestead, purchased by owners of the OX Ranch in 1982. A spur pipeline off the Carruthers line fed tanks and troughs at three locations at the pasture. At one site, an abandoned Halsell-era concrete trough and a debris pile remain.

A corral is located on the north side of the Ross Pasture, three miles west of the OX Ranch headquarters. Claud Halsell reportedly built the corral before 1946. It is a rectangular corral with three pens, approximately 70’ by 210’ with railroad tie posts and some juniper and steel posts, page wire and barbed wire. The north side acts as part of the north tangent of Ross Pasture fence. The center pen leads to a crowding pen, livestock scale and a loading chute built by Overson. Six steel pipe gates built by Eldridge and Overson supplement eight original board gates. Built into the south lane of the corral is a wooden livestock scale, no longer functioning. It has a wood floor 18’ long and 6’ wide on a concrete base, tall wood post walls with stringer beams and horizontal board walls.

Brant Spring
Brant Spring is located in a remote and beautiful canyon in the New York Mountains overlooking Ivanpah Valley and reached by a 1.5-mile rugged dirt road. The spring was used by the railroad early in the century as evidenced by a large concrete reservoir located closer to the tracks. Miners and early cattlemen, as evidenced by a stone corral and house, used the rocky ledges near the spring as a small settlement. Brant Spring was documented as under RSL&CC control as of 1916. The spring head is actually a low concrete catch basin with a steel outlet pipe. At Brant Tank is a rock and concrete reservoir, in fair condition but long abandoned, about eight feet deep with stepped interior walls, 40’ by 35’ and surrounded by a deteriorating

barbed wire fence with wood posts.

Hidden Spring
The railroad company may have developed Hidden Spring, located as it is on the railroad grade above Ivanpah in the New York Mountains. Halsell reportedly developed it as a cattle-watering site. It consists of a spring developed with a wooden box surrounded by concrete and stone, and an old steel trough and broken up wooden salt trough.

Willow Spring
This remote spring and corral site is located on the west slope of the northern New York Mountains, four miles north of Barnwell and five miles southeast of the railroad tracks in Ivanpah Valley. Access is attained on dirt roads from Ivanpah Road and up a long wash. It was reportedly developed by Halsell in the 1930s but the extant hand-dug well is probably the one marked on the 1916 RSLCC map. The site consists of a recently rehabilitated spring head with non-contributing commercial concrete culvert pipes placed vertically into a cut bank with a wood cover and outlet pipe; older metal troughs have been discarded. A small corral with rounded corners, approximately 85’ by 60’, built of railroad tie and split tie posts, page wire, and a wire gate. A hand-dug well is situated in the wash ¼-mile below the corral. It is rough stone masonry, 5’ by 6’ and 2.5’ high, with iron rods protruding from corners. It is partly broken and filled with gravel and debris. Nearby is a corrugated steel trough mostly buried in the sandy wash.

Barnett Well
Barnett was a mining claim and/or homestead that was bought by the OX Cattle Company and developed as a cattle watering spot before 1948. It is located approximately one mile southeast of Government Holes on a dirt road. The Oversons never used this development, which consists of a well, a windmill frame without head or rotors, two old riveted steel tanks, an octagonal concrete trough, 9’ diameter with thick battered walls, a concrete and steel trough and discarded pipe and debris. A rough concrete trough is located downhill from the development. More research may determine who built them and when.

Dry Corral (non-contributing)
An early Eldridge-era corral, with no water features, is located about three miles northwest of the old Searchlight railroad grade on dirt roads, along the route to Dove Spring. The corral is rectangular, approximately 180’ by 165’ with a 75’ wing fence. It is a mix of railroad tie, split tie, juniper, oak and pine posts, with 7 to 9 strands of barbed wire, pipe and boards, and two board gates. It is deteriorated and neglected. Nearby is a steel pipe ring about 65’ diameter lying on ground, probably part of an earlier round corral.

OX RANCH: FENCES, PASTURES, AND TRAPS

Fencing systems are of utmost importance in a ranching operation, as they control movement of cattle among water developments, allow separation of herds by age and type, provide for

pasture rotation if needed and prevent encroachment by livestock on roads and rail lines. Fenced pastures, of which there are five on OX Ranch, are smaller subdivisions of the ranch acreage, ranging from one to four square miles in size and used for placing particular herds such as bulls, horses and young cattle.

Fences at OX Ranch are found in three categories: pasture fences that fully enclose pieces of property with specific uses; drift fences that control the movement of cattle across the range; and boundary fences. Most of these fence lines are post and barbed wire, although on a number of the pasture fences page wire (mesh) was used. Post materials range from commercial steel posts to juniper branches, with surplus railroad ties the most common.

Cattle guards, developed to eliminate the need for gates at road crossings, are found on roads in the allotment where a fence line crosses. All are steel, factory-built cattle guards eight feet wide and ranging in length from 12 to 24 feet. Cattle guards are flanked on each side by an A-shaped steel brace that is attached to the fence line with wire or cable.

OX HEADQUARTERS FENCE (contributing)
Originating in the Halsell era and in use since then, the fence surrounds the OX Ranch headquarters area. It is about 1.5 linear miles long and consists of railroad tie, juniper and steel posts with wooden stays, a mix of barbed wire, page wire, smooth wire, V-mesh wire and chicken wire. There are also fences at Pig Pen (chain link), and Roping Arena.

PAYNE PASTURE (contributing)
Halsell developed four linear miles of fencing, located north of Payne Wells, in the 1930s. The railroad tie, juniper and steel post fence has five strands of barbed wire and follows section lines.

MAIL SPRING FENCE (contributing)
Immediately east of Mail Spring is this fragment of a long-abandoned fence composed of wood posts, stays, barbed wire and boards.

WHITE RANCH TRAP (contributing)
This C-shaped enclosure is located northeast of the White Ranch using the eastern mountain range as its closure. It abuts White Ranch Corral. The fence appears to date from the Halsell era with repairs by his successors. It is constructed of railroad tie and some steel posts, four strands barbed wire, and runs about 1.5 linear miles.

UPPER AND LOWER LANFAIR PASTURES AND TRAP (contributing)
Located east of Lanfair Road and eight miles south of OX headquarters, this two-section pasture is about three miles east to west and one mile north to south, generally running along section lines. The Lanfair trap is within the Upper Lanfair Pasture on the east at the corral and water development. The boundaries originated during the homestead era, but the fences appear to have been built by Halsell and his successors. The Upper Lanfair Pasture fence is mostly

juniper posts, with some railroad tie posts, five strands of barbed wire; the Lower Lanfair Pasture fence is steel and tie posts with five or six strands of barbed wire, with a wing of juniper and tie posts with page wire and barbed wire. The Lanfair trap has iron and tie posts with V-mesh wire and barbed wire, with a wing of juniper and tie posts with page wire.

PIUTE PASTURE (contributing)
The small, pie-shaped pasture, located five miles east of Lanfair Road at Piute Corral, measures about 1.5 miles around, running west of Piute Corral. The fence is comprised of mostly juniper and steel posts with some railroad ties, four strands of barbed wire. It may date from the Halsell era.

HORSE PASTURE (contributing)
A triangular enclosure north of Bull Pasture and directly west of OX headquarters and Ivanpah Road, this pasture was used for ranch horses for an undetermined amount of time. The enclosure fence is a mix of railroad tie, juniper and steel posts with wood and wire stays, four to seven strands of barbed wire, and some page wire. It runs approximately one linear mile.

7IL BOUNDARY FENCE (non-contributing)
This Overson-era fence follows the southwest boundary of the allotment. It is built of steel posts with four strands of barbed wire.

WALKING BOX BOUNDARY FENCE (contributing)
The boundary with the Walking Box Ranch, developed by actor Rex Bell after it was separated from the original RSL&CC holdings in 1930, roughly follows the northeastern boundary of the OX allotment. It was built at some time between 1936 and 1955. The upper five miles is mostly juniper posts with some railroad tie and steel posts and four strands of barbed wire. The lower ten miles is steel posts with four strands of barbed wire and wire stays, totaling approximately 15 linear miles. There is a cattle guard at the old Searchlight railroad grade, now a dirt road.

PINTO MOUNTAIN FENCE (contributing)
A portion of western boundary fence is located east and north of the Pinto Mountains north of Government Holes. Halsell probably developed it circa 1931-1946.

GOLDEN VALLEY FENCE (contributing)
Two short fragments of old fence line run north-south between Twin Buttes and Woods Mountains, separating Gold Valley and Lanfair Valley. They are built of juniper posts with five strands of barbed wire, with two railroad tie H-braces at a metal/page wire gate on the road crossing.

AUSMUS BOUNDARY FENCE (contributing)
This fence line runs north-to-south and is located a short distance west from Government Holes. Bozarth & Rudnick reportedly installed it, circa 1946-1955.

CATTLE GUARDS (non-contributing)
All cattle guards, placed on roadways at fence crossings, were installed less than 50 years ago and are not contributing.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH

Valley View Ranch Headquarters
The headquarters for the Valley View Ranch are located ten miles south of the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15. Its main entrance off Cima Road is a two-mile dirt road located ten miles from the freeway. The ranch is situated at an elevation of 5,000 feet (1525 meters) on the broad, sloping north side of Cima Dome, about 1.5 miles northwest of Teutonia Peak; inhabitants of the ranch enjoy a wide vista over the Shadow Valley, the Mescal Range and the Clark Range. The ranch headquarters complex is composed of three adjacent components: the residential area, the barn/shop area and the corral/waters area. Dirt roads and water pipelines extend in three directions from the headquarters area. Vegetation is largely desert scrub and Joshua trees.

Starting in 1927 the land and grazing rights owned by Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company were sold and by 1930 the old “88” ranch had been divided into four privately owned ranches. The northern section would become the southern half of Valley View Ranch. The Yates family bought this part of the “88” property, which adjoined their ranch at Valley Wells. They were reportedly the first to build at the present headquarters site during the early 1930s. Around 1940 they sold much of their property to Fred Twisselmann, who soon turned the property over to his daughter and son-in-law, Lucille and “Slim” Skinner. Skinner made major improvements to the ranch, installing new buildings, water systems, fencing and corrals, mostly accomplished during the 1940s. Skinner enlarged the ranch complex on the slope of Cima Dome, making it headquarters of the Valley View, while Twisselmann built a handful of structures at Rock Tank and lived there.

MAIN HOUSE (contributing)
Slim Skinner built this residence shortly after he moved to the property in the early 1940s. It is a simple, rectangular building, 62 by 24 feet, with a gable roof and extended gable/shed roof (addition) on the east side. It was constructed of adobe bricks manufactured on site (using raw materials from Valley Wells) and coated with stucco painted white. The house has two bedrooms, one bath, living room, kitchen/dining room, laundry room and screened porch, as well as a red corrugated metal roof, concrete slab floor (noted on porch), and a brick fireplace/chimney. Most windows are 1-over-1 wood sash. The west end porch has been enclosed to form a utility room, and a wood frame section for bedrooms was added on the east end around 1941.

BUNKHOUSE (contributing)
This residence dates from the Yates period circa 1930-1940. It was altered by Skinner (enclose breezeway, add bathroom) during the historic period of his occupancy. The bunkhouse is a simple, rectangular wood frame building, painted red, with gable roof and screened shed porch

running the length of the north-façade. It has a corrugated metal roof, shiplap siding, and a concrete slab at the porch. Most windows are 2-over-2 and 6-over-6 wood sash with screens, and a row of original windows faces onto the porch. A small shed porch with corrugated metal roof overhangs a concrete stoop (stamped with Skinner's brand) on the south façade. Originally the building was comprised of two smaller cabins with a breezeway between which was later filled in to make another room. A stucco-coated red bathroom addition has been constructed on the east end of the building (all alterations by Skinner). Overall dimensions are 54 by 22 feet with a 7 by 7-foot addition; it has three bedrooms, kitchen, living room (former breezeway) and bath. A low adobe wall can be seen on the porch.

CELLAR (contributing)
During the early 1940s Skinner constructed a cellar of railroad ties covered in cement/stucco, all buried except for a 25foot long bulkhead façade. The interior has rough-finish cement, shelving and a vent in the center of the ceiling. The
exterior features an old door and light fixture, painted stucco, chimney vent with steep gable cover, and a covering of local earth.

OLD CELLAR (contributing)
Yates built this now-abandoned cellar in the 1930s. It is a room built of railroad ties, excavated into an area west of the bunkhouse and buried. All that is visible is a timber roof gable and entry and a wood vent with tin cover. The old cellar was closed at the entrance for safety reasons.

GARAGE (contributing)
Skinner built this garage circa 1940. It features vertical railroad tie walls, a low gable roof of ties on beams, stucco exterior, roll roofing, dirt floor. There is an old generator shed attached to the west wall, constructed of horizontal boards coated with stucco, a plank shed roof with roll roofing and two windows (one boarded up). A shed addition at the rear features an old Coke sign as siding and roofing material. The garage measures 16 by 20 feet, the generator shed 8 by 8, and the shed addition 4 by 10.

