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A Culture History Overview of the Chambers-Sanders Trust Lands

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Appendix 4

**NAVAJO FAMILIES AND LAND USE
IN AND AROUND NAHAT'A DZIIL,
BEFORE AND AFTER FORT SUMNER**

The Navajo Oral History Statements, Correll Collection, Navajo Nation Museum and Library, Window Rock, are records of interviews that anthropologists J. Lee Correll, David M. Brugge, and others conducted mainly in 1960-1961. Their purpose was to learn from elderly Navajos in various parts of Navajos where and when their parents, grandparents, and any earlier generations had been born, lived, and died. This information was intended to support the Navajo Land Claim before the Indian Claims Commission. Information from those statements supports the following generalizations about Navajo relationships in Nahat'A Dziil and the surrounding region during the early and middle 1800s, before and just after the Ft. Sumner internment.

1. Most early 20th-century residents of Nahat'A Dziil had forebears who used the area before Fort Sumner and returned there afterward.
2. The region was part of the land base that these families used regularly.
3. However, these families seem to have used other parts of their land base more intensively for residence and farming, mainly the Black Creek Valley but also Wide Ruins.
4. These families tended to use Nahat'A Dziil and surrounding region for hunting and for residence and farming in irregular years, perhaps in times of warfare or environmental problems in the Black Creek Valley.
5. These patterns are evident from the fact that many family members were born in and near Nahat'A Dziil before Ft. Sumner, but an even larger proportion of the people in these genealogies were born in the Black Creek Valley and elsewhere.
6. After Fort Sumner, families re-established use of the area, perhaps intensifying their use. Although not evident from the statements, a possible reason is that the Black Creek Valley was crowded with people drawn to Ft. Defiance by the rations.

The rest of this piece identifies the families (genealogy section), locations (place names section), and the types of land use (miscellaneous information section). All proper names are rewritten in the standard orthography of the Young and Morgan Navajo Language dictionary, except for names spelled too idiosyncratically to allow the intelligible pronunciation necessary for standardization.

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