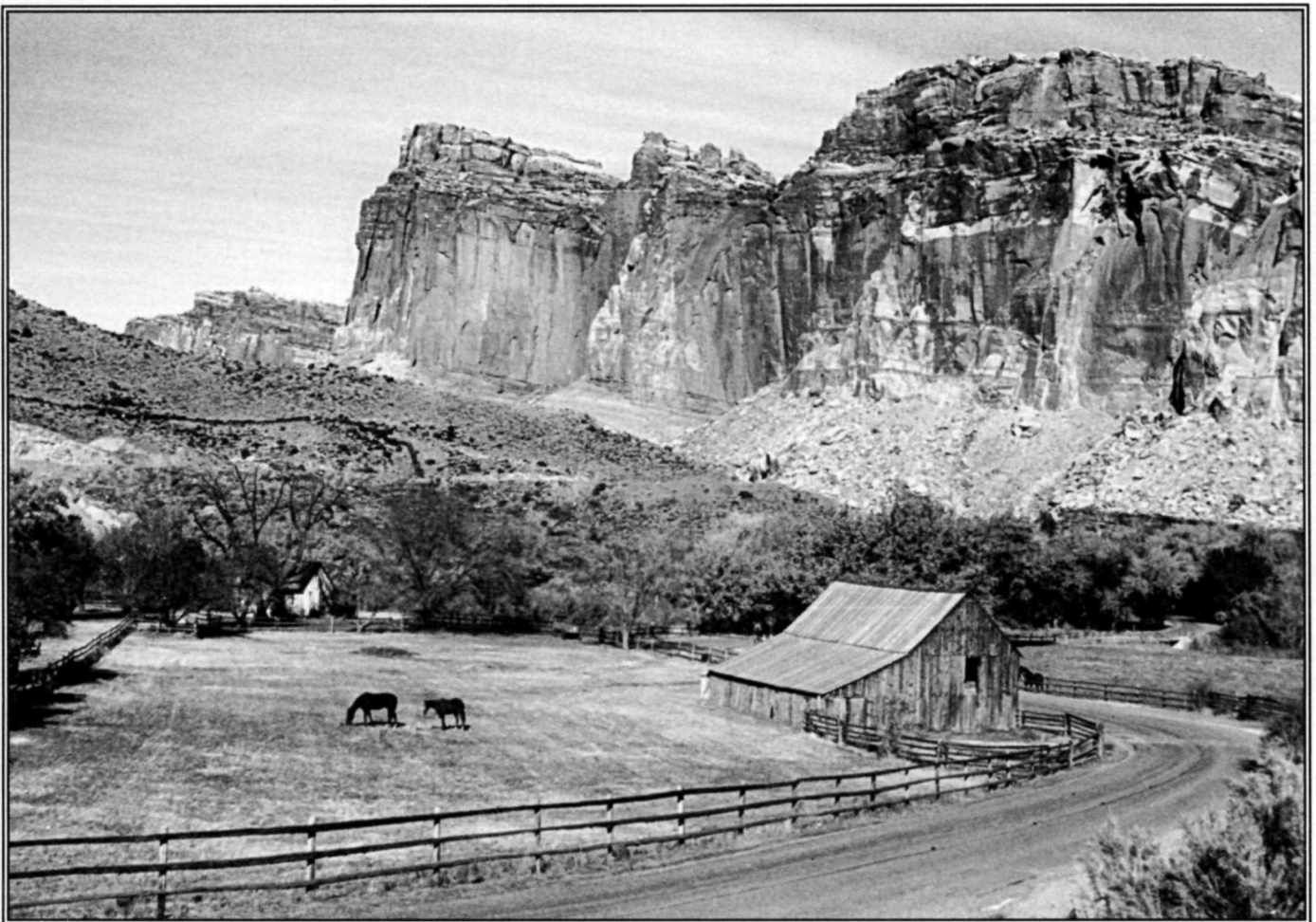


Cultural Landscape Report: Fruita Rural Historic District, Capitol Reef National Park

by

Cathy A. Gilbert and Kathleen L. McKoy



No. 8
1997

CULTURAL RESOURCES SELECTIONS
Intermountain Region
National Park Service



COVER PHOTOGRAPH: View of the Gifford Farm and Scenic Drive, looking northwest, 1996.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS:

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs used in this report are credited to the National Park Service and are on file at Capitol Reef National Park, Torrey, Utah.

**Cultural Landscape Report:
Fruita Rural Historic District,
Capitol Reef National Park**

by

Cathy A. Gilbert and Kathleen L. McKoy

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Intermountain Region
Denver, Colorado
1997

FOREWORD

As a part of the National Park Service's mission to protect and interpret its resources, it is important to make valuable, historical information readily available. To further that goal, I am pleased to present this volume in our occasional series of publications on the Intermountain Region's past.

This report, prepared by Historical Landscape Architect Cathy Gilbert (Pacific West Region) and Historian Kathy McKoy (Intermountain Region), provides detailed historical information encompassing more than 100 years of continuous agricultural use of the river-bottom lands of Fruita. Once a small, remote farming community of Mormon settlers and their descendants, the valley became regionally famous for its cultivation of privately-maintained fruit orchards through the 1950s. Acquired by the National Park Service during the 1960s, Fruita's estimated 2,500 fruit trees (primarily cherry, apricot, apple, and peach) continue to be maintained and fruit made available to park visitors on a pick-your-own basis.

Fruita is an excellent example of a *historic vernacular landscape*, one which illustrates peoples' values and attitudes toward the land and reflects patterns of settlement, use, and development over time. This study recognizes and describes the complex nature of Fruita's cultural landscape and the landscape's inherently dynamic nature. It documents the features, values, and associations that contribute to this particular landscape's historic significance. The research, documentation, and analysis of changes which have taken place in Fruita over the last century provides a basis for recommendations that will assist the park to achieve the goal of sensitive and appropriate management of the important historic resources encompassed by the boundaries of the Fruita Rural Historic District.



John E. Cook
Field Director
Intermountain Region

Mission: As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally-owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. Administration. NPS-D63, September, 1997.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to recognize a number of individuals who contributed to this study of historic Fruita and its landscape. During the 1980s, George E. Davidson, then the park's Chief of Interpretation and Information Services, alerted the park in the *Cultural Resources Management Plan* that a "historic scene enhancement plan" was needed to guide management in park planning. Davidson recognized the significance of and was an early advocate for Fruita's cultural landscape, urging management to consider how park development impacted the historic scene. In addition, the information on lifeways and land use that Davidson gathered during that period in oral interviews with past residents contributed to our understanding of the landscape. Davidson's appreciation for the history of Fruita and his ability to see the interpretive potential in its rural landscape was instrumental in developing the scope of this project. This cultural landscape study was conducted shortly before Davidson's retirement from his position as park management assistant and from the park service in 1993. His editing acumen and historical knowledge of Fruita and the surrounding region were indispensable during our research and writing of this report.

Superintendent Chuck Lundy's sincere interest in and enthusiastic support of this study, as well as the helpful attitude of his entire staff, made conducting our fieldwork at the park a real pleasure. Other park staff who assisted us include former Historian Brad Frye (now at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area), who reviewed and commented on early report drafts. Former Chief of Resource Management and Science Norm Henderson coordinated our initial fieldwork and 1992 National Register of Historic Places evaluation of the landscape. During the cultural landscape report phase of the project, Henderson was reassigned to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Archeologist Lee Kreutzer became our main contact and technical reviewer. She was instrumental in coordinating our research activities at the park and in reviewing numerous drafts of this report. Her skilled editorial eye, knowledge of the resources, and perceptive comments greatly improved the quality of the final draft. For the excellent, detailed fold-out map of the Fruita Rural Historic District included in this report, we thank the park's Geographic Information System specialist, Jennifer Norton.

Cora Oyler Smith, a resident of Fruita for over fifty years and now residing in Richfield, Utah, provided a wealth of historical information during an oral history interview conducted in May 1993. Her vivid memories and descriptions of life in the close-knit farming community of Fruita made the landscape truly come alive in our imaginations. We also appreciate the assistance of Treasure Recorder Loma Blackburn at the Wayne County Courthouse.

Finally, the authors of this study are most deeply indebted to the contribution of former Orchard Manager Kent Worthen Jackson. Jackson spent some of his childhood years assisting his father, Worthen, tending the orchards of Fruita for the park service. Shortly after completing a degree in archeology at Brigham Young University, Jackson returned to work for the park service in Fruita's orchards for twenty years. During our study, Jackson shared his intimate knowledge of the history of each orchard, made possible by his meticulous keeping of detailed orchard records, a practice begun in the 1960s by his father. His knowledge of the irrigation system and past management practices was also a significant contribution to the study. In addition to numerous informal interviews with Jackson held in 1992 and 1993 (when fieldwork for this report was conducted), a formal oral history interview was made with him in October 1995. Kent Jackson passed away at the age of 47 on November 5, 1995, leaving a living legacy of orchards to future generations. It is with gratitude for his contributions to the National Park Service and to his memory that we dedicate this report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

FOREWORD	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF APPENDICES	viii
LIST OF MAPS	ix
INTRODUCTION	
Historical Overview	1
Purpose of the Report.....	1
Methodology and Scope.....	2
EXISTING CONDITIONS	
Site Context	5
Site Description	7
Study Boundaries	9
Site Map	(see map pocket, back cover)
HISTORY	
Prehistoric Occupation	11
Mormon Settlement and Early Agriculture: 1880-1920	11
Tourism and Creation of Capitol Reef National Monument: 1920-1960	17
Mission 66 and National Park Service Development: 1960-1990.....	34
Endnotes	39
ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION	
Overall Landscape Organization	49
Response to Natural Features.....	50
Cultural Traditions	50
Land Use	54
Vegetation Related to Land Use.....	56
Riparian Plant Communities	56
Introduced Plant Materials (ornamental/cultural)	56
Agriculture	57
Orchard Summaries	59
Orchard Names.....	59
Historic Crops	59
Historical Documentation	60
Circulation	80
Cluster Arrangement	81
Gifford Farm	81
Holt Farm	85
Structures	85
Fruita Schoolhouse.....	85
Merin Smith Implement Shed	86
Merin Smith Fruit Cellar	86
Ranger Station	86
Sulphur Creek Lime Kiln.....	86

(ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION, CONTINUED)

(Structures, continued)	
Sprang House	86
Brimhall House	86
Irrigation System	87
Archeological Resources	90
Prehistoric Resources	90
Historic Sites and Structures	90
Fremont River Still Site	90
Mulford Corrals	90
Miscellaneous Rock Walls	90
Inscription Rocks	92
Home Sites	92
Remnant Irrigation Works	92
Endnotes	92

RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction	97
Management Concepts	97
Circulation	99
Vehicular.....	99
Pedestrian	100
Vegetation.....	100
General	100
Ornamental and Cultural	100
Natural Vegetation	101
Agriculture	101
Orchards	102
Fields	103
Pastures.....	103
Structures	103
Buildings	103
Rock Walls	104
Irrigation Systems	104
Other Structures	105
Small-scale Features.....	105

BIBLIOGRAPHY	107
---------------------------	-----

APPENDICES

A. Statement of Significance, Fruita Rural Historic District.....	109
B. Summary of Management Documents, Capitol Reef National Park. Compiled by Kathy McKoy, 1993	113
C. Wayne County Tax Assessor Records, Land Use and Domestic Livestock. Summaries compiled by Kathy McKoy, 1993	117
D. Fruita Deed Histories	121
E. List of Classified Structures	123
F. Fruita Rural Historic District Cultivated and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs. Documented by Juanita Lichthardt, October 30, 1985	125
G. Letter, Chas S. Peterson to Kathy McKoy, June 24, 1993.....	127

LIST OF MAPS

1. Capitol Reef National Park (<i>prepared by Jennifer Norton, 1998</i>)	5
2. Fruita Rural Historic District (<i>prepared by J. Norton, 1998</i>).....	6
3. Fruita Township Map, 1896	12
4. Capitol Reef National Park, 1937	20
5. Fruita Circulation System, 1962 (<i>fold-out map</i>).....	36 insert
6. Fruita Irrigation System (<i>prepared by Cathy Gilbert, 1992</i>).....	89
7. Fruita Rural Historic District fold-out map (<i>prepared by Jennifer Norton, 1996</i>)	contained in rear pocket

INTRODUCTION

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The historic settlement of Fruita represents an important chapter in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Called “Saints” or “Mormons,” the members of the church followed Brigham Young to the Great Salt Lake of Utah in the mid-nineteenth century, successfully settling and cultivating the arid and inhospitable Great Basin environment. By the 1870s, Mormons expanded from that region into the Colorado Plateau in south-central Utah, seeking new lands for ranching and farming. Due to the arid climate and high altitude, most areas of the region were poorly suited for agriculture, and the majority of settlers supported their families by cattle or sheep ranching. The river valley where Fruita lies, however, was ideally suited to a system of agriculture based on irrigation. Its lower elevation and more moderate temperatures allowed for a longer growing season and wider variety of crops than could be grown in upland communities. Beginning in the 1880s early settlers in the valley took advantage of such conditions by planting and cultivating fruit orchards.

The four original homestead claims of Nels Johnson, Leo R. Holt, Elijah Behunin and his son Hyrum Behunin, encompassed all of historic Fruita. Relative stability characterized landownership patterns in the valley, with farms frequently given or sold to family members throughout the first half of the twentieth century. World War I coincided with a period of orchard expansion in Fruita, with additional cultivated acreage being devoted to the planting of orchards. The first attempts at large-scale commercial production began about this time, and expanded during the 1920s and 1930s, made possible by the new methods of automotive transportation.

In an attempt to assist economically depressed rural areas in the 1920s and 1930s, efforts were instituted by local civic organizations and politicians to boost tourism by the establishment of a state and/or national park in the area. Efforts to gain authorization and funding for the proposed “Wayne Wonderland State Park” were never realized, but eventually were rewarded by federal designation of the area as Capitol Reef National Monument in 1937. Soon after, a stub camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was set up just west of Fruita. A small number of construction projects were undertaken in the monument by the CCC from 1938 to 1942, including the building of a ranger station.

Very little development took place in the monument for the next twenty years. All but a very small portion of Fruita remained in private ownership throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Most residents continued to farm, while taking advantage, whenever possible, of opportunities to benefit from increased tourism and uranium mining activity that took place in the monument. Both created a demand for meals, lodging, and automotive services, to which locals responded by renting out cabins, erecting motels, gas stations, and cafes. During this period, a handful of “outsiders” bought property in Fruita, attracted by the beautiful scenery and remote rural setting.

The most significant changes occurred to the landscape of Fruita in conjunction with the rerouting of Utah State Highway 24 through the Fremont River gorge and the National Park Service’s initiation of Mission 66 developments in the early 1960s. Most private lands in Fruita were acquired at this time, and a large number of existing structures were subsequently removed. At the same time, park facilities were sited and constructed throughout the valley.

From the time lands were acquired, orchards continued to be maintained and the fruit made available for sale. Portions of the open-ditch system of irrigation were converted to underground pipe in the 1970s, in addition to other improvements to the system. Since Mission 66, a number of lesser developments have taken place to provide for the expanding needs of visitors and park management, such as the construction of an additional campground and new residences for park staff.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In 1992 the National Park Service’s Rocky Mountain Regional Office documented the cultural resources of Fruita as part of a larger assessment of all historic resources in Capitol Reef National Park (CARE). One component of that assessment was the completion of a

Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the Fruita Rural Historic District. The DOE contained a short landscape history, documentation and assessment of character-defining features, and a statement of significance. Based on the DOE, Fruita was determined to be a significant landscape and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A nomination was completed in 1996; the Fruita Rural Historic District was listed on the National Register on March 25, 1997.

Concurrent with this effort, the region and the park initiated work associated with the development of a new General Management Plan (GMP) for the park. This planning project encompassed the development of an interpretive prospectus, development concept plans for selected sites, and an environmental impact statement. Because Fruita already serves as the primary developed area in the park - with a visitor center, picnic areas, campgrounds, park service employee housing, park administrative offices, and maintenance facilities - it was identified as a potential site for locating new, much needed, park facilities. However, upon completion of the DOE for Fruita, it became evident that additional guidance with regard to significant landscape resources would be required prior to the development of new management alternatives for the site.

The purpose of this report is to expand the documentation contained in the DOE, and develop recommendations for the treatment of Fruita's cultural landscape resources. This report will provide additional baseline data for the GMP and general planning process from which management alternatives and design concepts can be developed.

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

The cultural landscape report for Fruita is divided into four primary sections: Existing Conditions, Site History, Analysis and Evaluation, and Recommendations. All references are contained in the endnotes and bibliography, with additional source materials in an appendix. A large portion of the material for this report was drawn from the DOE for the Fruita Rural Historic District. In every case, basic data in the DOE was supplemented with additional research and analysis, allowing for the development of recommendations for treatment. In addition, although the DOE for Fruita designated boundaries for the historic district, the boundaries for this report were extended to include significant resources outside of the proposed district boundaries. Specifically, the boundaries were expanded to include the full extent of the historic irrigation system and the lime kiln on Sulphur Creek, located just west of the visitor center (see Existing Conditions: Study Boundaries).

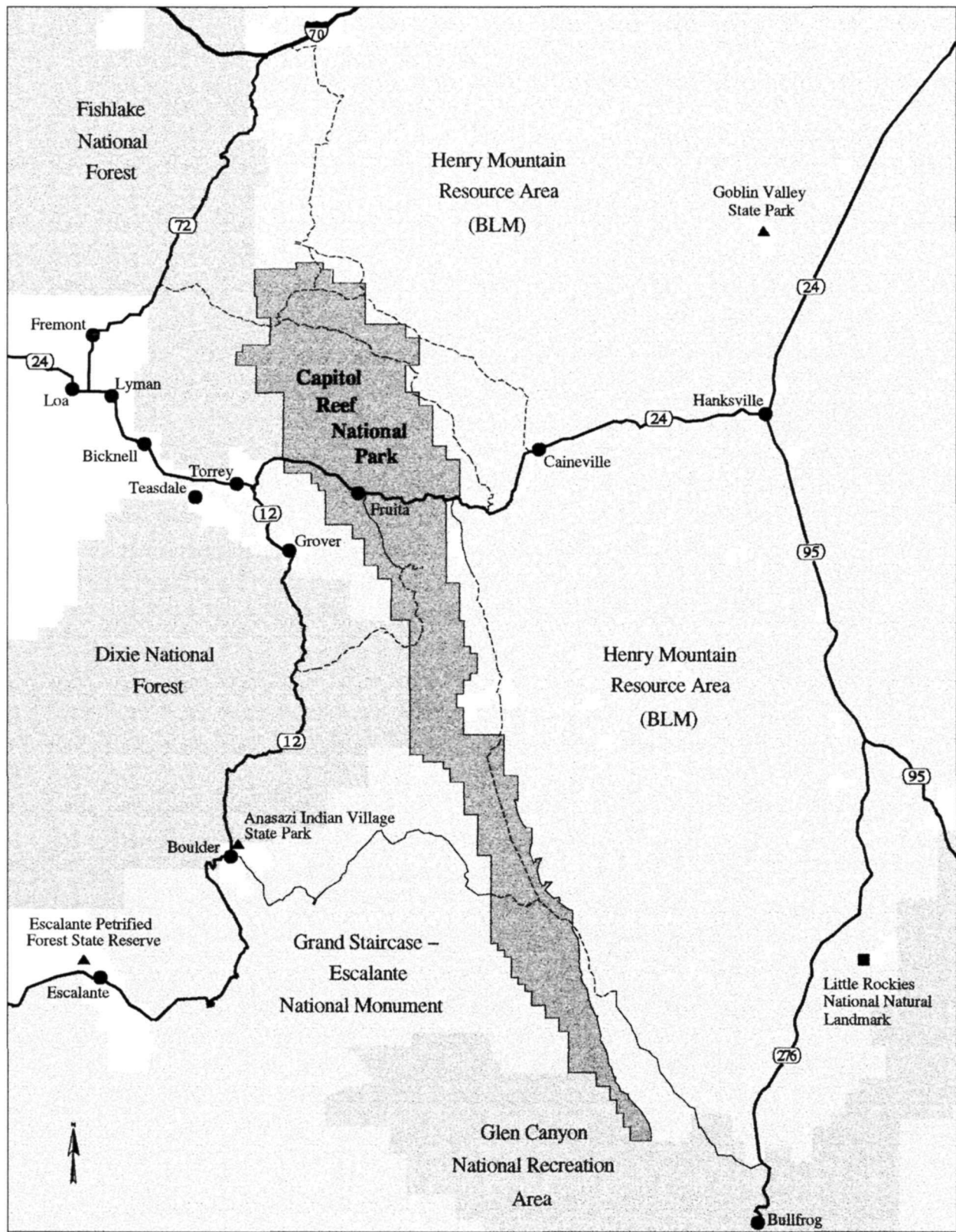
Additional historical research was conducted at the Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center and the Federal Record Center in Denver, park archives, and the Wayne County Courthouse in Loa, Utah. Superintendents' reports and correspondence were used to expand an understanding of landscape changes undertaken by the park service and the intent behind those modifications. Oral interviews were conducted with former property owners and residents in an attempt to clarify information found in the historic record. Some data, particularly that which related to historic land use, were occasionally confusing, contradictory, and difficult to reconcile. Discrepancies among official documents, park maintenance records, oral histories, and photographic documentation of Fruita proved most challenging. Where information could not be tracked in the written record, deference was made to the photographic record. While this technique was useful in several cases, it also illustrated major contradictions between the tax records for Fruita and most other sources. Throughout this report, these discrepancies are noted and explained in the endnotes. In the analysis, the photographic collection and park maintenance records were used as the primary records for documenting landscape resources, including land use. Existing conditions were documented during a two-week site visit in March 1993. Supplementary data were collected from the park's natural resources database, cultural resources records, and administrative files relating to park operations, visitor services, and recreation. As part of this work, all available data on the orchards and agricultural fields were consolidated and an inventory was compiled. The purpose of the inventory was to verify existing management records and document current status, species composition, acreage, layout, and condition. While part of this study, landscape features and historic resources located outside of the DOE boundaries were not extensively documented because of time constraints.

The analysis and evaluation incorporated findings from the research portion of the project and documented three components that influenced the cultural and physical contexts for development of the historic landscape (overall landscape organization, response to natural features, and cultural traditions), and seven additional character-defining features that contribute to the significance of the landscape.

Recommendations in this document incorporate several existing management recommendations found in approved park plans and reports. Special attention was given to the documents specifically addressing the landscape resources of Fruita including the *Historic Agricultural Management Plan for Capitol Reef National Park* (1979); *Interpretation and Management of Change in the Cultural Landscape, Fruita Historic Area* (1985); and *Capitol Reef National Park Orchard Management Plan* (1988). The recommendations in this document address treatment of significant cultural landscape resources in five categories: Management Concepts, Circulation, Vegetation, Structures, and Small-scale Features. The intent of the recommendations is to provide guidelines for treatment. Specific actions are not detailed, pending development of the GMP, development concept plan(s), additional management plans, and special studies, as appropriate. The recommendations identify areas where new development can occur within the district without impacting significant resources and describes, as appropriate, the type and character of those changes.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SITE CONTEXT

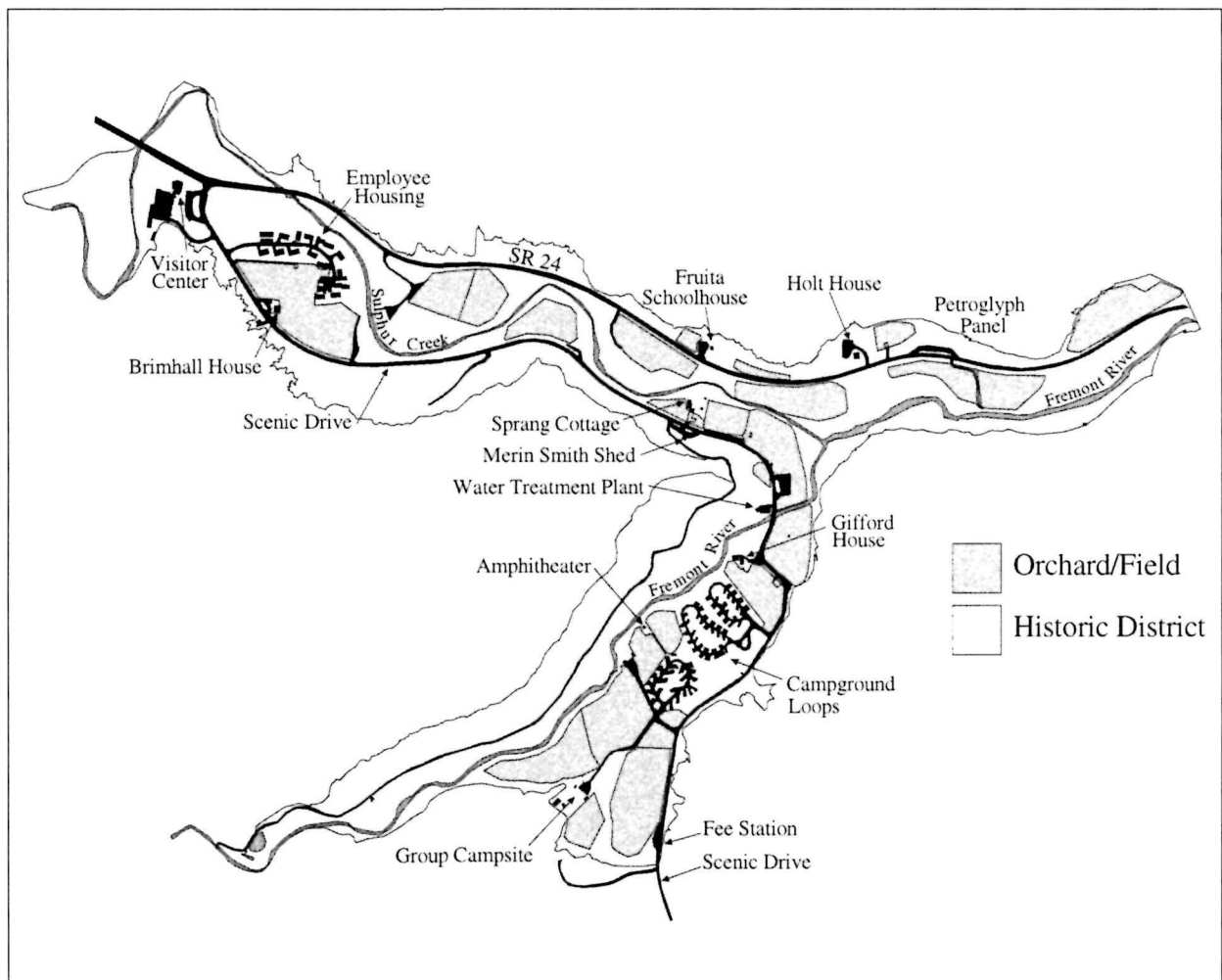


Location Map, 1998

Capitol Reef National Park is located in south-central Utah, within portions of Emery, Garfield, Sevier, and Wayne counties, and encompasses 241,904 acres. The park contains a variety of spectacular geological features, including the Waterpocket Fold, with a crest that rises more than 2,000 feet above the surrounding landscape. Other features include at least 15 exposed sedimentary formations; igneous dikes, plugs and sills; a Pleistocene mud slide; gypsum plugs and sinkholes; arches, natural bridges, domes, hogbacks, cuerdas, mesas, and fins; and eroded sandstone cliffs.

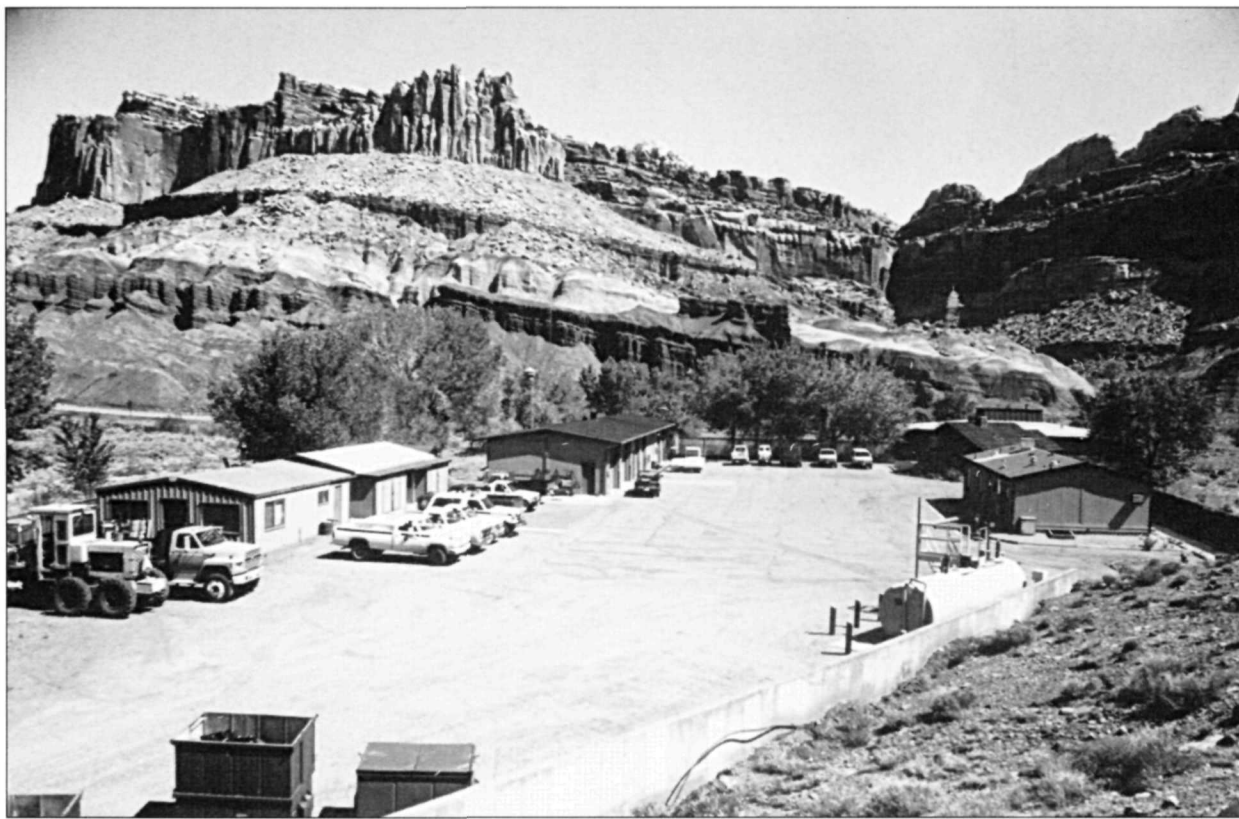
The park also contains cultural resources relating to both prehistoric and historic times. Prehistoric resources include evidence of the Desert Archaic Culture, dating from about 8,500 to 2,000 years ago. The Fremont people occupied and used areas throughout the Fremont River gorge and Pleasant Creek drainages in the central portion of the park. These areas contain Fremont habitation sites, temporary campsites, and a rich collection of rock art. The Fremont people were the first to use the area at the junction of the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek. Historic resources relate primarily to exploration, settlement, agriculture, and mining enterprises on the Colorado Plateau.

The three administrative districts in the park are the Waterpocket (south), the Cathedral (north), and the Fremont River (central). The Fremont River district includes the primary automobile access to Capitol Reef, State Highway 24, which parallels the Fremont River and bisects the park. The majority of the park facilities, developed areas, and cultural resources are within this district at Fruita, which is the focus of this report.



Fruita Rural Historic District, 1998

SITE DESCRIPTION



View of maintenance area, looking north, 1993.

The Fruita Rural Historic District (the district) encompasses the site of the historic community of Fruita and covers approximately 200 acres in the Fremont River district of the park. It is physically defined by, and contained within, two canyons that intersect at the confluence of the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek. One canyon trends west-east and the other north-south, following the Fremont River corridor through Fruita. Views and perceptual qualities are restricted within the district by the canyon cliffs. Two roads through the district control access and act as boundary elements: State Highway 24 on the north (through the east-west canyon) and the Scenic Drive on the east (through the north-south canyon). Primary development in the district occurs on the bottom lands.

Fruita functions as the primary visitor contact point in the park, is the location for the majority of visitor services, and serves as the location for park headquarters and operations. The visitor center, park administrative offices, and maintenance facilities are located within a cluster of buildings on the west edge of Fruita. The superintendent's office and museum storage are located in the historic ranger station (1940). The visitor center and maintenance facilities were built in 1968 as part of the Mission 66 master plan for the park. Residences for park staff are concentrated in a cul-de-sac across from this complex. The majority of these structures were constructed between 1962 and 1964. Five new residences have been added to this area since 1993. Three other buildings in Fruita have provided housing for park staff: the Holt house (1895), Sprang house (1957), and the Brimhall house (1959). The Brimhall house is used as quarters for seasonal volunteers; the Sprang and Holt houses are currently vacant.

There are two campgrounds in Fruita. One campground was constructed in 1964 with 53 sites (Loops A and B). This area was expanded in 1987 to include an additional 18 sites (Loop C). The group camping area (which accommodates 10 to 40 people) was built south of the Cass



View of campground, 1993.



View of group campground, 1993.



View of group picnic area, 1993.

Mulford Orchard in 1987. Two picnic areas are located in the central portion of the district. These areas, accommodating both group and individual parties, were constructed in the late 1960s; one, the Doc Inglesby Picnic Grove, was enlarged in the 1970s.

Vegetation in Fruita is dominated by the agricultural lands along the canyon bottom lands. Approximately 2,500 orchard trees on 40 acres, and 25 acres of open fields and pasture lands fill out the agricultural landscape of the historic district. Riparian vegetation along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek is characterized by cottonwood, tamarix, and Russian olive, reflecting years of disturbance by flooding, grazing, irrigation works, and other impacts associated with farming practices dating from the 1880s.

STUDY BOUNDARIES

Boundaries for this report follow the boundaries of the historic district, as defined in the *Cultural Landscape Assessment: Fruita Rural Historic District* (September 1992). In addition, this report also takes into account landscape resources south of Hattie's Field, following the Fremont River to the settling pond, and west of the visitor center, following Sulphur Creek to the Sulphur Creek lime kiln. This area is referred to as the *study area*. In addition, landscape resources outside this boundary were considered as part of this report, including significant viewsheds and historic land use practices on the slopes and mesas. This area is referred to as the *historic landscape context*.

SITE MAP

(See fold-out map pocketed at the end of this report.)

HISTORY

PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION

The earliest documented occupants of the Fruita region were members of the Desert Archaic Culture, dating from about 8,500 to 2,000 years ago. These people travelled along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek valleys, using the steep cliffs for depicting their rock art, and tapping available food resources.

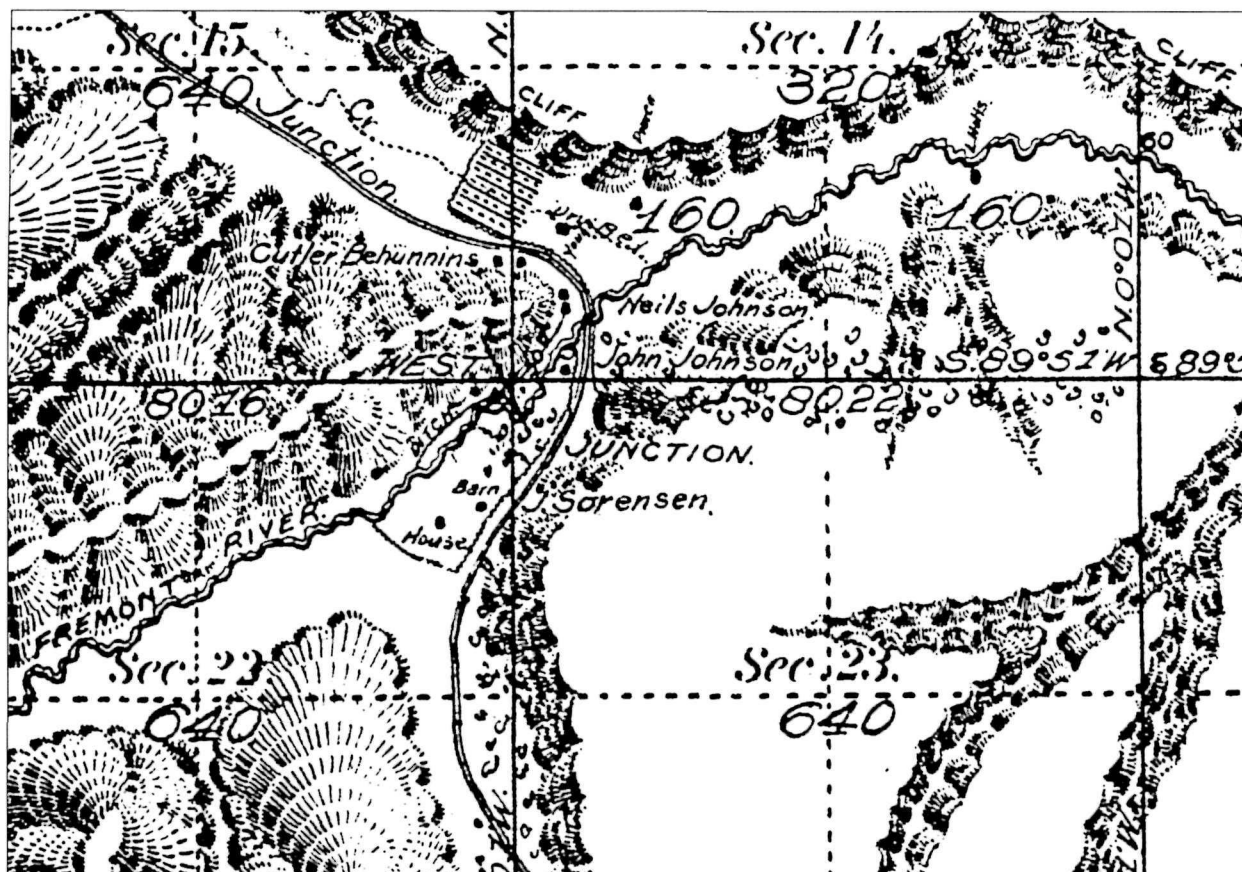
The fertile, narrow corridor of land along the drainages through the Fruita area was cultivated and used extensively by the Fremont peoples between 1,500-700 years ago. Rock shelters, open habitation sites, and multiple storage structures indicate semi-permanent habitation occurred throughout the area. Corn and other crops were grown, and evidence suggests that irrigation was used to enhance the potential success and yield of crops. These people also created imposing anthropomorphic rock art figures on the steep cliff walls which overlook the valley floor. Twenty-four archeological sites in the Fruita area reflect these occupations and provide evidence of the earliest farmers in the area.

Subsequent habitation of the Fruita area was by protohistoric Paiute groups who, similarly, used the drainages as major passageways and as a source for profitable hunting and gathering of wild food resources. It was the Paiutes who met the first Mormon settlers in Garfield and Wayne counties in the late nineteenth century.

MORMON SETTLEMENT AND EARLY AGRICULTURE 1880-1920

Under the leadership of Brigham Young, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) immigrated to the valley of the Great Salt Lake beginning in 1847. In the following years, Young laid down the principles that would govern the development of new settlements established by LDS members, referred to as "Saints" or "Mormons." A land system was established based on the principle that the welfare of the social group transcended that of the individual. The methods employed to allot land and water represented a high degree of cooperation, rare among most other frontier settlements. The Mormons' achievements in desert agriculture enabled permanent settlement of the Great Basin and subsequent expansion into surrounding territories. By 1870 the most desirable areas of the Mormon region were occupied, and only marginal niches remained to be settled. Mormons then expanded out from the St. George-Salt Lake "corridor" into the Colorado Plateau country to the east. In south-central Utah, this movement of peoples occurred after 1875 when large herds of horses and cattle were driven to Rabbit Valley, about 30 miles west of the Waterpocket Fold. The ranching communities of Fremont, Loa, Lyman, Bicknell, Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey developed on the high plateau just west of present-day Capitol Reef National Park (CARE).

Mormon occupation of the Capitol Reef area followed the pattern of prehistoric peoples, clustering in the river valleys. Located at the confluence of the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek, and first called "Junction," the Fruita area was first occupied by Mormon settlers in the early 1880s. A few early arrivals claimed squatter's rights, selling their land within a few years after their arrival. Between 1897 and 1904, four individuals, Nels Johnson, Leo R. Holt, Elijah Cutler Behunin, and Hyrum Behunin (Elijah's son), filed on, and received title to, homesteads in the area, claiming virtually all its arable land.¹ The first homestead title of 160 acres was granted to Nels Johnson in 1897. In his final affidavit, Johnson stated that he constructed a house in 1886 at the junction of the two watercourses, taking up residence at the site in 1887. In 1888, he began cultivating 17 acres, 7 of which were in orchards. In an 1896 affidavit, Johnson stated that his property included 3 one-room houses, a granary, a corral, and 100 rods (1,650 feet) of fencing. Johnson also noted that the property was most valuable for the production of fruit. The Homestead Act final proof papers indicate that at least 11 acres of Johnson's land were planted in orchards by 1901.



Fruita Township Map, 1896, showing small settlement of Junction. Including roads, buildings, orchards, fences, and an early irrigation ditch.

Less than a year after taking title to his homestead, Johnson and his wife, Mary, sold more than 37 acres to Susannah Pendleton, wife of Calvin (Cal) D. Pendleton, who resided on the property at the time of sale. The same year they sold 6 acres to Amasa E. Pierce and more than 24 acres to Johnson's father-in-law, Elijah C. Behunin. The 1896 Fruita Township Map shows that J. Sorensen had built a house and barn on the southern portion of Nels Johnson's homestead.

Just west of Johnson's claim, Elijah Behunin settled his 120-acre homestead claim in 1893.² Two years later he had approximately 12 acres in cultivation, 4 of which were devoted to orchards. His son, Hyrum, established residency to the south on another 120-acre claim in 1895 and, beginning in 1896, cultivated 35 acres. Like other residents, Hyrum Behunin noted his land was valuable chiefly for farming and raising fruit. By 1904, when he received title, his claim was completely fenced and included a lumber house, corral, stable, and undefined outhouses.

Along the Fremont River east of Johnson's land, Leo R. Holt took title to 120 acres in 1899. Holt did not provide detailed information on his homestead in testimony and affidavits. He and his wife, Anna Laurina (Rena), apparently settled in Junction about 1892-1893. Nearly six months before receiving title to the property, Holt sold more than half of the homestead acreage to Amasa E. Pierce (27 acres) and H. J. Wilson (38 acres). Amasa E. Pierce would become the presiding elder in Fruita for the Mormon Church after the turn of the century.

In 1883 a wagon road was cleared through Capitol Gorge by early residents to provide a link to other settlements downstream. The road was later extended to Hanksville. Known as the "Blue Dugway," it served as the primary route through the region until 1962. This route was used by ranchers to move sheep and cattle between winter pastures in the northeast and southeast of the



View of the Holt Farm, showing small orchard and garden looking east, ca. 1890s.



Automobile and horse-drawn wagons confront each other on the narrow road through Capitol Gorge. (undated)

Fremont River valley and summer pastures in the higher plateaus to the west. Livestock production assumed increasing importance in the Utah Territory in the 1880s and 1890s, particularly in those areas with marginal value as farmlands. Most farms in Fruita included a small number of horses, mules, and either cattle or sheep, or both. Crops were grown in the valley bottoms while livestock were grazed on the surrounding hillsides.

By 1900, 46 individuals (14 adults and 32 children) lived in the Junction Precinct. School-age children attended a log schoolhouse that was completed in 1896. Because Fruita had no church building, its devout settlers attended "sacrament meetings" (holy communion) in private homes or in the schoolhouse, presided over by the visiting bishop from Torrey. With the establishment of a post office about 1900, residents of the valley were required to give up the name "Junction," which was already held by another town. In recognition of the importance of the valley's orchards, the name of the community was changed to "Fruita." Fruita's location in a sheltered valley with a milder climate than the surrounding area encouraged the cultivation of fruit trees, vineyards, and certain types of garden produce (such as tomatoes) that were difficult or impossible to grow in the plateau towns of higher elevation to the west and deserts to the east. Fruit orchards in particular comprised a unique feature of the local landscape. Fruit was in high demand within the local economy and could be sold for cash or bartered for supplies not produced in Fruita. Vineyards were valued for providing grapes for wine-making and all fruit was prized as a trade commodity, sometimes used to acquire grains from the upland areas to produce distilled liquor (clandestinely). The sale of wine and grain-based hard liquor provided a significant source of income for some of Fruita's residents.³

Virtually all cultivation in Fruita required irrigation. Farmers used the field-ditch system of irrigation, with ditches painstakingly redug or cleaned annually. Field-ditch flooding was labor intensive, requiring cooperation between families to divert water from the two water courses to fields and orchards that varied in average total size from about 90 to 110 acres during the historic period.⁴ The fact that seven or eight families were able to divert water from two streams at several different points and deliver it to such a large acreage of fields and orchards is testimony to the effectiveness of the Mormon cooperative ideal and the importance of water in the arid landscape.

From its initial settlement, floods were troublesome to residents of Fruita, as well as to the downriver settlements of Aldridge, Caineville, Blue Valley (Giles), Clifton, and Elephant. Because Fruita stood a little higher along a more deeply incised watercourse, the damage was not usually as heavy as in some of these other towns. Mrs. Evangeline Godby of Caineville recalled the flood of 1909:

. . . the flood came so heavy through Fruita that it carried trees, still full of apples, all the way to Caineville. The fruit trees were just tumbling over and over in the mud. There were fat pigs still swimming in it when they got to Caineville.⁵

Thus, in addition to the routine maintenance of the ditches, farmers were forced to contend with flood damage to diversion dams and ditches on a frequent basis. Wagon roads covered with boulders or plant debris also required clearing after floods.

Shown on the Fruita Township Map is an extensive irrigation ditch that ran along the north side of the Fremont River to Nels Johnson's lands. In 1900 Leo Holt's brother, Aaron, settled 40 acres west of Elijah Behunin's homestead. In 1902 he diverted water from Sulphur Creek to irrigate his property on which he grew wheat, oats, alfalfa, potatoes, corn, apples, peaches, apricots, and cherries. This is thought to be a representative list of farm products grown at Fruita in the early twentieth century. The area's relative isolation encouraged residents to be self-sufficient by cultivating basic food crops.



From left to right, Clara, Cora, and Carrie Oyler, 1912.

The realities of life in remote Fruita during the early part of the twentieth century could be harsh. The closest doctor and midwife lived in Loa, 27 miles away. Mothers often died in childbirth (or shortly after), with relatives or neighbors informally adopting the motherless infants. When Alma Chesnut's wife died after giving birth, brother William and his wife, Dicey, took in and raised Alma's motherless older boys; the Oylers took in the newborn. 'Tine and Marie Oyler had three daughters (Carrie, Clara, and Cora), only one of whom survived beyond childhood. Clara died at age 8 of "typhoid," and Carrie at age 18 of appendicitis.⁶

By 1910 there were 9 families in Fruita, totaling 61 people (19 adults and 42 children). Only Cal Pendleton and Leo Holt remained from the earlier census, although Amasa Pierce continued to own and farm land, while having moved his residence to Torrey. In addition to absentee landlord Pierce, four of the nine families in Fruita operated fruit farms. Between 1910 and 1920 a number of properties changed hands. Michael Valentine ('Tine) Oyler bought 112 acres and Jorgen Jorgensen purchased 45 acres from Cal Pendleton.

Prior to World War I, all the farms in Fruita had orchards ranging in size from .5 to 3 acres.⁷ During the war years, increasing acreage was planted in fruit, and several properties changed ownership, resulting in the concentration of large orchard acreage by a few individuals. By 1917 the following property owners had emerged as the most prominent fruit growers of this era: 'Tine Oyler, Cal Pendleton, and Don Carlos Pendleton, each owning orchards reported to be 4 to 7 acres each. Oyler's purchase of George Carrell's orchard in 1916 elevated him to being one of Fruita's most prominent fruit growers, a position he held until the sale of his land to Max Krueger in 1941. Prior to World War I, Oyler formed a brief partnership with a young teacher named Cliff Barton, who lived for a time with the Oylers. According to Cora Smith ('Tine Oyler's daughter), Barton wanted to start a business and had no difficulty interesting Oyler in his plans. Barton bought the

first truck in Fruita, and then Olyer bought one, planning to haul fruit to markets in the upper plateau towns. Together they planted more fruit trees. The joint venture was short-lived, as Barton was drafted into the army during World War I and subsequently died in Germany.⁸

Early homes constructed in Fruita were log cabins or small, wood frame, gable-roofed houses. They started out as one large room, and when circumstances improved, lean-tos were added to the rear (bedrooms), side (kitchen), and front (porch). According to Cora Smith, "all the houses were like that."⁹ Few families in Fruita and the surrounding communities could afford the extravagance of painting their homes. Smith took great pride in relating that her father had a house built of finished lumber that was painted "white with green trim."¹⁰

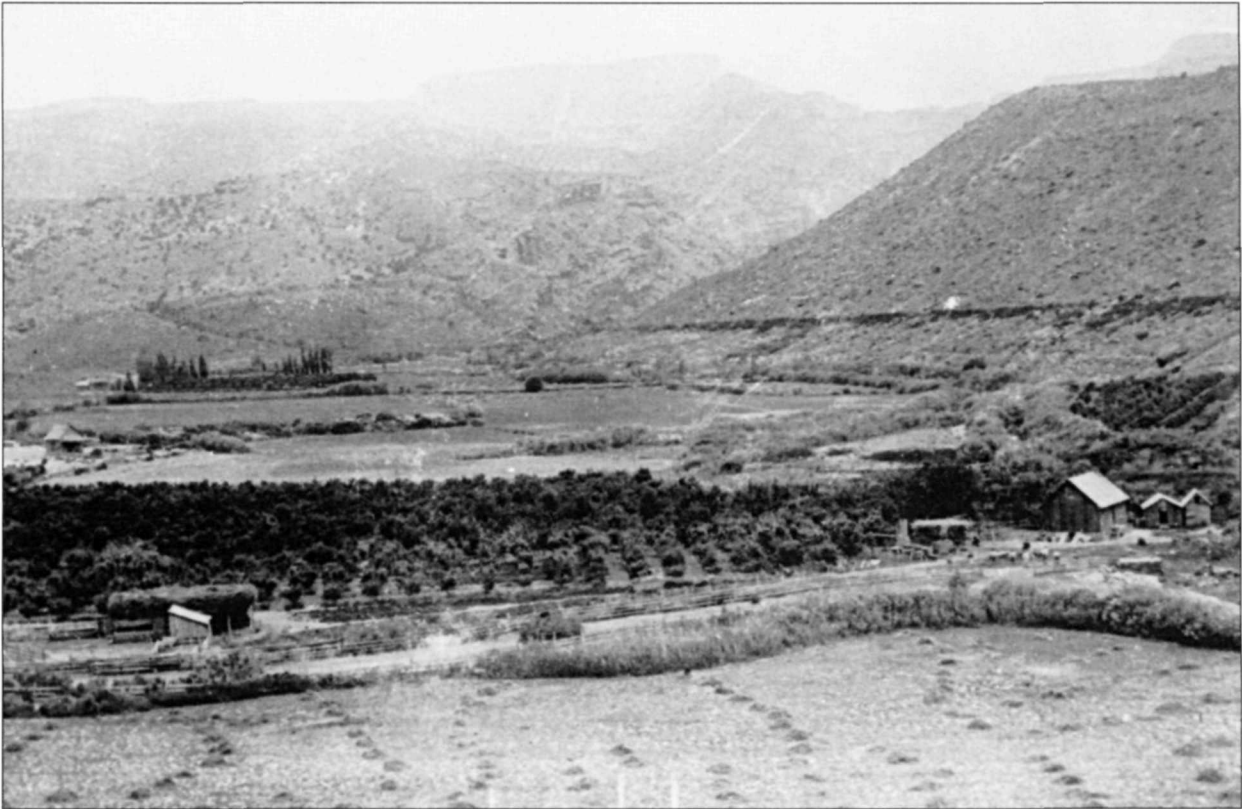
In 1914-1915 the town received tri-weekly mail. Private residents served as postmasters and their homes as "post offices" until about 1918, when the post office was abolished.¹¹ Oral tradition has it that, at the large cottonwood tree located at the bend of the present-day Scenic Drive, the postal carrier from Torrey transferred the mail to another carrier who then carried it to upriver settlements.¹² At some point in time, mail boxes were attached to this tree (most likely after the post office was discontinued). Referred to as the "mail tree," it is now about 120 years old.



'Tine Olyer in his orchard, about 1920.



'Tine Olyer's new orchard, looking west, about 1917.



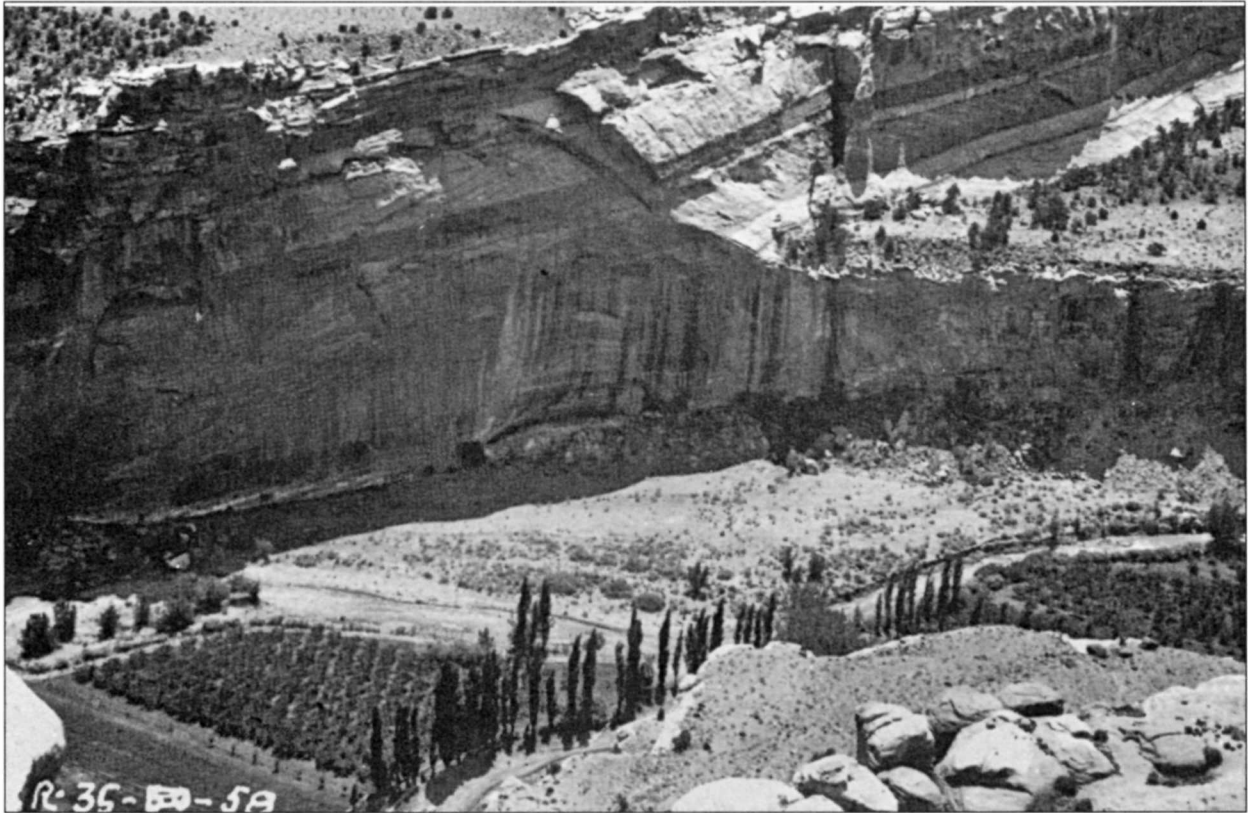
Early view of Fruita, looking south. (undated)

A number of other trees were planted by early settlers and are noteworthy features of the landscape. There is a prominent stand of mature walnut trees located on land which was once part of the Nels Johnson homestead. They are situated in a row along the Scenic Drive, bordering the Johnson Orchard, and may date to the early period of settlement.¹³ Just south of 'Tine Oyler's vineyard are located a row each of mature pecan and walnut trees, reportedly planted by Oyler.¹⁴ A single mature walnut tree also grows in front of the Gifford house. Another mature walnut tree stands prominently on the edge of the Mulford Orchard. The Mulford family refers to it as the "Brigham Young walnut tree."¹⁵ Also worthy of note are the isolated Lombardy poplars scattered throughout the district. It is likely that some are remnants of poplar rows that once marked boundary lines or created windbreaks in early Fruita.¹⁶

During this period and throughout its later years, Fruita was not only significant as home to the handful of families who lived in the valley, it was a welcome oasis to those travelling through the arid region. The valley offered green fields, orchards, and shade against the dramatic backdrop of the canyon. Fruita attracted those who lived in the plateau towns to the west and the canyon-lands to the east, and was (and still is) a traditional gathering place for holidays, family reunions, and fruit harvests.

TOURISM AND CREATION OF CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL MONUMENT 1920-1960

Fruita reached its peak of development in the 1920s. The population totaled 108, a figure that remained stable throughout the decade. An agricultural depression in Utah that began in the early 1920s resulted in many farmers attempting to sell their lands, Fruita being no exception. The 1922-1923 *Utah Gazetteer* advertised acreage being offered by 11 landowners in Fruita. The Pendletons' land (largely part of the original Hyrum S. Behunin homestead) was combined under



View of Fruita orchards, 1935. Note row of Lombardy poplars.

the ownership of Clarence (Cass) Mulford during the 1920s, making him the most important orchard grower on Fruita's south end from the 1930s to the 1960s.¹⁷ In 1925 the descendants of Nels Johnson sold the family property to William (Bill) Clarence Chesnut. In 1926 his brother, Alma Chesnut, assembled a 64-acre farm from portions of Leo Holt's homestead, which included the former Holt farm. In 1929 Jorgen Jorgensen sold his property to his son-in-law, G. Dewey (Dew) Gifford. Merin and Cora Smith acquired two tracts of land between 1928 and 1930, totaling 133 acres. After the creation of Capitol Reef National Monument in 1937, a period of relative stability was introduced in Fruita with regard to changes in ownership. All but one small property (Alma Chesnut's) remained in private ownership into the 1960s. Prior to the beginning of World War II, the largest orchards were owned by 'Tine Oyler, Cass Mulford, and Merin and Cora Smith.

The agricultural depression in Utah coincided with the birth of auto touring as a national pastime. Tourism offered the best hope of reviving depressed local agricultural economies. Beginning in 1921, Wayne County's school superintendent Joseph Hickman, and LDS Bishop E. P. Pectol of Torrey (Hickman's brother-in-law) began promoting the area's scenic wonders through local civic organizations. In 1924 Hickman was elected to the state legislature, and he and Pectol merged their efforts with boosters of the Wayne Commercial Club. Many were convinced that creating a national park in Wayne County would lead to improved roads and communications systems in addition to other economic benefits.

Hickman introduced legislation which resulted in the creation of the State Parks Commission. In 1925 Utah's Governor George H. Dern and other state and local dignitaries visited the proposed Wayne Wonderland State Park to hold ceremonies celebrating its anticipated authorization. As it turned out, the celebration was premature. Hickman died in a drowning accident, ending his legislative efforts, and the park was never authorized nor funded by the state. Still, the activity by park boosters brought about the area's first influx of tourists, with several residents erecting small tourist cabins on their property. By the 1930s their efforts had been incor-



Children of Fruita welcoming Utah Governor George H. Dern with fruit tree blossoms, about 1925.

porated into a regional drive to promote economic development throughout southern Utah. The establishment of a national park in the Capitol Reef area became the focus of their attention during the 1930s.

Local stockmen opposed the creation of a national park, fearing it would result in the loss of grazing privileges and water rights. Nonetheless, after a decade of lobbying by local interests, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the creation of 37,711-acre Capitol Reef National Monument on August 2, 1937. Except for a brief period (July 1953 to November 1954) the monument was administered by Zion National Park (ZION) until 1960.

Until 1935 water use was unregulated on the lower Fremont River, with special concessions in times of shortage. Residents of Fruita diverted water by six primary ditches: Low North Ditch and High North Ditch, Low South Ditch and High South Ditch, the Oyler Ditch, and the Oyler-Chesnut Ditch. The lower Fremont River served four communities: Torrey, Fruita, Caineville, and Hanksville. From 1930 to 1935 water shortages became more acute each year. Disagreements finally led the Hanksville Irrigation Company to cite the other users into the Sixth Judicial District Court for adjudication. Water rights were confirmed to Fruita residents by the action entitled "Hanksville Canal Co. vs. Torrey Irrigation Co." on July 15, 1935. The total decreed water rights for Fruita residents was eight second-feet.¹⁸

In June 1937 Freeman Tanner was appointed river commissioner by the court to record the water distribution from the Fremont River. Tanner reported that a total of 181 acres in Fruita was being irrigated in 1937. In 1941 testimony to the National Park Service (NPS) by Clarence Mulford, a total of 182 acres was described as under irrigation. Both these figures are considerably higher than the amount of land shown as irrigated by the tax assessment records of Wayne County for the same time period (approximately 108 acres).¹⁹ Tanner noted that Fruita land was composed of river-washed gravel covered with a shallow coating of sand. Such land had little water-holding power and required frequent and light irrigation. Tanner reported that Fruita was

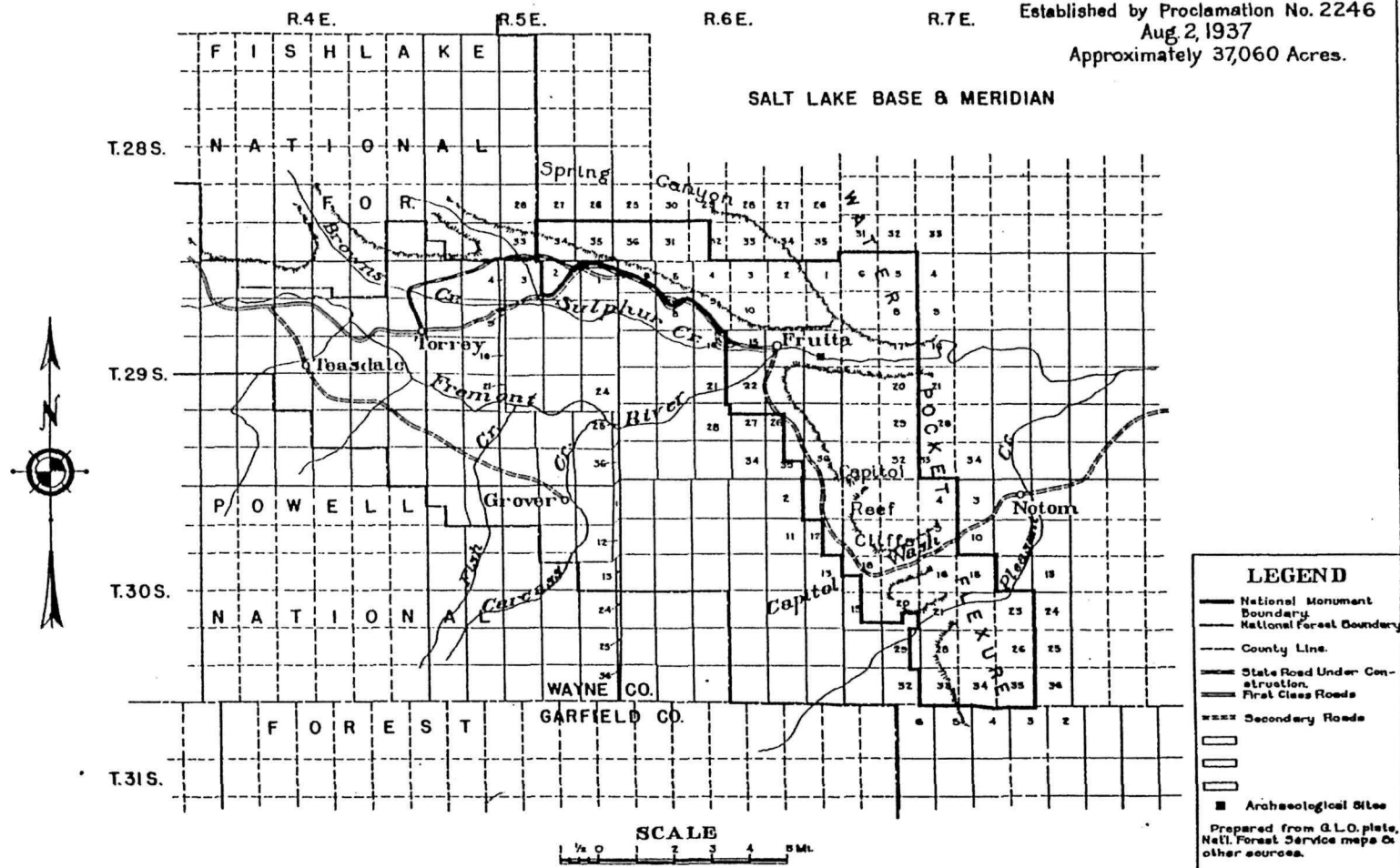
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Harold L. Ickes, Secretary.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Arno B. Cammerer, Director.

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL MONUMENT

UTAH

Established by Proclamation No. 2246
Aug. 2, 1937
Approximately 37,060 Acres.



P.M.C.R.-7001. Dec. 22, 1937

“almost exclusively planted to peaches.”²⁰ A water user’s committee, composed of representatives from each town, cooperated on matters of proper distribution of water. In 1937 the committee chairman was Clarence Mulford of Fruita.

Floods continued to be a problem in the new monument. On August 30, 1938 rain fell intermittently for 12 days. Sulphur Creek and the Fremont River flooded their banks, washing out the Fremont River bridge. A report to the monument’s superintendent stated, “All property owners in Fruita suffered from the flood and rain. Practicality [sic] the entire peach crop fell on the ground.”²¹ The following year a flood washed out Alma Chesnut’s 8-acre peach orchard, planted on a parcel of land south of Tine Oyler’s property. It was imperative, in order to retain water rights, that flooded ditches or damaged flumes be repaired to keep them operational. Referring to Alma Chesnut’s eight acres of orchards and all the irrigation ditches that were washed out in the flood of 1939, the NPS was advised it would lose its water rights if it did not “start repair and operation of the ditches at once.”²²

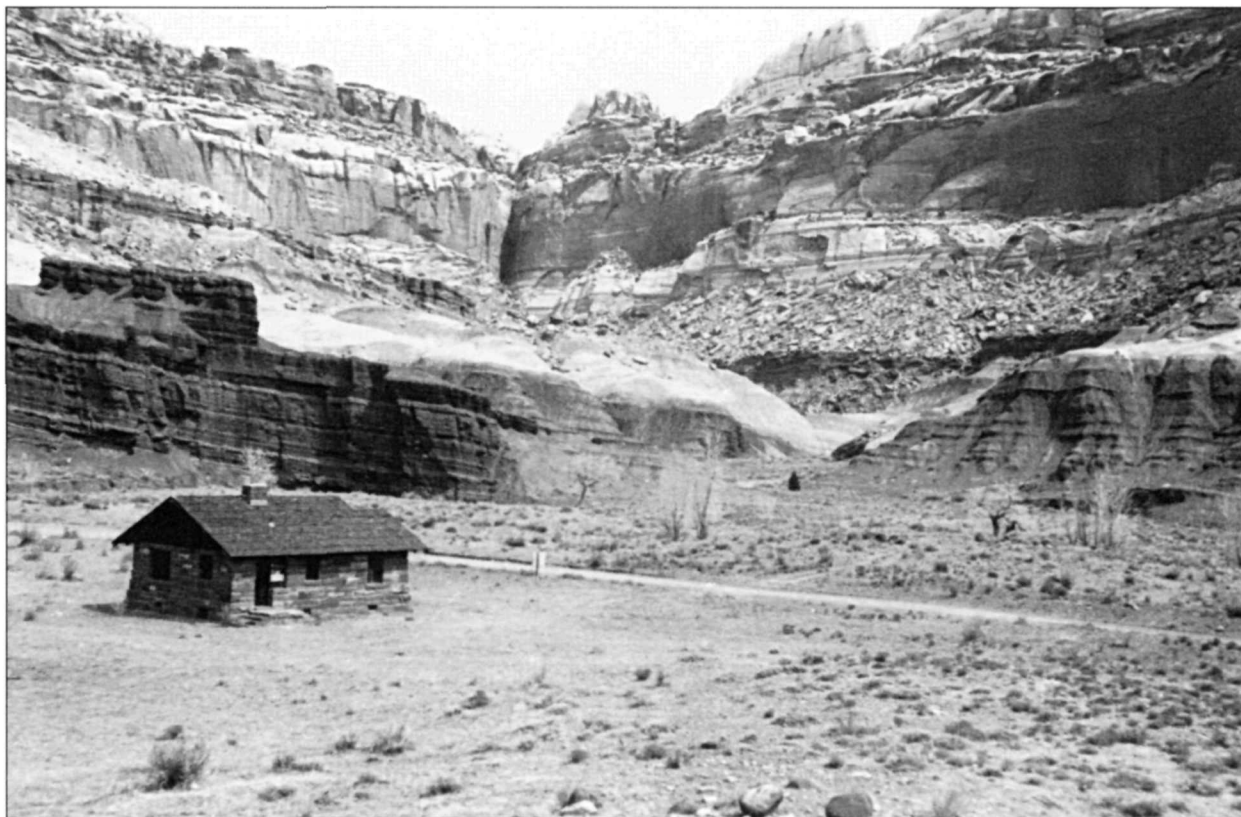


Clarence (“Cass”) Mulford. (undated)

Some of the earliest development projects in the monument were associated with flood control and preventing damage to agricultural fields and roads. The first such work was performed by a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) stub camp from Bryce Canyon National Park that was stationed at Chimney Rock, just west of Fruita, beginning in 1938.²³ Through 1942, crews of up to 50 men were engaged in a variety of projects to improve the monument. Flood and erosion control projects undertaken by the CCC included building basket-type dams along Sulphur Creek.²⁴ Other CCC work included construction of a ranger station on the west end of Fruita, a highway bridge across Sulphur Creek, and the Hickman Bridge trail.

Improvements were also begun by the CCC on the Torrey to Fruita road (old State Route 24, also called the Capitol Gorge Highway) between Twin Rocks and Chimney Rocks east of Fruita, and on a 2.25-mile section just south of Fruita called the “Danish Hill” section. In these sections, the road was widened from about 11 feet to 18 feet, to meet state requirements for two-lane roads. Minor changes in alignments to the road were also made to improve grade, curvature, and drainage.²⁵ These projects were only about 70 percent completed when the work was terminated in April 1942 to send the crew to an emergency dam-repairing project at Escalante.²⁶ The NPS later enlisted the aid of Wayne County and the Utah State Highway Department in 1952 to complete these road work projects.²⁷

The 1938 plans for the monument’s ranger station were identical to those used for a building at Zion National Park (Drawing ZIO-3059A).²⁸ Initial plans (Drawing CR-2002) called for a three-room, frame building, as monument funds were scarce and salvaged lumber was available. The location of the ranger station was also initially considered to be temporary. Additional funds were found prior to construction and the ranger station was built of native sandstone, much of it quarried near Chimney Rock.²⁹ Completed in 1940, the L-plan, gable-roofed, single story build-



Ranger station, constructed in 1940 by the CCC. Photo taken in 1950.

ing is an excellent example of the NPS rustic style of architecture produced by the NPS Branch of Plans and Design during the Great Depression. It sat unoccupied for 10 years because of a lack of water at that location.³⁰ The building suffered some from acts of vandalism, at one point having all its windows broken out. It was not until 1950 that it was repaired and put to use as a visitor contact station.

A major impediment to visitation at Capitol Reef National Monument was the primitive road system that approached and traversed the monument. For 20 years after its creation, Fruita residents and monument visitors traveled the 11 miles to Fruita from Torrey on a gravel-covered road (old State Route 24). At Fruita, the road changed to a narrow dirt road that was frequently impassable due to mud (rain or snow melt) or flood damage. Beyond Fruita, the road passed through Capitol Gorge, continuing on to Hanksville. Capitol Gorge was particularly treacherous during late summer. Charles Kelly reported in October 1943: "Three big floods have passed through Capitol Gorge since August, completely wrecking the road. Road crews have been repairing it, but it is still practically impassable."³¹

The coming of the automobile did more than bring tourists to Fruita after 1920. It also provided a viable means of marketing local fruit and produce, and gave added incentive to local farmers to increase commercial production of fruit in particular. The transition from subsistence farming to commercial production led to the introduction of new fruit varieties and methods of planting (e.g., monoculture orchards) that differed from the earlier period of settlement. Fruita farmers trucked fruit and vegetables from their gardens to Richfield, Salina, and other nearby towns. Starting in the 1930s, Tine Oyler and Merin and Cora Smith marketed much of their fruit to buyers from Nebraska. Cora Smith recalled, "That was one of the best places. It went to other places, too, but that was the biggest sale place."³²

Fruita was a patchwork of fruit orchards, cultivated fields, and open pasture. Fruit trees included peach, apricot, apple, plum, and cherry. Early varieties of peach trees were Elberta, Hale, and Crawford; apricot varieties grown were Morpicks and Sweet Pits; plums were



Alma Chesnut's vegetable garden, orchard, and house (originally the Holt Farm), looking southeast, 1941.

Potawatomi, German prune, and Italian prune; cherries were Bing, Lambert, "little pie," Black Tartarian, and others; apple varieties included the Ben Davis, Lodi, MacIntosh, Rome Beauty, Yellow Transparent, Grimes Golden, Red Astracans, and others.³³

If land was not being used for orchard, it was usually planted in alfalfa. Alfalfa was grown to "build up your soil," Dewey Gifford recalled. While farmers in the higher plateau towns grew grain, Gifford, said it was rarely cultivated in Fruita: "The only grain they grew. . . was if an alfalfa field got so old [and they had to] plow it up, they would plant grain for a year of oats, then cut the oats for hay." Hay was not sold commercially, but used to feed local livestock.³⁴

In addition to their orchards and fields, Fruita residents typically maintained vegetable gardens, berries (gooseberries, blackberries, strawberries, raspberries), and flowering plants around their houses. Black and English walnut trees were cultivated, as were almond and pecan trees. A variety of ornamentals were planted by early residents. Roses (florabundas, snowball, and climbing) were especially popular, according to Dewey Gifford, who resided in Fruita from 1928 to 1969. "Most everybody had a big bush or two" of snowball roses, he recalled.³⁵ Wisteria, purple and lavender lilacs, baby's breath, and irises were also popular. A "mock" (Osage) orange tree was located on William and Dicey Chesnut's property. Some residents also planted evergreens.³⁶ Many of these flowers and trees mark the sites of Fruita's historic homes.

Mulberries are believed to have been introduced to Fruita and the surrounding plateau communities in an effort to cultivate silkworms. During the 1870s and 1880s, Brigham Young encouraged his followers to plant mulberry trees, the first ones being imported from France in 1868. The sericulture venture failed, however, when the railroad brought in Oriental silks. Nonetheless, as a result of Young's campaign, it has been noted that "there is scarcely a town in the south of Utah that has not its avenues of mulberry."³⁷ The mulberry trees self-propagated and there are still a number in Fruita. Mulberry trees may also have been deliberately planted to attract birds which would have otherwise fed on fruit in the orchards.



Alma Chesnut's house and stone wall, looking east, 1941.



