

**A CLASS III ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY OF
U.S. HIGHWAY 24 WEST – INTERSTATE 25 TO MANITOU AVENUE,
EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO**

by

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**Colorado Department of Transportation
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**All Work Performed under the Terms and Conditions of
State of Colorado Archaeological Permit No. 2008-44**

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ABSTRACT

At the request of CH2M Hill, Centennial Archaeology, Inc. conducted a Class III archaeological inventory of the 3.73-mile segment of U.S. Highway 24 between Interstate 25 and Manitou Springs in El Paso County. A standing structures survey of the project area has been undertaken separately, and therefore the Centennial survey focused on archaeological remains only. The width of the survey corridor varied between 280 ft and 1600 ft. The total Area of Potential Effect (APE) was 476.3 acres, although actual survey acreage was just 30.25 because much of the project area is disturbed and did not warrant inspection. Land status within the project boundaries is a combination of private and State of Colorado. One isolated find, consisting of a single prehistoric artifact, was recorded in the course of the inventory. It is assessed as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended, and archaeological clearance is recommended for the entire APE.

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Colorado Cultural Resource Survey

Cultural Resource Survey Management Information Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy behind the Table of Contents of each standard survey report.

I Project Size:

Total federal acres in project: <u>0</u>	Acres surveyed: <u>0</u>
Total state acres in project: <u>256.3</u>	Acres surveyed: <u>23.47</u>
Total private acres of project: <u>220.0</u>	Acres surveyed: <u>6.78</u>
Other _____:	Acres surveyed _____
Total acres surveyed <u>30.25</u>	

II Project Location:

County: El Paso Principal Meridian: 6th
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle map name(s) and date(s): Colorado Springs (1961/1994); Manitou Springs (1961/1969)

NOTE: The legal location information below is meant to summarize the location of the survey and does not need to be precise.

Township: 14S Range: 67W Section: 4, N¹/₂/SW¹/₄, SE¹/₄
Township: 14S Range: 67W Section: 3, S¹/₂/SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄/SW¹/₄
Township: 124 Range: 67W Section: 10, NW¹/₄/NW¹/₄, E¹/₂/NW¹/₄
Township: 14S Range: 67W Section: 11, S¹/₂, S¹/₂/NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄/NW¹/₄
Township: 14S Range: 67W Section: 14, N¹/₂/NE¹/₄
Township: 14S Range: 67W Section: 13, N¹/₂/SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄, SE¹/₄, S¹/₂/NE¹/₄
Township: 14S Range: 67W Section: 24, NE¹/₄
Township: 14S Range: 66W Section: 18, NW¹/₄/SW¹/₄

III. Isolated Finds

Please note that by definition IFs are not eligible to the National Register and require no further work.

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type			
	Prehistoric	Historical	Paleontological	Unknown
5EP6210	X			

Smithsonian Number	Resource Type			
	Prehistoric	Historical	Paleontological	Unknown

INTRODUCTION

Project Description and Background

This report describes an archaeological inventory of the 3.73-mile-long segment of U.S. Highway 24 between Interstate 25 (I-25) in Colorado Springs and Manitou Avenue in Manitou Springs (Figures 1 and 2). The survey described here target only archaeological materials, i.e., prehistoric remains and non-structural historic remains. A complementary study of standing historic structures within the project boundaries is underway by TEC, Inc. (Quinn et al. n.d.).

The study area, as shown in Figure 2, varies in width between 280 ft and 1600 ft, and comprises 476.3 acres of private and state-owned land. Much of the land within the project boundaries, which constitutes the Area of Potential Effect (APE), was not subjected to pedestrian survey because it has been disturbed by prior road construction, residential and commercial development, and other agents. As a result, the actual survey acreage was just 30.25.

The proposed action would provide additional capacity to U.S. Highway 24 between I-25 and the Manitou Avenue interchange. The project consists of constructing an additional travel lane through most of the corridor, two new interchanges, and one new overpass. It also incorporates improvements to four cross-streets, replaces bridges at seven crossings of Fountain Creek, and includes modifications to the channel of Fountain Creek at each bridge crossing. The proposed action includes re-evaluation of the design of the Cimarron Interchange (connecting U.S. 24 and I-25) that was approved as a tight diamond configuration in a previous EA for improvements to the I-25 corridor (CDOT 2004). The intended action also accommodates a park and ride facility and two future local access points along the route, which would be constructed by others.

U.S. 24 in the project area would be expanded to three travel lanes in each direction from the new 8th Street interchange to a point west of 31st Street, where the highway ties back into the existing two lanes in each direction. The typical cross-section would include three travel lanes, a center median, and inside and outside shoulders. The right-in/right-out access at 14th Street would be closed.

The specific actions for the new interchanges, new overpass, and cross-street improvements are listed below:

The Cimarron Interchange is proposed as a system-level single point diamond interchange in which I-25 crosses over U.S. 24 (which continues east of the interstate as Cimarron Street). A flyover ramp would be constructed for eastbound to northbound travel, as would a direct access flyover ramp for eastbound to southbound travel.

