

10-23  
(May, 1929)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
~~MONUMENTS~~..... NATIONAL ~~PARK~~

FILE NO.

PART 1

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

MAPLE CANYON

---

LAST DATE ON TOP

---

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,  
*Director.*

MAPLE CANYON PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT, UTAH

*WJW*  
*Maple Canyon*

Location

Located six miles east of Moroni, Utah.  
Mostly in the Unintah National Forest.

Area

Character

Now under the Forest Service.

Recent use  
and Status

On January 9, 1930, Supt. Scoyen made a report on his visit to the canyon. He did not consider the area of national park standards and did not think it should be taken from the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.  
Project appears dead. Sept. 15, 1932.

FREDERICK C. LOOFBOUROW  
Attorney and Counselor at Law  
Kearns Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

August 9, 1929.

Hon. Don B. Colton,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Last Sunday, under the guidance of Mr. B. F. Eliason, of Moroni, I visited Maple Canyon in Sanpete County.

The Box Canyon that is a tributary of Maple Canyon, about three quarters of a mile from its opening into the valley is one of the most impressive and weird sights in southern Utah. We did not go as high in the main canyon as the natural bridge so I cannot comment upon that.

The canyon is quite accessible. It is about six miles off the main highway and is about midway between Salt Lake City and Bryce Canyon. The nearest town is Moroni, and from that point to the mouth of Maple Canyon there is a good country road. From the mouth of Maple Canyon to the point where the Box Canyon comes in the distance is about three quarters of a mile, and about the same distance beyond the Box Canyon are the forks where the Black Hawk War Veterans held their reunion in 1908. At ~~that~~ that time about three thousand persons camped there for three days. The water is splendid and the camping places are very good.

There is no wagon road in Maple Canyon but one can easily be made. In the Box Canyon, which is about two miles long, a road can never be made. This part of the canyon must always be visited on foot or on horseback, and the trail must always be in the bed of the creek.

The canyon certainly ought to be set aside as a national park or national monument. It is so strange and weird, and so accessible to general travel that it ought, for public good, to be set aside by the national government and made available to the public as a play ground.

Maple Canyon, itself, is in a forest reserve, except a short distance at the lower end and across this strip a right-of-way for a road can be secured from the owner of the land at no expense. A small part of Box Canyon is in patented ground, but a re-conveyance to the government of thirty or forty acres would place the title to the whole area in the government.

Mr. B. F. Eliason and some of his friends at and near Moroni, several years ago, had this area surveyed and platted. They intended at that time to have the state take the land over as a state park, but this has fallen through. In fact, I do not know of a single state park that has been established in Utah.

I cannot urge upon you too strongly the propriety of having this area set aside and developed by the government as a public play ground. It is wonderful. It is easily accessible by automobile, and the cost of a short strip of road would be very little.

For details of the whole situation on the ground I suggest you communicate with Mr. Eliason at Moroni. He is familiar with all phases of the matter. I am sure that he and all the residents of Sanpete and adjoining counties will help in the matter and will greatly appreciate whatever you can do.

I suppose a bill in Congress setting the area aside as a national monument will be necessary. However, you will know how to go about it.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) Frederick C. Loafbrouow

FCL:LL

FREDERICK C. LOOFBOUROW  
Attorney and Counselor at Law  
Kearns Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

August 9, 1929.

Hon. Don B. Colton,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Last Sunday, under the guidance of Mr. B. F. Eliason, of Moroni, I visited Maple Canyon in Sanpete County.

The Box Canyon that is a tributary of Maple Canyon, about three quarters of a mile from its opening into the valley is one of the most impressive and weird sights in southern Utah. We did not go as high in the main canyon as the natural bridge so I cannot comment upon that.

The canyon is quite accessible. It is about six miles off the main highway and is about midway between Salt Lake City and Bryce Canyon. The nearest town is Moroni, and from that point to the mouth of Maple Canyon there is a good country road. From the mouth of Maple Canyon to the point where the Box Canyon comes in the distance is about three quarters of a mile, and about the same distance beyond the Box Canyon are the forks where the Black Hawk War Veterans held their reunion in 1908. At ~~about~~ that time about three thousand persons camped there for three days. The water is splendid and the camping places are very good.

There is no wagon road in Maple Canyon but one can easily be made. In the Box Canyon, which is about two miles long, a road can never be made. This part of the canyon must always be visited on foot or on horseback, and the trail must always be in the bed of the creek.

The canyon certainly ought to be set aside as a national park or national monument. It is so strange and weird, and so accessible to general travel that it ought, for public good, to be set aside by the national government and made available to the public as a play ground.

Maple Canyon, itself, is in a forest reserve, except a short distance at the lower end and across this strip a right-of-way for a road can be secured from the owner of the land at no expense. A small part of Box Canyon is in patented ground, but a re-conveyance to the government of thirty or forty acres would place the title to the whole area in the government.

Mr. B. F. Eliason and some of his friends at and near Moroni, several years ago, had this area surveyed and platted. They intended at that time to have the state take the land over as a state park, but this has fallen through. In fact, I do not know of a single state park that has been established in Utah.

