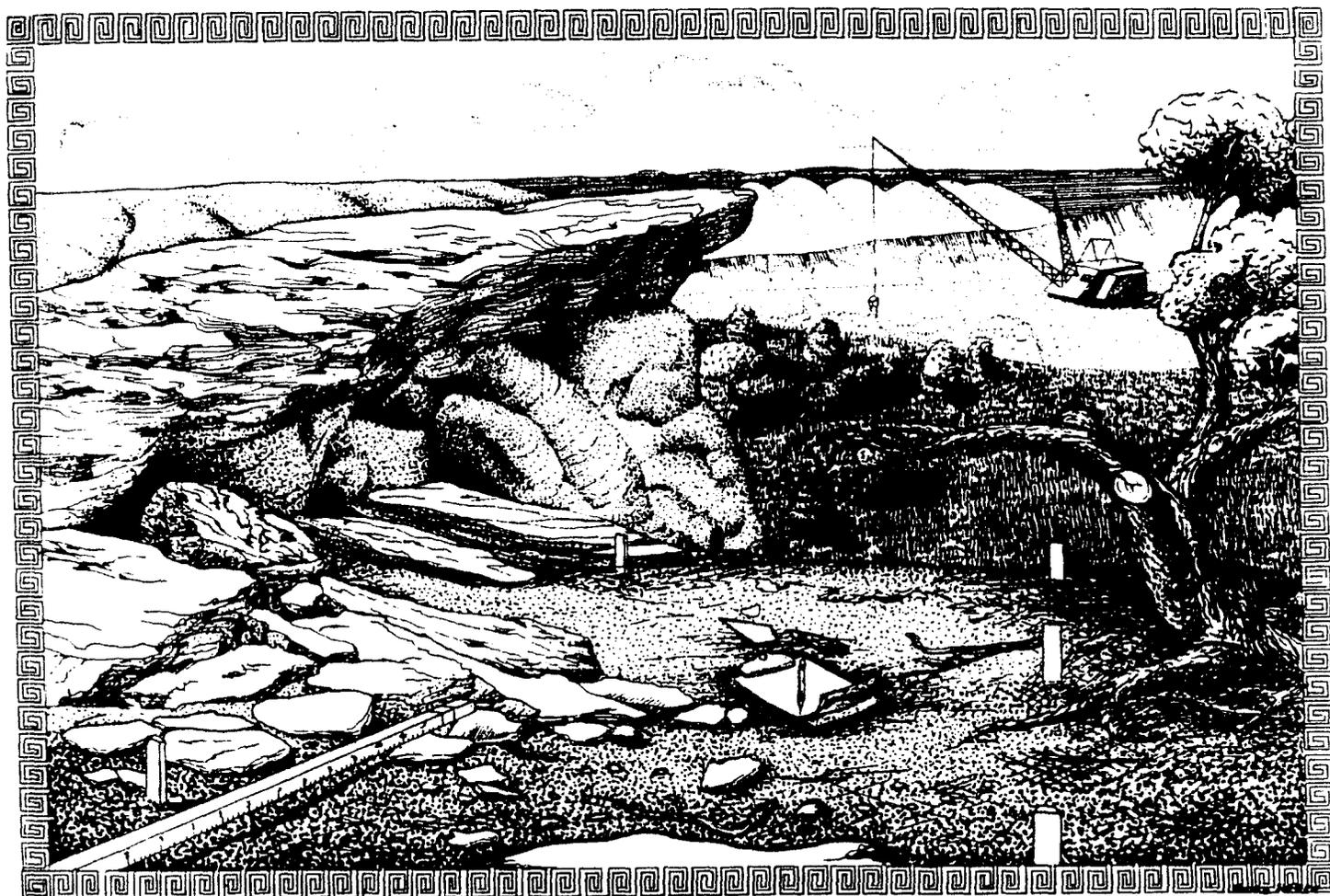


THE ARCHEOLOGY  
OF  
McKINLEY MINE

VOLUME 2: NAVAJO ETHNOHISTORY OF THE  
(PART 1 OF 2) NORTH LEASE:  
SITE FORMATION PROCESSES

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A REPORT PREPARED FOR THE PITTSBURG & MIDWAY COAL MINING CO.,  
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November 1985

