

From Sapawe to El Rito:

A COMMUNITY EXPLORES ITS RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
EL RITO NM

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2018

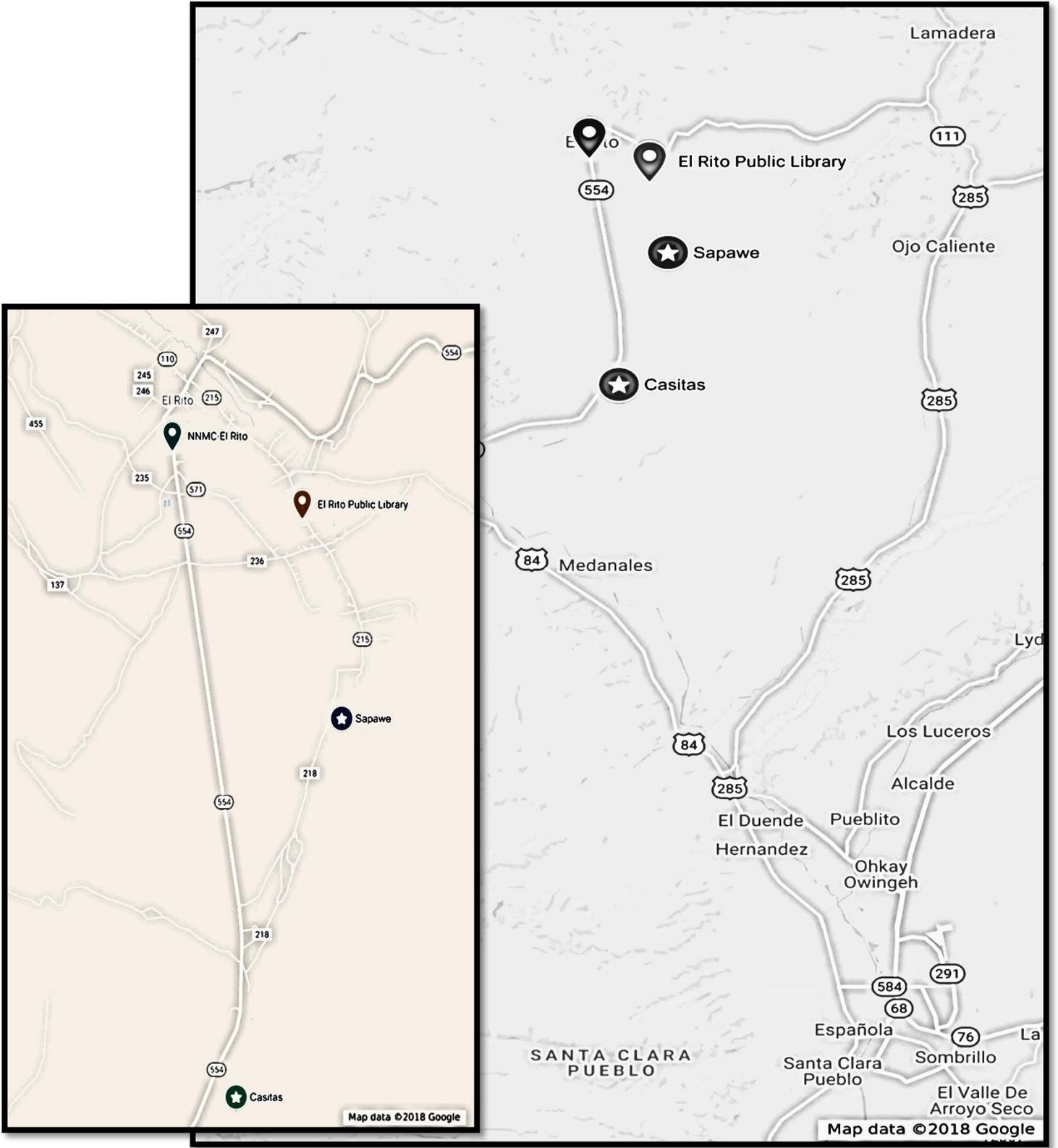
*Supported by the New Mexico Humanities Council and the
National Endowment for the Humanities*

