



KIN BINEOLA

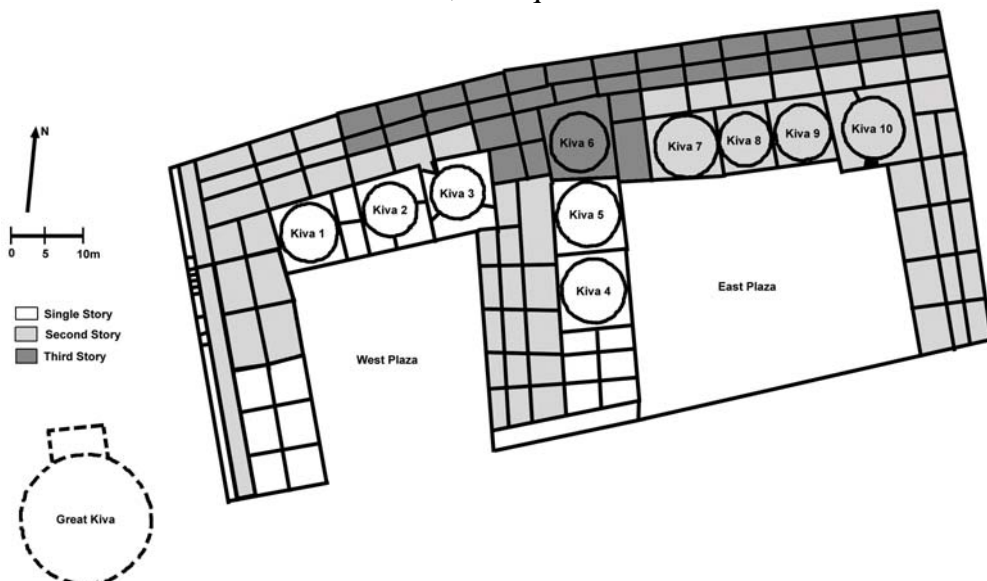


Illustration by Cory Ench of Kin Bineola as it may have appeared in AD 1100, based upon a model by Ron Cox.

THE NAME – "drafty house," "whirlwind house," or "house in which the wind swirls," from the Navajo *Kin Bii'naayoolí*. The name occurs in the Navajo Excess Way (traditional oral history).

THE LOCATION– Kin Bineola is a large Chacoan great house (monumental public building) located about 12 miles southwest of the immediate Chaco Canyon area. Located on Kin Bineola Wash at an elevation of 6,060 feet, Kin Bineola was connected to Chaco's core by a Chacoan road.

THE GREAT HOUSE – Archaeologists call Kin Bineola a "Chacoan great house," a civic and ceremonial center utilized by many surrounding communities. Kin Bineola is a massive E-shaped building 321 feet in length and 140 feet in maximum width. The building contains an estimated 105 ground floor rooms, 58 second-floor rooms, 34 third-floor rooms, and 3 "hallways." The building also includes 8 single-story enclosed kivas (round, semi-subterranean ceremonial chambers) and 2 elevated kivas. The building is terraced toward the SSE. The entire structure covers over 10,000 square feet.



CHACOAN OUTLIERS – The great houses and associated communities located some distance from Chaco Canyon are called "Chacoan outliers" or "outlier communities." Outliers share many of the typical Chacoan traits, such as architecture, masonry, roads, great kivas, enclosed plazas, pottery, etc. Some researchers believe the outliers were established by the people of Chaco Canyon as they expanded their world and influence into

surrounding areas. Others believe that local populations embraced the Chacoan world and culture and emulated the great houses and their impressive architecture. The relationship between the outliers and the core of Chaco

Canyon is not well understood. Were the outliers independent or did they support and serve the people in the core?

DATES – Tree-ring dating shows 2 clusters of dates, signifying 2 major building periods. The first cluster is at A.D. 942-943 and the later at A.D. 1111-1120. These dates fall within early and late Chacoan periods.

MASONRY – Most of the stonework at Kin Bineola is Chacoan core and veneer masonry--a distinguishing feature of Chacoan great house construction. The core consists of roughly shaped pieces of sandstone laid in a mud mortar. The core is then faced on both sides with carefully selected and shaped stones to create the veneer. The veneer helped to distribute the weight of the massive walls, and allowed the people to build 4 and 5 stories high. Several types of veneers were used, and styles changed over time. Today, archaeologists use these pattern variations as a tool for dating site construction—A.D. 1111-1120 at this site.

The earliest masonry style appears in the central wing of the “E,” consisting of coursed slabs with ample mortar on the outside. This early masonry is also found in the earliest great houses in Chaco Canyon, like Pueblo Bonito, Una Vida, and Peñasco Blanco.

KIVAS – There are 10 enclosed kivas in the building, 8 of which are single-story construction. Two of the kivas (Kiva 6 and 10) are in elevated or multistory sections of the building. Kiva 10, located in the northeast corner of the east plaza, appears to have 2 stories. Kiva 6 occupies a central position in the great house and may have been a 3 story structure with a tower-like appearance. Kiva 4 (at the south end of center wing) is the largest kiva in the great house and may date at A.D. 943, as it is in one of the oldest sections of the building. In modern Puebloan cultures, kivas are multifunctional buildings used for religious worship, prayer vigils, preparation, and ceremonies.

GREAT KIVA – Great kivas are a key element of Chacoan public architecture. They are found in nearly every Chacoan community built between AD 900 and 1200. Great kivas are often located in the plazas of great houses, or nearby. Some are located along roads, and placed on prominent ridges and hills. The unique design, size, and central position of great kivas suggest a ceremonial purpose--public gathering places for communities and the region. Great kivas--like modern kivas--would have accommodated hundreds of people.

There is a great kiva located 30 feet west of the great house. This structure is entirely filled in with wind-blown sand. There is no depression, which makes it difficult to see. Partial wall alignments are visible around the perimeter of the room which indicates an approximate diameter of 51 feet. There is also a surface alcove room on the north side of the great kiva.

PRHISTORIC DAM - Nearby, the community erected a large masonry and earthen dam on Kin Bineola Wash to divert flood waters into a canal and ditch system to water fields just downstream of the dam.

HISTORIC OCCUPATION – A chimney and hearth were built in the northeast corner of a room in the east wing of the building. This, along with a stacked masonry wall nearby, indicates that a limited historic Navajo occupation occurred within the sheltering walls long after the Chacoan people migrated from the area.

HELP US PRESERVE THIS FOR THE FUTURE - The cultural sites of Chaco Culture National Historical Park are fragile and irreplaceable, and form a significant part of our cultural heritage. They are part of the history and traditions of the Hopi, the Pueblo peoples of New Mexico, and the Navajo, who continue to respect and honor them.

You can help protect and preserve this significant part of our global cultural heritage by following these basic rules:

- ***Do not collect pottery or other protected artifacts, plants, or rocks anywhere in the park.***
- ***Do not walk, climb, sit, or lean on fragile walls.***
- ***Stay on designated trails.***
- ***Pets are not permitted in sites.***
- ***This site closes at sunset. Camping is not permitted.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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