

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Wolfe Ranch Homestead Historic District Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase (ADBI)Other names/site number: Wolfe Ranch Historical District (NRIS #75000167), Turnbow Cabin

Name of related multiple property listing:

Arches National Park Multiple Resource Area

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: Delicate Arch Road TrailheadCity or town: Arches National Park State: Utah County: GrandNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C X D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Utah State Historic Preservation Office

Title : SHPO

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☒

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District ☒

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Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

2

Noncontributing

1

buildings

4

sites

5

structures

11

objects

6

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field/pasture

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: horticulture facility/garden

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE: national park

RECREATION/CULTURE: outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rocky Mountain Cabin

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Walls: WOOD/Log; Roof: CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 203-acre Wolfe Ranch Homestead ~~in Arches National~~ Park's Cache Valley in Grand County, Utah, is anchored by the single-story single-pen log Cabin constructed in 1907, its associated dugout cellar, and wood-fenced Corral. These three resources and 70 acres of supporting site—including Wolfe's Freshwater Spring, the Ute Petroglyph Panel, and fence lines to the north and east—were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 as the Wolfe Ranch Historical [sic] District (NRIS # 75000167) with a somewhat arbitrary boundary and a brief description. This NRHP amendment renames the district to the Wolfe Ranch Homestead Historic District, encompassing the *homestead*—herein the cluster of dwelling, livestock Corral, and former garden area—and surrounding *homestead claim*—herein the legal extent of 160 acres worked 1898–1910 by the Wolfes within a claim patented by a subsequent owner in 1942. The amendment expands the boundary to include the full extent of the homestead claim as a larger site including the c. 1920 Southwest Livestock Fence, while retaining: the supporting Wolfe's Freshwater Spring to the northwest; the strongly associated 1907 Cabin and dugout cellar plus Corral and nearby fences; and the potential homestead-era archeological evidence of privies, irrigated subsistence garden, and other ranching resources. One early NPS visitor-service structure, the Delicate Arch Trail started in 1948, is intact and included as part of

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the park's interpretation program that used Wolfe Ranch as principal access to that remote arch. Despite a half century of other and less-sensitive encroachments within the Homestead-Claim Site for park- visitor services, the Wolfe Ranch Homestead retains integrity for the period of significance, 1898–1971, in the NRHP aspects of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling, all accompanying its significance as a historic property that remains worthy of preservation and of listing in the NRHP. The district includes the 11 contributing resources noted above, and 6 noncontributing resources: Delicate Arch Road, Delicate Arch Trail Bridge, North and South Parking Lots, Vault Toilets, and Shade Structure.

Narrative Description

WOLFE RANCH IN 1975

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Inventory – Nomination Form (Loope 1974), supporting the 1975 listing of the “Turnbow Cabin / Wolfe Ranch Historical District,” provided the following brief description for the 70-acre property.

The remaining structures of Wolfe Ranch are located near the bank of Salt Wash, in a desolate valley flanked by the upturned strata of the Salt Valley Anticline. Because rainfall is scanty (less than ten inches per year), the wash is often dry, but flash floods commonly occur after summer cloudbursts. Sagebrush, greasewood, and saltbush dominate the uplands; tamarisk and various grasses and sedges line the wash. The valley is floored by the green shale of the Morrison Formation. The Morrison, with its high concentrations of selenium and salts, produces a heavy soil, poorly suited for agricultural purposes. A strong flowing, freshwater spring is located in a narrow side canyon about three quarters of a mile from the structures.

The Wolfe Ranch includes a small cabin (HS 1), a dugout cellar (HS 2), and a corral (HS 3). The walls and foundations of the cabin and cellar are of unhewn, knotted [sic] cottonwood and juniper logs. The roofs are also of log, with shale and juniper bark on top and in the cracks. The one room cabin is 15' X 17', with one doorway and one window. There is no ceiling, and in the middle of the rough plank floor, a large juniper post supports the roof. The dugout cellar is 12' X 12', with one doorway and no floor.

The corral is approximately 50' X 75', with juniper posts and rails. In November and December of 1967, emergency stabilization was carried out. Plastic and canvas material was incorporated into the roofs of the cabin and the cellar to prevent leakage. Additional shale and juniper bark was placed on the roofs and in wall crevices. Excess dirt was removed from the inside of the dugout cellar. All corral posts were

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removed and reset; rotten posts were replaced with new posts from a similar corral on BLM land.

The cabin and cellar were built in 1907 by John Wesley Wolfe, his son Fred, and his son-in-law, Ed Stanley. Wolfe sold the ranch in 1910 to Tommy Larson. Marvin Turnbow bought the ranch in 1914 [1916] and the cabin became locally known as Turnbow Cabin. In 1938 the ranch became [an inholding within] Arches National Monument. In 1971 the site was officially dedicated as Wolfe Ranch Environmental Study Area.

The appearance of the structures has changed very little since 1907. Due to flooding, Wolfe's dam, irrigation ditches, and garden have been almost totally lost.

Preservation is the recommended level of treatment. Significance is local, "3rd order."



Fig. 1. Wolfe family 1907 Cabin, one of their two Root Houses (right foreground), and Corral (right middle ground), facing south-southwest. The Delicate Arch Trailhead's noncontributing parking lot structure holds vehicles across the right middle ground. Arches National Park's "The Windows" formations are visible on the horizon through a break created by Salt Wash canyon on the center-left. James Steely 2019.

BOUNDARIES

The Wolfe Ranch historic district—as it was National Register-listed in 1975, and as a cultural landscape last evaluated in 2002—is a 70-acre property in the northeast area of Arches National Park. The 1975 designated boundary (Fig. 2) begins on its extreme northwest at Freshwater Spring in a side canyon of Salt Wash, encompassing the side canyon, then the main wash in its stream direction to the southeast. Near a bend of the wash to the south and in a small side canyon on the wash's northeast side, the boundary includes the Ute Petroglyph Panel and most of today's side trails to view the panel, the west-most leg part of the original Delicate Arch Trail

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passing directly by the Ute Petroglyph Panel. The boundary then widens at the wash's southeasterly bend into a rectangle—minus the hill to its southwest—that encompasses the Wolfe homestead cluster but not the wash's essential floodplain for grazing to the south.

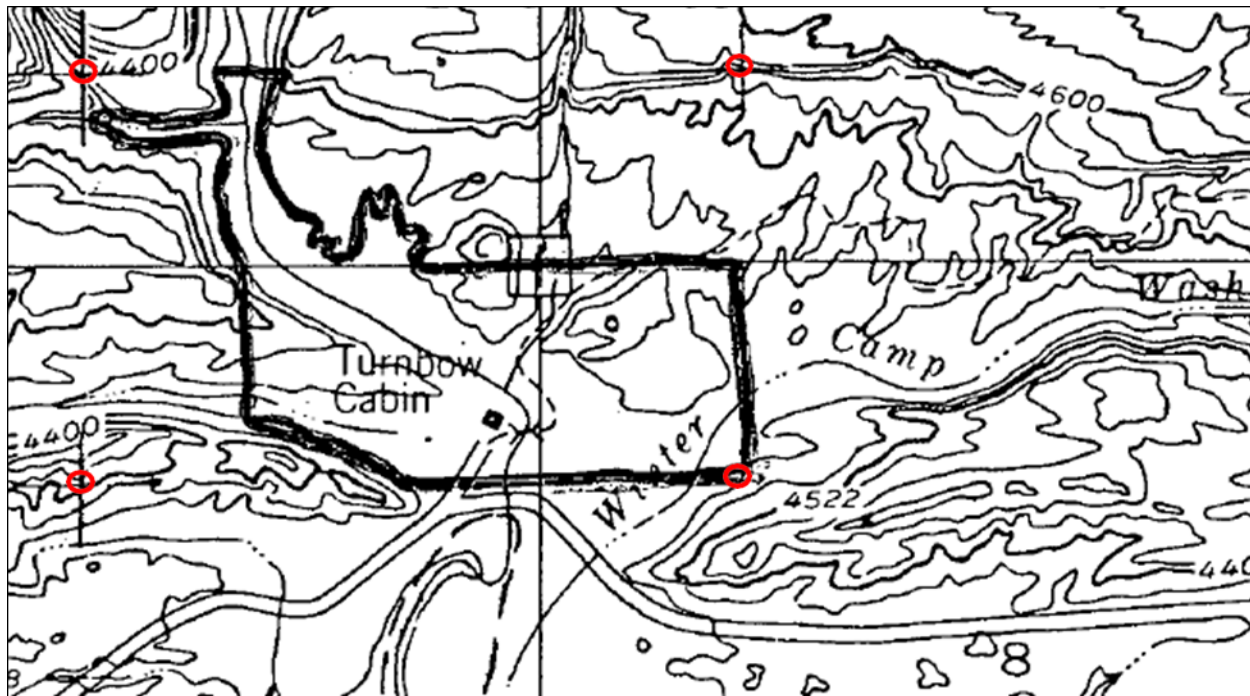


Fig. 2. The 1975 Turnbow Cabin NRHP boundary, following the Freshwater Spring side canyon and Salt Wash at the northwest, but expanding generally to an arbitrary rectangle on its south and southeast reaches. The four geopositions (red circles and crosshairs) are from the (Loope) 1974 NRHP form. This USGS 1959 "Moab, Utah" base map indicated that Delicate Arch Trail passed by the Petroglyph at that time.

A different interpretation (Fig. 3) of the 1975 NRHP boundary appeared in the 1997 Wolfe Ranch Area Cultural Landscape Inventory. After moving from Freshwater Spring southeast along Salt Wash's canyon and past the section line (the faint line labeled "3307" on Fig. 3), the boundary then widens at the wash's southerly bend and follows an arbitrary rough circle around the Wolfe Ranch Homestead's Cabin—with a radius varying from 600 feet on the Cabin's southwest to 800 feet on its east (NRHP boundary interpretation, created by 1997 and reproduced in Joseph 1997:41).

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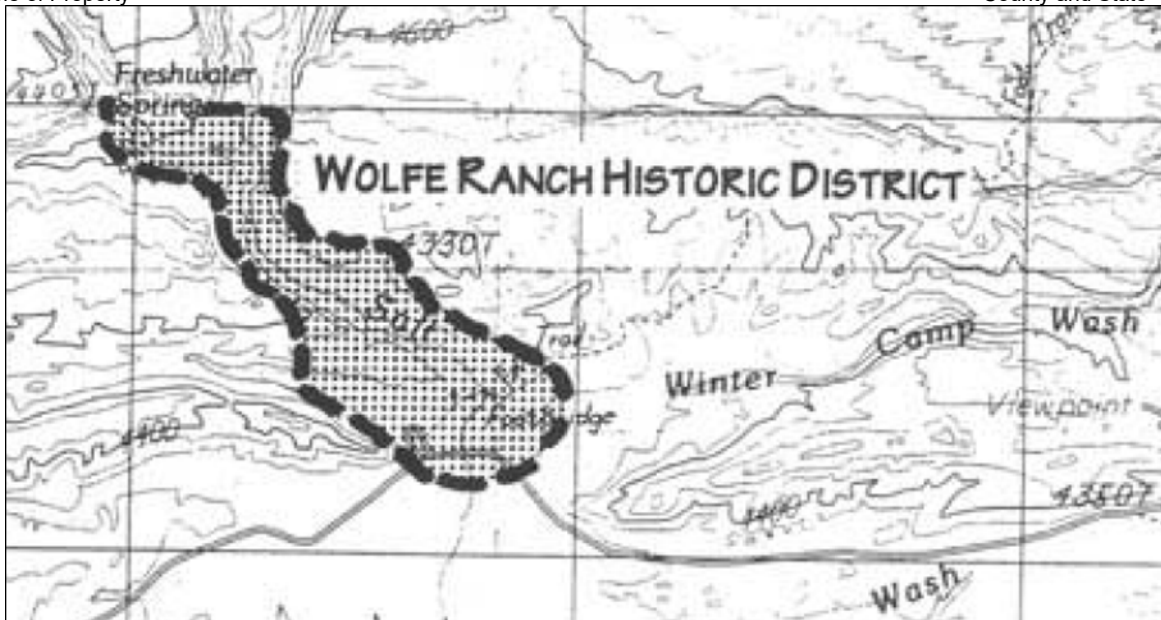


Fig. 3. Different interpretation of the 1975 NRHP boundary as it appears in the 1997 Wolfe Ranch Area Cultural Landscape Inventory.

This National Register amended boundary (maps on pages 8 and 75) retains the northwestern historic district boundary encompassing Freshwater Spring and its side canyon, and Salt Wash in its southerly flow toward the Wolfe Ranch Homestead residential cluster. When the Salt Wash canyon's topo lines reach the northwest corner of the Wolfe Homestead claim lines, the boundary then follows the homestead lines to the south and east to encompass the 160-acre settlement claim in 1898 of John Wesley Wolfe, patented in 1942 by Susie Turnbow (Section 8).

LOCATION and SETTING (edited from Joseph 1997)

The Wolfe Ranch Homestead's residential cluster is in a distinct shallow valley along south-trending Salt Wash, surrounded by shelves and rock outcrops of the Morrison Formation on the east, west, and north. Salt Wash is one of only two perennial streams within Arches National Park, capturing rainfall in a 3,944-acre basin immediately north of the historic district and dominating the northeast area of the national park. Up the wash in the northwest corner of the historic district, Freshwater Spring still provides a water source during the driest of seasons. The Ute Petroglyph Panel on the valley's east slope, just south of where a side canyon enters Salt Wash, is pecked on yellow buff sandstone—also part of the multifaceted Morrison Formation—with a dark brown patina of desert varnish. South of the homestead cluster, the valley opens up where Salt Wash and Winter Camp Wash meet within the larger homestead claim. The natural setting within which all the homestead features are located is the most important feature of the historic district/site's location and setting (Joseph 1997:2,17).

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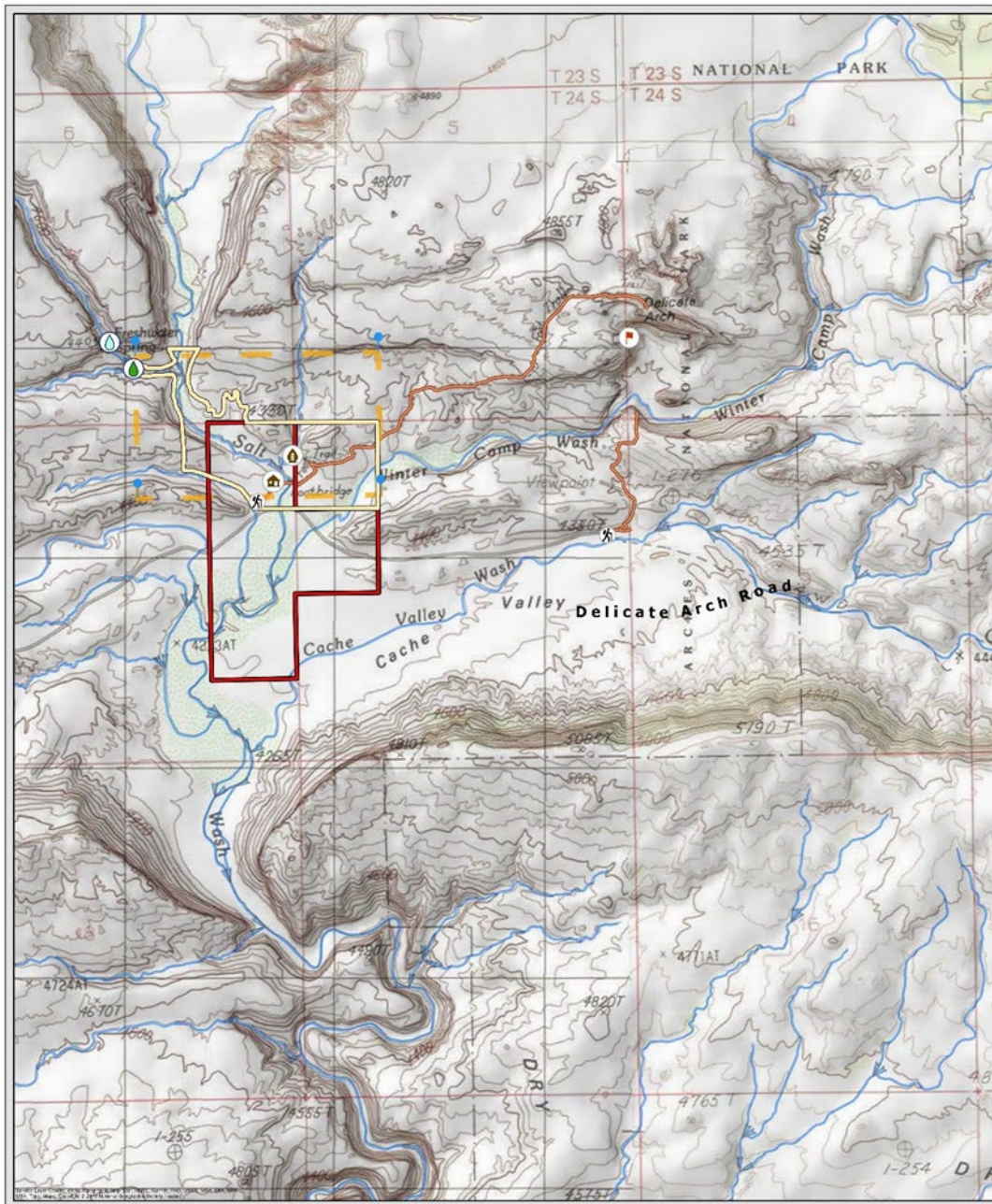


Fig. 4. Location and setting of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead Historic District showing original 1975 boundary and current amended boundary..

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Wolfe's Freshwater Spring (edited from Joseph 2002)

Perennial springs in a tributary of Salt Wash about 0.75 miles northwest of the homestead facilitated year-round living in this otherwise desert area, and helped create a modest reservoir when the Wolfes dammed Salt Wash about 1900. “Freshwater Spring” marked on USGS maps (Figs 3, 4, and 5) is outside the 1975 amended district, about 500 feet northwest of “Wolfe’s Freshwater Spring” inside the district, historically used by the sequence of homesteaders and ranchers here. In 1948 with acquisition of Wolfe Ranch by the NPS, federal surveyors noted a trail from the main Cabin across slick-rock sandstone to the latter spring. The last private owner of the homestead claim, Emmett Elizondo, received a 35-year permit from the NPS to use the springs and graze his sheep along the Salt Wash plain (Joseph 2002:23–24). However, 1942 federal homestead-patent and state water-rights investigations had concluded that both Freshwater Springs were outside the homestead claim (but the Wolfe’s spring is inside the historic district) and therefore its occupants and heirs held no rights to the springs’ output, at the sources or anywhere downstream (Purcell 2019:91,142, 159). Although hydrologists have produced detailed reports of water sources in Arches National Park (e.g., Cudlip et al. 1999), no figures are available on the historic or current output of the Freshwater Springs.

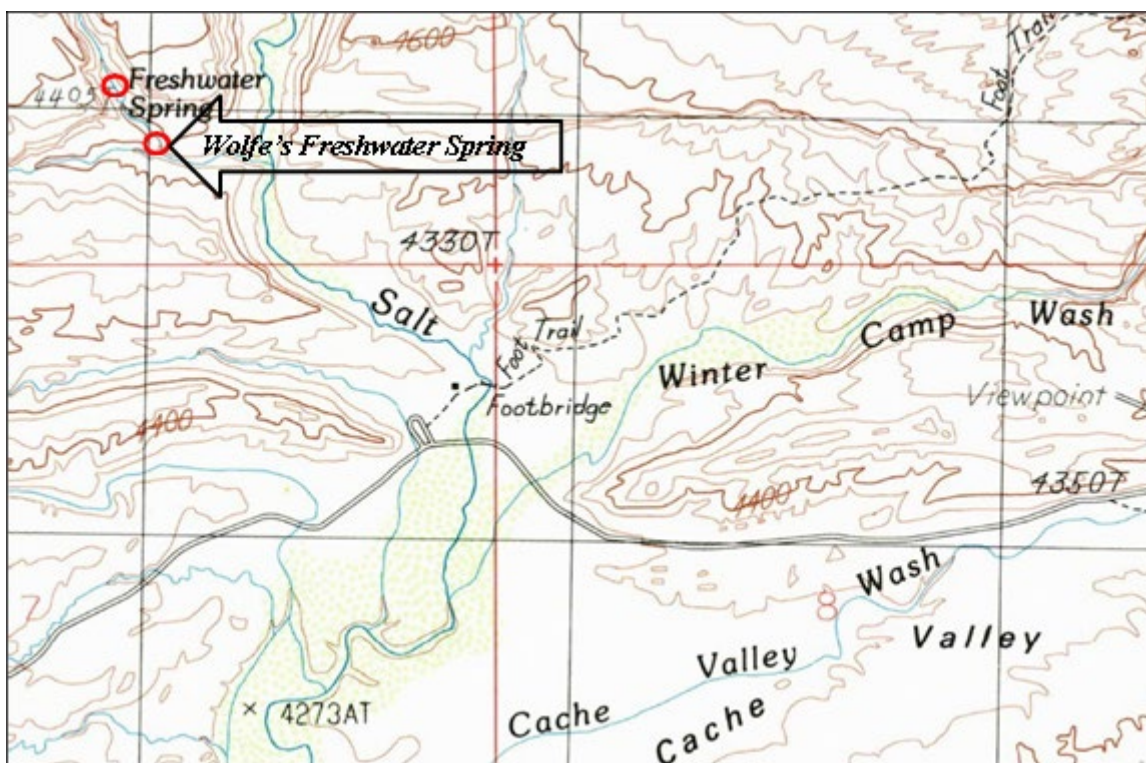


Fig. 5. Potable—drinkable—Freshwater Spring (upper left), and the nearby-downstream spring (added here to this USGS map segment) used by the Wolfes and successors, northwest of the Wolfe Cabin (the dot left of “Footbridge”), provide Salt Wash with much of its perennial moisture. Also benefitting from the non-potable flow—naturally tainted

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by sediment and high sulfate content (Cudlip et al. 1999:16)—of Winter Camp Spring along Winter Camp Wash (center right), Salt Wash below the Wolfe Cabin spreads southerly into an unusually verdant floodplain in Arches National Park's Cache Valley. USGS 1985.

Ute Petroglyph Panel (edited from Joseph 2002)

During the almost 300-year span between 1600 and 1898, Utes or Paiutes traveled on horseback through this area generally following washes where water was present during most of the year, including Salt Wash in today's Arches National Park. About 450 feet northeast of the Wolfe Cabin, Utah archeological site 42GR297—designated in 1957 by then-NPS archeologist Lloyd Pierson—consists of two large petroglyph panels on rock faces above Salt Wash (Kramer 1991:35), accessed today by spurs of the Delicate Arch Trail.

The main panel is an approximately 8x10-foot face of Entrada sandstone (Kramer 1991:38), featuring—according to the NPS IMACS (Intermountain Antiquities Computer System) form—“5 anthropomorphs on horseback, 7 bighorn sheep, 3 coyotes (dogs) and two unknown blobs.” To the left of the main panel is an “isolated anthropomorphic figure which is stylistically similar to Fremont [300–1300 CE] motifs” (Hogue 1993:22). The petroglyphs are pecked on yellow buff sandstone with a dark brown patina of desert varnish, as described by NPS-ARCH conservator Kathleen Hogue (1993:21–24). While dated back to as early as the 17th century, the Ute Petroglyph Panel is a contributing resource to the Wolfe Ranch Homestead historic district within the period of significance because of its role as a remarkable feature during the ranching years, and its early (1950s) incorporation into park interpretation through an access trail.

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Fig. 6. The Ute Petroglyph Panel site, or Wolfe Ranch Panel (Hogue 1993:21), facing northeast, is about 450 feet northeast of the Wolfe Cabin, accessed via Delicate Arch Trail spurs (left foreground) on a Salt Wash canyon wall (oval), with its pecked figures covering a surface about 8x10 feet. See Figs.4 and 18, and pages 73–75. James Steely 2021.

