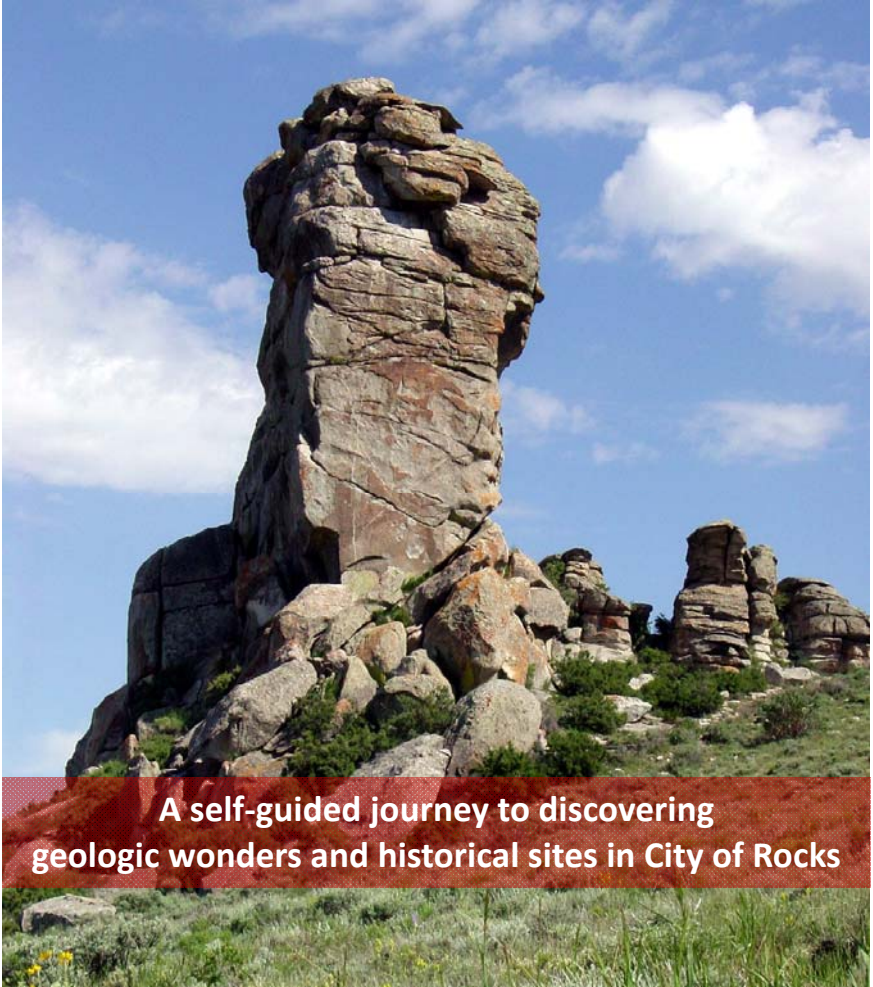


Geologic and Historic Sites

City of Rocks National Reserve



**A self-guided journey to discovering
geologic wonders and historical sites in City of Rocks**

Finger Rock



City of Rocks National Reserve is a partnership between the National Park Service and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Geologic and Historic Sites

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**A self-guided journey to discovering
geologic wonders and historical sites in City of Rocks**

Prepared by
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
and the
National Park Service

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www.nps.gov/ciro

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As you drive the City of Rocks road you will be able to see all of the rocks that are featured in this guide. You may see animals, faces, or buildings; only your imagination limits what you see.

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Introduction

City of Rocks National Reserve has long been an oddity and wonder, especially for passing emigrants on the California Trail (1843-1882).