Report No: 621

**NAVAJO ETHNOHISTORY OF THE MCKINLEY MINE NORTH LEASE:  
SITE-FORMATION PROCESSES**

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## North Lease History

### Before the Railroad Era

Navajos had settled the country around the North Lease by 1851, when the U.S. Army established Fort Defiance 7 miles west of the lease (Kelley 1982a, 1982b). The Chuska Mountains to the north and the Black Creek Valley to the west were home to the headmen Zarcillos Largos and Manuelito and their followers, who are therefore the most likely users of the North Lease during this time. On the South Lease, an antelope-hunting corral that may date to this time suggests that Navajos were at least hunting in the area (Kelley 1982a:333-336).

On The North Lease, also, archaeological evidence suggests some sort of Navajo Presence before the railroad era. This evidence is as follows:

1. At site NL092, which consists of a hearth with fire-cracked rock and scattered potsherds, a charcoal sample from the hearth produced a radiocarbon date of  $250 \pm 70$  years before present (A.D. 1630-1770). The associated sherds include both "black-on-gray" (Anasazi) and "plainware". It is not clear whether the plainware sherds are Anasazi or Navajo.

2. At Site NL213, which consists of an artifact scatter and three hearths, pre-1800 Navajo and possibly Zuni potsherds (Dinetah Gray and possibly Ashiwi Polychrome) were collected (see Appendix M). The artifacts include two projectile points (one side-notched and one without ntches) as well as post-1800 and even post 1850 sherds. The later sherds suggest several episodes of use at the site.

3. Within throwing distance of a sweathouse (NL152) is a scatter of prehistoric sherds and two pre-1800 Navajo types, Gobernador Polychrome and Dinetah Gray. The sweathouse was used between 1918 and 1935. The lack of any associated features contemporaneous with any of the sherds and the mixing of types suggest that the sherds may have been collected from elsewhere, perhaps with rocks used in the sweathouse (see Kelley 1984). (2/11/84)

4. Isolated Occurrence 226 may be a pre-1800 (Dinetah Gray) sherd.

5. Other sites (NL093, NL216) resemble NL092 and NL213 in their inventories of features and artifacts and contrast with sites of the railroad era and later. Although ceramics on these two sites date from 1800 to the present (Navajo Gray), the sites may date before the railroad era. These two sites are near NL092 and NL213, respectively; all four sites are in the east wing of the North Lease, where one might expect the earliest sites since the locality is just south of the divide from Mexican Springs, where many Navajos were living by around 1800.

6. Wood samples from two North Lease hogans produced two cutting dates that antedate the railroad era, but only slightly. Wood from a hogan at Sit NL 035 dated 1856 +G and wood from a hogan at NL 232 dated 1854+G. Both dwellings, however, have railroad era artifacts in association. Despite the Navajo norm to avoid using dead wood in hogans, such wood is occasionally used, as is wood salvaged from earlier hogans (Littell 1967:765). These two hogans, in my opinion, date to the railroad era.

Unlike the archaeological remains, ethnohistorical sources are almost mute on the subject of Navajos on the North Lease before the railroad era. The historical sources that I have reviewed (Kelley 1982a, 1982b) do not clearly refer to spots on the North Lease; I have hardly made an exhaustive search of primary sources, but the secondary sources do not indicate any major noteworthy events, at least, on the North Lease. Local people, moreover, did not mention any archaeological sites or other places on the North Lease that they definitely dated to this early time. One interviewee did speculate, however, that Site NL290 may antedate the railroad era and even the Fort Sumner incarceration. The site includes a circle 3 meters in diameter of rocks lying flat on the ground near a dug well in Tse Bonita Wash. According to the interviewee, during the Navajo wars that culminated in the Carson campaign, families, having decided to split up and flee in separate directions, would use rock circles like the one at NL290 to mark the places where they had agreed to reassemble. According to another interviewee, Navajos lived in Site NL080 when "Mexicans" (Hispanic New Mexicans) raided Navajoland, the time before Fort Sumner. The site is in the east wing of the North Lease near Sites NL092 and NL093 mentioned above. It consists of two collapsed forked-stick hogans (erroneously identified in the North Lease survey as graves) next to a sandstone spire, which the interviewee said the occupants used as a lookout for "Mexican" raiders.

