National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2005

Historic Vernacular Landscape
Aztec Ruins National Monument
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The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape’s location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director’s Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site’s overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape’s overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape’s overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or
treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

The historic vernacular landscape associated with the Monument represents agricultural land use activities that range from the early homestead period to the present day. During the late nineteenth century the land was homesteaded and the irrigation canal known as Farmer's Ditch was constructed.

The Farmer's Ditch is still present and is actively utilized to irrigate fields and orchards immediately adjacent to the ruins as well as in the surrounding area. (The Farmer's Ditch/irrigation system can be managed as a cultural landscape feature, even though the overall historic vernacular landscape is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register-more research is needed regarding this feature-See Part 3a, page 1). Current agricultural land use in the area includes irrigated pasture land, orchards, and small gardens. In addition to the agricultural land use areas and enclosures, there are numerous smaller landscape features including a variety of fences, pens, livestock (cattle, horses), and a few outbuildings (The orchard remnants can be managed as a cultural landscape feature, even though the overall historic vernacular landscape is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register).
Site Plan

Boundary of Historic vernacular landscape (Reproduced from Nelson 1997)
Property Level and CLI Numbers

- **Inventory Unit Name:** Historic Vernacular Landscape
- **Property Level:** Component Landscape
- **CLI Identification Number:** 850226
- **Parent Landscape:** 850224

Park Information

- **Park Name and Alpha Code:** Aztec Ruins National Monument -AZRU
- **Park Organization Code:** 7380
- **Park Administrative Unit:** Aztec Ruins National Monument

CLI Hierarchy Description

The historic vernacular is one of three identified component landscapes. The others are the Historic District, and the Prehistoric Designed landscape.
Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The historic vernacular component landscape includes remains of historic farming activity. A Level 2 CLI was completed to the 85% draft stage by Peggy Nelson in 1997. The Level 2 documentation was based on a literature search for the town of Aztec and San Juan County, a review of the Park's archival files, an archival search through San Juan County Records, and a visit to the State Engineer's Office in Santa Fe. A site visit was conducted by Peggy Nelson in August 1997. This documentation found the landscape ineligible for listing on the National Register.

A summary of this data was entered into the CLI database by J. Galbraith in 2002 and was updated by Jill Cowley in April 2005. Revisions to the National Register status and condition update were completed by Carrie A. Mardorf in 2010.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 05/05/2005
National Register Concurrence: Ineligible -- Managed As Cultural Resource
Date of Concurrence Determination: 07/26/2005

National Register Concurrence Narrative:
The New Mexico SHPO concurred with the findings of the CLI on 7/26/2005.

Concurrence Graphic Information:
Katherine Slick  
State Historic Preservation Officer and Director  
Historic Preservation Division  
New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs  
223 East Palace Avenue, Room 320  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: NHPA Section 110 Consultation – Review and Concurrence

Dear Ms. Slick:

On behalf of Superintendent Dennis Carruth, I am pleased to submit to you the Cultural Landscape Inventories for the Chacoan Outlier / Prehistoric Designed landscape and the Historic Vernacular Landscape at Aztec Ruins National Monument, for your review and concurrence. We are seeking your concurrence on the CLI findings, specifically the eligibility of the Chacoan Outlier / Prehistoric Designed landscape; and the ineligibility of the Historic Vernacular landscape. This is a request for Determinations of Eligibility; submittal of actual nomination forms will be a separate step.

Completion of Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLI) for units of the National Park System is required by the National Historic Preservation Act, As Amended, Section 110. While this present concurrence request does not involve a specific project which may affect cultural landscape resources, your feedback on this CLI will help the park meet its Section 110 requirements and will provide the park with information important to future Section 110 project evaluations.

For the Chacoan Outlier / Prehistoric Designed landscape, we seek your concurrence that this cultural landscape as described in the CLI is eligible for the National Register as a historic district. The proposed boundary description can be found on page 8 of Part 1 and the site plans on pages 10 and 11 of Part 1, the Statement of Significance on page 13 of Part 1, and the Integrity Evaluation on page 1 of Part 3a. A list of contributing elements can be found on pages 1 and 2 of Part 3a.

NM SHPO concurrence on the ineligibility of the AZRU Historic Vernacular Landscape, 6/22/2005.
For the Historic Designed landscape, we seek your concurrence that this cultural landscape is not eligible for the National Register due to insufficient integrity. The proposed boundary description can be found on pages 8 and 10 of Part 1, the Statement of Significance on page 13 of Part 1, and the Integrity Evaluation on page 1 of Part 3a.

