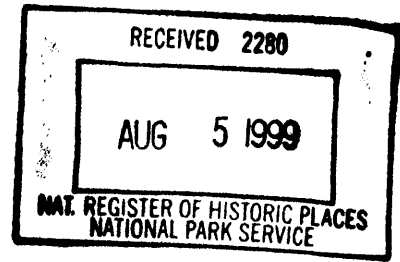


1092

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Oyler Mine

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication N/A
city or town Torrey vicinity x
state Utah code UT county Wayne code 055
zip code 84775

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Greenberg 8-4-99
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service
Federal agency

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

Max J. [Signature] 8-15-96
Signature of commenting official Date

Utah State Historical Preservation Office
State agency

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Carol D Shuer 9-14-99
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 ___ determined eligible for the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
 ___ removed from the National Register
 ___ other (explain): _____

 _____ Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ___ private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- ___ building(s)
- ___ district
- site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
___	___	buildings
<u>2</u>	___	sites
<u>2</u>	___	structures
___	___	objects
<u>4</u>	___	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing

Capitol Reef National Park MPS

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: Industry/Processing/Extraction Sub: Mine

Current Functions

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: NPS Wayside Exhibit, Ruin

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification

 N/A

Materials

foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls Stone
other N/A

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheet.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance Industry
Period of Significance 1904-1956
Significant Dates 1904
Significant Person N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A
Architect/**Builder** Nixon, Thomas E.
 Sumner, J. C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheet.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Capitol Reef N.P. Archives, Torrey, Utah

Brown, Lenard E. Capitol Reef: Historical Survey and Base Map. N.P.: National Park Service, 1969.

O'Bannon, Patrick. Capitol Reef National Park Historic Resource Study and Survey Report, NPS, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO, June 1992.

Ringholz, Raye C. Uranium Frenzy - Boom and Bust on the Colorado Plateau, Univ. of New Mexico Press, 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

x Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: Capitol Reef National Park Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.5

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>479800</u>	<u>4234380</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses a 0.5 acre area in which the Oyler Mine is located. This area corresponds with the UTM reference point noted above.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses only the historic mine.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Benjamin Brower, Historian

organization for: National Park Service, IMFA, CPSSO date 1995

street & number 12795 W. Alameda Parkway P.O. Box 25287 telephone (303) 499-7195

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80225-0287

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

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

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Property Owner
=====

name Capitol Reef National Park
street & number HC 70, Box 15 telephone (801) 425-3791
city or town Torrey state UT zip code 84775-9602

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7, 8

Page 1

Oyler Mine
Wayne County, Utah
Capitol Reef National Park MPS

Description

The Oyler Mine is located in the north-central portion of Capitol Reef National Park. It lies on the east side of the Scenic Drive and on the north side of the entry to the Grand Wash. This resource consists of two mine tunnels and the ruins of two associated stone structures. Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the historic period have been maintained.

The Oyler Mine consists of two tunnel entrances, approximately 14 feet apart, each measuring approximately 6.5 feet by 8 feet. These adits each extend approximately 108 feet into the hillside. The adits are located in the south face of a cliff at the mouth of Grand Wash. The adits are presently closed off with gates which are designed to bar human entry but to permit entry by bats. Associated with the adits are the remains of two unfinished stone structures. The larger of these ruins consists of the remnants of two stone walls approximately five feet tall, and is located approximately 150 feet south of the adit entries. East of this ruin are the ruins of a smaller structure. None of the walls of this second structure remain intact. According to Emma Nixon Osborne, daughter of Thomas Nixon, her father intended these structures to serve as a cabin and storage shed but he never completed them.

Mining activity in Capitol Reef National Park ceased in 1956. The only changes to the Oyler Mine since this period have been the closure of the mine entrances. The setting of the mine has changed little since the historic period. The Oyler Mine resources possess a strong degree of integrity and meet National Register criteria for listing.

Statement of Significance

The Oyler Mine has local significance under National Register Criterion A for its association with uranium mining in Capitol Reef National Park. The period of significance dates from 1904, when the first claim was filed on the site, to 1956, the last year of uranium mining activity in Capitol Reef National Park. Due to the historical significance of the Atomic Energy Commission's activities and political power during that period, the site meets National Register Criteria Consideration G.

This nomination is part of the "Capitol Reef National Park Multiple Property Submission." The Oyler Mine is associated with the historic context "Mining in Capitol Reef National Park, 1880-1956."

The most significant mining resource located within Capitol Reef National Park is the Oyler Mine. This claim yielded small amounts of uranium prior to 1930 providing the basis for claims that uranium existed in significant quantities throughout the park. The controversy between the National Park Service and the owners of the mine concerning the mine's operation epitomizes the National Park

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 2

Oyler Mine
Wayne County, Utah
Capitol Reef National Park MPS

Statement of Significance (continued)

Service's efforts to secure the area against mineral exploitation and protect the aesthetic and environmental integrity of the park's resources.

The Oyler Uranium Mine was first filed on in January 1904 by Thomas E. Nixon and J. C. Sumner. Nixon and Sumner dug two tunnels, each about one hundred feet deep, on the claim. An unspecified amount of ore was removed from the mine. Nixon held title to the claim until 1911, when he sold a part interest to Jacob Young and T. J. Jukes. This claim lapsed, and in January 1913 Michael V. Oyler filed on the claim.

In 1942, as part of the National Park Service's drive to extinguish all mining claims within the recently created Capitol Reef National Monument, the claim on the Oyler Mine was declared null and void. This decision was appealed in 1949 by the former mine owners. It was at this point that the Oyler Mine became the focal point of a significant political conflict as the policies of the National Park Service clashed with those of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Uranium, which previous to the Second World War had minor commercial value as a medicinal cure, was now in great demand as a strategic resource. The uranium mining industry became an important employer and source of income for many who struggled to earn a living on the Colorado Plateau. Initially, the National Park Service enjoyed several court victories vis-a-vis the Oyler Mine's hopeful claimants. However, when, in the early 1950s, the mine's claimants enlisted the support of the AEC, the National Park Service was obliged to retreat.

The superior political clout possessed by the AEC in the Cold War era forced the National Park Service to permit mining in Capitol Reef National Monument beginning in 1952. The period which followed was marked by a flurry of legal and political activity, which included an extended legal battle to determine the Oyler Mine's ownership. In 1955 the special use permit permitting mining within the park was allowed to expire and all mining activity in the park ceased in 1956. In the late 1950s the AEC removed uranium price supports which ended the economic impetus for continued legal battles over the mine and effectively brought the uranium mining boom to an end.

The Oyler Mine has the longest history of uranium mining in Capitol Reef National Park. Its historical ties to early uses of uranium and to the later uranium mining boom of the Cold War era make it a cultural resource with significant interpretive value.



- 1) Oyster Mine
- 2) Capitol Reef National Park, Torrey, Utah
- 3) Patrick O'Bannon
- 4) November 1990
- 5) John Milner Associates
- 6) mine entrance, view to north
- 7) 1



- 1) OYLER MINE
- 2) CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK, TORREY, UTAH
- 3) PATRICK O'BANNON
- 4) NOVEMBER 1990
- 5) JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES
- 6) MINE STRUCTURE, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST
- 7) 2



- 1) Oyster Mine
- 2) Capitol Reef National Park, Torrey, Utah
- 3) Patrick O'Bannon
- 4) November 1990
- 5) John Milner Associates
- 6) Mine Structure Ruin. View to East
- 7) 3