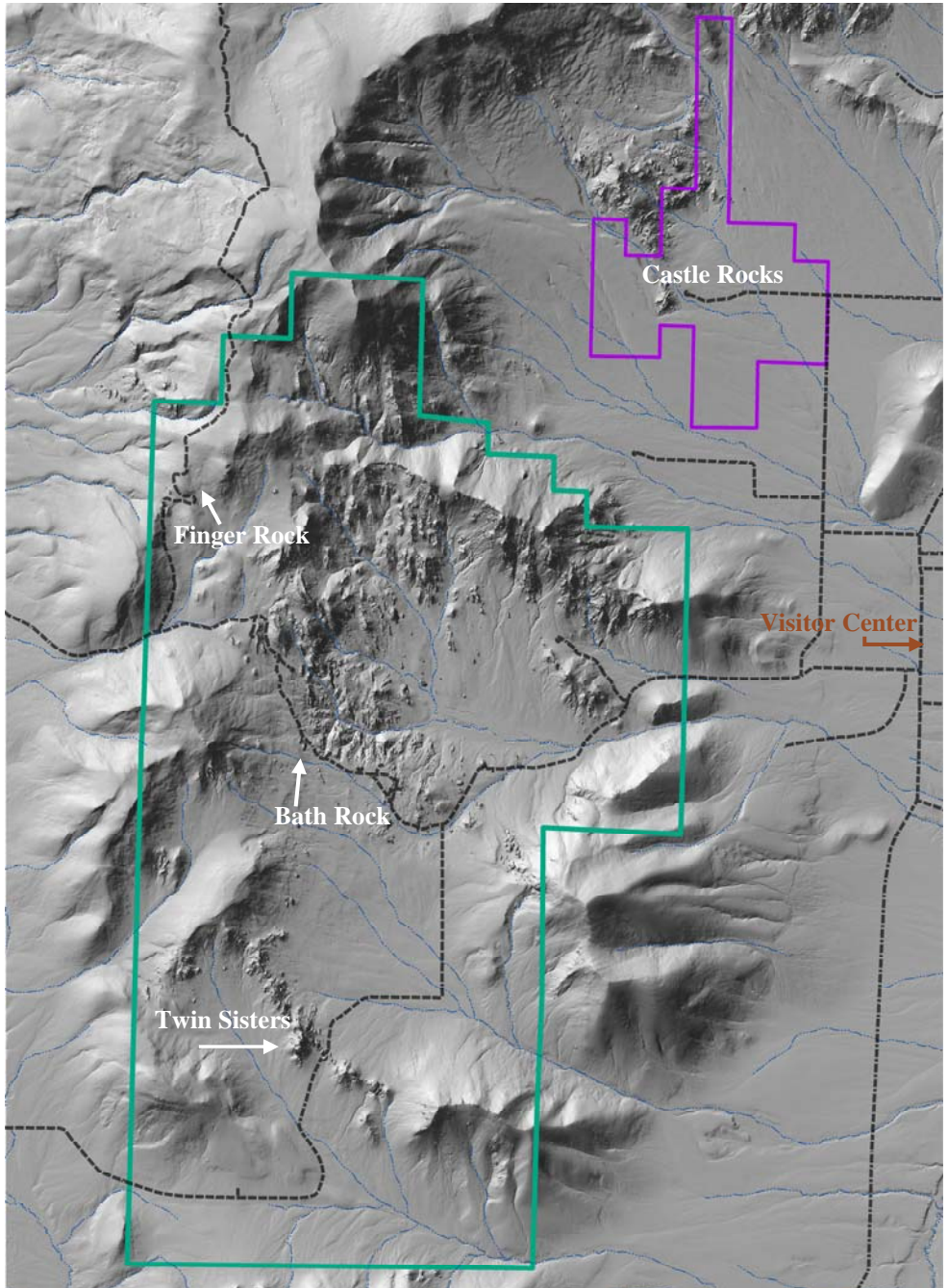
Many of these emigrants wrote entries in their journals naming the rock features as they traveled through the valley.

“...Pyramid Circle and the hills which encircle it, were the most beautiful and wonderful white rocks that we ever saw. This is known as the City of Rocks...” –Helen Carpenter 1857

Many of the granite formations were named by emigrants on the trail, local residents, and rock climbers. Can you see what they saw? Use your imagination; you might come up with a better name for the rocks.



City of Rocks National Reserve Public Roads Overview



Steinfells Dome and Jacksons Thumb



Steinfells Dome and Jacksons Thumb are favorite multi-pitch climbs. The dome is named after the legendary Steinfell Climbing Club of Utah; many routes were climbed during the late 1960's.

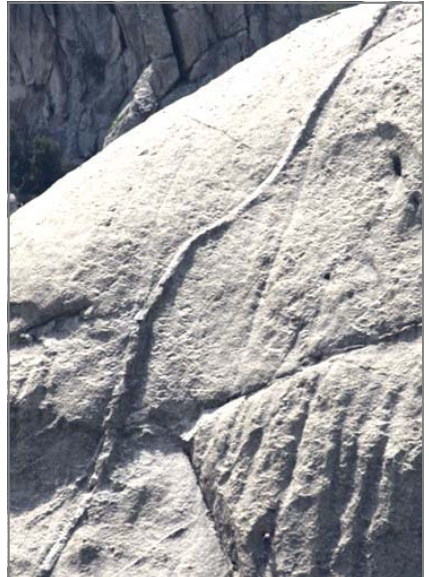
Jacksons Thumb is named after the late Ned Jackson, Superintendent from 1990 to 2001.

Stripe Rock



Stripe Rock has become a popular three-pitch climbing destination since the popular route “Cruel Shoes” was established by Kevin Pogue.

The stripe running down this formation resulted as rock cooled slower than the surrounding granite, forming an aplite dike.



Lost Arrow Spire



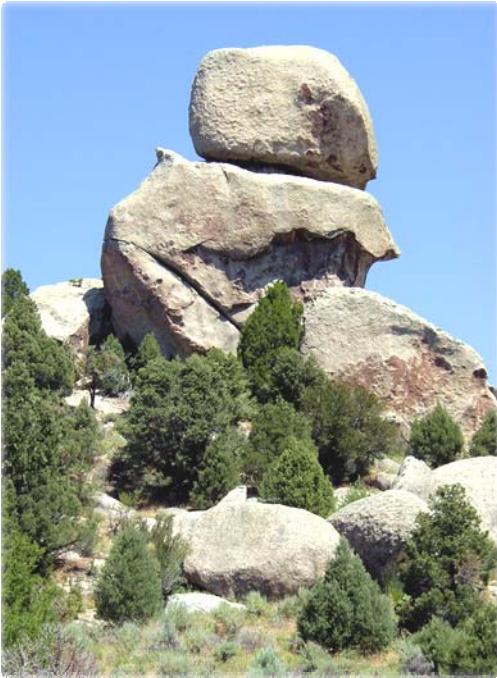
Lost Arrow Spire—City of Rocks



Lost Arrow Spire—Yosemite

Rock climbers in the 1960's noticed the uncanny resemblance between the City's Lost Arrow and the iconic spire in Yosemite Valley of the same name. The re-use of names of several features represents the deep-rooted connection that early climbers had to Yosemite.

