



## PUEBLO PINTADO

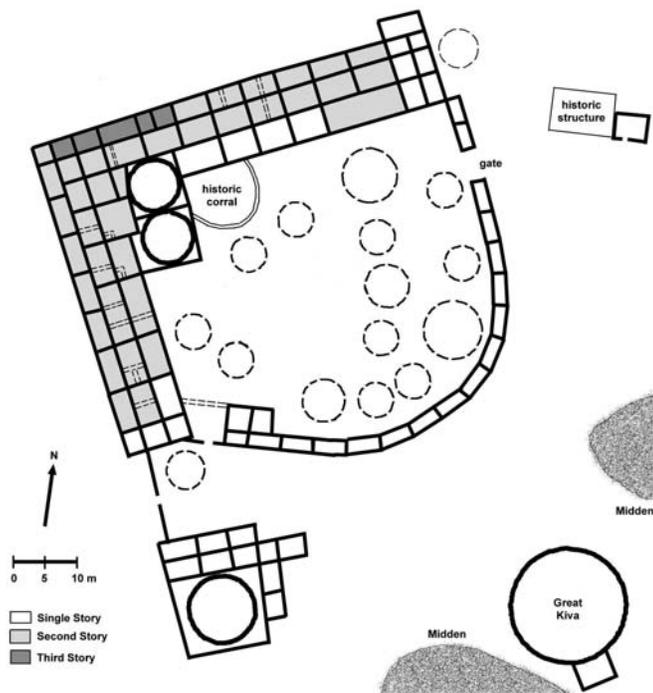


Illustration by Cory Ench of Pueblo Pintado it may have appeared in AD 1100, based upon a model by Ron Cox.

**THE NAME** – In 1849, the Washington Expedition, a military reconnaissance under the direction of Lt. James Simpson, surveyed Navajo lands. As the party traveled west from Santa Fe, *Pueblo Pintado* (Spanish for "painted village") was the first Chacoan site they encountered. Carravahal, a Mexican guide with the expedition named the site. Pueblo people on the expedition called it *Pueblo de Montezuma*. This Chacoan site was also known as *Pueblo de los Ratones*, or "village of the mice," *Pueblo Colorado* or "red village," and *Pueblo Grande*, or "large village." Its Navajo name is *Kin teel*, or "wide house."

**THE LOCATION** – 16 miles east of Pueblo Bonito at 6,520 feet elevation. Pueblo Pintado is the easternmost of the Chacoan great houses (monumental public buildings) in the immediate Chaco Canyon area.

**THE GREAT HOUSE** – Archaeologists call Pueblo Pintado a "Chacoan great house," a civic and ceremonial center utilized by many surrounding communities. The structure is a massive L-shaped building, open to the SE. The building is terraced, from 3 stories on the outside corner to the single-story enclosed kivas (round, semi-subterranean ceremonial chambers) on the interior corner. About 20 single-story rooms enclose the plaza and a large enclosed kiva. The entire great house contained 90 ground-floor rooms, 40 second-story rooms, and 5 third-story rooms. A hundred feet southeast of the building is a subterranean great kiva 58 feet in diameter.



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

**KIVAS** – Pueblo Pintado contains 4 kivas within the building, 14 to 16 kivas in the plaza area (filled in with wind-blown sand), and a single great kiva. Three of the kivas were set within room blocks, while a single kiva is partially enclosed on the east end of the east wing. The 14 to 16 kivas in the plaza are thought to be from a later occupation 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.

A great kiva is located approximately 100 feet SE of the building. The structure is evidenced by a shallow depression 20 inches deep. The walls are not visible, but an estimated interior diameter of about 58 feet is suggested. There is an alcove room-rubble mound adjacent to and southeast of this depression.

**MASONRY** – Pueblo Pintado's walls are massive and three stories tall. The masonry 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 four and five 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.

**PREHISTORIC ROADS** – Two road segments are associated with Pueblo Pintado. The first segment enters the building from the northwest, terminating at the southwest corner of the house. It is clearly visible for about 3.5 km, where it drops into the Chaco Wash via a stairway cut into the sandstone and continues to the core area of Chaco Canyon. The second segment can be traced in a southwesterly direction for about 3 km. The roads may have been used to direct travelers to Chaco for ceremonies and trading, or to symbolize the importance of the people's connections to Chaco--at the center of their world.

**DATES** – Tree-ring dates indicate that most of the construction occurred at A.D. 1060-1061, during Chaco's peak construction period, with a later reoccupation in the 1200s.

**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.***

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