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AN INITIAL SURVEY
OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
WITHIN THE
PHOENIX METROPOLITAN AREA
MARICOPA COUNTY,
ARIZONA
FEBRUARY 1977

PHOENIX URBAN STUDY

FINAL REPORT

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
LOS ANGELES
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEPTEMBER 1979

(URBAN STUDY COVER
TO BE ADDED)

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**An Initial Survey
of Historic Resources
Within The
Phoenix Metropolitan
Area
Maricopa County,
Arizona**

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PREPARED FOR:

Department of Defense
Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
Los Angeles, California

February 1977

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Introduction

This report presents the results of a search for historic resources (sites, buildings, and structures) within the Phoenix Metropolitan area. This research was conducted by the Natural and Cultural Resource Conservation Section of Arizona State Parks for the Department of the Army, Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers. These results are to be used as an aid in planning by the Corps of Engineers in the development of future flood control and other water management projects for the area. This baseline inventory of historic resources within the study area should be sufficient (quantitatively and qualitatively) to enable the Corps of Engineers to take architecturally, culturally and/or historically "sensitive areas" under consideration in planning future project locations.

The Principal Investigator of this study was Dorothy H. Hall, Chief of the Natural and Cultural Resource Conservation Section, Arizona State Parks, and James W. Garrison, Historical Architect for the Section, was the Project Coordinator. The bulk of the project research and the report and map preparation were done by James W. Woodward, Jr., Architectural Historian, and Frank B. Fryman, Jr., Archaeologist. Dr. Bernard M. Boyle, Architectural Historian, College of Architecture, Arizona State University, and Geoffrey P. Mawn, Historian, Arizona State University History Department, have served as consultants to the research team. For the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Robert W. Wood, Environmental Coordinator in the Los Angeles District, initiated the project, and locally, Joseph R. Dixon of the Corps of Engineers, Phoenix Urban Study Office, has been the Project Manager.

**Part One:
Project
Description**

Study Area

The study area which provides the focus for the historical survey was outlined by the Corps of Engineers and based on the Maricopa Association of Government's Year 2020 Study Area. It centers on the Phoenix urban area extending southward to the Maricopa-Pinal County line and northward to include the community of Cave Creek on the northeast and a portion of Lake Pleasant Regional Park on the northwest. It extends eastward to include the Fort McDowell Indian Community and, in the southeast, Williams Air Force Base. On the west the area boundary is located slightly west of the town of Buckeye. Natural geographical features within this area include the lower Verde River, the lower Agua Fria River, and portions of the Salt and Gila River Valleys including the confluence of these two major drainages. Also included are the Phoenix Mountains, the McDowell Mountains, the South Mountains, and north half of the Sierra Estrella, Paradise Valley, Deer Valley, and the east end of the Buckeye Valley. Political units within the region include, in addition to those mentioned above, the towns of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Glendale, Avondale, and Sun City, as well as the Salt River Indian Community and the northwest section of the Gila River Indian Community.

SALT RIVER VALLEY A R I Z O N A

Offers

Productive Lands, A Healthful Climate
and Rare Opportunities to the Investor
and Homeseeker

ILLUSTRATION 1

Scope of Work

This study encompassed both research and evaluation of significant historical, architectural and cultural resources (sites, buildings, and structures) within the study area. Research included a records search of pertinent published and unpublished works and manuscripts with a concerted effort to locate early maps of the study area. Historical site files and lists were also checked. Field investigation research was completed for areas of historical interest, to verify high potential resources located in the records search and in areas likely to be impacted in the near future. This process led to the

"inventory of historic resources."

Evaluation was completed for each identified resource in accordance with the National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation guidelines. Those properties considered to meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion on the National Register have been identified and their recommended inclusion supported.

Using the inventory and proposed National Register listing, an "historic resource sensitivity map" was completed which portrays the quantitative density pattern and qualitative integrity pattern of historic resources on a square mile-by-square mile basis.

Limitations

This study was undertaken within limited budget and time requirements. Every effort has been made to allocate time and money efficiently for maximum data collection. Because of these limitations, both the records search and the field investigations were undertaken with these factors in mind. Not every piece of recorded information could be studied, or every inch of the study area covered by foot. The goal of the research team was to determine effective research methods for this type of study and apply them to as much of the study area as possible.

Another limitation was the lack of monographs, recorded historic archaeological sites, and other research covering the study area. The research team had to rely often on primary material and field work involving a greater amount of research time. The inventoried properties are therefore concentrated on resources related to architectural and archaeological significance as opposed to historical and/or cultural association.

Within the other project limitations, all leads concerned with locating historically and/or culturally associated properties were checked.