At the intersection with 8th Street, the proposed interchange is a single point diamond interchange in which U.S. 24 crosses over 8th Street. Between Costilla Street and Colorado Avenue, 8th Street would be reconstructed to provide additional intersection capacity and pedestrian features such as sidewalks. Similar changes would be made to Limit Street between U.S. 24 and Colorado Avenue.

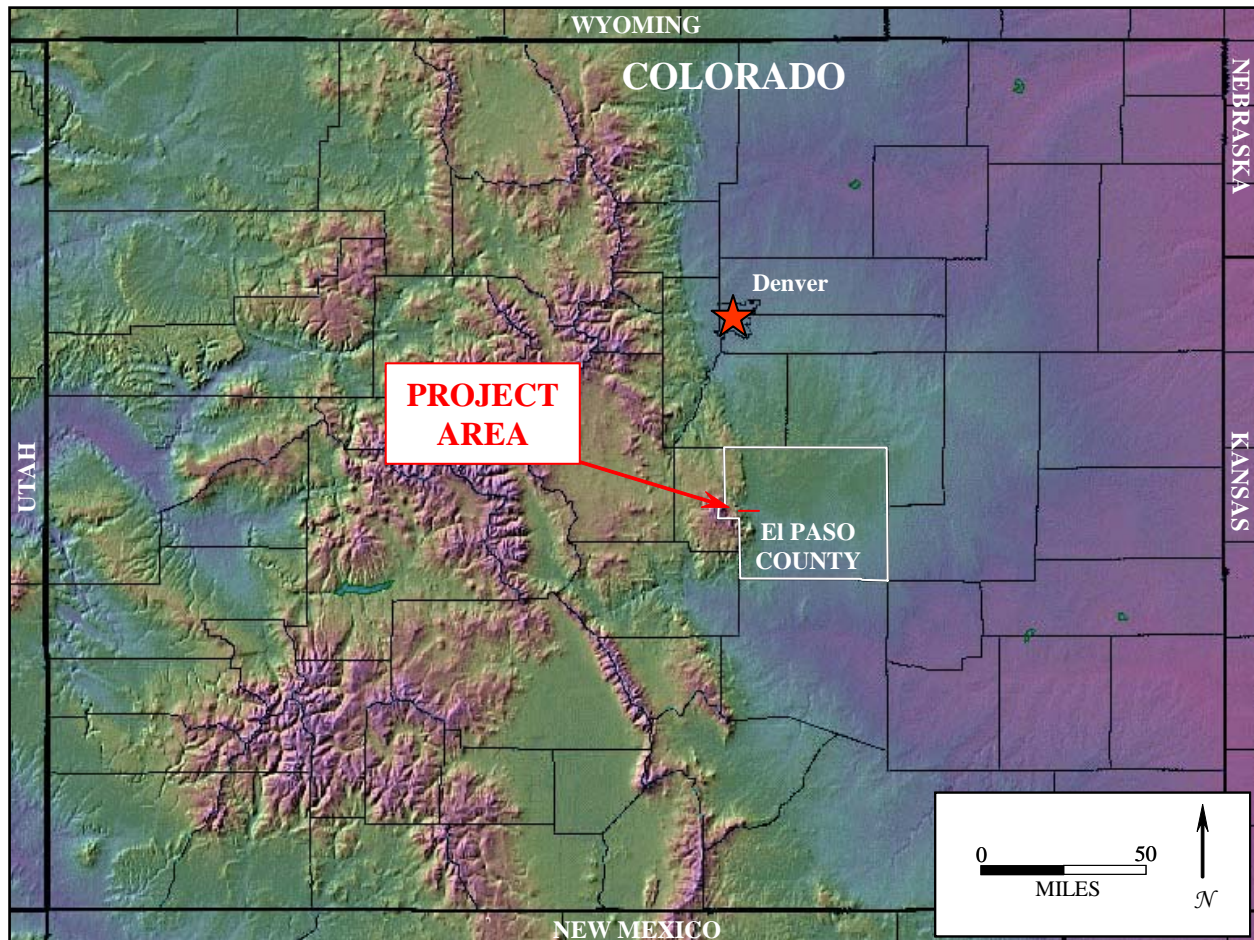


Figure 1. Map of Colorado showing project location.

At 21st Street a single point diamond interchange would be constructed which carries U.S. 24 over 21st Street. Between Broadway Street and Colorado Avenue, 21st Street would be reconstructed to provide additional intersection capacity and pedestrian features such as sidewalks.

The intersection at 26th Street would be reconstructed to provide additional turning lanes. Between Ore Mill Drive and Pikes Peak Avenue, 26th Street would be reconstructed to provide additional intersection capacity and pedestrian features such as sidewalks.

The intersection of US 24 and 31st Street will be reconstructed to provide additional capacity. North of US 24, the intersection with Colorado Avenue also will be reconstructed to provide additional capacity and add pedestrian features, such as sidewalks, to the north about 100 feet beyond Pikes Peak Avenue. South of US 24 for approximately 600 feet, 31st Street will be reconstructed to align with improvements to the highway intersection.

At Ridge Road an overpass would be constructed to carry U.S. 24 over Ridge Road. Between High Street and Colorado Avenue, and along Colorado Avenue approximately 500 feet east and 600 feet west of the Ridge Road intersection, Ridge Road would be reconstructed to provide additional intersection capacity and pedestrian features such as sidewalks. The western terminus of the proposed action is approximately 1,800 feet west of the Ridge Road overpass.

