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A Masonry-Walled Structure in West Central Arizona

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A Masonry-walled Structure in West Central Arizona

G. Purcell

Submitted in partial fulfillment of

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This report, the result of two years of learning and study, has been an interdisciplinary endeavour from the outset. It has involved my introduction to skills in technical writing, human relations and artifact analysis. The time used in preparing this report encompassed four trips to Arizona, extensive correspondence with technical specialists in bone and ceramic analysis, and much writing and rewriting. My conception of an interdisciplinary approach was formed by this experience, in which I was exposed to the problems of numerous disciplines, from geology and botany to computer science and writing. Archaeology represents for me one of the most interdisciplinary of sciences. The skills evidenced here reflect the extent to which I have experienced the different disciplines.

This study relates the finds of a 1977 dig near Prescott, Arizona, to what has been found in the history of excavations near Prescott. It places the 1977 dig (site designation: JC-AZ-2) in context among other excavations by collating all the data heretofore scattered among various journals. The site comparison table shows what has been found (and where) in the Prescott region. The analysis examines the complete range of other sites designated "Prescott," thus creating the framework needed to understand any site included in the study.

Another aspect of this report involves the broader cultural conditions prevailing during the 300 years following the end of the first millenium AD. In west-central Arizona, near the present day town of Prescott, a prehistoric tradition practiced cremation, the construction of four-post pithouses, and constructed pottery by the paddle and anvil.
method. These ancient people may have existed around Prescott as early as AD 750. They represent the traits of the Pioneer Hohokam, the precursors of the mighty desert culture to the south, the Hohokam. The Prescott take their name from the modern town, although they have not been found in excavation to be much more recent than AD 1100.

The people called "Prescott" were probably swept up in the great climatic and geologic events of the 11th through 13th centuries, and by the mass migrations of the peoples of the Southwest that resulted from these natural events.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Although this paper was ostensibly authored by one person, there were in truth many contributors. Dr. Roger M. Baty, without whom this project would never have been undertaken, is at the head of my list of people to thank. With sensible direction-giving and a keen sense of what is involved in writing a technical report, he has guided me through the many rewrites of the various aspects of this paper, letting me learn my lessons the hard way, and always providing encouragement during the difficult times, when it seemed as though I could never complete the task. Mike Downing, a graduate of Johnston College, was always a help to me in Prescott, when I was in need of information, advice or accommodation. His careful method and friendliness have been instrumental in the preparation of this report.

The contribution of Franklin Barnett to the dig was immense. His technical assistance and background set the stage for the writing of this report, and it was he who identified many of the artifacts. His six publications pertaining to the Prescott indians were also invaluable in their detail, quality and comprehensiveness.

The analysis of the ceramic findings of the dig is the job of Fred Frampton of Flagstaff, who graciously helped us learn some basics in the identification of pottery, and who has undertaken to identify the sherds from JC-AZ-2. His eventual contribution to the dig will be a report on the ceramic wares and the implications of their presence at JC-AZ-2.

Paul Langenwalter of Riverside identified faunal remains for the report, and generously gave his time to explain to me his understanding.
of vertebrate zoology's place in archaeology.

Charles Weisenberg of Redlands identified the rock remains represented in the various artifacts. Thanks also go to the students who helped in the preparation of the artifact tables, and to those who offered encouragement through the seemingly endless collation of materials.

Thanks must also be extended to Mr. Bill Fain, who graciously granted us the privilege of excavating on his land, in the Fain Ranch and Cattle Company holdings. Mrs. Franklin Barnett was an invaluable aid in both the excavation and in her expertise in restoring broken pottery vessels.

Last of all, it is my pleasure to extend my thanks to Dr. James D. Hester, the Proudian Committee, and, of course, to Dr. and Mrs. Proudian themselves. The Proudian Interdisciplinary Honors Society supported me through several trips to the southwest. To everyone who had a hand in this effort, I extend my grateful thanks.

Geoffrey D. Purcell
Redlands, California
April 1st, 1980
# Outline and Table of Contents for Prescott Indian Report

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**Author:** G. Purcell

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INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this report is to describe the excavation of two rooms on the western lower slopes of Fitzmaurice Ruin, which lies 11 km east of Prescott, Arizona. The excavation was accomplished by a team from Johnston College, Redlands, California, under the direction of Dr. Roger M. Baty, with technical assistance from Mr. Franklin Barnett, a resident of Prescott. The report provides a description of the cultural remains found during the dig, as well as a trait and artifact analysis of all reported Prescott sites. It endeavours to add perspective and insight to the problems of studying the Prescott Culture.

B. Literature Review

The archaeological record of Northwestern Arizona is by no means complete. Some cultures, such as the Hohokam and Sinagua, have been reconstructed through careful survey, excavation and assessment of the finds (Haury, 1932, 1965, 1967; Schroeder, 1960, 1974, 1977). The early Prescott culture, on the other hand, has been largely overlooked. Quite naturally, the promising remains elsewhere in the Southwest have drawn investigators in greater numbers than the relatively drab and materially poor sites around Prescott. Recently, however, interest in the Prescott has gained momentum, as evidenced by the surveys and excavations of a growing number of dedicated investigators (Shutler, 1952; Euler and Dobyns, 1962; Barnett, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978; Ward, 1975).

The first references to the Prescott in a scientific journal were made by Fewkes (1912). He distinguished between the types of dwelling he
found during his survey and described "forts" in the hills around Prescott.

A generation later, in an attempt to define the limits of Hohokam Red-on-buff culture, Gladwin passed through Prescott and Skull Valley. He decided to include the Prescott in his Yuman root (Medallion 15, 1934). In 1936, the work of Caywood and Spicer on King's Ruin and Fitzmaurice Ruin was published (Caywood and Spicer, 1936). They made available a description of indigenous Prescott pottery which was used for dating purposes (Hargrave and Colton, 1936).

By 1939, Colton had described two phases of the Prescott tradition. He dated the "Prescott phase" from 900 to 1000 AD, and the "Chino Phase" from 1025 to 1200 AD (Colton, 1939a). These phases became a basis for the dating of Prescott sites. Colton also reformulated Gladwyn's Yuman designation into the Patayan culture and tentatively placed the Prescott in the Patayan. Schroeder later argued that the Hakataya could include the Patayan and Laquish stems and should be considered to represent traits of the Pioneer Hohokam (Schroeder, 1974).

In 1952, Shutler excavated a pithouse in the Williamson Valley thought to have been occupied between 1000 and 1100 AD (Shutler, 1952). He was followed in 1962 by Euler and Dobyns, who excavated a site west of Prescott similar to King's Ruin and dated to Colton's Chino phase (Plateau, 34(3)).

By the mid 1970's, Barnett had excavated widely in the Prescott region at Matli Ranch, Lonesome Valley, Oxley Ruin, Fitzmaurice Ruin and Las Vegas Ranch (Barnett, 1970, 1973, 1974a, 1975, 1978). At Matli Ranch, he excavated five ruins which proved to contain the remains of Basketmaker III and Pueblo I cultures, thus establishing a Basketmaker-Pueblo tradition in the Williamson Valley. Evidence from the Fitzmaurice
pueblo excavation yielded dates as late as 1300 AD, as indicated by an intrusive sherd analysis. The Las Vegas Ranch Ruins, which were pueblo-style masonry-walled structures, exhibited characteristics of the neighboring Sinagua, and dated from after 1100 AD.

In 1975, Ward excavated at Prescott College and placed his site in Colton's Chino phase (Kiva, Spring 1975, pp. 131-164). In 1977, a team from Johnston College, Redlands, California, undertook the excavation of two rooms at Fitzmaurice Ruin. The purpose of this paper is to report on the findings of this dig, and to contribute to the discussion regarding the culture of the early Prescott Indians.

C. Dates

Until more absolute dating techniques can be applied to the finds at JC-AZ-2, the closest estimate of the age of the pueblo and its surrounding ruins is that it was occupied sometime between 1140 and 1300 AD (Barnett, 1974, p. 123). These dates are based on intrusive ceramics excavated at the site. As the lower room excavated in 1977 does not have pottery that deviates in style from that of the other ceramic remains, the dates ascribed by Barnett must remain for the time being.

II. BACKGROUND TO THE PREHISTORY OF WEST-CENTRAL ARIZONA

A. Prescott Tradition

In 1939, Harold Colton described two phases of the Prescott culture, which he called the Prescott branch and the Chino branch, which he dated 900-1000 AD and 1025-1200 AD, respectively (Colton, 1939, pp. 30-31). The Prescott branch was dated according to the incidence of Deadmans Black-on-white and Tusayan Black-on-red, which had been dated dendrochronologically in their respective territories. At the time of Colton's
writing (1939) no Prescott branch sites had actually been excavated.
The Kings and Fitzmaurice ruins were placed in the later Chino phase.
King's ruin was dated by the tree ring method to 1204 AD (Plog and Martin,
1973, p. 378) with pottery dates from 1100-1350 AD.

Since Colton's time, it has become plain that there were very
few "uncontaminated" Prescott culture sites anywhere. To date, only
Shutler's Williamson Valley Ruin can be labelled as pure Prescott site.
Even the backwater sites of PC Ruin and Yolo Ranch Ruin had representative
pottery from nearby cultures. The Yolo Ranch site, with only eight
intrusive sherds from the Cerbat region, the San Francisco Mountains,
and the Little Colorado River (out of a total of 1404 sherds), is in
the area that Colton described for the Prescott branch. But the authors
of the site report placed the ruin between the dates of 1100 and 1250 AD.
Other chronological complications beset students of Prescott pre-history.
At Rattlesnake Ruin (Barnett, 1970, pp. 9-16, 84-85) two very different
periods of occupation were described: a Basketmaker III-Pueblo I occupation
between 620-950 AD, and a Pueblo II-Pueblo III occupation between 1080-
1310 AD (pottery dates). The earlier occupation date is based on the
incidence of only twelve intrusive sherds, which is sketchy evidence at
best. In any case, it is evident that numerous cultures played a role
in the life of this prehistoric crossroad. At Fitzmaurice, for example,
the majority of the pottery is Alameda Brown Ware (Sinagua, Verde Hohokam),
and there were significant amounts of Pimeria Brown and Hohokam Buff wares.
The same is true of the Lonesome Valley Ruin (Barnett, 1973).

If the Prescott region were merely a meeting ground of wandering
hunters and traders, the problem would be much simpler. But the diag-
nostic pottery of the Prescott people, Verde Gray, creates the need to
classify the Prescott separately. All of their architectural forms are shared with neighbors, as are their mortuary customs, lithic industry and ornament type. The distinguishing characteristic is a method of pottery making, which produces a crude ware, often with distinctive mica temper. Their method of decorating (painting) their pottery was also distinctive: thick lines in carbon paint, describing triangular patterns, chevrons, dots and aimless lines. Prescott pottery is unmistakable.

If Colton's Prescott branch represents the earlier Prescott culture, then the Chino phase represents the time after which extensive contacts with surrounding cultures became commonplace, as it is during this period that the great majority of trade ceramics show up in the Prescott region. And clearly, the dates of the Chino phase are inadequate to deal with the recent data uncovered in the excavations of the past thirty years, particularly those of the last ten years. With our knowledge of the commotion begun by the volcanic eruption in the Flagstaff region in the 1060's, it becomes evident that an unusual change occurred in the Southwest toward the end of the 11th century, and probably through the 12th century, with relatively great masses of people moving toward the Flagstaff region. The drought cycle of the 13th century is responsible for the depopulation of the areas around present-day Flagstaff (Colton, quoted in Schroeder, 1960, p. 13) and Prescott. These movements would not have gone unnoticed in the Prescott region: they would have been able to see the eruption from where they lived. Schroeder (1960, p. 53) thinks that the Prescott may have acted as an influence on the Sinagua in the 1100's:
It is quite possible, however, that four-post cremations were introduced to the Flagstaff region by people of the Prescott Branch, who also migrated into the cinder fall region in the 1100's. These Prescott people may have obtained this trait from the Hakataya on the lower Colorado River, if four post cremations were as common on the river prior to 1070 AD as they were in historic times.

