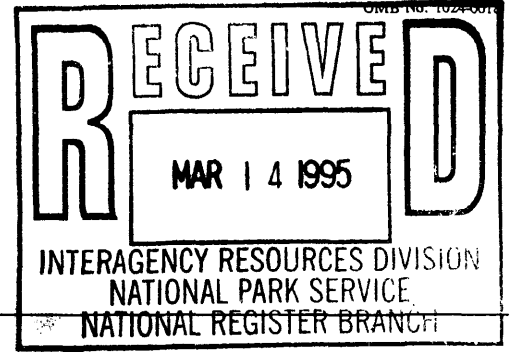


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name: Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District

other name/site number: Navajo Loop Trail, Queen's Garden Trail, Peekaboo Loop Trail, Fairyland Loop Trail, Rim Trail

#### 2. Location

street & number: Bryce Canyon National Park

not for publication: n/a  
vicinity: X

city/town: Bryce Canyon

state: Utah code: UT county: Garfield code: 017 zip code: 84717

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/14/95  
Signature of certifying official Date  
National Park Service  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] 2-9-95  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Utah State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	for Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4/25/95</u>
___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
___ other (explain):	_____	_____

**Bryce Canyon National Park  
Scenic Trails Historic District**

**Garfield County, Utah**

Name of Property

County and State

---

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property:</b> Public-Federal	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<b>Category of Property:</b> District	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> N/A	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> building(s)
<b>Name of related multiple property listing:</b> Bryce Canyon National Park Multiple Property Submission	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions:</b> Recreation; outdoor recreation	<b>Current Function:</b> Recreation; outdoor recreation
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**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification:</b> N/A	<b>Materials:</b> foundation: N/A walls: N/A roof: N/A other: N/A
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**Narrative Description**

**Summary and Setting**

The nominated Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails District consists of five structures including the Navajo Loop Trail, the Queen's Garden Trail, the Peekaboo Loop Trail, the Fairyland Trail, and the Rim Trail. All of these structures are located within the scenic heartland of the park--between Fairyland Point to the north and Bryce Point to the south. Although the trails have individual names, they do intersect with one another, forming a contiguous series of paths that provide visual and physical access to the erosional features that characterize Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA).

**Individual Trail Descriptions**

**Navajo Loop Trail:** The Navajo Loop Trail (an unpaved, graded trail between three and five feet in width and 1.4 miles in length) accesses Bryce Canyon below Sunset Point--into the area referred to during the historical period as the "sculpture garden". The upper portion of the trail is cut through bare sandstone with little or no vegetation. Vegetation increases as one descends into the bottom of Bryce Canyon. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are located in the bottom of the canyon. This loop trail provides hikers with some of the most famous views in the park. The top of the southern segment (the original Navajo Trail) contains a series of impressive switchbacks--constructed across a very steep slope and buttressed with stone retaining walls. These switchbacks end at the top of the nearly vertical sandstone split known as "Wall Street." The path through "Wall Street" meanders between large angular sandstone blocks--fallen from the walls of the split. Towards the bottom of wall street, hikers encounter a solitary conifer growing towards the light at the top of the split. The north segment (the original Comanche Trail) also contains a series of switchbacks with stone retaining walls, and provides a view of some well known rock formations such as "Thor's Hammer."

**Bryce Canyon National Park  
Scenic Trails Historic District**

**Garfield County, Utah**

Name of Property

County and State

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Areas of Significance: Recreation, Landscape Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1917-1944

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: NPS Branch of Plans and Design

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District, possesses local significance under National Register criteria A for its association with the development of National Park Service (NPS) administrative facilities. It also possesses significance under criterion C as an example of a designed landscape. National Register areas of significance include recreation and landscape architecture. The period of significance extends from the date of construction of the first trail from the plateau rim into the canyons (1917), through the end of the historical period as defined by the National Register (1944). Historic contexts with which the historic district are associated include: 1) the development of recreation and administrative facilities within Bryce Canyon NP; and 2) the application of the principles of landscape architecture to the development of NPS facilities, in this instance trails. The district is included in the property type that contains resources associated with NPS administrative development, that is a component of the Bryce Canyon National Park Multiple Property Submission.

All of the trails included in this historic district were components of the Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA) Master Plans. Their placement in the natural landscape was designed to provide both visual and physical access to the eroded canyons and amphitheaters located below the rim of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Initiation and construction of the trail system ensued soon after the NPS assumed administrative control of the park from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The system incorporated some previously existing trails--those constructed while the area was under USFS administration. For example, it is likely that the Navajo Loop Trail (or portions thereof) was constructed in about 1917, as a result of the special appropriation secured by National Forest Supervisor J.W. Humphrey to provide access into the area below the plateau rim. A sketch map accompanying the 1924 Waugh Report, shows two "existing" trails labeled as the "Piute Trail" and "Navajo Trail" in the vicinity of the current Navajo Loop Trail.

These first trails accessed the area below the rim between Sunrise Point and Sunset Point (in the immediate vicinity of the UPC's Bryce Canyon Lodge). This was a popular area for park tourists during the historical period, since it offered the best opportunity to view the "hoodoos" close up. It is referred to in one historical document as the "sculpture garden."

The majority of the trails included in the historic district were completed between 1929 and 1935. Trails completed by 1929 include the Queen's Garden Trail, the Comanche Trail, the Navajo Trail, and the Peekaboo Loop Trail. (The NPS has dropped the use of the name "Comanche Trail." Rather, this pathway is incorporated as the north leg of the Navajo Loop Trail.) Of the four original trails, all but the Peekaboo Loop Trail and the upper segment of the Queen's Garden Trail were designated as "foot" trails. The Peekaboo Loop Trail accommodated both foot and horse travelers, and contained a developed spring with a horse trough and water fountain. Also completed were several connecting trails. One linked the Queen's Garden Trail with the junction of the Navajo and Comanche Trails. (Historically, this trail segment was designated as the Ute Trail, however this name has also been dropped from current NPS trails lists.)

