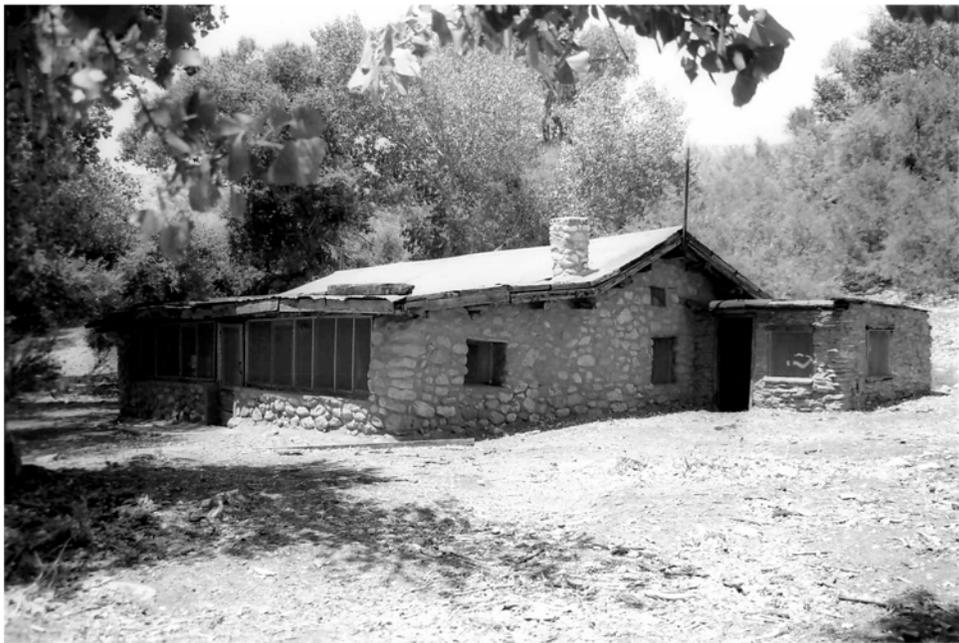

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2003



Tassi Ranch
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West
Regional Office
Seattle

909 First Avenue, Floor 5
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

Cultural Resource
Programs

206-220-4000 phone
206-220-4159 fax

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY (CLI) PROGRAM
2008 Condition Assessment Update for:

Tassi Ranch
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

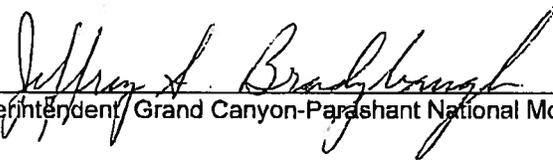
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument concurs with the condition assessment update for Tassi Ranch as identified below:

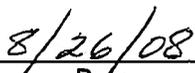
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **FAIR**

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: Indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining cultural and natural values.


Superintendent, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

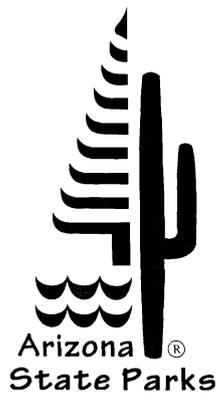

Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
PWR CLI Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807
(510) 817-1407
(510) 817-1484 (fax)

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"Managing and conserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources"

In reply, please refer to:
SHPO-2004-1030

June 22, 2004

Shaun Provencher
Regional CLI Coordinator
National Park Service
1111 Jackson St., Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

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Director's Office Fax:
602.542.4188

RE: Cultural Landscape Inventory evaluation of Tassi Ranch
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Dear Mr. Provencher

Thank you for submitting documentation on the above referenced property. I have reviewed the material pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and have the following comments:

1. I concur with the recommendation that the Tassi Ranch is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. I have no comments on the text of the report. This information makes a valuable addition to our body of knowledge of historic ranching in Arizona.
2. I do not concur with the recommendation that the Tassi Ranch is eligible under Criterion D since the prehistoric artifacts mentioned are not related to the historic context of the ranch. The historic ranch may overlay a prehistoric site that is eligible in its own right, but that context should be separately determined and evaluated along with its own distinct boundary definition.

If you have any further questions or requests, you may contact me at (602) 542-7159, or by e-mail at wcollins@pr.state.az.us.

Sincerely,

William S. Collins, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historic Preservation Office

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

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, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
Administrative Unit: Grand Canyon - Parashant National Monument
Park Organization Code: 8230
Park Alpha Code: PARA

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Tassi Ranch
CLI Identification Number: 725387
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725387

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 9/1/1998
Level 0 Recorder: Bright Eastman
Date Level 0 Entered: 9/1/1998
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Bright Eastman
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 7/15/2002
Level I Data Collection: Len Warner and Shaun Provencher
Date Level I Entered: 9/26/2002
Level I Data Entry Recorder: Shaun Provencher and Len Warner
Level I Site Visit: Yes

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 12/4/2002
Level II Data Collection: Shaun Provencher and Len Warner
Date Level II Entered: 9/3/2003
Level II Data Entry Recorder: Shaun Provencher and Len Warner
Level II Site Visit: Yes
Date of Concurrence: 8/20/2003

Landscape Description

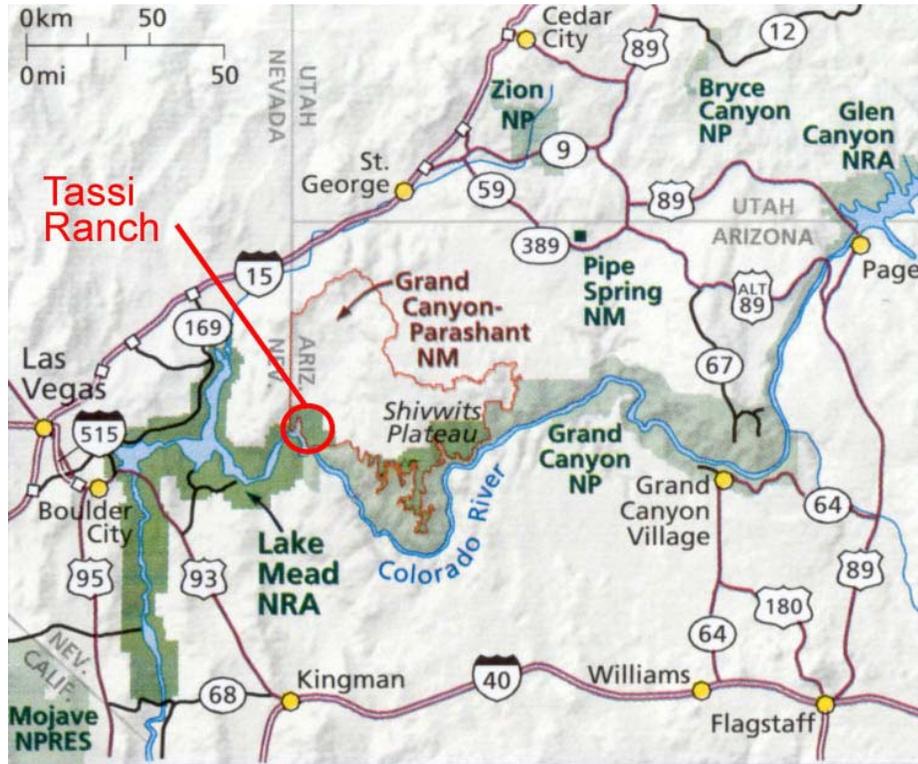
The Tassi Ranch is a rural historic district whose buildings, structures, and other landscape features comprise a unique and intact ranch core on the Arizona Strip dating from the first half of the twentieth century. The ranch core consists of approximately 200 acres of Mojave Desert creosote bush ranchland in Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (to be referred to as Parashant National Monument for the remainder of this document). Located on the edge of the Grand Wash in the western portion of the Arizona Strip, which encompasses the lands north of the Grand Canyon and south of the state of Utah, the surrounding desert topography is rough with steep canyons rising hundreds of feet to flat tablelands above. Immediately to the east are the Grand Wash Cliffs which rise in a series of steps over 1500 feet to the Shivwits Plateau. While outlying ranch features exist, the majority of the ranch developments are clustered around Tassi Springs, a system consisting of numerous spring heads, at the center of the property. Here, buildings, corrals, agricultural fields, irrigation ditches, a row of large cottonwood trees, and other vernacular ranch features remain intact from the first half of the twentieth century. These features compose a shady oasis in the extreme desert environment of the Arizona Strip. The period of significance for the site extends from 1936 to 1947, and encompasses the years Ed Yates, a local rancher, occupied the land and constructed most of the developments at the springs. The extant features at Tassi Ranch represent a unique complex whose elements display local adaptations to the needs of living and running a ranch in the desert environment of Northern Arizona.

The Tassi Ranch rural historic district retains integrity as a rural vernacular landscape and is in fair condition. The qualities that determine integrity according to the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association are primarily intact through the retention of the following landscape characteristics that contribute to the significance of the ranch: natural systems and features, spatial organization, topography, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, and small scale features. One landscape characteristic, land use, no longer contributes to the site's significance due to the cessation of ranching at Tassi

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

Tassi Ranch is a single landscape with no components.

Location Map



Location of Tassi Ranch Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument>

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Tassi Ranch cultural landscape encompasses 200 acres of ranch developments in the south central portion of S13, T33N, R16W in Mohave County, AZ. The boundary was drawn to include all contributing ranch district features from the period of significance of 1936 to 1947 and does not include lands grazed by the occupants of the site as the full extent of these could not be identified and the evidence of outlying ranch features is minimal.

Regional Context

Cultural Context

Significant settlement of the Arizona Strip region by Euro-Americans did not commence until 1865 when the region's fair stock raising conditions became known to settlers. Within a short time, a variety of Euro-Americans settlers came to the strip, claimed land and established ranches. Conflict with native peoples was inevitable, as the Euro-Americans quickly laid claim to the best water and grazing areas. Disputes between settlers and the Navajo, Paiute and Ute culminated in the Black Hawk Navajo Wars of 1866-1869. By 1870, native resistance had been largely quelled by Mormon paramilitary action, the "Treaty of Mount Trumbull" and the establishment of several Paiute reservations.

While the settlers of the Arizona Strip included a colorful array of ranchers, sheepmen, cowboys and outlaws, the majority of the newcomers were Mormons, dispatched by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (to be referred to as the Mormon Church for the remainder of the document) to lay claim to the choicest land and resources before non-Mormons settled them. Outsiders and the government were strongly resisted in this land which remained largely untouched by the impacts of the industrial age that so profoundly changed other areas of the West: railroads, mineral development, and population booms. A number of large ranches were established, as well as a sawmill and a large dairy, and the rights to limited water sources of the region were swiftly claimed, though often without a valid government title.

Local settlement towns founded by Mormons in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries include St. Thomas (1865) and Gold Butte (1906). St. Thomas was founded as an agricultural Mormon community in the Moapa Valley after Brigham Young opened the valley to settlement. Lying in the lowlands behind Hoover Dam, eight miles south of Overton, St. Thomas was evacuated and inundated in the mid-1930s; though with record low water levels in Lake Mead, the remains of the town were visible in 2003. While mica was discovered in Gold Butte, Nevada in 1873, it was the discovery of gold in 1905 which led to the founding of the post office there the following year. The site, located on Gold Butte Road at a point 56 miles south of I-15 at the Riverside exit (33 miles southeast of Glendale) on BLM land has few remains of the town that was largely abandoned by 1910 (Paher 1970, 288-289 and Ezzo 1996, 99).

The native population of the Tassi Ranch area consists primarily of the Southern Paiute Nation, of which the Kaibab-Paiute and Moapa Paiute bands have reservation in the area. The Kaibab-Paiute band, whose reservation lies just west of Fredonia occupies over 120,000 acres and is home to 240 Kaibab-Paiute tribal members, who are part of the larger Southern Paiute Nation. The reservation lies along Kanab Creek and is largely undeveloped, although it does support a number of ranches, farms, and a large fruit tree orchard (http://cpluhna.nau.edu/Places/arizona_strip3.htm, accessed 9/30/2002). The Moapa Paiute band reside on a 71,954.19-acre reservation approximately 8 miles West of Glendale, Nevada, at the junction of State Route 168 and Interstate 15. The reservation was established as the Moapa River Reserve in 1873.

Political Context

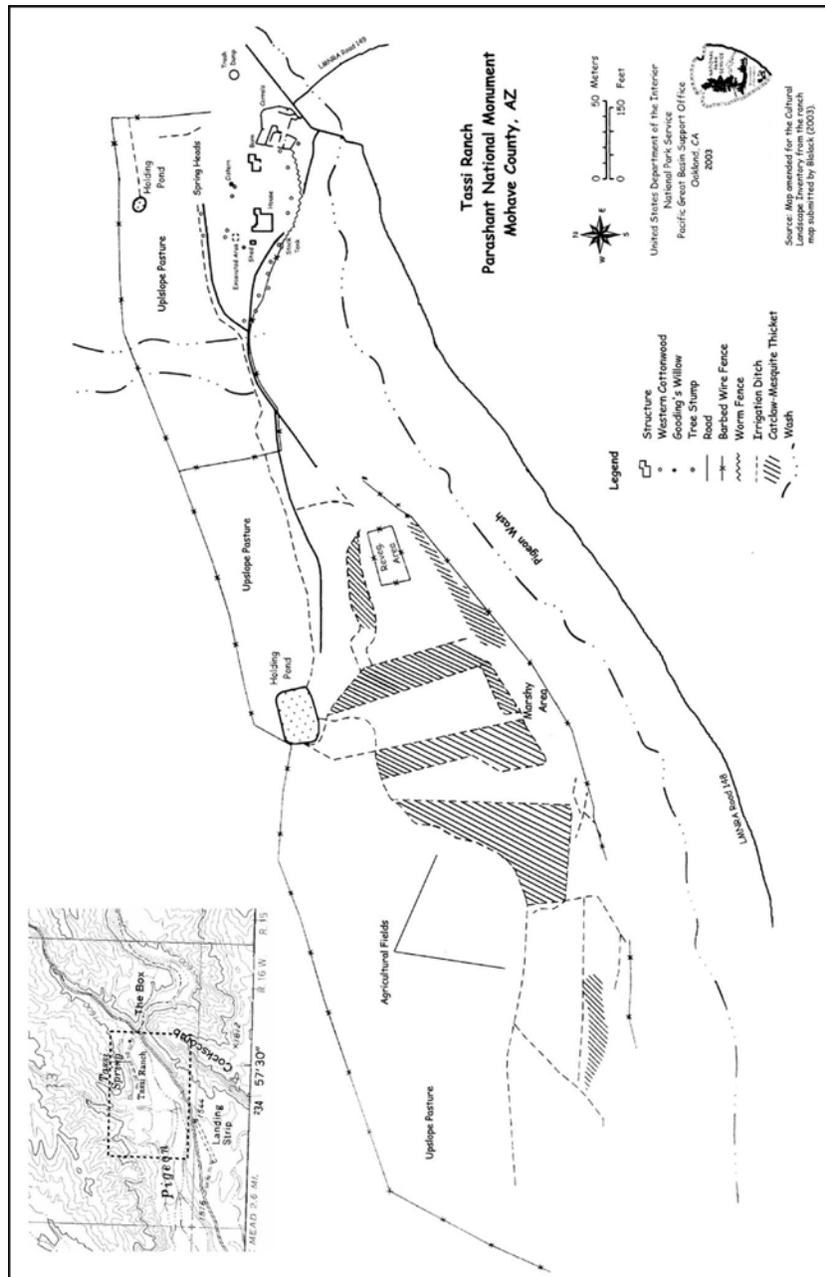
The Grand Canyon - Parashant National Monument is bounded on the west by the Arizona/Nevada border, on the south by Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and on the north and northeast by the drainage divide of the Virgin River. The one million-acre monument covers over half of the southwestern and western portions of the Shivwits Plateau, and the entire Grand Wash drainage in Arizona. These lands are largely federally managed by Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), to the south and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the north. A few private in-holdings exist, particularly in the town of Mount Trumbull (http://www.cpluhna.nau.edu/Places/grand_canyon_parashant.htm, accessed 9/30/2002).

Physiographic Context

This area bridges one of the most profound geological boundaries in the United States, separating the Basin and Range Geologic Province from the Colorado Plateau to the east. Recent crustal extension of the Basin and Range has stretched the western margin of the 144,000-square-mile Colorado Plateau, creating a series of long parallel, curvilinear faults and associated cliffs that slice north to south through the Shivwits Plateau region. Along its western edge, the Grand Wash fault juxtaposes the colorful, lava-capped Precambrian and Paleozoic strata of the Grand Canyon against highly faulted terrain, recent lake beds, and desert volcanic peaks in the downdropped Grand Wash trough (http://www.cpluhna.nau.edu/Places/grand_canyon_parashant.htm, accessed 9/30/2002).

Site Plan

Site Plan: See Supplemental Information for full size image.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1902 AD	Land Transfer	Congress passes the Reclamation Act on June 17, 1902 which withdraws from public sale those lands surrounding the Tassi Springs area (32 Stat., 388).
1902 - 1919 AD	Land Transfer	The Secretary of the Interior declares two First Form Withdrawals (1902 and 1919), which delineate those lands in the Tassi Springs region to be withdrawn.
1903 AD	Land Transfer	O.B. Nay and H.M. Nay make the first illegitimate claim on record to Tassi.
1912 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Sam Gentry begins running cattle in the Tassi area and uses the springs as a base.
1913 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Homer Englestead works sheep at Tassi during the winters. By this year, a stone house is located on a bench above the wash.
1919 AD	Land Transfer	Township #33 is withdrawn from public sale by the Secretary of the Interior under the “Colorado River Storage Project.”
1930 AD	Land Transfer	A Temporary Withdrawal for Classification” for Township #33 is enacted.
1933 AD	Land Transfer	Township #33 is withdrawn from the public domain through the executive order “Withdrawal for the Boulder Canyon Wildlife Refuge.”
1936 AD	Established	A Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the NPS transfers management of Lake Mead to the NPS, establishing Boulder Dam National Recreation Area.
1937 AD	Built	Ed Yates builds a reservoir, having received a false permit from the Arizona Land Commissioner for its construction.

1938 AD	Built	Ed Yates builds the current stone house and cistern and digs the irrigation ditches in his fields.
1941 AD	Land Transfer	Ed Yates receives a Certificate of Water Rights (#896) for Tassi Spring—Tassi Reservoir. The Certificate is invalid due to legislation outlined above. He builds a half-acre-foot earthen reservoir despite the false certificate.
1947 - 1953 AD	Land Transfer	Ed Yates sells his interest in Tassi to Eldon Smith. The land reverts back to Ed Yates in 1953.
1964 AD	Established	Lake Mead National Recreation Area is established and contains Tassi Ranch.
1973 AD	Land Transfer	Ed Yates sells the property to Jim and Dennis Whitmore.
1981 AD	Abandoned	The Whitmores are prevented by the U. S. District Court from residing in or using any structures on the Tassi property.
1981 AD	Ranched/Grazed	The NPS issues a special use permit to Dennis Whitmore for the purpose of operating the Tassi Springs Grazing allotment identified as BLM permit number 4851.
1989 AD	Built	Whitmore undertakes the construction of a new earthen water tank.
1993 AD	Built	The NPS erects a fence enclosure around Tassi.
1998 AD	Removed	Whitmore removes his equipment from the Tassi Springs area.
1999 AD	Stabilized	An NPS historic preservation crew stabilizes the stone and concrete cistern behind the barn. Repairs are also accomplished on the ranch house.
2000 AD	Graded	The area in front of house is washed out by a flash flood. The NPS builds a boulder retaining wall on Pigeon Wash, and re-establishes the grade behind it.

2000 AD	Established	Grand-Canyon Parashant National Monument is established, Tassi Ranch is included within the new boundary.
2001 AD	Removed	The Tassi Allotment, under which the Whitmores maintained usage of the springs and rangeland, is administratively closed.
2002 AD	Stabilized	An NPS maintenance crew stabilizes the trees around the ranch house.

Statement Of Significance

Summary

The Tassi Ranch is locally significant under criteria A and C for the period from 1936 to 1947. It is included under the historic context theme “Developing the American Economy,” sub-theme “The Cattle Frontier.” Under Criterion A, Tassi is locally significant for its association with the historical development of the cattle ranching industry in the remote, arid country of the Arizona Strip. This area of Arizona is identified in the “Cattle Ranching in Arizona, 1848-1950” multiple property nomination as being one of three distinct cattle ranching regions in the state: Northern Arizona, Southern Arizona, and the Arizona Strip (Collins: 2002, 16). Under Criterion C, the ranch house and surrounding developments embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and illustrate the development of a rare surviving vernacular ranch site in northern Arizona from the first half of the twentieth century.

The 1936 to 1947 period of significance for the Tassi Ranch encompasses the years from when Ed Yates, a local rancher, first gained an invalid Arizona Certificate of Water Rights for Tassi Springs and extends to the year he illegally sold the property to Eldon Smith. During this time, he improved the springs, planted crops and shade trees, constructed the ranch house, reservoir, corrals, and field irrigation system which provided a permanent base for a full range of stock raising functions, including providing water for cattle and irrigation for pasturage and crops.

