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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rock Art Area</th>
<th>No. of Sites</th>
<th>Cultural Affiliation</th>
<th>Site Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bartlett Flat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barrier Canyon, BMII, Fremont</td>
<td>Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behind the Rocks</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Archaic, Fremont, Basketmaker, Puebloan</td>
<td>Architecture, Rock Art, Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hell Roaring and Jug Rock</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Barrier Canyon, Puebloan, Late Precontact, Unk. Precontact</td>
<td>Rock Shelter, Storage, Camp, Lithic Scatter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mill Creek</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Archaic, Unk. Precontact, Basketmaker, Puebloan, Fremont, Ute, Late Precontact</td>
<td>Rock Shelter, Camp, Rock Art, Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Portal</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Archaic, Barrier Canyon, Basketmaker, Puebloan, Fremont, Late Precontact, Protohistoric, Ute</td>
<td>Hand-and-Toe Holds, Artifact Scatter, Rock Art, Rock Shelter, Architecture, Quarry, Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sevenmile Canyon</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Archaic, Unknown Precontact, Barrier Canyon, Basketmaker, Puebloan, Fremont, Ute</td>
<td>Architecture, Rock Shelter, Rock Art, Camp, Storage, Pit House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Type</th>
<th>Historic Themes</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Aspects of Integrity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock Art</td>
<td>Rock Art, Travel and Trade, communication</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation</td>
<td>A, C, D</td>
<td>Location, Materials, Design, Setting, Workmanship, Feeling, Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitation/ Shelter</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation</td>
<td>A, C, D</td>
<td>Location, Setting, Materials, Feeling, Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Camps</td>
<td>Travel and Trade</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation</td>
<td>A, C, D</td>
<td>Location, Setting, Materials, Feeling, Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>Travel and Trade, Architecture</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology, Historic Aboriginal Archaeology, Art, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation</td>
<td>A, C, D</td>
<td>Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Feeling, Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Route</td>
<td>Travel and Trade</td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology, Communications, Ethnic Heritage (Native American), Social History, Transportation</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship Feeling, Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burial</td>
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<td>Prehistoric Archaeology</td>
<td>A, D</td>
<td>Location, Setting, Feeling, Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cache</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prehistoric Archaeology</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Location, Setting, Feeling, Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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


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.