

10-23  
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-35

Part 1

*Proposed Monument  
Edgemont Archeology*

**IMPORTANT**

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All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,

*Director.*

File

PROPOSED EDMONT ARCHEOLOGY NATIONAL MONUMENT, SOUTH DAKOTA.

Location  
and  
Area:

Located in the Black Hills of South Dakota near Edgemont.

History  
and  
Remarks:

First called to our attention in a letter of October 8, 1932, from Jesse L. Nusbaum informing us that this area had been called to his attention by Mr. Frank A. Buker.

Accessibility:

Persons  
Interested:

Mr. Frank A. Buker.

Status:

Awaiting further investigation.

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Santa Fe, New Mexico.

October 8, 1932.

Mr. Roger W. Toll,  
Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park,  
Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

Dear Roger:

There is a man by the name of Frank A. Buker who is connected with the schools at Edgemont, South Dakota, who is particularly anxious to have an area near Edgemont established either as a National Park or National Monument area because of the many evidences of prehistoric occupation that he has discovered there. I tried to get Doctor Strong of the Bureau of American Ethnology, who is excavating for the Laboratory near Scottsbluff, Nebraska, to go over this area with Dr. Buker before his return to Washington, but unfortunately the time was not available for this service and appraisal. It seems best to have one directly connected with the Park Service, with experience in such matters, go over the area before too much thunder is built up around it.

Buker has all sorts of wild interpretations as to the hieroglyphics, Spanish mines, Aztec and Mayan influence, and the presence of Coronado, Isopete, Fray Marcos de Niza and all other Spanish explorers in that area, all in search of the metallic wealth supposed to be available there. It is the same old story, in some phase, of the old Spanish Diggings that will survive through the centuries. However, pressure will be brought to bear through Buker and his enthusiasm for an appraisal sooner or later, and if you could arrange to meet him and look over the area as you return from Yellowstone to Denver, I will place all previous correspondence in your hands. I cannot get away to join you, but my presence is unnecessary. If you can go, let me know fairly promptly if it is possible.

We have had a very busy summer here, with many notables among our visitors. Dana Johnson and his new wife had the time of their lives at Yellowstone, and he has been singing your praises and Albright's and those of Park Service personnel and scenic areas to all and sundry since his return to Santa Fe.

\* \* \* \*

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Jesse L. Nusbaum,  
Department Archaeologist.

COPY

Edgemont, S. Dak.  
October 12 -- 1932.

Mr. Roger W. Toll,  
Sup't., Yellowstone Nat'l Park,  
Buffalo, Wyoming.

Dear Mr. Toll:

My esteemed friend, Dr. Nusbaum, has written me regarding a proposed visit, to be made by you if possible and convenient, to the Black Hills of South Dakota in order to view certain discoveries made by the writer; also to judge the value of these prehistoric and other records--as well as the beautiful scenery which surrounds them--so that you may determine the possibilities of having the area made into a national park in order that these valuable records may be preserved.

Dr. Nusbaum speaks very highly of your abilities in this respect, and I can assure you that we shall be delighted if you decide to make the trip.

As Dr. Nusbaum has intimated to me that, if you find you can visit this site, he will provide you with all the information he has regarding the matter, I shall not go deeply into the subject at this time. I will say, however, that we have some wonderful rock carvings, paintings, stone implements, etc. etc., which are drawing great numbers of visitors from all over the United States every year. These ancient records, together with the scenic beauty of the site, seem to make this an ideal place for a national park. However, I am willing to rest the case with you, for I feel sure that you will agree with me after viewing the area. It certainly is worthy of a great deal of consideration, as is shown by the number of staunch supporters we have for the cause.

Our desire ~~is~~ to get immediate action on this project is due to renewed activity in the Red Canyon oil field, a part of which lies within the area we would like to set aside for a park. The reason of our haste will thus be obvious to you without further explanation.

I shall be only too pleased to supply you with further information if desired; also with photographs-- of which I have about a hundred-- which picture many of the records and much of the scenery contained in the site.

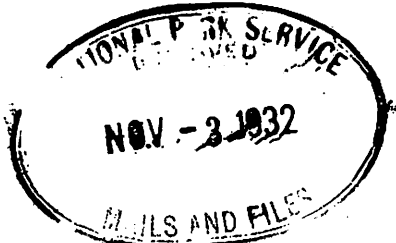
Hoping that I shall hear from you -- or see you -- soon, I am,

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) Frank A. Buker

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*De m...*  
*Boys...*  
*Shirk*  
*Russ*  
*Ch...*



515 Customs House  
Denver, Colorado  
October 29, 1932.

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Attached is a copy of a letter dated October 12 from Dr. Frank A. Buker with reference to an area of archaeological interest near Edgemont, South Dakota. A copy of my reply is also attached. Copies are also being sent to Mr. Nusbaum and to Superintendent Freeland. For your further information there is attached a copy of a letter from Mr. Nusbaum on this subject, of which no other copies are being sent out.

