

PH 0505919

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 18 1977  
DATE ENTERED APR 6 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC **\*\*** Inscription Rock

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER E of Keams Canyon off AZ 264  
T 28 N, R 20 E (Ca. Sec 23 unsurveyed)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Keams Canyon

VICINITY OF

4

STATE

CODE  
04

COUNTY

Navajo

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: none

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Hopi Tribe

STREET & NUMBER

Box 123

CITY, TOWN

Oraibi

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Navajo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Holbrook

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site is in an area of numerous prehistoric remains near the settlement of Keams Canyon. The slab on which the inscription was carved measures about 16 feet long, 46 inches high, and 36-24 inches wide. The inscription covers an area about 11 feet by 2 feet.

The rock has suffered a good deal of vandalism. Other initials have been carved on the rock, and it has been defaced with spray paint. The original lettering is almost illegible. A tribal Youth Work Group erected a shelter over the site, which protects it somewhat from the weather. The text of the inscription is:

1st Regt.    N. M. Vols.  
Co. K. 13th    August 13, 1863  
Inf.        Col. C. Carson, Comm.

The shelter is a sheet metal roof supported by steel pipes set in concrete. A rock and concrete wall helps to minimize erosion.

In the summer of 1976, the Hopi tribe sponsored a Boy Scout project to clean the rock by rubbing the paint with sandstone. This method appears to be working well.

Captain Everett described Keams as "a beautiful Canon from fifty to 200 yards in width and miles in length, abounding in cool springs and green grass...."

# 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 **13 August 1863**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Lieutenant Charles H. Fitch**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Inscription Rock in Keams Canyon is a tangible reminder of the 1863-1864 campaign against the Navajo which transformed these wide-ranging raiders into Reservation Indians.

When the Civil War began, most of the military in Arizona were recalled and the posts destroyed and abandoned. This move was misconstrued by the hostile Indian tribes as an admission of defeat and it was two decades before all of the Apache were convinced of the inevitability of Anglo control of the territory. The Navajo, on the other hand, were reduced to submission within three years and the major factor in that reversal was the Navajo campaign of Colonel Christopher (Kit) Carson.

The military returned in force to Arizona in the spring of 1862 when General James H. Carleton arrived with the California Volunteers. Carleton was not able to solve the Apache problem but he did put an end to the Navajo raids and their disruption of communication and transportation lines. To accomplish this, he directed Colonel Kit Carson and the First New Mexico Volunteers to conduct a scorched earth campaign in the heart of the Navajo territory, which comprised most of northeastern Arizona. This is said to be the first use of this tactic against Southwestern Indians. In addition to the military maneuvers, there were bounties offered to other Indians for the capture of Navajo horses.

In July 1863, Carson established a supply base at Fort Defiance and on the 4th of August he started a sweep of the Navajo country, returning to Fort Defiance on the 31st of the same month. Inscription Rock is a memorial to that campaign. The command moved steadily through the Navajo territory, burning fields and capturing livestock. Soon Navajo were surrendering in small groups and being sent to Bosque Redondo.

On the 12th of August, part of the command moved into **Keams** Canyon, near the Hopi villages, for water and forage. The animals were much in need of rest and good food. According to Captain Everett, it was the "first good pleasant camp since we left Defiance." The troops found plenty of water and excellent forage as well as a corn and melon patch. Judging

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached list

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1/4

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	5,7,5	1,2,5	3,9	6,3	2,5,0	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Inscription Rock stands on a steep slope rising directly from the road. The area to be included in the nomination extends 100' from the road to the perpendicular bluff immediately behind the rock, which faces SE. The other two boundaries (NW & SE) extend 130', along the road on one side and along the base of the bluff on the other. The rock, which is 16' long, is centered on the edge of the NW boundary.

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

Marjorie H. Wilson

Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks

DATE

October 5, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL XX

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Dorothy H. Hall*

TITLE

*SHPO*

DATE *10-12-77*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *W. M. Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *4/6/78*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *4-4-78*

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

from the number of trails, the location was much used by the Navajo. They named it Volunteer Canyon in honor of themselves.

The men spent the 13th of August resting in camp where they were joined in the morning by the rest of the command under Colonel Carson. It was a peaceful scene. Everett reported: "Animals sent to the hills to graze. Soldiers washing clothing. Officers eating, sleeping, reading and gambling, and so the day passed." Everett was so impressed with the quantities of wild roses that he selected some sprigs to send home.

Lieutenant Charles H. Fitch employed his time in creating the inscription on the rock. "Ages hence," observed Everett, "This may cause...much curiosity among antiquarians...."

A number of Hopi came into camp to trade, but no Navajo were seen. In spite of the tranquility of the setting, the men did not forget reality. The guards were doubled and trebled during the night. The first night passed peacefully and another day of rest followed but at 1:00 in the morning of the 15th, a body of Navajo attempted to stampede the herd. They got one mule for their trouble and at 6:00 the troops broke camp and continued their sweep of the territory. By the 31st of August they were back in camp at Fort Defiance.

The command of 333 men and 16 officers had covered 490 miles in 27 days. The net results were:

1. one soldier killed (Major Joseph Cummings) who foolishly exposed himself to a Navajo marksman.
2. one soldier wounded
3. very few Navajo captured
4. some prisoners taken
5. some horses taken
6. several fields of corn and wheat destroyed

In January 1864, a winter campaign broke the remaining Navajo resistance and incidentally proved that Canyon de Chelly was not impregnable. The summer and winter campaigns together starved the Navajo into submission and led to their removal to Bosque Redondo where they remained for four years. When that location and program proved unsuitable, the Navajo were returned to their former territory (gradually) but their raiding activities had been effectively curtailed.

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CONTINUATION SHEET    SIGNIFICANCE    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 2

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Inscription Rock remained with its cryptic message and Captain Everett's prediction proved correct. Many were puzzled by the words and some fanciful tales were told to explain their origin.

In August of 1958 a tribal Youth Work Group constructed a shelter to protect the rock from the elements. In later years, spray paint graffiti marred the inscription but in the summer of 1976, Boy Scouts and others conducted a clean-up which has improved the site noticeably.

Inscription Rock stands as a monument to a sad and significant chapter in Arizona history.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

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Note: The bulk of this information was assembled by Esther Carson