

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 13 1978

DATE ENTERED

approved 11/20/78

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

HISTORIC

Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well

AND/OR COMMON

Montezuma Castle National Monument

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Tuzigoot National Monument - P. O. Box 68

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clarkdale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 86324

CODE

04

COUNTY

Yavapai

CODE

025

**2 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Western Regional Office - National Park Service

STREET &amp; NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

CA 94102

-- VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montezuma Castle National Monument

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o Tuzigoot National Monument, P. O. Box 68

CITY, TOWN

Clarkdale

STATE

AZ 86324

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Western Archeological Center - National Park Service

DATE

1946-50, 1952, 1960

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Western Archeological Center

CITY, TOWN

P. O. Box 41058

Tucson

STATE

AZ 85717

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

5 sites excavated and stabilized; 4 sites stabilized; excellent state of preservation.

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Montezuma Castle National Monument, situated in the Middle Verde drainage in central Arizona, consists of two separate parcels: (1) the Castle Unit, a 564 acre (.88 sq. mile or 2.28km<sup>2</sup>) area on Beaver Creek containing 19 known archeological sites, and (2) the Well Unit, a 278 acre (.434 sq. mile or 1.12km<sup>2</sup>) area containing 31 known archeological sites. This parcel lies approximately 5½ miles northeast of Montezuma Castle on Wet Beaver Creek, a tributary of Beaver Creek. Because these two parcels as an administrative unit appeared as one entry in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, and contain sites which represent one segment of the prehistoric adaptation to the Beaver Creek drainage, the two units are discussed together in this nomination.

The Verde River Valley region is notable for its diverse life zones which range from Desert Grassland to Ponderosa Pine Forest within fifteen miles of the Verde River Zone. Such diversity implies that the prehistoric inhabitants of the region could readily exploit a wide variety of plant and animal resources within a circumscribed area. The Montezuma Castle National Monument exhibits some of the diversity characteristics of the Verde Valley as a whole, and has additional unique features which made it especially suitable for dense population during prehistoric times.

Both sections of the monument lie between 3100 and 3600 feet of elevation and are characterized by vegetation of the Sonoran Desert Scrub (Arizona Upland subdivision) above the creek, and by a Riparian Deciduous Forest community in the floodplain. Plains and Desert Grassland and Juniper-Pinyon Woodland communities are also found in the Well Unit. A wide range of resources including fish, waterfowl, and many plants and animals could be taken from all the biotic communities.

Through the monument area, Beaver Creek meanders across broad arable floodplain deposits bordered by high limestone cliffs containing many caves and rock shelters. Montezuma Well, a feature unique to the Well Unit, is a deep sinkhole which provides one of the few permanent supplies of water in the Beaver Creek drainage. A year-round water supply, land suitable for irrigation agriculture, and abundant wild plant and animal resources were undoubtedly important factors in the occupation of the monument area during prehistoric and historic times.

Previous research in Montezuma Castle National Monument has included reconnaissance survey, excavation and stabilization. Although archeological investigations span almost a century, they have been sporadic, unsystematic, and poorly reported, with the result that the prehistory of the monument is imperfectly known.

Casual surveys in the Beaver Creek area span a period from 1876 to 1930. Montezuma Well was visited by D. J. J. Heffman of the Hayden U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey in 1876 and by Jesse Walker Fewkes (1912) in 1894; Montezuma Castle was discussed by Hinton (1878), Mearns (1890) and Mindeleff (1896). The reconnaissance in the Beaver Creek drainage (Gladwin and Gladwin, 1930). Between 1929 and 1967, Frank Midvale located and mapped prehistoric canals in portions of the Verde Valley, including the Beaver Creek area near Montezuma Castle National Monument, but no report was prepared.

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REP IN EXIST. SURVEYS  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Title: Arizona State Museum - University of Arizona  
Date: 1927-1930  
Depository: (Same as title)  
City: Tucson, AZ 85721

Title: Museum of Northern Arizona  
Date: 1946-1950, 1958 (private MNA)  
Survey Records: (Same as title)  
City: Flagstaff, AZ 86001

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More intensive surveys of the Beaver Creek drainage have resulted in the location and recording of a large number of sites, including 57 sites in and near the monument, but very little information has been published. A resurvey of the Middle Verde by Earl Jackson in 1933 and 1943 preceded a survey of the Beaver Creek area by Albert H. Schroeder (1960) between 1946 and 1950 and a National Park Service survey of the monument by Schroeder, Lloyd Pierson and Arthur White between 1952 and 1953. Brief site descriptions and approximate locations and dates shown on archeological base maps of the monument are the only information available from these surveys (National Park Service 1969).

Of the excavations undertaken in the Montezuma Castle National Monument, only two have been fully reported. Mearns (1890) cleared the floors of Montezuma Castle, a 20-room, five-story cliff dwelling, in 1886. George Boundey of Tumacacori National Monument excavated the three upper stories and two rooms of the second story of Castle A in 1927; he did not prepare a report on his findings. Earl Jackson and Sallie Pierce van Valkenburgh (1954) completed excavation of Castle A, a 26-room, five-story cliff dwelling, and conducted test excavations at nearby sites as part of a CWA project in 1933 and 1934. In 1948 Herbert Charboneau explored and mapped the underwater portion of Montezuma Well, and in 1968 George Fisher, NPS, did experimental underwater excavations in the well below several sites inside the rim. Prior to 1950, William L. Back, a local resident, removed at least 38 burials from a site (NA 4620) near Montezuma Well, but no report was prepared (see Jackson and van Valkenburgh (1954)). In 1952 Lloyd Pierson excavated Richard's Cave for the National Park Service. In 1958 excavations were undertaken at NA 4616, a multi-component pithouse settlement 1/4 mile west of Montezuma Well, upon which Breternitz (1960) based his chronology for the Verde Valley. Albert H. Schroeder tested a slab-walled structure (Structure 1) while David A. Breternitz, Museum of Northern Arizona, excavated four pithouses (Houses 1-4), and a mesquite pit and tested the trash mound at the site (Breternitz 1960). In 1960, Edmund Ladd, NPS, completely excavated and partially stabilized Swallet Cave (NA 4630), a seven-room unshaped limestone slab cliff dwelling, at Montezuma Well (1964).

Stabilization of ruins in the monument spans a period from 1923 to present, particularly at Montezuma Castle and Castle A, both of which have been completely excavated (Jackson 1941, NPS 1964, NPS 1968). A pithouse excavated by Breternitz at NA 4616 was stabilized for display in 1960. Swallet Cave was stabilized in 1960. Minor repairs to it and four other sites were accomplished in 1964. A List of Classified Structures survey by NPS in 1975 (Sudderth et al 1976), resulted in recommendations for repairs to previously excavated and stabilized sites.

Although cultural resources within the Castle Unit were accorded national recognition as early as 1906 with the establishment of Montezuma Castle National Monument, neither it nor the Well Unit has been fully studied, and only the broad outlines of prehistory of the monument are known. An incomplete inventory of cultural resources, and the lack of information from archeological sites are

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serious deficiencies in the data base for the monument. Records do not reveal whether areas in the floodplain or away from the cliff face have been completely surveyed nor is it certain whether the less conspicuous sites in the area (e.g. sherd scatters, lithic scatters, limited activity or specialized use areas, campsites) have been recorded. Dry farming features and irrigation canals in the monument have not been recorded or mapped; also few of the 50 known sites in the monument have been mapped or recorded in detail.

Based on Fish and Fish (1977) and Breternitz (1960), the culture history of the Beaver Creek area can be summarized:

The prehistoric occupation of the monument post-dates approximately AD 1. A single Clovis projectile point base found in association with pottery is the only evidence of Early Man in the Verde Valley and no evidence of Paleo-Indian occupation has been found in the monument. Assemblages of a few undiagnostic projectile points and plane-like core tools, dated to the Archaic Period (8000 B.C. to AD 1) have been found in the Oak and Dry Creek drainages, sixteen miles from the Well Unit, and similar remains in the monument may have gone unrecorded due to their burial by floodplain deposits or to the archeologists' emphasis on sites with architectural features.

