PROJECT PARTNER: Canyon de Chelly National Monument

PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION:
Inhabited by diverse peoples for over 5,000 years, Canyon de Chelly is today located in the heart of Navajo Nation. To this day, the canyon serves as home for Navajo families while remaining an invaluable national archaeological and cultural treasure.

Volunteers walk across the stunning desert landscape near Canyon de Chelly. Photo by our volunteer Sara Davis.

Visitors to this National Monument will be awed by the canyon’s dramatic red cliffs reaching toward storybook-blue Southwestern skies. In the 19th and early 20th century, the area was a hub for traders and merchants. One trader built the Thunderbird Log Barn, the site of our project, for storage space in the early 20th century, and a small community developed around it. In 1931, Canyon de Chelly became a National Monument, and the Navajo Nation and the National Park Service (NPS) administer the park jointly. The NPS wants to designate the community as a historic district, starting with the log barn restoration. This is HistoriCorps' second project at this location.

A view of the south wall of the barn, in 2015 before repairs (L) and after HistoriCorps
WHAT: In order to complete the structural rehabilitation of the Thunderbird Log Barn, volunteers:

- Replaced and repaired the barn’s log walls
- Rebuilt the barn’s foundation
- Rehanged doors
- Repaired the barn’s roof

WHERE: Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Chinle, AZ
(map) Nearest town: Chinle, AZ