Appendix H:
Historic Property Survey Reports

Note: Appendices to these reports, which contain archaeological site records, maps, and aerials depicting exact site locations of historic properties, have been excluded from these copies.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
CDOT U.S. HIGHWAYS 160/550 CONNECTION
ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENTS PROJECT: EAST ALTERNATIVE
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO

by

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ABSTRACT

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is planning to realign U.S. Highway 550 from its interchange with U.S. Highway 160 south of Durango in La Plata County, Colorado. Class III cultural resource inventories of two proposed connection alternative alignments (East Alternative and Alternative F-Modified) were carried out by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine) under subcontract to Centennial Archaeology, Inc. The inventory of Alternative F-Modified is still ongoing; therefore, the following report presents only the cultural resource inventory results for the proposed East Alternative alignment. Once the inventory for Alternative F-Modified is completed, the results of the inventory will be presented in a separate cultural resource report. Alpine conducted the survey in three field sessions: from March 17 to 22, 2009, from April 13 to 16, 2009, and from August 17 to 18, 2009. Two ranch complexes, each of which was encompassed by a sizable historic property boundary, were also recorded in a fourth field session between August 1 and 3, 2009. Additions were made to one of the complexes on August 18, 2009. Collectively, 2.7 linear miles of proposed construction corridor were inventoried totaling 134.6 acres of private land and 2.4 acres of Colorado State land (CDOT highway right-of-way). As a result, 21 sites and 10 isolated finds were recorded. Fifteen of the sites were documented for the first time by Alpine, and the remaining six were previously recorded sites. Two of the previously recorded sites are officially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and three are officially not eligible. One of the previously recorded sites was determined to be officially not eligible; however, after the revisit to the site, Alpine recommends it as NRHP eligible. Of the 15 newly recorded sites, nine are recommended as eligible for inclusion to the NRHP, five are recommended not eligible, and one is a contributing element of a NRHP-eligible site and, through its association, is considered eligible.

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OAHP1421

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Cultural Resource Survey Management Information Form

I. PROJECT SIZE

Total federal acres in project		Total federal acres surveyed	
Total state acres in project	6.1	Total state acres surveyed	2.4
Total private acres in project	189.4	Total private acres surveyed	134.6
Total other acres in project	195.5	Total other acres surveyed	137

II. PROJECT LOCATION

County: La Plata

USGS Quad Map: Loma Linda

Principal Meridian: New Mexico

Township		Range		Section			1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4
Township		Range		Section			1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4
Township		Range		Section			1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4
Township		Range		Section			1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4
Township		Range		Section			1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4

See Attached

III. SITES

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type				Eligibility				Management Recommendations						
	Prehistoric	Historic	Paleontological	Unknown	Eligible	Not Eligible	Need Data	Contributes to a District	No Further Work	Preserve / Avoid	Monitor	Test	Excavate	Archival Research	Other
5LP6665	X				X					X					
5LP6666	X					X			X						
5LP6671	X				X					X					
5LP8461		X			X					X					
5LP9236	X				X					X					
5LP9237	X					X			X						
5LP9238		X				X			X						
5LP9239	X					X			X						
5LP9240	X					X			X						
5LP9241	X				X					X					
5LP9242	X				X					X					
5LP9243	X					X			X						
5LP9244	X	X			X(P)	X(H)				X					
5LP9245	X				X					X					
5LP9257.1		X			X					X					
5LP9306		X			X					X					
5LP9307		X			X					X					

(P) prehistoric component

(H) historic component

IV. ISOLATED FINDS (By definition IFs are not eligible to the National Register and require no further work.)

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type			
	Prehistoric	Historic	Paleontological	Unknown
5LP9246	X			
5LP9247	X			
5LP9248	X			
5LP9249	X			
5LP9250	X			

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type			
	Prehistoric	Historic	Paleontological	Unknown
5LP9251	X			
5LP9252	X			
5LP9253	X			
5LP9254	X			
5LP9255	X			

Report Reference:

Pfertsh, Jack E.

2009 Cultural *Resource Inventory of the CDOT U.S. Highways 160/550 Connection Alternative Alignments Project: East Alternative, La Plata County, Colorado.* Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver.

Prime Meridian	Township/Range	Section	Quarter Section	Quarter-Quarter Section
New Mexico	T34N R9W	3U	SW	SWNW
		4U	SE	SENE
		8U	SE	SESE
		8U	SE	NESE
		8U	NE	SENE
		9U	SW	SWSW
		9U	SW	SESW
		9U	SW	NESW
		9U	SW	NWSW
		9U	SE	NWSE
		9U	NW	SENW
		9U	NW	SWNW
		9U	NE	SWNE
		9U	NE	NWNE
		9U	NE	NENE
		11	SW	SESW
		11	SE	SWSE
		11	SE	SESE
		11	SE	NESE
		11	SE	NWSE
		11	NE	SWNE
		11	NE	SENE
		11	NE	NENE
		11	NE	NWNE
		16	NW	SWNW
		16	NW	SENW
		16	NW	NWNW
		16	NW	NENW
		17	NE	NWNE
		17	NE	NENE
		17	NE	SENE

INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is planning to realign U.S. Highway 550 from its interchange with U.S. Highway 160 south of Durango in La Plata County, Colorado. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine), under a subcontracting agreement with Centennial Archaeology, Inc. on behalf of CDOT, conducted an intensive Class III cultural resource inventory of an alternative alignment defined as the East Alternative. Inventory of one additional alternative alignment (known as Alternative F-Modified) is ongoing and will be documented in a separate report. The inventory for the East Alternative route was conducted in three field sessions: from March 17 to 22, 2009, from April 13 to 16, 2009, and from August 17 to 18, 2009. Two ranch complexes, each of which was encompassed by a sizable historic property boundary, were recorded in a fourth field visit between August 1 and 3, 2009. Additions were made to one of the complexes on August 18, 2009. The fieldwork was completed by Field Directors Rand A. Greubel and Jack E. Pfertsh, assisted by Martha Bright, Jeremy Omvig, Iraida Rodriguez, Trevor Lindland, and Tristan Harrenstein. Susan M. Chandler served as Principal Investigator. Kimberly Redman was the Project Administrator. Barb Lockwood performed the GIS work for the project. Terri Voglein prepared site forms. The work was conducted under terms of Alpine's State of Colorado Permit No. 2009-49 (issued on March 3, 2009). Field notes and photographic materials from the project are on file at Alpine's office in Montrose, Colorado. No artifacts were collected during the project.

LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project Area of Potential Effect (APE) is in La Plata County, approximately 4.5 miles southeast of Durango, Colorado (Figure 1) and can be found on the Loma Linda USGS 7.5 minute topographic map (Figure 2). The survey area is bounded on the north by U.S. Highway 160, and on the west by U.S. Highway 550 and is bisected by County Road 220. With the exception of portions of the survey corridor within current CDOT road rights-of-way, the project area is entirely on privately owned lands. The southern portion of the project area is on private in-holdings within the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. In total, the project entailed the inventory of 2.7 linear miles of survey corridor, encompassing 137 acres.

The entire project area is within the San Juan Mountain zone of the Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic province (Mutel and Emerick 1984). It is south of U.S. Highway 160 on Florida Mesa at elevations ranging from 6,650 ft. (2,027 m) near the western rim of the mesa to 6,950 ft. (2,118 m) in its interior. The nearest permanent water can be found at the Animas River, approximately 0.3 miles west of the project area at the base of Florida mesa. Native vegetation across the project area consists primarily of stands of pinyon and juniper and ponderosa pine. Additional plant communities include sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, occasional clusters of Gambel oak, and a variety of forbs and grasses. Areas that have been cleared for agriculture and grazing support low forage grasses.

Florida Mesa is a highly visible landform rising over 200 ft. above the floor of the Animas River Valley. The mesa is a broad terrace that has been largely isolated because its western edge was sheered away by the down-cutting of the Animas River and the northern end of the formation is sliced east-west by Wilson Gulch. The mesa slopes slightly upward to the east where its eastern and southern boundaries are defined by the path of the Florida River. Geologically, the mesa is a gravel and glacially alluviated terrace overlying coal-bearing formations of Cretaceous Age (Chronic 1980; Tweto 1979).

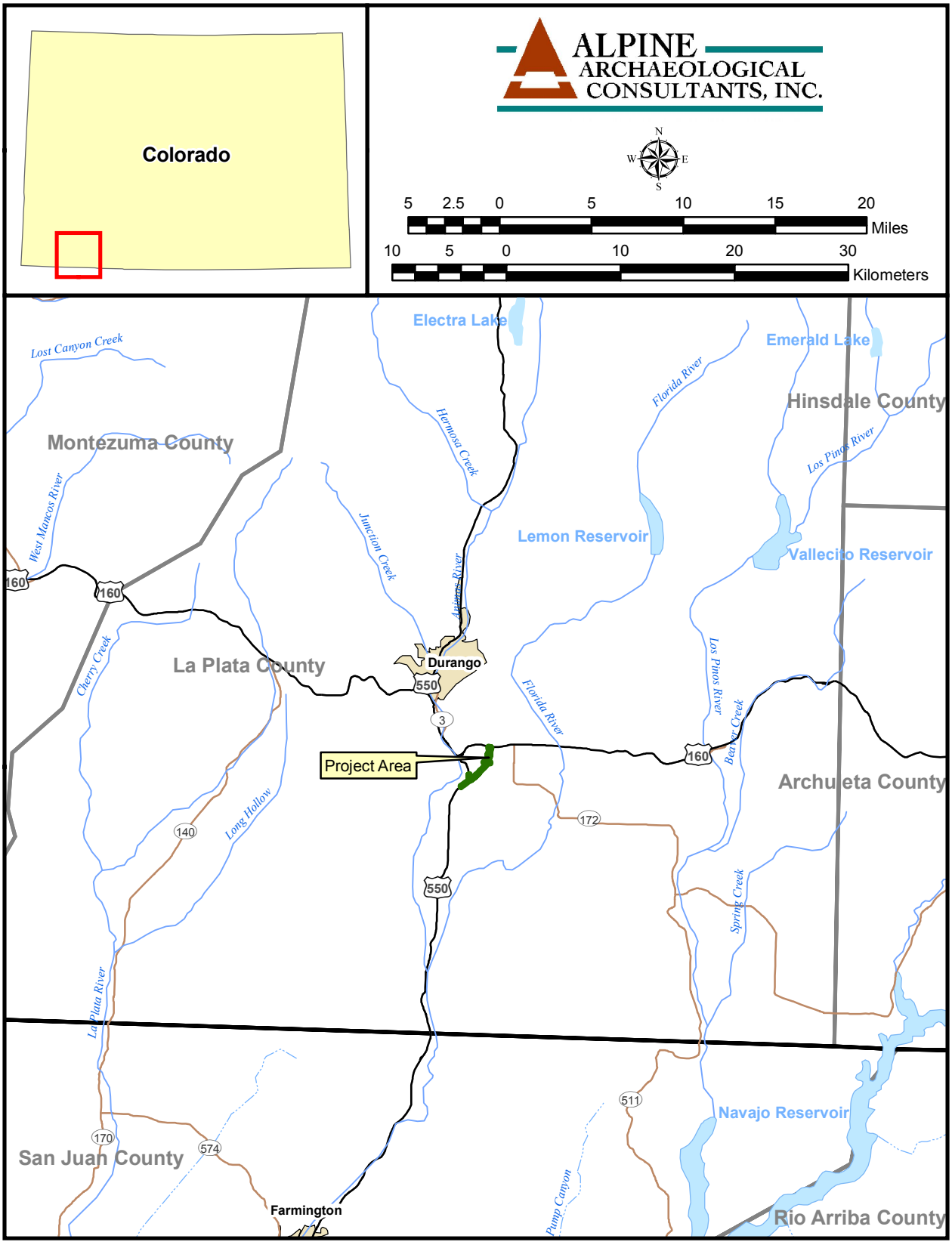

Figure 1. General location of the CDOT East Alternative alignment of US Highway 550.

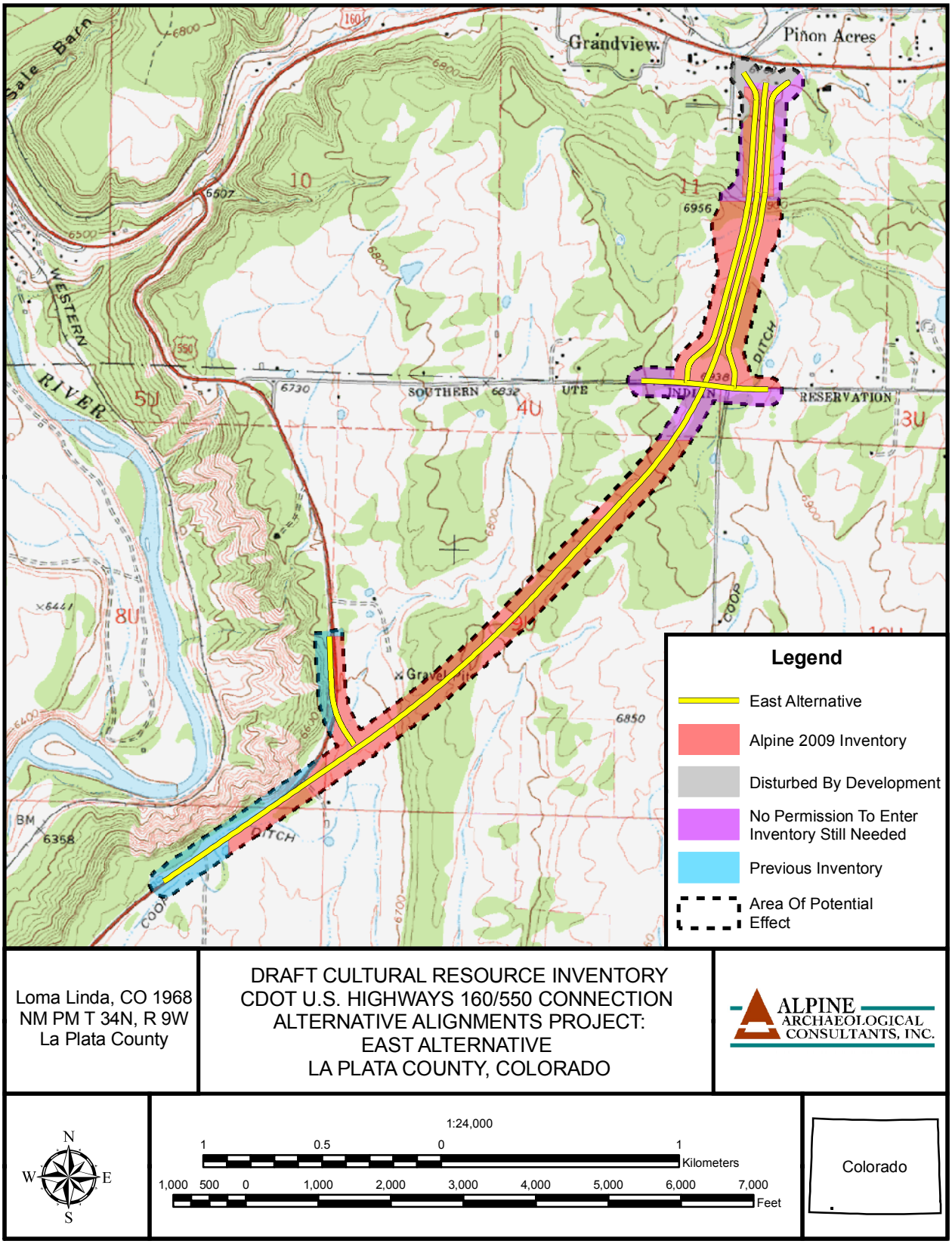

Figure 2. Project area map of the Class III inventory for the CDOT East Alternative connection alignment of US Highway 550.

CULTURE HISTORY

The earliest inhabitants of southwestern Colorado were representatives of the Paleoindian period, dating between 10,000 B.C. and 6,400 B.C., who inhabited North America during the period of transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene. The era has traditionally been identified by a number of distinctive, diagnostic lanceolate projectile points and tool assemblages indicative of a big game hunting economy practiced by what have been termed the Clovis, Folsom, and Plano traditions. Recently, researchers (e.g. Frison 1991; Pitblado 1999) have begun to recognize that some late Paleoindian groups occupying foothill and mountain environments practiced an economy focused upon a broader range of food resources, including both plants and a variety of animals. Paleoindian sites in general are rather rare in the archeological record of the Southern Colorado River Basin, with most of the known sites in the area belonging to the Late Paleoindian period (Lipe and Pitblado 1999).

The Archaic period represents an adaptation to an essentially modern environment, mainly by efficiently focusing on a more diverse subsistence base. It is characterized by the hunting of smaller game and increased dependence upon floral resources. This transition appears to have taken place at approximately 6400 B.C. The Archaic period is recognized by large stemmed or stemmed indented base dart points, large side- and corner-notched projectile point forms, and a diverse tool assemblage, including grinding slabs and manos. Habitation structures typical of the Archaic include basin houses and more ephemeral brush structures. Archaic period remains in the region are sparse but better represented than the Paleoindian period (Lipe and Pitblado 1999).

Sometime between 400 B.C and A.D. 1, a Formative stage lifeway began to emerge on the northern Colorado Plateau and in the Great Basin. The Formative stage is characterized by considerable reliance on horticulture, particularly corn or maize, and the adoption of a sedentary or semisedentary lifestyle. Accompanying horticulture and increased sedentism came construction of habitation structures and the production of ceramics. In southwestern Colorado, the Formative stage is represented by the Ancestral Pueblo tradition and is commonly divided into the five periods of the Pecos classification (Kidder 1927). From earliest to latest, these are the Basketmaker II, Basketmaker III, Pueblo I, Pueblo II, and Pueblo III periods. The following period descriptions are summarized from *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Southern Colorado River Basin* (Lipe et al. 1999).

The Basketmaker II, dating between approximately 1000 B.C. and A.D. 500, represents increased emphasis on cultigens and is characterized by the construction of substantial habitation structures and storage cists. Whether the subsistence strategies emerging during this period represent an indigenous development or an emigration into the area is still open for debate and is likely regionally specific. Basketmaker II artifact assemblages in the Durango area can often be distinguished from Archaic sites by corner-notched, expanding stem projectile points, T-shaped drills, the presence of one-and two-hand manos, and often heavily used trough and basin metates (Lipe 1999).

The Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500-750) is generally marked by the appearance of pottery. The earliest ceramics are typically self-tempered brown wares, though gray wares with added temper become dominant later. Basketmaker III subsistence shows an increased dependence on agriculture and stored food, with a decrease in the use of wild game. At habitation sites, pithouse structures tend to become deeper and more substantial by the end of the period (Wilshusen 1999a).

Following Basketmaker III is the Pueblo I period, dating between A.D. 750 and 900. The pithouse was still being used; however, above-ground jacal and masonry structures become more common and more substantial as time progresses. Higher, less mobile populations contributed to agricultural intensification. Ceramics included decorated white wares, red wares, and banded gray wares, though plain gray wares typically dominate the assemblage (Wilshusen 1999b).

The subsequent Pueblo II period (A.D. 900-1150) is characterized by the development of masonry house construction in rectangular or curved room block arrangements and formal kiva structures. Corrugated ceramics began to replace plain gray wares as the most common "utility ware." Around A.D. 1075, the local red ware ceramics began to be replaced by Tsegi Orange Wares from the Kayenta region of Northern Arizona (Lipe and Varien 1999a). During the Pueblo III period (A.D. 1150-1300), Ancestral Pueblo populations are largely absent from the Durango area but flourish elsewhere (Lipe and Varien 1999b; Lipe et al. 1999; Varien et al. 1996).

The Late Prehistoric to Protohistoric occupation in southwestern Colorado is generally associated with the Ute and Navajo, dating between A.C. 1300 and 1600, although historic era sites have also been identified. Recorded Ute sites in the area are common and are most frequently manifested as culturally scarred trees. Other typical markers of Protohistoric groups in the region are small Desert Side-notched or Cottonwood Triangular arrow points and brown ware pottery. The Ute occupied the area until historic times. Historic records indicate that the Ute were the primary inhabitants of the vicinity of the project area perhaps as early as the late 1700s. Historic period Ute sites are characterized by Euroamerican goods such as early tin cans, glass, cartridge cases, and glass beads, along with cone tinklers cut from tin cans and arrow points made from barrel hoops. With the adoption of the horse by the mid-seventeenth century, the Ute became highly mobile, enabling them to interact with Plains groups, acquiring many of their traits, such as the use of the tipi and wide-ranging pursuit of natural resources.

The Navajo are typically thought to have inhabited areas of Southwestern Colorado beginning around the 1300s. By the eighteen century, amid Ute raiding and Spanish pressure, the Navajo exited the area, concentrating in the Dinétah area of northern New Mexico (Lipe et al. 1999). It appears that coinciding with the relocation, Navajo farming began to intensify and pastoralism began to take hold. Sheepherding became a primary source of subsistence and income for the Navajo by the nineteenth century and is marked by sites reflecting the shift to a pastoral economy. These site types include isolated corrals, lambing pens, and rock cairns used as visual markers for sheep herding.

The first European people to enter southwestern Colorado were Spanish explorers. Juan de Rivera led three expeditions through the San Juan Mountains from 1761 to 1765 in search of mineral wealth. In 1776, the Escalante-Dominguez expedition passed through southwestern Colorado near Durango. Exploration of the Southern Rocky Mountains' natural resources by Euroamericans began in the 1820s with the arrival of fur trappers. The fur industry lasted until overtrapping and failing fur prices in the late 1830s made fur trapping unprofitable (O'Rourke 1992).

The influx of Euroamericans into the mountain regions of Colorado brought conflict with the indigenous Ute Indians. The Treaty of 1868 between the Ute and the federal government was an attempt to alleviate these conflicts by forming a large reservation on the Western Slope of Colorado, away from the primary mining areas. Miners continued to explore the region, however, and by the late 1860s and early 1870s, large bodies of ore had been located in the San Juan Mountains. In 1873, some 4 million acres of the reservation in the San Juan Mountains was officially opened to Euroamerican exploitation by the signing of the Brunot Treaty. The Brunot Treaty served ultimately to increase hostilities between the Ute and the Euroamericans, as the Ute became enraged by continued trespasses by Anglo-owned cattle, which were often driven across their reservation lands near the Colorado-New Mexico border. In an effort to safeguard both parties, the U.S. Government established Fort Lewis near Pagosa Springs in 1878 (O'Rourke 1992).

Amid continued hostility between the Ute and Coloradans, it was clear that a peaceful co-existence was not possible. This, coupled with the murder of Nathan Meeker and 10 other males by the Ute at the White River Agency in 1879, signified an inability of the two cultures to coexist in Colorado. By the fall of 1881, the last of the Ute were restricted to reservations in northwestern Utah and southernmost Colorado. The Southern Ute reservation was established along the Colorado-New Mexico border and allotted in 1895. The remaining lands that were not allotted to the Southern Ute were later opened for settlement in 1899.

With the removal of the Ute, Anglo settlement of southwest Colorado began to steadily increase, opening up countless acres of land to mining, livestock, and lumber production. Mining was responsible for the initial economic growth and brought in both people and money to the region. The attraction of the area, because of its open, unused lands, eventually provided an incentive for ranching development. At first, the livestock industry was limited to a service-oriented industry that functioned to supply meat to a growing mining industry. By the 1880s, the arrival of the railroad in southwestern Colorado insured an increase in demand as markets shifted from local to national. Fueled by new markets, hay production, and summer grazing in the mountains, the livestock industry began to flourish in southwestern Colorado, resulting in increased economic growth of the region.

In the early years of Anglo settlement, the mesas surrounding the Animas River Valley proved to be ideal for the agriculture and livestock because much of the land was still open and unused (O'Rourke 1992). Spurred largely by the Homestead Act enacted by Congress in 1862, land previously vacant was now being settled and worked as ranches or farms (Ubbelohde et al. 1972). It was not until the 1890s that homesteading began to take place on Florida Mesa. Early on, only lands in the far northern portion the mesa were opened for homesteading, because much of the southern extent of the mesa was still held as Ute Reservation lands. In 1899, reservation lands that had not been allocated to individual Ute members were opened to homesteaders, with resulting settlement and irrigation development (O'Rourke 1992). According to the General Land Office (GLO) website, the majority of the reservation lands on the mesa were not opened for settlement until the early 1910s.

With the removal of the Ute from nearly all of western Colorado in late 1881 and the opening of unallocated reservation lands in 1899, barriers to expansion of the cattle industry in southwestern Colorado were eliminated. Nearly instantaneously, the extension of railroad lines to Durango and through the Uncompahgre Valley facilitated the transport of animals to eastern markets, further enhancing the ranching opportunities of the region. Early on, the cattle industry in southwestern Colorado was being fueled by high cattle prices in the early and middle 1880s, but was later impacted by the drastic drop in prices by the late 1880s. As a result, sheep were introduced on the range in southwestern Colorado by cattle operations as a diversification measure. The entire livestock industry was nearly devastated between the 1880s and mid 1890s by severe overgrazing and a 10-year-long drought culminating in starvation of range animals (McPherson 1995:174-176). Without open grazing lands to exploit, these environmental factors eventually led the demise of large monopolistic livestock companies in the Four Corners region by the late 1890s. The lack of competition, allowed smaller home-based livestock industries to develop and flourish in the Durango area by beginning of the twentieth century.

PREVIOUS WORK AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Prior to the onset of fieldwork, a site file search was requested from the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) on March 6, 2009. The site file search area included a corridor extending 1 mile on each side of the U.S. Highway 550 East Alternative project centerline, for a total width of 2 miles. All site locations within the project corridor were plotted. Site forms were obtained for all sites within 300 ft. of the centerline. At the time of the file search, GLO maps were also examined to identify potential historic features or linear sites within the project area. One linear feature, labeled as the "Road to Durango" on a map dated 1883, was shown as intersecting the survey corridor in Section 9U, Township 34N, Range 9W. Possible historic features shown on the 1968 USGS 7.5 minute Loma Linda topographic map, such as structures and agricultural ditches, were also identified for re-location in the field.

Twenty-three previous projects were found to have been completed within the APE for the East Alternative connection alignment. Fifty-one sites were recorded as a result of these projects. Of the 51 known sites, only 14 were in close proximity to the East Alternative project corridor. These sites are presented below in Table 1.

The immediate project area has been subjected to five previous cultural resource surveys, four of which are related to the reconstruction of U.S. Highways 160 and 550. The most recent of these surveys was completed along the current U.S. Highway 550 corridor in 2002 (URS Corporation 2002). Nine of the 14 previously recorded sites (5LP6665-5LP6671, 5LP6673 and 5LP6674) near the project area were documented by this inventory. Six of these previously recorded sites (5LP6665, 5LP6666, 5LP6668, 5LP6671, 5LP6673, and 5LP6674) fall within the APE of the proposed East Alternative alignment and were reevaluated for the current project.

The results from the file search and GLO maps indicated a high density of both prehistoric and historic sites in the vicinity of the survey corridor. This density was reasonably expected to extend into the project area. Historic sites, expected to be near existing roads and structures, could include additional linear sites, habitations, and trash dumps. The trend of prehistoric sites along the western rim of Florida Mesa was expected to continue, with additional new sites located in the interior of the mesa.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Sites in Close Proximity of the Survey Corridor.

SITE NO.	SITE TYPE	CULTURAL AFFILIATION	NRHP ELIGIBILITY
5LP1131.8	Denver and Rio Grande Railroad	Historic	Officially Eligible
5LP1131.12	Denver and Rio Grande Railroad	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP5648	Historic Dwelling	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP5654	U.S. Highway 550	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6657	Historic Dwelling	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6665*	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6666*	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6667	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6668*	Historic Trash Dump	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6669	Historic Trash Dump	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6670	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter / Historic Sweat Lodge	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I / Historic Native American	Officially Eligible
5LP6671*	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Site form indicates Officially Not Eligible, Compass database indicates Officially Eligible
5LP6673*	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6674*	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Not Eligible

*Sites within the East Alternative APE and reevaluated during the current project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the cultural resource survey was to locate and assess the significance of historical and archaeological properties in the project area. The purpose of the inventory was to assess the effects of construction of the proposed U.S. Highway 550 East Alternative connection alignment on historic and prehistoric cultural resources. These objectives were accomplished, first, by conducting site file searches and literature reviews and, second, by conducting an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area. Recommendations regarding the significance of the cultural resources located by this project are made using the criteria for determining eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP. The historic preservation laws mandating this cultural resource study specifically identify eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP as the key factor in determining preservation needs. The criteria for assessing site significance, as published in the U.S. Government Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 60) read as follows:

National Register criteria for evaluation. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

(a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

FIELD METHODS

The U.S. Highway 550 East Alternative connection alignment was inventoried by means of pedestrian transects, with archaeologists spaced no farther than 15 m (50 ft.) apart. Navigation was guided by aerial photographs, topographic maps, and the use of a Trimble GPS unit preloaded with the cultural survey boundaries and previously recorded site boundaries. An APE ranging from 60 m (200 ft.) to 90 m (300 ft) on either side of the centerline was inventoried for cultural resources. In several areas the APE was expanded to account for possible direct and indirect effects associated with construction staging areas, proposed highway entrance and exit ramps, and other construction needs. The APE was also expanded to included properties with boundaries that extended beyond the standard linear APE identified above. The boundaries of the areas inventoried for cultural resources were mapped by GPS to document that survey coverage was complete within the APE. Portions of the East Alternative APE were not inventoried during the 2009 field work. These areas included small private land parcels where right-or-entry was not obtained. Additional areas excluded from the inventory, included portions of private land that did not exhibit archaeological potential because of residential disturbances and U.S. 550 right-of-way previously surveyed in 2002. Any areas retaining good physical integrity not surveyed in 2009 will be intensely inventoried if the East Alternative is ultimately selected as the preferred alignment.

When artifacts or cultural features were encountered, the crew intensively inspected the surrounding area to determine whether a site or an isolated find was represented. Sites were defined as five or more artifacts, in relatively close proximity to one another, exceeding 50 years old. In addition, five or more artifacts had to evidence some degree of patterning, suggesting that artifact distributions had archaeological value. Cultural features, regardless of associated artifacts, were also designated as sites. Loci with four or fewer artifacts were classified as isolated finds. Sites may also encompass features, structures, rock art, or facilities that lack artifacts exceeding 50 years of age. In addition to sites encountered during the project inventory, two ranch complexes were also documented. All recorded sites were evaluated for eligibility for the NRHP in terms of the specific criteria presented in the preceding section. Isolated finds are invariably regarded as not eligible for the NRHP. Limited sub-surface testing in the form of shovel and auger probes was carried out on some sites to aid in developing significance recommendations.

Before the inventory, previously recorded sites were plotted on field maps and associated site forms were photocopied for use during site reevaluations. Extra efforts were made to relocate previously recorded sites in the project corridor and potential sites identified from GLO maps. During the field phase, relocated previously recorded sites were reassessed to document the current site condition and the site's relationship to the current project. Previously recorded sites were

reevaluated to document changes to site condition or surface attributes. Newly discovered site and isolated find data were fully recorded on the appropriate Colorado Cultural Resource Survey forms. Site maps were prepared for all sites with the aid of a Trimble Geo Explorer XT Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, and locations were plotted a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map using the same GPS units. The GPS maps illustrated site boundaries, datums, cultural and topographic features, and modern landmarks including roads, fence lines, and irrigation ditches, if present within or near the site. All sites were photographed using digital cameras to aid in the site relocation. Datums, consisting of an 18-in. length of rebar marked with a yellow plastic cap and an aluminum tag displaying the temporary site number or, if on a previously recorded site, the Smithsonian site number, were established at each site. Datums were not placed on the two ranch complexes recorded, nor on the two ditches because the rebar was considered to be hazardous to livestock. No artifacts were collected during the project; however, flaked stone tools were illustrated and photographed in the field.

INVENTORY RESULTS

In the course of the Class III inventory of the proposed U.S. Highway 550 East Alternative connection alignment, Alpine archaeologists recorded 15 new archaeological and/or historic sites and 10 isolated finds, and re-visited six previously recorded archaeological sites. The Road to Durango identified on the 1883 GLO map was not encountered in the project area during the inventory. A summary of all archaeological sites recorded within the project area is presented in Table 2. The locations of recorded sites and isolated finds are presented in Appendix A, and planview maps of sites comprise Appendix B. Site and isolated find forms are presented in Appendices C and D, respectively.

5LP6665

Site Description

Site 5LP6665 is a large, light-density prehistoric artifact scatter with possible habitation structures (Appendix B, Map 1). The site is within a wooded area on private land near the western rim of Florida Mesa adjacent to Highway 550. The site encompasses 217 x 97 m area at an elevation of 6,725 ft. (2,049 m). Local vegetation includes pinyon pine, juniper, Gambel oak, prickly pear cacti, and mixed grasses. The site has been impacted by modern camping, highway and transmission line construction, and the construction of several dirt or gravel roads through the site area. According to landowner and informant Philip Craig, artifacts were much more numerous on the site when he was a young boy. A work crew camped on the site a few years prior to this recording and apparently collected many artifacts. Mr. Craig also noted that at least three human burials were exposed on the site during the construction of a gravel road. He stated that as many as nine additional burials were destroyed during highway construction adjacent to the site, but this was apparently secondhand information. Despite these disturbances, much of the site area remains in good condition. It should be noted that any burials that may have been exposed during highway construction occurred prior to the enactment of Section 106 regulations in the 1960s and also before CDOT actively began its cultural resource compliance programs in the early 1970s.

The site was originally recorded in 2002 by URS Corporation as part of the U.S. Highway 550 South project (URS Corporation 2002). The original site recording identified a moderate density of artifacts including ground stone, ceramics, and debitage covering a 2.1-acre area. The recording also identified a concentration of burned adobe near the center of the site. Alpine reevaluated the site in 2009, expanded the site boundary, and identified two features. Feature 1 is a linear mound or linearly arranged series of low mounds running east-west through the central portion of the site (Figure 3). The mound or mounds form a shallow arc facing south. The feature is approximately 60 m in length with an average width of 4 m and an average height of 30 cm. At least four large (fist-

sized or larger) chunks of burned adobe, some with stick impressions were found just to the south of the mound. Additional smaller pieces were found on the northern side of the feature. Feature 1 may be the remains of a jacal room block or row of jacal structures. Two auger probes were excavated within the mound. One was negative for cultural materials, but the second yielded burned adobe and charcoal fragments 35-58 cm below surface (cmbs). The majority of the intact ground stone artifacts found at the site were near the Feature 1 area.

Table 2. Sites Recorded during the East Alternative Class III Inventory.