It is suggested that you ask Superintendent Freeland for a preliminary report on this area.

Very truly yours,

*Roger W. Toll*  
Roger W. Toll

Inclosures

*Ch...*  
→ //

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

515 Customs House,  
Denver, Colorado,  
October 29, 1932.

Dr. Frank A. Baker,  
Edgemont,  
South Dakota.

Dear Dr. Baker:

I received your letter of October 12 with reference to an area of archaeological interest in South Dakota.

Other plans make it impossible to visit Edgemont at this time. If the inspection could be made by an archaeologist, it would be of much more value since a recommendation by a competent scientist would be necessary before any proposal could be acted upon.

My own impression is that, in order to have national interest, an archaeological area should have rather spectacular exhibits such as buildings. Practically all of the national monuments heretofore established that are of archaeological interest have either large pueblos or cliff dwelling structures. Other areas containing hieroglyphics, implements, etc., are of great scientific importance and should by all means be protected, preferably by state authority. Most of these areas are lacking in national popular interest sufficient to justify the establishment of a national reservation.

Have you been in touch with Mr. Edward D. Freeland, Superintendent of Wind Cave National Park? Since he is in your immediate locality, it would seem desirable for him to be familiar with the area that you have under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Roger W. Toll

RWT/mfs

CC Director ✓  
Mr. Harbison  
Mr. Freeland

*This is not  
a reservation  
statement of  
archaeological  
interest  
Chittenden  
with the State*

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

NOV -4 1932

The Superintendent,  
Wind Cave National Park,  
Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Sir:

Attached is correspondence forwarded to this office by Superintendent Roger Toll, together with his letter of October 29. All of this relates to a proposal to investigate an area near Edgemont, South Dakota, said to contain certain archeological features.

After going over the correspondence, it is suggested you plan to take a brief trip to this area. Possibly you already knew something about the matter, and if there is some reason why you do not think it is wise for you to go, please let us know at once.

Please return the attached correspondence to the Washington Office at your earliest convenience for our records.

Sincerely yours,

(S.D.) ARNO E. CAMMERER

Acting Director.

Inclosure 149087  
EES:P

Inclosure 149087

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK  
HOT SPRINGS, S. DAK.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

November 14, 1932

*[Handwritten signatures and initials, including "W.C. Wood" and "E.D. Freeland"]*

The Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

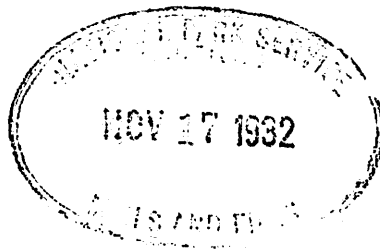
Dear Mr. Director:

There is inclosed correspondence forwarded to me by your office pertaining to an area of archaeological interest near Edgemont, South Dakota. I am fairly familiar with the country and area mentioned; however, I will make a visit as soon as possible to the area and give you a detailed report with pictures as soon as convenient.

Very truly yours,

*[Handwritten signature of Edward D. Freeland]*  
Edward D. Freeland,  
Superintendent.

Inclosure 09708





ADDRESS ONLY  
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

~~Chatelain~~ HCB  
To note  
with file  
~~Marshall~~ HCB

November 25, 1932.

Memorandum for ~~Dr. Bryant~~ HCB

I wish to call your attention to the attached correspondence as it is a matter which should originally have been referred to the Branch of ~~Planning~~ I admit in this particular case that it is apparently a small matter but in the interest of routing material to the proper branch I am sure that you are glad to have me call this to your attention.

I note the original letter of October 29 was routed by the Chief Clerk to me through Mr. Demaray and yourself. However, you sidetracked it to Mr. Chatelain and the correspondence did not reach me until we received a letter from Superintendent Freeland. Careful consideration of these matters will be appreciated.

with

With

Should have gone to you first. Will try to avoid recurrence of this.

Woud  
HCB

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*W. H.*

NOV 29 1932

The Superintendent,  
Wind Cave National Park,  
Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Sir:

This will acknowledge your letter of November 15, returning  
the correspondence which we sent you with our letter of November 4.

Sincerely yours,

(S) A. E. DENARAY

Senior Assistant Director.

CLW:RMS.

12/2/32

Dr. August ~~122~~

Mrs. Sibel showed  
this to me yesterday morning  
and I immediately took the  
matter up with Wirth orally.  
He agreed with me readily  
enough that the subject was  
one which I should have  
answered - and showed no  
criticism at all of the  
correspondence which had  
been prepared. His only  
point was that this matter  
should go first to his office  
and should there be

be properly routed - in other  
that an initial record  
could be made there. I  
see no objection to this -  
and we agreed that it would  
be better for Holmes to  
write only his name on the  
correspondence - then let  
him route it. I think that  
if this is done - much  
trouble will be saved.

You did the natural  
thing in referring it to  
me - I did the natural  
thing in preparing the  
answer. The problem was  
altogether one of routing.

