**Form 10-300**
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)*

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Bandelier National Monument (2 portions)
   - AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. **LOCATION**
   - **Main Bandelier section**: Los Alamos & Sandoval Counties (28,835 acres) Township 17N, 18N, 19N Range 5E & 6E
   - **Tsankawi section**: Santa Fe County (826.2 acres) Township 19N Range 7E

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - CATEGORY (Check One)
     - District: [ ]
     - Site: [ ]
     - Object: [ ]
   - OWNERSHIP
     - Public: [ ]
     - Private: [ ]
     - Both: [ ]
   - STATUS
     - Public Acquisition: [ ]
     - In Process: [ ]
     - Being Considered: [ ]
   - ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
     - Occupied: [ ]
     - Unoccupied: [ ]
     - Preservation work in progress: [ ]
     - Yes: [ ]
     - No: [ ]

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - OWNERS NAME: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
   - STREET AND NUMBER: Bandelier National Monument
   - CITY OR TOWN: Los Alamos
   - STATE: New Mexico

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   - NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES
   - CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   - STATE: District of Columbia
   - APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 29,661.2 acres

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - TITLE OF SURVEY: N.A.
   - DATE OF SURVEY: [ ]
   - DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
     - STREET AND NUMBER:
     - CITY OR TOWN:
     - STATE:
     - CODE:

The historical resources of Bandelier National Monument are prehistoric Indian ruins. Those that have been excavated are under a program of continuing stabilization and are in excellent repair.

There are several hundred archeological sites in Bandelier's backcountry, most of which are small; none have been excavated. These ruins, including the larger Yapashi and San Miguel Ruins in the backcountry, and Tsankawi in the separated Tsankawi section are pueblo-type ruins. Mounds of rock three to eight feet high lie on the ground where the original dwellings stood, and are the only surface features beside scattered pieces of broken pot sherds.

The cave rooms have suffered the greatest abuse. Many "Kilroys" have scratched their initials into the walls and ceilings of the more accessible caves over the years. Fortunately, because of Bandelier's early establishment and relative remoteness, indiscriminant vandalism or losses to pot hunters have been relatively small.
Bandelier National Monument was created by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on February 11, 1916, primarily to preserve a series of prehistoric Indian dwellings and the material culture of the people who lived here.

The prehistoric occupancy of Bandelier is a time of transition from the great pueblo period, 1100 to 1300 AD—typified by the cultures that flourished at Chaco Canyon, Aztec, and Mesa Verde, and the establishment of the modern pueblos of the Rio Grande and the coming of historic times in 1540. The ruins at Bandelier are thought to be significant sites in this transitional period.

The story of occupancy here is one of remarkable adaptation and resourcefulness in the face of a harsh and sometimes cruel environment. To the extent the people were able to live within the limitations set by their surroundings, to that extent could they successfully survive.

According to archeological evidence, Bandelier became occupied in the early 13th or late 12th century by people of the Anasazi culture. The area was probably occupied continuously until the middle or late 1500's by a people who lead basically an agricultural way of life—growing limited crops in the summer; gathering certain native plants, nuts and fruit; and supplementing their diet with wild game.

In the early sixteenth century the people began leaving Bandelier; the area was probably completely deserted by 1580—just 40 years after the coming of the Spanish. (There is no record indicating that Bandelier was visited by any of the early Spanish explorers.) 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, such influences as drought, soil-eroding flash floods, soil depletion, raiding Indians, famine, and disease—singly or in combination—forced the canyon dwellers again to seek new homes. Undoubtedly, some of the descendants of the Indians of the Pajarito Plateau still live in modern pueblos along the Rio Grande.

Bandelier National Monument is named after the Swiss-born ethnologist who did the first scientific studies of the anthropology and archeology of the area in the 1880's.
### 9. Bibliographical Reference

- Bandelier, Adolf F., *The Delight Makers*
- Bauman, *Frijoles Canyon Pictographs*
- Caywood, Louis, *Excavations of Rainbow House*
- Judd, "1910 in El Rito de los Frijoles", *El Palacio, Vol. 69, No. 3*
- Hewett, Edgar, *Antiquities of the Jemez Plateau*
- Hendron, J. W., *The Pajarito Plateau and Its Ancient People*
- Wing, K., *Bandelier*

### 10. Geographical Data

#### LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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

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### 11. Form Prepared By

**Name and Title:**

Dennis B. Davies, Supervisory Park Naturalist

**Organization:**

National Park Service

**Date:**

Feb. 24, 1970

**Street and Number:**

Bandelier National Monument

**City or Town:**

Los Alamos

**State:**

New Mexico

**Code:**

87551

### 12. State Liaison Officer Certification

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National
- State
- Local

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

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date:**

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]

**Keeper of The National Register**

**Date:**
10. Geographical Date

**Main BANDELLIER Section**

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**TSANKAWI Section**

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