

**COLLECTION:** Chaco Culture NHP Files

**CDI  
ACCESSION  
NUMBER:**

000379

**ERRATA:**

Notes also include a list of "loci" that seem to refer to items found on the floor. There is no accompanying map here to depict the location of those loci.

**COMMENTS:**

Day by day field notes describing the excavation and interpretation of feature 5 at Bc 50. Feature 5 is a kiva. Notes include methodology, level descriptions and a few minimal drawings.

**CITATION:**

Author Unknown  
1939 Bc 50, Feature #5 - 1939. In Chaco Culture NHP Files, Chaco Canyon, N. M.

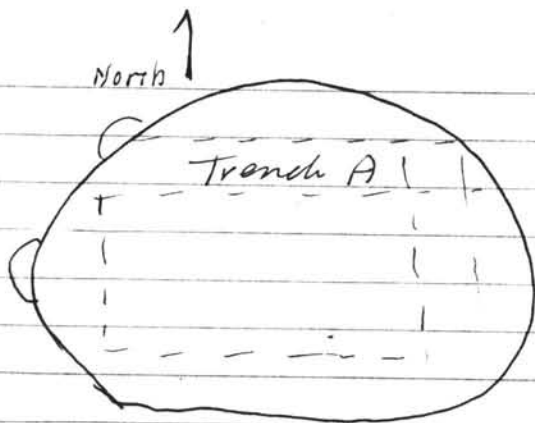


Aug 17, 1939

When I began Nathalie Sampson had already outlined a part of the circumference of the kiva on the west and south side. Two indentations in the arc of the circle were uncovered - the northernmost was almost certainly stumped, but the southern one due west was <sup>thought</sup> possibly to be some sort of entrance from ~~the~~ structure on or below the <sup>adjacent</sup> plaza.

The wall was outlined by a narrow trench about 2 1/2' below Bench Mark 0° North 24° W. and about 1' - 1 1/2' wide.

The above of the kiva was sharply delineated from the inside fill, which, although hard packed, was a combination of yellow sand + very tiny bits of charcoal and a few shreds. This fill, found all along the North + North east in Trench H, had a homogeneous rather than stratified character. It may be stumped material which was packed down hard to form the plaza.



The procedure I followed was this:

My purpose was to outline the kiva so that it could be mapped and left until the next season for excavation.

1. The surface was cleared - about 6" below BM to show the line of kiva above & fill. The line was definite at North & indefinite at South & east to the point where it was tangent to the North-South trench just west of Kelley's kiva. In this trench the wall showed (whether this is really the wall of the kiva or not has not been proved, in cross-section on both walls of the trench.

2. East-west Trench A was cut through the fill to meet the wall at North east below surface to allow for the possibility that the

outline on the surface was false as a result of slumpage. Trench A was 2' deep.

3. Trench met wall at east as expected.

4. North wall of trench removed until the <sup>5 ft</sup> North wall of kiva exposed.

5. Kiva lining occurred in a narrow <sup>uneven</sup> strip all along the bottom of the trench at the wall.

Aug 18, 1939

1. Surface level cleared further to the east to allow plenty of room for idiosyncrasies in the indefinite East & South wall.

2. West wall indentation cleared out. A layer of sand goes far into it - was not followed through - if it goes through.

3. Another trench dug - that is the small one already there was widened & deepened at the south wall of kiva to correspond to Trench A. West trench also widened and deepened. A floor of a lanquette was encountered below the two slumps on the west - also the wood around post hole 1. and post hole 1 itself. There was a pile of stones opposite the west slump on the floor of

the banquette. The banquette was followed to the South. Kiva lining was uncovered in large masses. It overlies a sandy layer. A fourth trench - North South on East side was dug but instead of a wall at the south end it ran into packed shale slump material filled with <sup>fallen</sup> rocks.

Aug. 19, 1939

1. Shaft lined with masonry found between Feat. #5 and Kelly's Kiva. Jones excavated it to a depth of four feet.
2. There ought to be a good place to figure the relationship of Kelly's Kiva, Feature 5 and the pit house bisected in North-South trench east of Kelly's Kiva on the walls of that trench.
3. No sherds or stone saved from the trenches which were dug for the purpose of outlining the Kiva only.

Aug. 21, 1939

1. Began finding wood and kiva lining at Salter and west. Determined to clear whole structure

to the level of the bottom of the trenches to get a birds eye view of all wood + its interrelationships as roof, walls, supports or whatever.

Aug 22, 1939

1. Spent uncovering wood. - preserving it + plotting it on a grid system - see diagrams at end.

Aug 23, 1939

1. Floor of a bench traced at west <sup>+ south</sup> walls, connects with bench at north + north east.

2. General strat sequence at floor of bench

floor →  - whole yellow sand

Aug. 24-26

1. Feverish activity!

2. Excavation within banquettes

- a. At south east <sup>true</sup> no wall ever found. Some major disturbance indicated by a pile of fallen rocks in that area - around post hole 7.

