

Spruce Tree Point
(Mesa Verde Administrative District)
Mesa Verde National Park
Cortez Vicinity
Montezuma County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-132

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REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

— SPRUCE TREE POINT —
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1906 TO PRESERVE PREHISTORIC CLIFF DWELLINGS; HOWEVER, A GROUP OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC BUILDINGS ALSO OCCUPIES THE PARK. THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE (1921), PARK HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (1923), POST OFFICE (1923), MUSEUM (1923-24) AND RANGER CLUB (1925) AT MESA VERDE ARE THE FIRST BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO BE BASED ON THE LOCAL NATIVE CULTURAL TRADITIONS. THESE CORE STRUCTURES ARE OF THE PUEBLO REVIVAL STYLE WITH ADAPTATIONS MADE TO COMPLIMENT THE PREHISTORIC STRUCTURES OF THE PARK AND THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.

THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE NATIONAL PARKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OF GREAT CONCERN WHEN DEVELOPING PARK SERVICE FACILITIES. IN 1921, ARCHAEOLOGIST JESSE NUSBAUM WAS HIRED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF MESA VERDE TO OVERSEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES, WITH HIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND, THE HARMONIZING OF FUNCTIONAL ARCHITECTURE WITH THE AESTHETICS OF THE LAND WAS POSSIBLE.

