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Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology

Title

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Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3hb5249v>

Journal

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, 6(2)

ISSN

0191-3557

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Publication Date

1984-07-01

Peer reviewed

Rock Art of the Cuyamacas

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THE Cuyamaca Mountains of interior San Diego County are characterized by a vast array of native American archaeological sites.¹ Over the past five decades, nearly 250 of these sites have been recorded within the 10,000-hectare Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, the heartland of this mountainous region. The archaeological study of the State Park has included the 1930's work of Malcolm Rogers (n.d.) and the San Diego Museum of Man, the 1960's work of D. L. True (1961, 1963, 1966, 1970), and the recent work of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Foster 1980, 1981a; Moore 1979; Parkman et al. 1981). In addition, the locational data generated by the Rogers and True surveys have been analyzed over the last few years by researchers exploring site-location models (Prosser 1975; Shackley 1980; True and Matson 1974). Although the State Park has been subjected to extensive archaeological research, little attention has been given to the recordation and analysis of the rock art of the Cuyamacas. This paper will report on those rock-art sites known to occur within the State Park.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is located 60 km. east of San Diego, within the homeland of the Kumeyaay Indians. The area, which comprises a major portion of the Peninsular Range, is dominated by three major peaks, North, Middle, and Cuyamaca peaks. The lithology of the State Park is composed primarily of Julian schist and gran-

ite formations, with most of the local rock art associated with outcrops of the latter.

To date, all of the recorded rock-art sites consist of petroglyphs. Twenty of these sites have been recorded in the State Park, and many more are thought to occur within the park boundaries (Table 1). The petroglyph elements are reminiscent of abstract, scratched, and cupule petroglyph styles reported elsewhere in the West (Hedges 1981a; Heizer and Baumhoff 1962).

ABSTRACT PETROGLYPHS

Two sites, SDI-8862 and SDI-9031, have been recorded that are characterized by petroglyph elements similar to those of the so-called Great Basin Abstract style. Similar petroglyphs occur throughout the Colorado Desert, ranging from Riverside County south into Baja California, and from the Peninsular Range east to the Colorado River (Hedges 1973: 15). The design elements of this style are:

abstract, with curvilinear forms predominating. Rectilinear elements also are present Circular elements are the most common, including plain circles, and assemblages of circular elements. Other recurring design elements include sets of concentric U-shaped or semicircular forms, curvilinear meanders, wavy lines, dot patterns, grids, cross-hatching, and maze-like patterns [Hedges 1973:14].

SDI-8862 consists of 13 elements located within two panels on a large granite outcrop. The rock outcrop is characterized by a purple-colored patina, resulting in petroglyphs

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Table 1
ROCK ART SITES IN CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK

Site	Type	Environment	Elevation	Association
821	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1250 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
841	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1565 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
857	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1250 m.	Village
860	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1475 m.	Village
872	Cupule	Grassland	1440 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
901	Cupule	Oak-Pine Woodland	1475 m.	Village
913	Cupule	Oak-Pine Woodland	1395 m.	Village
922	Cupule	Oak-Pine Woodland	1400 m.	Village
939	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1480 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
1017	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1495 m.	Village
7344	Cupule	Grassland	1495 m.	None
8855	Cupule	Chaparral/Grassland	1050 m.	Village
8859	Cupule	Oak-Pine Woodland	1270 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
8860	Cupule	Oak-Pine Woodland	1275 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
8862	Abstract	Chaparral	1415 m.	Trail
9031	Abstract	Chaparral/Oak-Pine Woodland	1550 m.	Flake Scatter
9039	Scatched	Chaparral	1465 m.	Quarry
9040	Cupule/Scatched	Chaparral	1415 m.	Quarry/Shrine
9077	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1465 m.	Bedrock Milling Station
9538	Cupule	Grassland/Oak-Pine Woodland	1440 m.	Village

which stand out white against a dark background. The petroglyphs are shallow in depth, and include circles, crosses, circles with crosses, and U-shaped forms, the latter being the site's predominate form.

SDI-8862 is located near an aboriginal trail which linked the Kumeyaay settlements of Green Valley with those on East Mesa. A small bedrock milling station (SDI-8863) is located 150 m. from the petroglyph site, and several other milling stations (SDI-823, SDI-824, and SDI-882) are located within 500 m. The nearest habitation site (SDI-863) is located over 700 m. away. SDI-8862 is one of only two (with SDI-7344) sites recorded within the State Park which are exclusively rock art.

SDI-9031 is a small flake scatter which has a possible petroglyph component associated with it. The rock art consists of 18 elements located on three granite boulders. Like SDI-8862, the granite at this site is

characterized by a purple-colored patina, giving the petroglyphs a purple-on-white appearance. The petroglyphs are shallow in depth, and include a large V-shaped glyph, a U-shaped form, an arrow-like glyph, and numerous meanders. One of the more interesting features of the site is an apparent alignment that exists between the arrow-like glyph and Stonewall Peak, located 1.5 km. away. It should be noted, however, that these petroglyphs are quite possibly the result of historic chaining activity (Ken Hedges, personal communication 1981). The nearest archaeological site, a large village (SDI-1017), is located over 400 m. away.