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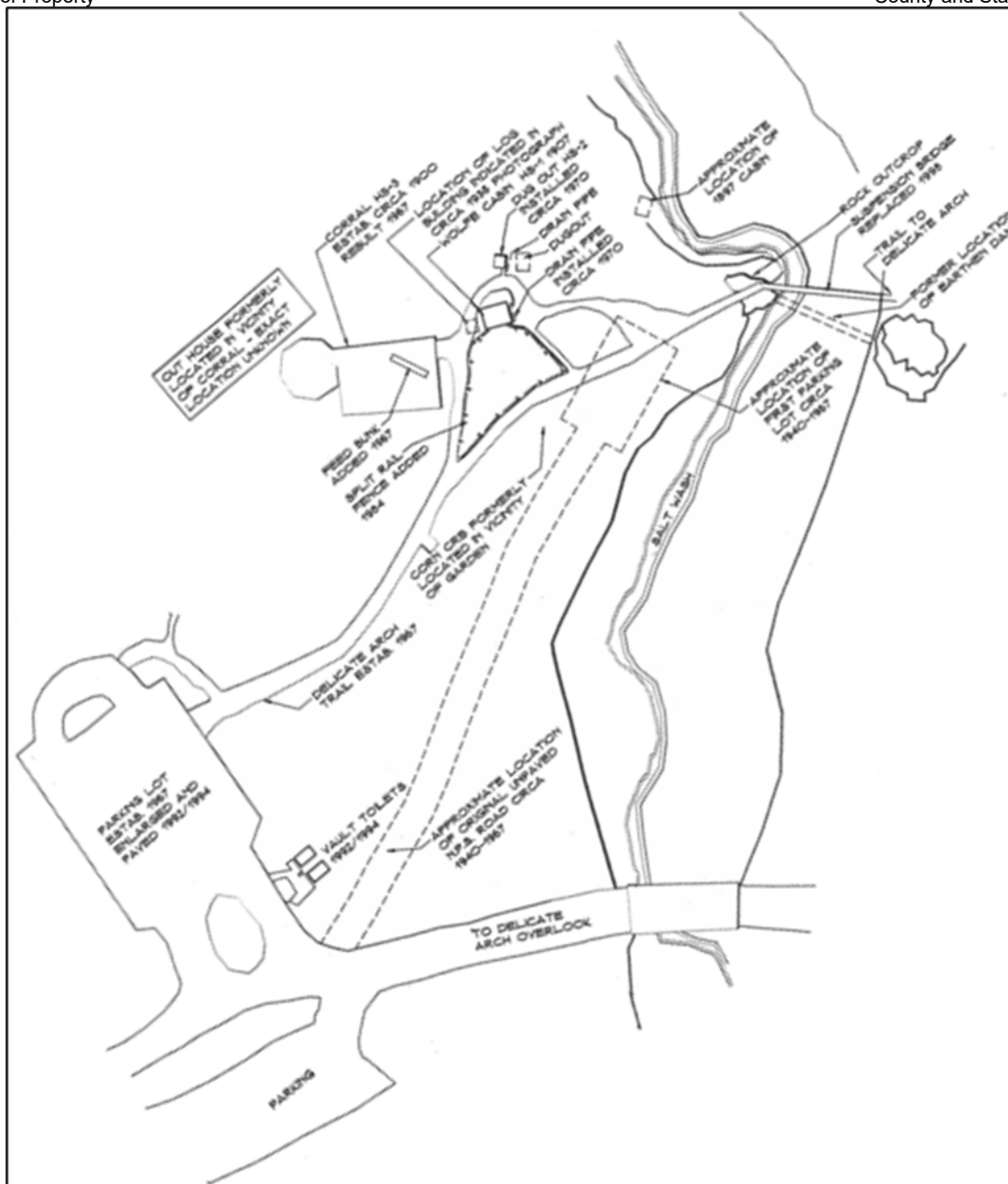


Fig. 7. Wolfe Ranch Homestead-area conditions dated 1999 (but without 1993 and 1998 landscape updates), similar to 2021. Exceptions include: the new Delicate Arch Trail pedestrian bridge—installed in 1998—is not shown as replacement for the 1955 suspension bridge; the 2007 pedestrian bridge extension west—over a new Salt Wash channel—not shown; the North Parking Lot at southwest/lower left, doubled in pavement footprint in 1993 to the northwest; and the 2 Vault Toilets removed in 1993 and replaced by two others alongside the North Parking Lot extension and north of the Delicate Arch Trailhead. Note the location of the 1948–1967 NPS entrance road and parking lot (dashed lines) very close to the main Cabin and obscuring the Vegetable Garden. McDonald and Hubber 1999:10, based on Fritz 1965 (page 54).

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ASSOCIATION and FEELING (edited from McDonald and Hubber 1999:7–8)

The Homestead Claim (site)

The current appearance of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead's immediate landscape is different than during its agricultural period, 1898–1960s, affecting its association with early Moab-area ranching and its feeling of absolute remoteness (page 40). Photographs of the surroundings taken in the early 1900s show little vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the surviving buildings, likely due to the impact of constant human activity on the natural desert flora.

Similarly, dense stands of tamarisk—planted after 1965 by the NPS for erosion control and thereafter dominating Salt Wash—were absent (Purcell 2019:187). As late as the 1940s, the Salt Wash floodplain lacked the dense stands of greasewood and sagebrush that now occur.

The homestead cluster lacks the many small-scale features and artifacts that might contribute to one's understanding of its residents' everyday life. When the Wolfe family occupied the homestead, and later when the Turnbows and Elizondos used the property seasonally, the immediate vicinity would have contained the many implements necessary for everyday chores. Gone is the variety of small-scale buildings and structures mentioned in oral histories and shown in historic photographs of the ranch. These include the Outhouse, Corn Crib (probably the collapsed building visible in a 1941 photograph [page 44] of the homestead), Chicken Coop, and second Root House dugout. Long gone are the Earthen Dam where the Delicate Arch Trail now crosses Salt Wash, its Holding Pond reservoir, and Irrigation Ditch, all swept away with the 1899 Cabin during a Salt Wash flood about 1910 (see attached Mapbook Figure 7).

John Wolfe's granddaughter Esther Stanley Rison (1971) remembered from her arrival in 1906:

The old [1899] cabin...was just north of the dam... [and still] there when we left Moab in 1910 [sic] It was a large cabin with two beds in it, a table, 2 chairs and a stove. This is where grandpa and Uncle Fred slept. When we arrived, we cooked in the cabin, and lived in a tent the first winter until the new cabin was built, the early spring of 1907.

...We did wash our clothes in front of the cabin, right by the irrigation ditch. This too was in front of the new cabin. With out the dam we could not water the garden and [grow] feed for the horses. My brother and I helped keep the sand out of it. To-day [1971] you can't see where it was. (Esther Rison. (1970, August 22). [Letter to Bates Wilson, supt.]

The greatest change to the district's supporting Homestead-Claim Site results from the development of infrastructure associated with the trailhead to Delicate Arch. The conflict between retaining the integrity of the ranch site and providing parking for hikers is a long-standing issue. To some degree, the impacts associated with the parking lot were mitigated in

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1967, when the first parking area was moved west to its current location. However, the increase in visitor use has led to the need for further improvements and enlargement of the parking area. The NPS-installed wood fencing (page 39) has further impacted the historic appearance of the homestead. Currently, the Cabin lacks the profound sense of isolation experienced by the Wolfe family (McDonald and Hubber 1999:7–8).

Despite the absence of these many details of an active homestead, which the park's interpretation program endeavors to describe and explain, the ranch's association with and feeling within the dominating natural desert location and setting are very much retained and evident at every turn.

DESIGN, MATERIALS, WORKMANSHIP (edited from McDonald and Hubber 1999)

Cabin

The 1907 Wolfe Cabin (building) is a 1-story, single-pen log building with an approximately 16x17-foot rectangular plan, originally constructed on a stone-perimeter foundation. The building is a "Rocky Mountain Cabin" type as identified by U.S. Forest Service historian Mary Wilson (1984:33), with "front-facing gable...single door off-centered in the gable end...roof slope...under 45°...and...builder's preference of iron stoves over fireplaces." The shallow front-gable roof is supported by the unusual installation of double ridge beams, to ensure adequate support for the original multiple-layer wood, burlap, and mud roofing materials.

The cottonwood wall logs are joined at the corners with rough V-notches and many have "chopper cut" ends hewn to 2-face edges. The disheveled and unsophisticated appearance of the Cabin could simply be a result of the erratic Colorado River logs collected for its construction. Or, since John Wolfe was a carpenter and controlled the assembly by Fred Wolfe and Ed Stanley, the resulting character might have been intentional as an adventure house for the grandchildren (see Section 8). The split-pole and juniper-bark chinking added in 1976 remains, as does some of the mud daubing applied in 1967. Both the mud daubing and the log chinking appear to be consistent with the historic appearance of the building as shown in historic photographs. The wall logs represent the bulk of original fabric remaining in the building.

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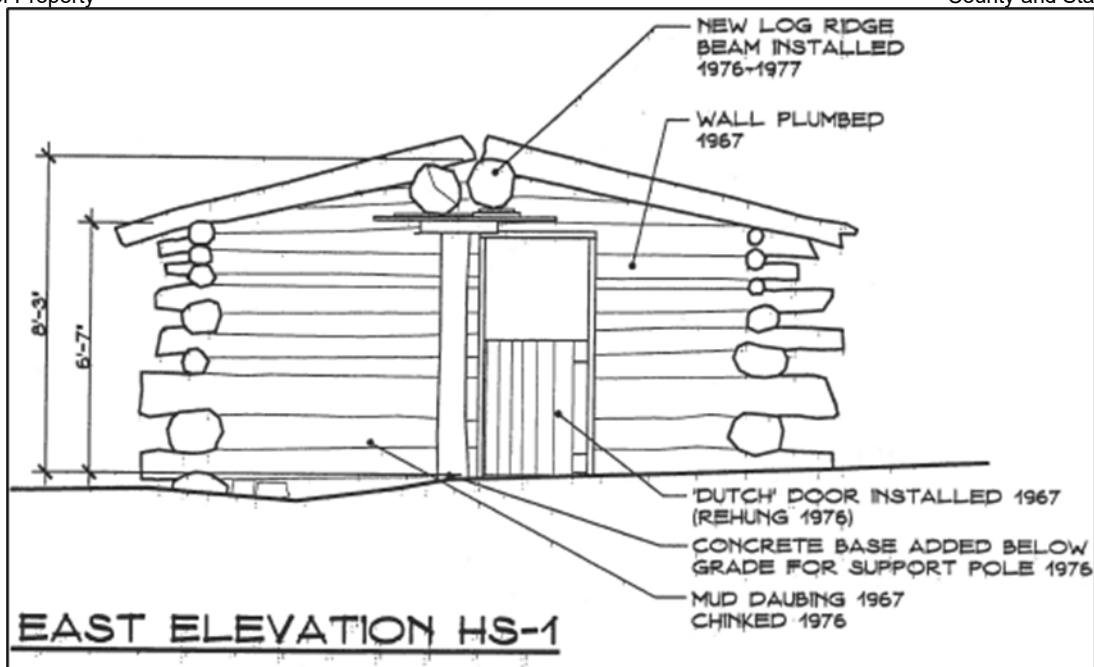


Figure 8. Chronology of East construction elevation from Wolfe Ranch Historic Structures Report Arches National Park (1999)

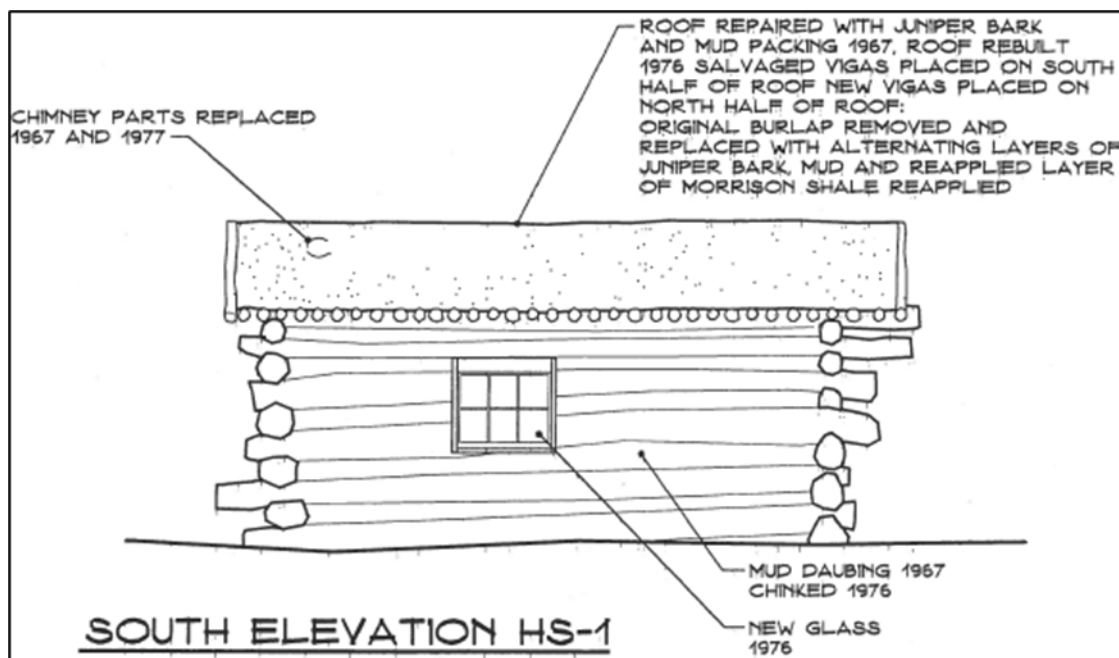


Fig. 9. Chronology of South construction elevation from Wolfe Ranch Historic Structures Report Arches National Park (1999)

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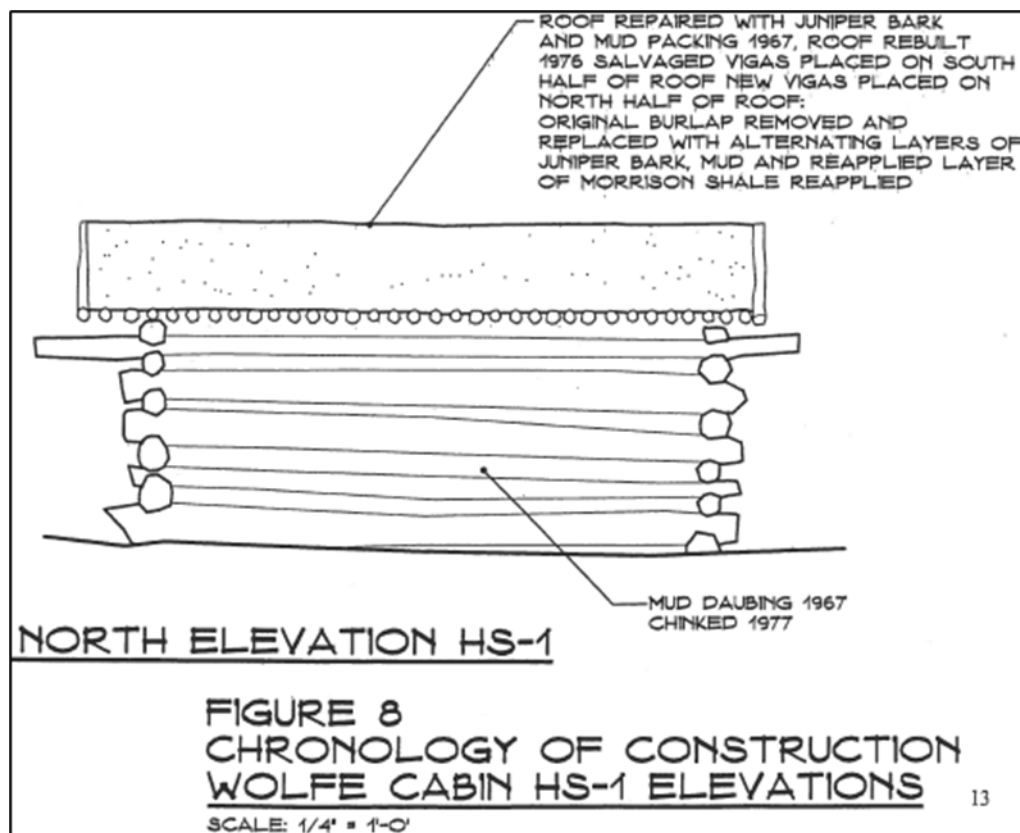


Fig. 10. Chronology of East construction elevation from Wolfe Ranch Historic Structures Report Arches National Park (1999)

The Cabin's fenestration includes a door opening offset north/right of center in the west elevation. The opening now contains the bottom half of the "Dutch" or two-leaf door added in 1967. The south elevation contains a horizontal window opening in the west half of the wall that contains the original six-light, fixed wooden sash, with replaced glass panes. The west/rear and north elevations contain no openings.

Roof repairs and component replacements date from a 1976–1977 NPS stabilization effort, and a 2001 replacement of components (Joseph 2002:25). The Cabin's current roof materials represent a deviation from the original, which consisted of unpeeled oak vigas (log rafters) covered with a layer of burlap and finally by a layer of waterproof Morrison Formation/Brushy Basin Member green mud, and gravel. The mud was "Altered Volcanic Ash," also called "glauconite," and the Wolfe Ranch sources east and west of the Cabin are the only exposed outcrops in the park, according to archeologist Karen Kramer (1991:12). The current roof consists of oak vigas laid perpendicular to the two ridge poles and overlain with two layers of juniper bark. A layer of cement covers the second layer of juniper bark. The only original fabrics remaining in the roof

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are the oak vigas on the south slope, salvaged and reused during the 1970s work. A large vertical timber (probably original) supports the weight of the eave at the west/front elevation.

The interior of the building contains one room with a milled-lumber floor, repaired in-kind in 1976 with salvageable original boards re-laid at the west/back floor area and new boards added to the east/front floor area. The walls and the ceiling are unfinished. The hole and metal flashing for the stovepipe are visible in the southwest corner of the roof. The interior walls contain chinking added in 1977 (McDonald and Hubber 1999:11).

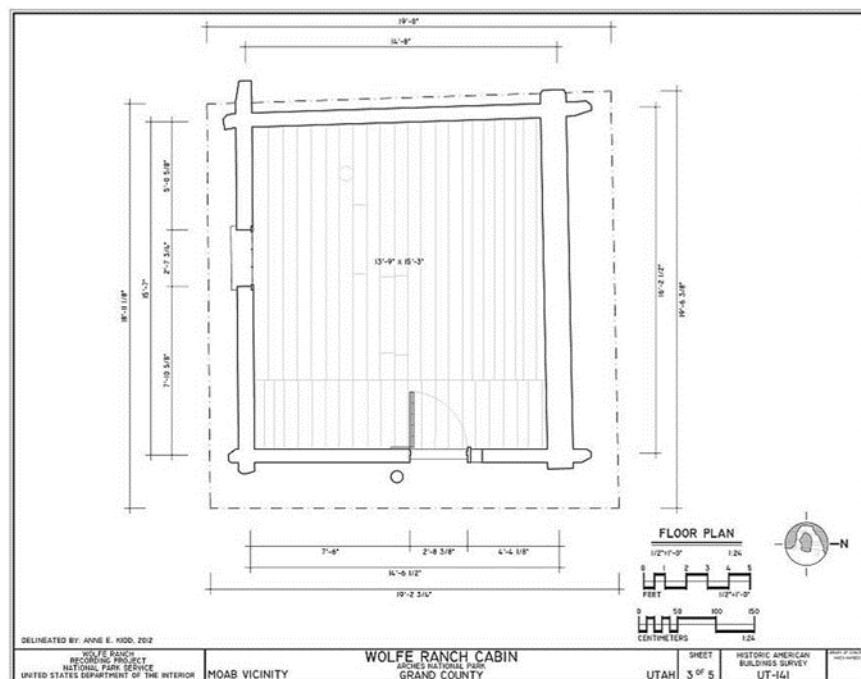


Fig. 11. Looking into this – looks like it may be tied to the HSR but is not in original report.

Root House / Dugout Cellar

The exact date of this building is unknown but is sometime between about 1900 and about 1905. John Wolfe called it the “Root House” (Rison 1970), a descriptive combination of root-cellar and dugout-house. Through most of the first half of the 20th century, it was joined by a similar dugout on its southeast side. These Root Houses served as food storage for the Wolfe family, which produced and preserved subsistence crops from its irrigated garden and re-supplied its six members every three months after a wagon trip to Thompson Springs. The building is a miniature and subterranean version of the “Rocky Mountain Cabin” type described above for the main Cabin (Wilson 1984:33). The Root House’s shallow front-gable roof is also supported by

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the unusual installation of double ridge beams, to ensure adequate support for the original multiple-layer wood, burlap, and mud roofing materials.

In 1967 the front wall was plumbed, and the holes in the roof were repaired with juniper bark and mud packing. A layer of plastic was applied to the exterior walls and then dirt was applied to cover the plastic. About 2½ feet of dirt was excavated from the interior of the building, resulting in a clearance of about 5 feet, and rocks were reset around the exterior. Drainage around this building has been improved by excavation of a ditch around the perimeter.

In 1976-1977, workers repeated many of the repairs conducted 10 years earlier. Specifically, they excavated 18 inches of fill from the interior of the building, and again patched the roof with cedar bark and covered it with about five inches of “matching dirt.” It is now covered in a layer of cement. The matching dirt may refer to the Morrison Shale green mud applied to the top, as with the main Cabin. At that time NPS workers added a door frame (page 55) to the building and chinked the walls with cedar bark and small pieces of wood (McDonald and Hubber 1999:11,26).

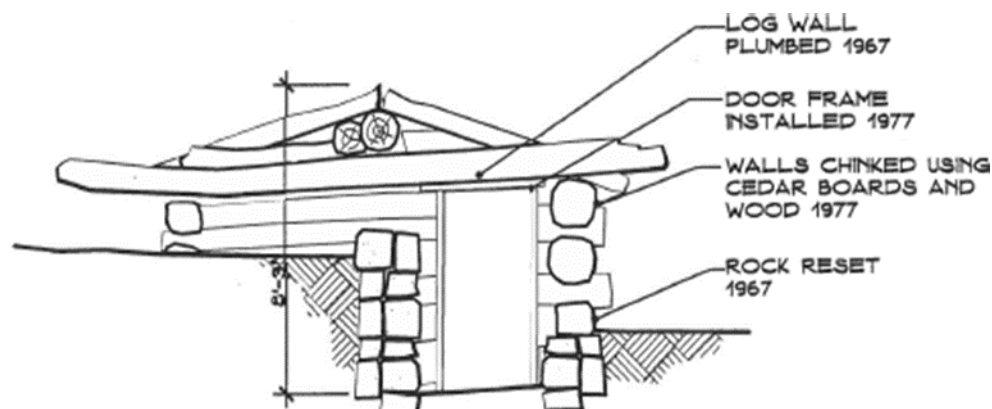


FIGURE 12
CHRONOLOGY OF CONSTRUCTION
DUGOUT HS-2 NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" 17

Fig. 12. The elevation above is correctly the SOUTH elevation of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead's Root House / Dugout Cellar. The simple subterranean cabin, like the main Cabin nearby, features a double ridge beam to support the roof of multiple, heavy, waterproofing layers. McDonald and Hubber 1999:17.

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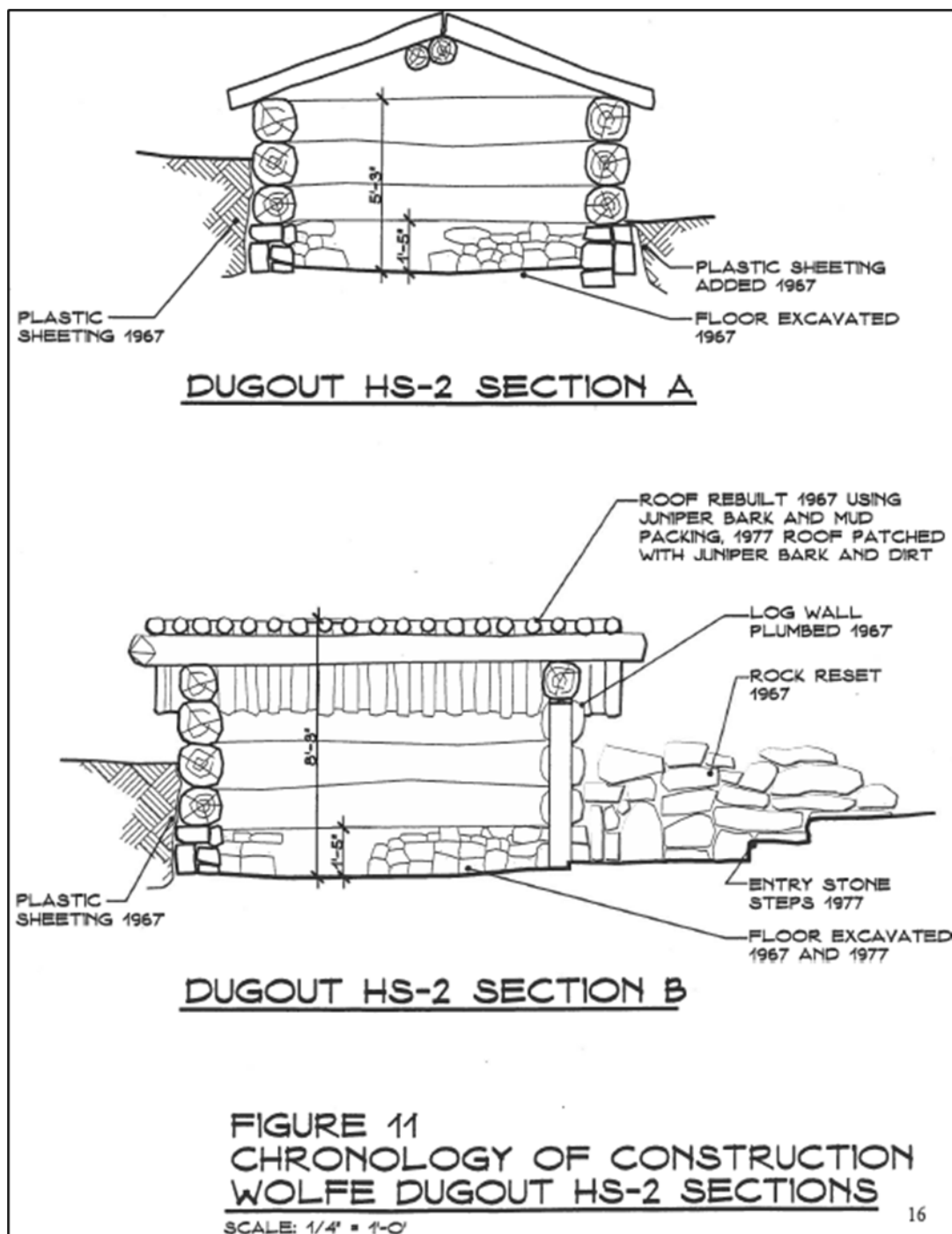


Fig. 13. Chronology of Dugout construction from Wolfe Ranch Historic Structures Report Arches National Park (1999)

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Corral

As with the Root House, the exact date of construction of this wooden post-and-rail structure is unknown. It is believed to have been originally constructed by the Wolfes, prior to the Stanley family arriving at the homestead in 1906. After 1911, the Corral served subsequent owners, who ran more livestock than those original homesteader/ranchers. The double enclosure is west, and likely downwind, of the main Cabin, providing a roughly 74x48-foot rectangular grazing pen and a connected 41-foot radius working pen. The typical residents would have included John Wolfe's wagon team of horses and his grandchildren's mule Jenny. The enclosure served for seasonal roundup and branding of the Wolfes' cattle, and later for corralling Turnbow horses.

In 1967, the NPS completely reconstructed the Corral, replacing rotted pieces with vintage posts provided by the Bureau of Land Management, and resetting sound original posts. NPS workers rewired new and salvaged wooden rails to posts using "vintage" barbed wire, as originally fastened. At that time, the park introduced the "water trough" to the Corral. Although the exact form of the original Corral was retained, the removal of "galvanized metal sheeting, mining rails, and any other inconsistent material in and around the corral," according to the NPS project manager in 1967, inevitably altered its historic appearance. The use of such found and recycled materials as structural members of the Corral might have represented historic fabric, at least from the period when the Turnbows occupied the property, 1916–1946. It is not uncommon to find a variety of salvage materials incorporated into rural agricultural settlements in isolated areas of the West, where building materials were scarce and often reused (McDonald and Hubber 1999:18).

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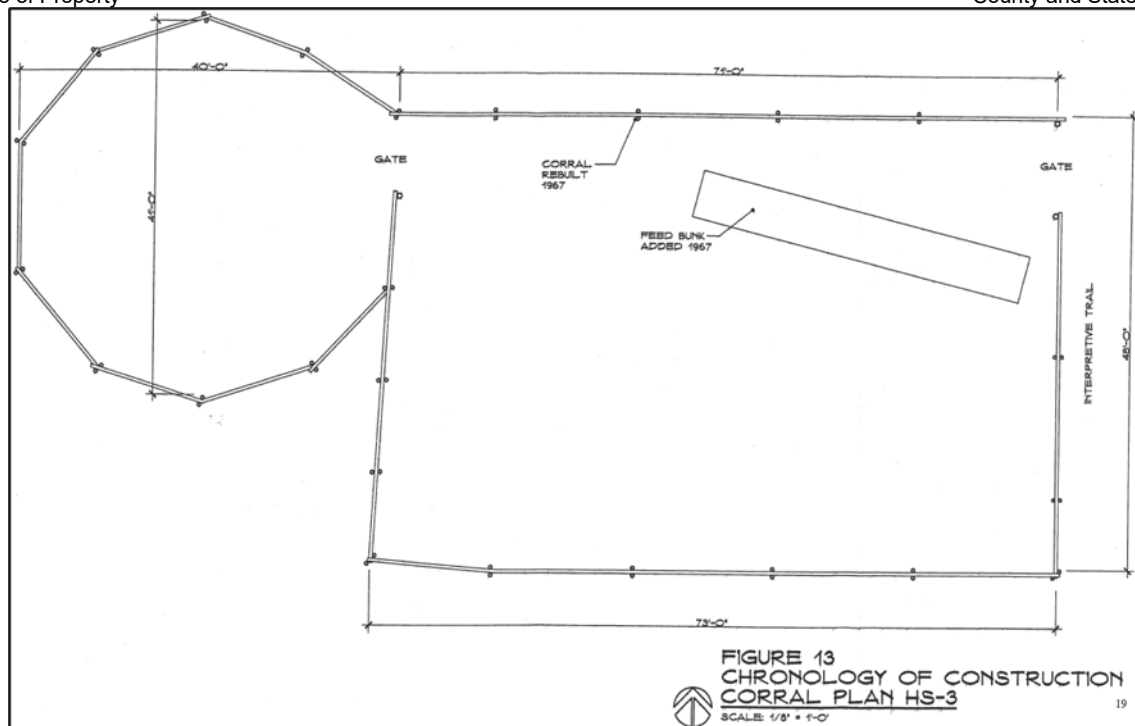


Fig. 14. McDonald and Hubber 1999:19.

North and Southwest Livestock Fences

Northwest of the Cabin about 150 feet, a dozen juniper posts once closed off Salt Wash's western floodplain between the rocky bluff and the stream (Fig. 17). This "remnant feature" (Joseph 2002:33) carries plain wire and fencing nails of wire stock, indicating mid-20th century repairs, but the fence line probably dates from earlier homestead improvements.

As part of preparation in 2017 for the park's Salt Wash Rehabilitation Project, NPS archeologists found a 1,000-foot line of juniper fenceposts 0.25 mile southwest of the Cabin, disturbed only at the 1948 Delicate Arch Road alignment. "The fence line is recognized as a contributing feature of land use characteristics with the [Wolfe Ranch] District," wrote Thann Baker and Clay Knudson (2017). This feature is in the amended NRHP boundary (map page 21).

The northern end of the fence line abuts a prominent rock outcrop and extends approximately 1000 feet to the southeast terminating at the edge of the Salt Wash drainage channel. The alignment comprises several standing and fallen rough cut juniper logs with remnants of Barker Flat Barb wire [patented in 1883] at the northernmost terminus.

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The fence line contributes to demonstrating the primary use of the [homestead-claim's] land for grazing during the period of significance and further accentuates the ability to discern the presently compromised [integrity aspect of] historic setting. Portions of the fence line have deteriorated over time resulting in loss of materials; yet it remains abandoned, unaltered, and retains [integrity] aspects of location, design, feeling, and association [Baker and Knudson 2017].

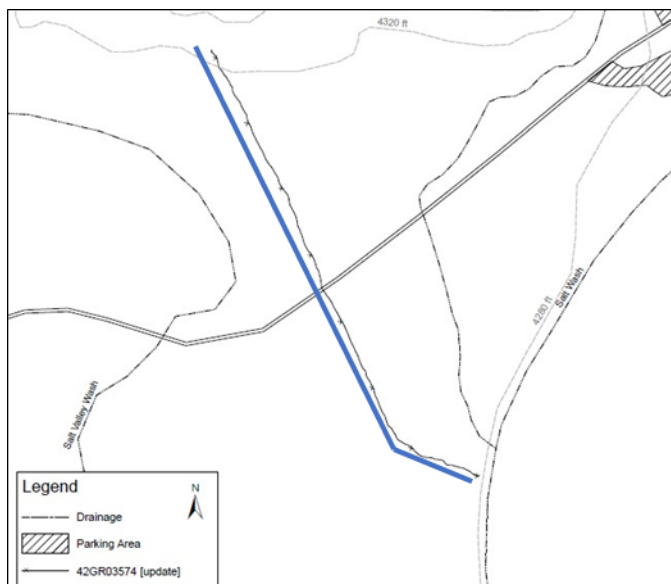


Fig. 15. The Southwest Livestock Fence, along blue diagonal line, survives with fenceposts and barbed wire along 1,000 feet of installation, disturbed at the Delicate Arch Road, double-line W-NE diagonal above. Hashed areas, top right, are today's Delicate Arch Parking Lots (page 11). Baker and Knudson 2017.

Delicate Arch Trail (edited from Joseph 2002)

In 1948, when the U.S. Government purchased the Wolfe-Turnbow homestead, the first segment of Delicate Arch Road (Fig. 17) served as the vehicular access route for a new trailhead to Delicate Arch, designed by NPS landscape architect Carl W. Alleman (Purcell 2019:126,484). From the initial parking lot (removed in 1967) very near the Wolfe Cabin, and following trail construction in 1948, visitors began the 1.5-mile hike northeast to Delicate Arch, starting along about 1,400 feet of Delicate Arch Trail within the historic district (Purcell 2019:94). Hikers initially crossed Salt Wash on foot and ran the risk of getting stuck in quicksand. By 1955 a narrow pedestrian suspension bridge, within the present and amended historic district, provided trail access across the wash (SEUG Archives: ARCH 1860 Folder 46), using for abutments the same flanking natural stone outcrops that anchored the Wolfe Ranch Homestead dam. Also, the Delicate Arch Trail (contributing) was realigned in 1955 to connect to its new bridge crossing, and in 1967 across the former parking lot after that facility's move to the southwest. In 1998, the

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NPS replaced the trail's Salt Wash bridge with its current longest span, and then in 2007 added its second (west) span—following October 2006 flooding that cut the current (west) channel of Salt Wash (ARCH 2006, see attached Mapbook Figure 7)—resulting in the current hinged-alignment 2-section truss bridge (all a noncontributing structure) (Joseph 2002:24).



Fig. 16. Overview of Wolfe Ranch Homestead as seen from Delicate Arch Trailhead. James Steely, 2021.

Delicate Arch Road and Parking Lots (edited from Joseph 2002)

During late-1940s planning for Delicate Arch Road, an NPS landscape architect suggested that “the road and parking should not be permitted to encroach on the Cabin and mar its primitive character” (SEUG Archives: ARCH 1860 Folder 43). Nonetheless, in 1948 the NPS federal road partners placed the trailhead’s parking lot very close to the Wolfe Cabin’s south wall, atop and obliterating the former irrigated Vegetable Garden area of Wolfe Ranch Homestead (page 11). This initial gravel access road apparently followed the old Wolfe Ranch 2-track road straight to the Cabin, thus also obliterating that historic path. In 1951, a contractor extended the road 1.3 miles east, beyond the historic district boundary, to terminate at a parking lot near the Delicate Arch Viewpoint (Purcell 2019:85–86,94). In 1967, during restoration work on the Cabin and Root House (pages 13–17), an NPS contractor built the current (south-half) parking lot farther southwest of the Cabin on the north side of the Delicate Arch Road, and then removed the 1940s parking lot. The NPS at that time installed pit toilets at the new parking area at the Delicate Arch Trailhead. In 1994–1995, a contractor paved the entire 2.55-mile Delicate Arch Road (noncontributing) for the first time (Joseph 2002:15,17,43), built the road’s current Salt Wash low-water/culverts crossing and the south oversize-vehicle parking lot area, and doubled the north parking lot toward the northwest (all noncontributing) (Purcell 2019:15,86,267–268).

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Fig. 17. Central area of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead-Claim Site (dashed blue lines). The Wolfe Cabin (icon) homestead cluster (inset rectangle of dashed black lines, see Figs. 7 and 28) shows its strategic location at a constriction of Salt Wash (green floodplain north to south). Use of the homestead claim for livestock grazing—cattle and then sheep—is proven by the Southwest Livestock Fence (dotted black line lower left, far southwest of the Cabin), North Fence (short dotted line north of the Cabin), and Northeast Fence (dotted lines northeast of the Cabin) (see Fig. 28, 1907 sketch plan). The Wolfe Cabin's location also proved strategic after 1948 for NPS visitor-service structures, including the trailhead for Delicate Arch Trail (brown line meandering to the northeast), destination and parking for Delicate Arch Road, and various iterations of toilet buildings. In 1951, a federal road contractor extended Delicate Arch Road to the east across Salt Wash and to the Delicate Arch Viewpoint parking lot (off this image to the east/right). In 1967, the parking lot moved to its present location (at the Trailhead icon), with additional parking added in 1993 north and south of Delicate Arch Road.. Google Earth 2021.

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Resource *Listed in 1975	ARCH LCS No.	Date	Property Type, Comments	Contributing NonContrib.
*70-acre Site		1898, 1942	Site , including Salt Wash canyon with Spring, Petroglyph	C
Balance of Homestead Claim		1898, 1942	Site , addition of 133.5 acres counted as a new site—boundary now totaling 203.5 acres—with all resources and historic archeology	C
*Freshwater Spring			Site (correctly Wolfe's Freshwater Spring)	C
*Ute Petroglyph Panel		>17 th Century	Site , contributing as interpreted site during period of significance	C
*Cabin	010472	1907	Building	C
*Root House	023038	c. 1905	Building	C
*Corral	023042	c. 1900	Structure	C
*NE Livestock Fence		c. 1905	Structure	C
*N Livestock Fence		c. 1920	Structure	C
SW Livestock Fence		c. 1920	Structure , "Post and Wire Fence"	C
Delicate Arch Trail		1948, 1951, 1955, 1967	Structure , initiated in 1948, improved in 1951; includes Petroglyph Spurs; 1955 bridge approaches, and 1967 realignment across former parking lot	C
Del. Arch Trail Bridge		1998, 2007	Structure , 1955 bridge replaced in 1998, using two natural abutments from old dam; west extension 2007	NC
Delicate Arch Road		1948, 1951, 1993	Structure , low-water crossing and runoff drainage channels; rebuilt and first paved 1993	NC
Delicate Arch Parking, North, and Extension		1967, 1998	Structure , replaced 1948 parking lot that was south of Wolfe Cabin	NC
Delicate Arch Parking, South		1998	Structure , built for oversize vehicles just west of the Salt Wash crossing	NC
Vault Toilet pair		2018	Building (pair inclusive); first iteration 1977 farther southeast	NC
Shade Shelter		2019	Structure at Trailhead.	NC

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SUMMARY OF INTEGRITY

Integrity is the authenticity of a historic resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. For the Wolfe Ranch

Homestead, that period is 1898–1971. Integrity encompasses the NRHP aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These aspects closely relate to the resource's significance and must be primarily intact (McClelland 1997:4).

LOCATION is the place where the historic property was constructed and/or the place where the historic event occurred. The Wolfe Cabin, Root House, and Corral remain in their original footprints and have not been moved from the location in which they were constructed. Therefore, their integrity of location remains strong. All other contributing resources at the homestead and upon the Homestead Claim Site—including Freshwater Spring, Ute Petroglyph Site, SW Livestock Fence—are in their historic places, retaining strong integrity of location.

DESIGN is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, and style of a property, even if vernacular in origin and use, as are these two Rocky Mountain Cabin derivatives (see Wilson 1984:33). As evidenced by comparing historic photographs to 1999 and 2012 measured drawings and present-day images, the two buildings and Corral exhibit all of their original architectural and structural features, overall massing and form, and simple pioneer detailing. Periodic preservation efforts including some replacements of materials have not diminished the historic designs of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead buildings and Corral structure.

SETTING is the physical environment of a historic property: topographic features, vegetation, manmade features, and relationships between buildings and structures or open spaces. The setting of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead-Claim Site beyond its updated boundary has changed little since the time of settlement and the surviving Cabin's construction, as the homestead cluster and associated Site remain surrounded by the desert landscape of Arches National Park. Park improvements of the Delicate Arch Parking Lots and Drive are visible from the Cabin to the west and southwest, and diminish integrity of setting, but primarily on the central-west side of the district. Elsewhere, popular trails and their 1998/2007 Salt Wash Pedestrian Bridge diminish the characteristic of isolation in Wolfe Ranch Homestead's historic setting.

MATERIALS are the physical elements combined during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. Most of the main Cabin's exterior wood materials are original and in good condition, although some of materials, including deteriorated logs and roofing, have been replaced in the past. Preserved historic materials are strongly associated with the original construction. Rebuilding of the Corral used many new but in-kind materials and in exactly the same configuration as the historic structure. The

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Homestead-Claim Site's Southwest Livestock Fence and North Fence retain most of their original wooden posts and some original fencing wire.

WORKMANSHIP is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture, people, or artisan during any given period in history or pre-history. The Wolfe Cabin and Root House were constructed by early ranch occupants under instruction of John W. Wolfe, who was limited by his Civil War injuries in physical movement but was nevertheless a skilled carpenter. The cabins' durability is testament to their integrity of workmanship, and their seemingly disheveled and unsophisticated character stimulate appropriate questions about their intent as either primitive or clever interpretations of the Rocky Mountain Cabin type. Improvements to the buildings by the NPS have been limited to repair and replacement of materials in-kind, so the buildings retain a high level of workmanship associated with rural buildings using local materials and limited tools.

FEELING is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. Despite the national park's visitor-services intrusions upon historic integrity discussed under Setting above, the Wolfe Ranch Homestead retains a rustic feeling and conveys its relationship to the region's settlement history through its buildings' log construction and vernacular details, and through the Homestead-Claim Site. With its two buildings' architectural presence and strong design integrity, plus simple settlement features of setting, the property retains integrity of feeling.

ASSOCIATION is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The Wolfe Ranch Homestead is significant for its historic connections to homesteading in southeastern Utah, as well as recognition and management of Arches National Monument in its earliest years. These historic associations—very recognizable to park visitors and enlightening with interpretation—contribute to the property's overall integrity. An NPS- installed "Interpretive Wagon" once sat immediately south of the Wolfe Cabin to associate the preferred mode of transportation for John W. Wolfe, who—because of his Civil War injuries— could not ride a horse; that exhibit unfortunately deteriorated and has been removed.

CONCLUSION

The Wolfe Ranch Homestead buildings and structures, associated Homestead-Claim Site, and many other associated features retain strong levels of the NRHP integrity aspects of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, setting, and association. The Cabin and the Root House remain in their historic locations and configurations in the historic setting, and the recent Southwest Livestock Fence discovery confirms that other homestead-era resources are likely to be found throughout the original Homestead-Claim Site boundary. Interventions with the buildings, Corral structure, and Homestead-Claim Site after the period of significance have been limited to stabilization activities executed by the NPS, with work following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation and planned through concurrence from the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer and NPS cultural-resource compliance specialists.

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This boundary extension to include more associated sites, structures, and features, and the overall classification as “district,” follow guidelines in the National Register Bulletins How to Complete the National Register Registration Form (McClelland 1997:15,17) and Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties (pages 2–3). The NRHP Bulletin Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes (pages 1–6, 22–23) was also consulted, with the conclusion that the Wolfe Ranch Homestead’s relatively small cluster of pioneer development—with two buildings, one structure, and a short list of small-scale features—does not necessitate further documentation as a rural historic landscape (see pages 61-62). However, future updates to the 2002 Cultural Landscape Inventory should expand into the full 1942 homestead claim—encompassed by this district amendment—for additional documentation of above-ground and archeological resources, and for better understanding of land-use patterns for cattle grazing, subsequent sheep grazing, and other activities that made use of the full 160-acre homestead plus the Wolfe’s Freshwater Spring source and the southerly floodplain of Salt Wash. Further, the many layers of NPS visitor-service developments, starting in 1948, are generally documented but not thoroughly recorded and mapped, and might one day add other surviving elements to the district’s list of contributing resources, to reinforce the Wolfe Ranch Homestead’s significance during the NPS management era. Finally, this is not a prehistoric-archeological nomination, and is confined to the historic-period use and development of the Homestead-Claim Site, homestead cluster, and early NPS developments during the period of significance, 1898–1971.

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Fig. 18. The Ute Petroglyph Site, or Wolfe Ranch Panel (Hogue 1993:21), is about 450 feet northeast of the Wolfe Cabin on a Salt Wash canyon wall, with its pecked figures covering a surface about 8x10 feet. See Fig. 4 and page 75. NPS photograph, artfully blending black-and-white and color, by Martin Tow 2021.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHEOLOGY/HISTORIC – NON-ABORIGIANL/agriculture
ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1898-1971

Significant Dates

1898 (Beginning of the homestead's development by John W. and Fred Wolfe
c.1900-c.1905 (Construction of corral and root house)
1907 (Construction of the current Wolfe Cabin)
1910 or 1911 (Homestead sold to Tommy Larsen)
1929 (Arches National Monument created, J.M. Turnbow custodian, 1933–1937)
1942 (Homestead Patent granted to widow Susie Turnbow)
1948 (NPS acquired Homestead from Emmett Elizondo)
1948 (NPS began a series of road and trail projects for Delicate Arch access)
1956 (Esther Stanley Rison provided critical details for revised interpretation)
1968–1971 ("Wolfe Cabin Environmental Study Area" designated)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Wesley Wolfe/Fred Wolfe, Ed Stanley
Carl W. Alleman, NPS landscape architect/NPS (Delicate Arch Trail and Road)
Paul Fritz, NPS landscape architect/NPS (relocated parking lot, ranch stabilization)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Wolfe Ranch Homestead Historic District Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase (ADBI) in Arches National Park, Grand County, Utah, is a remarkable surviving resource from southeastern Utah's extended settlement period, conveying lessons from the region's early successes in subsistence and livestock agriculture. The Wolfe Ranch Homestead is significant at the local level under Criterion A, in the areas of Exploration/Settlement, Agriculture, Conservation, and Education. The property covers spring-fed draws and the floodplain of Salt Wash, where Civil War veteran John W. Wolfe and his son Fred developed their claim starting in 1898. The Wolfes built the anchoring 1907 log Cabin to accommodate John's daughter Florence (Flora) Stanley, her husband Ed, and their children Esther and Ferol. In 1911, the Wolfes vacated the property, which was passed in 1916 to J. Marvin Turnbow and his wife Susie. After the 1929 establishment of Arches National Monument, Marv Turnbow became its first custodian, 1933–1937, and the homestead played a significant conservation role in the first decades of the monument's development. The National Park Service acquired the inholding homestead in 1948, initially and primarily as an access point for vehicles and hikers to reach solitary Delicate Arch about 1.5 miles by trail to the northeast. In 1968, the NPS designated the 1907 Cabin and its immediate landscape as one of its first Environmental Study Areas (ESA), hosting annual programs and teaching grade-school children about the nation's homesteading heritage. In 1971, based on additional accounts received from Esther Stanley Rison about her childhood during 1906–1908 at the Wolfe Ranch, the program was renamed "Wolfe Cabin ESA." First listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, the historic district is the subject of this additional documentation and boundary increase, extending its boundary to include the full 1898/1942 homestead claim. The amendment also adds information on the homestead's history, informing more areas of significance and NRHP Criterion D for archeology, to recognize the district's potential to yield further information about its half century of subsistence and livestock agriculture.

As well-preserved examples of early 20th century "Rocky Mountain Cabin" log construction and evolution, the Wolfe Cabin and Root House retain their original forms and a majority of original fabric and are therefore significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Because the homestead claim has yielded, and has further potential to yield, information on historic-era lifeways in Grand County, Utah, the district is also significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology with a concentration on historic non-aboriginal agriculture. The period of significance is 1898 to 1971, beginning with the homesteading and development of the site by John W. and Fred Wolfe and ending in 1971 with the establishment of the Wolfe Cabin Environmental Study Area.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In May 1974, Canyonlands National Park Seasonal Ranger David B. Loope (1974) wrote the "Turnbow Cabin" nomination for listing in the NRHP, based on its initial recordation in 1965 for the NPS systemwide Historic Structures Inventory (page 54). The NRHP Keeper listed Arches National Park's "Turnbow Cabin / Wolfe Ranch Historical [sic] District" in November 1975 with its Statement of Significance in five short paragraphs, some of which reflected a lack of appreciation for the Indigenous occupants of the American West:

The Wolfe Ranch Historical District is significant as an example of how man learned despite the harshness of the environment to exploit and control this country in southeast Utah; man's survival in this country was constantly threatened by hostile Indians, the rugged terrain, and the absence of an adequate water supply. The structures the settlers like John Wesley Wolfe erected are a testimonial to their ingenuity. Moreover, because of the scarcity of building materials, which required a great measure of implementation to "make do" with what they had, the structures erected while durable were unique. They reflected little uniformity in construction as no two logs were of the same size or shape. Such structures as still stand are all that remains of the earliest ranches in this country.

Because of hostile Indians and rugged terrain, permanent settlement was slow to come to southeast Utah. In 1877, Moab, on the Colorado River at the foot of the LaSal Mountains was established. By 1883, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was completed [about 20 straight miles northwest] and Indian hostilities had become less frequent.

In 1888 [1898], John Wesley Wolfe, a disabled Civil War veteran from Ohio and his son, Fred, arrived in the area and either bought or built a cabin on the banks of Salt Wash, in an isolated valley about halfway between Moab and the railroad at Thompson Springs. They dammed the wash and irrigated a garden with the impounded water. Drinking water came from a spring about three quarters of a mile away [northwest]. They grazed cattle under the Bar DX brand. In 1906 Wolfe's daughter, son-in-law, and their two small children arrived, and a new cabin and a dugout cellar were built for them in the spring of 1907. The logs for the structures came from banks of the Colorado, six miles away [south]. The newcomers stayed for less than two years and then moved to Moab. In 1910 Wolfe sold the ranch and he and Fred moved back east. Shortly thereafter the original cabin was destroyed in a flash flood; the "new" [1907] cabin and dugout cellar[s] were left unharmed.

Historically, the activities of man on the Colorado Plateau have been a function of his ability to exploit and control its meager water resources. Wolfe's ranching operation on Salt Wash is an excellent example of early subsistence farming and grazing in a marginal environment.

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The crudeness of the remaining structures reflects the harshness of the environment, not a lack of skill in construction. Because building materials were so scarce, no two logs used were of the same size or shape. By expertly fitting the logs together, these men created durable, unique structures, which are all that remains of one of the earliest ranches in Southeast Utah.

The 1974 nomination form checked “20th Century” for the period of significance, assigned “3rd Order,” meaning “local” for the level of significance, and acknowledged Architecture and Agriculture as the areas of significance, both retained in this amendment and expanded upon below. The form offered no fields for the NRHP criteria, but subsequent evaluations have placed its significance under Criterion A for its homestead-ranch history and Criterion C for its log cabin architecture. This amendment adds Criterion D for the potential of historic agricultural resources within the extended boundary to include the patented homestead.



Fig. 19. Wolfe Ranch on a snowy 15 March 1974 (above) from the hill east across Salt Wash, facing west- northwest, in the single photograph accompanying the 1974 National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form. The Corral is at left, Cabin center-left, and Root House center-right. An older frozen channel of Salt Wash ran across the foreground. Delicate Arch Trail passed to the southeast of the Wolfe Cabin (Loope 1974).

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Fig. 20. The same location and angle in 2021 (Steely) show how Salt Wash changed the drainage channel again in 2006 farther west toward the buildings, requiring a new segment of the Pedestrian Bridge in 2007, including stone rip-rap beneath, to carry Delicate Arch Trail across the wash.

Criterion A, Area of EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT Homesteading in Utah

Utah Territory, created by Congress in 1850, resisted implementation and enforcement of the 1862 Homestead Act until 1869, following completion of the Transcontinental Railroad that year and growing infringement of newcomer claims on previously settled Utah lands. A series of compromises between the territory's dominant Mormon Church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) and the U.S. General Land Office (GLO) led in 1868 to the opening of the GLO's Salt Lake City district land office. Mormon leaders thereafter instructed followers to take immediate and ongoing advantage of the Homestead Act—granting 160 acres to claimants—as well as other federal-land settlement opportunities including the 1841 and earlier Preemption Acts, 1862 and 1872 Soldiers and Sailors Homestead Acts for Civil War veterans, and subsequent opportunities such as the 1877 Desert Land Act (Lee 1960, Muhn 2019).

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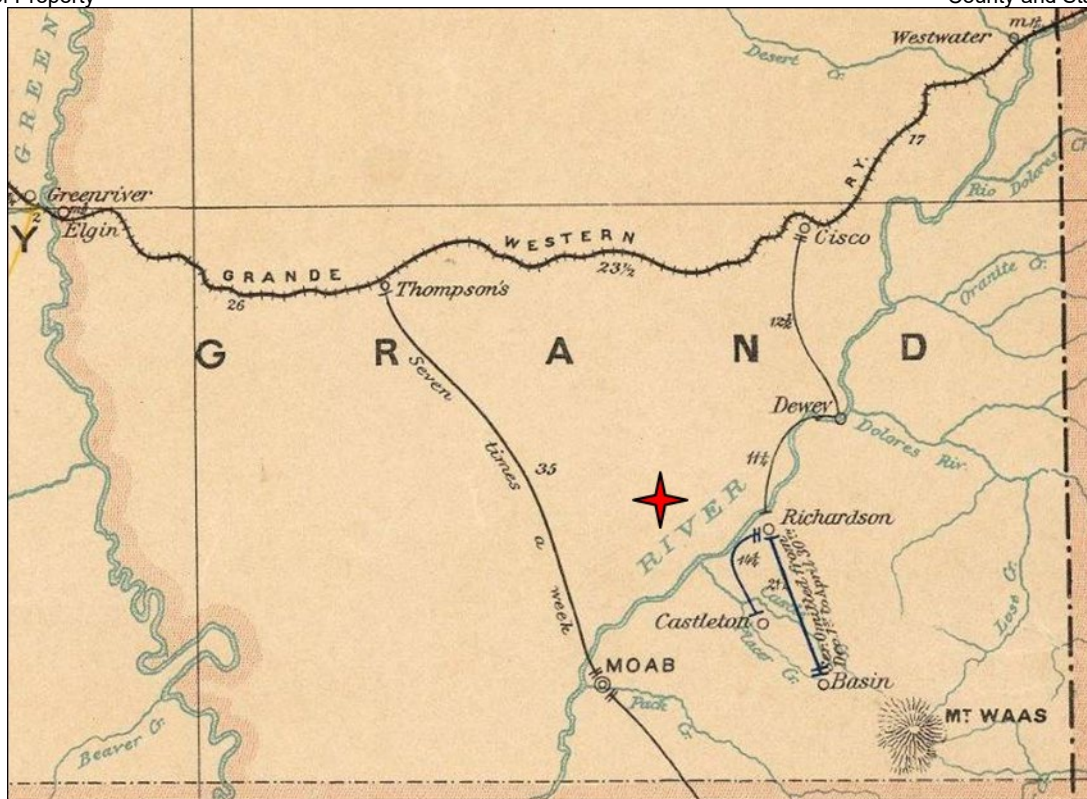


Fig. 21. Official Post Office route map from 1900 across the lower two-thirds of Grand County, Utah. John and Fred Wolfe settled (star) in the un-mapped area northeast of Moab, and northwest of the county's other farming center in Castle Valley's Richardson and Castleton. U.S. Post Office Department (USPOD) 1900.

Cattle drovers made several attempts beginning in the 1870s to settle in the Grand (or Moab) Valley of southeastern Utah, deterred for years by traditional Ute occupants. By 1880, a cluster of irrigation farmers established a community they named Moab along perennial creeks on the south side of the Grand (Colorado) River. In 1883 about 35 miles north of Moab, construction of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad west from Colorado toward Salt Lake City established the settlement of "Thompson's" Springs (Fig. 21). That rail station with post office, hotel, retail and wholesale outlets, and cattle pens became the major market center for a very large and desolate region extending south to Moab and arable valleys to its southeast, and to Castle Valley east of Moab. Utah Territory established Grand County in 1890, and by 1896 when Utah became the 45th state, gold and silver prospecting brought more activity to the outcrops and washes around Moab. But only copper brought promise at the time in possible quantities, ultimately with disappointing results (Tanner 1976:63–71,89,100,204–205).

By 1898, when John and Fred Wolfe arrived at Grand County's Salt Wash some 12 straight-line miles north of Moab, more than 6,125 homestead entries had been filed throughout Utah (BLM 1962:6–12), the vast majority in other parts of the state. In Grand County, sparse mercantile settlements clung to the railroad at Thompson Springs and at Cisco, while lightly populated irrigated-farming communities grew at Elgin on the Green River and Moab on the Grand (Colorado) River, and in Castle Valley. The rolling and rocky area northwest of Moab between the Grand River and Thompson Springs supported only the 33 miles of wagon road improved by

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1900 through upper Courthouse Wash and Moab Canyon as a daily mail route (Fig. 21). Most travelers through the region bypassed the vast red-rock area directly north of Moab and the Grand River, dominated by the impassable lower canyon of Courthouse Wash and the broad foreboding desert of Salt Valley and its normally dry drainages.

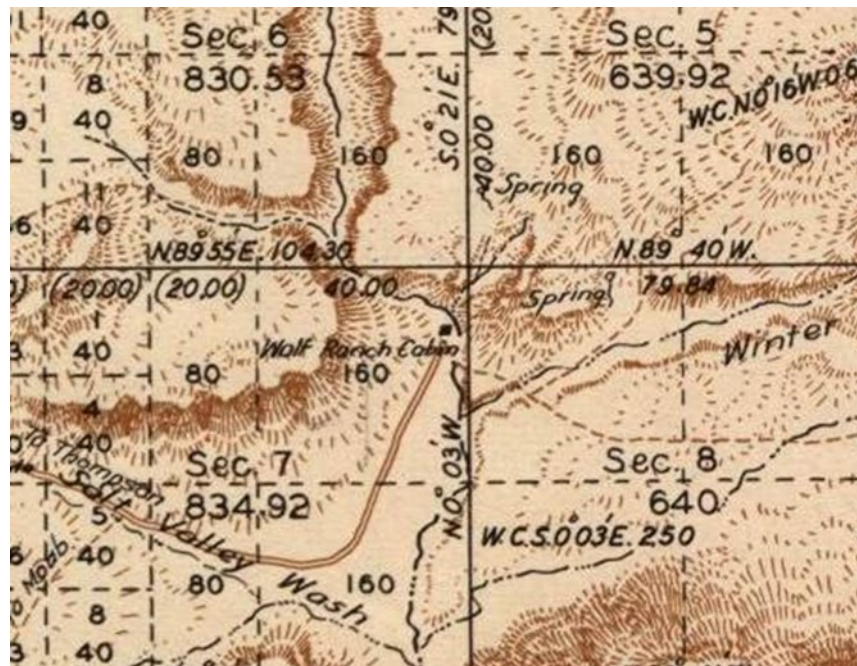


Fig. 22. In 1898, John and Fred Wolfe selected a nominally hospitable landscape for their homestead, with a perennial spring (circle) above/northwest of their future Cabin and the grassy Salt Wash floodplain below/south. This first map of the area, completed in 1932 by the U.S. General Land Office, labeled their Cabin (oval and black dot) and their only wagon access "To Thompson" (small oval). BLM 1932.

John Wesley Wolfe and Thomas Frederick "Fred" Wolfe

John W. Wolfe (1834–1913) was born in Tennessee, but by 1862 he lived in Ohio and probably worked as a "cooper," a skilled carpenter specializing in making and repairing wooden barrels and casks, then-common and -indispensable containers for liquid and solid contents. In the summer of 1862 during the first months of the Civil War, 6-foot ½-inch Wolfe joined an Ohio artillery unit of the Union Army that participated in various battles to control the Mississippi River (Stevens 2012). In April 1863, Private Wolfe's unit settled into the siege of Vicksburg, during which he suffered an injury to his left leg "from hard lifting," described as a "varicose ulcer" (Army of the U.S. 1863), a malfunction of blood valves caused by or causing continual open wounds and resulting in painful mobility (WebMD 2021). Honorably discharged in June 1863 after a lengthy hospital confinement at Vicksburg, Wolfe returned to Ohio where he established a butcher shop in Etna outside Columbus. In 1869, Wolfe married Lydia Ault (1843–1925), who bore five children: John W. Jr. (1870–1874), Thomas Frederick (1872–1940, named for Lydia's father Frederick), William Elmer (1874–1942), Flora "Floss" May (1877–1937), and Katie Bell (1879–1950) (Find A Grave 2021, Ancestry 2021).

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Fig. 23. John Wesley and Lydia Ault Wolfe sat probably in 1878 in Ohio for a formal portrait with their middle two children, William (right) and Flora. First child John Jr. had died in 1874 at age 4, and Fred was 6 at the time of this photograph. Daughter Katie subsequently joined the family. John Sr. tried unsuccessfully to move the family to Colorado after 1882, and departed the household alone in 1892. He and son Fred moved to Colorado in 1895, then to Grand County, Utah, in 1898. They established their Wolfe Ranch homestead about 12 miles north of Moab, not far from Delicate Arch in today's Arches National Park. William and Lydia cared for John Sr. during his last year of life, 1913. SEUG Archives.

Wolfe received a \$30 per month disability pension since his injury occurred during his Civil War service (Wolfe 1914a, Army of the U.S. 1863). According to various family memories and documents organized by NPS Ranger Maxine Newell (1971), in 1882 Wolfe's doctor prescribed a drier climate for his problematic leg. Wolfe headed west alone and settled briefly in Palmer, Colorado, a railroad village south of Denver, intending to send for his family once he found a suitable new home. He soon returned to Etna and tried to persuade Lydia to move the family west, but eventually her refusal and other marital complications led Wolfe in 1892 to live clandestinely with extended family elsewhere in Ohio (Wolfe 1901, Wolfe 1914a, Wolfe 1915).

In the fall of 1895 John Wolfe and 23-year-old son Fred moved together to Colorado and settled for about a year in Pueblo, where Fred worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, a huge consumer of mined materials and manufacturer of mining supplies. Fred then decided to try prospecting himself and the two moved to the goldrush town of Guffey, about 60 miles northwest of Pueblo (Wolfe 1915). Although not served by a railway, bustling Guffey's nearest connection was about 20 miles south at Parkdale on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. "Guffey Park" was central to a Rocky Mountains area rich in many minerals besides traces of gold—including copper, lead, zinc, mica, and feldspar—and the related industries of lumbering

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and cattle ranching. Just before the Wolfes' arrival the town had been known as Freshwater, and the larger extraction area retained the name Freshwater Mining District (Veatch et al. 2008).

John and Fred departed Guffey on 20 June 1898 and—likely acting on rumors of gold or copper or other prospects including homesteading farther west—probably hopped on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and its Utah extension, the Rio Grande Western Railway. The seamless ride would have taken them about 325 miles directly to Thompson Springs, Utah. Neither John nor Fred recorded details of their first trek south from Thompson Springs, but on 1 August 1898 they “arrived” (Wolfe 1915) at their claim about 12 miles north of Moab in unsettled Salt Wash. They opened their next chapter under two small cottonwood trees at the head of Salt Wash's floodplain, watered year-round from Freshwater Spring(s), the source(s) surely named by the Wolfes after their recent adventures in Colorado's Freshwater Mining District.

Wolfe Ranch Homestead

Thus in 1898, John and Fred Wolfe established their “cattle ranch” (Wolfe 1915) under the “Bar-DX” brand in western Cache Valley, with a grassy and broad floodplain naturally irrigated by Freshwater Spring in Salt Wash, and by small springs in the converging Winter Camp Wash and Cache Valley Wash. John and Fred each qualified for a 160-acre homestead entry—both were U.S. citizens over 21 years of age—and John as a veteran qualified under the Soldiers and Sailors Homestead Act of 1872. One or both men might have applied for at least 160 acres in Salt Wash of Grand County, Utah. But the area was so remote and apparently so low in priority to survey by the U.S. General Land Office, or even to attract Mormon settlers who might have drawn more attention to the area, that no homestead patents could be awarded to the Wolfes. With no GLO mapping to provide legal coordinates (Fig. 22), the GLO's agents in Salt Lake City must have filed away the Wolfes' entries to await a future mapping expedition (Muhn 2021). Both men did file mineral claims—a total of 26, variously describing copper, tungsten, and oil—between March 1899 and January 1909 within and around Salt Wash (SEUG Archives). Perhaps they hoped for a lucrative strike, but more likely they maneuvered to establish some possessory claim to their ranch until a homestead entry would be approved (Joseph 2002:17).

Much is known about lifeways at the Wolfe Ranch from 1906 to 1908, the high point of the Wolfes' homesteading effort, when the Stanley family moved there: John's daughter Flora (1877–1937), her husband and blacksmith Edward Andrew Stanley (1871–1941), and their children Esther (1898–1977) and Ferol (1901–1973). Esther Stanley Rison (1956, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1977) and Ferol later provided much information about living at Wolfe Ranch, each from a child's perspective during their time at the Wolfe homestead, which they called “Dad Wolfe's Ranch” (Rison 1971). Esther unfortunately and continually listed the year 1888, later an oft-repeated mistake, for her grandfather and uncle's arrival in Utah, when all other records list 1898 (Wolfe 1915). She and Ferol both remembered that their grandfather John invited the whole family to move west, and in 1906 he paid for train tickets to transport the Stanley family branch from Columbus, Ohio, to Thompson Springs, Utah. In her first of several chronicles provided to Arches National Monument, Esther wrote to NPS Ranger Robert Morris on 20 March 1956 (edited here for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation):

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Grandfather met us at Thompson Springs and he took us to his Ranch where my uncle Fred Wolfe met us I lived there two years [1906–08], two very wonderful years for me.

Every three months, Grandfather would take us kids and drive [he teamed “two horses hitched to a wagon” as she described his “buckboard” conveyance; Wolfe’s injured leg prevented him from riding a horse (Rison 1977:4)] to Thompson Springs and meet the train and get his supplies [and his Army pension], enuff [sic] to last us three months. He would buy cases of everything. We would store it in his root house, he called it.

Grandfather used to hunt rabbits with us children [“crutch under one arm and his Winchester in his right hand,” she recalled elsewhere (Rison 1969:2)]. And in the moonlight he would sing all the Civil War songs to us [Rison 1956].



Fig. 24. Esther Stanley held the reins for her brother Ferol atop their donkey Jenny about 1907 in a photograph by their mother Flora, facing northeast toward the southwest corner of their new Cabin at Wolfe Ranch. Their mail-order cookstove's flue protruded from the Cabin's mud-finished roof, and their summer shelter and sleeping tent stood in the right background. See Fig. 41 for one of Flora's photographs of Delicate Arch. SEUG Archives.

Esther (Rison 1969) added more details in a letter to Moab's Southeast Elementary School students in Helen Madson's 6th-grade class:

There was a dam across the wash [see site plans, Figs. 7 and 28, and page 75]. The dam washed out often and grandpa's temper went up....

Grandpa was a good singer. He would sit on the banks of Salt Wash, on his old chair, with my brother and I at his feet and sing all of his Army songs. He was also a very smart man, and gave me my school lessons every day....

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[John Wolfe's quarterly visits to Thompson Springs included purchases of] cases of canned goods, strong coffee (and it was sure strong when he made it) and always five pounds of candy for us kids. Would you believe, he sent to Sears in Chicago for all of his supplies [including the wood-burning iron cooking stove]. Once he sent for a blue set of dishes which had over 100 pieces in it. He gave me the butter plates and dessert dishes....

Lots of prospectors stopped at the ranch with their donkeys. We loved the donkeys, so grandpa bought us a Jenny [Fig. 24]. We rode her all the time. We rode her to the arches where mother took pictures of Delicate Arch.

Grandpa raised large pumpkins and melons south of the cabin...[Rison 1969].

She wrote again in 1970 to monument Superintendent Bates Wilson, sending additional family photographs and providing more of John Wolfe's history that she had gathered by asking more questions of her own family:

I remember the good things my mother made in that cabin. She baked good bread in that old wood stove, dried fruit pies, canned cream sugar pies, raised bread-dough donuts. She made lots of biscuits, and Rabbit [sic] pot pies. She never made butter on the ranch because we had to use canned milk [Rison 1970].

Criterion C, Area of ARCHITECTURE (edited from McDonald and Hubber 1999)

The first cabin occupied by the Wolfes by 1899 was located northeast of the existing Cabin. John and Fred's first home was a small rectangular building constructed of logs, with a dirt floor and a sod roof. The addition of four people in 1906 to the ranch necessitated construction of an additional dwelling. Initially, the Stanley family lived in a tent (Fig. 24), and in 1907 Ed Stanley and Fred Wolfe constructed the cabin now referred to as the Wolfe Cabin. John Wolfe, who had worked as a carpenter while in the Union Army during the Civil War, supervised construction of the building. The cottonwood logs used to assemble the building were reportedly brought by wagon or dragged by horses from the banks of the Colorado River, some seven miles distant. This small building had amenities that the first cabin did not, including a board floor. Construction of the Cabin completed the homestead's surviving improvements directly attributable to Wolfe family (McDonald and Hubber 1999:1).

Esther Stanley Rison (1969) provided many of these details in her letter to Moab schoolchildren and in further discussions that year with NPS rangers at Arches National Monument:

When we arrived at the ranch, Uncle Fred met us with several dogs, chickens and horses. My brother and I were delighted, but poor Mom [Flora] was disappointed to find a one-room cabin with a dirt floor....

We lived in a tent until the spring of 1906 [sic, she elsewhere confirmed 1907] when my dad and Uncle Fred took the horses to Grand River and brought back logs. They built the cabin that is there now. My brother and I watched them build it. Mother made them put a

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floor in it. Grandfather bossed the job and brought his stove over from the old cabin, so we could cook in the new cabin.

...My brother and I lived there 2½ years [through probably the summer of 1908] [Rison 1969].

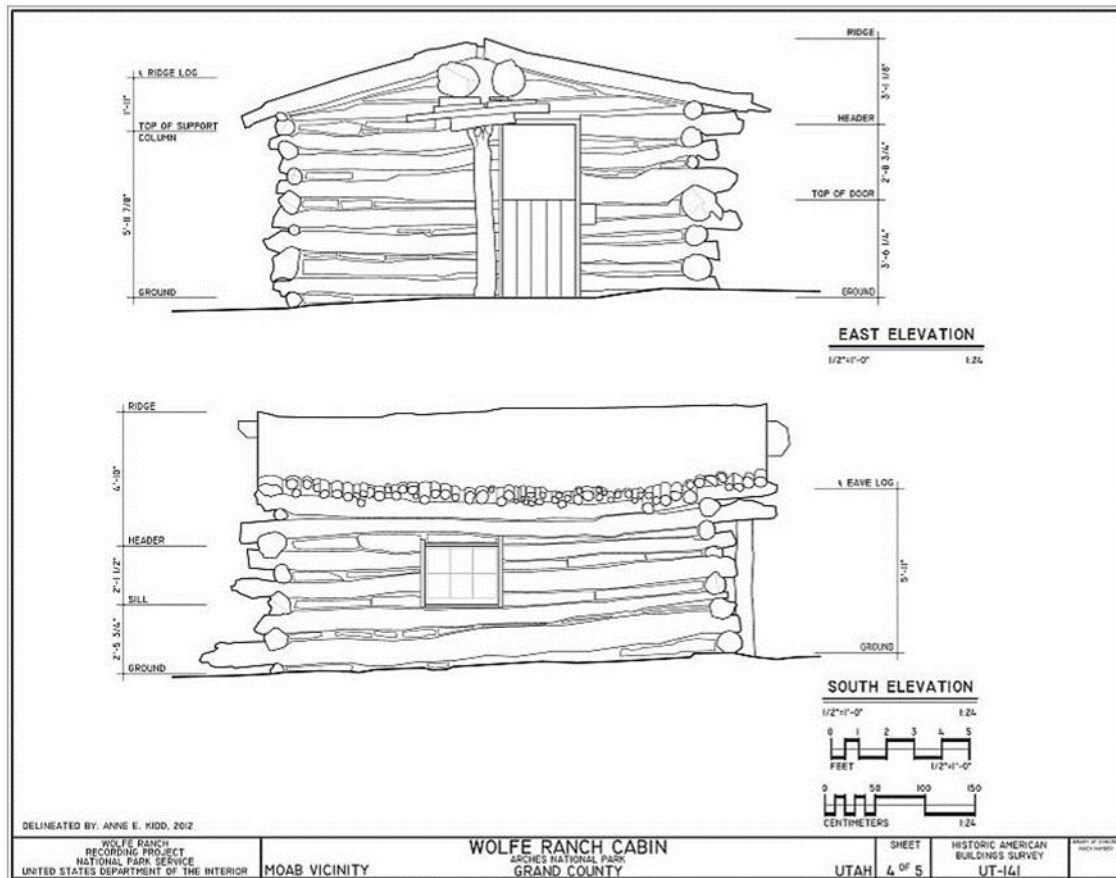


Fig. 25. The 2012 HABS-documentation team delineated the Wolfe Cabin in slightly more detail than the 1999 Historic Structure Report (Figs. 8–10). This version better conveyed the Cabin’s “crudeness” (Loope 1974:8/1) due to its un-hewn and random-ended logs, a characteristic perhaps intended by the builders to augment the grandchildren’s adventures here. *Historic American Buildings Survey, Cornerstone 2012.*

Rocky Mountain Cabin Type

U.S. Forest Service historian Mary Wilson (1984) conducted extensive research in the 1980s on historic log cabins in the Intermountain West and evaluated what she named the “Rocky Mountain Cabin” type, “RMC,” in her *Log Cabin Studies* publication of 1984. “The typology of log structures in the Rocky Mountain region,” Wilson (1984:33) wrote, “appears in many ways a continuation of styles common to the Plains and eastern United States”:

Extant archeological [historic] examples, however, attest to the evolution of a different, uniquely western cabin type in the latter stages of the nineteenth century. Due to the fact

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that the vast majority of surviving examples lie[s] within this geographic region, I will refer to this type as the Rocky Mountain Cabin (RMC).

Its close ties to the Anglo-Western Cabin [type] cannot be denied: both typically have a front-facing gable, with a single door off-centered in the gable end; both have roof slopes usually under 45°; and both show the builder's preference of iron stoves over fireplaces.

Wilson's opening characteristics exactly depicted the 1907 Wolfe Cabin, guided in construction by John Wolfe after living for several years in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and built by Fred Wolfe with the same architectural exposure, assisted by blacksmith Ed Stanley from Ohio. Matched by the Wolfe Cabin's origin in 1907, Wilson (1984:52) confirmed, "the dominant construction period for RMCs came between 1900 and 1930...." Other RMC characteristics differ from the Wolfe Cabin, including more typical placement of the iron stove by the front door (the Wolfe Cabin's stove was at the rear) and extension of the front gable for several feet to provide sun and snow protection (the Wolfe Cabin's front gable extends only 2 log-rafter widths—at one time 3 logs wide; see Fig. 29—over the door). Yet, the Wolfes and Stanleys followed these RMC details in other ways, moving the stove out-of-doors in summer and using a nearby tent—instead of an open-gable extension—as a cooler room for summer activities and sleeping. "During the summer months," Wilson (1984:37) explained, "activities were moved from the cabin's 'inner' to its 'outer' room. Mobile furnishings—usually storage shelves and beds—were moved to the outer room," or nearby tent in the Wolfe Cabin's case.

Wilson (1984:34) also acknowledged the "semi-dugout variation" of the Rocky Mountain Cabin, aptly describing the Wolfes' Root Houses. The below-ground variant was, she noted, "due more to its insulative properties...than to a shortage of logs." Since John Wolfe shopped quarterly in Thompson Springs for three months' worth of supplies—including canned milk and other semi-perishable goods—with each buckboard trip, he needed the stable ambient temperature of a dugout along with the naturally dry climate to stretch his family's staples as long as possible.

As noted in Section 7, the peculiar arrangement of logs in the 1907 Cabin walls, and the erratic log ends at each corner, could have resulted from the random trunks gathered for its construction. Yet, since John Wolfe was a skilled carpenter, the result might have been an intentional "folly"—in the tradition of French and English Renaissance-garden playhouses—to please his grandchildren (see Lancaster 1960:13–16). Flora Stanley's many images of the Cabin certainly confirmed its photogenic nature, and Esther Rison clearly cherished her childhood years there.

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Fig. 26. The Wolfe Cabin and its two accompanying Root Houses (low, dark doorways to the right of the Cabin above), photographed in 1941 facing northeast by the U.S. General Land Office, remained in good condition even though they then served only seasonal and migrating livestock wranglers. The GLO awarded Marv Turnbow's widow Susie their homestead patent based on those early World War II conditions. Top, GLO, 1941, in SEUG Archives.



