1. NAME
   COMMON: Rhodes Cabin (#19)
   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 (Check One)
   [ ] District
   [ ] Building
   [x] Site
   [ ] Structure
   [ ] Object
   [ ] Public
   [ ] Private
   [ ] Both
   [x] Present Use
   [ ] Agricultural
   [ ] Commercial
   [ ] Educational
   [ ] Entertainment
   [ ] Industrial
   [ ] Military
   [ ] Museum
   [ ] Religious
   [ ] Scientific
   [x] Present Use
   [ ] Federal
   [ ] State
   [ ] Other (Specify)
   [ ] None

4. AGENCY
   National Park Service
   REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 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
   STATE: Nevada
   CODE: 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: None
   DATE OF SURVEY: None
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: None
   STREET AND NUMBER: None
   CITY OR TOWN: None
   STATE: None
   CODE: None
7. DESCRIPTION

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<th>CONDITION</th>
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<th>□ Excellent</th>
<th>□ Good</th>
<th>□ Fair</th>
<th>□ Deteriorated</th>
<th>□ Ruins</th>
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Preservation-restoration recommended

This one-room log cabin, 19 feet long and 11 feet wide, originally rested on the ground. It had a front entrance door and a side door. There were two windows on the back side, one on the end opposite the door, and one on the front side. The logs were chinked with mud and concrete. The roof was plank and sod supported by log beams. The floor was dirt.

The cabin has been restored. The only deviations from the original construction was the placing of a concrete footing under the cabin to deter rotting of the bottom logs, and the substitution of mud-simulated cement chinking.

The cabin now contains pictures of Absalom S. Lehman, discoverer of the Cave and interpretes how the area was discovered. Located near the visitor center, the cabin is visited by a large percentage of the park's visitors.

Boundary: The cabin is located north of the visitor center, 75 feet, northeast of the weather station 40 feet, and 30 feet west of the fire hydrant located on the curve to the upper terrace. The boundary comprising approximately one acre is the west side of the road to the parking terrace, the north end of the visitor center, 70 feet north of the cabin and 50 feet west of the cabin on the hill toward the natural entrance.

Class VI land: 1 acre

Cost estimate: park maintenance funding adequate
### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [X] 20th Century
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

- [ ] 1928

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [X] Tourism
- [ ] Other (Specify)

(Specify)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

3rd order

This cabin was built in 1928 as part of a resort at Lehman Caves. It was designed to house tourists. During the 1930s the cabin served as a residence for park employees.

It is one of the few remaining remnants of early day tourism to the famous Lehman Caves, and is probably the oldest tourist accommodation in the vicinity.

Historical research would be needed to obtain additional data on the cabin.

(See Form 10-300a Continuation Sheet)


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<tr>
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LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Denver Service Center, NPS

STREET AND NUMBER: 7200 W. Alameda Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] None

State Liaison Officer Signature

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 _____ State National

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

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

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Date 1974

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Date 2.24.75

GPO 938-449
8. Significance - continued:

Although some sources claim that the Rhodes Cabin was built by Absalom Lehman, discoverer of Lehman Cave, 1922 photographs show no cabins or other buildings on the site, tending to invalidate that claim. The local newspaper, the Ely Record of March 2 and May 25, 1928, reported that several log cabins were being built by contractor Charles Davis near the entrance to Lehman Cave. Baker resident Ralph A. Kaufman later testified that he provided C. T. Rhodes, the then private operator of Lehman Cave, with financial aid in building those cabins. A Mr. Winn and a Mr. French assisted in construction of the cabin. The logs used in the cabin reportedly came from along Baker Creek and the roofing boards were cannibalized from the Osceola water flume which had been constructed in the late 1880's.

The cabin was designed as tourist accommodations according to the Ely Daily Times of May 19, 1928, but during the 1930's it was used by National Park Service personnel (both permanent and seasonal) as living quarters. Still later, it was used for storage of paints, oil, and other flammable supplies. Having survived this precarious period of its existence, subsequent to 1963 it was repaired and restored.

Lehman Cave was made a national monument by proclamation of President Warren G. Harding on January 24, 1922. C. T. Rhodes, a former restauranteur and former chauffer to Nevada's governor, had owned the site since 1920, and it was he who developed tourist facilities such as the Rhodes Cabin there. In addition to the cabin he erected sleeping tents for tourists and an arboreal dining room. He replaced ladders in the caves with stairways and excavated crawl-holes into passages through which one could walk erect. Reappointed in 1923, Rhodes advertised the "Pine Bowery" and the "Lehman Tea Room" as part of his tourist facilities along with the cabin. In 1932 the State of Nevada paid Rhodes $15,000 for his land and on September 5, 1933, deeded the land to the Federal Government, under which it passed to the National Park Service.
# Rhodes Cabin

## Location

**Street and Number:** Lehman Caves National Monument

**City or Town:** Baker

**State:** Nevada

**Code:** 32

**County:** White Pine

## Photo Reference

**Photo Credit:** F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian

**Date of Photo:** December 1971

**Negative Filed At:** Denver Service Center

## Identification

**Ident: #192**

Front and side view of cabin

**Property of the National Register**