

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-306  
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Utah</b>
COUNTY: <b>Grand</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>APR 1 1975</b>

### 1. NAME

COMMON: **Pictographs**  
**Courthouse Wash Rock Art Panel**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **NW of Moab in Arches National Park, on UT 163**  
**Courthouse Wash in Arches National Park**

CITY OR TOWN: **Moab vicinity** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49** COUNTY: **Grand** CODE: **019**

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

### 4. AGENCY

**National Park Service**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) <b>Rocky Mountain Regional Office</b>	STREET AND NUMBER: <b>655 Parfet</b>
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Denver</b>	STATE: <b>Colorado</b> CODE: <b>05</b>

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Park Files - Federal Building**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**446 South Main**

CITY OR TOWN: **Moab** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49**

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

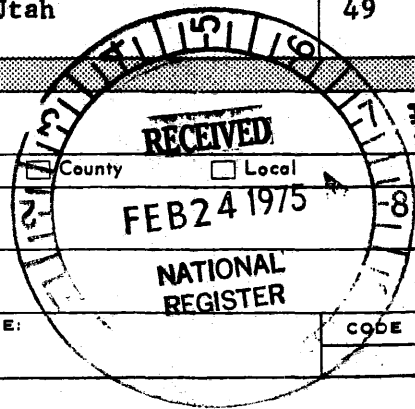
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: <b>UTAH</b>
COUNTY: <b>GRAND</b>
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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered     Moved     Original Site

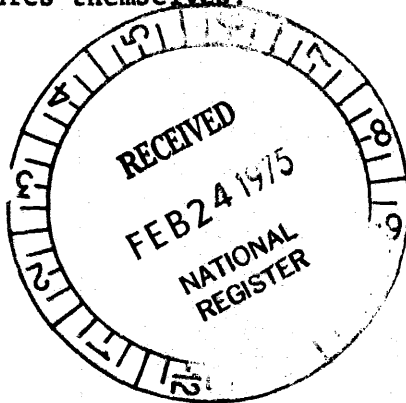
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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 cliff 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.



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**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |                                       |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                      |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art         | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |                                      |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

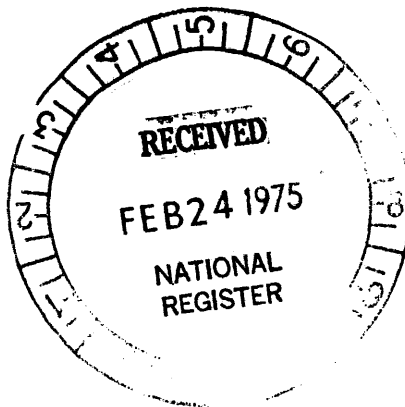
The strong resemblance of the anthropomorphs in this panel to those found in Horseshoe ("Barrier") Canyon and other areas north and west of the Colorado suggests that they were painted by the same people at about the same time. Because there is scant archeological evidence associated with these art sites, 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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

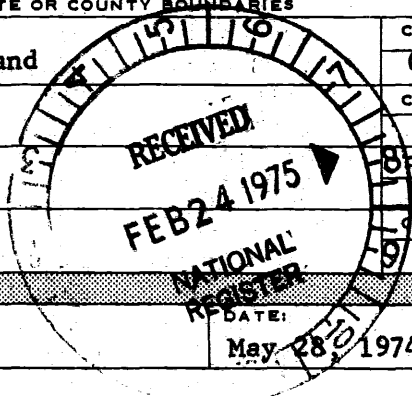
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	°	36	'	26	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	109	°	34	'	47	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.0092**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Utah	49	Grand	019
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO  
UTM  
(1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **David B. Loope, Park Ranger**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Canyonlands National Park**

STREET AND NUMBER: **446 South Main** PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: **Moab** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49**

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:  
 Yes  
 No  
 None  
*Michael J. Smith*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby 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 Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State

*Debra A. Loope* **FEB 18 1975**  
 Federal Representative Signature Date  
**Deputy Assistant Secretary**  
 Title

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*R. R. Mortensen*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/1/75

ATTEST:  
*W. J. [Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
**APR 1 1975**  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_