

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

**U.S. 64-MILLICENT ROGERS ROAD:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING AT LA 103055,
TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

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ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES 166

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

Between August 16 and September 12, 1994, the Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico, conducted archaeological test investigations at LA 103055. The site is located along the proposed realignment of the north end of Millicent Rogers Road near its intersection with US 64 northwest of Taos, Taos County, New Mexico. Excavations were conducted at the request of Mr. William L. Taylor, New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, and were authorized by letters of permission from the land owners, Mrs. Lois Theobald of Breckenridge, Colorado, and Mr. J. J. Montoya of El Prado, New Mexico. Site mapping revealed the presence of two probable prehistoric features, eight historic features, and two historic houses. All of these features and structures are outside project limits. No artifact concentrations or other indications of features were present within the project limits. Archaeological testing revealed no evidence of subsurface features or deposits within project limits. Consequently, no additional work is recommended at this site in conjunction with this project.

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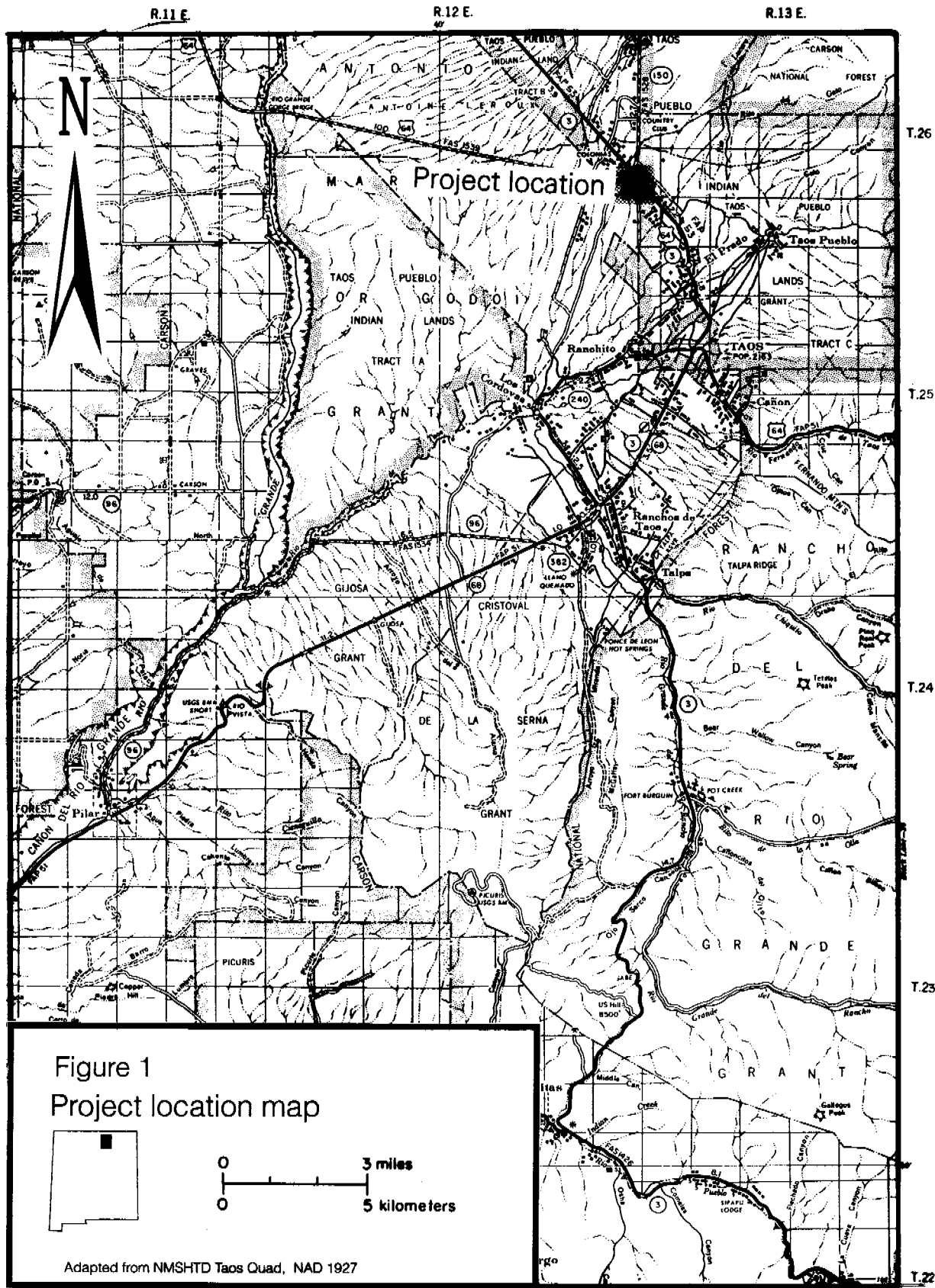
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INTRODUCTION

Between August 16 and September 12, 1994, the Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico, conducted archaeological test investigations at LA 103055. LA 103055 was recorded during a survey of the proposed realignment of the north end of Millicent Rogers Road near its intersection with US 64 northwest of Taos, Taos County, New Mexico (Fig. 1; Marshall 1994). Because cultural materials were observed within the proposed realignment, test excavations were conducted at the request of Mr. William L. Taylor, New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, to determine the nature and data potential of the portion of the site within the project limits. Test excavations were authorized by letters of permission from the land owners, Mrs. Lois Theobald of Breckenridge, Colorado, and Mr. J. J. Montoya of El Prado, New Mexico. Jeffrey L. Boyer acted as project director and was assisted in the field by Kelly Hoodenpyle. Timothy D. Maxwell, OAS Director, served as principal investigator.

The location of LA 103055 is found on the USGS Taos, New Mexico, 7.5' quadrangle. The legal description and UTM locations are listed in the appendix (removed from copies in general circulation).



