

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

PH0246824
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 9 1975

DATE ENTERED

SEP 9 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Barker Dam

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Not applicable

CITY, TOWN

Joshua Tree National Monument

VICINITY OF Twentynine Palms Forty-third

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Riverside

CODE
065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
National Park Service - Western Region Office

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE
California (94102)

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Riverside County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 751

CITY, TOWN
Riverside

STATE
California (92502)

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Barker Dam consists of a structure of cement and stone faced with stone about nine feet high with a later concrete addition three feet high, raising the total height to twelve feet. The dam, including the addition, is about 150 feet long. Its design is rather odd, incorporating several indentations. Above the dam is a low wall of dry stone probably intended to keep livestock out of the deeper part of the tank formed behind the dam. ("Tank" is a rural western term for reservoir.)

Below the dam is a crude pond fed by a pipe from the reservoir. The pond consists of two low circular walls of concentric design. The pipe apparently fed water into the center circle for human consumption, and it overflowed into the outer circle for consumption by stock in the canyon below the dam.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT C.O. Barker; W.F. Keys

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Barker Dam is of local historical significance under the category of agriculture. The dam is typical of such structures erected by cattlemen in arid desert regions to impound run-off rainwater from infrequent desert cloudbursts in an artificial "tank" or reservoir in order to provide water for their stock. This particular dam created a sizeable "tank" which served a number of cattlemen over the years. In less rocky terrain, earthwork dams were more common, but the rocky, boulder-strewn high desert topography in what is now Joshua Tree National Monument together with the character of its arroyos apparently encouraged construction of dams employing cement and local rock rather than earth.

The above statement of significance is based upon the following historical data:

A local cattleman named C.O. Barker constructed a nine-foot high cement dam faced with native stone in 1900. Construction required sixteen eight-day-long trips to haul the cement, wooden forms, mixing equipment and other material from Banning to the site of the dam. When completed, the dam impounded run-off rainwater from desert storms to form a reservoir where cattle could obtain water. Subsequent to 1917, at an unknown date, another local cattleman named William F. Keys obtained ownership of the dam, and using concrete, he raised its height from nine to twelve feet in order to increase the amount of water the dam was capable of impounding. The dam, still serviceable, provided water for stock as long as cattle were run within its vicinity.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library
Interviews with William F. Keys

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 290

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,9</u>	<u>2,0,0</u>	<u>3,7</u>	<u>6,5</u>	<u>9,4,0</u>	B	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,9</u>	<u>2,1,0</u>	<u>3,7</u>	<u>6,5</u>	<u>5,7,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,8</u>	<u>8,3,0</u>	<u>3,7</u>	<u>6,5</u>	<u>5,6,0</u>	D	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,8</u>	<u>8,2,0</u>	<u>3,7</u>	<u>6,5</u>	<u>9,3,0</u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundary is roughly a square, its corners delineated by the above UTM references

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell Regional Historian (Revision of 1971 form by F.R. Holland)

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Western Region Office

DATE

June 11, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California (94102)

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Hebert Rhodes
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Deputy Assistant Secretary
TITLE

DATE

SEP 5 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Chapman R. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

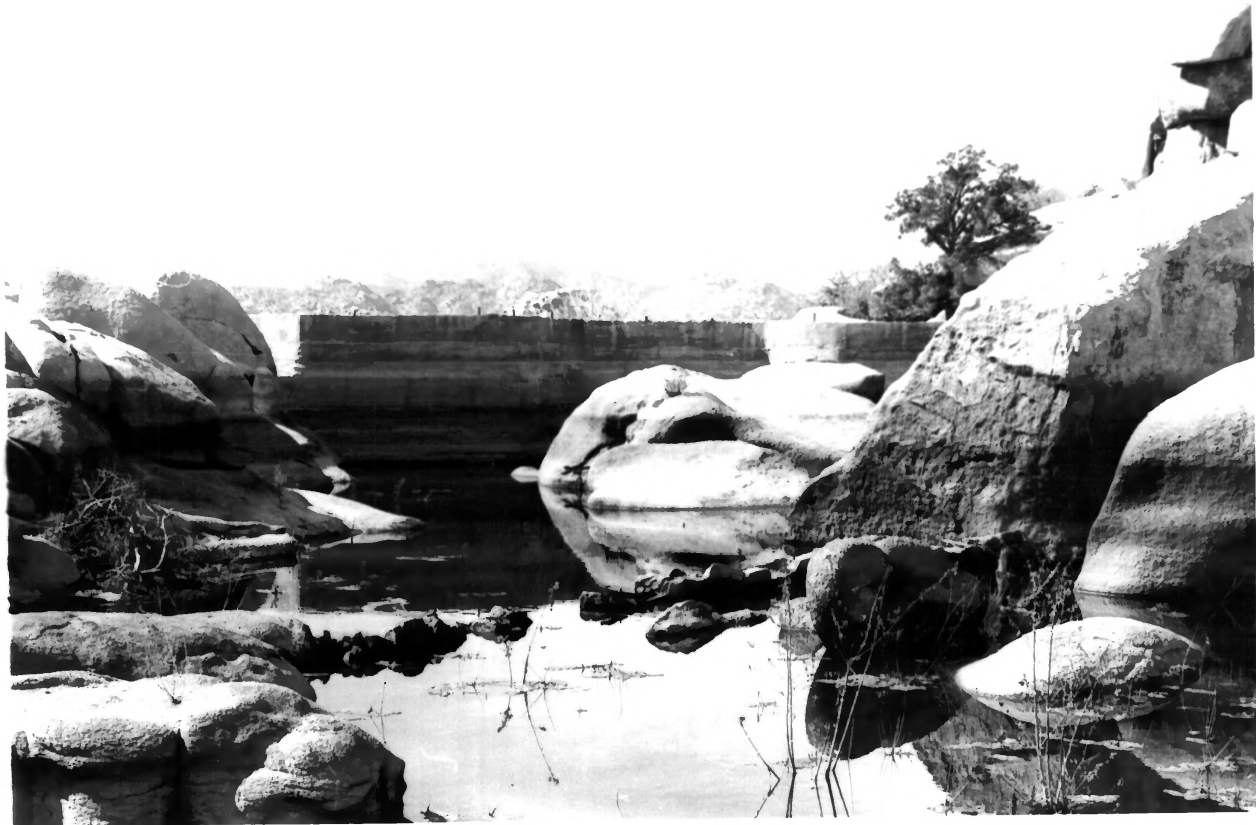
10/29/75

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/21/75



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
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1 NAME

HISTORIC Barker Dam

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VICINITY OF	COUNTY	STATE
Joshua Tree National Monument	Twentynine Palms	Riverside	California

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT National Park Service photo

DATE OF PHOTO February 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT Joshua Tree National Monument
Twentynine Palms, California

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO 1 of 3

View looking west from inside dam basin at low water level.

(In the immediate foreground is remains of a rubble wall laid without mortar, perhaps to keep stock out of area behind dam at times of low water)



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Looking eastward at downhill face of Barker Dam, showing original construction by C.O. Barker and later addition by W.F. Keys

PHOTO NO

2 of 3



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Stock watering tank west (downstream) from Barker Dam

PHOTO NO

3 1/3

