Cultural Landscape Inventory



Wolfe Ranch Area

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

Moab, Utah

April 1997

Cultual Landscape Inventory

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Arches National Park

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Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Site History 2
- Utes and Paiutes 2
- John Wesley Wolfe
  - 1898-1910 2
- James Turnbow
  - 1916-1946 6
- Emmett Elizondo
  - 1946-1982 11
- National Park Service Management
  - 1938-1997 12

Existing Conditions 17

Analysis and Evaluation 24
- Introduction 24
- Response to the Natural Environment 24
- Cluster Arrangement 24
- Vegetation 25
- Archeological Sites 25

National Register Status 27
- 1975 NR Nomination 27
- Revision of NR Nomination 27

Evaluation of Significance 28
Evaluation of Integrity 29

Recommendations 31

Endnotes 34

Bibliography 36

Appendix 37
Cultural Landscape Inventory Form 38

Maps 49
1907-1808 Historic Overlay 51
Existing Conditions 55

Introduction

Wolfe Ranch is located within the boundaries of Arches National Park north of Moab, Utah. This Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is intended to document and assess the significance and integrity of the vernacular landscape of Wolfe Ranch. This report does not try to present a comprehensive history of the Wolfe Ranch, but it does assemble baseline information and provides an assessment of the landscape features to give guidance to Arches National Park managers for future development concerns in the study area. In addition to the vernacular landscape of Wolfe Ranch, there is a possible ethnographic landscape associated with the Ute rock art panels within the Wolfe Ranch Historic District. Assessment of the ethnographic landscape is beyond the scope of this project.

Recent improvements to the park road and parking lot at the Delicate Arch trailhead prompted the park to assess the existing trail system through the district. A CLI became necessary because the park decided to replace an unsafe suspension footbridge located within the Wolfe Ranch National Historic District. In 1989, 1992 and 1994, the Federal Highway Administration inspected the bridge, and assessed that it was not safe for visitors to used, based on the structural stability and the number of visitors crossing over the bridge annually. Since the bridge must be replaced, the park wanted a new bridge to not only meet acceptable safety and accessibility standards but more importantly, be designed and located across Salt Wash so as to be less intrusive within the historic district.

Site History

Utes and Paiutes

Sometime between 1600 and 1900 Ute or Paiute tribes traveled through the area generally following the washes where water was present during most of the year. One drainage, now known as "Salt Wash" was one such water course where there is evidence of use by either the Ute or Paiute tribes. Some remnants from their passing through the area within what is now the Wolfe Ranch Historic District, are seen in archeological site 42GR297 which is comprised of two petroglyph panels on rock faces above Salt Wash. On the main panel are "5 anthropomorphs on horseback, 7 bighorn sheep, 3 coyotes (dogs) and two unknown blobs."[1] To the left of the main panel there is an "isolated anthropomorphic figure which is stylistically similar to Fremont motifs."[2] The petroglyphs are pecked on yellow buff sandstone with a dark brown patina of desert varnish, that is part of the Morrison Formation geologic formation. In 1957, the rock art was recorded as an archeological site.



Figure 1 *Main Ute petroglyph etched into rock face to the east of Salt Wash, March 3, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 1-12.*

John Wesley Wolfe
1898-1910

In 1898 John Wesley and his son Fred arrived in the Moab area from the mining towns of Colorado in search of good fortune in the newly established state of Utah.[3] They set claim to a piece of land north of Moab, along a drainage called Salt Wash. Legally the Wolfe's could acquire ownership of 160 acres of land under the Homestead Act of 1862 if they lived on the property for five years and paid a register fee from $24 to $34.[4] Apparently they never did register the

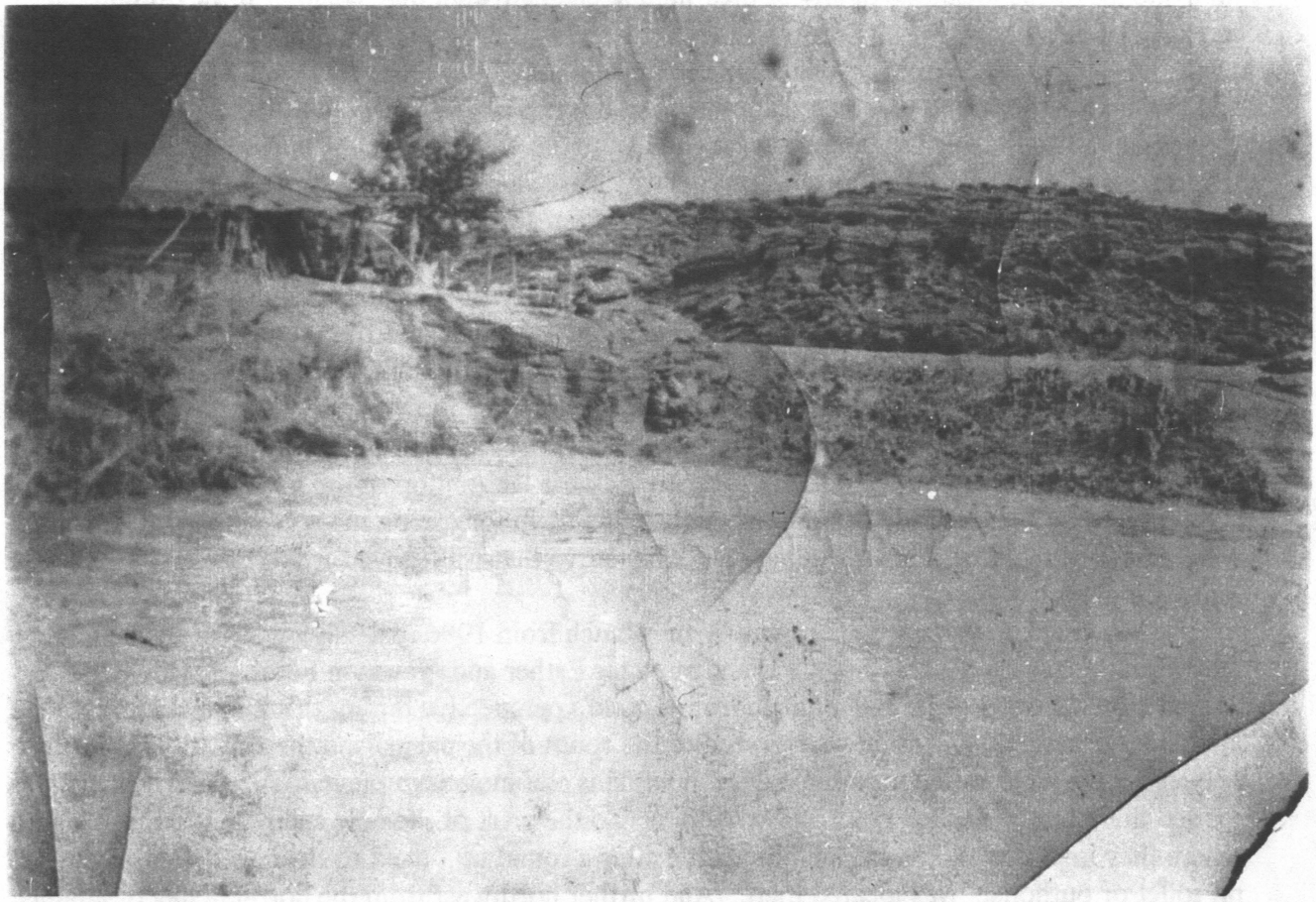


Figure 2 *Only photograph of the 1897 Wolfe cabin built on the banks of Salt Wash, 1908. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection, ARCH-76.*

property.[5] Even though they did not officially own the property John and Fred made many improvements. On the west side of Salt Wash they built a log cabin on a rock outcrop above the wash. Wood was scarce in the area, so the cabin was most likely constructed out of several different types of wood, juniper, pinon, and cottonwood. These raw materials were again utilized for the construction of a log cellar, located west of the cabin. The Wolfe's also made some improvements to the landscape in order to survive. Between two rock benches that abutted the wash, they built an earthen dam, creating a pond so they could divert the water to irrigate their large vegetable garden south of the cabin. An irrigation ditch was dug from the holding pond to the garden. According to John Wesley's granddaughter, Esther, John grew an extra amount of produce in the garden for trading with Indians. John and Fred also owned chickens, pigs, cattle, and horses, which roamed the surrounding lands to find forage.

In addition to the ranch lifestyle that they made for themselves along Salt Wash, John and Fred also filed several mining claims in Salt Valley and Salt Wash from 1899 to 1909. Presumably they were never successful trying to locate copper ore, tungsten, and oil.[6] John Wesley's grandson Ferol, indicated that his grandfather also had an uranium mine up the "hollow." There is

no evidence of the locations of any of their mining claims within Salt Wash or if they found anything of value.

In 1906 John Wesley wrote a letter home and asked the rest of his family to come west and live with him. John's daughter, Flora and her husband Ed Stanley, and their two children, Esther and Ferol, decided to venture west and live in the wilds of Utah. John picked them up at the nearest train depot at Thompson Springs, which was a half days ride north of the ranch. At this same depot John ordered most of his supplies from a Sears, Roebuck Catalog and collected his pension checks from the United States Government for his service during the Civil War.[7] For the first winter, the Stanley family lived in a tent because there was not enough room in the cabin. In the spring of 1907, the men built another log cabin further away from the wash and west of the vegetable garden irrigation ditch. Logs for the cabin were gathered from the Grand River, known as the Colorado River today. It was a small cabin, 18 feet by 15 feet, with a window on the south side, a door facing the east, and a board floor. As was the case for the first structure, burlap and bark was placed on the roof and then green stones were laid on top of them. They found the green stones on the east side of the wash and hauled them for use on the roof.[8] Several amenities were added to the new cabin including a cooking stove that was moved from the old log structure.

Much is known about life on the Wolfe Ranch from 1906 to 1908 when the Stanley family moved there, because John Wesley's granddaughter Esther and grandson Ferol, provide information about their life at the ranch from a child's perspective during this time.[9] Esther indicated the vegetable garden was located to the south of the cabins and the irrigation ditch ran between them. She said her grandpa grew pumpkins and melons in the garden. Also near the garden there was a chicken coop and woodpile. To the west of the new cabin they set up a corral where they kept the horses and held the cattle after a round up. Next to the corral, some kind of pit toilet or outhouse, was located there. And further northwest from the corral, a hay or alfalfa field occupied the level land between the sloping hills. They obtained their drinking water from a spring on the other side of the wash.

In addition to Esther and Ferol's memories, their mother Flora Stanley took some photographs of her children at the ranch. These images provide further evidence of the condition of the landscape and appearance of the structures during this same period. Around the old cabin and on the east side of the wash, a wire and wooden post fence either prevented animals from entering an area or kept them in. The ground was beaten down and worn paths surrounded the structures. Salt Wash looked much different than what it looks like today. Instead of the deep serpentine pattern of the stream, flanked on either side of the channel with tamarisk as it appears today, the wash had very little vegetation growing along the banks, and the channel was much shallower. Native grasses and black willow grew in patches along the stream. As is the case for many desert streams, flash floods occurred after heavy thunderstorms and several times the earthen dam was destroyed. They would repair the dam after every such occurrence. A lone poplar (cottonwood) tree grew beside the old cabin and provided the only shade in the heat of the summer. Also the tent was still used even after the second cabin was built, because it was much cooler than the cabins during the warm months.

In 1908 the Stanley family moved to Moab. After the Stanley's left, John and Fred moved their belongings to the new cabin. It was a lonely existence out on the ranch after the Stanley family left. Because of the harshness to sustain a living and his loneliness on the ranch, John Wesley decided to move back east with his daughter's family when they moved from Moab to Kansas in 1910. Fred also left the area in 1910 and eventually moved to Montana.

Before leaving the area, John Wolfe sold the rights to his claim to Thomas Larsen. According to his niece, Mr. Larsen removed some of the post and wire fencing and took it home. During Larsen's ownership, the property was apparently not used very much. Some cowboys used the newer cabin when they were driving their cattle through the Salt Wash area. At some point a flash flood washed away the dam and older cabin.



Figure 3 *In 1907 Esther and Ferol Stanley poised for the camera in front of the completed new log cabin. Their previous shelter, a tent, is seen on the left hand side of the photo. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection, ARCH-1248.*



***Figure 4** Another photo of Esther and Ferol shows them standing on the exposed bedrock within the Salt Wash floodplain. The Ute petroglyph is visible in the background on the left hand side of the image and a post and wire fence is also located in the midground, 1907. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection. ARCH-1236.*

James Turnbow
1916-1946

The property was in ill-repair when James Turnbow acquired the rights to the property in 1916 from Thomas Larsen. Only part of the property was fenced at this time. Given the amount of labor needed to sustain any cultivated land, Turnbow opted for only grazing the property. Under the new "Stockraising Homestead Act" of 1916 and "Enlarged Homestead Act" of 1909, Turnbow tried to increase his claim to 640 acres, instead of the original 160 acres claimed by Wolfe. The larger expanses of land were needed to adequately graze even small herds on the arid landscape of southeastern Utah. He even enclosed 640 acres with a fence and had a maximum of 200 head of cattle that grazed on the land for five months during the winter without supplemental food. Turnbow lived in the 1907 Wolfe cabin only during the months when his cattle roamed the

old Wolfe property. The rest of the year he resided in the nearby town of Moab where his family lived year round.

