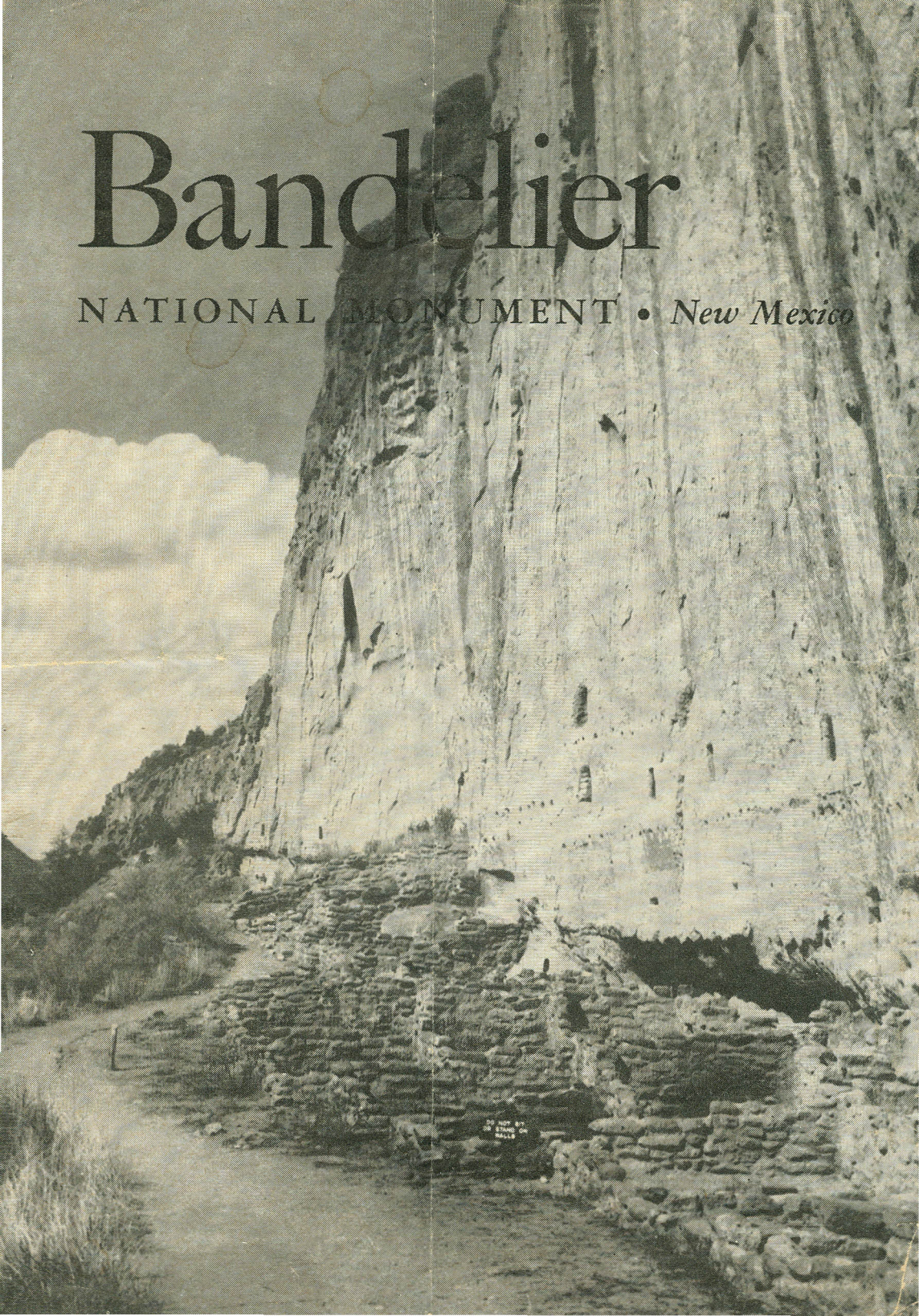


Bandelier

NATIONAL MONUMENT • *New Mexico*



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Bandelier

NATIONAL MONUMENT

Beautiful canyon country containing many cliff and open pueblo ruins of late prehistoric period

The disastrous drought of the late 1200's broke up the ancient Pueblo Indian centers in the Southwest and forced the harried and worn survivors to move to locations where water supply was more constant.

A favorable area which received an influx of population was the upper Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico. One of the later flowerings of Pueblo culture occurred in this region and the numerous ruins of Bandelier National Monument are characteristic of this phase of Pueblo development.

Several groups settled on the canyon-slashed slopes of the Pajarito Plateau. Their habitat was unusual, with its tan cliffs of tuff, forested mesas, deep gorges, and general volcanic character. The story of their adaptation to their environment and their relationships with other groups adds a significant contribution to Southwestern prehistory as it is slowly brought to light through research by archeologists.

The Pajarito Plateau is of interest geologically as well as archeologically. It is constituted largely of tuff (consolidated volcanic ash) and basaltic lava ejected thousands of years ago from the great volcanic crater—perhaps the largest in the world—whose rim today forms the Jemez Mountains. Through this large plateau of volcanic material, running water has cut many steep-walled canyons down to the Rio Grande.

Bandelier National Monument consists of the Frijoles and Otowi sections. It is mostly a wilderness crossed only by trails.

The monument is named in honor of Adolph F. A. Bandelier, distinguished Swiss-American scholar, who carried on an extensive survey of prehistoric ruins in the region and studied the Pueblo Indians around Santa Fe between 1880 and 1886. Part of his time was spent in Frijoles Canyon. The plot of his ethnohistorical novel, *The Delight Makers*, is laid in Frijoles Canyon in prehistoric times.

The Ruins

The most accessible features of Bandelier National Monument are the ruins in Frijoles Canyon. The ancients chose well the location for their dwellings. The deep gorge, cut by the stream rising high in the mountains, is a veritable oasis in the dry country of New Mexico. Translated, the name "Rito de los Frijoles" means simply Bean Creek.

Cliff ruins, or talus villages, extend along the base of the northern wall of the canyon for approximately 2 miles. These houses of masonry were irregularly terraced, from 1 to 3 stories in height, and had many cave rooms, gouged out of the solid cliff. The cliff of compressed volcanic ash, or tuff, was worked with tools of harder stone.

In front of the caves is the ruined pueblo of Tyuonyi, on the floor of Frijoles Canyon. It is a large structure of nearly circular plan with three kivas in an enclosed plaza. This large community house was excavated in 1908, 1909, and 1910 by the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Research.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

Tree-ring chronology and correlations of pottery types indicate that most of Bander's ruins belong to the late preconquest period, although a few small ruins date back to the 12th century. The large pueblos of Tyuonyi, Tsankawi, and Otowi evidently were occupied until about A. D. 1550, although their decline had probably set in by the time Coronado visited the region in 1540. No direct mention of Pajarito villages is made in chronicles of Coronado's expedition.

Like other ancient pueblo dwellers, the Frijoles inhabitants were farmers. They grew corn, beans, and pumpkins. Cotton cloth is found in the caves, indicating they had cotton and understood the use of the loom. However, since the growing season on the plateau is short, cotton may have been obtained by trade. Pottery with decorations in glaze was made.

Exact cause of abandonment of the dwellings is unknown. For centuries the Indian farmers lived in the Pajarito canyons, built villages, honeycombed the cliffs with artificial caves, and tilled the soil of

valley and mesa top. With the passing years, drought, soil-eroding flash floods, soil depletion, raiding Indians, famine, or disease—singly or in combination—forced the canyon dwellers again to seek new homes.

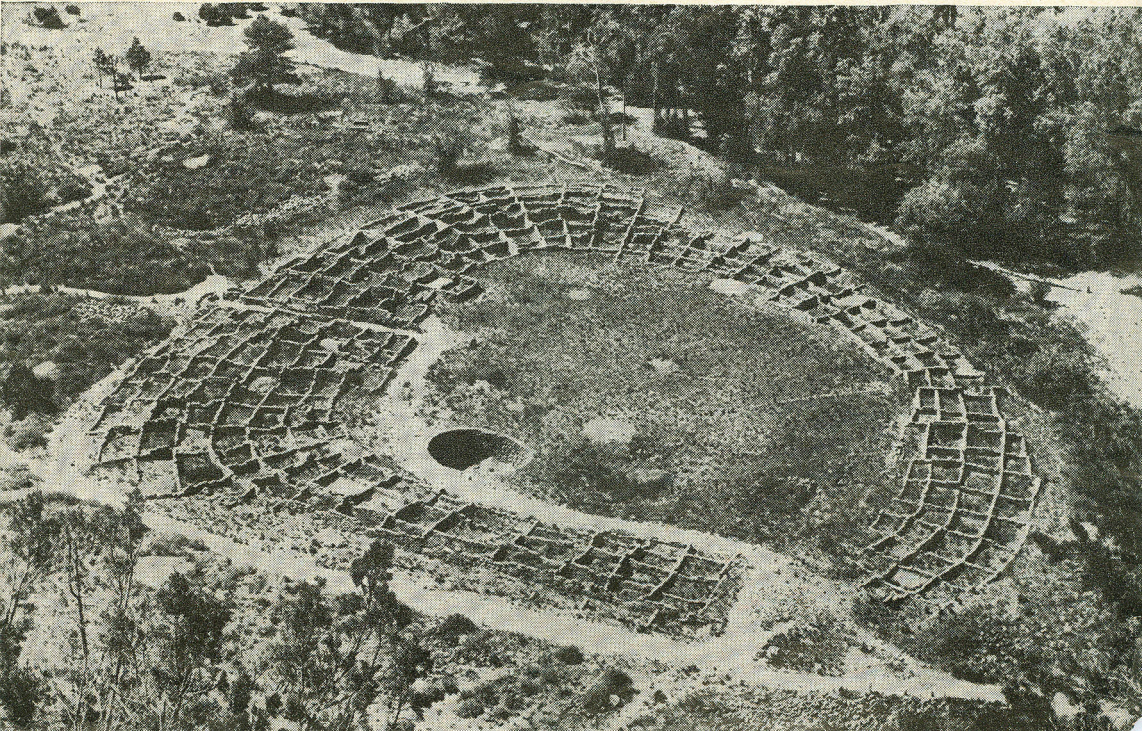
How To Reach the Monument

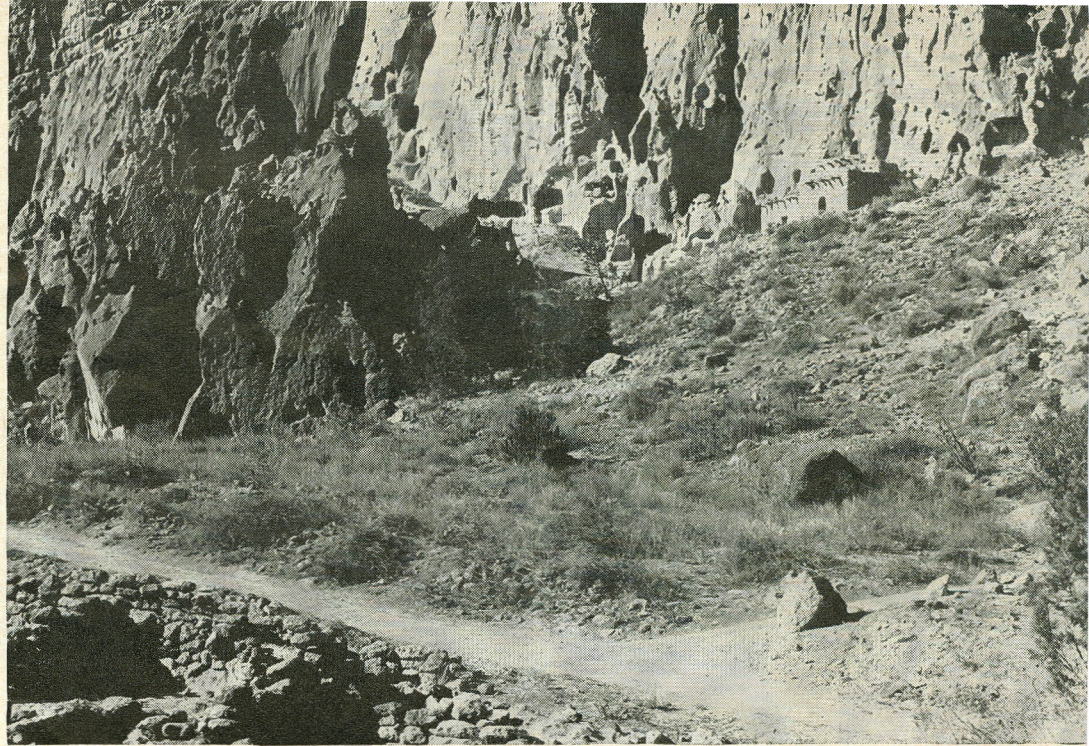
Bandelier National Monument, 46 miles west of Santa Fe, N. Mex., is reached from Santa Fe north on U. S. 285 to Pojoaque, thence on State Route 4. Approach may also be made through the beautiful Jemez country from Albuquerque. Inquiry should be made during bad weather before attempting the latter trip.