GENERATOR SHED (non-contributing)
Of recent construction, this open shed is built of railroad ties, with a corrugated metal roof, steel containment basin under the generator and tank, and a cinder foundation. It measures 9' by 11'.

CHICKEN PEN (contributing)
Skinner built these pens, which were used as an irrigated garden site beginning about 20 years ago. The enclosure is constructed of page wire, chicken wire and discarded sheets of corrugated metal roofing with railroad tie posts, with a chicken wire and lumber door.

PROPANE DEPOT (contributing)
Skinner installed propane services, which are now comprised of a discarded propane tank, portion of a tank frame, and piping.

BARN (contributing)
Slim Skinner's father-in-law, Fred Twisselmann reportedly built the barn in 1940. It is a wood frame barn, 30 by 48 feet, with corrugated metal gable roof and drop shed extension, vertical board siding with newer corrugated metal and wood frame sliding doors, concrete pier and wall foundation. The shed on the east side is an open horse pen with trough, with a gate made from an old highway-side sheet metal Coca-Cola sign. Framing appears to be in good condition; the siding is weathered but sound; wall failure is evident on the west side.

BARN PEN (contributing)
Dating from the Skinner period, the pen is a vertical railroad tie enclosure, about 60 by 25-30 feet, attached to the north side of the barn. It features two welded steel gates, one with a horseshoe gate latch.

SHOP (contributing)
Skinner built the shop circa 1950-1960, and a slab floor was installed in 2002. It is a wood frame building on a railroad tie foundation with gable roof, 10 by 20 feet, sheeted with corrugated metal roof, siding and door. Four windows, originally six-light sash, one replaced with solid pane, others are partly broken and in need of repair.

SADDLE SHED AND COW PEN (contributing)
This structure reportedly dates from the Yates era, circa 1930-1940, and has been altered by Skinner circa 1940-1975. It is rectangular, 16 by 25 feet, constructed with walls of vertical railroad ties with a wood frame corrugated metal gable roof and gable ends, metal door, three boarded-up windows on west side. A shed 10-foot running the length of the west side has been removed, but feed troughs remain. The Cow Pen is a 10 by 8 foot shed constructed off the southwest corner of the Saddle Shed, with vertical railroad tie walls with corrugated metal siding and a sheet metal roof, pipe gate.

HORSE PEN (contributing)
The pen has evolved through the periods of Yates (1930-1940), Skinner (1940-1975) and Blincoe (1979-2002). It is a six- pen enclosure with three large pens built of whole and split railroad ties, cedar posts and page wire. Smaller pens are built of vertical railroad ties held with pipe and wire. Tim Overson installed the dividing fence of split ties at the trough.

Other contributing features include two horse hitching posts, a pipe bench, loading chute, grease rack, loading ramp, trough in the horse pen and two tub troughs. Non-contributing features include a calf shelter in the horse pen and the ranch entrance sign on Cima Road.

Headquarters Corral (contributing)
Located a short distance south (and higher in elevation) from the ranch buildings, the corral was built by "Slim Skinner" around 1940 and has been well maintained by subsequent owners.

CORRAL (contributing)
The corral is a complex “shotgun” corral with two additional pens. It is mostly constructed of vertical railroad ties held with pipe and wire, with sections of juniper posts, whole and split ties and page wire. Various gates, including welded steel, chain link, commercial and trigger gates provide circulation. A crowding pen, loading chute and wing fence, the latter built of split railroad ties, steel and juniper posts and page wire, are also features of the corral.

Headquarters Waters

HAND DUG WELL (#1) (contributing)
This well dates from the RSL&CC period (1894-1930), and is the only known extant feature from that period on the Valley View Ranch. The well is 80 feet deep, with the upper part cased with railroad ties and a wood top. The well was used until the 1980s.

Three wells, #3, 4 and 5, dating from the Skinner period, are also contributing. One well, #2, is non-contributing.

WINDMILL (contributing)
Skinner installed the windmill circa 1940-1975. It is a 10-foot Aermotor mill on a timber tower; the sucker rod has been removed.

TWO 5,000-GALLON TANKS (contributing)
Slim Skinner installed this pair of cylindrical steel tanks with conical tops constructed of welded galvanized steel plates. They are 12 feet tall and approximately 8 feet in diameter, on a platform of cinders and railroad ties.

RESERVOIR (contributing)
Dating from the Skinner period, the reservoir consists of a large circular berm with a surrounding fence of ties, juniper and steel posts.

Non-contributing features in the waters/corral area include two 10,000-gallon tanks, a trough in east corral, a trough next to the round corral, trough #3, a tire salt trough and an abandoned tank.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: ALLOTMENTS AND DEEDED LAND

Deer Spring
The spring and corral are found three miles southwest of the ranch headquarters via dirt road from headquarters, and a little over a mile due west of the summit of Cima Dome. Deer Spring is a natural seep developed as a spring, reportedly in the late 19th century.

DEER SPRING (contributing)
RSL&CC reportedly developed Deer Spring circa 1894-1900, and it was improved by Yates

(1930-1940) and Skinner (1940-1975). The spring is approximately six feet deep, lined with wood and with a plank cover. An old iron pipe carries water to the corral, and surface water continues to flow downhill but disappears.

SHAFT WITH TIE COVER (contributing)
This covered shaft appears to date from an early period, but little information is available about its origins. It is a vertical shaft dug to water, covered with railroad ties. A stub post, old pipe and boards are found in the vicinity.

CORRAL (contributing)
Slim Skinner built this small "shotgun" corral of vertical railroad ties held in place with pipe and wire. Four older welded pipe gates were used and a trigger gate is found at the corral entrance. A wing fence built of juniper posts and page wire is attached to the corral. Some ties were replaced during the past 20 years.

Non-contributing features at Deer Spring include a barrel salt trough and a tire salt trough.

Kessler Springs
The springs are located on Kessler Springs Ranch, but are part of the Valley View Ranch holdings. They are located off a bypassed section of Cima Road, almost five miles north/northwest from Cima, and about 13 miles southeast of the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15. Access requires crossing a fence and traversing a series of small washes.

All springs originated during the RSL&CC period or earlier.

SPRING #1 (contributing)
Seep in eroded bank, with rocks and vegetation. No noticeable development.

SPRING #2 (contributing)
Grassy seep with railroad tied constructed into a 4x8 box structure, one to three feet in height. Falling over and deteriorated.

SPRING #3 (contributing)
A deep spring, marked by a wood post, 4-5 feet deep in grass.

Cut Spring
See listing in Kessler Springs Ranch section.

Twisselmann Pipeline
This linear feature consisting of pipelines and watering sites was named for Fred Twisselmann, owner of the ranch in 1940, and constructed by Twisselmann and/or his son-in-law Slim Skinner. The long pipeline, once even longer, originates at the headquarters waters at Valley View Ranch. The line heads west and southwest for a distance of 18 miles, dropping about

1,200 feet in elevation. Its watering points (designated Tanks 1 to 7) are spaced every two to three miles after an initial 4.5-mile span from headquarters. An additional 10 miles (Tanks 8-10) of line beyond has been abandoned. The pipeline, which relies on gravity and is composed of PVC pipe and abandoned lengths of black plastic and steel pipe, follows a dirt road and is regulated at regular intervals by pressure cans and relief valves. Two watering sites, Tanks 4½ and 7, have replaced older sites in slightly different locations.

PIPELINE (contributing)
The pipeline was laid by Skinner circa 1940-1950 and maintained and modified by Anderson and Blincoe. Buried PVC pipe has replaced older black plastic and steel pipe, although the latter remains in place; Skinner installed all between 1940 and 1975, as far as Tank #3. Beyond Tank #3, Blincoe installed new PVC.

Twisselmann Tank #1
Located four and a half miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters. This site includes a variation of a “shotgun” corral, comprised of four pens and a crowding pen with loading chute, constructed with railroad tie and juniper posts, page wire, with section of solid vertical ties bound by pipe and wire on the east end. The old wood gates are mostly wrecked, trigger gates are extant, all in poor condition. Two cylindrical steel water tanks with conical tops constructed of welded galvanized plates, 12 feet tall and approximately 9 feet in diameter, sit on platforms of cinders retained by railroad ties. There are also two troughs and two tire salt roughs, all non-contributing.

Twisselmann Tank #2
Located six and a half miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters. This was considered to be a major cattle-working site on the Valley View Ranch. It consists of a rectangular corral constructed of split railroad tie and juniper posts with page wire and two strands of barbed wire at top, a solid vertical tie crowding pen and divider fence. Also, two cylindrical steel water tanks constructed of welded galvanized plates, 9 feet tall and approximately 9 feet in diameter, sit on platforms of cinders bound by steel hoops. Also extant is the bottom remains of a historic steel trough, nine feet in diameter with a three-foot concrete apron, and a valve chamber, consisting of railroad tie stubs inserted in the ground to form a sub-grade chamber for a valve, with metal lid. A non-contributing trough and tire salt trough are also at the site.

Twisselmann Tank #3
Located eight and a half miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters. The site consists of a rectangular corral, 79 by 148 feet, constructed of railroad tie and juniper posts with page wire, with a few steel posts added later. It has a solid tie crowding pen and loading chute, two trigger gates and a wood gate, and a 68-foot wing fence of whole and split railroad ties. Three water tanks are on the site: a cylindrical steel tank constructed of welded galvanized plates, 8 feet tall and approximately 8 feet in diameter, on a platform of cinders; two cylindrical steel tanks laid horizontally, 14 feet long and 8 feet in diameter, both rusted. A 12-foot Aermotor

windmill on a galvanized steel tower approximately 25 feet tall is located east of the corral, with a small 6 by 6 foot corrugated metal shed (roof missing) that enclosed the concrete pumpjack base. A concrete livestock trough poured on site is in the corral, 21 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep, with a stone and mortar float valve chamber and plank valve guard. The trough is surrounded by a rough-poured apron 3-4 feet wide. Also on the site is an old filler pipe, and on the pipeline beyond Tank #3 are two air vents, comprised of vertical galvanized water pipe with faucets, wired to wood posts.

Twisselmann Tank #4
Located eight miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters. This watering site was abandoned around 1985 and replaced by Tank 4½ located nearby. The extant features do not retain integrity. Three vent posts found beyond Tank #4 contribute, while one, which contains a wildlife guzzler, is of recent origin.

Twisselmann Tank #4½
Located about ten miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters. This watering site replaced Tank 4 around 1985 and does not contribute. It is comprised of a tank, trough, and two salt troughs.

Twisselmann Tank #5
Located about eleven miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters. It consists of a rectangular corral, 100 by 73 feet, constructed of railroad tie and juniper posts with page wire (with two replacement steel posts), and a 150-foot wing fence; one wood gate remains. A large rusted metal livestock trough sits in the corral, 25 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep, with riveted steel panels and bottom, on a rock foundation. Also, a pipe vent and a defunct valve marker are found at the site. Two non-contributing salt troughs are also located here.

Twisselmann Tank #6
Located about 14 miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters, and two miles northeast of Kelbaker Road. Its features include a rectangular corral with two pens and a crowding pen (the loading chute was burned by arsonists), constructed of railroad tie and juniper posts with page wire, two wood gates, others missing, and a temporary wire gate at the crowding pen. A cylindrical steel water tank is 8 feet tall and approximately 9 feet in diameter, on a cinder platform with a steel band. A large trough of riveted steel panels with a concrete bottom, 25 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep, sits in the corral, as does a commercial galvanized steel half-circle trough, 16 feet diameter and 2 feet deep and a small galvanized basin-style livestock trough, 2 by 10 feet, set on a welded pipe rack and railroad tie posts. A rusted truck body rests nearby, full of bullet holes.

Twisselmann Tank #7
Located about 16 miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters, and a short distance west off Kelbaker Road. This watering site replaced original Tank #7, once located northeast of here in a wash and since destroyed by floods; this was the end of the Twisselmann line

during the Blincoe period. This site does not contribute.

Twisselmann Tank #8
Located about 24 miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters, or one mile west of Kelbaker Road at a point about 12 miles east of Baker; the features no longer exist.

Twisselmann Tank #9
Located about 26 miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters, or three miles west of Kelbaker Road at a point about 12 miles east of Baker. The watering site has been long abandoned. It consists of a trough remnant, a metal salt trough and a cinder tank base.

Twisselmann Tank #10
Located about 28 miles west/southwest of Valley View headquarters, or five miles west of Kelbaker Road at a point about 12 miles east of Baker. The watering site, the end of the original Twisselmann pipeline, has been long abandoned, and is comprised of a large, deteriorated trough.

Cow Cove
Located about eight miles south/southwest of the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15; the site is in a designated wilderness area and is found by taking a poor, and poorly marked, dirt road from the dirt road/wilderness boundary between Rock Tank and Black Tank. It is about ten miles by dirt road west from Valley View Ranch headquarters. Slim Skinner built it. The reservoir, a large circular dirt berm with diversion berms, is approximately 130 feet across, 3 to 6 feet high and is no longer used.

Black Tank
Located about eleven miles south/southwest of the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15, and about nine miles by dirt road west from Valley View Ranch headquarters. Black Tank is directly southwest of Button Mountain. Features, all built by Slim Skinner, include a reservoir and corral. The reservoir was formed by a semicircular dirt berm that caught floodwater runoff. It had been fenced with railroad ties and page wire, with a cattle land and gates at north end. The corral is a large “shotgun” corral, with its round section (north) constructed of vertical railroad ties bound by steel pipe and wire, 77 feet in diameter. The large pen is constructed of whole and split railroad ties and page wire, 178 by 99 feet. Features include two old wood gates and one welded steel gate, a 97-foot wing fence of whole and split ties, juniper posts and page wire, a heavy board loading chute and a railroad tie crowding pen. Blincoe replaced all ties circa 1980. A nearby cattle rub is comprised of vertical railroad tie posts, a companion post and juniper cross bar (which has fallen). A modern tire salt trough is also present.

Natural Corral
Located a short distance northwest by foot from Twisselmann Tank #3, the site is hard to find and in a designated wilderness area. The corral is at the edge of, and formed by, a natural cliff of volcanic material. It is a unique cultural feature.

The corral appears to have been constructed during the RSL&CC period (circa 1894-1930). It is a combination half-circle natural volcanic cliff and short span of fence forming an enclosure. It is approximately 75 feet deep and 65 feet wide. The fence, which is partially down, is constructed of juniper ports and page wire. A dry laid rock wall forms the south part of the fence, joined with vertical and horizontal cedar posts. It has been long abandoned.

Indian Spring
These remote features are located about three miles east/northeast of Kelbaker Road at a point 13 miles east of Baker. The dam is at the end of the "cherry-stem" dirt road in a designated wilderness area, while the springs are within the wilderness area. Development of the three springs probably date from the RSL&CC period. The dam is rough-poured concrete in a rock formation in a wash; it is 40 inches across, 16 inches thick, 10-12 inches high. It is not in use as it is backfilled with sand.

Rock Tank Pipeline
This pipeline, approximately 18 miles long, runs northwest from Valley View Headquarters to the complex of buildings, corrals and water features called Rock Tank and beyond, and then west/southwest to Twin Peaks. The line drops about 1,700 feet in elevation. Watering stations on the line include Middle Water, Rock Tank, Turtle Valley and Twin Peaks. The pipeline follows a dirt road for its entire length, and is regulated with pressure cans and relief valves.

Pipeline materials have evolved from steel to black plastic to white 1¼-inch PVC; remnants of all kinds remain visible occasionally. Four modern (non-contributing) pressure cans are found along the pipeline between Valley View headquarters and the development at Rock Tank.

Middle Water
Located about three miles northwest of ranch headquarters, it was the first development on the Rock Tank line. While the dirt tank is identified on a 1955 map, the other developments (tank, trough and tire salt trough) are more recent. The dirt tank is a circular dirt berm about 100 feet in diameter; water was diverted into it from an adjacent wash. A cattle rub is comprised of two railroad tie posts with a tie cross bar about 7 feet high.

Rock Tank
This complex of two buildings, a buried root cellar, various water tanks, troughs and windmills, and a series of corrals and pens with sheds and feed troughs, is located eight miles northwest of Valley View Ranch headquarters, and four miles southwest of the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15. It is reached by dirt roads. Although Rock Tank is a station on the Rock Tank water line, water was pumped from wells here to supplement the supply, which was transported through gravity onward to Turtle Valley and Twin Peaks to the west. A large amount of varied debris is found in the vicinity.

At this time it is unknown whether this site had any relation to RSL&CC. Ranch owner Fred

Twisselmann reportedly built the complex in 1940-41 when he purchased the ranch. His daughter and son-in-law, the Skinners, developed the ranch headquarters to the south.

The site is comprised of two wells with two windmills, a pumpjack base, two water tanks built of rock and concrete, two fuel tanks, troughs, six buildings and a corral. The large rock tank (from which the name of the location is derived) is a cylindrical water tank with open top constructed of porous rock and cement mortar and lined with concrete, 28 feet in diameter and six feet high, with an additional 2.5 feet in height added circa 1975 of cinder block and mortar. It has concrete buttresses that gird the tank on east side. A masonry extended platform allows a man to check water level. It is inscribed “Jesse Hillis 4/24/41.” The smaller, cylindrical water tank has an open top and is constructed of porous rock and cement mortar, 10 feet in diameter and 7 feet high. A stone and mortar trough, 22 by 5 feet with float valve chamber, has a six-foot concrete apron on the north side and a four-foot apron on the south side. The trough is divided by old trigger gate. Three older salt troughs and one modern tire trough, and a modern water trough and modern propane tank are on the site. An interesting home-built feed bin structure has a plank covering, is divided into two feeders, constructed of 2x4s and wide planks, and is about 6 by 8 feet and 5 feet high.

The building complex is of historical interest, built largely from scavenged materials in a manner to withstand the intense desert conditions. The house was constructed of railroad ties coated with stucco, a tie-built low gable roof with roll roofing, and a tie and concrete foundation. It measures 25 by 17 feet and has two rooms with plastered interiors. The building features two wood doors, five windows, with original 1-over-1 wood sash remaining in two windows at end of the building.

The kitchen was also constructed from railroad ties coated with stucco, with a tie-built low gable roof with steel beam and roll roofing, and a tie and concrete foundation. The building is comprised of one large room with a porch on the east and a half-stuccoed wood frame bathroom/storage addition on west. The building measures 20 by 24 feet plus the 6.5-foot wide porch. It has a plastered interior, two doors, and wood frame windows.

The root cellar is constructed from railroad ties covered in cement/stucco, all buried except for an approximately 20-foot long bulkhead façade. The interior measures 8 by 16 feet with the entryway, with walls of unfinished stucco on chicken wire, shelving, and a vent in the center of the ceiling. The exterior features an old door and light fixture, painted stucco, a chimney vent with cover, and an eroding covering of local earth. A barbed wire fence surrounds the mound.

The small barn is constructed from railroad ties, 20 by 25.5 feet, with a shed addition, low gable roof sheathed in sheet metal, and a corral gate for a door. A shed in the corral built of railroad ties and framing measures 14 by 18 feet, and the roof and walls are gone. Another shed in the corral, used at one time as a rabbit pen, is a wood frame structure with corrugated metal siding and roofing, 10 by 14 feet, with a 6 by 8 sheet metal addition.

The corral is a complex array of pens constructed of whole and split railroad tie and juniper posts with page wire, and some solid tie walls.

Near the Rock Tank complex is a concrete pad, once the site of a building, and debris from various periods.

Overall, the Rock Tank complex retains historical integrity.

Turtle Valley (non-contributing)
This small watering station is near a pass between Rock Tank and Henry Spring, and is about 13 miles by dirt road from ranch headquarters and nine miles from the Valley Wells/Cima Road exit on Interstate 15. Consisting of a modern tank, trough, salt trough, well casing and valve markers, it was developed recently by Blincoe, and does not contribute.

Twin Peaks
Located approximately 18 miles by dirt road west/northwest from ranch headquarters and 10 miles northeast from Kelbaker Road at a point six miles east of Baker. The station, consisting of a modern tank and trough, is the terminus of the Rock Tank water line, was developed recently by Blincoe, and does not contribute.

Henry Spring
Located approximately 20.5 miles west of ranch headquarters by dirt road and seven miles northeast of Kelbaker Road at a point six miles east of Baker. Henry Spring is 4.5 miles directly south of Halloran Springs on Interstate 15, or 8.5 miles by dirt road from that point. Reportedly, the RSL&CC (circa 1894-1930) used this water source, as did Yates (circa 1930-1940) and Skinner (circa 1940-1975). Most of the features date from the Yates or Skinner periods.

The spring is a horizontal cavern dug into a barren slope approximately 40 to 50 feet deep, up to 20 feet wide. It has a plywood and timber entrance cover, and the exit has been partially filled to form an underground reservoir. The spring site is surrounded by a barbed wire fence with railroad tie and steel posts. Two cylindrical steel water tanks with conical tops were constructed of welded galvanized plates; both are 12 feet tall and approximately 8 feet in diameter, on platforms of railroad ties. Four old troughs and two trough sites marked by post stubs are in the vicinity, as well as a modern steel trough. The corral is a variation on the “shotgun” design, constructed of railroad ties and page wire with one strand of barbed wire at the top of the posts. The corral features an old wooden gate, a steel gate, steel trigger gates, a ladder and a loading chute. An earth ramp with vertical posts and a board retaining wall was used for loading horses onto trucks.

Ord Pipeline
This six-mile-long pipeline runs almost due north from Valley View Ranch headquarters, dropping about 750 feet in elevation. It crosses Cima Road, where Ord Tank is located, and

continues to its terminus at Seven Mile. The pipeline and improvements were installed by Slim Skinner and maintained by subsequent owners. The current pipe is buried PVC; defunct line is black PVC, installed around 1975. Older steel pipe can be found, dating from the original development of this water system in the 1940s. Four pressure cans, dating from the early period, are located along the line to Ord Tank.

Ord Tank
This watering and gathering site is located three miles north of ranch headquarters, on the northeast side of Cima Road. Skinner constructed it, probably in the 1940s. The site consists of water tanks, troughs and a corral.

The two cylindrical steel tanks were constructed of riveted galvanized plates, 12 feet tall and approximately 16 feet in diameter, with metal ladders, on a platform of railroad ties and boards. A broken concrete apron indicates the former location of a long trough. Railroad ties with wood and steel spacers formed a simple salt trough, but it is in poor condition. A modern water trough and two tire salt troughs do not contribute.

Skinner's "Shotgun" corral at Ord Tank was constructed of railroad ties held together by steel pipe and wire. It has a timber-and-board loading chute, a holding pen and a wing constructed of railroad tie and juniper posts and barbed wire. The ties were replaced in kind around 1980.

Another pressure can, five abandoned pipe valves and two modern relief valves are found along the pipeline towards Seven Mile.

Seven Mile
Located six miles north of ranch headquarters, and three miles north of Cima Road. Seven Mile is the terminus of the Ord Pipeline. Only the corral and the dirt tank date from the Skinner period and contribute to the district. Two water troughs and a tire salt trough remain and do not contribute.

The rectangular double corral was constructed of railroad tie and juniper posts with page wire; two sets of steel trigger gates are located at both ends, a steel gate leads to the chute and an older wood gate separates the two pens. The corral has a timber and board loading chute. The dirt tank is a circular earth berm ten to 12 feet high, and is empty.

Big Flat Trough
In upper Piute Valley, at a location called Big Flat by Tim Overson, about 5.5 miles northeast from Ord Tank on Cima Road and 1.5 miles west of Kokoweef Peak, is an old tank; "Slim" Skinner hauled water to this trough but it has been abandoned for many years. It is a corrugated metal livestock trough, 18 feet in diameter and 2 feet tall, with a dirt bottom, bent and with bullet holes, no remaining float valve or valve guard.

Valley View Ranch Pastures, Fences and Cattle Guards

Fences at Valley View Ranch are found in three categories: pasture fences that fully enclose pieces of property with specific uses, drift fences that divide the larger ranch acreage, and boundary fences. Most of these fence lines are post and barbed wire, although on a number of the pasture fences page wire (mesh) was used. Post materials range from commercial steel posts to juniper branches, with surplus railroad ties the most common.

Cattle guards, developed to eliminate the need for gates at road crossings, are found on roads in the allotment where a fence line crosses. All are steel, factory-built cattle guards and do not contribute.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: PASTURES AND FENCES

All pasture fences date from the Skinner period, with Blincoe-era repairs and maintenance.

SHIPPING PASTURE (contributing)
The pasture is located southeast of ranch headquarters, enclosing a narrow strip of land as far as the south boundary about one mile west of Kessler Springs. It is composed of page wire and barbed wire on railroad tie, juniper and steel posts.

HOLDING PASTURE (contributing)
Located directly south and southeast of ranch headquarters, enclosing an area on the north and east slope of Cima Dome to Cut Spring. It is composed of page wire and barbed wire on railroad tie, juniper and steel posts.

HORSE PASTURE (contributing)
A triangle-shaped pasture directly north of ranch headquarters, it is composed of three strands of barbed wire on railroad tie, juniper and steel posts.

NORTH PASTURE (contributing)
A triangle-shaped enclosure between Rock Tank and the freeway, composed of three strands of barbed wire on railroad tie, juniper and steel posts.

FREEWAY FENCE (non-contributing)
The north boundary of the Valley View Ranch allotment follows the Interstate 15 freeway between Baker and Mountain Pass, broken by the Mescal Range. This modern fence is composed of steel posts, barbed wire and page wire. Two cattle guards are located on the fence line, one of which has been filled in.

EAST BOUNDARY FENCE (non-contributing)
Located in the vicinity of Nipton in the Ivanpah Valley, and stretching into the mountains north to the freeway. It is composed of steel posts and barbed wire with wire spacers. One cattle guard is located on the fence line. (Only partially surveyed.)

