

# Mars 'Square Structure' Fuels Renewed Interest in Aliens, Astrogeology

March 2025 | Barry Friedman, Explorer Correspondent

**F**or years, space agencies like NASA have monitored images to add to our understanding of the planet

What was discovered in 2001 was something different structure, captured by the Mars Orbiter Camera aboard independent analysts to be about a mile and a half long

As to why it took that long to get noticed, it really didn't seen a renaissance of interest lately after podcaster ar recently, commenting, "This is (expletive) WILD," and th Musk responded, "We should send astronauts to Mars

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But hold your horses – or, to be more precise, your nuclear-powered reusable transportation system.

For its part, NASA believes the “square structure” is most likely a natural geological formation created by erosion and tectonic activity, and the sharp angles and geometric appearance are likely a result of how shadows and lighting interact with the rocky terrain, and so is likely a naturally occurring geological feature, not evidence of an artificial structure.

## Geology, plus Psychology

“It’s the ‘most likely’ part that has created something of a buzz,” said Doug Wyatt, a longtime member of AAPG and the current chair of the AAPG Astrogeology Committee.

“As a geologist and geophysicist, and pseudo-archaeologist/historian, right angles in nature always pique my interest,” he added.

Bruce Cutright, fellow Astrogeology Committee member and founder and CEO of GeoFrame Energy, said that when he first saw the image, he, too, was curious.

“My interpretation showed a 90-degree intersecting fault or fracture lines, somewhat open, then covered with sand, and the sand subsiding into the open fractures,” he said.

Cutright also headed up the geothermal energy research group at the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, where he also worked within the State of Texas Advanced Resource Recovery Team.

“We want to believe that we are not alone, and seemingly evidence of straight lines, which are rare in nature, reflects the hope from our viewpoint that somewhere, somewhen, other intelligence exists,” said Cutright. “This is the basic human drive to seek mystery; it is the driving force behind every religion in history, and in the world.”

Wyatt, too, while understanding why the mind would gallop in many different directions, taps the breaks on such exuberance.

On the left is the original photo, Image ID: E1000462, captured Nov. 4, 2001 by the now-defunct Mars Global Surveyor and its Mars Orbital Camera, courtesy of Mars Space Flight Faculty, School of Earth and Space Exploration. On the right is an enhanced – but not photoshopped – version of the photo to emphasize the lines and angles as they would appear under the sand.

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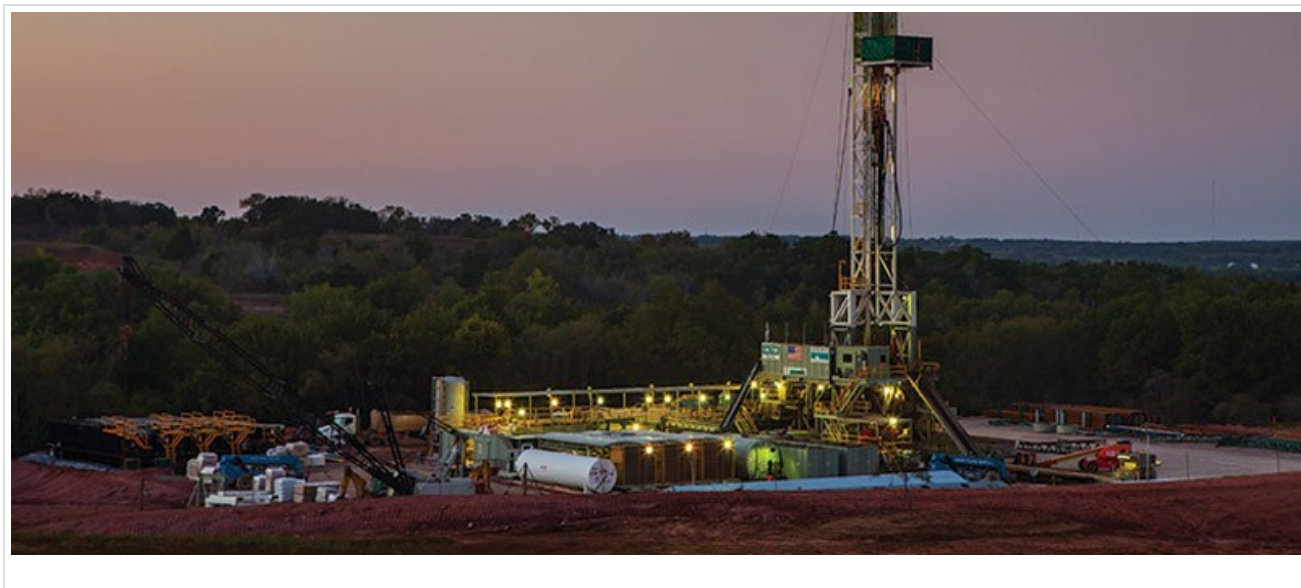
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