DOLORES ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAM TECHNICAL REPORTS

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Excavations at Sheep Skull Camp (Site 5MT2202), a multiple occupation site.

by

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Under the supervision of
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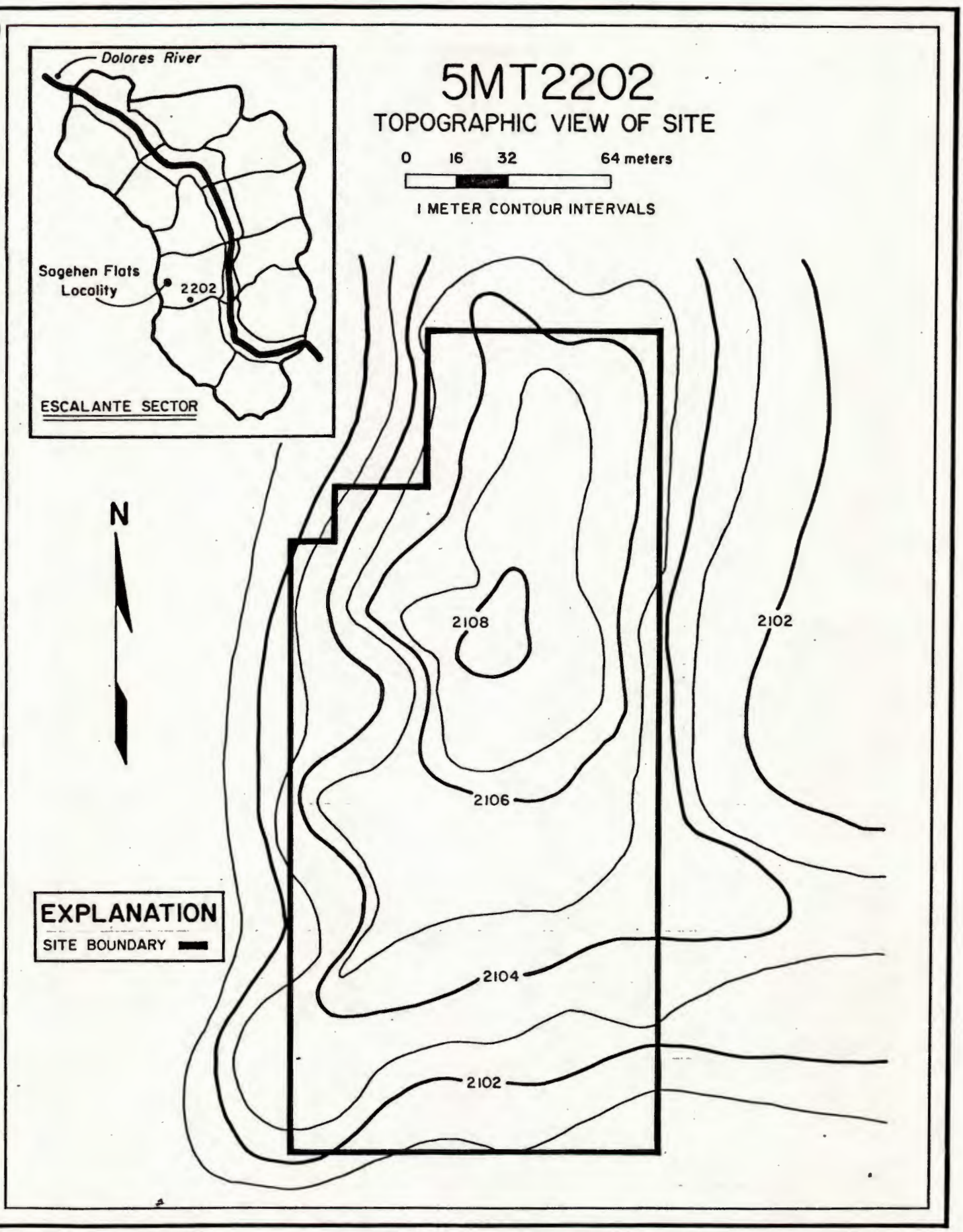

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ABSTRACT

Sheep Skull Camp (Site 5MT2202) is a prehistoric limited activity locus located in the Sagehen Flats Locality, Escalante Sector, southwestern Colorado. The site is located on a hilltop overlooking the Sagehen Flats Marsh to the south. For purposes of intensive investigation, the site was divided into three sampling strata based on distribution of surface artifacts. Sixty-five test squares were then selected, via a stratified random sampling design, and excavated; backhoe tests, a magnetometer survey, and blading were also conducted at the site after preliminary investigations had been completed. Results of this extensive subsurface sampling were largely negative, although one rock-outlined hearth was encountered approximately 10-15 cm below surface (by the blading program) and artifacts were found in loose surficial deposits in some of the test pits. There appears little likelihood that significant undisturbed subsurface deposits exist at the site.

On the basis of the differential distribution of surface artifactual material, three areas of prehistoric activity were defined; analysis of artifact composition suggests some differences in activities among the three areas. In general, the site appears to have functioned primarily as a resource procurement and processing locus, rather than as a habitation or storage site.

INTRODUCTION

Sheep Skull Camp (Site 5MT2202) in the Sagehen Flats Locality of the Escalante Sector, Montezuma County, southwestern Colorado, lies on a small knoll overlooking a marsh to the south and rolling, loess-covered agricultural lands to the north. A surface scatter of flaked lithic debitage, tools, nonflaked lithic fragments, and sherds covered the entire top of the knoll and extended part way down the sides, especially on the south, where the slope is the longest and most gradual. The site measures 270 by 130 m (with the long axis approxiamtely north-south) and covers an area of approximately 3.5 ha. Sheep Skull Camp is at an elevation of 2109 m in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Sec 36, T38N, R16W, according to the U.S.G.S. Trimble Point 7.5 Minute Series 1965 Topographic Map; its Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates are 714,429 mE, 4,154,102 mN, Zone 12.

Initial survey reports described Site 5MT2202 as a possible small hamlet of Basketmaker III-Pueblo I age. The site was reclassified in 1978 as a probable multiple-component limited activity or seasonal site when a field check revealed several probable Archaic point fragments, an abundance of lithic remains, and no evidence of habitation or storage structures. Sheep Skull Camp was selected for excavation as part of the Dolores Archaeological Program (D.A.P.) because it offered an opportunity to study a limited activity site which appeared to have been used during the Archaic occupation of the locality as well as during later periods.

Mapping, surface collection, and excavation were carried out at Site 5MT2202 between 11 July 1978 and 2 August 1978 under the supervision of

Sarah Schlanger, Washington State University. A total of 443 person days were expended in these operations, 418 in excavation only. Youth Conservation Corps (Y.C.C.) contributed 425 person days; University of Colorado personnel, 1.5; and Washington State University employees, the remainder.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Sheep Skull camp is located on a knoll consisting of a localized outcrop of Mancos Shale overlain by a thin mixed deposit of decomposing shale and reddish-brown aeolian sediments. The latter are probably related to the Mesa Verde loess described by Arrhenius and Bonatti [1]. On the upper slopes of the knoll, especially on the eastern side, the bedrock is exposed or is only covered by a shallow layer of decomposed shale. This unit of shale and reddish-brown sediment becomes thicker on the slopes of the knoll. The thickness of this unit is unknown; excavations on the lower slopes reached a depth of 0.55 m, well below cultural material, without coming to the bottom of the deposit.

The vegetation on the knoll is dominated by pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), including both mature and juvenile trees, with a sage (*Artemisia tridentata*) understory. The presence of the pinyon and larger shrubs served to distinguish this knoll from others in the immediate vicinity. Other members of the floral assemblage include serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), cliff fendlerbush (*Fendlera rupicola*), broadleaf yucca (*Yucca baccata*), prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja chromosa*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), and grasses. The sparser plant cover on the slopes of the knoll is dominated by snakeweed and Utah thistle (*Circium utahensis*), and might be due to soil disturbances or to poor soil quality resulting from downslope erosion of the Mancos Shale.

Pinyon pine, broadleaf yucca, cactus, and, to a lesser extent, serviceberry and cliff fendlerbush all provide edible fruits or nuts. The pinyon, yucca, and cactus would probably have been the most important

food resources for aboriginal populations if these resources were present during the prehistoric occupation of the knoll.

Other resources, both floral and faunal, which might have been available to prehistoric users of Sheep Skull Camp are found in and around the marsh south and east of the knoll and in a drainage which lies north of the site. The marsh exists because an alluvial fan at its north end prevents water from draining into the Dolores River, some 12 m lower in elevation. Fed by drainage from the upland areas of Sagehen Flats to the north, east, and west of the site, the marsh appears to be augmented at present by diversions from Main Canal #2, an irrigation ditch which runs along the southern margin of the marsh westward to the Great Cut, about 1.5 km away.

