

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

PH0246824

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 9 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 9 1975

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Barker Dam

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Not applicable

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Joshua Tree National Monument  VICINITY OF Twentynine Palms Forty-third

STATE  
California

CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Riverside

CODE  
065

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*  
National Park Service - Western Region Office

STREET & NUMBER  
450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN  
San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE  
California (94102)

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Riverside County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 751

CITY, TOWN  
Riverside

STATE  
California (92502)

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Barker Dam consists of a structure of cement and stone faced with stone about nine feet high with a later concrete addition three feet high, raising the total height to twelve feet. The dam, including the addition, is about 150 feet long. Its design is rather odd, incorporating several indentations. Above the dam is a low wall of dry stone probably intended to keep livestock out of the deeper part of the tank formed behind the dam. ("Tank" is a rural western term for reservoir.)

Below the dam is a crude pond fed by a pipe from the reservoir. The pond consists of two low circular walls of concentric design. The pipe apparently fed water into the center circle for human consumption, and it overflowed into the outer circle for consumption by stock in the canyon below the dam.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT C.O. Barker; W.F. Keys

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Barker Dam is of local historical significance under the category of agriculture. The dam is typical of such structures erected by cattlemen in arid desert regions to impound run-off rainwater from infrequent desert cloudbursts in an artificial "tank" or reservoir in order to provide water for their stock. This particular dam created a sizeable "tank" which served a number of cattlemen over the years. In less rocky terrain, earthwork dams were more common, but the rocky, boulder-strewn high desert topography in what is now Joshua Tree National Monument together with the character of its arroyos apparently encouraged construction of dams employing cement and local rock rather than earth.

The above statement of significance is based upon the following historical data:

A local cattleman named C.O. Barker constructed a nine-foot high cement dam faced with native stone in 1900. Construction required sixteen eight-day-long trips to haul the cement, wooden forms, mixing equipment and other material from Banning to the site of the dam. When completed, the dam impounded run-off rainwater from desert storms to form a reservoir where cattle could obtain water. Subsequent to 1917, at an unknown date, another local cattleman named William F. Keys obtained ownership of the dam, and using concrete, he raised its height from nine to twelve feet in order to increase the amount of water the dam was capable of impounding. The dam, still serviceable, provided water for stock as long as cattle were run within its vicinity.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library  
Interviews with William F. Keys

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 290

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,92,0,0</u>	<u>3,76,59,4,0</u>	B	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,92,1,0</u>	<u>3,76,55,7,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,88,3,0</u>	<u>3,76,55,6,0</u>	D	<u>1,1</u>	<u>57,88,2,0</u>	<u>3,76,59,3,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundary is roughly a square, its corners delineated by the above UTM references

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell Regional Historian (Revision of 1971 form by F.R. Holland)

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Western Region Office

DATE

June 11, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California (94102)

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Debra Rhodes*

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Debra Rhodes*

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE SEP 5 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 10/29/75

ATTEST:

*Ronald M. Greenberg*

DATE 10/21/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*acty*