



The Fremont



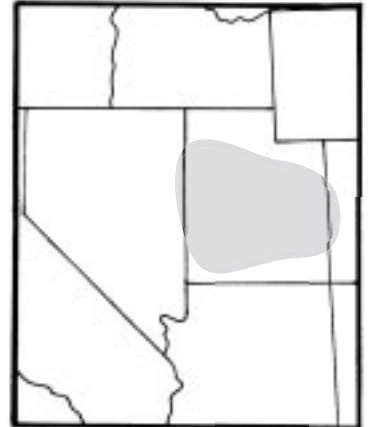
Fremont corrugated pottery has been uncovered in pieces and intact at various sites throughout the Fremont region.

Who were they? Archeologists have uncovered what they left behind and pieced together many clues. We know that they farmed, planting corn and beans, and also hunted wild game. Living in small villages they used the local resources ingeniously and survived for centuries as a people on the land.

Fremont Culture

Throughout central Utah, and extending into the edges of Colorado and Nevada archeologists have uncovered the remains of an archeological culture they call the Fremont, named for the Fremont River of Utah. They differ in several ways from their more famous contemporaries, the Ancestral Puebloan peoples, the builders of Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon. Examples of the differences include: sandals made with deer leg hides using the dew claws as heels, basketry with “one rod and bundle” weaving technique, and pottery with unique patterns and tempers. Though a distinct culture, they share the development of corn agriculture and expansion of organized, sedentary villages with the other farming cultures who lived throughout

the southwest in the 11th through 14th centuries. All traces of Fremont culture disappear after 1350 A.D.

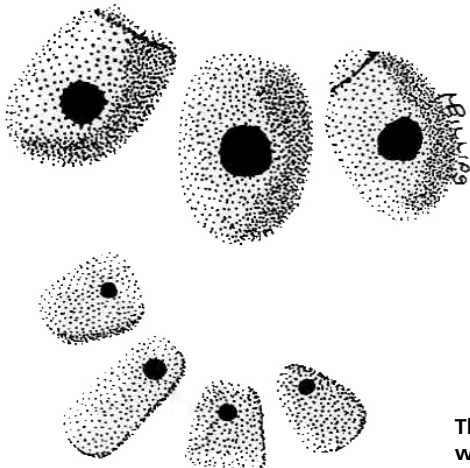


The Fremont farmed and built villages throughout this region for nearly 400 years.

An Archeological Culture

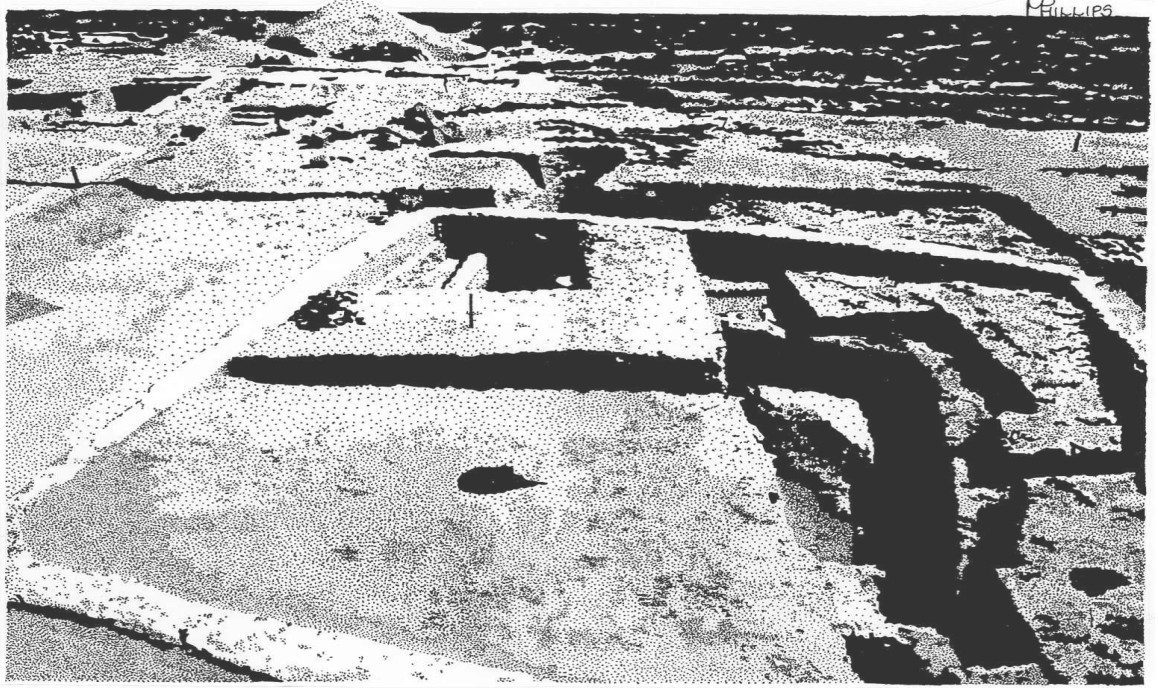
Keep in mind that an archeological culture is not the same as a living culture. We do not know what language they spoke, what they believed, or who their descendants are. We will