In 1928 the Department of Interior General Land Office completed the first survey of the area. They documented the location of the "Wolfe Ranch Cabin" and access road to the property from Thompson Springs. The road primarily followed Salt Valley Wash to the northwest. Two other apparent roads or trails are shown, one follows "Cash" (Cache) Valley Wash to the east, the second runs northeast of the cabin to an unknown destination, and the last route follows a tributary of Salt Wash northwest of the cabin. There is no indication on the map what these routes were used for. In addition to the above items, two springs were noted to the north-northeast of the property. The rest of the map is a graphic representation of the topography (hatch lines), location of streams, and section lines as determined by the western grid system.

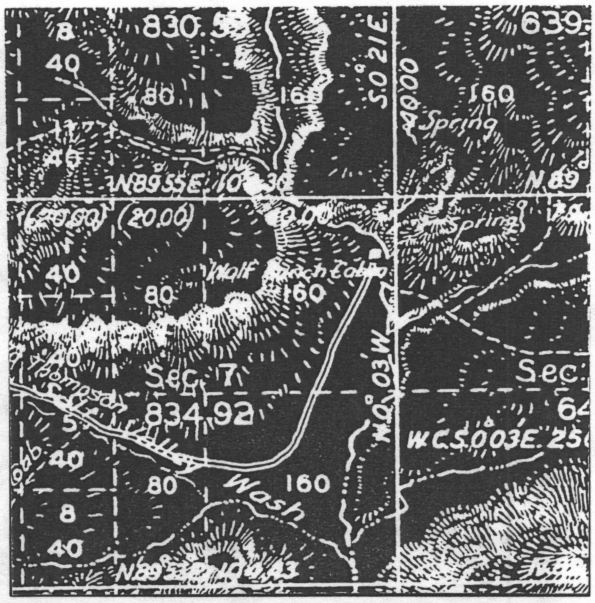


Figure 5 *Portion of first map depicting the Wolfe Ranch area from 1928 site survey. ARCH 1860, folder 157, Arches National Park.*

Once Turnbow heard about the completion of the land maps, he submitted a Settlement Claim and Stock-Raising Homestead application for the Wolfe property. Apparently Turnbow never successfully increased the acreage to 640 acres, but his heirs eventually acquired title to the original 160 acres. In a series of correspondence in the 1930s and 1940s with the United State Land Office, Turnbow stated his claim to the Wolfe property and 320 additional acres. A decision was not made until after Turnbow's death in 1940 in a car wreck. Finally in 1942 James Turnbow's widow Susie acquired title to 160 acres of land.

As part of the process to document the legitimate use of the land by Turnbow, the United States Government Land Office surveyed the site in 1940 and 1941. Three photographs (*Figures 6, 7, & 8)* document the condition of the property and group of structures along Salt Wash. Exhibit No. 2 (*Figure 6*), is a view from the mesa behind the Wolfe Ranch looking down to the double corral. No vegetation grows within the corral and it appears to be well used. A worn road loops around the corral, approaching the complex from the southwest and then follows the corral along the north side. The last notable feature is a wire fence that continues down to Salt Wash from the southeast corner of the corral. Exhibit No. 3 (*Figure 7*) shows a view of the south side of the cabin. Two dugout structures are shown north-northeast of the main Wolfe cabin, along with a small corn crib to the east of the cabin. On the west side of the cabin there was a trash pile. Around all the structures the vegetation is closely cropped as if this area was grazed periodically. The last exhibit, No. 4 (*Figure 8*), is another view from the mesa behind the ranch, but this one shows the ranch complex more completely. A portion of the corral, the Wolfe cabin, and the two dugout cellars are seen as a cluster. The rock outcrops to the north and east of the

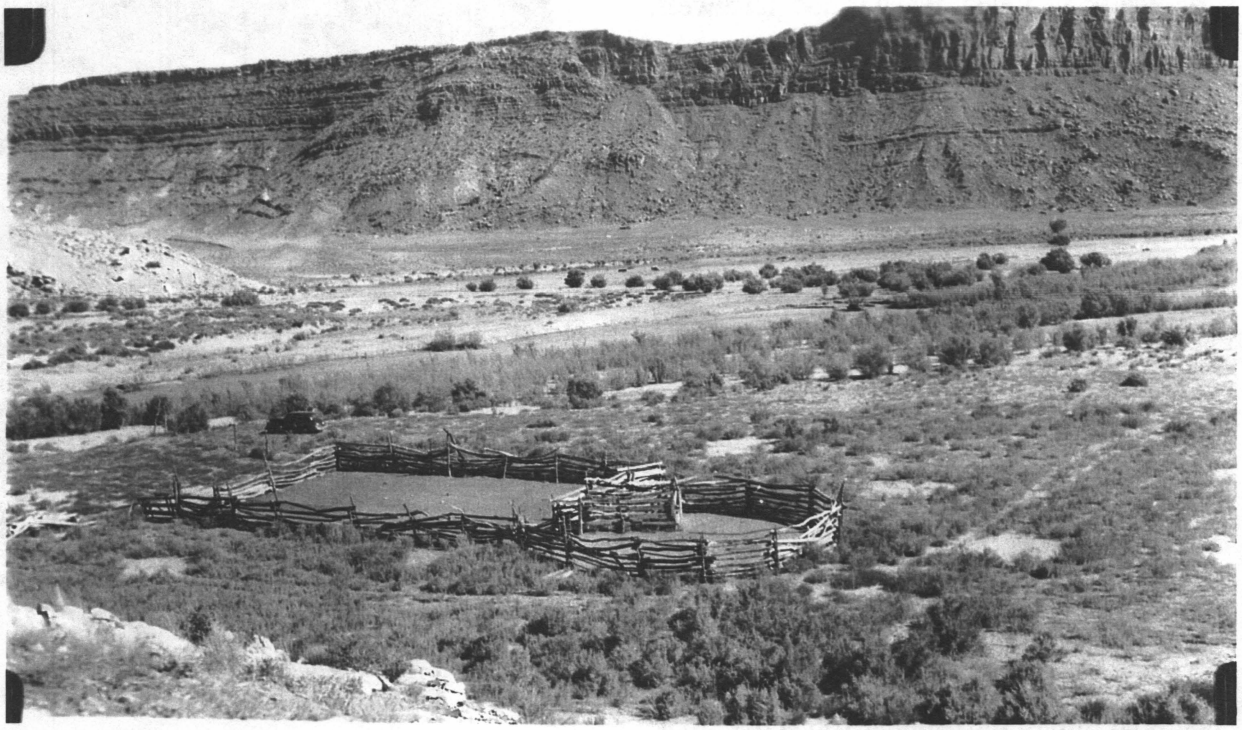


Figure 6 *Exhibit No. 2 showing double corral and remnant road tracks leading to the ranch, 1941. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection, ARCH-1800.3*



***Figure 7** Exhibit No. 3 shows the remaining group of structures, including the 1907 cabin and two cellars, 1941. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection, ARCH-1800.1.*



Figure 8 *Exhibit No. 4 shows all the structural features in context with the surrounding environment, 1941. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection, ARCH-1800.2.*

cabin and Salt Wash are also shown. The worn road as seen in exhibit no. 2, continues to the east and goes between the cabin and cellar structures.

H.G. Schmidt, Custodian to Arches National Monument inspected the property with Special Agent Richard Welsh in July 1941. They indicated there was

> *A log cabin, 12' x 14' with board floor, pole and dirt roof, containing one window, a stove, table, chair, and cupboard, habitable at the date of investigation; two small dug-outs for storage purposes' in poor state of repair; a large corral with cross panel, one small piece of fence in a canyon on the north end of the entry, and about one quarter mile of poles without wire on the west side of the entry stretching across Salt Wash formerly used as a drift fence.*[10]

In an earlier letter from November 1940 to Hugh M. Miller, Superintendent Southwestern National Monuments, Schmidt stated that all of the buildings are in poor condition and that the fences "are run-down" and "are more for the purpose of substantiating the homestead claim rather

than to hold stock in the pastures." He also states that the Turnbow family rarely used the buildings and that they are "used more by cowboys from other ranches who comb this country for lost stock."[11] The land that Turnbow claimed in his homestead entry was designated to be part of Arches National Monument in 1938, since it was legally not owned by anyone.[12] Schmidt, the first manager of Arches tried unsuccessfully to discredit the Turnbow settlement claim, in a possible attempt to acquire the property without having to purchase the land from the Turnbow family.

Apart of this same process, they also stated that the land held no valuable mineral deposits. In Susie Turnbow's description of the property 1940, she states

> *This land is mostly rocky, although a portion of it being located in the bottom of a wash, could be cultivated. I would say about 40 acres on the whole tract. The land is covered with tamarac, sage brush, and native grasses. There are not trees excepting a few willow, and there is no saw timber.*[13]

In two other testimonies in support of Susie Turnbow's claim, J.S. Westwood and Lester Walker offered further information about the property. Westwood acknowledges there were about 1 1/2 miles of barbed fence on the east and west end of the filing. Walker states a fence ran from bluff to bluff, mostly a 4 barbed wire type fence with cedar posts. "The fences have been placed to protect the grass and some portion has been planted in alfalfa and pasture."[14]

Emmett Elizondo
1946-1982

Susie Turnbow sold the 160-acre Wolfe property in 1946 to Emmett Elizondo. He then subsequently sold the property to the United States Government in 1948, included as part of Arches National Monument. Before Elizondo bought the property from Turnbow, in 1942 he purchased their grazing rights on public domain outside of the monument boundaries as well as grazing on their 160 acres.[15] Instead of grazing cattle as the previous owners had done, Elizondo raised sheep. As in the past, the availability of water within Salt Wash was important to establishing his operation on these lands. Elizondo ran into some problems when the United States Government tried to block his use of the Turnbow property in 1943. One of the main reasons for their objection for use of the Turnbow property is that the U.S. Government was obligated to build a stock road across monument lands to the property.[16] The regulations regarding grazing within the parks and monuments state:

> *"The running at large, herding, or grazing of livestock of any kind on Government lands in the parks and monuments, as well as the driving of livestock over the same, is prohibited, except where authority therefor has been granted by the Director."*[17]

After Elizondo sold the property to the United States, he maintained a special use grazing permit on monument grounds up into 1982. Elizondo made several provisions with the U.S. Government when he sold the property to them. The main provision was a lifetime permit or 35

years (for the heirs) to cross the monument lands for stock water access in the Salt Wash. He was also issued a stock driveway permit across these same lands to Salt Wash.[18] Elizondo also used the existing Wolfe Ranch complex for grain storage and built a supplemental granary located near the old cabin. In 1968 the National Park Service advised Elizondo to remove all supplies from the buildings because they were in the process of stabilizing the structures and corral. In 1982 all grazing permits on National Park Service lands were terminated including Elizondo's permit.[19]

National Park Service Management
1938-1997

In 1929 Congress established Arches National Monument. An early development plan from 1934 proposed to locate the park headquarters at the "Turnbow's Cabin." Another proposal placed the headquarters area at "Willow Spring" with a trail to the Turnbow's Cabin.[20] These development plans were never followed through. A boundary change in 1938 increased the acreage of the monument and included the Turnbow property. A description of the landscape in 1946 provides the first indication of how abused the land was.

> *The sparse vegetation cover, their poor soil and light rainfall limit the amount of grazing this area will support. Indications are that the area has been overgrazed and should be given an opportunity to recover. . . . The boundary is not fenced in any place; therefore, trespass grazing is abundant, causing continued overgrazing on the already poor vegetative cover. Natural barriers prevent trespass on much of the area, however, a few short drift fences would eliminate this heavy trespass grazing and give nature a chance to restore the vegetative cover to hold soil and moisture.*[21]

The availability of water on the private Turnbow property posed a problem for management because stock trespassed onto monument lands. In 1946, the Turnbow property was surrounded by monument lands.