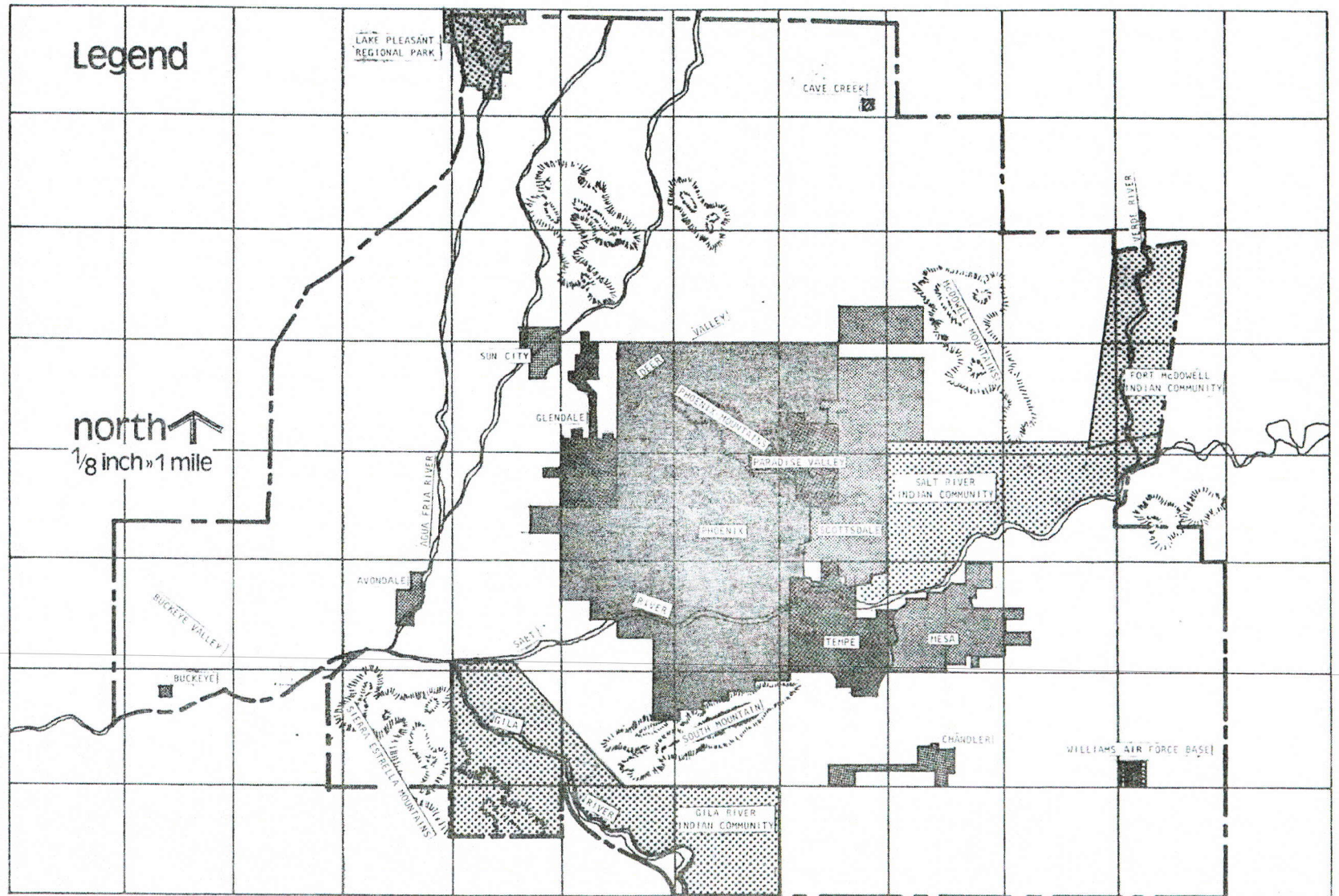


Plate 1. Existing Features

Historic Resources Survey Area

**Part TWO:
Historical
Overview
Of The
Study Area**

Historic Time Frame

The focus of the following historical overview is from 1865 to 1930. During the Hispanic Period (1539-1821) and the Mexican Period (1821-1848), explorers may have passed through the Salt River Valley, but no known associated locations or trails have been identified. From 1848, when the land within the study area became part of the United States, until 1865, no Anglo American activities occurred which have left tangible recordable traces. The regional history ends at 1930 because historical resources are generally required to be at least 50 years old to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. The 1930 ending date covers major trends through this 50-year cutoff point.