The earliest evidence of human occupation in the monument is a single Squaw Peak phase pithouse discovered at NA 4616c. An aceramic phase, Squaw Peak (AD 1-700) is typologically and temporally similar to San Pedro Cochise and Basketmaker II. Additional sites of this phase, may, like NA 4616c, lie beneath the remains of later occupations.

The Hackberry Phase (AD 700-800), marked by the appearance of Verde Brown pottery, may be the beginning of Hohokam influence into the Verde Valley from the Salt-Gila Basin in the form of intrusive ceramics; the development of trade networks, rather than migration may also account for the appearance of ceramics.

The Cloverleaf Phase (AD 800-900) marks the beginning of the established villages with Hohokam affinities; these tend to be found in the floodplain and in the foothills at elevations between 4500 feet and 5000 feet. The appearance of larger structures with architectural features similar to the smaller pithouses is viewed by Breternitz (1960) as evidence for the presence of communal structures. A shift from basin metates and round manos to trough metates and rectangular manos may reflect subsistence changes. The appearance of cut shell and shell bracelets and a more specialized stone tool assemblage, including slate palettes, stone bowls, basalt cylinders and stone rings, may indicate an increase in trade or craft specialization.

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The Camp Verde Phase (A.D. 900-1100) is the last and best-known Hohokam phase in the Verde Valley; three pithouses at NA4616c date from this period. The occurrence of two house types (two and four-post pithouses, and pithouses with numerous post holes) has been interpreted as evidence for the coexistence of indigenous and intrusive Hohokam populations but the two types contain similar material culture in type and frequency and may simply represent a wider range in house types for this period. Communal structures include ballcourts and larger pithouses. The groundstone and chipped stone assemblages are similar to the preceding Cloverleaf Phase; Gycymeris and other shells from the Gulf of California or the Pacific appear to be more abundant during the Camp Verde phase.

Pithouses of an unknown phase pre-dating A.D. 1150 have been found at three sites in the Castle Unit; in the Well section, the period prior to A.D. 1150 is represented by two cave sites, and by NA4616, which consists of a pithouse occupation, trash mound and roasting pit. Irrigation ditches pre-dating 1150 are also present at Montezuma Well; the use of rock-outlined grid gardens may also have begun during this period.

Thirty-eight of the forty-four dated sites in the monument are attributed to the Honanki (A.D. 1100-1300) and Tuzigoot (A.D. 1300-1425) Phases. These phases represent a major transition in the Verde Valley from the floodplain pithouse villages to dispersed pueblos and cliff dwellings of unshaped limestone slabs and adobe in the foothill and cliff areas. Black-on-white intrusive wares from the Kayenta and Winslow areas also supplant red-on-buff intrusives at this time. Schroeder and Colton view this cultural discontinuity as evidence for a migration of Sinagua peoples from the Flagstaff area into the Verde Valley; but changes in trade relationships and population densities may also be responsible for the observed changes in material culture.

The Honanki Phase is typified by cave or cliff dwellings, "cavates" (masonry walled structures using the cave ceiling for a roof), multi-room pueblos, single unit pueblos or boulder outlines, cave or rock shelters and sherd scatters. Pueblos in the Verde Valley have an average of five rooms ranging from 2-22 square meters in area; larger rooms ranging from 32-40 square meters in area found at the larger sites may have been community structures, although their interior features are similar to the smaller structures. Some of the large sites with thick perimeter walls have been termed 'forts,' others (e.g. Weel 1973, Fish 1977) suggest that these may have been centers for redistribution due to the high proportion of intrusive decorated ceramics. The Honanki Phase is represented by eight sites at the Castle Unit and by 13 sites at the Well section, as well as by irrigation canals and dry farming features.

