

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 N/A  
other names/site number Canyonlands National Park Multiple Resource

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication  
city, town Moab X vicinity  
state Utah code UT county San Juan code 037 zip code N/A  
Wayne 055 Garfield 017

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date June 30, 1988  
State or Federal agency and bureau National Park Service

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official [Signature] Date 5/27/88  
State or Federal agency and bureau Max J. Evans State Historic Preservation Officer

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 10/9/88  
 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 of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Multiple--See continuation pages

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Multiple--See continuation pages

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Multiple--See continuation pages

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Multiple--see attached LCS Formswalls \_\_\_\_\_

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roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Canyonlands National Park is a 575 square-mile park located near and around the confluence of the Colorado and Green Rivers in southeastern Utah. The majority of the park exists as a natural area, with only limited National Park Service development. The Park's topography is dominated by the numerous canyons and flats at various elevations rising from the rivers. Nearly the entire park is a desert environment with precipitation ranging between five and eight and one-half inches each year and only a handful of perennial water sources, most in the form of springs. Temperatures vary from the lows in the teens during January to some days well over 100° during July and August.

The historic resources included in the Canyonlands National Park Multiple Resource Nomination represent three of the most prominent themes in the Park's history. All of the resources retain their integrity of location and setting during their respective periods of usage incorporated in this nomination. All the resources' functions and uses are readily apparent. All the resources have experienced minor deterioration from weathering. Three, the Murphy Trail and Bridge, and Kirk's Cabin, have had minor repairs made over the years, but all repairs have been made with materials identical to those used historically. Those maintenance operations are minor and have not altered the original structure lines.

Six of the resources included in this nomination exhibit some architectural features. These all would be categorized as wood vernacular. Four of the resources have associated material culture items that contribute to their historic associations. For detailed descriptions of the individual resources please see attached List of Classified Structures(LCS) Inventory Forms. The archeological resources of Canyonlands National Park have been addressed in other nominations.

The resources included in this nomination are:

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Kirk's Cabin Complex(ranching theme):

- Kirk's Cabin
- Kirk's Corral
- Kirk's Fence
- Kirk's Second Corral

The buildings presently located at the Kirk's Cabin Complex are of a vernacular log ranch style, based on log building materials that were secured from locally available sources. All the resources exhibit a craftsmanship slightly higher than that typically associated with pioneer log building, particularly the use of drilled holes and wooden pegs in their construction. All are in their original locations and have a high degree of physical integrity. Near the cabin are the remains of a wagon and other machinery dating to the late nineteenth century. The cabin has been maintained by the National Park Service, through volunteer help. However, the work was done using the same types of materials and the same techniques used historically. The building lines have not been changed. Only the fence has lost some of its physical integrity due to erosion of the creek bank at one end. The interior of the cabin is not considered significant because of recent graffiti put on the walls by visitors and the lack of interior furnishings and finishings.

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Cave Springs Cowboy Camp Complex(ranching theme):

Cave Springs Cowboy Camp  
Cave Springs Cowboy Camp Corrals

These two resources take advantage of natural rock formations as the basis for their presence. The Cowboy Camp is a formed by a rock overhang and evidences the work of man in the material culture items present including tables, chairs, cots, a cookbox and stove/fire area, rather than through built features. The corrals, associated with the camp, are vernacular in style, made of wood and metal wire. The camp was abandoned, with the cultural materials left in situ, when the National Park Service ended grazing in the immediate area. Since then the National Park Service has maintained the camp as part of a self-guided hiking tour and not bothered or moved the materials left when cowboys last used the camp. The resources have a high degree of physical integrity and are in their original location. Because of the material culture in the Cowboy Camp its interior is considered significant.

