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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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in reply refer to:
A5427

McCabe
10.28
luc

September 23, 1953

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Mesa Verde

From: Assistant Regional Director

Subject: Field Investigation of Ruins in Hovenweep Vicinity

Attached are two copies of Regional Archeologist Reed's report on the field investigation of ruins in Hovenweep vicinity.

Dr. Reed makes certain recommendations concerning the adding of some of these ruins to the Monument, but before we give consideration to his recommendation, we would like to have your concurrence or comment on his recommendations.

P. P. Patraw
Assistant Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Land Division

MJM:bem



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Region Three
Santa Fe, New Mexico

In reply refer to:

A5427

H2215

Hoven

MacCormack

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September 18, 1953

Memorandum

To: Assistant Regional Director
From: Regional Archeologist
Subject: Field Investigation of Ruins in Hovenweep Vicinity

Last week I accompanied Engineers Bradley and Wing on a trip to southwestern Colorado to make the survey of two ruin groups in the Hovenweep vicinity, Cannonball Pueblo and Cutthroat Castle. Archeologists Don Watson and Al Lancaster from Mesa Verde went with us to both sites on September 9.

We agreed that the Cannonball ruins, though still very interesting and even quite impressive, are in such badly deteriorated condition as to be for all practical purposes beyond repair--not actually hopeless, but so far gone that the comparatively great effort and expense required to rehabilitate them, as in the case of the Lowry Ruin (Withdrawal 5201, revoked in 1948) would not be justifiable. I advised Mr. Bradley, consequently, that land line survey would be unnecessary and I recommend that Cannonball ruin be crossed off the list and dropped permanently from consideration as a possible detached addition to Hovenweep National Monument.

Cutthroat Castle, however, is an extensive and extremely interesting ruin group in fairly good general condition, and I believe it should be thus acquired. Messrs. Bradley and Wing and I returned on September 10 and completed the land line survey of this group, which is found to be located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T. 37 N., R. 19 W., Montezuma County, Colorado. Mr. Bradley will furnish a location map.

Cutthroat Castle has been described by Dr. Paul S. Martin (now Chief Curator of Anthropology, Chicago Museum of Natural History), in "The 1928 Archaeological Expedition of the State Historical Society of Colorado," Colorado Magazine, Vol. VI, No. 1, January 1929, and by former Roving Ranger Deric (O'Bryan) Nusbaum in the SWNM Monthly Report Supplement for June, 1936. A published photograph accompanies the former and a sketch-plan the latter. Cutthroat Castle is, as both these archeologists have stated, an excellently preserved group comparable to or larger than the Hovenweep ruin-group units in the existing monument sections to

the southwestward. It forms a particularly good example of these defensive sites of the 13th century (four tree-ring dates obtained from Cutthroat Castle range from 1245 to 1266 A.D.--p. 156, Deric O'Bryan, "The abandonment of the northern pueblos in the thirteenth century," pp.153-157 in: Indian Tribes of Aboriginal America, Chicago, 1952). Photographs will be provided when they have been processed.

Addition of the Cutthroat Castle ruins to Hovenweep National Monument, as a small detached section, will not add to the cost of operating the area (Management and Protection); and the small amount of essential stabilization work required can be handled in the regular continuing Mesa Verde program without requesting any increase or special allotment. No construction or other development is proposed or anticipated. The ruins are situated on public domain, so that land acquisition involves no expense, and I recommend that a tract, as indicated on the survey map being prepared by Mr. Wing, be withdrawn for addition to Hovenweep National Monument.

Erik Reed

Erik K. Reed
Regional Archeologist

Copy to: Supt., Mesa Verde (2)