For your convenience, I have included concurrence signature lines below. We appreciate your review of these documents, and if there are any questions, feel free to contact Historical Landscape Architect Jill Cowley, at (505) 988-6899. CLIs are not complete until we receive feedback from your office; a response within 30 days would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deputy Associate Regional Director,
Cultural Resources

Concurrence on the Chacoas Outlier / Prehistoric Designed landscape:

[Signature]
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Concurrence on the Historic Vernacular landscape:

[Signature]
New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

In duplicate
Enclosures (2)

cc:
Dennis Carruth, Superintendent, Aztec Ruins National Monument

NM SHPO concurrence on the ineligibility of the AZRU Historic Vernacular Landscape, page 2, 6/22/2005.
Memorandum

To: Dennis Carruth, Superintendent, Aztec Ruins National Monument

From: Jill Cowley, Historical Landscape Architect, EHP

Subject: Cultural Landscape Inventories for Chacoan Outlier (Prehistoric Designed) and Historic Vernacular landscapes: Concurrence and Completion

April 29, 2009

I am pleased to submit the updated Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLI) for the Chacoan Outlier (Prehistoric Designed) and Historic Vernacular landscapes at Aztec. These CLIs were initially submitted to the park for review in 2002 and have now been updated, with park comments incorporated, information updated, and NAWO database requirements met. I would like to finish up these CLIs this year, so we need your concurrence and New Mexico SHPO concurrence for completion. The CLIs determined the Chacoan Outlier landscape to be eligible, and the Historic Vernacular landscape to be ineligible. I appreciate Terry Nichols’ assistance with these projects.

Chacoan Outlier / Prehistoric Designed landscapes:

According to the CLI, the period of significance is 1150-1300 AD. The Statement of Significance can be found in Part 1, page 2, and the integrity evaluation can be found in Part 3a, page 1.

We are seeking your concurrence on:
1. Boundary and Eligibility: The CLI recommends that the Chacoan Outlier / Prehistoric Designed Landscape (which includes all lands within the monument except for the proposed expanded historic district) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district (Part 4, page 1).

2. Condition Assessment: The condition rating is fair. This is primarily based on the need for backfill work on East and West Ruin (Part 4, page 5).

3. Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained (Part 4, page 5).

4. Contributing Elements: The list of contributing landscape elements identified by the CLI can be found in Part 3a, pages 1 and 2. Since the CLI approaches the unit holistically, a number of natural resources and cultural features are included.

**Historic Vernacular landscape:**
According to the CLI, this landscape is locally significant but does not retain sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register.

We are seeking your concurrence on:
1. Boundary and Eligibility: The CLI recommends that the Historic Vernacular landscape is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district (Part 4, page 1).
2. Condition Assessment: Poor (Part 4, page 4). Because this landscape is not eligible, the park is not required to work towards improving condition of the overall landscape.
3. Management Category: May be Preserved or Maintained (Part 4, page 4). Since this landscape is not eligible, it receives a lower management category rating. However, the CLI recommends preservation of a number of contributing elements (e.g., farrier’s ditch, orchard) as cultural resources.
4. Contributing Elements: This list of contributing landscape elements identified by the CLI can be found in Part 3a, page 1. Even though the landscape is not eligible, these elements can be managed as cultural resources.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these concurrence categories, or would like to discuss the evaluation and conclusions. Condition Assessment options are described within the CLI, and Management Category options are attached.

You can provide concurrence by signing and returning this memo, or by sending an e-mail that references the CLI and concurrence categories. Following your concurrence, I will revise the CLI accordingly, and send the CLIs to the New Mexico BPR (under Sando Mccormick’s signature) and copy you on the concurrence request letter.

These CLIs can be updated at any time in the future. Once submitted to the service-wide database, the Charcoal Dullier/Prehistoric Deserted CLI will count towards GUPA goal 1DB, and when upgraded to good condition, will count towards GPPA goal 5a. This CLI will be included in the FY2005 data upload to WABO at the end of the fiscal year, if concurrence is received.

Since the Historic Vernacular landscape is not

**Superintendent concurrence, page 2, 5/5/2005.**
eligible, this CLI will not be included in the service-wide database. The CLI will remain in the regional database, as a record of the ineligibility decision.

I recommend that a Cultural Landscape Report be completed for AZRU, to provide specific landscape treatment guidelines, which the CLIs do not include. In the meantime, CLI information can be used to help determine impacts to cultural landscape resources for Section 106 compliance.

I appreciate your assistance in helping us to finish up these CLIs this fiscal year. Feel free to contact me at 505-988-6899 if you have any questions.

Jill Coley

Concurrence:

Dennis Caruth, Superintendent, Aztec Ruins National Monument

Attachment (1)
Enclosures (2 CLIs)

cc: Terry Nichols, AZRU

Thanks Jill. I concur. And most definitely, all undertakings need to go through Section 106.

