

The Rock Art and Archaeology of Moab's Colorado River System NRHP Multiple Property Listing



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What is the National Register?

- ▶ “The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community state, or the nation. ”-- <https://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm#nr>
- ▶ *Some Results of Listing:*
 - ▶ Consideration in planning for Federal projects and large scale projects that invoke Section 106 of the NHPA
 - ▶ Formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archeological significance
 - ▶ Involvement of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation when impacts are possible
 - ▶ NR Listing is a tool to help agencies, consultants, and the public to understand and assess the range of cultural variation
 - ▶ The Nomination document becomes available to the public

History of this nomination





Rock Art Area	No. of Sites	Cultural Affiliation	Site Types
Bartlett Flat	1	Barrier Canyon, BMII, Fremont	Storage
Behind the Rocks	9	Archaic, Fremont, Basketmaker, Puebloan	Architecture, Rock Art, Camp
Hell Roaring and Jug Rock	4	Barrier Canyon, Puebloan, Late Precontact, Unk. Precontact	Rock Shelter, Storage, Camp, Lithic Scatter
Mill Creek	98	Archaic, Unk. Precontact, Basketmaker, Puebloan, Fremont, Ute, Late Precontact	Rock Shelter, Camp, Rock Art, Architecture
The Portal	60	Archaic, Barrier Canyon, Basketmaker, Puebloan, Fremont, Late Precontact, Protohistoric, Ute	Hand-and-Toe Holds, Artifact Scatter, Rock Art, Rock Shelter, Architecture, Quarry, Camp
Sevenmile Canyon	28	Archaic, Unknown Precontact, Barrier Canyon, Basketmaker, Fremont, Puebloan, Ute	Architecture, Rock Shelter, Rock Art, Camp, Storage, Pit House

Areas of Significance and Themes



- ▶ Prehistoric and Historic Aboriginal Archaeology
- ▶ Art
- ▶ Commerce
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Ethnic Heritage (Native American)
- ▶ Social History
- ▶ Transportation

- ▶ Rock art
- ▶ Precontact Travel and Trade
- ▶ Precontact Communication
- ▶ Architecture

Significance Criteria and Integrity

- ▶ Criterion A: That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
 - ▶ Criterion B: That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past.
 - ▶ Criterion C: That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
 - ▶ Criterion D: That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
- ▶ Location
 - ▶ Design
 - ▶ Setting
 - ▶ Materials
 - ▶ Workmanship
 - ▶ Feeling
 - ▶ Association

Property Type	Historic Themes	Areas of Significance	Eligibility Criteria	Aspects of Integrity
Rock Art	Rock Art, Travel and Trade, communication	Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation	A, C, D	Location, Materials, Design, Setting, Workmanship, Feeling, Association
Habitation/ Shelter	Architecture	Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation	A, C, D	Location, Setting, Materials, Feeling, Association
Open Camps	Travel and Trade	Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation	A, C, D	Location, , Setting, Materials, Feeling, Association
Storage	Travel and Trade, Architecture	Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation	A, C, D	Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Feeling, Association
Travel Route	Travel and Trade	Prehistoric Archaeology, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation	D	Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship Feeling, Association
Burial		Prehistoric Archaeology	A, D	Location, Setting. Feeling, Association
Cache		Prehistoric Archaeology	D	

