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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

**US Dept of Interior (NPS) Hovenweep National Monument Square
Tower Group: Hovenweep Memorandum**

National Park Service of the United States

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO

August 1, 1948.

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent, Mesa Verde.

The Monthly Narrative Report for July 1948, Hovenweep and Yucca House National Monuments, follows:

Inspections.

An inspection of the Hovenweep Area was made on July 14 by Superintendent Robert H. Rose, Regional Archeologist Erik Reed, and Park Naturalist Don Watson. The three inspectors examined the stabilization work of Archeologist Aid James A. Lancaster and the archeological survey of Park Ranger Carroll L. Riley. The inspection included a morning trip to the Square Tower ruins and afternoon visits to Holly and Hackberry Canyon ruins.

Special Activities.

Park Ranger Carroll L. Riley spent the month of July in an archeological survey of the five Hovenweep areas. This survey included maps of the canyons, location and description of all sites within or near the Monument groups, ground plans of standing structures, and sherd collections from all areas. A total of 39 archeological groups were located for the five monument areas. More than half of these (20) are in the Square Tower Canyon.

The notes and specimens have not been processed so few conclusions can as yet be drawn from the survey. One difficulty encountered in this area is the scarcity of datable wood specimens. The present tree growth is almost entirely juniper and this may have been the case in Pueblo days. The ruins are also considerably exposed to the weather. All in all, it is doubtful if really satisfactory dates can be obtained for Hovenweep without excavation.

Maintenance.

An inspection was made of Yucca House National Monument during July. The boundary fences were in need of some repair due mainly to the action of erosion.

Hovenweep and Yucca House National Monuments.