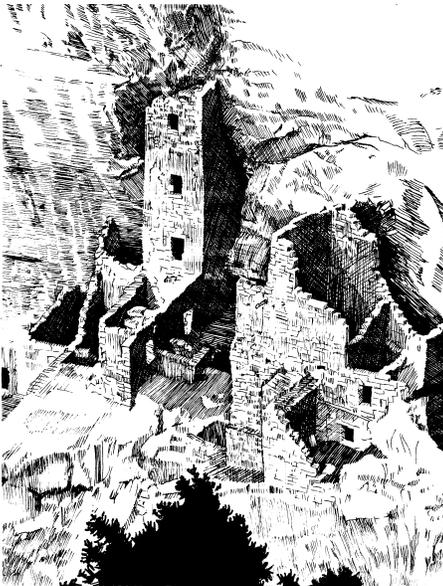


ARCHITECTURE

EHLINGER & ASSOCIATES

SECOND QUARTER 1999



SQUARE TOWER HOUSE
Mesa Verde, Colorado

Square Tower House is the name of the cliff dwelling pueblo that is built in an upper alcove of the sides of Navajo Canyon which defines one side of Chapin Mesa, one of the major mesas at Mesa Verde (Spanish for "Green Table"). The name is derived from the 86 foot tall striking tower structure shown in the left center of this issue's limited edition print by Ladd P. Ehlinger. The tower is built and braced against the rear wall of the alcove (produced by erosion of the cliff side), and had doorways, windows, and flooring, with the inner walls plastered.

Only about 60 of the original 80 rooms of Square Tower House remain. A spring below the alcove provided water to inhabitants. Many other pueblos did not have a spring or other obvious source of water, and may have collected snowfall and rainfall. Access was by ladder and hand and toe holes chipped into the cliff walls. This pueblo was occupied at the end of habitation of Mesa Verde between A.D. 1200 - 1300.

The peoples who lived at Mesa Verde are a mystery, and have been

dubbed by the present day American Indians as "Anasazi" - the ancient ones. We know that they migrated to this area sometime around A.D. 600 and left sometime around A.D. 1300, probably due to a long and severe drought.

The climate here is classified as semi-arid or Steppe type, with a limited water supply, and unreliable rainfall. The average annual precipitation is 14 to 18 inches, with most in the form of snow. In good years, this Steppe type climate has a long growing season, moderately warm summers for crop growth, reasonably dependable summer rains, not too cold in winter, adequate winter precipitation, suitable soils for crops, and springs.

The mesas gently slope from a high of about 8,500 feet in the north to about 6000 feet in the south. The fertile soil is on the top of the mesas. The rainfall and snow melt has eroded the dry creeks over the eons into deep canyons, the steep sides and bottoms of which are not arable. On the tops piñon and juniper forest are the dominant native flora along with some oak and various types of brush, while in the canyons very little grows due to the lack of soil. The tops were an ideal place for cultivating corn, beans and peppers, the mainstay of the Anasazi diet.

It is very difficult to understand why the Anasazi built these pueblos where they built them until one actually sees and experiences the environment. The tops of the mesas have strong prevailing winds with little shelter, other than in the canyons. Temperatures are hotter in the canyons in the summer and colder in the winter. When one is below the mesa top in the alcoves, one is shielded from the wind, and if facing south, warmed by the sun. So climate may have been a major reason, but there are some pueblos that don't face in the proper direction and are always cold. Also, the porosity of the soil was such that many of the pueblos had springs or even running creeks nearby,

but there were some that archaeologists are fairly sure had no natural source of water. There are some who believe that defense was the major reason for building in the alcoves, although there are some pueblos that have fairly easy access while others are very difficult. We will probably never know for sure, but the writer subscribes to the climate theory after having walked the ground.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Jerone H. Bostick has recently joined E&A in the New Orleans office as project architect. Jerone brings 22 years experience to the job in various commercial, institutional and residential projects. He is a member of the AIA (American Institute of Architects), CSI (Construction Specifications Institute), and SAME (Society of Military Engineers). He attended University of Southwestern Louisiana, U.S. Army Engineer School, and is a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve. Jerone has many computer skills including AutoCad, Primavera & Microsoft Project Management, and various word processing and spreadsheet software. His wife's name is Annabelle and his daughter's name is Anastasia.