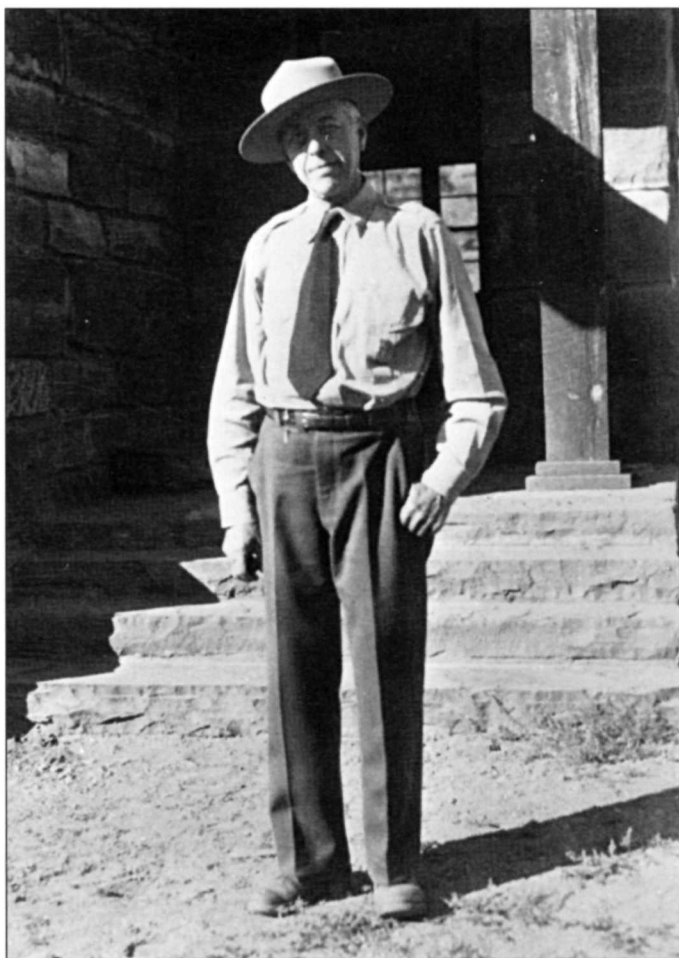
Animal shed on Alma Chesnut's property, looking northwest, 1941. While the stone wall remains, a garage has replaced the animal shed.

Miles from the nearest paved road and without electricity and telephones (until 1948 and 1962, respectively), Fruita was for half a century a close-knit, isolated Mormon community whose economic focus was on farming, unlike the towns of the higher plateau where cattle ranching was the predominant activity.³⁸ Many Fruita families were related by blood or marriage, and land was often passed from one generation to the next. The number of families living in Fruita ranged during the historic period from 7 to 10. The family names and landowners with longest association to land in Fruita are Johnson, Holt (brothers Leo and Aaron), Chesnut (brothers Alma and William, and William's son Jay), Pierce, Mansfield, Cook, Adams, Oyler, Smith (Merin and Cora), Behunin (Elijah and son Hyrum), Cook, Adams, Jorgensen, Pendleton (Calvin and son Don Carlos), Mulford, and Gifford. At the turn-of-the-century, at least one of the valley residents, Calvin Pendleton, practiced polygamy. His wives were Susannah and Hattie.³⁹

Just prior to and after the creation of the monument, a handful of "outsiders" began buying land in the area. These new residents settled in Fruita to take advantage of the spectacular scenery. Dr. A. L. (Doc) Inglesby, a retired dentist and rockhound from Salt Lake City, purchased just under 6 acres from William Chesnut in 1936.⁴⁰ After his arrival in Fruita, he was active in seeking monument status for the area. In addition to his residence, Inglesby had two small guest cabins on his property which he rented to tourists, catering primarily to rockhounds like himself.⁴¹ In the Work Projects Administration's *Utah, A Guide to the State*, Fruita was described as "an eleven-house village of many orchards, set in a pocket surrounded by towering cliffs." The only building the guide found noteworthy was the residence of Doc Inglesby, "built of logs, petrified wood, and ripple-marked sandstone. It is surrounded by a fence made entirely of great slabs of ripple marked stone, bolted together to enclose the rich green of the garden."⁴² Inglesby lived on this property until 1959.

Another "outsider" who came and stayed for many years was Charles Kelly. Kelly, a printer by trade, writer, and amateur archeologist, historian, and geologist, moved to Fruita with his wife, Harriett, in October 1941 with plans to buy a fruit orchard and devote his time to writing. Kelly recalled in a later interview that "ranch prices went sky high" after the U.S. entered the war: "They doubled almost overnight."⁴³ For a time, he and Harriett rented a cabin from Doc Inglesby. In October 1942 Kelly wrote to Superintendent Paul R. Franke in Zion National Park informing him that the home of Alma Chesnut had been vacated and inquired about renting the place from the NPS.⁴⁴ Zion's Superintendent Charles J. Smith reported in 1943:

In May Mr. Charles Kelly of Torrey [sic], Utah renovated and moved into the Alma Chestnut [sic] house in order to safeguard National park interests. Papers are being submitted covering the appointment of Mr. Kelly at a rate comparable to the rental on the Chestnut [sic] property. The Government, thus, would obtain a responsible caretaker at no cost.⁴⁵



Ranger Charles Kelly, 1950.

Kelly was authorized to rent the place while his appointment as monument custodian was awaiting approval. Thus instead of purchasing land as he originally planned, Kelly served without pay as Capitol Reef National Monument's first custodian in exchange for use of the house and its agricultural land. In 1950 a modest administrative fund of \$5,000 was appropriated by Congress which allowed Charles Kelly's salaried appointment as the monument's sole park ranger. (He was made superintendent in 1953.)

Kelly was hard-pressed to provide monument visitors with basic services during this period. At one point, desperate to provide additional recreational areas to visitors, Superintendent Smith suggested siting a small campground and picnic area on "land where Mr. Kelly now lives" if State Route 24 was rerouted along the Fremont River gorge.⁴⁶ (The recommendation was not followed; instead, the monument's first campground was established near the ranger station.) For some time Cora Smith had allowed the NPS to place picnic tables for visitor use by the Fruita Schoolhouse on her private land. In 1957 Kelly got into a heated argument with Cora's husband, Merin, over their cows trespassing on his (NPS) property; Cora countered by demanding the removal of picnic tables from the schoolhouse grounds and Kelly had to comply.⁴⁷

Rather misanthropic by nature, Kelly harbored particular contempt for Mormons and once wrote:

I belong to no organizations of any kind whatever, never go out socially, not interested in politics, and hate radios. I really ought to move to California, but if I did the Mormons would say they ran me out of Utah—so I stay just to spite them.⁴⁸

Needless to say, his attitudes did not make him popular among Fruita's local residents. As one example, Kelly viewed the traditional Mormon cooperative system of irrigation with much skepticism, and his writings hint that it truly was not without its problems. Nonetheless his attempt to impose his own solution was unwelcome. In 1957 he wrote:

Fruita has no ditch organization of any kind, and as a result there is always water trouble. The last two men on the ditch have to do all the maintenance, and then do not get any water. I called a meeting to organize a ditch company, and Clarence [William] Chesnut threatened to throw me in the river for even suggesting such a thing. There is still no ditch company and all residents of Fruita hate me for trying to get the water situation organized.⁴⁹

In spite of poor and unpredictable road conditions, visitors came to the new monument, particularly during late summer when fruit was ripening. Kelly reported in 1944 to Superintendent Smith:

We have had visitors here almost continuously since July 4, most of them from Salt Lake or vicinity and people who have been here before. Most of them like to stay for a week or two, which seems to be characteristic of most of our visitors to this section, particularly when the fruit is ripe.⁵⁰

Summer was not the only time Fruita received large numbers of visitors. The monument had long been a family gathering spot for Easter weekends. The spring blossoms of the fruit orchards provided an especially beautiful backdrop for this holiday. Family picnics were held in Fruita valley and in Capitol Gorge, one favorite activity being "egg-rolling." This local tradition involved rolling colored, hard-boiled eggs down the slopes of the canyon. While Kelly did not document this particular activity, he reported that vandalism (rock graffiti in particular) was sometimes a problem during the Easter high-visitation weekend. Kelly wrote in 1947, "As customary in this section, we will have a flood of visitors from 'the county' on Easter, including a large number of drunken adolescents. . . will do my best to keep them in line, and hope for rain."⁵¹ In the



Flood on Max Krueger's land, looking west, September 2, 1945.

late 1940s and early 1950s most Easters brought 150-175 cars of visitors, totaling more than 1,100 people.⁵² (By comparison, the total year's visitation for 1948 was 17,094.) Kelly reported that Memorial ("Decoration") Day was another holiday that brought many visitors from Salt Lake City and the immediate area.

In 1945 two major floods occurred in Fruita. On August 12 "the heaviest cloudburst in 17 years" dropped 1.45 inches of rain on Fruita in 20 minutes. Gardens were flooded, leaving them under a deposit of 4 to 6 inches of sand. All ditches were filled in with sand, requiring 2 weeks of work to clear.⁵³ Kelly reported another devastating flood that occurred on September 2:

We have just had a flood here, the like of which has never been known in this country. . . . Boulders as big as a small house were rolled down with the flood, the course of the river was changed. . . and the flood passed through a large part of the orchard on the Krueger place just below, ruining and washing out many trees. Unfortunately, this occurred just as the peach crop was ready for market, and no help can be had at any price to repair the damage until the peaches are marketed.⁵⁴

A flood in 1948 practically destroyed all CCC-constructed riprap and soil erosion structures.⁵⁵ In August 1951 Kelly described the results of another flood:

[It] Completely obliterated our garden and the garden on the ranch below us, depositing 12 inches to 2 feet of sand and rocks, making it forever useless. . . . As a result. . . most of the ditches are completely full of sand and mud. All the wooden flume is gone, and it will require weeks of work to repair the damage.⁵⁶

Floods were such a common occurrence in Fruita that Kelly's successor, Superintendent William Krueger, found the absence of floods more notable than their occurrence: "With the exception of the lack of local flood conditions, the weather for the month has been normal. . . . In the memory of local residents there have been very few years without floods."⁵⁷ Flood damage of irrigation systems not uncommonly resulted in replacement of damaged portions with "upgraded" materials during the 1940s and 1950s (e.g., iron pipe replaced wooden flumes).



Horses were the primary mode of transportation in Fruita prior to the 1920s. From left to right, Cora, Clara, and Carrie Oyler on their horse, "Johnnee," about 1915. 'Tine Oyler stands nearby.

Livestock were an integral part of the cultural landscape from Fruita's settlement through the 1950s. The presence of a wide variety of domestic animals impacted the "natural scene" by both displacing native species and by creating the need for barns, animal sheds, corrals, and fencing. Fruita's domestic livestock in the early 1940s included 115 head of cattle, 29 horses and/or mules, 205 chickens, 120 turkeys, and 20 pigs.⁵⁸ A number of early residents, notably Cal Pendleton, Leo Holt, and Jed Mott, kept bees.⁵⁹ Kelly was particularly incensed at the lax attitude of local residents regarding the trespassing of cattle, and in a memorandum on August 3, 1954 to the regional director, he requested that an official order be issued to keep cattle off the monument. Kelly complained:

When campers are kept awake all night by prowling stock and their camps are messed up with fresh manure, they ask me whether Capitol Reef is a national monument or merely a cow pasture. Since the visitors outnumber the natives 1000 to 1 it is our duty to protect them regardless of local opinion.⁶⁰

The problem persisted until Kelly reported in December of 1957 that "Cass Mulford, the worst offender, has moved his herd to Grover. Merin Smith has sold his stock. Mrs. Chesnut has moved her animals to Torrey. The others keep their animals under fence."⁶¹ Local residents may have taken this step in anticipation of the government purchasing their lands. Once the Torrey to Fruita section of Utah State Highway 24 was paved, locals all knew the next portion of the highway was most likely going to go through Fruita. Negotiations were underway to appraise some of the private lands in the valley as early as January 1957.

As much as Kelly was bothered by cattle being on the monument, their presence seems to have discouraged the growth of the deer population in the valley. A 1940 report from Regional Biologist W. B. McDougall stated that,

Cattle overrun the Monument everywhere to the number of 200 head or more. . . . If all domestic animals could be removed from the area it probably would support a herd of 200 or more deer. At present there are not known to be any deer in the area although they are all around it.⁶²

Ten years later, Kelly wrote that there were “two small herds of deer, about 10 individuals, living in the monument [that] appear to maintain their numbers but do not increase.”⁶³

In addition to competition with domestic livestock, native populations of wild animals had long been disturbed by local hunting and trapping. Porcupines were particularly destructive to gardens and orchards and were much hated by local farmers. Kelly’s first report on wildlife in the monument stated that “porcupines live all over the desert and come in to Fruita as fast as they are trapped off.” He also wrote that “owners of private lands. . . all maintain numerous cats and dogs, necessary to keep down rodents. . . . They also trap porcupines, woodchucks, skunks and ringtail cats.”⁶⁴ Kelly surmised that the valley’s fruit, grain, and seed-bearing weeds provided an abundant supply of food for wildlife, “thus increasing the wild population in this small area.” Kelly observed that drought conditions on the plateau usually resulted in an increased population of both deer and birds in the lush river valley. At least one species of bird found Fruita inhospitable. During the 1940s pheasants were introduced to the area, but within three years they had disappeared.⁶⁵ Kelly attributed their demise to house cats and ring-tail cats.⁶⁶

From 1943 to 1959, Charles and Harriett Kelly lived on the 7-acre parcel of the old Holt farm which the NPS had purchased (after lengthy negotiations) from absentee owner Alma Chesnut in December 1942. At the time of sale, the property included a house (described as “2 living rooms and poor kitchen, adobe brick with rustic covering”), fruit cellar, barn and animal shed, (described as a “stable”), cow and hog corral, a 6-year-old orchard consisting of 200 Hale peaches, 25 Elberta peaches, 12 apples and several apricots, “some grapes and berries,” a 5,000 gallon water cistern, and 5,000 feet of fencing.⁶⁷ The house was described as having one main room (14’ x 20’), a kitchen (8’ x 20’), and a bedroom lean-to (6’ x 14’) on the side of the house.⁶⁸ Irrigation water was diverted to the property from the Upper North Ditch, a mile long, unlined ditch in which four or five other Fruita residents also had an interest. Water rights also came with the property, but the ditches had to be maintained and use of the water continued by law in order for the NPS to retain rights.

The agricultural character and use of the old Holt farm experienced little change after it was purchased by the NPS, as Kelly continued to maintain the orchards, vegetable garden, and irriga-



The Holt (Alma Chesnut) house served as the residence of Charles and Harriett Kelly from 1943 to 1959. View looking south, 1948.

tion system. The fruit cellar was used by Kelly as a radio room and for storage.⁶⁹ Over a period of years, however, a number of the early structures were either altered or removed. The animal sheds and corrals once located next to the stone barn wall just west of the residence were torn down by Kelly in early 1943.⁷⁰ A row of 11 dead and weakened poplars along the road south of the house was removed in 1947.⁷¹ A two-hole privy, chicken houses and other “old shacks” remained into the 1950s, but were torn down when they outlived their usefulness.⁷² The NPS granted Kelly about 15 acres for agricultural use. During the 1940s, the Kellys were able to live on the income from their peach orchard.⁷³ In addition, they maintained the vegetable garden just northeast of the house.⁷⁴

The house was used into the early 1960s as the monument superintendent’s residence, and as such was regarded as woefully inadequate. In 1952 rehabilitation work on the house was undertaken, replacing the lean-to with a living room and bathroom.⁷⁵ In 1952 a redwood water tank was placed on the bench above the stone barn wall to supplement the drinking water supply for the property. In 1955 a maintenance garage was built of salvaged materials on the site of the animal sheds, next to the barn wall.⁷⁶ A 35-foot house trailer was delivered to the monument in February 1957 and located just north of Kelly’s residence to provide living quarters for a full-time ranger.⁷⁷ Another trailer was moved alongside the first soon after. Construction of a second two-bedroom addition to the Holt house (on the south elevation) took place from December 1960 to March 1961.⁷⁸

In addition to Doc Inglesby and the Kellys, several other “outsiders” bought property in Fruita in the 1940s and 1950s, notably Max Krueger, Dean Brimhall, and Maxwell and Elizabeth Lewis.⁷⁹ Max Krueger was a geologist for Union Oil Company in Los Angeles, California, when he purchased the Oyler property in late 1941.⁸⁰ His primary interest appears to have been in the economic value of the orchards. In addition to Oyler’s property, Krueger wanted to lease or buy Alma Chesnut’s adjoining lands. He first inquired about the monument’s plans for the land in November 1941, saying he wished to lease the land for fruit growing. Taking a different tack after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Krueger approached the NPS again in December:

I thought that perhaps now that we were at war that the Government might choose to use its money for other purposes as it is rather obvious that they are not interested in raising fruit or livestock produce. I could put the land to work so if the Government should decide not to buy, would you kindly favor me with the information?⁸¹

The NPS subsequently informed Krueger that they indeed intended to purchase the property.⁸² Krueger held title to his productive orchard land for 20 years, but he did not make Fruita his place of residence. According to Fruita landowner Cora Smith, Krueger and his wife only lived there for one summer during their years of ownership.⁸³ Tenants maintained the orchards in his absence.

Dean Brimhall purchased 54 acres of land from Orval Mott in 1943 while still residing and working in Washington D.C., where he was in charge of the Research Division of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.⁸⁴ He employed local men to operate his farm, most of which was planted in irrigated alfalfa. (Historically, the farm belonged longest to Leo R. Holt’s brother, Aaron Holt, who owned and operated it from 1914 to 1939.) Unlike Fruita’s other late arrivals, Dean Brimhall was raised Mormon. His father, George H. Brimhall, was once president of Brigham Young University. Dean, however, was known as a free thinker and a critic of various aspects of Mormon doctrine and practice.⁸⁵

Brimhall’s property was seen as prime development area by the NPS during the late 1940s, in part because of its developed water system. Kelly was instructed to ask if Brimhall would consider selling the land to the NPS.⁸⁶ Superintendent Smith reported to the regional director a few months later that “Mr. Brimhall has firmly stated that he will not sell this tract.”⁸⁷ Prior to 1953, Owen Davis (owner of the adjoining property) and Brimhall are said to have “piped their water a distance of seven hundred feet.”⁸⁸ In the late 1950s Brimhall retired and built a residence on the

property. It is believed that he first erected a cement block structure between 1955 and 1958; from 1959 to 1960 a wood frame addition was added and the house was “finished,” resulting in a two-story, flat-roofed building clad with plywood siding.⁸⁹ Brimhall and Doc Inglesby were blamed by Dewey Gifford for the introduction of Russian olive trees to Fruita: “I think they ought to be put in jail yet because [birds] scattered seeds all over the country. . . . I hate them [Russian olives]!”⁹⁰

In February 1956 Max and Elizabeth Lewis of Altadena, California purchased some of the orchards and lands once farmed by Merin and Cora Smith (1930 to 1945), and later by Owen Davis (1945 to 1955). Superintendent Kelly wrote in his February 1956 monthly report that Max Lewis had plans to construct a \$50,000 stone house and to drill an artesian well.⁹¹ The same year, the Lewises constructed a new road up Johnson Mesa, intending to build their home on top of the mesa.⁹² When Max died on July 13, 1956, Elizabeth became sole owner and chose to concentrate development instead in the area of the original farm along Sulphur Creek. In 1957 Kelly reported that “Elizabeth Lewis is putting the entire upper ditch in a conduit, at her own expense with the idea of having a flow of water all winter.”⁹³ The iron pipeline from the Fremont River followed the original ditch along the new road down the mesa to the valley bottom.⁹⁴ Brimhall paid for one-third of the construction costs of installing the 5,200 feet of 14-inch steel pipe, sharing its benefits.

From 1957 to 1958, the house on the Lewis property was greatly enlarged with the addition of a bathroom, kitchen, and combination bedroom/sitting room.⁹⁵ In addition to the house expansion, an art studio, carport, fruit packing shed, cowshed, and corral were constructed on the property during this period. An existing basement house was improved to be occupied by the family of an employee, Worthen Jackson. (A basement house was commonly constructed in rural areas of Utah when funds were insufficient to build an entire house. The basement was “capped” in order for the family to occupy it until additional money was available to complete the house.)⁹⁶ In 1957 Elizabeth, who was an artist, married another artist, “Batman” illustrator Richard Sprang.⁹⁷ Due to her husband’s notoriety their house later became popularly known as the “Sprang Cottage.”



Capitol Reef Lodge, looking north, 1950. Although the 1950 lodge is gone, the row of walnut trees remain on the site.

Both the Brimhall and Sprang residences differed greatly in architectural style and scale from the earlier, more modest homes of Fruita. The Brimhall house was of modern design and materials, its large picture windows affording spectacular views of the surrounding cliffs. The Sprang house (after extensive modifications by the Sprangs) was also modern in appearance and larger than the original house on the property.⁹⁸

The end of World War II signalled a revival of family vacations in the country. In response to increased tourism in the monument, a number of tourist accommodations were privately developed. The Torrey to Fruita section of State Route 24 was paved in 1957, resulting in a dramatic rise in visitation from 7,500 in 1956 to 62,500 in 1957. Now full-scale motels were needed to meet the demand. Investors Vincent Rosenberger and George Mason purchased part of Inglesby's land and constructed the Capitol Reef Lodge from 1946 to 1950.⁹⁹ Cass Mulford erected a small store and gas station on the south end of Fruita, along the main road, in the spring of 1950.¹⁰⁰ Another motel was constructed in the early 1950s by local resident Dewey Gifford.¹⁰¹

By the 1960s, the NPS was concerned about the proliferation of tourist-related businesses in the valley and in their lack of control over their physical appearance and siting. At the same time privately-owned tourist accommodations were developing in Fruita, the monument sought to expand visitor facilities. In 1950 funds were made available to replace the windows and to do some minor finishing work on the CCC-built stone ranger station, including wiring it for electricity. It was then put to use as the monument's contact station and administrative office.¹⁰² In 1951 cottonwoods were planted in the area to provide shade for an anticipated campground.¹⁰³ A 20-site campground was later sited near the ranger station. Culinary water for monument visitors and campers had to be hauled by tank truck from Bicknell (21 miles away) and chlorinated. This practice was continued until 1963. Loads of gravel were dumped on parts of the Scenic Drive (old State Route 24, then called Monument Road) in 1952 "at points which have been dangerous



Willow "spider" jetties were installed on the Fremont River to prevent erosion of valuable farmland. August 16, 1952.

in wet weather,” Kelly reported.¹⁰⁴ Revetment projects (willow “spider” jetties) were also undertaken in 1951 and 1952 on the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek to prevent bank erosion and to protect roads and trails.

More than beautiful scenery, interesting geology, and a chance to buy fruit attracted outsiders to Capitol Reef National Monument during the post-war period. In the Cold War climate of the early 1950s, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) encouraged the exploration and milling of uranium through a system of price supports and other incentives. This touched off a uranium boom on the Colorado Plateau. In spite of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s attempts to prevent uranium exploration and mining in Capitol Reef National Monument, the AEC cited national security as warranting full development of domestic uranium sources and pushed for prospecting in any potential uranium-bearing formations within the monument. In February 1952 a Special Use Permit was signed between the AEC and the NPS that opened monument lands to uranium miners.

While none of the actual mining activity during the 1950s took place in Fruita, it nonetheless had an impact on the inadequately funded monument by straining its meager resources and primitive road system. Superintendent Kelly, who was vehemently opposed to mining in the monument, finally persuaded the NPS to cease issuing uranium prospecting permits after May 17, 1955.¹⁰⁵ He wrote to the National Park Service director:

Prospectors’ jeeps passing through the monument have been averaging 40 a day, with the highest day 65. They all drive with the throttle wide open in order to beat the other fellow to those million dollar claims. . . the gold rush of ‘49 was never like this.¹⁰⁶

A month later, Kelly reported that “the bridge near the checking station, built in 1937, collapsed on May 4, due to heavy traffic of uranium trucks.”¹⁰⁷ The mining boom also affected the community of Fruita by increasing the demand for meals and lodging. In March 1955, Kelly reported that Dewey Gifford was making an addition to his new motel “due to good business from uranium prospectors the previous winter.”¹⁰⁸

The changes that occurred to Fruita in response to increased tourism and prospecting posed a dilemma to park managers. Some felt ambivalence regarding the acquisition of private lands and the impact such an action would have on this close-knit rural community. As early as 1938, the NPS recognized that monument headquarters logically belonged at Fruita but that development was hindered by the fact that all desirable land was held in private ownership. It was recommended in 1938 “that the private lands at Fruita be acquired at an early date to prevent unrestricted, unsightly, uncoordinated private developments for tourist service.”¹⁰⁹ By 1943 however Superintendent Paul R. Franke expressed strong reservations about this position, and offered an alternative:

The present Superintendent recognizes the conflict of private land but can see no reason why [a] majority of present owners cannot continue to reside and operate their ranches within the monument. With encouragement from the Service these owners can be persuaded to develop and maintain their property in conformity with standards to be established.¹¹⁰

Superintendent Franke recognized that the removal of valuable agricultural land from the tax rolls would be a hardship to the local county and its people. He also acknowledged that some small units of land and water would have to be acquired in Fruita to provide space for public use. Five years later his successor, Superintendent Charles J. Smith, urged the regional director to consider Fruita “an exception” before the NPS implemented plans to acquire private lands:

To acquire all inholdings at Capitol Reef, it would be necessary to purchase the land on which the little town of Fruita lies. This land consists almost entirely of highly productive fruit farms. The cost would be great. . . . It is believed too, that this picturesque pioneer Mormon settlement is part of the local scene and adds color to the

country. Purchase by the government would decrease the taxable property in Wayne County—already the poorest county in point of taxable property in the state of Utah.¹¹¹

Superintendent Smith suggested acquiring the old Floral Ranch on Pleasant Creek for headquarters development (renamed “Sleeping Rainbow Ranch” in the 1940s). He also proposed the acquisition of scenic easements to prevent undesirable development in Fruita by local residents.

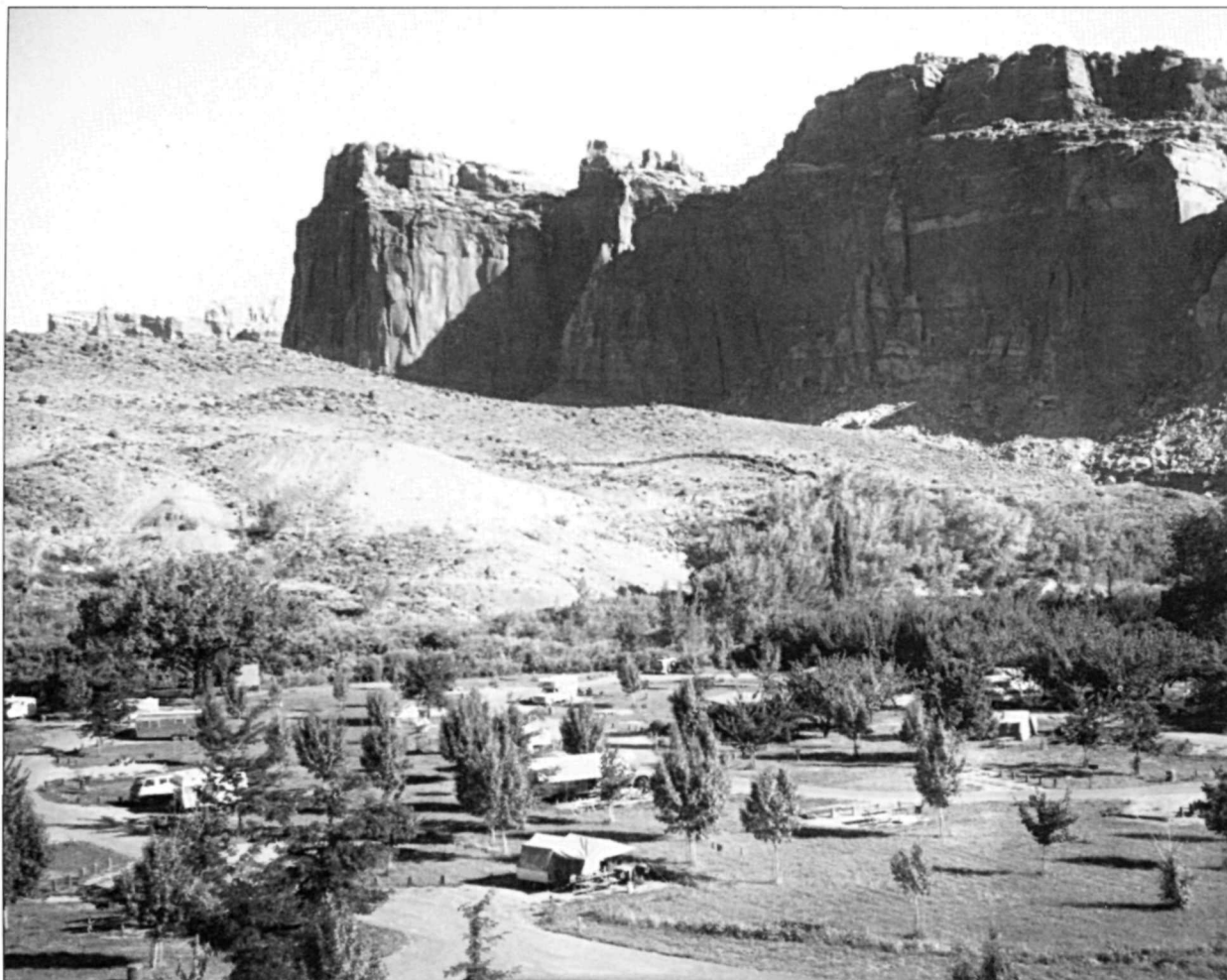
The fate of Fruita’s private lands was ultimately decided by the Utah State Highway Commission’s decision to reroute the new State Highway 24 through the Fremont River gorge. By the late 1950s when the route was decided, the early park managers’ fears of unbridled private development had already been realized. Fruita was no longer quite as picturesque as it had been when the monument was first created.

MISSION 66 AND NPS DEVELOPMENT 1960-1990

The most significant changes to the landscape of Fruita followed the National Park Service’s implementation of Mission 66, a service-wide, 10-year program of park development instituted in 1956. In response to increasing demands of the motor touring public, parks across the country endeavored to improve roads, campgrounds, and visitor services. Capitol Reef National Monument was enlarged to 39,185 acres by Presidential Proclamation 3249 in 1958. Mission 66 development began in the monument when the NPS initiated and funded construction of a 6-mile section of a new through highway in 1959.¹¹² Construction of the road coincided with the acquisition of most private land holdings in Fruita. Delayed by land acquisition negotiations, construction did not begin until the summer of 1961.¹¹³ Portions of this road were constructed in the same general alignment of a historic route following the base of the cliffs on the north side of the settlement along the Fremont River.¹¹⁴ Some parts of the new highway bisected agricultural fields and/or orchards. Most private land was purchased by 1962, and further acquisition continued until 1964 when only two properties (less than 16 combined acres) remained in private ownership. The new road, designated State Highway 24, opened officially in July 1962. The old State Route 24 (Capitol Gorge Highway, Monument Road) was turned over to the NPS, closed to vehicle traffic south of Fruita at Capitol Gorge, and renamed the Scenic Drive.

Charlie Kelly retired from his position as superintendent in 1959 and was succeeded by William Krueger.¹¹⁵ Superintendent Krueger reported that in March 1962 the NPS signed a contract with Mountain States Telephone and Telegraphic Company to “provide for the first time telephone service to the monument.”¹¹⁶ Prior to that time, Fruita residents and monument personnel relied on shortwave radio. In September 1962 work started on construction of a water supply distribution system and sewer system for the monument, two other essentials lacking since the monument’s creation. By February 1963 these systems were operating, ending years of reliance on transporting culinary water from Bicknell.¹¹⁷

In May 1963 construction began on campgrounds, boundary fences, access roads for both campgrounds and NPS residences, and the entrance parking area and walks.¹¹⁸ Access roads usually were constructed as spur roads from old State Route 24 providing limited access to new facilities. Campground and residential area development required additional vegetation for screening or for shade. The 1965 Master Plan for the monument recommended encouraging the cottonwood community along the Fremont River east of headquarters, noting “there is evidence here that they once were prevalent before overgrazing in pre-park days caused soil and plant life removal by floods and storms.”¹¹⁹ In some cases non-native species were selected, particularly in the picnic area and campground, where both cottonwood and ornamental species were planted. Also during the summer of 1963, head gates and measuring devices for the four diversions which serve irrigation water from the Fremont River to the headquarters area in Fruita were installed.¹²⁰ Construction projects scheduled for 1964 and 1965 included additional residences for permanent and seasonal staff, a visitor center, equipment storage and utility building, wayside exhibits, signage, access roads, paths and walks, and parking areas.¹²¹



View of new campground constructed during Mission 66. View looking northwest, 1969.

With the purchase of private lands and the removal of domestic livestock and other farm animals from the valley, a new problem developed in the monument: deer. While mule deer had occasionally wandered into the valley and caused damage to orchards, due to their small numbers they did not become a serious problem until the early 1960s. No longer in competition with domestic livestock, frightened off by dogs, or shot by local residents, the deer population quickly grew. In 1963 Superintendent Krueger reported, "Deer have been stripping the young trees in the campground and residences." He added that wire baskets had been placed around the trees for protection.¹²²

The removal of farm animals was, nevertheless, consistent with the NPS philosophy of restoring park lands to their natural state. Ironically, at the same time the NPS was directed to develop or expand facilities to accommodate the visiting public. While Charlie Kelly may have whole-heartedly approved the removal of all vestiges of Mormon occupation of the valley, he disliked what he heard about the developments of Mission 66. When Superintendent Robert C. (Bob) Heyder invited him back to visit the monument in 1969, Kelly wrote back from his home in Salt Lake City,

All my old monument visitor friends deplore the new developments and changes made by Kaiser [Superintendent] Krueger, and that is why I have not been back to visit the place since I left. I liked it the way it was, primitive and natural.¹²³



Campers in campground, 1969.



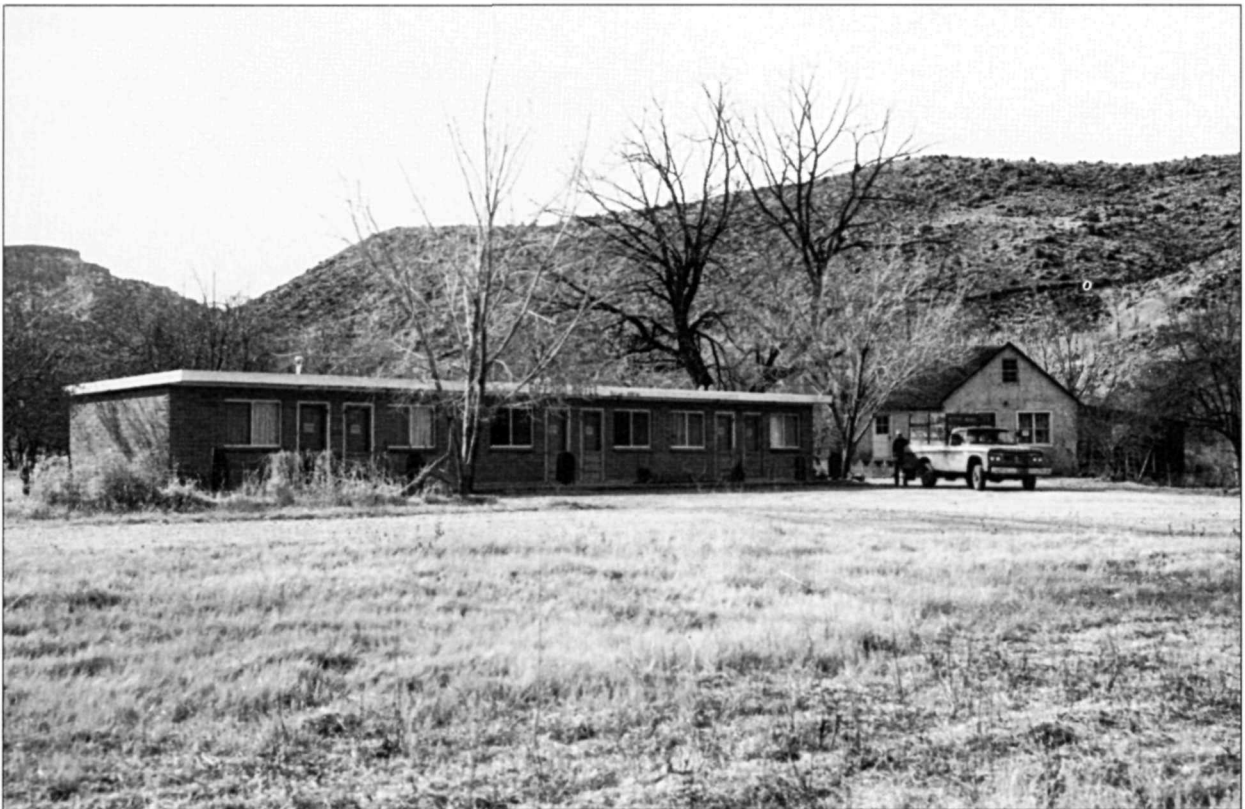
Deer grazing in Mulford Orchard, 1993.

After acquiring title to private lands in Fruita, the NPS removed many structures which were viewed as intrusions on the natural landscape. In late 1964 and early 1965 the structures associated with the properties of Doc Inglesby and Dicey (Mrs. William) Chesnut were removed.¹²⁴ In 1967 most of the structures associated with the Mulford property (log cabin, fruit cellar, animal sheds, and corrals) were removed. Acting Superintendent Harry P. Linder reported:

A thorough general cleanup of the old Mulford Place just south of the campground was accomplished in January. The improvement in the appearance of the place from the scenic drive is quite refreshing and adds to the scenic quality of the monument.¹²⁵

In addition to the removal of many dwellings, associated structures, such as animal sheds, corrals, and fencing, fruit cellars, and cisterns were removed or filled in.¹²⁶ On April 19, 1968 "the fruit picker's cabin located at the Brigham Young Nut Tree" on the Mulford property was removed.¹²⁷ To further clean up the valley, aging agricultural machinery which once dotted the landscape was hauled away.

All privately developed structures related to tourism in the monument were also removed during the 1960s and 1970s. After 1957 Capitol Reef Lodge was owned by Claire Bird. Numerous complaints were made to the park superintendent by visitors who reported the lodge management refused tourists meals, drinking water, or toilet facilities if they were not lodging there. The lodge owner also was known for deliberately giving wrong directions to tourists seeking the way to a competitor, Sleeping Rainbow Ranch.¹²⁸ In addition to being a public relations problem, the lodge had, by the 1960s, become a large complex that was viewed as unsightly by park managers. Concentrated on the 2.6-acre parcel of land was the lodge, several two-bedroom apartment buildings, two four-unit motel buildings, a combination cafe/kitchen, coffee and curio shop, storage sheds, a washhouse, a gas station, and five concrete pads for house trailers, surrounded by 500 feet of chain-link fence.¹²⁹ The lodge complex was eventually acquired and removed, as was the Gifford Motel and Cass Mulford's store and gas station.