The construction of the ranch house is unique in that it is built of rock, which distinguishes it from many of the ranch houses built at this time on the Arizona Strip that are typically of log construction. The small, two-room barn building is also unusual in that it is constructed in the manner of a log cabin, replacing logs with railroad ties with lapped ends. Overall, the extant features at Tassi Ranch and Springs represent a unique ranch district complex whose elements display local adaptations to the needs of living on and running a ranch in the isolated desert environment of the Arizona Strip.

The recent listing of the “Cattle Ranching of Arizona, 1540-1950” Multiple Property Nomination (Collins: 2003) provides an excellent context for ranching in Arizona during the period of significance for the Tassi Ranch. In addition Tassi Ranch is identified in this study as one of “two major ranches” in the Grand Wash subregion of the Arizona Strip (Collins 2003: 27). The ranch center’s nearly unaltered features provide a rare if not unique example of an intact ranching district in a region where cattle ranching developed almost independently from the rest of Arizona and “on the periphery of the national meat market” (Collins 2003: 26). This context outlines ten property types associated with cattle ranching; Tassi Ranch possesses or represents in whole six of these property types: 1) ranch houses, 2) watering facilities and windmills, 3) fences and cattle guards, 4) fields, orchards, and other agricultural features, 5) auxiliary ranch buildings and structures, and 6) ranch districts.

Historical Context

As overgrazing threatened to create a dustbowl out of the western rangelands in the early 1930s, Congress approved the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934 to “stop injury to public grazing lands by preventing overgrazing, to provide for their orderly use, improvement, and development, and to stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the public range” (43 USC, Sections 315-316, June 28, 1934). As district advisory boards were set up, Congress gave them legal status in 1939. In 1946, the Grazing Service was merged with the General Land Office to form the Bureau of Land Management within the Department of the Interior. One of the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to organize grazing districts, which, once established, could be leased for a fee. The first

grazing district was established in Wyoming in 1935.

Arizona and Nevada amended the rules of the law so that private water holdings, rather than land, determined the size of each rancher's allotment (Dames & Moore 1989, 211). The effect of this rule was to eliminate grazing by transient sheepherders on the Arizona Strip as well as practically close the public domain to further homestead settlement (Stegner 1954, 355). Enactment of the Taylor Grazing Act significantly reduced the number of ranchers who grazed livestock on public lands, spelling the end to the days of the open range throughout the West.

Conclusion

The spatial relationship of the buildings, corrals, fence lines and outlying landscape developments, including the reservoir, irrigation ditches, and twenty-acre pasture, convey the purpose for which the springs were exploited during the Yates occupancy: to support a fully functioning cattle ranch. The buildings, structures, and landscape features of Tassi Ranch and Springs constitute a rural historic district that conveys a vivid image of life on a cattle ranch in the remote Arizona Strip immediately following the closing of much of the western rangeland by the Taylor Grazing Act.

Physical History

Mid 1800s

As one of the few abundant water sources in an arid region, Tassi Springs has been an area of human activity since prehistoric times. Varied placename spellings have been used, including: Tasha, Tahshari, Tasseye, Tasi, and Tassi.

The oasis was an important stopover for Native Americans long before the arrival of Euro-Americans. The prehistory of the Arizona Strip area goes back at least eleven thousand years, encompassing Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and the ceramic period cultures.

Before the arrival of Mormon pioneers in the mid-1850s, only a few Euro-Americans had left a record of having passed through the region. Spanish explorers crossed the area beginning with the Escalante-Dominguez expedition in 1776, which sought to establish a land route between Santa Fe, New Mexico and the newly established capitol of Alta California at Monterey. James Ohio Pattie may have been the first Euro-American to cross the Grand Wash Cliffs and proceed onto the Shivwits Plateau as early as 1827 (McBee 1996, 69). Later, Jedediah Smith, Antonio Armijo and John C. Fremont explored portions of this land. Explorations by John Wesley Powell and Clarence Dutton in the 1870s provided stirring written descriptions of the natural features of the region, its geology, plant, and animal life.

Members of the Mormon Church began arriving in the Arizona Strip country in the 1850s with the intention of fulfilling Brigham Young's vision of a "nearly self-sufficient Utah with an economy based on cooperation rather than competition. Young regarded economic independence as essential for the security of the Mormon Church. In order to provide basic necessities, Young ordered the Mormons to create their own beet sugar, textile, and iron industries. The Mormons attempted all of them; they all failed miserably. The cotton mission, sent south to St. George in Utah's "Dixie" in 1861 to create a textile industry, produced little cotton. The cotton mill lacked both adequate machinery and skilled workers" (White 1991, 241-242). Another experiment in desert agriculture was founded in 1865 at St. Thomas on the Muddy River. It was one of several small agricultural communities established by Mormon settlers in southern Nevada. The community planted wheat, oats, and barley in fields watered by an intricate system of canals. Lying in the lowlands behind Hoover Dam, eight miles south of Overton, St. Thomas was evacuated and inundated in the mid-1930s (Ezzo 1996, 99).

By 1860, Mormon leaders in Salt Lake City were seeking a southwest trade outlet, one that would connect the Mormon settlements with the Pacific Ocean. Missionary work amongst Native Americans and the various explorations of the river area around the Grand Canyon were due in part to a need for obtaining a travel corridor that would "not only serve as an outlet for the goods produced in the Mormon heartland and a route of supply for needed [imports], but would also provide a much needed alternate route to that of the rugged, expensive, and often inhospitable trip overland from the East Coast" (Belshaw 1980, 30, quoting Donald Bufkin, "The Lost County of Pa-Ute," *Arizoniana*, Vol. V., #2 [Summer 1964] pp: 12-14).

1861 – 1928 Early European Presence at Tassi

The earliest possible non-Indian use of the springs may have been by Jacob Hamblin, (the "Buckskin Apostle" of the Mormon Church) on his return from the Hopi Villages, south of the Colorado River, in 1863. The lack of specific mention of the springs and the story of their difficulties in finding water in the

region, however, suggest this is unlikely (Belshaw 1980, 36-42).

The main road through the Grand Wash and Tassi Springs area, the Pearce Ferry Road, had been located under the guidance of Mormon church leader Erastus Snow. The Pearce Ferry Road served as the regular travel route from St. George to the Pearce Ferry crossing on the Colorado River, which had been established by Jacob Hamblin and Harrison Pearce in 1876. The route of the Pearce Ferry Road “headed south from St. George and traveled to Black Rock Springs, went around the north and west side of Mustang Knolls, then down Black Canyon and Pocom Wash to the middle part of Grand Wash. It continued down Grand Wash, then followed Pigeon Wash into Tassi Wash and Tassi Springs. Here the road went up a side canyon to the east, crossed the wash and went up another side wash just above the mouth of Snap Canyon. It then crossed another bench into Pearce Wash, and from there proceeded on to the Colorado River” (McBee 1996, 26-27).

By 1883 Pearce Ferry was seeing a “paucity of use” and was used only sporadically after that (Belshaw 1980, 139). Although Euro-Americans stopped using the ferry, Native Americans continued to stop at Tassi Springs as they had since well before contact with Europeans.

The historical record of Euro-American occupation and use of Tassi Springs primarily dates from around the beginning of the twentieth century; however, the first documented Euro-American encounter with the spring occurred several decades earlier, in 1877. A combined exploration-emigrant party led by Bentley and Cunningham reached Tassi in March of 1877 “where good water and some feed was located.” At Tassi a “coop beef” was killed which suggests that the party belonged to the United Order, a Mormon Church cooperative economic enterprise. Other groups of pioneers passed through the area in the late nineteenth century, including at least two separate wagon trains, one in 1879, and another led by Bishop Tuttle and John Tate in 1880 (Belshaw 1980, 172-176).

On June 17, 1902 congress passed the Reclamation Act (32 Stat., 388) which withdrew from public sale, lands in the region of the planned Boulder Canyon project, which authorized the construction of Boulder (later Hoover) Dam. These lands included the Tassi Springs area. Despite the withdrawal of lands, by 1903 settlers had begun laying claim on the water rights at Tassi and brought their livestock in for grazing and water. O.B. Nay and H.M. Nay made the first claim of record to Tassi, in June of 1903. This claim is the first of a string of false claims on the land and water rights at Tassi Springs that would continue until 1998. Rather than claiming an agricultural use of the springs, the Nays referenced the claim to the nearby Savanic Mine, which suggests that their intention was to process ore at the site rather than raise cattle. Apparently, the Nays abandoned the claim shortly after filing (Belshaw 1980, 173).

In 1912, Sam Gentry began running cattle in the area and used the springs as a base. The following year, Homer Englestead worked sheep at Tassi during the winters. As recorded in an interview with Gentry’s widow, both Englestead and Gentry recall a stone house located on a bench above the wash. In 1917, a government survey team was working in the Tassi area and by that time a rock house stood on a bench above the springs, and there were cottonwoods at the site (Belshaw 1980, 108-109). Ranchers who ran sheep in the area from the teens through the 1930s corroborated the existence of a stone house, which was allegedly owned by Ed Thomas, and located above the springs. It is thought that Thomas built a stone well, constructed of rocks similar to that used for the ranch house, around the same time that the first ranch house was built, circa 1912. The remnants of this stone well are located approximately ninety feet northeast of the corral in an area of mesquite thicket.

In 1919, the entire Township #33 was withdrawn from public sale by the Secretary of the Interior under the “Colorado River Storage Project” on May [8], (NPS Lands Division, Oakland, CA – See Supplemental Information for complete document, and “First Form Withdrawal” photocopy, on file at

LAME).

One of Utah's leading cattle ranchers, Preston Nutter, did not acquire rights to the springs, but some of his employees were at Tassi in 1921, and some of his cattle were running in the general area in the 1920s (Cox, 1973, 84).

In 1922 or 1923, Gentry sold a false Tassi claim (perhaps unknowingly) to George D. Hartman, a former cowboy in his employ (exactly how Gentry came to hold the claim is not known, however, the 1903 and 1919 land withdrawals cited earlier would have made this transaction illegal). After Sam Gentry's death, his widow, Laura Gentry, sold Hartman 350 head of cattle. In 1925, Hartman went broke, and subsequently passed to Laura Gentry the water rights at Tassi Springs to pay off his debt for the cattle.

Between 1925 and 1929, the water of Tassi Springs was used for an entirely different--and much more profitable--enterprise. Sid and Tyne Hecklethorne operated a still at Tassi Springs, making sour mash whiskey, which they sold in Las Vegas during the years of Prohibition. According to the Englesteads, the moonshine was distilled in five-hundred-gallon batches and stored at the site in a thousand-gallon tank. In addition, Hecklethorne ran a herd of some two thousand sheep in the area (Belshaw 1980, 113).