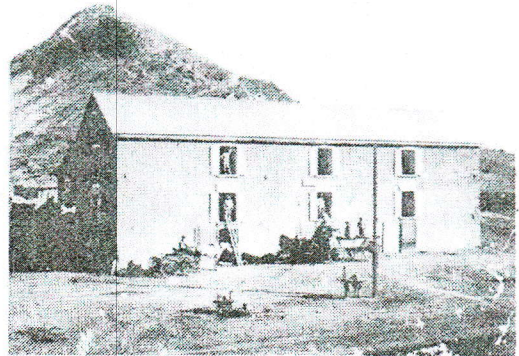
The Salt River Valley had been inhabited for many centuries by aboriginal farmers as evidenced by the profusion of prehistoric archaeological remains underlying Anglo development. By the 19th century, however, the native population was largely concentrated along the Gila River because of intense pressure from bands of Apache and Yavapai raiders to the North and East. These Pima Indians were in the path of the estimated 60,000 travelers to the California gold fields and to supply these often destitute travelers the Indian farmers increased their area of cultivation considerably. Subsequently, a reservation on the Gila River was established for the Pimas in 1859. This was enlarged in 1869 and again in the years 1911, 1913, and 1915. Maricopa Indian refugees from the Colorado River Yuman tribes are included within the boundaries of this enclave.

As the Apache Indians were gradually confined to reservations in the 1870s and 1880s and raiding was reduced, Anglo settlements in the valley increased rapidly. One result was the diversion of Gila River water upstream from the Pimas to be used on Anglo farms. The diversion, combined with a period of drought, caused over 1/4 of the tribe to relocate to the Salt River where a reservation was set aside for them in 1879.

The Mojave-Apache Indian Community at Ft. McDowell on the Verde River was established in 1903 for a small population of Yavapai Indians gradually returning from their relocation to the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Although Anglo and Indian settlement patterns are historically inter-related, because of limitations related above, only historic resources on the Ft. McDowell Reservation have been addressed in this study.

Settlement, Irrigation and Agricultural Development 1865-1900



Settlement

PHOENIX

The Anglo-American settlement of the Salt River Valley officially began in 1865 with the establishment of a U.S. Army Post, Camp McDowell (upgraded in 1879 to Fort McDowell), on the west bank of the Verde River approximately six miles above its confluence with the Salt River. The Post was established by five companies of California volunteers to serve as a base from which to operate against the raiding Yavapai and Tonto Basin Indians. John Y. T. Smith came to the Salt River Valley in early 1866 as assistant wagon master for the 14th Infantry sent to Camp McDowell. After noticing the plentiful wild hay growing along the banks among the remains of prehistoric villages and canals, in the spring of 1867, he set up a hay camp along the north bank of the Salt River approximately 35 miles downstream from Camp McDowell. Using Mexican laborers, Smith harvested the wild hay and hauled it by wagon to Camp McDowell over a road he laid out through the brush along the north bank of the river. Smith's temporary hay camp thus became the first American settlement in the lower Salt River Valley.

Another early pioneer was John W. (Jack) Swilling, an ex-confederate officer and miner who had opened the Central Arizona mining region starting in 1863. He was the modern promoter of irrigation in the Salt River Valley. During several trips through the valley, Swilling noticed the extensive prehistoric canal network and decided that the area could again be farmed by canal irrigation. He went to Wickenburg, organized the Swilling Irrigating and Canal Company, and with sixteen

men, returned to the valley in December of 1867. They commenced to re-excavate a prehistoric canal (called the Swilling Ditch) on the north bank of the Salt River upstream from Smith's camp. During the winter months, the canal and a temporary ditch were completed for a distance of approximately three miles and allowed these early settlers to successfully harvest a crop in the spring of 1868.

By the fall of 1868, more people had settled along Swilling's Ditch. Adobe houses were built and more land came under cultivation as the original canal was expanded, with branches extending off on either side. In 1870, the growing community which was known as the Phoenix Settlement, had a population of 240, a post office, various essential businesses, and a young valley promoter, William B. Hellings, was planning a flour mill in the middle of the settlement.

This initial Phoenix Settlement did not become the official townsite. Because of different opinions about where within the settled area it should be, a new unoccupied townsite located about two miles west was selected by a mass meeting of citizens in October, 1870. The site selected was the 320 acre north $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 8, T1N, R3E, which was divided into 98 lots that were auctioned off beginning in December of that year, and by the end of 1871, there was a regular "main street" of businesses along Washington Street in the new townsite. It became the County Seat of the newly created Maricopa County in February, 1871, just as boosters had completed the selection and initial settlement of the townsite. The original settlement remained a separate community through 1876 as Mill City and/or East Phoenix.

MARYVILLE

Approximately fifteen miles to the east of the early Phoenix settlement, just north of the Salt River at the McDowell crossing of the Maricopa Wells-to-Camp McDowell Road, a small community called Maryville grew up around a station established in 1868 by William Rowe. By 1873 the settlement included a store and hotel, blacksmith, carpenter and paint shops, and an established post office, with Charles Whitlow (who is credited with naming the settlement Maryville) as postmaster.

