



SOUTHWESTERN LORE

Official Publication, The Colorado Archaeological Society
Vol. 73, No. 3, Fall 2007

GUNS, FIRE, AND SHEEP: HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE TRUJILLO HOMESTEADS IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO

R. LAURIE SIMMONS AND MARILYN A. MARTORANO

ABSTRACT

The Teofilo Trujillo homestead (5AL791) and the Pedro Trujillo homestead (5AL706) are two recently documented historic resources in the San Luis Valley, Colorado. These sites were occupied from as early as 1866 through 1902 by the Trujillo family of Hispanic American ranchers/early homesteaders. The Trujillo sites are important for their historical associations, architecture, and archaeology. These sites have yielded significant information about early lifeways of Hispanic American homesteaders, their interactions with other cultures, and their struggles to survive during an episode of cattle and sheep ranching conflict and violence in the San Luis Valley.

INTRODUCTION

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were times of bitter and sometimes violent struggles between cattlemen and sheep growers for control of the grazing lands of Colorado. In his seminal *History of Agriculture in Colorado*, Alvin T. Steinel observed, "Brutality that admits of neither apology nor excuse was ascribed to cattlemen in the war to keep sheep out of certain areas" (Steinel 1926:147).

In southern Colorado, these conflicts also reflected the collision of cultures, as ranchers of Hispanic origin occupied traditional Native American lands and, in turn, faced the advance of Anglo-American cattlemen. Few historic resources directly linked to the interaction of these groups and to the range wars that impacted Hispanic-American sheep growers have been documented in Colorado. The Teofilo and Pedro Trujillo homesteads in Alamosa County are directly associated with these waves of occupation and subsequent strife.

R. Laurie Simmons ■ Front Range Research Associates, Inc., 3635 W. 46th Ave., Denver, CO 80211, frraden@msn.com

Marilyn A. Martorano ■ RMC Consultants, Inc., 12345 W. Alameda Pkwy., Lakewood, CO 80228, mmartorano@rmc-consultants.com

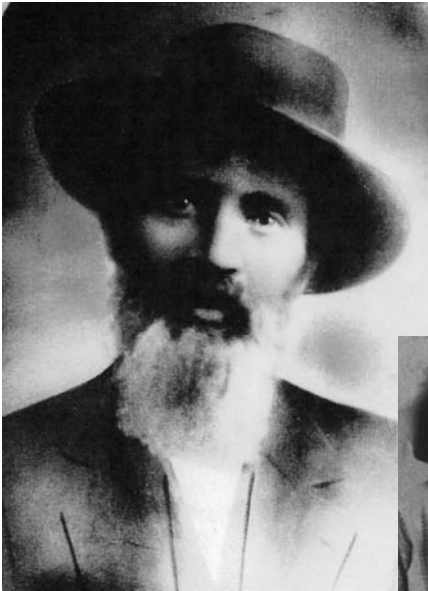


FIGURE 1. Teofilo Trujillo, one of the pioneer settlers in the Medano Springs area of Alamosa County, established a successful ranch in the 1860s.



FIGURE 2. Teofilo Trujillo is shown in this circa 1900 photograph with two of his 16 grandchildren, Federico and Helen.

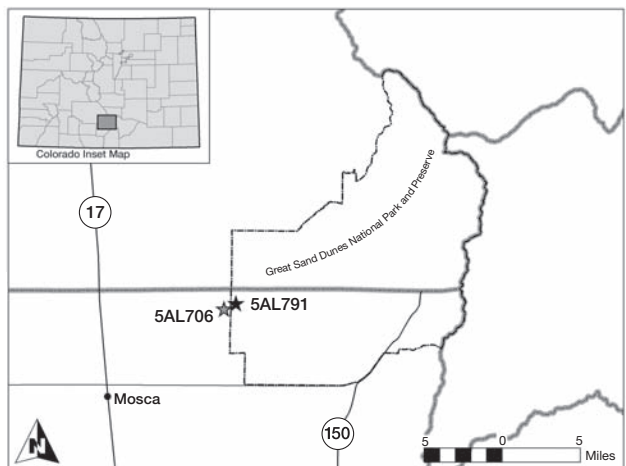


FIGURE 3. Project location map showing general locations of the Teofilo and Pedro Trujillo homesteads in the San Luis Valley, Alamosa County, Colorado.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Teofilo Trujillo

San Luis Valley pioneer Teofilo Trujillo (ca. 1838–1915) was born in New Mexico when the area was still a possession of Mexico.¹ About 1864 he journeyed northward from Taos into Colorado, acquired a small ranch northwest of Fort Garland, and married New Mexico native Maria Andrellita Lucero (1850–1931) (Figures 1 and 2). The demand for meat and agricultural products created by the military post may have motivated Trujillo's move. About 1866 the couple settled in the vicinity of Medano Springs, west of the Sand Dunes (Figure 3), where they were among the first settlers to establish a permanent home and begin ranching (Gibson 1933–34a:93). The Trujillos were listed in the 1870 census in Costilla County² with their son Pedro, age four. The census also listed son Antonio Trujillo, ten years old, who was identified as a farm laborer (United States, Department of the Interior, Bureau of the Census [USDI, BC] 1870). At least three daughters were born to the family in the 1870s, but they died after contracting diphtheria and were reportedly buried on the family property.³ In his 1881 homestead proof, Teofilo stated that his improvements included a five-room log house, a four-room adobe house, a stable and corral, a chicken house, three water wells with pumps and one with a large windmill, one mile of pole and wire fence, and one-half mile of irrigation ditch. He estimated that the improvements were worth more than \$1,500 (United States, Department of the Interior, General Land Office [USDI, GLO] 1881).⁴

