**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

*Type all entries - complete applicable sections*

### 1. NAME
- **COMMON:** Courthouse Wash Rock Art Site
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Pictographs

### 2. LOCATION
- **NORTHWELL:** Courthouse Wash in Arches National Park, on cliff above Utah Route 163 between Colorado River and Courthouse Wash in Arches National Park
- **STATE:** Utah
- **COUNTY:** Grand
- **ENTRY DATE:** APR 1 1975

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dist.</td>
<td>Bldg.</td>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Public

#### PARK USE
- Park Files - Federal Building
- Park Files - Federal Building
- Other (Specify)

### 4. AGENCY
- **National Park Service**
- **REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS:** (If applicable)
  - Rocky Mountain Regional Office
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 655 Parfet
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Denver
- **STATE:** Colorado
- **CODE:** 05

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** Park Files - Federal Building
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 446 South Main
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Moab
- **STATE:** Utah
- **CODE:** 49

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
- **TITLE OF SURVEY:**
- **DATE OF SURVEY:**
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
- **CITY OR TOWN:**
The panel is located at the base of a massive cliff of Wingate sandstone which towers above the confluence of Courthouse Wash and the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. The figures are intermittently spaced along the cliff base for approximately one hundred yards.

The most conspicuous figures are painted with dark red, blue, and white hues. Tapering, ghost-like anthropomorphs up to five feet tall dominate the panel. There are many variations among these figures in regard to shape, appendages, and decoration, but, as a group, they show great resemblance to the figures found in Horseshoe ("Barrier") Canyon, thirty-five miles to the west. Two large shields are shown held by these figures. Though apparently of some antiquity, these shields seem to have been superimposed over some of the anthropomorphs, possibly by a later culture.

Many other figures have been pecked into the rock, removing the dark desert varnish and revealing the lighter, less weathered sandstone. Sheep, deer, snakes, and men on horseback are represented in this manner on the cliff face and on large fallen boulders.

Vandalism has occurred at the panel in the form of scratched names and bullet "holes," but, in general, damage has been aesthetic; little damage has been done to the figures themselves.
The rock art at Courthouse Wash seems to be the result of the work of several different cultures that has accumulated over a long period of time.

The strong resemblance of the anthropomorphs in this panel to those found in Horseshoe ("Barrier") Canyon and other areas north and west of the Colorado suggests that they were painted by the same people at about the same time. Because there is scant archeological evidence associated with these art sites, it is difficult to date them with certainty. However, because of the many superimpositions, the stylistic evidence, and the evidence within the paintings themselves, several workers are convinced that the Barrier Canyon style is the work of a pre-ceramic culture.

The sheep, deer, and snakes are typical of the Fremont Culture and probably date from about 1000 - 1200 A.D. The preponderate representation of game animals suggests that hunting was of great importance to the Fremont lifeway. Archeological remains substantiate this view.

The figures on horseback are probably the work of Navajos or Utes and have been rendered since the introduction of the horse to this area in the sixteenth century.

The panel represents the easternmost occurrence of the Barrier Canyon Style. Because the culture that produced this art is so little understood, each locality where it occurs is an important cultural resource. The fact that more recent cultures have painted and pecked figures around and in several cases over the older work makes the panel even more valuable because such "stratification" aids in getting relative ages for the cultures involved.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.0092

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David B. Loope, Park Ranger

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Canyonlands National Park

446 South Main

CITY OR TOWN: Moab

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/1/75

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4/1/75
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON: Courthouse Wash Rock Art Panel</td>
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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER: Arches National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Moab</td>
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<td>STATE: Utah</td>
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<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: D. B. Loope</td>
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<td>DATE OF PHOTO: 3/15/74</td>
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<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arches National Park, Moab, Utah</td>
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<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.: Portion of art panel, looking east.</td>
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</table>

**STATE** Utah

**COUNTY** Grand

**ENTRY NUMBER**

**DATE** APR 1 1975

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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