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The Tuzigoot Phase is characterized by a shift from small dispersed masonry structures to larger pueblos on elevated terrain, the pueblos averaging 47 rooms each. According to Schroeder (1960), the village pattern on Beaver Creek consists of a pueblo in an elevated location, boulder rooms along ditches, or on terraces, and caves or high points near the farmland, probably used for lookouts or shelter. Montezuma Castle itself, and Castle A reached their maximum size during this period. Evidence of a Tuzigoot Phase occupation is found at eight sites in the Castle Unit and seven sites in the Well Unit (see Table 1).

The Tuzigoot Phase saw the completion of Montezuma Castle proper and Castle A; construction was begun in the Honanki Phase. Montezuma Castle proper, a 20-room, 5-story cliff dwelling, was constructed of crude limestone blocks, set in mud mortar and plastered over with mud. Most doorways, both interior and exterior, are rectangular, but some exhibit the Anasazi "T" shape, pointing out the architectural affiliation of the Castle with the Anasazi and Sinagua culture areas of Northern Arizona.

The roofs were of viga and latilla construction, covered by grass and mud, and when used as upper level floors, the roofs were also covered with plaster. Ground floors were either bedrock or puddled adobe. Some floors were filled with earth up to a standard, relatively uniform level. Although no hearths were uncovered, staining on the walls and ceilings indicates that many of the rooms had a fireplace of some sort.

Castle A, before its collapse, was a 5-story structure of probably 45 rooms. Its construction is similar to the contemporaneous Castle proper, with some shallow slab-lined pits. Remnants of one oven dome have also been found. The remaining masonry of Castle A consists of unfaced limestone blocks set in mud mortar and chinked with small stones. Average room size is 18.6m<sup>2</sup> as compared with 9.3m<sup>2</sup> at the Castle proper. Unlike the Anasazi "T" doors of Montezuma Castle proper, neither windows nor doorways at Castle A exhibit any definite shape or structure.

Excavation of Montezuma Castle A indicated that deposits in the site were rich in material culture. Among the remains at Castle A were whole vessels and broken pottery, stone tools, including basalt manos and metates, sandstone grinding slabs, and many other tools of obsidian, flint and goundstone. Food remains included corncobs and husks, plant stems, seeds and beans, and bones of deer, antelope and jackrabbits. Yucca sandals and cordage, basketry, weaving material and leather were also recovered. Twenty-eight burials were excavated within and near Castle A. The preservation of a similar range of materials can be expected at other cliff dwellings of the period in the monument.

A gap exists in the Verde Valley archeological record from the abandonment of the pueblo sites around A.D. 1425 to the period of European contact, beginning with

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Espejo's journey through the Valley in 1583. At that time, the valley was occupied by Yuman-speaking Yavapai, hunters and gatherers whose territory extended from the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers to the Mazatzal and Bradshaw Mountains. These bands supplemented their wild foodstuffs with corn planted and left to ripen in well-watered land, used mud and pole structures for winter camps, and had trade relationships with many other Indian groups. The relationship of the Yavapai to the prehistoric inhabitants of the Verde Valley bears further study since disagreement exists in the interpretation of the relationship between the two groups (Clifford 1936, Schroeder 1960). Yavapai were camped at Montezuma Well in 1583 but no Yavapai sites have been recorded in the monument.

By the mid-nineteenth century, Athabaskan-speaking Apache groups, some of whom were absorbed by the Yavapai, were also present in the Verde Valley. Most of the Yavapai and Tonto Apaches were removed to the San Carlos agency in 1875, but in 1900 many Yavapai had returned, and still live at Fort McDowell, and near Clarkdale and Prescott. Evidence of Indian use during the historic period exists at one site in the Castle section and three sites in the Well Unit, all of them caves or cliff dwellings. A systematic survey of possible Yavapai or Apache open camp sites in the monument has not been made.