Hosted by El Rito Library and Northern New Mexico College



La Casita, 2007 (Photo by Jun Sunseri)

Area Map



Friday Evening

- 5:00-8:00 Registration at El Rito Library
6:00-8:00 Reception at El Rito Library – open to speakers, organizers, supporters, and those who are interested

Saturday

- 8:00-5:00 Registration at Alumni Hall Northern Community College
9:00-9:30 Conference Orientation

Field Trip

- 9:30-12:00 Sapawe

Archaeology Exhibits at Alumni Hall

- 8:00-12:00 Ceramics, adobe stabilization, lithics, archeological survey. flint knapping, dendrochronology, 3-D model of Sapawe

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Session I

- 1:00-1:05 Welcome – Planning Team
1:05-1:10 Welcome – Rick Bailey, president of Northern New Mexico College
1:10-1:15 Welcome – El Rito Ranger District, Carson National Forest
1:15-1:30 “Role of Federal Agencies in Archaeological Projects,” Price Heiner, Archaeologist, Carson National Forest
1:30-1:45 Introduction to Sapawe
1:45-2:00 Break
2:00-2:30 Thomas Windes, “A Review of the UNM Field School Work at Sapawe and Tsama in El Rito and Chama River Valleys “
2:30-3:15 Hayward Franklin/David Snow, “Ceramics and History of El Rito Valley”
3:15-3:45 Alan Skinner, “Can a Baloney Sandwich Lead to Important Archaeological Discoveries?”
3:45-4:00 Break
4:00-5:00 Panel discussion: Scholars and the Public Discuss the Future of Sapawe. Emphasis will be on the development of an interpretive plan for the site. Discussion will focus on three issues: access to the site, researchers’ responsibility to the community, and curation of artifacts.

6:00-7:00 Dinner
7:00-8:30 “Community Engagement and Perspectives on Archaeology and History in the El Rito Area: Round Table Discussion.” Moderator: Paul Reed, Archaeology Southwest

Sunday

- 8:00-12:00 Registration at Alumni Hall Northern Community College

Field Trip

8:30-12:00 Casita

Archaeology Exhibits at Alumni Hall

8:00-12:00 Ceramics, adobe stabilization, lithics, archeological survey. flint knapping, dendrochronology, 3-D model of Sapawe

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Session II

1:00-1:15 Introduction to La Casita

1:15-1:45 Tim Maxwell, "Prehistoric Farming in the Lower Rio Chama Valley"

1:45-2:15 David Snow, "Preliminary Notes for a History of La Casita"

2:15-2:45 Jun Sunseri, "Casitas Viejas: A Cosmopolitan Frontier Fortress."

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-4:30 Panel discussion: Scholars and the Public Discuss the Future of La Casita.

Emphasis will be on the development of an interpretive plan for the site.

Discussion will focus on three issues: access to the site, researchers' responsibility to the community, and curation of artifacts.

4:30-5:00 Conference evaluations.

Important Information

Field Trips

Sapawe is about two miles from El Rito Library. Access requires very limited walking on level ground. Bring a hat and comfortable shoes. Organizers will provide water.

Casita is about an 8-mile drive from El Rito Library. Access entails a 20-30 minute walk. The trail goes through uneven terrain and crosses El Rito, which might or might not have water. Bring a hat and comfortable shoes. Organizers will provide water.

Fuel for the cars

There is no gas available at El Rito. The nearest gas stations are at Bode's (15 miles from El Rito) and Oliver's at Ojo Caliente (15 miles from El Rito). Organizers suggest that you fill up in Espanola (ca. 30 miles from El Rito)

Accommodations

There are no hotels in El Rito. Local accommodations are available, but are limited. Organizers strongly recommend that participants arrange for a place to stay as soon as they decide to participate in the conference. There are also several lodging options at Ojo Caliente (Cliff River Lodge is fully booked for the weekend). Close to Bode's is the Abiquiu Inn. Espanola has a range of lodging options from Motel 6 to Inn at the Delta. We are including a list of area hotels and contact information. You can also check Airbnb (www.airbnb.com) and Vrbo (www.vrbo.com) for other places to stay.