Dennis L. Canuth
Superintendent
Aztec Ruins National Monument
484 County Road 2006
Aztec, New Mexico 87410
505-334-6174, ext. 222
Fax 505-334-6372
Dennis.Canuth@nps.gov

Jill Cowley/SANTAFE/NPS

09/23/2010 01:44 PM

Subject: Re: LA? - Vernacular as CLI/In?

Carrie, Dennis and Gary:

I agree with and support the current direction here -- i.e. Carrie will complete the CLI for the AZRU Vernacular component landscape, and it will be "ineligible - Managed as a Cultural Resource" in the database, with poor condition.

Regarding Section 106, yes, proposals to remove or substantially modify features of the vernacular landscape that the CLI identifies as contributing (Farmer's Ditch, orchard, and orchard trees) need to go through Section 106. Since Section 106 determination of effect depends on whether the resource is eligible or contributing, doing a DOE for the orchard and orchard trees would be a good idea.

-JC

Jill Cowley, PHC, Historical Landscape Architect
NPS Historic Preservation Programs, Cultural Landscapes
P.O. Box 238, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0238
Tel: (505) 986-6989 Fax: (505) 986-6302

Gary Brown/AZRU/NPS
09/23/2010 10:31 AM

To Carine.Mardon/SANTAFE/NPS cc Dennis.Canuth/AZRU/NPS, Jill.Cowley/SANTAFE/NPS
Subject: Re: LA? - Vernacular as CLI/In?

Carrie,

This sounds fine. Before Dennis would sound off, I'm pretty sure that he (and myself) would also want to be clear that "ineligible-managed as" also OK for situations where impacts to Vernacular features had to occur. For instance, the UMP indicates that where there are resource conflicts between Vernacular (ineligible) and Historic of Prehistoric designed landscapes, Vernacular features might need to be removed. Am I correct to assume that "ineligible-managed as" is consistent with standard procedure where such removal or other impacts would then go through Section 106 compliance and SHPO consultation?

The poor condition sounds apt. I'll send you a narrative to justify that condition assessment later, and also seek concurrence from Dennis once you clarify the above. Also, if Jill has anything to add, this would be a good time.

Thank you,

--Gary

Thanks Gary,

Your explanation below fits with my interpretation of the "ineligible—managed as..." definition. The 2009 CLI Guide states, "ineligible—Managed as Cultural Resource: the inventory unit has been determined ineligible for the National Register through a concurrence process with the State Historic Preservation Officer(s) or Keeper of the National Register, but through the National Park Service planning process (general management plan or similar document), a decision has been made to managed the inventory unit as a cultural resource."

Under this broad definition, I assume that managing the various features as cultural resources (as you note below) would apply. Additionally, other complete CLUs in the database (Wolfe Ranch at Arches and Voth Mill at Big Thicket) have used this "ineligible—managed as" category when managing the specific features—i.e. stabilizing structures, clearing exotic vegetation, protecting archeological sites, etc. Using these as precedents, the "ineligible—managed as..." would apply to the Vernacular landscape. If we all agree with this approach, then I can go ahead and make the change—just say yes or no.

Gary, for the condition update, I'll need a revised condition (good, fair, poor) and brief narrative explaining why the landscape is in such condition. In 2002 the vernacular landscape was listed in poor condition with no explanation given. I'll also need Dennis to sign off on the new condition. Sending the new condition and Dennis's concurrence via email is fine. Thanks!

Regards,

Carrie Mardorff, ASLA
Historical Landscape Architect
Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
National Park Service
Intermountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 728
1100 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Phone: (505) 988-6730
Fax: (505) 988-5202


Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Revision Date: 09/23/2010

Revision Narrative:

A number of resources relating to the Historic Vernacular Landscape are managed as contributing resources as outlined in the park General Management Plan. As a result, the National Register status was changed from "Ineligible-SHPO Consensus Determination" to "Ineligible-Managed as Cultural Resource." Park Superintendent concurrence was received 9/23/2010.

Revision Narrative:

Edited text to correct typos and filled in missing National Register information, June 2012.

Geographic Information & Location Map
Inventory Unit Boundary Description:
Township 30 North; Range 11 West; portions of Section 4, Section 5, and Section 9 within the New Mexico Principal Meridian.

State and County:
- **State:** NM
- **County:** San Juan County

Size (Acres): 223.00

Location Map:

_Regional location of Aztec Ruins National Monument (Reproduced from Lister 1990)_
Regional Context:

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

The Aztec area was under the control of the Spanish Southwest from the 1540s until Mexico established its independence in 1821. It remained under Mexican rule until it was claimed by the United States. In 1850 the area was included within the territory of New Mexico. In 1874, the area was added to the Jicarilla Apache Reservation primarily because of the fact that the lands were unoccupied. The Apache chose not to utilize the area because it was not within their tribal range. Their refusal to use the land resulted in it being placed back within the Public Domain by an Executive Order of July 18, 1876. Following this order, numerous cattlement began moving their herds into the area. The lands within the Aztec area were initially opened for homestead settlement in 1878. The lands were not officially surveyed for settlement claims until 1880.

