Form 10-317
(Sept. 1957)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.	
Nevada	XX Architecture, XV Transportation and Communcation, XV Military & Indian Affairs	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE		4. APPROX. ACREAGE
Fort Ruby		10 acres

5. EXACT LOCATION (*County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet*)

White Pine County, Southern end of Ruby Valley

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (*Also administrator if different from owner*)

Mr. R. E. Harris

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (*Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant*)

The Fort Ruby buildings are the earliest existing and finest surviving examples of pioneer log construction in Nevada.

Fort Ruby, 1862-1869, was established in the wilderness of eastern Nevada to protect the mail coaches of the Central Overland Mail. Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry California Volunteers began erecting the log structure of the post in September, 1862. The one-story cabins were of palisade construction, that is, the walls were formed by placing the logs in an upright position and the interior was excavated to place the floor below ground level. Wooden shakes were used to cover the roofs.

One of these buildings, now used as a tool shed, still stands in excellent condition, and is only slightly altered. Close by is another very old log cabin built in the more typical method, with the logs notched and placed in horizontal position one above the other. This one-story structure is also unaltered and is in excellent condition.[1]

[1]This site was classified a site eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status under Theme XV, Transportation and Communication.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (*Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works*)

Myron Angel, History of Nevada, 1881 (Berkeley, 1958) 106, 179-183
Nevada, A Guide to the Silver State (American Guide Series) (Portland, 1957), 164-65; Herbert M. Hart, Old Forts of the Northwest (Seattle, 1963), 94-95.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (*Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.*)

None.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS*	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (*Museum, farm, etc.*)	13. DATE OF VISIT
ATTACHED: YES [X] NO [ ] **(1796), 1790, 1791 Photos, Yes**	Orig. bldgs, Excellent	Tool House	June 26, 1960
14. NAME OF RECORDER (*Signature*)	15. TITLE		16. DATE
Charles W. Snell Charles W. Snell	Historian		July 14, 1966

*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10½ SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Nevada	Fort Ruby Valley, Nevada

7. Importance and Description (cont'd): its successful farming operations through 1869 and succeeded in supplying a large portion of the requirements of the Overland Stage Co.

Condition of Sites: Fort (or Camp) Ruby is now located on the Fort Ruby Ranch, which is situated eight miles south of Cave Creek, or 18 miles south of the Harrison Pass over the Ruby Mountains. Two original structures of the old post still stand on the ranch. These two one-story log buildings are the Post Office and cabin or residence, and situated adjacent to the more modern ranch structures. Both buildings are in excellent condition.

The site of the Overland Stage and Pony Express station is located about three miles east of the Fort Ruby Ranch and building site and has been marked by the U. S. Forest Service, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The reputed remains of the original log station were removed by citizens of Elko from this site in 1960 and re-erected in their town as a Pony Express Station as part of the centennial observances.

The site of the Overland Stage Ranch is located approximately 23.6 miles north of the Fort Ruby Ranch, or 5.6 miles north of Harrison Pass. There are no apparent remains of the original ranch and the site is not marked.

The Overland Stage and Pony Express Route, coming from Egan Canyon, enters Ruby Valley at the southeast corner, crosses the southern end, and leaves the valley at the southwest corner, via the 6789 foot high Overland Pass. The original trail then continues westward, roughly paralleling U.S. Highway 50, across utterly wild and very sparsely inhabitated country for approximately 156 miles, until it joins U.S. 50 just west of Eastgate, Nevada. This section of the route, which is passable only on horseback or jeep, is also very beautiful, and the trail and station sites are untouched. (This information is based on statements of Mr. Earl Guyton of Reno, Nevada, who supervised the marking of the Pony Express trail across the State of Nevada.)

It thus appears that there is today a 195 mile section of original Pony Express and Overland Stage Route (from Egan Canyon to Eastgate) in Nevada that is vertually unimpaired and as wild and beautiful as it was in 1859-69.

8. Bibliographical References (cont'd): Raymond W. Settle and Mary L. Settle, Saddles and Spurs, The Pony Express Saga (Harrisburg, Pa., 1955); Roy S. Bloss, Pony Express - The Great Gamble (Berkeley, 1959); W. Turrentine Jackson, Wagon Roads West, 1846-1869 (Berkeley, 1952); William H. Goetzmann, Army Exploration in the American West, 1803-1863 (New Haven, 1959); Nevada Pony Express Map, 1860-1960 (published by the Nevada Pony Express Centennial Committee, Carson City, Nevada, 1960); Roscoe Conkling and Margaret B. Conkling, The Butterfield Overland Mail Company, 1858-1869 (3 Vols., Glendale, 1946).

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Fort Ruby, Nevada

Fort Ruby, a military post established during the Civil War to protect the stage and telegraph facilities from Indian attacks, was built in Ruby Valley in the fall of 1862. Ruby Valley, from 1859 to 1869, was an important station on the Pony Express and Central Overland Stage line and a relay station on the first transcontinental telegraph line. Ruby Valley was also the site of the overland stage ranch from 1865 to 1869. The ranch was established to supply the stage line with grain and provisions. Ruby Valley is about 70 miles long and about 16 wide. The first White settler, William Rogers, an assistant Indian agent, arrived in the valley in 1859, building a cabin near the southern end. His house became a stage station on the central overland mail route and a Pony Express home station. In 1861 a telegraph station on the first transcontinental telegraph line was built. Fort Ruby was built about 3 miles east of the stage station. Troops from Fort Ruby were involved in the Gosiute War of 1863. Fort Ruby was occupied until 1869 when the transcontinental stage operations came to an end.

Fort (or Camp) Ruby, located on the Fort Ruby Ranch 8 miles south of Cave Creek, consists of two original structures of the old post. These two 1-story log buildings are the Post Office and cabin or residence, situated adjacent to modern ranch structures, both buildings are in excellent condition. The site of the overland stage and Pony Express station, about 3 miles east of the Fort Ruby Ranch, has been marked by the United States Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The site of the overland stage ranch, about 24 miles north of the Fort Ruby ranch, holds no apparent original remains and is not marked. The overland stage and Pony Express route entering Ruby Valley at the southeast corner crosses the southern end of the Valley and leaves it at the southwest corner where it continues westward paralleling U. S. Highway 50 for approximately 156 miles. Located in White Pine County, Nevada, about 71 miles southeast of Elko, Fort Ruby is privately owned.

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NSHSB 9-21-61