The concrete block Gifford Motel was one of the last structures removed from Fruita. (undated)

The removal of both historic and post-historic period structures continued into the late 1970s.¹³⁰ Some of the buildings removed, such as Capitol Reef Lodge complex, the Gifford Motel, Doc Inglesby's and Dicey Chesnut's guest cabins, and Mulford's corrals, were associated with the tourist industry (both pre- and post-war). Their removal peeled away a layer of Fruita's history that at first glance appears unrelated to the community's agricultural past. But to some extent the response of some locals to the demands of tourists reflected their characteristic resourcefulness in seizing an opportunity to supplement their farm income. The struggle to make ends meet and feed their families in a valley beset by yearly floods and in a county that has earned the reputation as "Utah's poorest," did not come easily to Fruita's original settlers, nor to their descendants.

The most notable structures that remain in the valley are the Fruita Schoolhouse, the buildings, structures, and sites associated with the Gifford Farm (residence, barn, smokehouse; associated pasture, field, and orchard; and Pendleton rock walls and lime kiln), the Holt Farm (residence, stone walls, fruit cellar, irrigation ditches, orchard, vegetable garden, and rock inscriptions), the Sulphur Creek lime kiln, the Scenic Drive, and the Fremont River still site. In addition, the orchards, remnant vineyard, fields, pastures, vegetable gardens, and ornamental flowers, shrubs, and trees cultivated by early residents, as well as a number of the functioning historic irrigation ditches, are important resources that contribute to the historic landscape.

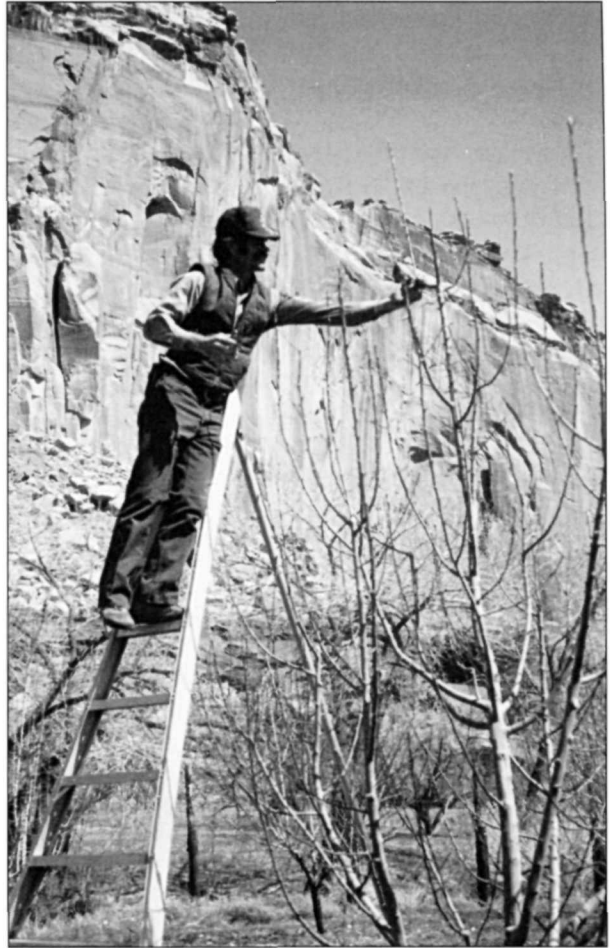
The orchards of Fruita continued to be maintained by special use permit until the early 1970s. The permittee paid annual fees and agreed to maintain the trees and extensive irrigation system in exchange for the fruit harvested.¹³¹ In 1973 two men were hired as NPS staff to take over the work of maintaining the orchards, fields, and pastures.¹³² The NPS now has two full-time employees who tend the agricultural lands of the district. In 1991 the orchards yielded more than 93,750 pounds of pick-your-own fruit. The fruit season that year drew visitors from up to 300 miles away.¹³³



Animal sheds and corrals on Cass Mulford's property, prior to removal. Remnants of stone wall remain. (undated)

Except for the bisecting effects of State Highway 24 on north Fruita orchards, most orchards remained relatively unchanged during the 1960s. A picnic area was established on the site of Doc Inglesby's home and cabins soon after their removal in 1965. A cherry orchard located on the adjacent Chesnut land was later removed to enlarge the picnic area and to construct a parking lot.¹³⁴ Orchards were removed from several other areas since Mission 66. The Lower Chesnut Orchard (cherry, apple, and pear trees) was removed from an area now known as the Jorgensen Pasture between 1975 and 1977. The Upper Chesnut Orchard was greatly reduced in size with the construction of Campground C in 1987. Most recently, about two dozen peach trees were removed from the Mott Orchard to allow for construction of a storage shed (1992) and two new NPS residences (March to June 1993).¹³⁵

In 1969 Presidential Proclamation 3888 added more than 215,000 acres to Capitol Reef National Monument; on December 18, 1971 an Act of Congress modified the boundaries of the monument and changed the status of Capitol Reef from a monument to a park. Fruita's last residents and their families moved away in the 1960s and 1970s, some to the nearby plateau towns of Loa, Torrey, and Richfield; others moved out-of-state. A number still are living, and their memories have helped us to piece together an understanding of Fruita's cultural landscape.



Orchard Manager Kent Jackson prunes a tree in the Johnson Orchard, 1993.

ENDNOTES

1 O'Bannon, *Capitol Reef National Park: A Historic Resource Study*. All of the historical information on the early settlement period of Fruita is taken from this study.

2 During the 1880s Behunin built a one-room stone cabin for his family further east of the valley. This building still stands, but is located outside the historic district boundaries, about six miles east of historic Fruita. It is individually eligible for the National Register.

3 Cora Smith, interview with Kathy McKoy, Richfield, UT, May 8, 1993. Smith is 'Tine Oyler's daughter. She reported that her father "was always looking for a way to make money, so him and a group of them made whiskey. . . they bootlegged. He never did it alone. There was always two or three of them." Interview tapes and transcript in park archives.

4 The first year that Wayne County Tax Assessment Rolls described land use is 1912. Uses are broken down into "farm," "fruit," "grazing," and "other" (wasteland). In the 1920s the "farm" category is broken down into "improved" (i.e., irrigated) and "unimproved." For purposes of this study, any land listed as "farm," "improved," or "fruit" was considered as cultivated (and irrigated) land. The average acreage under cultivation for the 1912 to 1919 period, according to the tax assessment roll, was 88 acres; for 1920-1928, 111 acres; for 1930-1939, 107 acres. See Appendix C.

5 Cited in Davidson, *Red Rock Eden*, 22.

6 Cora Smith interview.

7 Acreages are taken from the Wayne County Tax Assessment Roll. The acreage reported in fruitland may be underestimated throughout the historic period, due to the much higher value (i.e., higher taxes) on orchards. In 1930, irrigated farmland was assessed at \$30 per acre; fruitland was assessed at \$120 to \$160 per acre. It was not until 1947 that lands were resurveyed and accurate acreages were established. See Appendix C.

8 Cora Smith interview.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 Anne Snow, *Rainbow Views, A History of Wayne County*, 275.

12 Eugene Blackburn, phone communication with Kathy McKoy, June 14, 1993.

13 Cora Smith interview. Cora reported "They've been there forever. Whoever first lived in Fruita planted 'em."

14 Ibid.

15 According to the family, this tree is believed to have been ordered from Ohio by Brigham Young as a gift for church leaders to plant in the new settlement at Cainveville, some miles east of Fruita. As the story goes, a delay of several months en route caused the tree to be planted instead at its current location to insure its survival. This oral tradition (relayed principally by Cass Mulford) was persuasive enough that the tree was identified in park master plans of 1965 and 1971 as a historic resource worthy of preservation and interpretation. The 1965 Master Plan even recommended installing barriers and erecting an interpretive device. Neither recommendation was implemented. For the story to be true, the tree must be at least 116 years old, for Brigham Young died in 1877. A core sample has never been taken of the tree to determine its age. Cora Smith and other area residents say they have never heard the story, thus further documentation is warranted to substantiate it.

16 Rows of poplars have long been a distinctive feature of the rural Mormon landscape throughout the state.

17 Mulford called his place "Diamond Ranch." He was the only property owner in Fruita who ever held many head of cattle or sheep.

18 Tanner, "River Commissioner's Report on the Lower Fremont River," June 10-July 10, 1937. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 660-05.7. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

19 This document, along with Mulford's testimony, raises serious questions regarding the accuracy of the Wayne County Tax Assessment Roll prior to World War II. "Improved" (irrigated) farmland and orchards were assessed higher taxes than unimproved, grazing or wasteland. In 1946 the under reporting of orchard acreage was presumably rectified by a resurvey of lands. It was "discovered" that twice the number of acres were planted in orchard than had been previously reported. Claud Baker served as the county tax assessor from 1932 to 1965.

20 Tanner, op.cit., 7.

21 Leon S. Stanley to Zion National Park Supt. P. P. Patraw, September 13, 1938. Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR801-02. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

22 A. Van V. Dunn, Hydraulic Engineer, ca. Dec. 1941. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

23 The last remaining building at the original CCC camp at Chimney Rock was totally destroyed by a fire set on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947, by two high school boys from Bicknell. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 204-10. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

24 None of the CCC-constructed revetments remain, having been washed away years ago by repeated floods. Park files and photo archives.

25 Supt. Franke to the NPS Director, February 18, 1941. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 630. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

26 Memoranda dated April 9 and 21, 1942, Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 204-10. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

27 ZION Supt. Chester Thomas to the NPS Regional Director, April 7, 1953. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 630. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO. None of these construction projects affected either the historic use or the appearance of the landscape in Fruita, including the section of historic road which passed through it, to any significant degree.

28 Harlan B. Stephenson (Landscape Architect), Monthly Narrative Report to Chief Architect, Resident NPS Branch of Plans and Design, Region IV, April 25-May 25, 1938. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File CR 207.02. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

29 Revised Drawing NM CR-2002A (July 1938) depicts stone version of building. NPS, Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center, Denver, CO.

30 Charles Kelly to Supt. Charles Smith, July 29, 1945. Kelly suggested a steel flume be constructed to transport water from the Upper Ditch ("a very expensive piece of work") or that the NPS investigate drilling a well near the ranger station. Supt. Smith replied on August 3, 1945 that perhaps such a project could be implemented after the war when funds were available. Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR 660-05. Federal Record Center, Denver, CO.

31 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, October 25, 1943, Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 601, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO. Plans for construction of a new route for an improved highway were under consideration as early as the 1940s, when two alternatives through the monument were considered: through the Fremont River gorge, and through Pleasant Creek Valley, located south of the existing alignment. Later NPS development of their headquarters and visitor facilities hinged on the final decision.

32 Cora Smith interview. Smith said that buyers bought fruit by the truckloads to take back to Nebraska.

33 Dewey Gifford, interview with George Davidson, Toquerville, UT, June 2, 1983; contains more extensive list of varieties than those provided here. Park archives, oral history file.

34 Ibid.

35 Ibid.

36 Ibid. Park archives, oral history files. Gifford said he once had some small junipers in front of his motel but they were “trimmed” by the thick deer population. One evergreen that survived from the historic period is located in the picnic area sited on Doc Inglesby’s place. It was reported to have been planted by him and is one of the few of this age in the valley.

37 *Utah, A Guide to the State*, 1941, 161.

38 The exception in Fruita was Cass Mulford, who considered himself a rancher as well as fruit grower. Mulford also hired out horses (and himself) for guided trail rides through the monument.

39 U. S. Census Office, Wayne County, UT, (1900) cited in O’Bannon, 29.

40 While Inglesby was married, his wife resided in Salt Lake City and never lived in Fruita. This was reported by Kelly in a monthly report noting her death.

41 A number of well-known people stayed at Inglesby’s: artists Maynard Dixon, Conrad Buff, geologist Herbert Gregory, and author Wallace Stegner.

42 *Utah, A Guide to the State*, 1941, 468.

43 Charles Kelly, interview with Bob Halliday for article entitled “Kelly’s Invasion,” *Salt Lake Tribune*, ca. 1960. Park files.

44 Charles Kelly to Supt. Franke, October 22, 1942. Record Group 79, Container #63180, Box 2, file 620-58. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

45 Superintendent’s Annual Report, July 1, 1942 to June 30, 1943. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 207-01.4. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

46 ZION Supt. Smith to the NPS Regional Director, May 3, 1950, regarding the Master Plan (completed 1952) for the monument. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR 600-01. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

47 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, June 9, 1957. Kelly complained that Smith’s cattle trampled his garden, ruining his flower beds and fruit trees. He urged Supt. Smith to start condemnation proceedings against Cora Smith “since her property will have to be acquired eventually for a right of way.” Park archives, monthly superintendent report file.

48 Charles Kelly. Quote contained in an autobiographical piece written for the *Pony Express Courier* in 1937. Cited in “Register of the Charles Kelly Collection,” Utah State Historical Society. Salt Lake City, UT, 1976.

49 Charles Kelly, June 22, 1957. A very entertaining and informative report entitled “Public Relations,” it gives Kelly’s view of “locals” and the variety of problems he experienced in the monument. Record Group 79, Cont. #63182, Box 1, File A3815. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

50 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, August 8, 1944, Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 630. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

51 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, April 2, 1947, Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 207-02.3. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

52 Numerous of Charles Kelly's monthly reports to Zion National Park cite figures for Easter weekend visitation. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 2027-02.3. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

53 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, August 25, 1945. Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR801-02. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

54 Charles Kelly to Zion National Park Supt. Smith, September 2, 1945, Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR801-02. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

55 Real Property Records, NPS, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO.

56 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, August 4, 1951, Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR801-02. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

57 Supt. Krueger to NPS Director, October 2, 1962. Park archives, monthly superintendents' reports.

58 NPS Branch of Lands, October 24, 1946. Report accompanied land appraisals for Fruita. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 610. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO. The list was compiled between 1940 and 1943.

59 Assessment Roll of Wayne County, Wayne County Courthouse, Loa, UT. Ownership of bee colonies was recorded only up to the 1920s. Pendleton was the first to keep bees in Fruita and he consistently kept the most colonies.

60 Charles Kelly to Regional Director M. R. Tillotson, August 3, 1954, Record Group 79, Cont. #919498, File L3019. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

61 Charles Kelly to NPS Director, December 1957. Park archives, monthly superintendents' reports.

62 W. B. McDougall, "Special Report, Capitol Reef National Monument," May 1940, Santa Fe, NM. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 40M/D-48, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

63 Charles Kelly, "Annual Wildlife Report for Capitol Reef National Monument," 1950. Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR 710, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

64 Charles Kelly, "Preliminary Report on Wildlife in Capitol Reef National Monument," December 10, 1949. Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR 710. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

65 Cora Smith interview. Another source (in park files) attributes their introduction to Doc Inglesby, but Mrs. Smith denied that, saying they were introduced by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

66 Charles Kelly to Supt. Smith, July 1, 1946. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 207.02. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

67 "Alma Chesnut Property Purchase," Record Group 79, Container #63180, Box 2, File CR 601. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

68 Undated hand-written note. The "outside 2-holer pit toilet" was also mentioned. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File CR 250-01. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

69 ZION Supt. Franke to Regional Director, March 12 1953. Franke makes specific reference to the Holt fruit cellar used as radio room. Another letter, dated September 4, 1952, from ZION Acting Supt. Chester A. Thomas to Kelly refers to the wooden water tank "located on the bench above your radio shack." Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR 620-58. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

70 Charles Kelly to Supt. Franke, April 20, 1943: "The old shed is down and the mess cleaned up. Makes a big improvement." Kelly also plastered and papered the house and painted the woodwork. Record Group 79, Cont. #63189, Box 2, File CR 620-58. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

71 Charles Kelly to ZION Supt. Smith, March 8, 1947. Two of the trees had been blown down and were blocking the driveway to the house; Kelly wrote that the row of trees had been killed by fire "many years ago." Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR630. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

72 ZION Supt. Paul Franke to NPS Regional Director, March 12, 1953. Elsewhere, Kelly refers to the privy as "WPA" suggesting it was not original to the farm, but constructed by the CCC during their years in the park.

73 The parcel of land on which the Holt house was located was 7 acres. The additional land granted to Kelly for agricultural use was most likely land located further east and just south of Oyler's property where 8 acres of orchard had been washed out in 1939. It is not known if Kelly cultivated this piece of land, or if he just cultivated the orchards near his house.

74 This vegetable garden appears in historic photographs taken in 1941 of Alma Chesnut's property. (Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR601, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.) It appears to have been used as such up until several years ago by NPS staff who lived in the house.

75 Drawing CR NM 2010, Oct. 1952, "Alterations to Residence No. 2 - Old Chesnut Property Site." Additional references to construction in park correspondence files. NPS, Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center files, Denver, CO. Work took place between February and May of 1952, according to correspondence in Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR #600. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

76 Real Property Files, NPS, Rocky Mountain Region Office, Denver, CO.

77 Charles Kelly, February 1957. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

78 Supt. Krueger to NPS Director, January 9, 1961. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

79 Lamar Mulford, son of Cass Mulford, said in an oral interview that Dean Brimhall was Mormon, unlike the other newcomers to Fruita (Kelly, Inglesby, and the Lewises, Sprang, and Krueger). They were all distinct from prior residents, however, in that they were highly educated, "white-collar" professionals by occupation.

80 Letter from Max Krueger, November 19, 1941, inquired about their plans for Alma Chesnut's lands, which were under option to the NPS at the time. Record Group 797, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 610-01. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

81 Max L. Krueger to Supt. Paul R. Franke, December 14, 1941. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR 601. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

82 Final Judgement of Condemnation, Civil No. 376 was filed June 23, 1942. It was not signed until July 12, 1943.

83 Cora Smith interview.

84 ZION Supt. Charles Smith to the NPS Regional Director, April 11, 1950, regarding possible purchase of Brimhall's land for monument development. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 610-01. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

85 Bringhurst, Newell G. "Fawn M. Brodie, 'Mormondom's Lost Generation,' and *No Man Knows My History*." *Journal of Mormon History*, Vol. 16, 1990.

86 NPS Associate Regional Director to Superintendent at ZION, March 8, 1950. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR 600. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

87 ZION Supt. Smith to the NPS Regional Director, May 3, 1950. Discusses the Master Plan (completed 1952) which proposed siting NPS residences and utility areas "on the Brimhall property and in the midst of the orchard and in the location where his residence is now located." The residence referred to is thought to be a concrete-block structure that was enlarged and finished in the late 1950s as the existing building. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, CR 600-01. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

88 Anne Snow, op.cit., 41.

89 Dates of construction are based on two primary sources. The Wayne County Tax Assessment Roll of 1955 indicates that only two modest agricultural buildings (valued at \$112 and \$48 each) were on Brimhall's property. The 1958 assessment roll shows no agricultural buildings, but one "residence" valued at \$400. In 1959 the \$400 figure was crossed out and changed to \$800. In 1960 the assessment on Brimhall's residence was \$1,435. In addition, Kent Jackson recalled that his father, Worthen, helped build the Brimhall house in 1959 and 1960. Interview with Kathy McKoy, February 19, 1993.

90 Dewey Gifford interview with George F. Davidson, Toquerville, UT, June 2, 1983.

91 Charles Kelly to NPS Director, February 1956. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

92 It is not known if this road was built prior to Max Lewis' death.

93 Charles Kelly to the NPS Director, April 1957. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports. This memo also refers to an occasion when the Lower Ditch overflowed "putting three feet of water in Mrs. [Dicey] Chesnut's fruit cellar. The results could be heard from here to Torrey."

94 Construction activity on the Sprang property is documented on a page from an orchard manager's notebook entitled "Breakdown of Capital Expenditures" for February 1956 to January 1,

1959. The notebook, kept by Worthen Jackson, was rescued from the flood of 1985 by Worthen's son, Kent, and is in park archives.

95 Lamar Mulford phone communication with Kathy McKoy, March 16, 1993, Richfield, UT. Mulford believed that Elizabeth Lewis added on to an existing structure. In a subsequent interview with Cora Smith of Richfield, Mrs. Smith said she and her husband, Merin, lived in the basement house until they sold the property to Davis; at that time only the basement house, fruit cellar, and implement shed were constructed. If so, then the original house was built during Davis' ownership.

96 With exception of the main residence, all of the structures built in the late 1950s by Sprangs were removed in later years by the park service, including the basement house.

97 Kelly was still referring to Elizabeth that as "Mrs. Max Lewis" in December 1957, although she may have remarried by the time. A letter from Dick Sprang to George Davidson, dated June 13, 1987, says that he married Elizabeth six months after the death of his wife Dudy, "who died in early 1957." Sprang also wrote "By the way, Elizabeth is a far better and more noted artist than I ever was. Her paintings and lithographs hang in major galleries and are widely collected by individuals." In 1987 Elizabeth was living in Santa Fe, under the last name "King."

98 Due to the late date of construction and modern architectural style, the Brimhall house is not considered contributing to the historic district. Due to loss of architectural integrity of the original residence, it too fails to meet National Register eligibility criteria. It is important to note however that both Brimhall and the Sprangs continued to maintain the orchards on their properties, employing local workers to tend them.

99 The lodge was located just north of the row of walnut trees on the site now occupied by the Johnson Orchard.

100 Lamar Mulford, phone communication with Kathy McKoy, Richfield, UT, March 16, 1993. The cafe/gas station is also shown on historic site maps.

101 The Gifford Motel was located between the Gifford house and barn.

102 Today, surrounded by Mission 66-era buildings, it is used as the superintendent's office.

103 Asst. Supt. Chester A. Thomas to ZION Supt., August 22, 1951. It was proposed that water be pumped from Dean Brimhall's ditch to water the trees. Record Group 79, Cont. #63179, Box 1, File 201.06. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

104 Charles Kelly to ZION Supt., September 1952. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

105 The permits were valid for one year, meaning that mining activity continued in the monument into 1956.

106 Charles Kelly to NPS Director, May 1955. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

107 Charles Kelly to NPS Director, June 1955. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

108 Charles Kelly to the NPS Director, March 1955. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

109 Supt. P. P. Patraw to the NPS Regional Director, "Development Outline for Capitol Reef National Monument," March 1, 1938. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 600.03. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

110 Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 600-01.1. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

111 Supt. Chas. J. Smith to NPS Regional Director, December 1, 1948. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File 600-01. Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.

112 The new State Highway 24 is referred to by other names in historic records: "Fremont River Road" and "Fremont River Gorge Highway."

113 Supt. Krueger to the NPS Director, July 1961. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports. Road construction contract was approved June 20.

114 On historic park maps, this is designated "Route 50." It was used as a service road.

115 Krueger served as superintendent through 1965.

116 Supt. Krueger to the NPS Director, April 11, 1962. Park archives.

117 Reports for September, February, and June 1963 to Director from Supt. Krueger. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

118 Supt. Krueger to the NPS Director, May 19, 1963. Park archives.

119 *Master Plan for Capitol Reef National Monument*, September 1965, Management Programs, Chapter 3, p. 1. NPS, Denver Service Center Library, Denver, CO.

120 Supt. Krueger to the NPS Director, July 8, 1938. Park archives.

121 Supt. Krueger to NPS Director, August 13, 1964. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports.

122 Supt. Krueger to the NPS Director, October 3, 1963. Park archives.

123 Charles Kelly to Supt. Heyder, January 28, 1969. Park archives, superintendents' monthly reports. Charles Kelly died in 1971.

124 Chief Park Ranger Franklin V. Montford to Supt. Krueger, February 8, 1965. Monthly narrative report says clean-up of Inglesby's and (William and Dicey) Chesnut's properties "was completed." The Chesnut store, house and fence were removed in December 1964, according to the January 13, 1965 report. Park files.

125 Harry P. Linder to NPS Director, February 3, 1967. Park files, superintendents' monthly report.

126 It is known that both Cass Mulford and William and Dicey Chesnut had fruit cellars on their properties that no longer exist. A May 11, 1966 memorandum to the Director from Supt. Harry Linder stated that "two old cisterns on the former Sprang and Inglesby properties were filled as a safety measure." Park archives, superintendent's monthly reports.

127 Supt. Robert C. Heyder, "Narrative Log of Significant Events," for April, dated May 9, 1968.

Heyder commented. "It's [sic] removal greatly improved the appearance of the area." Park archive files.

128 Supt. William Krueger, superintendents' monthly report, April 5, 1963. Park files.

129 Real Property Records, NPS, Intermountain Region, Colorado Plateau System Support Office, Denver, CO.

130 Unfortunately, no effort was made to record the buildings and associated structures prior to their removal, for few people felt they had any historic or architectural value. At one time, it was proposed that the Mulford cabin and Brimhall house be retained "as example[s] of Mormon influence" (Drawing NM-CR 3005-A, "Headquarters Vicinity" plan approved 6/6/62. See Appendix B.) Also, historic photographs of only a few of the original buildings of Fruita have been collected for the park's archives. Included are photos of the residences on the properties of William and Dicey Chesnut, Alma Chesnut, Doc Inglesby, and 'Tine Oyler. As some original residents or their children are still in the area, it is possible that additional photographs which depict the historic and post-historic structures of Fruita could be obtained.

131 Supt. Robert C. Heyder, May 9, 1968. Narrative log, park files. Worthen Jackson of Fremont leased the orchards from the time the NPS acquired them until 1970. Correspondence in a notebook kept by Jackson indicates that until 1965 he paid \$600 per year for the permit. In 1965, the fee was reduced to \$100 with the provision that he also maintain the irrigation systems of non-orchard cultivated land in the valley. From 1971 to 1972 the orchards were leased by Bob Sweet.

132 One of the men hired was Worthen Jackson's son, Kent. Kent was the park's orchard manager until his death on November 5, 1995. His intimate knowledge of the orchards and their history over the last thirty years was invaluable in the preparation of this document. He not only kept records himself, but rescued old orchard records (kept by his father) from the 1985 flood. Those records are in park archives.

133 *Capitol Reef Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services*, March 1992, 25.

134 The 1970 inventory noted 47 cherry, 4 apricot, and 2 mulberry trees on the this parcel, which belonged to Jay Chesnut, son of William and Dicey Chesnut. Today there are 17 remaining fruit trees scattered throughout the picnic area.

135 The trees removed for construction were 20 years old, originally planted by orchard manager Kent Jackson. Historically, this section of land was planted in alfalfa rather than orchard.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

OVERALL LANDSCAPE ORGANIZATION

The cultural landscape of Fruita includes approximately 200 acres of canyon bottom land channelled between steep sandstone cliffs along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek. The Fremont River flows through the canyon in an easterly direction, meeting Muddy Creek at Hanksville to form the Dirty Devil River, which flows into the Colorado River. Large vertical sandstone cliffs dominate the north and east boundaries of the landscape. Johnson Mesa pushes Sulphur Creek north at its confluence with the Fremont River, and steep slopes define the corridor of arable land south along the Fremont to Hattie's Field. Historically, these landforms focused early settlement onto the arable lands along both water courses. The landscape was organized into more discrete units based on early circulation systems, property boundaries, the development of an irrigation system, and cultural traditions associated with family management of individual orchards and croplands. This overall landscape organization and physical pattern is evident in the landscape today. Spatially, the landscape of Fruita is defined by the mosaic of orchards and open

fields, which is in turn structured by the extensive framework of irrigation ditches constructed by the early settlers of Fruita. These ditches defined the extent and scale of the early agricultural landscape of Fruita, and portions of this system are still in use today (see Structures: Irrigation System). Circulation through Fruita was historically limited to two routes: one along the north edge of the settlement, and one running north-south the length of the canyon. The latter road, known today as the Scenic Drive, is largely intact through the Fruita area, with only minor modifications (paving and realignment of small sections).

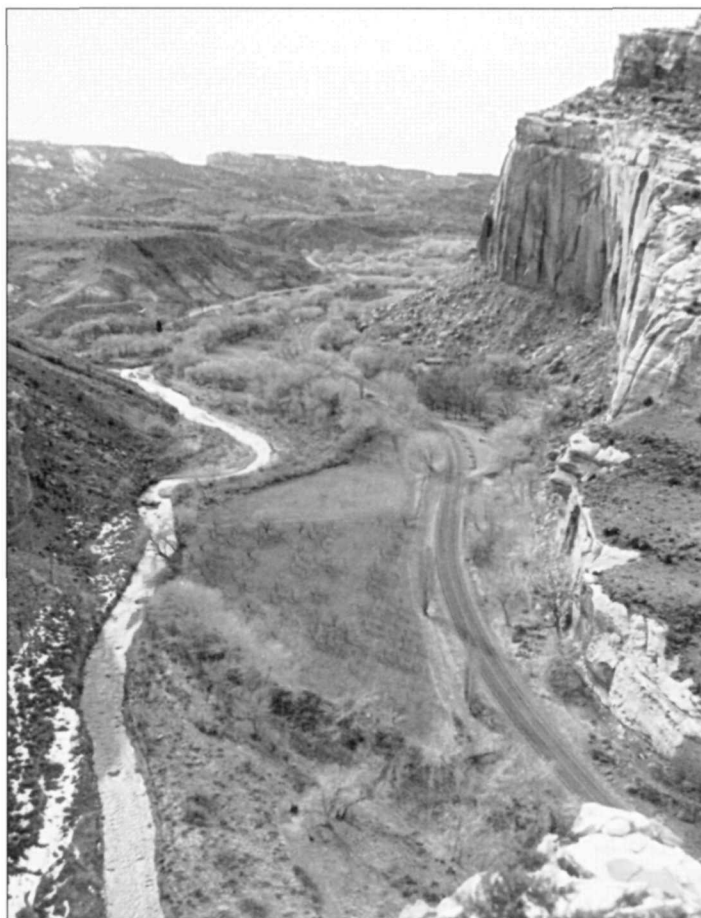


View of Fruita about 1940, showing primary landscape organization including orchards, agricultural fields, roads and natural systems.

RESPONSE TO NATURAL FEATURES

Fruita is located in a large regional transition area between the high plateau country to the west and the canyonlands to the east. Because of its location, Fruita historically served as a passage-way to both regions. Two natural features have had the greatest influence shaping the cultural landscape of Fruita: the water courses of the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek; and the two canyon corridors running east-west and north-south through the settlement. At the largest scale, the steep canyon cliffs created boundaries for the cultural landscape, by physically channelling early settlement into the canyon bottom lands. In addition, because there was a limit to the amount of arable land along these bottom lands, community development and growth remained contained within the canyons. Along these canyon bottoms, soils were generally sandy, requiring amendments to increase water retention and nutrient content.¹ The climate was moderated by the landforms, and water for basic needs and irrigation was plentiful.

In an arid region, the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek not only provided water to those travelling through the area, they also supported the development of an agricultural landscape. Irrigation works were constructed to take advantage of landforms and topography within the canyons, providing a maximum flow over relatively large distances. Although floods were a constant threat and occasionally devastated the community, the Fremont River and, to a lesser degree, Sulphur Creek, were critical resources supporting the development of agriculture and community self-sufficiency.² Other natural features, such as soils, native plant communities, and the physiographic character of the land also shaped the cultural landscape influencing land use and overall development of the community. Altogether, these landforms and ecological systems, along with the remoteness of Fruita, led to a concentrated pattern of use and cultural adaptation to the natural landscape that remains evident today.



View of Fremont River and State Highway 24 passing through the north end of Fruita, looking west, 1993.

CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Early Mormons in Utah were agrarian, strengthened by a sense of gathering as they sought refuge as a people from religious persecution. From the outset, they preferred agriculture over mining or industry, even though the territory was woefully lacking in arable land. Through centrally planned and executed acts of land management, they established what is known to historians and geographers as the Mormon Cultural Area, distinguished by the diversion of mountain streams for irrigation and by a distinctive village settlement pattern. Most early Mormon towns were laid out in a four-square grid with adjacent agricultural fields. Property rights were subor-



North end of Fruita, looking southeast toward Johnson Mesa, 1993.



Residents of Fruita at farewell gathering for Amasa E. Pierce family, about 1915.

dinate to religious and community objectives, and speculation in land was denounced. In response to the scarcity of good agricultural lands, Mormons established institutions of austerity, in which the land was valued at least as much for its social and political benefits as its economic uses.

Land-related values were closely interwoven with religious faith, giving agrarian ideals added significance. Central to the belief in agrarian values was the idea that Mormons would be blessed by providence and that the “desert should blossom as the rose,” as prophesied by Brigham Young. Agriculture was to be basic in the early “Kingdom of God.” It was to be the Saints moving into “the nooks and corners. . . wherever there is a spring or a bit of land—building up, making the earth bring forth its products.” Every man would “take up a piece of land [thus forming] the nucleus of his prosperity, wealth, and comparative independence.”³

In his article “Imprint of Agricultural Systems on the Utah Landscape,” Historian Charles S. Peterson states that Utah produced three distinctive agricultural landscapes: 1) the Mormon village, 2) the homestead landscape, superimposed by 3) the landscape of dry farming (the latter emerged after the turn of the century, and does not apply to the landscape of Fruita).⁴ The Mormon village landscape was based on the City of Zion concept developed by Joseph Smith and others in 1833. The plan called for each community to be laid out in a square grid pattern, with ample land for each family to have a home, orchards, and garden. Wide streets and irrigation ditches separated individual lots. The LDS ward chapel was centrally located in the town square. Fields were distributed in 5-, 10-, or 20-acre plots, and were required to be outside the town boundaries. Villages were thus surrounded by a greenbelt that was both protective and growth limiting. Speculative withholding of land from use was prohibited by common consent, as the survival of the community depended on the maximum use of available land and water resources. The pattern was established and prescribed by Church leadership and strongly influenced the character of early Mormon communities, particularly the string of colonies along the west front of the Wasatch Range that formed what cultural geographers call the “Mormon Corridor.”

The Homestead Act of 1862 and other Federal land laws eventually imposed a different pattern of settlement on the land by granting much more acreage per person than that distributed by the Church. This pattern is the one most evident in the settlements of the Colorado Plateau region, including that of Fruita. Large land grants were more conducive to livestock raising and commercial farming, but tended to scatter rather than concentrate communities and farmland. Peterson describes the homestead in Utah after 1890 as a landscape of increased “Americanization,” or transition from Mormon-dominated cultural values to those more akin to the larger American society.⁵ While the late-nineteenth-century Mormon homestead showed the influence of the early village pattern in its self-sufficient lifestyle and dependence on irrigation, it nonetheless signified a change in direction. The homesteading Mormons in the final decades of the nineteenth century and thereafter looked increasingly to speculation and commercial farming. Land acquisition, distribution, and use became less a factor of community and more a matter of individual initiative.

Fruita was settled during this transitional period in Utah’s history when Mormon domination over patterns of land use was weakening, and distribution and patterns had experienced a transition from a distinctively Mormon village landscape to a turn-of-the-century homestead that was not unlike many others throughout the West. In this regard, Fruita differs from most historians’ view of the typical Mormon settlement. It was not founded directly as part of a colonizing mission, as many Mormon towns were prior to the 1880s. Nor did its river valley topography allow for the typical Mormon townsite plan, one that imposed a rigid NSEW grid system on the land and whose nucleus was the LDS meeting house.⁶ Fruita never possessed a formal meeting house nor even had its own LDS ward. A number of its early residents may never have attended the religious meetings held in the Fruita Schoolhouse or in local homes when the visiting Bishop from Torrey came to town. Fruita was primarily composed of what author Wallace Stegner has referred to as “relaxed” Mormons. Still, as in most small communities, it was common knowledge who were the faithful and who they were not.⁷

Thus while Fruita is not, in the strict historical sense, the “typical” Mormon town, what is

evident in Fruita's past (and in its landscape) are the profound ways in which this small community is typically Mormon. Peterson wrote regarding Fruita:

Habit, family, environment (isolation as well as aridity), economics, and Americanizing influences all tended to make Mormonness a matter of individual, family, and locally based group patterns. These vary from place to place as well as with time but. . . there was a Mormon culture that was recognizable on the landscape during that [historic] era and there still is.⁸

Fruita once contained a number of significant landscape characteristics identified as "typically Mormon," some of which still exist: a prevailing rural feeling created by orchards, pastures, humble dwellings and "rough" agricultural outbuildings, an extensive irrigation system of ditches, and particular types of vegetation (particularly fruit trees, nut trees, mulberries, and poplars; vegetable gardens and ornamental flowering bushes are also characteristic). Another feature of Mormon landscapes is a general "unkempt" appearance of farms whose outbuildings, corrals, and fences, were never painted. The typical "Mormon fence," an irregular mixture of various types of poles, posts, slabs and pickets, documented in historic photographs of Fruita, can still be seen in surrounding towns on the Colorado Plateau.⁹ The landscape often looked, and in fact may have been, impoverished.

Fruita followed a social pattern that had signs of cooperation and continued religious ties, as well as increasing individualism and commercialism. Fruita's initial pattern of settlement, in which a number of families actually occupied an individual claim, provides evidence that those who homesteaded in the valley discovered a practical way of modifying the federal system to accommodate both the needs of the individual and those of the community. While the Fruita area was initially claimed in its entirety by four settlers, there were seven families living on the land. Consistent with the Mormon belief that no man should own more land than their family could farm, Fruita's early settlers developed an arrangement that, by mutual consent, divided the 160-acre tracts into more manageable pieces. Shortly after (and sometimes even prior to) obtaining legal title, the land was sold by the claimant to the occupants that were residing there. The sale price rarely exceeded \$1.25 per acre, thus it is doubtful that land speculation was a motive. Rather, it appears that allowing additional families to live and work on the land may have benefited everyone, both claimant and squatter alike. With more than one family working a claim, development necessary to "prove" the claim (particularly irrigation works) was more easily accomplished. Thus mutual cooperation assured both the claimant (and any others who lived on the claim) that the land would be theirs at the end of 5 years.

