

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:	Arizona
COUNTY:	Navajo
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 24 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:

Painted Desert Petroglyphs and Ruins Archaeological District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Painted Desert District

CITY OR TOWN:

Petrified Forest NP

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Fourth

STATE:

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY:

Navajo

CODE

017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

☒ District ☐ Building
☒ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

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)

Western Region

CITY OR TOWN:

San Francisco

STREET AND NUMBER:

450 Golden Gate Avenue

STATE:

California

CODE

06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Navajo County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Holbrook

STATE:

Arizona

CODE

04

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

National Register of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Department of Interior, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

Interior Building

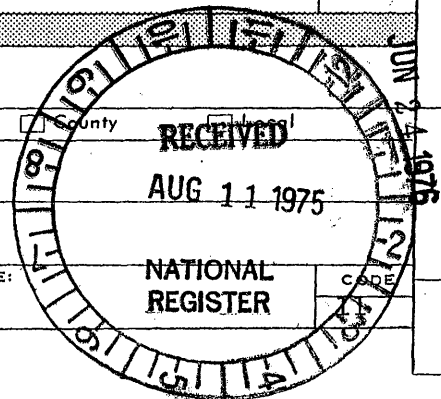
CITY OR TOWN:

Washington, D.C.

STATE:

NATIONAL
REGISTER

CODE



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Along [REDACTED], in the Painted Desert District of the Park, are terraces and talus slopes formed by large boulders of local rock types. These rocks often have dark patina surfaces which may be removed to show a lighter, unweathered rock color. Although this area of the Park has not been intensively surveyed by archaeologists, numerous clusters of boulders showing pecked designs - petroglyphs - are shown on modern maps. One cluster is located [REDACTED] on boulders and in-place terrace faces of a small erosion remnant [REDACTED].

This mesa-like remnant is an elongated form about [REDACTED]. Especially along the southern talus slope and edge are concentrations of petroglyphs and several small unexcavated pueblo ruins.

On vertical, sloping, and horizontal surfaces of rock patina, perhaps thousands of design units may be seen, in varying degrees of distinctness. Curvilinear elements, geometric units, recognizable amphibians and reptiles, quadruped animals, human-like designs, and hand prints are common classes of pecked motifs. Most are not connected with another but are in isolation although often only a short distance apart. A few seem to be purposefully associated with each other either by connecting lines or by apparent position. Some are difficult to see because of obscuring "desert varnish" or weathering condition which darkens the light colored exposed rock surface. These may be older than more distinct, newer designs. The unexcavated small ruins appear to be of the general Pueblo II period, about 900-1200 AD, and the petroglyphs might date to the same period. While it is difficult to date a cluster of petroglyphs, the design units used here are similar to ones dated for the period elsewhere in northern Arizona and many are similar to Newspaper Rock, also within the Park. The nearby small ruins may or may not be contemporaneous with the petroglyphs.

[REDACTED] The environment of the locality is characterized by the starkness of terrain, vividness of natural rock and earth colors, and apparent absence of moisture. At approximately 5400 feet above sea level, the region is a high elevation semi-arid desert, but habitable for mammals, humans, and other life forms.

Boundary: [REDACTED]

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

Aspects of local significance relative to the Painted Desert Petroglyphs and Ruins are the following:

1. The association of small pueblo settlements with petroglyph panels which show considerable variety of design elements. As petroglyph making is a cultural activity very different from those activities represented by a habitation site - a pueblo - evidence of both activities together may make research more meaningful and mutually beneficial.

2. These panels represent a potential for a number of studies; animal depiction, similarity of rock art elements to design units on pottery or basketry, or comparisons between widely separated clusters of panels for example. If some petroglyphs have ritual or ceremonial significance, as is known for some ethnographic examples, some conception of ritual behavior by ancient peoples of the area might be gained.

3. The Holbrook-Painted Desert area of Northern Arizona is rich in rock art but vandals and collectors are destroying many panels. Those clusters within the Park may be some of the best preserved and protected surviving panels in the future.

4. As the ancient native inhabitants of the Park apparently were of two different cultural origins - first from southern Arizona and later from the Anasazi tradition of northern Arizona - petroglyphs of each time period and each cultural group might be discerned and studied separately.

5. Since the Anasazi peoples within the Park occupied various settlements over a length of time, perhaps as much as several centuries, changes in their petroglyph style may be studied from the numerous panels preserved within the Park. Such studies carried out elsewhere have been important contributions to understanding of the Anasazi development, terminating with today's Pueblo Indian communities such as Hopi, Zuni, and New Mexico pueblos.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 160 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Roger E. Kelly, Archaeologist		DATE: October 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Division of Historic Preservation, Western Regional Office, NPS		
STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue		PHONE: 415, 556-6946
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco	STATE: California	CODE: 06

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

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 ☐ Local

Federal Representative Signature

Federal Representative

Deputy Assistant Secretary

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Acting

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Acting

Keeper of The National Register

Date