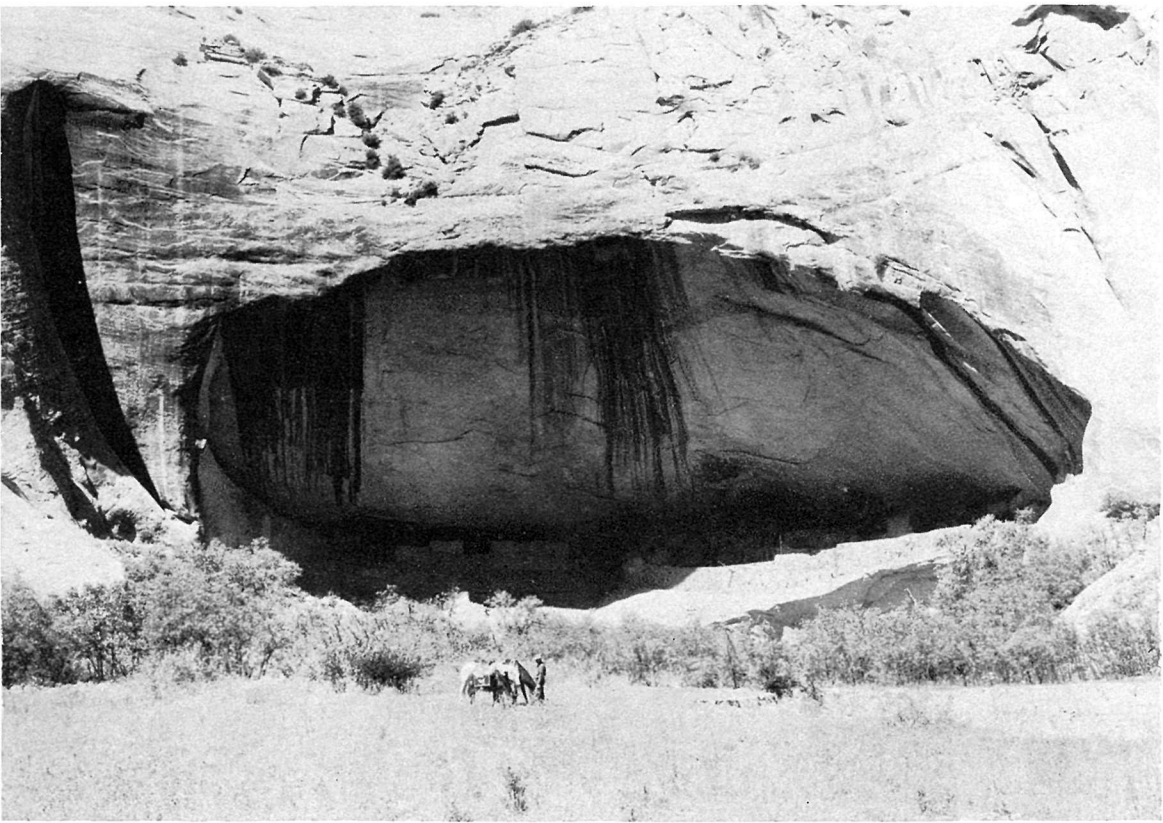


NAVAJO



National Monument

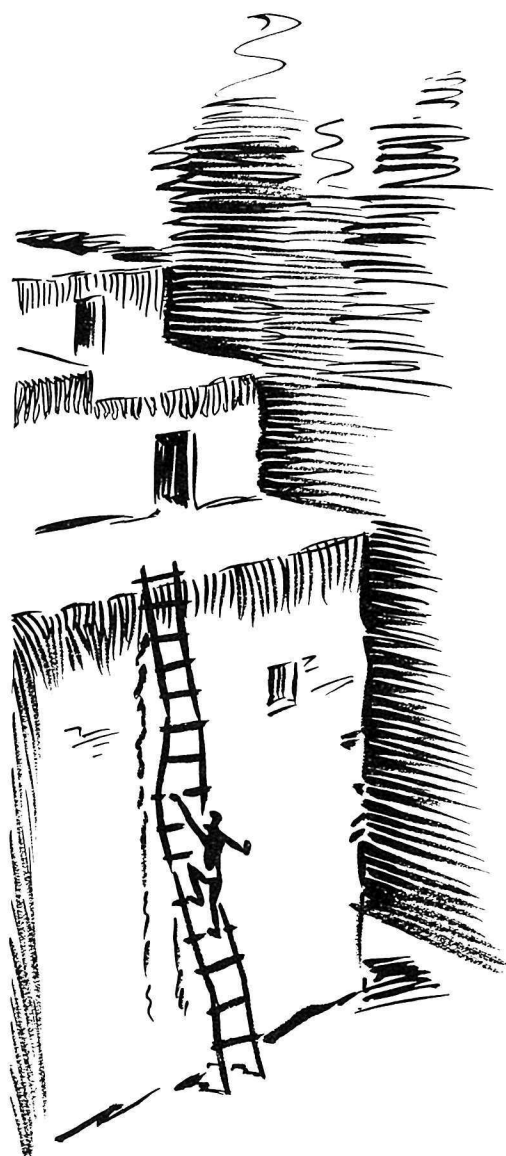
A R I Z O N A

NAVAJO National Monument

United States Department of the Interior, J. A. Krug, *Secretary*
National Park Service, Newton B. Drury, *Director*



Prehistoric cave villages abandoned by drought-stricken Indian farmers before 1300 A. D.



Navajo National Monument has three of the largest and most intricate of known cliff dwellings, together representing a local or tribal subpattern of the prehistoric Pueblo culture in its greatest period, the thirteenth century.

Perched high in their matchless settings, the dwellings of this superb triad are among the finest of their class. Almost perfectly preserved by their caves and the dry atmosphere, they appear as if they had been abandoned only yesterday.

The monument is completely surrounded by the Navajo Indian Reservation and lies on the edge of a "roadless area" nearly 100 miles from paved highways. The National Park Service has established monument headquarters in Betatakin, the most accessible ruin. Visitors to outlying areas may obtain information and guidance by calling first at the Headquarters Area.

Betatakin is the only ruin in the monument which has been excavated and restored. It is in a great cave which is 450 feet long with a maximum depth of 150 feet. The cave was carved by stream meander and wind erosion, in the side of a soft, red, sandstone cliff which forms the sheer and vertical 500-foot north wall of a picturesque and beautiful canyon. The cave roof projects far out over the village, which originally contained more than 130



A portion of Betatakin Ruin

ground-floor rooms and occupied every foot of available building space. Sand storms had piled among the central rooms an accumulation in which oaks 4 inches in diameter and varied shrubbery had taken root.

In the canyon fronting Betatakin are tall, slender quaking aspen, alder, and birch; pines deck the talus slopes; cedar and piñon cap the bordering cliffs.

Betatakin

Betatakin is a well preserved apartment house, 700 years old (as determined by the tree-ring dating method, the village was occupied between the years 1242 A. D. and approximately 1300 A. D.). The Navajo name "Betatakin" means "Hill-side House."

Betatakin once had almost 150 rooms, of which more than 50 were residential, 6 ceremonial (kivas), 13 open courts or patios, about 30 storage, and 2 grinding rooms. The last mentioned are among the many rooms which are still well preserved. The manos and metates on which the ancient people ground their corn meal may be seen by those who enter the canyon, or through binoculars from the opposite rim.

Because of the rugged character of the country and the necessarily arduous trip to the cliff house, the National Park Service has provided a trail to the opposite rim, where a splendid view of the cave and ruin may be had.

Betatakin was discovered in 1909 by John Wetherill and Byron Cummings, and was excavated and stabilized in 1917 by Neil M. Judd, of the Smithsonian Institution.

The pottery found in Betatakin and the other Tsegi cliff ruins is of exceptional quality, very artistically painted, including both black-on-white ware and varieties of polychrome redware.

