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 (LA10003), 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.

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.

**New Discoveries**

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.

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.

**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.

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.

There was unanticipated variability at the Dinwiddie site in the types of ceramics found in Roomblock 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.