

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: Apache
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 12 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:
* * Flattop Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
NA 4725 (Museum of Northern Arizona Survey)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: Petrified Forest National Park

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

STATE: Arizona CODE 04 COUNTY: Apache CODE 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Western Region

STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco

STATE: California

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Apache County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Holbrook

STATE: Arizona

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Museum of Northern Arizona Archaeological Survey

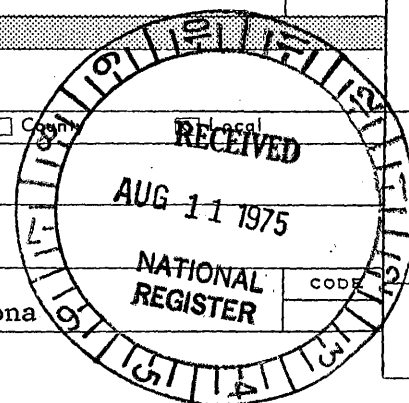
DATE OF SURVEY: 1949 Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Harold S. Colton Research Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Valley Road

CITY OR TOWN: Flagstaff

STATE: Arizona



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Flattop region of Petrified Forest district of the Park is noted for a number of low-lying level mesas which are remnants of Chinle Formation sandstones and variegated shales of Triassic age. Park weather records indicate less than 10 inches of precipitation a year (rain and snow) and a frost-free period of about 180 days. Low shrubby plants such as greasewood, types of grasses, several species of cacti, and small trees in watered places give the area some variety of plant life. Only small mammals and reptiles seem to inhabit the area today.

[REDACTED] of the Flattop group at about [REDACTED] the site is composed of 8 excavated and about 18 unexcavated pithouse structures, some concentrations of refuse, and visible surface pottery sherds. The pithouses are marked by vertical sandstone slabs set into rough circles about 2 meters (6.5 feet) in diameter and are separated from each other by short distances. Upon excavation, the walls and floors of the houses are shown to be simply built, with hearths, entrance passageways, and other features. Often artifacts such as grinding slabs were found resting on the bedrock or packed sand floors. No direct evidence of roofs was found although juniper and cottonwood seemed to have been used for roofing frameworks. Although in detail, the pithouses were different, major characteristics were common to excavated examples - circular shape, shallow depth (due to bedrock levels perhaps), slab wall construction, and size. It is not known which of the structures were built first or last; construction sequence data was not found.

Excavations by the Museum of Northern Arizona in 1949-50 in eight of the visible structures showed that the inhabitants relied on corn agriculture for some foodstuffs, hunting of small game, and probably gathering wild plant foods. Even though the pithouses were substantial and afforded protection from weather, the village could have been only seasonally occupied during the frost-free part of the year. Artifacts were common within pithouses and grinding slabs (metates and mano), projectile points and other chipped tools, and pottery fragments were particularly common. No human burials were found and no specimens for tree-ring dating were found. Utilization of local rock sources is indicated by the fact that 60% of the 270 tools recovered were made from petrified wood and 22% of all tools were made from local sandstone. Slightly over 2500 pottery fragments and 30 restorable vessels were found within and in excavation units near the shallow pithouses.

Boundary: The appropriate boundary of the landmark is the entire irregular mesa on which the pithouse village is situated, including the talus slopes of the mesa. Seven acres is approximately the mesa surface area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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

Regional significance of Flattop Site lies in the following considerations:

1. The Site is ^{one} of the earliest agricultural village occupation with the Park region, and indicates that corn-growing peoples lived in some numbers within the Painted Desert-Petrified Forest environments at 600 AD or earlier. Although dating for the site relies on technological similarity to other sites, themselves dated by tree-ring methods, numerous lines of comparative evidence lead to the sureness of the early approximate data. Only small campsites of the same general age are known within the Park boundaries and may represent temporary camps of the same people.

2. Only about one-third of the site has been investigated and the scientific potential is great. Additional data from the technological materials recovered, from re-examination of excavated structures, and from well-planned research in remaining components of the site would greatly help to answer a number of important questions relative to northern Arizona archaeology. Paleo climate data, insights of human adaptation, natural science data, and rate of certain geological processes of the region might be additional scientific results.

3. The site and its excavated materials indicate that during the early centuries of the Christian Era, either people or ideas, or both, from southern and central Arizona areas had reached northeastern Arizona, and probably changed the resident hunters and gatherers of that region. About 90% of the ceramic specimens found at the site were of one typological group which was manufactured by a technique widespread in southern Arizona, the paddle and anvil method. In later centuries, the pueblo dwellers of northern Arizona utilized a very different method for finishing vessels, the coil and scrape method, but early influences may have been copied and later changed. Corn and probably other domesticated food plants occur first in southeastern and central Arizona, only to be transported into the Painted Desert region by farmers like those of Flattop site. The site and contents continues to be a key location in the understanding of influences from southern Arizona to northern Arizona and beyond during the early centuries AD.

4. The site and others within the Park show that the present Park region was on a major influence route in ancient times and as cultural boundaries shifted within the Little Colorado-Puerco River valleys, each left evidence now within the Federal property.

5. The site is the beginning chapter in human, animal, and plant adaptation and association in the high-elevation semi-arid environment of the Painted Desert region. That subsistence-level small village farmers co-existed with native flora and fauna and composed with these natural systems, a non-pueblo village impact on resources is useful for comparison to later

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arizona	
COUNTY Apache	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

times and cultural impact.

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Santa Fe.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wendorf, Fred
 1953 Archaeological Studies in the Petrified Forest National Monument. Bulletin No. 27, Museum of Northern Arizona. Flagstaff.
 1948 "Early Archaeological Sites in the Petrified Forest National Monument." Plateau, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 29-32. Flagstaff.
 1950 "The Flattop Site in the Petrified Forest National Monument." Plateau, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 43-51. Flagstaff.

Mera, H. P.
 1934 Observations on the archaeology of Petrified Forest National Monument. Technical Series Bulletin 7, Laboratory of Anthropology,

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **7 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

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None

Dennis McCauley
 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 J. Wheeler 9/8/75
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Federal Representative
 Deputy Assistant Secretary

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

Acquie
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/12/76

ATTEST:

Charles
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-25-76 *RBA Per WJm 7/8/76*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS