

“SUU Archaeological Filed Schools – 1984 to 2010”

**By
Barbara Frank**

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Barbara has been the director of the Southern Utah University (SUU) archaeological field schools since 1984. As such, she has directed a number of archaeological investigations at various locations in Southern Utah in an effort to learn about the Virgin Anasazi peoples who lived in the St. George / Virgin River area. In this talk Barbara describes the results of some of her field school investigations.

A general observation was that the Virgin Anasazi sites that she has investigated are very random in their design and are not necessarily like other early Anasazi sites in other southwest locations.

Little Creek Mesa

Barbara's sites generally included Pueblo 1 (P1) and Pueblo 2 (P2) pit houses and a late P2 kiva. The structures in this area were often built on top of earlier structures. The pueblo complexes in this area generally consisted of a living (habitation) area and some storage areas. In the 1050 to late P2 time period, she found that it was common to see an additional work room or grinding room added to the pueblo complexes.

Two specific sites she discussed were the “Mix Master” site and the “Canine” site. The “canine” site is unique in that her team discovered a child buried with a (her) dog.

Colorado City

The Colorado City site is located in the city next to a church. It is called the “Corn Growers” site because it had a evidence of burnt corn in the ruin. The site was dated to 1050 – 1250 AD and consisted of a pit house complex with a kiva. The kiva measured about 18 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep. In the kiva her team found burned timbers, burned corn, baskets and pottery.

Apple Valley / Colorado City

The Apple Valley / Colorado City site was called the “Turkey Town” site. It was early P2 and was dated to 900 – 1050 AD.

Kanab

The Kanab site is located along Kanab creek and contained evidence from Basket Maker 3 period to P1 and P2 periods. The P2 site dated to 1100 – 1150 AD. Here the structures and the artifacts contained some Kayenta Anasazi influence.

Her talk contained many drawing of the sites along with photos showing the various structures and some of the artifacts.

John Mangels

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