

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
PHILLIPS PETROLEUM'S
PROPOSED SAN JUAN 30-5 UNIT #210 WELL PAD
RIO ARriba COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

LAC REPORT 9012e

by

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New Mexico Cultural Resource Use Permit No. 19-2920-89-F

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Prepared For:
Phillips Petroleum
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Farmington, New Mexico 87401

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological survey of Phillips Petroleum's San Juan 30-5 Unit #210 well pad was conducted on February 26, 1990 by personnel of La Plata Archaeological Consultants. The field work was conducted by Maureen Cavanaugh and Carol S. De Francia and the project was administered by Steven Fuller. The survey was conducted at the request of Mr. Larry Sanders, of Phillips Petroleum. Personnel of Daggett Land Surveying staked the proposed well location.

The project area is on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Farmington Resource Area, and is within Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. All work was conducted under authority of Cultural Resource Use Permit No. 19-2920-89-F, issued to La Plata Archaeological Consultants.

The area was surveyed for one well pad planned by Phillips Petroleum. The well pad measures 205 by 300 feet. A total of 7.3 acres was intensively surveyed for this project. Access will be from an adjacent, existing well pad (SJ 30-5 #36). One new archaeological site was recorded during the survey. This site can be avoided and archaeological clearance is recommended for the well pad, with protective stipulations.

PREFIELD RECORDS SEARCH

On February 28, 1990, the records located in the Farmington Resource Area Office of the Bureau of Land Management's Albuquerque District were reviewed. Approximately three well pads and 2 pipeline right-of-ways have been surveyed within a one mile radius of the proposed project area. These surveys were conducted for energy development projects. There are five previously recorded sites within one mile of the proposed project area, as revealed by the record search. The location of these sites is shown in Figure 1a and they are described as follows:

LA27667	Navajo hogan
LA31794	Navajo Gobernador phase hogan and ceramic scatter
BLM35834	No information
BLM31545	Anasazi BMIII-PI Rosa Phase pithouse settlement
BLM35696	Anasazi BMIII-PI Rosa Phase settlement

FIELD METHODS

Prior to the survey, the proposed well pad was marked at the center, the four corners and at the four centerline endpoints. Off pad construction areas were not

