

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE
PROPOSED CLAY STATION RESERVOIR

Submitted to:

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Inadequacies and omissions in this report are the responsibility of the author.

INTRODUCTION

Folsom Reservoir and Auburn-Folsom South Unit were established as part of the Central Valley Water Project. These water systems were developed to serve agricultural, municipal and industrial water needs of the Folsom South Service Area. This report is concerned with proposed modifications to the Auburn-Folsom South Unit which would provide increased minimum flow releases to the Lower American River; this increase in flow has been determined necessary for both fishery enhancement and recreation use.

The Bureau of Reclamation is in the process of evaluating plans that would meet the water needs of the Folsom South Service Area. The following facilities would be required in order to implement any of the proposed plans:

1. Hood-Clay Pump Connection
2. Laguna Canal
3. Clay Station Reservoir

This report presents the result of recent prehistoric and historic investigations of the proposed Clay Station Reservoir and outlines potential impacts of this federally funded project upon the cultural resources of the reservoir area. The work was conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Public Law 91-190 and Executive Order 11593.

Archaeological investigations were made in response to a request by Mr. Dee Harper, Acting Environmental Quality Control

Officer for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento, California. The investigation was designed to be conducted in 3 stages:

- Stage 1. A complete survey of the proposed reservoir area intended to locate all cultural resources within the project boundary.
- Stage 2. An evaluation and assessment project designed to determine the relative importance of the located resources and to provide recommendations for the disposition of those subject to damage as a result of planned construction.
- Stage 3. Further field work and archival research would be conducted for those resources or areas found to be effected by the planned construction.

Stage 1, the archaeological survey of Clay Station Reservoir resulted in the identification of 22 historic and 9 prehistoric sites. The estimated high water line for the reservoir is 180 above sea level. A total of 11 historic and 3 prehistoric sites were located within the reservoir basin (Figure 46). The remainder of the sites are situated 190 to 230 feet above sea level or 10 to 50 feet above the reservoir water line.

This report is concerned with the second, or evaluation stage. Research, to aid in determining the value of these resources and in making appropriate recommendations included:

1. An examination of the existing archaeological site data files maintained by the Office of the Historic Preservation.
2. A review of the published archaeological reports pertinent to the immediate survey area.
3. A historical record search which included: ethnographic literature; published histories of Amador and Sacramento Counties; marriage records; probate wills; official county maps; Sacramento County census data and old photographs.

4. Consultation with local ranchers, land owners and descendants of early settlers within the area. These interviews provided insightful, descriptive information of the culture history of what was known at an earlier time as the Buckeye Valley and the near-by town of Carbondale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

Location

The site of the proposed Clay Station Reservoir is at the eastern edge of Sacramento County, approximately 20 miles south-east of the city of Sacramento, California (Figure 1). The reservoir area is a broad floodplain dissected by Laguna Creek, one of the 3 main westward flowing tributaries of the Consumnes River Basin system. The creek is intermittent, in which most of the flow occurs January through April; it is normally dry from June to November. The western edge of the area is a gentle slope while the eastern edge marks the transition zone between Valley Grassland and Foothill Woodland.

Physiographically the area represents varying relief from 150 to 300 feet above sea level. A Quaternary alluvium forms the relatively flat flood plain (150-170 feet above sea level) dissected by Laguna Creek. The Laguna Formation characterizes the rounded grassland topography of the upper elevations (180-300 feet above sea level).

Today the area is used primarily for agriculture, with dry farming for grain and pasture for cattle apparently the most important activities. Historically, sheep were common to the range land.

Climate

The Clay Station Reservoir site is characteristic of the Central Valley Mediterranean climatic type with cool, rainy

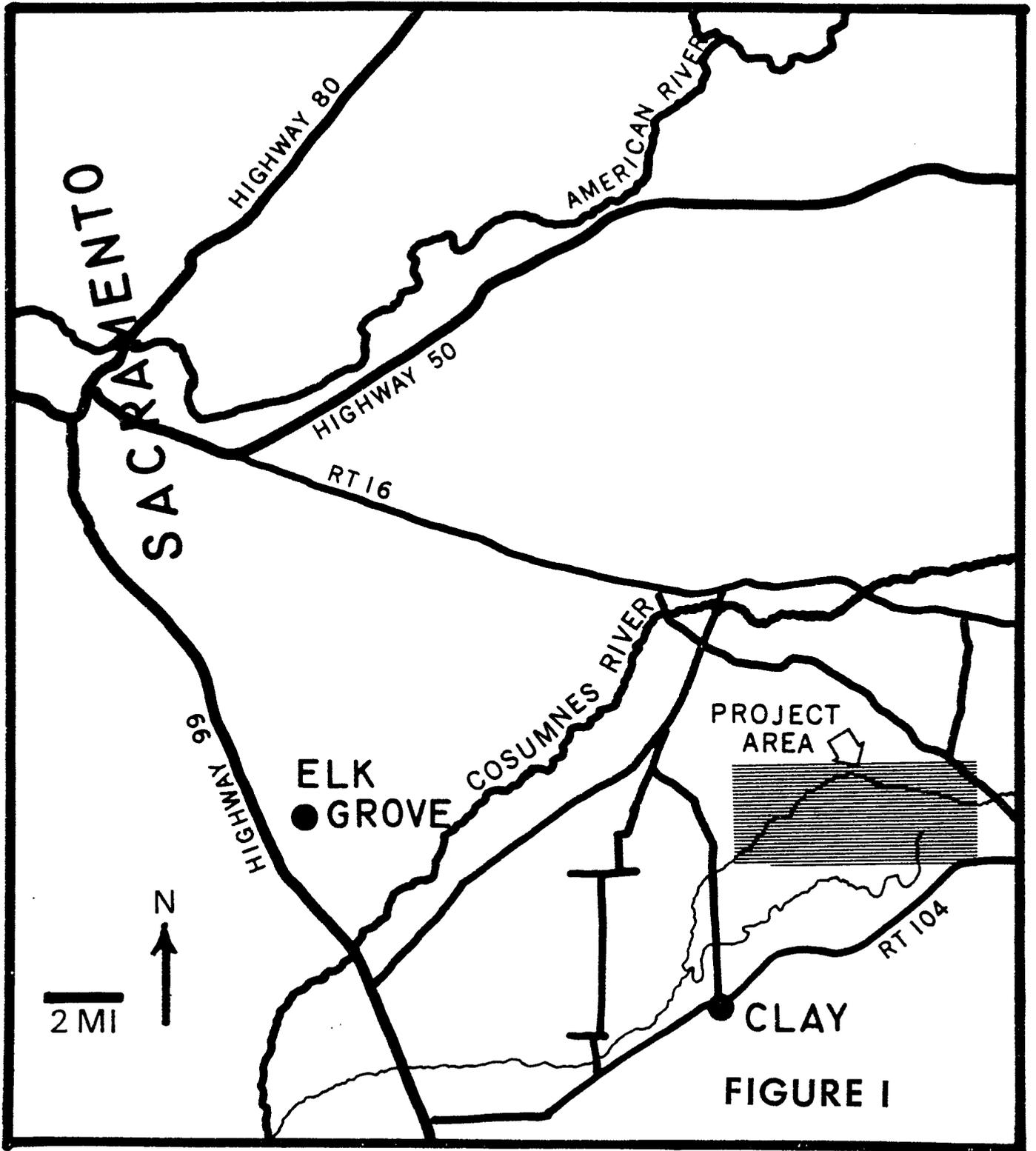


FIGURE I

winters and warm, dry summers. Precipitation occurs in the form of rainfall. The rainy season is from October to May with the heaviest rains in December. The dry season is from June to September. The closest precipitation data for the area comes from Sacramento, where the mean annual total is 16.29 inches per year. Winter temperature averages in the 40's (°F) and the summer averages are in the 70's (°F). However, temperatures of 90°F or higher are expected for at least 80 days per year and minimum temperatures of 32°F or less occur 20 days per year.

Vegetation

At the time of historic contact the vegetation of the area was referred to as Valley Grassland (Munz and Keck: 1959) or Central Valley Prairie (Burcham: 1957). The Valley Grassland occupied most of the floor of the Central Valley and the major floodplains and uplands of the tributaries which empty into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system. Constituents of the native flora of this community are open to debate; however, it is thought that perennials were much more widely distributed and abundant. According to Barry (1972), the Valley Grassland was dominated by 2 perennial bunch grasses, Stipa pulchra and Stipa cernue, interspersed with other perennials and a large variety of annuals.

In the spring, during the months of March, April and May, the Valley Grassland was covered with a diverse display of

blooming annuals. The annuals have a short life span taking only 1 to 2 months to germinate, bloom and disperse their seed.

A second annual blooming period occurred during the late Fall from September to October; miles of Tarweed, (Halocarpa virgata) could be observed. In November two or three species of Eriogonum and Grindelia bloomed and continued to bloom until the return of the spring annuals. (Barry: 1972).

The species composition of the original grassland community has changed significantly during the last two centuries. The native flora has been subject to the introduction of European livestock, crops and annuals. Due to overgrazing, cultivation and urbanization, only remnant stands of the original grassland community occur in California.

Today, the study area includes 4 plant associations (Foin et al: 1975).

1) Upland annual grassland

This association of species occurs on well drained soils (San Joaquin and Pentz gravelly loam), free of standing water; it is dominated by annual grasses and forbs. The major species within this association include: Brodiaea spp; Russian Thistle (Salsola kali var tenuifolia); Star Thistle (Centaurea solstitialis); Tarweed (Halocarpa virgata); Field Mustard (Brassica campestris); filaree (Erodium spp.); Wild Oats (Avena spp.); Brome grass (Bromus spp.); Fescue (Festuca spp.) and Barley (Hordeum spp.).

2) Vernal Pool

This association occurs within low rolling, hummocky terrain characterized by Redding hardpan clay soil, which creates

a perched water table and holds the winter rains which accumulate in depressions. As the pools begin to dry during the spring and early summer months, concentric rings of grasses and flowering annuals and perennials may be observed. Various plants are restricted to this particular habitat, which may be divided into the top of the hummock and pool bottom. Included on the hummock are: Chickweed (Ceastium vulgatum); Pineapple weed (Matricaria matricariodes); Filaree (Erodium spp.) and Soft Chess (Bromus mollis). Some of the plants which are specific to the pool bottom include: Dovingia pusilla; Gold fields (Lasthania chrysostoma); Orcuttia californica and Meadow foam (Limnanthes spp.).

3) Riparian

A narrow riparian edge occurs along Laguna Creek which is associated with the well drained Honcut very fine sandy loam soil. Members of this association include: Cottonwood (Populus fremonti); Willow (Salix spp.); Common dandelion (Taraxcum officinale); Tule (Scirpus acutus) and Cattails (Typha latifolia).

4) Foothill-Woodland

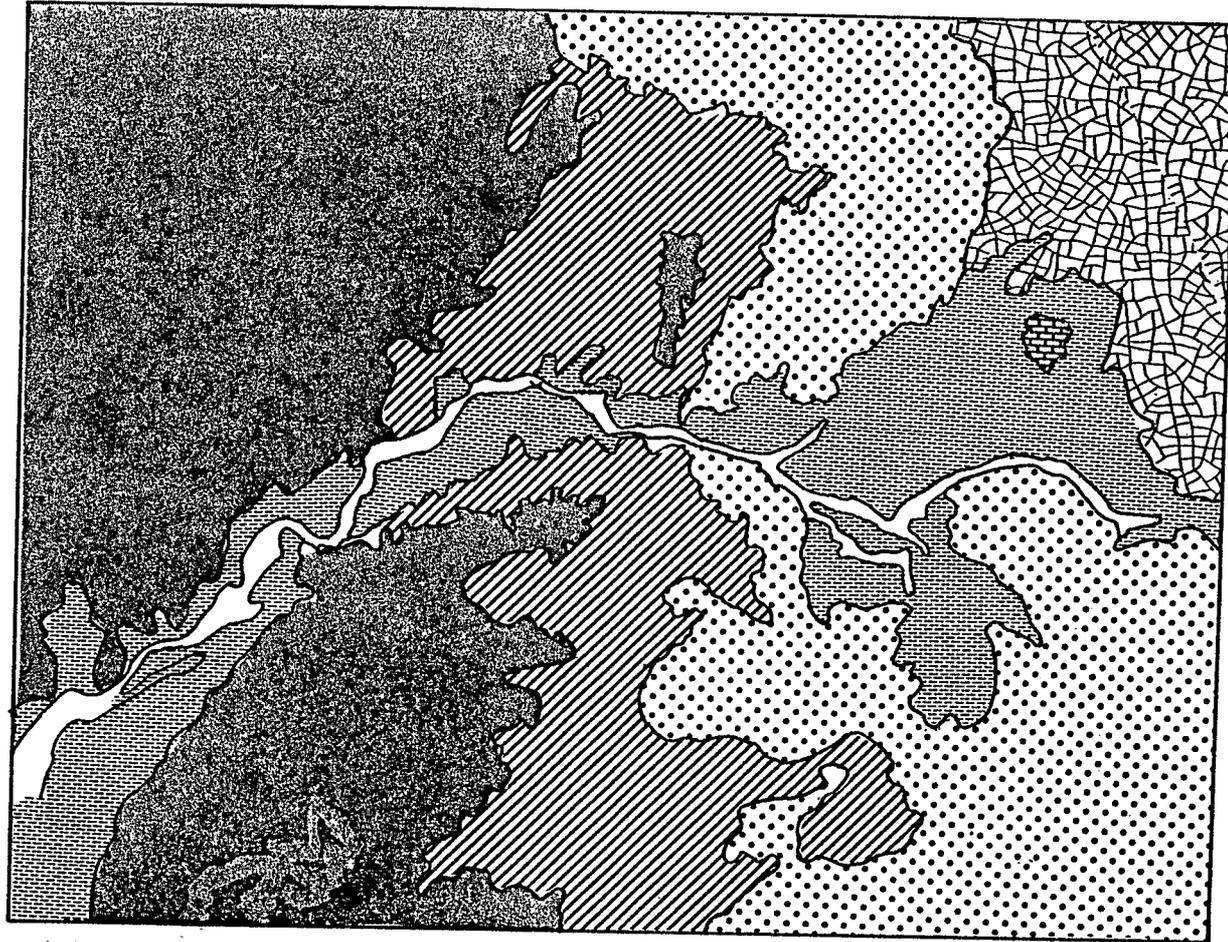
The eastern edge of the survey area marks the transition zone between the Valley Grassland and Foothill Woodland plant communities. Oak trees are common to the rocky, hilly topography and occur predominantly on the Amador fine sandy loam soils. The major species which occur at this zone include Blue Oak (Quercus douglasii) and Valley Oak (Quercus lobata).

Soil Types and Geologic Formations

The soil map for Sacramento County (: 1954) identifies 8 major soil types within Clay Station Reservoir. In general, these soil types can be correlated with 7 different geological formations characteristic of the area (Table 1 & Figure 2). As indicated in Figure 2 this rather small area represents a heterogeneous geologic region. The following geologic map and table provides a generalized description of the relationship between soil, slope, topography and geology.

Geologic Map
of the
Clay Reservoir Site

FIGURE 2



Qal Recent Alluvium Qv Victor Formation Tm Mehrten Formation Tl Laguna Formation
Tv Valley Spring Formation Ti Ione Formation

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Table 1

Clay Reservoir Station Archaeological Survey Area

Geologic Formation	Mapped Soil Series	Slope	Topographic Description
Qal-Recent alluvium; sandy gravel and silt in present stream channels and beneath floodplain, moderately permeable to water.	Honcut - very fine sandy loam	0-3%	Overflow alluvial soil, very gently sloping
QV - Pleistocene-Victor Formation Fluviatile sand, silt and gravel; in part well sorted and well stratified. Moderately permeable throughout.	San Joaquin - Loam	3-4%	Very gently undulating
Tm - Miocene - Mehrten Formation Fluvitile sandstone, siltstone and conglomerate, dominately of andesitic detritus; encloses tongues of coarse andesitic agglomerates of mudflow origin.	Pentz-Redding - gravelly loam	8-25%	Rolling and hilly
Tl - Pliocene - Laguna Formation Fluvitile silt and sand with some gravel and presumably some clay; non-andesitic; poorly bedded and poorly exposed. Originally not highly permeable; contain numerous bodies of perched water.	Redding - gravelly loam	2-15%	Undulating and rolling

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Table 1 - continued

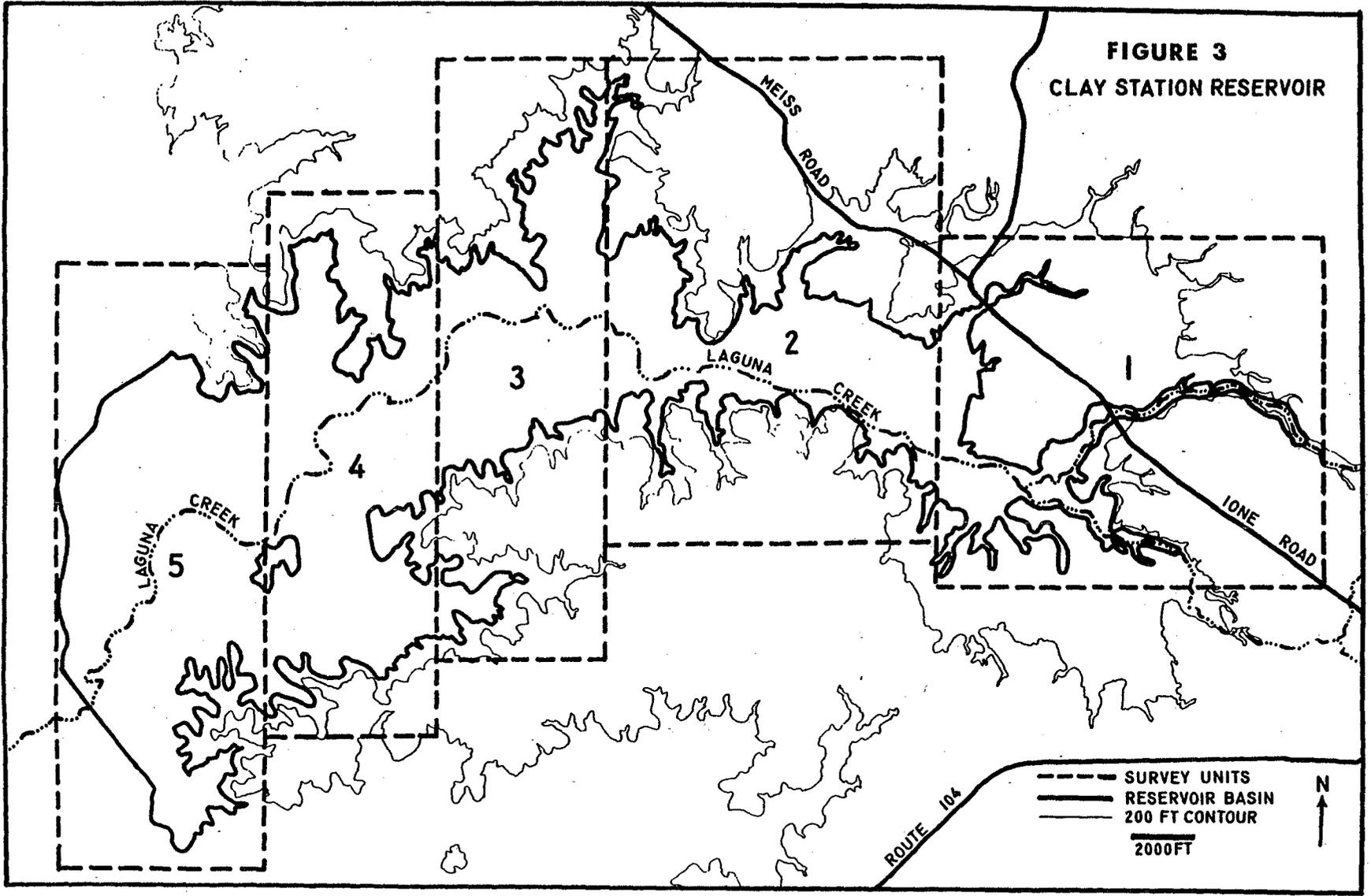
Geologic Formation	Mapped Soil Series	Slope	Topographic Description
Tv - Miocene - Local Unconformity Valley Spring Formation - Pumice, fine siliceous ash, and greenish-gray clay that contains interspersed grains of glassy quartz and quartzose conglomerate; derived largely from rhyolitic material. On the whole not highly permeable but coarse grained tongues and tentils yield water locally.	Pentz - loam	25%+	Steep
Tv - Miocene - Local Unconformity Valley Springs Formation	Pc Pentz Redding - gravelly loam	8-25%	Rolling and hilly
Tv - Miocene - Local Unconformity Valley Springs Formation	Pe Pentz Redding - gravelly loam	3-8%	Undulating
Tv - Miocene Local Unconformity Valley Springs Formation	Ab Amador fine sandy loam	8-25%	Rolling and hilly
Ti - Eocene - Unconformity-Ione Formation. Light colored clay and clayey sandstone; shale and some lignite beds in lower part.	Ac Amador fine sandy loam	25%	Steep

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AREA

The Clay Station Reservoir survey was conducted under the supervision of the author within the area designated in Figure 3. A total of 11,700 acres were covered. The area surveyed was conducted in 4 Phases and include portions of the following sections:

Phase	Area	Acreage
1	36, Township 7N and Range 8E and Township 6N and Range 8E;	2000
	25, Township 7N and Range 8E;	
	30 & 31, Township 7N and Range 9E, Township 6N and Range 8E	
	Carbondale 7.5' USGS, 1968	
2	32 & 35, Township 6N and Range 8E	3500
	22, 23, 26 & 27, Township 7N and Range 8E Carbondale 7.5' USGS, 1968	
3	21, 28 and 33, Township 7N and Range 8E;	2200
	4, Township 6N and Range 8E Carbondale 7.5' USGS, 1968	
4	29, 32 and 5, Township 7N and Range 8E;	1800
	8, Township 6N and Range 8E Carbondale 7.5' USGS, 1968	
	30, 31, Township 7N and Range 8E;	2200
	6, 7, and 19, Township 6N and Range 8E;	
	1 and 12 and the unsectioned area east of 1 and 12, Township 6N and Range 7E	
	Sloughouse 7.5' USGS, 1968	



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Field Method

The area was intensively surveyed by crew members stationed along a north-south axis 20 to 30 m apart. Depending upon the terrain, they walked a zig-zag pattern designed to provide complete coverage of the included territory.

Ground surface was examined for evidence of chippage waste, artifacts, faunal material, structural or any other evidence of prehistoric or historic utilization. Once artifactual material was encountered the crew members conducted minimal ground clearance if necessary, either by hand or with trowels.

All sites were located on 7.5' USGS maps and recorded on a standard site form. Sketch maps were drawn and the sites were photographed. When encountered, structural features were measured as accurately as possible, with both relative location and dimensions given.

ETHNOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

David Rhode

Along the banks of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne River systems and among the sloughs of the eastern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta lived the Plains Miwok. One of five groups attributed to the Miwok subdivision of the Penutian linguistic family, the Plains Miwok held territory bounded by the Yolo Basin on the west, the American River drainage on the north, the Sierra Nevada on the east, and the Calaveras River drainage to the south (Bennyhoff: 1961).

Europeans first came into contact with this group in 1806, and only seventy years later, after epidemics, mission secularization, and overwhelming Euroamerican expansion, the Plains Miwok and their culture were virtually extinct. Not until the late 1800's did ethnographers seriously attempt to document these peoples' culture. Stephen Powers (1877), A. L. Kroeber (1908), C. Hart Merriam (1907), and S. A. Barrett and E. W. Gifford (1933) relied upon what informants were left at this late date to posit geographic boundaries, village site locations, and group alliances, as well as to describe a material culture that appeared similar to that of neighboring groups: the Patwin, Nisenana, and Yokuts (Kroeber 1925; Bennyhoff 1961). The use of historical records (e.g., diaries, ships' logs, early census data, and baptismal, marriage, and mission records) by Schenck (1926) and Dawson (1929), and the definitive work by Bennyhoff (1961) have aided greatly in developing the ethno-

historical record of the Plains Miwok. Nevertheless, this record is marked with skimpy, uncertain facts and numerous distortions; the ethnographers simply arrived too late.

Future ethnographic work is scarcely promising. Descendants of the Miwok, such as those living at the Miwok Rancheria in Ione, may have some valuable information on pre-contact life-ways, but they are at least a hundred years removed from first hand observations. Perhaps the most effective method of elucidating the Plains Miwok aboriginal culture is through archaeological study, judiciously abetted by the use of the ethnohistorical data as it stands today.

The general study area in question is here limited to the northeast quarter of Plains Miwok territory. This corresponds to the wedge bordered on the north by Deer Creek and on the south by Dry Creek, and extending from the confluence of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers to just east of the old town of Carbondale.

The area lies within the Valley Grassland and is adjacent to the Sierra foothills to the east. As stated previously the area is characterized by rolling hills, studded with isolated stands of oaks. Further east, on higher, moister slopes, chaparral vegetation and digger pines grow.

The fauna inhabiting the upland region in this area impressed early travellers with their diversity and numbers. Deer, antelope, elk (nearer the valley), grizzly bear, cottontail and jackrabbits, coyotes, skunks, badgers, ground squirrels, gophers, woodrats, and scattered wildcats and foxes flourished

(Grinnell: 1933). Many varieties of birds were prevalent.

These animals also concentrated near the dissecting stream drainages, where lush gallery forests 600 m. to 6 kms. wide stood. Cottonwoods, sycamores, various oaks, and buckeyes formed a canopy over a shrub layer composed of willow, alder, and wild rose, intertwined with wild grape. In low-lying areas, associated with sloughs and marshes, were dense stands of tules, cattails, and other semi-emergent aquatic plants. Populating the creeks were beaver, otter, mink, raccoon, weasel, various rodents, muskrat, waterfowl, and some twenty species of fish, several of which were economically important to the aboriginal Miwok. The Cosumnes had an annual salmon run in the fall.

Miwok Settlements

Several Miwok lineages cooperatively inhabited villages on elevated knolls bordering the Consumnes. These groups were the largest politically autonomous unit in Miwok culture, and are termed tribelets by Bennyhoff (1961). Both single villages and larger village centers with smaller satellite settlements nearby were established perhaps in relation to population and space limitations. Village centers held up to 500 people, and were used by the same lineages generation after generation. By 1800, 28 independent Plains Miwok tribelets existed. Seven had village centers on the Cosumnes River-Deer Creek system, and one was located on Laguna Creek (Merriam 1907).

Population estimates of the Plains Miwok range from Kroeber's

guess of about 3,000 individuals to Cook's determination of 14,350 (Kroeber 1925; Cook 1955; cf. Baumhoff for a good analysis of these estimates). If Cook's data is accurate, then the Miwok claimed an average density of 11.2 persons per square mile, to make population pressure a significant factor in settlement patterns.

In addition to these permanent villages, seasonal camps were established along intermittent streams during the spring; temporary hunting or gathering sites were used as needed; and much of the dry, hilly uplands were traversed by hunters and plant collectors. Residence in intermittent camps was of short duration. Miwok villagers also participated in a general exodus to upland oak groves each fall for several weeks. These camps were also temporary, and yearly use of the same location apparently did not occur except coincidentally (Bennyhoff: 1961). Bennyhoff sees this as the reason for the lack of large midden accumulations in the uplands. Good acorn tracts were probably reutilized however.

Miwok villagers stayed in their permanent villages for most of the year, and so must be considered sedentary. Ties to the villages were very strong; indeed, the tribelet's name stemmed from its main occupational village. Thus, the Olanapatme Miwok resided in the village Olanapatme on Laguna Creek near its confluence with the Cosumnes River (Bennyhoff 1961).

This strong identification with specific geographic areas is indicative of a significant feature in Plains Miwok settlement

strategy: the concept of territoriality. Everyone was conscious of their recognized land and resource property, and this feeling held between broad linguistic branches (as between Miwok and Maidu), between tribelets, and between individuals and lineages within the tribelet villages. Individuals controlled specific seed tracts, fishing stations, and perhaps single oak trees and rock outcrops, while acorn and hunting lands were collectively owned by entire tribelets (Bennyhoff, 1961). Alliances between tribelets linked them into larger corporate groups, in which one tribelet with a wealth of one resource, say cattails, would share the rights of exploitation of this resource with another group that lacked cattails but had an excess of grinding stone sources, a resource needed by the first tribelet. At least two such reciprocal alliances were present along the Cosumnes drainage (Bennyhoff, 1961).

The early ethnographer Schenck, however, regards the Miwok as much more migratory than does Bennyhoff: "There seems little doubt that a large part of the population ranged into the Sierras. It also seems that many of the same group (e.g., Cosumnes, Moquelumnes) ordinarily made visits as far west as the San Francisco Bay region...without doubt considerable groups of the Cosumnes, to take a single example, were frequently on San Francisco Bay. But that their homesites were near the Cosumnes River also seems likely because of their plains Miwok linguistic affiliations (Schenck: 1926)." This argues against Bennyhoff's notion of Miwok sedentarism and territoriality.

Neither view can be substantiated, but both Kroeber and Bennyhoff attest to the difficulty in delineating territorial boundaries, and perhaps Schenck became mired in this dilemma also. Plains Miwok are believed to have lived in the delta, and any Miwok on the Bay may have come from this area. Similarly, Northern, Central, and Southern Miwok did range into the Sierras.

Subsistence Strategies

The Plains Miwok were typical hunter-gatherers. They collected and processed numerous plant food resources; hunting and fishing complemented the largely vegetarian diet (Bennyhoff, 1961). With the great wealth of food resources available to them, the Miwok could easily afford to be sedentary (excepting their trek to harvest acorns in the fall and short hunting and collecting forays away from the creeks), and they rarely had to deal with food shortage.

The acorn was the staple food for the protohistoric Plains Miwok; this was supplemented by a wide variety of seeds, nuts, roots, berries, and greens found in the bountiful riverine environment. (These supplemental resources could completely offset the effects of a bad acorn crop.). In addition, each lineage would erect graineries to store two years' worth of harvested foods. During acorn harvest, men assisted the women in collecting the staple.

Acorns were ground in wooden mortars with large protable stone pestles; seeds were ground using manos and metates. Bed-

rock mortars were often used when found, but the Miwok do not claim to be responsible for their manufacture (Kroeber 1925; Barrett and Gifford, 1933).

Hunting and fishing, while secondary, were important. Great potential existed in the area for taking game.

Small mammals and birds were more important year-round to Miwok diet than larger species (deer, elk, and antelope). Communal hunting and fishing technology (hunting drives, nets, fish poisons and wiers) were more productive than individual endeavors. Animal foods were dried, pulverized, and stored in the same manner as plant foods. In general, as Kroeber found (1925), the catching and processing of animals was apparently for most Central California natives a simple outgrowth of the collecting and processing of plants.

Thus, Plains Miwok subsistence techniques, intensive plant collection augmented with hunting and fishing, served to harvest a bountiful riparian habitat and surrounding prairie. The adequacy of foods obtained and high population densities, indicate the success of these techniques.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Central Valley of California was one of the first parts of the state to be intensively studied by archaeologists. This research, however, produced little published material. The major publications in the field appeared several years ago (Schenck and Dawson: 1929; Lillard and Purves: 1936; Lillard, Heizer and Fenenga: 1939; Heizer: 1949 and Olson and Wilson: 1964). It is not entirely unfair to say that the majority of Central California prehistorical study remains in the field notes, unanalyzed data and unpublished site reports housed at various educational and state institutions.

During the early 1930's the majority of archaeological field work was conducted in the Deer-Creek Consumnes area under the direction of J. B. Lillard from Sacramento Junior College. The work included site survey and the excavation of 3 sites. The Booth Mound (Sac-126) and the Augustine Mound (Sac-127) reflected the protohistoric and historic periods. The third site, the Windmiller Mound (Sac-107) contained stratified material representing 2 different cultural traditions. The University of California, Berkeley, continuing the investigation of the Windmiller Mound identified an earlier and intermediate tradition than the protohistoric - historic period. During this time Sacramento Junior College excavated 2 sites, the Hicks Mound (Sac-60) and the Morse Mound (Sac-66).

The different cultural remains were defined according to 3 horizons, based upon what appeared to be temporally diagnostic

mortuary patterns and ornamental artifacts. These categories are:

Early Horizon 2500-500 B.C.

The majority of Early Horizon sites are located within the Consumnes-Mokulemne drainage system of the Central California Delta. Numerous artifacts are associated with human burials; primary inhumations which were ventrally extended and mainly oriented to the west.

Ornaments frequently found in association with the burials include small spiral lopped and rectangular Olivella and Haliotis rectangular central-drilled and biforate shell beads; circular incised, central drilled Haliotis ornaments and Haliotis discs attached to ear plugs. The presence of red ochre is also common.

Other burial goods characteristic of this period include charmstone, usually perforated at one end and phallic in form; quartz crystals; slate pendants, and large, bifacial points, approximately one-half of which are made of obsidian.

Characteristically, certain artifacts are under-represented during this horizon. Few ground stone implements such as the mortar and pestle or mano and metate are found. It is inferred that the subsistence strategy was heavily based upon hunting, fishing and waterfowl. Gathering of plant food is assumed but there was little utilization of acorns, which became at a later date the most characteristic staple food in California.

Middle Horizon 500 - 300 A.D.

In contrast with the previous horizon, sites from this time period are widely distributed throughout the Central Valley. Primary inhumation is still practiced; however, the majority are tightly flexed, and less than half have burial goods. Cremations begin to occur, all of which are associated with burial goods. Shell beads and ornaments occur but are changed stylistically. Olivella saddle, modified saddle and saucer shaped beads predominate, although both large and small spire-lopped Olivella beads are still present. Haliotis shell beads are both rectangular and circular, while Haliotis ornaments are numerous and variable in form; circular and oval being the most common. Red ochre continues to be associated with the burials.

