



Lumber and other materials were transported to the site from Gallup and Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Dealing with conditions inside was the first order of business.



Several large nests like this one were removed as angry crows circled the building.



Cleanup on day one gets underway.

Clearing the debris and removing old sheetrock took a full day.



## Rescue PHASE 1

(NOVEMBER 4-11, 2018)

During three week-long work sessions, Co-Op members and volunteers completed the rescue effort, which consisted of 1) elevating the walls, 2) replacement of the roof, and 3) replacing the foundation. While the order of things may appear odd, the foundation could not be replaced until the walls were elevated and aligned, and the roof could not be replaced for the same reason. As work commenced, a concurrent goal was to preserve as much of the building's originality as possible.

The first phase began with cleanup, as fallen drywall pulverized by cattle and mixed with cow, crow, and rodent droppings had covered the floor several inches thick. Then began the task of raising and straightening the walls to the extent possible by first replacing deteriorated ceiling joists at each end of the building. Screw jacks and jack posts were then placed under timber beams that were butted against the joists and bolted to the wall studs. Once a wall was raised, a temporary "shear" wall was built just inside and parallel to the existing exterior wall to maintain the new elevation and carry the weight of the building. Screw jacks could then be removed or repositioned.

This painstaking process was repeated until the exterior walls were successfully returned to near their original positions. A final priority was the installation of a fence to keep the cattle at bay.



Sandbags and timbers created a stable platform for raising walls.



Crew members install a beam in preparation for raising the building's southwest corner.



The flag went up at the beginning of the rescue effort on November 4, 2018.



A screw jack is placed under the dangerously sagging southeast corner to provide temporary support.

Loose sheet metal is stripped from the roof as part of the cleanup effort.



Once correct elevation was obtained, shear walls were built thirty inches inside existing exterior walls to hold the repositioned building in place.



A crew member uses a level on a jack post. If even slightly off, the screw jack beneath the post could roll over under the building's weight.



Because the trading post is surrounded by a ranch, a fence was needed to keep cattle away from the building.



Level red lines on this photo show the relative success of the wall raising effort during the rescue's first phase.