

Smithsonian Butte

The Smithsonian Butte sites are located along the Western wall of Smithsonian Butte, East of Apple Valley. There are three main sites along with a number of lesser sites.

Teachers Rock (or Table Rock)

This site is called teacher's rock or table rock because of the geometry of the rock forms. The petroglyphs are located on a large vertical rock that lies in front of a large horizontal rock. It is easy to see the people gathered on the horizontal rock while the shaman (or teacher) tells his stories. Figures 2 and 3 show people standing on the horizontal rock looking at the vertical petroglyph rock.

The petroglyphs on this rock are faded, due to degradation and flaking of the rock surface. The glyphs appear to be of different styles. The glyphs in Figure 4 and 5 appear different than the one in Figure 6. In turn those in Figure 7 and 8 are different from others.



Figure 1 – The Path to Teachers Rock



Figure 2 – People Standing on the Table Rock



Figure 3 – Photographing Teachers Rock



Figure 4 – Main Glyphs



Figure 5 – Deer / Elk



Figure 6 – Abstract Pattern



Figure 7 – Mask



Figure 8 – A Sheep with deep pecking

The 2 / 3 / 4 Headed Man Site

The 4-headed man site is located near the top of a south-facing ridge. The glyphs cover about a 50 - 75 foot section of wall. Examples of the petroglyphs are shown in Figures 9 through 18. Many of the glyphs are hard to photograph because of the lighting conditions and the need to stand relatively close to the panel.



Figure 9



Figure 10

There are a number of one headed anthros on the site. They are all slightly different in style. Those in Figures 9, 10 and 12 are phallic. All except Figure 9 have a triangular shaped body.



Figure 11



Figure 12

The site is known for anthros having multiple heads, 2, 3 or 4. These are shown in Figures 13 through 15. These all are slightly different in style, especially in the hand / foot detail. Figures 12, 13 and 14 are very similar, while Figure 15 is done with much less attention to detail and was likely done at a different time or at least by a different artist.



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15

The hand and feet detail on Figure 14 is shown in Figure 16. Each finger and each toe can be seen.



Figure 16



Figure 17 – The 2-Headed motif may have been seen over time. The glyph in this figure appears to be a 2-headed anthro (center) and the glyphs appear to be much older than the previous set.



Figure 18 – show and ant figure about to move through 2 connected circles (portals) (top right center). This corresponds to the legend of the ant people who passed through 2 worlds to get to the present world. Next to the ant is an eagle.

The remaining rock surface is essentially a newspaper rock situation, with seemingly random glyphs and many clan symbols including, turkey clan, bear clan, ant clan, road runner clan, eagle clan, etc. Many glyphs are over-written indicating the site was used for many years.

Yellow Man Site

The Yellow man site is located at the end of the canyon containing the 4-Headed man site. The Yellow Man site contains both pictographs and petroglyphs. The site is located in a covered alcove that protects the pictographs (Figure 19). Examples of images at this site are shown in Figures 20 through 26.

The Yellow Man is shown in Figure 21. He is a large pictograph done in yellow paint with red ear bobs. He has a headdress of white dots (stars) above his head. To his left are two small pictographs done in yellow and red (Figure 22). The small yellow image is a flute player.



Figure 19 – The Yellow Man Site



Figure 20 – The main “Yellow Man Panel”



Figure 21 – The Yellow Man



Figure 22 – The small figures to the left of the Yellow Man. The yellow figure is a flute player.



Figure 23 – Glyphs under the Yellow Man image. These are White Pictographs and petroglyphs including a “mask” with perhaps a tear coming from the eye on the right.



Figure 24 – Pictographs – some have been “chalked” in white.



Figure 25 - Petroglyphs



Figure 26 – Petroglyph – concentric circles

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