Keet Seel

Keet Seel is the largest cliff ruin in Arizona and one of the last to be abandoned in the Tsegi Canyon region. It may be reached by horse or on foot from Betata-

kin by an 11-mile trail, which is primitive and crosses the canyon stream many times, making the trip on foot a difficult one. Horses may be obtained from the nearby Navajos through the custodian of the monument. One full day is required for the round trip.

Keet Seel was partially excavated and stabilized in 1934, and today it still gives the impression that it might have been abandoned only a few years ago. Actually, almost 700 years have passed since the Anasazi last lived in this cliff city. Keet Seel was discovered in 1893 by Richard Wetherill.

Inscription House

Inscription House lies almost 20 miles in an airline west of Betatakin, the Headquarters Area. This fine ruin, the smallest

of the three (with approximately 75 rooms) was so named because of an inscription found scratched into the plastered wall of one of the rooms. Weather-beaten, little remains of the original inscription. It is generally believed to be of Spanish origin, and to date from the 1660's, but the exact wording has been variously reported. John Wetherill, from his second trip to Inscription House in 1909, remembers the inscription thus:

CHOS

1661 Ad n

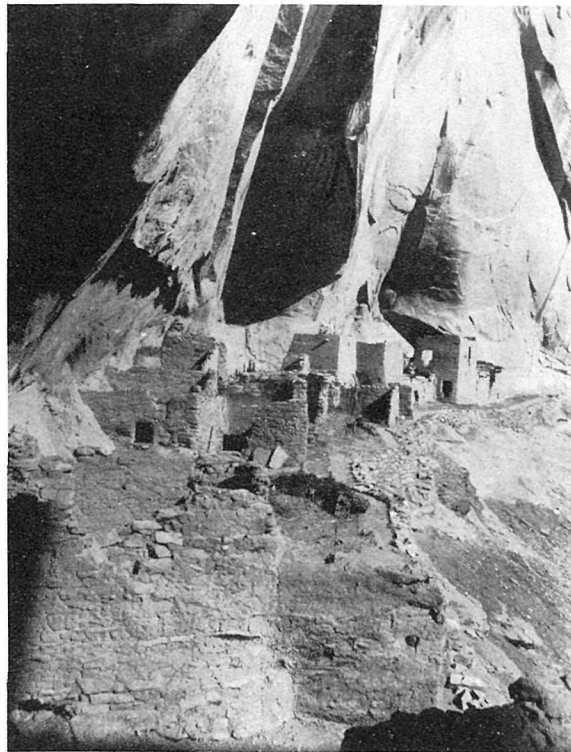
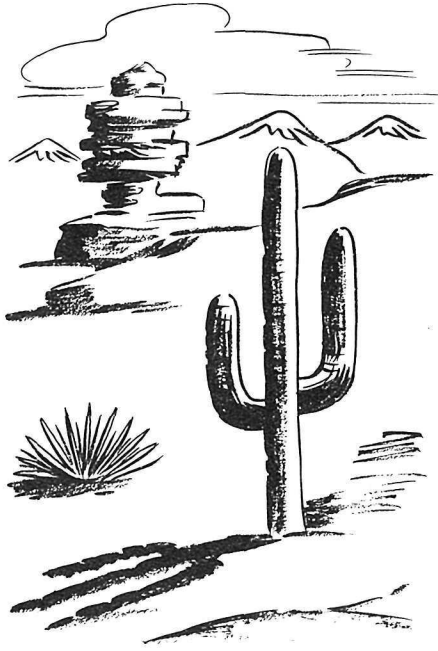
with more letters which were illegible.

Administration

Navajo National Monument is a part of the National Park System and is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Interior of Keet Seel Ruin





Inscription House Ruin

For further information write the Custodian, Navajo National Monument, Tonalea, Ariz.