There are camping facilities at El Rito Campground, part of the Carson National Forest. The campground is located ca. 5 miles from El Rito up State Road 110. However, because of extreme drought we cannot guarantee that camping will be available and that the forest will be open in early September. Call El Rito Ranger Station at (575) 581-4554 to check that the campground is open.

Places to Eat

There is only one restaurant in El Rito: El Farolito, which is well-known and deserves its reputation. Its hours of operation are from 12:00 to 2:30 and 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. It is a very small restaurant and can accommodate ca.30 patrons.

There are no grocery stores in El Rito. The nearest places to purchase groceries are general stores, Bode's (15 miles from El Rito) or Oliver's 1 mile south of Ojo Caliente (15 miles from El Rito).

Other

Conference souvenirs will be available at the Conference Registration Desk.

From Sapawe to El Rito-- Archaeological Conference

Registration Form

There are no charges for participating in the conference. However, registration is required so that organizers can provide adequate meal service for participants. We also need to have an idea of the number of participants to let the staff at Northern New Mexico College set up Alumni Hall.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone number:

- Friday Night Reception (no charge)
 - Breakfast -- Continental or Burrito + Coffee/Tea (\$9.00)
 - Saturday Morning – Sapawe Field Trip
 - Saturday Morning – Archaeology Exhibits (at Alumni Hall)
 - Sack Lunch (\$10.00 includes beverage)
 - Saturday afternoon presentations
 - Saturday Evening Dinner (\$20.00 – beverages available for purchase)
 - Breakfast -- Continental – Burrito + Coffee/Tea (\$9.00)
 - Sunday Morning – La Casita Field Trip
 - Sunday Morning – Archaeology Exhibits (at Alumni Hall)
 - Sack Lunch (\$10.00 includes beverage)
 - Check if you have dietary requirements and explain your special needs
 - Sunday afternoon presentations
 - Check if you have dietary requirements and explain your special needs
-

Payment for meals can be made on line using credit card or PayPal at: www.elritolibrary.org

or

You can also mail a check to: El Rito Library, PO Box 5, 182 Placitas Road Highway 215,
El Rito NM 87530

Lodging

Abiquiú

Abiquiú Inn 21124 US Highway 84 (505) 685-4378
<http://www.abiquiuiinn.com>; info@abiquiuiinn.com

Española

Comfort Inn 604 S. Riverside Dr. (505) 753-2419
Days Inn 807 S. Riverside Dr. (505) 747-1242
Inn at the Delta 243 N Paseo De Oñate (505) 753-9466
<http://www.innatthedelta.biz>; customerservice@innatthedelta.biz
Motel 6 811 S. Riverside Dr. (505) 753-5374
Ohkay Casino Resort Hotel 68 NM 291 (505) 747-1668
<https://ohkay.com/>; info@ohkaycasino.net
The Santa Claran Hotel and Casino 460 N. Riverside (505) 278-6820
<http://www.santaclaran.com/>

Ojo Caliente

Inn and Mercantile at Ojo Highway 414 (505) 583-9131
<http://ojocaliente.com/>; innojo@ojocaliente.com
Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs Resort/Spa 50 Highway 414 (505) 583-2233
<http://www.ojospa.com>; GuestRelations@ojospa.com
Taos Trail Inn 35309 US Hwy 285 (505) 583-9215

Others

www.vrbo.com/Short-Term/Rentals
www.airbnb.com

Places to Eat

Abiquiú

Café Abiquiú 21124 US Highway 84 (505) 685-4378

El Rito

El Farolito 1212 Main (575) 581-9509

Ojo Caliente

El Taquito Café 35317 US Hwy 285 (505) 583-0077
Mesa Vista Café 35323 US Highway 285 (505) 583-2245
Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs 50 Highway 414 (505) 583-9131
Red Mountain Café 35310 US Highway 285 (505) 583-2184
Taos Trail Inn 35309 US Hwy 285 (505) 583-9215

Presenters' Resumes

Hayward Franklin. He received his PhD from the University of Arizona. He has taught at Eastern New Mexico University and Central New Mexico College. He specializes in ceramics studies and has been involved with ceramics analysis on many projects in the Southwest.

