MONTEZUMA CASTLE

MONTEZUMA CASTLE IS A CLIFF DWELLING CONSTRUCTED BY THE SINAGUAN PEOPLE OF ARIZONA'S VERDE VALLEY IN THE LATE 12TH CENTURY. THE SINAGUAN CULTURE THRIVED IN AGRICULTURE AND TRADE UNTIL THEY ABANDONED THE VERDE VALLEY IN THE 15TH CENTURY.

MONTEZUMA CASTLE WAS PROCLAIMED A NATIONAL MONUMENT ON DECEMBER 8, 1906 AND WAS PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1966. IT IS A FIVE-STORY STONE STRUCTURE WITH 20 ROOMS PERCHING SOME 50 FEET ABOVE THE VALLEY FLOOR. THE WALLS ARE CONSTRUCTED OF LIMESTONE AND MUD MORTAR WITH EARTHEN ROOF AND FLOORS. SOME OF THE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES INCLUDE WADA AND LATILLA CEILINGS, INTERIOR PLASTERED WALLS, STORAGE HOLES, FIREPLACES, AND ROOF HATCHWAYS.

THIS PROJECT WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE INTERMOUNTAIN SUPPORT OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BY PROGRAM MANAGER ROBERT L. SPUDE AND HISTORICAL ARCHITECT VICTORIA JACOBSON.


ARIZONA

REGION MAP

MILES

KMS

MILES

KMS