

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Julien, Denis, Inscription
other names/site 42 GR 0111

2. Location

street & number mouth of Hell Roaring Canyon, Green River Canyon not for publication
city, town 22.5 miles west of Moab X vicinity
state Utah code UT county Grand code 019 zip code 84532

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>		Total <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	
		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 2-11-91
Signature of certifying official Date
Utah State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 4/10/91
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Bureau of Land Management, Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Autumnell Cree 5/28/91
See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: record of passing

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: record of passing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This site consists of historic inscriptions on a sandstone block in a side canyon of the Green River in southeastern Utah. The site is located approximately 250 yards east of the Green River in the mouth of Hell Roaring Canyon. It is on the face of a sandstone cliff on the south side of the canyon mouth. The block of sandstone on which the inscription has been placed is 199 inches long and 56 inches high. The block rests on a layer of shale about three feet thick, which is today somewhat undercutting or eroding out from underneath the sandstone block. The base of the block is at the top of a 50-foot talus slope.

There are two inscription panels on the sandstone block: 1) the main inscription and rock art of Denis Julien on the face, and 2) the signatures of later explorers on the east end.

Julien panel:

D. Julien
1836
3 mai

To the right of this inscription, the French trapper carved a boat with a mast and below it a flying bird, or sunburst, or flower design (see photos).

Later signatures:

R. B. Worthy, M. McFarland, USRS, July 1914
W. R. Adams, July 31, 1914

Both represent workers of the U.S. Reclamation Service (now Bureau of Reclamation) doing survey for potential dam sites.

E. T. Woolverton, Mart Baker, N. E. Wolverton, 7/1/05
They were early prospectors.

Bud Wood and Cole Allred, 5/14/21

P. L. Herron, 1935 March

These are unknown, but were likely early cowboys or prospectors.

The Julien inscription, by far the most important and intriguing part, is in excellent condition. It was chalked in at least once in the past as was common in this region, though little residue presently remains. Some minor vandalism (i.e. scratching) by visitors in recent years is now hardly noticeable since the rock has proven harder than it first appeared.

B. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
___ nationally X statewide ___ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Exploration/Settlement</u>	<u>1836</u>	<u>1836</u>
<u>Conservation</u>	<u>1914</u>	<u>1914</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	<u>N/A</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	
_____	_____	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This 1836 inscription is significant as one of the rare sites associated with the non-Native American trappers and explorers who predated the permanent settlement of the Utah territory (1847). Inscriptions are the only remaining evidence of the early fur trappers and explorers in Utah, and only about a dozen of them have been identified. Denis Julien, an American fur trapper of French descent, was the most prolific inscriber, etching his name and date of passage along waterways in eastern Utah at least eight times between 1831 and 1844. This inscription is especially significant for its graphics: a sunburst-type design and a one-masted boat. The boat indicates that Julien used a sail to help navigate his craft up the Green River, a mode of travel undocumented by any other inscriptions or records. Of secondary significance are the 1914 inscriptions on the east side of the same rock by members of the U.S. Reclamation Service during their early explorations in the area. The studies produced by this agency have served as the basis for virtually all of the major reclamation projects undertaken in this region.

Fur Trading/Exploration

Denis Julien (also spelled by others: "Dionicio" in Spanish; "Julian" in English; and pronounced "Julie" in Ute) was an American fur trapper of French Huguenot extraction who was active in the Colorado Basin at the peak of the fur trade in the 1820s and 30s. Although his early background is unknown to history, he was apparently born about 1772. Baptismal records in St. Louis list the christening of three children and burial of one between 1798 and 1809. The first was born in 1793 to his Indian wife, Catherine. It is estimated that they were married by 1792, warranting a birth date in the early 1770s.

