



a natural state

Petroglyphs

Video 5: Preservation

Man sitting in front of petroglyph: Let's face it, if we walk on it, we're deteriorating the site. And we would like to not do that any more than is necessary and, at the same time, allow people to come and share this with us. Beyond that, I don't know what we can do to preserve them.

We have such polluted air today that we think that a lot of the deterioration that seems to be taking place quite rapidly is caused by that. The rainfall is quite acidic now and...it's just...they're going away. There's nothing we can do to stop it. So the record is the best thing we can do of this site and other sites before they are totally gone.

The public is, is the best friends we've got, and they've put us onto more sites than we would have ever been able to find by ourselves. And it's just been tremendously helpful. We don't want their rocks. We're not trying to make any claims to them. We have no legal hold over anything they show or tell us. We simply want to get photographs, measurements, get a record of it. Say, "OK, here it is. It did exist." You can bet, in not too many years, you can say that it does not exist anymore. And we'd like to know about it before it's gone.

This is a unique place. It's on a National Register property already. It's at Hagood Mill, which is a park run by the, the Pickens County Museum. It's, it's...people come here by the thousands yearly. And we would like to make this available to them without destroying the site. To do that, we want to put a structure over it. And it'll have a real black interior, like at night. And we'll have lights strategically placed so that, by flipping on a switch, they can cut these lights on and see all these different carvings exposed. Around the perimeter of the building inside, again, we will have photographs from other rock art sites that we've found in South Carolina, with text and so forth. Other words, we're going to make it a little rock art center right here in Pickens County.