

Kelly Place Archaeological Sites Overview, 1992

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INTRODUCTION

Kelly Place is a privately owned educational and recreational facility located in central McElmo Canyon in the western part of Montezuma County in extreme southwestern Colorado. It consists of 100 acres of land situated in the NW 1/4 of section 36, Township 36 North, Range 18 West, New Mexico Principal Meridian.

It was originally built as a retirement home in 1965 by Mr. George Kelly and his wife, Sue. Kelly was a retired horticulturist from the Denver area who is probably best known for founding the Denver Botanical Gardens, one of the foremost establishments of its type in the Rocky Mountain states. His other lifelong accomplishments are notable and include authorship of numerous books and articles, youth sponsor and organizer, radio talk show host, manager of a number of successful nurseries, and planner for a number of civic projects (such as city parks) throughout Colorado.

The Kelly's new residence in McElmo Canyon provided an environment where George could apply his horticultural expertise to arid southwestern environments. It was not long after moving to the canyon that the abundance of ancient Anasazi remains drew their interests. The construction of house and building foundations, roads, and waterlines regularly exposed cultural features and artifacts, while the cliff face opposite their home contained an impressive masonry granary. With interest spurred by these discoveries, the Kelly's quickly began exploring a number of the sites that dot the canyon floor in the vicinity of their home.

Neither of the Kellys were professional archaeologists. As such, the methods employed were lacking in some respects. Plan view maps were composed at most of their excavations, and major features and occasionally *in situ* artifacts were photographed. Reasonably good horizontal control was maintained, although vertical referencing was slight. None of the results were formally published; some brief mention appeared in local newspaper articles and slightly expanded accounts are in George's autobiography (Kelly). Kelly would, on occasion, consult with professionals and also developed some interesting interpretations with Native American acquaintances. In the mid 1980's a fire burned much of the Kelly Place grounds and consumed the building containing most of Kelly's original notes, photographs and maps.

Most of the labor force used to clear the sites at Kelly Place was provided by local school groups and exchange students from private and public schools in the Denver area. In total, Kelly cleared portions of six Pueblo II-III habitation sites. Two were subsequently stabilized. Site 5MT11734 is an intact Pueblo III kiva that has been completely re-roofed and functions as an interpretive display. Site 5MT11738 is a partial kiva exposed by erosion that has been left open but stabilized.

In 1980 the Kellys sold their property to a private concern so they could again retire. This time their new home was on smaller acreage that lacked prehistoric remains. Sue passed away in 198- and George died in 1991 at the age of 97 years.

Since 1981, Kelly Place has been owned and operated by Rodney and Kristie Carriker and it functions as an outdoor educational facility and working orchard. It hosts public and private school groups, special education groups, professional seminars in a variety of fields, archaeological field schools, and continuing education for Elderhostel International and colleges. Archaeology, natural history, Native American studies, primitive pottery and orchard management are major fields of study.

PROJECT ORIENTATION:

With the Carriker's ownership, archaeological inquiry has focused on the re-excavation, stabilization, and partial reconstruction of site 5MT11735 (aka KP-1, Sue's Ruin, West Ruin, Kelly Place Ruin). This relatively large unit-type pueblo-kiva had been the focus of much of Kelly's efforts. He excavated 12 or 13 rooms of an estimated 20 room pueblo and one large kiva. It was subsequently backfilled. With stabilization work at this site nearing completion, the emphasis of archaeological work is shifting focus to a more long-term research-oriented program complimenting concurrent research designs in the San Juan Basin. The first step in this directive is the implementation of this survey.

Although Kelly Place is a privately owned facility, it is committed to preserving its extant cultural resources. The first step in this is through public education and awareness of the uniqueness and non-renewable nature of archaeological resources, a regular aspect in all Kelly Place program instruction. Access to the property is strictly limited and visitation to most sites is restricted. Via stabilization, restoration, and emergency excavation (when necessary) Kelly Place offers program participants unique educational opportunities in assisting professional archaeologists and restoration specialists in several different aspects of archeology. Existing collections and data files are open to the archaeological community as well as researchers in related disciplines. The Kelly Place ceramic collection is utilized as a type collection for central McEImo Canyon.

On a general level this survey was conducted in order to identify all prehistoric and historic cultural resources on the property in order to address the following issues:

- 1) Identify management priorities for those sites threatened or endangered by natural processes, cultural factors, or both;
- 2) Offer preliminary significance evaluations for any considerations for nomination of property(s) to the National Register of Historic Places; and
- 3) Develop research directives for ongoing and future Kelly Place educational programs which would incorporate existing regional research domains and designs.

In considering these three directives, there is a certain amount of circularity with developing research designs in relation to organizing management priorities and significance evaluations. For example, much of Kelly Place is experiencing catastrophic erosional damage that is rapidly exposing several Basket Maker III and Pueblo II deposits. While salvage excavation of these resources will be necessary, it also offers an opportunity to investigate the differing erosional episodes that separate these cultural periods which in turn may yield data relevant to a number of archaeological and environmental issues. Concurrently, a refinement site type, age, and significance can be accomplished.

Despite nearly 30 years of varied levels of archaeological inquiry at Kelly Place, this survey report demonstrates that abundant and intact cultural deposits remain at Kelly Place that can host a number of diverse avenues of research ranging from geomorphology and paleo-environmental studies, to broader based archaeological issues such as technological studies, chronology and culture history, and the mechanics of the Basket Maker to Pueblo transitions.

PHYSIOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT:

Kelly Place is located in McElmo Canyon approximately 13 miles west of the community of Cortez. It occupies the floor and adjacent cliffs and benches on the north side of McElmo Creek about midway between Goodman and Sand Canyons. Goodman Point, the crest of McElmo Dome, is 3 km north. Ute Peak and Marble Mountain, exposed lacoliths on the northern extremity of Sleeping Ute Mountain, dominate the southern horizon. Elevations at Kelly Place range from 5440 to 5640' (1658 to 1719m) MSL.

Structurally Kelly Place is located on a localized feature known as the McElmo Dome. This feature is resultant from interfacing four larger geologic regions of the Colorado Plateau province: The Paradox Fold, the Four Corners Platform, the Ute Dome, and the Blanding Basin (Baars 1972; Haynes et al 1972). The dominating geologic feature at Kelly Place is a 10 to 40m high rounded cliff comprised of Navajo sandstone. It consists of white to pink cross-bedded aeolian cemented quartz sand. The cliff separates the lower floodplain-terrace system of McElmo Creek from the higher eroded ridges and benches atop the cliff. The canyon floor is comprised of Holocene alluvium and consists of inter-bedded sand, clay and gravel. Sediments on the higher ridges and benches consist of admixtures of residual sand and alluvial and colluvial deposits derived from overlying Entrada sandstone and Morrison Formation sandstones and mud stones.

Five intermittent tributaries of McElmo Creek cut through the cliff formation at Kelly Place and have created expansive alluvial fans. These are unnamed on the USGS quadrangle, but are referred to in our survey records as (in relative order from west to east) Cactus Canyon, Settlers' Canyon, Park Canyon, Garden Draw, and Spring Canyon (see Figure 3). These carry water seasonally, usually during spring runoff and after late summer thunderstorms. Collectively these streams drain about 450 acres (182 ha) of land below the southwestern terminus of Goodman Point. They converge along a 600m stretch of the canyon floor in an area amounting to some 30 acres (12.1 ha). Because of present lowered water tables and arroyo entrenchment, McElmo Creek and these tributaries are not suitable for flood irrigation. However, at different times during the prehistoric period, McElmo Creek apparently featured a braided stream course and an aggrading dispositional process across a generally flat valley floor. These alluvial fans were favored site locations during the Anasazi period: Five habitation sites are located on these fans, and four of them are multiple component. Also, stream discharges were manipulated to a certain degree as two check dams are located in fan alluvium.

McElmo Creek presently flows throughout the year; its dependability during the prehistoric period remains in question. Most of its present discharge is resultant from irrigation runoff in Montezuma Valley and Summit Ridge, and several lateral ditches extending into McElmo Canyon. During the early historic period, McElmo Creek was renowned for being the most alkaline stream in the region (Fletcher 1977). Seeps and springs are relatively common in the general area, usually at sandstone - shale contacts in canyon head locations. Virtually all streams carry seasonal water.

Plant and animal life in the area is consistent with that of the Upper Sonoran Life Zone throughout the central Colorado Plateau. At Kelly Place the present floral associations bear little resemblance to its native habitat. George Kelly planted in excess of 125 exotic species, not including orchard trees and garden plants. The combined effects of cattle ranching, lowered water tables, and

the introduction of other species during the historic period has had a profound effect on the overall appearance of the region.

A taxonomic listing of the native (potential) plants in the survey area is presented in Appendix 1. On a general level floral associations across the Colorado Plateau seem to have been relatively stable since the end of the Pleistocene (Jennings 1976), although the density and distribution of species may have varied considerably.

Kelly Place is divided by this survey into three distinct floral zones based on sediment type and topographic position. For the purposes of this investigation these are 1) the canyon floor, 2) the cliff and talus areas, and 3) the uplands. Each of these zones are briefly described below.

The Canyon Floor at Kelly Place are those areas consisting of the channel, floodplain and adjacent terraces of McElmo Creek. For the most part these lie north of the channel, although there are two isolated floodplain areas south of it. Sediments consist of inter-bedded sands, clays and gravels resultant from both channel and side tributary deposition (alluvial fans). With alternating episodes of erosion and deposition the channel of McElmo Creek has meandered widely across the canyon floor. As such the actual locations and dimensions of the floodplain and terraces have changed regularly throughout the Holocene. The present floodplain is choked with tamarisk, a small tree historically introduced from Asia to retard erosion. Lesser numbers of willow and cottonwood are scattered along the stream bank. The bordering terraces are separated from the floodplain by steep banks from 2 to 10m high. The terraces feature a shrub land aspect and are dominated by big sagebrush, a number of salt shrubs, and a variety of grasses. Sage tends to be more dominant on fan deposits while salt shrubs are more frequent on terraces. Also, higher numbers of wolfberry (Lycium pallidum) are found on the terraces and generally correlate to Anasazi site locations.

Adjacent and upslope to the Canyon Floor is the The Cliff and Talus area. This narrow but vertically expansive zone is mostly void of plant life except along transportational toe slopes and near its top where collapsed ledges form small talus units. In these restricted "belts" of sand to boulder size colluvium pinyon pine, juniper, yucca, and a variety of grasses and woody shrubs lie perched in mostly inaccessible areas. Talus slopes extend northward across Kelly Place in the five drainages that cut the cliff. Tree and shrub density is higher along the moist bottoms of these intermittent streams. Atop the divides between these drainages lies the highest association at Kelly Place,

The Uplands. These narrow ridges and ancestral benches of McElmo Creek support an open woodland with pinyon pine and juniper found in about equal proportions. Sediments in these areas vary and consist of the following or combinations thereof: in situ residual sand from Navajo sandstone, ancestral sand and gravel deposits from McElmo Creek, and alluvium and colluvium derived from the higher Morrison Formation and Entrada sandstone cliffs located below Goodman Point. Under story species include a variety of grasses and mixed shrub associations. This association has been altered historically from tree cutting (for fence posts and firewood) and by cattle grazing, which has resulted in accelerated erosion and sediment loss.

Beginning on the south bank of McElmo Creek and extending southward, the toe slopes and north face of Sleeping Ute Mountain feature a contrasting environment which is unique when compared to the region at large.. Rising some 4500' (ca. 1370m) in 6 km from the canyon floor, the Sleeping Ute offers a variety of floral, faunal, lithic, and water resources uncommon to the area. The Sleeping Ute also has a significant bearing on the local climate. The importance of the Sleeping Ute

during the prehistoric period is probably reflected best by the higher densities of sites in areas adjacent to it; survey and settlement data for the mountain itself is lacking.

In considering floral resources, a variety of conifers are found throughout the altitude ranges of the mountain. On its higher reaches ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are prominent. On lower slopes and benches dense stands of pinyon pine and juniper abound, often featuring the straighter and less gnarly variety of Rocky Mountain juniper. The pine and fir associations are frequently found in macro-environmental inversions in steeper canyons where they are found well below their usual altitude limit. At present these are found as low as 6700' (ca 2040m) along Pine and Ute Creeks. It is worth speculating that these may have extended on to the floor of McElmo Canyon during the prehistoric and into the early historic periods. Mixed mountain shrub associations (notably gambel oak, mountain mahogany, and service berry) form much of the under story on the Sleeping Ute and frequently cover burned areas and other natural openings. Collectively these timber and shrub resources were available for the prehistoric inhabitants and would have furnished important construction and tool material while also supplying some food products.

The importance of the dark colored grano-dioritic rock that forms much of Sleeping Ute Mountain is well established in the archaeological record. The crushed igneous rock was a favored temporing agent in late Basket Maker and Early Pueblo period ceramics. The rock also furnished the strength and durability required for axes, hammer stones, mauls, picks and hoes. This material is readily available in alluvial and colluvial deposits and as stock from any one of a number of spoke-like dykes that radiate from Ute Peak and Marble Mountain.

Both directly and indirectly, water was most certainly paramount among the products furnished by the Sleeping Ute. The northern slopes would have supplied abundant water and longer runoff periods during the spring months, as well as increasing the soil moisture content on fan deposits on the south side of McElmo Creek. The benefits for prehistoric agriculture of this may have been offset, however, due to colder soils, cold air drainage, coarser and grittier soils, and limited available sunlight. Modern farming practices seem to indicate this: much of the south bank of McElmo Creek is not farmed above Battle Rock, areas closest to Ute Mountain. Indirectly the mountain furnishes water from storms in two ways. First, in the late summer months its elevation is conducive to thermal convections that form thunderstorms. These may remain over the mountain but usually move northward. Second, storms approaching the mountain at oblique angles from the southwest (the prevailing storm track of the area) can be deflected northward by its mass into the McElmo area.

Since so little is known of Archaic and Anasazi hunting techniques, the importance of the mountain for faunal resources is problematic. It furnishes abundant browse for mule deer during the summer/fall months, affecting the population and seasonal movements of species. The abrupt topography also furnishes adequate barriers for ambush and entrapment hunting practices. Until survey data become available for Sleeping Ute Mountain, its use for hunting remains in question, not only for the Anasazi, but the earlier Archaic and later Ute period as well.

Given this brief discussion of the natural environment of Kelly Place and the surrounding area, we will proceed to a brief summary of the past archaeological work conducted in the canyon.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN McELMO CANYON:

McElmo Canyon lies near the approximate center of the heartland of the Northern San Juan or Mesa Verde Branch of the prehistoric Anasazi culture area. Draining Montezuma Valley, the north escarpment of Mesa Verde, northern Sleeping Ute Mountain, and the entire Yellow Jacket Canyon system, McElmo drains into the San Juan River at Aneth, Utah, some 45 airline miles west of its headwaters in Stinking Springs Canyon north of Mesa Verde National Park. The McElmo and Yellow Jacket systems are viewed as the core of the Northern San Juan Anasazi area and contain some of the largest prehistoric pueblo sites and site concentrations in the North American southwest. There are a number of excellent overviews of the prehistory of the area, as well as several outlining the history of archaeological research. As such we will not attempt a further overview of the area, but rather discuss the early investigations in McElmo Canyon.

The archaeological remains in McElmo Canyon have long been recognized. Early accounts of the towers, cliff dwellings, masonry granaries, and other large open ruins reported by William H. Jackson and William Holmes in the 1870's mark the true beginning of archaeological work in the canyon. Once this information reached the public, there was much speculation about these prehistoric inhabitants. Many investigators speculated some sort of relationship with the historic pueblo dwellers of New Mexico and Arizona. Others favored connections further south, as is reflected in the names of Toltec Ruins and Aztec Spring (now Yucca House). Some were more sensational, as Lewis Henry Morgan attempted bridging the ruins in the McElmo - Ute Mountain area with the prehistoric mound builders of the Ohio River Valley (Morgan 1881).