Other cliff dwellings in the National Park System include those in Canyon de Chelly, Walnut Canyon, Montezuma Castle, and Tonto National Monuments in Arizona; Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado; and Bandelier and Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monuments in New Mexico.

Accommodations

Picnic benches and designated campgrounds are available in the monument. Trading posts and guest ranches in Kayenta, Tonalea, Goulding, Shonto, Tuba

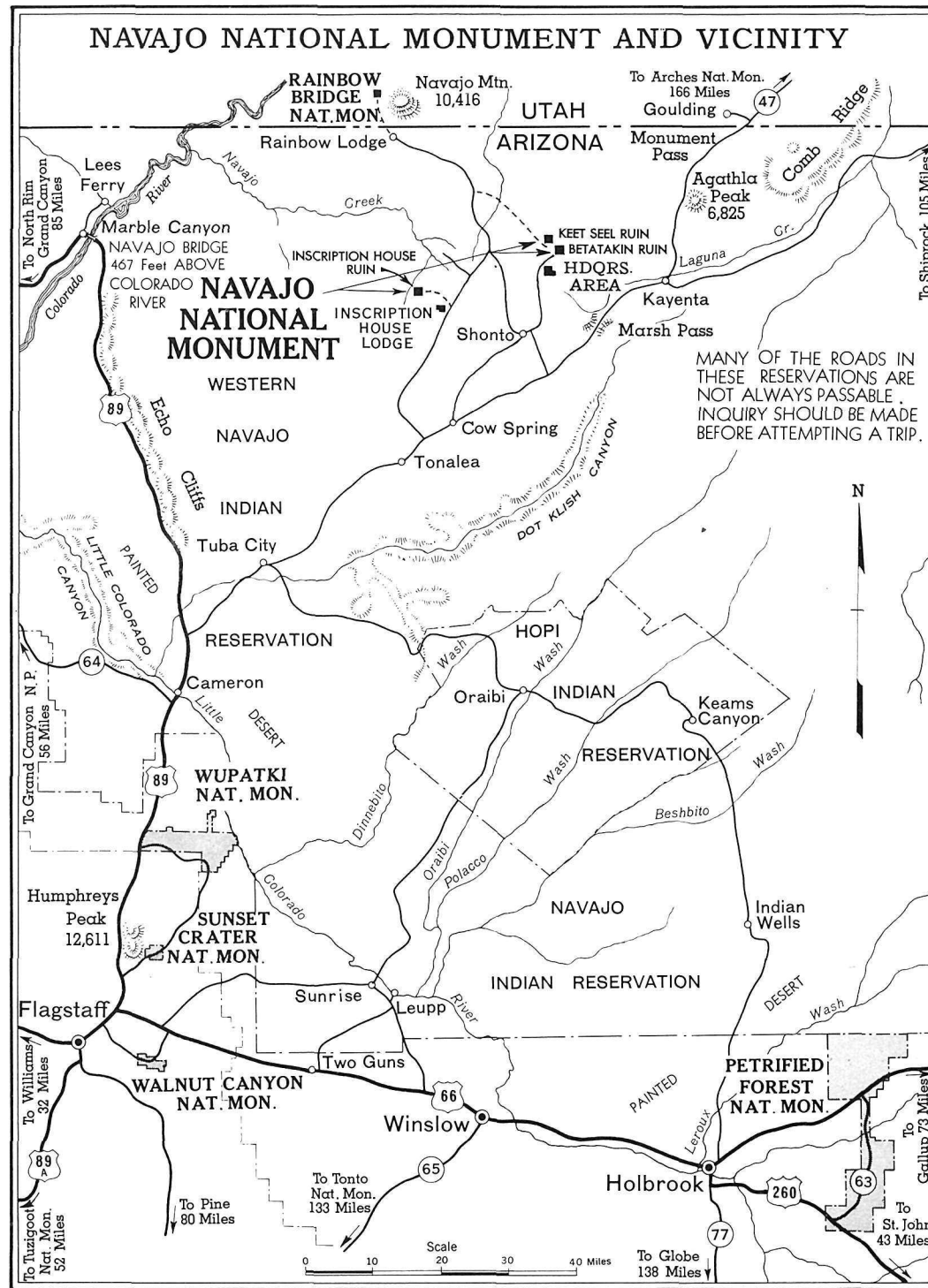
City, and Rainbow Lodge offer modern accommodations.

