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SEEINSTRUCTIONS

7.	DESCRIPTION							
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The panel is located at the base of a massive cliff of Wingate sandstone which towers above the confluence of Courthouse Wash and the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. The figures are intermittently spaced along the cliff base for approximately one hundred yards.

The most conspicuous figures are painted with dark red, blue, and white hues. Tapering, ghost-like anthropomorphs up to five feet tall dominate the panel. There are many variations among these figures in regard to shape, appendages, and decoration, but, as a group, they show great resemblance to the figures found in Horseshoe ("Barrier") Canyon, thirty-five miles to the west. Two large shields are shown held by these figures. Though apparently of some antiquity, these shields seem to have been superimposed over some of the anthropomorphs, possibly by a later culture.

Many other figures have been pecked into the rock, removing the dark desert varnish and revealing the lighter, less weathered sandstone. Sheep, deer, snakes, and men on horseback are represented in this manner on the cilff face and on large fallen boulders.

Vandalism has occurred at the panel in the form of scratched names and bullet "holes," but, in general, damage has been aesthetic; little damage has been done to the figures themselves.



X Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century	
15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	•	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known)	······································		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	ok One or More as Appropriat	e)		
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Conservation	Music	Transportation		

The rock art at Courthouse Wash seems to be the result of the work of several different cultures that has accumulated over a long period of time.

The strong resemblance of the anthropomorphs in this panel to those found in Horseshoe ("Barrier") Canyon and other areas north and west of the Colorado suggests that they were painted by the same people at about the same time. Because there is scant archeological evidence associated with these art sites, it is difficult to date them with certainty. However, because of the many superimpositions, the stylistic evidence, and the evidence within the paintings themselves, several workers are convinced that the Barrier Canyon style is the work of a pre-ceramic culture.

The sheep, deer, and snakes are typical of the Fremont Culture and probably date from about 1000 - 1200 A.D. The preponderate representation of game animals suggests that hunting was of great importance to the Fremont lifeway. Archeological remains substantiate this view.

The figures on horseback are probably the work of Navajos or Utes and have been rendered since the introduction of the horse to this area in the sixteenth century.

The panel represents the easternmost occurrence of the Barrier Canyon Style. Because the culture that produced this art is so little understood, each locality where it occurs is an important cultural resource. The fact that more recent cultures have painted and pecked figures around and in several cases over the older work makes the panel even more valuable because such "stratification" aids in getting relative ages for the cultures involved.



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Schaafsma, Polly 1971, The Rock Art of Utah, Peabody Museum Gunnerson, J. H. 1969, The Fremont Culture: A Study in Culture Dynamics of the Northern Anasazi Frontier, Peabody Museum 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES ATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY 0 DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES R ND CORNER LATITUDE LATITUDE LONGITUDE LONGITUDE um Degrees Degrees Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds Minutes Seconds Degrees Minutes Seconds NW ... 38 36 26 109 47 U) 34 o ., 0 .. NE o ., ., 0, SE 0 SW APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.0092 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY COUNTY: STATE: CODE CODE Utah 29 019 Grand S STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE m m FEB24 1975 STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE Z S STATE: COUNTY: CODE ODE NATIONAL -9 刀 C 11. FORM PREPARED BY n NAME AND TITLE TIO David B. Loope, Park Ranger 1974 May BUSINESS ADDRESS: Canyonlands National Park z STREET AND NUMBER: PHONE: 446 South Main CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE Moab Utah 49 12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION State Liaison Officer recommendation: I hereby certify that this property is included in the Yes National Register. No No None M State Lisison Officer Signature In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation 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 Re-Date wiew Board and to evaluate its significance. The recomded Jerel of significance is W National 🖂 State ATTEST: FEB 1 8 1975 etal Representative Signatur Date Deputy Assistant Secretary Keeper of 1975 Title Date .

GPO 938-449