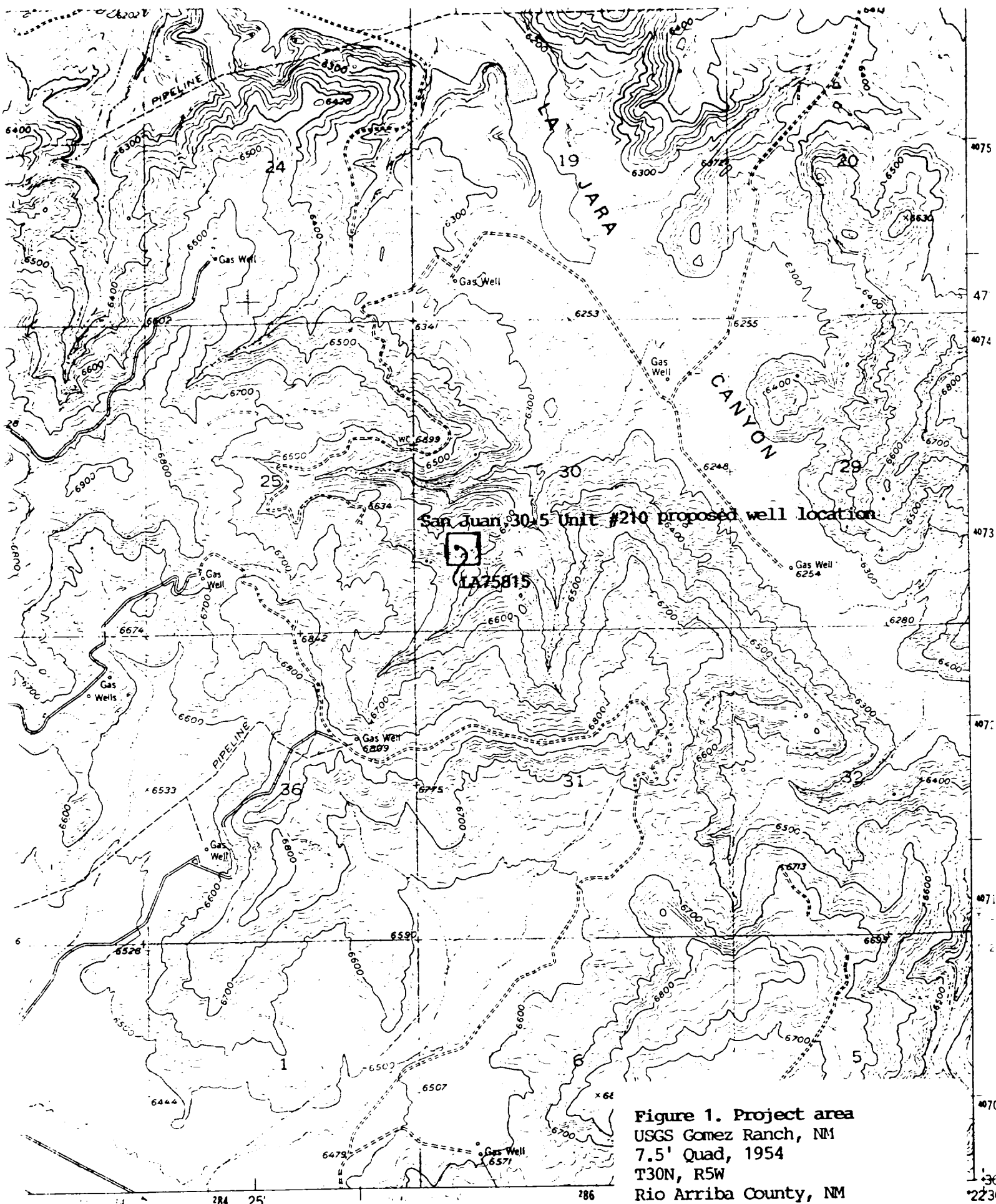


Figure 1. Project area
 USGS Gomez Ranch, NM
 7.5' Quad, 1954
 T30N, R5W
 Rio Arriba County, NM

delimited but were described as consisting of only a topsoil stockpile area which would not extend further than 50 feet from the pad. A 7.3 acre block (600 by 530 feet) was surveyed centered on the well center stake which was sufficient to cover the 300 by 230 foot pad, a 50 foot construction zone, and at least a 100 foot buffer for cultural resources. The 7.3 acre block was surveyed by pedestrian transects which were no further than 15 m or 50 feet apart. The extent of the survey area is illustrated on Figure 1.

The one new site found during the survey was mapped, photographed, and all pertinent data was recorded on a Laboratory of Anthropology site form.

ENVIRONMENT

The proposed well location is situated on a northeast aspect bench, on a mesa finger isolated by canyons to the north and east. These short canyons are tributary to La Jara Canyon to the northeast.

Sediments on the bench are varied. Clayey soils and shales were observed on slopes. A reddish brown aeolian loam was present on flatter areas, and shallow sandy residual soils were noted on the ledges adjacent to and below the canyon rims.