This period marks the introduction of several cultural elements which were not found in the previous horizon. These include: short, heavy bird bones; fishtail and asymmetrical spindle charmstones and the occurrence of large stone platforms either above or below burials.

Certain artifacts are perhaps characteristic of shifts and/or refinements in the subsistence strategy during this period. These include the portable mortar and the use of wooden mortars, as substantiated by the presence of nipped pestles. These ground stone implements may be interpreted as indicating the more extensive use of acorns. Other artifacts include those of a developing bone tool industry such as, socketed antler tools

and the initial use of baked clay (used in basketry cooking).

Approximately 8% of those burials excavated had projectile points imbedded in them indicating the possibility that the populations were experiencing a significant amount of conflict.

Late Horizon 300 - 1840 A.D.

Like those of the previous horizon, Late Horizon sites occur throughout the Central Valley. Cremations co-occur equally with primary inhumations which are flexed; one half of these are oriented to the west. Pre-interment burning of baskets and other artifacts is characteristic of this time. Shell beads continue to be associated with burials; thin, rectangular Olivella shell beads predominate. Haliotis ornaments become more elaborate and are commonly banjo, trapazoidal and triangular in shape. This period is marked by the introduction of tubular and discoidal magnesite beads and clam shell discs and steatite beads.

As with the previous horizons, certain artifacts may be characteristic of this time. These include: flanged tubular schist or steatite pipes and small side-notched projectile points predominantly made of obsidian, which are thought to mark the introduction of the bow and arrow. Serrated points are characteristic of certain areas.

Subsistence refinements are reflected in the development of single-piece bilaterally barbed fish spears, flat bottomed portable mortars and cylindrical pestles. It is assumed that

acorn provided the main food resource and that plant food were supplemented with fish, waterfowl and hunting.

In a recent evaluation of this 3 part scheme Fredrickson (1975) has identified some of the major strengths and weaknesses. Until the 1930s the interpretation of California prehistory had been influenced by marked cultural developments characteristic of such areas as the Old World, Meso America or the American Southwest. The cultural sequences reflected changes from Hunting and Gathering technologies through monumental architecture. Change was recorded and identified in substantial shifts such as these. Because of the lack of significant changes in technological items it was thought that California had experienced a long term of cultural stability.

The development of the 3-horizon sequence was important in the recognition and identification of burial complexes and associated artifacts which were temporally diagnostic. However, it was assumed that these diagnostic attributes reflected a wide ranging unilineal cultural progression in which all peoples of the Central Valley participated at approximately the same time.

Fredrickson (1975) points out that the main problem with the scheme is the assumption of this unilineal progression. With increased archaeological investigations, it had been found that, the cultural sequence occurs at different localities at different times.

An archaeological pattern was developed by Fredrickson

"...an adaptive mode (emphasis mine) shared in general outline by a number of analytically separable cultures over an appreciable period of time within an appreciable geographic space (Fredrickson 1975:118)." These cultures have a similar technology, and an economic mode which includes trade networks and wealth practices, as well as similar mortuary and ceremonial activities.

The strength of this approach is that technological items in the archaeological record are seen as reflective of a particular adaptive mode or resource exploitation system. The approach allows for temporal and geographic variability, so that a particular archaeological pattern may occur at an earlier or later date in a particular area.

The components of the 3-horizon system are retained in Fredrickson's more inclusive classification:

The Windmill Pattern appears to be restricted temporally and spatially to the area previously defined for the Early Horizon. The Berkeley Pattern includes the components of the Middle Horizon. The Berkeley Pattern is named after its more widespread distribution from the Delta to San Francisco Bay. Variation in the subsistence strategy are taken into consideration, including primarily the Bay Area and Marin-Sonoma Coast collection of shellfish. The Augustine Pattern includes the previously designated Late Horizon.

Since the early work, several archaeological investigations have been conducted adjacent to our study area. Jerry

Johnson (1976) in his recent archaeological report on Sac-265, has reviewed the archaeological history of the Deer-Creek-Consumnes locality since the early 1950s. Much of the research has been conducted by California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) primarily under the auspices of the Cultural Resources Section of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Starting in the early 1950's, CSUS excavated Sac-107 and 109, in addition to relocating several previously recorded sites. During the summer of 1962 Zenon Pohorhecky, then a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, recorded additional sites along the lower Consumnes River and excavated Sac-266.

During this time period several other graduate students initiated research projects. Louis Payen (1966), while at CSUS, re-visited and recorded several new sites along Deer Creek. His Master's thesis provides a concise outline of many of the sites located between Deer Creek and the Consumnes River. Another CSUS graduate student, Clifford Curtice (1961), prepared a Master's thesis detailing the sites along the Consumnes River as part of a larger study of the Sacramento Valley. During the course of the development of his seminal work on the Plains Miwok, James Bennyhoff (1961) recorded several new sites in the area and revisited most of those previously recorded, utilizing the data in the development of his Ph.D. dissertation.

In 1960, under the direction of William Beeson, CSUS

began a more intensive study of the prehistory of the lower Consumnes locality. Since 1969 this work has been under the direction of Jerald Johnson. Site surveys have been along the Deer Creek drainage, in addition to intermittent excavations from 1961-69 at Sac-225. Three weeks were spent in October of 1967 recovering 125 burials from the Augustine Site (Sac-127). The materials excavated indicate a period of occupation between 1500 B.C. to 500 A.D. (Middle to Late Horizon).

In 1971, 79 new sites were recorded near Bridgehouse on the Consumnes River and all of the previously recorded sites near Sloughouse were revisited. At this time 8 additional units were excavated at the Augustine Site. In 1974-75 the sites from Bridge House to the Mokelumne River were re-investigated. Several new sites were recorded and the previous site record forms were updated.

In 1975 excavations were conducted at the Whalley Site (Sac-265), located near the confluence of the Consumnes River and Laguna Creek, approximately .8 kilometers south of the Need Site (Sac-151). The latter site has been estimated to have been occupied from A.D. 1 to A.D. 500 and again around 1500 A.D. (Late Horizon). The Whalley Site was probably occupied at a slightly earlier time period (Johnson 1976:8).

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

A total of 151 sites have been recorded for the Consumnes River adjacent to our study area. From this 51% are located within 1/2 mile of the river and 42% are situated on a mound or slight rise above the floodplain. This is consistent with Bennyhoff's (1961) thesis that the Plains Miwok were primarily a riverine oriented society who controlled 34 miles of the Consumnes River. Few sites have been found on the grassy plains and drainages such as Laguna Creek between the Consumnes and Mokelumne Rivers.

Those located during the Clay Reservoir Survey represent the first sites of this nature to be recorded. A description of the prehistoric sites discovered during this survey follows.

Long Legs Site (S.C. 1)

The Long Legs Site (Figures 4, 5 & 46) is located on a small rise approximately 35 m south of Laguna Creek and 400 m southwest of the Meiss Ranch. At approximately 150 feet above sea level, it lies within the reservoir basin.

The site consists of 2 bedrock mortars cut into an isolated sandstone outcropping overlooking Laguna Creek. There does not appear to be an associated midden deposit and no surface artifacts were observed.

Frog Grind Site (C.S. 2)

This site is located on the north side of a ranch pond 30 m northeast of the Missie E Meiss site (C.S. 3), with Laguna

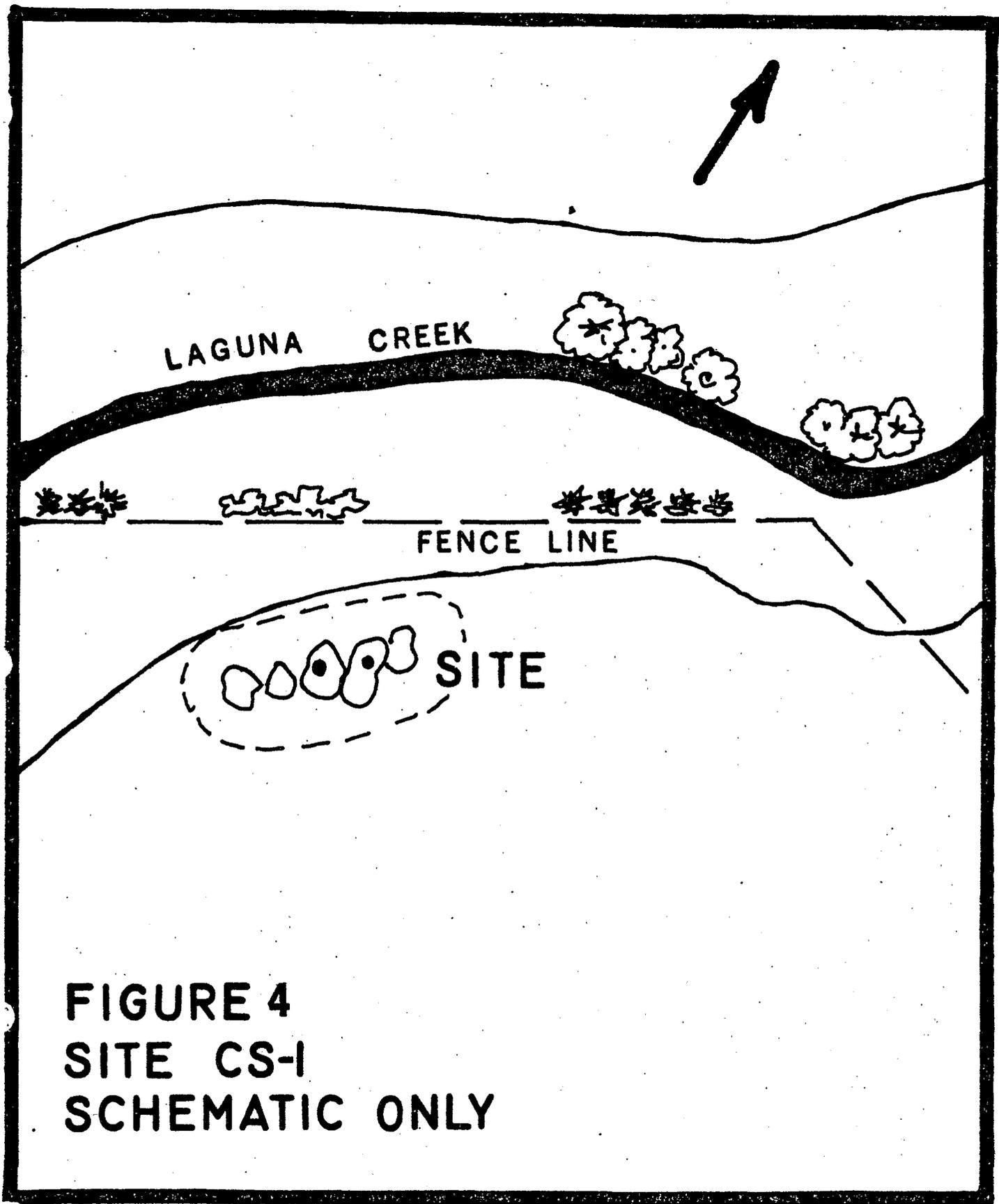


FIGURE 4
SITE CS-1
SCHEMATIC ONLY

MORTAR 'A' IS 14 CM DEEP
MORTAR 'B' IS 6 CM DEEP

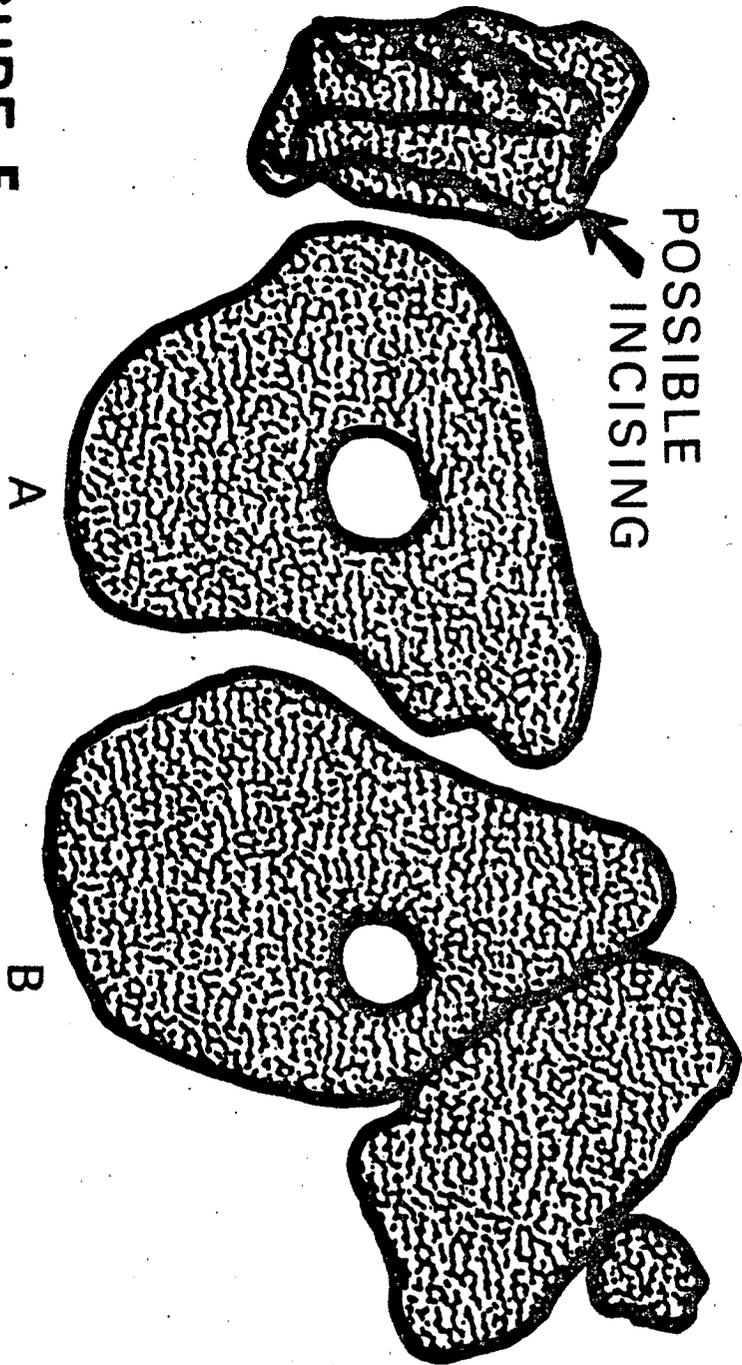


FIGURE 5
SITE CS-1 SCHEMATIC ONLY

Creek is 50 m to the south. Frong Grind is 140 feet above sea level and thus within the reservoir basin (Figures 6, 7 & 46). One bedrock mortar hole was recorded; however, there was no evidence of midden or artifacts.

Broken Metate (C.S. 5)

The Broken Metate Site (Figures 9 & 46) is located on a secondary terrace on the north side of Laguna Creek, is 750 m northwest of the well located in Section 28 (Carbondale USGS, 1968), and approximately 125 m west of an intermittent drainage. The site is 140 feet above sea level, which places it within the reservoir basin.

The area was marked by 2 metate fragments, one of which had been utilized on both sides. No midden was evident and artifacts were limited to one quartzite cobble tool.

Clay Station 7

Clay Station 7 (Figures 10 & 46) is a bedrock mortar site on a gently sloping hillside in the vicinity of a very small intermittent drainage. Elevation is 190 feet above sea level which places the site outside of the reservoir basin.

There are 4 mortar holes, 15 cm in diameter and ranging in depth from 8 cm. to 15 cm. An additional hole was noted which may represent natural weathering.

Clay Station 8

Clay Station 8, a bedrock mortar site, is approximately 75 m. south of Clay Station 7 (Figures 11 & 46). The elevation

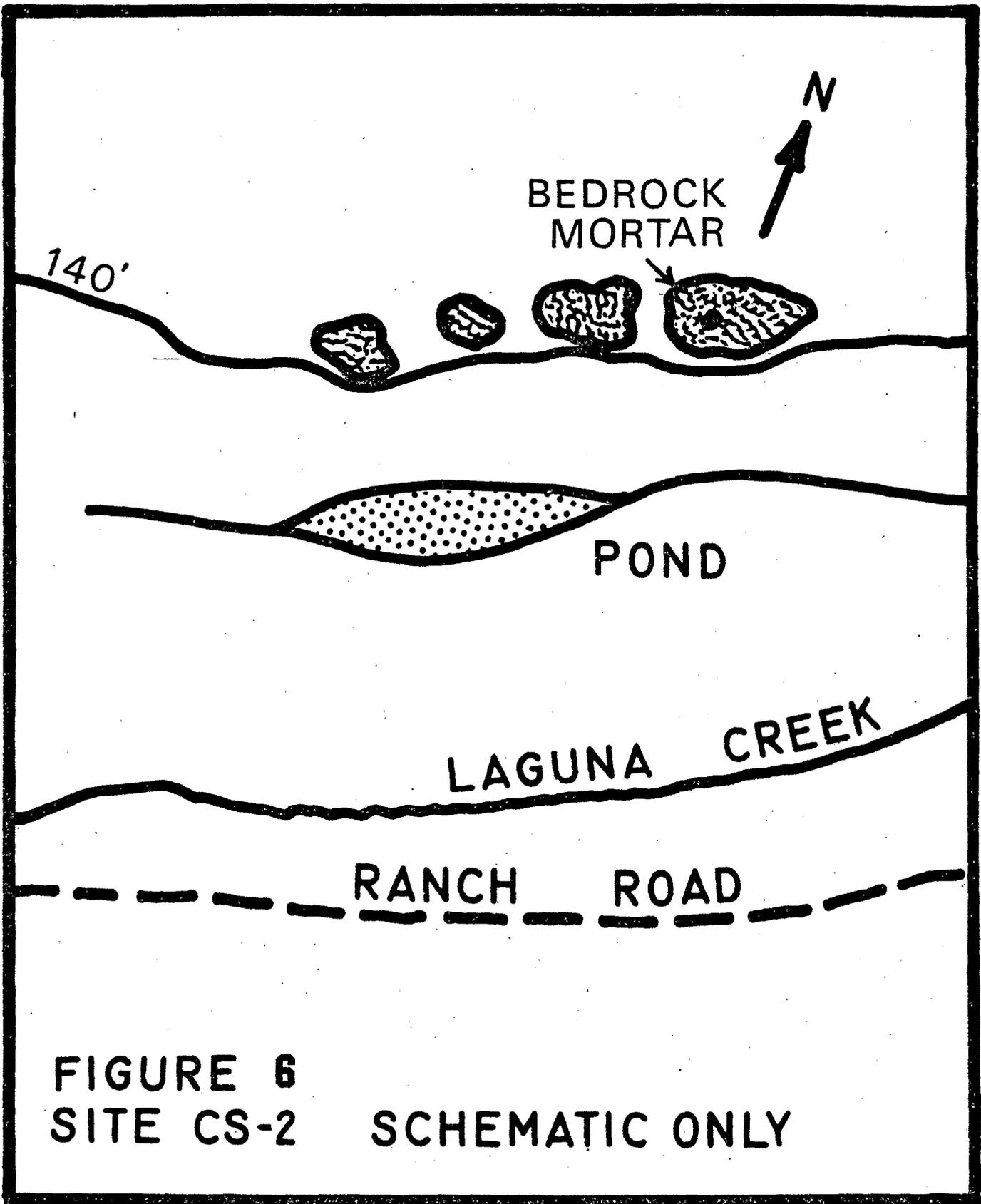


FIGURE 6
SITE CS-2 SCHEMATIC ONLY



BEDROCK MORTAR
10 CM DIAMETER
4 CM DEEP

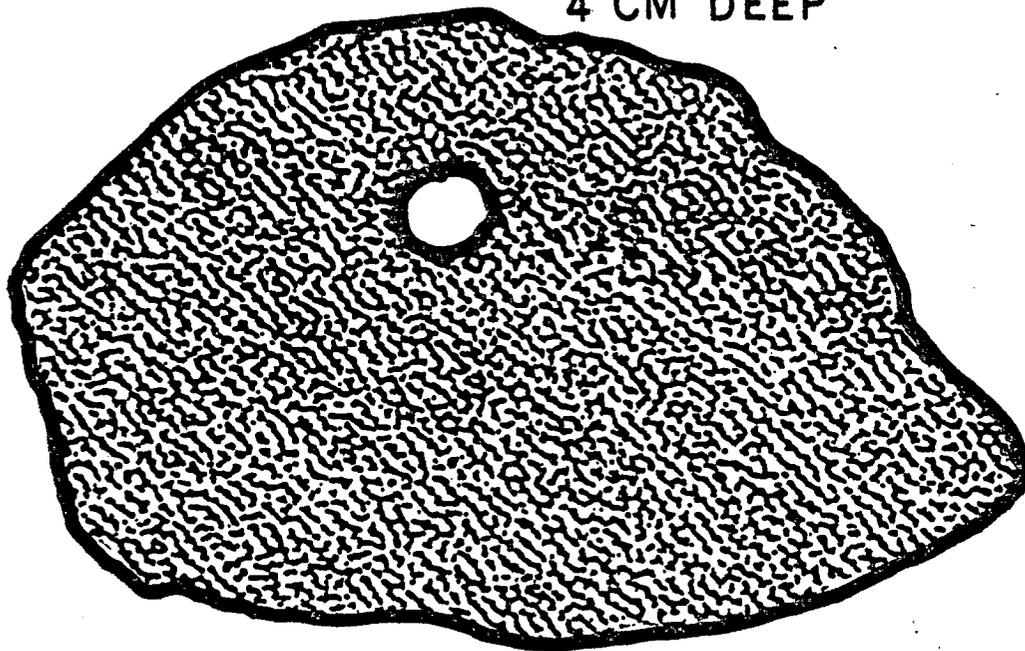


FIGURE 7
SITE CS-2 SCHEMATIC

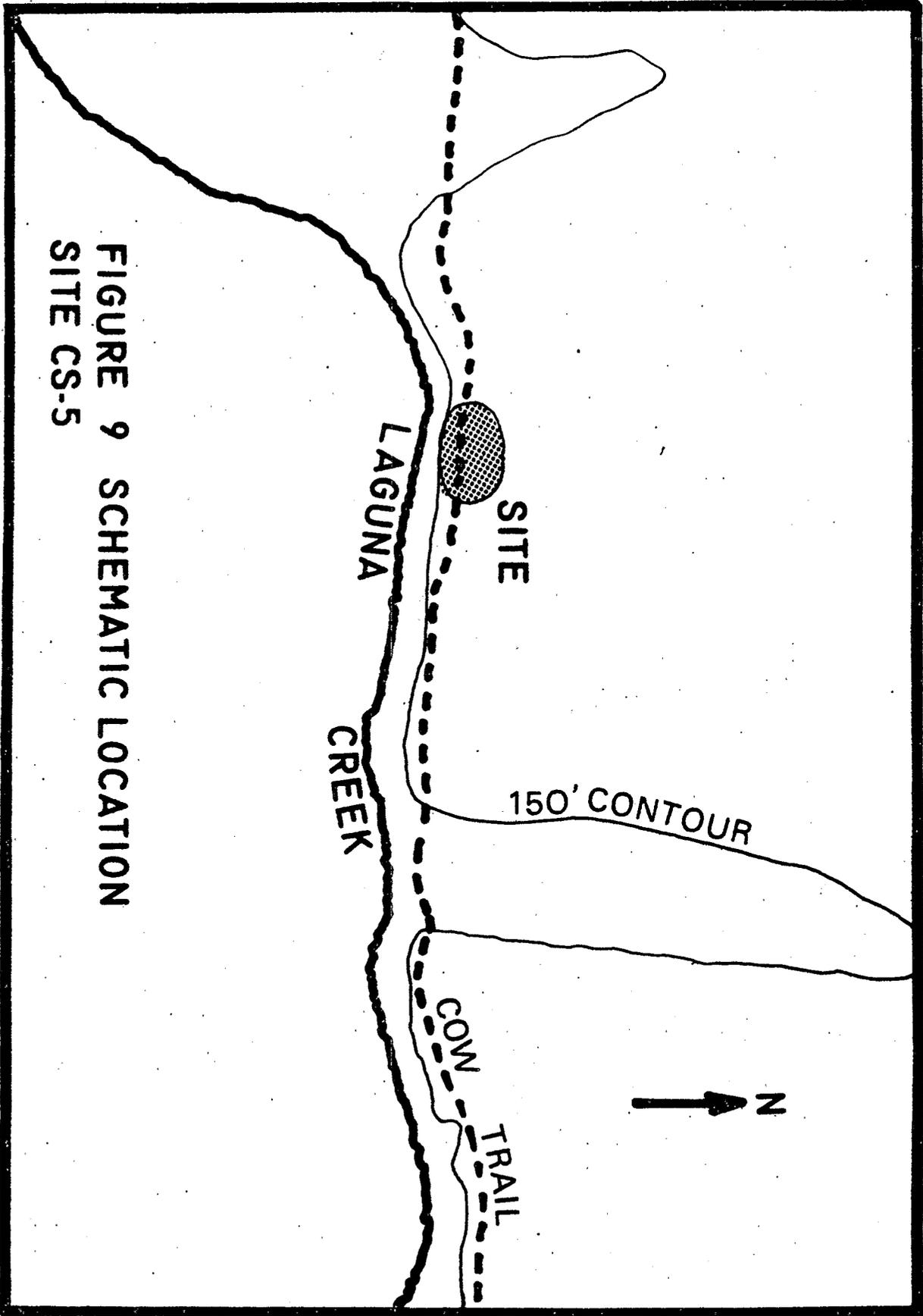
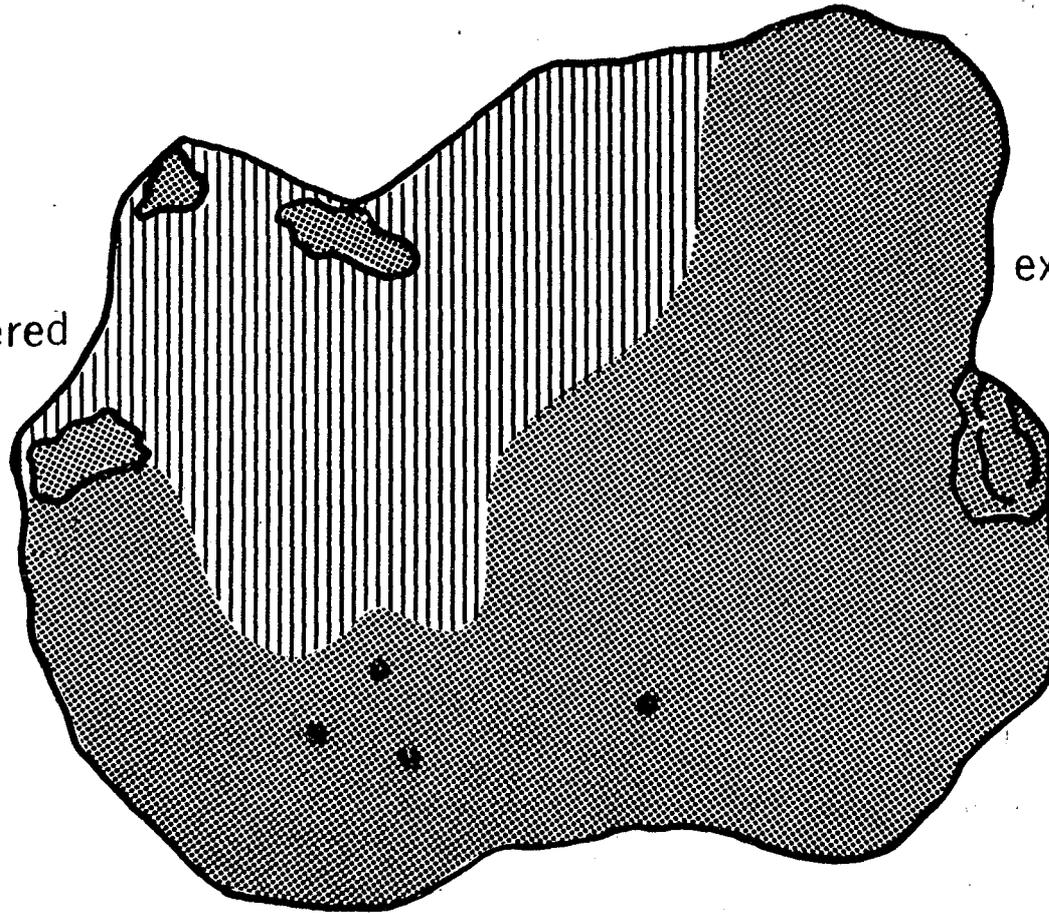


FIGURE 9 SCHEMATIC LOCATION
SITE CS-5



sod covered

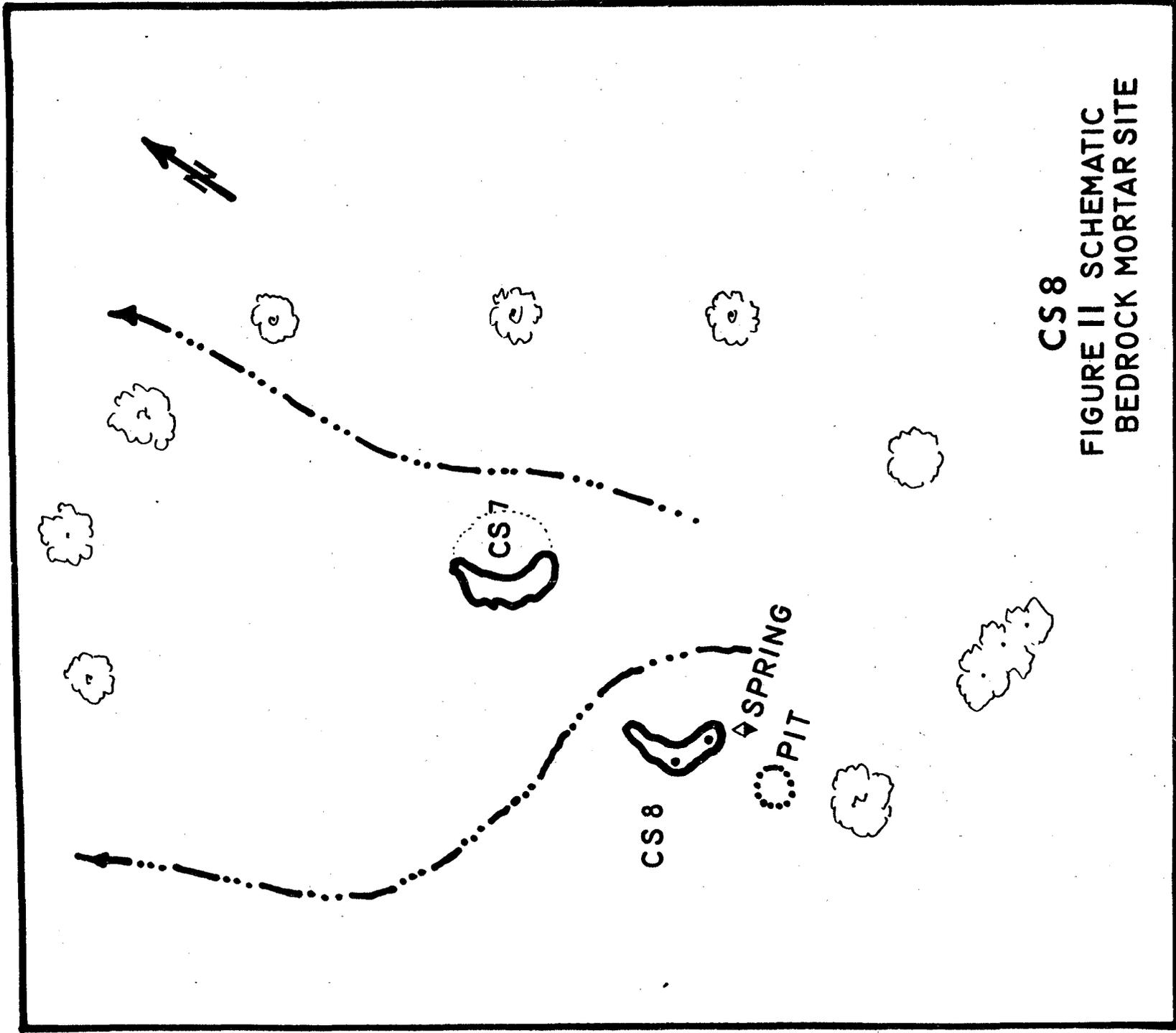


exposed
bedrock



BEDROCK MORTAR
SITE CS7

FIGURE 10



CS8
FIGURE II SCHEMATIC
BEDROCK MORTAR SITE

of the site is 210 feet above sea level, which places it outside of the reservoir basin.

Two small mortar holes were located in the path of a small drainage which cuts across the center of the rock. A spring was noted 2 m. south of the holes which probably provided water at least until late May. Adjacent to the spring and bedrock exposure there is a depression 2 m in diameter and 40 cm in depth. It is assumed that this feature is a "bull wallow," however, the possibility remains that it may represent an isolated house pit. No evidence of occupation such as midden or artifacts was associated with the mortars.

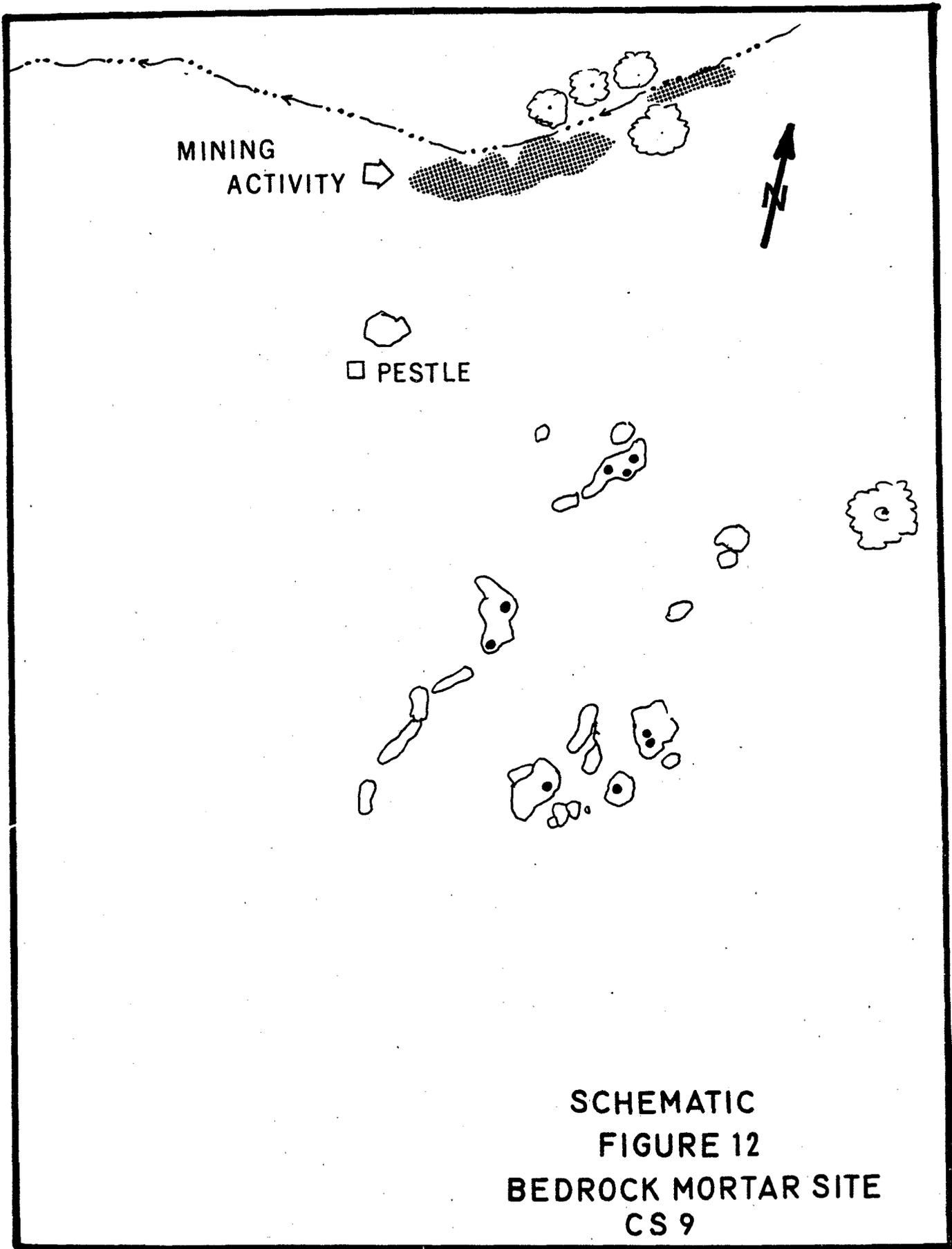
Clay Station 9

This bedrock mortar site, adjacent to an intermittent drainage (Figures 12 & 46), consists of 9 mortar holes distributed over 5 bedrock outcroppings. A pestle was found in the vicinity of another outcropping. The site is located 190 feet above sea level, which places it outside of the reservoir basin. No midden or other artifacts were found in association with the site.

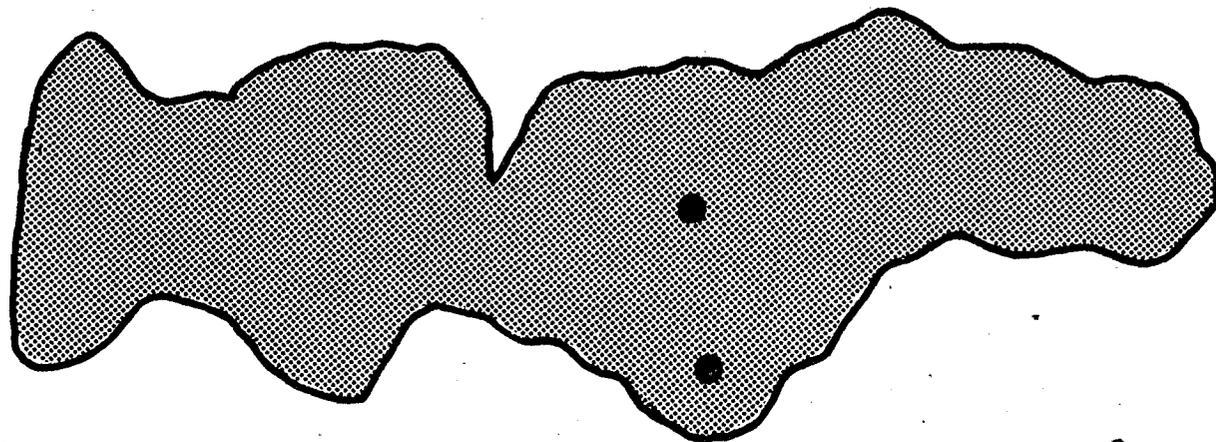
Clay Station 14

Clay Station 14, located within a series of small knolls and ridges adjacent to Laguna Creek (Figures 13 & 46), is 200 feet above sea level, outside of the Reservoir Basin.

The site consists of 2 mortar holes located on a bedrock exposure approximately 17 m in length and 5 m in width. One of the holes is 11 cm in diameter and 4 cm deep and the other



SCHEMATIC
FIGURE 12
BEDROCK MORTAR SITE
CS 9



exposed
bedrock

0 2m

FIGURE 13
BEDROCK MORTAR
SITE CS14

is 20 cm in diameter and 19 cm deep. A crudely fashioned pestle was found in association with the site.

Oak Knoll Site (C.S. 28)

The Oak Knoll Site is located on a grassy knoll on the Brown Ranch, outside of the Clay Station Reservoir survey area. It is 230 feet above sea level (Figures 14 & 46).

The site consists of a midden deposit and a sandstone outcropping with 50 mortar holes. The midden contains chipping waste, various stone tool artifacts and burned bone. The site area is approximately 50 m by 45 m the outcropping is 50 m long by 32 m.

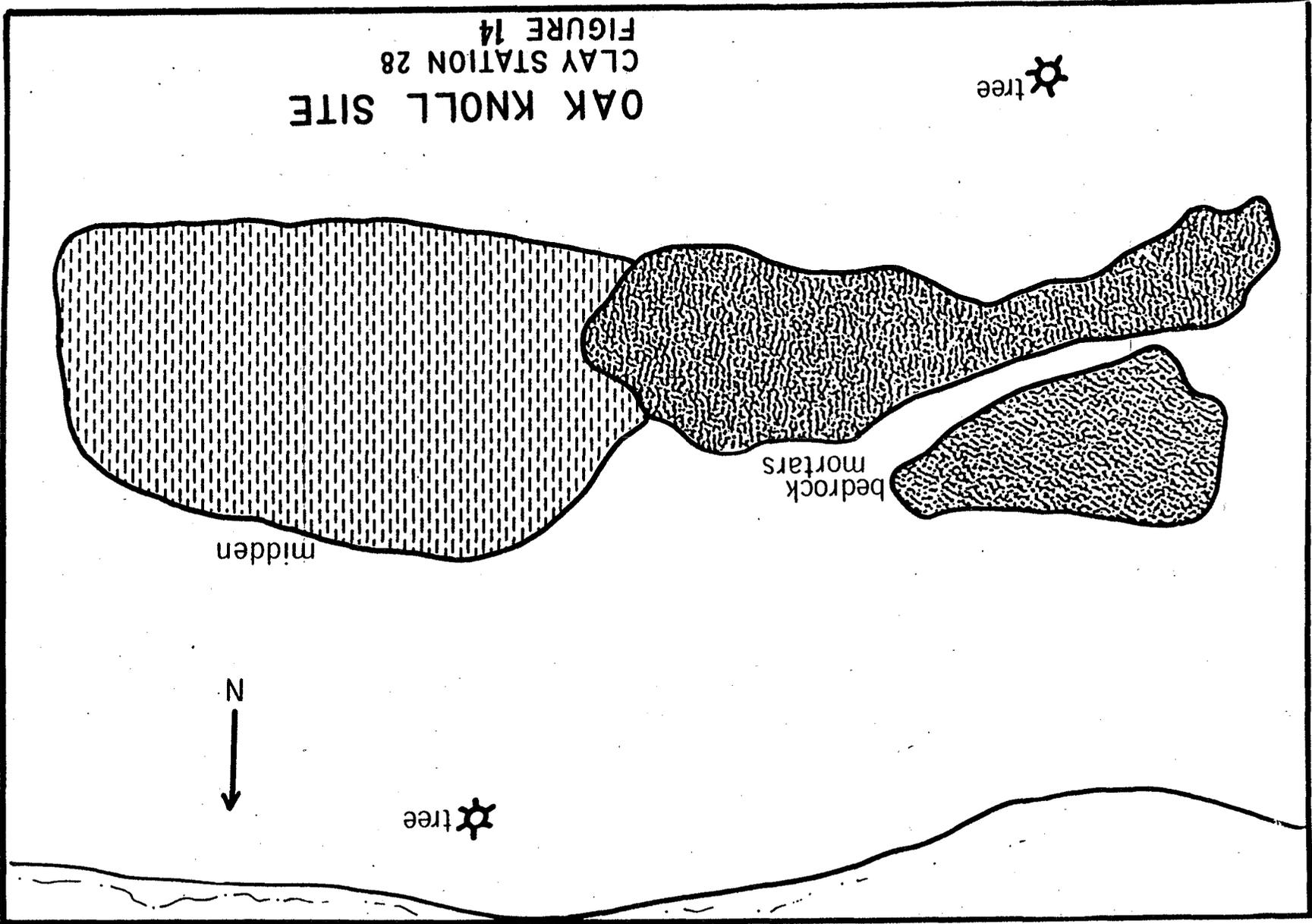
Ben Brown Site (C.S. 29)

The Ben Brown Site is located on a small knoll; at the present time a residence is situated on the midden (Figure 15). The site is outside of the Clay Reservoir survey area and is approximately 230 feet above sea level.

Examination of the site resulted in the identification of a few chert and quartzite flakes. A portable mortar and pestle were recovered at the time the house was constructed. Adjacent to the house site, numerous projectile points and various other artifacts have been discovered during plowing.

Summary

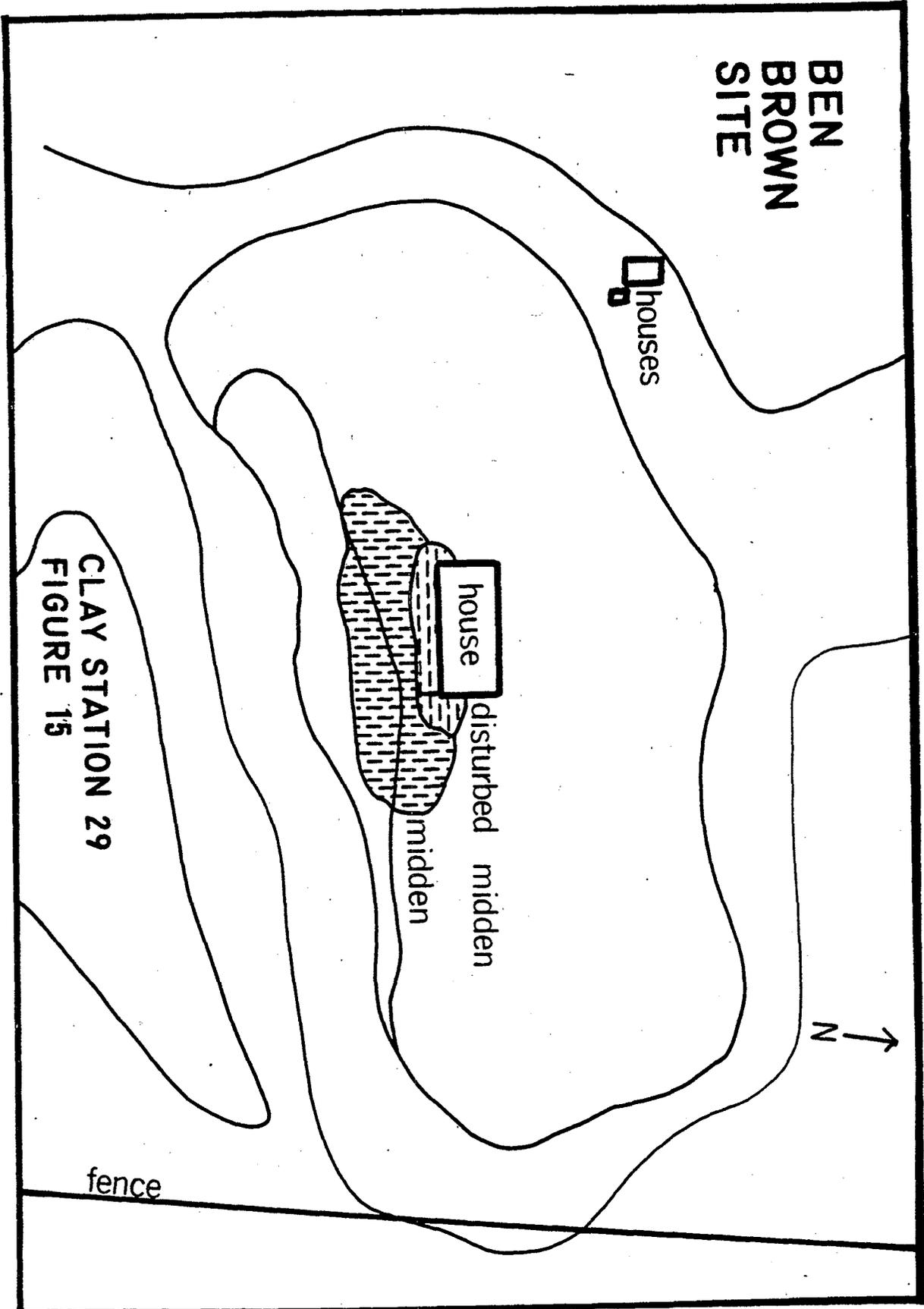
Of the previously recorded sites for the Consumnes area, approximately 80% are assumed to be the location of year round



OAK KNOLL SITE
CLAY STATION 28
FIGURE 14

C-076197

C-076197



CLAY STATION 29
FIGURE 15

BEN
BROWN
SITE

houses

house

disturbed midden

midden

fence

N

occupied villages. As stated previously, these sites are close to the river. They contain midden, house rings, burials and stone tools.

During the course of the Clay Reservoir survey 9 prehistoric sites were discovered between the Consumnes River and the Foothill Woodland Community. Two of them, Oak Knoll (C.S. 28) and the Ben Brown Site (C.S. 29) are located outside of the project area, but are of interest because they are associated with midden, portable mortars and pestles, burnt animal bone, lithics and bedrock mortars (C.S. 28). Both sites are located approximately 4 miles south of the Consumnes River within the Foothill Woodland Community. Due to their proximity to diverse food resources and the presence of the occupational attributes mentioned above they may represent year round villages. The area is known locally as the site of a winter village inhabited by the Indians at the time of white settlement. The sites may also represent refuge areas to which the Indians fled after white settlement along the Consumnes River or the gold fields of the foothill region. Due to the presence of bedrock mortars and other ground stone artifacts it can be reasonably assumed that Clay Station 28 & 29 were at least seasonal camps utilized during the fall acorn harvest, with the people returning to their permanent villages along the river. Given the presence of the well developed midden the area appears to have been a favored location, utilized intensively for a number of years.

The 5 remaining sites appear to be task-specific locations,

associated with the main villages, which were briefly occupied exclusively for the harvesting and processing of acorns. In contrast to C.S. 28 and C.S. 29 they were not associated with midden or any other artifactual remains. The 5 sites are situated on the western edge of the transition zone between the Foothill Woodland and Valley Grassland Vegetation Communities, an area marked by the first bedrock outcropping characteristic of the foothills. All of the sites are close to either a spring or an intermittent water source. It can be assumed that the acorns were harvested in the immediate locality, processed and taken back to the winter village.

One of the sites may represent the location of a grass seed processing area (Broken Metate, C.S. 5). The site is marked by 2 metate fragments and one quartzite cobble tool. Broken metate may be associated with the Long Legs Site (C.S. 1) which is situated on the south side of Laguna Creek. However, 2 historic sites located within the survey area indicate the presence of prehistoric materials, apparently transported by previous white settlers; an activity which may provide an alternative explanation for this isolated find.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

This report provides a preliminary summary of information. These discussions are specific to each historic location identified during the course of the field work and are not intended to form a regional history of the area. As part of the second stage of research, the available county, state and federal documents pertaining to the previous land owners and occupants of the Reservoir area, once known as the Buckeye Valley, were reviewed. These documents include: Sacramento and Amador County marriage records and probate wills; Sacramento County census data; the Sacramento County School Register for the Buckeye District; California State Land Patents; Federal Land Patents and Land Deeds.

"This valley, beautifully situated with low rolling hills for a setting, was inferior to Ione for cultivated crops, but furnished an abundance of the finest quality hay. It was occupied, mostly, by stockmen. Samuel Hill, Captain Good, I.N. Kay, Wayburn, Mugford, Barrett and others, being the first settlers...the soil of the valley having been farmed and cropped many years with no return, have ceased to be productive (Thompson and West 1881:192)."

This is the only statement found during the course of our study which describes the area's early history, since there is very little information on the initial settlement.

Although records provided information pertaining to the various landowners and land transactions through time, there is a problem in documenting the date of occupation of each historic location. Much of the land in the study area was apparently purchased by numerous individuals who did not neces-

sarily live there, but whose main interest was either land speculation or cattle grazing.

It can be assumed that much of the initial utilization of the area took place following the height of the gold rush (post 1860s). Two locations, however, are of particular interest due to their possible gold rush affiliations. These are the Blue Tent Hotel (Buckeye House) and the Niagara House (Two-Chimney Site) both of which were built in 1849 and probably served as half-way houses between the town of Sacramento and the gold fields of the foothill region.

The majority of occupation sites were probably built sometime between 1870 and the late 1890s. The Meiss Ranch, established in 1871, was the largest parcel of land owned by a single individual within the study area. The remainder of the locations were small homesteads in which the occupants worked in nearby towns such as Ione, Carbondale and Clay Station. Employment was found in agricultural labor, the clay mines, gold mining, and railroad or hauling freight by horse and wagon.

The Buckeye Valley was a flourishing settlement characteristic of California in the late 1880s. Its history illustrates the shift in economic activity in California after the exploitation of the gold fields (1850s) and the development and decline of the cattle industry (1860-70s). As discussed in the section on Carbondale, the mining of clay and coal was a major activity in the area. Both resources were secondary to gold and cattle but were probably influential in the initial settlement of this marginal area of the Central Valley.

It is hoped that the following descriptions of each of the historic sites located will provide future researchers in the area with a significant amount of basic information which will aid in the development of a comprehensive regional history.

In addition to the record search, 16 individuals were interviewed, and were asked a series of questions pertaining to the sites located and general history of the area. These included: land ownership and occupation of site, the time range in which the structures may have been built, previous occupants occupations, genealogical data, as well as how the occupants used the land, i.e., crops or grazing.

Two of the informants, born in the mid 1890's were children of early settlers of the area. They were able to remember the majority of the sites located and were extremely helpful and interested in our work.

INFORMANTS

The success of this report is attributable to the willing and helpful informants interviewed during the course of our study. Many of which were related to early settlers in the Buckeye Valley. They spent many hours discussing the history of the area and some in the location of sites. Early photos which are reproduced in the text of this report were generously provided by Elizabeth Brenner.

Elizabeth Brenner (Meiss - EB) and Roberta Glen (Meiss - RG)

These women are the daughters of Ben and Jennie Meiss. Their father took over the Meiss ranch after his father, Louis, died. They were extremely helpful and provided a substantial amount of information about the general history of the Buckeye Valley and early ranch life.

John Gill (JG)

John Gill owns what was formerly the Meiss ranch, which he has renamed, Rancho Grande. He provided information about ranch life in general and was able to explain the function of several foundations and structures located during the field survey.

Willie Franklin (WF)

Willie Franklin is a Native American Miwok. Mr. Franklin lived most of his life in Ione and has lived in the Buckeye Valley for the last 13 years. He knew Bob Meiss and many of

the other 'old timers' in the area and was a willing and helpful informant.

Mrs. Lydia Harris (LH)

Before she married, Mrs. Harris taught at the Buckeye School, around 1911. At the time she lived on a ranch in Ione. She is now 87 years old and provided valuable information about the Buckeye School.

John Bishop (JB)

John Bishop is caretaker at the Ione Cemetery. He lived and worked in the Buckeye Valley most of his 'early years' and knew and remembered many of the people who once lived there. Mr. Bishop was at one time the Section Boss for the Central Pacific Railroad and lived with his family in the town of Carbondale.

Clarence "Bud" Nichols (CN)

Clarence Nichols was born in 1894, the son of Grant and Stella (Jacquier) Nichols. He lived in the Buckeye Valley until 1913, except for a few years around 1906 when his family lived in Ione. Starting at the age of 15 he drove a horse team hauling goods for his father. His family moved several times around the valley before they settled in Latrobe in 1915. Mr. Nichols remembered alot about the valley and was a valuable and helpful informant.

Don Mecum (DM)

Don Mecum is a student at Delta College who has been studying

the history of the area for several years. He was helpful and generously shared the information he had gathered.

Sam Jaber (SJ)

Sam Jabor lived in what used to be the town of Carbondale (Figure 40). He knew Bob Meiss and Ed Christopherson when they lived in the valley and had learned about the early history from them. Mr. Jaber provided information pertaining to the early days in Carbondale.

Schneider family

Jake Schneider (JS), Jay Schneider (JS) and Iona Riella (Schneider IR)

The Schneiders are local ranchers who provided information concerning the later history of the valley. The following provides an outline of their family history.

Henry Schneider was born in Zurich, Switzerland and his family immigrated to Missouri around 1842. Henry was a butcher by trade and owned a meat market in St. Louis. He came to California in 1857 and established a butcher business, first in Placerville and later in Diamond Valley. It was here that he married Louis Schmidt, a native of New York City. She had come to California as a child. Later, Henry bought a farm in Pleasant Valley and raised cattle. Louis died in 1911 and Henry in 1914.

Their son Henry, the eldest of 7 children, was born in 1866 in Pleasant Valley. Henry went to school until he was 11, at

which time he started to help his father in the stock business. Later, he bought cattle and drove the meat wagon for him until 1889 (Reed 1923:545).

In February of 1889 he married Hester Wheeler, daughter of Noah and Hannah Wheeler. Henry bought a 1,100 acre ranch in El Dorado and went into the butcher and stock business. Henry and Hester had 4 children: Leland W., Amy Irene, Blanche and Ione. In 1906 the Schneiders moved to Sacramento where the children went to school and Henry established a stock business. In 1909 he bought a ranch on the Consumnes River and made his son, Leland, a partner. They raised grain, alfalfa and had 500 head of cattle and 2500 sheep. In 1920 the Schneiders built a home on the ranch (Reed 1923:545).

During this time Henry and Leland bought land from small ranchers in the Buckeye Valley, increasing the size of their ranch. Leland's son, Jake, now owns the ranch. His sons, Jay and Leland, also live and work on the ranch. Jake's father had told him a lot about the valley and he proved to be a valuable informant. Jay is interested in the history of the valley and was helpful throughout the study suggesting sources and aided in locating informants.

Iona Riella (Schneider), Leland Schneider's (Senior) sister was born in 1902. She grew up on the ranch and knew some of the early people in the Buckeye Valley. She provided many helpful suggestions in the preparation of this report.

Brown Family

Jennie Brown (JnB), Rose Bonetti (Brown RB), Ben Brown Jr (BB)

and Bonnie DuFrene (Brown BD).

The Browns are local ranchers and provided helpful information throughout the study. The following provides an outline of their family history.

Frank Brown was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His mother, Catherine came to America on the Mayflower (JnB). Frank's wife, Marie Heinz, came to America from Germany when she was 18 years old. Frank and Marie were married and lived in Nebraska where they had 4 children: Edward, Harriett, Albert and Jennie. Marie's doctor advised her that she should move to an area with a more temperate climate. Jennie Brown (JnB) was 2 months old when, in June of 1891, her family started their trip to California. They arrived October 2, 1891 and settled in Elk Grove, but soon moved to Clay Station where Jennie's sister Rose was born.

In 1894 the Brown family moved to the ranch in the Buckeye Valley, which they now own (Figure 46; Clay Station 28 & 29). Their last child, Ben, was born there in 1907. Doc West owned the ranch and Frank Brown was his foreman. However, sometime around 1902 Doc West lost the ranch to the bank and Smith Parker bought and took it over. A few months after he moved to the ranch, Smith Parker and Hattie Brown, who he had been engaged to prior to his purchasing the ranch, were married. Frank Brown worked for Parker and his wife Marie did the cooking for the family and ranch workers. In 1907 the Browns moved to Pleasant Valley (JnB, BB & RB).

After Smith Parker died, Ben Brown came back to help his sister Harriet run the ranch. When Harriet died in 1950, she left the place to her brothers Ben and Albert (Probate Will #3230 and 3234, Amador County). Ben sold his saw mill in Pleasant Valley and moved to the ranch. About 1956 he bought out his brother (BB).

Today, Ben Brown Jr. and his sister Bonnie and her husband Gene DuFrene live on the ranch. Mrs. DuFrene was especially courteous in sharing a copy of the Buckeye School Register kept by one of its teachers, Kate Wilber. In the book were the names of children attending the school, current social events and a sample of Kate's poetry.

The Meiss Ranch (Clay Station #31 & 3)

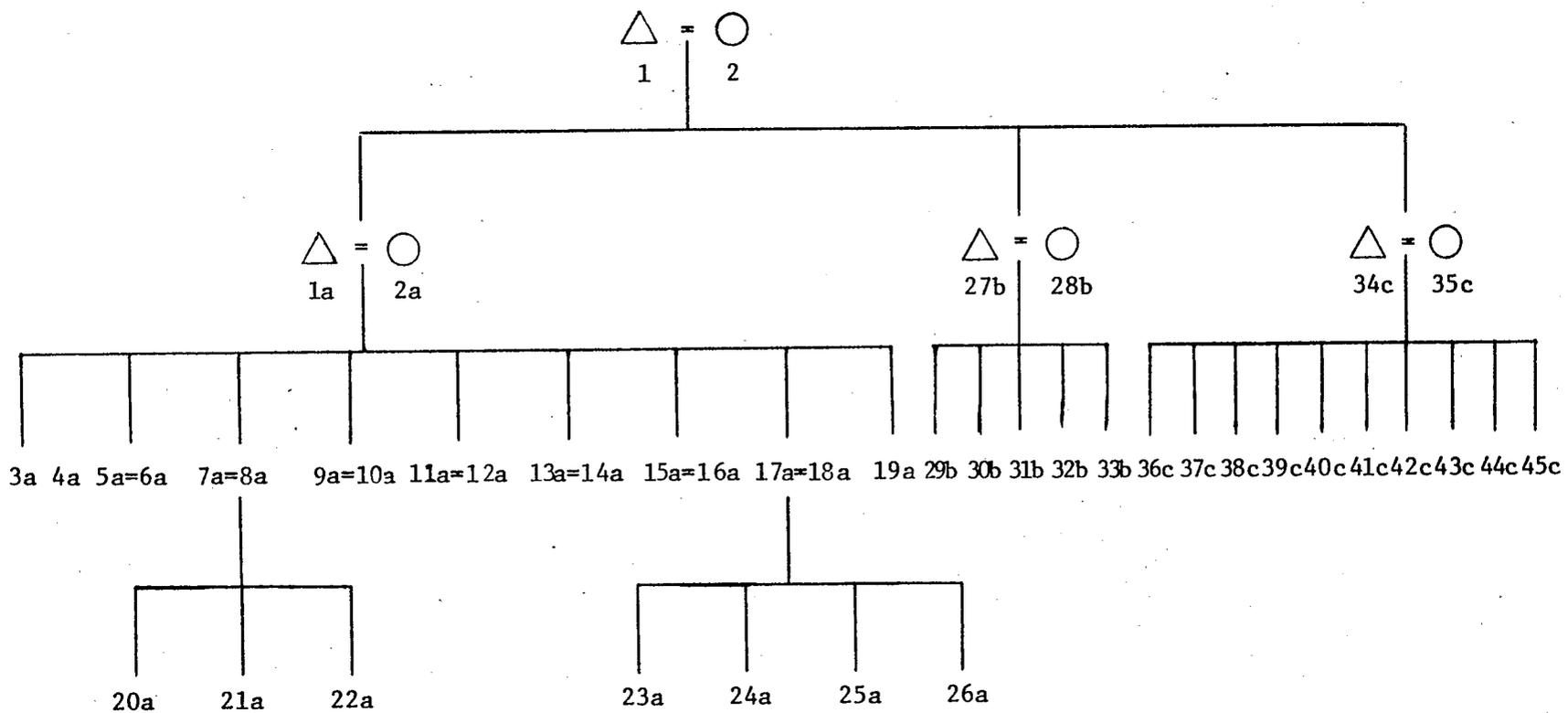
The Meiss Ranch (Figures 16 & 46) is located approximately 2 miles south of Meiss Road on the south side of Laguna Creek. The site is approximately 150 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

During the first survey of the area the Missie E. Meiss site (C.S. 3) was recorded, which was later identified as the location of the Meiss grist mill. After a re-evaluation of the ranch it was decided that rather than record the remaining structures or features as separate sites the area would be recorded as one. The features will be discussed in the following text.

Johann Heinrich Meiss, his wife Mary and their children came from Germany on the Ship Baltimore to New York in 1840.

TABLE 2

MEISS FAMILY GENEALOGY



C-076210

Table 2 - continued

1. Heinrich Meiss (n.d.)
2. Mary Meiss (n.d.)
- 1a. Louis Meiss (1823-1908)
- 2a. Elizabeth Meiss (Dorn, d. 1899)
- 3a. John William Meiss (1854-1926)
- 4a. Louis Meiss (1853-1923)
- 5a. Henry Frederick (1857-1924)
- 6a. Minnie Meiss (Mugford; n.d.)
- 7a. William Rossi Meiss (1859-1941)
- 8a. Josephine Meiss (Obermeyer; n.d.)
- 9a. Gerhardt L. Meiss (1861-1911)
- 10a. Carrie Belle Meiss (Deter; n.d.)
- 11a. Wilhemina Elizabeth Nichols (Meiss; 1866-1918)
- 12a. Albert Nichols (n.d.)
- 13a. Frederick Meiss (1864-1949)
- 14a. Josephine O'Dell (Meiss; n.d.)
- 15a. Maria Wilhemina Polhemus (Meiss; 1867-1929)
- 16a. Ed Polhemus (n.d.)
- 17a. Benjamin Robert Meiss (1868-1949)
- 18a. Jennie Meiss (Jones; n.d.)
- 19a. Carl Frank Meiss (1871-1936)
- 20a. Elizabeth Brenner (Meiss; b. 1905)
- 21a. Roberta Glen (Meiss; n.d.)
- 22a. Genevieve Meiss (n.d.)
- 23a. Evelyn Meiss (n.d.)
- 24a. Vera Meiss (n.d.)
- 25a. Ada Meiss (n.d.)
- 26a. Madeline Meiss (n.d.)
- 27b. Henry Meiss (b. 1829)
- 28b. Sophia Meiss (Heisch; n.d.)
- 29b. no name known
- 30b. no name known
- 31b. no name known
- 32b. no name known
- 33b. no name known
- 34c. Christian Meiss
- 35c. Elizabeth Meiss (Schneider; n.d.)
- 36c. Robert Meiss (1880-1969)
- 37c. George August Meiss (1855-1895)
- 38c. Emma Meiss (b. 1867)
- 39c. Charles Meiss (died 1 yr.)
- 40c. Daniel John Meiss (n.d.)
- 41c. Julia A. Meiss (n.d.)
- 42c. Anne E. Meiss (n.d.)
- 43c. Christian Meiss (d. 1955)
- 44c. Trena Meiss (n.d.)
- 45c. Alida Meiss (n.d.)

Table 2 Symbols

△	Male
○	Female
=	Marriage link
	Offspring link
—	Sibling link
a	Louis Meiss Family
b	Henry Meiss Family
c	Christian Meiss family
()	Maiden name
n.d.	no date for birth or death
b	birth date
d	death date

They settled in St. Louis, Missouri where they established a butcher trade (Reed 1923:797 and Irvine 1905:1037).

Louis (Table 2, #1a & Plate 1;a), Heinrich's son, was born in 1823. He supposedly led two different parties across the plains to California by ox-teams, the first in 1843 when he was 20 years old. He returned to Missouri and remained there until 1850. That year he came to California and engaged in the stock-raising business until 1853, when he returned to Missouri and remained there until 1854 (Thompson & West 1881: 255). On his way home from the second trip, he stopped to water his horse at a Missouri farm, where he met Elizabeth Dorn (Table 2, #2a & Plate 1;b). Elizabeth, who was working on the farm, also came from Germany. She had come to America to escape a marriage to an older man, which her parents had arranged. Soon after their meeting, on February 23, 1854, Louis and Elizabeth were married. After their marriage they moved to California.