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Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp(ranching theme):

The Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp is similar to the one at Cave Springs in many ways. The main features of the Camp are the material culture items and inscriptions, not any built features. The Camp is located under a natural rock overhang. The material culture items included a fully stocked cookbox, benches, and various bottles and cans. The walls of the rock overhang are filled with many inscriptions and drawings left by the cowboys over the years. The Camp was abandoned after the National Park Service ended grazing in the area and the cultural items were left in situ. Therefore the interior is considered significant. There are no built features in the camp, and a nearby corral has been severely impacted by erosion and is not considered as contributing to the camp.

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The Murphy Trail Complex(ranching theme):

Murphy Trail Bridge  
Murphy Trail

These two structures are of vernacular style. They are constructed of locally available materials. The trail is made from stone, mostly random field stone, and earth. Parts of it follow natural ledges, a wash, and other features along its route. The bridge is constructed of logs and split logs and is of a beam design. Both these resources retain a high degree of physical intergity, probably because they are used today as a hiking trail within Canyonlands National Park and as such are monitored by Park staff members for deterioration and repaired as needed with materials of the same type as used historically. Both are in their original locations. The Murphy Trail and Bridge constitute the best example of a stock trail within Canyonlands National Park.

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Denis Julien Inscription(exploration theme):

This resource exhibits no architectural features. It is accessible from the Colorado River or by overland hiking. The setting remains nearly as it was when Julien visited the site more than 150 years ago and left his name and date. The inscription remains visible and shows no evidence that it was ever more extensive than it is today. However, examination of the site revealed that later visitors had also carved a message in the same boulder. It must be assumed that the Julien inscription looks as it did when placed there in 1836. The recent addition to the boulder does not diminish the integrity of the Julien inscription.

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Kolb "Cat Camp" Inscription(exploration theme)

This resource exhibits no architectural features. It is accessible only from Cataract Canyon on the Colorado River. The setting remains as it was when the Kolb Brothers expedition visited the site more than seventy years ago and left their name, information, and date. The inscription remains visible and shows no evidence that it was ever more extensive than it is today. It must be assumed that the Kolb inscription looks as it did when placed there in 1911.



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D.C.C. & P. Inscription B(exploration theme)

This resource exhibits no architectural features. It is accessible only from the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers. The setting remains nearly as it was when the William Brewster Stanton's railroad survey expedition visited the site nearly one hundred years ago and left their company's initials, survey information and date. The inscription remains visible and shows no evidence that it was ever more extensive than it is today. It must be assumed that the D.C.C. & P. inscription looks as it did when placed there in 1889.

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### METHODOLOGY

Western Historical Studies, Inc., undertook a complete inventory of all known, relocatable, historic structures and sites within Canyonlands National Park as part of Option A of National Park Service contract PX-1200-5-A070. The contract specified that the survey would be limited to historic sites and structures, and not examine prehistoric resources. The field work for the survey lasted intermittently from April through October of 1986. After the field inventory was completed, members of the Western Historical Studies (WHS) staff in conjunction with members of the Branch of Historic Preservation of the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, evaluated the resources recorded during the survey. From that evaluation resources were either dropped from further consideration, determined worthy of consideration by the Utah SHPO's staff for possible National Register stature, or selected for nomination for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, as fifty years old or of exceptional significance and representative of themes of Canyonlands National Park history revealed in the research and writing of the report for phase one of the contract.

The field survey itself was carried out with help from Park staff members with knowledge of the location of historic resources. They escorted WHS's principal investigator to the majority of the sites. This approach saved time and did not hamper the survey effort or its objectivity, as park staff members proved to be valuable in locating or relocating the more than two hundred resources scattered throughout the 575 square-mile Park.

Access to the sites was gained from paved and gravel/dirt roads, jeep trails, river rafts, and on foot, including overnight backpack trips. The results of the field survey identified and recorded 213 individual historic resources. From that the evaluation process led to identification of twelve resources of historic significance and thirteen of extraordinary significance located in one historic district. The evaluation of the historic sites was based on identification of the major themes of Canyonlands' history as outlined in the Park's history-Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument Historic Resources Study, completed by WHS in draft before field work commenced and the criteria for evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places (36CFR60.4).

