



Historic Havasupai pitch basket water container



Black Mesa Black-on-white pitcher, ca. AD 1100



Modern Hopi Jeddito Black-on-yellow vessel



Cheylon Black-on-white bowl, ca. AD 1100



Moenkopi Corrugated vessel, ca. AD 1100

UN-14

Two separate rooms are visible at this site, probably representing a family living area and storage room. A single occupation is suggested, at sometime between AD 1040 and 1170. The larger habitation room was built by partially digging into the slope. Three posts were found along the east wall. These posts, along with charred adobe and charcoal in the rubble, suggest that the room had a roof. Additional posts found outside the rooms may have been for sun shades or ramadas.

UN-15, 16 & 17

At these sites you will find the remains of unusual enclosures and agricultural features. No ceramics were found in association with UN-15 or UN-16, nor were there architectural components reminiscent of any known function. UN-17, however, contains the remains of a series of agricultural terraces built in and beside a small drainage. These terraces appear as parallel alignments of cobbles and limestone blocks following the contours of the slope and drainage. The Pueblo people were aware of natural processes and took advantage of favorable conditions. In this case they gained efficiency by utilizing natural drainage patterns. Ceramics found

on the slope below the terraces suggest use sometime between AD 1070 and 1180.

UN-1 & 2

Seven adjoining rooms form a U-shaped pueblo which opens eastward onto a plaza containing Kiva UN-2. No more than four families lived here at any one time. This site burned during its occupation (AD 1070-1160), and later inhabitants apparently used the debris-rich soil as garden plots. The alignments and enclosures seen here were constructed after the living areas were abandoned. Burned remnants found in the debris provide evidence of roof construction techniques typical of those used by the Pueblos (ie. beams and poles topped with adobe).

UN-3

Five rooms form a U-shaped pueblo where at least two families lived (AD 1040-1160). The nearby kiva was built of drylaid stone rubble with an interior facing of wetlaid limestone blocks and cobble. A partial bench lines the north wall, and there is evidence that some remodeling did take place. The kiva, while often used for ceremonies, was also used as a meeting place and storage area. *



Further reading:

Archaeology of the Grand Canyon: Unkar Delta, Schwartz, Douglas W., Jane Kepp, and Richard C. Chapman; Grand Canyon Archaeological Series, vol. 2, 1980, School of American Research Press, Santa Fe.

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DATING ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE. SITES ON UNKAR DELTA AND WALHALLA GLADES HAVE BEEN DATED BY CERAMIC CROSS-DATING. VARIOUS CERAMIC TYPES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN MADE AT CERTAIN TIMES. THESE KNOWN TYPES ARE THE BASES FOR ASSIGNING OCCUPATION DATES AT MOST ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES UNLESS ABSOLUTE DATES, SUCH AS TREE-RING OR CARBON 14, ARE AVAILABLE. ALL OCCUPATION DATES CITED IN THIS GUIDE ARE MAXIMUM RANGES AND ARE APPROXIMATE.

Images of vessels on this page are NPS photos

*Cover photo: View of Unkar Delta looking north.
NPS photo by Mike Quinn*

Cover inset: Black Mesa Black-on-white pitcher found in small tributary canyon north of Unkar Delta in 1969. NPS photo

Unkar Delta

G U I D E