After the U.S. Government purchased the Turnbow property from Emmett Elizondo two years later in 1948, they assessed the natural resources of the area. "Fresh Water Spring" was documented 3/4 of a mile up Salt Wash from the old cabin. A trail to the spring from the cabin was evident over slick rock sandstone. At this time Elizondo had a special use permit to graze the lands and use this spring to water his sheep. The spring was noted to have been used for a long time by local stockmen during the winter months.[22]

At the same time as they were assessing the resources, a park tour road was being constructed to the cabin to serve as an access route for a trail to Delicate Arch. All the park roads were of a primitive nature. They were gravel and built 12 feet wide, with just a dip over washes instead of bridges. At the terminus of the Delicate Arch access road a parking lot

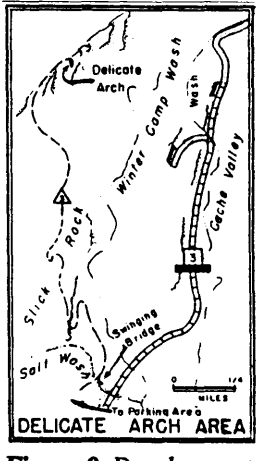


***Figure 9** Development plan as present in the 1956 Master Plan for Arches. Folder 46, ARCH-1860.*

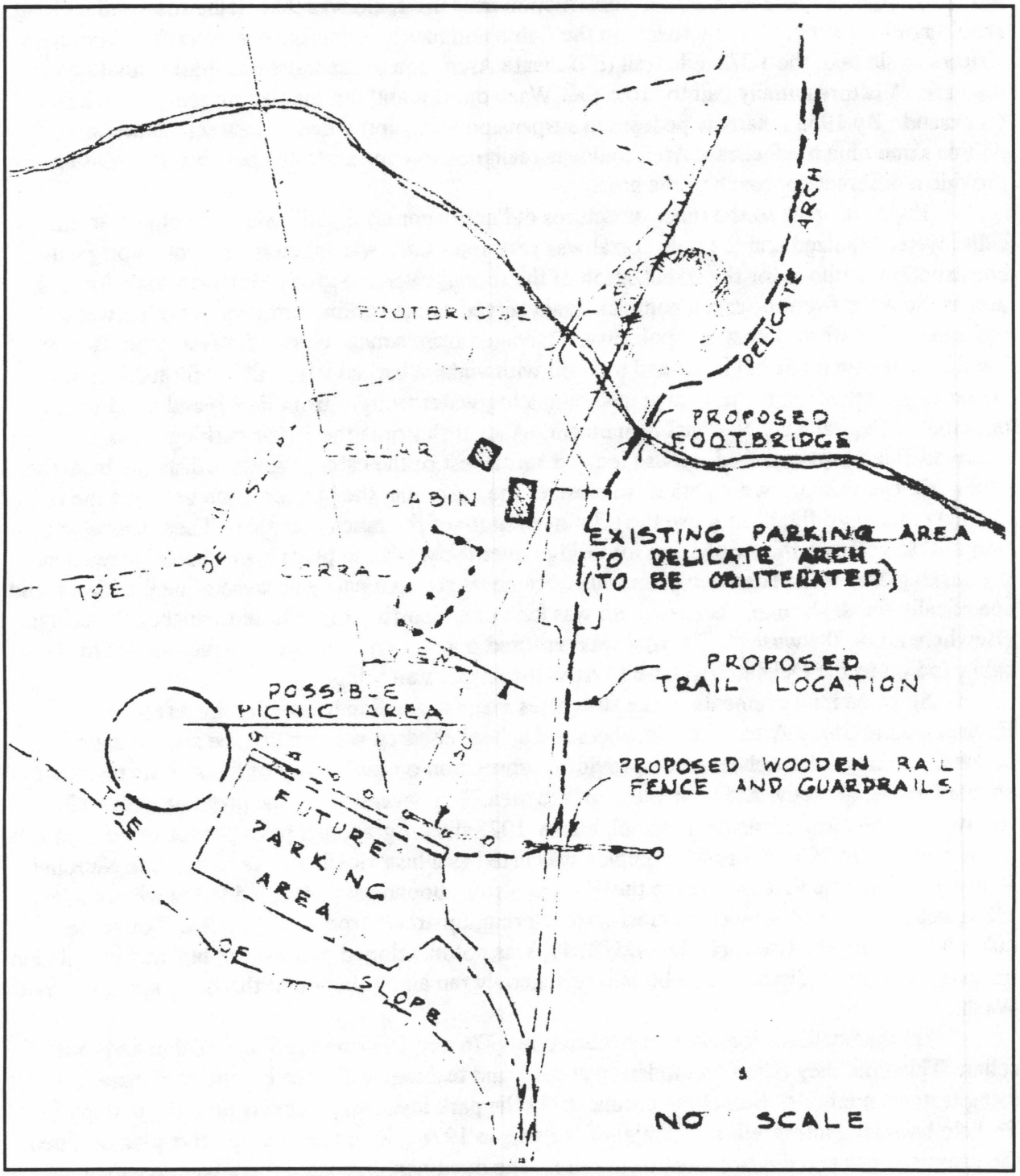


***Figure 10** Proposed rehabilitation for the Wolfe Ranch area, 1967. Folder 16, ARCH-1800.*

was developed to the southeast of the Wolfe cabin. One of the suggestions the National Park Service designers made for the new construction near the cabin was that "[t]he road and parking should not be permitted to encroach on the Cabin and mar its primitive character."[23] From here visitors could take the 1 1/2 mile trail to Delicate Arch, one of the most beautiful formations in the park. Visitors initially had to cross Salt Wash on foot and ran the risk of getting stuck in quicksand. By 1955 a narrow pedestrian suspension bridge provided access across the wash.[24] At this same time the Delicate Arch trail was realigned to connect to the new bridge crossing and provide a different approach to the arch.

Improvements to the ranch structures did not occur until 1967 when the old cabin and cellar were stabilized and the pole corral was restored. Care was taken to reproduce original construction methods for the stabilization of the roofs. Even the green Morrison shale located across the wash from the ranch complex again served as the roofing dirt because of its water resistance. Weathered post and poles were salvaged from similar types of corrals from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and secured with vintage barbed wire. Other furnishings were added to set the scene for the ranch including a log water trough (from BLM) and a old wagon, donated by Capital Reef National Monument. Also at this time the 1940s parking lot was removed and a new enlarged lot was located southwest of the cabin, a greater distance from the cabin. Before vehicles were parked so close to the cabin that the juxtaposition between the old and new made it difficult to sense the primitive nature of the ranch complex. There was also a proposal to relocate the suspension footbridge over the wash and place a small picnic area near the parking area. The later two proposals were never realized partly because of lack of funds and specifically for the bridge, because there was lack of supporting rock strata to anchor the bridge elsewhere along the wash.[25] The trail was rerouted once again from the new parking lot to the cabin and on to the Delicate Arch trail across the suspension bridge.

All these improvements to the structures made it possible to use the site as an Environmental Study Area. Area teachers and school children were to use the area to spur creative thinking. A teachers guide provided information on the history of the site, its plant and animal life, the geology, and archeology of the area. For several years the program was well received by the local elementary school, but by 1978 the program had been phased out due to lack of interest. In 1975 the ranch complex was listed as a historic district as part of the National Register of Historic Places. Within the 70-acre district boundary it included the ranch complex, cabin, cellar and corral as well as Freshwater Spring, upstream from the complex. For some unknown reason, the Ute rock site, 42GR247, was not mentioned as a feature but was included in the boundary of the district. The boundary generally ran along the toe of the slope along the Salt Wash.

Another stabilization attempt occurred in 1976 and 1977 on the Wolfe Cabin and root cellar. This time they relied on modern materials and techniques for sealing the roof instead of using historic methods. Sometime around 1977 the park installed pit toilets near the parking lot. To help boost the interpretive potential of the site, in 1978 a long term interpretive plan outlined the proposed use and development of the site. The document indicated there was an existing wayside exhibit and a solar powered audio recording located near the parking lot to provide an orientation of the site.[26] There is no information regarding when the audio and wayside exhibits were installed. Other site features were added in 1984 when the park installed a split rail fence



Figure 11 *In 1969, area school children used interpretive props at the Wolfe cabin as part of the parks "environmental study" program. Wolfe Ranch Photograph Collection, ARCH-1800.9.*

along a portion of the pedestrian trail to protect the natural vegetation and soil from errant visitors walking over the surrounding landscape. Even though this action was approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer, for some reason not all of the sections of fence were installed. Only a small portion of fence was installed around an island segment to the south of the cabin.

A subsequent development proposal was generated for the Wolfe Ranch complex as part of the 1989 General Management Plan. Between 1992 and 1994 the majority of these recommendations were implemented when the park had the parking lot paved and enlarged, and the pit toilets removed and replaced with vault toilets. In addition to these changes the Delicate Arch access road was paved from the main park tour road to the overlook parking area. As part of the road project, low-water crossings instead of a more expensive bridge provided vehicles a safe access over Salt Wash. New trail signage was installed at the trailhead to direct and inform visitors about the trail. Two interpretive waysides also presented visitors with further information about the Wolfe Ranch and the Ute petroglyphs and were sited near these features. To reduce adverse impacts on the historic scene, a new parking lot for oversize vehicles was constructed

south of the road and parking lot. The goal was to reduce the visibility of the high-profile vehicles in the parking lot.

In 1989 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) inspected the suspension bridge and noted deficiencies in the structure. The bridge was again inspected in 1992 and 1994. They recommended eventual replacement of the bridge but for the time being they opted for posting a sign stating "5 people maximum."[27] Now that funding is available a new bridge location and design is being developed concurrently with the Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Existing Conditions

The Wolfe Ranch complex is situated in a valley along Salt Wash, surrounded by shelves and rock outcrops of the Morrison Formation, on the east, west and north sides. To the south of the ranch the valley opens up where Salt Wash and Winter Camp Wash meet. Salt Wash is one of only two perennial streams located within the Arches boundaries. Up the wash, Freshwater Spring still provides a water source during the driest of seasons. The natural setting within which the ranch structures are located is the most important feature of the district.



Figure 12 *View of Wolfe Ranch located along Salt Wash. The ranch structures are sited near some rock ledges that run along the wash, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 1-36.*

Visitors enter the district from the southwest along Delicate Arch Road. The road continues to the east where it ends at the Delicate Arch overlook parking area. Access was improved to the site when the previous gravel Delicate Arch Road was paved in 1992. Two asphalt parking lots, one for passenger vehicles to the north of park road, and one for oversize vehicles to the south of the road, provide space for this popular trailhead to Delicate Arch. Rock boulders line the outside edge of the lots to prevent visitors from parking outside the paved area. Two vault toilets are located on the southeast corner of the passenger vehicle parking lot. Concrete paths direct visitors to the entrance of the toilets. To prevent runoff from draining onto the parking lot, a ditch was excavated on the north and west side of the lot to direct the water away.

During the peak season in July an average of 813 visitors per day hike the Delicate Arch Trail that runs right through the Wolfe Ranch Historic District.[28] The easily accessible trail from

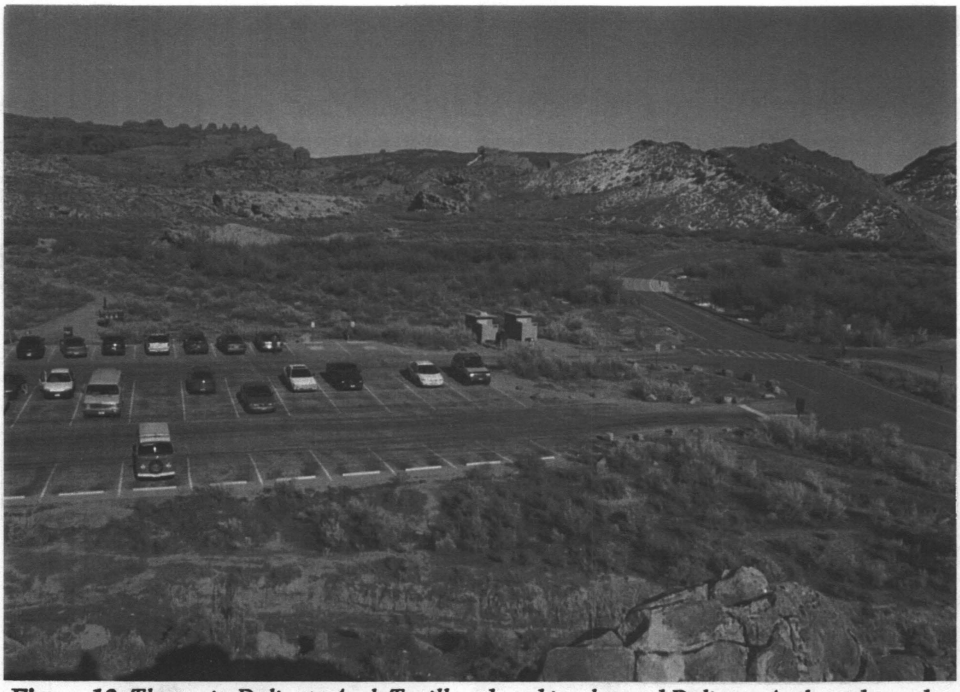


Figure 13 *The main Delicate Arch Trailhead parking lot and Delicate Arch park road on the right hand side of the photograph, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 3-8.*

