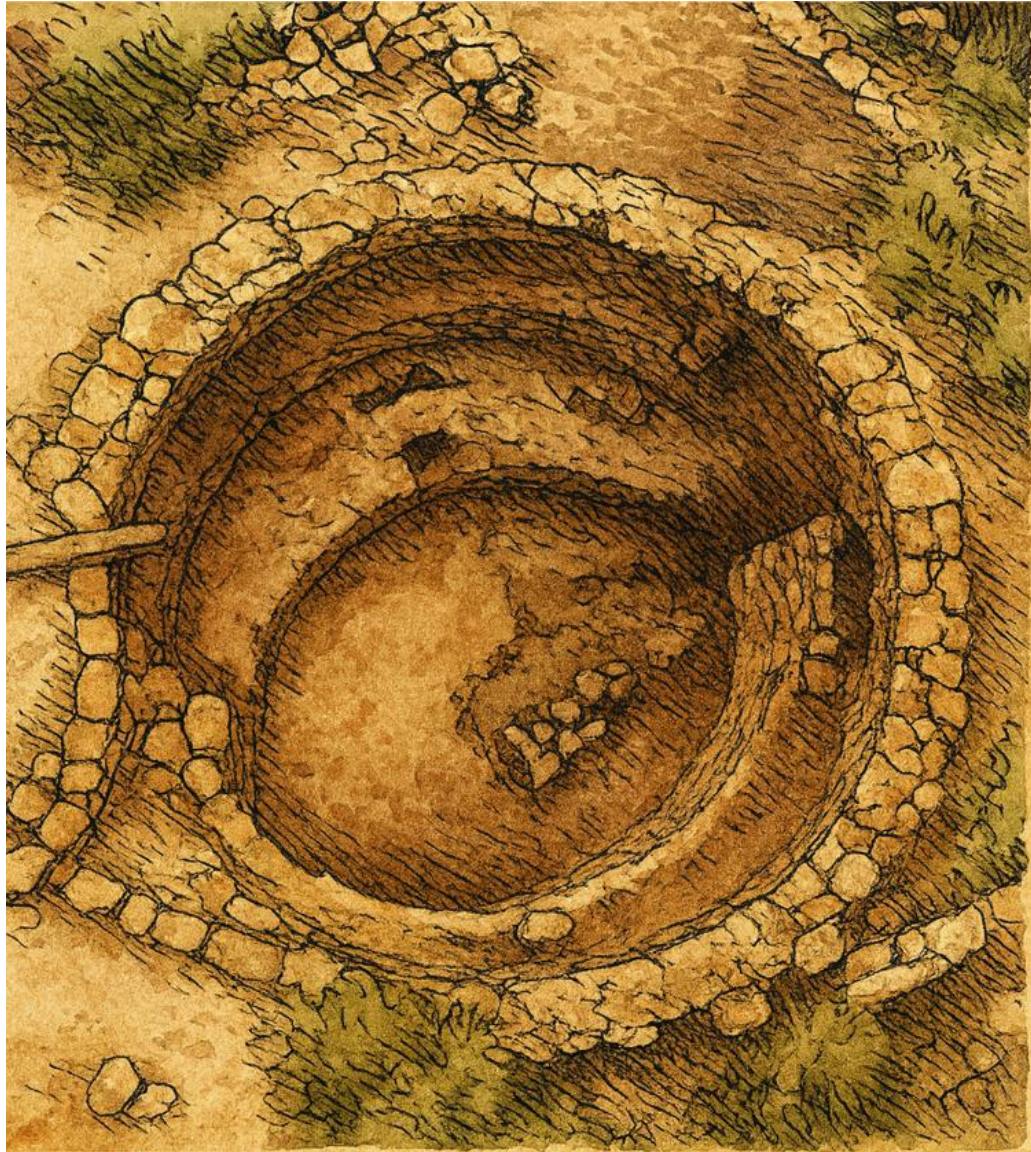


Annual Report of Excavations at Wallace Great House 2025



Bruce Bradley and Cynthia Bradley

Primitive Tech. Enterprises, Inc.

Cortez, Colorado

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Introduction

Excavations were undertaken at Wallace Ruin (5MT6970), Montezuma County, Colorado, between May and November 2025, with Dr. Cynthia Bradley and Prof. Bruce Bradley as co-PIs. The excavation crews consisted of local volunteers and from as far away as Arizona, New Hampshire, Texas and Poland. Records included standardized excavation forms, numerous photographs and maps and a field journal describing the work. Excavations were accomplished by the co-PIs and volunteers in two three-week sessions.

Site Description

Wallace Ruin (5MT6970) consists of a small unit pueblo (Green Stone), an 11th-12th century Chaco Great House outlier (Figure 1), and a possible reservoir. 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 2025. Architectural units 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. Excavations before 1998 included five multi-story 11th century (Old Wallace) structures (2, 14, 15, 24 and 25), a double row of 12th Century (New Wallace) two-story structures in the west wing, Structures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 26 and 27 (Bradley 2010). Also excavated were an intrusive 13th century (Revitalized Wallace) Kiva 1 and two added 13th century intramural Kivas 3 and 4 on the north side of New Wallace enclosed elevated Kiva 32. Additional

excavations were conducted between 2008 and 2010 in a 12th Century 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 2018-2025 work was continued in Rooms 33, 53, 55, 59, 60, 62, 65, Kivas 22, 31,32 and 56, Structures 66, 67, 68, 69, and in exterior units Nonstructure 77, Segment 1, and Nonstructure 76 Segments 5-15.

During this research two major and two minor construction phases have been identified: Old Wallace- Phase 1 circa A.D. 1040 and Phase 2 circa A.D. 1050, and New Wallace- Phase 3a circa A.D. 1120 and Phase 3b circa A.D.1120+. There seems to have been a disuse of the great house in the mid-1100s and then a ritual and mortuary reuse of the building (Revitalized Wallace- Phase 4) in the late 12th (A.D. 1180) and 13th centuries (A.D. 1200-1270) primarily reusing existing structures, but with the addition of Rooms 33, and 62, and Kiva 56.

In addition, information, materials and data from Wallace Ruin have been used in various external studies resulting in publications, theses, and dissertations (eg. Bradley, C. 2017; Cross 2015; Gillespie 2012; Kamper 2010; Logan and Cummings 2010; Sullivan 1983; Shelley 1993; etc). Wallace data has also made a significant contribution to Crow Canyon Archeological Center's on-going Northern Chaco Outliers Project.

Research 2025

Old Wallace excavations (Figure 1) continued in Rooms 60 and NST 76 Segment 15 (under Room 69) with work beginning in Kiva 22 (under Kiva 32). New Wallace saw excavations in Kivas 31 and 32. Work in the plaza continued within Nonstructure 76, Segment 6. In addition, NST 76 Segments 9, 12 and 13 were expanded along the exterior south walls of New Wallace Rooms 26 and 27. The objectives were to investigate Room 26's T-shaped doorway, which provided access into the room suite (Rooms 18, 19, 26 and 27) during the (Revitalized Wallace) mortuary reuse of the building, and to identify activities that may have occurred around the door. This work encountered an underlying

structure, Structure 20, whose extent has yet to be determined. The south wall of Structure 20 has been traced 8 meters to the west and runs under Segment 13 to the east. Finally, preliminary excavations took place on the east side of the great house in NST 76, Segment 14, the intent being to expose the exterior face of the Other Wall Opening (Feature 5) located within the south wall of Room 53.

