

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Russell Cave National Monument (RUCA)  
Other names/site number 1Ja940 (Alabama State Site Files Number); 1Ja 181 (Miller's Smithsonian Number) Cottonpatch Mound (RUCA 1.02 / 1Ja 948), Indian Hut (RUCA 1.03), Cedar Knoll (RUCA 1.04), Transit Knoll (RUCA 1.05), Picnic Cave/Sink (RUCA 1.06), Quarters Garden (RUCA 1.07), Ridley Cave/Sink (RUCA 1.08 / 1Ja944), Lunchbox (RUCA 1.09), Goat Pen (RUCA 1.10) and Big Sink (RUCA 1.11) Cottonpatch (RUCA 2 / 1Ja939), Tally Field (RUCA 3 / 1Ja941), Dorothy Marsh (RUCA 4), Mouth of Flood Channel (RUCA 5)

2. Location

street & number 3729 County Road 98 not for publication   
city or town Bridgeport vicinity   
state Alabama code AL county Jackson code 071 zip code 35740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Ronald M. Greenberg 5-5-99  
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments. )

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- Entered in the National Register
- Sec continuation sheet.
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Other (explain): Additional Documentation Accepted

Edson H. Beall 6/10/99

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property (Check only one box)**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing   | Noncontributing         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| <u>  N/A  </u> | <u>  8  </u> buildings  |
| <u>  5  </u>   | <u>    </u> sites       |
| <u>  1  </u>   | <u>  0  </u> structures |
|                | <u>    </u> objects     |
| <b>6</b>       | <b>8 Total</b>          |

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

  N/A  

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   1  

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Cat: Domestic <u>    </u>      | Sub: camp <u>    </u>                   |
| <u>  Domestic  </u>            | village site <u>    </u>                |
| <u>  Trade  </u>               | storage pits <u>    </u>                |
| <u>  Trade  </u>               | site with evidence of trade <u>    </u> |
| <u>  Funerary  </u>            | graves/burials <u>    </u>              |
| <u>  Industry/Processing  </u> | shell processing <u>    </u>            |
| <u>  Industry/Processing  </u> | toolmaking <u>    </u>                  |

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cat: Landscape <u>    </u>        | Sub: park <u>    </u>          |
| <u>  Recreation and culture  </u> | museum <u>    </u>             |
| <u>  Transportation  </u>         | pedestrian related <u>    </u> |
| <u>  Government  </u>             | government office <u>    </u>  |
| <u>  Landscape  </u>              | forest <u>    </u>             |
| <u>  Landscape  </u>              | natural feature <u>    </u>    |

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

  Mound  

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation   N/A
- roof
- walls
- other   mound

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached sheets for **Historical Context** and **Historic and Current Condition**

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Archeology - Prehistoric
- Archeology - Historic Aboriginal
- Archeology - Domestic
- Archeology - Commerce
- Archeology - Subsistence
- Archeology - Industry
- Native American
- Social History

**Period of Significance**

10,000 B. C. - 1650 A. D. +

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

- Paleoindian
- Archaic
- Woodland
- Mississippian

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Russell cave National Monument

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 310.45

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone | Easting          | Northing       | Zone | Easting          | Northing       |
|------|------------------|----------------|------|------------------|----------------|
| 1    | <u>16 607940</u> | <u>3871420</u> | 3    | <u>16 608365</u> | <u>3871340</u> |
| 2    | <u>16 608275</u> | <u>3871440</u> | 4    | <u>16 608660</u> | <u>3871440</u> |

X Sec continuation sheet. (p. 25)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet on p. 26, 39 - 40.)

See attached sheet for Section 10.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) (NOTE: see above)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Larry N. Beane / Park Ranger

organization National Park Service date May 30, 1998

street & number 3729 County Road 98 telephone (256) 495-2672

city or town Bridgeport state AL zip code 35740

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs - Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name National Park Service

street & number 3729 County Road 98 telephone (256) 495-2672

city or town Bridgeport state AL zip code 35740

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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(8-86)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 5 Page 1 name of property Russell Cave National Monument Jackson County, Alabama

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**ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES (Contributing)**

**RUSSELL CAVE (RUCA 1.01/ 1Ja940)**

Russell Cave is the major site in the park. This area consists of Russell Cave rockshelter (RUCA 1.01) which is more completely described on pages 11- 21, and 10 other recorded site subunits. Four other sites are known but not recorded. The site is significant although some subunits have not been completely evaluated. The large rock shelter (28m x 60m) is a very significant site because it is one of the oldest known regularly used rock shelter sites in the Eastern United States. Archeological evidence indicates that practically all known prehistoric cultures in the region, dating from 10,000 B.C. up to A.D. 1650, used the Russell Cave site (Griffin 1974, Miller 1956, 1958, 1980). The immediate area outside of the rock shelter and cave was also used by many of the inhabitants of Russell Cave. These types of peripheral subunits and sites found within the Russell Cave National Monument include a prehistoric burial mound, open air sites, other shelter sites, quarry sites, habitation sites and historic sites, some of which have been properly evaluated and are considered significant of their own merits. The main Russell Cave rock shelter site and the surrounding associated prehistoric sites form a distinct archeological district that represents the prehistoric habitation of a small area over the course of approximately 11,650 years.

The subunits are Cottonpatch Mound (RUCA 1.02 / 1Ja 948), Indian Hut (RUCA 1.03), Cedar Knoll (RUCA 1.04), Transit Knoll (RUCA 1.05), Picnic Cave/Sink (RUCA 1.06), Quarters Garden (RUCA 1.07), Ridley Cave/Sink (RUCA 1.08 / 1Ja944), Lunchbox (RUCA 1.09), Goat Pen (RUCA 1.10) and Big Sink (RUCA 1.11) (Prentice 1994). These subunits are described below.

**COTTONPATCH MOUND (RUCA 1.02 / 1Ja 948)**

Carl Miller investigated the Cottonpatch Mound in the 1950s. This mound was classified as potentially eligible (Prentice 1994). This low burial mound is about 200 feet north of the mouth of the cave. The excavated portion of the mound contained 12 burials in a rock and soil fill. The rocks were often situated above and around the burials. The weight of the stones and the poor preservation of the remains prevented recovery and study (Miller 1972 *in* Oehser 1972). Bits of charcoal from a male burial (burial 10) at 4 feet two inches were retrieved and dated to 1560 +/- 200 YA(M-765). No accompanying artifacts were found in the mound. The burials were interred over a period of time (Flint and Deevey 1959). At the time of excavation, the mound was roughly circular and 30 to 40 feet in diameter and about 3.5 feet tall. The excavation of the mound was a fourteen by sixteen-foot trench. Several of the skulls exhibited elongated dolichocephalic deformation (Miller 1980).

**INDIAN HUT (RUCA 1.03)**

The Indian Hut subunit of the Russell Cave Site extends westward from the creek levee just west of Dry Creek to the foot of Montague Mountain just northeast of the cave. This open air multicomponent subunit consists of lithic scatters.

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Three one-meter squares were excavated during testing of this subunit. The testing identified midden deposit and stratified deposits. The thickness and integrity of the midden area indicates that there is potential for features to be present. One limestone tempered sherd was identified during testing indicating a Woodland Period context. Big Sandy/Bolen/Rowan and Dalton projectile points represent the very early Early Archaic and Paleoindian Periods in this subunit. These and other points from the Archaic and Woodland Periods are in the NPS surface collection from the interpretive Indian garden area near the foot of the mountain (Prentice 1994).

**CEDAR KNOLL (RUCA 1.04)**

This area is the first flat area just outside Russell Cave and is just north of Dry Creek as it enters the Russell Cave sink. This subunit is an open air multicomponent area. Three one meter squares were excavated. The greater artifact density reflects the close proximity to the cave. Projectile points representing Early Archaic and MiddleWoodland were present. One limestone tempered Woodland Period sherd was found in this subunit. It is unlikely that these are the only time periods represented in this subunit (Prentice 1994).

**TRANSIT KNOLL (RUCA 1.05)**

This open air subunit corresponds with the northern part of the field just south of the park driveway and east of the parking lot. The highest artifact densities occur on the low rise immediately adjacent to the entrance road. The park entrance road is an artificial boundary caused by the removal of materials during road construction. A small area may contain undisturbed areas. Testing indicated a normal soil development and archeological deposits below the plow zone. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered during testing. It is likely that all periods of occupation were present at this subunit of the Russell Cave site (Prentice 1994).

**SITES WITH INSUFFICIENT DATA (most are thought to be significant)**

**PICNIC SINK (RUCA1.06)**

This shelter and open air subunit is located at the base of Montague Mountain and includes the area surrounding the Picnic Entrance to Russell Cave. This area was only shovel tested. Four out of five shovel tests contained cultural remains. The site is adjacent to the Transit Knoll, Quarters Garden and Indian Hut subunits. The shelter is a medium sized entrance to the Russell Cave system. It has a spring inside and a level area to the east of the shelter. There is a drainage to the west flowing from the slope of Montague Mountain. Two large limestone disks and pottery sherds were collected from the surface of the shelter. A 1830s faceted cobalt blue bead was found at the foot of the mountain just south of the entrance of the shelter (Prentice 1994).

**QUARTERS GARDEN (RUCA 1.07)**

This open air site subunit is located along the north boundary of the park and west of Dry Creek. Ridley Sink marks the western edge of this subunit. This area was used for years as a garden area for park staff. The densest artifact concentration is on the rise near the park boundary. This subunit appears to have lost most of its integrity during park

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development (Prentice 1994). Archival materials at Russell Cave indicate the eastern edge of Ridley Sink and the western edge of the field was once used as a park land fill (L. Beane, personal communication). The cultural periods represented in this site are Stanfield (Paleoindian), Kirk (Early Archaic) and Copena (Woodland).

**RIDLEY SINK (RUCA 1.08)**

Ridley Sink is the large sinkhole and cave entrance along the northern boundary of the park and at the foot of Montague Mountain. Woodland period ceramics have been observed just outside the cave entrance. Visitors removed some artifacts from the cave entrance.

**LUNCHBOX (RUCA 1.09)**

The lunchbox subunit is an open air artifact concentration near the northern end of the levee formation between the Indian Hut and Transit Knoll subunits. This area is distinguished from the other subunits by the charcoal features containing artifacts. Mottling in the soil profiles may be midden deposits. One point of the Late Woodland /Mississippian Triangular Cluster (Prentice 1987) was found. This subunit may have an intact midden with features, floral remains and charcoal, but these may not be related to the triangular point (Prentice 1994).

**GOAT PEN (RUCA 1.10)**

The Goat Pen subunit is a historic component associated with a historic structure, reportedly a log cabin. Testing is needed to determine the extent of any archeological features preserved. No testing has been conducted of this location.

**BIG SINK (RUCA 1.11)**

The big sinkhole just between Russell Cave and the Cottonpatch Mound contained artifacts. A Big Sandy Point (Early Archaic) and Woodland Period Pottery were found in the slopes and bottom of the sinkhole. The western edge of the sinkhole contains Canoe Cave, a cave entrance with a log modified and hollowed out.

**UNDOCUMENTED SITES**

**COTTONPATCH SITE (RUCA-2/1Ja939)**

The Cottonpatch Site is an open air site located on the floodplain on the east side of Dry Creek south of the driveway to the park. The known artifacts include a Paleoindian Period fluted point, Early Archaic points and other lithics from just outside the park. Flakes eroding out of the creek bank inside the cave indicate this site extends into the park. No testing has been performed at this location (Prentice 1994).

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**TALLY FIELD SITE (RUCA-3/1Ja941)**

This open air and quarry site is known from the field just adjacent to the park about 150 meters southeast of the Russell Cave. This site is situated on a low knoll at the eastern foot of Montague Mountain. Paleoindian, Archaic and Historic Period artifacts were found in the field just outside the fenced boundary. A single shovel test just inside the park boundary verified that the site extends into the park. The soil encountered during the shovel test indicates that there is a good potential for intact subsurface deposits. The collection from the adjacent field included Clovis, Dalton, Lecroy, Big Sandy, White Springs, Morrow Mountain, and probably Kirk points. Ceramics from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century from this site include Yellowware, pearlware (blue), Whiteware (blue, willowware), Transfer printed whiteware, and plain whiteware among others. A piece of a cast historic ceramic pipe is also from this site (Prentice 1994).

**DOROTHY MARSH SITE (RUCA-4)**

This site is named for a former Park Superintendent who worked at the park from the early 1960s into the 1990s is located at the east end of the driveway to the park. Artifacts observed from outside the boundary in the eastern end of the field just south of the park include Woodland and Archaic Period projectile points (David Bradford personal communication). A core was encountered in one of the four holes dug when the memorial trees for Dorothy Marsh were planted inside the boundary just south of the driveway. During fence reconstruction along the boundary some artifacts were encountered along both the north and south boundaries. The Dorothy Marsh Site may be an extension to the Cottonpatch Site, though there was an area of the field that was relatively bare of artifacts and separating the two sites during the 1980s. This site is untested and the potential for recoverable information is not known.

**MOUTH OF FLOOD CHANNEL SITE (RUCA-5/1Ja959)**

Chert flakes and one Woodland pottery sherd was found in the creek bank just west of the stream overflow channel to Dry Creek. This is an erosional area where Dry Creek turns west to enter Russell Cave. This area may have been further eroded or damaged during creek bank stabilization. No testing was conducted on this site. It may be possible that these represent secondary deposits (Prentice 1994).



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The following sites have not been recorded, tested or collected. Observations were made in the field while on other projects. No notes exist for these sites.

**RUSSELL POINT SHELTER SITE**

This shelter is situated at a pass through the bluff just south of Russell Point. A Frazier projectile point and several flakes on the surface indicate use of this shelter. It appeared to be completely undisturbed.

**EPHEMERAL POND WEST SITE**

This open-air site is on the western shore of an ephemeral pond. This lithic scatter was located at the base of two hardwood trees about 10 meters apart. This site is located west of one of the biology plots with rebar in the pond. It appears to be pristine with possible wet preservation or stratification revealing an environmental chronology.

**COAL MINES SITE**

Two historic coal mine shafts are within the park boundaries on the eastern bluff of Montague Mountain and just within the southern boundary. The mines are from about the turn of the century. The entrances have been bulldozed closed but the interiors still contain tools. Access roads and other external features may be present archeologically.

**WEST BLUFF BUILDING SITE**

A spring on the western side of the mountain is dammed with a few rows of rocks. Adjacent to this area several rocks form a rectangle appearing to be a cabin foundation. This area may be associated with the coal mining of the area. No artifacts were observed, but ground cover was moderate to dense. This site also appears to be pristine.

**UNSURVEYED PROPERTY**

The last four sites above represent incidental knowledge of the vast unsurveyed acreage at Russell Cave National Monument. About 280 acres remains unsurveyed. Within this area we would expect significant open-air sites along terraces, flint and other prehistoric quarry areas, cave entrances, petroglyphs and passageways. Bluffline, and rockshelters used by prehistoric peoples are also to be expected. Potential significant historic sites include settlement related archeology, moonshine stills and mine shafts.

**NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES**

There are several structures that are non-contributing properties. These are the modern park facilities. Most are Mission 66 structures. Examples of these are the visitor center, and two ranger's quarters. There is also a wellhouse, water reservoir, and oil house from the 1960s, a storage shed from the 1970s, and a tractor shed from the 1990s. These structures are neither historic nor significant.

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**TABLE 1  
CONTRIBUTING ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES**

| <b>SITE NAME</b>       | <b>PARK SITE #</b> | <b>STATE SITE #</b> | <b>SITE TYPE</b>                 | <b>SIGNIFICANCE</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Russell Cave           | RUCA 1.01          | 1Ja940              | shelter                          | listed              |
| Cottonpatch Mound      | RUCA 1.02          | 1Ja948              | burial mound                     | eligible            |
| Indian Hut             | RUCA 1.03          |                     | open air with midden             | eligible            |
| Cedar Knoll            | RUCA 1.04          |                     | open air undisturbed             | eligible            |
| Transit Knoll          | RUCA 1.05          |                     | open air small intact area       | eligible            |
| Picnic Sink            | RUCA 1.06          |                     | shelter and open air             | insufficient data   |
| Quarters Garden        | RUCA 1.07          |                     | open air                         | eligible            |
| Ridley Cave/Sink       | RUCA 1.08          | 1Ja944              | shelter and open air             | insufficient data   |
| Lunchbox               | RUCA 1.09          |                     | subsurface features              | eligible            |
| Goat Pen               | RUCA 1.10          |                     | open air                         | not tested          |
| Big Sink               | RUCA 1.11          |                     | open air/ sinkhole               | not tested          |
| Cottonpatch            | RUCA 2             | 1Ja939              | open air multicomponent          | insufficient data   |
| Tally Field            | RUCA 3             | 1Ja941              | open air multi-component, quarry | insufficient data   |
| Dorothy Marsh          | RUCA 4             | 1Ja959              | open air                         | not tested          |
| Mouth of Flood Channel | RUCA5              |                     | open air                         | not tested          |

