

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area

Other names/site number: Alpenbuck Loop Climbing Area; 42SL968

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 4385 Little Cottonwood Canyon Road

City or town: Sandy State: UT County: Salt Lake

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

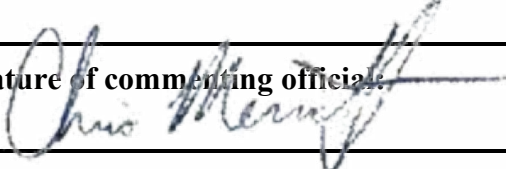
In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

	Jeffrey Rust, Regional Heritage Program Manager
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region</u>	<u>June 27, 2024</u>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
1/26/2024	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
	Utah State Historic Preservation Office
<b>Title:</b> SHPO	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul R. Lusignan  
Signature of the Keeper

08/05/2024  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object



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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### **Summary Paragraph**

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* site is located in Little Cottonwood Canyon in Utah's Wasatch Mountain range, approximately 21 miles from Salt Lake City within Salt Lake County. Rock within the canyon is varied, from granite to quartzite to limestone, with peaks reaching 11,000 feet. Granite, which is most prolifically found within the site, provides geometric joint patterns which, for climbers, affords predictability in surface quality leading to more confident moves. Climbing takes place on faces as well as in cracks.

The site is on the north slope of lower Little Cottonwood Canyon and can be divided into an upper half for vertical climbing, and a lower half for boulder climbing or bouldering. The upper half of the site includes nine vertical climbing sites composed of 20 routes that range from 5.6 to 5.12a/b on the Yosemite Decimal System. The lower half of the site is composed of nine bouldering areas that range from V0-V12 in difficulty rating on the V Scale. There are a total of 17 Contributing features and four noncontributing features within the site boundary. The breakdown of Contributing features includes six climbing locations, nine bouldering locations, and two trail segments. Noncontributing features include three climbing locations and one trail segment.

Trails to the climbing locations are provided through the Alpenbock Loop Trail network. The main access trail within the Alpenbock Loop and within the site runs parallel to SR-210 and once served as a graded land support for a water pipeline and is a contributing resource. Concrete and metal remnants from the pipeline remain along the trail and scattered in the nearby vegetation. Most of the original social trails utilized by early climbers have been improved by the Forest Service and Salt Lake Climbers Alliance in the last 30 years. However, the original social trail from shoulder parking on SR-210 is extant and a contributing resource. New sections of trail are considered non-contributing resources. "Viewsheds to and particularly from the district are components of the historic setting, and the feeling of an open and natural area with some development remains relatively unchanged."<sup>1</sup> The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* retains excellent integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, and association with the period of significance (1962-1974). As the site is all natural features, workmanship does not necessarily apply.

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<sup>1</sup> Utah Department of Transportation. 2022. "Final Environmental Impact Statement and Sections 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation for Little Cottonwood Canyon." Final EIS, 118. <https://littlecottonwoodeis.udot.utah.gov/final-eis/>.

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## Narrative Description

### Geography/Geology

Little Cottonwood Canyon is located within Utah's Wasatch Mountain range, which straddles the Rocky Mountain and the Basin and Range provinces.<sup>2</sup> Access to the canyon is via State Route (SR) 210, a two-lane highway, which was designated as a Utah Scenic Byway in 1990.<sup>3</sup> It is located approximately 21 miles from Salt Lake City, the state's capital and most populous city, within the city limits of Sandy, Utah. The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* is located on the north slope of the canyon (Photograph 3) between mile posts 3.5 and 6.0.

Little Cottonwood Canyon is a glacially carved U-shaped valley (Photograph 1) at a base elevation of 5,374 feet, rising to an elevation of 8,720 feet at the end of SR-210 above Alta Ski Resort. The glacier that sat within Albion Basin at the top of the canyon drifted and carried massive boulders down, carving canyon walls as it receded.<sup>4</sup> Surrounding the valley are 11,000-foot-high granite peaks and numerous areas for backcountry skiing, hiking, camping and climbing.<sup>5</sup> Vegetation surrounding the site includes Gambel (scrub) Oak (*Quercus gambelii*), Rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) and smaller amounts of other wildflowers and small bushes (Photograph 4).<sup>6</sup>

Rock within the canyon is varied, from granite to quartzite to limestone. But it is white granite – officially quartz monzonite – that grounds Little Cottonwood Canyon climbing in its traditions. Quartz monzonite contains less quartz than true granite, resulting in granular fracturing. It is similar to granite found in Yosemite National Park.<sup>7</sup> Two geologic processes create the unique rock that attracted climbers to the cliffs of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Protrusions of harder rock, more resistant to weathering and erosion, commonly called “chickenheads,” populate the rock faces. A second process formed by “cooling joints” created crack systems running up the cliff faces.<sup>8</sup>

Granite provides geometric joint patterns, creating crack systems that allow climbers to ascend rock walls while placing protective equipment. Friction quality is also a positive factor of granite, as weathering changes rock very little other than continued geometric exfoliation. A

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<sup>2</sup> Wilson, Ted. Utah's Wasatch Front. Utah Geographic Series; No.4. 1987, 22.

<sup>3</sup> Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Committee (2008), 5.

<sup>4</sup> Troutman, Greg. 2015. “Vertical Progression of the Wasatch.” Utah Adventure Journal. <https://utahadvjournal.com/index.php/vertical-progression-of-the-wasatch>.

<sup>5</sup> Ruckman, Stuart, and Bret Ruckman. 2003. *Rock Climbing the Wasatch Range*. Guilford, Connecticut: Globe Pequot/Falcon Guides, 29.

<sup>6</sup> Krussow, Lisa. 2022. *Third Addendum for the Class III Archaeological Inventory for the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement, Salt Lake County, Utah*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah Division of State History, 2.

<sup>7</sup> Troutman 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Smith, Nathan K., Andrew Burr, and Tyler Phillips. 2016. *A Granite Guide: Ferguson to Lone Peak*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Pull Publishing, 38.

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climber can analyze a granite route and know in advance how to approach it, where the challenges will occur, and what techniques will be required.<sup>9</sup>

From the ground, cliffs appear to be modest at a low angle. But as you get closer, the routes grow in size and steepness. “The district is located among the steep granite slabs, buttresses and gulleys [sic] that form the canyon wall. The depositional context is predominately colluvium, with some scree/talus areas. The buttresses and slabs are impacted by residual and alluvium processes.”<sup>10</sup>

Climbing takes place on faces as well as in cracks. While climbing is possible year-round in Little Cottonwood Canyon, the peak climbing seasons are spring and fall. Exposed granite warms quickly in direct sunlight, making winter climbing possible on many south facing routes during warm winter days. Inversely, climbers will seek out shaded walls and or higher elevations to climb during the hotter summer months.<sup>11</sup> The bouldering rocks are also granite, grainy on the problems that get little traffic. Some of the boulders have blasting marks of heavy machinery, patina from the quarrying done to build the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As described in *Stone Crusade*, “These holes make for amusing problems up the sharp arêtes with which they are associated. The unblasted boulders tend to be rounded and weathered.”<sup>12</sup>

The viewshed of Lower Cottonwood Canyon has been an evolving landscape since granite quarrying began in the 1860s. The first railroad up the canyon was built in 1873 with the purpose to haul ore from the mines at Alta and granite from the quarry. That line was modernized several times and operated through 1918.<sup>13</sup> Alongside the rail line was a rudimentary road for wagons and later, automobiles. A grit mill (demolished 2017) was operating by 1953 along the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon Road and south of the site, outside the boundary. Therefore, the early character was natural and industrial. Outside the period of significance, two parking lots were constructed on the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon Road and subdivision development to the south have impacted the natural viewshed.

However, the viewshed mattered to climbers historically. While climbing is first and foremost about the journey to the top, it’s also the view at the top that is as much a part of the climb as the climb itself. Little Cottonwood Canyon has been no exception (Photograph 5). “Viewsheds to and particularly from the site are components of the historic setting, and the feeling of an open and natural area with some development remains relatively unchanged. Taken together, these elements of integrity enable this site to convey its association with historic climbing in Little Cottonwood Canyon.”<sup>14</sup> “And then there’s the breathtaking scenery: soaring granite walls and

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<sup>9</sup> Mellor 2001, 138.

<sup>10</sup> Krussow 2022, 2.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Sherman, John. 1997. *Stone Crusade: A Historical Guide to Bouldering in America*. Golden, Colorado: The American Alpine Club Press, 175.

<sup>13</sup> “Salt Lake & Alta Railroad (1913-1917).” 2019. UtahRails.net. <https://utahrails.net/utahrails/salt-lake-alta.php>.

<sup>14</sup> Utah Department of Transportation 2022, 118.

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long views both up and down the canyon and into the Salt Lake Valley.”<sup>15</sup> “The viewsheds allow modern visitors and climbers to understand the dramatic natural environment in which the climbs were developed and the experience of climbers in earlier decades.”<sup>16</sup> When climber Larry Love recounted his feelings getting to the top of a route he said, “One, that we made it, and we’re still breathing. Just the great feeling of having a friend there with me and the view.”<sup>17</sup>

### Contributing Features

For the purposes of this nomination, the classification of resources are described as areas and locations, of which there are three types. Type one is a vertical climbing location. This includes a climbing area that has at least one documented climbing route and a base. Type two is a bouldering location. This includes one or multiple boulders within an area that has a small geographic proximity to each other in order to be defined as an area. Type three is trails. The trails are contiguous pathways that connect climbing and bouldering sites and have varying segment widths and lengths.

Vertical routes typically require the use of ropes and protective equipment and can reach heights of dozens or hundreds of feet. Climbers ascend these routes in pairs or teams, belaying each other up the rock, and descend either by rappelling or walking off on side trails. On the other hand, bouldering "problems" are much shorter in height and therefore do not require ropes. Typically, climbers can safely descend by jumping back down to the ground or walking off a side that may be level to the uphill side of the boulder. While bouldering requires far less equipment, modern boulderers began to use portable padding (called crash pads) on the ground to increase safety and soften falls.

The site can be divided into an upper half – where vertical climbing is predominantly located – and a lower half – where boulder climbing or bouldering is predominant. The upper (north) half of the site includes nine vertical climbing locations composed of 20 routes that range from 5.6 to 5.12a/b on the Yosemite Decimal System.<sup>18</sup> The nine locations are (in alphabetical order): Bong Eater Buttress, Burner Buttress (Photograph 31), Crescent Crack Buttress (Photographs 32-36), Dragon Arch, The Egg (Photograph 45), Hong Wall/The Keel, Memorial Day Buttress, The Sail (Photograph 40) and Ultralite Flight. [See Figure 2 for site and route details] Within the rock, one can occasionally find old pitons, bolts and permanent anchors. Additionally, some crack systems will have piton or pin “scars,” small widenings of the crack from where a piton was placed and then removed. These piton scars are considered features of the climbing route and

<sup>15</sup> Fields 2021.

<sup>16</sup> Krussow 2022, 25.

<sup>17</sup> Love, Larry. 2007. “Larry Love,” An Interview by Erik Solberg. In *Everett L. Cooley Collection, Outdoor Recreation Oral History Project: Climbing U-1822*. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah, 33. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6xh18jx>

<sup>18</sup> The Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) is the nationally recognized grading system in the United States. It evolved from the Sierra Club grading system of the 1930s. It was developed in the 1950s at Tahquitz Rock in southern California in the 1950s and quickly spread to Canada and other western hemisphere countries. The YDS has evolved over the decades to include further information on length of route, protection ratings, and aid climbing ratings. “Yosemite Decimal System (YDS).” 2022. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yosemite\\_Decimal\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yosemite_Decimal_System).

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often allow climbers to fit their fingers into smaller cracks. The grading in Little Cottonwood Canyon is thought to be stiff, meaning that, for example a 5.10a in Idaho’s City of Rocks (where grading is softer generally) will be easier than a 5.10a in Little Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>19</sup>

The lower site can be divided into nine locations for bouldering (in alphabetical order): Cabbage Patch Roadside East, Cabbage Patch Roadside West, Cabbage Patch Uphill Boulders (Photograph 24), Secret Garden Center, Secret Garden East, Secret Garden North, Secret Garden South, Secret Garden West (Photograph 14), and Outlying Boulders (those found outside the two named areas). The Secret Garden is located north of (above) and south of (below) the pipeline trail and about 100 feet from SR-210. The Cabbage Patch is also located above and below the pipeline trail adjacent to SR-210 and encircled by a grove of maple and oak trees. The Outlying Boulders site is located adjacent to the Little Cottonwood Canyon Parking Lot (Photographs 11-13). The range of bouldering difficulty throughout the lower site is from V0-V12.<sup>20</sup>

Figure 1. LCCCA Contributing and Noncontributing features.

Contributing Features	Noncontributing Features
<b>Bouldering Locations</b>	<b>Climbing Locations (3)</b>
Cabbage Patch Roadside East	Burner Buttress
Cabbage Patch Roadside West	Hong Wall/The Keel
Cabbage Patch Uphill Boulders	Ultralite Flight
Outlying Boulders	<b>Trails (1)</b>
Secret Garden Center	Alpenbock Loop Trail
Secret Garden East	
Secret Garden North	
Secret Garden South	
Secret Garden West	
<b>Climbing Sites</b>	
Bong Eater Buttress	
Dragon Arch	
Memorial Day Buttress	
Mexican Crack Buttress	
The Egg	
The Sail Face	
<b>Trails (2)</b>	
SR 210 climbing access trail	
Pipeline trail	

<sup>19</sup> Irvine, Bob. 2009. “Bob Irvine,” An Interview by Matt Driscoll. In *Everett L. Cooley Collection, Outdoor Recreation Oral History Project U-2010*. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah, 15. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6w39dqd>

<sup>20</sup> The system of rating for bouldering is named after John “Vermin” Sherman who devised a system to rate routes while climbing in the Hueco Tanks bouldering area of Texas. It is referred to as the V Scale and encompasses a range from VO (easiest) to V17 (hardest). There is also a VB rating for beginners and it is an open-ended system that could be added to. Occasionally a + or – are added to further distinguish a level within the same rating. “Grade (bouldering).” 2022. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grade\\_\(bouldering\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grade_(bouldering)).



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Figure 2. LCCCA Contributing vertical climbing locations, routes, accomplishments & grades.<sup>21</sup>

Climbing Locations (# routes at each site)	FA Date	FA Name 1	FA Name 2	FA Name 3	FFA Date	FFA Name 1	FFA Name 2	Grade	Length
<b>Bong Eater Buttress (1)</b>									
Bong Eater	1964	Warren Marshall	Lenny Nelson		1974	George Lowe	Pete Gibbs	5.10d	75 feet
<b>Dragon Arch (1)</b>									
Valentine Crack	1963	Rob Irvine	Rick Reese	Ted Wilson				5.8	260 feet
<b>Memorial Day Buttress (2)</b>									
Memorial Day Route	1970	Dave Boyd	Dennis Turville		1978			5.10d	310 feet
The Mouth	1970	George Lowe	Lenny Nelson					5.8	110 feet
<b>Mexican Crack Buttress (7)</b>									
Mexican Crack	1970	George Lowe	Pete Gibbs					5.10a	90 feet
Great Chockstone	1965	Larry Evans	Rich Ream	Dick Ream				5.7	210 feet
Lazarus	1965							5.8	250 feet
Crescent Crack	1963	Rick Reese	Ted Wilson	Mitt Hokanson	1963	Rick Reese	Jim Gaddis	5.7	300 feet
Ross Route	1968	Jeff Lowe	Larry Ross					5.11a	80 feet
The Coffin	1963	Court Richards	Jim Gully		1964	George Lowe	Mark McQuarrie	5.9	
The Coffin Wilson's Loss	1963								160 feet
<b>The Sail Face (3)</b>									
Bong Bong Firecracker	1964	Steve Elsworth	Mark McQuarrie					5.7	100 feet
Ream Crack	1963	Rich Ream	Dick Ream					5.7	100 feet
Wilson-Love Route	1962	Larry Love	Ted Wilson					5.8	110 feet
<b>The Egg (3)</b>									
Over Easy	1962	Ted Wilson	Curt Hawkins					5.6	
Lowe Blow	1968	George Lowe	Eric Elason					5.9	180 feet
Variety Delight	1962	Ted Wilson	Curt Hawkins					5.7	175 feet

<sup>21</sup> Sources: Salt Lake Climbers Alliance; Climbing and Mountaineering Collections, Special Collections, Marriott Library, University of Utah; Stuart and Bret Ruckman, Rock Climbing the Wasatch Range. FA is an acronym for first ascent; the first time a route is climbed, either free or on aid. FFA is first free ascent; this is the first ascent of a climb previously established with the use of aid. Climbers will often return to climbs to “free” them, using only hands and feet to climb. These are often climbs that were originally too physically difficult to climb without the aid of pitons, ladders, and ropes.

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Figure 3. LCCCAHD contributing bouldering areas, individual locations, routes, and grades.<sup>22</sup>

Bouldering Area (# of routes)	Grade Range	Bouldering Area (# of routes)	Grade Range
<b>Secret Garden West</b>		<b>Secret Garden North</b>	
Goldy (10)	V0-V4	Number 5 (2)	V0-V2
She Could (2)	V2-V5	Cartoon (3)	V3-V8
Beercan Cave (7)	V0-V10	Short Crack (1)	V3
Offwidth (3)	V0-V4	Crystal Vein (3)	V2-V8
Animal Dreams (3)	V3-V5	Dan's Slab (3)	V2-V5
Paul's Traverse (1)	V1	Sunset Arete (2)	V0-V10
St. Nick (3)	V1-V9	Flying J (4)	V0-V7
Her Mouth (1)	V1	<b>Cabbage Patch Roadside West</b>	
Taffy Pile (1)	V2	Tiger Snake (4)	V0-V9
<b>Secret Garden South</b>		Jugathon (3)	V1-V2
Stepson (3)	V0-V4	Baggins (8)	V3-V12
All Thumbs (12)	V0-V10	Tom's Problem (5)	V4-V8
Copperhead (13)	V0-V11	Prof. Maisch (1)	V11
Shothole (4)	V1-V8	Cracker (1)	V4
Shorty (1)	V1	<b>Cabbage Patch Roadside East</b>	
<b>Secret Garden Center</b>		Fat Albert (14)	V2-V8
The Salathe (8)	V1-V5	Brake (3)	V1-V2
Paradise Lost (2)	V2	Double Dyno (4)	V1-V3
Water Color (4)	V2-V6	Boone's Bane Boulders (5)	V2-V5
Gumdrop (1)	V1	Deadly Traverse (2)	V3
One Mover (1)	V3	Lyme Disease (2)	V5-V10
Oh Louie (3)	V1-V3	I Kill Children (2)	V0-V2
The Block (8)	V1-V8	<b>Cabbage Patch Uphill Boulders</b>	
Tiger Stripe (14)	V0-V11	High Five (6)	V1-V4
<b>Secret Garden East</b>		See Me (4)	V1-V5
Fat Grips (4)	V5-V10	Top Rope Boulder (2)	V1-V7
King Diamond (3)	V0-V6	Chicken Love (2)	V2
El Rampez (5)	V1-V3	Chicken Project (2)	V1-V7
Tower 1 (5)	V1-V5	Cracked Egg (1)	V5
Tower 2 (7)	V1-V7	Rash (1)	V2
Tower 3 (1)	V0	<b>Outlying Boulders</b>	
Tower 4 (2)	V1	Bathroom Boulder (1)	V5
		Parking Lot West (4)	V1-V4

<sup>22</sup> Sources: "Bouldering in Cabbage Patch, Little Cottonwood Canyon." 2022. Mountain Project.; "Bouldering in Secret Garden, Little Cottonwood Canyon." 2022. Mountain Project; Fisher, Nathan. 2022. "Bouldering in Parking Lot Area, Little Cottonwood Canyon." Mountain Project; Rozier, Tanner. 2019. LCC Bouldering Guidebook mobile application.