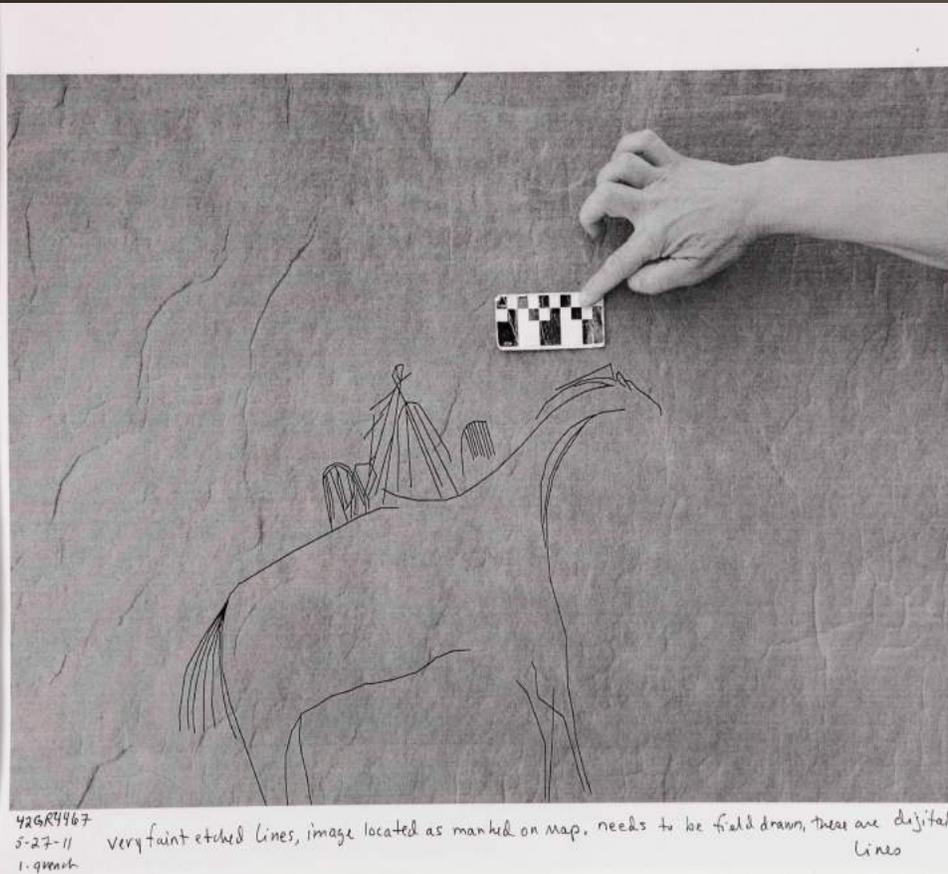
Property Type: Rock Art



- ▶ 119 Rock Art Sites
- ▶ Pictographs
- ▶ Petroglyphs
 - ▶ Solid Pecked
 - ▶ Stipple Pecked
 - ▶ Incised
- ▶ Both
- ▶ Limitations:
 - ▶ Rock Art Dating
 - ▶ Shared Styles
 - ▶ Site Association
 - ▶ Interpretation

Culture Groups

- ▶ Archaic (6000 B.C.E - 500 C.E)
 - ▶ Glen Canyon Style 5
 - ▶ Barrier Canyon
 - ▶ Abstract
- ▶ Formative (1000 B.C.E. - 1350 C.E.)
 - ▶ Basketmaker II-III
 - ▶ Ancestral Puebloan I-III
 - ▶ Fremont
- ▶ Late Precontact & Post Contact Indigenous (1300 C.E. – 1880)
 - ▶ Ute/Numic

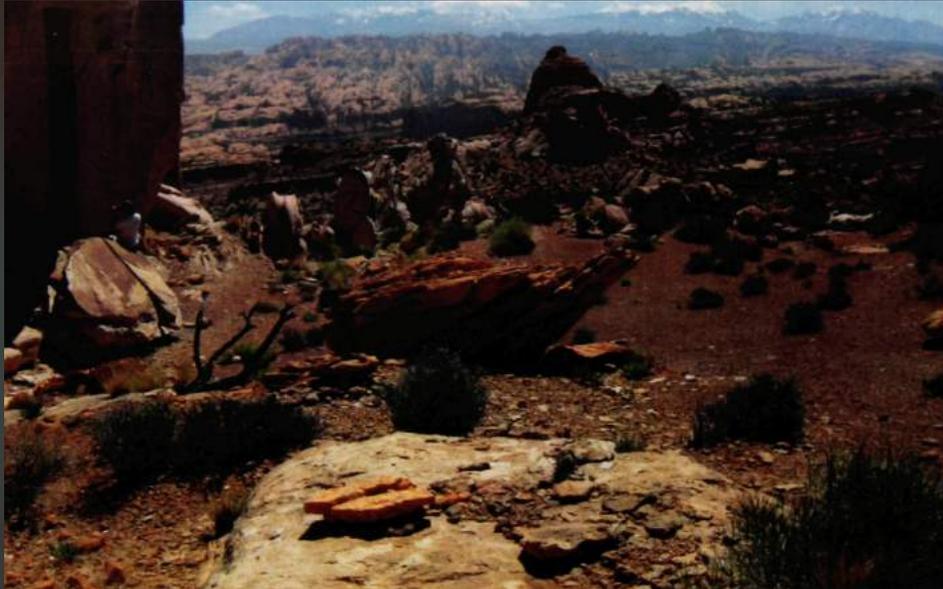


Property Type: Habitation/Shelter



- ▶ 49 Habitation Sites in nomination
- ▶ Broken Down:
 - ▶ Rock Shelters (38)
 - ▶ Habitation (8)
 - ▶ Pit House (1)
 - ▶ Field House (1)
 - ▶ Architecture (1)
- ▶ Multi-feature, commonly up against rock faces or under low overhangs/ alcoves

