

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF TWO PARCELS OF LAND ADDED TO THE
ANAMAX-ROSEMONT LAND EXCHANGE AREA

by

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Submitted by
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January 27, 1981

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological survey of two small parcels of land added to the ANAMAX-Rosemont land exchange area. Each of these parcels is described, and the methods by which they were surveyed are explained. The four archaeological sites found within these parcels are described, and their significance is discussed in relation to those sites already known from the main part of the land exchange area. In keeping with the mitigation phase research plan proposed after the conclusion of the testing phase, recommendations are made for the management of these sites.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the ANAMAX Mining Company, the Cultural Resource Management Section of the Arizona State Museum undertook the survey of two additional parcels of land proposed for inclusion in the ANAMAX-Rosemont land exchange. As presented in Figure 1, these parcels are located on the south-western and western edges of the proposed exchange area surveyed and tested by CRMS between 1975 and 1979. For the sake of convenience these parcels have been referred to as A and B. Parcel A, on the western border of the proposed exchange area, is of a rather irregular shape and includes parts of three separate sections: SW 1/4 of Section 24, NW 1/4 of Section 25 and the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 26, all in T18S, R15E. In maximum dimension it measures approximately 0.90 mile north-south by 0.80 mile east-west, though the total area encompassed by the parcel is only slightly more than 320 acres. Parcel B is of simple rectangular shape, measuring 1.0 mile east-west by 0.50 mile north-south and containing exactly 320 acres. It is the N 1/2 of Section 1, T19S, R15E.

Archaeological survey of these parcels was accomplished during a six-day period between December 15 and 22, 1980. The author directed the work, and was aided by Rex Adams and Barry Richards. The sole aim of the survey was the location and recording of any archaeological sites occurring within the two parcels. Due to the relatively rugged nature of the terrain, survey methodology varied with local topography, but consisted basically of the examination of those topographic settings most likely to contain archaeological sites. The decisions as to which features of the terrain received examination were made prior to the initiation of field work, and were based on the detailed knowledge of site types and locations within the Rosemont area and other parts of southeastern Arizona. Work in the Rosemont area indicated that ridge termini and occasionally ridge crests, terrace remnants along drainages, and parcels of relatively flat-lying land such as saddles between peaks or rounded prominences were favored locations for settlement. Accordingly, all of these types of topographic features were intensively examined wherever they were found in the two parcels. On-the-spot decisions were also made in the field to examine any other features that might be likely to contain sites; in the case of Parcel A several rock faces were checked to see whether any shelters or caves might exist. Only one geomorphic situation was consistently left unsurveyed: ridge slopes and talus areas of boulder gravel or bedrock with angles of repose in excess of 40°. Experience has shown that there is a general absence of any artifacts in such situations.

All survey work was done on foot. The ridges and drainages were examined by one or more persons (based upon ridge width) who followed their natural alignment. Either straight or parallel zig-zag courses were followed along the ridge crests, with detours to examine any topographic situation or features likely to contain sites. The courses walked by each person were recorded on large scale (1 inch = 500 feet) field maps. When encountered, archaeological sites were recorded on standard Arizona State Museum forms,