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The evaluation criteria used in the Canyonlands project were based on the applicable elements of the National Register criteria as discussed in detail in NRHP Bulletin 15. Specifically, the relevance of each criteria ( A through D ) to the recorded resources was evaluated. What was found was a total lack of applicability of criteria C or D to the resources because of an almost total absence of standing architecture in the park and the fact that the recorded materials offered no potential for significant information. The remaining criteria, A and B were then looked to as routes for evaluation, combined with integrity evaluations per Bulletin 15. The first evaluations were made by determining whether or not an individual resource or district was fifty years old and possessed sufficient integrity of materials, method of construction, location, setting, and an ability to convey its function and character. In addition, the resources had to have a contextural association. Once those standards were met the remaining resources were further evaluated as to identity to established whether or not they were assoicated with a contribution to a broad pattern of local history or a significant individual. The result was that the bulk of the recorded resources, especially a number of inscriptions and remains of pre and post-World War II ranching activity, were eliminated from further consideration, either because they were not fifty years old, were in such poor condition that their function or materials could no longer be ascertained, or they could not be identified as having a significant contextural or individual association. The handful of resources included in this nomination all met the above criteria.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
See Continuation Pages

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Ranching

The ranching theme can be divided historically into two distinct phases, the first being the cattle frontier and early settlement. It is one of the most important for the southeastern Utah's history. Despite all the explorations or Mormon church-sponsored attempts at settlement no group was more responsible for the tone of late nineteenth century development in the region, including the lands of modern Canyonlands National Park, than the cattlemen. From the 1870s through the early decades of the twentieth century, stock raisers struggled with the natural environment as well as wildly fluctuating markets to make a living. The cattlemen arrived in the area from a variety of other locations including Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and elsewhere in Utah. Initially, most of them ran only small herds, but by the mid-1880s many of the pioneers had sold out to larger companies, such as the Carlisles or the Pittsburgh Cattle Company. This trend was reversed by the end of the century as the large corporations, unable to stay solvent, gave way again to smaller operations.<sup>1</sup>

The second phase, livestock raising after 1900, tends to be nearly all inclusive of the Park's and region's history from 1900 through the end of World War II. During this period ranching went through a second evolution as the era started with a number of small ranches scattered throughout the study area, some of which remained small, while others were consolidated into larger holdings. Typical of that trend toward growth, the Scorup-Sommerville and Redd ranches, in their respective periods, ranked among the largest livestock holdings in Utah. From 1900 through 1945 livestock raising dominated the economic life of the region; towns existed to serve the ranchers and many fortunes rose or fell in direct relation to beef or wool prices. The

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second feature of southeastern Utah stockraising that differentiated the twentieth century from the nineteenth was the growth and then decline of dryland farming and sheep raising. The dryland boom proved to be short as crop prices and rainfall declined after 1920, forcing many farmers out of business. After synthetic fibers became available, decreasing the wool market, sheep raising lost some of the importance it enjoyed briefly. The other factor that impacted local ranching and life during the twentieth century has been the growing role of the federal government in the area.<sup>2</sup>

Resources associated with stockraising dominated the survey of Canyonlands' historic resources. Of the 213 total in the survey 123(58%) were associated with this theme. There were, however, no fully developed ranch complexes recorded in the survey as there are and never were any within the present boundaries of Canyonlands National Park. Rather the resources recorded and those included in this nomination are those typically associated with pioneer ranching, such as the Kirk's Cabin complex, or those typically used for open range grazing, such as the Murphy Trail and Bridge and the two cowboy camps.

