Abstract

Title: Dust to Dust: A Comparative Look At the Methods Used to Preserve Ten Earthen Sites in the United States and Mexico

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This thesis explores the question of what techniques work best in the conservation of historic, exposed earthen sites. In it, I take a comparative look at the methods used to preserve ten earthen sites in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The ten sites being examined are: Casa Grande, AZ; Coronado, NM; Dorgan House (Big Bend), TX; Fort Craig, NM; Fort Davis, TX; Fort Selden, NM; Fort Union, NM; Paquimé (Casas Grandes), Mexico; Pecos, NM; and Tumacacori, NM. The main categories of conservation techniques and issues that are examined are protective coatings, capping and veneer application, wall foundations, drainage, wall braces and supports, vegetation, shelters, roofs, reconstructions, reburial. All sites are public, interpreted and have some level of active preservation maintenance. Well over one hundred years of site management is represented.