By 1808, he had established himself sufficiently in the Indian trade in Iowa to be referred to by Governor Meriwether Lewis in a letter to the Secretary of War as an "old and much respected trader among the Ioways." Later, he and his brother enlisted for military service in Northern Louisiana in 1809, and he served as a witness to the Iowa Treaty of 1815. In this latter decade he became active in the upper Missouri River trade, receiving licenses in 1816 and 1817. Throughout his career he was associated with the enterprises of the Chouteau and Robidoux families, both trading with them and working for them. Julien first crossed the Continental

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Divide in 1827, accompanying Francisco Robidoux (brother of Antoine, author of the famous inscription) from Taos to "retrieve some caches in the direction of the land of the Utes." From that time till he disappears from view after 1844, he is recorded only in dated rock inscriptions he left in the Uintah Basin and Southeastern Utah.

Despite his late arrival west of the Rockies (apparently 1827), Julien must be ascribed pre-eminence in leaving his dated "mark" on southeastern Utah. This is more significant because early European explorers were either fur trappers or horse and slave traders who left little or nothing in the way of other physical remains and certainly no permanent structures in two-million-acre Grand County and, indeed, Eastern Utah. An earlier 1831 inscription by Julien 200 miles northeast at White Rocks in the Uintah Basin established the pattern and is only preceded in Northeastern Utah by William Ashley's signature, "Ashley 1825," along the Green River at Red Gorge (Morrill, 1937).

By contrast, the more renowned Robidoux Inscription, which is already recognized as a National Register site, dates from November 13, 1837, over a year and one-half later. Both, of course, represent the important themes of Commerce and Exploration/Settlement, and both were engaged in fur trapping and trading, especially for beaver. In the course of this commercial venture they were drawn to explore farther and farther afield in order to exploit regions hitherto untrapped. This led them to Eastern Utah, though by different paths. Due to this establishing of forts in Colorado and Utah and sponsoring of teams of trappers, Robidoux is better known and may have been Julien's sponsor for this voyage.

Why is this Julien inscription (and the other four signatures apparently from the same trip up the Colorado and Green Rivers, for that matter) the oldest historic inscription in the region? Put another way, why is there no documented evidence for the passage of others alleged to have traveled through the area in the early 1800s, especially the Spanish and Mexican explorers and traders? Interestingly enough, there are no reported inscriptions in Utah of the explorations from New Mexico of Juan Maria Rivera (circa 1761) or Fathers Dominguez and Escalante (1776), or the eventual Spanish Trail. Written documents in the Spanish and Mexican archives have been almost the sole source for validation and reconstruction of their earlier two routes. Earlier travelers probably tried to leave no trace to avoid legal problems with the Spanish and Mexican governments about permitted areas, as well as Indian problems. The lack of recognizable rock graffiti from users of the later Spanish Trail may stem from the lack of tradition or predisposition to "sign" points along the way or a non-distinctive style. Or, it may be as simple as dominant illiteracy among those involved. This makes the Julien inscriptions--clearly documenting otherwise only surmised explorations--of particular import. The Westerners Club of Salt Lake City and the Dan O'Laurie Museum of Moab recently made a latex mold of the Julien inscription to insure its survival and future display in original form, based on its importance in Utah and Western history.

While John Wesley Powell is most widely known as the first European explorer of the lower Green River and Cataract Canyon, it appears that Denis Julien deserves this honor. It is clear from the progression of dates, i.e., May 3 at Hell Roarin' and May 16 at Bowknot Bend some 16 miles upriver, that the voyage was south to north against the current. This would have made the use of sail virtually imperative. It

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is, therefore, possible that this trip represents a return voyage after an early spring spent trapping down river, since May seems quite late to trap for good pelts, especially in such a low altitude, high temperature zone. If this analysis is correct, Julien may have been the first to complete a round trip on the river. In support of this explanation, it should be noted that construction of an effective sailboat would seem beyond most fur trappers' abilities out on their own. More likely, it was built in the Uintah Basin at one of the trader base camps such as White Rocks (earlier Fort Robidoux?).

Such an excursion was probably part of a systematic search to expand the productive region for gathering "plews." In this connection, O. D. Marston (1967) cites Zenas Leonard's observation at the 1833 annual summer rendezvous of the mountain men in Wyoming:

"These men (500 or more) had been engaged in trapping in the vicinity of this rendezvous for a long time, and caught nearly all the beaver, and were thinking about moving to some other section of the country. There was a large tract of land lying to the southwest--which was said to abound with beaver and otherwise suited as a trading country."

Likely, Julien's frequent inscriptions along the canyon wall on this trip were intended to claim the turf for trapping as much as to insure a record of his passage.

Of the eight known Julien inscriptions, this is the most complete and meaningful. It is the only one to include illustrations and symbols. Given the important information on river travel gleaned from those illustrations, this is clearly the most important one known. Two others have been listed in the National Register: an 1844 inscription (Julien Inscription Panel) in nearby Arches National Park and an 1836 inscription downstream in Canyonlands National Park (San Juan County).

Although Ashley used hide covered frame boats in 1825 in the uppermost reaches of the Green River (Morrill 1937), Julien's solidly backed autobiography on the "rock" at Hell Roarin' Canyon secures his claim to be the first to navigate the lower reaches of the Green River and Cataract Canyon of the Colorado. And he did it in a boat equipped with sail.

Conservation/Reclamation

Evidence of the wide ranging surveys for potential dam sites in the western United States is provided by the second group of names at the site. Worthy, McFarland, and Adams were employees of the U.S. Reclamation Service (now Bureau of Reclamation) which were engaged in that search along the Green River in the vicinity of Hell Roarin' Canyon. The locality probably served as a campsite. Verification of the date is provided by a 1909 photo showing no indication of this 1914 carving, although the Julien inscription is quite clear and legible.

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Resulting from this and other similar efforts were several withdrawals for dam sites along the Colorado, including two near the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers and the eventual Glen Canyon dam site (Pierson, 1981).

The reclamation movement had two purposes: 1) accumulation of water for irrigation and electric power, and 2) "reclaiming", or making usable, more land for agriculture. The effort, based on a naive understanding of desert ecology in Western North America, was only partially successful but did stimulate considerable exploring and acquisition of data on various topics including geology and hydrology. All current and past dam building in the Western United States for the last 100 years has been based upon these early studies.

While not significant for the persons involved, the signatures are representative of this great theme in the history of the American West. As such, they add interest and depth to the site's importance.

Mining

Also found in the eastern section are the names of E. T. Wolverton and his son, N. E. Wolverton, both closely associated with early gold mining in Southeastern Utah. They were later extensively involved in prospecting in the Henry Mountain area south of Hanksville, Utah, particularly focusing on refinding of lost Spanish mines. As part of their ore milling efforts, they built and operated a combination ore, grist and sawmill. The date of July 1, 1905, in this inscription, was near their time of arrival in Utah and while they were still prospecting over a wider range than the Henry Mountains. Apparently they sought to leave their names as a register of their passing similar to Julien's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kelly, Charles, "The Mysterious 'D. Julien,'" Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 6, No. 3 (July 1933). (pp. 82-88)
Marston, Otis Dock. "Denis Julien," in Hafen, LeRoy, ed., Mountain Men and the Fur Trade in the Far West, Vol 7. Glendale, Calif.: A. H. Clark & Co., 1967. (pp. 177-190)
Hoffman, John F. Arches National Park - An Illustrated Guide. San Diego: Western Recreational Publications, 1985. (pp. 21, 32, 45, 57)
Topping, Gary. "History on the Rocks," Beehive History, No. 15 (1989). (pp. 23-26)

___ See continuation sheet

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
- X Federal agency
- ___ Local Government
- ___ University
- ___ Other

Specify repository:

Bureau of Land Management, Moab

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>5/8/8/5/2/0</u>	<u>4/2/6/8/6/2/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The site is located within the NE 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 6 (unsurveyed), T26S, R18E. USGS 7.5 min. quad "Mineral Canyon", 1988. Boundaries of the actual parcel included in the nomination can be described as circle with a radius of 30 feet centered on the inscription rock.

___ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The description provided above includes the rock upon which the historic inscriptions are located and additional amount of surrounding property deemed sufficient to convey some sense of the site's surroundings.

___ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lloyd M. Pierson and Bruce Louthan
organization Grand County Historic Preservation Commission date November 1990
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city or town Moab state Utah zip code 84532