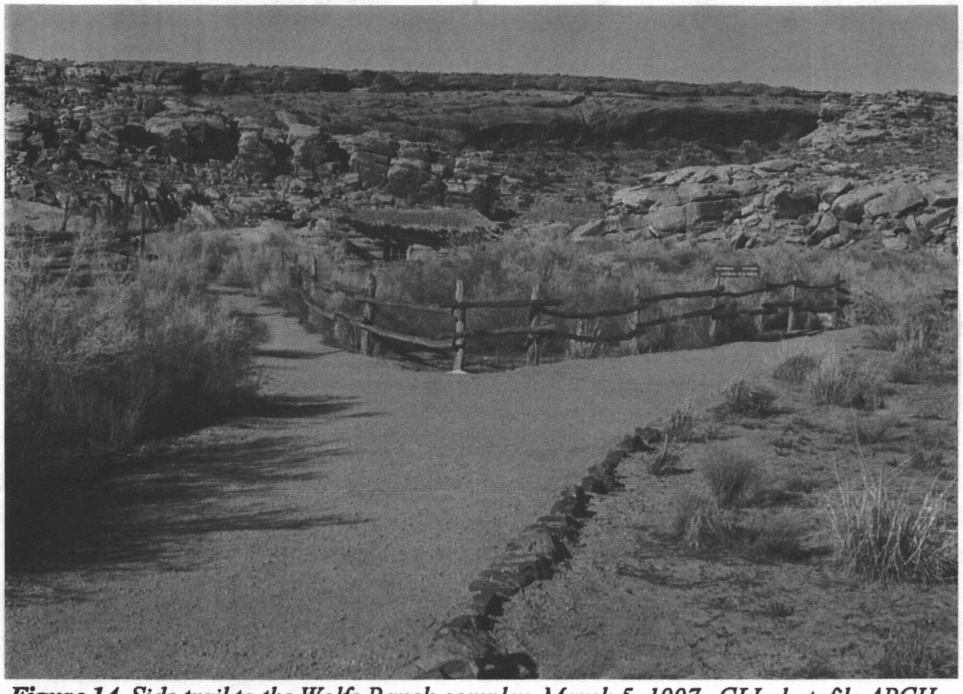


Figure 14 *Side trail to the Wolfe Ranch complex, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 3-21.*

the Delicate Arch trailhead parking lot, about 350 feet from the cabin, provides visitors the only opportunity to see a turn-of-the-century settlement in the park. A side trail loops around the cabin and back to the Delicate Arch Trail. If visitors are interested, this trail provides them a closer vantage of the corral, root cellar and cabin. The main trail continues across Salt Wash over a narrow suspension bridge. Once on the other side of the wash the Delicate Arch trail continues east and a worn trail follows the edge of the high bank of the wash. Several social trails peel off from this worn trail and converge at the base of the Ute rock art panel, site 42GR297. The hillside at the base of the main panel is severely eroded due to visitors trying to get closer to the rock face. In an attempt

to protect the main rock art panel the park installed a chain swag barrier, detering visitors from defacing the panel. From the base of the panel the trail loops around along the base of the slope back to the main trail. Another less prominent rock art panel is located further south along the same rock slope. This panel is not as obvious so there are limited social trails to the feature.

A standard highway sign, metal with brown background and white letters, is used to mark the trail entrance from the northern parking lot. Flanking the east side of the lot, the park installed a split rail guardrail to deter visitors from creating social trails to the main trail. At the trail entrance two trash receptacles, one for refuse and the other for recyclables, are placed in the middle of the path and serve as obstacles for visitors to get around. A bicycle rack, bulletin board,



Figure 15 *Narrow suspension bridge spanning over Salt Wash, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 2-19.*

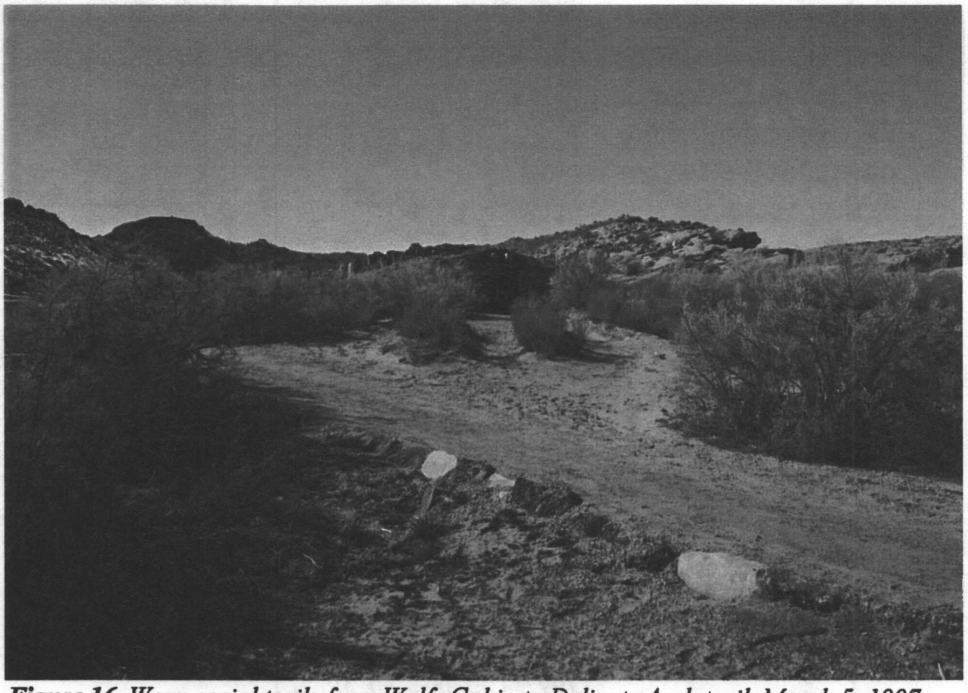


Figure 16 *Worn social trails from Wolfe Cabin to Delicate Arch trail, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 2-14.*

brochure and fee box are also located along the trail neat the parking lot. The ten-foot wide Delicate Arch trail is lined by small stones and raised up above the surrounding ground, from the parking lot to the rock section of the trail. Stones also line the side trail around the Wolfe cabin. Several metal culverts were installed in strategic places under the trail so that any water drains away from the trail surface. Some of the culverts are silted up and are not functioning. Two such clogged culverts are located near the entrance to the Wolfe cabin.

To help control the formation of social trails through the historic district, a split rail fence provides a barrier on the inside edge of the side trail to the ranch complex. Since the National Park Service installed the fence in 1984, the native vegetation within the protected island area has rejuvenated. Even with all the efforts by park staff to mark the trails and control where visitors go, there are quite a few meandering social trails through the historic district. Because of the highly erodible soils prevalent in the area, the social trails are very obvious once they are established.

Interpretive signage is limited to two standard Harpers Ferry Center type waysides. One is set back along the main trail, before the side trail to the cabin, and provides information about the ranch complex. A photograph of the cabin from 1907 used on the wayside, served to help site the sign, so as to provide a similar vantage point. The other wayside is located at the base of the slope below the main Ute rock art panel. Additional information about the historic district is presented in a trail guide that visitors can purchase. The National Park Service posted other regulatory signs. One is located to the south of the cabin along the main trail that states, "Historical Building No Entering or Climbing." Two other signs are posted on the western end of the suspension bridge, one states the danger of the upcoming terrain and the other precautions the visitors to limit the number of people crossing the bridge to five. The later sign is also placed on the other end of the bridge. These wooden signs are generally painted brown with white routed lettering, with the exception of the

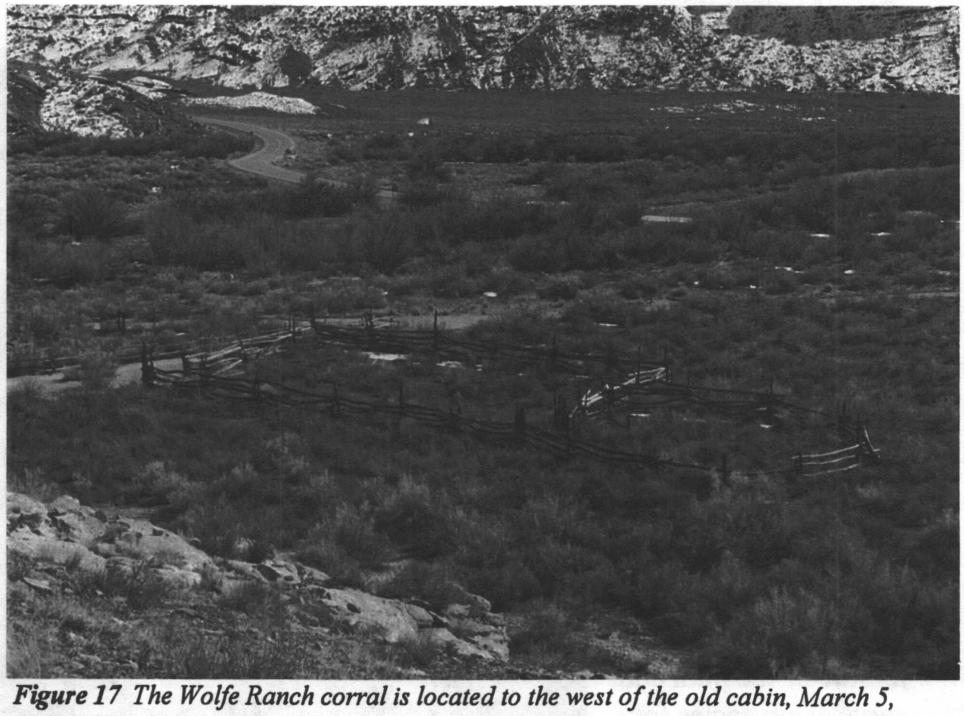


Figure 17 *The Wolfe Ranch corral is located to the west of the old cabin, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 1-29.*

"5 people" limit sign. This sign is painted light gray and has dark gray lettering. The last sign along the trail is a bulletin board at the trail entrance and provides posted information about the Delicate Arch Trail and precautions about the route.

Other site features around the cabin include an interpretive wagon to the south, a double corral to the west, a root cellar to the north, a remnant dugout structure to the northeast and a remnant fence line to the northwest of the cabin. These features make up the ranch complex and are the remnants of past use up until the 1940s.

Past grazing use of the area, recent developments, and visitor use has left an imprint on the landscape. Because of the highly erodible soils common along the wash and naturalization of exotic vegetation, the plant species composition has

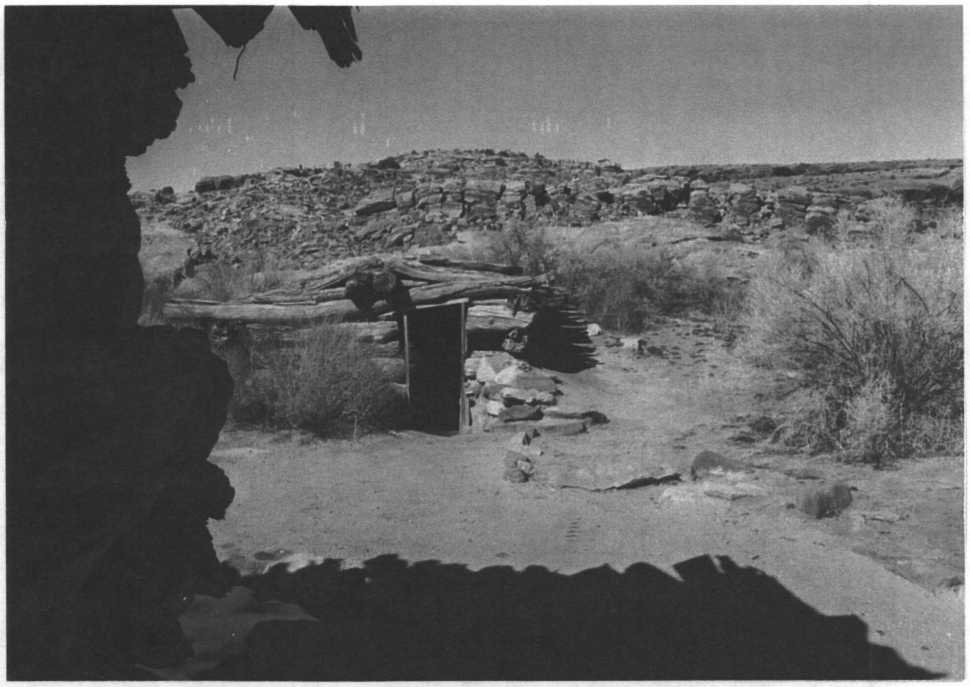


Figure 18 *Front entrance to root cellar, located north of the Wolfe cabin, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 2-8.*