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### *Trails*

The main access trail within the site runs parallel to SR-210 and once served as a graded land support for a water pipeline in the nearby vegetation (Photographs 7, 8, 9, and 17). This trail is referred to as the Pipeline Trail and considered a Contributing feature within the site.

Climbers from the Alpenbock Club era (1958-1965) through the late 2000s accessed the base of climbing sites via a series of wildlife and social trails that required challenging hiking and bushwhacking through natural areas. The original social trail for climbing access from SR-210 is located between the two main bouldering areas and retains integrity (Photograph 6). The original social trail, which connects to the Pipeline Trail, is considered a Contributing feature within the site. For several decades, climbers would park on the shoulder of the road and access this trail directly. Some considered the “steep and loose social trails more challenging than the climbing routes they accessed.”<sup>23</sup> The trails became managed more directly by the Forest Service in the 1990s, though still modestly. Climbers are now required to park in one of two nearby parking lots and use the Alpenbock Loop Trail network.

Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, a local climbing advocacy organization, had its plan for a series of trails along a loop route approved by the Forest Service in 2012 and raised funds for construction with a primary source being the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation. Construction of the full Alpenbock Loop Trail network was completed in November 2020 and is considered a noncontributing feature within the site. Trails are built to Forest Service standards and are used by hikers, trail runners, as well as climbers year-round (Photograph 10). As of April 2021, the Alpenbock Loop Trail was the largest climbing access trail project completed on Forest Service Land in the U.S.<sup>24</sup> One site within the site continues to have no direct access trail – Memorial Day Buttress. This site is also farther from the parking lots, at approximately 1,500 feet in elevation gain.<sup>25</sup>

The main parking lot for the site is the Little Cottonwood Canyon Parking Lot at the bottom of the canyon on the north slope. However, a second option is also available in the Grit Mill Parking Lot, which is also located on the north slope of the canyon approximately 1½ miles east (up canyon) of the Little Cottonwood Canyon Parking Lot. The Grit Mill Parking Lot is not located within the site boundary. Wayfinding for the Alpenbock Loop Trail network is provided by maps mounted on wood signs at the parking lots, and standard Forest Service trail markers along the routes. Additionally, climbers use guidebooks and apps for wayfinding and navigation.

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<sup>23</sup> Fields, Melissa. 2021. “Dirt Baggers Done Good: Salt Lake Climbers Alliance.” Salt Lake Magazine. <https://www.saltlakemagazine.com/salt-lake-climbers-alliance/>.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Krussow 2022, 2.

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Noncontributing Features

There are a total of four noncontributing features within the site boundary. While there are two sections of trail that are considered contributing features, there is one section that is considered a noncontributing feature. The series of trails that compose the Alpenbock Loop Trail network were approved by the Forest Service in 2012 and completed during the next eight years. Therefore, sections of the newly constructed trail and climbing site access trails are considered out-of-period, noncontributing resources. While some of the new trails may follow historically used social trails, they were not well-documented historically and have lost integrity with new materials. There are three climbing areas within the site that are also noncontributing resources as they are out of period. These include Burner Buttress, Hong Wall/The Keel, and Ultralite Flite.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1962-1974

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1962

1965

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* site holds statewide significance under Criterion A as an excellent representation of a culturally significant site in the areas of Recreation and Social History in Salt Lake County, Utah. Significance is on a statewide level due to the intensity of climbing development as a recreational sport within the site in a relatively short frame of time, and that one group was responsible for that development – the Alpenbock Climbing Club. While non-technical climbing was happening on occasion by individuals elsewhere in the state before and during the period of significance, it was not well-informed by national trends for technique, safety, and equipment as it was by the Alpenbock Climbing Club during their time pioneering routes in the area and serving as the county’s first mountain search and rescue unit. The period of significance is 1962-1974, which encompasses the time period when Alpenbock Climbing Club members Ted Wilson and Larry Love established the first recorded climbing route in the site through to the time when route and technical climbing knowledge was passed person-to-person rather than through guidebooks and capturing the rise of the Leave No Trace movement in climbing, embraced and promoted by the Alpenbock Climbing Club, and winter/ice climbing led by George Lowe. In the Area of Entertainment/Recreation, the site is significant for its contributions to the pattern of early rock climbing and development of “classic” climbing routes, pioneering of hard-rock climbing technology and building local enthusiasm for climbing as an outdoors activity. The distinctive granite formations within the site remain unchanged since 1962 and share an interrelationship within a relatively small geographic area. In the Area of Social History, the site is significant for its association with the local Alpenbock Climbing Club and with individuals whose activities were critical in building the Utah climbing community and connecting with the national climbing community through recognized figures such as Yvon Chouinard, Royal Robbins, Fred Beckey, and Layton Kor.<sup>26</sup> These national figures helped give legitimacy to climbing in this area of Little Cottonwood Canyon, the Alpenbock Climbing Club as an entity, and helped spread international climbing culture. Notable locals were highly proficient, internationally experienced climbers, working search and rescue locally and in the Grand Tetons throughout the 1960s. The site’s climbing culture is based on the somewhat intangible values of feelings and personal association, but there is almost no other way to judge or weigh the merit of historical or cultural values in a naturally-occurring climbing area. All of the resources within the site retain a high degree of historic integrity in all seven aspects.

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A Significance: Entertainment/Recreation**

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* site is significant under Criterion A in the Area of Entertainment/Recreation for its contribution to the development of rock climbing as a recreational activity along the Wasatch Front and in Utah and is therefore significant at the statewide level. As a site, it derives its importance from the interrelationship between the thematically and functionally related climbing areas across distinctive granite formations, which remain unchanged since 1962, the beginning of the period of significance, when organized climbing and route-making was first established and recorded. Under Criterion A the site is significant for its association with the development of early hard-rock climbing technique, equipment, and support of the regional climbing community.<sup>27</sup> During this period many of the “classic” routes were established, new hard-rock climbing technology and technique, including on boulders, was developed, and local clubs expanded interest in the sport.<sup>28</sup>

**Early Climbing (Prior to the Period of Significance)**

The first rock climbing efforts occurred in the Wasatch Mountains in the 1930s but very little documentation exists of their activities. The Wasatch Mountain Club was climbing as early as 1939, and in 1942 started regular Thursday evening outings in Big Cottonwood Canyon (the next canyon north of Little Cottonwood Canyon) for teaching others and practicing.<sup>29</sup> The first Wasatch Mountain Club-documented technical climb was on the Grand Teton in Wyoming in 1936.<sup>30</sup> Early climbs by the Wasatch Mountain Club were done on Pete’s Rock in the late 1930s and continued through World War II.

O’Delle (Pete) Petersen, one of the local pioneers of the sport by 1941, was known as the “father of climbing” in the Salt Lake area.<sup>31</sup> Petersen climbed a rock outcropping off Wasatch Boulevard later known as “Pete’s Rock,” as well as in the Storm Mountain area of Big Cottonwood Canyon and was joined by the Wasatch Mountain Club, led by Alexis Kelner. Petersen led most of the early technical climbs around Salt Lake City, including a 1936 group climb of the Grand Teton. Harold Goodro may have been the first to climb in Little Cottonwood Canyon on the routes Hanging Slab and Super Slab, but he quickly returned to the blocky quartzite of Big Cottonwood

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<sup>27</sup> Utah Department of Transportation. 2022.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Smith, David R., and T.Q. Stevenson. 2020. “Wasatch Mountain Club Climbing & Mountaineering History.” *The Rambler* 99, no. 9 (September): 6.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>31</sup> *The Salt Lake Tribune*. 1941. “Mountain Goats Test Skill in S.L. Canyons.” September 21, 1941, 24. newspapers.com. Gottman, John W. 1979. *Wasatch Quartzite: A Guide to Quartzite Climbing in the Wasatch Mountains near Salt Lake City, Utah*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Wasatch Mountain Club, 10.



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Canyon.<sup>32</sup> His extensive climbing and teaching resume includes a legendary first ascent of Goodro's Wall (Big Cottonwood Canyon) in the late 1940s.<sup>33</sup> And he did it in cowboy boots.

Wasatch Mountain Club indicated that "a few of the members of the club formed a mountaineering section" in a 1947 newsletter. The club had been "mountaineering" since its inception in 1920, but had recently started using new equipment such as pitons and ropes with belay.<sup>34</sup> By the 1930s, the Wasatch Mountain Club began using ropes on climbs, dragging hemp lariats behind their cars to soften and smooth the ropes so that they would be easier to tie into knots.<sup>35</sup> The Ute Alpine Club at the University of Utah started in 1954, but they were also focused on climbing in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Unique to Utah, early hiking, mountaineering, and climbing had a strong outdoors connection through the Boy Scouts of America and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, a youth organization and official program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints<sup>36</sup> to assist young men between the ages of 12-18 in their growth and development.<sup>37</sup>

#### 1958-1965, Alpenbock Climbing Club Era

Little Cottonwood Canyon became one of Utah's first technical climbing areas – if not the very first – and attracted the emerging climbing community, both local and national, that were seeking climbing challenges in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Members of the Alpenbock Climbing Club made the earliest discoveries, attempts, and ascents of the area's granite.<sup>38</sup>

While first ascents and outstanding abilities of individual climbers hold their place in history, it was also the public education – slide shows, helpful equipment shops, and training sessions – that helped climbing grow in the state.<sup>39</sup> In addition, the Alpenbock looked up to those who served in the Tenth Mountain Division of World War II as icons because they understood terrain,

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<sup>32</sup> Gottman 1979, 11.

<sup>33</sup> Additional research needs to be conducted as to whether this was the first recorded ascent of a 5.10 lead in the United States. Ruckman & Ruckman 2003, 10.

<sup>34</sup> Smith and Stevenson 2020, 6.

<sup>35</sup> Gottman 1979, 11.

<sup>36</sup> This is the proper and preferred name for the Church, but the Church's style guide accepts historical use of "Mormon Pioneers" in contexts such as this and abbreviation simply as "the Church." For brevity in this document, both will be used, as well as simply "Pioneers," (capitalized throughout as a proper noun), "Mormons," "LDS," "LDS Church," and sometimes "members." No disrespect is meant to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in abbreviating, to any subsequent church in Salt Lake City, Utah, nor to other groups of pioneers who settled here or in other regions. This is simply a convenience where the meaning is not likely to be confused here.

<sup>37</sup> Springmeyer, Bob. 2007. "Bob Springmeyer, Salt Lake City, Utah: an interview by Erik Solberg." Everett L. Cooley Oral History Project. Salt Lake City, Utah: Special Collections, Marriott Library, University of Utah. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s68s6794>.

<sup>38</sup> Green, Stewart M. 1998. *Rock Climbing Utah*. Guilford, Connecticut: The Globe Pequot Press, 436.

<sup>39</sup> Ruckman & Ruckman 2003, 10; *The Salt Lake Tribune*. 1965. "Club Offers Safety Ideas To Aid Utah Climbers." July 16, 1965, 32. newspapers.com.

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mountaineering techniques, equipment, and rescue techniques.<sup>40</sup> Members of the Alpenbock used their unique climbing skills to aid in the mountain search and rescue efforts of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Jeep Patrol. In the early 1960s, members of the Alpenbock formed an auxiliary unit for the Salt Lake County Sheriff and held training sessions for mountain rescues.<sup>41</sup>

While there may have been some limited amount of climbing in Little Cottonwood Canyon prior to 1961 most likely on Goodro's Super Slab, these were undocumented and the early consensus was that the granite in the canyon was impossible.<sup>42</sup> Prior to 1961, the majority of Wasatch climbing was focused on the blocky quartzite cliffs of Big Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>43</sup> It was the members of the Alpenbock that revolutionized climbing in the Wasatch and opened up the possibility of climbing in Little Cottonwood Canyon. But this was a time when national climbing figures like Warren Harding, Royal Robbins, and Yvon Chouinard were exploring the granite big walls of Yosemite Valley, and it was Chouinard who played a direct role in pushing Salt Lake climbers to look to the walls of Little Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>44</sup> During a climbing and camping trip in Grand Teton National Park, Alpenbock member Ted Wilson began climbing with Chouinard and other Yosemite climbers. When the Yosemite climbers asked Wilson about the local climbing near Salt Lake, Wilson told them about climbing the quartzite in Big Cottonwood Canyon and mentioned that the granite in Little Cottonwood Canyon was too smooth. However, Chouinard and others encouraged Wilson to try the granite in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Chouinard even gave Wilson some of his own pitons made by the Swiss blacksmith John Salathé.<sup>45</sup> Wilson had taken a climbing lesson with Glenn Exum in Grand Teton in the summer of 1960 then met Yvon Chouinard in Grand Teton. Chouinard and Wilson started climbing the granite in Little Cottonwood Canyon that year. Wilson met up with the Alpenbock members when he returned to work at Grand Teton for a full summer in 1961.<sup>46</sup> Wilson returned to Little Cottonwood Canyon and put up the first route on granite – Chickenhead Holiday (outside the *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* site) – with Bob Stout in May 1961.<sup>47</sup>

What emerged was a different technique the Alpenbock called smearing,<sup>48</sup> instead of the edging technique used on quartzite or limestone where you use the edges of your boots.<sup>49</sup> This opened up the floodgates and other Alpenbock members began climbing the granite cliffs of Little

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<sup>40</sup> Reese 2008, 30.

<sup>41</sup> *The Salt Lake Tribune*. 1966. "Sheriff's Patrol, Auxiliary Climb Toward Perfection." May 15, 1966, 24. newspapers.com.

<sup>42</sup> Springmeyer 2022.

<sup>43</sup> Gottman 1979, 10.

<sup>44</sup> Taylor III, Joseph E. 2010. *Pilgrims of the Vertical*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

<sup>45</sup> "Ted Wilson, Salt Lake City, Utah: an interview by Matt Driscoll," Everett L. Cooley Oral History Project. Salt Lake City, Utah: Special Collections, Marriott Library, University of Utah. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6932p5m>.

<sup>46</sup> Wilson, June 2, 2011, 10-13.

<sup>47</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>48</sup> Smearing is a technique in friction climbing, using the bottom of a climbing shoe against low angle rock in the absence of good footholds.

<sup>49</sup> Reese 2008, 13.

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Cottonwood Canyon in full force. The three documented first ascents in the area happened in 1962 and included:

- The Sail Face/Wilson-Love Route (5.8) by Ted Wilson and Larry Love (Figure 4);<sup>50</sup>
- The Egg/Over Easy Route (5.6) by Ted Wilson and Curt Hawkins, Jr.;
- The Egg/Variety Delight Route (5.7) by Ted Wilson and Curt Hawkins, Jr.

Climbers documented new routes and first ascents nearly every year from 1962 through 1970 by keeping detailed records commonly referred to as “beta” today.<sup>51</sup> This documentation could include route lines, route descriptions and moves, and dates of attempts. These documents were collected into the Alpenbock Scrapbooks and serve as the basis for many of the climbing guidebooks that would be published in ensuing decades. Alpenbock members Ted Wilson had five first ascents while George Lowe had four. The first documented first free ascent occurred in 1963 at Mexican Crack Buttress/Crescent Crack Route (5.7) by Rick Reese and Jim Gaddis. Three others followed in 1964, 1974, and 1978. [Figure 1] The first ascent of Crescent Crack, which was called “The Bulge” at the time, was done by Rick Reese, Ted Wilson, and Milt Hokanson in 1963. However, they nailed the bulge – a projecting section of rock – to get over it. Reese returned a week later with Jim Gaddis and Wilf Brusckke and they were able to complete a free ascent with a “bong bong”<sup>52</sup> deep in the crack that allowed them to go around the bulge.<sup>53</sup> Richard Ream, who served as a mentor to many of the younger Alpenbock members, brought a sense of safety through teaching belaying, putting in pitons, and proper rappelling.<sup>54</sup> Ream drove home his points by stating, “This is a one fall sport.”<sup>55</sup>

In 1964, Royal Robbins – an internationally known climber at the time – and Ted Wilson set the Robbins Route, the second 5.10 in the canyon (outside the site area). That same year, George Lowe and Mark McQuarrie free-climbed<sup>56</sup> The Coffin (5.9).<sup>57</sup> McQuarrie and George Lowe were the

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<sup>50</sup> Naming of a route is the honor of the person or persons that complete(s) the first ascent.

<sup>51</sup> Springmeyer 2022. Beta is a climbing term that designates information about how to ascend a climb.

<sup>52</sup> Bong bongs, usually just called bongs, are not a smoking apparatus but the largest pitons for wide cracks. A bong is a big angle piton made from sheet metal that is folded in half in widths from two inches to four inches. Climbers rarely use bongs now because large camming devices and other specialized wide-crack gear like Big Bros protect big cracks more easily and don’t damage the rock. Bongs were made from steel and aluminum, with aluminum the preferred metal since it was lighter than steel. Aluminum bongs, however, wore out more quickly than steel ones. Bongs also had rows of holes drilled into the metal to lessen their weight. Climbers also turned bongs sideways to pound into six-inch-wide cracks. The name originated based on the echoing bonging sound heard on a Yosemite climb in the 1960s. Green, 2017. “Types of Pitons (Anchors) for Rock Climbing.” LiveAbout (website).

<sup>53</sup> Glime, John J. 2022. “Rock Climb Crescent Crack, Little Cottonwood Canyon.” Mountain Project (website).

<sup>54</sup> Rappelling, also known as abseiling in the Europe, is a technique for descending cliff faces where a climber descends along a fixed rope. Originally climbers would use the friction of the rope against their body to control their speed. Today climbers use a variety of devices to rappel.

<sup>55</sup> Wilson, June 2, 2011, 14.

<sup>56</sup> Free climbing, as opposed to aid, meant that a climber only relied on pitons or nuts to catch them in the event of a fall, rather than pulling on gear to “aid” in their upward ascent. Free climbing required a new level of mental and physical strength, and was facilitated by new forms of technology, such as the use of “nuts.”

<sup>57</sup> Mellor 2001, 132.

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first who really started pushing free climbing. Their first ascent of Dorsal Fin (5.11) in 1965 was “ahead of its time, possibly even for Yosemite, and still rejects top climbers.”<sup>58</sup>

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* site became one of the canyon’s main attractions given the combination of varied climbing, reasonable approaches, and warm rock on sunny winter days.<sup>59</sup> Its crags are shorter and more complicated, by some climbers’ claims, than Yosemite. With these conditions, it’s also a perfect training ground for other granite areas around the world. The earliest ascents in the site were put up primarily by Alpenbock members using pitons before free climbing came into vogue in the 1970s. Today, Little Cottonwood Canyon has over 1,000 routes total of all grades and styles.<sup>60</sup> Crescent Crack alone has 31 documented routes.<sup>61</sup> Alpenbock members were considered the more serious climbers of the period, the elite group of climbers and clubs in Utah.<sup>62</sup>

In addition, the nearby boulders served as an area for exploration, warming up for day climbing, and hanging out with friends afterwards starting in the 1960s. John Sherman, who wrote the first documented story of American bouldering in *Stone Crusade*, stated that “Little Cottonwood Canyon has the best concentration of established bouldering” in the state.<sup>63</sup> Boulders at Parking Lot and Secret Garden used for training were for both practicing harder moves and aid climbing techniques.<sup>64</sup> The boulders in Secret Garden and at the Parking Lot still have “aid bolts” in them.

Most notably, the 1964 seminar with Royal Robbins used the boulders in Secret Garden and near the parking lot. Robbins used the boulders to teach a variety of techniques to Salt Lake City climbers, as well as demonstrating aid climbing with bolts. In fact, according to the club’s report, Robbins conducted the seminar with injuries he sustained a few days prior “while trying to locate a good spot for bouldering in the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon.”<sup>65</sup> Robbins used the cracks in the boulders to teach “jamming”<sup>66</sup> (Photo 16) as well as manteling and friction climbing (Photos 2, 11).<sup>67</sup> Today, there are still “aid bolts” in several of these boulders (Photos 11, 14). Climbers would drill in bolts with a hand drill and connect via a rope or tether to train in

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<sup>58</sup> Smoot, Brian. n.d. “Climbing in the Little Cottonwood Canyon.” *Climbing*, 8.

<sup>59</sup> Ruckman & Ruckman 2003, 221.

<sup>60</sup> “Little Cottonwood Canyon | Climbing History | Climb Salt Lake” (website).

<sup>61</sup> Glime (website).

<sup>62</sup> Smith, Dave. June 18, 2007. “Dave Smith,” An Interview by Erik Solberg. In *Everett L. Cooley Oral History Project*. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah, 36-37. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6xp8p94>

<sup>63</sup> Sherman, XXIII, 175.

<sup>64</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>65</sup> Alpenbock Scrapbook Vol. II, 40.

<sup>66</sup> Jamming can be defined as wedging a part of the body into a crack to climb. This can be done with hands, fists, fingers, arms, and even the entire body.

<sup>67</sup> Manteling is moving on to a rock shelf by pushing down with the palms, similar to leaving a swimming pool by climbing out the side. Friction climbing, also known as “slab climbing,” is done on low angle rock faces when there are no cracks or holds, climbers will use the friction of their shoes against rock to climb. This requires a high level of technical skill and balance.

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bolted aid climbing. This was a crucial skill that Robbins brought from his experience in Yosemite to Little Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>68</sup> Photos from the club's scrapbook show club members bouldering with Robbins in Secret Garden and at the Parking Lot boulders (Figures 20, 21).<sup>69</sup>

Many members of the Alpenbock bouldered in Little Cottonwood Canyon with other Salt Lake City climbers. While some bouldered for fun, others used it as serious training. John Reid and George Lowe would boulder together and Reid recalled how Lowe would try so hard on the rock that his fingers bled; "there was a lot of blood on the rock, but that was a typical first day for George. He would just not quit until he got up it."<sup>70</sup> Bob Springmeyer remarked that bouldering was done "as a recreational activity done to either enhance skills or maintain or grow your skills. Bouldering to us was done primarily in Little Cottonwood on the granite there, but there were also some extraordinary boulders in the Tetons by Jenny Lake."<sup>71</sup> Credit to George Lowe's climbing career was given by Conrod to how he was different than the rest of the climbers in how he trained by climbing on boulders. "For the rest of us, if our fingers started hurting or we know that we're not going to make the move, we'd just kind of step off and then start over again. George never gave up and stepped off a boulder move."<sup>72</sup>

Bill Conrod also remarked that the boulders were good workout spots.<sup>73</sup> George Lowe, Ted Wilson, and Rick Wyatt trained on boulders that made them much stronger.<sup>74</sup> The Alpenbock also bouldered at Jenny Lake in the Grand Tetons.<sup>75</sup> Brian Smoot, Merrill Bitter, Kim Miller, and Howard Schultz all trained on boulders in the early 1970s viewing it as a form of training for multi-pitch climbs.<sup>76</sup> As Larry Love stated, "...just watching Chouinard boulder ...it was marvelous to watch. I admired that skill. And bouldering was fun. It gave you strength. It helped you with your moves."<sup>77</sup> Smoot recounted that they "trained cause if you're on a multi-pitch climb, and you got to a hard move, you relied on your bouldering strength and technique as it gave you a lot of power and finger strength. In the early 1970s, Dave Reid was one of the first climbers that specialized on boulders, choosing Little Cottonwood Canyon as his base."<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Alpenbock Scrapbook Vol. II, 40-41.

<sup>69</sup> Alpenbock Scrapbook Vol. II, 39.

<sup>70</sup> Reid, John. 2007. "John Reid, An Interview by Erik Solberg," Everett L. Cooley Collection. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s62c0gcn>

<sup>71</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>72</sup> Conrod 2009.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid, 6.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid, 15; Baldwin, Jeff, Mike Beck, and Marc Russo. 2003. *A Bouldering Guide to Utah*. Glen Falls, New York: Springhill Press, 238.

<sup>75</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>76</sup> Smoot, Brian. August 28, 2007. "Brian Smoot," An Interview by Erik Solberg. In *Everett L. Cooley Collection, Utah Outdoor Recreation Oral History Project U-1814*. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah., 9; Baldwin, Beck, and Russo 2003, 238.

<sup>77</sup> Love 2007, 14, 29.

<sup>78</sup> Smoot, August 2007, 9-10.

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The Alpenbock all climbed these in the “traditional” (trad) style, first using pitons (which would be removed by the second climber) and then later using nuts and chocks. For their belays, they’d use a piton or a tree or nice ledge, and belay the leading climber from the hip. The first ascents are further categorized into “aid” or “free” climbs. Aid climbing means that climbers use pitons and ropes in order to ascend the route by stepping and pulling up the wall with the assistance of their gear. Free climbing, on the other hand, means that a climber ascends the route using only their hands and feet, and rely on piton or chock placements only to arrest the climber in the case of a fall. The vast majority of the Alpenbock routes are still considered “trad” routes. Some have bolts at the belay stations for added safety options. A few have one or two bolts on the route itself, but these were added much later and not by the original first ascensionists.

The routes put up by Alpenbock members attracted climbers from around the country. Royal Robbins, Fred Beckey, and Layton Kor all visited and put up first ascents in Little Cottonwood Canyon in the 1960s, often partnered with Alpenbock members.<sup>79</sup> The efforts of the Alpenbock helped increase the popularity of climbing in the Wasatch and in Utah. During the 1960s, while members of the Alpenbock were putting up new routes in Little Cottonwood Canyon, the membership of the Ute Alpine Club grew from a few dozen to a few hundred. The Ute Alpine Club hosted several annual “Mountaineer’s Weekends” throughout the decade, drawing student climbers from seven different colleges across the west. In 1965, one of the main attractions was the concentration of new routes being developed at the base of Little Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>80</sup> Among the thousands of documented climbs by the Wasatch Mountain Club’s Mountaineering section, they include only four in Little Cottonwood Canyon, all at the Coffin Buttress.<sup>81</sup>

### 1965-1974, The Lowe Era

One member of the Alpenbock, however, remained in the Wasatch and began a prolific career of multipitch ascents. George Lowe, a physics student at the University of Utah, began climbing in Little Cottonwood Canyon at a standard equal to that of Yosemite Valley.<sup>82</sup> George Lowe put up new routes and revisited and “freed” old routes established by the Alpenbock. He also taught winter climbing techniques and led winter ascents for the Wasatch Mountain Club as well as the Alpenbock.<sup>83</sup> During George Lowe’s career, he also pioneered winter ascents in the Rockies and made a first ascent of the East (Kanshung) Face of Mount Everest, where the Lowe Buttress bears his name. He was also given the highest award of the American Alpine Club for “individuals who have had a lasting and highly significant impact on the advancement of the climbing craft.”<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Ruckman & Ruckman 2003, 10.

<sup>80</sup> Ute Alpine Club records, 1959-1981, MS 0438, “Mountaineer’s Weekend, Manuals and news clippings,” Box 1, Folder 4. Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, The University of Utah.

<sup>81</sup> Smith and Stevenson 2020, 11.

<sup>82</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 28.

<sup>83</sup> Smith and Stevenson 2020, 8.

<sup>84</sup> “Honorary Members — The American Alpine Club.” 2022. The American Alpine Club.

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George Lowe climbed frequently with his Lowe cousins – Jeff and his brothers Greg and Mike – as well as others in a climbing clan called the Steinfel Club, which at the time was headed by Kent “Hack” Christensen, and included people of all ages.<sup>85</sup> Jeff had climbed the Grand Teton when he was seven years old.<sup>86</sup> In 1964, the Steinfel Club brought Yvon Chouinard to Ogden to do a slideshow, aid climbing seminar, and short movie on climbing the west face of Sentinel in Yosemite. This was the inspirational moment for Jeff Lowe that turned him onto climbing. Adding to it, Chouinard invited Jeff, 14 years old at the time, to accompany him soloing on some routes around Ogden Canyon, about 40 miles north of Salt Lake City.<sup>87</sup>

George Lowe is also known to be one of the earliest American climbers that overcame widespread challenges in winter climbing, first in the Tetons and later in Utah. It was known that George Lowe was never intimidated, pushing things to the limit, processing information like a computer, and never making foolish mistakes.<sup>88</sup> The way George climbed and the multiple types of climbing he was accomplished at inspired other Alpenbock members as well as many local climbers.<sup>89</sup> His local domination and pioneering modern winter climbing helped him become recognized as a world-class climber.<sup>90</sup> Lowe gave snow and ice climbing technique workshops for the Alpenbock in the early 1970s.<sup>91</sup> Lowe also led the 1970s movement for Leave No Trace, replacing pitons with nuts and hexes.<sup>92</sup>

The rest of the Alpenbock remained very active during this period with improving their rescue skills, teaching mountaineering and backcountry skiing, and working in the Grand Tetons. The American Alpine Journal, the foremost mountaineering journal in the U.S., featured a club update in early 1967 of their activities.<sup>93</sup> In the early-1970s, Kim Miller and Mark Ward added the *Intensive Care* route on a slab left of the Dorsal Fin which ushered in the 5.11 standard in Utah and in Little Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>94</sup> Others that led the local scene at this time included Mugs Stump and Merrill Bitter. In 1974, George Lowe and Peter Edward Gibbs made the first free ascent of Bong Eater (5.10d).<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Publications vary on the exact spelling of the name between Steinfel, Steinfels, and Steinfeld. Lowe, Jeff. February 2009. “Jeff Lowe,” An Interview by Matt Basso, Greg Thompson, John Worsencroft, Cheri Daily. In *Everett L. Cooley Collection, Outdoor Recreation Oral History Project U-1979*. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & J. Willard Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah, 6. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s6rf7q3h>

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid*, 2.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid*, 7-9.

<sup>88</sup> Conrod 2009, 14.

<sup>89</sup> Smoot, August 2007, 2.

<sup>90</sup> Smith, June 18, 2007, 29-30.

<sup>91</sup> *Alpenbock Scrapbook*. 1962. Salt Lake City, Utah: Alpenbock Climbing Club. Special Collections, Marriott Library, University of Utah.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid*, 33.

<sup>93</sup> Wilson, Ted. 1967. “Alpenbock Climbing Club.” *American Alpine Journal*, Vol. 15, No. 2.

<sup>94</sup> Ruckman & Ruckman 2003, 10-11. Research conflicts on who also climbed with Smith this day: Jim Knight or Dave Cannon and Kirk Bowler. Smith, Burr, and Phillips, 32; Smoot n.d., 11.

<sup>95</sup> *Alpenbock Scrapbook*.

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The end of the period of significance, 1974, marks the last recorded accomplishment by Alpenbock members – the first free ascent of Bong Eater by George Lowe and Pete Gibbs. This date also served as the end of activity by the Lowes in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and the brothers – Greg, Jeff, and Mike – had founded Lowe Alpine equipment company in 1972 and George completed his Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Utah in 1973 and subsequently began climbing internationally more often.

### **Criterion A Significance: Social History**

The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with “a pattern of events or a historic trend [in rock climbing history] that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state or the nation.”<sup>96</sup> The site is broadly associated with individuals “whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, State, or national historic context,” including nationally important climbing figures such as Royal Robbins, Fred Beckey, Yvon Chouinard, and Layton Kor.<sup>97</sup> These national figures helped give legitimacy to climbing in Little Cottonwood Canyon, the Alpenbock Climbing Club as an entity, and spread international climbing culture. Notable local individuals – including the Lowes (George, Greg, Mike, and Jeff), Richard Ream, Rick Reese, and Ted Wilson – were highly proficient, internationally-experienced climbers, working search and rescue locally and in the Grand Teton National Park.

The real value in climbing is not the categorization of performance—first, best, free, most difficult—but in the personal experience each individual takes from the experience.<sup>98</sup> Overcoming challenges on rock is seen by many climbers as a parallel to overcoming challenges in real life. The same could be said of the *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* as Yvon Chouinard stated about Yosemite’s Camp 4 (NRIS #03000056), “More than just a climbing area, it is a way of life.”<sup>99</sup>

### ***Historical Development of Climbing Culture in Little Cottonwood Canyon***

#### **Early Climbing (Outside the Period of Significance)**

Starting in the early 1930s, the Wasatch Mountain Club and Ute Alpine Club both held activities in Big Cottonwood Canyon during this period. Their members focused on setting new routes, improving existing routes, and safety and technical instruction. They held weekly climbing evenings in the summer which were meant to be social and instructional, choosing to focus on safe climbing techniques.<sup>100</sup> Formally starting the Mountaineering section, the Wasatch Mountain Club was able to communicate activity reports and upcoming events with their

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<sup>96</sup> Utah Department of Transportation. 2022.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Jones 1997, 354.

<sup>99</sup> Chouinard, Yvon. 1963. “Modern Yosemite Climbing.” *American Alpine Journal*.; Isserman, Maurice. 2016. *Continental Divide*. New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 24.

<sup>100</sup> Conrod 2009, 18.



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members, many of whom were working adults. Their well-known leaders – Harold Goodro and Alexis Kelner – had name recognition within the club and likely attracted new climbers to the activity. Other early local climbers included Jim Shane, Lee Storts, Cal Giddings, Tom and Bill Spencer, and Dick Bell.<sup>101</sup>

### 1958-1965, Alpenbock Climbing Club Era

Dick Wallin and Larry Love were working at Jackson Lake Lodge in the summer of 1958 as the lodge was desperate enough for kitchen help that they were hiring 16-year-olds. Wallin and Love had their first climbing opportunity that summer with a Californian they worked with that had gear and asked them to come along. Their successful ascent of Middle Teton got them “juiced up” for more.<sup>102</sup> Upon returning to Salt Lake City, Wallin and Love formed the Alpenbock Climbing Club (Alpenbock) at Olympus High School in fall of 1958. They welcomed people with a sense of adventure along with common sense.<sup>103</sup> They and it welcomed people with a sense of adventure along with common sense. The club defined Alpenbock to mean “mountain goats.” Like many other early climbing and mountaineering clubs, the Alpenbock created patches to display membership. Fittingly, the club chose a triangular red and blue patch with a mountain goat as their emblem. (Figure 18) By 1959, the Alpenbock had 12 members, all teenagers, most of whom were from Olympus High School, (although the club would later include members from East High School and Highland High School). Doug Calder was the first president. Soon after forming, renowned local climbers Dave Novell and Al McKay began training the members to become a rescue unit.<sup>104</sup>

Later locals included Dick Ream, Rick Reese, Court Richards, Ralph Tingey, and Ted Wilson (Salt Lake City Mayor 1976-1985). Reese said they were a “combination climbing club, secret society, counter-culture group of climbing, skiing, and partying friends.” This group began exploring boulders in Little Cottonwood Canyon as well to improve their climbing technique and build strength. By the early 1960s, they became the most prolific group of climbers in the state, creating every climb in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The most active members of the club included Rick Reese, Ted Wilson, Bob Irvine, Rich and his son Dick Ream, Dave Wood, Milt Hokanson, Ralph Tingey, Steve Ellsworth, Wilf Brusckke, George Lowe, Court Richards, Larry Evans, Roland Wyatt, Bill “John” Warnock (founder of Adobe), Bob Springmeyer, Doug Calder, Dick Wallin, Steve Utley, Bob Stout, Curt Hawkins, Jr., and Mark McQuarrie.<sup>105</sup> Richard Ream, being nearly 10 years older than most members and having more experience, was seen as a mentor to Alpenbock members, especially Rick Reese.

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<sup>101</sup> Reese 2008, 27.

<sup>102</sup> Love 2007, 7-8.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid, 9.

<sup>104</sup> Hawkins, Jr., Curtis. 1959. “Cliff Clingers.” *The Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City), January 4, 1959, 71. newspapers.com.

<sup>105</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 24.

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On the strong recommendation of Ream, the club kept a scrapbook with meticulous documentation of their climbs and history, including meeting minutes and newsletters.<sup>106</sup> Due to their accuracy of recordkeeping, the scrapbook is considered the first unofficial guidebook to climbing in the Wasatch Range.<sup>107</sup>

Rick Reese, Milt Hokanson, and Lloyd Arnesen went to Mt. Rainier in 1959 to climb and made it to the summit on their second attempt. The ranger told them when they descended that they were the youngest unguided party to climb the mountain. Reese was invited by the Alpenbock to show his slides of Mt. Rainier to the group and that was the beginning of the coming together of a family that loved climbing with each other. Now together, they climbed all the time and everywhere they could.<sup>108</sup>

Ted Wilson recounted how he started climbing in Little Cottonwood Canyon in Fall 1959:

I met Yvon [Chouinard] when I was climbing in the Tetons in 1959. He was living in an old incinerator with Ken Weeks in the [American Alpine Club] Climber's Camp. Yvon and Ken were planning to climb Baxter's spire.<sup>109</sup> But Ken dropped out for some reason, and Yvon invited me to join him. Yvon asked me where the SLC climbing was along the way, and I told him about Big Cottonwood and climbing the quartzite rock. No one climbed in Little Cottonwood then. Yvon asked me about the granite and said I should try it, and he told me about the granite in Yosemite. So, when I got home one Fall day, Bob Stout and I planned a climb. While we considered a Big Cottonwood climb, I remembered Yvon's granite advice. So, Bob and I decided to give it a try. It was an easy but fun route we called "Chicken Head Holiday." Bob and I spread the word about how good the granite was in Little [Cottonwood Canyon], and the Alpenbock Club, including Springmeyer, got busy and put up many good early routes. What I know about Chouinard: He is one of the most innovative and brilliant persons I have ever met.<sup>110</sup>

Wilson recalled how the Alpenbock membership system evolved, "At first, we did vote on new members but then we laughed at that and when someone wanted to join, we'd just sit around and ask each other 'is he a good guy?'"<sup>111</sup> Dues were \$1.00 per month which went toward the scrapbook, club events, and supplies as needed. Outings were strictly "bring your own lunch and personal cigarettes."<sup>112</sup> There were wild social parties, tame "family" Christmas parties, and the

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<sup>106</sup> Springmeyer 2022.

<sup>107</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 26.

<sup>108</sup> Reese, Rick. 2008. "Rick Reese," An interview by John Worsencroft," In *Everett L. Cooley Oral History Project U-1966*. Salt Lake City, Utah: American West Center & J. Willard Marriott Library Special Collections Department, University of Utah, 2-4. <https://collections.lib.utah.edu/ark:/87278/s64q9cbf>

<sup>109</sup> Now referred to as Baxter's Pinnacle.

<sup>110</sup> Ted Wilson, Salt Lake City, Utah: an interview with John Flynn, 3 November 2022.

<sup>111</sup> Fields 2021.

<sup>112</sup> Rick Reese Papers 1993, 2008.

