

Fort Pierce Wash

The Fort Pierce Wash is located east of St. George Utah in the Warner Valley. The wash forms a major drainage that connects to the Virgin River at St. George. Currently it is a dry wash; however there are areas that will hold water all year. It is for that reason, that Fort Pierce (Figure 1) was built in the 1870's during the Black Hawk Wars, to protect the year round water source. Fort Pierce was also the last stop on the "Honeymoon Trail" prior to reaching St. George. The "Honeymoon Trail" goes west through the wash to St. George and east through Warner Valley and up the Hurricane cliffs to Little Creek Mesa and through the Arizona strip to Pipe Spring and then Lee's crossing. There are numerous pioneer signatures on the walls, in pictograph (Figure 2) and in petroglyph (Figure 3) form, dating to the 1870's.



Figure 1 - Ft. Pierce Ruin



Figure 2 - Pioneer Signatures



Figure 3 - Pioneer Petroglyph

Fort Pierce Wash lies within a few miles east of Little Black Mesa, an extremely rich area for petroglyphs and on a trail leading east to Little Creek Mesa. Because of the water source, it likely formed a part of an east – west trade route. It also could have been a habitation site due to the flat land and water source, although we did not encounter any evidence of this.

Site 1 – “Necklace Rock”

Necklace rock (Figure 4) is located on the BLM public trail below the fort. There are two necklaces on the rock (necklace clan symbol) along with other symbols. The “right” necklace (Figure 5) has an anthro in the center and what looks like a “Breast Cancer Awareness” symbol to the right. The “left” necklace has two crosses in the center (road runner clan symbol) and two spirals above and to the right. It appears that all of the glyphs were made at the same time period (same degree of patina), except for a symbol to the right of the right necklace.



Figure 4 - Necklace Rock



Figure 5 – Right Necklace



Figure 6 – Left Necklace

Site 2 – “Flat Rock”

The “Flat Rock” (Figure 7) lies farther down the wash, at the base of the talus slope. The two prominent symbols are a necklace on the right (Figure 8) and possibly one on the left. Also on the right is what appears to be an anthro with wiggly legs that look like springs – hence the name “spring man” (Figure 10). There are a number of miscellaneous symbols on the top right (Figure 11) and more on the extreme left (Figure 12) including a turkey track (clan symbol).



Figure 7 – “Flat Rock”



Figure 8 – Necklace & “Spring Man”



Figure 9 – Symbols on Top Right



Figure 10 – Turkey Track on Left

The necklaces at site 1 and site 2 are thought to be clan symbols and are found at only a limited number of sites in the St. George area, with Fort Pierce being one of the main locals. The other sites with a large number of necklaces are Santa Clara Canyon and Airport Hill near the Maverick station.

Site 3 – High Panel 1

High Panel 1 (Figure 13) is located at the top of the talus slope above the “Flat Rock” site. The first portion of the panel (Figure 14) shows two anthros, one with a triangular body that was made first, with a second superimposed. There is also what appears to be a necklace.

The second portion contains two spirals with some other designs (Figure 15). The third portion (Figure 16) contains two designs; concentric circles with a dot in the center – a portal into the future. The second appears to be an anthro within a circle – a portal.



Figure 13 - High Panel 1



Figure 14 – Close up of first part of High Panel 1



Figure 15 – High Panel 1 – 2nd portion



Figure 16 – High Panel 1 – 3rd portion

The fourth portion (Figure 17) is a series of geometric designs with a double line forming the symbol. One is diamond shape, another is rectilinear and the third shape is a serpent.



Figure 17 – High Panel 1 – 4th portion



Figure 18 - High Panel 1 – 5th portion

The fifth portion of the panel (Figure 18) has two isolated anthros in stick figure format. The one on the right is complete with arms and legs, while the one on the left appears to be a spirit figure.

Site 4 – High Panel 2

High Panel 2 (Figure 19) is located about 50 yards west of the High Panel 1 at the same level of the cliff face. This panel consists of one series of images; a set of concentric circles with a horizontal wavy line plus a couple of other symbols.



Figure 19 – High Panel 2

Site 5 – High Panel 3

High Panel 3 is located about 100 yards west of High Panel 2, again at the same level of the cliff face.