Tim Maxwell. He is Director Emeritus, Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico. He has been involved in Southwest archaeology for forty years. He received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico with a study of regional prehistoric farming techniques. He also worked in the Casas Grandes region of northern Mexico for several years and continues research there. He has been a Fulbright Scholar and served on community preservation boards in Santa Fe. He has edited a book on the archaeology of Casas Grandes for publication this year.

Paul Reed. He is a Preservation Archaeologist with the Tucson, Arizona-based non-profit Archaeology Southwest and works as a Chaco Scholar at Salmon Ruins, NM. During the last four years, he has been working to protect the Greater Chaco Landscape from the effects of expanded oil-gas development associated with fracking in the Mancos Shale formation. Through a series of meetings and forums with public officials, Tribal leaders, various US Government agencies, and New Mexico's Congressional delegation, Archaeology Southwest and its partners have focused on expanding protections to sites, traditional cultural places, and fragile landscapes in the greater San Juan Basin.

John Roney. He is the official evaluator for the conference. He has worked as a specialist in Southwestern United States archaeology for 45 years. He has extensive experience in all aspects of archaeological projects and has participated in numerous professional conferences.

Alan Skinner. He received his PhD from Southern Methodist University. He was crew chief at Sapawe Archaeological Field School. His research has focused on prehistoric settlement patterns and lithic technology. He has directed five summer field schools in archaeology for the Texas Archaeological Society and continues to work with avocational archaeologists throughout the state.

David H. Snow. He received his MA from Brandeis University. He has extensive experience in surveys, excavations, and historical research resulting in 274 reports. He was archaeologist and supervisor of research at the Laboratory of Anthropology; worked as consulting archaeologist for Los Alamos National Laboratory. Since his retirement he has focused on historical, archaeological and ethno-historic Southwestern issues.

Jun Sunseri. He completed his PhD dissertation on Casita Viejas. His interest in historical archaeology includes complimentary lines of evidence of varied types and spatial scales. These include analysis of archaeological ceramic and faunal assemblages related to domestic foodways and GIS analysis of remote sensing, survey and excavation data to reveal tactical, engineering and ritual patterning of cultural landscapes.

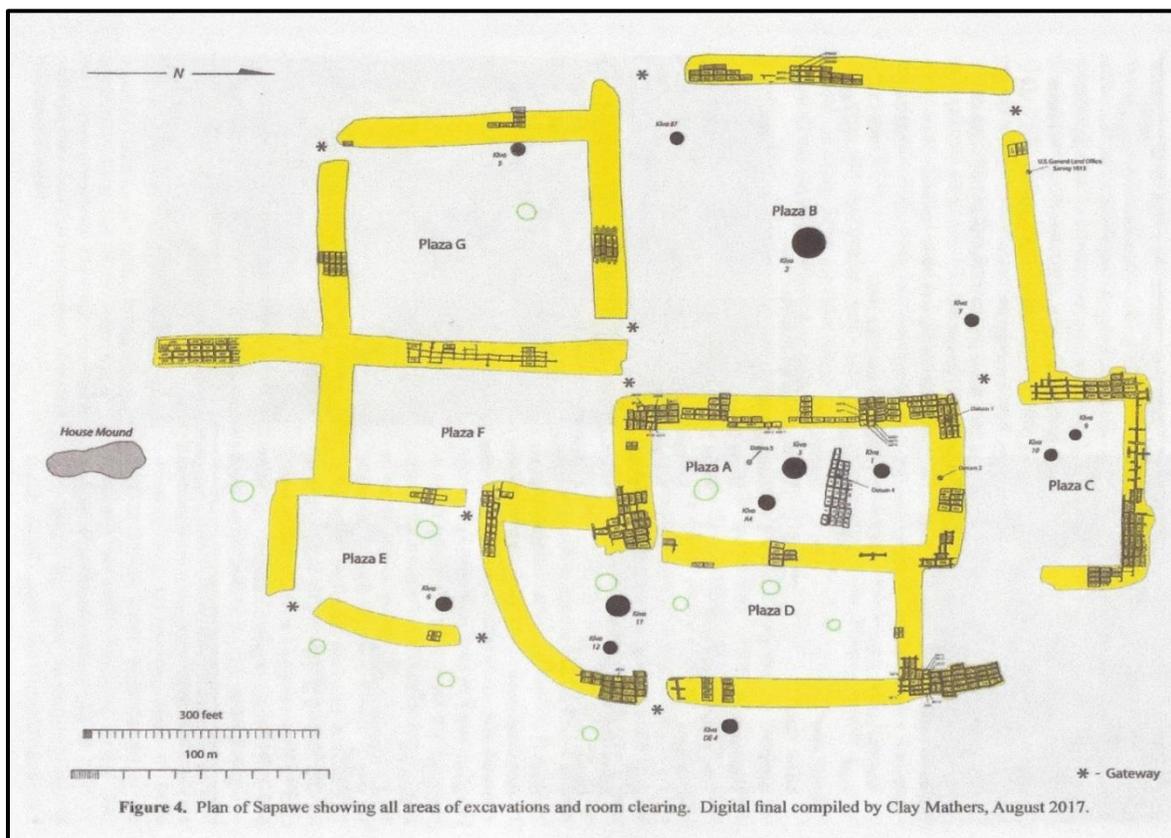
Thomas C. Windes. He received his MA from the University of New Mexico. He is an expert in tree-ring dating and has been conducting major archaeological investigations in the southwest for almost half a century. His significant accomplishments have been recognized by the Archaeological Society of New Mexico.

Field Guide to Sapawe

Sapawe is located on New Mexico State Lands. The site is approximately two miles from El Rito. It has been described as the largest Pueblo adobe communal house in the American Southwest. It consists of at least seven separate plazas spread over approximately 30 acres. Preliminary inventories identify 218 excavated rooms and 13 excavated kivas, but estimates suggest at least 1,820 ground floor rooms and 23 kivas. Sapawe appears to have been built hastily and might represent the blending of many groups coming together. Dating of Sapawe's occupation is controversial. Some archaeologists postulate a range from about A.D. 1325 to 1650. Others believe that occupation was much shorter – from A.D. 1490 to 1525.

Excavations in the 1960s yielded masses of cultural material. More than 50 human burials, flutes and whistles made of bone, ceramic vessels and pipes, projectile points, axes, *manos* and *metates*, ritual items like lightning stones, kiva bells and others were recovered.

Information comes from Thomas C. Windes and Peter J. McKenna, 2018 “A Reconnaissance of the Archaeology of Sapawe, an Ancestral Tewa Village in the Rio Chama Valley, Northern New Mexico,” *Two Gentlemen of Chaco: Papers in Honor of Thomas C. Windes and Peter J. McKenna*, ed. by Emily J. Brown, Carol J. Condie, and Marc Thompson, pp. 219-236.



Plan of Sapawe -- Windes and McKenna (2018), p. 223.

Field Trip Guidelines

Keep in mind the “leave-no-trace seven principles” listed below when participating in visits to significant archaeological sites. We request that you pay particular attention to principle # 4. The sites you are visiting hold very important scientific information that can be easily lost. You can look at pot sherds and other physical remains associated with the site, but we request that you place them back in the same place where you found them.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4. Leave What You Find**
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Field Guide to La Casita

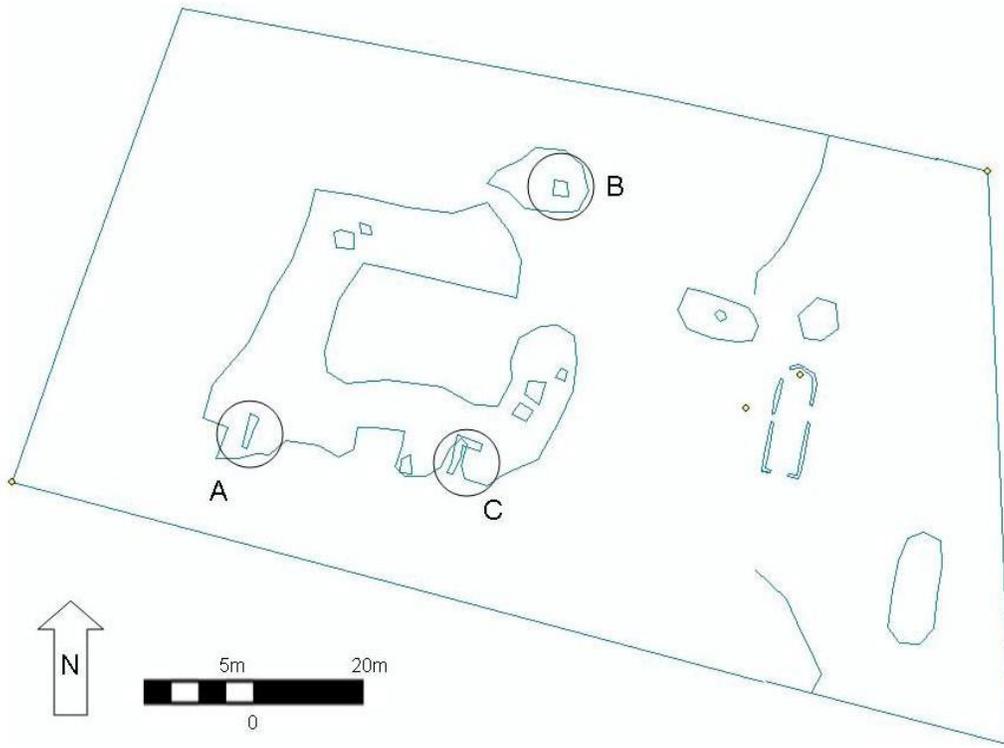
La Casita is located on Carson National Forest Lands, in southeastern Rio Arriba County on the east bank of El Rito Creek. The beginnings of La Casita are, for now, unknown, and limited work at the site suggests only that the peak of the community's life-span was encompassed between the early decades of the 19th cent until it was observed to be in ruins in 1882.

Herbert Dick's research conducted in 1959 identified at least three locations (A, B, and C) for artifacts disposal (see site map below). Each of them represents different modes of deposition and suggests that various households occupied the site. Materials collected from La Casita include several pieces of "imported" ironstone (white ware), manufactured in Enlgnad or the United States during the first half of the 19th Century.

In 1973 students at Colorado College (Brown and Robertshaw) described a complex of three sites within a one-mile range. La Casita #1, about 6-8 miles south of El Rito, is where the ruins of a chapel with several mounds of adobe and trash are visible. La Casita #2 is approximately one-third of a mile northwest of La Casita #1 with no standing walls, but a distinct plaza of dirt mounds. About half a mile northeast La Casita #3, located about ¼ miles from El Riyo Creek. There are no standing walls, but one can see a distinct plaza of dirt mounds. This preliminary study suggested that these three distinct sites were occupied simultaneously or sequentially from the mid-18th Century until the early 20th Century.

Additional research conducted during the first decade of the 21st century reveals substantial sherd assemblages (culinary plain, red-on-brown, burnished black, polychrome, smudged red-on-brown, micaceous, and micaceous-slipped) as well as extensive faunal remains (Sunseri, 2009).

Information come Jun Sunseri's "Nowhere to Run, Everywhere to Hide: Multi-Scalar Identity Practices at Casita Viejas," PH.D dissertation, University of California – Santa Cruz, 2009 and Carolyn Brown and Jane Robertshaw's, "Casitas: A Plaza of the El Rito Valley," 1973, paper submitted at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.



Site map of Casita (LA 917) with locations of Dr. Herbert Dick's excavation units (A-C), Sunseri (2009) p. 28.

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*Please Support our Conference Sponsors
Make reservations early as accommodations are limited*



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