In the 1860s and 1870s, the area where the Trujillos lived was populated predominantly by Spanish-speaking farmers from New Mexico and their families and workers. The settlers generally lived in one-story adobe dwellings. The Utes formally ceded the area to the United States in 1868, but continued to visit it. An 1871 gazetteer for Colorado indicated that raising livestock was the principal industry in the county, including “sheep, horses, goats, cattle, and asses” (Wallihan & Co. 1870:57–58). The Agricultural Schedule of the 1870 census for Costilla County recorded that its farmers and ranchers were overwhelmingly Hispanics who raised sheep rather than cattle, with 18 times as many sheep as cattle counted (USDI, BC 1870).⁵

Unlike most of the other early Hispanic American settlers, during his first years on the land Trujillo's primary interest was cattle. Some histories indicate that at one time his herd was as large as 800 head. The cattle grazed in natural meadows between water sources on the public domain (Gibson 1933–34a; Oliver 1985). By 1870, Teofilo's livestock had the highest value of any of the Costilla County Hispanic farmers and the second highest of all the ranchers in the county. He reported 30 head of cattle and no sheep and assessed the worth of his farm at \$3,000, with \$300 in farm implements and machines. Trujillo's other livestock included 10 horses, 3 mules or asses, 100 milk cows, 10 oxen, and 3 swine. The animals were valued at \$5,115. Crops raised on Trujillo's land included 80 bushels of spring wheat and 15 pounds of tobacco, as well as small amounts of peas and potatoes. The large herd of dairy cows produced milk for 75 pounds of butter, and the slaughter of farm animals added \$500 to Trujillo's

income. The total value of all farm production was \$1,178. Trujillo indicated that he paid no wages; members of his family assisted with the necessary work or he traded goods for labor (USDI, BC 1870). His success is indicated by the fact that he was one of only a handful of Hispanic-surnamed cattle growers and dealers listed in a statewide “Colorado Livestock Directory” in 1879 (Colorado State Business Directory 1879).

During the 1870s, the Ohio-born Dickey brothers settled at Medano Springs about three miles southeast of Trujillo’s property, established the nucleus of a large cattle empire, and began buying out smaller homesteads (Oliver 1985). Frank C. Spencer reported that ranchers from the eastern states were “kindly received by the Mexican settlers” (Spencer 1925:67). The Dickeys brought large herds of Texas cattle into the valley to graze and then drove them to Leadville, where the brothers operated a meat market (Gibson 1933–34b:36). As competition for available grazing lands increased, earlier ranchers faced the loss of their acreages if they did not establish documented legal claims under the American system. Agnes King, whose family settled in the area, reported: “Several Spanish-American families had been living on the creek, but they had just come in and built their adobe cabins, put in their little track patches and did not acquire legal right to the land. When the cattle men came in they proceeded to chase the ‘squatters’ out” (King 1947). By 1900, there were few Spanish-surnamed families left in the vicinity of the Trujillo ranch (USDI, BC 1900).

Teofilo Trujillo, a Spanish-speaker who could read but not write, waited a number of years before formally filing for ownership of his land.⁶ Acquiring a homestead entailed both financial costs and an understanding of the rules and regulations of another language and culture (Deutsch 1987:31). Trujillo secured his ownership with a 160-acre Cash Entry patent finalized in 1882 and a Homestead Entry patent for a tract of the same size issued in 1890. He apparently added to this acreage through purchase; by 1885 his ranch included 640 acres. These lands, combined with free grazing on the open range, enabled the successful operation of a ranch.

In the 1880s, Teofilo began diversifying his livestock, adding sheep to his holdings and increasing the number of horses. The Agricultural Schedule of the 1880 census indicates that he had a cattle herd of only 55 (USDI, BC 1880). This contrasted with the Dickey brothers’ 3,000 cattle. In 1882, Teofilo still was listed as a cattle grower in the “Colorado Livestock Directory.” Although the 1880 census cited no sheep for Trujillo, he subsequently became one of the largest producers in the area. The 1885 Colorado State Census reported that Teofilo had 600 sheep, 500 lambs, and 70 cattle (State of Colorado, Census 1885). He sold both lambs and wool, and his stock also included 100 horses,⁷ 10 milk cows, 10 swine, and 25 mules. The family also raised a large flock of poultry. In addition, the ranch produced 450 tons of hay, a portion of which was sold to other settlers. The livestock was valued at \$6,000 and the farm at \$4,000, and Trujillo’s ranch was prospering.

The Trujillos’ lifestyle included elements attributed to those families referred to as *ricos* [rich] among the settlers from New Mexico. Although one

of Teofilo's houses was built of adobe, a history of the Medano Springs area indicated that the dwelling boasted stained glass windows (Stewart 1992). By 1870, the family was prosperous enough to have a servant, 14-year-old Manuela Atencio, who was a native of New Mexico (USDI, BC 1870). The next census recorded a 28-year-old female servant, Juana Ortega, identified as being of Native American ancestry, who cooked for the family. A descendant of the Trujillos confirms that Teofilo and his wife did take in an orphaned Indian girl (Maria Tita Causby, personal communication 2006). Some of the wealthier early settlers in the San Luis Valley included in their households young Native Americans who had been captured, given Spanish names, and were raised along with their children and utilized as servants (Deutsch 1987:16; Simmons 1999:104). Richard Carrillo, a historical archaeologist who has conducted research on early Hispanic American sites in southeastern Colorado, believes that this practice was very common (Richard Carrillo, personal communication 2006). In 1880, the Trujillo household also included an 18-year-old male born in New Mexico, who was identified as a servant laborer, as well as a 16-year-old female boarder.⁸

Pedro Trujillo

Teofilo's son Pedro (1866–1934) grew up on his father's homestead, tending animals and developing into an excellent horseman (Figure 4). In his childhood, the area's indigenous inhabitants were still numerous. Pedro later recalled hiding when Native Americans raided his father's cattle herds and visiting their campsites to fill his "pockets full of arrow and spear points" (Gibson 1933–34a:93). Pedro, who could read, write, and speak English according to the 1900 census, settled on a 160-acre tract adjacent to his father's land in October 1879, while still in his teens (USDI, BC 1900). As a first-generation American, Pedro's life reflected the cultural tension created by the contact of established Hispanic American lifestyles and agricultural practices with that of

FIGURE 4. Pedro Trujillo, reputed to be an able horseman, experienced the clash of cultures in the San Luis Valley as a first generation Hispanic American. Source: Maria Tita Causby photograph provided by Maria Martinez, Monte Vista, Colorado.





FIGURE 5. Photograph taken in 2002 of the Pedro Trujillo log house (Feature 1), view northwest. The stable/barn (Feature 2) is visible in the right background.

Anglo Americans moving into the area. Rather than erecting a one-story adobe dwelling as his father had, Pedro built a two-story log house that was more in keeping with Anglo American domestic construction in the vicinity (Figure 5).

Pedro's approach to ranching also differed from that of his father. In 1933–34, Civil Works Administration worker Charles Gibson, Jr., interviewed Pedro and wrote this account:

As Teofilo prospered, he added a band of sheep to his holdings of cattle and horses, and trouble developed between him and his son Pete. The boy was extremely fond of horses and was a wonderful horseman. His friends claim he could ride anything on four legs, and he says now that his years of Bronco busting is probably the cause of his present crippled condition. Pete refused to become a sheep-herder and argued with his father that the sheep would cause him trouble, as that had always been a cattle country.

Before he was of legal age, Pete filed on a homestead three-quarters of a mile west of his fathers [*sic*] place, and set up his own establishment, confining his efforts to the raising of horses and cattle [Gibson 1933–34a:95].

In December 1885, Pedro stated in his pre-emption proof testimony that he built a three-room house, a stable, a windmill, a corral, and 1.5 miles of fence, with a total value of about \$1,100. He raised hay (Figure 6) on 120 acres and cultivated three acres of vegetables (USDI, GLO 1885). Given Pedro's youth at the time of settlement and his proof testimony, it is unclear if his father provided assistance in establishing the homestead or how closely the two men were associated in ranching operations (Andrea Trujillo Lujan and Maria



FIGURE 6. Pedro Trujillo with hay wagon and three “hitchhikers” on the way to Mosca. Source: Marie V. Martinez photograph, provided by Maria Martinez, Monte Vista, Colorado.



FIGURE 7. Sofia Trujillo was adopted into Teofilo Trujillo’s family and married his son, Pedro, in 1885. Nine of her children were born at the isolated homestead.

Tita Causby, personal communication 2003). Pedro was not listed separately from his father on the Agricultural Schedule of the 1880 census (USDI, BC 1880).

In 1885, Pedro married Sofia Martinez (1872–1950), who was born in New Mexico and had been adopted into the Trujillo family (Figure 7). The couple had 16 children, nine of whom were born while they were living at the homestead (Martinez ca. 2000).⁹ Pedro added additional lands to his holdings over the years, including a Cash Entry patent (1891), a purchase of state land (1900), and a Desert Lands patent (1901). He eventually amassed more than 500 acres (USDI, GLO 1891–1901).

Impact of the Range War

The livestock industry greatly expanded in the San Luis Valley after the arrival of the railroad made it possible to transport animals from Alamosa to Denver (Baker and Hafen 1927:676; Lantis 1950:232). In 1880, the Denver & Rio Grande built a rail line past the future site of Mosca, where a depot and other facilities would be constructed in 1890 (Chuck Yungkurth, personal communication 2007). Cattle and sheep could be shipped conveniently from the area in the 1880s. Ranch owners hired cowboys and sheepherders to follow their livestock on the public domain. Taking advantage of the open range with its free water and native grass, the sheepmen increasingly came into conflict with cattlemen who were utilizing the same resources. The competition was exacerbated by the commonly-held belief among cattle raisers that sheep grazing was injurious to the grasses preferred by cows. Livestock organizations in the state originally included both cattle and sheep ranchers, and early stockmen often successfully raised both types of animals. However, the antagonism between ranchers raising cattle and those favoring sheep eventually led to the formation of separate associations, and animosity between the two groups led to an ongoing war for control of the public range.

Sheepraising in the San Luis Valley continued to expand during the 1890s, creating further tension with cattlemen (Lantis 1950). Some believed that the only solutions were to permanently divide the public domain or for the two groups to fight until one withdrew (*Monte Vista Journal*, 29 March 1902:3). In early 1902, conflict between cattle and sheep ranchers in the vicinity of Medano Springs impacted the Trujillo family in events that were reported around the state. As one of the largest sheepraisers in the area, Teofilo Trujillo became the target of violent intimidation by cattle operators. The *Mosca Herald* commented that “the war that has raged at different times between the cattle and sheepmen of the state has broken out in this vicinity” (*Saguache Crescent*, 30 January 1902:1).

The situation deteriorated in January 1902, when cattleman George Dorris warned Teofilo’s sheepherders to remove the flock they were tending on the public domain and threatening that “failure to do so would result seriously” (*Alamosa Courier*, 8 February 1902:1). Subsequently, four men “proceeded to enforce their injunction by the shooting process,” killing a number of sheep and driving away many others in plain sight of the herders (*Alamosa Courier*, 8 February 1902:1). Teofilo’s workers watching the flock did not “understand this hint” that they should move the animals under their protection. Three days later, armed men returned to kill or disperse the sheep and fire their guns into the house where three herders were sleeping, “narrowly missing the occupants” (*Alamosa Courier*, 8 February 1902:1; *Monte Vista Journal*, 1 February 1902:1; *Saguache Crescent*, 30 January 1902:1). Describing the incident, the *Mosca Herald* leaned toward the cattlemen’s point of view: “Sheep are, of course, entitled to the same privilege as cattle on the public range, but their presence is so detrimental to other stock that cattlemen have generally refused to tolerate them” (*Saguache Crescent*, 30 January 1902:1). However, the *Alamosa Courier* described Trujillo as “an inoffensive old man who has lived in this vicinity for

the past forty years as a law-abiding citizen” and noted that warrants had been sworn for arrest of those involved (*Alamosa Courier*, 8 February 1902:1).

The families of Teofilo and Pedro Trujillo lived in fear as a result of these episodes. One night while she was alone in the isolated house with her children, Sofia Trujillo heard unknown men riding through the area and hid her family outside in the sagebrush rather than risk staying indoors (Andrea Trujillo Lujan and Maria Tita Causby, personal communication 2003). The final blow came when Teofilo Trujillo’s property was destroyed in another attempt to drive him out of the area. At the time, Teofilo and his wife were in their 60s and lived on the ranch with one of their young grandsons (Gibson 1933–34a:95; USDI, BC 1900).

On January 31, 1902, local cowboys identified as the Dorris brothers and Burt Davis were tried at Mosca for the earlier killing of Trujillo’s sheep and attempted murder of his employees. The *Monte Vista Journal* reported that “the evidence failed to identify either of the accused as parties to the sheep killing and they were consequently discharged” (*Monte Vista Journal*, 1 February 1902:1). While the Trujillo family attended the day-long trial, intruders started a fire in the cabin of one of Trujillo’s workers that spread to the larger buildings of the ranch. They then went to Teofilo’s sheep camp and killed or crippled half of the herd (Gibson 1933–34a:95). The family’s house and its entire contents burned to the ground (*Monte Vista Journal*, 8 February 1902:1). The *Mosca Herald* reported that “Trujillo had one of the best ranch houses in the valley and the loss was considerable” (*Center Dispatch*, 7 February 1902:1). In addition, \$8,000 in cash on hand burned in the blaze. Teofilo did not have faith in banks because he had seen a large amount of his money disappear when the Hooper financial establishment failed a few years previously (*Center Dispatch*, 7 February 1902:1).

One of Trujillo’s descendants later provided this perspective on the conflict:

In the Valley the range war was not only between owners of sheep and cattle but between persons of different cultural backgrounds. It is generally believed in the Valley that it was because of his refusal to sell his land to a cattle interest that Teofilo’s ranch house was burned to the ground in 1902 [Sargents Centennial Bicentennial Committee ca. 1977].

In early March 1902, Teofilo and Pedro Trujillo sold their lands totaling 1,496 acres, water rights, and livestock, to cattlemen Loren B. Sylvester and Richard W. Hosford, successors of the Dickey brothers at the Medano Ranch, for \$30,000 (Alamosa County, Warranty Deed, 6 March 1902).¹⁰ The *Monte Vista Journal* commented, “There will be no more sheep killing in that neighborhood as Mr. Sylvester is a straight cattle man” (*Monte Vista Journal*, 1 March 1902:1). Teofilo Trujillo planned to return to the sheep business on a ranch in the vicinity of Fort Garland (*Alamosa Courier*, 1 March 1902:1).

The Trujillos had good reason to take the threats to their sheep and their own safety seriously, since their own previous efforts and those of others to convict the individuals who harassed Hispanic sheepmen had been unsuccessful.

ful. Two men tried for “malicious mischief” as a result of killing 23 sheep, 3 burros, and 2 dogs, as well as burning the tents and bedding of Hispanic sheepherders during the winter of 1901–02 were acquitted despite positive identification that they were the culprits (*Monte Vista Journal*, 3 May 1902:1). Two weeks after Teofilo Trujillo’s house burned, Parfirio Antonte Gallegos of Capulin, a well-to-do sheep grower who grazed his animals on the public domain, was ambushed and shot in the chest while on the way to check on his herdsmen (*Monte Vista Journal*, 15 February 1902:1). In April, the *Monte Vista Journal* reported, “The sheep and cattlemen are engaged in battle array over the public domain” (*Monte Vista Journal*, 5 April 1902:1). In May, the newspaper observed, “Mexicans of the whole valley are smarting because nothing is done or attempted to be done to punish the murderer of the Mexican sheepowner who was murdered . . .” (*Monte Vista Journal*, 10 May 1902:1). Eventually, three men were arrested and charged with the crime, but the newspaper found that public sentiment favored the accused and noted that the prosecuting attorney was slow to take up the case because he previously had been unsuccessful in convicting “American cattlemen for molesting Mexican sheepmen” (*Monte Vista Journal*, 7 June 1902:1) With little hope of gaining recourse against the crimes committed and their family in danger, Teofilo and Pedro Trujillo were forced to move from the lands they had homesteaded.

Teofilo Trujillo acquired a new home in San Luis, where he could raise sheep. He died there in 1915 at the age of 77. Pedro Trujillo sold his ranch in the same transaction and moved to the Sargents area, where he purchased 400 acres of land with water rights and later served as a deputy sheriff. Trujillo descendants, including his daughter Andrea Trujillo Lujan (1904–2006) and granddaughter Maria Tita Causby, believe that Pedro moved at the same time as his father because he was also threatened, noting that “even if Pedro raised cattle and not sheep, he was still Teofilo’s son and faced the same dangers” (Andrea Trujillo Lujan and Maria Tita Causby, personal communication 2003). When Pedro Trujillo died in 1934, the *Monte Vista Journal* judged that “he played an important part in the early development” of the San Luis Valley (*Monte Vista Journal*, 29 June 1934:1).

After the Trujillos were forced out of the area, the Pedro Trujillo homestead house was occupied by Eulojio Martinez, who worked for owners of the Medano Ranch into the mid-1930s. Subsequently, the log dwelling was used to house ranch hands, but was considered less desirable due to its isolation (J. Robert “Bob” Linger, personal communication 2002). It was eventually abandoned. The Nature Conservancy acquired the two Trujillo homesteads along with the Medano and Zapata ranches in 1999. The Pedro Trujillo homestead was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 (Simmons and Simmons 2003).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AT THE TEOFILO HOMESTEAD SITE

The physical location of the Teofilo homestead site (5AL791) was only recently rediscovered with the assistance of Mr. J. Robert “Bob” Linger, a



FIGURE 8. Teofilo Trujillo site looking west during 2006 recording. Left to right: Dolly McClellan, Richard Carrillo, and Michelle Slaughter.

member of the family that owned the Medano Ranch from 1912 to 1947 (Figure 8). The site was visited briefly in 2002 by RMC Consultants, Inc. to map the location and evaluate the potential for future work. During the site visit and another brief visit by National Park Service employees Fred Bunch and Dr. Adrienne Anderson, evidence of structural remains was observed, including burned adobe, cobbles, and milled wood. Artifacts seen on the surface included fragments of burned glass, Native American ceramics, fragments of decorated china, vesicular basalt ground stone, and a lid to a child's miniature toy tea set. The Native American ceramics included sherds representing two bowls of San Juan Red-on-tan Tewa ware that date between 1750 and 1925, sherds identified as Taos Micaceous, and one sherd identified as indeterminate micaceous, likely attributed to Apache potters (Reed 2006a). The latter sherd is similar to Ocate Micaceous produced between the mid-1500s and 1750.

A Colorado Historical Society (CHS) State Historic Fund (SHF) archaeological assessment grant was received in June 2006 to record the Teofilo site, and make recommendations for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility and for future site research and protection/preservation (Martorano 2007). Results of the archaeological assessment revealed a wealth of artifacts on the site and locations of several structures and features, including the remains of a large burned adobe structure and a possible barn/stable constructed of large upright wooden posts. The Teofilo homestead site retains excellent archaeological integrity and recommended further work includes site testing and ground penetrating radar (GPR) investigations.

HISTORIC RESOURCES AT THE PEDRO TRUJILLO HOMESTEAD

The Pedro Trujillo homestead in rural Alamosa County, Colorado, is located about nine miles northeast of the community of Mosca, in an isolated location on a flat plain. The historic complex includes a two-story log dwelling, a log stable, the collapsed remains of a possible structure (outhouse), and a large corral area (Figure 9).

Ranch House (Feature 1), 1879–85

The ranch house is an east-facing two-story rectangular (16 ft × 20 ft) log dwelling (see Figure 5). Most of the windows and doors are missing and the house has been open to the weather and animals for some time. The house has a side gable roof with standing seam metal roofing and overhanging eaves. The design is similar to that of a nineteenth century I-house, although the stairs are located to the side rather than in the center of the interior. The house is composed of mostly unhewn logs, with wide sections of chinking between the logs. The corner logs of the main part of the house have V-notched tops with round bottoms, with some vertical corner boards placed over the notches. The house has a log pier foundation with concrete along the foundation at the front of the building.

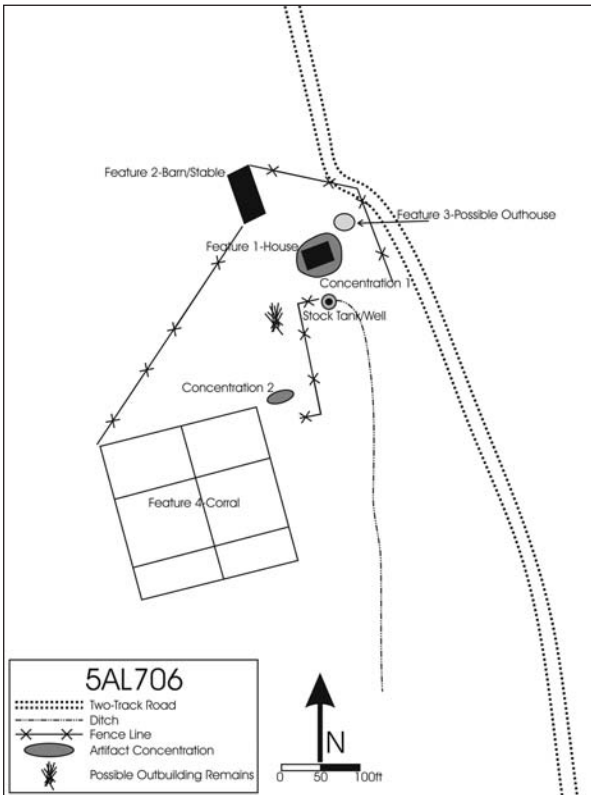


FIGURE 9. Site plan map of the Pedro Trujillo site.

The east wall (front) has round logs on the upper story and square-hewn logs on the lower story. There is a center entrance with plain board surround flanked by tall, narrow windows. Centered above the windows on the second story are window openings of similar size (one window retains the four-section upper part of its frame).

The north wall is composed of round logs extending to the eaves and has no openings. There are plain trim boards. The west wall (rear) of the house has a deteriorated red brick chimney on the slope of the roof. Until recently, the house had a one-story, shed roof, square-hewn log addition on the rear. This component was removed in 2006 in order to stabilize the main house, and the logs were numbered and stored for future reconstruction. The rear wall where the addition was removed exhibits adobe chinking. The south wall of the house has round logs with V notches. The wall has a small window on the first story.

According to a study of the building performed by architect Mark Jones in October 2002, the interior finishes of the building were originally adobe mud and straw plaster, with lime wash and paint (Jones 2003). Later, some areas were wallpapered. The wood floors were originally set on log girders laid on the ground. Both stories of the house have one large open room, and there are stairs at the north end of the first story.

