

climb a chimney past a ledge to a small belay ledge on the right. **Pitch 6:** Work up a strenuous off-width (5.9 R) to the top of the route and the summit ridge. Scramble south along the ridge to an easy 80' band of limestone cliffs that guards the flat summit. **Descent:** 4 double-rope rappels down the route. For rap 1, find a 2-bolt anchor north of the top of pitch 6. Rappel back to the top of pitch 4. For rap 2, rappel to anchors on a ledge left of the flake on pitch 3. For rap 3, rappel to the ledge atop pitch 1. For rap 4, do a short rappel from a tree through the rockslide scar to the ground. **Rack:** A full rack to a #4 or #5 Camalot, 2 ropes, and extra slings for the rappel stations. Also, some old carabiners with smooth gates for clipping old bolt hangers that are too small for new 'biners. (If you want to do a public service, replace those old bolts with modern ones.) A helmet is also a good idea.

42. **Southwest Face** (III 5.9+) 6 pitches. First ascent by George Bain, Dave Ganci, and John Annerino in 1980. A superb wilderness climbing adventure up the huge southwest face. Begin at the obvious crack system in the middle of the face. **Pitch 1:** **Climb** ledges to a short, left-facing corner that leads to a traverse left under a roof to a ledge belay. **Pitch 2:** Face **climb** up grooves and slabs (5.7) to a stance. **Pitch 3:** Move left under a small roof to a short, left-facing corner that becomes a right-facing corner (5.9). Belay up right on a ledge. **Pitch 4:** Face **climb** up right and then back left (easy class 5) to a long right-facing dihedral (5.8). **Pitch 5:** Make The Twilight Traverse—a long, run-out friction traverse to the right (5.9+ R) to a rotten, left-facing corner system. Belay right of a large roof on a sloping, loose ledge. **Pitch 6:** Scratch up a long, strenuous off-width and chimney crack (5.8 R) to the top. **Descent:** Easiest rappel route is 4 double-rope rappels down the *North-east Arête*. See Route 41's descent description for details. **Rack:** A full rack from Stoppers to a #4 or #5 Camalot, 2 ropes, extra slings for the rappel stations, and helmets. Some larger off-width pro like Big Bros are useful.