Box Top



The box on top of this granite monolith resulted from the weathering of horizontal and vertical joints. Look for this feature on the west side of the Circle Creek Basin. See Map on page 20 -21.

Clam Shell



Once you recognize the “clam shell” in this granite dome, it will catch your eye on every visit. Most see it as they drive through the Reserve; however, very few venture out to experience the Clam Shell up close.



Tracy Homestead

The stone house was home to many early settlers beginning with William E. Tracy circa 1901. *W.E.T.* was placed on a stone on the south side outside upstairs bedroom window.

John H. Hull occupied the house circa 1909 and remodeled the east bedroom on the main floor, adding the large window and capstone with the inscription *MAR 29 1909 J.H.H.*

The house was empty for many years and then burned in 1967.

Please respect private property within the Reserve.

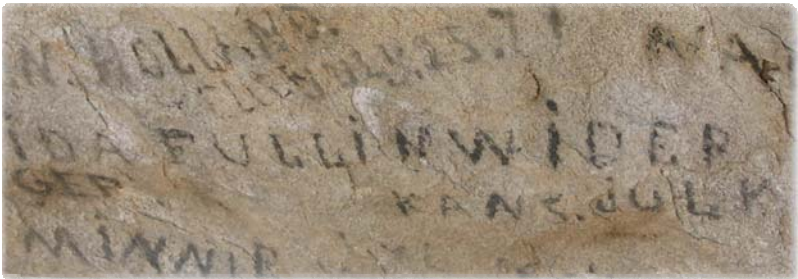


Camp Rock



Camp Rock was a favorite resting place for traveling emigrants. Some wrote their names in axle grease on the rock face; now over 160 years later, we can see those names and wonder what it was like for them as they traveled through the “Silent City.”

Take a moment and walk around the rock. You will see hundreds of inscriptions and dates ranging from 1843—1882.



IDA FULLINWIDER, 12 JULY 1881

Chicken Rock

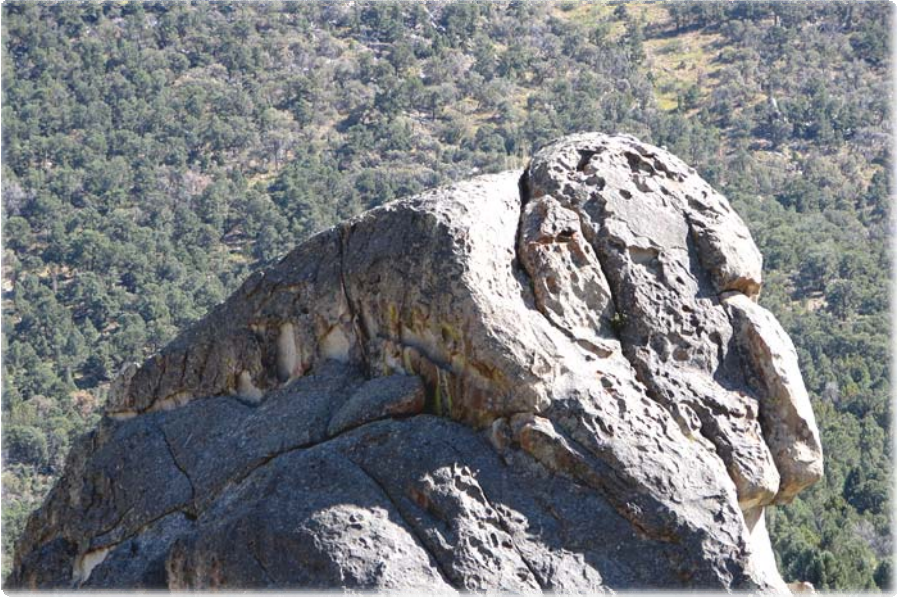
This granite formation is an excellent example of spires, joints and weathering.

Some call this rock Scotty Dog others have called it Oriental Castle. What do you see?

There are emigrant signatures on this formation as well. Please do not climb or scramble on formations with signatures.



Monkey-Face Rock



Be creative; can you spot the monkey's face?

What intriguing shapes and figures can you find on your visit to City of Rocks? Write them down, take a picture of them, and share them at <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfRocksNationalReserve>



Cinderella Slipper



Is this Cinderella's lost slipper? This oversized shoe is featured on the same formation as Monkey-Face.

The granite slipper measures five feet wide and 25 feet long.

Kaisers Helmet



Let your imagination wander. Visualize this spike-like protuberance (pickelhaube) on the summit as a spiked helmet worn by German soldiers in WWI. Now do you see why it is named Kaisers Helmet?



