

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dinosaur National Monument Multiple Resources

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Highway 40 (P.O. Box 210)

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dinosaur

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third (Colorado)

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Moffat

CODE

081

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

N/A IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☒ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☒ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet, Box 25287

CITY, TOWN

Denver

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

80225

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk and Recorder's Office (CO)

County Recorder's Office (UT)

STREET & NUMBER

221 West Victory Way (CO)

147 E. Main, Room 405 (UT)

CITY, TOWN

Craig, (CO)

Vernal (UT)

STATE

Colorado 81625

Utah 84078

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Dinosaur National Monument Historic Resources Study

DATE

1985

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Dinosaur National Monument

CITY, TOWN

Dinosaur

STATE

Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☒ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE See LCS
Forms

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dinosaur National Monument is located in extreme northwestern Colorado and northeastern Utah. The park is approximately 325 square miles in size and is comprised of many miles of rugged canyons along the Green and Yampa Rivers as well as numerous minor canyons, mountain parks and basins. The entire area is a semi-arid environment with temperature extremes from more than 40° below zero to more than 100° between winter and summer.

The historic resources included in the Dinosaur National Monument Multiple Resource Nomination represent five prominent themes in the Monument'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 purposes are readily apparent. Except for the Julien Inscription, all the resources have been altered slightly over the years during routine maintenance operations, such as roof repairs using more modern materials than probably would have been used originally. Such modifications are minor and have not altered the original building lines.

Twenty-two of the twenty-three resources included in this nomination exhibit some architectural features. Eighteen are categorized as vernacular wood or log ranch structures. These are typical of the simple log architecture exhibited by more than 95% of the log structures surveyed. The nineteenth is best described as "Rustic." Numbers 20 and 21 are stone/earth vernacular and the twenty-second captures the 1950s International style. The twenty-third resource, the Julien Inscription, does not exhibit any architectural features. For detailed descriptions of the resources please see attached List of Classified Structures (LCS) Inventory Forms. The archeological resources of Dinosaur National Monument will be addressed at a later time.

The resources included in this nomination are:

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The Rial Chew Ranch Complex(ranching theme):

Rial Chew House
Harry Chew Cabin
Chew Root Cellar
Chew Outhouse
Jack Chew Dugout
Chew Chicken Coops
Chew Garage
Chew Granary
Chew Corrals
Chew Loafing Shed
Chew "Trout Farm"
Chew Hay Corral

The buildings presently located at the Rial Chew Ranch are all of vernacular log ranch style, based on log building materials secured from locally available timber and wood. The main house represents the culmination of this building style with the incorporation of more modern materials into the building. The other structures(dugout, root cellar, corrals, loafing shed, "trout farm," and hay corral) are of vernacular style. Three of the buildings at the ranch, the Harry Chew cabin, the garage and the granary were originally built as residences in different locations, but once they had been abandoned they were relocated or modified on the Rial Chew Ranch to serve different functions. This was typical of many western ranches, in that when a building was available and if it could be reused in a different function such adaptation was preferred to new construction. The Chew Ranch also exhibits the adaptation of log architecture to the automobile in that larger doors were placed in a cabin and it became the garage. The trout farm was an attempt by the Chews to generate new income from sportsmen by building and stocking a pond fed from waters they also used for irrigation of a hay meadow near their hay corral. Two of the structures, the dugout and the root cellar, have only limited physical integrity due to erosion of their roofs and walls, however, their function remains readily apparent. The remainder of the structures have a much higher degree of physical integrity. The ranch complex is a good example of the development of ranching in the region after 1900 and the best example of the theme within Dinosaur National Monument. The interiors of these structures do not retain integrity and are not considered significant.

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Josie Bassett Morris Ranch Complex(ranching theme):

Morris Cabin
Morris Chicken Coop
Morris Outhouse
Morris Tack Shed
Morris Animal Shed
Morris Pasture Corral
Morris Root Cellar and Foot Bridge

The buildings presently located at the Josie Bassett Morris Ranch are all of vernacular log ranch style, except the outhouse which was constructed of milled lumber, the pasture corral which is a series of log and pole fences, and the root cellar which was made primarily of stone. The Morris Ranch structures all are in their original locations, except possibly the outhouse which was moved as the pits filled up. The ranch house was built in 1924 and the other structures soon thereafter. The house has lost some of its physical integrity due to addition of a shell roof over the cabin by the National Park Service to protect the cabin. The other structures are generally in fair to deteriorating condition from weather. The setting remains nearly as it was when Josie Bassett Morris lived in the cabin. The ranch is the second most complete ranch complex within Dinosaur National Monument and the most complete on the Utah side of the Monument. The interiors of the structures do not retain integrity and are not considered significant.