Fig. 27. Reconstructed photo of historic photo shown in Fig. 26. James Steely, 2021.

AGRICULTURE (edited from Joseph 2002:17–18)

Although the Wolfes did not officially own the Salt Wash property after establishing their homestead in 1898, John and Fred made many early ranch-headquarters improvements. On the west side of Salt Wash by 1899 they built their first log cabin upon a rock outcrop above the channel. Wood was scarce in the area, so they most likely constructed that building of several different types or logs they hauled from the Grand (Colorado) Riverbanks, including juniper, piñon, and cottonwood. Those raw materials were again utilized for the construction of the log

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cellar—John Wolfe later added another underground storeroom, which he called a Root House—west of the first cabin.

The Wolfes made other improvements in order to subsist and manage a herd of cattle (see Fig. 28). Between two rock benches that abutted the wash east of the Cabin, they built an earthen dam, creating a Holding Pond so they could divert water to irrigate their large vegetable garden south of the Cabin. They dug and blasted the irrigation ditch's course from the pond to the garden. A chicken coop and woodpile were somewhere near the garden, Esther Stanley Rison recalled (although historic photographs indicate both stood closer to the cabins and tent). She claimed that the family grew an extra amount of produce in the garden for trading with local Utes who still passed through the area. West of the 1899 cabin was the Corral where they kept the horses and held the cattle for branding (Rison 1977:5) after a roundup.

Somewhere near the Corral was the pit toilet, probably at the toe of the rocky slope to the north and northwest. Also west of the Corral, a hay or alfalfa field—probably forage for the horses and donkey—occupied the level land between the sloping hills (today disturbed by the parking lot and an erosion-control berm) (Joseph 2002:17–18, based on Rison 1956, etc.).

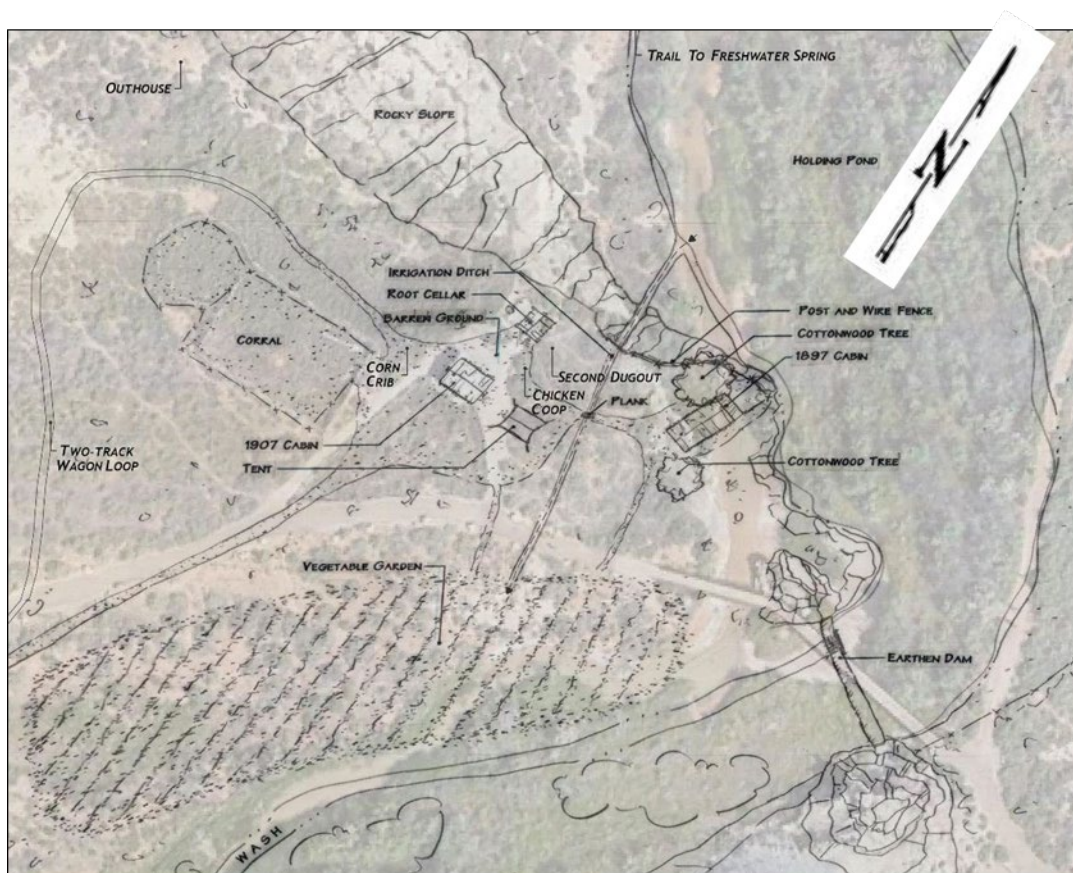


Fig. 28. Reconstructed 1907 sketch plan by NPS landscape architect Maureen Joseph of the Wolfe Ranch homestead cluster, based on historic photographs and descriptions supplied by Esther Stanley Rison (1956 through 1977). The

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site's features are overlaid on a current (2021) satellite image, demonstrating the results of periodic Salt Wash floods that swept away the 1899 (not 1897) cabin in 1910 and again changed the wash's streambed in 2006 (see attached Mapbook Figure 7). In 2007 Delicate Arch Trail received its second, bent-axis bridge (left of the c. 1900 Earthen Dam) over the new streambed. Joseph 1997 at SEUG Archives, and Huey, 2021 (see page 75).

Esther confirmed that the family obtained its drinking water from Freshwater Spring upstream of the wash. John and Fred also owned chickens, pigs, and horses that roamed the surrounding lands to find forage (Joseph 2002:17). Their cattle herd reached about 100 head, limited by foraging grass in Salt Wash south of the Cabin (Turnbow [1935] later claimed to run 200 head of cattle in the Salt Wash floodplain, and in the 1940s Emmett Elizondo ran as many as 3,600 sheep below Freshwater Spring [Sloan 1996]).

The Stanley family moved from the Wolfe Ranch homestead in 1908 into Moab, where Ed opened a blacksmith shop "close to the courthouse," with the family living in "a house which was the oldest house in town...in back of the old IOOF Hall," Rison (1969) remembered. "Grandpa would come to visit us," she continued, and "take Fero and I fishing in Grand River. He was very lonely after we left him." Esther's school years through 1911 (she sometimes listed 1910) in Moab brought another wonderful experience, she later related.

Although many sources have recorded the subsequent Wolfe father and son's sale of their ranch and departure from Utah as 1910, Fred (1915) clearly stated that he and John occupied the Bar-DX/Wolfe Ranch homestead through June 1911. According to Esther (1969), John and Fred Wolfe, and the Stanley family with new daughter Volna (1910–1990), all relocated from Utah to Kansas together. Fred recounted that they moved "to Montgomery Co., Kansas," living after July 1911 "on a farm about 10 miles S of Elk City," where they resided through April 1912. They then "went by wagon," he stated, more than 160 miles east-southeast, "to a farm near Bluff, Toney Co., MO," east of Branson. Still rambling in the spring of 1913, Fred "took my father to my brother's, Wm E Wolfe, at Columbus, Ohio" in March that year. In that move, the Stanleys also "came back home to Ohio" (Rison 1969). William Wolfe (1914b), in a brief deposition to the Pension Bureau, confirmed that he cared for his father from March through April 1913, then "sent him to...Etna," Ohio, to his mother's home, where John died on 22 October (all SEUG Archives). Fred headed back west and lost regular contact with the family, who later discovered that he resided in the irrigated farming country of Phillips County, Montana, from at least 1920 through his death in 1940 (Ancestry 2021).

Subsequent Wolfe Ranch Owners (edited from Joseph 2002:21–22)

As noted above, the year 1910 often accompanies both the Wolfe and Stanley family departures from Utah, but that date is not confirmed with specific records in Wolfe Ranch historical evaluations. Perhaps John and Fred Wolfe legally sold their improvements—they had no land claim to convey—in 1910 but waited until June 1911 to depart, as Fred (1915) testified. The exact date of the flood that wiped out their Salt Wash dam and carried away their first cabin is also unclear, although 1910 is sometimes listed (McDonald and Hubber 1999:1). The next owner of the homestead claim, all sources agree, was Mads Thomas Larsen (1869–1933) of Grand

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County, Utah (Ancestry 2021), who intended to graze stock on the Salt Wash floodplain and did not live full time, if at all, in the remaining Wolfe Cabin. “Tommy” and Rebecca Larsen’s son Thomas Ray (1904–1916) died in a horse-riding accident in May 1916 (Ancestry 2021), possibly explaining why Larsen sold his brief and inactive rights to the homestead in 1916 to local cattle rancher James Marvin Turnbow (1884–1940).

Marv Turnbow had experienced profound tragedies as well in 1915 and 1916, starting with shooting and killing his wife’s alleged lover during a confrontation around Christmas 1915 at the railroad station in Thompson Springs. While Turnbow awaited trial, in March 1916 his wife fatally shot their three children and herself at their home in Green River, according to investigators. The next month, a Moab jury acquitted Marv Turnbow of first-degree murder charges. In 1918, Turnbow married his deceased wife’s sister-in-law, Susie Beeson Walker (1894–1980), who bore their four children, including Bruce Marvin (1923–1993, Fig. 29) (Walker 2001:30–32).

The Wolfe Ranch homestead was in ill-repair in 1916, according to Marv Turnbow (1935), when he acquired the surviving improvements from Larsen. Only part of the property was fenced at that time. Turnbow also primarily grazed his cattle on the property, although he testified to the General Land Office that he lived there seasonally (Fig. 29).



Fig. 29. Marv Turnbow and his 10-year-old son Bruce Turnbow stood at the door to their Cabin, built in 1907 by the Wolfes and Stanleys, in the first year of Marv’s 1933–1937 tenure as first custodian of Arches National Monument. A substantial log building, probably the Corn Crib, was visible in back (west, left) of the Cabin. A milled-wood elbow brace (not extant) at the Cabin’s southeast corner supported an additional log-rafter or two over the gabled entrance for shade. SEUG 1933.

General Land Office Map and Turnbow Homestead Applications (edited from Joseph 2002)

In 1928, the GLO conducted its first of several necessary surveys for eventual mapping of the area (Fig. 22) in anticipation of the establishment in 1929 of Arches National Monument (Fig.

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33) across several area townships. GLO surveyors completed and certified the full plat in 1932 of 6-mile-by-6-mile-square Township 24 South, Range 22 East (BLM 1932). They documented the location of the “Wolf [sic] Ranch Cabin”—an interesting mistake because Marv Turnbow had owned the Cabin since 1916—and its access road from the property to Thompson Springs. That wagon road following Salt Valley Wash from the Cabin to the northwest (the general route of today’s Scenic Drive and northwest park-entrance road). Three trails were shown on the map; one followed “Cash” (Cache) Valley Wash to the east, the second ran northeast of the cabin, and the last route followed a tributary of Salt Wash northwest of the cabin. In addition to those details, two springs were noted to the north-northeast of the property, but Freshwater Spring to the northwest appeared only as a small-feature circle. The balance of the map was a graphic representation of the topography and locations of streams and section lines as determined by the Public Lands Survey System used throughout the nation by the GLO and its Interior Department neighbor, the U.S. Geological Survey (Joseph 2002:20, BLM 1932).

Turnbow, who became Arches National Monument’s first custodian in 1933 (see Conservation below), participated in a December 1933 through March 1934 federally financed expedition by various scientists to document the geological and archeological resources of the monument and area (Firmage 1996:270–271, Purcell 2019:65–72). Despite that exposure, Turnbow claimed he learned in early 1935 of the GLO’s completed area-township maps, and that February he submitted a Settlement Claim and Stock-Raising Homestead application for the former Wolfe property. Under the GLO’s “Enlarged Homestead Act” of 1909 and “Stock-Raising Homestead Act” of 1916, Turnbow tried to increase his claim to 640 acres, instead of the original 160 acres ostensibly claimed by the Wolfes. The Stock-Raising Act allowed larger expanses of land needed to graze even small herds on the arid landscapes of the U.S. West and Southwest. Turnbow testified in his 1935 paperwork to the GLO’s Salt Lake City district that he had enclosed 640 acres with fences and had a maximum of 200 head of cattle that grazed on the land for five months during the winter without supplemental food. Turnbow claimed to live in the 1907 Wolfe Cabin during the winter months when his cattle roamed the old Wolfe homestead. He admittedly resided during the balance of the year in Moab (SEUG Archives, Joseph 2002:20).

Although Turnbow was not successful in increasing his claimed agricultural “homestead” to 640 acres, the GLO continued reviewing a possible patent for 160 acres (SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 15). Turnbow departed the NPS payroll in 1937 just before major expansion of the monument (page 52), but he continued to appeal successive GLO rejections of his homestead application for the former Wolfe Ranch. As protracted proceedings ground on, the homestead applicant died in mid-February 1940 from an automobile accident near Moab (Walker 2001:30).

Within days of Marv’s death, his widow Susie Turnbow informed the GLO that she would continue the homestead application and appeals. As part of her testimony, Susie stated that she had resided for a year at the Salt Wash ranch shortly after her marriage to Marv, from fall 1919 through spring 1920. Thereafter, Susie raised their growing family in Moab while Marv occupied the ranch’s Cabin for about half of each year (McDonald and Hubber 1999:3). And now in her favor, as a widow she was not required to reside on the property (Muhn 2021). In Susie’s description of the property in 1940, she stated:

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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 [sic], sage brush, and native grasses. There are no trees excepting a few willow, and there is no saw timber [SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 15].



Fig. 30. Conditions in 1941 at the former Wolfe Ranch, facing southeast above, while the GLO reviewed Susie Turnbow's homestead application, revealed at least continued seasonal use of improvements including the Cabin (lower center), two Root Houses (left), and Corral (right). Today, below, all these major resources survive, except the east-most Root House, lost in one of the Salt Wash's periodic floods or removed during the 1967 stabilization work. Above, GLO, 1941, SEUG Archives.

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Fig. 31. Reconstructed photo of historic photo shown in Fig. 30. James Steely, 2021.

As part of the process to document legitimate use of the land by the Turnbows, the GLO inspected the homestead later in 1940 and returned for photographs in 1941. Those images (Figs. 26 and 30) documented the condition of the property and its cluster of buildings and structures along Salt Wash. Two panoramic views (one at Fig. 30) faced southeast and south from the rocky slope north of the homestead cluster, looking down to the Cabin and the Corral. Even in 1941, the Corral appeared to be well used, as no vegetation encroached within its wood fences. A worn 2-track lane, originating from John Wolfe's buckboard wheels, approached the complex from the southwest and looped around the Corral's north side. The last notable feature was a wire fence (not extant) that ran from the southeast corner of the Corral, southeast to Salt Wash, protecting the Cabin from cattle grazing south in the wash. Another view faced north to show the south side of the Cabin (Fig. 26) and the two dugout Root Houses northeast of the main Wolfe Cabin. Around all the buildings and structures the vegetation appeared closely cropped, showing that this area still accommodated periodic grazing (Joseph 2002:20).

In July 1941, H.G. Schmidt, the third custodian of Arches National Monument, inspected the property with GLO Special Agent Richard Welsh. They subsequently reported that the land held no valuable mineral deposits, and described:

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 dugouts 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" [today's Southwest Livestock Fence] [SEUG Archives].

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In testimonies supporting Susie Turnbow's claim, Grand County residents J.S. Westwood and Lester Walker offered more information about the property. Westwood acknowledged that about 1-½ miles of barbed-wire fencing crossed the east and west ends of the filing. Walker stated that a fence ran from east bluff to west bluff, mostly a 4-string barbed-wire fence with cedar posts. “The fences have been placed to protect the grass,” Walker testified, “and some portion has been planted in alfalfa and pasture” (SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 15).

Throughout 1941, the GLO continued to consider the Turnbow homestead application, but Arches Custodian Schmidt and other National Park Service officials advised against its approval. The NPS cited the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, which “withdrew” the entire Cache Valley as part of the Interior Department’s 24,420-acre public-lands Grazing District #6, and the President’s Proclamation of 1938, which expanded Arches National Monument also into all of Cache Valley (Fig. 33). However, entry of the U.S. into World War II on 7 December 1941 appeared to shift the NPS position, as its director informed the GLO nine days later that it no longer opposed the Turnbow homestead application (Wolfsohn 1941 at SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 15, McDonald and Hubber 1999:3–4).

Finally, on 4 June 1942, Marv Turnbow's widow Susie acquired title from the GLO to 160 acres of the Salt Wash land that had originally been homesteaded by John and Fred Wolfe starting on 1 August 1898. Unfortunately, a Presidential Executive Order of 1926, cryptically known as

“Public Water Reserve No. 107,” prevented the official Turnbow homestead boundary from including Freshwater Spring, as that natural source had been identified as essential to any public-lands livestock permits across Grazing District #6 (BLM 2013:16).



Fig. 32. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management provides digital online mapping for most historic homestead claims, and illustrates the 1942 Turnbow Patent, former 1898–1911 Wolfe Ranch Homestead, within Township (large shaded square) 24 South, Range 22 East, finally and completely mapped by the GLO in 1932. The 160-acre patent (within red circle) combined four 40-acre quarter-sections in Sections 7 and 8 (those Sections are the two squares at upper left in the Township), excluding the Freshwater Springs in Section 6 (northwest of the circle), to form the homestead

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(see Fig. 22). Part of the current (2021) outline of Arches National Park is shaded in light green (left of center, top to bottom). BLM 2021.

Meanwhile, regional sheep rancher Emmett Elizondo (1897–1992) had acquired a livestock permit on Grazing District #6, and he also paid Susie Turnbow for the right to run his sheep on her newly patented 160-acre homestead (Joseph 2002:23). Born in the Basque region of Spain, Elizondo had immigrated in 1915 to Wyoming. “He bought his first sheep in 1922,” his obituary (The Daily Sentinel 7 August 1992:7A) recounted, “and at the height of his operation owned 25,000 sheep.” Based out of Ogden, Utah, in the early 1940s, Elizondo eventually expanded as the Curecanti Sheep Company and the Colorado-Utah Livestock Company with extensive land holdings and leases in both states. He later helped found and direct the Fruita State Bank in Colorado, and lived in Montrose and Grand Junction, Colorado. Elizondo’s timing prior to World War II for leasing land around Arches National Monument—including certain rights within the monument boundary—proved fortuitous, for wartime grazing quotas soon extended for the emergency onto national parks and monuments. “To increase the supply of food and fiber (wool) for the war effort,” summarized Arches National Park Administrative History author David Purcell (2019:161), “the National Park Service was called upon in 1943 to increase cattle grazing 27 percent and sheep grazing 11 percent on NPS-administered lands.... During the war years, permits were issued for 3-year periods, with 1-year permits in use after the conclusion of the war.” NPS biologist William Sloan (1996) provided additional information on 1940s sheep grazing in Salt Wash:

Prior to 1943, written grazing or watering permits were not necessary within the Monument; however, upon a recommendation from the Department of Interior, permits were soon required for grazing upon and crossing the Monument. In 1943, 1600 domestic sheep are recorded as using the area around Freshwater Spring; in 1944, an additional 2000 sheep were also watering at this spring. Despite severe overgrazing in the past and the resultant degradation of the range, grazing continued to be allotted on the Monument throughout the subsequent decades. Source?

Thus, the former Wolfe Ranch had its greatest agricultural use during the 1940s and contributed to the war effort, while the homestead suffered further depletion of its arable topsoil. During the war and for two years following, the NPS had few if any funds to purchase private inholdings, such as Susie Turnbow’s 160 acres in the Cache Valley, within its parks and monuments. On 27 April 1946, Susie sold the Turnbow homestead to Elizondo for \$800 (Warranty Deed 1946 at SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 15). The master shepherd continued to graze on the property, and his local shepherds used the Wolfe Cabin for storage and perhaps as a seasonal dwelling. In 1948 the NPS bought the 160-acre inholding from Elizondo for \$1,000, but as part of the deal he retained a 35-year right to water his stock at and downstream of the Freshwater Springs. With that lengthy grazing permit on Arches National Monument, Elizondo built a “supplemental granary...near the old cabin,” and kept supplies in the Wolfe Cabin through 1968 (Joseph 2002:23, McDonald and Hubber 1999:4). Elizondo’s son Jay retained their permits to run more than 6,500 sheep on monument land—but no longer in Salt Wash—through 1971. The remaining Elizondo permits for diminishing numbers of livestock, and several other ranchers’ grazing arrangements, ended by official NPS action in 1982 (Purcell 2019:159).

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Criterion A, Area of CONSERVATION

Arches National Monument

The Wolfe-Stanley family certainly knew of many if not all the now-famous rock formations in today's Arches National Park, and Flora Stanley photographed Delicate Arch (Fig. 41) near their homestead as early as 1906. Yet, the academic search to credit modern individuals with the earliest promotion of the area and its preservation as a national monument does not include the Wolfes or the Stanleys (see Purcell 2019:25–52). Esther Stanley Rison's memory that her mother developed her own film and printed her own photographs at Wolfe Ranch (Rison 1956) leads to the conclusion that for 50 years no one outside the family saw Flora's photographs of Delicate Arch or other formations, or at least that those images remained out of the hands of periodicals, the Rio Grande Railroad, and early conservationists.

In 1922, Thompson Springs mineral prospector Alexander Ringhoffer and his sons crisscrossed the Salt Valley between their home and Moab, encountering the sandstone arches and hoodoos of Klondike Bluffs along the valley's northwest edge. The next year, Ringhoffer wrote to the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad's general passenger agent—and promoter of scenic destinations along the rail line—Frank A. Wadleigh about his “discoveries.” That September Ringhoffer escorted Wadleigh and the railroad's official photographer George L. Beam through the Salt Valley attractions, including more red sandstone arches and the Devils Garden on the valley's north-central edges.

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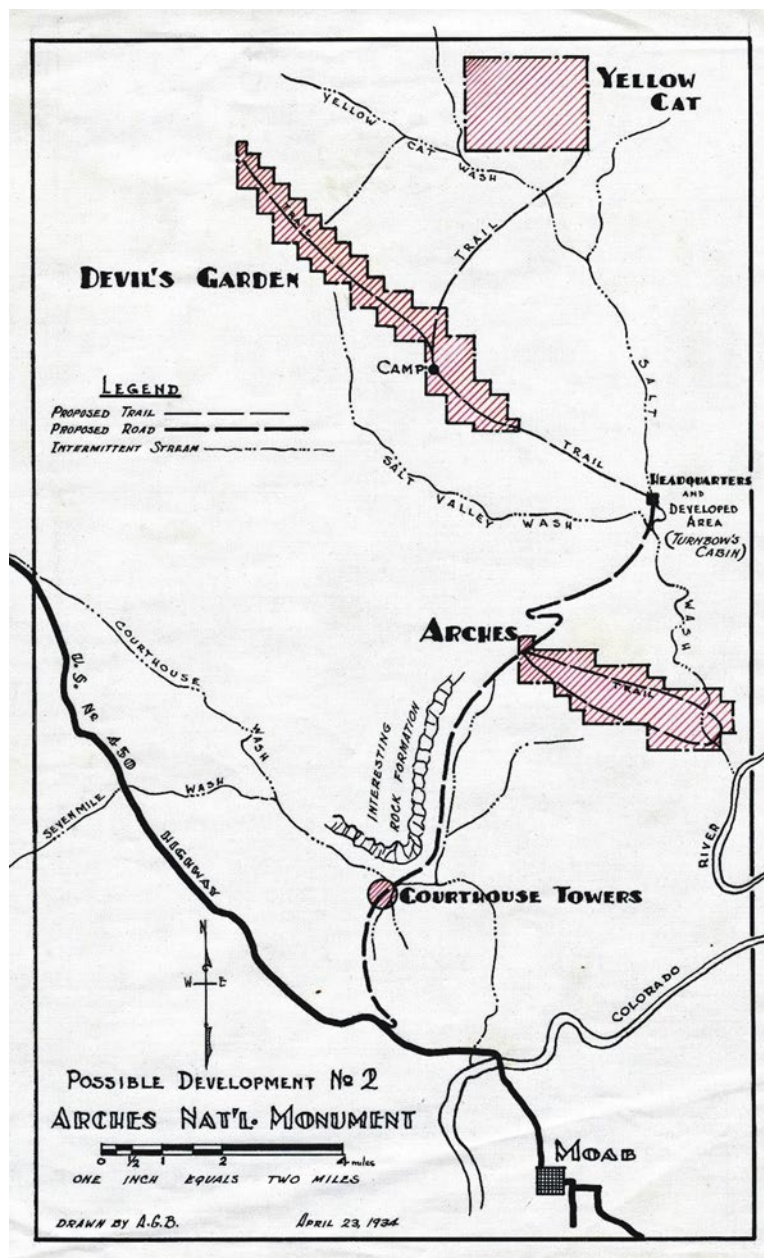


Fig. 33. The 1929 proclamation for Arches National Monument separated its scenic formations into two areas, whose zig-zag edges would not have been possible to delineate and describe without General Land Office surveys starting in 1924. The "Yellow Cat" (top) and Courthouse Towers (lower center) areas were outside the initial monument boundary but of scientific interest to NPS investigations of the entire area. Through a 1934 study for Arches access, the NPS proposed that the "Turnbow's Cabin" location serve as the monument's "Headquarters and Developed Area," a plan abandoned with expansion of Arches in 1938 to fill in these huge gaps (Fig. 35). SEUG 1934, reproduced in Purcell 2019:68.

