
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2005



Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West
Regional Office

Cultural Resource
Programs

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY (CLI) PROGRAM
2010 Condition Assessment Update for:

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

Death Valley National Park concurs with the condition assessment update for Lower Vine Ranch as identified below:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **FAIR**

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

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

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



Superintendent, Death Valley National Park

7/21/10

Date

Please return to:

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

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Cultural Landscape Inventory: Lower Vine Ranch

Death Valley National Park concurs with the general findings of this Cultural Landscape Inventory, including the Management Category and Condition Assessment as listed below:

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

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

Terry Baldino
for Superintendent, Death Valley National Park *9-9-05*
Date

Please return this form to:
Erica Owens
CLI Coordinator, Seattle Office
National Park Service
909 1st Ave, Floor 5
Seattle, WA 98104

LOWER VINE RANCH
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Section 110 Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence on the boundary established for Lower Vine, a site within the Death Valley Scotty Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978)
- 2) SHPO concurrence with expansion of the period of significance from 1922-1931 to 1907-1954.
- 3) SHPO concurrence that the Setting, as identified in the CLI, contributes to the significance of the site.
- 4) SHPO concurrence with the addition of structures to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below)

1) I concur, I do not concur with the boundary established for Lower Vine Ranch, a site within the Death Valley Scotty Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978)

2) I concur, I do not concur with the proposed period of significance expansion for the Lower Vine Ranch as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI).

3) I concur, I do not concur that the **Setting** as described in the CLI contributes to Lower Vine Ranch (see the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, spatial organization, topography, circulation, and vegetation).

4) The following structures, located within the Death Valley Scotty Historic District at the Lower Vine Ranch, are **already listed on the National Register of Historic Places** as contributing elements:

LCS number	LCS Structure Name	NRIS Number
007625	Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Ranch House	78000297
007626	Lower Grapevine Ranch Garage	78000297
007627	Lower Grapevine Ranch Grain Shed	78000297
057871	Lower Grapevine Ranch Storage Shed	78000297
007628	Lower Grapevine Ranch Blacksmith Shop/Shed	78000297
007629	Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Bridge	78000297
056099	Lower Grapevine Ranch Reservoir	78000297
056096	Lower Grapevine Ranch Indian Cabin	78000297
056098	Lower Grapevine Ranch Wood Platform	78000297
056097	Lower Grapevine Ranch Change House	78000297
057869	Lower Grapevine Ranch Trough	78000297
057870	Lower Grapevine Ranch Hay Platform	78000297

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **contributing** to Lower Vine Ranch:

LCS number	LCS Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do not Concur
461587	Lower Grapevine Ranch North Corral	1927	X	
461588	Lower Grapevine Ranch South Corral	1927	X	
461589	Lower Grapevine Ranch Entrance Road	1927	X	
461590	Lower Grapevine Ranch Road to Reservoir	1926		
461593	Lower Grapevine Ranch Loop Road	1929	X	
461594	Lower Grapevine Ranch Trail Between Scotty's Ranch House and Reservoir	ca. 1926	X	
461598	Lower Grapevine Ranch Trail Between Ranch and Scotty's Castle	1907	X	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, no structures have been identified as **non-contributing** to Lower Vine Ranch. The ranch has been closed and mothballed since 1954 by order of the Superintendent and, as a result, the ranch has not incurred any additions since that time.

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

:

Concurrence is contingent on the following modifications to the evaluation document:

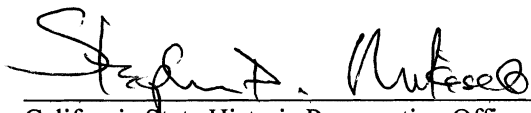
Expansion of Period of Significance

The period of significance to remain the same as that defined in the existing National Register listing. The expansion of the period of significance is not adequately supported. While the property was owned and occupied by an initial owner from 1907-1922 and some small development occurred on the property at that time, there are no physical remains from that period except the route between the site of the later Vine Ranch and the later Scotty's Castle. This trail was modified into a road in the period of significance and derives its significance as the main link between the two components of the district. The fact that there was a prior owner who established occupancy and utilized the available natural water source does not demonstrate a continuity or linkage from the early period of settlement to the period of Walter Scott and Albert Johnson's extensive development of the property. Likewise, although the Gospel Foundation of California owned the property following Johnson's death, they mothballed Lower Vine Ranch following Scotty's death and did not contribute in any notable way to its significance. Therefore the proper period of significance remains the one identified in the 1978 nomination. Under current National Register standards, the period of significance might well end in the 1930s when

Johnson was forced to limit his development due to financial reverses.

Relationship of Lower Vine Ranch and Scotty's Castle

The extensive descriptions of Scotty's Castle included in this evaluation should be shortened. It is redundant with the descriptions provided in the separate Scotty's Castle evaluation. Discussion of the Castle should be limited to a brief discussion of the relationship of the ranch to the Castle, including the use of the same architect, and a delineation of features that are common to both (fence, roads etc.). It should be noted that Scotty's Castle is separately described and evaluated in another document. The inclusion of the lengthy Castle material is confusing since the evaluation asks only for concurrence with the addition of features at the Lower Vine Ranch locale.

 DSAPP 9/28/05
California State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Please return forms to the attention of:
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Cultural Landscape Program Lead-Oakland
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
1111 Jackson St. Suite 700
Oakland, CA, 94607
(510) 817-1398
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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Inventory Unit Description:

The Death Valley Scotty Historic District is an area of regional significance in the fields of 20th century architecture, folklore and social history, and of local significance in the fields of archeology, art and invention. (Individually, the main castle and Annex are of Regional significance in those fields, and all other structures are of local significance.) The Scotty's Castle complex serves as a reminder of the excesses of mining promotion during the early 20th century, the frontier romanticism connected with it, and the conspicuous consumption practiced by the wealthy during the 1920s. The architecture typifies their values. The district as a whole is closely associated with one of the best known and most colorful figures produced by the American mining frontier—Death Valley Scotty (Walter Scott). Lower Vine Ranch served as the residence for Death Valley Scotty. Scotty' lived in the main residence between 1930 and 1952. He spent the last two years of his life living at Scotty's Castle when he became old and infirm.

Lower Vine Ranch, a property covering 1500 acres, is located on an alluvial plain on the mouth of the Grapevine Canyon. The historic extent of the property is physically defined by a perimeter fence that was built by Albert Johnson in the 1920s. Several buildings and structures remain and are characteristic of a small, working ranch. Features include a residence, garage, hay storage, blacksmith shop, corrals, reservoirs, roads, and a wooden bridge. The most prominent buildings, all constructed with redwood stained a dark brown, at Lower Vine Ranch include Scotty's ranch house, garage, and grain shed. Scotty's ranch house, along with the other out buildings, are simple, finely crafted structures in a bungalow style, a typical architectural style found throughout California in the 1920s. Although the National Register Nomination (1978) lists three contributing buildings on the Lower Vine property—Scotty's ranch house, garage, and grain shed—the List of Classified Structures (LCS) has named eleven on the Lower Vine Ranch. In addition, the corrals located in the Scotty's ranch house building complex, are identified as cultural resources that date to the historic period.

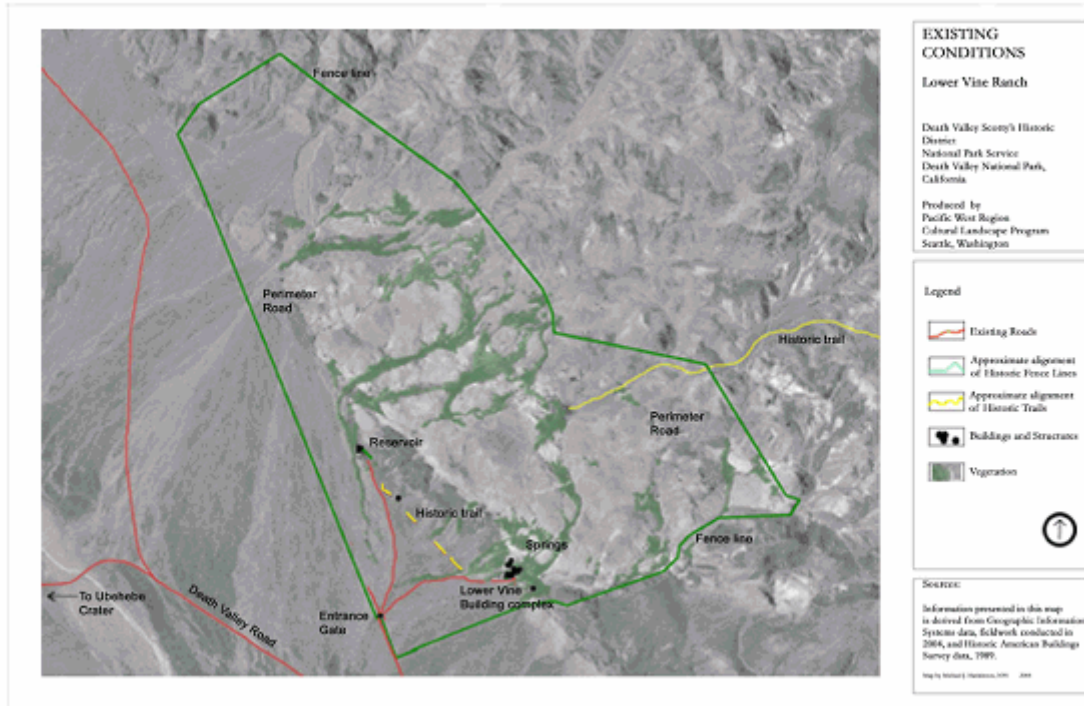
Lower Vine Ranch Death Valley National Park

The Death Valley Scotty Historic District is of Regional architectural significance for several reasons. The choice of style for the Castle and Annex area is not unusual in California architecture. The particularly unique aspect of that choice, however, lies with its location. Because of the use of stucco and red mission tile on wood frame and concrete buildings, enormous amounts of building materials had to be hauled in to the isolated site at great expense. Construction with local, available material would have been a far more economic choice. However, concern with economy was not a major factor in the design. As has been stated so often, the structure would not have been out of the ordinary in Beverly Hills, but it certainly seems extraordinary at its site on the outskirts of Death Valley.

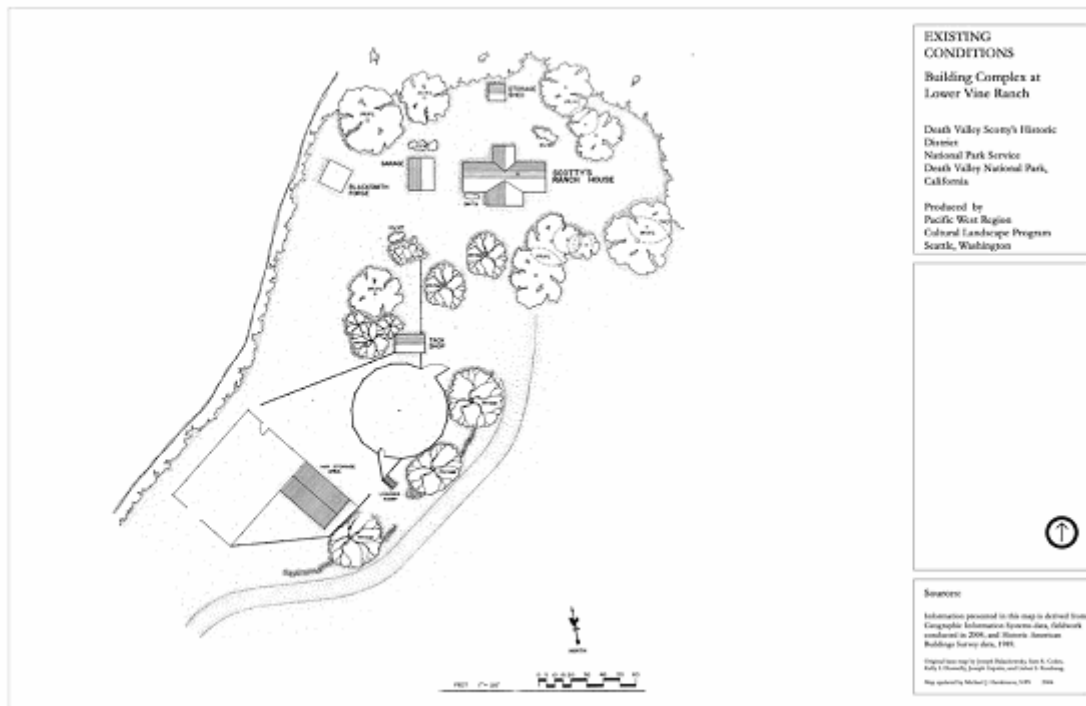
The cultural landscape is regionally significant for several reasons. The choice of style for the Castle and Annex area is not unusual in California architecture. The particularly unique aspect of that choice, however, lies with its location--because enormous amounts of building materials had to be hauled in to the isolated site at great expense. Scotty's Ranch House seems extraordinary at its site on the outskirts of Death Valley.

Today, Lower Vine Ranch retains integrity and is in an overall state of good condition. The cultural landscape displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association through the retention of the relevant landscape characteristics. Together, these landscape characteristics and associated features convey the significance of the historic site with the majority of historic fabric remaining from the historic period of significance, 1907-1954.

Site Plan



Site plan showing Lower Vine Ranch. The green line follows the approximate fence line around the property. Scotty's ranch house is located in the southern portion of the property. See larger image in appendix (PWR 2005).



Site plan showing the building complex at Lower Vine Ranch. See larger image in appendix (PWR 2005).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Lower Vine Ranch
Property Level: Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number: 725097
Parent Landscape: 725095

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Death Valley National Park -DEVA
Park Organization Code: 8130
Park Administrative Unit: Death Valley National Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

Lower Vine Ranch is a component landscape of Death Valley Scotty Historic District. Both Lower

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

Vine Ranch and Scotty's Castle are located within the boundaries of Death Valley Scotty Historic District, the parent landscape.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was a conversion from the Death Valley Scotty Historic District Cultural Landscape Report. Fieldwork, research, writing, and graphics were completed by Michael Hankinson.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/09/2005
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/28/2005

Data Collection Date: 05/05/2005 **Recorder:** Michael Hankinson
Data Entry Date: 05/05/2005 **Recorder:** Michael Hankinson

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Beginning at the entrance gate on the southwest corner of the property, the boundary of the cultural landscape follows the historic property boundary, marked by the historic fence line. From the southwest corner, the fence leads northeast to a point on the plateau. From this point, the boundary line moves in a northwesterly direction for approximately two miles to a point located near the edge of the plateau. The boundary line continues southwest, approximately one half mile, to a point on the alluvial fan. From here, the boundary line links back to the entrance gate.

State and County:

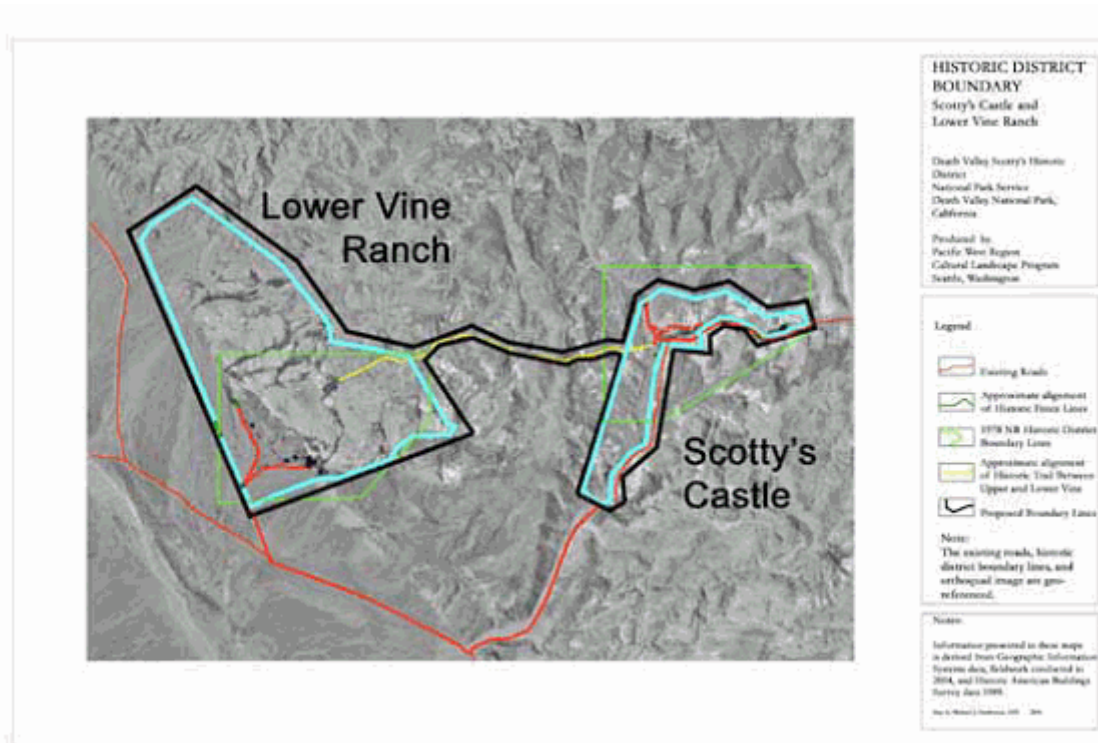
State: CA
County: Inyo County

Size (Acres): 1,500.00

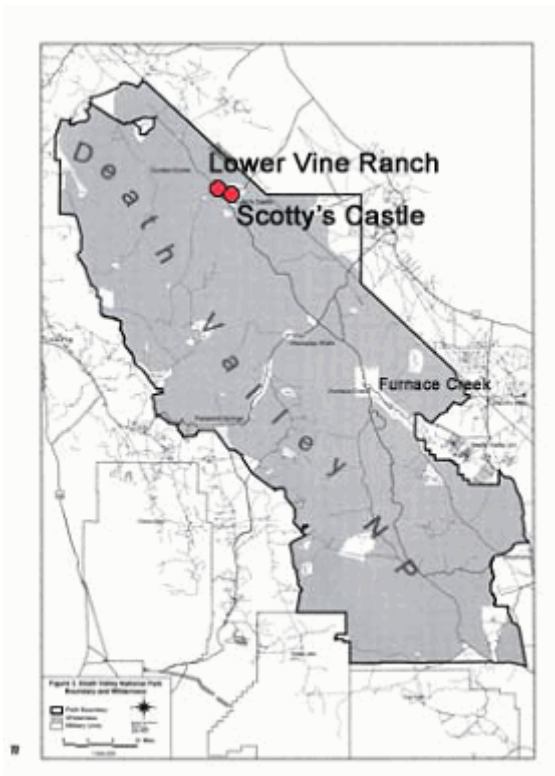
Boundary UTMS:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
USGS Map 1:62,500	Point	NAD 83	11	467,150	4,097,150
USGS Map 1:62,500	Point	NAD 83	11	466,205	4,096,350
USGS Map 1:62,500	Point	NAD 83	11	464,550	4,096,300
USGS Map 1:62,500	Point	NAD 83	11	464,550	4,098,000
USGS Map 1:62,500	Point	NAD 83	11	467,150	4,098,000

Location Map:



Location map showing Death Valley Historic District. Lower Vine Ranch is located on the mouth of the Grapevine Canyon, approximately three miles west of Scotty's Castle (PWR 2005).



Location map showing the location of Lower Vine Ranch in the northeastern corner of Death Valley National Park (PWR 2005).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 04/01/2002

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The cultural landscape meets National Register criteria, is compatible with the park's legislated significance, and has a continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function. The GMP calls for the preservation of cultural resources.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: No Access Currently

Explanatory Narrative:

The Lower Vine Ranch portion of Death Valley Historic District remains closed to the public by order of the Superintendent.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Lower Grapevine Ranch was included in the National Register Nomination for Death Valley Scotty Historic District, but the setting and associated landscape features within the cultural landscape were not adequately documented.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	State
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category	Area of Significance Subcategory
Architecture	
Landscape Architecture	

Statement of Significance:

The following statement of significance is taken primarily from the 1978 National Register of Historic Places nomination, but has been modified to meet CLI requirements:

Scotty's Castle and Lower Vine Ranch are component landscapes located within the Death Valley Scotty Historic District listed on the National Register in 1978. The district is regionally significant under Criterion B for its association with one of the best known and most colorful figures produced by the American mining frontier—Death Valley Scotty (Walter Scott). It is also locally significant under

Lower Vine Ranch Death Valley National Park

Criterion C for its unusual and extravagant use of Spanish-styled architecture built in a remote desert location and for the use of experimental building techniques and materials by its owner, Albert Johnson. This CLI recommends expanding the original period of significance (1922-1931) to 1907-1954, to span the entire development period, first by Jacob Steininger and later by Albert Johnson through the continued use and development of the property by the Gospel Foundation of California. Now owned and managed by the NPS, the Scotty's Castle complex and Lower Vine Ranch serve as reminders of the excesses of mining promotion during the early 20th century, the frontier romanticism connected with it, and the conspicuous consumption practiced by the wealth during the 1920s.

Criterion B

Scotty's Castle and Lower Vine Ranch are significant at the regional level under Criterion B for their association with Walter Scott (a.k.a. Death Valley Scotty). Scott made himself a legendary character by his constant publicity-seeking tactics, including the "Scott Special", or "Coyote Special" – a Santa Fe train which, under his direction, set a record in 1905 for the fastest run between Los Angeles and Chicago. The train was financed by one of Scott's "grubstakers." He attained notoriety for the 1906 "Battle of Wingate Pass," a fake skirmish staged to frighten other "grubstakers" from pursuing the location of his alleged gold mines. The "Battle" went awry and resulted in Scott's brother being seriously wounded. Several participants were arrested, but later escaped prosecution. These stories and various tall tales involving Scott made national headlines. Thus, Scott created his own myth.

By 1916, Scott had lived in the Death Valley region for over a decade and had devoted most of time to publicizing one or more mysterious, but actually non-existent gold mines. For a time, he had been "grubstaked" by several persons who hoped to reap a share of the mining profits. A mid-western insurance magnate named Albert Johnson met Scott in 1904 when Scott tried to swindle the insurance man as he had several other easterners. Out of this dubious encounter, Johnson developed a friendship with the swindling, pseudo-pro prospector and publicity hound Scott, which lasted several decades. Johnson visited Scott at Death Valley and discovered that the climate dramatically improved his health. In 1916, he purchased the Grapevine tracts, which now form the heart of the Death Valley Scotty Historic District for use as a campsite during his visits to the region.

Johnson's motive for the construction of the Castle and Ranch remain imperfectly understood. Apparently, Johnson took strong pleasure in the publicity-demanding antics of the untrustworthy Scott, with his tall tales and "western frontier miner" image, to such an extent that he was Scott's financial support for the better portion of his life. Scott took credit for building the Castle complex. Johnson encouraged this misconception, and once identified himself only as Scott's banker. Regardless of exact motives, the end result of Johnson's construction program was a truly fantastic desert palace, presided over by one of the most colorful characters of the southwestern deserts.

Criterion C

Scotty's Castle

Scotty's Castle meets Criterion C for its local architectural significance for the use of Spanish-styled architecture in a remote setting and for technological inventions and experiments. The choice of

Spanish-style for the Castle and Annex area is not unusual in California architecture, but is particularly unique in this isolated location. The use of stucco and red mission tile on wood frame and concrete buildings, required enormous amounts of building materials to be hauled in to the isolated site at great expense. The structure would not have been out of the ordinary in Beverly Hills, but it certainly seems extraordinary at its site on the outskirts of Death Valley. Construction with local, available material would have been a far more economic choice. However, concern with economy was not a major factor in the design.

In 1922, Johnson originally built three simple frame and stucco structures, the largest of which was two stories high and 96 feet long. Albert Johnson preferred this simple, unadorned style of architecture, symbolic of his straightforwardness. His wife, Bessie Johnson, preferred the Mission Revival buildings of Stanford University, and proceeded to convince her husband to remodel the buildings in “Provincial Spanish” as she called it, with an old Stanford friend engineer Matt Roy Thompson as head of construction. To create unity, designer Charles A. MacNeilledge used a common vocabulary of materials throughout the building complex including stucco, wood, and metal. Stucco was muddy brown and creamy beige in color with scratches on the surface, giving a “weathered adobe” appearance to all of the buildings.

Emphasis of Castle complex buildings was on the fine, hand-crafted details and architectural furnishings. All the furnishings, except for the European antiques, were designed and built in a workshop in Los Angeles which Johnson created for the sole purpose of outfitting the Castle. MacNeilledge, the designer perhaps most responsible for the design stipulations of the Castle, took great pains in specifying every detail of the furnishings and fittings, down to the last hand-wrought iron door hinge. The tile work in the Main House and Annex is considered by experts at the Tile Institute of America to be some of the better examples of their craft on the west coast. “The Tile Industry News” calls the work at the castle: “a monument in itself to the tile industry.”

The overall architectural importance of the Castle area is in its 1920s upper middle class approach to architecture. At that time, the contemporary idea of quality rested in details or appearance such as the carved beams and tile work, rather than with structural integrity and an honest of materials in relation to the building. For example, the powerhouse is a reinforced concrete structure, but it is finished on the exterior with stucco scored in imitation of ashlar masonry. The wood frame walls of the Main House and Annex are finished with stucco, which gives the buildings the illusion of being constructed of adobe.

While Bessie Johnson was allowed her freedom in choice of design and style, Albert Johnson pursued his interest in invention and technology with inclusion of the solar water heater, the Pelton hydro-electric wheel, the use of “Insulex” and the hundreds of feet of utility tunnels connected with the Castle. Matt Roy Thompson, head of construction, aided and abetted Albert Johnson. Johnson experimented at the Castle with several construction techniques and materials including reinforced concrete, wood frame, hollow building tile, “Insulex” foam insulation and stucco. Unfortunately, the use of these materials and techniques have led to several problems such as spalling concrete, cracked stucco, stucco and mesh backing separating from the structure, broken tiles, and advanced deterioration in the environmental control systems.

Lower Vine Ranch

While all this construction was underway at the Castle, Johnson had a small, finely crafted bungalow, garage and shed built at Lower Vine Ranch. Planning for the ranch began as early as 1926, when MacNeilledge produced a conceptual drawing called “Scotty’s Ranch House.” MacNeilledge prepared a set of working drawings for three different ranch houses at the Lower Vine site – employing a new design motif. Rather than the Spanish style used at Scotty’s Castle, Scotty and MacNeilledge designed a modest wood bungalow style for the residence and garage using redwood siding and simple gable roofs. The wood structures do not purport to be of any material other than wood. The complex has an architectural unity and harmony with the material chosen and the way in which that material is used. The structures were executed with a clarity and relative simplicity of design which is a refreshing change from the Castle architecture. In 1927, M. Roy Thompson supervised the construction of a reservoir and loop road around the perimeter of Lower Vine Ranch to provide access along the perimeter of the property during construction of the fence. The road was functional, but as Thompson put it, it was to be “a very scenic auto driveway.”

The bungalow, with associated out-building and reservoir, served as a residence for Death Valley Scotty, and sometimes a retreat for Albert Johnson – a place to escape the attention naturally drawn to the increasingly fantastic desert castle. The ranch served as the principal dwelling place for Scotty, who later moved into the Castle when he became old and infirm.

Conclusion

Construction within the historic district ended after 1931 due to the large financial losses Johnson suffered during the great Depression. Johnson considered commencing building again several years later, but never did. Bessie Johnson died in an automobile accident in 1943. When Albert Johnson died in 1948, the property had already been deeded to the Gospel Foundation of California, an evangelistic corporation founded by Johnson in 1947 to “carry on the work of the Lord.” The Gospel Foundation gave tours through the Castle and provided accommodations for guests. Death Valley Scotty was allowed to live at the ranch and later at the Castle until his death in 1954. The National Park Service acquired the property from the Gospel Foundation in 1970 for \$850,000.

Today, the Death Valley Scotty Historic District retains integrity and is in an overall state of good condition. The Scotty’s Castle and Lower Vine Ranch component landscapes display the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association through the retention of the relevant landscape characteristics. Contributing buildings and structures constructed by 1931 at Scotty’s Castle included the ornate complex featuring the Main Castle building with its Annex, Guest House, Chimes Tower, Powerhouse, Stable, Garage, and Gas House. A swimming pool and a gate house were under construction in 1931 when work halted and were never completed. Non-contributing and intrusive structures at Scotty’s Castle are the transformer station, the modern gas station, the park fee collectors’ structure, motel restroom, the spring house, the reservoir house, the modern restroom (trailer) and the modern concessions building (trailer).