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Geomorphology

The project area lies on the eastern side of the Taos Plateau, a broad region bounded on the west by the San Juan Uplift (the San Juan and Tusas Mountains) and on the east by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The plateau is formed by block-faulting along the Rio Grande Rift that resulted in the wide Rio Grande Depression or Trough. Accumulation of volcanic and sedimentary materials in the trough resulted in the Santa Fe Formation, consisting of a variety of gravels, sandstones, volcanic rocks, breccias, cherts, and clays. Much of the area is capped by volcanic rock, primarily basaltic flows, which are a major and obvious feature of the region (Heffern n.d.). In New Mexico, the plateau is known as the Taos Valley, while in Colorado it is called the San Luis Valley. The rolling terrain of the plateau is bisected by the Rio Grande, which has cut a gorge up to 198 m (650 ft) deep through the accumulated material. To the west of the gorge, the area is dotted by volcanoes. To the east, it is characterized by broad alluvial fans and terraces from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, although volcanic features such as Ute Mountain, Guadalupe Mountain, the Questa caldera, Cerro Negro, and associated basalt flows are present where they have not been covered by alluvial material.

The Sangre de Cristos are the southernmost extension of the southern Rocky Mountains and are made up largely of granites, schists, and quartzites. Ranging from about 2,133 m (7,000 ft) in the southern Taos Valley near Taos to 3,997 m (13,120 ft) at Wheeler Peak, the Sangre de Cristos in the vicinity of this project are the source of the Rio Hondo, the Arroyo Seco, the Rio Lucero, the Rio Pueblo, and the Rio Fernando de Taos. These rivers and numerous intermittent drainages that cut the alluvial fans are tributaries of the Rio Grande, which flows south through the central valley, about 12.9 km (8 miles) west of the project area. Subsequent to the vulcanism of the early Pleistocene, geologic processes in the region shifted to a period of extensive erosion during the late Pleistocene. The erosion resulted in the formation of the large alluvial fans extending into the valley along the margins of the mountains. LA 103055 is on one of these fans that extends southwest from the mouth of the Rio Lucero Canyon.

The major geological features--the Santa Fe formation, the volcanoes, and the basalt flows--are important culturally because they provided raw lithic materials for the region's prehistoric and historic inhabitants. Of specific importance are sandstone, chert, and quartzite from the Santa Fe Formation gravels and basalt and obsidian from the volcanic features. The basalt flows from Cerro Negro and other cones were important sources of basalt, while No Agua Mountain on the western side of the valley provided a poor quality obsidian (see Michels 1985). Soil accumulation along drainages has provided an important source of clay, used for pottery manufacture and for building material. However, unlike lithic materials, little study has been focused on clay sources. Hill (1994) identified clay sources used for manufacture of both painted and "plain" gray pottery in the Rio Grande del Rancho Valley. Boyer et al. (1994) studied the use of on-site soils for adobe manufacture at two Valdez phase pithouses near in the Rio Grande del Rancho Valley. M. Boyer (1992) studied the adobe from an early twentieth-century house and root cellar in Talpa.

Climate

The Taos Valley is semi-arid. Cordell (1978:89, map 6) shows the mean annual rainfall to be 310 mm (12.24 in) at Taos. This agrees with Maker et al. (1972:7) who show Taos' annual rainfall to be 320 mm (12.55 in) and Gabin and Lesperance (1977:390), who record the mean annual precipitation as 316.5 mm (12.5 in), with about 29 percent coming from winter snows and 28 percent from the July-August rainy season. Variability from these figures is high, however, ranging from less than 30 percent to greater than 50 percent in any given year (Cordell 1978, map 6).

Maker et al. (1972:7) record the mean maximum temperature in Taos as 15.5 degrees C (60 degrees F), while the mean minimum is -.5 degrees C (31 degrees F). Mean annual temperature is 8.5 degrees C (47.3 degrees F), with monthly means ranging from 3.9 degrees C (25 degrees F) in January to 20 degrees C (68.1 degrees F) in July. Cordell (1978, map 2) shows the effective temperature in the region to be 11.7, making it one of the coolest areas in the state. Taos has an average 140-145 days of growing season with recorded annual variability ranging from less than 15 to more than 20 days (Cordell 1978:71; Maker et al. 1972:7). This figure is generally more than adequate for subsistence agriculture supporting Greiser, Greiser, and Putnam's (1990:5) contention that length of growing season is not and was not a significant limiting factor in prehistoric or historic agriculture. Rather, they point to a study conducted at Picuris Pueblo (Ford 1977) that suggests corn needs about 533 mm (21 in) of water during its growing season while the local precipitation is just over half that amount, and conclude that water availability is the primary limiting factor (see also Boyer et al. 1994; Boyer 1993a).

Soil and Plant Communities

The soil at LA 103055 is in the Sedillo-Silva Association. Sedillo very gravelly loam makes up about 55 percent of the association, with about 25 percent consisting of Silva loam (Hacker and Carleton 1982:50-51). Our testing results show that the on-site soil matches the description of Sedillo very gravelly loam. This deep, well-drained soil is formed in gravelly alluvium and consists of very gravelly loam over very gravelly clay loam and very gravelly sandy loam. The upper 28 cm (11 inches) is noncalcareous to slightly calcareous, while the soil is strongly calcareous below that depth. When well managed, the soils in this association will support a grassland community of western wheatgrass, blue grama, and galleta. When poorly managed, the grassland is replaced by a brush community of big sagebrush, snakeweed, rabbitbrush, and cacti. This characterizes the area today.

THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

The following discussion is intended to provide a general background of the prehistory and history of the project area and the results of archaeological projects in the area. Because LA 103055 has Anasazi and historic components, this discussion is limited to the Puebloan and Historic periods. The reader is referred to Cordell (1978), Stuart and Gauthier (1981), and Young and Lawrence (1988) for more detailed regional syntheses that include the prehistoric periods. Syntheses that place Taos within the historic context of the Southwest are provided by Weber (1979, 1982) for the Spanish Colonial (1540-1821) and Mexican (1821-1846) periods and Lamar (1970) for the American Territorial period (1846-1912).

Puebloan Period (ca. A.D. 1100-1500)

Most discussions of the Puebloan Period in the Taos region stress the paucity of Basketmaker and early Puebloan sites (see Cordell 1978). Remains from Basketmaker and early Puebloan periods (Basketmaker II and III, Pueblo I in the Pecos Classification; late Pre-Ceramic and early Developmental in Wendorf and Reed's [1955] Rio Grande Classification) are identified by isolated projectile points or projectile points on nonstructural sites. While Woosley (1980, 1986) discusses the Developmental period in Taos prehistory, no structural or habitation sites have been chronometrically dated to the first three-quarters of the period (A.D. 600-1100).

The earliest phase of the Puebloan period identified in the Taos area is called the Valdez phase. This phase is commonly dated to ca. A.D. 1000-1200 by the presence of Taos Black-on-white pottery, which has been dendrochronologically cross-dated to A.D. 900-1200 (Wetherington 1968; Green 1976). Crown (1990) suggests that the phase may date between A.D. 1050 and 1200, although only four Valdez phase sites have chronometric dates before A.D. 1100. Boyer (1994a) summarizes chronometric dates from Valdez phase sites and offers dates of A.D. 1100 to 1225 for the phase.

Most sites from this phase consist of pithouses, sometimes with associated surface work areas or surface rooms of jacal construction (Green 1976; Cordell 1978:36; Woosley 1980:8; Boyer 1994a). However, several apparent small pueblo sites have been assigned to the Valdez phase because of the predominance of Taos Black-on-white pottery (Nelson 1986; Boyer 1991, 1994b), and Boyer and Mick-O'Hara (1991) found that Taos Black-on-white was dominant at the very large El Pueblito site (LA 12741) in Arroyo Hondo. In the southern portion of the Taos area, pithouses are predominantly round, while those in the northern Arroyo Seco-Arroyo Hondo area are predominantly square or rectangular. Greiser, Greiser, and Putnam (1990) suggest a possible correlation between this pattern and Taos Pueblo traditions that tell of different groups of people inhabiting the northern and southern parts of the valley prior to the aggregation that resulted in the formation of Taos Pueblo. Associated ceramic types include Taos Black-on-White, and a plain, incised, or neck-banded gray or brown ware known as Taos Gray. Boyer (1994a, 1994c) has studied Valdez phase site structure and artifact assemblages and has defined two large "communities" of Valdez phase sites corresponding to the different distributions of round and square pithouses in the valley. The structure(s) of these communities are as yet undefined. They

appear to consist of scattered farmsteads. The significance of Valdez phase pueblos in community structure is unknown as only one has been excavated (Green 1976).

The next phase in the Taos area is the Pot Creek phase, commonly dated to A.D. 1200-1250 by the presence of Santa Fe Black-on-white, a carbon-painted ware. Crown (1990) suggests dates between A.D. 1225 and 1260 or 1270, based on tree-ring dates from Pot Creek Pueblo. The beginning date for this phase is supported by chronometric dates from Valdez phase sites (Boyer 1994c). The Pot Creek phase was characterized by population aggregation in numerous small "unit pueblos." If Boyer's (1994a and 1994c) definition of Valdez phase communities is accurate, then the Pot Creek phase represents a significant change in Anasazi community structure in the region. The nature of this change has not been examined. Examples of Pot Creek phase pueblos have been recorded in the Arroyo Seco, Arroyo Hondo, Arroyo Miranda, and Pot Creek- Rio Grande del Rancho areas, although only two sites have been excavated (Jeançon 1929; Vickery 1969; Ottaway 1975). In this phase, kivas are perhaps first present at some sites. Taos Black-on-White was partially replaced by Santa Fe Black-on-white as the characteristic painted ware of the ceramic assemblage. Incised and neck-banded Taos Gray was replaced by a corrugated variety.

The Talpa phase is dated A.D. 1250-1350 by the presence of Talpa Black-on-white, perhaps a local variety of Santa Fe Black-on-white. Crown (1990) suggests beginning dates of A.D. 1260 or 1270. During this phase, population aggregation continued, apparently at the expense of the earlier small pueblos. The phase is known only from excavations at Pot Creek Pueblo, a large site first occupied in the Valdez phase that grew to perhaps 300 ground-floor rooms during the Talpa phase. This trend of population aggregation and site growth may have set the stage for the establishment of the large pueblos at Cornfield Taos and Old Picuris. The end of the phase is established by the abandonment of Pot Creek Pueblo, which Wetherington (1968) assumes to have occurred by 1350 because neither Biscuit nor Glaze ceramics are present at the site. Crown (1990) places the abandonment of Pot Creek Pueblo in the early 1320s on the basis of tree-ring dates.

The final phase in the prehistoric Puebloan period is unnamed but corresponds to Dick's (1965) Vadito phase, dated A.D. 1375-1500 from excavations at Old Picuris. These years are approximately those given by Ellis and Brody (1964) for the occupation of Cornfield Taos. Several other sites in the Taos area apparently date to this phase on the basis of polychrome and glazed ceramics. Like the preceding phase, the sites are generally large, although some smaller sites are known. Cornfield Taos is considered to be directly ancestral to Taos Pueblo. On the basis of ceramics, Ellis and Brody (1964) feel that Cornfield Taos was first occupied about A.D. 1300 or 1350 and abandoned about A.D. 1450, when Taos Pueblo was perhaps first occupied. Taos Pueblo is, of course, still occupied (see Boyer 1986; Greiser et al. 1990).

Historic Period (A.D. 1500-Present)

The presence of historic Plains Indian groups in the area is recorded in early historic Spanish documents as well as in the archaeological record. Spielmann's (1983) research indicates that economic interactions between Plains and Pueblo Indians were relatively minor prior to the late fifteenth century, but increased considerably after this time. Archaeologically, this reflected in a relative paucity of materials indicative of puebloan use of plains resources at Pot Creek

Pueblo (Girard 1986:11). Bison bones are present from the site and John Speth has told me that chemical analyses may demonstrate that they were obtained from the Taos Plateau. Certainly by the time of Spanish contact in 1540, the Indians of Taos Pueblo had established relations with Jicarilla Apaches, Kiowas, Utes, and other groups, facilitated by annual trade fairs at the pueblo. Girard (1986:11) notes that

Apachean groups from the Plains (Querechos, Vaqueros) regularly visited Taos Pueblo at the time of initial Spanish contact and there is some indication that some Apachean groups (Quinia Apaches, Apaches del Acho) may have resided permanently in the Taos area during the 17th century. Comanche attacks drove the Jicarilla Apaches eastward from the Cimarron area into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains during the 1720's. Some Jicarillas settled in the mountain valleys between Taos and Picuris.