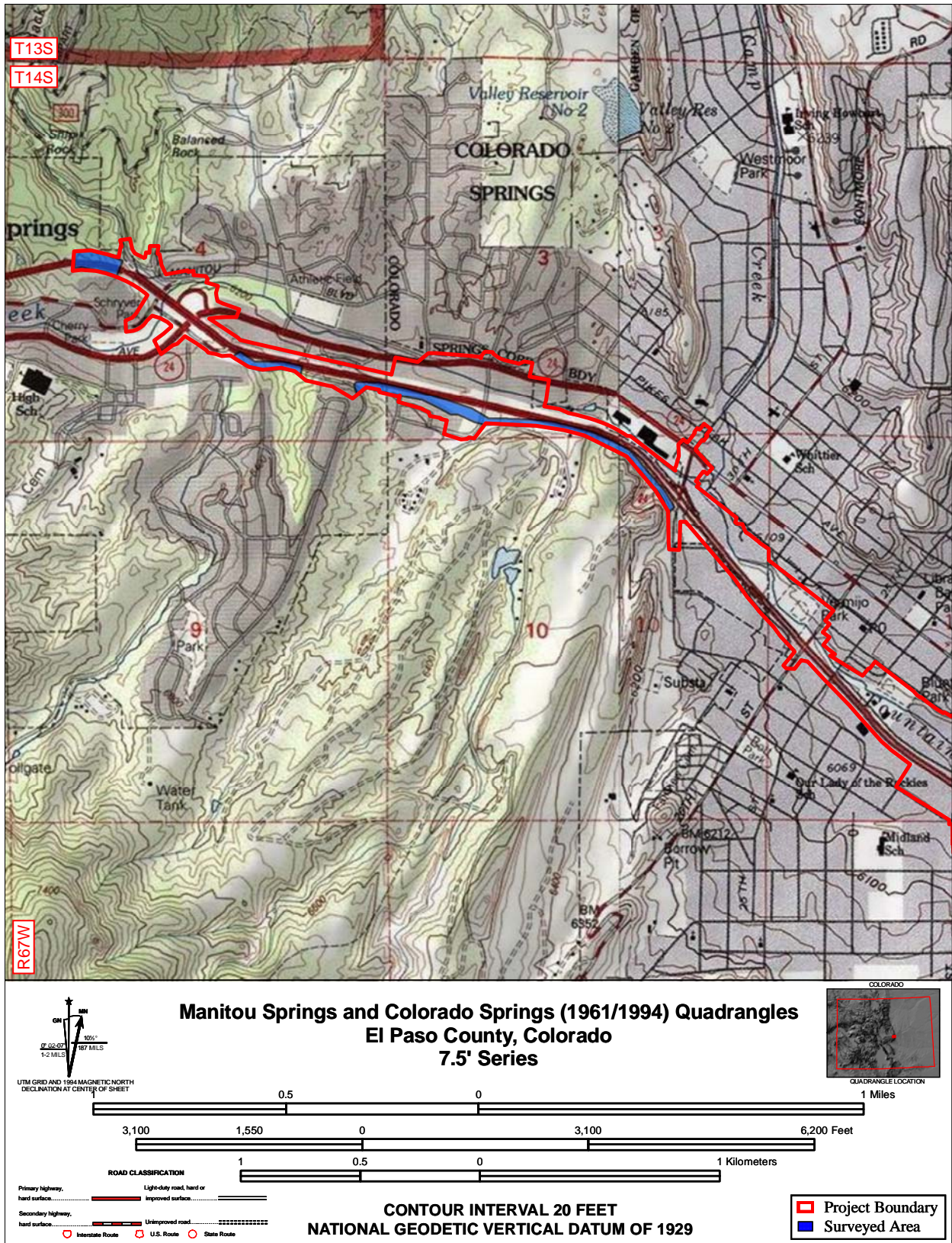


Figure 2, Sheet 1. Map set at 1:24,000 scale showing project area.