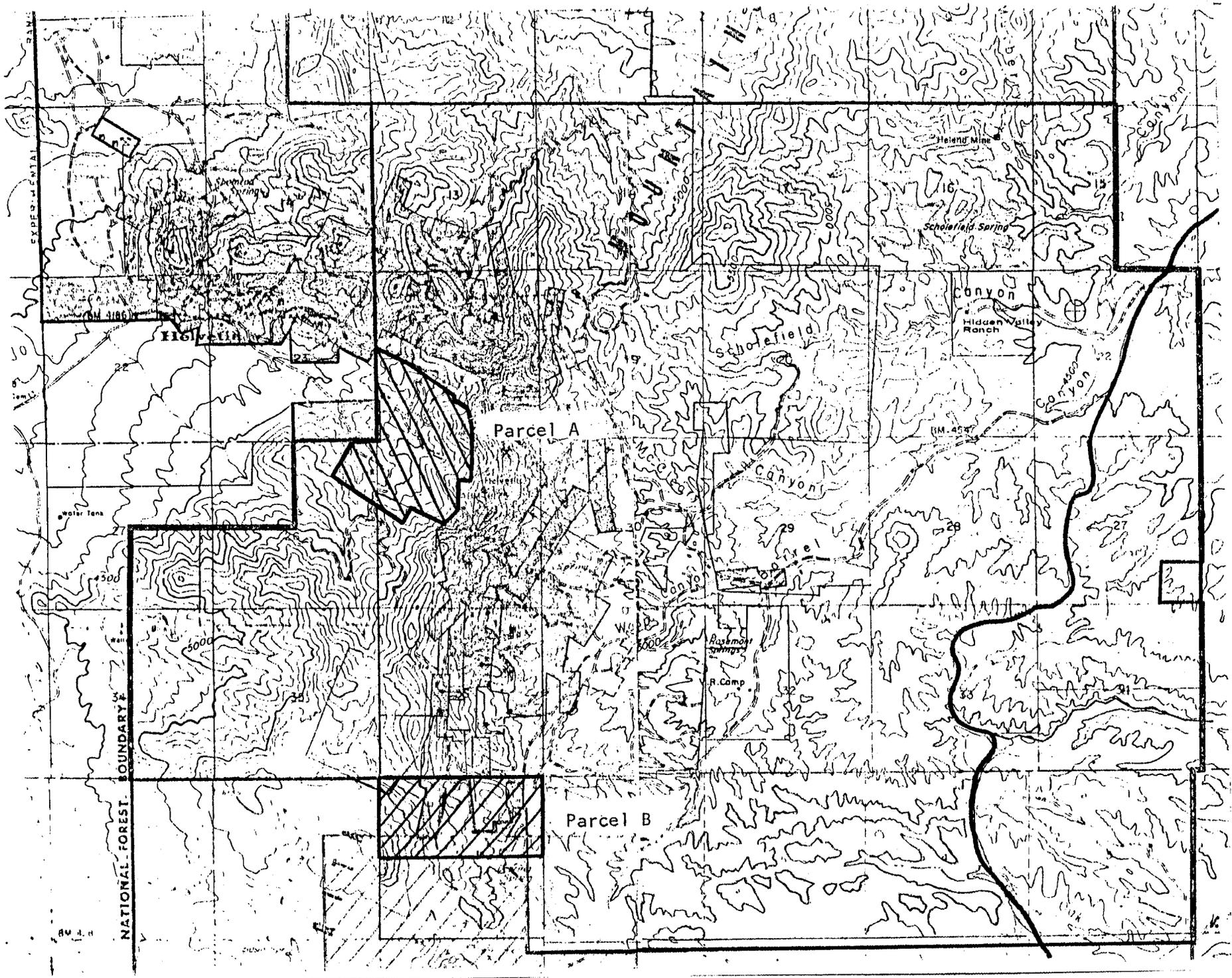


Figure 1: Map showing the locations of Parcels A and B relative to the main body of the ANAMAX-Rosemont land exchange area.

precisely located on the large scale maps, and photographed. No artifacts were collected from any of the sites within the parcels. In addition, adits and mine tunnels were not recorded as sites, though both parcels contained such features.

PARCEL A

Environment

As noted above, Parcel A lies on the west-facing slopes of the Santa Rita Mountains. Topographically this area consists of major northwest-southeast trending ridge systems separated from one another by deeply entrenched canyons. Boulder alluvium and colluvium as well as scattered exposures of Precambrian granite, Cretaceous sedimentary rocks, and Tertiary-Cretaceous intrusive igneous dikes and sills are the dominant materials exposed on the ridges and in the canyons. Occasional flat-lying areas are characterized by finer alluvial deposits. The northern two-thirds of the parcel is generally typical of the Lower Sonoran life-zone in character, the vegetation being composed mainly of ocotillo, mesquite, mesquitilla and other shrubs, cholla, prickly pear, and a thin ground cover of grasses. The southern one-third of the parcel contains more abundant oaks, junipers, beargrass, yucca, mimosa, and grasses; these are typical plants of the Upper Sonoran life-zone. Mesquite trees and cactus remain abundant here as well. Oak and hackberry trees are found lining the ephemeral canyon drainages.

Two archaeological sites were located during the survey of Parcel A; Figure 2 presents their positions within the parcel. One of these, AZ EE:1:91, is a prehistoric site, while the second, AZ EE:1:92, is of historic origin. It should be noted that a third site was encountered immediately west of the parcel; it was not recorded in detail, but did contain the remains of a few tent platforms and a scatter of early 20th century trash. Specific site descriptions for AZ EE:1:91 and EE:1:92 are contained in the following paragraphs.