The contributing resources for this theme are(see attached individual LCS forms):

- Kirk's Cabin
- Kirk's Corral
- Kirk's Fence
- Kirk's Second Corral
- Cave Springs Cowboy Camp
- Cave Springs Cowboy Camp Corral
- Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp
- Murphy Trail and Bridge

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### Kirk's Cabin Complex

Lee Kirk and the small farm/ranch he built in the upper reaches of Salt Creek Canyon represents the early attempts of settlers to try to conquer the desert wilderness of the late nineteenth century with many of the same ideas they had learned in the more humid parts of America. Kirk settled at the site and built the cabin in either 1889 or 1890 and filed a homestead claim on the land. However, the harsh environment, isolation, and poor market prices forced him to abandon his claim during the early 1890s. After that other local ranchers and cowboys used the cabin as a line camp when they had herds grazing in the area.<sup>3</sup> The cabin and corrals appear to have last been used during the early 1960s, shortly before the National Park Service took over the land from the Bureau of Land Management as Canyonlands National Park. Throughout the complex, including the nominated fences and corrals, there is no evidence of alteration of the original design, materials, location or workmanship despite their use after Kirk abandoned the farmstead. The Kirk Cabin complex is representative of many of the small, unsuccessful ranches and farms that once dotted the region. Its period of significance spans the period 1889-1900.

The contributing resources are(see attached individual LCS forms):

- Kirk's Cabin
- Kirk's Corral
- Kirk's Fence
- Kirk's Second Corral

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### Cave Springs Cowboy Camp

This cowboy camp was first used circa 1890 by riders working for the Scorup Brothers Cattle Company, later to become one of the largest cattle operations in Utah and the West. Al Scorup, one of the founders of the company, was an industry leader in the region for nearly sixty years. He did much to define the standards of the local industry in experimenting with new breeds of livestock, range rotation schedules, and creative financing. As such then he became a significant force not only for the size of his operations, but also for his advice to others on how to successfully operate a ranch in the hostile environment of the region. Beyond that, this camp and the Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp represent the dozens and dozens of small camps that once were scattered throughout southeastern Utah, used by cowboys while tending herds grazing the then open public range.<sup>5</sup> As such this camp represents part of a long tradition and way of life in the area.

The contributing resources are(see attached individual LCS forms):

Cave Springs Cowboy Camp  
Cave Springs Cowboy Camp Corrals

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### Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp

This cowboy camp was first used circa 1919 by Ellis Hatch, a member of a family that had livestock interests all over central and eastern Utah. Later the Scorup-Sommerville Cattle Company also used the camp. Under the leadership of Al Scorup, the company became one of the largest cattle operations in Utah and the West. Al Scorup, one of the founders of the company was an industry leader in the region for nearly sixty years.<sup>6</sup> He did much to define the standards of the local industry in experimenting with new breeds of livestock, range rotation schedules, and creative financing. As such then he became a significant force not only for the size of his operations, but also for his advice to others on how to successfully operate a ranch in the hostile environment of the region. Beyond that, this camp and the Cave Springs Cowboy Camp represent the dozens and dozens of small camps that once were scattered throughout southeastern Utah, used by cowboys while tending herds grazing the then open public range. As such this camp represents part of a long tradition and way of life in the area.

The contributing resource is(see attached LCS form):

Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp



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### Murphy Trail and Bridge

This stock trail and bridge that makes up part of it were built in 1917 by J. Idiart and D. Allies, two local ranch workers. They built the trail to move herds from lower winter range along the bottoms of the Green River and White Rim to higher summer rangelands in the area known as the Island in the Sky, now a part of Canyonlands National Park. The trails remained in periodic use until the 1960s when the lands were incorporated into Canyonlands National Park. Since then it and other similar stock trails have been used as hiking trails by park visitors. The seasonal movement of livestock was common throughout the region of southeastern Utah and neighboring Colorado. Through these methods stockmen avoided depleting one range and moved their animals into areas with seasonal temperatures more conducive to the animals. The Murphy Trail and Bridge exhibits the most physical integrity and evidence of the work of man of this type of trail extant in Canyonlands. Its period of significance dates from 1917 until 1938, as during and after World War II more and more local ranchers used trucks to move stock from one range to another, causing trails such as the Murphy to lose some of their earlier importance.<sup>4</sup> Even though the National Park Service has maintained the trail and bridge for hiker safety ( removal of rock, fallen trees, and timber replacement ) those efforts have not detracted from the physical integrity of the resources. The resources retain their setting, materials, workmanship, location and feeling as an improved stock trail.