SOUTH BOUNDARY FENCE (contributing)
This fence line, which runs from the Kessler Peak area west/southwesterly to the vicinity of the Kelso Mountains, is constructed from railroad tie and other posts with page wire and barbed wire. There are three noncontributing cattle guards.

WEST BOUNDARY FENCE (non-contributing)
Runs from the Interstate 15 freeway at a point east of Baker directly south to Old Mill, then veers east and south where sections of the fence are broken by small mountain ranges. The short section at Jackass Pass is the southernmost portion of the west fence line. It is composed of barbed wire with mostly steel ties, wood braces. One cattle guard is located on this line.

JACKASS PASS FENCE (contributing)
Located about 23 miles southwest of Valley View headquarters, six miles southwest of Kelbaker Road at a point about 15 miles northwest of Kelso, on the power lines right-of-way. This fence marks a portion of the Valley View Ranch allotment near the southwestern corner. Skinner probably constructed the fence circa 1940-1950. It is a short stretch of fence that crosses a wide wash, with natural barriers at either end. It is comprised of steel posts with three strands barbed wire; tie braces and wire gate at road; some more recent wood peeler posts remain at north section. A large portion has been destroyed by flood activity.

DRIFT FENCE (contributing)
Runs along telephone line road from the south boundary near Rainbow Wells to the Interstate 15 freeway west of Valley Wells. It dates from the Skinner period, with recent repairs by Blincoe. The drift fence is comprised of mixed posts including whole and split railroad ties, juniper and steel, with barbed wire and page wire.

*Buildings and Structures #1: Kessler Springs Main Residence. (Livingston, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #2: Kessler Springs Guest House. (Livington, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #3: Kessler Springs Cabin/Bunkhouse. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #4: Kessler Springs Shop/Carport. (Livington, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #5: Kessler Springs Haybarn. (Livington, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #6: Kessler Springs Saddle Shed. (Livington, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #7: Kessler Springs Milk Cow Shed. (Livington, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #8: Kessler Springs Trapping Shed on right. (Livington, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #9: OX Ranch Hay Barn. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #10: OX Ranch Shop. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #11: OX Ranch Wooden Storage Shed. (Livingston,2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #12: OX Ranch Cookhouse Cellar. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #13: OX Ranch Bunkhouse #2 on right. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #14: OX Ranch Main Residence. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #15: OX Ranch Rake Shed. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #16: OX Ranch Red Guest House/Railroad Telegraph Operator House. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #17: Example of a historic spring head at Live Oak Springs. (Livingston, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #18: Example of a historic well at Barnwell. (Livingston, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #19: An example of a windmill at OX Ranch headquarters, the largest windmill within the RSL&CC Ranch. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #20: Example of two historic water tanks located at Petit. (Livingston, 2001)*

*Buildings and Structures #21: Example of an earthen and masonry water reservoir at Barnwell. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #22: Historic corral located at Barnwell. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #23:  Kessler Springs horse corral. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #24:  OX Ranch corral detail. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #25: Example of a historic "shotgun corral" at Six Mile. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Buildings and Structures #26: Pettit corral. (Burned in 2005) (PWRO, 2003)*

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125759

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS GUEST HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125763

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS BUNKHOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125767

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS SHOP/CARPORT

Feature Identification Number: 125755

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS TRAPPING SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125775

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS HAY BARN

Feature Identification Number: 125777

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS SADDLE SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125765

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS MILK COW SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125769

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS CHICKEN COOP

Feature Identification Number: 125783

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS OUTHOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125785

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS PIPE SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125787

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS METAL SHOP/EQUIPMENT BUILDING

Feature Identification Number: 125789

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS SOUTH HOUSING COMPLEX

Feature Identification Number: 125791

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS TRIPLEWIDE TRAILER

Feature Identification Number: 125793

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: THOMAS PLACE STORAGE BUILDING/GARAGE

Feature Identification Number: 125795

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: THOMAS PLACE DUGOUT CELLAR

Feature Identification Number: 125797

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: THOMAS PLACE MILK COW HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125799

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: THOMAS PLACE HOUSE RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125801

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: CABIN SPRING CABIN RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125803

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125805

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN CARPORT SHOP

Feature Identification Number: 125807

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN OUTHOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125809

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN OLD SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125811

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN OLD SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125813

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER

Feature Identification Number: 125815

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN OLD SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125817

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: MURPHY WELL SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125819

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 10 MILE RAILROAD TIE PLATFORM

Feature Identification Number: 125821

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH HAY BARN

Feature Identification Number: 125823

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH SHOP

Feature Identification Number: 125825

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH WOODEN STORAGE SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125827

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH BURIED COLD ROOM

Feature Identification Number: 125829

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH BUNKHOUSE #1

Feature Identification Number: 125831

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH BUNKHOUSE #2

Feature Identification Number: 125833

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH MAIN RESIDENCE

Feature Identification Number: 125835

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH RAKE SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125837

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH GUEST HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125839

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH TANK PLATFORM

Feature Identification Number: 125841

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS (WATER LOT)

Feature Identification Number: 126509

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH GREASE RACK

Feature Identification Number: 126539

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH GENERATOR SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125843

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH COOKHOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125845

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH CARPORT SLAB

Feature Identification Number: 125847

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER

Feature Identification Number: 125849

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH TRAVEL TRAILER

Feature Identification Number: 125851

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: ROSS PASTURE LIVESTOCK SCALE

Feature Identification Number: 126515

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HART CORRAL HOUSE RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125853

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: LAINFAIR HOMESTEAD RAINSHED

Feature Identification Number: 125855

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: GOVERNMENT HOLES DUGOUT HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125857

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BARNWELL CONCRETE SLAB and PADS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126511

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: UPPER CARRUTHERS MASONRY DAM

Feature Identification Number: 126513

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: GOVERNMENT HOLES FOUNDATION OF A HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125859

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK HOUSE CABIN

Feature Identification Number: 125861

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BRANT SPRING HABITATION AREA/STONE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126517

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH MAIN HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125863

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH BUNKHOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125865

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH CELLAR

Feature Identification Number: 125867

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH OLD CELLAR

Feature Identification Number: 125869

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH GARAGE

Feature Identification Number: 125871

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH BARN

Feature Identification Number: 125873

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH SHOP

Feature Identification Number: 125875

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH SADDLE SHED AND COW PEN

Feature Identification Number: 125877

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH CHICKEN PEN

Feature Identification Number: 125879

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH PROPANE DEPOT

Feature Identification Number: 125881

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH GENERATOR SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125883

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH CALF SHELTER IN HORSE PEN

Feature Identification Number: 125885

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH LOADING CHUTE

Feature Identification Number: 126519

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH GREASE RACK

Feature Identification Number: 126521

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH LOADING RAMP

Feature Identification Number: 126523

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: INDIAN SPRING DAM

Feature Identification Number: 126525

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK HOUSE

Feature Identification Number: 125887

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK KITCHEN

Feature Identification Number: 125889

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK ROOT CELLAR

Feature Identification Number: 125891

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK BARN

Feature Identification Number: 125893

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK COW SHED

Feature Identification Number: 125895

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK CORRAL SHED (rabbit pen)

Feature Identification Number: 125897

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK CONCRETE SLAB

Feature Identification Number: 126527

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HENRY SPRING HORSE LOADING PLATFORM

Feature Identification Number: 126529

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WELLS (18)

Feature Identification Number: 126157

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WELLS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126159

Feature: HAND DUG WELLS (5)

Feature Identification Number: 126161

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WELLS (CASINGS) AND WINDMILL FOOTINGS (7)

Feature Identification Number: 126163

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WELL CASING (1)

Feature Identification Number: 126165

Feature: WELL AND PUMPJACK BASE (1)

Feature Identification Number: 126167

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WINDMILLS (15)

Feature Identification Number: 126169

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WINDMILLS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126171

Feature: AERMOTOR WINDMILLS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126173

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WINDMILL FRAME (1)

Feature Identification Number: 126175

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PUMPJACK BASES (5)

Feature Identification Number: 126177

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PUMPJACKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126179

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: SPRING HEADS (24)

Feature Identification Number: 126181

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SPRING HEADS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126183

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: SPRINGS (15)

Feature Identification Number: 126185

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: DEER SPRING SHAFT WITH TIE COVER

Feature Identification Number: 126531

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: STEEL TANKS (14)

Feature Identification Number: 126237

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: STEEL TANKS (6)

Feature Identification Number: 126239

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: CORRUGATED STEEL TANKS (9)

Feature Identification Number: 126241

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CORRUGATED STEEL TANKS (BARNWELL)

Feature Identification Number: 126243

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: RIVETED STEEL TANK

Feature Identification Number: 126245

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BOLTED STEEL WATER TANK

Feature Identification Number: 126247

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CONCRETE AND STEEL TANK

Feature Identification Number: 126249

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 5,000 GALLON TANKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126251

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126253

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TANKS (16)

Feature Identification Number: 126255

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TANKS (4)

Feature Identification Number: 126257

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: 10,000 GALLON TANKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126259

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: TANK BASES/FOUNDATIONS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126261

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: POSTS MARKING TANK SITE (HENRY SPRING)

Feature Identification Number: 126263

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125899

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS PENS AND FENCES

Feature Identification Number: 125901

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS GARDEN ENCLOSURE

Feature Identification Number: 125903

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: THOMAS PLACE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125905

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: LANDERMAN FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 125907

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: COTTONWOOD OLD CORRAL RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125909

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: COTTONWOOD CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125911

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CABIN SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125913

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CABIN SPRING TRAP FENCES

Feature Identification Number: 125915

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CABIN SPRING CORRAL RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125917

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WHITE ROCK SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125921

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CUT SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125923

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CUT TANK CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125925

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CUT TANK PEN

Feature Identification Number: 125927

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CUT TANK FENCED CATTLE TRAIL

Feature Identification Number: 125929

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CHICKEN WATER SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125931

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MURPHY WELL CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125933

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MARL SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125935

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BULLOCK SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125937

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BULLOCK SPRING CORRAL RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125939

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: BURRO SPRING CORRAL RUIN

Feature Identification Number: 125941

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: CEDAR CANYON SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125943

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 8 MILE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125945

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 10 MILE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 125947

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: THOMAS PLACE PASTURES

Feature Identification Number: 125949

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 6 MILE TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 125951

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 10 MILE TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 125953

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MURPHY WELL TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 125955

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CUT TANK TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 125957

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MARL SPRING TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 125959

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MACEDONIA TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 125999

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PINTO MOUNTAIN FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 125963

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SACATON FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126003

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: NIPTON ROAD FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126005

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: CIMA FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 125989

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH WATER LOT ENCLOSURE

Feature Identification Number: 126013

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH PENS AND CORRALS

Feature Identification Number: 126015

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH ROPING ARENA

Feature Identification Number: 126017

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH SQUEEZE CHUTE

Feature Identification Number: 126533

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH LOADING CHUTES (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126535

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH LIVESTOCK SCALE

Feature Identification Number: 126537

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH DIP VAT

Feature Identification Number: 126613

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MARTIN FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126023

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BARNWELL FENCE AROUND RESERVOIR

Feature Identification Number: 126025

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BARNWELL CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126027

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HART CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126029

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HACKBERRY CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126031

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: LANFAIR CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126033

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PAYNE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126035

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SMITHSON MINE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126037

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PIUTE DRY CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126039

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: DOVE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126041

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MAIL SPRING REMNANTS OF FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126043

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WHITE RANCH CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126045

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: GOVERNMENT HOLES CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126047

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: GOVERNMENT HOLES LOT FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126049

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK HOUSE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126051

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WOODS CANYON SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126053

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WOODS CANYON SPRING REMNANT FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126055

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WATSON WELL CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126057

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MIDDLE CARRUTHERS CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126059

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROSS PASTURE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126061

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WILLOW SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126063

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX HEADQUARTERS FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126065

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PAYNE PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126067

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH PIG PEN

Feature Identification Number: 126505

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: MAIL SPRING FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126069

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WHITE RANCH TRAP

Feature Identification Number: 126071

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: UPPER AND LOWER LANFAIR PASTURE TRAP AND FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126073

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PIUTE PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126075

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: LANFAIR CATTLE LOT

Feature Identification Number: 126503

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HORSE PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126077

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: WALKING BOX BOUNDARY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126079

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PINTO MOUNTAIN FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126081

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: GOLDEN VALLEY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126083

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: AUSMUS BOUNDARY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126085

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 7IL BOUNDARY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126087

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH BARN PEN

Feature Identification Number: 126089

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH HORSE PEN

Feature Identification Number: 126091

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HEADQUARTERS CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126093

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: DEER SPRING CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126095

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TWISSELMANN TANK #1 CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126097

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TWISSELMANN TANK #2 CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126099

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TWISSELMANN TANK #3 CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126101

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TWISSELMANN TANK #5 CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126103

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TWISSELMANN TANK #6 CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126105

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BLACK TANK CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126107

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: NATURAL CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126109

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK CORRALS

Feature Identification Number: 126111

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HENRY CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126113

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ORD TANK CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126115

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SEVEN MILE CORRAL

Feature Identification Number: 126117

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SHIPPING PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126119

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HOLDING PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126121

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: HORSE PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126123

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: NORTH PASTURE

Feature Identification Number: 126125

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: JACKASS PASS FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126127

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: DRIFT FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126129

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SOUTH BOUNDARY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126131

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: FREEWAY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126133

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: EAST BOUNDARY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126135

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: WEST BOUNDARY FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126137

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: BRYANT BARBED WIRE FENCE

Feature Identification Number: 126507

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ALL CATTLE GUARDS

Feature Identification Number: 126605

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

### Circulation

Circulation within a landscape is defined as spaces, features, and applied material finishes, which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

While the principal form of transportation at the RSL&CC Ranch is by vehicle, the use of horses and trains were historically key components in working and shipping cattle during the period of significance. Despite the recent phasing out of the cattle operation, horses continue to be used by park employees to gather burros. The property is criss-crossed with paved roads, dirt roads, horse and cattle trails, and railroad grades that have evolved over time, most dating to the period of significance. However, the circulation network on the ranch is too complex to provide an item-by-item inventory. Below are general descriptions of each circulation feature type: main roads, minor roads, railroads, roads within the ranch headquarters complexes, and those features associated with the movement of cattle.