**The sites below are known but insufficient data has been collected to fully evaluate site significance.**

| <b>SITE NAME</b>      | <b>SITE TYPE</b>                          | <b>PROBABLE SIGNIFICANCE</b> |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Russell Point Shelter | prehistoric shelter/pass through bluff    | eligible/pristine            |
| Ephemeral Pond West   | prehistoric open air/ephemeral pond shore | eligible/pristine            |
| Coal Mines            | historic coal mines                       | eligible/closed              |
| West Bluff Building   | historic spring and building site         | eligible/pristine            |

**NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Russell Cave Visitor Center | Constructed 1960s |
| Ranger's Quarters           | Constructed 1960s |
| Wellhouse                   | Constructed 1960s |
| Water Reservoir             | Constructed 1960s |
| Russell Cave Storage Shed,  | Constructed 1970s |
| Oil House                   | Constructed 1970s |
| Tractor Shed                | Constructed 1990s |

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**SUMMARY**

Russell Cave National Monument contains a significant archeological district. The main site in the district, Russell Cave (1Ja940), is a stratified rock shelter site (adjacent to a larger stream-fed cave). The archeological district also contains 10 satellite site loci surrounding the main rock shelter site and four other sites (Prentice 1994). The rock shelter measures approximately 28 meters by 60 meters, and contains a significant, long-term seasonal and multi-year continual use habitation site (Beane 1989, Griffin 1974, Miller 1980). Russell Cave is a very significant site because it is one of the oldest known regularly used rock shelter sites in the Eastern United States. The site is also significant because it has one of the most complete temporal and chronological occupation sequences known in the Eastern United States. The Russell Cave site was also one of the first sites in the history of American archeology to be excavated after the advent of radiocarbon dating. A suite of radiocarbon dates from the Russell Cave site provides important temporal and chronological data on human habitation in Eastern North America. Archeological evidence indicates that practically all known prehistoric cultures in the region, dating from 10,000 B.C. up to A.D. 1650, used the Russell Cave site (Griffin 1974, Miller 1956, 1958, 1980).

The immediate area outside of the rock shelter and cave was also used by many of the inhabitants of Russell Cave. These types of peripheral sites found within the Russell Cave National Monument include a prehistoric burial mound, open air sites, other shelter sites, quarry sites, habitation sites and historic sites. The main Russell Cave rock shelter site and the surrounding associated prehistoric sites form a distinct archeological district that represents the prehistoric habitation of an small area over the course of approximately 11,650 years.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Russell Cave National Monument occupies 310.45 acres of the northeastern corner of Alabama in Jackson County. The park consists of a flood plain, cave entrances, mountain slope, bluff line and rolling plateau top. The maximum elevation is 1680 feet along the northern mountain top boundary. The minimum surface elevation is 640 feet along Dry Creek forming the easternmost boundary and flowing into Russell Cave at its lowest point (USGS Dorans Cove Quad).

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**PERIODS OF SITE OCCUPATION**

Archeological investigations at Russell Cave National Monument over the past 50 years have produced a plethora of data indicating that Russell Cave and the area around the cave was almost continually occupied by many different prehistoric cultures over a span of many thousands of years. The intensive habitation of the Russell Cave sites has provided archeologists important data to help interpret the chronological and temporal prehistoric settlement patterns of the region and of Eastern North America.

The following discussion provides an overview of the cultural sequences present in the Russell Cave archeological district.

**Paleoindian Period (ca. 12,000 – 7,500 B. C.)**

Human occupation at Russell Cave began in the Paleoindian period. The Paleoindian people were the first human inhabitants of North America arriving during the late Pleistocene geologic period. By 14,000 B. P. (12,050 B. C.), Paleoindian populations had migrated to most areas of the new world (Anderson 1990). The Paleoindian period is characterized by a sophisticated adaptive subsistence strategy including hunting of Pleistocene megafauna and collection of varieties of flora and faunal resources. Subsistence was based on a lifestyle of seasonal migration and temporary settlements. Lithic artifacts, particularly large, lanceolate projectile points characterize the material culture of the Paleoindian Period. Artifacts manufactured from organic materials such as wood, bone, plant fiber and shell are rare due to their perishability in acid soil. Paleoindian sites usually include base camps, villages, quarries, short-term camps, kill sites and isolated projectile point finds. (adapted from Schwadron 1996)

While it is certain that the occupation of Russell Cave began in the Paleoindian period, it is not known exactly when in the Paleoindian period that was. Griffin (1974) posited that initial occupation of the cave began sometime after about 9,000 years ago, after a large rockfall within the cave resulted in a suitable habitation site. Archeological investigations by the National Park Service, radio carbon dating of material from an archeological context, coupled with the presence of diagnostic projectile point types supports Griffin's hypothesis (Griffin 1974). Other projectile point types recovered from the cave may suggest that occupation of the cave began even earlier than 9,000 years ago (Miller 1958, 1965, 1980, NPS Collection).

Recent excavations at Dust Cave, another early rock shelter site in Alabama, have helped to reconstruct the process of early cave shelter flooding and subsequent human occupation in the Tennessee Valley (Goldman-Finn and Driskell 1994). The recent Dust Cave report details the

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processes leading to occupation by Paleoindians at several caves. As some caves became flushed clear of sediment and the water table dropped they became habitable sometime after 15,000 B. P. (Collins, Gose, and Shaw 1997). Griffin places the sinkhole formation and capture of dry creek at Russell Cave prior to 9,000 years ago. At 9,000 years ago the cave floor was only 8 - 10 feet lower than the excavated floor (Griffin 1974).

Archeological Investigations at Russell Cave have recovered artifactual evidence of Paleoindian cultures, including a broken unfluted Clovis and two lanceolate projectile points (Miller 1972). Other Paleoindian artifacts recovered from Russell Cave were documented in a 1956 article published by the National Geographic Society. Miller's (1980) manuscript on Russell Cave has illustrations of several Paleoindian period projectile points including an unfluted Clovis base, a fluted pentagonal point, three lanceolate points, and a Dalton point (Miller 1980). Miller also describes recovering other Paleoindian points, including Colbert, Nuckolls, Greenbrier Dalton, unfluted Clovis and a Hardaway Side Notched projectile point (Miller 1965). One Dalton was recovered during the National Park Service excavations (Griffin, 1978), and an additional Beaver Lake or Dalton point was found during a more recent site evaluation (ca. 1990). Paul Brown's collection contained one Dalton Point from Russell Cave (NPS Collection).

Paleoindian period projectile points have also been recovered from associated sites outside of the cave. Billie Guedon found a Greenbrier Dalton point south of the visitor center in the interpretive "Indian Garden" site. At least three other Daltons and a Quad point were found within other areas of the park (NPS Collection). Archeological sites nearby have yielded 3 fluted and 1 unfluted Paleoindian points (Randy Smith, Billie Guedon, personal communication). A total of 17 Paleoindian points from the rock shelter and 6 from nearby sites demonstrate that the Paleoindian period is well represented at Russell Cave.

**Archaic Period (7,500 B. C. - 500 B. C.)**

The Archaic Period is divided into three broad temporal divisions based mainly on stylistic changes in projectile points, and of the introduction of fiber tempered pottery in the Late Archaic Period. These periods are the Early Archaic Period (7,500 - 5,000 B. C.), the Middle Archaic Period (5,000 - 3,000 B. C.) and the Late Archaic Period (3000 - 500 B. C.) (Milanich 1994). The Archaic Period in general may be characterized by a shift to increased sedentism, dependence on gathering, hunting and fishing, and the development of an egalitarian form of social organization (Russo 1990). The primary material culture of the Archaic Period can be characterized by projectile point types (Bullen 1975). Other lithic artifacts such as scrapers, knives, perforators, drills, choppers, flake knives, scrapers, hammerstones and large amounts of lithic debitage also characterize Archaic sites. Other Archaic material culture includes tools and ornaments made of bone and shell, baskets, cloth, textiles, worked wood, and beads. These are not necessarily diagnostic of the Archaic Period. Pottery first appears in the Southeast in the Late Archaic Period around 2000 B. C. (Russo 1990). Archaic Site types include lithic scatters, villages, quarries, cave sites, cemeteries and middens. (adapted from Schwadron 1996)

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The Archaic Period is well represented at Russell Cave. Almost every projectile point type from this period found in the region has been recovered from Russell Cave. Russell Cave is the archeological type site for the Russell Cave point type (Griffin 1974), a type found within the deepest excavated levels of the cave that were radio carbon dated from 8435 to 7565 B.C.. Although unpublished, Carl Miller's manuscript also proposed several new point types based on projectile points recovered from Russell Cave (Miller 1980). Other Early Archaic projectile points recovered from Russell Cave include Big Sandy/Bolen/Rowan, Plevna, Pine Tree, Kirk Corner Notched, Palmer, Greenbrier, Kirk Stemmed, Kirk Serrated, Russell Cave, LeCroy and Stanley.

