

**Peters Archaeological Survey,  
NE Corner of 116th Street & Shea Boulevard,  
Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona**

**By**

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**August, 2001**

## **Abstract**

**Report Title:** Peters Archaeological Survey, NE Corner of 116th Street & Shea Boulevard, Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Report Date:** August, 2001.

**Agencies:** Roadrunner Archaeology & Consulting, Tempe, Arizona, for B. J. Peters, President, The Peters Design Group, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.

**Permit Numbers:** Arizona Antiquities Act Permit 2001-12bl.

**Project Description:** Archaeological assessment of a parcel of land scheduled for commercial development. Prepared in accordance with the City of Scottsdale's Protection of Archaeological Resources Ordinance (Ordinance 3243) required for the Development Review Board Application. The project was sponsored by The Peters Design Group, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.

**State Land Application Number:** NA.

**Location:** A portion of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, T3N, R5E, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona, as found on the Sawik Mountain, Arizona Quadrangle Map.

**Acreage:** More or less 13.1517 acres.

**Register-eligible Sites:** None.

**Register-ineligible Sites:** None.

**Recommendation:** Much of the surrounding area has been developed into a residential community, and the proposed development is a continuance of this community. Although several sites have been found in the immediate area, there are no known sites within the current study parcel. Only one Prehistoric Period and one Historic Period isolated occurrences were found. Archaeological clearance is recommended.

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**Introduction**

At the request of B. J. Peters, President, The Peters Design Group, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, an archaeological survey of a 13+ acre parcel was undertaken by Roadrunner Archaeology & Consulting, Tempe, Arizona (Arizona Antiquities Act Permit 2001-12bl). The parcel is located along the southern edge of the McDowell Mountains in eastern Scottsdale, at the northeast corner of 116th Street and Shea Boulevard. The archaeological survey was undertaken in compliance with the City of Scottsdale's Protection of Archaeological Resources Ordinance (Ordinance 3243) required for the Development Review Board Application. The project was sponsored by Peters Design Group. The study parcel is scheduled for commercial development.

**Project Location**

As mentioned, the current study parcel is located along the southern edge of the McDowell Mountains in eastern Scottsdale, at the northeast corner of 116th Street and Shea Boulevard. The parcel is approximately 13.1517 acres in size, being a portion of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, T3N, R5E, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona, as found on the Sawik Mountain, Arizona Quadrangle Map (Figures 1 & 2). The parcel is privately co-owned by Glenwood Development Co., Mesa, Arizona.

**Background**

This first section presents an environmental evaluation with a focus on the geology, flora, and fauna extant within the study parcel and surrounding area. This is followed by a section that reviews the archaeological sites documented within the study parcel and surrounding area, and the historic ownership record for the study parcel only. Following sections provide a brief cultural history of the area, an evaluation of the effects of the project, and a recommendation.

**Environmental Description**

The study area is located at a general elevation of 1468-1497 feet above sea level, and is just south of the McDowell Mountains, in south-central Arizona. A general provenance identifies the area as being typical of Basin and Range topography (Hunt 1983; Johnson 1990, Nations and Stump 1981). The McDowell Mountains are Precambrian in age, consisting of quartzite, phyllite, greenschist, and metavolcanic rocks (Christenson et al. 1979). The quartzites were a resource material for the Archaic population who used it to fashion scrapers, knives, perforators, et cetera. In particular, Taliesin Quartzite was sought out primarily from a quarry, previously identified as AZ U:5:78(ASM), located a little over 3.2 k (2 m) northeast of the current study area (Schroeder 1992a). Taliesin Quartzite is "light green to black, very fine-grained platy to blocky, foliated quartzite, probably metamorphosed rhyolite and dacite flows and tuffs, locally cut by greenstone dikes. [It] weathers orange to grayish red ... [and] ... to a sugary texture near intrusive rocks" (Christenson et al. 1979: Map A).

