



Historic Structures of Wayne County



3RD ANNUAL

ARTS AND THE PARK LIGHT ON THE REEF

JUNE 1 - JUNE 4, 2016

Sponsors: Entrada Institute, Inc., Capitol Reef National Park, Capitol Reef Natural History Association, Torrey Town, V. Douglas Snow Gallery, Utah Watercolor Society, 15 Bytes

Supporting Partners: Daniel Smith Watercolors, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Judson's Gluezilla Painter Supplies, Milligan Family Trust, Robbers Roost, The Broken Spur, The Saddlery, The Torrey Gallery, Utah Travel and Tourism, Utrecht / Blick Art Supplies, Wayne County Economic Development



Historic Structures of Wayne County

Fremont

- 1 The Fremont Rock Church House
- 2 First Public Building
- 3 Worthen's Store

Loa

- 4 Fremont Irrigation Office Building
- 5 First Wayne Stake Tithing Building

Bicknell

- 6 Relief Society Hall
- 7 Nielson Grist Mill

Teasdale

- 8 First Public Building
- 9 Teasdale Cultural Hall

Torrey

- 10 Torrey Log School & Church
- 19 Torrey Schoolhouse B&B Inn

Capitol Reef National Park

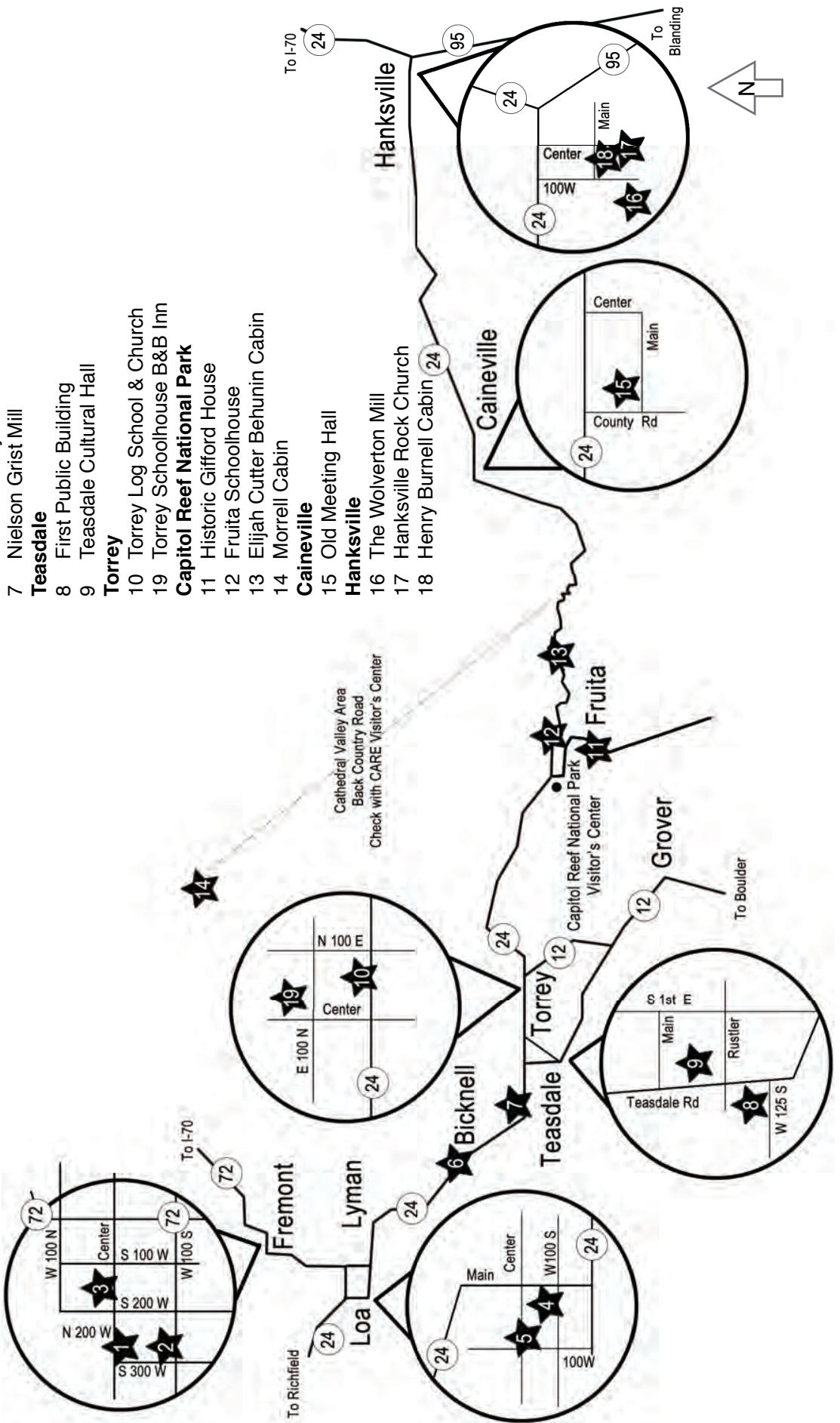
- 11 Historic Gifford House
- 12 Fruita Schoolhouse
- 13 Elijah Cutter Behunin Cabin
- 14 Morrell Cabin