Louis's brother, Henry (Table 2, #27b), was born in Germany in 1829 and emigrated to the United States in 1841. He lived in Missouri until 1848 where he was engaged in the butchering business. In that year he moved to Illinois and remained there until 1850 when he returned to Missouri and established another butcher business. He moved to Drytown, California in 1851 where he continued his butchering trade for 7 years. He married Sophia Heisch (Table 2, #28b) in 1859, also a native of Germany, and they had 5 children: 3 sons and 2 daughters (Table 2 #29b-33b; names unknown).

Plate I

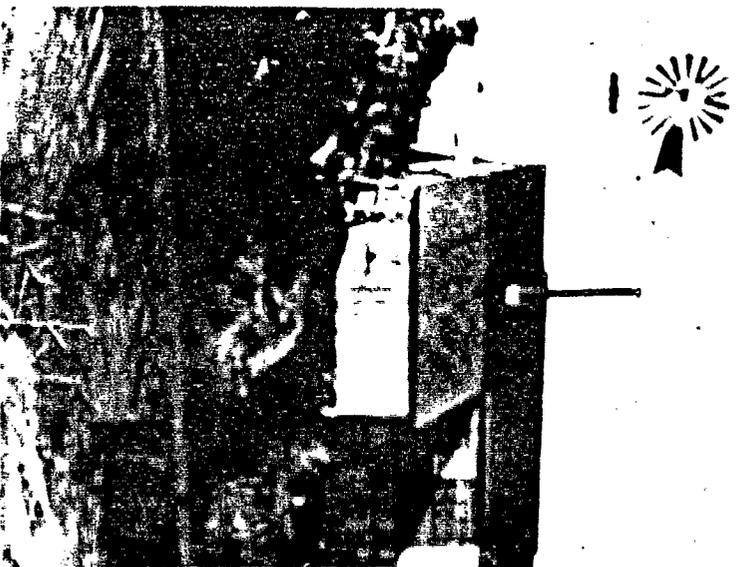
a



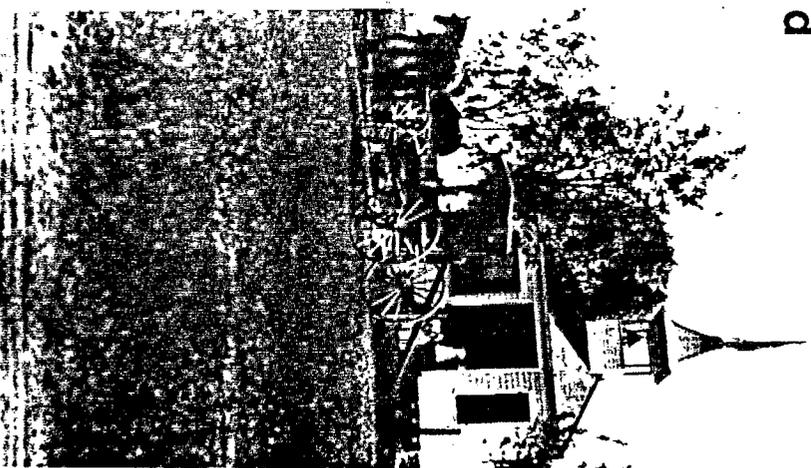
b



c



d



Another brother, Christian Meiss (Table 2, #34c) also moved to California, but little information could be found documenting his migration westward.

Louis and Elizabeth established a butcher trade in Drytown, where he 'peddled' meat packed on burrows to the miners in the area (Reed 1923:797). Louis built the first grocery store and butcher shop in the town.

"At Drytown, a mining camp nine miles north of Jackson, mining for gold was first begun in the spring of 1848. It was not unusual in 1849, in the surrounding gulches to wash as much as one hundred dollars in gold from a single pan. The nomenclature of these gulches--Blood Gulch, Murderer's Gulch, Rattlesnake Gulch...indicates that, although there were no doubt plenty of steady, industrious miners at Drytown, there were also desperate characters who left their mark on the vicinity...The town prospered until 1857, when fire swept the place. It never recovered from this disaster, for gold was already becoming worked out here. Two buildings still stand in Drytown; an old store and the town hall (Hoover 1964:70).

The butcher shop had a floor of marble which was brought by wagon from a quarry near the town of Plymouth. In later years the post office was established at the store. The store was owned and leased by the Meiss family until the mid-1950's at which time it was certified by the 100 Year Club of California (RG).

With the decline of the gold rush Louis and his brothers Henry and Christian started to acquire land in the Buckeye Valley from the Federal Government between the 1860's and 1880's (Figure 45, Patent #'s 78, 341, 2536, 638, 145 and 208) and from individuals (Figure 45, Patent #83805).

Louis eventually gave up butchering and leased the stores in Drytown and became a full time rancher. By 1871 he had built several ranch buildings and house on his property and moved his family there (Figure 16 & 46). Sometime between 1885 and 1903 Louis Meiss acquired Henry's land (Figures 41 & 42). At one time he had about 1000 cattle and 10,000 sheep (Reed 1923:797).

Elizabeth Meiss died in 1899 and Louis in 1908. Both are buried in the Drytown cemetery. Meiss in contrast with other settlers in the valley was a wealthy man, in addition to his large land holding (4000 acres) his personal property at the time of his death consisted of farming tools and implements; 770 head of cattle; 1600 sheep; 14 bucks; 15 horses; 8 scrub stock horses; 35 hogs; 300 chickens and 30 turkeys (Deeds, vol. 256, p. 175). At the time of his death the Louis Meiss Estate Company was formed, in which all 10 children had equal undivided shares. Ben Meiss (Table #17a) was made president and manager and Frederich Meiss (Table 2 #13a) was secretary (RG & EB).

Ben Meiss met and married Jennie Jones while she was working at her father's grocery store in Walsh Station. After their marriage she moved to the ranch. Ben and Jennie had 4 children (Table 2 #'s 23a, 24a, 25a & 26a). Two of the children, Elizabeth and Roberta both attended school in the Buckeye Valley by 1913. Jennie had held Elizabeth back one year because they had to travel 4 miles to school by horse and buggy and there was no one available to drive them. The following year she

solved the problem by providing room and board for the school teacher. In 1921 Jennie and the 4 children moved to Sacramento to continue their education. At the time, the Buckeye School only went up to the 8th grade. Ben Meiss continued on at the ranch (EB).

Ben Meiss's brothers John and Frank (Table 2 #'s 3a & 19a respectively) lived and worked on the ranch. They were bachelors and 'Uncle Johnny' preferred to be called "Hobo". He did most of the carpentry work on the ranch, while Frank was the mechanic and worked the blacksmith shop (RG & EB).

In addition to Ben's brothers John and Frank and their cousin, Bob Meiss (Table 23 6c), there were about 5 regular hired hands on the ranch. The pay was \$30.00 a month plus room and board. During the haying season 5-7 extra men were hired and during sheep shearing time 18-20 men would get together and go from ranch to ranch sheering sheep for a 'wage and a meal' (RG & EB).

Another brother, Will (Table 2 #7a) lived in the Buckeye Valley and worked part-time at the ranch, as well as the clay mines and other odd jobs. He and his wife, Josephine Obermeyer (Table 2, #8a) had 3 daughters (Table 2 #'s 20a, 21a & 22a). The Will Meiss family also boarded the Buckeye School teacher at one time (RB & JnB).

Frederich Meiss became a butcher for the Swanson Meat Company and moved to Sacramento. Louis Meiss (Table 2 #4a) moved to Tonopa, Nevada where he was a butcher. He later moved

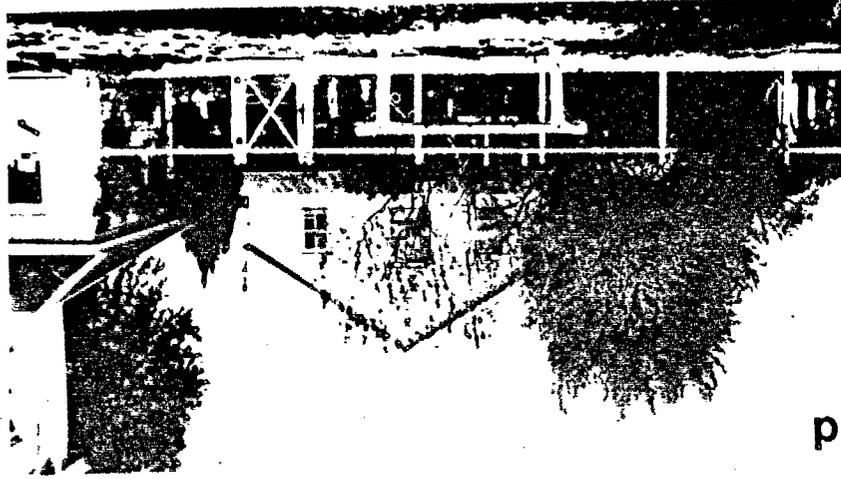
to Reno, where he established a grocery store.

Ben Meiss sold the ranch in 1936. He was unable to choose between which of his 4 son-in-laws to give the ranch to, after realizing that they could not run it together (RG & EB). The ranch was sold to C. Bruce Mace (Deed Vol. 597, p. 451) who then sold it the same year to Roy Gill of Dixon (Deed Vol. 597, p. 451).

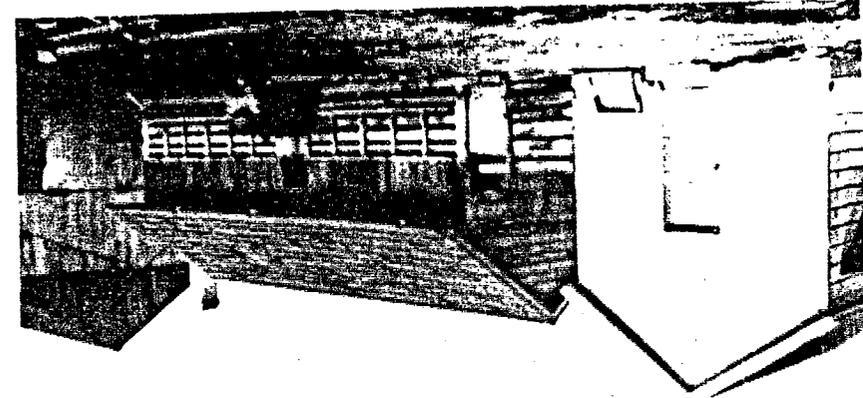
Information pertaining to the Meiss ranch and daily activities was acquired primarily by informant interviews with the children of Ben Meiss (EB & RG). The following characterizes the life of their parents and what they could remember having taken place in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The ranch was self-sufficient, supplying it's own meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. The Meiss men built their own ranch buildings and made some of the necessary ranch tools. Ben Meiss sold cattle to Bruce Mace in Dixon, who had a slaughter house and meat packing company, and to the Swanson Meat Company in Sacramento. Ben also acted as a middle-man for the smaller ranchers and families in the valley. They formed an informal co-operative to get a 'better price' (RG & EB).

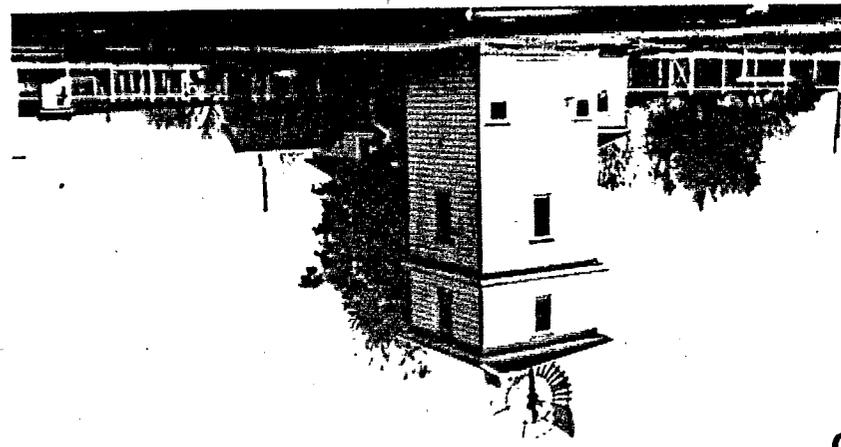
The mail was picked up in Carbondale and in later years in Clay Station. The 6 miles to Clay Station by horse and buggy was considered quite a trip. The closest church was 12 miles away in Ione. They seldom went to church and when they did it was usually for a funeral (RG).



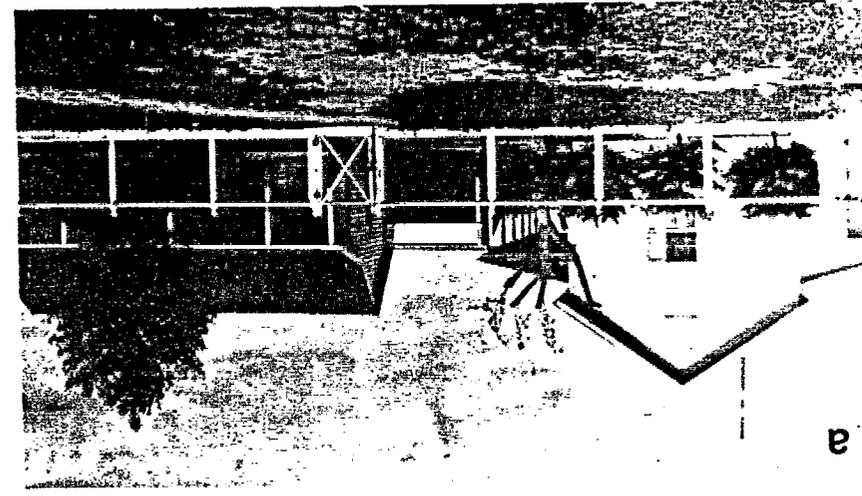
p



c



q



a

Plate 2

C-076219

C-076219

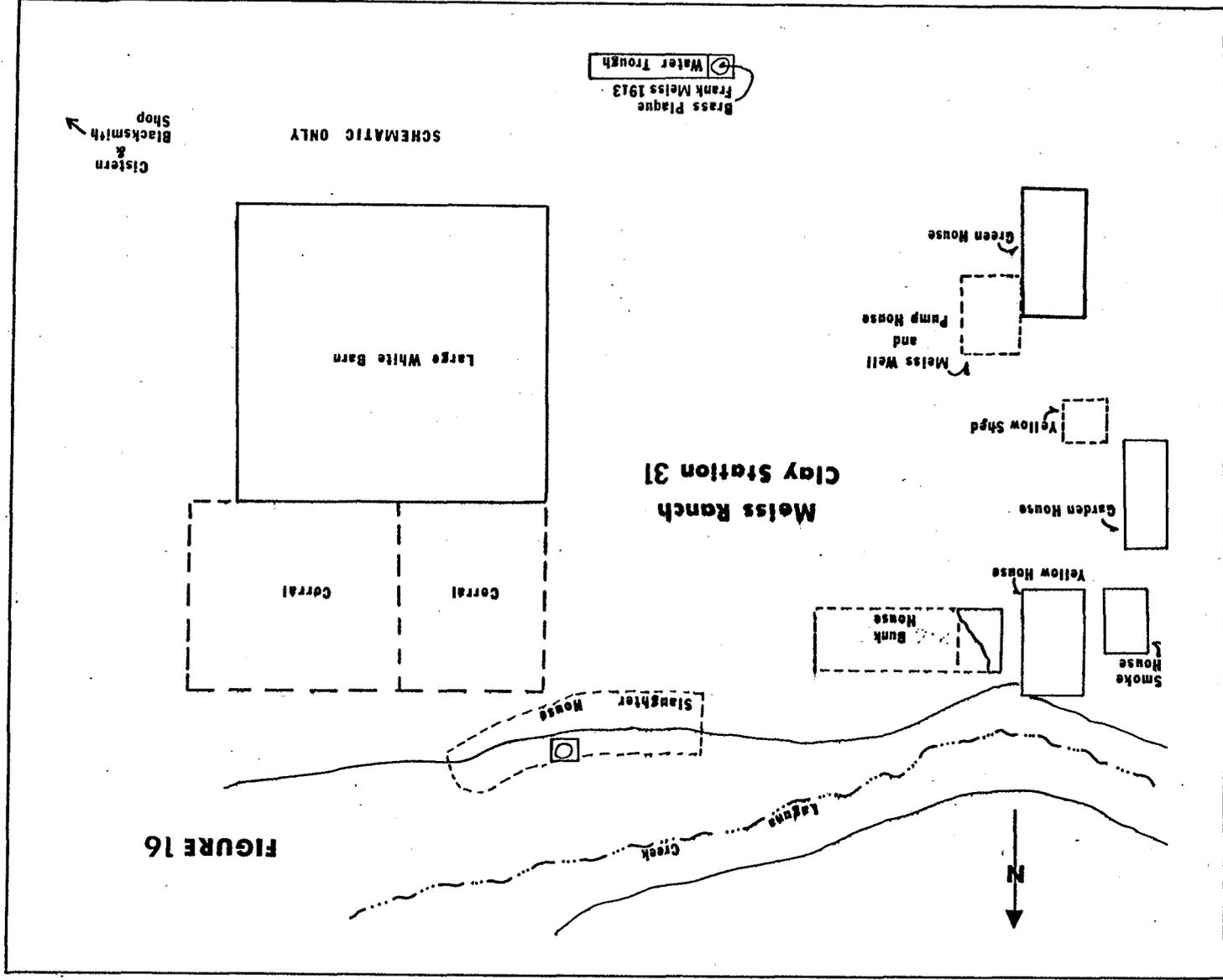


FIGURE 16

Cistern & Blacksmith Shop ↙

Brass Plaque Frank Meiss 1913
Water Trough

Schematic ONLY

Large White Barn

Meiss Ranch 31
Clay Station 31

Corral

Corral

Green House

Pump House and Meiss Well

Yellow Shpd

Garden House

Yellow House

Smoke House

Bunk House

Slaughter House

Laduna Creek

N

The Ben Meiss family lived in the original house built by his father. The house was a large white, two-story wooden frame building and had 10 rooms (Plate 2). It burned in the early 1950's and a green one story house stands in its place (Figure 16: IR, RG, EB & JG).

The tank house stood in front of the main house (Figure 16 & Plate 2b). It contained the well, pump and water storage tank. The well supplied water for the house and other buildings on the ranch. Frank Meiss lived in a room between the pump and tank. On the side of the tank house there was a storage room for a milk separator and butter churn (Plate 2b). A 'chore-boy' milked the cows from which Jennie made butter and cheese.

From the vegetables in her garden, Jennie canned beans, peas, tomatoes and made catsup. She also made sausage and bacon; lard for shortening and soap from the fat of slaughtered hogs. Excess amounts of these goods were traded in exchange for groceries at the Sloughouse store. The store was owned by Jennie's brother, Walter Jones (RG).

Jennie's garden was located behind the main house along the south slope of Laguna Creek. In the garden house (Figure 16) there was a gasoline engine pump which was used for watering the plants.

The cookhouse (Plate 2a and Figure 16) had two bedrooms, a kitchen, and dining area, where the hired help ate. A full time cook lived in one of the bedrooms and John Meiss lived in the other. Under the cook house was a cellar for food storage (RG).

Next to the cook house was the bunk house for the hired hands (Plate 2a and Figure 16). A bathroom was later added. The following names were inscribed into the cement foundation: Andy Bolinger, Sam Gray and Frank Meiss, Dec 28, 1925 (all the S's are backwards). Two of John Gill's ranch hands came home drunk one night and they got into a fight. One poured gasoline over the other which resulted in the building burning (JG).

Along the creek, next to the bunk house, there was a storage shed, pig pen and slaughter house (Plate 2c and Figure 16). There was a large vat which was used to dip the hogs into before slaughtering. The building was torn down in 1939 (RG & JG).

The large white barn (Figure 16) was used for horses, farm machinery and equipment. Hay was stored in the loft above.

A cement trough (Figure 16) is located 30 m west of the white barn, and has a brass plaque with the following inscription: Frank Meiss 1913. Fish were kept in the trough to keep the water fresh (EB).

Southwest of the white barn, approximately 50 m there is a small shed currently used for storage. A cistern and pump is located approximately 75m south of the barn. The cistern is made of red brick and had a pump which supplied water to a system of pipes that filled various troughs on the ranch. Next to the cistern is Frank Meiss's blacksmith shop. Most of the tools have disappeared over the years, such as the anvils and bellows. All that remains are horseshoes; meathooks; shovel heads; hardies for making iron rods and pipes and some wire and piping.

The Grist Mill was located approximately 250 m east of the large white barn on the north side of Laguna Creek. The site was originally recorded as the Missie E. Meiss site (C.S. 3). The mill was run by a steam engine in the lower room in addition to the windmill (Figure 17 and Plate 1c). Flour was ground for the family and neighbors. By the early 1900's the mill was used for rolled barley. In addition to the mill there was a grain storage building. A road ran between the building and mill. An iron bridge, which was taken down in the early 1900's, crossed the creek from the mill.

Ben Meiss's daughter, Elizabeth (EB) used to play down by the mill and carved her initials into the retaining wall. She was quite amused that her ideal play was now of historical importance. Her uncle John, also carved his initials in one of the foundation stones (Figure 17A). During the course of our study we could not determine who the other individuals were that also carved their names into the wall. It can be assumed that they were probably the playmates of Elizabeth (Figure 17A & 18).

Old Stove Site (C.S. 4)

The Old Stove site (Figures 19 & 46) is located on a low knoll characteristic of the rolling hills south of the valley floor. The site is 250 m north of an intermittent drainage which dissects Section 4 (Township 6N and Range 8E Carbondale USGS, 1968) and is 200 feet above sea level which places it outside of the reservoir basin.

**MELSS RANCH GRIST MILL
CLAY STATION**

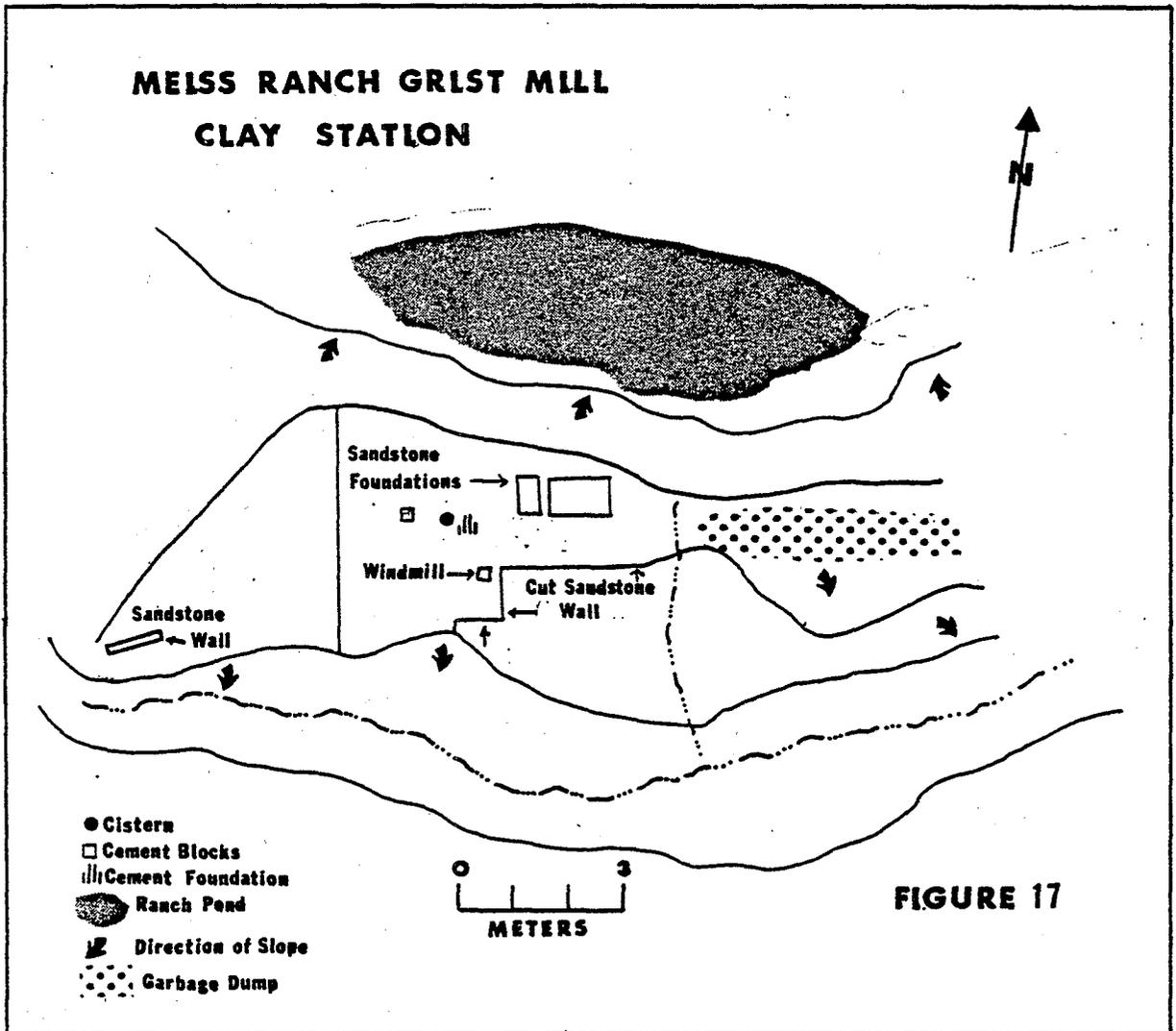


FIGURE 17

J. W. MEISS.
JAN 1, 1897

52 CM

MISSES, E. MEISS.

MAY 9

MAY 11

50 CM

55 CM

HEEHEELIN

SITE CS-3

FIGURE 17A INCISED SANDSTONE BLOCKS

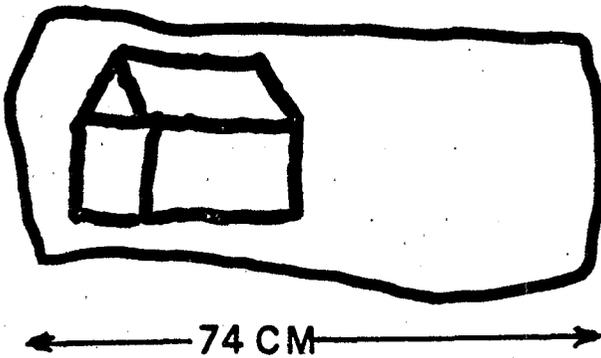
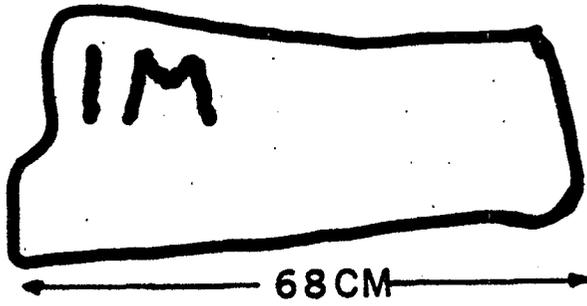
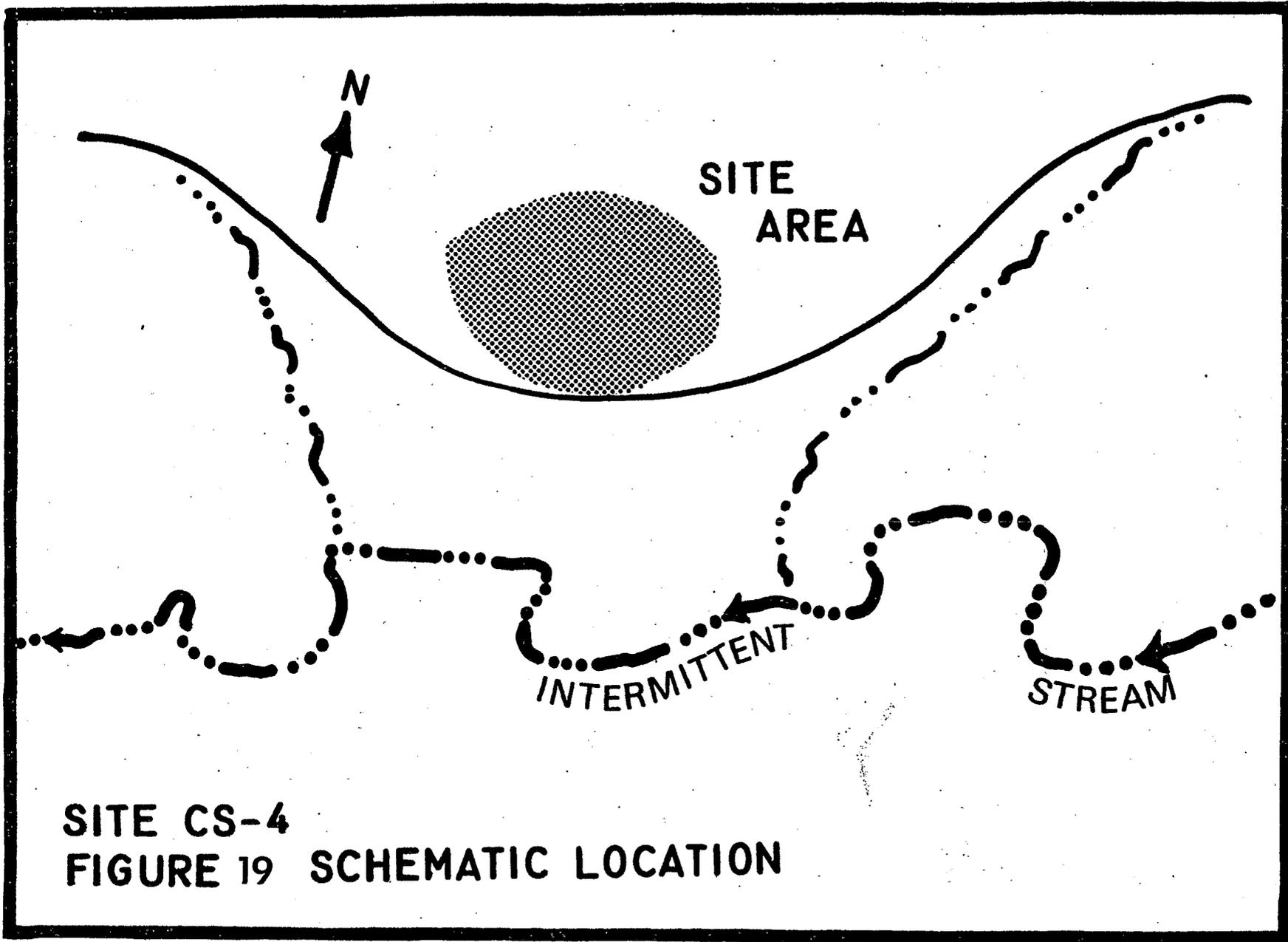


FIGURE 18 INCISED SANDSTONE BLOCKS
SITE CS-3



SITE CS-4
FIGURE 19 SCHEMATIC LOCATION

C-076227

C-076227

The site is marked by partially buried cement blocks and scattered historic artifacts which include pieces of a cast iron stove and fragments of iron, glass and ironstone. There is evidence of a corral approximately 100 m west of these materials.

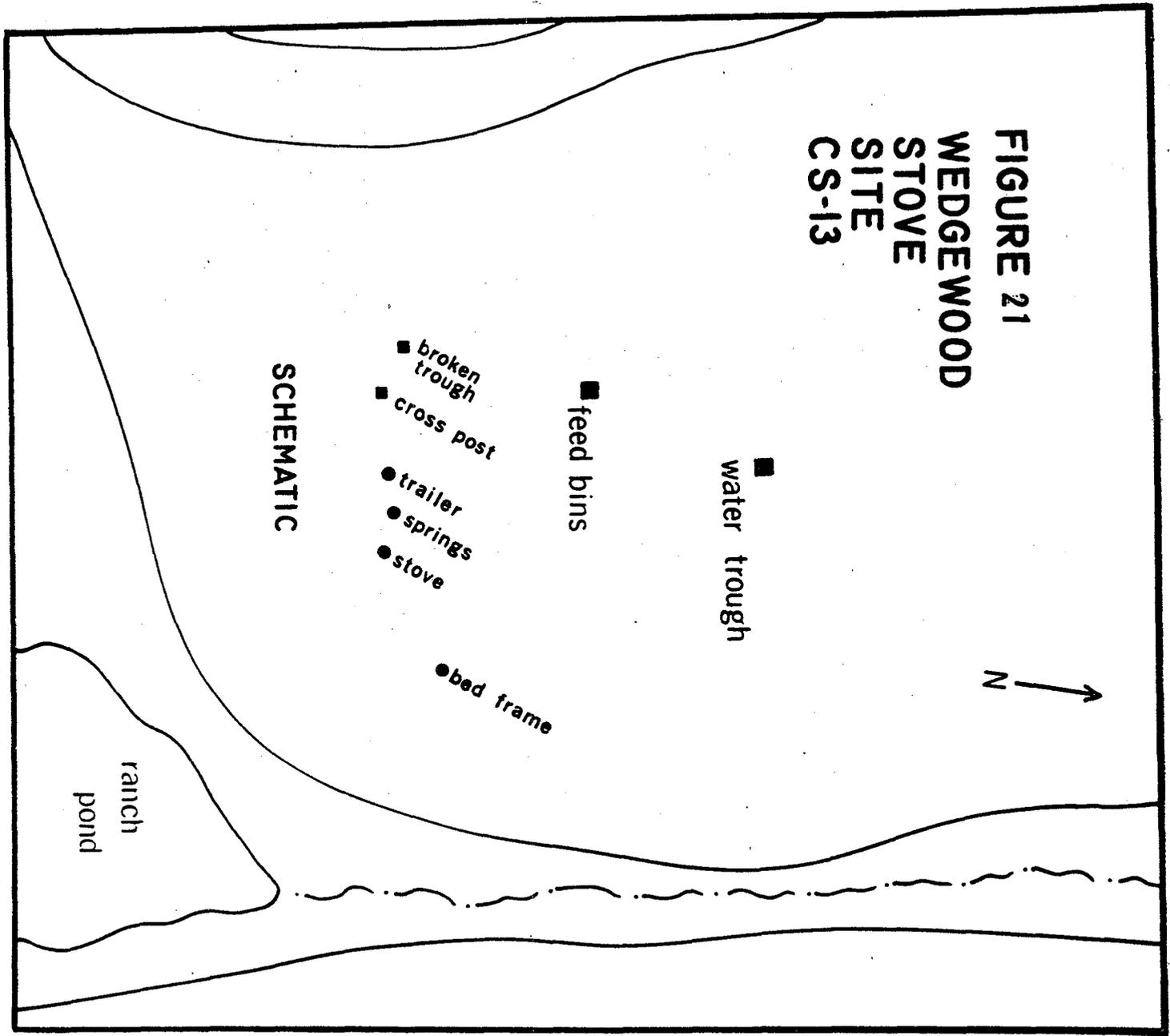
The land on which this site is located was originally granted to Philip Weisch for the State of Alabama Colleges (Figure 45 Patent #1203). Henry D. Meiss (Table 2 #27b) owned the land by 1885 (Figure 41). Eventually all of Henry's land was purchased by his brother Louis (Figure 42).