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club got involved politically.<sup>113</sup> The Alpenbock had little formal contact with other clubs being more internal focused on recreation, achievement, male bonding, and socializing.<sup>114</sup>

Reese grew up in Salt Lake City and spent countless hours climbing in the Wasatch as well as documenting his activities for the scrapbook. He was a climbing ranger in Grand Teton National Park in the 1960s, working his first summer there in 1960 with Curt Hawkins, Jr., Dick Wallin, Steve Utley, and Ted Wilson.<sup>115</sup> Life as a climbing ranger was even better than Reese imagined given the expectations of the National Park Service to be a proficient climber that flawlessly knows mountain rescue techniques, intimately familiar with the Teton climbing routes, and always in superior physical condition.<sup>116</sup> Day-to-day they checked in climbers and provided advice. By 1968, George Lowe would join the Alpenbock crew as a ranger in Grand Teton National Park, followed by Bill Conrod in 1969.<sup>117</sup>

In 1958, following a difficult rescue from Mt. Olympus, the Alpenbock began advocating for the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office to start a qualified search and rescue team and volunteered to help coordinate and educate the team. By spring 1959, the team was fully equipped and working as part of the Jeep Patrol. Twenty proficient members of the Alpenbock were on the team ranging from National Ski Patrol members to Grand Teton National Park climbing rangers. They quickly became the most reliable and experienced crew along the Wasatch Front, being called to neighboring counties and wilderness areas.<sup>118</sup> In 1965, the Alpenbock made 18 rescues.<sup>119</sup> In late 1965, the Alpenbock met with County Commissioner Creer and the Sheriff's office offering to hold mass safety education classes, advise on new trail creation, and signage installation to make hiking and climbing in Millcreek Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Big Cottonwood Canyon safer. Robert L. (Bob) Springmeyer was Alpenbock President at the time.<sup>120</sup> However, reaching the public adequately continued to be an issue as demonstrated by the June 1965 Salt Lake County Commission hearing on the matter. At the hearing, several clubs, including the Alpenbock, pushed for a rescue council of qualified individuals to which the county asked them to form.<sup>121</sup> By 1969, all the climbing rangers in Grand Teton National Park were Alpenbock members who had known each other for years. Members individually and in smaller groups also performed rescues in Montana and Idaho on occasion.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>114</sup> The Alpenbock bestowed an unofficial honorary membership to its first female member, Julia Geisler, in 2021 for her contributions in the Wasatch as Executive Director of Salt Lake Climbers Alliance.

<sup>115</sup> Rick Reese Papers 1993, 2008; Reese 1996.

<sup>116</sup> Reese 1996.

<sup>117</sup> Conrod 2009, 9.

<sup>118</sup> Wallin, Richard D. 1965. "The Public Forum: For the Record." *The Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City), January 11, 1965, 14. newspapers.com.

<sup>119</sup> *The Salt Lake Tribune* 1966, 24.

<sup>120</sup> *The Salt Lake Tribune*. 1965. "Club Offers Safety Ideas To Aid Utah Climbers." July 16, 1965, 32. newspapers.com.

<sup>121</sup> *Deseret News*. 1965. "Education Viewed as Rescue Solution." June 12, 1965, 12. newspapers.com.

<sup>122</sup> Reese 2008, 6.

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The 1959 fall of Alpenbock member Curtis Hawkins, Jr., climbing on “The Rock” on Wasatch Boulevard was a big scare for the club. The fall caused Hawkins a back and head injury but nothing permanent.<sup>123</sup> Only a week earlier, Hawkins had penned a newspaper article where he stated that “it...helps to have a likeable personality, so that you get along well with the other fellows, because it’s bad to climb with someone you don’t like. Climbing is dangerous if the climbers aren’t working together.”<sup>124</sup>

After a slide show by renowned international climber and icon Fred Beckey in August 1962 at Kingsbury Hall in Salt Lake City, the Alpenbock invited him to explore some unclimbed routes outside Little Cottonwood Canyon. Beckey, with various members of the Alpenbock, made several first ascents on this trip, as well as later on his visits to Utah. Layton Kor was another nationally-renowned climber that spent time in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Through ten strong years in the 1960s, he made a run of unprecedented extreme climbs. When he saw something he liked his common exclamation was, “It’s simply *got* to be climbed.”<sup>125</sup>

The Alpenbock dominated the climbing scene between 1961-1970, a time when the first and major lines in Little Cottonwood Canyon were established. The *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area’s* period of significance begins with Ted Wilson and Larry Love’s first recorded climb of the Wilson-Love Route on The Sail in 1962. Active club members during this time included Larry Evans, Curt Hawkins, Milt Hokanson, Bob Irvine, Dick Ream, Rick Reese, Court Richards, Ralph Tingey, Dick Wallin, Ted Wilson, and Dave Wood. Visiting climbers during this time included Fred Beckey, Layton Kor, and Royal Robbins. They along with Alpenbock members established many new routes with additional difficulty in Little Cottonwood Canyon.<sup>126</sup>

On July 26, 1963, Reese and Wilson completed the first one-day ascent of the north face of the Grand Teton. They believed it was transformational in achieving a level of climbing that was far more serious than most.<sup>127</sup> About this time, Wilson also got a job teaching at the Leysin Climbing School in Switzerland.<sup>128</sup>

From early in its evolution, the Alpenbock held education classes for the public. In 1964, they welcomed renowned technical climber Royal Robbins to conduct two rock-climbing seminars, both technical vertical climbing and bouldering, in Little Cottonwood Canyon and a color slide show in the evening at Storm Mountain Amphitheater.<sup>129</sup> Robbins grew up in Southern California, joining the Sierra Club’s Rock Climbing Section in 1950. He learned to climb on outings to Tahquitz Rock, and then to Yosemite, staying at Camp 4. Robbins pioneered climbs across the U.S. throughout the 1950s.<sup>130</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> *The Salt Lake Tribune*. 1959. “Climber, 18, Hurt in Fall.” January 12, 1959, 17. newspapers.com.

<sup>124</sup> Hawkins, Jr. 1959, 71.

<sup>125</sup> Jones 1997, 280.

<sup>126</sup> Ruckman & Ruckman 2003, 10.

<sup>127</sup> Reese 1996.

<sup>128</sup> Love 2007, 11.

<sup>129</sup> *The Salt Lake Tribune* 1964, 39.

<sup>130</sup> Isserman 2016, 310.

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In the late 1960s and early 1970s, “clean climbing” emerged nationally. Leading the charge for less damage to rock were Robbins and Chouinard. Aiding in these efforts for some were bolted routes. As Yvon Chouinard stated in *Summit* in 1961, “The main objection to bolts is that they permanently mar the beauty of the rock. Bolts also enable inexperienced and unqualified persons to climb difficult routes with comparative ease. Bolts are often a means for making up for inexperience and inadequacies, and I like to think that not every route is for every climber.”<sup>131</sup> They promoted a shift from the use of pitons and expansion bolts for non-scarring alternatives. New equipment referred to as “chocks” – hexagonal devices attached to slings that could be wedged into cracks for protection and direct aid – grew in popularity as the environmental awareness and ethics of climbers grew.<sup>132</sup> In addition, it became a status symbol about this time to not use pitons, to be a clean climber. And that was influenced by the Alpenbock’s lead.<sup>133</sup> A big influence on the clean climbing movement was Doug Robinson’s article entitled “The Whole Art of Natural Protection,” published in the 1972 *Chouinard Equipment* catalog.<sup>134</sup>

By 1965, the Alpenbock domination in climbing had slowed. Mark McQuarrie, a notable first ascensionist from the Alpenbock Club, fell and died in September 1965 while attempting a new route near the LDS Church vault.<sup>135</sup> McQuarrie’s death, coupled with the fact that many Alpenbock members were now spending much of their summertime in the Tetons as climbing rangers, slowed down the Alpenbock’s first ascent activity in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Utah Senator Wallace F. Bennett helped get the crew their first seasonal jobs through Rick Reese’s father.<sup>136</sup> By the late 1960s, the military draft for Vietnam curbed the number of possible new climbers in their prime years of climbing age that may have been interested and kept the club more active locally.<sup>137</sup> But in essence, McQuarrie’s death marked the end of the prolific Alpenbock era in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

### 1965-1974, The Lowe Era

George Lowe and the Steinfel Club continued to be prominent throughout the region, including in Little Cottonwood Canyon. During that time, Lowe continued to be a member of the Alpenbock. George, Jeff, and Greg Lowe climbed with George Gearhart, a hippie at the University of Utah, in Yosemite in 1965 or 1966. Gearhart introduced Jeff to pot and acid on that trip. Jeff remarked that climbing was to blame for his exposure to the ‘60s counterculture and had his mind blown wide open on that trip.<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Ibid, 324.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid, 340.

<sup>133</sup> Smith, June 18, 2007, 17.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid, 15. Robinson, Doug. 1972. “The Whole Natural Art of Protection.” *Chouinard Equipment*.

<sup>135</sup> McQuarrie was a founder of the Highland High School Mountain Climbing Club. Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 162; Dave Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah: an interview by Erik Solberg, 18 June 2007, Everett L. Cooley Oral History Project; Deseret News, “Rope Snaps, S.L. Youth Dies In Fall,” September 20, 1965.

<sup>136</sup> Springmeyer 2007, 12.

<sup>137</sup> Conrod 2009, 7-8.

<sup>138</sup> Lowe 2009, 15-16.

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Environmental ethics were a point of emphasis for the Alpenbock into the mid-1970s. The Alpenbock adopted an environmental statement and action plan in 1972. The introduction stated: "With human uses of our wilderness areas increasing exponentially each year, it becomes more and more important that criteria be established for the proper management of human uses of these areas. A current study on the environmental impact of hiking, backpacking, river running, rock climbing and camping was recently released. The following generalizations should be considered when planning and conducting "Bock" activities:

1. Impact occurs wherever and whenever people go into the wilderness. The only thing which varies is kind and magnitude.
2. Impact varies with the type of recreational use. Hiking, fishing, hunting, rock-climbing, horseback riding, river-running, etc., all place differing demands on the resources of a region. (The synergistic effect of several of these co-existent uses may be greater than their sum total.)
3. Impact problems differ in relative severity from one ecological region to the next. This is as we might have expected since the most fragile (i.e., susceptible to impact) portions of ecosystems vary with elevation, longitude and latitude, exposure, precipitation, etc. (Regulations governing impact should reflect this high degree of regional variability.)
4. Impact varies from one season to the next. The components of an ecosystem are more susceptible to damage and less capable of recovery under certain stages of growth and climatic conditions than at other times of the year.
5. Impact is not necessarily directly dependent upon the size of party. In some cases, several small groups may place a larger demand on a particular limiting resource (example: firewood) than one larger outing. Under certain other circumstances dispersal of smaller parties may prove to be the least damaging recreational use of an area.
6. Impact is dependent upon the behavior of recreationists. It is entirely possible that a small party of noisy, irresponsible, careless persons with uninformed supervision could cause far greater impact to an area (and the experiences of others) than a much larger party of quiet, well behaved, concerned individuals under well trained leadership.
7. Policies for minimizing impact may differ according to the orientation and objectives of the administrators of a given area. Example: Regulations established for maintaining quality of the wilderness experience may not be the same as those necessary to ensure the stability of the ecosystem.
8. The impact of wilderness on people should be considered in determining a permissible level of the impact of people on the wilderness. Wilderness recreation affords some members of our society with a personal enrichment which cannot be

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obtained in any other way. (No one has yet been able to calculate the importance of this kind of experience in developing and motivating conservationists.)<sup>139</sup>

The end of the Alpenbock Climbing Club members' and Lowe family's activity in the club and in the *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* in 1974 marks the end of the sites's period of significance. Early Alpenbock members were moving into professional careers – Ted Wilson was elected for his first term as Salt Lake City Mayor in 1975 – and a new group of younger passionate climbers, emboldened by new “clean” gear and tough but soft-soled shoes, were emerging on the scene.<sup>140</sup>

### 1975-2023 (Outside the Period of Significance)

Leading the new group of climbers was Kim Miller. He and others created new routes making first ascents and repeated climbs of difficult routes. Les Ellison moved to Salt Lake City in 1974. With training in the Shawangunk Mountains of New York, he established bold new 5.10 and 5.11 routes outside the site.<sup>141</sup>

In the mid-1970s, the first guidebooks to climbing in the Wasatch Mountains were published. *Desperate Grace: A Book of Climbs* by Dennis Turville and Marshall Ralph was first published in 1975. Two years later, Dave Smith published a more comprehensive guidebook with *Wasatch Granite: A Rock Climbing Guide*. Standards and equipment were evolving rapidly and a new guidebook, by Les Ellison and Brian Smoot, was published in 1984.<sup>142</sup>

The mid-1970s brought two efforts to preserve land in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The first was organized and led by Ted Wilson. Wilson worked with the Trust for Public Land to purchase the Whitmore Oxygen property development rights at the mouth of the canyon which resulted in its conservation. The second was that the Forest Service designated the canyon as Wilderness Area from the western edge of Snowbird Ski Resort to the bottom of the canyon in 1977. This limited the middle canyon from commercial development unless it is specifically permitted by the Forest Service. As Bob Springmeyer stated in 2007 in regard to the protections afforded the canyons, “I’m glad that all of Little Cottonwood and all of Big Cottonwood is not laced with trams.”<sup>143</sup>

New and more difficult routes were pioneered in Little Cottonwood Canyon and beyond. New areas such as American Fork Canyon and Maple Canyon with different rock types were being explored for new challengers. The Ruckman brothers, Bret and Stuart, published a new guidebook, *Wasatch Climbing North*. They had been responsible for many first ascents in the Wasatch and knew their craft well. So, the brothers continued the tradition of the Alpenbock

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<sup>139</sup> “Alpenbock Newsletter.” 1972. In *Rick Reese Papers*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Alpenbock Climbing Club.

<sup>140</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 32.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid, 33.

<sup>142</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 33.

<sup>143</sup> Springmeyer 2007, 14-15.

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through their own accurate documentation and high standard topographic drawings for the routes to produce the guidebook and a revised and expanded version in 2003.<sup>144</sup>

As climbing grew in Salt Lake City, the land experienced overuse, conflicts with land management practices, hardware degradation, and other issues that needed an advocacy voice. The group that assembled in 2001 founded the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance in 2002 to alleviate potential conflicts of access, provide maintenance, and advocate for responsible use and management.<sup>145</sup> However, the Alpenbock has lived on and never formally disbanded.<sup>146</sup>

### Bouldering

Bouldering has played a major role in the development of mountain climbing techniques, but the feats of bouldering were not given the same accolades or attention as climbing for many decades after gaining in popularity. As John Sherman states, “The lore of bouldering has mainly been an oral tradition.”<sup>147</sup> However, bouldering and climbing have gone hand-in-hand since the beginning.<sup>148</sup> “Most breakthroughs in free climbing technique have come on the boulders and many great climbers got their start bouldering.”<sup>149</sup>

The overarching goal of bouldering has been said to be “advancing the limits of unaided human performance.”<sup>150</sup> The sport is analytical and possibly the most physically demanding of all climbing-related recreation given its focus on technical difficulty.<sup>151</sup> Boulder areas provide a venue of socializing, competing, and training. As a solitary exercise, bouldering constantly challenges an individual to overcome nature itself with a minimum of gear.<sup>152</sup>

One of the earliest documented intersections of climbing and bouldering was the invention of dynamic belaying skills at Berkeley’s Indian Rock in the early 1930s.<sup>153</sup> In the late 1950s, John Gill saw the potential to combine gymnastics with climbing on the boulders and became known as the father of modern bouldering.<sup>154</sup> The granite next to Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park became an important place of advancing the sport by Gill in 1957-1958. As Gill was one of the only serious boulderers in the late 1950s and early 1960s, partners were hard to come by. Two important early partners were Yvon Chouinard and Rich Goldstone.<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>144</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 35.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid., 36.

<sup>146</sup> Fields 2021.

<sup>147</sup> Sherman, XXIII.

<sup>148</sup> Ibid, XXXVII.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid, XXVIII

<sup>150</sup> Ibid, XVII.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid, XVII.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid, XXVII

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid, 3,7.



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In 1958, Gill began creating the first bouldering rating system, which was published in 1969 in his book *The Art of Bouldering*. Called the B System, it had three grades – B1, B2, and B3 – which were intended to slide as standards increased over time and from generation to generation. B1 was equivalent to the hardest roped climbs of the time. B2 was intended to be quite a bit harder with B3 being something that is done once and never repeated.<sup>156</sup> Much like the Yosemite Decimal System for climbing, B ratings in one area didn't necessarily correspond to B ratings in another area, or between routes in the same area.<sup>157</sup> Use of the B System was eclipsed in favor of the V System, which was developed at the Hueco Tanks by John "Verm" Sherman and first published in 1991.

### Climbing Culture

Climbing culture is one that connects individual secular spirituality to the natural world. Little Cottonwood Canyon is a place where nature became culture. Ron Kauk states, "To the spirit of the rock that continues to give those of us who choose to respect it a way of life to discover the beauty, mystery, and freedom to move in harmony with the natural world."<sup>158</sup> Kauk goes on to say, "In the lessons of the vertical world lies the power of conscious connection to spirit - in the rock, air, water, trees, and each other."<sup>159</sup> And Yvon Chouinard connects the spirit and soul to Little Cottonwood Canyon's rock: "We choose to believe that the granite is alive. If life is movement, then rock...is alive. It's a harmless concept that adds a lot of enjoyment and respect and responsibility to our lives."<sup>160</sup>

"It amazes me to realize how sacred granite is, what it has provided - from sculptured works of art to the offering of a way of life. The opportunity to write ourselves into these boulders and granite walls has created stories that can help us understand who we are. Learning skills to overcome obstacles that become symbols of life's journey in general."<sup>161</sup> Rick Reese espoused the valuable lessons he learned in the mountains, "I am entirely responsible for myself; that there is a relentless direct relationship between careful preparation and success; that I have solemn responsibilities to others; that friends are to be cherished; that some things I must do on my own; that life holds no guarantees; that luck plays a role in our lives but it can't be counted on; that there is indeed a right and a wrong way to do things; that the mountains are unforgiving, some mistakes are fatal, and no one is exempt; that for most of us, most of the time, our lives are too easy and we grow from adversity; that no one owes me anything and, notably; that there is far more to life than climbing mountains."<sup>162</sup>

In a 2009 study, participants "noted that their peak experience in wilderness was significant to their life in some way, and that the restorative elements of the setting (solitude, absence of time

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<sup>156</sup> Ibid, XXXIV.

<sup>157</sup> Ibid, XXXII.

<sup>158</sup> Kauk, Ron. 2003. *Spirit of the Rock*. Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 7.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid, 8.

<sup>160</sup> Ibid, 9.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid, 75.

<sup>162</sup> Reese 1996.

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constraints, lack of human-made intrusions and distractions) were important in allowing them time and space to think and reflect. Meaning and purpose was articulated in various ways including finding meaning in suffering, the attainment of life-long goals, acknowledging the existential limits of human life, and enjoying the non-material pleasures of wild nature. These were important benefits illustrating how natural settings promote health, happiness, and well-being, as well as providing further reasons for the continued conservation of wilderness areas.”<sup>163</sup>

Climbers are storytellers, and knowledge of routes, climbers, first ascents, and history are passed down orally and through guidebooks, clubs, and tradition. Climbing culture is deeply rooted in honoring those who came before, pioneering and setting the routes. Their overcoming of challenges and obstacles have provided inspiration for generations to follow to develop the physical strength and technique needed to approach the unknown safely and confidently.<sup>164</sup>

Little Cottonwood Canyon is a place where accomplished technical climbers and the entrepreneurial geniuses of the industry intersected with the Utah climbing community. With Chouinard and Robbins, there was a direct link to the national growth of extreme sports, environmental advocacy, and “greener” consumption. The site is where, in the 1970s, clean climbing had a direct extension out of Yosemite and Camp 4 and grew local social responsibility in the outdoors.<sup>165</sup> During the period of significance (1958-1965), bouldering was used as a warm-up or after climbs while hanging out with friends. The opportunities to play around on the rocks, as it was known before bouldering was a term, provided opportunities for climbers to work on their technique and build strength. As Brian Smoot stated, “...there was just being there. There was a whole spectrum of climbing, getting out and doing what you wanted and getting a physical workout, having it beautiful outside, having a mental challenge, and being with your buddies.”<sup>166</sup> It was socially appropriate for wives and girlfriends to boulder with the Alpenbock in Little Cottonwood Canyon as well.<sup>167</sup> Higher elevation hang-out areas were at the base of The Egg and Crescent Crack.

