

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: <div style="text-align: center;">Utah</div> |
| COUNTY: <div style="text-align: center;">San Juan</div> |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MAR 31 1975</div> |

1. NAME

| |
|---|
| COMMON: |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Salt Creek Archeological District</div> |

2. LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| STREET AND NUMBER: <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Canyonlands National Park,</div> | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <div style="text-align: center;">1st</div> | |
| STATE: <div style="text-align: center;">Utah</div> | CODE: <div style="text-align: center;">49</div> | COUNTY: <div style="text-align: center;">San Juan</div> | CODE: <div style="text-align: center;">037</div> |

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small> | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 <small>(Specify)</small> _____ _____ |

4. AGENCY

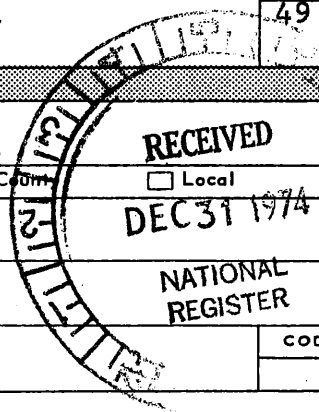
| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| National Park Service | |
| REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: <small>(If applicable)</small> Rocky Mountain Region | STREET AND NUMBER: 655 Parfet |
| CITY OR TOWN: Denver, | STATE: Colorado |
| | CODE: 05 |

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: An Archeological Survey of Canyonlands National Park | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: June, 1966 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Park files, Federal Building, Moab, Utah | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 446 South Main | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Moab | STATE: Utah |
| | CODE: |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: UTAH
COUNTY: SAN JUAN
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 31 1975
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

Salt Creek gathers its headwaters on the shoulders of the Blue Mountains at an elevation of 8,000 feet and flows about thirty miles north to its mouth at the Colorado River, an elevation of 3,800 feet. Lavender and Davis Canyons, which head just east of Salt Creek, drain to Indian Creek. While flowing through the intricately carved Cedar Mesa Sandstone, Salt Creek picks up several important side canyons: Salt Creek Butler, Horse Canyon, and Lost Canyon. The terrain is rugged and cross-country travel is difficult and often made impossible by unscalable rock barriers. At the head of the drainage, however, there is easy access to and from the high country to the south, and a trail across the Salt Creek Butler-Butler Wash divide makes for easy travel to the Beef Basin area. Downstream, thick limestone deposits outcrop, forming "jumps" or dry waterfalls which make travel to the Colorado difficult or impossible. The canyon floor is blanketed by Recent, banded alluvium up to sixty feet in depth. The stream and its tributaries are now entrenched to bedrock, a result of an accelerated erosional cycle that began late in the 19th century.

In contrast to the remainder of the area within Canyonlands National Park, the upper two-thirds of Salt Creek, together with its tributaries, offered aboriginal peoples fairly accessible, well-watered, arable land. For this reason, the area contains by far the greatest concentration of archeological sites and structures within the park.

In 1965 and 1966, an archeological survey of the park was made, and 170 sites were reported from the proposed district. These sites included chipping sites, transient camps, storage sites, open habitation sites, alcove habitation sites and pictograph/petroglyph sites. The structures of the open sites were in most cases entirely collapsed. The open sites found were all on high ground. Granaries and habitations [redacted] in most cases, remarkably well preserved. Masonry is the slab and mortar type. Granaries account for a large majority of the structures. Most granaries have a maximum floor measurement of less than five feet and average three to five feet in height [redacted] habitation sites are not numerous. They are larger than the granaries; the average dwelling housed one or two families, a few housed five to ten families. Chipping sites and transient camps are widespread and numerous. All artifacts collected during the survey were identified as Mesa Verde Anasazi. Extensive pot hunting had occurred for many years prior to the survey, and many valuable artifacts were lost for this reason. The time span of the major Anasazi occupation of this area is estimated as 1075 - 1150. Complete abandonment may not have occurred until 1200 - 1250.