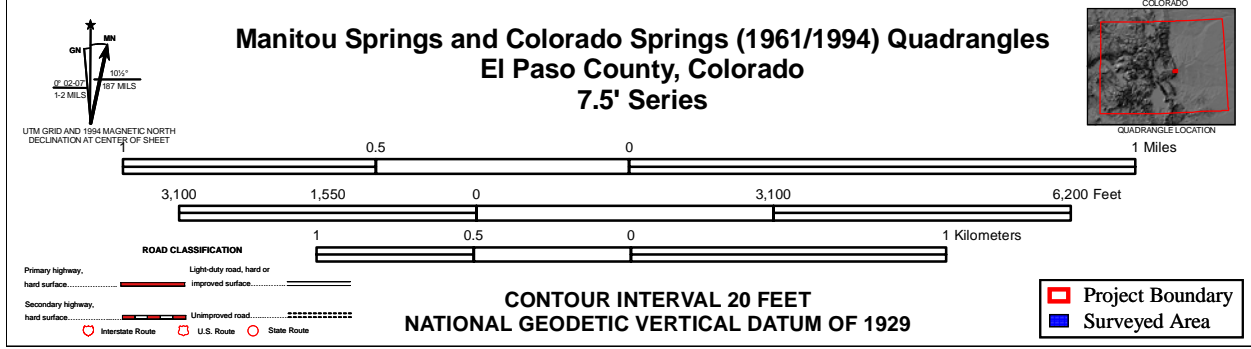
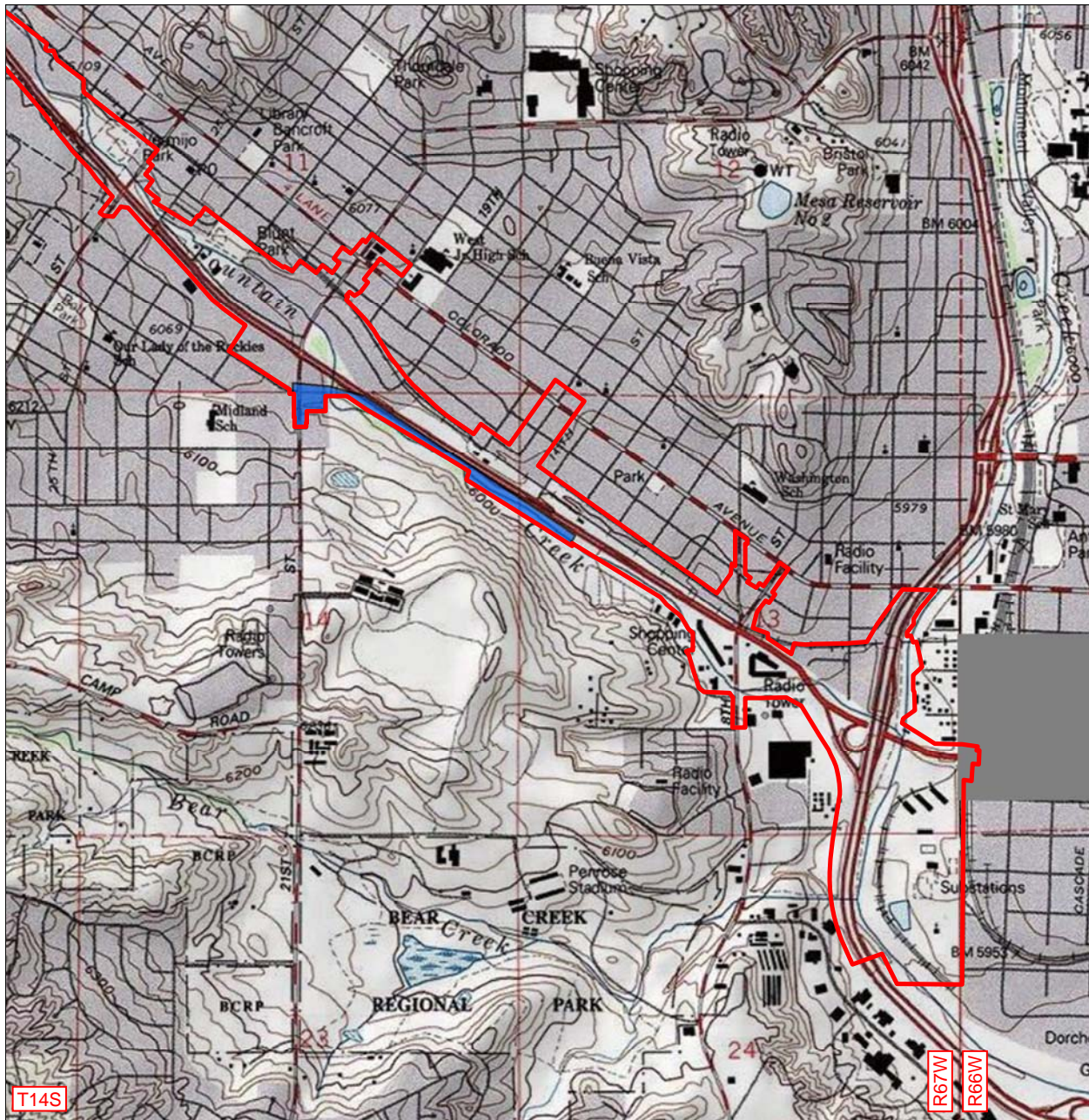


Figure 2, Sheet 2. Map set at 1:24,000 scale showing project area.

Administrative Information

Cultural resource investigations were conducted by Centennial Archaeology, Inc. under the terms of CH2M Hill Purchase Order No. 915434, Revisions 1 – 6. Technical direction for the project was provided by Centennial's primary contact at CH2M Hill, Dirk D. Draper. For Centennial, Robert F. Mark served as Field Director and Christian J. Zier as Principal Investigator. Crew members were Morgan K. Hoke and Kristin A. Gensmer. Bonnie K. Gibson of Centennial was responsible for computer graphics production and Denise Fallon Zier for technical editing and general report production. The file search was conducted on August 15, 2008, and the field survey was carried out between October 17 and 19, 2008. No artifacts were collected in the course of fieldwork. Project administrative records including digital photographic files are maintained at Centennial's office in Fort Collins, Colorado.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located in El Paso County, Colorado and lies within the Arkansas River watershed. It is drained locally by Fountain Creek and various of its tributaries including Sutherland Creek and Camp Creek. Fountain Creek follows a generally southeasterly course through the western portion of the project area, then turns to the south-southeast at its confluence with Monument Creek at the eastern terminus of the project area. Fountain Creek ultimately empties into the Arkansas River at Pueblo. Topography is generally east-sloping along Fountain Creek, with the greatest vertical relief occurring near the western end of the corridor. The elevation at the west end, the highest point in the project, is 6400 ft, while at the east end, the lowest point, it is 5920 ft.