AZ EE:1:91

AZ EE:1:91 consists of eight rock-bordered platforms (or terraces) situated on a relatively steep slope of an east-west trending colluvial fan or ridge. All the platforms exhibit one to three borders with the uphill side being open or unbordered. In size these platforms range between 3 m and 4 m in length by 1.5 m to 2.5 m in width. The borders consist of unmodified angular boulders and cobbles of locally available igneous (granite) and metamorphic (quartzite) rocks. The borders appear to be one to two courses of cobbles high, attaining a maximum height of 30-40 centimeters on the downhill side. In addition to the eight rock-bordered platforms, there is what appears to be a rock bordered structure (bordered on four sides) approximately 50 meters further west (downslope) on a flatter area of the fan or ridge. There is one rather large wash bounding the north side of the site, and a series of bulldozed roads border it on the south. Some of these roads have cut into the site area but appear to have caused relatively little damage.

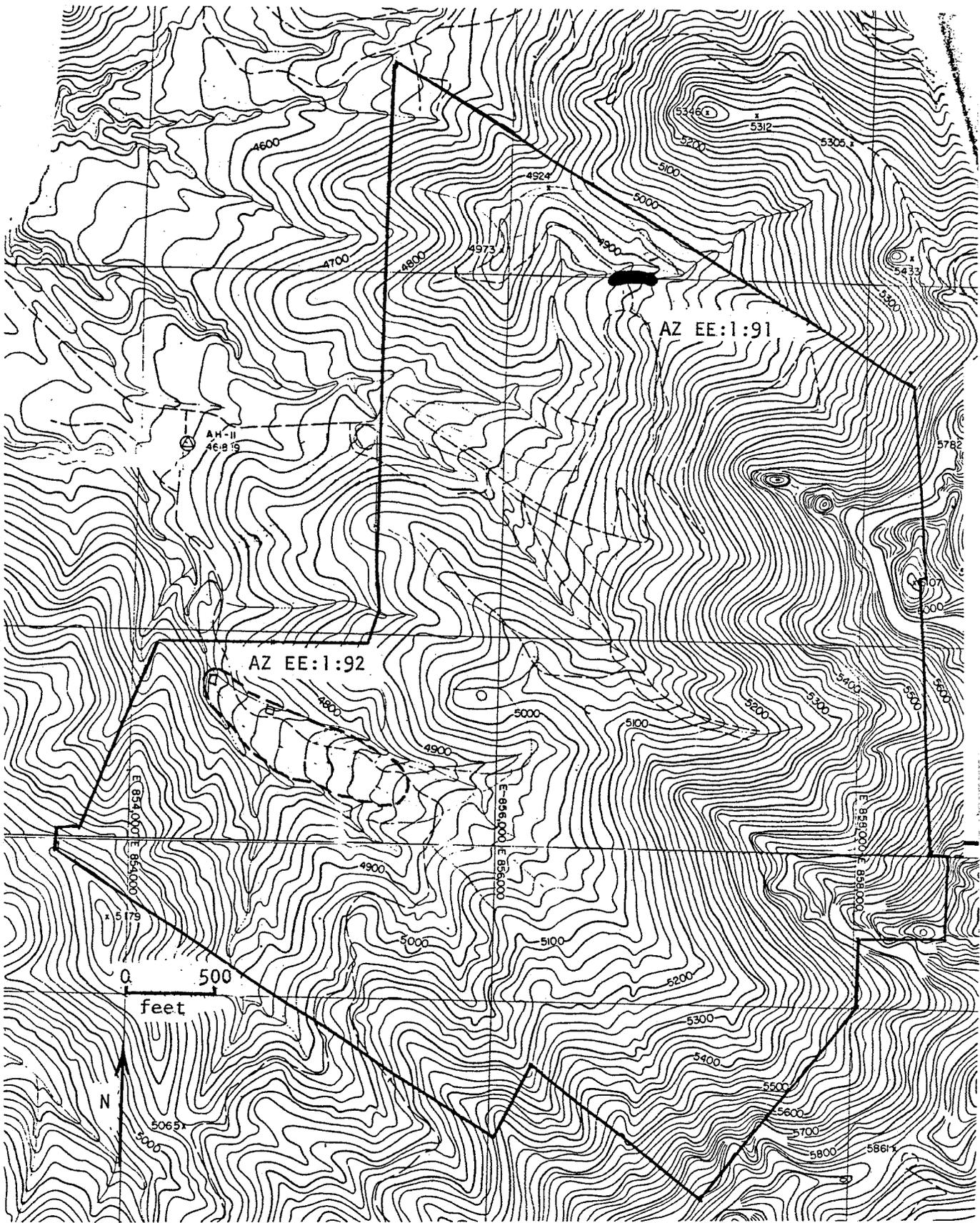


Figure 2: Detail map showing Parcel A and the locations of AZ EE:1:91 and AZ EE:1:92.

There is a minimal amount of cultural material at the site. Four to five sherds (all plainwares, possibly Tucson Basin brownwares), several flakes of siliceous materials, and one rhyolite flake tool (possibly a scraper) were the only artifacts observed. No historic artifacts were noted, despite the similarity of the rock-bordered platforms to historic tent platforms recorded in the Rosemont area.

The basic vegetative cover at the site consists of mesquite, Mexican blue oak, mimosa, bear grass, yucca, agave, and several varieties of cacti. There are also a few unidentified perennial plants and several annual grasses and plants.

It is difficult to give the site a precise cultural affiliation due to the lack of diagnostic artifacts. It does, however, appear to be a prehistoric site attributable to the ceramic-producing cultures of southern Arizona, possibly the Tucson Basin Hohokam. The site is also fairly unique in that its features are unlike those at any of the other ceramic period sites recorded for the ANAMAX-Rosemont Project. Other than the road cuts, the site is little disturbed and may retain research potential.

AZ EE:1:92

AZ EE:1:92 is an historic period site situated on a gently sloping ridge and bounded by deep washes on the north and south. Current vegetation at the site consists of mesquite, Aplopappus, cholla, greythorn, and buckthorn. Introduced species associated with the occupation include ocotillo, chinaberry, and a fig tree.

The variety of features present at the site suggests the possibility that it was a small ranch. One feature in the site is a bulldozed area which, based on surface artifacts, was apparently a wood frame house with a tin roof. There is an ocotillo fence, large, sub-rectangular rock alignments possibly representing the locations of corrals, and a thin scatter of late 19th to 20th century trash surrounding the bulldozed area. There are also two single room rock-walled structures downslope to the west. Trash at the site included ironstone, stove parts, wire nails, horse shoes, a variety of tin cans, bottle glass (green, aqua, brown, purple), Papago redware sherds, and cartridge casings. Because of its location within the Coronado National Forest there may be records concerning the history of ownership of the property.

In spite of recent road-building in the area and bulldozing of the main structure, surface artifacts are sufficiently abundant to indicate more permanence than the small mining camps recorded in the Helvetia-Rosemont area. The site therefore is believed to retain research potential.

PARCEL B

Environment

Parcel B is positioned nearly astride the ridgeline of the Santa Rita at the southwestern corner of the proposed land exchange area. In terms of topographic features it is quite similar to Parcel A, consisting largely of north-south trending ridge systems separated by deep canyons. It is higher in elevation than Parcel A, and appears to contain more abundant exposures of bedrock, particularly limestone and igneous intrusives. Vegetation is variable, due to local controlling effects of bedrock on soils. By and large the area may be classified as an oak grassland characterized by Mexican blue oak, junipers, occasional pinyon pine trees, beargrass, silktassel, yucca, and several species of grasses. Mesquite trees are also abundant, and various forms of cholla and prickly pear cactus are present in the more open areas. However, in those areas where limestone bedrock or soils developed upon limestone are found, the vegetation consists of catclaw acacia and other shrubs with occasional mesquites, junipers, silktassel, cactus, and squaw berry. Ocotillos are also present on a ridge in the east central part of the parcel. It might also be noted that active springs were encountered in the canyons.

Two archaeological sites, both historic, were located in the survey of Parcel B; Figure 3 presents their locations. In addition, a third prehistoric and historic locality was found, but for reasons presented later was not recorded as a site. The first of the two historic sites, AZ EE:1:93, is located in the bottom of a deep canyon in the western quarter of the parcel, while AZ EE:1:94 lies at the southeastern edge of the area. More detailed descriptions of each site are presented in the following sections.

AZ E:1:93

AZ EE:1:93 consists of an historic mining camp which has one small (3 x 4 meter) rock-walled structure, one possible tent platform, and associated trash deposits. The site is located in a major canyon bottom on a low ridge just above the main wash channel. There are also two minor washes, one just to the southeast of the site, and a second one that runs between the rock-walled structure and the tent platform. The vegetation cover in the area is a mixed oak, juniper and pinyon woodland. The understory is yucca, agave, prickly pear, and perennial and annual grasses and shrubs such as silk tassel. The tent platform is simply a leveled piece of ground that has been trampled by cattle; however, the rock-walled structure is in good condition. The walls are constructed of locally available angular boulders and cobbles of quartzite. There are three burned posts, a piece of cut lumber, and some rusted tin sheeting inside the structure.

The material culture remains consists of a wide variety of metal cans (tobacco, sardine, fruit, meat), ironstone sherds, bottle glass (light green, brown, cobalt blue), window glass, a pocket watchplate, an iron stake, several wire nails, and pieces of small gauge wire. Based on the materials noted, the site probably dates from the late 19th century up to World War I. The site retains some research potential.

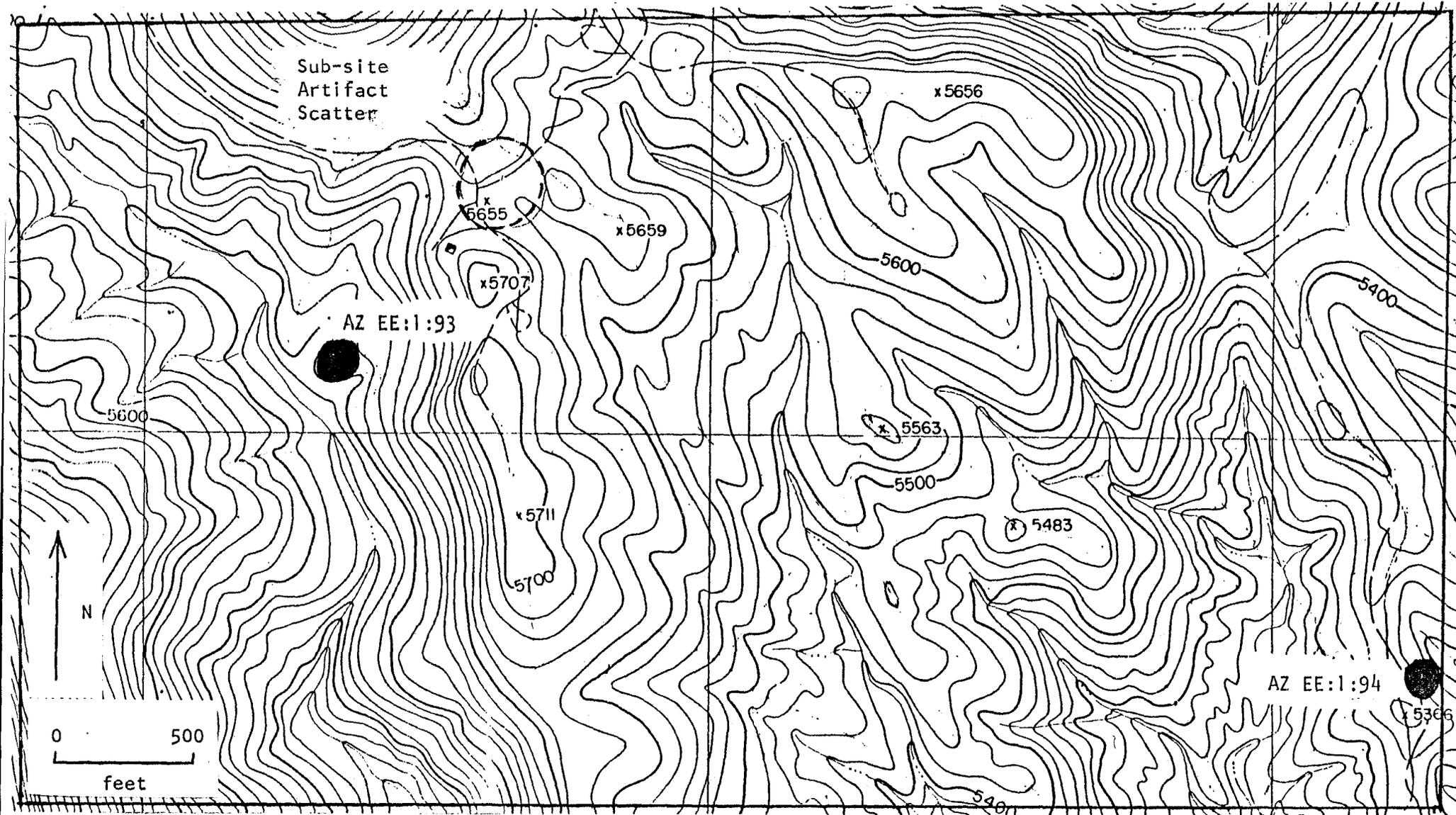


Figure 3: Detail map of Parcel B, showing the locations of AZ EE:1:93, AZ EE:1:94, and the single non-site artifact scatter.