Research in the Pot Creek area is intended to clarify the nature of the Apachean presence in the region (Girard 1988).

Cordell (1978:121-129) suggests that the important late historic research questions in the region are concerned with four issues: the development of Hispanic settlement; the use of the region for subsistence and commercial pastoralism; the introduction and development of logging and logging railroads; and late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mining activities.

The increasing presence of Spanish culture in northern New Mexico produced dramatic changes in land use and in the cultural and economic fabric of the region (see Cordell 1978:103, 1979:150-151). The Spanish brought to the region a different religion, social organization, and economy, including domestic animals and new plant foods, as well as drastically new expectations of the lives of the native inhabitants. First seen by the Spaniards in 1540, the Pueblo of Taos became the location of a Franciscan mission in the early 1600s, and a community of Spanish settlers began to grow. The settlers first lived just outside the pueblo walls for security, but soon moved out into the valley (Jenkins 1966). Small agricultural villages grew up along many river valleys in northern New Mexico, and missions were established at most pueblos. Pratt and Snow (1988:220) contend that prior to the late 1700s, the dominant Hispanic settlement pattern was one of scattered ranches. This pattern changed to plaza-centered communities in the late eighteenth century, resulting in formal plazas at Taos, Los Cordovas, and Las Trampas de Taos, a plaza now known as Ranchos de Taos. In 1778, Fray Juan Agustín de Morfi observed that the settlers still preferred to live in isolation, a situation which he deplored and contrasted unfavorably with the "well-ordered" pueblos (Simmons 1977:14). Simmons (1969) states that in 1778, Teodoro de Croix ordered Governor Anza to force the settlers into compact settlements and that progress toward that end was being made by the following year. However, Pratt and Snow argue that the pattern observed by Fray Morfi continued to be the norm. Detailed studies of Colonial period Spanish sites in the Taos area have not been carried out and so there is no local body of data to contrast with Spanish sites in the Rio Chama, Cochiti Reservoir, and Santa Fe areas.

"Anglos" began moving into the area in the early 1800s, and Taos became a central location for a group of independent mountain men and trappers known as the "Taos Trappers" (Weber 1968). Because of the presence of the trappers, Taos was also an important center for merchants and traders and was an important port for merchandise in the Santa Fe Trail trade.

While recent reviews of historic structures in Taos (Boyer 1992, 1993b) have illuminated patterns of growth of that community in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, there are no studies of late historic rural sites to provide contrasting information on the expansion of homesteads, farms, and ranches in the region. Archaeological and ethnohistoric investigations at the Vigil-Torres site (LA 77861) near Talpa may provide some perspective on rural sites (Boyer and Goodman n.d.).

Archaeological remains apparently associated with pastoral activities have been recorded on the "floor" of the Taos plateau, in the mountains west of the valley between Tres Piedras and Tierra Amarilla, and in the Tres Ritos Hills. On the plateau floor, sheep camps tend to be seen as scatters of artifacts, primarily steel food and tobacco cans, occasionally with small clearings in the brush or rock structures that may have been pens (Boyer 1983, 1984, 1985a, 1988). Since the herders used wagons or tents, habitation structures are not known. Warm-weather camps in the mountains are seen archaeologically by the presence of carved aspen trees near large meadows. The carvings usually consist of Hispanic personal and place names and dates in the warm months (May through September) of the 1900s through the 1930s. Reoccurrence of names with dates from succeeding years indicates the continuing use of areas and differential distribution of names indicates some territoriality in pastoral land use (Boyer 1987).

Previous Research

In 1978, archaeologists with the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department and the Museum of New Mexico recorded a Valdez phase pithouse site, LA 16829, near the Jaramillo gravel pit in Las Colonias, 0.7 km (0.4 mile) west of NM 150. The site was located at the edge of the western terrace overlooking the Arroyo Seco. In 1982, Boyer (1982) recorded a small Pot Creek phase pueblo, LA 37627, at the edge of the eastern terrace overlooking the Arroyo Seco. Three years later, Boyer (1985b) recorded a Valdez phase site, LA 52243, at the Tarleton gravel pit. The site was on the edge of the western terrace above the Arroyo Seco. A radiocarbon sample from the site yielded a date of A.D. 1200 ± 80 years (Moore 1986).

In 1986, the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department undertook a survey for the proposed Taos Relief Route following Blueberry Hill Road (Nelson 1986). Thirteen sites were recorded on the proposed route between NM 240 in Lower Ranchitos and the intersection of US 64, NM 522, and NM 150. They included one prehistoric artifact scatter (LA 53679), one Valdez phase artifact scatter (LA 53680), five Valdez phase structural sites (pithouses: LA 53683, 63687; pueblos: LA 53681, 53684, 53686), one Pot Creek phase pueblo (LA 53682), one Valdez/Pot Creek phase structural site (LA 53685), one possible Apachean artifact scatter (LA 53679), and three historic structural sites (Spanish Colonial: LA 53688; Territorial: LA 53690; Territorial/Statehood: LA 53689). In addition to these sites, one site, LA 53678, was recorded at the northwest corner of the intersection of U.S. 64, NM 522, and NM 150. In 1992, a survey was conducted for the planned Las Sierras de Taos development (Heuett 1992). The survey area included two parcels within the Arroyo Seco floodplain as well as portions of Blueberry Hill Road and Las Colonias Road. Along Blueberry Hill Road, the surveyors relocated sites LA 53684 through 53689 and recorded one other site, LA 87853, described as a Valdez phase artifact scatter. Along Las Colonias Road, they recorded two sites. LA 84675 is described as a Valdez phase artifact scatter. LA 84957 is a scatter of late nineteenth-early twentieth-century artifacts. The Las

Sierras survey did not record any sites within the Arroyo Seco floodplain. In 1993, Boyer (1994b) conducted a second survey of Blueberry Hill Road. In addition to the sites recorded by Nelson and Heutt, Boyer recorded four Valdez phase structural sites (LA 102303, 102304, 102306, 102307); three Valdez phase artifact scatters (LA 102300, 102302, 102305); one Valdez/Pot Creek phase artifact scatter (LA 102299); one temporally unknown prehistoric artifact scatter (LA 102301); one prehistoric-historic structural site (LA 102308); and a long segment of the Acequia de Juan Manuel (LA 102681).

In 1991, Boyer (1991) surveyed [REDACTED] of its intersection with NM 522. He recorded the location of a Valdez phase artifact scatter (LA 87504). He also relocated LA 53678, recorded by Nelson. In 1993, Bertram (1993) surveyed the proposed reconstructions of the intersections of NM 150, NM 522, U.S. 64, and Millicent Rogers (La Cuchilla) Road. He attempted to relocate LA 53678 but was able only to find a few sherds. He concluded that artifact collection may have removed much of the surface evidence of the site since it was recorded in 1986. In 1994, Levine (1994) surveyed NM 150 from its intersection with NM 522 to the village of Arroyo Seco. She was not able to relocate LA 53678, but did record a portion of the Acequia de Juan Manuel north of the highway intersection as LA 105097.

Heutt's (1992) Las Sierras survey also included a parcel of land bounded on the west by Blueberry Hill Road and on the east by Millicent Rogers (La Cuchilla) Road. Within that parcel, the surveyors relocated LA 53679, recorded by Nelson (1986), as a possible Apachean site. In addition to the micaceous sherds observed by Nelson, the Las Sierras surveyors recorded prehistoric sherds and a possible pithouse depression that had recently been vandalized. Three other sites were recorded in the area. Two, LA 84672 and 84674, are described as locations of "cyclical domestic dumping" during the early to mid-twentieth century. The third site is a Valdez/Pot Creek phase structural site (LA 84673). Bertram's (1993) survey of the proposed Millicent Rogers (La Cuchilla) Road realignment did not record any sites. However, after the proposed realignment was redesigned, Marshall (1994) recorded a Valdez phase artifact scatter (LA 103055) at the edge of a gravel pit. The pit, which dates to 1938, may have removed the structural portion of the site if such existed. This report discusses test excavations at LA 103055.

In 1988, the Taos Archaeological Society recorded two petroglyph sites along the lower Arroyo Seco and several others in the vicinity of Los Cordovas.

Clearly, the surveys conducted in the vicinity of this project area have recorded numerous sites of a variety of types and time periods. Most are Valdez phase Anasazi sites, both structural and nonstructural. Some later prehistoric sites and several historic sites are also known. Site distributions suggest that most sites are along the edges of the terraces above floodplains and vega areas. Site density along Blueberry Hill Road overlooking the Arroyo Seco floodplain is remarkable, and the locations of sites near Millicent Rogers Road suggest that site density along the terrace overlooking the Rio Lucero vegas may also be high.

TESTING PROCEDURES

Test excavations at LA 103055 focused on searching for subsurface deposits or features within the realignment project limits. The locations of surface artifacts were identified using pinflags. This activity revealed that no concentrations of artifacts were present within project limits. The site was mapped using transit and stadia rod. With the exception of a small concentration of historic artifacts outside project limits in the southeast part of the site, all surface artifacts were piece-plotted on the site map. All features were also located on the site map. All painted sherds were collected, as were incised and corrugated sherds, one projectile point, and a bottle finish.

A primary site datum, Datum A, was placed outside project limits south of the proposed realignment. Designated 100N/100E, this datum was used to establish a grid network across the site. A single subdatum, Subdatum B (110N/80E), was placed within project limits. Based on examination of the exposed walls of an abandoned gravel pit on the northeast side of the site and on the absence of artifact concentrations or other indications of features, we suspected that no subsurface deposits or features were present within project limits. Consequently, testing began with two perpendicular lines of auger tests to search for evidence of subsurface remains. Six auger tests were placed at 4-m intervals along the 80E grid line. Three auger tests were placed at 4-m intervals along the 110N grid line, while a fourth was placed 8 m from the west end of this line. The two lines intersected at Subdatum B, 110N/80E. Based on the results of the auger tests, no additional excavations were conducted.

TESTING RESULTS

LA 103055 is a large site measuring about 182 m north-south by 82 m east-west (Fig. 2). The proposed realignment crosses the north half of the site from southwest to northeast. The site has a prehistoric component represented by sherds, chipped stone flakes and tools, and a possible metate fragment. No prehistoric artifact concentrations are present on the site. Taos Black-on-white (Fig. 3, a-c) and Santa Fe Black-on-white (Fig. 3, d-g) sherds and Taos Gray incised (Fig. 4, h-i) and corrugated (Fig. 4, j-k) sherds are present. These types suggest an occupation during the Valdez and Pot Creek phases of the Rio Grande Developmental and Coalition periods, ca. A.D. 1100 to 1270. Most of the artifacts within project limits are prehistoric sherds and flakes associated with this component. When the site was first recorded, Marshall (1994) speculated that the site had been severely disturbed by excavation of the gravel pit. According to Mr. Montoya, who owns the gravel pit and a portion of the site at its northern end, the gravel pit was first opened in 1938. We agree with Marshall and suggest, based on the artifact dates, that a small pueblo was once located in the northeastern part of the site. Most of the prehistoric component, including the suspected structural feature and much of the artifact scatter, was probably removed during use of the gravel pit.

LA 103055 also has a historic component, represented by a scatter of bottle fragments, cans, and several features. No historic features or artifact concentrations are present within the project limits.

Prehistoric Features

Site mapping revealed two small cobble concentrations that were probably prehistoric soil/water control features, based on the nearby presence of prehistoric sherds (Features 1 and 2, Fig. 2). These features are probably the only features remaining from the prehistoric component; they are outside project limits.

Feature 1 is a concentration of cobbles 2.75 m long by 1.4 m wide (Fig. 4). It does not appear to be a cobble pile, although this may be the result of soil collection on the southwest (uphill) side of the feature. Two Taos Gray plain sherds are present near the feature. One Taos Black-on-white sherd (Fig. 3a) was collected from the surface near Feature 1.

