United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property
   historic name Elijah Cutler Behunin Cabin
   other names/site number Behunin Cabin

2. Location
   street & number N/A not for publication N/A
   city or town Torrey
   state Utah code UT county Wayne code 05
   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 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official 8-4-99

National Park Service Federal agency

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

Signature of commenting official 9-15-96

Utah State Historic Preservation Office State agency
ELIJAH CUTLER BEHUNIN CABIN
WAYNE COUNTY, UTAH

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☑ entered in the National Register

☐ 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 Keeper] [Date of Action]

9/13/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private

☐ public-local

☐ public-State

☑ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☑ building(s)

☐ district

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

1        1    buildings

      1        1    sites

      1        1    structures

      1        1    objects

1        1    Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing

Capitol Reef National Park MPS

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: NPS Wayside Exhibit
ELIJAH CUTLER BEHUNIN CABIN  WAYNE COUNTY, UTAH

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other/Vernacular

Materials

| foundation | Sandstone |
| roof       | Wood; bentonite |
| walls      | Sandstone |
| other      | Wood |

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheet.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- X 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  Exploration/Settlement
Period of Significance  1883-1884
Significant Dates  1883
Significant Person  n/a
Cultural Affiliation  n/a
Architect/Builder  Behunin, Elijah Cutler

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheet.)

9. Major Bibliographical References


Capitol Reef N. P. Archives, Torrey, Utah.

Final Homestead Proofs, Bureau of Land Management Records, RG-49, National Archives, Suitland, Maryland.
ELIJAH CUTLER BEHUNIN CABIN

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 acre

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.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses only the historic cabin.

Additional Documentation

Continuation Sheets - included.
Maps - see attached USGS map indicating the property's location.
Photographs - included.

Property Owner

Name: Capitol Reef National Park
Street & Number: HC 70, Box 15
City or Town: Torrey
State: UT
Zip Code: 84775-9602
Telephone: (801) 425-3791
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.
The Elijah Cutler Behunin Cabin is located in the north central portion of Capitol Reef National Park. It is just off the south side of Utah Route 24, roughly 6.5 miles east of the Visitor Center. The cabin is a single story, rectangular building measuring approximately 13 feet by 16.5 feet and is constructed of sandstone and wood. The cabin maintains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the historic period.

The single-room building is constructed of coursed sandstone covered with a thickly applied coat of wash. The low-pitched gabled roof consists of wood pose covered with wood sheathing and bentonite. A low sandstone chimney is located on the east elevation. The entry is centered in the north elevation. It consists of a rectangular opening with a wood lintel, a wood door frame, and a wood door. A single rectangular window opening, with wood lintel, sill, and frame, and a wood shutter, is located east of the entry. A small opening is located in the west gable end. The interior consists of a single room with a dirt floor. There is no ceiling.

The Behunin Cabin, which was restored by the National Park Service in the late 1960s, is the most intact example of a nineteenth century settler's cabin extant in Capitol Reef National Park. The building is an excellent example of local vernacular masonry construction.

Statement of Significance
Elijah Cutler Behunin Cabin has local significance under National Register Criterion A for its association with early exploration and settlement. The cabin served as the residence of the Behunin family from 1883-1884. The period of significance corresponds to these dates. (NOTE: While the cabin most likely also qualifies for listing under criterion C, area of significance "architecture," no architectural context has been developed or included in the associated multiple property submission cover form. For this reason only crit. A is marked for this property; an amendment to the cover form would be required to list the property under crit. C.)

This nomination is part of the "Capitol Reef National Park Multiple Property Submission." The Elijah Cutler Behunin Cabin is associated with the historic context "Mormon Settlement and Agriculture in the Area of Capitol Reef National Park, 1880-1946."

The Behunin family lived in this cabin for only a brief period of time. They abandoned the site after one year because the nearby Fremont River flooded their fields and threatened the cabin itself. In 1893 the Behunins moved to Fruita, where both Elijah Cutler Behunin, and his son, Hyrum S., filed applications for homesteads. By 1902 the elder Behunin had moved to Grover, west of Fruita. Elijah Cutler Behunin was responsible for the 1883 construction the Blue Dugway, the
principal transportation route through Waterpocket Fold to the communities east of Fruita. The construction of the Blue Dugway was of major importance opening the Waterpocket Fold to settlement and served as the principal route through the region until 1962.

The abandonment of the Behunin cabin after only one year of occupation testifies to the tenuous nature of settlement patterns in the American West and the mobility demanded by environmental unpredictability.
1) ELIJAH CUTLER BEHUNIN CABIN
2) CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK, TORREY, UTAH
3) PATRICK O'BANNON
4) NOVEMBER 1990
5) JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES
6) VIEW TO SOUTHWEST
7) 1
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2) CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK, TORREY, UTAH
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6) VIEW TO NORTHEAST
7) 2