AZ EE:1:94

AZ EE:1:94 is another historic site with a minor prehistoric component. The first and most obvious feature of the site is an historic tent platform located on a steep east-facing slope approximately 20 meters from the crest of a north-south trending ridge. The basic vegetation for the site area consists of juniper, sumac, mesquite, blue oak, silk tassel, cholla, and prickly pear. There is also bear grass, side oats grama, and several other grasses present. The platform consists of a leveled area (ca. 4 m east-west by 6 m north-south) with a single course-high retaining wall of locally available angular quartzite boulders and cobbles on the downslope (east) side. There is a light scatter of historic trash approximately 20-50 meters downslope. This trash consists of a few tin cans (meat, evaporated milk), one broken AB Co. light green quart bottle, window glass, purple bottle glass, brown bottle glass, some wire and other metal fragments. Given the steepness of the slope, it is probable that this trash has been transported some distance downslope.

The historic component of the site appears to be intact with the only possible disturbance being the modern dirt road which runs (north-south) along the ridge crest 20 meters to the west. The site is being affected by slopewash, however. This component of the site may retain some research potential, though it is believed to be comparatively minimal due to the small amount of artifactual material and the slopewashing.

A second, minor component of the site consists of a biface made of quartzite and a few flakes of quartzite and silicified limestone widely scattered across the slope. The biface and flakes are approximately 20-25 meters north of the tent platform. The material appears to have been significantly dispersed by slopewash. None of the observed artifacts are culturally or temporally diagnostic, so it is not possible to assess the age or affinity of the site. Due to the absence of diagnostics and the obvious disturbance of this component by natural and possibly cultural forces, it is not believed that any research potential is present for this component.

In addition to these two sites, an area of scattered prehistoric and historic artifacts was located in a saddle in the north central part of Parcel B (Figure 3). Unfortunately, the area has been disturbed by a variety of recent activities and agencies, including road building, camping, grazing animals, and natural erosion. These have all combined to scatter and damage the handful of prehistoric flakes seen there and the several pieces of historic bottle glass, can fragments, ironstone, and other artifacts. Because of the highly disturbed nature of the area, it was not recorded as a site due to the loss of artifact context and site integrity.

Immediately south and southeast of Parcel B two more sites were encountered and briefly recorded. The first of these is a small scatter of flaked stone tools and debitage lying on a flat ridge terminus approximately 100 m east of Deering Spring; it has been designated AZ EE:1:96. The two projectile points found on the surface, as well as the amounts of patina present on the tools and debitage, indicate that the site is of Archaic age and affinity. It lies approximately 600 feet (185 m) south of the southern edge of the parcel. A sherd and lithic scatter (AZ EE:1:95) was also located approximately

700 feet (215 m) south of the southeast corner of the parcel. Positioned on a low prominence along a ridge crest, this site is probably of Tucson Basin Hohokam affinity. In the absence of decorated sherds it was not possible to ascertain the relative age of the site. Because both sites are outside the limits of Parcel B they need not be considered further at this time.

DISCUSSION

The four archaeological sites recorded during the survey of Parcels A and B are, in and of themselves, relatively small sites with limited research potential. Three of them are late 19th - early 20th century historic manifestations of the kinds abundantly represented in the existing land exchange area, while the fourth is a prehistoric ceramic period site of uncertain age and cultural affinity. Two of the historic sites (AZ EE:1:93 and 94) appear to have been only slightly affected by recent disturbance, but one of the historic sites (AZ EE:1:92) and the single prehistoric site (AZ EE:1:91) have been impacted by bulldozed roads.

