

Archaeology Southwest

Exploring and protecting the places of our past



**Coalescence** is the coming together of groups from different cultural backgrounds to form new communities, integrative institutions, inclusive ideologies, and expanded networks. For the past twenty years Archaeology Southwest has been studying coalescence associated with the Salado Phenomenon across the late pre-contact southern U.S. Southwest. During the past decade, our attention has been focused on coalescent community formation in the Upper Gila and Mimbres (UGM) watersheds in southwestern New Mexico. Here, many 14th-century Salado settlements were composed of separate room blocks arranged in various configurations. This intra-settlement segregation suggests that coalescence was incomplete, despite occupations that lasted more than a century. This poster examines ceramic and other material culture variability among room blocks within three Upper Gila settlements to look for persistent social and cultural differences. Of particular interest is evidence for identities and practices associated with Kayenta immigrants and various local "Mogollon" groups.



3-Up Site



Schematic map of 3-Up Locus A-C with ceramic data

The 3-Up site is the only known Salado village within the Mule Creek obsidian deposit, a source that was widely circulated across the southern Southwest during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Tool-grade marekanites are abundant on the surface near the site. Local Roosevelt Red Ware production is also indicated (Huntley et al. 2016). 3-Up is composed of numerous architectural mounds, many with 14<sup>th</sup> century components. The most prominent are Loci A-C.



Our limited investigations (2008 and 2009) focused on testing trash deposits and recording surface wall alignments within this heavily vandalized site.

Locus A is by far the largest mound with a occupation beginning during the Late Pithouse Period. Mimbres White Ware dominates the Locus A decorated assemblage (Other Painted in pie chart). However, Cibola White Ware and RRW are associated with later building episodes, indicating that this mound was occupied continuously through the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. This locus is also associated with the highest frequency of El Paso Polychrome.

Locus B was built during the 13<sup>th</sup> century as indicated by a relatively high corrugated frequency. Spatial segregation from Locus A suggests it was inhabited by a different social group. This is further supported by the high frequency of Maverick Mountain series ceramics associated with Kayenta groups. Substantial quantities of Cliff White-on-red were also recovered while El Paso Polychrome was virtually absent. The absence of plates may be attributed to small sample size.



Perforated Plate on Locus C Room Floor

**Locus C** has a high frequency of RRW in the painted and total ceramic assemblage and very low frequency of corrugated ware, indicating this isolated room block was built by a late arriving group in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. The only perforated plate from our excavations at the site was recovered from this locus.

With the possible exception of 3-Up, more material culture variation exists between settlements than among room blocks within settlements. Hence, coalescence is more complete than initially hypothesized, especially in the Cliff Valley. The high frequency and ubiquity of RRW attests to the integrative role these polychrome vessels played in coalescence, and local production has been identified at the 3-Up site and in the Cliff Valley (Huntley et al. 2016). Ormand Village seems to be the most integrated and culturally "hybridized" settlement, with few material culture differences between the two excavated room blocks. This site is also associated with the only possible Salado ceremonial structure identified to date within the study area. Dinwiddie exhibits some variability between Room Blocks 1-2 and Room Block 3. The Mills (1972) provide tantalizing evidence for the presence of both locals and immigrants in the Room Block 2 ground stone assemblage. Finally, the 3-Up site is the least "coalesced," with the main settlement occupied by a local group that allowed newcomers to settle nearby in spatially segregated room blocks with markedly different painted ceramic assemblages. In contrast to southeastern Arizona, definitive Kayenta enclaves have not yet been identified in the Upper Gila. While Kayenta are probably present at 3-Up Locus B and Locus C and perhaps Dinwiddie Room Block 3, limited fieldwork and poor preservation preclude definitive statements. Kayenta households may have moved into existing settlements (e.g., Dinwiddie Room Block 2) shortly after their

## Mot Quite Coalesced: Salado Settlements in the Upper Gila Jeffery J. Clark (Archaeology Southwest), Katherine A. Dungan (Arizona State University), Leslie D. Aragon (Archaeology Southwest, University of Arizona)



## Ormand Village

Ormand Village, in the central Cliff Valley, was excavated during the mid-1960s as a highway salvage project and published more than 30 years later (Wallace 1998). The site includes a 14<sup>th</sup> century Salado village and earlier pithouse components.

