

# Confluence of Trade



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro  
National Historic Trail

The Pueblo of Pojoaque  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management

An ancient, basic balance of elements brought puebloan people together to trade at the confluence of the Rio Nambe and the Rio Tesuque, near the Pueblo of Pojoaque (*Po-suwae-geh*). Pueblo communities brought different materials and goods from within their territories—components brought from varied habitats to fulfill the needs of many families.

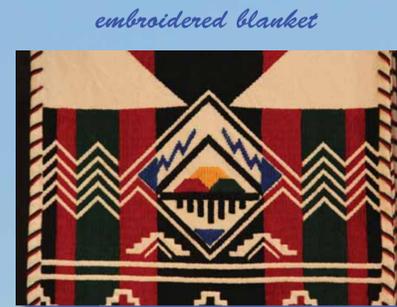
Trading turquoise, shells, clay, volcanic ash, and cotton allowed tradesman to transform raw materials into everyday needs: vessels used for storing food and water; inlaid pendants worn for ceremony and pleasure; and blankets and clothes embellished with colorful embroidery. For five centuries this was a simple yet intricate life.



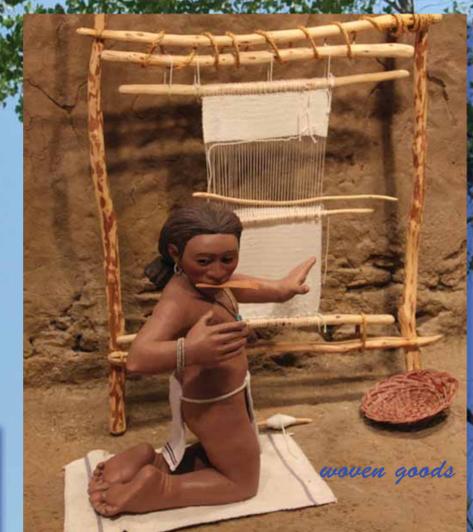
*Rio Nambe*

*Rio Tesuque*

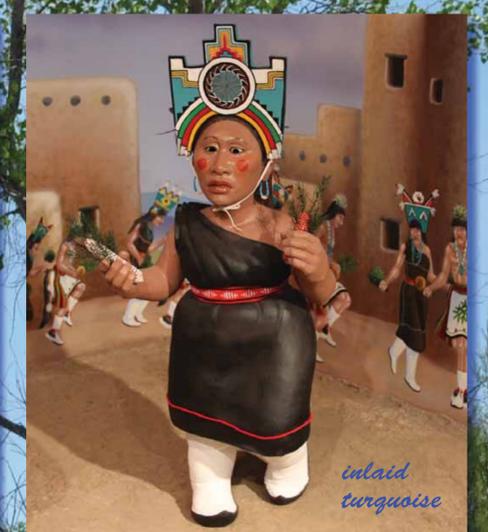
Posuwaegh Owingeh (the Pueblo of Pojoaque) is described in Tewa language as “Water Drinking Place.” It was an important stop for travelers to refresh themselves and let their livestock drink before heading north.



*embroidered blanket*



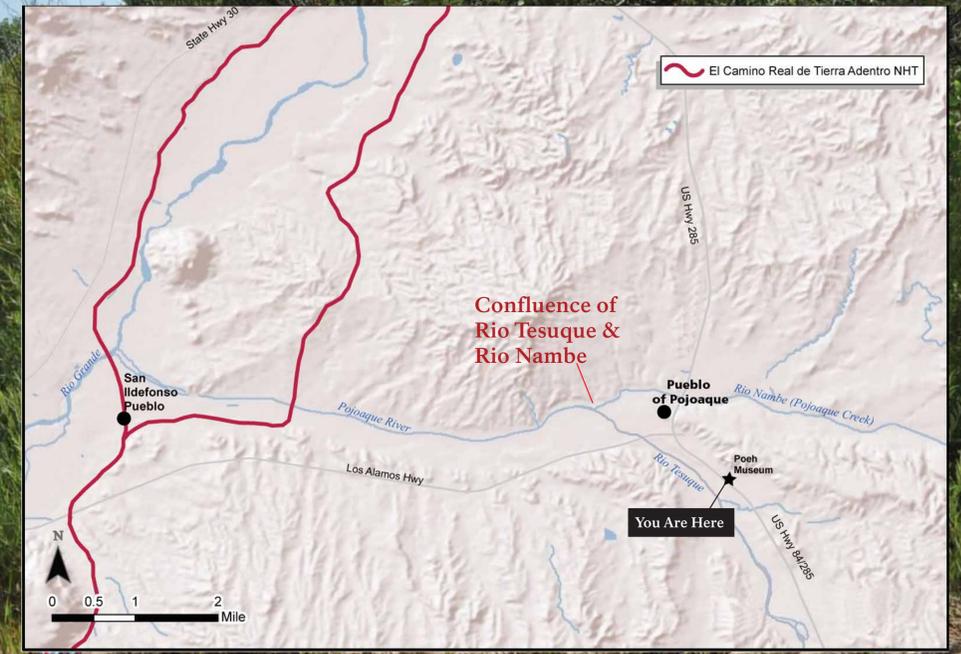
*woven goods*



*inlaid turquoise*

Weavers used native cotton and other wild plant fibers to create blankets, shirts, belts, and skirts—some embellished with

rich, colored embroidery (left). Jewelers produced magnificent necklaces and inlaid pendants of shell and turquoise.



The confluence of the Rio Nambe and the Rio Tesuque is 1.64 miles northwest from the Poeh Museum and 1.12 miles west from the Pueblo of Pojoaque. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro existed as native footpaths centuries before the

Spanish started colonizing New Mexico in 1598. The trail, stretching from Mexico City to Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico, had been used by Puebloan and the Plains Indians as a trade and travel route.