

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

DANGER CAVE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Parts of Secs. 8 & 9, T.1S., R.19W., Tooele County, UT
Approximately one mile east of Wendover, UT

CITY, TOWN

Wendover

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Utah

CODE

49

COUNTY

Tooele

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 - PRIVATE
 - BOTH
 - IN PROCESS
 - BEING CONSIDERED
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Utah
Division of Parks and Recreation (Mr. Ross B. Elliott, Director - as of 10/81)

STREET & NUMBER

1636 West North Temple

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tooele County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tooele

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Antiquities Section
Utah Division of State History

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 300 Rio Grande

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Danger Cave is located in the Great Basin about one mile east of Wendover, Utah. Situated on the southeast flank in the front range of the Leppy Hills (Desert Hills locally), the cave was carved out of limestone and opens to the southeast onto the vast stretch of the barren Great Salt Desert (Bonneville Salt Flats). Although the Great Basin is generally considered a middle latitude steppe, there is considerable variability, and the area near Wendover has been designated a middle latitude desert. The immediate vicinity of the site supports northern desert and salt desert shrub vegetal cover with sagebrush as the dominant floral type.

These saline flats occur on the shores of land-locked lakes formed in the valleys between the steep slopes of the ancient fault block ranges in the Great Basin. Danger Cave portal lies 200 feet below the ancient Lake Stansbury strandline (terrace). At an earlier stage, this ancient lake was called Lake Bonneville, and the remnant of this vast inland sea at the present time is the Great Salt Lake. Apparently, until about 15,000 years ago, the cave was filled with lake water, for the lake level was at an elevation above that of the cave. Geologists believe that by about 12,000 years ago, the lake level had subsided sufficiently to expose the cave opening and to allow for occupation of the cave which continued from about 8,500 B.C. until the historic period.

Mountain ranges occur to the north, south, and west of the site. The Pilot Range just north of Wendover veers off to the north from northeast/southwest trend of the Desert Hills. The Toano Range of Nevada lies some 10 miles to the west, and the Deep Creek Range is located about 60 miles south. Because of their altitude, these nearby mountains receive more moisture than the lower areas and thus support a different type of vegetation including belts of pinyon-juniper, yellow pine, oak, and even aspen in the progressively higher elevations. The inhabitants of the area therefore had access to more than one environmental zone.

The cave is a long arched grotto measuring about 60 feet in width by about 120 feet in length. At the time of its discovery, the cave's entrance was almost completely blocked. The result of the accumulation of thousands of years of occupational debris, this blockage was probably present as early as 1 A.D., and the most recent inhabitants of the cave occupied the area under an overhang in front of the cave opening. The blockage prompted the modern-day local inhabitants of the area to dub the cave "Hands and Knees Cave," for anyone visiting it had to crawl to get into the main chamber. It was also known briefly as "Lamus Cave," but in 1941, when a rock fall from the lip of the cave just missed one of the excavation crew members working there, the name "Danger Cave" replaced the earlier appellations.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet Page 1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 10,000 BP to Historic Period DUNDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located near Wendover, Utah, in the front range of the Leppy Hills (Desert Hills, locally), Danger Cave opens to the east onto the vast stretch of the barren Bonneville Salt Flats. Major excavations conducted by Jesse Jennings of the University of Utah in the late 1940's/early 1950's revealed that the cave contained a stratified series of cultural deposits dating from 10,000 or 10,500 years ago until the historic period. These stratified deposits and Jennings' interpretation of them give the site its great importance; for as Cressman (1977) has pointed out, Danger Cave provided Great Basin archeologists with what was lacking up to the time of its excavation: a lengthy sequence of occupation spanning about 10,000 years in a dry cave setting with the availability of radiocarbon dating which could furnish a firm chronological framework. In addition, analyses of Danger Cave data in combination with data recovered from other Great Basin sites resulted in the postulation of the presence of a Desert Tradition or Desert Culture, a concept which has played a great role in interpretations of the prehistory and Native American history of the arid West.

