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Yucca House National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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## Master Plan Development Outline from 1952 for Yucca House: page 9

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on the north side. In front of this, or to the south, is a walled compound measuring 180 by 200 feet, in the center of which is a large circular structure, possibly a Great Kiva.

(2) Status of Research

No research work has been done except for the collection of surface potsherds. In 1940, Ranger Roland Richert collected a representative group of sherds and the collection was turned over to the Laboratory of Anthropology, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Excavation and study of these outstanding ruins, no doubt rich in material culture, will throw light on many problems of the archeology of the Mesa Verde region.

(3) Public Use

Since the area is an archeological reserve, public visitation is not, and should not be encouraged. A visitor register is maintained at the monument and during the last seven years visitation has ranged from 13 to 80 per year. This scanty visitation, and the fact that visitors are seldom contacted by Service personnel, makes it impossible to draw valid conclusions as to patterns of public use. From the registrations it appears that the bulk of travel occurs during the period of May to October, and that about one-half of the travel is from Colorado. This Colorado travel probably consists, for the most part, of local people who know of the area. Little can be said of visitor activities and length of stay, but since the ruins are almost completely hidden by earth, it may be assumed that visitors spend a few minutes walking about, picking up potsherds and other exposed artifacts, and then depart.

(4) Interpretive Program

The monument has no personnel and there are no interpretive activities of any kind. More need be contemplated until excavation and development make it feasible to encourage visitation.

Until the area is developed the major problem will be the preservation of archaeological values. Maintenance of fences will keep stock out of the area and discouragement of visitation will keep vandalism to a minimum. No actual pot hunting has occurred in recent years and the only vandalism is the carrying away of exposed objects.

In the lower house some of the exposed walls are deteriorating but minor stabilization will prevent further loss.