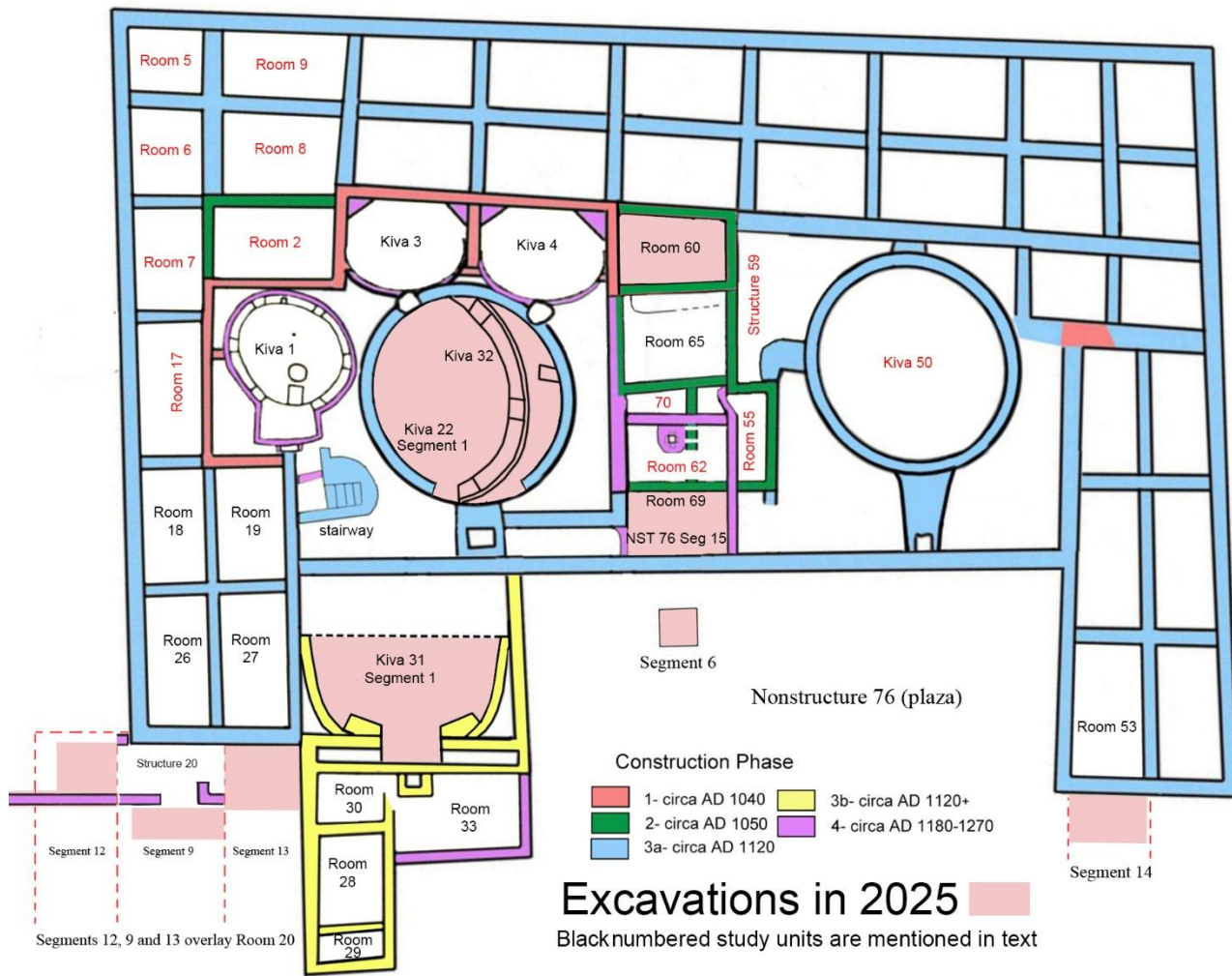


Figure 1. Wallace Great House showing excavation areas in 2025. Red numbers indicate previously excavated and backfilled study units. Rooms 28, 29, 30, Kivas 3 and 4, and the stairway have also been filled.

Excavations Results

OLD WALLACE

Room 60

Excavations in Room 60 continued with several new strata defined and several wall features exposed. The strata continue to represent structure collapse and/or intentional fill with deconstruction materials. Feature 7 is a doorway in the lower story south wall that was plugged with large stones (Figure 2a). This is the north face of the doorway that was identified in the lower story of the north wall of Room 65 (Figure 2b). Plugging used large sandstone blocks rather than the usual Type 1 spalled slabs. There is also no rendering or veneer of small tabular stones on the north face. It is clear that the plugging was done from Room 65 where it was intended to look like a solid wall from the south. It also shows how selective the builders were with their stone choice in Phases 1 and 2. They evidently had access to large blocks but consistently used thin slabs and fine finishing, especially on the exterior faces of walls, except for plugging and footers.

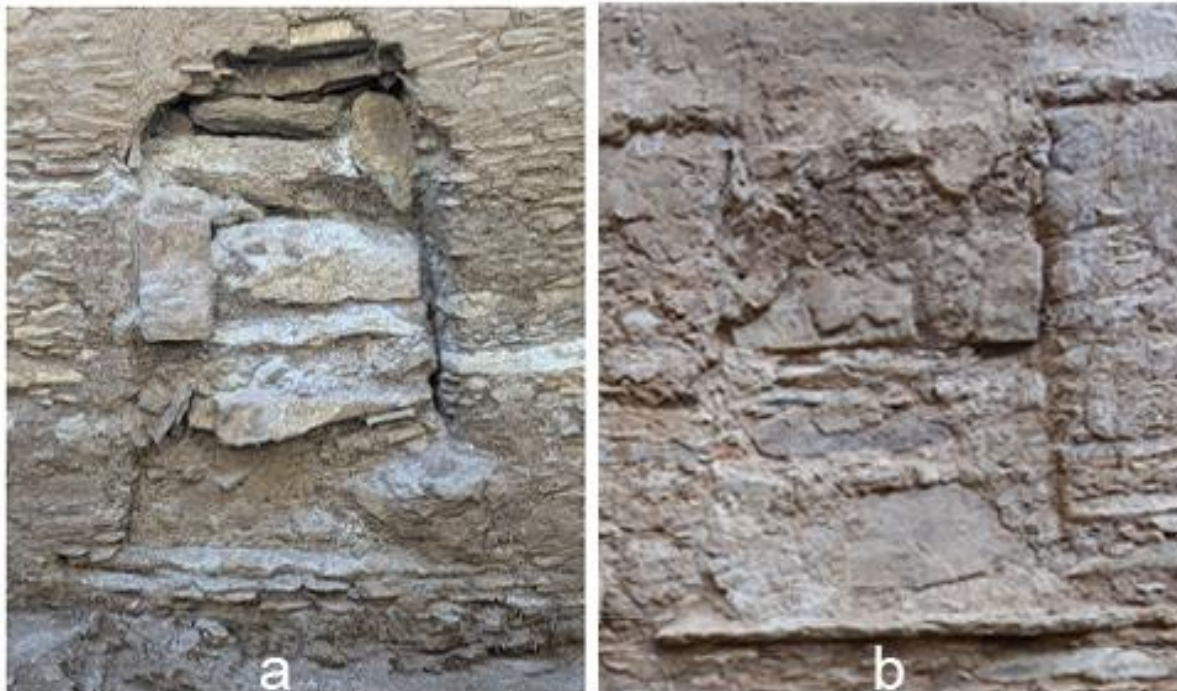
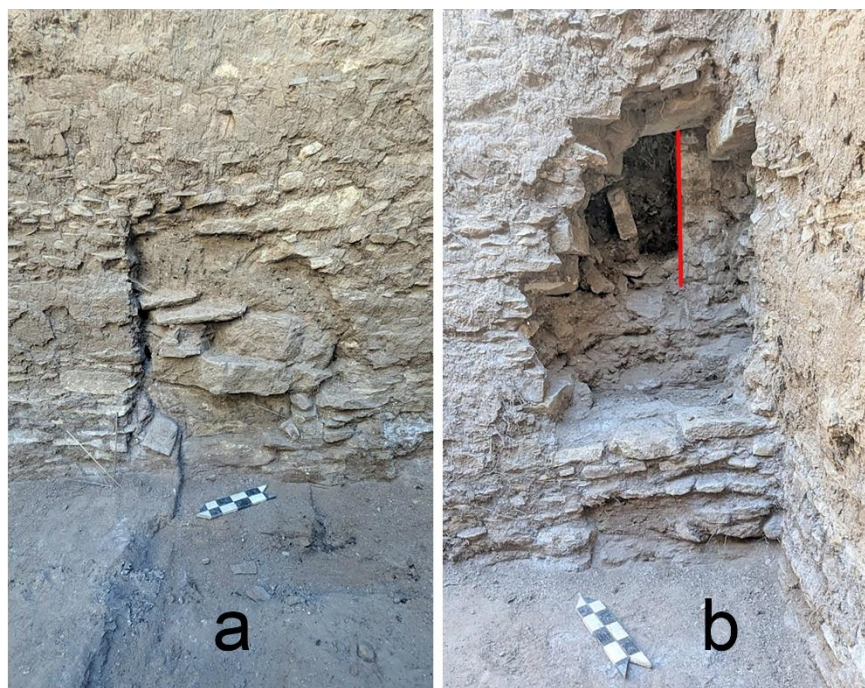


Figure 2. Room 60 ground story south wall plugged doorway. a) in Room 60; b) in Room 65.

There is also what appears to be a plugged doorway in the east wall (Figure 3a), but this has



yet to be fully exposed. An irregular opening is present at the east end of the north wall (Figure 3b) that may be an intrusion. If so, it looks to have been made from Room 60 into the unexcavated Phase 3 room to the north. The end of the abutting east wall of that room is partly exposed. The top of the disturbance corresponds with where a wall vent probably existed.

Figure 3. Room 60 lower story wall features. a) plugged doorway in east wall; b) intrusion in north wall (red line indicates face of Phase 3 wall)

Numerous artifacts continue to be recovered, including some Mesa Verde Black-on-white sherds, although Mancos Black-on-white dominates. Additional projectile points, preforms and drills represent the range of time periods the site was used as well as two Pueblo I points (Figure 4 Specimens 428 and 564).



Figure 4. Room 60 projectile points, preform and drills found in 2025.