The Meiss had several sheep camps in association with the ranch and this site represents one of them (RG). It is not known at what time the site was originally occupied but it may date from at least the 1870's. None of the informants interviewed could remember when it was last utilized. However, these questions may be addressed in the future with a more thorough study of such temporally sensitive artifacts as the cast iron stove and procelain fragments.

Wedgewood Stove Site or Clay Station 13

Clay Station 13 (Figures 21 & 46) is located at the edge of the proposed reservoir basin and is 125 m north of a ranch pond and 75 m west of an intermittent drainage. The site is 190 feet above sea level which place it outside of the reservoir basin. The historic material noted include: a Wedgewood stove (circa 1930); a bed frame; bed springs; kitchen utensils; a

FIGURE 21
WEDGEWOOD
STOVE
SITE
CS-13



wagon frame and melted glass.

Land on which the site is located, (SW 1/4 of Section 34, Carbondale USGS, 196) was originally granted to John Flint for the State of Florida colleges (Figure 45, Patent #495). By 1885 Louis Meiss had acquired the whole of Section 34 (Figure 41). This site represents one of several sheep camps associated with the Meiss ranch. Originally there was a one room cabin, built on a foundation, in which the herder stayed. Similar to Clay Station 4, there was no well and water was brought to the camp in large wooden barrels supported by wheels which were hauled behind a wagon (R).

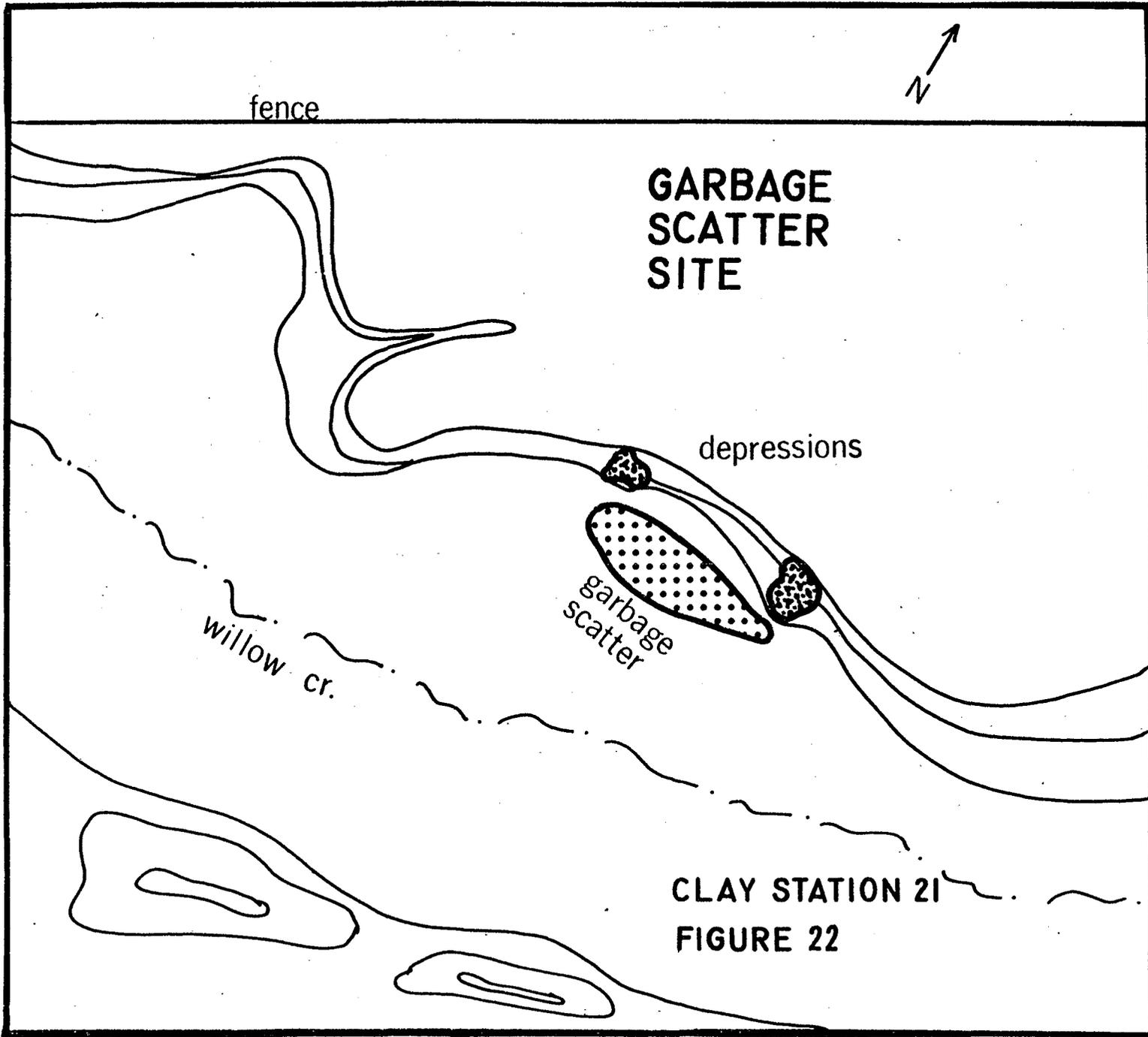
Current owner, John Gill used the camp for several years before he quite the sheep business. The herder lived in a wagon which had a bed and stove. The area eventually burned in 1974 (JG).

It can probably be assumed that the majority of the historic material noted on the surface were remains from the Gill sheep camp.

Garbage Scatter (Clay Station 21)

Garbage Scatter (Figure 22 & 46) is located 150 m north of the junction of Laguna and Willow Creek and 230 m north of an east-west fence line (Figures 7 & 46). The elevation is about 160 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

The site consists of a scatter of historic artifacts along the Laguna Creek floodplain which local residents suggest are



**GARBAGE
SCATTER
SITE**

depressions

garbage
scatter

willow cr.

**CLAY STATION 21
FIGURE 22**

C-076231

C-076231

the remains of a seasonally occupied sheep camp. Artifacts noted include: fragments of a cast iron stove; a broken gear wheel; several fragments of flagstone and a mill cut fence post. Two small depressions were noted along the south-facing cut-bank of Laguna Creek which are believed to be related to mining activities.

None of the local informants interviewed could remember anyone living in a structure at the site and none of the historic documents reviewed indicated a permanent occupation. The land was part of the Meiss ranch and artifacts noted on the surface indicate a strong similarity to those sites already identified as sheep camps.

Bob Meiss Place (C.S. 6)

The Bob Meiss Place (Figure 46) is located on a secondary terrace 40 m south of Laguna Creek. The site is approximately 140 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

At one time a house and barn, which were partially constructed of brick and locally quarried sandstone, occupied this location. Both appear to have been destroyed by fire. Also associated with these historic features is a stone lined well.

In addition to the historic artifacts an oval mortar, pestle, mano and blue glass trade bead were noted. However, no evidence of chipping waste or midden was present. The pre-historic artifacts may have been carried onto the site by the previous occupant(s) of the house.

The site which is located in the SW 1/4 of Section 32 was a patent of Christian Meiss (Figures 41-44 and Figure 45 #'s 54 and 1044) in 1867 and 1884 respectively. Christian Meiss (Table 2, #34c), Louis Meiss's brother, also settled in the Buckeye Valley. Christian was married to Elizabeth Schneider (Table 2, #35c) and they had 10 children (Table 2 #'s 36c - 45c). The family lived on the land, along with a farm hand Houe German and a carpenter Otis Catrell (Sacramento County Census 1870, #169, p. 13). Before 1880, as the family grew, they moved to a house a few miles north of Carbondale where Christian purchased another ranch. One of their sons "Bob" eventually settled on this land (CN & DM).

This site, which is about 1 and 1/2 miles southwest of the Louis Meiss ranch house, was also the location of a small one room shack that Bob Meiss lived in while he worked for Ben Meiss (EB & JG). Bob was a bachelor and lived at various locations in the valley during his life (CN, BB and RG). Later he ranched his own land (Riverview Site, C.S. 18).

Barbed Wire Hole (C.S. 30)

Barbed Wire Hole is located on a secondary terrace 50 m north of Laguna Creek and 40 m from a wooden bridge which crosses an intermittent drainage that empties into Laguna Creek (Figure 23 & 46). The site is approximately 125 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

Features noted include a depression 6 x 4 m and 1.75 m deep which is lined with cement blocks and mortar. Of all the

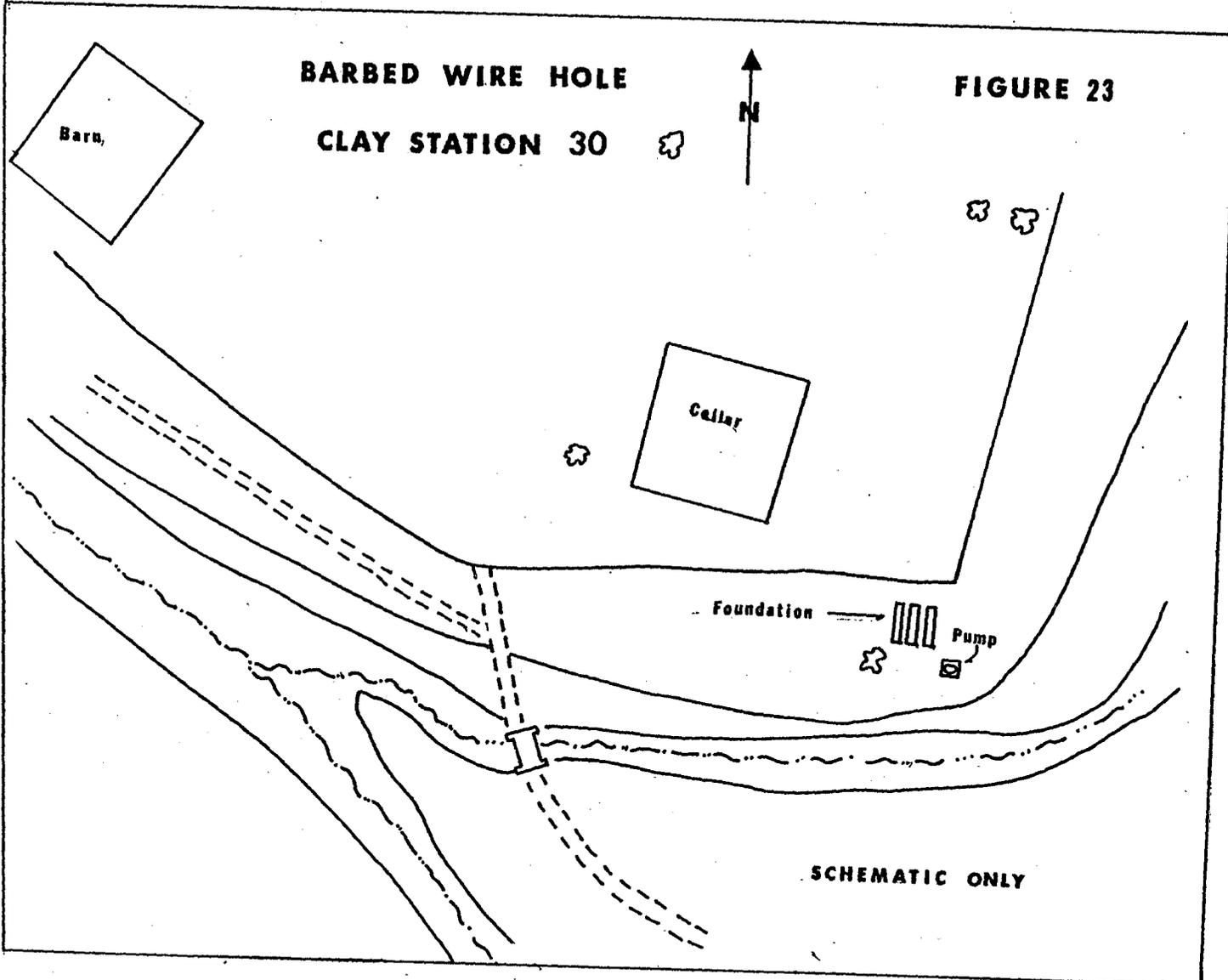


FIGURE 23

C-076234

C-076234

sites recorded during the survey, with the exception of those at the Meiss ranch, this is the only site which used cement as mortar in construction. The depression has been partially filled with debris such as a large metal cistern, barbed wire, and stoneware and porcelain fragments. The feature is probably a house basement.

Other historic features include a cement foundation along the south-facing cut back of the intermittent drainage. Below the foundation, a pump encased in cement slabs was located with the following names and dates inscribed on it:

Frank Meiss and W.H. Littlefield August 18, 1924 (top)

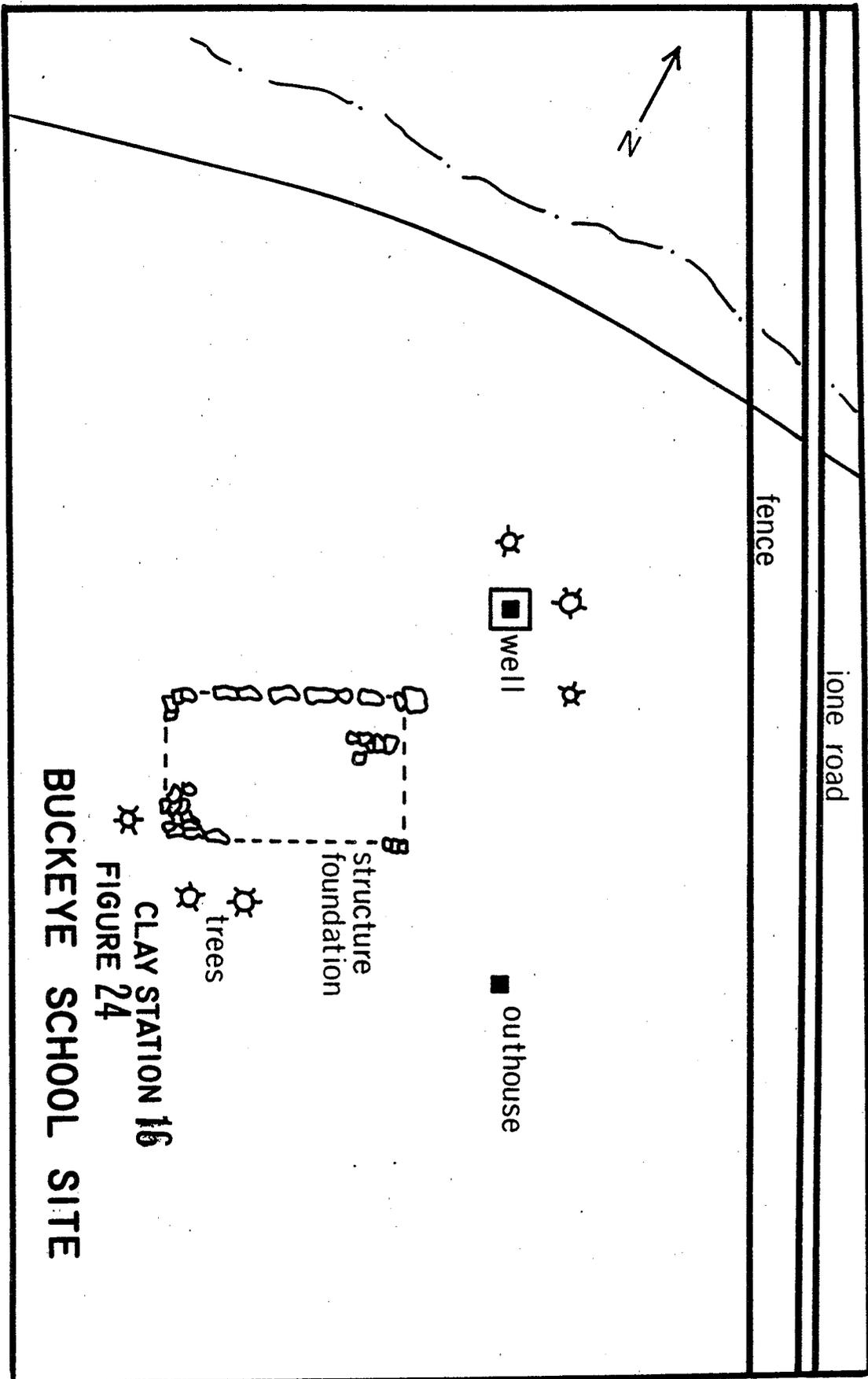
F. Meiss and Ed Muller Oct 2, 1924 (base)

According to local informants (EB & RG) the house was occupied by George Reichtmeyer who worked for Ben Meiss and was caretaker for what was called the "Lower Meiss Ranch". As part of his work he took care of the rams and a few sheep. Before moving to the ranch, Reichtmeyer was a cattledriver in Ione (CN).

The exact period of construction of the house or its occupation is unknown but it is assumed to have taken place after 1908 (Louis Meiss's death) and before 1936 when Ben Meiss sold the ranch. Use of the area until the mid 1920's is indicated by the above noted inscription.

Buckeye School (C.S. 16)

The Buckeye School is located 75 m west from the junction of Ione and Carbondale Roads (Plate 1d & Figures 24 & 46). The elevation of the site is 190 feet above sea level which



BUCKEYE SCHOOL SITE
 CLAY STATION 16
 FIGURE 24

places it outside of the reservoir basin.

The location is marked by Eucalyptus and Heaven trees and the remains of a sandstone foundation which is 10.3 m long and 6.7 m long. A well is located to the northeast and is encased in a cement block with a 1915 date encribed on it. A cricular depression 30 m southeast of the foundation is believed to be the remains of an outhouse. Artifacts present on the site include: a horse shoe; an inkwell and hinge, fire-brick, metal and clay pipe fragments.

The Buckeye School located in Section 36 was originally a school grant, dated January 19, 1856 (Figure 45). According to a census taken in 1863 there were 56 students attending the school (Thompson and West 1881:271). However, it appears that the school suffered it's share of turmoil:

"This district has been unfortunate. Its people were divided on their school interests, and the result of their troubles was the burning of their school-house, which loss they have not yet recovered from, and consequently are not in a very flourishing condition. They are in need of a house, furniture, and apparatus (Thompson & West 1881:271)."

It is assumed that the school was rebuilt soon after the above noted incident. This is verified by an article in the Union, September 21, 1883 which stated that the "Buckeye School District is valued at \$770.00, this includes lots, schoolhouse, furniture, libraries and school apparatus (Sacramento County Scrapbook, vol. 18)."

At the head of the classroom there was a raised platform for the teachers desk and before the desk was the recitation

bench. One grade at a time would be called up to give their 'lessons' while the rest worked at their desks. Two outhouses were located on both sides of the building (refer to above). In addition there was a well in front and to the east a horse shed. Those students who rode horses or drove buggies to school would leave them in the shed during the day (RG).

Some of the teachers for the school were from the Buckeye Valley, such as Kate Wilber, Mrs. Emit Breeding and Lizzie Walker. Kate Wilber taught at the school most of her life, but was also known for her poetry:

"Miss Wilbur, the poetress, better known under the nom de plume as Gordon Bracket...she has written some very good lines. Perhaps her poem on the death of J.W. Coffroth is an average of her work (Thompson & West 1881:192)."

The school register between 1881-84 has lines of her poetry and several completed poems throughout. Most of them have a melancholy and introspective tone. The poems were generally solicited by residents of the valley to celebrate a birthday or to mark someones death.

At times, teachers were from outside the area, such as Lydia Winters Harris who taught for a couple of years around 1911 (LH). Mrs. Harris was one of the oldest informants interviewed during the course of this study. She lived on a ranch near Ione and drove 7 miles to the school each day in a horse and buggy. However, most were from the area and boarded with local families. This was often done primarily as a convenience to the parents, which provided them with someone to take their

children to school every day (RG & EB).

U.S. Wilber had claimed the land since 1885 (Figure 41) but it wasn't until 1903 (Figure 42) that his nieces Kate and Urilda "Jennie" Dietz (Pascal) were finally granted the land (N 1/2 of Section 36 and lot 3) by the State of California. The school closed in 1921 and by 1923, Henry Schneider had purchased most of the original school grant (Figure 44). The school was eventually torn down in 1934 or 1935 by Schneider and the material was used to build a small structure on his ranch. The Schneiders now own all of Section 36 (JS).

Buckeye House (C.S. 15)

The Buckeye House is located 30 m east of Ione Road and 350 m. southeast of the junction of Meiss and Ione Roads (Figures 25 & 46). The north fork of Laguna Creek borders the northern edge of the site. Cypress and Heaven trees surround the site and can be easily viewed from the road. The elevation is approximately 190-185 feet above sea level which places it at the edge of the proposed reservoir.

Sandstone rocks mark the 4 corners of the rectangular house foundation which is 20 m long and 8.5 m wide. The northeast corner of the feature has a depression 5.2 m long and 3.6 m wide, which probably represents the remains of a basement. A well is located 11 m east of the foundation and a concrete block was found in association with it. Artifacts present on the site include square cut nails, metal fragments and red

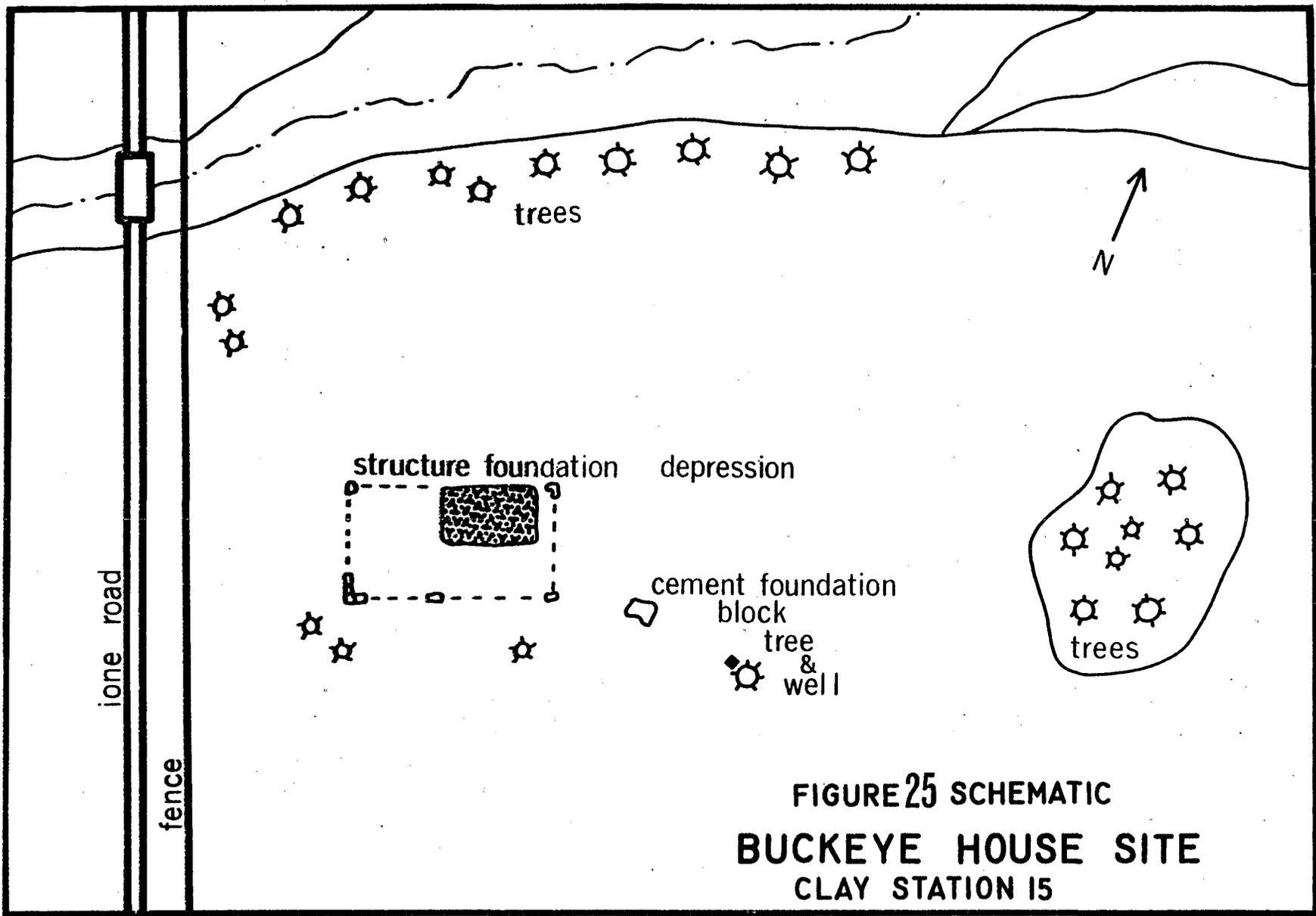


FIGURE 25 SCHEMATIC
 BUCKEYE HOUSE SITE
 CLAY STATION 15

C-076240

building brick. There was evidence of 'pot-hunting' on the site by the presence of 2 freshly dug holes within the cellar depression and the broken remains of a garden trowel.

A cluster of 7 Heaven trees is located on a small knoll 25 m east of the house site. No artifacts or features were found in association with the trees.

According to local informants, the site marks the remains of the Buckeye House, which was once a hotel (LH, JS, RG, EB, CN, JB and RB). Freight wagons used to stop here on their way through the valley, but in later years it became a private residence (SJ). Historical documents indicate that the hotel was known as:

"The Blue Tent House, on what is known as the Buckeye Ranch, built in 1849 by Sage and Co. from Ohio; it was closed as a hotel in 1870 (Reed 1923:118; Davis 1890:218 and Thompson and West 1881)."

The house has been described as a large 2 story wooden frame building. In addition to the several sleeping quarters upstairs, downstairs there was a long dining room and a large kitchen. A great wooden banister bordered the stairs. The house was located adjacent to the creek, a well was nearby and a large barn was on the west side of Ione Road (IR, EB, JB, JS and CN). As noted above the house and well were recorded but remains of the barn could not be identified.

The early history of this important site could not be documented during this phase of the project. The records indicate that John Pascal bought the land on which the site is located from the federal government in 1862 (Figure 45, Patent #925).

At the same time, U.S. Wilber claimed land on either side of him but didn't patent it with the government until 1889 (Figure 45, Patent #'s 851, 852 and 920).

John Pascal (born 1812) and his wife Elizabeth (born 1826) lived at the Buckeye House along with their daughter Jennie. By 1870 U.S. Wilber, his neice Kate and Smith Parker also lived at the house (Sacramento County Census 1870, p. 17, #159). It is not known whether the Pascals lived at the house while it was still a hotel, but it is assumed that they did if they occupied the house at the time they purchased the property.

John Pascal and U.S. Wilber must have become partners some where along the line because their names appear together on various Deeds and their Wills contain both their names (Deeds Vol. 110, p. 341, Vo. 36, p. 578). Jennie Pascal was known by local informants as U.S. Wilber's neice, so it is assumed that Elizabeth Pascal was his sister. This relationship probably helped to establish the partnership between John Pascal and U.S. Wilber. The land was sold to William Yule in 1865, but returned to them by Anna Yule in 1882. The reason for this transaction is unknown. In spite of this, according to Sacramento County census data, John Pascal was quite wealthy having about \$6000.00 worth of real property, \$2000.00 personal property (Sacramento County Census 1870, p. 17, #159).

Pascal, a native of Maryland and U.S. Wilber of New Hampshire were both farmers. U.S. Wilber a former sea captain had come around the "Horn" to California and was known by residents

of the valley as "Captain Wilber." When John Pascal died in 1881 he left everything to his wife and daughter and upon Elizabeth's death everything passed on to Jennie and Kate. By 1894 Jennie and her husband, Ed Dietz, Kate Wilber were the only ones living in the house (RB, JB, CN & LH). Chinese Joe lived in a shack behind the house (JB). During this period of time the Dietz's lost their 2 children, one of which died as an infant and a boy who died of appendicitis at the age of 9. Around the early 1900's the Dietz's built their own home south of the house (Dietz Place, C.S. 17, Figures 26 & 46).

Upon U.S. Wilber's death in 1898 all his personal and real property went to his niece Jennie, except \$500.00 to his daughter, Mary Webb and \$50.00 to his niece Kate Wilber. Why Kate only received \$50.00 as an inheritance is unknown, although it can be assumed that an unwritten agreement was made between Jennie and Kate because both their names appear on a 1903 land patent (Patent #7179, Book 5, p. 520). In 1916 Jennie and her husband turned over the 1/2 interest in the land to Kate (Deeds, Vol. 466, p. 68). Following this transaction Kate sold portions of the land to Frank McCulloch (Deeds, Vol. 558, p. 74) and by 1923 several acres of Section 36 to Henry Scheider (Figure 44).

Emitt Breeding and his wife came to rent and live at the Buckeye House with Kate. Kate was quite old at the time and eventually moved in with Jennie and Ed Dietz. Kate died a spinster in 1929, leaving everything to Emitt Breeding (Official Records, Vol. 210, p. 464) which 'caused quite a stir

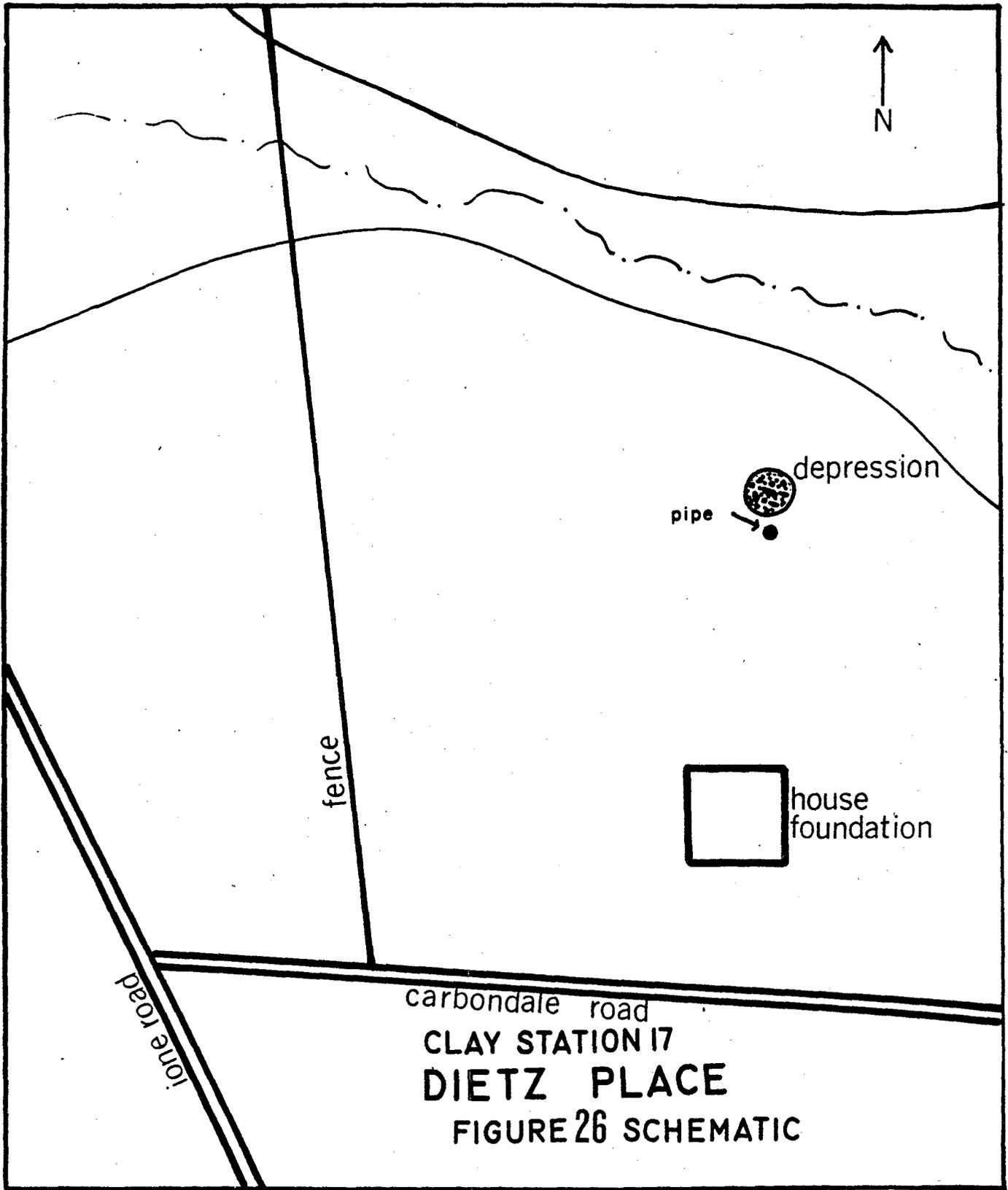
in the valley' and among those related to her (RB & JB). Emmitt and his wife (name unknown) continued to live at the house, at which time she taught at the Buckeye School (EB). In 1930, Emmitt's son, Robert, sold the property to Leland Schneider who eventually tore down the buildings (Official Records, Vol. 210, p. 464). Jake Schneider now owns the land on which the Buckeye House once stood and it is known as the "Breeding Field" (JS).