The area was originally occupied by cattlemen and sheepmen in the late 1870s and early 1880s, but by the mid-1880s, several farmers and orchardmen had moved into and claimed the majority of the arable areas. By the early 1890s, cattle prices dropped and the vast grasslands were drastically reduced. The large cattle barons moved on or reduced their stock and the farmers, orchardmen, and small stockmen flourished as did the need for freighters. The freighters with their large wagons drawn by teams of ten to twelve oxen were essential to the development of the area as they moved the needed supplies and goods into the area and out to surrounding markets.

By 1900 the town of Aztec had been established and served as a trade center for the surrounding agricultural area. The town included a livery stable, general merchandise store, hotel, post office, and an agricultural experiment station that was designed to study the best crops to cultivate in the surrounding area. The town continued to grow and prosper as an agricultural center along with the neighboring towns of Farmington and Bloomfield whose names belie their agricultural potential.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Aztec Ruins National Monument lies in the fertile flood plain of the north bank of the Animas River. To the north, terraces climb into broken badlands, while to the east, the land rises to pinon and juniper parkland. The entire vicinity is considered to be within the Northern Sonoran Life Zone, characterized by sage, rabbit brush, yucca, single-seed juniper, two-seeded (Utah) juniper, pinon, and a variety of grasses.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

In 1852, the Aztec area was included in Taos County within the New Mexico territory. A few
years later in 1860, San Juan County was created and included the Aztec area. San Juan County was abolished by 1862 and the area fell back into Taos County. The western portion of Taos County including the Aztec area was annexed to Rio Arriba County in 1880. San Juan County was re-established in 1887 and the boundaries remain the same to the present day.

Of the 317.8 acres authorized for the Monument, 257.33 acres are owned in Fee Simple and administered by NPS, while the remaining 60.47 acres are held by city, county, and private ownership. Private lands are located to the north, east, and west sides of the Monument and consist of irrigated agricultural lands including fields, pasture, and residences. Private lands to the south are zoned residential.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: May be Preserved or Maintained
Management Category Date: 04/29/2005

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:
The Historic Vernacular Landscape is not eligible for listing on the National Register but this CLI recommends that a number of contributing landscape features associated with the Historic Vernacular landscape be preserved and maintained where feasible, and managed as a cultural resource. Note: The archeological resources within the Historic Vernacular Landscape must be preserved.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement
Other Agreement: Membership
Expiration Date: Unknown

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:
The park is a member of the Farmer's Ditch Association. The ditch runs through the Historic Vernacular Landscape.
NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:
Within the park authorized boundary, 257.33 acres are owned in fee simple. The remainder of the land is owned by county, city, and private individuals.

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:
Public access is controlled access within the ruins area.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes
Development in lands around Aztec Ruins National Monument (Reproduced from Nelson 1997).
National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:
Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:
Existing and draft National Register documentation does not adequately address resources associated with the historic vernacular landscape.

The findings of this CLI document determined that while the landscape is historically significant at a local level under National Register Criteria A and B, the integrity of the historic vernacular landscape has been lost, and therefore is not eligible for listing on the National Register. The park proposes to manage several contributing elements (e.g. Farmer's Ditch) as cultural resources.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Ineligible -- Managed As Cultural Resource
National Register Classification: District
Significance Level: Local
Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria: B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Period of Significance:

**Time Period:** AD 1890 - 1932

**Historic Context Theme:** Peopling Places

**Subtheme:** Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898

**Facet:** The Farmers’ Frontier

**Time Period:** AD 1890 - 1932

**Historic Context Theme:** Developing the American Economy

**Subtheme:** Agriculture

**Facet:** Animal Husbandry (Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry)

**Time Period:** AD 1890 - 1932

**Historic Context Theme:** Developing the American Economy

**Subtheme:** Agriculture

**Facet:** Subsistence Agriculture

Area of Significance:

**Area of Significance Category:** Agriculture

**Area of Significance Category:** Exploration - Settlement

Statement of Significance:

The historic vernacular landscape associated with the Aztec Ruins National Monument is historically significant using National Register criteria A and B. Criterion A applies to the early agricultural settlement and associated developments within the Aztec area. The land was initially patented in 1890 and its agricultural potential recognized as Farmer's Ditch was constructed by 1892. Criterion B applies to the landscape's association with locally significant individuals including John Koontz, prominent early settler, businessman, and town leader of Aztec and H.D. Abrams also a locally prominent businessman in Aztec.

The historical records reveal that in 1890 Koontz acquired the original patent for the lands including the ruins and later sold the property to H.D. Abrams in 1908. Abrams improved the property for agricultural development yet seemed to recognize the potential importance of the ruins as he allowed both visitation and research at the site. There were also other land owners who were developing the surrounding lands for their agricultural potential. The lands were used for the cultivation of corn, hay, fruit orchards, and the pasturing of stock. The adjacent agricultural development typified the land use in and around early Aztec and could not be identified as having any particular historical significance.
Beginning in the 1930s, changes to the surrounding agricultural land base were underway. As the park landscape evolved and developed, so did the adjacent commercial and residential developments on the adjoining lands. A segment of the residential and commercial development of the small town of Aztec has encroached upon the fields and orchards that once characterized this rural landscape.

Although there are several acres of land within the Park's authorized boundary that remain in agricultural use, many of their historically associated features are no longer present. As a result of this loss of associated features and specific landscape characteristics, the integrity of this property as representative of the historic Koontz and Abrams farms or even the early agricultural lands in the Animas Valley of San Juan county has been compromised and is no longer intact. Despite the fact that the lands within the Park's authorized boundary have retained a rural character and hold remnants of agricultural elements and features such as orchards and pasture lands, they have lost many significant historic characteristics such as patterns of spatial organization, historic patterns of vegetation, associated buildings and structures, land use activities, and cluster arrangements.

A few landscape features associated with the historic vernacular/agricultural landscape have survived and are considered contributing elements to the understanding, interpretation, and appreciation of the landscape's history and development. These features include the irrigation features associated with Farmer's Ditch (laterals and headgates as well as the holding pond north of East Ruin), the waters of the Animas River, the irrigated hay fields and pasture lands, the livestock (cattle/sheep/pigs), and the orchard located west of Hubbard Ruin. It should be noted that while these remnant features contribute to the "story of the Aztec lands", the historic vernacular landscape that they are associated with has not retained sufficient integrity to be considered eligible as a National Register property.

**Chronology & Physical History**

**Cultural Landscape Type and Use**

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**  
- **Primary Historic Function:** Agriculture/Subsistence-Other  
- **Primary Current Use:** Leisure-Passive (Park)  
- **Other Use/Function**  
  - Agriculture/Subsistence-Other  
  - **Other Type of Use or Function**  
    - Both Current And Historic
Current and Historic Names:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aztec Ruins</td>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aztec Ruins National Monument</td>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnographic Study Conducted: Yes-Restricted Information

Associated Group:

Name of Group: Pueblo tribes, Navajo, Utes

Type of Association: Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Significance Description:

Ethnographic study has been conducted. Some information is unrestricted as of 1998.

Chronology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Annotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 1890</td>
<td>Settled</td>
<td>John Koontz obtains a patent through the Desert Land Act for 160 acres including the prehistoric ruins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1908</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>John Koontz and his wife Emaline sell 120 acres including the ruins to Henry Dudley (H.D.) Abrams. Along with the land, Koontz sells Abrams a half-share water right in the Farmers Ditch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homesteaded</td>
<td>Abrams immediately begins clearing the property for cultivation and grazing purposes. Abrams also levels a small house mound and converts five rooms of the Hubbard Mound into a root cellar. A second root cellar was apparently constructed in Mound F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1916</td>
<td>Excavated</td>
<td>Abrams gave permission for Earl Morris and the American Museum to begin excavation of the ruins. Abrams continued to cultivate his alfalfa fields adjacent to and between the East and West Ruins. The hay barn and holding pond are established by 1916.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1917</td>
<td>Farmed/Harvested</td>
<td>Abrams continues to graze sheep on the mounds. A large corn field is cultivated just north of the West Ruin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1919</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>American Museum acquires 6.75 acres of land from Abrams and continues research excavations on the ruins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1920 - 1924</td>
<td>Cultivated</td>
<td>Large orchard is cultivated across the road from the west ruin. A corn field exists to the north.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1923</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>The American Museum transfers land to the National Park Service and NPS begins site development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1927</td>
<td>Land Transfer</td>
<td>The American Museum purchases an additional 12.6 acres including the East Ruins from Abrams. The land is then donated to the Park Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1930</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>An additional 6.8 acres is acquired by the National Park Service. Abrams begins to commercially develop portions of the site as a result of increased tourism following the development of the Monument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD 1933 - 1935</td>
<td>Altered</td>
<td>Several sheds, corrals, and Abrams large hay barn are removed. Several fences are removed, and new fences are installed. The irrigation ditches running through the Monument lands are lined with rock for erosion control.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Physical History:

12th and 13 centuries

Archeological sites provide evidence of occupation by people of the prehistoric Chacoan tradition of the Ancestral Puebloan culture, who built here in the late 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries. Three major ruins are the most obvious signs of their habitation of this area. The cultural landscape of these early occupants included extensive agricultural fields fed by an irrigation canal system, a linear road system connecting the site to other large development centers such as Chaco Canyon, small outlier communities, a variety of earthworks, large trash mounds, and other features of an early agricultural society. Remnants of the agricultural field areas, irrigation features, roadways, and various development and use areas are found throughout the landscape. Presumably the cultural landscape would also have included agricultural fields fed by the still extant irrigation systems.