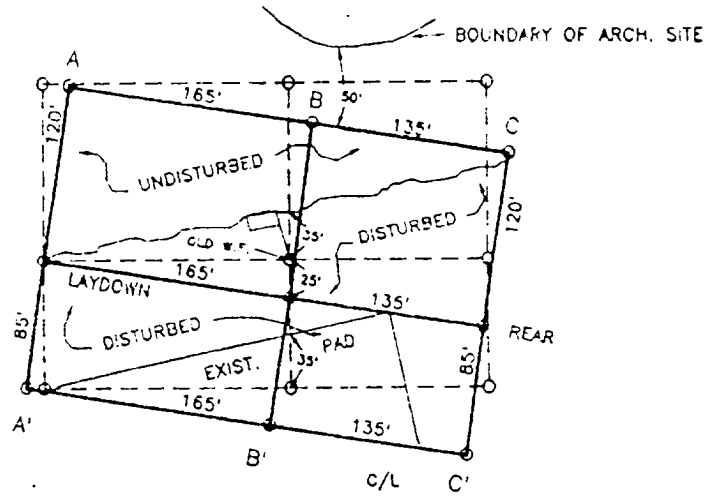
Vegetation was dominated by pinyon, juniper, Gambel oak, very sparse sage and sparse forbes and grasses. Rabbit brush, sage, and grasses provided ground cover in disturbed areas.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Project Name:	Phillips Petroleum SJ 30-5 #210 well pad
Legal Description:	The well pad is within T30N, R5W, Section 30, SE 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4. The actual footage of the location is 1259 FSL, 745 FWL, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico (see Figure 2, well plat).
Elevation:	6495 feet
Map Reference:	USGS Gomez Ranch, New Mexico 7.5' (1954, photorevised 1982).
Land Jurisdiction:	Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Resource Area.
Project Area:	The well pad will measure 300 by 205 feet. Access is from an adjacent, existing well.

Figure 2. Well pad plat.

COMPANY: PHILLIPS PETROLEUM
 LEASE: SAN JUAN 30-5 NO. 210
 FOOTAGE: 1259 FSL, 745 FWL
 SEC: 30 TWN: T.30 N. RING: R.5 W. NMPM
 ELEVATION: 6495



ELEV. A-A' C/L C'

6520				
6510				
6500				
6490				
6480				
6470				

ELEV. B-B' C/L

6520				
6510				
6500				
6490				
6480				
6470				

ELEV. C-C' C/L

6520				
6510				
6500				
6490				
6480				
6470				

Surveyed Area: A 600 by 530 foot block (7.3 acres) for well pad, construction zone, and buffer zone. Total area surveyed: 7.3 acres. Approximately 30 percent of the surveyed area has been disturbed by construction of an existing well pad.

Results: During the survey, one new site (LA75815) was located 2m outside the north wellpad boundary. The well pad was rotated and modified, providing 50 feet of clearance between the north pad boundary and the site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

One new archaeological site was discovered during survey of Phillips Petroleum San Juan 30-5 #210 proposed well pad location (Figure 3). This site is described as follows:

Site Number: LA75815

Description: The site is situated on a bench above a tributary to La Jara Canyon (Figure 3). The bench has an east aspect and is somewhat dissected. The canyon rim is approximately 45 m to the east. The site is manifested by a 3 m x 7 m ash stain, with sparse fire-cracked sandstone fragments. Five m west of the feature are two sandstone slab fragments, as well as 3 fragments of fire-cracked sandstone. A chalcedony side notched projectile point was observed 2 m south of the feature. Based on the presence of a small side notched projectile point, the site was assigned a Navajo cultural affiliation, with a pre-Gobernador or Gobernador temporal designation. Because of the possibility of intact subsurface deposits associated with the ash stain, the site is considered potentially significant.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the survey of Phillips Petroleum's San Juan 30-5 Unit #210 well pad, one new archaeological site was encountered. The site was initially within the boundaries of the proposed well pad. Moving the well pad in the immediate vicinity was not feasible, due to topographic constraints, the presence of cultural resources, and existing well facilities. The topography terminates in a steep canyon rim to the east; an existing well location with meter house and well head is the south; to the north is an archaeological site. The generally rugged canyon bench topography in the general vicinity also limits other location options. However, by rotating the well pad, Site LA75815 can be avoided by a distance of 50 feet. The site can be adequately protected by construction of a barrier fence, and by the presence of an archaeological monitor during erection of a barrier fence,