Dietz Place (C.S. 17)

The Dietz Place is located 500 m east of the junction of Ione and Carbondale Roads and 23 m north of Carbondale Road (Figures 26 & 46). The site is 190 feet above sea level which places it outside of the reservoir basin.

The site is marked by a sandstone house foundation 6 m in length and 6 m in width. Unlike the other houses recorded during the survey, it did not appear to have a basement. North of the foundation, 40 m, a section of 12 inch steel casing is sticking up out of the ground. Adjacent to this feature there is a circular depression 4 m in diameter and 75 cm deep. The center of the depression is marked by a piece of pipe 50 cm. in length. The pipe appears to be a standard 3 inch steel well pipe. Artifacts noted at the site include some farming equipment and lumber and ironstone and glass fragments.

The land on which the Dietz Place is located was once part of the original Buckeye School grant. In 1903 Jennie Dietz and Kate Wilber submitted a formal claim and bought the



N 1/2 and 'lot' 3 from the State of California (Figure 45, Patent #7179, Book 5, p. 520).

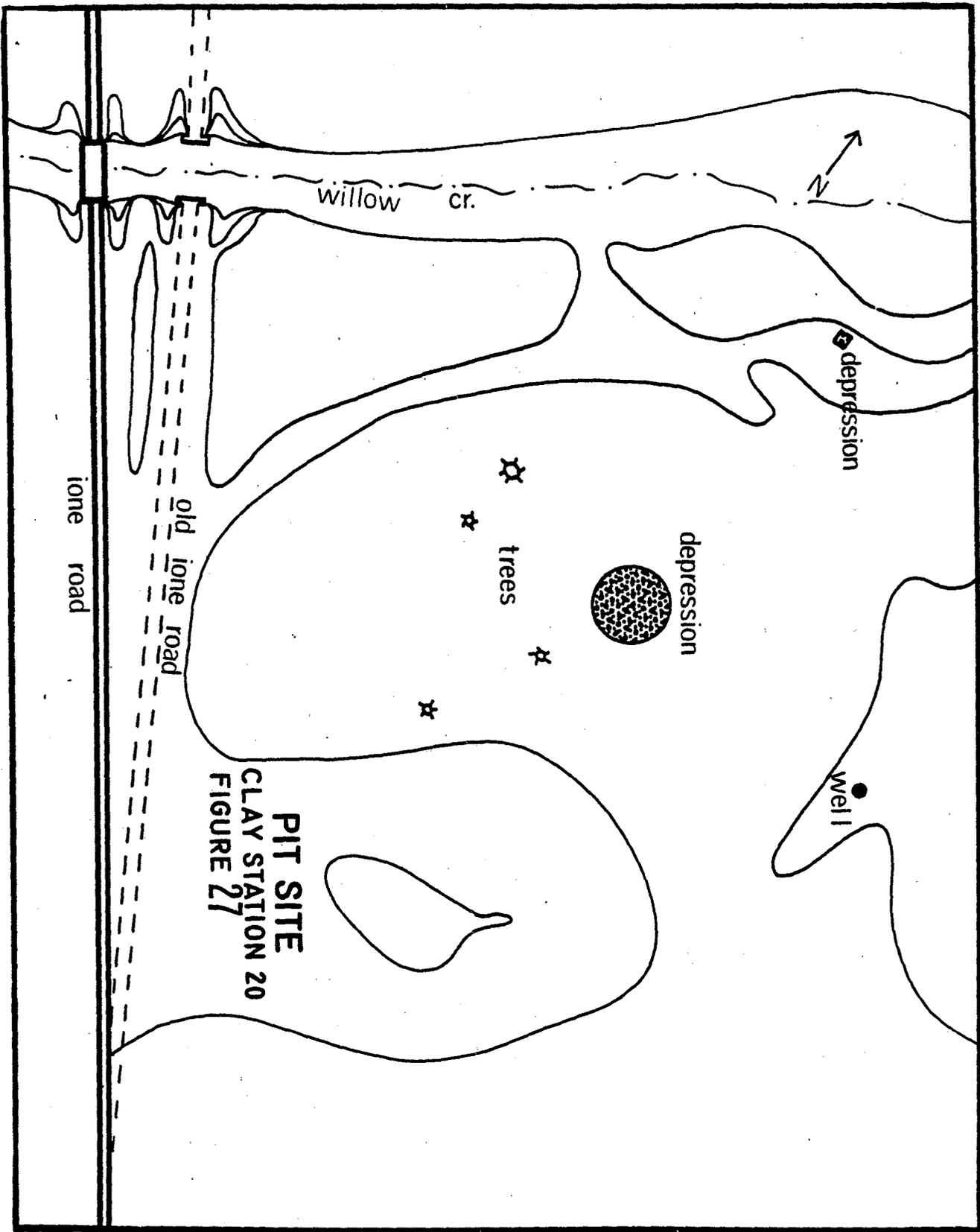
In the early 1900's Jennie and her husband Ed built a two story house that faced the east and had a porch in the front. There was also a well, windmill and handpump for water. A driveway from Carbondale Road cut in front of the house. The house was lined with a picket fence.

After Jennie died, John Bishop and his wife, who lived about 1/4 of a mile to the northeast, took care of Ed. It is not known when Ed died but it is assumed to have taken place sometime before 1923. Ed Dietz had no surviving children and left all of his property to the Bishops. A family by the name of Kyle lived in the house for a short time after he died. The Bishop's apparently sold the property soon after acquiring it because by 1923 it had become part of the Henry Schneider Ranch (Figure 44). The house burned in the early 1950's and was never rebuilt (BB).

Pit Site (Clay Station 20)

The Pit Site (Figures 27 & 46) is located 45 m northeast of the present Ione Road and the old Ione Road which borders the western edge of the site. Northwest of the site an old concrete bridge was noted. The site is located outside of the reservoir basin at 190 feet above sea level.

A circular depression, 5 m in diameter and 1.5 m in depth, is believed to be the remains of a house cellar. Artifacts near the depression include white porcelain and metal



fragments and one metal hinge. A well, 50 cm in diameter is situated 40 m east of the cellar. Although a square excavated area was noted, 32 m north of the cellar, it is not known at this time what it functioned as.

In 1881 Calvin Dillon acquired the land on which the site is located from the Federal Government as a military patent (Figure 45, Patent #96154). He was given the piece of land, sight unseen, by the government for his service in the war with Mexico. This system of land ownership was made possible by an Act of Congress, March 3, 1855, which provided bounty land to officers and soldiers who engaged in military service to the United States. Dillon, like so many other soldiers, immediately sold his property and in this case the land was sold to Edwin Nichols (Figure 45, Patent #96154).

Edwin Nichols was a native of New York, born in 1830, the son of Willard and Elizabeth Jewell Nichols. In 1850, at the age of 20, Nichols came to California and took up gold mining for about 4 years. In 1855 he married Mary Armstrong, who was born in Illinois in 1841, the daughter of Hosea and Freelove Hawkes Armstrong. Hosea was a native of Kentucky and Freelove was from Missouri. The Armstrongs came to California in 1850 and first lived in Nevada City, but finally settled in Amador County in 1852 (Davis 1890:506).

By 1855, Mary and Edwin Nichols had purchased several parcels of land in the Buckeye Valley (N 1/2 of SE 1/4 of Section 36 and the S 1/2 of the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 31). The later piece of land as noted

above was used to build a 6 room single story house. The attic was eventually converted into a large bedroom (CN). Mary and Edwin had 7 children.

The Nichols children attended the Buckeye School which was just a short distance up the road. One of their children, Roy, attended school at the same time as 3 of Louis Meiss's (Chris, Frank and Ben). Roy eventually purchased some land of his own in the valley (Purple Crystal Site: Figures 42 & 46). Another son, Albert, married Elizabeth Meiss, Louis Meiss's daughter in 1889 (Amador County Marriage Record Book C, p. 57). Nellie Nichols, his sister and Fred Meiss, her brother, served as witnesses. After their marriage they moved to Ione.

Another son, George Grant Nichols married Stella Jacquier some time around 1892. Stella and Grant had 5 children. At the time of their marriage Stella was living and caring for Mrs. Dan Sherfey, who was ill and her children. Mrs. Sherfey lived at the Hole in the Ground-1 Site (C.S. 12, Figures 28 & 46). Stella and Grant continued to live with Mrs. Sherfey until her death, at which time, the children, Edyth, Ethyl and Alice were sent to live with Mary and Edwin Nichols.

Stella and Grant eventually moved to the town of Sheldon, later moving back to the valley. Upon their return in 1896, they lived at Al and Elizabeth Sherfey's place (Bonnel Site, Figures 29 & 46). Some time around 1906 they moved in with Mary Nichols and stayed there until 1910 at which time they moved to the town of Carbondale where they lived for about

6 years (Figure 40). Grant Nichols bought Al Smith's clay business. Stella took over the post office from Mr. Addington who was too old to continue to maintain it.

Grant Nichols 'most steady line of work' was teaming, such as hauling freight and logs. Grant put his son Clarence to work 'teaming' when he was 15 years old. Clarence later worked for the 'Whittamore brothers' operating the hay press. Clarence started at the Buckeye School in 1906 and his teacher was Kate Wilber (CN).

About 1911 Mary Nichols sold the ranch to J. S. Hordick (Figure 43). According to Clarence she had offered it to him, but he didn't have the money and his father talked him out of it. In 1920 the land was sold to William Maxwell (Figure 43; Reed 1923:752 and CN). William Maxwell owned it for a few years, but after his death, the land became the property of their son John who sold it to Bob Meiss.

Hole in the Ground Number 1 Site (Clay Station 12)

This site (Figures 28 & 46) is located on the valley floor at the confluence of 2 intermittent branches of Laguna Creek, 60 m to the north and 125 m to the west, respectively. The site is 170 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

The site is marked by a cellar depression, 2.5 m in diameter and 2 m deep. There are 2 burned wood posts containing square-cut and wire nails along the east wall. The north

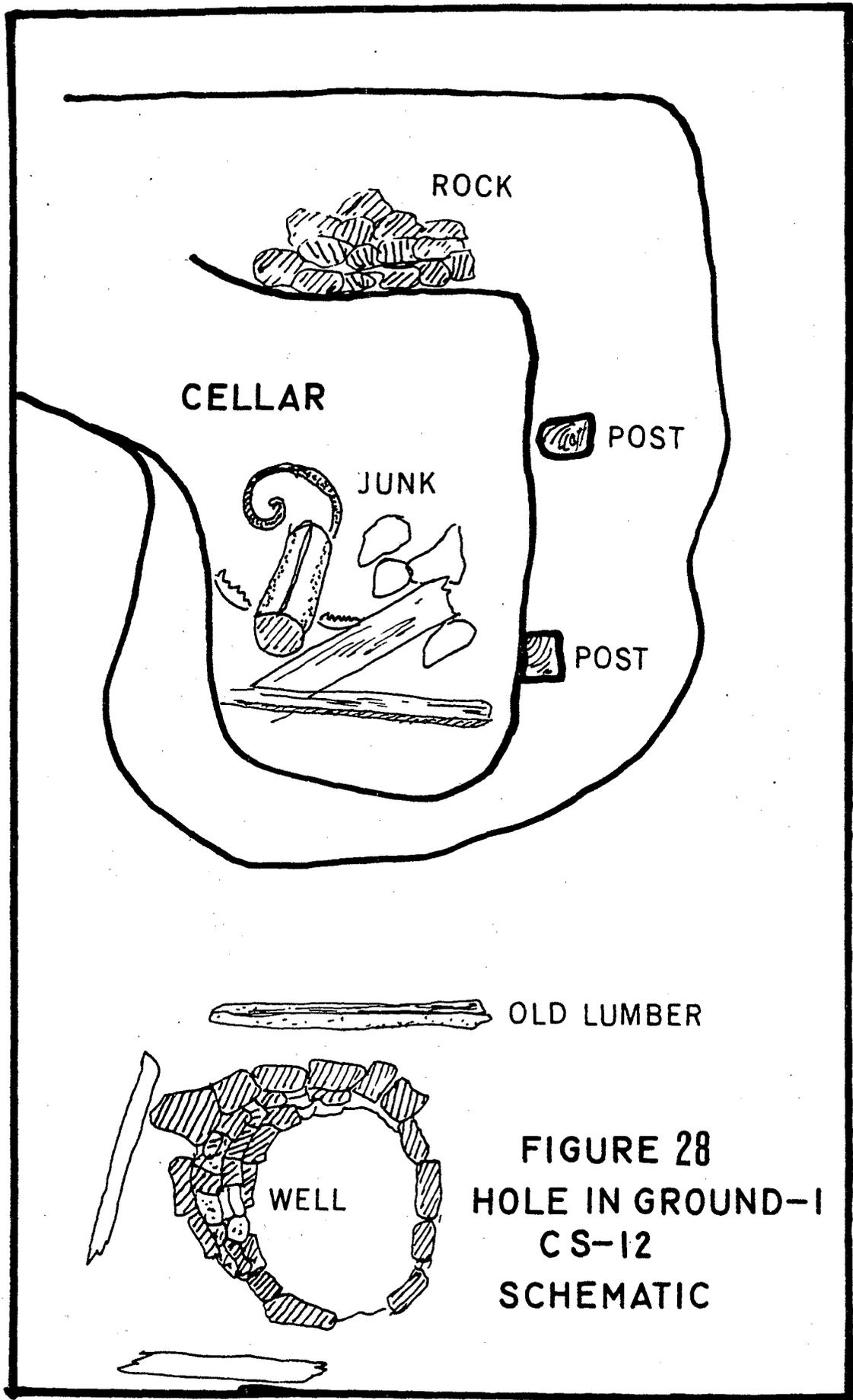


FIGURE 28
HOLE IN GROUND-1
CS-12
SCHEMATIC

wall is lined with quarried sandstone blocks. A flagstone lined well is located 1.5 m from the house. Artifacts associated with this site include a disc harrow, coils of wire and fragments of ironstone, burned glass and lumber. Bridge abutments made of concrete marks the route of an old road and several large sized beams were found in association with it.

The piece of land on which this site is located has changed ownership several times through the years. The land was originally purchased by George L. Kingsley from the federal government in 1862 (Figure 45, Patent #'s 364, 254, 921 and 255). The SE 1/4 of Section 35 was purchased from William Filey who had originally received it as a military grant (Figure 45, Patent # 91812). In 1862 Kingsley and his wife Carrie sold part of their land to Zachariah Hayden (Deed, Vol. 32, p. 611) and John J. Nietecke (Figure 45, Patent #'s 255 & 364). In 1871 they sold their remaining land to John P. Lowell (Deed, Vol. 63, p. 501) who later sold the land to George Mack in 1874 (Deed, Vol. 13, p. 333).

George Mack lived in the Buckeye Valley and taught school in Carbondale. Apparently it had become necessary to get a male teacher to 'keep the boys in line' because the female teachers could no longer control them (CN). In 1875 Mack sold the property to Mrs. Elizabeth Sherfey (Deed, Vol. 77, p. 125). Elizabeth and her husband, Al, lived in the SW 1/4 of Section 35 at what is referred to in this report as the Bonnel Place (Figures 29 & 46). They owned about 320 acres

and ran sheep. They had a summer range in the mountains in El Dorado County (JS & CN).

Al's brother Dan and his family lived at the location of this site (refer to previous site description).

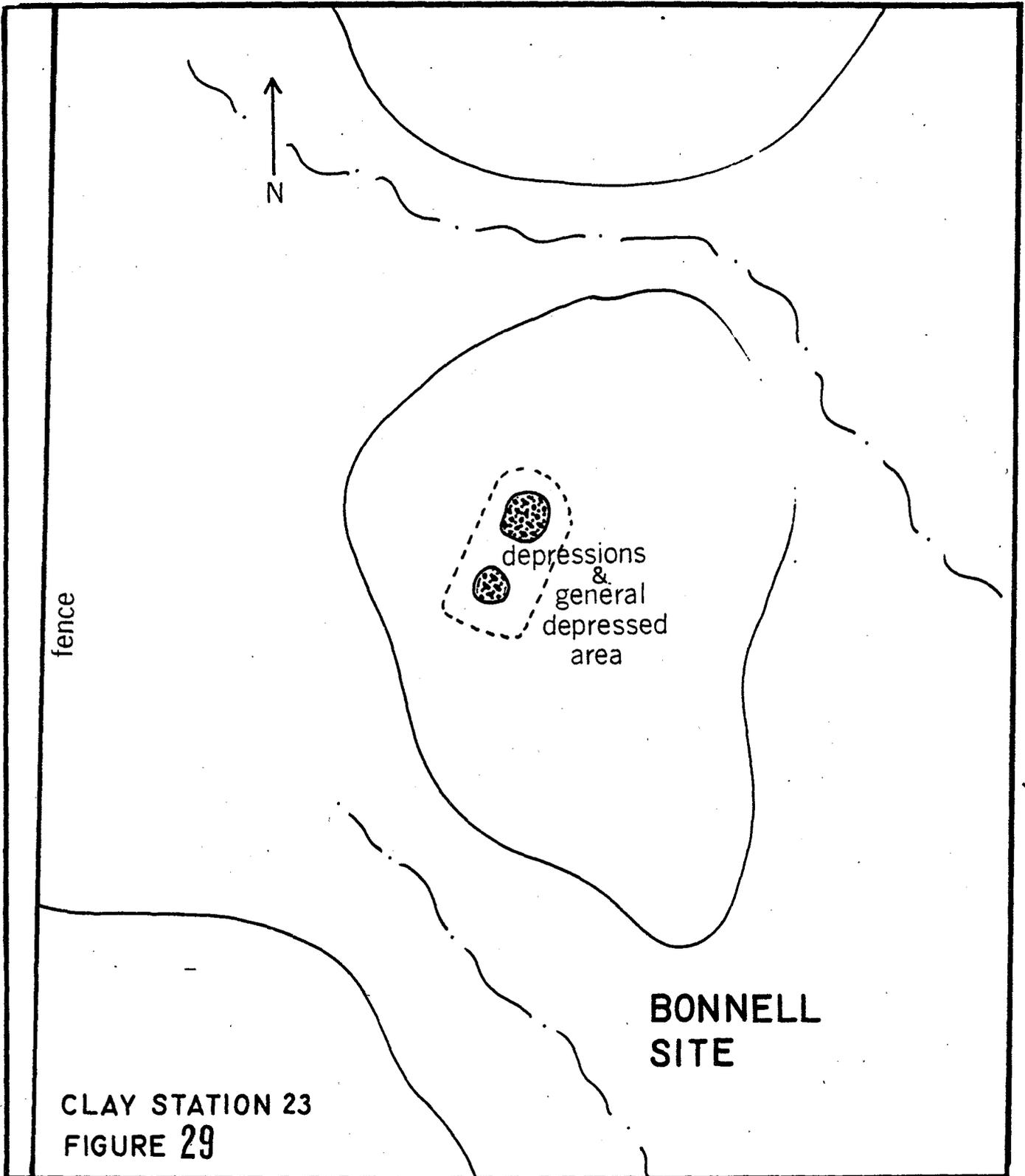
Bonnel Place (Clay Station 23)

The Bonnel Place (Figures 29 & 46) is located in a wheat field, on a slight rise, bordered by intermittent drainages. The elevation of the site is 180 feet above sea level which places it at the edge of the reservoir basin.

The site is characterized by a circular depression, believed to be the remains of a cellar; 2 m in diameter and 1 m in depth. A unlined well, 1 m in diameter, was located 2 m to the west. Historic artifacts were noted near the surface of the cellar which include: cast iron stove fragments; a metal safe deposit box; a ceramic insulator; a harmonica; ironstone and glass fragments and several pieces of lumber. Although the site is located in the middle of a cultivated field, the features noted above have not been farmed over.

The site is located on land which was originally part of the Buckeye School Grant. The school only occupied a small part of the property and was eventually sold by the State of California to individuals who were living there.

Zachariah and Nancy Hayden claimed the land in 1871 when they sold it to John P. Lowell (Deed, Vol. 63, p. 501). George Mack purchased the land 3 years later and sold it to Mrs. Elizabeth Sherfey in 1875 (Figure 41, Deed, Vol. 73, p. 333).

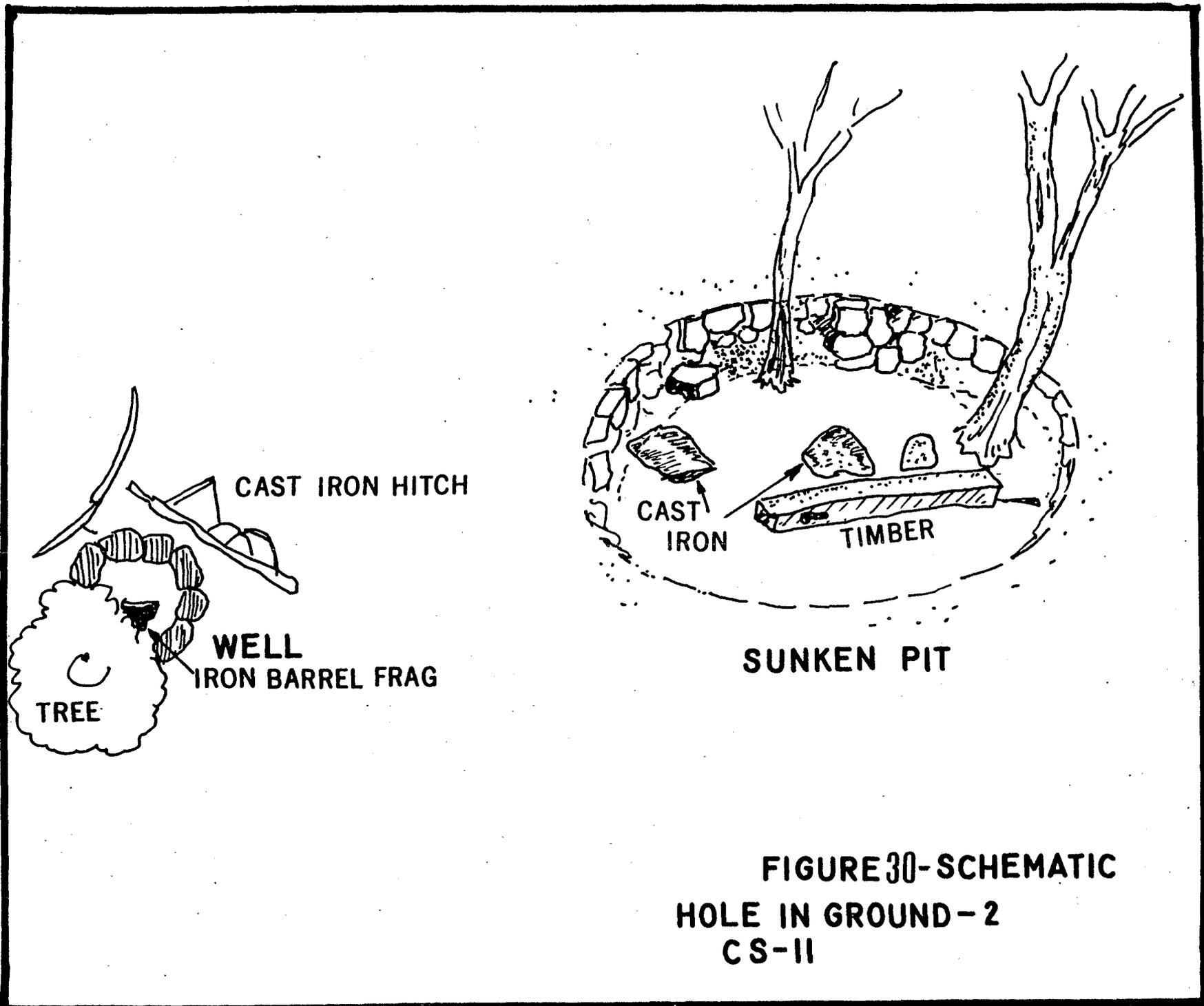


Elizabeth Sherfey and her husband Al lived in the SW 1/4 of Section 35. Elizabeth died in 1892 and her children Allen, Myrtle and Pauline were sent to live with Mary Nichols. Al Sherfey moved to Clay Station after his wife's death. He remarried in 1908 to the widow Mrs. John Wilson (Ruth Ware) and they continued to live at Clay Station where they had built a home (Reed 1923:583).

During this time, Will Meiss moved into the house (JB & CN), but sometime around 1896 he moved up to his 40 acres in Section 24 (Figure 41; JB & CN). Grant Nichols and his family moved into the house while he worked in Clay Station. In 1899, Allen Sherfey sold the NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 35 to Grant Nichols (CN; Deed, Vol. 174, p. 33). Soon after, the Nichols moved to Ione and sold the land to William Marchant in 1901 (CN; Figure 42, Deed, Vol. 184, p. 496). A few years later Marchant sold the land to Mrs. Sonoma Josephine Bonnel and her daughter Mary, where they lived and raised turkeys (Figure 43). In 1911, Mrs. Bonnel filed her claim with the State of California (Figure 45; Patent #13084, Book 5, p. 313) and sold the land to Mrs. May E. Newman of Amador County (Deed, Vol. 346, p. 88). May Newman and her husband Jacob Newman sold to Henry Schneider in 1911 (Figure 44; Deed, Vol. 496, p. 573). The Schneiders still own the land and use it as a wheat field.

Hole in the Ground Number 2 (Clay Station 11)

This site (Figures 11 & 46) is located on the valley floor



**FIGURE 30-SCHEMATIC
HOLE IN GROUND - 2
CS-II**

approximately 75 m south of an intermittent branch of Laguna Creek. The site is 250 m north of Hole in the Ground Number 2 (C.S. 12) and is 170 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

The location is marked by a stand of Heaven trees and a basement depression 2.5 m in diameter and 1 m in depth. The basement, which is partially filled with rusted metal fragments and wooden beams, was originally lined with sandstone blocks, some of which are still in place. Adjacent to the basement is a sandstone and quartzite cobble lined well, 50 cm in diameter. The area around the well and basement is littered with the remains of farm machinery, fragments of green flagstone, melted glass and wooden beams. Several large beams were noted 15 m north of the site. The size of the beams (10" x 12") indicate that they were probably part of the bridge discussed previously (C.S. 12).

Eleazer S. Potter acquired the land on which the site is located from the federal government in 1862 (Figure 45, Patent #370). By 1885 the land belonged to John J. Neitscke along with another small parcel of land formerly patented by George L. Kinglsey (Figure 41 & 45, Patent #364). John Neitscke was an unmarried rancher whose real property was assessed in 1870 at about \$2000 worth of real property and \$1000 personal (Sacramento County Census 1870, p. 17, #160). In 1884 he homesteaded the SW 1/4 of Section 26 (Figure 45, Patent #1785). Neitscke died sometime before 1895. His estate could not pay the taxes and the SW 1/4 was eventually sold to Dickson Scott

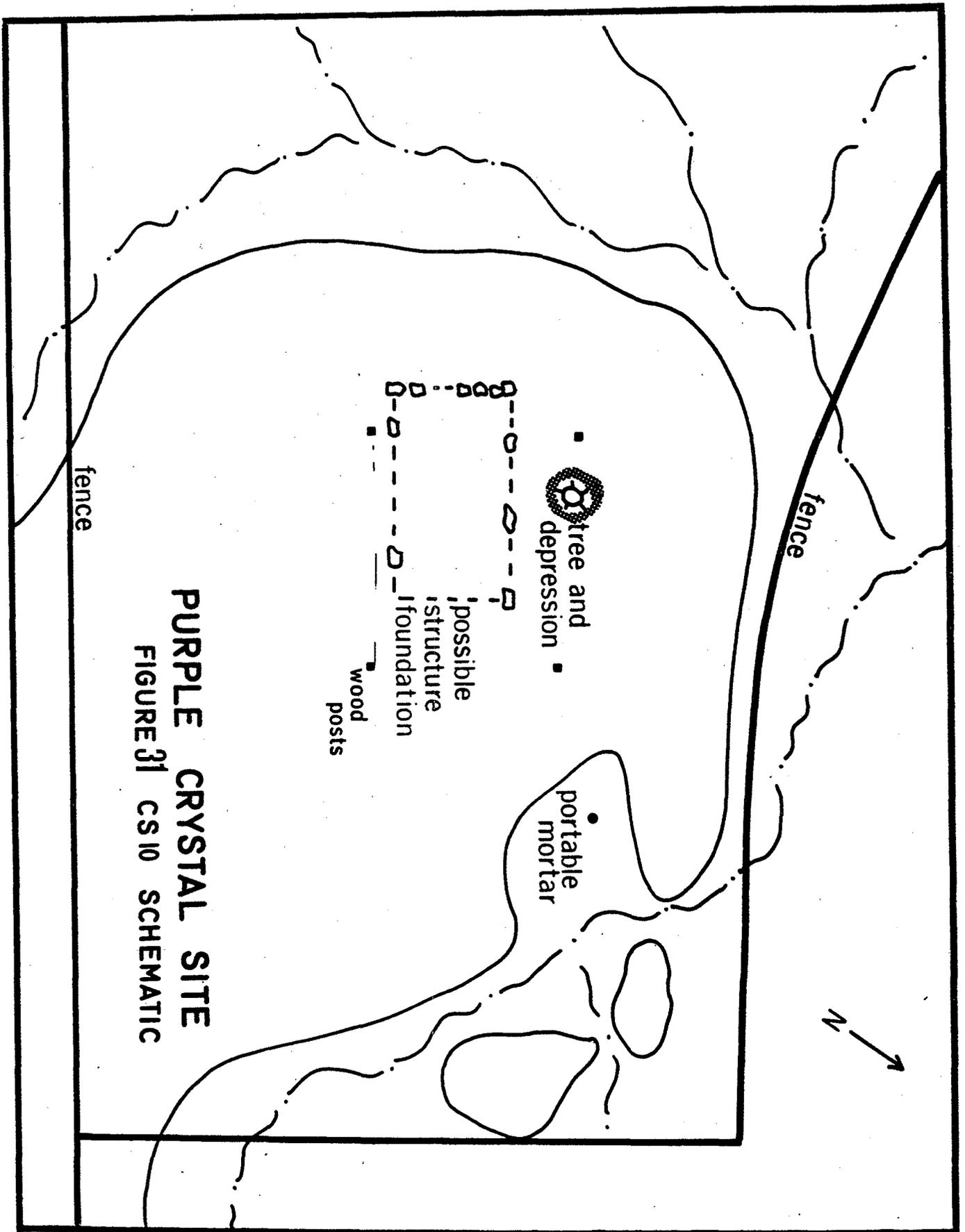
(Figure 42, Deed, Vol. 94, p. 305).

By 1903, Dickson Scott had purchased the remainder of Nietscke's land (Figure 42). Scott lived alone in a small house and had a few cows and chickens. His wife had died a few years previously to his occupation of the house and none of the informants could remember her. Presumably in his early years he did some ranching, however no one remembers him as 'doing much of anything as an old man.' However, he was the trustee for the Buckeye School (RG, EB, JB, CN, RB), for which he tried his hand at being a shrewd business man when he interviewed Lidia Winters (Harris) for the position in 1910. He offered her \$60.00 per month, which was \$10.00 less than what the previous teacher, Laura Mullen, had received. When Miss Winters refused, having known what Laura Mullen had been paid, Scott decided to grant her the usual \$70 (LH).

In 1925 Dickson Scott sold his land to Henry Schneider (Deed, Vol. 711, p. 452) and moved away from the valley. He died the following year and his estate, consisting of personal property went to his daughter, Ada Wright and a neice Laura D. Scott. The land was sold to Jake Schneider. The Schneider's tore the buildings down soon after they purchased the land.

Purple Crystal Site (Clay Station 10)

The Purple Crystal Site (Figures 31 & 46) is bordered by an intermittent branch of Laguna Creek 10-20 m. to the south and is 250 m. east of Meiss Road. The site is located outside of the reservoir basin and is approximately 195 feet above sea



PURPLE CRYSTAL SITE
FIGURE 31 CS10 SCHEMATIC

level.

The area is marked by a rectangular house foundation and 4 wooden posts. The foundation is made of sandstone blocks and is 8 m long and 5 m wide. A brick fireplace is associated with this feature. Adjacent to the area, a circular depression, 2 m in diameter was noted. The depression was filled with the remains of historic household items including: window and green bottle fragments; ironstone and soft paste porcelain fragments; wire, rusted tin cans and a ceramic insulator.

Approximately 20 m east of the depression, a portable stone mortar was found. There was no evidence of prehistoric utilization of the area such as chippage waste or midden. The bowl was probably brought to the house site. It was a common practice by early inhabitants of the area to bring home artifacts from archaeological sites located along the Consumnes River (JS).

The land on which this site is located had been occupied periodically by various people for several years before filing a claim with the government. Ellen McCarty had originally claimed the land in 1885 and is thought to have lived there. Ellen McCarty died in 1891 and the site area and the S 1/2 of SE 1/4 and SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 26 (Figure 45, Patent #2687) were homesteaded by her heirs. The McCarty's also owned the SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 26 (Figure 41, Deed, Vol. 115, p. 358), vol. 126, p. 357) which by 1903 and 1911 had been sold to Dickson Scott (Figure 42 & 43). Sometime

after 1891 but before 1900 the land changed hands to John and Ann Dierssen. The Dierssen's sold the land to Roy Nichols in 1900 in exchange for \$800 worth of butter. The butter was to be delivered by Nichols from his grocery store in Sacramento at a monthly rate of \$8.35 (35¢ roll = 21 lbs, Deed, Vol. 177, p. 224). In 1901 he closed the sale for the sum of \$10 (Figure 42 and Deed Vol. 184, p. 510).

