

# True Facts About the Dinwiddie Site: Surprising Results from Limited Testing in a Disturbed Site

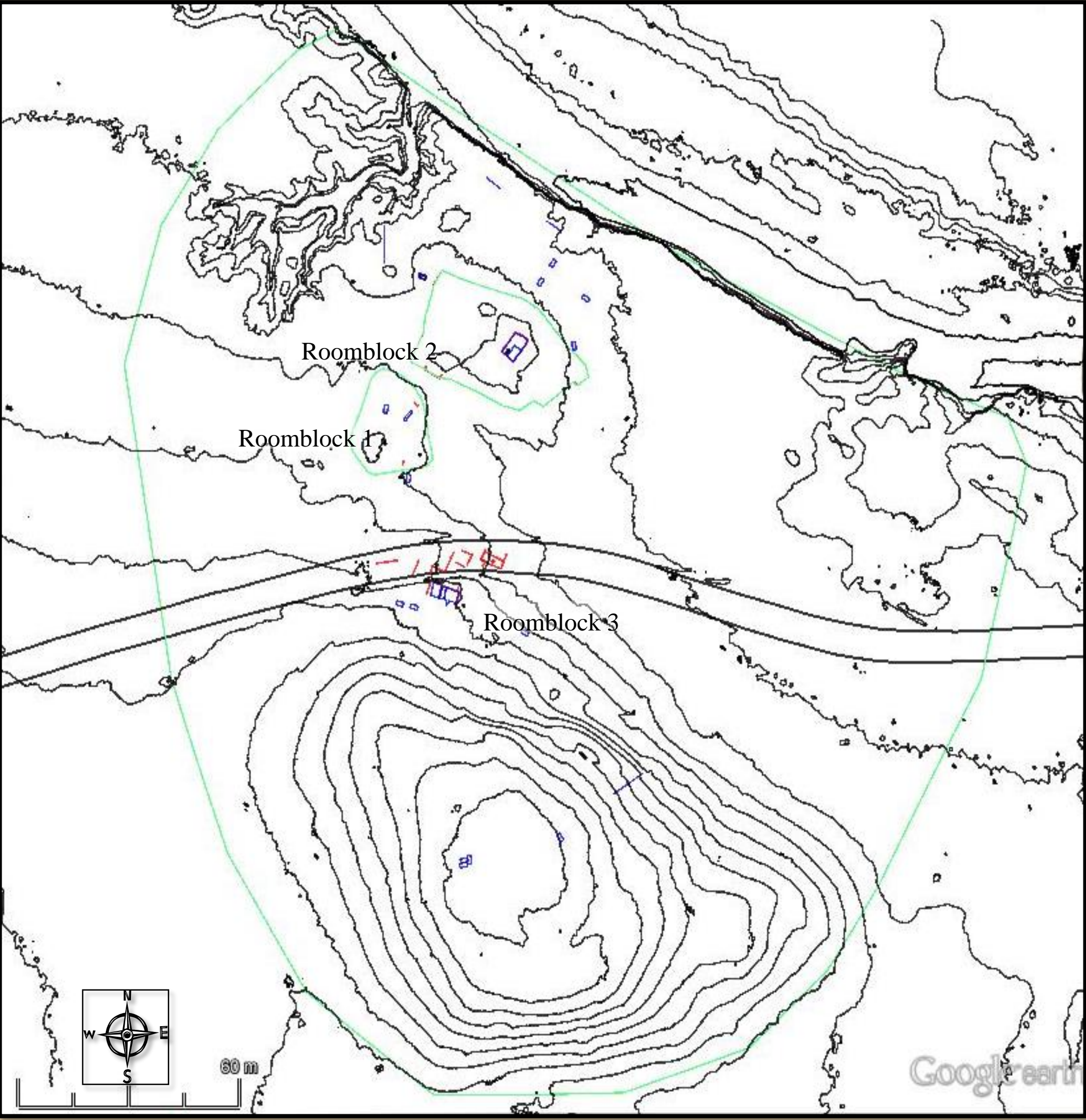
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## Introduction

Archaeology Southwest and the University of Arizona's 2014 Upper Gila Preservation Archaeology (UGPA) field school excavations at the Dinwiddie Site (LA106003), a Cliff Phase (A.D. 1300 - 1450) Salado site in southwestern New Mexico, produced interesting and unexpected results. It was partially excavated by avocational archaeologists in the 1960s and the remaining deposits have since been subjected to multiple sources of disturbance.