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Denis Julien Inscription(exploration and the fur trade theme)

This resource exhibits no architectural features. It is accessible from the Green River and the setting remains nearly as it must have been when Julien visited there in 1838 and left his initials and the date. The inscription, carved, and chipped into a rock face near the water line, remains highly visible. Examination of the site failed to locate any evidence of the inscription ever being more complex than it is today. As there are no records of its original appearance it must be assumed that it looks as it did when first placed there nearly 150 years ago.

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Upper Wade and Curtis Cabin(tourism theme)

Today this cabin, built on the site in 1933 after being used earlier in a different locale, remains much as it did when first moved to its present site. Architecturally the cabin is "Rustic" in nature as its builders attempted to make the guests "feel" the pioneer West as part of their vacation experience. That feeling is still present. The only apparent changes have been the addition of new paint, changes to the heating system, and repairs to the foundation. The cabin now serves as housing for seasonal rangers at the Gates of Lodore. The interior does not have its historic integrity and is not considered significant.

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Earl Douglass Workshop/Laboratory (scientific discovery theme)

This small stone building originally was built circa 1915 by workers at the dinosaur fossil quarry and apparently designed by Earl Douglass the discoverer of the quarry and paleontologist in charge of the operation at the time. While maintenance work has closed in the windows of the structure those are the only modifications. The use of different colored material in the window closures makes this very obvious as are the original window lines and placements. Historic photographs show the structure built into the quarry hillside as it is today. The interior is not considered significant.

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Quarry Visitor Center(park development theme)

This 1950s International style structure remains almost as it was when built by the National Park Service, the only notable modifications have been to ramps and stairways to assure handicap access and changes in paint and trim colors. The building has a butterfly roof with curtain wall construction. It is built over the quarry face and was designed to blend with the environment. Extensive use of glass was made in the building to take advantage of natural light as conceptualized by the architect. The interior of the building has been changed to facilitate better operations and handicapped access, but the interiors of the public spaces on the first and second floors are considered significant because of their design and the book birch veneer woods used as panelling.

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Methodology

Western Historical Studies, Inc., undertook a complete inventory of all known historic structures within Dinosaur National Monument as part of Option A of National Park Service contract CX-1200-4-A066. 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 May through August of 1985. 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, selected for inclusion in the National Park Service List of Classified Structures and/or chosen for nomination for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, as fifty years old or of exceptional significance and representative of the themes of Dinosaur National Monument 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 Monument 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 one hundred resources scattered throughout the 325 square-mile Monument. Access to the sites was gained from paved and gravel/dirt roads, jeep trails, river rafts, and on foot. The results of the field survey identified and recorded 132 individual historic resources. From that the evaluation process led to identification of twenty-two resources of historic significance and two of extraordinary significance. The evaluation of the historic sites was based on identification of the major themes of Dinosaur history as outlined in the Monument's history: Dinosaur 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). The five pertinent themes represented by the resources in the nomination are: Fur trapping and exploration, ranching, tourism, scientific discovery, and park development.

The information contained in this multiple resource nomination will be incorporated in Dinosaur National Monument's revised cultural component of their Resource Management Plan and appropriate state(Utah or Colorado) planning processes. Complete physical descriptions of each resource can be found on the LCS forms.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Park Development
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	Multiple - See attached LCS Forms	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Multiple - See attached LCS Forms
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the historic resources within the lands of Dinosaur National Monument is based in their relationship to five themes prominent in the Monument's history: Ranching; Exploration and the Fur Trade; Tourism; Scientific Discovery; and Park Development. The buildings, structures, and sites included in the multiple resource nomination for Dinosaur National Monument exemplify the development of those five historical themes. All the resources are representative of broad patterns of our history(criteria A), except the Douglass Workshop/Laboratory which is significant because it is the last structure with integrity to be directly associated with Earl Douglass, discoverer of the quarry and one of the leading paleontologists of the early twentieth century, a person significant in the history of American science(Criteria B). The Quarry Visitor Center is significant because it was the first modern style building nationwide to be built by the National Park Service during a ten-year period of improvements known as MISSION 66, marking a new phase in National Park Service building philosophy(criteria A). The Quarry Visitor Center is nationally significant while the remainder of the resources in this nomination are of local significance.