Treasure Rock



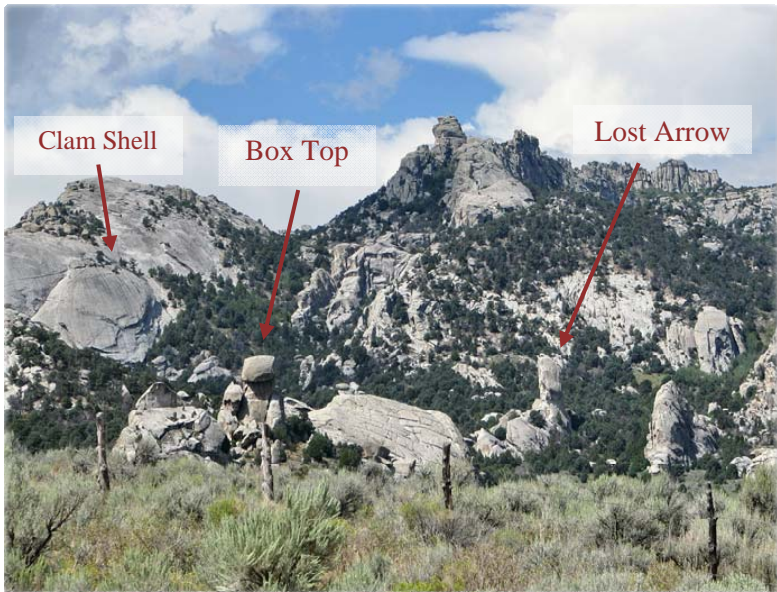
With tales of stolen gold and buried treasure, this formation is shrouded in mystery and lore. Do you believe the story of buried treasure? A roadside attraction, Treasure Rock sees many curious visitors each year.

This legend is plausible. Although versions of the robbery differ, most agree that the Kelton stage was robbed circa 1878 in gold bullion bound for a U.S. military camp in Boise. One bandit (in some accounts, two) was killed in the confrontation. The second was captured days later after reportedly burying the treasure at the base of what soon became known as Treasure Rock.

Circle Creek Basin



You will often see cattle grazing on the lush meadows of Circle Creek Basin during the spring and summer months. The emigrants nooned and camped on the edge of the Basin.