East Ruin ca. 1880 (Reproduced from Lister 1990, courtesy Aztec City Museum)
Evidence of early Spanish knowledge of the ruins is scarce. Artifacts such as bridle bits, bronze ornaments, and armor scales have been found nearby, but there is no specific mention of the ruins in any documents. Spanish cartographer Miera Y Pacheco refers to a settlement that was later determined to be Old Fort, situated at the confluence of the Animas and San Juan Rivers, rather than Aztec. Another Spaniard, Antonio Armijo, recorded in his journal that he and his men reached the river, but there is no mention of the ruins.

A single reference has been located that states that the "1st claim taken near Aztec, on which the Aztec ruins are situated, it was taken by Jimmy Carol" (Locke). No additional information regarding this reference has been located. In 1890, John A. Koontz obtained a patent through the Desert Land Act and thereby acquired the 160 acres that included the prehistoric ruins. By 1892, state records reveal that Farmer's Ditch, one of the primary irrigation canals for the area, had been constructed and was in use. Recognizing the importance of the ruins, Koontz allowed visitation and research. Koontz and his wife Emaline sold the land containing the ruins (120 acres) to Henry Dudley Abrams on April 9, 1908 (Warranty Deed Book 27). Along with the land, the Koontzys sold Abrams a half-share water right in the Farmer's Ditch which ran through the property (Warranty Deed Book 27). Abrams immediately cleared as much of the property as possible in order to utilize it for cultivation and grazing. Early accounts of the ruins note that
Abrams "destroyed small housemounds north of West Ruin while plowing in the early 1900s . . ." and " . . . The land was tilled up to the walls of the major ruins" (Scheick 1988). In addition to leveling the small housemound, Abrams also converted approximately five of the rooms in the Hubbard Mound into a root cellar (Lister 1990). Abrams also converted a second root cellar into Mound F located between the two major settlement mounds.

In 1916, Abrams gave Earl Morris and the American Museum permission to excavate the ruins. The museum acquired 6.75 acres of land from Abrams in 1919, and work continued until funding was depleted in 1922. Morris persistently continued work after this, even as the land passed into the hands of the National Park Service in early 1923, and his house served as the Monument entrance until 1934. A wooden shed, erected during excavation and later moved to the rear of the Morris residence, served as the first museum, accommodating rapidly increasing visitation. A portion of the ruins was also used as a museum.

In 1927, a second tract of Abrams land was sold to the American Museum and included 12.6 acres with the East Ruins. This land was then donated to the National Park Service. By 1930, a third tract of land totaling 6.8 acres was acquired by the Park Service and added to the Monument's land holdings. Taking advantage of the growing tourist industry, Abrams opened a store across from the west side of the Monument in 1930. The enterprise included a campground in the adjoining orchard. In 1931, the Monument added to the visitor facilities as they drilled a well to replace the cistern, enlarged the parking area, built a pumphouse and restrooms, and installed a telephone. A custodian's residence was also constructed, but lasted only 18 years.

During the period 1933-1934, additional work was undertaken in and around the Monument resulting in changes to the surrounding agricultural land. Abrams large hay barn was removed from the area of the East Ruin and numerous cross fences were removed with new post and wire fences replacing them. By 1935 many of the surrounding farm fields had been abandoned and were replanted with native trees and shrubs. The irrigation ditches that ran through the Monument lands were lined with rock to facilitate erosion control measures and a cattle guard was placed at the entry gate into the Monument to help protect the site from ranging cattle.

In 1948, the Monument lands were increased to include 27.14 acres. Several years later, in 1964, a request was made to create a buffer zone surrounding the Monument, but the Aztec City Zoning Board voted against the proposal. It was not until the passage of Public Law 100-559 in 1988 that the Monument's authorized boundary was increased to 319.03 acres.
1964-2002

The landscape associated with the Aztec Ruins National Monument is maintained by the National Park Service for visitor interpretation and passive recreational uses including picnicking, hiking, and nature observation. Within the area currently administered by the Park, there is a visitor center development with restroom facilities, a picnic area, numerous prehistoric structures and remains, a series of paths and trails, staff office area, and maintenance area.