McElmo Canyon might well have been the center of more early inquiry had the expansive cliff dwellings on the Mesa Verde remained undiscovered. During the waning years of the 19th century and first part of the 20th most archaeological work in southwestern Colorado was headquartered at the Wetherills' Alamo Ranch in Mancos Valley and focused on the Mesa Verde. Little mention is made of McElmo Canyon, which is somewhat surprising. McElmo Canyon furnished a natural route that connected the early Mormon settlements of Bluff City and Montezuma Creek in southeastern Utah with the budding mining, ranching, and railhead centers in southwestern Colorado, such as Mancos, Animas City, Parrot City, Durango, and later, Cortez. The canyon was regularly traversed with freight and cattle herds, and a stageline is reported to have been in operation. There can be little doubt that at least the more obvious ruins were examined but apparently only on casual and nonsystematic levels by non-professionals since no published accounts exist.

For the years surrounding the turn of the century a regular visitor to Alamo Ranch was a Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden. A physician by training, he was a recognized expert in a number of fields. Unlike earlier investigators who focused on the large cliff dwellings, Prudden was drawn to the numerous smaller ruins off the Mesa Verde proper, notably in Montezuma Valley near the head of McElmo Canyon, and on the Cajon Mesa - Bug Point - Squaw Point areas northwest of Cortez. Through the excavation of a number of these smaller ruins, Prudden proposed the Unit-type site as representative of much of the population, the site consisting of a small block of rooms with a kiva and midden, generally located to the south of it. Although these sites displayed some stylistic similarities in both architecture and material culture with the cliff dwellings, the temporal and cultural relationships between the two types of sites remained clouded.

Early on, the Wetherills recognized the Basket Maker culture or period, a preceramic horizon that predated the builders of the cliff dwellings. Most of the information about this early period was gleaned from their amassing collections of artifacts from San Juan County, Utah. The temporal and cultural relationships between the Basket Makers, Prudden's unit-type sites, the large open sites such as those at Aztec Spring, Yellow Jacket Spring, Squaw Point and others, with the cliff dwellings, remained in question. The Wetherills and others initially thought that these big ruins were later in time than the cliff dwellings since they were larger and not irregularly arranged as the cliff dwellings. The McElmo drainage would now offer some interesting comparisons.

1906 witnessed the passing of the Federal Antiquities Act and the establishment of Mesa Verde National Park, amongst other site concentrations in the southwest. Edgar Lee Hewett of the Archaeological Institute of America was an ardent backer of site preservation and is believed to have been an architect of the Federal mandate. Riding on a wave of popularity in professional and bureaucratic establishments, he was requested by the Secretary of the Interior in 1907 to locate any other sites that may warrant preservation in the Four-Corners area. Responding to a bulletin board advertisement at Harvard University, three students were enlisted and met Hewett at Holly's (or Holley's) Ranch in McElmo Canyon later that same year. Standing atop Cannonball Mesa, Hewett is reported to have stated "I want you boys . . . to make an archaeological survey of this region. I'll be back in six weeks. You'd better get some horses." (Ceram 1971:68). These three students were John Gould Fletcher, Alfred V. Kidder, and Sylvanus Griswold Morley. Some accounts place Jesse Nussbam as part of this group [Smith nd]. If so, the group was enhanced to an even greater degree. Kidder would soon gain fame at Pecos Pueblo and later become the "dean" of American archeology, and Morley went on to become an internationally known Mayanist. Fletcher quit archeology and pursued a literary career as a poet.

Highlights of the survey were published a decade later (Kidder and Morley 1917). Given the state of American archaeological inquiry of the time, the project can scarcely be called a survey by modern standards. Nonetheless, Kidder and Morley described a number of now famous site groups in some detail. Speculating the function of towers found in the Hovenweep area, they felt defense was of primary concern, but also introduced the line-of-site theory (ibid: 43). Of the McElmo area, we know of one site in detail.

In 1908 Hewett dispatched Morley back to McElmo Canyon, this time to excavate a portion of a large partially standing pueblo ruin at the head of a small canyon on the north side of Cannonball Mesa. The ruin was apparently selected for study since it seemed to be representative of a number of sites in the general area (specifically, the canyon head groups such as Hovenweep) and also to attempt to define the relationships between these large open sites and the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings. Morley published the results of the expedition later that same year (Morley 1908). While the technical aspects of the report are lacking by modern standards, it remains a significant document from several standpoints. First, this was one of the first archaeological sites in the Northern San Juan area to be excavated by and reported on by a professional American archaeologist. Second, Morley went beyond the norm of describing artifacts and architecture and proceeded to speculate on social groupings based on kiva and room distributions (Hayes 1985). Third, although the specifics would be established later, he demonstrated that these remains were in fact from the same peoples responsible for constructing the cliff dwellings. And fourth, but certainly not least, Cannonball Ruin remains the sole example of an excavated and reported canyon head Hovenweep-like site in the northern San Juan area.

Until recently most archaeological work has centered in areas outside of McElmo Canyon. Kidder's publication (1927) of the Pecos Classification was enhanced, in part, by the later work of Paul Martin in the Ackmen-Lowry area in the Yellow Jacket and Cross Canyon regions north of McElmo Canyon. Until the 1970's when archaeological survey and assessment became a regular part of the environmental process on State and Federal land, very little formal work has been conducted in the area. With rare exception (Martin 1976, Gliedman 1989, Winter 1976), most recent surveys have consisted of the examination of small isolated tracts for well pads, roads, and pipelines. Recently the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center has initiated several long term problem-oriented excavations in and in areas adjacent to McElmo Canyon. These projects are addressing a number of issues ranging from the technological aspects of material culture to much broader based issues such as cultural process and change, modes of abandonment, and social organization. This effort constitutes the first employment of modern archaeological technique to the cultural resources of McElmo Canyon, and the professional community at large is anticipating some exciting developments.

Recently the Colorado Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) has identified a number of specific research problems and has suggested some prospective avenues of inquiry in order to offer a certain level of cohesiveness in organizing research in the region as a whole (Eddy et al 1984). Four major research problems for the McElmo Drainage Unit were proposed and described in detail by that document (ibid: 43-44; S3..3.1.3.1-4). These are briefly restated below.

- 1) Aceramic sites. The McElmo Drainage Unit contains large numbers of aceramic sites, many of which may date to the Archaic period. There is a real need to formally address the number and nature of these sites in order to determine their function and temporal placement, as well as explore their external relationships.
- 2) Anasazi Origins and the Basket Maker III Stage. Although large numbers of early Anasazi remains are present in the McElmo Drainage Unit, little work has focused on these early sites, a requirement before an assessment of later materials can be accurately made.
- 3) The Emergence, Growth, and Decline of an Aggregated Settlement System During the Late Pueblo II-III Stages (Yellow Jacket Phase) and the Role/Influence of Chaco Culture. The McElmo Drainage Unit contains some of the largest examples of Pueblo II-III sites in the Northern San Juan area, yet the development of these sites remains in question, as well as their internal and external relationships. Many sites in the McElmo area could yield information relevant to these processes.
- 4) Mechanisms of Abandonment of the Unit and Factors Causing the Abandonment. Many sites in the McElmo Drainage Unit date to very late in the Anasazi sequence and contrast markedly to other late sites, such as those on the Mesa Verde proper. A number of abandonment theories may warrant testing throughout the McElmo area.

By and large these directives form the basis of our investigations at Kelly Place. Individual sites and localities always display idiosyncrasies which allow for more site-specific questioning and analysis. Management requirements also restrict and dictate field activities. None the less, Kelly Place lies in a fascinating prehistoric area and contains a wealth of sites which offer a number of unique research opportunities. It is interesting that the basis for most of the research directives suggested by Eddy et al, do not significantly diverge from the questions asked by early investigators. We may now be better equipped with technique to approach these issues, but only now are their complexities being realized.

SURVEY PROCEDURE:

As previously mentioned in this report the principle reasons for conducting this survey were to:

- 1) identify management priorities for endangered sites
- 2) offer preliminary significance evaluations, relative to the National Register of Historic Places criteria
- 3) develop research directives for future Kelly Place programs

The latter includes incorporating existing research domains, in this case those addressed by Eddy et al (1984). Although the archaeological resources at Kelly Place have long been recognized, no thorough inventory of the premises had been conducted. In order to properly address the goals of this survey, a number of activities were employed which included site file and literature reviews, informant interviews, and on the ground survey. These methods are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Prior to the initiation of the field work, a site file and literature review was conducted through the Colorado Office of .. Archaeology and Historic Preservation in Denver. The results of this review concluded that. only one site (5MT10968) had previously been recorded on Kelly Place property. This site was recorded in 1990 by Dr. Patricia Flint in conjunction with Elderhostel participants. It was rerecorded by this survey. OAHP considers the site significant and worthy of National Register considerations.

Most of George Kelly's original notes and photographs were consumed in a fire in the mid 1980's. A complete review of the files at Kelly Place did reveal the presence of a few maps, photographs and notes that were not consumed in the blaze. These enabled the archaeologists to determine the amount of work conducted at some sites which was helpful when examining sites in heavily alluviated areas. A few brief narratives are presented in George's autobiography (Kelly). These were of limited use since they mostly described the people who assisted him and Sue. Archaeologist Wayne Howell was able to interview a number of individuals who worked with Kelly. These interviews (conducted in the spring of 1992) have allowed for expanded discussions of several of the sites on the canyon floor that were the focus of much of Kelly's work.

On-the-ground survey was initiated in 1991 by Wayne Howell and was continued throughout 1992 by Barry Hibbets. The survey was generally conducted by the single archaeologist walking over the entire premises via parallel transects spaced no more than 10m apart. Occasional assistance was provided by Kelly Place staff members, archeology program participants, and visiting archaeologists.

Abrupt terrain dictated that most ground survey be conducted by topographic feature (e.g. canyon floor, bench, ridge top, etc.). Much of the ground surface on the open canyon floor is obscured by lawns, orchards, and brush cover. It is also covered with one to two meters of recently deposited alluvium. The limiting factors of these were offset to a certain degree by the number of arroyos that have recently (within this century) bisected the property. McElmo Creek offers a practically uninterrupted 2700' stretch of arroyo cut banks and each of its five tributaries laterally cross the property in entrenched profiles. This enabled the investigators to observe many sites in cross section, and discovering several more that would have remained unknown.

Site Number: **5MT10968**

Site Type: *Multiple component habitation*

General Site Description: CA House (5MYT10968) is situated on the eroded fan at the mouth of Spring Canyon on the eastern side of Kelly Place. The site is multi-component, dominated by a PII-PIII habitation which consists of a room block, kiva and midden, and a buried and less readily discernible BMIII component, consisting of the partial remains of what was probably a pit house, as well as several buried BMIII artifact-bearing horizons.

The name "CA House" originates from the principal contribution of Colorado Academy (CA) in excavation of the room block and kiva during the period 1969-1972. The site has also been variously called "Metate House", for the large numbers of metates recovered there; "East Kiva and Ruins", for its location in the eastern portion of Kelly Place; "Kokopelli's House", for the numbers of Kokopelli petroglyph's at the site, and "Site 9", reference unknown. CA House is the more commonly used appellation. The excavation program was carried out in several phases, with the original work supervised by George and Sue Kelly. This work was directed at removal of overburden from the room block and kiva down to discernible walls, which were then followed to delineate rooms. Because the fill in these features was post-abandonment alluvium and devoid of artifacts, this phase of the excavation was largely an earth removal process. Upon identification of the rooms, Sue Kelly would then take over and expose floor levels. One of the high points of this operation was the identification of a room in the southeastern portion of the room block as a milling room. Excavation control was tied to a datum located on bedrock(?) northwest of the room block (not relocated as of 1992). Artifacts were bagged by 10cm levels in a metric grid square. Metates and manos, which were fairly common, were left on the walls within the room block. Bone awls were also an artifact type commonly found. All notes, maps, and bagged artifacts were stored in a building at Kelly Place, but were destroyed by fire sometime in 1984-1985. A second phase of excavation at CA House was carried out in the early 1980's by Hal Rager, then of Kelly Place. This work was a testing program of controlled excavations in north-south oriented trenches. A steel rebar datum (relocated in 1992) was set in the midden. No records are known to exist from this work. In 1990 Dr. Patricia Robbins Flint, then of Kelly Place, formally recorded the site and took controlled surface collections from the pueblo kiva area. The notes and artifacts from that exercise are housed at Kelly Place. Our present recording is a complete revision of Flint's recording since a number of additional features have been discovered and discrepancies noted that required attention.

Component 1 at CA House was not recognized until 1992. It consists of two manifestations: 1) In a terrace remnant detached from the southern edge of the main alluvial fan landform upon which CA House sits, there is a buried (@60 cm bmg) cultural deposit consisting of a 10-15 cm thick layer of ash and charcoal saturated fill, burned adobe, charred wood fragments, several large shaped sandstone slabs (slumped), and artifacts including a one-hand mano, lithic debitage, and sherds. Erosion has exposed this deposit as a continuous and well defined ring around approximately 60% of the detached terrace remnant --the remaining 40% was removed by prehistoric erosion, or is mantled by post-BMIII alluvial deposits. Debris from the eroded feature extends down the cut bank slope to McElmo Creek floodplain, particularly to the southwest. The southwestern lobe contained 56 BMIII sherds and several large sandstone slabs. Based on the presence of the sandstone slabs, burned adobe, large pieces of charred wood (which may be architectural members) and a continuous and clear contact at the base of the deposit, it is plausible the deposit is the remains of a BMIII pit house. Farther along the cut bank to the west, BMIII sherds are also found eroding from a buried context,

particularly at a locus designated Profile 4 (see map), where nine definite and four likely BMIII sherds were found in post-erosional context below a terrace-fan contact that also contained a number of PII sherds and few PIII sherds.

Component 2 consists of a room block, kiva, midden, rock art, and masonry wall remnants under an overhang. The room block was built into a cluster of boulders at the base of the Navajo sandstone cliffs. Six rooms were excavated by the Kellys, but rock alignments extending between the boulders north of the excavated rooms may indicate more. The rooms range from 3.2 to 4 m long, and are on an average of 2.5 m wide. They are arranged in a contiguous pattern; the two northern rooms were placed with the long axis E-E, and four rooms adjoining them to the south were arranged in a similar style, abutting a boulder on the west end. The construction technique is semi-coursed double stone masonry style predominantly utilizing unaltered stone, although some minimally dressed stone is present, with liberal applications of mortar and limited use of chinking.

The kiva is located immediately southeast of the room block. It is 6 m diameter - because it has been left open to the elements, it is partially filled with debris and largely deteriorated. The masonry style is similar to the technique used in the room-block. In the northwest quarter of the kiva, which is more protected because of overhanging brush, remnants of wall plaster still adhere to the wall. The presence of burned and fractured rock, and burned plaster in-place on the wall, suggests the kiva burned prehistorically. The kiva is believed to have had four large pilasters and was connected to the room block with an underground tunnel.

The component 2 midden is extensive and is especially visible to the east and southeast of the room block. On the southeast the midden has been covered by approximately 2.3 m of post-abandonment alluvium. P-III ceramics dominate the ceramic assemblage on the surface of the midden, although P-II ceramics are also present. A midden exposed in the cut bank on the south edge of the site, and tested in Profile 1, contains only P-II materials.

Much of the eastern edge of the site has been disturbed by the Old McEImo Road (site 5MT11835), probably during the ca. 1880-1913 era. Several road cuts, as well as a series of dikes or bridge abutments seem to have utilized midden deposits and building rubble for fill.

The Component 2 rock art is located in a cluster of boulders north of the room block, and on the cliff immediately north of the boulders. Five panels were identified. Panel 1 elements on the cliff face identified include a spiral and several associated holes. Panels 2-5 on the boulders display three flute players (Kokopelli), a pecked curvilinear line, a possible mountain sheep or goat, and an eight legged zoo-morph element. Because of the friable nature of the sandstone cliff most of the figures are difficult to discern.

