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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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

National Park Service of the United States

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION THREE  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

February 21, 1947.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Three.

Reference is made to Mr. Tolson's memorandum of January 21, 1947, concerning Executive Order 5201, October 3, 1929, withdrawing the lands on which the Lowry Ruin is situated, and asking for our final recommendations on this area.

This matter requires no restudy in the sense of further archeological investigation. The Lowry Ruin, a large and interesting pueblo with a great kiva, was extensively excavated and inadequately stabilized by Dr. Paul S. Martin of the Chicago Natural History Museum, in 1930-34. Dr. Martin published a full report on it as Vol. 23, No. 7 of the Anthropological Series of the Field Museum of Natural History, in 1936.

In 1934, both Dr. Martin and Neil M. Judd of the U. S. National Museum recommended Lowry Ruin for national monument status.

I recommended addition to Hovenweep National Monument, as a detached section, in August 1935; and in a memorandum from this office to the Director on January 17, 1941; and on October 18, 1946. Dr. Nusbaum does not agree that acquisition is desirable, for important practical considerations, such as the excessive stabilization needs--a valid argument. I know of no other adverse report or recommendation except that in October 1941, Hugh Miller talked me just about out of the notion in a discussion of the whole Hovenweep extension program.

Administrative decision is required: does or does not the National Park Service now wish to make detached additions to Hovenweep National Monument, as indicated in Mr. Demaray's memorandum of October 24, 1941? There are several important sites which could be thus acquired but if the National Park Service prefers not to take them over, with the problems they involve, Withdrawal 5201, and others, can be cancelled, although I hate to see any of the ruins which the Department of the Interior protects pass to private ownership and presumable destruction or undesirable exploitation.

In the case of the Goodman Point ruins (withdrawn by Departmental Order in 1889, recommended 1935-41 for establishment as a detached section of Hovenweep National Monument), additional study and a brief field investigation are perhaps desirable. So far as I know, the Director's Office has never furnished us with the material pertaining to Goodman Point requested by your memorandum of November 5, 1946. You may wish to refer back also to my memorandum to you of October 18, 1946, in this connection. Incidentally, the extensive ruins at Goodman Point are unexcavated; do not present a stabilization problem, and should constitute a "reserve monument."

In triplicate.  
cc: Dr. Nusbaum.

  
Erik K. Reed,  
Regional Archeologist.