

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **September 14, 2018**

Destination: **Haynie Archaeological Site in Mancos**

Leader: **Jim Mueller**

Number of Participants: **16**

Trip participants, Bill and Letha Cagle, Kristine Johnson, Jay Culver, Barbara Lawson, Ray Turner, Ruth Guarino, Jill and Bill Tripp, Betsy Moore, Phil Bruckbauer, Lyle Hancock, Barbara Arnold, Robert Hutson, Michel Mohr and Jim Mueller, met at 8:00 a.m. at Santa Rita Park for a half-day field trip to the Haynie Site, a Chaco-style great house outlier near Mancos, Colorado. This field trip was a follow-up to a talk on the same subject at our July meeting by Dr. Susan Ryan, Director of Archaeology, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Susan was our guide for this field trip.

The Haynie site was recently purchased from the previous owners, Ralph and Claudia Haynie, by three local benefactors to protect the site and allow Crow Canyon to do excavation work. Crow Canyon developed the Northern Chaco Outliers Project (NCOP) to study the Haynie Site along with the Ida Jean and Wallace Ruin, collectively known as the Lakeview group (I'm still looking for the lake). They are within a 1-kilometer radius of each other



and the NCOP study is designed to understand the interaction and relationship between them during the Chaco (A.D. 1050–1140) and post-Chaco periods.

The Haynies both helped and hurt the investigative work. Claudia drew the most accurate map of the site and cataloged a lot of artifacts, but they dug up artifacts to sell to tourists and collectors. There are two great houses at the site, the East and West. The Haynie's used a backhoe at the East great house to excavate a kiva. The West great house was mostly bulldozed to grade, but the foundations, subsurface rooms and floors, and a

few walls are mostly intact. This is where the current excavations by Crow Canyon are taking place by adult volunteers.



As with the beginning of any large research project, aerial surveys, surface surveys, interviews with the prior owner and an archaeologist who did some field work and stabilization work from 2008 to 2014 were conducted. Their journals, maps and field notes were also reviewed. The Haynies also put their excavated materials in two separate piles, so Crow Canyon is doing some reverse archaeology.

Construction of the two great houses began in A.D. 1,111, Pueblo II period, and the sites were probably still occupied during the post-Chaco period. These great houses were built over previous site occupations of the Basketmaker III and Pueblo I periods (A.D. 550 – 900).

Crow Canyon is working with the Archaeological Conservancy to purchase the property from the current owners to better protect the site and help fund future work. Unlike other archaeological sites, 1) there is no hurry or time limit due to future construction work, and 2) the excavation work that is going to be done has been completed and we just visit the site and hear the story. At Haynie, I hope to conduct annual field trips so that we can observe the work as it progresses from the beginning and hear the ideas and hypothesis of the site as it is put together.

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