Two masonry wall remnants lie under the cliff overhang north of the rock art. Both are about 1.5m long, 2 - 3 courses high, and lie on bedrock. They are probably the remains of a much larger structure that has deteriorated or was dismantled for use in road fill.

Ceramics examined on the surface in the Component 2 midden on the eastern portion of the site (n=95) include a minority of PII types and a majority of PIII types. Corrugated sherds predominate plain gray sherds at a 4/1 ratio. On the southern cut bank, where a more limited number of sherds (m=58) was examined, the assemblage is dominated by PII types. The PII assemblage contains Mancos B/W, Dolores Corrugated, and a few Mancos Gray sherds. The PIII white ware assemblage is strongly dominated by McEImo B/W (n=15) over Mesa Verde B/W (n=2). This assemblage suggests that CA House was probably established in the late PII period, A.D. 1050-

1125/50, with intensive occupation continuing into the early PIII period, from A.D. 1150-1225. The general scarcity of Mesa Verde Corrugated and Mesa Verde B/W may indicate site abandonment early in the thirteenth century.

Ceramics from the Component 1 site area include Chapin Gray rim sherds (n=7), Chapin B/W (n=2), Chapin Gray body sherds (n=50), and gurgative red sherds (n=3), with a scattering of PII and PIII types most of which were segregated on the northeastern and western flanks of the area, where PII-PIII middens are actively eroding. The component 1 occupation dates to the period A.D. 575-750/775.

The stratigraphic position of these temporal components facilitates interpretation of the geomorphological history of CA House specifically, and of the Kelly Place and Middle McElmo Canyon in general. A BM III occupation took place at the

mouth of Spring Canyon, positioned on an alluvial fan that draped onto an aggrading McElmo Creek floodplain and provided the inhabitants a slight elevation above the high-water table of the valley bottom. Following abandonment of the site by the BMIII occupants (actually sometime after A.D. 775), an erosional episode lowered the McElmo Canyon floodplain, and an arroyo cut head ward through the fan deposit and into Spring Canyon, removing portions of the BMIII site and isolating as a detached remnant the portion of the terrace containing the structural remains. A series of channels was scoured through the fan during this erosional episode, and when the floodplain began to aggrade again, PII occupants were in place on the fan remnant to deposit cultural material in the channels (now exposed in the cut bank on the south edge of the site). Continued deposition mantled the BMIII component with pink sands and gravels, and occupation continued through the PII and into early PIII times. Sometime following PIII abandonment, one and maybe more erosional episodes occurred, once again exposing the Component 1 terrace remnant in much the same way it had been exposed before.

Site Number: 5MT11734

Site Type: Kiva, possible buried rooms.

General Site Description: Site 5MT11734 (George's Ruin) is located in a deep alluvial cutback north of McElmo Creek immediately west of Cactus Canyon, near the western edge of Kelly Place. Features include a masonry-lined kiva, and masonry walls indicating a surface room under an alcove immediately north of the kiva. Very little information concerning the history of discovery and excavation of this site has survived but one seemingly logical version is that George Kelly noticed the masonry being exposed in the cutback and decided to stabilize the bank with sandbags and excavate and roof the kiva.

A surface room under an overhang north of the kiva was also excavated and another overhang just east of the first was tested with a pit, but no other surface rooms were found. Kelly attempted to follow Anasazi techniques in re-roofing the kiva, using juniper logs, tamarisk, bark, and earth, with a hand made rung ladder for entry. Although visually appealing and in spirit true to form, critical support elements in the basal cribbing were marginal at best. They proved inadequate in the late 1980's when the added weight of the neighbor's stray cow caused the roof to collapse.

Presently the roof is temporarily braced with vertical upright posts beneath the interior cribbing. Few original Kelly-period names are known for the site, so "George's Ruin" is applied to commemorate the work of George Kelly.

The kiva is 4.5 m in diameter and is constructed of relatively small blocks of dressed stone masonry joined with pink silty sand mortar and is still covered in areas with gray to tan clay plaster. The floor was also plastered with the same material, and around the perimeter it curls up from the floor to blend with the wall plaster. The basal walls are inclined slightly inward. A southern recess extends 1.4 m back from the bench and flares from 1.67 m wide at the bench to 1.9 m wide at the back. The bench rises from .86 to .9 m above floor level and is from 32 to 52 cm wide. Six pilasters rise .63 to .72 m above the bench as roof supports.

Floor features include a reported subfloor vent (?), deflector, fire box and sipapu. A more typical Northern San Juan style vent shaft also extends beneath the southern recess. A wall niche is located 27 cm above floor level in the northeast wall and an unusual clay-coped hole is located 53 cm above floor level and on the center line in the north wall. Reportedly, a number of corrugated vessels and two metates were found in this kiva, fostering an interpretation of domestic activity. Currently fragments of two large Mesa Verde corrugated ollas, a McElmo B/W bowl, a McElmo B/W olla and the remains of several PIII white ware fragments are located in the kiva.

The surface room is roughly 2 c long and 1.5 m wide and is located entirely under a low overhang. The wall is single-stone and is comprised of undressed stone with copious mortar. The back wall is formed by the alcove. No other surface rooms are visible, although there are other alcoves and level terrace surfaces where more could lie buried.

Based on the level of the kiva roof, it appears that 1.3 m of alluvial sand was deposited over the kiva following site abandonment.

Aside from the ceramics located in the kiva, very few other artifacts are associated with the site. Just west of the cutback several corrugated sherds and a McElmo B/W sherd were noted. Given the massive erosion that has cut up to the edge of the kiva, it is likely the site midden has been removed.

George's Ruin was built on an alluvial fan deposit below the mouth of Cactus Canyon, a settlement pattern common at Kelly Place. Unlike other sites however, there is no evidence of a preceding PII occupation. The site probably dates to the early PIII period, from about A.D. 1150 to 1225.

Site Number: 5MT11735

Site Type: Habitation

General Site Description: Site 5MT11735 (Sue's Ruin) is a multi component habitation situated on the alluvial fan east of the mouth of Cactus Canyon at Kelly Place. Sue's Ruin has been the focus of much of George Kelly's and others' work carried out over the years at Kelly Place. Sue's Ruin consists of two room blocks, a large masonry lined kiva and a midden. The north room block is a rectangular compound with nine rooms. Masonry walls are over 1 m high. The south room block lies south of the first and lies perpendicular to it. It is marked by low walls forming a long rectangle and enclosing at least two and possibly three rooms. The kiva is almost 7 m across and is located within the "L" formed by the two room blocks. The kiva was not enclosed by the room block. The midden is south of the room block and kiva. It has been bisected by a road cut and shows a deep and complex deposition.

Work at the site began prior to 1969 when a burial was found eroding from the midden in the roadblock south of the room blocks and kiva. This burial, named "Joe", by the Kellys, was reportedly removed by a group of students from the University of Colorado. Its eventual disposition is unknown and no information concerning artifact associations has survived.

Soon thereafter, excavations were initiated in the room block where nine rooms were cleared. Notable were two burials found in room fill. One burial, most likely found in Room 7, was that of a female accompanied by an assemblage which included a Wingate B/R bowl and two B/W mugs (possibly Mesa Verde B/W). The burial was named "Janey" by the Kelly's and owing to the presence of the White Mountain red ware bowl, also became known as "The Lady From Away". The other burial was reportedly that of a male and was labeled "Jimmy". This burial may have come from Room 5 and was reportedly found in association with some turkey bones. One ceramic vessel, a McElmo (?) B/W pitcher with a swirled design currently in the Kelly Place collection, may have been found in association with this burial. No more information concerning finds made by the Kellys in the room block is currently available.