The resources included in this nomination were chosen through the evaluation process outlined in the methodology section of Item 7. That process focussed on both integrity and significance. Aside from the Denis Julien Inscription and the Quarry Visitor Center, the resources included in this nomination constitute a representative sample of the resources recorded for each theme. The other items recorded in the survey either did not have a high enough level of physical integrity, or in the case of the other ranches, were not as complete, ie.: outbuildings or major structures missing or in such a severely deteriorated condition as not to be able to convey the historic feeling to the extent those included in the nomination do. A number of the other sites and structures recorded were less than fifty years old, had no exceptional significance, or lacked enough physical integrity to allow them to be considered as contributing to the various themes. Many were no more than a few foundation stones or logs lying on the ground. No sites either had or appeared likely to yield information significant to history. In the case of the Julien Inscription, it was the only tangible resource associated with the theme. Finally, the Quarry Visitor Center exhibited an exceptional national significance, as explained later.

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I. Ranching

Regionally ranching was and continues to be one of the most important economic mainstays. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Moffat and Uintah Counties remained the domain of cattle and sheep raisers. The majority of the ranches were owned by small operators, that is family operations with only a few if any employees. There were only two notable exceptions to this in the immediate Dinosaur area--Ora Haley and his Two Bar Ranch, an extension of his much larger central Wyoming operations, and the White Bear Ranch owned for many years by Wells, Fargo and Company. After the turn of the century hundreds of new ranches came into existence in the region, many the outgrowth of unsuccessful dryland farming attempts. Between approximately 1910 and 1920 boosters from as far away as Denver, Colorado, promoted the region as a farming paradise, which it proved not to be. Those who did not abandon their farms converted to stockraising and again ranching became the dominate lifeway of the region.

The area in and around present Dinosaur National Monument first drew attention from cattle raisers during the 1850s when cattle herds on their way to market in the California gold fields were wintered in Brown's Park, north of the Monument. The Civil War slowed development of a local cattle industry until the 1870s. During that decade a few ranchers from southern Wyoming moved into Brown's Park and spread farther south into the Monument within a few years, using much of the region as rangeland for grazing their herds. Until the end of the nineteenth century this trend continued. After 1900 talk of a railroad across the region, heightened competition for range and new federal land disposal laws led to a rapid increase in the number of rancher-settlers within the present Monument. The growth trend continued into the early 1920s when marginal ranchers found they could not compete. This resulted in the beginnings of a trend toward consolidation of landholdings into the hands of the more successful local ranchers. This trend continued until 1938 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the expansion of Dinosaur National Monument from eighty acres in Utah to nearly its present size. After the proclamation the National Park Service began to acquire land throughout the Monument, leading to the end of new settlement or ranching, as well as any further acquisitions by ranchers already established in the Monument. However, ranching and grazing did continue within the Monument. As late as 1985 two private in-holdings remained as active ranches and other, publically owned lands, remained

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under grazing leases. Ranching continues to be the dominate
lifeway of the region.¹

The Dinosaur National Monument survey found ninety-two ranching
related structures or sites, or seventy percent of the entire
survey of 132 structures or sites. Within that field of ninety-two,
ten ranch complexes were indentified.

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Rial Chew Ranch

The Rial Chew ranch represents 9.1% of all historic resources, 13% of all ranching resources, and 10% of all ranching complexes. It is the most complete example representative of the ranching theme within the Dinosaur survey. The Chew Ranch also represents a family operated ranch typical of the region as it developed over more than fifty years and two generations. The features most typical of this generational development present at the Chew Ranch are the various living quarters from the original dugout, later used for storage, to the Chew house, the final house built at the ranch in 1940. This house is of exceptional significance because it remains nearly unchanged from its original condition and represents the final phase of the ranch through the generations. As such it contributes to the historic value and feeling of the Chew Ranch as an historic district, when viewed as a representative ranch of the region. Finally, the house is the outstanding example of log ranch architecture from the later period of Dinosaur's ranching history. The period of significance for the Chew Ranch extends from its founding in 1902 through the early 1970s when the ranch passed to the control of the National Park Service.

Contributing historic structures(see attached individual LCS forms) are:

- 1) Rial Chew House
- 2) Harry Chew Cabin
- 3) Chew Root Cellar
- 4) Chew Outhouse
- 5) Jack Chew Dugout
- 6) Chew Chicken Coops
- 7) Chew Garage
- 8) Chew Granary
- 9) Chew Corrals
- 10) Chew Loafing Shed
- 11) Chew "Trout Farm"
- 12) Chew Hay Corral

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Josie Bassett Morris Ranch

The Josie Bassett Morris Ranch Complex represents 6% of all historic resources, 9% of all ranching resources, and 10% of all ranching complexes. The Morris ranch, in addition to being representative of a small ranch in the area also has associations with a person significant in local history--Josie Bassett Morris. Josie's parents moved to the Brown's Park area during the late 1870s and ranched there. Josie grew up in the area and after a number of unsuccessful marriages, rumors that she and her family were involved with some of the criminals that frequented Brown's Park around the turn of the century and similar adventures, Josie located on Cub Creek and established her present cabin there in 1924. She lived by herself on the ranch until a short time before her death in 1964.

Contributing Historic Structures(see attached individual LCS forms) are:

- 1) Josie Bassett Morris Cabin
- 2) Josie Bassett Morris Chicken Coop
- 3) Josie Bassett Morris Outhouse
- 4) Josie Bassett Morris Tack Shed
- 5) Josie Bassett Morris Animal Shed
- 6) Josie Bassett Morris Pasture Corral
- 7) Josie Bassett Morris Root Cellar
- 8) Josie Bassett Morris Foot Bridge

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II. Exploration and Fur Trade

On May 8, 1825, William Ashley and his party of pioneer trappers and rivermen became the first known Euro-Americans to definitely enter present Dinosaur National Monument. Not only did their journey down the Green River mark the first documented visit to the park for exploration purposes on a course that later would be followed by men as well known as John Wesley Powell, Ashley's activities also marked the beginning of an intensive use of the region by fur traders, mountain men, and trappers that would continue for nearly twenty years. The fur frontier opened the area for its first intensive Euro-American use. Few of these early visitors to the area left any permanent marks on the landscape. However, they did amass much information on the region that was used for generations after them as a guide to the rivers and canyons of Dinosaur.²

One of the fur traders who enjoyed a long and prosperous career was Denis Julien. Julien's early background has been lost to history, however, his activities from the time he was about twenty years old, about 1793, until the 1830s are better known. By 1808 Julien was well known around St. Louis, Missouri and had already established himself as an Indian trader in the Iowa area. Less than ten years later Julien was trading on the Upper Missouri River and from that point on drifted around the Rocky Mountain West following the beaver and rendezvouses, often in the employ of the Chouteau or Robidoux families, two leaders of the fur trade at the time. It was during his association with ~~the~~ Antoine Robidoux that Julien centered his operations on the Green and Colorado Rivers and their tributaries. Julien appears to have stayed in the region until at least 1840, when again he becomes a shadow in the pages of fur trade history.

The Julien Inscription, similar to others recorded in Utah by reservoir salvage operations, remains as the only tangible link to this earliest phase of Dinosaur's history.³ The presence of the inscription addresses a data gap identified in the Colorado Plateau Resource Protection Planning Process Historic Context report and is considered by that document to be an important resource.⁴ The inscription and the Dominguez-Escalante Crossing Site(outside the Monument) in Utah are the only two resources from the exploration and fur trade theme. They represent 1.5% of all historic resources recorded in the survey and the Julien Inscription, while 50% of the theme's total resources, is the only one that evidences the work of man and that can be clearly and accurately documented. It is also the only resource attributed

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to fur trapping within the Monument. The contributing historic resource is the Denis Julien Inscription(See individual LCS form).

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III. Tourism

Tourism in the Dinosaur area began in 1839 when Dr. F.A. Wislizenus visited Brown's Park as part of a cross-country journey he took that year. However, few followed him into the far West as tourists until after the Civil War when transportation and settlement made the entire West more hospitable for visitors. For the Dinosaur area tourism as recognized today did not really start until after World War I as highways and automobile ownership spread. As a result of the wide dissemination of information about the scenic wonders of the Green River in the area that today is Dinosaur National Monument, such as publication of Powell's journals and pictures from the Kolb Brothers photographic expedition of 1911, as well as the desire to experience the "Wild West" as depicted in the popular literature of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, more and more travelers sought out areas such as the Gates of Lodore on the Green River as a place to spend their vacation.

Cognizant of the fact that the region had a popular appeal Jack Langely, John Grounds, and Jim Cozier decided to open a tourist camp at the Gates of Lodore about 1933. Langely, who had homesteaded in the area earlier, moved his cabin to the river bank near the present Gates of Lodore ranger station and this became the first facility at the tourist camp. The partners, encouraged by the early successes, decided to expand their operations by building a second cabin downstream, about a mile north of Winnie's Grotto on the Green River in 1934. By 1935 the operation included the two, both of similar design, four motorboats to carry visitors between the cabins, orchards, gardens, and other agricultural facilities. To supplement income from the camp the partners mined gold from the Green River for three years and also continued to run a vegetable farm in the area. Part of the reason that the tourist trade did not live up to their expectations was that the Great Depression forced many Americans to give up luxuries such as vacations. This was followed by World War II and rationing of gas and rubber, also limiting the number of people who could come to the region for a pleasure trip. When the war started the partners abandoned their operations and lost their squatters' rights to the sites. When those rights were lost title to the property transferred to the National Park Service as the area had already been proclaimed part of the expanded Dinosaur National Monument in 1938. Under National Park Service control the cabins were maintained as housing for rangers and storage. The lower(downstream) cabin was destroyed in 1969 in a fire caused by recreational boaters.⁵

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The contributing resource for this theme in the Upper Wade and Curtis Cabin(see attached individual LCS form).

The Upper Wade and Curtis Cabin is one of three resources remaining in the Monument directly associated with this theme. It represents 0.75% of all resources recorded in the survey and 33% of those associated with the theme. It is the only extant, more than fifty-year old resource pertinent to the theme. The Upper Wade and Curtis Cabin addresses a data gap and a research question identified in the Plateau Country Resource Protection Planning Process Historic Context Report, as well it has enough integrity and documentation to make it an important resource under the guidelines incorporated in that report.⁶

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IV. Scientific Discovery

The lands of northeastern Utah that today contain Dinosaur National Monument were known as areas rich in fossil remains as early as the 1870s when Othniel C. Marsh of Yale University visited the region and discovered fossils. From then until the early twentieth century many other paleontologists also explored and made discoveries in the region. On August 17, 1909, Earl Douglass a field paleontologist for the Carnegie Museum, discovered the formation that today is the fossil quarry at Dinosaur National Monument. From that date until 1923 the Carnegie Museum quarried dinosaur fossils at the site. Throughout that period Earl Douglass was in charge of the operations. At the quarry Douglass oversaw the excavation of the remains of more than a dozen dinosaurs of seven different types. In the workshop building Douglass cleaned and examined specimens from the quarry. The building also served as a repair location for small tools. Under ownership by the National Park Service the building was used as a tool and equipment storage shed after the end of active quarrying during the 1920s. Recently the building has been essentially abandoned except for storage of some tools and equipment that date to the earlier periods of quarry operation. The information Douglass and his team gathered on Jurassic period life has been of great and lasting benefit to scientists the world over.⁷

The Douglass Workshop is the contributing resource for this theme(See attached individual LCS form).

The Douglass Workshop is one of five within the Monument associated with Earl Douglass. It is the only one that retains any structural integrity and the only one left directly associated with the early development of the fossil quarry. It represents 0.75% of all resources recorded in the survey and 20% of those associated with Earl Douglass.

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V. Park Development and the Quarry Visitor Center *WPA about 1935*

The post-World War II years were ones of budget cuts for the National Park Service, yet at the same time year after year more visitors poured into all parks and monuments for their summer vacations. As a result by 1955 conditions at America's National Parks and Monuments had become critical.