The eastern Colorado climate is classified as dry continental, and is characterized by low relative humidity, abundant sunshine, low rainfall, moderate to high winds, and a wide temperature range. Conditions are dictated by the dry, mild Pacific air mass that flows generally from west to east, and its effects on the air flow of the Rocky Mountains (Greiser 1985:14). In general, the local climate exhibits irregular and low amounts of precipitation, low relative humidity, high evaporation rates, frequent droughts, and persistent winds (Wedel 1961:30). In Colorado Springs the average high temperature is 62° F with the hottest weather occurring in July. The average low temperature is 36° F with the coolest weather in January. For all months the mean daily maximum is above freezing; however, nighttime temperatures fall rapidly and often precipitously due to the high percentage of clear skies. The first and last freezes occur in mid-October and late April, respectively (USFS 1993:3-3). At Colorado Springs, the community through which most of the project runs, the average annual precipitation is 17.5 inches. The other community through which the project runs is Manitou Springs. It has an average annual precipitation of 21.8 inches. In both places approximately two-thirds of annual precipitation falls as rain from April through September (Weatherbase 2008). The remaining one-third arrives in the form of snow, mainly in winter and early spring. The average wind speed is approximately 10 miles per hour but strong winds are not uncommon and usually occur in the winter and spring (NOAA 2008).

The project topography is dominated by the uplift of the Fountain Formation at the western terminus of the project. This feature extends south from the Garden of the Gods across the project area to the southeast. This formation was deposited in the Paleozoic Era and consists of reddish-brown, arkosic conglomerate and pebbly sandstone containing thin layers of dark, reddish-brown shales (Garden of the Gods 2008). The project area is also very near the fault that separates the Precambrian mountain mass from the Cretaceous sedimentary rocks of the Colorado Piedmont (Chronic 1980:33). Soils across the project area are the result of residual, colluvial, and alluvial deposition. The predominant soils are sandy silts in undisturbed areas at the western end and silty sands in riparian areas. In some areas sandy silty loam is visible. Soil depths vary from a few centimeters to well over a meter.

The Colorado Piedmont supports diverse faunal and floral communities. The project area exhibits three plant communities that are common in the area around Colorado Springs including riparian, foothills scrub oak shrublands, and pinyon pine-juniper forest. The principal vegetation community in the project area is riparian, comprised of cottonwood and willow trees and various understory grasses and low forbs. The extreme western portion of the project area traverses a pinyon-juniper forest which also includes Gambel oak, prickly pear cactus, mountain mahogany, sagebrush, and various grasses. The pinyon-juniper forest transitions to a scrub oak shrubland along the southwestern side of the project area.

A wide assortment of mammals, birds, and reptiles is native to the general area and surrounding foothills. Mule deer, mountain lion, black bear, desert cottontail, whitetail and blacktail jackrabbit, whitetail prairie dog, and a wide range of squirrels and mice populate the area, as do various raptors and non-carnivorous birds such as wild turkey. Additional information regarding local and regional fauna and flora may be found in Nelson (1969), Mutel and Emerick (1992), and Zeweloff and Collett (1988).

CULTURE HISTORY

Prehistoric Narrative

The prehistory of the Arkansas River Basin of southeastern Colorado has been synthesized recently by Zier and Kalasz (1999). The brief culture history that follows is abstracted from that former volume. Three principal stages of human development spanning at least 11,500 years – Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric – are identified. Each stage has three internal subdivisions referred to as periods.

The Paleoindian stage dates 11,500-7800 B.P. (before present) and is partitioned into the Clovis, Folsom, and Plano periods. A Pre-Clovis period of uncertain time depth (> 11,500 B.P.) has been hypothesized for the New World generally, and there is tantalizing but very limited evidence of early human occupation from both North and South America. While sites of possible pre-Clovis age do occur in northeastern Colorado (Dutton, Selby, Lamb Spring), there is no such evidence in the Arkansas River Basin.