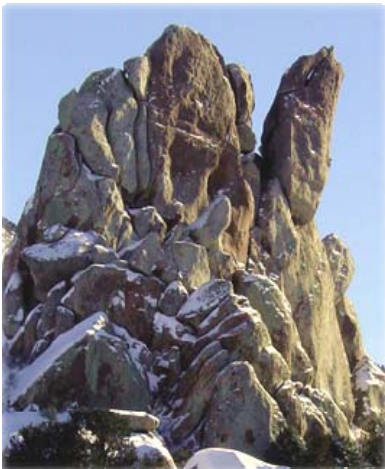


See pages 8-10 for descriptions

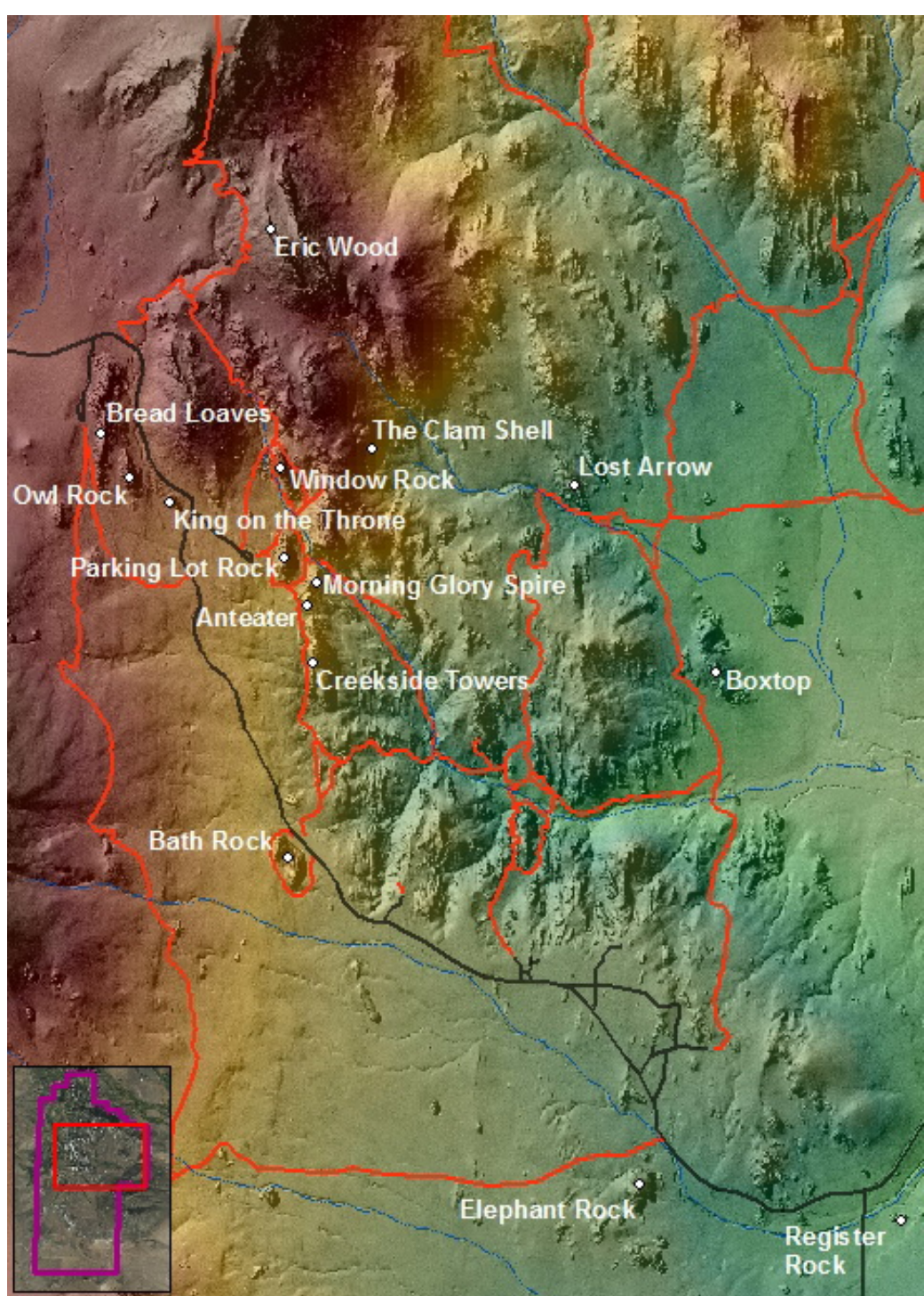
Devils Bedstead

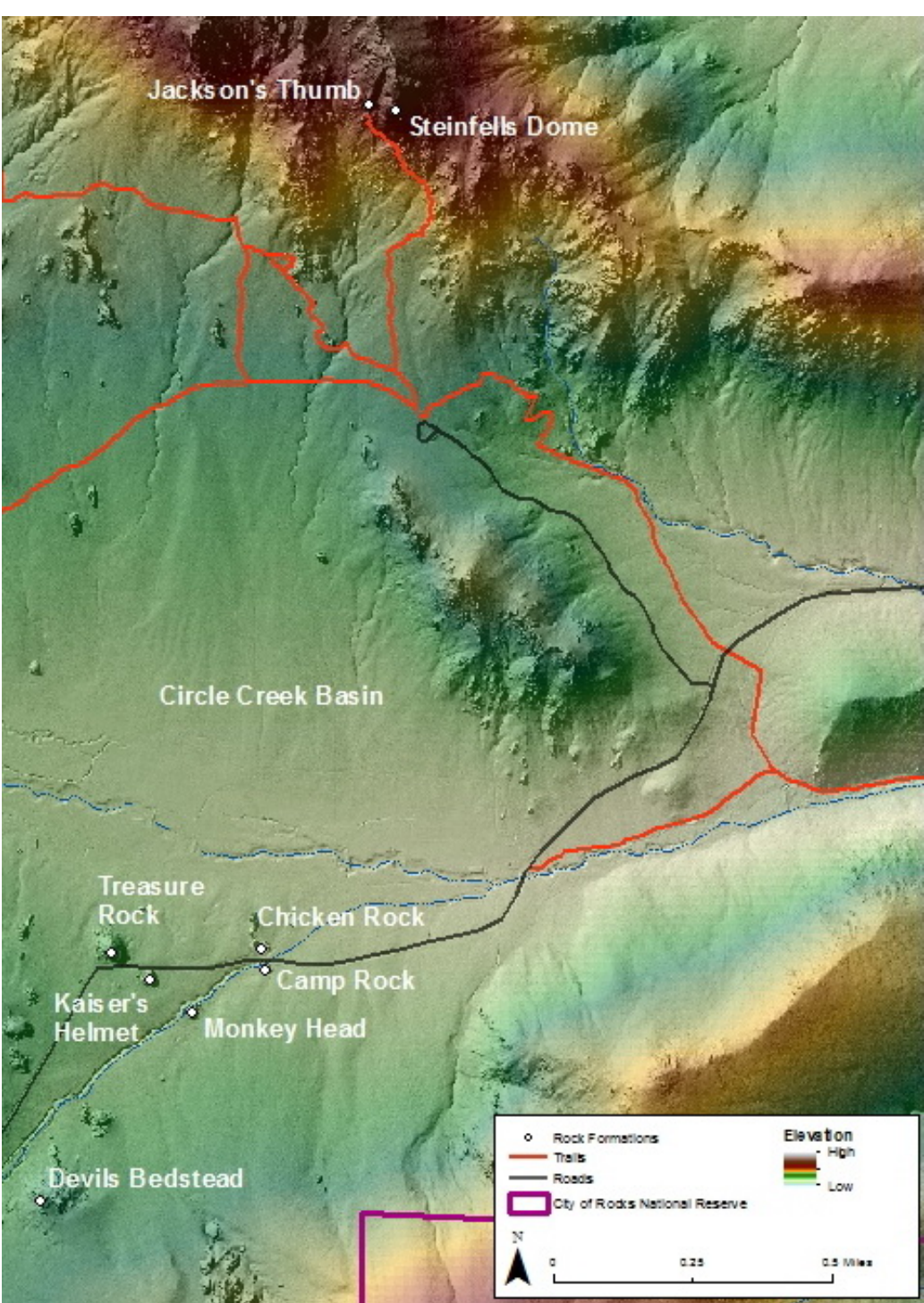


Perched on a hill looms a feature with an ominous name—the Devils Bedstead. Can you see the headboard on the left and the footer on the right? Only the devil would sleep on a mattress of uneven granite!



