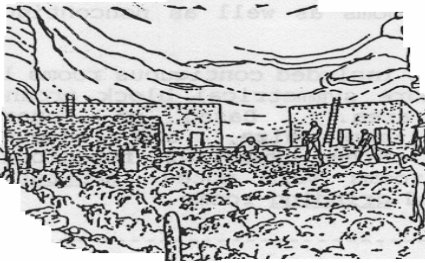




Salado Site Types

The height of prehistoric occupation of the Tonto Basin occurred when the Salado, a group of sedentary agriculturists, occupied the area from about A.D. 1150 to 1450. This period is represented not only by the Upper Dwelling, Lower Dwelling, and Lower Dwelling Annex, but also by many other smaller sites. The site type designations are rockshelter, field house, 2-5 room site, and large pueblo.



Rockshelters

The rockshelters are broken down into two subgroups: large multi-room rockshelters and small single-room caves.

The large multi-room rockshelters include those shelters with interior architecture, as well as those with natural chambers.

The second group of rockshelters includes small one-room caves with little or no cultural modifications.

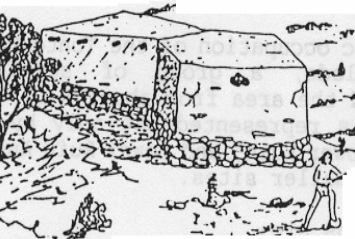


Field Houses

Single room structures were commonly called field houses and may have been associated with the tending of agricultural fields.

The rooms were usually constructed in a shallow excavated pit with boulder masonry walls inside the pit (although surface structures were also recorded).

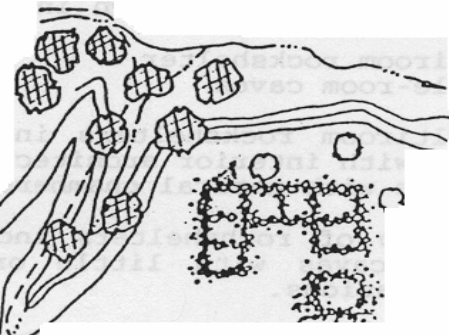
Walls were usually less than five layers high, with some subsurface layering, and consisted of unmodified boulders, cobbles, or slabs set in adobe mortar. Internal features included clay-lined hearths, postholes, storage pits, and sub-floor pits. Recovery of plaster with reed impressions suggests wattle-and-daub-like superstructures.



2-5 Room Structures

Sites of this type were common in the Tonto Basin. The rooms are generally square or rectangular 3- or 4-sided cobble foundations from one to four layers high. The rooms were either contiguous or in close proximity.

Many sites consisted of from two to four contiguous rooms, sometimes associated with a noncontiguous or ramada wall. Pithouses, ramada areas, roasting pits, and burials are often associated with these sites.



Large Pueblos

Like the features identified at the smaller sites, these were made of layered walls of unshaped cobbles. The lack of large amounts of wall fall surrounding them indicates perishable superstructures of wattle and daub. Some sites include 6-8 continuous rooms as well as noncontiguous structures.

Some pueblos included contiguous rooms laid out in a more symmetrical block around a courtyard area. Based on internal features, room size, and recovered artifacts, three types of functionally different rooms were noted: habitation, storage, and grinding rooms.