

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 3 1984
DATE ENTERED AUG 15 1984

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Curecanti Archeological District
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED]
Curecanti National Recreation Area N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Gunnison V.C. X VICINITY OF Third
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Colorado 08 Gunnison 051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service
STREET & NUMBER
655 Parfet, Box 25287
CITY, TOWN STATE
Denver NA VICINITY OF Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Gunnison County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Corner Iowa and Virginia Streets
CITY, TOWN STATE
Gunnison Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Archaeological Inventory and Cultural Assessment, Curecanti National Recreation Area Part II: Documentation
DATE 1979 X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of the Colorado State Archeologist, Colorado Historical Society
CITY, TOWN STATE
Denver Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Curecanti Archeological District consists of a complex of 79 prehistoric sites along the [REDACTED] (Appendix A). It is comprised of the three discontinuous units; Unit I, Unit II, and Unit III; encompassing 6,750.25 acres within Curecanti National Recreation Area, a National Park Service area established to manage recreation on Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Lakes (Fig. 1).

Environment

Curecanti Archeological District occupies part of a large, high-altitude basin surrounded by mountains and mesas ranging in [REDACTED] in the District. The climate of the Curecanti area is characterized by cold winters and warm summers. The dominant vegetation is typical of a cold desert environment and consists of several species of sagebrush together with typically associated grasses and shrubs (Fig. 2). A cottonwood/willow plant community occurs along the more permanent water sources; and stands of Douglas Fir, Blue Spruce, and Gambel Oak grow in some of the protected side draws. Fauna in the area encompass 244 species of birds and a variety of mammals including numerous smaller forms such as rodents and rabbits and larger forms such as mule deer, elk, and mountain sheep.

Archeological Investigations

The prehistory of the Curecanti region has not received as much attention as has the prehistory of other areas in Colorado, and many aspects of the chronology and the occupations are not yet well understood. Professional investigations occurred as early as the 1930s, conducted by Clarence T. Hurst and Harold and Betty Huscher. In 1962 Robert Lister identified 10 sites during archeological survey prior to construction of [REDACTED], but subsequent surveys in the areas of [REDACTED] failed to identify additional sites. However, a 1976 survey in Curecanti National Recreation Area above the [REDACTED] (Stiger 1977, 1980, 1981).

Archeological research within what is now Curecanti Archeological District began in 1978 and has been conducted entirely by National Park Service personnel (Euler and Stiger 1981; Stiger 1980, 1981; Jones 1982, in preparation). Research has been based upon an extensive development program in the Recreation Area and has been oriented toward evaluation of site significance and mitigation of construction and visitor use impact. If it were not for these developmental-related archeological studies, the significance of sites in the Curecanti Archeological District would not be known. It is possible that as additional sites are examined and evaluated there will be cause to incorporate them into the District. However, sites now included are representative of all types known to date and contain examples of all observed internal features. After completion of the development program in 1984 additional disturbance of sites in the District is not anticipated.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Regional Context and Description of Tested Sites

Evidence of Paleo-Indian occupation of western Colorado, dating from approximately 10,000 to 5,000 B.P., is usually represented by isolated finds of diagnostic artifacts. Such remains are indicative of early utilization of the region but they are seldom found associated with other material. Evidence of the Folsom tradition has been identified in the Curecanti area both as isolated finds and in contexts with other artifacts (Stiger 1980:60-61). Evidence of the latest Paleo-Indian tradition, the Plano complex, has been observed in the area (Stiger 1980:62; Jones: in preparation).

The Archaic stage in North America is interpreted as a shift in subsistence emphasis from hunting to gathering. Such change is represented in western Colorado and the Curecanti area by sites with increased quantities of vegetal processing equipment, specifically ground stone tools. The small number of Archaic projectile points that do occur change in form through time from unnotched stemmed types to large, corner-notched forms that date from 3,000-2,000 B.P. until the early centuries A.D. At that time smaller corner-notched projectile points appear, suggesting certain technological changes including the probable use of the bow and arrow. After approximately A.D. 1,000, small triangular side-notched projectile point forms appear in the archeological record (Euler and Stiger 1981).