Caineville

- 15 Old Meeting Hall

Hanksville

- 16 The Wolverton Mill
- 17 Hanksville Rock Church
- 18 Henry Burnell Cabin



The following pages contain photographs and information about historic structures of Wayne County, Utah. Photos were taken by Annette Lamb and Larry Johnson (2016).



1

The Fremont Rock Church House (Fremont)

Work on this rock building began in 1902. The black rock was quarried in the basin behind the big ledges above Fremont. The building was constructed to the square in 1904 by rock masons, George F.F. Albrecht and his sons, John, Henry, and Charlie. Frank Morrell mixed all the mortar of burned lime and sand. The LDS church wanted the structure built higher, so Bishop Heitt Maxfield, Wm. Charles Jenson, and Albert Shiner added four more feet of rock. John Hector and Frank Brown were the carpenters, and George Morrell and Charles Ellett hauled the hardwood flooring in wagons from Salt Lake. Benches were constructed by Jerry Jackson. The building was dedicated in 1907. This building served the people of Fremont for church meetings, plays, dances, weddings, funerals, elections, and other civic gatherings for over half of the 20th Century. On April 1, 1974, the LDS Church sold the building to Camp Geyser of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers for \$500. - *Daughters of Utah Pioneers*



2

First Public Building (Fremont)

In the year 1879 William Wilson Morrell and William Taylor erected this structure, the first public building in Wayne County. It was 20x30 feet, built of logs, and used by the people of Fremont community as a church, school house, and public meeting place. Years later it was moved to the site of the new school house on the public square and used only for church purposes. In 1894, the building was again moved to its present location, plastered, painted, and covered with siding, it is the home of the Relief Society. - *Daughters of Utah Pioneers*



Worthen's Store (Fremont)

The most successful merchant in Fremont was probably J. Worthen Jackson. The building that housed Worthen's Merc is one of the most distinctive structures remaining in Wayne County. The exterior of the store is said to incorporate some "10,000 stones from different parts of the country". The building is preserved by family members. - *History of Wayne County, Chpt 4*



Fremont Irrigation Office Building (Loa)

This black rock building was purchased from I. E. Wax in 1931 for the sum of \$350 to house the offices of the Fremont Irrigation Company. The minutes of a meeting, held February 7, 1931, recorded this transaction. Until the building was sold to the Fremont Irrigation Company, it was used by the Loa Co-op store and Mr. Wax. It is believed that the building was constructed about 1912 by Henry Albrecht, a prominent rock mason during the settlement of the Fremont River Valley. - *Daughters of the Utah Pioneers*



5

First Wayne Stake Tithing (Loa)

Built in 1897 at a cost of @1000 by Peter Christensen who fired the brick in a kiln between Lyman and Horse Valley Ranch. Benjamin F. Brown carved the wood decorations. Used only for tithing office as long as offerings were paid in produce, it then became the Wayne Stake Presidential Office. Now owned by Daughters of Utah Pioneers, where pioneer relics are displayed and meetings held. - *Daughters of the Utah Pioneers*



6

Relief Society Hall (Bicknell)

Built by the women of Thurber under the leadership of Sarah Gardner Meeks, President; Mary H. Bullard, 1st Counsellor; Eliza Jane Brinkeroff; Amanda Haws Durfey, 2nd Counsellors; Voila Cutler Brinkerhoff, Secretary; Mary A. Gardner, Asst. Secretary; Mellissa Meeks Snow, Treasurer. Building began June 1, 1897 when the town was moved to its present location completed September 10, 1899 and dedicated by President Willis E. Robinson. - *Daughters of Utah Pioneers*



