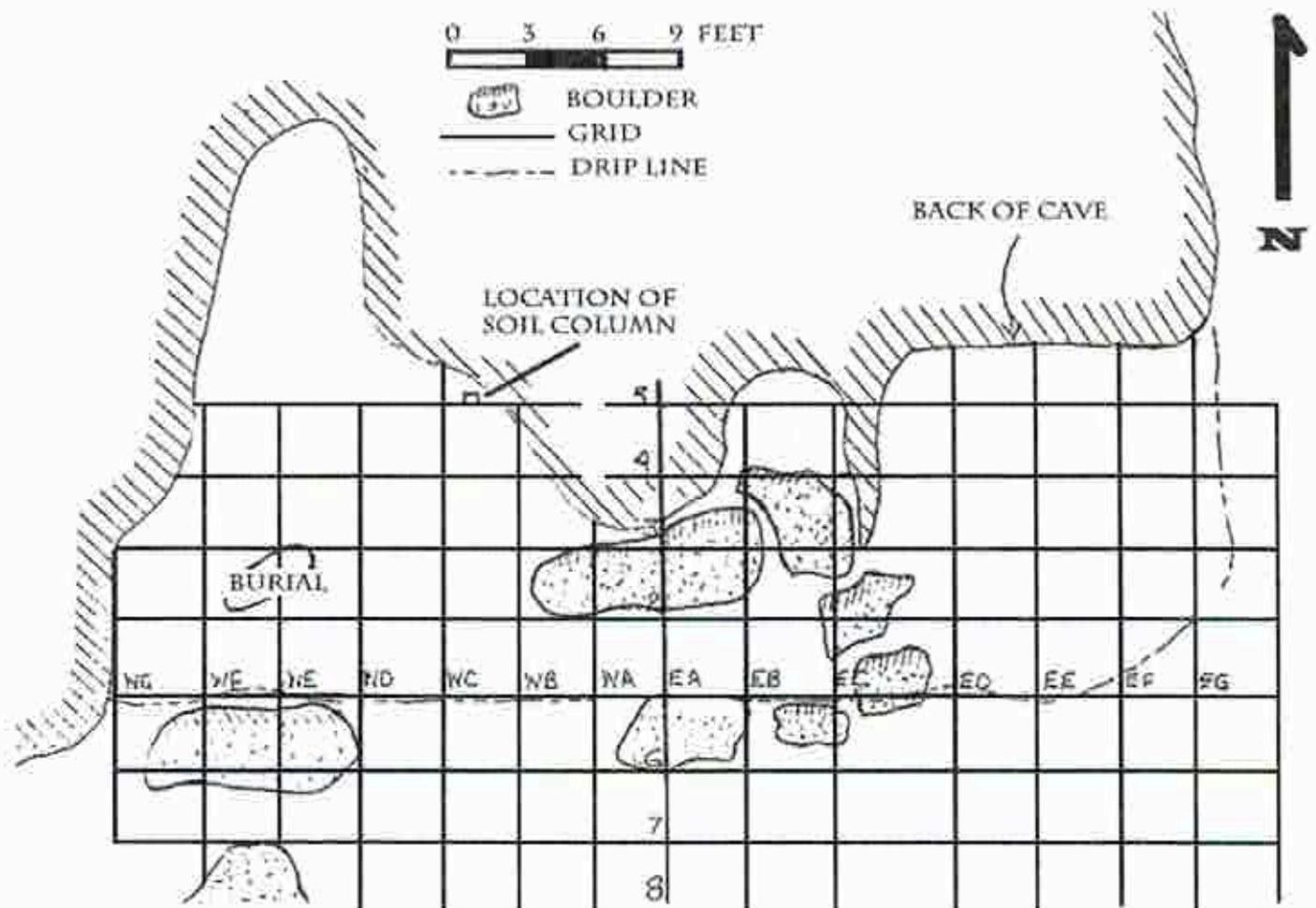


DRAPER CAVE  
SITE 5CR1  
CUSTER COUNTY, COLORADO



**SOIL SAMPLE EVIDENCE:**

The soil sample taken at the site marked on the diagram indicated that at a depth of between 16-52 inches there are indicators of animal or human occupation of the cave. The evidence for this conclusion is the presence of organic matter, phosphorus and potassium at levels that are inconsistent with the arid nature of the cave and its surrounding environment. (Kane, 21)

**PHYSICAL SETTING:**

Draper Cave is located at an elevation of 6,500 feet "in the lower edge of a narrow foothills ecological zone. Tennant Gulch supplies the water for the site. This location provides for a variety plant species (seven different varieties of trees alone). "Draper Cave Archeological Site 5CR1 was located in an ecological setting which present evidence indicates was rich in floral resources. There is no indication that it would have been less bountiful in these resources in the past." (Lyons, 33)

"The cave is located on the south end of a long Dakota Sandstone outcropping and is approximately 80 feet from and intermittent stream (Tennant Gulch). The mouth of the cave is 13 feet above the bank of the stream." (Lyons, 34)

### ARCHAIC HUMAN OCCUPATION:

"The first feature discovered was on the west wall of the cave in the ungridded test trench area about 25 cm (10 inches) below the surface of the floor." The feature was a series of 12 parallel grooves in the sandstone wall, approximately 30.5 cm. (12 inches) long, from 10 to 15 mm. (1/2 inch) deep, and approximately 2.5 cm. (1 inch) apart. They could have been formed by grinding antler tips into workable tools." (Hagar, 3-6)

"Three well-formed fire hearths were excavated, two cobble lined and one slab lined." (Hagar, 3-4) The slab-lined possibly was used "by a different culture than the other two." In addition there were a number of charcoal concentrations that could possibly indicate additional fire hearths. (Hagar, 4)

### HUMAN REMAINS:

The remains of a semi-flexed Archaic burial were found. "The skeletal remains of a single component burial were found in an unlined burial pit with 38 stone knives as burial offerings. The skeleton was interred on its left side with both legs flexed and oriented toward SSW from NNE. The right leg was over the left leg, the right arm flexed with hand up to neck, left arm extended along side and on front of torso. The skull was turned up facing out of the mouth of the cave to the south.

As stated, 38 knives were found around the skeleton (possible burial offerings). In addition, 16 "whole or nearly complete metates were found along with an additional 78 metate fragments. The excavation team also discovered 17 whole manos and 31 mano fragments."

*SKELETAL SPECIFICS: (Finnegan, 24-25)*

Sex: Male

Age: 25-30 years

Stature: 159.27 cm. (62.7 inches -- 5 foot 2 inches)

\*Skeletal condition (other than the skull) were very poor

Date: The Carbon 14 date for this site at the level of burial is 1570 (margin of error is 70 years) B.C.

### REFERENCES

Finnegan, Michael. "Archaic Human Skeletal Material from the Draper Cave Site, 5CR1, Custer County, Colorado," *SOUTHWESTERN LORE*

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Lyons, Ray D. "Floral Analysis 5CR1, Draper Cave, Colorado", *SOUTHWESTERN LORE*

### WEBSITES

<http://core.tdar.org/> (THE DIGITAL ARCHEOLOGICAL RECORD)

<http://www.fortnet.org/casncc/SWLIndex/> (SOUTHWESTERN LORE - Index)