Unique to the Alpenbock Club was that they kept scrapbooks with meticulous documentation of their climbs and history, something unique for the time.<sup>168</sup> Due to their accuracy of recordkeeping, they are considered the first unofficial guidebooks to climbing in the Wasatch Range.<sup>169</sup> They went beyond the Wasatch in documenting their climbs in Capitol Reef and Ogden (UT), the Grand Tetons and Wind Rivers (WY), Sawtooths (ID), Shipwreck (NM), Mt.

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<sup>163</sup> McDonald, Matthew, Stephen Wearing, and Jess Ponting. 2009. “The Nature of Peak Experience in Wilderness.” *The Humanistic Psychologist* 37, no. 4 (November): 370-385. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08873260701828912>.

<sup>164</sup> Kauk 2003, 44.

<sup>165</sup> Kirk, Andrew, and Charles Palmer. 2006. “When Nature Becomes Culture: The National Register and Yosemite's Camp 4, a Case Study.” *Western Historical Quarterly* 37, no. 4 (Winter): 496-506. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25443418>, 502-503.

<sup>166</sup> Smoot, August 2007, 32.

<sup>167</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>168</sup> Mellor 2001, 132.

<sup>169</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 26.

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Rainier (WA), Yosemite, Lone Pine, and Mt. Whitney (CA), St. Elias Mountains (AK), and the French and Italian Alps.<sup>170</sup>

### Additional Historical Information

As the sport continued to grow in popularity, more climbers started exploring their abilities and other locations. During this era, many technically difficult routes were established and there was a greater emphasis on free climbing. Free climbing was possible due to technology such as nuts and cams which supported a Leave No Trace ethic. Nuts are lighter and were hammerless, thus replacing pitons helped remove the process of damaging rock while allowing climbers less weight on a climb with equal safety as there had been with pitons.<sup>171</sup> The first 5.12 route came in 1980 when Steve Hong set the first free ascent of the Coffin Roof at the site.<sup>172</sup>

The earliest written guides were briefs created by Alpenbock member Court Richards under the name *Mountaineer's Weekly* in 1964. He was following examples set in Grand Teton and Yosemite where they always documented first ascents, and there was great interest by the Alpenbock in doing the same. The brief was an article with a selected route in Little Cottonwood Canyon but wasn't widely distributed. Wasatch Mountain Club published route descriptions and information fairly frequently in the late 1960s in their monthly publication, *The Rambler*. Then Timberline, a mountain recreation equipment store in Salt Lake City, began keeping a notebook of climbs in spring in 1969 that was added to every time an employee or local came in and talked about their activity.<sup>173</sup>

The 1970s brought a guidebook war. The Alpenbock started recording climbs and trip reports in the early 1960s, which they kept in a scrapbook created by Ralph Tingey. These scrapbooks were passed down through generations of the club's climbers and became a "holy text" of climbing. In many ways, the Alpenbock Scrapbooks were the first guidebooks to technically document climbing in the Wasatch. The Alpenbock discussed publishing a guide to Wasatch climbing in 1972 in collaboration with Dave Smith at Timberline.<sup>174</sup> However, that did not progress. *Desperate Grace: A Book of Climbs* was the first published "guidebook" in 1975. Because the authors of *Desperate Grace*, Dennis Turville and "Rex Green," – the satirical pseudonym for Marshall Ralph<sup>175</sup> – did not have access to the Alpenbock Scrapbooks, there are large gaps of information in this book, which was written in a humorous manner.<sup>176</sup> Turville kind of regretted publishing the guidebook because it made the routes he loved more popular.<sup>177</sup> Dave

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<sup>170</sup> *Alpenbock Scrapbook*.

<sup>171</sup> Green, Rex, and Dennis Turville. 1975. *Desperate Grace: A Book of Climbs*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Timberline Sports, 2.

<sup>172</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 33.

<sup>173</sup> Smith, June 26, 2007, 9-11.

<sup>174</sup> *Alpenbock Scrapbook*.

<sup>175</sup> *Desperate Grace*, while serving as a guide to the granite climbs of LCC, was written in a satirical fashion. "Rex Green" was the pseudonym adopted by Marshall Ralph, after a popular ski wax.

<sup>176</sup> Smith 2007, 31.

<sup>177</sup> Smoot, June 2007, 20.

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Smith started climbing with the Wasatch Mountain Club in 1966 when he was 15 years old. Over the next 15 years, he became a very active climber in Little Cottonwood Canyon and eventually wrote the second, and more comprehensive, published guidebook to the canyon – *Wasatch Granite: A Rock Climbing Guide* – in 1977.<sup>178</sup> Dave Smith based his guidebook off the information in the scrapbooks and *Wasatch Granite* is considered the first complete guidebook.

Steve Hong established the first 5.12 route in Little Cottonwood Canyon in 1980 with the ascent of the Coffin Roof.<sup>179</sup> Merrill, along with Steve Hong, pushed climbing in Salt Lake City to a whole new level, as Hong established the first 5.13 route in the early 1980s.

Sport climbing rose in the early to mid-1980s as a serious challenger to trad climbing but brought new people and energy into the climbing community. In order to facilitate sport climbing, rappel bolting was utilized. The difference between trad and sport climbing is that trad climbing first ascents typically went “ground-up” in a single push, and required the placement of cams, nuts, and chocks for protection, as opposed to the permanent bolts of sport climbing.

Rappel bolting was a lot of work. A climber would rappel off from the top of the climb (essentially doing the opposite of a ground up trad first ascent) and “clean” the wall by removing large loose blocks (called “choss”) and then drill in bolts. These bolts would leave a permanent scar in the rock, even if removed. Then afterwards, someone would climb the route from the ground up for the “First Ascent.” While many climbers claimed first ascent routes that they bolted, this wasn’t always the case. For really hard routes, a strong climber could get the first ascent notoriety for a route bolted by someone else. Rappel bolting became popular in American Fork Canyon, about ten miles directly south, with work by Boone, Boyle, and Pedersen in the late 1980s and 1990s, aided by newly available and powerful Bosch cordless drills.

The first international climbing competition in the United States was held at Snowbird Ski Resort in Little Cottonwood Canyon in June 1988 and nationally televised. A small group of spectators, most of whom were connected to the climbing community already, watched as a group of competitive climbers tackled problems on a wall that was placed against Snowbird Lodge. This event inspired more people to try climbing and they sought out both natural and indoor opportunities. Being that the competition was televised, it raised visibility of Utah’s climbing resources and community and reached thousands of people who were interested in climbing.<sup>180</sup>

Nevertheless, the Alpenbock had the Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area mostly to themselves until the early 1990s as climbing’s popularity exploded locally and nationally.<sup>181</sup> Tommy Caldwell, currently a well-known worldwide climber, won the Snowbird sport climbing event in 1994 as an amateur and put his name on the map.<sup>182</sup>

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<sup>178</sup> Smith and Stevenson 2020, 10.

<sup>179</sup> Green 1998, 437.

<sup>180</sup> “American Fork,” Will Gadd, *Climbing* no. 123 (December 1990/January 1991).

<sup>181</sup> Fields 2021.

<sup>182</sup> For more on Tommy Caldwell, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy\\_Caldwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Caldwell)

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The first climbing gym in the state was called *The Body Shop* on Highland Drive about 3200 South in Millcreek. Fifteen climbers pooled funds to open it as “investors” in the late 1980s.<sup>183</sup> It initially attracted people who wanted to get into strength climbing and training for steeper and more challenging climbs.<sup>184</sup> But then people discovered they enjoyed climbing in a gym where there were safety precautions in place and it was climate controlled year-round. While the rise of sport climbing and opening of climbing gyms in Salt Lake City continues through the present, Alpenbock member Rick Reese lamented the loss of something prescient to climbing culture, “It lacks the sense of adventure we experienced in earlier times and in many instances has nothing to do with the outdoors.”<sup>185</sup>

Dozens of higher and harder routes resulted as more climbers with better equipment came to Utah. New routes were pioneered on the same surfaces that were first climbed by the Alpenbock in the early 1960s. The bouldering scene also grew exponentially in the 1990s as a warm-up for climbing evolved into a discipline of its own.<sup>186</sup>

### Equipment

Early equipment included clothing, rope, and connectors.<sup>187</sup> Typical clothing of the period included was rugged pants (often jeans) or knickers, a collared shirt to protect against rope burn, many would adopt wearing denim or rugby shirts, and hiking boots or felt soled shoes, called Kronhoffer Kletterschuhes (or “kletter” shoes) for their grip. Rigid mountain boots would often have metal tricouni nails for improved grip. But when Italian-made Vibram soles became available in the U.S for the first time in 1964, they accelerated the climbing ability of every climber. A harness was worn over the clothing; however, harnesses would not become the norm until the 1970s. For first ascents before this time, including those of the Alpenbock, the climbing rope would be wrapped around the waist two or three times and then tied off with a bowline knot. The proper type and length of rope needed to be selected for the planned route, and knowledge of various knots employed for different situations.

Common early connections for the rope included the use of pitons – a peg or spike driven into a rock or crack to support a climber or a rope – and carabiners – a coupling link with a safety closure, used by rock climbers.<sup>188</sup> While pitons were being produced in Yosemite by the likes of John Salathé or Yvon Chouinard, early Wasatch climbers ordered pitons directly from Europe. Later, pitons were replaced by hexcentrics and nuts and then by spring-loaded camming devices

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<sup>183</sup> Smoot, August 2007, 9.

<sup>184</sup> Smoot, June 2007, 29.

<sup>185</sup> Rick Reese Papers, 1993, 2008.

<sup>186</sup> Welsh, Patrick L. 2012. “A Brief Climbing History of the Wasatch.” History of first ascents in the Wasatch (website).

<sup>187</sup> Helmets became standard equipment later in the evolution of thinking about safety.

<sup>188</sup> Kelner, Alexis. 1963. “Rocks Are For Climbing (Safely).” *The Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Magazine edition), July 7, 1963, 12. newspapers.com.

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(cams), both of which were removable forms of protection that leave no trace on the rock.<sup>189</sup> The ease with which cams and nuts could be placed in cracks facilitated the rise of “free climbing.” Fortunately for the Alpenbock, Richard Ream, being decades older than many of the members was able to afford real equipment such as pitons, chromoly pitons, aluminum carabiners, braided rope, and snow equipment. He allowed many members to borrow his personal equipment regularly.<sup>190</sup>

From the early climbing era and into the 1970s, there were few places in Salt Lake City to find climbing gear, or even any outdoor equipment. Most equipment that was used was World War II surplus until equipment from the companies American, Chouinard,<sup>191</sup> and Colorado Mountain Inc. (CMI) became available in small circles. Two members of the Ute Alpine Club started Das Berghaus Equipment Company in 1961. It evolved into Timberline in 1965 and was the go-to store in Salt Lake City from a house at 600 S 1200 East. Ray Watrous offered early sports and climbing gear in his two hardware stores at 1700 S 1700 East and Brighton Village, and had an association with Wasatch Mountain Club. In the 1970s, Steve Ellsworth started a store called Mountaineer at 220 S 1300 East. Climbers could also order mountain climbing equipment from the “Co-op” in Seattle, today known more commonly as Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), and from Schuster in Munich, Germany.<sup>192</sup>

Greg Lowe, working in his parents’ basement in Ogden, fashioned a new type of pack in 1967 featuring internal aluminum, making it easier to carry heavy loads, keeping climbers more balanced. It was named the Expedition Pack and revolutionized backpack design as the first internal-framed rucksack. In 1969, Lowe designed the first port-a-ledge style tent ever to be used as a safe base that hung mid-air from one piton without great damage to the rock. Lowe Alpine was founded in 1972 when brothers Mike, Greg, and Jeff started production of various equipment. Greg Lowe’s brother Jeff, through his company Latok Equipment, designed the first spring-loaded camming device in 1973 which allowed climbers to place protection without damaging rock.<sup>193</sup> Lowe Alpine also developed some of the earliest use fixed crampons – called Footfangs – and a hummingbird ice axe with interchangeable parts for winter and ice climbing.<sup>194</sup>

### Viewsheds

The term “viewshed” was first published in 1967 by surveyor and landscape architect Clifford Tandy. By Tandy’s definition, viewshed refers to the area in a spatial environment that is directly

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<sup>189</sup> DiAngelis, Sander. n.d. “A Brief History of Rock Climbing.” Moja Gear. <https://mojagear.com/a-brief-history-of-rock-climbing/> (website).

<sup>190</sup> Reese 2008, 11.

<sup>191</sup> Later known as Chouinard Equipment Co. and today as Black Diamond.

<sup>192</sup> Springmeyer 2007.

<sup>193</sup> “A Short History of Lowe Alpine: 1934-2017.” 2017. [livefortheoutdoors.com](https://www.livefortheoutdoors.com).

<https://www.livefortheoutdoors.com/outdoor-features/discover/a-short-history-of-low-alpine-1934-2017>. (website)

<sup>194</sup> “A Short History of Lowe Alpine: 1934-2017.” 2017. (website)

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visible from a particular location. By 1968, the Forest Service had developed the first computer data application of information related to viewsheds.<sup>195</sup>

On a peak, such as at the top of a climbing route, the observer is at an advantage for scenic viewing due to being placed well above the surrounding landscape features. There is the least amount of restriction in terms of enclosure, screening, direction, or distance in the ‘observer above’ position. While this is a desirable position to obtain the least visual blockage, it is also the position where viewing undesirable features is most possible.<sup>196</sup>

There is a larger historiography on American mountaineering traditions that resulted from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Transcendentalism and the "sublime."<sup>197</sup> Prominent environmental figures like John Muir started the Sierra Club to protect environmental views but also led a mountaineering club. Muir saw the two as parallel values. Similarly, some Euro-American climbing traditions emerged from this way of thinking as well. There was a shift from mountains and nature being "scary" to them being beautiful in the Western tradition. This attracted Euro Americans to early mountaineering.<sup>198</sup>

Interest in identifying, defining, quantifying, and protecting viewsheds has drastically increased since 2000. One of the reasons for this increase is the greater use of natural, scenic, and recreational lands and human impacts of this use. More recently, the term “viewscape” has come into the lexicon as it aims to describe not just what can be seen, but how humans viably connect to their surrounding three-dimensional terrain and environment, built and natural.<sup>199</sup>

Viewscape represents how the contents of the visible area are relevant to the connection between observer and landscape.<sup>200</sup> As the need for understanding of viewsheds has increased as a value to individuals and land management entities, the study of viewsheds has dramatically increased given new technological approaches and data collection methods.<sup>201</sup>

### **General Historical Context**

The first known climbers in Utah were the precontact Ancestral Pueblo (Puebloan) and Fremont peoples. Through their climbing ability, they built small dwellings and granaries in cliffside

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<sup>195</sup> Inglis, Nicole C., Jelena Vukomanovic, Jennifer Costanza, and Kunwar K. Singh. 2022. “From viewsheds to viewscales: Trends in landscape visibility and visual quality research.” *Landscape and Urban Planning* 224 (3), 2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2022.104424>.

<sup>196</sup> “Creating and Maintaining Hudson River Views.” 2020. Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/hrviewshbk.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrviewshbk.pdf).

<sup>197</sup> See Di Stefano, Diana L. “In Search Of The Sublime: Finding Transcendence in the Mountain West, 1880–1920.” *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 64, no. 3 (2014): 3–88.

<sup>198</sup> For more, see Nicolson’s *Mountain Gloom and Mountain Glory*, Taylor’s *Pilgrims of the Vertical*. For more on the shift of attention on Utah’s mountains, see Jared Farmer’s *On Zion’s Mount*.

<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>200</sup> Inglis et al. 2022, 9.

<sup>201</sup> *Ibid.*, 11.

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areas.<sup>202</sup> The presence of rock art in almost every canyon of the Wasatch and the surrounding areas illustrate the presence of these peoples long before any documented climbing in the 20th century.

The area of Little Cottonwood Canyon was surveyed by Ferdinand Dickert and C.C. Clements and the first plat filed in 1870-71. [Figure 18] A patent was granted by the General Land Office on November 3, 1876, to Joseph J. Snell. It is unknown what Snell's intentions were for using the land. The federal government set aside thousands of acres of valuable timbered lands in forest reserves in the late 1890s on the theory that a "wider public good would be served by retaining title in the government."<sup>203</sup> Ashton-White-Skillikorn Co., filed mining claims in Section 7 of Township 3 South, Range 2 East, Principal Meridian 26 on July 6, 1921, in "inaccessible cliffs." Through the Forest Service General Exchange Act (42 Stat. 465) the Forest Service assumed ownership and stewardship of the land on March 20, 1922.<sup>204</sup>

Early climbing in the U.S. required that technical education be conducted person to person. The emergence of climbing clubs in the early 1900s put climbing onto the fast track of popularity.<sup>205</sup> The mountaineering club movement was led by the American Alpine Club in 1901. Regional clubs, mainly started for casual fellowship and informal fun, that followed included the Mountaineers 1906 (Seattle), Green Mountain Club 1911 (Vermont), Colorado Mountain Club 1912 (Denver), Adirondack Mountain Club 1916 (NYC), and Appalachian Mountain Club 1918.<sup>206</sup>

America does not historically have a single moment that marks the beginning of climbing. Several individuals advanced technical climbing. The first colonist event was the 1642 ascent of Mount Washington in New Hampshire by Darby Field.<sup>207</sup> If there was a singular breakthrough in American climbing, it was the 1898 ascent of the Grand Teton by William Owen, Rev. Franklin Spalding, Frank Petersen, and John Shive. However, topping a nearly 14,000-foot peak was not seen as a challenge by many as the majority of climbers from this period tended to follow the easiest routes where little technical expertise was required, replaced instead by fitness and determination.<sup>208</sup>

Positioned somewhere between frowned-upon sport and darling of nature lovers was mountain climbing. The first Zion National Park employees became de facto mountaineers as they identified and improved trails. In addition, a few men in nearby Springdale occasionally climbed for fun, including the Crawford brothers, who in 1904 climbed to a flying buttress "on the side of

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<sup>202</sup> Green 1998, 2.

<sup>203</sup> Peterson, Charles S., and Brian Q. Cannon. 2015. "Changing Federalism: The Outdoors and Its Management." In *The Awkward State of Utah: Coming of Age in the Nation, 1896-1945*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society & University of Utah Press.

<sup>204</sup> "General Land Office Records." n.d. BLM GLO Records: Home. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

<sup>205</sup> Jones 1997.

<sup>206</sup> Isserman 2016, 166.

<sup>207</sup> Mellor 2001, 21.

<sup>208</sup> Jones 1997, 40-41.



