

(PROPOSED) ARCHAEOLOGICAL NATL. MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO.

*Mr. Toll*  
JAN 21 1933

REVIEW:

Located in Lincoln County, owned by Dr. S. M. Johnson, Roswell, N. M., who offered to deed this area to the Government.

This area contains what was thought to be a prehistoric irrigation ditch.

Mr. Toll investigated it and submitted an adverse report on February 27, 1932, in which he stated that it is believed that the area is a result of natural formations of limestone and other sedimentary deposits. "Whether the formation is wholly natural, or whether it results from a prehistoric irrigation canal, it does not appear to be of sufficient importance or public interest to justify the establishment of a national monument." Also "The land upon which the formation is located is privately owned but is within the boundaries of the Lincoln National Forest. It would appear that if a national monument were created, it would fall under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service."

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this area be disapproved and dropped from our list of proposed national monuments.

C. L. WIREN.

APPROVED:

JAN 23 1933

(S.D.) ROYAL H. ...

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Director.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

515 Customs House  
Denver, Colorado  
February 27, 1932

The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Director:

Among the proposed national monuments in New Mexico is the proposed Archaeological National Monument in Lincoln County.

The memorandum from your office reads in part as follows:

"The area is owned by Mr. S.H. Johnson. First brought to our attention by Mr. Johnson by letter of October 7, 1930, offering to deed the area containing the 'Irrigating works' to the Government. It is claimed that the area contains an open canal and laterals of Pre-Columbian Period, through which the waters of a spring a mile away were conducted. The water was strongly impregnated with lime which was precipitated, thus coating the ditch with cement. Layer on layer of rock formation was built up through the centuries, until the remains are several feet wide at the base and fifty inches high in places."

Inspection: I visited this area on November 16, 1931, while enroute from Alamogordo to Carlsbad Caverns National Park. At White Mountain Inn I talked with Mr. H.V. Johnson, the son of Mr. S.H. Johnson. The latter is now in Washington, DC, and director of the Lee Highway Association.

Location and Accessibility: The travertine formation, or dyke, which is the basis of the proposed national monument, is about a half mile south of White Mountain Inn. The postoffice address of White Mountain Inn, Hollywood, New Mexico. The Inn is on US Highway No. 366, the Lee Highway. It is about three miles northeasterly from Ruidoso Junction, about 55 miles from Alamogordo and about 73 miles from Roswell.

Attached is a relief map of the State of New Mexico, also a portion of the road map of the state, and also a portion of the map of the Lincoln National Forest, all of which show the location of the area under consideration.

**General Characteristics:** The photographs attached indicate the general appearance of the travertine formation. Disconnected sections of it may be followed for a length of a quarter of a mile or more.

Mr. Jesse L. Eusbaum reported on this formation as follows:

"At the request of Director Albright, of the National Park Service, and accompanied by Dr. Harry P. Kern, of the laboratory staff, an examination was made in the late fall of 1930 of reputed aboriginal irrigation canals in the Guadalupe Valley just off the main highway between Roswell and Tucuman, and within a few miles of Hollywood, N. Mex., which exhibits or features had been most generously tendered, with adjacent bordering lands, to the United States as a national monument area by Dr. S.C. Johnson, of White Mountain Inn.

"Although prehistoric remains are found in the general vicinity, and artifacts have been gathered from the fields in the valley floor, the rapidly disintegrating elevated dike of some 2,000 feet in visible length, travertine formation, with deep narrow watercourse still apparent at its apex in some undestroyed sections, is believed to be a natural formation built up in the course of time by a natural flow of lime-impregnated water, which now issues from a grotto or cave in the mountain side at a lower level than that formerly maintained by the so-called prehistoric canal. There is no evidence whatever to indicate that primitive man was concerned in the directing of the trend of flow and subsequent deposit of formation."

Mr. O. Fred Arthur, Supervisor of the Lincoln National Forest, stationed at Alamogordo, wrote to me under date of December 29, 1931, as follows:

"There are a number of similar structures in this immediate vicinity now in process of formation but that have not reached the extent of the Johnson site. In most cases these follow irrigation ditches and on this account I have always considered that the Johnson dike originated in the same manner."

Carl Livingston and others believe that the formation was influenced by man.

It is difficult to satisfactorily explain the formation either as the result of an irrigation canal, or as an entirely natural deposit.

There is no apparent reason for irrigating the land toward which the dyke goes rather than equally suitable land more readily irrigated near the stream bed. The grade of the travertine channel is somewhat irregular and at one point it appears to go up hill. There are indications of lateral strams from the main canal.

On the other hand if it were a natural deposit it is not clear how the dyke was built up above the level of the ground. If there had been a fault-line with mineralized water flowing from it, the deposit would have been spread out, along the direction of flow, which would have been along the most direct down-hill direction from the source. This is not the case. The spring near the source of the canal is cold and shows little or no indication of travertine deposit.

The area is in the Chupadera formation, which is composed of limestone and other sedimentary deposits.

The report of a geologist on this formation would be of interest. I have written Dr. E.H. Wells, State Geologist, and he replied that he had not visited the formation but that some member of his staff would probably do so soon.

Conclusions: Whether the formation is wholly natural, or whether it results from a prehistoric irrigation canal, it does not appear to be of sufficient importance or public interest to justify the establishment of a national monument.

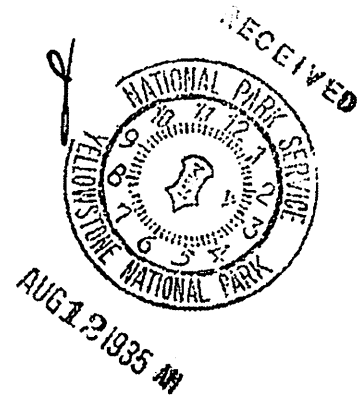
The land upon which the formation is located is privately owned but is within the boundaries of the Lincoln National Forest. It would appear that if a national monument were created that it would fall under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and for that reason, the National Park Service would have no direct interest or jurisdiction in the matter.

Mr. Johnson's offer to deed a part of his land to the government is a very generous one, but the formation does not seem suitable for a national monument.

Very truly yours

*Roger W. Toll*  
Roger W. Toll

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON  
August 7, 1935



The Superintendent,  
Yellowstone National Park,  
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

Dear Sir:

In a recent study of the proposed areas on the permanent list the following areas have been removed on the basis of disapprovals by the Director in recent years:

- ✓ Frio Canyon National Monument, Texas
- ✓ Archaeological National Monument, New Mexico
- Bears Paw National Monument, Montana
- Cabinet National Park, Montana
- Canoe Camp National Monument, Idaho
- ✓ Crystal Cave National Monument, Arizona
- ✓ Davis Mountain National Monument, Texas
- ✓ Hooker Hammock National Park, Florida
- ✓ Kildeer National Park, North Dakota
- ✓ Montezuma Well National Monument, Arizona
- Mt. Shasta National Park, California
- ✓ Ouachita National Park, Arkansas
- ✓ Ozarks National Park, Missouri
- ✓ Picture Rocks National Monument, Arizona
- Pikes Peak National Park, Colorado
- ✓ Pike Stockade National Monument, Colorado
- ✓ Royal Gorge National Park, Colorado
- ✓ San Rafael River National Monument, Utah
- ✓ Spa National Park, Nevada
- Virgin Pine National Monument, Mississippi

The Regional Officers concerned have been notified of these removals in order to prevent further investigation, if possible. Any comments you may have on these removals will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

  
Lawrence C. Merriam  
Acting Assistant Director