TEMPE

On the south bank of the Salt River, four miles east-southeast of the Phoenix Settlement, the founding of the town of Tempe took place in 1870 when Charles Trumbull Hayden, a Tucson merchant and judge, decided to build a store and establish a ferry crossing just west of what is now

called Tempe Butte. First known as Butte City, then as Hayden's Ferry, Tempe developed into a thriving agricultural community after the 1871-1872 construction of the McKinny-Kirkland Ditch (later the Hayden Canal or the Tempe Irrigating Canal) brought the area under irrigation and allowed Hayden to build a water-run grist mill (constructed 1872-74). A post office was established as Hayden's Ferry in 1872, and a small business district grew up just south of Hayden's mill. A small Mexican community known as San Pablo was laid out in April 1873 on part of the Kirkland Ranch just east of Hayden's Ferry. Local reference to the general area of these two communities as Tempe eventually resulted in the official name, Tempe, for the area (the Hayden Ferry post office was officially renamed in 1879). The city of Tempe was incorporated in 1894.

LEHI/MESA

In 1877, eight miles up river from the Hayden's Ferry, Mormon settlers headed by Daniel W. Jones established a community called Fort Utah (later Utahville, then Jonesville, then Lehi) on the south side of the river at the McDowell Crossing. The Utah Canal was built to provide irrigation for this farming community, later called Lehi. A year later, a second migration of Utah and Idaho Mormon settlers came to the Salt River Valley and settled south of Utahville in Sec. 22, T1N, R5E, and established Mesa City which became incorporated in July 1883. The Mesa Canal was constructed in 1878 by cleaning out an existing prehistoric canal, and later was enlarged as the area was settled.

