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Editor's Notes

On Saturday, July 13th, a disasterous fire struck the Fred Hilman ranch home located 15 miles from Sheridan in Little Goose Canyon. Fortunately, Alice, age 85, and Fred, age 90, were able to escape, saving only a few things. But, reduced to a smoking rubble was their life-long collection of irreplaceable artifacts, antiques, and guns. The whole Society extends their deepest sympathy.

The specter of such a loss faces all of us with collections which represent years of our lives. I can still vividly remember after three years, come January 29th, the Fire Chief yelling... "evacuate this house"... as the flames from our neighboring skating rink erupted through its roof and threatened our whole block. Fortunately, we had discussed the possibility, had decided on a plan of action, and our artifact collection was quickly removed to safety. Living in town has two advantages -- close neighbors and a short run by the Fire Department -- no so with country living.

I would advise a New Year's Resolution for all. Let us resolve to make our collections as invulnerable to fire and theft as is humanly possible. If protection is not possible with your own resources, then donate to a responsible museum or the University.

Grant Willson

A PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE
TRAIL LAKE PETROGLYPH SITE

by
JAMES K. ADAMS

Introduction

This project was started with the purpose of making a photographic record of the pictographs and petroglyphs in Fremont County, Wyoming. As pictures were accumulated from several sites, it was deemed necessary to record more information for the purpose of comparison and cross checking of the drawings from the many sites. In this way it might be possible to arrive at some conclusions about the movements of these people and when they drew these pictures, what their activities were as well as what they ate, types of weapons used and other relevant information.

Photo Information of the Trail Lake Petroglyph Area

The Trail Lake petroglyph area faces to the northeast and has a high mountain with large cliffs immediately behind it. The petroglyphs are on blocks of sandstone which have fallen from these cliffs and lay on a very steep hill side at the base of the cliffs.

The pictures were taken in late October and all were taken in the afternoon. As the sun is very low in the sky at this time of year, the area was in very deep shadow. This seems to be a better kind of light than sunlight to make the petroglyphs stand out.

The camera used was a Nikkormat 35mm single lens reflex camera with a 50mm F 2 lens with through the lens metering. A shutter speed of 250 was used as much as possible to eliminate blur. Late in the afternoon, as it drew darker, a shutter speed of 125 was used. The camera was hand held.

Focusing was done on the six inch scale fastened to the surface of the rock or the sharp edge of a crack in the rock. This seems to give a little better focus than focusing on a petroglyph or the surface of the rock. As the camera has through the lens metering with a needle which is centered in the view finder, F stops were not recorded. Large apertures were used as the light was quite low. This could be done as the pictures are of a flat surface, so depth of field is no problem.

Eastman Plux X Pan film was used. While this film is quite slow, an "ASA 125" was used because of its very fine grain, which is essential when you are using a 35mm format and intend to enlarge them without losing the sharpness of the petroglyphs due to grain enlargement.

Three trips were made to the area to get these pictures. As it was late in the fall, temperatures were getting quite low. Snow depths finally stopped the shutter snapping for the season.

This report will show some of the petroglyphs located in an area beginning at the upper end of Trail Lake, down stream past Ring Lake and on to the upper end of Torrey Lake. They are on the west side of the lakes. Large blocks of sand stone have fallen from the cliffs above, providing many large, smooth, flat faces on which to draw petroglyphs. There are many other large boulders in the area, but they are glacial rocks of granite and are too round for this purpose.

The petroglyphs are all pecked into the rock and most of them are large in size. Some are more than five feet in height. The small figures are mostly incomplete drawings or very small animals which resemble mountain sheep. There are not many of these small figures present, however.

The large figures seem to be anthropomorphic when first observed, but on closer examination they look like very elaborate masks or costumes. At some of the other sites, such as Red Canyon, there are pictures of the things that people did or saw. For example, there is an animal with a spear driven through it or a man with a shield or a bow and arrow. Mostly, things that went along with their way of life are portrayed. These people at Trail Lake couldn't possibly have seen any such objects as they have drawn. It doesn't seem possible that they found life so easy or that they could have had costumes as elaborate as these for their dances or ceremonies. None of the day to day happenings are depicted in these petroglyphs. Apparently a few basic figures were used by the artist for a starting point and then many decorations were added until the elaborate figures emerged. Another noticeable feature is the many figures with three toes and fingers and the various ways they were attached to the bodies. Several of the figures seem to be done by the same artist (Fig. 2-14).

The age of these figures is, of course, very hard to determine. But they are on a very solid, fine grained sand stone. Erosion of this type of rock takes place slowly. The petroglyphs show quite a lot of patina and look very old. Lichens and moisture seem to be causing the most damage. Some of the figures and rocks are almost covered by lichens. Some of the rocks are cracked; none of the cracks look recent however. There are no pictographs in this area.

There is a small rock shelter near-by which has been potted out. From a second hand source of information it was learned that the projectile points found in this shelter ranged from recent to the very old. This writer has not seen any of these points, although I have seen a small corner notched point that was found here by surface hunting. Probably some of the people who used this rock shelter also drew the petroglyphs here. Even though the rock shelter has been potted, there has been very little vandalism done to the petroglyphs in the area.

In a radius of about ten miles from the Trail Lake site there are two more

petroglyph sites. The drawings at all of these sites are so similar that they were undoubtedly done by the same people.

In preparing this study about fifty pictures were taken. Some of the drawings were too dim or lichen covered to get printable pictures, so they were not photographed. Thirty-one pictures are used for this report.

Most of the figures pecked into the rocks are very large and very elaborate. They seem to be anthropomorphic with the exception of their hands and feet, which are bird like. Only one small male figure was found. It is the only figure that is definitely human.

The animals portrayed resemble mountain sheep but their horns are more like the horns of an African antelope. The horns are large and have no curl. These animals are much smaller than the large figures and very few were sighted. They appear to be the same age as the large figures. The small, unfinished figures appear to have been pecked in at a later date as they show very little patina.

Until many more petroglyphs are photographed and studied, the only conclusion arrived at is that the figures are very old, probably ritualistic and were pecked by the same people who drew them on the rocks at two near-by sites and a possible third site about seventy miles to the northeast.



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 1
 Panel of six figures
 13.5 feet wide
 6 feet high
 Upper right corner of panel
 is covered with lichens.

Fig. 2
 Close-up of central figure
 in the above panel.
 Petroglyphs are pecked
 into a hard, fine grained
 sandstone.
 Figure is 15 inches wide
 by 23 inches high.





Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 3
 Left figure shown in panel (Fig. 1).
 Some lichen coverage. Rock is
 fracturing and flaking off.
 Figure is 39 inches wide by
 53 inches high.

Fig. 4
 Largest figure in the panel.
 It is 55 inches wide by
 64 inches high. All of these
 petroglyphs are pecked.
 Notice the many dots; common
 to the figures in this area.

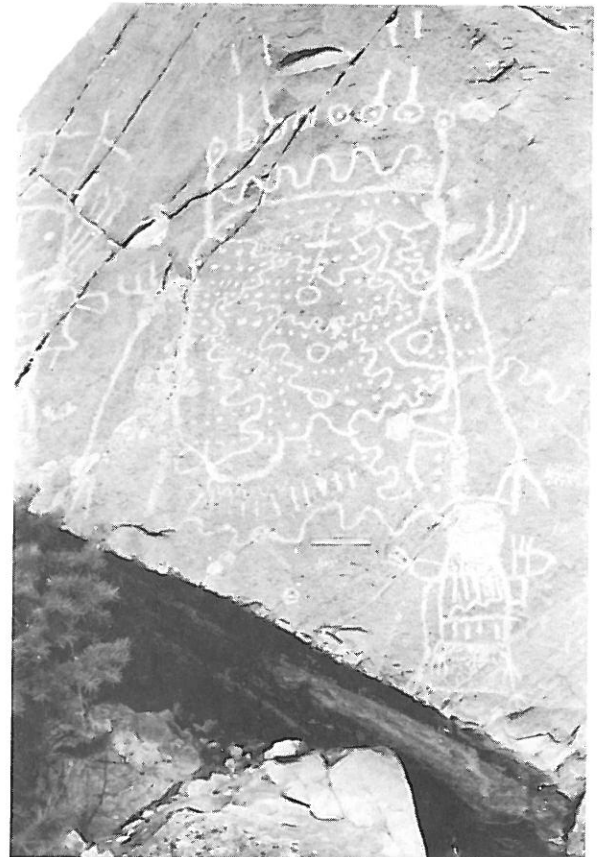




Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 5

Close-up of figure in lower right of large panel (Fig. 1). This figure is 34 inches wide by 38 inches high. Note that this figure is composed of many lines. Even the arms are three lines. The artist ran out of space at the lower corner.



Fig. 6

Small figure at lower center is 16.5 inches wide by 21.5 inches high. Face is nearly obliterated, some of it by natural scaling of the rock. This is a good example of 3 fingers and toes found on many of these petroglyphs. Note one straight arm and one bend at elbow.



Fig. 7

Small figure in the upper right corner of panel is 14 inches wide by 21 inches high. Lichens nearly cover the right side of the figure and will eventually destroy it. Note the many ways the artist drew arms with only 3 fingers attached.

All of the petroglyphs at Trail Lake are on blocks of Tensleep sandstone which have fallen from the cliffs above. These cliffs, however, do not appear to have any petroglyphs on them. The preceding seven pictures are all on one block of sandstone.

There are three areas: Dinwoody, Trail Lake and Red Rocks on the Wind River, which have petroglyphs very much alike. They were undoubtedly made by the same people. Some were drawn by the same person as we will show later.



Fig. 8

Fig. 8
Panel of two figures.
19 inches wide by 24
inches high. Rock
surface is rough, so
figures are not very
distinct. Lower
figure is possibly a
dancer with feathers
hanging from arms.

Fig. 9
Large figure is 30
inches wide by 19
inches high.
Note similarity to
Fig. 8.
Small figures are
probably incomplete.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Fig. 10
Panel of 3 figures.
This is the most
northern of the
petroglyphs at
Trail Lake.

Fig. 11
This is the large figure
in the above panel.
It is 38.5 inches wide
and 57 inches high.
It is starting to scale
off near the center of
the body.





Fig. 12

Fig. 12 Petroglyph in upper right hand corner panel of Fig. 10 is a male dancer with a feather in his hair and feathers on his arms. He is 9 inches wide and 17 inches high.

Fig. 13. Small figure lower right of panel (Fig. 10). Probably human figure. Note the many dots. Rock is rough and cracked, but was probably that way when figure was pecked on.

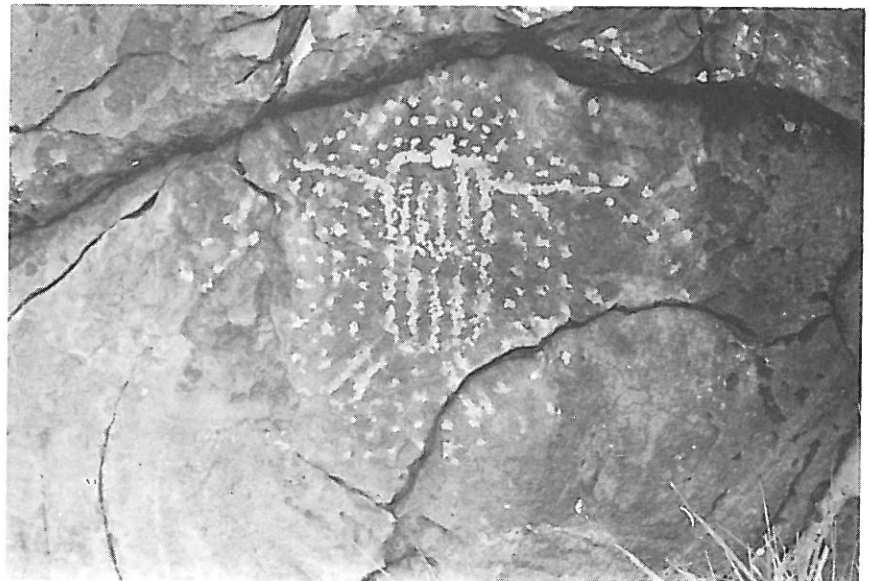


Fig. 13



Fig. 14

Fig. 15

Fig. 14

Lone figure on a rock near panel (Fig. 10) at north end of area. Resembles Fig. 2. Note eyes, pecked area at top of head, chest and crotch. It is 18 inches wide and 17 inches high.

Fig. 15

This figure faces north. It is about destroyed by moisture and lichens. The rest of the petroglyphs on this rock are covered with lichens.





Fig. 16

Fig. 16

Small figures in upper left are probably stylized mountain sheep although they have horns like some African antelope. Drawing on right is lichen covered.