**Bryce Canyon National Park  
Scenic Trails Historic District**

**Garfield County, Utah**

Name of Property

County and State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

1931 BCNP Trail Map (Map No. 4870); 1942 "Road and Trail System Plan" (Map No. 2102); 1969 "Trail System" (Map No. 2301-G); all available in "Trails File," maintenance office, BRCA Headquarters. USGS Bryce Point, Utah Quadrangle 1966; USGS Bryce Canyon Quadrangle 1966; Bryce Canyon Natural History Association "Bryce Canyon Hiking Map," 1991.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of Property: ± 51 acres

Map 1 & 2

UTM References:

Zone  
A 12

Easting  
See continuation sheet

Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The trails included in this district are shown as dashed line on the attached USGS topographic map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the trails includes the trail tread and the area within 10 feet on either side of the tread.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Janene Caywood

organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc.

date: December 31, 1994

street & number: P.O. Box 7086

telephone: 406 721-1958

city or town: Missoula

state: MT

zip code: 59807-7086

**Property Owner**

name/title: Bryce Canyon National Park

street & number: telephone: 801 834-5322

city or town: Bryce Canyon

state: UT zip code: 84717

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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### Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District. Garfield County, Utah

#### Description (continued)

A comparison of historic and modern maps indicates that the current alignment of the Navajo Loop Trail follows closely the trail as it was constructed in 1929. New tread and modifications to the original alignment have been made due to erosion, rock fall, etc., however these are to be expected given the character of the natural environment within BCNP. This trail continues to provide access to "Wall Street" and to the overlook of Thor's Hammer--vistas that are relatively unchanged since the historical period. The most significant change to this trail was the 1965 replacement the original stone and concrete stairway and guard wall (constructed 1929/1930) with a paved ramp and pipe railing.

**Queen's Garden Trail:** The Queen's Garden Trail (an unpaved graded trail between three and five feet in width) accesses the area below the plateau rim between Sunrise and Sunset points. The length of the Queen's Garden Trail is listed in various documents as .8 or 1.8 miles in length, depending upon whether or not one includes both the canyon bottom and switchback segments under the designation. This trail provides access to the rock formation known as Queen Victoria. The upper portion of the trail is cut through bare sandstone with little or no vegetation. However, vegetation increases as one descends into the bottom of Bryce Canyon. Scattered stands of ponderosa pine, bristlecone pine, and brushy understory vegetation occur adjacent to the trail. Notable features of the trail include two tunnels cut through a sandstone ridge.

A comparison of historic and modern maps indicates that the current alignment of the Queen's Garden Trail follows closely the trail as it was constructed in 1929. Modifications have been made due to erosion, rock fall, etc., however these are to be expected given the character of the natural environment within BRCA. This trail continues to provide access to the formation known as "Queen Victoria" and provides hikers with vistas that are little changed since the historical period.

**Peekaboo Loop Trail:** The Peekaboo Loop Trail is an unpaved graded trail, between three and five feet in width, and approximately 4.4 miles in length (measured round trip from Bryce Point). Beginning at Bryce Point, one descends rapidly via a series of switchbacks to the Peekaboo Loop trail head. A spring with a horse trough is located near the trail head. The east side of the trail descends into the bottom of Peekaboo Canyon, ascends a sandstone ridge and then descends once again into the bottom of Bryce Canyon. At this point one may take a connecting trail and exit the canyon bottom via Sunset Point, or proceed around the west side of the loop. A short series of switchbacks accesses a saddle in a sandstone ridge, from which point the trail crosses back into the drainage basin of Peekaboo canyon. Continuing southward the trail skirts the bottom of the formation known as the Wall of Windows and truncates another narrow sandstone ridge via a tunnel.

A comparison of historic and modern maps indicates that the current alignment of the Peekaboo Loop Trail follows closely the trail as it was constructed in 1929. New tread and modifications to the original alignment have been made due to erosion, rock fall, etc., however these are to be expected given the character of the natural environment within BRCA. This trail continues to provide access to vistas such as the view to the "Wall of Windows."

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      7 and 8                      Page      2

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**Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District.**  
**Garfield County, Utah**

### Description (continued)

**Fairyland Trail:** The Fairyland Trail is an unpaved graded trail, approximately 5 miles in length, and between two and five feet in width. It accesses the area below Fairyland Point, north of Sunrise Point. This trail descends into the bottoms of Fairyland and Campbell canyons. Bare eroded sandstone is the prominent landscape feature in the upper portions of the trail--especially where it skirts Boat Mesa. Pinon-Juniper forest is present in the canyon bottoms.

Comparison of historic and modern trail maps indicate that although some modifications to the alignment have taken place, the character of the trail (its width, route, etc.) remains substantially unaltered.

**Rim Trail:** The Rim Trail, as the name implies, parallels the edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau between Fairyland Point to the north and Bryce Point to the south, providing an overview of the canyons and amphitheaters below the plateau. Due to the heavy amount of traffic that this trail receives (especially between Sunrise Point and Bryce Point, this trail is wider than the trails under the rim. For most of its 5.3 miles, it lies almost directly adjacent to the rim, and the width varies between four and five feet. In areas that receive heavy tourist traffic, the trail is paved with asphalt (e.g. the overlook at Inspiration Point and Bryce Point). However, for most of its length, the trail has a natural surface.

Although some modifications have been made to this trail, for the most part the alignment has not changed since the historical period. Modifications appear to be limited to the application of asphalt to heavy traffic areas.

### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

By 1934, the NPS had completed initial construction of the remaining trails in the district, the Rim Trail and the Fairyland Trail. The segment of the Rim Trail between Bryce Point and the Sunset Point vicinity was constructed during the 1931 field season, at the same time as a trail connecting the Peekaboo Loop Trail in the bottom of Peekaboo Canyon with Bryce Point. The completion of these two trails created a hiking loop whereby hikers could incorporate the below-rim trails between Sunset Point and Bryce Point and the new segment of Rim Trail that would provide an overview or vista of the sculpture garden below the rim. The segment of Rim Trail between Sunrise Point and Fairyland Point was constructed between 1934 and 1935 by CCC enrollees from Camp NP3. This project (#3-14a), was entitled "Horse Trails," and included construction of the Fairyland Trail and segments of the Under-the-Rim Trail.

The Fairyland Trail also was constructed in two segments. The portion of the trail that lies within Campbell Canyon was constructed sometime prior to 1931 (as shown on a U.S.G.S map of BRCA based upon 1931/1932 survey and aerial photograph information). This trail extended eastward down Campbell Canyon to the town of Tropic, and likely existed prior to establishment of the park. The segment of trail that descends from Fairyland Point into Fairyland Canyon and around the base of Boat Mesa to connect with the Campbell Canyon segment was constructed in 1934 and 1935 by members of CCC camp NP3. Like other scenic trails in BRCA, the Fairyland Trail provided access to the geological sculptures below the rim. Boat Mesa is a notable feature, as is the "Chinese Wall and "Tower Bridge."

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 and 10 Page 3

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**Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District.**  
**Garfield County, Utah**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Upon completion of the Rim Trail and Fairyland Trail in the mid 1930s, the scenic trails system within the park was complete. With the exception of the first trail constructed by the USFS, the remaining trails construction took place under the direct supervision of the park engineer and landscape architect. Thus the scenic trails system as a whole, represents a local application of NPS design principles.

### UTM Coordinates

#### Navajo Loop Trail

	Zone	Easting	Northing
Point A	Zone 12	397160	4164400
Point B	Zone 12	397160	4164100
Point C	Zone 12	397190	4163820

#### Queens Garden Trail

Point A	Zone 12	397430	4165000
Point B	Zone 12	398140	4164290
Point C	Zone 12	397840	4164330
Point D	Zone 12	397600	4164660

#### Peekaboo Loop Trail

Point A	Zone 12	397770	4162700
Point B	Zone 12	397500	4162630
Point C	Zone 12	397500	4163990
Point D	Zone 12	397520	4163670
Point E	Zone 12	397840	4163410

#### Fairyland Trail

Point A	Zone 12	398870	4167300
Point B	Zone 12	399420	4166940
Point C	Zone 12	400800	4165900
Point D	Zone 12	399600	4165700
Point E	Zone 12	399050	4165520
Point F	Zone 12	397480	4165420

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      10 and Photographs      Page      4

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**Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District  
Garfield County, Utah**

### UTM Coordinates (continued)

#### Rim Trail

Point A	Zone 12	397880	4162400
Point B	Zone 12	397700	4162180
Point C	Zone 12	397100	4162700
Point D	Zone 12	396800	4163640
Point E	Zone 12	397160	4164400
Point F	Zone 12	397430	4165000
Point G	Zone 12	397320	4165830
Point H	Zone 12	397320	4166560
Point I	Zone 12	398870	4167300

### Photographs

1. Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District
  2. Garfield County, Utah
  3. Janene Caywood (HRA, Missoula, MT)
  4. June, 1992
  5. NPS Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, Colorado
- (Information in items 1-5 applies to photos of trails included in this district)

#### Photo #1

Navajo Loop Trail. Looking west to trail tunnel (above Wall Street)

#### Photo #2

Navajo Loop Trail. Looking SE towards switchbacks (above Wall Street).

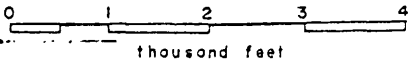
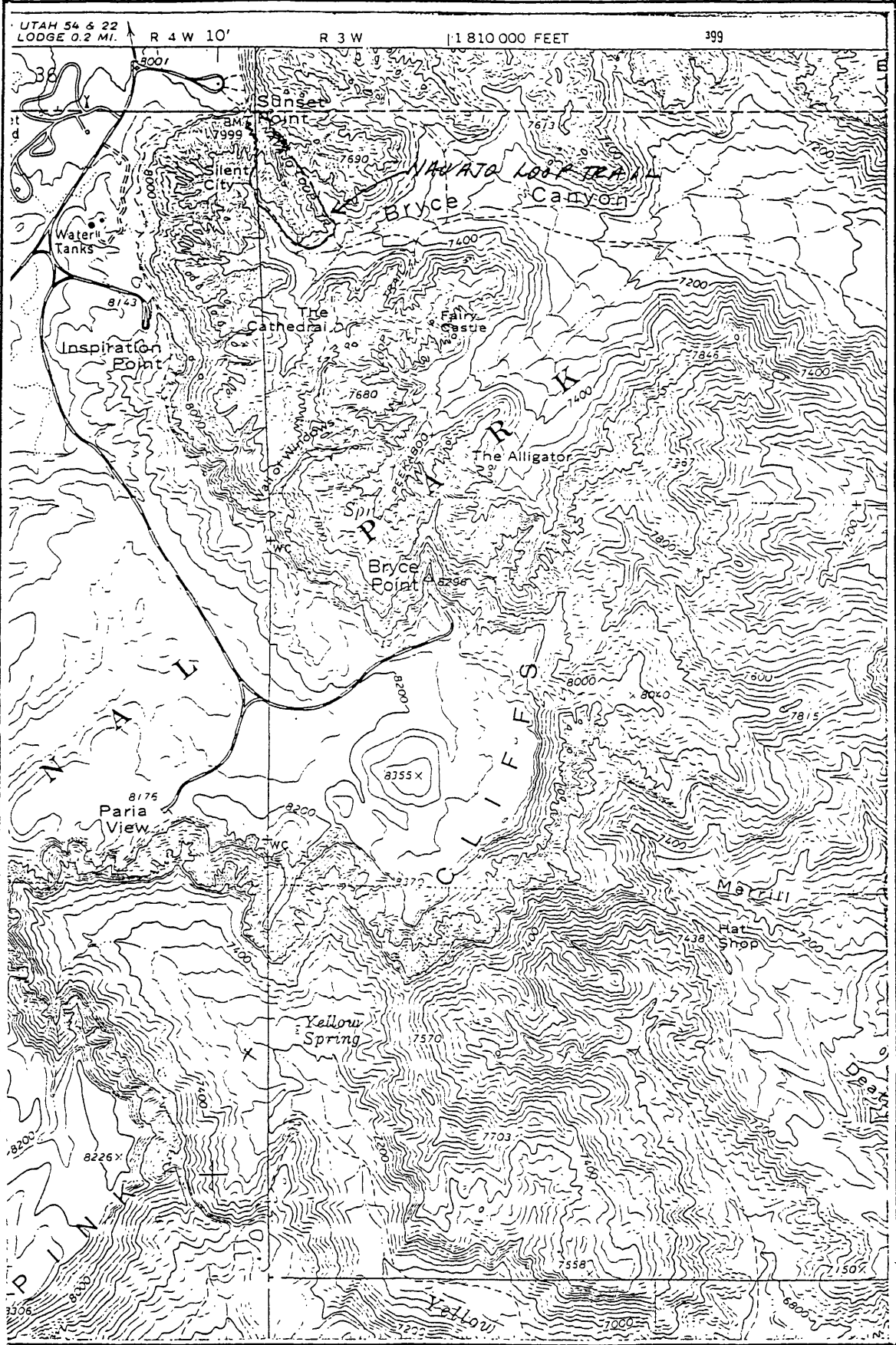
#### Photo #3