By 1904 Lou R. Kelley owned the property (Figure 43) and he lived there with his daughter May and his brother Will. Lou Kelley who died shortly after purchasing the property in 1906, raised turkeys on the land. It is assumed that his daughter and brother moved away after his death. The land remained in the estate of L. R. Kelley for several years. However, upon his death the Bob Walker family moved into the house.

Bob Walker married Mary Ellen McCarty (daughter of Ellen McCarty?) in 1883, he was 28 and she 17 (Sac. Co. Marriage Records, Book J, p. 447) and they had 12 children. Bob Walker worked at the Meiss ranch and various other places within the valley (CN and LH). He was poor and didn't own the property he lived on and according to local informants had lived at 3 different places in the valley prior to moving to the Purple Crystal site (JB and Bonetti). His daughter Elizabeth graduated from the 11th grade in 1907 at the Buckeye School and eventually became a teacher there. Some time around 1910, the house burned and the Walker family moved to Clay Station 19 (JB and CN).

Frank S. McCulloch purchased the land in 1923 and his

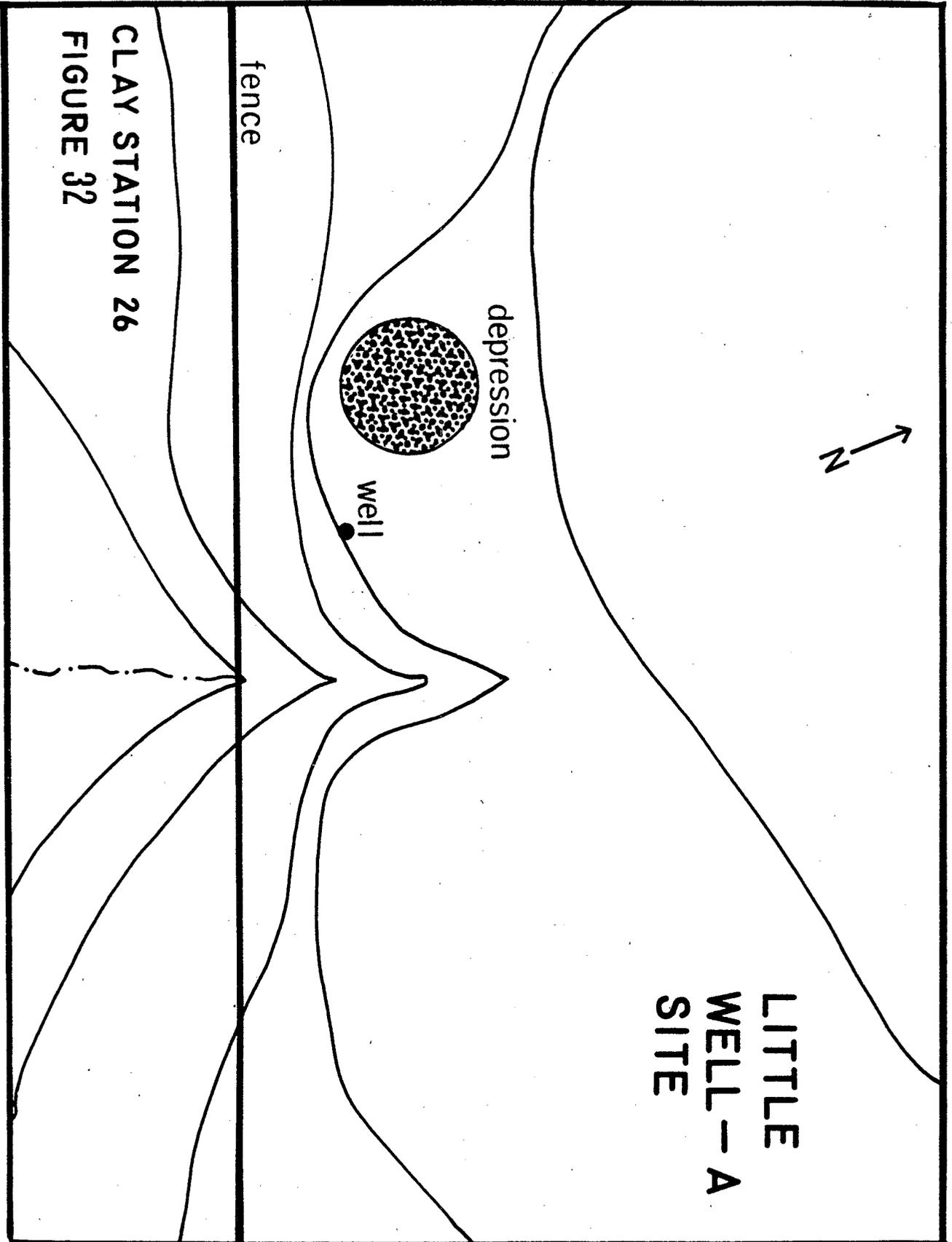
daughter's son, Gene Klotz, now owns the land. The land has not been occupied since the 1910 fire.

Little Well Site - Locus A (Clay Station 26) and Locus B (Clay Station 27)

Locus A (Figure 32 & 46) is located on a secondary terrace 150 m north of Willow Creek and 750 m south of Carbondale Road. The elevation is 210 feet above sea level which places the site outside of the reservoir basin and the main survey area.

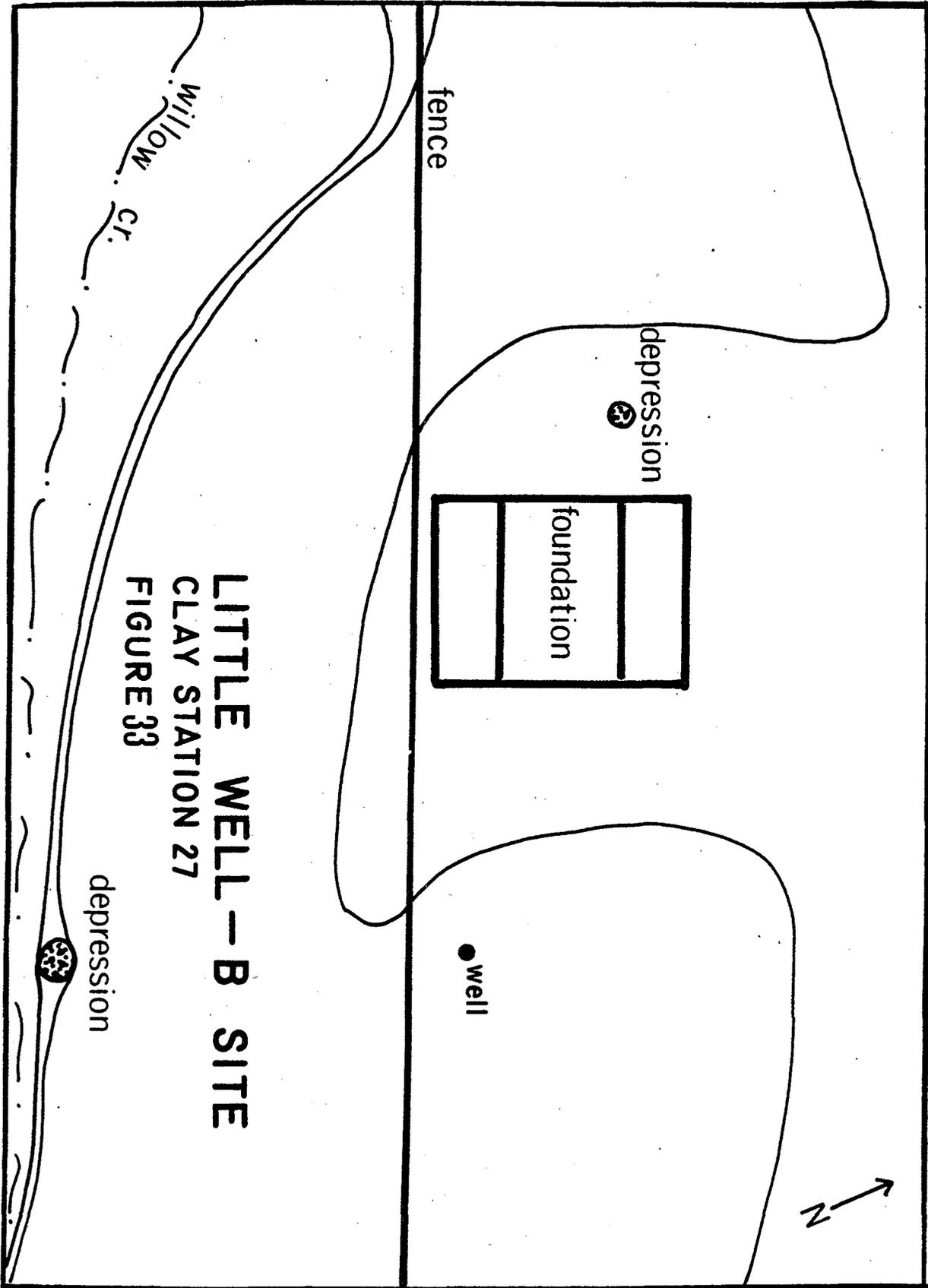
The site includes a circular depression, believed to be the basement of a house; 5 m in diameter and 30 cm deep and a stone lined well, 45 cm in diameter, 8 m to the south. A large circular hole 6 m deep was noted 65 m north of the basement. Associated with the hole is a concrete slab which probably represents the support base for heavy machinery. There were no historic artifacts associated with this part of the site.

Locus B (Figures 33 & 46) is located 68 m. east of the above noted area. The 2 locations are believed to be contemporary and should be considered the same site. This area is marked by a large rectangular foundation made of sandstone, 19 m. long and 15 m wide. The structure has 4 compartments which are outlined in rock. A depression 2 m in diameter and 30 cm deep was noted 3 m from the northwest corner of this feature. A well with metal casing was located east of the southeast corner of the foundation. On the south facing bank



CLAY STATION 26
FIGURE 32

LITTLE
WELL - A
SITE



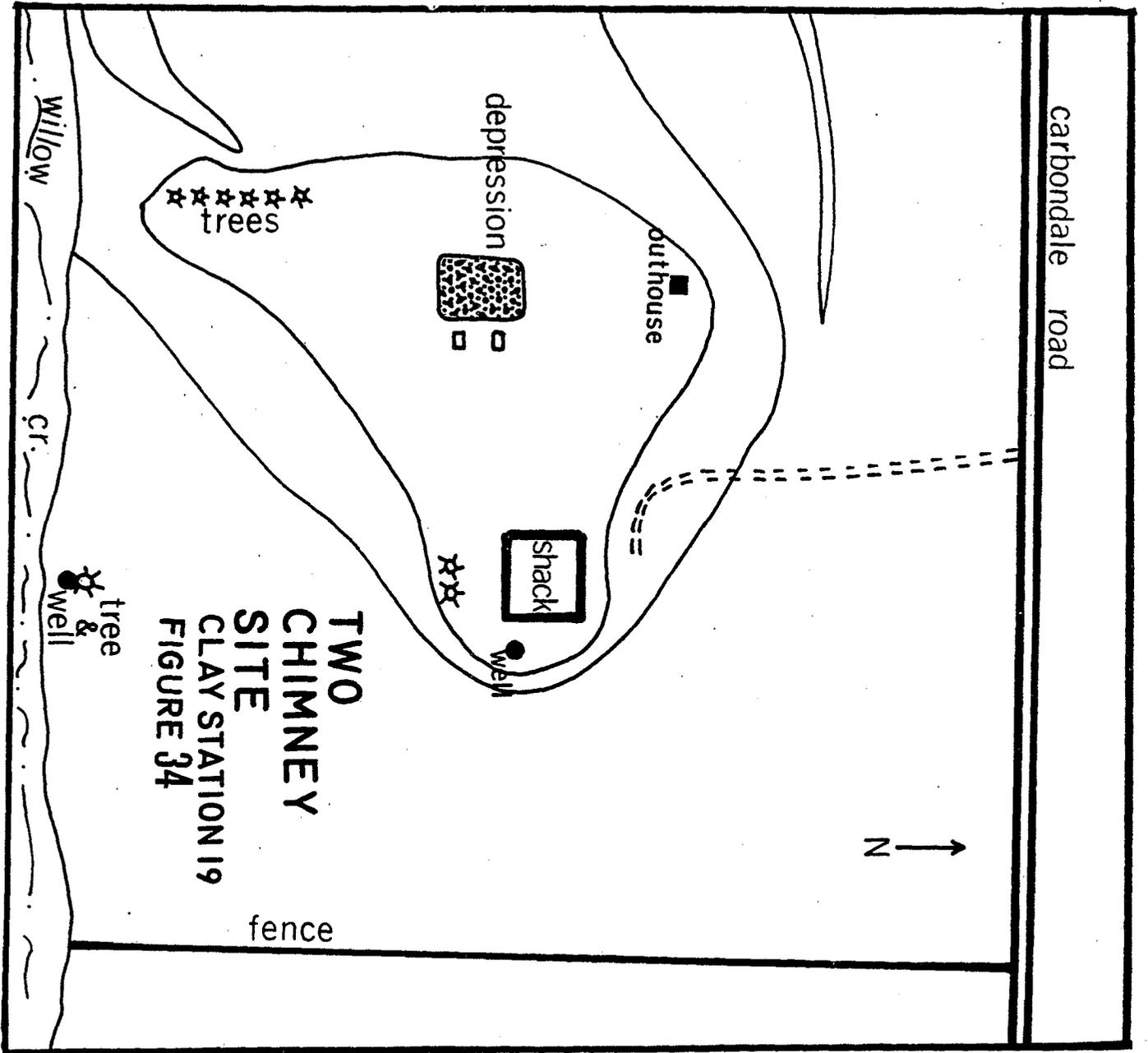
of the creek, an excavated area was observed which may be related to past mining activities approximately 35 m south of these features. Artifacts associated with this locus include clay piping and some scattered pieces of lumber.

The land on which these sites are located was originally acquired by John K. Weyburn, the heir of Samuel Weyburn who died in 1874 (Figure 45, Patent #1158). By the early 1890's Mike Carbine and his wife lived in a house at the location and the remains are represented by a large depression noted above (Figure 40). They also built a large barn east of their home which probably represents the rectangular foundation recorded during the survey. Mike Carbine was a small rancher in the valley and he ran cattle on his land.

Two Chimney Site (Clay Station 19)

The Two Chimney Site (Figure 34 & 46) is located 250 m south of Carbondale Road on a low knoll overlooking Willow Creek. The elevation of the site is 200 feet above sea level which places it outside of the reservoir basin.

The site is marked by a rectangular depression 9 m long and 7 m wide and approximately 20 cm deep. The feature probably represents a house cellar. Adjacent to the depression there are 2 fireplaces. An outhouse was located 28 m north of the depression from which local residents reported that 'alot of old bottles' had been recovered. Artifacts noted on the surface of the site included; metal, glass and ironstone fragments.



**TWO
CHIMNEY
SITE
CLAY STATION 19
FIGURE 34**

Two wells were also noted; one of which is associated with a shack on the eastern edge of the site; the other along Willow Creek, 75 m from the cellar.

The structure that once stood here has been described as a large 2-story house (SJ). The site may represent the location of the Niagara House Hotel built by Moore and Ball in 1849. The hotel was located on Willow Springs Creek, near the Amador County line and closed in 1856 (Thompson & West 1881:216; Reed 1923:118 and CN). Similar to the Blue Tent House (Buckeye House, Clay Station 15), when the structure no longer served as a hotel, it became a private residence.

The land on which the site is located was once part of a grant to the railroad made in the 1870's which was made as an incentive to build a line through the valley (Figure 45, Patent #7).

The C. L. Bates family lived here around 1885 (Figure 41) and it was known as the 'Bates House'. Bates sold the land to an old woman whose name and the date of transaction is unknown. The house was later rented to the Thompson family (CN). It is not known how long the family lived in the house, but by 1910 the Bob Walker family occupied it. They lived there until 1920 (Figure 44) at which time Emma Maxwell purchased the land and with her husband moved into the house. The Maxwell's had lived at Clay Station 18 for a short time.

William Maxwell was born in 1859 in Placerville, California. His parents, William and Catherine (Parsons) Maxwell, were both

from Kentucky. His father moved to Placerville in 1850 and became a gold miner. Accordint to local lore, young Maxwell started to work at the age of 10 for T.B. Rickey, a cattleman in Mono County. William rode range, roped and branded and after about 10 years was made foreman. In 1883 he married Emma Trimmer, born in Alpine County, the daughter of Robert and Sarah Trimmer. Her family had come to California in 1849 and were ranchers and stockraisers.

William and Emma acquired land and started a livestock business in Alpine County. In 1920, due to ill health, Maxwell was forced to sell out. He then bought a 205 acre ranch in the Buckeye Valley (Figure 44) where he ran cattle and sheep. At the same time, Emma purchased 436 acres along Willow Creek which adjoined her husbands land (Figure 44; Reed 1923:751).

The Maxwell's had 2 children, Ora and John. G.W. Reed (1923) incorrectly cites the names of the children as William and Emma. They adopted a young girl named Irma whose last name is unknown, but she was the daughter of William Maxwell's sister (CN & JB).

When William Maxwell died in 1924 he left everything to his wife (Official Records, Vol. 4, p. 297). With Emma's death, their son John inherited all of the property which was then sold to Bob Meiss who lived to the north of them (C.S. 18).

Tom and Mary Mahon and Mary's sister Winnie Christopherson (Riebus) lived in the house for awhile, but later moved in

with Bob Meiss and 'kept house for him' (CN, JB, RB & DM). After they left, the McDaniels family moved in around 1946. The McDaniels came from Oklahoma and he was a handy-man and did odd jobs around the valley (WF). The house burned down in 1954 and the McDaniels built a small shack near the old house (Figure 34).

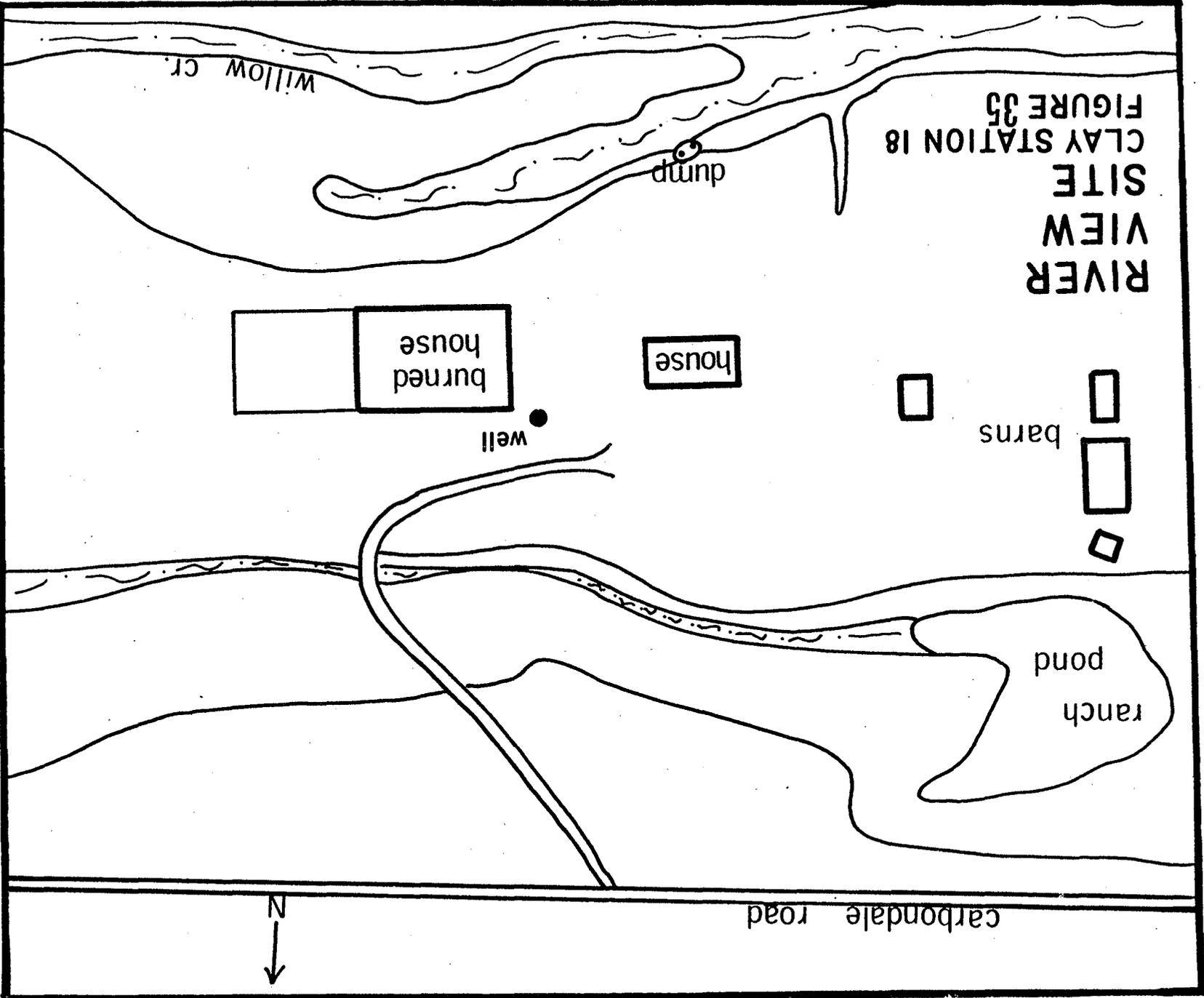
The land was sold to Stewart Realty after Bob Meiss died in 1963 at which time the McDaniels moved out. Betty Sampson and her husband Al Rodriques bought the land in 1966.

Riverview Site (Clay Station 18)

The Riverview Site (Figures 35 & 46) is located 840 m south of the Carbondale Road, 75 m north of Willow Creek and 55 m south of a large ranch pond. The elevation is 190 feet above sea level which places it outside of the reservoir basin.

The site which is known as the 'old Bob Meiss Place', consists of a sandstone house foundation 13 m long and 10 m wide and a stone lined well. At the present time several structures still stand which include a bunk house, an outhouse and a small shed. The foundation area has been rototilled by the present tenant who plans to put in a garden.

The land on which the site is located has been the property of several individuals through the years. In 1874 the land was granted to Daniel Jones (Figure 45, Patent #684) but by 1885 it was purchased by C. L. Bates (Figure 41 and CN). In 1920 Emma Maxwell purchased the land (Figure 44) and she and her husband moved into the house for a short time before



C-076270

C-076270

moving over to Clay Station 19 (CN).

The original home was a large 2-story building supported by a cement foundation (BD & JB). In addition to the various ranch buildings there was a garden located on the east side of the house and a bunk house on the west which are still standing.

Bob Meiss purchased the land from John Maxwell in 1928 who had inherited it from his parents. Bob Meiss made the reservoir noted above and stocked it with fish. As mentioned previously, Bob worked periodically for his cousin Ben Meiss, but after purchasing the land, he spent most of his time 'run-nig' stock on his own land. He lived in the house with Tom Mahon and his wife Mary and her sister Winnie Riebus (CN, RB & JB). Another local inhabitant of the valley, Ed Christopher-son (Mary and Winnie's brother) has been reported to have lived in either a trailer house (WF & CN) or in the bunk house mentioned above (JB).

Ed Christopherson, like so many of the early residents of the Buckeye Valley had a history of various homes and jobs throughout his life. Ed was born just north of Carbondale around 1875 and from his early youth until he was 25 he trailed behind the placer mining machines near Carbondale and picked up the gold tailings. Later he owned a clay mine near New Oakland and a man named "Randolph" worked for him. He later sold out to Tom Mahon and moved to Auburn and opened an ice cream parlor. He returned to the Buckeye Valley and lived

in Ed and Jennie Dietz's place while they were temporarily living at Michigan Bar (CN). As mentioned above he went to live at the Bob Meiss place sometime after 1928 and drove clay team for Tom Mahon.

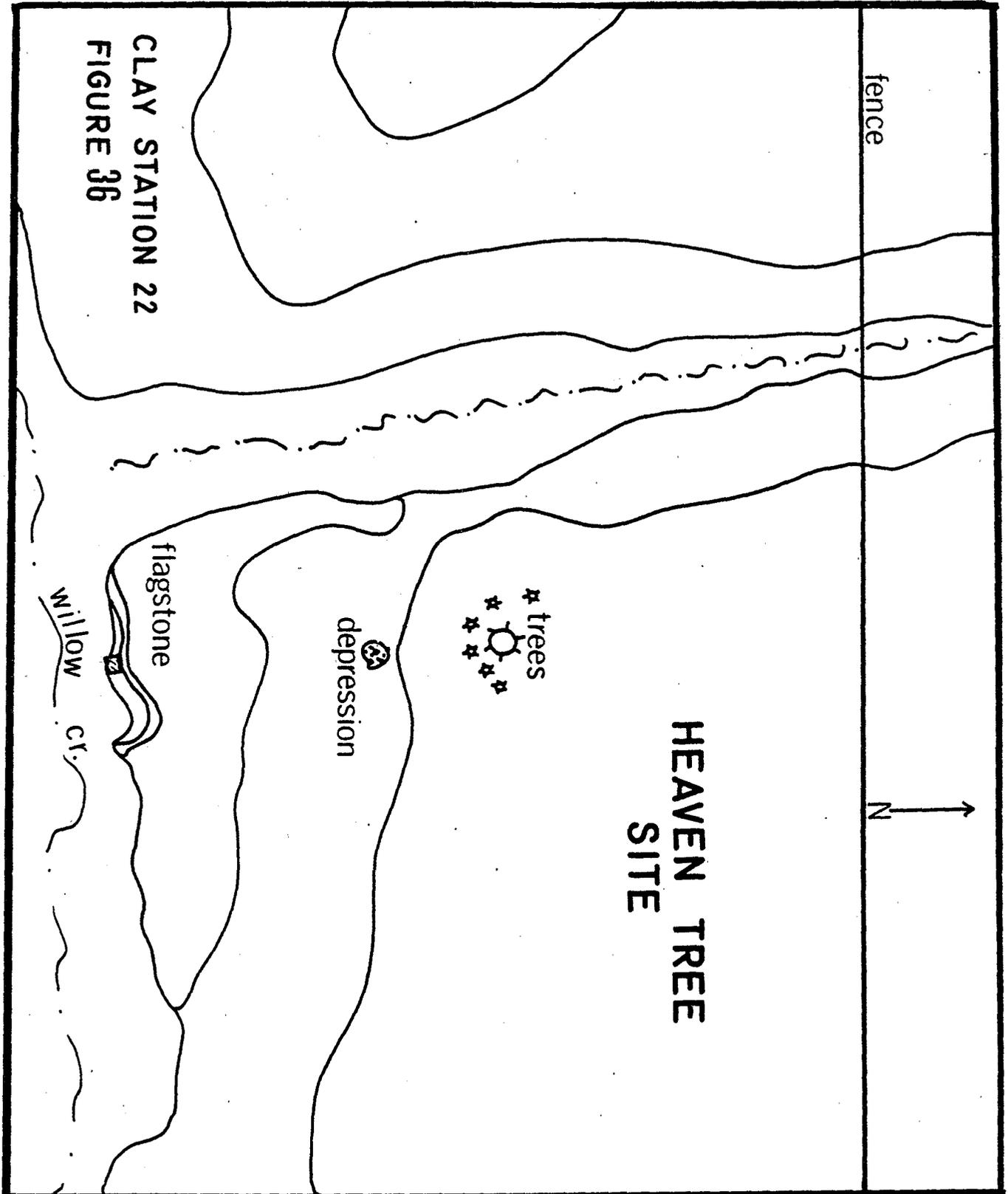
Bob Meiss never married and he had no children. When he died in 1963 he left his property to his sister's sons. The land was then sold to Stewart Realty who divided it into smaller lots. The land in question was sold to Melvin McDonald who has named it the Laguna Ranch. The original Bob Meiss house burned around 1966.

Heaven Tree Site (Clay Station 22)

The Heaven Tree site (Figures 36 & 46) is located on a terrace 76 m north of Laguna Creek. The site is 180 feet above sea level which places it at the edge of the reservoir basin.

Features noted at the site include a circular depression 2.5 m in diameter and 30 cm deep which is associated with a stand of Heaven Trees. The depression is thought to represent the remains of a house cellar. An old fence line was located along the eastern edge of the site. On the south-facing cutbank of Laguna Creek a series of flagstone slabs are scattered over the surface of the ground. These stones appear to be associated with a spring.

The land on which the site is located is part of the Arroyo Seco Grant (Figures 41-44) (S 1/2 of S 1/2 of Section 36). From 1885 the Ione Coal and Iron Company leased the land



(Figures 41, 42 & 43) until 1923 when the McKissick Cattle Company took over the lease (Figure 44). The land is now part of the Howard Estate and leased to George A. Pope, Jr. and is used for pasture land for cattle.

The site was/may be the location of a squatters house or of someone who worked for the Arroyo Seco Ranch. None of the informants could remember anyone living here. Occupation may have been prior to 1894 which is the earliest date account-able by any of the informants.

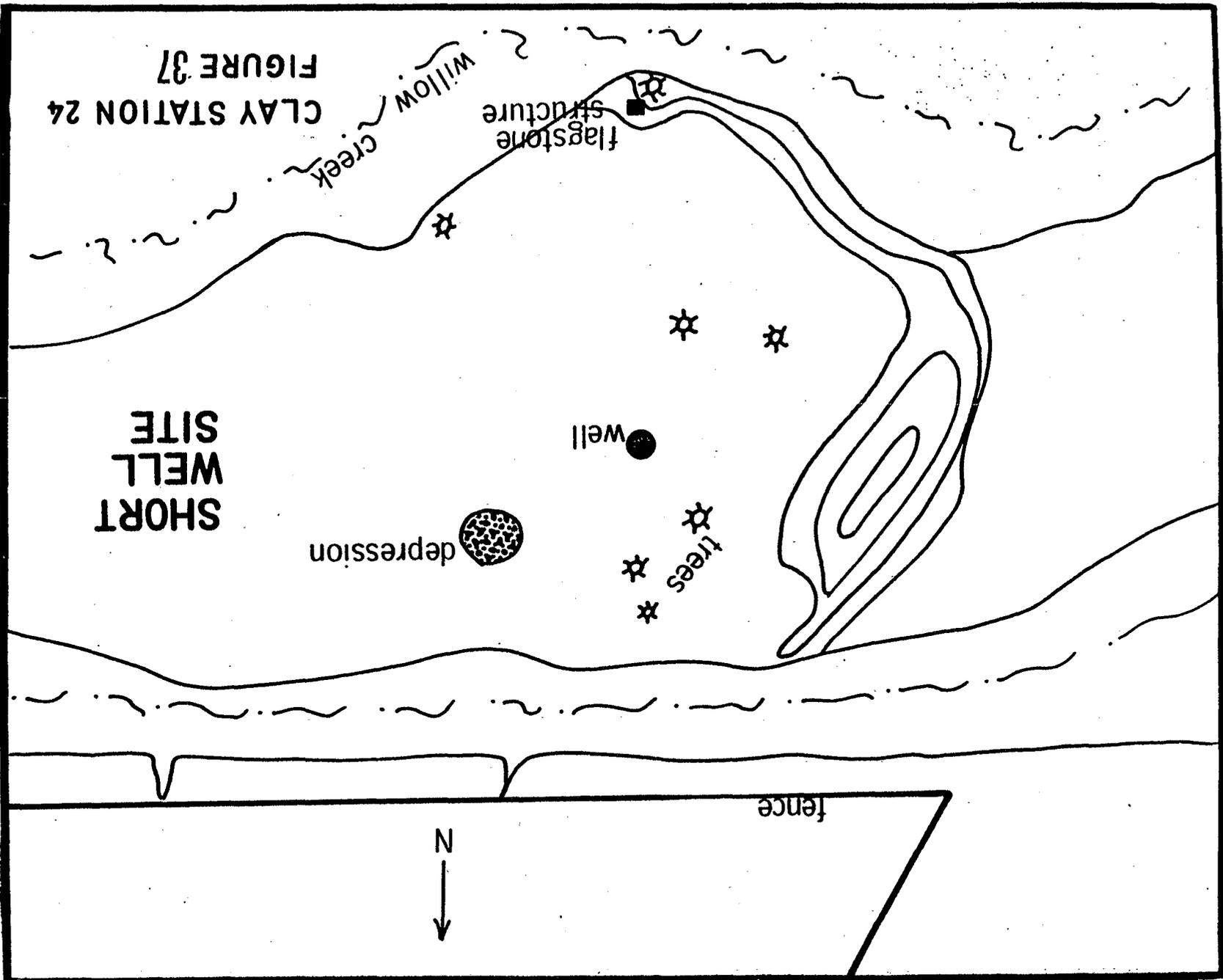
Short Well Site (Clay Station 24)

Short Well (Figures 37, 38 & 46) is located on a terrace cut by Laguna Creek 85 m to the north and an intermittent tri-butary on the south. The site is 160 feet above sea level which places it within the reservoir basin.

The site is marked by a circular depression, 6 m in dia-meter and 40 cm in depth. The depression is believed to be the remains of a house cellar. Adjacent to the cellar there is a well 1.5 m in diameter and 4.5 m deep. The well is lined with cut sandstone blocks. Artifacts associated with these features include glass fragments and red building brick.