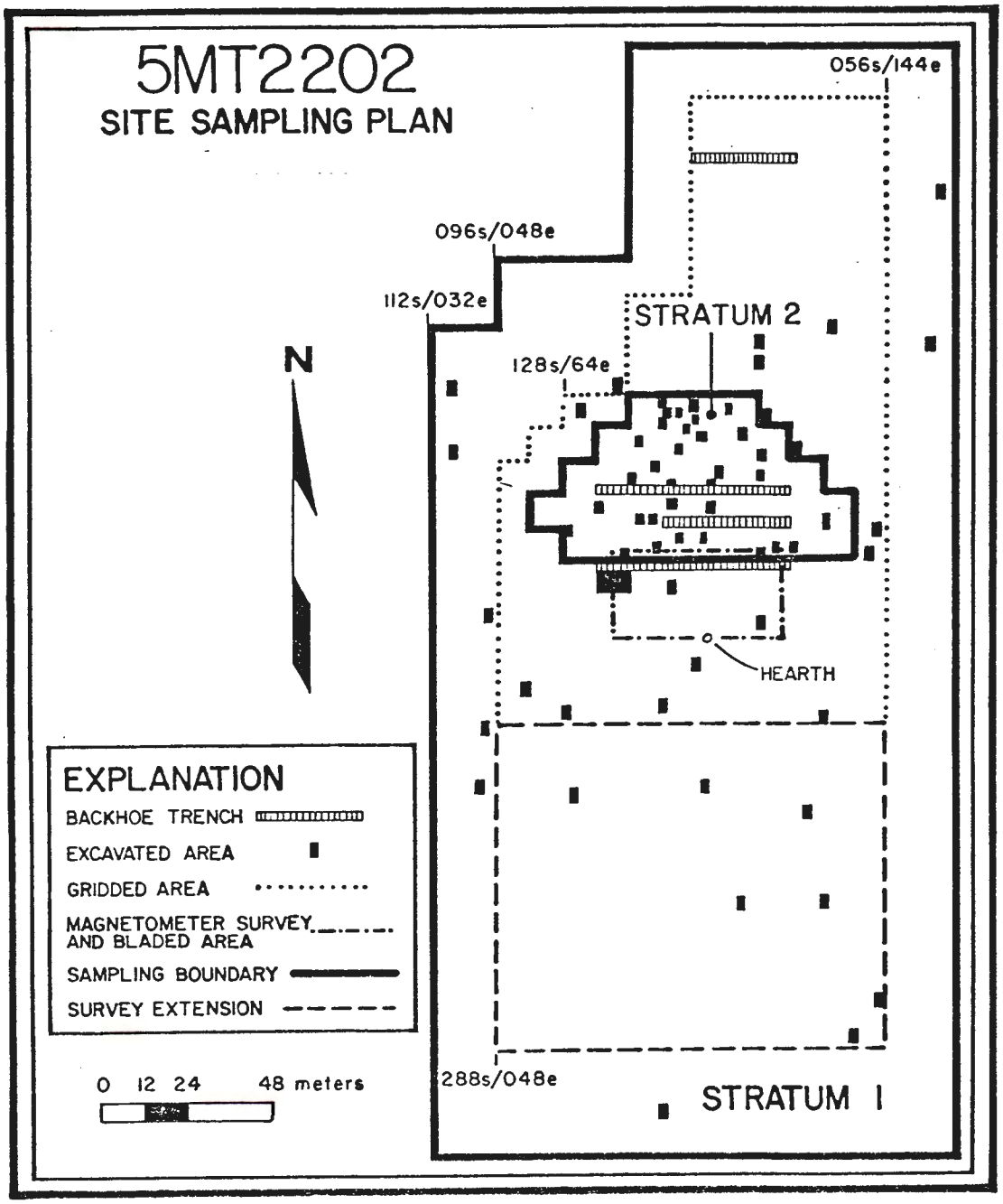
It is not clear whether a permanent marsh was present before late nineteenth-century canal building made water more regularly available. Research is underway presently to test for the existence of the marsh prehistorically. The marsh is too high to have been flooded in recent millennia by the Dolores, and it is not known whether run-off from the uplands would have been sufficient to maintain year-round standing water. It seems likely that in the past the marsh existed only intermittently, or was subject to greater fluctuations than at present. Cores taken at the marsh in August 1978 indicate that the marsh has been dry at times in the past, although the dates for these events are not known (K.L. Petersen, personal communication). The possibility that the marsh habitat was intermittent must be kept in mind, therefore, when evaluating the potential of the marsh to provide economic resources for prehistoric inhabitants of the area.

Resources thought to be important prehistorically which are present in the marsh today include three species of sedge (Carex sp.), American bulrush (Scirpus americanus), and cattail (Typha latifolia). Squawbush (Rhus aromatica ssp. trilobata), chokecherry (Prunus virginiana), serviceberry (Amelanchier utahensis), squaw apple (Peraphyllum ramosissimum), sego lily (Calochortus nuttallii), foxtail barley (Hordeum judatum), and wild onion (Allium acuminatum) all grow on the slopes on the southern border of the marsh. The marsh also attracts waterfowl and probably large and small game, including mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) and American elk (Cervus canadensis).

Additional resources may have been available prehistorically in the well-entrenched arroyo approximately 175 meters north of the site. It appears to hold some soil moisture even during midsummer; vegetation there is quite dense and includes sedges and rushes as well as a good growth of grasses. The arroyo appears to be a favored location for large game; deer were flushed out of it several times during the investigations at Site 5MT2202. The attractiveness of this location might have been enhanced by the recent construction of a stock tank at the head of the arroyo, and the presence of game resources may be a response to this alteration.

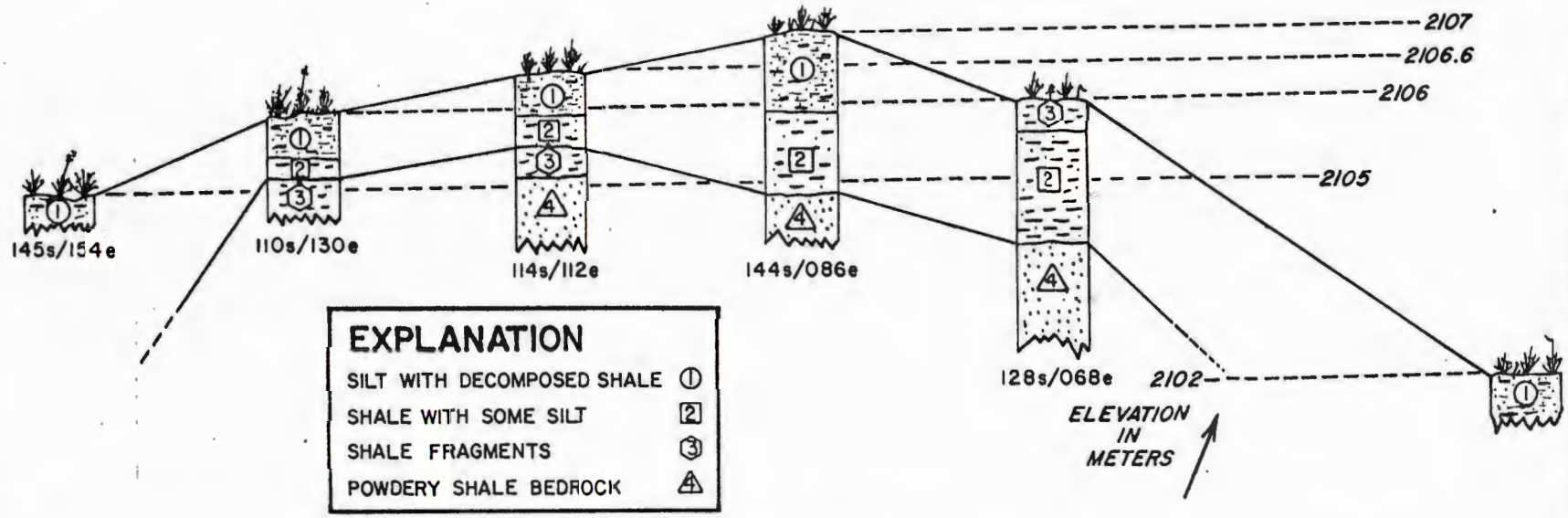
The knoll seems to offer an attractive site for food and/or tool-processing activities connected with the exploitation of resources located in the vicinity. It remains to be demonstrated whether any of these resources were present on the knoll or in and around the marsh and arroyo at the time of prehistoric occupation. Modern vegetation at the site and local topography are depicted in Figures 4.1 and 4.2.

The environmental setting presented above mostly concerns physiographic material in direct association with Sheep Skull Camp. The Sagehen


5MT2202
SITE SAMPLING PLAN
056s/144e
096s/048e
112s/032e
STRATUM 2
128s/64e
N
HEARTH
EXPLANATION
BACKHOE TRENCH
EXCAVATED AREA
GRIDDED AREA
MAGNETOMETER SURVEY AND BLADED AREA
SAMPLING BOUNDARY
SURVEY EXTENSION
0 12 24 48 meters
288s/048e
STRATUM I

5MT2202

STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SITE



Flats Locality report (Greenwald [2]) presents more detailed information concerning geology, climate, raw material resources, and the like in the area.

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[1]Dr. Kenneth L. Petersen, Dept. of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman, personal communication.

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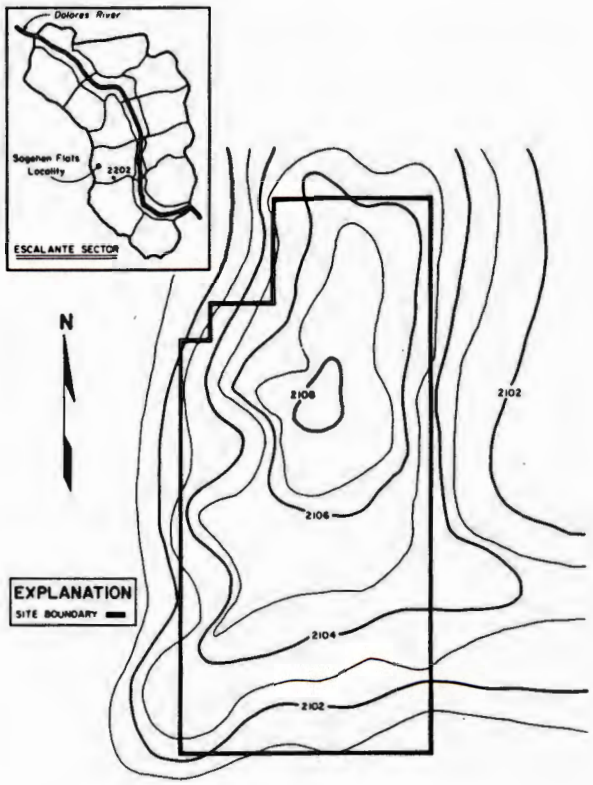


Figure 4.1 Topographic view of Site 5MT2202.

Figure 4.2 Modern vegetation, Site 5MT2202.

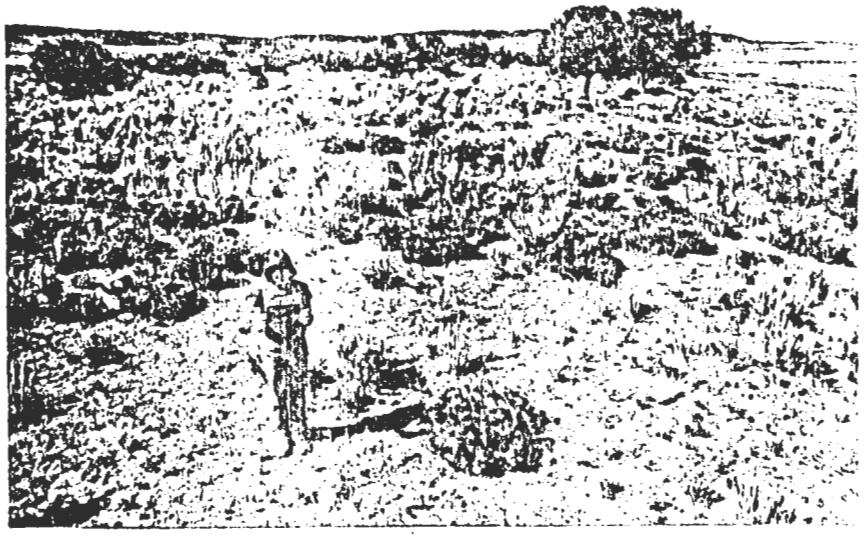


Figure ~~22~~ SASC ~~3.1~~ 3.2

SOCIAL SETTING

Based on analysis of the materials recovered in surface collection and excavation of this site, it seems likely that Sheep Skull Camp was a limited activity locus (Kane [3]). Activities at the site were probably associated with tool manufacture and food processing related to the exploitation of the nonagricultural resources available at the site and in the immediate area. The site appears to have been used by both Archaic and Anasazi groups. It is not clear whether the activities carried out at this site differed significantly during its several periods of occupation, but certainly the overall settlement system in which the site functioned must have changed.

Time-sensitive projectile points and ceramics document the multi-component nature of this site. Four probable Archaic, Great Cut Phase points, three probable Basketmaker II points (probably older than those associated with the Sagehen Phase), and two Pueblo style points (contemporary with or later than the Sagehen Phase) were collected. Thirty sherds were also found at the site, of which three were Sagehen, or Basketmaker III-Pueblo I, ceramics. The remainder are probably associated with the McPhee Phase occupation of the area. Those sites near Site 5MT2202 which are broadly contemporaneous with one or more of the components recognized there are discussed below.

The nearest possible Great Cut Phase site is Site 5MT2199 (Brown [4]), located 550 m to the west, on the first small knoll in that direction. Site 5MT2246, another possible Great Cut "campsite," lies 1.45 km to the southeast, across the present marsh. Other sites assigned to the Great Cut Phase and located close to Site 5MT2202 include Site

5MT2201, located 200 m to the east on the closest knoll in that direction (this site is identified as a McPhee Phase site in initial survey reports); Site 5MT4673 found 800 m to the north; and Site 5MT2843 located 900 m north of Site 5MT2202. (See Sagehen Flats Locality Report, Greenwald [2] for locations of sites with suspected Archaic components in the vicinity.) Site 5MT2199 (Brown [4]), Site 5MT2246, and Site 5MT2201 are located in environmental situations similar to that occupied by Site 5MT2202 and have access to many of the same resources. These sites might have been functionally identical to Site 5MT2202; occupation of one or another might have been dictated by conditions prevailing at any given time. Site 5MT2202 might also represent a limited-activity station connected with sites located in the uplands on the northern edge of Sagehen Flats or with sites even further away. Although the evidence from Site 5MT2202 indicates that a wide range of activities was not carried out there, whether any of the other Archaic sites in the Sagehen Locality have better evidence of being "base camps" is not known. Sheep Skull Camp has been tentatively designated as a seasonal camp or limited activity locus used by the North Marsh Band, a Great Cut Phase (late Archaic Tradition) community (Kane [3]).

The nearest habitation site of the Sagehem Phase occupation, Site 5MT4512 (Wilshusen [5]), lies 400 m to the north. Eight other Sagehen Phase sites, four of which probably also represent small hamlets (Site 5MT4545, Brisbin [6]; Site 5MT4614, Yarnell [7]; Site 5MT4546; and Site 5MT4514 and four which may be nonhabitation sites (Site 5MT2199; Site 5MT4525; Site 5MT4524; and Site 5MT2201), lie within 500 m of Site 5MT2202 (Greenwald [2]). A total of 22 Sagehen Phase sites are located within one

km of Site 5MT2202; this is approximately 50 percent of the sites presently recorded in the Sagehen Flats Locality. There are only 11 probable limited activity sites of the same general surficial appearance as Site 5MT2202 (abundant flaked lithics, some nonflaked lithics, a light sherd scatter, and no evidence of architectural remains) located in comparable settings in the Sagehen Flats Locality; inhabitants from a number of habitation sites probably shared in the use of these limited activity loci.

For the McPhee Phase, there are no known habitation sites within 1 km of Site 5MT2202; Sites 5MT4475, McPhee Village (Brisbin [8]), the nearest habitation of this phase, is located 2.1 km to the northeast. Two suspected McPhee Phase field houses, Site 5MT2191, Little House (Hewitt [9]), and Site 5MT2192, Pheasant View Hamlet (Yarnell [10]) are located within 500 m of the site. It is inferred that economic task groups representing the McPhee Community (residing permanently at McPhee Village and, at times during the growing season, at Site 5MT2192 and Site 5MT2191) might have used Sheep Skull Camp as a limited activity locus. Both Site 5MT2191 and Site 5MT2202 are similarly situated with respect to the marsh. At present, the most productive part of the marsh is closer to Site 5MT2191 than to Site 5MT2202. Seasonal residents of Site 5MT2191 might have used Sheep Skull Camp while exploiting pinyon, yucca, and cactus, which might not have been available at their site; Site 5MT2202 may also have served as a base for hunting operations. Because Site 5MT2192 is located 1.1 km north of the marsh, its residents were more likely than those of Site 5MT2191 to have used Sheep Skull Camp for exploiting marsh resources. Pinyon, yucca, cactus, and possibly game animals were probably more available or more easily exploitable from Site 5MT2202.

The single Sundial Phase habitation in the Sagehen Flats Locality, Site 5MT2235 (Wilshusen [11]), lies 800 m northeast of Site 5MT2202. As was the case with Site 5MT2191, Site 5MT2235 is located as close to marsh resources as Site 5MT2202.

SURFACE COLLECTION

The initial survey records for Sheep Skull Camp report that "the major portion of the site lies on the lower border of a knoll (northeast quadrant of the site) where ceramics and lithics are scattered in a 19.8 m radius. As observed on the survey form for Site 5MT2202, "Artifacts were found on top of the hill, but in no heavy concentration." Re-examination of this site prior to its selection for excavation indicated that lithic artifacts occurred over the entire top of the knoll, as suggested by the survey crew, and extended down the southern slope of the knoll as well. No concentration of artifacts corresponding to that reported by the survey team was located on the lower border of the knoll. The survey crew, however, might have collected the materials in the concentration; 12 sherds and 16 lithic artifacts were collected by the survey crew.

The surface materials located at Site 5MT2202 covered approximately 3.5 ha. Because the site was so large and the surface scatter was relatively diffuse and apparently uniform, a multi-stage investigative strategy was adopted. During the first stage, the surface of the knoll and of part of the southern slope was gridded off and all artifacts found within the grid units were collected. A systematic survey of the lower southern slope recovered other artifacts; these lay outside the formal grid and were assigned extrapolated grid locations. The second stage of the work consisted of dividing the site into two horizontal strata and excavating randomly selected 1 by 2 m units within those strata. Following these preliminary investigations backhoe trenches, a magnetometer survey, and a blading program completed the subsurface testing.

The surface collections at this site contain the bulk of the information recovered; very little additional material or information was gained in subsequent excavations. A good deal of time was expended in subsurface excavation, however, in an attempt to gain information about the Archaic occupation. Sites of this period are rare, not only in the Project area, but in the Southwest in general. The discussion of surface artifacts is included with that of the total artifact distributions later in this report.

An area of 2408 sq m covering the top of the knoll and part of the southern slope was gridded and completely collected. A north-south baseline (164 m) and an east-west baseline (100 m) were established, and stakes placed at 8 m intervals along them. Grid stakes were positioned by measuring distances from the baseline stakes, or eventually, from stakes close to the baseline, using 30 m tapes. The northwest corner stake in each 8 m unit served as the grid reference point. These units were subdivided into 16 sq m quadrants for collection so that each 8 m unit had a northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast provenience unit.

A total of 172 such 8 m units were collected, resulting in 688 possible provenience units. Not all units, however, contained artifacts. All flaked lithic, nonflaked lithic, and ceramic pieces visible on the surface of the units were collected. In addition, the number of sandstone fragments per 16 sq m quadrant was counted and recorded. These fragments were originally thought to represent rubble from hearths or other structural features, but the generally small size of the fragments and the absence of any stone large enough to have served for building material led to the conclusion that the sandstone was the eroded lag remnant of a stratum which had at one time overlain the Mancos Shale now exposed at the knoll.

Although the knoll's southern slope was not gridded, that area was found to contain a number of bifacially worked flaked and nonflaked lithic artifacts-these artifacts were also collected. The enlarged site collection area totaled 1104 16 sq m quadrants, because the artifacts were recorded on a hypothetical extension of the original grid. This extension area, from the southern edge of the established grid down to the access road and extending about 200 m east-west, was systematically surveyed by a crew of three Y.C.C. workers who walked back and forth across the area searching for artifacts (including debitage). Items thus located were plotted on the extended grid system with the aid of a transit.

EXCAVATION METHODS AND OBJECTIVES

Excavation units were drawn from two horizontal strata (Figure 4.3). Stratum 2 covered an area 90 by 48 m in the north-central portion of the site and was defined by those contiguous 8 m units within which the 16 sq m collection units contained an average of three or more flaked lithic artifacts. Outliers, or those single grid units which were separated from the central area, but which still possessed more than three flaked lithic artifacts, were not included in the stratum. Units in the central section of the site which had fewer than three flaked lithic artifacts, but which were surrounded by units with greater than this number, were included in Stratum 2 as well. Stratum 1 covered the remainder of the site area.

Stratum 2 was inadvertently redefined in the field to include a 4 m wide strip north of the original stratum boundary, and to exclude a 4 m strip along the southern boundary of the original stratum. Although this error resulted in a stratum which no longer corresponded with the definition, 29 of the 35 units excavated in Stratum 2 were located within the boundaries of the original stratum, representing a sampling rate of 2.4 percent. The redefined Stratum 2 excavation sample contained 35 1 by 2 m units, representing a sampling rate of 2.9 percent. Stratum 1 was sampled at a rate of 0.2 percent and contained 30 1 by 2 m units.

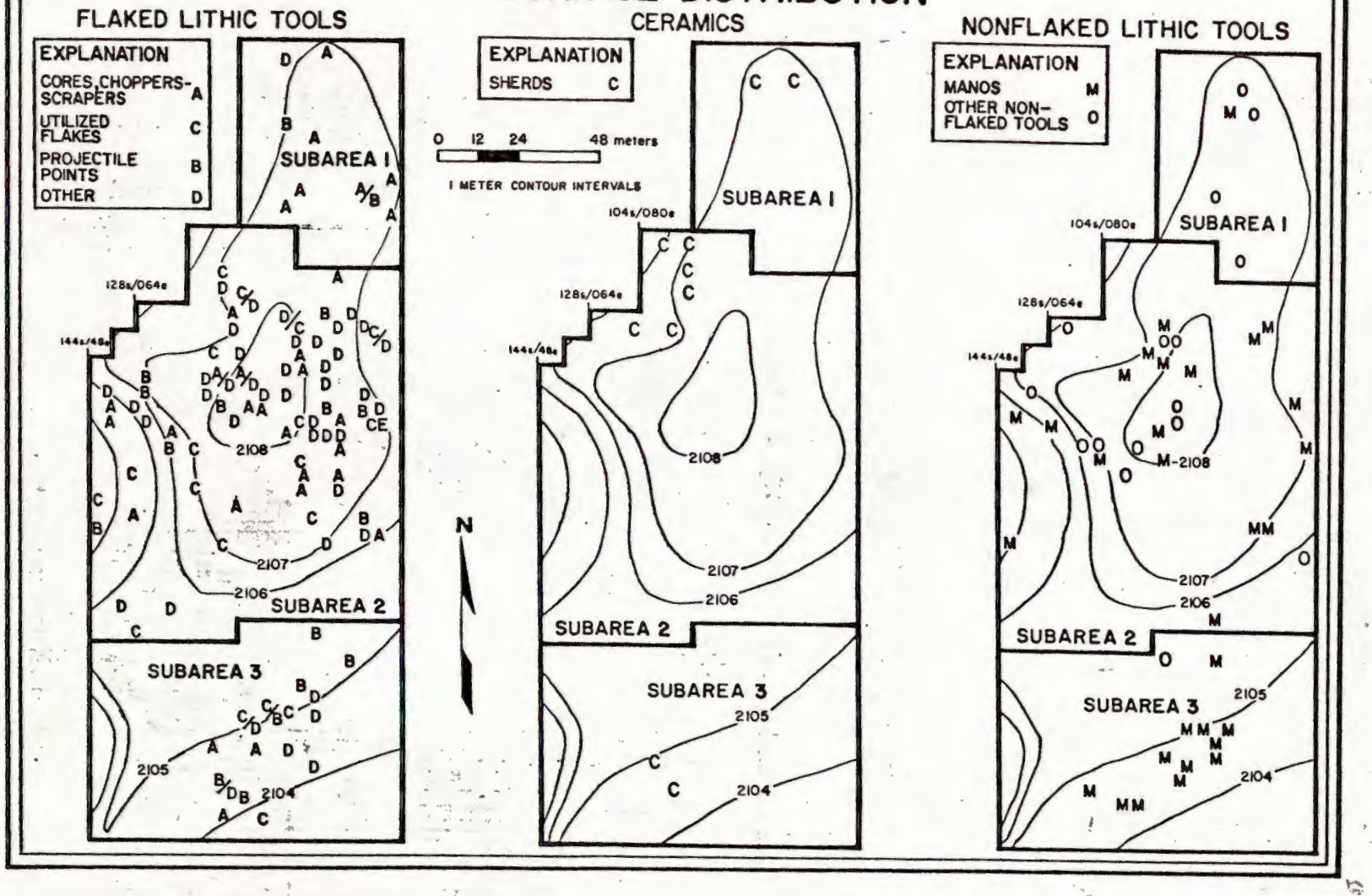
Sampling the entire site with 2 by 2 m units at a 25 percent rate, as suggested in the original version of the research design (Kane [12]), version of the research design, would have required the excavation of 2036 units. Excavating the area of heaviest concentration, represented by Stratum 2, would have required the excavation of 152 2 by 2 m units at this rate. Excavation of the 35 units in Stratum 2 and the 30 units

in Stratum 1 represented a compromise between the research design and the time constraints imposed by the contract, and was felt to be sufficient to provide a reliable sample of the site. Altogether, 130 sq m were tested, using shovels and both one-quarter inch and one-eighth inch screen, in arbitrary 15 cm excavation levels. Units were generally excavated to a depth of 30 cm, except in those cases in which bedrock was encountered prior to a depth of 30 cm or when artifacts had been recovered from the 15-30 cm level. In these latter cases, excavation continued for another 10 cm, or until it was concluded that sterile deposits had been reached.

Backhoe tests were also conducted at the site after the excavation units had been completed. Three tests were located in Stratum 2 and one in the north section of the site where several pieces of nonflaked lithic and ceramic materials were recovered (Figure 4.3). No artifacts were recovered in these tests and no features were found. These tests covered a total of 464 sq m and reflect the negative evidence provided by the regular sampling program; there is no substantial subsurface component at Sheep Skull Camp, or at least none which is amenable to location via sampling techniques.

A magnetometer survey of an 800 sq m block on the central section of the knoll (Figure 4.3), conducted after tests excavations were concluded, revealed four anomalies of possible cultural origin. All four anomalies were small, ranging from 1.5 sq m to 6 sq m, and were interpreted as possible loci of burned or decayed material. In general, the surveyed area did not appear to contain buried architectural features, hearths, or activity areas, and the cultural association of the four anomalies located was termed "dubious" by R. Huggins (personal communication), Magnetometry Consultant to the D.A.P.

5MT2202
SURFACE DISTRIBUTION



Blading operations were subsequently undertaken in the area covered by the magnetometer survey. No cultural evidence was found at the four targeted loci, but the extensive blading did reveal the presence of a stone-lined hearth, the only definite feature recorded for the entire site. This hearth was located just at the southern margin of the magnetometer survey block and might not have been included in the survey proper.

CULTURAL REMAINS LOCATED AT SITE 5MT2202

Excavation Results

Excavations at the site yielded a total of 116 items, comprising approximately 8 percent of the total assemblage of 1530 artifacts (Table 4.1). Most of the recovered materials (107 items, or 92 percent), were located in an arbitrary level extending from present ground surface to a depth of 15 cm. In most areas this level consisted primarily of loose, uncompacted surficial deposits. Time-sensitive artifacts recovered include 4 Late Pueblo Gray body sherds (type undifferentiated) and a possible Basketmaker (pre-or early Sagehen Phase) projectile point.

The remaining 9 artifacts collected during excavation - eight pieces of debitage and a fragment of an unshaped mano - were found 15-30 cm below present ground surface. No time-sensitive artifacts were recovered from depths greater than 15 cm below present ground surface.

All artifacts encountered in excavation came from the randomly selected excavation units.

Artifact Assemblage

The artifact assemblage from the excavations is generally similar to the overall artifact assemblage at the site. Flaked lithic debitage is the most numerous material category collected; the percentage of debitage in the excavations (77.6 percent) is just slightly less than that for the total assemblage (86.1 percent). Higher proportions of cores, utilized flakes, bifaces, typable projectile points, and manos were located in the excavations than in the total collection, but the small sample of material recovered in excavation makes interpretation of the disparity difficult. Small sample size may make the differences meaningless.

Table 4.1. Artifacts Recovered During Excavation of Site 5MT2202.

TYPE	NUMBER EXCAVATED	PERCENTAGE OF EXCAVATED ASSEMBLAGE	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSEMBLAGE
Debitage	90	77.6	86.1
Cores	2	1.7	0.6
Utilized flakes	4	3.4	1.6
Bifaces (includes untypable projectile points)	6	5.2	1.2
Typable projectile points	1	0.8	0.4
Manos	8	6.9	2.5
Unique stones	1	0.8	-
Late Pueblo Gray Body sherds	4	3.4	0.7
TOTAL	116		

Features

The grading activities at the site, conducted in the fall of 1979, revealed the presence of a stone-lined hearth (Figure 4.3) which was the only feature recorded at this site. The hearth, excavated into sterile deposits, was lined with 19 large (approximately 10-15 cm in length) sandstone blocks and several smaller stones; one of the large sandstone pieces was identified as a mano. The hearth was nearly circular, measuring 72 cm east-west by 74 cm north-south, and was 16 cm deep. Hearth fill consisted of a soft, dark, charcoal-flecked deposit with several large (approximately 10 cm in length) stones mixed in with the sediment. A sample was taken for radiocarbon dating, but proved too small to yield a date. Exact depth below surface for this feature is unknown but is estimated at 5-10 centimeters.

Depositional Characteristics of the Site

Three strata were distinguished in profile across the knoll (Figure 4.4). Unit 1, the uppermost stratum, consists of a mixture of decomposed shale and a reddish material which may be related to the aeolian deposits known as Mesa Verde loess (Arrhenius and Bonatti [1]). On the top of the knoll this upper unit is underlain by Unit 2, which is composed primarily of decomposed, powdery shale, with smaller amounts of intrusive material. There is no clear boundary between these 2 units. The second unit is underlain by shale parent material, represented in some areas by a layer of shale fragments overlying a pure, powdery shale deposit, and in others by the pure deposit alone. This "bedrock" level was reached at depths of 10-20 cm below the present ground surface on the top of the knoll.

On the slopes of the knoll the deposits are composed primarily of

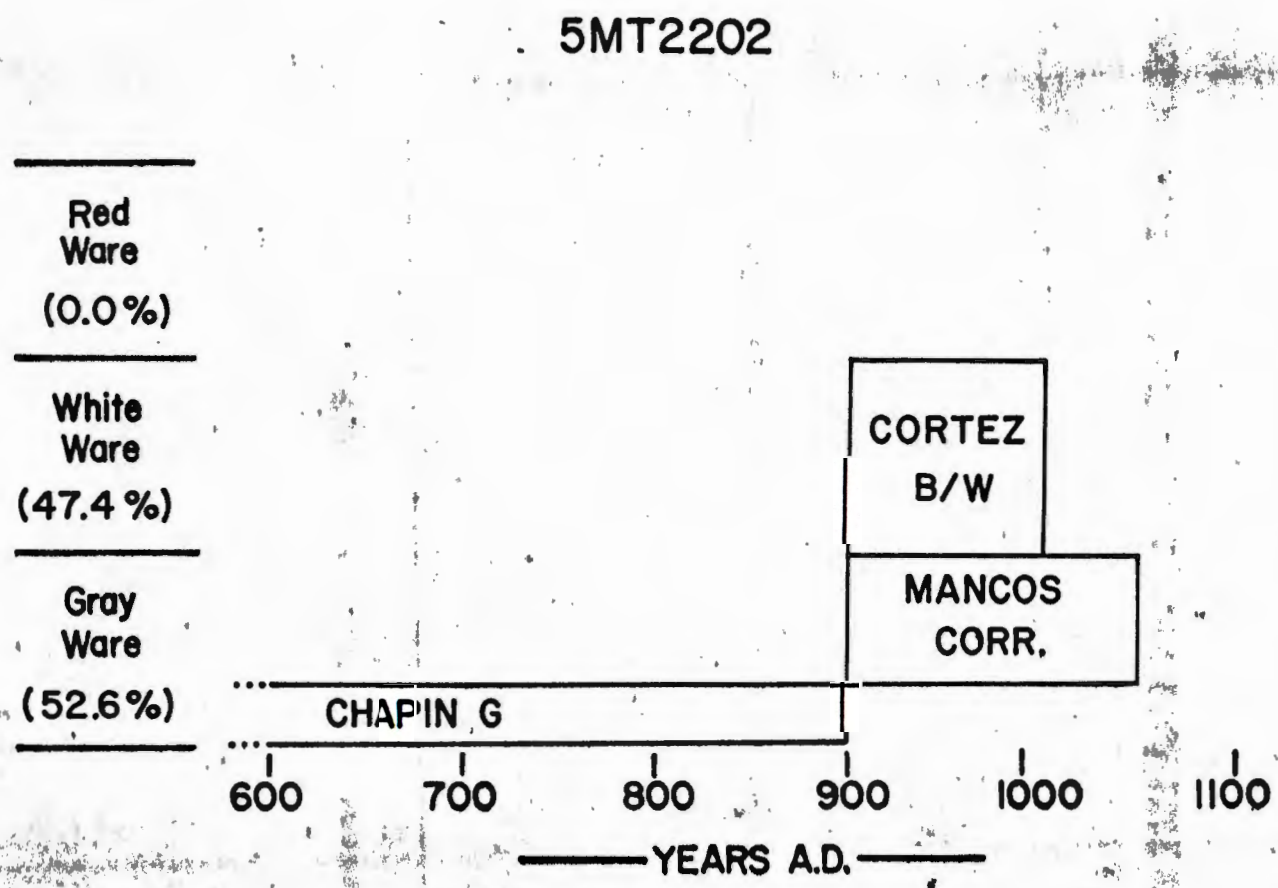


Figure 4.7. Diagnostic type occurrences of ceramic materials, Site 5MT2202.

the reddish material - found in small quantities mixed with the shale at the top of the knoll - and a small amount of decomposed shale. This deposit may be derived from the top of the knoll as colluvium. Bedrock was not reached in the test excavations (maximum depth=55 cm) on the slopes of the knoll.

The subsurface artifacts found at this site were confined to the loose, unconsolidated, uppermost few centimeters. It is suggested that these artifacts were incorporated into the upper 15 cm of deposit largely by surface trampling. Rodent activity, which affects the site at present, might have been responsible for transferring some of these artifacts to below the surface as well, but no rodent activity was noted in the profiles of the excavated units. Eight of the nine artifacts recovered at depths greater than 15 cm came from units which were described as colluvial; the test pits yielding these artifacts were located on the slopes of the knoll where colluvial deposition is thought to have taken place. One artifact, a piece of debitage, was recovered at a depth of 15-19 cm in a unit described as powdery shale. This artifact is also thought to have been buried through surface trampling or rodent activity. The presence of the buried hearth within the uppermost, unconsolidated unit, indicates some post-occupational deposition; the exact amount of deposition above the hearth is unknown.

The knoll on which this site is located seems to have been a favored spot for the sheep which were grazed in the area. Seven partially articulated sheep skeletons were found on the surface of the knoll--mute testimony to historic site disturbance.

Composition of Entire Site Assemblage

Preliminary analyses of the flaked lithic debitage and tools, nonflaked lithic items, ceramic materials, and faunal remains recovered at Site 5MT2202 during survey and excavation have been completed and comprise the data base for the following descriptions.

Flaked Lithic Assemblage

The flaked lithic assemblage (Table 4.2) is composed primarily of flaked lithic debitage. Over 90 percent of the lithics recovered were classified as debitage, with approximately 85 percent of the identified debitage exhibiting striking platforms. Over 70 percent of the debitage consists of relatively fine-grained materials, including very fine and microscopic sources. The flakes are generally quite small; mean weight for the debitage is 2.3 g. Fewer than 30 percent of the flakes retain any cortex on their surface.

Flaked lithic tools constitute the next most numerous artifact type represented at the site, or approximately nine percent of the total collection. Chopper-scraper forms and projectile points are the most common tool types; together these two types account for almost 50 percent of the flaked lithic tool inventory. Utilized flakes make up the other major category of tools represented at the site. Tool material types are primarily very fine (44 percent) and microscopic (46 percent), in contrast to the proportions of these materials in the flaked lithic debitage assemblage. A much higher proportion of tools made from microscopic materials were recovered than were pieces of debitage of similar quality rock.

Table 4.2. Composition of Flaked Lithic Assemblage at Site 5MT2202.

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Debitage	1318	90.5
Platform preparation		
With cortex	361	27.4
Without cortex	1138	86.3
Grain Size		
Medium grained	46	3.5
Finely granular	324	24.6
Very fine	748	56.8
Microgranular	200	15.2
Tools	138	9.5
Grain size		
Medium grained	6	4.3
Finely granular	9	6.5
Very fine	60	43.5
Microgranular	63	45.7
Type		
Utilized flakes	24	17.4
Cores	9	6.5
Chopper-scrapers	35	25.4
Thick scrapers	2	1.4
Thin scrapers	5	3.6
Bifaces	10	7.2
Projectile points	28	20.3
Specialized forms	12	8.7
Indeterminate	13	9.4

Nonflaked Lithic Assemblage

Nonflaked lithic tools account for approximately 4 percent of the total artifact assemblage (Table 4.3). The majority of the tools recovered were fragmentary, but analysis indicates that most of the tools were unmodified nodules of medium-grained stone. An unmodified nodule is an analytic classification referring to rocks which were apparently used "as is"--the rock or lump of stone was not modified prior to use. Close to 70 percent of the tools were classified as manos; a small number of metate fragments, hammerstones, unhafted and hafted implements were also recovered. Over 90 percent of the materials classified as manos were either unmodified nodules or had been only slightly shaped prior to use. Only one mano in the collection exhibited the flat grinding planes and triangular cross-section which typically result from use on a trough or slab metate. Further discussion of the lithic materals collected at Site 5MT2202 is presented in Appendix 1.

Ceramics

Ceramics are poorly represented at this site (Table 4.4). The sample of 18 sherds collected during the 1978 fieldwork is augmented by a grab sample of 12 sherds collected and analyzed in 1972. The grab sample data appear only in Table 4.4, and are not included in subsequent tables and totals because their exact proveniences are unknown.

Painted sherds are relatively rare in both collections; all sherds appear to belong to the Mesa Verde cultural category. Sherd types primarily date to AD 900 or later, though three sherds from the 1972 collections are identified as types daing before AD 900.

Of the 30 sherds recovered from the survey and excavation activities, 6.7 percent represent bowl forms and 93.3 percent represent jar forms,

Table 4.3. Composition of Nonflaked Lithic Assemblage at Site 5MT2202.

	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Nonflaked Lithics	56	3.6
Completeness		
Indeterminate	1	1.8
Fragment	36	64.3
Complete	19	33.9
Grain Size		
Coarse	42	75.0
Medium	12	21.4
Nongranular	1	1.8
Indeterminate	1	1.8
Production Stage		
Original nodule	44	78.6
Minimally shaped	11	19.6
Well-shaped	1	1.8
Type		
Unknown	4	7.1
Unhafted implement	2	3.6
Hammerstone	5	8.9
Mano	39	69.6
Metate	5	8.9
Hafted implement	1	1.8

Table 4.4. Composition of Ceramic Assemblage at Site 5MT2202.

TYPE	1972 Collection #	1972 Collection PERCENTAGE	1978 Collection #	1978 Collection PERCENTAGE	TOTAL #	TOTAL PERCENTAGE
C Gray	1	8.3	0	0	1	3.3
Mancos Corr	0	0	1	50.6	1	3.3
LP Gray	8	66.6	11	61.1	19	63.3
Corr Body Sherd	0	0	3	16.7	3	10.0
Cortez B/W	0	0	1	5.6	1	3.3
EP White	1	8.3	0	0	1	3.3
LP White	1	8.3	2	11.1	3	10.0
EP Red	1	8.3	0	0	1	3.3
TOTALS	12	40.0	18	60.0	30	100.0

C Gray - Chapin Gray
Mancos Corr - Mancos Corrugated
LP Gray - Late Pueblo Gray
Corr Body Sherd - Corrugated body sherds
Cortez B/W - Cortez Black-on-white
EP White - Early Pueblo White
LP White - Late Pueblo White
EP Red - Early Pueblo Red

possibly indicating storage or other specialized use at Site 5MT2202. Further discussion of the ceramic assemblage at Site 5MT2202 is presented in Appendix 2.

Faunal Material

Faunal materials consititute the most poorly represented artifact class at the site. Only four specimens were recovered: one eggshell fragment, one fragment from Sylvilagus sp., and two unspecified mammal bone fragments (S. Emslie, personal communication). The species were located in the upper 15 cm of deposit at the site and probably were not contemporaneous with human occupation. There were too few faunal remains recovered from Site 5MT2202 for any interpretation.

Artifact Spatial Patterning

Three weakly expressed clusters of surface artifacts, visible in distribution plots of flaked lithic tools, ceramics, and nonflaked lithic tools, were used to define analytic subareas at the site (Figures 4.5). These clusters were not discerned during field operations and had no bearing on the collection or excavations employed at Site 5MT2202. The three subareas, designated Subareas 1, 2, and 3, correspond in general to the overall morphology of the knoll.

Subarea 1

Subarea 1 is located on the northernmost part of the knoll which extends to the north as a relatively narrow finger or ridge. The subarea is the smallest of the three and covers 960 sq m, approximately seven percent of the total site area. Close to eight percent of the total artifact collection came from Subarea 1.

Subarea 2

Subarea 2, the largest of the three subareas, is centrally located on the highest and widest part of the knoll; areal coverage is 8750 sq m, or 67 percent of the site. Approximately 80 percent of the total site artifact collection was found in Subarea 2.

Subarea 3

Subarea 3 is located in the southern section of the site and is primarily confined to the upper portion of the gentle slope leading down to the marsh southeast of the site. This subarea covers about 3400 sq m, 26 percent of the site, and contained approximately 12 percent of the total number of artifacts recovered.

Subareal Artifact Composition and Frequency

In general, the composition of collections in the subareas is similar to that of the undifferentiated total site collection (Table 4.5). The collections from Subareas 1 and 2, in particular, are almost identical in composition to the overall site collection. Subarea 3 differs from the other two and from the overall collection in the proportions of debitage and of tools of all material types. The proportion of debitage from Subarea 3 is slightly over 20 percent below that in the other areas, and, except for chopper-scrapers, proportions of major flaked lithic tool types are consistently higher. Similar differences occur when the percentage of a particular type from a subarea assemblage is compared with the proportion of overall site area which the subarea occupies (Table 4.6). For most classes of artifacts the proportion of the class found in a particular subarea is approximately equal to the areal proportion of the subarea, indicating fairly even distribution for the class over the entire site. Flaked lithic debitage, chopper-scrapers, projectile points, and

represented at Site 5MT2202 while other tool types are poorly represented. The high percentage of manos suggests that food processing was probably a highly specialized activity at the site. The high percentage of manos is consistent with other special activity sites. Site 5MT2242 shows the above profile because of the large number of indeterminates—these represent small fragments of very thin grinding stone slabs.