The Early Archaic (ca. 7,500 – 5,000 B. C.) deposits at Russell Cave contain an impressive amount of cultural materials other than projectile point types. An early stratigraphic zone contained a fishhook that may be one of the oldest dated examples from an archeological context in the Southeast, and four fragments of a basket or matting may be one of the oldest examples of textiles in the Southeast. Bone tool preservation is excellent, and many bone and antler ornaments were recovered. Some extinct faunal remains were found, including peccary, coyote, and porcupine (Griffin 1974). A bone "toggle barb" reveals previously unknown technology in the southeast (Miller 1980). In addition, the earliest recorded prehistoric burial in Alabama is from Russell Cave, dating to c. 8550 +/- 320 B. C. (Walthall 1980). This places the burial within the Early Archaic period.

The Middle Archaic Period (ca. 5,000 – 3,500 B. C.) at Russell Cave reflects a cultural sequence now familiar to archeologists of the Southeast. The projectile point sequence from fourteen named types includes Eva, Morrow Mountain, White Springs, Crawford Creek, Buzzard Roost Creek, Garth Slough and Cypress Creek. Storage pits become common. Five of the six burials reported in the 1962 excavations, and one of Miller's burials date from this period (Griffin 1974, Miller 1958).

Late Archaic Period (ca. 3,500 – 5,00 B. C.) deposits also reflect the same cultural changes now known from other archeological sites. Identified projectile point types include Elk River, Benton Stemmed, Kays, Osceola, Mud Creek, Pickwick, Ledbetter, Motley, Sublet Ferry, Limestone and Gary points. Only one sherd of fiber tempered ceramics represents the coming of the earliest pottery types to the area (Griffin 1974). Miller noted a two piece fishhook from Russell Cave usually found in the Late Archaic Period (Miller 1958).

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**Woodland Period (500 B. C. - A. D. 1000)**

The Woodland Period is defined by several sociological and technological changes in cultures. These include the widespread use of burial mounds, pottery and agriculture. Burial Mounds indicate new cultural activities and social changes. In many areas the people began supporting larger ceremonial centers, exhibiting greater social structure, and changing economic ties. Trade for exotic materials provided Atlantic and Gulf coast shells, exotic flints, copper, galena, and shark teeth. Pottery became common, and changed the way people stored and cooked foods. At about A. D. 300, limestone tempered and fabric marked pottery became common, replacing fiber, sand and grog tempers during a time of great population increases (Walthall 1980). The use of cultigens increased with lamb's quarter (*Chenopodium*), pigweed (*Amaranthus*), knotweed (*Polygonium*), marsh elder (*Iva amua*), maygrass (*Phalaris caroliniana*), sunflower (*Helianthus*), and squash (*Cucurbita*) becoming regular occurrences in the archeological record. These plants greatly supplanted the gathered materials (Walthall 1980, McCullough and Faulkner 1973). Eventually the bow and arrow appear in the archeological record (Walthall 1980).

Carl Miller recovered a basket of *Chenopodium* seeds at Russell Cave that proved to be a domesticated variety (Miller 1956, 1960, 1972, 1980, Smith 1984). Ceramics of the Woodland Period at Russell Cave include the following types: Prospect Red Filmed, Flint River Incised, Flint River Cord Marked, Bluff Creek Simple Stamped and Woodstock (Griffin 1974).

Early Woodland (1,000 B. C. - 200 B. C.) changes at Russell Cave are indicated by the appearance of pottery. The types of pottery include Long Branch Fabric Impressed, Mulberry Creek Plain and sand tempered pottery. Sublett Ferry, Bradley Spike, Washington, Adena, Knight Island, and Evans and Adena type projectile points are among the Early Woodland projectile point types (Prentice 1994, Griffin 1974). Camp Creek and Frazier are thinner, smaller triangular point types that date to the Early Woodland period, and are often interpreted as being arrowpoints rather than spearpoints or knives (Griffin 1974).

Middle Woodland (200 B. C. - A. D. 500) use of Russell Cave included the Copena Culture. The abundance of Wright Check Stamped Pottery and a number of Copena points indicate Copena habitation of the area. Other Middle Woodland traits include storage pits. Snyders, Bakers Creek, Ebenezer, Swan Lake, Greenville, and Coosa points represent the many Middle Woodland period cultural groups to use the cave.

A Middle Woodland period burial mound was discovered outside of the cave. The mound was partially excavated by Miller, and with radiocarbon dating, it was determined that one of the burials dated to about A. D. 400. The small mound included 12 human remains that were interred at different times. It was also noted that sometimes stones were used to cover the burials. The bone preservation was unfortunately poor, and the burials were reinterred within the mound (Miller 1972, 1980).

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Late Woodland (A. D. 500 - 1000) occupants left the most numerous of point types at the cave, Jacks Reef Corner Notched. Hamilton Stemmed was a similar point and was also common. Hamilton points, a dominant Woodland triangular point also becomes common. A transition of pottery began from limestone to shell tempered types by the end of the Late Woodland period. Flint River Brushed and Line Block Stamped pottery appeared at Russell Cave after this period began (Griffin 1974).

**Mississippian Period (A. D. 1000 – 1540)**

Mississippian Period traits include distinctive pottery that was often shell tempered, villages with a central plaza, platform mounds, a maize based agricultural economy, complex religious ceremonialism and highly organized political structure. Mississippian settlements were often along river valleys. The Mississippian people grew maize, beans and squash on the riverine floodplains. Long distance trade networks supplied rare materials while local trade redistributed foodstuffs and craft goods (Walthall 1980).

Evidence of Mississippian use of Russell Cave is sparse. Large portions of the year would be spent at permanent villages. Parties engaged with specific hunting and gathering activities stopped occasionally to use the cave. Mississippian ceramics (95) combined with Madison (5), Guntersville (3) and Fort Ancient (3) projectile points occur in the very uppermost layers of Griffin's excavation (Griffin 1974). Miller's Russell Cave materials also included Nodena points (3)(Miller 1980, NPS collection).

**Historic Period (1540 – 1835)**

The Historic Period is not well represented at Russell Cave. During this period the local population was decimated by disease, and cultures were sometimes displaced, replaced, or completely lost. Evidence of the use of Russell Cave during the Historic Period is scant. Neither the Tennessee Archeological Society nor Carl Miller's excavation reports show evidence of any artifacts dating to the Historic Period, with the exception of the most recent modern debris. Even Griffin reported recovering only a single Historic Period artifact, consisting of an iron fishhook (Griffin 1974). National Park Service collections contain reported surface finds including one musketball, a probable Native American flintlock flint, and a possible buggy hub from the cave surface. A faceted cobalt blue bead was also found in the park near the Picnic Entrance of Russell Cave (Beane, NPS Collection). The University of Alabama inventory of Miller's excavated materials includes several metal objects (most of these are unidentified), and three musket balls (Robert Huffman, personal communication).

The scarcity of trade materials recovered from the sites seems to indicate short, very occasional historic use of the cave and environs. Some Native



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American artifact types date to the historic period. Langston Fabric Marked and McKee Island Incised ceramics were both used until about A. D. 1600 (Walthall 1980), and both types occur in National Park Service collections from Russell Cave. The Randolph Point from North Carolina is a Historic period projectile point dating to the 1700s (Coe, 1964). Griffin and Miller both list the Randolph point as a type present at Russell Cave (Griffin 1974, Miller 1980). Fort Ancient Points appear to have lasted until after A. D. 1600 in some areas, and the Madison and Guntersville Points were in use until ca A. D. 1800 (Justice 1987, Cambron and Hulse 1983). These types of arrowpoints are found at Russell Cave (Griffin, 1974), indicating that some Historic period occupation of the Russell Cave area is evident.

In 1817, John Woods, a Cherokee Indian, built a stone house just northeast of the park. He was granted 640 acres that included Russell Cave as payment for his Revolutionary War service to the Americans. James Doran moved into the house and acquired the land. Doran later sold the land to Thomas Russell. The land remained in the Russell family until 1928, when Oscar Ridley bought the land (Marsh 1980).

**APPEARANCE OF THE SITE DURING THE PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION**

The appearance of the Russell Cave sites during the prehistoric occupation has probably only changed minimally. The modern environment flora had developed by at least 2000 years ago, and were in their present pattern. During the last 9,000 years the floor level has risen only nine to ten feet above the large breakdown (Griffin 1974). The entrance area has changed little. The major changes to all the sites would be vegetation and environmental changes.