In addition to having a tradition of different attitudes toward land distribution and an emphasis on cooperative agricultural practices, the Saints were distinct from non-Mormons in their handling of land disputes. In "Homesteading in Zion," Historian Lawrence B. Lee writes that the

. . . homesteading practices [of Mormons] certainly revealed that they were a unique people. Claims contesting was minimal among the Mormons, while it was the order of the day on other homestead frontiers. Mormons in good standing with their church simply did not use the land office machinery for settling land disputes with other Mormons. The priesthood courts of ward and stake mediated between rival claimants, and the disputes were never aired in public.¹⁰

Because environmental conditions often played a role in the success or failure of Mormon settlements, the Mormon tradition of cooperative agriculture was particularly important to communities settling beyond the Mormon Corridor. Of the nearly 500 settlements established in the West by the LDS during the latter half of the nineteenth century, an estimated 46 settlements, or nearly 10 percent, failed because of environmental factors. By the time Utah attained statehood in 1896, practically all the acres that could be brought under irrigation had been occupied. The year 1900 has been recognized as a practical terminal date for Mormon colonization.¹¹

While one might expect that the major reason for settlement failure in the semiarid and arid West would be inadequate water supply, more often an excess of water created serious problems. As settlers established homesteads along the Colorado Plateau by using irrigation water from the tributaries of the Colorado River, they encountered and contended with periodic flooding. Nearly all of the settlements founded in these areas struggled at some time with the fluctuation of the rivers and streams. Dams built to control and divert water for irrigation purposes were destroyed repeatedly by sudden floods.

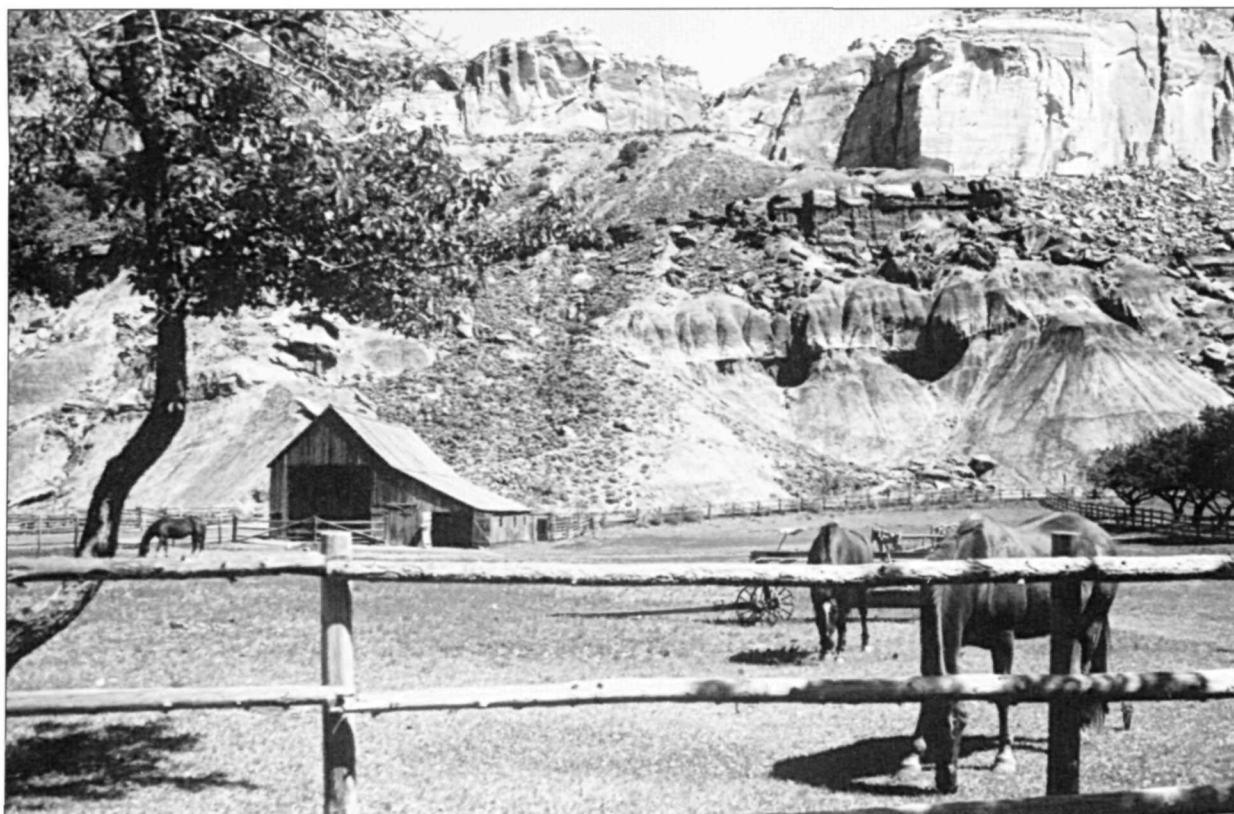
From 1890 through the early twentieth century, flooding of massive proportions devastated the settlements downriver from Fruita and eventually made ghost towns of several, including Aldridge and Blue Valley (Giles). Insufficient irrigation water was also a factor in the failure of two other Mormon communities downriver, Clifton and Elephant. Since the size of most Mormon settlements were small and environmental conditions were precarious, cooperation among families on the Colorado Plateau could (and did) make the difference between success or failure of the community.

LAND USE

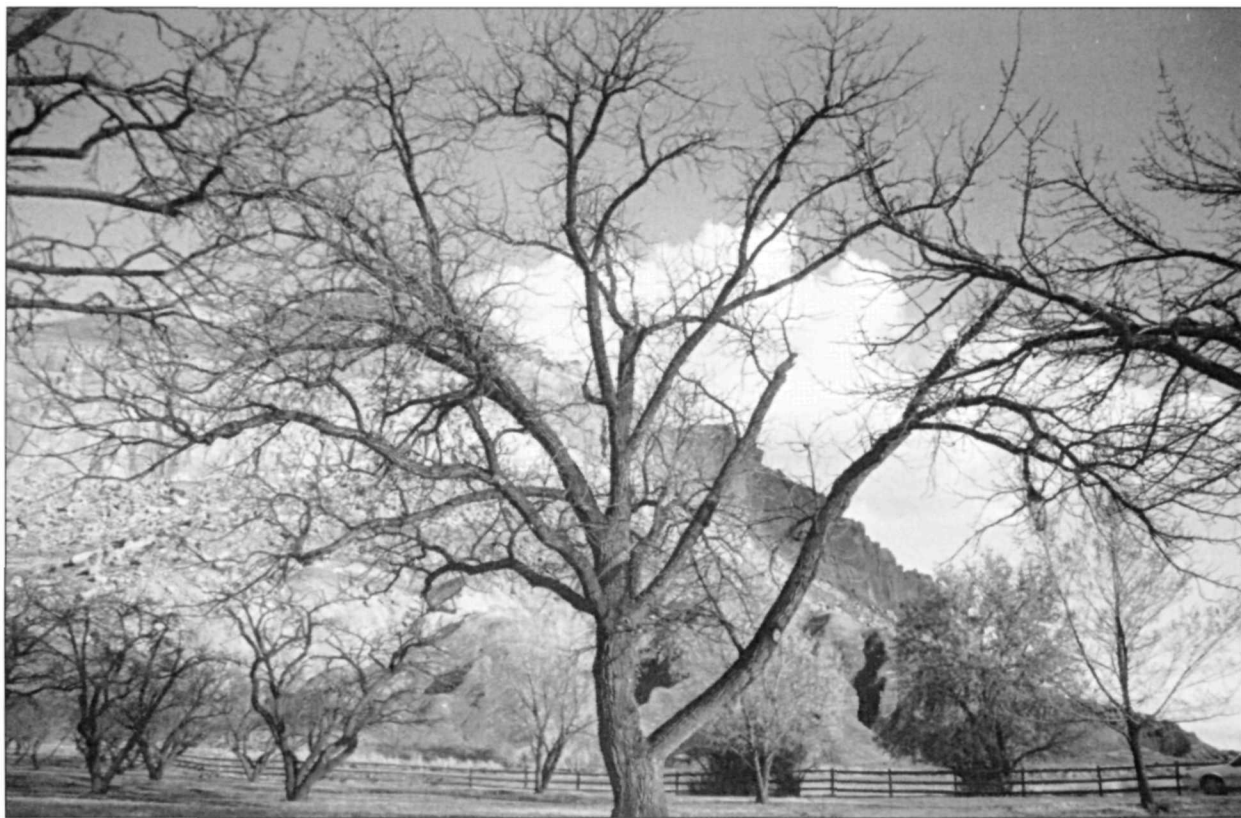
The climate, soils, water, and other physical attributes of Fruita provided an environment highly conducive to agricultural use by early settlers. Agriculture historically dominated use of the land beginning in the late 1880s, and many families settling in Fruita established orchards on their property soon after arriving. Most individual tracts during the historic period varied in size from about 35 to 65 acres.¹² Most of these early settlers worked to find a balance between subsistence agriculture and the production of market crops. Typically, individual tracts had a main residence, barn and associated outbuildings, an orchard, cropland, corrals, and pasture land. The orchards and fields were established in every arable tract, often falling in land pockets between the river meanders, early roads, and the steep canyon cliffs. Most of these soils were sandy, requiring supplements to increase water retention and nutrient content.¹³ Traditional land use practices included a cycle of rotating entire orchard tracts, fields, and pasture areas to enhance fertility and production. Irrigation ditches were designed to feed from the Fremont River and, to a lesser degree, Sulphur Creek, and were communally dug to provide supply to every orchard and field. A field-ditch system was used throughout Fruita, where main ditches fed smaller laterals and smaller furrows in the fields and orchards. Main ditches were constructed to carry a relatively large volume of water and provided the framework for the system, while smaller feeder ditches were often modified to accommodate changing dimensions and configurations of individual fields. This system was integral to the agricultural development of the area (See Structures: Irrigation System).

Although Capitol Reef National Monument was established in 1937, there were no dramatic changes in the pattern of private ownership or use of the land for the next quarter-century. Only Alma and Emma Chesnut sold their property to the government prior to 1961, selling 64 acres in 1942. The remaining owners, whether old-timers (the Mulfords, Giffords, Smiths, Chesnuts) or newcomers, continued to devote most lands to agricultural uses. Some orchards were tenant farmed, often by families or workers associated historically with Fruita. The size, composition, and number of orchards fluctuated during this period, due to a general shift away from subsistence to market crops. Irrigation ditches were maintained or upgraded to maintain the viability of the system. Today existing land use activities in Fruita remain focused on agriculture, with NPS administrative facilities (offices, maintenance complex, and housing) and visitor services (visitor center, picnic area, and campground) located in concentrated areas of the district.

Of the approximately 112 acres in agricultural use in 1940, approximately 66 acres remain in agricultural use today.¹⁴ The loss of 46 acres of arable lands reflects the impact of state road construction and NPS development during the 1960s. Eight acres along the north edge of the district were removed to construct State Highway 24 and another acre was impacted during improvements to the Scenic Drive. Four acres of open field were converted to a picnic area, 11 acres were developed as campgrounds, and 9.5 acres of remnant fields were used to site park housing. Over time an additional 12 acres of fields and orchards were abandoned to facilitate the protection and



View of the Gifford Farm, looking east, 1993.



View of old walnut tree in the Mulford Orchard, 1993.

interpretation of archeological resources, or due to limited accessibility, lack of reliable water, and in some areas, the addition of underground infrastructure.¹⁵

In spite of these physical changes, historic land use patterns and visual qualities of the district as a whole remain remarkably intact. Several potentially intrusive developments in the district have been screened or echo historic character. For example, the park housing area is seasonally screened from view by a stand of cottonwoods which appear natural along the floodplain of Sulphur Creek reducing the visual impact of the development. The picnic area located north of the Jorgensen Pasture is an area which was historically open in character, with a few trees located around the site of Doc Inglesby's place. Today this area remains open and is compatible with its historic character. Perhaps most significant throughout the district is the overall agricultural use of the land and the stable proportion of orchards to fields. In 1940 approximately 59 percent of the agricultural lands were in orchards and 41 percent in field crop. Documentation indicates that today approximately 62 percent of the land in agricultural use is in orchards and 37 percent is in field crops, representing a small change of 3 percent more land in orchard and 4 percent less land in field crops than during the historic period.¹⁶ In the context of historic land use practices, this slight shift is not inappropriate. While in some cases the cover crop in individual fields or the composition of individual orchards has changed due to contemporary horticultural practices and maintenance constraints, the open character and agricultural use of these areas has been retained and has integrity.

VEGETATION RELATED TO LAND USE

Three categories of vegetation resources characterize the cultural landscape of Fruita: "natural" vegetation, including native and introduced species associated with the riparian communities along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek; introduced plant materials used for ornamental or cultural purposes; and the orchards, fields, and pastures which are the dominant vegetation associated with the agricultural landscape of Fruita.

Riparian Plant Communities

A number of riparian plant communities have been identified along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek. These are comprised of both native and introduced species that have naturalized over time. Common plants include cottonwood, willow, squawbush, and Russian olive (introduced), with a number of herbaceous materials such as wild tarragon, sweet clover (introduced), American bulrush, and wire rush.

Introduced Plant Materials (ornamental/cultural)

Some introduced and naturally-occurring plant materials are significant features in the cultural landscape of Fruita. Some of this vegetation, such as the Lombardy poplar, was planted historically to define property lines, create windbreaks, or define irrigation ditches, all of which reflect traditional Mormon cultural practice. Several of these trees remain, especially along the north edge of the district. In addition, throughout the district are a variety of non-native plant materials that provide evidence of past land use, or reflect valuable historic features in the context of the cultural landscape as a whole. Examples of these materials include the two cottonwood trees next to the campground (the "mail tree" and its companion), rows of walnut and pecan trees associated with several orchards, isolated fruit and nut trees, scattered mulberry trees, and a variety of remnant ornamental materials (lilacs and wisteria vines) that mark the location of non-existent residences or home sites. Contemporary plantings in the picnic area and campgrounds reflect period design (Mission 66). In addition to cottonwood trees, these areas also contain exotic materials such as hackberry and blue spruce.



Mail tree along the Scenic Drive, looking southeast, March 1993.

Agriculture

The primary type of vegetation throughout Fruita relates to historic and ongoing agricultural use of the land. Within the district there are 17 primary orchards as well as scattered fruit and nut trees located along historic property lines or abandoned farms. Individual orchards range in size from less than 1 acre to more than 6 acres and are a mix of plum, apricot, peach, pear, nectarines, cherries, nut trees, and several varieties of apple. In addition to the orchards, there are approximately 25 acres of open field in crop or pasture grasses, including three large fields: Hattie's Field (approximately 5 acres), Pendleton's Field (approximately 4 acres), and the Jorgensen Pasture (approximately 5 acres).¹⁷

The agricultural landscape of Fruita was established early in the development of the Mormon community. Using the narrow corridor of arable lands along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek, these early settlers exercised traditional cultural practices by establishing orchards and planting a variety of crops such as wheat, oats, alfalfa, potatoes, corn, apples, peaches, apricots, and cherries. Most of these crops were grown for subsistence, as families tried to maintain and improve their lands. Earliest records indicate that the lands in Fruita were extremely conducive to the production of fruit and a relatively large portion of each claim and landowners' holdings were planted in orchard trees.¹⁸ In 1888 Nels Johnson's claim included 17 acres cultivation, seven of which were planted in orchard. By 1901 the orchard had expanded to cover 11 acres. His neighbor, Elijah Behunin, had 12 acres in cultivation in 1895, 4 acres of which were in orchards. In 1896 Behunin's son Hyrum was cultivating 35 acres, some of which was fruit. In affidavits relating to their claims, both Johnson and Behunin stated that their lands were most valuable for the production of fruit.¹⁹ Other settlers found the same and, as the community developed, orchards dominated the landscape.

Farmers tended to grow fruits and other crops that were available and suited to the climate of the canyon bottoms. Orchards usually contained several types of fruit trees to provide variety and allow the harvest and other work to occur throughout the season. In this way families could



The Holt farm in 1992, during its period of use as an NPS staff residence.

sustain themselves and successfully maintain relatively large tracts. As property was sold or divided among family members, it was common practice to alter the proportion of land given to field crops and to orchards in order to meet individual family needs, abilities, and the larger regional market economies. When Utah experienced an agricultural depression in the early 1920s, several of the original settlers sold their lands. New owners carried on traditional use of the land by piecing together contiguous tracts of orchards and fields which left the agricultural landscape relatively intact.

After the NPS purchased most of the private holdings in Fruita in the early 1960s, the disposition of the orchards was an immediate management concern. One view held that the landscape should be returned to its natural, pre-settlement appearance. Others argued that the orchards should be maintained, either by the NPS or a lessee who would maximize production of the fruit trees. The decision was made in 1974 to maintain the orchards as a historical resource. The first formal orchard management plan was approved in 1979.²⁰ It initially proposed that the number of fruit trees be reduced to 1,700. When the plan was presented to the public, it met with strong opposition.²¹ Consequently, the plan was revised to allow for the continued maintenance of 2,563 trees as a cultural resource.²²

From the beginning there was never an attempt by the NPS to manage the orchard trees of Fruita as a horticultural archive. A subsequent orchard management plan in 1988 stated that "the objective is the preservation of the landscape, not the preservation of individual trees."²³ The plan recommended maintenance of 2,500 trees; when replanting was required, it was to be in a single-species, "block" pattern, rather than the earlier and common "hodge podge" pattern. The "block" pattern was necessary to facilitate the high level of maintenance required to manage the number and diversity of existing orchards. A small number of mixed-variety orchards (which included historical fruit varieties) were recommended for interpretive purposes.²⁴ In addition to the maintenance of orchards, many fields in the park continued to be planted in alfalfa and pasture grass

as they were historically. While there were an estimated 3,500 fruit trees during Fruita's zenith, the numbers have fluctuated through the years, and today there are about 2,500.²⁵

Orchard Summaries

There are 17 individual orchards currently managed in Fruita. They range in size from less than 1 acre to more than 6 acres.²⁶ The location of the orchards and many of the trees in them are historic, dating to the 1940s. Throughout the district, orchard trees that are in poor condition have historically been replaced, and in some cases entire orchards have been replanted with new trees as the old trees failed. All of the orchards in Fruita are managed using current horticultural practices, and fruit is harvested using a "pick-your-own" system and sold to visitors. This inventory consolidates current and historical data for each orchard, and for the three primary fields/pastures in the district. Data in the inventory is organized into several categories including name, park code, location, acres cultivated, historical documentation, and crop information. Summary descriptions are coordinated with the fold-out map (located in the rear pocket of this report) and are given in the following order: beginning from the western boundary of the district; proceeding along State Highway 24 to the far eastern boundary; then from west to east along the Scenic Drive to the district's southern boundary.

Orchard Names

During the 1980s the park sought to pique visitor curiosity and increase their awareness about Fruita's history by assigning names to the orchards and fields and erecting signage in each of them. In some cases, names were assigned that had been commonly used by earlier orchard caretakers; in other instances, the orchard or field was named after the person with the longest (or latest) association with the property. The names were chosen to be "representative" of different families that had once lived or farmed in Fruita. Little research was done prior to selection of names on the specific land use history of each orchard or field.²⁷ In the course of this study, the question arose about the appropriateness of some of the names. In a number of cases, the names chosen for certain orchards have no (or tenuous) historic ties with the property. "Behunin Grove," for example, is located on land that was part of the Nels Johnson homestead; the orchard was planted by Cora Smith, who last owned the land prior to NPS acquisition. "Mott's Orchard" is named for a man who only held title to the land for 3 years; it was farmed longest by Aaron Holt (1914-1939). The "Guy Smith Place" was owned by Merin Smith, but farmed for several years by his brother Guy. A portion of this orchard was subdivided in 1996 with one part renamed the "Jackson Orchard" in honor of Worthen and Kent Jackson, father and son who tended the park's orchards for many years. The "Krueger Orchard" was historically associated with one of the valley's most important farmers, 'Tine Oyler, from 1916 to 1941. (While Krueger owned the land from 1941 to 1961, he spent only one summer in Fruita as a resident.) It is not known what association, if any, Abie Clarke had to the orchard named after him.

Because the current names of orchards do not always have strong historic association with the land, there is some confusion among park visitors, particularly those with family ties to past residents. The names currently assigned to the orchards or fields have been used throughout this document. At some point, the park may wish to reevaluate their use of current names given additional historic documentation and public input.

Historic Crops

There are no known detailed records which pertain to individual orchards during the historic period. Listed under this heading are the types and numbers of fruit trees that were inventoried by the park in October 1970, and described in the park's orchard maintenance notebook.²⁸ This inventory describes the trees as "small, medium, or large" and (usually) provides corresponding diameters for each, thus it is possible to ascertain the approximate age of trees at the

time of the inventory. Sizes indicate that the majority of trees in the orchards were mature at the time of the inventory. During the 1960s, when the orchards were maintained by Worthen Jackson, dead or diseased trees were replaced in kind. For purposes of the following orchard summary, all trees inventoried in 1970 (regardless of size) are described under “Historic Crops.”

Historical Documentation

The documentation provided in the summaries includes estimates of acres devoted to agriculture were derived from analysis of historic photographs (including aeriels), orchard records, and orchard maintenance files. In some cases, these estimates are inconsistent with those provided by the Wayne County Tax Assessment Roll for 1947. The tax assessment records appear unreliable through much of the historic period, and the acreage reportedly devoted to orchards appears to have been under-reported by the tax assessor.²⁹ Between 1946 and 1947, Fruita’s farms were resurveyed and the figures adjusted for all landowners. The 1947 adjustment reflected a substantial increase in the size of orchards. According to a past resident Cora Smith, however, there was not a significant increase in fruit trees planted between 1940 and 1946, thus the readjusted assessment figures may approximate the amount of acres in orchard at the end of the historic period (1946). Those figures are provided in Appendix C for purposes of comparison with the figures derived from other documentary sources.

Current Name: Jackson Orchard and Guy Smith Place

Other Name(s): Guy Place

Park Code: 0-03

Location: Approximately .4 miles east of the visitor center, between Sulphur Creek and south side of State Highway 24.

Tract: 3

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	2.4
	Field	<u>2.3</u>
	Total	4.7

Number of Trees: 243

Date Recorded: January 1992, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of Elijah Behunin's homestead, these two adjoining orchards are located on land that was part of a 105-acre tract owned by Merin and Cora Smith (1930-1945). Guy Smith (Merin's brother) planted the original orchard but only farmed there several years before moving to California.³⁰ In 1940 as much as 5 acres was being farmed, all in orchard. Approximately .6 acres was lost to construction of State Highway 24 in 1962. In 1996, the west part of the Guy Smith Orchard was renamed in memory of Worthen and Kent Jackson; it contains a grove of young apple trees planted in recent years by Kent Jackson.

Historic Crops:

Peach (382)
Apple (22)

Current Crops:

(Guy Smith Place)
Peach
(198)Nectarine (17)
Apple (3)

(Jackson Orchard)
Apples (225)



Jackson Orchard and Guy Smith Place

Current Name: Cook Orchard

Other Name(s): South Schoolhouse Orchard

Park Code: 0-06

Location: Located .6 miles from visitor center between south side of State Highway 24 and Sulphur Creek.

Tract: 3

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	2.6
	Field	.5
	Total	3.1

Number of Trees: 106

Date Recorded: 1989, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Elijah Behunin homestead, this land was farmed by Joseph Cook (1902-1916), Andrew Adams (1916-1930), and Merin and Cora Smith (1930-1945). The Smiths planted the orchard. In 1940, 4.2 acres were in agriculture, with 3.4 acres in orchard, and .8 acres in fields. In 1962, 1.1 acres were lost with the construction of State Highway 24.

Historic Crops:

Cherry (81)
Apple (45)
Pear (45)
Peach (42)
Apricot (22)

Current Crops:

Cherry
Apple
Pear
Peach
Apricot



Cook Orchard

Current Name: Amasa Pierce Grove

Other Name(s): North Schoolhouse Orchard

Park Code: 0-05

Location: Approximately .8 miles from the visitor center on the north side of State Highway 24, west side of the Fruita Schoolhouse.

Tract: 3

Acres:	Orchard	.5
	Field	.7
	Total	1.2

Number of Trees: 47

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Elijah Behunin homestead, this land was owned and farmed by Joseph Cook (1902-1916), Andrew Adams (1916-1930), and Merin and Cora Smith (1930-1945). Amasa Pierce had no known association with this land. The orchard is located on the north side of State Highway 24. Thirty-three of the 47 trees in the orchard are new plantings.

Historic Crops:

Apple (38)

Current Crops:

Apple (14)
Apricot (33)



Amasa Pierce Grove

Current Name: Behunin Grove

Other Name(s): North Smith Place

Park code: 0-01

Location: Approximately .8 miles east of the visitor center, on the north side of Utah State Highway 24, east of the Fruita schoolhouse.

Tract: 7

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	.3
	Field	<u>.3</u>
	Total	.7

Number of Trees: 18

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

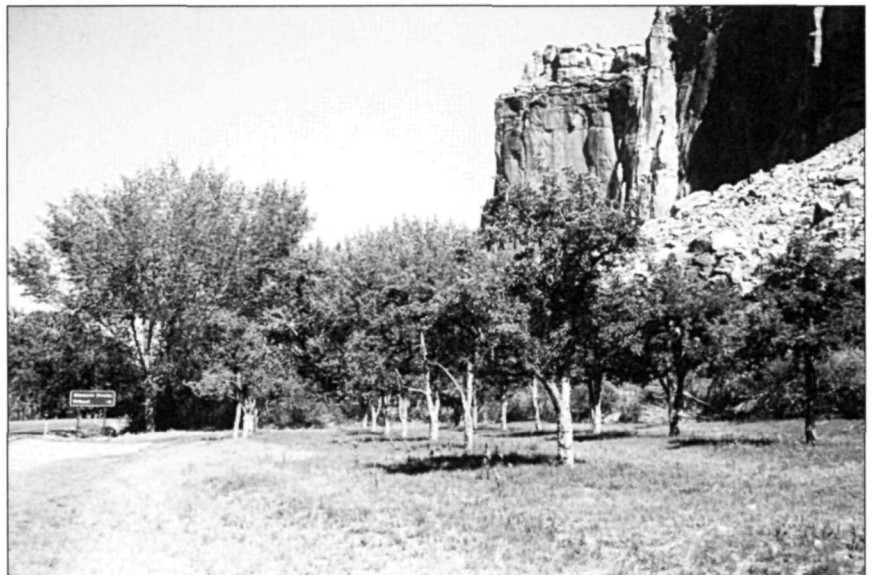
This orchard was originally part of the Nels Johnson homestead of 160 acres. Merin and/or Cora Smith owned 28 acres of this tract beginning in 1928 until it was sold to the park service in 1961. The orchard was originally planted by Cora Smith. This small portion of the orchard was physically cut off from the larger orchard to the south by construction of the State Highway 24 in 1962.

Historic Crops:

Pear (20)
Apple (6)
Apricot (1)
Cherry (1)
Plum (1)

Current Crops:

Pear
Bartlett
Plum
(old varieties scattered
along the bank)



Behunin Grove

Current Name: Merin Smith Place

Other Name(s): South Smith Place

Park Code: 0-07

Location: Approximately .9 miles from visitor center on the south side of State Highway 24.

Tract: 7

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	1.4
	Field	<u>2.1</u>
	Total	3.5

Number of Trees: 49

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

This orchard was originally part of the Nels Johnson homestead of 160 acres. It was owned by Amasa Pierce, 'Tine Oyler, and M. E. and Jehu Blackburn prior to its ownership by Merin and Cora Smith (1928-1961). In 1940 there were approximately 5.2 acres farmed, with 3.2 acres in orchard and 2.0 acres in field. In 1962, 1.1 acres were lost to construction of State Highway 24; .6 acres were abandoned.

Historic Crops:

Pear (39)
Apricot (29)
Apple (26)
Cherry (16)
Peach (14)

Current Crops:

(west side of house site)
Apple
Apricot
Pear

(east side of house site)
Cherry (pie)
Pear
Bartlett
Plum



Merin Smith Place

Current Name: 'Tine Oyler Place

Other Name(s): Grape Vineyard; Petroglyph Orchard

Park Code: 0-09

Location: Two parcels, located approximately 1.1 miles east of visitor center. One parcel is on the north side of State Highway 24; the other parcel is on the south side of the road.

Tract: 9

Acres Cultivated: (both parcels)

Orchard	1.9 (including grapes)
Field	<u>1.2</u>
Total	3.1

Number of Trees: 32 trees (north of road)
66 trees (south of road)

Date Recorded: August 1991, March 1993 (field checked)

Historical Documentation:

This land was originally part of the Leo Holt homestead of 120 acres. 'Tine Oyler owned the land from 1916 until 1941 when it was sold to Max Krueger. Oyler bought 38 acres from Annie Mansfield in 1914 and an additional 27 acres from George Carrell in 1916. Documentation suggests that 6.5 acres were farmed in 1940, with approximately 2 acres in orchard and 4.5 acres in other crops (grasses). In 1962, 2.3 acres were lost to construction of State Highway 24 and .9 acres were abandoned. The grapevines received regular maintenance through the 1980s, until the deer population undermined virtually all maintenance.

Historic Crops:

Pecan (9)	Peach (4)
Cherry (8)	Mulberry (3)
Pie Cherry (4)	Walnut (1)
Apple (7)	
grapevines	
Apricot (8)	

Current Crops:

(north side of road)

Pecan
Apple
Cherry (tart)
Peach (early)
grapevines
Plum

(south side of road)

Apple
Cherry
Nectarine
Peach
Pear
Plum



Tine Oyler Place

Current Name: Holt Orchard

Other Name: Middle Krueger Orchard

Park Code: 0-12

Location: Located 1.2 miles east of the visitor center, on the south side of State Highway 24.

Tract: 9

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	2.4
	Field	0
	Total	2.4

Number of Trees: 129

Date recorded: 1990, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

This land was originally part of the Leo Holt homestead. 'Tine Oyler owned the land from 1916 until 1941. Most of the orchards were established before Oyler sold to Max Krueger in 1941. Photographic documentation indicates that this orchard once extended farther north, covering approximately 3.6 acres. In 1940, approximately 3.2 acres were orchard and .4 acres were in alfalfa. Krueger lived in California, employing local men to farm the land until 1961, when he sold it to the NPS. Approximately 1 acre of orchard was lost due to construction of State Highway 24 in 1962.

Historic Crops:

Apples (74)
Pears (66)
Cherries (27)
Apricot (10)

Current Crops:

Apple (29)
 Yellow
 Red Delicious
Cherry (42)
Pear (60)
Apricot (1)



Holt Orchard

Current Name: Max Krueger Orchard

Other Name(s): North Lower Krueger Orchard

Park Code: 0-10

Location: Approximately 1.3 miles east of the visitor center on north side of Utah State Route 24.

Tract: 9

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	4.1
	Field	<u>0</u>
	Total	4.1

Number of Trees: 384 (approximate)

Date Recorded: August 1991, March 1993 (field checked)

Historical Documentation:

This land was originally part of the Leo Holt homestead of 120 acres. 'Tine Oyler owned the land from 1916 until 1941. Most of the orchard was planted in 1935. Max Krueger purchased the land in 1941.³¹ Seven acres of land were reported in orchard at the end of the historic period. Approximately 2 acres of this land was abandoned due to the repeated flooding of the Fremont (the floods of 1945 and 1949). Almost a full acre was lost and due to construction of the State Highway 24 in 1962. A dozen new apple trees were added in 1964 and 130 peach trees were put in 1979. The orchard once located south of the highway was referred to as the South Lower Krueger Orchard.

Historic Crops:

Apple (128)
Apricot (49)
Peach (49)
Cherry (5)
Walnut (1)

Current Crops:

Apple (65)
 Yellow Delicious
 Red Delicious
 Jonathan
 "cooking"
Apricot (14-+)
Peach (303)
 Rosa
 Garnett
 Early Red Haven
 "late"
Plum (2)



Max Krueger Orchard

Current Name: Mott's Orchard

Other Name(s): Brimhall Orchard

Park Code: 0-02

Location: Located .2 miles east of the visitor center, on the north side of the Scenic Drive.

Tract: 8

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	8.2
	Field	<u>1.5</u>
	Total	9.7

Number of Trees: 300+ (approximate—isolated and scattered trees not documented)

Date Recorded: January 1990, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Elijah Behunin homestead of 120 acres, most of this land was farmed longest by Leo Holt's brother, Aaron Holt (1914-1939). Orval Mott bought Holt's land (40 acres) and an additional 14 acres in 1940, then sold the combined 54 acres to Dean Brimhall in 1943. In 1940 as much as 21 acres were farmed, with approximately 8 acres in orchard, and 13 acres in field crop. The construction of State Highway 24 required 1 acre on the north edge of the property, and the development of park housing took approximately 9.5 acres out of production between 1964 and 1965.

Historic Crops:

Peach (161)
Apple (75)
Apricot (52)
Cherry (35)
Pear (12)
Prune (5)
Almond (5)
Quince (2)
Mulberry (1)

Current Crops:

Almond (9)
Apple (263)
Apricot (39)
Peach (66)
Cherry (27)
Pear (8)
Plum (7)
Walnut (5)
Quince (2)



Mott's Orchard

Current Name: Abie Clarke Orchard

Other Name(s): Lizard Farm

Park Code: 0-04

Location: Approximately .6 miles from visitor center between Sulphur Creek, on the north side of the Scenic Drive.

Tract: 3

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	1.7
	Field	<u>1.1</u>
	Total	2.8

Number of Trees: 107

Date Recorded: 1988, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Elijah Behunin homestead, this land was owned by Joseph Cook (1902-1916), Andrew Adams (1916-1930), and Merin and Cora Smith (1930-1945). It is not known what association, if any, Abie Clarke had to the property.³² In 1940 there were approximately 3.5 acres farmed at this site. The orchard was replanted in 1988. New trees were established on the east side of the field. Approximately .6 acres of land were lost to development.

Historic Crops:

Peach (26)
Pear (19)
Apricots (11)
Apple (5)
Plum (4)

Current Crops:

Cherry (107)
Lambert
Utah giant
Van
Bing



Abie Clarke Orchard

Current Name: Adams Orchard

Other Name(s): Sprang Orchard

Park Code: 0-08

Location: Approximately .8 miles from the visitor center, on the north side of the Scenic Drive.

Tract: 3

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	1.0
	Field	<u>0</u>
	Total	1.0

Number of Trees: 30

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

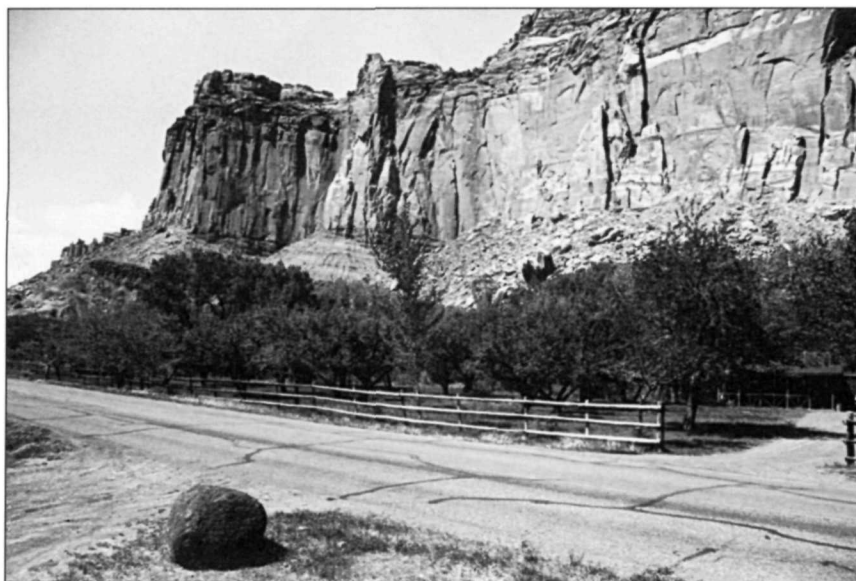
Originally part of the Elijah Behunin homestead, this land was farmed by Joseph Cook (1902-1916), Andrew Adams (1916-1930), Merin and Cora Smith (1930-1945), Owen Davis (1945-1955), and Richard and Elizabeth Sprang. Documentation suggests that the Smiths planted the orchard.

Historic Crops:

Apricot (47)
Apple (10)
Mulberry (2)

Current Crops:

Apricot (30)



Adams Orchard

Current Name: Nels Johnson Orchard

Other Name(s): Lodge Area

Park Code: 0-11

Location: Approximately .9 miles east of visitor center, on the north side of the Scenic Drive.

Tract: 7

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	1.5
	Field	.4
	Total	1.9

Number of Trees: 123

Date Recorded: December 1991, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Nels Johnson Homestead, this orchard was replanted in the 1980s on the site of the former Capitol Reef Lodge. Historical documentation indicated that this was the location of Johnson's orchard, one of the earliest in Fruita. The reconstructed orchard was replanted with a variety of fruit and nut trees, representing the composition of old Fruita orchards.

Historical Crops:

(see below)

Current Crops:

Almond (12)
Apple (30)
 Rome Beauty
 Red Astracans
 Yellow Transparent
 Winter Banana
 Winesap
 Jonathan
Apricot (11)
 Sweet pit
 Morpink
Cherry (9)
 Montmorency
Peach (14)
 Elberta
 Hale
Pear (15)
 Flemish beauty
 Bartlett
Plum (4)
Prune (5)
Quince (4)
Walnut (4)
unidentified (10)



Nels Johnson Orchard

Current Name: Jorgensen Pasture

Other Name(s): Lower Chesnut Orchard

Park Code: 0-13

Location: Approximately 1 mile from the visitor center, northeast of the Gifford Farm.

