San Marcos Pueblo Tour

On Saturday May 12, 2012 the Site Steward Foundation sponsored a tour to The Archaeological Conservancy owned site of San Marcos Pueblo. Bill Baxter was our expert guide explaining the history of San Marcos Pueblo and the surrounding area. San Marcos was an important site due to many factors including its closeness to the nearby turquoise mines in the Cerrillos hills and its manufacture and trade of glaze ware pottery.

Pottery found on the surface of the site indicates probable occupation in the middle to late 1200’s. San Marcos Pueblo, “Ya’atze” in the Keres language, was active in the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and the settlement was abandoned shortly there after.

Covering approximately 60 acres, the San Marcos Pueblo has 22 room blocks which enclose from eight to ten plazas. With about 2,000 ground floor rooms it may have the largest room count for a prehistoric pueblo in the United States. At the northwest corner are the remains of the Spanish Franciscan mission church and convento built in the early 1630’s. San Marcos is one of only two mission villages in the Galisteo Basin.

Bill Baxter, Guide