The contributing resources are(see attached individual LCS forms):

Murphy Trail  
Murphy Trail Bridge

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### Exploration

This theme, exploration and the fur trade, spans more than two centuries, from the mid-eighteenth century Spanish expeditions to the area through the work of the United States Geological Survey of the 1950s looking for uranium. The theme encompasses explorations of two distinct types. First, those performed from the 1700s through the Civil War tended to focus on locating travel routes to and across the region, and aside from some visits into the lands of the modern parks, had very little impact on the parks. The second phase, starting after the Civil War (1865), de-emphasized finding routes. Instead these explorations focused on accurate mapping of the area and evaluating the quantities and types of natural resources, from water to uranium, available for economic development. As a direct result of those efforts much information on Canyonlands and the area around it became available to the public. The notable exception during this later phase came from the Denver, Colorado Canyon and Pacific Railroad that hoped to use the Colorado River's canyon as a route to the Pacific.

The first phase of exploration is marked initially by Spaniards who controlled the region until Mexico gained her independence in 1821. That date marked the beginning of Anglo-American exploration and travel into the region when fur traders and trappers began to use the Old Spanish Trail as a route to the Great Basin from Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. It was as part of that invasion of fur men that Denis Julien found his way into the region. The fur trade came to an end during the 1840s, but within a few years other explorers, some representing the United States government and others from the Mormon Church, traversed the study area, including the first recorded visit to what became Canyonlands National Park. After the outbreak of the Civil War and the early Mormon failures at settlement in southeastern Utah during the 1850s exploration of the region halted until the late 1860s.<sup>7</sup>

Maj. John Wesley Powell's 1869 trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers marked the beginning of the second phase of exploration that continued for nearly a century. These expeditions came to the region to find resources and accurately map the lands. They collectively added hundreds of volumes of information to the then growing pool of knowledge about southeastern Utah. Among those that aided in the gathering and dissemination of that information

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were the Kolb Brothers, who in 1911 took a photographic trip along the route Powell had taken, with the intent of publishing their pictures for popular distribution.<sup>8</sup>

The resources contributing to this theme are:

Denis Julien Inscription  
Kolb Brothers "Cat Camp" Inscription  
D.C.C. & P. Inscription "B"

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### Denis Julien Inscription

One of the fur traders who frequented the Colorado River basin and southeastern Utah during the boom days of the fur trade was Denis Julien. Julien's early background is lost to history, however, from the time he was twenty years old, about 1793, until the 1840s his career is better known. By 1808 Julien had established himself as a leader in the Indian trade in Iowa and within ten years he was active on the Upper Missouri River. From then until the 1840s he drifted about the Rocky Mountain West following the beaver and the rendezvous, frequently as an employee of the Choteau or Robidoux families, two of the leading families of the fur trade at the time. It was during his association with Antoine Robidoux that Julien centered his operations on the Colorado and Green Rivers and their tributaries, spending ten years or more in eastern Utah and western Colorado. After about 1842 he falls back into the shadows of history, leaving little to mark his presence, except an 1844 inscription in Arches National Park.<sup>9</sup>

The Julien Inscription is similar in lettering style and incising technique to others recorded in the region by reservoir salvage operations at nearby Lake Powell, at Dinosaur National Monument, and at Arches National Park. Based on comparisons to those other inscriptions it is felt that this is a genuine Julien inscription. It remains as the only tangible link to this earliest phase of Euro-American history within Canyonlands. It is also the only resource directly attributable to fur trapping and trading in the Park. Its period of significance is 1836.

The contributing resource is the Denis Julien Inscription (see attached LCS form).