Main Roads
Nine main roads cross through the ranch landscape that are much used by the public and local ranchers. These roads are owned and maintained by San Bernardino County including, Nipton Road, Ivanpah Road, Morningstar Mine Road, Cima Road, Kelso-Cima Road, Cedar Canyon Road, Kelbaker Road, Lanfair Road, and Black Canyon Road.

Nipton, Morningstar Mine, Cima, Kelso-Cima, and Kelbaker Roads are asphalt paved roads and are typically two lanes wide, measuring about eighteen feet wide with six feet wide gravel shoulders on either side. Cedar Canyon and Black Canyon Roads are unpaved, dirt roads.

Unpaved roads within the historic district range from thirty to fifty feet wide. The historic width of these roads is unknown, but was probably at the most 35 feet wide. Ivanpah and Lanfair Roads have both paved and unpaved portions.

These roads were historically established to provide connecting routes between ranch headquarters, towns, and train depots. In a land of low rolling hills interspersed with steep mountain ranges, these roads were aligned to follow the path of least resistance, often following the valley bottoms. These roads continue to follow their historic alignments and continue to be used by both the public and local ranchers.

Minor Roads
Dirt roads were historically and more recently maintained by the Oversons to provide internal access to watering sites, springs, corrals, and old mines. Many dirt roads are primitive and require four-wheel-drive vehicles. These dirt roads are typically eight to ten feet wide, just wide enough for one vehicle. Some of these are now closed to motorized use in compliance with wilderness designation. The numerous washes crossing the ranch also act as transit routes, especially to the remote springs (Overson 2003).

Railroads
A number of commercial railroads, whose grades were earthen berms often consisting of many cuts and fills, crossed the RSL&CC Ranch between 1893 and 1924. The Union Pacific tracks (Salt Lake Route), established in 1905, are still in use between Kelso and Nipton (at the southwestern and northeastern boundaries of the district). While the three rail lines that ran in the vicinity of Barnwell and OX have long since been discontinued, their service was ceased during the period of significance. The abandoned grade of the California Eastern Railroad parallels both the Ivanpah and Lanfair Valley Roads with the section crossing the mountain pass at Barnwell being the most prominent. The route of the Barnwell and Searchlight Railway is now reflected in a public road. The continuing railroad service on the Union Pacific line and the abandoned railroad grades in the Ivanpah and Lanfair Valleys continue to reflect the configuration of the local rail lines as they existed at the end of the period of significance, representing the early reliance of the RSL&CC Ranch on the railroads for shipping their cattle to market.

Kessler Springs Headquarters
Historically, Cima Road went through the center of the Kessler Spring Ranch headquarters complex. Late in the period of significance, the road was realigned to bypass the complex while the old, unpaved segment became the entrance road. A set of gates (and, later, cattle guards) were installed near Cima road and at a fence crossing closer to the ranch complex. Once through the second gate, the road widens to an open, unpaved area that fronts the main residence, metal shop, triple-wide trailer residence, and other buildings. Minor routes branch off the central open area to access outlying buildings and corrals, such as the guest house, generator shed, and lay down yard.

OX Headquarters
Just off of Ivanpah Road, the OX Ranch headquarters complex is buffered from the road by an open lot containing two water tanks on a timber platform. Headquarters traffic is routed from this open lot through an entrance gate into the ranch complex proper. Once through the gate, the entrance route opens immediately to another unpaved, open space surrounded by ranch buildings. Vehicles and horses can move freely to any part of the complex within the open areas between buildings or on defined dirt roads to outlying structures and sites, including the main residence. As the site is on level terrain, no conspicuous road grading has occurred. Routes follow the most functional path to and from features within the complex, with two large loop roads to the west.

Valley View Headquarters
Just off Cima Road, the main entrance road is a two-mile dirt road. Once within the headquarters, the road opens to an unpaved open space surrounded by ranch buildings. Dirt roads extend in three directions from the headquarters area into the surrounding ranch lands.

Cattle and Horse Trails/Pastures/Corrals
Cattle and horse trails are less noticeable, but are found in most areas of the ranch. These trails, developed over time by livestock, range from narrow trails contouring around hillsides and descending into ravines to wide swaths of disturbed land where groups of cattle were traditionally driven. The former type of trail is found all across the ranch at every elevation. Examples of the latter are seen at any of the watering sites or corrals.

According to Overson (2003), cattle at the RSL&CC Ranch were given free range of the grazing lands. In the harsh desert climate and fragile ecosystem that could only support limited heads of cattle, they were allowed to move at their own will according to seasons and availability of food and water. In the hot summer months, the cattle typically moved into the higher, cooler elevations, and to lower elevations in the winter. As the wranglers worked the cattle, they moved them from the outlying grazing lands inward toward the closest corral or ranch headquarters. From the outlying corrals, the cattle were herded to the fenced pastures and corrals at the ranch headquarters.

Cattle were circulated through the headquarters complexes in a disciplined manner. Cattle could not enter the core building complexes, but were routed from the pastures into the corrals for sorting, treatment and shipping. Scales, cattle squeezes, dip vats, loading chutes, and crowding pens were features used to facilitate the circulation of livestock. These features are listed and described in more detail in the “Buildings and Structures” section of this report. From headquarters, historically, the cattle were herded to the nearest railroad platforms, loaded onto trains and taken to market. More recently they were transported by truck to the markets.

Except for some of the railroad lines, the historic cattle-moving system is still intact. The cattle and horse trails are still evident in the grazing lands and around the watering sites and corrals. The corrals and pastures still have the main features used to manage the cattle, such as chutes,

pens, and gates.

Summary
Many of the circulation features that were developed during the historic period are still present. Those built later followed the same logic to meet the same needs of the ranching operation. Although non-historic roads are non-contributing, they are compatible with the historic character of the ranch. The historic system of main roads, minor roads, remaining railroad grades, and cattle grazing/round-up/corral systems remains predominantly intact. Therefore, circulation is a landscape characteristic that contributes to the significance of the historic district.

*Circulation #1: Cima Road, an example of a major road through RSL&CC Ranch, owned and maintained by the San Bernardino County. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Circulation #2: Ivanpah Road, an example of an unpaved historic road through RSL&CC Ranch, owned and maintained by the San Bernardino County. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Circulation #3: An example of a minor ranch road at Barnwell. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Circulation #4: An example of a minor ranch road at Pettit. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Circulation #5: Entrance road to Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters. This road was once Cima Road, which was realigned late in the period of significance. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Circulation #6: Example of circulation within OX Ranch headquarters. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Circulation #7: Example of a cattle path near the Barnwell corral. (PWRO, 2003)*

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH DIRT RANCH ROADS

Feature Identification Number: 126141

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH CATTLE AND HORSE TRAILS

Feature Identification Number: 126143

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ABANDONED ROADBED OF THE CALIFORNIA EASTERN RAILROAD

Feature Identification Number: 126145

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH DIRT ROADS

Feature Identification Number: 126147

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH CATTLE AND HORSE TRAILS

Feature Identification Number: 126149

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ABANDONED RAILROAD BED

Feature Identification Number: 126151

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW DIRT RANCH ROADS

Feature Identification Number: 126153

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW CATTLE AND HORSE TRAILS

Feature Identification Number: 126155

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are the elements which provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Small scale features found at the RSL&CC Ranch are typically utilitarian features including water troughs, salt troughs, gates, and other miscellaneous features. The following descriptions summarize the general characteristics of each feature type, both contributing (those constructed or installed before 1954) and non-contributing (those constructed or installed after 1954). These assessments are drawn directly from the "Rock Spring Land & Cattle Company National Register Nomination" (Livingston, 2005).

Water Troughs
The RSL&CC used at least two styles of water troughs. One type is a circular reinforced concrete trough, ten feet in diameter with a three-feet wide circular float chamber at the center. These were usually constructed by pouring concrete into corrugated metal forms. The other water trough style was a rectangular galvanized metal trough averaging four feet wide by twelve to fourteen feet long, with either a round or flat bottom. These metal troughs were supported by a wooden framework composed of horizontal boards under the lip of the edge and short vertical posts (often railroad ties) that were sunk into the ground as support. Subsequent ranchers used these troughs as well, and also built rectangular reinforced concrete troughs of similar dimensions abutting the metal ones.

The most recent trough type used by the Oversons is a commercial, embossed galvanized steel tub, of either a circular or oval configuration. These were installed at practically all of the

watering sites by the Oversons and are non-contributing.

Salt Troughs
Salt troughs are used to distribute needed salt supplements to the cattle. A small number of older, contributing wooden salt troughs remain, most of which are broken. A majority of the remaining salt troughs are recent and non-contributing, composed of used tractor or truck tires on the ground.

Pipeline Features
There are several small scale features along the pipelines that help to regulate water flow. These features include vents, valves, and pressure cans. Skinner installed the series of six pressure cans when he built the Twisselmann pipeline circa 1940. They are cylindrical, welded galvanized steel tanks 2.5 feet in diameter and 3 feet tall, with steel plate lids enclosing a float valve, with fill and exit pipes.

Miscellaneous features
The "Landscape Inventory and Assessment, Kessler Springs Ranch and OX Ranch" documents small-scale features unique to specific ranch headquarters complexes or watering sites. Examples of contributing features include a boiler at Barnwell, a handcrafted entrance gate to OX Ranch headquarters, clotheslines at Valley View Headquarters, a cattle dip at Lanfair, and a float box at Lecyr. Slim Skinner erected the clothesline at Valley View Headquarters circa 1940-1975. One is located south of the main house, the other west of the bunkhouse. Both are comprised of railroad tie posts with lumber crossties and wire line. Skinner also made the bricks on site circa 1940 from materials gathered at Valley Wells, for construction of the main house and part of the bunkhouse. An eroding pile of adobe bricks is located across the roadway from the bunkhouse and old cellar. Individual bricks are barely identifiable.

Non-contributing features include a hitch post at Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters and feed troughs at both Kessler Springs and OX Ranch headquarters. In addition, a number of non-contributing small-scale features such as a swing set, clotheslines, yard fences, dog houses and propane tanks are also found at the ranch headquarters complexes. A pair of steel and wood gates cross Ivanpah Road at the OX Ranch Headquarters, but appear to be rarely used. The ranch entrance gate, built by the Oversons, is welded steel painted white, with steel characters OX welded in center. It is in good condition.

Summary
While a number of small scale features have been lost since the period of significance, there are numerous examples of small scale features including historic water troughs, salt troughs, plus other miscellaneous features. Water troughs and salt troughs were important for meeting the needs of the cattle. As a result of the extensive remains of water troughs, and salt troughs, small scale features is a landscape characteristic that helps to convey the historic character of the RSL&CC Ranch.