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**HISTORIC AND CURRENT CONDITION OF PROPERTY**

**Russell Cave**

Russell Cave (RUCA 1.01/1Ja940) has been used for a barn, picnic area, campsite and slumber parties. The condition was relatively pristine. Recent excavations in the 1950s and 1960s have been the major impacts on the buried strata. The entrance area and some of the upper strata was possibly compressed during restoration work in 1997-1998.

**Cottonpatch Mound**

Cottonpatch Mound (RUCA 1.02/1Ja948) is a burial mound and was partially excavated in the 1950s. About one third of the mound was excavated (Miller 1980). The mound has had impacts such as a posthole for a sign, and rocks removed from the surface approximately 1984. It is now covered with mayapple plants in the spring and microstegium grass for most of the growing season. Visitors removed the sign and no plans to return it have been made. This site has the hiking trail passing by it.

**Cedar Knoll**

Cedar Knoll (RUCA 1.04) has been plowed for approximately 100 years. This subunit has been used as a staging area for boardwalk construction and cave restoration. Some compression, introduced materials and other impacts may have occurred. It is hoped that these affect only the plow zone.

**Remaining Subunits**

The remaining subunits of the Russell Cave site, Indian Hut (RUCA 1.03), Transit Knoll (RUCA 1.05), Picnic Sink (RUCA 1.06), Quarters Garden (RUCA 1.07), Ridley Cave/Sink (RUCA 1.08/1Ja944), Lunchbox (RUCA 1.09), Goat Pen (RUCA 1.10), and Big Sink (RUCA 1.11), all remain in undeveloped areas of the park. The field areas, which were historically plowed fields, are mowed. Only Picnic Sink has a significant visitor visitation as a picnic area. Areas along the creek may suffer some erosion.

The portion of the Cottonpatch Site (RUCA 2/1Ja939) in the park may suffer some erosion and is only mowed. Tally Field (RUCA 3/1Ja941) is currently in weeds and a thicket. The Dorothy Marsh site (RUCA 4/1Ja959) is currently mowed. This area has a road constructed upon it, and few new impacts. The Mouth of Flood Channel Site (RUCA 5) was eroded and has possibly been damaged during streambank stabilization efforts of the early 1990s.

All of the prehistoric sites near the top of the mountain are pristine. These are Russell Point Shelter and Ephemeral Pond West. There should be no impacts in these areas.

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**PREVIOUS COLLECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS AT RUSSELL CAVE**

Oscar Ridley owned Russell Cave from 1928 until 1958. Oscar's children knew of artifacts in the cave, and may have removed parts of at least one burial. Many people had collected artifacts in the cave prior to the archeological discovery in 1953 (Ralph Ridley, personal communication). A survey crew for the power line in Dorans Cove told Paul Brown of the archeology at Russell Cave in 1951. Mr. Brown interested members of the Tennessee Archeological Society in investigating the cave and finally visited the site in 1953 (Miller 1958, Brown n.d.). The Tennessee Archeological Society members excavated the cave from 1953–1956 (Broyles 1958, Miller 1958). The Charles Peacock Scrapbook has photos of two burials encountered by the Tennessee Archeological Society in 1954 and 1955 (Peacock n.d.). These excavations attracted the attentions of the Smithsonian and the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society and Smithsonian sponsored excavations by Carl F. Miller from 1956 – 1958. Over 3 tons of artifacts were sent to Washington (Miller 1980). The National Geographic Society recognized the significance of the site and purchased the site in 1958 and donated it to the American people (Grosvenor 1958). Russell Cave National Monument was established by presidential proclamation on May 11, 1961 (Marsh 1980). John Griffin's excavation was the last excavation in the cave as of the 1998 filing of this National Register Form (Griffin 1974).

Several 106 compliance projects were completed after Griffin's excavations. A preliminary survey of the developed areas in 1992 near the visitor center revealed a complex of prehistoric and historic site locales within and sometimes extending beyond park boundaries. All subunits of the Russell Cave survey area were deemed significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Sites outside the survey were reported, but information was insufficient for determination of whether these additional sites were significant and eligible for nomination (Prentice 1994). At least two other prehistoric sites that should be pristine occur within the park boundaries and are not yet recorded. A surface reconnaissance of the cave floor behind the fenced area of Russell Cave was performed in 1997 and 1998. The report on this project is not complete. This project was part of the 106 mitigation for a new walkway installed in the cave.

The vast majority of Russell Cave's deposits lie unexcavated. The excavations done prior to National Park Service ownership are largely unanalyzed. The Tennessee Archaeological Society excavations from 1953 to 1956 were small private undertakings in five-foot squares to seven feet deep along the north wall (Brown, n.d.). Paul Brown's materials reveal that methods varied from mapped excavations in six-inch increments to wholesale looting. Even those properly excavating had their squares ruined by looters. Brown and Pahlmeyer apparently tried to record the information in at least one-foot increments and measuring all important artifact depths. Brown also produced several maps of the excavations using a transit. Photographs were taken and even stereo photos were taken of the

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cave (Brown n.d., NPS Collection). Broyles reported a forty-foot long trench ten feet wide for this excavation (Broyles 1958).

Carl Miller excavated an approximately forty foot square trench reaching a depth of forty-three feet deep at its deepest levels. Some areas were only partially excavated leaving steps into the deepest parts (Griffin 1974). Work began as a thirty-foot plot of five-foot squares. Each six-inch level was separated and labeled in bags. Important artifacts were measured as to depth when possible (Miller 1958, 1980).

John Griffin excavated a trench about twenty-five by twenty-feet including part of Carl Miller's trench. This excavation reached only a depth of 10.5 feet. Griffin also excavated in five-foot squares and seems to have used six-inch increments. Important artifacts and features were also plotted (Griffin 1974).

David Hannah investigated the Cottonpatch Field Site sometime about 1966. Some surface collection and an excavation were reported.

Surface collections were made by the National Park Service in the cave from 1982 until 1993 as objects eroded out. This was in response to the collecting by visitors that occurred and would continue to occur if these objects were not removed. Collecting from the surface was not considered a problem by the staff previous to 1982. It was discouraged, but allowed, and many artifacts left the park. There was a small landslide on the slope in front of the cave in 1989. A surface collection and collection from the cleanup were done prior to stabilization in 1991.

A controlled surface collection was done by the author (Larry Beane) in 1997 and 1998 under direction from the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center. This project demonstrated that features of significance can still be found on the surface, and that there are some areas that are totally undisturbed.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**SUMMARY**

Russell Cave National Monument is a significant archeological district that contains 10 satellite archeological site loci and four other prehistoric archeological sites dating from the Paleoindian through the Mississippian periods. The main site, Russell Cave, is a rock shelter site which has produced evidence of a long term, seasonal and multi-year habitation by multiple prehistoric cultures. Archeological evidence indicates that practically all known prehistoric cultures in the region, dating from 10,000 B.C. up to A.D. 1650, used the Russell Cave site (Griffin 1974, Miller 1956, 1958, 1980). Russell Cave is significant under National Register criterion D because it represents one of the oldest known regularly used rock shelter sites in the Eastern United States, and has one of the most complete temporal and chronological occupation sequences known. The Russell Cave archeological site has yielded, and has much more potential to yield, significant information about the prehistoric archeological cultures of Eastern North America. Investigations of the associated outlying sites within the archeological district have also contributed significantly to the understanding of the prehistoric cultural sequence of the area. Peripheral sites include a prehistoric a burial mound, open air sites, other shelter sites, quarry sites, habitation sites and historic sites (Prentice 1994). The archeological sites within the district have demonstrated integrity and excellent preservation.

The Russell Cave National Monument archeological district is also significant under National Register criterion A because the site figures prominently in the history of American archeology. The Russell Cave site was one of the very first sites in the history of American archeology to be excavated after the advent of radiocarbon dating. The interpretation of the site benefited from radiocarbon dating, which provided important temporal and chronological data on the site, and greatly enhanced American archeological interpretation on the prehistoric settlement and habitation of the region.