Property Type: Camp



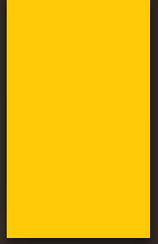
- ▶ Camp sites are sites that convey ephemeral, non-substantive, short-term occupation. These sites include rock art, midden, fire affected rock, stained soil, sharpening grooves, grinding slicks, and artifact scatters.
- ▶ 23 in Nomination

Property Type: Storage

- ▶ There are five primarily storage sites in the nomination
- ▶ Standing architecture and subterranean cists



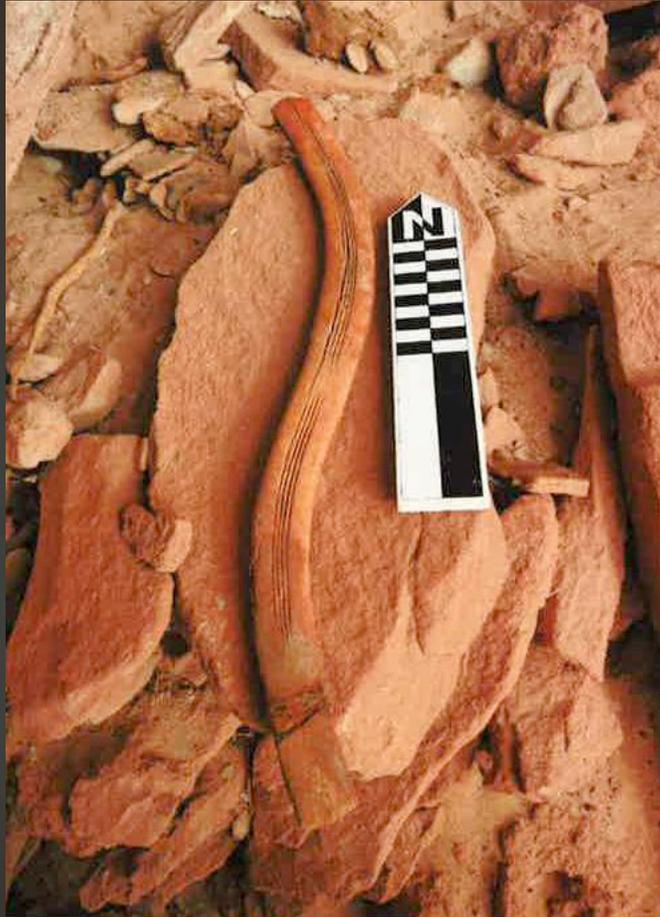
Property Type: Travel Route



- ▶ One travel route with Hand and Toe Holds

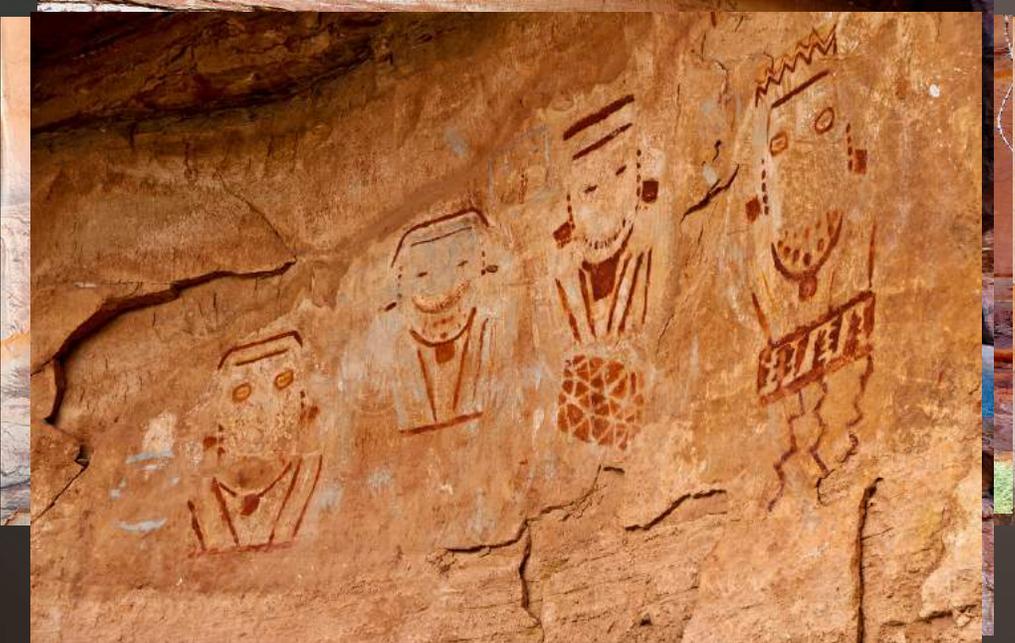
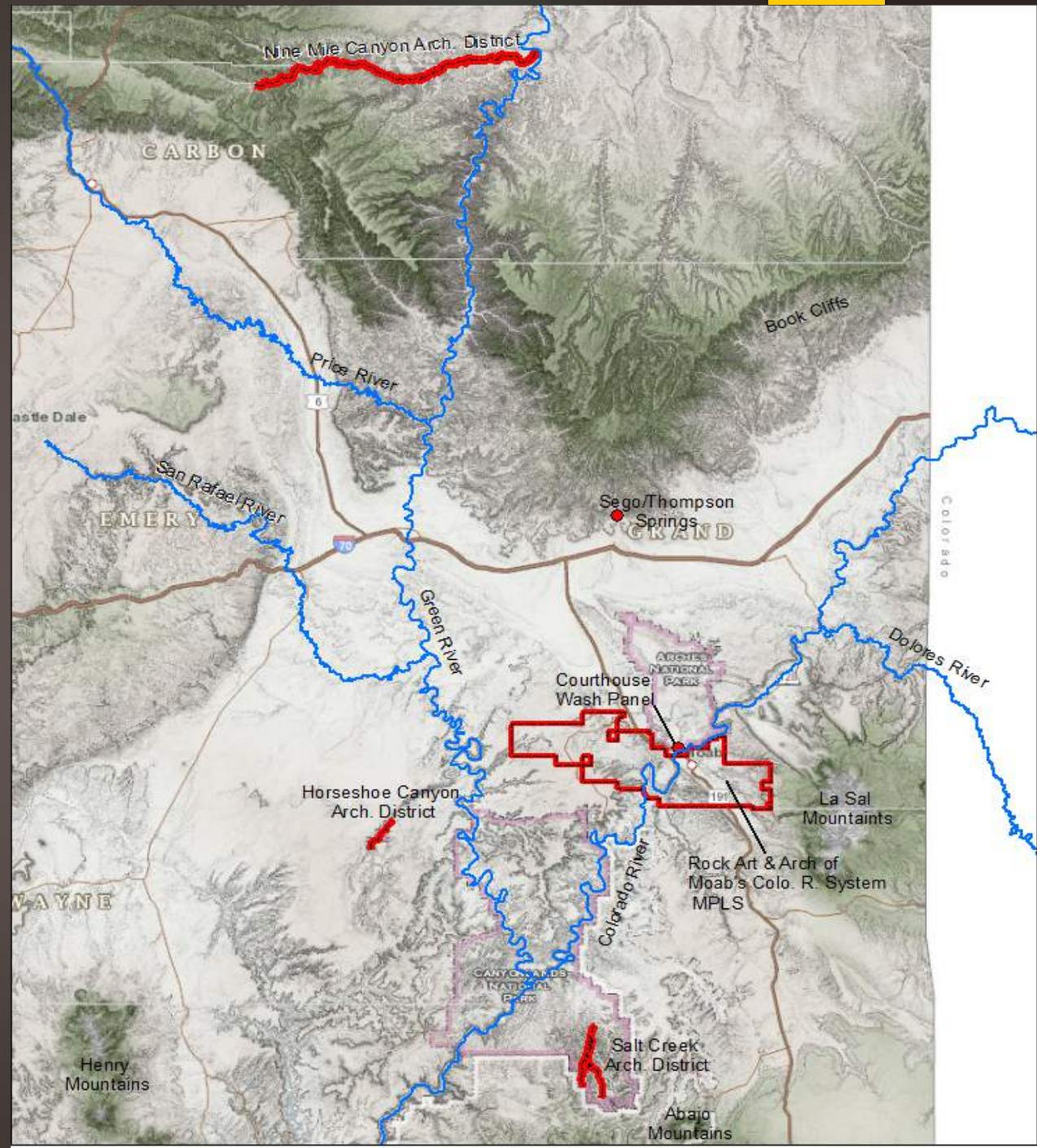


