

Annual Report of Excavations at Wallace Great House 2022

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Wallace Ruin 5MT6970

Room 65a

Tchamahias from ground story floor (PD634)



PL 20
FS 230



PL 2
FS 30



PL 4
FS 39



PL 21
FS 231



PL 19
FS 229



PL 1
FS 29

Primitive Tech. Enterprises, Inc.

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Wallace Ruin (5MT6970) Annual Report 2022

Drs. Bruce and Cynthia Bradley

January 2023

Introduction

Excavations were undertaken at Wallace Ruin (5MT6970), Montezuma County, Colorado, between April and September 2022, with Drs. Cynthia Bradley and Bruce Bradley as co-PIs. The excavation crews consisted of volunteers, local and from as far away as New Hampshire and Texas (Figure 1). Records included standardized excavation forms, numerous photographs and maps and a field journal summarizing the work. Excavations and material processing were accomplished by the co-PIs and volunteers for a total of 264 person days.



Figure 1. Field crew Spring 2022.

Excavations took place in Structures 53, 55, 56, 60, 65, 66, 69, Kiva 32 and Non-structure 76, Segment 6, and those in Room 65 and NST 76 Segment 7 were completed. This work included areas of all known phases of construction and use, from the mid-1000s through the mid to late 1200s. Artifacts and records continue to be processed and analyzed in this on-going project.

Site Description

Wallace Ruin (5MT6970) consists of a small unit pueblo (Green Stone), a Chaco Great House outlier, during the 11th and 12th centuries, and a possible reservoir (Figure 2). This was part of a larger community including three other Great Houses (Haynie Ruin East, Haynie Ruin West and Ida Jean Ruin) collectively known as the Lakeview Group. Wallace Ruin was listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties on March 12, 2002, and in the National Register of Historic Places on 24 March 2005.

History of Research

Research excavations and publications of results have been carried out intermittently between 1969 and 2022. Excavations before 1998 completed a double row of 12th Century two-story structures in the west wing, Structures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 26 and 27 (Figure 3).

Rooms sharing walls erected to a multiple-story height are termed a structure as are single-story rooms, kivas and pithouses;

letters a, b, and c

designate 1st-3rd story rooms in multi-story structures, once determined. Also excavated were an intrusive 13th century kiva (Kiva 1), five multi-story 11th century structures (2, 14, 15, 24 and 25) and two added 13th century intramural kivas (Kivas 3 and 4) on the north side of an unexcavated enclosed, elevated kiva (Kiva 32). Additional excavations were conducted between 2008 and 2010 in a southern projection of the west arm (Annex, Structures 28, 29 and 30) of the building (Bradley 2010). Excavations in 2015 were undertaken in Annex Room 33 (Bradley 2015). In 2019-2022 excavations were continued in Structures 33, 53, 55, 59, 60, 62, 65, Kivas 56 and 32, Structures 66, 67, 68, and in exterior units Non-structure 77, Segment 1, and Non-structure 76 Segments 5, 6, 7 and 8.

During this research two major and two minor construction phases were identified: (Old Wallace) Phase 1 circa A.D. 1040 and Phase 2 circa A.D. 1090, (New Wallace) Phase 3a circa A. D. 1120 and Phase 3b circa A.D. 1130. There seems to have been an abandonment of the structure in

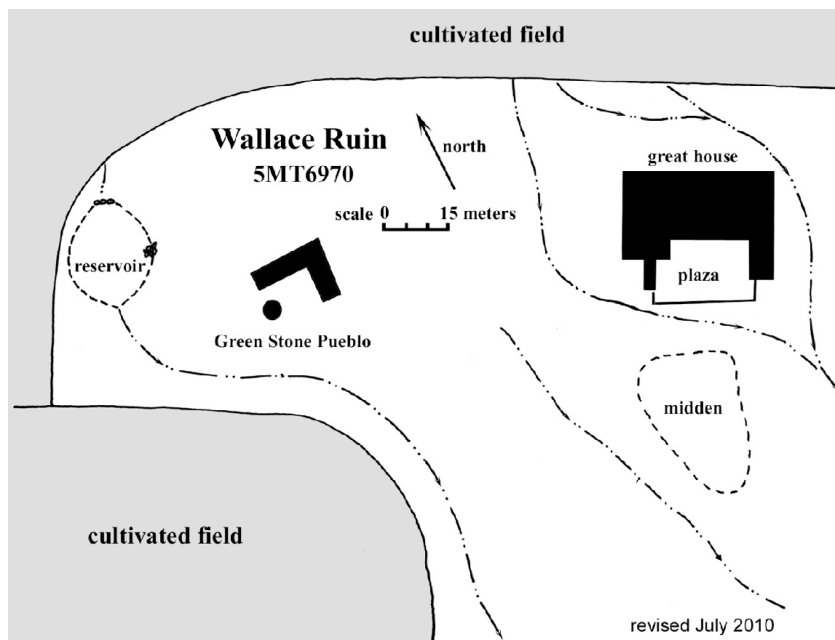


Figure 2. Wallace Ruin plan.

the mid-1100s and then a reuse of the building in the late 12th and 13th centuries (Phase 4) primarily reusing existing structures, but with the addition of Room 33 (Revitalized Wallace).

Research 2022

In 2022 we had two excavation sessions: one in April- May and one September- early October. Work resumed in the Old Wallace Rooms 55 (Segment 2), 65a, and 69. Excavations were initiated in Room 60b, a multistory structure adjacent to the north side of Room 65. New Wallace Room 53a is nearing completion. Work continued in the western elevated kiva (Kiva 32). The placement of four Phase 4 kivas adjacent to and surrounding it on the west, north and east, may indicate that Kiva 32 was a ritual focus of the reuse of the great house in the late 12th and 13th centuries. Although constructed in the early 12th century, understanding its use and possible reuse is critical to our Revitalization and House Society hypotheses.

To pursue our interest in the origins of the great house and its use/functions, we took the opportunity of investigating what would have been exterior areas related to the Early Wallace great house, and potentially activities before it was constructed, by subflooring Rooms 65a, western portion, and a unit in the plaza which hadn't been built over (NST 76 Seg 6).

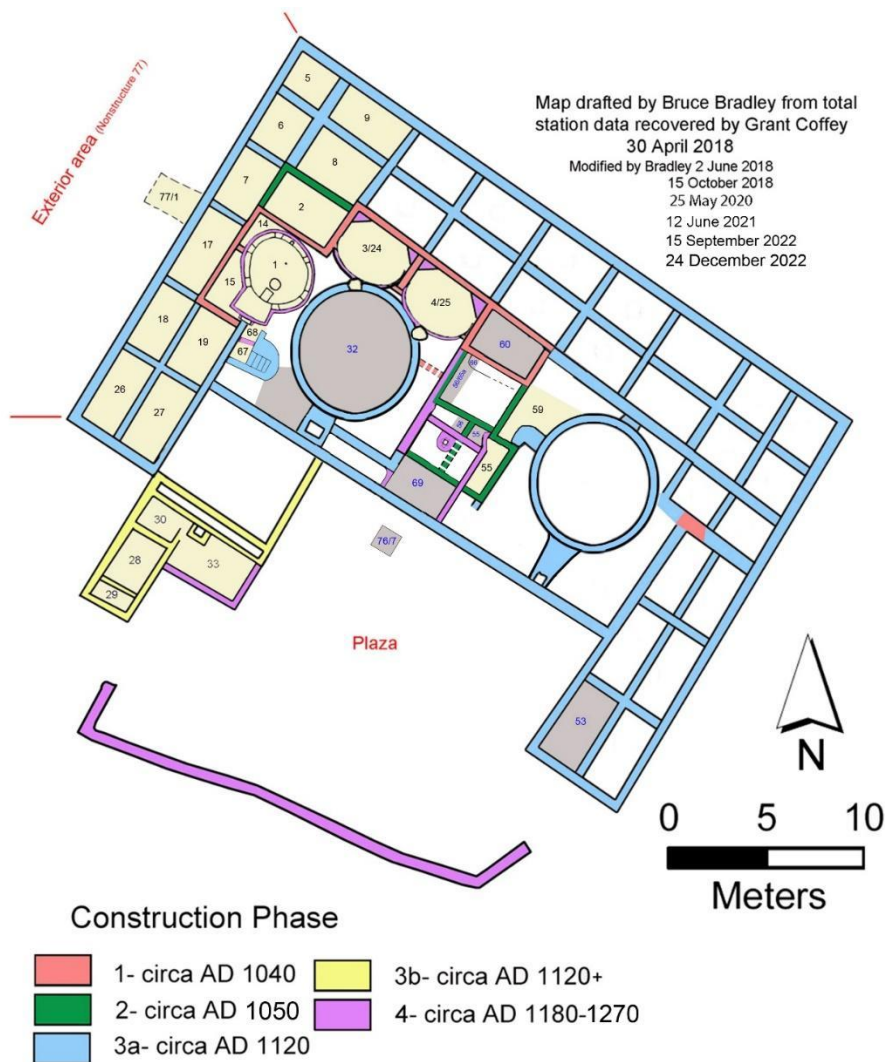


Figure 3. Wallace Great House plan as of September 2022. Yellow shaded areas were previously excavated. Gray shaded areas indicate areas of excavation in 2022.

Excavations Results

Old Wallace

Old Wallace refers to the initial great house building phase in the mid to late 1000s (Figure 4). It comprises two construction episodes using slightly different masonry styles (see Bradley and Bradley 2020:11-12). Much of this building was later incorporated within New Wallace in the early 1100s, drastically modifying some rooms and perhaps eliminating others. Our current knowledge indicates it had 6 ground story rooms involving three 2-story structures (14,15 and 70) and three 3-story structures (24, 25 and 60) laid out in an L-shape during Phase 1. Phase 2 added at least one row of three 2-story structures (55 and 65). There is evidence that there was a 1-story room (59) added to the east. It is also feasible that two or more 1-story rooms (69 and ?) were added to the front but there is yet no direct evidence for this. Other potential rooms to the west will be under Phase 3 Kiva 32. There is evidence, under the stairway (Structure 67), that the ground story of Phase 3 Room 19a, to the west, was erected against fill, as were all the other walls of the stairway. This probably indicates that there was a filled Old Wallace room in this space at the time of the Phase 3.

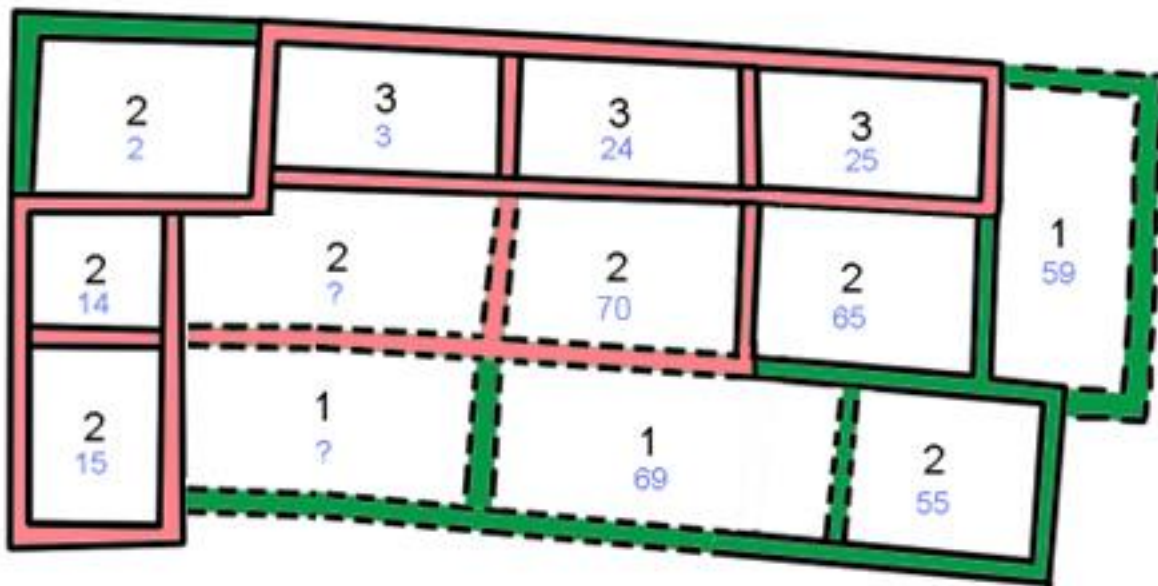
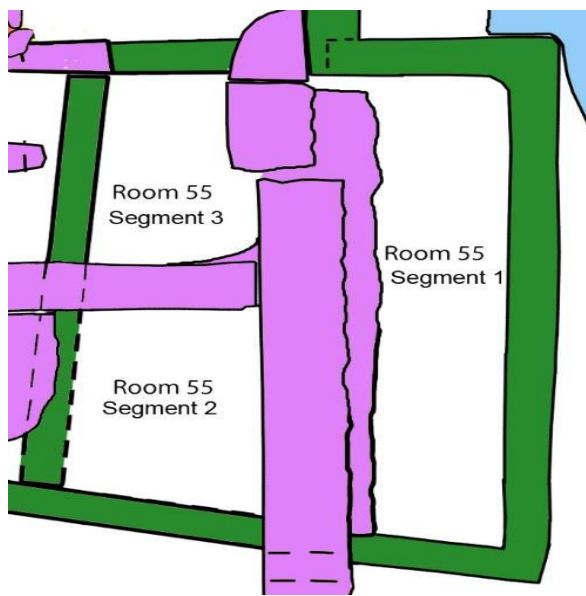


Figure 4. Plan of Old Wallace. Dark numerals indicate numbers of stories and light numerals are structure numbers.

Currently, excavations in the main chamber of Kiva 32 have reached the top of the bench. The average bench height of equivalent-sized enclosed kivas in Chaco great houses is 80-85 cm. If this is the same in Kiva 32, we estimate that there may remain about 1 meter of fill in the rooms under the floor of the kiva. If this is the case, it should be possible for us to delineate the Old Wallace rooms and have intact floor contexts. We plan to completely subfloor the kiva.

Structure 55

Excavations in upper story Room 55b Segment 1 were halted at the base of the west wall in 2020 because of the danger of wall collapse from the superimposed Phase 4 east wall of Room 62 and the south end of the east wall of Phase 4 Kiva 56. Collapse wasn't imminent and a 4X4 wood brace was added to stabilize the walls. This year, we exposed more of the south wall of Room 55 under Room 62 and located the north end of the west wall below the floor of the south end of Kiva 56.



This defined a small section of the northwest area of Room 55 (Figure 5), designated Segment 3 and excavations were initiated. To do this safely, a section of the south end of the east wall of Kiva 56 was removed (further discussion below).

Stratigraphy in the south profile clearly shows filling episodes of Room 55 (Figure 6). The east profile shows how the west wall of Kiva 56 was built on top of the second story floor, Room 55b (Figure 6). Field observations indicate a Pueblo II filling of the room given the absence of Mesa Verde Black-on-white sherds. This corresponds to the fill contents of Room 55 Segment 1.

Figure 5. Plan of Room 55 (green), superimposed Phase 4 structures (magenta), and adjacent Phase 3 elevated kiva (blue).



Figure 6. Room 55 Segment 3 fill profiles. Left- south wall showing multiple fill episodes. Right- showing fill below second story floor beam.

Room 65a

The approximate western $\frac{1}{4}$ of Room 65a had not been excavated because the upper story Phase 4 wall was leaning inward. This wall was supported by a column composed of Kiva 56 fill and a modern wall built in 2021 (Bradley and Bradley 2020:13) (Figure 7). This new wall and the leaning Phase 4 wall were dismantled to allow the rest of Room 65a to be excavated safely. Most of the stones from these two walls were used to build a dry-laid north-south retaining wall in Room 65a. Spoil from the fill of the excavations in the west portion of Room 65a was put behind this retaining wall (Figure 8). The same strata were recognized in the west portion as in the east portion and the same PD numbers were used. Nothing was recovered from these strata that varied from what was already known.

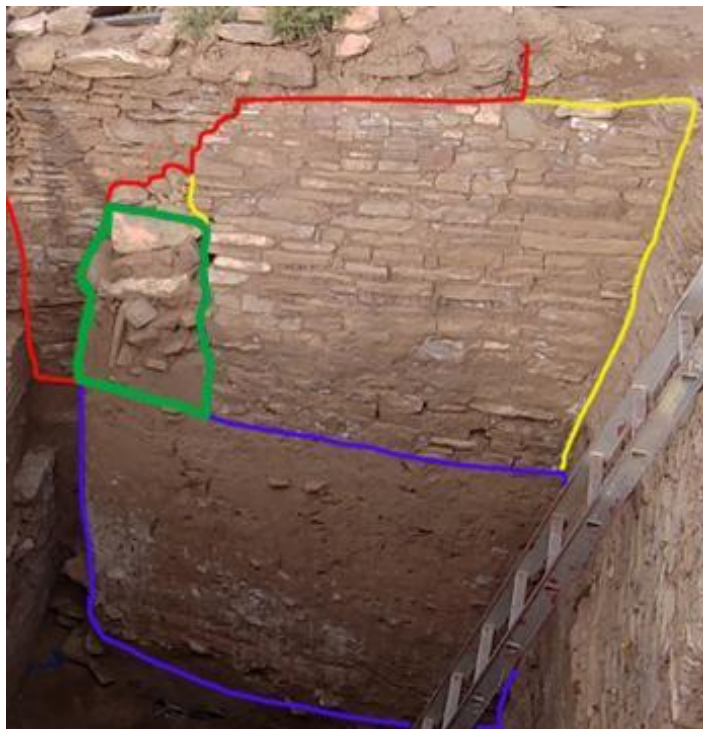


Figure 7. Room 65 and Kiva 56 west wall showing support wall and other remaining components. Red outlines the original portion of the west wall of Kiva 56. Yellow outlines the support wall built to hold up the leaning portion of the west wall of Kiva 56. Blue indicates the unexcavated area. Green outlines the fill of Kiva 56g

Stratum 4 had additional artifact concentrations, including sherds, a number of intact projectile points, bone awls, beads, pendants and a cluster of azurite pellets. The clustering, types and intact conditions of the non-pottery artifacts may represent ritual deposition rather than secondary refuse.

As in the east portion, two floor surfaces were discerned, both of which yielded floor contact artifacts. A portion of the north end of the upper surface had already been excavated yielding



Figure 8. Room 65a with modern retaining wall and spoil.

a set of tchamahias and a few other artifacts (Bradley and Bradley 2022:5). Newly exposed floor artifacts were point located with numbers continuing those in the eastern portion of the room (Figure 9). Table 1 lists all the artifacts from the final floor surface.

Distribution, type, and condition of the artifacts indicates an activity area northwest of the fire pit, possibly either hide working or basketmaking/weaving.

The cluster of tchamahias (Figure 10) in the southwest corner looks to have been in storage. The range of forms and materials is

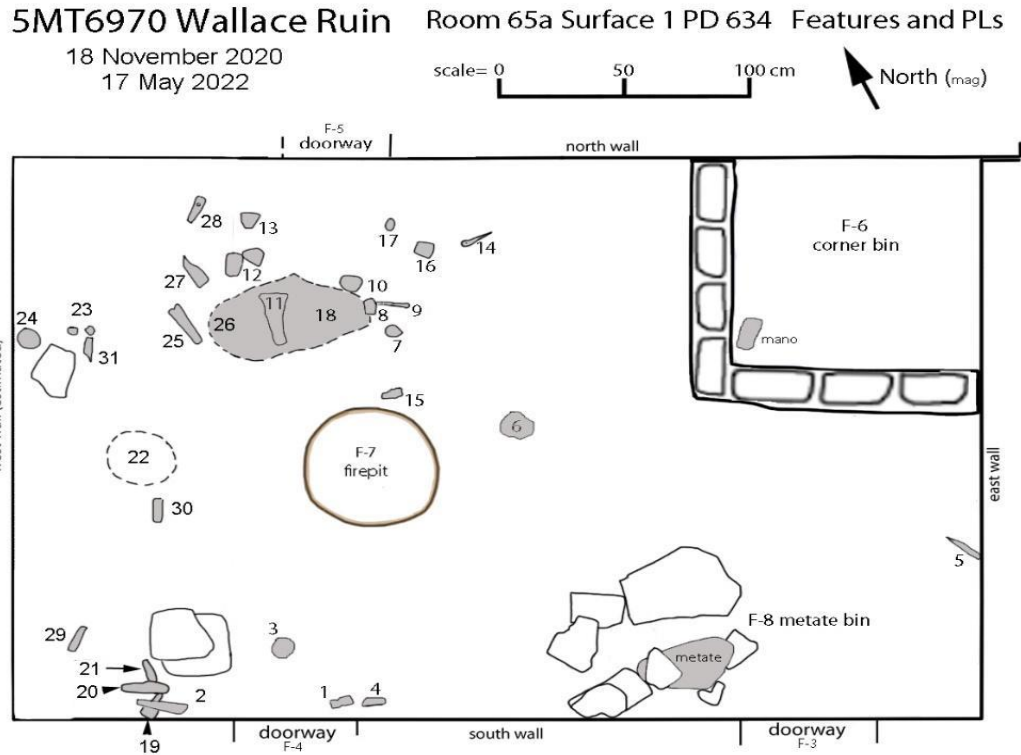


Figure 9. Room 65a Surface 1 artifacts.

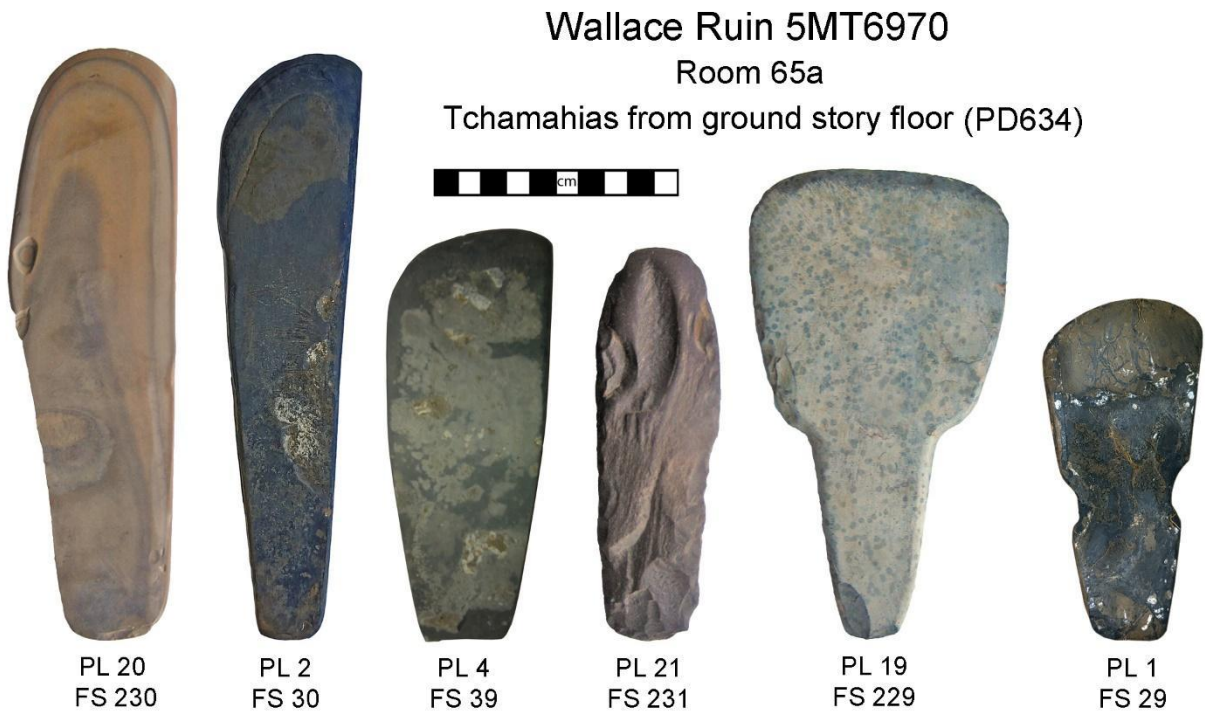


Figure 10. Tchamahias from the final floor surface of Room 65a.

comprehensive. It almost seems like a type collection or in modern terms, a salesperson's demonstration set.

Table 1. Room 65a Surface 1 artifacts.

PL	DESCRIPTION	ELEVATION(s)	COMMENTS	DATE
1	tchamahia	1895.40	Slate poor condition	3 Nov 2020
2	tchamahia	1895.39	Slate excellent condition	3 Nov 2020
3	core	1895.39	Brushy Basin unidirectional	3 Nov 2020
4	tchamahia	1895.39	Slate excellent condition	16 Nov 2020
5	bone weaving tool	1895.39	Split rib, perpendicular wear grooves	16 Nov 2020
6	core	1895.37	Sandstone?	17 Nov 2020
7	flake	1895.34	Coarse dark green	19 Nov 2020
8	Sherd	1895.33	Deadman's B/r seed jar rim	19 Nov 2020
9	bone awl	1895.33	mammal	19 Nov 2020
10	peckingstone	1895.34	Green, moderate to heavy use	19 Nov 2020
11	antler 'slab'	1895.35	Split, end truncated	19 Nov 2020
12	sherds (4)	1895.35	San Juan redware jar	19 Nov 2020
13	sherd	1895.35	Mancos b/w bowl rim	19 Nov 2020
14	bone awl	1895.31	Mammal, perforated	19 Nov 2020
15	flake	1895.37	Brushy Basin	19 Nov 2020
16	sherd (2 pieces)	1895.31	Mancos b/w jar body	19 Nov 2020
17	flake	1895.31	Green Morrison	19 Nov 2020
18	sherd cluster	1895.33	Corrugated, whiteware, redware	19 Nov 2020
19	tchamahia	1895.39	spatulate slate excellent condition	6 April 2021
20	tchamahia	1895.38	Brushy Basin excellent condition	6 April 2021
21	tchamahia	1898.40	Metamorphic or igneous excellent cond	6 April 2021
22	sherd cluster	1895.44	Deadmans B/r seed jar	17 May 2022
23	animal bones	1895.42	Two bones	17 May 2022
24	peckingstone	1895.41	large	17 May 2022
25	animal bone	1895.46	Long bone fragment	17 May 2022
26	sherd cluster	1895.42	Mostly corrugated	17 May 2022
27	bone weaving tool	1895.43	fragment	17 May 2022
28	bone awl	1895.40	Eyed end break ground, complete	17 May 2022
29	animal bone	1895.44	Rib fragment	17 May 2022
30	animal bone	1895.46	Rib fragment	17 May 2022
31	bone awl	1895.43	Long bone splinter, very sharp	17 May 2022

Room 60

Room 60 is a Phase 1, probable 3-story structure adjacent to the north of excavated Room 65; precise story designations have yet to be established. Excavations were initiated but only managed to extend far enough down to expose the tops of all the walls. Two strata have been defined, both still in wall-fall (Figure 11). Although there is a mix of Types 2 and 3 masonries, the Stratum 2 wall fall is dominated by Type 3. This fell from the north wall of the unexcavated Phase 3 room (37) north of Room 60, possibly indicating that it was originally 3 stories tall. Quite a few artifacts were recovered, especially in the SW corner area of Room 60, from modern ground surface well into Stratum 2,

including whole manos, a metate, a handstone, a bone awl, three projectile points and many large sherds. Pottery includes Mesa Verde Black-on-white (Figure 12 a), a complete whiteware ladle handle (Figure 12b) and Mesa Verde corrugated. There were also quite a few animal bones, including a beaver skull. These artifacts may have fallen into the upper portion of the room from a roof or may have originated from use of the adjacent Phase 4 Kiva 56.



Figure 11. Room 60 top of Stratum 2 wall fall.



Figure 12. Room 60, Stratum 2, pottery. a) Mesa Verde Black-on-white bowl sherd; b) whiteware ladle handle.

Structure 69

Excavation in Room 69, south of the south wall of Room 55 (Figure 13), continued to reveal the face of a Phase 1 or 2 wall with very fine masonry, including plaster in some areas (Figure 14); story designations are pending. There are also signs of burning within this space, such as scattered pieces of charcoal and soot on the north wall face. The fill in the room could have been intentionally deposited. Pottery in this room fill is Pueblo II, primarily Manco Black-on-white with some Cortez Black-on-white and Mancos Corrugated. The south wall is either Phase 3 or 4. The east and west walls are unknown.

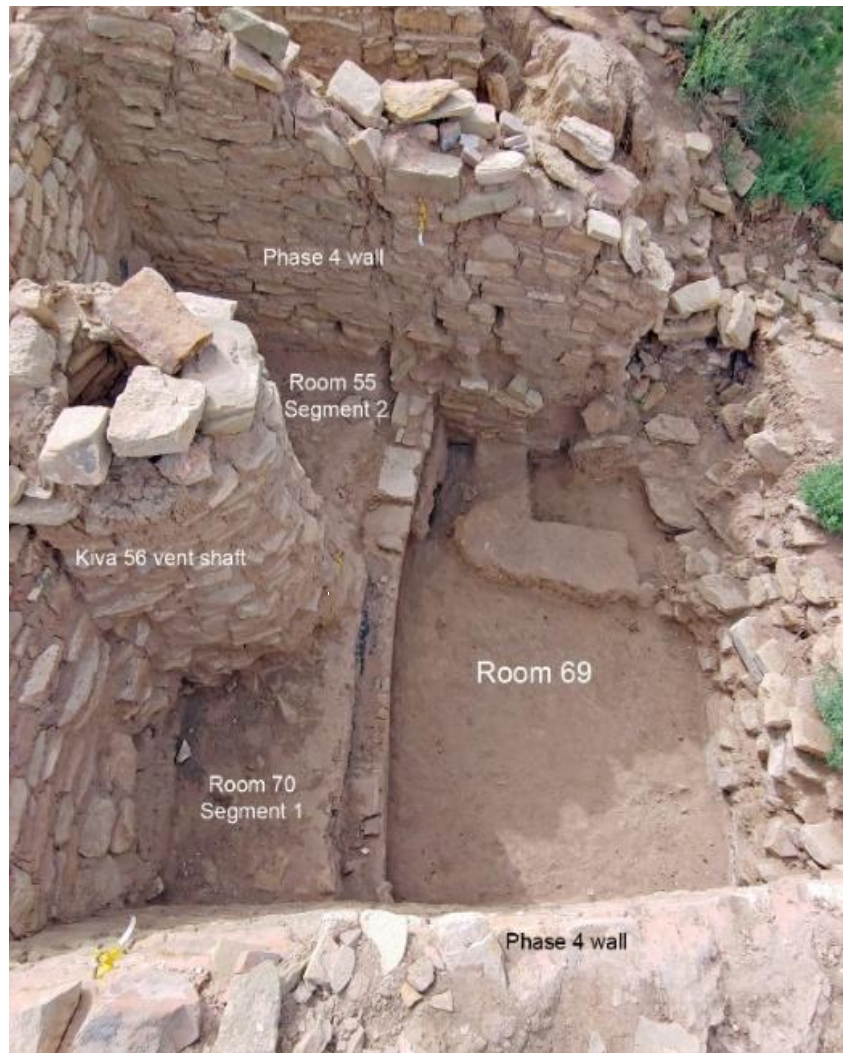


Figure 13. Room 69 and adjacent rooms and overlying Phase 4 walls.



Figure 14. Room 69 face of north wall showing plaster and soot.

New Wallace

Kiva 32 (Figure 15)

We continued down in Segment 1 of the southwest corner space outside of the main chamber (Figure 16) and finished exposing the SE corner space, which has turned out to be a Phase 4

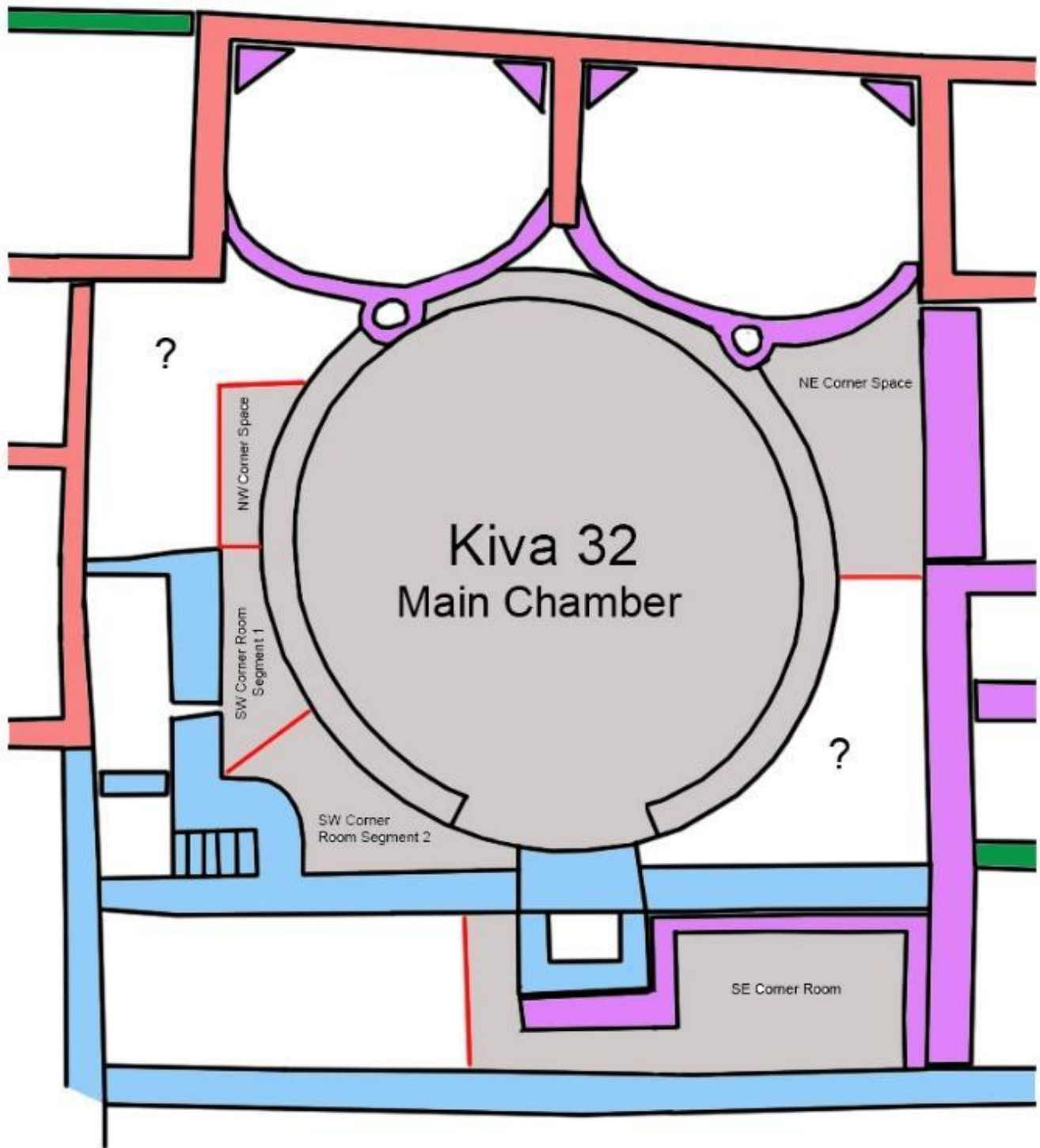


Figure 15. Kiva 32, subdivisions and adjacent structures. Shaded areas are being excavated.

modification outside of the main kiva area. The remaining effort was in the main chamber.

Excavations continued in Segment 2 of this space, which lies between the east end of the staircase



Figure 16. Kiva 32 SW corner room, Segment 2. Looking northeast showing exterior of main chamber wall and west side of ventilator shaft. Note protruding stones (indicated by a red dot).

(Structure 67) and the main chamber of Kiva 32. While not finely finished, the wall faces indicate that when built the space was intended to be open (there are protruding stones in the kiva main chamber wall); therefore, we have identified it as a kiva corner room. The reasons for continuing to excavate this space were to see if the opening (Feature 1) in the southwest upper lining wall of the main chamber of Kiva 32 extended into this room and to determine if it was still open during the Phase 4 reuse of the area. Both

goals were accomplished. Feature 1 does not open into the kiva main chamber. This was verified by excavation of a small portion of the opening, which has a back wall (see discussion). Also, the pottery recovered from the fill of the southwest corner room does not seem to include Mesa Verde Black-on-white, which may indicate it was filled prior to the Phase 4 reuse of the area. This corner room has been excavated to an elevation below the top of the staircase, and there is no indication that this space was roofed. How it was accessed and whether it functioned with the staircase has yet to be determined.

Southeast Corner Room (Figure 17)

Further excavations in this area revealed that it falls outside of the retaining space of the kiva main chamber, but it is still inside the overall enclosed kiva area. Therefore, it is classified as a kiva corner room. However, the final configuration was formed by the addition of Phase 4 walls on the west, north and east



Figure 17. Kiva 32 SW corner room. Note Phase 1 or 2 wall segment under Phase 4 north wall.

sides. Our excavations stopped at the base of these walls, which were set on fill. Mesa Verde Black-on-white was recovered from the fill of this room. There wasn't a prepared floor, but the wall fall

stopped at the level of the base of the walls; presumably the floor. No artifacts were found on the floor. A very small section of what looks to be a Phase 1 or 2 wall was encountered below the north Phase 4 wall below a collapsed area. This could be an extension of the north wall of Room 69.

Main Chamber

Excavation of the main chamber continued during both sessions. Three strata were defined as representing structure collapse and filling. Stratum 1 was mainly post-structure collapse in the central area, consisting of washed-in sediments and wall collapse, and Stratum 2 was a continuation of the wall collapse with the demarcation between the strata being somewhat arbitrary. Stratum 3 was another continuation of wall collapse, but with a greater concentration of stones and at the base, a few small pieces of rotted wood. All three of these strata could have been excavated as a single unit but we felt it important to subdivide them to identify



Figure 18. Kiva 32 Stratum 4 rotted wood.

whether the structure was in use, perhaps as a midden, as the structure collapsed during the 13th century reuse of the building. Stratum 4 was a more distinct change with many more pieces of rotted wood, especially above the bench around the perimeter (Figure 18). There were still some building stones. However, we also encountered a



Figure 19. Kiva 32 Stratum 4 stone concentration.

concentration of stones that looked to have been placed on a fill unit or perhaps fell in with a roof. This concentration formed an arc around the north and northwest side of the chamber (Figure 19). Most of these stones were lying horizontally and had a distinctly different 'feel' than the above wall fall. There were also several ground stone artifacts in this concentration and at the same general level, including whole metates, manos, a peckingstone and a maul. There were also two whole metates and approximately half of what may be a hatchway cover, together in the south-central area. A large portion of a Mesa Verde Corrugated jar was also associated with the stone concentration (Figure 20).

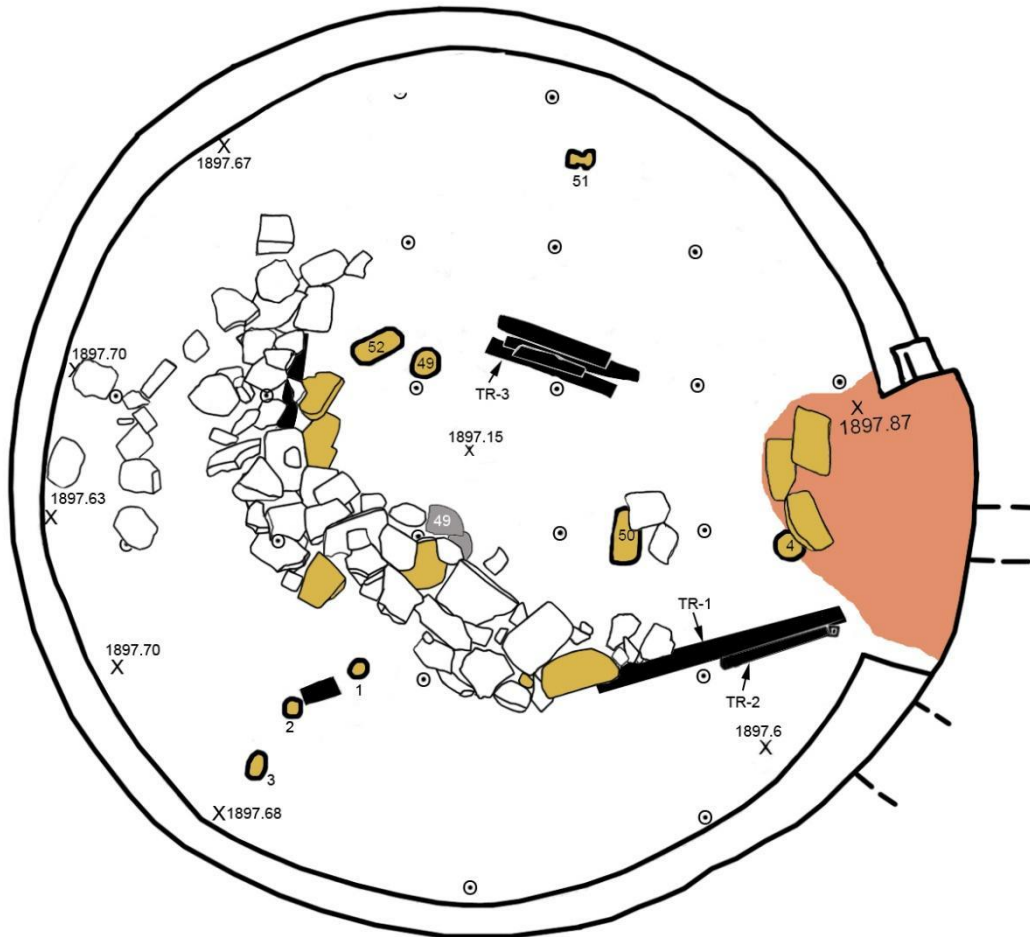


Figure 20. Kiva 32 Stratum 4 stone cluster and other associated artifacts and burned beams. Yellow indicates ground stone, gray corrugated pottery and black burned beams. Numbers are point locations, circled dots are mapping points and X indicates top elevation of Stratum 4. Orange delineates burned sediment with ash.

At the base of Stratum 4 we encountered charred beams, possibly representing a fallen burned roof (Figure 21). Three tree-ring samples were collected (TR-#s in Figure 20). After collection it was decided to identify this deposit as Stratum 5.

Removal of Stratum 4 around the periphery revealed an encircling bench (Feature 2), except for a section on the south where a gap formed a 'southern recess'. The bench was delineated,



Figure 21. Kiva 32 Stratum 4 burned beams.

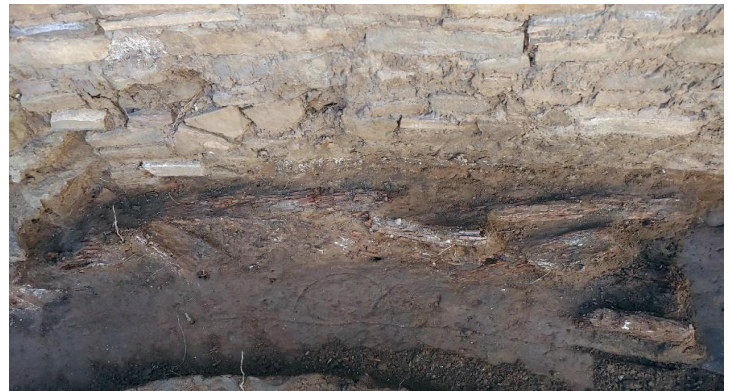


Figure 22. Kiva 32 Feature 2 bench.

leaving about 5 cm of fill on top. The fill was the same as Stratum 4 with pieces of rotted wood (Figure 22). Directly on the bench surface, especially on the east side, was a layer of mud plaster that had fallen from the wall above the bench (Figure 23). The bench surface was fairly level and not highly weathered, but also not plastered. It was mainly compacted sediment with an occasional small sandstone tabular piece. Only two artifacts were found on the bench surface.

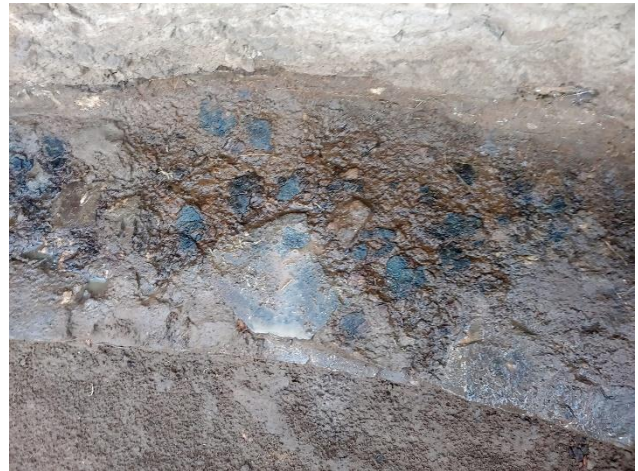


Figure 23. Kiva 32 bench surface with fallen plaster.

These were a pair of bird leg bones which had had one end broken off (Figure 24).



Figure 24. Kiva 32 Feature 2 bench bird bones. a) stacked as found; b) separated.

The other feature (F-1) of note is a large opening in the upper lining wall just west of the 'southern recess' (Figure 25a). The top of the was exposed last year at which time it wasn't known if it was a doorway or a very large niche. Excavation in the area outside this opening, in the SW corner

room, indicated that it did not extend through the wall. To evaluate this a small section of the east side was excavated (Figure 25b), exposing a back wall to the feature, verifying that it is not a doorway. Because it had partly collapsed, wood supports were added to avoid further collapse. Fill within the feature was the same as in the main chamber, indicating that it was open during its final use.



