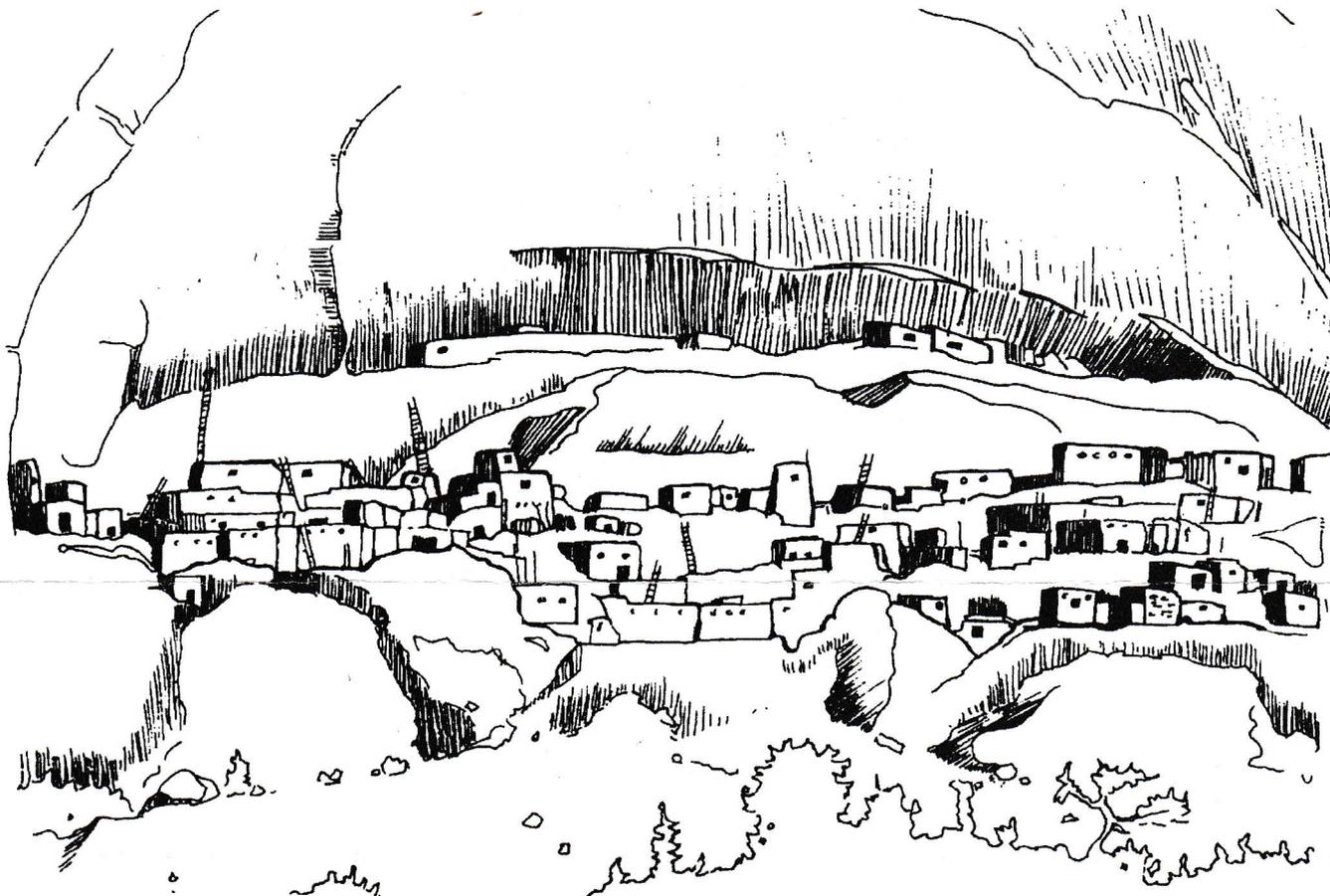


Family Home

Tsegi Canyon
A.D. 1250 ñ 1300

This room cluster is a replica of a family dwelling in Betatakin. It has been constructed to give you some idea of what *home* meant to Tsegi Canyon farmers in the thirteenth century. This group would comprise only one living unit within the larger setting of a pueblo. During this period, people lived in villages constructed as a series of rooms in a fashion that suggest to us a modern apartment house. Archeologists apply the term *pueblo* to this architectural style, from a Spanish word that means *town*. *Pueblo* is also the name given to cultures that have built and lived in villages of this type, both prehistorically and in modern times.



Family Dwelling

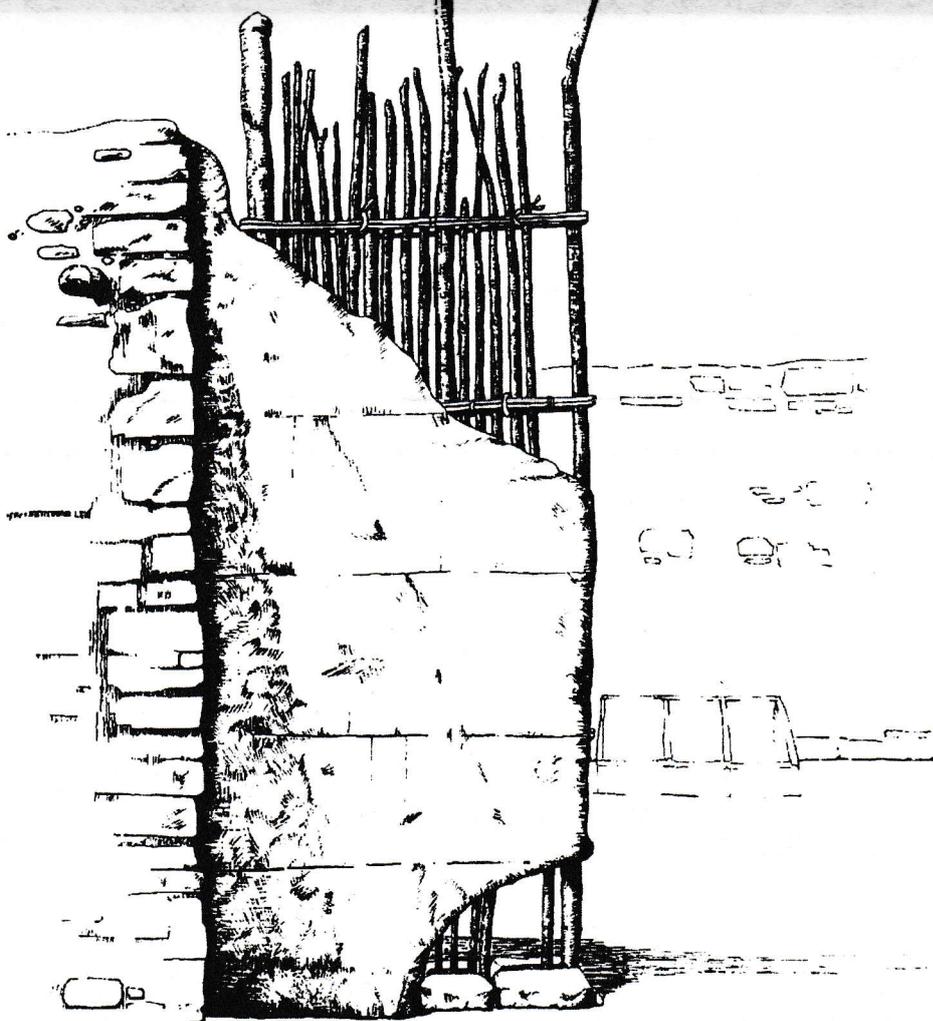
The open area between rooms is a courtyard. The layout here is considered typical of the Tsegi Phase. The courtyard served as a fair-weather place for gathering, working, cooking, and eating. The boxes set in the bedrock floor are mealing bins that enclose large, sloping grinding stones called *metates*. Corn and other foods were ground on *metates* by using small, hand-held grinders known as *manos*. From what we know of later Pueblo life, the courtyards and mealing bins were also important places for socializing.

The room to your left was used mainly for sleeping. A fire pit was used to heat this small, dark, and poorly ventilated room. Keeping the room warm in winter was more important than having individual bedrooms or even good ventilation. A storage room, in this case a granary, is located to the right of the

courtyard. Such rooms were designed to protect food, clothing, and other perishable material from insects, rodents, and the weather.

You can see the construction details in the *jacal* (halkal) walls that form the front of the living room and the courtyard.

The average family dwelling had one or more living rooms with a storage room or rooms clustered around a central courtyard. A family, with children and perhaps other relatives occupied a cluster such as this. Local architecture indicates that related families lived next to each other in the pueblos. We can see tightly grouped room clusters in some sections, or courtyard complexes or similar architectural features that reflect the social bonds of an extended family.



The Kayenta people used stone, soil, wood, bark, reeds, and grasses either alone or in combination to build their rooms. Their masonry, in general, is more crude than that of Chaco and Mesa Verde, partly because of the larger amounts of mortar

in relation to stone that they used in their walls. They also made heavy use of this mortar in building their walls on the steeply pitched alcove floors. Also note the complexity of the roof construction.

Clues from the Past

Similar structures built in the open have not withstood seven hundred years of weathering as well as those in the alcoves of Tsegi Canyon. Here they were protected and the perishable building materials such as wood and roof beams were preserved. Tree-ring studies of the beams from this area have yielded a great deal of information. They tell us what kind of trees were used and when they were cut. From these studies we can tell when construction took place and also the sequence in which it was done.