Because these parcels and their archaeological resources are being added to the existing land exchange, two issues must be addressed: 1) do these sites have sufficient research potential to contribute to the proposed research plan for the Barrel Canyon Archaeological District, and 2) if so, how can they be integrated into the research plan? With regard to the first issue, it should be noted that all but one of the sites (AZ EE:1:94) are outside the boundaries of the proposed Barrel Canyon Archaeological District. The research plan has been designed to focus on those sites within the Barrel Canyon drainage net (Huckell 1980) to provide a measure of spatial control for sampling purposes as well as for diachronic studies of cultural adaptation to and exploitation of a defined ecosystem. It is not believed that the four new sites are so important or retain such research potential to warrant the abandonment or modification of the research plan. Two of the historic sites, AZ EE:1:93 and AZ EE:1:94, are typical examples of the tent platform and simple rock-based tent structures that have been identified within the proposed Barrel Canyon Archaeological District (Debowski 1980; Baker 1980). Despite the fact that both sites retain some research potential, their inclusion in the mitigation effort does not seem warranted. Because sufficient numbers of these sites in good condition are known within the existing boundaries of the proposed district, it is recommended that no further work be undertaken for either AZ EE:1:93 or AZ EE:1:94. AZ EE:1:93 lies outside the Barrel Canyon drainage system, and despite the position of AZ EE:1:94 within the drainage system, the amount of disturbance there makes it relatively less likely to yield the quality and quantity of information desired.

The third historic site, AZ EE:1:92 in Parcel A, appears to be somewhat more substantive than the other two, but unfortunately it has been more seriously affected by disturbance. At least two forms of disturbance are apparent: the bulldozing of a new road and the wood frame structure, and the effects of grazing cattle. While these have obviously reduced the research potential of the site, they have not completely destroyed it. It is also important to note that the size of the site, the features it contains, and the kinds of artifacts observed on it suggest that this was a small ranching operation of some permanence. This type of site is also present in the proposed

Barrel Canyon Archaeological District, but in smaller numbers than the tent platform sites. In addition, the few ranches known within the Barrel Canyon drainage have been nearly completely destroyed by recent bulldozing (Schaefer 1979:35). Despite the fact that it lies on the west side of the Santa Rita Mountains, AZ EE:1:92 is positioned in a similar microenvironment to those in which the ranches in the Barrel Canyon drainage are located. In view of this fact, as well as the relatively better condition of the site, it is recommended that limited field work and documentary research during the mitigation phase be undertaken at AZ EE:1:92. It is believed that the site can serve as a source of comparative information by which the Barrel Canyon sites can be better understood.

The single prehistoric site recorded in Parcel A, AZ EE:1:91, is more difficult to assess. First, it has clearly been disturbed by recent bulldozing activities. Second, there is a dearth of artifacts on the surface, making it impossible to specify the cultural and temporal affinities of the site. Finally, no sites containing similar architectural features were identified within the proposed Barrel Canyon Archaeological District. The research potential of the site is thus difficult to predict. Because the site seems to represent an adaptation to a specific microenvironment, it is not likely that it would be of use in interpreting ceramic period sites in the Barrel Canyon drainage net. However, it could provide supplementary information on alternative use of specific topographic situations or biotic communities not present within the proposed district. The utility of such data is dependent, however, on the presence of culturally and temporally diagnostic artifacts at AZ EE:1:91 to permit specific relation of this site to those in the Barrel Canyon drainage. It is therefore recommended that this site receive testing during the mitigation phase to assess its potential to serve as a source of supplementary information.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the survey of Parcels A and B do not indicate a need to change the mitigation research plan developed at the conclusion of the testing phase; the focus of the research efforts on site within the Barrel Canyon drainage net is reaffirmed.

With regard to Parcel A, it is proposed that limited field work be undertaken at AZ EE:1:92, the probable ranch, and that testing be performed at AZ EE:1:91, the prehistoric site. The specifics of this work are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Proposed levels of effort at sites in Parcel A

<u>Site #</u>	<u>Crew</u>	<u>Supervisors</u>	<u>Laborers</u>	<u>Person-Days</u>
AZ EE:1:91	Ceramic Sites	2	4	30
AZ EE:1:92	Historic Sites	2	2	20



As suggested by the table, the work at each site would be performed by the appropriate crew as set forth in the research plan (Huckell 1980). All work would be done in conformity with the investigative techniques set forth in the research designs (to be written by the field supervisors of the crews prior to initiation of the mitigation work).

No further work is recommended for the two small sites in Parcel B (AZ EE:1:93 and AZ EE:1:94). Both sites are of a type already well represented in the proposed Barrel Canyon Archaeological District; sufficient information was obtained from these sites during the survey to aid with the research planned for the site class as a whole.



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