The calamity of many fleeing people (during and after the eruptions of the AD 1060's), away from the black ash catastrophe, probably did not go unnoticed by the Prescott either, who may have had to defend themselves against unwilling invaders. And later, when hundreds streamed back to the Flagstaff region, to take advantage of the water conserving ashes, some of the Prescott migrated with them. At Nalakihu pueblo, near Wupatki, cremations with Prescott pottery have been found (Schroeder, 1977, pp. 44-45). The implications of these developments are probably what spell the difference between the Prescott branch people and the Chino phase people. Of course, this does not solve the problem, posed by the presence of Basketmaker III and Pueblo I remains (Barnett, 1970, p. 85) which could antedate and were probably contemporaneous with the Prescott branch. It seems that the Prescott area was always a melting pot of various peoples, lying as it does above the main trade routes described by the courses of the Agua Fria River and the Verde River, between the Northern Pueblo peoples (Anasazi) and the Hohokam.

B. Hakataya Tradition and the Implications of the Changing Climatic and Geologic Conditions

In 1960 Schroeder defined the Hakataya tradition as a general term for dealing with the confusing array of cultures of West Central Arizona, and the Colorado River Valley, as it extends along the border with California. Hakataya can be understood as an overall term for Gladwyn's Yuman. Schroeder used the Patayan designation when classifying the
Cohonina, the Prescott and the Cerbat in one group. Patayan is a Yuman word meaning "the old people." (Hakataya is a Yuman word for the Colorado River.) The characteristics supposedly shared among these three cultures, according to Schroeder (from Plog and Martin, 1973, p. 100) were impermanent, rock-encircled jacal domiciles with rounded corners, crude pottery (resulting from uncontrolled firing), the paddle and anvil method of pottery making, and cremation burials. Schroeder's assertions grow out of his conviction that the Hakataya are basically representative of the traits of the Pioneer Hohokam, who are the shadowy precursors of the great desert civilizations that mastered the deserts with extensive irrigation works. (These Pioneer Hohokam may have come from Mexico.)

Plog and Martin do some violence to Schroeder's theory, by accepting his Hakataya theory, while excluding the Pioneer Hohokam from it. They say, "We do not overlook the many similarities between Pioneer period Hohokam and Hakataya. The situation is one in which we must decide which traits to stress and which not to stress. In our estimation, Pioneer period Hohokam is best left within the Hohokam tradition."

(Plog/Martin, 1978, pp. 99-100)

The "Prescott culture," influenced as it was in the latter half of the 11th century, and throughout the 12th and 13th centuries, by the Sinagua and other nearby cultures, is not at all representative of the traits of the Pioneer Hohokam. Perhaps the people who lived in the pithouse sites (reported in Shutler, 1952; Euler and Dobyns, 1962; and Ward, 1975) are the legitimate representatives of the Prescott Culture. It is very hard to say. Harold Gladwin describes the Prescott this way:

The houses of the Prescott Culture were square to rectangular, four-poster, with a side entrance, resembling the houses of the Hohokam. Contact with the Hohokam was also shown by sherds of Colonial Red-on-buff, which were found in most of the local sites, but there the
Figure 1
connection ended. The dead were buried full length in shallow graves, so breaking abruptly with the custom of cremation...
The Prescott Culture provides a shining example of country cousins trying to act like city folks. (H. Gladwin, 1957, p. 148)

Contacts with the larger cultures to the south and north were minimal, until the region around Flagstaff was thrown into chaos by the eruption of what is today called Sunset Crater. It was at this time that all of the Kayenta (Anasazi) and Hohokam and Mogollon influences came to bear upon the people of west central Arizona.

Fitzmaurice Ruin, and hence the dwellings lying about it, are not just Prescott sites, according to Gladwyn's description above. The vast quantities of Alameda Brown Ware, represented at Fitzmaurice by Tuzigoot Plain and Verde Brown, among others, were local variations of Sinagua Wares and outnumber Verde Gray by 2:1 in the main pueblo. Fitzmaurice was probably (primarily) a Sinagua trading post, and is very similar to Tuzigoot Pueblo, near the Verde River. The vast numbers of different wares found at Fitzmaurice bear witness to the amount of commerce going on there when the pueblo was at its zenith, sometime between 1150 and 1250 AD.

It must be borne in mind that there are a great number of large ruins as yet unexcavated in the Prescott region. The data that these ruins have to offer could quite easily alter the existing picture of the Prescott. It seems quite likely that modern investigators will hearken back to the word of Harold Gladwin. Such manifestations of foreign contact have all but obliterated traces of the Prescott in the 1100's and 1200's and it seems plausible that the Prescott represented a mixture of cultures during the latter half of the 11th century. Harold Gladwin wrote:
I do not think it would be possible to find a pure site of the Prescott Culture dating from the 11th century. The drift of the Kayenta people had continued and spread to such an extent that the only remains of the earlier Prescott Culture were a few sherds of Black-on-gray pottery mixed with the typical Black-on-white of Kayenta potters and the polished redware which covers the floor of the valley. (Gladwin, 1957, p. 222)

Gladwin may have mistaken Sinagua influence for Kayenta influence, as the Prescott probably received the Kayenta influence via the Sinagua, who also made Black-on-white pottery in great quantities.

The fact that Fitzmaurice is a pueblo surrounded by pithouses and masonry-walled structures is itself indicative of cultural assimilation. In the pre-eruption (1064 AD) days, Prescott Indians appear to have lived in pithouses or rock-outlined brush structures. Later they learned of the masonry-walled structures, perhaps from the Sinagua. After the eruption, the migration of pueblo-building Anasazi peoples to the Flagstaff region brought their culture into closer contact with the Prescott. The outgoing, trading representatives of the post-eruption (i.e. post 1070 AD) Sinagua culture disseminated the imported Kayenta know-how and material, and established their own off-shoot tradition in the Prescott region. It is likely that Fitzmaurice is a joint Prescott-Sinagua site. (See Wormington, 1975, pp. 165-166; Barnett, 1974, pp. 123-127.) The ceramic record suggests this, as does the architectural record. The plausibility of the above construction, based as it is on proven facts, lends its own speculative weight to the matter. But in their book, *The Archaeology of Arizona*, Plog and Martin caution us by saying:

The preliminary problem encountered in attempting to discuss the Hakatayan root is the substantial lack of data. Except in the south, sites of this root tended to be impermanent and to consist of one or a few structures. Any given excavation produces relatively limited amounts of data. Moreover, few sites have been dated. These
problems in the quality and quantity of data are a part of the reason why we adopt Schroeder's more general term Hakataya. The data as they stand make most arguments about regional boundaries fatuous ones. Little that is secure can be said of similarities and differences between regions. To avoid building boundaries where none exist, to avoid mistaking seasonal poses for different cultures, we believe it is more sensible to employ the more general term Hakataya. (Plog and Martin, 1973, p. 100)

Plog and Martin are, however, writing about a tradition that was eclipsed by the events of the 11th and 12th centuries, an era in which there may be no identifiable Prescott tradition, let alone a Hakataya tradition.

In the matrix of trade relationships that seems to have characterized the ancient Southwest, it is unlikely that there were any rigid borders that could be delineated. With the Prescott it is difficult to find similarities even among the sites that are dominated by the diagnostic Prescott ware. Only in the Matli Ranch-Las Vegas Ranch ruins (Barnett, 1970; 1978) are there similar inhumations, architectural modes and pottery. Their dates, as yielded by intrusive sherds (Verde Brown, Tusayan Black-on-white and Deadman's Gray) make them roughly contemporary sites (each occupied sometime between 1100 and 1300 AD). Yet these sites (in particular Las Vegas Ranch East and West, and Rattlesnake ruin) represent a step up from the Prescott branch (Colton, 1939, pp. 30-31) sites, which are characterized by pithouses or rock-outlined brush dwellings. The Matli Ranch/Las Vegas Ranch ruins were all masonry-walled structures and pueblo type structures. It is doubtful that these ruins are even to be considered Prescott Culture, so radically do they depart from the norm described by Colton, Plog and Martin, and Schroeder.

There is a greater sense of permanence about these later ruins, and a greater variety of features than were found at PC Ruin, Williamson Valley Ruin and Yolo Ranch (see Figure 7). There was increased outside
contact, as evidenced by the increased numbers of trade sherds. What does this mean for Fitzmaurice Ruin, and consequently for JC-AZ-2?

The proposed establishment of Fitzmaurice pueblo, sometime around 1140 AD (Barnett, 1973, p. 123) was probably a direct consequence of the eruption at Sunset Crater around 1064 AD (Wormington, p. 164, for eruption date). So closely do the dates coincide that the possibility is inescapable.

Early Prescott sites represent the traits of the Hakayatan root. But with the influx of people to the black land, the Sinagua culture was substantially altered by Hokokam, Kayenta and Cibola influences. It is at this time, too, that the Prescott move from rock-outlined dwellings and simple pithouses to the more permanent, well-built masonry-walled structures, which were probably learned from the Sinagua. Mortuary practices at Fitzmaurice (Simmons, quoted in Barnett, 1973, pp. 11-14) featured extended burials, with rich grave offerings included. This is identical to the Sinagua practice (as distinguished from the Hohokam practice of cremation).

Wormington asserts that:

Not only did the original Sinagua people return to the area, but Hohokam and Pueblo people moved in too, bringing with them their own special traits. The Hohokam introduced their type of architecture and their distinctive ball courts, and the Anasazi introduced the Pueblo architecture which was adopted by the Sinaguans. At first, masonry was used to replace timbers in pithouses, but in a very short time the Sinagua people began building surface masonry dwellings and multi-roomed pueblos became the rule. (Wormington, 1975, pp. 165-166)

This clearheaded assessment of pottery dates, architectural modes and ancient demography describes many critical factors that help in understanding the Prescott in their context among other Southwestern cultures in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries.
Sinagua-Prescott parallels do not stop with mortuary practices. Wormington describes a Sinagua dwelling, and I shall quote her at length:

These were fairly deep, timber pithouses. Walls were made of a series of upright poles lashed together, with larger poles set in corners to provide support for roof platform. The entire structure was covered with grass or bark, and earth was banked over it. These timber pithouses at first had long sloping entrances to the east, but these were later reduced to serve as ventilators, and entrance was through the roof. (Describing the period following 900 AD)

In locations unsuitable for the construction of pithouses, there were also surface or near-surface houses. In places where drainage was poor and the ground was boggy, they were built on artificially constructed earth mounds some eight to twelve inches high. These have been called platform or alcove houses. They are roughly rectangular and have a small extension or alcove which was used as an entrance. The alcove may have served a further purpose and supplied additional storage space, although rectangular surface granaries made of timber seem to be associated with these houses. (Wormington, 1975, pp. 163-164)

Judging by the extent to which their trade ware reached distant corners of the Arizona map, the Sinagua were a very active, out-going people. Their presence along Lynx Creek is not an unusual phenomenon, considering that they traded so widely, and considering the market fine pottery wares would have among the Prescott. It seems fair to suggest an extensive Sinagua presence at Fitzmaurice, at least according to a "cultural trait" examination. Absolute dating techniques have not been applied to Prescott sites, so there is room for little but educated conjecture. But there was a climatic occurrence in Arizona and New Mexico during the 13th century that could help to explain much about the abandonment of Fitzmaurice pueblo: drought. Tree ring analysis has shown that a drought of unusual severity hit the Southwest at the end of the 13th century, from 1276-1299 AD (see National Geographic, November 1976, pp. 606-607; MacGregor, 1974, pp. 321-322).
This drought caused another migration, this one toward the perenially watered river valleys, especially the temperate Verde Valley (Schroeder, 1960, pp. 20-22). This drought was the culmination of 60 years of worsening drought conditions, which began around 1215 AD. (Schroeder, 1960, p. 13). There was a general abandonment of Prescott sites beginning in the early 1200's, and by 1300 the area was practically deserted. It should be remembered that 1300 is a general date, and that it is difficult, in light of the few excavations that have been published to date, to assign any absolute date to the prehistoric depopulation of West Central Arizona. In all likelihood, "complete depopulation" never took place. Much work remains to be done, both on existing knowledge and in the field.

Perhaps the Prescott did retreat westward in the face of the invading Sinaguans. If they did, it would be difficult to tell, as there are no specific dates on Prescott Gray Ware upon which reliance can be placed. As can be seen from the foregoing discussion, there is room for much work in the field of Arizona prehistoric studies.

III. THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING OF THE PRESCOTT REGION

A. Geography and Geology

Fitzmaurice Ruin is situated 11 km east of Prescott, Arizona, in the Lynx Creek drainage. It sits on a steep-sided hill, about 45 meters high, between two dry washes that feed Lynx Creek in the wet season (see photographs, pp. 16, 21, and maps, pp. 15, 19). The land is characterized by granite outcroppings, from which the inhabitants of the pueblo obtained the temper for their pottery, which consisted of either crushed granite, mica or sand. To the southeast, south and southwest are prominent hills,
Figure 2. Location of Fitzmaurice Ruin (NA 4031)
which lead by ridges to still larger mountains. Glassford Hill, the most dominating topographical feature in the vicinity, lies to the northwest of Fitzmaurice pueblo. It is largely composed of granite.

The rocks in the area are mostly basalts and granites. These materials were, according to the artifact record, very heavily used. Diorite was also used, and cobbles from Lynx Creek were used as hammer-stones. Imported rocks include turquoise, obsidian and other micro-crystalline rocks, such as chert, jasper and agate. The pueblo was built of the nearby stones, as were the lower, outlying rooms. Metates were largely constructed of sandstone and basalt, with grinders, pounders and
hammerstones made of the harder diorite and cobbles. Schist wedges have also been found at Fitzmaurice.

Most, if not all, of the available lithic materials around Fitzmaurice were used for some purpose or other. Mud found use as plaster for the walls, crushed rock and sand were used in the making of pottery, and ornaments were made from shale and argillite. The geology of the land around Fitzmaurice and the availability of rain and river water was a prime reason for the establishment of the pueblo and other habitations.

B. Flora and Fauna

The environment was able to support abundant wildlife characteristic of the Upper Sonoran Life zone, a transitional area between the Interior Chaparral and Desert Grassland biotic communities, at an elevation of 5255 feet elevation (Ward, 1975, p. 133).

Among the animals represented in the faunal remains of JC-AZ-2 are the following: Black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), Gamble's quail (*Loohorlyx gambelli*), Black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus Californicus*), Audubon's Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), Prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) and Deer mice (*peromyscus sp.*). The last two on the list are post-evacuation intrusions on the site. Other animals known (through faunal analysis) to have been in the area around the pueblo are the following: Pocket gopher (*Thomomys sp.*), Woodrat (*Neotoma sp.*), Rock squirrel (*Spermophilus variegatus*), Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyotes and dogs (*Canis sp.*) and antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) (Barnett, 1974, p. 46). Most of these animals provided the inhabitants of the pueblo with meat and skins, and bones for tool and ornament making purposes.
With regard to floral remains, there were practically none detected in the fill or on the floor of JC-AZ-2, with the exception of a solitary piece of juniper (sp. *Juniperus*), and the charred post remains (see p. 21a). In all likelihood, however, many of the grasses, shrubs and trees that grow in the area today were to be found when Fitzmaurice was occupied. Among the more common plants in the area are the following (Albee in Barnett, 1978, pp. 3-4):

**Grasses:**
- Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)
- Squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*)
- Threeawn varieties (*Aristida sp.*)

**Forbs:**
- Aster (*Aster sp.*)
- Buckwheat (*Eriogonum sp.*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)
- Milkweed (*Asclepias sp.*)
- Sunflower, Annual (*Helianthus annuus*)
- Thistle, New Mexico (*Cirsium neomexicanum*)
- Western Ragweed (*Ambrosia Psilostachya*)

**Shrubs and Trees:**
- Buckwheatbush (*Eriogonum sp.*)
- Juniper (*Juniperus sp.*)
- Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*)
- Fourwing saltbush (*Chamise*)

Other varieties of wild vegetation are also present. These include squawberry, acacia catclaw, scrub oak and giant cottonwood. Wild thistles, bee plant (*Cleome* sp.), Indian paintbrush and prickly-poppy are also to be found.

**IV. THE FITZMAURICE RUIN**

**A. Previous Excavations**

The scientific excavation of Fitzmaurice Ruin began in 1930, when Mr. J.W. Simmons excavated some burials for the Federal Works Project
Figure 4. Plan of Fitzmaurice Ruin and outlying rooms.
(see Barnett, 1974, pp. 11-14). Black-on-gray pottery, beads, skeletal remains and lithic artifacts were uncovered. The skeletal remains were in an extended position, with a general east-west orientation, skull to the east. Artifacts more recently recovered from Fitzmaurice are similar to the remains found by Simmons: Flagstaff Black-on-white, Tuzigoot and indigenous pottery bowls and jars, turquoise beads, obsidian projectile points and shell material, among other pottery and ornaments. The Simmons report was never published.

The next excavation at Fitzmaurice occurred in 1933, when Louis Caywood and Edward Spicer excavated five rooms below the main ruin. Their finds included such architectural phenomena as pithouses and masonry-walled structures, as well as diverse pottery types, projectile points, shell fetishes and bone tools. Their report was published in 1936 (Caywood and Spicer, 1936).

It was not until 1968 that any more scientific excavation was done at the site. During the time between 1933 and 1968, there was considerable vandalism and plundering. In April, 1968, Franklin Barnett undertook the excavation of the main pueblo, and finished there in December of 1970. Twenty-seven rooms were excavated, and Barnett's report was published in 1974. This pueblo is the largest site excavated near Prescott. It yielded much that suggests that it was not uniquely a Prescott Site, since it had a good deal of material from other, surrounding cultures. In addition to materials found in the Simmons and Caywood/Spicer excavations, the Barnett excavation brought a wider range of pottery ware to light, and provided an up-to-date description of the finds. (Figure 10 shows which artifacts have been found at the various sites in the vicinity of Prescott (pp. 54-55).)
Later on in 1974 Barnett directed a Yavapai College archaeology class in the one-day excavation of a masonry-walled structure on the west slope, below the main ruin (Barnett, 1975). Barnett's efforts, augmented by the availability of fairly complete information on Arizona ceramic types and wares, set the stage for the 1977 Johnston College dig.

Figure 5. Oblique Aerial View of Fitzmaurice Ruin

B. Johnston College Excavation (JC-AZ-2/77)

The two rooms designated JC-AZ-2 lay on a north-south axis, with room one the larger and more northerly of the two (see Figure 8). JC-AZ-2 lies immediately to the southeast of the Yavapai College Ruin, excavated by Barnett in 1975 (Barnett, 1975), and the two sites may have formed a contiguous habitation. Eight working days (July 3-10, 1977) were required before JC-AZ-2 was completely excavated.

1. Room One. This feature was excavated first, and is identified as being the more important of the two rooms because of the relatively large
Figure 6. Room One, Looking from the Southwest.

Figure 7. Rooms One and Two, From the East.
number of artifacts uncovered there.

a) Fill. The fill averaged about 30 cms in thickness, and consisted of a wet, loamy topsoil which was characterized by its considerable charcoal content. Lithic artifacts found in the fill included two abrading slabs, a pounder, a metate (portable), a firedog, two fleshers and four scrapers. Two ceramic figurine fragments were also found. A few sherds also came to light, but the majority of the recovered sherds were found on the floor of the room.

b) Floor. A smooth floor, formed of packed clay on the decomposed granite surface on which the room was built, was probably formed by cutting into the slope to the east and then trampling the floor until it was smooth. Toward the south wall, a cache of six smoothed, two-handed manostones (3 bifacial, 3 unifacial) were discovered arranged in a row. Together with this cache of manostones was a maul, a digging implement and an abrading slab (see Figure 9). In the northwest corner of the room a pounder, a hammerstone and an abrading slab were found next to the wall, about a meter northwest of a small deposit of kaolin. Other lithic artifacts found were two abraders, an abrading stone, a full-groove axe, a pestle, a chopper, a plastering stone, three arrowpoints, one flesher and two drills. These were scattered on the floor of the room.

Also found was an Olivella shell bead, nine shell pendants (eight of them genus *Glycimeris*, one *Pectin circularis*), two pendant blanks (genus *Glycimeris*), two tinklers (genus *Conus*), two pottery spindle whorls (one complete) and a small pottery fetish representing a quadruped of some kind. A Verde Gray bowl was also found. (This was restored by Mrs. Joan Barnett and is on display in the Armacost Library Museum.)
1) **Firepit.** In the southwestern quadrant there was a rock-lined firepit (see Figure 6), with which the (restored) Verde Gray bowl was associated. The firepit was a hole dug into the ground, and lined with small slabs of granite. It was associated with abundant ash indicating its use up to the time the rooms were abandoned.

2) **Postholes.** The charred remains of five wooden posts were found in situ (see Figure 6). Two were found along each of the north and east walls. The posts were approximately the same size (12 cms in diameter). The fifth was a large post in the middle of the room. The posthole was about 30 cms wide for the central post. The posts were juniper wood and served as roof supports. Twenty cms to the east of the central posthole was a small vertical hole. It was about 15 cms deep. Nothing was found in the hole and its purpose has not been determined.

3) **Roof Material.** A single piece of mud plaster bearing the imprint of small juniper branches was found in the room. This material was the mortar used in the roof of the room. It is a small but thick chunk, and is composed of brown alluvium and gravel.

c) **Masonry-walled structure.** Because of the presence of large, unworked slabs and chunks of granite in the walls, JC-AZ-2 has been designated a masonry-walled structure. The granite slabs were loosely cemented with mud. There were also some waterworn conglomerate stones in the wall. There was no evidence of any opening in the wall, raising the suggestion that entrance to the structure was gained through the roof. But because the west wall of the structure had been largely eroded away, it is possible that an opening could have existed there. The walls around the structure averaged about 30 cms in thickness.
d) **Room Size.** Room one was similar in size to other excavated Prescott culture dwellings. The dimensions were as follows: west wall, 3.7 meters; north wall, 3.6 meters; east wall, 4.0 meters; and the south wall, 3.8 meters. The walls were higher on the east side (against the hill), and diminished toward the west side. At its highest point on the east side, the wall was 73 cms high. On the west side, the height was estimated at 21 cms. The remains of the north wall show it to have been at least 39 cms high. The south wall was at least 31 cms high (see Figure 6).

2. **Alcove (Room 2A).** The alcove was smaller than Room 1A. There were no postholes found along its walls. The principal find was a group of pottery vessels.

   a) **Fill.** The fill in the alcove was slightly less deep than the fill in room one, perhaps because the floor was slightly higher. In it were found two abrading slabs, an abrading stone, a 3/4 groove axe, a digging implement, two arrowpoints (one complete), a scraper, two cores and a miniature clay basket.

   b) **Floor.** The major find on the floor was a cache of four ceramic vessels, two complete and two which were restored (see Figure 7). The two complete vessels were Tuzigoot jars, and exhibit the distinctive Gila shoulder. The other two vessels were a Verde Gray jar, and a Verde Black-on-gray bowl. (These were restored by Mrs. Joan Barnett and are on display in the Armacost Library Museum.) These vessels were found together, arranged against the east wall. In addition to this cache of ceramic vessels, there were two bifacial manostones, a grinding stone and a partial arrowpoint.

   c) **Walls.** The masonry-walls of the alcove were less evident.
than the ones in room one, partly because there was much less wall around the alcove than there was around the larger room.

d) **Room Size.** The alcove is smaller than Prescott culture structures generally are. The east and west walls were 2.4 and 2.7 meters long, respectively, and the north and south walls were each 3.1 meters long. The wall was highest on the east side, at 44 cms. and in some places was not to be seen at all. The alcove lies immediately to the south of room one (see Figures 4,5). It is possible that the alcove was not completely excavated hence the dimensions must be taken as tentative.

![Figure 8: Plan of Rooms One and Two.](image-url)
V. THE ARTIFACTS OF JC-AZ-2

A. Ceramic Artifacts

This section of the report is being written by Fred Frampton of Flagstaff, and will not appear in this report.
Figure 9. Pecked and Ground Artifacts (I)
Figure 9: Pecked and Ground Artifacts (II)
B. Ground and Pecked Stone

All of the artifacts discussed below may be seen in the photographs on pages 27 and 28. All are listed in the artifact tables, which accompany the discussion.

1. Abraders. (Table 1) Two abraders were found at JC-AZ-2, both on the floor of room one. These artifacts were made of abrasive materials, and are classed by the marks they bear as well as by their shape. They are more easily recognized than abrading stones, because they have often been preshaped by chipping and pecking, and because they are larger. They often resemble mano-stones or grinding stones in shape. Abraders could provide a fine finish on other stone implements, as well as on bone or antler material.