Site 5MT2202 is similar to other limited activity/seasonal sites in the DAP area. These limited activity sites are representative of a number of occupations over a long period, but the intensity of occupation at any particular time is difficult to evaluate; the intensity of Anasazi utilization of Site 5MT2202 was probably not very great. When working with Site 5MT2202, it is important to consider that most of the materials are inseparable on the basis of technology or raw materials and that the site should be interpreted as consisting of mixed assemblages. The site appears to be dominated by Archaic assemblages that reflect hunting activities and manufacturing of finished tools.

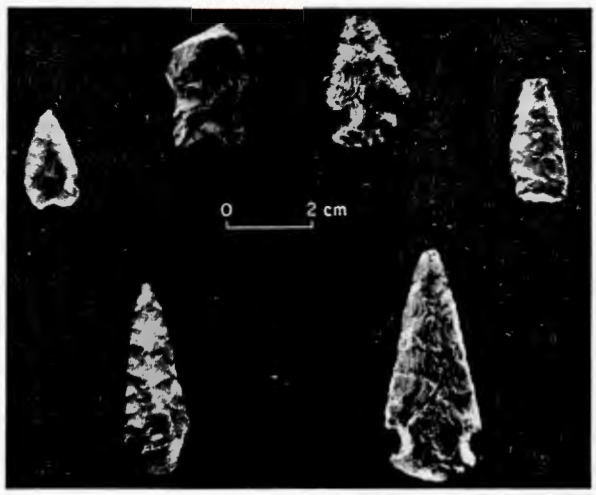


Figure 4.6 Projectile points recovered from Site 5MT2202.

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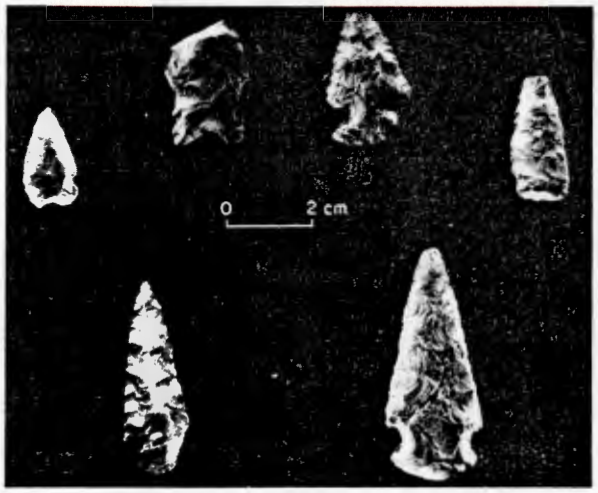

Figure 4.6 Projectile points recovered from Site 5MT2202.

Figure 36

Table 4.5. Composition of Subarea Assemblages Compared to Total Site Assemblage, Site 5MT2202.

TYPE	SUBAREA 1 #	SUBAREA 1 PERCENT	SUBAREA 2 #	SUBAREA 2 PERCENT	SUBAREA 3 #	SUBAREA 3 PERCENT	TOTAL SITE #	TOTAL SITE PERCENT
Debitage	104	87.4	1093	88.9	121	66.9	1318	86.1
FLT	10	8.4	92	7.4	36	19.9	138	9.0
Util flk	0	0.0	15	1.2	9	5.0	24	1.3
Chop-scr	4	3.4	27	2.2	4	2.2	35	2.3
Proj pts	2	1.7	12	1.0	14	7.7	28	1.8
NFLT	3	2.5	33	2.7	20	11.0	56	3.7
Manos	1	0.8	22	1.8	16	8.8	39	2.5
Metates	0	0.0	4	0.3	1	0.5	5	0.3
Ceramics	2	1.7	12	0.8	4	2.2	18	1.2

FLT - Flaked lithic tools
Util flk - Utilized flakes
Chop-scr - Choppers-scrapers
Proj pts - Projectile points
NFLT - Nonflaked lithic tools

- NUMBER
PERCENT - PERCENTAGE

Table 4.6. Proportions of Artifacts Compared to Areal Proportions of Subareas at Site 5MT2202.

TYPE	SUBAREA 1	SUBAREA 2	SUBAREA 3
Percent of total site area	7.3	66.7	25.9
Artifact type percentage:			
Debitage	7.9	82.9	9.2
Flaked lithic tools	7.2	66.7	26.1
Utilized flakes	0.0	62.5	37.5
Chopper-scrapers	11.4	77.1	11.4
Projectile points	7.1	42.9	50.0
Nonflaked lithic tools	5.4	58.9	35.7
Manos	2.6	56.4	41.0
Metates	0.0	80.0	20.0
Ceramics	11.1	66.6	22.2

manos are not evenly distributed. Debitage and chopper-scrapers are relatively scarce in Subarea 3, while projectile points and manos appear to be concentrated in this subarea.

DISCUSSION

Chronology

Although the deposits at Sheep Skull Camp were nonstratified and the sample collected from hearth fill contained too little material for radiocarbon dating, the ceramics and some flaked lithic tools collected indicate that the site was used during the late Archaic period (probably during the Great Cut Phase) and the Sagehen and McPhee Phases. Given this time span, the lack of stratified deposits suggests that use of this site was probably sporadic and that individual occupations were probably brief. This same lack of stratified deposits makes it very difficult to assign a date to most of the materials collected at the site, including the debitage, most classes of flaked lithic tools, and many of the nonflaked lithic tools.

Identification of lithic material types represented in the debitage collection and a study of sources for these materials would aid in the evaluation of the possibility of temporal differences in intensity of site use. Preliminary analysis indicates that the typologically "early" projectile points at Site 5MT2202 often were made from a distinctive set of materials not available locally, including silicified wood, obsidian, fine-grained quartzite, and chert. Typologically "later" projectile point types appear to be made primarily from locally available materials, including a fine-grained quartzite and chert. Cherts (both local and non-local) and fine-grained quartzite are the most abundant lithic materials at Sheep Skull Camp, and it may be possible to differentiate debitage and tools deposited at different times during site use on the basis of material type.

Ecological Adaptation

A number of features of the site setting and archaeological assemblage suggest that activities at Sheep Skull Camp were directed toward procurement of wild resources, with an emphasis on game resources. The site apparently functioned primarily as a hunting and butchering station; no evidence for permanent habitation of the knoll was recorded.

Sheep Skull Camp affords a good view of the cultivatible uplands to the north and the present-day marsh to the south and provides easy access to these areas. The knoll upon which the site is located is uncultivatible, with only a thin upper layer of unconsolidated sediment overlying a Mancos Shale. Although the uppermost sediments could certainly support a variety of surface structures, the knoll is unsuitable for the subterranean pithouse constructions characteristic of the Puebloan occupation in the Project area.

The prehistoric vegetation of the knoll might also have provided some shade and shelter. The exact composition of this vegetation is unknown, but the differences in substrata between the knoll and surrounding areas indicate that plant cover on the knoll was likely to have been different than that supported on the local flats and swales. At present, areas with exposed bedrock and generally shallow sediment cover support yucca, pinyon, juniper, and the larger shrubs, including fendlerbush and serviceberry, while areas of greater sediment depth support a dense cover of sagebrush, other small shrubs, and grasses.

There is no archaeological evidence for construction of any facilities at Sheep Skull Camp other than the single hearth located during blading operations. The results of the surface and subsurface testing, including the magnetometer survey, indicate that other hearths or larger

structures were not likely present at this site. The presence of insubstantial structures, such as brush windbreaks and lean-tos, would be difficult to detect at this site, although their use at Sheep Skull Camp cannot be ruled out entirely.

The artifact assemblage is dominated by flaked lithic tools - primarily projectile points, chopper-scraper forms, bifaces, and utilized flakes - and flaked lithic debitage. The low average weight of the debitage suggests that repair and/or finishing of tools were more common at Sheep Skull Camp than complete lithic tool manufacture from flake or core through finished item. The small number of cores recovered from Site 5MT2202 supports the inference that early steps in tool manufacture took place elsewhere. Partially used or exhausted cores and other by products of tool manufacture might not have been discarded at the site, however, and their absence is not conclusive proof of an emphasis on repair or reworking.

Manos also constitute an important part of the artifact assemblage at Sheep Skull Camp. The presence of these tools suggests that some vegetal processing of various wild plant materials might have occurred on the knoll. The manos could also have served in some capacity in the production of lithic artifacts. The relative scarcity of hammerstones indicates that some of the manos might have functioned as hammerstones, but intensive analysis of these tools is necessary to evaluate these conjectures.

The absence of architecture, the low number of items of presumably domestic function, including ceramics and large metates, and the dominance of flaked lithic tools and debitage suggest that the site might have been used as some sort of staging area for hunting activities. Assuming the

marsh resources were available these activity probably concentrated on the marsh to the south. Hunters might have gathered there to survey the marsh prior to the hunt and retreated there again following the hunt for butchering. The length of stay at the site probably varied from a few hours to a few days. The cores and percussors used in flaked lithic tool manufacture and the specialized tools used for making and repairing arrowshafts, foreshafts, and other parts of the hunting kit would generally have been taken along when the hunters left the knoll. Some collection and processing of vegetal materials might have been carried out on the knoll.

Paleodemography

Because Site 5MT2202 was not a permanent habitation locus and because the length of the various occupations cannot be determined, population estimates are impossible. It is probable that the site was used by small hunting and/or gathering parties during all periods of human occupation in the Project area.

Activity Areas

The three subareas of the site were defined on the basis of spatial separation and not on the basis of artifact content. The slight differences in the artifact assemblages of these subareas suggest slightly different activities.

The average weight of the debitage in Subareas 1 and 3 is higher than that in Subarea 2 by about 1.5-2 g, suggesting that more lithic tool repair or production--particularly the later stages of lithic tool production--were taking place in the center of the site. This apparent

difference might, however, be the result of the relatively low sample size of about 100 in both Subareas 1 and 3; Subarea 2 has a sample size of over 1000.

The higher proportion of projectile points recovered in Subarea 3 is seen as a function of distance to the marsh. Subarea 3 might have been a convenient place for butchering activities, being far enough from the marsh to keep game disturbance to a minimum.

Trade

The identification of lithic sources is as yet incomplete. Although nonlocal lithic materials are represented in the collection, no data are currently available with which to evaluate the question of trade in lithic materials versus collection of these materials at their source areas by occupants of the sites. No nonlocal ceramics are present in the site collections.

Culture Changes

The lack of structures at the site indicate that Sheep Skull Camp remained a hunting and gathering locus throughout its long history. It is certainly possible, however, that changes in activity occurred that have not been detected by the studies to date.

SUMMARY

Sheep Skull Camp was probably a locus of hunting and gathering activities throughout the aboriginal occupation of the Project area. Visits to this site were likely to have been both infrequent and fairly short term, based on the observation that the site's history spanned several thousand years, yet the number of artifacts deposited at the site is small and there are no architectural remains. Most probably the site was used by inhabitants of nearby habitations during the Anasazi occupation of Sagehen Locality and by Archaic groups possibly operating out of a base camp in the area. Both the Puebloan and the Archaic uses of the site appear to have been directed toward the exploitation of faunal resources, and perhaps, to a lesser extent, plant resources. Although some tools were undoubtedly made at this site, the majority of the lithic remains probably resulted from repair and replacement of tools damaged during the hunt, lost during use of the site, or intentionally discarded at the site.

APPENDIX 1

DATA AND SUMMARY STATEMENTS, LITHIC MATERIALS FROM SITE 5MT2202

by

Thomas H. Hruby

The data presented in Tables 4.7, 4.8, and 4.9 represent part of the lithic reductive-technology analysis completed for Site 5MT2202. From a twelve-attribute Flaked Lithic Tool (FLT) analysis system, four attributes were selected to illustrate general technological, functional, and raw-material variablity. A traditional morphological-use classification, a ranked estimation of production technology input for dorsal and ventral surfaces, and a grain-size evaluation are included. Six variables are included from the Flaked Lithic Debitage (FLD) analysis system: grain-size ranking, classification of items with cortex, items which retain a striking platform, obsidian items, mean weight, and total number of debitage items. The Nonflaked Lithic Tool (NFLT) analysis system is represented by four variables: traditional morphological-use item classification, production-input evaluation, indication of item completeness, and raw-material grain-size evaluation. The complete lithic-analysis systems are described elsewhere in D.A.P. publications (Phagan [13]).

During 1980 the D.A.P. lithic-laboratory personnel have repeatedly reviewed the utility and reliability of the lithic-analysis systems. In this review, a number of analysis variables have been modified, particularly the item morphological-use variables on both the FLT and NFLT systems. Analytical perspectives change as information accumulates and as models of tool production and use improve. In order to minimize the effects of this analytical modification on interpretation, the observed values of these variables have been regrouped into larger categories within which analytic consistency is reliable.

For comparative purposes, the tables also include data for a grouping of temporally and functionally similiar D.A.P. sites and for all D.A.P.

Table 4.7. Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Site 5MT2202, Flaked Lithic Tools.

	Area 1 (N=10)		Area 2 (N=92)		Area 3 (N=36)		5MT2202 Total (N=138)		5MT2199 5MT2242 Total (N=251)		Anasazi Group N=7048
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
MORPHO-USE FORM, #2											
Indeterminate			12	13.0	1	2.8	13	9.4	8	3.2	0.5
Utilized flakes			15	16.3	9	25.0	24	17.4	57	22.7	43.6
Cores	3	30.0	5	5.4	1	2.8	9	6.5	3	1.2	19.0
Choppers, Scraper	4	40.0	27	29.3	4	11.1	35	25.4	39	15.5	10.4
Thick scrapers			1	1.1	1	2.8	2	1.4	18	4.2	6.4
Thin scrapers	1	10.0	3	3.3	1	2.8	5	3.6	26	10.4	10.1
Bifaces			7	7.6	3	8.3	10	7.2	49	19.5	3.9
Projectile points	2	20.0	12	13.0	14	38.9	28	20.3	40	15.9	3.7
Specialized forms			10	10.9	2	5.6	12	8.7	11	4.4	2.3
THINNING STAGE: DORSAL											
Indeterminate									1	0.4	0.3
Non-facial item			5	5.4	2	5.6	7	5.1	4	1.6	19.8
Unthin item, w/ cortex			8	8.7	1	2.8	9	6.5	30	12.0	31.7
Unthin item, no cortex	1	10.0	8	8.7	5	13.9	14	10.1	61	24.3	31.4
Prelim shap, w/ cortex			10	10.9	1	2.8	11	8.0	11	4.4	3.7
Prelim shap, no cortex			7	7.6			7	5.1	38	15.1	2.6
Primary thinning			1	1.1			1	0.7	19	7.6	1.2
Secondary thinning	1	10.0			1	2.8	2	1.4	19	7.6	1.1
Well-shaped	7	70.0	51	55.4	22	61.1	80	58.0	61	24.3	7.5
Highly stylized	1	10.0	2	2.2	4	11.1	7	5.1	7	2.8	0.7
THINNING STAGE: VENTRAL											
Indeterminate									1	0.4	0.2
Non-facial item			2	2.2	2	5.6	4	2.9	3	1.2	19.5
Unthin item, w/ cortex			4	4.3	1	2.8	5	3.6	5	2.0	1.9
Unthin item, no cortex	1	10.0	31	33.7	10	27.8	42	30.4	120	47.8	64.4
Prelim shap, w/ cortex									2	0.8	1.4
Prelim shap, no cortex			8	8.7	1	2.8	9	6.5	35	13.9	3.4
Primary thinning			1	1.1			1	0.7	16	6.4	1.2
Secondary thinning	1	10.0			1	2.8	2	1.4	17	6.8	1.0
Well-shaped	7	70.0	44		17	47.2	68	49.3	45	17.9	6.4
Highly stylized	1	10.0	2	2.2	4	11.1	7	5.1	7	2.8	0.7
GRAIN SIZE											
Medium (coarse)	2	20.0	4	4.3			6	4.3	6	2.4	2.1
Fine	1	10.0	7	7.6	1	2.8	9	6.5	10	4.0	6.2
Very Fine (detrital)	3	30.0	44	47.8	13	36.1	60	43.5	148	59.0	65.3
Miscroscopic (non-granular)	4	40.0	37	40.2	22	61.1	63	45.7	87	34.7	26.3

Table 4.8. Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Site 5MT2202, Flaked Lithic Debitage (Page 1 of 2).

	Area 1 (N=104)		Area 2 (N=1093)		Area 3 (N=121)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
GRAIN SIZE						
Medium (coarse)	17	16.3	25	2.3	4	3.3
Fine	45	43.3	235	21.5	44	36.4
Very Fine (detrital)	21	20.2	661	60.5	66	54.5
Microscopic (non-granular)	21	20.2	172	15.7	7	5.8
Items with Cortex, %	20	19.2	293	26.8	48	39.7
Items with Platform, %	62	59.6	981	89.8	95	78.5
Obsidian Items, #						
Mean Weight (grams)	3.46		2.05		3.95	
Total Debitage, #	104		1093		121	

Table 4.8. Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Site 5MT2202, Flaked Lithic Debitage (Page 2 of 2).

	5MT2202 Total (N=1318)		5MT2199 5MT2242 Total (N=6445)		Anasazi Group (N=66095)
	#	%	#	%	%
GRAIN SIZE					
Medium (coarse)	46	3.5	71	1.1	3.2
Fine	324	24.7	358	5.6	21.4
Very Fine (detrital)	748	56.5	3476	53.9	51.6
Microscopic (non-granular)	200	15.3	2540	39.4	23.7
Items with Cortex, %	361	27.4	513	8.0	25.9
Items with Platform, %	1138	86.3	2663	41.3	38.8
Obsidian Items, #			6	0.1	18.0
Mean Weight (grams)	2.33		1.35		7.93
Total Debitage, #	1318		6445		66095

Table 4.9. Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Site 5MT2202, Nonflaked Lithic Tools (Page 1 of 2).

	Area 1 (N = 3)		Area 2 (N = 33)		Area 3 (N = 20)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
MORPHO-USE FORM						
Indeterminate	2	66.7	1	3.0	1	5.0
Generalized, unhafted			1	3.0	1	5.0
Hammerstones			4	12.1	1	5.0
Manos	1	33.3	22	66.7	16	80.0
Slab Metates			1	3.0		
Trough Metates						
Unspecified & Frag Metates			3	9.1	1	5.0
Generalized, hafted			1	3.0		
Miscellaneous Specialized						
PRODUCTION EVALUATION						
Indeterminate						
Module	2	66.7	25	75.8	17	85.0
Minimally Shaped	1	33.3	7	21.2	3	15.0
Well-shaped			1	3.0		
Highly stylized						
ITEM COMPLETENESS						
Indeterminate					1	5.0
Small Fragment						
Partial Implement	3	100.0	22	66.7	11	55.0
Complete (+ or -) Implement			11	33.3	8	40.0
GRAIN SIZE						
Indeterminate						
Coarse	3	100.0	24	72.7	1	5.0
Medium			8	24.2	15	75.0
Fine					4	20.0
Non-granular			1	3.0		

Table 4.9. Lithic Analysis Data Summary for Site 5MT2202, Nonflaked Lithic Tools (Page 2 of 2).

	5MT2202 Total (N = 56)		5MT2199 & 5MT2242 Total (N = 234)		Anasazi Group (N = 4318)
	#	%	#	%	%
MORPHO-USE FORM					
Indeterminate	4	7.1	142	60.7	9.2
Generalized, unhafted	2	3.6	3	1.3	24.0
Hammerstones	5	8.9			9.9
Manos	39	69.6	44	18.8	33.5
Slab Metates	1	1.8	36	15.4	2.1
Trough Metates			6	2.6	9.4
Unspecified & Frag Metates	4	7.1	1	0.4	5.2
Generalized, hafted	1	1.8			2.5
Miscellaneous Specialized			2	0.8	4.0
PRODUCTION EVALUATION					
Indeterminate			161	68.8	8.4
Nodule	44	78.6	36	15.4	53.5
Minimally Shaped	11	19.6	13	5.6	16.7
Well-shaped	1	1.8	24	10.3	21.1
Highly stylized					0.1
ITEM COMPLETENESS					
Indeterminate	1	1.8			0.9
Small Fragment			140	59.8	3.3
Partial Implement	36	64.3	74	31.6	45.6
Complete (+ or -) Implement	19	33.9	20	8.5	50.8
GRAIN SIZE					
Indeterminate	1	1.8	1	0.4	8.1
Coarse	42	75.0	4	1.7	16.5
Medium	12	21.4	215	91.9	39.4
Fine			14	6.0	34.5
Non-granular	1	1.8			1.2

Anasazi sites analyzed prior to the 1980 field season. These latter "Anasazi group" data have been generated from computer files which have not undergone complete editing, and final figures may differ slightly from those presented. Comparisons and interpretations presented here, particularly those of an inter-site nature, are based on a qualitative assessment of lithic profile variation, since significance has not been statistically established.

Site 5MT2202 is a large limited activity/seasonal camp utilized at differing intensities during the Great Cut Phase and the Cline Subphase of the McPhee Phase. Two sites, Site 5MT2199 and Site 5MT2242, have a similar temporal/functional matrix and are grouped together for comparative purposes.