*Small Scale Features #1: An example of a concrete water trough typical of the RSL&CC in the 1880s at Government Holes. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Small Scale Features #2: Example of a historic metal water trough at Cabin Spring. (Livingston, 2001)*

*Small Scale Features #3: Example of a concrete water trough at Pettit coral. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Small Scale Features # 4: Example of a wooden salt trough at Lower Black Mesa. This is a non-contributing salt trough built during the Eldridge Era, but may reflect what historic wodden salt troughs may have looked like. (Livingston, 2001)*

Feature: OX RANCH ENTRANCE GATE

Feature Identification Number: 126593

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH GATES ACROSS IVANPAH ROAD

Feature Identification Number: 126589

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: STEEL TROUGHS (28)

Feature Identification Number: 126383

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: STEEL TROUGHS (13)

Feature Identification Number: 126385

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: STEEL TROUGHS WITH APRONS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126387

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: STEEL TROUGHS W/PLATFORMS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126389

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: DOUBLE STEEL TROUGH

Feature Identification Number: 126391

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CONCRETE AND STEEL TROUGH (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126393

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CONCRETE TROUGHS (46)

Feature Identification Number: 126395

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BRICK AND CONCRETE TROUGH (CHICKEN WATER SPRING)

Feature Identification Number: 126397

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OCTAGONAL CONCRETE TROUGH (BARNETT WELL)

Feature Identification Number: 126399

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: MASONRY TROUGH (ROCK TANK)

Feature Identification Number: 126401

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TUB TROUGHS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126403

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TROUGHS (19)

Feature Identification Number: 126405

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TROUGHS (15)

Feature Identification Number: 126407

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: BARREL TROUGH

Feature Identification Number: 126409

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: TROUGH FOUNDATIONS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126411

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CINDER TROUGH BASE

Feature Identification Number: 126413

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: STEEL FEED TROUGHS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126415

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: BOARD/WOOD SALT TROUGHS (5)

Feature Identification Number: 126417

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: RAILROAD TIE SALT TROUGH (1)

Feature Identification Number: 126419

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: SALT TROUGHS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126421

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: TIRE SALT TROUGHS (22)

Feature Identification Number: 126423

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: METAL SALT TROUGH (1)

Feature Identification Number: 126425

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: BARREL SALT TROUGH (5)

Feature Identification Number: 126427

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: SALT TROUGH (1)

Feature Identification Number: 126429

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: TROUGH STUBS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126431

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH STEEL STORAGE TANKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126435

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: LANFAIR CATTLE DIP

Feature Identification Number: 126437

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BARNWELL BARREL BOILER

Feature Identification Number: 126439

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: LECYR CORRUGATED STEEL FLOAT BOX

Feature Identification Number: 126441

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: NO WATER HAUL CATTLE RUB

Feature Identification Number: 126443

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH CLOTHESLINES (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126445

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH ADOBE BRICK PILE

Feature Identification Number: 126447

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH HITCHING POSTS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126449

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH PIPE BENCH

Feature Identification Number: 126451

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALVE CHAMBER

Feature Identification Number: 126453

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: AIR VENTS (Twisselmann Tank #3) (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126455

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: FILL PIPE

Feature Identification Number: 126457

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PIPE VENT

Feature Identification Number: 126459

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: VALVE MARKER

Feature Identification Number: 126461

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ABANDONED PIPE VALVES (5)

Feature Identification Number: 126463

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: PRESSURE CANS (11)

Feature Identification Number: 126465

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CATTLE RUBS

Feature Identification Number: 126467

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK FUEL TANKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126469

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: ROCK TANK FEED BIN

Feature Identification Number: 126471

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: POST STUBS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126473

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS HITCHING POST

Feature Identification Number: 126475

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: KESSLER SPRINGS FUEL TANKS

Feature Identification Number: 126477

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: OX RANCH SWING SET

Feature Identification Number: 126479

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH ENTRANCE SIGN

Feature Identification Number: 126481

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: PRESSURE CANS (4)

Feature Identification Number: 126483

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VENT POSTS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126485

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VENT/WILDLIFE GUZZLER

Feature Identification Number: 126487

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: DERELICT TRUCK

Feature Identification Number: 126489

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: VALVE MARKERS (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126491

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: ORD TANK RELIEF VALVES (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126493

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: PROPANE TANKS (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126495

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: DOG HOUSES (2)

Feature Identification Number: 126497

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: CLOTHESLINES (3)

Feature Identification Number: 126499

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

### Vegetation

Vegetation analysis includes ornamental vegetation used within the main developed areas to provide shade, to create vegetable gardens or residential yards. Ornamentals introduced by settlers and ranchers in the ranch headquarters were important in the creation of residential spaces for ranch families and hired help. Very little documentation of historically planted vegetation was found. However, based on interviews with Tim Overson (2003), a long time ranch hand and current NPS employee, and limited historic photographs obtained at the Mojave Desert archives, some vegetation has been determined to be historic. Other vegetation, identified below, may be historic and should be treated as cultural resources until further research can be done.

The need to preserve water drastically limited the number ornamentals that were historically planted at RSL&CC lands. The most common plantings were shade trees. Even though winds often swept through the desert, trees were never planted as windbreaks because of the amount of water they required (Overson, 2003).

Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters
At Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters, historic photographs show that two cottonwood trees (Populus fremontii) were planted to shade the main residence, one on either side of the front door. Today, only one of these two trees still exists. Unfortunately, the tree is too close to the house and is causing damage to the roof and may also be causing damage to the foundation. Other cottonwood trees found in the complex are potentially historic as well. A single cottonwood tree is located at the southwest corner of the main residence, providing additional shade for the house. A third cottonwood tree is located just south of the blacksmith shop, providing shade to buildings nearby. Several cottonwood trees form a rough line along the western edge of the headquarters building complex. Cottonwoods readily self-seed and the line of trees may or may not have been intentionally planted as they appear to be of varying ages. On top of the hill behind the main residence is a stand of giant reed (Arundo donax) that existed during Tim Overson's childhood and may have been planted by the 1940s (during the period of significance).

Several non-historic trees and ornamentals have been planted at Kessler Springs Ranch headquarters after the period of significance. The front yard of the main residence was established during the Overson-era. All plants, other than the cottonwood at the front door, are considered non-contributing because they were planted after the period of significance. The most predominant species in the yard is Tree-of-Heaven (Ailianthus altissima). This weedy tree species is also found across the road near the metal shed. In addition to the front yard of the

main residence, a vegetable/flower garden was established behind the bunkhouse. Remains of the neglected garden planted after the period of significance include fruit trees such as apple (Malus sp.), peach (Prunus sp.), and plum (Prunus sp.), rose shrubs (Rosa sp.), and grapevines (Vitis sp.). An apricot tree (Prunus sp.) grows near the southwestern corner of the main residence. Three poplars (Populus sp.) between the sheds and the triple-wide trailer residence were planted in the mid-1980s, as well as two poplars on the east side of the entrance road near the corrals. In addition, all plantings in front of the trailer residence near the blacksmith shop or around the trailer residence located south of the corrals are recent additions and are non-contributing.

OX Ranch headquarters
At OX Ranch headquarters, a historic Chinaberry (Melia azedarach) tree is located to the west of the cookhouse (planted by the 1940s). Other potentially historic vegetation includes eight large trees around the main residence (possibly planted in the 1940s after the house was built) that may be either elm or cottonwood trees, but in such poor condition that they are difficult to properly identify. In addition, two mesquites (Prosopis sp.) and a (now dead and) unidentified tree were planted in front of the cookhouse (possibly in the 1940s).

Non-historic vegetation at OX Ranch headquarters was identified during an on-site interview with Tim Overson. Vegetation identified by Overson as being planted after the period of significance included a (now dead) unidentified fruit tree between the Chinaberry and the northwestern corner of the cookhouse, a line of lilacs (Syringa sp.) planted along the metal fence in front of the cookhouse, a mesquite (Prosopis sp.) and a creosote (Larea sp.) located at the backside of the cookhouse, three cottonwoods (Populus fremontii) planted along the western side of the newer trailer residence east of the cookhouse (planted ca. 1990), six Trees-of-Heaven in front of the older trailer residence south of the cookhouse, a mulberry (Morus sp.) south of the bunkhouse, and an unmaintained vegetable garden at the main residence.

Valley View headquarters
Slim Skinner instituted the use of local rocks to decorate and designate planted areas near the main house, and the Tim Overson family has more recently added elements. In front of the main house and bunkhouse are curving or straight lines of rocks which enclose areas of vegetation, including Joshua trees, cottonwood, cacti and shrubs.

Barnwell
No historic vegetation is found at Barnwell within the cultural landscape boundaries. A grove of mesquite trees is located in a small depression at the site of an abandoned well, but these are native and probably self-seeded.

Outside of the CLI boundaries, on private property, the remaining historic main residence at Barnwell appears to have vegetation that matches historic photographs. However, this area is outside the scope of this CLI and is not included in this report.

Watering Sites
Contributing vegetation may also exist at historic watering sites. Not every watering site has been individually inventoried for vegetation, but an example of a potentially contributing shade tree is the cottonwood at Government Holes, located near the well and water tanks where an old homestead residence was historically located. According to Tim Overson, these trees were often planted by the ranchers for shade. The vegetation, especially shade trees, at historic watering sites should be treated as cultural resources until further documentation reveals otherwise.

Summary
The most predominant contributing vegetation features at the RSL&CC Ranch are shade trees (typically, cottonwood) at ranch headquarters and watering sites. The planting of ornamentals was not a wide-spread practice during the period of significance, due to necessary water conservation practices. Historic shade trees planted around the main residences within the Kessler Springs and OX ranch headquarters and the rock garden at Valley View headquarters are examples of how limited ornamental vegetation was carefully planted to create more comfortable living spaces and keep watering holes cool within a desert climate. As a result of remaining shade trees throughout the RSL&CC Ranch, vegetation is a landscape characteristic that contributes to the significance of the historic district.

*Vegetation #1: Shade trees around the Kessler Springs main residence. Note the large cottonwood near the front entrance, which is shown in historic photographs of the house. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Vegetation #2: Historic shades trees around the OX Ranch Main Residence. (PWRO, 2003)*

*Vegetation #3: Historic shade trees are found at several watering sites, such as this one at Government Holes. (Livingston, 2001)*

Feature: VALLEY VIEW RANCH ROCK GARDEN

Feature Identification Number: 126541

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### Archeological Sites

Archeological sites inventoried by the CLI include the location of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape that are associated with the period of significance and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. The CLI takes every precaution not to disclose the location of sensitive archeological sites to preserve the resources.

Within the RSL&CC Ranch there are numerous archeological sites that predate the period of significance. While these locations may be archeological significant in their own right, they are not directly linked to the significance of the RSL&CC Ranch for their contribution to the history

of cattle ranching between 1894 and 1954As a result, they do not contribute to the significance of the RSL&CC Ranch and are not considered to be contributing features of this cultural landscape inventory. hose archeological features that are considered to be potentially contributing to the ranch consist of sites whose remains are part of the physical history of the RSL&CC Ranch. While other prehistoric sites contain some historic material, the following archeological sites contain predominantly historic features.

On RSL&CC Ranch-related historic archeological site is documented within the ASMIS database:

CA-SBR-3057H (Maruba (a.k.a. Ledge) Town Site)
OX Ranch headquarters was the original location of the town of Maruba, or Ledge, a stop along the California Eastern Railway between 1915 and 1926.

In addition, the historic Barnwell and Lanfair townsites are potentially contributing. They have been documented in the “Draft Landscape Inventory and Assessment of Kessler Springs Ranch and OX Ranch” (Livingston 2001), but require further archeological research to determine whether or not they are eligible for listing on the National Register.

There are also potentially contributing debris piles are located at: Cottonwood Spring, Middle Cut, Chicken Water Spring, Murphy Well, Three Mile, Ten Mile, Macedonia Corral, Martin, Banwell, Lanfair, Payne, Lecyr, Dove, Vontrigger Spring, Watson Well, Eagle Well, Middle Carruthers, Lower Carruthers, Willow Spring, and Barnett Well.

### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Maruba (a.k.a. Ledge) Town

Feature Identification Number: 126567

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

ASMIS ID Number: CA-SBR-3057H

ASMIS Name: Maruba Town

# Condition

## Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 09/17/2007

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 02/10/2003

### Stabilization Measures:

The most significant threat to the integrity and stabilization of the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Ranch is deferred maintenance of buildings, structures, and landscape features in combination with harsh climatic conditions of the Mojave Desert. As historic ranching practices are removed from the landscape, regular maintenance of unused buildings, roads, water systems and vegetation is suspended making them vulnerable to damage from high winds, heavy rains, pest infestation and vegetation overgrowth. Many buildings, structures, and landscape features show evidence of negative impacts and deterioration by both natural and human forces that require corrective action and maintenance to prevent further loss of historic resources. If maintenance of these resources is not addressed, some resources could be lost within one to two years. As a result, many of the stabilization measures recommended below include maintenance measures.

The following stabilization measures are generalized for each resource type found within the cultural landscape boundaries. Specific measures are also recommended for resources within the developed ranch headquarters areas.

GENERAL STABILIZATION MEASURES THROUGHOUT THE RANCH
Buildings: Many buildings need replacement of siding, paint to protect exposed wood, new glazing, roof repairs to prevent water and wind damage, and pest control.

Water system features: The watering system implemented at RSL&CC is comprised of several types of features that require stabilization: water tanks, windmills and pumps, wells, springs, and water troughs. Although many portions of the water system are no longer in use, the individual features should be stabilized. Metal water tanks should be cleaned out and protected from further rust. Windmill rotors should be oiled on a regular basis or locked in place to prevent wear on the gears. Springs and wells need to be cleaned out to prevent sediment from filling them. Water troughs need to cleaned out and the metal ones protected from further rust.

Corrals and fences: Those portions of fences that are falling over need to be straightened and old posts replaced with compatible posts. Campers should be discouraged from removing juniper posts from corrals, such as Pettit.

Roads: Stabilize dirt roads by removing vegetation growing on roadbeds. Regrade washed-out portions of roads, while maintaining historic widths and alignments.