Overall, the entire area slopes northeast to southwest, and is cut by several sizeable arroyos. The embankments of the arroyos are fairly steep and heavily vegetated in their natural state. The surface in the area is very rocky. Near the arroyos, the rock size increases and cobbles and small boulders dominate. The

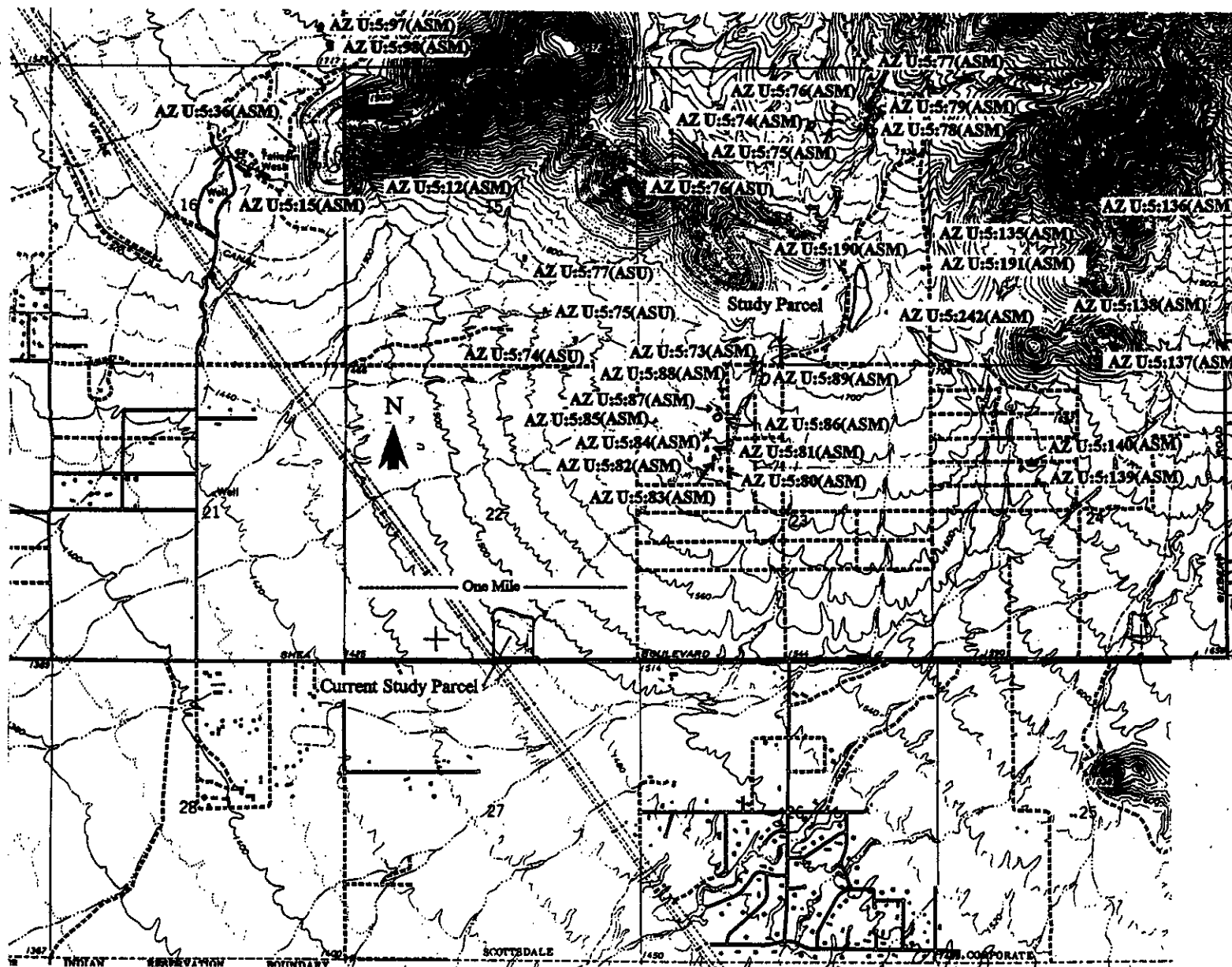


Figure 1. Current Study Area and known archaeological sites within a nine square mile area , as found on the Sawik Mountain, Arizona Quadrangle Map, 7.5 minute series, 1964 version, photorevised 1982.