On the south facing terrace bordering the intermittent drainage there is a rectangular cluster of 'flagstone' 3.5 m long by 1.8 m wide. This feature is 85 m south of the main habitation area and it is not known what it may have functioned as.

The land on which this site is located is part of the



CLAY STATION 24
FIGURE 37

SHORT
WELL
SITE

depression

well

trees

flagstone
structure

Willow
Creek

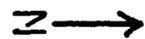
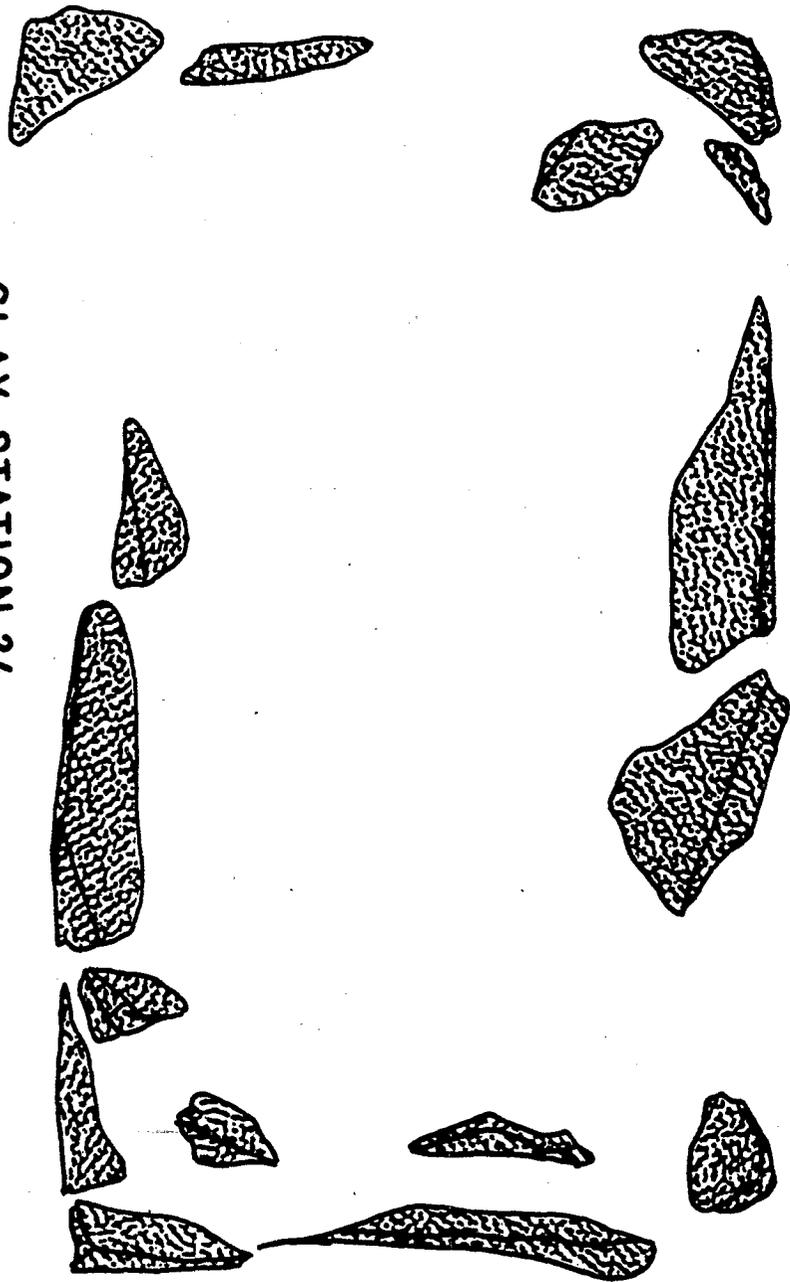
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FLAGSTONE STRUCTURE



CLAY STATION 24
FIGURE 38

Arroyo Seco Land Grant (Figures 41-44) by the Ione Coal and Iron Company. The land was leased from before 1885 until sometime after 1911. By 1923 the McKissick Cattle Company was leasing it (Figure 44). According to our historical record research and informant interviews it could not be determined who had lived at the home site or when. Jennie Brown thought that Henry Obsermeyer's family lived there. However, Clarence Nichols said that the family lived to the south, across the railroad tracks. Henry Obermeyer rode pasture for the Arroyo Seco Grant. Henry Obermeyer had 5 children one of which, Josephine married Will Meiss, the son of Louis Meiss.

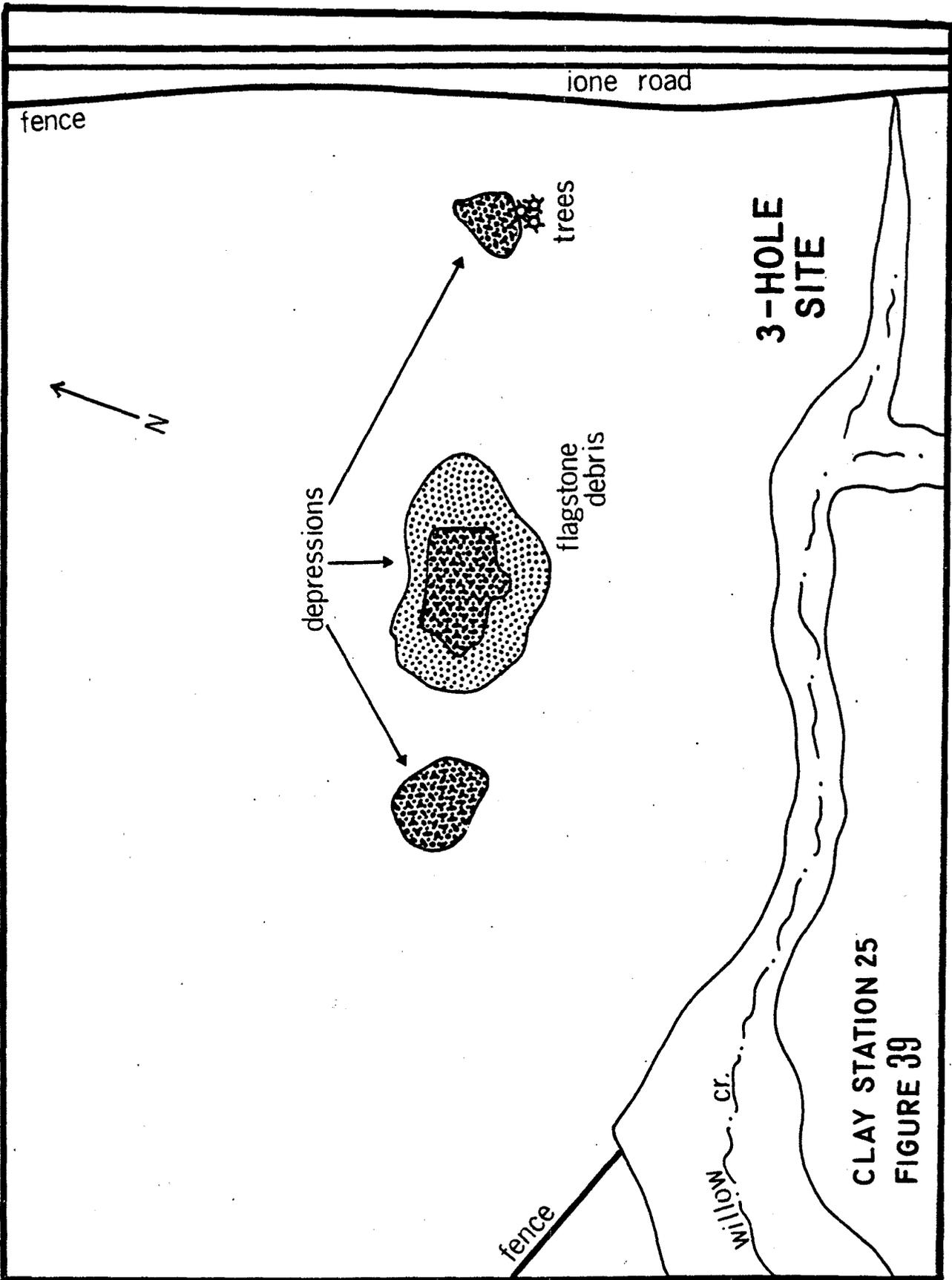
The land is now owned by the Howard Estate and leased to George Pope Jr Trust and is used for cattle grazing.

Clay Station 25 "Three Hole Site"

Clay Station 25 (Figures 29 & 46) is located 50 m west of Ione Road, 60 m north of the Willow Creek floodplain and approximately 1 km south of Clay Station 16 (Buckeye School). The elevation of the site is approximately 180 feet above sea level which places it at the edge of the reservoir basin.

The location is marked by 3 depressions. The one closest to the road is 7.7 m long, 6 m wide and is 75 cm deep. The bottom of the hole has the remains of charred posts. Three "heaven" trees were noted on the southern edge of the depression.

A second depression, 85 m west of the road, is lined with



CLAY STATION 25
FIGURE 39

blocked along the north, south and east walls. The entrance appears to have been along the west wall. A number of historic artifacts were noted which include: square-cut nails, ironstone sherds; melted glass; metal and flagstone fragments.

The third depression is located 8.5 m west of the second and is 4.5 m in diameter and 1.3 m in depth. Historic materials were not found in association with this depression.

The site is located in Section 36 which was originally granted to the State of California for a school in 1856 (Figures 2, SG 119). By 1885 the N 1/2 of the section had been purchased by U.S. Wilber (Figure 41) and remained part of his estate through 1911 (Figures 42 & 43). Henry Schneider purchased the land by 1923 (Figure 44) and is now part of the Jake Schneider ranch.

As indicated in the description above 3 buildings marked the location of the site. However, none of the historical documents reviewed or informants interviewed could indicate who occupied the area or when. Clarence Nichols said that he knew of a building which had once been there, but it was not within his lifetime. Jennie Brown (born 1891) could not recall any structures there during her childhood. It is likely that the buildings date back sometime before the late 1800's.

Jake Schneider (personal communication, 1976) suggested that the buildings had burned because of the melted glass and numerous square-cut nails around the site. According to Schneider, if a building was torn down, the nails were saved and reused and only a few if any would be left behind.

The town of Carbondale was located on the Arroyo Seco Land Grant. The grant was from Juan B. Alvarado, governor of California, to Teodosio Yorva, May 8, 1840. Yorva sold it to Andres Pico, brother of Pio Pico, California's last Mexican governor, in 1852 for 500 head of cattle. The grant was confirmed by the U.S. District Court in 1853 (Thompson & West 1880:185 & Thompson & West 1881:224). The grant is one of 19 which have retained their original land holding.

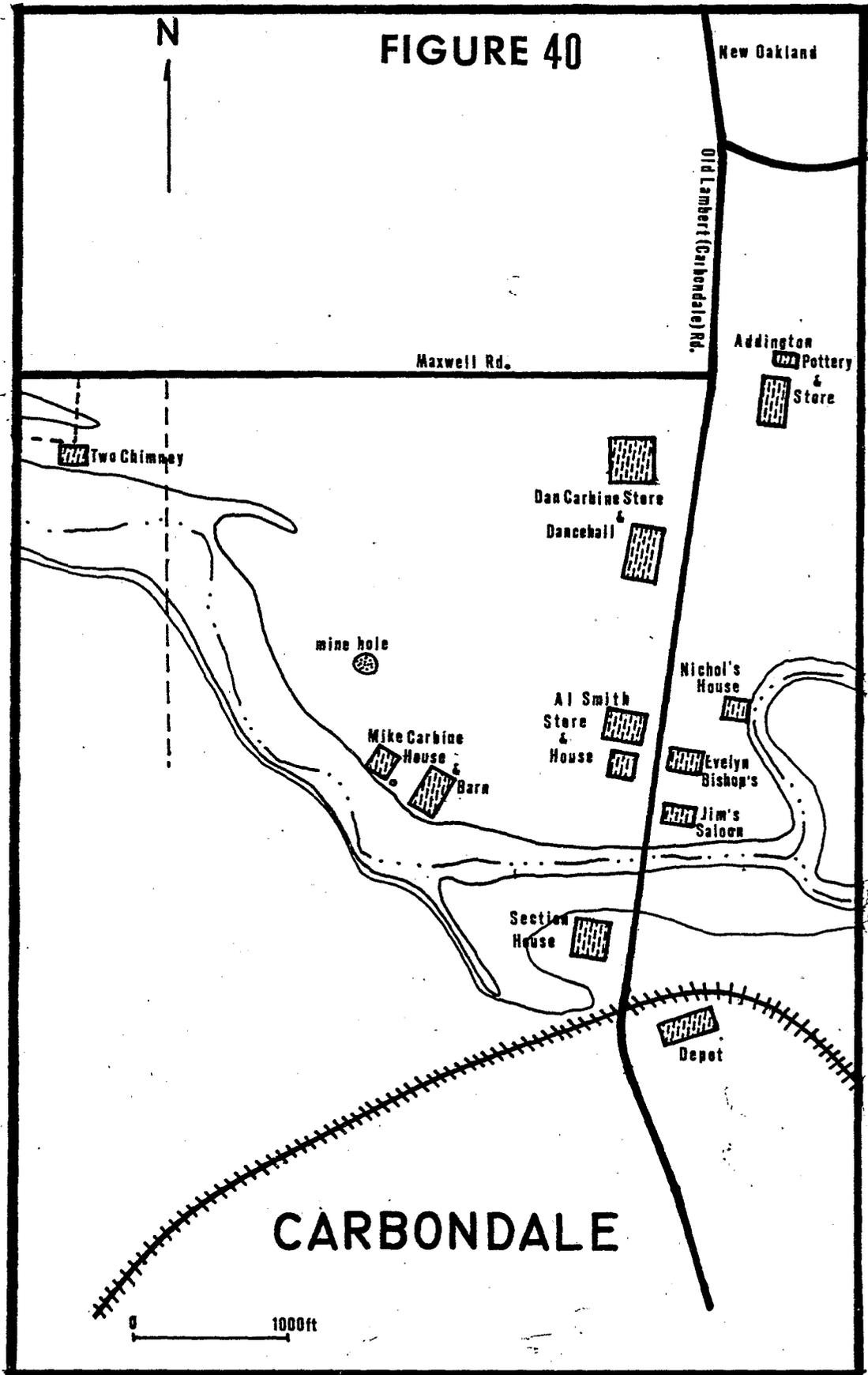
Carbondale, (Figure 40) like the nearby town of Lignite, is a silent reminder of the great California coal boom of the 1860's. A rich deposit of coal found in the Ione Valley provided incentive for Central Pacific to build a railroad line from Galt. The town which flourished for about 50 years originated as a shipping depot for coal.

Workers for the railroad lived in box cars set up off the tracks (LH). There was a Section house where the Section boss and his family lived, a bunk house and a depot (Figure 40 & LH & DM).

The brown coal was not efficient for raising steam in locomotives or steamship boilers but could be used satisfactorily to heat houses and apartments. Several companies in the town realized this potential by installing briquet making machinery.

In addition to the coal operation Carbondale was situated close to a rapidly expanding cattle industry in the foothills, for which it served as a railroad head (Andrews: 1967).

FIGURE 40



Clay was another significant industry for the area. Addington and Son established a pottery located approximately 3 miles north of town.

"In the northern part of the valley Addington and Son have, for many years made a good article of fire-brick, also of pottery out of the clays of the overlying coal. He was the first to utilize the clays for this purpose, his works having been in operation some twenty-three or twenty-four years. Until the opening of the Central Pacific Railroad, which crossed the same formation at Lincoln, quite a trade existed in this clay. The return wagons loading with it and supplying several potteries at Sacramento (Thompson & West 1881:192)."

The business started about 1858 and closed in the late 1890's. Soon after closing, Addington opened a small store and pottery in town (Figure 40). Addington was also the postmaster and his store served as the post office.

By 1911 there were "three large warehouses on the one side of the main street. On the other were a block of tall two-story Victorian buildings with plank sidewalks, post supported balconies, water troughs and hitching racks in front (Andrews: 1967).

Fred Hammer established a pottery near the site of the original Addington pottery and he eventually bought his store in town (DM & CN). The intersection of Old Lambert and Maxwell Roads was at one time known as Fred Hammer's corner (Figure 40 & CN). At a later date, Hammer quit the pottery business and opened a saloon in town.

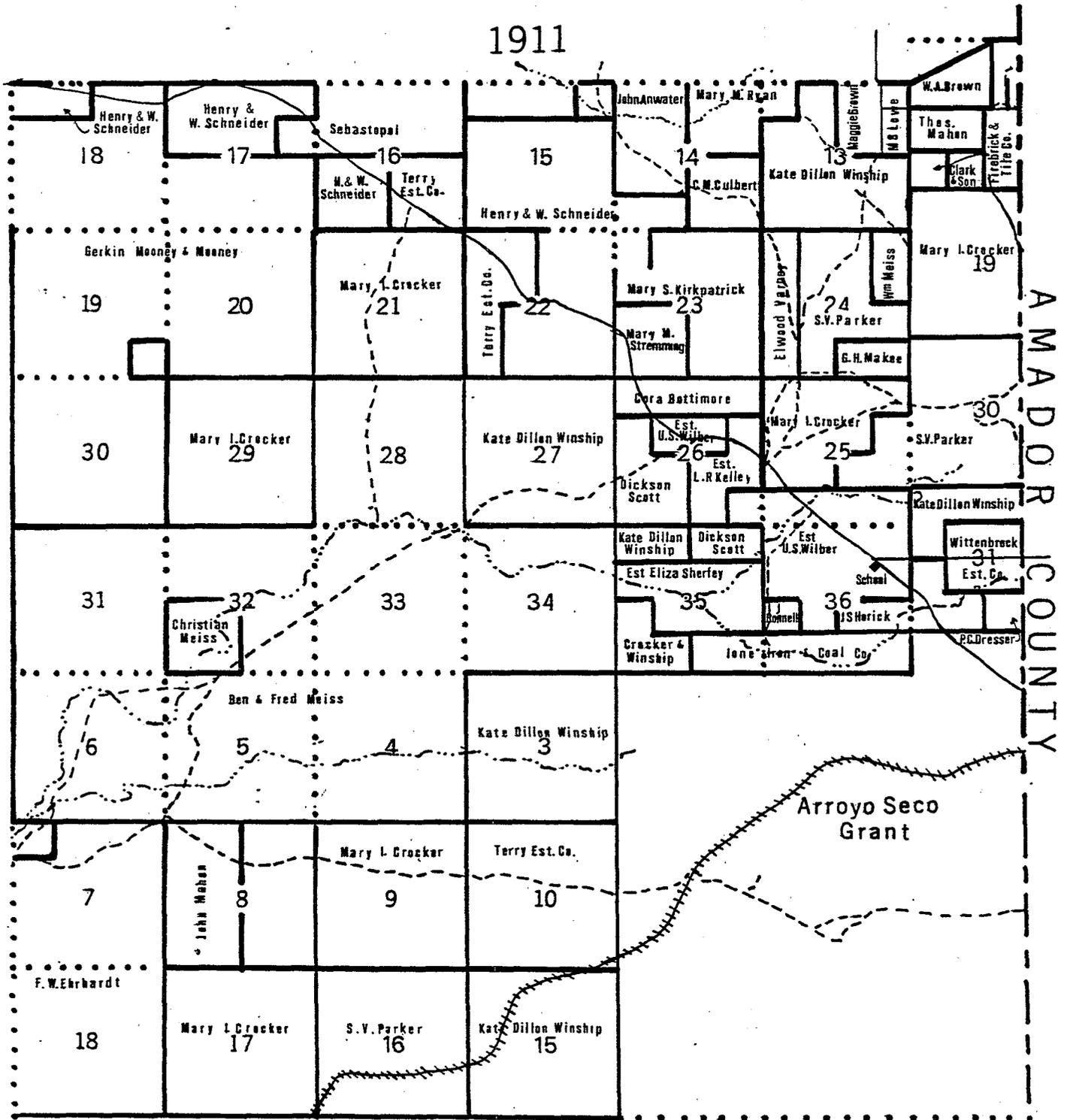
Dan Carbine owned a store near the southwest corner of Maxwell and Old Lambert Roads. Close to that location there

was a saloon and dancehall (Figure 40). Dan Carbine who was a bachelor was the brother of Mike Carbine who had a small ranch at the edge of town (Figure 40, Clay Station 26 & 27).

During the late 1930s Ed and Evelyn Bishop lived in the Carbondale School house, where Mrs. Bishop ran the post office (Figure 40 and JB). The original Carbondale school was located by the railroad tracks but was rebuilt around 1900 at its present location (DM, SJ, EB & CN).

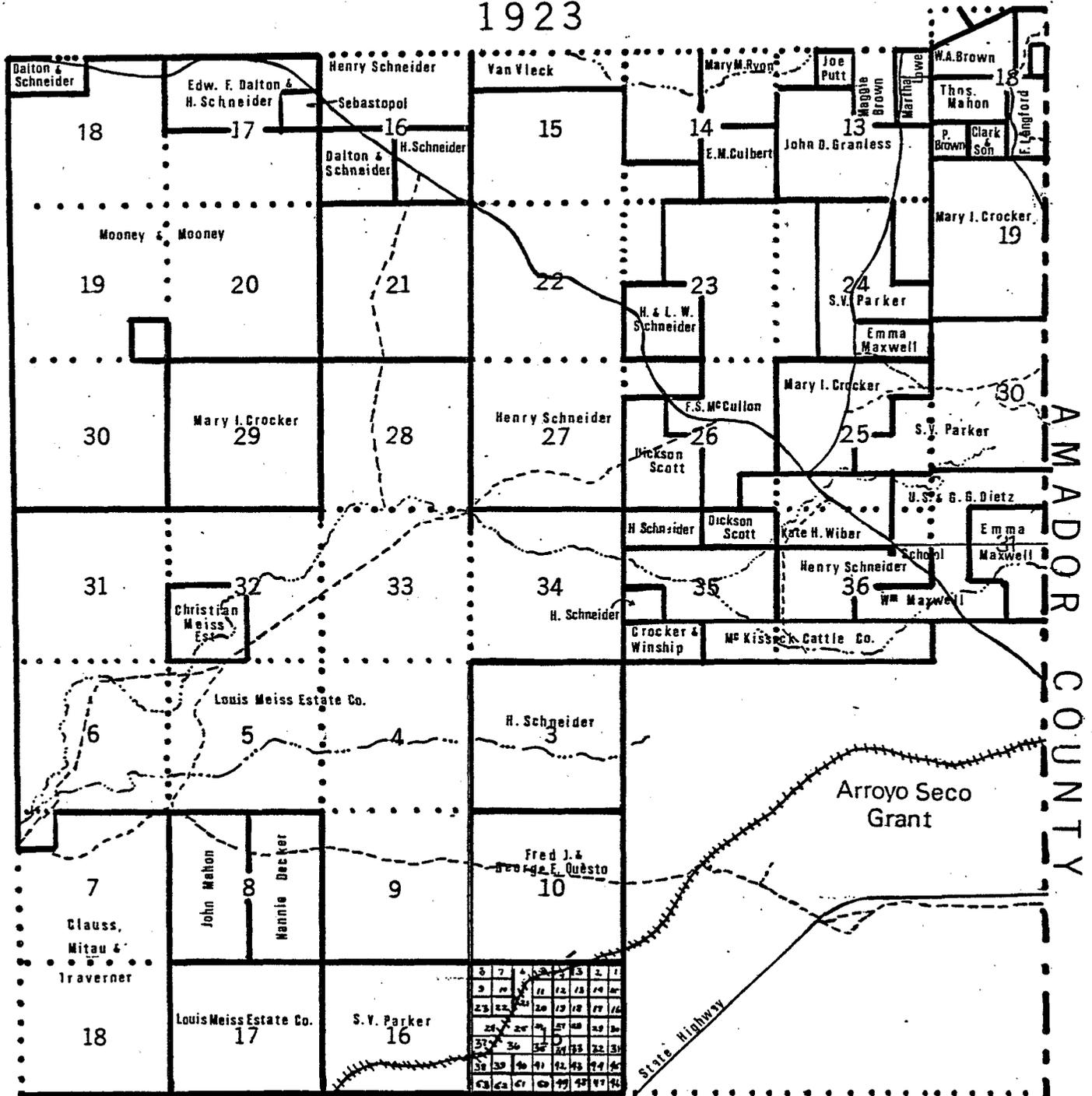
In the early 1900s oil replaced coal as fuel and as a consequence, Carbondale's briquet manufacturers were forced out of business. The railroad discontinued its passenger service in the area, which was followed by the suspension of freight in the early 1920s. Abandonment by the railroad brought a final blow to the town. The buildings, such as the railway station and warehouse have all been torn down. All that remains is the Jaber house which has in the past served as a store, telephone central, post office and way station (Figure 40; Al Smith's house), some old cattle chutes and the Carbondale School (Figure 40: Evelyn Bishop's house).

OFFICIAL MAP
of the
COUNTY of SACRAMENTO
1911



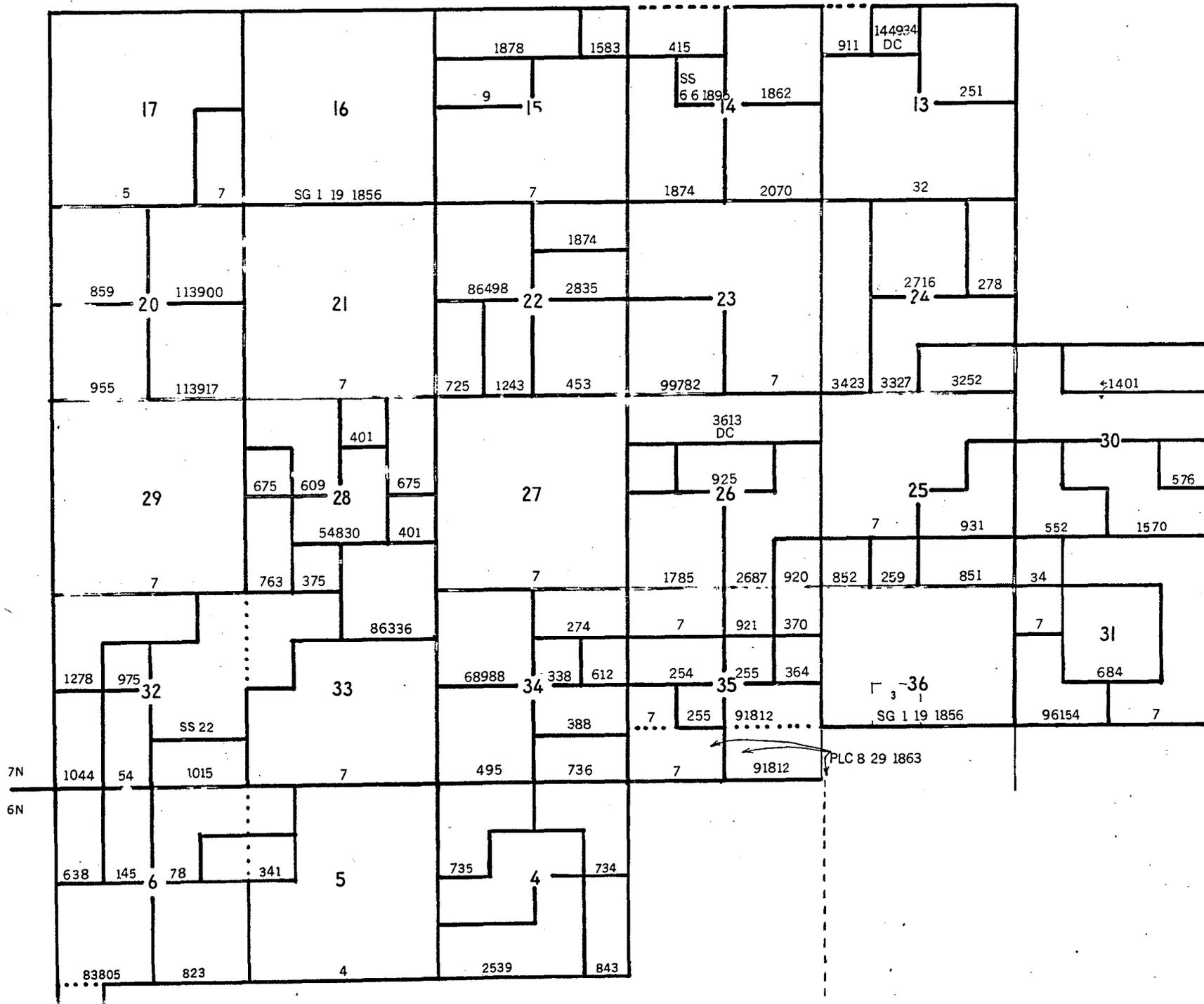
- - - - - Unimproved road
 ————— Improved road
 ~~~~~ Creek  
 ++++++ Railroad  
 Scale 1:48,000

OFFICIAL MAP  
of the  
COUNTY of SACRAMENTO  
1923



- - - - - Unimproved road  
 ————— Improved road  
 ~~~~~ Creek  
 +++++ Railroad
 Scale 1:48,000

FIGURE 45



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SUMMARY

Prehistoric and historic investigations within the proposed Clay Station Reservoir resulted in the identification of 22 historic and 9 prehistoric sites. A summary of their location relative to the high water line, 180 feet, is provided in Table 3. A total of 11 historic sites are located within the reservoir basin and 3 are at its edge. Three prehistoric sites are within the reservoir basin and the remainder are 10 to 50 feet above the high water line.

Two of the prehistoric sites, Clay Station 28 & 29 are located outside of the reservoir survey area. The sites are important to the regional prehistory of the area because they may represent the location of year-round occupied villages. The remainder of prehistoric features are bedrock mortar sites. There was no evidence of occupation at these locations, such as midden or chippage waste. They all appear to be task-specific loci for the harvest and preparation of acorns during the fall.

The historic sites represent a variety of activities and periods of occupation. The Blue Tent Hotel and the Niagara House were built during the gold rush of 1849. Both are located outside of the reservoir basin. However, both are important to the understanding of the regional history of the area.

The original Buckeye School, which was built in 1863, burned in the early 1880's. A new school was rebuilt by 1885

TABLE 3

Clay Reservoir Site Distribution

| Historic
Within | Elevation
Feet | Historic
out | Elevation
Feet | Prehistoric
Within | Elevation
Feet | Prehistoric
Out | Elevation
Feet |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| C.S. 31 | 150 | C.S. 4 | 200 | C.S. 1 | 150 | C.S. 7 | 190 |
| C.S. 3 | 150 | C.S. 13 | 190 | C.S. 2 | 140 | C.S. 8 | 210 |
| C.S. 21 | 160 | C.S. 16 | 190 | C.S. 5 | 140 | C.S. 9 | 190 |
| C.S. 6 | 140 | C.S. 15 | 190 | | | C.S. 4 | 200 |
| C.S. 30 | 125 | C.S. 17 | 190 | | | C.S. 28 | 230 |
| C.S. 12 | 170 | C.S. 20 | 190 | | | C.S. 29 | 230 |
| C.S. 23 | 180 | C.S. 10 | 195 | | | | |
| C.S. 11 | 170 | C.S. 26 | 210 | | | | |
| C.S. 22 | 180 | C.S. 27 | 210 | | | | |
| C.S. 24 | 160 | C.S. 19 | 200 | | | | |
| C.S. 25 | 180 | C.S. 18 | 190 | | | | |

and stood until the early 1930's.

The Meiss Ranch, which was established in 1870, represents the largest land holding by any of the early residents of the study area. The site is a complex array of historic features (Grist mill, cistern, slaughter house etc.) which was characteristic of early ranch life in California.

The remainder are homestead sites established in the late 1870's through the early 1900's. This period of time marks the transition from the exploitation and transient life of the gold fields to California's settlement. All that remains of the lives of these early Californians are a few broken dishes, miscellaneous household and farm items; cellar holes and foundations where walls and a floor once stood.

The majority of California's history is concerned with the gold rush era and little is known of the common man. The history remains in the unpublished diaries, newspapers and scattered historic documents housed at various state and local institutions. The results of our work provided a substantial amount of information through oral interviews, which still remains a valuable historic source. The data presented should help to provide the basis for a more developed regional history of the area.

RECOMMENDATION

As a result of our work within the proposed Clay Station Reservoir it was found that the area was once part of the historic community of the Buckeye Valley. Prior to future development it is hoped that the following be taken into consideration:

- 1) Detailed mapping of all sites, features and complexes of the study area
- 2) Complete photographic documentation of the study area
- 3) A summation of the regional history of the area
- 4) Augering and surface artifact collection

It is felt that this would provide the necessary information relative to the development of the area's history. The first two recommendations are self explanatory and are made for those sites which would be directly or indirectly affected by reservoir construction or the establishment of recreation areas. The third would require additional archival research and informant interviews, yielding a regional study (Buckeye Valley and Carbondale) which would facilitate a more accurate understanding of those sites within the reservoir basin.

The prehistoric sites which would be inundated by the reservoir waters are Long Legs (C.S. 1), Frog Grind (C.S. 2) and Broken Metate (C.S. 5). The first two are isolated bed-rock mortar sites. Their research value lies in their identification and documentation relative to known sites and the aboriginal settlement pattern for the area. The later site,

is represented by 2 isolated metate fragments and a possible quartzite cobble tool. As stated previously there does not appear to be an associated midden. The fourth recommendation suggests that each of these sites be augered to test for buried midden. The artifacts from the Broken Metate site should be collected, analyzed and catalogued by a local educational institution. The artifacts could be turned over to the Grinding Rock State Park, near Jackson and utilized in their reconstruction of a Miwok Indian Village.

With the completion of the field and archival research the data collected could be utilized to develop an education facility for the general public. The facility could take the form of roadside points of interest and a pamphlet which documents both the prehistory and history of this small part of California.

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