Figure 25. Kiva 32 Feature 1 wall opening. a) collapse; b) test on southeast side.

Structure 53

Room 53a is the ground-story room of a Phase 3 two-story structure located in the southwest corner of the east arm of the Wallace Great House room block. Its west wall borders the great house plaza. As in previous years (2019-2021) research in 2022 focused upon the removal of room fill, finding evidence of construction materials and techniques, the location of architectural features, and obtaining artifact evidence of chronology and room use. Efforts in 2022 involved the excavation of about 40 cm of fill throughout the room, from roughly real excavation (RE) 1895.75 to 1895.35 (Figure 26). Work commenced with the removal of the rest of Stratum 7 fill and then fill Strata 8 and 9. Excavation ceased with the exposure the original Pueblo II floor, which extends across the room.

Stratigraphy

Stratum 7

As reported in the 2021 Annual Report (Bradley and Bradley 2022:22-23), Stratum 7 is a natural fill unit that was subsequently modified by the room's use as a turkey pen. The fill

characteristics observed in 2022 are consistent with the information presented previously. These and the strata excavated in previous years are documented in Figure 26.

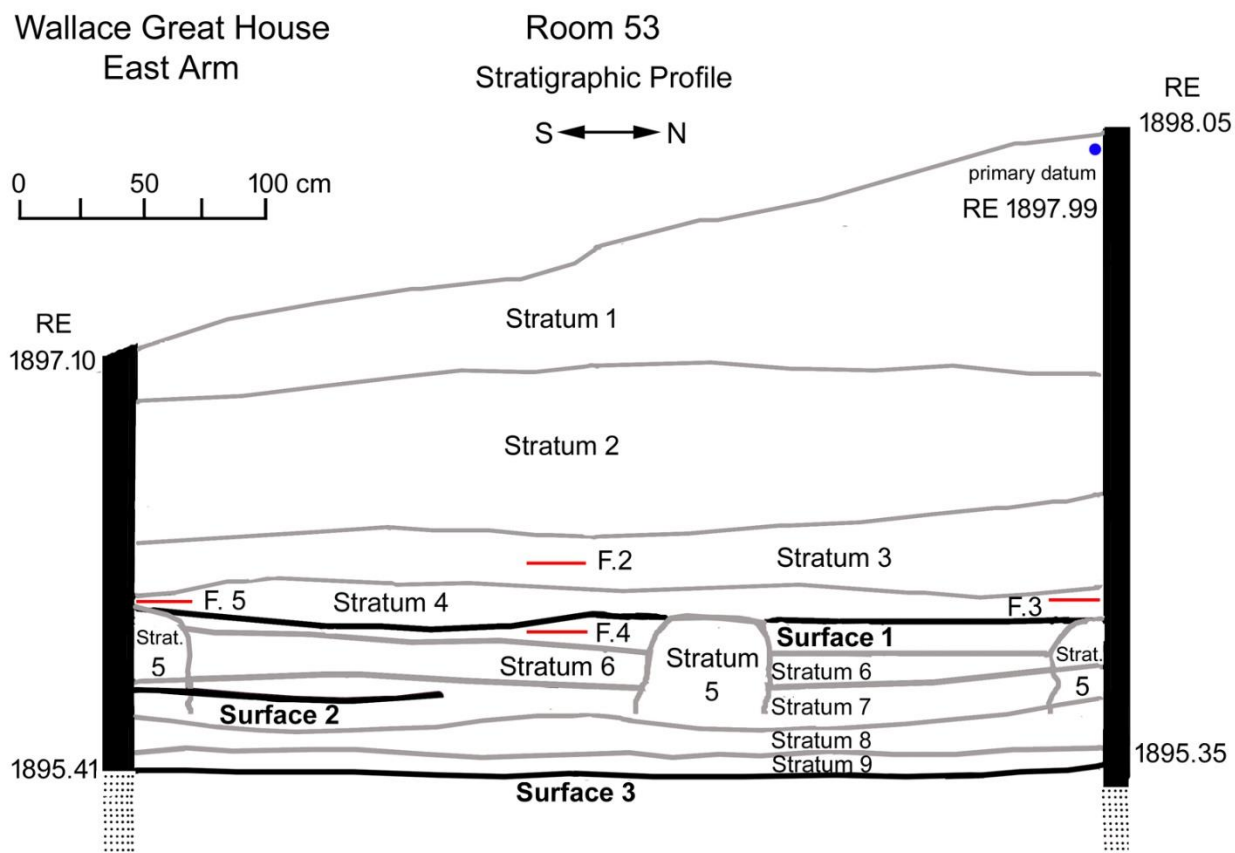


Figure 26. Room 53 N-s profile

Stratum 8

Stratum 8 is a natural brown silty fill unit with characteristics similar to those of Stratum 6, lacking the orangish inclusions and small bits of charcoal present in the intervening Stratum 7. It is generally level, with an upper elevation of 1895.66 near its north wall versus 1895.60 near the south wall. The color and texture are quite like the dirt that surrounds the great house, so these sediments likely wafted in over time through the west T-shaped doorway.

Although the fill is generally homogenous, its upper contact is thin, irregular, and bumpy. There are no associated artifacts. Its crumbly texture is consistent with those of numerous small, moist loci that surround still-active roots of greasewood bushes that extend into the depths of this room. Rather than a use surface, it seems that this formation represents a natural modification of the upper contact of Stratum 8 by a weather event which introduced moisture into the upper centimeter or so of this natural fill stratum. The absence of laminated areas within the room suggests snowfall. Moreover, a diffuse deposit of wall mortar and chinking stones is situated within a roughly one-half by one meter

zone in the northwest corner of the room, just above this Stratum 8 upper contact. Apparently, this deposit represents wall-wash originating from the north wall.

Artifacts are more plentiful than in the higher strata. However, their distribution is diffuse, with no activity areas. Mancos B/w and McElmo B/w sherds are more common than corrugated sherds, and two or so small Chaco B/w sherds were recovered. There are no Mesa Verde Black-on-white sherds. Flaked stone is also more common than in other strata, but faunal remains continue to be rare. Only a very few gastroliths were discovered during the fine screening of several areas across the room.

Stratum 9

There is no distinction in fill characteristics between Stratum 8 and Stratum 9. The latter is arbitrarily identified simply to segregate any artifacts within about four cm above a section of Surface 3 (RE 1895.37) that was in a small test unit adjacent to the north wall. Artifact types and distribution are as reported for Stratum 8.

Surface 3

Surface 3 is the original Pueblo II floor. Relative to the exposed boundary between coursed masonry and footers in the northeast corner of the room, it is about 3-4 cm above this junction. Elevations taken in the north end of the room cluster around 1895.39, while those in the south end of the room are slightly higher (~RE 1985.41). As is evident in the Figure 27 photograph, this surface is very nebulous and only readily discernible in a few patches across the room. Heavy rainfall at the end of field season soaked the south end of the room, making it difficult to discriminate between Stratum 9 and Surface 3.



Figure 27. Room 53. A small patch of Surface 3 in the northwest corner, just north of the scale.

Accordingly, a 30-to-50-centimeter band along the south wall and the south third of the east wall will not be excavated until 2023.

The creation of this prepared surface involved a simple technique entailing the compaction of existing sediments rather than a formal installation using clay or adobe. Future research will determine whether this deposit consisted of sterile or cultural materials. There are no ashy or charcoal inclusions above, on, or within this surface. Only a dozen or so Pueblo II sherds and flakes rest upon this surface, but even these are widely dispersed. The only faunal remains consists of a bone awl recovered from Room 53. It is in the incompletely excavated southeast corner, but it is not

in direct contact with Surface 3. Its elevation (RE 1895.43) is within two centimeters of the floor surface as measured in the nearest excavated patch of floor, so by convention it is interpreted as in floor fill, with placement indicative of human intent.

Architecture

No wall or floor features were found in 2022. Potentially, a floor feature may yet be overlain by incompletely excavated sediments near the south end of Room 53a. However, this is unlikely considering that excavations ceased just two to four centimeters above the expected floor level. The absence of a thermal feature explains the lack of ashy or charcoal inclusions within or above Surface 3, as normally occurs in Wallace rooms that have a firepit or hearth.

Interpretations

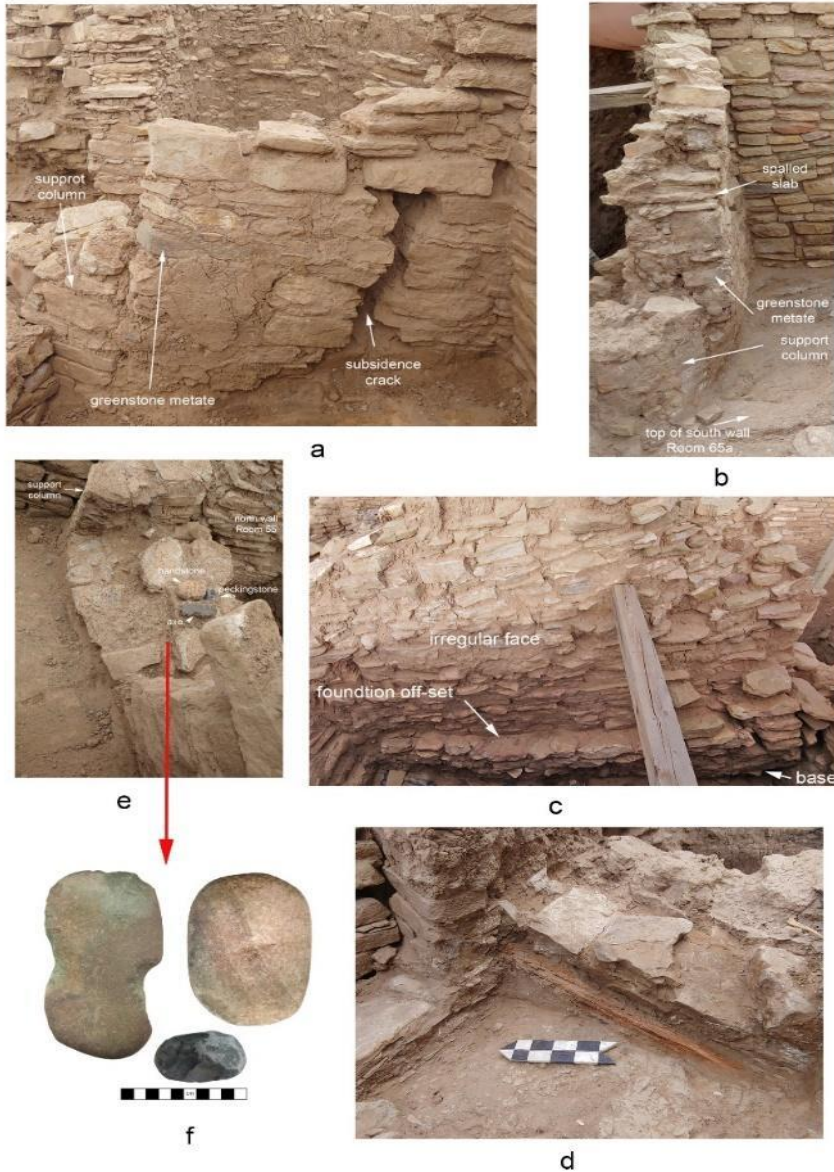
Prior to excavation, the expectation was that Structure 53 was a component of a Pueblo II residential unit akin to the west arm's South Suite, owing to its "mirror" configuration and its location on the east side of the plaza. Room 53's high ceiling, some 262 cm (8.5 feet) above the coursed masonry-footer junction in the northeast corner of the room, and its T-shape doorway in its west wall are in keeping with that interpretation. However, the lack of a thermal feature suggests otherwise, as does the lack of any evidence of associated activity areas. The absence of even fragmentary pecking stones, manos or metates from lower fill Strata 8 and 9 is also inconsistent with a noticeable residential use. Granted, the absence of these artifacts could be explained by an intense effort to clean off the floor when the great house inhabitants ceased use of the room, however, this has not been the case in other Wallace rooms to date. In addition, compared to the more typical 30-40 cm door sill heights of west arm rooms, the base of the raised-sill doorway in Room 53's east wall is unusually high, being at least 90 cm above Surface 3. This means that access between Room 53 and Room 54 would have been inconvenient if not difficult. Altogether, it seems that Room 53 was used sparingly and not for everyday living. Although Strata 8/9 contains the greatest concentration of artifacts in a Room 53 fill unit, the number recovered, their dispersal pattern, and absence of faunal remains and ashy deposits do not suggest intentional cultural fill, i.e., use as an intramural midden.

The dearth of gastroliths in Stratum 8 indicates that this fill unit, with its moderate amount of sherds and flakes, developed over the course of time during use by humans. Yet, the natural modification of Stratum 8's upper contact throughout the room, coupled with the accumulation of wall wash on Stratum 8's upper contact in the northwest corner, indicate that Room 53 was completely or largely open to the elements. The limited evidence of roofing materials or burning hints that the roof was in significant disrepair, possibly even removed. These circumstances suggest that Room 53, and

probably the room above, were no longer in active use by humans prior to the initial abandonment of the great house in the middle 1100s, and it was thus deemed suitable to use as a turkey pen even if on a limited basis.

Revitalized Wallace

Kiva 56



of most of stones and mortar in the form of a dry-laid wall (see Figure 28). Moreover, to safely excavate underlying Room 55 Segment 3, the southern portion of the east wall of Kiva 56 also had to be removed because it was collapsing into the kiva (Figure 28a). From the kiva floor surface up, this Phase 4 wall was compound masonry using stones from all previous phases (Figure 28b). The east

All but a small area along the west wall of the rectangular Kiva 56 had been removed in the 2019-2020 excavations. What remained was a column of fill some 75 cm long that extended about 50 cm into the kiva. North of this balk, the west wall was supported by a stone wall I built to allow the safe excavation of the rest of the structure (Bradley and Bradley 2020). This meant that the approximate western $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fill in the underlying Room 65a was unexcavated. The column and the inward leaning west wall were thus removed to allow the completion of the excavation of Room 65a, with only a few flakes and sherds recovered. Dismantling this support and Phase 4 walls was a chore. Fortunately, the west $\frac{3}{4}$ of Room 65a was empty, so it became the location

Figure 28. Architecture of Room 55 and artifacts from east wall, south portion, of Kiva 56; a) southern portion of east wall; b) cross-section of west wall; c) East face of Phase 4 east wall; d) base of east wall on ceiling beam of Room 55; e) artifact cache in wall; f) artifacts from wall cache.

face of the wall was irregular, indicating it was probably built up against fill. Below the kiva floor level, the wall was three stones wide, with an offset on the east side (in Room 55 Segment 1) that probably functioned as a footer (Figure 28c). This wall was built on the fill of Room 55, directly upon a secondary ceiling beam (Figure 28d).

During dismantling, several artifacts were found that had been built into the wall (Figure 28e). These included a complete greenstone metate, an intact notched axe, a handstone and a peckingstone (Figure 28f). This occurrence was not unique to this wall. Many ground stone artifacts, including intact manos, metates and hammerstones were incorporated into the Phase 4 west wall of Kiva 56 (mostly found in wall fall). In addition, the two base stones for the kiva deflector wall were also intact, useable metates (Figure 29). It seems obvious that these were not simply convenient stones with which to build a wall since there were literally thousands of earlier phase stones available during Phase 4 construction. It is worth recalling that there was an intact arrowpoint incorporated in the plaster of the north wall of the kiva (Bradley and Bradley 2019:8, Figures 11 and 12).



Figure 29. Kiva 56 F-3 deflector metate base stones.

Another line of evidence is also of relevance. The northern 2/3 of the west wall of Kiva 56 was Phase 4. For this to happen, the original Phase 3 Kiva 32 enclosing wall had to be removed. It is difficult to understand why this would be done, especially in light of the retention of an unstable, inward-leaning Phase 2 east wall that was retained. A massive effort went into replacing the west wall, which was probably sound. Yet, the east wall was unstable and even needed to be propped up to keep it from collapsing. If any wall needed replacement, this should have been it. It was only after the completion of the excavation of the west portion of Room 65a that it became clear that the orientation of the Phase 4 north portion of the west wall of Kiva 56 was different than the underlying Phase 2 wall. The south to north orientation was approximately 10° more westerly, ie. closer to south than the rest of the great house. It seems unlikely that this change in orientation was unintentional, especially considering how much effort went into the adjustment. Also, the sipapu complex in the kiva was reminiscent of much earlier ritual behaviors.

Excavations in 2022 also revealed a previously unknown subfloor ventilator system in Kiva 56 (Figure 30). During the original excavation between the deflector and floor-level ventilator tunnel

opening, an underlying change in sediment density was suspected because of a hollow sound when scraping the floor. Because of its location, and the presence of subfloor ventilators in Kivas 1 and 3, a similar feature was suspected. This turned out to be the case. The subfloor feature (F-16) consisted of a roofed tunnel, with an opening through the floor at the north end, and an adjacent hearth (F-17) (Figures 30 and 31).