- b. There also a wall structure was found

Caved somewhat by the dumpo rock fall.

c. Two windows broke this wall. In front of the easternmost, almost under the wall was a double fire pit - this has yet to be determined more definitely and excavated. Opposite on the North wall below the floor level (see Jones for measurements of floor level (approx 6' below BM)) was a step like indentation filled with sand - known rounded edges - this also has yet to be excavated. It is located between posts 19 + 13. and is called ~~for~~ locus 32. Opposite the aperture at the south wall is the opening into the ventilator shaft - also not completely excavated.

d. This wall curves to the south ~~west~~ edge of the pier - at about the same point as where the banquette merges with the wall. On the floor to the north of the wall at this juncture with the banquette is a large plaster lined, sand filled <sup>-locus 25.</sup> cist - otherwise empty - about 15" below floor level - that is the stake floor level.

e. Post 11 is near by. On the south side of the wall is a large thin sandstone slab standing upright.  
f. Floor level is the same on either side of the wall.

g. The stones of this wall rest on adobe which may be a later floor level. Everywhere that it has been excavated there is this adobe layer, then sand, then shale layer believed to be the original floor.

If this shale layer extends unbroken beneath the wall it may be concluded that the wall was an addition. In that case the upright slab may be the earlier partition - such slabs were used this way in Kelly's Kiva.

h. An jird wall may have existed where the stone wall joins the banquettes, small, seemingly upright, feet in this area indicate that - but must be proved by further excavation.

3. Two holes - sand filled - loci 27 + 28 were found at banquette level in North wall between posts 19, + Jones photographed thoroughly.

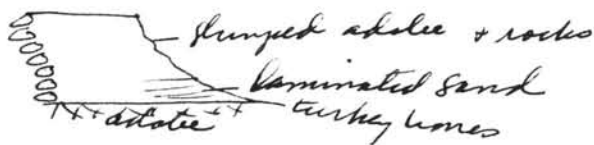
4. Various objects - turquoise pendants, stone artifacts,

8  
3

turkey + dog (?) skeletons that were found appear in the list of loci along with the position of the many pieces of wood.

Aug 24, 1939

1. About the slumped South wall: —



Thus the wall slumped after a certain amount of wind blown, water worn sand had been deposited on the floor.

2. Overhanging shale west of the ventilator shaft torn down + left covering the wall to protect it through the winter.
3. Floor squared off at shale layer on west side.
4. Turkey bones found around group of stones in the center.
5. Elsewhere floor leveled at the shale layer.
6. Jones mapped + photographed everything including a
7. Floor of banquetta at North + east has probably been destroyed between posts 19 + 17. — by us.

# Dist of Loni

9<sup>9</sup>

1. Major post - preserved but <sup>wood</sup> undatable
2. flat lying post - 6" below banquetta
3. " " " " " "
4. Two flat lying posts - cross crossed - accurately plotted in grid
5. Flat lying post - 3' level
6. Several post leaning against one of <sup>fallen</sup> stones raised in stone
7. Major post hole - still intact in kiva - plotted by Jm
8. Turquoise
9. Log leg - this is accurately placed in grid diagram
- ① - 10. Turkey skeleton lying on floor 14' from BM, 13' from C
11. Major post hole
12. Stone ball 9' from BM, 16 1/2' from C - on floor
13. flat lying small stake - not preserved
14. Part of Javel (?) wall - small upright stake between post # 11 and North wall
15. ~~Log~~ "
16. Stone bowl 5 1/2' deep at kiva wall 7' from BM
17. Log 7'6" from BM 14' from stake C
18. Turquoise pendant 2' ENE of SW corner
19. <sup>major</sup> Post hole 8'3" from BM kiva North wall
20. bone awl

- ① 21. Dog's head (?) 15'7" from C, 7' from S<sup>10</sup> - on floor
22. Polishing stone 4' from post 11, 5'4" from post 1. - floor
23. Red sandstone artifact 3' from post 11, 4'7" from post 1. "
- ② 24. Skeleton of dog NE of lens 21. associated with round stones
25. Plaster lined cyst - measurements not yet taken 18" deep
- ③ 26. Turkey bones 3' from post 11, 6' from post 11
27. Cache of polishing stones & pipe
28. " " nothing at all.
29. board in wall juncture with lanquette 8'7" from post 19. 19" from S<sup>10</sup>
30. board 32" E of post 7 & 9" S of post 7. 5 1/2" wide
31. " 18" N of #30 5 1/2" wide - at lanquette & wall
32. double ditch structure
33. Small fire pit in large fire pit.

④ 34. group of stones - assoc turkey - incompletely excavated

⑤ Notes:

Many bone units found between posts 19 & 13

Note: - exact measurements were taken on most of the posts, but several small ones are merely plotted into the grid in their position relative to the whole situation.