Within the lands included in the authorized boundary there is also some irrigated agriculture including orchard management, pasturage and grazing of cattle, mineral extraction (gas wells), and residential use.
Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:
The historic vernacular landscape associated with the Monument represents agricultural land use activities that range from the early homestead period to the present day. During the late 19th century the land was homesteaded and the irrigation canal known as Farmer's Ditch was constructed.

INTEGRITY EVALUATION -- does not retain integrity

Although there are several acres of land within the Park's authorized boundary that remain in agricultural use, many of their historically associated features are no longer present. As a result of this loss of associated features and specific landscape characteristics, the integrity of this property as representative of the historic Koontz and Abrams farms or even the early agricultural lands in the Animas Valley of San Juan county has been compromised and is no longer intact. Despite the fact that the lands within the Park's authorized boundary have retained a rural character and hold remnants of agricultural elements and features such as orchards and pasture lands, they have lost many significant historic characteristics such as patterns of spatial organization, historic patterns of vegetation, associated buildings and structures, land use activities, and cluster arrangements.

A few landscape features associated with the historic vernacular/agricultural landscape have survived and are considered contributing elements to the understanding, interpretation, and appreciation of the landscape's history and development. These features include the irrigation features associated with Farmer's Ditch (lateral headgates as well as the holding pond north of East Ruin), the waters of the Animas River, the irrigated hay fields and pasture lands, the livestock (cattle/sheep/pigs), and the orchard located west of Hubbard Ruin. It should be noted that while these remnant features contribute to the "story of the Aztec lands", the historic vernacular landscape that they are associated with has not retained sufficient integrity to be considered eligible as a National Register property.

Summary of Contributing Features/Uses
--Orchard west of the Hubbard Ruins
--Irrigated pastures
--Farmer's Ditch
--Irrigated laterals and headgates
--Livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs)
--Irrigation holding pond north of East Ruin
--Waters of the Animas River
--Irrigated hay fields
--Orchard near Animas River
--Outbuildings (outhouse, shed)
--Historic (stacked log) fencing

Summary of Non-Contributing Features/Uses
Aztec Ruins National Monument

--Preservation and maintenance work or staging areas
--Park Visitor Center/Administrative area
--Park Service fences and signage
--Residential and commercial development areas
--Barbed wire fencing

Landscape Characteristic:

**Archeological Sites**

In addition to the recorded prehistoric archeological sites that are scattered throughout the Monument's authorized land base there are numerous historic archeological sites associated with the historic agricultural use of the area. These sites have minimal, if any, historical significance with regard to the National Register, but do contribute to the evolution and development of the landscape and as such may provide useful information with regard to the site's overall interpretation.

**Buildings and Structures**

Historically, structures and buildings within this landscape included Abrams' hay barn located in the area of the East Ruin, root cellars in the Hubbard Mound area, and a variety of sheds, pens, and corrals. Most of these structures and buildings were removed from the landscape following the development of the site as a National Park property.

With the exception of a small complex of agricultural buildings and structures located within the Park's authorized boundary, most of these features no longer exist within this landscape. The existing Aztec Ruins Trading Post building was evaluated by previous research efforts for potential historical significance and it was determined ineligible for listing in the National Register. The farm buildings on the Hubbard property (outhouse and shed) and other buildings within the authorized boundary have not been evaluated at this time.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:
Circulation

Circulation patterns within the historic vernacular landscape would have consisted primarily of service roads that provided access to the fields as well as to the irrigation canal-Farmer's Ditch. The roads would also have allowed for easy access to the various support structures and stock pens as well as to the barn and root cellars. They likely criss-crossed throughout the agricultural landscape.

There would have been numerous foot and stock paths and trails as well linking the various use areas within the landscape. Presently, most of these paths, trails, and service or field roads no longer exist.

Cluster Arrangement

Clustered areas of development were historically characteristic of this agricultural landscape and consisted of a variety of pens, corrals, and sheds to provide storage for equipment, feed, and shelter for stock.

The current landscape is lacking these agricultural use area clusters and in their place are clusters of residential development surrounded by large and dense subdivisions and trailer park developments.
**Constructed Water Features**

The Farmer's Ditch, an irrigation canal that runs through the property was constructed in 1892 and may potentially have historical significance in and of itself. Only a short segment of the ditch was examined during this study and the findings were inconclusive as to its individual significance and integrity as an engineered feature. The irrigation holding pond north of East Ruin is a contributing feature even though it is no longer functional and does not hold irrigation water.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

*Irrigation along Farmer's Ditch, looking east, July 1997 (Reproduced from Nelson 1997)*
Cultural Traditions
Not used.

Land Use
During the historic period the lands within the Monument's authorized boundary were utilized for agricultural purposes including the cultivation of irrigated fields, orchards, and pastures. When fields were in rotation they were used for grazing purposes and the ruins themselves, although not cultivated, were used for grazing stock during the winter months.