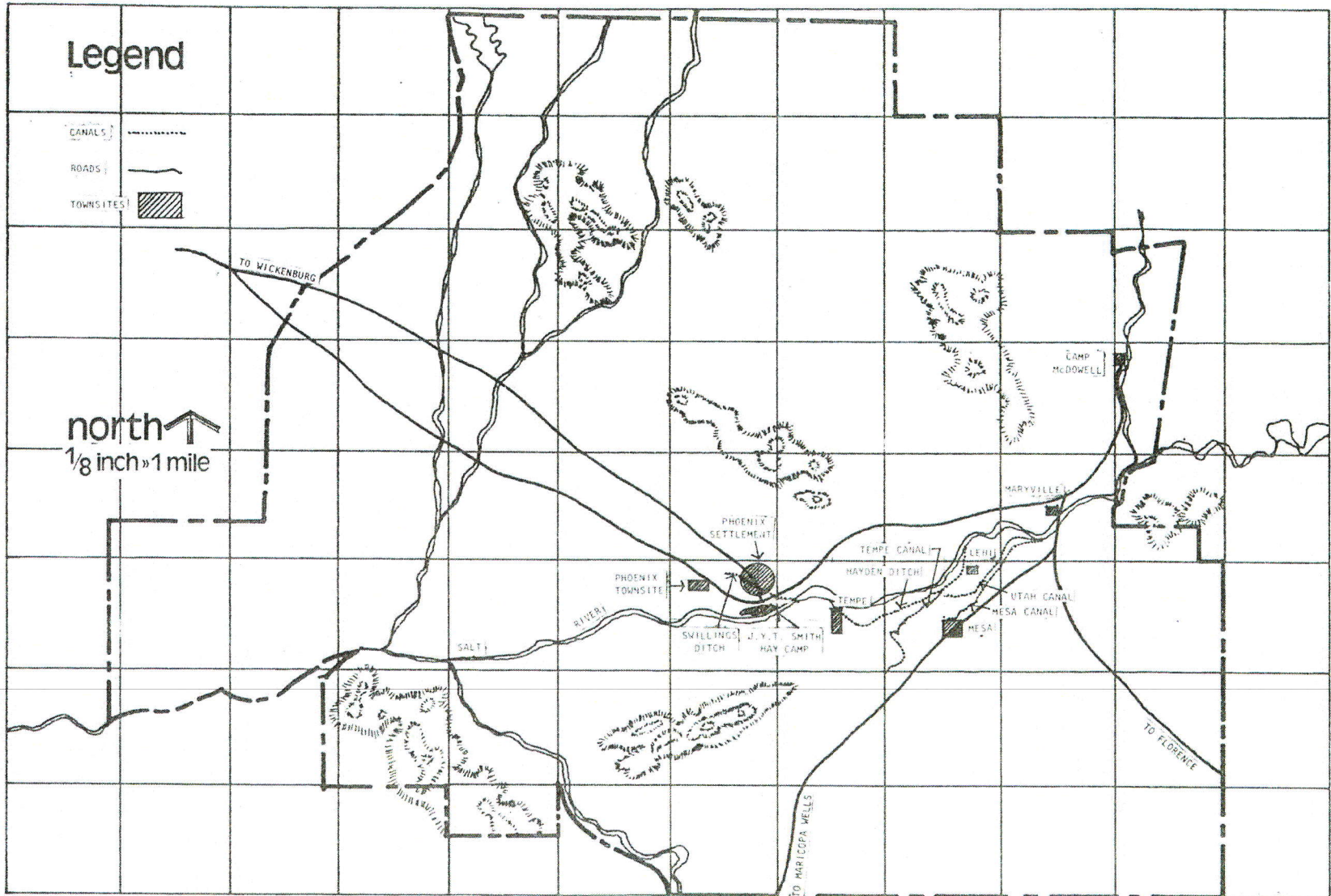


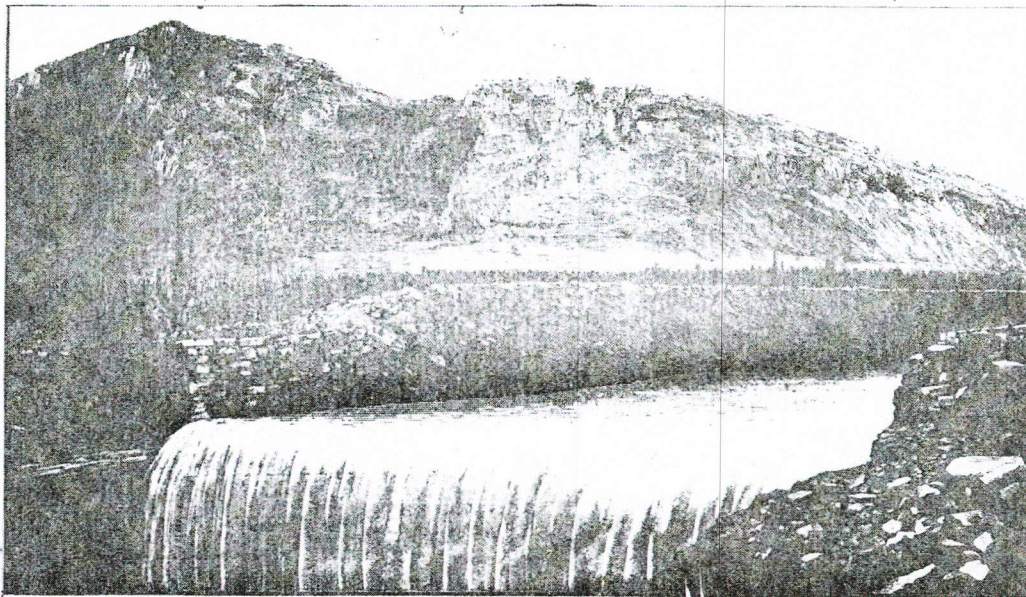
Plate 2. Settlements

Historic Resources Survey Area

Canal Expansion

The Anglo-American development of the Salt River Valley was dependent upon agriculture which, in turn, relied on canal irrigation, just as the case has been with the previous extensive aboriginal occupation. With the success of the early Anglo irrigation efforts and the increase in the number of settlers coming to the valley, there was considerable expansion in canal building to bring more arable land under cultivation. On the north side of the river, in 1868, the Swilling Ditch was extended further west for a total of nineteen miles, and later became known as the Salt River Valley Canal. From 1870 to 1872 another canal, the Maricopa, was constructed as the north extension of the Salt River Valley Canal. Ten years later (1878), the twenty-seven mile-long Grand Canal was dug, following a prehistoric canal north of, and nearly parallel to, the Maricopa Canal, with a heading approximately one mile above the consolidated head of the Salt River Valley and the Maricopa Canals.

Starting in 1883 the 40 mile long Arizona Canal, largest of the north-side canals, was constructed and first used in February 1885. At its heading on the Salt River, approximately one mile below the mouth of the Verde River, the first permanent diversion dam, known as the Arizona Dam, was built. This canal marked the culmination of major



ARIZONA CANAL—UPPER SECTION OF THE FALLS.
ILLUSTRATION 3

canal building on the north side of the river and opened up an estimated 100,000 acres for cultivation. Downstream from this major irrigated area, three smaller canals, The Farmer's Canal (five miles long), the St. Johns' Canal (twelve miles long), and the Buckeye Canal were dug to serve the irrigation needs of settlers locating along the Salt River below Phoenix.