The large kiva and south room block were also excavated. The kiva was eventually re-roofed by George Kelly utilizing rough-cut slabs, plywood and tar paper. This roof burned in the mid 1980's in the same fire that consumed the storage building. Following the fire, George Kelly made an attempt to preserve the kiva and room block by backfilling them. ~

Over the years site 5MT11735 has had a number of names, including "The Lady From Away Ruin", "Jimmy and Janey Ruin", "Big Kiva Ruin", "Sue's Kiva" and more recently "West Pueblo". A map drawn by George Kelly has survived to the present and labels the site "Sue's Ruin", so we prefer that appellation.

Subsequent to the departure of George and Sue Kelly in the mid 1980's, the program at Kelly Place focused on a stabilization program at Sue's Ruin. This effort was directed at both the room block and kiva. The initial step was to remove the backfill put into the structures by George Kelly. In the process, the remains of seven individuals were found in the room block: Room 7 contained the remains of an adult and a child, (the adult was probably Janey); the partial remains of a child were found in Room 4; an adult was found in Room 5, (this was probably Jimmy); an adult male was found in Room 8; and the disarticulated remains of two adults were found in Room 6. The clusters of disarticulated bones from Room 6 reportedly show evidence of traumatic death and possibly

cannibalism. No grave goods were found with any of these individuals and it is assumed that all were found by the Kellys. All of the burials were reportedly found within fill above floor levels (both by the Kelly's and by the stabilizers when they cleared the backfill). As pre-stabilization worked progressed, another burial, that of a young infant, was found in a stone-lined cist beneath the wall dividing Room 2 from Room 3. This burial, with an associated McEImo B/W bowl and a mug were left in situ by the stabilizers.

At some time during investigations, several trenches were also excavated into the midden area south of the room blocks and kiva, but no records have survived from this operation. It is possible they were done during the period when Hal Rager was doing site testing at Kelly Place. Recently, two smaller excavation units were started in the midden area, but were suspended at very shallow depths.

Lacking excavation records, dating at Sue's Ruin is problematic. Examination of ceramics found around the room blocks and on the midden suggest a complex occupational history. Ceramics of the PII and PIII periods are common in both areas, and indicate the establishment of the site in the mid-to-late PII period, with substantial occupation continuing into the early PIII period. For example, tabulation of white wares found on the midden surface are dominated by Mancos B/W (n=23) and McEImo B/W (n=14) - general ratios of sherds found in context in the midden substantiate this. In the gray ware tabulations, the ratios of the different PII and PIII types are relatively equal: Mancos Gray (n=3), Mancos Corrugated (n=4), Dolores Corrugated (n=3), and Mesa Verde Corrugated (n=5). Red wares include some San Juan Red Wares (n=2), and Wingate B/R (n=2), also indicators of the PII-PIII occupation. The lack of Mesa Verde B/W suggests site abandonment in the early 13th century.

Comparison of architectural styles and of the construction sequence also suggest a complex occupational history. Rooms 4-9 of the north room block were built in the same construction episode--the similarity of the masonry style and the wall adjoining technique demonstrate this. The masonry style in these rooms is of single stone semi-coursed walls utilizing large tabular sandstone slabs, abundant mortar and numerous chinking stones. The walls are joined by alternate binding, an indication they were added on at a later date. The eastern wall of Room 1 is also different; it is constructed of large square and rectangular blocks of dressed stone, and also abuts the adjoining room block. This is also an exterior wall of the pueblo.

Beyond this two-phase construction sequence, an earlier episode is hinted at by several low, single-stone rock alignments north of the room block which are stratigraphical more or less at the level of the basal stones of Rooms 6-9 and may mark the positions of walls that were either dismantled when the north room block was built, or still lie buried in the sediments below the level of the later construction.

Evidence of multiple episodes of construction were also uncovered during the early stages of the stabilization program when workers cleaning the rooms of backfill uncovered two floor levels in some (or all) of the rooms in the north room block. Cultural fill separated floor levels.

The southern room block also holds clues. For one, it is entirely detached from the northern room block and is oriented to an odd angle, a likely indicator of separate construction episodes. It consists of low, single-stone walls, constructed by using a combination of dressed stone, shaped slabs and small rocks. The use of large blocks of dressed, pecked-face stones is similar to that of the eastern wall of Room 1 in the north room block. It is a masonry technique generally attributable to

the PIII period. (It should be pointed out that the south room block lacks substantial rubble, and appears to have been largely dismantled. This was probably done by George Kelly in the 1970's when he contributed a large quantity of Anasazi building stone to the City of Cortez for use in construction of the flag pavilion in the city park).

The kiva also shows evidence of multiple construction episodes and remodeling. Foremost, when the kiva pit was excavated, it cut through an earlier pit structure, or culturally-filled natural feature, which appears as a clearly demarcated ash/charcoal stained deposit behind the eastern wall of the kiva. Within the kiva, there are two clay floors that are separated by approximately 30 cm of fill and areas of the walls still have six or more layers of plaster. The masonry style employed in the kiva is semi-coursed, utilizing a combination of tabular sandstone slabs and dressed-stone blocks, but there is very little pecked-face surface finish. Architecturally, the kiva is similar to Rooms 4-9 of the north room block.

These lines of evidence - the ceramic assemblage, multiple episodes of construction, building over, remodeling and placement of burials within abandoned rooms and in areas that were later integrated under structures - suggest a long (and possibly continuous) occupation of Sue's Ruin from the mid PII through the mid PIII periods, from A.D. 1050-1225. Sorting out when certain architectural components were constructed is problematic. We can assume that the north room block predates the early PIII period, possibly in the late PII, since burials (Janey and Jimmy) from that masonry style are more characteristic of pre-PIII techniques. An earlier suite of rooms may also underlie the north room block. Rooms 1-3 were built at a time after the burial of an infant during early PIII. Just when the kiva was built is difficult to ascertain, but based on the rough masonry style, late PII or very early PIII seems plausible.

Sue's Ruin was constructed on an aggrading alluvial fan. The age of the surface upon which the site was settled has not been determined. The evidence for aggradation during the occupation is two fold. Following settlement, the ground surface continued to aggrade as the midden was deposited, creating a cultural horizon that is from 40 to 50 cm thick. Alluvial sediments continued to accumulate around the room blocks as well, eventually covering them. Following abandonment, the roof of the kiva was removed and sediments collected in it to varying depths--in one case it rose to a point 40 cm below the top of the southeastern pilaster. Two subsequent episodes of flooding filled the basin (and settled pink flood-borne clays into the voids created by mortar eroded from the pilaster). The fan then continued to aggrade an additional 1.5 m above the flood episodes that filled the kiva. Very little rubble from the room blocks must have been visible when George Kelly began to excavate.

Site Number: 5MT11736

Site Type: ? (Eroded Habitation?)

General Site Description: Site 5MT11736 consists of the remnant of what George Kelly had described as a masonry column that was exposed by erosion in Settler's Wash about 30 m northeast of the Kelly Place Lodge. When first exposed by erosion, sometime in the 1970's, the masonry column was much more consolidated than at present and reportedly stood about 1.5 m high, about 1 m across the base and .7 m across the top. Also, it reportedly had a stone 'disc' .47 m in diameter with it, as well as a squared shaped stone measuring .4 x .5 m. The location of these artifacts is unknown.

The masonry column is comprised (in 1992) of 10 very loosely consolidated courses of unshaped sandstone slabs and blocks with a rubble core. The masonry presently stands 85 cm high and is buried at a depth of 1.2 m below modern ground surface. A thick cultural horizon (55 cm) containing PII ceramics overlies the column. This deposit is in turn covered with pink and white alluvial fan sands. It is also exposed in portions of the parking lot at Kelly Place 10 to 23 m southeast at depths of 20 to 30 cm below modern ground surface. On the north side of Settler's Wash is another cultural horizon, .8 to 1.4 m below modern ground surface. Relationships with this deposit and those surrounding the column are unclear because of the entrenchment of Settler's Wash. A Chapin Gray rim sherd and several early Plain Gray sherds were also found in the arroyo talus in the vicinity of the column, suggesting the possibility of an early terrace remnant in as yet undecipherable association.

The column was an anomaly and attracted a lot of attention and speculation. Mention of it (with other Kelly Place sites) was made by Oppelt (1981: 152-3). Function of the column is unknown, but it is likely a component of a much larger structure or feature.

Site Number: 5MT11737

Site Type: Masonry Granary

General Site Description: Swift House (site 5MT11737) is located in a shallow south facing alcove in Navajo sandstone about 7.5 m above the floor of McElmo Canyon across Settler's Wash from the Kelly Place Lodge. The site has usually been called "Swallows' Nest" owing to the large numbers of mud-daub bird houses lining the alcove ceiling. These are however, the seasonal homes of the White Throated Swift. Since there are a number of cliff side Anasazi sites named Swallows' Nest, we prefer the appellation Swift House.

The site consists of two masonry walls that face to smaller over-hangs within a larger one. The western wall is the better preserved and stands up to about 1.2 m high. Most of its foundation consists of a horizontal juniper log that is jammed between two bulges of bedrock and is about 1.7 m long. Two and possibly three additional logs have been placed across the interior of the structure and covered with packed dirt, forming the floor of the feature. The eastern wall is largely collapsed but was originally 1.9 m long and perhaps as much as 2 m high. Both alcoves extend about 2.8 m; back into the cliff; the actual usable space was about 1.5 m in depth.

The masonry in both walls is the same, consisting of unshaped and rough-shaped sandstone blocks. They are well fitted with only moderate amounts of mortar used. Both are chinked with small sandstone spalls. The interior of both walls displays remnants of pinkish sandy clay plaster.

Access appears to have been gained from a narrow ledge that dips eastward from the features. Scattered rubble litters this ledge, suggesting that another structure may have been present, or the rock was utilized for some kind of step.

No artifacts are present in the granaries, and fill is absent. Local lore, probably passed to George Kelly from his neighbors, says that two mummified infants were found in one of the features by the original settler of the property, possibly, the Wests. The Old McElmo Road passes below the alcove, and lore also has it that a ruin that was here was largely dismantled to supply rock for the road. The masonry style of Swift House is consistent with late Pueblo II to Pueblo III techniques. The site may be associated with any one of a number of neighboring habitation units; its masonry most closely resembles that of the late component at Sue's Ruin (5MT11735). The presence of the juniper logs on the floor of one of the granaries offers an excellent opportunity for tree-ring dating the site.

Site Number: 5MT11738

Site Type: Habitation

General Site Description: The Island Site (5MT11738) is located directly northeast of the Kelly Place lodge and the confluence of Park and Settler's Washes. It is referred to as the Island Site since it occupies a triangular "island" (that the two washes directly below an expansive cliff. The site has also been known as "Moon House" since it was excavated during the first lunar landing in 1969, and as "Mickey's House", named after one of the excavators of it who worked with George Kelly. We have retained the appellation Island House since it is on one of George Kelly's surviving maps.

The Island Site was evidently partially excavated during 1969 and part of 1970 by George Kelly and several friends. All notes and artifacts were lost during the fire in the mid 1980's, although two of George's maps have subsequently been located. There are two parts of the site: a small block of rooms located between a large sandstone boulder and the cliff face and a partial kiva located 12 m southeast of the rooms exposed in the cut bank of Park Wash. All of these features were excavated, the kiva was stabilized by George Kelly at a later date. Kelly's maps are dated 1980.

The room block consists of a contiguous series of four rooms utilizing the large boulder and the cliff face as their front and back walls. They are separated by four walls from 1.4 to 2.4 m long extending between the boulder and the cliff. The walls are constructed of single-stone masonry utilizing rough shaped and unshaped sandstone slabs. The rooms were not backfilled and there has been considerable slumping. They presently stand from .4 to .7 m high. The rooms range from 1.6 to 2.7 m in length. There are a number of natural holes and cracks in the cliff face from 1.5 to 2.0 m above the modern ground surface that may have been utilized to support the roofs. Kelly's plan view map states the floors were uneven. On a narrow ledge above the walls at what would have been roof level or slightly above it are a number of small black and red suspected pictographs that include possible zoo morphia elements. These are mostly obscured by weathering and recent signatures. Many of the recent elements are the same color as the zoo morphs, which probably dismisses their antiquity. Several suspected sharpening grooves are present that are probably Anasazi.

The kiva is located about 15 m southeast of the rooms and 3 m below them in the Park Wash cut bank. The eastern half of the structure had been washed out by Park Wash prior to Kelly's excavation. Kelly and company removed the fill from the western half of the feature exposing two large stone pilasters and masonry lined lower and upper wall remnants. Also reported (but have since been removed by erosion) was a ventilator shaft entering the kiva in the south bench wall, a masonry deflector, a firebox, and a sipapu. The bench is presently 92 cm above the existing floor level, with the pilasters extending from 45 to 65

cm above the bench. Masonry consists of both small and large sandstone blocks, rough-shaped and unshaped. Four large upright slabs are set in the back upper wall of the bench. Original mortar has eroded out.

There are no known artifact associations from either the room block or the kiva. A number of bone awls were reportedly recovered from the room block. Two cultural horizons are present in the Island Site alluvium. PII materials are seen in the Park Wash cut bank south of the room block, extending from 20 cm to 60 cm below the modern ground surface. This unit consists of ash and charcoal bearing sand containing fairly abundant PII ceramics and a few flakes. There is an apparent deeply buried BMIII component exposed west of the room block along Settlers Wash about

2.8 m deep. It contains ash and charcoal flecked sand Plain Gray Wares. Except for the kiva and room block area, little excavation was conducted at the Island Site. As such, much of the erosional feature that contains the site may contain intact subsurface deposits from the BMIII and PII periods. Regardless, the entire deposit has been intact since pre BMIII times.

Kelly's stabilization of the kiva appears to have consisted of removal of higher sediments and contouring the slope above the kiva and seeding this slope and the floor of the kiva with deep rooted grass. Although the feature holds little exhibit value it does offer a unique display.

Site Number: 5MT11739

Site Type: Probable Habitation

General Site Description: The Garden Site (5MT11739) is an early-to-mid PII habitation situated near the base of the Navajo sandstone cliffs immediately east of the orchards at Kelly Place. The site name is derived from its location in George and Sue Kelly's old vegetable garden. For the most part the site lacks a surface manifestation, having been covered both during and subsequent to occupation by sediments that discharged from Garden Draw, a perched drainage flowing off the cliff to the north. Head ward arroyo cutting by Garden Draw has cut through much of the terrace exposing a deep midden along about 85 m between the cliff and the McElmo floodplain. No architectural features have yet been identified in the arroyo cut, although clusters of rocks in the upper end of the arroyo cut (as of November, 1992) may be the first indications of an eroding room block. Judging from the position of the midden in relation to the topography, it is assumed that the architectural component of the site lies to the north of the midden, either along the base of the cliffs, or possibly to the northwest in the general vicinity of the trailer house.

The Garden Site has been an area of archaeological focus throughout the history of investigations at Kelly Place, with interest directed specifically at three burials that were exposed by erosion in the arroyo. Sometime in 1970-1971, Ben Priest found bones thought to be those of a child eroding from the east bank of the arroyo. Early examinations determined that the burial was that of a dog. No artifacts were found in association.

In the spring of 1970 or 1971, Ben Priest found a burial eroding from the eastern bank of the arroyo again, this time several meters downstream from the canine burial. The burial, found at a depth of approximately 1.5 m below modern ground surface, had eroded to the point that the left arm and the left leg, with hand and foot bones had been displaced downslope and into the arroyo bottom below. Excavation was conducted by Sue Kelly, with overburden removed from over the burial and to 15 cm below it around its perimeter, creating a pedestal. The matrix surrounding the burial was a midden deposit, including charcoal flecking, sherds, lithic debitage, burned bone and some charred organic material. The burial was oriented in an extended position with the head to the southeast, with the face tilted to the south. The skull had been occipitally flattened; it was felt to be that of an adult. Sex was not determined. Grave goods included a Mancos B/W pitcher found near the head and thought by the excavators to be a classic Gallup B/W pitcher imported from Chaco Canyon (identified in the Kelly Place Collection in May, 1992), a bird effigy jar with a "T" shaped opening found near the pelvis (identified in the Kelly Place Collection in May 1992), and several other (2 or 3) whole ceramic vessels (not identified in the Kelly Place Collection) which may have included a mug and a bowl. Following excavation the burial was left on the pedestal, then backfilled later in the summer. No sign of the burial was noted by Ben Priest on a reconnaissance in 1988 and there is no sign of its location at the present time. Originally called "Ben's Burial", the find came to be known as "Chaco Folk" because of the association of what was thought to be a B/W pitcher from Chaco Canyon. (This vessel has since been classified as Mancos B/W).