ALSO WELCOME ABOARD!

Ray Rareshide has also just joined E&A in the New Orleans office as clerical staff support. She was employed at Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, where she was the assistant to the Fundraising Campaign Director. A native of New York, Ray has lived in the lowest part of New Orleans for 20 years and has been flooded out three times. She now knows the major evacuation routes out of the city and which hotels accept animals. She attends the University of New Orleans at night, and she is a mom to Elisabeth, a sophomore at Rice University; Anne, 17 years old and Charles, 14 years old.

AGAIN WELCOME ABOARD!

Jeffery D. Willis has joined E&A's Huntsville office as Intern Architect. Jeff has an interesting and varied background. He attended Architecture school for 4 years at Auburn University after a stint as a graphics artist, running his own silk screen printing business, and joining the U. S. Army Reserve and doing some active duty. He then went back to architecture school, but this time at University of Southwestern Louisiana where he received a Bachelor of Architecture in 1997. Jeff joins us as an intern with strong computer skills which he will be honing while working toward becoming licensed.

E&A CRAWFISH PARTY

E&A recently held its biannual crawfish party at the "Rustic Lodge" on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.

The 120 pounds of crawfish and 50 pounds of shrimp were flown from New

Orleans to Birmingham where they were picked up by Perrin and whisked off to the Rustic Lodge. We had a scare when the crawfish did not make the plane they were scheduled for -- visions of over a hundred hungry guests with nothing to eat but the jambalaya that Spitale's Restaurant in Metairie had prepared that Ladd & Dana transported up.

It all worked out with no food left over as the Huntsvillians have truly learned how to eat crawfish with the best. This was our first year having the event at the Rustic Lodge which turned out to be an ideal facility for this type of event. There was no left over



HERE IS A PLATTER WITH ALL OF THE TRIMMINGS!



EVERYONE PASSING A GOOD TIME!
Laissez les bon temps roulez!

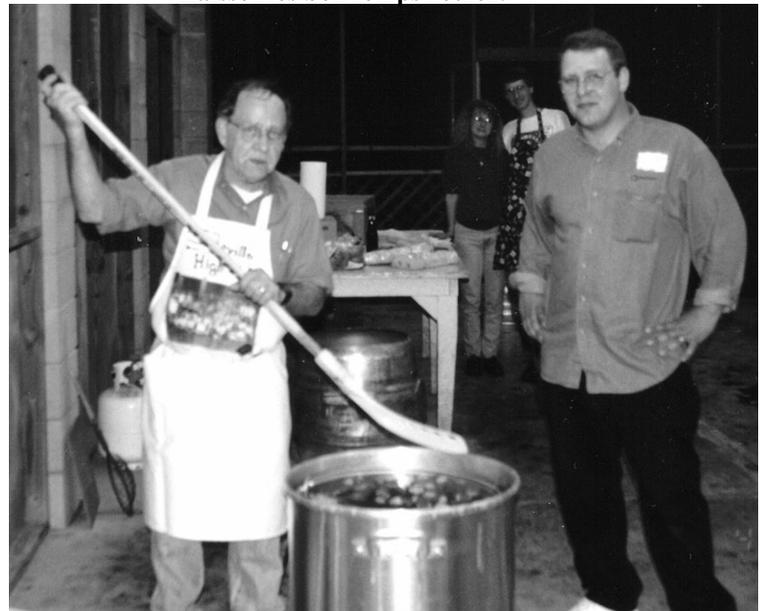


CORIN EHLINGER'S FIRST CRAWFISH @ 14 MOS

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crawfish odor or parts to contend with at the office the next

day either! The Army checklist for the cleanup by the numbers was a big appreciated help. Many thanks to Jack Isom for helping to arrange the use of the Rustic Lodge.



HAP HABISREITINGER, THE CHEF, WITH PERRIN, CORIN'S DAD