By the late 1920s, the area had become the focus of government plans to irrigate large portions of the desert southwest. Since 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation had been studying the construction of dams to control the Colorado River and in 1928, Congress authorized the Boulder Canyon (Hoover Dam) Project that would lead to the creation of present-day Lake Mead. The previous year, the Bureau of Reclamation, anticipating the passage of the Boulder Canyon Project, withdrew all federal lands that they thought they would need for the Boulder Dam Project. This withdrawal removed the Tassi Springs area from homestead claims, but did not have a bearing on pre-existing grazing rights (Blalack 2001, 4; citing Hoover, 1999, 1).

1929 - 2002 Tassi Ranch Development

The next occupant at Tassi Ranch, Ed Yates, arrived in 1929, and settled there under an informal agreement with Laura Gentry who maintained the deed. Although no homestead claims would be allowed after passage of the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 (43 Stat., 617), Yates apparently took up residency at Tassi, and may have moved between Tassi Springs and his property at Seven Springs. Yates had purchased the Seven Springs (located several miles to the northeast of Tassi) in 1926 from Frank “Frosty” McDougal. Seven separate springs located there lie in a north-to-south sequence along the Grand Wash slope. Although previously occupied for centuries by Native Americans, pioneers never used Seven Springs as extensively as they did Tassi, to the south, and Pakoon Springs, to the north.

In 1930, a “Temporary Withdrawal for Classification” for the entire Township #33 was enacted; the lands classified under this action were reiterated in an executive order “Withdrawal for the Boulder Canyon Wildlife Refuge” in 1933 (renamed the Boulder Canyon National Wildlife Refuge in 1940-revoked in 1948). Despite the restrictions on the sale of private land put in place by the Reclamation Act, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, and the above listed land withdrawals, Yates received an Arizona Certificate of Water Rights for Tassi Springs in 1936, and a Certificate of Water Rights (#896) for “Tassi Spring—Tassi Reservoir” in 1941 – all of which were illegal (Hoover, 1999). In 1936, Yates cleaned out and cemented the springs and brought in 125 head of cattle. The following year, he built a reservoir, having received another illegitimate permit from the Arizona Land Commissioner for its construction. He dug irrigation ditches and a cistern to capture and divert the spring water to dry out the area where he built his structures and to irrigate his fields. In 1938, Yates built the current stone house at Tassi at the base of the hill from which the springs run, in an area that was historically a marsh. It is likely that Yates used the stones from the original, circa 1917, house to construct the present house. The large cottonwoods surrounding the house also likely date from this period (although Belshaw suggests that they may date from the earlier Nay occupation, circa 1903). In 1941, Yates built a half-acre reservoir, constructed of earth and measuring approximately 45 x 90 feet. An 1100-foot-long ditch carrying water from Tassi Springs filled the reservoir. The full extent of Yates’ developments eventually crossed the western extent of his quarter-section allotment, extending his illegal patent beyond its delineated boundaries.

In October 1936, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the NPS transferred Lake Mead to the NPS for recreation management, establishing Boulder Dam National Recreation Area.

Yates sold his interest in Tassi to a Mr. Eldon Smith in 1947, but Smith did not keep up on payments and Yates re-occupied the property under false ownership six years after selling it. In 1964, legislation created the Lake Mead National Recreation Area which included the Tassi Ranch area (Blalack 2001, 4). In 1973, Yates illegally sold the property to Jim and Dennis Whitmore, descendants of Dr. James Whitmore, one of the early Mormon pioneers of Pipe Springs, in the eastern section of the Arizona Strip.

In January 1978, the NPS conducted a search of the county records for recent and past documents relative to the Tassi Ranch area. No documents were found that transferred title of any mining claim to O.B. Nay and H.M. Nay. Records dating from 1898 to 1943 were checked; no records were found that would vest ownership to G.D. Hartman during the years 1898 to 1943 and no records were found that would transfer title of either the ranch or the springs. Further, no patented mining claims were found in the township where the ranch and springs are located (Hoover 1999, 2).

Despite the lack of legal documentation, the Whitmores resided in the ranch house and began moving

vehicles and other equipment into the area. When Whitmore undertook construction of a new dirt water tank in 1979, and continued to use the small landing strip he had built above Tassi Springs for ultra-light planes, the NPS ordered him to cease these unauthorized activities. After NPS attempts to terminate the Whitmore residency of the Tassi Ranch were unsuccessful, the NPS requested the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona take action to terminate the unlawful occupancy. On June 18, 1981, the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona issued a Consent Judgment enjoining the Whitmores from residing or using any structures on the Tassi property. The NPS did, however, issue a special use permit to Dennis Whitmore for the purpose of operating the Tassi Springs Grazing allotment identified as BLM permit number 4851. The permit extended from January 1, 1981 to December 31, 1996.

In 1993, the NPS erected a fence enclosure in one of the pastures, primarily to identify the impact that removal from grazing would have on the on the site's vegetation. Studies on the process of re-vegetation of grass within this area are ongoing.

In 1997, Lake Mead NRA mailed a renewal special-use permit to Jim Whitmore. There was no response to this letter, or its follow-up letter, which was sent the next month. On January 26, 1998, Lake Mead NRA mailed a letter to Jim Whitmore giving him 30 days from the receipt of the letter to remove all equipment and appurtenances from the Tassi Springs area. The letter also instructed Whitmore to cease hauling water from the area and to discontinue the use of the corrals. The letter was not claimed. On April 2, 1998, Lake Mead NRA sent a park investigator to hand-deliver a copy of the January 26 letter. Whitmore stated that he understood he needed to remove all his equipment from Tassi Springs on or before May 2, 1998 (Hoover 1999, 4). Whitmore eventually removed his equipment from the Tassi Springs area, though it is thought that any trash that had accumulated over the years was removed by Lake Mead NRA rangers (Blalack, 2001, 10; citing Steve Daron, personal communication, 2001).

In 1998, an archeological crew from the NPS' Western Archeological and Conservation Center began baseline documentation of the site. In the summer of 1999, an NPS maintenance crew conducted stabilization of the stone and concrete cistern located behind the barn. Repairs were also accomplished on the ranch house. The work involved re-mudding the exterior of the main house, re-plastering the northeast interior room, and re-screening the windows of the main house and shower room. Brush was also removed from a marsh which had developed around the shed, barn and ranch house due to a leak in the cistern. In addition, a French drain was installed behind the shed to divert the water away from the buildings. Two years later, in 2000, a flash flood eroded the banks of Pigeon Wash in front of the house. That year, an NPS crew installed a retaining wall along the wash and re-established the grade behind it.

On January 11, 2000, President Clinton, under the authority of Section Two of the Antiquities Act (16 Stat., 431), established the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, which encompassed 1,064,264 acres of Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service lands on the Arizona Strip. The proclamation declared that lands within the monument were thereby "withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws." The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service were designated as cooperating agencies that would share management of the monument. Each agency retained primary management authority of the lands under their original jurisdiction, allowing Tassi Ranch to remain under NPS management.

The Tassi Allotment, under which the Whitmores maintained usage of the springs and rangeland, was administratively closed on March 15, 2001, in accordance with the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. The National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management notified Whitmore via certified mail that the few remaining cattle, estimated at between twenty-five to thirty head, would be impounded if they were not removed. That fall, the approximately fifteen cottonwood trees at the ranch were assessed by an arborist

who recommended numerous prunings of live trees, and cutting certain dead or dying trees to “wildlife” stumps. These recommendations were carried out in the fall of 2002 by an NPS crew (Jones, 2002).

Lastly, in 2004 as part of the research for this inventory, property transaction records for Township #33 (including Section #13 where Tassi Ranch is located) were obtained from the BLM regional office in Phoenix, AZ. These records show no application or award of patents were ever made, or received, by any person associated with the history of this location (NPS Lands Division, Oakland, CA – See Supplemental Information for complete document).

Conclusion

Although the ranch house and outbuildings are no longer used to support a livestock business, and the chain of title to the land is false, the buildings, structures, and landscape improvements implemented by Ed Yates between 1938 and 1945 evoke a bygone era of independent cattle ranches in the remote, rugged country of the Arizona Strip.

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

Tassi Ranch continues to convey those characteristics which defined the site during its period of significance of 1936 to 1947. Today, the core of Tassi Ranch is still located at Tassi Springs where a permanent water source continues to be the primary organizational element of the site. Around this spring are clustered the various landscape features which define the place: natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, topography, circulation, buildings and structures, and small scale features. Natural systems and features have remained essentially unchanged and continue, through the springs, to provide water, the essential natural feature of the site. Thickets of native shrub species have overgrown portions of the site as a result of channeling of the spring. The planted row of cottonwoods, which appears to date to the period of significance, remains as the only contributing vegetation feature. This row, in turn, defines the main ranch area, which along with the upslope pastures and the agricultural fields, compose the spatial organization of the site. Irrigation ditches run from the spring to the agricultural fields, and are the main topographical change of the ranch, while the fencelines and corrals collectively define the circulation patterns used by livestock with the ranch center. Situated within all of the above features are the buildings, structures, and small scale features, namely the ranch house, barn, shed, and cisterns, which are some of the most prominent landscape features remaining from the period of significance.

The Tassi Ranch retains integrity according to the seven qualities as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Tassi Ranch retains its historic location as well as its unique spatial design, downslope from the spring and above the water line of Pigeon Wash. The same isolated Mojave Desert setting still surrounds the ranch, and the original river stones and salvaged railroad ties used in construction display the use of local materials and vernacular workmanship necessary in the remote desert environment. The retention of these physical characteristics collectively evokes the feeling of a small desert ranch of the 1930s and 1940s and provides the direct association to the events that happened there during that period.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Natural Systems And Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development of a landscape. Tassi Ranch is located in one of the most demanding and inhospitable locations in North America. Situated at the western end of the Grand Canyon in the Mojave Desert, the site is located due to its water source, Tassi Springs, which was essential to establishing a ranch center at this location.

The Mojave Desert is a transition desert between the Sonoran Desert to the south, and the Great Basin Desert to the north. The climate has extreme fluctuations of daily temperatures, strong seasonal winds, and clear skies with temperatures fluctuating between eight degrees in January and 119 in August. In late winter and early spring the wind is a prominent feature, with dry winds in excess of twenty-five mph in the afternoon and evening. The Mojave Desert lies in the rainshadow of the Coast Ranges and receives an average annual precipitation of five inches, most of which falls between November and April. There is, however, a summer thunderstorm season from July to September with violent and heavy rainstorms possible. These hot temperatures and often windy conditions were essential factors in the development of Tassi Springs. The spring-side location provided much needed water and the cottonwood trees provided essential shade and shelter.

