

encouraging wildlife corridors throughout Open Space properties in the East Mountains, including those owned by the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and the U.S. Forest Service, is an important consideration in the resource development at all Open Space properties.

III. HISTORY AND CULTURE

A. Tijeras Canyon—Early Population Patterns

There is some evidence suggesting that the Tijeras Canyon area (including the Village of San Antonio) was used *sporadically* by Archaic era hunters and gatherers between 8000 B.C. and 1 B.C.. Around 700 A.D., during the Prehistoric era, domestic crops were periodically planted within the canyon. These domestic crop plantings were introduced in Tijeras Canyon long after they had been introduced in other Southwest areas.

In 1975, the remains of the old San Antonio settlement were excavated. Carbon dating evidence indicates human use at the site dating back to the 1200s (Cordell 1980). Evidence also supports the claim that population numbers increased slightly between 1300 and 1425 A.D. based on the number of archeological sites and the architecture found at these sites. These population shifts are likely attributable to the *aggregation* of persons at San Antonio and Tijeras Pueblo. During the Sixteenth Century, the number of settlement sites decreased and with it came a corresponding decrease in population. As a result, human reliance on natural resources also decreased in the canyon environment (Cordell 1980).

Currently, there is no evidence showing permanent settlements were established within the canyon during the Seventeenth and early part of the Eighteenth Centuries. It was during this time, however, that the Faraoan Apaches used the area as staging grounds for raids on lower lying settlements. Undoubtedly, both Indian and Hispanic parties entered the canyon to camp for short periods of time. *By 1763, the Comanche had replaced the Faraoan Apache as the most feared and most admired of the nomadic raiders of Hispanic hamlets and Pueblo villages. It was in response to this Comanche threat that the land grant Cañon de Carnue was founded as a buffer community, with its town called San Miguel de Laredo located somewhere within the struggling community now known as Carnuel (Cordell 1980).* The colonial government—through the establishment of the land grant and land grant communities—gave land ownership incentives to subjects willing to settle in areas that could provide some measure of defense of the territory considered to be more economically valuable. [Cordell 1980.]

In 1819, 22 Albuquerque families were installed at San Antonio de Padua as a *Cañon de Carnue* community land grant. The *Cañon de Carnue* land grant allowed for the establishment of villages and hamlets wherever feasible. The settlers at San Antonio were given agricultural land allotments that extended southward to the first waterfall on the San Antonio Creek. Early settlers within the land grant area faced many challenges including repeated Indian raids, recurrent water supply problems, and poor harvests. These challenges forced some settlers to abandon their homesteads, leaving many reluctant to return. [Cordell 1980.]

Population shifts continued within the Tijeras Canyon villages between 1860 and 1880. Since the mid-1930s, San Antonio was one of two primary population centers along with the Village of Tijeras and it was home to the only church in the canyon during this period. According to the 1880 census, Carnuel posted 10 households, San Antonio had 35, and Tijeras had 15.

B. American Civil War

It was during this same time period that the American Civil War occurred. San Antonio played a pivotal role for Union troops during the war. On April 1, 1862, Colonel Edward Richard Sprigg Canby led a contingent of 860 *regulars*, 350 volunteers, and four pieces of artillery from Fort Craig in southern New Mexico. They headed north toward Albuquerque hoping to unite with other Union forces already in northern New Mexico. On April 8, Canby and his troops arrived outside of Albuquerque to find Confederate forces occupying the town. Although they were likely outnumbered 5 to 1, the Confederate resistance made a convincing show of force. *Canby had hoped to occupy and hold Albuquerque until the junction with the troops from Fort Union could be effected. Thwarted in this, he now turned to the other alternative* (Hall 1960).

After sundown on April 9, Canby's troops made a stealthy withdraw through Carnuel Pass between the Sandia and Manzano Mountains (now known as Tijeras Canyon) and after marching all night, they set up camp at San Antonio later the next day. Canby received word on the 11th that a junction with the Fort Union troops could now be accomplished *at any point*. Canby waited at San Antonio for the arrival of the Fort Union column. It was from this vantage point that he could track the movements of the Confederates.