KESSLER SPRINGS RANCH HEADQUARTERS
Buildings and Structures:
- Main residence: Replace rotten barge board, repair and secure corrugated roof, put exterior doors back on hinges, and implement pest control for mice.
- Bunkhouse: implement pest control, repair ceiling and floor, paint wood trim, exposed wood siding, and window frames to prevent rot, and replace loose siding.
- Apartment/Guesthouse: paint woods siding to protect from the elements, replace broken window glazing.
- Blacksmith shop: Replace a 2’ x 10” board on the lean-to portion
- Outhouse: Secure corrugated metal walls.
- Historic sheds: Secure corrugated roofs.
- Chicken coop: Remove leaf material from chicken wire to prevent roof from pulling off and secure corrugated metal roof.
- Windmill rotor should be oiled on a regular basis or locked in place to prevent wear on the gears.
- Metal water tanks should be cleaned out and protected from further rust.

Corrals and Fences:
- Within the main corral area, the circular juniper post corral, approximately 200 feet in circumference, is leaning and should be straightened; in the southeast corner, approximately 80 feet of railroad tie fencing is falling and needs to be straightened.
- In the outer portions of the corral, ten percent of the railroad post and page wire fencing is falling and needs repair.
- To the east of the main corral area, sixty feet of wood post and rail (with posts spaced six feet apart) require replacement of rotting horizontals.

Vegetation:
- The historic cottonwood tree at the entrance to the main house is in declining health, causing visible damage to the roof and may be causing damage to the foundation. An arborist and architect should assess the health of the tree and potential hazard to the building. If it is recommended by the assessment team to remove the tree, it should be replaced in kind, but at a safer distance from the house. At the same time, the park should consider replacing the other cottonwood tree that historically flanked the entrance to recreate the pair of trees at the entrance.
- Remove suckers from the Trees of Heaven, a non-historic weed tree species, especially those growing within the main house yard and near the metal shop.

OX RANCH HEADQUARTERS
Buildings and Structures:
- Railroad House: Replace loose wood shingles on roof.
- Bunkhouse: Replace roof materials; replace and protect wood eaves that are rotting from exposure to the elements; repair Portland cement exterior, which is cracking.
- Old Shed at NW corner near auto pit: is leaning and should be stabilized.
- Windmill rotor should be oiled on a regular basis or locked in place to prevent wear on the gears.

- Metal water tanks should be cleaned out and protected from further rust.

Vegetation:
- Remove suckers from the Trees-of-Heaven (non-historic weed tree species).
- The eight historic trees (cottonwood or elm) planted around the main residence are in such poor condition that they are unidentifiable by the park botanist. An arborist and architect should identify the trees, assess their individual health, and potential hazard to nearby buildings. If it is recommended by the assessment team to remove some or all of the trees, they should be replaced in kind and in their historic locations.

BARNWELL
Structures:
- Windmill rotor should be oiled on a regular basis or locked in place to prevent wear on the gears.
- Metal water tank should be cleaned out and protected from further rust.
- In-ground water tank should have the reeds cleaned out, the cracked concrete and masonry liner repaired, and the approximately one hundred linear feet of cedar post around tank should be straightened and missing posts replaced.

Corrals and Fences:
- Main portion of corral needs approximately 150 feet of both horizontal beam replacement and vertical post straightening.
- Replace approximately fifty feet of horizontal beams on wing fence at southeast corner of the corral.
- Milled lumber corral gates are collapsing and should be stabilized.

## Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Deferred Maintenance

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Deferrered maintenance of the historic buildings, structures, and small-scale features has caused the condition of these features to deteriorate. If action is not taken within the next year or two, some of these features could be lost.

Historic buildings: Buildings throughout the ranch are susceptible to extensive damage by high desert winds when roofs, windows, doors, and exterior walls are not properly maintained. All historic buildings should be assessed and repaired to prevent further deterioration from the elements.

Historic water system features: Metal water tanks are subject to rust and should be protected. The earth and masonry water reservoir at Barnwell is becoming overgrown with vegetation. Windmills need to be oiled on a regular basis (or the rotors

locked in place if they are not going to be oiled on a regular basis) to prevent stripping of the threads. Broken pipelines need to be replaced. Wells and springs need to be cleaned out to prevent sediment build up.

Historic corrals and fences: Portions of the corrals and fences are leaning or have fallen, several gates have collapsed or are ready to collapse, and posts need to be replaced. Each corral and fence line needs to be assessed and repaired as needed to prevent further deterioration.

**Type of Impact:** Neglect

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Structures located at remote watering sites are no longer maintained by the NPS. As a result, historic features such as spring heads, wells, and fences located at these sites are subject to deterioration and eventual loss.

**Type of Impact:** Vandalism/Theft/Arson

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Historic features in remote locations are subject to vandalism.

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The historic cottonwood tree at the entrance to the main house is in declining health. Because of its large diameter trunk, it is causing visible damage to the roof. The roots may also be causing damage to the foundation.

# Treatment

## Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined

**Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

The General Management Plan (April 2002) does not specify an approved treatment for cultural landscapes potentially eligible for listing on the National Register. However, the GMP does specifically mention preservation as the approved treatment for listed properties, which is reflectedin the following management goal statement for cultural resources:

“Identify, inventory, monitor, and evaluate archeological sites, historic properties, cultural landscapes, and ethnographic resources; nominating significant resources to the National Register of Historic Places and manage, protect, and preserve such listed properties in a way that will preserve their documented archeological, architectural, ethnographic, historic, or research values” (GMP 2000, 15 and 51).

The GMP states, “At least sixteen potential historic landscapes have been identified in Mojave National Preserve that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but cultural landscape studies have not been undertaken to identify their character-defining elements…. The Preserve will inventory the cultural landscapes and prepare nomination for those determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places” (58).

# Bibliography and Supplemental Information

## Bibliography

**Citation Author:** Atherton, Lewis
**Citation Title:** The Cattle Kings
**Year of Publication:** 1961
**Citation Publisher:** Bloomington & London: Indiana University Press
**Citation Type:** Narrative
**Citation Location:** NPS Library

**Citation Author:** Ausmus, Bob
**Citation Title:** East Mojave Diary
**Year of Publication:** 1989
**Citation Publisher:** Norco, CA: Tales of the Mojave Road Publishing Company
**Citation Type:** Narrative
**Citation Location:** NPS Library

**Citation Author:** Casebier, Dennis G. and Friends of the Mojave Road
**Citation Title:** Guide to the East Mojave Heritage Trail, Ivanpah to Rocky Ridge
**Year of Publication:** 1988
**Citation Publisher:** Norco, CA: Tales of the Mojave Road Publishing Company
**Citation Type:** Narrative
**Citation Location:** NPS Library

**Citation Author:** Cleland, Robert Glass
**Citation Title:** California in Our Time, 1900-1940
**Year of Publication:** 1947
**Citation Publisher:** New York: Alfred A. Knopf
**Citation Type:** Narrative
**Citation Location:** NPS Library

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| **Citation Author:** | Darlington, David |
| **Citation Title:** | The Mojave: A Portrait of the Definitive American Desert |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1996 |
| **Citation Publisher:** | New York: Henry Holt and Company |
| **Citation Type:** | Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | NPS Library |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Livingston, Dewey |
| **Citation Title:** | Draft Landscape Inventory and Assessment of Kessler Springs Ranch and OX Ranch |
| **Year of Publication:** | 2001 |
| **Citation Publisher:** | National Park Service |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic and Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | MOJA |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Livingston, Dewey |
| **Citation Title:** | National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company (listed 2/15/2007) |
| **Year of Publication:** | 2007 |
| **Citation Publisher:** | National Park Service |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic and Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | PWRO-SEA |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | National Park Service |
| **Citation Title:** | Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan, Mojave National Preserve |
| **Year of Publication:** | 2000 |
| **Citation Publisher:** | Barstow: National Park Service |
| **Citation Location:** | NPS Library |

**Citation Author:** Pacific AgriBusiness
**Citation Title:** Appraisal, OX Ranch, Kessler Springs Ranch et al.
**Year of Publication:** 2000
**Citation Type:** Narrative
**Citation Location:** MOJA

**Citation Author:** Papierski, Betty (Pettit)
**Citation Title:** Flat Tires and Coffee Fires being tales from the 7IL ranch
**Year of Publication:** 1993
**Citation Publisher:** Essex, CA: Tales of the Mojave Road Publishing Company
**Citation Type:** Narrative
**Citation Location:** NPS Library

**Citation Author:** Rolle, Andrew
**Citation Title:** California: A History
**Year of Publication:** 1969
**Citation Publisher:** New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company

**Citation Author:** United States Department of Agriculture
**Citation Title:** Farmers in a Changing World
**Year of Publication:** 1940
**Citation Publisher:** Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office

## Supplemental Information

**Title:** Oral Histories

**Description:** Transcribed and on tape, with 16 informants including Standlee Greening, Sarah Yates Miles, Claud Halsell, Jr., Lenore Bozarth Mullenax, Ed Eldridge and Gary Overson. Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association, Goffs Schoolhouse, Goffs, California.

**Title:** Original Documents

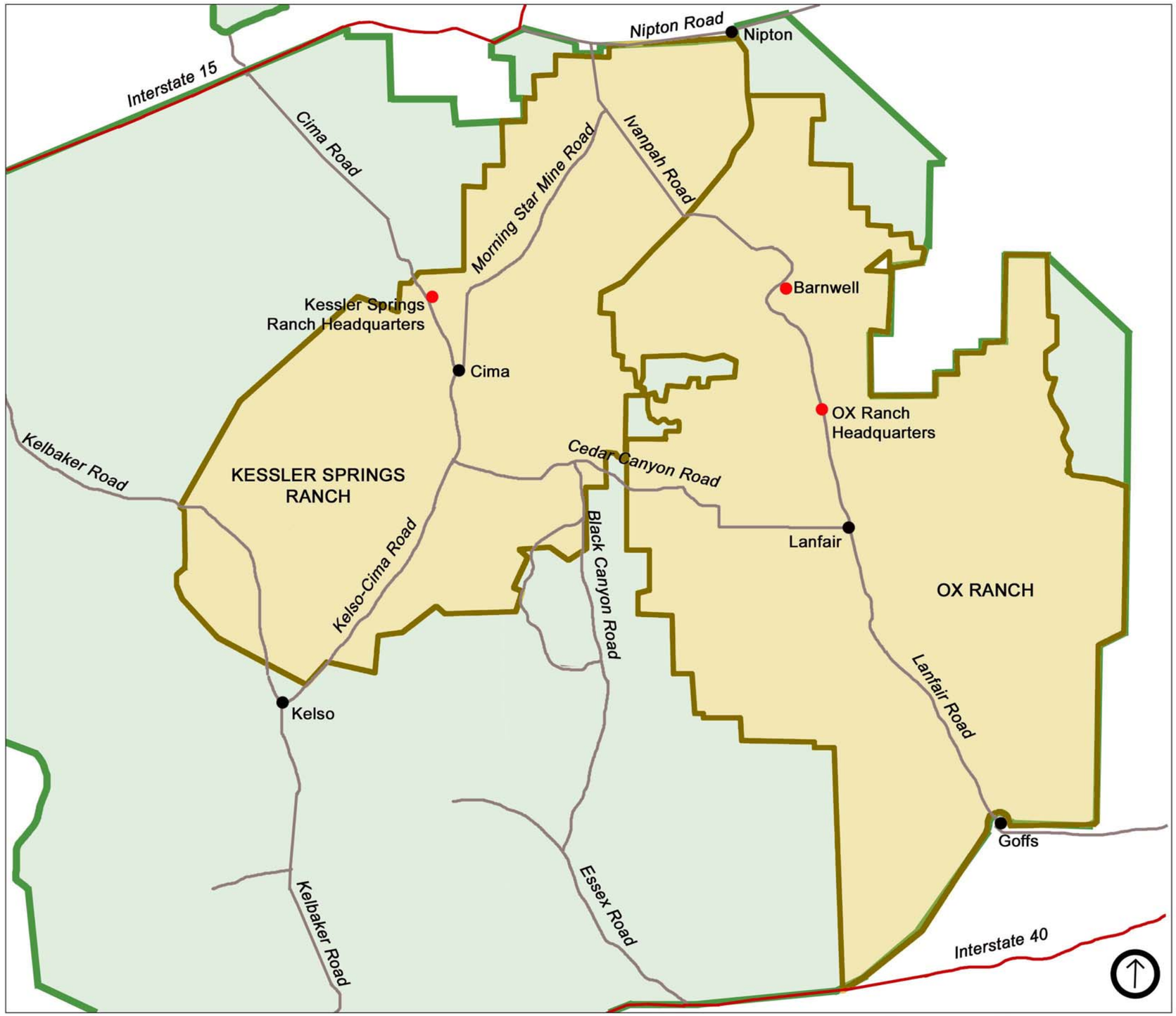
**Description:** Copies of official records, company records, maps, etc. Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association, Goffs Schoolhouse, Goffs, California.

**Title:** Personal Interview with Tim Overson.

**Description:** On February 10-11, 2003, Tim Overson gave a tour for the CLI team of the ranch, its headquarters and major watering sites and corrals.