SCRATCHED PETROGLYPHS

Two sites, SDI-9039 and SDI-9040, have been recorded which have petroglyph elements similar to those of the Great Basin Scratched style. Scratched petroglyphs are known to occur in the Colorado Desert

region, but exact boundaries for the style are lacking (Hedges 1973: 7, 19). These petroglyphs consist of lightly incised glyphs that include "crosshatching, feather-like elements, parallel lines, random striations, and occasionally other designs" (Hedges 1973: 19).

The Gwendolyn site, SDI-9039, is located along a steep hillside in upper Green Valley. Along with SDI-9040, this site represents the quarry remnants of the Cuyamaca soapstone industry (Parkman 1982). Over 50 soapstone boulders are scattered about the site. In addition to the quarry evidence, a preliminary inspection indicates that several of the boulders have been lightly incised. The most common element appears to be random striations, although other designs, including crosshatch, have been recorded. In addition to the scratched petroglyphs, several of the boulders have tiny drilled pits, which are usually arranged in linear fashion (Ken Hedges, personal communication 1981). These pits are probably the evidence of aboriginal quarrying activity. The scratched petroglyphs, however, may include the graffiti of recent non-Indian visitors.

The World View site, SDI-9040, is located about 300 m. downhill from SDI-9039. This site consists of several soapstone boulders located atop a small transverse ridge. One of the boulders contains a single conically shaped bedrock mortar, 18 cupules of various sizes, including one ringed by an incised line, several incised parallel lines, and a large quadrilateral form. The latter appears to have been carved with a hatchet, and may represent an undetached quarry blank. A nearby boulder has several tiny pits like those observed at the Gwendolyn site. A possible trailside shrine, similar to a named Kumeyaay shrine located in the nearby Laguna Mountains (Cline 1979: 21; Tom Lucas, personal communication 1982), is located 50 m. downhill from the modified boulders. There are no recorded sites near SDI-9040 or SDI-9039.

CUPULE PETROGLYPHS

Most of the rock art sites recorded within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park are characteristic of the cupule petroglyph style. These petroglyphs occur throughout California, and are represented by small pits carved into horizontal and vertical rock surfaces. They occur in both random and patterned order, and number from one pit to several hundred (or thousand) pits at any particular site.

Cupule petroglyphs are known to occur at 18 of the sites recorded within the State Park (Table 1), and they are thought to occur at many other sites. They are found on horizontal and vertical surfaces of granite, soapstone, and Julian schist boulders. At Cuyamaca, as elsewhere in San Diego County, cupule petroglyphs usually occur near habitation sites. Two exceptions to this rule are SDI-7344 and SDI-9040. Prior to 1981, SDI-7344 represented the only recorded cupule petroglyph in San Diego County that was not directly associated with a habitation site (Hedges 1981b:4).

The largest known occurrence of cupule petroglyphs in the State Park is at SDI-913, the Arrowmaker site. This large habitation site, thought to be the ethnographic village of *Pilcha* (Rensch 1950:15), is located on Arrowmakers Ridge, overlooking Green Valley and the Sweetwater River. A locus of cupule boulders is located along the periphery of the site, and contains at least 200 pits. Smaller numbers of cupules are located at the ethnographic villages of *Pisclim* (SDI-901) and *Ahhakweahmac* (SDI-9538).

PICTOGRAPHS

To date, no pictograph sites have been recorded in the State Park although at least one such site may exist within the park. Granville Martin, a long-time resident of the Cuyamaca area, reported to Malcolm Rogers the location of a rock-art site on the Sweet-

water River (Rogers n.d.). Unfortunately, Rogers never located this site, nor obtained a description of it from Martin. In a more recent interview with Daniel Foster (1981b: 10-11), Martin failed to recall any details concerning this site. Tom Lucas, however, remembers having visited a pictograph site located somewhere on the Sweetwater in the vicinity of Hulburd Grove (personal communication 1982). It is possible that this is the same site visited by Martin, and reported by him to Rogers. Lucas recalled that the site was characterized by painted elements that were suggestive of the rising sun and quarter moon. Somewhat similar sites have been recorded in Kumeyaay territory, and are thought to be indicative of astronomical functions (Hedges 1981c; Hudson, Lee, and Hedges 1979).

CONCLUSIONS

Like their native American counterparts, Euro-American petroglyphs occur throughout Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Most of them appear to be recent, being of the "Kilroy Was Here" variety. One, however, appears to be historically significant, and has been recorded as site SDI-9086H.

The Lookout site, SDI-9086H, is located atop Cuyamaca Peak. It is the location of the Cuyamaca Lookout Tower, now out of service. From the site, one is afforded a commanding view of the surrounding countryside, much of which is included within the Cleveland National Forest. Pecked into a granite boulder adjacent to the tower is a petroglyph in the shape of the United States Forest Service emblem, complete with the names of all the lookout's smoke watchers between the years 1917 and 1932. Probably produced sometime shortly after 1932, this petroglyph serves to document the humanistic nature of rock art. Like his Kumeyaay counterparts, a Forest Service employee found here the inspiration and necessity to record on rock the

presence of his people and, like the Kumeyaay, that presence has been outlived by the petroglyph.

NOTE

1. This is a revised version of a paper presented at the Annual Rock Art Symposium of the San Diego Museum of Man, November, 1981.

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