Tract: 2

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	0
	Field	<u>3.3</u>
	Total	3.3

Number of Trees: 0

Date Recorded: March 93

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Nels Johnson homestead, the land was owned by William and/or Jay Chesnut from 1925 to 1962. It was planted in cherry orchard during most of the Chesnuts' ownership, and was converted to horse grazing pasture in the 1970s. Most of the cherry trees were removed during the 1970s; the last four were taken out in 1981. The pear trees were removed in 1975 and 1981. (It is not known when the apple trees were removed.) All were mature trees.³³

Historic Crops:

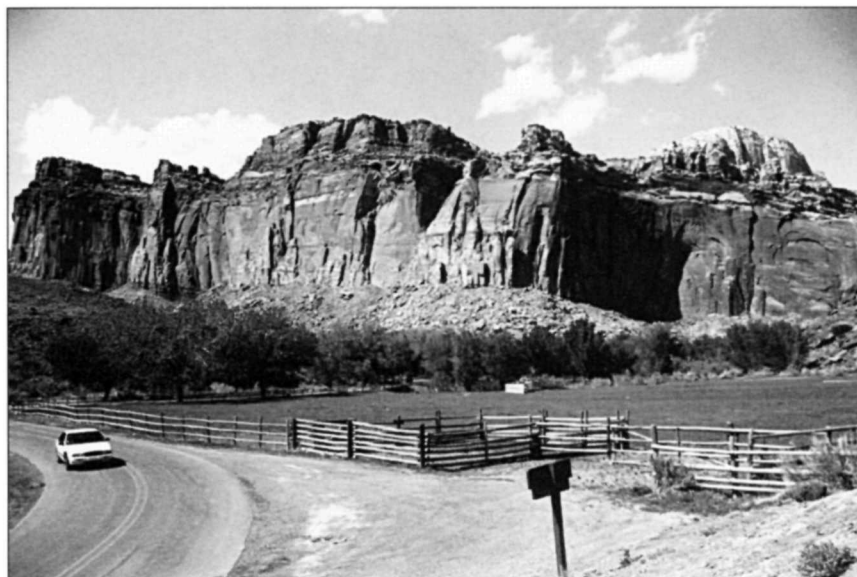
Cherry (39)

Pears (5)

Apples (8)

Current Crops:

Pasture grass



Jorgensen Pasture

Current Name: Gifford Farm

Other Name(s): N/A

Park Code: N/A

Location: Located 1.2 miles east of the visitor center, on the south side of the Scenic Drive.

Tract: 4

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	2.3
	Field	1.5
	Total	3.8

Number of Trees: 38

Date Recorded: November 1991, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

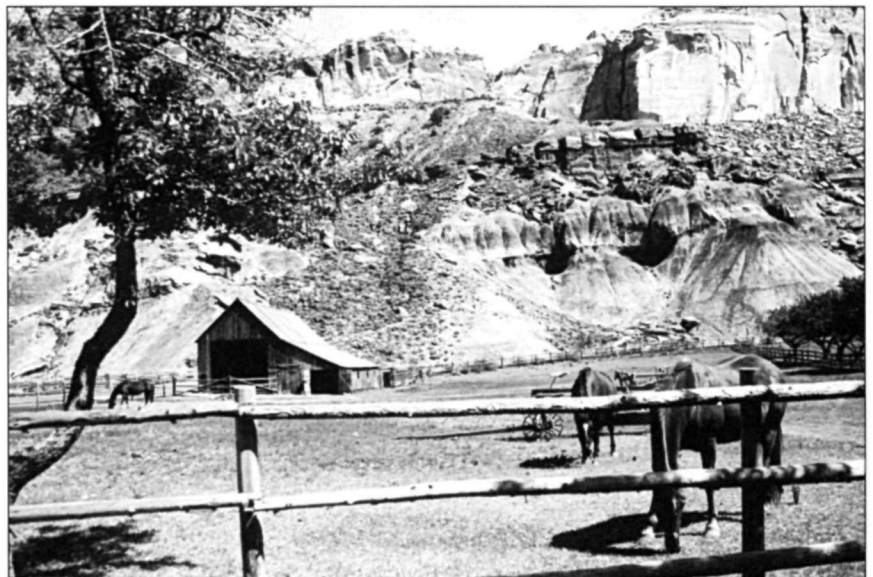
This land was originally part of the Nels Johnson homestead. Cal Pendleton pieced several parcels of land together that he and/or his wife Susannah acquired between 1898 and 1915. His improvements included constructing an extensive length of rock walls, house, barn, and smoke-house prior to selling the land to Jorgen Jorgensen in 1919.³⁴ Jorgensen sold 45 acres to son-in-law Dewey Gifford in 1929. In the 1930s, Gifford planted corn and alfalfa in the area adjacent to the barn. Fruit trees were scattered throughout the property. Documentation indicates that in 1940, 3.8 acres were farmed with 3 acres in orchard.

Historic Crops:

Alfalfa
Corn
Apricot (92)
Peach (15)
Pear (15)
Apple (15)
Cherry (1)
English walnut (1)
Quince (1)
Plum (1)

Current Crops:

Pasture grass
Apple (9)
Red Delicious
Yellow Delicious
unknown varieties (3)
Apricot (23)
Pear (5)
Quince (1)



Gifford Farm

Current Name: Chesnut Orchard

Other Name(s): Upper Chesnut Orchard

Park Code: 0-15

Location: Approximately 1.5 miles from the visitor center between the Fremont River and the Loop C Campground.

Tract: 2

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	2.8
	Field	<u>0</u>
	Total	2.8

Number of Trees: 129

Date Recorded: January 1992, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Nels Johnson homestead, Johnson's descendants sold 53.76 acres to William Chesnut in 1925. The land remained in the Chesnut family until it was sold to the government in 1962. Documentation suggests that in 1940, Chesnut had approximately 6.4 acres in orchard, filling the land between the Fremont River and the Scenic Drive. In 1987, 3.6 acres of orchard were removed to construct Loop C Campground.

Historic Crops:

Peach (434)
Apple (84)
Pear (30)

Current Crops:

Almond (25)
Apple (75)
 Red Delicious
 Yellow Delicious
 unknown varieties
Pear (29)
 Bartlett



Chesnut Orchard

Current Name: Cass Mulford Orchard

Other Name(s): Lower Mulford Orchard; Diamond Ranch

Park Code: 0-16

Location: On the west side of the Scenic Drive, approximately 1.5 miles from the visitor center.

Tract: 1

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	6.1
	Field	<u>0</u>
	Total	6.1

Number of Trees: 378

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Hyrum Behunin homestead, this land was part of a tract owned from 1915 to 1920 by the Pendleton family. Cass Mulford acquired 56.5 acres in 1922 and added another 88 acres (purchased from J. Jorgensen) in 1929. Mulford owned the 144.5-acre tract from 1922 to 1962, when it was sold to the NPS. A large portion of Mulford's holdings extended up the Fremont River, and some lands along the river were cultivated. Mulford also established pasture lands and hay fields south of the orchard. The main orchard, all apricot, was planted in the 1930s, reflecting the shift toward a commercial market (cannery).

Historic Crops:

Apricot (742)
"Brigham Young" walnut tree (1)
Alfalfa

Current Crops:

Apricot
"Brigham Young"
walnut tree



Cass Mulford Orchard

Current Name: Hattie's Field

Other Name(s): Upper Mulford Orchard; Diamond Ranch

Park Code: 0-14

Location: Approximately 1.5 miles from the visitor center west of the south end of the Scenic Drive, bordering the Fremont River.

Tract: 1

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	0
	Field	<u>5.0</u>
	Total	5.0

Number of Trees: 0

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Hyrum Behunin homestead, this land was part of a tract owned from 1915 to 1920 by the Pendleton family. Cass Mulford acquired 56.5 acres in 1922 and added another 88 acres (purchased from J. Jorgensen) in 1929. Mulford owned the 144.5-acre tract from 1922 to 1962, when it was sold to the NPS. The entire 3.5-acre orchard was removed between 1970 and 1977.³⁵

Historic Crops:

Peaches (302)
Apricots (118)
Pear (1)

Current Crops:

Pasture grass



Hattie's Field

Current Name: Cal Pendleton Field

Other Name(s): Mulford Hay Field

Park Code: 0-17

Location: West side of the south end of the Scenic Drive, approximately 1.5 miles from the visitor center.

Tract: 1

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	0
	Field	5.6
	Total	5.6

Number of Trees: 0

Date Recorded: March 1993

Historical Documentation:

Originally part of the Hyrum Behunin homestead, this land was part of a tract owned from 1915 to 1920 by the Pendleton family. Cass Mulford acquired 56.5 acres in 1922 and added another 88 acres (purchased from J. Jorgensen) in 1929. Mulford owned the 144.5-acre tract from 1922 to 1962, when it was sold to the NPS. This field was historically planted in orchard (ca. 1935); at some point later, Mulford converted it to a hay field.

Historic Crops:

undocumented

Current Crops:

Pasture grass



Cal Pendleton Field

Current Name: Carrell Orchard

Other Name(s): Mulford Pasture

Park Code: 0-18

Location: Approximately 1.5 miles from the visitor center, south of Cal Pendleton Field, west of the Scenic Drive, and east of the Group Campsite.

Tract: 1

Acres Cultivated:	Orchard	2.1
	Field	<u>0</u>
	Total	2.1

Number of Trees: 266

Date Recorded: December 1991, March 1993

Historical Documentation:

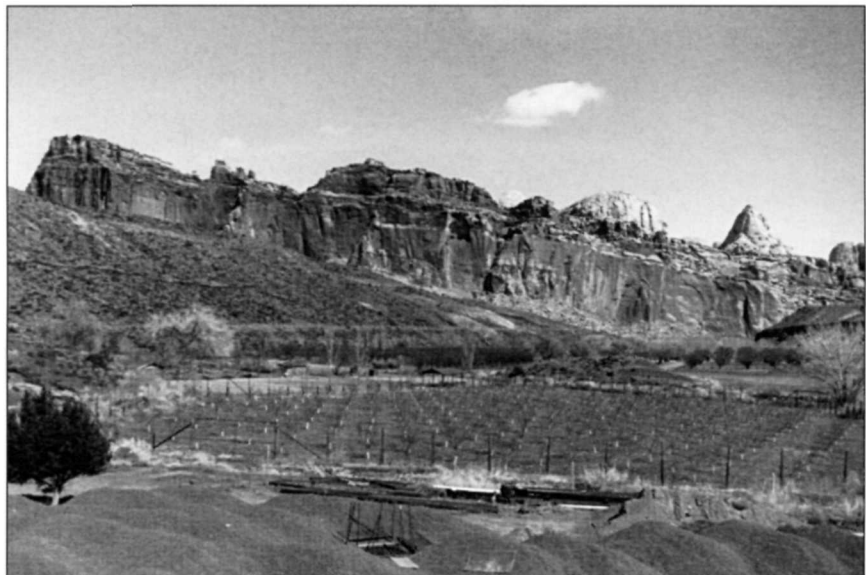
Originally part of the Hyrum Behunin homestead, this land was part of a tract owned from 1915 to 1920 by the Pendleton family. Cass Mulford acquired 56.5 acres in 1922 and added another 88 acres (purchased from J. Jorgensen) in 1929. Mulford owned the 144.5-acre tract from 1922 to 1962, when it was sold to the NPS. This orchard is located in a portion of what was Cass Mulford's pasture, south of the orchard. The orchard historically covered only 1 acre, with almost 2 acres in field crop. Approximately .8 acres were lost to the development of the Group Campsite in 1987. The current orchard was planted in 1987 and 1988.

Historic Crops:

undocumented

Current Crops:

Peach (266)
Elberta
Hale



Carrell Orchard

CIRCULATION

Access to Fruita was limited well into the early 1930s. Roads were informal in character and developed as needed, generally following natural landforms and property lines. The primary road through the district was the "Blue Dugway," constructed in 1883, linking the new settlement of Junction (later, Fruita) to other settlements downriver. The road wrapped around the north end of Johnson Mesa, passing through the homestead claims of Elijah Behunin, Nels and John Johnson, and Hyrum Behunin. Although this road (known at different times as the Capitol Gorge Highway, Reef Road, Monument Road, Utah State Route 24, and later known as the Scenic Drive) continued as the primary route through the district, it wasn't completely paved (chip-sealed) until 1987. Over the years it was widened from approximately 16 to 20 feet.

Another early road within the settlement provided limited access to homesteaders and land holders along the north edge of the development. This lane was a narrow, serpentine, dirt road, prone to washouts, that wound past orchards and fields, linking landowners in north Fruita with market towns to the west such as Torrey, Loa, and Bicknell. Other roads were developed as needed to access fields and irrigation works. Two roads were developed on either side of the Johnson Orchard and crossed Sulphur Creek, connecting the Capitol Gorge Highway and the north side of the settlement. These roads remained in use into the 1960s and segments are still used as access lanes today.

Documentation suggests that throughout the early development of Fruita, some type of access route existed to the irrigation intake line on the Fremont River. A dirt road following the line is evident on a 1938 aerial photograph, and corresponds to the existing road on the east side of Johnson Mesa. In 1962 State Highway 24 was rerouted along the north side of the district, with portions following the general alignment of the historic road. Old State Route 24 became the Scenic Drive and was closed south of the district at Capitol George. This road remains the primary north-south route through the district today. The approximately 2-mile long section of the narrow, winding Scenic Drive that passes through historic Fruita is a contributing structure to the district.



Lane next to Johnson Orchard, looking north, 1993.



View of the Scenic Drive, looking northwest, 1993.

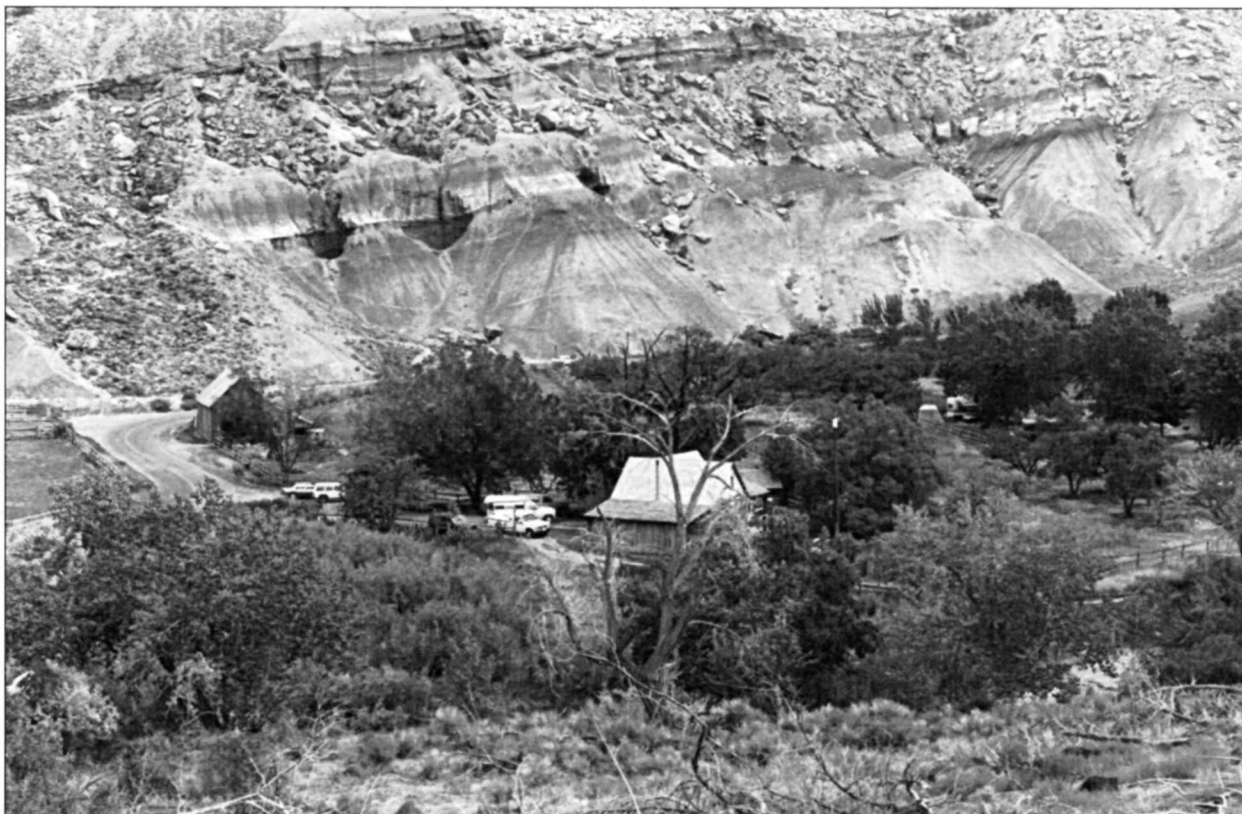
CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

There are two primary complexes in the district: the Gifford Farm, in the center of the district along the Scenic Drive, and the Holt Farm, on the northern edge of the district.

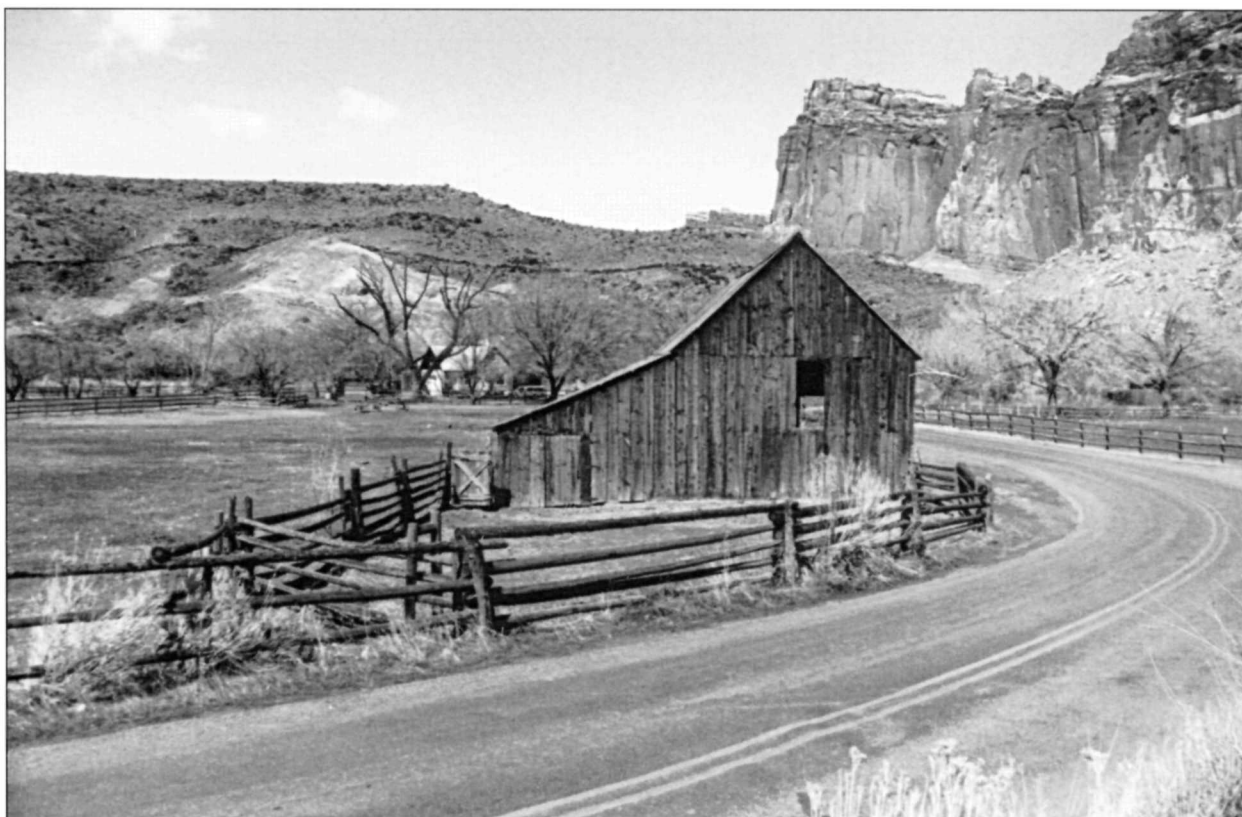
Gifford Farm

The Gifford Farm is comprised of three primary buildings, two associated structures, approximately 2 acres of fields, an orchard associated with the historic farm operation, and a 5-acre pasture (historically part of the William C. Chesnut property). The three buildings are a main residence, barn, and smokehouse, built by Cal Pendleton prior to the property's sale to Jorgen Jorgensen in 1919. Jorgensen sold the property to his son-in-law, G. Dewey Gifford, in 1929. The Pendleton lime kiln is located approximately .3 miles south of the Gifford Farm along the Scenic Drive. The kiln consists of a 10' x 13' cavity cut into the side of a small cliff, and a curved sandstone wall built of coarsely laid cobblestone. A chimney shaft has been cut through the cliff to vent the kiln. The kiln is currently sealed, with its openings blocked for safety. Documentation suggests that the kiln was constructed between 1890 and 1900 and was used by the community until 1930 to produce lime for building and agricultural practices.

Other structures associated with the Gifford Farm include approximately .7 miles of dry-laid stone walls located on the east slope of Johnson Mesa above the farm, extending south along the service road. (A small east-west section of rock wall also occurs just north of the Gifford house.) Documentation indicates that these walls were constructed about 1905 by Calvin Pendleton and his sons to control ranging livestock. The most visually prominent are two distinct arching walls leading from the west side of the Fremont River, up the east slope of the mesa. The northernmost wall is approximately 1,550 linear feet; the southern wall is approximately 1,350 linear feet.



Gifford Farm complex, looking east, 1993.



Gifford barn, looking west, 1993.



Pendleton lime kiln, looking north, 1993.



Pendleton rock walls on the side of Johnson Mesa, 1993.



Holt Farm complex, looking east, 1993.



Rock walls and irrigation ditch at the Holt Farm, 1993.

Another wall abuts the south wall where it crosses the service road, and follows the service road south for 600 feet.³⁶ From that point, it is found on the north side of the road, in segments all the way to the settling pond. The stone walls average 3 feet in height and the stones are laid in a random fashion. The height, form, and structural condition of the wall varies throughout.³⁷

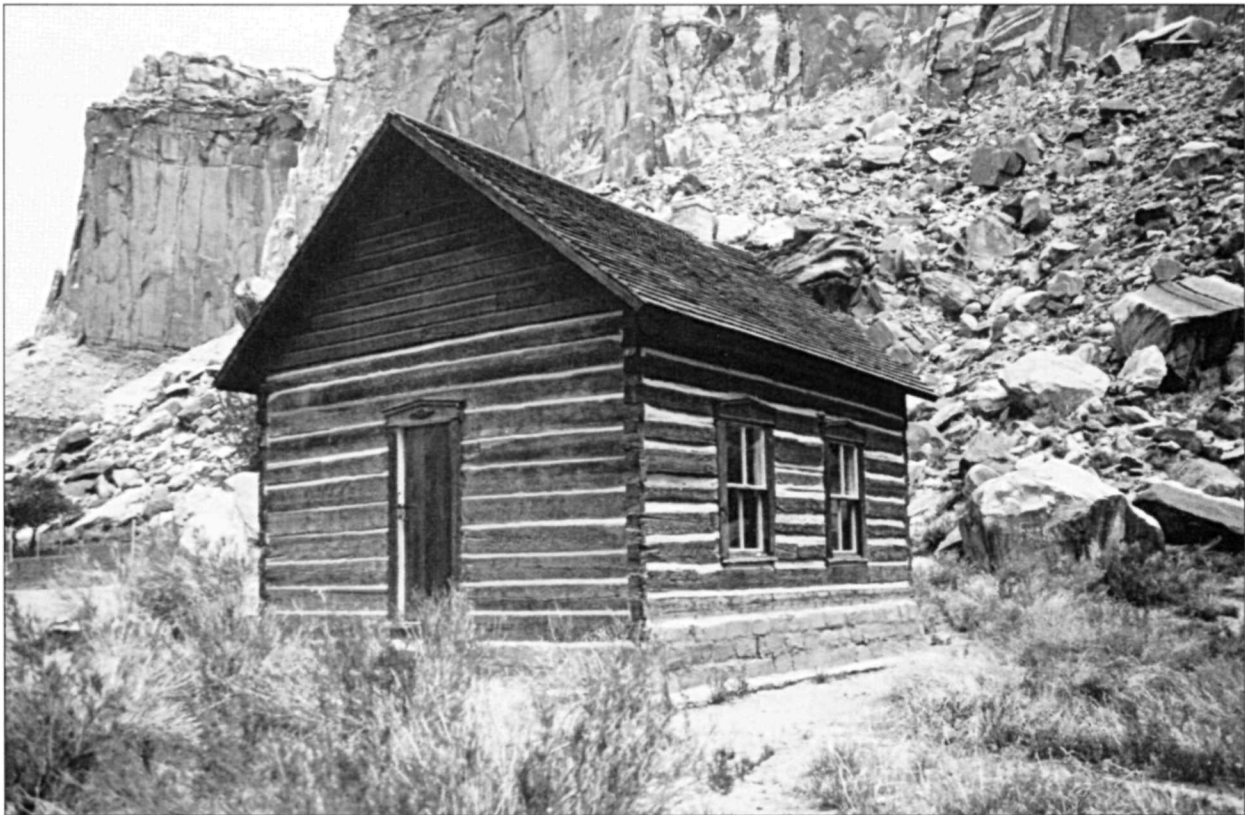
Holt Farm

The Holt Farm is located on the north side of State Highway 24, approximately 1 mile east of the visitor center. The complex includes a main residence (ca. 1895), a fruit cellar (ca. 1900), a water cistern north of the house, a non-historic garage (on the site of an early horse shed/barn), a large cut stone wall behind the garage, terraced rock walls on the south side of the property stepping down to the road, a rock and large boulder with historic inscriptions, historic irrigation ditches, remnant orchards, a vegetable garden, and approximately 2 acres of associated land.

STRUCTURES

Fruita Schoolhouse

The historic Fruita Schoolhouse is located on the north side of State Highway 24, approximately .8 miles east of the visitor center. Constructed in 1896 by residents of the community, it served as a schoolhouse, meetinghouse, and community hall. All administrative and maintenance costs associated with the building were paid by the community until 1916, when the Wayne County School District assumed fiscal responsibility. In 1917 the flat roof was replaced with a gable roof. The building continued as a schoolhouse until 1941, when children were bused to central schools. The NPS restored the building in 1966 and 1968. The schoolhouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



Fruita schoolhouse, 1993.

Merin Smith Implement Shed

The implement shed is located on the south side of the Scenic Drive approximately 1 mile from the visitor center. It was constructed as an implement shed and blacksmith shop by Fruita resident Merin Smith, about 1925. He used the building over the years as a workshop, storage area, and garage. The building is rectangular, measuring approximately 23' x 26', with a gable roof and sandstone block walls.

Merin Smith Fruit Cellar

The fruit cellar is located northeast of the Sprang house on the south side of the Scenic Drive, approximately 1 mile from the visitor center. The structure is built into a bank which insulates the interior for the storage of fruits and produce. The building is rectangular and measures approximately 13' x 25', with an exposed east facade.

Ranger Station

The Ranger Station is located southwest of the visitor center. The building was designed by the NPS Branch of Plans and Designs and constructed in 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Built in the rustic style, the exterior walls are comprised of cut sandstone, with slightly battered walls, a gabled shingled roof, overhanging eaves, and exposed rafter ends. The building measures approximately 25' x 30' with a 10' x 8' extension on the northeast corner. In the 1950s the structure served as a contact station and museum for the park. In 1959 the building was remodeled to accommodate the park headquarters and visitor center. When the visitor center was built in 1965, the ranger station was converted for use as the superintendent's office.

Sulphur Creek Lime Kiln

This structure is located on the north side of Sulphur Creek, approximately .3 miles southwest of the visitor center. The exact date and builder are unknown. The structure itself is circular, approximately 10 feet in diameter, and built into the side of a hill. The lower portion of the structure is built of sandstone block, while the upper portion is built of rounded, irregular stone. There is an opening (vent) on the top, and a small opening (for charging) at the bottom.

Sprang House

The Sprang house is located on the north side of the Scenic Drive, about 1 mile east of the visitor center. The building was constructed in 1957 for Elizabeth and Richard Sprang, who resided and worked there as artists for 5 years. Richard Sprang was a well-known cartoon illustrator. The building is a rectangular, wood frame building with a low gable roof. The house was built on the site of an earlier residence and has been altered over the years. It is currently vacant. This building has been determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Brimhall House

This structure is located on the north side of the Scenic Drive, approximately .3 miles from the visitor center. It was built by Dean Brimhall between 1956 and 1960, who purchased the property from Orval Mott in 1943. The current building is wood frame with plywood siding. The north side of the building is two stories with a flat roof. Brimhall owned the building until 1961 when it was purchased by the NPS. The building has been modified over the years, and currently serves as seasonal housing for volunteers. This structure has been determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Main ditch along the north edge of the district, 1993.

Irrigation System

Historically, the orchards and fields in Fruita were watered by an extensive hand-dug irrigation system, portions of which were in place as early as 1895. The earliest ditch drew water from the Fremont River and provided water to the Nels Johnson and J. Sorensen farms.³⁸ During early settlement, individual land owners diverted water as needed from Sulphur Creek and the Fremont River to water fields and orchards. By 1900 it was evident a more sophisticated and reliable system of irrigation would be required to sustain the agricultural landscape. As was traditional in Mormon communities, several families probably cooperated to construct the irrigation system in Fruita.³⁹ As designed, the system diverted water from both the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek, and included a series of open canals, diversion dams, ditches, furrows, sluice channels, flumes, and headworks.⁴⁰ In order to supply the necessary flow, the main intake was located along the Fremont River, approximately 2 miles from its confluence with Sulphur Creek. From this point, open ditches and flumes were constructed to carry water along the east face of Johnson Mesa, to the estimated 80 acres of irrigated lands. Gates controlled flow into the fields. The fields themselves were watered by furrow irrigation. In this system, water was carried from the main ditch to a series of laterals along the edges of the fields and finally into furrows that channelled water into shallow ditches spaced between rows of fruit trees, virtually flooding the land. Over the years the system required a high level of maintenance. Open ditches had to be constantly cleared of vegetation, silt, and debris; soils proved to be too unstable and main lines were undermined; flumes were lost to flooding; and field patterns and orchards changed, requiring the reconfiguration of entire segments of the system. In spite of these problems, the system remained viable into the 1940s.

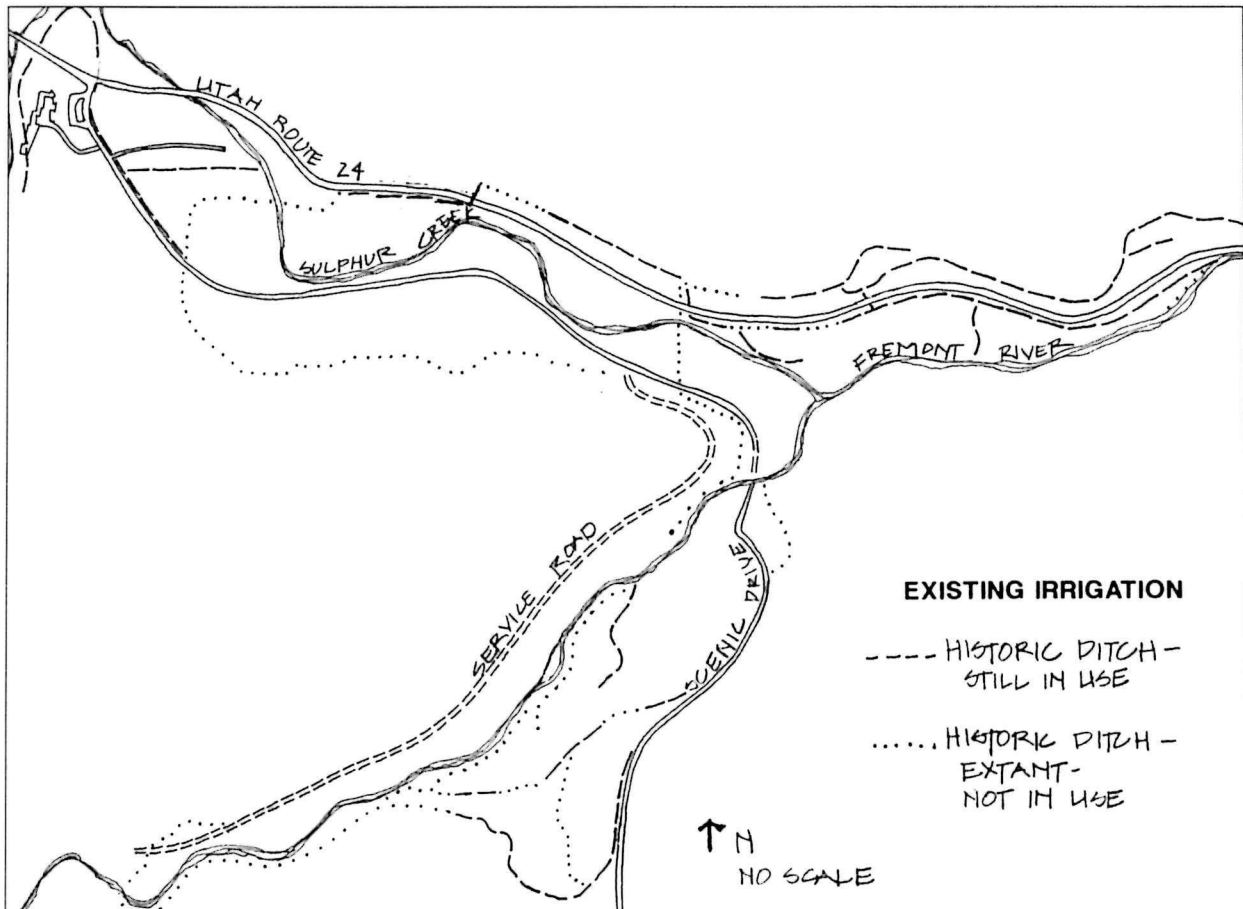
With the change in land ownership, the community-based work force for maintaining the system was gone. This did not, however, eliminate the use or promotion of the irrigation works. Several new landowners invested in repairing the system and promoted its upkeep. Most of the



Irrigation gate in the Johnson Orchard, 1993.



Furrow ditches in the Mulford Orchard, 1993.



Fruita Irrigation System, 1992

repairs targeted changes that would reduce the high level of cyclic maintenance by upgrading the existing system using more modern materials. For example, cast iron pipes were installed along the main line from the intake point on the Fremont River, replacing wooden flumes which were by then inefficient and prone to failure. In addition, flooding repeatedly wiped out extensive portions of the irrigation system, requiring redigging, cleaning, and in some cases, rerouting of ditches. More significant changes to the system were made in 1975 when the NPS added a settling pond, improving one intake, and converted some open ditches to buried pipe. In 1982 a sprinkler system was added to the Jorgensen Pasture to prevent overloading of the septic system serving the campground. In 1987 a concrete sluice channel was constructed near the settling pond to manage silt more effectively.

Today a relatively large portion of the historic irrigation system is visible. Approximately one-half of the historic ditches are still in use throughout the district, another one-fourth are extant and occasionally catch run-off, and the remaining one-fourth have been abandoned, replaced, or survive as remnant segments. Portions of the original system and remnants of flumes can be found throughout the district and at intake points along the Fremont River.⁴¹ With the exception of the Jorgensen Pasture, all existing agricultural land in the district is watered by furrow irrigation. The entire system continues to work by gravity flow.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric Resources

Twenty-four of the 38 archeological sites in the Fruita area include Formative period (agricultural/horticultural lifeway) components. These are considered to be Fremont because Fruita is the type locale for the Fremont culture, dating A.D. 300 - A.D. 1275. These remains represent the earliest farming activities in the area, although archeological evidence indicates habitation of the entire region from at least 8,500 years ago by Desert Archaic peoples. Six sites in Fruita include Archaic components, 2 include Paiute components that postdate the Fremont inhabitants, 11 are of unknown prehistoric origin, and the remainder are Fremont. These sites include abundant pictograph and petroglyph panels, circular, low structures in open habitations, rock shelters, storage sites, and lithic scatters.

The most important archeological sites in Fruita include a large rock shelter near the Krueger Orchard and a smaller shelter overlooking the Fremont River on the south side of Johnson Mesa. Other nearby sites include storage cists, granaries, and pit structures probably used for habitation. The sandstone cliffs that define Fruita contain 21 spectacular rock art panels diagnostic of Fremont style art, including large, anthropomorphic and shield figures. Prehistoric irrigation ditches were reported by the earliest explorers in the area, although direct evidence of valley bottom sites today is gone due to later cultivation by farmers. Because of the intense agricultural use of the valley floors, most existing archeological sites are located on the periphery of the settlement, on talus slopes and terraces above the fertile land.

Historic Sites and Structures

In addition to prehistoric archeological sites, several potentially significant historic archeological sites have been identified in the district. All of the sites and structures are associated with the historic period of significance, which dates from 1895 to 1946.