On the south side of the Salt River, canal building expanded much as it had on the north side. In addition to the previously mentioned Tempe Irrigating Canal, the San Francisco Canal was dug in 1872 just west of Hayden's Ferry. To the east, population pressures on the irrigable land of the early Utah Canal (1877) and Mesa Canal (1878) resulted in the construction in 1889 of the 22-mile-long Highland Canal, which headed approximately two miles below the Arizona Dam. And finally, in 1892-93, the Consolidated Canal was formed by constructing new headworks for the Mesa Canal and adding two branches: the western branch (Tempe cross-cut canal) supplying water to the Tempe Canal; and the eastern branch providing irrigation water to the lands south as far as the northern boundary of the Gila River Indian Reservation.

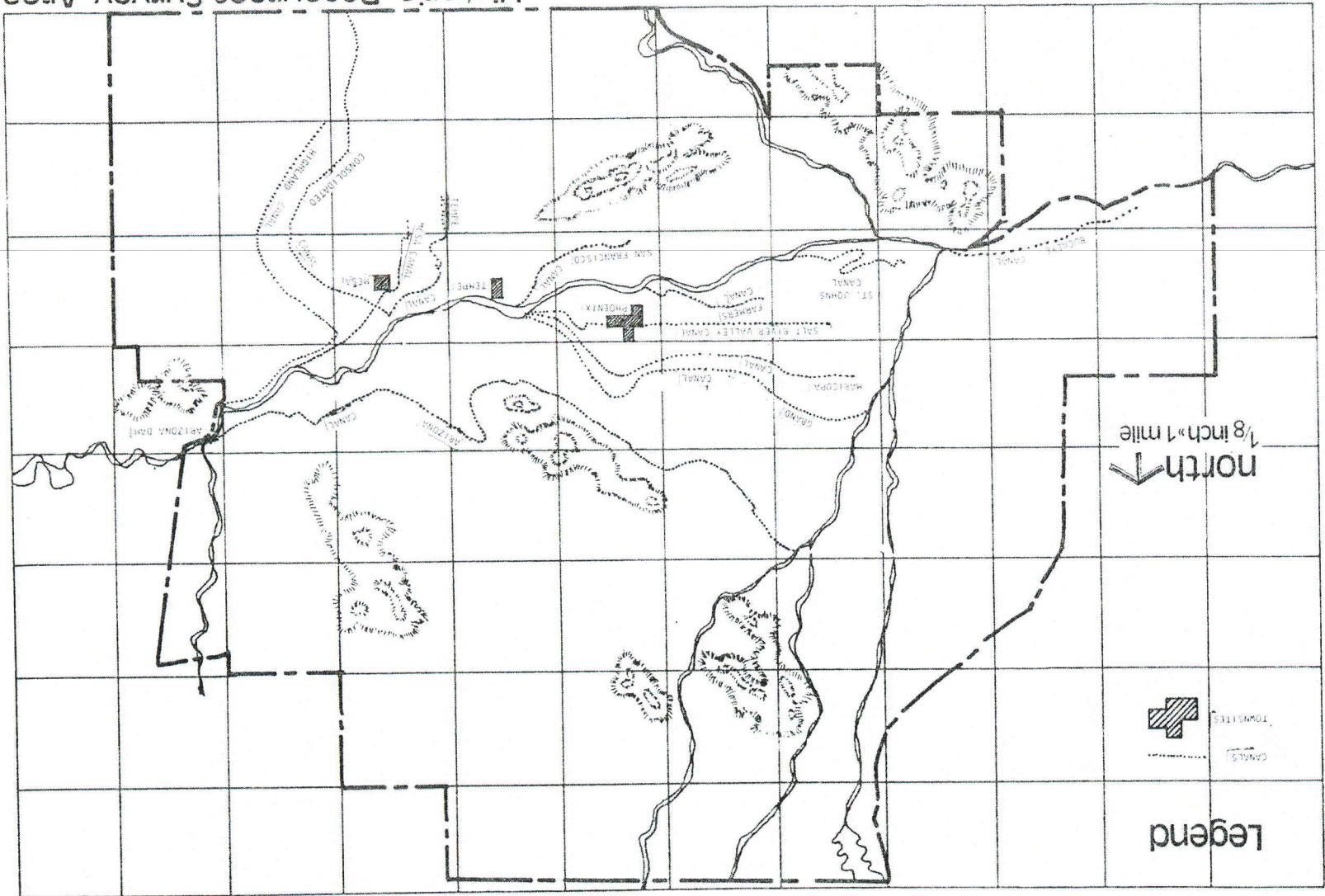
In the aggregate, this series of canals constructed in the Valley (on both sides of the river) during this early period of development reached 264 miles, and on the basis of court-established water rights for each canal, had a combined potential land coverage of 161,360 acres. Considerably less than this much land was actually under cultivation since there would not have been sufficient water in the river to irrigate this acreage, especially during the dry months.