Beginning in 1865, Anglo settlers made their way up the Verde Valley. Military posts existed at Camp Lincoln (1866-1871) and Camp Verde (1871-1891) but no known historic Anglo sites exist in the monument. Ranching, farming and copper mining were important to the Verde Valley economy between the 1870's and the 1930's, but today many ranches and farms are being sold as subdivisions as tourism and land development become increasingly important elements of the Verde Valley economy.

Archeological sites in Montezuma Castle National Monument represent one segment of a prehistoric adaptive system. Because sites on private land in the Verde Valley have been increasingly subject to destruction, the sites preserved within the monument will be increasingly important for understanding aspects of Verde Valley prehistory, as well as preserving unique examples of Sinaguan masonry architecture.

Residential development for National Park Service personnel at the monument has been controlled. Since there are no campgrounds or wilderness areas within the monument, monitoring of visitors is effective. Data losses from casual collecting should be minimal. Major impacts to archeological resources in the monument may stem from ruin stabilization activities, which should be closely monitored to prevent the inadvertent destruction of archeological remains. If cultural remains as of yet unrecorded are located during stabilization activities, such activities should be suspended pending professional archeological evaluation of these resources.

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Montezuma Castle National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 696-December 8, 1906-34 Stat. 3265 as authorized under the Act of June 8, 1906 for the Preservation of American Antiquities.

By Presidential Proclamation, No. 2226-February 23, 1937-50 Stat. 1817, additional land was added to the National Monument which was required for the proper care, management, and protection of said prehistoric ruins and ancient cliff dwellings.

By Act of Congress, October 19, 1943 (56 Stat. 572) the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to acquire the property known as the Montezuma Well and by Act of Congress, June 23, 1950 (73 Stat. 108), the boundaries were authorized to be expanded at Montezuma Well.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 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		

\* Date indeterminate.

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By proclamation dated December 8, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt "set aside as the Montezuma Castle National Monument" the "prehistoric structure known as Montezuma's Castle" and certain surrounding land specified in the proclamation "for the proper protection" of the "prehistoric structure aforesaid", under the authority vested in him by the Act of Congress approved June 8, 1906, entitled "An act for the preservation of American Antiquities" which stated "That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation, historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government to be national monuments . . . ." The proclamation further recognizes that "the prehistoric structure known as Montezuma's Castle" is "of the greatest ethnological value and scientific interest" and that the public good would be promoted by "reserving this ruin as a national monument with as much land as may be necessary for the proper protection thereof". This proclamation therefore established and recognized the area as of national significance.

As part of a national monument established specifically to protect prehistoric resources, the 50 known sites in the Montezuma Castle National Monument have, as a group, national significance. Past archeological studies of the monument have been important for the development of cultural frameworks for understanding southwest prehistory. In addition to information on a wide range of archeological problems and concerns, further studies in the monument may provide new information about architectural styles and techniques using the unique architectural remains of the monument, specifically Montezuma Castle proper and Castle A, as a source of a study. Montezuma Well is a unique geographic feature which may have ethnic significance to the general Indian public as an interpretive exhibit. The value of these non-renewable resources will undoubtedly be enhanced in the future as development on private land in the Verde Valley results in the destruction of prehistoric sites.

Sites in the monument were important to the development of a regional chronology of the Verde Valley (Breternitz, 1960) for the understanding of trade-migration relationships between the Hohokam, Sinagua and groups of the southwest Anasazi (Colton, 1960) for the formulation of the Hakataya concept (Schroeder, 1960) and for an understanding of prehistoric textile technology. Montezuma Castle is equally important in being the only large, preserved and protected Sinagua cliff dwelling today. Not only does it possess unique aesthetic qualities, but the structure has been, and remains important as a source of research into prehistoric architectural styles and techniques, a resource that must be protected and preserved.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Breternitz, David A.

1960 "Excavations of Three Sites in the Verde Valley, Arizona." Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin, No. 34, Flagstaff.