The right hand portion of this panel (Figure 20) consists of a sheep with what appear to be power lines or serpents radiating from it. Connected to the sheep on the right is a spiral with a spirit person (?). Below the sheep is a anthro that is connect to the sheep. He is connected with a vertical spiral. Also below the sheep is a cross (center place). Behind the sheep is a tree of life. All these appear to be on a horizontal story line. A major portion of the cliff face is exfoliated away.

Further behind the sheep, and also behind a rock, the sheep story continues (Figure 21) with a series of rectilinear symbols, all on the horizontal story line. At he end appears to be a very large anthro in stick figure format.

The story line continues on the other side of the rock (Figure 22) with a very large single pole ladder and a vertical portal (circle with a vertical line), again connected to the story line. There is also a spirit person.

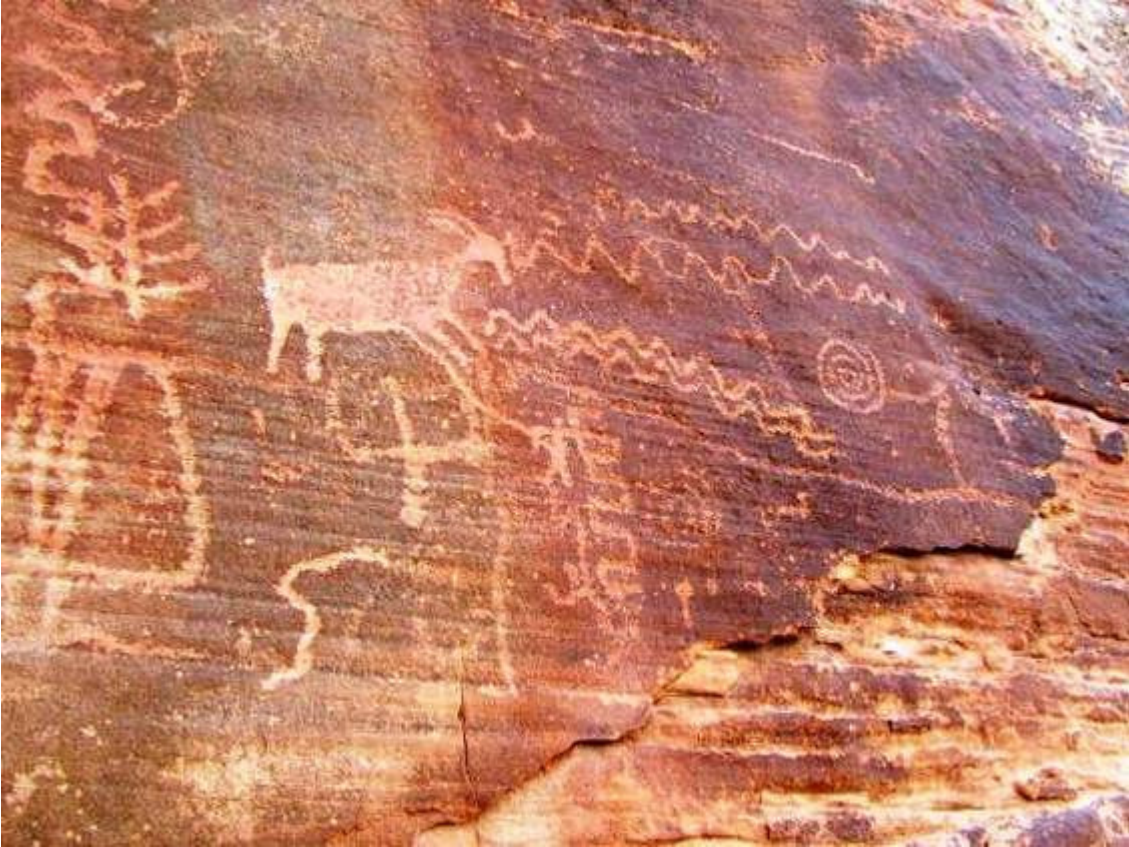


Figure 20 – High Panel 3 – Sheep



Figure 21 – High Panel 3 – The sheep story continues



Figure 22 – High Panel 3 – the story continues

Above the story line, at the left of the panel is an series of images that are written over each other (Figure 23). There are at least three large anthros, all with different body styles. There are also sheep and some other symbols. These figures appear to be made at different time periods.



Figure 23 – High Panel 3 - Anthros

Between the sheep and the anthros, above the large single pole ladder is a series of glyphs that appear to be overwritten (Figure 24). However a large vertical wavy line and a vertical portal are visible.