Site 5MT2202 and the other two limited/seasonal camps are different from the group of Anasazi sites in several ways. The relatively high percentage of chopper/scraper planes, bifaces, and projectile points indicates that tools generally associated with hunting activities are well-represented at the site. The grain size ranking for Site 5MT2202 has a high quantity of microscopic raw materials, indicating that high quality materials were selected for use on this site. The above observations are consistent with other sites with dominant Archaic components, and suggest a high curation technology. The high values in the technological input variables also support this hypothesis. Figure 4.6 shows a sample of the projectile points recovered at Site 5MT2202.

The FLD table is more difficult to interpret because all three groups appear to be significantly different (Table 4.8). Site 5MT2202 has a low percentage of microscopic materials, which indicates that high input tools, generally associated with microscopic materials, were not produced

at the site. The above observation also suggests a high curation technological model for Archaic peoples. The low mean weight of flakes at the Archaic sites and the relatively high percentage of flakes with platforms for Site 5MT2202 suggest that the later stages of tool manufacture/resharpening are well-represented at the sites, these observations indicate a certain amount of tool production took place at the site.

The NFLT analysis (Table 4.9) suggests that some food processing occurred at the site. Manos are well-represented at Site 5MT2202 while other tool types are poorly represented. The high percentage of manos suggests that food processing was probably a highly specialized activity at the site. The high percentage of manos is consistent with other special activity sites. Site 5MT2242 shows the above profile because of the large number of indeterminates--these represent small fragments of very thin grinding stone slabs.

Site 5MT2202 is similar to other limited activity/seasonal sites in the D.A.P. area. These limited activity sites are representative of a number of occupations over a long period of time, but the intensity of occupation at any particular time is difficult to evaluate; the intensity of Anasazi utilization of Site 5MT2202 was probably not very great. When working with Site 5MT2202, it is important to consider that most of the materials are inseparable on the basis of technology or raw materials and that the site should be interpreted as consisting of mixed assemblages. The site appears to be dominated by Archaic assemblages that reflect hunting activities and manufacturing of finished tools.

APPENDIX 2

DATA AND SUMMARY STATEMENTS, CERAMIC MATERIALS FROM SITE 5MT2202

by

William A. Lucius and Erik Blinman

Ceramic artifacts from Site 5MT2202 were analyzed by members of the D.A.P. Additive Analysis Laboratory. Descriptions of inventory analysis procedures and structure, and of the resulting data interpretability are available in Lucius [14]. Familiarity with the inventory analysis program will aid in the understanding of the data and interpretations provided below.

Description of the total ceramic assemblage from the site is presented in Table 4.10. This assemblage includes both D.A.P. collections and the ceramics collected during site survey in 1972. Sherds are grouped by "culture categories and wares" (Lindsay et al. [15]). All sherds from 5MT2202 were assigned to wares of the Mesa Verde Culture Category and reflect a local (Mesa Verde region) manufacturing tradition and exchange system. Pottery types within each ware are listed sequentially from early to late, and grouped types (e.g., Late Pueblo Gray) are listed last and include sherds not assignable to specific types.

Relative weights of the temporally diagnostic types in Table 4.10 have been used to construct Figure 4.7. Each type is presented as a percentage of the total typable sherds of the ware. The relative contribution of each ware to the site total is listed in parentheses to the left of the figure. Temporal spans for the diagnostic types are based on Breternitz, et al. [16] with some adjustments based on dating results from within the D.A.P. This presentation illustrates the intensity of occupation as well as the temporal range of occupation, and it can be compared with similar figures prepared for other D.A.P. sites.

Ceramic types in Figure 4.7 indicate a date range of about AD 600 to 1050. However, only three sherds in the collection suggest a pre-AD 900 association, and the presence of Cortez Black-on-white, Mancos Corrugated,

Table 4.10. Summary of Descriptive Frequencies of Ceramics at Site 5MT2202.*

WARE TRADITIONAL TYPE	BY COUNT												WEIGHT	
	BOWL		JAR		OTHER		TOTAL		RIMS		MODIFIED			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	gm	%
Mesa Verde Gray														
Chapin Gray			1	3.6			1	3.3	1	50			3	1.4
Mancos Corrugated			1	3.6			1	3.3	1	50			7	3.2
Late Pueblo			19	67.8			19	63.3					152	70.0
Corr Body Sherds			3	10.7			3	10.0					19	8.8
Mesa Verde White														
Cortez B/W			1	3.6			1	3.3					9	4.1
Early Pueblo	1	50					1	3.3					5	2.3
Late Pueblo			3	10.7			3	10.0					19	8.8
Mesa Verde Red														
Early Pueblo	1	50					1	3.3					3	1.4
TOTAL	2		28				30		2				217	

* - Survey Collection added

and corrugated body sherds argue for a primary site use in the AD 900-1000 range. Of the few (only 30) sherds recovered at the site, 87 percent were found on the modern ground surface (Table 4.11), and none could be associated with reconstructable vessels. It is unlikely that the deposition of these ceramics resulted from any intensive use of the site.

Of the sherds recovered by survey and excavation, 25 percent (by weight) contain tempering materials that are not the local crushed igneous rock. These other tempers are believed to have been in use to the west and south of the Project area, but they still originate within the Mesa Verde region.

Table 4.11. Ceramic Assemblage for Site 5MT2202

	Surface Collection			Excavation of		
	Area 1 % (N = 2)	Area 2 % (N = 8)	Area 3 % (N = 4)	Area 2 % (N = 4)	Total #	Site %
Mesa Verde Gray Ware						
Mancos Corrugated	—	—	25	—	1	5.6
Late Pueblo Gray	100	38	50	100	11	61.1
Corrugated Body Sherds	—	38	—	—	3	16.7
Mesa Verde White Ware						
Cortez Black-on-white	—	—	25	—	1	5.6
Late Pueblo White	—	25	—	—	2	11.1
Total:					18	100.1
Vessel Forms						
Jars	100	100	100	100	18	100

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Preliminary (inventory) analysis of the ceramic complement from Site 5MT2202 was accomplished subsequent to the field operations by members of the additive analysis laboratory of the D.A.P. Results of these analysis are presented in this appendix. Description of the preliminary analysis procedures, structure, and data interpretability are available in Lucius [14]. Familiarity with the inventory analysis program will aid in the understanding of the data and interpretations provided below.

The ceramic data are organized in two units. The Summary of Descriptive Frequencies Form (SDFF) is a descriptive presentation of the ceramic complement of the entire site (Table 4.10). The ceramics collected during the initial survey are included. The SDFF uses the convention of listing ceramics in terms of their taxonomic placement within "culture categories and wares" (Lindsay et al. [15]). Wares of the Mesa Verde Culture Category are listed in sequence and reflect those items assigned to a local (Mesa Verde region) manufacturing tradition and redistributive system.

For each ware a listing of temporally diagnostic "types" from the collection are listed. Type names with geographical prefixes are listed sequentially from early to late, and grouped types (e.g., Early Pueblo Gray), which represent body sherds of the various wares, are also listed. Data categories per type include vessel forms (bowl, jar, other) represented by count and percent of total, count totals, rim sherd counts, modified item counts, and weight totals (in grams). Column and row totals are also presented, as is an estimated date range based on the entire ceramic assemblage of the site.

A graphic representation of diagnostic type occurrences, or ceramic profile of the relative percentage of each traditional type of the gray,

white, and red ware categories (Figure 4.7), has been included as a supplement to Table 4.10 (SDFF). Only the temporally diagnostic types of the Mesa Verde Culture Category appear in this figure. The temporal designations for the diagnostic types are based on Breternitz, Rohn, and Morris [16] with some adjustments as indicated by the dating control provided by the D.A.P. data base.

The figure was constructed by determining ware totals (based on lot weight data) and by calculating the percentage contribution of each included type to the ware total. Thus types are plotted to scale in order to illustrate the amount of each type within its respective ware category (100 percent). The relative contribution of each ware to the site ceramic total is included in parentheses with each ware.

The figure illustrates the range and intensity of diagnostic ceramic types for each site as well as the primary occupational intensity (as indicated by high percentages of complementary types). Also, comparison of the various excavated and bladed sites of the D.A.P. is possible by evaluating respective ceramic profiles.

The second data set documents the procedure which was used to divide the ceramic complement of the site into spatially discrete units. These data are presented in Tables 4.11, and 4.12. These standard summary tables are derived by computer assisted manipulations of the ceramic data file and subsequent summary of the data into standardized formats (Tables 4.11 and 4.12) to allow for comparison between sites or units thereof. Because the SDFF and standard summary tables represent different manipulations of the data base (inventory survey collections are never represented in the standard summary), grand totals of the 2 tables may not agree. All standard summary data reflect sherd counts and not sherd

weights. The total number of items in each column are listed in parentheses under the column heading, whereas the numbers within each column represent the percentage of the total for each traditional type or vessel form. Actual numbers and percentages are listed in the total columns of each individual table. Table 4.11 presents the ceramic data from the surface collection; the total site ceramics data is a compilation of the various data and is presented in Table 4.12.

The ceramic complement of Site 5MT2202 indicates a date range from AD 600-1050, however, the major period of site use apparently occurred between AD 900-1000. Only three sherds in the collection indicate a pre-AD 900 site association, whereas the presence of Cortez Black-on-white, Mancos Corrugated, and corrugated body sherds argues for site use after AD 900. The general paucity of Anasazi occupation of the Dolores river valley after AD 1000 and the lack of diagnostic ceramics of a post-AD 1000 occupation argue for cessation of site use by AD 1000.

Several other sites in the Project area have ceramic assemblages similar to that of Site 5MT2202. These include McPhee Pueblo (Site 5MT4475), which was the primary area of occupation in the river valley between AD 900-1000. The similarity in ceramics between Site 5MT4475 and Site 5MT2202 indicates a possibility that the ceramics found at Site 5MT2202 were left by people associated with McPhee Pueblo. Other sites with similar ceramic assemblages (and probably contemporaneous with Site 5MT2202) are Site 5MT0023, Site 5MT2151, Site 5MT2161, Site 5MT2203, Site 5MT4475, and Site 5MT4671. Of these all but Site 5MT2203 are multi-component occupations which have a component of occupation similar to that of Site 5MT2202.

In addition, similar ceramics have been found in the plow zone or in

surface contexts above seveal sites, possibly indicating that early Pueblo II activity in the river valley was extensive, if not overly intensive. These sites are Site 5MT2235, Site 5MT2242, and Site 5MT4545.

Of the sherds recovered from survey and excavation activities at Site 5MT2202, 31.5 percent (by weight) exhibit a nonlocal temper thought to have been in use in the areas west of the Project area. The remainder of the ceramics exhibit locally utilized tempering material. No definable trade ceramics were identified in the collections and no reconstructable ceramic items or whole vessels were recovered.