Kiva 22

At the end of our 2024 excavations, we had exposed the tops of a kiva's upper lining wall, its back supporting wall, the tops of three pilasters and the end of an Old Wallace room wall integrated into the kiva support wall (Figure 5a), thereby allowing an estimate of its extent to be made (Figure 5b).

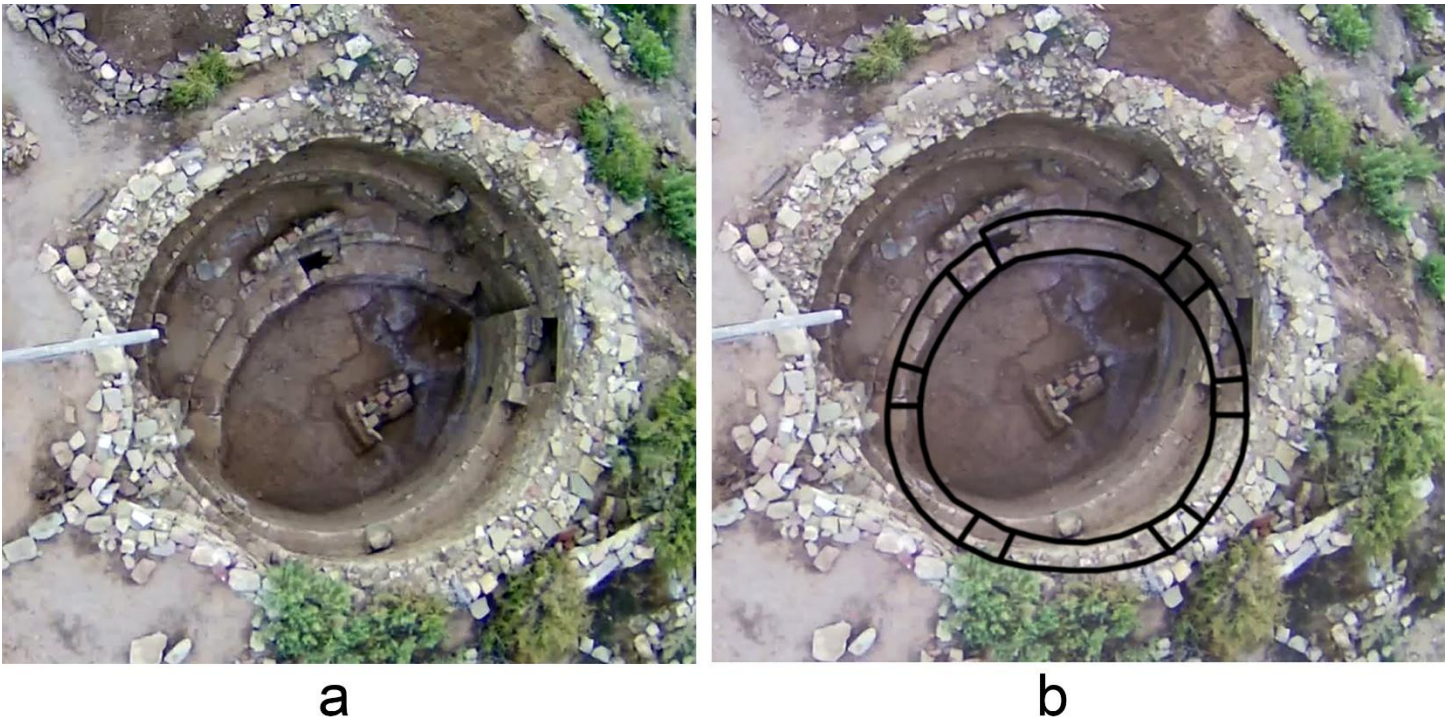


Figure 5. Kiva 22 a) under Kiva 32; b) estimated extent.

The little masonry that has been exposed looks very fine and there is a thin multilayered plaster on the

walls. The tops of the pilasters indicate that they are solid masonry pier types. The areas between the pilasters have been lined with unplastered masonry and filled behind with sediment. This is clearly a remodeled kiva, and being under Phase 3 Kiva 32 and integrated with a Phase 1 wall it is likely to be



Figure 6. Kiva 22 projectile points

the 'missing' Old Wallace kiva. This is supported by the projectile points (Figure 6) and painted pottery

(Figure 7) recovered from the fill below Kiva 32 containing early looking Mancos b/w, 'Cortancos' b/w and Cortez b/w pottery. To date, this fill looks to have been intentionally deposited, probably to produce a platform for the construction of Kiva 32.



Figure 7. Painted sherds from the upper fill of Kiva 22.

Segment 12 and eastward into Segment 13 (see below discussion). It also resulted in the reassignment of stratigraphic units between the walls starting at the

Structure 20

During the expansion of the excavation of Nonstructure 76, Segment 9, a low wall was encountered slightly off parallel to the south wall of Room 26 (Figures 8 and 9). The space between the walls has been designated Structure 20. This discovery prompted the expansion of work westward into

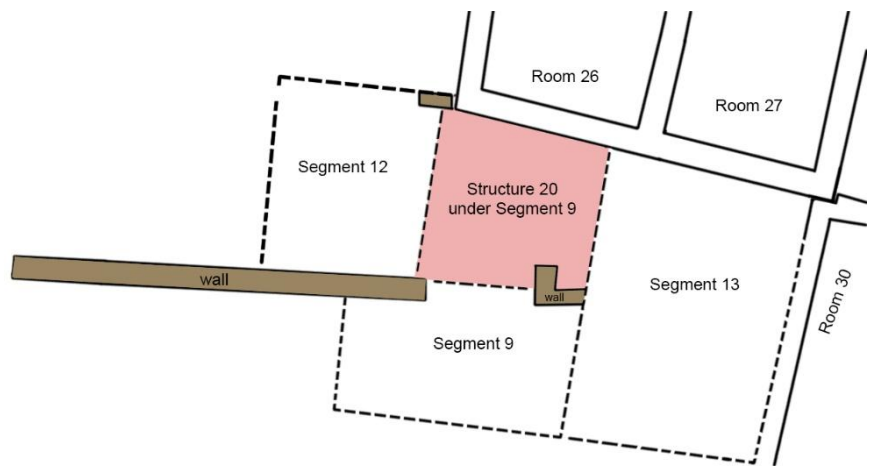


Figure 8. Nonstructure 76 Segments and Structure 20. Dotted lines indicate arbitrary boundaries.



Figure 9. South wall of Structure 20 extending into the east profile and west.

Red outlines the wall and blue outlines a plugged opening. Each scale segment equals 1 meter.

top elevation of the new wall. The strata had previously been designated as Strata 5-7 in Nonstructure 76, Segment 9. This means that the concentrations of artifacts described in the 2024 Annual report, Pages 8 and 9, are associated with this new structure rather than the plaza. The wall on the south side

extends east into the profile (Segment 13) and west for approximately 9 1/2 meters. There is a gap in the wall approximately 1.9 meters wide which is filled with a jumble of building stones, perhaps collapsed plugging (Figure 9). No north-south walls have yet been encountered, so Structure 20 will extend under both Segments 12 and 13. Only a few courses of stones remain in the wall, with only 2 for most of the western extension. It is double-bonded masonry (some stones overlap in the middle) of medium to large sandstone blocks, most closely resembling Type 3b masonry as seen in the annex walls of Rooms 28-30. However, since these are basal wall stones they may not represent what was originally above, if anything. Curiously, this wall closely resembles the wall that was encountered under Room 53 on the far southeastern extension of the Great House (Bradley and Bradley 2025:29 Figures 46 and 47). This clearly preceded Phase 3a construction and may have been footers for planned walls that were not finished. Excavation in Segment 12 may sort this out. No excavations were undertaken in Structure 20 other than clearing up some profile slump.

Plaza- Nonstructure 76

Several areas of the Old Wallace plaza (Nonstructure 76) were also investigated: expansion of Segment 9 (south of Room 26 and over Structure 20); initiation of work in Segments 12 and 13 (adjacent to Segment 9); Segment 15 (under Room 69); and continuation of Segment 6 south of Room 69 and Segment 14 (south of Room 53).

Segment 15

This refers to a plaza space underlying Room 69. Last year excavations in what is now considered Nonstructure 15 were recorded as Room 69. Upon further excavation and exposure of more of the south wall, it is clear that these deposits, and their associated features, preceded the south and west walls. There is evidently sediment that built up against the base of the exterior of the northern Phase 2 wall, in what was then the north edge of the plaza. Records were modified to conform to this interpretation. One large firepit was cut into this sediment. It exhibited oxidized walls and charred

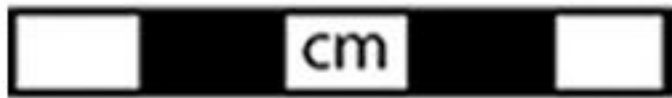


Figure 10. Nonstructure 76 Seg 15 projectile points from large firepit.

sediment inside. Along with a few sherds, two small projectile points were recovered, one burned and one possibly burned (Figure 10).

Segment 14

Segment 14 is a 1.5 x 2.5-meter test unit that transects the rubble mound adjacent to Room 53, which is situated in the East Arm of Wallace Ruin (Figure 11). It brackets the Other Wall

Opening (Feature 5) exposed in the interior face of the south wall of Room 53, and it extends southward



Figure 11. Rubble mound along the south end of the East Arm of Wallace Ruin, before excavation; looking east. Red arrow points to the south wall of Room 53.

from the exterior face of Room 53's south wall. Figure 12 documents the angled and jumbled coursed stone within the region of subsidence that overlies Feature 5. The research goals involving this unit are twofold. One: to expose the exterior dimensions and configuration of Feature 5; and two: to identify cultural practices either associated with the creation of this Other Wall Opening or



Figure 12. Oblique view of the double-coursed south wall of Room 53; region of subsided wall stones that overlie Room 53's Feature 5 are bracketed.

any use of the exterior space along the south end of the East Arm.

Research findings are preliminary since excavations just commenced in the Fall session of 2025. Future research will involve the removal and documentation of all deposits within Segment 14 until sterile is reached. Approximately 20 to 30 cm of jumbled, disorganized wall fall was removed within the north one meter of the trench. Associated fill consists of eolian sediments mixed with adobe mortar. Artifacts are extremely scarce, primarily consisting of small corrugated grayware sherds. Wall stones are almost exclusively Construction Phase 3 tabular sandstone, though ranging from small to quite large dimensions. Subsided wall stones that overlay Feature 5 are now exposed, bordered on each side by intact coursing (Figure 13). Based on measurements of Feature 5 taken on its interior face, the exposed base of the exterior subsided area is still several centimeters above the upper margin of the Other Wall Opening.



Figure 3: Profile view of the exposed exterior face of the south wall of Structure 53. Red arrows identify intact standing wall segments that bracket subsided wall stones above Other Wall Opening Feature 5.

Segments 9, 12 and 13

This refers to the area outside the great house adjacent to and extending west from Rooms 26 and 27 (see Figure 1). Initially, this study unit was confined to the area south of Room 26 in order to

expose the plugged doorway into the room. However, a significant deposit of artifacts and activity areas were encountered, so the initial excavation area (Segment 9) was expanded to the south. This expansion encountered the base of an east-west wall, and the space between it and the Room 26 wall was designated as a structure (Structure 20). This year we expanded this area to the east, south of Room 27 to the west wall of Room 30 (Segment 13), and also to the west several meters as far as the end of the newly encountered wall (Segment 12). To date we have mostly removed wall fall deposits but are just getting into sediments containing many artifacts, as we found in Segment 9. No end walls for Structure 20 have yet been encountered. Mesa Verde Black-on white is the dominant painted pottery type, and this area continues to produce numerous projectile points (Figure 14).

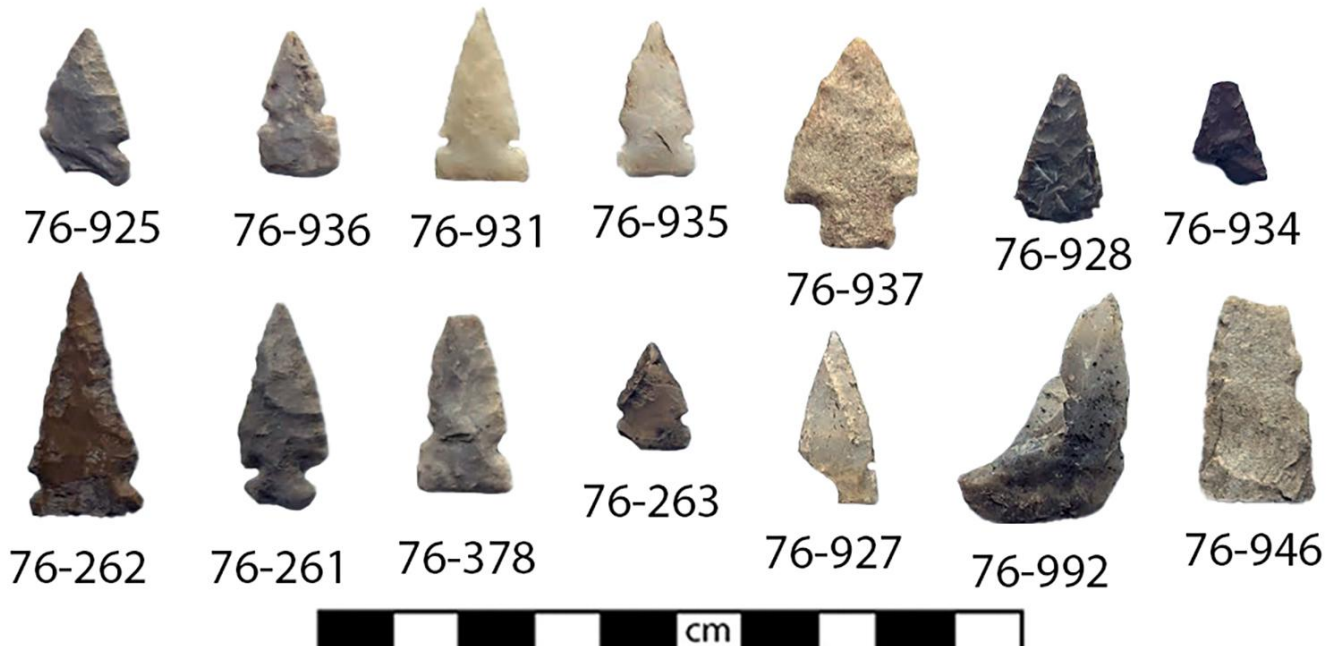


Figure 14. Nonstructures 9, 12 and 13 projectile points and preforms.

Segment 6

This is the test unit in the plaza just south of, but not adjacent to Room 69 and Nonstructure 76 Segment 15. Excavations continued through numerous thin strata (several were thin layers of ash) and surfaces. Some were discontinuous while others extended across the whole test unit. The continuous surfaces were followed to determine if there were associated features, but they were not assigned separate provenience numbers as they didn't have artifacts in contact. The differences noted between

the western and eastern halves of the test unit continued and the deposits turn from level to trending downward in the southeast corner (Figure 15). The deposits and surfaces in the western half are typical



of sediment buildup on plaza surfaces. However, the downward trending deposits in the southeastern quarter seem to indicate that there is depression, possibly a structure. If this is the case, it looks like it may be a kiva or large pit house. Excavations will

continue down to sterile in the level areas of the test unit and the layers will be followed into the depression to see if it can be identified as a structure.

Pottery in the western half of the unit continues to be Cortez and Mancos Black-on-white but includes a mix with Mesa Verde Black-on-white toward the eastern profile (below the nested fire pits). A projectile point, a notched knife fragment and a drill were recovered (Figure 16).



Figure 16. Nonstructure 6 flaked stone artifacts. a) side-notched arrow point; b) side-notched knife base; 3) drill.

New Wallace (as determined by date of construction)

Kiva 32

The lowering of the floor of Kiva 32 during Phase 4 construction meant that the tops of the New Wallace floor features (the west vault, the subfloor ventilator tunnel, the deflector and hearth) were also removed or remodeled. The south portion of the west floor vault had been removed and replaced with a new, smaller vault (Figure 17).

Feature 3, the subfloor ventilator tunnel, was modified during this Revitalized Wallace renovation. Evidently, the upper portion was removed and a new roof was added at the new floor level (Figure 18a). The north end was filled with a sequence of

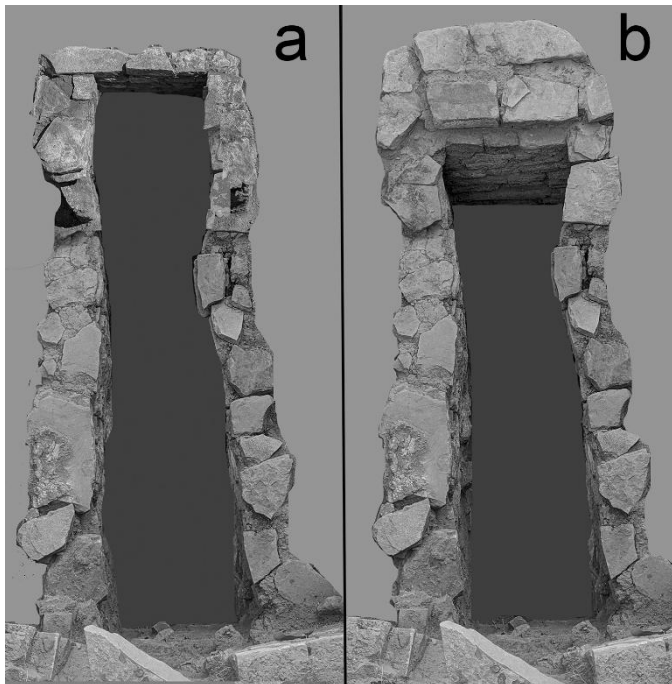


Figure 18. Kiva 32 ventilator tunnel. a) original configuration; b) north end filled with masonry.