Discussion

The Desert Tradition or Desert Culture was defined by Jennings (1957, 1964) as being a way of life built around cyclic wandering of small groups of people who depended on seed-collecting and small game hunting for their subsistence. Basketry and flat milling stones were representative artifacts of this way of life. Based on a stable, successful lifestyle adapted to the harsh conditions of an arid environment, Desert Culture is best considered as the Archaic stage of the arid regions of the West.

The heart and core area of the tradition is the Great Basin, and Cressman (1977) prefers to call the manifestation Great Basin Culture. In any event, Jennings (1957, 1964) contended that the environment of the Great Basin remained relatively stable for the past 10,000 years and that the adaptive and subsistence strategies of the area's inhabitants also remained relatively stable. However, as Cressman (1977) points out, this long-term stability does not negate the possibility for regional variations which certainly do exist in different ecological areas of the Great Basin. Thus, Desert Culture as an Archaic stage is a broad concept which allows for regional diversity and even for some developmental changes (e.g., addition of various basketry techniques, changes in preference for specific point types), but the basic lifestyle, adapted to the arid conditions and characterized by cyclic wandering, and by seed-collecting and small game hunting subsistence activities, remained constant.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 1	7 5, 1 8, 2, 5	4, 5 1, 5 0, 5, 5	B	1, 1	7 5, 1 8, 3, 0	4, 5 1, 4 9, 5, 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 1	7 5, 1 7, 3, 0	4, 5 1, 4 9, 5, 0	D	1, 1	7 5, 1 7, 2, 5	4, 5 1, 5 0, 5, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Cave entrance open to southeast and lies in the lower left 1/4 of rectangle. (Cave entrance is UTM - Zone 11 E, 751,810 N, 4,514,980) Orientation of cave interior NW/SE, 120 feet in length and 60 feet in width. Landmark area (approx. 330 feet to a side) encompasses the complete cave interior, the rock face at its mouth with a portion of the outcropping on either side, and the talus slope in front and below the entrance. The long axis of the cave lies diagonally from the upper left to the lower right corners within the 2 1/2 acre square.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Francine D. Weiss, Archeologist, Landmark Review Project (See continuation sheet)

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, NPS

DATE

visited July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5465

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/6/84

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

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Continuation of No. 7 Description

Excavations

The cave was excavated by E. R. Smith (1942) of the University of Utah in the late 1930's and early 1940's (the 1941 incident of the falling rock caused the abandonment of the work). Before Smith, Robert Heizer (University of California) had visited the cave in 1937, at which time he dug a few test cuts. Heizer's work has never been fully reported, but it is mentioned in Rudy (1953). Then, in 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1953, the University of Utah continued its examination of the site under the direction of Jesse Jennings. The location of Jennings' major excavation trenches are shown on the accompanying Map B.

Jennings discerned five cultural levels in the cave. The earliest, labelled D I, consisted of two layers of sand--the lower, water-deposited--resting upon a layer of cemented beach gravels left by the receding Pleistocene Lake. This gravel layer varied from 1 to 3 inches in thickness but was about 18 inches thick along the north wall of the cave. Within the earlier sand level, Jennings' team recovered chips of obsidian and jasper and discerned the presence of two camp fire sites. A stick from this level yielded a radiocarbon date of 9201 ± 570 B.C. The surface of this sand layer yielded evidence for six small fires which provided enough charcoal for radiocarbon analysis. Dated to 8320 ± 650 B.C., this surface also contained patches of thin guano deposits, rat droppings, and vegetable trash. The overlying wind-deposited sand layer, varying from 3 to 4 inches to over a foot in thickness, did not yield any cultural material, but radiocarbon dates of 9503 ± 600 B.C. and 9050 ± 700 B.C. were obtained from mountain sheep droppings scattered throughout the level. In addition, uncharred woody material from the base of the level yielded a C-14 date of 8450 ± 700 B.C.

Overlying the sand was a layer ranging in thickness from 2 to 8 inches and consisting of bat guano and roof scalings which marked the transition into cultural level D II. The surface of this bat guano layer was a living surface and yielded artifacts, flint scraps, and food bones, as well as evidence for occasional fires. The fill of the rest of this stratum--a band averaging about 18 inches in thickness--consisted of roof scalings, small rock fragments, guano, vegetal material, and a great deal of ash.

Apparently, the cave was rather heavily used at this time, for level D II yielded hundreds of flint artifacts, seven fragments of twined textile, and some bone. One unusual feature, a small circular pit measuring about 15 inches in diameter and a foot in depth, was excavated. Charcoal recovered from the pit yielded a C-14 date of 7839 ± 630 B.C. Another radiocarbon date (7010 ± 340 B.C.) was obtained from charred rat dung excavated from the base of the level.

Separated from D II by a layer of roof scaling and fragments probably indicative of a break in the use of the cave--perhaps because of a period of regional desiccation--cultural level D III consisted of layers of thin ash and

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Continuation of No. 7 Description

Excavations

dust alternating with layers of vegetal material (mainly pickleweed chaff, stems, and twigs) to create a varve-like phenomenon. D III varied in thickness from 2 to 4 feet and was the richest and most complex level of the site. It was originally postulated that the pickleweed was carried into the cave by the inhabitants of the site and spread out as a living surface to hold down the dust. However, it was also recognized that pickleweed seeds may have been an important food resource and that the vegetal material may have been a by-product of the winnowing process used in harvesting the seeds. The fact that few seeds were found in the samples collected by the excavators lends credence to this theory. Unfortunately, no radiocarbon dates are available for D III. Like D II, D III contained many large areas of ash; and a pit near the south wall filled with ash and measuring about 2 feet deep and 5 feet in diameter attests to the practice of the purposeful removal of large quantities of ash from the living areas. It should be mentioned that both levels D II and D III, particularly the latter, slope toward the central portion of the cave. Jennings (1957) interprets this slope, especially in the case of D III, as the result of the removal of fill to the walls from the center of the cave in an attempt to provide adequate head room and living space.

Level D IV, separated from D III by a band of roof scalings, was very similar in nature to the underlying cultural stratum. It consisted of alternate bands of dust and vegetal material with numerous extensive ash beds. However, it was a thin layer with a low yield in artifacts. A radiocarbon date of 1869 ± 160 B.C. was obtained from charred bat guano and twigs recovered from this level.

Similarly, a band of roof scalings separated cultural level D IV from DV. The fill of this uppermost level was the same as that of D III and D IV; i.e., vegetal matter, dust, and ash, but in the top 3 or 4 inches of the level, desert bulrush replaced the pickleweed.

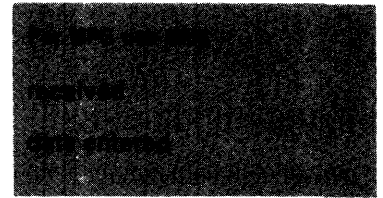
It should be pointed out that Aikens (1970), in reanalyzing Jennings' data from Danger Cave, concluded that D V was actually two cultural levels (labelled D V and D VI) separated by a band of roof scalings. Radiocarbon dates for Jennings' D V Range from about 4000 B.C. to 20 A.D. However, Jennings (1974) is quick to point out that on the basis of artifact types, the cave was used until after 1400 A.D. He claims that the samples for dating came from the interior of the cave and that the most recent occupation would have occurred beneath the overhang in front of the cave entrance.

A general summary of the various cultural levels of the site has been set forth by Jennings (1957, p. 71):

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The entire culturally significant fill of the cave, 11 feet deep at the deepest point, can be characterized as consisting of a uniform and complacent series of alternating bands of dust and fibrous materials, interrupted or modified by ash deposits, layers of roof fall, and occasionally purposeful shifting of deposits. From each cultural stratum, except D. I, perishable and imperishable artifacts including objects of stone, bone, hide, fiber, and wood were recovered. Food bone scrap, fecal matter, and quids were also abundant. D I yielded only charcoal and chips of flint, one scraper, and one projectile point, many specimens of plants, and one or two scraps of animal bone."

Two phenomena which cut through these various levels should be mentioned. The first is a crack extending from the surface of D V down into D II. Jennings (1957) believes this fissure may have resulted from a small earthquake. The second phenomenon is a large crystalline mass which, according to Jennings, probably resulted from the secondary deposition of leached salts as the various strata were accumulating.

Analysis of the artifacts from the site has also yielded a great deal of valuable information. Among the items recovered were: over 1000 flat milling stone and fragments; hundreds of manos or handstones; abraders; more than a hundred fragments of coiled and twined basketry; one piece of cloth; netting; cordage; a wrench and spoon of horn; awls, tubes, tinklers, dice, a possible spoon, and possible needles of bone; dart foreshafts, fire-drill tips, slabs, slab skewers, cylinders, gaming sticks, snares, trap springs, arrows, and knife handles of wood; leather; mica discs; an etched stone; pottery; clay effigies; mussel and Olivella shells, the latter from the California coast; and red and yellow ochre. The level from which these various artifacts came is indicated in Chart 1 (from Jennings, 1974). In addition, over 2000 artifacts and fragments of chipped stone were recovered. End scrapers, side scrapers, a few prismatic knives, and other crude forms occurred. The point types included corner- and side-notched stemmed classes--some of which had basal notches as well-lanceolate varieties, and a small triangular type. Gravers and drills were also present.

An analysis of the distribution of the various artifacts throughout the levels provides some interesting and significant data. Pottery is evident only in D V/D VI, and it has been suggested that if better stratigraphic controls had existed in the field, it would have become clear that pottery was actually associated with D VI (Aikens, 1970). The one point found in D I is somewhat similar to some of the Plano lanceolate types and may have resulted from Paleo-Indian use of the cave. A shift in emphasis from the use of small- and medium-sized, stemmed, notched points to the increased use of the larger lanceolate varieties has been noted in levels D II to D IV. Small, triangular points were largely confined to levels D V/D VI. Other trends noted by Jennings (1974) include a shift in basketry techniques from an emphasis on twining to

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a greater use of coiling after the introduction of coiling in D III, and the replacement of hemp with greasewood bark for cordage in D IV and D V/VI.

Numerous scraps of wood and other plant materials were also recovered from the site. Analysis of about 4000 scraps and artifacts allowed the identification of over 65 plant species—all of which still exist in the vicinity of the site today. Remains of various animals probably used for food, such as antelope, bison, mountain sheep, jackrabbit, dog, bobcat, and desert fox were also recovered during excavations as were quids and coprolites. These items have provided information on the dietary practices of the site's inhabitants and on the environment in the vicinity of the site at various times.

Much of the environmental and climatic data on the eastern Great Basin is derived from the excavation of Hogup Cave—also on the periphery of the Great Salt Lake some 40 miles east of Danger Cave (Aikens, 1970). Hogup was excavated long after Danger Cave, and environmental analysis, macrofaunal analysis, and dietary studies all contributed environmental information. It was discerned that the changes in the environment were not qualitative; the species available in the vicinity of the site remained constant. However, with climatic changes, shifts in the elevations of various vegetation zones occurred in the uplands and the lake level either rose or decreased. Prior to about 78 B.P. the climate was apparently characteristic of the relatively cool and/or moist Anathermal, and sagebrush was the dominant species of the uplands. Then, about 7800 years ago, the climate became warmer and/or drier with the advent of the Altithermal. The relative importance of sagebrush in the uplands declined. The lake level also began decreasing, thereby creating saline marshes. Greasewood, pickleweed, reed grass, and the remains of aquatic birds from the Hogup Cave sequence reflect the presence of this marshy environment. These relatively warmer/drier conditions supposedly prevailed for nearly five thousand years in the vicinity of Hogup, at which time conditions became similar to those of the present. Various interpretations concerning the environmental sequence, the cultural sequence, and the relationship between the two will be discussed in the following Statement of Significance.

Condition

Danger Cave is currently in fair to poor condition. Even before Jennings' work in the late 1940's, pothunters had dug into the site. After the excavations were terminated, vandalism became an even greater problem. In fact, most of the remaining deposits have been extensively disturbed. Although Jennings, the former excavator of the site, claimed that the site had no further research potential, a National Park Service archeologist, T. Thiessen, who visited the

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site in 1973, found that intact cultural deposits may remain in the cave. Similarly, when the cave was visited in 1976 the presence of an exposed profile with visible stratigraphy was noted.*

At the present time, the site is not very well protected. It is less than a quarter of a mile off the Wendover exit ramp of I-80 and is extremely accessible. Although landmark files indicate that the State of Utah has been thinking of fencing the entrance to the cave and even of building an interpretive center at the site, nothing had materialized by the time of the 1981 visit. In addition to the pothunting, some grafitti has been written on the outcrop in which the cave is situated.

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More specific utilization of the cave as the scene of a seasonal visit to exploit seasonally available resources has been discussed by Jennings (1957). The cave levels contained considerable amounts of pickleweed which are thought to represent the results of winnowing. Because pickleweed ripens in late summer and early autumn, Jennings (1957) concluded that the cyclic wanderers who inhabited the eastern Great Basin revisited the cave annually in late summer/early fall to exploit the pickleweed resource.

The concept of a Desert Culture was largely derived from interpretations of excavations at Danger Cave. Level D I may be a manifestation of Paleo-Indian use of the cave rather than of the Desert Culture, for the level lacked the characteristic basketry and milling stone but yielded a Plano-type lanceolate point. Jennings (1957, 1964) contends that levels D II through D V provided evidence for the Desert Culture. He points out that there were some additions and changes in the artifact assemblage through time (e.g., change from a preference for the twining technique in basketry to the coiling technique, etc.), but that the orientation toward the exploitation of many species in an arid environment remained constant.

The Danger Cave sequence has been clarified by more recent excavations at Hogup Cave some 40 miles east of Danger Cave (Aikens, 1970). Aikens reexamined the data from Jennings' Danger Cave excavations and concluded that the two sites were complementary although Hogup had not been occupied as early as Danger. Aikens' interpretations at Hogup confirmed Jennings' theory of continuous development for the Desert Culture in the Great Basin. However, as mentioned in Item 7 of this form, Aikens determined by comparisons with the Hogup sequence that level D V at Danger actually represented two levels— D V and D VI. D V in Aikens' terms was the upper portion of the Desert Archaic while D VI marked the transition into occupation by the pottery-making Fremont culture.

* A site visit was also made in September 1981, by Jack R. Rudy, NPS. The exposed profile referenced in the 1973 and 1976 reports was still present although somewhat further vandalized. It is doubtful that enough of the original fill is still present to warrant any further scientific investigations. This, however, should not detract from the Cave's significance in having providing important scientific information in the study of the eastern Great Basin.

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Fremont is characterized by Southwestern traits (such as horticulture and pithouse and above-ground architecture) and by certain northern Plains traits. Its origins have been the subject of a great deal of controversy. The Southwestern similarities led to the hypothesis that Fremont resulted from a migration of people from the northern Plains into the area of modern-day Utah. According to the theory, these immigrants adopted Southwestern ideas by diffusion and perhaps by assimilation of some Southwestern people. However, the position of the Fremont level in the sequences at Hogup and Danger along with the carryover of numerous traits from previous levels indicated to Aikens (1970) that, while the northern Plains traits should not be ignored, the Fremont culture may be a local development out of the preceding Desert Archaic modified by contacts with the Southwest.

Overlying the Fremont levels at Hogup were materials relating to the Numic-speaking Shoshoni who occupied the area during historic times. At Danger Cave, these historic/late prehistoric artifacts and features were mixed in Jennings' level D V with the Fremont and late Archaic materials. It is generally thought that the Fremont culture declined, perhaps because of drought or enemy pressure (Aikens, 1970), and was replaced in the Great Basin by Numic-speakers who supposedly migrated into the area. The lifestyle of these historic inhabitants of the area exhibits a reversion to the Desert Tradition. It is possible that the influx of these Numic-speakers may have played a role in the demise of the Fremont.

Aikens' (1970) interpretations have recently been challenged by Madsen and Berry (1975) who claim that Aikens failed to notice a gap in the sequence at Hogup and that a similar gap most probably existed at Danger. Madsen and Berry contend that the occupants of the Great Salt Lake region began to exploit a different environment some 3500 years ago; their adaptive strategy changed from an orientation to the saline marshes to an orientation to the upland resources. According to this hypothesis, the caves remained unoccupied for about 2000 years until an influx of new people--carriers of the Fremont culture--occurred. The 1975 theory challenges the idea of the development of the Fremont out of the local culture.

It is clear that many questions concerning Great Basin prehistory remain unanswered. Danger Cave was the first site to provide a chronological framework for the arid West, and analysis of the data from the site resulted in the postulation of the concept of a Desert Culture Archaic stage in the region.

The Desert Culture has been the subject of a great deal of controversy. The validity of the concept is obviously one of the major points of contention. In addition to some of the issues raised by Madsen and Berry (1975) other archeologists (e.g., Heizer, 1950) believe that the Desert Culture concept is too simplified and masks the variety which is ethnographically known in the area. However, criticisms such as Heizer's (1956) may be semantic in nature, for they are based on the assumption that the term Desert Culture negates the possibility for variation while it is clear from Jennings' definition that the concept is one of a broad Archaic stage which allows for regional diversity.

The origin of the Desert Culture has also been the subject of discussion by those archeologists who believe in its validity. Similarities between some of the point types in the early Great Basin sites with those in early sites of the Northwest Cordilleran Tradition

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indicate that the Desert Culture may have developed out of an Old Cordelleran base (Willey, 1966). On the other hand, Bedwell and Cressman (1971) and Cressman (1977) claim that Great Basin Culture developed largely on its own terms by intense innovation. The relationship between the Desert Culture and the Paleo-Indian Big Game Hunters is also unclear, but it is generally assumed that Paleo Indian is earlier. Discussion concerning the relationship of the Desert Tradition to the cultures of the Southwest of course has bearing on the Fremont problem but also has other relevant aspects, for the Southwest cultural tradition appears to have had its roots in the Desert food-collecting pattern of western North America. Additional research is necessary before these problems can be resolved.

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Continuation sheet 10

Item number photographs

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Photographs

Taken by Francine Weiss, Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service July 1976.
Negatives with NHL negatives file, NPS, Washington, D.C

- #1 - View of outcrop in which cave is situated. View looking northwest.
- #2 - View of cave opening - looking west.
- #3 - Profile of potentially undisturbed deposits in cave.

Taken by Jack R. Rudy, Interagency Archeological Services, National Park Service,
September 16, 1981. Negatives with NHL negatives file, NPS Washington, D.C.

- #1A - View to northwest of cave from I-80. Cave is to right of center.
- #2A - View to northwest of cave from I-80. Cave is to right of center.
- #3A - View to northwest of cave from I-80. Cave is in center of photograph.
- #4A - Exterior view of cave entrance. Looking generally to northeast.
Note spray painting of names under overhang.
- #5A - Exterior view of cave entrance. Looking generally to northeast.
Note spray painting of names under overhang.
- #6A - Interior view taken from near front of cave toward the left side of cave when
facing the back. Note shoe tracks and trailbike tracks in the cave dust.
- #7A - Interior view of left rear of cave.
- #8A - Interior view of left rear of cave.
- #9A - Interior view taken from near entrance of cave towards the extreme back of
cave. Note the exposure of cave deposits in right foreground of photograph.
See 11A.
- #10A - Interior view taken from near entrance of cave towards the extreme back of
cave. Note evidence of previous pothunting in cave fill.
- #11A - Interior view, closeup of cave deposits towards right rear of cave. See 9A.
- #12A - Exterior view to northeast of cave entrance.
- #13A - Exterior view looking to northeast from cave entrance at rock outcropping.
- #14A - Exterior view taken from slope below cave looking generally to the west.
- #15A - Exterior view of Danger Cave (in right foreground). Note spray painting of
exposed rock ledges above and to the west of the cave.