Stable/Barn (Feature 2), pre-1885

The rectangular stable is approximately 52 ft × 25 ft and is composed of round and square-hewn logs. The building has a low gabled roof. The south half of the stable has stalls with wood plank floors, and is open on the east and partially collapsed. The north half of the building has a low entrance near the center with upright logs on either side and hinged vertical board doors. The north wall of the stable is composed of short scrap pieces of wood. The interior is divided into three intact stalls with wood boxes at the rear and has wood plank walls. Trujillo descendants indicate that this building was used as a horse barn.

Collapsed Structure/Possible Outhouse (Feature 3), date unknown

This feature consists of a concentration of milled wood and a shallow circular depression north of the house (Feature 1). Another scatter of milled wood located between the house and the corral may be the remains of one of the out-buildings visible on a 1937 aerial photograph of the site (San Luis Valley Aerial Photographs 1937).

Corral (Feature 4), north portion probably pre-1885; southern portion post-1937

The large corral area is divided into pens and has a long, wide alley. The pens are composed of horizontal boards and log posts. There is a vertical board fence on the north and a pole fence on the south. Gates in the corral have tall poles and cross-pieces. There is a swinging gate at the southeast end and other gates with metal chords. Corner gate complexes permit four pens to be opened and closed for access to other pens or alleys. The loading chute is at the north-

TABLE 1. Artifacts from the Pedro Trujillo site (Martorano et al. 2002).

Location/ Concentration	Artifacts
1	Shell buttons, square nails, glass bottle fragments (purple, green, clear, amber, cobalt), a possible flaked glass tool, milled lumber, cans, bricks, white ceramic fragments, a metal hinge, leather and miscellaneous metal fragments, three manos, and two metate fragments
2	A metal sign, a metal farming implement tooth, miscellaneous metal parts and fragments, purple glass fragments, mano fragment, and a San Juan Red-on-tan Tewa ware sherd (Figure 10) that dates between 1750 and 1925 (Reed 2006b)
3–7	Various tin cans including sanitary, conical, and evaporated milk; clear, brown, and amber bottle glass fragments; a flaked glass tool; window glass; white and orange earthenware; white porcelain fragments; cinders; bricks; thermally-altered rock; a biface; a small corner-notched projectile point; and a vesicular basalt bifacial mano fragment
Scattered throughout site	Purple, clear, and amber glass bottle fragments; miscellaneous metal fragments; leather scraps; a cartridge (unidentified center fire, larger than a .22 long rifle); ceramic fragments; square nails; a mule shoe; smooth wire; barbed wire; a metal staple; a metal rod; a 1917 silver dime (Figure 10); and a single fragment of ground stone

west corner and there is also a branding chute and a metal trough. A collapsed woven wire and log fence is west of the corral.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AT THE PEDRO TRUJILLO HOMESTEAD SITE

The Pedro Trujillo homestead site contains numerous artifacts both scattered around the site and in discrete concentrations (Table 1). These artifacts are important for verifying the written historic information about the site and



FIGURE 10. Pedro Trujillo site artifacts: 1917 dime, on left; San Juan Red-on-Tan Tewa ware sherd, ca. 1750–1925, on right.

also provide additional interesting insight into the site and its occupants through time.

Artifact Concentration 1 surrounds Feature 1, the house. It contains both Native American and historic artifacts. Artifact Concentration 2 is located south-southeast of Feature 1 near the northeast corner of the corral (Feature 4). Five concentrations (3–7) are located further away to the east and north of the house. These are small concentrations probably representing discrete dumping episodes. All of these concentrations contain historic artifacts, and Concentrations 3 and 7 also contain Native American remains. A flaked glass tool (Figure 11) is located in Concentration 7. This artifact was intentionally flaked into a scraping tool and it contains a Hazel-Atlas trademark dating from 1920–1964 (Toulouse 1971:239). Another potential flaked glass tool is located in Concentration 1 in front of the house. Artifacts are also scattered throughout the site area.

The artifacts found at the site represent evidence of domestic occupation and disposal of broken or used items, and remains associated with ranching operations/construction, and maintenance activities. The dates of the artifacts range from possible prehistoric/protohistoric times, the documented historic period occupation (ca. 1879–1902), and from the later historic occupations (ca. 1903–1940s). With the exception of one mano, all the ground stone was located within areas of historic artifact concentrations (Concentrations 1, 2, 3, and 7). Concentration 1, adjacent to the main house, contains the majority of the Native American artifacts, including three manos and two metates. Two of the ground stone artifacts were found near the doors of the house. One of Pedro’s granddaughters reported talking to an elderly relative of his wife, who remembered seeing Sofia using manos and metates to process food items (Maria Tita Causby, personal communication 2004). This suggests that the ground stone



FIGURE 11. Flaked glass tool found in Concentration 7 at the Pedro Trujillo site.

tools may have either been obtained or made by the Trujillo family, or perhaps they were found at nearby prehistoric archaeological sites and then reused. The flaked glass scraper suggests the expedient production of tools possibly related to the cost or lack of easy access to metal tools.

The biface, historic Native American ceramics, the projectile point, and ground stone may represent a possible separate Native American prehistoric or protohistoric/historic occupation, and/or perhaps Historic period Native American or Hispanic American use of prehistoric technology (reuse of prehistoric artifacts or creation of new artifacts). The ceramic sherd also suggests possible trade with or visitation of Native Americans from northern New Mexico where the Trujillo family originated. Pedro's father, Teofilo, may have brought historic Native American trade wares with him when he moved from New Mexico, Pedro may have traded for the ceramics later on, or workers (men or women) on the ranches may have brought in the ceramics and ground stone. As noted earlier, a servant of Native American ancestry was also living nearby with the Teofilo family and may have utilized these items as well.

Early Historic period artifacts include purple glass (ca. 1880–1917) and many square nails. The dime dates to 1917, after the Trujillos left the area. Later Historic period items (Owens-Illinois and Hazel-Atlas glass, wire nails, clear glass, conical and sanitary tin cans, etc.) date to ca. 1920+ (Gillio et al. 1980; Toulouse 1971).

The archaeological component of the Pedro Trujillo site provides a unique opportunity to study cultural change and adaptation by examining possible historic use of Native American technology by other ethnic groups (Hispanics). The site contains a large historic artifact scatter and related structures, and also exhibits a flaked glass tool, a stone biface, a projectile point, historic Native American ceramics from Northern New Mexico, and several pieces of ground stone (manos and metates). These latter items are usually thought to reflect Native American prehistoric or historic use of an area, but considering their location in discrete concentrations on the site with other historic artifacts along with oral historical evidence, it seems likely that they may represent other non-traditional scenarios. Perhaps Native Americans were trading with the early Hispanic American settlers or visiting/working at the site, such as the servant of Native American ancestry who was living nearby with the Teofilo Trujillo family. Early Hispanic American occupants may have been manufacturing tools (ground stone and flaked glass tools) utilizing prehistoric technology. The occupants may also have been utilizing Native American trade items or reusing prehistoric artifacts for specific tasks in addition to utilizing “modern” technologies of the same time period. According to Richard Carrillo (2007:213–233), use of lithic technology, ground stone tools and flaked glass implements has been recorded at other early Hispanic American sites in southeastern Colorado. Sites with evidence of this type of technological adaptation have not been officially documented in the San Luis Valley, but similar adaptations here would not be a surprise. Additional research into the archaeological component of this site and the Teofilo homestead is likely to further our understanding of cultural change and overall relationships

between Hispanic American, Native American, and Anglo American groups, trade patterns, and technological adaptation during the early Hispanic American period in the San Luis Valley.

SUMMARY

The Teofilo and Pedro Trujillo homestead sites in the San Luis Valley are important historic resources. The Teofilo Trujillo homestead site is one of the earliest documented Hispanic American homestead sites in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, and is directly associated with the cattle and sheep wars of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is unique because the basic site history is known—when the site was homesteaded and when it was burned and vacated—and the site appears to be basically intact as abandoned in 1902. The archaeological potential of this site is significant.

The Pedro Trujillo site was associated with Hispanic American settlement in the San Luis Valley in the latter part of the nineteenth century, having been established by a second-generation Hispanic resident. The ranch is representative of small-scale cattle ranching in the area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and its consolidation into a larger cattle operation in 1902 is illustrative of trends in the area. The house is also significant as an unusual two-story example of log homestead house construction.

The Trujillo sites are valuable because they have contributed to our understanding of early Hispanic American settlement and subsistence in the San Luis Valley. There are also many unanswered questions/research topics that could be addressed by further study of the Teofilo and Pedro sites, especially questions related to site ethnicity as outlined by Carrillo (2007:233–250). Potential research topics would include: types of building materials utilized, site layout and use of the landscape, material culture and patterns of use and disposal of artifacts, food sources, interaction, and trade with Hispanic peoples and other ethnic groups, such as Native Americans and Anglo Americans. Further research into the Teofilo site may also yield information about early Hispanic American sheep raising practices. Both sites also have the potential to yield further information to help understand how three different cultures—Hispanic American, Native American and Anglo American—interacted during the early Historic period in the San Luis Valley. The sites may also yield more detailed information about the tensions and violence that occurred between sheep raisers and cattle ranchers, and how they affected the local residents and the overall economy and history of the area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following persons for their contributions to the work on these two sites, from their sharing of historic information and photographs, financial assistance, and editorial suggestions to site access and fieldwork: Kevin Black and an anonymous reviewer, Colorado Historical Society/State Historic Fund, Maria Tita Causby, Andrea Trujillo Lujan, Maria Martinez, J. Robert “Bob” Linger, Paul Robertson, The Nature Conservancy (Medano Zapata Ranch), Fred Bunch, Dr. Adrienne Anderson,

Mark Jones, Christine Whitacre, Dale Heckendorn, Richard Carrillo, David Killam, Tom Simmons, Chris Bevilacqua, Judy King, Dolly McClellan, and many volunteers from the San Luis Valley Archaeological Network and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

REFERENCES CITED

Alamosa Courier

1902a "Article discussing attack on Teofilo Trujillo's sheep calling him 'an inoffensive old man.'" 8 February:1. Alamosa, Colorado.

1902b "Article discussing Teofilo's plans following the sale of his ranch." 1 March:1. Alamosa, Colorado.

Baker, James H., and LeRoy R. Hafen (editors)

1927 *History of Colorado*. Vol. 2. Linderman Co., Inc., Denver.

Carrillo, Richard F.

2007 Ethnicity. In *Colorado History: A Context for Historical Archaeology*, by Minette C. Church, Steven G. Baker, Bonnie J. Clark, Richard F. Carrillo, Jonathon C. Horn, Carl D. Späth, David R. Guilfoyle, and E. Steve Cassells, pp. 177–256. Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Denver, Colorado.

Center Dispatch

1902 "Article discussing fire at Teofilo Trujillo's house." 7 February:1. Center, Colorado.

Colorado State Business Directory

1879 *Colorado State Business Directory, With Colorado Mining Directory and Colorado Live Stock Directory Departments*. J. A. Blake, Denver.

Deutsch, Sarah

1987 *No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on an Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880–1940*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Gibson, Charles E., Jr.

1933– The Original Settler at Medano Springs. Civil Works Administration. Manuscript on file, Colorado Historical Society, Stephen Hart Library, Denver.

1933– Some of My Experiences as a Cowpuncher, Told by Wesley Cole. Civil Works
34b Administration. Manuscript on file, Colorado Historical Society, Stephen Hart Library, Denver.

Gillio, David, Frances Levine, and Douglas Scott (compilers)

1980 *Some Common Artifacts Found at Historical Sites*. Cultural Resource Report No. 31. USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jones, Mark M.

2003 Preliminary Field Assessment Medano Ranch Headquarters Complex & Trujillo Homestead. Prepared for RMC Consultants. Mark M. Jones Associates, Monte Vista, Colorado. Manuscript on file, RMC Consultants, Lakewood, Colorado.

King, Agnes

1947 Settlement of Uracca Recounted by Member of First Family in District. Manuscript on file, The Nature Conservancy, Zapata Ranch, Mosca, Colorado.

Lantis, David William

1950 The San Luis Valley Colorado: Sequent Rural Occupance in an Intermontane Basin. Unpublished Master's thesis, Ohio State University, Columbus. Photocopy on file, Nielsen Library, Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado.

Martinez, Maria

ca. 2000 Pedro Trujillo Family Group Sheet. Manuscript on file, Front Range Research Associates, Inc., Denver.

- Martorano, Marilyn A.
 2007 Archaeological Assessment of the Teofilo Trujillo Homestead (5AL791), Alamosa County, Colorado. State Historic Fund Project #2006-AS-009. Manuscript on file, Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver.
- Martorano, Marilyn A., Ted Hoefler III, David Killam, and Dolly McClellan
 2002 Management Data Form and Historical Archaeology Component Form, 5AL706. Site form on file, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver.
- Monte Vista Journal*
 1902a Sheep Killing. 1 February:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902b "Article discussing the burning of Teofilo Trujillo's house." 8 February:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902c A Cowardly Murder. 15 February:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902d "Article discussing sale of Trujillo ranches and stock." 1 March:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902e "Citing *Prospector* article, discussing serious problem of range war." 29 March:3. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902f "Article mentioning range war." 5 April:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902g District Court. 3 May:1. Monte Vista, Colorado
 1902h "Article discussing lack of action in regard to murder of Hispanic sheep grower." 10 May:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1902i The Gallegos Murder. 7 June:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
 1934 Pedro Trujillo, One of Valley Pioneers, Dies Here Wed. 29 June:1. Monte Vista, Colorado.
- Oliver, Martha
 1985 "Cattle in the Valley." *San Luis Valley Historian* 17(4):1-7.
- Reed, Lori S.
 2006a Ceramic Analysis of site 5AL791, the Teofilo Trujillo Homestead. Animas Ceramic Consulting, Inc. Manuscript on file, RMC Consultants, Inc., Lakewood, Colorado.
 2006b Ceramic Analysis of site 5AL706, the Pedro Trujillo Homestead. Animas Ceramic Consulting, Inc. Manuscript on file, RMC Consultants, Inc., Lakewood, Colorado.
- Saguache Crescent*
 1902 War on Sheep Men. 30 January:1. Saguache, Colorado.
 San Luis Valley Aerial Photographs
 1937 Number 35-31. Photograph on file at the Colorado School of Mines, Lakes Library, Golden, Colorado.
- San Luis Valley Courier*
 1889 "Article on Teofilo Trujillo selling horses." 10 July:1. Alamosa, Colorado.
 Sargents Centennial Bicentennial Committee
 ca. 1977 *Sargents Stanley Community Reflections*. Sargents Centennial Bicentennial Committee, Sargents, Colorado.
- Simmons, R. Laurie, and Thomas H. Simmons
 2003 Pedro Trujillo Homestead National Register Nomination. Manuscript on file, Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.
- Simmons, Virginia McConnell
 1999 *The San Luis Valley: Land of the Six-Armed Cross*. 2nd ed. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, Colorado.
- Spencer, Frank C.
 1925 *The Story of the San Luis Valley*. Alamosa Journal, Alamosa, Colorado.
- Steinel, Alvin T.
 1926 *History of Agriculture in Colorado*. State Agricultural College, Fort Collins.

Stewart, Rosamarie Morris

1992 Zapata: Jewel of the San Luis Valley. Manuscript on file, The Nature Conservancy, Mosca, Colorado.

Toulouse, Julian H.

1971 *Bottle Makers and their Marks*. Thomas Nelson, Inc., New York.

Wallihan, S. S. & Co.

1870 *The Rocky Mountain Directory and Colorado Gazetteer for 1871*. S. S. Wallihan & Company, Denver.

Williamson, Samuel H.

2006 Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a U.S. Dollar Amount, 1790–2005, MeasuringWorth.Com, 2006. Electronic document, <http://eh.net/hmit/compare/>, accessed June 30, 2006.

NOTES

¹ Historic documents indicate various spellings of the elder Trujillo's first name; the most frequently used are "Teofilo" and "Tiofilo." Some sources indicate that Teofilo was born in 1840 in Abiquiu, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico.

² Costilla County, one of 17 territorial counties, included the Medano Springs area until 1913, when Alamosa County was created.

³ Seven children were born to the Trujillos, but only Pedro survived to adulthood due to the impact of typhoid fever and diphtheria (Maria Martinez, personal communication 2002; USDI, BC 1870, 1900, 1910).

⁴ Although he had been living on the land since the 1860s, Trujillo did not file his homestead claim until 1881.

⁵ The census reported 22,510 sheep and 1,267 cattle (excluding milk cows) in the county.

⁶ The 1870 census indicated that Teofilo could not read, but the censuses of 1900 and 1910 recorded that he could.

⁷ Trujillo had a surprisingly large number of horses for the size of his operation, and local newspapers reported his offering horses for sale (*San Luis Valley Courier*, 10 July 1889:1). The largest cattle corporation in the state in the 1880s, the Prairie Cattle Company, used 300 horses to manage its 54,000 cattle (Baker and Hafen 1927:666).

⁸ The census indicates that the female boarder could read and write and was born in New Mexico of French and New Mexican parents.

⁹ Mrs. Trujillo's name is sometimes spelled "Sophia" in historic documents, and the number of children is variously reported as 14, 15, or 16. Children who survived to adulthood included eight sons and five daughters.

¹⁰ Various calculators for the 2005 value of \$30,000 spent in 1902 range from \$580,241.38 to more than \$15 million (Williamson 2006).