The third burial was found southeast of the garden during a garden-related excavation by George Kelly. The date of this find is not known and no information has survived concerning associated artifacts. A greenhouse hot frame, or possibly a clear camper top, was placed over the burial by George Kelly in order to stabilize it and leave it open for display. It became an often visited attraction at Kelly Place. The display was in place as late as 1988, by which time a significant

vegetation community had begun to evolve in the hot, moist, mineral rich environment. The burial was not marked after reburial, but it is felt to be just east of the gate. The burial came to be known as "Mr. Whiskers" in Kelly Place lore.

Two loci have been recognized at the Garden Site. Locus 1 is the arroyo bisected midden in the vicinity of the old garden area. It is visible as a 50 to 75 cm thick midden deposit exposed in a 30 m section of the vertical arroyo banks. The midden is

comprised of a matrix of ash and charcoal flecked pink fan sand and contains abundant rocks, sherds, lithic debitage, bone (burned and unburned) and pockets of charcoal. At its southern extent the midden lies under 40 to 50 cm of pink sand overburden, but as it grades northward the midden angles to the surface. The cranial portion of an infant burial is currently exposed in the arroyo wall in the southern midden area.

South of Locus 1 the arroyo broadens and the slumped walls have concealed cultural materials and associations. This is the vicinity where the canine burial and the Chaco Folk burial were found. Locus 2 lies south of this broad eroded area and encompasses a 20 m by 30 m area at the mouth of the steep-sided Garden Draw where it cuts through the terrace edge. In this area a cultural horizon, which corresponds to the occupation at the Garden Site, is visible on a contact between the older terrace remnant below and an overlying pink fan sand deposit. The burial cultural horizon is from 10 to 20 cm thick and is comprised of a sheet of midden containing charcoal flecking, lithic debitage, ceramics and bone. Artifacts eroded from this deposit drape the upper slopes of the arroyo and can be traced to a cultural horizon. Locus 2 lies approximately 45 m south of Locus 1.

Ceramic tabulations indicate two episodes of occupation at the Garden Site. A Chapin B/W sherd and a number of gray ware sherds (n=5) that may be from Chapin Gray vessels were found in Locus 2, and a number of similar gray ware sherds (n=8) were found in the Locus 1 arroyo. The presence of these sherds in conjunction with a similar ceramic assemblage found at two locations nearby at CA House (5MT10968), indicates the presence of a BMIII occupation in the vicinity. No BMIII architectural features or deposits have been identified at the Garden Site, but the presence of the gray ware sherds suggest that such may be present.

Ceramic tabulations in Locus 1 and Locus 2 indicate an intensive occupation between A.D. 980 to 1025/1050. This assessment is based on the frequency of Mancos Gray (n=11), Mancos Corrugated (n=4), corrugated body sherds (n=19), plain gray sherds (n=16), Cortez B/W (n=2), Mancos B/W (n=8), (wavy hatched Dogoszhi style common), Deadmans B/R (n=4), and on the total absence of Moccasin Gray, which would be expected if the occupation pre-dated A.D. 950/980.

The Garden Site provides an important bracketing date for understanding the geomorphological history of McEImo Canyon. The presence of BMIII materials on the terrace indicate that an early terrace remnant survived a post-BMIII/pre-PII erosional episode. The terrace remnant was then resettled around A.D. 980 by the occupants of the Garden Site. The site terrace was resettled at a time when the McEImo Canyon floodplain was aggrading, as indicated by the thick alluvial fan deposit that formed in conjunction with the midden accumulation. The location of the Garden Site, on an aggrading fan, reflects the site selection requirements faced by the PII settlers when moving into a setting that had been severely eroded and was in the process of actively rebuilding, with corresponding high water table and aggrading floodplain.

Site Number: 5MT11740

Site Type: Habitation

General Site Description: Earbob House (5MT11740) is a small Pueblo II habitation located on the southern edge of the main terrace at Kelly Place. Two check-dams, Sites 5MT11741 and 5MT11742 are located in nearby cut banks. The room block was partially excavated under George Kelly's program and much of it is still open for inspection. In the few surviving notes from this excavation, Kelly excavated six rooms; the outlines of four can be presently seen. It is unclear if two were backfilled or are eroded beyond recognition. A buried kiva is also present; it lacks a visible surface depression but is evidenced by the remains of a masonry-lined vent shaft exposed in the cut bank on the south edge of the site. A midden area is present immediately south of the room block and northwest of the kiva and is visible mainly in excavation back dirt, as there is little or no surface indication. Four anomalous earthen hummocks occur in the site area - two near the room block appear to be back-dirt piles from the excavation of the surface rooms, but a large one near the kiva and a smaller one in the midden area have well established vegetation growing on them and may predate the excavations, which took place in the 1970's.

Earbob House was partially excavated during the mid to late 1960's, with additional work possibly carried out in the early 1980's. No excavation records have survived with the exception of one map composed by George Kelly. Earbob House derives its name from a burial found along the north wall of the western-most room (#3). The burial, oriented with the head to the east, was probably found in room fill. It was accompanied by two shell pendants located in association with the skull: one above and the other below. The isosceles-shaped pendants each had a single perforation and were surmised to be ear adornments, or "earbobs", thus Earbob House. Kelly does note the presence of "many" manos and four tchamahias.

It appears the excavation program had two foci: 1) complete, or near complete excavation of the surface rooms, with fill removed to the floor level, and 2) trenching beyond the surface rooms. Three trenches are evident: a 1 m wide by 5 m long trench, with a 1 x 1 m pit placed west of it was staked and excavated north of the room block (this may be a later excavation, possibly carried out by Hal Rager, then of Kelly Place since staking is not a technique evidenced in most of George Kelly's excavations); a 5 m long trench was excavated southwest of room 4, apparently intended as a probe of the midden area and a 10 m long trench was extended south from the room block to the cut bank edge, with a short westerly extension, probably in an attempt to locate the kiva, or possibly burials in a midden estimated to lie south of the room block. In addition, two tunnels were excavated into the hummock near the kiva. More recently a resistivity survey conducted by Mr. Paul Burns, then of Phoenix Geophysics, focused on areas up to 100' north of the room block. A number of anomalies were noted ca. 30' north of the room block that may warrant some future investigation.

The surface rooms are constructed primarily of thin (ca. 10 cm) tabular Navajo sandstone blocks that are generally twice as long as they are wide and commonly have percussion-flaked edges.

Larger unshaped sandstone blocks were also used. Mortar was a tan silty sand from a floodplain source and was used in large quantities in conjunction with the liberal use of chinking stones. Currently the single-stone walls stand 5 courses high and the estimated floor level lies approximately 70 cm below modern ground surface. The surface rooms are on the average 1.5 m wide and are from 2.3 to 2.7 m long. They are arranged in a row of three on an east-west axis (#s 1-3), with a fourth possible room (#4) extending south from the western-most room to form an "L" shaped

room block. Only one wall foundation (front) is visible in room 4. All four of the rooms were excavated and left open. Currently, the walls are unstable, as most of the mortar and chinking has eroded.

The masonry-lined kiva vent is exposed in the 2.5 m high cut bank on the south edge of the site. It is located approximately 10 m south of the room block. The masonry lining consists of four courses of unshaped sandstone blocks, and measures 70 cm from top to bottom. The coursed masonry lined a one meter diameter earthen shaft, creating a 65 cm diameter interior shaft. The top of the shaft is currently 1.3 m below modern ground surface.

Much has happened since this document was first written....