Fremont River Still Site

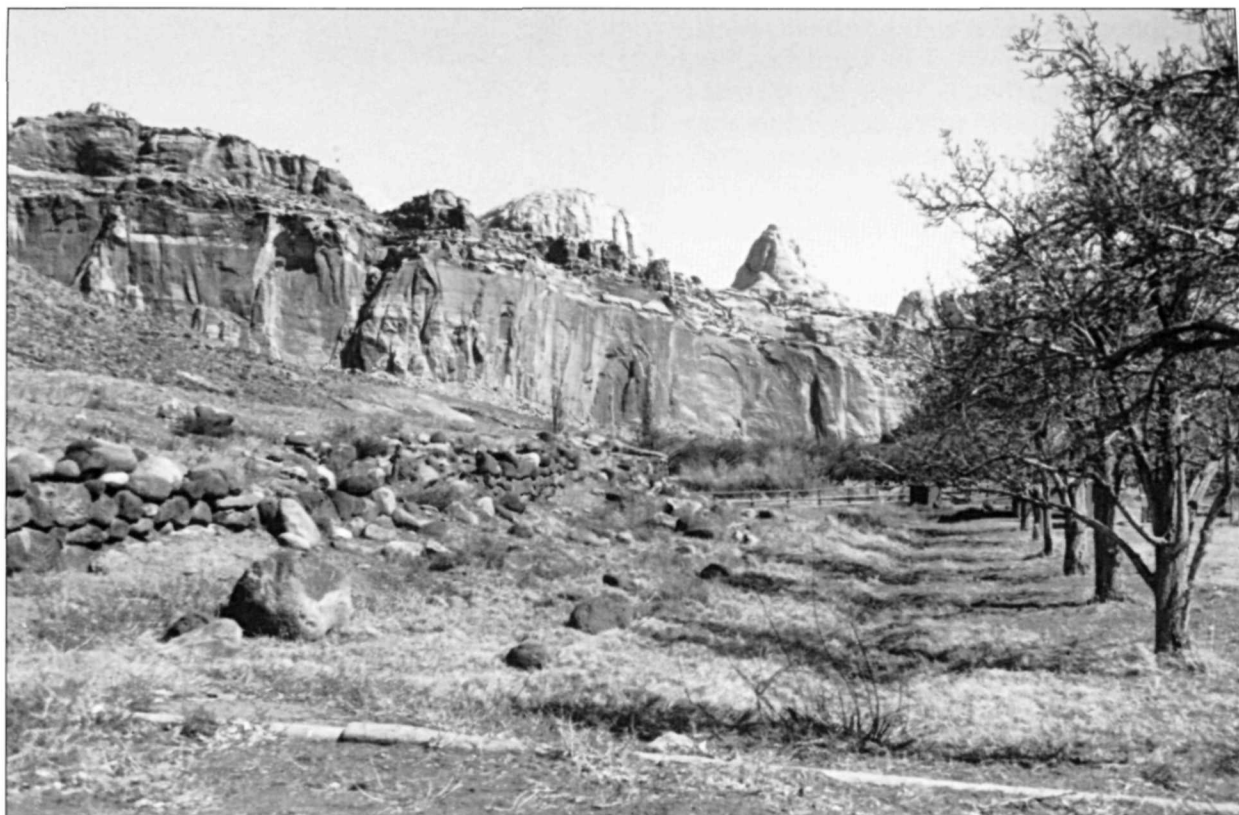
The still site is located approximately .1 mile east from the confluence of Sulphur Creek and the Fremont River. It is the last visible remains of what tradition indicates was one of several such bootlegging operations in the area. The site includes the remnants of a shelter and parts of a cast iron stove.

Mulford Corrals

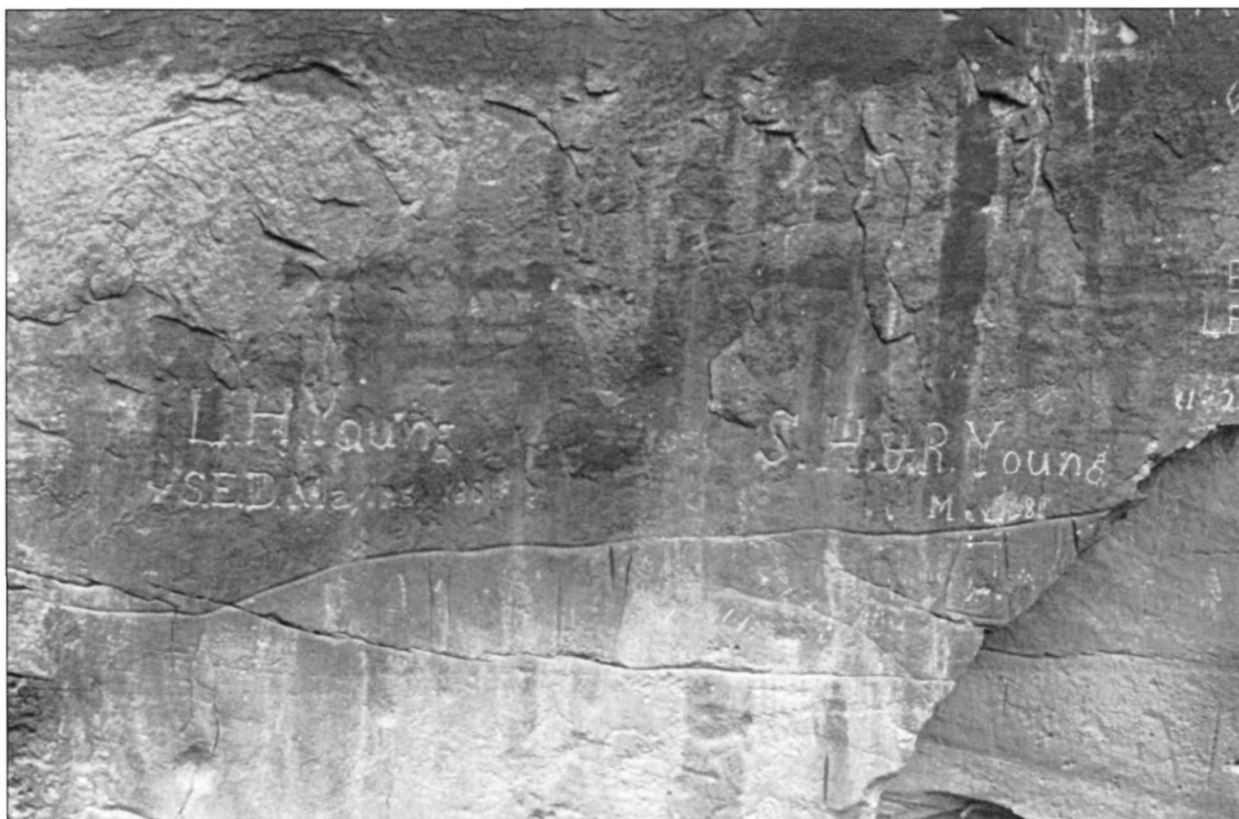
Remnant rock walls are located at the south end of the Mulford Orchard, where Mulford historically had his livestock corrals. Documentation suggests that the remaining rock walls comprised the structural base of the corrals, and that there was a hay rack constructed above this structure.

Miscellaneous Rock Walls

A small section of dry-laid, terraced stone walls occur just east of the "mail tree." No documentation has been found to indicate when and by whom these walls were constructed, but they appear to be historic. They are located on the property last owned by "Doc" Inglesby, who purchased the land from William Chesnut in 1936 and resided in Fruita until 1959.



Remnants of the Mulford corrals, 1993.



Inscription rock, above the Holt Farm complex, 1993.

Inscription Rocks

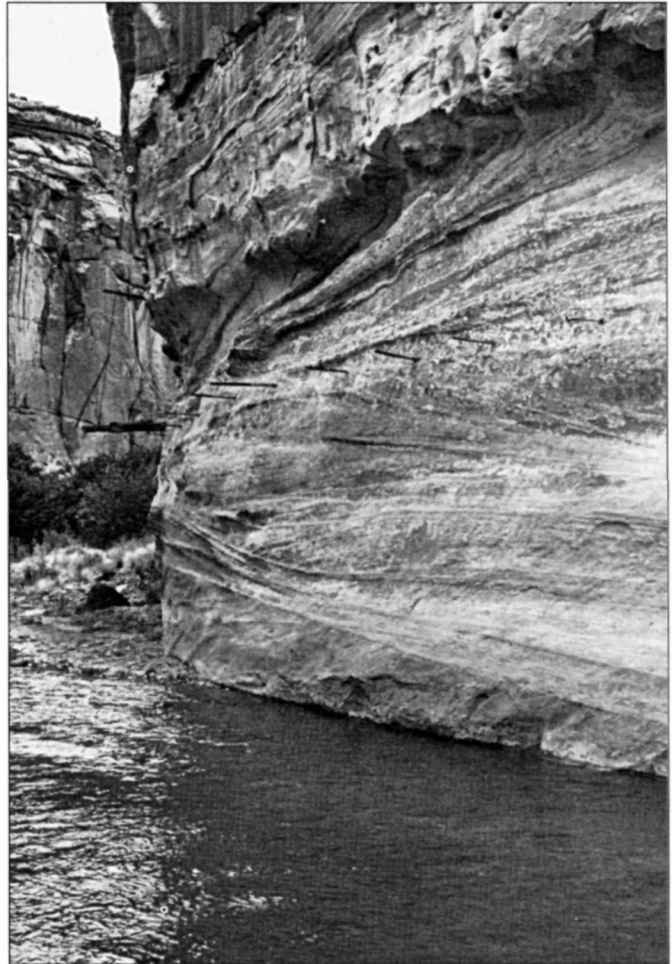
Two large boulders in the district have inscriptions from the early Mormon settlement period. Both are located near the Holt Farm.

Home Sites

A few former home sites have scattered remnant materials such as traces of building foundations and roads, ornamental plant materials, and abandoned irrigation ditches. While none of these sites have structural integrity, they may have value for interpretive programs. The historic home sites of Fruita have not been evaluated for their eligibility under National Register Criterion D.

Remnant Irrigation Works

A number of structural remnants associated with early irrigation works, including elevated wooden flumes, ditches, pipes, and gates, remain along the Fremont River. Individually these features can be seen as artifacts, but take on additional value when interpreted as the composite elements of a system.



Remnant irrigation works along the Fremont River, 1993.

ENDNOTES

1 Research biologist Gerald A. Hoddenbach to Superintendent Hambly, August 7, 1978. Park files.

2 Documentation suggests that Sulphur Creek was not used as heavily as the Fremont River due to poor water quality. Cora Smith interview with Kathy McKoy, Richfield, UT, May 8, 1993.

3 Daniel H. Wells, Mayor of Salt Lake City and counselor to Brigham Young, cited in Peterson, 1988, 5-6.

4 Cited in Jackson, *The Mormon Role in the Settlement of the West*, 91-106.

5 Peterson, "Imprint of Agricultural Systems of the Utah Landscape," 102; in Jackson, *The Mormon Role in the Settlement of the West*, 91-106. The term "Americanization" is also used and defined by Peterson as a major historical "trend" in Utah from 1890 to 1945 in a Dello G. Dayton Memorial Lecture given in 1988, entitled "'Touch of the Mountain Sod': How Land United and Divided Utahns, 1847-1985."

6 Francaviglia, *The Mormon Landscape*, 1978.

7 In a March 16, 1993 interview, Lamar Mulford had no difficulty in remembering the cultural and religious affiliation of some of those who last resided in Fruita: Krueger, Inglesby, Elizabeth

Lewis, and Richard Sprang were not “LDS”; Brimhall was, but lived only a few years in Fruita. Neither did Dewey Gifford have trouble in identifying in a March 28 1980 interview who was active in the church and who was not, prior to World War II. He stated that “Tine Oyler, Merin and Cora Smith, Alma Chesnut, and Cass Mulford were not LDS members. William Chesnut and Dewey Gifford, on the other hand, were both active in the priesthood.

8 Charles Peterson to Associate Regional Director Stanley L. Ponce, December 28, 1992. NPS, Intermountain Region, Colorado Plateau System Support Office files, Denver, CO.

9 Such fences evolved out of the Mormon farmer’s practice of using whatever construction materials were on hand. They are still a distinctive feature of Mormon rural landscapes on the Colorado Plateau.

10 Lawrence B. Lee, “Homesteading in Zion,” 30.

11 Lynn A. Rosenvall, “Defunct Mormon Settlements: 1830-1930,” cited in Jackson, 51-70.

12 Two notable exceptions are the large tracts acquired about 1930 by Merin and Cora Smith (105 acres) and Cass Mulford (144 acres) which roughly corresponded to the original homesteads of Elijah Behunin and Hyrum Behunin, respectively.

13 Hoddenbach, op.cit.

14 Orchard records, 1987, Park maintenance files. *Orchard Management Plan*, 1988, 5.

15 Orchard records and Orchard Manager Kent Jackson interview with Cathy Gilbert, July 23, 1992.

16 Park orchard records. This shift also follows a historic pattern whereby open pasture lands were often replaced with orchards, reflecting a change in technology and the economic factors influencing land use (i.e., fruit growing was a more productive use of the land).

17 Aerial photographs, 1989, NPS, Denver Service Center’s Technical Information Center, Denver, CO.; orchard records, 1987, park maintenance files.

18 O’Bannon, *Capitol Reef National Park: A Historic Resource Study*, 24-25.

19 Ibid., 21-39.

20 *Historic Agricultural Area Management Plan for Capitol Reef National Park*, 1979. NPS Denver Service Center Library, Denver, CO.

21 Gerald A. Hoddenbach to Supt. Hambly, Aug. 7, 1978, comments on public meetings; Malan R. Jackson to NPS Director, James Isenogle, Aug. 3, 1978, public hearings minutes. Park files.

22 *Historic Agricultural Area Management Plan*, 1979, 4.

23 *Orchard Management Plan*, 1988, 6.

24 Ibid., 7-9.

25 *Cultural Resources Management Plan, Capitol Reef National Park*, 1983, 3. Park files.

26 The inventory does not take into account the isolated scattered fruit trees located throughout the district.

27 George Davidson, personal communication with Kathy McKoy, May 4, 1993.

28 The exception to this are trees located in the Guy Smith Place and Jackson Orchard; these were reinventoried after the 1996 division of the Guy Smith Place into two distinct orchards.

29 No explanation for the discrepancy between the photographic record and the historic period tax assessment records has yet been discovered. Cora Smith reported that the assessor conducted informal appraisals from year to year, and may not have noted increased acreage devoted to orchards over time. Landowners, on the other hand, had no incentive to report additional orchard acreage due to the much higher taxes levied on orchard land.

30 Cora Smith, personal communication with Kathy McKoy, June 26, 1993.

31 There is an increase in the orchard on this land from 5.5 acres to 7 acres during Krueger's ownership in the 1940s. Some of this difference may reflect additional planting and some may have simply resulted from the readjustment to all orchard figures after the 1947 survey. Prior to the resurvey, the tax rolls indicate Krueger planted .5 acre additional orchard between 1942 and 1945 (6 acres total in fruit land). The figure jumps to 7 acres in the 1947 assessment.

32 In Davidson's *Red Rock Eden*, the name is spelled "Abbie Clarke." Davidson writes that the Clarkes were contemporaries of the Cooks, but they are not recorded as landowners in Fruita in the deed history.

33 Kent Jackson, personal communication with Kathy McKoy, June 28, 1993.

34 The smokehouse may have been built by Calvin Pendleton about 1915. Personal communication to park staff by Alvin F. Pendleton (son of Cal Pendleton), on June 8, 1979. Park files. Dewey Gifford told a park employee that Pendleton built the house, barn, and smokehouse.

35 Supt. William Wallace directed the removal of the orchard in the 1970s. It appears a large number of peach trees (approximately 120) were removed between 1970-1975. Kent Jackson reported that a remaining 320 trees were removed between 1975 and 1977 (184 peach, 134 apricot, 1 pear, and 1 flowering plum). (Personal communication with Kathy McKoy, June 28, 1993.) It is significant to note that some locals believed Wallace did not like Mormons, and they recount his removal of this orchard as their "proof."

36 These estimates were made using 1989 aerial photographs; they are significantly less than the 4500 feet estimate of the walls' combined length made from the scaled site map prepared by the park's GIS specialist in 1996. The walls have not been directly measured.

37 Measurements of the walls were taken from 1989 aerial photographs. Descriptions of general condition were noted during field work conducted in March 1993.

38 Documented on the Fruita Township Map, surveyed in 1895, published in 1896. Park archives.

39 Commonly, the larger ditches that served multiple landowners were maintained by mutual labor; the smaller field ditches that fed into the orchards were maintained by individual property owners.

40 The historic record indicated that both the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek were used for irrigation. In an interview, however, Cora Smith indicated that the quality of the water in Sulphur Creek was so poor and water levels so unpredictable, it had limited use for irrigation. Cora Smith interview with Kathy McKoy, Richfield, UT., May 8, 1993.

41 Field review, Kent Jackson interview, and site documentation, July 20-24, 1992.

RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Recommendations for treatment of the cultural landscape of Fruita are based on an analysis and evaluation of character-defining features that contribute to the historic district. The purpose of the recommendations is to clarify preservation treatment for significant landscape resources and to provide a framework for new development that is compatible with the salient qualities and character of the cultural landscape as defined in this report. Because these recommendations are being developed concurrent with the development of a new General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Interpretive Plan (GMP) for the park, the following recommendations address contemporary management and programmatic issues only as they potentially impact the cultural landscape. Specific design alternatives for Fruita will be developed as part of the GMP. Recommendations are grouped into five categories:

- Management Concepts
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Structures
- Small-scale Features

Because Fruita is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, preservation of character-defining landscape resources is the recommended management philosophy for the district as a whole. National Register listing does not preclude new development within the district. Rehabilitation of specific areas to accommodate park needs is viable within the guidelines established by the Secretary of the Interior Standards. In order to support future park planning efforts, additional attention is given in the recommendations to the identification of areas and features within the cultural landscape where change or alteration can be accommodated without loss of integrity.

Finally it is important to note that these recommendations were undertaken to provide a broad framework for management. It is beyond the scope of these recommendations to propose specific designs for the district, provide construction details, or address specific maintenance requirements or practices.

MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

1. All landscape patterns, relationships, and features contributing to the significance of the Fruita Rural Historic District as defined in this report and the National Register nomination should be preserved.
2. The rural character of Fruita, dominated by the pattern of orchards, fields, narrow roads, and ditch irrigation, should be retained. Based on research and an analysis of historic land use practices, approximately 65 acres of the 200-acre district should remain in agricultural use. Of this 65 acres, approximately 60 percent (40 acres) should be maintained in orchard and 40 percent (approximately 25 acres) in open land, as fields or pasture (see Recommendations: Vegetation).
3. Management of the cultural landscape must include responsible treatment of natural features and resources including the toe slopes, cliffs, riparian communities and other native vegetation, soils, and water courses. In addition, both natural and cultural resource specialists should be involved in the management of orchards, fields, pastures, and irrigation ditches throughout the district.
4. The campgrounds (loops A, B and C) are intrusive elements in the district and should be screened or, if possible, removed. If the campgrounds are retained the following guidelines for treatment apply:

a) The loop C campground should be redeveloped in a manner that is more compatible with loop A and B (as a single loop, oriented generally east-west), or reconfigured to enhance the demarcation and definition of individual sites. The loop road should follow the along the edges of the field, linking the camp sites and allowing the open (agricultural) character of the field to remain. Views from the road to and from these sites should be screened with vegetation.

b) If possible, camp sites located in loops A and B that are currently in the flood plain should be removed.

c) The grouping of individual camp sites, with small (five car) concentrated parking areas, should be designed in a manner that provides adequate screening and maintains the open character of the field (e.g., group area and spaces 40-45, loop B).

d) Paving materials, utilities, lights, trash cans and other small-scale features in the campgrounds should be visually compatible with the other features throughout the district (see Recommendations: Small-scale Features).

5. Additional housing units required for park staff should not be located in the historic district. If, however, the decision is made to site new housing in the district the following guidelines apply:

a. All new housing units should be sited within the existing residential development across from the visitor center (see Site Map). The boundaries for the development are defined on the west by residences #Q-10 and #Q-12, and follow the existing access road to residence #Q-19 on the east, then south to the two residential units built in 1994-1995, #Q-81 and #Q-83.

b. All new structures should be compatible in scale, color, massing, and style to existing structures.

c. New structures should be screened with vegetation in order to mitigate the impact of contemporary development. Plant materials used for screening should be native, or selected from an approved list.

d. Rehabilitation and continued use of the Brimhall, Sprang, and Holt houses is encouraged (see Structures, below).

6. Existing park housing that is in the flood plain should be removed.

7. The historical connection between Fruita and the surrounding communities should be encouraged through public participation and use of the landscape for special events such as harvest homecoming and family reunions.

8. All above-ground utilities such as power lines and transformers are visually intrusive and should be placed underground.

9. Key viewsheds within the district and views identified as significant to the district from outside the boundaries should be preserved. These views include both pedestrian and vehicular-oriented vantage points. Key views include, but are not limited to, the following:

a) Views to the interior portions of the district from State Highway 24 and the Scenic Drive.

b) Views from primary trails on the mesas and ridges surrounding and defining the district

such as the Cohab Canyon Trail, the Johnson Mesa Trail, and the Hickman Bridge Trail. Several vantage points along these trails provide historic views to the district.

c) Unobstructed views from the district to the mesas, canyon walls, and ridges defining the district.

10. Consideration should be given to enhancing the interpretive program related to the historic landscape throughout the district. Additional themes might include interpretation of the agricultural landscape of Fruita in a regional historic context, the relationship between natural systems and development of the cultural landscape, the role of the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek in the construction of an irrigation system, and historic settlement (as reflected in the Holt and Gifford farms).

CIRCULATION

Vehicular

1. State Highway 24 should remain the primary vehicular access road to the district, providing access to visitor services and administrative facilities. Currently this road cuts through the northern edge of the district, physically and perceptually separating it from the southern portion. Consideration should be given to mitigating the impact of this road by reducing the speed of traffic through the district to 30 MPH, from a point on the hill immediately west of the visitor center, to the Hickman Bridge Trail head, east of the district boundary. The 30 MPH speed is comparable to that of other small communities to the west, and would strengthen the connection between the north edge of the district and the south.

2. The Scenic Drive should remain as a limited access road through the district, from the visitor center to Capitol Gorge.

3. The Scenic Drive is a contributing feature to the historic district and should be preserved. Major modifications to the road, such as realignment or widening to accommodate larger vehicles or higher speeds, is not recommended. In some areas, however, rehabilitation of the road to meet basic safety standards, provide interpretive pull-outs, or allow for bicycle traffic may be considered. Areas where these rehabilitations are appropriate include:

- a. The area on the south side of the road, just west of the Abie Clarke Orchard.
- b. The area next to the Nels Johnson Orchard.
- c. The pull-off next to the Merin Smith Implement Shed.
- d. The Gifford Farm entry drive.
- e. The area adjacent to (north of) the Gifford Barn, next to the pasture access. This point can also tie into access to the Cohab Canyon Trail head.
- f. The area on the west side of the road, adjacent to (east of) campground loop C.
- g. The existing pull-off next to the Cal Pendleton Field on the south end of the district.

4. The lane on the west edge of the Nels Johnson Orchard is a remnant of the historic road linking the north and south portions of Fruita, and should be retained. Consideration should be given to incorporating this lane in an interpretive walk.

5. Parking areas throughout the district should be kept small in scale and informal in character. Paving materials should be selected to blend with the surrounding landscape.

6. Existing parking areas at the picnic grounds and group camping area should be screened with vegetation to reduce the visual impact from the road and adjacent areas. Consideration should

also be given to resurfacing these areas with a material that is more visually compatible with the surrounding landscape (see Recommendations: Small-scale Features, materials).

7. Roads within the campgrounds should be kept to a minimum. New roads should be added only when required for functional needs (access and maintenance) and safety (separation of vehicular and pedestrian routes). Surface paving should be compatible with the surrounding landscape.

8. Existing service roads should be consolidated, whenever possible, to reduce their physical impact on the landscape. When and if new roads are required to facilitate park operations and maintenance, they should be informal in character and designed in a manner that incorporates existing roads and lanes whenever possible.

9. Storage of maintenance vehicles (not in use) should be concentrated in the maintenance yard at headquarters or in locations that are screened from public view.

Pedestrian

10. Whenever possible, visitors should be encouraged to leave their vehicles and circulate through the district on foot, emphasizing a pedestrian-oriented landscape.

11. The pedestrian trail on the south side of the Scenic Drive linking the visitor center with the campground should be retained in order to reduce potential conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.

12. Recreational hiking trails on Johnson Mesa, along the Fremont River, to the rim overlook (from the Hickman Bridge Trail), and to Cohab Canyon provide a link to other areas of the park and should be retained. Consideration should be given to interpretation of the cultural landscape from selected vista points and overlooks on all these trails.

13. Consideration should be given to enhancing the interpretive trail system throughout the district to include interpretation of the larger agricultural landscape, the relationship between natural systems and the cultural landscape, the relationship between the water courses and the historic irrigation system, and the Holt and Gifford farms (See Recommendations: Management Concepts).

VEGETATION

General

1. A comprehensive vegetation management plan should be developed for the historic district that describes current vegetation (natural and cultural), outlines objectives for management, and prescribes treatment.

2. A hazard tree survey should be undertaken in order to identify hazard trees, document a process for condition assessment and evaluation, and propose a schedule for monitoring.

3. The existing orchard management plan should be revised (see Vegetation recommendation #9, below).

Ornamental and Cultural

1. The two cottonwood trees located on the west edge of the picnic ground, the “mail tree” and its companion, are historic features and should be maintained as part of a cyclic maintenance

preservation program. Although these trees have cultural value, no extraordinary attempts should be made to perpetuate the genetic purity of these specimens. The two cottonwoods are currently in stable condition but are quite old (dating to about 1870).

2. Consideration should be given to the reestablishment of Lombardy poplars at selected sites to define historic property lines, fields, and irrigation ditches. These trees were historically part of the cultural landscape and could be used as an interpretive tool for enhancing visitor understanding of nonextant features (such as home sites) and overall organization of the landscapes.

3. Black and English walnut and pecan trees remaining in the district have cultural value and should be retained. Individual specimens have been identified in the Cass Mulford Orchard, Max Krueger Orchard, and Gifford Farm. A row of eight walnut trees is located along the Scenic Drive, next to the Nels Johnson Orchard. A row of nine pecan trees and a row of eight walnut trees are located on the 'Tine Oyler Place. All of these trees should be evaluated as part of a larger hazard tree assessment for the district (see Vegetation recommendation #2, above). Based on that assessment, trees that are structurally unsound or present safety risks should be replaced in kind.

4. Nonnative ornamental trees located in the picnic area can be retained. However, when these trees need to be replaced because of damage or disease, replacement materials should be selected from an approved plant list (see Vegetation recommendation #8, below).

5. The use of vegetation to screen contemporary development is appropriate. Plant materials used for screening views should be selected from an approved plant list, and grouped in compositions that reflect native plant communities and associations. Random or scattered specimen planting of exotic materials to create a "park-like" setting is not recommended.

Natural Vegetation

6. Riparian vegetation located along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek should be protected and, when appropriate, restored to enhance species composition and ecosystem dynamics along both water corridors.

7. Native (or native-appearing) plant communities on the slopes and mesas bordering the historic district should be maintained. These areas were historically used to graze livestock and are an important component to the overall visual quality of the district. These areas include but are not limited to the east slope of Johnson Mesa, above Gifford Farm, the terraces above the Krueger Orchard, and the lower slopes along the east side of the district.

8. A list of appropriate plant materials for use in the housing area, administrative area, and associated with the campgrounds should be compiled by natural and cultural resource specialists. The list should give preference to native species or acceptable substitutes.

Agriculture

The number of orchard trees and the composition of specific seed mixes for fields and pasture lands is best addressed in an orchard management plan. In terms of the historic district, the most critical aspect in management of the agricultural landscape is in maintaining its character as a whole. This is best accomplished by maintaining a percentage of the land in orchard and field. Based on research into the historical record, the target percentages for use of agricultural lands are approximately 60 percent, (40 acres) in orchard and 40 percent (approximately 25 acres) in fields and pasture. The agricultural landscape of Fruita should not be regarded as a horticultural archive that is static, but should allow management of these resources as active, viable systems.



Park employees cutting hay. (undated)

The use of contemporary machinery and farming practices is appropriate in maintenance of the orchards, fields, and pastures, but should not dominate management to the degree such practices threaten the historic character of the district. Recommendations for agricultural vegetation address three categories: orchards, fields, and pasture lands.

Orchards

9. The existing *Orchard Management Plan* (1988) should be revised and updated to include current management philosophy, maintenance practices, condition assessments, disposition of crops, and procedures for record keeping. The revised document may also include information on integrated pest management, and the management and maintenance of the pastures and fields associated with the agricultural landscape of Fruita as appropriate. Guidelines in the plan should be integrated in the general vegetation management plan for the district.

10. The location and number of primary orchards as defined in this study create a cultural footprint on the landscape and should be retained. All permanent structural elements associated with the orchard, including the irrigation works (gates and ditches) and fences, should be included in a cyclic maintenance preservation program.

11. The rotation of orchards and orchard trees based on historic practices, undertaken to enhance soil fertility or conservation, is allowable within the existing agricultural footprint and percentage of land given to fruit production, as defined in this document.

12. Decisions regarding the configuration of individual trees within each orchard (grid orientation, lay-out, spacing) and replacement of diseased or unhealthy specimens should be made based on sound orchard management practices. Criteria for making these decisions should be documented and included in the orchard management plan.

13. When new trees are needed to replace damaged or diseased trees, selection should be based on the following priorities:

- 1) replace in kind whenever possible
- 2) select a variety that was grown historically
- 3) select a type of fruit as original tree (e.g., peach for peach)
- 4) availability and adaptability

14. Orchard names should be consistent through all management, maintenance, and interpretive documents.

Fields

15. Fields currently used for hay production should continue to be planted and used.

Pasture

16. Existing pasture areas should continue to be planted with pasture grasses and maintained.

17. If additional areas are required to pasture livestock for interpretive or operational needs within the historic district, they should be sited in areas that do not impact natural or cultural resources, and should be managed in compliance with all current NPS policies and guidelines.

STRUCTURES

Buildings

1. All significant and contributing structures identified in the DOE should be preserved and maintained as part of a cyclic maintenance preservation program.

2. Although the Brimhall and Sprang houses lack architectural significance and are ineligible for listing in the National Register, they are not intrusive structures in the cultural landscape. Continued use of these buildings is encouraged.

3. Maintenance and service-related buildings in the district should remain concentrated in the administrative area. The addition of new maintenance buildings within the district is not recommended. If, however, new maintenance buildings are required, the following guidelines should apply:

- a) Site new structures in the footprint of nonextant farm buildings whenever possible. If the foundation is eligible, this could be done after the appropriate data recovery.
- b) New structures should be relatively small in scale (several small buildings are better than one large structure).
- c) Exterior facades of these structures should be compatible in material, color, mass, scale, and texture to structures historically associated with the district (see Analysis and Evaluation: Structures)

4. Residential buildings currently located in the flood plain should be removed.



Pendleton rock walls, 1992.

Rock Walls

5. The Pendleton rock walls on the east side of Johnson Mesa along the service road and north of the Gifford house are contributing features of the historic district. In consultation with the regional historical architect and other appropriate cultural resource specialists, the full extent and structural integrity of the walls should be documented, evaluated, and preserved as part of a cyclic maintenance program.

6. Other historic period stone walls, including the tiered, cut stone walls east of the mail tree (at the Doc Inglesby Picnic Grove) should be retained.

Irrigation System

7. Portions of the historic ditch irrigation system currently in use should be maintained and should continue to be used as the primary direct irrigation system for selected orchards and fields.

8. All intakes, sluice channels, headworks, troughs, gates, main line ditches, settling pond, and other structural features associated with the irrigation system should be maintained as part of a cyclic maintenance preservation program.

9. Consideration should be given to the interpretation of remnant wooden flumes (along the Fremont River), iron pipes, and ditches that are part of the historic irrigation system. Examples



Retaining walls near the mail tree, 1992.

of remnant ditches can be found on the north side of State Highway 24 (in the old oxbow of Sulphur Creek), and on the west edge of the group (Chesnut) picnic area. The latter ditches are some of the earliest ditches used in Fruita, dating to the 1890s (See Appendix G).

Other Structures

10. The pedestrian footbridge crossing Sulphur Creek north of the picnic area should be maintained in a cyclic maintenance program.

11. In addition to prehistoric rock art, historic inscriptions on isolated rocks and boulders throughout the district should be inventoried, evaluated, and preserved.

12. Temporal structures associated with the orchard such as deer exclosures and miscellaneous structures used during harvest should be maintained to ensure public access and visitor safety.

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

1. Visual compatibility guidelines should be prepared providing design guidelines for small-scale features and criteria for the selection and use of materials throughout the district.

2. When not required for deer control or security, fences surrounding the orchards should be made of wood, small in scale, and open in character, echoing historic designs.

-
3. Paving surfaces throughout the district should remain informal in character. Compacted gravel surface paving materials are preferred over asphalt and/or concrete surfaces for parking areas, campgrounds, trails, and service areas.
 4. Small-scale structural features in the campgrounds, such as drinking fountains, signs, fences, utilities, and trails, should be designed in a manner that is compatible with the design and material composition of these features throughout the district.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anderson, Nels. *Desert Saints, The Mormon Frontier in Utah*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1942.
- Arrington, Leonard J. *Great Basin Kingdom - An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830-1900*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1958.
- Billington, Ray Allen. *Westward Expansion, A History of the American Frontier*. Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, 1974.
- Bringhurst, Newell G. "Fawn M. Brodie, 'Mormondom's Lost Generation,' and No Man Knows My History." *Journal of Mormon History*, Vol. 16, 1990.
- Brown, Lenard E. *Capitol Reef Historical Survey and Base Map*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 30, 1969.
- Davidson, George E. *Red Rock Eden*. Capitol Reef Natural History Association, Torrey, Utah, 1986.
- Dunbar, Robert G. *Forging New Rights in Western Waters*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1983.
- Francaviglia, Richard V. *The Mormon Landscape*. AMS Press Inc., New York, 1978.
- Kelly, Charles. "Charles Kelly's Writings: Collected Manuscripts on Capitol Reef National Park." On file, Intermountain Region, Colorado Plateau System Support Office, Denver, Colorado.
- James, George Wharton. *Utah, The Land of Blossoming Valleys*. The Page Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1922.
- Jackson, Richard H. ed. *The Mormon Role in the Settlement of the West*. Brigham Young University Press, Provo, Utah, 1978.
- Kendrick, Gregory D. *Beyond the Wasatch: The History of Irrigation in the Uinta Basin and Upper Provo River Area of Utah*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1989.
- Lee, Lawrence B. "Homesteading in Zion." *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 28, no. 1, January 1960.
- Morss, Noel. *The Ancient Culture of the Fremont River in Utah*. Harvard University, Cambridge, Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol. 12, No. 3, 1933.
- O'Bannon, Patrick W. *Capitol Reef National Park: A Historic Resource Study*. Draft, prepared for the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, Colorado, 1992.
- Peterson, Charles S. "'Touch of the Mountain Sod': How Land United and Divided Utahns, 1847-1985." Dello G. Dayton Memorial Lecture, 1988.
- Snow, Anne. *Rainbow Views, A History of Wayne County*, Art City Publishing Co., Springville, Utah, 1953.

Tax Assessment Rolls of Wayne County, Wayne County Courthouse, Loa, Utah. Assessment rolls for Junction/Fruita, 1896 to 1960.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Capitol Reef National Park, Torrey, Utah:

Aerial photographs of Fruita, Capitol Reef National Park: 1938, ca. 1958.

Capitol Reef National Park: park document files, orchard maintenance files, oral history files, historic photograph and map collections, personal interviews with park staff.

Capitol Reef National Park Statement For Management, 1989.

Capitol Reef National Park Orchard Management Plan, June 1988.

Capitol Reef National Park Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services, March 1992.

Cultural Landscape Assessment, Fruita Rural Historic District, September 1992.

Cultural Resources Management Plan, Capitol Reef National Park, 1984.

“Cultural Resources Management Plan: Fruita Living Community Management Plan.” Undated draft, estimated early 1970s.

Development Outlines for Capitol Reef National Monument: 1938, 1943.

Historic Agricultural Management Plan for Capitol Reef National Park, 1979.

Interpretation and the Management of Change in the Cultural Landscape, Fruita Historic Area, Capitol Reef National Park, 1985.

Interpretive Plan/Prospectus: 1964, 1978.

Master Plans for Capitol Reef National Monument: 1939, 1959, 1965.

Resource Management Plans/Studies: 1966, 1984, 1992 (draft).

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center and Intermountain Region, Colorado Plateau System Support Office, Denver, Colorado:

Denver Service Center’s Technical Information Center archives; aerial photographs, 1989.

Real Property Records, Division of Contracting and Property Management.

U.S. National Archives and Records Center, Denver, CO. Record Group No. 79: Accession No. 60-A-354, records dated 1927-1953; Accession No. 64, A-0571, records dated 1954-1959.

Utah State Historical Society. “Register of the Charles Kelly Collection.” Salt Lake City, Utah, 1976. Copy in park files.

Woodbury, Angus M. *A History of Southern Utah and Its National Parks*. Revised and reprinted in 1950 from journal articles published by Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, Vol. XII, nos. 3-4, July-October 1944.

Workers of the Writers’ Program of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Utah: *Utah, A Guide to the State*. Hastings House, New York, 1941.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fruita Rural Historic District is significant under criterion A on a local level under the area of settlement for its association with the small Mormon town of Fruita established in the Fremont River Valley in the late nineteenth century. It is also significant under the areas of agriculture, for Fruita's subsequent development into a fruit producing center of local importance, and ethnic heritage, for its ties to Mormon cultural traditions. Fruita typified the manner in which the Mormon cooperative and communal farming practices allowed settlers to succeed in making a living in areas where arable land was scarce and environments were inhospitable. Distinct from the Mormon livestock raising communities of the High Plateau to the west, Fruita is also important as one of the few Fremont River settlements east of the Plateau that survived beyond the 1930s, most having been abandoned. In addition to these areas of significance, one NPS rustic-designed building located within the district, the Ranger Station, is significant under criterion C on a local level under the area of architecture and under A under the area of politics/government.

The period of significance for the Fruita Rural Historic District dates from 1895 to 1946. The 1895 date coincides with the estimated construction date of the Leo R. Holt House and earliest documented date of irrigation ditches in the valley. The period of significance ends in 1946, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register. Significant dates coincide with known construction dates of some of the district's buildings: 1895 (the Holt House), 1896 (Fruita Schoolhouse), and 1940 (Ranger Station); and 1883, the date the historic road through Fruita (now known as the Scenic Drive) was built. In the many cases, construction dates of other buildings and structures in the district can only be estimated, based on oral or other secondary sources of documentation. Most are believed to date from the first two decades of the twentieth century.

Three historic contexts are important to understanding the significance of Fruita's resources: Mormon Settlement and Early Agriculture in Capitol Reef National Park, 1880-1920; Tourism and Creation of Capitol Reef National Park, 1920-1960; and Mission 66 Development in Capitol Reef National Park, 1960-1990. These are included in the National Register of Historic places nomination for the Fruita Rural Historic District (1996). The following text focuses on the role played by cultural traditions in the settlement and agricultural development of Fruita.