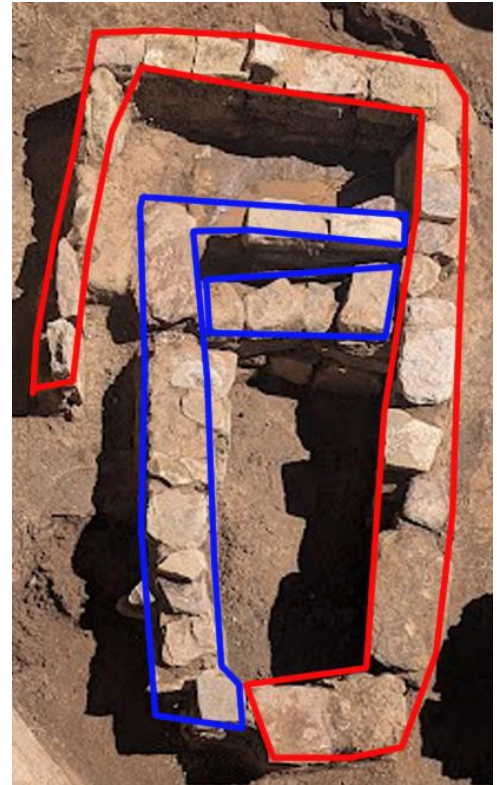


Figure 17. The original New Wallace vault (red outline) had been partially removed. The Revitalized Wallace (blue outline) was constructed, with a succession of north walls.

walls (Figure 18b and 19)

starting at the back (north end) and progressing to the south (Figure 19a-f). Based on the masonry style, this was done during the New Wallace use. During the subsequent renovation, a layer of cap stones was added to the top (Figure 19g), slightly offset to the north to provide a ledge for a stone slab to cover the vent opening (Figure 19h).

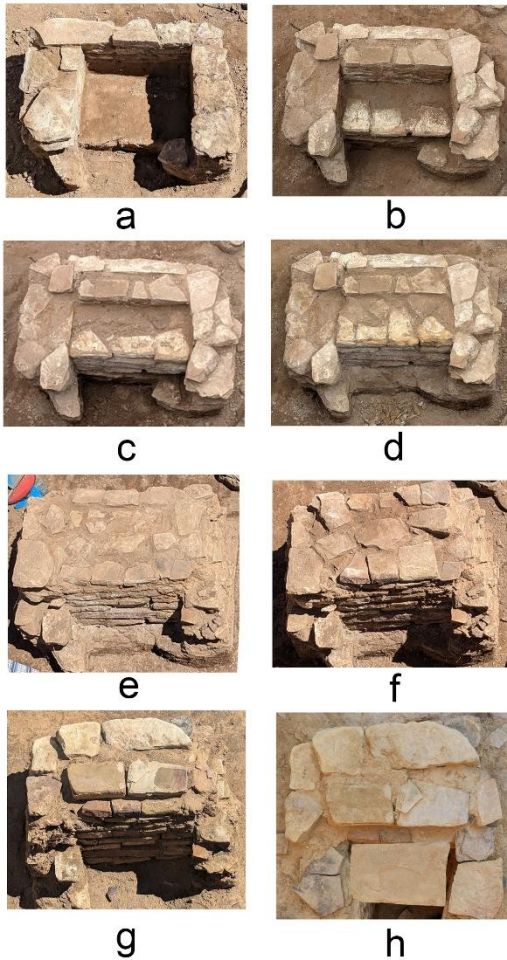


Figure 19. Kiva 32 ventilation tunnel filling of north end. a-f) sequence of filling, g) cap stones; h) stone slab opening lid replaced in original position.

Feature 1 Niche

For various reasons, mainly logistical, this feature was finally excavated and stabilized during the spring session. Before it was excavated the wall rubble was removed from above it (Figure 21a).

This primarily originated from collapse of the Kiva 32 enclosing wall. Then,

One additional wall feature (F-17) was identified in 2025 (Figure 20a). This had been exposed since 2023 but remained unrecognized. It is a small niche or beam socket located above the bench directly in line with the large stone on the bench and above sub-bench niche/pit Feature 9/10 (Figure 20b). Its location in relation to these features and the vent shaft of Revitalized Wallace's Kiva 4 seems not to be a coincidence, but part of a complex of features that were intentionally aligned with the vent shaft. The base of F-17 is exactly at the height of the large stone on the bench, which could have supported a small beam extending into the kiva main chamber. The addition of this feature to the others expands the complexity, and presumably, the function/meaning of this feature complex.

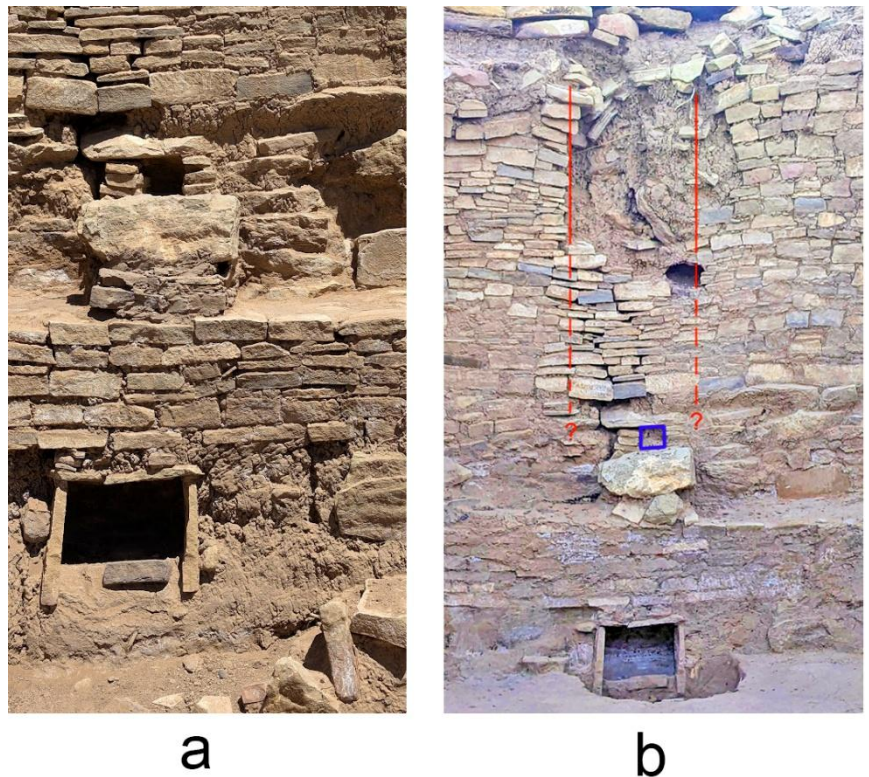


Figure 20. Kiva 32 Feature 17 niche/socket. a) small niche/socket in upper lining wall above Feature 9 niche (stone on bench has been stabilized); b) alignment of Features 9, 10 and 17 in relation to Kiva 4 ventilator shaft location (redlines).

the slumped facing stones were removed (Figures 21 b and c). Next, the fill of the feature was removed in three natural strata, down to a prepared floor surface (Figure 21d). Stratum 1 was sediment corresponding to the natural washed-in fill in the kiva main chamber. Stratum 2 was mainly collapsed feature ceiling materials plus some cultural fill and possibly animal disturbed. The top of Stratum 3 was a use surface that had several artifacts in contact (Figure 22 and Table 1).

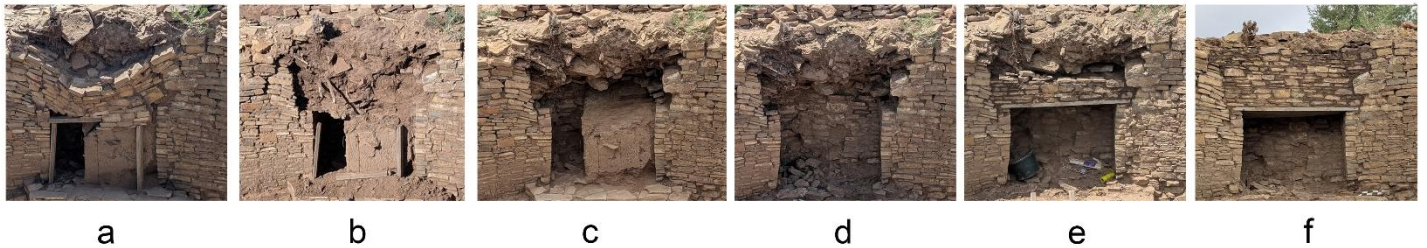


Figure 21. Kiva 32 Feature 1 excavation and stabilization sequence. a) clearance of fallen masonry; b) removal of slumped masonry; c-d) excavation to clear room for reconstruction; e-f) reconstruction.

Table 1. Kiva 32 F-1 Surface 1 artifacts.

