

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 26 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAR 15 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Indian Creek State Park

AND/OR COMMON

Newspaper Rock State Historical Monument

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

14 miles north of Monticello

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monticello

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

CODE

049

COUNTY

San Juan

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Utah State Parks Commission

STREET & NUMBER

1596 West North Temple

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

San Juan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Monticello

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey Report of the Rock Art of Utah

DATE

1970

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society, 603 East South Temple

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Indian Creek State Park, one of the best known parks in Utah, is located at an elevation of 6080 feet, northwest of Monticello, nineteen miles west of Highway 163 on the road to the Needles District. Signs at the highway can easily be followed to reach the site.

The large petroglyph panel at the park is on a large rock face under an overhang at the base of the canyon wall on the east side of Indian Creek. Indian Creek, located just in front of the panel, is a perennial stream which heads on the north side of Shay Mountain in the Abajos and flows into the Colorado River. Although the Indian Creek drainage basin has not been systematically surveyed by a professional archeologist, several campsites are known to exist along the creek, and it probably served as one of the main arteries of travel to the Colorado River.

The panel itself consists of numerous pecked figures, all of which are very well-done. The multitude of carvings date from at least two periods. "The youngest and most obvious petroglyphs are almost certainly modern Ute since there are several mounted horsemen and figures that emphasize hunting. These figures dominate the panel and have been made since A.D. 1700 to 1750 judging by the horses" (Schaafsma 1970:57). Other probable Ute figures include horned anthropomorphs, mountain sheep, deer, elk, bison, footprints, snakes, and a large number of geometric designs, including spoked wheels, concentric circles, bisected circles, and wavy lines.

A second group of figures are clearly older than the ones described above; these are not only more heavily patinated or faded, but have the more recent figures superimposed upon them. These older elements include horned, trapezoidal-bodied anthropomorphs, birds, stick men, and wavy lines. There is the possibility that some of the more recent Ute designs are copies of the earlier figures, albeit with several stylistic additions. These older figures have been ascribed by Schaafsma (1970:57) to the Southern San Rafael Fremont, a rock art style first described and defined by her (Schaafsma 1970, 1971).

The panel is very well protected from the elements by the overhang above it; the only natural weathering on the panel is in the form of patination. There are a few modern initials present, but the fence put up by the State Parks Commission in front of the panel has evidently been effective in protecting the panel from vandals. Other facilities in the ten-acre park include camping facilities and pit toilets.

The site was one of several singled out in a recent issue of *Sunset Magazine* in an article on the rock art of Utah and Arizona.

Schaafsma, Polly

- 1970 Survey Report of the Rock Art of Utah. Manuscript, on file, Utah State Historical Society. Salt Lake City.
- 1971 The Rock Art of Utah. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. 65. Cambridge.
- 1975 The Ancient Rock Art of Utah and Arizona. Sunset Magazine.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Approx. A.D. 1(?) - 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Partially Ute

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newspaper Rock Petroglyph Panel at Indian Creek State Park is an outstanding site, exhibiting some of the finest examples of Ute art work as well as that of earlier cultures. The quality of the carvings is uniformly high, and the wealth of figures provides considerable material for the study of prehistoric and early historic aboriginal cultures. The more recent Ute figures on the panel are believed to date between A.D. 1700 and 1750. The depiction of horses indicates that the panels were probably not done before A.D. 1700 or even 1750. On the other hand, the fact that the horsemen are using bows and arrows suggests that the carvings were executed before ca. 1850, since bows were probably not the usual weapons utilized after this date.

The chronological position and cultural affiliation of the earlier figures on the panel presents a problem. Despite the fact that Schaafsma (1970) considers evidence which indicates that this may not be the fact, including the assumption (as yet unproven) that archeologists can assign a particular rock art style to a particular culture. At present, there are no known Fremont sites in the Indian Creek drainage. Sites which have been recorded in adjacent areas are generally considered to be Mesa Verde Anasazi. Thus, other archeological evidence would seem to indicate that the earlier figures on Newspaper Rock are either Mesa Verde Anasazi or belong to earlier cultures in the area (Basketmaker II or III?).

In addition to its significance as an example of aboriginal art, the site has become a model of how to handle major archeological sites in heavily traveled areas. As Schaafsma has noted, "If isolation does not protect the site, it is better to bring it right out for all to see, giving the best explanation possible and providing the most effective physical protection available" (1970:58).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schaafsma, Polly
 1970 Survey Report of the Rock Art of Utah. Manuscript, on file, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY to 9.25

UTM REFERENCES

A	12	630250	4205350	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C				D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Claudia Berry/Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

DATE

November 17, 1975

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-5755

STATE

Utah

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Melvin T. Smith

TITLE Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 17, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NOTE

Robert B. Ketting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Robert B. Ketting

DATE

3/13/76

DATE

3-14-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting