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**THE KANAB CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT:
A RESEARCH DESIGN**

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Introduction

The Kanab Creek Archaeological Project encompasses 280 acres of undeveloped land located on the west bank of Kanab Creek adjacent to the City of Kanab. Topographically, the tract is comprised of several low ridges at the base of the Vermilion Cliffs that project eastward into the deep alluvial deposits of Kanab Creek. Presently down-cut over 30 meters, this segment of Kanab Creek holds significant alluvial deposits. Cross-cutting the alluvium several minor channels drain short tributary canyons that head in the Vermilion Cliffs. At an elevation of 5,000' and with a growing season of over 140 days, this segment of the Kanab Creek is one of the more favorable agricultural areas north of the Colorado River.

An archaeological survey conducted in the spring of 2006 identified 14 Puebloan sites (and one historic site) scattered over the tract that appear to have taken advantage of this farming opportunity (McFadden 2006). The sites range in time from the area's earliest Basket Maker II agriculturalists (presently dated around 1 A.D) through the late Pueblo II Period which ends about A.D.1200. Spanning well over 1,000 years of agricultural development, these sites represent the local emergence of agriculture, its long-term practice and eventual decline.

By Southwestern standards, archaeological excavation in the region has been relatively limited. The study of these sites, as a representative group, will permit a better understanding of the conditions under which agriculture emerged and eventually failed. During the long period during which agriculture did flourish, we will attempt to understand the degree of reliance on farming and the strategies that were practiced to insure its success. The variety of site types identified on the tract suggest that, as a community, the structure of society may have changed through time in response to population pressure, environmental change and possibly migration of other groups into the area.

Note: Research designs are typically dry, technical documents written for government CRM archaeologists and academics. This account is also written to provide the general public – and especially volunteers - with a minimum of information to understand the how and why of what is proposed. While consistency is a key aspect of a research design, foolish consistencies are the “hobgoblin of little minds”. We fully expect that research interests and methods - hopefully even funding opportunities, will change in the future. This is particularly true for the academic research that we hope to foster. For these reasons, this should be considered a working document.

Previous Formative Research in the Upper Kanab Creek Drainage

The Study Area

The Virgin River, Kanab Creek and the Paria River are the main water-courses that drain the Virgin Anasazi culture area in southern Utah and northern Arizona. This review focuses on previous investigations conducted in upper Kanab Creek and its two significant tributaries, Johnson Wash and Cottonwood Canyon. Research conducted outside this central area is referred to only as necessary to provide context. All three of these water courses have spring-fed, perennially-flowing water and numerous side canyons. Possibly because of its water resources, this area has the longest continuous record of Anasazi occupation in the Virgin culture area and has been a focus of research, off and on, for nearly 100 years. Although the record of research is long and intriguing, by Southwestern standards, it is meager. After an initial surge of interest in the early 20th century (Judd 1927; Steward 1941), little research was undertaken in the area until the 1960's when the University of Utah conducted survey and excavations in the Johnson Canyon (Aikens 1965). This work was carried out in conjunction with the wide-ranging research associated with the Glen Canyon Project. It resulted in an assessment of Virgin Anasazi archaeology entitled *Virgin-Kayenta Cultural Relationships* (Aikens 1967). Although the validity of a distinction between the two related groups has been questioned (Metcalf 1981, Madsen 1997), those actively working in the area generally agree on its usefulness (Walling and Thompson 2004).

Recent inventory and small scale investigations by the Bureau of Land Management indicate that the area retains great potential to address a broad range of research questions (McFadden 2000, 2000). In terms of site types represented and their temporal span, the Kanab Creek Archaeological Project area may be considered a microcosm of the larger region. The caveat to this assumption is the extent to which the KCAP site cluster represents a special case due to its location in a optimal setting for agriculture along Kanab Creek.

The following is a brief review of archaeological research in the upper Kanab Creek drainage.

The Agricultural (Formative) Period

Modern archaeological investigations in the upper Kanab Creek drainage began with Neil M. Judd's investigations for the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, between 1915 and 1920. Judd visited a number of sites near the village of Kanab and may have been the first archaeologist to visit the sites described in this report.

On his initial visit to Kanab in 1915 he observed: "A half mile west of Kanab, across the arroyo and close to the thin cedar fringe that borders the valley, are several mounds which probably cover house remains..." (Judd 1927:46). Judd noted that the majority of ceramics on these sites were plain and corrugated but that black-on-white and black-on-red sherds were also present. He described the architecture of a sand covered mound as suggesting "contiguous dwellings so arranged as to form three sides of a square, open to

the east” (Judd 1927:46). This description compares well with 42Ka2669, a late Pueblo II “unit” pueblo, located on the KCAP project.

Judd also described a ruin that was disturbed in 1911 when the town reservoir was built on the present reservoir site in Kanab Creek. Delbert Riggs (who later assisted Julian Steward in the 1930’s on his archaeological survey east of Kanab) recalled to Judd that, although no trace of house walls were observed, slab cists were encountered and 23 flexed burials were uncovered by team-drawn scrapers (Judd 1927:49). Quite possibly, this was the first description of a Basket Maker II site in the region.

Judd returned to Kanab in 1919 to provision for a reconnaissance of the Uinkaret and Kanab Plateaus on the Arizona Strip. Due to drought, the trip was called off and he decided to conduct more detailed investigations, including some excavation, in nearby Cottonwood Canyon. Judd recognized both Basket Maker and Cliff-dweller (i.e. Virgin Anasazi) occupations and was the first in south-central Utah to address the relationship between the two cultures. Initially it was thought that the Puebloans coexisted with the Basket Maker population; eventually, excavation demonstrated that the Basket Maker – Puebloan cultures were part of a single continuous sequence.

In the fall of 1920 Jesse Nusbaum (1922) excavated Cave Du Pont - what has since become one of the best known Basket Maker II sites in the southwest. Cave DuPont held 31 slab-lined cists, a variety of material culture items, and several burials. A tree-ring date of 219A.D. (Banister et al) has recently been supported by radiocarbon dates of corn kennels (Smiley and Robins 1997).

The earliest documented pithouse in the Virgin culture area was identified underlying a major Puebloan site east of Kanab. Basically an occupation surface with a hearth and evidence of a lightly constructed roof and walls, the structure was radiocarbon dates approximately 1700 BC (McFadden 2000). The deeply buried occupation yielded no evidence of agriculture and predated the advent of ceramics. Pollen analysis and botanical remains indicated that the inhabitants subsistence economy was based on harvesting native seeds.

The Hog Canyon Site, 42Ka2574, is located on Kanab Creek at its confluence with Hog Canyon just upstream from the KCAP. The site was occupied during the Late Archaic, BMII and BMIII periods. Although incompletely excavated, a minimum of three pithouses occurred along the southern margin of the site (Schleisman and Nielson 1988).

The South Fork Site, 42Ka1576, is a Basket Maker II storage site similar to Cave Du Pont. It is located in a tributary to Cottonwood Canyon. Today the sites extensive pictographs are interpreted by the Bureau of Land Management. The site yielded the regions earliest tree-ring dates that indicated the site was occupied as early as 81 B.C. (McFadden 2000).

The Kanab Site (42Ka1969) was excavated in 1980 as mitigation prior to construction of the Kanab sewage lagoons (Kavamme and Nickens 1981). Excavations revealed a small

farmstead consisting of a pithouse and storage cists that dated to the early Pueblo II period (AD 900-1050). Excellent preservation of bone refuse in the midden included: mule deer, bighorn sheep, antelope, numerous small mammal remains including a dog and a wide range of birds. These faunal remains will provide excellent comparative materials for similar sites of similar age on the KCAP.

Underlying the early Pueblo II component at the Kanab site, backhoe exploration trenches encountered an extensive buried strata of stained sand beneath the pithouse. Charcoal from the deposit dated AD 380-800 with an intercept date of A.D. 620. A Basket Maker II style Elko corner-notched projectile point was recovered from the deposit. No other cultural features were identified and the feature was not pursued.

The University of Utah initiated archaeological investigations in Johnson Canyon during the 1962 and 1963 field seasons at Bonanza Dune and the Sand Hill site (Aikens 1965). The Sand Hill site consisted primarily of small room blocks devoted to storage; no residential structures were identified. Bonanza Dune, in contrast, consisted primarily of superpositioned pithouses, and a masonry lined "kiva" (Aikens 1965). Both of these sites displayed long-term occupations terminating in the Late Pueblo II period.

The Dead Raven Site (42Ka 2667) is a late PI / Early PII farmstead, similar to the Kanab site, that was excavated in 1986 prior to paving the Johnson Canyon County road (Walling and Thompson 2004). Two radiocarbon date midpoints average A.D.990. It also yielded an anomalous date of 1690+/-80 BP suggesting the possibility of an earlier Basket Maker II occupation. Similar to the Kanab site, big game bone was abundant on site.

Nearby, a deep Pueblo I pithouse and associated storage cist located on the rim of Johnson Canyon also yielded large quantities of mule deer bone suggesting that big game was an important resource that supplemented maize farming - particularly when it was locally available (McFadden 2000).

In 1984 Richard Thompson excavated 42Ka2662, a shallow, lightly constructed pithouse in Johnson Canyon that suggested a seasonal use of the canyon during BM III times. Seasonal occupation in such a favorable farming location is at odds with our expectations and suggests that our knowledge of subsistence - settlement patterns during the early Puebloan period remain incompletely understood.

Two partially excavated Late Pueblo II sites, neither of which are actually located in the Kanab Creek drainage, deserve mention: the Arroyo site, a typical Virgin Anasazi pueblo displaying accretional construction techniques and sequentially occupied pithouses (McFadden 2005) and Corn Grower AZ B:1:102, a true pueblo displaying Kayenta-like unit construction (Walling N.D.). The contrast in the layout and construction methods at these sites suggests that indigenous architecture may have been influenced by groups from the Kayenta region about A.D.1100.

The best known Late Pueblo II site in the upper Kanab Creek drainage is Cottonwood Canyon Cliff-Dwelling (42Ka1504) first described by Judd (1927). Stabilization and small-scale excavations carried out by the BLM in 1983 revealed a previously undetected underlying Pueblo I pithouse. The late PII component of the site produced seven tree-ring dates clustering around A.D. 1100.

In addition to the aforementioned investigations, over the past 25 years Bureau of Land Management archaeologists have conducted numerous small-scale excavations that have contributed to a better understanding of architectural and ceramic change that has resulted in a chronological framework for the Virgin culture area. Many of the tree-ring and radiocarbon dates upon which the chronology is based are from sites in the Kanab Creek drainage (McFadden 2000). The most recent small-scale BLM excavation is the “Tommy Turf” site which produced significant data on Basket Maker II mortuary practices during the first century A.D. (Zweifel et al 2007).

BLM investigations at 42Ka2610 is particularly relevant to this report due to its location immediately west of the KCAP tract. Test excavations carried out in 1984 revealed evidence for a large Basket Maker II pithouse that produced a calibrated midpoint radiocarbon date of 75 A.D. (McFadden 2000).

Southern Paiute (AD 1300 – present)

The area along the base of the Vermilion cliffs is traditionally Southern Paiute territory and was particularly important to the Kaibab band (Kelly 1964). Photographs taken about 1872 by Jack Hillers of the John Wesley Powell expedition depict Southern Paiutes immediately north of the KCAP. Although no Southern Paiute archaeological sites were encountered during the survey, several have been recorded in the area and two have been excavated in the Kanab area (Fior 1994). Radiocarbon dates on these sites ranged from post-formative into the historic period.

Historic (1869-present)

A recent study of Kanab Creek, in part based on Spencer Smith’s 1990 masters thesis provides a non-archeological but useful study of the recent history of channel change and its impacts on the historic occupants of Kanab (Webb et al 1991). Beginning in 1882 a series of floods had begun the process that “produced one of the most spectacular arroyos in the southwestern United States” (Webb et al 1991: 24). The authors concluded that while historic use i.e. dam building, grazing etc had an effect on channel incising, natural processes were the major agents of down-cutting.

Previous Inventory and Excavation

A records check for previous projects and sites recorded on the tract was carried out at the Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument on May 15, 2006. Two projects occurred on or near the tract under study.

- In 1983 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) surveyed 40 acres bordering the west side of the tract (#1983-36). Two sites were recorded; 42Ka2610, a BM II pithouse which was tested, and nearby 42Ka2669, a masonry pueblo, located on the tract under study.

- In 1992 the BLM conducted a survey (U-92-BL-500p) at the request of the City of Kanab in advance of the Kanab Creek crossing and road now bordering the south side of the tract. Two sites, 42Ka3831 (CC-1) and 42Ka3832 (CC-2) were recorded during the survey.

Approach and Perspective: Describing Settlement History along Kanab Creek

Frequently, research designs state the “theoretical bias” inherent in the proposed archaeological research. Archaeological theory makes assumptions explicit and links appropriate methods of recovery with the questions asked. It is the rationale for why we do, what we do. The nature of the KCAP project demands an essentially descriptive approach that will allow the resulting data to be used by researchers in the widest variety of ways. But it is also important to point out, that the data resulting from excavation simply can't be interpreted without making inferences, nor can the methods employed be understood without reference to theory. The conceptual approach taken here is based on cultural ecology. We view the archaeological record as a means of understanding how a culture adapted to its natural and social environments. Focusing on the interplay between cultural and natural systems through time is particularly appropriate approach given the nature of the sites and their setting along Kanab Creek which we assume provided a stable, long-term opportunity for practicing agriculture.

Relevant sources that describe theoretical approaches used in the region include: Fairley (1989), Gumerman (1988), McFadden (1996), and Westfall (1987).

Relevant Issues

The key issues to be addressed by the KCAP are rooted in questions raised by previous research in the area. The following topics raise questions that we might reasonably be able to answer, given the nature of the sites and the methods available to investigate them.

1) Chronology: The KCAP sites have excellent potential to contribute to our knowledge of the sequence of ceramic types and styles, architecture and projectile point types (McFadden 2000). Given the proximity of 42Ka 2610, we expect to encounter BMII features in the vicinity of 42Ka2669 and possibly elsewhere on the tract. The apparent continuous occupation on the tract by agriculturalists should yield radiocarbon and possibly tree-ring dates that will serve to refine the existing chronology.

2) Agricultural Origins: The means by which agriculture was introduced to the Colorado Plateau and particularly the Virgin Anasazi region remains speculative. Recent studies suggest that agriculture was introduced to western Basket Makers through migration (Coltrain et al 2007). In the Kanab area, a process of diffusion to a local Archaic population remains a viable hypothesis. A late Archaic pithouse east of Kanab (McFadden 2000b), the ubiquitous occurrence of Late Archaic Gypsum dart points in the region, and their presence in a well-dated BM II context (Eccles and Walling-Frank 1998), suggests that an Archaic population was already present in the region just prior to BM II times.

3) Settlement patterns: The role of the KCAP sites in a larger Virgin Anasazi settlement system is central to understanding settlement-subsistence variation. It has been proposed that the “Virgin pattern” of settlement involved periodic relocation of small groups and families among a series of farmsteads. These episodes of use and abandonment are apparent in many, if not most, of the sites excavated in the region (McFadden 1996). This pattern is considered a local adaptation to an environment that was highly variable and only marginally suitable for agriculture. If Kanab Creek consistently provided a long-term, near ideal setting for agriculture, we would expect a continuous, largely uninterrupted occupation by a village sized community.

Community Organization: Virgin Anasazi social organization has been described as a dispersed community of small farmsteads occupied by nuclear or extended family sized groups. While kiva-like structures are known to exist, their role in community integration is unknown. Deep, fully subterranean pit structures are a Late Pueblo II phenomena often but not always associated with unit pueblo architecture.

The presence of fully subterranean pit structures on KCAP sites will be investigated through remote sensing, backhoe trenching and traditional excavation techniques.

4) Subsistence: The degree of reliance on domesticated crops has been a perennial, sometimes contentious, issue in the Virgin culture studies. Evidence a mixed economy comes from wild resources found in both pollen and flotation samples. While the caloric value of wild plants is generally low, the contribution to subsistence is difficult to assess. Recently Spangler (2007) has restated the issue in behavioral terms as “farmers who foraged”, seeming to give equal emphasis to the two strategies. Based on excavations in the St George Basin Dalley and McFadden (1985, 1988) have taken the position that site structure and location of architectural sites reflect an economic emphasis on agriculture - regardless of the presence of native foods. The most direct evidence for diet comes from carbon isotope analysis which has made a case for a long-term, region-wide reliance on maize (Martin 1999, 2005; Zweifel et al 2007). Alstrom discusses the limitations of isotopic studies by pointing out that, in the event of repeated crop failures, “people would have been eating whatever they could get, specifically wild plants and animals. The question, then, is whether such shortfalls occurred often enough to have had a significant effect on the Virgin Branch adaptation (Alstrom 2000:128)”.

While long-term reliance on agriculture by the Virgin Anasazi is becoming increasingly apparent, variability in the use of wild resources over time will be of interest - especially if it coincides with previously described fluctuations in regional climate (Gumerman et al 1988).

The KCAP analysis of subsistence will be based on site structure (i.e. ratio of habitation rooms to storage volume); artifact assemblages recovered on site; pollen analysis of samples from storage rooms, buried alluvial strata and open field locations; macrofloral/faunal analysis and possibly, stable carbon isotope analysis.

5) Intra- regional relationships: The various ceramic series identified in southern Utah and northern Arizona in the Virgin Culture area include Moapa, Shivwits, North Creek and Shinarump Series. These ceramics occur in relatively distinct geographic areas and most have a lengthy temporal span. The Kanab Creek Archaeological Project lies within the North Creek ceramic zone, although exotic types do occur. We will assess changes in ceramic assemblages through time in an attempt to discern changing intra-regional relationships.

6) Inter-regional relationships: The KCAP occurs on the Grand Staircase physiographic section within the Virgin Culture area (Aikens 1965). To the northeast on the high plateaus, and to the west in the Escalante drainage, a variant of the San Rafael Fremont dominates during the Formative Period, the Kayenta Anasazi Culture area lies south of the Colorado River. While there is minimal evidence of Virgin Anasazi contact with the Fremont on the Grand Staircase, contact with the larger Anasazi world, probably through a process of diffusion, is evident in ceramic designs beginning in Basket Maker III times.