# SITE PLAN #1
# Historic District Map

**Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District**
Cultural Landscape Inventory
Mojave National Preserve
California



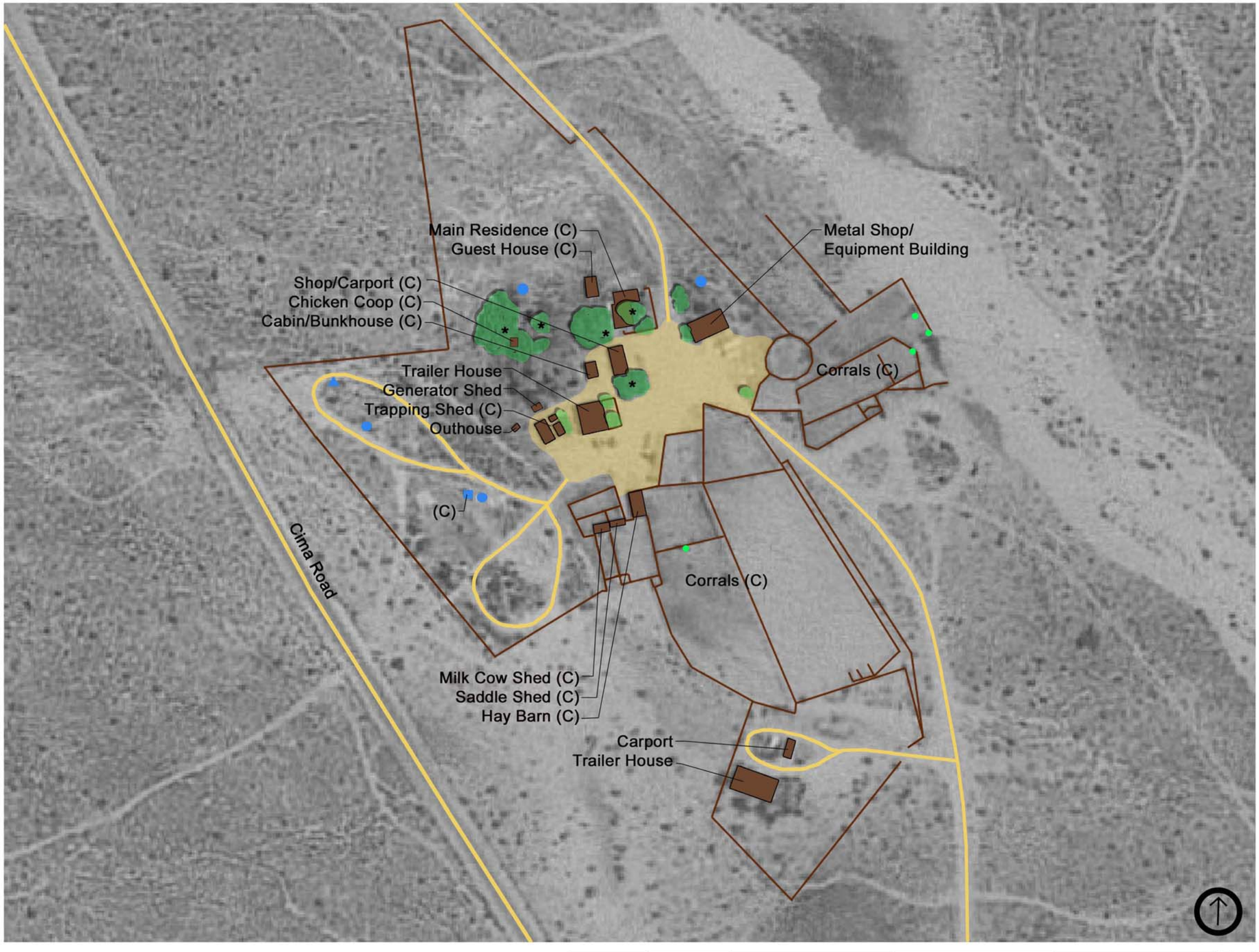

## Legend

- Highways
- Roads
- Ranch Boundary
- Park Boundary


Produced by:
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
National Park Service
2005

# SITE PLAN #2
# Kessler Springs Ranch Headquarters - Rock

**Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District**
Cultural Landscape Inventory
Mojave National Preserve
California




## Legend

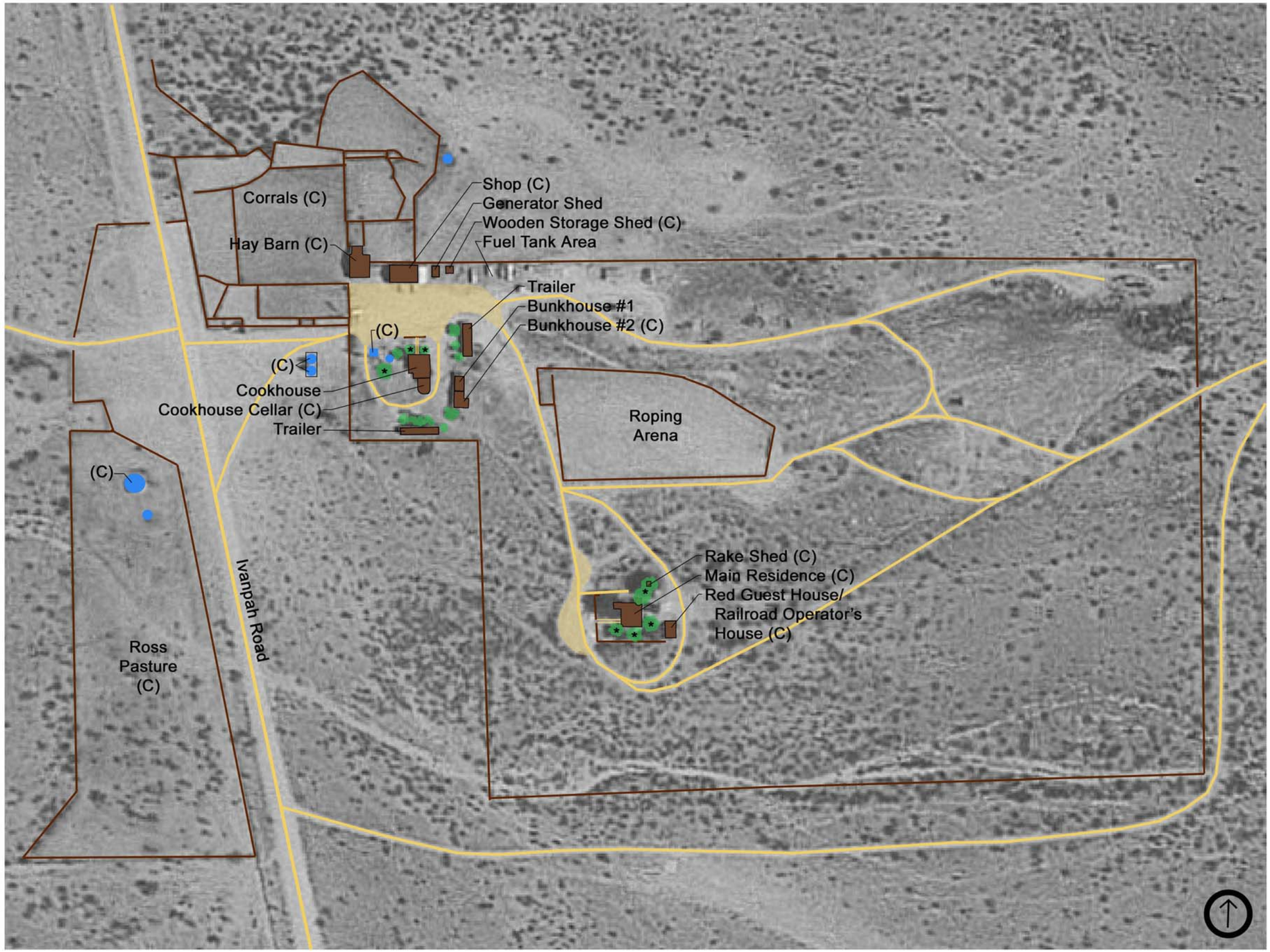
- Buildings
- Roads & circulation
- Fences and corrals
- Water tanks
- Wells
- Wells with windmills
- Water troughs
- Shade trees
- (C) Contributing buildings, structures, & small-scale features
- * Contributing & potentially contributing shade trees

Data Source:
Park GIS and AutoCAD files (2003).


Produced by:
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
National Park Service
2005

# SITE PLAN #3
# OX Ranch Headquarters

**Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District**
Cultural Landscape Inventory
Mojave National Preserve
California




## Legend

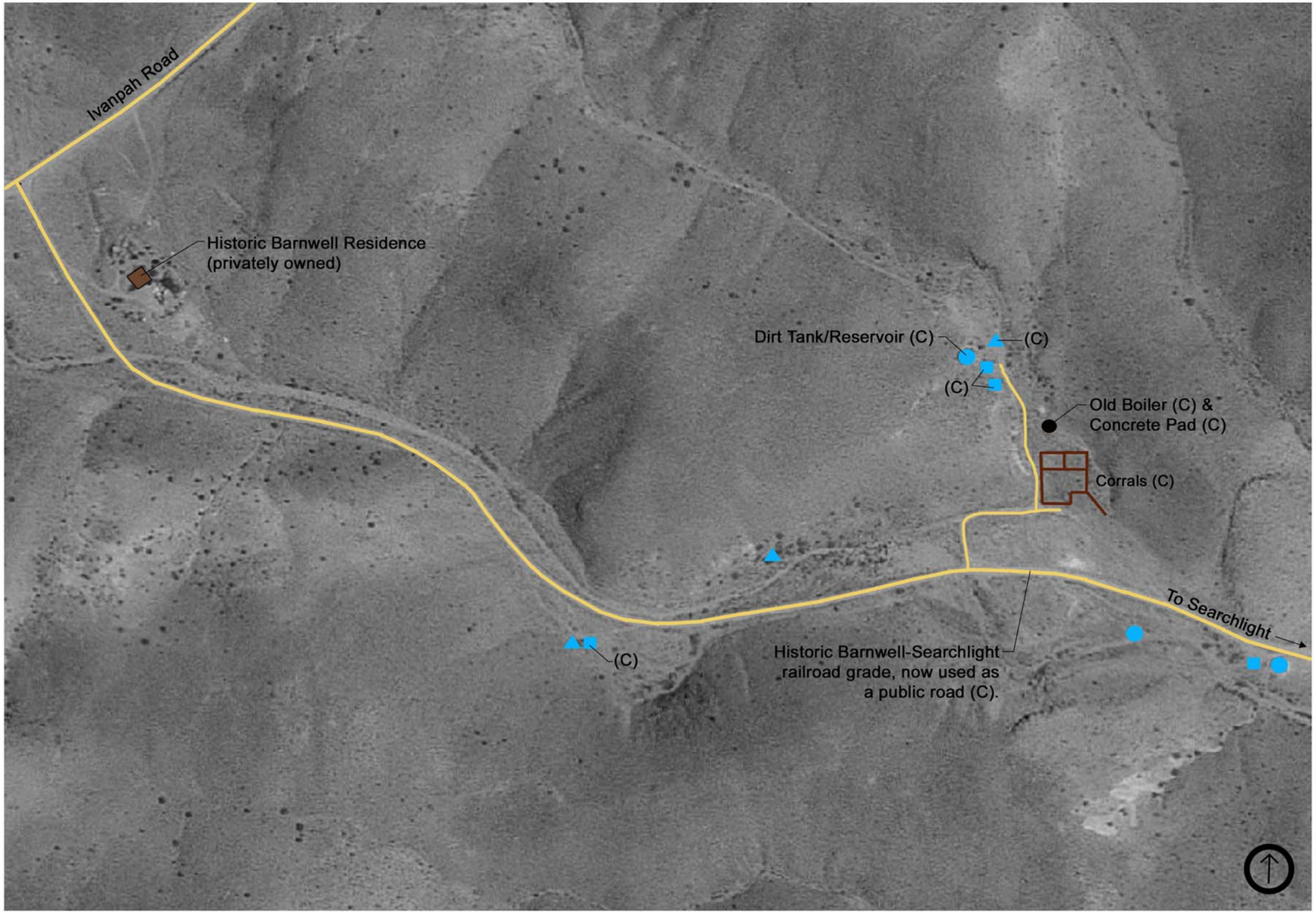
- Buildings
- Roads & circulation
- Fences and corrals
- Water tanks
- Wells with windmills
- Shade trees
- (C) Contributing buildings, structures, & small-scale features
- * Contributing & potentially contributing shade trees

Data Source:
Park GIS and AutoCAD files (2003).


Produced by:
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
National Park Service
2005

# SITE PLAN #4
# Barnwell

**Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company Historic District**
Cultural Landscape Inventory
Mojave National Preserve
California




## Legend

- Buildings
- Roads & circulation
- Fences and corrals
- Water tanks
- Wells without windmills
- Wells with windmills
- (C) Contributing buildings, structures, & small-scale features

Data Source:
Park DOQ files.


Produced by:
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
National Park Service
2005