

SR 4/17/70

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: Spokane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Indian Rock Paintings

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
0.25 miles North of Rutter's Parkway Bridge at Little Spokane

CITY OR TOWN:  
River

Spokane County

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Spokane CODE: 063

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Washington State Park and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 1128

CITY OR TOWN: Olympia 98501 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Spokane County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West 1116 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane County 99201 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.5 acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Spokane Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (SMATS)

DATE OF SURVEY: February, 1969 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Spokane City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
N. 221 Wall St.

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane 99201 STATE: Washington CODE: 53

STATE: Washington  
COUNTY: Spokane  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The rock paintings were found by fur traders and are believed to be about 200 years old. Paintings are thought to be by early Spokanes. Paintings are made of pulverized red rock smeared on with fish or animal oil. The oil permitted the iron oxide stain to permeate rock pores deep into the subsurface, making the paintings permanent. Meanings are obscure, but thought to be hunting records, notes on inter-tribal meetings, or expressions of religious experiences.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It is a quiet area. Tall old pines enclose the large immovable granite rock with shade, and silence. The Little Spokane River 100 feet south of the shelter is not heard unless listened for. Low green bushes cover parts of the ground; moss covers part of the rock.

The paintings--there are 2 groups, said to be found by fur traders--are behind a tall fence which does its best to blend its iron greenness with all the other natural greens. Under an overhang, back from the granite face, on the open heart of the rock are the paintings. They cover an area of 6' by 6' on a rock measuring 20' by 25'. The pictographs face south. One group is painted near the outer edge of this sheltered area, the red paint is worn and faded, and most of the figures are indistinguishable. The other group, on the 4' by 2 and 1/2' smooth center back part of this opening, is in good condition. The 10 figures are clear; the red paint is dark and well-preserved.

The paintings are thought to be by early Spokane Indians, and believed to be about 200 years old. The problem with dating pictographs is that it is mostly all guesswork, there are few 'key' objects that can be reliably dated. One is the horse, and possibly another is the cross--found here on the center group. The other figures painted here, with what we know now, are not possible to date.

The area the pictographs are located in was given to the State Park Commission by Professor and Mrs. H. M. Hart, Jr. From a small parking lot, a short path leads into this quiet area of the rock paintings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education      | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion Phi.<br>losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br>Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art         | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                     |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |  |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance? It is hard to tell. The value of it may reach no further than the boundaries of this nomination. But, then again, I am sure it can touch us all. Why the dilemma? The answer: How important is the work of probably one man in probably one day? How important is what I write on paper--or paint on a rock? And how much must be interpretative before something becomes worth while to save?

These paintings show a cross. The amount of fading is similar to the other figures. Were these paintings drawn in the early 1800's when several Catholic missions were located within 60 miles of this area? Or is it a directional sign? or the crossing of trails? The 2 forms on the right side of the rock are believed to be water devils. It is a warning to others passing that way of the bad spirits nearby, and the danger in fishing. But then again are they simply water insects? The arch near the rock's top--is it a symbol of a sunburst, or a headdress, or unfinished basketry? The other forms--perhaps a man, a quadreped, and 4 circles.

It is really quite a mystery--the mystery here of one man, and what he left behind. Perhaps future work in the study of pictographs and petroglyphs will, with the help of this man and his painted rocks, tell us what he was saying, and maybe what he believed. That would be quite exciting. But if we never can find that--so be it. Let us still keep the mystery.

Significance? Perhaps it should be said in another way. There are fewer and fewer pictographs left in this area and in Washington. The reservoirs of the many dams have inundated a good proportion of them near the original water shore line--where most of the paintings are found. Here on the face of the granite block recessed under this rock shelter the paintings are in good condition, and, I think very important, accessible to visitors. To know of pictographs in an area and to be able to easily visit and see them are quite different things. And with the addition of the latter in this case, perhaps an understanding--'feeling' may be a better word--of their uniqueness (the art, the symbolism, the pictures of another time and a way of life) may add to their being visited, and not destroyed, here and elsewhere. This small example of Indian painting may be an education for us all, at least for those who are willing to walk a couple hundred feet down a well-worn path to see them.

These pictographs may tell us a good deal, or we may try to take too much from them--but they are here, in a nearby spot, a place to try and understand the importance of saving even a little mystery--however unintentional.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>			_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>			_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The rock paintings are good examples of Indian <sup>petroglyphs</sup> and are older than the coming of the white man in this area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47 ° 47 ' 0 "	117 ° 29 ' 50 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
William H. Trogon

ORGANIZATION: Eastern Washington Historical Society      DATE: Mar. 10, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West 2316 First Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Spokane 99201      STATE: Washington 53      CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

O  
R

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
47	°	47	'	0	"
117	°	29	'	50	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas E. Herbeck,, Historical Preservation Specialist I

ORGANIZATION: Washington Archaeological Research Center DATE: July, 30, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Laboratory of Anthropology 101

CITY OR TOWN: Pullman STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS