

Guide to the Jesse Walter Fewkes photographs of excavations in Mesa Verde National Park

Photo Lot 30

**Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History
National Anthropological Archives
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Suitland, MD 20746
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www.nmnh.si.edu/naa**

Guide to the Jesse Walter Fewkes photographs of excavations in Mesa Verde National Park Circa 1919-1921

Photo Lot:	30
Creator:	Fewkes, Jesse Walter, 1850-1930
Title:	Jesse Walter Fewkes Photographs of Excavations in Mesa Verde National Park
Date Span:	Circa 1919-1921
Quantity:	45 prints (1 document box and 1 flat box): silver gelatin and photostat 3 sketches on graph paper

Summary: Photographs, drawings, and maps related to Jesse Walter Fewkes' excavations in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. Some of the items are original illustrations for Fewkes' publications. There are original photographs by George L. Beam taken for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad that show Square Tower House, Fire Temple, Cedar Tree Tower, Oak Tree House, and ladders to Fewkes Canyon; original field drawings of plans of Cedar Tree Tower and Fire Temple House, and elevation of the west wall of the Fire Temple House, the interior of New Fire House Plaza, and other material. Photographs show the ruins and paths through the park before and after excavations and repair.

Biographical Note: Jesse Walter Fewkes (1850-1930) was a naturalist, anthropologist, and archeologist, and chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology from 1918 to his death in 1928.

Fewkes' career is divided into two distinct research fields and time periods. The first deals with marine zoology and the second with anthropology. Fewkes received a Ph.D. in marine zoology from Harvard in 1877, and was curator of lower invertebrates at the Museum of Comparative Zoology until 1887. While on a collecting trip in the western United States, he became interested in the culture and history of the Pueblo Indians. In 1891, Fewkes became director of the Hemenway Southwestern Archeological Expedition and editor of the *Journal of American Archeology and Ethnology*, studying and recording Hopi ceremonials.

In 1895 he embarked on various archaeological explorations for the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology, excavating ruins in Arizona, Casa Grande, the Mimbres Valley, the West Indies, and Florida. He was appointed chief of the Bureau in 1918, and was influential in the creation of Hovenweep National Monument in Colorado and

Wupatki National Monument in Arizona. During the summers of 1908-1909, 1915-1916, and 1918-1922, Fewkes worked almost exclusively on excavations and repair of ruins in Mesa Verde National Park.

Historical Background: Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado is home to numerous archeological sites, including cliff dwellings, pit houses, masonry towers, pueblos, and reservoirs. These were built by Western Anasazi people who lived in the area from A.D. 600 to 1200. It was established as a national park by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906; Fewkes first began excavations in the park in 1908.

Arrangement: The items are arranged by archeological site name, in rough chronological order of excavation.

Scope and Content: Photographs, drawings, and maps related to Jesse Walter Fewkes' excavations in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. Some of the items are original illustrations for Fewkes' publications. There are original photographs by George L. Beam taken for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad that show Square Tower House, Fire Temple, Cedar Tree Tower, Oak Tree House, and ladders to Fewkes Canyon; original field drawings of plans of Cedar Tree Tower and Fire Temple House, and elevation of the west wall of the Fire Temple House, the interior of New Fire House Plaza, and other material. Photographs show the ruins and paths through the park before and after excavations and repair.

Preferred Citation: Photo Lot 30, the Jesse Walter Fewkes Photographs of Excavations in Mesa Verde National Park, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Bibliography:

Fewkes, Jesse Walter. "Ancient Remains in Colorado." *Scientific American* 122, no. 22 (1920): 598, 606, 608-610.

----- . "Field-work on the Mesa Verde National Park." Explorations and Field-work of the Smithsonian Institution in 1920. *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* 72, no. 6 (1921): 75-94.

----- . "Fire Worship of the Hopi Indians." *Smithsonian Annual Report for 1920*, p. 589-610. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1922.

----- . "New Fire House, a ruin lately excavated in the Mesa Verde." *Art and Archeology*, 10 (1920): 44-46.

----- . "Square Tower House." *Southern Workman* 49, no. 7 (1920): 309-314, 320.

----- . "Sun Worship of the Hopi Indians." *Smithsonian Annual Report for 1918*, p. 493, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1920.

----- . "Two Types of Southwestern Cliff Houses." *Smithsonian Annual Report for 1919*, p. 421-426 . Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1921.

Restrictions on Use: The collection is open to the public.

Related Material: The NAA holds the records of the Bureau of American Ethnology, of which Fewkes served as chief and through which he conducted the excavations documented in this collection; these records largely consist of correspondence sent and received by the bureau. The NAA also holds a collection of Photographic Prints (MS 4321), the Jesse Walter Fewkes Papers (MS 4408), and other manuscript collections by and related to Fewkes' ethnological research and archeology and his work with the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Note on Processing: Some of the photographs have been digitized and are available through the Smithsonian Institute Research Information System (SIRIS). The file name for these is listed in the inventory. The collection was processed by Sarah Ganderup, 2011.

Finding aid prepared by: Sarah Ganderup, 2011.

Note on Description: Collection and image descriptions provided in this finding aid were compiled using the best available sources of information. Such sources include the creator's annotations or descriptions, collection accession files, primary and secondary source material (i.e. documents, publications, and websites), and subject matter experts. While every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is understood that errors may reveal themselves following review by other subject experts, and new information is welcome.

Repository Information

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Inventory

Box/Folder	Item	Description
Maps indicating Location of Mesa Verde Ruins		
2/1 and 1/1	1	Map of ruins in Navaho, Cliff and Soda Canyons. (Digital file 02620900)
1/1	2	Map of Sun Temple Section in Cliff Canyon
Square Tower House		
1/2	3	Square Tower House before excavation and repair, viewed from the west, 1920. (Digital file 02620000, 02620100)
1/2	4	Square Tower House, viewed from below. (Digital file 02619600)
1/2	5	Five men and two women standing amidst ruins, probably at or near Square Tower House. (Digital file 02619200)
1/2	6	Middle section of Square Tower House, viewed from the canyon rim. (Digital file 02619702)
1/2	7	Western section of Square Tower House after excavation and repair, viewed from above. (Digital file 02619701)
1/2	8	Square Tower House after excavation and repair, viewed from the south. (Digital file 02620200)
1/2 and 2/2	9-10	Square Tower House after excavation and repairs, viewed from the canyon rim. (Digital file 02620600, 02620700) Item 10 photographed by George L. Beam, courtesy of Denver and Rio Grande R.R.
1/3	11	Ground Plan of Square Tower House showing excavated and unexcavated areas. (Digital file)
1/2	12	Interior of a kiva at Square Tower House. (Digital file 02619300)
1/3	13	A reed mat (probably willow) found in the room west of Kiva D at Square Tower House, 1920. (Digital file 02619800)
1/3	14	Carved stone, possibly from Square Tower House, 1920. (Digital file 02620800) On verso: "Incised maze on one face of a cubical stone found with idol of the germ god, Fig. 14. The dotted line does not exist on the specimen, but was placed there to enable the reader to trace the meander."
2/2	15	Printed sketch of a wreath made from plant fibers (possibly a

Box/Folder	Item	Description
		head ring ¹), from Square Tower House, 1920. (Digital file)
1/3	16	Printed sketch of an awl, probably from Square Tower House, 1920. (Digital file)
1/3	17	Printed sketch of a broken wooden implement (possibly an awl or prayer stick), probably from Square Tower House. (Digital file)
1/3	18-19	Printed sketch of a wooden implement (possibly a prayer stick), probably from Square Tower House. (Digital file)
1/3	20-21	Printed sketch of a wood board, probably from Square Tower House. (Digital file)
1/3	22	Printed sketch of a wooden implement (possibly a needle), probably from Square Tower House. (Digital file)
1/3	23	Printed sketch of a clay pot, probably from Square Tower House. (Digital file)
Earth Lodge A		
1/4	24	Excavated wall of Earth Lodge A showing adobe plastering on earth and one of the roof beams, 1920. (Digital file 02620300)
1/4	25	Man standing near the shed built over Earth Lodge A to protect it from the elements, 1920. (Digital file 02619800)
Fire Temple		
1/5	26	Ground Plan of Fire Temple. (Digital file)
2/3	27	Fewkes standing in the eastern section of Fire Temple, with Fire Temple House in the caves beyond. (Digital file 02621300)
1/5	28	Ruins with a kiva entrance, probably from Fire Temple or Fire Temple House. (Digital file 02620500)
1/5	29	Fire symbols painted on a wall, probably from Fire Temple. Probably photographed by Lewis J. Ott. (Digital file 02619400)
Fire Temple House		
2/3	30	Hand-sketched ground plan with notes on excavation at Fire Temple House. (Digital file)
1/6	31	Ground plan of Fire Temple House upper section. (Digital file)
2/3	32	Ground plan of Fire Temple House lower section. (Digital file)
1/6	33	Hand-sketched elevation of the west wall and ground plan of New Fire House Plaza. (Digital file)

¹ See Jesse Walter Fewkes, "Antiquities of the Mesa Verde National Park: Spruce Tree House," *Bulletin 41, Bureau of American Ethnology* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1909).

Box/Folder	Item	Description
Views from Sun Point Road		
1/7	34	View of a cliff face, with three men and one woman climbing across using a rope. (Digital file 02619100) On verso: "Section of the Indian trail from the canyon ruin to Square Tower House. The cliff below is almost perpendicular for over a hundred feet. A party of [risktakers] is shown climbing along the trail aided by a rope."
1/7	35	Woman (Mrs. Fewkes?) looking over a rail into Mesa Verde, probably near Square Tower House. (Digital file 02619500) On verso: "A new foot path blasted in the cliff at the most difficult part of the ancient trail."
2/4	36	Trail along the cliff from Sun Point Road to Fire Temple. Photographed by George L. Beam, courtesy of Denver and Rio Grande R.R. (Digital file 02621200)
2/4	37	Fire Temple Group viewed from Sun Point Road. Photographed by George L. Beam, courtesy of Denver and Rio Grande R.R. (Digital file 02621000)
2/4	38	Oak Tree House viewed from Sun Point Road. Photographed by George L. Beam, courtesy of Denver and Rio Grande R.R. (Digital file 02621100)
Cedar Tree Tower		
2/5	39	Ground plan of Cedar Tree Tower and kiva. (Digital file)
2/5	40	Hand-sketch with notes on excavation at Cedar Tree Tower. (Digital file)
2/5	41	Cedar Tree Tower and kiva. (Digital file 02621400)
Far View Tower		
1/7	42	Pottery or stone bowl with maze-like design, from Far View Tower. (Digital file 02620400)