The period of significance for the Russell Cave Archeological District is from the Paleoindian period (c. 10,000 B.C.) to the Mississippian period (c. 1650). The district is significant on a national level because of the contribution the site has made to the history of American archeology, and because data from the site has contributed greatly to the understanding of prehistoric settlement patterns in the Eastern United States. (See Historic Context above in number 7 for details)

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NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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**UTM COORDINATES Continued**

| Zone | Easting   | Northing      | Zone           | Easting | Northing  | Zone          | Easting        | Northing |           |               |                |
|------|-----------|---------------|----------------|---------|-----------|---------------|----------------|----------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 5    | <u>16</u> | <u>608740</u> | <u>3871340</u> | 9       | <u>16</u> | <u>608775</u> | <u>3870985</u> | 13       | <u>16</u> | <u>607430</u> | <u>3869865</u> |
| 6    | <u>16</u> | <u>608940</u> | <u>3871370</u> | 10      | <u>16</u> | <u>608760</u> | <u>3870690</u> | 14       | <u>16</u> | <u>607430</u> | <u>3870645</u> |
| 7    | <u>16</u> | <u>608960</u> | <u>3871300</u> | 11      | <u>16</u> | <u>608220</u> | <u>3870665</u> | 15       | <u>16</u> | <u>607825</u> | <u>3870650</u> |
| 8    | <u>16</u> | <u>608730</u> | <u>3871270</u> | 12      | <u>16</u> | <u>608220</u> | <u>3869880</u> |          |           |               |                |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for this National Register Historic District submission is to be considered the legal boundary of the park. Russell Cave National Monument boundaries include all the sites tested and considered eligible for nomination to the National Register. The boundary would begin in the NE corner of the northern part of the park and continue eastward to Dry Creek. It would follow Dry Creek south to the overflow channel and follow the south boundary to the corner and head west to about the 1000-foot contour. The boundary would go south to the southeastern corner of the southern half of the park boundary. From this point the boundary would head west to the southwesternmost corner at about elevation 1630, which is also the western edge of the section line. The boundary then follows the section line northward to the section corner. At the section corner the boundary corners eastward to a corner southeast of Russell Point at an elevation of approximately 1440-feet. At this corner the boundary turns North-northeast to the beginning corner. For the more detailed legal description of the park boundaries see the enabling legislation on page 39-40.

**10. Boundary Description Justification**

This boundary includes the area previously archeologically surveyed and deemed eligible and approximately 275 acres of unsurveyed park lands. Some sites for which eligibility is undetermined are along boundary areas and extend beyond the park boundaries. This allows all the sites located and reported by Prentice (1994) and considered eligible to be included.

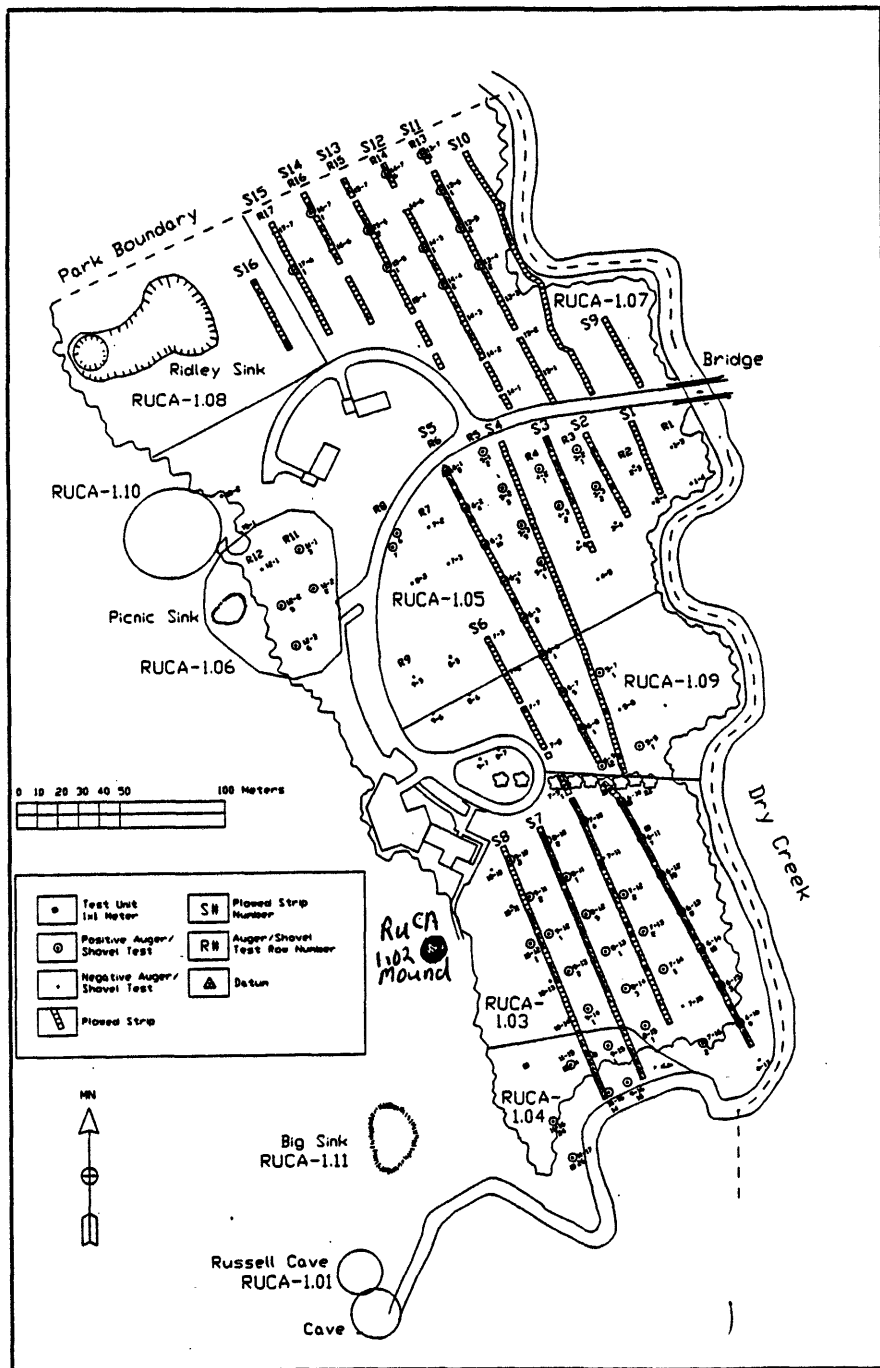
This would be the easiest administratively determinable boundary. Some of the sites outside the boundaries may be eligible after further study.

At least four sites are known in the park in areas not covered by the archeological survey. There is potential for many unknown sites to exist in the area. These sites are unevaluated, but at least some should be contributing eligible sites.

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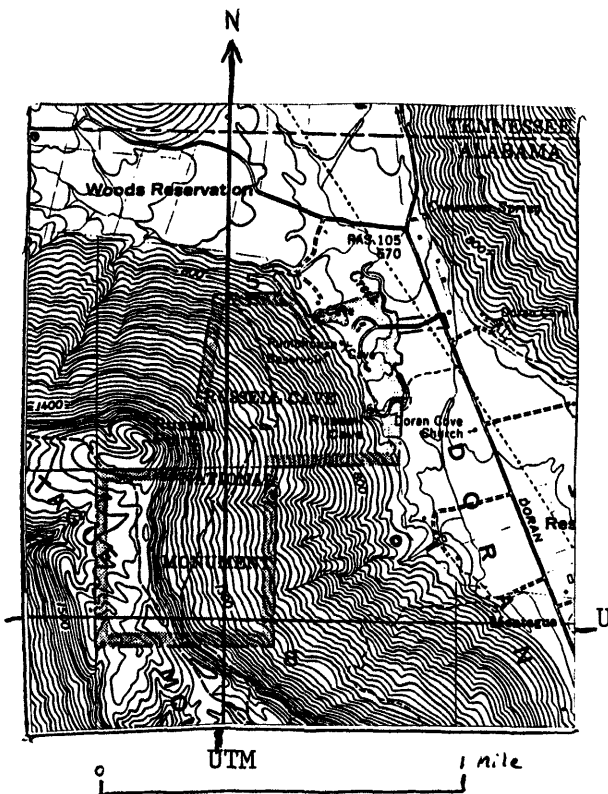
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from Prentice 1994

page 26 (reduced) Mound location  
 corrected



From USGS Dorans Cove 7.5 min.  
 Quad. (REDUCED)

