

Quail Creek Ranch

The Quail Creek Ranch site lies along the banks of the Virgin River and extends for about 1 mile. Included in this site is the junction of what used to be Harrisburg Creek (now blocked by the Quail Lake Dam) and the Virgin River. There are four major sites within this area and a number of secondary sites. Three of the major sites are located at the junction of Harrisburg Creek and the Virgin River.

This would have been a prime location for habitation. There was a flat plane for farming and ample water from Harrisburg Creek, the Virgin River and from a known spring (still running) across the river. At least one storage pit and possibly more were identified near one of the major rock art sites along with numerous pot shards.

Site 1 (Figure 1 through 5) appears to be archaic from the rock art style and the complete re-patination of the images. The images are generally on vertical surfaces and on rock having a very dark patina. The panels face generally north. The glyphs are very distinct. The style is very linear with stick-like figures having very elongated bodies and very small arms and legs. They appear as if they are in a dance or ceremony much like depicted on a Navajo “Yeh” rug.

The pecking style in site 1 is also unique to the site. The pecking is deep and many of the individual peck marks can be identified.

The story in Figure 2 may be a dance for rain (Yeh figures) next to rain symbols, linear vertical lines descending from a solid line with wavy lines intermixed (lightning). Next to this is a series of parallel wavy lines (flowing water – the Virgin River). Next to the river symbol and below the rain symbols is a grid image of parallel lines in a box, perhaps a symbol for a planted field. Therefore the story is asking for rain for the fields and rain to keep the river flowing.

Unique are the stick figures with round heads and very long bodies and very short arms and legs. The stick figure in Figure 1 and 2 are very different in form but similar in style from those in Figure 3.

Figure 4 is an image of sheep done in the same time period and Figures 1 – 3.

Figure 5 is an abstract linear pattern also done at the same time period (same style).

Figures 6 and 7 are completely different style and most likely time period from the previous images, although they are located on adjacent rocks. They are likely Anasazi in time period.



Figure 1

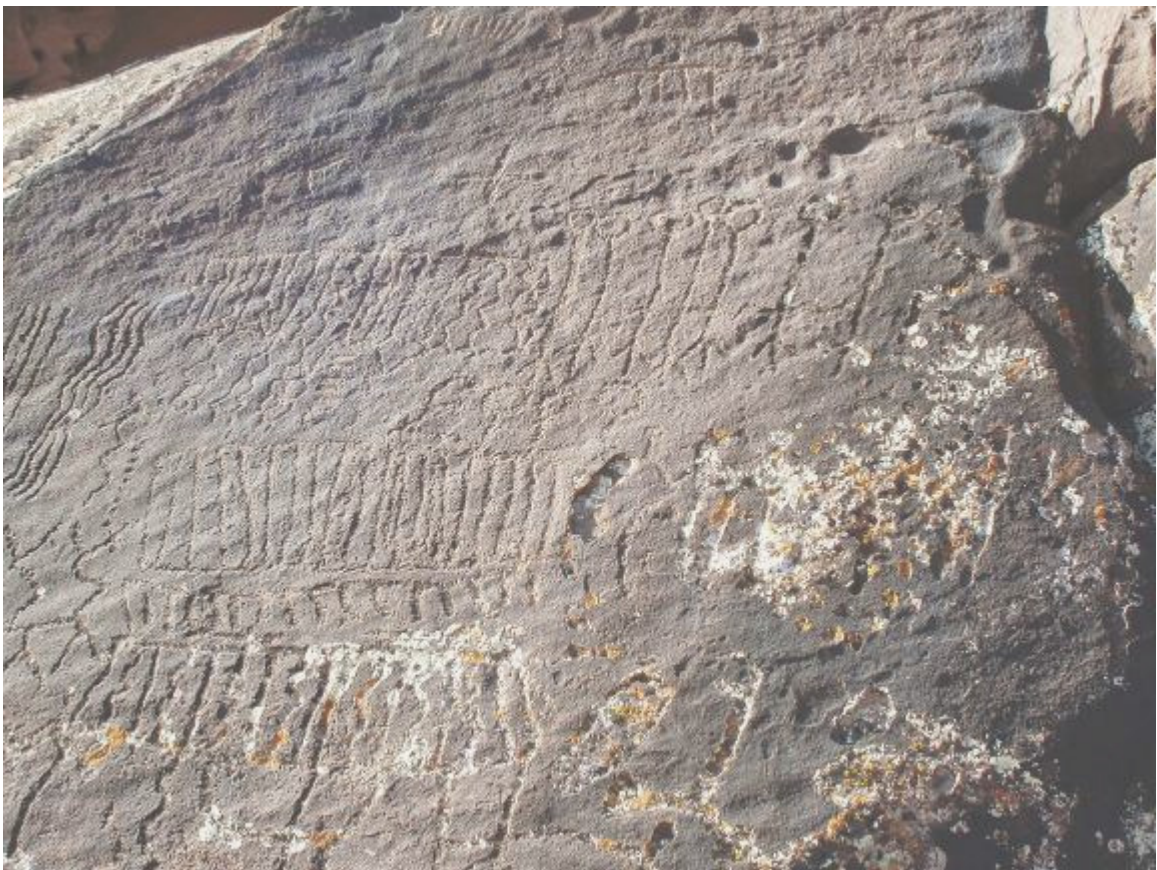


Figure 2 – different view of Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Site 2 (Figure 8 and Figure 9) is located very near to site 1. The glyphs in site 2 appear to be rubbed rather than pecked. But they too are also completely re-patinated. These glyphs are on vertical red rocks facing east and also on flat surface rocks. Here the imagery is not very distinct, with many images over written. There appear to be many connected portals and some spirals and parallel wavy lines (flowing water (?)), but little else that can be easily identified. A guess would make these glyphs archaic because of the style.



Figure 8



Figure 9

Site 3 is located in the same general area as sites 1 and 2 and is the most northerly site in the complex. The glyphs are located on flat surface rock on a sloping hill face (faces east). The glyphs at the bottom of the hill appear to be very old; however the images are more familiar (spirals, feet, sheep Figure 10)) and some unknown images (Figure 11).



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

The images at the higher parts of the hill could be newer because they are clearer and the imagery is again more familiar (Figure 12) sheep, spirals, dragon fly, connected portals, etc. Could the main image in Figure 12 be a shield?

The age of site 3 is difficult to guess, but likely the images are from various time periods from late archaic to Anasazi. However, the images are very different from sites 1 and 2.

Site 4 (Figure 13) is located about a ¼ mile south of the first three sites. It looks to be of Anasazi in time period due to the designs, style and general lack of re-patination. The largest panel(s) at this site relates to various animals; deer, sheep along with a water bird, turtle (tortoise) and various clan symbols. There are some antro images.



Figure 13

Further up the hillside are additional panels. The panel in Figure 15 again looks to be Anasazi in time period. There are some abstract designs a set of concentric circles and a line of connected diamond shaped symbols with a line at the top and bottom. An anthro (Figure 16) is very detailed, right down to the earrings. Another very unique image is shown at the top right of Figure 17. It appears to be an abstract face with two eyes and a very pronounced nose. The tracks in Figure 15 and 17 could be the rabbit clan symbol.



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

Another panel (Figure 17) shows a number of sheep, one having an arrow in its back (Figure 18) indicating a hunting scene or one used in praying for a successful hunt.

Figure 19 shows a very large elk and a fawn (?) that appears to be much more recent than the other glyphs on this panel.



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19

Site 5 is located south of site 4 and is a minor site, except for the fact that on one panel there are three necklace images (Figure). Here the glyphs are located on flat surface rocks. This is likely Anasazi in time period and related to other necklace site along the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers. The unique thing about the necklace in Figure 9 is the dots in the center of each “bead” on the necklace.



Figure 20



Figure 21

On the same panel is an image of an anthro (Figure 21) with one hand raised. He has ear bobs and a head dress.

Site 6 is the southern most site of the complex and most likely the newest. This site could be Anasazi or later in time. The main panel at this site is a large anthro (Figure 22) that has similarities to barrier canyon style anthros. Unique is that there is a large circular region at the abdomen that is not pecked.



Figure 22