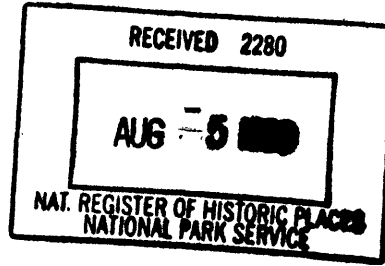


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



1096

1. Name of Property

historic name Lesley Morrell Line Cabin and Corral

other names/site number Lesley's Cabin; Cathedral Valley Line Shack

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication N/A  
city or town Torrey vicinity x  
state Utah code UT county Wayne code 055  
zip code 84775

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.)

Ronald M Greenberg 8-4-99  
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service  
Federal agency

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Harjen 8-15-96  
Signature of commenting official Date

Utah State Historic Preservation Officer  
State agency



Current Functions

Cat:  Vacant/Not In Use  Sub:  Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other/Vernacular

Materials

foundation  Stone   
roof  Shingle   
walls  Log   
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheet.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations - none apply

Areas of Significance  Agriculture

Period of Significance  1935-1946

Significant Dates  1935

Significant Person  N/A

Cultural Affiliation  N/A

Builders  Paul Christensen; Les H. Morrell (reassembled original cabin)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheet.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

O'Bannon, Patrick: *Capitol Reef National Park Historic Resource Study and Survey Report*, NPS, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO, June 1992.

Capitol Reef N.P. Archives, Torrey, Utah

Bureau of Land Management Records, Salt Lake City, Utah

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

Name of repository: Capitol Reef N.P. Archives, Torrey, Utah

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.1

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	468150	4259370	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses a 0.3 acre area in which the Lesley Morrell Line Cabin, associated horse corral, and connecting "yard" are located. This area corresponds to the UTM reference point noted above.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the historic line cabin, the adjacent horse corral, and yard, all of which were historically associated with the operations of the line cabin.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Benjamin Brower, Historian  
organization for: National Park Service, IMFA, CPSSO date 1995  
street & number 12795 W. Alameda Parkway P.O. Box 25287 telephone (303) 499-7195  
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80225-0287

Additional Documentation

Continuation Sheets - included.

Maps - see attached USGS map indicating the property's location.

Photographs - included.

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Property Owner

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name Capitol Reef National Park  
street & number HC 70, Box 15 telephone (801) 425-3791  
city or town Torrey state UT zip code 84775-9602

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Lesley Morrell Line Cabin  
Wayne County, Utah  
Capitol Reef National Park MPS

Section number 7, 8 Page 1

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**Description**

The Lesley Morrell Line Cabin and Corral are located in the northern portion of Capitol Reef National Park approximately 1,500 feet west of Cathedral Valley Road, and 1.5 miles north of Hartnet Road Junction. The cabin is a one-room, one-story, rectangular building measuring roughly 10 feet by 14 feet. It is constructed of wood and has a wood shingled roof. The cabin maintains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the time of its relocation by Morrell in the mid-1930s.

The Lesley Morrell Line Cabin is constructed of squared logs with half-lapped corner connections; it rests on a rubble stone foundation. The gaps between the logs are chinked with mortar, and in some locations, are covered with thin wood battens. The gabled roof and the gable end walls are clad with wood shingles. Lateral floor joists are set into notches in the lower two rows of log framing. The single entry is centrally located in the north elevation. A small six-pane window is located immediately east of the entry in this elevation. A small, square window opening is centered in the south elevation. The interior consists of a single room with no ceiling.

In front of the cabin is an NPS fence; a historic photo shows that a vernacular fence was once located there. An old hitching rail is located next to the NPS fence. Located about 25 feet from the cabin, is an associated post-and-rail corral, approximately 20 by 20 feet in size. The corral has a feedbox and grain storage boxes on the side nearest the cabin. The area between the hitching rail and the corral contains historic debris, and is included in the boundary for the property.

While the cabin has retained its original appearance, the building has deteriorated over time; currently steps are being taken by the park and Morrell family to restore and preserve it. Restoration includes the removal of non-historic chipboard on the interior walls, rehangng of the entry door, and replacement of the roof and a missing front step. The corral is in poor condition; there are plans to restore it as well.

**Statement of Significance**

This nomination is part of the "Capitol Reef National Park Multiple Property Submission." The Lesley Morrell Line Cabin is associated with the historic context "Grazing in Capitol Reef National Park, 1880-1946."

The Lesley Morrell Line Cabin has local significance under National Register Criterion A for its association with agriculture (cattle ranching) in the Capitol Reef area. Since ca. 1935, the Lesley Morrell Line Cabin has served as shelter for the cowboys responsible for the cattle of Les H. Morrell and his descendants. From 1952 until 1970, the cabin was used by Rulen Morrell who grazed in the area. The line cabin is one of the few surviving resources representing the ranching era in Capitol Reef National Park which is eligible under National Register criteria. The period of significance for the line cabin is from its construction on its current

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Lesley Morrell Line Cabin  
Wayne County, Utah  
Capitol Reef National Park MPS

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

site in ca. 1935 to 1946, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register.

According to the family, the line cabin was built in the 1920s on Lake Creek (Thousand Lakes Mountain) by Paul Christensen as a summer residence for the NPS Form family at the location of their sawmill. About 1935, Christensen gave up his sawmill operation and sold the cabin to Lesley H. Morrell, a local cattleman. Morrell disassembled and moved the cabin, then reassembled it on its current site. The building served as a winter camp for cowboys tending Morrell's herd. The cabin was still in use by the Morrell family until 1970, when it was sold to the NPS. It ceased to be utilized on a regular basis after the stove was removed from the building. The building is now vacant.

The Lesley Morrell Line Cabin was constructed at a time when drought and high livestock numbers had brought overgrazing of western ranges to a crisis situation. The 1934 passage of the Taylor Grazing Act was intended to deal with this environmental crisis in order to make ranching economically profitable once again. Prior to the Taylor Grazing Act, huge roaming herds of cattle and sheep competed for the scarce forage of the Capitol Reef area in under-restricted grazing which resulted in major ecological damage. After 1934, a permit system was introduced on federal lands by which the open range was divided into grazing allotments leased to cattlemen by the Department of Interior. This system was designed to favor local ranchers as it was believed they would be the most responsible and sensitive to environmental considerations. The permit system ended the era of wide ranging, nomadic livestock grazing and led to a more predicable grazing environment: the same ranchers grazed in the same ranges from year to year. This new situation led to the construction of many livestock associated facilities on the range such as new wells and corrals, as well as line shacks.

The Lesley Morrell Line Cabin and Corral are one of the best preserved extant resources representing ranching activities in Capitol Reef National Park. They exemplify the kind of range improvements that became common in the two decades preceding World War II. The remote location of the Lesley Morrell Line Cabin and Corral testifies to the large geographic areas utilized by cattlemen and the physical isolation experienced by those engaged in ranching activities. In addition, it is a product of larger political, economic, and environmental trends which had great historical impact on the rural society of the Capitol Reef area in the early 20th century.