Fig. 17

This figure is similar to the animal in the upper left corner of Fig. 16. Note tail continuing on to join the horns. Also lines extending from the nose.

Fig. 17





Fig. 18.

Fig. 18
High on the hill overlooking Trail Lake.
This panel has six figures which are all
typical of the area. No dimensions
available for this panel.

Fig. 19
This figure is the left figure in the above
panel. Note many lines protruding from
the sides of head and body.

Fig. 19





Fig. 20

Fig. 20

Lower center drawing in above panel. Similar to Fig. 19 but does not have so many lines.

Fig. 21

Fig. 21

Right side of panel of Fig. 18. Further separation was not possible due to overlapping of figures. Large upper drawing seems to have a small figure between its legs. Figure at right has a five dot halo. Small face on the lower right is probably incomplete.





Fig. 22

Fig. 22

This is a panel of two figures. Figure on the left is not pecked in very deep. Lichens tend to hide the shape. One on the right is completely outlined with lichens. It is 33 inches wide by 16.5 inches high.

Fig. 23

This is a panel of three figures. It is 20 inches wide and 28 inches high. Lower right figure might be a bird. Note the four fingers and toes on the large figure.

Fig. 23





Fig. 24

Fig. 24

This is a panel of three figures. The lower one is very indistinct. Large upper figure shows many dots. Notice the left foot has two toes.

Fig. 25

Figure to the left of the crack in the above panel is 16.5 inches wide and 17.5 inches high. This figure differs from others like it in the area for it has legs and feet.

Fig. 25





Fig. 26

Fig. 27

Fig. 26

One small and three very large figures in this panel. It is 12.5 feet wide by 6.5 feet high. Left figure is partially covered by a tree.

Fig. 27

Large central figure in the above panel is 51 inches wide by 64 inches high. The head and the area below belt are solid pecked.





Fig. 29
Very elaborate figure on the left hand side of large panel (Fig. 26). It has so many lines, loops and dots that it is hard to characterize. In some places the figure is getting very dim. Size of this figure is 58 inches wide by 58 inches high.

Trail Lake

Fig. 28
Right hand figure of large panel (Fig. 26). This figure is not quite so elaborate as other figures. Note arm on left has no fingers. It also seems to be drawn over the small figure directly below.





Fig. 30

Fig. 31

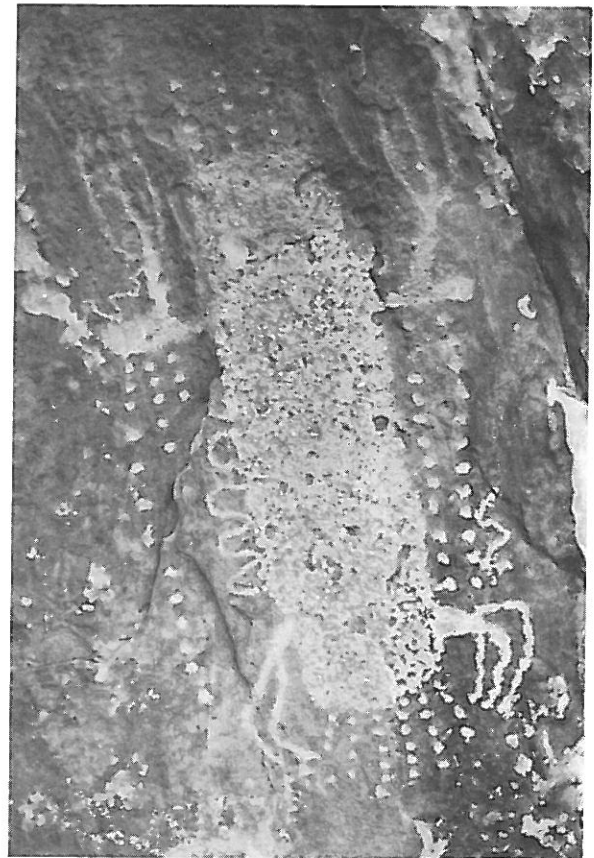
Trail Lake

Fig. 30

This figure is 39 inches high. No width is available due to location high on the rock. Lines of dots hanging from the arms probably represent cords or feathers to look like fringe. Lichens partially cover the right side.

Fig. 31

This is a close-up of the right hand drawing in Fig. 24. This figure is 20 inches wide and 40 inches high. Note how arms are attached.



ABBREVIATIONS FOR TABLES

Wdt	width	Rct	recent	Hvy	heavy
Hgt	height	Crk	cracked	Anth	anthropomorphic
Pkd	pecked	Flk	flaking	Anim	animal
Inc	incised	Lcn	lichen	Bird	bird
Ptd	painted	Vnd	vandalism	Abst	abstract
Rck	large fallen rocks	Wtr	water	Geo	geometric
Med	medium	Wnd	wind	Oth	other
		Lgt	light		

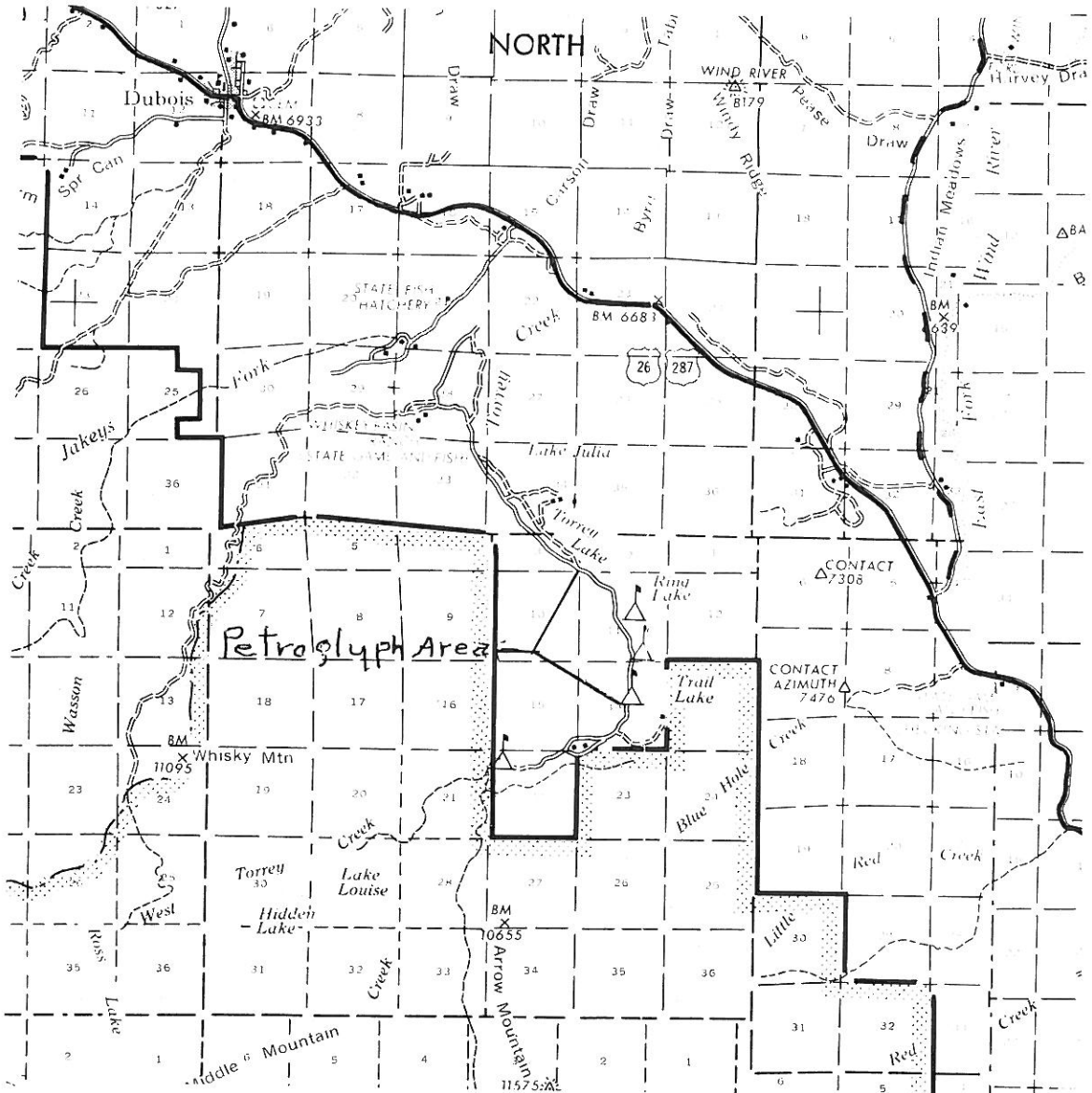


TABLE 1

Fig. No.	Panel Size		Petroglyph Size		Method of Drawing			Condition of Petroglyph			Type of Location		Kind of Rock		Age		
	wdt	hgt	wdt	hgt	pkd	inc	ptd	good	fair	poor	cliff	rock	hard	soft	old	med	rc
T1 1	13.5 ft.	6 ft.			X			X				X	X		X		
T1 2			15"	23"	X			X				X	X		X		
T1 3			39"	53"	X				X			X	X		X		
T1 4			55"	64"	X			X				X	X		X		
T1 5			34"	38"	X				X			X	X		X		
T1 6			16.5 in.	21.5 in.	X				X			X	X		X		
T1 7			14"	21"	X					X		X	X		X		
T1 8	19"	24"			X				X			X	X		X		
T1 9			30"	19"	X				X			X	X		X		
T1 10				57"	X				X			X	X		X		
T1 11			38.5 in.	57 in.	X				X			X	X		X		

TABLE 1 A

Fig.	No.	Damage						Patina			Type of Petroglyph					
		crk	flk	lcn	vnd	wtr	wnd	lgt	med	hvy	anth	anim	bird	dbst	geo	oth
T1	1	X	X	X					X		X					
T1	2	X	X					X	X		X					
T1	3	X	X	X					X		X					
T1	4	X	X					X		X			X			
T1	5	X	X	X				X		X			X			
T1	6		X	X						X						
T1	7		X	X					X				X			
T1	8	X						X		X			X			
T1	9						X						X		X	
T1	10	X	X						X				X			
T1	11	X	X						X				X			

TABLE 2

Fig. No.	Panel Size		Petroglyph Size		Method of Drawing			Condition of Petroglyph			Type of Location		Kind of Rock		Age		
	wdt	hgt	wdt	hgt	pkd	inc	ptd	good	fair	poor	cliff	rock	hard	soft	old	med	rc
T1 12			9"	17"	X			X				X	X		X		
T1 13					X			X				X	X		X		
T1 14			18"	17"	X			X				X	X		X		
T1 15					X					X		X	X		X		
T1 16					X					X		X	X		X		
T1 17					X					X		X	X		X		
T1 18					X				X			X	X		X		
T1 19					X				X			X	X		X		
T1 20					X				X			X	X		X		
T1 21					X				X			X	X		X		
T1 22	33"	16.5 in.			X					X		X	X		X		

TABLE 2 A

Fig.	Damage						Patina			Type of Petroglyph						
	No.	crk	flk	lcn	vnd	wtr	wnd	lgt	med	hvy	anth	anim	bird	abst	geo	oth
T1	12	X		X					X		X					
T1	13	X							X		X			X		
T1	14	X		X				X			X					
T1	15	X	X	X						X	X			X		
T1	16	X	X	X						X		X				
T1	17	X	X	X						X		X				
T1	18	X		X					X		X			X		
T1	19	X		X					X		X			X		
T1	20	X		X						X	X			X		
T1	21	X		X						X	X			X		
T1	22	X		X						X	X			X		

TABLE 3

Fig. No.	Panel Size		Petroglyph Size		Method of Drawing			Condition of Petroglyph			Type of Location		Kind of Rock		Age		
	wdt	hgt	wdt	hgt	pkd	inc	ptd	good	fair	poor	cliff	rock	hard	soft	old	med	rc
TI 24					X				X		X	X			X		
TI 25			16.5 in.	17.5 in.	X				X		X	X			X		
TI 26	12.5 ft.	6.5 ft.			X				X		X	X			X		
TI 27			51"	64"	X				X		X	X			X		
TI 28					X				X		X	X			X		
TI 29			58"	58"	X					X	X	X			X		
TI 30				39"	X					X	X	X			X		
TI 31			20"	40"	X				X		X	X			X		

TABLE 3 A

Fig.	No.	Damage						Patina			Type of Petroglyph					
		crk	flk	lcn	vnd	wtr	wnd	lgt	med	hvy	anth	anim	bird	abst	geo	oth
T1	24	X	X			X	X		X				X			
T1	25					X	X		X				X			
T1	26			X			X		X				X			
T1	27			X			X		X				X			
T1	28			X			X		X				X			
T1	29			X		X	X		X				X			
T1	30			X		X				X			X			
T1	31	X	X	X						X			X			