DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lehman Orchard and Aqueduct (#22)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lehman Caves National Monument

CITY OR TOWN:
Baker

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Congressman-at-large

STATE:
Nevada

COUNTY:
White Pine

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(NonNull)

OWNERSHIP

☑ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

STATUS

☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress

☑ Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural
☒ Commercial
☐ Educational
☐ Industrial
☐ Military
☒ Museum
☐ Religious
☐ Scientific
☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Park
☐ Private Residence

4. AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Western Region

CITY OR TOWN:
San Francisco

STREET AND NUMBER:
450 Golden Gate Ave., 36063

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
White Pine County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Ely

STREET AND NUMBER:

STATE:
Nevada

CODE:
32

6. REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal
☐ State
☐ County
☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

RECEIVED

DEC 31 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER
Preservation recommended

Located on the flat area below the present park visitor center, this orchard today consists of seven apricot trees, two pear trees and a peach tree. Although quite old, the trees still produce fruit.

The original size of the orchard is not known, but it was much larger than today and it had apple trees in addition to the ones enumerated above.

The aqueduct runs from the monument boundary and ends at the road a distance of about one mile, encircling the flat where the orchard is.

Originally the aqueduct was about two miles long and ran from a creek to the orchard area. Above the orchard the aqueduct formed a "Y" with one branch running to the orchard and the other to a reservoir that had been dug out as an ice-swimming-fishing pond. The aqueduct was a shallow open ditch and at the "Y" a board gate controlled the direction of the flow of water.

Today the aqueduct is plainly visible, although silted in somewhat. The remains of the board control gate can be seen. The reservoir, or pond, no longer exists.

Boundary: The only historic land intended to be embraced around the aqueduct is a swath extending four feet on each side from the center line of the aqueduct and running from where the aqueduct enters Lehman Caves National Monument and terminating at the road at the orchard area, covering a distance of about one mile.

The State highway provides access to the park circles at Park headquarters a large green area roughly elliptical in shape. The boundary of the historic orchard is the inside curb of the road that encloses this elliptically shaped area.

Class VI land: 9 acres

Cost estimate: park maintenance funding adequate
**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

3rd Order

Little is known about the history of the orchard or the aqueduct. Both, according to local legend, were installed by Absalom S. Lehman, the effective discoverer of the cave that bears his name. Since he died in 1891, the orchard presumably is over 80 years old. A ring count in 1965 on an apple tree revealed the tree then to be over 75 years old.

Many of the trees were removed in 1934 by CWA crews.

This is an arid area for man and to grow a decent orchard the aqueduct was needed to utilize what water was available. Today the orchard and the aqueduct illustrate the efforts of a man to grow fruit trees in an area where they do not grow naturally.

The Lehman Orchard and Aqueduct represent an early agricultural accomplishment, based on irrigation in an area more suitable for cattle grazing. During the mining period, in 1868, White Pine Mining District, Lehman’s fruit, meat, butter and eggs contributed to the food supply, supporting the mining activity. Historic research is needed to determine the full historic significance.
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

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<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
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Approximate acreage of nominated property: 9 acres

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<td>Nevada</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>White Pine</td>
<td>033</td>
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</table>

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian

Business Address: Denver Service Center, NPS

Street and Number: 7200 W. Alameda Boulevard

City or Town: Denver

State: Colorado

12. Certification of Nomination

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

None [ ]

State Liaison Officer Signature: Eric Crumblit

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is: [ ] National [ ] State

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keep of The National Register.
1. NAME

| COMMON: | Lehman Caves Orchard and Aqueduct |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: |  |

2. LOCATION

| STREET AND NUMBER: | Lehman Caves National Monument |
| CITY OR TOWN: | Baker |
| STATE: | Nevada |
| CODE: | 32 |
| COUNTY: | White Pine |
| CODE: | 033 |

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

| PHOTO CREDIT: | F. Ross Holland, Jr. |
| DATE OF PHOTO: | December 1971 |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | Denver Service Center |

4. IDENTIFICATION

| #1 | View of orchard looking east |

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