The end of the Archaic elsewhere in the region is usually marked by evidence of the beginning of agriculture and development of ceramics. There is to date no evidence of such a shift at the sites in the Curecanti area. This is probably due to a variety of factors, not the least of which include limitations imposed by the high altitude and short growing season. Because evidence of agriculture is lacking in the Curecanti area, the Archaic occupation there can technically be considered to last until historic times, when Ute populations were identified in this portion of western Colorado (Buckles 1971).

Fifteen of the 79 sites included in the Curecanti Archeological District have received examination supplemental to initial survey (Appendix B), and the data obtained from this sample suggest an occupation of the [REDACTED] that may have begun as early as 10,000 B.P., and which continued intermittently through the 16th Century A.D. All sites tested were done so because of Bureau of Reclamation development projects. Investigation was done for National Register evaluation and mitigation purposes in the areas to be directly affected. Based on distribution of surface and subsurface evidence it is assumed that considerable subsurface material remains in those site areas not tested and subsequently destroyed by construction activities.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Three sites were tested in 1978; one of which, 5GN191, contained over 80 hearths and possible stone boiling pits (Euler and Stiger 1981). Five radiocarbon dates were obtained from 5GN191 that ranged from $8,807 \pm 100$: 6,857 B.C. (Tx-3149) to $5,861 \pm 170$: 3,911 B.C. (Tx-3155). Site 5GN204/205, a large site impinged upon by development [REDACTED], contained quarry, midden, and lithic reduction areas (Fig. 3). Work at this site exposed hearths and the remains of probable habitation structures. The latter features appeared as charcoal-filled depressions that contained pole-impressed, burned daub (Fig. 4). Radiocarbon dates ranging from $4,697 \pm 80$: 2,747 B.C. (Tx-3151) to $4,398 \pm 90$: 2,488 B.C. (Tx-3157) were obtained from the structure, while a separate hearth at the site was radiocarbon dated at $10,094 \pm 830$: 8,144 B.C. (Tx-3153).

In 1979 investigations continued at 5GN191, a shoreline site exposed annually, and at six other sites in the District (Stiger 1981). Surface collections were made at 5GN207 and 5GN208, two lithic scatters. Site 5GN206 contained rare evidence of vertical stratigraphy and produced Ponderosa pine charcoal and a radiocarbon date of $5,583 \pm 160$: 3,633 B.C. (Tx-3622). Investigations [REDACTED] produced evidence of extensive occupation at 5GN212, a large lithic scatter with numerous slab-lined and rock-filled hearths (Figs. 5 and 6). Nine horizontal components or concentrations of lithic material and ground stone tools were identified at 5GN10, a large site that contained further evidence of as many as three early habitation structures. Radiocarbon dates ranging from $3,924 \pm 130$: 1,974 B.C. (Tx-3629) to $6,355 \pm 210$: 4,405 B.C. (Tx-3621) were obtained for the structures.

In 1980, four sites in the District were reexamined, and three others were investigated for the first time (Jones: in preparation). As in the previous years' work, this research constituted either evaluation of archeological remains prior to development activities or mitigation of construction and visitor impact. Investigations were continued at 5GN204/205 and at 5GN212, where excavation exposed additional hearths and dense accumulations of lithic debris. The base of an unfluted Paleo-Indian projectile point was recovered from 5GN212, suggesting an early component there. Additional testing took place at 5GN207 and 5GN200, and small lithic scatter 5GN203 in the campground was completely excavated. Sites 5GN196 and 5GN210, two large lithic scatters, were examined for the first time.