MOUNT HAYDEN

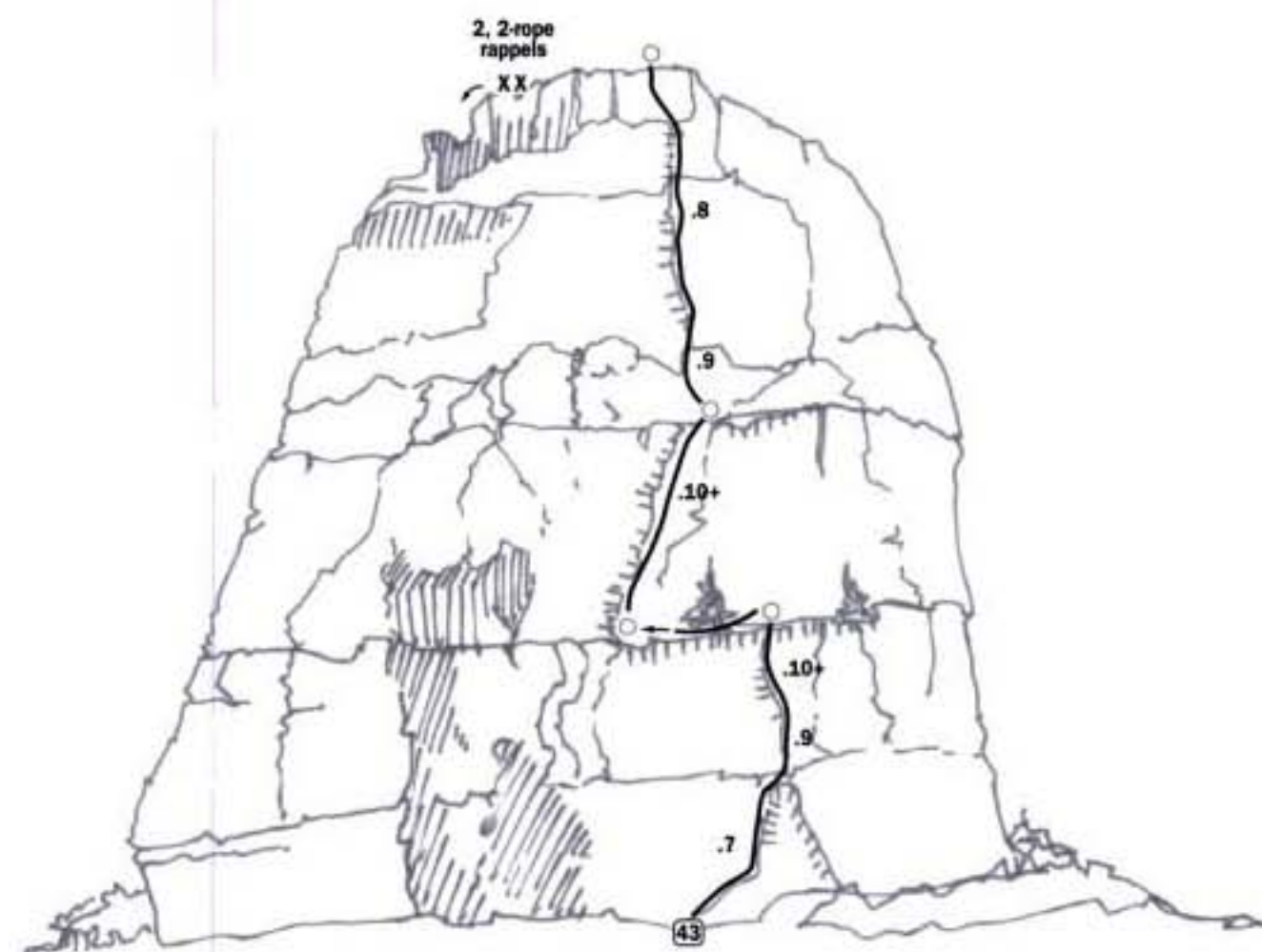
Mount Hayden is a prominent, isolated temple directly below the Point Imperial Overlook on the North Rim of the **Grand Canyon**. The 8,372-foot-high peak is actually on the east side of the Kaibab Plateau. This lofty sky island is easier and less time-consuming to **climb** than the multi-day expedition that Zoroaster Temple requires—but you still can't sleep in if you plan to **climb** it! The peak can be climbed in a full day by a competent party. Several routes ascend **Mount Hayden**. The described route *Pegasus* is the best and most popular line, but be prepared for some stout climbing. The easier *Original Route* ascends cracks and corners up the south face. Camping is available at the North Rim.

Free, primitive camping is found in Kaibab National Forest several miles north of the park boundary.

Finding the temple: Drive to Jacob Lake in northern Arizona on US 89A from Fredonia to the northwest or US Highway 89 south of Page to the east. Turn south in Jacob Lake and drive south on Arizona Highway 67 to **Grand Canyon** National Park. Past the entrance station, drive almost to the North Rim. Look for a marked scenic drive that turns left (east). Follow this to a left turn toward Point Imperial. Park at the overlook.

From the overlook, walk north along the rim several hundred yards, dropping into the first probable descent route—an obvious gully that drops steeply east. Although the gully is steep and rugged, you shouldn't have to rappel. Descend the gully for about 1,000 feet to the base of the Coconino Sandstone

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK MOUNT HAYDEN, "PEGASUS"



layer. Traverse through dense thickets of brush along the cliff's base until you're opposite **Mount Hayden**. Descend along a ridge of red Supai Sandstone to a saddle below the tower. Scramble up to the base and contour around to the east face. *Pegasus* angles across the east face. Allow two hours for the approach and even longer for the arduous uphill trek back to your car.