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Death Valley National Park

At the Lower Vine Ranch, contributing buildings and structures constructed include a ranch house, garage, various sheds, blacksmith shop, bridges, roads, reservoirs, corrals, and fences. In 1954, the ranch was closed and mothballed under orders of the Park Superintendent and has remained closed since that time. As a result, very few changes have impacted the landscape and there are no non-contributing or intrusive structures within the component landscape boundary. Together, these landscape characteristics and associated features convey the significance of the historic district and component landscapes with the majority of historic fabric remaining from the historic period of significance, 1907-1954.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Single Family Dwelling-Other

Primary Current Use: Vacant/Maintained (Mothballed)

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Lower Vine Ranch	Both Current And Historic
Lower Grapevine Ranch	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: Yes-Restricted Information

Associated Group:

Name of Group: Panamint Shoshone

Type of Association: Both Current And Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1904	Established	Albert Johnson first met Walter Scott (“Death Valley Scotty”) in Chicago in 1904 under less than auspicious circumstances. By this time, Scotty was a nationally renowned character who had acquired his considerable skills for showmanship and attracting publicity from one of the masters of the era: Buffalo Bill Cody. For twelve years, Scotty was a wrangler and trick rider for the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show (See photo 8 DEVA 24067). The Wild West Show traveled widely throughout the country, a road show that also toured throughout Europe.
AD 1906	Established	The Lower Vine property included a camp identified by a notice nailed to a tree as “Scotty’s Camp” which included two stone cabins that had not been “kept up.” According to the witness, the campsite consisted of “some boxes and a piece of canvas and some brush thrown up as a kind of windbreak . . . and there was water nearby.” About 600 yards away from the camp, the springs' site was marked by “trees, wild grapevines, grass, kind of a jungle there.” The springs ran into a common channel that filled a reservoir held by a dam. The camping ground was located behind the reservoir in a grove of trees. Weeds and willows grew in the reservoir, which overflowed due to an abundance of water.
	Established	Steininger had been granted a patent on the whole of his property, the portion of it that lay on the future site of Scotty’s Castle, as well as the acreage at the Lower Vine, he actually obtained a legal patent only to the land at the Lower Vine. Steininger claimed the upper ranch purely out of longtime possession, but nothing had been recorded other than the water rights that had been finalized in April 1907.

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

	Established	This account of the development at Grapevine Canyon and at the Lower Vine also included a description of transportation routes in the area. The main route was a “regularly traveled road from Bonnie Clare to Ubehebe past the Steininger Ranch. It is a good plain road. It must be an old road or well traveled road.” Part of the road between the two Grapevine ranches was “very good” but parts were rocky and others gravelly.
	Developed	A prospector discovered the corpse of man who had been murdered on the property. The investigation spurred by the murder at the Lower Vine ranch left an unusually well documented record of small-scale farming and ranching enterprises in this remote, arid locale.
AD 1916	Purchased/Sold	Johnson acquires property.
AD 1922 - 1926	Established	Johnson attempted to attain the water rights for Lower Vine Ranch. He hired Edwin Giles, the county surveyor of Esmeralda County, Nevada to attain these rights. In his assessments, he described the physical condition of Lower Vine ranch between the years 1922 and 1926 saying: “...the only improvements [to the ranch] consisted of a vacant and empty frame shack of one room, a small field of some two or three acres, that had at one time been cultivated, but was at the time of my visit in 1922, overgrown with grass and weeds, and two or three small fig trees, stunted from lack of attention and care.”
AD 1924	Planned	With scale of construction increasing at Scotty’s Castle. Johnson made the decision to hire other design and construction professionals to assist in the development and implementation of his plan for the Lower Vine property.

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

AD 1925	Established	<p>Matt Roy Thompson arrived on the job in October of 1925 at the request of Johnson's wife, Bessie, whose influence over Thompson was immediately noticeable. Thompson was involved in almost every aspect of site development with exception of the buildings: from the construction of new roads to the establishment of new ornamental plantings to the development of a complex infrastructure system of pipes and tunnels. He also built earthen dams, a lake, a swimming pool, and cleared and graded over thirty acres at Scotty's Castle and at Lower Vine ranch. Among Thompson's most important designs, were the development of the perimeter road and reservoirs at Lower Vine Ranch.</p>
AD 1926	Designed	<p>Johnson also hired a Canadian-born interior designer, Charles A. MacNeilledge. MacNeilledge had redecorated Johnson's office at National Life Insurance Company and the library of his Sheridan Avenue residence in Chicago. MacNeilledge set up a furniture workshop and studio in Los Angeles where he would oversee both the construction and purchase of interior furnishings. MacNeilledge would go on to design Scotty's Ranch House in 1930.</p>
AD 1926 - 1954	Established	<p>A trail linking Scotty's ranch house with the reservoir was in place at some point during or after the historic period, although no historic documentation has been found describing this trail, fieldwork in 2004 revealed that traces of the trail was evident in most places. Along the trail, Scotty erected a single "S/J" fence post for unknown reasons. It is presumed to mark the grave of one of his many pets, as was his custom.</p>

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

AD 1926 - 1930	Built	<p>During the historic period, a single road, located about a third of a mile from a gate, provided Scotty access to his ranch house. This road was narrow, curving over the desert floor, and surfaced with dirt, fording the small ephemeral creek that intersected the road midway between the entrance and the residence. From the entrance gate, the road turned east and led indirectly to the building complex. Within the complex, the road provided access to corrals, a hay platform, and the domestic buildings. It appears from historic photographs that the road was not well-defined within the building cluster, appearing more as undifferentiated open space between the buildings and corrals.</p>
AD 1926	Designed	<p>It seems planning for the Lower Vine building complex began as early as 1926, when MacNeilledge produced a conceptual drawing called “Scotty’s Ranch House.” The design was a pueblo style single-story bungalow with enclosed patios and verandas—a design that appeared very similar to the guest house, resembling it in architectural style, scale, and massing and was actually produced before the present day guest house was designed and constructed. MacNeilledge prepared a set of working drawings for three different ranch houses at the Lower Vine site—employing a new design motif. Rather than the Spanish style used at Scotty’s Castle, Scotty and MacNeilledge designed a modest wood bungalow style for the residence and garage using redwood siding and simple gable roofs.</p>
	Built	<p>Soon after Johnson acquired the water rights to the property, he had M. Roy Thompson begin construction of a ditch system to feed a reservoir. This system was critical to Johnson because he had to show use of his water to maintain the rights. The ditches, constructed to harness water that flowed from springs in the hills above Scotty’s ranch house, supplied water to a reservoir on the northern side of the property (adjacent to Hunter’s cabin—a structure that was built before the turn of the century) and to a smaller one above Scotty’s Ranch House. The ditches were dug out over steep and sometimes rocky terrain. Once completed, they required ongoing maintenance because they easily filled with sediment.</p>

	Built	The road to the reservoir was approximately ten feet wide and one half mile long. It provided access from the gate to the reservoir (near Hunter’s cabin) up a slight grade, terminating near the small building cluster.
	Built	The road to the reservoir was approximately ten feet wide and one half mile long. It provided access from the gate to the reservoir (near Hunter’s cabin) up a slight grade, terminating near the small building cluster.
AD 1927	Built	M. Roy Thompson supervised the construction of the loop road around the perimeter of Lower Vine ranch to provide access the perimeter of the property during construction of the fence. The road was functional, but Thompson put it, that it was to be “a very scenic auto driveway. By the end of October, with the road almost complete, Johnson wrote Thompson to compliment him on his work, saying, “I am pleased with the new road you are putting in. As you say, this will be a very pretty scenic road to drive around the place on...” In the final days of construction work crews also constructed a small bridge in the northeastern portion of the property. By December 18, the narrow road surfaced with dirt was approximately five mile long, and finally complete.
	Built	Johnson built a fence to demonstrate maximum beneficial use of the water through improvements to the land. The need for a fence took on some urgency as government surveyors were presently working their way north through Death Valley. Design and construction of the perimeter fence was supervised by Thompson, but the construction crew was led by a man named Maxwell.
AD 1927 - 1931	Built	The corral system on the Lower Vine was completed in stages. The yard furthest from the house was completed in 1927. A circular training area was added to the feeding area by 1931, with the feed shed completed just to the east at the same time. An additional corral was added on the mesa above the residence with an additional supply of hay stored in it.

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

AD 1927	Built	The fence posts were stout, white in color, about seven feet high. It appears from historic photographs that the fence was strung at the entrance gate with welded wire mesh and strung with barbed wire in other segments. Each post was inscribed with an “S” and a “J” for Scotty and Johnson. More than 3100 of these posts were produced.
AD 1928 - 1931	Built	Several small structures were constructed near the reservoir in an area adjacent to Hunter’s cabin. The changing room for swimming at the reservoir was the largest of these buildings. It was 16’ x 18’ with a canvas roof, horizontal siding halfway up the walls, a single doorway, and an iron stove. Another structure, apparently used for outdoor recreation at the reservoir and as a storage area, was a 12’ x 20’ wood structure with tongue and groove flooring and a stone foundation.
AD 1929	Built	Another reservoir was constructed from springs closer to the residence. It was smaller in scale than the one at Hunter’s cabin and described in 1929 by Thompson as 8’ x 10’ x 4’ deep. It is unknown how many gallons per minute flowed into this structure. In addition to ditches, a two-inch pipe conveyed water from the reservoir to Scotty’s Ranch House.
	Built	In January of 1929, Johnson requested that the ditch system include a lateral (spur line) to carry water to the public right-of-way along the road (to provide water for passersby), and collect in a “small pond” near the south entry gate. When the boundary fence was built, and the gate erected at the south entry in January 1929, Thompson photographed the small water body, describing it as an “oasis.” A separate one-inch water line linked the reservoir above Scotty’s ranch house to a small pool at the entrance gate. The shallow pool, formed by a berm and planted with several shrubs around the perimeter, was removed at an unknown date and replaced with a more substantial structure. The new container was a rectangular-shaped, mortared stone trough about the size of a bathtub. It was placed on a concrete slab foundation and lined with concrete.
	Built	Construction of Scotty’s Ranch House began in September, 1929. Workers were shuttled between Scotty’s Castle and Lower Vine ranch, depending on the status of current projects.

	Established	Historic photographs reveal that Johnson used a large workforce at Lower Vine ranch during this time, explaining how work progressed so rapidly.
	Built	The foundation for the house was completed by the end of the month of September. The trusses were up in two weeks after that, and the walls were filled with insulex, the same insulation used with success at Scotty’s Castle. By November 23, the ranch house was nearly complete.
	Built	During the first week in December, Johnson’s crew stained the structure with a redwood finish, the same used on the Scotty’s Castle trim. MacNeilledge completed the interior in the winter
	Built	The garage was constructed in March 1930, using the same materials and stain as the residence (See contemporary photo number 59). The garage was also built in the same bungalow architectural style used on the main residence.
	Built	The last structure added to the building complex was the blacksmith shop. This open-air structure had a simple tin roof and stick frame.
	Established	Other plantings at Lower Vine ranch were purposeful, but with no emphasis on formality or the Spanish/Mediterranean aesthetic seen at Scotty’s Castle. Historic photographs of Scotty’s ranch house show what appears to be a mix of cottonwood and mesquite trees planted randomly throughout the small building complex, providing shade near the residence and garage. Unfortunately, historic photographs do not reveal total numbers of trees established during the 1930s
AD 1930	Established	With the completion of the fence line in 1929, the labor force plowed a five acre alfalfa field with wheat or oats as a cover crop in addition to melons and pumpkins. Scotty chose to supervise this work himself, rather than M. Roy Thompson, so that he could “make proper affidavits as to his long usage of the water and be able to establish rights...in his own name.” These activities were abandoned, however, by 1930 once the water rights were settled.

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

AD 1952 - 1971	Established	<p>In the 1950s, after the death of Walter Scott, The Gospel Foundation mothballed the Lower Vine ranch property. The property was left in this state for fifty years until the NPS took over management of the property. Between the end of the historic period and the 1970s, it appears that vegetation was left to naturalize throughout the building complex.</p>
AD 1971 - 2006	Established	<p>By the late 1970s, cottonwood and mesquite trees grew wild and died near Scotty's Ranch House. The NPS removed these trees to protect them. Crews cut down dead trees with chainsaws or pulled them by their roots, placing the branches in burn piles. In addition, several stumps and grapevines were removed between the blacksmith forge and garage, though the exact locations were not recorded. Vegetation growing behind Scotty's ranch house was removed with a backhoe. Apparently, the brush and sediment grew so thick that water overflowed its banks, flooding buildings and corral.</p>
AD 2006	Established	<p>Today, the resources at Lower Vine ranch are closed to the public by order of the Superintendent. The ranch house, garage, and other support buildings remain intact along with the reservoirs.</p>

Physical History:

1925-1954

Introduction

Scotty's Castle, the grand complex of Spanish-styled buildings set in the upper Grapevine Canyon, was not Death Valley Scotty's home. Scotty's home, built in the late 1920s, was located on the Lower Vine ranch property. In 1929, Albert Johnson built a simple and elegant cabin with several out buildings at the base of Grapevine Canyon. This development, known as Scotty's ranch house, was his residence for nearly three decades, from 1929 through 1952. While on the Lower Vine, Scotty was more or less in retirement. He was no longer a publicity seeker, but instead a man who was "content to watch the sun paint colors on his favorite mountain." (Buchel, 1985, 4). Between the years 1952 and 1954, Scotty became too ill to take care of himself and was forced to live at Scotty's Castle. Caregivers from the Gospel Foundation supported him during the last years of his life (Buchel, 1985, 1-3).

In 1926, Albert Johnson began improvements of the 1128-acre Lower Vine property. He built a water system with ditches and reservoirs for domestic and agricultural use, a road for construction of the perimeter fence, and a small residence with outbuildings (AMJ to MRT, 9/11/27, 9/20/27, and 10/27/28). After construction, Scotty lived at the ranch until the early 1950s. After Scotty moved permanently to Scotty's Castle, near the end of his life, the Lower Vine ranch was mothballed with only minor changes made to the landscape.

Prior to any new development at Lower Vine ranch, Johnson had to attain water rights. He hired Edwin Giles, the county surveyor of Esmeralda County, Nevada to attain these rights. In his assessments, he described the physical condition of Lower Vine ranch between the years 1922 and 1926 saying (Livingston, draft HRS 2004, 83. Taken from Edwin S. Giles to Register U.S. Land Office, August 12, 1926, M7/B7/F17).

...the only improvements [to the ranch] consisted of a vacant and empty frame shack of one room, a small field of some two or three acres, that had at one time been cultivated, but was at the time of my visit in 1922, overgrown with grass and weeds, and two or three small fig trees, stunted from lack of attention and care.

Water Systems

Soon after Johnson acquired the water rights to the property, he had M. Roy Thompson begin construction of a ditch system to feed a reservoir. This system was critical to Johnson because he had to show use of his water to maintain the rights. The ditches, constructed to harness water that flowed from springs in the hills above Scotty's ranch house, supplied water to a reservoir on the northern side of the property (adjacent to Hunter's cabin—a structure that was built before the turn of the century) and to a smaller one above Scotty's Ranch House. The ditches were dug over steep and sometimes rocky terrain. Once completed, they required ongoing maintenance because they easily filled with sediment. In 1928, just a year after their

construction, Johnson had work crews clean them out above Hunter's cabin to prevent water from overflowing their banks. Improvements such as these were made to the ditch system off and on during this decade (Correspondence MRT to AMJ: 12/7/25; MS 7, Box 1, File 1). It is unknown what the dimensions of the ditches were or precisely how they led to the reservoirs. Fieldwork conducted on site in 2004, revealed they had filled with a great deal of sediment, were overtaken with vegetation, and had the character of small, ephemeral streams.