2. Abrading Slabs. (Table 1) In the fill and on the floor of room one, and in the fill of room two were found six abrading slabs. These artifacts are weathered stones of abrasive material, often shaped by pecking and chipping. They are generally identified as having at least one side worn smooth, with a depression on the working surface(s). The slabs from JC-AZ-2 all conform to this definition, except for AS-1, which is a flat rectangular stone, and which might be classed as a large abrading stone.

3. Abrading Stones. (Table 1) Two abrading stones were found at JC-AZ-2, one in the fill of room two, and the other on the floor of room one. These tools are the prehistoric counterpart of the modern whetstone, and are very similar to abraders. In shape and size, however, they are less distinctive than abraders, as they are much smaller, and are unaltered by either pecking or chipping.
<table>
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<th>Room No.</th>
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<th>Material</th>
<th>Dimensions(cm.)</th>
<th>Weight (Kg)</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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4. **Axes.** (Table 4) Two axes, one on the floor of room one, the other in the fill of room two were found. One was full-groove, the other 3/4 grooved, and both were probably specifically adapted to cutting wood or chopping at the limbs of dead animals. They were made from fine basalt by chipping and pecking, followed by polishing.

5. **Firedog.** (Table 3) The occurrence of this artifact in the fill of room one presents problems. These artifacts are usually found in sets of three, and were used to support cooking pots over the fireplace. The firedog from JC-AZ-2 is not fire blackened, as one might expect it to be, so it is possible that it was not a firedog, but merely a worked stone, a fragment of a mano-stone.

6. **Grinding Stones.** (Table 3) One grinding stone was found on the floor of room two. It was probably used with the site's one metate, when the pulverizing of pigments or the grinding of foodstuffs was done.

7. **Mano-stones.** (Table 2) Eight mano-stones (from Spanish: mano: hand) were found at JC-AZ-2, with six (three unifacial, three bifacial) on the floor of room one, and the other two (both bifacial) found on the floor of room two. The expert workmanship exhibited by these pieces manifests itself in unusual symmetry and smoothness. These artifacts are usually matched with a metate, and are essentially grinding implements. Mano-stones were used to grind corn, nuts and perhaps other wild foodstuffs (beans or pumpkin, for example) into meal on metates. Mano-stones are classed as "two-handed" or "one-handed." All of the examples from JC-AZ-2 are two-handed manos.

8. **Maul.** (Table 4) One maul was found on the floor of room one. It is fairly cumbersome, and could serve in any capacity where heavy pounding would be required. It was formerly attached to a wooden handle,
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<td>Pounder</td>
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* diameter 6.1
* circumference 17.0
** diameter 10.5
* circumference 30.8
### Table 4 (Cutting Tools)

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<td>Axe-3/4 groove</td>
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<td>Maul-3/4 groove</td>
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</table>
and has a 3/4 haft or groove centered between the two ends.

9. **Metate.** (Table 3) Only one small metate was found at JC-AZ-2, in the fill of room one. It was portable, and was probably used in the preparation of foods. It may also have been used for abrading purposes. There are many different kinds of metates (see Barnett, 1973, pp. 69-74), and the metate found at JC-AZ-2 would be classified as a small, troughed metate, according to current conventions.

10. **Pestle.** (Table 3) A smooth pestle was found on the floor of room one. A pestle is used in conjunction with a mortar, in much the same way that a mano-stone is used with a metate, that is for grinding purposes. It is unusual that there was no mortar in either room one or two to complement the pestle.

11. **Plastering Stone.** (Table 3) This artifact, resembling an unusually thick, unifacial mano-stone, was found on the floor of room one, and may have been used to smooth the floors and/or walls of the dwelling.

12. **Pounders.** (Table 3) Two pounders were found in room one, one in the fill, and the other on the floor. These tools were probably used in many functions, as striking implements or as grinding stones. They are large, rounded, weathered rocks, made of hard, enduring kinds of stone, and shaped by pecking and chipping. The examples show a few marks, indications that they were used as striking implements.

C. **Flaked Stone**

Flaked stone in the form of technical flakes, projectile points, scrapers, drills and cores were found. A "flaked" tool is generally made of microcrystalline rock, which lends itself to delicate shaping by nature of its microscopic particle matrix. Rock types include volcanic
glass (obsidian), agate, flint and jasper, which were used in the manufacture of the types of tools listed above. All of the following artifacts may be seen in the photographs on pp. 25-26. See Appendix A for the description and measurements of each object.

1. Arrowpoints. Five partial points and one complete arrowpoint were found. All but one were made of obsidian, with the other made of a quartz crystal. Three were found on the floor of room one, and one was found on the floor of room two. The other two, which were the quartz crystal point and the complete obsidian point, were found in the fill of room two. These artifacts are an obvious indication that the bow and arrow were used at Fitzmaurice. In size, the artifacts would be able to kill a large animal. The deer bones found in room one may have belonged to an animal killed by such arrowheads. The points are rather crudely made, and do not exhibit the fineness of Cohonina or contemporary Hohokam points. They are all serrated, to a varying degree, with Ap-6 providing the finest example, as well as being the only complete point from the site.

2. Atlatl Point (Bi-point). A single atlatl point was found alongside JC-AZ-2, east of room one. It has been called a "Willow Leaf" point, and is pointed on both ends. It predates JC-AZ-2, and was not associated with the finds of the structure. This artifact was probably used with a spearthrower, a wooden limb which added to the thrower's force by virtue of the extension it provided. The point would be fastened to the end of the spearthrower, and would fit into a notch at the base of the spear. The point, though crude, was made in a way similar to the arrowpoints.
3. **Chopper.** A single crude chopper was found on the floor of room one. This artifact is similar to the pounders and the hammerstone, and was a multi-purpose tool. It is a very rough artifact, and defies any effort to limit it to a single function. It may have been a cutting tool, or a flake remover. It shows some wear along its "cutting edge."

4. **Cores.** Two yellow jasper cores were found in the fill of room two. Cores are generally microcrystalline material, and are used as the source for the raw material used in making flaked artifacts. A core is struck by a hammerstone, and the chips and flakes that result from this blow are either made into objects, discarded or saved for future use. Scrapers are often made by pressure flaking a technical flake struck from a core. Core stones exhibit conchoidal rift marks, and a depressed surface which can be matched to a struck flake's bulb of percussion.

5. **Digging Implements.** These tools were probably used as an aid in agricultural or home-building activity, as they often have a useful scraping or digging edge. The implements uncovered on the floor of room one and in the fill of room two would have been effective as digging tools, and may have aided in the preparation of the floors and walls of rooms one and two.

6. **Drills.** Two drills were found on the floor of room one. Both are partial drills, and are made of jasper. They were probably employed in the perforation of beads or shells (many of which were found on the floor of room one).

7. **Fleshers.** Three fleshers were found in room one. These artifacts (two of which were found in the fill) were used as knives in the removal of fur and gristle from an animal, and were flaked along
one edge to aid in this purpose. The fleshers found at JC-AZ-2 were in excellent condition.

8. Hammerstone. There was only one hammerstone at JC-AZ-2, on the floor of room one. Hammerstones were unspecialized tools, probably finding use in many different circumstances, like choppers and pounders. It is very chunky and crude. One of its functions may have been to strike flakes from cores.

9. Miscellaneous Chips and Flakes. Among the fragments of detrital material recovered from the two rooms were numerous unworked flakes and chips. The most interesting items in this category are the fragments of arrowpoints: two obsidian points from the fill of room one, and a jasper piece from room two. They seem to have been fractured and to have been discarded. In the fill of room one there were four flakes of jasper, five flakes of obsidian, and two flakes of chalcedony. There were also five chips of obsidian, one chip of jasper, and one chip of chalcedony in the fill. In the fill east of room one were found two technical flakes, one of jasper and one of obsidian. On the floor of room one there were three flakes: one each of obsidian, fine grain basalt and jasper. In room two there were three technical flakes of jasper, one jasper chip and two flakes, one of obsidian and the other of an unidentified green stone. A scraper (?) of basalt was found in one of the jars in the vessel cache of room two. All of these remains seem to have been struck from cores, or were broken off of an artifact and discarded.

D. Minerals and Pigments

A fairly representative collection of minerals and pigments was found, with raw materials from many different areas, both near and far to Fitzmaurice.
1. Argillite. A single bead of red argillite was found. It had been
cleanly drilled and abraded, and may have been made at the site. Argillite
is a compact red shale, and was mined near the Chino Valley, north of
Fitzmaurice, in prehistoric times (Colton, 1953, p. 87).

As its name suggests, azurite has a blue color. When pulverized and mixed
with water, the paint was probably used for personal adornment, or for
painting small objects. It does not seem likely that it was used to
paint Prescott pottery.

3. Green Siltstone. The dull greenish color of this rock may have
made it a desirable pigment for the people at Fitzmaurice. Seven small
chunks were unearthed in room one. When pulverized and added to water,
the material would have provided a gray-green paint.

4. Kaolin: A fine white clay, kaolin was used for decoration purposes
on pottery, and probably for personal adornment as well. The inclusion
found on the floor of room one may have been kept in a small container,
which has since disintegrated.

5. Turquoise. Two small chunks of turquoise were found in rooms one
and two, and a fragment of a bead was recovered from the fill. This
turquoise is not native to the Prescott area, and may have come from
the area around Kingman, or even from California's Mohave Desert.

6. Tuffaceous Claystone. This off-white, clay-like material was
probably useful in pottery or slip-making, given its even composition.
Chunks of it were found on the floor near the northwestern corner of
room one.

E. Ornaments

The artifacts in this category include shell, pendants, blanks
and tinklers, clay fetishes, and bead remains of stone and shell.

1. Argillite Bead. (See Section V D, p. 39)

2. Clay Figurines. The incidence of three broken figurines and one animal fetish (see Appendix A) at JC-AZ-2 may indicate the existence of a cult, or the observation of some ceremonial customs. All of the objects were broken, and were of very small size, which led to the belief that they were charms. Other suggestions were that they are fertility symbols, or children's playthings. One figure seems to be a representation of the head of a person. The body is broken off. The remaining two pieces are cylindrically shaped, with one resembling a human phallus. The most distinguishing characteristic of the last figure are the abrupt edges that define either end of the undecorated shaft. The fetish, which may be a sheep, has its left ear and two left legs missing. Such fetishes are fairly common finds in the Southwest, and seem to have enjoyed popularity among the Prescott Indians.


a) Bead. From the floor of room one came a small, drilled shell of genus *Olivella*, which is originally from the Gulf of California. It was roughly drilled near the top of the shell, but it was not drilled through. The hole is so ragged that it seems possible that it was an incidental break as opposed to being a drilled hole.

b) Blanks. Two unworked shells were found with the pendants on the floor of room one. These two shells are genus *Glycimeris*, and had been abraded along the outer edge. The hole that characterizes the pendants was not drilled in the blanks, and it is surmised that the abrading of the outer edge was the first state in the making of a finger ring (Barnett, 1973, p. 99). None of the pendants were abraded in this way.
c) Pendants. Nine shell pendants were discovered on the floor of room one. Eight were classified as being of the genus *Glycimeris*, and one was genus *Pectin circularis*. All were drilled at the beak, and were in varying states of preservation. The glycimeris were of two sizes, the larger sizes with widths and lengths between 1.7 and 2.1 cm, and the smaller between 1.2 and 1.6 cm. There were thus seven "large" pendants and two "small" ones. The pectin circularis measured 2.4 x 2.6 cms.

d) Tinklers. Two shell tinklers of genus *Conus* (sp. *Ziminias*) were found on the floor of room one. They had been filed down on the top, to reveal the inner cavity of the shell, and had been drilled at the base, where a necklace string would have passed. These artifacts are thought to have been "tinklers," or prehistoric bells, because of the removal of the top of the shell. They may have contained a small bead or bone or stone on the inside that would rattle inside when the shell was agitated. They were worn around the neck of their owner, in all probability.

VI. DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE ARTIFACTS OF JC-AZ-2

In this section, the artifacts found at JC-AZ-2 will be discussed with regard to their location in the fill, or on the floor of the rooms. A number of questions suggest themselves, such as the reason JC-AZ-2 was abandoned. Why were such a large number of well-made implements left behind, and how or why was the structure burned? Where did the people who built it come from, and where did they go? These questions and others will be discussed in the following section.
A. The Artifacts of JC-AZ-2

JC-AZ-2, a masonry-walled structure on the lower slopes of Fitzmaurice Ruin, is similar to other excavated sites near Prescott, particularly at Matli Ranch (Barnett, 1970, pp. 12, 17, 30-31) and at Fitzmaurice Ruin (Caywood and Spicer, 1936, pp. 95-97). The boulder reinforcement represents a major effort at a strong (defensible?) structure, and hints at the permanence that the builders may have intended to incorporate into their dwellings at this time (ca. 1200 AD). The floors, hardened by trampling and smoothing, are durable surfaces, water resistant, and like a natural concrete that would contribute to the stability of the posts, and in which plants would not easily grow. The juniper-branch roof, which was plastered with a muddy layer (some of which was preserved) would serve as a weather resistant shelter. Entrance may have been gained through the roof, as there are no indications that a doorway was incorporated into the walls of either the alcove or the main room. It is possible that the missing west wall, which has been eroded away down the slope, could have had the entrance, but this is unlikely, if the slope was anywhere near as steep in AD 1200 as it is today. The smoke from the fireplace in room one would need to have a hole through which it could escape, and this hole may have served as the entrance. The room was burned, as evidenced by quantities of charcoal in the fill, at sometime before AD 1300, by which time the site had been abandoned, as indicated by dates from intrusive ceramic sherds.

1. Room One: Floor. On the floor of room one there were many artifacts. Along the southern wall (next to room two) was a cache of six mano-stones, one maul, one flesher, and an axe, neatly arranged on the floor of the dwelling. They are very fine examples of Indian lithic
craft, and the care involved in their making (as reflected by their symmetry and general smoothness) creates the possibility that they might have been used for ceremonial purposes. In support of this "ceremonial mano-stone" theory, there were three human figurine fragments in the fill and on the floor of room one, as well as a small fetish (sheep?) fragment. These are generally taken to be ceremonial objects, because of the non-practical aspects of their situation.

The other artifacts on the floor of room one covered a broad range of functions, and were not always of the quality that distinguished the artifacts in the south wall cache. These other tools were an abrading stone, three abrading slabs, a flesher, a digging implement, a pestle, a chopper, a complete spindle whorl, and three partial projectile points (the descriptions of these artifacts can be seen on pp. 69-71).

In the northwest corner of the room there was another cache, containing a plastering stone, a pounder, an abrading slab and a hammerstone. The plastering stone is of extremely fine workmanship, and was probably used in smoothing mud mortar on the masonry walls, and in smoothing the floors of the rooms. It might have doubled as a mano-stone.

In addition to the tools, there was a rock-lined fireplace in the southwestern corner of the room, which would be useful for cooking. A broken Verde Gray bowl was found next to the fireplace. There were nine shell pendants on the floor, as well as shell tinklers and two shell pendant blanks. One bead was uncovered: an Olivella shell bead.

There was only one small unworked chunk of turquoise in the room, and a bit of azurite. The abrading slabs and stone were used for bead and pendant making, as evidenced by the shell artifacts. It is likely that room one was the place where these shells were processed, given the
tools found there. Two drills, that may have been used in the shell-working operation, were on the floor of the room.

In the middle of the floor there were two holes, one apparently the posthole of the central roof support beam, the other serving an unclear purpose. It could have been intended for use as a grease or ash pit, but was not used in either of these capacities.

The presence of a flesher in the room suggests that some skinning was carried on there, and the presence of some bones (from rodents, birds and larger mammals) in the room bear testimony to another probable activity carried on there. The chopper may also have been involved in this industry. But it is possible that these bones are merely refuse, discarded upon the roof. Tools such as the hammerstone and "digging implement" were perhaps the all-purpose tools of their day, for digging post-holes, pounding in posts, or removing flakes from cores. The three projectile point fragments were probably stored in clefts in the roof, or thrown away when they became unusable through usage.

The spindle whorl was used as a balance disc, placed at the end of a spindle, on which fibers were strung into cord or string. The presence of the spindle whorl is an indication that the production of string may have been a function of the workers/occupants of JC-AZ-2. On the floor, near the northwest cache of tools, was a deposit of kaolin, a pure, white clay soil, highly valued for its use in pottery decorating and personal adornment. The finds on the floor of room one show it to be a place where the needs of both living and working might be met, particularly the needs of working.

2. Room One Fill. The artifacts represented in the fill covering the floor of room one were probably placed on the roof or in the rafters
of the structure prior to its destruction sometime before AD 1300. As was mentioned, the roof was often used as a place to leave damaged items or nuisances such as potsherds, broken arrowheads, and other used-up artifacts. In the fill of room one there was found a pounder, an abrading slab, a firedog, two fleshers, a metate (portable), a broken spindle whorl and three scrapers. The incidence of these complete tools in the fill offers two explanations: (1) that after the destruction of the dwelling its depression was partially filled by refuse from other structures, even from the pueblo above, and that the gradual deposition of soil from sheet wash and erosion from up-slope accounted for the rest of the fill, and (2) that the roof and rafters were used for storing implements as well as refuse, and that the implements fell with the rest of the roof when the destruction occurred. Of course, it is possible that both of the possibilities are correct in part, but the fine state of some of the artifacts (the metate, fleshers and pounder, for example) from the fill would argue for the latter possibility. There is little reason to throw away an unbroken implement, unless the object were declared unfit for use. If this was the case, it would probably be discarded in some place farther from the site. The idea here is that artifacts in the fill likely were stored on or in the roof of the structure, and that they fell in when it was destroyed.

The artifacts may have been too bothersome or large to keep inside the structure, so they could have been placed onto the roof until such time as they were needed. Moreover, if entrance to the structure was gained through the roof, then it would be quite natural to leave artifacts around the entrance. The metate certainly bespeaks the possibility that the grinding or pulverizing of materials went on; probably
corn being the food processed (Barnett, 1973, p. 19). It is a large object, likely to be placed out of the way (i.e. on the roof) when not in use. The firedog would only have been useful in the structure when a vessel was cooking over the firepit, and the clumsy pounder may have become obsolete when the maul and axes were procured by the occupants of the structure. The abrading slab and fleshers may have been standby replacements for the ones in use in the structure, or were simply unsuited to the occupant's need at the particular time of the destruction. But the unusual thing is that all of the pecked-stone objects show little sign of wear, as though they were brand new. The scrapers were all small and insignificant as was the spindle whorl fragment. In the fill were also found two fragmented human figurines, most probably discarded when they were broken.

It is probable that the dwelling was deliberately fired, when the owner left, in response to drought, social unrest or the death of the owner. If the owner left, he may have realized the impossibility of bringing his heavy wares and implements with him (or perhaps he took only the very best), and could have desired that they be laid to rest with his house. It is difficult to account for the fact that these artifacts were left, unless the inhabitants left in a hurry, travelling light.

3. Alcove: floor. The alcove, or room two, was, for reasons previously stated, probably contiguous with room one. The same types of utilitarian implements as were found in room one were found in the alcove, only in smaller quantities. The most important find in the alcove occurred near to the east wall: a large cache (4 vessels) of pottery vessels, two broken but repairable, and two in excellent condition, both only slightly
chipped about their rims. The two unbroken vessels had Gila shoulders, and came from the Upper Agua Fria drainage. They are designated Tuzigoot vessels. The other two were Verde Gray jar and a Verde Black-on-gray bowl. The jars were probably small storage units, and the bowl was steep sided, and may have been a mixing bowl. The Prescott vessels were probably broken by falling roof material, which was weighted down with mud-daub plaster, wood and refuse. The resilient Gila shoulders withstood the shock of the destruction, but the Verde Gray jar lost its rim. These vessels appear to have been buried in situ.

Implements found on the floor of the alcove included a 3/4 groove axe, two mano-stones of quite exceptional quality (another reason to believe that the two rooms are contiguous), a grinding stone and a projectile point. The utilitarian aspects of the finds (while accepting the absence of any shell materials or fetishes) would permit them to be described in the same way as the implements in room one were described. Again, the absence of any great wear and tear on the artifacts, and the lack of any considerable rubbish deposit lead to the conclusion that occupancy of this structure was very short in duration. Of course it is possible that the refuse was dumped elsewhere. But that leaves the problem of the nearly unused implements, and the small accumulation of rubbish on the roof that seemingly collapsed into the structure.

4. Alcove: Fill. In the fill of the alcove some quite handsome artifacts came to light: a complete projectile point of obsidian, finely chipped, and a partial point; two abrading slabs (awaiting their turn to be used), a digging implement, and two crude scrapers. This material was probably on the roof when the destruction took place, as either stored material or discarded refuse. Their functions would be similar
to those described for the artifacts dealt with in foregoing paragraphs.

B. Interpretation

It seems apparent that it was no accident that the artifacts of JC-AZ-2 were left as they were found. The abandonment of the JC-AZ-2, like the abandonment of the pueblo, was a response to a more and more unfriendly environment, composed as it was of subsisting, trading and the social intricacies of human relationships. It also seems evident that the ruin was not re-occupied after its 13th century abandonment.

The two rooms were most likely destroyed deliberately after a short use (or occupancy), probably towards the last years of the existence of Fitzmaurice as a populated pueblo. The abandonment of the rooms presents problems, to which there are three probable solutions. First, there may have been social discord, which is quite possible at a trading post, such as Fitzmaurice seems to have been, where diverse and unrelated peoples meet. Second, the structure may have been burned upon the death of its owner, along with his possessions. Third, the 13th century drought conditions may have forced the occupants out, when water, wildlife and vegetable sustenance became too scarce to survive on. Even more likely, it was a combination of these things, with the consequence that trade began to slacken, and eventually becoming too unprofitable to practice.

The "social discord" idea, aside from its modernly conceived plausibility has practically no basis, other than educated conjecture. It should not be completely written off, though, especially where the interests of barterers and traders were concerned. Unfortunately, nothing can be proven in any direction, with regard to social discord. Given the proven Prescott practice of burying their dead with (often impressive)
grave-offerings, there is some possibility that the death of the owner of JC-AZ-2 would have provoked the burning and burial of his possessions. However, no skeleton was found in the ruin, or else this suggestion would carry more weight. It too should not be completely unconsidered, as a respectful ritual for an unreturned warrior or leader could account for the burning of the rooms and the burial of the artifacts. It should be pointed out at this point that there are a surprising number of excavated dwellings among Prescott sites that were burned. Barnett's lower room, NA4031 (Barnett, 1975) was burned, as was pithouse five of Caywood's and Spicer's excavation in 1933. Pithouse three, at the PC Ruin (Ward, 1975) was burned, and the materials from it were apparently incorporated into the construction of its neighbors. The second level of the Yolo Ranch site was characterized by large quantities of charcoal, spread over its surface (Euler/Dobyns, 1962). Room one of the Matli Ranch site "Fencepost Ruin" exhibited alternate layers of ash and charcoal impregnated soil, which indicates that it may have been burned (Barnett, 1970, p. 30). Shutler's Williamson valley ruin also revealed a floor scattered with charcoal (Shutler, 1952). Their various dates-of-occupation make it unlikely that they were all burned by natural conditions of the drought. It seems more likely that the structures were deliberately burned. Certainly with the depopulation of the Prescott region during the great drought (1276-1299 AD), there would probably have been grave implications for traders in the area, who were as vulnerable to drought as were any others in the vicinity. It was during this late thirteenth century time, according to Caywood and Spicer (from Schroeder, 1960, pp. 20-23), that the population of the perennially watered Verde Valley experienced
a substantial increase in population. This increase is probably due to
the movement of peoples from peripheral areas to the well-watered valley,
in search of relief from the drought. AD 1300 is the date proposed by
Barnett (1974, p. 123) for the complete abandonment of the pueblo at
Fitzmaurice.

Due to the lack of any great accumulation of refuse around the
dwelling, it is likely that it was not occupied for a long time. The
amount of bones, and the relatively sparse amounts of pottery in the
dwelling suggest that the duration of occupation was not long. Too, the
nearly unmarked tools (which would indicate either newness or infrequent
ceremonial function) suggest that the time that elapsed between the making
of the tools and their burial was relatively short. Of course, it is
possible that the dwelling had recently acquired an entirely new set of
tools, and discarded the majority of its refuse elsewhere, making duration
of occupation uncertain. This possibility must be taken into account,
although the relative newness of most of the artifacts is a highly
unusual thing. The small amount of refuse found on the floor of room
one, and in the fill, would indicate that not much had a chance to
accumulate before the destruction took place. The evidence seems to
point to the likelihood that the dwelling was occupied only very briefly,
probably for less than a year, sometime just prior to or during the
great 13th century droughts, lasting from 1215-1299 AD, and with
particular intensity from 1276-1299 AD (McGregor, 1974, p. 81).
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Figure 10b.
### Artifact Comparison Chart: Site Numbers, Names, and Occupation Dates

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</table>

The above information corresponds to the Artifact Comparison Chart. The dates indicate the time period inside of which occupation of the particular ruin probably took place. The map (Figure 9, p54) shows the locations of the individual ruins and their location with regard to the boundaries of modern Arizona.
Area in which Prescott appear to have been most active.

Fencepost Ruin
Hilltop Ruin
Rattlesnake Ruin
Las Vegas Ranch Ruins
Foothill Ruin
Crest Ruin

YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Tuzigoot ruin
CHINO VALLEY
CLARKDALE

Williamson Valley Ruin
Kings Ruin

Prescott College Ruin

Lonesome Valley Ruin

SKULL VALLEY

Capital letters: modern city
Small letters: ruins.

Figure 11. Excavated Ruins in the vicinity of Prescott
VII. **COMPARISON OF FITZMAURICE RUIN WITH OTHER PRESCOTT SITES**

With the exception of mortars, palette knives, pitchers, Tusayan Gray Ware, rock-outline structures and the mineral gypsum, every type of artifact shown in Figure 10 has surfaced at Fitzmaurice Ruin. Figure 10, which serves as a trait list for Prescott sites excavated to date, reflects a number of things:

1) The diversity of artifacts and ceramic wares represented at the site;

2) The superficial lack of any uniformity or common consistency in the occurrence of artifacts at the sites;

3) The use of a terminology peculiar to Prescott Culture sites.

The following paragraphs describe the extent to which Fitzmaurice is representative of the traits of the Prescott Culture, how it is similar to other excavated sites, and how cross-cultural influences can account for many of the items in the trait list.

**A. Methodology**

The foregoing chart (Figure 10) shows the ceramic, lithic, bone and shell material found at various excavated sites of the Prescott culture, and has a list of architectural features as well. It is divided into five sections: i) Ceramic Wares and Artifacts; ii) Ground and Pecked Stone Tools; iii) Pigments and Ornaments; iv) Flaked and Chipped Stone artifacts; and v) Architectural Features. The sites are numbered from 1 to 17 on the top of the figure, and the sites to which these numbers refer are listed on p 53. Xs indicate that a specific artifact was found at a specific site. Since there has been no consistent terminology used
in the discussion of artifacts found at Prescott sites, there was a need to generalize and narrow the list of artifacts in the chart. For example, artifacts that have been labeled "shaft-smoothers," "shaft-abraders," and "shaft-polishers" are all assumed under the term "shaft-straightener."

Although the Dictionary of Prehistoric Indian Artifacts of the American Southwest (Barnett 1973) lists at least six different classes of metates, we have confined ourselves here to two classes: portable and emplaced. Not all ceramic wares found at Prescott sites have been represented in the chart. Only the eleven most frequently occurring varieties are shown.

When compiling the list of artifacts found at the various sites, the excavation reports were studied, and the artifacts described in them were noted. When all of the artifacts found in all the sites had been listed, a comparison of terms resulted in the data comprising the lists in Figure 10. The list was divided into sections, and the sections were arranged into alphabetical order. In some sites it will be noticed that there are large gaps, particularly in sites 1-4 and 9. The lists include only what was mentioned in the site reports. In sites 1-4, which were all excavated prior to 1960, some of the more specialized finds, such as minerals, may have been overlooked.

As an aid to understanding the chart, it is advisable to refer constantly to the list of sites and occupation dates (p. 53). Five sections briefly describe the content of the chart:

B. Comparison

The following five subheadings refer to specific groups of artifact types and architectural manifestations. The categories are
mainly defined by the material from which the artifact was made, and/or by the method by which it was constructed. The traits that appear here are a fairly comprehensive representation of most of the artifacts, pottery wares and mineral types found at Prescott sites.

1. **Ceramic Wares and Artifacts.** Numbers one through eleven in Figure 10 show the foreign and domestic pottery wares that have been encountered at Prescott sites excavated to date. Numbers thirteen through twenty-four list the ceramic artifacts uncovered. The first Section (1-11), on wares, ignores ceramic types and forms. Forms are dealt with in Section 2 (13-24), as are other ceramic artifacts.

   a) **Ceramic Wares.** Throughout their history, the Prescott shared borders with other cultures, most notably the Anasazi (Far north), the Hohokam (to the south and east) and the Sinagua (to the northeast). Other nearby peoples included the Cohonina (immediately north), the Cerbat (northwest and west) and the Agua Fria Indians (immediately southeast). See Figure 1, p. 8 for the relative locations of these cultures. Many foreign wares have been found in Prescott sites excavated to date. From the Hohokam came Hohokam Buff, often decorated with a red paint. Pimería Brown came from the Agua Fria and the Hohokam, and Little Colorado White Ware came from the Anasazi, as did Tusayan White, Tusayan Gray and Tsegi Orange. Alameda Brown Ware came from the Verde Valley and its tributaries, which were occupied by the Hohokam and later (mid-12th century) by the Sinagua. Tizon Brown came from the Cerbat, and San Francisco Mountain Gray Ware came from the area just around and to the west of the San Francisco peaks, which lie a few miles north of the present day city of Flagstaff, AZ. This ware comes from the Cohonina Indians.
Verde Gray (verde Black-on-gray is the decorated variety) is the diagnostic ware of the Prescott Indians. Although other wares (aside from those already mentioned) have surfaced at Prescott sites, such as Mogollon Brown ware, there has been such a limited incidence that their inclusion in the chart would have introduced unnecessary and misleading data.

All of the wares represented in Figure 10 have been found at Fitzmaurice excavations with the exception of Tusayan Gray ware. The incidence of such a great variety of pottery wares at Fitzmaurice indicates its status as a trading center of some kind. The sheer amounts of potsherds uncovered there are an indication of the volume of trade that passed through the pueblo (in Barnett's pueblo excavation, over 57,000 sherds came to light). With regard to the number of different kinds of wares found at Fitzmaurice, it is most similar to Rattlesnake Ruin, Foot-hill Ruin, and the Las Vegas Ranch Ruins (site #s 5, 7, 15 and 16). Generally speaking, these sites represent post-AD 1070 developments. Fitzmaurice has little in common with the Williamson Valley Ruin, Yolo Ranch Ruin, Fencepost Ruin and Prescott College Ruins. These sites are ceramically much purer than Fitzmaurice. The differences are also emphasized by the architectural features of the sites (see Section VI B.5. and VI C.).

Excavated Prescott Sites to date have shown that post AD 1070 sites will have more and varied pottery than pre-AD 1070 sites. By noting the incidence of a wide or limited range of pottery wares at a site, it is possible to postulate whether a site dates from the Prescott phase or from the Chino phase.

b) Ceramic Artifacts. Bowls, Gila Shoulders, jar covers, jars,
ladles/scoops, pitchers, plates and storage jars (artifact #s 13, 15-20, 23) describe the range of forms represented in the pottery found at Prescott sites. Fitzmaurice Ruin exhibited all of the forms in the table except pitchers, which are a rare find in any southwestern site. Most of these utility wares would have been present at each of the sites. The large gaps in the category of Figure 10 reflect the dearth of information describing the state of ceramic finds at the sites.

The incidence of the Gila Shoulder at these sites is a double indication of commerce with the cultures to the east and south. Figurines seem to have enjoyed wide circulation among the Prescott Indians, as they did throughout the Southwest. Pottery discs and worked sherds enjoyed only limited circulation among the Prescott, but spindle whorls were fairly common.

With regard to these ceramic forms and artifacts, Fitzmaurice may be seen as a "model" Prescott site, because it is only there, among all Prescott sites, that every major vessel form or artifact is to be found. Other similar sites include Rattlesnake Ruin, Foothill Ruin and the Las Vegas Ranch Ruins. The difference between these sites and Williamson Valley, Yolo Ranch, Crest, Hilltop, Fencepost and PC Ruins is best reflected in the forms and artifacts found at the various sites.

2. Ground and Pecked Stone Artifacts. Artifacts in this category represent the heavy working tools of the Indians. The tools were made of hard, large-grain rocks such as granite, vesicular basalt and sandstone. Making and using these tools was a major time consuming activity of prehistoric Indians. The paucity of ground and pecked stone tool remains at Prescott sites (with the exception of Fitzmaurice Ruin) reflect either or both of two things: That the Prescott were a materially poor culture,
and/or that the removal of the stone tools took place prior to the destruction of a structure.

Fitzmaurice had, by contrast to other sites, extensive ground and pecked artifactual remains. JC-AZ-2, specifically, had an unusual complement of artifacts, many more than any other single dwelling of its size in the Prescott region. Even more unusual was the apparent newness of the artifacts of JC-AZ-2, and the fact that they were left in the rooms. Fitzmaurice is unusual in that it is the only Prescott site where a sudden abandonment seems to have taken place.

The number and different kind of tools found at a site are a partial reflection of the kinds of work that were carried on there. The more varieties of tools that are found, the more specialized the work performed would be. Fitzmaurice is again the model site, with all the different kinds of ground and pecked stone artifacts that turned up there, and it is similar to other sites, particularly the Las Vegas Ranch Ruins (¶s 15 and 16). Specialized industries whose existence may be extrapolated from the presence of certain artifacts at Fitzmaurice and Las Vegas Ranch are the abrading of mineral and ornament material, the preparation of food, and woodcutting and animal dismemberment.

The apparent poverty of other sites, especially Williamson Valley, PC Ruin, Yolo Ranch and Hilltop Ruins probably indicates that when they were abandoned, the inhabitants removed most of the useful or transportable goods with them. But by the appearance of what was left at the materially poor excavated sites, it is probable that, even when they were occupied, they were characterized by the "bare minimum" of necessities.

Again it seems wise to stress that the people of the two phases of the Prescott tradition were as one culture to another (see Section II,
A and B) in the differences they exhibit. After AD 1070 the Prescott Region was transformed by the introduction of new architectural modes, new mortuary techniques, new pottery types and new people.

3. Pigments, Minerals and Ornaments. There was an extensive and voluminous trade in both the finished products and raw materials of the ornament industry, evidenced in the Prescott area by many artifacts and materials not native to West-central Arizona.

Like the ceramic trade, the commerce in raw materials and finished objects included the Prescott region, especially after AD 1100. Minerals such as malachite, azurite and turquoise were prized for their qualities in the ornament industry, as were shell and bone. Fitzmaurice again provides the premier site at which nearly all of the possible materials and artifacts have shown up. Of all the materials in the category (artifact #s 48-57), only gypsum has not been found at Fitzmaurice. Every ornament type (artifact #s 59-67) has occurred at Fitzmaurice.

In this aspect of cultural traits, Fitzmaurice is most similar to Barnett's Matli Ranch Ruins (Barnett, 1970), and to the Lonesome Valley Ruin. To a lesser extent are the Las Vegas Ranch Ruins similar, as they exhibit fewer varieties of finished ornaments. It is the Williamson Valley, Yolo Ranch and Prescott College Ruins which provide contrast, and which most clearly distinguish between the Prescott and Chino phase sites that have been excavated. These latter sites have a dearth of mineral and ornamental material that indicates either poverty or the well-planned abandonment of the site in question.

4. Flaked Stone Artifacts. The more delicate tools used in pre-historic industry were usually made by a process of flaking. Every kind
of flaked tool (artifact #s 69-86) found at any Prescott site has also been found at Fitzmaurice, with the exception of palette knives. Fitzmaurice is also distinguished among Prescott sites because it is the only site where spearpoints have been found.

Fitzmaurice bears the most similarity to the five Matli Ranch Ruins, and to Las Vegas Ranch Ruin East, which is adjacent to the Matli Ranch. The paucity of flaked tool remains from the Williamson Valley, Yolo Ranch and Prescott College Ruins provide contrast to Fitzmaurice and other post-AD 1070 sites, as they are represented by only a few flaked artifacts.

5. Architectural Features. Architectural features (artifact #s 88-89) were divided into two parts. The first part, from #88-91, deals with the type of dwelling unit used. It should be noted that at two sites, Fitzmaurice and Yolo Ranch, there are two or more types mentioned. Fitzmaurice exhibits three different types, and is hence similar to most of the other sites in at least one respect. PC Ruin is the exception, as it had only rock-outline dwellings. The pithouse excavated in Williamson Valley, too, bears little resemblance to anything that is found at Fitzmaurice.

Sections II A and B, and VI C offer hypotheses as to why these different types existed among the Prescott as they did.

Architectural features (artifact #s 93-98) refer to the six features that are usually found in excavated rooms at Prescott sites. These features are a basis for comparing Prescott sites in much the same way that a preponderance of Verde Gray Ware makes a site a Prescott site. Fitzmaurice is similar to most other Prescott sites with regard to the listed criteria, but there are some notable exceptions: Yolo Ranch Ruin
yielded no data that could be tabulated with regard to architectural features, and both Hilltop and Fencepost Ruins in Matli Ranch had only firepits and postholes as features.

C. Refined Hypotheses and Suggestions for Future Research

Figure 10 shows many similarities between Prescott sites, but it also reveals many differences. Cross-cultural contact between the peoples of Northern and Central Arizona can account for intrusive styles and anomalous traits among the Prescott, who originally represented a fairly standard set of traits (the Hakataya pattern), but who became transformed by the introduction of new goods and architectural techniques imported to their region as a result of a natural cataclysm: a series of volcanic eruptions, from AD 1064-1066, near the present-day city of Flagstaff, AZ.

These eruptions were a pivotal point in the development of many prehistoric cultures. The Prescott were not excepted from this, and their remains reflect two basic site types, as well as a third, transitional between the two basic types. Another possibility is that Indians in the Prescott region could have reverted back to a certain Hakatayan lifestyle after 1300, and that these sites, dominated by Prescott Gray Ware, would be difficult to differentiate from pre-AD 1070 sites of the Prescott Indians, or from the historic Yavapai dwellings. This possibility will be explored in this section.

The two basic site types occur on either side of the AD 1064-66 eruptions. They have been referred to as "post-AD 1070" and "pre-AD 1070" sites, and are probably synonymous with Colton's Chino and Prescott phases, respectively (Colton, 1939, pp. 22-23, 30-32). Prescott phase sites exhibit few intrusive trade wares. There are three sites that
conform to this definition: Williamson Valley Ruin, Yolo Ranch Ruin, and Fencepost Ruin at Matli Ranch. Ceramically, architecturally and materially, these sites provide a stark contrast to the later Prescott sites. Yolo Ranch had eight intrusive sherds, from the Anasazi, Cerbat and Cohonina, out of a total of 1404 total sherds. Yolo Ranch is unique in that it has traits of both the Chino phase and the Prescott phase: a pueblo structure on the site is a post-AD 1070 intrusion, yet the rock-outline dwelling and the practically pure ceramic remains indicate that the site was a Prescott phase site.

It is possible, however, that after AD 1300 people in West-central Arizona reverted to their pre-AD 1070 way of life, with the subsidence of the great migrations that characterized the period from AD 1070 to 1300. (See Euler and Dobyns, 1962, pp. 73-74, 83; Schroeder, 1960, p. 52)

The Yolo Ranch site, with its mixed traits, may be a post-AD 1300 site, and the nearly pure ceramic remains could reflect not an earlier occupation, but a late one (post-AD 1300). It is also possible that Yolo Ranch Ruin was a transitional site, a site where the earlier (Hakatayan) lifestyle was replaced by the Chino phase traits.

The Prescott College Ruin is another of the transitional sites. It too has rock-outline structures, but has a fairly representative collection of ceramic remains: sherds from the Ague Frians, Sinagua and Cerbat turned up at the site. This mixture of traits is reflective of sites that may have existed in the Hakatayan pattern, but which adapted to the changes wrought by the geologic environment.

There are several things which the Prescott could have done in response to their changing environment. As was mentioned, they either reverted to their pithouse building ways or they left the area, to return
when more favorable circumstances prevailed. The extended drought cycle of the 13th century is responsible for the depopulation of many poorly watered regions of Arizona, and it is likely that the Prescott joined the general migration to the perenially watered valleys at some time in the AD 1200's. It is also possible that the Prescott existed alongside their Sinagua intruders during the latter half of the 12th century. After the departure of the Sinagua, the Prescott may have continued their way of life, which would have been overshadowed by the Sinagua culture when they existed side by side. Thus the Prescott would not necessarily have "reverted" to any former lifestyle: they only maintained their way of life, which would no longer be dominated by the Sinagua pattern.

Eight of sixteen excavated Prescott sites are called "masonry-walled structures." Schroeder believes that this type of architecture was imported by the post-AD 1070 Sinagua, from the Mogollon and the Anasazi (Schroeder, 1960, p. 30). From the Sinagua did the Prescott obtain the idea of the masonry-walled structure. Sites with these structures are almost all from post-AD 1070 times and pre-AD 1300 when they occur in a Prescott site.

Prescott pottery forms have been discussed in Barnett (1974, pp. 106-129). What was found at Fitzmaurice Ruin was largely locally produced, but reflected many forms that are unfamiliar to purer Prescott sites. This is probably due to the different trade wares that passed through or ended up in Fitzmaurice. Gila shoulders from the Agua Fria drainage, as well as seed jars from Sinagua and Kayenta regions found at Fitzmaurice must have exerted some influence on local potters. As the pueblo and its attendant masonry-walled structures show (Figure 10), every type of vessel (except pitchers) or ceramic artifact found at any
Prescott site has been found at Fitzmaurice. The diversity of vessel forms is not duplicated in any other sites except Rattlesnake Ruin and the Las Vegas Ranch Ruins, i.e. in the largest sites excavated in Prescott to date. All of these sites date from after the Prescott phase.

These ceramic and architectural manifestations of inter-cultural commerce are not characteristic of the Prescott phase, and represent the intrusion by the Sinagua and possibly the Anasazi peoples into the Prescott area (see Section II).

The contribution that would be most useful in the understanding of the Prescott Culture would involve a thorough survey of the sites of the Prescott Region, followed up by the designation of the surveyed sites in terms of their surface ceramic remains and visible architectural remains. On the basis of these descriptions, and with an understanding of past excavations, a number of sites should be excavated and studied with regard to the indicators of cultural affiliation or lack thereof. In this way, a clearer understanding of prehistoric sites might be gleaned.

In addition to this prehistoric study, a historic study should establish means by which "pure" (ceramically speaking) Prescott sites could be distinguished from historic Yavapai or Walapai structures. A range of tree-ring and C-14 dates should be obtained and correlated, with the aim of establishing a more complete understanding of the years inside of which the Prescott existed.

Of course this effort would cost a great deal of money, and would tie up the attentions of significant numbers of specialists. But realizing that it is difficult, if not impossible, to progress with
the study of surrounding cultures without bringing Prescott studies up to date, will make the effort described above a virtual necessity.

VIII. NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. The faunal remains were examined by Paul Langenwalter of Riverside, a graduate student in vertebrate zoology.

2. The shell remains from JC-AZ-2 were identified by Dr. Jack Mount from the Department of Geology, University of California, Riverside.
A. Ceramic and Lithic Artifact Description

Unless otherwise indicated, measurements are presented as length x width x thickness. A small "g" refers to the weight of the artifact, expressed in grams.

1. Ceramic Artifacts.

a) Clay figurines/fertility symbols (3, all fragments) (Fe-1): cylindrically shaped artifact with two small humps, situated together at broken end. Other end has small ridge circumscribing artifact. Artifact is 4.2 cms. long, 1.2 cms. thick. 9.05 g. From fill, room one. Very crude, broken figurine, orange and brown in color. Stem is abruptly broken, and fans out. Old scar is located in the middle of the fan. Fan is thin, and curves gently, symmetrically. 4.3 cms x 2.5 cms x 1.2 cms. 8.3 g. 3.3 g. From fill, room one. (Fe-3): Brownish, cylindrically shaped piece of pottery, broken on both ends. No other distinguishing characteristics. 2.5 cms in length, 1.1 cms thick. 4.35 g. From floor, room one.

b) Fetish (1) (Ft-1): Small, damaged fetish with black spots. Two legs are incomplete, one "ear" is missing. Tail has been broken. 3.1 cms x 2.0 cms. x 1.4 cms. 6.2 g. From floor, room one.

c) Miniature clay basket (1) (MC-1): Sometimes called a cornucopia, this blackened piece, resembling a lotus flower, is orange in color. The bottom ends in a broken taper, and the lip of the basket is intact. Noticeably cracked and poorly made. 5.1 cms x 4.8 cms x 1.1 cms. 3.79 g. From fill, room two.
d) Spindle whorls (1 fragmented, 1 entire) (SW-1): Entire, roundish blackened whorl, with 0.5 cm. diameter hole going through it. White concretion covers part of artifact. From floor, room one. 22.1 g. (SW-2): Smooth, flat, gray fragment with evidence of whorl hole. Very thin: 0.5 cm. 7.9 g. From fill, room one.

2. Lithic Artifacts

a) Ground and Pecked Artifacts.

1. Abraders. (2) (A-1): Ryolite tuff, may double as a mano­stone. Ground nearly flat on one side. From floor, room one. 19.5 x 7.8 x 5.5 cms. 1090 g. (A-2): Very smooth cobble with strike marks all around its widest circumference. Routh on the ends, smooth on the middle on both sides. 11.2 x 8.4 x 5.5 cms. 50 g. From floor, room one.

2. Abrading slabs. (6) (As-1): Very smooth, rectangular item, thin. Made of (?) petrified wood. Has brown stain along one of the long edges. From floor, room one. 23.9 x 7.5 x 1.8 cms. 330 g. (As-2): Sandstone, orange-colored slab, pock-marked on working surface. Trapezoidal and very smooth. From floor, room one. 11.8 x 10.9 x 1.9 cms. 500 g. (As-3): Very rough, pentagonal slab, uniformly thick. Made of sandstone. Pinkish in color. From fill, room one. 14.7 x 11.9 x 2.8 cms. 660 g. (As-4): Repaired, incomplete quartzite slab, smooth on one side and rough on the other. From fill, room one. 22.1 x 11.8 x 2.9 cms. 650 g. (As-5): Mesozoic sandstone, rectangle with rounded corners. Fire blackened, and has some plaster-like adherences. From fill, room two. 21 x 14 x 2.5 cms. 1160 g. (As-6): Repaired sandstone slab, with depression in working surface. Portions are fire-blackened. From fill, room two. 21.2 x 14 x 1.9 cms. 860 g.
3. **Abrading Stones.** (2) (Ast-1): Black slate or mudstone implement, with small scars on it. Very conspicuous flat end, rounded on other end. 9.8 x 4.3 x 2.4 cms. 190 g. From fill, room two. 
(Ast-2): Black, slate or mudstone abrading stone from floor, room one. Very smooth and small. 5.9 x 2.8 x 0.8 cms. 320 g.

4. **Axes.** (2) (Ax-1): Fine grain, full groove axe, blackened on three sides. Blunted cutting edge, flat head. Groove is shallow, 2 cms wide. 940 g. From floor, room one. (Ax-2): Repaired. 3/4 groove basalt axe, very smooth on either side of a dull cutting edge. 14 x 6.4 x 3.0 cms. 510 g. From fill, room two.

5. **Firedog.** (1) (Fi-1): Quartzite, roughly formed and slightly blackened item. From fill, room one. 18.7 x 10.3 x 4.2 cms. 1280 g.

6. **Grinding Stone.** (1) (Gs-1): Rounded, greenish granite stone, with many rough spots. Vague markings suggest its use as a grinding stone. From floor, room two. Diameter: 10.5 cms. circumference: 30.8 cms. 1520 g.

7. **Mano-stones.** (8) (Mn-1): Purplish brown, mesozoic sandstone, unifacial with rounded ends. Working surface uniformly smooth. Two-handed. 22.4 x 8.2 x 5.1 cms. 1740 g. From floor, room one. (Mn-2): Ryolite, two-handed bifacial mano-stone, uniformly smooth. Flat on one side, slightly convex on other. The ends taper. 25.5 x 9.2 x 2.7 cms. 1260 g. From floor, room one. (Mn-3): Purplish, trough-type vesicular basalt mano. Very porous. Uniformly smooth on working surface. Two-handed. 17.4 x 9.0 x 3.2 cms. 950 g. From floor, room one. (Mn-4): Black, bifacial vesicular basalt, very symmetrical. One surface is uniformly smooth. Two-handed. 20.7 x 9.1 x 3.1 cms. 1030 g. From floor, room one. (Mn-5): Unifacial, blackened on three sides. Made of porphyry, uniformly smooth on one surface. Flat on both surfaces, although
unsmooth side has conspicuous ridge in it. 25.0 x 9.4 x 3.6 cms. 1400 g. From floor, room one. (Mn-6): Hornblende, two-handed unifacial mano, uncharacteristically thick. Uniformly smooth on working surface. 18.5 x 7.1 x 4.3 cms. 1100 g. From floor, room one. (Mn-7): Unifacial, two-handed basalt mano, very smooth at either end of working surface. Worked surface is slightly convex, other surface is flat. 20.3 x 9.3 x 3.8 cms. 1480 g. From floor, room two. (Mn-8): Purplish brown scoriaceous basalt, very porous. Bifacial, two-handed, uniformly smooth on one side, with tapering on one side. 20.8 x 10.5 x 2.8 cms. 830 g. From floor, room two.

8. Maul. (1) (Ml-1): 3/4 groove gabbro maul, fine grain, smooth on ungrooved surface. 17 x 7.6 x 6.1 cms. 1480 g. From floor, room one.

9. Metate. (1) (Me-1): Oval, portable stone with depression covered in greenish-white pigment. Uniformly thick, ranging in color from light orange to dark brown. From fill, room one. 25.5 x 19.2 x 6.5 cms. 5250 g.


11. Plastering Stone. (1) (Ps-1): Dacite, very unusual artifact. Worked surface suggests a unifacial mano-stone, but implement is very thick. Has rounded ends, is blackened in places. 22.9 x 8.6 x 8.1 cms. 2690 g. From floor, room one.

12. Pounders. (2) (Pd-1): Large, granite oval tool, with distinct convex ends. Strike marks appear on the ends. 1/6th of artifact is smudged with a brown substance. 14 x 11.2 x 10.2 cms. 2290 g. From fill, room one.
b) Flaked and Chipped Artifacts

1. Arrow points (5 partial, 1 complete) (Ap-1): Major portion of an obsidian point, with finely serrated edges. 2.6 cms x 1.4 cms x 0.6 cms. From floor, room one. (Ap-2): Major portion of small, obsidian point, fairly thick, and delicately chipped along edges. Triangular, without notches. 1.7 cms x 1.3 cms x 0.6 cms. 0.9 g. From floor, room one. (Ap-3): Very thick, narrow point, a small part of which is missing. Made of obsidian, unnotched, and unsymmetrical. 3.2 cms x 1.0 cms x 1.4 cms. 2.2 g. From floor, room one. (Ap-4): Partial quartz crystal point, deeply and skillfully serrated. Notched, but large parts of base and point-end are missing. 2.2 x 1.4 x 0.4 cms. .95 g. From fill, room two. (Ap-5): Nicely serrated obsidian point, very small, with concave base. Point is missing on this small artifact. 1.5 x 1.0 x 0.3 cms. 0.4 g. From floor, room two. (Ap-6): Complete obsidian point, very finely chipped. Very fine, thin triangular point. 2.57 x 1.2 x 0.28 cms. 0.53 g. From fill, room two.

2. Atlatl Point (B-point) (1) (AtP-1): Complete "Willow Leaf" bipoint, made of basalt. It shows secondary flaking along all edges. 4.0 x 1.5 x 0.5 cms. 2.85 g. From fill east of room one.

3. Chopper (1) (C-1): Naturally black, blunt diorite implement. Very rustic. 6.4 x 7.1 x 2.9 cms. 230 g. From floor, room one.

4. Cores (3) (Ce-1): Large yellow jasper stone, showing places from which flakes have been taken. 10.2 x 8.5 x 4.1 cms. 394 g. From fill, room two. (ce-2): Repaired yellow jasper core, with a chalky concretion in its interstices. A very angular specimen. 5.6 x 4.3 x 2.8 cms. 140 g. From fill, room two. (Ce-3): Repaired, jagged red jasper
core. Seems to be fragment of larger core. 3.5 x 3.1 x 1.6 cms. 21.8 g.
From fill, room two.

5.Digging Implements (2) (DI-1): Fire-blackened basalt tool with flakes removed from digging edge. Very rough, very thin.
From floor, room one. 17.1 x 12.5 x 1.0 cms. 440 g. (DI-2): Immense, flat black slab of stone with one sharp end. One side very smooth.
Made of biotite schist. From fill, room two. 35.0 x 13.3 x 1.1 cms.
1190 g.

6. Drills (2) (D-1): Partial red jasper drill, broken at base but otherwise complete. Shows very fine pressure-flaking along edges. 3.9 x 1.2 x 0.6 cms. 2.75 g. From floor, room one. (D-2): Partial yellow jasper drill point, with only the point remaining. It shows some secondary flaking, but is less fine than D-1. 2.1 x 0.8 x 0.3 cms. 0.65 g. From floor, room one.

7. Fleshers (3) (F-1): Brown, basalt tool shaped like right-angle triangle, with hypotenuse side flaked. From floor, room one. 12.2 x 5.6 x 1.7 cms. 90 g. (F-2): Rough, thin, greenish-gray tool, made of gray phyllite. One very flat, uniform side. From fill, room one. 21.3 x 8.0 x 1.0 cms. 360 g. (F-3): Very roughly chipped slab of slate. Thin and repaired. One very good cutting edge. Sides are rough. From fill, room one. 14.6 x 8.1 x 0.8 cms. 150 g.

8. Hammerstone (1) (H-1): Roughly rectangular black epidote artifact, with telltale marks from striking other stones. 9.1 x 7.9 x 7.1 cms. 550 g. From floor, room one.

9. Scrapers (5) (S-1): Rough red jasper flake, with secondary flaking in evidence. Prominent striking platform. 2.9 x 3.0 x 0.3 cms. 5.7 g. From fill, room two. (S-2): Basalt artifact, with very
rough flaking in evidence. Black and gray colored. 3.1 x 3.2 x 0.7 cms. 8.85 g. From fill, room one. (S-3): Trapezoidal jasper scraper with quartz vein traveling through it. Chipped on one edge. 1.9 x 1.9 x 0.7 cms. 4.5 g. From fill, room two. (S-4): Very small, delicate scraper with nice chipping. Jasper, brownish in color. 1.5 x 2.0 x 0.4 cms. 1.3 g. From fill, room one. (S-5): Very rough, black scraper with prominent striking platform. Otherwise quite nondescript. 2.8 x 2.4 x 0.7 cms. From fill, room one.
X. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barnett, Franklin


Provided documentation of possible Basketmaker III-pueblo I tradition in Prescott region, and data concerning the Prescott Culture in transition, around the 12th century. Ceramic Analysis was particularly valuable.


This site (the closest Prescott site near the Verde Valley yet excavated) yielded large amounts of Alameda Brown Ware, and suggests extensive contact with the inhabitants of the Verde Valley.


A useful reference work for the identification of the diverse artifacts of the Southwest.


The most exhaustively excavated site near Prescott has yielded valuable ceramic, architectural and burial-custom information, and is the premier large-scale example of Sinagua influence (presence?) in Prescott territory.


This masonry-walled structure contained numerous artifacts and features that are similar to what was found in JC-AZ-2, and was useful for comparing data.


The sites reported were post-1070 AD examples of masonry-walled, multi-roomed dwelling units exhibiting the intrusive traits of the Verde Valley Sinagua. Intrusive pottery types indicate contacts with other tribes on all sides.
Caywood, Louis P.


The excavation report of Caywood and Spicer's dig at Fitzmaurice furnished data on three architectural modes (pithouse, masonry-walled structures and pueblo rooms), and initiated the study of the Prescott as a culture. The data is well presented and described.

Colton, Harold S.

1939, Prehistoric Culture Units and Their Relationships in Northern Arizona. (Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin No. 17) (Northern Arizona Society of Science and Art, Flagstaff, Arizona)

This pioneer work into the prehistoric intercultural relationships is an indispensable source work, as it describes cultural traits, ceramic types, architecture and burial methods, as well as reflections on the demography and migrations, and provides a comprehensive view of most aspects of archaeological progress (sites excavated, surveyed, etc.). This is the work in which the Prescott and Chino phases were named and dated.


An indispensable guide to pottery types and their characteristics, with short descriptions of cultural origins, and maps showing the locality in which each ware occurs. All available data concerning dates, decoration, variations and firing atmosphere is to be found in this seminal work.

Euler, Robert C., and Dobyns, Henry F.


A rock outline (similar to historic Yavapai and Walapai structures) was excavated, as well as a part of a masonry (?) pueblo, furnishing data on a pre-1070 type structure, or an undateable historic structure. The ceramic discussion is useful in that it redefines Prescott pottery types, showing that uncontrolled firing is responsible for variations in colors, which priorly was taken to indicate a different type.

Gladwin, Harold S.

1934, Medallion

In this publication, the Prescott were placed in the Yuman root.
1957, History of the Ancient Southwest

This work is useful for a simplified, yet accurate view of events in the Ancient Southwest, particularly as they regard the Prescott on pp. 125, 148, 199, 222.

Haury, Emil W.


This popular description of the Hohokam Indians is valuable not only as a documentary, but also for its photography, particularly on pp. 680-681, 686, and 688.

Heizer, Robert F., and Whipple, Mary Anne.


Presents an absorbing amount of customs and lifestyles of Colorado River Yumans of 1775, which suggests that the historic Indians of the Colorado had much in common with their inland Arizonan Ancestors.

Martin, Paul S., and Plog, Fred


This fairly recent effort to place the prehistoric Southwest into perspective carefully describes the traits and environmental responses of the prehistoric Indians who lived there. The discussion of current theories concerning the Hohokam (Di Peso vs Haury) and the Hakataya (Plog/Martin and Schroeder) are to be noted (pp. 94-106).

McGregor, John C.


As a comprehensive overview and in-depth examination of the prehistoric Southwestern cultures, with their traits and general development to 1300, Southwestern Archaeology is an invaluable document. Its best feature is the way it handles each culture during each epoch or phase, so that the reader can gain a sense of the relative development and regression that was going on at various times.
Schroeder, Albert


This survey served to define a southeastern border dividing the Prescott and the Agua Fria Indians, with the occurrence of Wingfield Plain pottery (of Pioneria Brown Ware).


A work on the broader complications of the prehistoric Arizonan situation between the years of 1070 and 1300 AD. Evidence for mass migrations, extensively documented, is related with regard to ceramic, architectural and burial traits traced by survey, excavation and ethnographic data-gathering. Conclusions, while remaining largely hypothetical, are very well presented and thought out. The tabulated data are particularly valuable.

Shutler, Dick


A report on the excavation of a Prescott Branch pithouse, dated 1000-1100 (?) AD. The materials found there, particularly the virtually uncontaminated collection of Prescott Gray sherds, are instructive as to the Prescott Branch style of living prior to the 1070 AD eruption of Sunset Crater.

Ward, Albert E.


One of three Prescott Branch sites excavated in the Prescott tradition, exhibiting rock-outline dwellings and very sparse utilitarian remains. This site may represent the transition from pre-1070 to post-1070-type sites, as it has yielded fairly large quantities of foreign sherds (from Anasazi, Sinagua and Cerbat), unlike Yolo Ranch and Williamson Valley Ruins.

Willey, Gordon R.

Provides a useful overview of Southwestern prehistory (pp. 178-245), and discusses the problems of hypothesizing where data is lacking. The chronology is skillfully discussed, the cultures well-described and illustrated.

Wormington, Hanna M.


A clear-headed overview of prehistoric migrations and geologic/climatic conditions, especially as they affected the Sinagua and the Prescott. Very useful for the general situation it describes.