UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LIME CREEK NATIONAL MONUMENT

FILE No. 0-35

PART 1

PROPOSED MONUMENT
LIME CREEK

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.
Large Pre-Historic Pueblos Discovered In Lime Creek Area

Archeological Find Once Center Of Culture Says Arizona Savant; Equals Famed Casa Grande In Importance, Belief

DISCOVERY of what may be the most significant archeological site ever found in Arizona was disclosed yesterday by Dr. Byron Cummings, dean of the archeology department of the University of Arizona.

It is the largest, compact pueblo known to exist in the state, built of hewn white limestone, rivaling in size, quality of construction and probable population, the famed Pueblo Bonito of New Mexico.

More significant still, however, is the fact the structure, the largest in an area which has at least four others similarly built, was found to be a meeting place of all of Arizona's major cultures.

It was, in effect, a prehistoric metropolis, the central trading place for northern, eastern and southern sections of what has become Arizona.

The largest pueblo, Dr. Cummings said, preliminary measurements show, was at least 200 feet long, 356 feet wide and, for the most part, three stories high.

It was built in "terrace" after the fashion of modern "set back" architecture. Its walls, varying from 2 feet 6 inches to 4 feet in thickness, were constructed of white, stratified limestone laboriously cut and fashioned with stone hammers.

Imperfections in cutting were remedied by chinking and careful plastering.

Site Of Pueblo

The pueblo was found two miles above Lime creek, on the opposite side of the Verde river.

Dr. Cummings returned yesterday from the site, to which he took 24 archeology students from the university. The party was guided by Thomas Mercer, Phoenix, to whom Dr. Cummings gave full credit for discovery of the site.

Steps will be instituted at once, Dr. Cummings said yesterday, to have the site declared a national monument, by the federal government, to insure its preservation.

Should that by any chance fail, he said, the federal government will be asked to give an area including the site to the state.

His decision to seek immediate protection for the site offered an excellent gauge of his estimate of its value, but in addition he intimated that highly important disclosures may result from excavation of the partly ruined structure.

Dr. Cummings' announcement, made exclusively to the Arizona Republic, was made in part:

"Find Five Pueblos"

"On an exploration trip in the vicinity of Lime creek, we found two large pueblos and three smaller ones. One of the larger was at the mouth of Lime creek. The largest was on the other side of the Verde and about two miles north.

"The second largest, was perhaps one-half the size of the principal structure. It shows rather inferior workmanship, and appears to have been built earlier, though there is a possibility the construction was contemporaneous but by a poorer people."

"We dug in two rooms of the larger pueblo for 10 feet but failed to find the floor level."

"Of the buildings, two were rectangular in shape, rising in terraces or "set backs," its third story was built higher, probably 150 feet by 15 feet.

"The structure is somewhat smaller than Pueblo Bonito in New Mexico, which is 600 feet long and rose four stories, but in all probability it supported an equal population."

"There is a dual significance in the structure:

"Considering the material used, it shows as fine, or finer, workmanship than Pueblo Bonito. The buildings were excellent stone masons."

"Then it offers indisputable evidence of an extinct, prehistoric culture on the Verde which became a central meeting place for all cultures."

"Type Of Pottery"

"The site was long occupied and at it we found pottery types ranging from the primitive to late Gila and prehistoric Hopi."

"The evidence is of trade influences from the north, the east and the south—the upper and middle Gila cultures, upper Little Colorado, and Little Colorado."

"The vanished people who occupied that pueblo must have had trade relations with all these other people. It was a central town. In effect, much as Phoenix is a central city for modern trade."

"Of its type, the pueblo is fully as significant as Casa Grande is of its type. It will be impossible without further excavation and investigation to tell whether the two were contemporaneous."

"Those people to whom the structure is in good condition, I will return for further work as soon as that is possible."
March 30, 1932.

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

Dear Mr. Director:

I am enclosing herewith a clipping taken from the March 29 Arizona Republic in regard to the discovery of an archaeological site recently made by Dr. Byron Cummings, dean of the archaeology department of the University of Arizona, and his statement as to the desirability of making of this site a National Monument.

A copy of this letter with enclosure is being sent to Mr. Jesse Nusbaum.

Very truly yours,

M. R. Tillotson,
Superintendent.

Encl.

CC to Mr. J. L. Nusbaum, Director,
Laboratory of Anthropology,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

APR - 6 1932

Mr. M. R. Tillotson,
Supt., Grand Canyon National Park,
Grand Canyon, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Tillotson:

We appreciate receiving the newspaper article which
accompanied your letter of March 30, giving us information
regarding the new archaeological site two miles above Lime
Creek, which was discovered by Dr. Cummings.

We have not heard from Dr. Cummings as yet. However,
we will record this area for future investigation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER

Acting Director.