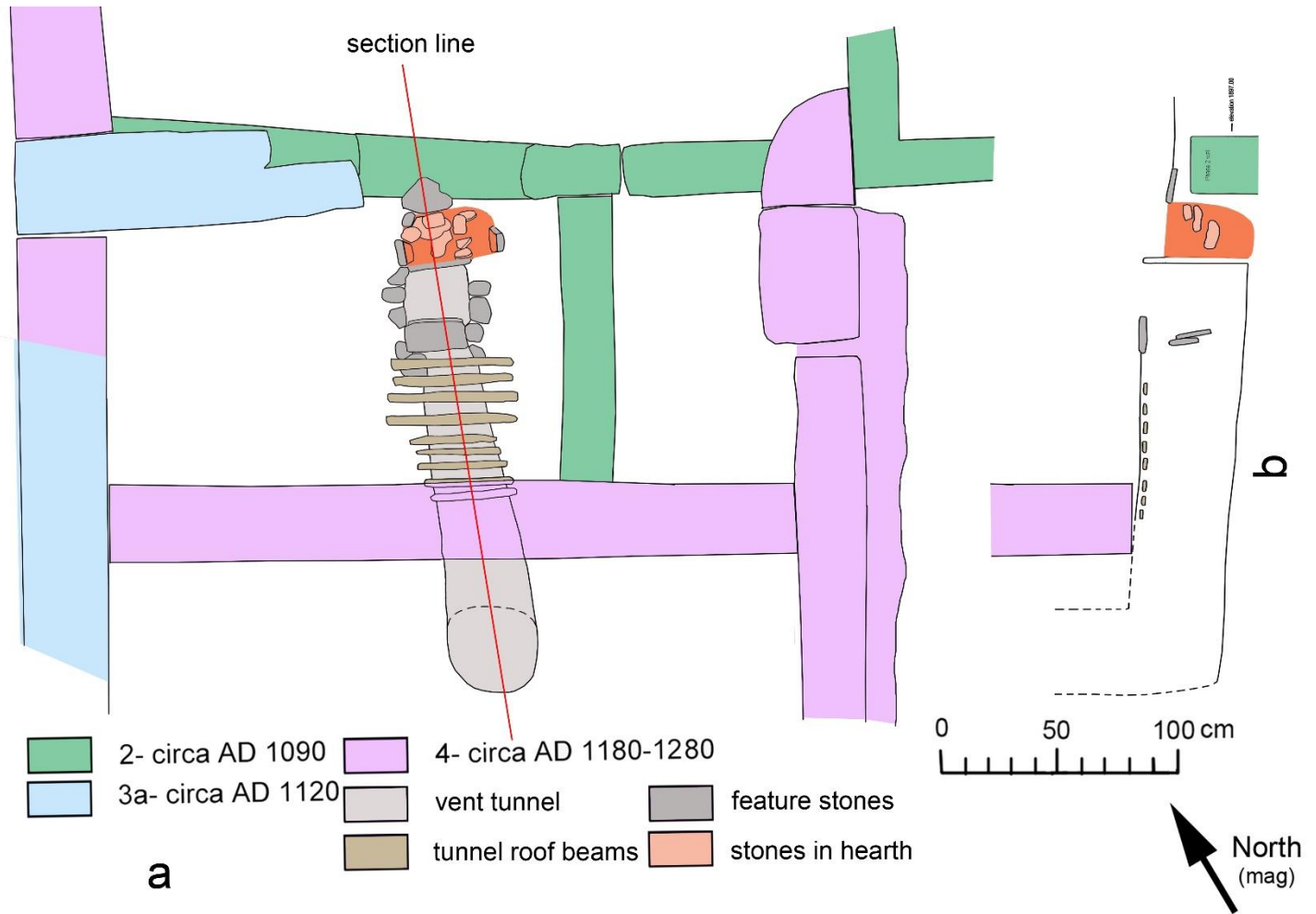


Figure 30. Kiva 56 subfloor ventilator (F-16) and hearth (F-17).

So, what to make of the artifacts (many useable) being built into walls, a structurally unnecessary wall replacement and reorientation, the retention of an unstable earlier wall that could have been relatively easily replaced, the change from a subfloor to floor-level ventilator system, and an ancient form of sipapu complex? We suggest that these may have represented ancestor veneration, possibly as part of a house society reformulation. Unfortunately, we were unable to date the construction and use of Kiva 56. Other evidence of ancestor veneration and house society reformulation dates to the early 13th Century (C. Bradley 2017). While this could also be the time of construction and use of this kiva, its rectangular form, and possibly its reorientation, is more like other



Figure 31. Kiva 56 subfloor ventilator system.

kivas in the region that date in the AD 1270s, e.g., Kiva 107 at Sand Canyon Pueblo (see Adams 1985:5 and Bradley 1992:92).

The sequence of building, use, remodeling, and addition of structures adjacent to Kiva 56 are extremely complex and have been difficult to decipher.

Structure 66 (Figure 31)

In 2021 what could be the south end of a pithouse under the east portion of Room 65a was delineated and excavated. Structure 66 Segment 1 extends beneath the north wall and, to the east, under the corner bin. The

edge is parallel to the north wall and only a small portion of this structure was exposed and excavated, without reaching a floor or sterile sediments. What this depression represented was uncertain. Exploration under the west portion of Room 65a in 2022 helped to confirm this preliminary identification. The structure edge curved to the north and inside the curve is the top of a wall, possibly to a wingwall, that angles to the northeast (Figure 32). It is now clear that the structure is a pithouse that preceded the Old Wallace great house construction. The morphology is like a typical late Pueblo I pithouse, however, artifacts from the fill of the structure include Cortez and Mancos B/w sherds but nothing clearly earlier. The scant record of Pueblo I pottery in the Wallace great house indicates that this structure is probably of 10th or 11th Century origin.

Most of this structure will be located under the floor of Room 60 and will be excavated once the room has been cleared. It is curious that the south wall exactly parallels and underlies the south wall



Figure 32. Southwest corner of pithouse and two external postholes

of Phase 1 Room 60 (also the north wall of Room 65). Could it be that the unusual south-southwest orientation of the great house had already been established prior to its construction? (here or in interpretations?)

Non-Structures

Two areas outside of the roomblock were investigated. The test unit south of the central area in the plaza (NST 76 Segment 6) was excavated further, revealing the continuation of a series of use surfaces and natural deposits. Artifacts from these deposits are of Pueblo II origin, indicating that this unit is below the 13th Century plaza surface. One possible posthole was encountered, but no other obvious features or work areas were identified. Sterile has not been reached.

The other non-structure area was under the narrow strip of the floor of Room 65 (NST 76 Segment 7). Undisturbed sediments were encountered at the same elevation as in the eastern area below the room floor. Only a few sherds, flakes and two possible postholes just outside the southwest corner of Structure 66 were encountered. Excavations were concluded in this unit.

Backfilling and support walls

The practice of placing spoil dirt and building up retaining walls above in-place structure walls was continued. Fill from Room 69, NST 76 Segment 6 and the southwest corner room of Kiva 32 were put in Room 33. No retaining walls have yet been constructed above the Room 33 walls. During the fall session, excavations in and under the west end of Room 65a and structure 66 Segment 1 were finished. To make space for backfill, a north-south dry laid retaining wall was built across the room and excavated fill from this area placed behind it. Most of the stones used to build this wall were derived from the south portion of the Phase 4 west wall of Kiva 56 (also the east wall of Kiva 32 northeast corner room) and its previously constructed support wall. Some stones also came from the upper two strata of Room 60. Additionally, fill from Room 55 Segment 3 was placed behind this retaining wall. Once excavation was completed in the west area of Room 65a, Structure 66 and NST 76 Segment 7, this area was used to dump fill from the main chamber of Kiva 32. Before this, fill from Kiva 32 was placed on top of the west wing Phase 3 rooms (5,6,7,8,17,18 and 26) and the retaining walls were heightened as needed. Screened sediment from Room 53 continued to be placed in Kiva 50.

Research Plans 2023

We plan to continue excavations in all of the areas that have been started but not finished. Room 53a is nearing completion and it is expected that it will be concluded, including subflooring. Focus will continue to be on the Kiva 32 main chamber with the expectation that it will be slow-going to recover tree-ring samples from what looks to be a burned roof. It is unlikely that it will be finished

in 2023. Rooms 60 and 69 will continue and there is a long way to go in both. It is unclear how much of Room 55 will be investigated. Much will depend on if we can stabilize the overlying walls to make further excavation safe. Nonstructure 76 Segment 6 will continue to document plaza formation and use(s) through time.

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Once again, our efforts were supported by the labor and intellectual input of a crew of amateur and professional volunteers. This included a group from New Hampshire comprising Deb Boisvert, Dick Boisvert, Linda Fuerderer, George Leduc, Karen Malburne, Mike Malburne, John Porter, Judy Sadowski and Tom Sherman. We also had a group from Texas including Sergio Ayala, Grace Benton, Victoria Deyeaux, Katherine Febres, Steve Howard, John Kiernan, Scott Lapointe, Dean Lalitch, and Wolf Patrick. These volunteers contributed 145 person days. To do this they covered their travel, food and housing. Our loyal local volunteers are the foundation of our crew including Louis Chavez, Mary Gallagher, Terri Hoff, Karen Kinnear and Jill Patton. We were also joined for a few days by Len Gallagher and Irene Komadina. These 'locals' commuted to the site from as far away as La Plata, New Mexico, and Durango and Mancos, Colorado. Along with their excavation efforts, occasional supply lunch 'goodies' and fresh home-grown garden produce honey and wine, financial support and intellectual input they provided several person days of site set-up, site winterizing and artifact processing. In total they contributed 97.5 person days. Cindy and I put in an additional 63 person days at the site. Thank you one and all; this is truly a communal effort. We continue to benefit from the support of Steve and Jay Wallace for their interest and who allow us access to the site across their property. To all of these supporters we are most grateful. We also had the support of the Sacramento Archaeological Society in the form of a grant to support the analysis of a sample of animal bones that were recovered from a context that has been tentatively interpreted as a ritual deposit. The grant covered the travel expenses of a graduate student, Lucy Maun, University of Exeter, who spent two weeks excavating with us before initiating her analysis. A report on her findings is forthcoming.

This year we conducted several organized site tours for the Crow canyon Archaeological Center and the Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, as well as numerous impromptu tours. We thank all of our visitors for their interest, questions, observations and suggestions.

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