Wadleigh then sent Beam's photographs in November 1923 to National Park Service Director Stephen T. Mather, urging creation of a national monument around the Devils Valley formations. Wadleigh no doubt envisioned promotion by his company of rail-passenger access to these

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wonders through its Thompson Springs, Utah, station on the mainline between Denver and Salt Lake City. Next in 1924, the U.S. General Land Office—a fellow Interior Department bureau with the NPS—dispatched surveyor T.W. McKinley to map the area around the Devils Garden, apparently the first official venture of the GLO into this part of the broad open landscape between Thompson Springs and Moab (Purcell 2019:39,41–42,51).

James Marvin Turnbow: Homesteader, Guide, and Custodian

Also in 1924, geology doctoral student Laurence M. Gould traveled from Michigan for research in the La Sal Mountains, and in Moab he encountered area rancher J. Marvin Turnbow. Gould arranged for Turnbow to escort him to the Salt Valley, where they visited The Windows overlooking the valley's southern end, and surely Delicate Arch accessed by foot from Turnbow's former Wolfe Ranch. Gould soon joined the growing number of promoters and scientists urging establishment of a national monument in or around the Salt Valley of Grand County, Utah (Hoffman 1985:66, noted in Purcell 2019:38,41–42,51).

Following several years—1925 into 1929—of more Interior Department mapping and investigations into the area's mineral claims, all post-dating the Wolfe's many filings with Grand County more than a decade earlier (page 34), President Herbert C. Hoover established Arches National Monument in April 1929. "The new monument consists of two areas," described an Interior Department press release, "known locally as the 'Devil's Garden' and the 'Windows' ['Arches' on the 1934 map, Fig. 33], containing approximately 2,600 acres and 1,920 acres, respectively. Within these areas are extraordinary examples of wind erosion in the shape of gigantic arches, natural bridges, 'windows,' spires, balanced rocks, and other unique wind-worn sandstone formations, the preservation of which is desirable because of their educational and scenic value" (reproduced in Purcell 2019:43).

Management of the new Arches proclamation fell under the NPS Southwestern National Monuments Office based in Coolidge, Arizona, led by Superintendent Frank Pinkley. This 33rd national monument in the country became Pinkley's northernmost unit and joined the other Utah monuments of Rainbow Bridge, Hovenweep, and Natural Bridges (NPS 1938). GLO mapping continued across the new monument's areas and throughout connecting washes and uplifts, with the final map of Township 24 South, Range 22 East platted in 1931 and accepted in 1932 (Fig. 22) (BLM 1932). GLO cartographers labeled "Wolf Cabin"—owned by Marv Turnbow—as the only existing settlement in that township, but their Salt Lake City office had never patented a homestead there due to the conundrum of having no previous mapping of the area.

Since Turnbow lived in that Grand County township at least part time, and probably because he had previously come to the attention of the NPS through geologist Laurence Gould, in 1933 Pinkley employed Turnbow as the first custodian of Arches National Monument (Purcell 2019:53,60). Turnbow's appointment was also "part time" at \$12 per year, when other custodians at national monuments ranging from Petrified Forest in Arizona to the Statue of Liberty earned between \$2000 and \$3000 per year (U.S. Civil Service Commission 1936:24). As custodian, Turnbow guided the next scientific expedition of 1933–1934, led by Utah newspaper

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publisher and amateur archeologist Frank A. Beckwith, through Arches National Monument and its surrounds (see Archeology below) (Purcell 2019:65–69).

Fig. 34. Frank A. Beckwith (standing at left) entertained his scientific expedition experts in the late winter of 1934 with a hammer and fork above a coffee mug to demonstrate the strength of their morning eye-opener. Seated across from Beckwith (at front right) probably was J. Marvin Turnbow, custodian of Arches National Monument, occupant of the former Wolfe Ranch included in the group's studies, and the expedition's guide through the monument and its surrounding landscapes. Late the next year, Turnbow filed with the U.S. General Land Office his first of many attempts to claim a bona fide homestead for his former Wolfe Ranch operation. Turnbow left the NPS custodian position in 1937 a year before the monument's boundary extension to include the Wolfe-Turnbow Ranch. He died in a 1940 car wreck near Moab. In 1942 his wife Susie received the homestead patent to 160 acres around the Wolfe Cabin, which she sold in 1946. The Wolfe-Turnbow homestead became part of Arches National Monument in 1948 in part because of the findings and reports of the 1933–1934 Beckwith Expedition (Purcell 2019:69,71,83). SEUG 1934.



Throughout 1934, Turnbow as a Salt Wash occupant and custodian of Arches National Monument experienced a number of advancements and changes across his corner of Utah. First, he spent about four months that winter closely examining the greater landscape with experts in cartography, archeology, paleontology, and geology. Next, he probably heard those scientists conclude that the national monument should be much larger, and any recommended boundary changes would encompass his Wolfe Ranch Cabin and grazing land across Salt Wash. In June 1934, the Taylor Grazing Act went into effect, placing his cattle operation without a permit within the Interior Department's Grazing District #6. If Turnbow had considered applying for a homestead at Salt Wash based on GLO mapping completed in 1932, he would have been discouraged by the Grazing Act. But that December, a Presidential Executive Order made certain allowances on lands withdrawn from settlement by the Grazing Act, opening the door to Turnbow for a homestead application not to exceed 320 acres (BLM 1955:4). Finally, in December 1935, Turnbow at last submitted his first application for a homestead patent—asking for 640 acres—based on the Wolfe Ranch improvements, beginning the long period of consideration by the GLO (see Agriculture above). On his application and with many appeals during his tenure as NPS custodian of Arches National Monument, Turnbow claimed to be occupied only as a rancher with no other sources of employment or income (Turnbow 1935:4).

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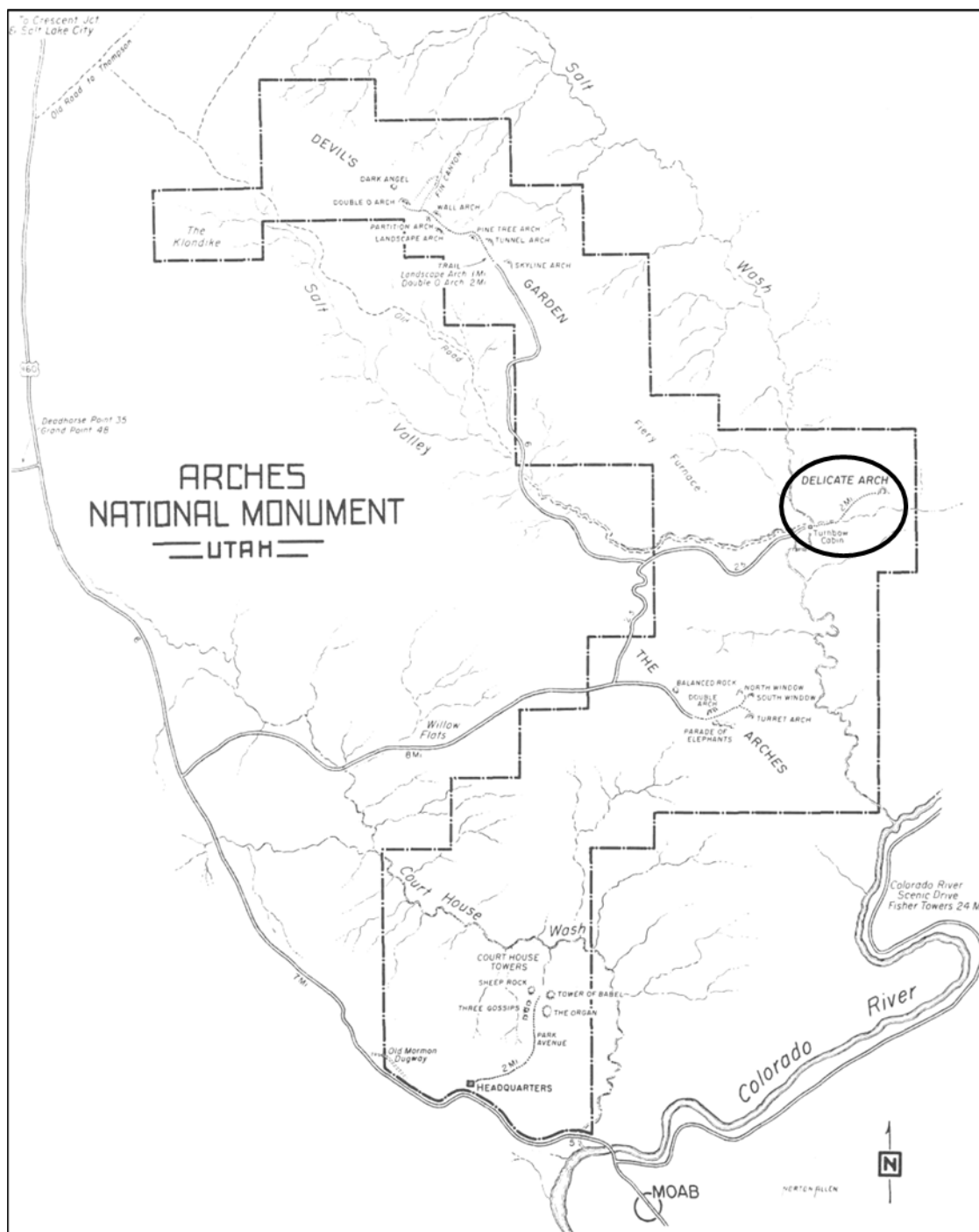


Fig. 35. Arches National Monument's 1938 expansion joined Devils Garden with The Windows (here "The Arches") and added many other connecting features including Delicate Arch and the "Turnbow Cabin" (circle). The "new roads" shown in 1948 were still "dirt roads subject to weather conditions," according to *The Desert Magazine*, August 1948, for which Norton Allen produced this map. Reproduced in Purcell 2002:111.

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Boundary Expansions

Recommended boundary changes for Arches National Monument, after much deliberation between NPS officials and Moab-area residents, leaped forward in 1938 with a proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, connecting the formerly separated areas for a total of 33,680 acres (Purcell 2019:5,73–74). The new contiguous boundary (Fig. 35) encompassed Delicate Arch on the monument’s east extent and therefore included the “Turnbow Cabin” and former Wolfe Ranch; the Klondike Bluffs to the northwest originally promoted by Alex Ringhoffer; and grand features along Courthouse Wash as far south as U.S. Highway 160 (today U.S. 191) from Moab to Thompson Springs. The 1938 boundary remained intact through the NPS acquisition of the Turnbow-Wolfe Ranch homestead-inholding in 1948 (see Agriculture above).

In 1948, through additional funding associated with the Turnbow-Wolfe Ranch purchase, the NPS began building infrastructure—designed in 1947 by NPS landscape architects Carl W. Alleman and Charles D. Carter (Purcell 2019:148)—for access to Delicate Arch, using the former homestead as a transition point from automobile parking to hiking trail. Construction in 1948 included the first segment of Delicate Arch Road, about 1.25 miles from its intersection with the main Scenic Drive northeast to a parking lot just a few feet from the Turnbow-Wolfe Cabin, and the first iteration of Delicate Arch Trail, about 1.5 miles from the Cabin northeast to the signature arch formation (Fig. 36) (Joseph 2002:24). Since the NPS during this immediate post-war period viewed the former homestead primarily as a strategic location for these visitor accommodations, the 1907 Cabin, Root House, and Corral survived only because of Emmett Elizondo’s grazing permit and his shepherd’s continued use of the Cabin for storage and shelter. In 1955, the NPS further improved Delicate Arch Trail with a pedestrian suspension bridge across Salt Wash, a few paces from the Wolfe-Turnbow Cabin (Fig. 7).

Esther Stanley Rison’s Revelations

In September 1955, Arches Ranger and frequent Acting Superintendent Robert L. Morris received a letter from Wolfe-family descendant Lena E. Chapman of Columbus, Ohio. Chapman provided a few details on John Wesley Wolfe and his granddaughter Esther Stanley Rison—“Mrs. Forest Rison”—who also lived in Columbus. The next March, in response to a subsequent letter with questions from Morris to Rison, Esther wrote a highly detailed two-page memoir about her grandfather and her own experiences beginning exactly 50 years earlier, perhaps her life’s greatest adventure:

This takes me back to 1906, when I was seven years old at the time and my brother [Feryl] was five, when Grandfather Wolfe sent for us to live with him [at what she called “Dad Wolfe’s Ranch”]. My mother [Flora] was his daughter and my father Ed Stanley [and the whole Stanley family made this trip].

Grandfather met us at Thompson Springs and he took us to his Ranch where my uncle Fred Wolfe met us. Grandfather’s Cabin on the bank of Salt Wash was too small for all of

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us. That was when the cabin that now stands on the Ranch was built in 1906 [she later corrected to 1907], the same summer that we went to Utah. I lived there two years

[1906–1908], two very wonderful years for me [more on pages 35–36] [Rison 1956, SEUG Archives].

First Wolfe Ranch Conservation Work

Despite contacting Esther Rison in 1956 and learning the origins of Wolfe Ranch and its homestead cluster of Cabin, Root House, and Corral, Arches National Monument for the next decade provided little if any interpretation for the log Cabin guarding the Delicate Arch Trailhead. And since rancher Emmett Elizondo retained a grazing permit at the old homestead while using the Cabin for storage and seasonal shelter, its condition gradually deteriorated.

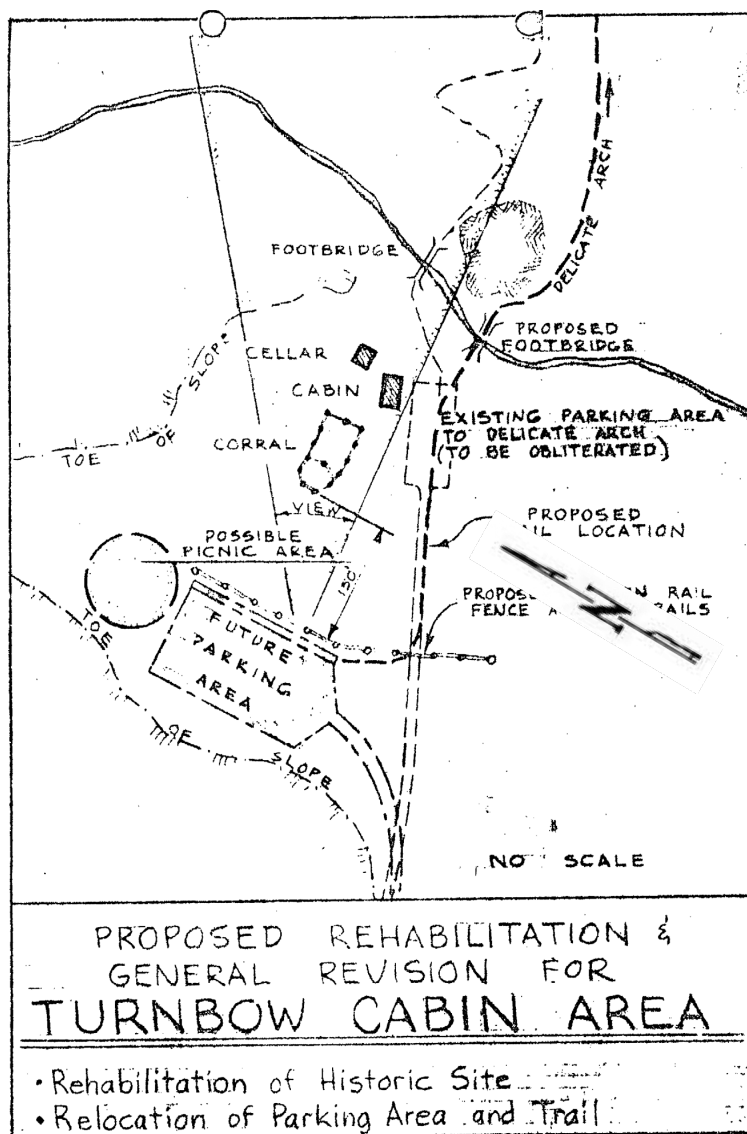


Fig. 36. In 1965, NPS landscape architect Paul Fritz (1929–2000) worked out of the Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and assisted planning efforts at several national monuments and parks. Fritz produced this conjectural site plan to move encroaching visitor services away from the “Turnbow Cabin,” including the Delicate Arch Trail parking lot to the west (accomplished in 1967) and the trail itself to the south (not implemented). Also in 1965, Fritz completed a 1-page inventory form for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), thus crafting the first NPS recognition of the Cabin’s significance, and giving the first official credit for its construction to “John & Fred Wolfe.” Arches National Monument acted on Fritz’s recommendations in 1967 by moving the parking lot to its present (2021) location, and conducting the first stabilization work on the Cabin, “Cellar,” and Corral. SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 16.

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Then in 1965, NPS landscape architect (later a national park administrator and superintendent) Paul Fritz from the Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe completed a 1-page Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Inventory Form for the “Turnbow Cabin” including the “cellar” and Corral. He noted that “John & Fred Wolfe” built the Cabin in 1906 [sic], information that could only have come from Esther Rison’s 1956 letter to Arches Ranger Morris. At the time of the 1965 Wolfe Ranch evaluation, Fritz judged the Cabin as “fair” in condition inside and outside. Fritz also sketched a site plan of his “Proposed Rehabilitation & General Revision for Turnbow Cabin Area” (Fig. 36), all in preparation for funding and conducting much-needed work on all those resources. Fritz particularly planned a move to the west for the intrusive 1948 parking lot (accomplished in 1967, and today’s south section of the main parking area) (Fritz 1965, Loope 1974:1 at SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 16).

Two years passed after Fritz’s planning and securing of money for the Wolfe Ranch restoration work, and in 1967 NPS Southwest Regional Historian William L. Brown persuaded the monument to spend the allotted funding of \$1,400. Brown and Arches Ranger Wayne Norton oversaw the off-season work that fall, likely conducted by monument staff, of leveling the Cabin and patching the roof, excavating one surviving Root House for what Brown called “environmental rehabilitation,” and rebuilding the Corral (all described in this amendment, pages 13 through 18) (Brown 1967, Norton 1968 at SEUG Archives: ARCH 1800 Folder 16).

“National Park” and More Boundary Changes

Boundary changes to Arches National Monument in 1969 added, and then in 1971 subtracted, the large Dry Mesa area southeast of Wolfe Ranch. The 1971 adjustments joined Congressional action that created Arches National Park from most of the former national monument. The most recent major boundary changes in 1998 added Lost Spring Canyon as part of the huge Salt Wash rainfall gathering basin north of the Wolfe Ranch Cabin (Purcell 2019:76–77).

Criterion A, Area of EDUCATION

First Interpretive Plaque at Wolfe Ranch

Regional historian Bill Brown concluded his participation in the 1967 restoration work on Wolfe Ranch resources with suggestions for the monument’s future interpretation of the old homestead that stood coincidental to the busy Delicate Arch Trailhead parking lot. In addition to implementing “Paul Fritz’s suggested change in the parking area,” summarized NPS official (later an NPS park superintendent and regional director) Roger Contor (1967), Brown recommended “installing an interpretive sign” at the trailhead:

The overriding theme of the interpretive text, whatever particular historic facts you might put into it, should be, it seems to me, the notion of pioneer ranchers coming into a rather forbidding and marginal country and making a go of it by hook or by crook [Brown 1967, quoted in McDonald and Hubber 1999:5].

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Turnbow Cabin Environmental Study Area

After signing her March 1956 letter to Arches Ranger Bob Morris, Esther Rison (1956, 1969) added a note promising to visit Arches National Monument, which she did in June 1956 with her cousin Lena Chapman. Next, she sent promised Wolfe Ranch photographs in 1959 to Arches longtime Superintendent Bates Wilson. In 1968, growing local knowledge of Rison's experiences and early Wolfe Ranch details combined with the recent Wolfe Ranch rehabilitation work (pages 53–54) and a new educational initiative of the NPS called National Environmental Education Development (NEED). The NEED program, according to then-retired NPS Chief Historian Ronald F. Lee (1972:Part VI), “included designation of Environmental Study Areas [ESAs] on National Park System lands to be used primarily by school children to help them understand their total environment, its many interdependent relationships, and their part in it.” Lee noted in the same study that plans in 1968 to make Arches National Monument a national park—one of five national monuments similarly reclassified between 1964 and 1971—played a substantial role in drawing attention to Arches' relationship with nearby communities and its potential for interpretation activities integrated with local public-school programs.

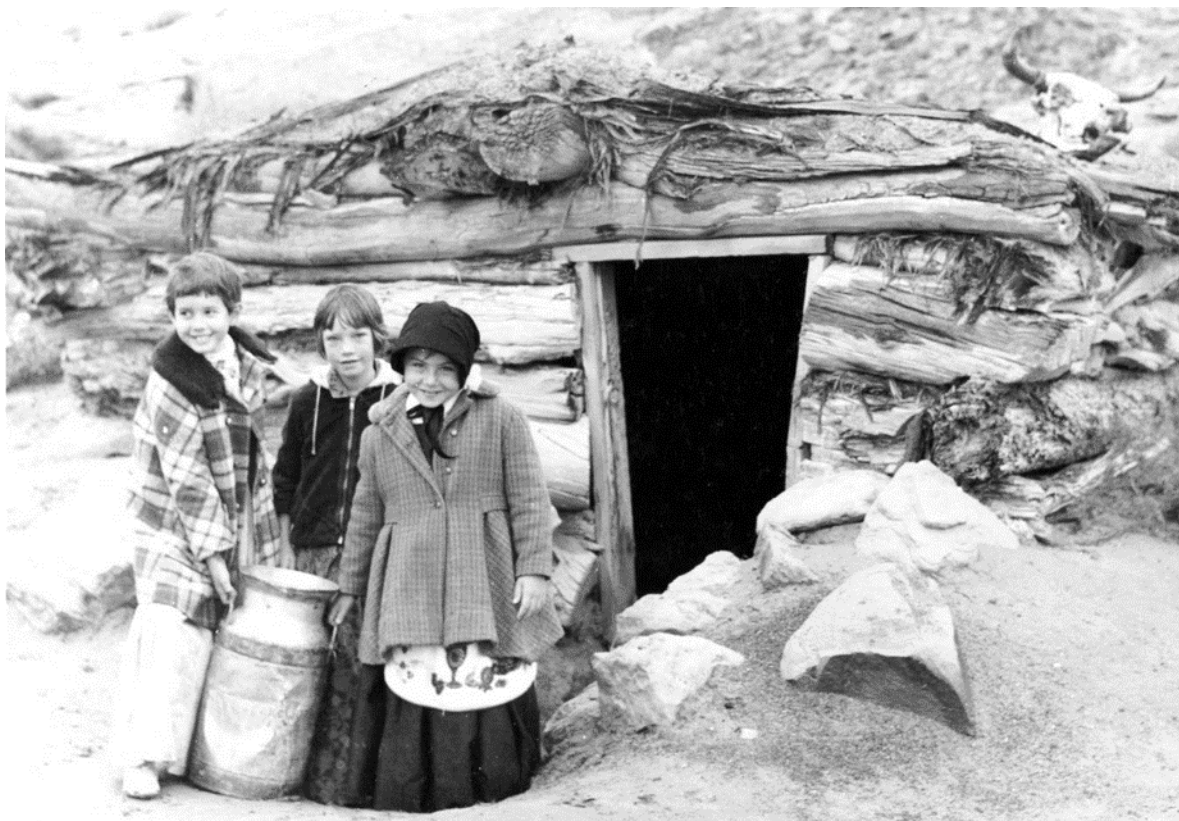
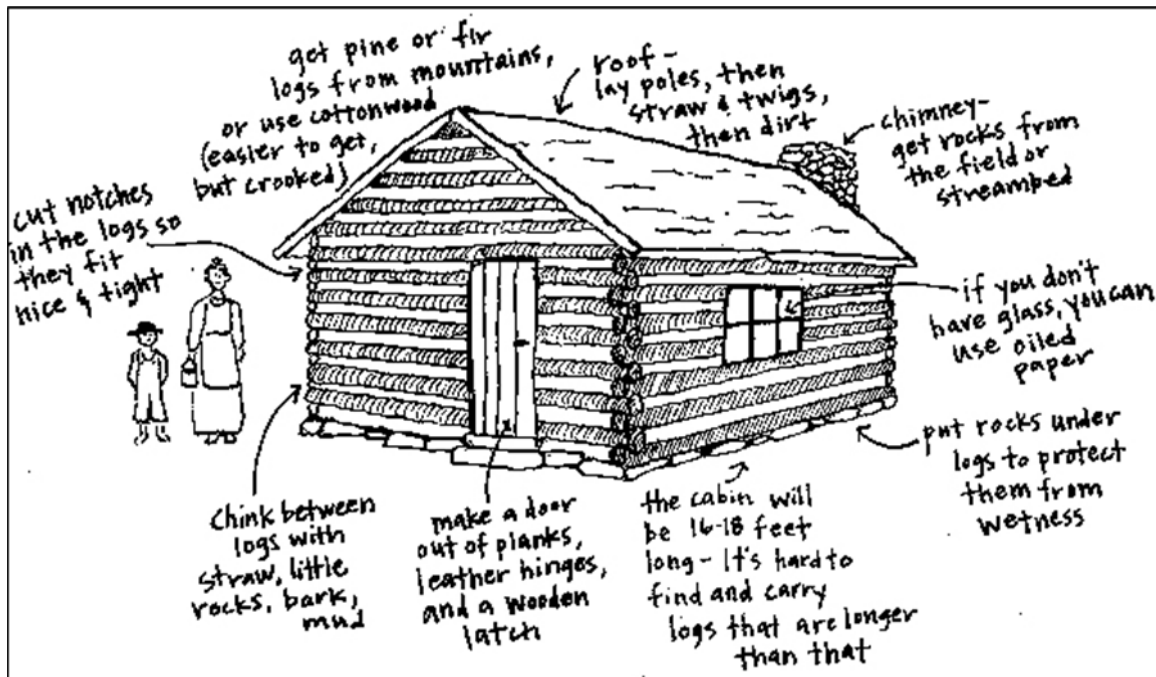


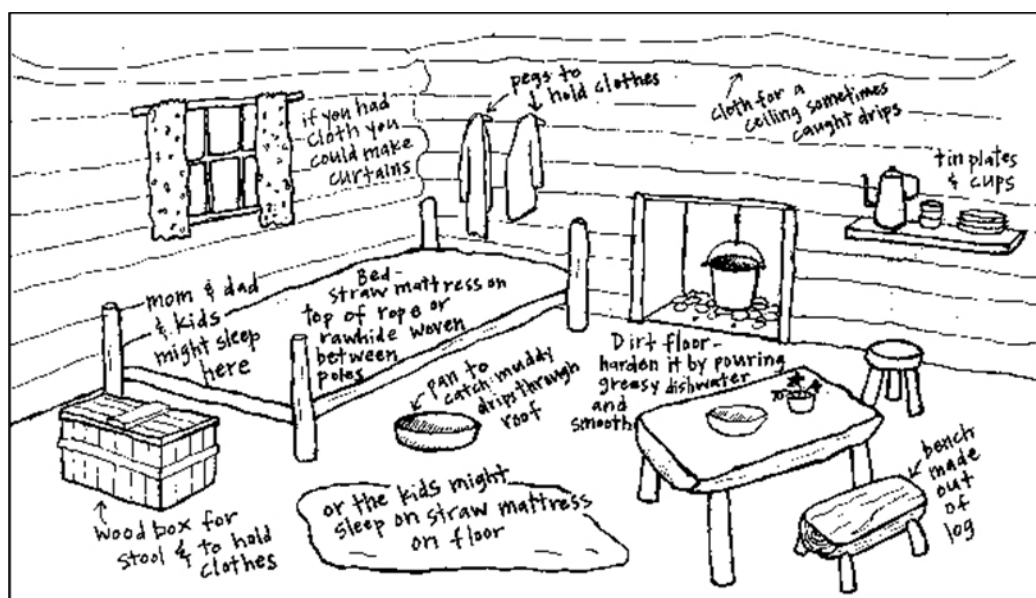
Fig. 37. Sixth-grade students from Moab reenacted pioneer living by hauling food supplies from the Root House, during annual educational visits to Wolfe Ranch. These events and the site's Environmental Study Area designation resulted from the first-hand accounts provided by Esther Stanley Rison, based on her life at Wolfe Ranch as a 7-to-9-year-old in 1906–1908. SEUG 1969.