Visitor Use Fees

A vehicle permit fee is collected for each automobile, motorcycle, and housetrailer entering the monument. All fees are deposited as revenue in the United States Treasury and offset, in part, appropriations made for operating the monument.

Tyuonyi Ruin.





The east section of the cave ruins in Frijoles Canyon, looking northward from Tyuonyi. The Talus House is near the upper-right corner.

Facilities

The monument is open to travel the year round. During the main travel season (summer), you can make excursions to many nearby points of interest. These include modern pueblos, ancient Mexican settlements, cattle and sheep ranches, mountains, canyons, trout streams, and what is thought to be the largest extinct volcanic crater in the world—the Valle Grande.

Frijoles Canyon Lodge (mail address: Santa Fe, N. Mex.), operated under franchise from the Department of the Interior, is open only during the summer travel season. It furnishes meals, overnight accommodations, and sells gasoline and campers' supplies. Saddle horses are also available for backcountry travel.

The National Park Service maintains a small campground near the headquarters area. Each campsite is provided with a tent space, table, and fireplace. There are also modern toilets, water taps, and a number of trailer sites.

Interpretive Program

To aid you to understand and appreciate more fully the features of the monument, an interpretive service has been planned.

Slide-illustrated programs are presented in the visitor center to provide general orientation and interpretation of the area.

During the summer, members of the ranger staff give informal talks at the campfire circle concerning the archeology, ethnology, and natural history of the region.

In Room 1 of the museum the exhibits explain the geology of the region and the origin of the Indians. Room 2 displays the prehistoric life of the people, and Room 3, the life of their modern Pueblo descendants.

The ruins of Frijoles Canyon are visited by a walking trip from the museum. The loop trail is laid out to exhibit a complete sample of the ruins of the Pajaritan Culture; the circuit takes somewhat over an hour. Leaflets describing the ruins are furnished those who make the walk. Two



Frijoles Canyon from entrance road.

other self-guiding trails are available, one of these is at Tsankawi Ruin in the Otowi section of the monument.

The Gorge and Other Trail Trips

Ninety percent of Bandelier National Monument is primitive area, through which no roads have been or will be built. The gorge of the Alamo, the Stone Lions, the Painted Cave, the pueblo ruins of Haatse and Yapashi, and White Rock Canyon of the Rio Grande are among the more remote attractions.

A hike to the beautiful Falls of the Frijoles may be taken at leisure.

The Stone Lions and Painted Cave can be reached only by trails across the canyons, 9 and 14 miles respectively.

Related Areas

Bandelier is one of many areas in the Southwest under the protection of the National Park Service where ruins of pre-

historic Indian structures are preserved. Inquire at the visitor center for information about the other archeological areas.

Mission 66

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Administration

Bandelier National Monument was established on February 11, 1916. It covers more than 42 square miles and is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Santa Fe, N. Mex., is in immediate charge.