Located in the greater Grand Wash area at an elevation of approximately fifteen hundred feet, Tassi Ranch is in a geologic transition zone between the Colorado Plateau and Basin and Range provinces. To the east are the Grand Wash Cliffs - twelve miles of cliffs cut into two giant steps: the first step about 2,000 feet high; then a shelf one to three miles wide; the second step about 1,000 feet leads up to the Shivwits Plateau. To the west is the Grand Wash, a primary north/south trending drainage which empties a portion of northwestern Arizona and southeaster Nevada into the Colorado River at the western terminus of the Grand Canyon. At a smaller scale, Tassi Ranch sits along Pigeon Wash, a seasonal wash with a large, level-bottomed canyon at Tassi, which feeds into Grand Wash from the east. The seasonal flood levels in this wash have dictated, in part, the higher plateau on the north side of the wash where development could occur.

The only permanent water source, however, is Tassi Springs. These springs produce 183,000 gallons of water per annum and are the single most important reason why Tassi Ranch was located at that site. (Burke, 1977) The springs flow primarily from a minimum of three and up to five heads tightly clustered on the slope above the residence, where a large amount of the water is currently piped through a rubber hose to the stock tank along the fenceline, and downhill to the south. From there, the overflow from the tank flows on the surface down Pigeon Wash for approximately 2000 feet. The remaining surface water runs in an irrigation ditch to a break in its berm, where the water then flows downhill, creating a mesquite thicket. A second water source may be found at another cistern one-tenth of a mile up the road from the ranch. Yates took advantage of the uphill spring head locations to develop his irrigation system downhill (southwest) of the water sources. This system is relatively simple and allowed for the irrigation of crops with the least amount of upkeep and infrastructure development possible, while utilizing the existing water sources and slope of the site (see photos, Vegetation #2, and Topography #1-3).

Native vegetation in the Tassi Ranch area consists primarily of two plant communities. The first is the Mojave Desert creosote bush community which is characterized by desert holly (*Atriplex hymenelytra*), creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), sage (*Artemisia* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), Mojave yucca (*Yucca* sp.), arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), and teddy bear cholla (*Optunia bigelovii*) among other species. The second, a desert riparian community, is found along washes, including Pigeon Wash, and often has stands of catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*) and Gooding's willow (*Salix goodingii*), which can be seen in abundance at Tassi Ranch. The woodier trunks of these species were often used in the construction of fences and corrals at Tassi (see photo, Small Scale Features #3). In addition, a small rectangular fenced enclosure is located in the eastern extent of the agricultural fields. This is an NPS re-vegetation area established in 1993 to study the growth of native species in the area.

These climatic, geologic, and vegetative factors create a harsh environment in which to establish a cattle ranch. However, the relative shelter provided in Pigeon Wash, the cottonwoods, and more importantly, the permanent water source found there create an area appropriate for ranching in the desert environment. The natural systems and features of Tassi Ranch have influenced the development of the landscape and continue to do so. Consequently, natural systems and features are a contributing landscape characteristic of the ranch.

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. At Tassi Ranch, the spatial organization is dictated by the necessity of locating ranch functions in proximity of, and downslope from the springs, while remaining above the seasonal flood levels in Pigeon Wash. The resulting east-west trending developments contain three distinct areas whose functions and character are directed by the necessity of locating developments in response to the springs, hills, and wash: the agricultural fields, the upslope pastures, and the main ranch area.

The first spatial pattern of the Tassi Ranch is within the core ranch area. This portion remains distinct behind the row of cottonwood trees, and underneath their shady canopy. The core area, with its house, barns, corrals, and other features is located adjacent to the springs and on a terrace above the wash. Above both the core area and the fields are large, generally open pastures enclosed with barbed wire fences. These pastures do not require irrigation and are therefore located upslope from the springs. The agricultural fields at the southwestern end of the site are located furthest from the springs. They are just above the wash, and entirely downslope from the springs as well as the holding pond, which is the water source for the irrigation ditches.

Siting desert ranch functions around a water source is not unique in the Arizona Strip, but is an essential characteristic of desert ranches. The consequent clustering of all vital ranch functions in the immediate vicinity of the springs, while maintaining some distance above the seasonal flooding in Pigeon Wash, created at Tassi Ranch a tightly defined ranch area that is still evident today. As a result, the spatial organization of Tassi Ranch retains integrity and is a contributing characteristic of the landscape.

Vegetation

Vegetation analysis may include deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. At Tassi Ranch, the native vegetation patterns have been heavily influenced by the alterations to the springs and topography of the site, as well as the planting of approximately fifteen Fremont cottonwood trees (*Populus fremontii*) around the core ranch area.

It is impossible to determine the exact downhill route and output of the Tassi springs prior to their development around the turn of the century. However, it does appear that the current piping of the spring to a trough at the edge of Pigeon Wash, and the overflow from a break in the irrigation ditch has promoted the growth of the catclaw and mesquite that make up the dense thicket along the wash. These stands essentially follow the bottom of the wash as far as surface water from the springs can be seen. This is likely a condition which arose after the period of significance. When the ranch was used, agriculture was being practiced at the site, and dense thickets would have impeded ranch functions. In addition, thick stands of Gooding's willows (*Salix goodingii*) and arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*) have sprouted in and along portions of the irrigation ditches (see photo, Vegetation #1), a condition that is certainly non-historic, as they impede inspection, maintenance, and flow.

In the agricultural field area of the ranch, catclaw-mesquite thickets have sprouted within distinct areas. These thickets are sharply bordered by the irrigation ditches, suggesting that they may be the result of formerly fallow areas, the last areas to be regularly watered, or the most heavily fertilized areas of the ranch (see photo, Vegetation #2). These thickets, along with those found along the wash and irrigation ditches are non-historic and do not contribute to the landscape's significance.

The most prominent planted vegetation at Tassi are the approximately fifteen very large Fremont cottonwood trees both aligned east to west in front of the residence and barn, and scattered upslope behind the main area (see photo, Vegetation #3). The cottonwoods are the most visible and distinctive characteristic at Tassi, creating the shady, oasis-like environment in the desert wash during the spring and summer months.

Although cottonwoods were present at the site in 1917 (Belshaw 1980, 108), the alignment of the trees across the front of the present house and barn suggests that both the trees and structures may have been installed at the same time (ca. 1939). This would date the trees to the historic period. The majority of the trees are mature and approaching senescence, although a number of suckers or seedlings are present. Many have large limb failures, and others show evidence of advanced wood decay (Swartzell 2001, 1). One naturally occurring willow by the cistern and one cottonwood south of the corrals were cut down leaving only tall trunks, to be used as "wildlife trees" during stabilization efforts in 2002. A number of other trees were trimmed to reduce hazards at the site (Jones, 2002).

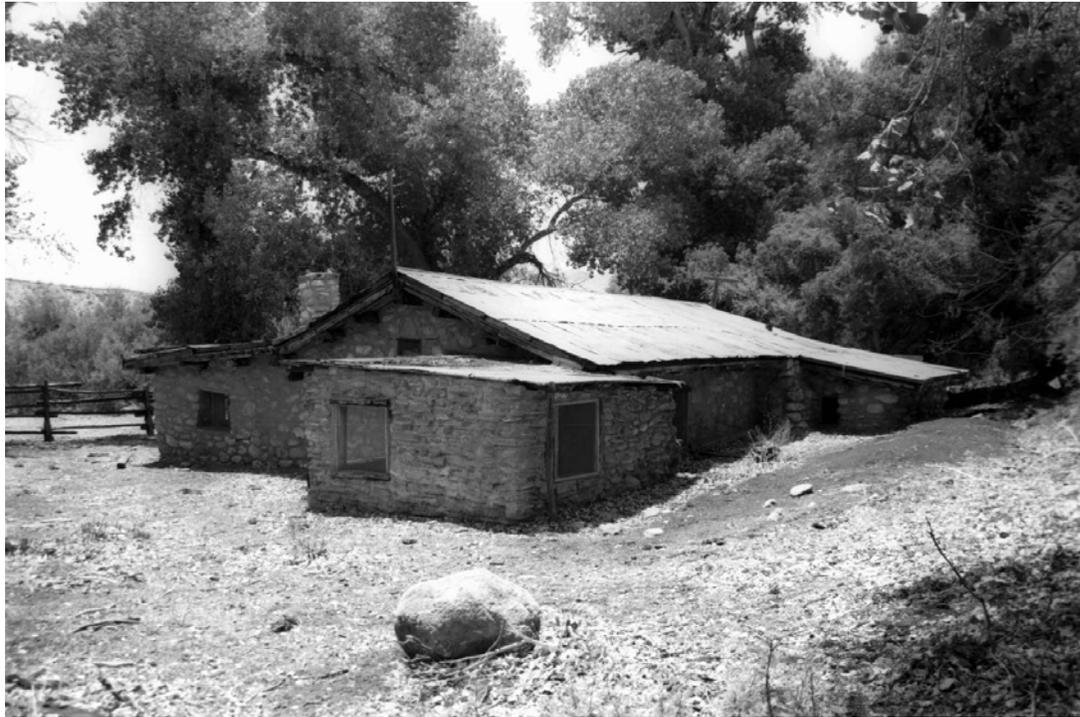
Although all the vegetation species at Tassi Ranch are native to the Mojave Desert, their growth patterns have been heavily impacted by the alterations to the springs and topography. However, only the cottonwoods appear to have been intentionally planted in their current configuration and are the only contributing vegetation features of the ranch. All planted trees but one appear to remain from the period, making vegetation a contributing characteristic of the Tassi Ranch landscape.



Vegetation #1: Willow and arrowweed thickets growing along the irrigation ditch above the ranch house. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-05, 2002)



Vegetation #2: Overview of the agricultural fields, with catclaw and mesquite thickets between irrigation ditches. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-1/2/3, 2002)



Vegetation #3: Cottonwood trees providing shade over the ranch house. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-24, 2002)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Cottonwood Trees (approximately fifteen)	Contributing			

Topography

Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface as influenced by human use.

At Tassi Ranch, the surface of the land has been significantly altered in order to more fully utilize the benefits of the sloping, hillside site. Pigeon Wash generally slopes downhill to the southwest from the pastures, through the core area, past the agricultural fields, and down the wash (see photo, Vegetation #2). Generally, the agricultural field area as well as the residence area, are on more level ground than the pastures above. It is on these comparatively level portions that the majority of the main ranch area was developed. Structure locations were graded to provide a more suitable building surface, as can be best observed in the small, leveled site to the northwest of the main house (which no longer has a structure on it). In addition to the topographical manipulations required for building construction, significant changes were required to construct holding ponds and irrigation ditches connected to the springs (see photos Topography #1 and #2).