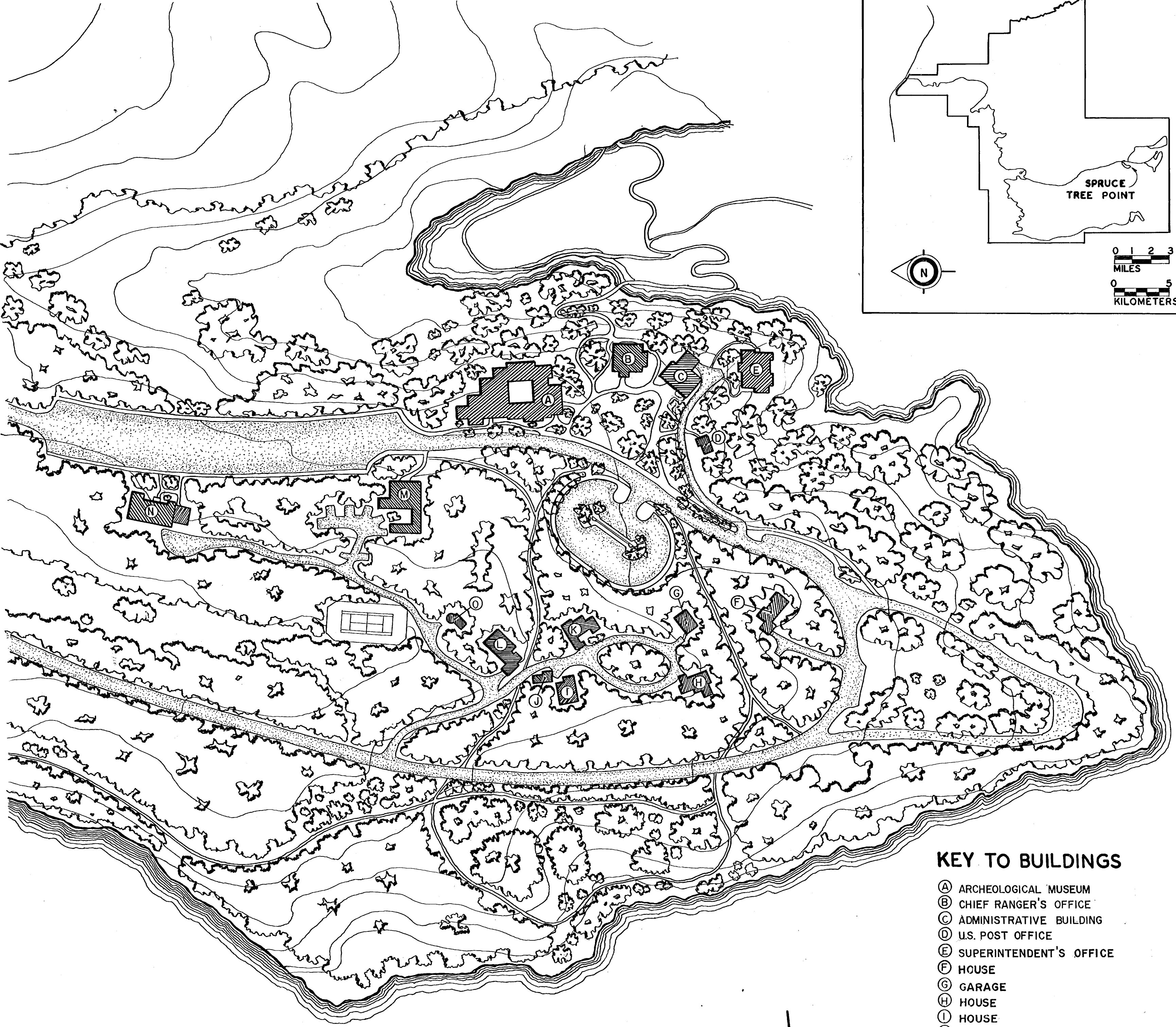
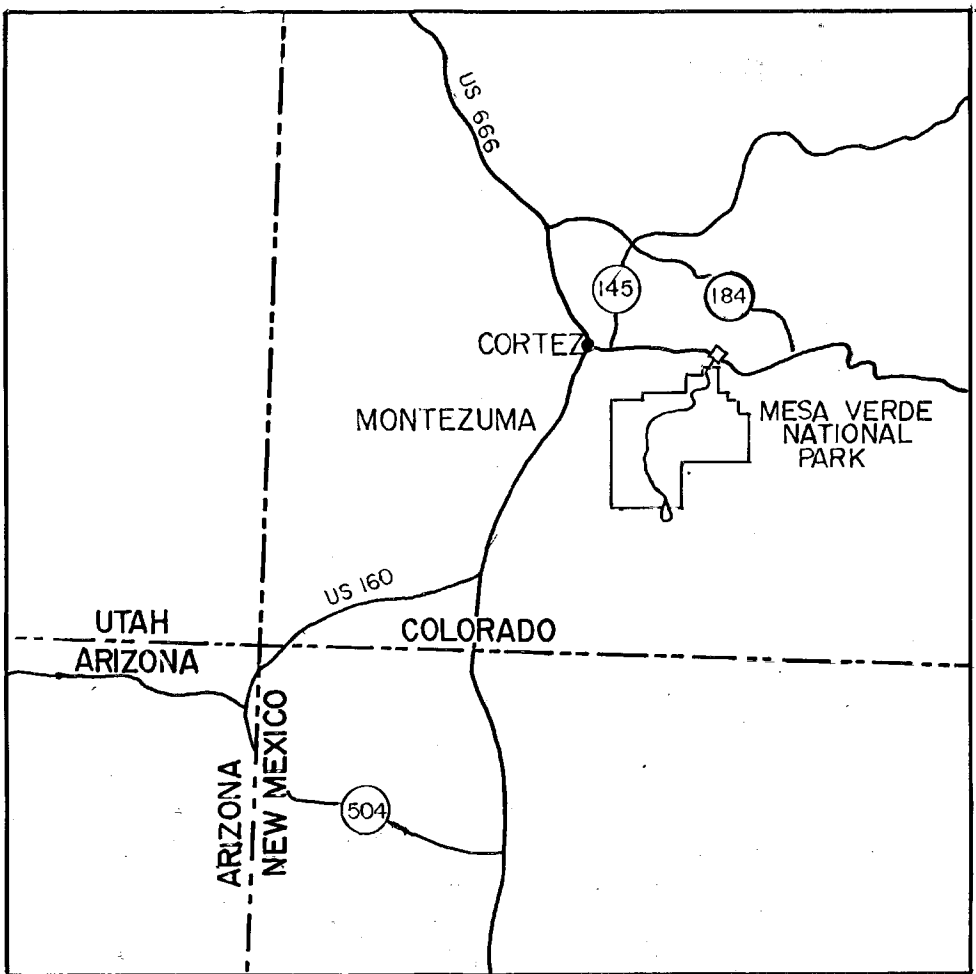
AFTER CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH, NUSBAUM AND HIS WIFE AILEEN REALIZED THAT THE STYLE OF THE ANCIENT PUEBLOS WAS MOST SUITABLE. THIS STYLE WOULD ENHANCE THE NATIVE PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND OFFER EDUCATIONAL VALUES, AS MODERN BUILDINGS COULD NOT. HIS CHOICE OF THE PUEBLO STYLE WAS UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A PARK ARCHITECTURE HAD BEEN CHOSEN FOR ITS CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE RATHER THAN FOR ITS USE OF INDIGENOUS MATERIALS. NUSBAUM WAS INFLUENTIAL EVEN AFTER HE LEFT HIS POSITION AS SUPERINTENDENT IN 1931, SINCE HE CONTINUED TO REVIEW ALL PLANS FOR ALTERATIONS TO THE BUILDINGS HE DESIGNED.

NUSBAUM IS A SIGNIFICANT FIGURE IN ALL OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY. FEW PEOPLE VEERED FROM MAINSTREAM ARCHITECTURAL TRENDS WITH A STYLE SUCH AS PUEBLO REVIVAL. MORE SPECIFICALLY, NO PREVIOUS DESIGNER FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS HAD CHOSEN A CULTURAL THEME INSTEAD OF DRAWING FROM NATURAL RESOURCES. THE DESIGN PHILOSOPHIES USED FOR THE BUILDINGS AT MESA VERDE STRONGLY INFLUENCED ARCHITECTS OF THE DEVELOPING SOUTHWESTERN PARKS IN THE 1930s.

THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF RODD L. WHEATON, REGIONAL HISTORICAL ARCHITECT; WITH KEVIN M. SPEECE, STUDENT ARCHITECT (UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI); AND ROGER MUZIA, STUDENT ARCHITECT.

LOCATION MAP

SOURCE: COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
A.B. HIRSCHFELD PRESS, INC, DENVER
SCALE: 1" = 15 MILES
0 5 10 25 50
MILES
0 10 50
KILOMETERS

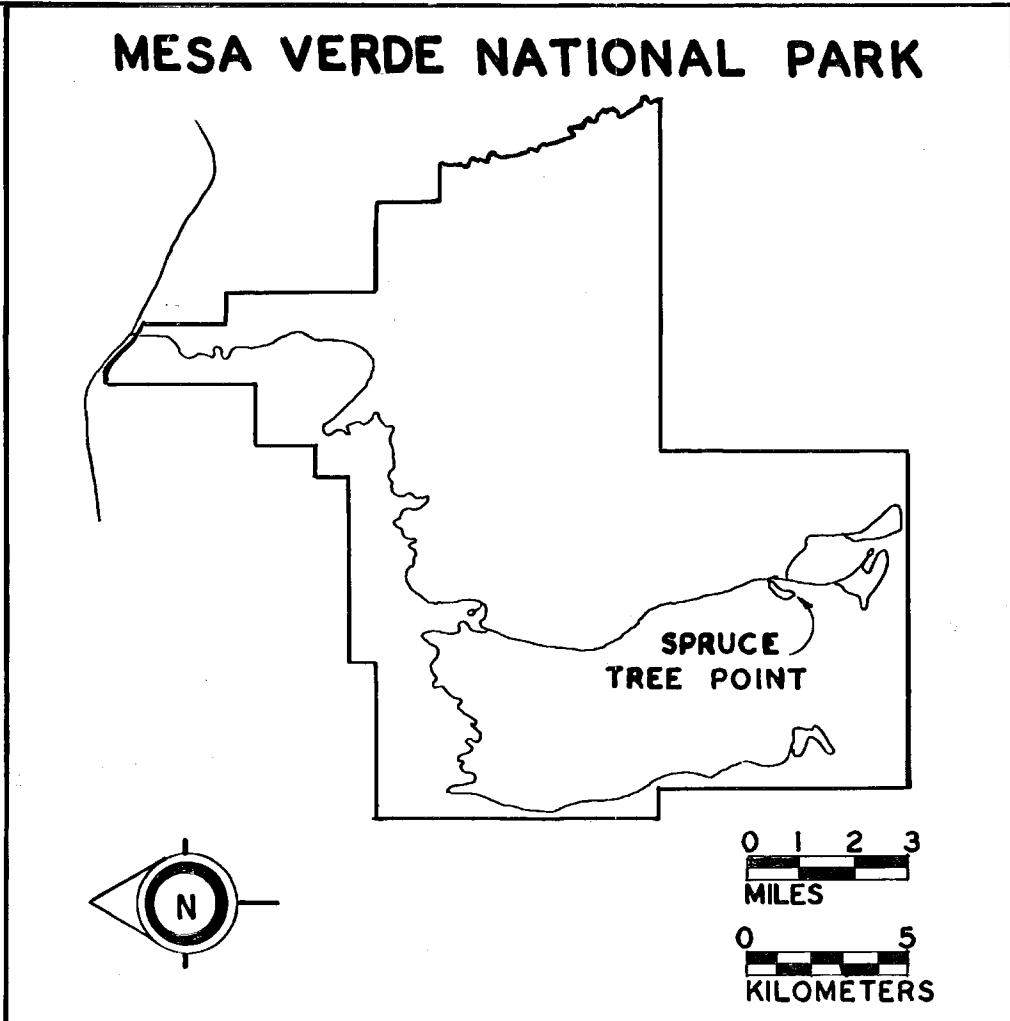


SITE PLAN

KEY TO BUILDINGS

- (A) ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
- (B) CHIEF RANGER'S OFFICE
- (C) ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
- (D) U.S. POST OFFICE
- (E) SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
- (F) HOUSE
- (G) GARAGE
- (H) HOUSE
- (I) HOUSE
- (J) GARAGE
- (K) HOUSE
- (L) HOUSE
- (M) LIBRARY
- (N) SPRUCE TREE TERRACE
- (O) HOUSE

SCALE
0 50 100 200 400
FEET
0 10 50 100
METERS
1" = 100'



DRAWN BY: ROGER MUZIA, KEVIN M. SPEECE (8-2-77) KERI L. SEARLS (10-28-92)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
SPRUCE TREE POINT
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
MONTEZUMA COUNTY

COLORADO

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 1 SHEETS

SURVEY NO.
CO-132

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