PL	Object	Elevation
1	handstone	1896.26
2	hammerstone	1896.27
3	peckingstone	1896.24
4	peckingstone	1896.26
5	lapstone	1896.25
6	mano 1/2	1896.25
7	beaver incisor	1896.23
8	abrader	1896.25
9	peckingstone	1896.21



Figure 22. Artifacts in-situ on Surface 1.

The final deposit consisted of chunks of multi-layered wall plaster (Figure 23), which had fallen from the

niche walls. Plaster was still in place on the lower portions of the wall. This ‘niche’ was clearly a component of the initial construction of Kiva 32 in the early twelfth century. Its placement in the



Figure 23. Kiva 32 Feature 1 wall plaster samples.

southwest area happens to align with the top of the stairway, although there would have been no connection between them when the kiva had a roof. This

niche seems to be unique in placement and size. Louis Chavez (personal communication) has collected scores (hundreds) of kiva maps and has not seen an equivalent feature. Its original purpose remains unknown, but it was used to store or discard a number of ground stone tools, probably during the 13th century reuse of the kiva.

Projectile points in Kiva 32 were dominated by Pueblo II and III forms but also included one possible Pueblo I dart point (Figure 24 Specimen 32-1), a Pueblo I arrow point (Figure 24 Specimen 32-67) and a heavily impacted possible Archaic point (Figure 24 Specimen 32-91).



Figure 24. Kiva 32 projectile points and preforms.

In summary, Kiva 32 was planned and constructed during the New Wallace expansion of the great house in the early 12th century (Phase 3a). The earlier 11th century kiva (Kiva 22) had been filled and levelled to provide a platform. Nevertheless, the New Wallace kiva was offset to the east over a meter, evidently to allow the construction of the stairway connecting it to the New Wallace room suite to

the southwest (Rooms 18, 19, 26 and 27). This entailed a significantly greater amount of labor than

building directly over the earlier kiva. Existing rooms to the east had to be partly dismantled and an enclosing wall built.

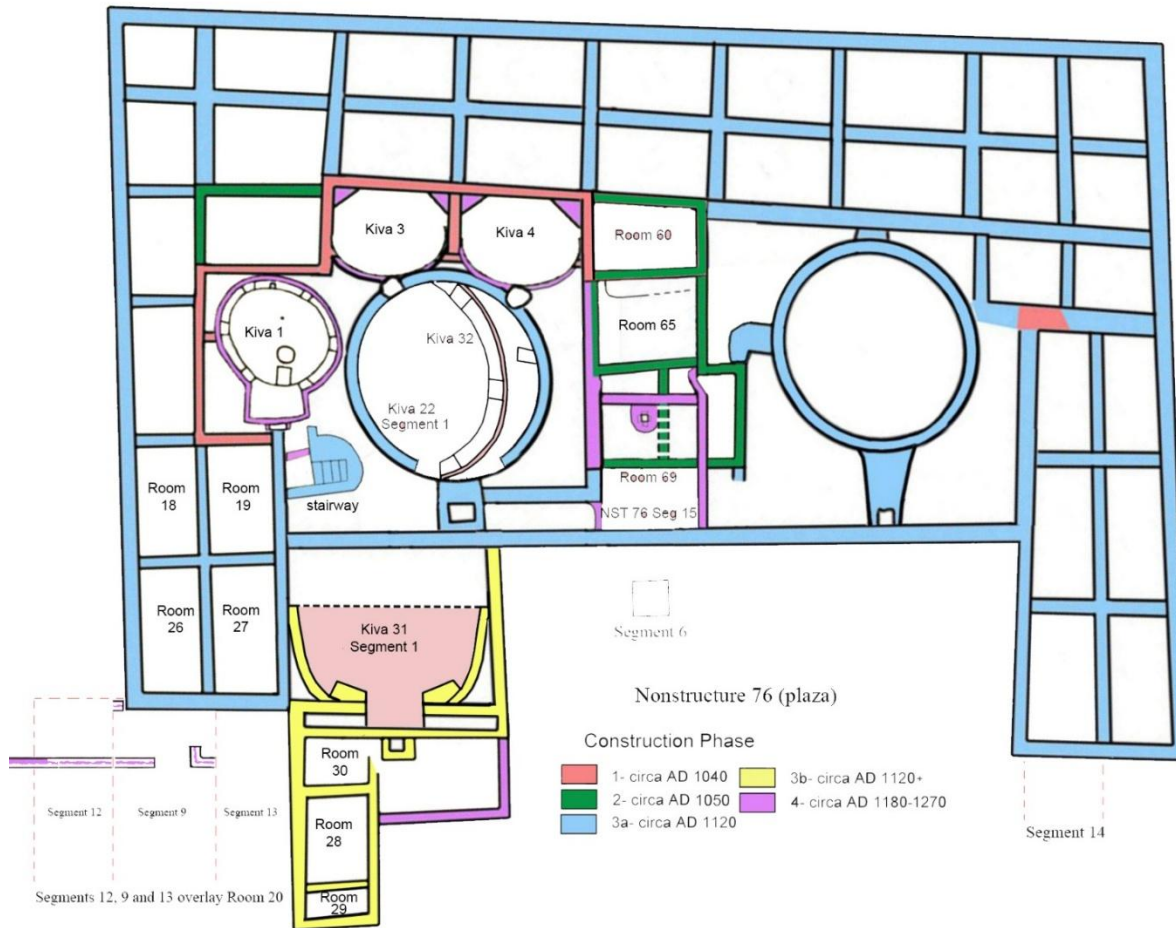


Figure 25. Location of Kiva 31 indicating area being excavated.

Kiva 31

Excavation of what we predicted would be a Phase 3 kiva (Kiva 31) was initiated (Figure 25). We decided to investigate the south half rather than the whole structure for two reasons; 1) we are on a trajectory of closing down field work in the next few years and a moderate sized kiva along with the expected archaeology under it would be a multi-year effort; 2) the north half of the kiva is adjacent to

the excavated and backfilled stairway which might be destabilized. If work in the south half indicates that it would be worth doing the north half, this can always be completed later.

During excavations of the Phase 3b annex (Rooms 28-30) between 2008 and 2010 a small test unit was excavated in what turned out to be the southwest corner of Kiva 31. This is described in detail in Bradley and Bradley (2010:62-74). At the time, two areas separated by a wall were encountered. The one on the south was designated Kiva 31 and the one to the north Kiva 32. Later, it was determined that these areas were part of the same structure, Kiva 31, so Kiva 32 was reassigned to the large Phase 3a Kiva 32 to the north.

Typical Phase 3a masonry is double bonded, evenly coursed, using only a sole source of tabular stone, with very regular wall faces wherever they would have been visible (Figure 26).

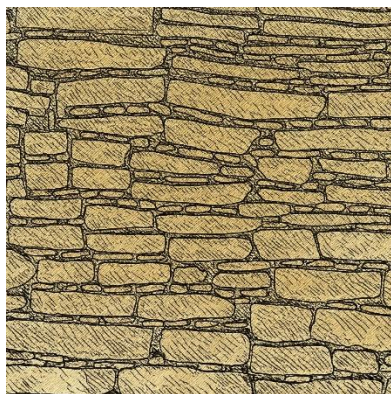


Figure 26. Typical Phase 3 masonry.

Phase 3b is irregularly coursed with minimally shaped stones of varying size and shape and not laid in continuous horizontal courses (Figure 27). Joints are irregular with smaller tabular stones used to fill gaps. While the mud mortar is relatively thin it is occasionally thick depending on specific needs to fill irregularities. The masonry style also varies depending on whether a wall face was openly visible or not. Interior faces are more irregular than exterior. Stones in the plaza-facing wall tend to be larger and blockier than in other walls. Despite the irregularity, the stones were meticulously placed to minimize gaps. Many stones show signs of burning, weathering, with rough surfaces, pitted erosion, and occasional flaking. This indicates that some of the stones were salvaged from earlier structures. However, there was no use of spalled slabs that made up the walls in Phases 1 and 2. It is not evident where the stones were sourced.