Navajo Loop Trail. Looking NNE to stone retaining walls in trail (above Wall Street).

#### Photo #4

Navajo Loop Trail. Looking NE along trail in canyon at bottom of loop.

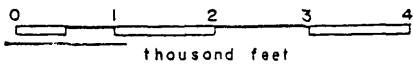
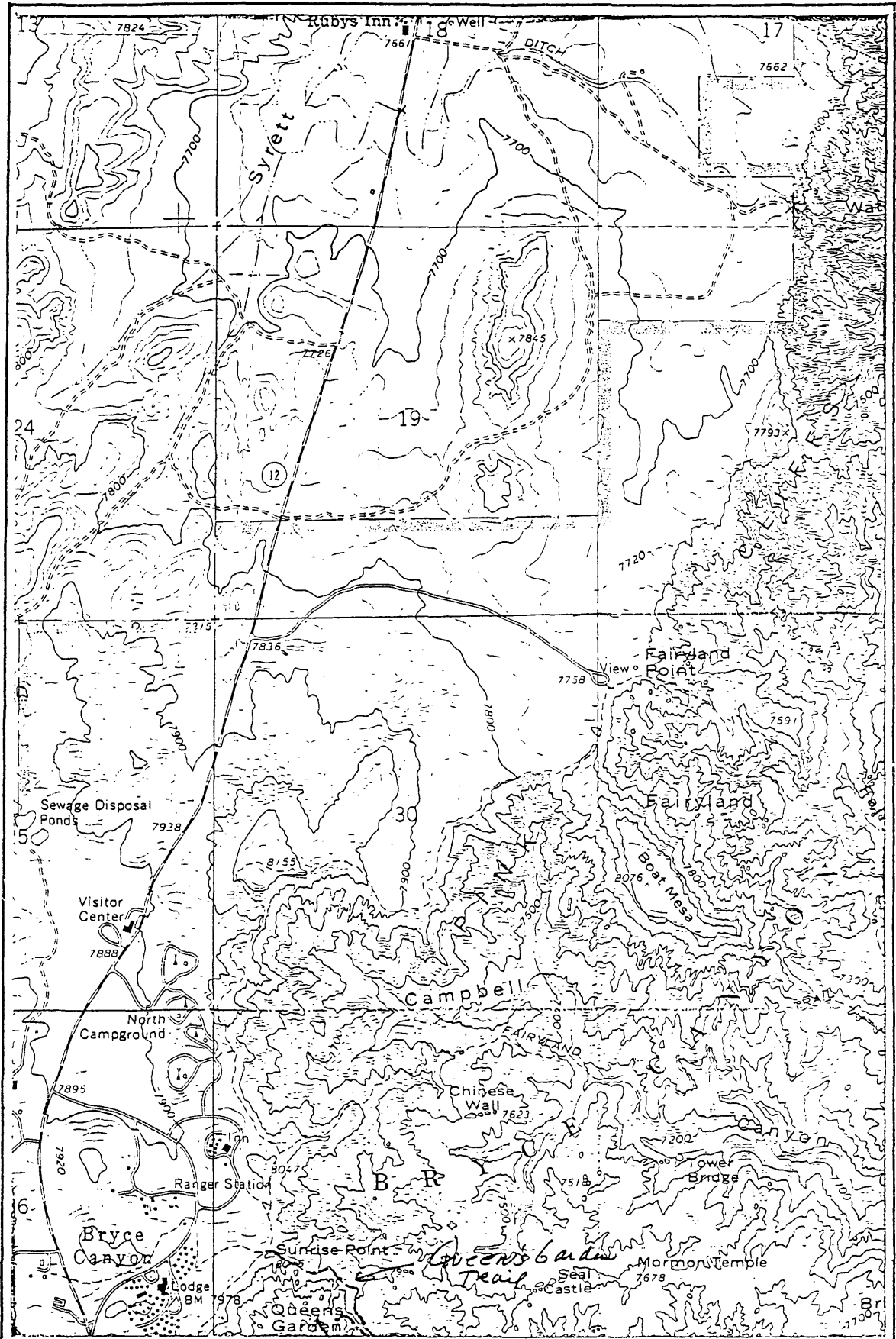