Numerous sheds, corrals, and pens were located throughout the landscape to provide shelter for stock and storage for feed and equipment.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:
Remnant orchard in south field (Photo by Kowalski, 2001)
View of orchard west of the west Ruin and Annex. View is from Mesas looking southeast, 1997 (Reproduced from Nelson 1997)

Pasture lands are divided by fence lines as well as lateral ditches from Farmer's Ditch, 1997 (Reproduced from Nelson 1997)

**Natural Systems and Features**

Historically, all arable lands were used for the cultivation of fruit trees or tillable crops with some areas rotated and used for pasture or hay cultivation. The ready availability of water from the Farmer's Ditch which ran off of the Animas River made irrigated agriculture the dominant land use for the area. The gently sloping lands south of the gravel and cobble terrace allowed for gravity fed irrigation for the fields and orchards from the edge of the terrace down towards the river.

**Small Scale Features**

During the historic period when the site was primarily used for agriculture there were probably numerous small scale features associated with the landscape. These features would have included numerous irrigation head or sluice gates, fences, and gates.

Only a few modified sluice gates are found along the irrigation ditches within the NPS developed portion of the Monument. There are some head gates along the Farmer's Ditch, and some replaced fence alignments are found within the landscape today.
Spatial Organization

The historic vernacular landscape was organized into a variety of fields and pastures as well as staging areas where harvested crops, equipment, and stock were kept.

Early on, Abrams cultivated his field areas right up to the edges of the rubble mounds of the various ruins. Storage areas were created in the area of the ruins themselves with his barn lot and corral area sited in the midst of the East Ruins. The irrigation canal (Farmer's Ditch) located along the base of the terraces served as the northern boundary for the fields and orchards. The fields and orchards were arranged in an alternating pattern throughout the landscape. A variety of corrals, sheds, pens, and other support structures were scattered across the agricultural landscape.

The organization of the present day landscape is substantially different in that the majority of the support structures have been removed and many of the old field and orchard areas are now dominated by residential lots and subdivisions or trailer courts. The alternating patterns of cultivated fields and orchards has been lost although there are some remnant orchard areas. Some of the cultivated fields are now used as irrigated pasture lands with some pasture grasses being cultivated.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:
Spatial organization diagram of site conditions in 1997 (Reproduced from Nelson 1997)
Topography
The gently sloping floodplain lands proved to be most suitable for agricultural land use activities (orchards, fields, and pastures). The gravel and cobble terraces, while used for some agricultural purposes during the prehistoric period, were not found to be suitable for historic irrigated agricultural uses.

Vegetation
Over the years, vegetation patterns as well as vegetation densities and varieties have changed. During the historic period fruit orchards, corn, and alfalfa seem to have been the main crops
cultivated in the area of the Aztec Ruins.

In the 1930s, many fields adjacent to the prehistoric ruins were taken out of cultivation and native trees and shrubs were reintroduced to the old field areas. A combination of native and non-native vegetation was introduced to the Park Service's development area and the former fields that were located adjacent to the ruins.

The area located immediately south of the Monument's parking lot and visitor use picnic area was once covered by extensive orchards and today is comprised of commercial development and open pasture land. There is a young orchard located immediately west of the Hubbard Ruin and irrigated pasture lands to the north.

Numerous trees are presently growing along many of the irrigation ditches and there are clustered wooded areas scattered in some of the old field areas to the north and west of the Animas River.

**Views and Vistas**

Views within the historic vernacular landscapes were once primarily of agricultural fields, orchards, and pastures from the area below the gravel and cobble terraces south towards the river. Today these views are dominated by both residential and commercial developments and wooded areas along the river's edge.
Historic Vernacular Landscape
Aztec Ruins National Monument

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Poor
Assessment Date: 10/31/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:
The landscape is in poor condition. Superintendent concurrence was received on 5/5/2005.

Condition Assessment: Poor
Assessment Date: 09/23/2010

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:
The Historic Vernacular Landscape consists of relatively few agricultural features (dating 1890-1932), most of them extensively altered or damaged by subsequent historic and recent land use, including development of the national monument. The only farm house in the expanded monument boundaries that dated to this era was demolished in 2001 due to health and safety risk, and all debris was removed. There are two apple orchards which date to this era, but most trees within them are either dead or consist largely of dead limbs. Other agricultural features include fencelines and irrigation ditches; most have been so heavily altered by continual repair and maintenance that the Historic Vernacular aspects can only rarely be recognized. Overall, the condition of the Historic Vernacular landscape is considered to be poor. Superintendent concurrence received 9/23/2010.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Impending Development
External or Internal: External
Impact Description: Urban and residential development on adjacent lands

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

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Boundary information is contained in Lister, page 78, and Administrative History, figure 10.4.

1978 aerial photograph.