Migration (ethnicity)

In contrast with the conservative changes of Virgin Anasazi material culture during the early Formative periods, after A.D. 1070/1100 ceramic types and styles, projectile point styles and architectural layouts change rapidly – either through a process of diffusion or possibly actual immigration of groups from the Kayenta region south of the Colorado River (McFadden 2005). In addition to the thoroughness of change, it is the rapid rate of change that suggests direct contact rather than diffusion.

The Kayenta Intrusion Model

As noted by Lyneis, rectilinear architecture found east of Kanab Creek, has a decided Kayenta “taint” when compared to sites further west (Lyneis 1996). Kiva-like fully subterranean pitstructures with vent shafts and deflectors, now known to occur on these sites, reinforces this impression. Lyneis observes “What it means in terms of ethnicity or interaction with other communities remains to be learned” (Lyneis 1996: 29).

Frank and Thompson excavated a linear “unit” pueblo at Colorado City (AZ B:1:102). KCAP site 42Ka2669, a masonry pueblo, also displays the characteristics of Kayenta influenced architecture. It is “U” shaped and appears to consist of linear room block segments that suggest it was initially constructed as a unit rather than accretionally through the adding-on of rooms to an initial core.

Investigations at 42Ka2669 will focus on delineating architectural layout, associated ceramic types and projectile point styles as well as opportunities for dating the site's construction history. From the standpoint of settlement history, we wish to determine if this form of "unit" architecture is part of a continuous local architectural sequence or if it is an introduced form that co-occurs with more traditional Virgin architectural layouts.

7) Abandonment or continuity? Roberts and others have suggested that Southern Paiute may be the descendants of the Anasazi. We will address this question by identifying features that post-date obvious Puebloan features and particularly any associated with brownware ceramics, if encountered. We will also attempt to date the latest features on Puebloan sites in an attempt to close the gap between the most recent Anasazi occupation and the earliest Numic presence which may be as early as the late 1200's (Fior 1994).

Existing Formative Chronologies (Fig. 3)

Cal. Years	<u>Arizona Strip</u> Virgin Anasazi After Fairley 1989	<u>Grand Staircase</u> Virgin Anasazi This volume	<u>Kaiparowits Plateau / Escalante Drainage</u> "Kayenta" Glen Canyon Proj.	<u>"Fremont"</u> After Geib 1996
1300		----- Pueblo III	Abandoned	Late Formative Period
1200	Early Pueblo III		Late Pueblo II	
1100	Late Pueblo II Middle Pueblo II Early Pueblo II	Late Pueblo II		
1000		Early Pueblo II		Early Formative Period
900	Pueblo I			
800		Pueblo I		
700	Basketmaker III	Late BM III		
600		Early BM III		
500			Early Agricultural Period (to 400 BC)	
400	Basketmaker II	Basketmaker II		
300				
200				
100				
0				
100				
200				

Site Descriptions

Fourteen prehistoric sites and one historic residential site were recorded during the inventory (McFadden 2006). In addition, 11 isolated artifact or feature occurrences were documented.

The study tract borders about ½ mile of Kanab Creek. While most evidence of the early terraces along the creek have been eroded away, historic records indicate that prior to the mid - 1880's Kanab Creek would have provided a broad, naturally sub- irrigated floodplain that may have attracted the earliest (Basket Maker II) agriculturalists in the region. Although BM II pithouses are extremely difficult to positively identify from surface evidence, a previously recorded pithouse, 42Ka2610, occurs just west of the tract which suggests that a BM II presence may eventually be identified on the KCAP tract.

Aceramic stains on 42Ka2669, which is dominated by a large masonry pueblo, suggest that this site may have been occupied off and on from Basket Maker II times, perhaps as early as 100 BC, through late Pueblo II times circa 1200 A.D. Site 42Ka3831, located at the confluence of Bunting Wash and Kanab Creek, appears to have two substantial room blocks, an intense Basket Maker III component, and could also have a buried Basket Maker II level.

Nearby 42Ka3832, also along the creek, is a large and complex late Pueblo II room block or pueblo that also has potential for earlier occupations. To the northwest, situated on a poorly defined terrace that borders the creek, a series of 5 sites ranging from a large Basket Maker III "village" to small apparent farmsteads possibly representing Pueblo I or early Pueblo II, occur. All of these sites are well positioned to take advantage of the farming opportunities along Kanab Creek and could easily have earlier Basket Maker II components.

The remaining sites (42Ka6184, 6185, 6187-6189) with the exception of 42Ka6186 which is a scatter of ceramics located on deep alluvium, occur on low ridges at the base of the Vermilion Cliffs and are all Late Pueblo II masonry room blocks. While they have excellent excavation potential there is probably less potential for concealed earlier components.

Descriptions

CC-1 42KA3831

The initial description on the 9/10/92 read: This is a badly vandalized site and is difficult to assess given the dense weed cover. What is apparent is a low curving mounded area riddled with looters pits and displaying a fair amount of unshaped, variously sized construction rock scattered over a mostly sand mound. This

feature is oriented to the southeast. The area between the “room block” and the drainage is badly looted with obvious depth, darkly stained soil and artifacts – possibly concealed structures here as well as midden. This debris extends to the bank where a great deal of material has eroded down slope. Both late (corrugated) and plain gray ceramics were noted in this area however no attempt was made to characterize the assemblage due to heavy weed cover, looting and collecting. About 50 meters to the northwest is a second room block as evidenced by a low mound with rock scattered on it. The mound is about 25m long, curvilinear, with a light lithic and ceramic scatter, i.e. midden, that extends towards the south room block. Ceramics here appear to be late with corrugated and orange ware types noted but not quantified. This component could as well be interpreted as a separate site (as was nearby 42Ka3832).

6/3/06 description: very little change in the sites condition has occurred over the past 14 years – neither has there been a change in the general interpretation of the sites 3 components: the badly disturbed area on the south with plain gray ceramics, the south room block, and the northern room block. A couple of additional observations are, however, in order. The southern area has at least a few good BM III jar rims and a couple sherds of Mesquite B/G. The cultural deposits are exposed in the bank of Bunting Wash and appear to be restricted to the area south of the room block. No cultural deposits were noted in the bank of Kanab Creek although there is an indication of a deeply buried soil horizon. As might be expected, Late Pueblo II sherds occur along with the plain gray. The deposit is a meter or more deep and badly looted. The depth is probably a result of pithouse fill rather than simple deep midden. The BM III component is bounded on the north by the (overlying?) late PII room block.

The south room block is about 25m long and forms a slight arc. Although mostly covered with sand, the presence of dressed rectangular rock suggests a formal masonry structure. Although the room block lies just a few meters east of Bunting Wash, there is no indication of either BMIII or late deposits in the vertically cut bank.

CC-2 42Ka3832

9/10/92 description is as follows: Primary feature on site is a slightly south of east oriented – north to south trending scatter of rock extending ca. 50m and paralleling Kanab Creek. This scatter seems to be broken into two areas: on the north it runs about 20m followed by a small break and then continues for another 30m. The most striking feature is portion of a rectangular room constructed of selected and shaped sandstone masonry. This feature doesn't orient very well with the north- south rubble scatter and could be essentially unrelated. On the extreme south is a small area of burned rock and stain eroding out of the bank. In all, a very substantial site but not very conducive to interpretation from surface evidence.

6/3/06 observations: Site condition has change little over the past 14 years however the rock alignment photographed in 1992 is no longer well defined. Interpretation of the site is essentially the same however a light scatter of rock and stain arcing around to the southwest might indicate a continuation of the alignment to the southwest to form a very large “U” shaped structure.

The burned rock and stain on the southeast, mentioned in 1992, appears to be part of a general deposit exposed in the bank of Kanab Creek. This is probably both midden and structural debris i.e. pithouses positioned east of the room block. A few gray ware sherds suggest the possibility of an earlier occupation.

CC-3 42Ka6179

This site occurs on a distinct, dune-like landform located about 50m west of Kanab Creek. A light scatter of plain gray sherds occurs on top in the vicinity of the datum stake. A small rock concentration occurs on the east slope. Assuming the knoll is dune sand, the rock appears to be non-local although not necessarily structural. The dune is one or two meters about the surrounding terrain and is a logical site location

CC-4 42Ka6180

This site is a discrete scatter of small rock, plain gray sherds and lithics associated with culturally stained sand. As presently flagged the site encompasses a 50m diameter however the best definition is restricted to about 25m in diameter situated on slightly higher ground.

Ceramics include 2 St George B/G sherds, one North Creek corrugated and a few Shinarump plain. This assemblage suggests an early Pueblo II designation. One hammerstone and a dressed slab fragment located on the north side.

Very likely there are structures present i.e. a pithouse and a few small storage units. Setting and artifacts are not unlike the Kanab Site (42Ka1969) downstream.

CC-5 42Ka6181

This site is difficult to assess consisting of only a light concentration of small rock and 20 or 30 plain gray sherds. It is situated between two other small but better defined sites and may actually be an extension of them – or perhaps just some intermediate scatter.

Given only about 12 sherds and 3 or 4 rough chalcedony flakes, the site has limited potential. East-west backhoe trenches places on the north and south sides of the site would quickly demonstrate extent and depth.

CC-6 42Ka2669

This site was briefly recorded 1/10/83 after it was encountered during a survey on public lands to the north. “Site consists principally of a 25m diameter “C” shaped mound of rubble. Open on south edge. Considerable numbers of well-shaped rectangular rock evident (obviously prepared).

6/2/2006 observations: The “C” shaped pueblo briefly documented in 1983 may actually be a unit constructed pueblo. As noted earlier, much of the sandstone is rectangular and has been shaped as is typical of formal architecture during Late Pueblo II ca. AD 1070. Heavy vegetation makes actual definition difficult. Fully subterranean pit structures typically occur to the east of the room block. A couple of large potholes occur in the structure but generally it is an impressive structure with good integrity.

Not described earlier is a nicely defined BMIII component down slope from the room block to the east consisting of a cist (sandstone uprights) and tabular scatter with very good pithouse possibilities, as defined by a depression and dark stain, downslope to the southeast of the cist. Plain gray ceramics dominate this end of the site.

Upslope and west of the pueblo, stain, sherds (both plain and corrugated) and some looting indicates additional features – possibly unrelated to the late pueblo occupation. Further upslope and to the southwest darkly stained soil and a good lithic scatter of chert, in the absence of ceramics, suggests the possibility of BMII pithouses.

Further upslope is an isolated slab-lined bin measuring about 40cm square. The lower slab seems to have been removed when it was dug. Possibly unrelated to the main occupation of the site.

CC-8 42Ka6182

This site consists of a scatter of plain gray sherds and a few flakes associated with soil stain and scattered rock. Located between CC-9 (42Ka6183) – a large BMIII “village” on the southeast and smaller sites CC-4 (42Ka6180) and CC-5 (42Ka6181) on the north. Although in close proximity to these sites, 42Ka6182 does appear to be discrete and separable.

Although it seems more dispersed, the central portion of the site is about the same size as the sites to the north with concentrated rock on the north with one upright and stain associated with a good sherd concentration extending to the south-southeast.

Plain gray (North Creek gray) and a few Shinarump sherds indicate it is relatively early – possibly Pueblo I or early Pueblo II.

CC-9 42Ka6183

This site consists of an extensive area of soil stain, ceramics and lithics, and small scattered rock (mostly not tabular). These materials lie on a slightly elevated area that appears to be an old terrace of Kanab Creek. Stain, rock and sherds are most obvious on the east side along the best defined portion of the terrace.

Ceramics are virtually all plain gray, are not particularly abundant, and tend to be small. Two good Mesquite gray jar rims noted on the south side of the site suggesting a BMIII occupation however, the site could easily have both earlier (BMII) and later components (Pueblo I – II).

Site definition to the west is variable and depends largely on gopher holes producing stain, lithics and sherds. Overall the site measures about 125m in diameter and probably represents an extensive series of pithouse and related features.

CC-10 42Ka6184

This site is difficult to define precisely but is obviously an architectural site with abundant small rock and light stain. Ceramics include both plain gray and corrugated that allows for the possibility of an early component as well and the obvious late Pueblo II presence.

Primary features are a vague, low mounded alignment of sand and rock (not dressed) extending from the southwest to the northeast forming, perhaps, a shallow crescent and measuring approximately 30 meters but possibly not continuous. Looting on the southwest displays considerable rock indicating masonry.

To the southeast 10 – 15m is a slightly mounded area with stain and minor rock as well as plain and corrugated sherds. This area extends southward beyond the fence onto the neighboring property where it is badly disturbed by old looting which suggests features and depth. A well- shaped rectangular sandstone slab lies on the surface. Also just beyond the fence is a cleaned out pentagon shaped bin constructed of sand stone slabs.

CC-11 42Ka6185

The primary feature on site is a substantial masonry room block open to interpretation but apparently consisting of a “core” central area that appears to be a linear 10m long up to 4 -5m wide, constructed of dressed and shaped rectangular rock – possibly forming a rectangular unit. Off each end are scatters of smaller unshaped rock that appear to form accretionally added extensions. A second interpretation might consider the “extensions” as remnants of an earlier structure.

Sheet midden extends to the east about 30m. A couple of early Pueblo II plain gray rims occur on site but the dominant assemblage consists of Late Pueblo II corrugated, redwares, and whitewares.

The site occurs on a low but distinct ridge with arable outwash to the east.

CC-12 42Ka6186

This is primarily a ceramic scatter of plain gray sherds dispersed over a 50m +/- diameter area of deep alluvium. Open dry farm/outwash opportunities occur on site and immediately to the south suggesting the site might be associated with field.

Artifacts include a few white chert flakes, North Creek gray and Shinarump plain sherds. Two probable St George sherds and a small everted jar rim suggest an early Pueblo II designation. A minor rock scatter observed on the west site.

The variety of ceramics on deep alluvium opens the possibility of buried features. Recommend trenching within the flagged perimeter to assess depth.

CC-13 42Ka6187

The primary feature on this site is a slightly crescent shaped room block located on a low ridge extending out from the Vermilion Cliffs. The structure itself is oriented to the south. Overall, the room block is 18m long however each end is substantially more mounded leaving not much more than a scatter of rock in between.

An extensive ceramic scatter with lithics occurs downslope to the southeast. Ceramics are typical of late Pueblo II assemblages. Overall the site measures about 40m in diameter.

The site is well segregated from the CC-11 (42Ka6185) room block and associated ceramics however a scatter of white chert extends over the entire slope. There is some question as to whether this white chert is actually related to the later Puebloan occupation.

CC-14 42Ka6188

The primary feature on this site is a masonry rubble scatter situated on a low east-west ridgeline just above the arable alluvium of an unnamed drainage to the south. The rubble measures 11m by 3 or 4m wide. Although wall definition is not clear, the fairly substantial rubble suggests that room definition is probably good.

Ceramics and lithics are scattered to the east and southeast over the toe of the ridge. Soil in this sheet midden is not obviously stained. No depressions or evidence for subterranean structures is evident but given the reasonable soil depth there is potential. Overall the site measures about 40m in diameter.

CC-15 42Ka6189

The primary feature on site is a linear, apparently "L" shaped room block. The structure lies on a low rise above a wash to the south about 100m that drains an unnamed canyon in the Kanab Creek Ranchos subdivision. The room block is oriented to the southeast. Both the main sw-ne leg and a short block of one or two rooms, oriented at a right angle, are tied into a large boulder. Both legs have been partially cleared exposing linear walls constructed of large sandstone uprights (not tabular) and some coursed masonry that apparently form the base course of the wall. Width of the alignments is 170cm which suggests they served as storage rooms. The largest cleared segment is 470cmx170cm with a single rock protruding at right angles about midway suggesting the possibility of a cross wall.

The undisturbed portion of the alignment continues northeast approximately 8m beyond the cleared portion. Small sandstone rubble measuring 170cm wide by 460cm suggests a continuation of the storage rooms – possible employing a different construction technique. A 340cm gap in the alignment is followed by a 5m diameter rubble scatter that may represent a large room.

Midden, with a typical late Pueblo II ceramic assemblage, extends about 20m to the southeast. Although there are no depressions visible, there is the possibility of a subterranean pit structure.

The mostly cleared rooms on the west offer an excellent opportunity to determine the function of this portion of the room block. Typically, storage room floors are lined with a pavement of rock or slab sandstone and sealed with clay. Removal of the remaining spoil would not damage the structure and potentially would provide data that could be extrapolated to similar sites nearby.

CC-16 42Ka6190

This is a historic property located in Lot 4 of Block 51 deeded to Donald and Lola P. Swapp in 1935 (Kane County Records Office). Existing structures on the property include a barn and series of corrals that were constructed in the 1960's. The lot was said to have been occupied by Edward Ogg (sp?) who lived in a small cabin built on the remnants of a visible masonry foundation (Duane Swapp, personal communication June 2006).

Visible historic remains are limited to the L shaped segment of masonry on the north end of the property. This apparent foundation/cellar is exposed 6" to a 12" above the ground, is approximately 10' on each side, and about 3' at its deepest. The nw-se wall is thin, about 6" and has impressions of wood planks in the sandy mortar. The ne-sw wall is constructed of small, unshaped (Kayenta?) sandstone and was not bonded to the other wall. No trash was observed on the property.

The foundation appears to be too lightly constructed to be a residence – possibly it is the remains of some sort of “out” building. At present the bank of the Kanab Creek arroyo is only about 15' from the foundation and is downcut 70'. Apparently most of the lot 4 property has been lost to down-cutting that began in the mid 1880's (see *Historic Channel Change of Kanab Creek* by R. Webb et al, Grand Canyon Natural History Assoc. 1991).

Although not visible at present, a shallow hand dug well was visible in the early 1990's (see photo and sketch map) and was subsequently filled in with dirt. The historic association and date of the well is not known however, the water table of Kanab Creek is historically known to have been just a few feet below the surface. Assuming that it was a shallow 10 – 14' deep well, the water table at the time its excavation would have been about 4920' and necessarily would have had to have been constructed prior to entrenchment of the creek which occurred by 1910 and possibly as early as the mid 1880's.

