Overview

- Archaeologists in the U.S. Southwest have increasingly focused their research on understanding the lives and identities of people who lived outside core cultural areas. The Mimbres region encompasses southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona, but the Mimbres cultural core is in the Mimbres Valley.

- The Powers Ranch site lies in the Western Mimbres area on the Gila River in east-central Arizona, far west of the Mimbres Valley. Powers Ranch is the only professionally excavated residential Mimbres Classic (CE 1000–1150) site in Arizona’s Gila Valley.

- Ancestral Pueblo

- Powers Ranch & York Drainage Valley

- Holoholam

- New Mexico

- Mogollon

- Powers Ranch Site Map

- Excavation at Powers Ranch, 1981

- Powers Ranch Site Map

- Distribution of Mimbres Classic sites in Arizona’s Gila Valley

- Overview of Mimbres Classic CP distributions in Arizona’s Gila Valley

- The Powers Ranch site

- The small number of rooms at Powers Ranch is consistent with other Classic settlements in Arizona’s Gila Valley, in contrast to the large, aggregated sites in New Mexico’s Gila drainage. The small number of rooms suggests people who lived there were less strongly affiliated with the Mimbres core area.

- Shaver suggests the dual fish designs are similar to those found in New Mexico’s Gila drainage.

- The Powers Ranch site’s pattern of few rooms per room block is similar to that of both large and small Classic sites in the Gila Valley in New Mexico, unlike the Mimbres Valley.

- Conclusions

- Gilman (2018) suggests the ratio of Mimbres Classic B/w figurative and geometric designs on pottery are one of several measures reflecting chosen social identity and relationships.

- Like New Mexico’s Gila Valley, virtually no figurative designs were identified in Powers Ranch Classic B/w sherds.

- Photos of whole pots taken from Arizona’s Gila Valley in the 1980s show higher frequencies (6 of 61, or 9.8%) of figurative designs.

- In contrast, 16.5% of Classic sherds in Mimbres Valley Classic occupations have figurative designs.

- Much lower counts of figurative designs in Arizona’s Gila Valley in comparison with Mimbres Valley suggest people who lived there were less strongly affiliated with the Mimbres core area.

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- Mimbres Classic B/w sherds.

- Powers Ranch Identity and Affiliation West of the Mimbres Heartland

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- Site and Room Numbers

- Powers Ranch Architecture

- Conclusions

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- The Powers Ranch site lies in the Western Mimbres area on the Gila River in east-central Arizona, far west of the Mimbres Valley. Powers Ranch is the only professionally excavated residential Mimbres Classic (CE 1000–1150) site in Arizona’s Gila Valley.

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- The small number of rooms at Powers Ranch is consistent with other Classic settlements in Arizona’s Gila Valley, in contrast to the large, aggregated sites in New Mexico’s Gila drainage and the Mimbres Valley.

- The predominantly Mimbres B/w sherds assemblage suggests that people who lived in Arizona’s Gila Valley were broadly Mimbres. The near absence of figurative designs at Powers Ranch, relatively low numbers of figurative designs on Classic ceramics in the York Duncan Valley, and association of some figurative designs with New Mexico’s Gila drainage suggest a stronger identification with groups in the Western Mimbres region.

- McGovern and McFall-Lawson (2007) report that Classic Mimbres B/w sherds are not abundant at the York Duncan Valley.

- Most Classic sites in the Gila and the Mimbres Valleys have 1–20 rooms, similar to Powers Ranch’s 11–13 rooms.

- However, the Mimbres Valley has 11 sites of 43–100 rooms and at least 12 between 201–200, suggesting that in contrast to the Gila Valley, most of the Mimbres Valley’s population resided in large settlements.

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