Incidentally, I may  
say that since we  
have inaugurated the  
system of clearance in  
our secretarial office

they pay little, if any,  
attention to routing.

I think Tamm right  
in assuming that  
those in charge of  
routing - either here  
or away from me - will  
see that it goes where  
it ought to go -  
Chablain

10-23  
(May 1929)

6-7410

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
EDGE MONT NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-35

PART 1

PROPOSED MONUMENT  
EDGE MONT ARCHEOLOGY

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LAST DATE ON TOP

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*

*File*

*Asst. Dir. Greenland*

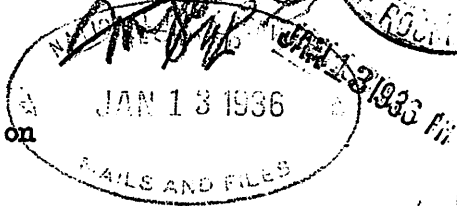
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE PARK DIVISION  
BRANCH OF PLANNING AND STATE COOPERATION  
REGION VI OFFICE  
300 Keeline Building  
Omaha, Nebraska  
January 9, 1936

*See RFL*

*Mr. Chatelain*

*Mr. Johnson*



National Park Service  
Branch of Planning & State Cooperation  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Historical Division

Subject: Proposed Edgemont Archeological National Monument

*0-35*

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your memorandums of May 17 and May 31, we herewith submit two copies of reports on the proposed Edgemont Archeological Monument.

Although we are making no definite recommendations as to the importance of these areas, we are submitting these reports hoping that they may be helpful if further investigations are made.

Yours very truly,

George Gibbs  
Regional Officer,  
REGION VI

EAH:LN

JAN 28 1936 PM



C O P Y

IN THE BLACK HILLS

Sep't 29th 1939.

Mr. Thos. J. Allen, Regional Director  
Archaeological Sites Div.  
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Allen,-

Acknowledging receipt of yours of the 23rd.  
Your prompt attention to this matter is being fully appreciated.  
Dr. Nusbaum knows of my first experience in the discovery of  
Spanish records.

May I have the pleasure of presenting you a copy  
of the great Manitou worshiped by Indians. This portrait symbol-  
izes every bit of life. It also gives the childhood of the author  
of CREATION, Moses.

Cordially yours,

Frank A. Buker sec,  
Chamber of commerce,  
Edgemont, S. Dak.



C O P Y

IN THE BLACK HILLS

Oct. 12th 1939

Mr. Edward Hummel  
National Park Service  
Omaha, Nebr.

Dear Mr. Hummel, -

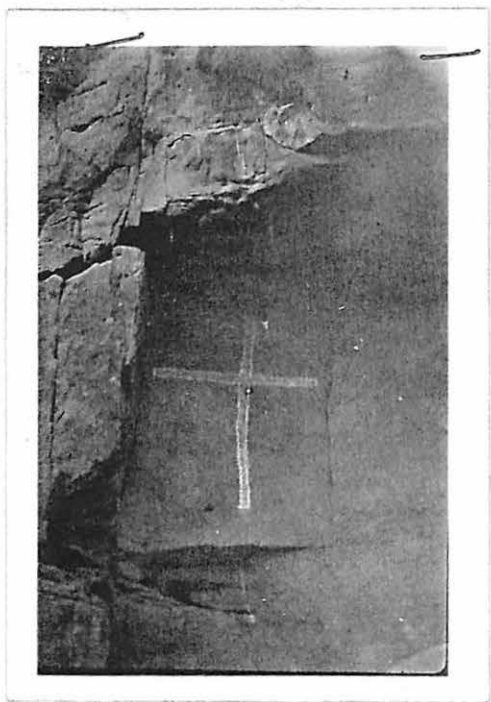
Just received yesterday. Enclosed is a photo of a cross. A present to you. This cross explains why we wish the vicinity of Edgemont included in a National Park. It is for the purpose of preserving such historical data. It can be done in no other way.

It's practically useless to depend on strangers to tell you the immense importance to history of this particular locality. No doubt your judgment is just as good as theirs. Visit me at my shanty home yourself. Come in the near future. These discoveries are far too valuable to give publicity until some sort of protection is afforded them. I fear that most of the criticism given by strangers is due to the fact that they cannot read these glyphs. Therefore do not understand their value to history. I pledge my word of honor that I can give you an official interpretation.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

(sgd.)  
Frank A. Buker  
Edgemont, S. Dak.

Box 244



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION TWO  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



*ANC*  
*Mr. Kelly*

*File 5*

November 3, 1939

*NOV 7 1939*

Memorandum for the Director:

Attention: Branch of Historical Sites,  
Archaeological Division.

In order to complete your files pertaining to the petroglyph area near Edgemont, South Dakota, we are enclosing copies of two letters and two pictures received from Mr. Frank A. Buker.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Regional Director

Encl.

*0.35*  
*Edgemont*