See continuation sheet.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 842

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY Keith Anderson, Ph.D, Regional Research Archeologist

NAME / TITLE

with additions by Regional Historian

Carol Coe and Jim Mayberry, Archeologists; Gordon Chappell

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Western Archeological Center

July 10, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 41058

792-6501

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tucson

AZ 85717

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

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 *J. R. Edwards*

TITLE *Actg. Asst. Director, Cultural Resources*

DATE *9/26/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles Anderson*

DATE *11-20-78*

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *W. Ray Luce*

DATE *Nov 16, 1978*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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These resources have further potential for providing information pertaining to problems of current interest in southwest prehistory:

1. Prehistoric subsistence, especially irrigation and dry farming techniques;
2. Changes in land use over an extended period of time;
3. The development of architecture, from single-room pithouses to multi-story, masonry structures exemplified by Montezuma Castle proper;
4. Changes in the prehistoric population, and whether these shifts are indicated by changes in the material culture, particularly in architectural forms and subsistence patterns;
5. Changes in social organization, as seen in the shifts from pithouse villages to pueblos, and from small, scattered pueblos to large sites;
6. Trade between Sinagua and Hohokam, and between Yavapai and other groups;
7. Relationships between indigenous and incoming groups;
8. Causes of prehistoric abandonment;
9. Adaptations of dissimilar groups (hunters and gatherers versus agriculturists) to a similar environment;
10. Yavapai/Apache settlement and subsistence;
11. Yavapai/Apache external relationships and processes of aboriginal contact with European culture.

In addition to whatever research potential they possess, the architectural remains of the monument, from the preserved pithouse at NA4616 to the restored and reconstructed pueblos and cliff dwellings, are representative of unique and varied architectural styles, and are worthy of preservation and further study if only for their aesthetic qualities.

Previous excavations in cave and cliff sites have shown that perishable organic remains are well-preserved at the monument; thus, an unusually complete record of aboriginal material culture forms the data base for studying the above problems. Because of the excellent state of preservation in the cliff and cave sites, these resources are likely to contain deposits with preserved items of vegetal material (e.g. sandals, cloth,

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cordage, basketry), wild and domestic plant food remains, faunal material, pollen, coprolites, and carbonized material suitable for C14 dating. The scientific study of these materials can provide information on prehistoric textile technology and diet and past environmental conditions.

Yavapai were camped at Montezuma Well in 1583 (Schroeder, 1959) and at least four sites in the monument show evidence of historic Yavapai or Apache use. Montezuma Well has been identified with Hopi myths (Schroeder, 1960). The well and other sites affiliated with historic groups may be of ethnic significance to living Yavapai, Apache and Hopi groups.

Montezuma Castle National Monument is readily accessible from metropolitan areas and has been developed specifically to give tourists access to sites in the castle and well vicinity while protecting these resources from vandalism. As a result, the monument resources have interpretive significance for informing the general public of the North American cultural heritage.

The archeology of the district is consistent with National Park Service themes 1b1: The Original Inhabitants--Native Villages and Community, Southwestern United States, and 1f3: The Original Inhabitants--Aboriginal Technology-Trade.

Sites coeval with those at Montezuma Castle National Monument are found in a similar ecological setting at Tuzigoot National Monument and in different ecological settings at Wupatki, Walnut Canyon, Tonto and Casa Grande Ruins National Monuments; Montezuma Castle National Monument could form one component in a regional program to interpret archeological remains in the southwest.

Other Qualities of Significance

In addition to possessing National significance under National Register Criteria for Evaluation Paragraph "D", as a property that has yielded and may be likely to yield information important to an understanding of prehistory, in the area of archeology, Montezuma Castle and Well are of National significance under Criteria "C" in the area of prehistoric architecture, representing a rare survival of Hohokam buildings embodying distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction. It also has national significance under Criteria "A" as structures and sites that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically in the importance of the establishment, growth, agriculture, commerce and social history of this prehistoric settlement, as well as its decline and eventual abandonment by the Hohokam people, certainly events in their history comparable in significance to the rise and fall of Carthage.