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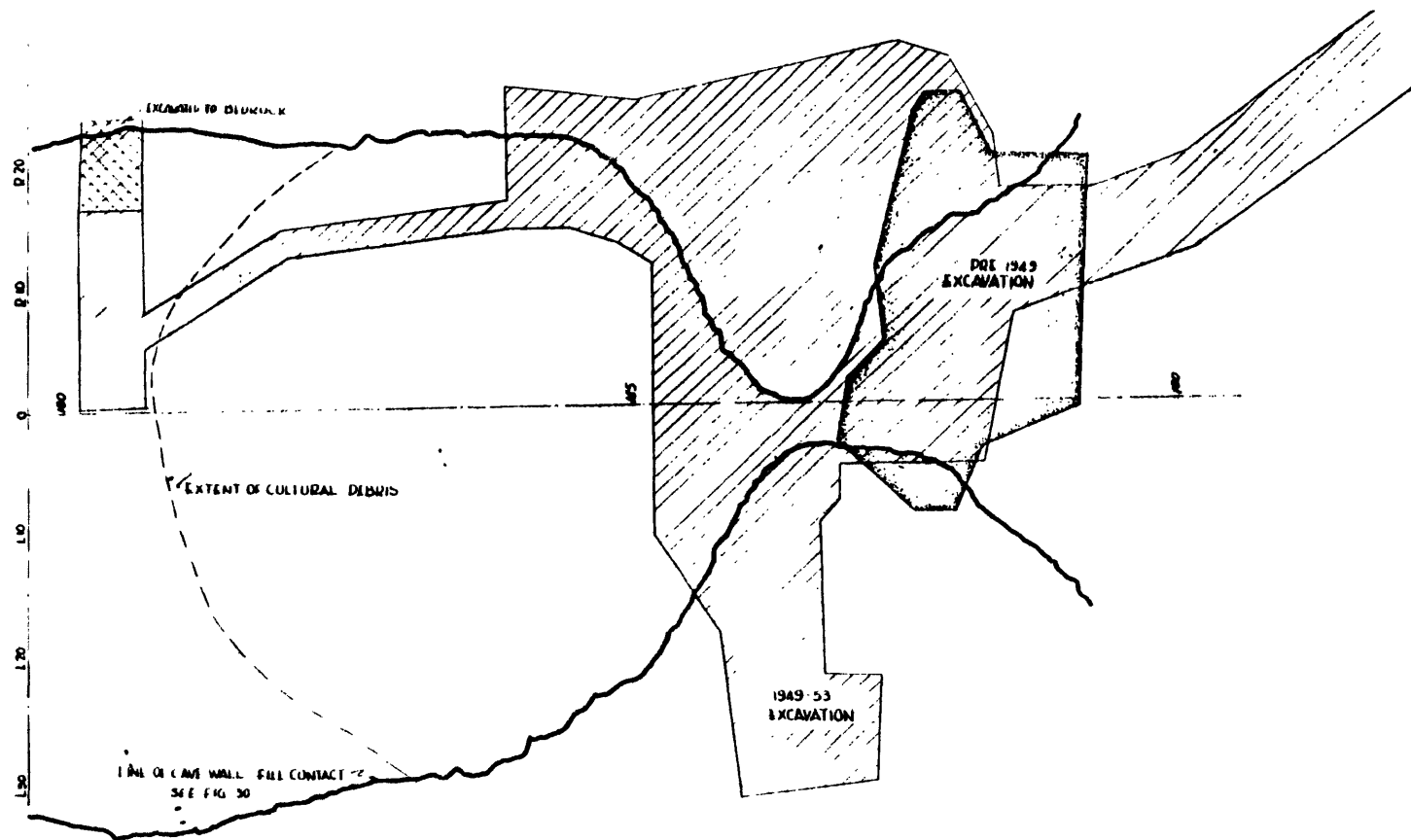
#11 Form Prepared by continued

Additional description (UTM's and site condition)