The Clovis period dates 11,500 - 10,950 B.P., with most dated Clovis sites falling within a much tighter, ca. 300-year span from 11,200 to 10,900 B.P. The Clovis period coincides approximately with the initial slackening of Pleistocene climatic conditions, during which time conditions became generally drier and warmer. A vast system of Pleistocene pluvial lakes that developed in western North America during the late Pleistocene turned seasonal as water tables gradually dropped and grasslands expanded in eastern Colorado. Clovis-period inhabitants of the area existed in small, mobile bands and hunted mammoth, other now-extinct Pleistocene fauna, and many smaller species, utilizing riverine and lacustrine environments. The subsequent Folsom period dates 10,950 - 10,250 B.P. The climate continued to warm, with eastern Colorado exhibiting a mixture of tall- and shortgrass prairies with deciduous woodlands along permanent watercourses. A process of Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions that was begun in Clovis times was largely complete by the end of the Folsom period; however, the ranges of certain grassland-adapted species such as bison and antelope increased significantly. Folsom sites are often associated with small-scale kills (up to 25 animals) of a now-extinct form of bison, but an array of smaller mammal forms was exploited as well. During the Plano period, dated 10,250 - 7800 B.P., essentially modern climatic conditions prevailed. Southeastern Colorado by 10,000 B.P. had evolved into a land of semiarid to arid shortgrass prairie essentially like that of the present day. Bison continued to diminish in size but increased in numbers. Human occupants of eastern Colorado became highly specialized bison hunters, developing communal hunting techniques that at times resulted in the killing of 200 or more animals in a single event. The Plano period is also characterized by a series of temporally and geographically overlapping projectile point traditions.

The Archaic stage has bracketing dates of 7800 - 1850 B.P. and is subdivided into Early, Middle, and Late periods. The Early Archaic period, 7800 - 5000 B.P., is broadly associated with the Altithermal climatic event, a ca. 2500-year period of relatively hot and arid conditions over the western United States. Conditions in eastern Colorado were at least as dry as those of the present, with shortgrass and sagebrush-yucca prairies dominating the landscape. Early Archaic sites are uncommon in the vast region surrounding the upper Arkansas River Basin and are virtually unknown in southeastern Colorado east of the mountain front. Occupation did occur, however, in the foothills and high mountains to the west. During the Middle Archaic period, 5000 - 3000 B.P., climatic conditions became more mesic, with wetter and cooler conditions prevailing. Eastern Colorado was fully reinhabited in Middle Archaic times, with sites occurring in a broad range of ecological settings. Both open and sheltered sites are present. The Middle Archaic period is associated technologically with dart points of the McKean complex, characterized as both stemmed-indent base and lanceolate forms. The Late Archaic period, 3000 - 1850 B.P. (A.D. 100), appears in most respects to be a simple outgrowth of the previous period. Virtually all of the ecological niches that were occupied and exploited during the Middle Archaic were still utilized, in many cases more intensively; a pattern of reuse of specific sites spans the Middle - Late Archaic boundary. The fundamental hunter-gatherer economy of previous periods appears unchanged, although there is good evidence that the cultigen maize (corn) entered the area sometime during the Late Archaic. The Late Archaic period witnessed a florescence of projectile point styles with recurrent morphological themes of stemming and corner notching. All are dart points.

This final stage of prehistoric occupation, the Late Prehistoric, spans the 1850 - 225 B.P. (A.D. 100 - 1725) time range and is broken into the Developmental, Diversification, and Protohistoric periods. The starting date for the Late Prehistoric stage coincides with the earliest appearance of the bow and arrow, which supplanted the atlatl and dart within a few centuries. The Developmental period, which runs from 1850 - 900 B.P. (A.D. 100 - 1050), may be characterized generally as a time when new technologies were superimposed on a well-established Archaic mode of existence. Ceramic technology appears in southeastern Colorado during the early-to-middle part of the Developmental period, following the introduction of the bow and arrow by several centuries. Open and sheltered architectural sites begin to appear with some regularity (especially the latter), but are nowhere as common as in the subsequent period. Projectile point size is dramatically reduced with the shift from dart to arrow use; shape is less changed, as small corner-notched forms become common.

Two distinct but related indigenous cultural traditions are apparent in the Diversification period, which dates 900 - 500 B.P. (A.D. 1050 - 1450). The first tradition, the Apishapa phase, was centered in the canyon country of the lower Purgatoire, Apishapa, and other tributaries of the Arkansas River in southeastern Colorado. Apishapa occupation is archaeologically salient due to the presence of abundant architectural remains. Sites tend to be clustered and suggest semi-sedentism (but not true villages), and perhaps a greater level of social organization than existed in earlier times. The economy still was rooted in hunting and gathering of locally available resources, but with maize horticulture as a supplement. Bison were a major food source on the plains. Ceramics are common at some sites and usually consist of cord-marked wares. The second cultural tradition of the Diversification period, the Sopris phase, dates A.D. 1050 - 1200. Sopris phase habitation in southeastern Colorado is associated with the Park Plateau and thus extends into northeastern New Mexico. Sopris peoples inhabited multi-room masonry structures and produced a diversity of ceramic wares that include types with both High Plains and Puebloan Southwest associations. A dual subsistence strategy was practiced that included hunting and gathering on the one hand and maize horticulture, supplemented with the raising of beans and squash, on the other.

The final period of the Late Prehistoric stage, the Protohistoric, dates from 500 - 225 B.P. (A.D. 1450 - 1725). The onset of this period corresponds with the hypothesized arrival of Athabaskan groups in the area, and the termination date with the withdrawal of those same groups and a concomitant increase in Spanish expeditions and Comanche incursions. Archaeologically, Apachean occupation is manifested as the Dismal River aspect. Apacheans are believed to have migrated into the central and southern plains from the north – originally, western Canada – although the route(s) and timing of such movements are uncertain. The earliest Apachean groups had a nomadic, hunting and gathering subsistence economy although there is evidence that by A.D. 1700 some were practicing maize-beans-squash horticulture. Several ceramic wares may be identified with Apachean habitation and include a series of micaceous types.