In 1981 mitigation occurred at three sites while three others were examined for the first time. Initial evaluation occurred at 5GN41, 5GN42, and 5GN222. Ute-like pottery was recovered and a radiocarbon date of 474 ± 70 : A.D. 1476 (Beta-3277) was obtained at 5GN41. Ground stone artifacts containing palynological remains of 17 different families of economic plants were recovered at 5GN42. Site 5GN222 was found to contain a quarry and a large lithic scatter, and an historic tin bangle or tinkler was also recovered. Investigations at 5GN191, 5GN212, and 5GN247 exposed additional structural remains and generated 16 radiocarbon dates, many of which came from 5GN191 where over 150 hearth features were identified.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Mitigative investigations continued at 5GN41, 5GN204/205, 5GN222, and 5GN247 in 1982. Excavations at 5GN247 revealed a large charcoal and rock-filled basin dating to $3,097 \pm 70$: 1,147 B.C. (Beta-5562). A stratified hearth exposed at 5GN222 indicated aboriginal use of that feature over a period of 1,200 years.

Mitigative excavations were concluded at three District sites, 5GN42, 5GN204/205, and 5GN247, in 1983. Work at 5GN42 revealed the presence of multiple structures situated around a seep or spring and dating to $1,823 \pm 50$: A.D. 127 (Beta-3279).

Archeological remains in the District document a variety of prehistoric functions and activities. These are described below and summarized in Table 1.

Quarries: Quarry sites include components of 5GN1, 5GN201, and 5GN204/205 (Fig. 3) and represent locations where raw lithic material, generally Morrison Formation quartzites, was obtained and where initial lithic reduction activities occurred.

Structures: Probable habitation structures have been identified at 5GN10, 5GN42, 5GN204/205, and 5GN247 (Fig. 4). They are represented by shallow charcoal-filled basin-shaped depressions, patterned post molds, burned radiating timbers, and concentrations of burned clay. The structures probably had log uprights with horizontal cribbing of other timbers and/or brush. Burned earth found around the bases of the structures and in the fill of the basins suggests a somewhat greater degree of permanence for such occupations than the rest of the archeological record at Curecanti indicates. These "wattle and daub" structures date earlier than similar structures reported in the Archaic period archeological literature.

Lithic Scatters: These occur both as light/diffuse and heavy concentrations of flakes and core fragments (Fig. 5) and constitute the minimal characteristic of all sites in the District. The predominate raw materials are white, tan, and dark red quartzites. The majority of the lithic material represents debitage, although incidentally retouched flakes, bifacially flaked knives or preforms, and projectile points are also present.

Ground Stone: Ground stone artifacts include small to medium biscuit-shaped or ovate manos and infrequent basin and slab metates. Such implements have traditionally been interpreted as vegetal food processing equipment and may have been used to process Pinyon nuts, Indian rice grass, or cactus, all of which have either been recovered from archeological contexts at sites in the District or exist in the area today.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Hearths: These have been observed in large numbers at most of the sites where excavations have occurred (Figs. 7 and 8). They include slab-lined and unlined rock-filled basins together with features interpreted elsewhere as boiling pits. The hearths are occasionally intersecting, testifying to the intensive reoccupation of several of the large sites.

Stone Alignments: These have been identified in small numbers in the Curecanti area. They occur as low semicircular alignments of cobbles and may represent hunting blinds.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

Table 1.

Site Number	Features				
	Hearths	Ground Stone	Structures	Quarry	Lithic Scatters
5GN1	X	X		X	X
5GN10*	X	X	X		X
5GN14					X
5GN41*	X	X			X
5GN42*	X	X	X		X
5GN50					X
5GN51					X
5GN130		X			X
5GN131	X				X
5GN132					X
5GN133	X				X
5GN134	X	X			X
5GN135					X
5GN136					X
5GN137					X
5GN138					X
5GN139	X	X			X
5GN140		X			X
5GN141	X	X			X
5GN142	X	X			X
5GN143					X
5GN147					X
5GN148					X
5GN149					X
5GN150					X
5GN160					X
5GN161	X				X
5GN162					X
5GN163					X
5GN166					X
5GN167					X
5GN168					X
5GN169					X
5GN170					X
5GN171					X
5GN174					X

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

Table 1. (cont.)