Petroglyphs and pictographs are found throughout the area [redacted]. Many of these panels depict figures characteristic of Fremont sites. That no Fremont artifacts have been found affiliated with the art is quite an anomaly. Some workers have questioned the Fremont origin of these panels and have suggested that the Fremont motifs found therein were borrowed wholesale by the Anasazi. Several of the art panels are unique to the area. These panels consist of series of elaborately painted red and white face masks. Though there are many contrasts, they are

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

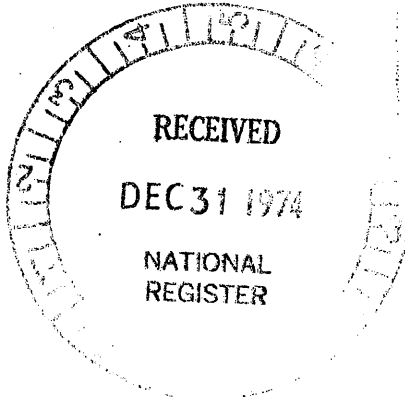
Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

definitely related to the Fremont style, and show great resemblance to Fremont figurines. Another figure, the "All American Man," is unique. Painted in red, white, and blue, the round body shows little resemblance to the stiff trapezoidal forms of the Fremont anthropomorphs. Other panels show great resemblance to the Barrier Canyon style. If they prove to be a product of this possibly pre-ceramic culture, they will be the first of these panels discovered east of the Colorado.

Kirk Cabin (HS 1), a nineteenth century structure, [redacted] Two corrals and several pieces of machinery are associated with it. The walls of the one-room structure are of hewn, knotted conifer logs. The chimney, fireplace, and foundation are of stone. Third level of significance, recommended treatment, preservation.

The area added to the park in November of 1971 includes part of Lavender and Davis Canyons and an upper section of Salt Creek. This area has not been surveyed, but is known to contain many sites and structures similar to those in the surveyed area.



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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)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the ruins within the Salt Creek District are not as physically impressive nor are so numerous as those in other parts of the Four Corners area, the district is a cultural resource of great value for several reasons.

The genius of the Anasazi people is best demonstrated not by their elaborate dwellings or utensils, but by their ability to thrive in a marginal, harsh, environment where survival depends on the exploitation of meager water, plant, and animal resources. The district contains an isolated, fertile drainage suitable for primitive agriculture - a distinct and complete ecosystem surrounded and cut off by physical barriers. Intensive study of the flora, fauna, geology and geography of this drainage would yield abundant information concerning the Anasazi lifeway.

The Anasazi occupied a large territory until the middle of the thirteenth century when they suddenly withdrew to a much smaller area. The Salt Creek area is near the extreme northern boundary of the Anasazi thrust and is thus important in studies concerning regional differences within this culture. One theory concerning the withdrawal of the Anasazi from vast areas of their lands suggests an increase in flooding and sedimentation due to climatic change. Recently a structure has been located

The high granary/dwelling ratio of the visible structures suggests that many dwellings have been similarly buried. Unlike many narrow canyons where most of the alluvium has been flushed out, much alluvium remains at Salt Creek, and future gullying, together with excavation, may reveal many buried structures. Future study may reveal the sequence and severity of the flooding that occurred here and determine its effect on the Anasazi people. Possibly, Fremont artifacts will be found, explaining the occurrence of the Fremont art panels.

Several pictograph and petroglyph panels in the district are unique and deserve an added measure of protection. There are some disagreements concerning the cultural affiliation of many of these panels. Regardless of whether they are authentic Fremont or are Anasazi "copies" of Fremont work, they are valuable because they help to document cultural interchange in this boundary area. Other panels show great similarity to the Barrier Canyon style - found west and north of the Colorado River. Any information that these panels could yield concerning this little-known culture would be of great value.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sharrock, F. W., 1966, An Archeological Survey of Canyonlands National Park, University of Utah

Jennings, Jesse, 1966, Glen Canyon: A Summary, University of Utah

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

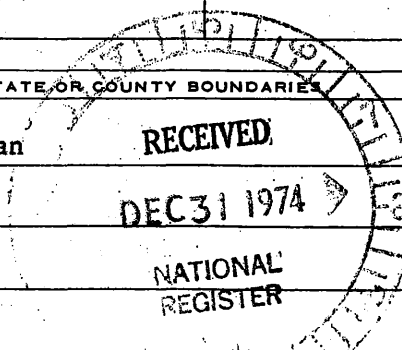
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

| LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES | | | |
|--|------|----------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Utah | 49 | San Juan | 037 |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

NO
W.S.
C.S.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: David B. Loope, Seasonal Ranger | | DATE: May 28, 1974 |
| BUSINESS ADDRESS: Canyonlands National Park | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 446 South Main | | PHONE: 259-7167 |
| CITY OR TOWN: Moab | STATE: Utah | CODE: 49 |

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Melvin T. 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

Robert A. Wheeler DEC 1 1974
 Federal Representative Signature Date
 Deputy Assistant Secretary
 Title

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

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

Date 3/31/75

ATTEST:

W. J. Mantel
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3 28 75