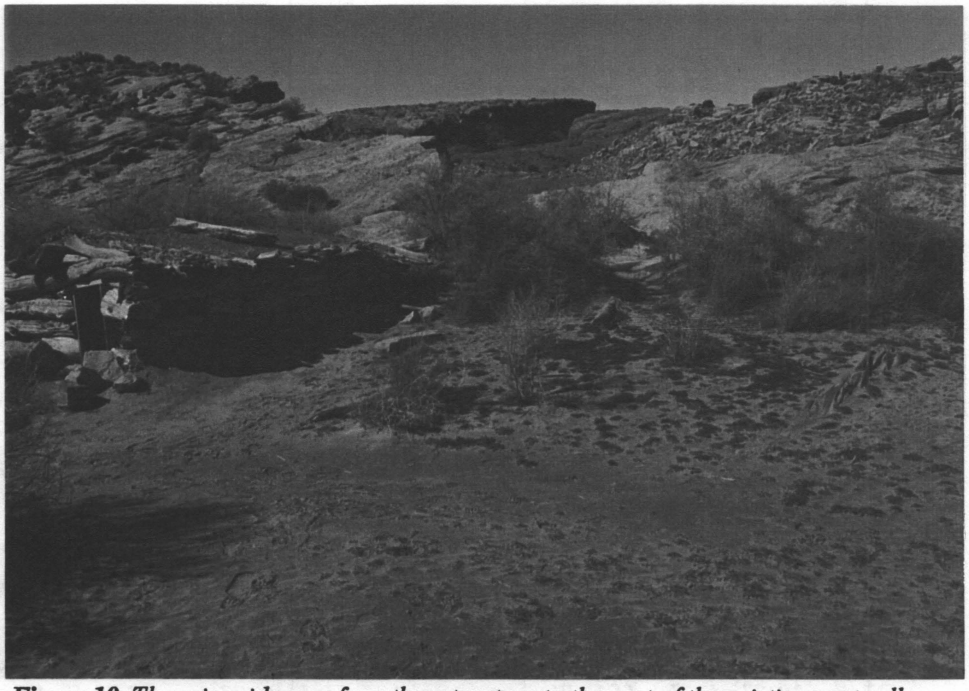


Figure 19 *There is evidence of another structure to the east of the existing root cellar where remnant timbers are embedded in ground , March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 2-5.*



Figure 21 *A remnant fence line is located within the Salt Wash floodplain to the north of the ranch structures, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 1-35.*



Figure 20 *The banks of Salt Wash are severely eroded possibly caused by the dense stands of tamarisk which constrict the watercourse, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 2-20.*

changed over the years. Tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) grows abundantly along Salt Wash, where native willows (*Salix* sp.) shrubs once grew, and they have changed the course of the stream and lowered the water table.[29] On the level upland and mesas surrounding the ranch are various indicator species such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) that have become prevalent where the area was overgrazed. But the area has recovered since the 1980s with native grasses such as sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Indian ricegrass (*Stipa hymenoides*), and three awn grass (*Aristida purpurea*). With the grass, native shrubs are also

growing including saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) rabbitbush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.), Mormon tea (*Ephedra* sp.), squawbush (*Rhus* sp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.) and sparse stands of junipers (*Juniperus osteosperma*). Still the fragile vegetation is susceptible to impacts by visitors creating their own social trails. In past attempts, it has proved to be hard to revegetate areas in this type of soil. Once the vegetation is lost, it is hard to reestablish the native vegetation.

Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

The analysis and evaluation of the cultural landscape for the Wolfe Ranch is based on an examination of the historical record and the documentation of existing landscape resources in the study area. A summary discussion of the cultural landscape presents documentation of landscape patterns, relationships, and individual features within the district, which define the character of the landscape around the Wolfe Ranch. With this information, the overall significance and integrity of the landscape is addressed according to National Register Criteria for landscapes.

The Wolfe Ranch is the only intact settlement from the turn-of-the-century within the boundaries of Arches National Park. Even though landscape for the Wolfe Ranch lacks integrity, there are still some contributing features that can be preserved to maintain the most important attribute for the Wolfe Ranch District, the landscape setting. Describe below are the only features that are remaining in this harsh environment, which comprise the landscape setting for the ranch complex.

Response to the Natural Environment

The water resources within Salt Wash is the most important feature for the district. If there was no water, the Ute tribe would not have travelled through the area and John Wolfe would not have settled in the valley. Water brought life and without it, as elsewhere in the west, it would be difficult to survive.

Topography also played an important role for establishing the Wolfe Ranch. The relatively level ground to the west and south of the ranch was used to grow hay and alfalfa. Dry land farming techniques and a possible irrigation system to the fields provide some needed water for the crops, but this was not enough. The primary use of the land by Wolfe and subsequent owners was grazing.

Contributing Features	Non-Contributing Features
1. Salt Wash 2. Freshwater Spring 3. Natural topography, level land along Salt Wash.	

Cluster Arrangement

Presently the Wolfe Ranch complex consists of three significant structures, the 1907 log cabin, a log root cellar, and a double corral. Other features that no longer exist include the 1899 log cabin, an irrigation ditch, a vegetable garden, a dam and holding pond at Salt Wash, the field patterns and fencing for the ranch. Even though the remnant cluster of buildings at the Wolfe Ranch represents only a portion of the historic cluster, these remaining features still give a sense of the ranch development along the stream.

Several non-contributing features were added by the National Park Service to facilitate visitor use and the protection of the historic ranch complex. These features including two vault toilets, a parking lot, a suspension bridge across Salt Wash, interpretive signage, split rail fencing, and road and trail development.

Contributing Features	Non-Contributing Features
1. 1907 log cabin	1. vault toilets
2. log root cellar	2. suspension "swing" bridge
3. double corral	3. interpretive signage
	4. split rail fences
	5. parking lot
	6. NPS roads and trails within the historic district

Vegetation

When Wolfe arrived in the area, native vegetation grew on the surrounding landscape. Subsequent disturbance caused by plowing fields and stock grazing on the land, changed the composition of the native vegetation. Exotic plants have naturalized along the wash and on the adjacent hillsides. The most prevalent exotic is tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) growing along the banks of Salt Wash. The dense growth of the tamarisk prevents most other types of vegetation from growing along the wash such as the native willow (*Salix* sp.), which is now rare in its natural environment. As a phreatophyte, the tamarisk is also capable of reaching the water table and lowering the level. By this action of changing the water table and by constricting the flow of water in Salt Wash, the banks along the wash have eroded more severely than they would have under normal conditions. Except for along the wash, native vegetation is still prevalent on the surrounding hillsides and on the level ground around the ranch complex.

Other than the introduction of exotics to the area, there is no other evidence of past cultivation on the land south and west of the ranch. Documentation suggest that Wolfe had a sizeable irrigated vegetable garden south of the ranch complex. There he grew pumpkins, squash and other crops that could withstand the harsh environment with the addition of water from Salt Wash.[30] The Wolfe family also had a alfalfa or rye field on the level land to the west of the corral.[31] Other than the level ground in these areas, there is no other indication of use by the Wolfe family.

Contributing Features	Non-Contributing Features
1. native vegetation	1. exotic vegetation

Archeological Sites

Little is known about the Ute rock art site (42GR297) to the northeast of the Wolfe Ranch complex. The site was first noted in 1957. A 1992 report, provided the most in-depth

information about the figures pecked into the rock face. Also within the report they presented various conservation techniques to preserve the panels and protect the site from vandalism.[32] The park has implemented several of their recommendations, from a low barrier fence to wayside development. Consultation with local Ute Indian representatives yielded no objections to the improvements. The Ute rock art site is important to understanding how the area was used by past Native American groups. Based on this information the rock art site, it is a contributing feature to the historic district. To gain a better understanding about the use of the area by the Utes there needs to be an ethnographic study. This study would also address the ethnographic landscape, which is beyond the scope of this Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Contributing Features	**Non-Contributing Features**
1. Ute rock art site (42GR297)	

National Register Status

1975 NR Nomination

The Wolfe Ranch complex is currently listed on the National Register as an historic district. In 1975 when the nomination was accepted, the boundaries included most of the valley north of the park road and up the Salt Wash drainage to Freshwater Spring. The boundary of Wolfe Ranch Historic District is shown as a dash line on the accompanying map entitled *Wolfe Ranch Historic District (1975)*. These boundaries incorporated three sites, a spring, the Wolfe Ranch complex and a Native American rock art panel.

In the nomination only the structures associated with the ranch are listed as contributing features, these included the cabin, dugout cellar, and corral. The spring and protohistoric petroglyphs were not even mentioned. There were several non-contributing features present at the time of the nomination, but again these were not mentioned.

Landscape features such as irrigation ditches and a garden, are mentioned very briefly and are described as being totally lost.

The nomination gives limited information on the integrity of the features and why they are significant. As presented in the nomination it states that the site is a "example of how man learned despite the harshness of the environment to exploit and control this country in southeast Utah." The structures were noted for their local significance as an good example of the workmanship needed to construct primitive log structures within a harsh arid environment.

Revision of NR Nomination

The twenty-two year old nomination needs to be revised to include the specific contributing features and non-contributing features located within the district boundaries. In addition to listing the features, the arbitrary boundaries as set in the 1975 nomination should be addressed again to take into account the setting for the features. Based on the Cultural Landscape Inventory, the landscape setting is the most important attribute of the historic district, and is the uniting factor between the discontiguous sites. The perennial stream, Salt Wash, is the related resource between the sites and is the most important feature for the district. If there was no water, the Ute tribe would not have travelled through the area and John Wesley Wolfe would not have settled in the valley. Water is the source of life in the west, especially in the arid climate of Arches.

There is very little evidence of any landscape features from the period when John Wesley Wolfe lived on the property other than the cluster of structures; log cabin, root cellar and corral; and the natural environment which provide the setting. Subsequent use by James Turnbow for cattle grazing and Emmett Elizondo for sheep grazing, combined with the highly erodible soils of the area, left no remnant features from the Wolfe garden, irrigation system, cultivated lands, and dam structure.

There is one remnant feature to the east of the root cellar that could be from the period of significance. All that is left on the surface are two large juniper logs at grade, parallel to the root cellar. In 1941, photographs show a structure in this area and descriptions of the property from the same time period indicate there were two dugout cellars. The date of construction still needs to be determined. Another remnant feature is a fence line with the remaining posts running

perpendicular to Salt Wash, located north of the ranch complex. Most likely this section of fence is from when Turnbow owned the property between 1916 and 1946.

All other features within the present boundaries are non-contributing which include the parking lot, two vault toilets, signage, split rail fence (this does not include corral), rocks edging the trail, trail system, and suspension bridge.

Evaluation of Significance

The vernacular landscape has been determined ineligible due to lack of integrity, but the National Register criteria of significance applies to other historic features within the district. As outlined in the National Register Program, a process of identification and evaluation is used to determine the significance of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. The other way to assess a feature's attributes is by evaluating its integrity. Integrity is determined by the examination of the location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association of a feature. Before determining the integrity, the site must meet at least one of the following National Register criteria for significance:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield information in prehistory or history.

The following is a more detailed discussion of the Wolfe Ranch Historic District with respect to these four criteria.

Criterion A: Association with Events, Activities or Trends

A rush in the late 1890s brought prospectors to the area. Wolfe was one of many who settled along Salt Wash and made several mining claims within the area in search of Copper Ore. The Wolfe Ranch is the only ranch left within Arches National Park and is one of the only remaining early ranch complexes within southeast Utah from this boom time. The complex of structures, the cabin, root cellar, and corral, and the setting in which they are placed is what gives the site its importance.

This site may be considered under Criterion A based on local significance for the southeast Utah area and the pioneer settlement days around the turn-of-the-century.

Criterion B: Association with an Important Individual

John Wesley Wolfe is the only known person that can be evaluated with respect to individual significance. Wolfe, a Civil War veteran, moved west for health reasons to get away from the humid climate of the east. His doctor said he must move to a drier climate or he would die from the injury he sustained during the Civil War. He arrived in the Moab area after trying his luck in the mining towns in Colorado. The small cluster of buildings along Salt Wash are his legacy from his life in southeastern Utah.

Wolfe was an ordinary man, one of many Civil War veterans who moved west for health reasons. His story is interesting because there is documentation about his life, and why he came west, but it is not enough to be significant according to Criterion B.

Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master

John Wesley Wolfe was a carpenter during the Civil War. When John directed the construction of the second cabin in 1907, the workmanship involved to construct a water tight log structure with a variety of log sizes and types of wood, took a lot of knowledge of construction techniques and carpentry skills. Even though this type of construction is typical of log structures throughout the west, the complex of buildings deem a locally significant structure. This cluster of buildings which comprise the Wolfe Ranch represents a distinct period in the development of Southeastern Utah around 1900.

Criterion D: Potential to yield information important to history or prehistory

Archeological site 42GR297 is located within the Wolfe Ranch National Historic District. This site contains rock art which has potential to yield important information about the past. There is also the potential to learn more about the ethnographic landscape for Arches National Park and the Wolfe Ranch Historic District.

Evaluation of Integrity

There are seven qualities that help to determine the integrity of a landscape. These are historic location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. By using each of these to determine the degree of integrity, we are able to assess whether this landscape has retained enough of its important features to convey its historical significance. For the Wolfe Ranch area, there are two possible reasons that it may be significant under criteria A and D.

