

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah
COUNTY: Grand
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 1 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:

Courthouse Wash Rock Art Panel

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **On cliff above Utah Route 163 between Colorado River and Courthouse Wash in Arches National Park**

CITY OR TOWN:

Moab vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE:

Utah

CODE

49

COUNTY:

Grand

CODE

019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☐ Building
☒ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☒ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☒ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

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:

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☐ Local

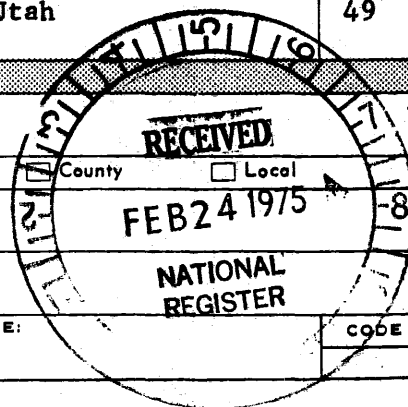
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE



STATE: **UTAH**

COUNTY: **GRAND**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

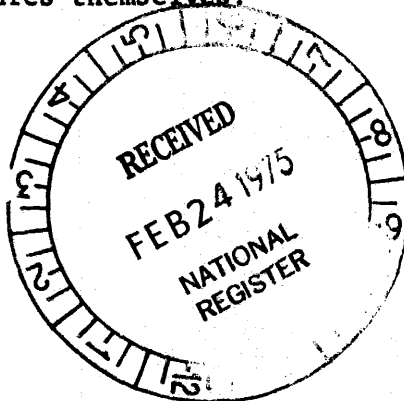
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☒ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☒ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☒ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☒ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schaafsma, Polly 1971, The Rock Art of Utah, Peabody Museum

Gunnerson, J. H. 1969, The Fremont Culture: A Study in Culture Dynamics of the Northern Anasazi Frontier, Peabody Museum

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

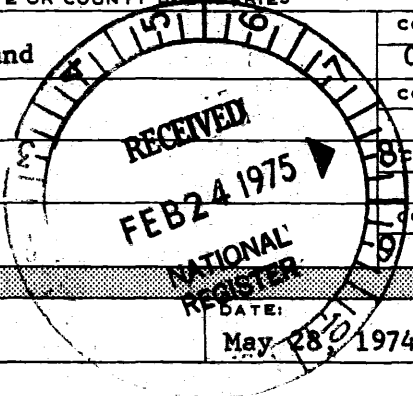
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 °	36 ' 26 "	109 ° 34 ' 47 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.0092

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Utah	49	Grand	019
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David B. Loope, Park Ranger		
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Canyonlands National Park		
STREET AND NUMBER: 446 South Main		PHONE:
CITY OR TOWN: Moab	STATE Utah	CODE 49

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

Michael V. Smith
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State

Debra B. Loope FEB 18 1975
Federal Representative Signature Date
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Title

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

R. R. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/1/75

ATTEST:

W. J. Mortensen
Keeper of the National Register
APR 1 1975
Date

NO
UTM
(1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Utah	
COUNTY Grand	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 1	1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Courthouse Wash Rock Art Panel			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Arches National Park			
CITY OR TOWN: Moab			
STATE: Utah	CODE 49	COUNTY: Grand	CODE 019
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: D. B. Loope			
DATE OF PHOTO: 3/15/74			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arches National Park, Moab, Utah			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Portion of art panel, looking east.			
#1081			