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Bridge mountain” at the southeast corner of the park. Attempts to repeat the feat failed until December 1929, when in bold headlines *The Salt Lake Tribune* hailed the “Intrepid Climbers” who after a “Quarter of a Century” overcame “Thrills and Difficulties” to reach it again.<sup>209</sup>

Some of the Utah Parks Company’s (1922-1972) employees also became climbers. “Mount Zion,” directly in front of Zion Lodge was a favorite challenge, leading at least one veranda sitter to wonder how the “young and inexperienced” climbers escaped “serious accident.” Cathedral Mountain was also relatively safe and popular. But the Great White Throne defeated all attempts for years. Zion officials did little to promote climbing as part of the nature ethic, but they also made little effort to restrict it.<sup>210</sup> While early climbing in Southern Utah occurred, it is largely considered exploratory mountaineering rather than the technical climbing that took place within the *Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area* site.

The first technical (modern) climbers were from the Salt Lake City area as they had proximity to prime locations like Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Harold Goodro in the late 40s installed one of America’s first 5.10 routes in BCC, now named Goodro’s Wall. In the 1960s, local climbers as well as prolific national figures like Layton Kor, began exploring southeastern Utah.<sup>211</sup>

The Ute Alpine Club, a university-based early ski and climbing club started in 1954, also focused efforts in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The quartzite of Storm Mountain was the focus of most of the activity. The University of Utah held formal climbing instruction through the club until the early 1970s. The social aspect of the Ute Alpine Club happened off campus and off mountain, with weekly parties at the house of Charles Leslie in the Avenues neighborhood. The alternative “fraternity” would host slide shows and talk extensively about climbing and training while drinking. Later in the 1970s, Harold Goodro took over climbing instruction to teach a new generation. In 1980, the university’s Outdoor Program assumed the role of the club.<sup>212</sup>

While several clubs promoted activity in the mountains, there is little to no evidence of any activist organization forming prior to the end of World War II.<sup>213</sup> Postwar prosperity and urbanization called forth a resurgence of interest in conservation and outdoor recreation. And conservationist views gained broader support.<sup>214</sup>

Rock climbing requires strength, agility, knowledge of many techniques including equipment use, and an awareness for safety. To be a climber in the early 20th century meant, almost by definition, joining one or more organizations devoted to the endeavor. Clubs were the places

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<sup>209</sup> Ibid, 199. For context, skiing locally developed as an outdoor interest in the 1930s as a rope tow was built by the Wasatch Mountain Club at Brighton in 1936.

<sup>210</sup> Peterson and Cannon 2015, 199-200.

<sup>211</sup> Green 1998, 2.

<sup>212</sup> Smith, Burr, and Phillips 2016, 26-27.

<sup>213</sup> Peterson and Cannon 2015, 207.

<sup>214</sup> Ibid, 208.

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where climbing techniques, safety procedures, and ethics were passed on to other climbers, climbing partners were found, tales swapped, and route locations and details were shared.<sup>215</sup> For several decades, rope climbing relied on the use of pitons. The first piton development was by Continental, or the Munich School, European climbers in the early 1890s. A further important equipment development was the carabiner by Munich climber Otto Herzog in 1908. The rappel descent, or Dulfersitz, was brought into the technique and lexicon ca. 1910 by Hans Dulfer of Munich.<sup>216</sup>

“For much of this century, climbers have operated at the fringes of American culture. Climbing was something you did when you were young and restless. You learned the ropes from other climbers, much as an apprentice learns from a master, and toiled in obscurity at your craft. It was a harmless enough diversion that would eventually give way to the adult pursuit of work, marriage, mortgages, and children. Those who shunned such norms in favor of a lifetime of road trips (Fred Beckey comes to mind) or who were brilliant and driven enough to advance the standards of the day (Royal Robbins, Jim Bridwell) were lionized by a small and relatively close-knit climbing community. To society at large, though, climbers were seen as vagabonds in pursuit of an incomprehensible and vaguely foolish Holy Grail – if they were noticed at all.”<sup>217</sup>

Yet even at Camp 4 in Yosemite National Park, park administrators regarded climbers as a bohemian, counterculture annoyance. For years, Camp 4 was viewed by administrators as an embarrassment and antithetical to the work to preserve the scenery of the park. Camp 4 has been home to almost all of the significant players in Yosemite climbing history. “Today Camp 4 is the same squalid, crowded, noisy place it was back in the years they call the Golden Age of Yosemite climbing.”<sup>218</sup> Yosemite continues to be considered by the climbing community today as the heartbeat of the world’s rock climbing.<sup>219</sup>

Still, the National Park Service did not initially recognize the climbing culture that emerged at Camp 4 as an acceptable form of cultural expression that was significantly tied to the site itself. However, when Camp 4 was reconsidered and determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, the action recognized how climbers blurred the lines between cultural and natural significance, ushering in a new era of considering the interconnectedness of the two.<sup>220</sup>

Climbing in the 1970s is referred to as the Golden Era of American climbing because of its evolution from the use of aided climbing equipment and techniques to trad and clean climbing ethics. It was a purposeful move by many in the community to reduce causing permanent damage to the rock on which they climbed.<sup>221</sup> There was an unwritten rule that you went back

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<sup>215</sup> Isserman 2016, 163.

<sup>216</sup> Ibid, 177.

<sup>217</sup> Kennedy 1999, 13.

<sup>218</sup> Mellor 2001, 220.

<sup>219</sup> Ibid, 222.

<sup>220</sup> Kirk and Palmer 2006, 499.

<sup>221</sup> DiAngelis (website).

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and cleaned up after yourself. Climbers wanted to have their own quiet experience with the mountains so in order to maintain that and pass it along you made your own deal to protect the environment.<sup>222</sup> Climbers in the 1970s were rarely on the radar of land managers and others involved in stewardship of public lands. Only climbers enforced their traditions of exploration – where and how to climb, how much or how little gear to use, social etiquette – during this period of small numbers and limited impact. Being ignored or unnoticed was a perfect match for the climbing community culture.<sup>223</sup>

In the 1980s climbing grew in popularity through media exposure, guidebooks, safer equipment, and better clothing. The number of climbing schools and indoor gyms increased providing greater access to techniques, traditions, and locations. With the growth in size and popularity, climbing also grew in clout socially and politically.<sup>224</sup>

Through the period of significance and to the present, themes universal to American climbing have emerged:

- Rapid development of tools and the associated questions about whether technology helps or interferes with the experience;
- The struggle between structure and freedom. Even among climbers, once thought to be eccentrics rebelling against social order, there's a paradoxical desire to impose rules and definitions to preserve this freedom;
- The people who push the boundaries and set the trends and the increasingly sophisticated media chronicling and interpreting their actions.<sup>225</sup>

Starting about 2000, American rock climbing began facing a crisis like never before. The number of wilderness users continued to increase setting off a parallel growth in the pressure to manage recreation from overuse and for multiple uses. In recent decades, organizations such as The Access Fund (1991)<sup>226</sup> and Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (2002)<sup>227</sup> were founded as recreational pressures and conflicts grew. The Access Fund is a national advocacy organization that leads and inspires the climbing community toward sustainable access and conservation of the climbing environment. Salt Lake Climbers Alliance was founded to engage as an advocate to protect outdoor climbing access and as a steward to maintain sustainable climbing resources in the Wasatch and surrounding regions.

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<sup>222</sup> Smoot, August 2007, 22.

<sup>223</sup> Kennedy, Michael. 1999. "Access and the Politics of Climbing." *American Alpine Journal*, 12-17.  
<http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/12199901200/Access-and-the-Politics-of-Climbing-A-Long-Simmering-Stew>, 13.

<sup>224</sup> Ibid.

<sup>225</sup> Mellor 2001, 20-21.

<sup>226</sup> "History." n.d. Access Fund. <https://www.accessfund.org/meet-the-access-fund/our-history> (website).

<sup>227</sup> Mellor 2001, 266-267.

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## **Precedent**

Camp 4 in Yosemite National Park was declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 by the Keeper. It was subsequently listed in February 2003.<sup>228</sup> Similar to Little Cottonwood Canyon, it's a place where climbers would connect, swap stories, prepare for day climbs, and sharpen their skills by bouldering. And during the early years in Yosemite and Little Cottonwood Canyon, route maps were kept and techniques documented in a method where they had to be passed on directly person-to-person. It's "freewheeling, dynamic spirit" drew people to an outdoor activity that represented creativity and hope.<sup>229</sup>

The East Longs Peak Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park was listed in 2006. The upper portion of the trail designation includes a short stretch of Class 3 climbing, which is technically akin to scrambling through a boulder field. Therefore, climbing as used in this nomination is considered a minor element of the Longs Park nomination and overall significance of the trail itself.<sup>230</sup>

City of Rocks in southern Idaho was long considered a natural landmark with historic significance given its proximity to the Oregon Trail, as many settlers moving west called it out in their journals. However, local chambers of commerce began promoting the rock formations for the growing sport of climbing and by the late 1960s, "modern" climbers had "discovered" it. The influx alarmed land managers with the Bureau of Land Management, but also climbers themselves. Everyone recognized the need to protect the place they cherished. Friends of City of Rocks, the first climber advocacy group in the area, was formed in 1988 to actively work on solutions to pressing issues. That same year, Congress created the City of Rocks National Reserve to preserve and protect the significant historical and cultural resources; manage recreational use; protect and maintain scenic quality; and interpret the nationally significant values of the Reserve.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>228</sup> Louter, Ph.D., David. 2003. "Camp 4," National Register of Historic Places. National Archives Catalog. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/123859733>.

<sup>229</sup> Bailey, Eric. 2003. "Yosemite's Camp 4 Placed on Historic Registry." *Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles), February 28, 2003.

<sup>230</sup> Standish, Sierra. 2007. "East Long Peaks Trail," National Register of Historic Places. NPS History. <http://npshistory.com/publications/romo/nr-e-longs-peak-trail.pdf>.

<sup>231</sup> Bingham, Dave. 2016. *City of Rocks and Castle Rocks State Park*. Second ed. New Castle, Colorado: Wolverine Publishing LLC, 29.

Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
Name of Property

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office (Utah)
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University (University of Utah, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections)
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** approximately 70 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.575313°N | Longitude: -111.777057°W |
| 2. Latitude: 40.575775°N | Longitude: -111.771190°W |
| 3. Latitude: 40.573770°N | Longitude: -111.767366°W |
| 4. Latitude: 40.571728°N | Longitude: -111.767366°W |
| 5. Latitude: 40.573103°N | Longitude: -111.777139°W |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Alpenbock Loop Climbing Area is located within Section 7 of Township 3 South, Range 2 East, Salt Lake Principal Meridian 26. The site occupies most of the N 1/2 of the section and a sliver along the northern edge of S 1/2 of the section. The NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 7 includes the Little Cottonwood Canyon parking lot and Secret Garden bouldering area. The NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 7 includes the Cabbage Patch bouldering area. The east and west site boundaries follow the east and west boundaries of Section 7. The south site boundary parallels the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd./SR-210. The north site boundary is angled to capture trails and climbing areas within the site and Alpenbock Loop. See map for detailed boundary.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The site boundary includes the relevant contributing features within the historic climbing area of the Alpenbock Club and within lower Little Cottonwood Canyon. This includes hiking areas, vertical climbing features, as well as bouldering areas. The boundary was selected to only include publicly-owned land managed by the Forest Service.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kirk Huffaker, Principal/Architectural Historian  
organization: Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies for Salt Lake Climbers Alliance  
street & number: 774 E 2100 S  
city or town: Salt Lake City state: UT zip code: 84106  
e-mail: kirk@kirkhuffaker.com  
telephone: (801) 949-4040  
date: January 26, 2024

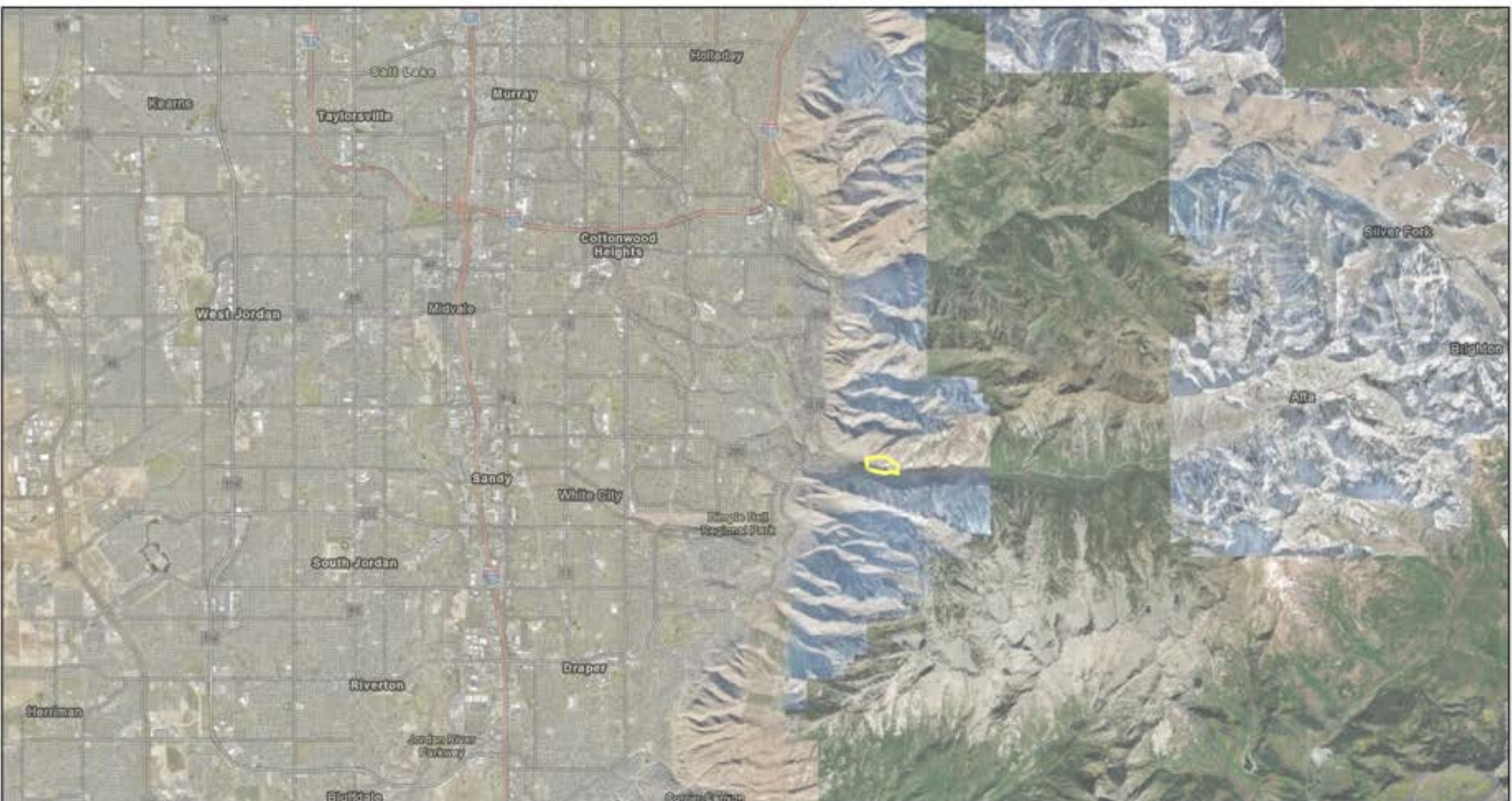
## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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General Context Map  
Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
4385 Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd.  
Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah

Legend

— Site Boundary

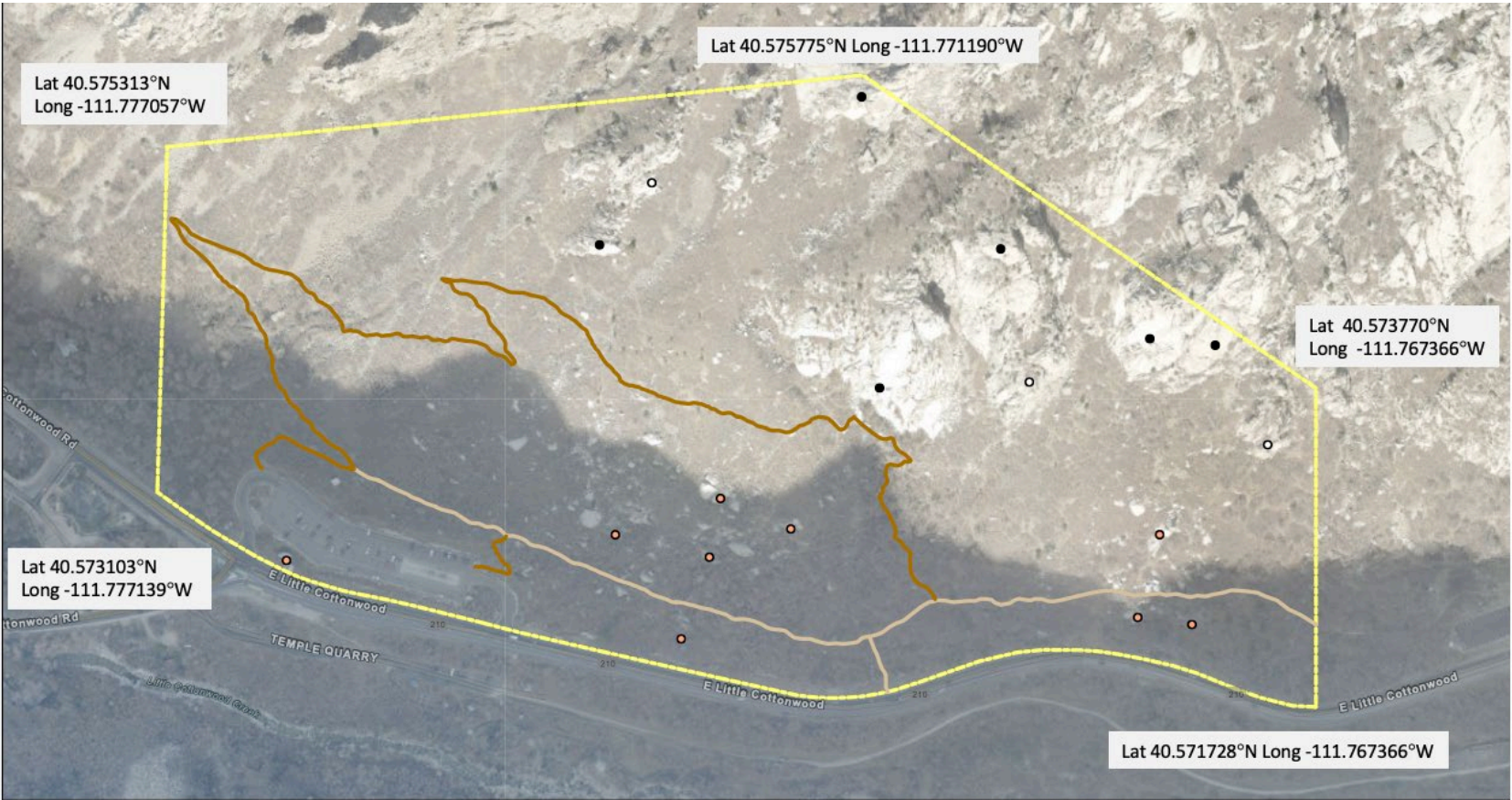
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles





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Site Boundary Map  
Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
4385 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd.  
Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah

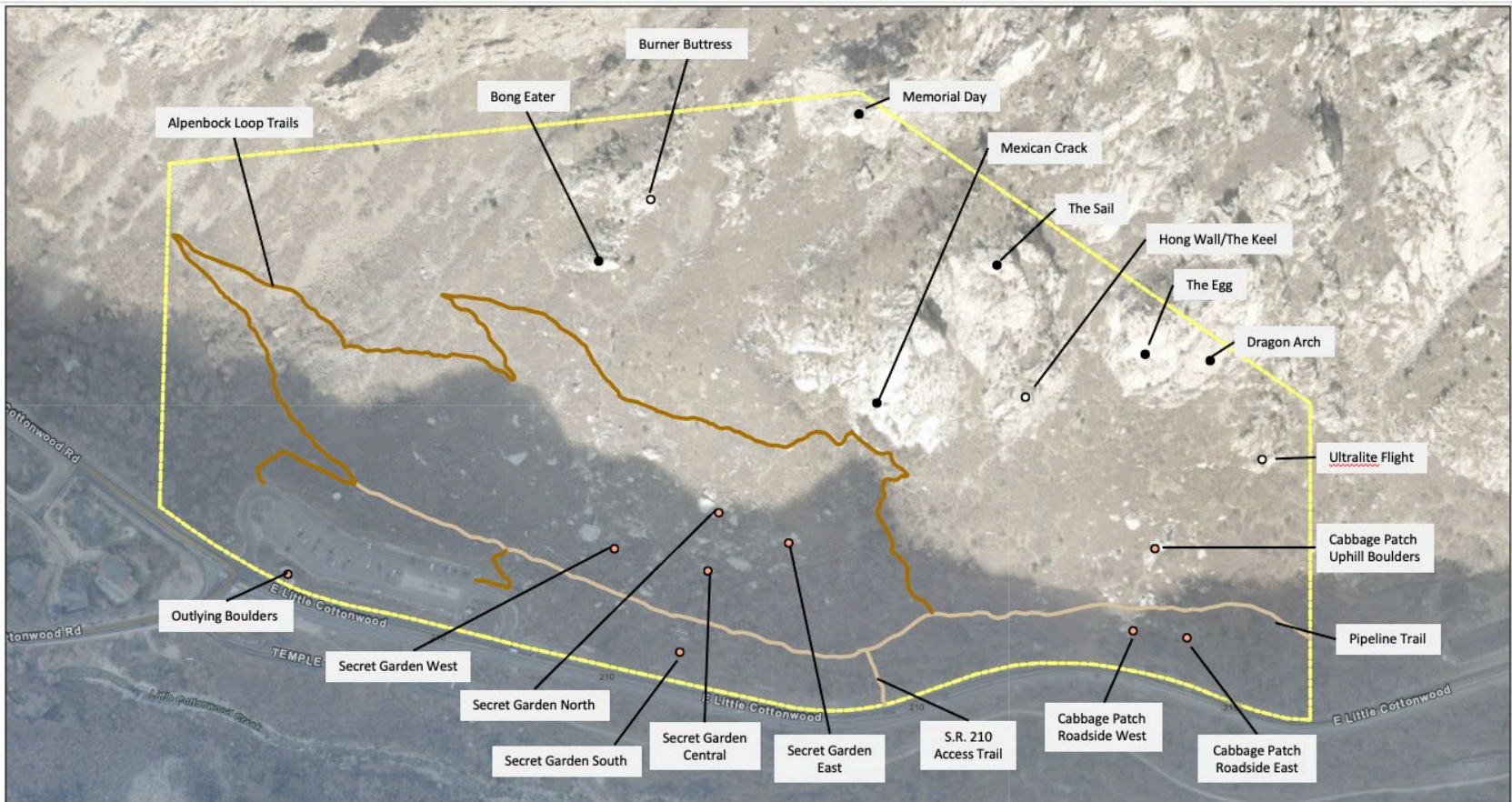
- Legend
- Site Boundary
  - Contributing Trail Features
  - Noncontributing Trail Features
  - Contributing Climbing Features
  - Noncontributing Climbing Features
  - Contributing Bouldering Features





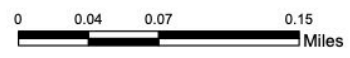
Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
 Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

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**Legend**

- Contributing Bouldering Features
- Noncontributing Climbing Features
- Contributing Climbing Features
- Noncontributing Trail Features
- Contributing Trail Features
- Site Boundary

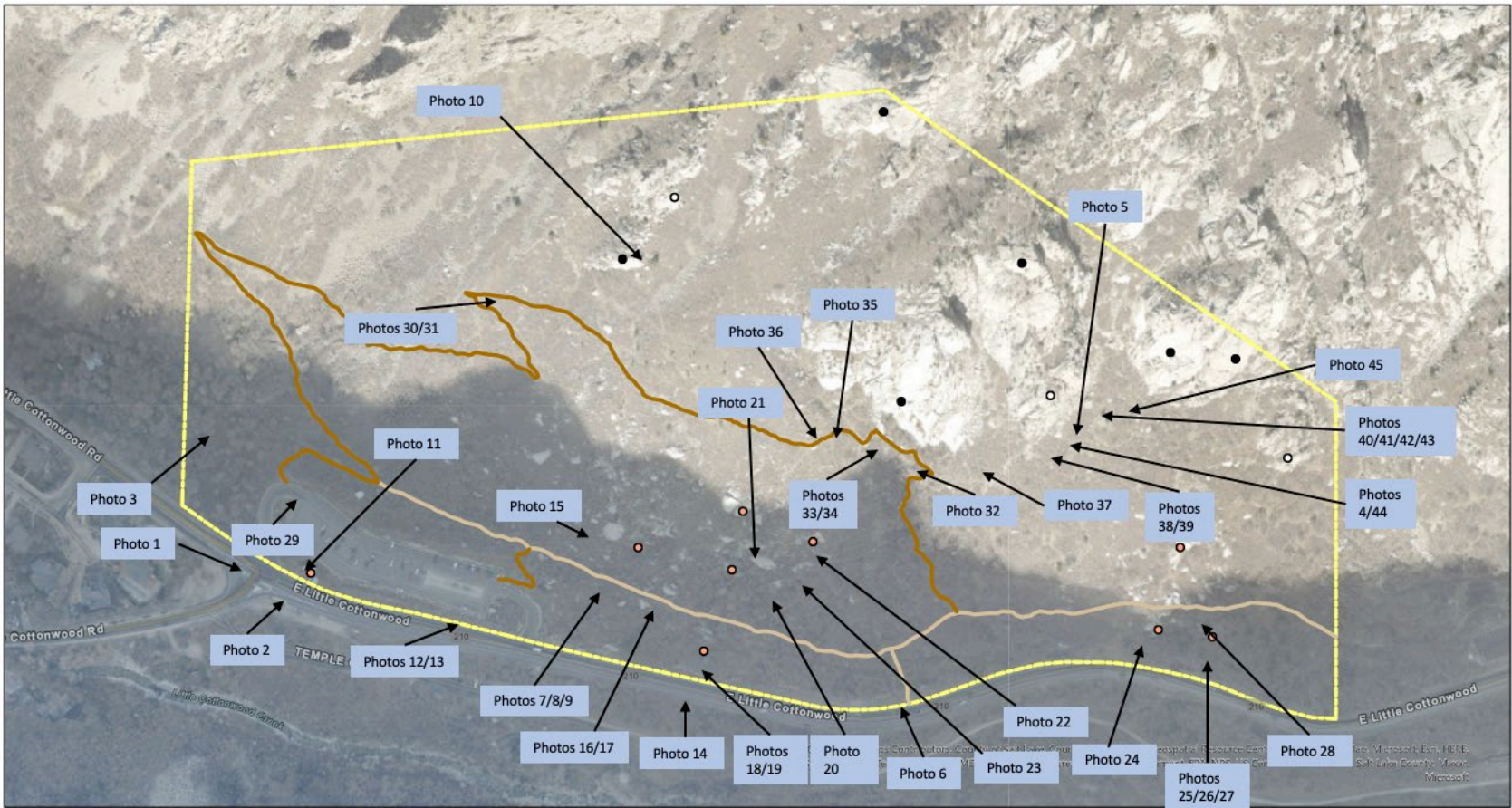


**Features Map**  
 Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
 4385 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd.  
 Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah



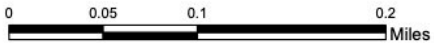
Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
 Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

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**Photo Key**  
 Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area  
 4385 E. Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd.  
 Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah

- Legend**
- Contributing Bouldering Features
  - Noncontributing Climbing Features
  - Contributing Climbing Features
  - Noncontributing Trail Features
  - Contributing Trail Features
  - Site Boundary



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### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area

City or Vicinity: Sandy

County: Salt Lake State: Utah

Photographer: Kirk Huffaker

Date Photographed: September 29, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph 1. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon with Little Cottonwood parking lot exit and Climbing Area at left. Camera view east.

Photograph 2. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon with Parking Lot Boulder in foreground and Climbing Area in background. Camera view north.

Photograph 3. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area climbing area as viewed from parking lot. Camera view north.

Photograph 4. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon and State Route 210 as viewed from the upper trails. Camera view west.

Photograph 5. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon's south canyon walls and State Route (SR) 210 as viewed from the upper trails. Camera view south.

Photograph 6. Social trail between State Route 210 and Alpenbock Loop Trail that served as the original climber's access trail. Camera view north.

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Photograph 7. Alpenbock Loop Trail's pipeline section near Secret Garden showing concrete blocks formed to support a pipeline. Camera view east.

Photograph 8. Concrete block for supporting a pipeline adjacent to the Pipeline Trail. Camera view down.

Photograph 9. Remnant of metal pipe adjacent to Pipeline Trail. Camera view west.

Photograph 10. View of upper trail that leads to Memorial Day Buttress showing condition of recent trail work. Camera view northwest.

Photograph 11. Parking Lot West boulder. Camera facing north.

Photograph 12. Bathroom boulder. Camera facing southeast.

Photograph 13. Bathroom boulder. Camera facing east.

Photograph 14. Boulders at Secret Garden (South) from SR-210. Camera view north.

Photograph 15. Beercan Cave Boulder, Secret Garden (West). Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 16. Off Width Boulder, Secret Garden (West). Camera facing north.

Photograph 17. Alpenbock Loop Trail along former pipeline section in area of Off Width Boulder, Secret Garden (West). Camera facing east.

Photograph 18. Copperhead Boulder, Secret Garden (South). Camera facing east.

Photograph 19. All Thumbs Boulder, Secret Garden (South). Camera facing west.

Photograph 20. The Block Boulder, Secret Garden (Center). Camera facing north.

Photograph 21. Tiger Stripe Boulder, Secret Garden (Center). Camera facing southeast.

Photograph 22. View of Tower 1 and Tower 2 boulders from Fat Grips, Secret Garden (East). Camera facing north.

Photograph 23. Fat Grips Boulder, Secret Garden (East). Camera facing west.

Photograph 24. Boulders at Cabbage Patch (Roadside West) from SR-210 with Climbing Area in the background. Camera facing north.

Photograph 25. Fat Albert Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside West). Camera facing north.

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Photograph 26. Broke Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside West). Camera facing north.

Photograph 27. Double Dyno Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside East). Camera facing west.

Photograph 28. I Kill Children Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside East) with The Sail climbing face in the background. Camera facing north.

Photograph 29. Bong Eater (center) and Burner Buttress (left) from parking lot. Camera view north.

Photograph 30. Detailed view of Bong Eater. Camera view northeast.

Photograph 31. Detailed view of Burner Buttress. Camera view north.

Photograph 32. Detailed view of Crescent Crack. Camera view northeast.

Photograph 33. Detailed view of Mexican Crack. Camera view north.

Photograph 34. Climbing partner belays a climber on Mexican Crack. Camera view west.

Photograph 35. The Crack in the Woods route in Crescent Crack Buttress. Camera view north.

Photograph 36. An additional route in Crescent Crack Buttress. Camera view northeast.

Photograph 37. Overview (left to right) of The Coffin, The Keel, Hong Wall, and The Egg from the Alpenbock Loop Trail. Camera view north.

Photograph 38. The Coffin as viewed from the Alpenbock Loop Trail. Camera view northwest.

Photograph 39. Detailed view of The Coffin. Camera view northwest.

Photograph 40. Detailed view of The Sail. Camera view north.

Photograph 41. The Keel (left) and Hong Wall (right). Camera view north.

Photograph 42. Detailed view of The Keel (left) and Hong Wall (right). Camera facing north.

Photograph 43. Detailed view of Hong Wall. Camera view northwest.

Photograph 44. View of Hong Wall (left) and The Egg (right). Camera view northeast.

Photograph 45. Detailed view of The Egg. Camera view northeast.



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Photograph 1. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon with Little Cottonwood parking lot exit and Climbing Area at left. Camera view east.



Photograph 2. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon with Parking Lot Boulder in foreground and Climbing Area in background. Camera view north.



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Photograph 3. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area as viewed from parking lot. Camera view north.



Photograph 4. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon and State Route 210 as viewed from the upper trails. Camera view west.





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Photograph 5. General context view of Little Cottonwood Canyon's south canyon walls and State Route 210 as viewed from the upper trails. Camera view south.



Photograph 6. Social trail between State Route 210 and Pipeline Trail that served as the original climber's access trail. Camera view north.





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Photograph 7. Alpenbock Loop's Pipeline Trail section near Secret Garden showing concrete blocks formed to support a pipeline. Camera view east.



Photograph 8. Concrete block for supporting a pipeline adjacent to the Pipeline Trail. Camera view down.





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Photograph 9. Remnant of metal pipe adjacent to Pipeline Trail. Camera view west.



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Photograph 10. View of upper trail that leads to Memorial Day Buttress showing condition of recent trail work. Camera view northwest.





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Photograph 11. Parking Lot West boulder. Camera facing south.



Photograph 12. Bathroom boulder. Camera facing southeast.



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Photograph 13. Bathroom boulder. Camera facing east.



Photograph 14. Boulders with aid bolts at Secret Garden (South) from SR-210. Camera view north.





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Photograph 15. Beercan Cave Boulder, Secret Garden (West). Camera facing northeast.



Photograph 16. Off Width Boulder with Royal, Secret Garden (West). Camera facing north.





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Photograph 17. Alpenbock Loop Trail along former pipeline section in area of Off Width Boulder, Secret Garden (West). Camera facing east.



Photograph 18. Copperhead Boulder, Secret Garden (South). Camera facing east.





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Photograph 19. All Thumbs Boulder, Secret Garden (South). Camera facing west.



Photograph 20. The Block Boulder, Secret Garden (Center). Camera facing north.





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Photograph 21. Tiger Stripe Boulder, Secret Garden (Center). Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 22. View of Tower 1 and Tower 2 boulders from Fat Grips, Secret Garden (East). Camera facing north.





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Photograph 23. Fat Grips Boulder, Secret Garden (East). Camera facing west.



Photograph 24. Boulders at Cabbage Patch (Roadside West) from SR-210 with Climbing Area in the background. Camera facing north.



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Photograph 25. Fat Albert Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside West). Camera facing north.



Photograph 26. Brake Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside West). Camera facing north.





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Photograph 27. Double Dyno Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside East). Camera facing west.



Photograph 28. I Kill Children Boulder, Cabbage Patch (Roadside East) with The Sail climbing face in the background. Camera facing north.



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Photograph 29. Bong Eater (center) and Burner Buttress (left) from parking lot. Camera view north.



Photograph 30. Detailed view of Bong Eater. Camera view northeast.



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Photograph 31. Detailed view of Burner Buttress. Camera view north.

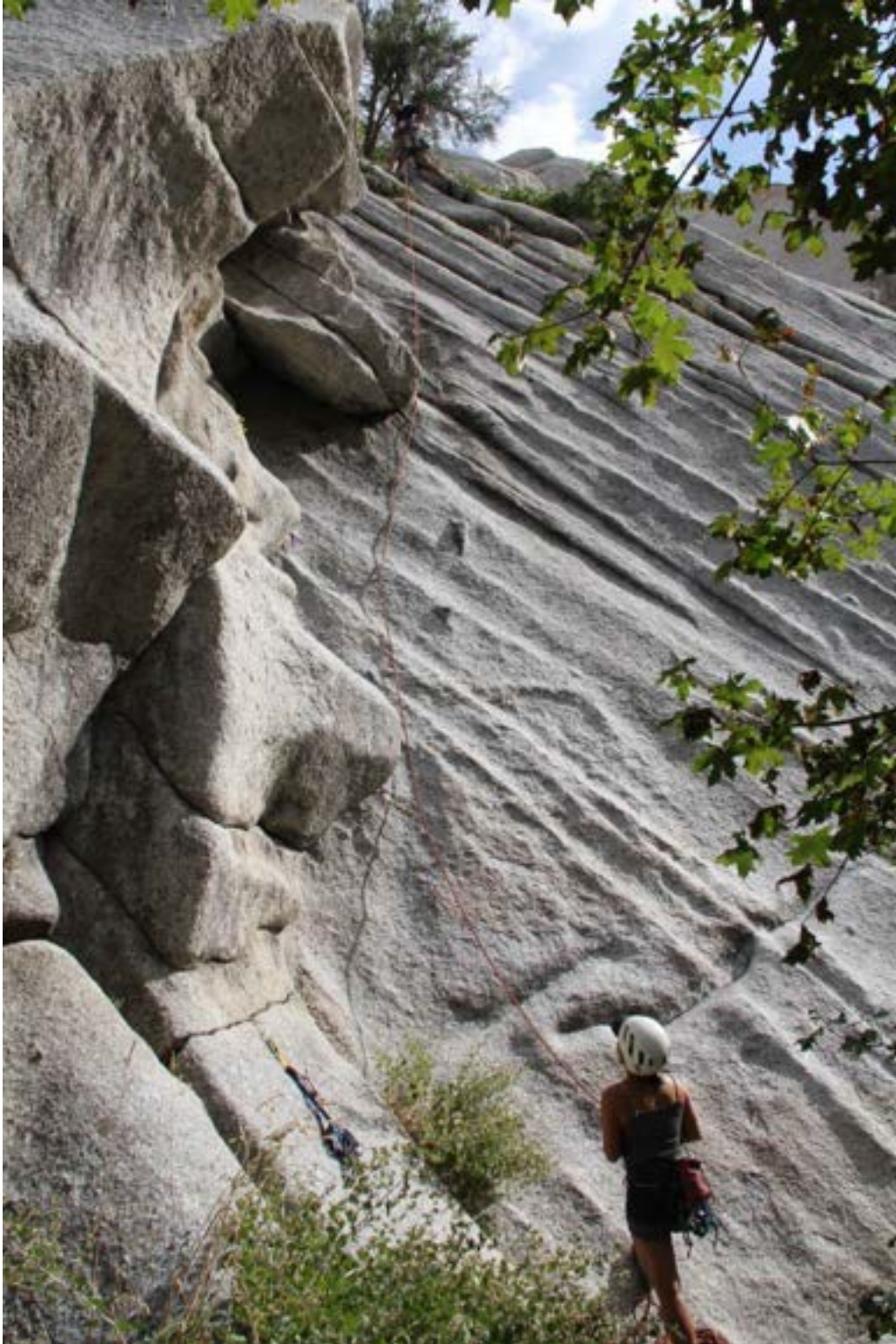




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Photograph 32. Detailed view of Crescent Crack. Camera view northeast.



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Photograph 33. Detailed view of Mexican Crack. Camera view north.



Photograph 34. Climbing partner belays a climber on Mexican Crack. Camera view west.





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Photograph 35. The Crack in the Woods route in Crescent Crack Buttress. Camera view north.