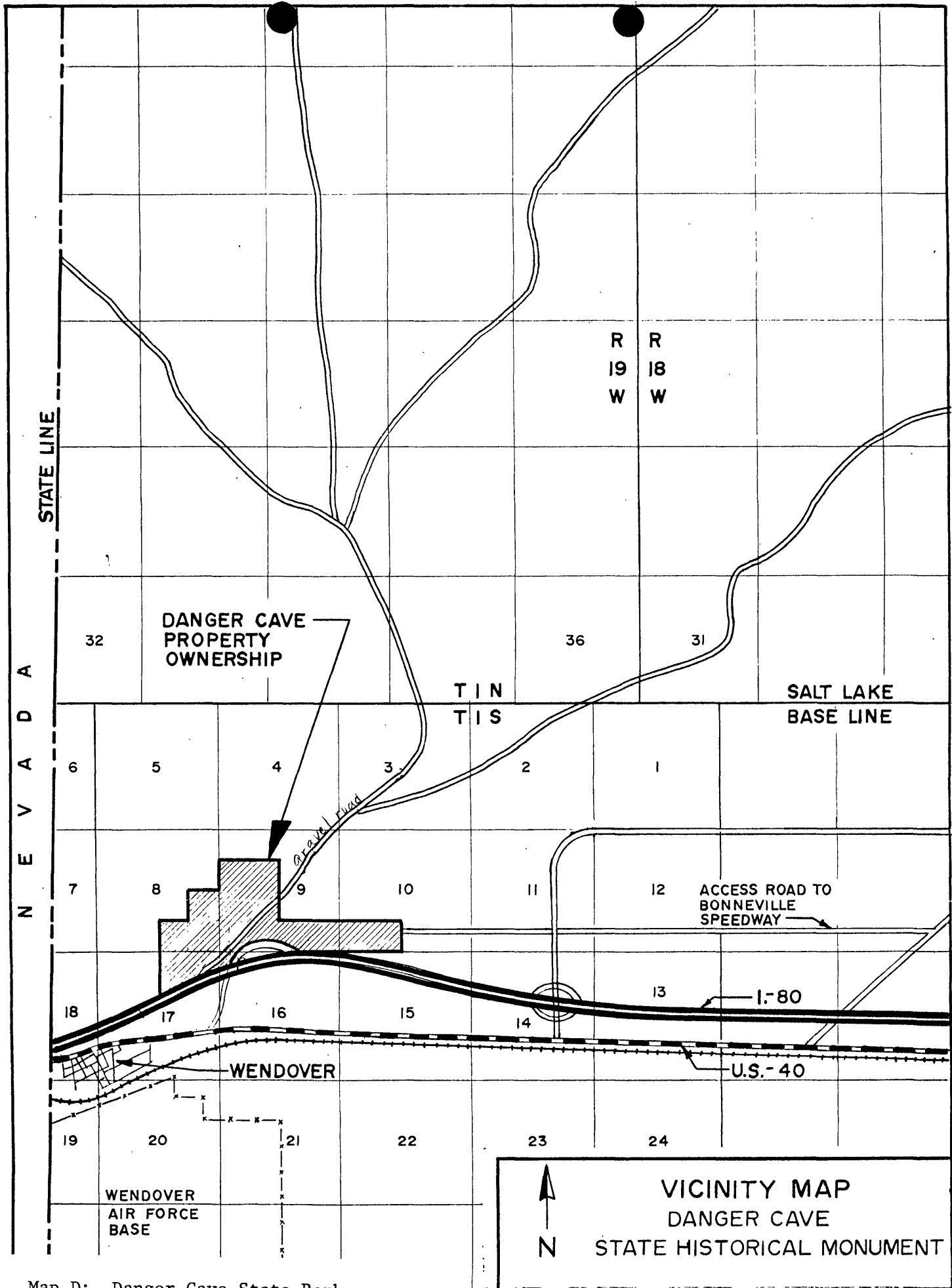
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ENCLOSURES:

- Map A - General Highway Map, Tooele County, Utah. Utah State Department of Highways, No. 23. (1972)
- Map B - Map of Danger Cave showing excavations trenches. (From Jennings, 1957, Fig. 31, page 46.)
- Map C - Map, topographic, of interior of Danger Cave. (From Jennings, 1957, Fig. 30.)
- Map D - Danger Cave State Park. Vicinity map.
- Map E - Danger Cave State Historical Monument. Map of vicinity. (Danger Cave State Park)
- Chart 1 - Occurrence of artifacts in various levels of Danger Cave. (From Jennings, 1974, Table 2, p. 158.)



Map B: Map of Danger Cave showing excavation trenches. (From Jennings, 1957, Fig. 31, page 46.)



Map D: Danger Cave State Park. Vicinity map.

Map E: Danger Cave State Historical Monument, Map of vicinity.
(Danger Cave State Park)