United States Department of the Interior
Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*

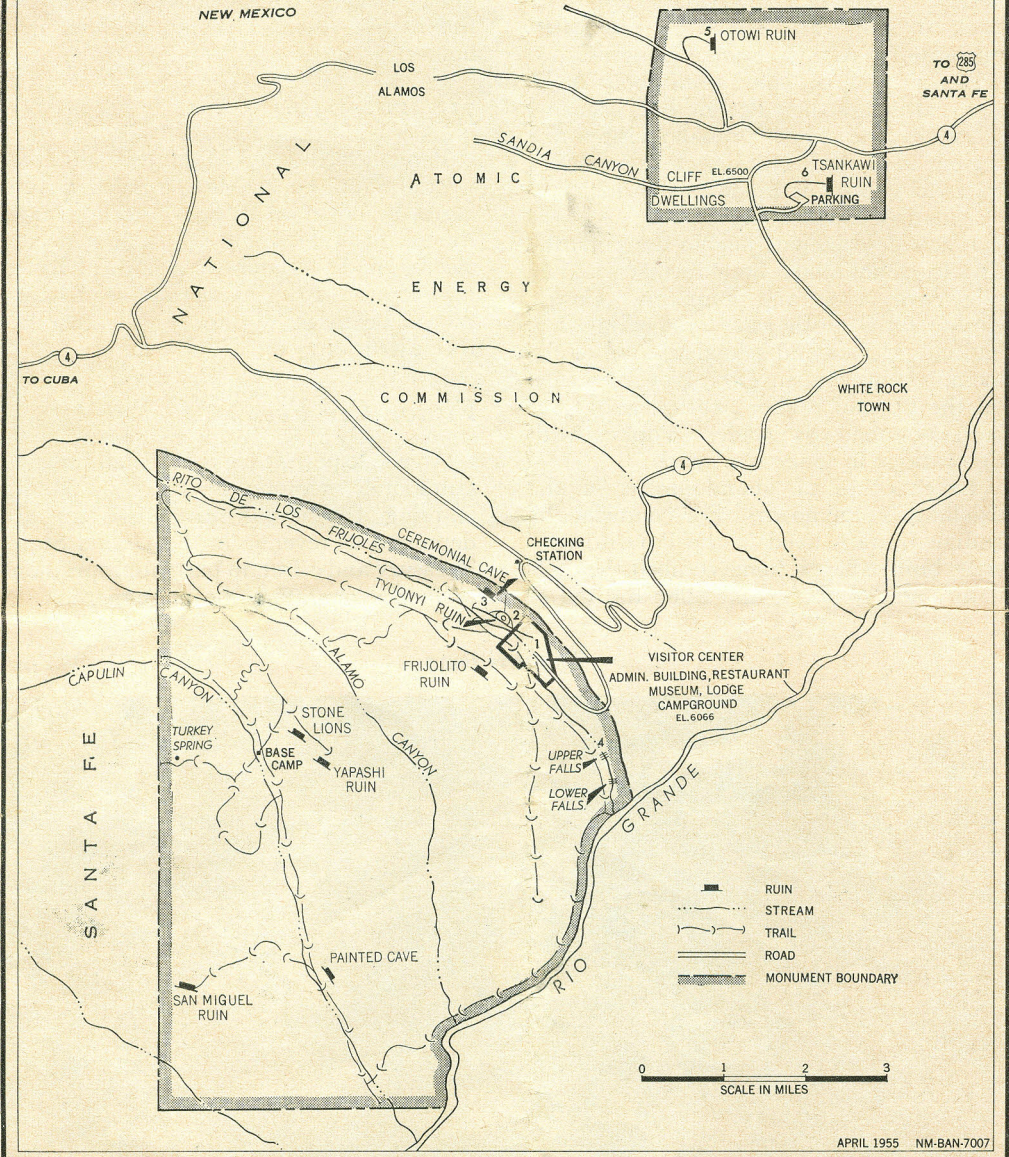
National Park Service • Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT

NEW MEXICO

FOREST



Cover: Long House and cliff of tuff.