Historic Narrative

Historic use of the east-central and southeastern Colorado plains by Europeans or people of European descent began in the 1500s with the earliest Spanish expeditions and continued in very sporadic fashion through the 1700s. Of major historical significance in the upper Arkansas River Basin is the Santa Fe Trail. It may be more accurately described as a trail system, rather than a single trail, with several routes established at various times and for different reasons (Buckles et al. 1990:10). Established around 1821 along common Indian, Spanish and Mexican trade routes, the Santa Fe Trail system was essential to both the expansion of the West and trade relations with Mexico. The trail, which passed through southeastern Colorado, served as the primary link for trade between Missouri and the Southwest (then northern Mexico) until the completion of the railroads in 1880 (NPS 1990:8-10).

Regular Anglo-American incursions into the area north of the Arkansas Valley began in the early 1860s. In May of 1862 Congress passed the Homestead Act, and in July of the same year, the Railroad Act. At the close of the Civil War in the mid-1860s the Union Pacific started building westward from the Missouri River. It started from Kansas City and followed a line into Denver, proliferating the establishment of several towns along its course. The last spike in the Kansas Pacific line into Denver was driven near the present town of Strasburg (McTighe 1984).

Agricultural settlement in the Arkansas River Valley began in the mid-to-late 1860s (Carrillo 1990). During the Early Settlement phase (1867 - 1890) large numbers of settlers moved into the area, generally in response to the Homestead Act of 1862 under which 160-acre plots of land could be acquired, and kept (patented) if specified improvements were made within an allotted time. Settlers consisted of a mix of Hispanics, primarily from northern New Mexico, and Anglos from the U.S. and Ireland (Carrillo 1990). The Middle Settlement phase (1891 - 1915) witnessed the failure of a great many of the homesteads from the preceding phase, and consolidation of land holdings by a limited number of individuals, primarily Anglos. Many of the large irrigation canals in the Arkansas Valley and elsewhere throughout the region were built in the early years of the Middle Settlement phase. A great influx of settlers occurred during the Late Settlement phase (1916 - 1930) in response to the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 and the Stock Raising Act of 1916 which, among other things, permitted claims of homestead parcels of up to 640 acres. Drought began to affect the area in the mid-1920s, and within a few years eastern Colorado – and particularly the southeastern corner of the state – became part of the dust bowl. The economic effects of the drought were compounded by the onset of the Great Depression around 1930. The vast majority of those who had homesteaded in the region during the Late Settlement phase failed by sometime in the early 1930s as a result of these conditions. Many of the homesteaded parcels of land reverted to government ownership, while others were bought out by more successful neighbors. Consolidation of land holdings ultimately resulted, and private property in the region today tends to be in the hands of a relatively limited number of owners who control large tracts.

The earliest settlement in the Pikes Peak region occurred in 1859 when a group of gold miners established Colorado City. Colorado Springs was founded in 1871 by Civil War veteran General William J. Palmer as a scenic health resort and soon eclipsed Colorado City in size and importance. The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, promoted by Palmer, reached

Colorado Springs shortly after the city was founded. The Colorado Midland Railroad pushed west to the silver camps in 1885, the Denver & New Orleans Railroad Company constructed a north/south line from Denver to Pueblo in 1881-1882, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway chose Colorado Springs to be its western terminus in 1889 (Zier et al. 1992; Robertson 1991; Wilkins 1974). Shortly after he founded Colorado Springs, General Palmer and Dr. William A. Bell, an English gentleman and adventurer, founded La Font in 1872. The city was laid out by Chicago landscape designer John Blair as a European spa town including a central core of public facilities, hotels and parks with villa lots spread out along the hillsides. At the suggestion of William Blackmore, a friend of Dr. Bell, La Font was changed to Manitou Springs. Two hotels in Manitou Springs, the Barker House and the Cliff House, date to the 1890s (Manitou Springs 2008).

FILE SEARCH DATA

A file search of the project route was conducted on August 15, 2008 through the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) Compass on-line database. Whole sections crossed by the route were searched for prior cultural resource inventories and previously recorded sites.

Three previously recorded sites are on record for the sections affected by the proposed project. Table 1 summarizes information about the three cultural resources that are located within one-half mile of the current project boundaries. Two of the sites, 5EP2161 and 5EP2165, lie exterior to the project boundaries and would not incur impacts. The third site, 5EP365, represents a 1982 recording of the Garden of the Gods, with arbitrarily-drawn north/south- and east/west-running boundaries that tend to follow sections lines and half-section lines. The site form gives very little information about actual archaeological remains, instead providing a brief history of the Garden of the Gods, some of which appears to be anecdotal. The narrative states the following:

“The rock formations known since 1849 as the Garden of the Gods were used as a winter camping ground and for religious ceremonies by Ute and other Indians for centuries [sic] before the arrival of white explorers and settlers. The much-travelled Ute Trail, which extended from the Soouth [sic] Park and over Ute Pass to the mineral springs of present-day Manitou, is thought to have passed through the Garden of the Gods to end in the Monument Creek bottoms. Later this trail became a wagon road used by trappers, trader, settlers, and gold seekers.”

