

Project Completion Report

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title:

Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Documentation of Serpents Quarters Pueblo, Cortez, CO, Phase I

Project Code (such as UMT-72 and/or the “J” number):

J1264060036

Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Research):

Research/Historic Documentation

Funding Agency:

National Park Service, IMR-HPP

Partner University:

University of Colorado at Denver, College of Architecture and Planning

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Start Date of Project:

August 9, 2006

End Date of Project:

September 15, 2009

Funding Amount:

1264-9BLM-454; Reimbursable related to IA H1200040001

Project Summary, including descriptions of project deliverables, work accomplished and/or major results. If the information is restricted (e.g. location of endangered species or cultural resources), indicate the title and location of the final report. Also add web sites where project-related information may be found.

Located in the four corners area of the desert Southwest, Serpents Quarters Pueblo was constructed and occupied during the 12th and 13th centuries. The impressive architecture includes habitation and storage rooms, kivas, and towers. Including an 8-10 room structure and kiva built against an overhanging cliff face with substantial portions of intact painted interior wall plaster and a tower and adjacent room built on an isolated spire 100 meters southeast. Some masonry wall fabric has collapsed, although several structures contain wall segments which stand over 3.9 meters in height. Various archaeological investigations and preservation activities have occurred at the site since 1969. The site is somewhat remote, accessible by a two-mile foot trail, from the nearest road.

Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, the integrity of Serpents Quarters Pueblo is threatened by a number of natural and human agents. The greatest threat to the site is considered to be human impacts. Natural erosion and weathering, and human impacts, have taken a toll on the standing architecture of the Pueblo and the talus structures.

This project consisted of Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation that comprehensively recorded the significant standing architecture and extant plaster; which will serve as a permanent archival record of the site. Five HABS drawings were completed and transmitted to the Library of Congress HABS Collection. The drawings can be viewed at http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/hhquery.html

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.