<small>W. J. MURPHY, President</small> <small>I. M. CHESNEY, Secretary</small> <small>THE VALLEY BANK, Treasurer</small>	
<h2 style="margin: 0;">The Arizona Improvement Co.</h2>	
<p>CAPITAL STOCK, \$3,000,000.</p>	
<p>AGENT FOR</p>	
<p>LANDS:</p> <p>The Orange Land Co. The New England Land Co.</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">OFFER</p> <p>The Finest Citrus Fruit Lands The Finest Deciduous Fruit Lands</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Special Concessions Made Colonies.</p>	<p>WATER:</p> <p>The Arizona Canal Co. The Grand Canal Co. The Maricopa Canal Co. The Salt River Valley Canal Co. The Water Power Canal Co.</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">OFFER</p> <p>Water Rights and Water Power.</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">GENERAL OFFICES, MONMOUTH BLOCK, PHOENIX.</p> <p>SALT RIVER VALLEY, ARIZONA.</p>	
<p style="font-size: x-small;">CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">W. D. FULWILEIG, General Manager.</p>	

ILLUSTRATION 4

Historic Resources Survey Area

Plate 3. Canal Expansion



1/8 inch = 1 mile
north

TOWNSHIPS
CANALS

Legend

At the western end of the valley, some 30 miles from Phoenix, immigrants in the late 1880s settled along the north side of the Gila River and established the farming and dairying communities of Buckeye (originally Sidney) and Liberty. At the Agua Fria River crossing, seventeen miles west of Phoenix, a small community called Coldwater grew up around a freight station on the west bank of the river. In 1911, it was renamed Avondale after a railroad station was located near the Avondale Ranch.

East of Phoenix, at the foot of Camelback Mountain, a small community, called Scottsdale, developed around a ranch homesteaded and patented in 1891 by Major Winfield Scott, a Chaplain in the U.S. Army who had served at Fort Huachuca. A townsite was platted in 1895, and a post office was established in 1897.

In the desert to the north of Phoenix approximately twenty miles, an intermittent community developed on the secondary military road between Camp McDowell and Fort Whipple. The area developed as a mining settlement resulting from the gold and copper mining activities in the nearby mountains. The first post office for the area was established as Overton in 1880, but was discontinued in 1881. In 1890, the post office was re-established as Cave Creek. After the decline of the mining and military activities, Cave Creek developed as a sheep grazing area and isolated health resort. The only permanent occupations were associated with the Houck ranch.