Tigway is precariously perched. Is this the next rock to fall in City of Rocks?





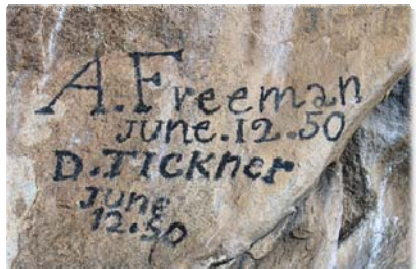
Register Rock



Register Rock conveys many shapes, depending on the viewing angle. Many see a sleeping camel, others see a turtle or the profile of Andy Gump.

Take a moment to view the signatures written in axle grease. Emigrants, like A. Freeman and D. Tickner, stopped here on June 12, 1850 and “registered” their names.

Learn more at www.nps.gov/ciro.



Elephant Rock



This majestic dome resembles an elephant marching off into the sunset. Elephant Rock is one of the more easily accessible and popular climbing formations.



Window Arch



Window Arch is one of the most frequently visited features in the Reserve, popular for group photos. The arch is located 300 feet north of campsite 37 .



Historic Corral



This early 20th Century corral, part of the Durfee Homestead, fell into disrepair until restored by BS Troop 18 in 2013. The corral is nestled against the rock and is difficult to see from the road. Take a short walk south from Elephant Rock to visit the corral.



Bath Rock



Snow and rainwater fill a large depression or panhole on top of Bath Rock, giving rise to the name. Many visitors climb the relatively easy southwest face for a magnificent view of City of Rocks.

In 1939 and 1940 the Bathtub Rock Bathing Beauty Parade was held here.



Creekside Towers



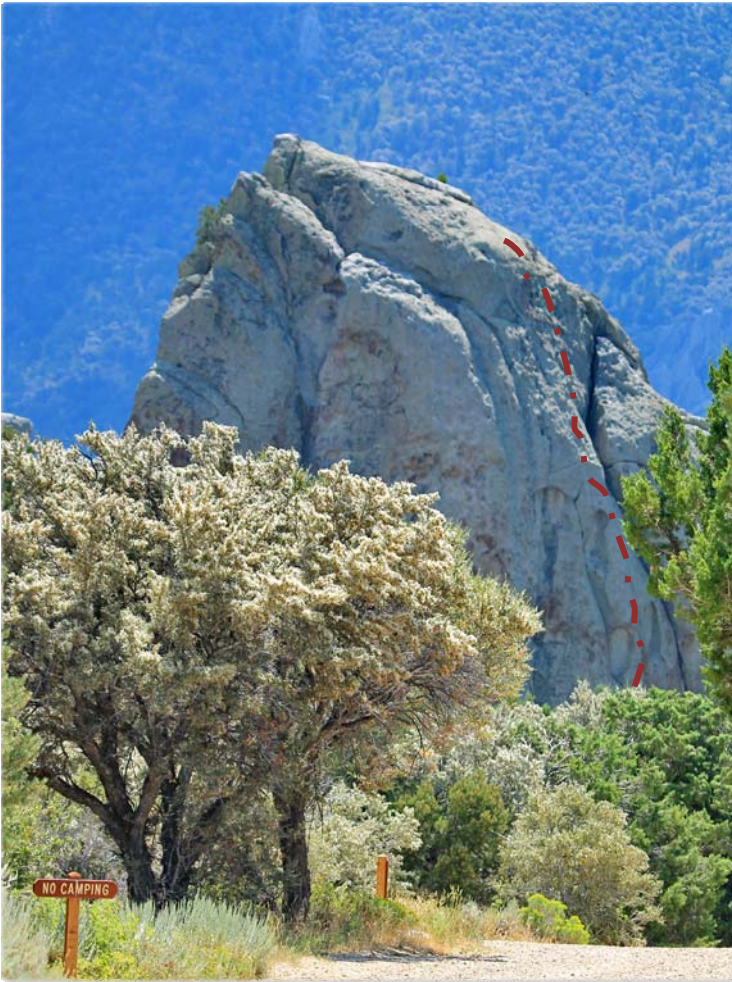
Creekside Towers Trail winds along the base of this imposing feature. The trail's gentle grade is suitable for families with children. Snow melting in the spring creates a small cascading waterfall adjacent to the trail.

Morning Glory Spire



Morning Glory Spire (a.k.a. The Incisor) stands tall above the Inner City. The east face is glorious in the morning. The soft rays of the rising sun bathe the spire in light.