Feature 2 is also a concentration of cobbles. It is 1.5 m long by 0.65 m wide and does not appear to be a cobble pile (Fig. 5). Six Taos Gray plain sherds, one slipped sherd, and one basalt flake are present near the feature. One Santa Fe Black-on-white sherd (Fig. 3e) was collected from the surface near Feature 2.

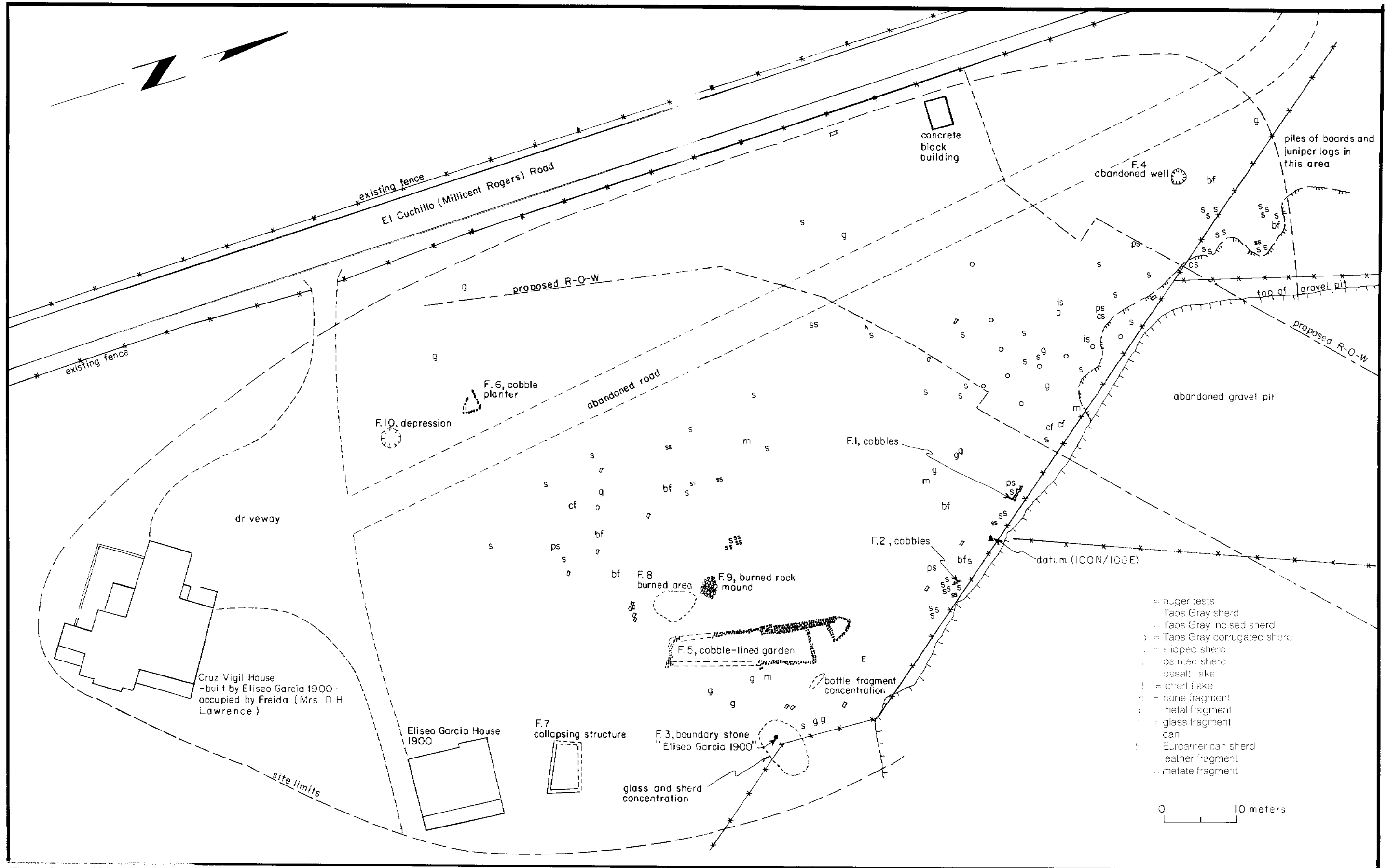


Figure 2. LA 103055 site map.

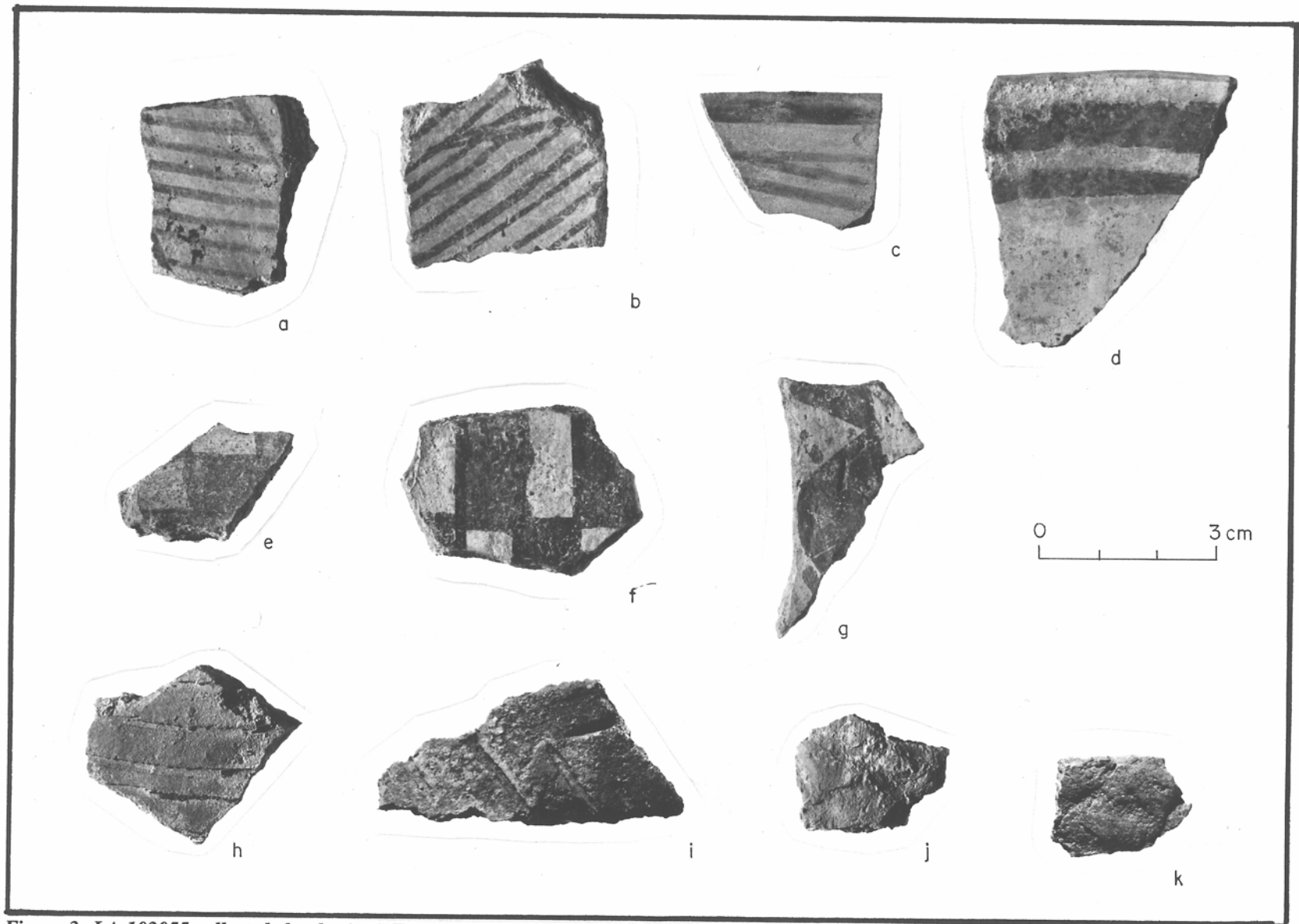


Figure 3. LA 103055 collected sherds; (a-c) Taos Black-on-white, (d-g) Santa Fe Black-on-white, (h-i) Taos Gray incised, (j-k) Taos Gray corrugated.



Figure 4. LA 103055, Feature 1: prehistoric cobble concentration.



Figure 5. LA 103055, Feature 2: prehistoric cobble concentration.

Historic Features

According to Mr. Montoya, his father sold 17 acres of land to Mr. Eliseo Garcia in about 1900. This is confirmed by an upright basalt slab serving as a boundary stone placed near a fence corner on the east side of the site (Feature 3, Fig. 2). On its west side, the name Eliseo Garcia is pecked into the rock (Fig. 6a). On its east side, a hand with its index finger pointing southeast along an existing fence is pecked into the rock with the number 1900 (Fig. 6b). The stone is 86 cm tall, 18 cm wide at the base, 10 cm wide at the top, 21.5 cm thick at the base, and 4.6 cm thick at the top.

Mr. Montoya stated that Mr. Garcia built a small house on the property after he bought it. That house is identified on the site map (Fig. 2) as the Eliseo Garcia house and is located in the southeast part of the site (Fig. 7). Apparently, Mr. Garcia also built another house, with three rooms, southwest of his house. Mr. Garcia sold the property to Mr. Cruz Vigil in the 1910s or 1920s. Mr. Vigil added several rooms to the three-room house, identified on the site map as the Cruz Vigil house and located at the southern end of the site (Fig. 8).

In about 1930, Mr. Vigil sold the land to a German man whose name Mr. Montoya could not remember. This German man was responsible for adding "the front" (Mr. Montoya's words) to the Vigil house, which was, by now, larger than the Garcia house. The "front" of the house is seen in Figure 8 as the room with large windows between two portals. This area is on the southeast side of the house (Fig. 2). The German man also had a well (Feature 4, Fig. 2) dug in the northern part of the site, over which he built a windmill. The well, now abandoned, is a roughly circular feature 1.36 to 1.7 m in diameter and about 80 cm deep (Fig. 9).

Water from the well was used for several garden and planting areas. Two of these are visible as cobble-lined features. One is a large rectangular feature with a D-shaped addition near the east side of the site (Feature 5, Fig. 2). According to Mr. Montoya, it was built in 1933 or 1934. The rectangular feature is 19.3 to 21 m long and 4.2 to 6 m wide. The cobble walls are 0.4 to 0.9 m thick and may be up to 20 cm high along the the east side. Iris plants still grow in the feature. The D-shaped addition is connected to the rectangular feature by a cobble wall 2.8 m long by .9 m wide. The small addition is 3.8 m long on its south side and 2.8 m wide. The other cobble-lined feature is a small feature in the southwest part of the site (Feature 6, Fig. 2). Roughly C-shaped, it is 3 m long by 2.6 m wide.

The German man was also responsible for constructing a *soterrano* (root cellar) near the Garcia house in about 1933 (Feature 10, Fig. 2). Like most *soterranos*, this feature was partially excavated into the ground and had an adobe superstructure. It is 6.8 to 7.5 m long by 4 to 4.9 m wide. The standing front (east) wall is now 1.55 m tall at the door, 1.04 m tall at the northeast corner, and 1.11 m tall at the northwest corner (Fig. 10). The cement plaster cap is 26.7 cm tall, adding that much to the height of the wall at the door. The actual height at the door was slightly greater than 1.8 m since dirt has accumulated on the floor and the door sill. The door opening is faced with milled lumber and painted blue. While the exterior of the structure has a cement plaster, the interior has an adobe plaster 2.5 to 3 cm thick. Exposed adobe bricks at the southwest corner of the structure are 4-by-8-by-16 inches (10-by-20-by-40.6 cm) and are laid end-to-end. The west wall was supported by a horizontal post set in the wall. Two vigas and two viga fragments are present (Fig. 10). The vigas are 6.79 m long. The ceiling was milled lumber. One-



Figure 6. LA 103055, Feature 3: boundary stone; (a) west side of stone, (b) east side of stone.