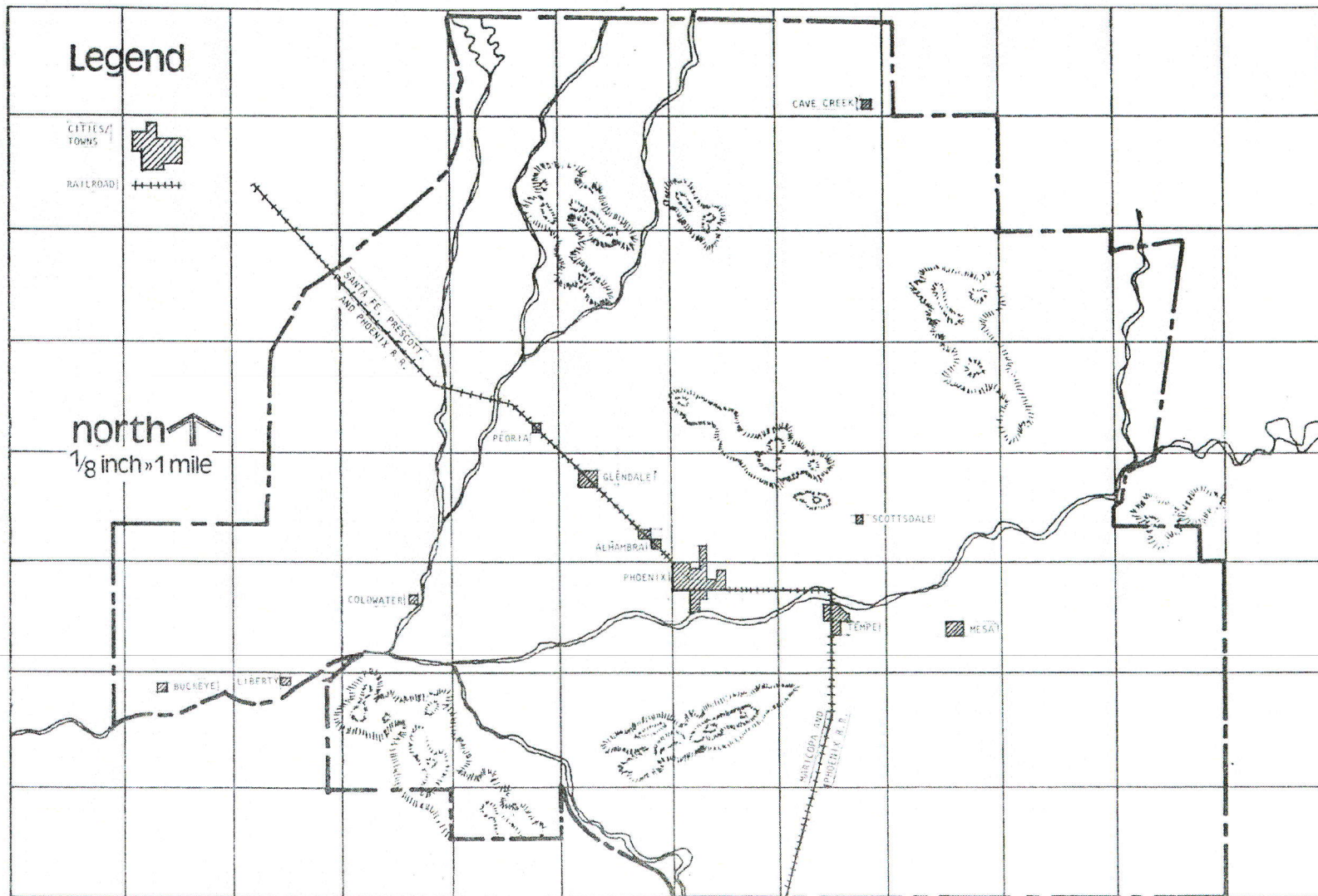


Plate 4. Valley Development

Historic Resources Survey Area

Records Search

Four weeks of the project were spent by the architect, architectural historian, and archaeologist, checking various sources of information for previously recorded historical resources in the area; each checking those sources which would more likely contain data on the types of properties of their particular concern, and then exchanging information useful to the others. The following is a list of sources of historic resource information which have been examined by the team members:

- American Institute of Architects (Central Arizona Chapter)
- Arizona Historical Society (Phoenix Chapter)
- Arizona Public Service Company
- Arizona State Department of Transportation
- Arizona State Land Department
- Arizona State Library and Archives
- Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona
- Arizona State Parks Board
- Arizona State University
 - Department of Anthropology
 - Archaeological Site File
 - Frank Midvale papers
 - Hayden Library
 - Arizona Collection
 - Arizona Historical Foundation Collection
 - Hayden Archives
- Buckeye Historical and Archaeological Museum
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Glendale Historical Society
- Historic American Buildings Survey
- Maricopa County Assessor's Office
- Maricopa County Recorder's Office
- Mesa Historical and Archaeological Society
- Phoenix Public Library (McClintock Collection)
- Pueblo Grande Museum
- Salt River Project
- Tempe Historical Society

During this portion of the research, lists of properties were compiled by the investigators and the location of each property was plotted on a copy of the study area map. This research then served as the basis for the field investigations.

identification	name	
3N7E 6 S2	AZ U:6:4 (ASM)	
location		
FORT MCDOWELL		
address		
current owner		
FORT MCDOWELL INDIAN COMMUNITY		
date	note	
1865-1890		
statement of significance: HISTORICAL (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)		
THIS MAJOR MILITARY POST PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SUBSEQUENT ANGLO-SETTLEMENT IN THE SALT RIVER VALLEY.		

identification	name	
3N7E 18 S1	AZ U:6:15 (ASM)	
location		
HOUSE AND CANAL SITE		
address		
current owner		
FORT MCDOWELL INDIAN COMMUNITY		
date	note	
c. 1900		
statement of significance: HISTORICAL (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)		
POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT FOR PROVIDING IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC DATA CON- CERNING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF THIS AREA.		

identification	name		
3N7E 20 S1	AZ U:6:126(ASM)		
location			
STRUCTURES AND CANAL			
address			
current owner			
FORT MCDOWELL INDIAN COMMUNITY			
date	note		
c. 1900			
statement of significance: HISTORICAL (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)			
POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT FOR PROVIDING IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC DATA CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE AREA.			

identification	name		
3N7E 20 S6	AZ U:6:160(ASM)		
location			
ADOBE STRUCTURE			
address			
current owner			
FORT MCDOWELL INDIAN COMMUNITY			
date	note		
c. 1900			
statement of significance: HISTORICAL (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE)			
POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT FOR PROVIDING IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC DATA CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE AREA.			