Site Number	Features				
	Hearths	Ground Stone	Structures	Quarry	Lithic Scatters
5GN175		X			X
5GN176					X
5GN177					X
5GN178					X
5GN179					X
5GN180					X
5GN191*	X	X			X
5GN196*	X	X			X
5GN198					X
5GN199					X
5GN200*	X	X			X
5GN201				X	X
5GN202		X			X
5GN203*					X
5GN204/205*	X	X	X	X	X
5GN206*	X				X
5GN207*	X	X			X
5GN208					X
5GN209					X
5GN210*	X	X			X
5GN212*	X	X			X
5GN213					X
5GN164					X
5GN165					X
5GN214					X
5GN215		X			X
5GN216					X
5GN217	X	X			X
5GN218					X
5GN219					X
5GN220		X			X
5GN221		X			X
5GN222*					X
5GN223	X				X
5GN225		X			X
5GN226		X			X
5GN227		X			X

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

Table 1. (cont.)

Site Number	Features				
	Hearths	Ground Stone	Structures	Quarry	Lithic Scatters
5GN228		X			X
5GN229					X
5GN230					X
5GN231					X
5GN232					X
5GN247*	X	X	X		X

*Sites that have received test excavations (5G204/205, although considered one site, is counted as two sites as both portions of this large site have been tested).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

10,000 B.P.-A.D. 1500

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Curecanti Archeological District is a unique complex of interrelated sites that as a unit has contributed significantly to reinterpretation and understanding of the archeological record of the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. Additionally, the multiple site resources that remain undisturbed have great potential to provide further important and detailed information concerning the prehistoric occupation and utilization of the [REDACTED]. The significance of the archeological complex has been established in several major areas: high site density, wide site variety, permanency and length of occupation, and early dates for documented "wattle and daub" construction. As an integral unit, the sites represent the entire 12,000-year range of human occupation of the region.

While early investigations in the region did not suggest it, subsequent survey work (Stiger 1977) demonstrated that archeological site density in the District is extremely high (Fig. 1). Over 130 sites have been identified in Curecanti National Recreation Area, and more than half are within the District. Such intensive occupation has not been recorded on the Western Slope in similar cultural and environmental contexts.

The variety of site types and implied functions represented in the District is also highly unusual (Table 1). Virtually all sites contain lithic scatters ranging in size from a few square meters to as many as 50 ha. Major quarries are present at three locations. Many of the more extensive sites contain large numbers of hearths and/or roasting pits. The prehistoric activities implied by these features are previously unknown in the region. Perhaps more important, it has been presumed that the Western Slope hunters and gatherers occupied the mountain regions only during the summer months. However, the presence of early habitation structures at four sites in the District suggests a greater degree of permanence for the Archaic occupations on the Western Slope than has previously been thought and potentially extends the foraging adaptation into the marginal early spring and late fall months.

Finally, the complex of sites in the Curecanti Archeological District is impressive in light of the considerable length of occupation that has been documented there. Fifty-nine radiocarbon dates from archeological features and associated cultural material at 12 sites range from approximately 10,000 A.D. to A.D. 1500 (Fig. 9), indicating 10 millenia of probably intermittent occupation and utilization of the region. Two periods of more intensive occupation appear to have occurred within this considerable time span, one from approximately 7,000 to 6,500 B.P. and the other from approximately 5,500 to 4,500 B.P.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Information and Research Potential

Archeological work in the Curecanti Archeological District has clearly demonstrated that sites there contain tremendous quantities of research and interpretive information. Sixty-four sites in the District remain undisturbed. Their surface manifestations are identical to those sites that produced numerous hearths, evidence of early-dating "wattle and daub" construction, abundant undisturbed lithic activity areas, and other important evidence of aboriginal lifeways. Data categories present in the archeological record are numerous and lend themselves to a variety of research problems, but those of highest priority involve examination of the rich geochronological data base.

Fifty-nine radiocarbon dates have been obtained from 12 of the 15 sites investigated. Additional chronometric data are abundant, and radiocarbon and archeomagnetic dates could be obtained from all site types represented in the record to enhance and refine the prehistoric chronology of the Western Slope.

Paleoenvironmental investigations would permit detailed determination of climate, flora, fauna, and subsistence during Archaic occupation of the [REDACTED]. Such research could also address causes of the two more intensive periods of occupation that have been suggested by the radiocarbon dates. Analyses that have been carried out demonstrate good preservation of pollen, macrofloral, and faunal remains and other appropriate materials.

The District sites also contain a vast quantity of technological information. Quarries and lithic scatters provide an ideal data base for studies of prehistoric lithic technology. Identification of raw material sources would permit observation of patterns of lithic resource exploitation. Large quantities of tools and debitage could enable determination of patterns of implement manufacture. Other technological and functional data, which remain to be evaluated, exist in the habitation structures and hearths.

Settlement pattern data compose another broad informational category where studies of inter-site variation are feasible, and examination of intra-site patterning of artifacts has already been undertaken (Jones: in preparation). Finally, locational analysis studies are readily adaptable to the sites at Curecanti where factors of soil, water, and topography could be correlated with paleoenvironmental data to permit definition of aboriginal site selection strategy.

In summary, the Curecanti Archeological District represents an impressive resource base essential to understanding the prehistory of high altitude western Colorado and the Rocky Mountains. The District provides a productive setting to evaluate the Curecanti adaptations in relation to high altitude manifestations elsewhere in western North America, and abundant data exist to enable investigation of numerous important scientific research questions.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buckles, William G.

1971 The Uncompahgre Complex: historic Ute archeology and prehistoric archaeology on the Uncompahgre Plateau in west central Colorado. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder.

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6,750.25 acres

UTM REFERENCES

Unit I
 A [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] (Photorevised 1970)
 Quadrangle scale: 7.5'
 B [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The discontinuous boundaries of Curecanti Archeological District are illustrated in Figure 1 (topographic maps). For reference, the approximate locations of Units I, II, and III have been marked on the enclosed park brochure. The above UTM references are only for Unit I, which is the largest Unit within the District, containing 77 of its 79 sites.

(see continuation sheet 10-1)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Bruce Jones, Archeologist
Adrienne Anderson, Regional Archeologist

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Rocky Mountain Regional Office</u>	<u>Winters 1981-1982; 1983-1984</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>National Park Service - 655 Parfet Street</u>	<u>(303) 234-2764</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Denver</u>	<u>Colorado 80225</u>

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

Property was determined eligible
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION July 26, 1982

YES XX NO NONE *5-21-84*

Barbara Dudley
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Edmund C. Beards*

TITLE *Chapel of St. Ignace* DATE *June 18, 1984*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Myron S. Stewart</i>	DATE <i>8/15/84</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
REFERENCES

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Euler, R. Thomas and Mark A. Stiger

1981 1978 test excavations at five archeological sites in Curecanti National Recreation Area: intermountain Colorado. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

Jones, Bruce A.

1982 The Curecanti Archeological Project: 1980 investigations in Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado. Midwest Archeological Center Occasional Studies in Anthropology 8. Lincoln.

in preparation

1981 Investigations in Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

in preparation

1982 Investigations in Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

in preparation

1983 Investigations in Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

Lister, Robert H.

1962 Archeological survey of the Blue Mesa Reservoir, Colorado. Southwestern Lore 38: 41-45.

Stiger, Mark A.

1977 Archeological inventory and cultural assessment, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado. Part 2: documentation. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

1980 Archeological inventory and evaluation of Curecanti National Recreation Area Occasional Studies in Anthropology 7, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

1981 1979 investigations at seven archeological sites in Curecanti National Recreation Area. Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln. ms.