The reservoir located at Hunter's cabin, approximately 50' x 50' x 6 feet deep, was large enough for use as a swimming hole. Johnson's work crews used the reservoir to recreate. The earthen walls of the reservoir were approximately four-feet high and ten-feet wide. A small culvert and stone headwall located on the southern end of the structure controlled the flow of water into the adjacent fields. Thompson noted in February 1929, that the springs produced about 575 gallons of water per minute to the reservoir.

Another reservoir was constructed from springs closer to the residence. It was smaller in scale than the one at Hunter's cabin and described in 1929 by Thompson as 8' x 10' x 4' deep. It is unknown how many gallons per minute flowed into this structure. In addition to ditches, a two-inch pipe conveyed water from the reservoir to Scotty's Ranch House.

In January of 1929, Johnson requested that the ditch system include a lateral (spur line) to carry water to the public right-of-way along the road (to provide water for passersby), and collect in a "small pond" near the south entry gate. When the boundary fence was built, and the gate erected at the south entry in January 1929, Thompson photographed the small water body, describing it as an "oasis." A separate one-inch water line linked the reservoir above Scotty's ranch house to a small pool at the entrance gate. The shallow pool, formed by a berm and planted with several shrubs around the perimeter, was removed at an unknown date and replaced with a more substantial structure. The new container was a rectangular-shaped, mortared stone trough about the size of a bathtub. It was placed on a concrete slab foundation and lined with concrete (AMJ to MRT, 9/11/27; MS 7, Box 7, File 1; MRT to AMJ, October 7, 1928, M7/B7/F1). It is unknown how long this feature was operable.

Roads

During the historic period, a single road, located about a third of a mile from a gate, provided Scotty access to his ranch house. This road was narrow, curving over the desert floor, and surfaced with dirt, fording the small ephemeral creek that intersected the road midway between the entrance and the residence. From the entrance gate, the road turned east and led indirectly to the building complex. Within the complex, the road provided access to corrals, a hay platform, and the domestic buildings. It appears from historic photographs that the road was not well-defined within the building cluster, appearing more as undifferentiated open space between the buildings and corrals.

The road to the reservoir was approximately ten feet wide and one half mile long. It provided access from the gate to the reservoir (near Hunter's cabin) up a slight grade, terminating near

the small building cluster.

A trail linking Scotty's ranch house with the reservoir was in place at some point during or after the historic period, although no historic documentation has been found describing this trail, fieldwork in 2004 revealed that traces of the trail was evident in most places. Along the trail, Scotty erected a single "S/J" fence post for unknown reasons. It is presumed to mark the grave of one of his many pets, as was his custom.

In 1927, M. Roy Thompson supervised the construction of the loop road around the perimeter of Lower Vine ranch to provide access the perimeter of the property during construction of the fence. The road was functional, but Thompson put it, that it was to be "a very scenic auto driveway." (MRT to AMJ, September 14, 1928). By the end of October, with the road almost complete, Johnson wrote Thompson to compliment him on his work, saying, "I am pleased with the new road you are putting in. As you say, this will be a very pretty scenic road to drive around the place on..." (AMJ to MRT, October 26, 1928). In the final days of construction work crews also constructed a small bridge in the northeastern portion of the property (MRT to AMJ, October 27, 1928 and MRT to AMJ, November 1, 1928 and MRT to AMJ, January 1, 1929). By December 18, the narrow road surfaced with dirt was approximately five mile long, and finally complete (MRT to AMJ, December 18, 1928).

Buildings and Structures

In 1927, the need for a fence took on some urgency as government surveyors were presently working their way north through Death Valley. Johnson was under pressure to demonstrate maximum beneficial use of the water through improvements to the land (MRT to AMJ, March 30, 1930, M7/B10/F3). Design and construction of the perimeter fence was supervised by Thompson, but the construction crew was led by a man named Maxwell. The fence was distinctive in the landscape because the posts were stout, white in color, about seven feet high. It appears from historic photographs that the fence was strung at the entrance gate with welded wire mesh and strung with barbed wire in other segments. Each post was inscribed with an "S" and a "J" for Scotty and Johnson. More than 3100 of these posts were produced.

Between the years 1928 and 1931, several small structures were built near the reservoir. The changing room for swimming at the reservoir was the largest of these buildings. It was 16' x 18' with a canvas roof, horizontal siding halfway up the walls, a single doorway, and an iron stove. Another structure, apparently used for outdoor recreation at the reservoir and as a storage area, was a 12' x 20' wood structure with tongue and groove flooring and a stone foundation (Information regarding this description was derived from the NPS List of Classified Structures).

Buildings

It seems planning for the Lower Vine building complex began as early as 1926, when MacNeilledge produced a conceptual drawing called "Scotty's Ranch House." The design was

a pueblo style single-story bungalow with enclosed patios and verandas—a design that appeared very similar to the guest house, resembling it in architectural style, scale, and massing and was actually produced before the present day guest house was designed and constructed. MacNeilledge prepared a set of working drawings for three different ranch houses at the Lower Vine site—employing a new design motif. Rather than the Spanish style used at Scotty’s Castle, Scotty and MacNeilledge designed a modest wood bungalow style for the residence and garage using redwood siding and simple gable roofs (Buchel, 1985, 40).

The corral system on the Lower Vine was completed in stages. The yard furthest from the house was completed in 1927. The posts and top rail were of wood, with four strings of barbed wire. A circular training area was added to the feeding area by 1931, with the feed shed completed just to the east at the same time. An additional corral was added on the mesa above the residence with an additional supply of hay stored in it (Buchel, 1985, 43).

Construction of Scotty’s Ranch House began in September, 1929. Workers were shuttled between Scotty’s Castle and Lower Vine ranch, depending on the status of current projects (Buchel, 1985, 40). Historic photographs reveal that Johnson used a large workforce at Lower Vine ranch during this time, explaining how work progressed so rapidly. The foundation for the house was completed by the end of the month of September. The trusses were up in two weeks after that, and the walls were filled with insulex, the same insulation used with success at Scotty’s Castle. By November 23, the ranch house was nearly complete. The siding was up, windows and screens were installed, and the roof shingles were laid. During the first week in December, Johnson’s crew stained the structure with a redwood finish, the same used on the Scotty’s Castle trim (Buchel, 1985, 42). MacNeilledge completed the interior in the winter. The garage was constructed in March 1930, using the same materials and stain as the (Buchel, 1985, 43). The last structure added to the building complex was the blacksmith shop. This open-air structure had a simple tin roof and stick frame.

Vegetation

With the completion of the fence line in 1929, the labor force plowed a five acre alfalfa field with wheat or oats as a cover crop in addition to melons and pumpkins (Buchel, 1985, 39). Scotty chose to supervise this work himself, rather than M. Roy Thompson, so that he could “make proper affidavits as to his long usage of the water and be able to establish rights...in his own name.” (Buchel, 1985, 39. Direct quotation taken from MRT to AMJ, March 30, 1929). These activities were abandoned, however, by 1930 once the water rights were settled (Buchel, 1985, 40).

Other plantings at Lower Vine ranch were purposeful, but with no emphasis on formality or the Spanish/Mediterranean aesthetic seen at Scotty’s Castle. Historic photographs of Scotty’s ranch house show what appears to be a mix of cottonwood and mesquite trees planted randomly throughout the small building complex, providing shade near the residence and garage. Unfortunately, historic photographs do not reveal total numbers of trees established during the 1930s.

1954-Present

In the 1950s, after the death of Walter Scott, The Gospel Foundation mothballed the Lower Vine ranch property. The property was left in this state for fifty years until the NPS took over management of the property. Between the end of the historic period and the 1970s, it appears that vegetation was left to naturalize throughout the building complex. By the late 1970s, cottonwood and mesquite trees grew wild and died near Scotty's Ranch House. The NPS removed these trees to protect them. Crews cut down dead trees with chainsaws or pulled them by their roots, placing the branches in burn piles. In addition, several stumps and grapevines were removed between the blacksmith forge and garage, though the exact locations were not recorded. Vegetation growing behind Scotty's ranch house was removed with a backhoe. Apparently, the brush and sediment grew so thick that water overflowed its banks, flooding buildings and corral (Dewey Livingston's notes, no date, OHVoy5).



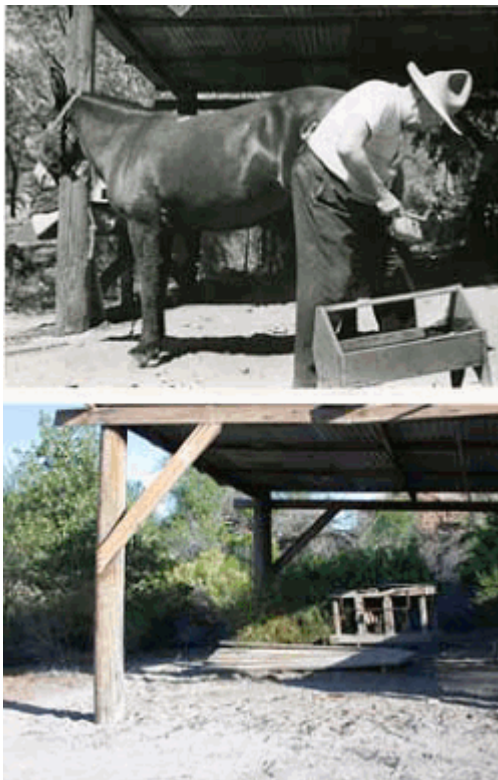
Photograph of the corrals circa 1930, view south. This structure was built in 1927, two years prior to the construction of Scotty's ranch house (DEVA 41344).



Photograph of the loop road and the wooden bridge, view north. The bridge was built on the northeast portion of the Lower Vine property in 1926 (Album 13732 DEVA 40674).



Photograph of Death Valley Scotty and Albert Johnson in the late 1920s. They are standing next to the public water trough located at the entrance gate, view northwest (Album 13733 DEVA 41355).



Apart from Scotty's ranch house, several other structures were also built during the historic period including the blacksmith forge. The historic image, view west, shows Scotty hard at work (Top: DEVA 24119 Bottom: PWR 2004).



Photograph of Scotty's ranch house in the mid-1970s, view north. The residence was mothballed after 1954 and has been in this state since (Album 60670 DEVA 2099 78).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Lower Vine Ranch was evaluated as a component landscape of Scotty's Castle—two cultural landscapes within Death Valley Scotty Historic District. As a result of this evaluation, Lower Vine Ranch was found to retain the following landscape characteristics that contribute to the historic integrity of the site. These landscape characteristics are Natural Systems and Features, Topography, Spatial Organization, Buildings and Structures, Circulation, and Vegetation.

Natural Systems and Features: Albert Johnson harnessed water resources from springs on the plateau, developed building clusters and a five-acre field on the alluvial fan, and constructed a perimeter fence and road to protect and provide access to these natural resources.

Topography: Evidence of topographical manipulation to the natural contours of the landscape is visible throughout the Lower Vine Ranch property. The majority of these earthworks, related to the water conveyance system and circulation system, are concentrated near buildings or structures.

Spatial Organization: Three components of development define the spatial organization of Lower Vine Ranch including the open grounds between the building complex and the entry gate, the planting of greenery between Scotty's ranch house and Death Valley, and the separate building clusters at Scotty's ranch house and reservoir. Together, the arrangement of buildings, vegetation, fences, and open land—and their relationship to each other—creates three distinct spaces: public, located outside the perimeter fence; semi-private, the open land between the perimeter fence; and private, areas around Scotty's ranch house and the reservoir, an area reserved for recreation.

Buildings and Structures: The most prominent buildings, all constructed with redwood stained a dark brown, at Lower Vine Ranch include Scotty's ranch house, garage, and grain shed. Scotty's ranch house, along with the other out buildings, are simple, finely crafted structures in a bungalow style, a typical architectural style found throughout California in the 1920s. Although the National Register Nomination (1978) lists three contributing buildings on the Lower Vine property—Scotty's ranch house, garage, and grain shed—the List of Classified Structures (LCS) has named eleven on the Lower Vine Ranch. In addition, the corrals located in the Scotty's ranch house building complex, are identified as cultural resources that date to the historic period.

Circulation: Circulation systems at Lower Vine Ranch include roads such as the entry road (to Scotty's ranch house), the road to the reservoir, and the perimeter road. Trails include two separate alignments—one to the reservoir and the other to Scotty's Castle. Today, these roads and trails remain intact and contribute to the overall character of the cultural landscape.

Vegetation: Today, the overall character and original design intent of the plantings remains at Lower Vine Ranch. The greenery seen today resembles historic conditions in several ways.

Trees and shrubs are planted predominantly on the south side of the building complex which continues to create shade and privacy. As seen from the entry gate, the greenery surrounding the building complex serves as the verdant setting for the buildings and architecturally as an organic wall.

Today, Lower Vine Ranch retains integrity and is in an overall state of good condition. The cultural landscape displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association through the retention of the relevant landscape characteristics. Together, these landscape characteristics and associated features convey the significance of the historic site with the majority of historic fabric remaining from the historic period of significance, 1907-1954.

- Aspects of Integrity:**
- Location
 - Design
 - Setting
 - Materials
 - Workmanship
 - Feeling
 - Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

Albert Johnson harnessed water resources from springs on the plateau, developed building clusters and a five-acre field on an alluvial fan, and constructed a perimeter fence and road to protect and provide access to natural resources. Today, these patterns of physical development remain as important aspects to the setting of the Lower Vine Ranch.

The location of natural springs first prompted Johnson to build a system of ditches that followed natural drainages from the plateau to the alluvial fan below. Today, these ditches, although inoperable, link to the reservoirs where water could be stored for domestic or agricultural purposes. There are several ditches from springs to the reservoir on the western end of the property and another series of ditches further south at Scotty’s ranch house.

On the western end of the Lower Vine property, the reservoir is located at the mouth of two prominent natural drainages, relatively close to the springs. Physical traces of the ditches remain within these drainages, although they today appear more as ephemeral streams. Near Scotty’s ranch house, a ditch system supplies the five-acre agricultural field with a constant source of water, although the field is currently overgrown with grapevines, cottonwoods, mesquite, and creosote bush. A non-historic PVC pipeline supplies Scotty’s ranch house with water. In addition, the water trough at the entrance gate, also remains.

A secondary influence in the development of the site is the alluvial fan, which is a geographic

component of the Grapevine Canyon. It is relatively flat and fortunately located near the springs—a perfect location for development. The gentle grades of the alluvial fan allowed Johnson to build several roads, a reservoir, and Scotty's ranch house. Excluding the perimeter road, today seven acres of land out of a total of 1200 acres are developed on the Lower Vine Ranch property. Six acres are dedicated to the Scotty's ranch house building complex and adjacent agricultural field, while one-acre is developed around the reservoir on the west side of the property.

The perimeter fence and the perimeter road system, remains from the mid 1920s. The fence continues to encompass all the valuable natural resources from the hot springs on the plateau to the favorable flat land of the alluvial fan below. The perimeter road, initially constructed to provide access during the construction of the fence, was later used to for convenient access hot springs and as a pleasure road. Today, the perimeter road remains in segments and contributes to the historic character of the site.

Topography

Evidence of topographical manipulations to the natural contours of the landscape are visible throughout the Lower Vine Ranch property. The majority of these earthworks, related to the water conveyance system and circulation system, are concentrated near buildings or structures.

Two separate systems of ditches and reservoirs make up the water conveyance system. The first, located on the west end of the property, is the longer of the two. It links the reservoir, on the west end of the property, with natural springs on the plateau. The ditches generally follow natural drainages. Many of these drainages contain greenery—predominantly shrubs such as creosote bush or mesquite. Although the system no longer functions, the ditches once produced about 575 gallons of water per minute to the reservoir. The second system, located near Scotty's ranch house, is aligned above the residence on the plateau. One set of ditches supplies a small reservoir and the other leads to the five-acre agricultural field, west of Scotty's ranch house. Today, the majority of ditches on the Lower Vine are barely discernable, although water continues to flow on the surface of these historic alignments. Fieldwork conducted in 2004 reveals they have filled with a great deal of sediment, are overtaken with vegetation, and have the character of small, ephemeral streams. Some segments of the ditches, especially west of Scotty's ranch house, seem unaltered. They are approximately two feet wide and two feet deep.

The reservoir, located a mile west of Scotty's ranch house, is the most prominent earthwork at Lower Vine Ranch. It is approximately 50' x 50' x 6 feet deep. The outer walls of the reservoir are approximately four-feet high and ten-feet wide and are comprised almost entirely of earth, with exception of a small culvert and stone and mortar headwall, which rises almost six feet in height. Today, the reservoir remains intact, despite years of inattention, because creosote bush have established over the entire structure. The root systems have stabilized the structural integrity of this earthwork.

On the southern end of the property, behind the Lower Vine building complex, a second, smaller reservoir supplies a two-inch PVC line that leads to the pump house. It is smaller in

scale than the other reservoir and approximately 8' x 10' x 4' deep. Another ditch leads from the springs, down natural drainages behind the main residence, to the open area once used by Scotty for the cultivation of vegetable crops. Today, this ditch continues to supply the general area with water, meandering like a stream.

The water conveyance system is an essential character-defining feature regarding the setting of the cultural landscape. It illustrates how Albert Johnson engineered a design solution to sustain a comfortable domicile in Death Valley. Today, the majority of earthworks remain from the historic period, although one alteration to the historic ditch system was recorded in the 1970s. It is unclear if a new ditch was dug behind the main residence or if NPS maintenance crews re-established an historic alignment. The ditch today is used as a swale that generally extends east to west through the building complex. The swale redirects spring and storm water around the building complex towards the open field. Despite this minor alteration, topography is a landscape characteristic that contributes to the setting of the cultural landscape.

Buildings and Structures

Introduction

The most prominent buildings at Lower Vine Ranch, including Scotty's ranch house, garage, and grain shed, are constructed with redwood stained dark brown. Scotty's ranch house and the out-buildings are simple, finely crafted structures in a bungalow architectural style, typically found throughout California in the 1920s. Although the National Register Nomination (1978) lists three contributing buildings on the Lower Vine property—Scotty's ranch house, garage, and grain shed—the List of Classified Structures (LCS) has named eleven on the Lower Vine Ranch. In addition, the corrals located in the Scotty's ranch house building complex, are identified as contributing cultural resources that date to the historic period. Today, the majority of building and structures are mothballed, but intact.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Ranch House

LCS ID: 007625

Structure Number: LV-023.

The ranch house, designed by CA MacNeilledge, is best described as a bungalow. It is a small, simple structure that presents the classic single gable in front, which is echoed with the intersecting gable on the side of the building. The residence is a one-story, two bedroom building covering an area of 33' x 46.' It also includes cedar shingles, slab floors, decorative horizontal siding, wood shingles at gable ends, and shutters with three-diamond patterns.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Garage

LCS ID: 007626

Structure Number: LV-024

The building is a single-story structure with a cedar shingled gable roof, dirt floor, decorative horizontal siding, and two shutter panels on windows. It has shingles in the gable ends. The wood double doors are not hung, but are stored inside the structure.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Grain Shed
LCS ID: 007627
Structure Number: LV-025

This structure is a single story, 12' x 18.' It has a rustic dry-laid stone foundation, cedar-shingle gable ends with louvers, decorative horizontal siding which is continued in shutter panels on two windows, and has a double door with cross braces as an external frame.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Storage Shed
LCS ID: 057871
Structure Number LV-023A

This is an 8' x 10' shed with a cedar shingled gable roof, shiplap siding, decorative siding on the rear that matches the patterns on Scotty's ranch house and garage, shingles in gable ends, double doors, and has open corners enclosed with rabbit wire.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Blacksmith Shop/Shed
LCS ID: 007628
Structure Number LV-026

This structure is an open structure (no walls), with a corrugated metal shed roof supported by four peeled ten inch log posts. It is 15' x 15' and has a dirt floor with no foundation. A three foot high workbench is built into the east posts.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Bridge
LCS ID 007629
Structure Number LV-027

Designed by M. Roy Thompson, this bridge is constructed as a part of the perimeter road project to span two rock outcroppings on the northeast side of the property. It is eighteen feet above the wash and spans thirty-six feet. It includes four 8" x 8" posts with 2" x 10" diagonals that support three groups of parallel 2" x 10" joists. The deck is ten feet wide and has 2" x 8" decking and two characteristic 2" x 4" tongue and groove running tracks spaced for auto tires.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Reservoir
LCS ID: 056099
Structure Number: LV-019

The reservoir is designed as a water storage facility and as a place to swim. It is an oval shape with a six foot berm, covering less than a quarter acre of land. The structure has a headgate—a five foot high stone retaining wall with a six inch cast iron pipe—that controls the flow of water from the structure. This reservoir is located on the west end of the property, adjacent to the change house. This structure is no longer operational. The earthworks which

comprise the walls of the structure are vegetated with creosote bush. The vegetation has helped to prevent erosion from occurring to the structure.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Indian Cabin

LCS ID: 056096

Structure Number: LV-020

This is a single family dwelling used historically by Shoshone people. The cabin is 12' x 14' with a gable roof. The walls are of horizontal and vertical rough plank wood with corrugated metal in places. The roof is comprised of a mix of corrugated metal and wood planks. In addition, a metal stovepipe within is heavily weathered.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Wood Platform

LCS ID: 056098

Structure Number LV-021

This redwood structure is intended for outdoor recreation and probably had a tent structure on top of the platform serving as a change house for swimmers. It is located near the reservoir and is approximately 12' x 20.' It includes a stone foundation with a platform of 2" x 8" framing. The flooring consists of 2" x 4" tongue and groove flooring. Today, this structure is left as a ruin.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Change House

LCS ID: 056097

Structure Number: LV-022

This building, located on the northeast side of the reservoir, historically supported a canvas tent used mainly as a changing room for recreation at the reservoir. The floor of the redwood structure is 16' x 18.' It has collapsed rafters that once supported a canvas roof. It also has horizontal siding half way up the walls. The door is missing. Today, this structure is a ruin.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Trough

LCS ID 057869

Structure Number LV-029

The water trough is located just outside the property boundary. It is no longer used as a water storage facility for use by the public. It is rectangular, three feet wide, five feet long, and eighteen inches high. The exterior is comprised of stone and mortar, while the inner walls are lined with concrete.

Lower Grapevine Ranch Hay Platform

LCS ID 057870

Structure Number LV-030

The hay platform is a 25' x 40' structure built with railroad ties laid on the ground to support a floor of ties, three wide. The north side of the structure has a three feet high wall and six feet tall concrete fence posts, which support the structure.

Lower Grapevine North Corral and South Corral

The Lower Grapevine corrals are distinctive structures that characterize the building complex as a small, working ranch. In plan view, the north corral is circular and the south is square. The circular corral was used by Scotty for horse training. The square corral is located adjacent to the grain shed. Both corrals are constructed with dimensional, rough-hewn redwood. They stand approximately five-feet in height. The posts are spaced approximately seven feet on center, and typically include four rails, which are attached by nail to the posts.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Change House

Feature Identification Number: 109796

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 56097

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Change House

LCS Structure Number: LV-022

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Garage

Feature Identification Number: 109798

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7626

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Garage

LCS Structure Number: LV-024

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Grain Shed

Feature Identification Number: 109802

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7627

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Grain Shed

LCS Structure Number: LV-025

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Hay Platform

Feature Identification Number: 109804

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 57870

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Hay Platform

LCS Structure Number: LV-030

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Indian Cabin

Feature Identification Number: 109806

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 56096

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Indian Cabin

LCS Structure Number: LV-020

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch North Corral

Feature Identification Number: 109808

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 461588

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Corral (rectangular)

LCS Structure Number: tbd

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Trough

Feature Identification Number: 109810

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 57869

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Trough

LCS Structure Number: LV-029

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Reservoir

Feature Identification Number: 109812

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 56099

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Reservoir

LCS Structure Number: LV-019

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 109814

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7629

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Bridge

LCS Structure Number: LV-027

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's House

Feature Identification Number: 109816

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7625

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Scotty's Ranch House

LCS Structure Number: LV-023

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch South Corral

Feature Identification Number: 109818

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 461587

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Corral (circular)

LCS Structure Number: tbd

Feature: Lower Grapevine Ranch Storage Shed

Feature Identification Number: 109820

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Spatial Organization

Three components of development define the spatial organization of Lower Vine Ranch including the open grounds between the building complex and the entry gate, the planting of greenery between Scotty's ranch house and Death Valley, and the separate building clusters at Scotty's ranch house and reservoir. Together, the arrangement of buildings, vegetation, fences, and open land—and their relationship to each other—creates three distinct spaces: public, located outside the perimeter fence; semi-private, the open land between the perimeter fence; and private, areas around Scotty's ranch house and the reservoir, an area reserved for recreation.

The perimeter fence, built with substantial concrete posts and barbed wire, clearly defines public space. A gated entry controls access, limiting entry into the site to a single point in space.

The fence and the location of the entry gate, date to the historic period, and therefore remain as critical components of the designed arrival sequence to Scotty's ranch house. The Lower Vine circulation system is therefore the primary way to move through the sequence of spaces.

Semi-private space, created by the vast open area of desert between the building complexes and perimeter fence, is a physical buffer nearly one-half mile in length. The open land, characterized by sand, stones, and low growing shrubs such as creosote allow open views of the property from the public road—a semi-private condition.

North, beyond the fence and open area, walls of greenery veil Scotty's ranch house and the reservoir, creating privacy. The vertical trunks and horizontal branches of cottonwood trees and mesquite—serve as implied walls that interrupt views from the public road and conversely create intimate spaces around Scotty's ranch house.

The building complexes, although small in scale, are also important components of the spatial arrangement. They are both sited high above the floor of Death Valley on an alluvial fan, which provides commanding views of landscape. They are set apart from each other because each cluster of buildings were sited next to different sources of water and because the structures served different purposes. Scotty's ranch house is domestic and rural in character and includes typical ranch structures such as a garage, grain shed, and corrals. The cluster at the reservoir, on the other hand, is a mile west and related to recreation. The reservoir is a dried up swimming hole, while the ruins of the change house and wood platform remain physical reminders that Johnson's crew recreated here.

Circulation

Introduction

Circulation systems at Lower Vine Ranch include the entry road (to Scotty's ranch house), the road to the reservoir, and the perimeter road. Trails include two separate alignments—one to the reservoir and the other to Scotty's Castle. Today, these roads and trails remain intact and contribute to the overall character of the cultural landscape.

The Perimeter Road

The perimeter road, also known historically as the Loop Road, is a narrow, curvy, single-lane alignment surfaced with native earth. It follows the natural lay of the land as it traces along the interior of the perimeter fence. The road is typical of other desert roads because it is engineered without side ditches or culverts. As a result, the perimeter road appears washed-out at low points (where it intersects drainages), but remains visible on knolls.

Approximately half of the road remains intact with the longest segment remaining between the entrance gate and the northwestern edge of the property. The road on the south side of the property remains in the historic alignment, tracing along the perimeter fence, providing access to the upper plateau, the most remote area of the property. Long segments of the road on top of the plateau have disappeared completely since the historic period, probably for lack of use. In other segments, however, the road prism remains. For example, cuts and fills are prominent, especially near Scotty's bridge. Here, the cuts into the hillside are extensive—perhaps thirty yards long—with fill material borrowed from the upper slopes. Scotty's bridge spans a steep

wash and is thirty-six feet long. It is a single-lane structure, built under the supervision of engineer Thompson in 1927 and constructed with large, rough hewn, dimensional lumber that has weathered over the years.

Entrance Road

The entrance road provides access to Scotty’s ranch house, located about a third of a mile from the entrance gate. In character, it is a typical ranch road—narrow, curvilinear, and surfaced with dirt. The road fords a small creek that intersects it midway. Within the building complex, the road provides access to the corrals, a hay platform, the grain shed, and all of the domestic buildings. Today, the entrance road remains well defined because NPS staff uses it to access the building complex. It appears that the road has been realigned in short segments and is rough in places—especially where it has been washed-out by seasonal streams. Vegetation, trees and shrubs are encroaching on the road prism, especially near the seasonal stream.

Road to the Reservoir

The road to the reservoir is approximately ten feet wide and one-half mile long. It provides access from the entrance gate to the reservoir, terminating near the change house and wood platform. Today, the road remains visible along its entire length. It is approximately ten-feet wide and surfaced with native earth. Unlike the entrance road, this alignment is primarily straight.

Trail to Reservoir

A trail linking Scotty’s ranch house with the reservoir remains in segments. Aligned at some point during the historic period, there is no historic documentation regarding it. Field observations taken in 2004 reveal that the trail is faint in most segments. The trail does not appear to be designed, it follows the natural lay of the land, and does not have attributes such as cuts or fills or stone retaining walls. The width varies from a foot to three feet.