For criterion A, the site is locally significant as one of the only ranch complexes left from the early 1900s development in southeast Utah. But due to the loss of remnants from the field patterns, irrigation system, circulation system, dam, fencing and other log structures, the Wolfe Ranch ***landscape*** lacks integrity. Without these elements it is hard to discern the historic scene. The only landscape qualities the Wolfe Ranch site has retained is the setting and the remnant cluster of structures. The setting comprises the natural environment in which the structures are located; the stream, topography and vegetation and the cluster is defined by the main cabin, root cellar and corral.

For criterion D, the Ute rock art site (42GR297), etched in the rock face above Salt Wash, between A.D. 1600 and 1900, has a high degree of integrity as a feature, but there lacks information on the use of the area by the Utes. The integrity of the ethnographic landscape is in question because of this lack of information. Between 1991 and 1993, the National Park Service consulted with local Ute tribal leaders before implementation of site improvements to an area around the main panel. Only a few comments were received after the consultation in favor of the improvements and protection measures.

Recommendations

To help preserve the most significant landscape characteristic for the Wolfe Ranch National Historic District, the setting, the following guidelines help to maintain the rustic nature of the site. Beyond the ranch complex, alterations to the trailhead and parking lots are needed to provide a better entry experience to the historic district. And lastly, since the site is relatively level, there is an opportunity to make the trail around the Wolfe Ranch universally accessible. The material selection and design of the new accessible trail are of prime concern to integrate the features with the surrounding landscape. To incorporate all these recommendations, an overall plan is needed to layout a new pedestrian circulation system, place site furniture (ie. trash receptacles, signs) and protect the native vegetation and cultural resources of the district.

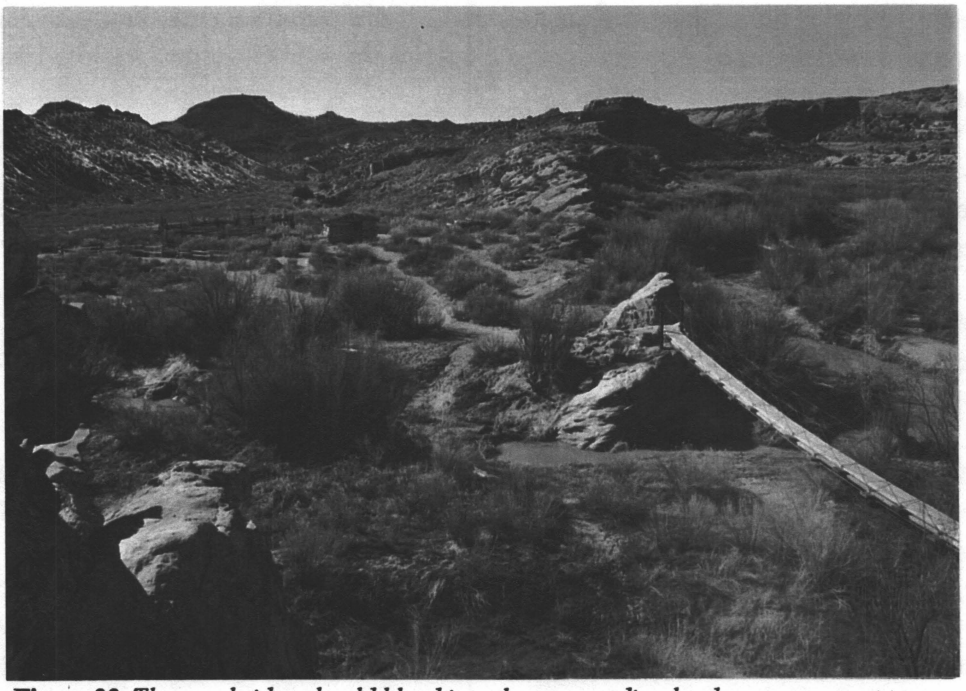


Figure 22 *The new bridge should blend into the surrounding landscape so as not to detract from the historic scene. March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 2-28.*

- Install new bridge at same location as old suspension bridge. The new bridge should harmonize with the surrounding landscape. The visibility of the bridge from the front door of Wolfe Cabin should be lessened by designing a low profile, unobtrusive structure, and placing the bridge as low as possible above the flood level of Salt Wash.

- Re-assess the location of the main Delicate Arch Trail through the historic district and the side trail around the ranch structures. If a new trail layout is proposed for the district, the trail should not impact the remnant ranch structures and should deter social trail development along Salt Wash and social trails from the ranch cluster to the main Delicate Arch trail.

- Replace split rail fence with a different fence type, possibly metal, to avoid confusion that the fence is historic.

- Officially define a trail to the Ute rock art panel on the east side of Salt Wash.

- If possible make the trail around the Wolfe Ranch complex accessible according to the American with Disabilities Act [ADA] requirements and USDA/USDI Design Guide for Accessible Outdoor Recreation (Costello 1990). The material selected for the trail should blend in with the existing soil texture and color.

- Leave an unimpeded space for visitors to approach the trailhead from the parking lot. At present, vehicles block the entrance and make it difficult to access the trail. Also move handicapped designated parking spaces closer to the trail entrance to allow better access for disabled visitors.

- Move vault toilets to the far side of the parking lot (northwest) so they are less visible when visitors arrive via the park road from the southwest. The entry experience to the historic district is of prime importance to set the historic scene for the property.

- Move trash can, recycle bin, bicycle rack, and bulletin board from their present locations where they visually and physically block the trail, to the parking lot area, to provide an unimpeded space for visitors to enter the district.

- The Delicate Arch trailhead sign is too large for the pedestrian trail. Consider installing a smaller pedestrian oriented sign that is consistent in character to other Arches National Park trailhead signs and is more compatible to the historic district.

- Protect the existing native flora and fauna within the Wolfe Ranch area and revegetate areas that have been disturbed by social trails and past NPS construction activity with native plants.

- Address ways to remove invasive exotic vegetation within the Wolfe Ranch area (ie. tamarisk).

- Stabilize the remnant historic ranch structures and include structures as part of the parks cyclic maintenance program.

- Revise and update the National Register nomination for the district based on the findings from this Cultural Landscape Inventory and other documentary evidence compiled since 1975.

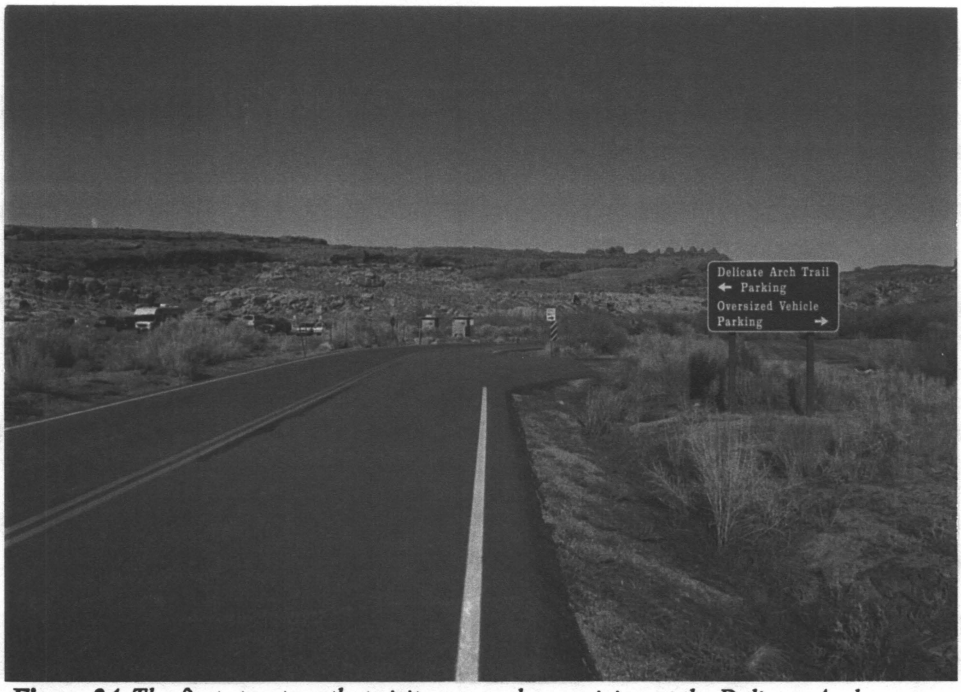


Figure 24 *The first structure that visitors see when arriving at the Delicate Arch trailhead parking lot are the vault toilets, March 6, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 3-27.*



Figure 23 *It is difficult to access the trailhead from the parking lot because of the various obstacles visitors must encounter, March 5, 1997. CLI photofile ARCH 3-16.*

Endnotes

1. Cited from IMAC form in Kathleen Hogue's report "Conservation and Management Strategies for Three Rock Art Sites in Arches National Park," p. 22.

2. Kathleen Hogue, "Conservation and Management Strategies for Three Rock Art Sites in Arches National Park," p. 22.

3. There is disagreement to when John Wolfe settle in the area. Esther Stanely Rison states that her Grandfather moved to the Moab vicinity in 1888. Esthers recollection from family history is the only evidence stating this date. All other evidence substantiates a much later date of 1898. This later date is provided in a statement given by Fred Wolfe (son of John who went west with his father) in 1915 within documentation for "Declaration for Widow's Pension." Also the Bureau of Pensions lists John Wolfe's whereabouts starting on March 4, 1899 they state he picked up his pension check in Thompson, Utah. The last bit of evidence is found in the *The Grand Valley Times* from March 31, 1899. It states that J.W. Wolfe and his son arrived in the area last fall (1898) and built a cabin along Salt Wash.

4. Maxine Benson, Duane Smith, and Carl Ubbelohde, ed., *A Colorado History*, p. 195.

5. When James Turnbow tried to obtain legal ownership and title to the Wolfe property in 1935, there was no claim on the Wolfe Ranch property. See Arches National Park Archives, ARCH 1800 Folder 2 and Folder 15.

6. Based on what they might have been looking for by the names of the claims recorded at the Grand County Office. Copper Coin #2, Oil Gusher, Tungsten 1 & 2, etc. ARCH 1800 Folder 1.

7. John Wesley Wolfe fought for the north during the Civil War even though he was from Tennessee. He enlisted in 1862 with the 17th Ohio Volunteer Battery as a Private and a "Cooper," or carpenter. He developed a varicose vein ulcer, which according to family history was caused by carrying a heavy Northern canon to a hilltop firing position. As a result of this disability, Wolfe was discharged on July 4, 1863 and received a pension for his injury.

8. These green stones, called green Morrison shale, are said to be more water resistant than the dirt surrounding the cabin. To Chief I&RM Canyonlands from Assistant Superintendent Canyonlands National Park, Arches and Natural Bridges National Monuments, November 1, 1967. ARCH 1800 Folder 16.

9. Several interviews with Esther Stanley Rison were conducted by park staff from 1956 up until her death in 1978. Ferol Stanley remembered much less about the ranch, since he was such a small boy then.

10. "Deposition Taken Before Special Agent of the Department of the Interior," Case of Susie Turnbow, July 31, 1941, Arches National Park Archives, ARCH 1800 Folder 15. A "drift fence" is defined as fence built by ranchmen to keep cattle from drifting too far away from their home range.

11. Letter from Henry G. Schmidt, Custodian Arches National Monument to Hugh M. Miller, Superintendent Southwestern National Monuments, November 23, 1940. ARCH 1800 Folder 15.

12. In 1938, Turnbow did not legally own the property until 1940 as discussed earlier in this section.

13. "Stock-Raising Homestead Final Proof Testimony of Claimant," Susie Turnbow, July 1940. Arches National Park Archives, ARCH 1800 Folder 15.

14. "Stock-Raising Homestead Final Proof Testimony of Witness," J. S. Westwood and Lester Walker, July 23, 1940. Arches National Park, ARCH 1800 Folder 15.

15. Memorandum for the Superintendent Southwestern National Monuments from Lewis T. McKinney Custodian Arches National Monument, November 15, 1942. ARCH 1860 Folder 209.

16. Memorandum for the Custodian, Arches National Monument, from Charles A. Richey Superintendent Southwestern National Monuments, November 24, 1942. ARCH 1860 Folder 209.

17. To Emmet [sic] Elizondo, Through Custodian McKinney Arches National Monument, from Charles A. Richey Superintendent Southwestern National Monuments, March 24, 1943. ARCH 1860 Folder 209.

18. Memorandum for the Director from John M. Davis Acting Regional Director, November 24, 1947. ARCH 1860 Folder 12.

19. To J. Elizondo from Robert I. Kerr Superintendent Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and National Bridges National Monument, August 7, 1972. ARCH 1860 Folder 209.

20. Possible Development No. 1 and No. 2 Arches National Monument, April 23, 1934. ARCH 1860 Folder 158.

21. Memorandum for the Regional Director from Paul L. Balch Regional Soil Conservationist, June 6, 1946. ARCH 1860 Folder 43.

22. Memorandum for the Regional Forester, Region Three from Harold M. Ratcliff, Forester, May 13, 1949. ARCH 1860 Folder 43.

