

Mancos Cañon. Nearly all of the largest and well-preserved dwellings are in side cañons from the Mancos, and are from ten to fifteen miles from the main cañon. Some of these dwellings, or what we would call palaces, are very extensive, one visited by explorers containing about 125 rooms. The front of the palace was over 300 feet long, and had been built up in solid masonry at least 40 feet high, and as it was divided into stories of about six feet, the front tier of rooms was seven stories high. The second tier was about six stories, the third tier about five stories, and so on until it got down to a height of two stories, when all the space back of that is left in one room, and seemed to be used as a morgue, where they embalmed and laid away their dead for burial.

The caves where these dwellings were located are in a soft sandstone rock, through which has leached alkali water, which, by its corrosive influence with the air, has made an opening in the wall from twenty to forty feet at the face and extending back thirty to sixty feet. Where the roof and the floor come together the rooms inside are principally made square, and most of them are about six feet square, and a few larger. A number of the rooms are made round, and several are in a semi-circle. In the majority of them the walls are left rough, while some have been plastered, and some of the largest and best rooms have been finished with a smooth hard finish; a few have been ornamented with paint in different colors and designs, all showing skill. The colors used in these decorations were the same as seen on some of their pottery. On a wall of one of these rooms was a decoration resembling a landscape, the wall being painted a reddish-brown from the floor up about three feet, the upper line of this being straight like the horizon. Extending above this line were points, some alone and some in clusters, which resembled mountains. The wall above this dark color had been made white, with a bluish shade resembling the sky.