Canby's departure from Albuquerque on April 9, 1862 came precipitously close to a premature confrontation with the whole of the Confederate army located in the New Mexico Territory. Thomas Green's Fifth Regiment arrived in Albuquerque the same night that Colonel

Canby's column departed for San Antonio, closely followed by the remainder of the Confederate troops on the 10th of April. Canby's *wily maneuver* robbed the Confederates of their last chance to regain the initiative. *Had Canby tarried just one day longer, he would have been met by all the Army of New Mexico [the Confederate contingent]. . . . The opportunity to conquer New Mexico for the Confederacy had slipped away with Canby's quiet nocturnal departure for Carnuel Pass (Hall, 1960).* Had Union forces failed to prevail in the New Mexico Territory, Confederate troops were likely to continue their quest to occupy California, securing a Pacific port, and more than double the size of the struggling Confederacy. Needless to say, had they succeeded, the eventual outcome of the Civil War may have been different.

C. 20th Century Tijeras Canyon

After the Civil War concluded and the nomadic Indians had been forced onto reservations, the *Cañon de Carnue* communities in Tijeras Canyon lost their character as buffer outposts. Poor canyon roads left these villages as an isolated network of communities unified by their common heritage as land grantees and the interwoven kinship connections among the families. Two major factors led to the erosion of these connections beginning around 1890. First, the confirmation of land grant status sought by the constituents of the U.S. Government led to a disappointing outcome—all but 809 hectares of the original 36,537 hectares were lost to the grantees. Although settlers continued to graze cattle on the *Carnue* grazing and forest lands years after it had been designated as the Cibola National Forest, leased access to these lands were closed off to *Carnue* community grant heirs after World War II. [Cordell 1980.]

The canyon economy underwent significant change and precipitated a second major blow to the land grant communities when the mining boom and railway construction era ended. The subsequent opening of a coal mine delayed the complete decline of the Tijeras Canyon economy and the Prohibition Era led to a lucrative cottage industry for some families making bootleg whiskey—*The excellent spring water of San Antonio gave the product a high reputation* (Cordell 1980).

The end of the Prohibition Era and the stock market crash of 1929 and the impending Great Depression brought with it a significant decline in the local economy along with a mass return of land grant families to the canyon. With few job opportunities, families return to subsistence farming and the grazing of small livestock herds. The 1930s marked—in large part—the end of this reliance upon natural resources for subsistence support. It was around

this time that Charles Wright, founder and owner of the Albuquerque Trading Post, purchased the property. Mr. Wright ran a small farm and ranching operation. He built a home on the property and he experimented with orchard and grape plantings. Remnants of the old home, which burned to the ground during the 1970's, can be found at the south end of the orchard. He also diverted the stream and built a holding pond for the community downstream. America's entry into World War II later led to a widespread dispersion of the Tijeras Canyon population. [Cordell 1980.]

Demographic changes in the canyon population occurred, however, even before the onset of World War II. The area's favorable semi-arid climate led to the establishment of several Tuberculosis recuperation centers both in Albuquerque and in the Tijeras Canyon hillsides above land grant villages. U.S. Highway 66 was rebuilt after World War II and the remaining land grant area of the *Cañon de Carnue* became surrounded by bedroom community developments. The construction of Interstate Highway 40 during the 1960s created *an even more massive trend toward population growth, changes in land use, and disruption of the land grant villages. Highway 19 and State Highway 14 now literally bisected several of the communities, undermining the integrity of kin, neighbor, social, religious, and economic unity* (Cordell 1980)." The County purchased the property in 1999 to maintain the property's integrity.

IV. LAND USE

A. Onsite Activities

No improvements have been made at Ojito other than the installation of signs to indicate property ownership. There have been no coordinated activities at Ojito since the County purchased it. The County relies on local residents to report suspicious and illegal activity.

B. Structures

The remains of onsite structures help convey the story of Ojito's past. The old house foundation remains a predominant, built feature on the property. The foundation will require significant repairs to be useable; however, it does present limited opportunities for adaptive re-use. The *acequia* waterfall basin is adjacent to the house foundation and the pipe flume that conveys water from one watercourse to the other are examples of structural features that