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UTM references Zone 12

Castle Unit:

A 42 2360 3829430

B 42 2370 3830825

C 42 3180 3830820

D 42 3180 3830620

E 42 3570 3830620

F 42 3570 3830320

G 42 3800 3820240

H 42 4360 3830260

I 42 4360 3829400

Well Unit:

J 43 0140 3834620

K 43 1340 3834600

L 43 1340 3833790

M 42 9600 3833800

N 42 9640 3833940

O 42 9870 3834040

P 42 9780 3834220

Q 43 0140 3834220

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Verbal Boundary description

Castle Unit:

Follows monument boundaries on USGS Camp Verde AZ:7.5. Point B lies just northwest of the intersection of the monument road and 117. The boundary runs due east from here to point C just off the mesa edge then cuts south to point D at the mesa edge. It then runs due east to point E at the section 8 and 9 line and south down this line to Beaver Creek. It follows Beaver Creek southeast to the section 16 and 9 line and follows this line to the eastern cliff face. From here it heads south to point I in the center of section 16 and the west to point A due south of point B.

Follows monument boundaries shown on USGS Lake Montezuma and Casner Butte 7 1/2 Quadrangles. In T15N R6E, Section 31, the largest portion of the Well Section of Montezuma Castle National Monument forms a rectangle, with artificial northern and southern boundaries, running parallel to the Section 31 boundaries, about 1/2 mile apart, approximately centered between the boundaries of Section 31. The eastern boundary of the monument is also artificial, running parallel to the eastern boundary of Section 31, approximately 1/4 mile from the section boundary (Points J, K, L). The northern 1/2 of the western boundary of the monument follows along the line dividing T15N R6E, Section 31, and T15N R5E, Section 36 (Points Q, J.). Below this point, however, a portion of the monument protrudes into T15N R5E, Section 36. The southern boundary of this portion is an extension of the southern boundary in T15N, R6E, Section 31 (Points L, M). The northern boundary (Points P, Q) is parallel to this, approximately 1/4 mile to the north. This boundary extends approximately one-fifth of a mile into T15N, R5E, Section 36. At this point, the boundary jogs southeast (to Point O), toward the southeast corner of the section for a distance of about one-fifth of a mile. After this distance, it forms an acute angle in turning back toward the southwest (in line with the southwest corner of the section) for a distance of slightly more than one-fifth of a mile, until it reaches a tributary of Wet Beaver Creek (Point M.) From here, the western boundary follows this tributary until it reaches the artificial southern boundary of the monument (Point M), approximately 1/4 mile from the southern boundary of T15N, R5E, Section 36, and approximately two-fifths of a mile from the eastern boundary of same.



PHOTO INFORMATION

1. Name: Montezuma Castle National Monument (NA1278)
2. Location: Camp Verde, Rimrock, Yavapai *County*
3. Name of Photographer: R. L. Hall
4. Date of Photo: 11/14/75
5. Location of Negative: WAC
6. Description of View: Montezuma Castle (NA1278)  
closeup view looking north.
7. Photo No. 0000001

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MOCA LCS  
NA 4630  
11 75

PHOTO INFORMATION

1. Name: Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Castle Nat. Mon.
2. Location: Camp Verde, Rimrock, Yavapai *County*
3. Name of Photographer: R. L. Hall, LCS
4. Date of Photo: 11/5/75
5. Location of Negative: WAC
6. Description of view: Closeup of door at Swallet -  
Cave (NA4630) - Heading south
7. Photo No.: None

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PHOTO INFORMATION

1. Name: Montezuma Well, Montezuma Castle Nat. Mon.
2. Location: Camp Verde, Rimrock, Yavapai *County*
3. Name of Photographer: R. H. Hall, LCS
4. Date of Photo: 11/4/75
5. Location of Negative: WAC
6. Description of View: Closeup of NA1272, Well Unit.  
Heading west.
7. Photo No. 0000002

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