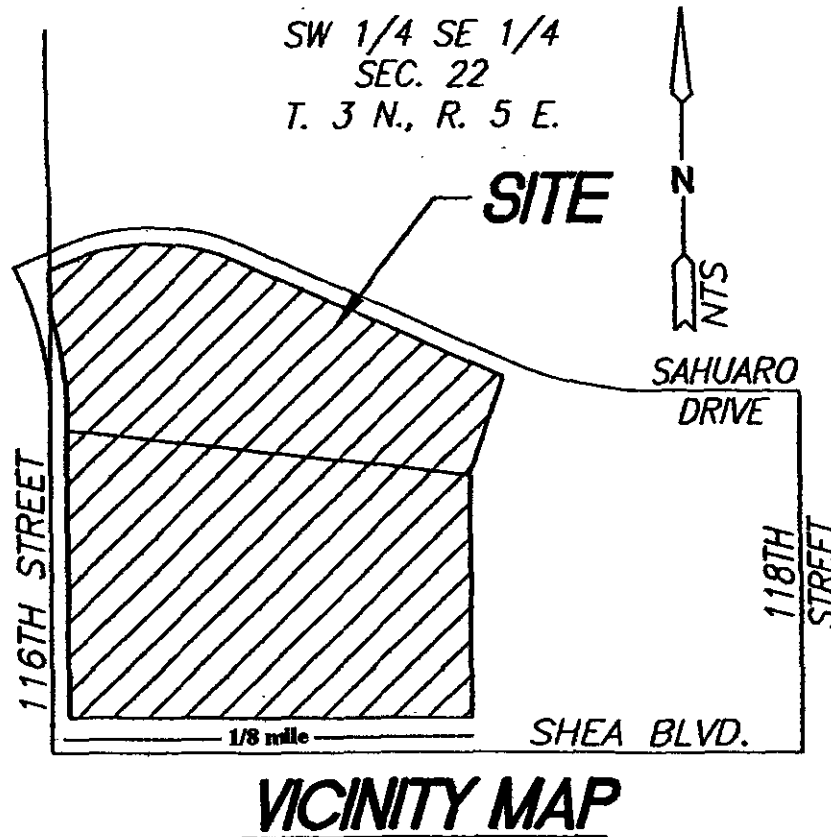


Figure 2. Vicinity map showing the current project parcel in relation to the local streets.

flatter areas are covered with angular cobbles, pebbles, and more sporadically, with a semi-developed desert pavement of small pebbles, consisting of rhyolite, quartzite, quartz-rich schist, and some milky quartz. The area fans out to the south into a broad alluvial plain, or bahada (Pewe 1978). The shortest distance to the Salt River is about 11.26 k (7 m) in a south-southeast direction.

**Flora.** Vegetation around and in the study area is characteristic of the Lower Sonora Desertscrub habitat (Johnson and Lew 1990; Turner and Brown 1982). The plant and wildlife resources on and near the study area are relatively limited. The environmental conditions which limit these natural resources have existed for approximately 9,000 - 11,000 years and there has been little change in this period. The immediate area is dominated by palo verde, ironwood, triangle-leaf bursage, and creosote, as well as abundant paperdaisy in the disturbed areas. Also present are mesquite, barrel cacti, staghorn (rare), fiddleneck, cocklebur, hackberry, bigleaf bursage (in the arroyos), and jojoba (rare). Mistletoe was seen in several trees.

**Fauna.** During numerous projects in the immediate area conducted by the author, minimal fauna has been noted. The fauna most common on and near the study area is reptilian in form. At least two different species of lizard have been noted. These, and other subterranean desert dwellers, such as tarantulas, scorpions, centipedes, grubs, and ants, provide a variety of meals for the tarantula wasp and birds. A wide variety of birds have been seen in the past, including Harris hawks, vultures, quail, ravens, cactus wren, Gila woodpecker, sparrows, thrashers, and mocking birds. Some species, such as deer, coyotes, bobcats, and havalina, have been identified in the past only by their droppings, and are rarely seen. It would appear that

access to water sources, such as the Salt River, have been cut off by recent residential development and that most of the larger game animals have abandoned the area for the most part. The only critters seen within the current study parcel included cottontail rabbits, Harris antelope squirrel, mourning doves, the remains of an apparent black bobcat, and woodrat nests.

### Records Review

A records search was conducted at the major institutions responsible for keeping such records, including Arizona State Museum (ASM), Arizona State University (ASU), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A nine square mile area was searched encompassing the section that the current study parcel is in. Historic ownership records were also checked at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and are reported on in this section.

Archaeological research in the southern McDowell Mountains was limited before 1989. A recent population boom in Scottsdale has resulted in a demand for new and modernized neighborhoods in the foothills of the McDowell Mountains, and the need for archaeological work has resulted from this development. Numerous archaeological sites have been recorded in the last ten years, and this section informs the reader on those sites. The site descriptions provided here include both Prehistoric and Historic period sites (Figure 1).