never know their dances or ceremonies. There are many things we can never know. Through archeology we can only learn what the physical remains of their culture tell us – that they farmed and built stable, permanent villages; that they made certain styles of pottery and projectile points; that they produced enough food to obtain the leisure time to create artwork as well as the tools of survival. This does not mean that archeology cannot delve into the deeper mysteries of prehistoric culture, only that clues to meaning must be searched for within the context of the physical remains left behind.



These shell and turquoise beads were discovered at Baker village

The Baker Village Excavations

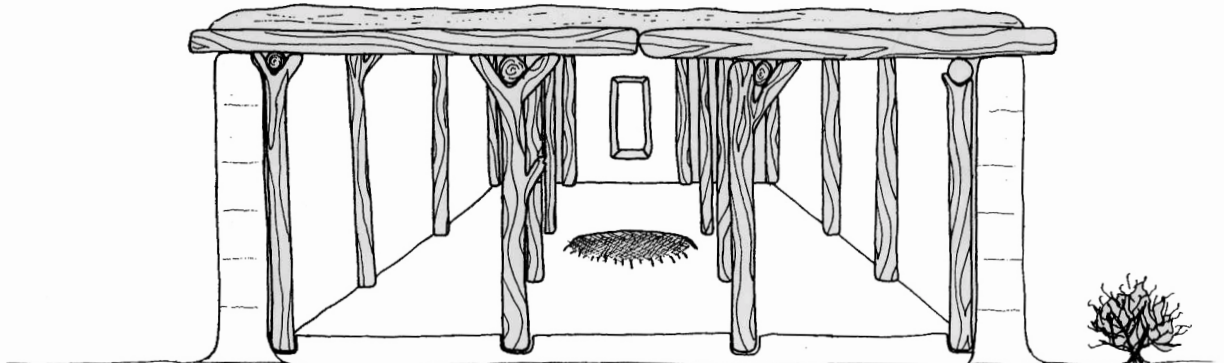


The excavations showed that the "big house" was built on top of a former pit house.

The westernmost known Fremont site, Baker Village, is located nearby, only 8 miles from the Great Basin National Park Visitor Center. The site has been known to archeologists for many years because of its visible surface expression - a raised mound covered with a scatter of potsherds and chipped stone. From 1991 to 1994 the Brigham Young University in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management conducted summer excavations at Baker Village. The excavations

revealed a settlement of surprising complexity. Instead of a scatter of pit houses and mud-walled food storage structures, Baker Village consists of an organized cluster of buildings built according to a specific plan and aligned to a single compass direction. In the center a larger mud-walled structure shows intriguing alignments with sunrise on the winter and summer solstices.

Visiting Baker Village



This artists rendition of the "big house" shows what the interior of the building may have looked like at the time of use.

You are welcome to stop by the Baker Archeological Site. Interpretive displays and a trail guide tell the story of archeological discovery at Baker Village. At the end of the 1994 field season, the site was backfilled to protect the fragile structures.

The trail guide will help you to see what was discovered and its relationship to the Snake Valley and surrounding mountains.