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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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April 2024

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

National Park Service of the United States

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and proper stabilization of the ruins. As a result, deterioration has progressively accelerated since that time.

When establishment of Lowry Ruin as a detached section of Hovenweep National Monument was next proposed years later, it was the decision of the National Park Service that the cost of stabilizing this gravely deteriorated ruin would be excessive, and that an area 18 miles distant over a pioneer road was too far removed from the nearest parent area to provide proper administration.

It is the attitude of the National Park Service that these lands were withdrawn by others for preservation of archeological values and that agricultural use of the withdrawn lands apart from the excavated ruins would not materially conflict with the archeological purposes for which withdrawn. We recognize, of course, that valuable and less conspicuous archeological values may have been damaged or lost through cultivation of these illegally farmed lands, but have no basis for evaluating such loss. Therefore, it seems that any claim for unlawful use of these farmed lands must be based on their agricultural products.

(SIGNED)

P. F. Patraw  
Acting Regional Director

Copy to: Director (with copy Mr. Brown's letter of February 13)  
Supt., Mesa Verde (with copy Mr. Brown's letter of  
February 13)

Dr. Nusbaum

JEK:JLN:bje