7

The Nielson Grist Mill (Bicknell-Teasdale)

The mill is located on Highway 24 between Teasdale and Bicknell. The original mill was built in 1883 of logs and burrstones, by Hans Peter Nielson, a Danish miller who came to Utah in 1863. Between 1883 and 1890 the mill burned down and was rebuilt in 1890. In 1910 the mill was remodeled and very modern equipment was installed. There are 16 elevators, and five reels for flour milling. The dust collector, a water power driven turbine with belting on pulleys made from native wood, a Howe wheat buying scale and a scale for packing flour all added to a fully functioning mill. The mill closed about 1935. Gristmills once were common in Utah communities with populations of more than 500 people. They were the places families went to have their wheat ground into flour. The Nielson mill is the only mill in Utah that still has its original water-powered workings. Water for the mill was diverted by a flume from the Fremont River. The Wayne County Daughters of the Utah Pioneers have constructed a monument with a turn-out east of the Nielson Grist Mill. - *Capitol Reef County (website)*



8

First Public Building (Teasdale)

In 1882 the first settlers came to Teasdale formerly called Bullberry. In 1885 land was purchased by the L.D.S. church for \$9.99 upon which they built the first public building in the settlement. George Coleman was the first presiding elder and later bishop. A building 20 feet by 30 feet was constructed of sawed laws and a large fire place was built in the west end. The cost of the building was \$323.86 contributed in cash, labor, and grain. David C. Adams, Daniel Allen, and Sylvester Williams were the building committee for many years it served the community for church, recreation, and school purposes. - *Daughters of the Utah Pioneers*



Teasdale Cultural Hall (Teasdale)

Built in 1917 using local red rock, the roof is modeled after the Salt Lake Tabernacle.



Torrey Log School & Church (Torrey)

The LDS meeting house was established on September 18, 1898. The one room log structure, twenty-one by thirty-seven feet in plan, was constructed with the local settlers furnishing labor, cash or materials. Logs were cut and hauled, shingles supplied by a local mill, the doors and windows were donated. On the night the doors and windows were installed in the building, in order to celebrate the event, the people of Torrey and surrounding ranches spent the night dancing to violin and accordion music. According to local legend, "When dances were held in the log meeting house, it was necessary for the men to take turns in dancing. So when a man bought a ticket, he was given a number, and the floor manager would call, "Numbers one to ten fill the floor for a waltz," then later, "Ten to twenty fill the floor." By November 1898, the building was completed and proceeds from the public dances then went to purchase the bell for the tower. The building began another life as a school in December 1898. Prior to state aid, the teachers were hired and paid by the parents. Students attended class for five months each year. When state revenue came to the school in 1910, the school year was extended to seven months. Early makeshift desks and chairs were slowly replaced by individual desks with ink wells. Slates were replaced by blackboards and paper. As the town of Torrey grew, the log church/school house was no longer adequate. For decades, it was used for meetings of the Relief Society, as an extra church classroom, for voting and for meetings of the local Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Few unaltered examples of log construction remain in Utah that were designed for multiple use. The continued use of this early, initial phase type meeting house is uncommon. - *Adapted from Capitol Reef Country (website)*



11

Historic Gifford (Fruita, Capitol Reef National Park)

As part of the park's historic district of Fruita, the Gifford House depicts the typical spartan nature of rural Utah farm homes of the early 1900's. The house was initially constructed by Calvin Pendleton in 1908. He and his family occupied it for eight years. The second residents of the home, the Jorgen Jorgenson family, lived there from 1916 until 1928. Jorgenson sold the homestead to his son-in-law, Dewey Gifford in 1928. The Gifford family resided there for 41 years. Dewey and his wife, Nell, were the last private residents to live in what is now a national park. The Gifford Homestead lies in the heart of Fruita Rural Historic District. Recognition of this significant rural cultural landscape (composed of approximately 200 acres within Fruita Valley) is growing and as a result, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, the Capitol Reef Natural History Association, in collaboration with the National Park Service, operates the Gifford House as a museum, cultural demonstration site and sales outlet to increase visitor awareness of the Fruita settlements. The homestead includes a seven room house, barn, smokehouse, garden, pasture, and rock walls. It was opened to the public in June 1996. - *Capitol Reef Country (website)*