Brigham Young made prophecies of the desert blossoming "as the rose well before him" during the whole of his tenure as LDS leader, and one after another, the valleys of the Jordan, Provo, Weber, Ogden, Bear, Sevier, and Virgin were occupied and cultivated by Mormon settlers. In *Utah, the Land of Blossoming Valleys*, the author eloquently describes that where these "indefatigable bands of pioneers" settled:

there speedily sprang into existence great fields of waving grain, wheat, oats, barley, and rye, green areas of alfalfa, widely flung acres of sugar beets...while in every direction thousands of healthy milk-cows and herds of beef-cattle, horses and mules waded shoulder deep in richest pasture. . . . Then the orchards! Who that has seen the heavily-laden peach, apricot and especially cherry trees of Utah can ever forget them — fruit, rich and luscious, fit for the gods, in appearance, flavor and the satisfaction they give.¹

The planting of fruit was frequently prescribed by Church leaders from the time of settlement in the territory. In Brigham Young's near annual visits to Mormon settlements he gave verbal encouragement and direction to members to "Build good houses, make fine farms, set out apple, pear, and other fruit trees that will flourish here. . . build up and adorn a beautiful city." Church leader G. A. Smith in 1856 urged residents of Paowan, Utah to plant orchards, even in the public square, to "make it like the garden of Eden". In 1881, Brigham Young's successor, President John Taylor, urged congregations in Malad, Idaho, to plant more apple, pear, and cherry trees.

The theme of creating “a fit place for the angels to visit” was echoed frequently by church leadership, encouraging settlers to plant flower gardens, fruit trees, and shade trees, in addition to the more traditional food crops. Fruit was an ideal crop in many ways: it both beautified the landscape with springtime blossoms, it could be readily preserved for family consumption, and surpluses could be bartered or sold for other needed goods, contributing to the family’s self-sufficiency. Fruit trees were so highly valued by Mormons that a law to prohibit the wanton neglect of fruit orchards was passed and still remains on the books in Utah. Orchards must either be maintained or removed.

The development of agriculture in Fruita parallels that of many other Mormon settlements, in its heavy dependence upon the ability of farmers to create and maintain irrigation systems and to agree on an equitable distribution of water. From the time the first immigrants reached the Great Basin, distinctive institutions were devised by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to govern the use of water. The theocratic provisional government of the “State of Deseret” assumed control of its allocation, while Brigham Young declared “There shall be no private ownership of the streams that come out of the canyons, nor the timber that grows in the hills. These belong to the people: all the people.” County governments were given authority to grant privileges petitioners to divert streams for irrigation or other purposes. After the water was diverted, equitable distribution was insured by the church through its appointed officials. Controversies were settled in bishops’ courts and could be appealed.

Consistent with the egalitarian ideals of the Church, the Saints’ system was instituted by statute in 1852, insuring that the welfare of the community took precedent over private profit. This system of water administration was created for a society based on subsistence agriculture. By 1880, the old system no longer functioned well, partly due to the growth of commercial agriculture and its demands for increased water supplies. An influx of non-Mormons and the growth of the mining industry also played a role in challenging the old system. The 1852 statute was rescinded in 1880 and Utah adopted in its place the *laissez-faire*, individualistic approach to distribution of water common in other western states and territories.

In spite of the increasing Americanization of the Utah Territory in the latter decades of the century, a number of Mormon agricultural communities still continued to be strongly influenced by the cooperative, communitarian ideals of Deseret’s founders.² Fruita’s families managed to subsist through their ability to distribute and regulate water from the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek. When disputes over water occurred, they were usually settled out of court, with the help of Torrey’s Bishop. In such out-of-the-way places as Fruita, where clinging to a livelihood was most precarious, the Mormon tradition of cooperation played an important role in the success of the settlement. In the words of historian Charles S. Peterson, “The Mormon withdrawal from the larger community was expressed in forms on the landscape that can be seen to this day, and for many Utahns, traditions of land use that reached beyond economics became second nature.”³

Fruita is distinguishable from the surrounding region and neighboring towns by the lush, verdant appearance of its orchards and fields. The contrast is made all the more dramatic by the barren canyon walls that cradled the tiny agricultural Mormon community in the last decade of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. Fruita’s cultural landscape represents more than one small group’s attempts to wrest a living from yet another remote Utah region — it signifies the successful effort of the faithful to fulfill the wishes of Church leadership, to create a miniature Eden. In doing so, settlers may have felt twice blessed: both with the knowledge of economic self-sufficiency, and with visual proof that their activities were looked upon with Divine favor.

In Utah, where the environment has since dictated that the majority of land (87 percent) be utilized for livestock grazing and only a small portion (4 percent) for the production of crops, the survival of an early Mormon agricultural landscape takes on added significance. The tradition of fruit-picking in the orchards of Fruita goes back for generations among the families of neighboring plateau towns to the west, some of whom claim kinship ties with Fruita’s historic residents.

While a number of historic period buildings have been removed and some fields and orchards have been supplanted to accommodate NPS staff housing and visitor services, Fruita still

clearly reflects a half-century of land use and cultural adaptation by Mormon settlers. The historic landscape features that remain include more than 66 acres of orchards and fields connected by a network of irrigation ditches, two historic farm complexes (the Gifford Farm and the Holt Farm), and several individual structures that reflect the agricultural and social development of the community. In addition, there are several key character-defining features, patterns, and relationships that are significant and contribute to the significance and general cohesiveness of the cultural landscape at Fruita, including overall landscape organization, land use, response to natural features, and cultural traditions. While some aspects of the landscape have changed, these large-scale patterns and relationships have a strong degree of integrity and contribute to the historic character, feeling, and association of the district as a whole.

ENDNOTES

1 James, George Warton. *Utah, The Land of Blossoming Valleys*. The Page Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1922, x.

2 See Analysis and Evaluation, Cultural Traditions section for definition of the term “Americanization.”

3 Peterson, Charles S. “‘Touch of the Mountain Sod’: How Land United and Divided Utahns, 1847-1985.” Dello G. Dayton Memorial Lecture, 1988, 5.

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

Just as Fruita attracted prehistoric peoples and proved to be an ideal site for later settlement by Mormons, this lush river valley offered the National Park Service a well-suited location for development to meet its management and visitor needs. In 1938 the “Development Outline for Capitol Reef National Monument” stated:

Monument headquarters developments logically belong at Fruita. The desirable land being in private ownership, a complete development plan. . . may not be prepared until the land is purchased or otherwise acquired.¹

Initial proposed developments included improving the road and trail systems, constructing an administrative headquarters (a ranger station, museum, water, and sewage system), as well as general developments (surveys and mapping, fencing, posting, and telephone line). Plans for the museum were soon abandoned due to lack of funding. Some of the other goals were accomplished with the labor of the CCC (as described in the Landscape History section); others were not met for many years.

By the time the CCC program was terminated in 1942, the monument still lacked electricity, telephones, and water and sewage systems. Without these services, the CCC-built stone ranger station was nonfunctioning. In 1943, the only tourist facilities available were the rental cabins offered by Doc Inglesby and William and Dicey Chesnut: “very poor shacks without any modern conveniences.”² Several of the local residents also rented horses to tourists for trips around the monument. The only park-owned property in the valley consisted of the former home of Alma Chesnut (the Holt house and associated structures) and its associated 67 acres of land, acquired in 1942. Park management, while recognizing its need for water and land, thought that these objectives could be met by purchasing small amounts without displacing the local community. The 1943 development outline for the monument also suggested, “The type of physical developments [in Fruita] should conform to the early Mormon type of architecture (stone).”³

Due to lack of funding, no lands could be acquired nor developments take place during the 1940s. Garkane Power Company constructed a power line across the monument in 1948 when local residents agreed to pay for electrical service to their residences.⁴ Superintendent Charles Smith wrote, “This modern facility will surely add greatly to the comfort and convenience of people living in the area. It will materially help us to have commercial power when funds are made available to develop Capitol Reef National Monument.” A modest appropriation of \$5,000 in 1950 provided caretaker Kelly with salary and allowed for limited development to occur (completion of the ranger station and a nearby campground). Mission 66 provided the most significant stimulus for park development at Capitol Reef during the 1960s, as well as the rationale for acquiring private lands. The Master Plan of 1959 provided for water, sewage and irrigation systems, equipment storage and utility buildings, a visitor center, employee residences, a 50-site campground, construction of a through highway (new State Highway 24), and improvements to the old roads and trails.⁵ Most new monument construction and development took place under the direction of Superintendent William Krueger (April 1959–December 1965), as described earlier in the Landscape History section. Early plans called for locating the visitor center at the site of the Capitol Reef Lodge (now the Neils Johnson Orchard).

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, little value appeared to be attached to the orchards and local history in park management documents.⁶ The monument was created primarily for its geologic and archeological features, and historical resources were only recognized in the 1960s in planning documents as being worthy of preservation and interpretation. In the 1966 Master Plan the significance of the Fruita schoolhouse was the first building to be recognized:

In order to preserve the early pioneer atmosphere, the old schoolhouse and portions of fruit orchards are retained and maintained. . . care of the historic orchards is handled through special use permit which allow harvest in exchange for care, watering and replacement.⁷

The plan also called for developments to “be carefully planned so as to enhance rather than detract from the scenic values,” and emphasized that it was “desirable to retain some of the orchards and the irrigated lands in order to maintain the historic character of the ‘oasis in the desert’.” In addition to preserving portions of the historic scene, such an approach would “also provide a pleasant setting for visitor-use facilities, including overnight accommodations.”⁸ Only certain (unspecified) orchards, however, were expected to be preserved, as the master plan called for significant expansion of campground areas, from 53 to 230 sites. In addition to campground loops A and B, which were constructed during this period, plans and drawings called for an additional five campgrounds (loops C, E, and F) to be located to the south of loop B. Had the plan been implemented, it would have virtually wiped out all agricultural use of lands south of the Gifford Farm.⁹

Under Superintendent Krueger, the plan advocated continuation of orchard operation and maintenance by special use permit,

. . . as the most economical means of perpetuating the fruit orchard scene created by the early pioneer in this area. It also retains good public relations. . . where residents take pride in this orchard area which we recently have acquired from private owners.¹⁰

The *Interpretive Prospectus* (1964) noted that “local [Mormon] history is of interest,” and that “their landmarks are the orchards, the cultivated fields, and the houses and log school at Fruita.”¹¹ The report recommended using the “Reef Road” (old State Route 24) as the principle interpretive device, paving it using minimum design standards. Additional recommendations included,

capitalizing upon the existing atmosphere created by the Mormon pioneers at Fruita through their more than fifty years of open ditch irrigation. Retain, so far as possible, their cultivated fields, orchards and certain buildings.¹²

In the 1970s, further thought was given by management to interpretation of historic life in Fruita. The “Fruita Living Community Management Plan,” believed to have been prepared by Gerald Hoddenbach in the 1970s, proposed creating a living history experience in the park.¹³ The detailed plan called for interpreting historic structures, home sites of past Fruita residents, cultural vegetation (orchards, vineyards, individual trees, such as the “mail tree” and “Brigham Young” walnut tree), rock inscriptions, and irrigation ditches. The report recommended that certain orchards be maintained by “non-mechanized means in order to properly present a historically accurate atmosphere.” It also called for the reintroduction of farm animals (horses, cows, sheep, chickens, goats, honey bees, donkeys, oxen) and nonnative (exotic) plants when necessary to enhance the historic scene. The livestock was to be owned and/or maintained by NPS employees residing in Fruita. The plan also suggested that orchards be named after early residents and that signage be erected to identify individual orchards, fields, and pastures.

The increasing recognition of Fruita’s agricultural landscape and the need to effectively manage it led to the development of three significant documents in the 1970s and 1980s: an operating plan (*Interpretation and the Management of Change in the Cultural Landscape*, 1985), an agricultural area management plan (*Historic Agricultural Area Management Plan for Capitol Reef National Park*, 1979), and an orchard management plan (*Capitol Reef National Park Orchard Management Plan*, 1988). A strong public reaction against the park’s removal of 3.5 acres of fruit trees from the old Mulford orchard during the 1970s led to the park’s decision to maintain the remaining number of trees. Other planning documents in the 1980s reflected increasing concern about visual intrusions on the historic setting, encouraging screening of visi-

tor center and maintenance areas.¹⁴ The 1982 General Management Plan sustained the concept of preservation and care of the Fruita orchards both as a historic scene and as a unique public recreational activity. Other planning documents (1984 cultural and natural resources management plans, 1989 Statement for Management) echoed the importance of the cultural landscape (“historic scene”) and stressed the need for a plan to guide its management.

ENDNOTES

- 1 “Development Outline for Capitol Reef National Monument,” March 1, 1938. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR600-01, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.
- 2 “Development Outline for Capitol Reef National Monument,” January 1943. Record Group 79, Cont. #63180, Box 2, File CR600-01.1, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.
- 3 Ibid., 9.
- 4 Record Group 79, Cont. #63181, Box 3, File CR660.01, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO. Residents were charged a fee of \$100 per year for 5 years plus a minimum service charge of \$2.70 a month by Garkane Power Co.
- 5 *Master Plan for Capitol Reef National Monument*, 1959. Record Group 79, Cont. #SB202684, Box 1, File D-18, Federal Records Center, Denver, CO.
- 6 The report entitled “Mission 66 for Capitol Reef National Monument,” dated late 1956, identified only geological and archeological features as significant. The document makes no references to orchards nor agricultural use of the valley. No history of Mormon settlement and/or occupation between 1880 and 1937 is included in the “Early History” section of the report. It may have been written by Charles Kelly, who held little regard for Mormons.
- 7 *Master Plan for Capitol Reef National Monument*, 1966. Park files.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Drawing NM-CR 3005, Headquarters Vicinity, June 6, 1962, part of CARE Master Plan. Denver Service Center’s Technical Information Center, Denver, CO.
- 10 Master Plan, 1965 draft. Park files.
- 11 *Interpretive Prospectus for Capitol Reef National Monument*, 1964, 3. NPS, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.
- 12 Ibid., 5.
- 13 A copy of this report was found included in the park’s orchard maintenance notebook that Kent Jackson rescued from the 1980s flood. Park archives.
- 14 *Environmental Impact Statement, General Management Plan*, 1982. Park files.

APPENDIX C

LAND USE BY FRUITA PROPERTY OWNERS, 1912 to 1950*

(expressed in acres)

YEAR	Farm land	Fruit	Grazing	Other	Total
1912	65.5	16.5	3	333	418
1913	64.5	18.5	1	322	406
1914	69.5	22	5.5	362	459
1915	78	25	35	346.5	484.5
1916	58	16	12	292	378
1917	98	21	4	294	417
1918	60.5	16	17	353.5	447
1919	60.5	16	17	353.5	447
Average	69	19	12	332	432

agricultural: 100 acres (88 improved/irrigated)

YEAR	Improved	Unimproved	Fruit	Grazing	Other	Total
1920	89	8	20	0	446	563
1921	90	9	20	0	444	563
1922	90	9	19	0	445	563
1923	90	9	19	0	445	563
1924	98.5	49	15	0	401.5	564
1925	98.5	49	15	0	401	563.5
1926	99	19	13	0	431.5	543.5
1928	99	19	15	2.75	439	547.5
Average	94	21	17	.34	432	559

agricultural: 133 acres (111 improved/irrigated)

YEAR	Improved	Unimproved	Fruit	Grazing	Other	Total
1930	103	19	11	0	431.5	564.5
1931	103	19	11	0	431.5	564.5
1933	88	.25	17.5	2.75	439	547.5
1935	88	.25	19	2.75	439	549
1937	88	.25	17.5	2.75	439	547.5
1939	88	.25	18	2.75	439	548
Average	93	6.5	14	1.83	436.5	553.5

agricultural: 115 acres (111 improved/irrigated)

YEAR	Improved	Unimproved	Fruit	Grazing	Other	Total
1942	90	.5	18	5.5	504	618
1945	87	.25	18	2.25	423	530.5
1946	84	.25	65.5	2.25	392	544
1947	90	.25	40	2.25	417.5	550
1948	90	.25	40	2.25	417.5	550
1949	90	.25	40	2.25	421	553.5
1950	90	.25	40	2.25	421	553.5
Average	87.5	.29	37	2.71	431	557

agricultural: 127.5 acres (124.5 improved/irrigated)

*Years selected at random. Source of data: Assessment Roll of Wayne County, Wayne County Courthouse, Loa, Utah.

(Appendix C, continued)

The dramatic increase in amount of improved land reportedly planted in orchards on the 1946 tax roll and the subsequent doubling of taxes (according to Charles Kelly) resulted in a resurvey in 1947 of private lands in Fruita. It is believed the 1947 assessment roll figures are therefore more accurate, as they are consistent with the NPS 1949 appraisal figures. Most orchard acreage in 1947 was owned by the following: Max Krueger, Owen Davis, Clarence Mulford, and Dean Brimhall. Together they held 87% of the fruitland in Fruita, or 34.6 acres of the total 40 acres in orchard. Below is a listing of fruitlands reported to be held by all Fruita property owners in 1947.

Assessment Roll of Wayne County, 1947 Record -
Acres in fruit, by property owner:

Landowner Acres in Fruit

Owen Davis	13.6
Clarence Mulford	9
Max Kreuger	7.125
Dean Brimhall	4.9
Dewey Gifford	3.82
(Wm.) Clarence Chestnut	.68
Cora Smith	1.1
USA (NPS, Holt Farm)	(not recorded)

Because the fruitlands appear to be grossly under reported prior to 1946 (and apparently over reported in 1946), these tax records prior to 1947 have limited usefulness in documenting the chronology of orchard development during the historic period. By the same token, averages are probably not very meaningful, except in distinguishing improved vs. unimproved private lands. Historic photographs and orchard records proved to be a more accurate source of documentation for purposes of this report. Additional oral history may also provide information regarding the orchard changes over time.

Additional note: Prior to 1912, land use is not described on assessment roll. Improvements and animals are listed however. Some time between 1951 and 1955 agricultural land use is no longer broken into categories of use as earlier. "Improved Land" means irrigated land; unimproved and grazing are synonymous categories.

(Appendix C, continued)

DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK, FRUITA, 1896-1958

YEAR	horses/mules	cattle	sheep	swine	bee colonies
1896	109	0	4	0	
1900	22	9	21	18	0
1902	15	13	0	9	3
1906	21	25	0	17	3
1910	21	40	0	0	19
1911	19	3	7	23	24
1913	26	1	0	8	10
1916	19	14	0	13	20
1925	9	9	0	5	—*
1926	5	9	50	0	
1928	8	10	405	6	
1931	5	15	0	0	
1933	3	22	0	0	
1935	27	126	25	4	
1937	9	82	0	4	
1942	19	72	0	0	
1945	20	5	?	?	
1946	3	0	0	0	
1948	6	2	0	1	
1958	10	2	0	0	

*Bees no longer recorded from this period on. The only beekeepers until 1911 were Cal Pendleton and Leo Holt, then Jed Mott began keeping bees as well. Pendleton was the first to keep bees, and he consistently kept the most colonies.

NOTE: The assessor did not record chickens and turkeys. All sizeable herds of horses, cattle, and/or sheep were owned by rancher Clarence Mulford. Mulford had additional grazing lands outside (to the west of) Fruita. Because his ownership of livestock was sporadic and as other Fruita residents normally owned only a few horses, cattle, or pigs, livestock averages are not meaningful and would be misleading.

Source of Data: Assessment Roll of Wayne County, Wayne County Courthouse, Loa, Utah.

APPENDIX D

FRUITA DEED HISTORIES

<u>TRACT 1</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1907	H. S. Behunin Homestead	120
1915	H. S. Behunin to L. Behunin	120
1915	L. Behunin to C. D. Pendleton	56.5
1919	Pendleton to Jorgensen	56.5
1920	Don Carlos Pendleton to H. Robison	56.5
1922	Robison to C. Mulford	56.5
1929	Jorgensen to C. Mulford	88
1962	Clarence Mulford to U.S.	144.5

<u>TRACT 2</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1897	N. Johnson Homestead	160
1921	Mary J. Johnson Est to WJ & LMJ	53.76
1925	Wm. Johnson to Wm. Chesnut	53.76
1946	Wm. Chesnut to W. C. Chesnut	23.86
1947	W. C. Chesnut to J. Chesnut	23.86
1961	Jay Chesnut to W. C. Chesnut	23.86
1962	Wm. C. Chesnut to U.S.	40.9

<u>TRACT 3</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
—	E. C. Behunin Homestead	120
1902	E. C. Behunin to J. R. Cook	120
1916	J. R. Cook to A. P. Adams	105
1930	A. P. Adams to Merin Smith	105
1945	M. & Cora Smith to Owen Davis	105
1955	O. Davis to T. Claridge	105
1956	T. Claridge to Maxwell & E. Lewis	105
1962	E. Lewis to U.S.	105

<u>TRACT 4</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1897	N. Johnson Homestead	160
1898	Johnson to Susanna Pendleton	37
1902	Joseph Cook to C. D. Pendleton	8
1915	L. Behunin to C. Pendleton	
1919	C. D. Pendleton to J. Jorgensen	
1929	J. Jorgensen to G. D. Gifford	45
c.1955	Gifford to T. A. Claridge	
1969	G. Dewey Gifford to U.S.	12.28

<u>TRACT 5</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1897	N. Johnson Homestead	160
1921	Mary Johnson Est. to WY & LMJ	53.76
1925	Wm Johnson to W. Chesnut	53.76
1936	Wm Chesnut to A. L. Ingelsby	5.96
1959	A. L. Ingelsby to R. Waldo	4.39
1964	Ruth C. Waldo to U.S.	4.39

(Appendix D, continued)

<u>TRACT 6</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1897	N. Johnson Homestead	160
1921	Mary J. Johnson Est. to WY and LMJ	53.76
1925	Wm Johnson to W. Chesnut	53.76
1936	Wm Chesnut to A. L. Ingelsby	5.96
1945	Ingelsby to Rosenberger & Mason	2.59
1953	Rosenberger to G. Mason	2.59
1957	Mason to Arch Bird	2.59
1978	Bird to U.S.	2.59

<u>TRACT 7</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1897	N. Johnson Homestead	160
—	Amasa E. Pierce	
1920	M. V. Oyler to J. & M. Blackburn	28
1924	Jehu Blackburn to M. Blackburn	28
1928	M. Blackburn to Merin Smith	28
1933	M. & Cora Smith to C. Smith	28
1961	Cora Smith to U.S.	28

<u>TRACT 8</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
—	E. C. Behunin Homestead	120
1902	Behunin to J. & M. Cook	120
1914	State of Utah to A. E. Holt	40
1939	A. E. Holt to R. A. Meeks	40
1940	Mary A. Cook to O. Mott	14
1940	R. A. Meeks to O. Mott	40
1943	O. Mott to D. R. Brimhall	54
1961	Dean Brimhall to U.S.	54

<u>TRACT 9</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1899	Leo R. Holt Homestead	106
1899	Leo R. Holt to Amasa E Pierce	27
1899	Leo R. Holt to H. J. Wilson	38
1902	H. J. Wilson to M. W. Mansfield	38
1914	Amasa E Pierce to Geo. M. Carrell	27
1916	Geo. Carrell to M. V. Oyler	27
1941	M. V. Oyler to Max Krueger	66.75
1961	M. Krueger to U.S.	66.75

<u>TRACT 10</u>		<u>ACRES</u>
1899	Leo R. Holt Homestead	120
?	N. Johnson to A. E. Pierce?	
1899	Amasa E. Pierce to L. R. Holt	5
1913	L. R. Holt to Leo P. Pendleton	4.25
1913	L. R. Holt to L. P. Pendleton	54
1919	L. P. Pendleton to C. Mulford	64
1926	Elvira Oyler to Alma Chesnut	2.25
1926	C. Mulford to A. Chesnut	64
1941	A. Chesnut to U.S.	64

APPENDIX E

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK LIST OF CLASSIFIED STRUCTURES FRUITA RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

STRUCTURE NUMBER*	IDLCS	NAME
B-01	10488	Ranger Station
B-32	10481	Fruita Schoolhouse
Q-02	50032	Leo R. Holt House
B-03	50033	Leo R. Holt Fruit Cellar
—	50034	Leo R. Holt House Stone Wall
—	50281	Leo R. Holt Barn Stone Wall
B-42	50274	Merin Smith Fruit Cellar
B-43	50273	Merin Smith Implement Shed
B-45	10484	Dewey Gifford House
B-46	10485	Dewey Gifford Smokehouse
B-47	10486	Dewey Gifford Barn
—	50279	Scenic Drive
—	50035	Fruita Irrigation System
S-63	10487	Sulphur Creek Lime Kiln
S-67	50037	Pendleton Lime Kiln
S-68	50038	Pendleton Rock Walls

*As designated on the park's "Location List," dated March 1993.

APPENDIX F

Fruita Historic District Cultivated and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs
Compiled by Juanita Lichthardt, October 30 1985.

Trees - Shade and Ornamental:

Ailanthus (Tree-of-Heaven)	* H	<u>Ailanthus altissima</u> (Mill.) Swingle	A,S,U24
Almond, Flowering	* H	<u>Prunus triloba</u> Lindl.	B
Ash, Green	*	<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u> Marsh.	CG,R10
Birch, European white	*	<u>Betula pendula</u> Roth	MH8
Catalpa	+	<u>Catalpa speciosa</u> Warder	M,SD
Cottonwood, Fremont	N	<u>Populus fremontii</u> S. Wats.	M,CG,P,8,U24
Crabapple, Ornamental		<u>Malus</u> spp.	G,8,R19
Crabapple, Bechtel		<u>M. ioensis plena</u>	MH8
Elm, Chinese	*	<u>Ulmus parviflora</u>	M,G,R19
Hackberry		<u>Celtis occidentalis</u> L.	CG,P
Locust, Honey		<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u> L.	CG,S
Locust, Black		<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u> L.	A,8,U24
Mulberry, Russian	* +	<u>Morus alba</u> var. <u>tatarica</u> (L.) Ser.	CG,P,S
Mulberry, Fruitless	*	<u>Morus alba</u> L. Ser. 'Stribling'	P,R12,R14,MH8
Olive, Russian	*	<u>Elaeagnus angustifolia</u> L.	G,S
Osage orange	H	<u>Maclura pomifera</u> (Raf.) Schneid.	A
Plum, Flowering	*	<u>Prunus cerasifera</u> Ehrh. 'Thundercloud'	U24
Poplar, Lombardy	* H	<u>Populus nigra</u> var. <u>italica</u> L.	M,8,R14,U24
Spruce, Colorado Blue	N	<u>Picea pungens</u> Engelm.	P
Walnut, Black	H	<u>Juglans nigra</u> L.	M,SD,S
Walnut, English	* H	<u>J. regia</u> L.	M,G
Willow, Weeping	*	<u>Salix babylonica</u>	R11,R12
Willow, Navajo (globe w.)	*	<u>Salix matsudana</u> Koidz. 'Navajo'	R11

Fruit Trees:

Almond	*	<u>Prunus dulcis</u> (Mill.) D.A. Webb	
Apple	* H	<u>Malus pumila</u> Mill.	
Apricot	* H	<u>Prunus armeniaca</u> —	
Cherry, Sour	* H	<u>P. cerasus</u> L.	
Cherry, Sweet	* H	<u>P. avium</u> L.	
Nectarine	*	<u>P. persica nucipersica</u>	
Pear	* H	<u>Pyrus communis</u> L.	
Peach	* H	<u>Prunus persica</u> (L.) Batch	
Plum	* H	<u>P. domestica</u>	
Quince, Edible	* H	<u>Cydonia oblonga</u>	

Shrubs and Vines:

Barberry, Japanese	* +	<u>Berberis thunbergii</u> DC.	G
Corralberry		<u>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</u> Moench	C,R12
Grape		<u>Vitis labrusca</u> L.	G,P,AC,8
Honeysuckle, Tatarian	*	<u>Lonicera tatarica</u> L.	R14,R19
Juniper	N	<u>Juniperus</u> spp.	R-10,MH8
Lilac	* H	<u>Syringa vulgaris</u> L.	M,G,8,AC
Plum, American (Pottawattami p.)	+	<u>Prunus americana</u> Marsh.	CG
Pyracantha	*	<u>Pyracantha</u> sp.	R-11
Rabbitbrush	N	<u>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</u>	R-10
Rose-of Sharon H.	*	<u>Hibiscus syriacus</u> L.	S
Snowball bush	* H	<u>Viburnum opulus</u> L. 'Roseum'	G,AC,R19
Squawbush	N	<u>Rhus trilobata</u>	R-10
Thicket creeper	+	<u>Parthenocissus inserta</u> (Kern.) K. Fritsch.	M
Wisteria, Chinese	* H	<u>Wisteria sinensis</u>	P

*-Introduced to No. Amer., H-Historic, +-Prob. historic, N-native to So. Utah

Location Code:

A Amphitheater	G Gifford House	R# Resid. area #
AC Alma Chestnut House	M Mulford Farm Site	S Sprang Cottage
B Brimhall House	MH Mobile home #	SD Scenic drive
CG Campground	P Picnic area	U24 State highway

APPENDIX G

Chas S. Peterson
3025 Sweetgum Circle
St. George, Utah 84770

June 24, 1993

Ms. Kathy McKoy
Historian
Division of Cultural Resources Management
National Park Service Rocky Mountain Regional Office
12795 W. Alameda Parkway B. O. VX 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Kathy:

I was glad to learn from your letter of June 9 that your Fruita Report is progressing.

In reference to the importance of the furrow irrigation system to the cultural landscape my impression is that it is of the first order of significance. If the Park Service is interested in capturing the spirit of an era (the turn of the century decades) nothing is more of the essence than the diversion, ditch, headgate, and furrow system. It was the outline upon which the entire cultural landscape rested.

I can well understand the appeal of a modern irrigation system from the standpoint of management and of water use efficiency. But to introduce these at the field (orchard) level would seem to seriously distort the entire early system. To be consistent with what sprinkling/drip irrigation have become it would imply underground delivery, pumping stations, and a variety of other modifications that for Fruita would be introduced for the first time. With drips or sprinklers the verdure of that canyon setting would still be there and lessons about the evolution of irrigation systems might be garnered but short of a master plan that calls for an interpretation of technical development and advancing USDA programs it would seem to me that it would do little to foster the ambience and spirit of early Fruita.

I think of the Hubbell Trading Post's historic farm as I contemplate this. With the aid of the BIA's Division of Irrigation John Lorenzo Hubbell developed an irrigated homestead in the period after 1902. Because the headgates, drops, flumes, etc were masonry in construction much of his system survives in the abandoned fields adjacent to his trading post and farmstead. While the interpretive effort has not extended much into the fields or along a delivery system that runs through the Indian fields of Ganado, Hubbell's farm landscape still lies in its abandoned form with the Indian farms phasing away, witness to

assimilation's failure. How eloquently the whole of it speaks about a line of natural and cultural conquest that extended beyond our capacity to maintain. It seems to me the situation is similar at Fruita.

I am sure some furrow systems remain in small Utah orchards. Many orchards, however, have been converted to sprinkling for a quarter of a century. You would find almost no orchards where sprinkling etc. extended beyond the late 1950s or early 1960s. My general impression is that Utah horticulturists and farmers were conservative and that sprinkling adaptations advanced more slowly here than elsewhere. It is clear that southern Idaho farmers (mostly Mormons) moved into new technology earlier than Utah's Cache and Box Elder Valley's although those northern counties followed suit earlier than many Utah localities, perhaps, because of their proximity to Idaho.

I have been an interested observer of the Wayne County farms during the last 10 or 15 years. One is impressed that the county has adapted far more extensively to sprinkling systems than neighboring counties to the west, especially Sanpete County where the pioneer furrow system was deeply ingrained. I've talked with Extension Service people including a number of Central Utah county agents about this question and without having specific data at hand credit some of them and federal programs (loans and other finance packages) for the seeming emphasis on advanced technology in Wayne County. Perhaps a case could be made for Wayne County's having made this technological transition in water application at a relatively early time--but I do not believe it extends before the 60s. To show Fruita under sprinklers might tie into that kind of context but hardly to the context of your enclosure or to how I read your larger study.

I am not sure how useful it will be but enclosed is a Xerox copy of an article I did on early farm landscapes that were formed primarily by irrigation.

Finally, a plea! The past of decaying Mormon villages, defunct trading posts, dryland farms, remote ranches, and canyon sanctuaries that has given the last generation or two their strongest impressions of the Western heritage will be all but eradicated in another decade. The Park Service commitment to the historical landscape will become increasingly important in forming our national values. Hang in there. It is a great cause you are involved in. I hope something here may be useful. If I can restate it to be more helpful let me know.

Sincerely,


Chas Peterson

THE AUTHORS:

Cathy A. Gilbert is Historical Landscape Architect for the National Park Service, Columbia Cascades Support Office, Pacific West Region in Seattle, Washington.

Kathleen L. McKoy is Historian for the National Park Service, Colorado Plateau Support Office, Intermountain Region, in Denver, Colorado.

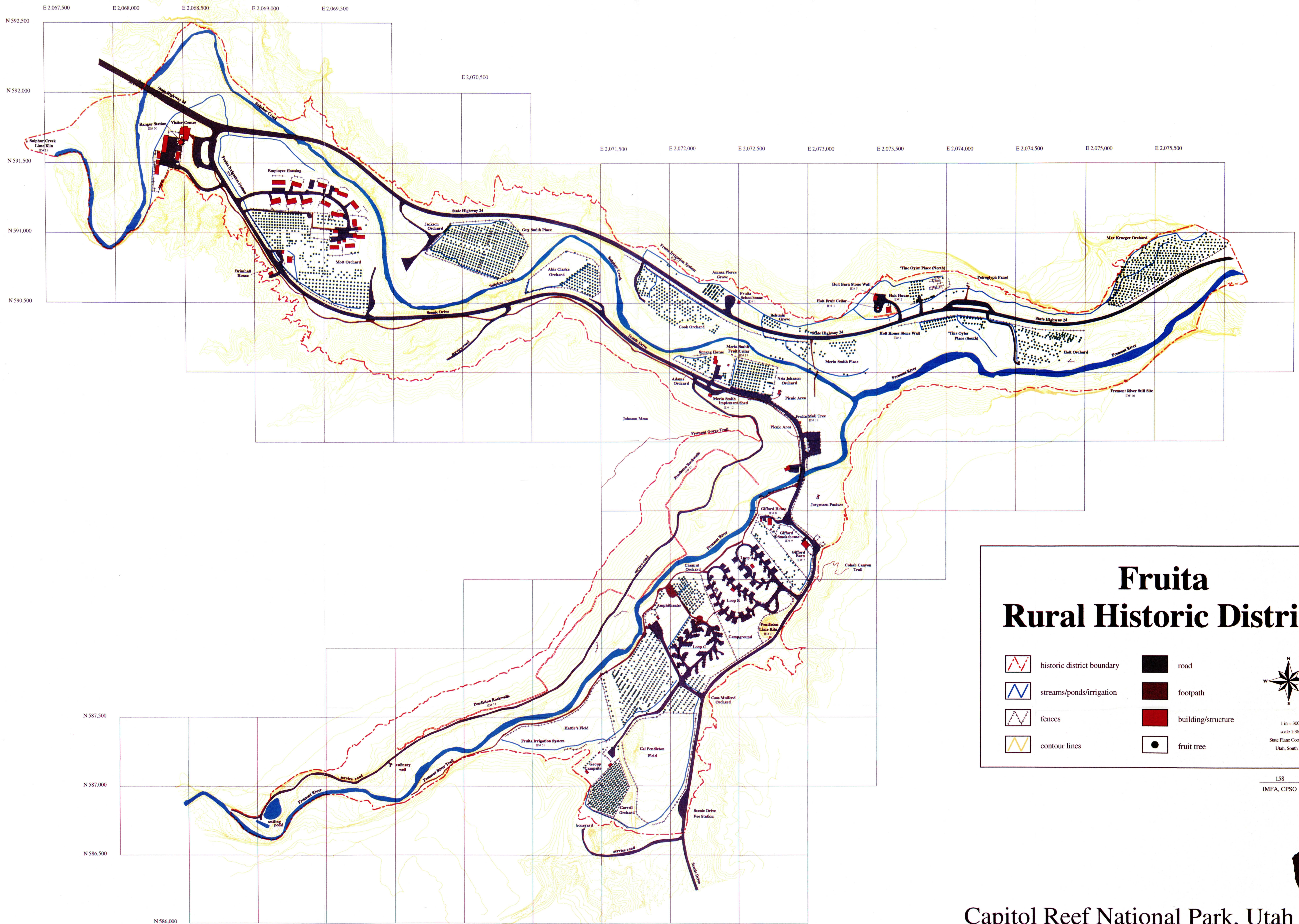
SELECTION from the DIVISION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service

- No. 1 **Cultural Resource Inventory and Testing in the Salt Creek Pocket and Devils Lane Areas, Needles District, Canyonlands National Park, Utah** by Betsy L. Tipps and Nancy J. Hewetts; 1989.
- No. 2 **Gateways to Commerce: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 9-Foot Channel Project on the Upper Mississippi River** by William Patrick O'Brien, Mary Yeater Rathbun, and Patrick O'Bannon; 1992.
- No. 3 **The Archeology of Beaver Creek Shelter (39CU779): A Preliminary Statement** by Lynn Marie Alex; 1991.
- No. 4 **Archeology Investigations at Two Sites in Dinosaur National Monument: 42UN1724 and 5MF2645** by James A. Truesdale; 1993.
- No. 5 **The History of the Construction of the Road System in Yellowstone National Park, 1872-1966. Historic Resource Study Volume I** by Mary Shivers Culpin; 1994.
- No. 6 **The Obsidian Cliff Plateau Prehistoric Lithic Source, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming** by Leslie B. Davis, Stephen A. Aaberg, and James G. Schmitt; 1995.
- No. 7 **Holocene Archeology Near Squaw Butte, Canyonlands National Park, Utah** by Betsy L. Tipps; 1995.

CULTURAL RESOURCES SELECTIONS Intermountain Region, National Park Service

- No. 8 **Cultural Landscape Report: Fruita Rural Historic District, Capitol Reef National Park** by Cathy A. Gilbert and Kathleen L. McKoy; 1997.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Document #63



Fruita Rural Historic District

	historic district boundary		road
	streams/ponds/irrigation		footpath
	fences		building/structure
	contour lines		fruit tree

1 in = 300 ft
scale 1:3600
State Plane Coordinates
Utah, South Zone

158 | 80052
IMFA, CPSO | JAN 97



Capitol Reef National Park, Utah

