

COLLECTION: Hyde Exploring Expedition at the American Museum of Natural History

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NUMBER:**

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ERRATA:

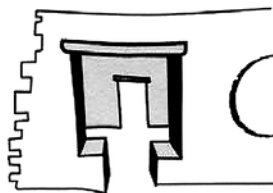
None noted.

COMMENTS:

None.

CITATION:

Pepper, George
1899 Pepper, George, Hyde Expedition, Field Notes 1899, Pueblo Bonito, 3/Folder 5. In the
Hyde Exploring Expedition, Box 3, American Museum of Natural History, New York.



CHACO DIGITAL INITIATIVE

FIELD NOTES PUEBLO BONITO

1899

GEORGE H. PEPPER.

Room #114 is one of the outer series of rooms of the Western part of Pueblo Bonito. It is bounded on the North by Room #96, on the South by Room #115, on the East by an unworked room and on the West by the outer ruin wall. It is one of the new series of rooms as shown by the faced stones and general appearance of the masonry.

The floor of the room was comparatively level and showed no evidences of fire places.

The north wall was a partition one and abutted the East and West walls. It is built of large faced stones and chinked with smaller ones. No plaster is in evidence on the surface.

There is a doorway in the lower central part that is well made, it is broad at the bottom but decreases in width toward the lintel, which is composed of poles; there are eight of them and they are laid so that the sides touch. The first one is visible on the Eastern side of the opening and extends 1-1/2' into the wall. Some of the chinking has fallen on the western side, revealing a width 1/2" broad that evidently held the poles together while the wall was being built. The sides of the doorway are well laid but there is no plaster on them. There are no other openings in this wall.

The South wall was practically a counterpart of the North one, built in the same way, of the same material, abutting the East and West walls and having the same form of doorway in the lower central part.

The doorway was the same in form as the other but the lintel poles were not so well preserved, they were about 2" in diameter and there were seven of them; the outer one extended on the West side of the doorway. To the West side of the doorway to the West wall, on the opposite side it was covered with the masonry. This wall was also devoid of plaster.

The east wall presented one long surface of beautiful masonry, there were no doorways nor openings of any kind to break the surface and every stone was in place. It was of the new form of masonry and in a perfect state of preservation. It was the sandwich form of wall, i.e. large faced stones separated by layers of thin pieces of sandstone; this interesting stratum averaging about 2" in thickness. This wall was strikingly convexed, the curve being more noticeable from the centre to the North wall, and a perpendicular section would show a slight bulge which, however, was so general as to cause no special defect. The wall was straight to a height of about 4' from the floor level, the bulging commencing at that point. There was no plaster on the surface although small pieces, covering some of the chinked parts, showed that there might have been a layer over the entire surface at one time.

The west wall was the same as the others from the masonry standpoint but the stones were larger, on the average, than in the other three.

There is a closed doorway in the lower central part and in filling the space the same form of stones were used as in the regular wall, and the layers of large and small pieces were faithfully carried out. Some of the stones had fallen or been taken from the top, which revealed a lintel of poles about 1-1/2" in diameter, as near as could be ascertained, there were nine of these poles that formed the lintel. This doorway was rectangular in form and the corners were well pointed.

Just above and to the North of this doorway there is an opening in the wall about 1' in diameter where stones have been removed, the stones forming its edges are in place, and firm, and even the stratum of small stones at the bottom is in place, it is 5' 5" above the floor and is filled with debris, but the stones were evidently removed during occupancy. Barring these two openings the wall is unbroken and the un-

-plastered surface presents a good specimen of the, probably, latest style of architecture in the building. There is a slight bulge in the wall beginning at the Southern edge of the doorway and extending to the North wall, the area affected extending from the floor to a point 4' above it. Where this wall joins the North one there is an interval between them that at one place, is 2" wide, this begins at the lintel level of the doorway in the North wall and extends to the top. It shows that the outer wall has drawn away from the North one but were it not for the crack, it would not be noticeable.

The East, West and South walls of this room are comparatively the same in height, but the North wall towers fully 4' above them at its eastern end. The North wall is 1' 6", the East 1' 6" and the West 2' 6".

Room #115 is bounded on the North by Room #114, on the South by Room #116, on the West by the outer wall of the ruin, and on the East by an unworked room of the old series. This room is one of the new series that stretches along the Western part of Bonito, the masonry is the same as that of Room #114.

The North wall is in perfect condition and presents the same characteristics as on its North side, in Room #114. The doorway is larger at bottom than at top and the first lintel pole almost reaches both the East and West wall.

The South wall is built of the same form of stones as the North, and chinked in the same way. The Eastern part of this wall, from the height of the lintel of a doorway in the lower central part, about half of the upper part, has been exposed for years and almost all of the plaster has been washed from between the large stones, thereby, loosening the chinking. The doorway in the lower part of the wall is

slightly narrower at the top than at the bottom, and has a lintel of poles, only two of which were visible, as the debris was not cleaned away. These poles were about 1-1/2" in diameter. This wall, like the North one, abutted the East and West walls.

The East wall had no doorways nor other openings in its surface. The masonry was the same as that of the east wall of Room #114, of which it is a continuation. The Northern and lower part of the wall is in good condition, but the upper Southern part has been exposed, as was the adjoining part of the South wall, and the strata of small stones had fallen out in some places, and in others were loosened from the washing out of the plaster, otherwise, the wall was in good condition.

The West wall is made of larger stones than the others but as a rule the chinked layers are composed of smaller and thinner pieces than those in the other walls. There are no doorways nor openings in the surface, but there is a closed doorway in the lower central part of the wall. In closing it the different horizontal strata were carried out, and it has the appearance of having been closed when the wall was made; simply built in to be used later if necessary. The wall around this doorway is weakened and some of the stones have fallen out. This wall is more broken in the upper central part than at the ends where it stands to the height of the North and South walls.

The floor of this room