There is no indication that known archaeological materials associated with the Garden of the Gods are located within the current APE boundaries.

**Table 1
Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within One-Half Mile
of U.S. Highway 24 Project Boundaries**

Site No.	Description	General Location	Distance from U.S. 24 Project	NRHP Status*
5EP365	Garden of the Gods; Ute and pre-Ute campsite and religious locality	T14S-R67W; Sec. 3, 4; T13S-R67W, Sec. 33, 34	0 ft; site boundary overlaps project boundary	U
5EP2161	Prehistoric isolated hearth	T14S-R67W Sec. 4	200 ft	OND
5EP2165	Prehistoric rock art	T14S-R67W Sec. 4	100 ft	OE

* National Register of Historic Places eligibility abbreviations:

OE = Officially eligible
 OND = Officially needs data (unevaluated)
 U = Unevaluated

CRITERIA FOR SIGNIFICANCE EVALUATION

Cultural resources are regarded as significant if they are enrolled in, or meet the eligibility criteria of, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). NRHP eligibility criteria are enumerated in 36 CFR 60 and are described as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or,
- b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or,
- c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,
- d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In order to be eligible for inclusion on the NRHP a property must meet two separate types of requirements. It must exhibit integrity in the areas enumerated above; and, it must meet one or more of the four additional criteria. The National Historic Preservation Act makes clear that a site need not be of national historic significance to be considered eligible; sites of local, state, and regional importance may also be listed, and thus are significant in the legal sense. The

phrasing of the National Historic Preservation Act is critical with respect to actual management of cultural resources. A site does not have to be included in the NRHP to receive protection under the law, but must simply meet the requirements of eligibility.

FIELD METHODS

Definitions and Recording Methods

A site is defined as any occurrence of five or more items resulting from human activity, for example, prehistoric or historical artifacts, or pieces of fire-cracked rock. Individual features are also regarded as sites regardless of whether artifacts or other remnants of cultural activity are in association; examples are prehistoric or historic cairns and other rock features, hearths, irrigation canals, and other structures. Up to four artifacts are generally recorded as isolated finds (IFs), although an individual artifact or occurrence of fire-cracked rock may be recorded as a site if the context of the material suggests a high likelihood for additional buried remains. Concentrations of historic artifacts may be recorded as IFs if the pieces are fragments of a single artifact or if a collection of varied materials appears to represent a discrete dumping event. All cultural remains older than 50 years were documented as encountered in the field.

Survey Methods

A vehicular (windshield) survey was conducted over the entire project area to determine undisturbed areas. Four undisturbed areas were noted and a pedestrian survey was conducted in these areas. In two of these areas south of U.S. Highway 24 (from the western end of the project east to 31st Street) two archaeologists surveyed transects approximately 15 meters apart. In one area (from just west of 8th Street to 21st Street) two archaeologists surveyed both banks of Fountain Creek. The remaining area on the north side of U.S. Highway 24 (at the western end of the project area) was surveyed by a single archaeologist. Using a Garmin 60CSx hand-held GPS unit, a track log was maintained for all survey transects. Ground visibility was variable but generally ranged between 30% and 60%.

The single isolated find was recorded on a standard Colorado OAHP Isolated Find Record Form. A temporary field number with a "CA" (Centennial Archaeology) prefix was assigned to the locality. A waypoint was recorded for the locations using the GPS unit (NAD 84). The item was not collected.

INVENTORY RESULTS

Isolated Find 5EP6210 (CA-4703)

Isolated Find (IF) 5EP6210 consists of one non-cortical quartzite flake. The IF is located on an east-facing slope of an uplift of the Fountain Formation on the south side of U.S. Highway 24. The soil consists of 5 to 15 cm of red sandy silt with large angular and subangular cobbles and gravels. The vegetation community is a foothills scrub oak shrubland that includes mountain mahogany, yucca, prickly pear cactus, mixed grasses, sagebrush, and Gambel oak.

IF5EP6210 does not meet NRHP eligibility criteria, and no further work is recommended.

SUMMARY AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

In October of 2008, Centennial Archaeology, Inc. conducted a Class III archaeological inventory of the U.S. Highway 24 West – Interstate 25 to Manitou Avenue project area in El Paso County, Colorado. The project area is 3.73 miles long and varies in width from 280 ft to 1600 ft. Much of the land within the project boundaries constitutes a built environment and as such has been disturbed by road construction and various other forms of development. The field study therefore commenced with a vehicular reconnaissance of the entire project area, followed by pedestrian survey of areas that appeared to be relatively undisturbed. While the total acreage within the project boundaries is 476.3, the actual survey pedestrian survey acreage was limited to 30.25. One isolated find was recorded in the course of the survey. It consists of a single prehistoric lithic artifact. It is assessed as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and no further work is warranted. Archaeological clearance is recommended for the entire project area as indicated in Figure 2. However, in the event that previously undocumented archaeological remains are exposed during construction, all activity in the area of the find should cease until an archaeologist can assess the significance of the remains.

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