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## Get Involved in Petroglyph Survey

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# Get Involved in Petroglyph Survey

By Tommy Charles

I would like to invite any and all citizens who like to explore the outdoors to become involved in the upcoming Petroglyph (Rock Art) Survey. All it takes is a willingness to closely inspect the rocks in your own yard. You can expand this exploration to the degree you wish—your neighbor's yard, or any land that you have access to. You might wish to get your school, scout troops, hunt clubs, church members and friends involved, the more the merrier. Those persons living in the Piedmont region who take part in the survey should not have to travel great distances to begin their explorations as the entire Piedmont of South Carolina has rock boulders and each one is a potential host for a carving.

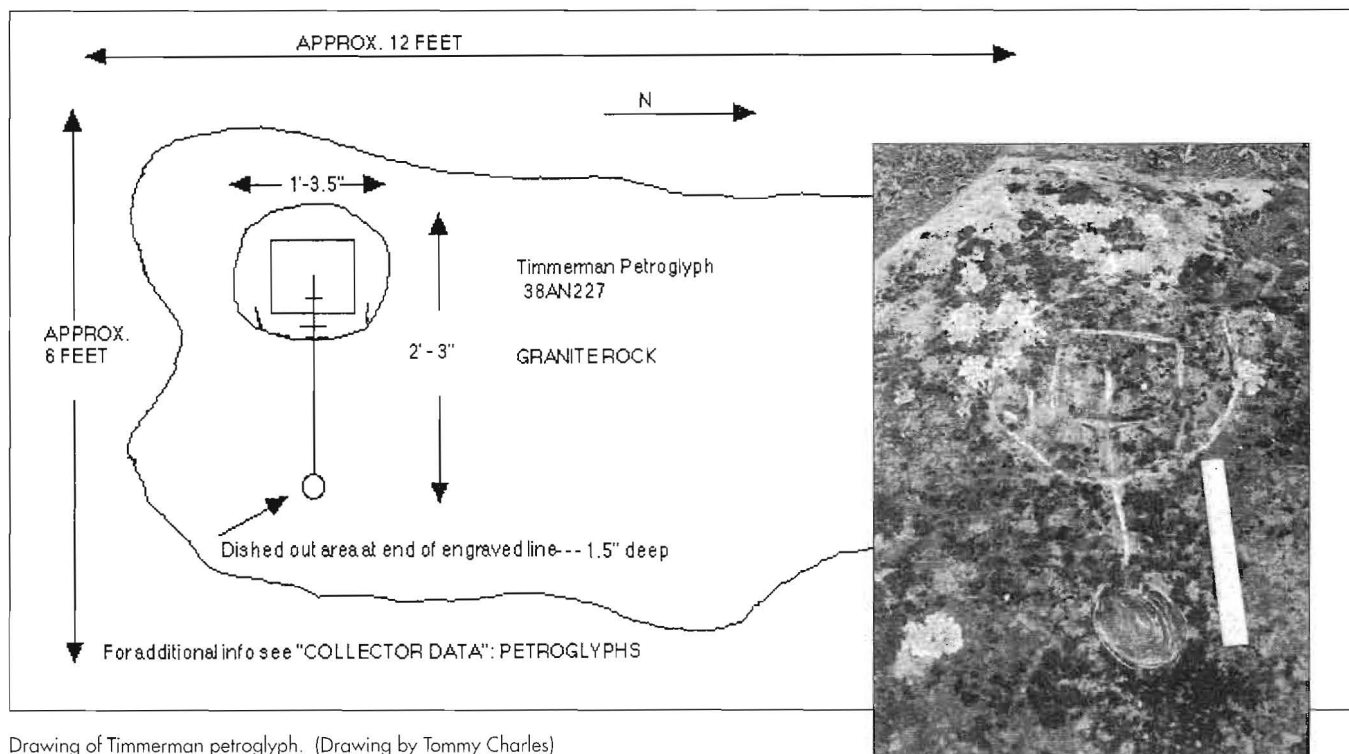
What exactly are we looking for? Petroglyphs are anything carved on rock by humans. Most carvings are

unrecognizable forms consisting of random lines, circles, squares, "doodles," etc. A few carvings are of animals and stick figures of animals, people, etc. Do not be discouraged if you do not recognize the forms you find—they are all important, and we want to record each one, no matter how insignificant it may appear. Most carvings appear to be of prehistoric origin but some are of historic origin, having names and dates. Please report all finds as even these historic carvings will in time become "artifacts." Rock carvings are often highly weathered and sometimes require close inspection to define—sometimes the sun light has to be at a low angle in order to see them, so a particular boulder may have to be inspected at different times of the day to determine whether you have found a carving.

Winter is a great time to be

outdoors—leaves are off the trees, and visibility is much better than in summer—just be sure you are not in an area where hunting is going on. When you find a carving make sure you can return to it, then give me a call at (803) 777-8919 or write me, Tommy Charles, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 (e-mail: charlest@garnet.cl.a.sc.edu) and I will meet with you and record your find.

The Petroglyph Survey is the first attempt ever in South Carolina to find and record these rare artifacts. The Piedmont is a large area and impossible to survey adequately with just a few persons so the success of this survey will depend greatly on the number of citizens that choose to become involved. You may begin now, and HAVE FUN!!!!!!



Drawing of Timmerman petroglyph. (Drawing by Tommy Charles)