23. Memorandum for the Regional Landscape Architect from Carl W. Alleman Landscape Architect, April 15, 1948. ARCH 1860 Folder 43.

24. See map "Road and Trail System, Part of Master Plan, Arches National Monument," May 1955. ARCH 1860 Folder 46.

25. To Chief I&RM Canyonlands from Assistant Superintendent Canyonlands National Park, Arches and Natural Bridges National Monuments, November 1, 1967. ARCH 1800 Folder 16.

26. During the 1970s park personnel interviewed John Wesley Wolfe's granddaughter, Esther Stanley Rison to gain insight into life on the Wolfe Ranch when she lived there between 1907-1909. "Draft Wolfe Ranch Historic Site Arches National Park: An evaluation of present Wolfe Ranch Activities; A 1978 Summer Interpretive Program; and a Long Range Interpretive Plan," March 21, 1978. ARCH 1800 folder 2.

27. Memorandum To Superintendent Southeast Utah Group from Facility Manager Southeast Utah Group, December 21, 1996.

28. Daily Use Statistics, Arches National Park, 1993.

29. Tamarisk is a phreatophyte, which means it is capable of reaching the water table and lowering the level.

30. Esther Stanley Rison, "Wolfe Ranch Memories," ARCH 1800 Folder 1.

31. To Superintendent, Canyonlands from Information Receptionist, Arches, Subject: Visit of John Wesley Wolfe's grandson, 7/14/71, and To Dave May From Maxine Newell, Subject: Interview with Esther Rison, July 21, 1977. ARCH 1800 Folder 1.

32. Kathleen Hogue, "Conservation and Management Strategies for Three Rock Art Sites in Arches National Park," 1992.

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Arches National Park Archival Collection

Wolfe Ranch Collection - ARCH 1800

Administrative Collection - ARCH 1860

Archeologist Project Files Southeast Utah Group

Nancy Coulam's files for Wolfe Ranch, Pedestrian Bridge and Park Roads

Appendix

I. INVENTORY SUMMARY

A. Completion Status:

Level I:	Date: **March 7, 1997**	Recorder: **Maureen Joseph**
Level II:	Date: **April 17, 1997**	Recorder: **Maureen Joseph**
Level III:	Date:	Recorder:

B. Inventory Description: **The information provided by this inventory was gathered from Arches National Park archives located at the Administrative Offices of the Southeast Utah Group (SEUG). Two archival finding aids for the Administrative Collection (ARCH 1860) and Wolfe Ranch (ARCH 1800), were used extensively for researching the primary and secondary material found in the collections. Met with the SEUG Archeologist, a park ranger and members of the Grand County Historical Association on-site.**

C. Inventory Included a Site Visit: **Spent one week on-site to document existing conditions during the week of March 3-7 1997.**

II. GENERAL LANDSCAPE INFORMATION

A. Property Level:
Landscape
Component Landscape **XX (due to time constraints only assessed the Wolfe Ranch complex which is a representative of one of a few surviving examples of turn-of-the-century ranches in southeastern Utah.)**

B. Site Name(s):
Historic: **Wolfe Ranch, Turnbow Cabin**
Current: **Wolfe Ranch**

C. CLI Number: **unassigned for now**

D. Associated CLI Number(s):
Landscape:
Component Landscape:

E. Site Identification:
Park Alpha Code: **ARCH**
Park/District Orgcode:
Management Unit:
Tract Number:
Region: **Intermountain Region, Southeast Utah Group**
State: **Utah**
County: **Grand**

F. Site Location:
U.S.G.S. Quad: **The Windows Section, Utah - Grand CO., Topographic, 1985**
Other: **Moab NE, Utah, 7.5 Minute Series, Aerial Photo, 1975**

G. Cultural Landscape Boundary Description: **The land examined during this study includes lands within Section 7 and 8 of Township 24 south, Range 22 East, of the Salt Lake Meridian, Grand County, Utah. The property is sited along Salt Wash, bounded on the east, north and west sides by sandstone benches and ridges, and on the south side by Delicate Arch overlook road. The Wolfe Ranch Historic District currently encompasses 70 acres of mostly level land along Salt Wash. The current boundaries include the Wolfe ranch house complex that includes the log house, root cellar, and corral; historic Ute Indian rock art site (42GR297); and Freshwater Spring, to the northwest of the ranch complex. Some park development has occurred near the ranch complex, including a paved parking lot with two vault toilets to the southeast of the ranch and the Delicate Arch trail that crosses the property from east to west and over Salt Wash via a narrow suspension bridge.**

H. Boundary UTMS:

I. Cultural Landscape Size: **70 acres**

J. Cultural Landscape Description: **The Wolfe Ranch is an example of a modest turn-of-the-century farm, set in the arid inhospitable environment of southeastern Utah. Because of the harsh climatic conditions and use of the site for sheep grazing well into the 1970s, there are no landscape features remaining from when the Wolfe family lived here between 1898 and 1910. Only the setting of the surrounding landscape along Salt Wash, consisting of the natural features: water resources, Freshwater Spring and Salt Wash; native vegetation; and topography; provide the setting for the ranch structures.**

K. Cultural Landscape Contexts

Physiographic: **Wolfe Ranch is situated near a wash surrounded by exposed bedrock, weakly developed soils and sand dunes. There are many unique geologic features near the Wolfe Ranch, in particular "Delicate Arch," one of most famous natural rock arch in the National Park. Due to the arid climate, the vegetation has adapted to the sandy soils and low organic matter. Rabbit bush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.), Greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra* sp.), bud sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.), Indian ricegrass (*Stipa hymenoides*) and three awn grass (*Aristida purpurea*) comprise of some of the vegetation growing around the ranch complex. Some invasive plants have also taken hold along Salt Wash, especially tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.).**

Political: **Utah became a state 1896. The Wolfe family allegedly made a settlement claim for the land in 1898. Twelve years later they sold the rights to the property to Thomas Larsen and Larsen then to James Turnbow in 1916. Turnbow's heirs acquired legal ownership of the property in 1942 under the Stock-raising Homestead Act. Before this point the area was set aside in 1938 as part of Arches National Monument. Subsequently the Wolfe Ranch property was purchased in 1948 from Emmett Elizondo who bought the property two years earlier from the Turnbow heirs.**

Cultural: **The area was used by both prehistoric and historic peoples. Evidence of occupation by Utes or Paiutes is seen in the rock art near Wolfe Ranch. In 1898, John Wesley Wolfe and his son Fred were the first Anglo-Americans to settle in the area near the junction of Salt Wash and Winter Camp Wash. They lived in harsh environment until 1910, trying to cultivate the land and graze livestock. After the Wolfe's left, the area continued to be used for grazing up until 1982.**

L. Assessment of Overall Condition of Landscape:

Good
Fair **XX**
Poor
Unknown

M. Assessment of Overall Level of Impact Severity:

Severe
Moderate XX
Low
Unknown

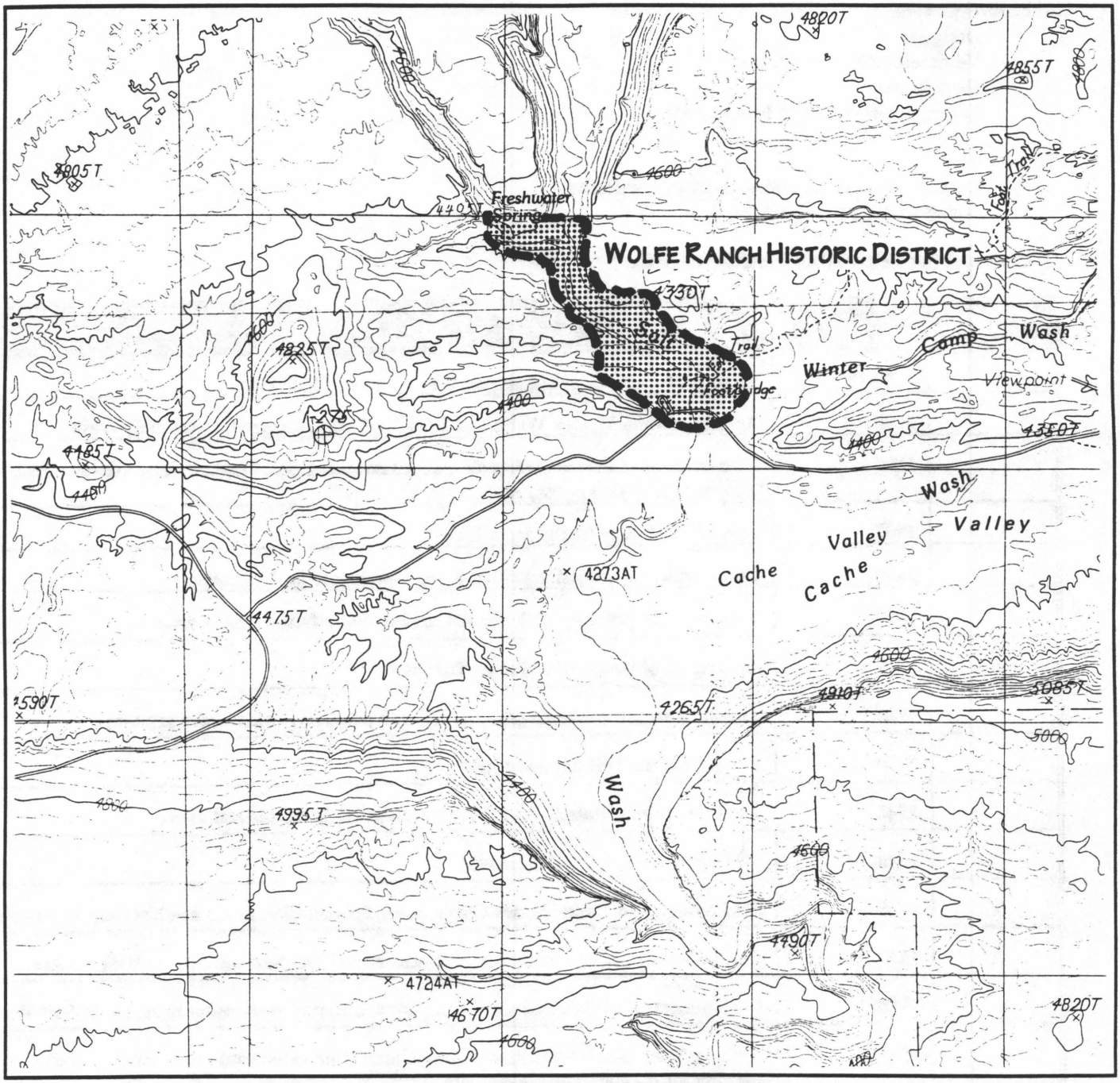
N. Immediate Threats to Landscape:

Impending Development XX construction of new footbridge across Salt Wash
Release to Succession
Adjacent Lands --unknown, but potential impact
Other XX erosion and flooding along Salt Wash, spread of exotic plants within the historic district
Unknown

O. Adjacent Lands Contribute to the Significance of the Landscape and are Considered in the Inventory:

Yes
No
Undetermined XX

III. SITE PLAN



Portion of USGS Quadrangle Map The Windows Section, Utah - Grand CO., Topographic, 1985 showing location of Wolfe Ranch Historic District.