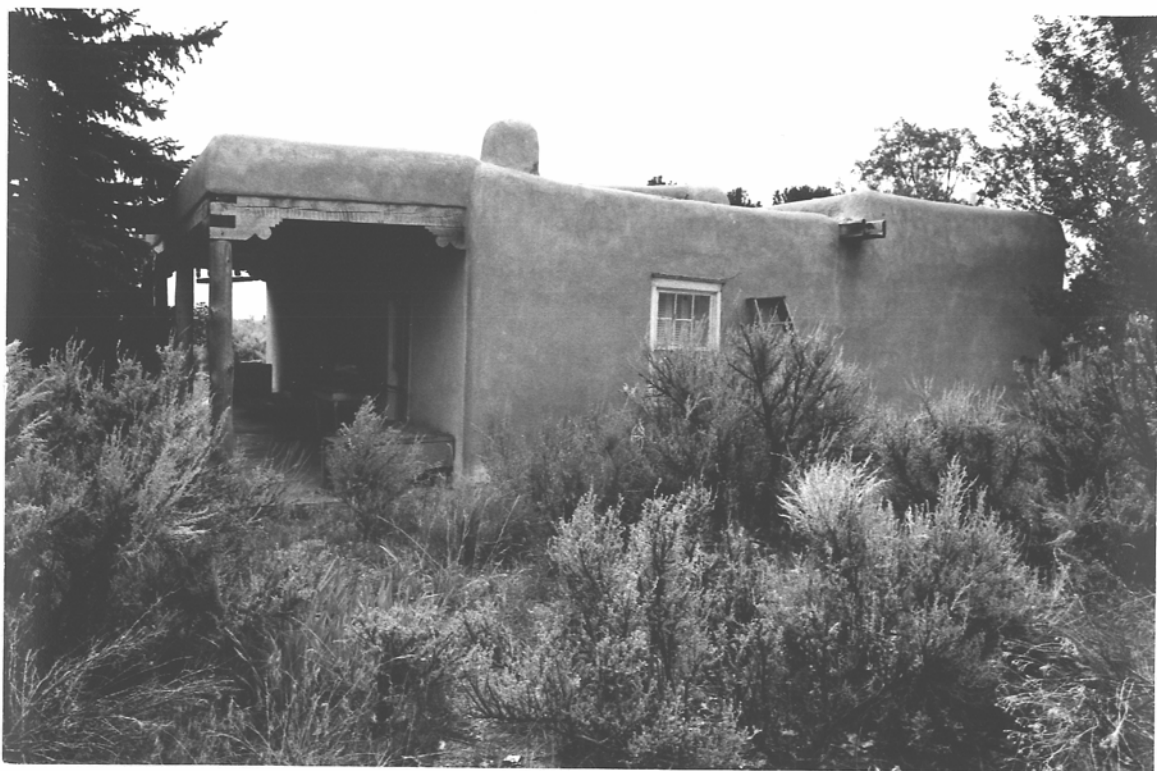


Figure 7. LA 103055, Eliseo Garcia house; view is of the north facade.



Figure 8. LA 103055, Cruz Vigil house; view is of the "front" or southeast facade.



Figure 9. LA 103055, Feature 4: abandoned well.



Figure 10. LA 103055, Feature 7: soterrano; view is of the front or east facade.

by-eight, one-by-twelve, and one-by-fourteen boards are present. The *soterrano* is now collapsing.

Two other features may be related to the German's occupation of the site, based only on their proximity to the large, cobble-lined garden. One is an oblong area of burned dirt and rocks 5.9 m long by 4.2 m wide (Feature 8, Fig. 2). No plants are present within the feature. Very few artifacts are present, suggesting that the feature was not a trash-burning area unless the trash was all organic material. The other feature is a low mound of burned rock 3.5 m long by 2.5 m wide and 20 to 25 cm high. (Feature 9, Fig. 2). It is located next to the burned area of Feature 8.

Around 1934 or 1935, the German man sold the property to Fricda (Mrs. D. H.) Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence lived in the Vigil house until at least ca. 1950. One feature, a shallow depression that may be trash-filled (Feature 10, Fig. 2) may relate to her use of the area. The depression is about 2 m in diameter and 20 cm deep. Artifacts on the surface include crockery and other Euroamerican sherds, clear (post-1930) glass jar fragments, green glass bottle fragments, window glass, ceramic bathroom or kitchen tiles, a broken clay flowerpot, rubber hose fragments, and a partially buried steel and aluminum beverage can. The last artifact dates after 1960.

An abandoned road crosses the site from north to south, intersecting with Millicent Rogers Road at its north end and ending near the Vigil house. That road, which was once apparently a driveway to the property, can be seen on the USGS quadrangle (Fig. 2).

Testing Results

Archaeological testing revealed no evidence of prehistoric or historic features or deposits within project limits (Table 1). Testing indicated a natural stratigraphy consisting of brown clay loam over loose, white soil with a strong presence of caliche and large gravels and cobbles. The white caliche soil was encountered at depths of 20 to 55 cm below modern ground surface (Table 1). This is confirmed by the natural stratigraphy seen in the walls of the gravel pit and an abandoned well and is consistent with the description of the soils in the area.

Table 1. LA 103055, Auger Test Information

Auger Test No.	Depth (cm)	Cultural Material	Comments
110N/64E	50 cm	None	Caliche pebbles at 25-50 cm.
110N/72E	50 cm	None	White sandy clay loam, caliche at 40-50 cm.
110N/76E	50 cm	None	White sandy clay loam, caliche at 40-50 cm.
110N/80E	35 cm	None	Stopped by rock.
110N/88E	30 cm	None	White sandy clay loam, caliche at 20-30 cm.
106N/80E	30 cm	None	Stopped by rock.

Auger Test No.	Depth (cm)	Cultural Material	Comments
114N/80E	25 cm	None	White sandy clay loam, caliche at 10-25 cm.
118N/80E	55 cm	None	Stopped by rock.
122N/80E	30 cm	None	White sandy clay loam, caliche at 20-30 cm.
126N/80E	55 cm	None	White sandy clay loam, caliche at 45-55 cm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of site mapping and archaeological test excavations at LA 103055, the goals of testing have been met. Site mapping revealed no artifact concentrations or other indications of features within project limits. Archaeological testing revealed no evidence of subsurface deposits or features within project limits. Consequently, no additional work is necessary at LA 103055 in conjunction with the realignment of Millicent Rogers Road.

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