Taking advantage of the upslope spring locations, Ed Yates' irrigation system stocked two holding ponds, now dry, with water from the two primary spring locations. The east holding pond is the smaller of the two, and is located in the pasture above the house. Roughly circular in configuration, the pond has a diameter of sixteen feet. It was likely used to water cattle, as there are no ditches running from it to the surrounding pasture. A single feeder ditch runs to the pond from an unidentified point to the east, and a second, unconnected ditch segment is found in the pasture below. Neither of these ditches, nor the small holding pond, appear to have been connected to a spring, or contain evidence of having water pumped to them. There may, however, be an association with the spring near cistern #2 to the east of the core area. The second and larger west holding pond, located over one thousand feet to the west, is roughly forty-five by ninety feet across (see photo, Topography #3). This pond is fed by a single major ditch that connects it to the springs above the residence to the east. Two primary irrigation ditches leave the holding pond's south and west sides, and in turn branch into numerous ditches running downslope to the south, creating the agricultural field divisions below. A collapsed culvert is at the base of the pond's south side. Within the agricultural fields, furrows can still be seen running downslope from the ditches. These undulations in the surface topography are slight but are significant remnants of the agricultural land use at Tassi Ranch.

Following a major flood event in 2000, a large level area in front of the core ranch area was eroded away. That year, the NPS constructed a boulder retaining wall along Pigeon Wash and re-graded the fill behind it to match the existing configuration. The topographical area is a contributing feature of the landscape (see photo, Topography #4).

The topographical changes found in the graded areas, irrigation ditches, and holding ponds are significant changes made to adapt the site to the needs of a ranch during the period of significance. Without these changes, building construction and agriculture would have been difficult if not impossible. Consequently, topography is a contributing landscape characteristic of Tassi Ranch.



Topography #1: Irrigation ditch near the agricultural fields. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-06, 2002)



Topography #2: A portion of the main irrigation ditch between the spring heads and the holding pond. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-08, 2002)



Topography #3: The west holding pond. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-11/12, 2002)



Topography #4: Graded area in front of ranch house, with non-contributing boulder wall along Pigeon Wash. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-15, 2002)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
East holding pond	Contributing			
Graded area in front of the ranch house	Contributing			
Irrigation ditches	Contributing	Tassi Ranch Irrigation System	055659	HS-22D
Leveled site northwest of the ranch house	Contributing			
West holding pond	Contributing			

Circulation

Circulation is defined as spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape. At Tassi Ranch, circulation patterns are fairly simple and are associated with both historic and contemporary uses of the area. Through dirt roads, fences, and corrals, the movement of ranch residents and cattle both within and outside of the ranch complex were controlled.

The primary entrance road, a portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) Approved Road 152A, arrives at the ranch complex from the northeast, following Pigeon Wash. It is a one-lane dirt road, approximately twelve feet wide where discernable. Across Pigeon Wash from the complex, the road splits into two routes: LMNRA Approved Road 149 leaves to the east through a narrow box canyon into Tassi Wash (see photo, Circulation #1), and LMNRA Approved Road 148 runs upslope to the southwest. This upslope route leads to a level area overlooking the complex (outside of the landscape boundary) which was converted by Whitmore into an ultralite landing strip in the 1970s. It is, however, not known if this road predates the 1970s use.

A secondary ranch utility road originates in front of the house and runs upslope to the west. This dirt road is approximately ten feet wide and provides access to the holding pond above the agricultural fields, while a spur turns east across the slope above the complex to the spring head area. It is unclear if this spur continues beyond the springs, as heavy vegetation has obscured the route.

The most complicated aspects of the circulation system are those features which control the movement of cattle. Barbed wire fencing is used to cordon off the agricultural, residential, and work areas of the complex (see site map, Supplemental Information). The two primary fencelines run roughly parallel in an east/west direction. The southern barbed wire fenceline follows the north side of Pigeon Wash, and is largely collapsed and partially obscured by heavy riparian growth. The portion of this fenceline, south of the ranch house is broken up by segments of wooden straight rail fence and non-historic worm fence installed by the NPS. The second fenceline runs across the slope north of the main ranch area from beyond the agricultural fields to the northeast corner of the ranch area, upslope from the corrals. Two shorter fencelines run north to south, further dividing the main ranch area. An additional fenceline running east to west along the utility road appears to have been lost, as cattle would have had to be kept out of the agricultural fields. This fencing arrangement prevented cattle moving in and out of the complex from entering the agricultural and residential areas. Further, it subdivides the northern portion of the complex into two large paddocks with access to water in holding ponds.

The last circulation features are the corrals at the eastern edge of the ranch complex. Constructed of salvaged lumber, railroad ties, and other materials, the corrals are divided into ten pens and a central chute (see photos, Small Scale Features #2 and #3). Gates in the corrals exit west toward the barn and south toward the road, allowing access from work and transportation areas.

Circulation features at Tassi Ranch are intact and continue to represent historic patterns of movement through the landscape. Consequently, circulation retains integrity and is a contributing landscape characteristic of the ranch.



*Circulation #1: Entrance to Tassi Wash, Mohave County Route 149, with Mohave County Route 152 in foreground.
(CLI, PARA-N-0001-16, 2002)*

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
LMNRA Approved Road #152A	Contributing			
LMNRA Approved Road 149	Contributing			
Ranch utility road	Contributing			
LMNRA Approved Road 148	Undetermined			

Buildings And Structures

For purposes of the CLI, buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity.

The buildings and structures at Tassi Ranch are clustered in the immediate vicinity of the springs where water is readily available, a necessity of ranch life in the desert, and under the canopy of large cottonwoods, an adaptation to create a more pleasant environment. All the buildings and structures are rustic in character, having been built of locally available materials, such as river stones and salvaged railroad ties. As a group they constitute a critical element in understanding the needs and adaptable nature of ranchers in the desert environment. All extant buildings and structures at Tassi Ranch appear to date from the period of significance and are contributing. For detailed descriptions of the features, see Blalack (2001).

Ranch House

The three-room ranch house was originally built in 1938 out of river stones with concrete and mud mortar (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). Resting on a concrete slab, the house has an irregular floor plan and roof line, but is generally square with a gabled, corrugated metal roof. Windows are glazed, and a porch area at the front is enclosed in screening. It faces south, to Pigeon Wash, and is the focal point of the core area of the ranch around which the other buildings and structures are arranged. The ranch house served as the primary residence at Tassi Ranch after its construction in 1938.

Barn

Located 66 feet to the east of the ranch house, this two-room building is constructed of stacked railroad ties with lapped ends, and a corrugated metal roof (see photo, Buildings and Structures #2). The building sits on a foundation of river stones. One large, primary opening faces south into a large open work area adjoining the corrals. A collapsed chicken coop is attached to the east end.

Shed

This small, south-facing, one-room wood frame structure sits immediately west of the ranch house. Although its use is not known, an apparent stovepipe hole in the roof suggests it may have been additional bunkhouse space for ranch hands (see photo, Buildings and Structures #3).

Cistern #1

This river stone and concrete cistern is located 82 feet to the northeast of the house. The feature is approximately 5 x 3 x 2 feet with an open top slanting downward to the south with the slope of the hillside. It is situated directly downslope from the spring heads, and is likely located to take advantage of the high water table (see photo, Buildings and Structures #4).

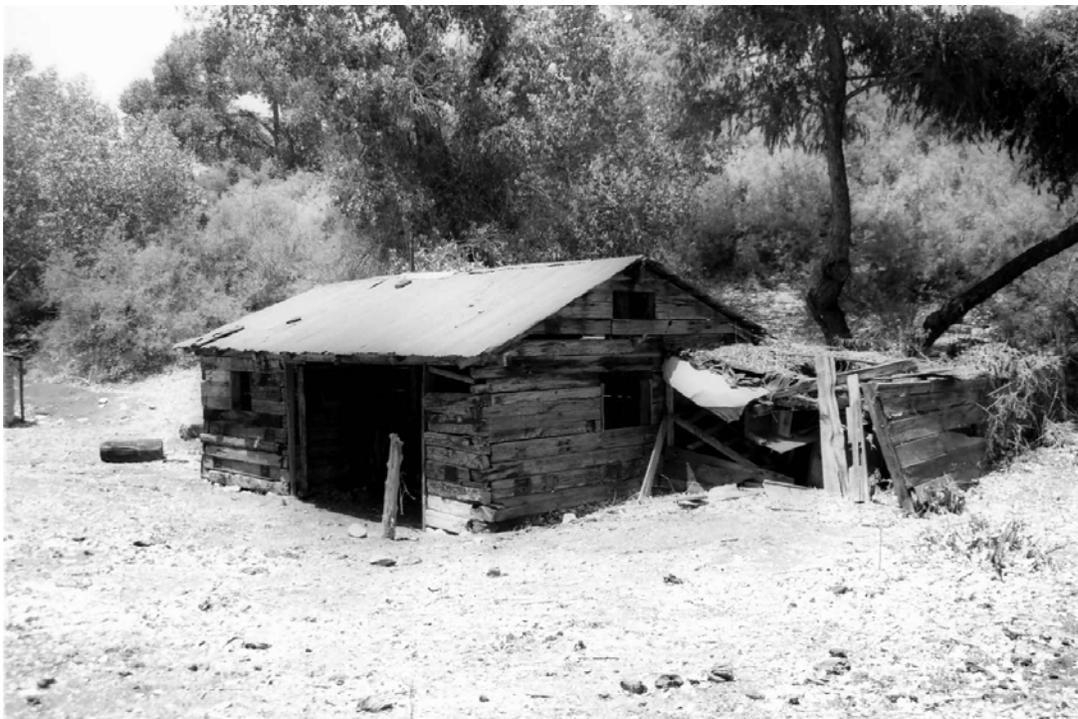
Cistern #2

This cistern has the same construction characteristics as Cistern #1, but is located 33 feet from the west side of the road into the ranch.

These structures, with the exception of one possibly lost building behind the shed (see discussion of leveled area in Topography), constitute the extent of original building construction at Tassi Ranch. Their vernacular construction, done with local materials, makes them essential features of the cultural landscape at Tassi Ranch. They constitute the core built environment at the ranch and are essential in defining the character of the place. Consequently, buildings and structures are a contributing landscape characteristic of Tassi Ranch.



Buildings and Structures #1: The ranch house constructed of river stones and surrounded by cottonwoods. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-25, 2002)



Buildings and Structures #2: The barn constructed with salvaged railroad ties. Note collapsed chicken coop. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-22, 2002)



Buildings and Structures #3: The shed, constructed of milled lumber. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-28, 2002)



Buildings and Structures #4: Cistern #1 constructed of river stones. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-0023, 2002)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Cistern #1	Contributing	Tassi Ranch Cistern	055667	HS-22G
Barn	Contributing	Tassi Ranch Barn	055657	HS-22B
Cistern #2	Contributing	Tassi Ranch Stone Well	055660	HS-22E
Ranch house	Contributing	Tassi Ranch House	055656	HS-22A
Shed	Contributing	Tassi Ranch Shed	055658	HS-22C

Small Scale Features

Small scale features are the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. At Tassi Ranch, small scale features are few, in keeping with the simple purpose and function of the ranch. They consist of a stock tank, fences, and the corrals.

