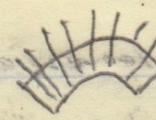


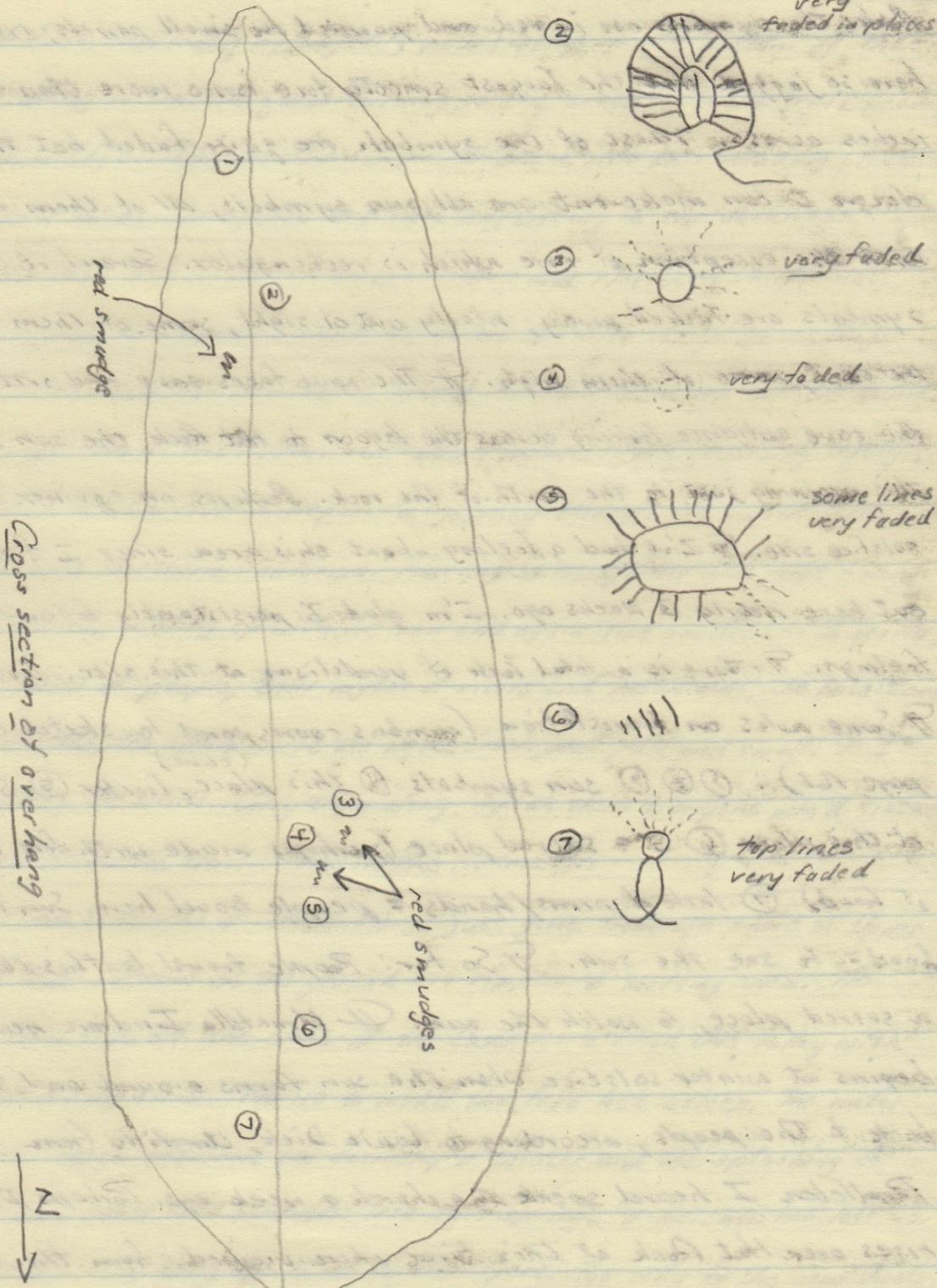
Some notes from Hat Rock # Thursday, 3 April 1986. ☀ Sun coming up over the shoulder of Hat Rock. Walking along the upper rimrock, I just spooked a rabbit. He bounded down the hillside to the road, then bolted. ☀ I have been to this place several times since I wrote last about it, but this is my first time this far up. The Columbia stretches below, smooth in the morning stillness, peopled with Canada geese and mallards. Meadowlarks fill the early shadows on the rock. ☀ Friday, 4 April 1986, along the Columbia River near Hat Rock. ☀ Ripples of clouds in the early morning reflect on the ripples of the river, then dive into the ripples on the river bottom sand. I am sitting on a washed-up log on the bank under a tree just

Hat Rock Photographs, red fingers + thick lines

First visited April 4, 1986



clearest of
all symbols



budding into leaves, a wood duck nest drooping the branches nearly to the water, its owners watching me from 50 yards out. To Parry?

I have just found rock writings in a shallow shelter/cave near Hat Rock. The symbols are in red and painted on small panels, the rock here so jagged that the largest smooth face is no more than a few inches across. Most of the symbols are quite faded but the half dozen I can make out are all sun symbols, all of them circular with the exception of one which is rectangular. Several of the symbols are tucked away, nearly out of sight, some of them low in the cave, some of them high. If the cave faces east and sitting in the cave entrance looking across the lagoon to Hat Rock, the sun rose this morning just to the north of the rock. Perhaps an equinox or solstice site. I've had a feeling about this area since I first came out here nearly 3 weeks ago. I'm glad I persistantly followed my feelings. If there is a total lack of vandalism at this site. Pretty rare.

If some notes on translation (numbers correspond to sketch on page 161): ① ② ③ sun symbols ④ this place, locator ⑤ sun at this place ⑥ 5 = sacred place (perhaps made with five fingers of hand) ⑦ lack of arms/hands = people travel here, Sun for head = to see the sun. So far: People travel to this cave, a sacred place, to watch the sun. If Umatilla Indian new year begins at winter solstice when the sun turns around and starts back to the people, according to Louis Dick, Umatilla from Pendleton I heard speak at a church a week ago. Perhaps the sun rises over Hat Rock at this time when viewed from the cave. Inlet below used to be a canyon several hundred feet deep according to local sources. Cave at that time must have been

HAT ROCK NOTES

163

quite high and prominent, pre-1950s when McNary Dam was built.
There are other symbols too faded to record.