

Talus Mound Excavated

During the last two weeks of the Chaco Canyon field session, Anna Shepherd of the San Diego Museum, excavated one of the numerous mounds found up and down the canyon. She chose a large one on the west side of the gap just west of the camp that looked representative of the whole group. It proved to be a rather large house built around a small plaza with one kiva. Only three rooms were excavated.

The rooms were very shallow, the walls standing a yard or so above the level of the ground. Although there were no post holes in the floor, impressions on the great mound of plaster found indicated that the walls were continued up and roofed with timber. The masonry, while not as fine as that found in the larger ruins, was good and well preserved. The floors, were poor; easily cracked and broken through. They were built upon a loose fill of sand which seems to indicate lower levels of occupation. There were no fire pits in any of the rooms but one had a bin in the corner made by two metates stood on edge and plastered into the floor. The room next to it was probably used as a grinding room; ten mano were removed from it and a number of metates were found fixed in the floor. One of them had ground meal sticking to it and layers and pockets of meal were found all over the room.

Miss Shepherd also trenched the refuse heap of the mound. She found a great number of shards of the same types as those found at Chetro Ketl, a human mandible, and a perfect dipper, the only whole pottery piece found during the session.

Stamm, Winifred, ed., "Talus Mound Excavated." *El Palacio* 27 (July 6-August 17, 1929): 40-41.