### Prehistoric Sites

Of the numerous sites located along the southern flank of the McDowell Mountains and discussed below, there are several prehistoric sites that are significant and, potentially, have a direct bearing on the study area. These include: the Taliesin Quartzite Quarry, AZ U:5:78 (ASM), recorded by Schroeder (1992a); several knapping stations, AZ U:5:79(ASM), AZ U:5:84(ASM), AZ U:5:87(ASM), and AZ U:5:242(ASM), recorded by Schroeder (1992a, 1992b, 1998), as well as AZ U:5:191(ASM) recorded by Mitchell and Stubing (1996); sleeping circles at AZ U:5:190(ASM) which were also recorded by Schroeder (1997); and several lithic scatters including a relatively large site, AZ U:5:190(ASM), known as the Sky Ridge Site (Mitchell and Stubing 1996; Schroeder 1997). The importance of these sites is that the predominant knapped material found in association with them is either milky quartz or Taliesin Quartzite.

A second area of potentially relevant sites to this study is located at the base of the vesicular basalt foothills just south of Shea Boulevard at the extreme southern end of the McDowell Mountains. They are ground stone quarries. These sites are AZ U:5:78(ASM), recorded by Bostwick and Burton (1991), and AZ U:5:144(ASM), recorded by Schroeder (1994b). However, these sites are outside the nine square mile study area surrounding the current study parcel and are not detailed here.

**AZ U:5:77(ASM).** This site is located in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 15, and is a lithic scatter with no associated ceramics. It was considered to be a possible Archaic site. This site was comprised of two retouched pieces, one being a bifacial basalt tool, and 25 flakes (Rice and Atwell 1987).

**AZ U:5:12(ASM).** Site AZ U:5:12(ASM) is located southwest of the study area, near the Granite Reef Aqueduct in the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 15. The records on this site are somewhat contradictory. However, it is surmised that a limited lithic scatter was located within a wash which is believed to have originated from a quarry site in the adjacent foothills. Only surface materials were noted, and as there were no associated ceramics, a cultural identification was not made (ASM Site Files).

**AZ U:5:36(ASM).** Information on this particular site was not available on the AZSITE data base system. However, information from ASM indicates that this number represents five petroglyph boulders at the Taliesin West historical site (see AZ U:5:15 below) that have been brought there from elsewhere. The 'site' was recorded by B. Gronemann on May 5, 1990 (ASM Site Files).

**AZ U:5:76(ASM).** This site, located in the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14, is a probable knapping station. It simply consists of a large white quartz core (13 x 11 x 11 cm), two smaller cores (11 x 7 x 5 cm, and 7 x 7 x 4 cm), and 40+ chips. The material is either milky quartz or black banded milky quartz (Schroeder 1992a).

**AZ U:5:77(ASM).** This site number was given to a single petroglyph, located along the upper reach of Ars Arroyo, in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14. The petroglyph is shaped like a snake and was found on a small boulder (Schroeder 1992a).

**AZ U:5:78(ASM).** The prehistoric Taliesin Quartzite Quarry, AZ U:5:78(ASM), is in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14. It is a chipped stone quarry located on a small level area along Ars Arroyo, at the base of an elevated tabular quartzite outcrop and talus slope. This outcrop, which was quarried by the aboriginal population, was identified as Taliesin Quartzite and micaceous quartzite (Schroeder 1992a). This material type was originally described as follows:

Light green to gray to black, very fine-grained to medium grained, platy to blocky, foliated metamorphosed rhyolite and dacite flows and tufts and argillaceous sandstone, foliation and jointing results in formations of platy rectangular sheets with widths generally much greater than thickness, weathers orange to grayish red to gray, highly fractured and weathers to sugary texture near intrusive rocks, very locally hydrothermally altered to fissile talc schist along fault zones [Welsch and Pewe 1979].

Taliesin quartzite and micaceous quartzite, as described above, are present in the outcrop although it is the former material that was quarried. The material does not have perfect fracture properties for tool production, but if struck properly, does provide a working edge that can be retouched. AZ U:5:78(ASM), and the Sky Ridge Site (where this material type was worked into tools), are the most significant prehistoric sites relevant to the current investigations.

Most of the quartzite is tabular in form and many fragments have slid down the hillside. Over 1,000 chipped stone flakes were noted. Undoubtedly, many of the chipped stones are the result of having slid down the talus slope. However, the frequency of secondary and tertiary chipped flakes is too great to be accounted for by natural causes alone, and a few pieces show retouched edges. Also, one hammerstone and two basalt flakes were found at this site. Furthermore, a rock cairn is on the site, situated at the base of the talus slope (Schroeder 1992a). Several additional hammerstones and two knapping stations were recently found on a small plateau above the talus slope.