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### Kolb Brothers "Cat Camp" Inscription

The Kolb Brothers, Ellsworth and Emery, were photographers at the Grand Canyon and had had an interest in the Colorado River for a number of years before their photographic expedition of 1911. In an attempt to recreate the voyages of Maj. John Wesley Powell and create a photographic record of the trip, the Kolb Brothers organized their expedition during the summer and on September 8, 1911, launched at Green River, Wyoming. From that date until November 11, when the party left the Colorado River at Needles, California, they experienced many of the same trials that Powell had approximately forty years earlier. Also, the photographic record they returned with did much not only to document the rivers at that point in time, but through sale and publication of their images, to spread a better understanding of the river to the American public. The Kolbs went on to be pioneers in the twentieth century survey of the river.<sup>10</sup> The inscription left on October 28, 1911, is the best remaining one left in Canyonlands, and probably the entire Colorado River associated with these early river pioneers. Its period of significance is from 1911 through 1920.

The contributing resource is the Kolb Inscription (see attached LCS form).

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### D.C.C. & P. Inscription "B"

This site is associated with the one known attempt to lay out a rail route using the canyons of the Colorado River by the Denver, Colorado Canyon and Pacific. The project, started during the boom days of western railroad expansion between 1875 and 1893, was the brainchild of Robert Brewster Stanton. He envisioned the line running from Grand Junction, Colorado, to the Gulf of California. However, it never got beyond the survey phase and this inscription is one of the survey stations left along the river; at the confluence with the Green River. Stanton later went on to lead a gold dredging operation on the Colorado River, another enterprise of only limited success. The significance of the site is in its association with the attempt to build a railroad through the region, and in that sense represents other dreams that nature stopped in southeastern Utah and the detailed information the project made available about the Colorado River, one of the last areas in the continental United States to be explored. This inscription is one of only two from the D.C.C. & P. and by far the best of the two. Its period of significance is from 1880 to 1900, the time of the great railroad dreams in the region.<sup>11</sup>

The contributing resource is the D.C.C. & P. Inscription "B" (see attached LCS form). The inscription remains highly legible and is of the type typical of surveyor markings of the late nineteenth century.

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### Post World War II Development -- Uranium Mining Boom

This theme, southeastern Utah's history since World War II, tends to be a continuation of certain trends, such as the importance of grazing or the relationship with the federal government, as well as the addition of new factors. The most dramatic development of the post-war period has been the growth of the energy industry, first uranium mining and secondly, oil and natural gas well drilling. The federal government played an active role in stimulating and/or controlling these new industries.

Of the post-War phenomena, none played a greater, more dramatic role in the region's history for a number of years than the hunt for radioactive materials there. The use of nuclear power to end World War II in the Pacific ushered in a new era for all of mankind. Realizing the tremendous power at its disposal, and fearing that private industry could not be relied on to cope with this responsibility, Congress created the Atomic Energy Commission. One of the first acts of the Commission was to evaluate the nation's supplies of strategic nuclear raw materials. As the Cold War heated up during the late 1940s the Commission elected to encourage development of America's atomic resources through discovery and production bonuses for uranium mines.

About this same time, in 1947, Pratt Seegmiller, stumbled onto a huge uranium deposit. A few years later, as the boom slowly grew, another prospector tried his hand, Charles Steen. He discovered the Mi Vida Mine in 1951 and overnight went from rags to riches. His fame and the wide publicity given the entire question of atomic power, as well as the ever-increasing Atomic Energy Commission bonuses, led to a rush in southeastern Utah likened to the rush to California in 1849. People from across the nation flocked to places like Moab, Utah, and Gieger counters in hand, took to the backcountry in search of their fortune. For example, during the early 1950s, more than ten thousand claims a year were being filed in the San Juan County Clerk's Office for mines and during the boom the county went from being one of the poorest in the state to the second wealthiest (this is county that the Lathrop Canyon mines are located in). The boom continued as more and more people poured into the area that today is Canyonlands National Park and searched to find the uranium there. It was during this period that the mining camp in Lathrop Canyon came into being as a few hardy souls worked the Mossback formation, following the advice of Charles Steen as to location. By the late 1950s the Atomic Energy Commission

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realized that it had stockpiled enough uranium to supply the nation's needs for years to come and in 1958 announced severe cutbacks in their discovery, development, and purchase bonus programs, ending the boom. Uranium mining by prospectors and individuals, the heart of the boom, and as exemplified in Lathrop Canyon all but ended, with a few miners remaining, hoping for the return of the boom, or possibly because they could not afford to leave.<sup>12</sup> The Lathrop Canyon Mining District is intimately associated with this exceptionally significant phase of local and national history. Throughout Canyonlands there are dozens of resources associated with the 1950s uranium boom, however, the Lathrop Canyon area is the best example and readily conveys the feeling of the period. Its period of significance spans the decade of the 1950s, from 1950 until 1960.

The Lathrop Canyon resources are (see attached individual LCS forms):

- Lathrop Canyon Mine A
- Lathrop Canyon Mine B
- Lathrop Canyon Mine C
- Lathrop Canyon Mine D
- Lathrop Canyon Mine E
- Lathrop Canyon Mine F
- Lathrop Canyon Mine G
- Lathrop Canyon Mine H
- Lathrop Canyon Mine I
- Lathrop Canyon Mine J
- Rainy Day Shelter
- Lathrop Canyon Roads
- Mine Lane

This district is not included for nomination at this time because of a lack of a regional context for evaluation. Once that context has been developed it is recommended that the Lathrop Canyon district be re-evaluated within the context. At the present it is felt this district may be found to be contributing within that context.



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### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Steven F. Mehls and Carol Drake Mehls, Canyonlands National Park, Arches National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument Historic Resource Study, (Denver: National Park Service, 1986), pp. 71-84; hereafter cited: Mehls and Mehls, Canyonlands.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 127-141.

<sup>3</sup>See: James W. Sheire, Historic Resource Study Cattle Raising in the Canyons, (Denver: National Park Service, 1972).

<sup>4</sup>Mehls and Mehls, Canyonlands, pp. 84, 136-137.

<sup>5</sup>See: Neal Lambert, "Al Scorup, Cattleman of the Canyons," Utah Historical Quarterly 32(Summer 1964): 301-320.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Mehls and Mehls, Canyonlands, pp. 41-48.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., pp. 48-53.

<sup>9</sup>See: O.D. Marsten, "Denis Julien," in LeRoy Hafen, ed., The Mountain Men and Fur Trade of the Far West, (Glendale, CA.: The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1968), pp. 177-190.

<sup>10</sup>W.L. Rusho, "River Running, 1921: The Diary of E.L. Kolb," Utah Historical Quarterly 37(Spring 1969): 269-283.

<sup>11</sup>Ann Zwinger, ". . . a worthless and impracticable region . . . ," Plateau 52(March 1980): 24-32.

<sup>12</sup>G.L. Shumway, "Uranium Mining on the Colorado Plateau," in Allan Kent Powell, ed., San Juan County, Utah, People, Resources and History, (Salt Lake City, Utah State Historical Society, 1983), pp. 269-280; and for the boom feeling see: Raymond W. Taylor and Samuel W. Taylor, Uranium Fever, (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1970), an accountant by two participants.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Listed: 10/7/88

Canyonlands NP MRA cover form Garfield, San Juan, & Wayne UT  
Property Name County State

Canyonlands National Park MRA  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

10/7/88  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The number of contributing resources listed in the Classification section of the nomination cover form should read as follows: 1 building, 6 structures, 5 sites. This count has been confirmed by Mary Shivers Culpin of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Canyonlands National Park MRA  
State Garfield, San Juan and Wayne Counties, UTAH

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

1. Kolb Brothers "Cat Camp" Inscription  
Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

2. Cave Springs Cowboys Camp  
Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

3. Julien Inscription

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

4. Kirk's Cabin Complex

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lost Canyon Cowboy Camp

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

6. Murphy Trail and Bridge

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

7. D.C.C. & P. Inscription "B" Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrus 10/9/88

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

8.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

9.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

10.

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_