Anteater

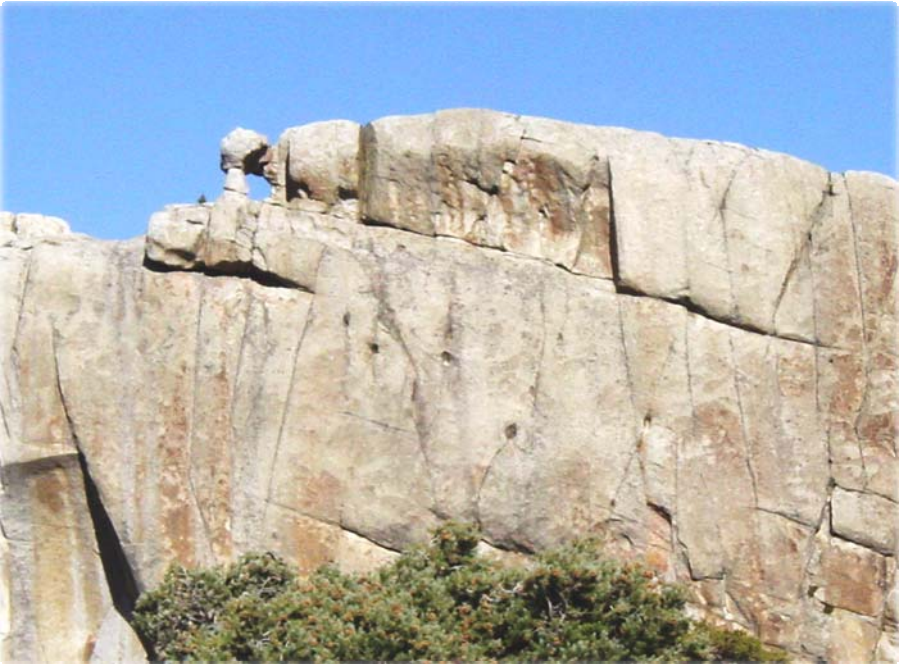
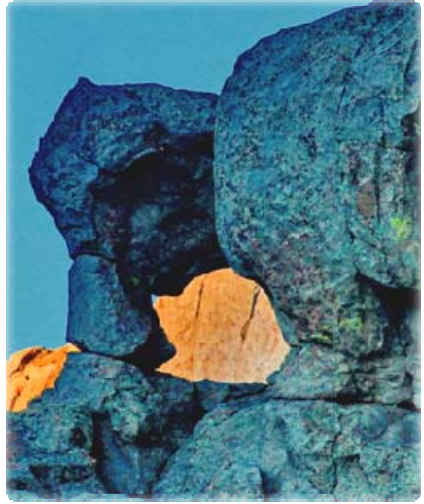


This eye-catching dome is the home of the classic "Scream Cheese" climbing route. This rock is frequented by climbers and is accessible from Creekside Towers Trail or Parking Lot Trailhead.

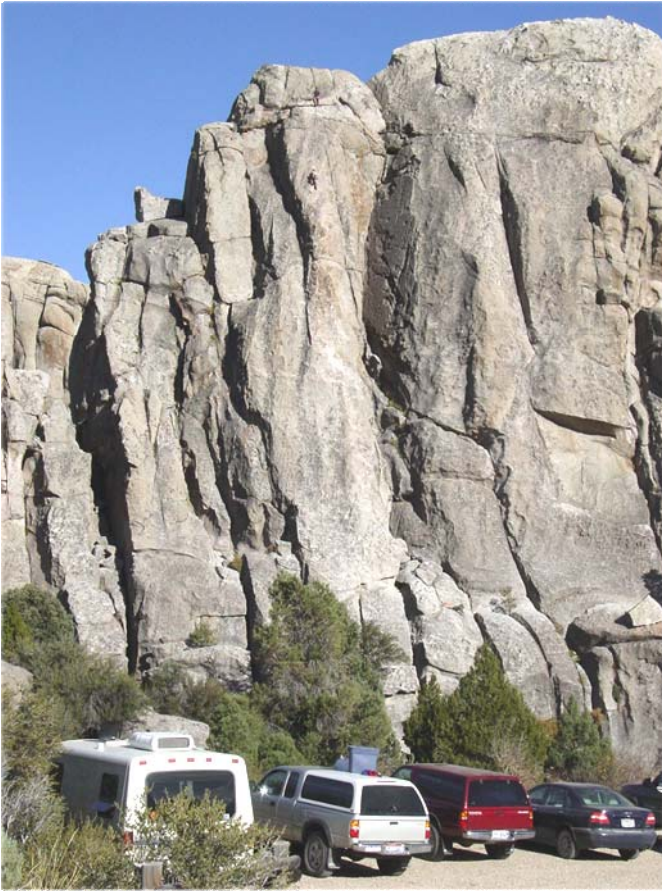
Window Rock

Salt, wind, and water conspire to carve a window. Chemical and mechanical erosion continue to enlarge this feature.

For more information about erosive processes pick up the Geological Interpretive Trail booklet at the Visitor Center.



Parking lot Rock



The naming of this formation could have gone something like this:

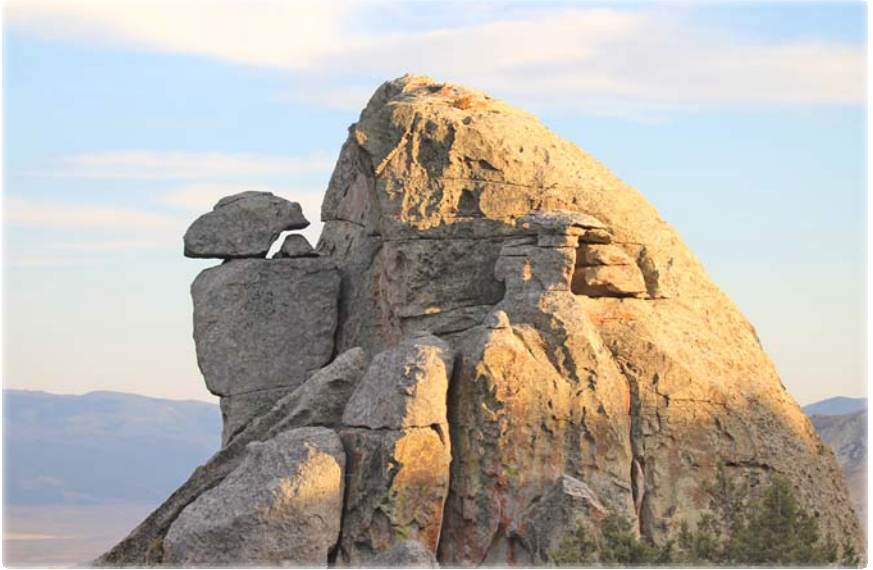
Climber 1 - "I just did this amazing climb today!"

Climber 2 - "Where was it, I'll check it out tomorrow..."

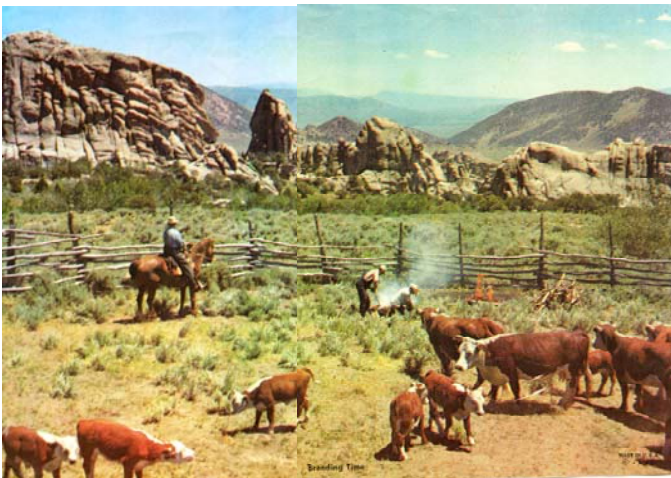
Climber 1 - "It's over on that rock by the parking lot."

Climber 2 - "Oh, Parking lot Rock..."

King on the Throne



This feature is best seen when driving downhill from Bread Loaves. Often the history of named formations is lost in time. Is King on the Throne named after a feature that resembles a stone king or is it named after Ted King, a local rancher who once used a corral just south of this rock?



Owl Rock

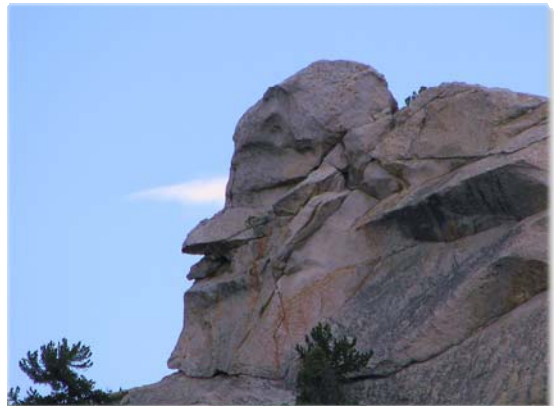


Great Horned Owls often choose this formation on which to nest. Rock climbers in the 1980's, after multiple frightening encounters with nesting Owls, named this feature.

Eric Wood



Sitting prominently above City of Rocks, this formation was named after a real person, Eric Wood. His friend and climber, Jay Goodwin dubiously honored Eric after recognizing his profile in the north end of the formation.



Bread Loaves



Bread loaves needs no introduction when viewed from the west. How many slices can you see?

The greatest thing since sliced bread—climbing on Bread Loaves has always been popular.



Twin Sisters



Twin Sisters majestically rises 750 feet above the basin floor. The granite pinnacles were a landmark on the California Trail. Addison Pratt an officer with the Mormon Battalion returning from California named the formation on September 15, 1848. Geologists marvel at the formation of the deep crustal granites of the Green Creek Complex and Almo Pluton.

For more information about the Twin Sisters see the Geologic Interpretive Trail Guide



Pinnacle Pass



Pioneers moving along the California trail traveled through Pinnacle Pass. The ruts and the swales can still be seen today.



See the California National Historic Trail Guide for more details.

Access to Pinnacle Pass is available through guided ranger tours arranged at the Visitor Center. Please respect private property within the Reserve.

Other Areas of Interest



Tafoni and Arches



Graham Peak



Inner City



Circle Creek Basin

For Further Adventures

- Hike to Graham Peak to see a bird’s eye view of both City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rocks State Park.
- Follow the Creekside Towers Trail starting in the Bath Rock Parking lot. Head northward weaving through granite pinnacles, spires, domes.
- Walk down the steps of the Flaming Rock Trail and wander into the “Inner City”.
- Venture out the North Fork Trail and experience the less traveled parts of the park.
- Drive Logger Springs Road to view Finger Rock which is featured on the front cover of this booklet.

Credits

The following individuals contributed to the development and completion of the booklet: Juanita Jones, Justin Lofthouse, Kristen Bastis, and Wallace Keck.