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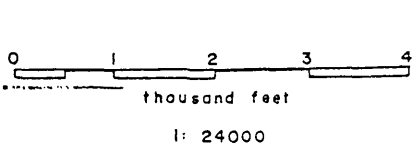
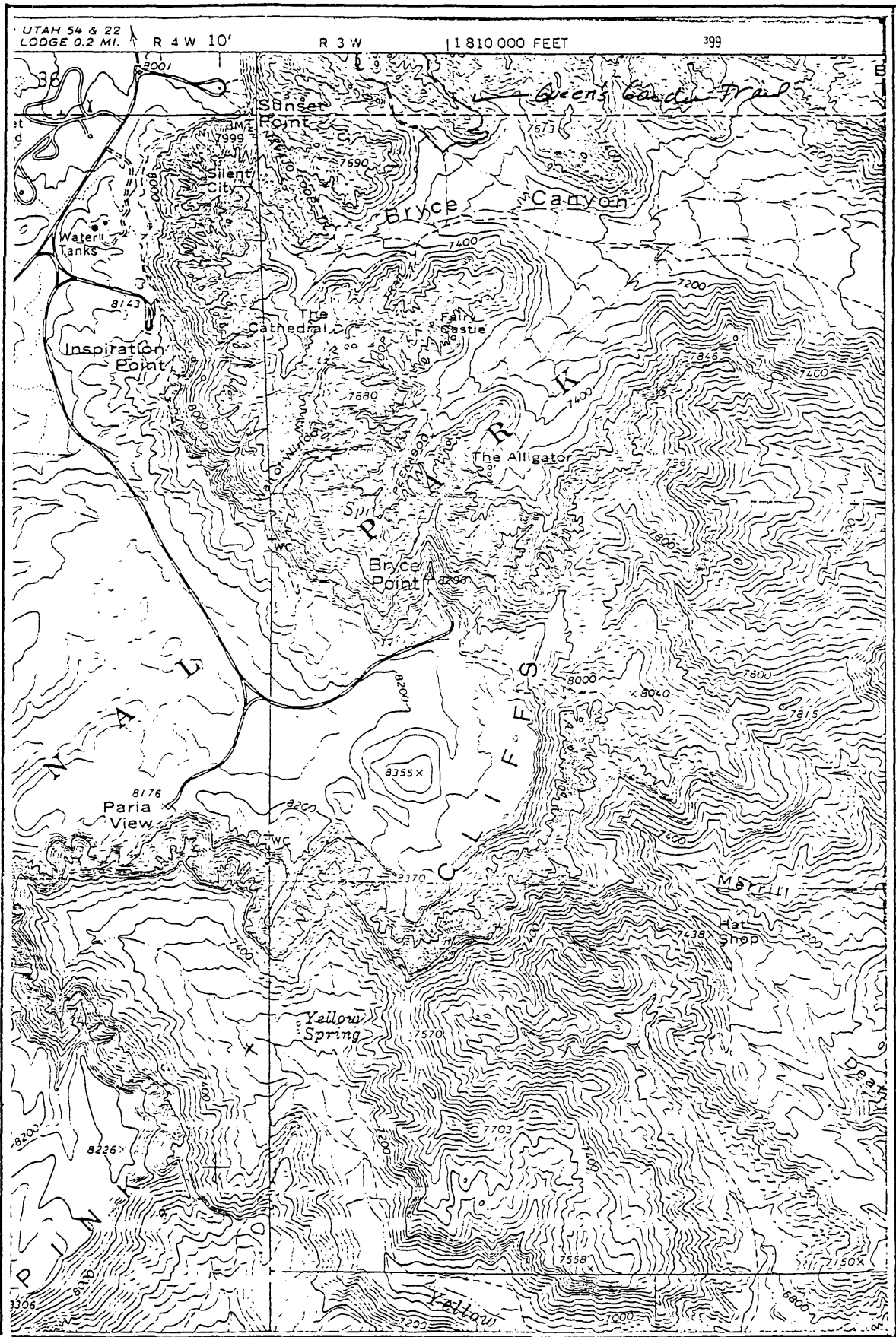
USGS 7.5' Quad BRYCE POINT  
 Sec. 6 T 37 S R 3 W  
 County GARFIELD