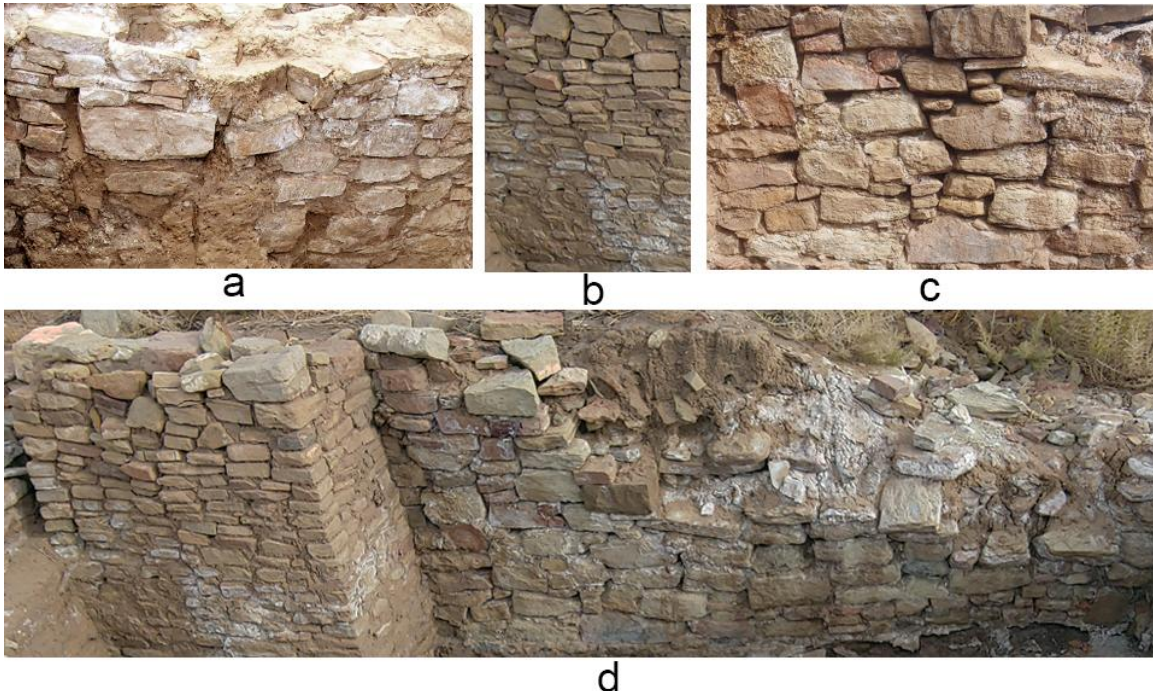


Figure 27. Type 3b masonry. a) exterior face of Kiva 31 enclosing wall; b) Kiva 31 ventilator shaft; c) interior face of Room 30 west wall; d) overview of Kiva 31 south wall.

The single exception to the irregularity of Phase 3b masonry is exhibited in the walls of the exterior ventilator shaft of Kiva 31 (Figure 27b). The stones vary in size and shape, but overall are more regular and smaller, creating a visually organic pattern rather than uniform courses. Despite their irregularity, the stones are carefully selected and placed to minimize gaps. Stones were laid to overlap joints, preventing vertical seams and improving load distribution. Where gaps exist, they are shallow and consistent and often filled with smaller stones. The exterior corners exhibit stones from two intersecting walls that overlap alternately, producing well-bonded corners. The test areas in the southwestern corner and Room 33, where the ventilator shaft was exposed, have been backfilled and will not be re-exposed (Figure 28).

Our current excavations revealed the southern half of the main chamber (Figure 29), which has an interior diameter of approximately 5 meters. There is a southern recess bounded by two masonry pilasters (Pilasters 1 and 6) with another pilaster just south of the east-west profile against the west

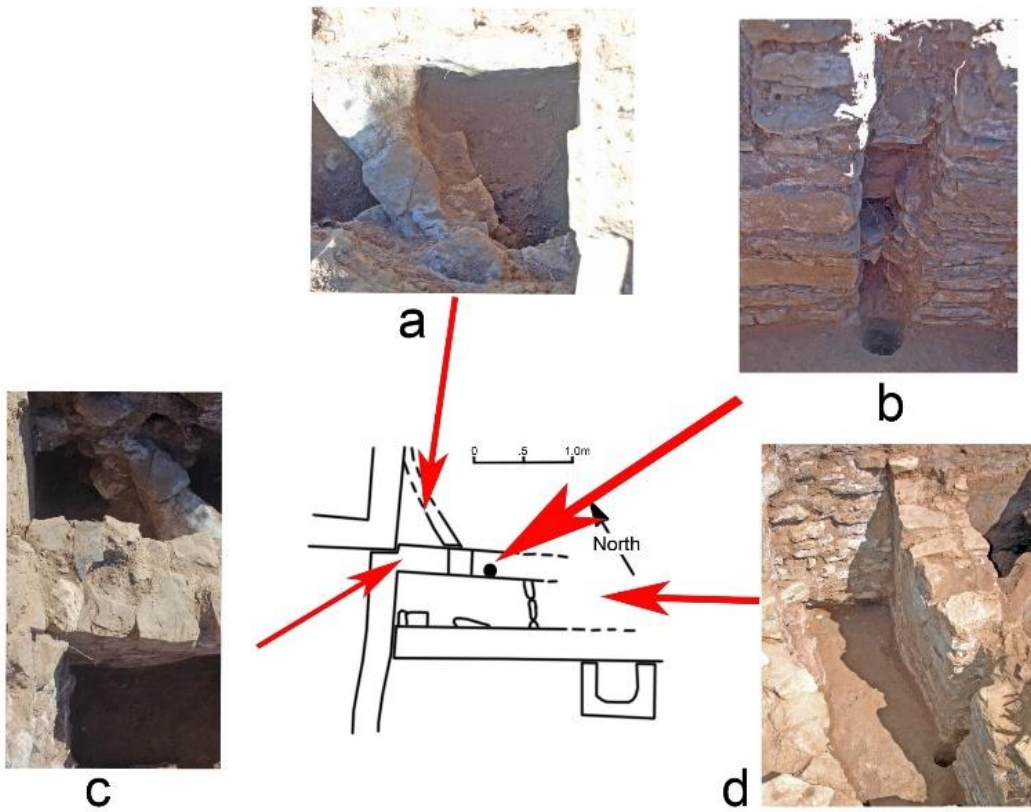


Figure 28. Test excavation in the southwest corner of Kiva 31. a) upper lining wall; b) post mold in retaining wall; c) top of retaining wall; d) inner space between two walls.

wall (which is the exterior of the east wall of Room 27). The curved upper lining walls are one stone

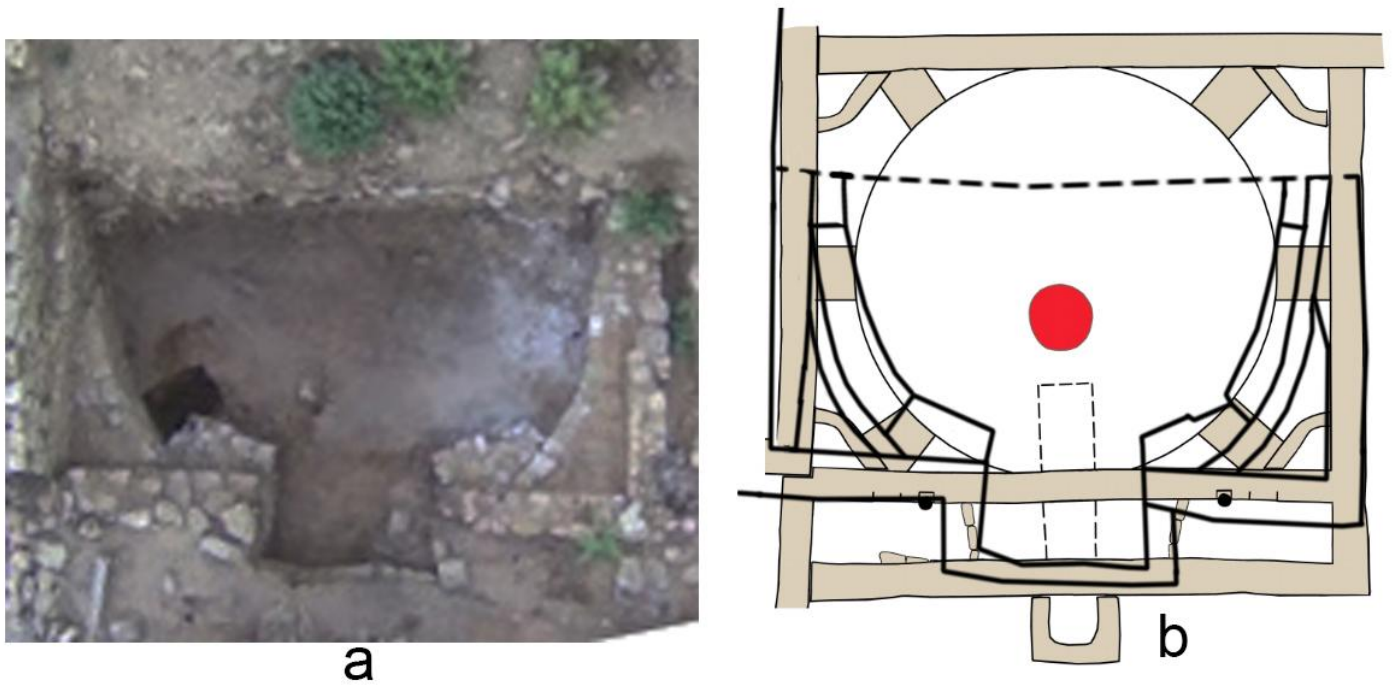


Figure 29. Kiva 31 excavation. a) aerial view; b) plan showing predicted and actual (dark black lines) configuration.

thick and the kiva was clearly constructed in a rectangular enclosing structure. This conforms to the

predicted form of kiva except for the southern recess. The double southern walls with an inner space are unusual.