43. **Pegasus** (II 5.10+) 3 pitches. The route was first climbed by Paul Davidson and Jim Haisley in 1984. Considering the nature of the rock and the **grand** exposure, this route will likely seem stiff for the grade. All bolts should be considered suspect. Begin just right of the east face's center. **Pitch 1:** **Climb** the left side of a short pillar (5.7) to a ledge. Jam a 1-inch crack (5.9) up right, then up left along a strenuous quarter-inch crack (5.10+) to a good belay ledge. **Pitch 2:** Scramble left along the ledge to the base of a corner. **Climb** the long, right-angling corner (5.10+) to a belay stance. **Pitch 3:** **Climb** a right-facing corner to a hand crack (5.9). Work up left along the crack (5.8) to the summit. Scramble up to the flat summit block. **Descent:** Make 2 double-rope rappels from anchors on the southeast corner of the spire. Or make 3 rappels with double ropes off trees down the route. The first rap is off a sapling that teeters on the edge—scary! **Rack:** A selection of Stoppers, TCUs, and cams to 3.5", plus extra webbing for rap slings.
44. **South Face Original Route** (5.7–5.8) No topo. 3 or 4 pitches. This is a good route up the south face. Start above a yucca. Bouldery moves lead to a lower-angle crack system. Belay at bolts after 150'. From here, make 2 or 3 short pitches via several variations (5.7 and 5.8) to reach the summit. **Descent:** Rap this route or rap down the east face. **Rack:** A wide selection of gear including a big piece (this is desert climbing).
45. **North Face** (5.8 A1 or 5.10) No topo. First free ascent was by Stan Mish and friends. This route ascends what Flagstaff climber Albert Newman calls "the ooh-ahh crack system" that is viewed from the rim overlook. Begin by bouldering through loose rock past a fixed piton before reaching better rock. Cruise up the spectacular chimney, encountering some surprising moves, before reaching the summit. **Descent:** Rappel the route or rap down the east face. **Rack:** A couple of sets of cams including extras in the larger sizes for the chimney.

VIRGIN RIVER GORGE

OVERVIEW

Northwestern Arizona is a rough, empty landscape filled with ragged mountain ranges, lofty plateaus, broad basins, and abrupt canyons. The Virgin River, originating atop the 9,000-foot-high Markagunt Plateau, slices through immense sandstone layers in Zion National Park, meanders past St. George in southwestern Utah, and cuts sharply through tilted limestone strata in the Virgin Mountains of extreme northwestern Arizona, forming the Virgin River Gorge before draining into the Overton Arm of Lake Mead. Virgin River Gorge, traversed by busy Interstate 15, offers sport climbers some of America's most difficult rock climbs on towering limestone cliffs above the highway. The gorge's walls, despite their proximity to the asphalt, form Arizona's most remote climbing area. The cliffs are actually inaccessible from any Arizona roadway. The only roads leading here come from neighboring Utah and Nevada.

Almost all of the climbing in Virgin River Gorge is on the immense, black-streaked, tan cliffs in the lower **canyon**. The main cliff group, including popular Mentor Wall, Planet Earth Wall, and Blasphemy Wall, looms above the south side of the freeway. Mentor Wall features *Mentor*, an overhanging jug haul considered to be the best 5.12 in the **canyon**. The adjoining Planet Earth Wall is laced with some long endurance routes, including two 5.14s—*Planet Earth* and *Horse Latitudes*. Farther east is the almost 200-foot-high Blasphemy Wall. This sleek sweep of limestone offers eight 5.13s and three 5.14s, including *Necessary Evil* (5.14c), one of the country's most difficult routes. The north side of the **canyon** features more cliffs and caves. These include Sun Wall and Sun Cave, on the wall directly north of the parking area, and Fossil Cave, a 120-foot-high cave of arching limestone, which yields a selection of burly, overhanging lines.

Climbing in the gorge, or the VRG as climbers call it, is a somewhat urban experience. The crags, straddling the edges of two wilderness areas, tower above Interstate 15. This major four-lane highway is constantly busy with traffic rumbling between Salt Lake City to the north and Las Vegas and Los Angeles to the southwest. If you sit at the base of the cliffs after a morning of relentless crimping, you can count an average of ten cars and trucks a minute speeding below, or about one every six seconds. After spending a day here, the highway roar fades into a kind of unobtrusive white noise. You tune out the industrial sounds and attune yourself instead to your own inner rhythms and the silence of the limestone.

VRG is basically a three-season climbing area. The area's generally mild winter weather and absence of measurable snowfall make it an ideal winter destination. Winter daytime highs often **climb** into the 60s. Cooler days can, however, be downright chilly because the cliffs are shaded all day in winter and