

The Black Rock Period ranges from 6,000 to 1,500 B.P. (Aikens and Madsen 1986:154). This range spans the Middle to Late Archaic as described in other Great Basin regions. It is characterized by a drier environment, which diminished lake margin resources. Increasing pressure from population expansion complicated issues. The increased population pressure and decrease in available food resources prompted a shift to greater mobility and movement into upland areas to take advantage of resources at higher elevations. Expansion into upland piñon-juniper communities for the exploitation of mountain sheep, deer, and other animals became more necessary. The beginning of the Black Rock Period is distinguished technologically by the appearance of new Elko and Gypsum projectile point forms. At around 4,000 B.P., Neoglacial climatic shifts resulted in increased rainfall, flooded springs, and increased marshlands. Subsistence activities shifted to an emphasis on upland areas due to the decrease in available plants and waterfowl from flooded areas (Aikens and Madsen 1986:158). The end of the Black Rock Period is distinguished by the introduction of the bow and arrow. This technology rapidly replaced the atlatl and diminished the importance of the spear. While projectile point form remained constant in terms of basic form, overall size decreased.

Rock art from the Archaic Period is defined as the Great Basin Curvilinear Style. There are two documented sites, just outside of the park, with curvilinear style rock art (42BO12, 42BO955). Both sites are located on ATK Launch Systems property and contain obsidian flakes. Site 42BO955 is associated with a rockshelter, which may contain some cultural deposits. The Great Basin Curvilinear rock art style has been found within the park on petroglyphs carved or pecked on the sandstone lintel of a historic Union Pacific stone culvert (see Figure 2.6). The lintel rock may have come from a site on ATK Launch Systems property, just east of the park. One of these sites, Connor Springs (42BO12), consists of a large petroglyph site on Wells Formation Sandstone and clearly represents the Great Basin Curvilinear style (Castleton 1979:18-21; Schaafsma 1971; Steward 1929). Sandstone was quarried historically in this area.

Emergent at the end of the Archaic Period were several characteristics of horticultural subsistence. The manufacture of pottery and the introduction of domesticated maize variants accompanied increased sedentism for the multiple horticultural communities that appeared throughout much of Utah, Eastern Nevada, Western Colorado, and Southern Idaho. Designated the Fremont, this cultural tradition flourished between 1600 and 700 B.P. (Marwitt 1986:161).

Formative Period

Five distinct variants of Fremont are recognized. The Great Salt Lake Fremont variant is most commonly associated with the Northern Great Salt Lake Basin (Marwitt 1986:162). This variant occupied the northern periphery of the Fremont area from 1,200 to 700 B.P. The Great Salt Lake Fremont differed from the four other variants by their nearly complete reliance on the processing of wild plant and animal resources around marsh and lake environments (Madsen 1989:21-22; Marwitt 1986:168). These hunter/gatherer characteristics coincide with the region's theme of subsistence patterns rooted in a marshland economy. Bone knives, saws and whistles, antler harpoon heads, ceramic anthropomorphic figurines, and ceramic vessels of Great Salt Lake Gray Ware and Promontory Gray Ware are commonly attributed to the Great Salt Lake Fremont (Marwitt 1986:168-169). Habitation sites generally lack substantial architecture and are limited