Recognizing this problem, Conrad L. Wirth, then Director of the National Park Service, established a task force to frame plans for massive improvements to the parks and equally as important, gain long-term funding commitments from Congress. To carry out the program he established "MISSION 66," a ten-year program to repair and improve all the nation's parks and monuments in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966. The initial studies of his task force identified a number of problems from lack of safe roads to sub-standard employee housing to inadequate centers for visitors. All of these problems were looked into and solutions found.

Conditions at Dinosaur National Monument by the early 1950s were typical of those described above, but moreover the great fossil quarry, that gave the Monument much of its fame as well as its name, was housed in a corrugated metal building left over from the Great Depression when the Works Progress Administration and Federal Emergency Relief Administration had been active at the Monument preparing the quarry for permanent display.

Those preparations included excavation and relief of the quarry face to be the center of the permanent visitor exhibits at Dinosaur. The concept of that type of in situ display of the fossils dated to the 1920s and talks between Earl Douglass and the National Park Service on how best to exhibit the dinosaur remains. With the announcement of MISSION 66 the time had come to make the dreams of Douglass and others a reality. The National Park Service awarded the design contract to the firm of Ansen and Allen in San Francisco, California. Richard Hein of that company was given the task of designing an appropriate structure. Hein, cognizant of the goals of MISSION 66 as well as the dramatic sights that greeted visitors to the quarry, set out to design a building that would fit the Monument's needs. First and foremost he chose not to be controlled by the previous styles used by the National Park Service, frequently labeled "rustic." Instead he conceptualized the building to better fit with what the visitors were about to see at the quarry. Hein also incorporated an idea new to museum thinking--take the building to the exhibit rather than fit the exhibits into a building. To accomplish this Hein looked carefully at work being done in the 1950s "International" style and found what he was looking for, with modifications. He eventually determined that to be dramatic, yet not

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unsightly and blend with the environment, he would use a butterfly roof, pink concrete blocks, and vast open glass areas to take advantage of the natural light. The result was a definitive break with previous National Park Service style. Park Service officials were so taken with the new ideas that Hein developed at the Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center that they encouraged other architects to incorporate them in their designs for other MISSION 66 structures. Hein's Quarry Visitor Center set new stylistic standards that became used nationwide by the National Park Service. Recognition of the building as a new standard also came from architectural trade journals that described and applauded the building as soon as it was completed. From this the Quarry Visitor Center has an exceptional national significance in the evolution of the modern man-made features of our National Parks.⁸

The Quarry Visitor Center is the contributing resource for this theme(See attached individual LCS form).

The Quarry Visitor Center is one of twelve resources in Dinosaur National Monument associated with the park development theme. It represents 0.75% of all resources recorded in the survey while those associated with the theme represent 9% of all recorded resources. The Visitor Center represents 8.3% of the resources in the park development category.

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Notes

¹Steven F. Mehls, Dinosaur National Monument Historic Resources Study, (Denver: National Park Service, 1985), pp. 62-75, 118-131.

²Ibid., pp. 31-40.

³O. D. Marsten, "Denis Julien," in LeRoy Hafen, ed., The Mountain Men and Fur Trade of the Far West, vol. 7, (Glendale, CA.: The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1968), pp. 177-190.

⁴Michael B. Husband, Colorado Plateau Historic Context, (Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1984), pp. 1-1,2, 1-6,7.

⁵Mehls, Dinosaur, pp. 157-159; Glade M. Ross, "Pioneers and Historic Structures of Dinosaur National Monument," draft, 1984, on file at Dinosaur National Monument Headquarters, pp. 45-47.

⁶Husband, Plateau, pp. 14-4,5

⁷Mehls, Dinosaur, pp. 144-151.

⁸Ibid., pp. 191-194; and Personal Communications, Steven F. Mehls with Rodd Wheaton, Branch Chief, Branch of Historic Preservation, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Dinosaur National Monument MRA
State Moffat County, COLORADO

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Chew, Rial, Ranch
Complex

2. Douglass, Earl, Workshop-
Laboratory

3. Julien, Denis, Inscription

4. Morris, Josie Basset,
Ranch Complex

5. Quarry Visitor Center

6. Upper Wade and Curtis
Cabin

7.

8.

9.

10.

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 12/19/86
Date/Signature Coral D. Shul 10-27-87

Attest

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 12/19/86

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Keeper Beth Grosvenor 12/19/86

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Keeper [Signature] 12/19/86

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Keeper Beth Grosvenor 12/19/86

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