**Figure 7. Placement of Plowed Strips, Test Pits, Auger Tests, and Shovel Tests at Russell Cave National Monument.**

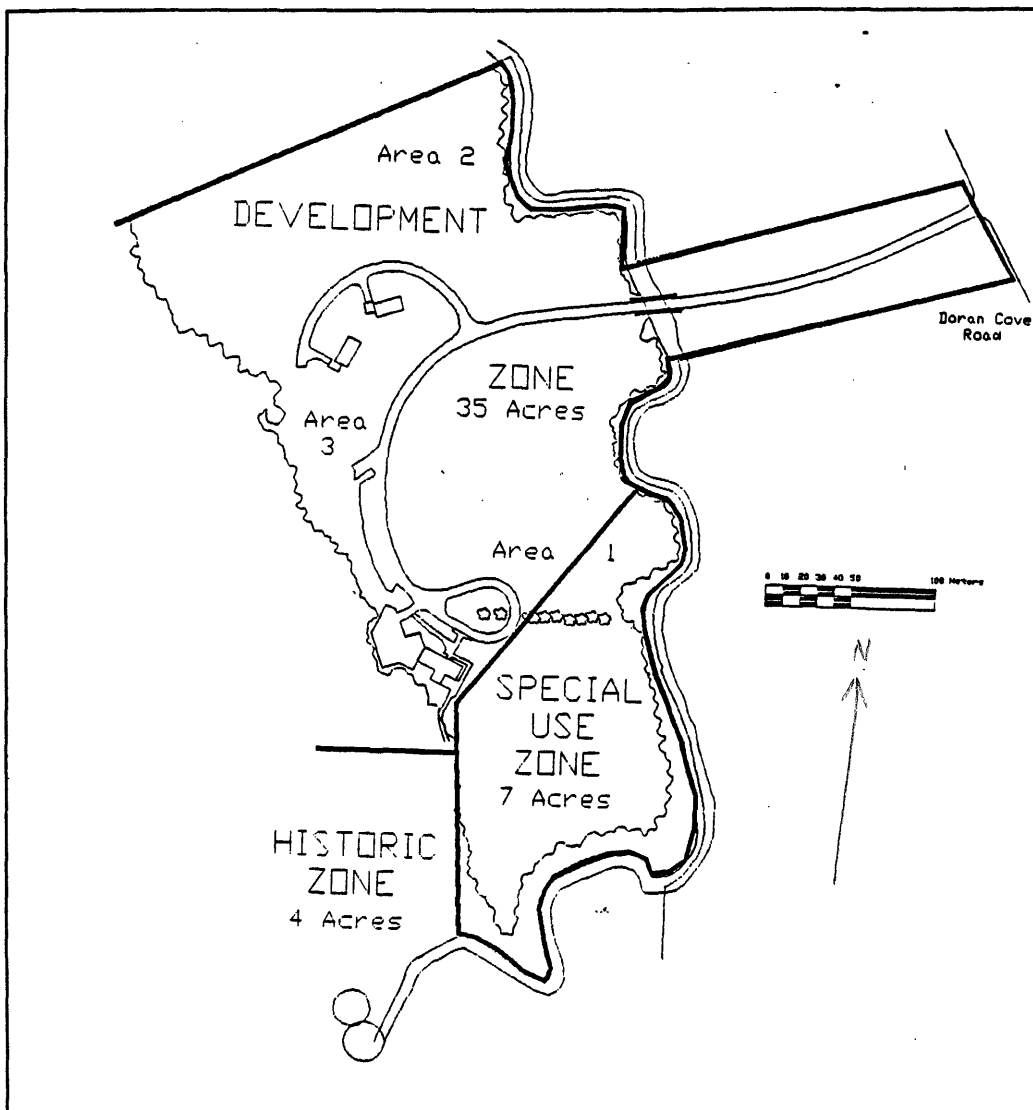
NPS Form 10-900-a  
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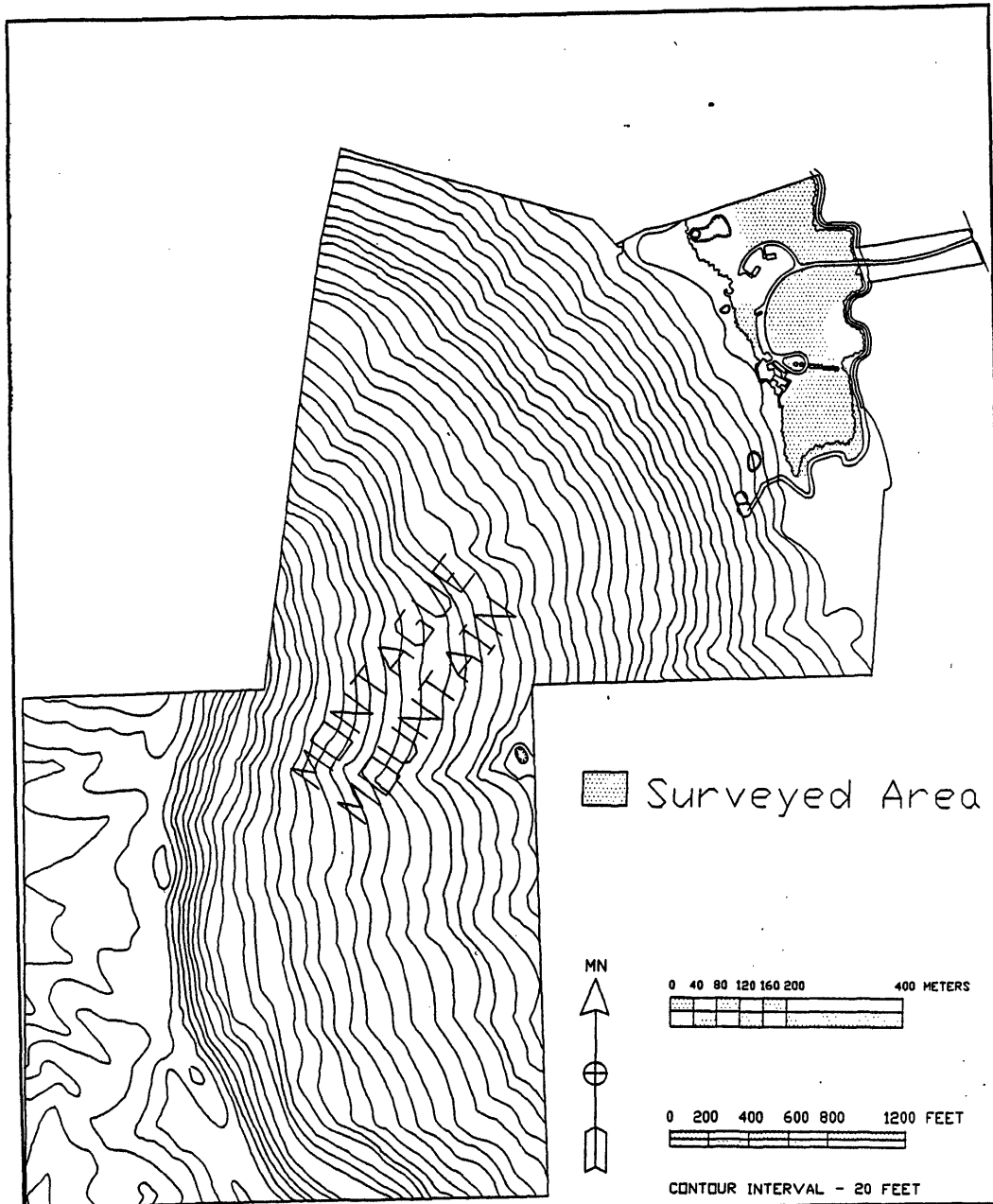
From Prentice 1994  
Page 23  
(Reduced)

Figure 5. Park Development, Special Use and Historic Zones.

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From Prentice 1994  
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(reduced)

Figure 6. Areas Surveyed During the Current Project, Russell Cave National Monument.

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All photos by Larry Beane, on July 20, 1998. Negatives on file at Russell Cave National Monument.