Trail to Scotty’s Castle

This trail links Scotty’s Castle with the hot springs located on the plateau above Scotty’s ranch house. Because this trail has disappeared over time, today it is best described as a route rather than a trail. From the north edge of the Lower Vine Ranch property, the route leads north and meanders through the high country where it descends into the Grapevine Canyon, terminating near the gravel separator.

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Lower Grapevine entrance road
- Feature Identification Number: 109840
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- IDLCS Number: 461589
- LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Entrance Road
- LCS Structure Number: tbd

Feature: Lower Grapevine Perimeter / Loop Road

Feature Identification Number: 109838

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail Between Lower Ranch and Castle

Feature Identification Number: 109832

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trail Between Ranch House and Reservoir

Feature Identification Number: 109836

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lower Grapevine Road to Reservoir

Feature Identification Number: 109834

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 461590

LCS Structure Name: Lower Grapevine Ranch Road to Reservoir

LCS Structure Number: tbd

Vegetation

Building Complex

During the historic period, plantings at Lower Vine Ranch were purposeful, but with no emphasis on formality and the Spanish/Mediterranean aesthetic. Instead, trees, shrubs, and agricultural crops were established in close proximity to Scotty’s ranch house for practical purposes—to create shade and privacy or to show “actual” use of the water on the property. Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens* and *Prosopis glandulosa*) were already established in the building complex, providing shade near the residence and garage, while agricultural crops including alfalfa, melons, and pumpkins were planted in a plowed, five-acre field. Historic photographs of Scotty’s ranch house show a mix of cottonwood and mesquite trees planted randomly throughout the small building complex.

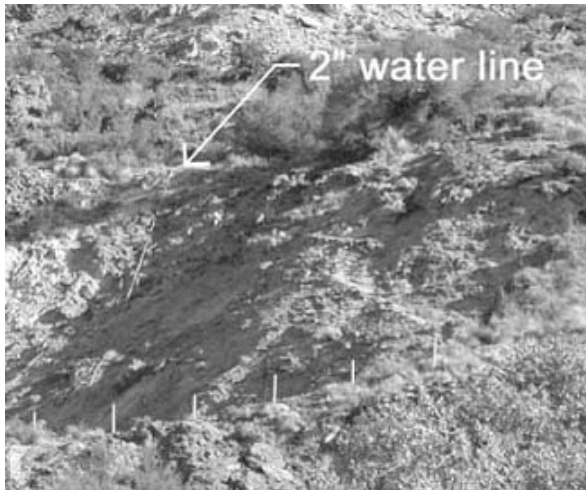
Today, trees and mesquite continue to create shade and privacy. The dense mix of cottonwood and mesquite enclose Scotty’s ranch house, blacksmith forge, garage, and corrals. It is apparent, however, that the trees and shrubs seen today have naturalized since the 1930s with only a small number of cottonwoods that date to the historic period. A dense mix of young and mature cottonwood trees grow to a maximum height of thirty-feet, while the mesquite fill in the understory, creating a kind of wall between the building complex and the valley below. The open areas surrounding the buildings are the result of actions taken (fuels reduction) by the

NPS between the 1970s to the present in order to protect the buildings from fire.

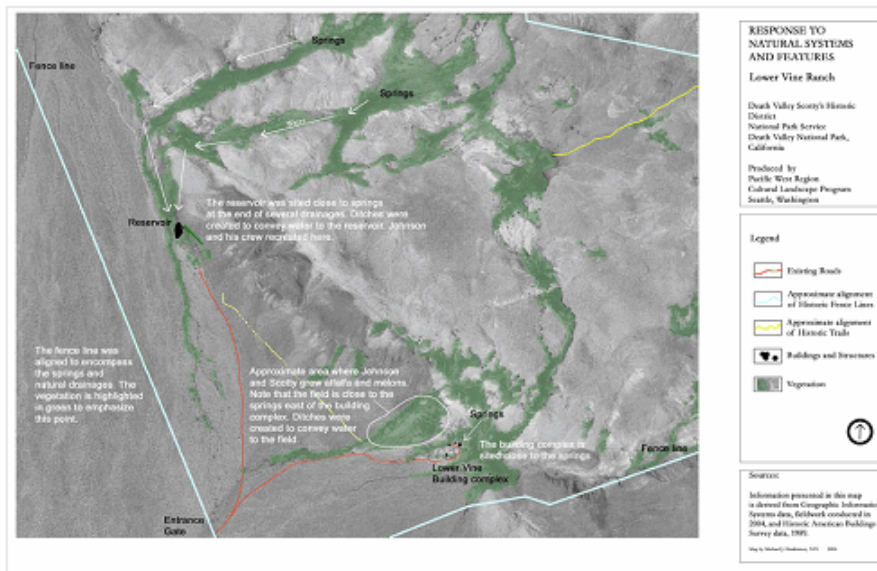
The greenery seen today resembles historic conditions in several ways. Trees and shrubs are planted predominantly on the south side of the building complex which continues to create shade and privacy. As seen from the entry gate, the greenery surrounding the building complex serves as the verdant setting for the buildings and architecturally as an organic wall.

Landscape Characteristic & Features Graphics:

Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features



Contemporary photograph showing a non-historic two-inch water line that conveys water from the spring to Scotty’s house, view north. Historic documentation reveals that a two-inch line was used to supply the main residence with water (PWR 2005).



Map illustrating locations of buildings, reservoir, agricultural field and their proximity to springs. The siting of buildings were influenced by the location of springs. See larger image in appendix (PWR 2004).

Characteristic: Topography



Images of the reservoir located approximately one mile west of Scotty's ranch house, view east. Although the structure remains intact, it is no longer in use (Top: Album 17372 DEVA 40721 Bottom: PWR 2004).

Characteristic: Buildings and Structures



Contemporary image of Scotty's ranch house, view northeast. Today, the residence remains mothballed (PWR 2004).



Image of the garage, view northwest. This building once housed Scotty's car. It is located west of Scotty's ranch house (PWR 2004).



Image of the grain shed, view west. This building is located south of Scotty's ranch house (PWR 2004).

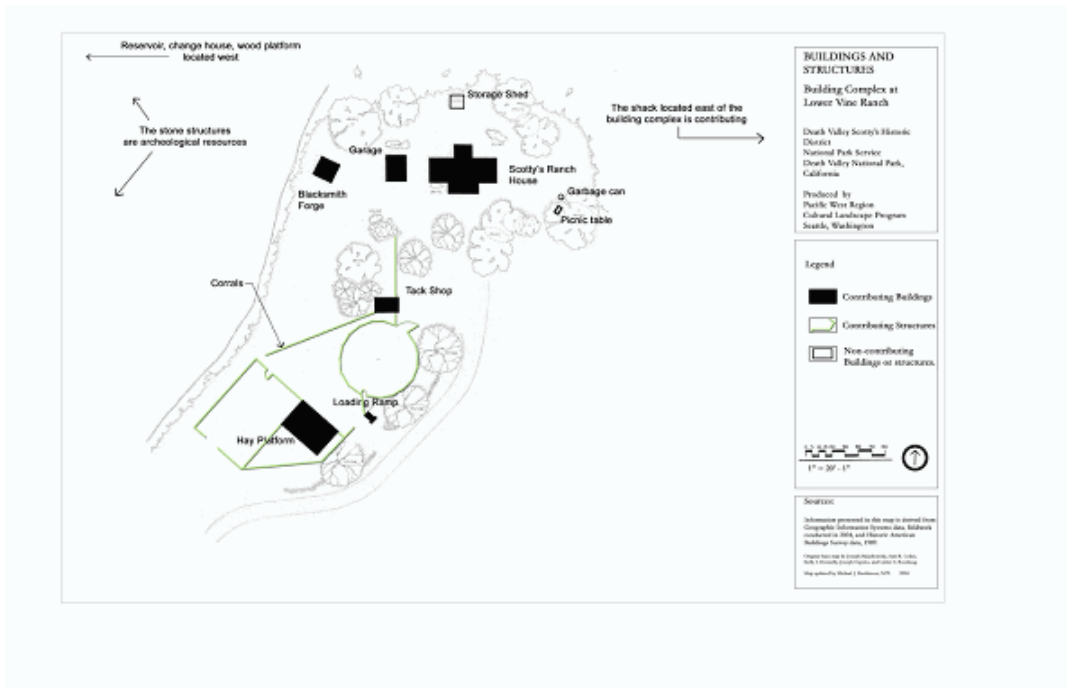


Image of the corral at Scotty's Castle, view north. This structure was constructed in 1927 (PWR 2004).



Image of the Lower Vine ranch trough, built by Johnson to maintain the water rights of his property, view northwest (PWR 2004).

Lower Vine Ranch
 Death Valley National Park



Map showing contributing buildings and structures within the Scotty's ranch house building complex. Contributing buildings are in black. Contributing structures are in green. Non-contributing structures are outlined in black. See appendix (PWR 2005).

Characteristic: Circulation

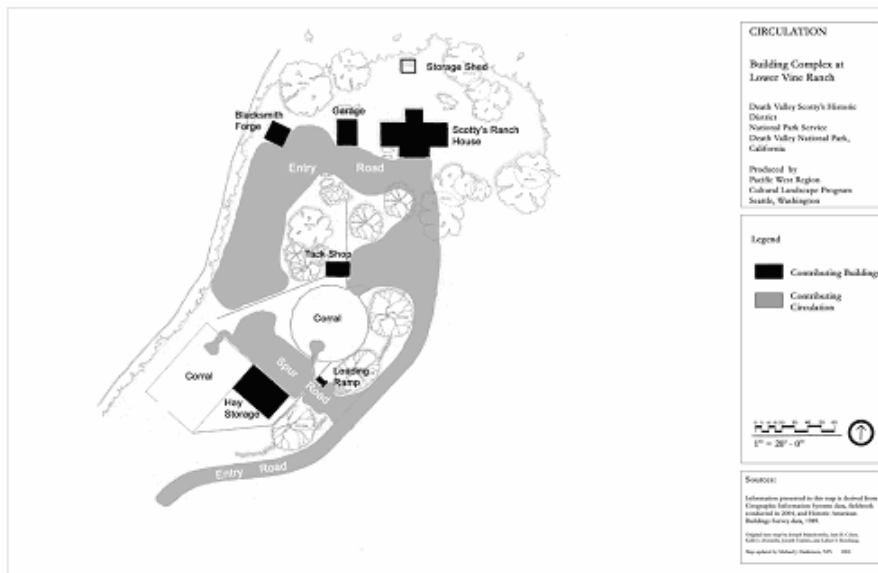


Faint traces of a trail aligned between Scotty's ranch house and the reservoir, view east. This trail was probably aligned by Scotty to provide access between the two sites during the historic period (PWR 2004).

Lower Vine Ranch
Death Valley National Park

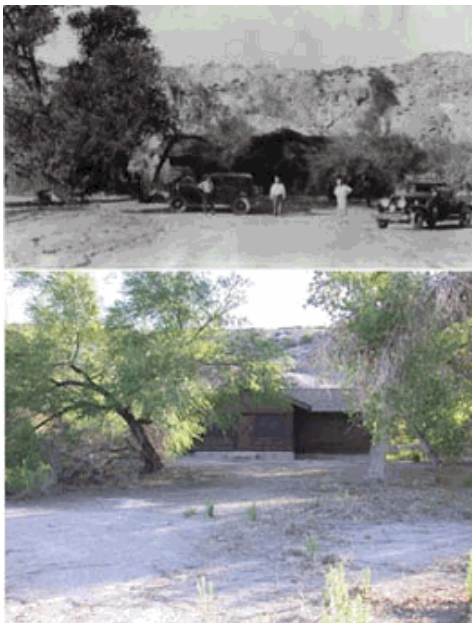


Image of the single-lane road aligned between the entrance gate and reservoir, view east. The rural character of the road is typical of other roads found on the Lower Vine Ranch (PWR 2004).

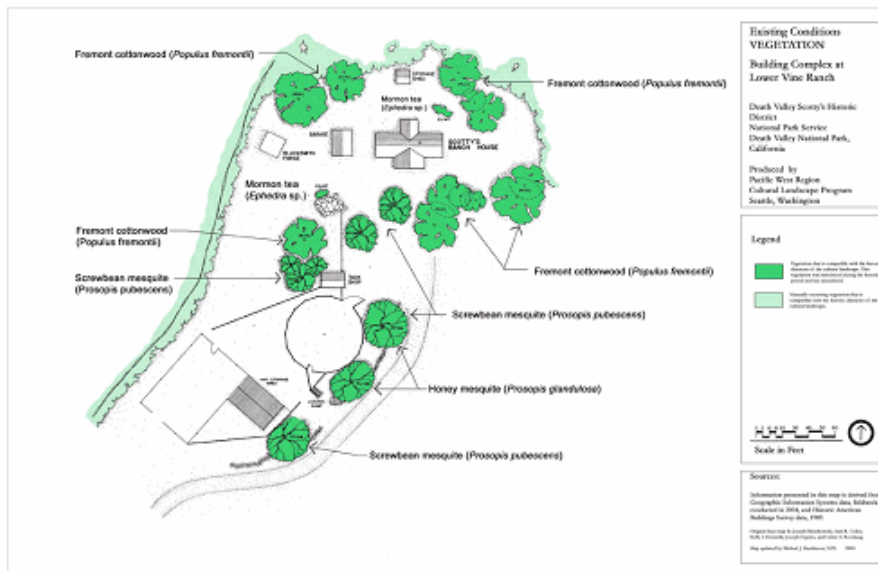


Map showing the contributing circulation system within the building complex at Lower Vine Ranch. See larger map in appendix (PWR 2005).

Characteristic: Vegetation



The paired images, view north, illustrate how the historic character of the plantings at Lower Vine Ranch remains from the historic period (Top: Album 13733 DEVA 41357 Bottom PWR 2005).



Map illustrating contributing vegetation within the building complex. See larger image in appendix (PWR 2005).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair
Assessment Date: 05/15/2004

Stabilization Measures:

The corrals at Lower Vine Ranch must be stabilized to prevent further loss.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 2,000.00
Cost Date: 08/15/2005
Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator: Regional Office

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

The corrals at Lower Vine Ranch must be stabilized to prevent further damage. A carpenter and crew of one will be necessary to stabilize this structure.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation

Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan

Document Date: 04/01/2002

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The general management plan calls for the identification of cultural resources and their preservation.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Landscape Treatment Cost: 0.00

Cost Date: 04/01/2002

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Author:	Buchel, Susan
Citation Title:	Scotty's Home Was Not His Castle: A Historical Survey of Death Valley Scotty's Lower Vine Ranch, Death Valley National Monument
Year of Publication:	1985
Citation Publisher:	Masters Thesis University of California Riverside
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	013005
Citation Type:	Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location:	DEVA: archives: Scotty's Castle and Cow Creek
Citation Author:	Deal, Krista and D'Ascenzo, Lynne
Citation Title:	Archeological Survey of Lower Vine Ranch, Death Valley National Monument
Year of Publication:	1986
Citation Publisher:	NPS, West. Arch and Con. Center, Tucson, AZ. Pub. in Anthropology No. 46, 1986
Citation Type:	Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location:	Death Valley National Park, Scotty's Castle archives and Cow Creek archives. Pacific West Region--Seattle Cultural Resources
Citation Author:	Livingston, Dewey
Citation Title:	60% Draft Historic Resource Study: Death Valley Scotty' Historic District
Year of Publication:	2004
Citation Publisher:	Carey & Company for the NPS, DEVA
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	DEVA: Scotty's Castle archives Pacific West Region--Seattle Cultural Resources

Citation Author: Miller, G.A
Citation Title: Reconnaissance Appraisal of the Water Resources of Death Valley, California-Nevada
Year of Publication: 1975
Citation Publisher: US Geological Survey and NPS
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: DEVA Cow Creek archives
Pacific West Region--Seattle Cultural Resources

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Historic Structure Report: Main House and Annex, Scotty's Castle, Death Valley Ranch
Year of Publication: 1991
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: DEVA: archives: Cow Creek and Scotty's Castle
Pacific West Region--Seattle Cultural Resources

Citation Author: Pearson, Nancy E
Citation Title: Archeological Inventory and Testing at Indian Camp and Tie Canyon Death Valley National Park Inyo County, California
Year of Publication: 2003
Citation Publisher: West Arch. Conserv. Center, Tucson, Arizona. Publications in Anthropology 83
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: DEVA: archives Cow Creek and Scotty's Castle
Pacific West Region--Seattle

Citation Author: Historic American Building Survey
Citation Title: Historic American Building Survey, Death Valley Ranch (Scotty's Castle) HABS no. CA-2257
Source Name: HABS
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: DEVA: Cow Creek and Scotty's Castle archives

Citation Author: Hankinson, M. and C. Gilbert
Citation Title: Cultural Landscape Report: Death Valley Scotty Historic District (draft)
Year of Publication: 2005
Citation Publisher: NPS
Citation Type: Both Graphic and Narrative
Citation Location: PWR Seattle

Supplemental Information

Title: HABS base map of existing conditions at Scotty's Castle, 1989
Description: The map is a black and white, hand drawn, plan drawn by the HABS team including: Joseph Balachowski, Sam R. Coker, Kelly L. Donnelly, Joseph Espito, and Lisbet S. Rosshaug

Title: Historic photo collection.
Description: All historic images are on file in the Scotty's Castle archive collection.

Title: Preliminary Planting Plan
Description: Landscape planting plan by Dewey Kruckeberg, 1929.

Documentation Assessment

Documentation Assessment: Good






EXISTING CONDITIONS

Lower Vine Ranch

Death Valley Scotty's Historic
District
National Park Service
Death Valley National Park,
California

Produced by
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
Seattle, Washington

Legend

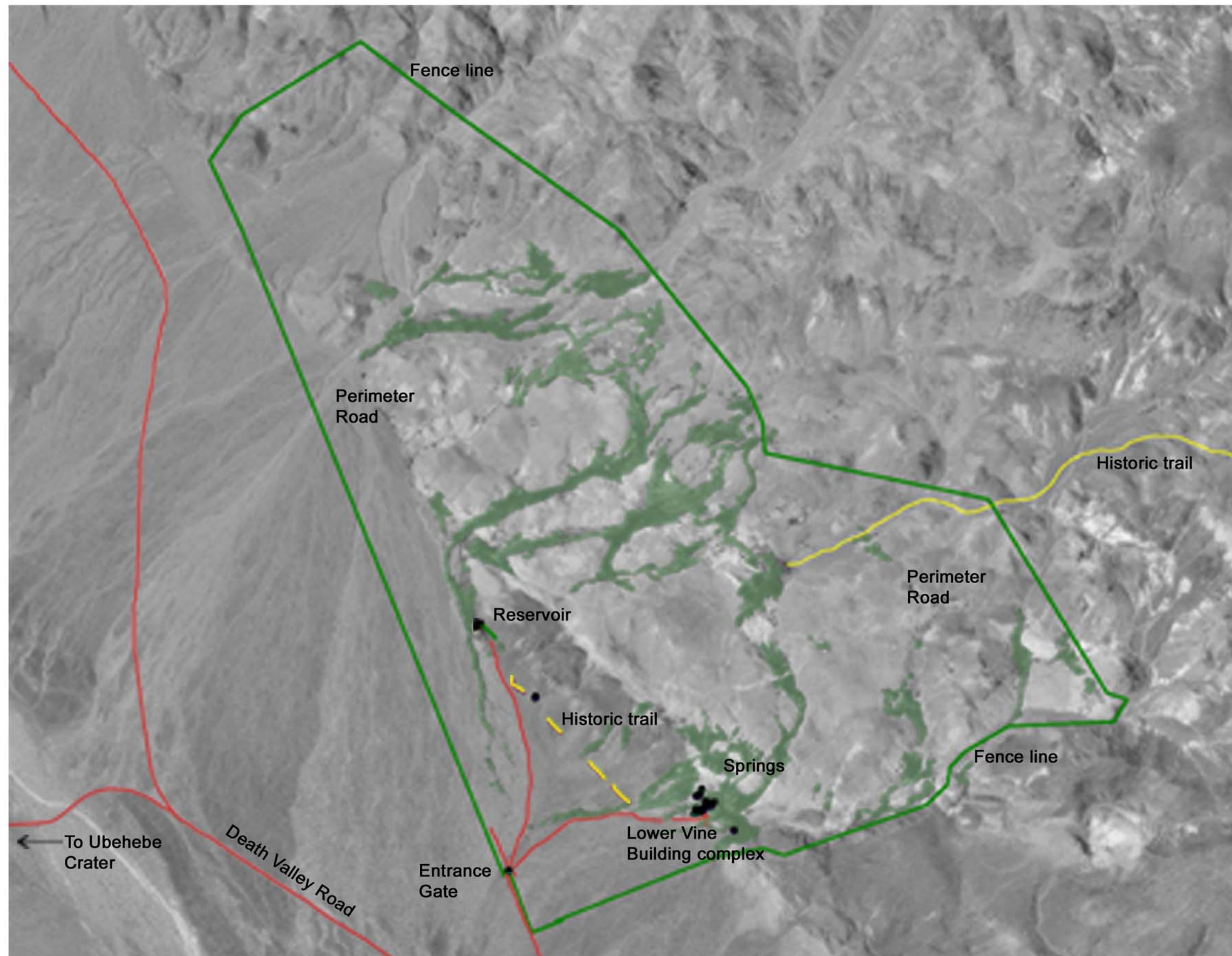
-  Existing Roads
-  Approximate alignment
of Historic Fence Lines
-  Approximate alignment
of Historic Trails
-  Buildings and Structures
-  Vegetation

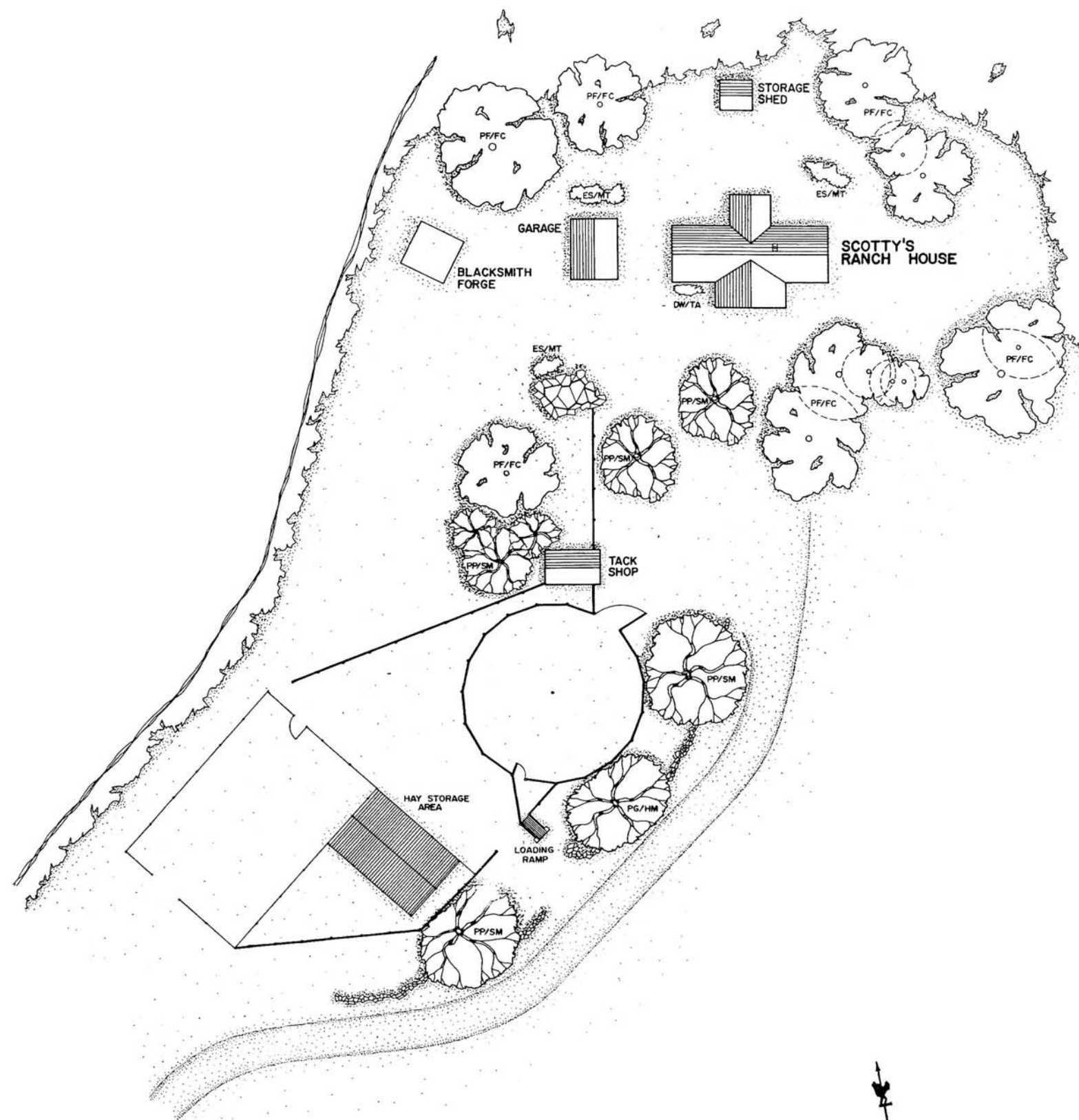


Sources:

Information presented in this map
is derived from Geographic Information
Systems data, fieldwork conducted in
2004, and Historic American Buildings
Survey data, 1989.

Map by Michael J. Hankinson, NPS 2004





**EXISTING
CONDITIONS**

**Building Complex at
Lower Vine Ranch**

Death Valley Scotty's Historic
District
National Park Service
Death Valley National Park,
California

Produced by
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
Seattle, Washington



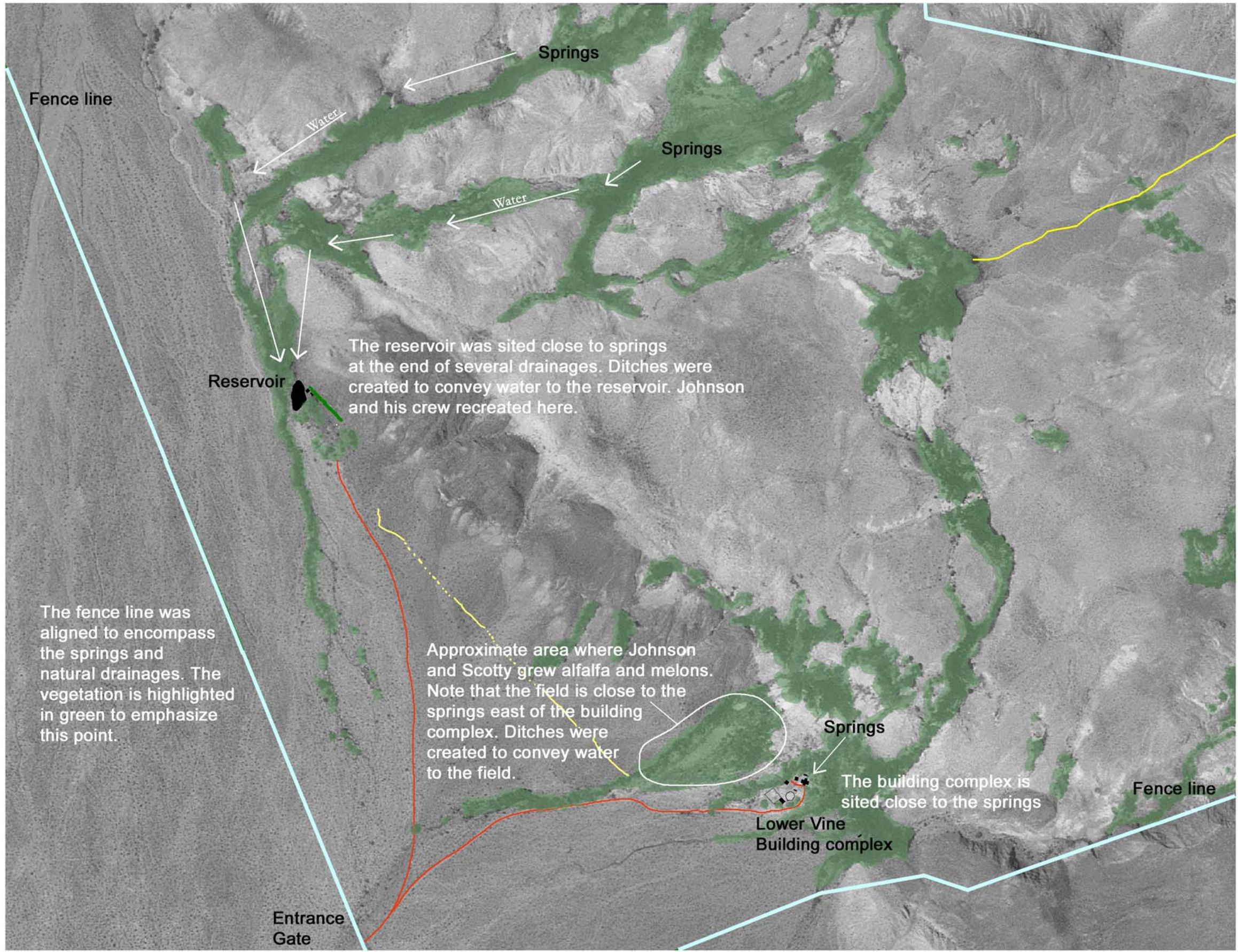
Sources:

Information presented in this map is derived from Geographic Information Systems data, fieldwork conducted in 2004, and Historic American Buildings Survey data, 1989.

Original base map by Joseph Balachowsky, Sam R. Coker, Kelly L. Donnelly, Joseph Espino, and Lisbet S. Rosshaug.

Map updated by Michael J. Hankinson, NPS 2004





Fence line

Springs

Springs

Water

Water

Reservoir

The reservoir was sited close to springs at the end of several drainages. Ditches were created to convey water to the reservoir. Johnson and his crew recreated here.

The fence line was aligned to encompass the springs and natural drainages. The vegetation is highlighted in green to emphasize this point.

Approximate area where Johnson and Scotty grew alfalfa and melons. Note that the field is close to the springs east of the building complex. Ditches were created to convey water to the field.

Springs

The building complex is sited close to the springs

Lower Vine Building complex

Fence line

Entrance Gate






RESPONSE TO NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

Lower Vine Ranch

Death Valley Scotty's Historic District
National Park Service
Death Valley National Park,
California

Produced by
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
Seattle, Washington

Legend

-  Existing Roads
-  Approximate alignment of Historic Fence Lines
-  Approximate alignment of Historic Trails
-  Buildings and Structures
-  Vegetation



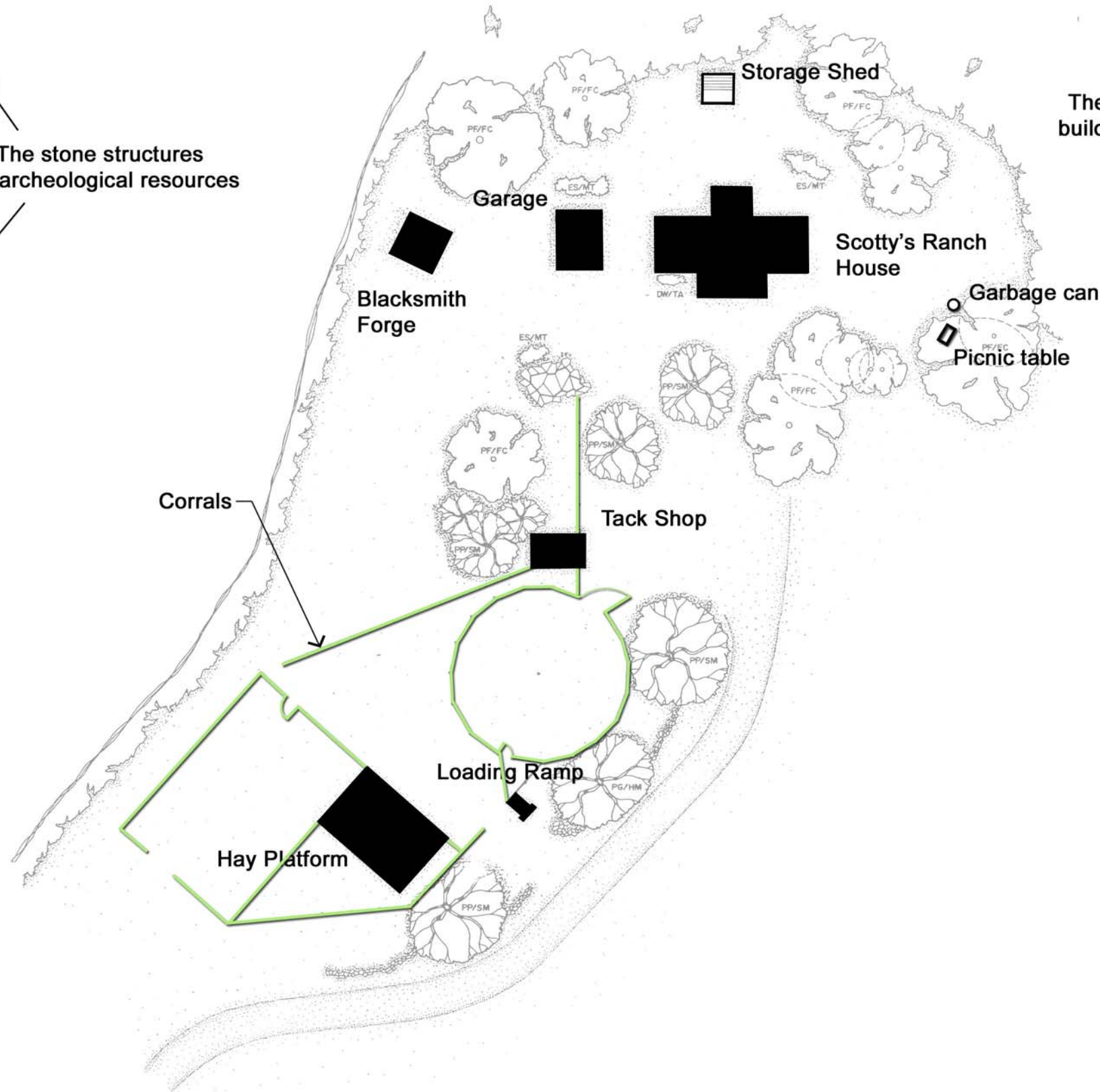
Sources:

Information presented in this map is derived from Geographic Information Systems data, fieldwork conducted in 2004, and Historic American Buildings Survey data, 1989.

← Reservoir, change house, wood platform located west

↖ The stone structures are archeological resources

→ The shack located east of the building complex is contributing






BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

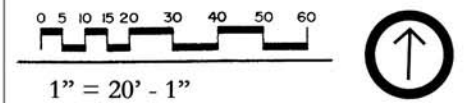
Building Complex at Lower Vine Ranch

Death Valley Scotty's Historic District
National Park Service
Death Valley National Park,
California

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Cultural Landscape Program
Seattle, Washington

Legend

-  Contributing Buildings
-  Contributing Structures
-  Non-contributing Buildings or structures.



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Original base map by Joseph Balachowsky, Sam R. Coker, Kelly I. Donnelly, Joseph Espino, and Lisbet S. Rosshaug.

Map updated by Michael J. Hankinson, NPS 2004

Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)

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Screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*)

Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)

Screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*)

Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*)

Screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*)



Existing Conditions VEGETATION

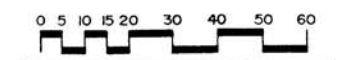
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Legend

-  Vegetation that is compatible with the historic character of the cultural landscape. This vegetation was introduced during the historic period and has naturalized.
-  Naturally occurring vegetation that is compatible with the historic character of the cultural landscape.



Scale in Feet

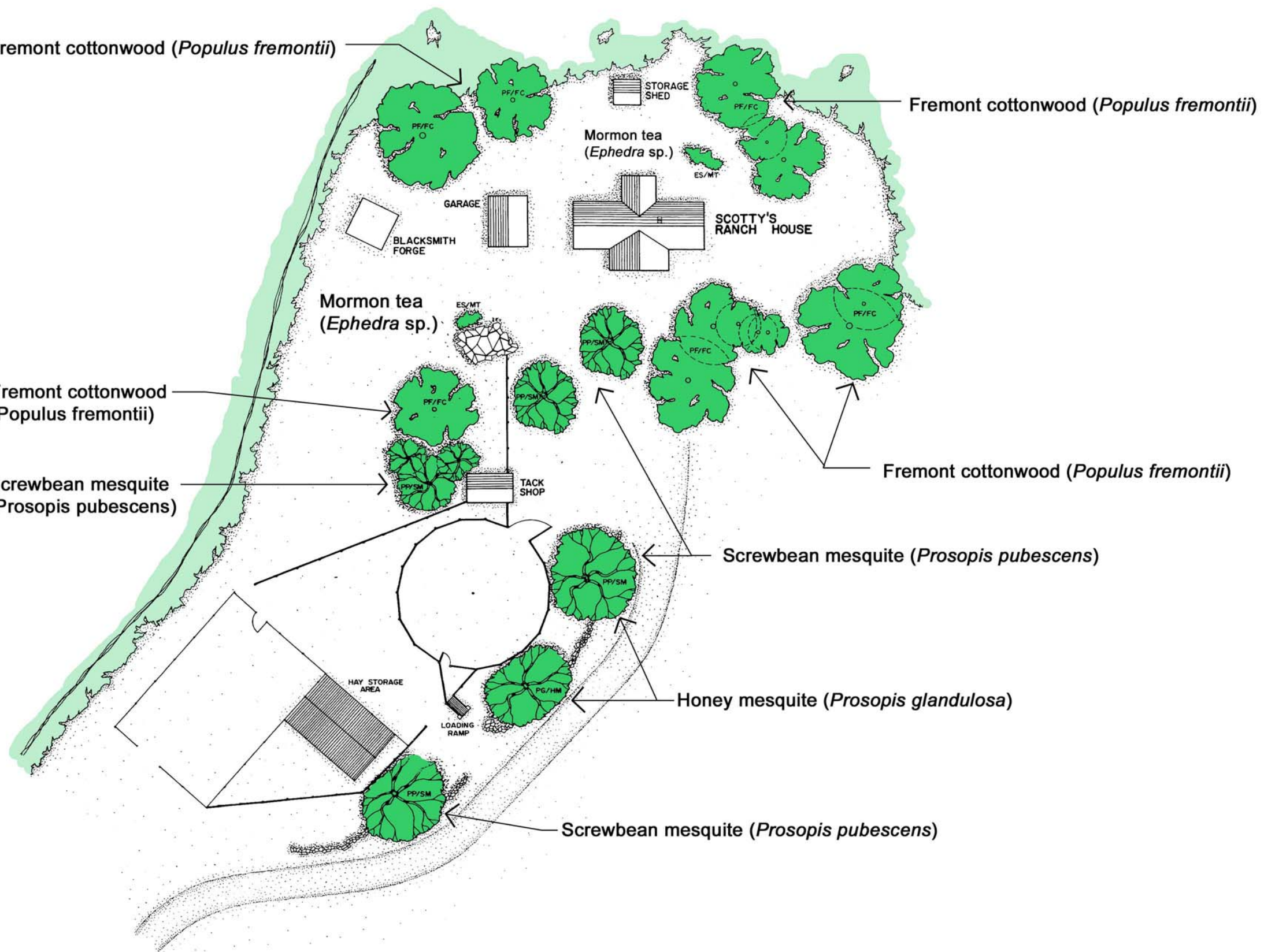


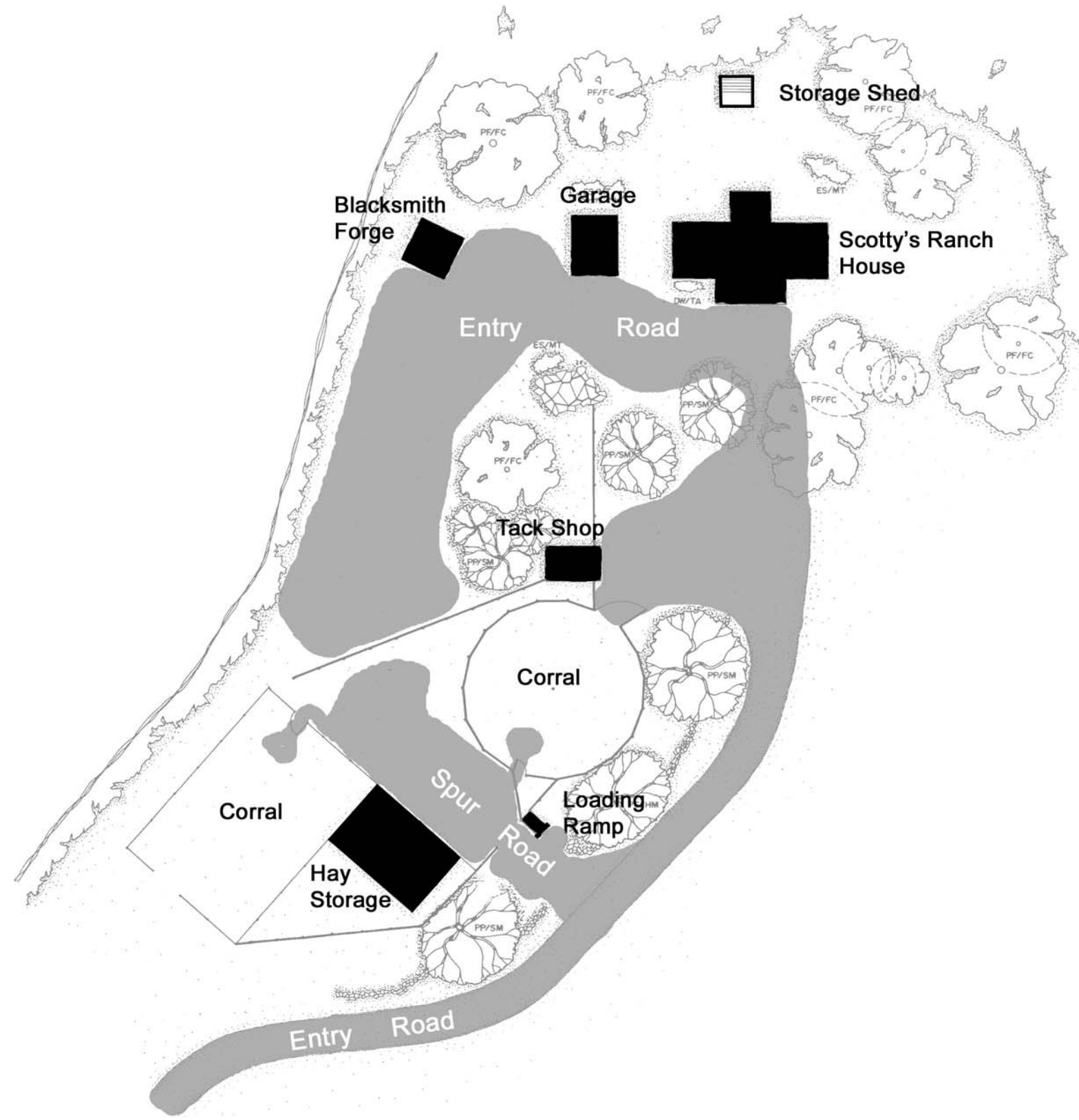
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CIRCULATION

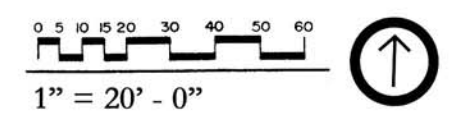
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Legend

-  Contributing Buildings
-  Contributing Circulation



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