12

Fruita Schoolhouse (Fruita, Capitol Reef National Park)

The Fruita Schoolhouse is located in Fruita, Utah. The Behunin family, early settlers of the Capitol Reef area, donated the land in 1892. For over a decade the school had a dirt roof and in 1935 the bare walls were chinked in. Elijah Cutler Behunin donated the land for the school and his daughter, Nettie Behunin, was the school's first teacher. In 1895 the school became part of the Junction School Precinct and remained a functional grade school until 1941. From 1941 until its induction into the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1973, the building was unoccupied. - *National Register of Historic Places*



13

Elijah Cutler Behunin Cabin (Capitol Reef National Park)

The Elijah Cutler Behunin Cabin was built to house Elijah Cutler Behunin's family in 1883-84 in what is now Capitol Reef National Park in Utah. The Behunins lived there for only a year, leaving for Fruita after a flood threatened the house and its fields. The one story sandstone structure measures 13 feet (4.0 m) by 16.5 feet (5.0 m), with a single room. The walls are sandstone covered with a plaster-cement wash. The roof structure is wood, covered with wood sheathing and bentonite clay. The cabin was renovated in the 1960s by the National Park Service and represents the most intact example of a settler cabin in Capitol Reef National Park. The Behunin cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1999. - *National Register of Historic Places*



14

Morrell Cabin (Cathedral Valley, Capitol Reef National Park)

The Morrell Cabin was originally built by Paul Christensen in the 1920's on Thousand Lake Mountain. It was used as a summer logging camp. The cabin was moved to its present location in Cathedral Valley by Lesley Morrell sometime in the 1930's. Locally known as Les's cabin, it was used as a cowboy line camp and kept furnished and stocked, open to all who needed a bunk or a meal. This tradition ended in 1970 when the National Park Service purchased the property. With a rugged backdrop of painted badlands and the complete isolation of Cathedral Valley, one gets the feeling of stepping back in time. Visitors to the cabin have left mementoes, artifacts and poetry, a shrine to loneliness and solitude or maybe out of respect for a bygone era. Maybe for the dusty cowboy or weary traveler who needed shelter and a plate of beans before continuing on his way. - *Capitol Reef Country (website)*



Old Meeting Hall (Caineville)

15



The Wolverton Mill (Hanksville)

16

Shortly after the turn of the century, Edwin Thatcher Wolverton, a mining engineer from Maine, came to Utah to look for gold in the Henry Mountains. For 12 long years he searched for Spanish mines and even filed several claims. Wolverton built the mill to process the ore he anticipated mining - and the mill did in fact process some ore, but not much. Wolverton abandoned the mill in 1929. The BLM relocated and reconstructed the mill in one of the largest historic preservation projects the organization ever attempted. The restored mill can be found in the southwest corner of Hanksville, behind the BLM office. The Wolverton Mill is truly a unique creation because it combined the functions of wood cutting and ore crushing.

- *Capitol Reef Country (website)*



17

Hanksville Rock Church (Hanksville)

This buff-colored rock building was constructed by Franz J. Weber, rock mason. It is believed that John G. Esker, a church official in 1919, and others helped Mr. Weber with the rock work. The rocks were hauled in wagons by men of the community. The building was probably completed in 1920. Don McDougell and Clive Mecham laid the hardwood floor and constructed benches. A stage was built in the west end of the building with a bell tower over the east double doors. The bell was rung 15 minutes before meetings began. Wood burning stoves heated the building. Although the building was owned by the LDS Church and used for church meetings, it was also used for weddings, dances, plays, socials, and civic meetings until 1959. The church deeded the building to the Hanksville Canal company, who gave it to Wayne County, who returned it to Hanksville Town when it was incorporated in 1999. This building is listed on the register of the Utah State Historical Society. - *Daughter of Utah Pioneers*



18

Henry Burnell Cabin (Hanksville)

Moved from nearby to a position next to the Hanksville Rock Church, this was one of the first cabins in Hanksville.



19

Torrey Schoolhouse B&B Inn (Torrey)

The Torrey pioneer schoolhouse was built in 1914-1916 housing K-8 students and functioning as an event center for Friday night boxing and Saturday night dances until closing in 1955. It was renovated in 2004.