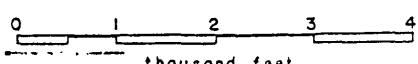
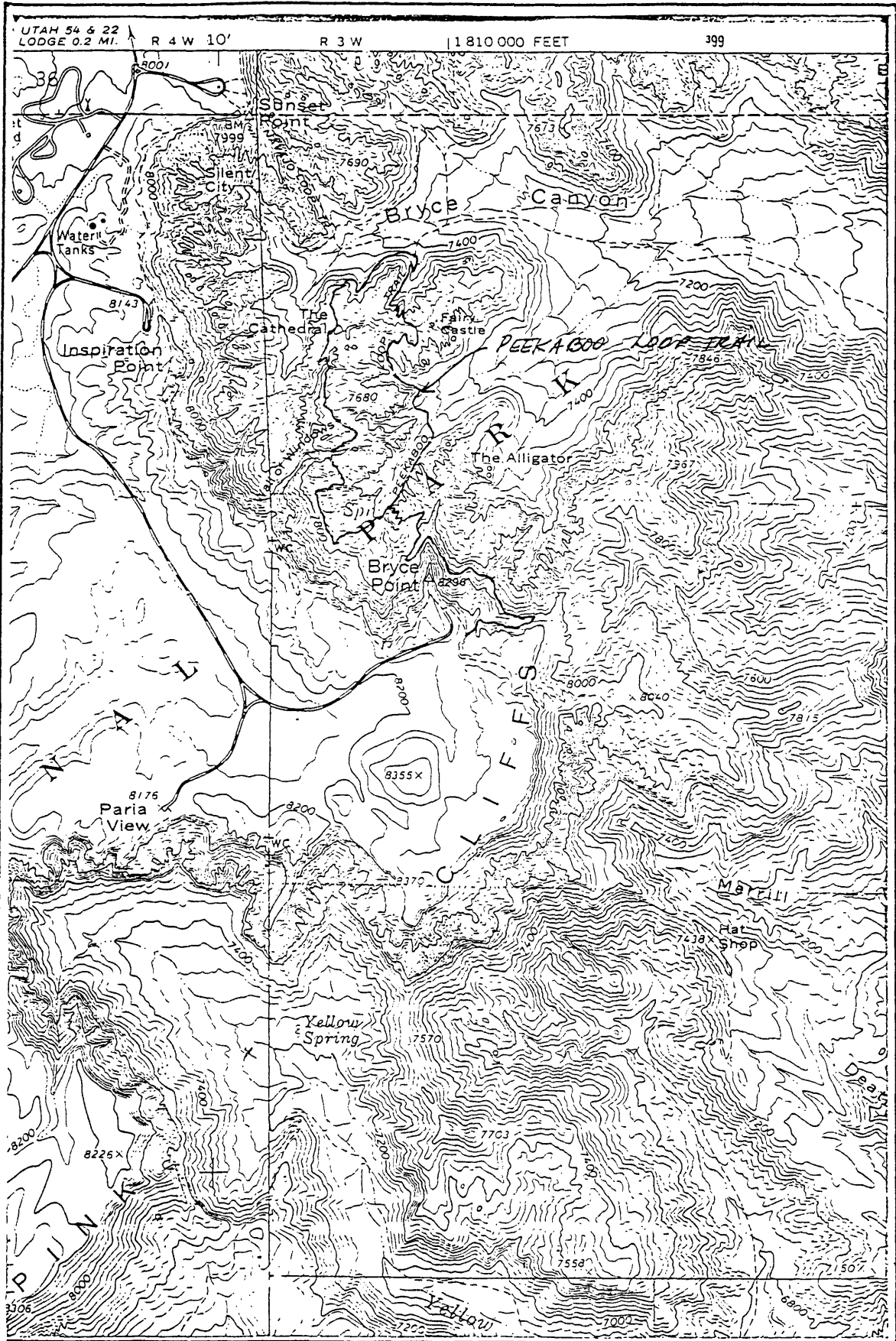
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USGS 7.5' Quad BRYCE CANYON, UTAH  
 Sec. 31 T. 36S R. 3W  
 County GARFIELD



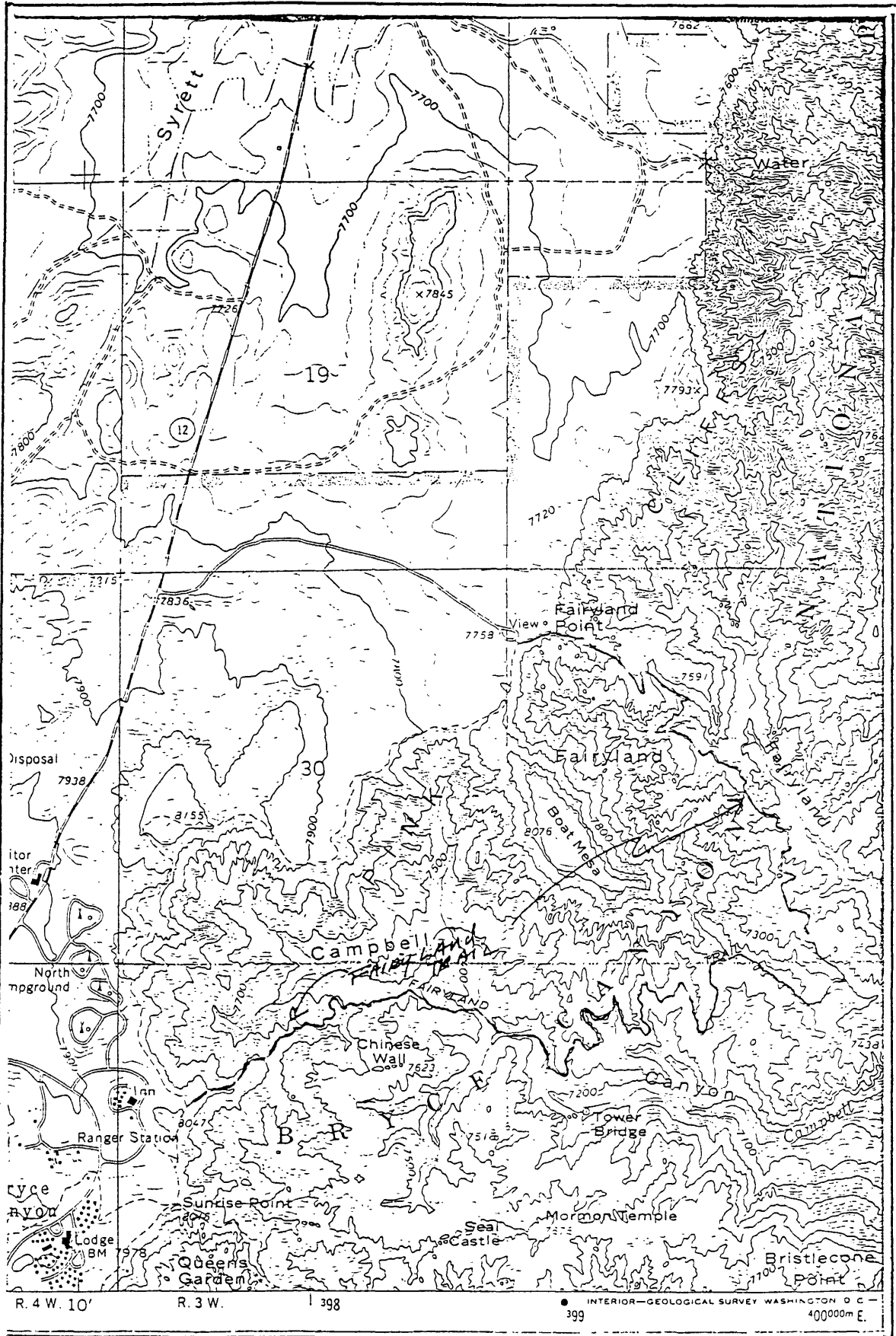
USGS 7.5' Quad BRYCE POINT  
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 County GARFIELD