Right: Map of the Dinwiddie Site



Our test excavations in areas of intact deposits that are at risk for future erosion have revealed unanticipated variability in site architecture and in ceramic assemblages between room blocks.

Spatial variation in pottery types and architecture in different parts of the site may be linked to temporal differences or could be indicative of variability in social connections.

Above: Photo of excavations in Roomblock 3, looking north across the site toward Roomblocks 1 and 2.

This field season, we excavated three intact adobe rooms to increase the sample of trash from different parts of the site. We excavated two rooms in Roomblock 3 and one in Roomblock 2. Roomblock 3 had never been excavated and is being actively eroded by a modern road cut. Excavation in Roomblock 2 was done in order to record attributes of architecture that had been overlooked in the 1960s excavations.



Above: Students and staff excavate two rooms in Roomblock 3

## New Discoveries



Above: Left: Photo of adobe buttress stabilizing an interior wall; Right: Photo of reed impressions in adobe wall.

Remodeling in Roomblock 3 suggests that the site was occupied long term, a divergence from what is typically expected from Cliff Phase sites. We expected two-story architecture due to the height in the road cut, but we found that most of the height came from remodeling. Walls and rooms were knocked down and new ones built on top. Thick layers of plaster and adobe were used to repair sloping and worn floors and walls for reinforcement.



Above: Left: Photo of cobble wall foundations (highlighted by yellow lines); Right: Photo of upright slab wall foundations, both from the modern road that runs through the site.

Further evidence to support the hypothesis that Dinwiddie was inhabited for a long time comes in the form of different types of adobe, wall foundations, and types of hearths that were identified within Roomblock 3.



Above: Left: Photo of basin shaped plastered hearth; Right: Photo of square stone lined hearth, both from Roomblock 3.

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Photos courtesy of Archaeology Southwest, Will Russell, Hannah Zanatto, Selena Soto, and Chris Davis



Above: a.) El Paso Polychrome sherds from Roomblock 2; b.) Dinwiddie Polychrome sherd from Roomblock 3.

A unique feature of some of the structures at Dinwiddie was two T-shaped doorways, which had both been filled in when the roomblocks were expanded. The doorway in Roomblock 3 was likely T-shaped but somewhat poorly preserved. The doorway in Roomblock 2 was well preserved and clearly T-shaped. This type of doorway is not typical in Salado structures.



Right: a.) Possible T-shaped doorway in Roomblock 3; b.) T-shaped doorway in Roomblock 2

## Future Directions

The summer of 2015 will be the final field season at the Dinwiddie site. The focus will be on exploring the differences between the three visible areas of architecture.



Above: Students and staff record a room in Roomblock 3

There was unanticipated variability at the Dinwiddie site in the types of ceramics found in Roomblocks 2 and 3. Roomblock 2 had a higher proportion of El Paso Polychrome pottery, a type made in southwest Texas and northern Mexico, than Roomblock 3, which had a higher proportion of Salado Polychrome pottery. This may indicate that people lived in the structures at different times during the 1300s, or that people with different social connections lived in the two areas at the same time.

This new information will help us determine whether people lived in these spaces at different times or if groups with dispersed social connections were behind the observed differences between roomblocks. These insights will help us understand how people used Salado ideology to build a sense of community and will help put the Dinwiddie site into a larger social and economic context within the southern Southwest.