We encountered three strata: the uppermost, Stratum 1, is wall fall originating from the upper kiva wall and primarily the east wall of Room 27. The building blocks were mostly Type 3, although there were also Type 4, probably originating from a stack that was on top of the Phase 3 stairway. An exceptionally large stone (Figure 30), 103 X 29 X 6 cm was encountered at the base of Stratum 1 near the west wall. Its position indicates that it may have been a lintel stone for a doorway in the upper story east wall of Room 27. There is a corresponding, large T-shaped doorway in the ground story very close to where this large stone was found. Stratum 2 was mostly structure collapse but also contained mixed charred sediments. These were deposited as the structure collapse started to accumulate. It may indicate a use of the mostly filled Kiva 31. Stratum 3 is a deposit of charred sediment, some of which is clearly in-place, along with a wide array of artifacts, including Mesa Verde black-on white pottery and numerous projectile points (Figure 31).



Figure 30. Kiva 31 lintel stone in wall fall.

Many of these were recovered from Stratum 3 and represent a wide

range of styles and stone types, including forms not usually associated with Pueblo sites (Figure 31 Specimens 45, 47 and 48). Stratum 3 has not been completely removed but seems to represent activities that took place in the kiva depression during the 13th century reuse of the great house, or later.



Figure 31. Kiva 31 projectile points and preform.

A small test window was excavated adjacent to and on the north side of the pilaster on the west side of the southern recess. Stratum 3 was very thin in this area and gave way to another stratum that contains a lot of medium to small stones, many of which are charred/oxidized, possibly indicating that the kiva burned. This is supported by the presence of heavily charred plaster on the kiva wall. The window was excavated down to what is thought to be the bench level. Numerous stones, many burned, were encountered but they did not originate from the same structure collapse that was uncovered in Strata 1 and 2 in the main chamber.

There is burned plaster just above the bench on the back wall. Very few sherds were recovered from the test window but did not include any Mesa Verde Black-on-white or Mesa Verde Corrugated. This may indicate the kiva was filled-in before the reuse of the great house in the early 13th century.

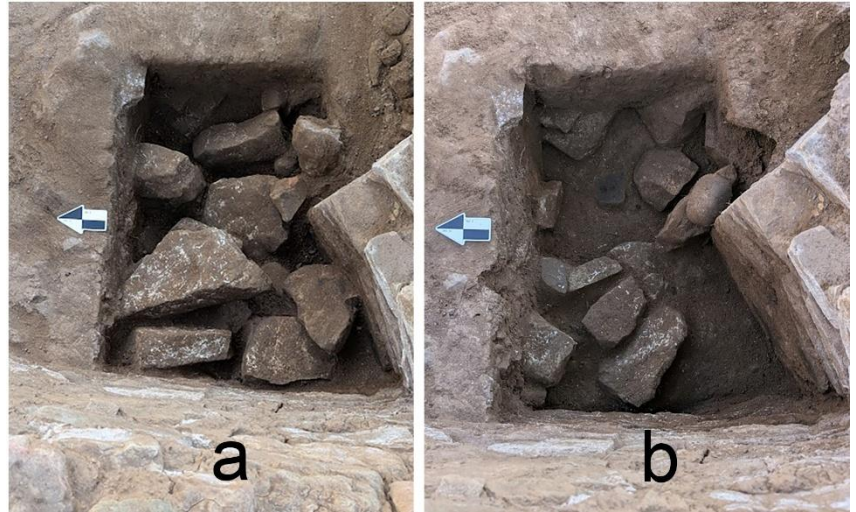


Figure 32. Kiva 31 test pit (approximately 50X60 cm) showing stones that do not look to have come from structure collapse. a) upper layer; b) underlying layer.

The current top of the adjacent pilaster (Pilaster1) is elevation 1896.58 and the bench (Bench 1) is 1895.46. The kiva floor is estimated to be elevation 1894.71 (based on the base of the ventilator shaft), which makes the bench about 75 cm high. The floor to the current pilaster top is about 1.87 meters (6ft 1in).

Our hope is that Kiva 31 burned as currently we have no direct dates for Phase 3b construction. It was mostly filled by the time of the 13th century reuse of the great house.

Backfilling and Stabilization

As with every year, we continued to back fill finished excavation areas and in some places constructed dry-laid masonry retaining walls (Figure 33). All of the areas except the drainage/road had been partially back filled in previous sessions. The drainage/road was a convenient location to make a new spoil area, and it makes site access easier. A culvert was set in the bottom of the drainage then

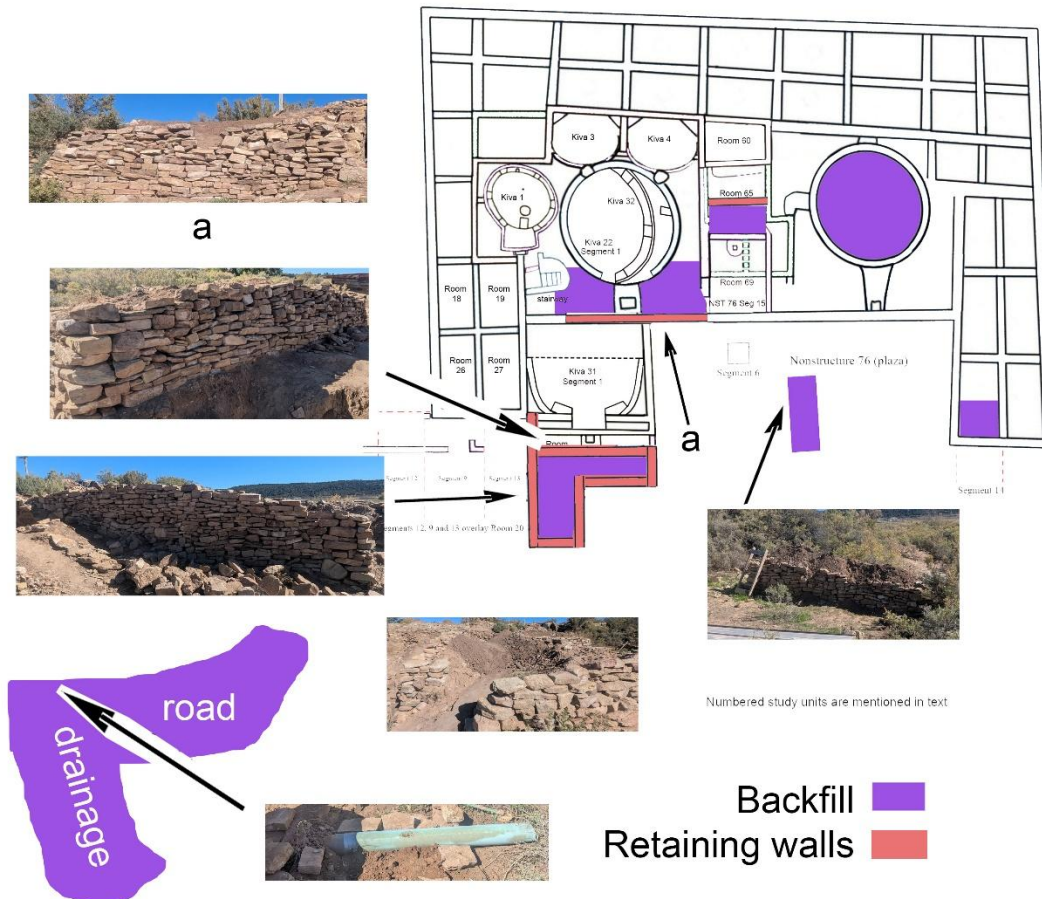


Figure 33. Back filled areas in 2025 and new dry-laid retaining walls.

fill, including building stones mostly from NST 76 Segments 9, 12 and 13, was deposited on top. It will be relatively easy to replace the fill in the excavated area at the conclusion of excavations.

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Once again we had an extraordinary crew of volunteers (Figures 34 and 35), both local and from afar. We are especially grateful for their efforts and intellectual contributions. We also recognize that

they have made significant investments in time and resources to participate. Mary Gallagher did the excellent copy edit, which greatly improved this report.



Figure 34. Spring Crew from left to right. Back row: Marshall McClung, Terri Hoff, Tom Sherman, Rachel Vonde, Tim van Leer, Deb Boisvert, Louis Chavez, Bartosz Forys, Scott LaPointe, Linda Fuerderer, Mary Gallagher, Karolina Bielowka, Dick Boisvert. Front row left to right: Jill Patton, Bruce Bradley, Gwenevere (snake), Magdalena Mazur, Maria Szarek, Wolf Patrick.



Figure 35. Autumn crew back row left to right: Deb Boisvert, Louis Chavez, Carol Ellick, Tom Sherman, Jill Patton, Mike Malburne, Terri Hoff, Marshall McClung, Linda Fuerderer, Cindy Bradley and George Leduc. Front row left to right: Joe Watkins, Dick Boisvert, Bruce Bradley, Wolf Patrick, Mary Gallagher and Bob.

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