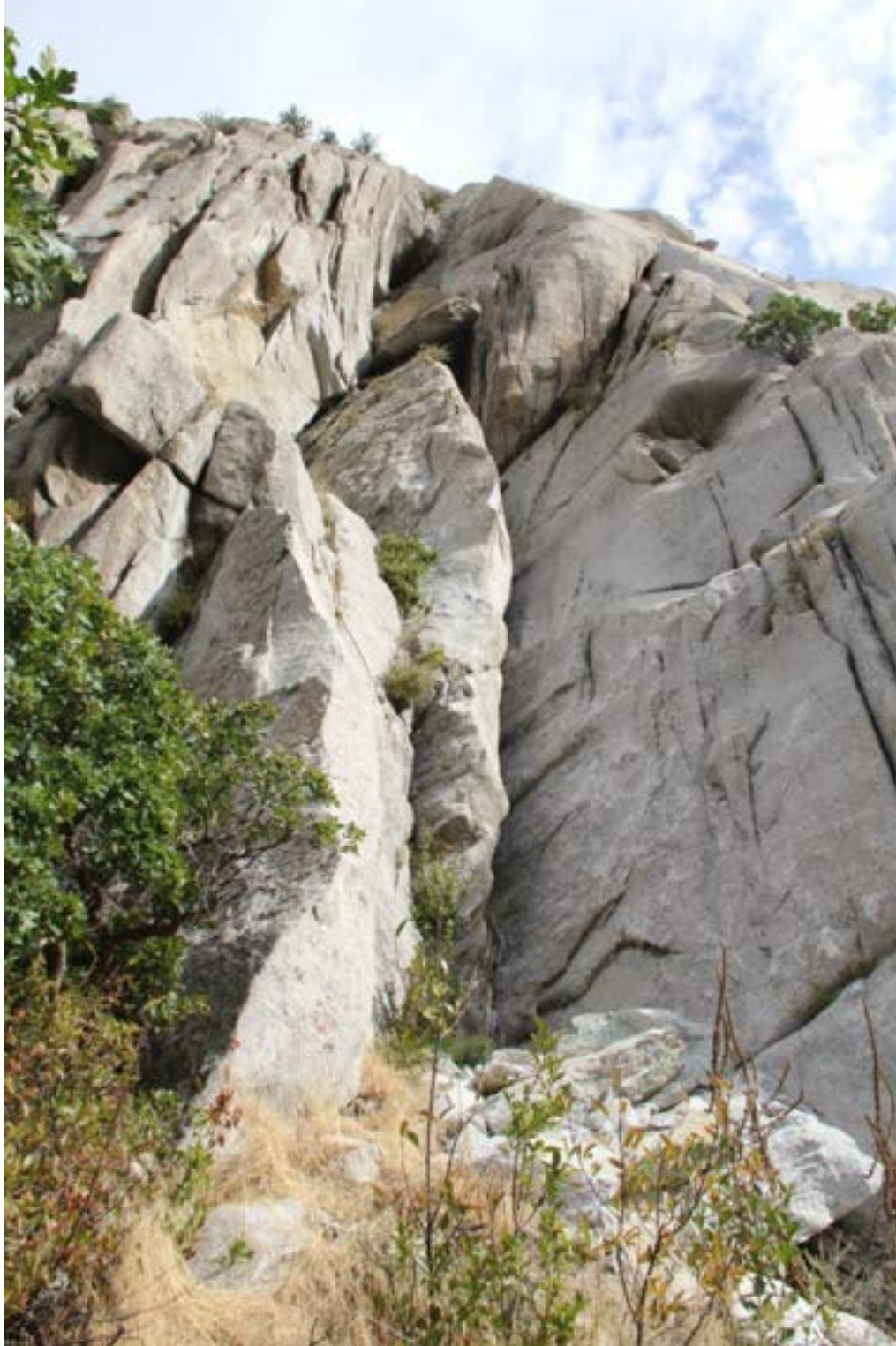




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Photograph 36. An additional route in Crescent Crack Buttress. Camera view northeast.



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Photograph 37. Overview (left to right) of The Coffin, The Keel, Hong Wall, and The Egg from the Alpenbock Loop Trail. Camera view north.



Photograph 38. The Coffin as viewed from Alpenbock Loop Trail. Camera view northwest.





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Photograph 39. Detailed view of The Coffin. Camera view northwest.



Photograph 40. Detailed view of The Sail. Camera view north.



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Photograph 41. The Keel (left) and Hong Wall (right). Camera view north.



Photograph 42. Detailed view of The Keel (left) and Hong Wall (right). Camera facing north.





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Photograph 43. Detailed view of Hong Wall. Camera view northwest.



Photograph 44. View of Hong Wall (left) and The Egg (right). Camera view northeast.



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Photograph 45. Detailed view of The Egg. Camera view northeast.



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Figure 4. Ted Wilson making first attempt on The Coffin, 1962. This route would later be called Wilsons Loss. Credit: Rick Reese Collection, Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.



Figure 5. Documentation of Wilsons Loss route on The Coffin where arrow points. Credit: Rick Reese Collection, Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.





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Figure 6. Ted Wilson rappels from Pete's Rock, ca. 1960, showing typical clothing, equipment, and technique of the period. Credit: Ted Wilson Photograph Collection, Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.



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Figure 7. Alpenbock Climbing Club members (from left to right) Richard Reams, Rick Reese, Curtis Hawkins, Jr., Gary Jones, and Bob Irvine with Mrs. Gary Jones in center. Credit: *The Salt Lake Tribune*, November 24, 1963.



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Figure 8. Alpenbock Climbing Club members perform search and rescue to retrieve the body of mining prospector George C. Galloway who was missing for more than eight months. From left to right, Alpenbock members included Rich Ream, Pete Kutulas, Curtis Hawkins, Jr., and Bob Irvine. Credit: *The Salt Lake Tribune*, April 19, 1965.



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Figure 9. Alpenbock Climbing Club in 1961-1962. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.



Figure 10. Fred Beckey breakfasts with Alpenbock Climbing Club members (left to right) Rich Ream, Ted Wilson, Court Richards, and Dan Davis. Credit:





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Figure 11. Alpenbock Climbing Club members meeting with (left to right) Bob Stout, Dick Wallin, Curtis Hawkins, Jr., Doug Calder, and Steve Utley. Credit: *The Salt Lake Tribune*, January 4, 1959.



Figure 12. The Sail Face, ca. 1962. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah. Photographer: Ted Wilson.





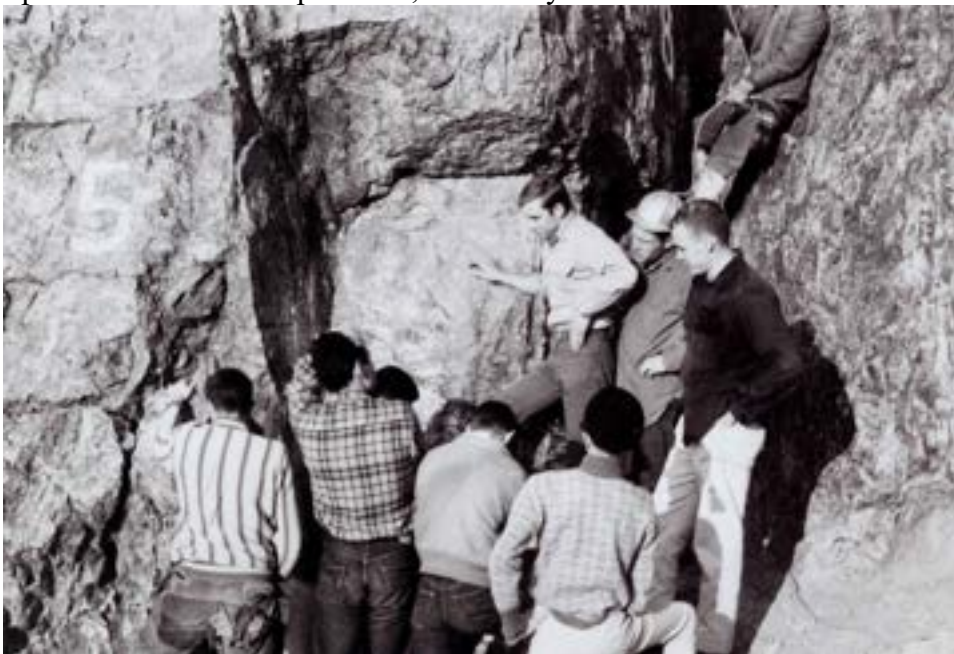
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Figure 13. Larry Love leading the first pitch of the Sail Face. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah. Photographer: Ted Wilson.



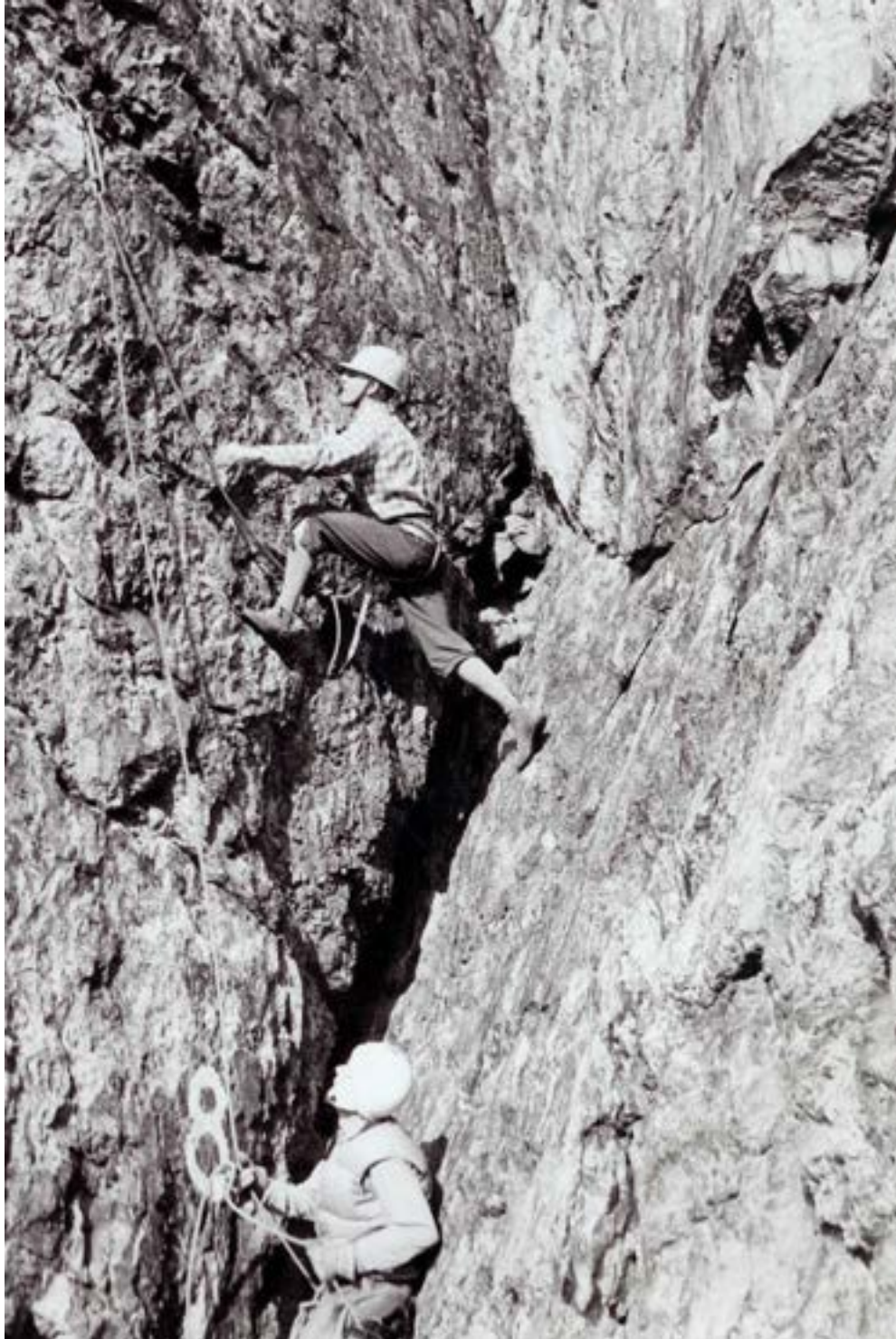
Figure 14. Dave Wood demonstrates the proper method of placing bolts during a December 1962 safety seminar. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.



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Figure 15. Bob Irvine moves up to practice a fall during a December 1962 safety seminar. Rich Ream is belaying. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.





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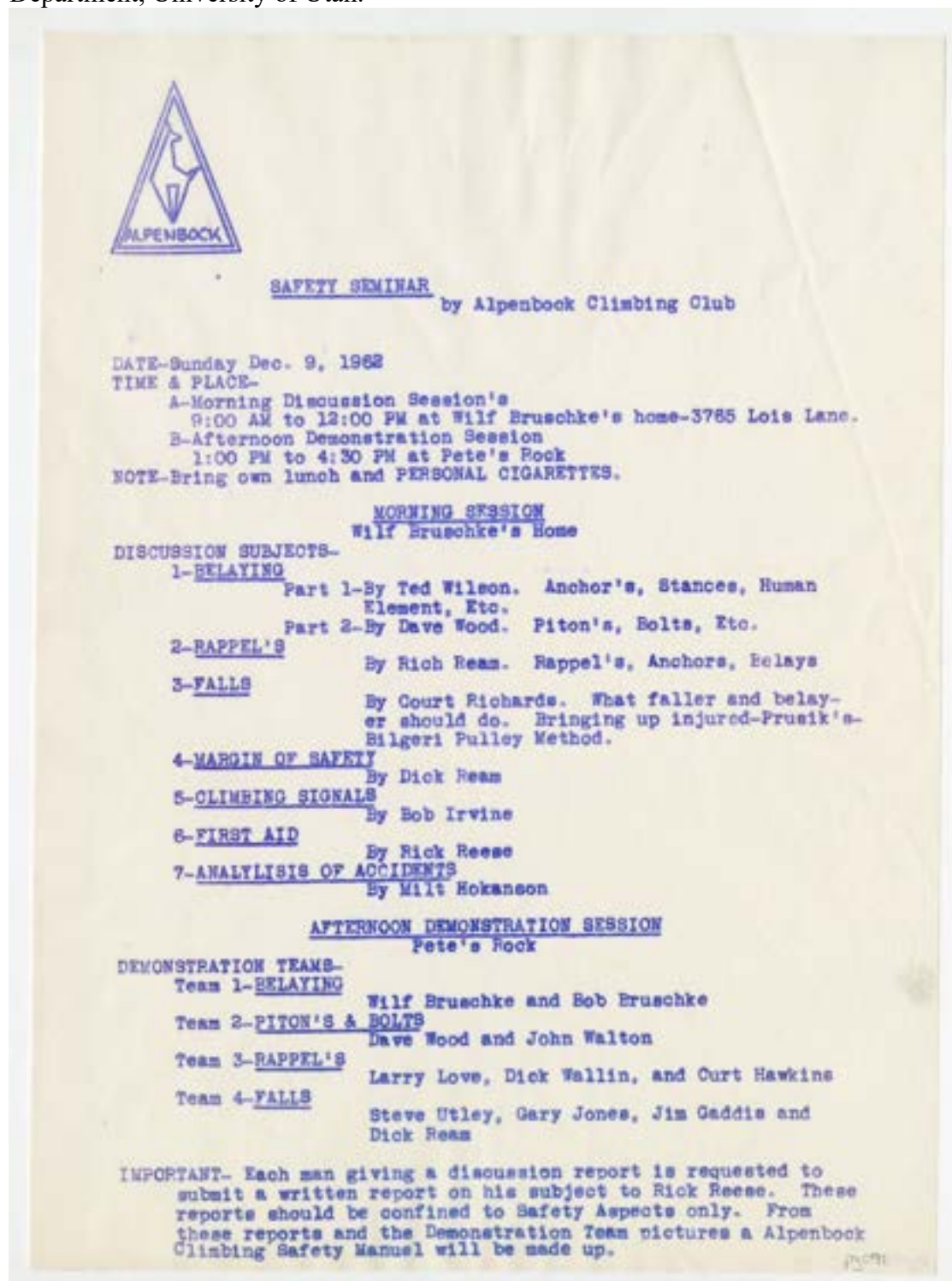
Figure 16. Rigging a litter on Pete' Rock. Dave attempting a bowline-on-a-bight. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.



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Figure 17. Alpenbock Climbing Club agenda for a safety seminar in December 1962. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.





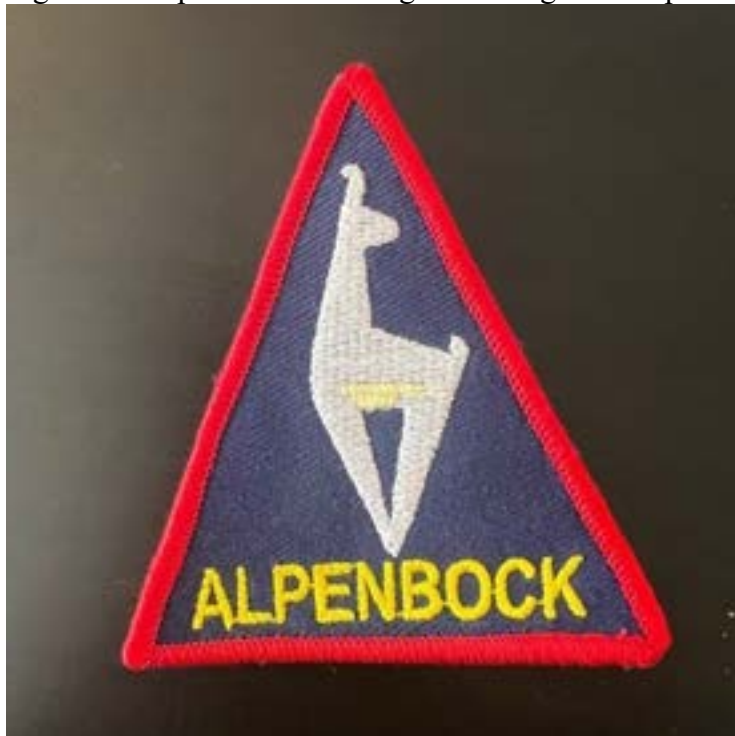
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Figure 18. Plat map filed in 1870-71 for Section 7 of Township 3 South, Range 2 East, Principal Meridian 26. Credit: General Land Office, Records, Bureau of Land Management (website).



Figure 19. Alpenbock Climbing Club insignia on a patch. Credit: Salt Lake Climbers Alliance.



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Figure 20. The 1964 climbing workshop with Royal Robbins on the boulders. Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.



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Figure 21. The 1964 climbing workshop with Royal Robbins (center on ground) on the boulders.  
Credit: Rick Reese Papers, Alpenbock Scrapbooks, J. Willard Marriott Library, Special Collections Department, University of Utah.



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**Property Owner Information**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  
Address 857 S. Jordan Parkway  
City or Town South Jordan State UT Zip code 84106  
Telephone/email (801) 999-2103 Thomas.Flanigan@usda.gov

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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

Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number      Page   1  

**Supplementary Listing Record**

NRIS Reference Number: SG100010670

Date Listed: 8/5/2024

Property Name: Little Cottonwood Canyon Climbing Area

County: Salt Lake

State: UT

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This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

Paul R. Lusignan  
Signature of the Keeper

08/07/2024  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Description**

The Description and Inventory are revised to include one additional non-contributing feature. [The nomination narrative and maps refer repeatedly to the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park Lot, which was completed outside the period of significance. (Page 6. Outside the period of significance, two parking lots were constructed on the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon Road and subdivision development to the south have impacted the natural viewshed.) Owing to the scale of the parking area and its repeated mention in the narrative is it appropriate to consider it a stand-alone non-historic feature. The non-contributing status has no impact on the adjacent contributing bouldering locations.]

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The UTAH SHPO & FS FPO were notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/2/2024      Date of Pending List: 7/17/2024      Date of 16th Day: 8/1/2024      Date of 45th Day: 8/16/2024      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      8/5/2024 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Paul Lusignan      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229      Date 08/05/2024

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.