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Figs. 38 and 39. A pair of drawings by Rebekah Smith illustrate the Utah Division of State History (2021) page on "Log Cabins" in its "I ♥ History" website for primary school curriculums. The example cabin's scale, materials, configuration, and furnishings are remarkably similar to the 1907 Wolfe-Stanley Cabin described by Esther Stanley Rison for Moab's 6th Grade students. The main differences between this "Anglo American settler" dwelling and the Wolfe Ranch Cabin are the fireplace and chimney, substituted at the Wolfe Ranch by an iron stove with flue, so that the oven could be moved outside in summertime. The applicable characteristics here and at Wolfe Ranch closely follow the 1900–1930 "Rocky Mountain Cabin" building type identified by U.S. Forest Service historian Mary Wilson (1984:33,37,52).



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The NPS accordingly designated the “Turnbow Cabin Environmental Study Area” in 1968 and soon the monument staff forged a link with Moab’s Southeast Elementary School through teacher Helen Madson’s 6th grade class. At Madson’s request, Rison (1968, 1969) composed her experiences as “a seven year old girl with lots of freckles...playing around the [1907] cabin when it was new” for the class exercises in environmental history. For several years thereafter, Moab 6th graders dressed in early 20th century clothes and learned on field trips about the pioneer life of homesteaders at Wolfe Ranch. By 1969, noted Purcell (2019:265), Grand County teacher Louise Hetzel “and the NPS worked together to create a curriculum that was later exported to ESAs around the country” (2019:264–267).



Fig. 40. Esther Stanley Rison (center) returned to her grandfather’s homestead-ranch in 1956, 50 years after her arrival at Wolfe Ranch, and again in 1971, 65 years after her family had moved there to live the pioneer life for about 2 years. Rison attended the NPS ceremony of 18 May 1971 (above) to mark renaming of the 1968 Turnbow Cabin Environmental Study Area to the Wolfe Cabin ESA. SEUG 1971.

Learning in late 1970 about the “Turnbow Cabin” name for the ESA at Arches National Monument, Rison (1970) wrote the superintendent of “Canyonland Arches National Park” that “it would be nice if the name could be changed back to the John Wesley Wolfe Bar D X Ranch.” In May 1971, Purcell (2019:265) confirmed, the Arches environmental education “program was formally renamed Wolfe Cabin ESA.... A re-dedication ceremony was attended by more than 100 people, including [John] Wolfe’s granddaughters Esther Stanley Rison and Volna Stanley.”

That November 1971, President Richard M. Nixon signed the bill creating Arches National Park (Purcell 2019:76). Arches Ranger Maxine Newell thereafter continued correspondence with Esther Rison, and gathered additional Wolfe Ranch information from Rison’s brother Ferol

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Stanley and Turnbow descendants as well. Newell's collected materials and synthesis into a cohesive narrative resulted by the mid-1970s in her booklet *A Story of Life at Wolfe Ranch*, still in print from the Canyonlands Natural History Association (Newell 1974). All these preservation-conservation-interpretation efforts from Paul Fritz in 1965 through Maxine Newell in the 1970s inspired a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the "Wolfe Ranch Historic District"—main-titled as the "Turnbow Cabin"—authored by Canyonlands National Park Seasonal Ranger (later noted geology professor) David B. Loope (1974) and listing in 1975.

Criterion D, Area of ARCHEOLOGY

Previous archeological investigations (see below) within the current (2021) boundaries of Arches National Park occasionally included the Wolfe Ranch Homestead, but none investigated the homestead cluster at and near the 1907 Wolfe Cabin to study its historic-era, homestead activities. Recent Salt Wash floodplain surface investigations by NPS archeologists Thann Baker and Clay Knudson (2017) for the park's tamarisk-removal Salt Wash Rehabilitation Project included a larger area south of the Cabin and thus much of the Homestead Claim Site. That 2017 effort proved through documentation of the c. 1920 Southwest Livestock Fence that the greater homestead acreage—now part of the expanded boundary through this NRHP amendment—most certainly holds artifacts and information from the homestead's later, 1912–1948, use for livestock grazing and likely its earliest, 1898–1911, full-time occupation by the Wolfe and Stanley families. Because the Wolfe Ranch Homestead has yielded and is likely to yield important information associated with the local historic context, "Homestead Lifeways at the Wolfe-Turnbow Ranch in Arches National Park, 1898–1948," this NRHP amendment adds the area of significance Archeology, subcategory Historic—Non-Aboriginal, and additional subcategory of agriculture (see NRHP Bulletin 16A [McClelland 1997:39–40,51] and Bulletin 36 [Little et al. 2000:14–15,20,28–29]).

Existing information for this identified archeological historic context is assembled and synthesized throughout this NRHP amendment. The Southwest Livestock Fence is a structure property type, and in addition to other unconfirmed fence lines, the historic district has the potential to yield other structures as well as object property-types and small-scale features including the privy location(s), natural-spring augmentations and gathering basins, and evidence of pre-national monument trails. Following are lists of research questions and further information needs identified for the contributing resources and the various landforms of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead historic district.

Previous Investigations by Archeologists

The first recorded professional archeological survey within the current boundary of Arches National Park, the 1934 Beckwith Expedition (page 50), was guided by J. Marvin Turnbow, seasonal occupant of the Wolfe-Turnbow Cabin. The expedition's reports mentioned examining Turnbow's settlement in Salt Wash for paleontological/dinosaur evidence, probably and unsuccessfully in the exposed Morrison Formation strata west of the Cabin. But these scientists

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did not mention what is now known as the Ute Petroglyph Panel (page 10, Figs. 6 and 18), about 450 feet northeast of the Cabin (Purcell (2019:66).

The Ute Petroglyph Panel, Utah archeological site 42GR297, dating from as early as the 17th century, was identified and designated in 1957 by NPS and BLM archeologist (and later ranger and park superintendent) Lloyd M. Pierson (1921–2015). Between 1956 and 1972, Pierson recorded 50 other archeological sites, including two more petroglyphs, in Arches National Park (Kramer 1991:20,35,127, Moab Sun News 21 May 2015). Pierson focused on prehistoric archeology, not the historic homesteading period, so he did not examine Wolfe Ranch itself.

University of Utah archeologist Karen Kramer (1991) in 1987 surveyed a cumulative 1,160 acres in Arches National Park on behalf of the NPS Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. In her 1991 report, she recorded “26 sites and 69 isolated artifact finds,” including revisiting known sites such as the Ute Petroglyph Panel. Although the 1987 assignment “was to conduct an intensive pedestrian survey in order to locate archeological resources in areas which might be adversely affected by future maintenance and development in the Park,” the scope did not include historic-era archeology within the park (Kramer 1991:i).

As noted above, NPS archeologists Baker and Knudson (2017) conducted likely the first survey of the Wolfe Ranch’s Homestead-Claim Site that focused on and recorded historic-era resources, in that case, one of the fencelines described in mid-20th century General Land Office records. Since those GLO homestead-application records (BLM various dates, SEUG Archives) mentioned many other fence improvements, cultivated crops, and living quarters for at least seven months per year, the historic district is likely to yield many additional historic-era resources to verify those vintage records and advance the park’s interpretation program. Research Questions and Further Information Needs The Homestead Cluster

- Do historic-era subsurface artifacts and scatters survive around and inside the foundations of the Cabin, the Root House, or the Corral, or at other known but lost buildings in the cluster?
- Where were the historic trash disposal sites and what artifacts do they contain?
- Where was the privy apparently removed in 1967, where were previous privies, and what artifacts do their pits contain?
- Where was the irrigation ditch running south from the Holding Pond to the Vegetable Garden, and are homestead-occupant memories of blasting corroborated by linear breaks in the natural rock formations, now covered by surface soils?
- Does any subsurface evidence of the Vegetable Garden remain, and can recovered floral matter determine what crops the Wolfes and Stanleys grew, including fruit trees?
- What can detailed answers to these questions reveal about homestead lifeways here during the contextual range of 1898–1911?

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The Homestead Claim

- What other fence lines and fencing artifacts can be found within current underbrush in Salt Wash?
- Is a footpath from the Cabin northwest to Freshwater Spring, and/or the Wolfe's nearby Freshwater Spring, discernable along Salt Wash or over slickrock surfaces?
- Was Freshwater Spring, or Wolfe's Freshwater Spring within the NRHP boundary, mechanically augmented through digging, boring, or construction of catch basins?
- In addition to fence lines likely to have been strategic drift fences rather than boundary delineators, do any boundary markers survive for the Wolfe's claim, or Turnbow's later assertion that he (Turnbow) operated on 640 acres of pending homestead?
- What can detailed answers to these questions reveal about agricultural lifeways here during the contextual range of 1898–1948?

The Petroglyph Panel

- Did any other archeological investigations in Arches National Monument, not cited above, identify and attempt interpretation of the Ute Petroglyph Panel?
- When did Arches or regional staff, or others, begin to interpret the panel and through what means?
- What can answers to these questions reveal about the importance and protection of prehistoric and historic-era archeology in Arches National Park, and its interpretation for park visitors and researchers?

In summary for the Wolfe Ranch Homestead's significance under NRHP Criterion D, the results of future archeological investigations of the historic district will be important to interpretation of resources in Arches National Park. Collection of historic-era archeological information at Wolfe Ranch will therefore broaden the knowledge and understanding of homesteading in a very remote area of Grand County, Utah.

CONCLUSION

This additional documentation and boundary increase for the Wolfe Ranch Homestead Historic District documents a durable historic resource—a district of buildings, structures, and sites—that survives to tell the remarkable story of homesteading in southeast Utah as well as the origins of Arches National Park. At the time of its initial nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the “Turnbow Cabin” was slowly emerging from a simplistic and misunderstood history, and from decades of physical treatment by its host Arches National Monument as merely a strategic location for other park- visitor services of vehicle and hiking infrastructure.

Since 1975, much additional information has been collected by the park and the NPS Southeast Utah Group archives on Wolfe Ranch history, including John W. Wolfe's specific Civil War service and injury. Also, vintage depositions for the U.S. Bureau of Pensions, particularly those

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of Fred Wolfe to address his mother's claim for her husband's pension following John's death in 1913, have been copied to identify exact dates and locations of John and Fred's movements between 1895 and 1913. The numerous letters of Esther Rison Stanley between 1956 and 1977 are now available in one place to review, further assisting a more detailed presentation of the homestead's earliest timeline, events, and improvements. Ironically, since J. Marvin Turnbow's association with the ranch was downplayed after 1975 while Wolfe-Stanley associations became dominant in park interpretation, more is also now known about Turnbow, although his 1933–1937 stint as first Arches National Monument custodian remains without much detail. Fortunately for understanding both major "owners" of the ranch, the celebrated U.S. Homestead Act and resulting voluminous records, including the inseparable activities of U.S. General Land Office cartographers, are now largely searchable online. Further, specialized historians and archivists are available to interpret the cryptic Homestead Act programs that held alternating rejection and promise for the Wolfes and Turnbows from 1898 through 1942.

All these increasingly accessible sources, in addition to the relatively new administrative history for Arches National Park, allowed this NRHP amendment to advance the 1975 listing from Criterion A for pioneer settlement and Criterion C for log cabin construction into more robust arguments for both. And in addition to the initial areas of significance, Architecture and Agriculture—both now with stronger contextual associations—this amendment adds the areas of Exploration/Settlement to explain influences of the Homestead Act, Conservation to link the Wolfe-Turnbow Ranch directly with creation of Arches National Monument and later National Park, and Education to identify the homestead's breakthrough role in teaching local schoolchildren about their pioneer forebears. Further, Criterion D and the area of Archeology have been added to spotlight the predictable potential to yield important information through additional professional subsurface investigation on the homestead claim, a heretofore neglected tool for enhancing interpretation of Wolfe Ranch and inspiring further research and scholarship.

The amended period of significance begins with the correct date of 1898 when the Wolfes arrived in the Salt Wash of Cache Valley, Grand County, Utah. The ending date is now 1971, marking 1) the crescendo of Esther Stanley Rison's information for the park's interpretative program, signified by her attendance at the re-naming of the park's innovative Environmental Study Area (ESA) for the Wolfe Cabin—although then the 1975 NRHP listing repeated the Turnbow Cabin alternate, 2) creation that year of Arches National Park as part of the ascending environmental movement that included programs like Arches' ESA, and 3) the passage of 50 years of time leading to this amendment.

On a final note, regarding listing in the NRHP and—upon this amendment's refreshed research and evaluation—retaining sufficient significance and integrity to remain listed, the property's Cultural Landscape Inventory of almost 20 years ago came to the opposite conclusion. That document, principally because of the subtractive process inflicted by the park's founding priorities, "determined that the Wolfe Ranch cultural landscape [specifically including the

NRHP-listed homestead 'cluster'] is not eligible for listing on the National Register" (Joseph 2002:17). This amendment, in rebuttal, confirms that the Wolfe Ranch Homestead historic

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district retains clear significance and strong integrity, and is worthy of its NRHP listing with an expanded boundary along with the additional Criteria and areas noted above.



Fig. 41. "One of the earliest pictures of Delicate Arch" (NPS 2021), facing south, taken by Flora Stanley in 1906 during her family's residence at the Wolfe Ranch. A similar photograph credited to the Stanleys, reproduced in Arches National Park, An Illustrated Guide and History (Hoffman 1981:vi), clearly identified Flora, Esther, and Feron Stanley under the arch. Reproduced at NPS 2021.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 203.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 12N	Easting:	627964.6	Northing:	4289121
2. Zone: 12N	Easting:	628223.9	Northing:	4289211
3. Zone: 12N	Easting:	629149.3	Northing:	4288859
4. Zone: 12N	Easting :	629156.8	Northing:	4288046
5. Zone: 12N	Easting :	628767.3	Northing:	4287636
6. Zone: 12N	Easting :	628361.1	Northing:	4287627
7. Zone: 12N	Easting :	628231.8	Northing:	4288633

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Wolfe Ranch Homestead begins on its extreme northwest at Freshwater Spring in a side canyon of Salt Wash, encompassing the side canyon, then the main wash in its stream direction to the southeast. Near a bend of the wash to the south and in a small side canyon on the wash's northeast side, the boundary includes the Ute Petroglyph Panel and most of today's side trails to view the panel, the west-most leg part of the original Delicate Arch Trail passing directly by the Ute Petroglyph Panel. When the Salt Wash canyon reaches the northwest corner of the Wolfe Homestead claim, the boundary then follows the homestead claim to the south and east to encompass the 160-acre settlement claim in 1898 of John Wesley Wolfe, patented in 1942 by Susie Turnbow (for boundary detail see accompanying map ppg. 90 and 94).

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The amendment expands the 1975 boundary to include the full extent of the homestead claim as a larger site including the c. 1920 Southwest Livestock Fence, while retaining: the supporting Wolfe's Freshwater Spring to the northwest; the strongly associated 1907 Cabin and Root House plus Corral and nearby fences; the Ute Petroglyph Panel, the initial segment of Delicate Arch Trail, and the potential homestead-era archeological evidence of privies, irrigated subsistence garden, and other ranching resources throughout the amended boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: James W. Steely & Utah SHPO Staff
organization: Organization of American Historians
street & number: 1003 N Emerson Street
city or town: Denver state: Colorado zip code: 80218
e-mail: jwsteely@gmail.com
telephone: 602-692-6394
date: May 15, 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Wolfe Ranch Homestead
City or Vicinity:	Arches National Park
County:	Grand
State:	Utah
Name of Photographer:	James W. Steely
Date of Photographs:	October 2019, September 2021
Location of Original Digital Files:	1003 N. Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 12. Wolfe Ranch 1907 Cabin, facing northwest, and Root House (right of Cabin, visitor standing in door). See Registration Form Figures 24, 26, and 29 for similar historic views.

2 of 12. Wolfe Ranch Homestead cluster, facing southeast, with Root House (left), Cabin, Corral (right), Delicate Arch Road (upper center-right), and Delicate Arch Trail Bridge across Salt Wash (center left). See Registration Form Figure 30 for the same historic view.

3 of 12. Wolfe Ranch Homestead, facing south, with Corral (foreground), Delicate Arch Trail (diagonal through foreground), Salt Wash channel (diagonal through middle-ground), Parking Lots, and Shade Shelter (right). A 1941 view (not reproduced) from the same location continued the panorama from No. 2 above.

4 of 12. Wolfe Ranch Homestead, facing south-southwest, showing the Corral (left foreground); Shade Structure, Parking Lots, and Comfort Station pair (middle); green-rocks of the Morrison Formation outcrop on the homestead's west flank (right), and "The Windows" formations of Arches National Park on the horizon.

5 of 12. Wolfe Ranch from the Morrison Formation bluff on the Salt Wash east bank, facing west, showing the Delicate Arch Trail Bridge, stone rip-rap protection (middle), Cabin, and Parking Lot in the background. See Registration Form Figure 19 for the same view in 1974.

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6 of 12. Wolfe Ranch Root House (foreground) and Cabin, facing south, with the Corral (right) and Parking Lots (right middle-ground).

7 of 12. Wolfe Cabin of 1907, facing southwest, with Corral and Parking Lot in background.

8 of 12. Wolfe Root House, facing northeast, showing present cement covering of roof.

9 of 12. The North Livestock Fence, facing north, is a remnant feature across Salt Wash.

10 of 12. Wolfe Ranch Homestead (Cabin cluster at center), facing east, from the high outcrop forming the natural west boundary of Salt Wash and the homestead.

11 of 12. Wolfe Ranch Homestead, facing south, from its western outcrop; the Southwest Livestock Fence crosses Delicate Arch Road near the dark eastbound vehicle at center.

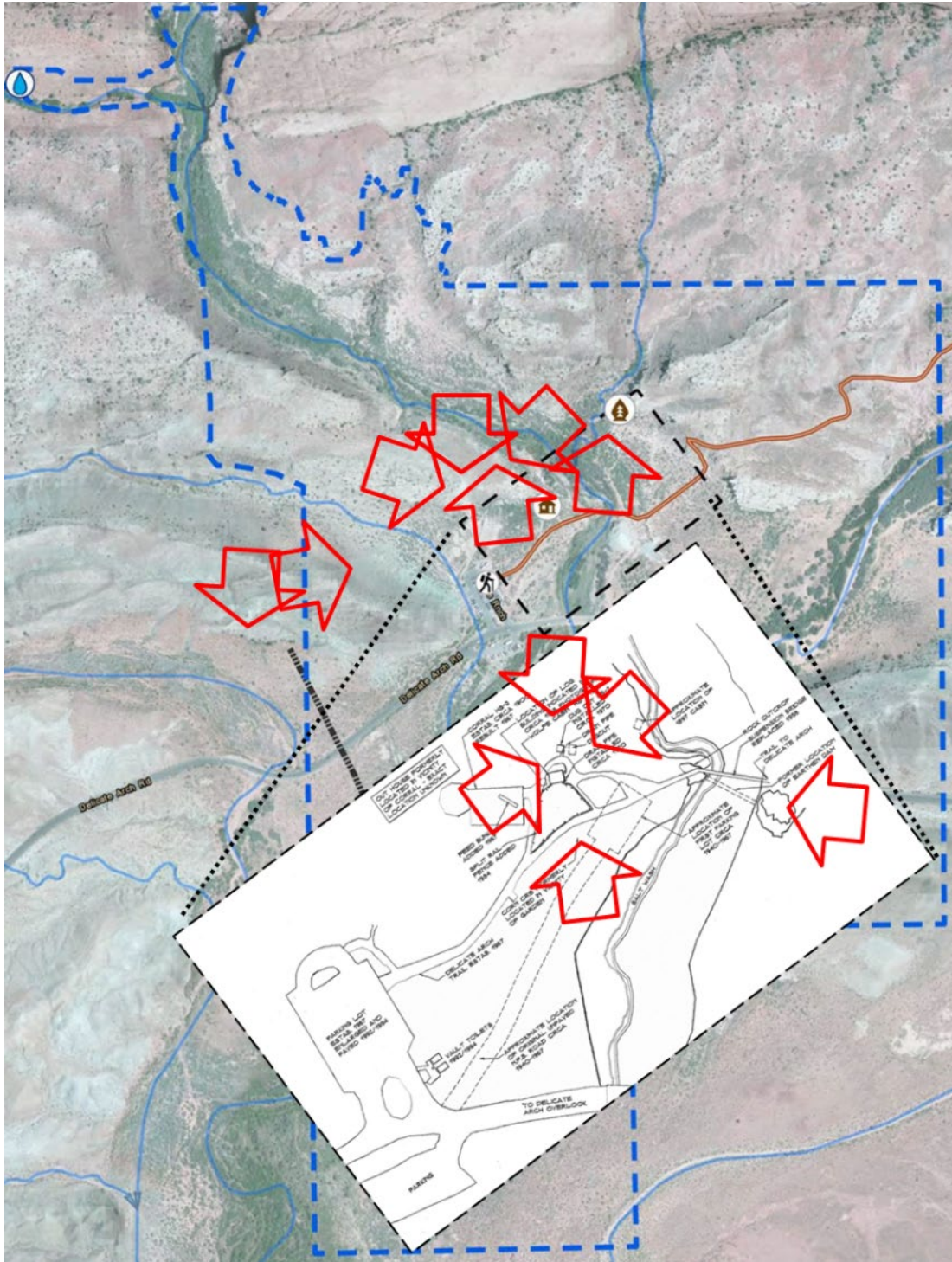
12 of 12. The Ute Petroglyph Panel (dark rockface in center), facing northeast, attracts visitors on side-spurs of the Delicate Arch Trail.