Property Types: Cache and Burial

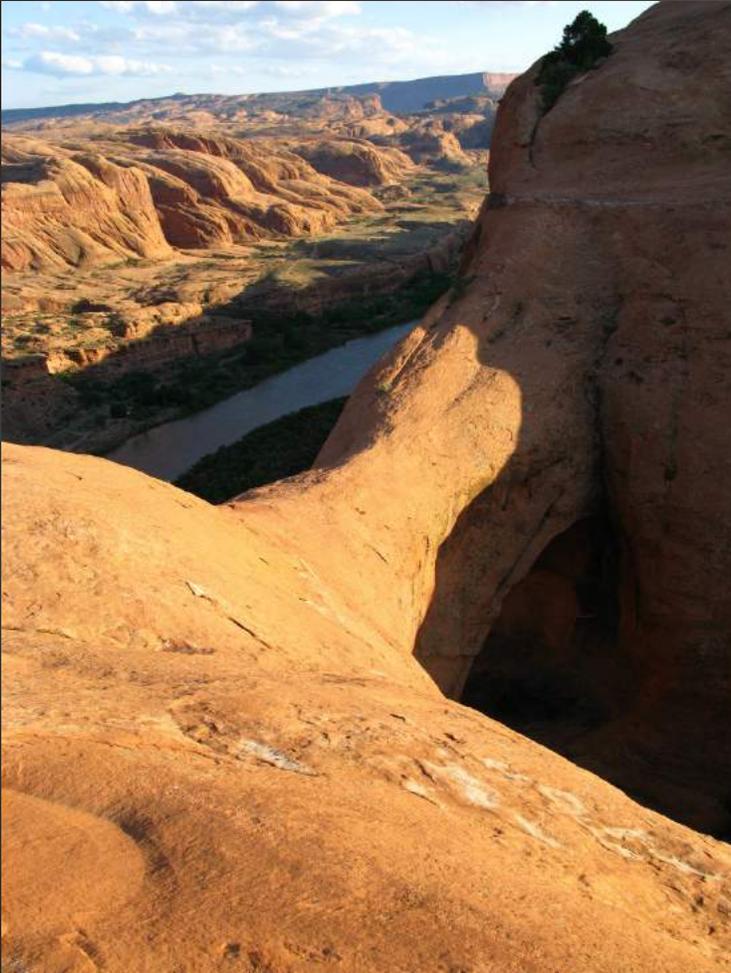


- ▶ Newly added site.
- ▶ Rabbit Stick and pine needle bundle
- ▶ Ancestral Puebloan
- ▶ Formal Burials
- ▶ 2 Primarily Burial Sites in the nominating area
- ▶ Possible warfare suggested

Other National Register Listings in the Region



Ethnographic Overview and Assessment for Arches National Park (Stoffle et al, 2016)



- ▶ 2014-2015 field work with Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology School of Anthropology, U of A
- ▶ Teamed with representatives from Zuni, Hopi, Ute, and Southern Paiute
- ▶ Arches are portals
- ▶ Place of Origin
- ▶ The Colorado is the “vein of Mother Earth”, its feeder streams and creeks are sacred
- ▶ The landscape can hold on to the songs and prayers of the people
- ▶ The Colorado River Crossing at Arches is a significant place of trade, ceremony, livelihood and residence

Acknowledgements



- ▶ Utah Rock Art Research Association
- ▶ Leigh Grench, BLM Moab Field Office
- ▶ BLM Site Stewards
- ▶ Quent and Pam Baker
- ▶ Marty Thomas
- ▶ UT SHPO

Works Cited

- ▶ 1997 National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. US. Department of the Interior National Park Service Cultural Resources, National Register, History and Education.
<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb15.pdf>
- Stoffle, Richard, Evelyn Pickering, Katherine Brooks, Christopher Sittler, and Kathleen Van Vlack
2016 Ethnographic Overview and Assessment for Arches National Park. On File at the SEUG NPS HQ, Moab, UT.