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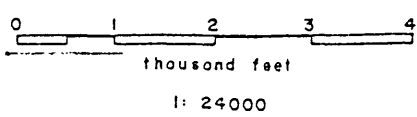


USGS 7.5' Quad BRYCE POINT  
 Sec. 6 & 7 T. 37 S R. 3 W  
 County GARFIELD

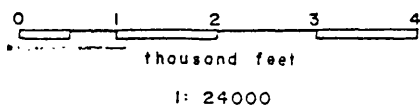
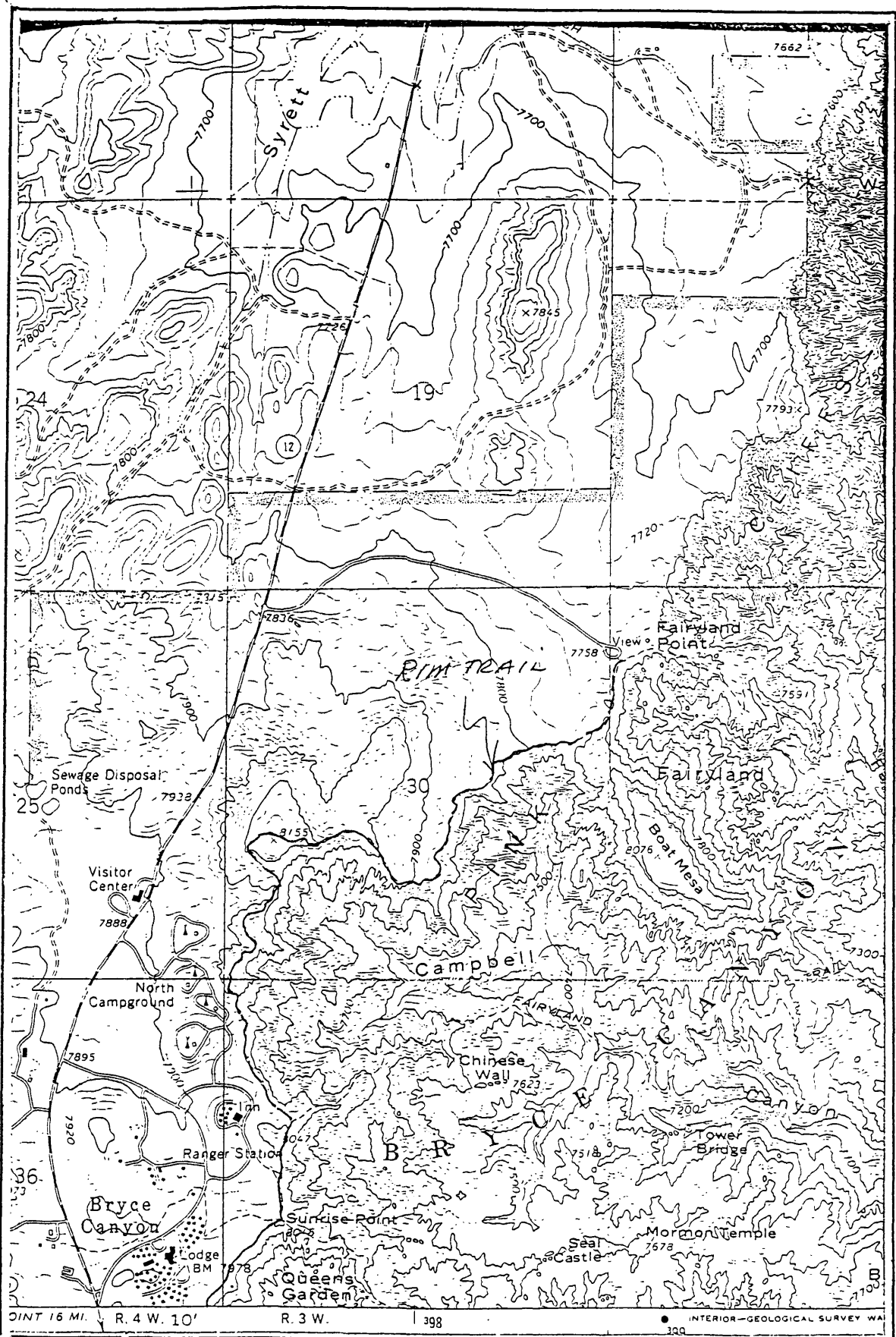


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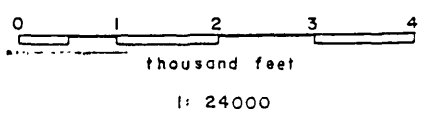
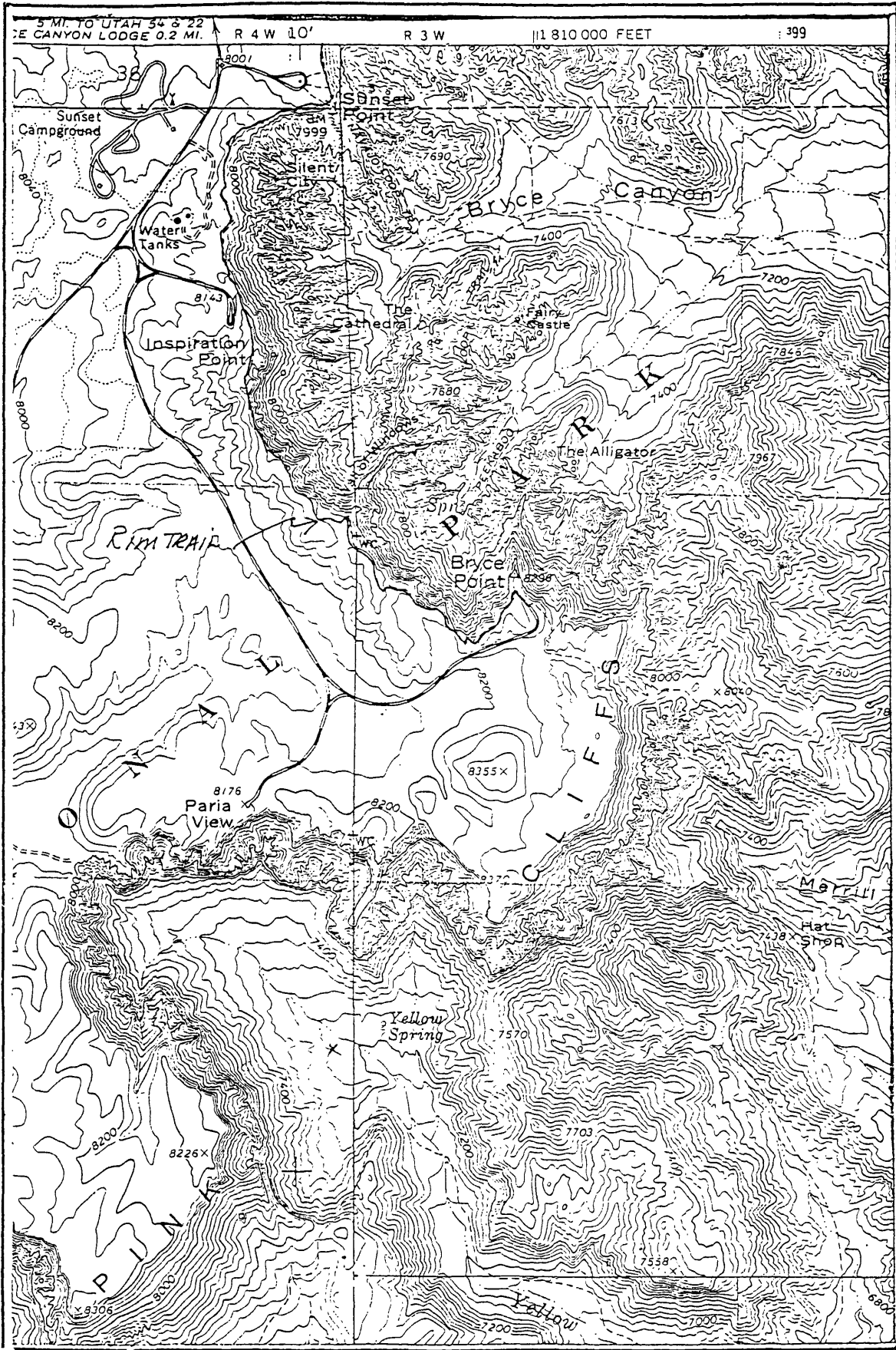


USGS 7.5' Quad BRYCE CANYON, UTAH  
 Sec. 29, 30, 31 T. 36 S R. 3 W  
 County GARFIELD



USGS 7.5' Quad Bryce Canyon  
 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ T. \_\_\_\_\_ R. \_\_\_\_\_  
 County Garfield





USGS 7.5' Quad Bryce Point  
 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ T. \_\_\_\_\_ R. \_\_\_\_\_  
 County Garfield

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photographs      Page    5

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**Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District  
Garfield County, Utah**

### Photographs (continued)

Photo #5

Navajo Loop Trail. Looking SE to switchbacks--east segment of loop.

Photo #6

Navajo Loop Trail. Looking South along trail near end of east side of loop.

Photo #7

Queen's Garden Trail. Looking SSE to junction of Queen's Garden access trail with Rim Trail.

Photo #8

Queen's Garden Trail. Looking E along trail where it is excavated into hillslope, near trailhead.

Photo #9

Queen's Garden Trail. Looking NW along trail to tunnel.

Photo #10

Peekaboo Loop Trail. Looking N along trail on descent into canyon bottom.

Photo #11

Peekaboo Loop Trail. Looking S to Peekaboo Loop Trail/connecting trail junction in canyon bottom

Photo #12

Peekaboo Loop Trail. Looking N to switchbacks--west side of loop.

Photo #13

Peekaboo Loop Trail. Looking N through trail tunnel on west side of loop, across from Wall of Windows.

Photo #14

Peekaboo Loop Trail. Looking south over switchbacks.

Photo #15

Peekaboo Loop Trail. Looking NW to water trough/corral in bottom of Peekaboo Canyon.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photographs      Page    6

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**Bryce Canyon National Park Scenic Trails Historic District  
Garfield County, Utah**

### Photographs (continued)

Photo #16

Rim Trail. Looking SW towards Rim Trail from Bryce Point.

Photo #17

Rim Trail. Looking N along Rim Trail just south of Inspiration Point.

Photo #18

Rim Trail. Looking E along Rim Trail in vicinity of Sunset Point.

Photo #19

Rim Trail. Looking N along Rim Trail from vicinity of North Campground.

Photo #20

Fairyland Trail. Looking SE along hillslope segment of trail.

Photo #21

Fairyland Trail. Looking SE along hillslope tread.

Photo #22

Fairyland Trail. Looking NW along trail in canyon bottom.

Photo #23

Fairyland Trail. Looking SE to junction with trail to Fairyland View.