Local people and documents also offer a few fragments of information on the actual forebears of the North-Lease inhabitants. One woman whose descendants say she was among the first people to settle the North Lease was, according to documents, born around 1850 in Crystal, New Mexico (U.S. Dep. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office Probate Court n.d.; Navajo Tribe, Correll Collection n.d.b.). Since Zarcillos Largos and his followers occupied that locality, her family probably belonged to his band. Another local man thought that North Lease residents of the Red-Streak-into-Water (Tobacco Branch) clan had ancestors before Fort Sumner living west of Chinle. The ancestors of still another local family included Mr. Howler, a pre-Fort Sumner headman from near Crownpoint far east of the North Lease (Navajo Tribe, Correll Collection n.d.a; Van Valkenburgh 1941:151; Franciscan Friars n.d.). These fragments suggest, then, that some forebears of North Lease settlers lived near the North Lease before Fort Sumner, but others did not.

When the Navajos returned from Fort Sumner, the federal government made Fort Defiance the headquarters of its agent to the Navajos. From this "collection of old mud, pig sties and sheep pens" (Bloom, ed. 1936:81), the agent distributed the annuity goods (including sheep and goats) that the treaty had promised for ten years and the rations that were to keep people from starving while they rebuilt their herds and farms. Several North Lease inhabitants recalled that their ancestors went to Fort Sumner and when they returned, they settled in the Black Creek Valley near Fort Defiance to be near the distributions. They evidently lived in the Valley throughout the period of limbo after conquest. At least one man, however, hunted deer on the North Lease, where he made a discovery that later encouraged people to move there.

The Railroad Era, 1880-1930:  
First Settlement of the North Lease

Sometime, perhaps as late as the turn of the century, settlers started to move into the North Lease. (1) One group consisted of Hunter, Old John,

APPENDIX M

Historic Ceramics

## APPENDIX M

Table M1. Collected Historic Ceramics from the North McKinley Mine Lease  
(Ceramics identified by Dennis Gilpin and Andrew Fowler, Navajo Nation Cultural Resource Management Program)

Site number	Specimen number	Item	Vessel form	Type	Ceramic dates	Artifact dates	Wood dates	Ethnographic dates	Site type
N1004	--	vessel	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present	1907-17	--	ca. 1914	homesite
N1019	3-4*	63 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	sherd scatter
N1021	1-2*	13 sherds	bowl	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+	--	--	--	sherd scatter, tent camp?
N1040	--	3 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	campsite
N1041	1-2* 4,6,7,9*	3 sherds 13 sherds	jar jar	Zia Polychrome Zuni Polychrome	? 1850-1930+	--	--	--	walled sheep
N1051	3S16E	2 sherds		Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+	1916-19 1937-38	--	1933, 1938-45	homesite
N1053	Feat. 13	sherds	bowl	Micaceous-Taos?	?				
	1	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	2	4 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				sherd scatter
	5	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	6	4 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	--	6 sherds		Pinyon Gray	1800-present				
	7	9 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	--	3 sherds		Pinyon Gray	1800-present				
	10	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	11	7 sherds		Pinyon Gray	1800-present				
N1060	--	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present	1916-20	--	ca. 1928	homesite
	S25W1, S17E6*	7 sherds	bowl	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+ (probably 1900-1930+)				

Site number	Specimen number	Item	Vessel form	Type	Ceramic dates	Artifact dates	Wood dates	Ethnographic dates	Site type
NLO62	1	6 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present	1917-30	--	1924-35	homesite
	--	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	--	3 sherds	plate?	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
NLO65	2.2	7 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present	1931-50	--	1946-55	homesite
NLO83	1	8 sherds	jars(2?)	Navajo Gray	1800-present	1917-20	--	1916-20	homesite
	4,6.1*	24 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
NLO93	2	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	campsite
	3	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	4	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	5-7	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	8-10*	3 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	11-14*	4 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
NLO97	1	3 sherds	bowl	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+	--	--	--	sweathouse
NL156	1	12 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present	1935-60 <sup>a</sup>	--	--	homesite?
NL184	--	3 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present	1904-50	1934 <sup>a</sup>	1900-20?	homesite
NL213	1NL1	2 sherds		Dinetah Gray	1700-ca. 1800	--	--	--	campsite
	1N3W	2 sherds		Dinetah Gray	1700-ca. 1800				
	1N3W	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	1S1E	3 sherds		Dinetah Gray	1700-ca. 1800				
	1S1W	sherd		Dinetah Gray	1700-ca. 1800				
	1S5W	sherd		Zuni Brown-on-Buff?	1800-1900				
	1S6W	sherd		Zuni Polychrome?	1850-1930+				
	1N3W	sherd	bowl	Zuni Buff Poly- chrome or Hopi?	1800-1900				
	1W1N	4 sherds	2 bowls?	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+				
	2S2W			Navajo Gray	1800-present				

Site number	Specimen number	Item	Vessel form	Type	Ceramic dates	Artifact dates	Wood dates	Ethnographic dates	Site type
NL213 contd.	2W1N	2 sherds	bowl	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+				
	1N4W	sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	1S4W	2 sherds	bowl	Acoma? or Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+				
	1W4N, 6W4N, 1N1E*	3 sherds	bowl	Ashiwi or Zuni Polychrome	1700-1800 or 1850-1930+				
NL214	8E1S, 3S1OE, 8E1N*	4 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				sweathouse
	1	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				campsite
	3 4	sherd 2 sherds		Navajo Gray Navajo Gray	1800-present 1800-present				
NL238 (pt. of NL 239)	2.1	3 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				homesite
	5.1	10 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	5.1,6.1* 3 sherds	3 sherds		unidentified	?				
	6.1	3 sherds		Navajo	1800-present				
	2	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
NL239	3.1	3 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	4.1	2 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	15.2	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				
	--	sherd	bowl	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+				
						1880-1916	1856+vv	pre-1910	homesite
NL289	1	2 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				sweathouse
	2	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present				
I0077	--	sherd	bowl	Zuni Brown-on-Buff	1800-1900				single sherd
I0139	--	6 sherds	jar	Zuni Polychrome	1850-1930+ (probably 1900-1930+)				sherd scatter
I0142	--	5 sherds	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present				sherd scatter
I0202	--	33 sherds	jar	Pinyon Gray	1800-present				pot drop

Site number	Specimen number	Item	Vessel form	Type	Ceramic dates	Artifact dates	Wood dates	Ethnographic dates	Site type
IO226	--	sherd	bowl	Dinetah(?) Gray	1700-1800	--	--	--	single sherd
IO284	--	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	single sherd
LDAS25	--	sherd		Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	single sherd
LDAS29	--	4 sherds		Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	sherd scatter
NL143	466-1	sherd	jar	Navajo Gray	1800-present	--	--	--	windbreak/ Anasazi rock shelter
NL152 <sup>b</sup>	1	10 sherds	bowl	Gobernador Poly.	1700-1800	--	--	1918-1935	sweathouse
	2	2 sherds	jar	Dinetah Gray	1700-1800	--	--	--	

\*Sherds are probably all from one vessel.

<sup>a</sup>Union Carbide lid and KC baking powder can in ash dump are not necessarily contemporaneous with sherd scatter.

<sup>b</sup>part of early use episode of Site NL038, a homesite not abandoned by inhabitants and therefore not included in the ethno-archaeological sample.