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Photographs Key (Based on Mapbook Figure 4):



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UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0001



UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0002

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UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0003



UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0004

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UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0005



UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0006

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UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0007



UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0008

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UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0009



UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0010

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UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0011

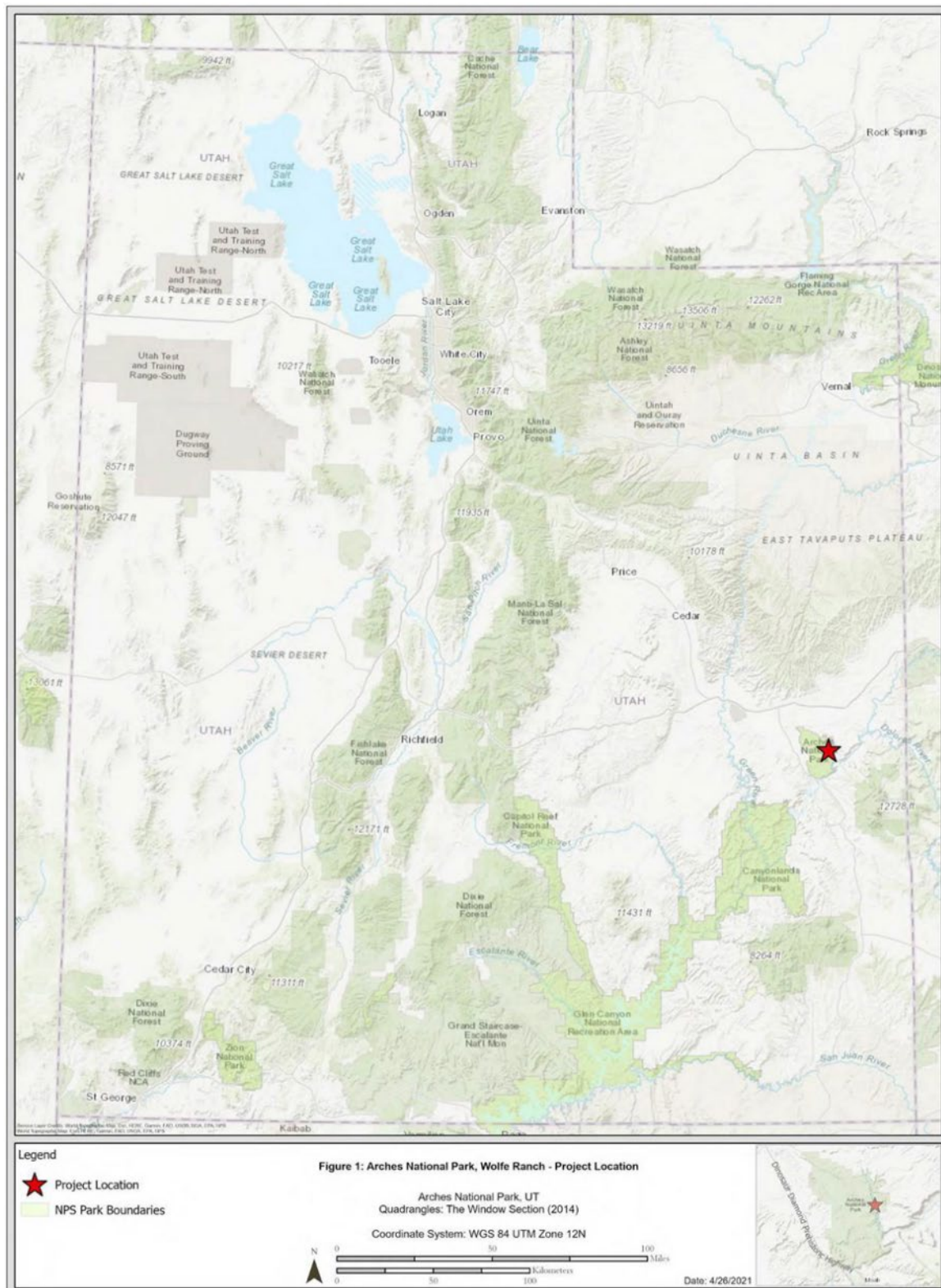


UT_Grand County_Wolfe Ranch Homestead_0012

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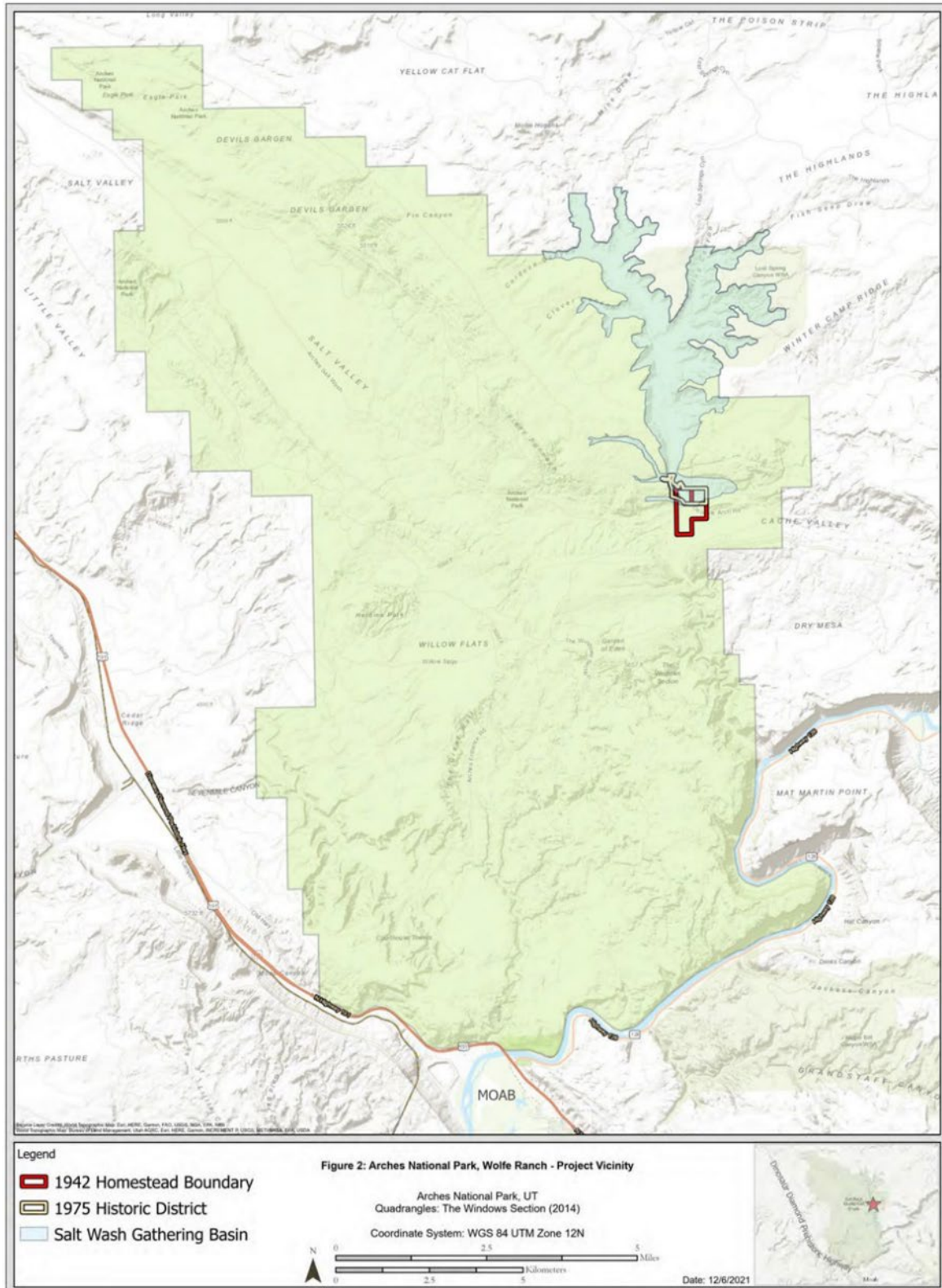
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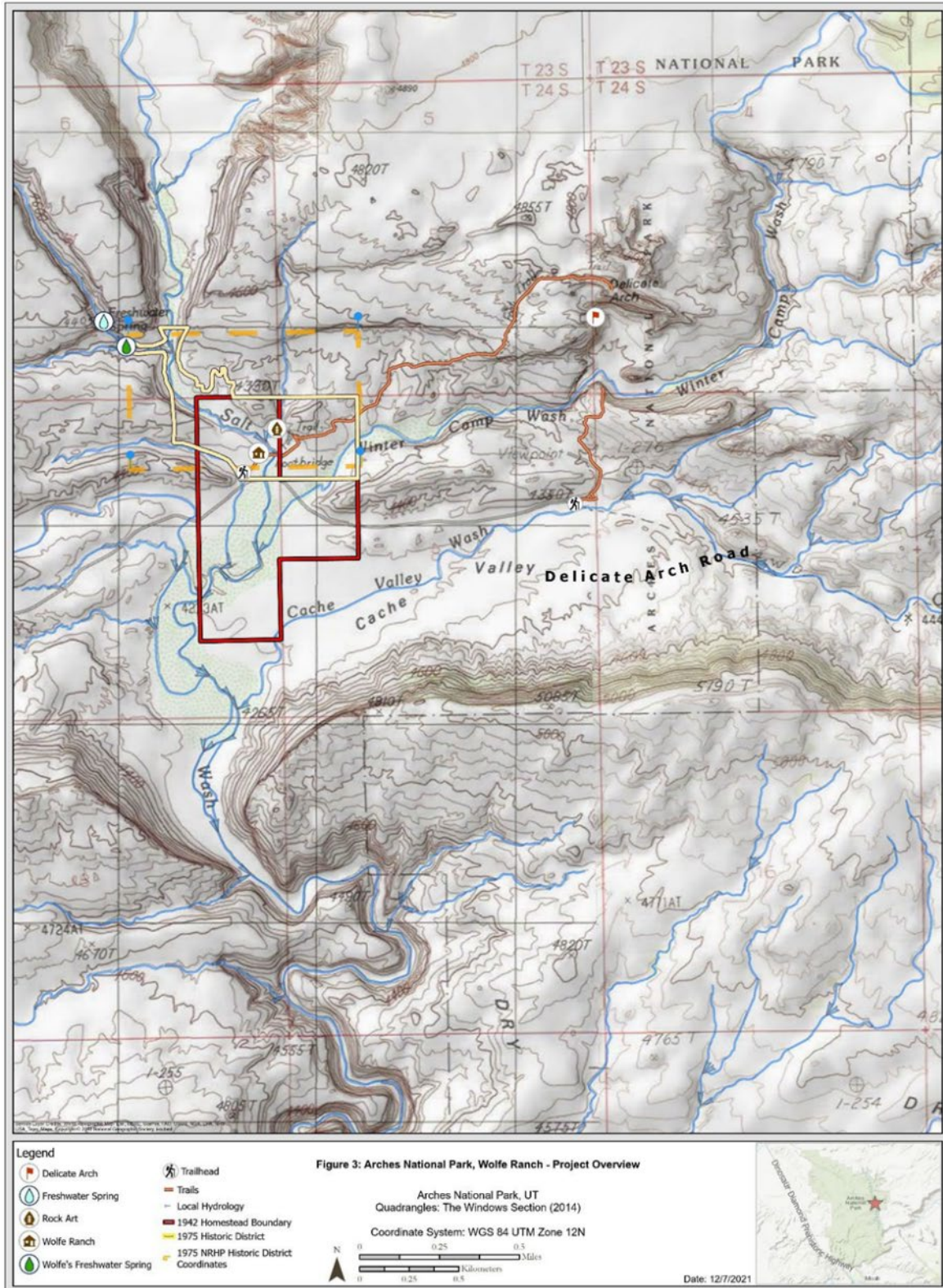
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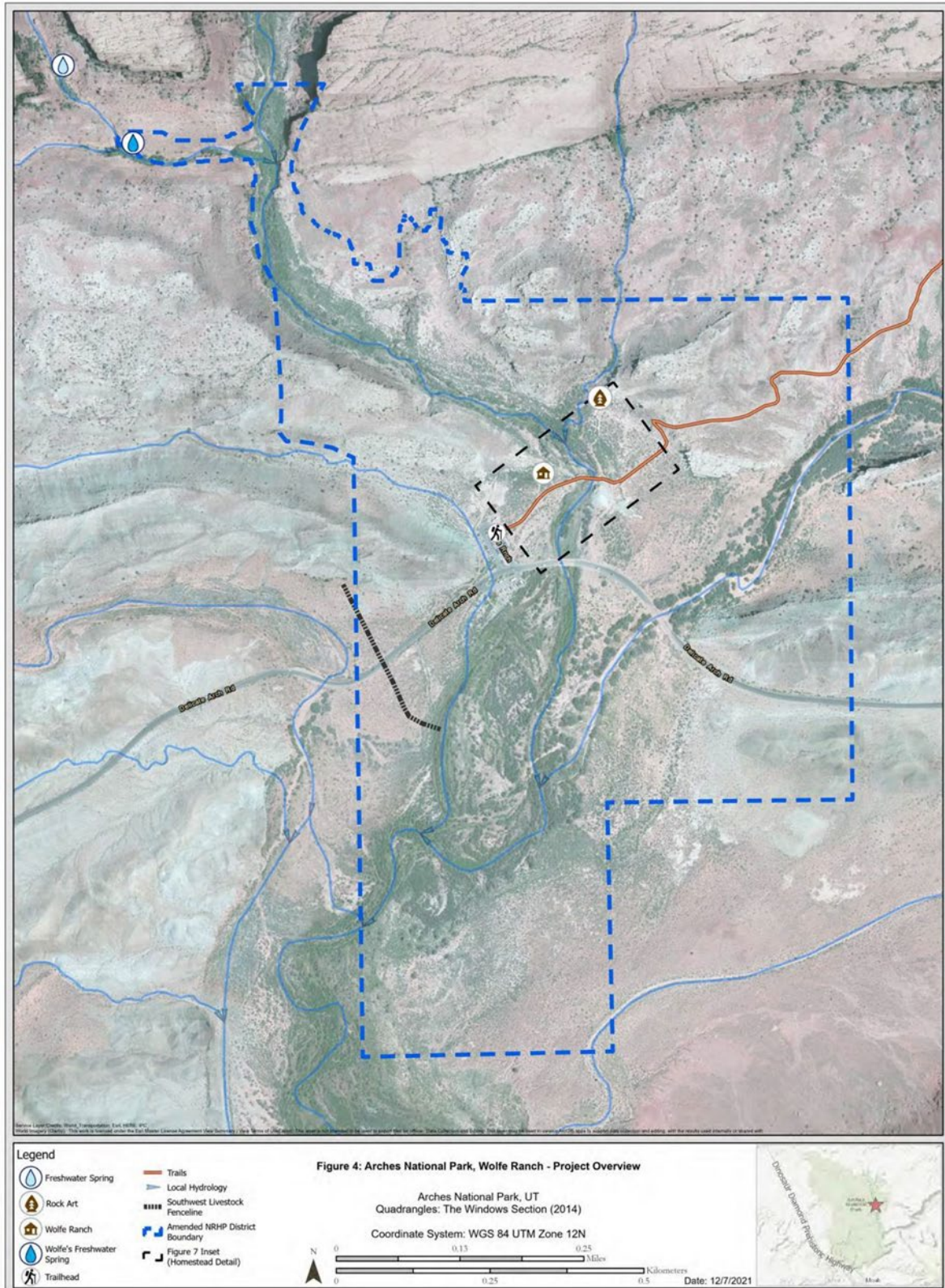
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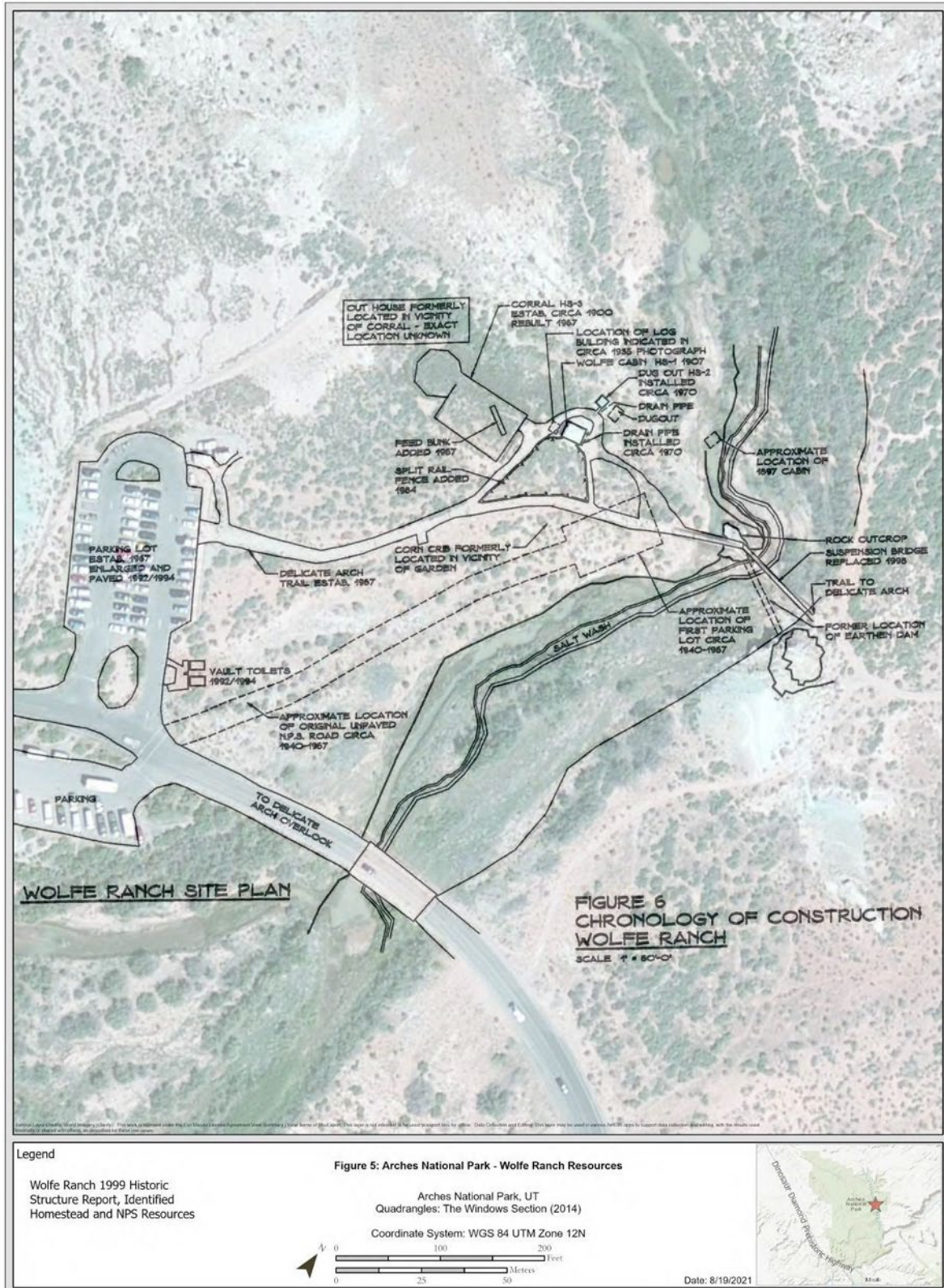
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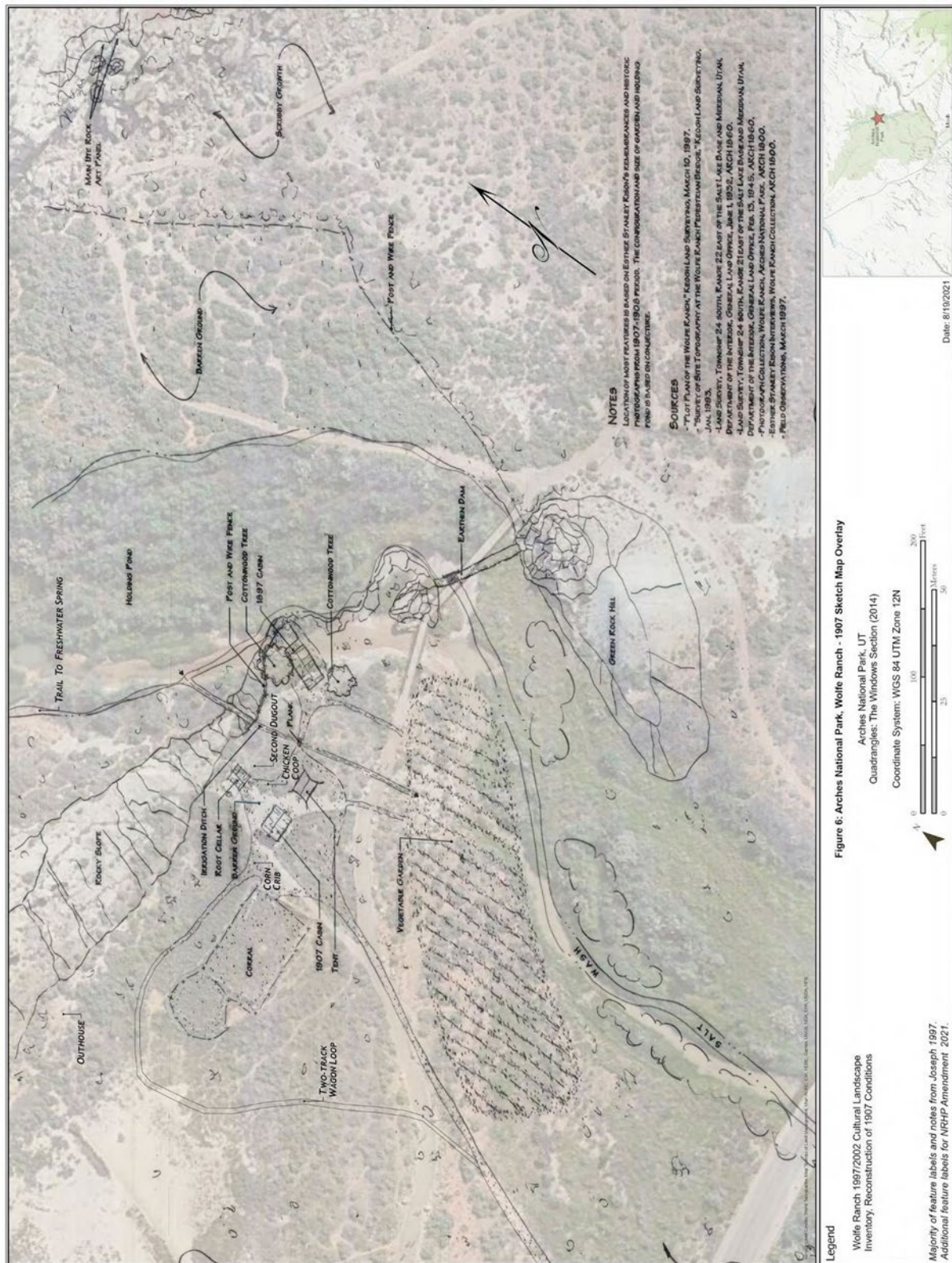
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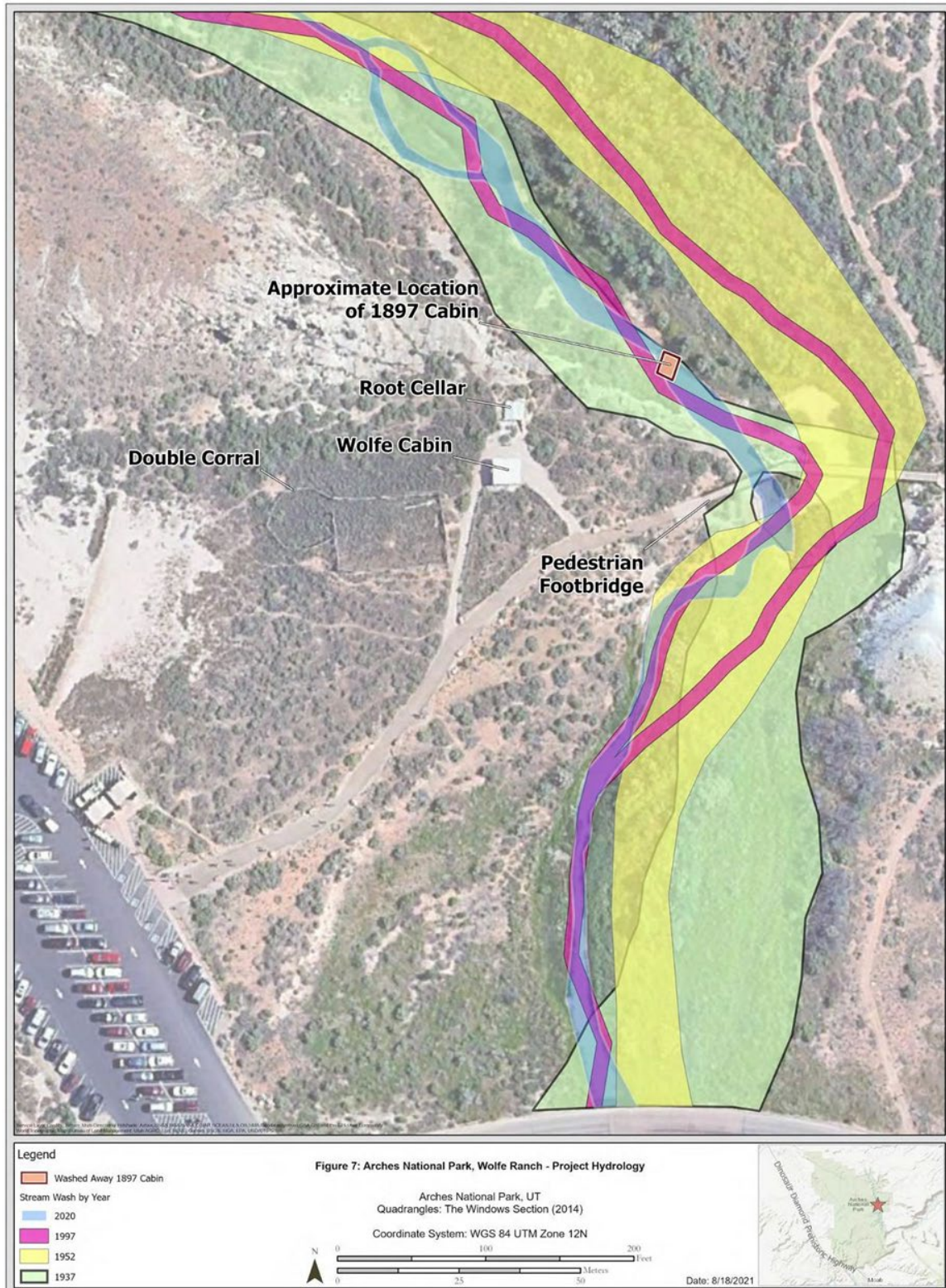
Grand County, Utah



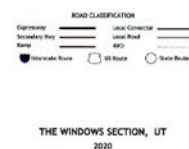
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Property Owner information:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Lena I. Pace

Address: 2282 Resource Blvd.

City or Town: Moab State: UT Zip code: 84532

Telephone/email: 435-210-1512

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.