Stock Tank

The metal stock tank is approximately 9 x 4 x 2 feet and is partially sunken into the ground at the base of a large cottonwood to the southwest of the house. It is fed through a hose running from the spring head behind the shed, and is tilted so that overflow runs away from the ranch structures, into Pigeon Wash. Placed along the southern fenceline within the last ten years (Blalack, 2001), the tank appears to be intended to water stock outside of the fenced residential area (see photo, Small Scale Features #1).

Fencing

The most complicated aspects of small scale features are those which control the movement of cattle. Barbed wire fencing was used to cordon off the agricultural, residential, and work areas of the complex (see site map, Supplemental Information). The two primary fencelines run roughly parallel in an east/west direction. The southern barbed wire fenceline follows the north side of Pigeon Wash, and is largely collapsed and partially obscured by heavy riparian growth. The portion of this fenceline, south of the ranch house is broken up by segments of wooden straight rail fence and non-historic worm fence installed by the NPS. The second fenceline runs across the slope north of the main ranch area from southwest of the agricultural fields to the northeast corner of the ranch area, upslope from the corrals. Two shorter fencelines run north to south, further dividing the main ranch area. An additional fenceline running east to west along the utility road appears to have been lost, as cattle would have had to be kept out of the agricultural fields. This fencing arrangement prevented cattle moving in and out of the complex from entering the agricultural and residential areas. Further, it subdivides the northern portion of the complex into two large paddocks with access to water in holding ponds.

Corrals

The corrals are at the eastern edge of the ranch complex. Constructed of salvaged lumber, railroad ties, and other materials, the corrals are divided into ten pens and a central chute (see photos, Small Scale Features #3 and #4). Gates in the corrals exit west toward the barn and south toward the road, allowing access from work and transportation areas.

These small scale features were constructed to enhance the water availability at the ranch, an essential task in the desert environment, as well as control the movement of cattle. These small scale features retain integrity and are a contributing landscape characteristic of Tassi Ranch.



Small Scale Features #1: Metal stock tank at southern fenceline. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-27, 2002)



Small Scale Features #2: Interior of corrals, note railroad tie posts. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-18, 2002)



Small Scale Features #3: Detail of corral construction, note railroad ties, milled lumber, and unmilled posts used for fencing material. (CLI, PARA-N-0001-19, 2002)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Corrals	Contributing	Tassi Ranch Fence And Corral	055661	HS-22F
Fences	Contributing			
Stock Tank	Non-Contributing			

Land Use

Land use is defined by the principal activities in the landscape that have formed, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human activity. The historic land use at Tassi Ranch has predominantly been ranching of some sort, whether sheep or cattle. In addition, the springs were also used as an early stop on the road from Pearce Ferry to St. George, and as a base for early mining efforts in the area. Cattle ranching at Tassi Ranch continued into the late 1990s, and today no cattle legally graze the area. Consequently, land use is no longer a contributing landscape characteristic of Tassi Ranch.

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Tasha
Tashari
Tasi
Tasseye
Tassi Ranch

Current Name(s): Tassi Ranch

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers:

State and County: Mohave County, AZ

Size (acres): 200.00

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	12	234359	4016329
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	12	233651	4015875
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	12	234359	4015875
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	12	233651	4016329

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: No Documentation

Explanatory Narrative:

In 1978, a draft National Register nomination was written by Michael Belshaw for Tasi Springs. However, this nomination was not reviewed by the Arizona SHPO, and the ranch has not been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Western Archeological and Conservation Center is preparing a draft National Register Nomination to be submitted in 2004. The CLI recommends that the boundary include the entire 200-acre area.

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office concurred in a letter (included at the head of this report) that the Tassi Ranch was locally significant under criteria A and C.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 6/22/2004

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: Local

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1936 - 1947 AD

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy

Historic Context Subtheme: The Cattle Frontier

Historic Context Facet: Ranches

Area Of Significance:

Category: Agriculture

Priority: 1

National Historic Landmark Information

**National Historic
Landmark Status:** No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Government
Use/Function:	Government-Other
Detailed Use/Function:	Government-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Current
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Livestock
Detailed Use/Function:	Livestock
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Lands surrounding the landscape boundary were used by Ed Yates and others associated with Tassi Ranch for grazing cattle and sheep. Scattered features such as corrals, fencelines, and stone enclosures (possible lambing pens) are found in the surrounding countryside and have the potential to contribute information on the land use history of Tassi Ranch, a direct association between these features and Ed Yates has yet to be determined.

General Management Information

Management Category: May Be Preserved Or Maintained

Management Category Date: 12/4/2002

Explanatory Narrative:

Tassi Ranch is compatible with the park's legislated significance as follows: "Lake Mead National Recreation Area shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior...in a manner that will preserve the scenic historic, scientific, and other important features of the area..." (Public Law 88-639, 88th Congress, S. 653, October 8, 1964) However, the ranch site does not have a continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function, and therefore falls under Category C.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 12/04/2002

Date Recorded: 12/04/2002

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 8/20/2003

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

The following stabilization measures are incomplete and will be finalized with the park prior to the completion of this document.

Ditch Thicket

Surrounding the spring heads and along much of the main irrigation ditch is an arrowweed/willow thicket whose presence hinders water flow, and whose roots are growing into the ditch berm. If left to continue, these impacts can eventually destroy the berm. Until a treatment plan for the irrigation ditches at Tassi can be developed, landscape stabilization should be done by cutting all woody vegetation along the berm (downslope) side of the main ditch to ground level. Specifications delineating how close to the spring this cutting can occur should be developed in consultation with Mike Boyles, MOJA biologist, and Don Sada of the Desert Research Institute (information below). Don Sada is currently studying the factors effecting the habitat and abundance of the Grand Wash Springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bacchus*), a species endemic to springs in Grand Wash (Cooperative Agreement #J8R07020006).

Ditch Thicket Landscape Stabilization Costs
Materials - None

Labor? (labor should be discussed with Jim Vanderford?or will Rosie's crew do it)

Contact Information:

Dr. Donald W. Sada
Desert Research Institute
2215 Raggio Parkway
Reno, Nevada 98512
(775) 673-7359
dsada@dri.edu

Ditch Breach

The main irrigation ditch running from the spring to the west holding pond is breached approximately halfway between the two features. During periods of high spring flow, water runs out of the ditch at the breach, erodes the ditch's downslope berm, and waters a mesquite thicket below. This thicket has grown following the period of significance, and is non-historic. However, the habitat it has created is rare in the Mojave Desert and vital to three species of birds. Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) is listed as a species of concern by both the Clark County Habitat Conservation Plan and Nevada Partners in Flight. Lucy's Warbler (*Vermivora luciae*) is listed as a species of concern by both Nevada Partners in Flight and Arizona Partners in Flight. Lastly, Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*), is also a species of concern, on the Clark County Habitat Conservation Plan, and the subspecies that occurs in California is currently federally listed as endangered.

If the ditch were to be repaired, the resulting flow would promote the growth of the arrowweed/willow thicket from the spring to the west holding pond. This would increase damage to the ditch from root systems. Further, repairing the ditch would cut off the water supply to the mesquite thicket to the south and destroy the bird habitat there.

Until a treatment plan for the irrigation ditches at Tassi can be developed, landscape stabilization should be implemented by installing approximately 300 feet of 4" diameter non-perforated single wall corrugated HDPE pipe. This pipe should run from the spring head area

(the distance from the heads to be specified in consultation with Mike Boyles, MOJA biologist, and Don Sada of the Desert Research Institute), and continue down the ditch to the breach. There, the pipe should continue downslope to the northern end of the mesquite thicket where it can transfer the water needed to keep the mesquite habitat alive while preventing further ditch erosion and thicket growth. Some of this pipe material is currently installed further down the ditch and could be re-used or tied into.

Ditch Breach Landscape Stabilization Costs

Materials - approximately 250 feet of 4 inch (diameter/cost/availability should be discussed with Jim Vanderford) diameter non-perforated single wall corrugated HDPE pipe

labor (labor should be discussed with Jim Vanderford?or will Rosie's crew do it)

Impact:

Type of Impact: Erosion

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The irrigation ditches at Tassi periodically breach their walls and cause the spring waters to run downhill, damaging structures and creating mesquite thickets. The berms should be regularly monitored to prevent further damage to the ditches and the historic features located downslope. Monitoring would also further prevent the growth of additional mesquite/catclaw/willow thickets.

Type of Impact: Pruning Practices

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

In 2001 an arborist inspected the specimen trees and found that the majority of the trees were approaching senescence and that a number posed immediate threats of collapse and/or limb failure. The following year some trees were stabilized and others were reduced to "wildlife" trees. Periodic inspections of the cottonwoods should be continued, and regular consultation with an arborist should be done in order to protect the trees, and consequently the buildings and structures at Tassi.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The catclaw/mesquite/willow thickets have overgrown a large portion of the site, particularly along riparian areas. If left uncontrolled, this growth will obscure much of the ranch and destroy the irrigation ditches in particular where roots grow into the berms themselves.

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Runoff from the spring heads flows down into the residence area and has damaged historic resources in the past. Recent efforts have been made by the park to divert flow away from buildings, a practice that should be continued.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Interagency Agreement

Expiration Date: NOT APPLICABLE

Explanatory Narrative:

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Agreement between United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Arizona Strip Field Office And United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Management Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 9/30/2003

Explanatory Narrative:

The "Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Task Agreement (#J8R0702006) was implemented to conduct field surveys to determine population size and habitat preference of *Pyruopsis bacchus* at Tassi Spring.

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

The site is only accessible with a four-wheel drive, high clearance vehicle.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Stabilization

Approved Treatment Document: Other Document

Document Date: January 1, 2001

Explanatory Narrative:

The Strategic Plan posted on the LAME web site delineates a treatment of "stabilization" under Goal I.a.5.-Annual Tasks.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved

Treatment Cost:

Landscape Approved

Treatment Cost:

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description:

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:

Landscape Stabilization Costs: \$14,000

Cost Date: September 6, 2003

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park

Explanatory Description: Twenty-five thousand dollars was formerly allocated towards the stabilization of buildings and structures at Tassi. However, much stabilization work was done in 1999-2002, and those costs delineated no longer apply.