Site Number	Temporary Site Number	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Recommendation
5LP6665	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6666	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6668	—	Historic Artifact Scatter	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6671	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP6673	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6674	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/Historic Artifact	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I/Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP9236	AAC-1062	Open Camp	Pueblo II	Recommended Eligible
5LP9237	AAC-4002	Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9238	AAC-1061	Historic Homestead	Historic	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9239	AAC-1063	Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9240	AAC-558	Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9241	AAC-557	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9242	AAC-556	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9243	AAC-4001	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9244	AAC-4000	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/Historic Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I/Historic	Prehistoric Recommended Eligible/Historic Not Eligible
5LP9245	AAC-500	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Ancestral Puebloan	Recommended Eligible
5LP8461	—	Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting element to NRHP-eligible site
5LP9257.1	—	Irrigation Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting segment
5LP9257.2	—	Irrigation Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting segment
5LP9306	AAC-315	Schaeferhoff/Cowan Ranch Complex	Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9307	AAC-314	Craig Ranch Complex	Historic	Recommended Eligible

Feature 2 is a cluster of large cobbles measuring 2 m in diameter on the southern site of Feature 1. It may be the remains of a prehistoric feature or may be an artifact from the construction of the adjacent gravel road. In addition to the two identified features, it is possible that pithouses are present immediately south of Feature 1.

Figure 3. Site 5LP6665, Feature 1. Linear mound representing possible room block or structures.

The observed artifact assemblage includes approximately 100 ceramic sherds, approximately 75 pieces of lithic debitage, 12 metates or metate fragments, eight mano or mano fragments, two indeterminate ground stone fragments, four cores, one core-chopper, and one retouched flake. The grab sample analysis of 60 sherds recorded 53 plain gray ware sherds, four plain gray ware rim shreds large enough to identify as Chapin Gray, one small decorated sherd identified as either Piedra or Chapin Black-on-white, and one unpainted and unslipped red ware sherd. Based upon the ceramic assemblage, site 5LP6665 is a habitation site associated with the Basketmaker III and/or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) time period.

National Register Recommendation

URS evaluated site 5LP6665 as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D in 2002. Alpine agrees with this assessment. The site represents an Ancestral Puebloan habitation site that appears to contain architectural remains and to once have exhibited a large and apparently diverse surface assemblage. According to an informant, the site has also produced human remains and may still contain intact burials. Auger probing has confirmed the presence of buried charcoal and burned adobe within the low mounds designated Feature 1, supporting the interpretation of the feature as the remains of jacal rooms. Intact pithouses may also be present on the site. The site clearly has the potential to yield additional information about the Basketmaker III / Pueblo I occupation of the region and is evaluated as eligible to the NRHP under Criterion D.

5LP6666

Site Description

Site 5LP6666 is a light-density, broadly dispersed scatter of lithic artifacts, ceramic sherds, ground stone, and small quantities of burned adobe (Appendix B, Map 2). The site is on private land in a treeless, disked pasture near the western rim of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,990 (2,130 m). U.S. Highway 550 runs approximately 20 m west of the site. The site area has been heavily impacted by disking, cattle grazing, and possible surface collection.

The site was originally recorded in 2002 by URS Corporation as part of the U.S. Highway 550 South project (URS Corporation 2002). URS described the site as a low-density artifact scatter including ceramics, fire-cracked-rock, a biface, and pieces of burned adobe. Alpine archaeologists found the site to be generally as originally recorded, though with differences in observed surface artifacts, possibly the result of additional disking and grazing of the field between the two recordings. As observed in 2009, the artifact assemblage at the site consists of 20 sherds of plain gray ware ceramics, eight pieces of lithic debitage, three cores, 17 manos or mano fragments, three metate fragments, and three indeterminate ground stone fragments encompassing a 132 x 56 m area. Two pieces of burned adobe were also observed, suggesting the former presence of a structure. Given the modern disturbances to the site, the adobe is likely out of context; the original location of the structure is unknown. No intact cultural features were observed. The site likely served as a limited activity area, field house, or small habitation during the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) occupation of the area. This site is possibly associated with the nearby site 5LP6671 to the south.

National Register Recommendation

In 2002, URS evaluated site 5LP6666 as not eligible for listing on the NRHP, citing its poor integrity and lack of potential to yield data important in regional prehistory. Alpine agrees with this assessment. The site area has been heavily disturbed by disking and grazing. The cultural materials present are likely well out of their original contexts, and there is no evidence for buried cultural deposits.

5LP6668

Site Description

Site 5LP6668 is a historic artifact scatter on private land at an elevation of 6,990 ft. (2,432 m). The site is on west-facing slope of Florida Mesa immediately west of U.S. Highway 550. An estimated 200 to 300 artifacts were found encompassing a 17 x 15 ft. area within a pinyon and juniper forest. The site was originally recorded by URS during their inventory of U.S. Highway 550 (URS Corporation 2002). URS described the site as a dense concentration of historic artifacts representing a trash dump. Temporal data on numerous maker's marks led them to conclude that the dumping occurred between 1911 and 1960. Alpine revisited the site for the current project and found it to be generally as originally recorded, though with additions to artifacts observed. Additions to the site include the identification of six rubber teat holders from an automatic milking machine and four diagnostic maker's marks. The diagnostic marks are presented below in Table 3. Based on the diagnostic marks previously recorded and those identified during the revisit, it appears that the dump was used between 1911 and the early 1950s. This window can be narrowed slightly by drawing upon the ownership history of the property. The dump is just north of the entrance into the Craig Ranch complex originally purchased by Phillip Craig in 1929 (see historical background for site 5LP9307) and is likely associated with the occupation of the property by Phillip Craig. It, thus, probably dates after 1929 and into the early 1950s. The dump's association with the Craig family is also indicated by the presence of the rubber teat holders, which were likely discarded from the Craig's dairy that operated on the property between 1929 and 1994.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP6668 was determined to be officially not eligible to the NRHP in 2002. Alpine found nothing at the site that would change this significance determination.

Table 3. Diagnostic Maker's Marks Identified at Site 5LP6668.

Artifact Description	Maker's Mark/Attribute	Date
Coca Cola bottle	18<U>49	1949
Clear glass bottle base	9<U>9	1939
Clear glass Karo syrup bottle base	7<U>50	1950
Amber glass bottle base	0<U>6	1936

5LP6671

Site Description

Site 5LP6671 is a low-density prehistoric artifact scatter on private land near the western rim of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,680 ft. (2,036 m). The bulk of the site is within a copse of juniper, though portions extend into cleared areas to the north and south. The site is bounded to the south by a fenced private drive and to the west by a ROW fence line for U.S. Highway 550 (Appendix B, Map 3). The site has been disturbed by disking and plowing, cattle, and possible artifact collection.

Site 5LP6671 was first recorded in 2002 by URS as part of the U.S. Highway 550 South project (URS Corporation 2002). URS described the site as a low-density artifact scatter composed of debitage, a mano, a hammer stone, a core, and ceramics. Alpine archaeologists found the site to be essentially as originally recorded, with variation in recorded surface artifacts. In 2009, the observed surface assemblage consists of 14 plain gray ware sherds, 10 manos or mano fragments, one metate fragment, three cores, and one tertiary chert flake encompassing a 120 x 41 m area. Two pieces of fire-cracked rock (FCR) and several pieces of charcoal were observed in disturbed backdirt from recent rodent burrowing in the southern portion of the site. No evidence of surface features was observed.

Two shovel tests were excavated to aid in site evaluation. Shovel Test 1 was placed in the southern portion of the site near the FCR and charcoal and was negative for cultural materials. Shovel Test 2 was placed in the northwestern portion of the site near a ceramic concentration. This test yielded charcoal flecking and one small ceramic sherd at 20-30 cmbs. The site likely functioned as a limited activity area or briefly occupied campsite where lithic reduction and food processing activities took place. The observed ceramics indicate an occupation during the Basketmaker III and/or Pueblo I periods (A.D. 575-900).

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP6671 was evaluated as not eligible to the NRHP by URS in 2002. The Management Data Form for the site indicates OAHP concurrence with this evaluation on October 9, 2002; however, the Compass database lists the site as eligible. Reevaluation suggests that, though disturbed by plowing/disking and grazing, portions of the site appear to have the potential to yield intact buried cultural deposits, as indicated by a positive shovel probe and cultural materials observed in a rodent disturbance. Therefore, Alpine recommends that the site be considered eligible to the NRHP under Criterion D.

5LP6673

Site Description

Site 5LP6673 is a prehistoric habitation site on the very western edge of Florida Mesa. It is on a gentle, east-facing slope immediately west of U.S. Highway 550 on private land at an elevation of 6,680 ft. (2,036 m). Soils on the site are a grayish-brown silty loam supporting sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, forbs, grasses, and sparse juniper.

The site was first recorded in 2002 by URS as part of the U.S. Highway 550 project (URS Corporation 2002). URS described the site as a moderately dense scatter of ceramic, debitage, ground stone, and burned adobe encompassing an 85 x 35 m area. Based on the ceramics, the occupation of the site was attributed to the Basketmaker III and/or Pueblo I periods (A.D. 575-900). The site was revisited for the current project by Alpine archaeologists and found to be essentially as it was originally recorded, with the addition of a second, sparse concentration of jacal. The second jacal scatter is 3 m east of the Feature 1 jacal scatter and consists of a fist-sized piece of jacal and approximately 25 smaller pieces of jacal. The larger piece of jacal was stick-impressed, similar to the pieces of jacal found in Feature 1. The second jacal scatter is believed to be associated with Feature 1 and is not indicative of a second feature on the site.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP6673 was determined to be officially eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D in 2002. Alpine agrees with this assessment. The site represents an Ancestral Puebloan habitation site that appears to contain architectural remains with data recovery potential.

5LP6674

Site Description

Site 5LP6674 is a multicomponent site on private land at an elevation of 6,800 ft. (2,073 m). It is just east of the western rim of Florida Mesa within a pinyon and juniper forest. The soils on the site are a reddish-brown silty sandy loam supporting sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, and grasses.

Site 5LP6674 was originally recorded in 2002 by URS as part of the U.S. Highway 550 project (URS Corporation 2002). URS described the site as a widely dispersed scatter of prehistoric artifacts encompassing a 200 x 120 m area in small open areas of the pinyon and juniper forest. The artifacts identified included ceramics, debitage, ground stone, and fire-cracked-rock (FCR) with two artifact concentrations noted. Based on the ceramic assemblage, the site was attributed to the Basketmaker III and/or Pueblo I periods (A.D. 575-900). The site was revisited by Aline in 2009 for the current project and found to be as it was originally recorded in 2002. No additional impacts to the site have occurred since its original recording and no additional artifacts or features were identified.

The historic component on the site consisted of a single purple glass bottle with an applied neck finish. No maker's mark was found on the base of the bottle.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP6674 was determined to be officially not eligible to the NRHP in 2002. Alpine agrees with this assessment because no additional artifacts or features were found during the 2009 revisit that would alter this significance determination.

5LP9236

Site Description

Site 5LP9236 is a prehistoric open camp on private land at an elevation of 6,880 ft. (2,097 m). The site encompasses a 253-x-120-m area on a south-facing slope at the northwestern terminus of the Florida Mesa (Appendix B, Map 4). The site is contained solely on the northern flank of the mesa edge within the intermittent open area of a pinyon and juniper forest with eolian reddish-brown sandy loam soils supporting a vegetation community of low sagebrush, Gambel oak, antelope brush, prickly pear cactus, and bunch grasses.

The site consists of an estimated 270 pieces of lithic debitage, four ceramic sherds, 12 pieces of ground stone, two quartzite cores, five flake stone tools (Table 4), and eight features (Features 1-8). The debitage is dispersed across the site with one, 13-x-44-m, moderately dense concentration (Concentration 1) being identified at the site. A roughly 30 percent sample of the debitage indicates that quartzite and chert are the primary raw materials, though small quantities of obsidian (n=3) and igneous (n=1) were also present. The analysis of the debitage indicates that core reduction of chert and quartzite cobbles dominated reduction strategy occurring at the site. To a lesser degree, the 11 bifacial thinning flakes recorded suggest that tools were being manufactured as well. The majority of the bifacial thinning flakes were found within the activity area recorded as Concentration 1.

Table 4. Flaked Stone Tools Identified on Site 5LP9236.

Artifact type	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Comments
Biface (B1)	4.2x	2.8	0.9	Quartzite with a broken distal end likely through use (Stage 3)
Biface (B2)	1.9x	2.4	0.3	Chert basal portion of a bifacial knife (Stage 4).
Biface (B3)	6.0x	2.7	0.9	Chert Stage 2 biface fashioned from a large tertiary flake.
Retouched Flake (RT1)	2.4	1.3	0.3	Chert flake retouched along one lateral edge.
Chopper (Ch1)	5.6	5.7	5.2	Small piece of a quartzite cobble unifacially flaked with battering on one edge.

x-denotes incomplete measurement

The ceramic sherds found included two thin-walled gray ware sherds on the western portion of the site, a corrugated sherd on the eastern extent of the site, and a red ware (black-on-red) sherd within Concentration 1. All were small, quarter to half dollar-size, making identification of vessel type impossible.

The ground stone identified on the site was fragmented with no complete specimens recorded. Although the assemblage was dispersed, the vast majority of it was found within Concentration 1 and on the western portion of the site. The assemblage included three manos, seven slab metate fragments, and two pieces of unidentifiable ground stone. The preferred material type for the ground stone was sandstone (n=7) with quartzite (n=5) also being used. All three of the manos were one-hand manos fashioned from water-worn cobbles.

The features were scattered over the site area. The first of these, Feature 1, is a scatter of FCR covering a 6.83-x-1.32-m area. The FCR of the feature is highly fragmented with golf ball to orange-size pieces. Several pieces of debitage, a core, a biface, and a piece of ground stone were recorded within the confines of the feature. Two small, 10 x 10 cm trowel tests were dug within the feature but did not identify charcoal or charcoal-stained soil. The feature is believed to represent a deflated hearth or roasting pit.

Feature 2 is 11 m to the northwest of Feature 1 and is another area of FCR. The feature is just over 2 m in diameter with baseball to cantaloupe-size FCR. A 10-x-10-cm trowel test was dug near the center of the concentration but did not encounter charcoal or charcoal-stained soil. The feature is probably a deflated thermal feature, possibly a hearth.

Feature 3 is just over 6 m to the southeast of Feature 1 on the western edge of an ephemeral drainage. The feature was found to be a small area where the soil was darker than the surrounding soil. The area was lightly trowel scraped and found to be an area of charcoal-stained soil with minor charcoal flecking. The immediate area of the stain was trowel scraped to determine the extent of the stain. Approximately 2 cm of soil was scraped off, resulting in a roughly 38-x-50-cm irregular stain. Once the approximate size and nature of the feature was determined, the soil removed was placed back on top of the feature. Feature 3 appears to represent the remains of a hearth.

Feature 4 is on the far southeastern portion of the site. It is a small, 1.17 m diameter concentration of FCR. A trowel test was dug within the area of the feature near its center point. The test identified charcoal flecking within the upper 4 cm of the test. With the discovery, the trowel testing was suspended to preserve the contents of the feature. Feature 4 may represent a second hearth. In addition to the FCR, two metate fragments were found to the east in close proximity to the feature.

Feature 5 was found in the area near Features 1 and 2, about 2 m northwest of Feature 1. The feature was a small area of dark soil on the western edge of an ephemeral drainage. Like Feature 3, the area of dark soil was lightly trowel scraped and found to represent another area of charcoal-stained soil with minor charcoal flecking. As the area was being trowel scraped, a metate fragment was encountered within the stained area. The discovery prompted the trowel scraping to be suspended so that no further disturbance to the feature occurred. Feature 5 is assumed to represent a thermal feature; the extent of the feature is unknown.

Feature 6 is an additional area of gray soil on the western portion of the site, nearly 70 m west of Feature 1. Minor trowel scraping was carried out on the feature and determined to be an area of charcoal-stained soil with charcoal flecking. The trowel scraping was terminated when the charcoal staining was encountered. The feature measures 74 cm in diameter and is interpreted as representing the remains of a hearth.

Feature 7 is in proximity to Feature 6 and is 14 m to the southeast of that feature. Feature 7 was determined to be an area of charcoal staining with minor charcoal flecking. The area of the feature was not cleared with a trowel; therefore, the extent of the feature is unknown.

Feature 8 is near the northeastern boundary of the site just over 48 m northwest of Feature 4. The feature is a 1 x 0.5 m area of FCR within a small open area near the edge of the mesa. The feature may represent an additional thermal feature.

In addition to the trowel testing completed at the different feature locations, shovel testing was also carried out on the site to determine the potential for buried cultural deposits. Three shovel tests were dug at the site (ST1-3), two in Concentration 1 (ST1 and 2) and one (ST3) on the western extent of the site in proximity to the two ceramic sherds and south of Feature 6. The two shovel tests dug in the artifact concentration found the upper 15 to 25 cm of soil to be a dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) sandy loam gaining clay content with depth. The soil continued to remain homogenous with charcoal flecking appearing at a depth of 25 to 29 cmbs in one test and 15 to 23 cmbs in the other. The third shovel test (ST1) on the western portion of the site found the upper 2 cm of soil to be a light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/6) sandy loam overlying a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) sandy loam with some clay content. No cultural material was encountered in this shovel test.

Based on the artifact assemblage and the types of features, site 5LP9236 appears to represent a seasonal camp or field station where site activities included core reduction, tool manufacture, and food processing. The ceramics indicate that the site dates to the Pueblo II occupation (A.D. 900-1150) of the area (Lipe et al. 1999). Aside from the limited ceramics, no diagnostic artifacts were found on the site. The lack of diagnostics and scant nature of the ceramics are attributed to the site landowner's family's collection of the site (personal communication, Orion Koon to Jack Pfertsh, April 13, 2009).

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9236 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under criterion D. Eight possible features were observed on the site, three of which are charcoal stains with charcoal present. Additionally, two shovel tests encountered the presence of subsurface charcoal. The evidence for thermal features at the site indicates that there is a high potential for additional buried features. It is expected that data extracted from these feature in the form of radiocarbon and macrobotanical samples can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of site occupation, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, prehistoric land-use patterns, and population dynamics.

5LP9237

Site Description

Site 5LP9237 is sparse, discrete lithic scatter on private land on a gentle slope in the interior of Florida Mesa. The site encompasses a 43 x 35 m area at an elevation of 6,950 ft. (2,118 m). Within the site area, reddish-brown eolian sandy loam soils support pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, and bunch grasses. The site area has been heavily disturbed by cattle trampling and wood cutting, as well as by a gravel road that passes through the eastern edge of the site. Ground visibility is generally good.

The surface cultural materials are present in two small concentrations (Appendix B, Map 5). Concentration 1 consists of lithic debitage, and Concentration 2 is composed of debitage, cores, and one ground stone fragment. In its entirety, the assemblage consists of 13 pieces of lithic debitage (a mixture of biface thinning and core reduction flakes), four cores, one metate fragment, and one mano. The site likely functioned as a short-term resource procurement and processing locale. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were observed.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9237 is small, sparse, and heavily disturbed. There is no compelling evidence that intact buried features or cultural deposits are present. The site is evaluated as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

5LP9238

Site Description

Site 5LP9238 is a homestead site within the original 160-acre homestead patent for the Schaeferhoff/Cowan Ranch site (5LP9306). The site encompasses a 152 x 123 m area on a gentle, southeast-facing slope near the northwestern terminus of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,760 ft. (2,060 m). More specifically, the site is within an open area fringed on the north by a pinyon and juniper forest on the north side of County Road 220 and immediately east of the Co-op Ditch (Appendix B, Map 6). Soils at the site are eolian reddish-brown sandy loam supporting a variety of grasses with intermittent sagebrush, Gambel oak, and prickly pear cactus.

The site consists of a moderate density of historic artifacts and two features (Feature 1 and Feature 2). An estimated 120 artifacts were identified at the site. The artifact assemblage is highly fragmented and widely dispersed, which is attributed to the site area being used for livestock grazing. The artifact classes are presented below in Table 5. The majority of the assemblage represents domestic-related items with two diagnostic artifacts being present. These were a hand-applied neck finish and an aqua bottle base with an embossed maker's mark (AB). The mark was formerly attributed to the Adolphus Busch Glass Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri in use from circa 1904 to 1907 (Toulouse 1971:26-27) but now considered to be the mark of the American Bottle Company of Chicago, in use from 1905 to 1917. The company had plants at Streator, Illinois; Belleville, Illinois; and Newark, Ohio, that operated until 1917, when the company was purchased by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company (Lockhart 2004a, b).

The majority of the artifacts recorded on the site were within Concentration 1. Concentration 1 measures 13 m (north/south) x 16 m (east/west) and is concentrated immediately south of Feature 1. The artifacts identified in the concentration were fragments of an aqua canning jar, fragments of a milkglass lid liner, the brass side of a pocket knife, fragments of earthenware, a shell shirt button, a Sanitary can lid, a sheet metal condiment jar lid, iron sheet metal, and a piece of a cast-iron stove.

Aside from the artifact assemblage, two features (Features 1 and 2) and three road segments were also identified at the site. Feature 1 is a shallow depression on the southwestern portion of the site, 4 m east of a modern gravel road that accesses a gas well pad to the north of the site. The feature measures roughly 16 ft. in diameter with a maximum depth of 4 to 5 in. The remnants of an earthen berm are evident along its northern edge. The feature was thought to represent a collapsed root cellar. An auger test (AU3) was dug on the interior of the depression near its center. The auger test returned positive results that consisted of coal, charcoal, and a wealth of decayed wood at a depth interval between 14 and 92 cmbs. Considering the depth and the decayed wood, the feature was interpreted as representing a root cellar.

Feature 2 is 35 m northeast of Feature 1 and consists of an alignment of three fence posts, a linear line of Gambel oak brush, and a level area on the east side of the fence posts. It also appears that a road may have been present on the western side of the fence traversing southwest to northeast. The road was recorded as road segment 3 and is a faint linear depression south of the feature and a swath through the pinyon and juniper forest to the north of the feature. The road passes through a small gate on its southwestern end. It may have represented an access route to the feature. Based on the evidence, Feature 2 is believed to have been the location of a structure that was enclosed by a fence. A small number of artifacts were found in association with the feature, including a fragment of a plain white earthenware plate and fragments of purple glass.

During the site recording, Mr. Orion Koon, the nephew of the landowner, visited the site. He confirmed the location of Feature 1 as the root cellar. From his childhood he remembers the root cellar as having a slightly domed earthen roof with the entrance on the east. He also remembers his father and uncle purposefully collapsing the root cellar by pulling down the roof supports with a tractor. Mr. Koon also confirmed Feature 2 as the location of the residence. Mr Koon did not remember details about the house, aside from it being a wood-frame structure. He stated that the house was intentionally burned and remembers, as a child, his grandfather showing him the burned remains of the structure, which consisted merely of an ash pile. He also remembers later in life metal detecting on the west side of Feature 2 near the row of Gambel oak and recovering melted coins (Personal communication, Orion Koon to Jack Pfertsh, April 13, 2009).

Table 5. Artifacts Identified on Site 5LP9238.

Artifact Description	Maker's Mark/Attribute	Date	Reference
Purple glass fragments		1885-1920	Lockhart 2006a
Aqua glass fragments			
Light green glass fragments			
Cobalt glass fragment			
Amber glass fragments			
Purple glass bottle stopper		1885-1920	Lockhart 2006a
Aqua round bottle fragments	AB (American Bottling Company)	1905-1917	Lockhart 2004a (Lockhart 2004b)
Purple square panel bottle fragments		1885-1920	Lockhart 2006a
Aqua glass canning jar fragments			
Cast-iron stove fragments			
Porcelain fragments			
Earthenware fragments transfer-printed			
Earthenware fragments relief-molded			
Earthenware fragments plain-white			
Barrel hoop (complete)1½-in.-wide			
Barrel hoop (fragments) 1¾-in.wide			
Sheet metal fragments			
Brass wick-raising mechanism			
Purple glass hand-applied straight brandy or wine neck finish		Pre 1920	Miller and Sullivan 1984:83-96
Purple glass decorative decanter base			
Purple glass round bottle base	Made In America	1885-1920	Lockhart 2006a
Automotive glass (thick)			
Oval iron rod			
Miscellaneous strap iron			
Brass pocket knife side panel			
Light green milkglass fragment with relief design			
Milkglass lid liner fragments			
Two-hole, sew-through shell shirt button			
Window glass			
Can lid			
Sheet metal condiment jar lid			
Small cut nail			

Auger testing was also carried out in the area identified as the location of the residential structure, although no surface evidence of the structure existed. In all, four auger tests (AU4-AU7) were dug in the area to the east of the fence posts. None of the auger tests identified ash, charcoal or any evidence of burned material. One of the auger tests (AU6) did recover a quartzite tertiary flake within the upper 4 cm of the test.

Aside from the five auger tests carried out to investigate Features 1 and 2, three additional auger tests (AU 1, 2, and 8) were also dug at the site. Two of the auger tests (AU1 and AU2) were excavated outside of artifact concentration (Concentration 1) to determine the potential for buried deposits. One of the auger tests (AU1) recovered window glass and a cut nail within the upper 10 cm of the test. The third auger test (AU8) was dug within a slightly depressed area 36 m to the northeast of Feature 1 to determine if the depression represented another feature location. The auger test determined the depression to be natural.

Historical Background

The ranch complex recorded as site 5LP9238 is on land originally acquired as a 160-acre Homestead Entry Patent by Henry R. Skinner on March 31, 1891 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 23, Page 389). The property was owned by Skinner for nearly three years before he sold it to Samuel Rugh on February 17, 1894 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 72, Page 302). The property did not remain in the ownership of Rugh for long as he sold it just one month later to Samuel Hood on March 17, 1894 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 72, Page 301). Samuel Rugh was known as a real estate dealer in the Durango area and may have purchased the property as a land agent for Samuel Hood (*Durango Democrat,* November 10, 1906, and *Durango Democrat,* March 24, 1906). Hood owned the property for over five years before selling it to William R. Mason on November 11, 1899 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 89, Page 141). The acreage again changed hands when it is sold by Mason to Albert E. Reece on August 22, 1903 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 101 Page 73). Reece retained the property for nearly three years and than sold it to Martha Davis on April 14, 1906 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 105, Page 536). Davis held the property for over four years and sold it to Laura Willden on December 1, 1910, but Willden sold the property back to Davis just three years later on December 3, 1913 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 130, Page 125 and Book 136, Page 534). Davis continues to own the property until it is sold to Joseph Schaeferhoff on May 20, 1916. Although Davis sold the majority of the property, she continued to retain a 5-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the 160-acre land holding (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 139, Page 444). The 5-acre parcel was quitclaim deeded by Davis to Kasper Schaeferhoff on June 26, 1920 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 143, Page 524). The parcel returned as part of the original 160-acre land holding when Kasper Schaeferhoff sold it to Joseph Schaeferhoff on September 14, 1933 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 208, Page 482). The property remained in the Schaeferhoff family when it was sold by Clara and Joseph to George Cowan and their daughter Grace on April 29, 1964 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 474, Page 465). The property is currently owned by Grace Cowan.

Although sites 5LP9238 and 5LP9306 are on the same property, the site boundaries for each clearly indicate that two separate residences were established on the same property. The historic research, oral history, and artifact evidence; however, indicates that these occupations were not contemporaneous. Instead, these lines of evidence demonstrate that 5LP9238 is attributed to the early occupation of the property between 1891 and the construction of the residential structure (5LP9306) in 1900. Although the single American Bottling Company mark suggests that site 5LP9238 might date as late as 1917, according to Joseph Schaeferhoff's granddaughter, Joseph never inhabited the site, but lived instead in the aforementioned residential structure (personal communication, Peggy Cooley to Jack Pfertsh August 11, 2009). Considering this information, it is likely that the bottle in question was discarded on the site at a later date. This is certainly plausible considering the location of the artifact adjacent to a two-track road.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9238 is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Although auger testing at the site has indicated that buried cultural deposits do exist within Feature 1, the contextual integrity of these deposits have been severely compromised by past disturbances to the site. In addition, the residential structure has been burned down and no surface evidence of the structure remains. In the event that archaeological deposits associated the residential structure were to be identified elsewhere on the site, intact deposits would likely have been disturbed by the structure burning. Also, the surface integrity of the site has been altered by trampling attributed to livestock grazing across the whole of the site.

5LP9239

Site Description

Site 5LP9239 is a prehistoric lithic scatter on private land at an elevation of 6,790 ft. (2,070 m). The site is on a gentle, northwest-trending slope toward the northwestern terminus of Florida Mesa. The lithic scatter was identified in small open areas within a dense pinyon and juniper forest. Gambel oak, sagebrush, and bunch grasses were also found at the site. Local soils are eolian reddish-brown sandy loam.

The site consists of a sparse scatter of 12 pieces of debitage and one utilized flake covering a 33 x 23 m area (Appendix B, Map 7). The debitage is widely dispersed across the site area and includes primarily quartzite raw material with single pieces of obsidian and chert also being recorded. Tertiary flakes dominate the assemblage with two primary flakes and a secondary flake also present. The assemblage indicates that core reduction was the focus of the lithic technology. A single quartzite bifacial thinning flake indicates that tool manufacturing also occurred at the locus but was limited.

The potential for buried deposits at the site was tested through the excavation of a shovel test on the northeastern portion of the site. The shovel test was dug to a depth of 21 cmbs and found the upper 9 cm of soil to be a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty loam over lying a strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty loam. No cultural material was encountered during the shovel testing, but charcoal flecking was noted in the upper portion of the test. The charcoal is not believed to represent cultural activity because surface charcoal was noted in other areas of the site and adjacent areas. The charcoal likely represents a past forest fire or an intentional fire to thin the Gambel oak.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9239 is evaluated as not eligible for listing on the NRHP, as the site is unlikely to yield information important to prehistory. Surface artifacts are sparsely and widely dispersed across the site area and no cultural features were found or are expected to be present. Shovel testing did not reveal any buried artifacts or any evidence for buried cultural deposits.

5LP9240

Site Description

Site 5LP9240 is a small, sparse lithic scatter on private land on a gently sloping ridge in the interior of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,880 ft. (2,097 m). Local soils are eolian reddish-brown sandy loam supporting pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, Gambel oak, and bunch grasses. Ground visibility was quite good. The site has been impacted by water erosion attributed to the small drainage that cuts north-south through the site. It has been additionally impacted by activity attributed to camping as evidenced by a nearby small modern hunter's camp.

Lithics present on the site surface include 11 quartzite flakes, one retouched quartzite spall, and one one-handed mano (Appendix B, Map 8). No cultural features were observed on surface. This site likely functioned as a briefly occupied camp or seasonal locus of resource procurement.

National Register Recommendation

The artifact assemblage at site 5LP9240 is small and sparse. The site was not shovel tested because there were no indicators that cultural features or buried cultural deposits exist at the site. The site appears to lack the potential to provide additional information about the prehistoric occupation and use of the area and is evaluated as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

5LP9241

Site Description

Site 5LP9241 is a prehistoric artifact scatter on private land on a gently sloping low ridge in the interior of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,870 ft. (2,094 m). Local vegetation includes pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, Gambel oak, and bunch grasses, with overall good ground visibility. Soils are generally a reddish-brown eolian sandy loam. The site is in good condition, with minor erosional impacts.

The artifact assemblage consists of a fairly discrete, light-density scatter comprised of eight pieces of lithic debitage (mostly chert), one quartzite hammerstone, one chert retouched flake, and five ceramic sherds (including one large jar-shoulder sherd) covering a 58 x 25 m area (Appendix B, Map 9). One feature consisting of a concentration of at least 20 sandstone rocks was observed. The rock concentration may represent a thermal feature, or possibly the corner of a larger feature, such as a structure, that is mostly buried. One shovel probe was excavated next to Feature 1. It yielded three pieces of FCR and charcoal flecking at 5-10 cmbs and additional charcoal flecking at 25 cmbs. This site likely represents a seasonal camp or possibly a field house. Based upon the observed ceramics, the site dates to the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) occupation of the area.

National Register Recommendation

The artifact assemblage at site 5LP9241 is varied enough to indicate multiple economic activities. One partially buried cultural feature is present, and a shovel probe placed nearby indicates a high potential for intact buried cultural deposits. The presence of the thermal feature indicates that it likely contains charcoal that can provide radiocarbon dates and feature fill that can provide macrobotanical information. The information gleaned from the site could contribute to our understanding of regional chronology, site structure, technology, and prehistoric settlement patterns. The site has the potential to yield additional information about the prehistoric occupation and use of the area. Therefore, it is evaluated as eligible to the NRHP under criterion D.

5LP9242

Site Description

Site 5LP9242 is a prehistoric ceramic and lithic scatter on a gentle south-facing slope on private land in the interior of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,855 ft (2,089 m). Local soils consist of reddish-brown eolian sandy loam that support pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, Gambel oak, and mixed grasses. The site soils are substantial and at least 50-70 cm thick, as indicated in an incised wash adjoining the site. Ground visibility in the site area is generally good. The site is in good condition, with only minor erosion disturbances.

The site artifact assemblage consists of a discrete, medium-density scatter of lithic debitage, a few tools, and a single ceramic sherd encompassing a 55 x 42 m area (Appendix B, Map 10). Observed artifacts consist of 21 pieces of mostly quartzite debitage, four cores (three quartzite and one chert), one utilized quartzite flake, a heavily pecked metate fragment, and a small oblong stone with a flattened and ground and striated use facet. An analysis of the debitage indicates that the dominant lithic reduction activity at the site was biface manufacture, though some core reduction took place as well. The single ceramic is a sherd of plain gray ware with a smoothed and possibly polished interior surface.

One possible feature (Feature 1) is present and consists of a cluster of mostly broken cobbles, some of which may be fire cracked, eroding down the slope of the site. The area around the feature is generally devoid of cobbles, and its function remains unknown. One shovel probe placed in an 8 x 6 m lithic concentration adjacent to a game trail on the eastern edge of the site. The shovel test yielded a small slab metate fragment from a depth of 5-10 cmbs. The site likely functioned as a

short-term camp where local resources were procured and processed. Based upon the single observed ceramic sherd, this site is associated with the Ancestral Puebloan Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) occupation period.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9242 exhibits a moderate diversity of cultural materials, suggesting it was a locus for multiple activities. The site soils are deep, and a shovel test produced an artifact from a shallowly buried context. The site appears to have the potential to yield additional information important to the prehistory of the area. The information gleaned from the site could contribute to our understanding of regional chronology, site structure, technology, and prehistoric settlement patterns. It is evaluated as eligible to the NRHP under Criterion D.

5LP9243

Site Description

Site 5LP9243 is a small, discrete, low-density prehistoric artifact scatter on private land on a north-facing slope overlooking an intermittent drainage in the interior of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 6,790 ft. (2,070 m). Local vegetation comprises of pinyon pine, juniper, Gambel oak, sagebrush, and mixed grasses supported by reddish-brown eolian sandy loam. Ground visibility within the site area ranges from moderately good to very good. The site has been disturbed by erosion, the construction of a fence line, and vehicle traffic. An informal two-track road passes through the site, and ATV tracks were also observed. The area to the west of the site has been heavily disturbed.

The surface artifact assemblage consists of eight pieces of lithic debitage, one complete mano, one mano fragment, one broken slab metate, one tested cobble, and one small plain gray ware sherd covering a 56 x 43 m (Appendix B, Map 11). The debitage contains equal amounts of chert and quartzite and suggests an emphasis on biface manufacture. The ground stone indicates that food processing was a major site activity. One shovel probe was excavated near the ground stone tools and was negative for cultural materials. This site likely represents a short-term seasonal camp or a food processing locale. Based upon the single observed ceramic sherd, the site is dated to the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) occupational period.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9243 is small and exhibits an artifact assemblage limited in both size and diversity. The site has been disturbed by erosion and vehicle traffic. A shovel probe yielded no artifacts or evidence for potential subsurface cultural deposits. The site appears to lack the potential to provide additional information about the prehistoric use of the area and is evaluated as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

5LP9244

Site Description

Site 5LP9244 is a large multicomponent site with both prehistoric and historic components. It is on private land approximately 1 km from the western rim of Florida Mesa at elevation of 6,800 ft. (2,073 m). Local soils are eolian reddish-brown sandy loam supporting pinyon pine, juniper, Gambel oak, sagebrush, yucca, and bunch grasses. The site is in good condition, though some areas exhibit moderate to heavy disturbance from historic and modern camping, wood cutting, and road construction. The northeastern portion of the site is bounded by a fence line and, beyond that, a cleared field. No artifacts were observed within the field, but it is possible that the site originally extended into that area. It is assumed that artifacts have been collected from the site surface.

The prehistoric component of the site consists of a disperse scatter of lithic debitage, tools, cores, a small number of ceramics, and four surface features encompassing a 135 x 77 m area (Appendix B, Map 12). The artifacts are present in areas of higher and lower density, with a light background scatter throughout the site area. The lithic assemblage consists of 83 flakes. A grab sample analysis of 30 flakes shows the debitage to be roughly split between quartzite and chert flakes. Technologically, the analysis suggests an emphasis on biface manufacture, with lesser amounts of core reduction and cobble testing or decortication flakes. Observed tools include one early stage biface fragment, five cores, three flake tools, five manos or mano fragments, five metates or metate fragments, and two indeterminate pieces of ground stone. Two plain gray ceramic sherds were also observed.

Feature 1 is a vaguely quadrilateral arrangement of unshaped stones (ranging from 12 to 40 cm in diameter) that may represent a corner of a room or storage feature (Figure 4). Three ground stone fragments, including one metate fragment and one fire-cracked ground stone fragment are within and adjacent to the feature. Feature 2 is a hearth remnant in the bed of a shallowly bladed two-track road. It consists of four large cobbles with an associated charcoal stain (Figure 5). Feature 3 is a concentration of rocks, some of which appear to be fire-cracked or oxidized (Figure 6). No soil staining is visible, but the feature is interpreted as a hearth and may contain intact fill.

The historic component of the site is represented by Feature 4. The feature consists of eight broken or fragmentary rectangular bricks resembling baked adobe, some of which are partially buried. The artifacts associated with the feature were limited to two small pieces of rusted metal found next to the feature.

To aid in the evaluation of the site and features, two shovel tests and four auger probes were excavated. Shovel Test 1 was just south of Feature 1 and yielded one small plain gray ware sherd from 0-15 cmbs. Test 2 was within the lithic concentration and yielded no artifacts. Auger Probe 1 was within Feature 1 with charcoal flecking observed at 15-20 cmbs. Dense charcoal flecking was noted at 0-50 cmbs in Auger Probe 2, along the east edge of Feature 1, with the heaviest staining toward the base of the probe. Auger Probes 3 and 4 were in two separate areas of mounded soil and were negative for cultural materials.

Site 5LP9244 appears to represent a seasonal camp of habitation (possibly a field house) of the early Ancestral Puebloan period. Based upon the two surface ceramics, the site is dated to the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) occupation of the area. Site activities included lithic reduction and tool manufacture, general resource procurement, and food processing.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9244 is large and has a relatively diverse assemblage of artifacts. The site soils are deep and many areas of the site remain relatively undisturbed. Two thermal features have the potential to yield chronometric data, and a possible prehistoric structure remnant yielded charcoal fragments and a ceramic sherd from buried contexts, suggesting that it may potentially contain further datable carbonized material or artifacts. Because this site has shown the potential to contain additional information about the prehistoric use and occupation of the area, it is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D. The historic component of the site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The component is limited to adobe bricks and fragments of metal. Shovel testing indicates that there is a low potential for buried deposits associated with the historic component.

Figure 4. Site 5LP9244. Possible room or storage feature (Feature 1) on site 5LP9244, photograph looking northeast.

Figure 5. Site 5LP9244. Possible hearth (Feature 2) on site 5LP9244, photograph looking east.

Figure 6. Site 5LP9244. Remains of a hearth (Feature 3) on site 5LP9244, photograph looking north.

5LP9245

Site Description

Site 5LP9245 is a prehistoric lithic scatter on private land on the crest of a ridge on Florida Mesa, immediately west of a large gravel quarry (Appendix B, Map 13). The site is on a relatively flat ground surface with moderate to good visibility. Local vegetation includes pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, Gambel oak, and mixed grasses. The site area has been lightly impacted by erosion and wood cutting activities.

The site consists of a scatter of lithic debitage and tools. Observed artifacts include ca. 50 pieces of lithic debitage, three manos or mano fragments, one basin metate fragment, four indeterminate ground stone fragments, one retouched chert flake, and a quartzite biface base. The debitage is present in two moderately dense concentrations and as a light scatter site-wide. An analysis of the flakes in Concentration 1 (n=18) and Concentration 2 (n=17) indicates that the primary raw material is quartzite, though various cherts are also present. Tertiary flakes dominate the assemblage; secondary and a few primary flakes are present in lesser amounts. Technologically, the assemblage is dominated by biface thinning debitage, followed by core flakes and cobble testing or decortical flakes. One of the manos (m3) is well shaped and appears to be a two-handed mano of the Ancestral Puebloan type. Overall, the assemblage suggests that the site was a short-term camp of limited activity where tools were manufactured and food resources were collected and processed. A few pieces of scattered FCR suggest thermal features were once present and may still exist in buried contexts. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were observed.

Two shovel probes were excavated to test for subsurface cultural deposits, one in each lithic concentration. The first, in Concentration 2, yielded no cultural material. The second, in Concentration 1, produced two pieces of lithic debitage at 0-5 cmbs, three pieces of FCR (one a piece of ground stone) at 0-10 cmbs, and a small amount of charcoal flecking at 30 cmbs.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9245 exhibits a moderately diverse assemblage, has fairly good integrity, and has demonstrated the potential for buried cultural deposits. The site has the potential to yield information pertaining to lithic reduction strategies and technology, spatial patterning of activities (site structure studies), and possibly chronology and subsistence. It is, therefore, evaluated as eligible to the NRHP under Criterion D.

5LP8461- Webb/Hotter Lateral

Site Description

Smithsonian site number 5LP8461 has been assigned to the Webb Ranch. The Webb/Hotter Lateral is considered to be an element of the Webb Ranch and is referenced by the same number. The recorded segment of the lateral extends across private lands at an elevation of 6,900 ft. (2,103 m). The ditch crosses the project corridor east to west on the northern end of a hay field just south of the northwestern end of Florida Mesa (Appendix B, Map 14). The vegetation along the recorded segment of the ditch includes a variety of grasses and willow.

The segment of the Webb/Hotter Lateral extends westward from the intersection of the Florida Farmers Ditch and the Co-op Ditch (Charlie McCoy, Florida Farmers and Cooperative Ditch Company, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 3, 2009). The ditch follows the contour of a south-facing slope along the northern edge of the hay field. A 1,643-ft.-long segment of the ditch was recorded from its intersection with the Co-op Ditch on its eastern end to a fence on its western end. At the time of the recording, no water was flowing in the ditch because all water was diverted into the Co-op Ditch flowing south. The recorded ditch is a low volume, lateral irrigation ditch that extents farther to the west before being divided into two privately owned sublateral ditches. One of the sublaterals continues west on the Webb Ranch property, and the second carries water due south, providing water to land on the south side of County Road 220 (Philip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 24, 2009). The ditch has recently been mechanically cleaned out and is currently a 2-ft.-wide ditch with a depth of 1½ ft.

National Register Recommendation

As a whole, the Webb/Hotter Lateral (5LP8461) is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The recorded segment carries water westward from the junction of the Florida Farmers Ditch and the Co-op Ditch with a date of construction that is unknown. The purpose of the ditch is to carry water to the Webb Ranch west of the segment recorded. As it functions, the ditch is considered a contributing element of the NRHP-eligible Webb Ranch (5LP8461). The Webb Ranch was determined to be officially eligible to the NRHP in 2008 under Criterion C.

Historical Background

It is not clear when the Webb/Hotter Lateral was built, who was responsible for its construction, or when it was first used to irrigate the Webb Ranch property. The Webb family acquired the ranch in 1963 from the Reeders. Based on the history of the Webb Ranch and ranching activities on Florida Mesa, as well as the history of the Florida Farmer's Ditch, which dates to 1883, it is assumed that the Webb/Hotter lateral was in use prior to the Webb's ownership of the property and that it has played a role in the irrigation network on the ranch property.

5LP9257.1-Co-op Ditch

Site Description

Site 5LP9257.1 represents a segment of the Co-op Ditch on private land at an elevation of 6,760 ft. (2,060 m). The ditch runs roughly north to south along the western edge of a small valley south of the northwestern edge of Florida Mesa. The ditch passes along the eastern edge of a pinyon and juniper forest with a variety of grasses growing along its length and willow growing along its banks.

A 1,295-ft.-long (395-m-long) segment of the Co-op Ditch was recorded. The segment begins at County Road 220 on its southern end and continues north to a pronounced bend in the ditch (Appendix B, Map 15). The ditch is an unlined, earthen ditch with sloping walls and an overall U-shaped cross section. From bank crest to bank crest, the ditch measures just under 22 ft., and from wall to wall it has a width of just over 14 ft. From the base of the ditch to the top of the bank it is just under 4 ft. deep, but from the base of the ditch to its high-water mark the depth is just over 2 ft. The only features recorded as part of the ditch segment are a modern culvert with concrete headwalls, which serves as an access route over the ditch, and an additional modern culvert that passes under the county road.

Also recorded as part of the Co-op Ditch was a narrow, shallow linear depression that parallels the length of the recorded segment of the ditch on its west side. The linear depression appears to be another smaller ditch that is no longer in use. The abandoned ditch continues south of County Road 220 and is far more visible as it continues south of the road. On average, the abandoned ditch is 4 to 6 ft. wide and approximately 5 in. deep. It is suspected that the abandoned ditch represents an informal, secondary irrigation ditch that once carried irrigation water southwestward from the Co-op Ditch.

Historical Background

The historic research for the Co-op Ditch was completed at the La Plata County Courthouse and through water rights data obtained from the Colorado Division of Water Resources website. Additional research was carried out through an oral interview with the Co-op Ditch rider, Charlie McCoy, who also provided historic documents concerning the ditch.

The Co-op Ditch was constructed by the Florida Co-operative Ditch Company after its incorporation in October 1910. The purpose of the company's formation was to enlarge the Florida Farmers Ditch and build the Co-op Ditch south from the end of the Florida Farmers Ditch (1912 Certificate of Incorporation for the Florida Co-operative Ditch Company, on file at the Florida Cooperative Ditch Company). Based on the Colorado Division of Water Resources water rights data, a substantial increase in the volume of water passing through the Florida Farmers Ditch occurred in November 1910, suggesting that the construction of the Co-op Ditch had been completed by that time. Research performed on the GLO website suggests that ditch may have been constructed to provide water to several Desert Land Entries that were being patented south of the terminus of the Florida Farmers Ditch on the interior portion of Florida Mesa about 1910. Desert Land Entries were prompted by the Desert Land Act passed by Congress in 1877. The intent of the act was to promote the development of arid and semiarid public lands. Under the act, individuals were allowed to apply for large tracts of land with a promise to irrigate and cultivate the lands within a three year period. Once proof of irrigation was provided, the individual could purchase the land at a nominal cost per acre.

It also appears, based on the water rights data, that a second substantial increase to the water volume also occurred in June 1946. This increase might coincide with the enlargement of the Co-op Ditch as it is currently built.

National Register Recommendation

The entire Co-op ditch is significant under Criterion A for its role in providing irrigation water to lands to fulfill the stipulations of acquisition under the Desert Land Act and for its association with the settlement and irrigation of marginal lands on Florida Mesa. The ditch is also significant under Criterion C as a good example of an irrigation ditch that employed relatively simple technology in its design and construction. Although the ditch has been maintained and upgraded over the years, it still functions as it was originally designed. The segment of the Co-op Ditch recorded during the project has been maintained as a functioning portion of the ditch and continues to provide water in the manner for which it was designed and constructed. For these reasons, the entire ditch is recommended as NRHP eligible. The recorded segment retains the integrity to support the overall eligibility of the entire ditch.

5LP9257.2-Co-op Ditch

Site Description

Site 5LP9257.2 is another segment of the Co-op Ditch that runs through the Craig Ranch (5LP9307) at an elevation 6,660 ft. (2,012 m). Vegetation along the ditch consists of dense willow, grasses, and alfalfa. The occasional cottonwood tree and pinyon or juniper was also noted along the ditch.

The ditch enters the ranch at its southeast boundary and flows north along the base of a low ridge on the eastern edge of the ranch's hay fields. As it flows north, the ditch enters the livestock corrals on the eastern extent of the ranch complex before making a sharp turn west and again south, passing next to the barn. Once the ditch exits the ranch complex, it follows along the north end of the hay fields and passes under U.S. Highway 550 at the west boundary of the ranch. On the west side of the highway, the ditch parallels the highway, crossing it again as it follows the western contour of Florida Mesa. A 7,984-ft.-long (1.5 mile-long) segment of the ditch was recorded. On average, the width of the ditch is 6 ft., but it increases to a width of nearly 10 to 12 ft. in the livestock corrals. The depth varies from just over 1 foot to nearly 2½ ft. in some places. Four galvanized culverts and one headgate were also noted along the ditch. Two of the culverts were encountered at points where the ditch crosses under the highway. The remaining two culverts were on the Craig Ranch crossing under a gravel road. The single headgate was also on the Craig Ranch. The culverts and the headgate appear to be modern.

Historical Background

See Historical Background above in description of 5LP9257.1.

National Register Recommendation

The entire Co-op ditch is significant under Criterion A for its role in providing irrigation water to lands to fulfill the stipulations of acquisition under the Desert Land Act and for its association with the settlement and irrigation of marginal lands on Florida Mesa. The ditch is also significant under Criterion C as a good example of an irrigation ditch that employed relatively simple technology in its design and construction. Although the ditch has been maintained and upgraded over the years, it still functions as it was originally designed. The segment of the Co-op Ditch recorded during the project has been maintained as a functioning portion of the ditch and continues to provide water in the manner for which it was designed and constructed. For these reasons, the entire ditch is recommended as NRHP eligible. The recorded segment retains the integrity to support the overall eligibility of the entire ditch.

5LP9306-Schaeferhoff-Cowan Ranch

Site Description

Site 5LP9306 is the historic Schaeferhoff-Cowan Ranch complex on private land at an elevation of 6,930 ft (2,112 m). The complex is on a southwest-facing slope of a low hill that is along the eastern edge of a shallow drainage valley. Soils on the site are a strong brown silty loam supporting sparse ponderosa, pinyon, and juniper. Much of the property has been cleared of trees, leaving ash trees, Gambel oak, wild rose bushes, and various grasses to propagate. The complex is within a fenced-in area demarking it from the adjacent and more recent structures to the east (Appendix B, Map 16). The complex encompasses a 336 x 271 ft. area with several pieces of farm equipment in the fenced compound. Many of these are haying equipment, including tractors, balers, and a hay elevator. Other implements noted in the compound were plows, generators, wooden wagons, and various implement parts. One of the wagons is the only implement in the compound that appears to have antiquity. It is a hay wagon with a wood-plank deck and wooden-spoke wheels from a 1930s model Hudson automobile. Six standing structures (Structure 1-6) and three features were recorded as part of the ranch compound.

Structure 1

Structure 1 is near the center of the ranching complex to the east of the hay shed (Structure 2) and northeast of the house (Structure 3). It is a rectangular grain shed that measures 12 x 25½ ft. oriented north to south (Figure 7). The shed is built on 8-x-8-in. timbers, running north-south, spaced every 3½ ft; it's supported on each end by either concrete or rock footers. The floor joists for the structure consist of 2-x-8-in. boards, placed every 18 inches east to west. The floor of the structure is constructed of two layers of 1-x-11-in. boards nailed into place overlapping to eliminate any spaces between boards. The structure walls are framed with 2-x-4-inch studs nailed to the floor joists at the bottom and to the roof rafters at the top. The horizontal 1-x-10-in. board walls are attached to the interior side of the wall studs instead of the exterior side. This construction technique was applied to keep the outward force of the grain from separating the walls from the studs. The gaps between the wall boards are covered on the inside with strips of sheet metal nailed into place. The roof of the shed is gabled with a moderate pitch built of 2-x-4-in. rafters. The roof is covered with corrugated and galvanized sheet metal roofing with the ridgeline covered by a galvanized sheet metal cap. The gable ends of the roof are enclosed with 1-x-11-in. vertical boards. Two small screen-covered openings are framed into the top of the gable on each end and likely served as ventilation for shed. The shed is accessed through two doors: one is in the center of the west elevation and the second is in the center of the east elevation. Wooden stairs lead up to the entrance on the west elevation, whereas the entrance on the east elevation is at ground level.

Structure 2

Structure 2 is a hay shed with a milk barn attached on its southwestern corner (Figure 8). Together the two have a combined measurement of 51½ x 34 ft. and a height of about 30 ft. The hay shed alone measures 51½ ft. x 20 ft. and is oriented north-south. It is a large, open building that has a galvanized, corrugated sheet metal roof supported by three north-south rows of large 10-in.-diameter posts. The rows consist of six posts spaced every 10 ft. with rows along the west and east sides and one down the center of the shed. The posts along the west side are set on footers made of concrete with river cobble aggregate, the east row posts are placed on railroad ties, and the center row posts are buried. The top of the posts are anchored to one another by 2-x-10-in. boards bolted east-west on each side of the posts. The posts are further braced by two, 2-x-10-in. boards angled from each center post and bolted to the top of the corresponding east and west side posts. The shed is open on the east but is partly closed on the west by a 4-ft.-tall wall. It is closed on the north and south with walls constructed of 1-x-10-in. boards and 1-x-4-in. battens. The gable end of the south wall is open. The iron track and pulley above the gable opening indicate that hay was lifted from the ground, moved inside along the track and through the opening, and stacked on the shed's interior.

Figure 7. Structure 1 on site 5LP9306, photograph looking southeast.

Figure 8. Structure 2 hay shed and milk barn on site 5LP9306, photograph looking east.

The milk shed extends 14 ft. west and 30 ft. north of the corner of the hay shed's southwest corner. The structure walls are built in the same board-and-batten manner as those on the hay shed. It has a shed roof that slopes to the west from a height of 13 ft. to just over 7½ ft. with 2-x-4-in. rafters and is covered with galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. The main entrance into the shed is on the west end of the south elevation through a board-and-batten door that is hung on strap hinges. A similar door is also in the center of the west elevation and opens into a corral with a feed bin along its south side. A hatch-type window is also on the west elevation to the north of the door.

Structure 3

Structure 3 is south of Structure 2 and is the residence on the property (Figure 9). It is a single-story, wood-frame structure that has undergone several room additions, giving it an irregular, rectangular floor plan with an overall measurement of 36 x 62 ft. The additions to the structure were substantiated by Orion Koon, a member of the family who has lived on the property since 1916. Structural evidence, such as different siding and a visible seam on the roof, indicates that the house began as a small, roughly 24-x-24-ft. building with a gable roof oriented east-west. An addition to the structure extended it 16 ft. to the west. According to Mr. Koon, a second addition along the length of the north elevation sometime in the late 1940s included a kitchen and a bathroom, making the structure 30 x 40 ft. The roof of this addition was framed over the north slope of the main structure's gable roof, creating a saltbox-shaped roof. Sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s, a two-room, T-shaped, cinder block addition extended the structure 21 ft. to the east. The westernmost room of the addition was attached to the east elevation of the existing structure. This room has a shed roof that slopes to the east, whereas the addition's easternmost room has a gable, sheet metal-covered roof that runs north to south. This addition was a master bedroom (Orion Koon, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009).

Exposed areas of the foundation suggest that the early construction phases of the structure were not built on foundations. Instead, it appears that the floor joists of the early construction portions of the house were supported by pine post piers, elevating them above the ground surface. A concrete perimeter foundation is visible on the north elevation of the structure, suggesting that the portions of the house built in the late 1940s were built on a foundation. No foundation was discernable beneath the cinder block addition, but it is assumed that a concrete footing would have been necessary for this type of construction. The exterior of the structure is covered with wood-grain impressed, asbestos siding shingles with a staggered butt. The shingles are white and the porches are trimmed in with mustard yellow paint. The cinder block additions have no exterior treatment and are also painted white. A portion of the front of the house, exposed under the covered porch, indicates that wood clapboard siding was the original exterior treatment for the structure. The roof of the house, with the exception of the easternmost room, is covered with composite shingles. The current landowners have covered the north slope of the roof with rolled composite roofing to keep the roof from leaking.

The north elevation of the structure would have been the rear of the house (Figure 9). Two entrances to the house were on the north elevation: one on the west end and one on the east end of the elevation. The west end entrance was through a covered porch with a shed roof that slopes to the north. The door appears to be the original four-panel door with a fixed single-light window on the upper portion of the door. The door into the master bedroom is a four-panel door with the upper two panels cut into a decorative arch. The door is about 3 ft. above the ground surface, indicating that it was accessed by a staircase.

Ten windows are on the north elevation of the house. Two of the windows are side-by-side on the west end of the covered porch; one is a nine-light, fixed wood-sash window, and the other is a four-light, fixed wood-sash window. Four of the windows make up a three-sided bay window east of the covered porch. The windows are all two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Another window is in the center of the elevation and is a recent aluminum, horizontal sliding window with frosted glass. Two windows are side-by-side on the east end of the elevation; both are two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The remaining window on the elevation is a three-light, fixed wood-sash window.

Figure 9. Residence (Structure 3) on site 5LP9306, photograph looking southeast at the north elevation.

The west elevation of the house has six windows, including two windows on the covered porch. The porch windows are side by side, nine-light fixed wood-sash windows. Two other windows are two-over-two, double-hung wood-sash windows framed side-by-side on the north end of the elevation. The remaining two windows are both six-light, fixed wood-sash windows with one in the center of the elevation and the other at the southern end of the elevation.

The south elevation of the structure represents the front of the house, which faces the county road (Figure 10). There are two entrances on this elevation: one in the center of the elevation and the other at the west end of the elevation. The main entrance to the house is in the center of the elevation and through a 6-x-24-ft. enclosed and covered porch. The porch is entered through a handmade glass door with four large, fixed panels of glass. The door into the house is likely the original door and is a multilight door with 15 glass panels. The entrance on the west end of the elevation is through the main entrance. The door is covered by a simple screen door and opens onto a concrete stoop. A large bay window is to the east of the entrance and consists of five, six-light, fixed wood-sash windows, three in the front and one on each side of the bay. Ten of the windows enclose the covered porch; the remaining two windows are on each side of the main entrance into the house. The latter two windows are both two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Ten windows enclose the porch: eight are along the front (south wall) and two are on the east wall. All of these windows, except two windows on each side of the porch entrance, are two-light, fixed wood-sash windows that are arched at the top. The windows on each side of the porch entrance are large four-light, fixed wood-sash windows that reach the height of the doorway.

The east elevation of the house is mostly covered with an overgrowth of Gambel oak and wild rose bushes. The elevation is broken into two sections because of the construction of a T-shaped addition. Three windows are on this elevation, two of them in a small cove created by two wall junctions. These windows are placed side-by-side and are both nine-light, fixed wood-sash windows. The third window is in the center of the elevation and is a six-light, fixed wood-sash window.

Figure 10. Residence (Structure 3) on site 5LP9306, photograph looking northeast at south elevation.

Structure 4

Structure 4 is a covered carport about 20 ft. west of the house (Structure 3). The structure measures 12 x 12 ft. and is a simple framed structure on a concrete slab. It is enclosed on the north and south sides by galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. It has a flat roof that is also covered with corrugated sheet metal.

Structure 5

Structure 5 is an outbuilding at the rear of the house, about 30 ft. north of the residence. It is a wood-frame structure with a north-sloping shed roof that is covered with galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. The structure was built directly on the ground and has a dirt floor. Its exterior was originally constructed of 1-x-11-in. vertical boards but has been renovated and covered with wood-grain impressed, asbestos siding shingles with a staggered butt. The entrance into the structure is on the southwest corner, through a vertical board door that is hung on iron strap hinges. A large framed window is on the east end of the south elevation. The window is covered with woven wire fencing and chicken wire. The structure was originally a coal shed, but was later converted into a chicken coop (Orion Koon, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009).

Structure 6

Structure 6 is a small wood-frame building 2 ft. east of Structure 5. The structure is a single-story building that measures 7 x 7 ft. with a low, pyramidal hip roof. Very little of the roof cover remains, but it appears that it was once composition shingle. The structure's exterior is covered with 1-x-6-in. clapboard siding. The entrance for the building is in the center of the west elevation through a four-panel pine door with a fixed single-light window. Three windows are present on the north, south, and east elevations. The windows are all two-light, fixed wood-sash windows.

No foundation is discernable, indicating that the floor joists were placed on the ground surface or were placed on rocks. The floor joists are 2-x-6-in. boards laid on edge north-south with the floor constructed of two layers of 1-x-6-in. boards laid on diagonal. The interior walls and ceiling

are covered with thin, painted, paper wall board. A shelf is present along the width of the north wall just below the window. According to Mr. Koon, the building once functioned as a room where dairy cream was separated from the milk (Orion Koon, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009)

Features 1-3

Three features were also recorded as part of the site, including a privy location (Feature 1), a pump house (Feature 2), and a wooden planter (Feature 3). Feature 1 was identified by Mr. Koon as the location of the outhouse prior to addition of the bathroom in the house. The feature is visible as a slight, irregular depression immediately north of the carport (Structure 4).

Feature 2 is 30 ft. north of the north elevation of the house toward the east end of the elevation. The feature is a 6-x-5½-ft., subterranean, concrete-enclosed pump house with a slightly gabled roof covered with rolled composition roofing. The pump house contains a well and pump that once provided domestic water to the house.

Feature 3 is near the backyard fence, north of Structure 5. It is a 4-x-4-ft. wood planter constructed to resemble a well house with a gabled roof. The lower part of the planter is built of horizontal 1-x-8-in. boards nailed to 4-x-4-in. corner post. The upper portion is built with 1-x-6-in. tongue-and-groove with shiplap joints.

Historical Background

The Schaferhoff-Cowan ranch complex recorded as site 5LP9306 is on land originally acquired as a 160-acre Homestead Entry Patent by Henry R. Skinner on March 31, 1891 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 23, Page 389). The property was owned by Skinner for nearly three years before he sold it to Samuel Rugh on February 17, 1894 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 72, Page 302). The property did not remain in the ownership of Rugh for long, as he sold it just one month later to Samuel Hood on March 17, 1894 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 72, Page 301). Samuel Rugh was known as a real estate dealer in the Durango area and may have purchased the property as a land agent for Samuel Hood (*Durango Democrat,* November 10, 1906 and March 24, 1906). Hood owned the property for over five years before selling it to William R. Mason on November 11, 1899 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 89, Page 141). The acreage again changed hands when it was sold by Mason to Albert E. Reece on August 22, 1903 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 101 Page 73). Reece retained the property for nearly three years and than sold it to Martha Davis on April 14, 1906 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 105, Page 536). Davis held the property for over four years and sold it to Laura Willden on December 1, 1910, but Willden sold the property back to Davis just three years later on December 3, 1913 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 130, Page 125 and Book 136, Page 534). Davis continued to own the property until it is sold to Joseph Schaeferhoff on May 20, 1916. Although Davis sold the majority of the property, she continued to retain a 5-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the 160-acre land holding (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 139, Page 444). The 5-acre parcel was quitclaim deeded by Davis to Kasper Schaeferhoff on June 26, 1920 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 143, Page 524). The parcel returned as part of the original 160-acre land holding when Kasper Schaeferhoff sold it to Joseph Schaeferhoff on September 14, 1933 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 208, Page 482). The property remained in the Schaeferhoff family until it was sold by Clara and Joseph Schaeferhoff to Clara's son, George Cowan, and his wife, Grace, on April 29, 1964 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 474, Page 465). The property is currently owned by Grace Cowan.

According to the La Plata County Assessor's records, the house (Structure 3) was constructed in 1900. The assessor's 1900 construction date is likely attributed to the core structure of the residence as described above, but the records do not address the subsequent additions and renovations to the house. The 1900 construction date indicates that the residence may have been built by William Mason after he obtained the property in 1899. It is speculated that the house continued to be occupied by the later owners of the property. According to Peggy Cooley, the daughter of George and Grace Cowan, Joseph and Clara Schaeferhoff were responsible for the additions to the house. The additions were completed primarily in the 1940s and 1950s (Peggy Cooley, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 4, 2009).

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9306 is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The Shaferhoff/Cowan Ranch is significant under Criterion A for its association with ranching on Florida Mesa and under Criterion C for its examples of ranching architecture. In particular, the hay barn/milk shed is a good example of a barn type that appears to be common in this region of the state, and the granary is also a good example of a ranch-related outbuilding.

Because the complex has had a long and continuous use as a ranching operation, it is expected that the integrity of potential archaeological deposits within the ranch complex have been compromised. Sites with long periods of use frequently have mixed archaeological deposits that are unable to provide data with sufficient clarity to provide information important to our understanding of history. It is for this reason that the site is also not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

5LP9307-Craig Ranch

Site Description

Site 5LP9307 is the historic Craig Ranch complex on private land at an elevation of 6,660 ft. (2,030 m). The site is southwest of Highway 550 on a level to slightly sloping area on the western edge of Florida Mesa (Appendix B, Map 17). The site soils are a reddish brown silty loam supporting stands of pinyon and juniper mainly along the rim of the mesa. Much of the complex grounds have been cleared, leaving sparse trees along the western edge of the complex and the occasional tree that is part of the ornamental landscaping. The ranching complex consists of several buildings, of which only three of the structures (Structure 1-3) are know to meet the 50-year age criterion. Two additional structures (Structures 4 and 5) are possibly 50 years old.

Structure 1

Structure 1 is a large, rectangular, two-story barn with a sheet metal, gambrel roof near the center of the complex (Figure 11 and Figure 12). The gambrel roof gives the barn a Dutch Colonial appearance. It measures 120 x 36 ft. and is oriented north to south. The barn is in good condition, structurally sound, and is currently in use as a livestock barn with several corrals surrounding it on the south and east sides. Pieces of farm equipment and irrigation pipe have been stored along the west side of the barn in an area that is overgrown with vegetation.

The structure is built on a concrete perimeter foundation with poured walls that are over 4 ft. tall. The concrete foundation is 1 ft. thick and has golf ball-size, river cobble aggregate used in its construction. The concrete was formed using 10-in.-wide boards, as evidenced by the board impressions on the surface of the foundation. The walls of the barn are framed with 2-x-6-in. boards spaced every 2 ft. The exteriors of the east and west elevations are covered with 1-x-7-in. tongue-and-groove boards. The gable ends of the barn on the north and south elevations are also covered with the same tongue-and-groove boards, though the lower 10 ft. of these walls are covered with 1-x-12-in. boards. The exterior is painted red. The roof is high and houses the second story. The roof

Figure 11. Photograph showing the barn (Structure 1) on site 5LP9307, photograph looking south showing north elevation of the barn.

Figure 12. Photograph showing the barn (Structure 1) on site 5LP9307, photograph looking southwest at east elevation of the barn.

framework is composed of common rafters held at the ridge with a tie beam instead of a ridge board. A purlin is on each side of the ridge, creating the dual-pitch, with the lower portion of the roof being nearly vertical. The rafters are mitered at the apex of the pitch with a tie beam nailed to the rafters on each side of the purlins. The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal that has been painted silver. The current landowner, Joel Craig, remembers painting the roof with his father Perry Craig, using a fiberglass-base paint (Joel Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009). Two dormers are on each slope of the roof and begin at the hip of the lower gable. The dormers have two side-by-side, four-light, fixed wood-sash windows covered with a shed roof. Directly above the dormers on the ridge of the roof are two wooden cupolas. The cupolas have wood vents and gable roofs and provide ventilation for the second story of the barn. A gable door hood has also been constructed on the northern end of the roof and extends outward an additional 3 to 4 ft. from the end of the ridge of the roof.

The base level of the barn has two main entrances through great doors on the north and south elevations. Both of the great door openings are covered with double wooden sliding doors mounted on overhead iron tracks. In addition, two doorway entrances access the lower level on each side of the great door on the south elevation. Both doors are constructed of wood planks and were used to access interior feed bins. The upper level, or hay loft, of the barn also has several openings. The largest of these is a ramped entrance to the loft. This is a large 12-x-12-ft. opening in the center of the west elevation that is covered by a shed roof. The opening was large enough to allow for equipment to off-load hay into the loft. Two wooden plank doors are hung on each side of the entrance on five heavy, iron strap hinges. The earthen ramp leading up to the entrance is 15 ft. wide held by concrete retaining wall along its length. The ramp stops within about 10 ft. of the entrance, where a 2-x-11-in. plank and post bridge is constructed between the end of the ramp and the threshold of the entrance. A second entrance of the same size and construction is on the east elevation of the barn. According to Mr. Craig, a second ramp was intended to be part of the original construction but was never completed up to the opening (Joel Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009).

The remaining openings include two on the north elevation and two on the south elevation. The openings on the north elevation consist of a large hay door just below the gable and a smaller opening just below it. The small opening is covered with a wood-plank cover hung on iron strap hinges. An iron track hangs at the apex of the hay door, indicating that hay was hoisted from the ground and through the door to be stacked in the loft. Both of the openings on the south elevation are covered with wood-plank covers hung on iron strap hinges.

Thirty-five windows exist on the barn in addition to the dormer windows. Thirty-four of these are in a row just above the structure's foundation along the lengths of the west and east elevations. Nine of the windows are north of the loft openings and eight are south of the openings. All are four-light, fixed wood-sash windows. The remaining window is just below the gable on the south elevation and is a side-by-side, single-light, fixed wood-sash window.

Structure 2

Structure 2 was constructed in 1951 (Carolyn Shryock, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 11, 2009). It is nearly 150 ft. west of the barn and consists of an elongated, rectangular shed. The building is a wood-frame structure that is oriented north to south and measures 56 x 15½ ft. It is open along the east side and has a saltbox, corrugated sheet metal roof. Three 6-x-6-in. vertical timbers are placed along the opening to support the east slope of the roof. The roof rafters are 2-x-6-in. boards with the ridgeboard supported by three 6-x-6-in. vertical posts, each with two 2-x-6-in. board angle braces. The exterior of the building is covered with corrugated sheet metal over 1-x-6-in. horizontal wall boards. The shed has a dirt floor and is currently being used to house equipment and a horse-drawn wagon. A work bench is along the west half of the south wall with various pieces and parts hanging from nails along the length of the wall.

Structure 3

A circular grain silo (Structure 3) is immediately north of the barn and is believed to be contemporaneous with it. The silo measures 16 ft. in diameter with 7-in.-thick walls that stand 10 ft high. The walls are constructed of concrete with golf ball-size pebble aggregate. The walls appear to have been poured in three separate sections with each section overlapping the prior. Judging from impressions visible on the exterior, the walls were formed with corrugated sheet metal. The door for the silo is on its east side. The roof is no longer present and, the silo is currently being used as a trash incinerator.

Structure 4

A rectangular milk shed (Structure 4) is located directly north of the barn. Its date of construction is unknown; however based on its design, use of materials, and relationship to the barn, it appears to be over 50 years old. The building has a concrete foundation, cinderblock walls, and features fixed six-light windows with concrete sills. The entrance on the east elevation consists of double solid wood doors. The structure is topped with a low-pitched gable roof. The gable ends are clad in vertical wood siding.

Structure 5

A stucco-clad ranch style residence is located near the main driveway to the Craig property. A full field survey of this structure was not completed but it appears to date to the mid-1950s or early 1960s.

In addition to the ranch complex recorded at the Craig Limousin Ranch, another building complex located north of the Craig Limousin Ranch was also recorded as part of the Craig Ranch. The complex includes two structures (Structures 6 and 7) and a pump house or covered cistern (Feature 4). It is on the western edge of Florida Mesa at an elevation of 8,620 ft. (2,610 m).

Structure 6

Structure 6 is a saddle shed constructed prior to 1953 (Philip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 19, 2009). The shed is on the western portion of a fenced enclosure representing a small residential complex north of the Craig Ranch Complex. The structure measures 16 x 24 ft. and is oriented east-west. It is a wood-framed building constructed on a concrete perimeter foundation. The exterior walls of the structure are built in a board-and-batten manner with 1-x-12-in. boards and 1-x-4-in. board batten (Figure 13). The exterior is painted brown with white trim on the corners and doors of the building. It has a gable roof with 2-x-6-in. rafter covered with galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. There are two entrances into the structure: one in the center of the south elevation, and one at the south end of the east elevation. The former entrance is covered with a plywood door hung on iron strap hinges and decoratively trimmed with white, 1-x-4-in. boards. The latter is covered with a door made from 2-x-6-in. boards also decoratively trimmed with 1-x-4-in. boards painted white. The door is hung on cast-iron butt hinges.

The structure has four window openings: two on the south elevation, one on the east elevation, and one on the west elevation. One of the window openings on the south elevation is to the west of the door, and the other is at the east end of the elevation near the southeast corner of the structure. The window openings on the east and west elevations are both on the gabled ends of the structure.

Figure 13. Photograph showing the saddle shed (Structure 4) on site 5LP9307, photograph looking north at south elevation.

Structure 7

Structure 7 is a post and beam barn 92 ft. northeast of the saddle shed (Structure 4). The barn measures 48 x 45 ft. and is oriented north-south. It is a single-story barn with a front gable roof topping low walls on the east and west. The exterior of the barn is covered with channeled aluminum, sheet-metal siding (Figure 14). The roof is covered with galvanized, corrugated sheet-metal. The barn was originally built in the early 1930s and was covered with wood board-and-batten, but was remodeled with aluminum siding and a sheet-metal roof added in the late 1980s (Philip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 17, 2009). The post and beam framework remains from the original construction. The framework consists of six, north-south rows of 8- to 10-in.-diameter logs supporting 2-x-8-in. boards upholding 2-x-8-in. common rafters. The main entrance to the barn is on the south elevation through a large great door that is now covered by a metal gate and not a door. The second entrance is on the north elevation, which no longer has walls and is open along the entire elevation. This entrance opens into a corral enclosed with 1½-in.-diameter iron pipe. Three openings are also present on the west elevation of the building. All three openings access small rectangular, iron pipe corrals that extend to the west of the structure. The barn is currently being used as a storage facility by the landowner.

Feature 1

Feature 1 is a small pump house or covered cistern 82 ft. south of the barn (Structure 7). The feature measures 4½ x 4 ft. and is oriented north-south. It is built on a concrete perimeter foundation with cinder block walls and a gabled roof covered with corrugated sheet metal.

In addition to the standing structures and feature, a residential structure was also once present at the complex. The only remains of the structure consist of a small, depressed area with ornamental shrubbery and a concrete sidewalk on its west edge. According to the landowner, the house was constructed sometime in the early 1930s, but was demolished within the last five years because it was in danger of collapse (Philip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 17, 2009).

Figure 14. Photograph showing barn (Structure 5) on site 5LP9307, photograph looking northwest.

Historical Background

The historic parcel boundary where the structures associated with the Craig Ranch (Structures 1-3) were recorded was originally acquired as a 120-acre Cash Entry Patent by John Austin on May 2, 1910. The sale was not recorded in the county records until 1913 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 116, Page 387). Austin sold the property on December 17, 1913 to Walter E. Blankership (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 136, Page 524). Blankership held the property for just over seven years before he sold it to Jay Thompson on February 28, 1920 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 165, Page 319). The property became part of the Craig land holdings when it was sold by Thompson to Philip H. Craig on December 23, 1929 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 200, Page 560). According to the General Land Office website, Craig had already patented 160 acres of land to the south through a Cash Entry on May 26, 1914. Philip Craig died on August 12, 1931. Following Philip Craig's death, the property was divided between his wife, Anna, and their five children: Dorothy, Carolyn, William, Perry, and Roy. Anna received one-half of the interest in the property and the children each received one-tenth interest. According to the current owner of the property, Joel Craig, the barn construction began shortly after his grandfather, Philip Craig, bought the property in 1929 (Joel Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009). However, the La Plata County assessor records indicate that it was built in 1934. The barn was built as part of a dairy business started by Philip Craig, which reverted to Anna and their children after his death (Joel Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 1, 2009). According to Anna's daughter, Carolyn Shryock, her mother continued to run the dairy with her children and eventually opened the Hollywood Creamery in Durango as a place to sell her dairy products (Carolyn Shryock, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 11, 2009). The Hollywood Dairy was listed in the 1932-1934 Durango business directory as operating at 1153 Main Street (Arthur Baker 1932). Anna moved to Durango around 1946 after her son, Perry Craig, married. The newly married couple was left to run the dairy (Carolyn Shryock, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, August 11, 2009). The Hollywood Creamery continued to be listed in the Durango business directory through 1949, but it is not listed in the 1954 addition of the directory. Perry Craig continued to run the dairy up until his death in 1994, leaving the property to his wife, Joyce Craig. The property continues to remain in the Craig family and is currently a working ranch run by Perry and Joyce's son, Joel.

According to the GLO website, the additional buildings recorded within the boundaries of the Craig property where Structures 4 and 5 (saddle shed and barn) are located was originally acquired as a 159.1-acre Homestead Entry by William H. Craig on October 8, 1908. The property remained in the Craig family and was passed onto William's son, Philip Craig. As mentioned above, Philip Craig died on August 12, 1931 and the interest in the property was divided between his wife, Anna, and their five children: Dorothy, Carolyn, William, Perry, and Roy. After Philip's death, the property was passed onto his son, William, and is currently owned by Philip Craig, the son of William, grandson of Philip, and great-grandson of William Craig, the original homesteader on the property.

National Register Recommendation

Structures 1-5 at the Craig Ranch retain the integrity to convey the property's significance under Criteria A and C. The barn (Structure 1) is in good structural condition and has remained largely unmodified. It still conveys its original function. It has been part of the ranching landscape of Florida Mesa since it was built in the late 1920s or early 1930s and is highly visible from U.S. Highway 550, making it an important and recognizable symbol of past ranching activities on the mesa. Although the silo (Structure 3) has been modified, it still has the integrity to convey the significance of the property under Criteria A and C. The loafing shed (Structure 2), although, constructed after the period of significance of the other two structures, is still a good example of ranching architecture. The structural integrity of the shed is considered good with no visible modifications made to the structure. Considering its integrity and function, the shed also conveys the significance of the property under Criteria A and C. The cinderblock milk shed (Structure 4) and the ranch style residence (Structure 5) appear to be over 50 years old and are being treated as contributing elements to the overall ranch. The saddle shed (Structure 6) and barn (Structure 7) also retains sufficient integrity to convey the significance of the Craig Ranch. The landscape features, including the open agricultural fields, also retain integrity and convey the property's significance as a working ranch.

ISOLATED FINDS

Ten isolated finds were recorded during the Class III inventory for the East Alternative connection alignments. All isolated finds identified were of unknown prehistoric cultural affiliation and are presented in Table 6. Isolated finds are considered insignificant cultural resources; these resources are all recommended as not eligible for NRHP nomination and require no further work. No isolated finds were collected during the current survey project.

Table 6. Isolated Finds recorded during Class III inventory.

Site Number	IF Number	Description
5LP9246	IF 10	Fragment of a sandstone slab metate unifacially ground and pecked.
5LP9247	IF 7	One brown quartzite multidirectional core, one chalcedony tertiary core reduction flake.
5LP9248	IF 8	One large bifacial quartzite core.
5LP9249	IF 9	One broken tertiary quartzite flake.
5LP9250	IF 5	One chert tertiary biface thinning flake.
5LP9251	IF 4	Ten reddish quartzite tertiary flakes, likely the same flaking episode, and one gray chert tertiary flake.
5LP9252	IF 3	One small tertiary quartzite flake.
5LP9253	IF 2	One bifacially ground sandstone metate fragment, one multi-directional chert core, one small chert biface thinning or pressure flake.
5LP9254	IF 1	One siltstone / mudstone tested cobble or core, one large quartzite flake, with scraping use ware on one edge, and two quartzite primary flakes.
5LP9255	IF 6	One unshaped bifacially pecked and ground sandstone one-handed mano fragment (60-70% complete).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The objectives of the cultural resource inventory were to locate all visible prehistoric and historic properties in the project area and evaluate their NRHP eligibility. These objectives have been achieved. The project inventory resulted in the examination of 2.7 miles (137 acres) of project corridor along the proposed U.S. Highway 550 East Alternative connection alignment. The areas inventoried as part of the project are shown in Figure 2.

Twenty-one sites and 10 isolated finds were recorded. Table 7 summarizes site type and NRHP eligibility. Fifteen sites were documented for the first time by Alpine, and the remaining six were previously recorded sites. The sites include seven historic sites, 12 prehistoric sites, and two multicomponent prehistoric and historic sites. The historic sites and site components date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These include one historic homestead, three irrigation ditches, two ranch complexes, and three historic artifact scatters. The Webb/Hotter Lateral (5LP8461) is a contributing element of a NRHP-eligible site and, through its association, is considered eligible. The entire Co-op Ditch is recommended eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The two portions of the Co-op Ditch recorded for the project (5LP9257.1 and 5LP9257.2) are considered to be supporting segments for the significance of this linear site. The homestead site (5LP9238) is not considered eligible to the NRHP. Additionally, the historic components of the multicomponent sites (5LP9244 and 5LP6674) are also not considered eligible, nor is the historic artifact scatter (5LP6668). Both of the historic ranch complexes (5LP9306 and 5LP9307) are recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

The 14 prehistoric sites or site components consist of one open camp, 10 artifact scatters, and three lithic scatters. Nine of the prehistoric sites or site components are attributed to the Ancestral Puebloan Basketmaker III/Pueblo I periods, one is ascribed to the Pueblo II period, one is Ancestral Puebloan of unknown age, and three are of unknown age and cultural affiliation. Two of the sites (5LP6665 and 5LP6673) have been officially determined to be eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Three of the sites (5LP6666, 5LP6671, and 5LP6674) have been determined to be officially not eligible, but following re-evaluation, site 5LP6671 is now recommended as NRHP eligible. Of the newly recorded prehistoric sites, five (5LP9236, 5LP9241, 5LP9242, 5LP9244, and 5LP9245) are evaluated as NRHP eligible. The remaining four sites (5LP9237, 5LP9239, 5LP9240, and 5LP9243) are not recommended eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

The literature search performed prior to the fieldwork on the East Alternative indicated that several prehistoric sites were identified during the 2002 inventory of U.S. Highway 550 on Florida Mesa (URS Corporation 2002). Although the sites were documented along the western edge of the mesa, it was expected that a moderate to large number of previously unrecorded prehistoric sites would be encountered on the interior of the mesa as well. Previously recorded prehistoric site types were primarily attributed to the Ancestral Puebloan occupation of the Four Corners area and manifested as artifact scatters and above-ground habitation loci. Nine additional prehistoric sites resulted from the inventory and were in keeping with the predicted totals. Six of the nine sites were attributed to the Ancestral Puebloan cultural affiliation, four to the Basketmaker/Pueblo I period, and one to the Pueblo II period.

The documented use of the Florida Mesa landscape for ranching and agriculture during the late ninetieth and early twentieth centuries indicated that historic artifact scatters and possibly historic homestead sites, ditches, and ranch complexes would also be encountered during the project inventory.

Because the project USGS topographic map dated to 1968, two named irrigation ditches were expected to be encountered. Also, the 1883 GLO map examined prior to the field work indicated that a historic road was also likely in the project area. The ditches were encountered and recorded as both met the 50-year age criterion, but the road depicted on the GLO map was not identified.

Table 7. Summary of Site Type and NRHP Eligibility Recommendations for Sites Identified in the Project Area.

Site Number	Temporary Site Number	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Recommendation
5LP6665	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6666	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6668	—	Historic Artifact Scatter	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6671	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP6673	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6674	—	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/Historic Artifact	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I/Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP9236	AAC-1062	Open Camp	Pueblo II	Recommended Eligible
5LP9237	AAC-4002	Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9238	AAC-1061	Historic Homestead	Historic	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9239	AAC-1063	Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9240	AAC-558	Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9241	AAC-557	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9242	AAC-556	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9243	AAC-4001	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9244	AAC-4000	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/Historic Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I/Historic	Prehistoric Recommended Eligible/Historic Not Eligible
5LP9245	AAC-500	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Ancestral Puebloan	Recommended Eligible
5LP8461	—	Webb/Hotter Lateral	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting element of a NRHP-eligible site
5LP9257.1	—	Irrigation Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting segment
5LP9257.2	—	Irrigation Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting segment
5LP9306	AAC-315	Schaeferhoff/Cowan Ranch Complex	Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9307	AAC-314	Craig Ranch Complex	Historic	Recommended Eligible

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CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, SITE DOCUMENTATION AND TEST EXCAVATIONS FOR THE CDOT U.S. HIGHWAYS 160/550 CONNECTION: REVISED F MODIFIED AND REVISED G MODIFIED ALTERNATIVES, LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO

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ABSTRACT

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) proposes to realign a short segment of U.S. Highway 550 away from its present intersection with US Highway 160 south of Durango in La Plata County, Colorado. A number of alternative alignments are under consideration, of which three have been subjected to intensive cultural resources survey and/or site documentation by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine). These alternatives are referred to as the east, Revised F Modified, and Revised G Modified Alternatives. Inventory of the East Alternative was completed in 2009 (Pfertsh 2009). A number of archaeological sites within and near the Revised G Modified Alternative were identified in 2008 by a consultant under contract to the private landowner (Loebig 2008).

The following report presents the inventory results for the purposed Revised F Modified Alternative, as well as the documentation, evaluation and/or re-evaulation of seven sites within the Revised G Modified Alternative Area of Potential Effects (APE). Test excavations to determine National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility were also conducted at previously documented site 5LP6666, located within the APE of the East Alternative. All tasks were completed by Alpine under subcontracting agreement with Centennial Archaeology, Inc., the primary CDOT consultant.

Inventory of the Revised F Modified Alternative resulted in the examination a corridor encompassing 1.75 linear miles (83.4 acres), all of which was located on private land. As a result, nine sites and three isolated finds were identified and recorded. One historic site is related directly to the Webb Ranch, which was documented by CDOT in 2007 and determined officially eligible for the NRHP; another site is part of the Craig Ranch, which was documented by Alpine in 2009 and subsequently also determined officially NRHP eligible. The seven remaining sites within the Revised F Modified Alternative are recommended NRHP eligible, whereas the three isolates are not eligible. Six sites along the Revised G Modified Alternative previously identified by the landowner's consultant were relocated and formally recorded. One locality in proximity to the Revised G Modified alignment that was documented and assessed for eligibility some years before was re-evaluated (5LP2223); that site was determined officially eligible for the NRHP in 2000, an assessment with which Alpine concurs. Of the six others, four are recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP and two are evaluated as not eligible. Testing completed at 5LP6666 revealed that the site does not contain substantial intact buried deposits and therefore is recommended not eligible.

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COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Cultural Resource Survey Management Information Form

I. PROJECT SIZE

Total federal acres in project		Total federal acres surveyed	
Total state acres in project		Total state acres surveyed	
Total private acres in project	83.4	Total private acres surveyed	83.4
Total other acres in project		Total other acres surveyed	

II. PROJECT LOCATION

County: La Plata

USGS Quad Map: Loma Linda

Principal Meridian: New Mexico

Township	34N	Range	9W	Section	8U		1/4		1/4	NE	1/4	NE	1/4
Township	34N	Range	9W	Section	5U		1/4		1/4	SE	1/4	SE	1/4
Township	34N	Range	9W	Section	10		1/4		1/4	SW	1/4	SE	1/4
Township	34N	Range	9W	Section	10		1/4		1/4	SE	1/4	SE	1/4
Township	34N	Range	9W	Section	11		1/4		1/4	SW	1/4	SW	1/4
Township	34N	Range	9W	Section	11		1/4		1/4	SE	1/4	SW	1/4

III. SITES

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type				Eligibility				Management Recommendations						
	Prehistoric	Historic	Paleontological	Unknown	Eligible	Not Eligible	Need Data	Contributes to a District	No Further Work	Preserve / Avoid	Monitor	Test	Excavate	Archival Research	Other
5LP2223	X				X					X					
5LP6666	X					X			X						
5LP8461		X			X					X					
5LP9307		X			X					X					
5LP9308	X				X					X					
5LP9309	X		X		X(P)	X(H)				X					
5LP9310		X			X					X					
5LP9581	X				X					X					
5LP9582	X				X					X					
5LP9583	X				X					X					
5LP9584	X	X			X					X					
5LP9585	X					X			X						
5LP9586	X					X			X						
5LP9587	X				X					X					
5LP9588	X				X					X					
5LP9589	X				X					X					
5LP9590	X				X					X					

(P) prehistoric component

(H) historic component

IV. ISOLATED FINDS

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type			
	Prehistoric	Historic	Paleontological	Unknown
5LP9311	X			
5LP9312	X			

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type			
	Prehistoric	Historic	Paleontological	Unknown
5LP9313	X			

Report Reference:

Pfertsh, Jack E.

2010 *Cultural Resource Inventory, Site Documentation and Test Excavations for The CDOT U.S. Highways 160/550 Connection: F Modified and Revised G Modified Alternatives, La Plata County, Colorado.* Prepared by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver.

INTRODUCTION

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) proposes to realign the segment of U.S. Highway 550 as it approaches its present intersection with U.S. Highway 160 south of Durango in La Plata County, Colorado. The realignment will involve the construction of a new segment of highway connecting Highway 550 to Highway 160. The project will involve both federal funds and federal oversight. This level of involvement requires the implementation of various cultural resource laws. Federal mandates, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended), the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, and procedures enacted by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR 800), require cultural resource inventory in areas where ground-disturbing projects are possible. Several alternative alignments are under consideration for the project and these laws are intended to ensure the identification and documentation of, as well as assessment of adverse effects to, historic properties eligible for listing on the NRHP. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Alpine), under a subcontracting agreement with Centennial Archaeology, Inc., on behalf of CDOT, conducted an intensive Class III cultural resource inventory of an alternative alignment defined as the Revised F Modified Alternative. In addition to the inventory, seven archaeological sites identified in 2008 by a consultant under contract to a private landowner were formally documented by Alpine along an alignment alternative known as Revised G Modified (Figure 2). The project tasks were also expanded to include testing on prehistoric site 5LP6666. The site was originally recorded in 2002 by URS (URS Corporation 2002) and reevaluated by Alpine during the 2009 inventory of the East Alternative alignment (Pfertsh 2009). Both recordings of the site recommended it as not eligible. Review by the State Historic Preservation Officer determined that additional testing was required.

The inventory for Revised F Modified Alternative and the additional site recordings were conducted in three field sessions: from July 28 to 31, 2009, June 8 to 15, 2010, and from June 22 to 27, 2010. As illustrated on Figure 2, the northern-most portion of the Revised F Modified and East Alternatives share the same alignment; that area was surveyed between March 17 and April 16, 2009, and was, therefore, not included during the 2010 field sessions. Results obtained from survey of that common corridor appear in the report completed for the East Alternative (Pfertsh 2009).

The 2009/2010 fieldwork was completed by Field Director Jack E. Pfertsh, assisted by Irada Rodriguez, Noëlle Pawlowski and Chris Greubel. Alan D. Reed served as Principal Investigator. Kimberly Redman was the Project Administrator. Barb Lockwood performed the GIS work for the project. Terri Voglein prepared site forms. The inventory for the Revised F Modified Alternative included 1.75 miles that encompassed 83.4 acres, all of which is on private land. Of the seven additionally recorded sites, six were on private land and one encompassed private, state, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), San Juan Public Lands. The work was conducted under terms of Alpine's Colorado BLM Permit No. C-46920 and State of Colorado Permit No. 2010-43 (issued on February 9, 2010). Field notes and photographic materials from the project are on file at Alpine's office in Montrose, Colorado. No artifacts were collected during the project.

LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project Area of Potential Effect (APE) is in La Plata County, approximately 4.5 miles southeast of Durango, Colorado (Figure 1) and can be found on the Loma Linda USGS 7.5 minute topographic map (Figure 2). The survey area is bounded on the north by U.S. Highway 160 and on the west by the current alignment of U.S. Highway 550. County Road 220 bisects the project area near the south end of the alternative alignment. With the exception of portions of the survey corridor within current CDOT road rights-of-way, the project area is entirely on privately owned lands. The northern portion of the project area is within the boundaries of the historic Webb Ranch. The southern portion of the project area is on private in-holdings within the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. In total, the project entailed the inventory of 1.75 linear miles of survey corridor, encompassing 83.4 acres.

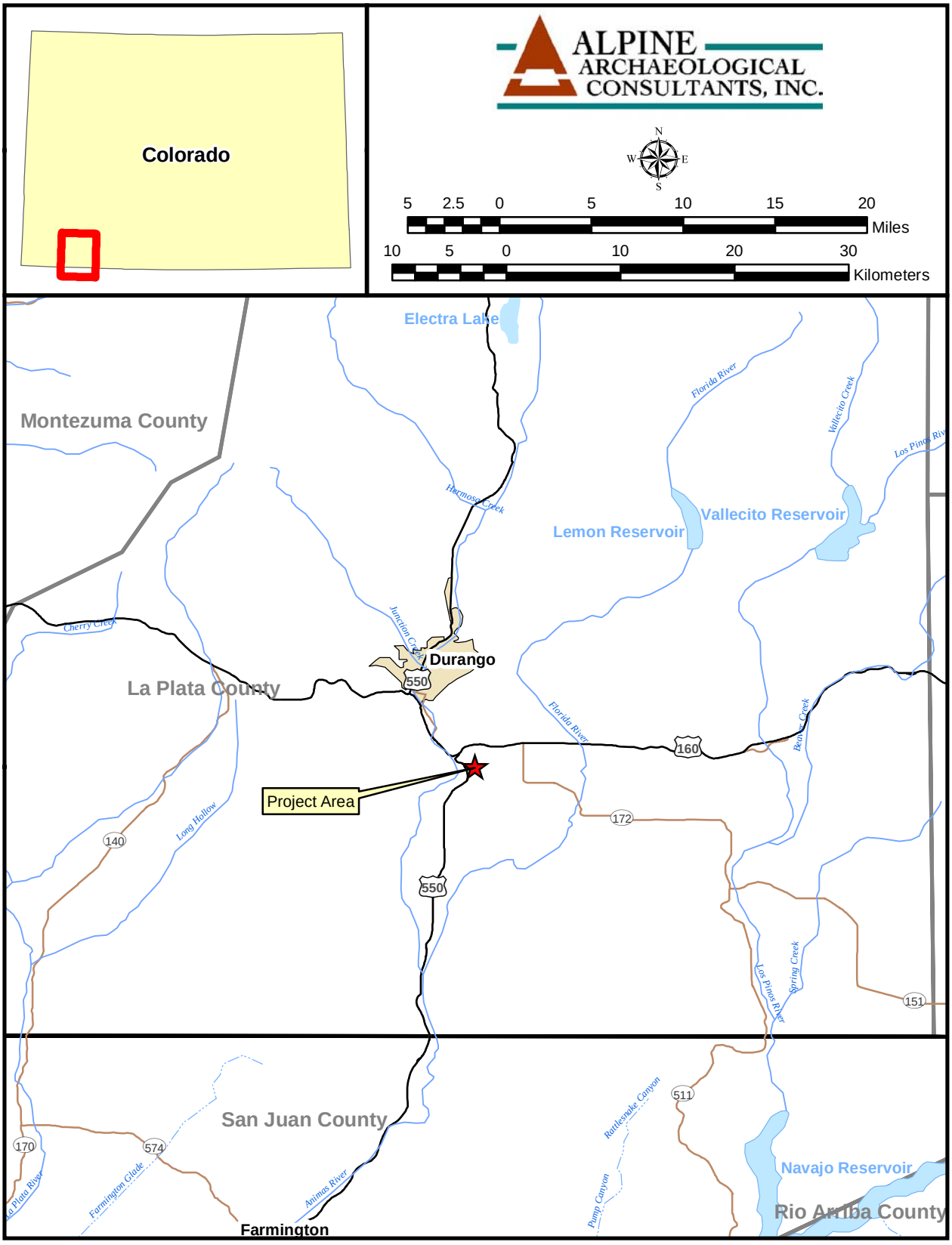

Figure 1. General location of the CDOT Revised F Modified Alternative alignment of U.S. Highway 550.

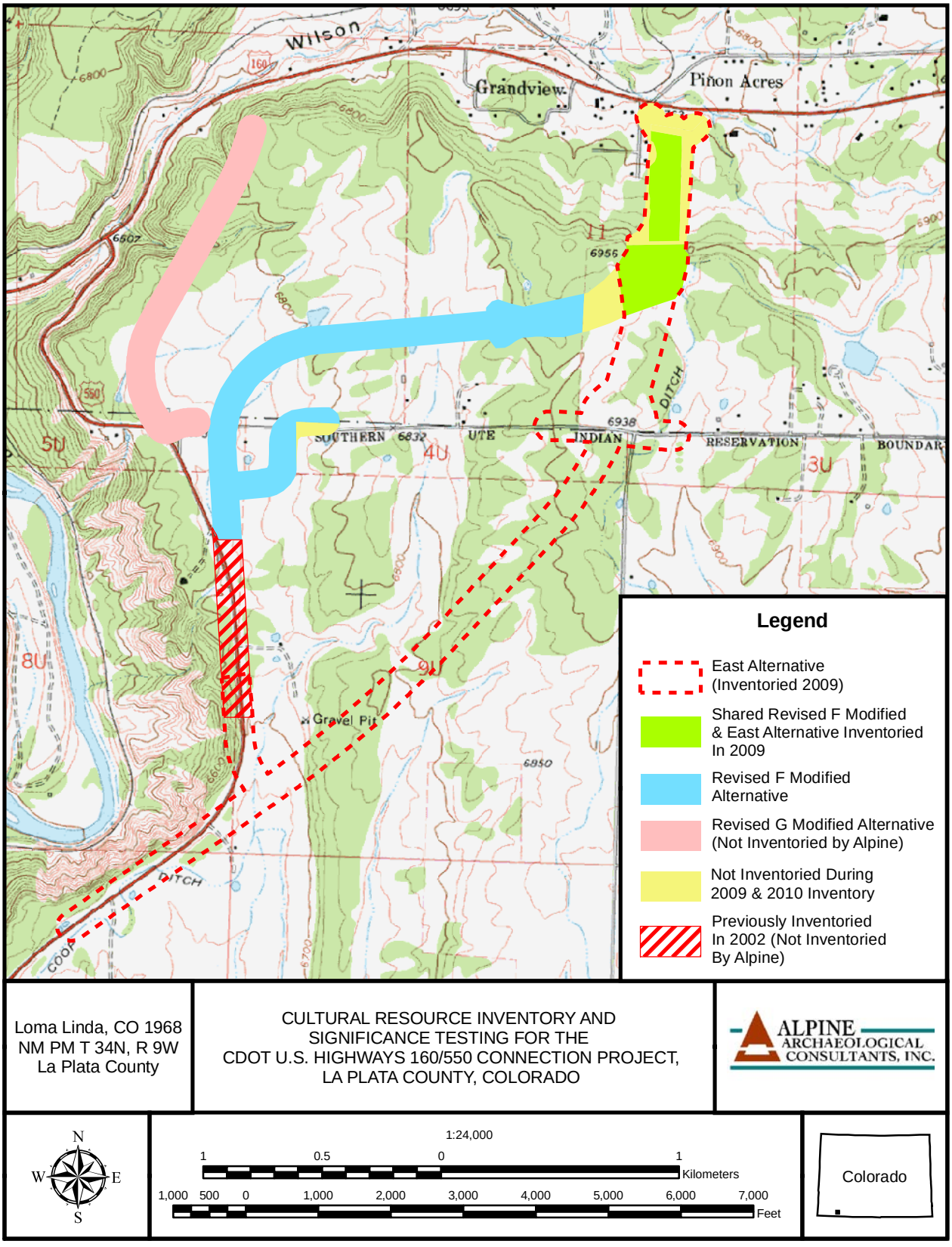

Figure 2. Map of the project Area of Potential Effect inventoried for the CDOT Revised F Modified Alternative alignment of U.S. Highway 550.

The project area is within the San Juan Mountain zone of the Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic province (Mutel and Emerick 1984) on Florida Mesa. Elevations on the mesa range from 6,650 ft. (2,027 m) near its western rim to 6,950 ft. (2,118 m) in its interior. Florida Mesa is a highly visible landform rising over 200 ft. above the floor of the Animas River Valley. The mesa is a broad terrace that has been largely isolated because its western edge was sheered away by the down-cutting of the Animas River and the northern end of the formation is sliced east-west by Wilson Gulch. The mesa slopes slightly upward to the east where its eastern and southern boundaries are defined by the path of the Florida River. Geologically, the mesa is a gravel and glacially alluviated terrace overlying coal-bearing formations of Cretaceous Age (Chronic 1980; Tweto 1979).

Both the Revised F Modified and Revised G Modified Alternatives primarily cross private land holdings currently under cultivation as hayfields. Smaller portions of the project area cross livestock pasture lands and wooded areas that fringe the margins of the mesa. These woodlands are principally used for livestock grazing. The nearest permanent water is the Animas River, approximately 0.3 miles west of the project area at the base of Florida Mesa. Native vegetation across the project area consists of stands of pinyon and juniper with sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, dense clusters of Gambel oak, and a variety of forbs and grasses. Areas that have been cleared for agriculture and grazing support low forage grasses.

CULTURE HISTORY

The earliest inhabitants of southwestern Colorado were representatives of the Paleoindian period, dating between 10,000 and 7500 B.P., who inhabited North America during the period of transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene. The era has traditionally been identified by a number of distinctive, diagnostic lanceolate projectile points and tool assemblages indicative of a big game hunting economy practiced by what have been termed the Clovis, Folsom, and Plano traditions. Recently, researchers (e.g. Frison 1991; Pitblado 1999) have begun to recognize that some late Paleoindian groups occupying foothill and mountain environments practiced an economy focused upon a broader range of food resources, including both plants and a variety of animals. Paleoindian sites in general are rather rare in the archeological record of the Southern Colorado River Basin, with most of the known sites in the area belonging to the Late Paleoindian period (Lipe and Pitblado 1999).

The Archaic period represents an adaptation to an essentially modern environment, mainly by efficiently focusing on a more diverse subsistence base. It is characterized by the hunting of smaller game and increased dependence upon floral resources. This transition appears to have taken place at approximately 6400 B.C. The Archaic period is recognized by large stemmed or stemmed indented base dart points, large side- and corner-notched projectile point forms, and a diverse tool assemblage, including grinding slabs and manos. Habitation structures typical of the Archaic include basin houses and more ephemeral brush structures. Archaic period remains in the region are sparse but better represented than the Paleoindian period (Lipe and Pitblado 1999).

Sometime between 1000 B.C and A.D. 500, a Formative stage lifeway began to emerge on the northern Colorado Plateau and in the Great Basin. The Formative stage is characterized by considerable reliance on horticulture, particularly corn or maize, and the adoption of a sedentary or semisedentary lifestyle. Accompanying horticulture and increased sedentism came construction of habitation structures and the production of ceramics. In southwestern Colorado, the Formative stage is represented by the Ancestral Pueblo tradition and is commonly divided into the five periods of the Pecos classification (Kidder 1927). From earliest to latest, these are the Basketmaker II, Basketmaker III, Pueblo I, Pueblo II, and Pueblo III periods. The following period descriptions are summarized from *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Southern Colorado River Basin* (Lipe et al. 1999).

The Basketmaker II, dating between approximately 1000 B.C. and A.D. 500, represents increased emphasis on cultigens and is characterized by the construction of substantial habitation structures and storage cists. Whether the subsistence strategies emerging during this period represent an indigenous development or an emigration into the area is still open for debate and is likely regionally specific. Basketmaker II artifact assemblages in the Durango area can often be distinguished from Archaic sites by corner-notched, expanding stem projectile points, T-shaped drills, the presence of one- and two-hand manos, and often heavily used trough and basin metates (Lipe 1999).

The Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500-750) is generally marked by the appearance of pottery. The earliest ceramics are typically self-tempered brown wares, though gray wares with added temper become dominant later. Basketmaker III subsistence shows an increased dependence on agriculture and stored food, with a decrease in the use of wild game. At habitation sites, pithouse structures tend to become deeper and more substantial by the end of the period (Wilshusen 1999a).

Following Basketmaker III is the Pueblo I period, dating between A.D. 750 and 900. The pithouse was still being used; however, above-ground jacal and masonry structures became more common and more substantial as time progressed. Higher, less mobile populations contributed to agricultural intensification. Ceramics included decorated white wares, red wares, and banded gray wares, though plain gray wares typically dominate the assemblage (Wilshusen 1999b).

The subsequent Pueblo II period (A.D. 900-1150) is characterized by the development of masonry house construction in rectangular or curved room block arrangements and formal kiva structures. Corrugated ceramics began to replace plain gray wares as the most common "utility ware." Around A.D. 1075, the local red ware ceramics began to be replaced by Tsegi Orange Wares from the Kayenta region of Northern Arizona (Lipe and Varien 1999a). During the Pueblo III period (A.D. 1150-1300), Ancestral Pueblo populations were largely absent from the Durango area but flourished elsewhere (Lipe and Varien 1999b; Lipe et al. 1999; Varien et al. 1996).

The Late Prehistoric to Protohistoric occupation in southwestern Colorado is generally associated with the Ute and Navajo, dating between A.C. 1300 and 1600, although historic-era sites have also been identified. Ute sites in the area are common and are most frequently manifested as culturally scarred trees. Other typical markers of Protohistoric groups in the region are small Desert Side-notched or Cottonwood Triangular arrow points and brown ware pottery. The Ute occupied the area until historic times. Historic records indicate that the Ute were the primary inhabitants of the vicinity of the project area, perhaps as early as the late 1700s. Historic period Ute sites are characterized by Euroamerican goods such as early tin cans, glass, cartridge cases, and glass beads, along with cone tinklers cut from tin cans and arrow points made from barrel hoops. With the adoption of the horse by the mid-seventeenth century, the Ute became highly mobile, enabling them to interact with Plains groups and to acquire many of their traits, such as use of the tipi and wide-ranging pursuit of natural resources.

The Navajo are typically thought to have inhabited areas of Southwestern Colorado beginning around the 1300s. By the eighteenth century, amid Ute raiding and Spanish pressure, the Navajo exited the area, concentrating in the Dinétah area of northern New Mexico (Lipe et al. 1999). It appears that coinciding with the relocation, Navajo farming began to intensify and pastoralism began to take hold. Sheepherding became a primary source of subsistence and income for the Navajo by the nineteenth century and is marked by sites reflecting the shift to a pastoral economy. These site types include isolated corrals, lambing pens, and rock cairns used as visual markers for sheep herding.

The first European people to enter southwestern Colorado were Spanish explorers. Juan de Rivera led three expeditions through the San Juan Mountains from 1761 to 1765 in search of mineral wealth. In 1776, the Escalante-Dominguez expedition passed through southwestern Colorado near Durango. Exploration of the Southern Rocky Mountains' natural resources by Euroamericans began in the 1820s with the arrival of fur trappers. The fur industry lasted until overtrapping and failing fur prices in the late 1830s made fur trapping unprofitable (O'Rourke 1992).

The influx of Euroamericans into the mountain regions of Colorado brought conflict with the indigenous Ute Indians. The Treaty of 1868 between the Ute and the federal government was an attempt to alleviate these conflicts by forming a large reservation on the Western Slope of Colorado, away from the primary mining areas. Miners continued to explore the region, however, and by the late 1860s and early 1870s, large bodies of ore had been located in the San Juan Mountains. In 1873, some 4 million acres of the reservation in the San Juan Mountains was officially opened to Euroamerican exploitation by the signing of the Brunot Treaty. The Brunot Treaty served ultimately to increase hostilities between the Ute and the Euroamericans, as the Ute became enraged by continued trespasses by Anglo-owned cattle, which were often driven across their reservation lands near the Colorado-New Mexico border. In an effort to safeguard both parties, the U.S. Government established Fort Lewis near Pagosa Springs in 1878 (O'Rourke 1992).

Amid continued hostility between the Ute and Coloradans, it was clear that a peaceful co-existence was not possible. This, coupled with the murder of Nathan Meeker and 10 other males by the Ute at the White River Agency in 1879, signified an inability of the two cultures to coexist in Colorado. By the fall of 1881, the last of the Ute were restricted to reservations in northwestern Utah and southernmost Colorado. The Southern Ute reservation was established along the Colorado-New Mexico border and allotted in 1895. The remaining lands that were not allotted to the Southern Ute were later opened for settlement in 1899.

With the removal of the Ute, Anglo settlement of southwestern Colorado began to steadily increase, opening up countless acres of land to mining, livestock, and lumber production. Mining was responsible for the initial economic growth and brought in both people and money to the region. Unused lands attracted ranching development. At first, the livestock industry was limited to a service-oriented industry that functioned to supply meat to a growing mining industry. By the 1880s, the arrival of the railroad in southwestern Colorado ensured an increase in demand as markets shifted from local to national. Fueled by new markets, the livestock industry began to flourish in southwestern Colorado, resulting in increased economic growth of the region.

In the early years of Anglo settlement, the mesas surrounding the Animas River Valley proved to be ideal for the agriculture and livestock because much of the land was still open and unused (O'Rourke 1992). Spurred largely by the Homestead Act enacted by Congress in 1862, land previously vacant was now being settled and worked as ranches or farms (Ubbelohde et al. 1972). It was not until the 1890s that homesteading began to take place on Florida Mesa. Early on, only lands in the far northern portion the mesa were opened for homesteading, because much of the southern extent of the mesa was still held as Ute Reservation lands. In 1899, reservation lands that had not been allocated to individual Ute members were opened to homesteaders, with resulting settlement and irrigation development (O'Rourke 1992). According to the General Land Office (GLO) website, the majority of the reservation lands on the mesa were not opened for settlement until the early 1910s.

With the removal of the Ute from nearly all of western Colorado in late 1881 and the opening of unallocated reservation lands in 1899, barriers to expansion of the cattle industry in southwestern Colorado were eliminated. Nearly instantaneously, the extension of railroad lines to Durango and through the Uncompahgre Valley facilitated the transport of animals to eastern markets, further enhancing the ranching opportunities of the region. Early on, the cattle industry in southwestern Colorado was being fueled by high cattle prices in the early and middle 1880s, but was later affected

by the drastic drop in prices by the late 1880s. As a result, sheep were introduced on the range in southwestern Colorado by cattle operations as a diversification measure. The entire livestock industry was nearly devastated between the 1880s and mid 1890s by severe overgrazing and a 10-year-long drought culminating in starvation of range animals (McPherson 1995:174-176). Without open grazing lands to exploit, these environmental factors eventually led the demise of large monopolistic livestock companies in the Four Corners region by the late 1890s. The lack of competition, allowed smaller home-based livestock industries to develop and flourish in the Durango area by beginning of the twentieth century.

PREVIOUS WORK AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Prior to the onset of fieldwork, a site file search was requested from the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) on March 6, 2009, and was reexamined for accuracy on July 6, 2010. The site file search area included a corridor extending 1 mile on each side of the U.S. Highway 550 Revised F Modified Alternative project centerline, for a total width of 2 miles. All site locations within the project corridor were plotted. Site forms were obtained for all sites within 300 ft. of the centerline. At the time of the file search, GLO maps were also examined to identify potential historic features or linear sites within the project area. One linear feature, labeled as the "Road to Durango" on a map dated 1883, was shown as intersecting the survey corridor. Possible historic features shown on the 1968 USGS 7.5 minute Loma Linda topographic map, such as structures and agricultural ditches, were also identified for relocation in the field.

Twenty-four previous projects were found to have been completed within the file search area for the Revised F Modified Alternative alignment. Sixty-seven sites were recorded as a result of these projects. Of the 67 known sites, only eight were in close proximity to the Revised F Modified Alternative project corridor. These sites are presented below in Table 1 by site type, cultural affiliation, and National Register or Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Sites in Close Proximity to the Revised F Modified Survey Corridor.

Site No.	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation	Nrhp Eligibility
5LP2223	Prehistoric habitation	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP5654	U.S. Highway 550	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6665	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP6667	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6669	Historic Trash Dump	Historic	Officially Not Eligible
5LP6670	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter / Historic Sweat Lodge	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I / Historic Native American	Officially Eligible
5LP8461*	Webb Ranch/Webb/Hotter Lateral	Historic	Officially Eligible
5LP9244*	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible

* Sites recorded during the 2009 inventory of the East Alternative alignment.

The immediate project area has been subjected to six previous cultural resource surveys, five of which are related to the reconstruction of U.S. Highways 160 and 550. The most recent of these surveys was completed along the current U.S. Highway 550 corridor in 2002 (URS Corporation 2002) and the East Alternative alignment in 2009 (Pfertsh 2009). Four of the eight previously recorded sites (5LP6665, 5LP6667, 5LP6669 and 5LP6670) are within a previously surveyed portion of the proposed Revised F Modified Alternative alignment inventoried by URS in 2002 (URS Corporation 2002). Aside from the formal inventory projects, two informal inventories were also completed by a private archaeological contracting company under contract with the owners of the Webb Ranch (Loebig 2008, 2009).

The results from the file search and GLO maps indicated a high density of both prehistoric and historic sites in the vicinity of the survey corridor. This density was expected to extend into the project area. Historic sites, expected to be near existing roads and structures, could include additional linear sites, habitations, and trash dumps. The established pattern of prehistoric sites along the western rim of Florida Mesa was expected to continue into the project area, with additional new sites located in the interior of the mesa.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the inventory and site documentation was to assess the effects to NRHP eligible historic properties of potential ground-disturbing activities of two proposed US 550 alternative alignments, the Revised F Modified and Revised G Modified Alternatives. These objectives were accomplished, first, by conducting an intensive pedestrian survey of the Revised F Modified Alternative and formally documenting archaeological sites previously identified within and near the Revised G Modified Alternative. Limited testing was also completed on recorded sites to permit formulation of tenable recommendations of site significance and to assess the likelihood of buried cultural deposits. Recommendations regarding the significance of the cultural resources located by this project are made using the criteria for determining eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP. The historic preservation laws mandating this cultural resource study specifically identify eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP as the key factor in determining preservation needs. The criteria for assessing site significance, as published in the U.S. Government Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 60) read as follows:

National Register criteria for evaluation. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

(a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

FIELD METHODS

The U.S. Highway 550 Revised F Modified Alternative was inventoried by means of pedestrian transects, with archaeologists spaced no farther than 15 m (50 ft.) apart. Navigation was guided by aerial photographs, topographic maps, and the use of a Trimble GPS unit preloaded with the cultural survey boundaries and previously recorded site boundaries. An APE of 60 m (200 ft.) to 275 ft. (84 m) on either side of the centerline was inventoried for cultural resources. In one area, the APE was expanded to 660 ft. (201 m) to account for possible direct and indirect effects associated with construction staging areas and other construction needs. At the request of CDOT, portions of the Revised F Modified Alternative APE were not inventoried during the 2010 field work. These areas included small private land parcels where right-of-entry was not obtained. These remaining areas will be intensely inventoried if the Revised F Modified Alternative is ultimately selected as the preferred alignment. The northern-most portion of the Revised F Modified and East Alternatives share a common segment as they approach US 160. This common segment was not resurveyed during the 2010 field sessions.

When artifacts or cultural features were encountered, the crew intensively inspected the surrounding area to determine whether a site or an isolated find was represented. Sites were defined as five or more artifacts, in relatively close proximity to one another, exceeding 50 years old. In addition, five or more artifacts had to evidence some degree of patterning, suggesting that artifact distributions had archaeological value. Cultural features, regardless of associated artifacts, were also designated as sites. Loci with four or fewer artifacts were classified as isolated finds. All recorded sites were evaluated for eligibility for the NRHP in terms of the specific criteria presented in the preceding section. Limited sub-surface testing in the form of shovel and auger probes was carried out on sites to aid in developing significance recommendations. All test pits were backfilled at the conclusion of the excavations.

Before the inventory, previously recorded sites were plotted on field maps and associated site forms were photocopied for use during site reevaluations. Extra efforts were made to locate potential sites identified from GLO maps. During the field phase, relocated previously recorded sites were reassessed to document the current site condition and the sites' relationship to the current project. Previously recorded sites were reevaluated to document changes to site condition or surface attributes. Newly discovered site and isolated find data were fully recorded on the appropriate Colorado Cultural Resource Survey forms. Site maps were prepared for all sites with the aid of a Trimble Geo Explorer XT Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, and locations were plotted a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map using the same GPS units. The GPS maps illustrated site boundaries, datums, cultural and topographic features, and modern landmarks including roads, fence lines, and irrigation ditches, if present within or near the site. All sites were photographed using digital cameras to aid in the site relocation. Datums, consisting of an 18-in. length of rebar marked with a yellow plastic cap and an aluminum tag displaying the temporary site number or, if on a previously recorded site, the Smithsonian site number, were established at the sites. Datums were not placed on one of the sites because it was in an agricultural field, nor was one placed on the Webb/Hotter ditch because the rebar was considered to be hazardous to livestock. No artifacts were collected during the project; however, flaked stone tools were illustrated and diagnostic artifacts were photographed in the field.

Significance testing on site 5LP6666 was completed through shovel testing, which was preferred by the landowner. Shovel tests typically measured 25 cm in diameter and were excavated in 10 cm levels. Resulting soils were passed through a ¼-in. screen with recovered materials analyzed and depths recorded. Soils encountered during the shovel testing were described using a Munsell soil color chart. All shovel test holes were recorded on Alpine forms, and each hole was mapped with the GPS unit. No artifacts were collected during the testing.

PROJECT RESULTS

In the course of the Class III inventory of the proposed U.S. Highway 550 Revised F Modified Alternative, Alpine archaeologists recorded nine archaeological sites and three isolated finds. The Road to Durango identified on the 1883 GLO map was depicted crossing the project area, but was not encountered during the inventory. In addition to sites identified during the inventory of F Modified, seven previously inventoried sites were also documented as part of the project undertaking. A summary of all archaeological sites recorded as part of the project is presented in Table 2 and separated by task. The locations of recorded sites and isolated finds are presented in Appendix A, and planview maps of sites make up Appendix B. Site and isolated find forms are presented in Appendices C and D, respectively.

The task order for the project also included significance testing on site 5LP6666. The site was originally recorded in 2002 by URS (URS Corporation 2002) and reevaluated by Alpine during the 2009 inventory of the East Alternative alignment (Pfertsh 2009). The results of this testing are presented at the end of this section.

Table 2. Sites Recorded during the Revised F Modified Alternative Class III Inventory and Previously Identified Sites–Revised G Modified Alternative.

Site No.	Temporary Site No.	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Recommendation
F Modified Alternative Sites				
5LP8461	AAC-1280	Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting element to NRHP-eligible site
5LP9307	AAC-1290	Craig Homestead	Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9308	AAC-311	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9309	AAC-312	Prehistoric Habitation/ Historic Artifact Scatter	Pueblo I/Pueblo II/Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9310	AAC-313	Clark Property	Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9581	AAC-1281	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9582	AAC-1283	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9583	AAC-1282	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9584	AAC-1279	Prehistoric Habitation/ Historic Habitation	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I/ Historic	Recommended Eligible
Previously Identified Sites				
5LP2223	AAC-1291	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/ Habitation	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP9585	AAC-1289	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9586	AAC-1288	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9587	AAC-1287	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9588	AAC-1286	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9589	AAC-1285	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9590	AAC-1284	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/ Habitation	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I/ Pueblo II	Recommended Eligible

F Modified Alternative Inventory Results

Seven newly identified sites were recorded during the inventory of the Revised F Modified Alternative. Two sites previously documented during the 2009 inventory of the East Alternative alignment were also reevaluated. These reevaluated sites include an additional segment of the Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch, which is considered an element of the historic Webb Ranch (5LP8461) and an additional element to the Craig Ranch (5LP9507). These findings are presented below.

5LP8461- Webb Ranch

Site Description

Smithsonian site number 5LP8461 has been assigned to the Webb Ranch. The Webb/Hotter Lateral is considered to be an element of the Webb Ranch and is referenced by the same number. The recorded segment of the lateral extends across private lands at an elevation of 6,900 ft. (2,103 m). The vegetation along the recorded segment of the ditch includes pinyon pine, juniper, cottonwood trees, willow, and a variety of grasses.

A segment of the Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch was previously recorded by Alpine in 2009 for the inventory of the CDOT East Alternative Alignment (Pfertsh 2009). The ditch extends westward from the intersection of the Florida Farmers Ditch and the Co-op Ditch (Charlie McCoy, Florida Farmers and Cooperative Ditch Company, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 3, 2009). An additional 1,786 ft. section of the ditch was recorded by the survey from a boundary fence near the western terminus of the segment documented in 2009 to a modern diversion headgate at its northwestern end (Appendix B, Map 1). The recorded segment enters the project alternative footprint from the north and continues to a point near the southern edge of the corridor before making a pronounced bend to the northeast and exiting the corridor. It was built in a cut-and-fill

manner following the contour of a low, sloping ridge. On average, the ditch is 5 ft. wide with a maximum depth of just over 2 ft. It has been recently cleaned out as evidence by a linear mound of soil along its southern bank. The ditch is a low-volume ditch that extends from the Co-op Ditch over 1,600 ft. to the east. The water is carried farther west to the diversion head where it is divided into two privately owned sublateral ditches. One of the sublaterals continues west on the Webb Ranch property, and the second carries water due south, providing water to land on the southern side of County Road 220 (Philip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, September 24, 2009).

It is not clear when the Webb/Hotter Lateral was built, who was responsible for its construction, or when it was first used to irrigate the Webb Ranch property. The Webb family acquired the ranch in 1963 from the Reeders. Based on the history of the Webb Ranch and ranching activities on Florida Mesa, as well as the history of the Florida Farmer's Ditch, which dates to 1883, it is assumed that the Webb/Hotter lateral was in use prior to the Webb's ownership of the property and that it has played a role in the irrigation network on the ranch property.

National Register Recommendation

As a whole, the Webb Ranch (5LP8461) is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The Webb Ranch was determined to be officially eligible to the NRHP in 2008 under Criterion C. The ditch played a critical role in the success of the Webb Ranch and is the primary source of irrigation water for the agricultural fields and pastures on the ranch. The ditch is considered a contributing element of the NRHP-eligible Webb Ranch (5LP8461).

5LP9307-Craig Ranch

Site Description

Site 5LP9307 is the historic Craig Ranch complex on private land at an elevation of 6,660 ft. (2,030 m). The complex is southwest of Highway 550 on a level to slightly sloping area on the western edge of Florida Mesa (Appendix B, Map 2). The site soils are a reddish brown silty loam supporting stands of pinyon pine and juniper that remain along the rim of the mesa. Much of the complex grounds have been cleared, leaving only sparse tree stands and trees for ornamental landscaping.

The Craig Ranch was originally documented by Alpine in 2009 during the inventory of the CDOT East Alternative Alignment of U.S. Highway 550 (Pfertsh 2009). At the time, several buildings (Structure 1-7) at the Craig Limousin Ranch headquarters were recorded, including a large barn, a shed, a grain silo, a milk shed, and a stucco-clad residence. Additionally, another building complex located to the north of the ranch headquarters was also recorded. As a result of the recording, two structures (Structures 6 and 7) and one feature, including a saddle shed, a post-and-beam barn, and a pump house, were documented. Alpine encountered an additional complex associated with the ranch in 2010 during the inventory for the Revised F Modified Alternative Alignment. The complex is not on land owned by the Craigs, but is within the original historic boundary of the Craig Ranch. The complex was the site of the original homestead structure for the ranch, which burned down in 1974. The remains of the site are minimal, consisting of a chicken coop (Structure 8) (Figure 3), a well (Feature 2), a small irrigation pond (Feature 3), a sparse scatter of historic artifacts and implements, and a level area where the house was once located, all within a fenced enclosure. After the house burned, a trailer house was put in the same place as the house. The second occupation of the site dates from the late 1970s to 2001, when the trailer was removed (Phillip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, May 23, 2010). A moderate density of modern artifacts is present on the site from this later occupation but was not documented as part of the site recording. An orchard is also considered part of the complex and is to the east. It is within a fenced pasture with several apple and apricot trees still present and is watered by an irrigation ditch.

Figure 3. Photograph of Structure 8 (chicken coop) on site 5LP9307, looking southwest.

The area where the house was once located has been altered by the placement of the trailer. The only remnants of the original house are four pieces of the cement perimeter foundation lying to the west of the house and trailer location. Elements of the trailer house are still present—two lava rock gardens, the remnants of a wooden pole stair banister, and two wooden barrel planters. The chicken coop (Structure 8) is 50 ft. northeast of the house location and is the only standing structure at the site. The coop is a wood frame building measuring 9 x 6½ ft. oriented east to west along its long axis. It is a simple building constructed on the ground surface and without a foundation. The floor of the coop is made of 2-x-4-in. floor joists covered with ½-in.-square wire mesh. The walls of the structure are framed with 2-x-4-in. boards and covered with 1-x-12in. boards nailed vertically to the frame with wire nails. As evidenced by tar paper remains, the exterior of the structure was once covered with the paper and rolled composite roofing held with ½-x-1½-in. wood strips. The structure has a shed-style roof that slopes to the south. The roof is decked with 1-x-12-in. boards nailed the length of the roof and covered with random length 1-x-5-in. and 1-x-6-in. boards nailed in the opposite direction the width of the roof. The entrance into the coop is on the northwest corner through a simple, vertical plank door hung with iron strap hinges. Two window openings have been cut into the east and west elevations of the structure. Both are covered with chicken wire. Modern aluminum cans fill the interior space of the coop. The chicken coop is part of the original occupation of the site and was built sometime after 1902 (Phillip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, May 23, 2010).

The well (Feature 2) is 88 ft. (27 m) south of the house location just north of the enclosure fence. The well consists of a 32-in.-diameter well shaft with the walls of the shaft covered with Portland cement (Figure 4). The top of the well is encased in a 5-x-5-ft. concrete cap that rises 1 ft. above the ground surface. A partly subterranean, 5-x-4½-ft. concrete enclosure has been added onto the well and appears to have been done relatively recently, as evidenced by the plastic pipe, electrical wiring, and electrical boxes. The pipe fixtures and electrical wiring indicate that a pump was likely present in the enclosure and pumped water to the house. The well is purported to be over 85 ft. deep and was one of the first wells dug on the mesa (Phillip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, May 23, 2010; *The Durango Herald*, January 13, 1974).

Figure 4. Photograph of Feature 2 (well) on site 5LP9307, looking northeast.

The remaining feature (Feature 3) is a pond at the southeastern corner of the fenced enclosure. The pond is 26½ ft. in diameter with a depth of over 5 ft. and was once enclosed with a woven sheep wire fence. A 4-in.-diameter PVC pipe is present on the northern side of the pond and angles down into it. The pipe likely served as the water inlet and was probably fed by the orchard ditch located to the north. An additional pipe of the same diameter is on the southern end of the pond and would have functioned as the overflow outlet pipe. The pond may have been used to irrigate gardens near the house.

A sparse scatter of artifacts was identified widely distributed across the site (Table 3). Two maker's marks were found at the site. One was on the base of a round aqua bottle that read "A.B." The lettering was arched around the base and may indicate that the bottle was manufactured by the American Bottle Company between 1916 and 1929 (Toulouse 1971). The second was the mark of the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company on the base of a clear glass canning jar. The mark was first used by the company in 1920 and continued to be used until 1964 (Toulouse 1971:239).

In addition to the artifact assemblage, a piece of farming equipment and the remains of a horse drawn buggy were also recorded within the fenced complex. The equipment is an iron sheet metal bale chute from a hay baler. The buggy lies on the north side of the bale chute and consists of the front axle and tongue with the wood largely decayed. What remains are the axle and hub, tongue braces, and wheel irons.

Historical Background

The fenced complex recorded within the boundaries of the Craig property where Structures 8 (chicken coop) and Feature 2 (well), Feature 3 (pond), and an orchard are located is the original homestead residence for the property. According to the GLO website, the property was originally acquired as a 159.1-acre Homestead Entry by William H. Craig on October 8, 1908. As reported in an interview with Carrie Craig, the daughter of William Craig, her father may have actually homesteaded the property as early as 1898 when the Ute Reservation was opened to settlement (*The Durango Herald*, January 13, 1974). The property remained in the Craig family and was passed to

William's son, Philip Craig. Philip Craig died on August 12, 1931 and the interest in the property was divided between his wife, Anna, and their five children: Dorothy, Carolyn, William, Perry, and Roy. After Philip's death, the property where the site is located was passed to his son William. William used the property as part of a cattle operation, which he formed with a partner Tom Givaudon. The venture was called the Craig Cattle Company. The partners continued the operation until William died on January 30, 1980. In 1983, following William's death, the cattle company assets were liquidated, with Givaudon receiving title to 81-acres of the Craig property (Phillip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, July 2, 2010; La Plata County assessor records). Givaudon continued to own the property until he sold it to the current land owner Winston Puig on January 23, 2001 (La Plata County assessor records). For more information about the history of the entire Craig Ranch, please reference the September 2009 *Cultural Resource Inventory, CDOT US Highways160/550 Connection Alternative Alignments Project: East Alternative* (Pfertsh 2009).

Table 3. Historic Artifacts Identified on Site 5LP9307.

Artifact Description	Maker's Mark/Description	Date	Reference
Purple glass	Round bottles fragments	1885-1920s	Lockhart 2006
Purple glass	Pressed glass fragments	1885-1920s	Lockhart 2006
Amber glass	Round bottles fragments		
Clear glass	Square panel bottle fragments		
Clear glass canning jar	𝔄 Hazel-Atlas Glass Company	1920-1964	Toulouse 1971:239
Aqua glass	Round bottle fragments		
Aqua glass bottle base	Round base with a partial mark "A.B." American Bottle Company	1916-1929	Toulouse 1971:239
Green milk glass	Saucer fragment		
Window glass	Small fragments		
Earthenware	Plainwhite general fragments		
Earthenware	Plainwhite fragments of a plate, teacup, and serving dish		
Earthenware	Flow blue teacup fragment		
Earthenware	Hand-painted fancy design		
Stoneware	Crockery base fragment with brown glaze		
Stoneware	Jug fragment with brown glaze exterior		
Can lid	External friction lid with holes punched in it		
Iron cinch buckle	From a saddle		
Galvanized buckets	Likely milk buckets		
Iron headboard bed frame	Antique with decorative rosette and threaded bed knobs.		
Automotive hubcap	"V8" in the center of chrome cap with a blue green outer cap	1930s or 1940s	
Farm equipment tongue	Wood reinforced with iron		
Hay rake tine	Iron		
Shotgun shell	"Winchester/No. 12/New Rival"	Post-1901	Logan 1959:191

National Register Recommendation

In 2009 the Craig Ranch as a whole was evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criteria A and C for its importance to the ranching landscape of Florida Mesa. Although the above described complex is not currently part of the Craig Ranch, it was the original homestead for the property and is, therefore, considered part of the ranch's historic boundary. Structure 8 (chicken coop), Feature 2 (well), and Feature 3 (irrigation pond) at the Craig Ranch retain the integrity to

convey the property's significance. The chicken coop (Structure 8) is in good structural condition and has remained largely unmodified. It still conveys its original function. The structural integrity of the coop is considered good, with no visible modifications made to the structure. Considering its integrity and function, it also conveys the significance of the property under Criteria A and C. The well was purportedly dug in 1902 and is one of the first wells dug on the mesa. It is associated with the early history of the ranch and is a contributing element to the overall ranch. The orchard is a landscape feature of the complex and also retains integrity and conveys the property's significance as a working ranch.

5LP9308

Site Description

Site 5LP9308 is a prehistoric artifact scatter on private land at an elevation of 6,820 ft. (2,077 m). The site encompasses a 3,790-m^2 area on a low, southwest-sloping terrace bounded on its southern edge by an unnamed intermittent drainage. The site is within a pinyon and juniper forest on the southern side of a property boundary fence with the artifact assemblage scattered within small openings of the forest. Soils on the site are a reddish brown silty loam supporting pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, prickly pear cactus, Gambel oak, snakeweed, and bunchgrasses.

The site consists of a light to moderately dense scatter of lithic debitage, stone tools (Table 4), and ground stone comprising three artifact concentrations (AC1-3) (Appendix B, Map 3). Thirty-five pieces of lithic debitage were observed on the site, with quartzite and chert representing the primary raw materials, though very small quantities of igneous, siltstone, and chalcedony were also counted among the assemblage. The debitage analysis indicates that the vast majority of the lithic assemblage supports early stage core-reduction activities with primary flakes (n = 13) and secondary flake (n = 4) accounting for 48.5 percent of the debitage. Moreover, material cortex demonstrates that locally available cobbles were the primary source of the lithic raw material being reduced at the site. This is further reflected in the frequency of tested cobbles (n = 8) also found at the site. The single biface-thinning flake also suggests that a low level of tool manufacture was also being practiced at the site.

Table 4. Flaked Stone Tools Identified from Site 5LP9308.

Type/Map Reference	Material Type	Dimension (cm) (L x W x T)	Comments
Biface (B1)	Chert	3.6+ x 2.8 x 1.1	Crude Stage 2 biface fashioned from a tertiary flake, minimal flakes have been removed from the lateral edges.
Retouched Flake (RT1)	Chert	5.6 x 3.7 x 1.3	Large secondary flake with three flakes removed from one lateral edge.
Chopper (Ch1)	Quartzite	11.0 x 9.1 x 3.5	Large cobble primary flake with three visible flakes removed from one lateral edge which is the distal end of the chopper.
Chopper (Ch2)	Quartzite	8.7 x 10.6 x 4.7	Split cobble with flakes removed along one edge.
Core (C1)	Quartzite	6.3 x 7.2 x 5.8	Cobble with three visible flake scars.

Eight pieces of ground stone were recorded as part of the site's artifact assemblage. Six of the specimens were one-hand manos fashioned from locally available, sandstone, quartzite, and rhyolite cobbles. One of the ground stone artifacts was a large piece of a slab, rhyolite metate with grinding evident on one surface. The remaining ground stone item was a small sandstone fragment of undetermined function.

Three possible thermal features (Features 1-3) were found clustered near the center of the site. Feature 1 is the westernmost of the features. It is an oval-shape, 30-x-23-cm charcoal stain slightly obscured by a thin veneer of soil. A trowel test was dug along the eastern portion of the feature, indicating that at least 5 to 7 cm of feature fill may be present. The second feature (Feature 2) is just over 4 m northeast of Feature 1. It is also an oval charcoal stain that measures 38 x 42 cm. Feature 3 is a third, oval charcoal stain immediately south (2 m) of Feature 2. The feature measures 30 x 20 cm.

In addition to the minor trowel testing completed at Feature 1, shovel testing was also carried out on the site to determine the potential for buried cultural deposits. Two shovel tests (ST1 and ST2) were dug; one (ST1) on the eastern edge of Feature 2 and one within artifact Concentration 2. ST1 was dug to a depth of 20 cm below ground surface (cmbgs) and revealed the soils to be a homogenous dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) silty loam that was loose in the upper 3 cm and becoming more compact with depth. No cultural material was recovered from the test, though charcoal flecking was present to a depth of 13 cmbgs. The second shovel test (ST2) was dug to a depth of 21 cmbgs; it showed the soil to also be a homogenous dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) silty loam. The upper 3 cm of the soil was loose, developing a plate-like structure with depth and becoming compact and blocky near the base depth of the test. No cultural materials were recovered from ST2.

Based on the artifact assemblage and the types of features, site 5LP9308 appears to have functioned as a short term camp where site activities included core reduction and food processing and, to a lesser extent, tool manufacture. The age of the site and its cultural affiliation is unknown.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9308 is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield additional information important to prehistory. Three possible thermal features were identified on the site in close proximity to one another. The feature cluster may represent an activity area, with the possibility for associated materials or additional features to be present. Moreover, it is expected that radiocarbon and macrobotanical samples extracted from the features can provide data that could be used to address a gamut of research questions contributing to our understanding of regional chronology, diet, site structure, and prehistoric settlement patterns.

5LP9309

Site Description

Site 5LP9309 is a large prehistoric and historic artifact scatter with possible prehistoric habitation structures covering a 2,992 m^2 area. It is on private land at an elevation of 6,780 ft. (2,066 m) within a wooded area on the summit of a low, northeast-to-southwest-trending ridge near the western edge of Florida Mesa and north of La Plata County Road 220 (Appendix B, Map 4). Local vegetation includes pinyon pine, juniper, Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, prickly pear cactus, and bunch grasses. The slopes of the site area are lightly covered with water-worn cobbles and the soils are a reddish-brown silty loam.

The prehistoric component of the site consists of a 21 pieces of debitage, 91 ceramic sherds, 17 ground stone artifacts, and 3 flaked stone tools (Table 5) composing four artifact concentrations (Concentrations 1-4). Aside from the artifact assemblage, five features (Features 1-5) were also identified. The debitage is sparse and scattered within artifact concentrations 1-3. The analysis of the debitage indicates that quartzite is the primary raw material, though small quantities of chert (n = 3) and an igneous rock (n = 1) were also present. The analysis shows that core reduction of chert and quartzite cobbles dominated the lithic-reduction strategy occurring at the site. Although only a single biface-thinning flake was found, it suggests that tools were likely manufactured as well.

Table 5. Flaked Stone Tools Identified on Site 5LP9309.

Type/Map Reference	Material Type	Dimension (cm) (L x W x T)	Comments
Biface (B1)	Chert	2.4 x 1.4 x 0.7	Stage 3, small, triangular biface possibly a knife.
Chopper (Ch1)	Quartzite	7.4 x 11.6 x 5.4	Large, subtrangular piece of lithic material with bifacially flaked edge. Concaved area that may have functioned as a flesher.
Utilized flake (UT1)	Quartzite	3.4 x 4.6 x 2.2	Use wear visible on distal end of flake.

The ceramic sherds were found primarily within Concentrations 2, 3, and 4. The ceramic assemblage was highly fragmented, with all small, quarter-to-half-dollar-size sherds making classification of vessel and pottery type difficult. The assemblage included 16 white wares, 73 gray wares, one unidentified black-on-white, a corrugated sherd, and a red ware. Of the 73 gray ware sherds, one appears to be a jar rim, one has a partial rim and handle, and one is the portion of a handle. Also identified among the assemblage was a circular gray ware piece that may represent a ceramic coil. The corrugated sherd was the rim and a small portion of the vessel body. Although the sherd was small, the rim eversion suggests that it may be from a Mancos Corrugated Gray vessel. Only a small fragment of the red ware was present, but based on the deep red slip, it is believed to be Deadmans Black-on-red.

The ground stone assemblage on the site was largely fragmented with both manos and metates present. Nine of the metate specimens were fragments of slab metates, with the preferred material being sandstone. Two of the metates were complete specimens with unifacially ground surfaces on the surfaces of relatively flat native boulders. Six manos were also present on the site with five complete and one fragmentary. All were one-hand manos fashioned from locally obtained cobbles. The cobble material was a mix of sandstone, rhyolite, and igneous rock.

The features were scattered across the site area within the recorded artifact concentrations (Appendix B, Map 4). The first of these is Feature 1, was found on the northeast portion of the site within a ceramic sherd scatter (Concentration 2). The feature is an oval-shape charcoal stain measuring 40 x 30 cm with chunks of charcoal. The quartzite chopper described above was found on the southern edge of the feature. The feature is believed to represent a hearth.

Feature 2 is a rock alignment 22 m to the northwest of Feature 1. The feature consists of a single course, L-shaped alignment of cobbles that is 2.75 m long. The feature appears to represent two wall alignments and the wall junction of a possible surface room (Figure 5). The feature is largely covered in pine duff and organic litter and may be more substantial than is currently represented on the surface.

Feature 3 is another cobble alignment just over 6 m south of Feature 2. The alignment is 3.8 m long running northeast to southwest at the base of pinyon trees (Figure 6). It is largely obscured by pine duff and organic matter and may extend farther to the northeast. The feature is within a ground stone and ceramic scatter (Concentration 3). It is believed that the alignment represents the remains of a surface room or a room block.

Feature 4 is interpreted as a rubble mound of water-worn cobbles 15 m south of Feature 3. The mound is slightly arched, measuring 15 m long and varying in width from 1.5 to 2 m. A scatter of ground stone and ceramics (Concentration 1) was identified along the eastern edge of the feature, suggesting that it may be the remains of habitation structure.

Figure 5. Photograph of Feature 2 on Site 5LP9309, looking east at possible wall alignment.

Figure 6. Photograph of Feature 3 on Site 5LP9309, looking east at possible wall.

Feature 5 is another alignment of cobbles 8 m to the southwest of Feature 4. The feature is a course rubble alignment along the ground surface with an estimated length of 17 m and width over 4 m wide. One clearly visible rock alignment was determined within the feature and is a single course alignment at the southern end extending for nearly 2 m (Figure 7). The feature is largely covered with duff and organic matter and likely extends farther to the south. Ground stone and ceramics were found scattered to the south and east of the feature, suggesting that an activity locus is associated with the feature. Considering the remains, the feature is believed to represent another habitation structure.

Figure 7. Photograph of Feature 5 on Site 5LP9309, looking north at rock alignment.

Shovel testing was carried out on the site to determine the potential for buried cultural deposits. Two shovel tests (ST1 and ST2) were dug at the site, one (ST1) along the western side of Feature 2 and one (ST2) within along the eastern side of Feature 4. ST1 was dug to a depth of 20 cm below ground surface (cmbgs) and revealed the upper 7 cm to be a loose, brown (10YR 4/3) silty loam with approximately 3 percent subangular gravel. This soil gave way to a moderately compact, reddish-brown (10YR 4/4) silty loam with more clay content. The shovel test recovered a gray ware sherd, a primary core-reduction flake, and a small piece of jacal in the upper 7 cm of the test. No cultural materials were recovered below 7 cm, but a small amount of charcoal flecking was present. The second shovel test (ST2) revealed the upper 4 cm of soil to be a loose, brown (10YR 4/3) silty loam with approximately 25 percent small-to-medium-size gravel overlying a slightly compact, dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/3) silty clay loam with the same rock content. This stratum continues to a base depth of the shovel test (20 cmbgs), becoming highly compact below 8 cmbgs. Two small pieces of jacal and a piece of fire-cracked-rock (FCR) was recovered from the upper 8 cm of soil.

Based on the artifact assemblage and types of features, site 5LP9309 appears to represent a habitation site where a variety of activities, including core reduction, tool manufacture, and food processing were occurring. The ceramics indicate that the site dates to the Pueblo I (A.D. 750-900) and Pueblo II (A.D. 900-1150) periods.

The historic component of the site consists of a widely dispersed scatter of artifacts that nearly coincides with the prehistoric site boundary (Appendix B, Map 4). An estimated 80 to 100 artifacts are present; all domestic items, with the vast majority being food and beverage related items (Table 6). The diagnostic maker's marks indicate that the period of significance for the component dates between the mid 1930s and 1950s. The artifacts are scattered to the west of the Clark residence (see 5LP9310 below). The association, coupled with the diagnostic dates, indicates that the assemblage is largely associated with the occupation of the house by Marguerite Clark, starting in 1947. The early dates suggested by the 1934 Owens-Illinois mark (3 ◁O▷ 4) may be attributable to the occupation of the property by James Wiggins, who owned the property prior to Marguerite.

Table 6. Historic Artifacts Identified on Site 5LP9309.

Artifact Description	Maker's Mark/Description	Date	Reference
Amber glass fragments	Round bottles some with crown cap finishes		
Clear glass fragment	Condiment bottles		
Clear glass round base	Condiment jar "MG"	1958-1961	Toulouse 1971:403-406
Clear glass fragments	Round bottles		
Clear glass oval bottle base	Liquor bottle with the word "WINE" on the base		
Clear glass round bottle base	Duraglass/15 055	1955	Toulouse 1971:403-406
Clear glass Karo Syrup Bottle	Complete (6 ½ x 2 1/8 in.)	1920-1964	Toulouse 1971:403-406
Lt. green glass fragments	Round bottles		
Dark green round bottle base	"CANADA DRY GINGER ALE, INC./ 3 ◁O▷ 4"	1934	Toulouse 1971:403-406
Dark green round bottle base	Stylized "C" in a triangle the mark of Canada Dry Ginger Ale	1930-1950	Toulouse 1971:403-406
Olive green round bottle base	"WINE" Ⓛ Ⓜ Latchford Marble Glass Company	1939-1957	Toulouse 1971:403-406
Olive green round bottle base	"GLASCOW SCOTLAND"		
Barrel hoops	Sheet metal		
Sanitary food cans	Rotary opened	Post-1925	Gillio et al. 1980:9
Beverage canisters	Church key opened	Pre-1935	Rock 1989
Hole-in-top	Milk cans		

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9309 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. Four possible habitation features and one thermal feature were recorded on the site; each is expected to produce data that can be applied to address research issues regarding Ancestral Puebloan chronology of site occupation, site structure, settlement patterns, land-use patterns, and population dynamics for the region, and more specifically, for Florida Mesa. Shovel testing carried out at the site also demonstrates that a high potential for buried cultural deposits exists. Although both tests indicate that deposits are likely shallowly buried, the deposition is substantial enough to obscure additional features and structural wall alignments.

The historic component of the site is not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The component consists of a broad scatter of artifacts that represent an off-site discard locale. Although the artifacts can be linked to the occupation of the property by Marguerite Clark, the artifacts cannot provide specific and meaningful historical information. The artifact scatter is limited in number and diversity and although maker's marks have provided temporal information, they are not considered useful in addressing regional historic research questions.

5LP9310-Clark Property

Site Description

Site 5LP9310 is the historic Clark property on private land at an elevation of 6,805 ft. (2,074 m). The property fronts La Plata County Road 220 on its northern side, extending north where the fence boundaries of the property encompass a moderately dense pinyon and juniper woodland. The property is on a gentle, southwest-facing slope approximately 0.5 miles to the east of the west edge of Florida Mesa. Soils on the property are primarily a reddish-brown silty loam with water-worn cobbles present across the landscape. Pinyon and juniper trees cover the majority of the property area, but areas of the forest have been thinned to create openings where pasture grasses grow for livestock grazing. Additional vegetation on the property are cottonwood and ash trees, Gambel oak, prickly pear cactus, forbs, and various types of grasses. The Clark property consists of two standing structures (Structure 1 and 2), a pump house (Feature 1), wagon parts, two wagons, a train bell, and an ore cart (Appendix B, Map 5). The latter four items were displayed as yard ornaments. A contemporaneous artifact scatter was also recorded to the west of the house and is described above as the historic component site 5LP9509.

Structure 1 represents the house on the Clark property. The house is oriented east to west with its entrances fronting the county road. It is a one-and two-story ranch style structure with an rectangular floor plan. The roof of the structure is gabled, running east to west the length of the structure. It is not a continuous roof and is broken into four sections abutting one another, indicating there have been three additions to the original house. According to the current landowner, the original house consisted of the eastern-most portion of the current structure (Shannon Bennett, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, July 30, 2009). Overall, the house is a wood frame structure built on a concrete perimeter foundation measuring 97½ ft. long and 31 ft. wide. The exterior of the house is covered with wood grain impressed, asbestos-siding shingles with a staggered butt. The siding is painted white with wood trim painted brown. The roof of the house is currently covered with brown channeled sheet metal roofing, but was likely originally roofed with composite shingles.

The south elevation of the structure is the front of the house, which faces the county road. There are two entrances on this elevation along with two garage entrances at the west end of the elevation. One of the entrances is near the southeastern corner of the structure and would have been access to the original portion of the house. The entrance was through a multipanel pine door with a single, small fixed-pane window. The entrance is partly covered by a cross gable dormer with the stylized letters “MJC” painted on the gable end of the dormer (Figure 8).

The second entrance is near the center of the elevation and provides access into an addition on the western side of the original house (Figure 9). According to the landowner, the addition was built as a “party room,” termed by locals as the “Big Room,” where his grandmother entertained and had social gatherings with friends and neighbors (Shannon Bennett, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, July 30, 2009). The entrance was through a covered porch with a shed roof supported by two 6-x-6-in. posts with the stylized letters “MJC” burned into them. The door is a multipanel pine door with a single, small fixed-pane window. The entrance is covered with a decorative screen door with two wagon wheels on it. A hand wrought door knocker is to the right of the screen door and an iron cover note pad on the left side of the door. In addition, two iron porch lights resembling carriage lanterns are also on each side of the door. A large window is to the west of the entrance and consists of a large fixed wood frame window with smaller, two-light windows on each side. Three additional windows are on the elevation at its east end on the original portion of the house. All are double hung, wood-sash windows with fixed decorative wood shutters. Two of the windows are east of entrance and one is west of the entrance.

Figure 8. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking north at original portion of the house.

Figure 9. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking north at the "Big Room" addition of the house.

Four windows are on the east elevation of the structure, with three on the lower level and one in the gable end of the structure (Figure 10). Of the three lower level windows, one is a small window in the center of the elevation. The remaining two are larger and on each side of the small window toward the respective corners of the elevation. All three are double hung, wood-sash windows with fixed decorative wood shutters. The window in the gable end provides light to the attic and is a double hung, wood-sash window with a three-light panel on top. It also has a fixed decorative wood shutter.

Figure 10. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking southwest at the east elevation of the original house.

The north elevation is the rear of the house and faces a grass-covered backyard fringed by cottonwood trees and Gambel oak. Three entrances are on the north elevation of the house. The primary entrance is into the original portion of the house and is in the center of the building. It is through a two panel pine door with three-light, fixed wood-sash windows at the top. The entrance is covered by a cross gable dormer and opens out onto a concrete porch. Two large picture windows are on each side of the entrance decorated with fixed decorative wood shutters (Figure 11). Because of the way the house was modified, part of the west elevation of the original house still exists (Figure 12). Three windows are present on this elevation, as is a common brick chimney. Two of the windows are on the lower level on each side of the chimney, whereas the third window is on the gable end of the elevation. All three are double hung, wood-sash windows with fixed decorative wood shutters.

The second entrance is on the party room addition at the west end (Figure 13). The entrance is through a covered porch with a shed roof supported by two 6 x 6 in. posts with the stylized letters "MJC" burned into them. The door is a multipanel pine door with a single, small fixed pane window. The entrance is covered with a decorative screen door with two wagon wheels on it. One large window is on the eastern end of the addition and is the same type of window as on the south elevation. It is a large fixed, wood-frame window with smaller two light windows on each side. The remaining entrance is on the garage addition. It is a simple, three-panel pine door with a fixed, wood-frame window on the upper one half of the door. No windows or doors are on the west elevation of the structure, as it is a garage open on the north and south elevation.

Figure 11. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking south at north elevation of original house.

Figure 12. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking east at west elevation of original portion of the house.

Figure 13. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking south at north elevation of the "party room" addition of the house.

Several gardens are along the front of the house on its southern side. Most are outlined by rock with wagon wheels incorporated within them. Two nearly complete wagons and an iron ore cart also adorn the yard. One of the wagons is a large freight wagon and what appears to be the wheels and chassis of a buckboard. A cast-iron bell also adorns the yard and is near the southeast corner of the structure. The bell appears to be a train bell mounted on top of a wood post. According to the landowner, the bell is rumored to be from one of the Durango & Rio Grande Southern locomotives (Shannon Bennett, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, July 30, 2009). In addition to the wagon remains, a workbench with various wagon parts is located near the northwest corner of Structure 1. The items on the bench consist of spokes and wheel remnants, axles, axle skeins, and tongue hardware.

Structure 2 on the Clark property is a small outbuilding approximately 60 ft. (18 m) to the southwest of Structure 1 (Figure 14). It is a small, 3-x-4-ft. building with a shed roof that is currently used for storage. The exterior and the roof of the structure are covered with corrugated iron sheet metal nailed to a 2-x 4- in. board frame. It has a simple door on the eastern side that is also covered with the same sheet metal and is hung with iron strap hinges.

The pump house (Feature 1) recorded on the property is approximately 82 ft. to the north of Structure 1 at the edge of the back yard. The feature sits within a small grove of trees and Gambel's oak and is visible as 9-x-8-ft. concrete, subterranean enclosure with a gabled roof (Figure 15). The roof of the house is covered with rolled composite roofing.

Historical Background

According to the General Land Office website, the Clark Property recorded as site 5LP9310 is on land originally acquired as a 160-acre Homestead Entry Patent by Henry Sheldon on March 26, 1892. However, the period of significance for the property begins when the property was purchased by Marguerite Jackson Clark. Marguerite and her husband were part owners in the Jackson

Figure 14. Outbuilding (Structure 2) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking northwest.

Figure 15. Pump house (Feature 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph looking south.

Hardware on Main Avenue in Durango. The hardware store was founded by Marguerite's father Harry Jackson in 1882 and specialized in wagons and wagon parts. Marguerite and Fred Clark continued to operate the hardware until Fred passed away in 1946. After the death of her husband, Marguerite continued to run the hardware with her son Harry Jackson Clark (Mary Jane Clark, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, July 30, 2009). The family matriarch decided to move out of Durango and relocate on Florida Mesa, an area she had always been fond of. She purchased the 29.16-acre property from James Wiggins on November 14, 1947 (La Plata County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Book 262, Page 344). When Marguerite bought the property the original portion of the house (described above) was already in existence and was built in 1943 by James Wiggins (Gulliford 2007). Shortly after moving to her new home, Marguerite added the Big Room and the garages. The dates of these additions are not known. The Big Room became legendary to the people of Durango and Florida Mesa as the entertainment Mecca of the valley when Marguerite threw parties at her home with most of the valley in attendance. By way of a guest book, many of the Marguerite's guests signed their names in lipstick on the white walls in her kitchen (Figure 16). When Marguerite passed away, the property was divided between her children. The property is still in the Clark family today.

Figure 16. Residence (Structure 1) on the Clark Property (5LP9310), photograph of lipstick signatures on the kitchen walls.

National Register Recommendation

The Clark Property (5LP9310) is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the Clark home functioned as a social gathering place for the residences of Durango and Florida Mesa with a period of significance from 1947 to 1960. The Clark home served a vital link as communal center for the residents of Durango and Florida. In this capacity, social gatherings at the Clark property were beneficial in reacquainting the two communities during the post-war era. The gatherings accomplished this through personal or small group recreation. Social and recreational pursuits included drinking alcoholic beverages, playing games, playing music, dances, barbeques, and dinner parties. These activities fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie and facilitated group identity amongst these communities. The Clark property appears as it did during its period of significance and continues to convey its significance through integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, and feeling.

Under Criterion C, the property is a good example of a residence modified for use as a social and recreational center on Florida Mesa. The design and overall layout of the property convey its function as a social center. For instance, the house fronts the county road with landscaping that is aesthetically pleasing, utilizing elements of the old west, such as wagons, ore carts, and a locomotive bell. Additionally, the recreational function of the house is reflected in the architecture with the addition of the "Big Room" where social gatherings were held. The role of the room is interpreted and conveyed by its separate entrances, ornate architectural elements, and aesthetically pleasing landscaping features outside the entrances of the room. The integrity of the property is good and continues to be maintained as it was originally designed and constructed during its period of significance. As a result, the structure retains integrity elements of workmanship, materials, and design.

5LP9581

Site Description

Site 5LP9581 is a prehistoric artifact scatter encompassing a 3,116-m^2 area of private land at an elevation of 6,840 ft. (2,085 m). The site is near the west edge of Florida Mesa, within a broad agricultural field, and on the summit of a low, northeast-to-southwest-trending ridge (Appendix B, Map 6). The field is periodically cultivated, as evidenced by the recent irrigation furrows shallowly dug across the whole field. The soils on the site are a dark brown silty loam that currently supports grasses, clover, and alfalfa cultivated as pasture for livestock.

The site consists of artifacts widely scattered across a wide area, with the majority of the artifacts contained within two small, parallel irrigation ditches running through the site northeast to southwest. The artifacts observed include debitage, stone tools, ceramics, ground stone, and pieces of jacal. Although ground visibility was poor because of the growth of grass, 10 pieces of lithic debitage were observed at the site with quartzite (n = 8) being the principal raw material; two chert flakes were also found. The debitage analysis shows that core reduction was the focus of the reduction strategy. The large number of secondary flakes, the cobble core (C1), and the evidence for cobble testing indicate that locally obtained cobbles were the source of the quartzite raw material.

Three stone tools were identified on the site (Table 7). A single triangular biface (B1) was the only formal stone tool at the site. Several flakes were removed across the width of the tool on both surfaces in an effort to reduce its thickness. The biface is interpreted as a knife. Two choppers fashioned from local cobbles were also found at the site. One was a small cobble with primary flakes removed to create a beveled edge. The resulting edge was retouched by removing three small flakes. The second chopper was a split cobble with six flakes removed unifacially to create its working edge.

Table 7. Flaked Stone Tools Identified at Site 5LP9581.

Type/Map Reference	Material Type	Dimension (cm) (L x W x T)	Comments
Biface (B1)	Igneous	3.4 x 2.2 x 0.5	Stage 4 complete biface with thinning flakes removed, likely a knife.
Chopper (CH1)	Quartzite	10.2 x 7.3 x 5.3	Split cobble with bifacially flaked edge.
Chopper (CH2)	Quartzite	4.2 x 6.8 x 2.7	Complete small cobble chopper with large primary flakes removed to form edge, edge retouched.
Core (C1)	Quartzite	6.4 x 4.2 x 3.4	Tested cobble with four flake scars visible.

Thirty-six ceramic sherds were found on the site with the bulk of the assemblage contained in the irrigation ditch that crosses the site. The ceramics were relatively small (thumbnail to quarter-size), probably the result of fragmenting by cattle trampling and farming equipment. Of the

36 sherds, 32 were classified as gray ware with two jar sherds and a tapered rim of a bowl identifiable. The jar sherds included a body and partial lug and a thick walled, rounded portion of a base. Three of the sherds were classified as indeterminate white ware ceramics from unpainted portions of a vessel. Only one of the ceramics had paint visible and was categorized as an early black-on-white sherd. The sherd is a bowl fragment with a design that appears to be a circle with an appended hook. The sherd is the size of a quarter, making it too small to confidently classify it into a particular design style.

Four pieces of ground stone were recorded on the site, including a mano, two unifacially ground metate fragments, and a small piece of an unidentified ground stone. The mano was a complete one-hand mano fashioned from a quartzite cobble. Only minimal grinding was visible on one of the cobbles surfaces.

Although the surface of the site has been disturbed, a shovel test was dug to determine the potential for buried cultural deposits. The shovel test (ST1) was near the center of the site on the eastern side of the ditch. The test was excavated to a depth of 30 cmbgs and determined the soil to be a fairly homogenous very dark grayish-brown (10YR 3/2) silty loam, lightening slightly with depth. The clay content of the soil also increased with depth, resulting in the soil becoming a silty clay. Two ceramic sherds, a piece of debitage, and nine small pieces of jacal were recovered from the upper 10 cm of the test. No artifacts were found between 10 and 20 cmbgs, but an abundance of jacal and minimal charcoal flecking were noted. The jacal and charcoal content increased substantially between 20 and 30 cmbgs.

Based on the artifacts and the presence of jacal, the site appears to be habitation site where site activities included core reduction and food processing. The ceramics indicate that the site dates to the Basket Maker III/Pueblo I time periods (A.D. 500-900). The paucity of artifacts and their wide distribution are attributed to agricultural practices such as plowing and furrowing.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9581 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its ability to yield information important to prehistory. The condition and wide distribution of the artifacts indicate that some degree of the site's contextual integrity has been altered by plowing and furrowing. According to Phillip Craig, a Florida Mesa rancher, the maximum depth of the plow zone for fields on the mesa is 8 in. (23 cm). As the shovel testing has demonstrated, cultural deposits were recorded to a depth of 30 cm, indicating a potential for intact buried deposits below the plow zone. Because the site has evidence for its use as a habitation site, it is possible that features or habitation structures are still present at the site in buried contexts. It is expected that data extracted from the site can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of site occupation, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, prehistoric land use patterns, and population dynamics.

5LP9582

Site Description

Site 5LP9582 is a prehistoric artifact scatter within an agricultural field on private land at an elevation of 6,840 ft. (2,085 m). The scatter encompasses a 2,767-m^2 area across a southeast-facing slope of a low, northeast to southwest trending ridge. The field has been mechanically furrowed, exposing soils that are a dark yellowish-brown silty loam. Vegetation on the site is limited to cultivated grasses with pinyon pine and juniper fringing the field to the south.

The site consists of moderate-density artifact scatter including debitage, ceramics, a retouched flake, two utilized flakes, two cores, two small cobble hammerstones, and a fragment of a one-hand mano (Appendix B, Map 7). The debitage is widely dispersed across the site with 22 pieces observed on the site. The raw material is primarily quartzite (n = 13) with chert (n = 9) representing the secondary material type. An analysis of the debitage shows that the dominant reduction strategy was focused on testing locally obtained quartzite cobbles. Core reduction was also occurring at the site, with a high incidence of primary and secondary flakes suggestive of early core reduction. The ceramic assemblage was composed of 36 sherds; the majority of these were concentrated in 23-x-5-m area on the northern portion of the site. The ceramic sherds were quarter-to-half-dollar-size, limiting classification of the assemblage. The large percentage of the ceramics (n = 27) originated from gray ware vessels. Eight of the ceramics were classified as white wares, but were deemed indeterminate because they were from unpainted portions of the vessel. One painted bowl sherd was found on the site. The sherd is a little larger than a thumbnail with a design element that appears to be three parallel lines painted with mineral paint. Because the sherd is so small, it could not be typed beyond an early black-on-white ceramic.

One shovel test (ST1) was completed at the site on the southern edge of the ceramic concentration. The test was dug to a depth of 40 cmbgs and revealed the soil to be a largely homogenous dark brown (10YR 3/4) silty loam. The clay content of the soil increased with depth, becoming a clayey loam and slightly darker (dark yellowish-brown) with depth. Five pieces of debitage and a gray ware ceramic were recovered from the first level of the test (0–10 cm). The second level (10–30 cm) produced one gray ware sherd and a piece of jacal at 30 cmbgs. No artifacts were found in the third level, between 30 and 40 cmbgs.

The surface artifacts, combined with the presence of jacal, suggest that the site was probably a habitation site. The ceramic assemblage further indicates that the site is attributed to a Basketmaker III/Pueblo I (A.D. 500-900) occupation.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9582 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its ability to yield information important to prehistory. The wide distribution of the surface artifacts indicates that cultivation practices, such as plowing and furrowing, have altered a degree of the site's contextual integrity. As noted, the plow zone for fields on the mesa is likely not deeper than 23 cm. Shovel testing completed at the site recovered a piece of jacal at a measured depth of 30 cmbgs, indicating a high potential for additional buried cultural deposits below the plow zone. The presence of the jacal suggests that habitation structures and associated features might be present on the site in buried context. It is expected that data extracted from the site can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of site occupation, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, prehistoric land use patterns, and population dynamics.

5LP9583

Site Description

Site 5LP9583 is a prehistoric artifact scatter adjacent to a gas well on private land at an elevation of 6,920 ft. (2,109 m). The site is on the western edge of a wooded area on the interior of Florida Mesa. It is west of the Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch and may have been part of a much larger site (5LP9584), but it is separated by the ditch and its construction disturbances. The local vegetation community includes antelope brush, sagebrush, cheatgrass, pinyon pine, and juniper. Soils on the site are a light yellowish brown silty loam.

The surface artifact assemblage consists of a sparse scatter of lithic debitage, a stone tool, a mano, and three ceramic sherds covering a 335-m^2 area (Appendix B, Map 8). The debitage included two quartzite flakes and one chert flake. Two of these flakes could not be assigned a function and one was a core reduction flake. The stone tool was a complete Stage 3 quartzite biface. The tool was teardrop-shape knife. The one-hand mano was fashioned from a basalt cobble with heavy, unifacial grinding on one surface. The mano indicates that food processing was engaged in by the site inhabitants. Two of the ceramics were black-on-gray bowl sherds from the same, thin walled vessel, one of which was a portion of the bowl's tapered rim. Both were tempered with crushed rock, but only one was large enough to decipher the design. The design was a cross hatch applied with a mineral paint glaze on an unslipped surface. The lack of white slip, and the presence of mineral paint glaze and crushed rock temper classify the sherd as an Upper San Juan tradition of Piedra Black-on-white (Wilson and Blinman n.d.). The ceramic suggests that the site dates to the Pueblo I period (A.D. 750-900) (Lipe et al. 1999). The third sherd, though not painted, had a thickness comparable to the above-mentioned sherds and was likely part of the same vessel.

Two rock features (Features 1 and 2) were noted on the site near the southern boundary. The first of these (Feature 1) was a scatter of cobbles covering a 3.5-x-3.3-m area. Most of the cobbles lay on the ground surface (Figure 17). The biface was found on the eastern edge of the feature. The lack charcoal, charcoal stained soil, or FCR , indicates that the feature is likely not a thermal feature. Considering the number of cobbles and the size of the concentration, the feature may represent the remains of a structure or surface room. Moreover, its isolation and small quantity of associated artifacts might indicate that it was a field house. This said, it cannot be ruled out that the feature was once associated with a larger site that has since been removed by the construction of the gas well 6 m to the west.

Figure 17. Photograph of Feature 1 on site 5LP9583 looking south.

Feature 2 is 2 m to the northwest of Feature 1 near the base of a pinyon pine. The feature consists of a 2-m-long alignment of four boulders oriented southwest to northeast (Figure 18). The aligned boulders are roughly evenly spaced every 40 cm, suggesting that the alignment is not a natural occurrence. It is conceivable that Feature 2 and Feature 1 are evidence for a larger structure.

Figure 18. Photograph of Feature 2 on site 5LP9583 looking northeast.

The evidence for a structure prompted shovel testing at Feature 1. The shovel test (ST1) was dug on the northern edge of Feature 1 to a depth of 20 cmbgs. The soils in the upper 7 cm of the test were a loose to slightly compact dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) increasing in clay content with depth. One quartzite tertiary, core-reduction flake was recovered from the first level (0–10 cm) and no artifacts were recovered from the second level (10–20 cm). The shovel test shows that site soils are likely shallow at the site.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9583 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. The features on the site support the interpretation that habitation architecture may be present. Shovel testing completed within the Feature 1 area confirms that there is a high potential for buried cultural deposits. Although the cultural material was recovered from the upper 10 cm of soil, the soil accumulation is substantial enough to mask additional structural elements, features, and artifacts. It is expected that data extracted from the site can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of site occupation, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, prehistoric land use patterns, and population dynamics.

5LP9584

Site Description

Site 5LP9584 is a large, multicomponent prehistoric and historic site on private land at an elevation of 6,940 ft. (2,115 m). The site is within a wooded area near the northern end of Florida Mesa that slopes gently to the south and southwest. Soils on the site are a light yellowish-brown silty loam that supports a pinyon and juniper woodland. The often thick understory includes mountain mahogany, antelope brush, and Gambel oak, with yucca, prickly pear cactus, pincushion cactus, Indian paint brush, and a variety of grasses also present. The site has been disturbed by livestock and water erosion, which is often localized within the open areas of the woodland.

The prehistoric component of the site consists of a dense artifact scatter with habitation structures encompassing a 57,190 m^2 area (Appendix B, Map 9). An estimated 550 pieces of lithic debitage, 8 stone tools, approximately 275 ceramics, 28 pieces of ground stone, 1 hammerstone, 1 core, and 1 utilized flake were found (Table 8). The debitage assemblage was found scattered widely across the site, with the majority of these composing four artifact concentrations (AC1-4). Three of these artifact concentrations (AC1-3) were defined on the northern portion of the site in association with habitation-related Features 2-5. The fourth (AC4) was near the southwestern boundary of the site. A roughly 30 percent sample of the debitage was completed for the site with an analysis done across the whole site and within the four artifact concentrations. According to the analysis, the raw material types were nearly evenly split between chert (n = 72) and quartzite (n = 70). Obsidian was also observed on the site but in very small quantities. As indicated by the analysis completed for the whole site, core reduction dominates the reduction strategy occurring. The appearance of tested cobbles in the assemblage indicates that locally obtained quartzite represented a portion of the raw materials used. In addition, the high incidence of bifacial thinning, edging, and finishing/resharpening flakes demonstrates that tool manufacture was also an important activity practiced by site inhabitants. The latter flake category also suggests that completed tools were being maintained.

Table 8. Flaked Stone Tools Identified on Site 5LP9584.

Type/Map Reference	Material Type	Dimension (cm) (L x W x T)	Comments
Projectile point (P1)	Chert	0.5+ x 0.3+ x 0.2	Very small notch portion of a projectile point, not diagnostic.
Projectile point (P2)	Chert	2.7+ x 2.1 x 0.3	Nearly complete point with shallow corner notching and stemmed base.
Projectile point (P3)	Chert	7.4 x 11.6 x 5.4	Basal portion of a small Corner-notch point with a convex base.
Biface (B1)	Chert	1.2+ x 0.3+ x 0.1	Stage 3 biface possibly edge fragment of a knife.
Biface (B2)	Chert	2.9 x 4.2 x 0.4	Stage 2 crude biface with bifacial flaking removed on lateral and distal edges.
Biface (B3)	Quartzite	3.7 x 3.5 x 0.6	Complete Stage 3 biface with bifacial flaking removed from proximal and both distal edges.
Hammerstone (H1)	Quartzite	5.9 x 4.5 x 2.0	Complete cobble hammerstone with battering on edges and end.
Chopper (CH1)	Igneous	10.2 x 9.8 x 2.8	Split cobble with minor unifacial flaking on distal end creating a simple edge.
Chopper (CH2)	Quartzite	7.4 x 11.6 x 5.4	
Core (C1)	Quartzite	7.2 x 3.0 x 3.0	Exhausted multidirectional cobble core.
Utilized Flake (UT1)	Chert	7.3 x 5.4 x 1.8	Large core reduction flake with use wear visible on distal end.

+ denotes incomplete measurement

Aside from the site-wide debitage analysis, sample analysis was also completed within all four artifact concentrations. The first of these was AC1, which was found scattered around a cobble concentration (Feature 4), a rock alignment (Feature 5), and a possible jacal structure (Feature 7) (see descriptions below). The AC1 sample suggests that core reduction was the primary activity occurring around the features. This said, nearly one-third of the analyzed debitage suggests that tool manufacture was a central activity practiced in close proximity to site habitation. The second artifact concentration (AC2) was found associated with a jacal structure (Feature 2) and a cobble scatter (Feature 3) immediately to the south of the structure. The analysis in this area found evidence suggesting that core reduction was prevalent, with only minor tool manufacturing occurring. The third concentration area (AC3) where debitage analysis was completed was about 7

m south of AC1 and 15 m east of AC2. The analysis for this concentration produced results counter to the other two concentrations, indicating an emphasis on tool manufacture, though core reduction and cobbles testing were also practiced. The fourth artifact concentration (AC4) was on the western boundary of the site in an open area at the edge of the woodland. Based on the debitage analysis, the locus reduction strategies were nearly split between core reduction (n = 10) and stone tool production and maintenance activities.

Of the eight stone tools, three were projectile points (P1-3). Only two of the projectile points (P2 and P3) were complete enough to provide typological information (Table 8). The first of these (P2) is the base and midsection of a chert stemmed point (Figure 19). The specimen is considered stylistically similar to a San Rafael Stemmed points. Recent work in northwestern Colorado has identified these points in contexts dating between 4450 and 1210 B.C. (Reed and Metcalf 2009). The second point (P3) is a small chert corner-notched arrow point with a convex base (Figure 20). It exhibits characteristics similar to a Rosegate series point with a broad chronology dating from A.D. 300 to 1300 (Holmer 1986). More recently, work in northwestern Colorado has dated the point type between A.D. 350 to 1395 (Mullen 2009).

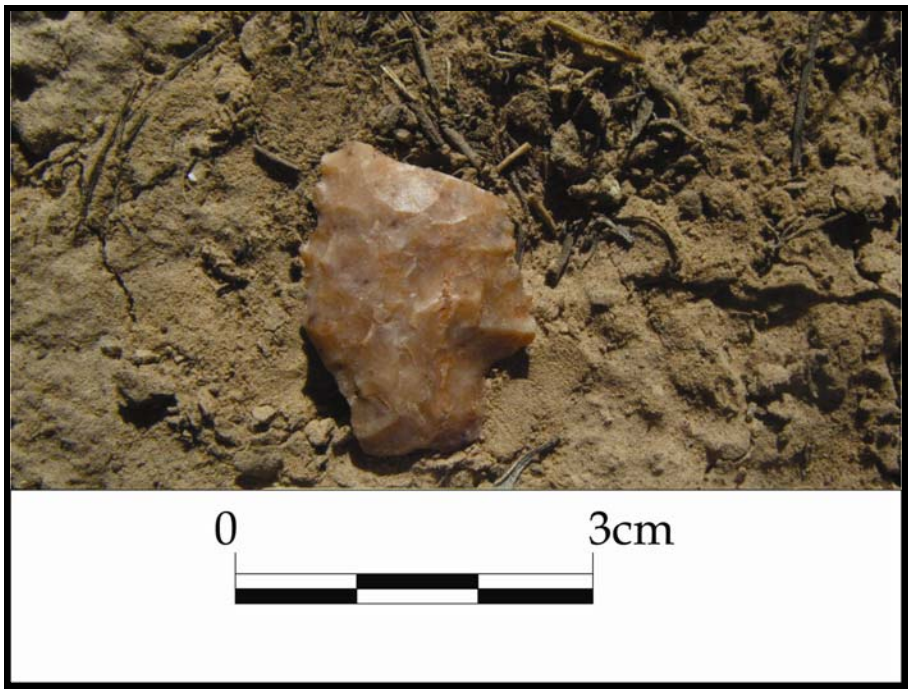

Figure 19. Projectile Point 2 from site 5LP9584.

Of the 306 ceramics estimated for the site, the vast majority were recorded within the artifact concentrations (AC1-3) associated with the habitation area. A low density ceramic scatter was also found near the center of the site, and just a few ceramics were found near the site's western boundary. Based on the ceramic analysis, gray wares makes up a substantial percentage of the assemblage with an estimated 255 sherds present. One of the gray wares was the rim and partial neck of a Chapin Gray vessel. White wares are the second most common ceramic type at the site with an estimated 47 sherds. Of the white wares analyzed, all were unpainted and classified as indeterminate white wares. Three of the ceramics were red ware bowl fragments, but were not typed because they were all from unpainted portions of the vessel (s). One of these sherds was the rim portion of the bowl with a small hole present 2.5 cm below the rim. The hole was likely drilled in an attempt to repair the vessel.

Figure 20. Projectile Point 3 from site 5LP9584.

The 28 ground stone artifacts consisted of four complete metates, nine metate fragments, seven complete one-hand manos, five mano fragments, and four unclassified ground stone fragments. The preferred material was sandstone (n = 20), with rhyolite (n = 4), quartzite (n = 1), and igneous rock (n = 1) also documented. Two-thirds of the ground stone was scattered around the site with roughly one-third of the specimens found within the artifact concentrations (AC1-3) associated with the habitation features on the northern end of the site.

Eight features (Features 1-7 and 9) were recorded as part of the prehistoric component. Two of the features (Features 1 and Feature 9) were isolated cobble concentrations and six (Features 2-7) were found clustered on the northern portion of the site. Feature 1 is a 4-x-2-m concentration of 15 igneous cobbles on the western boundary 23 m northwest of AC4. A few pieces of debitage were found scattered around the feature with more suspected, but the area is covered with leaves and pine duff. None of the rocks are fire-cracked, suggesting that the feature is not a thermal feature. The feature may be the remains of a small surface room. The second cobble feature is over 200 m to the southeast of Feature 1 on the northern side of the Hotter Lateral Ditch. The feature measures 85 x 76 cm and consists of a cluster of six cobbles. No artifacts were found associated with the feature and its function is unclear. The location of the feature immediately adjacent to the ditch suggests that it might be the result of ditch clearing.

Six of the features (Features 2-7) may represent habitation-related structures. The first of these is Feature 2, a 3.4-x-2.2-m depression with a depth of nearly 40 cm (Figure 21). A dense concentration of jacal is scattered around the circumference of the feature with the majority visible on the southern and southwestern edges. The jacal is golf-ball-to-fist size with stick and plant impressions. Other cultural material, such as ceramics, debitage, and ground stone artifacts (AC2) were identified immediately southwest of the feature remains. The feature represents the well-preserved remains of a jacal structure. Feature 3 is considered associated with Feature 2 and is 3.5 m to the south of the latter. It is a 3.2-x-1.2-m cobble concentration forming a slight L-shape. The feature probably represents the remnants of a surface room in association with Feature 2.

Figure 21. Photograph of Feature 2 on site 5LP9584, looking northeast.

Feature 4 is 18 m to the northeast of Feature 2 in close proximity to a cluster of features (Features 5-7). The feature is a short alignment of four boulders running north to south with an overall measurement of 1.4 m long and 30 cm wide. A second alignment of small cobbles parallels the boulder alignment on its western side with a scatter of cobbles to the east, giving the feature an overall width of 5 m (Figure 22). Pieces of jacal were found scattered around the feature area, as were ground stone, debitage and ceramics (AC1). The boulder alignment probably delineates a surface room.

Feature 5 is about 10 m to the northeast on the northern edge of artifact scatter AC1. It is a scatter of jacal around two boulders encompassing a 1.6-x-1.3-m area (Figure 23). The feature is within probably the remnants of a jacal structure and, when considered in context with Features 4 and 7, may serve as evidence for a room block.

Feature 7 is a 4.5-x-3-m-diameter light scatter of jacal and cobbles with a 1.9-m-diameter depression on its southeastern edge (Figure 24). The depression has a depth of 25 cm with a small, 96-x-90-cm concentration of eight cobbles (Feature 6) on its eastern side. The feature area is on the eastern edge of AC1 and is covered with pine duff and branches, suggesting that it may be more substantial than is currently visible. The feature represents the remains of a jacal structure.

The historic component of site 5LP9584 was found on the northwestern portion of the site. The component consists of a structure depression (Structure 1), a perimeter foundation (Feature 8), a corral, and an artifact scatter (AC6) encompassing a 61-x-46-m area. The structure depression is roughly rectangular, measuring 22 x 16 ft., and is oriented north to south along its short axis. It has a depth range of over 1 ft. on its north edge to just a few inches on the south. A 12½-ft.-long deteriorated log placed north to south defines the eastern edge of the depression. Two additional logs are visible underlying this log. An additional 5-ft.-long log remnant is present along the northern edge of the depression. A limited number of artifacts was found in association with the depression, including iron sheet, clear glass bottle fragments, fragments of a clear glass oil lamp chimney, and lumber pieces with wire nails. The buried logs, coupled with the depth of the depression, suggest that the structure was probably a dugout. Moreover, the lack of other substantial structural evidence and the artifact concentration (AC6) to the south further indicates that the dugout was probably a residence structure.

Figure 22. Photograph of Feature 4 on site 5LP9584, looking northeast.

Figure 23. Photograph of Feature 5 on site 5LP9584, looking north.

Figure 24. Photograph of Feature 7 on site 5LP9584, looking north.

Feature 8 is 48 ft. (14.5 m) to the southwest of Structure 1. The feature consists of a 13-x-13-ft. L-shaped alignment of boulders on the northeastern corner of a corral. The feature appears to be a partial perimeter foundation for a small structure. No artifacts were found in association with the feature that would aid in understanding its function. The location of the feature at the corner of the corral suggests that its function was livestock related, such as a shed for storing horse tack. Based on its size, it is also probable that it was could have been a chicken coop.

The corral consists of eight standing posts forming a rough 70-x-55-ft. rectangle. The posts are a mix of 8-in.-diameter juniper posts and V-shaped posts split from larger diameter logs. Three holes have been drilled along the vertical length of the posts with bailing wire threaded through the holes. No nails were found attached to the posts, suggesting horizontal fence rails were attached to the posts using bailing wire. The size of the corral is considered too small for penning multiple animals and may have been used to pen one or two animals.

The artifacts on the site are scant, with the majority of those identified sparsely scattered across a 65-x-40-ft. area (AC6) 28 ft. south of Structure 1. An estimated 35 artifacts were found including purple, aqua, and amber bottle glass fragments, pieces of lumber, wire nails, fragments from an aqua glass canning jar, cut bone, fragments of an external friction lid, a hole-in-cap can, and the base of an aqua glass bottle. A maker's mark was found on the bottle base and was embossed with "UTNAM/123." The mark is that of the Lyndeborough Glass Company of New Hampshire. It is believed that Henry W. Putman produced jars and bottles with the trademark "Lightning" on the side and the word "Putnam" on the bottom after 1882. The mark was short lived and was no longer active after the factory burned in 1886 (Toulouse 1971).

The presence of purple glass indicates that it dates a period when manganese was used as a clearing agent in glass. The use of manganese began about 1876 and became very common by 1885. Although the vessels started out clear in color, exposure to the sun resulted in a purple tint, varying in intensity depending on the amount of manganese used. The use of manganese as a decolorant declined with the adoption of the automatic and semiautomatic bottling machines beginning about

1904. Selenium was found to work better as a decolorant in glass manufacture in place of manganese. World War I caused a disruption in the importation of manganese from foreign sources but was not the primary reason for decline in its use. By 1920, all but manufacturers of specialty bottles had ceased using manganese (Lockhart 2006). The switch by soft drink bottle manufacturers seems to have been more rapid, between 1912 and 1914 (Lockhart 2005).

Hole-in-cap cans began being produced in the 1820s. A stamping machine for the manufacture of can ends was patented in 1847. Can ends began being soldered by machine in the mid-1870s and a machine for soldering side seams was introduced in 1883. Hole-in-cap cans began being replaced by Sanitary cans in about 1904. By 1911, Sanitary cans dominated the can market. Hole-in-cap cans generally date before about 1914, though there was some limited manufacture of this style of can until about 1940 (Rock 1984:102-103; Rock 1989:50-51, 65).

The sparse nature of the artifacts suggests that the site was a single occupation of limited duration. Based on the temporal artifacts, the site occupation is believed to date between 1882 and 1914. The period of significance indicates that the site is land originally acquired as a 160-acre Cash Entry Patent by John Austin on October 14, 1891. Although most of the artifacts conform well to these date, the presence of the "Putnam" maker's mark would indicate that the site dates before 1891. This said, the post-1886 appearance of the bottle may reflect its later use as a product package and its shipment west. It is plausible that the site property was occupied for a period before it was officially patented. The paucity of artifacts does not support the latter hypothesis.

National Register Recommendation

The prehistoric component of site 5LP9584 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. The site is large and has a diverse artifact assemblage with artifact concentration representing loci of activity. Spatial patterning is evident in the distribution of artifacts, suggesting both a degree of integrity and the potential for data concerning site structure. In addition, the eight features recorded have the ability to yield data concerning the early Ancestral Puebloan occupation of region. Two of these features are largely undisturbed jacal structures, with each possessing a high degree of integrity, suggesting the potential to produce intact cultural deposits. It is expected that data recovery efforts focused on the habitation related features would be fruitful in producing information that could be used to address a suite of research questions posed for southwestern Colorado (Lipe et al. 1999). Data from intact datable deposits can provide information regarding prehistoric diet breadth and mobility. Considering the site's cultural affiliation, the temporal aspect would be especially important in understanding the development of the Ancestral Puebloan in the Durango area. In this respect, information gleaned from the site may be instrumental in enhancing our understanding of research domains such as cultural chronologies, site function, and prehistoric settlement patterns.

The historic component of site 5LP9584 is also evaluated as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to history. Based on the land ownership history, the site is likely the residence of the original 1891 homestead for the property. In a temporal sense, the site predates the 1900 opening of the Ute Reservation on the southern end of Florida Mesa, an event that marked the settlement of the mesa and the subsequent establishment of farms and ranches that still flourish to this day. The early occupation of the site predates the opening of reservation lands by 10 years and is expected to contribute important information about the early settlement of the mesa and the realities of farming and ranching of marginal lands prior to the appearance irrigation in the 1910s. The dugout depression (Structure 1) is expected to contain intact buried archaeological deposits with the potential to provide data on conditions of rural ranches, diet, subsistence, goods acquisition, health, and chronology. It is also expected that information from the remaining feature can be used to understand feature function and site structure.

Revised G Modified Alternative Site Documentation

The project task order also included the documentation and evaluation of seven sites previously identified on an informal basis located completely or partially within the APE established for the Revised G Modified Alternative. The sites were primarily along the rim of Florida Mesa on private land. All of the sites were prehistoric. One site had been previously recorded. The results of the recording are presented below.

5LP2223

Site Description

Site 5LP2223 is a large prehistoric habitation on private land at an elevation of 6,730 ft. (2,051 m). The site encompasses a 65,460 m^2 area within a narrow strip of pinyon and juniper forest along the western rim of Florida Mesa. The forest serves as the remnants of a woodland that once covered much of the mesa but has been removed historically for farmland. As a result, the eastern boundary of the site corresponds closely with the western edge of an expansive hayfield/pasture on the Webb Ranch. Soils at the site are a reddish-brown silty loam, supporting a vegetation community of pinyon pine, juniper, Gambel oak, prickly pear cactus, serviceberry, sagebrush, Indian rice grass, brome grass, and a variety of other types of grasses. Water erosion is active at the site, as evidenced by small to medium rills and ephemeral drainage patterns. The site has also been heavily distrubed by livestock, which has resulted in heavy trampling and bedding depressions over the whole of the site.

The site was originally recorded by CDOT in 1988 during an inventory along U.S. Highway 550 (Hand 1988). At the time of the recording, the site was described as a broad scatter of lithic debitage, ceramics, ground stone, battered stone, and burned adobe largely concentrated within seven artifact concentrations. The recording resulted in a site boundary that encompassed a 4,488 m^2 area.

The site was again revisited in 1999 by URS Greiner Woodward Clyde (URS) during a second inventory for CDOT (Eckhardt and Mutaw 2000). As a result of the recording, the site boundaries were increased substantially, with the new site boundaries encompassing a 416,039-m^2 area. The URS recording identified five habitation features across the site area. Four of the features (Features 1-4) were interpreted as rubble mounds representing room blocks and the fifth representing a single room (Feature 5). The recorders estimated that over 2,000 artifacts were present at the site, including ceramics, debitage, flaked stone tools, and ground stone. Based on ceramic typologies, the site was assigned an Ancestral Puebloan Pueblo I/Pueblo II cultural affiliation.

Alpine reevaluated the site in 2010 and extended the site boundaries and documented four additional features (Features 6-9) (Appendix B, Map 10). Also, as part of the reevaluation, Features 1-5 recorded in 1999 were relocated, mapped, and described and their current condition documented. Feature 1 was relocated near the northern boundary of the site in a small clearing between two juniper trees (Figure 25). The feature consists of a concentration of approximately 50 cobbles measuring 2 x 4 m. It is a rectangular pattern with 6 cobbles creating an L-shaped alignment on the west and south sides. The feature may represent the remains of a surface room.

URS Features 2 and 3 were relocated 57 m south of Feature 1. Examination of the two features indicated that both could be linked into one large locus of activity because of a continuous scatter of artifacts, structure material, and structural remnants. The combined features were reevaluated and combined as Feature 2 (Figure 26). Several wall alignments and jacal concentrations were found within the Feature 2 area, primarily along the summit of a small, north-to-south-trending ridge. Notable structural remains and a 2.5 m shallow depression were mapped using the GPS unit. Considering the remains identified, Feature 2 is believed to represent a large Pueblo I hamlet where multiple residences are represented.

Figure 25. Photograph of Feature 1 on Site 5LP2223, looking north at feature, note potential alignment on west and south sides.

Figure 26. Photograph of structure within Feature 2 area on Site 5LP2223, looking southwest at rock alignment in the forefront and jacal concentration beneath the tree.

Feature 4 was found 46 m to the south of Feature 2 on the top of a slight rise on the landscape. The feature has been heavily disturbed by livestock trampling and is currently visible as two small loci of cobbles encompassing a 19.1-x-21.5-m area. One possible wall alignment may be present within the feature area, as are a few fist-sized pieces of jacal. A sparse scatter of artifacts was also found in association with the feature, including gray ware ceramics and lithic debitage. Additional artifacts are suspected, but have likely been masked by cattle trampling. The feature is believed to represent a surface structure, which, considering its size and distance from the residential area (Feature 2), may be a field house.

Feature 5 is the final previously recorded feature at the site. The feature is at the far south end of the site 98 m south of Feature 4. It consists of a scatter of cobbles and a slightly depressed area on the summit and east-facing slope of a low, north-to-south-trending ridge. Like the other features, Feature 5 has been heavily disturbed by cattle trampling, which has significantly displaced its fabric. The feature area measures 21 x 20.5 m, containing an estimated 40 cobbles, 10 boulders, and a scatter of FCR on the western side of the feature. Artifacts include a chert, side-notched projectile point (see artifact description below), lithic debitage, cores, and ceramics. Two notable ceramics were identified within the feature area. One was a bowl sherd with a hatched line that appears to a Piedra Black-on-white sherd and the other was a large, gray ware handle (Figure 27). Based on the size of the piece, it may have been a handle on an olla. The presence of the cobbles suggests that the feature may have been a surface structure. The shallow depression on the eastern side of the feature area may also represent a pit structure, though the depression could have been created by livestock.

As mentioned, five additional features were recorded during the site revisit. The first of these is Feature 6, which was recorded on the southern end of the site approximately 70 m northwest of Feature 5. The feature consists of a network of course rubble alignments and rock concentrations near the base of a southwest-facing slope immediately east of the mesa rim. Basketball-size water-worn boulders were used to construct the various elements of the feature. The feature components were mapped using the GPS unit and each were assigned a secondary letter (i.e. Feature 6a-Feature 6k) (Appendix B, Map 10). The descriptions for the feature elements are presented below in Table 9. Interestingly, the boulders used in the feature construction outcrop on the slopes of the mesa to the west but are not present on the interior of the mesa where the feature is located. This would suggest that the feature is not the result of historic field or pasture clearing. Further evidence countering historic origins is the existence of pinyon pine and juniper trees growing in and around the various alignments. These trees are comparable in diameter to mature trees growing elsewhere on the site, suggesting that the trees growing on and around the feature are contemporaneous with the rest of the forest. Although the age of the trees is unknown, according to the Utah State University Extension Office website, native juniper and pinyon pine left undisturbed can live for at least 500 years. Allowing for the life span of these trees, it can be assumed that the feature alignments probably predate the early 1900s historic occupation of Florida Mesa.

The only artifact found in association with the feature was a mano found along the northern edge of the Feature 6f alignment. It was a bifacially ground, one-hand mano fashioned from a rhyolite cobble measuring 13.2 cm long, 8.2 cm wide, and 5.5 cm thick. The presence of the mano can also be seen as additional evidence against the historic origins of the feature. In an effort to gain additional information about the feature, a shovel trench was excavated parallel to the east/west alignment of Feature 6f. The trench was 25 cm wide and 1 m long and was dug in 20 cm levels to a depth of 63 cm below ground surface (cmbgs). The trench identified five strata differentiated primarily on soil compaction and rock content (Table 10). Based on the stratigraphic evidence, it appears that soil is being accumulated behind the rock features. Unfortunately, the evidence does not serve as irrefutable proof that the soil accumulation is the result of the rock features.

Figure 27. Photograph of ceramic handle or lug from Feature 5 on site 5LP2223.

Table 9. Site 5LP2223 Feature 6 Descriptions.

No./Map Reference	Measurement (m) (L x W)	Description
6a	6.2 x 1.1	Slightly arched, two courses wide, and at the toe of a slope.
6b	2.15 x 1.3	U-shaped alignment midslope with the opening downslope.
6c	5.9 x 2.46	Slightly crescent-shaped area of boulders 4 to 5 boulders wide placed along a gentle slope of a low hill.
6d	3.9 x 1.45	L-shaped alignment with the top of the L running parallel with a slope and the leg of the L running perpendicular to the slope. Between 2 and 4 boulders wide.
6e	3.3 x 2.5	Roughly Z-shaped, single boulder alignment expanding to 2 boulders wide. Placed parallel with the slope with both "legs" running perpendicular to the slope.
6f	6.56 x 3.63	F-shaped alignment near the base of a slope with the horizontal legs of the F running perpendicular to the slope.
6g	15.1 x 2.3	Slightly arched alignment of boulders placed north to south perpendicular along the base of a slope. The north end of the alignment extends across a small, ephemeral drainage.
6h	9.9 x 1.9	Alignment angles southwesterly away from the midpoint of Feature 6g nearly perpendicular to the slope. It is on average 5 to 6 boulders wide placed along the contour of the slope.
6i	5.9 x 1.6	Small arch of boulders 5 boulders wide and tapering to a single boulder wide. The alignment intersects Feature 6h and angles south.
6j	3.1 x 1.7	Alignment 4 to 5 boulders wide running parallel with the slope.
6k	1.6 x .95	Cluster of boulder somewhat perpendicular to the slope.

Table 10. Strata Identified in Shovel Trench at Feature 6 at Site 5LP2223.

Stratum No.	Depth cmbgs*	Description
1	0–10	Very compact dark brown (10RY 3/3) silty loam with flecks of calcium carbonate.
2	7–32	Slightly compact dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) silty loam with small gravels with calcium carbonate binding to gravel.
3	24–45	Slightly compact to a loose dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) sandy loam with calcium carbonate flecking.
4	41–54	Slightly compact yellowish-brown (10YR 5/4) silty sandy loam with course gravel and calcium carbonate throughout. Layer of fist-sized cobbles at the transition point between strata 4 and 5.
5	50–63	Slightly compact dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) silty sand with fine-to-coarse grains with smaller diameter gravels and cobbles.

*Undulating strata, measurements reflect minimum and maximum depths

Although the alignments occur somewhat randomly on the landscape, they are unquestionably man made. In many instances, the alignments were placed perpendicularly to the slope primarily near its base. The positioning is considered strategic, as the alignments conform to the natural topography with sediments accumulating behind them to form a series of small terraces. Considering the physical and temporal evidence and the cultural context, the elements of Feature 6 are believed to be the remains of agricultural field plots used by the inhabitants of the site. Although early agricultural strategies employing water and sediment control features are not common in Pueblo I contexts, they are not without precedent. For instance, rock features with agricultural utility, such as check dams and water spreader features, have been documented in Pueblo I contexts south of the project area near the Animas River drainage in northwestern New Mexico (Wilshusen 1995). Innovative farming methods by Pueblo I populations is also a well documented phenomenon in southeastern Utah. In this example, several sites in the uplands near Blanding, Utah were documented containing check dams and rock terrace indicative of water and sediment control technology. Moreover, one of the sites exhibited complex check dam and terrace networks in close proximity to habitation structures, leading to the interpretation that the networks were evidence for a cooperative or communal land use system (Guilfoyle 2004).

Feature 7 was found near the northern boundary of the site on a low terrace along the south edge of a drainage (Figure 28). It appears to be an upright slab feature that measures 116 x 45 cm. Two upright sandstone slabs are still in place defining the northern and southern edges of the feature. Two additional rocks were also present, but it is unclear whether they are part of the feature construction. Based on the method of construction, the feature may represent a slab-lined storage cist or a thermal feature.

Feature 8 was identified 41.5 m to the west of the area combined Feature 2/Feature 3 area. The feature is on a slight, southwest-facing slope and consists of a sparse scatter of an estimated 30 pieces of FCR covering a 9-x-3.5-m area. The feature is within a shallow erosion rill, which has resulted in the disbursal of the rock downslope. The presence of FCR suggests that the feature was probably a roasting pit. No charcoal was identified at the feature local and only few pieces of lithic debitage were found in close proximity to the feature.

Feature 9 (Figure 29) is another FCR concentration 20 m to the south of Feature 8. It is larger than Feature 8, measuring 6.5 x 4 m, and is also within an eroded area. The concentration likely represents a deflated roasting pit feature with no charcoal or charcoal-stained fill remaining. No artifacts were found in association with the feature.

Feature 10 is similar to Feature 9 and upslope just 6 m to the northeast. The feature is a dense concentration of FCR covering a 3.5-x-5-m area. The feature is probably the remains of a roasting pit that has also been deflated by water erosion. No visible charcoal or charcoal-stained fill were found at the feature and no associated artifacts were identified.

Figure 28. Photograph of Feature 7 on Site 5LP2223, looking northeast at feature.

Figure 29. Photograph of Feature 9 on Site 5LP2223, looking north at feature.

An analysis of the artifact assemblage was undertaken during the 1999 recording of the site and the effort was not duplicated during the site reevaluation. The site area was, however, reexamined for additional diagnostic artifacts and temporally relevant ceramics that would aid in a better understanding of the site's chronology. A single, previously unrecorded projectile point was identified on the western edge of Feature 5. It was the basal portion of a chert side-notched point broken at the very bottom of the base. Although the very base of the point appears to missing, the remaining attributes suggest that it is a dart-size point stylistically similar to a Sudden Side-notched or a San Rafael Side-notched, dating from ca. 5050 to 1850 B.C. (Holmer 1980) and 2550 to 1850 B.C. respectively (Justice 2002). The Sudden Side-notch has also been found in datable contexts in northwest Colorado between 4600 to 4360 B.C. (Mullen 2009).

Thousands of ceramics are present at the site in a highly fragmented state owing to the extensive livestock disturbance. Gray wares dominate the assemblage and the vast majority of the ceramics present are within the Feature 2 area. Six black-on-white ceramics and one redware ceramic sherd were found at the site. All of the black-on-white ceramics had mineral painted motifs and were tempered with crushed igneous rock. Although the sherds were only quarter-to-half-dollar size, five of the painted wares exhibited design elements that allowed for some typology inferences to be made. One of the sherds appears to be a Chapin Black-on-white bowl sherd with an interior design composed of a solid painted line bordering several dots. The remaining four were Piedra Black-on-white bowl sherds. Design elements of this type included parallel lines, solid painted triangles, hatched line, and a hooked triangle. The single red ware was the size of a thumbnail with no painted elements visible. The slip of the sherd was a light red to orange color, suggesting that it was likely from an Abajo Red-on-orange or Bluff Black-on-red vessel.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP2223 was determined to be officially eligible to the NRHP in 2000. Alpine agrees with this assessment, asserting that the site has a high potential to yield information important to Basketmaker III/Pueblo I prehistory. The site is an Ancestral Puebloan habitation site with clear evidence for architectural remains. Intact pit structures may also be present on the site but are currently undetected because of the current impacts to the landscape. Data collected from the site has the potential to address a wealth of research questions specific to the Basketmaker III/Pueblo I periods in southwestern Colorado (Lipe et al. 1999). Data collection should focus on chronologic data that can aid in the creating a comprehensive Ancestral Puebloan cultural history for Florida Mesa, understanding of site structure, subsistence strategies, land use patterns, and population dynamics, which should be expanded to consider Pueblo I population aggregation. In addition, potential agricultural practices represented by Feature 6 have the potential to yield data specific to subsistence strategies employed by early Ancestral Puebloan communities. It is expected that the feature area contains pollen and macrobotanical data that may help to assign a clear function to the feature and address questions concerning early agriculture.

5LP9585

Site Description

Site 5LP9585 is on the western edge of a gravel well pad on private land at an elevation of 6,730 ft. (2,051 m). The 2,763-m^2 site is about 45 m from the northwestern edge of Florida Mesa on a northwest-facing slope that has been heavily disturbed by livestock and water erosion (Appendix B, Map 11). A portion of the site is partly within a wooded area and an open area historically cleared for farming. The local vegetation community includes pinyon pine, juniper, snakeweed, rescuegrass, prickly pear cactus, sagebrush, forbs, and various types of grasses. Soils on the site are a reddish-brown silty loam cut by several erosion rills.

The site comprises 11 pieces of debitage, three small cobble hammerstones, a utilized flake, two ceramic sherds, and 143 ground stone artifacts. The debitage including eight quartzite and three chert flakes with the assemblage nearly split between tool-manufacture and core-reduction flakes. The utilized flake was a small tertiary flake with use wear visible on both lateral edges. The ceramics were both quarter-size gray ware sherds. The small size of the sherds makes determining vessel type and class impossible. The ground stone was found primarily clustered on the southwestern portion of the site, with three of the specimens recorded on the northwestern portion of the site. Ten of the ground stone items were classified as metates; three are complete. Sandstone was the preferred metate material, though four of the specimens were rhyolite or granite boulders with relatively flat surfaces. Three of the ground stone artifacts were one-hand manos fashioned from cobbles. One piece of the ground stone was recorded as generic ground stone because it could not be classified as either ground stone type. The large number of ground stone suggests that floral processing was undertaken at the site; however, aside from a dish-shape metate, all were unifacially ground with evidence of minimal use. This would suggest that the site functioned as a processing locale of limited duration. Based on the ceramics, the site is attributed to the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I periods (A.D. 575-900).

One shovel test (ST1) was excavated in an area of intact soil near two of the metates. The test was dug to a depth of 20 cmbgs and revealed the upper 5 cm of the soil to be a dark yellowish-brown silty loam overlaying a compact, strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay. The latter became increasingly more compact with depth. No artifacts were recovered from the shovel test.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9585 is evaluated as not eligible for the NRHP. The surface integrity of the site has been altered by water erosion, livestock trampling, and the construction of a gas well pad. In addition, testing carried out in an area of intact deposits indicates that there is little potential for buried archaeological deposits.

5LP9586

Site Description

Site 5LP9586 is a prehistoric artifact scatter encompassing a 2,358-m^2 area on private land at an elevation of 6,740 ft. (2,054 m) (Appendix B, Map 12). The site is on a gentle, west-facing slope near the western edge of Florida Mesa within the intermittent open areas of a pinyon pine and juniper forest. A fence runs east to west though the site near its south boundary, which has curtailed livestock activity to the southern portion of the site, resulting in disturbances, such as trampling and bedding. Soils on the site are a reddish-brown silty loam supporting an understory vegetation community of Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, serviceberry, prickly pear cactus, Indian rice grass, and a variety of other grasses.

The site consists of a sparse scatter of artifacts with one artifact concentration (AC1) defined near the center of the site. The concentration measures 6.5 x 6 m and contains the bulk of the ground stone specimens and over half of the debitage assemblage. Fractured quartzite cobbles were noted broadly scattered across the site and may represent FCR. This said, none of the rock was found concentrated in any given place that would suggest the presence of a feature.

The artifacts comprised 32 pieces of debitage, two stone tools, a multi-directional quartzite core, a cobble hammerstone, and 14 pieces of ground stone. Analysis completed for the debitage indicates that quartzite is the preferred raw material, with chert also present. Core reduction is the dominant reduction strategy, with 56 percent of the assemblage reflecting this strategy. Sixteen percent of the assemblage was composed of biface-thinning flakes, indicating that tools were manufactured at the site, as well. The remaining percentages were divided between cobble testing (16 percent) and function unknown (12 percent).

The two stone tools were a uniface (Ul) and projectile point (P1). The uniface was a faceted piece of chert debris with unifacial flaking along one of its edges. The tool appears to have functioned as an expedient cutting tool. The projectile point was a quartzite corner-notched variety with a triangular blade and a missing base. The missing base is the result of an impact fracture and makes determining the point type problematic.

The 14 pieces of ground stone included five manos, seven metates, and two unidentifiable ground stone items. All five manos were one-hand manos fashioned from locally obtained rhyolite, granite, or sandstone cobbles. Three were complete and two were fragments. All of the metates were slab metates with two complete specimens recorded. Sandstone was the preferred metate material, with only one granite specimen identified. The artifact assemblage suggests that the site probably functioned as a short-term subsistence processing locale where other activities, such as core reduction and tool manufacture, were also practiced.

Two shovel tests (ST1 and ST2) were dug on the site to aid in its evaluation. Much of the site area has been altered by water erosion, as evidenced by rills and sheet washing. The shovel tests were dug in areas that were not eroded. The first shovel test (ST1) was excavated within the artifact concentration (AC1) in a soil mound stabilized by vegetation. The test was dug to a depth of 30 cmbgs and yielded two pieces of debitage and four pieces of FCR within the upper 4 cm of soil. Charcoal specks were also identified in the shovel test to a depth of 16 cmbgs but were in very limited number. The second shovel test (ST2) was also dug in a soil mound beneath a pinyon pine on the east portion of the site in close proximity to ground stone artifacts. The test was excavated to a depth of 20 cmbgs, yielding four pieces of FCR at a maximum depth of 4 cmbgs.

National Register Recommendations

Site 5LP9586 is evaluated as not eligible to the NRHP. A large percentage of the site's surface has been degraded through water erosion. Shovel testing in areas of intact soil found that cultural materials are shallowly buried within 4 cm of the ground surface on portions of the site stabilized by vegetation. The site materials are sparse and widely dispersed across the landscape. although there may be enough soil accumulation, it is unlikely that features or substantial buried cultural are present.

5LP9587

Site Description

Site 5LP9587 is a prehistoric artifact scatter encompassing a 1,791-m^2 area on private land at an elevation of 6,780 ft. (2,067 m) (Appendix B, Map 13). The site is on a northwest-trending ridge on Florida Mesa, immediately east of the mesa rim and within the open areas of a pinyon pine and juniper forest. Water erosion is apparent at the site, as evidenced by rills, ephemeral drainages, and exposed soil in open areas of the forest. Soils on the site are a reddish-brown silty loam supporting an understory vegetation community of Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, prickly pear cactus, yucca, Indian rice grass, and a variety of grasses and forbs.

The site consists of a scatter of six pieces of debitage, one stone tool, and five pieces of ground stone, and three FCR concentrations (Features 1-3). The debitage assemblage was small with four chert and two quartzite flakes found. Four of the flakes were core reduction, one was a biface-thinning flake, and one was a tested cobble. The single stone tool was a large, secondary retouched igneous cobble flake with both lateral edges unifacially flaked. The uneven edges suggest that it was an expedient cutting tool. Four of the ground stone items were one-hand manos and one was an unidentifiable piece of ground stone. All the manos were fashioned from locally obtained cobbles—three were complete and one was fragmentary.

Two of the features (Feature 1 and Feature 3) are on the northeastern portion of the site and one (Feature 2) is near the rim of the mesa on the southwestern portion. Feature 1 is composed of approximately 60 pieces of FCR scattered south within a small erosion rill. The rock is densely clustered along the northwestern edge of the feature and sparsely scattered downslope to the southwest. The stone tool was found immediately west of the feature along with three pieces of debitage, two pieces of ground stone, and a piece of burned bone. The second FCR feature (Feature 2) is 34 m to the southwest of Feature 1. It is sparse scatter of about 12 pieces of FCR encompassing a 3.6-x-4-m area. The only artifact associated with the feature was a mano on its southeastern edge. The final FCR concentration has its north end 1.5 m west of Feature 1. It is composed of an approximately 30 to 40 pieces of FCR scattered northeast to southwest within a small erosion rill. One of the recorded manos is on the southern edge of the feature. Based on their sizes, Feature 1 and Feature 3 are believed to be the deflated remains of roasting pits. The smaller size of Feature 2 suggests that it is a hearth deflated by water erosion.

The site was tested for buried cultural deposits through the excavation of two shovel tests (ST1 and ST2). The first shovel test (ST1) was dug in an area of alluvial soil at the southern end of Feature 1. The test was dug to a depth of 30 cmbgs and revealed the upper 5 cm of soil to be a dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silty loam overlying a brown (7.5YR 4/4) compact silty clay that became less compact with depth. No artifacts were recovered from the shovel test, but minimal charcoal flecking was evident up to 15 cmbgs. The second shovel test was dug on the northern edge of Feature 3 in close proximity to the mano. It was also dug to a depth of 30 cmbgs and determined the soil matrix to be the same as ST1. Four pieces of FCR were recovered from the test at a depth of 8 cmbgs. One of the FCR was a mano fragment, suggesting that the ground stone may have been recycled. Minimal amounts of charcoal flecking were identified in the test between 12 and 17 cmbgs.

National Register Recommendations

Site 5LP9587 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. Although the artifact assemblage on the site is not extensive or overtly diverse, the FCR features provides supporting evidence for additional features to be present in forested areas of the site that have not been eroded. Shovel testing has also determined that the recorded features may still contain buried cultural deposits. It is expected that salvageable data extracted from the features in the form of radiocarbon and macrobotanical samples can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of the site occupation, feature function, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, and prehistoric land use patterns.

5LP9588

Site Description

Site 5LP9588 is a prehistoric artifact scatter encompassing a 2,980-m^2 area on private land at an elevation of 6,770 ft. (2,063 m) (Appendix B, Map 14). The site materials are sparse and widely scattered across the western edge of Florida Mesa within small, intermittent openings of a dense forest. The majority of the artifacts were found scattered along the edge of the mesa overlooking a deeply incised drainage to the south. The drainage is a side canyon to Wilson Gulch. The soils on the site are a reddish-brown silty loam covered with pine duff and leaf matter and a moderate amount of water-worn cobbles. Water erosion is evident on the site, consisting of rills that have formed in the open areas of the forest, down-cutting as they meet the mesa's edge. The local vegetation community includes pinyon pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, yucca, prickly pear cactus, pincushion cactus, Indian rice grass, daisy, asters, other forbs, and a variety of other grasses.

The site is comprises 25 pieces of lithic debitage, 10 ground stone artifacts, one cobble hammerstone, 3 stone tools, and 8 cores (Table 11), and 3 FCR scatter (Features 1-3). The debitage include 22 flakes and 3 pieces of chert debris, with 16 quartzite and 6 chert flakes. The assemblage further consisted of three unidentifiable flakes, 12 core-reduction flakes, 4 biface-thinning flakes,

and 3 cobble-testing flakes. Core reduction appears to be the focus of the reduction strategy occurring at the site; this emphasis is also evident in the large number of cores (n = 8) present, as well.

Table 11. Stone Tools and Cores Identified on Site 5LP9588.

Type/Map Reference	Material Type	Dimension (cm) (L x W x T)	Comments
Biface (B1)	Chert	2.7 x 3.1 x 1.5	Crude Stage 2 biface fashioned from a secondary flake probably a scraper.
Chopper (CH1)	quartzite	7.2 x 6.4 x 3.3	Split cobble chopper unifacially flaked, visible use wear (crushing/battering) along the edge.
Uniface (U1)	quartzite	5.4 x 4.5 x 2.4	Uniface end scraper fashioned from a large primary flake.
Hammerstone	quartzite	6.6 x 5.3+ x 4.5	Cobble; heavily battered and broken on edges.
Core (C1)	Quartzite	6.4 x 4.6 x 2.5	Multidirectional core.
Core (C2)	Chert	5.9 x 4.2 x 2.4	Exhausted multidirectional cobble core.
Core (C3)	Quartzite	4.9 x 7.5 x 3.4	Multidirectional cobble core.
Core (C4)	Chert	9.2 x 8.5 x 6.2	Multidirectional cobble core.
Core (C5)	Quartzite	5.2 x 4.4 x 2.7	Multidirectional cobble core.
Core (C6)	Chert	3.3 x 3.1 x 2.9	Exhausted core.
Core (C7)	Chert	4.8 x 2.6 x 2.3	Exhausted multidirectional core.
Core (C8)	Quartzite	5.7 x 3.2 x 2.4	Exhausted multidirectional cobble core.