I cannot urge upon you too strongly the propriety of having this area set aside and developed by the government as a public play ground. It is wonderful. It is easily accessible by automobile, and the cost of a short strip of road would be very little.

For details of the whole situation on the ground I suggest you communicate with Mr. Eliason at Moroni. He is familiar with all phases of the matter. I am sure that he and all the residents of Sanpete and adjoining counties will help in the matter and will greatly appreciate whatever you can do.

I suppose a bill in Congress setting the area aside as a national monument will be necessary. However, you will know how to go about it.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

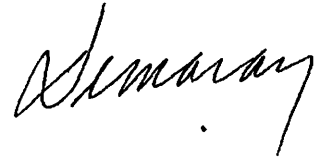
Very truly yours,

(Sgd) Frederick C. Loofbourow

FCL:LL

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON



Mr. E. T. Scoyen,  
Superintendent,  
Zion National Park,  
Springdale, Utah.

Dear Mr. Scoyen:

Please note copies of attached correspondence with Congressman Don B. Colton, Chairman of the Public Landx Committee of the House relative to making an inspection and investigation of Maple Canyon in Sanpete County to determine its possibility for ~~national monument~~ purposes. At your first opportunity, I wish that you would visit this area and make a complete report thereon. It is suggested that you get in touch with Mr. B. F. Eliason of Moroni who is, apparently, fully familiar with the area.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

Director.

Inclosure 234683.

AED:ACH

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Summary*  
*[Handwritten notes and scribbles]*

Hon. Don B. Colton,  
House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Colton:

In reference to your personal call at my office today I am glad to advise you that I am directing Superintendent Scoyen of Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks to make a thorough investigation of Maple Canyon in Sanpete County to determine its possibility for national monument purposes. This is the matter brought to your attention by Mr. Frederick C. Loofbourow of Salt Lake City in his letter to you dated August 9. I am returning Mr. Loofbourow's letter to you herewith.

On receipt of report from Superintendent Scoyen, I will be glad to advise you further in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

Director.

Inclosure 234682.

AED:ACH

CC to Mr. Scoyen. *✓ Sent as inclosure Oct*



*Wm. L. Hayward*  
27 T-4



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ZION AND BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARKS  
UTAH

*W.L.H.*  
*W.L.H.*

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
P. O. ADDRESS:  
SPRINGDALE, UTAH

October 29, 1929

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.

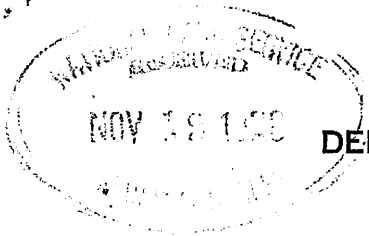
Dear Mr. Director:

The will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 18th in which you instruct me to investigate Maple Canyon in Sanpete County to determine the advisability of making the area a National Monument. I will proceed with this investigation shortly after the first of the month.

Sincerely Yours,

*E. T. Scovyn*  
E.T. Scovyn.  
Superintendent.

c Mr. Colton.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ZION AND BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARKS  
UTAH

*Handwritten:* ~~Mr. Allright~~  
~~Mr. DeMott~~  
~~Mr. [unclear]~~

*Handwritten:* RWT  
file  
225

*Handwritten:* Mat Campbell

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
P. O. ADDRESS:  
SPRINGDALE, UTAH

November 8, 1929

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Referring again to the question of correspondence relative to making a National Monument out of Maple and Box Canyons in Northern Utah, I wish to report the following.

The other day I had a conversation with Randall Jones who is a member of the State Park Commission. He informs me that as a member of this body he made a complete inspection of the canyon in question from the standpoint of the possibility of making it a State Park. It is his opinion that no purpose will be served by making a National Monument of the area as it is already in a National Forest and it was the opinion of the entire commission that nothing would be gained by changing its present status.

Due to the fact it will take me about 10 days to get the deficiency estimates in this park in shape, my trip to this area will be at a later date than the one I first gave you. However, I will proceed as soon as I can clear up some urgent work in this park. Meanwhile, the above is submitted as a progress report.

Sincerely Yours,

*Handwritten signature:* E. T. Scoyen

E. T. Scoyen.

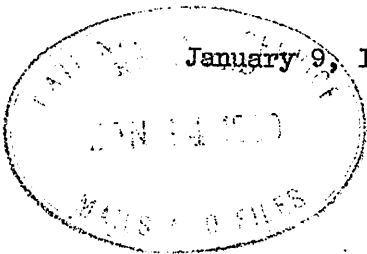
Superintendent.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ZION AND BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

UTAH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
P. O. ADDRESS:  
SPRINGDALE, UTAH

*Mr. C. Knight  
Mr. C. Anderson  
~~Mr. C. Anderson~~  
~~Mr. C. Anderson~~  
R. Knight*



The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Director:

The following is my report on my investigation of Maple Canyon a scenic spot near Moroni, Utah, to determine the advisability of making it a National Park or Monument.