IV. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Landscape Type:
Designed
Vernacular XX
Historic Site
Ethnographic - needs to be assessed

B. Land Use:
Historic: Protohistoric site / Settlers homestead
Current: Interpretative Area

C. Chronology of Related Events and Development

Mapped	Date(s)	Event
	1600-1900	Etching of Ute rock art panels on the east side of Salt Wash
	1898	Arrival of John Wesley Wolfe and Fred Wolfe and settlement near Salt Wash
	1899	Construction of first log cabin on bank overlooking Salt Wash, possible development of garden, irrigation system, root cellar, and corral.
	1907	Arrival of Stanley family from Ohio
	1908	Construction of second log cabin to the west of the first log cabin
	1910	Sold rights of property to Thomas Larsen, Wolfe family leaves area
	1916	Sold rights of property to James Turnbow
	1916-1946	Turnbow grazed cattle on property, fenced property, constructed granary
	1929	Arches National Monument founded
	1942	Turnbow heirs acquired land under Stock-grazing Homestead Law.
	1946	Sold property to Emmett Elizondo
X	1948	Sold property to United States Government for inclusion in Arches National Monument
X	1948	Construction of road and parking lot near ranch complex and trail to Delicate Arch
X	1955	Realignment of trail to Delicate Arch, construction of suspension bridge over Salt Wash
	1967	National Park Service stabilized Wolfe Cabin, root cellar and pole corral, moved parking lot further southwest of site.
X	1975	Property nominated to National Register

Mapped	Date(s)	Event
	1976	Stabilized Wolfe Cabin
	1977	Stabilized root cellar
	c.1977	Installed pit toilets near trailhead parking lot
X	1984	Installed split rail fence along Delicate Arch trail, within historic district
	1990	Moved toilets to entrance of parking lot and constructed accessible "vault type" toilets
X	1993	Enlarged and paved Delicate Arch parking lot, Constructed oversize parking lot on south side of park road
X	1993	Paved park road to Delicate Arch trailhead parking lot
X	1994-1995	Constructed low-water crossing and continued paving road to Delicate Arch overlook parking lot

D. Site History Narrative

See report

E. National Register Status:

Landscape is Listed on the National Register
Landscape Documentation is **Poor**
Dates of Documentation:
National Register Form: **1975**
Amendment to National Register Nomination: **needed**
Landscape is Not Listed on National Register and is Determined Significant Based on the Findings of:
Level I--CLI
Landscape Has Been Determined Eligible by SHPO, Date:
Landscape Has Been Determined Ineligible, Date: **April 1997**

F. National Register Classification: **District (other than ranch complex, nomination boundaries include site of Ute Indian rock art site, and Freshwater Spring upstream from ranch complex)**

G. National Register Significance: **Structures represent an early anglo-American settlement in southeastern Utah and protohistoric Ute rock art site.**

H. National Register Significance Criteria: **NONE**

I. Historic Context(s): **settlement / socio-cultural**

J. Statement of Significance: **The Wolfe Ranch is locally significant as one of the only ranch complexes left from the early 1900s development in southeast Utah, but the ranch lacks landscape integrity. The site is also significant for the protohistoric Ute rock art site #42GR297, but the ethnographic landscape has not been assessed to determine if it is**

significant to the story of the Ute or Paiute tribes. Due to the harsh climatic conditions, highly erodible soils, past grazing use after Wolfe and flash floods within Salt Wash, there is no evidence of use of the site by the Wolfe family other than the structural remains of the log house, root cellar and corral. Later additions to the ranch including fencing and a granary, are visible north of the main house. Even though there is no landscape integrity, the surrounding environment provides a setting for the structural features.

K. National Historic Landmark Status: **NO**

L. World Heritage Site: **NO**

M. List of Primary Contributing Features:

Landscape Feature	CLI/LCS #
Salt Wash	
Freshwater Spring	
Natural topography, level land along Salt Wash	
1907 log cabin	LCS # 10472
log root cellar	LCS # 23038
double corral	LCS # 23042
native vegetation	
Ute rock art site (42GR297)	

N. List of Non-Contributing Features:

Feature	
exotic vegetation	
NPS development - trail, parking lot, vault toilets, waysides, bulletin board, NPS signage, split rail fence, park road, suspension bridge	

V. POTENTIAL ETHNOGRAPHIC VALUE

A. Ethnographic Survey Has Been Conducted:

Yes-Ethnographic Values Identified, Information Restricted

Yes-Ethnographic Values Identified, Information Unrestricted

Description of Known Ethnographic Value:

No-Values Potentially Present, But Unidentified or Unassessed XX

List Groups Potentially Associated With Landscape Historically and/or Currently: **Ute and Paiute tribes**

VI. STATUS OF DOCUMENTATION

A. Overall Assessment of Documentation of the Cultural Landscape: **Good**

B. Documentation Checklist:

Document	Date	Adequately Address Landscape
Special Resource Study		
Historic Resource Study (HRS)	7/86	no
Historical Base Map	7/86	no
General Management Plan (GMP)	1989	yes
Development Concept Plan (DCP)		
Resource Management Plan (RMP)	10/96	Incomplete
Land Protection Plan		
Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)		
Administrative History		
Other: Archeological Survey of the Northeast Portion	6/75	no
Other: Master Plan	1956	no

C. Graphic Documentation:

Topography--

Boundary--

Site Plan-- **Wolfe Ranch, 3/10/97, Keogh Land Surveying**

Other:

VII. MANAGEMENT HISTORY

A. Management Category: **Cultural resource**

B. Approved Treatment:

Treatment	Completed	Document		Date
Stabilization	1967	ARCH-1800 Folder 16 "National Register Status" Wolfe Cabin	Letter: To Administrative Officer, Canyonlands From District Ranger, Arches, Subject Completion Report - Turnbow Cabin	6/68
	1976		RMP Statement - Restore Wolfe Ranch Area	Unknown
	1986		Assessment of Effect Form	5/86
	1967	Root Cellar	Letter: To Administrative Officer, Canyonlands From District Ranger, Arches, Subject Completion Report - Turnbow Cabin	6/68
	1977		RMP Statement - Restore Wolfe Ranch Area	Unknown
	1986		Assessment of Effect Form	5/86
	1967	Corral	Letter: To Administrative Officer, Canyonlands From District Ranger, Arches, Subject Completion Report - Turnbow Cabin	6/68
Preservation				
Rehabilitation				
Restoration				
Reconstruction				
Neglect				
Destruction				
Undetermined				

C. Management Agreement(s):

D. NPS Legal Interest: **Fee**

E. Public Access to the Site: **Open Access / No Restrictions**

VIII. ANALYSIS and EVALUATION

On attached pages provide graphic illustrations and narrative descriptions of the applicable characteristics of the cultural landscape:

Landscape Characteristic	Page Number
Spatial Organization	NA
Response to the Natural Environment	24
Topography (included with Response to the Natural Environment)	24
Land Use	NA
Cultural Traditions (indicate level of potential sensitivity)	NA
Views and Vistas	NA
Circulation	NA
Vegetation	25
Cluster Arrangement	24
Structures	NA
Archeological Sites (indicate level of potential sensitivity)	25
Small Scale Features	NA
Other	

XI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. NRID#:

B. HABS#:

C. HAER#:

D. ASMIS#:

E. Sources:

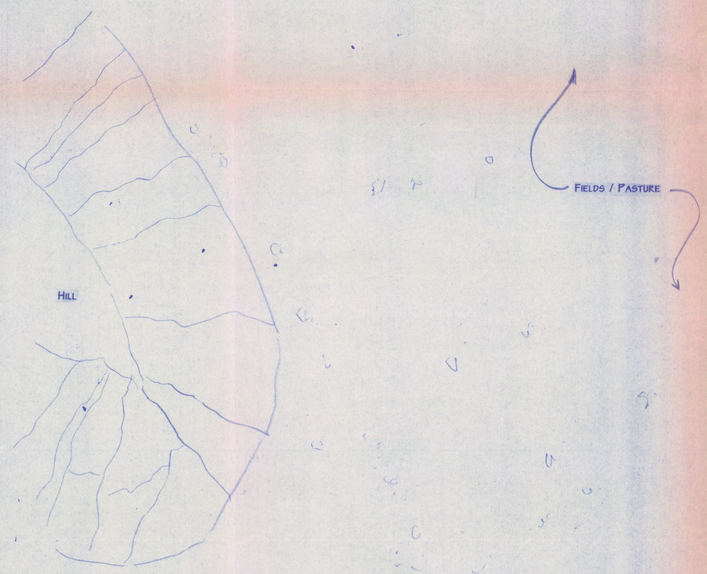
Source: Document/Graphic Material/Interview, etc.	CRBIB# DSC/TIC#	Location
Berry, S. Michael. "An Archeological Survey of the Northeast Portion of Arches National Park." Antiquities Section, Division of State History. June 1975.		SEUG
General Management Plan / Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment. U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Arches National Park. 1989.		SEUG
Hogue, Kathleen. "Conservation and Management Strategies for Three Rock Art Sites in Arches National Park." National Park Service. 1992.		SEUG
List of Classified Structures Entry Reports. 1989.		DSC
Mehls, Stephen F., and Mehls, Carol Drake. "Historic Resource Study Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, and Natural Bridges National Monument." Western Historical Studies, Inc. July 15, 1986.	CANY D-92	DSC
Newell, Maxine. *A Story of Life at Wolfe Ranch.* Moab, Utah: Canyonlands Natural History Association. 1995.		ARCH
Resource Management Plan Arches National Park. National Park Service. Oct. 1996.		SEUG
Wolfe Ranch Collection - ARCH 1800		SEUG
Administrative Collection - ARCH 1860		SEUG
Nancy Coulam's files for Wolfe Ranch, Pedestrian Bridge and Park Roads		SEUG

X. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Maps

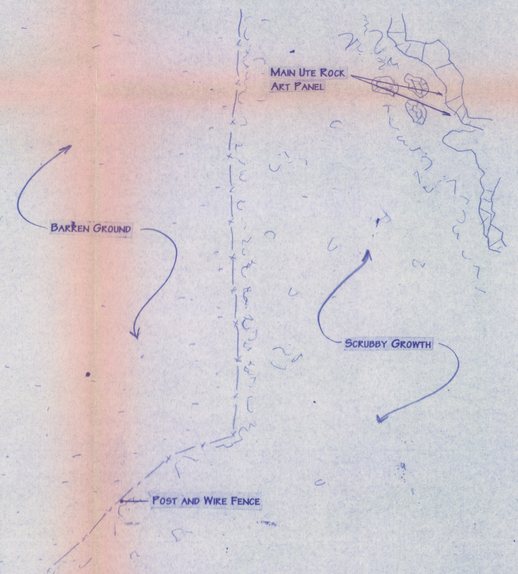
Oversize Map:

Wolfe Ranch Area
1907-1908 Historic Overlay



Fields / Pasture





Ranch Access Road

To Thompson Springs

Fields / Pasture

Notes

Location of most features is based on Esther Stanley Rison's remembrances and historic photographs from 1907-1908 period. The configuration and size of garden and holding pond is based on conjecture.

Sources

- "Plot Plan of the Wolfe Ranch," Keogh Land Surveying, March 10, 1997.
- "Survey of Site Topography at the Wolfe Ranch Pedestrian Bridge," Keogh Land Surveying, Jan. 1993.
- Land Survey, Township 24 south, Range 22 east of the Salt Lake Base and Meridian, Utah, Department of the Interior, General Land Office, June 1, 1932. ARCH 1860.
- Land Survey, Township 24 south, Range 21 east of the Salt Lake Base and Meridian, Utah, Department of the Interior, General Land Office, Feb. 13, 1945. ARCH 1860.
- Photograph Collection, Wolfe Ranch, Arches National Park. ARCH 1800.
- Esther Stanley Rison Interviews, Wolfe Ranch Collection. ARCH 1800.
- Field Observations, March 1997.

North

Scale

0 10 20 40 80 120

One Inch Equals Forty Feet

DESIGNED: M. Joseph	SUB SHEET NO.	TITLE OF SHEET: Wolfe Ranch Area — 1907-1908 Historic Overlay — Cultural Landscape Inventory, Arches National Park	DRAWING NO. 138 / 20,063
DRAWN: M. Joseph			PKG. NO. —
TECH. REVIEW:			SHEET 1 OF 2
DATE: March / 97			

Oversize Map:

Wolfe Ranch Area
Existing Conditions

Hill
Scrubby Growth
Ditch
Disturbed Area
No Vegetation
Rocks
Delicate Arch
Parking Lot
Ditch
Trail
Trash Receptacle
Bike Rack
Bulletin Board
Trailhead Sign
Recycle Bin
Remnant Trail
Split Rail Guardrail
Rocks
Vault Toilets
Concrete Path
Trash Receptacle
Oversize Vehicle
Parking Lot
Park Access Road
Low Water Crossing
To Delicate
Arch Overlook
Social Trails
Rocky Slope
Remnant Fence Line
Scrubby Growth
Double Corral
Utah Fence
Side Trail
Split Rail Fence
Delicate Arch Trail
Culvert
Wolfe Ranch Wayside
"Historical Building" Sign
Stones Lining Trail
Scrubby Growth
Tall Shrubs
Rock Ledge
Root Cellar
Remnant Structure
Wolfe Cabin
Interpretive Wagon
Social Trail
Tamarisk
Tamarisk
Rock Outcrop
Suspension Bridge
Signs
Wash
Salt
Sign
Stones Lining Trail
Trail To
Delicate Arch
Green Rock Hill
Main Ute Rock
Art Panel
Eroded Hillside
Rock Art Wayside
Social Trail
Trail Back To
Delicate Arch Trail
Scrubby Growth

Sources

- "Plot Plan of the Wolfe Ranch," Keogh Land Surveying, March 10, 1997.
- "Survey of Site Topography at the Wolfe Ranch Pedestrian Bridge," Keogh Land Surveying, Jan. 1993.
- Field Observations, March 1997
- Wolfe Ranch Sketch Plan, Nancy Coulam, June 8, 1992.

North

Scale
0 10 20 40 80 120
One Inch Equals Forty Feet

Designed: M. Joseph	Sub Sheet No.	Title of Sheet: Wolfe Ranch Area Existing Conditions Cultural Landscape Inventory Arches National Park	Drawing No. 138 20,064
Drawn: M. Joseph			Pkg. No. — — —
Tech. Review:			Sheet 2 of 2
Date: March / 97			





As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territorities under U.S. Administration.

Prepared and written by Maureen DeLay Joseph; publication services were provided by Larry Sutphin, Cartographic Technician, Denver Service Center.

D-77 / April 1997