Service to the Public

Because of the need of protecting the ruins, and the difficult unmarked trails by which they are reached, no one will be allowed to enter any ruin unless accompanied by a guide.

Betatakin may be viewed from the binocular station on Betatakin Point at any time, with or without a guide.

Trips to Betatakin should start at 9 a. m. or 1 p. m.; to Keet Seel at 8 a. m. Further information regarding these trips may be secured from the custodian.

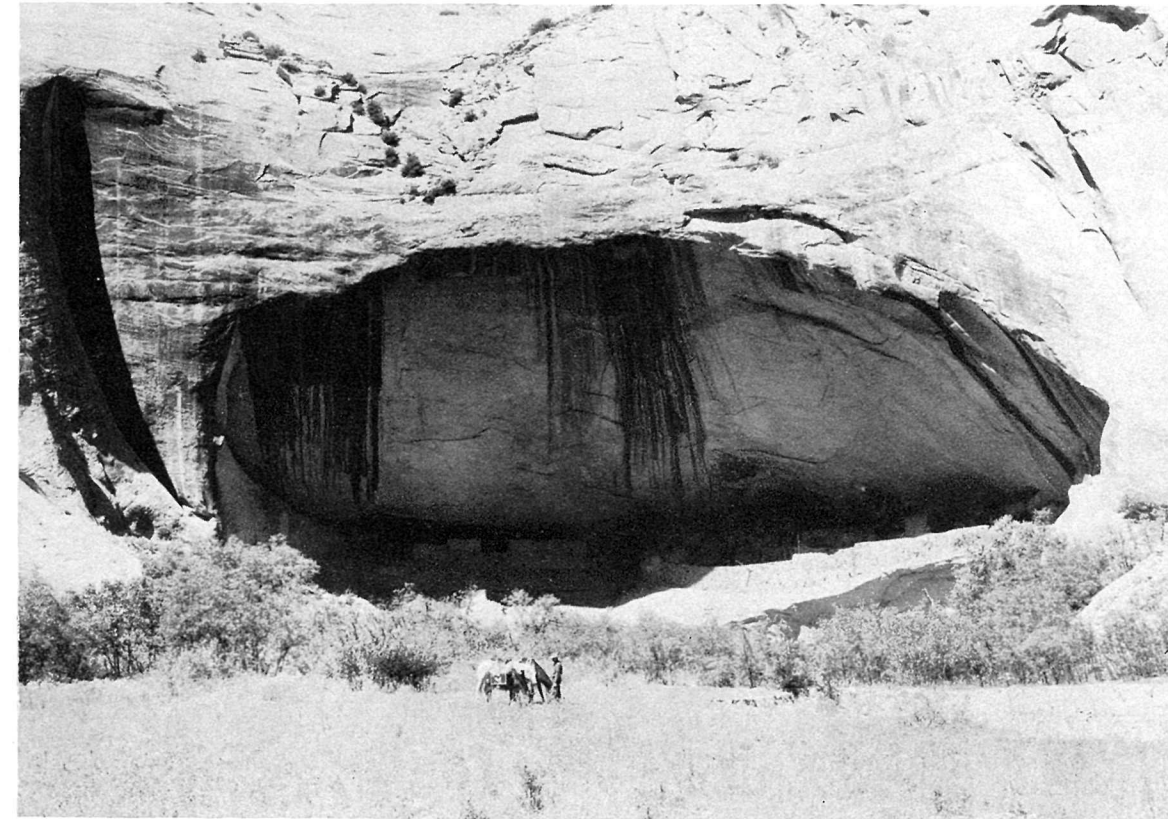


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