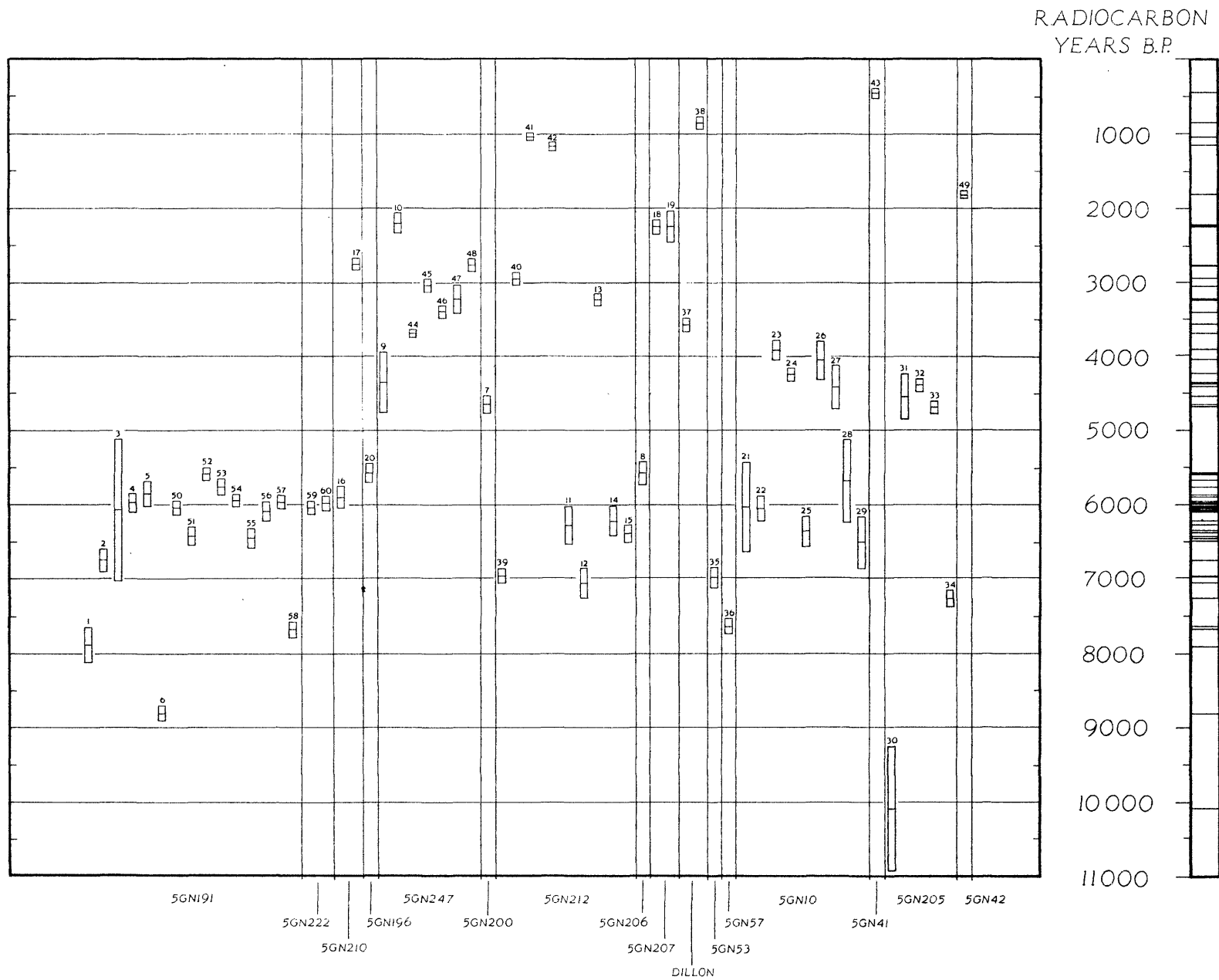


Figure 9. Distribution of radiocarbon dates from sites in and adjacent to the Curecanti Archeological District, Colorado. All of the dates have been calibrated using a radiocarbon half-life of 5,730 years and all are dendrochronologically uncorrected.