Figure 24 – High Panel 3 –

The far left side of High Panel 3, contains images that appear to be much older than the above sheep story. Figure 25 has a triangular shaped anthro that was pecked into the rock. Figure 26 also has some old, pecked images.



Figure 25 – High Panel 3 – Anthros



Figure 26 – High Panel 3 -

The rock in front of the High Panel 3 also appears to have older images – a wavy line (5 lines wide), a spiral, at least one sheep and some rectilinear images.

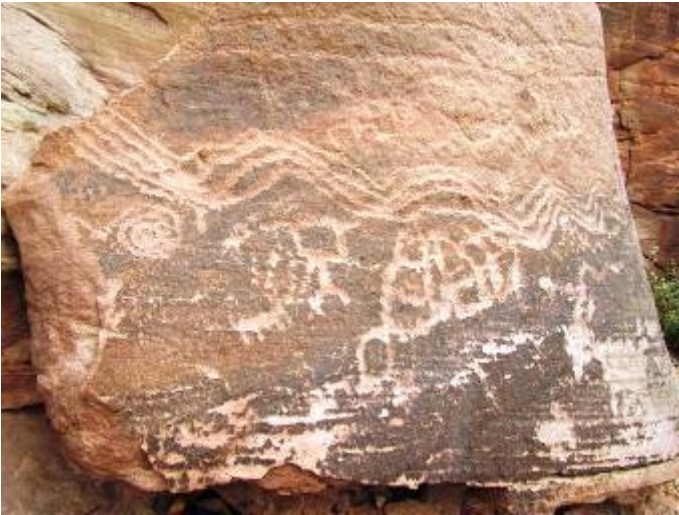


Figure 27 – Rock in Front of High Panel 3

Site 6 – The Red Man

About 2 miles down the wash (west), high on the cliff face, under an over hang is the Red Man (Figure 28). He is:

- A Pictograph – red paint with white eyes
- Near Life Size (Figure 29)
- A Triangular Bodied Anthro
- He has five fingers / five toes
- He has a flat head
- His arms and legs are facing down. He is an earth person.

- He faces east
- Red is the color for east. Red is the color of life (blood). Life begins in the east.

There are two red dots to the left of the Red Man, indicating that there may have been another pictograph on this panel. However there has been some exfoliation of the rock face in that area.



Figure 28- The Red Man

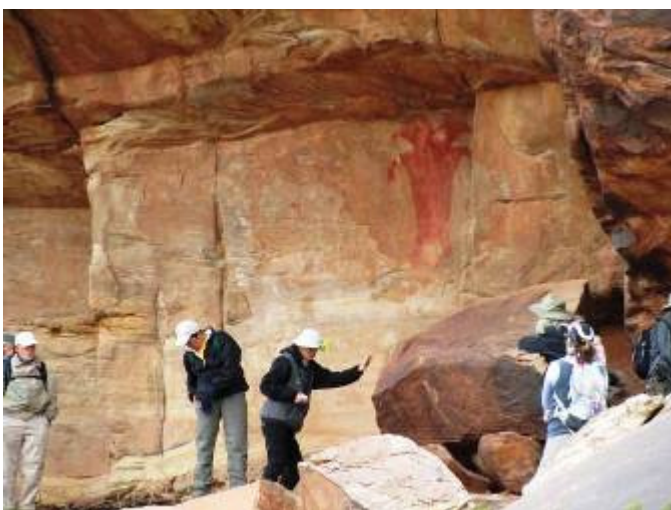


Figure 29 - The Red Man

The Red man is thought to be a “sky watcher”. He is thought to be watching for the return of Pohana (sp?), a white god who was prominent in meso American mythology. He departed to the east with the promise that he would return. The Native Americans look to the eastern sky in hopes that he would return. There are a number of “red men” in the St. George area.

Site 7 – Fort Pierce Trailhead

About 1 mile east of Fort Pierce, near the Fort Pierce trailhead is a small site on rocks near the road (Figure 30). The petroglyphs were much eroded due to their exposed nature and the “poor” quality sandstone (Figures 31 & 32). The figures are some sheep, anthros, and a horizontal series of connected circles.



Figure 30 – Fort Pierce Trailhead Site



Figure 31 - Fort Pierce Trailhead Site



Figure 32 - Fort Pierce Trailhead Site