The Salado village is more integrated than 3-Up, with four closely spaced room blocks arranged around a large structure that may have served a ceremonial function. PP = 0.00Both excavated room blocks had similar painted ceramic STRUCTURE assemblages, although the East Room Block had a higher overall frequency of painted wares. Typical of the 14<sup>th</sup> Room Block Boundary century, RRW dominates the painted assemblage. Considering the relatively high frequency of Maverick Mountain series (second in the painted assemblage), Ormand Village map adapted from Wallace 1998:16 the apparent absence of perforated plates (none noted in analysis) is interesting. The local Cliff Whiteon-red RRW variant is also present in substantial quantities. In the unpainted assemblage, the East Room Block had nearly twice the proportion of corrugated ware than the North Room Block. Both room blocks were similar in construction, although the North Room Block contained multi-roomed

suites connected by doorways (presumably for extended families) while the East Room Block had more single room habitations. Rooms in both room blocks contained slab-lined fireboxes and basin-shaped hearths lined with adobe, with the former outnumbering the latter.





Inset-bowl mealing bin (after removal of metates)

Cliff White-on-red bowl from Mills Collection at Eastern Arizona College (Mathew Devitt)

Finally, nearly half the rooms in each room block contained mealing bins or grinding stations with 1-3 whole bowls or jar fragments inset into the floor to capture the ground contents. Although these installations are known from sites in west-central New Mexico and eastern-central Arizona, their distribution has not been fully documented.



Cliff Polychrome bowl from the Mills Collection at Eastern Arizona College (Mathew Devitt)



Painted ceramic assemblages are dominated by Roosevelt Red Ware (Salado polychrome, RRW hereafter) associated with inclusive Salado ideology that emerged from a Kayenta community in diaspora. However Roosevelt Red Ware variants such as Cliff White-on-red suggest local influence. Painted assemblages also include Kayenta-related Maverick Mountain series ceramics, Jornada Mogollon types such as El Paso Polychrome, and northern Chihuahuan polychromes that represent less inclusive identities or contacts with groups outside the Salado sphere.

Non-painted ceramic assemblages are dominated by plain brown ware, but also include red and corrugated wares that inform on communities of practice. As specialized tools used by Kayenta potters, perforated plates are of particular interest (Lyons and Lindsay 2006). Finally, distributions of local material culture such as ground stone griddles, and mealing facilities with bowls inset in floors inform on enculturative backgrounds.





Maverick Mountain Poly Bowl (ASM No. 19778-Richard Lord)



Avocational archaeologists Jack and Vera Mills (1972) excavated a portion of Room Block 1 and nearly all of Room Block 2 during the late 1960s. Over the course of three field school sessions (2013-2015), Archaeology Southwest excavated units and traced walls in each of the three room blocks, tying in with the Mills' earlier work.

**Room Block 1** was associated with the lowest painted ceramic frequency at the site and had a substantial quantity of El Paso Polychrome and few northern Chihuahuan wares. **Room Block 2** was by far the largest at the site. It had a similar painted ceramic assemblage to Room Block 1, but a higher total painted percentage. Room Block 2 also had a diverse and unique ground stone assemblage that included a number of griddles, a cooking tool found only at Dinwiddie site in the site sample and only in this room block. The ground stone assemblage also included numerous trifacial handstones, bifacial handstones with finger grips or pointed ends, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-grooved and full-grooved axes, and a carved, painted anthropomorphic head. Three or four inset bowl mealing installations, similar to those at Ormand Village, were also encountered. The only Jeddito Yellow Ware specimen in the site sample also was recovered from this room block.



Griddle from

**Room Block 3** is the down slope extension of a hilltop settlement that was unfortunately removed by heavy machinery. This room block yielded the highest standardized perforated plate count among the three sites as well as the highest proportion of painted ceramics and RRW, suggesting the presence of at least one Kayenta potter.

Concluding Remarks arrival, reducing their archaeological visibility. The paucity of Maverick Mountain series ceramics and high frequencies of RRW at room blocks with perforated plates suggests that Kayenta potters had made the ideological transition from Kayenta to Salado while retaining engrained technological traditions. Ample evidence exists for the continued presence of local "Mogollon" groups and the persistence of their traditions throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This includes Cliff White-on-red, inset-bowl mealing bins, and ground stone griddles. Interaction with groups outside the Salado sphere is also evident, especially at Dinwiddie, from the poorly documented Jornada MOogollon world and infrequently from the Casas Grandes world. Acknowledgments: National Science Foundation Grant Nos. 1359458 (R.E.U. site) and 0819657 (Archaeology) supported research presented in this poster.

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Schematic map of Dinwiddie with ceramic data

Dinwiddie aerial showing work by Arch SW and the Mills The Dinwiddie site is located in the western portion of the Cliff Valley. The site has been extensively impacted by vandalism, erosion, and road grading.

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Trifacial handstone fragment



eddito Yellow Ware from RB 2

2016 Movement of People and Pots in the Upper Gila Region of the American Southwest. In *Exploring Cause and Explanation: Historical Ecology,* Demography, and Movement in the American Southwest, edited by C. Herhahn and A. Ramenofsky, pp. 275-295. University of Colorado Press, Boulder.