Location

Maple Canyon is located six miles east of the little village of Moroni, Utah, which is about 100 miles south of Salt Lake City. The best route to follow is U.S. #91 to Nephi, and thence across the divide to the above place.

Ownership

The greater part of the main canyon is in the Uintah National Forest. The lower part, and practically all of the tributary gorge known as Box Canyon, is privately owned. Box canyon is the outstanding feature of the area.

Record of Inspection

I left Zion Park headquarters the night of December 1st and arrived at Nephi, Utah, the evening of the second. On the third I proceeded to Moroni, and attempted to find Mr. Eliason and Anderson, who Congressman Colton had asked me to see, but they were both out of town. However, I had noticed signs posted indicating the way to the canyon, so I thought I would go up and look around until I had chance to see these gentlemen.

For the greater part of the six miles the road was very good, although the last two miles were rather rough. Reaching the mouth of the canyon I found a crew of about 25 men and a half dozen teams at work building a road up the canyon. I found that the Lions Club of Moroni, and the county in which the town is located, were building a road up the canyon as far as the Forest Boundary. This is about two miles. From here the Forest

-2-

Service has agreed to take the road on up to the Forks of the canyon which is about another two miles up ~~the canyon~~. I later confirmed this information in an interview with forest officials.

As I proceeded up the gorge it was easy to see how the name came to be applied. The entire floor of the valley is covered with a thick growth of maple brush. At first there was nothing of unusual interest; but after walking about a mile there was a change in the rock formation. About this time I noticed a sign pointing to the right indicating the mouth of Box Canyon. However, I kept up the main gorge until I reached the forks. I then allotted myself a half hour to hike up the right hand fork, and, after returning, took the same time going up the left fork. I also spent 15 minutes ascending a fork which came in from the left a little lower down. On the down trip I walked up Box Canyon to its head. All told it was five hours from the time I left my car at the entrance to the canyon until I returned. As I practically headed out all the forks, I felt that I had covered the ground rather well.

### Scenic Features

I think the canyon walls run from 300 to 400 feet in height. They are cut up into a number of pinnacles, spires and grotesque shapes. However, from the scenic standpoint this display is rather feeble when compared to Bryce Canyon or Cedar Breaks.

The Box Canyon is one of the most interesting canyons I have ever been in. The floor is perhaps 20 feet wide and the walls on both sides go up straight from the creek bed unless they overhang. However, for narrowness, depth, or beauty it does not compare to several of the side canyons which enter Zion Canyon.

It may appear from the above that I was not greatly impressed with the area. However, the character of the rock formations in its walls make it one of the most interesting places I have ever been in. In structure it is a conglomerate composed of material ranging from grains of sand up to rocks the size of a man's head. I have never seen this form of rock as thick nor as even distributed over such a large area. The walls of Box Canyon are composed of it, and the way it has eroded is peculiar to say the least. This formation is the only thing which gives unusual character to this canyon. It alone saves the area from being an ordinary picnic ground, although it must be admitted that the Box Canyon is interesting, as is the Natural Bridge which I did not see. Any natural bridge is.

### Recommendations

On the way out I talked the problem over with Mr. Jacobs, the postmaster at Mt. Pleasant. Upon arrival in Salt Lake I also had a talk with Judge Loufburrow.

-3-

I found that the main ~~the~~ thing the people in the district are interested in is the building of a road up the canyon so that they can easily get up as far as "The Forks". It appears that this is already accomplished. As before stated the greater part of the area is in a National Forest. Officials of the Forest Service informed me that they are going to build their share of the road and declare the area a recreational area. They also intend to develop some camping facilities and improve the water supply.

In view of the fact that the area is not of National Park standard, and should not be considered for this status, I can see no reason for making any change at all. Making it a National Monument will not bring any additional appropriations, and the only logical thing to do will be to leave it under jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture even if so designated. The title National Monument has some advertising value; but this would be the sole gain from such a designation. The unusual rock formations offer the sole reason for giving it this distinction, and these may not be unusual to a trained geologist.

In talking with Judge Loufburrow, I gained the impression that he called this Mr. Colton's attention largely because of the inability of the people to get the funds to build the road. However, this seems to be settled, and I think everyone is satisfied with things as they stand.

With regard to the private property in the canyon, it appears that the owners are willing to deed the essential parts to any responsible party who will see that it is used for public benefit. In case the Forest Service remains in charge they ought to be the ones to attend to the details of such a transaction.

Sincerely Yours,

*E. T. Scoyen.*  
E. T. Scoyen.  
Superintendent.

*Copy for Mr. Colton is attached.*

*Photos attached are best I could get under the very unfavorable lighting conditions existing in an east-west canyon this time of the year.*

*Scoyen*

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Lucas  
Timoney*

JAN 13 1936

Hon. Don B. Colton,  
House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. Colton:

I am glad to transmit herewith for your information copy of a report, submitted by Superintendent Seeven of Zion National Park, on Maple Canyon, Utah.

Very truly yours,

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,  
Director.

Inclosure 38408  
H.M.-bit