



a natural state

Petroglyphs

Video 2: Process

Man sitting in front of petroglyph: Petroglyphs are carvings on rock. Any...anything that's soldered to rock—a picture, even writing—would be considered a, a petroglyph.

Well, this site was discovered by Michael Bramlett, a young man from Oconee County that works with me extensively up in the mountains here. I had been to this site a number of times and I'd never realized it was a petroglyph site. But I always came on a day just like today when it was real bright sunny and these things are just totally washed out. You can't see them. Mike came by on a rainy day. And when the rain diffuses the light and it gets the rock surface wet, you can make out that there's something there. Maybe not know what is there, but you know it's something. So Mike called me and he said, "This rock is covered with little figures."

So we started coming here at night with lights. And by taking a light and just skimming the rock...just by putting the light right down on the rock...it brings out every line very distinctly. It creates a black outline of the carving. And we were able to start recording these.

You can take a rock that is harder than the host rock and, by creating a sharp point on it, you can use it like a pick, and you can pick these in just like an artist would draw. They would draw by pecking.

You know...you may have noticed we've got several historic carvings on the rock as well, which consists of names and initials. Those are scratched in. All of the ones that we think are the prehistoric ones are pecked in. And this seems to be a kind of a rule of thumb wherever we find these sites. The historic carvings usually will consist of initials and/or dates and they will be scratched in, as opposed to the ones that have no alphabet forms and would be pecked in. Just abstract forms, so to speak.