

# 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 teachers 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. Figure 1 shows people standing on the horizontal rock looking at the vertical petroglyph rock.



Figure 1



Figure 2

The petroglyphs on this rock are faded, due to degradation and flaking of the rock surface. Figure 2 through 5 show the major glyphs at this site. The styles indicate a different time period for the glyphs – figures 2 and 5 seem very different from 3 and 4.



Figure 3

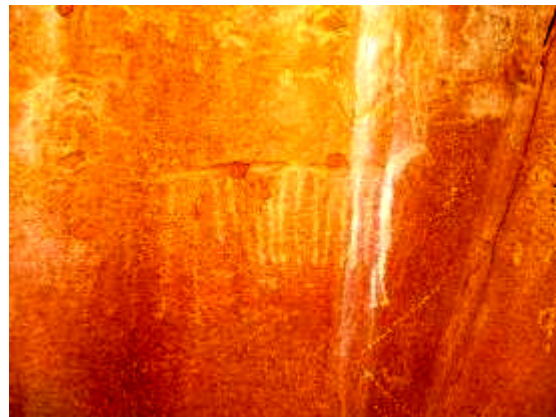


Figure 4

Figure 2 is thought to be a “burden basket”. Figure 4 is unique and appears to be a deer (antlers not well shown) with a body made up of a rain symbol. Figure 5 appears to be a mask.



Figure 5

### **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 6 through 17.



Figure 6



Figure 7

Figures 6 through 9 show the 1-Headed, 2-Headed, 3-Headed and 4-Headed men for which this is noted. Figures 6-8 appear to possibly be done by the same artist, while Figure 9 is done in a completely different style. Figure 10 shows that the 4-Headed man is located amidst other glyphs, while the other “Headed men” are essentially alone. Figure 11 shows the detail on one hand of the 3-Headed man and Figure 12 shows the detail of a foot. The other men do not have this level of detail.





Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

Figure 13 shows an ant clan symbol (middle right) about to pass through 2 portals. This corresponds to the legend of the ant people who passed through 2 worlds to get to the present world.

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. Interestingly, this site did not have spirals or many sheep, symbols that are common at other sites in the St. George area.



Figure 14



Figure 15

The panel in Figure 17 is on an adjacent rock and perhaps details a journey.



Figure 16



Figure 17

## 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 18). Examples of images at this site are shown in Figures 19 through 23.

The Yellow Man is shown in Figure 19. He is a large pictograph done in yellow paint with red ear bobs. He has a head dress of white dots (stars) above his head. To his left are two small pictographs done in yellow and red (Figure 20). The small yellow image is a flute player.





Figure 18



Figure 19

The Yellow Man is done in the “Cave Valley” style, with a triangular shaped head and body. The Cave Valley pictographs also have head dresses made of dots. They also have flute players near them. Figure 21 is the major image from the Cave Valley site added for reference. The Cave Valley site is located about 10-15 miles north of the Yellow Man site.

The Yellow Man faces North West. It is thought that the Yellow Man was a sky watcher. In this case he would be watching the sky / horizon for the summer solstice.



Figure 20



Figure 21

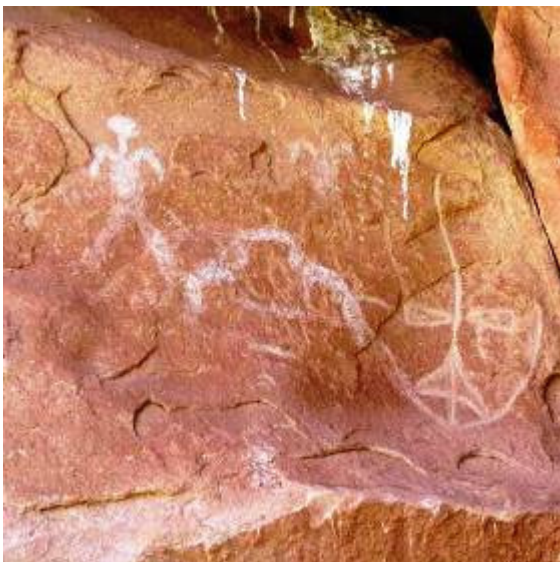


Figure 22



Figure 23

The site contains other pictographs as shown in Figure 22, the white anthro at the top left, and the arrow shaped images in Figure 23. It is thought that these images are not arrows, but cave valley style anthros shows as spirit beings (no arms or legs).

Figures 22 and Figures 24 through 26 show petroglyphs. The mask in Figure 22 is unique. The anthros in Figure 26 are also done in the Cave Valley style.



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26

In summary, there is no apparent connection between any of the sites on Smithsonian Butte. There are both petroglyphs and pictographs. The petroglyphs appear to be done in different styles. There also does not appear to be any consistent subject matter within a site or between the sites.