**PHOTO LIST**

Russell Cave (RUCA 1.01/1Ja940) view to the southwest from outside the cave. Photo 30A

Russell Cave (RUCA 1.01/1Ja940) view to the southwest from outside the cave. Photo 30B

Russell Cave view looking eastward from the inside the cave. Photo 31A

Russell Cave view looking northwest into the cave. Note the mannequin exhibit in back of the cave. Photo 31B

Indian Hut (RUCA 1.03) view east along tree line from driveway to levee from circle. Mouth of Flood Channel (RUCA 5) is just across creek at notch in tree line in the right of the picture. Photo 32A

RUCA 1.03 view to the south in the foreground, with RUCA 5 in the notch in the tree line, and Cedar Knoll (RUCA 1.04) to the far right in the shadows. Photo 32B

RUCA 1.03 view to the east, close up of tree line and high levee area. Lunchbox (RUCA 1.09) is to the far left. Photo 33A

Lunchbox (RUCA 1.09) view northeast of the traffic circle. Photo 33B

Transit Knoll (RUCA 1.05) in the distance along road in trees. Photo 34A

Picnic Sink (RUCA 1.06) above parking lot near Bronco. Photo 34B

View to the south along boundary fence to Tally Field (RUCA -3 / 1Ja941). The Tally Field is on the left in the opening of the trees. NPS property is on the right of the fence, with the site extending into the thicket. Photo 35

Cedar Knoll (RUCA-1.04) viewing east from the visitor trail to Russell Cave. Photo 36A

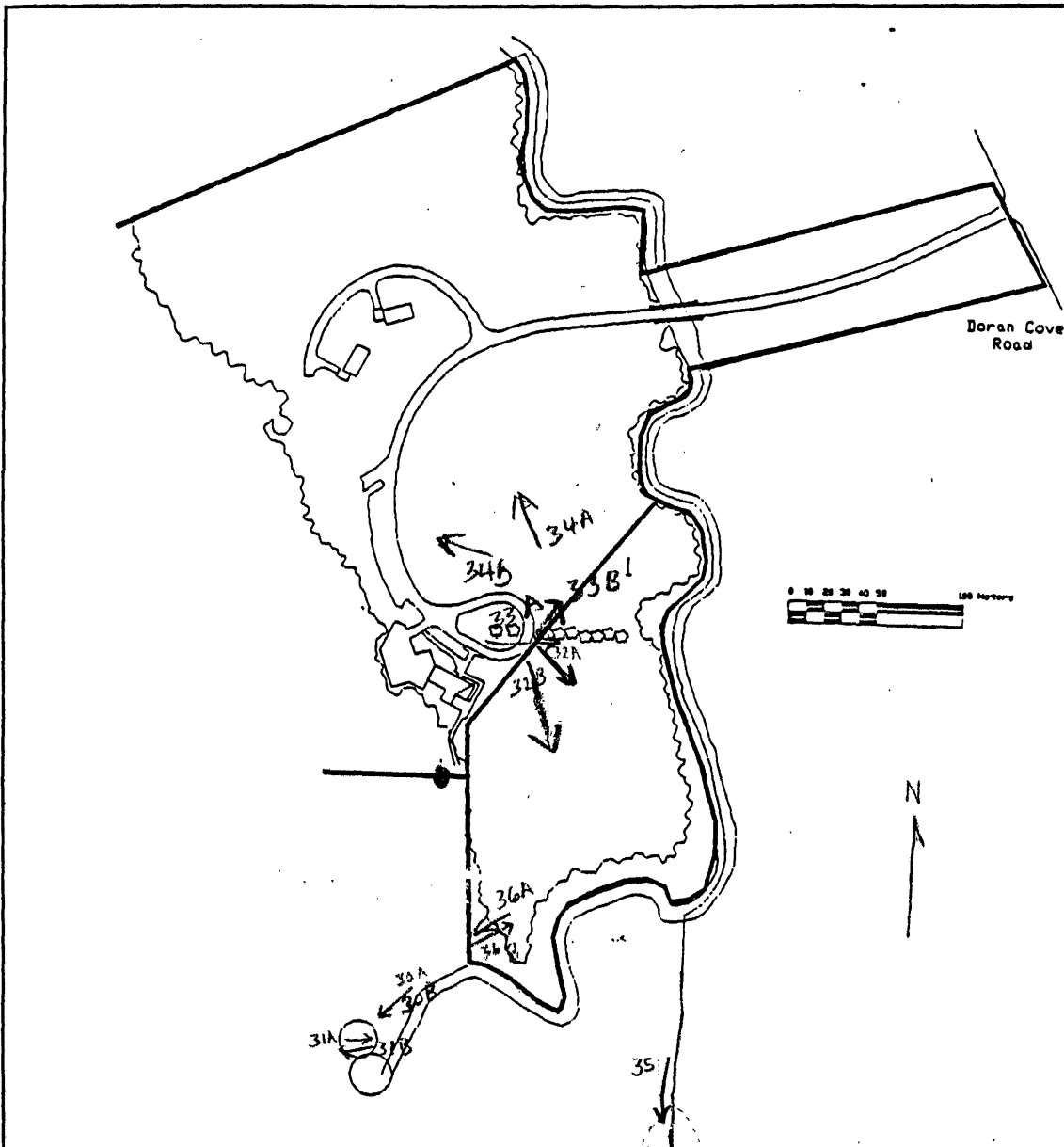
Cedar Knoll (RUCA-1.04) looking west to the visitor trail to Russell Cave. Photo 36B

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**PHOTO LOCATIONS MAP**



ADOPTED  
From Prentice 1994  
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(Reduced)

Figure 5. Park Development, Special Use and Historic Zones.

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**Proclamation 3413**

**ESTABLISHING RUSSELL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, ALABAMA**

**By the President of the United States of America**

**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS Russell Cave, in the State of Alabama, is recognized by scientists to contain outstanding archeological and ethnological evidence of human habitation in excess of 8,000 years; and**

**WHEREAS the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, established pursuant to the act of August 21, 1935, 49 Stat. 666 (16 U.S.C. 163), impressed by the scientific importance and educational value of Russell Cave, has recommended that the cave be permanently preserved as a unit of the National Park System; and**

**WHEREAS Russell Cave and essential adjoining properties have been donated by the National Geographic Society to the American people for preservation as a national monument; and**

**WHEREAS, by section 2 of the act of Congress approved June 8, 1906, 34 Stat. 225 (16 U.S.C. 431), the President is authorized "in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a park thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected":**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN F. KENNEDY, President of the United States, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2 of the act of June 8, 1906, 34 Stat. 225 (16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim and declare that the following-described lands situated in Jackson County, State of Alabama, are hereby established as the Russell Cave National Monument, and shall be administered pursuant to the act of August 25, 1916, 39 Stat. 535 (16 U.S.C. 1-3), and acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof:**

**Tract No. 1**

**Begin a tie line at a rock corner which is a point common to Sections 6.0.7.8. Township 1 South, Range 8 East, Jackson County, Alabama, Huntsville Meridian; thence with the North line of Section 8 and the South line of lands of R.M. Raulston, North 85° East, 1699.5 feet (103 Poles) to a rock corner, being the Southeast**



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corner of lands of R.M. Raulston; thence with the East line of land of R.M. Raulston, North 4°30' East, 2104.5 feet (133 Poles), being a marked line, to a large Linden (Lynn) tree, now down; thence continuing with the East line of R.M. Raulston North 9° East 405 feet (30 Poles) to an Iron pipe; thence with the South line leaving the Oscar Ridley property line and following the meanders of Dry Creek in a Southerly direction along the West line of lands of F. A. Newton for a distance of 650 feet, more or less to a sinke, being the Northwest corner of Tract No. 2 conveyed by Cecil Ridley and wife, Bonita Ridley, to the National Geographic Society by deed dated May 21, 1959, and recorded in Deed Book 171 at page 49 in the Probate Office of Jackson County, Alabama; thence down the center of Dry Creek South 23° East for a distance of 202 feet, to a stake being the Southwest corner of Tract No. 2 described above; thence with the meanders of Dry Creek in a Southerly direction along the West line of lands of Cecil Ridley 1150 feet, more or less, to a stake, which is located 820 feet, more or less, up the meanders of the Creek in a Northeasterly direction from the fence at the entrance of Russell Cave and also being the Northeast corner of Tract No. 3 conveyed by deed dated May 21, 1959, to the National Geographic Society from Cecil Ridley and wife, Bonita Ridley, and recorded in Deed Book 171 at page 49 in the Probate Office of Jackson County, Alabama; thence with the East line of said Tract No. 3 South 2°30' West 926 feet to a sink hole, being in the South line of Section 5; thence with the South line of Section 5 South 85° West, 1881.0 feet (114 Poles) along the North line of lands of Rice Raulston to the Northeast corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 8; thence with the East line of the Northwest quarter, South 5° East, 2610 feet (160 Poles) along the West line of lands of Oscar Ridley to the Southeast corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 8; thence with the South line of the Northwest quarter, South 85° West, 2640 feet (160 Poles) along the North line of lands of Oscar Ridley to the Southwest corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 8; thence with the West line of the Northwest quarter, North 5° West 2640 feet (160 Poles) along the East line of lands of Oscar Ridley, to the point of beginning, being the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 8 and the point common in Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8. Township 1 South, Range 8 East, Jackson County, Alabama, Huntsville Meridian and containing 307.4 acres, more or less, of which 4.0 acres are in Tract 3 and 303.8 acres in Tract 4.

The above-described tracts comprise altogether approximately 310 acres. Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this national monument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this eleventh day of May in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-fifth.

(SEAL)JOHN F. KENNEDY

By the president:  
CHESTER BOWLES

*Acting Secretary of State*  
(F.R. *pbe* 01-4502: Filed. May 12, 1961  
10:41 a.m.)