The ground stone assemblage consisted of seven manos and three metates, with most found in association with the three FCR scatters. All of the manos were one-hand implements fashioned from water-worn sandstone (n = 4) and basalt (n = 3) cobbles that are abundant on the slopes of the mesa. Six of the manos exhibited surfaces with minimal grinding, suggesting a limited use life. One of the manos was heavily ground on both surfaces with both ends heavily ground as well. The extensive edge grinding may suggest that the mano was used in a trough metate, though no trough metates were found. All three of the metates were slab metates. Two of the metates were unifacially ground surfaces on nearly flat boulders, whereas the third was a unifacially ground metate fragment with pecking visible. The metates also exhibit minimal grinding, indicative of a limited use life.

The three FCR scatters were found in exposed areas of the forest. The lack of a tree canopy has allowed rill erosion to develop, resulting in the downslope migration of FCR. The first of these scatters (Feature 1) is on the western portion of the site just north of the mesa rim. The scatter is circular and measures 4.5 x 5 m, with an estimated 30 pieces of fractured cobbles present. Two of the recorded manos were found on the northern edge of the scatter and two cores were found within the feature. The second feature (Feature 2) is 29 m north of Feature 1 on a gently southeast-facing slope. The feature consists of an estimated 70 pieces of fractured cobble (FCR) strewn across a 6.8 x 3.5 m area. Two pieces of the same mano were found in the scatter, as were two multidirectional cores and seven of the 12 core-reduction flakes. The final FCR scatter (Feature 3) is near the northwestern boundary of the site approximately 50 m northwest of Feature 2. An estimated 100 plus pieces of FCR are broadly scattered within an erosion rill encompassing a 9-x-2.7-m area. A single mano was found within the feature area near its western end.

Considering the remains, the site appears to have functioned as a resource or subsistence processing locale on the edge of the mesa. Moreover, the number of ground stones on the site would suggest that floral processing was a major focus of the activities practiced by site inhabitants. The FCR scatters are believed to represent the remains of three sizable roasting features. The association of ground stone with the feature areas might also suggest that they were used for floral processing.

Three shovel tests were excavated to determine whether intact buried cultural deposits might be present. The first shovel test (ST1) was dug on the southern edge of Feature 2 outside the eroded area in stabilized soil. The test was dug to a depth of 20 cmbgs and revealed the soil to be a highly compact dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/6) silty clay, becoming less compact with depth. Two pieces of FCR were recovered from the shovel test at a depth of 5 cmbgs. The second shovel test (ST2) was dug 5 m north of the Feature 1 area. It was excavated to a depth of 30 cmbgs and demonstrated the soil to be a homogenous strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay varying in compaction throughout the test. Six pieces of FCR were recovered from the first level of the shovel test (0–10 cmbgs). A single piece of ground stone was identified in the second level at a depth of 11 cmbgs. No additional artifacts were identified below the depth of the ground stone. The final shovel test (ST3) was dug beneath a tree to the west of Feature 3 in an area that has not been eroded. The test was dug to a depth of 30 cmbgs and revealed the soil also be a homogenous strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay varying in compaction. Although no artifacts were noted in the shovel test, minimal charcoal flecking was encountered in the second level between 10–20 cmbgs.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9588 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. The size of the artifact assemblage is moderate but exhibits diversity, suggesting activity intensity during its occupation. Areas of the site covered by the canopy of the forest retain fairly good integrity and soil deposition is supported by shovel testing. Although the contents of the recorded features have been removed by water erosion, their presence at the site suggests that others may exist in buried contexts. In addition, shovel testing carried out in close proximity to these features further indicates a high potential for intact buried cultural deposits. It is expected that data extracted from the site can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of the site occupation, feature function, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, and prehistoric land use patterns.

5LP9589

Site Description

Site 5LP9589 is a prehistoric artifact scatter encompassing a 2,358-m^2 area on private land at an elevation of 6,810 ft. (2,076 m). The site is on a narrow finger terrace near the western edge of Florida Mesa. The terrace slopes to the southwest and is primarily covered by a pinyon pine and juniper forest with intermittent open areas. The open areas have been subjected to extensive water erosion forming rills as water drains into a small drainage on the western boundary of the site. Soil degradation is most pronounced on the southern portion of the site. On-site soils are a reddish-brown silty loam supporting pinyon pine, juniper, Gambel oak, yucca, prickly pear cactus, sagebrush, Indian rice grass, and other types of grasses.

The site consists of two features (Features 1 and 2), four pieces of debitage, a chopper, and four pieces of ground stone (Appendix B, Map 15). Both features have been disturbed by slope erosion that has resulted in the deflation of the feature contents and the displacement of FCR downslope. The first of the features (Feature 1) is near the crest of a slope beneath a pinyon pine, which may account for why it is the more intact of the two features. It is a 132-x-60-cm concentration of six sandstone boulders with 45-cm-diameter charcoal stain extending from its northwestern edge. No FCR was found within the feature area, but 10 or pieces are scattered downslope 80 cm away. A shovel test (ST1) was dug northwest of the feature's charcoal stain to determine the potential for buried cultural deposits. The test was dug to a depth of 20 cmbgs and revealed the upper 10 cm to have a moderate to high charcoal content. Charcoal and charcoal-stained soil were present in the test to a depth of 16 cmbgs. No artifacts were recovered from the shovel test.

The second feature (Feature 2) is a 40-cm-diameter charcoal stain at the head of an erosion rill on the eastern boundary of the site. No FCR was found within the feature but several pieces were noted downslope within the rill, suggesting that they may have eroded from the feature. A 10-x-20-cm trowel test (TT1) was dug overlapping the northern edge of the feature to determine whether feature fill was still present. The test was dug to a shallow depth of 10 cm and determined that 6 cm of fill remained on the outer portion of the feature.

The debitage material was evenly split between quartzite and chert, with tool manufacture represented by two biface-thinning flakes. One core-reduction flake and one piece of debris were also present. The chopper was formed from a split rhyolite cobble with multiple flakes removed on the distal end to make the chopping edge. Use wear in the form of crushing is visible on the edge of the tool. The four ground stone items were two manos and two metates scattered across the site. Both manos were one-hand implements fashioned from a rhyolite or a sandstone cobble. The metates were sandstone slabs ground on one surface.

Site 5LP9589 appears to represent an activity locus or open camp of unknown age and cultural affiliation. The small quantity of the artifacts suggests that the site was a limited activity locus where floral processing and core reduction were practiced.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9589 is evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. Although the artifact assemblage on the site is small, it is considered diverse representing various activities. Testing in the vicinity of the features suggests that the features may still contain archaeological data potential. It is expected that data extracted from the features in the form of radiocarbon and macrobotanical samples can be applied to address research issues regarding the chronology of the site occupation, feature function, site function, site structure, lifeway, diet breadth, and prehistoric land use patterns.

5LP9590

Site Description

Site 5LP9590 is a large artifact scatter with possible habitation structures (Appendix B, Map 16). The site encompasses a 59,255-m^2 area of a woodland along the northern edge of Florida Mesa. The site primarily crosses private land, state land owned by CDOT, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Public Lands. Several impacts have occurred to the site through recent development. For instance, the southeastern portion of the site has been altered by the construction of a large gravel gas well pad and access road. Additionally, the construction of a gathering pipeline has further affected an area to the west and north of the gas well. Impacts have also occurred to the north of the site where a residence was once located. The property is currently owned by CDOT, and the resident structure has been removed and the area reclaimed and reseeded. Soils on the site are a reddish brown silty loam with a high content of water-worn cobbles near the edge of the mesa on the northwestern portion of the site. The local vegetation community is composed of pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush, mountain mahogany, Gambel oak, prickly pear cactus, pincushion cactus, lupine, Indian paintbrush, yucca, and a variety of grasses.

The site consists of a moderately dense scatter of artifacts, a habitation-related midden area (Feature 1), and seven features (Features 2-7). The artifact assemblage included an estimated 600 to 700 pieces of lithic debitage, 5 projectile points, 4 bifaces, 2 unifaces, 2 retouched flakes, 3 choppers, 5 utilized flakes, 7 cores, 3 hammerstones (Table 12), and 19 ground stone artifacts. Although the artifact assemblage was found scattered across the site, five discrete artifact concentrations (AC1-5) were defined at the site. A sample-oriented debitage analysis was completed at the site, with a 25 percent sample taken in the midden area (Feature 1) and a 40 percent sample across the entire site. Collectively, the debitage analysis shows that quartzite was the primary raw material used at the

site, with chert being a secondary material used and obsidian also present. Based on decortication flakes, the quartzite material was derived from locally obtained cobbles found outcropping at the edge of the mesa. As the analysis for the midden indicates, the dominant lithic reduction activity was core reduction (n = 33) with a high incidence of tool manufacture and maintenance (n = 20) also practiced at the locus. Conversely, the debitage analysis for the entire site demonstrates a near-equal emphasis on both core reduction (n = 52) and biface manufacture and maintenance (n = 51), with a slight emphasis on the former. In addition, the analysis also found that raw materials were sought, as evidenced by the number of tested cobbles.

Table 12. Flaked Stone Tools and Other Artifacts Identified at Site 5LP9590.

Type/Map Reference	Material Type	Dimension (cm) (L x W x T)	Comments
Projectile Point (P1)	Obsidian	1.3 x 1.2 x 0.3	Small point with a single corner notch and convex base.
Projectile Point (P2)	Chert	1.5 x 0.5+ x 0.2	Small point with shallow corner notch and straight base.
Projectile Point (P3)	Obsidian	1.6 x 1.0 x 0.2	Small corner-notch point with expanding stem with straight base
Projectile Point (P4)	Obsidian	1.7 x 1.1 x 0.2	Small corner-notch point with straight to slightly convex base.
Projectile Point (P5)	Chert	2.4 x 1.5 x 0.5	Shallow side-notch with triangular blade with straight to slightly convex base.
Biface (B1)	Chert	1.8 x 1.2 x 0.4	Small complete Stage 2 bifacial scraper.
Biface (B2)	Obsidian	1.5+ x 1.2 x 0.2	Tip portion of a Stage 3 biface knife.
Biface (B3)	Chert	1.3+ x 1.2 x 0.3	Tip portion of a Stage 3 biface knife
Biface (B4)	Chert	2.1 x 1.8 x 0.2	Complete Stage 4 biface fashioned from a tertiary flake.
Uniface (U1)	Chert	1.8 x 3.5 x 0.4	Unifacially flaked scraper.
Uniface (U2)	Chert	4.0 x 3.1 x 1.6	Unifacially flaked piece of lithic debris composing a distal scraper.
Retouched Flake (RT1)	Chert	4.5 x 2.2 x 1.1	Secondary flake retouched along the proximal end of flake.
Retouched Flake (RT2)	Quartzite	3.0 x 2.3 x 1.0	Retouched along one lateral edge.
Chopper (Ch1)	Quartzite	5.5 x 4.8 x 3.0	Portion of a cobble with three large flakes removed to create an edge. Edge has evidence of crushing.
Chopper (Ch2)	Quartzite	5.5 x 5.7 x 1.8	Split cobble unifacially flaked with crushing visible on edge.
Chopper (Ch3)	Siltstone	8.6 x 7.7 x 2.9	Bifacially flaked cobble chopper.
Utilized Flake (UT1)	Chert	1.6 x 1.4 x 0.2	Use wear visible on distal and on lateral edge of flake.
Utilized Flake (UT2)	Quartzite	4.5 x 3.5 x 1.0	Use wear visible on distal end of flake.
Utilized Flake (UT3)	Chert	3.3 x 1.6 x 0.3	Use wear visible on lateral edge of flake.
Utilized Flake (UT4)	Quartzite	7.7 x 4.1 x 3.5	Large cobble primary flake with use wear visible on lateral edge of flake.
Utilized Flake (UT5)	Chert	1.2 x 3.7 x 1.4	Use wear visible on distal and proximal ends of flake.
Core (C1)	Quartzite	6.1 x 4.3 x 4.0	Multidirection cobble core.
Core (C2)	Quartzite	6.2 x 4.0 x 2.6	Multidirection cobble core.
Core (C3)	Quartzite	3.7 x 6.2 x 4.3	Multidirection cobble core.
Core (C4)	Quartzite	6.0 x 5.5 x 3.5	Multidirection cobble core.
Core (C5)	Quartzite	4.6 x 5.8 x 4.5	Multidirection cobble core.
Core (C6)	Chert	4.3 x 4.5 x 1.8	Exhausted core.
Core (C7)	Quartzite	8.2 x 4.0 x 3.2	Exhausted pyramidal core.
Hammerstone (H1)	Quartzite	5.7 x 5.0 x 2.1	Small cobble with battered edges.
Hammerstone (H2)	Quartzite	6.2 x 4.3 x 2.2	Small cobble with battered around ¾ of its circumference.
Hammerstone (H3)	Quartzite	8.2 x 8.2 x 2.1	Cobble with heavily battered on opposite edges.

+ denotes incomplete measurement

Six of the seven features (Features 2-7) were found on the far western portion of the site, whereas one of the features (Feature 1) was near the eastern boundary. Feature 1 consists of a 15-x-12-m crescent-shaped midden composed of a dense scatter of ceramics, debitage, flaked stone tools, and ground stone. The southern end of the midden has been truncated by the construction of a pipeline. A shallow, linear depression was noted along the northwestern edge of the midden. Auger testing (see testing results below) indicates that the midden is a component of a habitation structure.

Feature 2 was found in an opening of the forest on a terrace to the southeast of a small intermittent drainage. The feature is a rectangular arrangement of seven sandstone boulders that measures 115 x 82 cm. Four Mancos Black-on-white bowl sherds (see description below) were found immediately south of the feature. No additional artifacts, charcoal, or charcoal-stained soil were found in association with the feature, making assigning a function to the feature problematic. Based on the ceramics, the feature likely dates to the Pueblo II period (A.D. 900-1150).

Feature 3 is a boulder concentration 57.5 m northwest of Feature 2. The feature is composed of four cobbles measuring 92 x 71 cm. The northernmost boulder of the feature appears to have been placed vertically. No artifacts were found in association with feature and its function is unknown.

Feature 4 is a boulder alignment 28 m to the southwest of Feature 3. The alignment is oriented southwest to northeast, and is a single course wide on the northern end and two courses wide on the southern end. The feature is 1.38 m long with a maximum width of 48 cm. The only artifact found in association with the feature was a single tertiary flake. The feature may represent the remains of a surface room.

Feature 5 is on the edge of the mesa 53 m to the southwest of Feature 4. The feature consists of a 2.1-x-1.5-m, roughly rectangular area enclosed by single-course alignments of cobbles and boulders. A metate fragment was identified on the western edge of the feature. Considering its rectangular shape and rock alignments, the feature may represent the remains of a surface room.

Feature 6 is a cobble and FCR concentration on the southwestern boundary of the site. The feature encompasses a 1.2-x-1.1-m area; six cobbles are visible within the feature area along with seven to nine pieces of FCR. No charcoal or charcoal-stained soil was found at the feature. A bifacially ground one-hand mano was found immediately southwest of the feature. Based on the size and presence of FCR, the feature was likely a roasting pit.

Feature 7 is on the western boundary of the site 44 m north of Feature 6. The feature is on the eastern edge of an opening in the woodland and consists of a 50-cm-diameter area of charcoal-stained soil with small flecks of charcoal. The stain is covered by about 3 cm of soil, suggesting that other features might be present in the near vicinity. No artifacts were found in association with the feature. The feature is likely a hearth.

Four of the five projectile points (P1-4) were small corner-notched points found scattered within the midden area (Feature 1) (Figure 31). Three of the points were obsidian and one was chert. One of the points (P1) exhibited only a single corner notch. Based on their morphologic characteristics, all four of the midden points are classified as Rosegate Corner-notch points. Rosegate series points generally date between A.D. 300 and 1300 (Holmer 1986). The appearance of this point type in datable contexts from Northwestern Colorado has broaden this temporal span to between A.D. 350 and 1395 (Mullen 2009). The date range indicates that the points date to the Basketmaker III/Pueblo I periods. The remaining projectile point (P5) was complete and found approximately 80 m west of the other projectile points. It is a chert side-notched point with a triangular blade and a straight to slightly convex base (Figure 30). The point is an Elko Side-notched dating between A.D. 1450 and 950 (Mullen 2009).

Figure 30. Project point P5 identified on site 5LP9590.

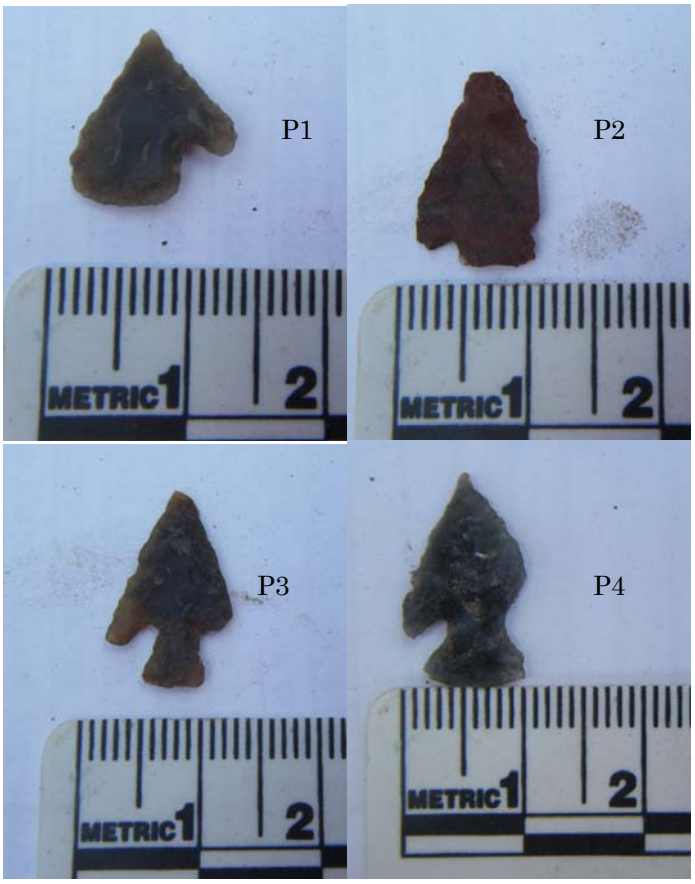

Figure 31. Projectile points P1-P4 identified within the midden area (Feature 1) on site 5LP9590.

An estimated 300 ceramics were also identified on the site, with the majority of these found within the midden area and on the northwestern portion of the site. A sample-based analysis of the ceramics was completed for the midden area because of the density of the assemblage. Based on this analysis, gray ware ceramics dominate the midden assemblage with an estimated 78 percent of the total. Only one of the gray ware sherds could confidently be classified as a rim portion from a Chapin Gray jar. Indeterminate white wares accounted for 17 percent of the assemblage, and painted wares represented only 5 percent. The painted wares were all bowl fragments (n = 4) with an interior design applied with mineral paint. Unfortunately, the painted sherds were only quarter-to-half-dollar size, making classification beyond Early Black-on-white ceramics impossible. The ceramics date to the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 500-900) occupation of the region.

The remaining ceramics (n = 40) were found scattered across the site area, and a complete analysis of all identified ceramics was completed. The vast majority of the ceramics (n = 37) were Corrugated Gray sherds, most of which were found in four areas of the site (AC1-4). Two of the corrugated sherds were rim sherds that exhibit a degree of outward flare or rim eversion. Both appear to be from the same jar vessel, with a less than 30 degree rim eversion. Based on the rim eversion, the rim sherds were classified as Mancos Corrugated Gray, a type dating to the Pueblo II period (A.D. 900-1150). Three of the sherds were black-on-white bowl fragments found in association with Feature 2. The sherds are all from the same vessel with a rectilinear band design filled with straight-line hatchure. The motif is applied with mineral paint on a slipped and polished surface characteristic of Mancos Black-on-white, typical of the Dogoszhi style dominant during the Pueblo II period.

The ground stone was found scattered across the site area and consists of six manos, 12 metates, and one generic ground stone. The manos were all one-hand manos fashioned from sandstone, quartzite, and rhyolite cobbles. Four the manos were complete and two were fragments. The majority of the metate specimens were fragmented (n = 9) and only three were complete. Slab metates dominated the assemblage, with two trough metates also present. The preferred material for metates was sandstone (n = 8) and to a lesser degree rhyolite (n = 3) and quartzite (n = 1). The wealth of ground stone indicates that food processing was a dominant activity carried out by the site inhabitants.

Four auger tests were dug at the site (Appendix B, Map 16). One of the auger tests (A1) was dug on the northwestern edge of the midden area to determine the possibility of an associated habitation structure. The auger test was dug to a depth of 55 cm and was terminated because of extremely compact soils. The auger determined that 5 cm of pine duff and decaying organic matter overlays a reddish-brown (5YR 4/4) silty clay matrix mottled with a dark brown (10YR 3/3) soil intermixed with charcoal flecking. This stratum continues to a depth of 53 cmbgs where the soil becomes a yellowish-red (5YR 5/6) compact clay devoid of the mottled soil. The auger test demonstrates that cultural fill is present that may represent a habitation structure on the northern side of the midden area.

Three of the auger tests (A2-A4) were dug in the northwestern portion of the site in the vicinity of the CDOT Revised G Modified Alternative route in an effort to better understand the soil development on this portion of the site. One of the tests (A2) was dug on the near the northern boundary of the site to a depth of 50 cmbgs. The test determined that the upper 12 cm of the soil was a light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) sandy loam that gave way to a dark brown (10YR 3/3) clay. The second auger test (A3) was dug within artifact concentration 2 (AC2) to a depth of 50 cmbgs. The test found the upper 15 cm of soil to be a light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) sandy loam overlaying a reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) clay. The remaining auger test (A4) was dug near the western edge of the mesa in close proximity to Feature 5. The test found the upper 8 cm of the soil to be a light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) sandy loam overlaying a reddish-brown (5YR 5/4) sandy clay. The auger test was terminated when it encountered rock from the underlying gravel terrace.

Collectively, A2 and A3 indicate that the soil depth on this portion of the mesa interior is between 12 and 15 cm. This said, it is remains likely that the soils are deeper in other areas, depending on vegetation and topography. Moreover, the test demonstrates that the soil accumulation is eolian deposition overlaying alluvial or glacially derived clays. As indicated by A4, the soils become shallower toward the edge of the mesa with 8 cm of deposition overlaying alluvial clay on top of the gravel terrace. The soil depth is attributed to degradation by wind and water erosion.

National Register Recommendation

Site 5LP9590 is evaluated as eligible to the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to prehistory. The site exhibits a large and diverse artifact assemblage with seven features, suggestive of a prolonged site occupation and varied activities. The ceramic assemblage suggests that two Ancestral Puebloan components attributed to the Basketmaker III/Pueblo I and Pueblo II periods exist in two separate loci at the site. The Basketmaker III/Pueblo I component is represented on eastern portion of the site by a midden (Feature 1) and a broad scatter of artifacts. Auger testing on the northwestern side of the midden has confirmed the presence of charcoal-laden fill, supporting the interpretation that a structure is likely present. There is a high potential for intact cultural deposits. It is expected that a wealth of data could be collected from the Feature 1 area that can be applied to address several key research questions concerning the Basketmaker III/Pueblo I occupation of the region (Lipe et al. 1999). The data gleaned is expected to provide information regarding Ancestral Puebloan chronology of site occupation, site structure, settlement patterns, land use patterns, and population dynamics.

The Pueblo II component is on the western portion of the site and is represented by a broad scatter of artifacts and six features. Sites dating to the Pueblo II period are not well documented in the Animas River drainage, because it appears that by this period, populations favored a shift westward (Lipe et al. 1999). It is expected that data collected from the features can be used to address research domains, including chronology of site occupation, site structure, settlement patterns, land use patterns, and population dynamics. Additionally, auger testing on this portion of the site indicates that there is sufficient soil accumulation to obscure other features and artifacts. The integrity of the western portion of the site is good, indicating a high potential for buried and intact cultural deposits.

Test Excavations at 5LP6666

Site 5LP6666 was originally recorded in 2002 by URS Corporation as part of the U.S. Highway 550 South project (URS Corporation 2002). URS described the site as a low-density artifact scatter including ceramics, FCR, a biface, and pieces of burned adobe attributed to the Basketmaker III or Pueblo I (A.D. 575-900) occupation of the area. In 2002, URS evaluated the site as not eligible for listing on the NRHP, citing its poor integrity and lack of potential to yield data important in regional prehistory. Alpine revisited the site in 2009 during the inventory of the East Alternative alignment (Pfertsh 2009). Alpine found the site to be generally as originally recorded, though with differences in observed surface artifacts, possibly the result of additional disking and grazing of the field between the two recordings. Alpine agreed with the original significance recommendation considering the site area has been heavily disturbed by disking and livestock grazing.

Review of the 2009 East Alternative report by the State Historic Preservation Officer determined that additional data was required at the site before the final evaluation of the site's eligibility could be concluded. To meet this objective, shovel testing was carried out at the site on July 27, 2010. Shovel testing was preferred by the landowner, because he considered the damage to his cultivated field to be minimal. Each shovel test was 25 cm in diameter and dug in 10 cm increments with each increment representing one level. Three shovel tests (ST1-3) were excavated at the site (Appendix B, Map 17). The first of these (ST1) was dug on the southeastern side of an

artifact concentration. The test was dug to a depth of 40 cmbgs and revealed the soil to be a homogenous dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) silty alluvium. The shovel hole contained no artifacts or charcoal. The second shovel test (ST2) was dug near the western boundary of the site in close proximity to pieces of ground stone. The test was dug to a depth of 30 cmbgs and also found the soil to be a dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) silty alluvium. Three pieces of gray ware ceramics were recovered from the first level at a depth of 8 cmbgs. The final shovel test (ST3) was dug on the south portion of the site. The test was dug to a depth of 40 cmbgs and found the soil to mirror the other two shovel tests. The test was negative with no artifacts or charcoal identified.

As demonstrated by shovel testing, buried cultural deposits are present but are shallowly buried. According to the landowner Phillip Craig, the field where the site is located is plowed and replanted every 8 to 9 years. As indicated by Mr. Craig, the maximum depth of the plow zone in his field is 8 in. (23 cm) (Phillip Craig, personal communication to Jack Pfertsh, May 23, 2010). Considering the depth of the plow zone, the ceramics recovered from ST2 are out of context. Moreover, the shovel tests were dug below the depth of the plow zone, demonstrating that there is a low potential for intact cultural deposits below the disturbance. As indicated by the testing, site 5LP6666 continues to be recommended as not eligible to the NRHP.

ISOLATED FINDS

Three isolated finds were recorded during the Class III inventory for the Revised F Modified Alternative alignment. All isolated finds identified were of unknown prehistoric cultural affiliation and are presented in Table 13. Isolated finds are considered insignificant cultural resources; these resources are all recommended as not eligible for NRHP nomination and require no further work. No isolated finds were collected during the current survey project.

Table 13. Isolated Finds Recorded During the Revised F Modified Alternative Inventory.

Site Number	IF Number	Description
5LP9311	IF 12	A complete quartzite/rhyolite bifacially ground one-hand mano (10.7 x 8.6 x 3.7 cm). There is significant pecking on both ends, which has resulted in large fractures or flakes being removed.
5LP9312	IF 11	A chert chopper (11.4 x 12.4 x 2.7 cm), a retouched flake retouch on the distal and lateral edges, and a quartzite primary flake.
5LP9313	IF 13	A bifacially ground sandstone slab metate fragment measuring 8.3 x 6.4 x 5.4 cm.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A primary objective of the cultural resource inventory was to locate all visible prehistoric and historic properties in the project area and evaluate their NRHP eligibility. This objective has been achieved. The project inventory resulted in the examination of 1.75 miles (83.4 acres) of project corridor along the proposed U.S. Highway 550 Revised F Modified Alternative alignment. An additional project objective included recording and evaluating the NRHP eligibility of seven archaeological located along the Revised G Modified Alternative that were initially identieid by a consultant under contract to a private landowner. Significance testing at site 5LP6666 was also completed as part of the project. The site was reevaluated during the 2009 inventory of the East Alternative alignment.

As a result of the Revised F Modified Alternative inventory, nine sites and three isolated finds were recorded. Table 14 summarizes site type and NRHP eligibility. The sites include three historic sites, four prehistoric sites, and two multicomponent prehistoric and historic sites. The historic sites and site components date from the late nineteenth to the mid twentieth centuries.

These include an additional element of the historic Craig Ranch, a segment of the Webb/Hotter Lateral ditch, an artifact scatter, and the Clark Property. The Webb/Hotter Lateral (5LP8461) is a contributing element of a NRHP-eligible site and, through its association, is considered eligible. The Craig Ranch (5LP9307) as a whole is considered officially eligible. The complex recorded during the inventory of the Revised F Modified Alternative is within the historic parcel boundaries of the ranch and is considered a contributing element of that NRHP-eligible site. The Clark Property (5LP9310) is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The historic component of site 5LP9584 is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. The historic component of the multicomponent site 5LP9309 is an artifact scatter and is not considered eligible.

The four prehistoric sites are artifact scatters. The two sites with prehistoric components are habitation sites. Five of the prehistoric sites or site components are attributed to the Ancestral Puebloan Basketmaker III/Pueblo I periods and one is of unknown age and cultural affiliation. Of the six newly recorded prehistoric sites or site components, all are evaluated as NRHP eligible.

In addition to the Revised F Modified Alternative inventory, the seven additional sites associated with the Revised G Modified Alternative were all of prehistoric age (Table 14). The approximate site boundaries for these sites were established during the informal archaeological inventory completed in 2008 (Loebig 2008). At that time, sites were also characterized, with cultural affiliations determined based on ceramic typologies. Of the seven sites, six were recorded for the first time and one was previously recorded (5LP2223). Two of the sites are habitation sites and five are artifact scatters. One of the habitation sites and one of the artifact scatters are attributed to the Ancestral Puebloan Basketmaker III/Pueblo I periods. The remaining habitation site is attributed to the Ancestral Puebloan Basketmaker III/Pueblo I and Pueblo II periods. Four of the sites are of unknown age and cultural affiliation.

Table 14. Summary of Site Type and NRHP Eligibility Recommendations for Sites Identified During the Project.

Site No.	Temporary Site No.	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Recommendation
F Modified Alternative Inventory Sites Recorded				
5LP8461	AAC-1280	Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch	Historic	Recommended Eligible/ supporting element to NRHP-eligible site
5LP9307	AAC-1290	Craig Homestead	Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9308	AAC-311	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9309	AAC-312	Prehistoric Habitation/ Historic Artifact Scatter	Pueblo I/Pueblo II/Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9310	AAC-313	Clark Property	Historic	Recommended Eligible
5LP9581	AAC-1281	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9582	AAC-1283	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9583	AAC-1282	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Pueblo I	Recommended Eligible
5LP9584	AAC-1279	Prehistoric Habitation/ Historic Habitation	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I/ Historic	Recommended Eligible
Additional Sites Recorded–Revised G Modified Alternative				
5LP2223	AAC-1291	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/ Habitation	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Officially Eligible
5LP9585	AAC-1289	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Basketmaker III / Pueblo I	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9586	AAC-1288	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Not Eligible
5LP9587	AAC-1287	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9588	AAC-1286	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9589	AAC-1285	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Recommended Eligible
5LP9590	AAC-1284	Prehistoric Artifact Scatter/ Habitation	Basketmaker III/Pueblo I/ Pueblo II	Recommended Eligible

Based on past inventories conducted in proximity to the U.S. 160/550 Connection project area, it was clear that large prehistoric sites were likely to be encountered during the inventory for the Revised F Modified Alternative. It was further expected that these sites would consist of artifact scatters and habitation loci attributable to the Ancestral Puebloan occupations of the region and would likely date to the Basketmaker III and Pueblo I periods. Four of the nine sites recorded during the inventory were ascribed to the Ancestral Puebloan Basketmaker III and Pueblo I periods and were in keeping with expectations. It was also expected that minimal evidence for sites or site components attributed to the Pueblo II period would be encountered in the project area. Sites dating to the Pueblo II period are not well documented in the Animas River drainage, because it appears that by that time Pueblo II populations moved westward (Lipe et al. 1999). This expectation was also based on previous work where only negligible amounts of Pueblo II ceramic types were found on sites recorded on Florida Mesa. This assumption was countered, however, by the documentation of two sites (5LP9309 and 5LP9590) with discrete Pueblo II components. The components serve as evidence for the presence of Pueblo II populations on the mesa.

Other prehistoric sites with unknown cultural affiliations were also expected to be encountered in the project area. These sites were anticipated to be unintensive artifact and lithic scatters, representing limited-use activity areas. Five of the sites recorded fell into this category– four of the sites (5LP9586-5LP9589) were documented near the rim of the mesa and one (5LP9308) was on the mesa's interior. The four sites on the margins of the mesa yielded numerous pieces of ground stone, suggesting that floral processing was an important task practiced by the site inhabitants. Minimal use wear on these implements, suggests that these processing activities were short lived. In some instances, ground stone was found in association with FCR scatters, suggesting roasting pits may have been used on the processing. The distribution of these sites may link them as flora processing loci to the two large Ancestral Puebloan habitation sites (5LP9590 and 5LP2223).

The documented use of the Florida Mesa landscape for ranching and agriculture during the late ninetieth and early twentieth centuries indicated that historic artifact scatters and possibly historic homestead sites, ditches, and ranch complexes would also be encountered during the project inventory. It was further expected that these resources would probably be depicted on the project USGS topographic map dated to 1968. Also, the 1883 GLO map examined prior to the field work indicated that a historic road was also likely in the project area. It was known that an additional segment of the Webb/Hotter Lateral Ditch would be encountered on the eastern end of the Revised F Modified project area.

A variety of effects on archaeological sites are present on Florida Mesa. For instance, the Revised F Modified project corridor crosses several private land parcels on the mesa. Most of these parcels are currently cultivated hayfields, while others are used as livestock pastures. Cultivation has had a destructive effect on at least two of the archaeological sites recorded, destroying possible jacal structures and impacting shallow cultural deposits. Livestock grazing, bedding, and congregation has had a damaging effect on many of the sites along the western rim of the mesa that were recorded separately from the inventory. Disturbances to the surface integrity of these sites are extensive, resulting in displacement of structured material and artifact fragmentation. Development of gas wells, including access roads and gathering pipelines, has also had an effect on archaeological sites. Three of the recorded sites have been disturbed by this development, the extent of which is unknown.

Topography clearly played a role in site location. Most of the sites, especially the larger Ancestral Puebloan habitation sites, were on the margins of the mesa overlooking major water sources, such as Wilson Gulch to the north and the Animas River to the west. The Ancestral Puebloan preference for selecting areas along the rim was likely a desire for site locations with a proximity to water, a desirable setting, access to rock for building material, and access to the valleys below. It is also conceivable that similar sites existed on the interior of the mesa but have been masked by soil aggregation, cultivation, or development.

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