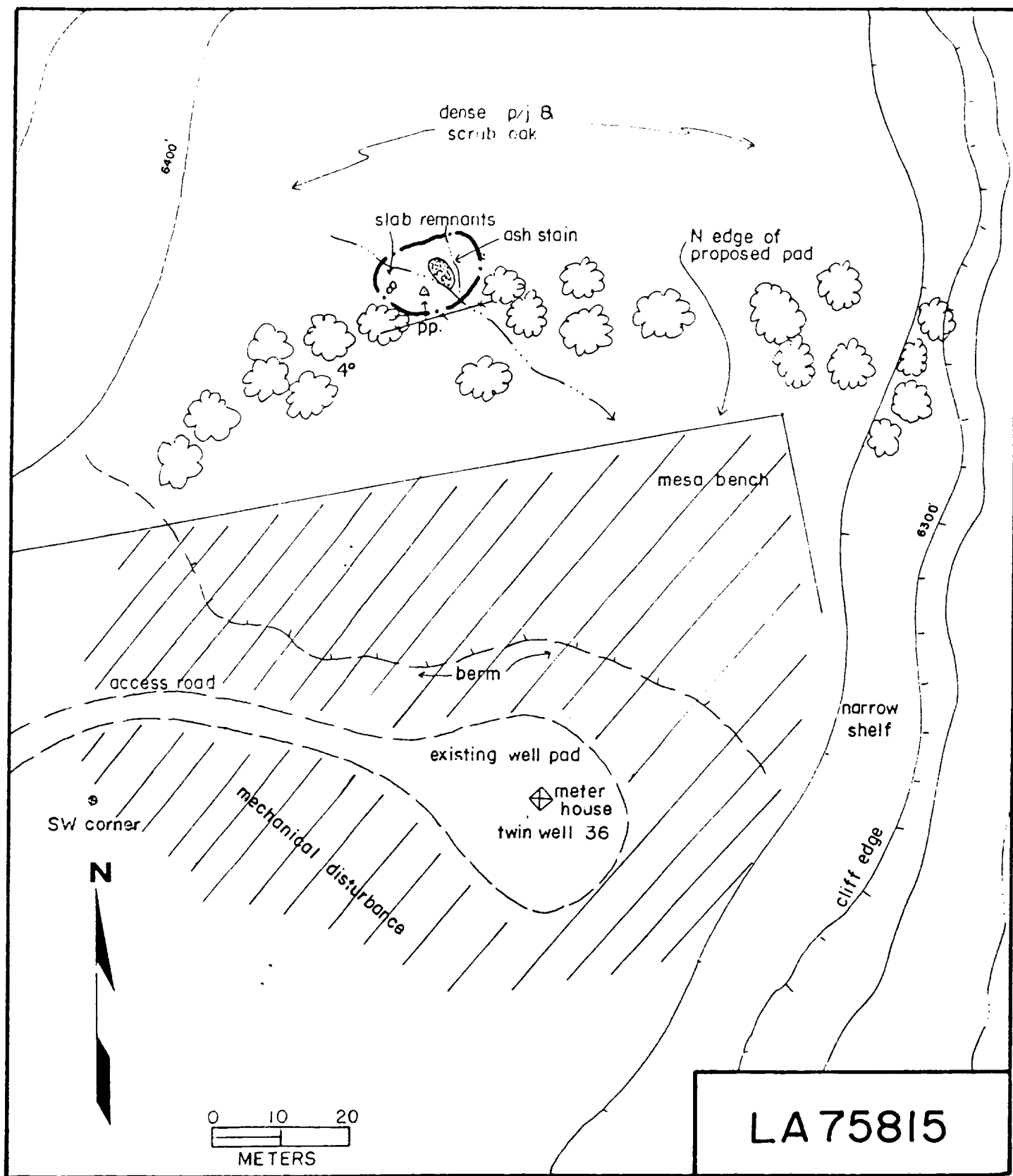


Figure 3

and during initial well pad construction activities. Presently, the proposed well pad location is in an area disturbed by previous construction activities, and construction would cause minimal impact to natural resources.

If the stipulations described above are followed, archaeological clearance is recommended for the San Juan 30-5 Unit #210 well.