Ditch Thicket
Surrounding the spring heads and along much of the main irrigation ditch is an arrowweed/willow thicket whose presence hinders water flow, and whose roots are

growing into the ditch berm. If left to continue, these impacts will eventually destroy the berm. Until a treatment plan for the irrigation ditches at Tassi can be developed, landscape stabilization should be done by cutting all woody vegetation along the berm (downslope) side of the main ditch to ground level. Specifications delineating how close to the spring this cutting can occur should be developed in consultation with Mike Boyles, MOJA biologist, and Don Sada of the Desert Research Institute (information below). Don Sada is currently studying the factors effecting the habitat and abundance of the Grand Wash Springsnail (*Pyrgulopsis bacchus*), a species endemic to springs in Grand Wash (Cooperative Agreement #J8R07020006).

Ditch Thicket Landscape Stabilization Costs
Materials - None

Labor -\$4000

Contact Information:
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Reno, Nevada 98512
(775) 673-7359
dsada@dri.edu

Ditch Breach

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If the ditch were to be repaired, the resulting flow would promote the growth of the arrowweed/willow thicket from the spring to the west holding pond. This would increase damage to the ditch from root systems. Further, repairing the ditch would cut off the water supply to the mesquite thicket to the south and destroy the bird habitat there. As a result, the most appropriate solution is to stabilize the ditch in its current, breached configuration, so that the mesquite thicket and habitat may be preserved and the ditch berm will be stabilized to prevent any further loss of material. This would involve treating a portion of the interior surface as well as the entire breach area.

Ditch Breach Landscape Stabilization Costs
Materials – Soil Stabilizer (possible source: Soil Stabilization Products, 1-800-523-9992)

Labor and Materials – approximately \$10,000 (figure from Bob Patterson, Facility Manager, LAME)

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 1986

Amplifying Details: Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

This document focuses on large scale planning issues and does not mention Tassi Ranch.

Document: Statement for Management

Year Of Document: 1993

Amplifying Details: This document does not mention Tassi Ranch.

Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Resource Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1994

Amplifying Details: While the RMP discusses the need for further cultural resource assessment, Tassi Ranch is not mentioned.

Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 2001

Amplifying Details: Strategic Plan

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

The Tassi Ranch landscape is addressed in terms of cultural landscape stabilization and the need for an interdisciplinary approach to dealing with the site.

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 1980

Amplifying Details: Although important historical information about the ranch is included, little is said about specific features.

Adequate Documentation: No

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author: Burke, Bill
Citation Title: Bill Burke to Chief Park Ranger, Memorandum
Year of Publication: 1977
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada

Citation Author: Swartzell, Den
Citation Title: Arborists Report
Year of Publication: 2001
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada

Citation Author: Jones, Eric
Citation Title: Memo to Rosie Pepito re. cottonwood stabilization
Year of Publication: 2002
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Title: BLM, Land Patent Details Web Page
Year of Publication: 2002
Source Name: Internet
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

Citation Author: Belshaw, Michael
Citation Title: draft National Register of Historic Places nomination form, "Tasi Springs"
Year of Publication: 1978
Source Name: PGSO
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Citation Author: Dames and Moore
Citation Title: Man, Models, and Mangagement: An Overview of the Archaeology of the Arizona Strip and the Management of its Cultural Resources
Year of Publication: 1989
Publisher: USFS/BLM
Source Name: PGSO
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Citation Title: Tassi Ranch data and correspondence files, 1977-2002
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: LAME

Citation Title: Original GLO/USGS Survey Notes
Source Name: BLM
Citation Location: BLM, Arizona Strip Office, St. George, UT

Citation Author: Blalack, JoAnn
Citation Title: Tassi Ranch and Springs Site (AZ A:9:131)
Year of Publication: 2003
Publisher: WACC
Source Name: WACC
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Citation Author: Belshaw, Mike//Peplow, Jr.
Citation Title: Historic Resource Study, Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Year of Publication: 1980
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011563
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Citation Author: McBee, Mary
Citation Title: The Land of the Long Shadows
Year of Publication: 1996
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: manuscript on file, LAME and PGSO

Citation Author: White, Richard
Citation Title: Its Your Misfortune and None of My Own
Year of Publication: 1991
Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: F591 .W69 1991
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Author: Hoover, Dave
Citation Title: Summary of Known Events, Tassi Springs
Year of Publication: 1999
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: manuscript on file, LAME

Citation Author: Paher, Stanley W.
Citation Title: Ghost Towns and Mining Camps
Year of Publication: 1970
Publisher: Howell-North Books
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: F868.D2 P25
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Author: Ezzo, Joseph, A.
Citation Title: A Class I Cultural Resources Survey of the Moapa and Virgin Valleys, Clark County, Nevada
Year of Publication: 1996
Publisher: Statistical Research
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: LAME

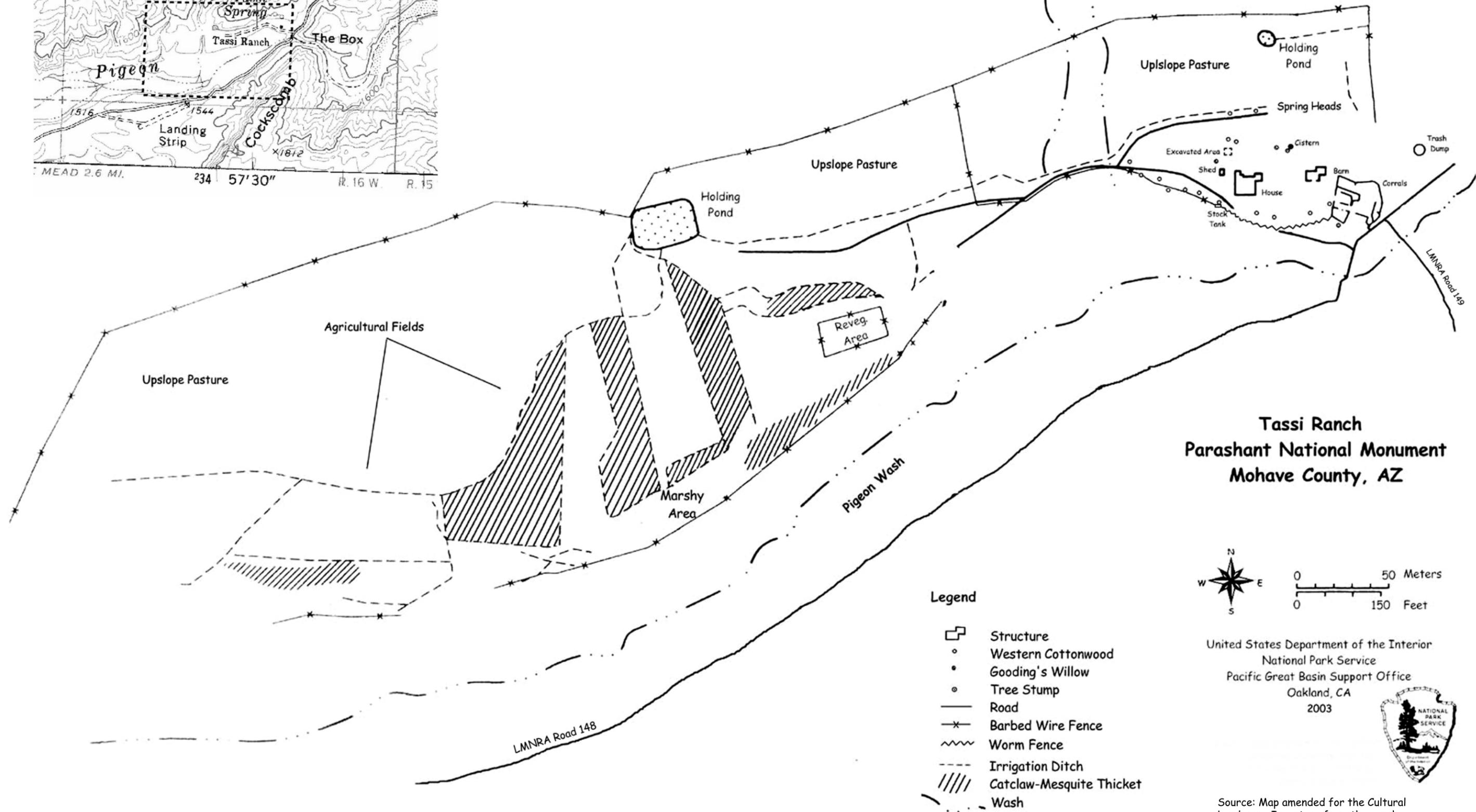
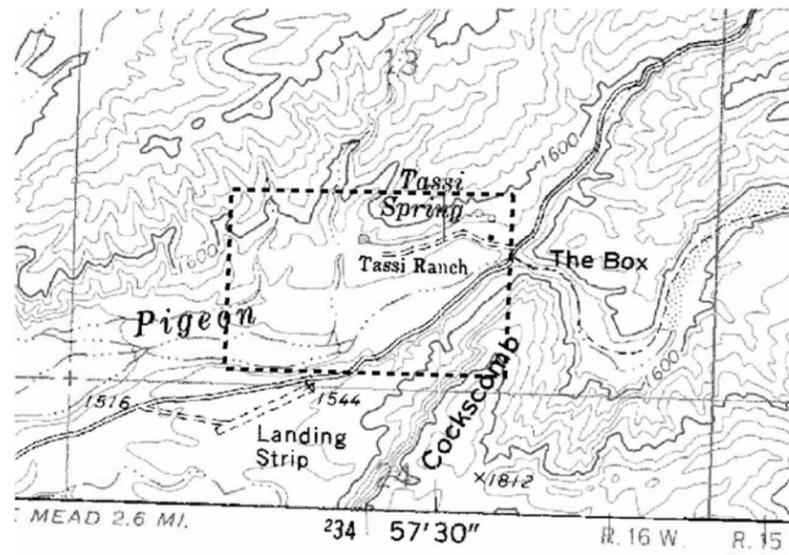
Citation Author: Cox, Nellie and Russell, Helen B
Citation Title: Footprints on the Arizona Strip
Year of Publication: 1973
Publisher: Horizon Publishers
Source Name: LAME
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Author:	Collins, William
Citation Title:	Cattle Ranching in Arizona, 1540-1950
Year of Publication:	2003
Source Name:	AZ SHPO
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative

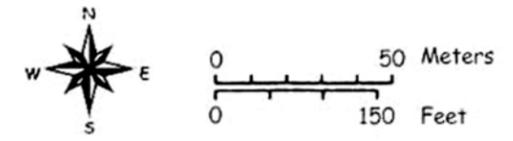
Supplemental Information

Title: Tassi Ranch Site Map

Description:



**Tassi Ranch
Parashant National Monument
Mohave County, AZ**



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA
2003



- Legend**
- Structure
 - Western Cottonwood
 - Gooding's Willow
 - Tree Stump
 - Road
 - Barbed Wire Fence
 - Worm Fence
 - Irrigation Ditch
 - Catclaw-Mesquite Thicket
 - Wash

Source: Map amended for the Cultural Landscape Inventory from the ranch map submitted by Blalack (2003).