**AZ U:5:79(ASM).** This site is a knapping station located on a "peninsula" jutting out into Ars Arroyo toward its upper end, in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14. It is situated just across the arroyo from the quarry site. It consists of five cores and 50+ chipped stone pieces of quartzite material. The highest

density is in a 5 x 2 meter area, although there is some erosional deposition of the chipped stone evident (Schroeder 1992a).

**AZ U:5:84(ASM).** This site is a prehistoric knapping station, located within the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 23. It consists of 75-100 waste flakes and shatter of either milky or black banded milky quartz, and three medium-sized cores of the same quartz material. The fracture properties of quartz are not highly predictable and this might account for the frequency of smaller chips. There was a small boulder which likely provided a sitting place for the knapper (Schroeder 1992b). The site might be Archaic, but could also be Hohokam, as quartz knapping is known to have occurred at the Upland Hohokam site of Pinnacle Peak Village (a.k.a. the Herberger Site), AZ U:5:3(ASU).

**AZ U:5:87(ASM).** Another chipped stone knapping station/lithic scatter has been identified which consists of a dozen flakes, a scraper, and numerous pieces of shatter. This particular site is located in the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 23. All of the material knapped was identified as Taliesin Quartzite as described above. It is believed to have originated from the Taliesin Quartzite Quarry site, AZ U:5:78(ASM).

The Taliesin Quartzite found at this site was basically gray in color but shaded to green near the cortex. The chipped stone is in an area with a 5 meter radius. Some erosional deposition of the chipped stone is evident. Only one piece with retouch was observed (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:190(ASM).** This site was initially recorded by Mitchell and Stubing (1996) and then tested by Schroeder (1997). It is a chipped stone scatter of mainly Taliesin Quartzite, but also milky quartz. This site, also known as the Sky Ridge Site, is believed to have resulted from sporadic use during the Middle and Late Archaic period. The Sky Ridge Site is considered to be a specialized site focusing on the production of hunting tools, and was strategically located along Ars Arroyo to take advantage of opportunistic hunting. Stone tools found at this site included projectile points, burins, scrapers, knives, and bladelets.

Also recorded were several clearings or 'sleeping circles' which are of a dubious nature in the archaeological literature. Sleeping circles have been described as cleared circles which "... were made by the intaglio technique resulting in a cleared slightly concave depression in the center area surrounded by a berm of gravel" (Johnson 1985:10). Such clearings often occur on a surface otherwise covered with desert pavement, and are devoid of artifacts. Desert pavement is a result of deflationary processes (usually wind erosion) that remove the soil but not small pebbles. The pebbles accumulate on the surface as the soil is removed, eventually covering and stabilizing the surface. Over several millennia the pebbles become tarnished from exposure to the elements. The clearings within the desert pavement matrix are thus considered to be cultural rather than natural. A lack of artifacts is consistent with features previously identified as sleeping circles, power circles, prayer circles, or vision quest rings (Dosh and Marmaduke 1992; Johnson 1981, 1985; Schroeder 1994a, 1994b; Von Werlhof 1982). Temporary brush huts may have been built at these locations, but any evidence of this would have long since decayed away. Excavations as reported on by Dosh and Marmaduke (1992) have shown that sleeping circles are essentially surface manifestations.

Other sleeping circles have been located along the southern foothills of the McDowell Mountains, including AZ U:5:139(ASM), AZ U:5:140(ASM) within the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 24 (Schroeder 1994a), and AZ U:5:145(ASM) located south of Shea near 134th Street (Schroeder 1994b). Sleeping circles may represent direct evidence of Archaic period use (Schroeder 1994a).



**AZ U:5:191(ASM).** This site is a small chipped stone scatter interpreted as a knapping station. Two cores and 75 - 100 flakes of quartzite in two tight clusters were observed here (Mitchell and Stubing 1996). This site is likely associated to activities at the Sky Ridge Site.

**AZ U:5:242(ASM).** Like the last site discussed, this is another chipped stone scatter interpreted as a knapping station. Only 14 pieces of milky quartz were found, but included a bladelet, a side-end scraper, and a core with a denticulated edge. The site likely represents the in situ reduction of a large milky quartz stone by a skilled knapper who took the better-made tools with him (Schroeder 1998).

### Historic Sites

In addition to the numerous prehistoric sites identified in the surrounding area, several Historic period sites have been recorded which, when taken together, provide a land use pattern centered on homesteading activities. The numerous historic sites [(AZ U 5:74-76(ASU); AZ U:5:73 - 75, 80 - 83, 85, 86, 88, 89, 138, and 190(ASM)], previously reported on by Douglas (1993), Rice and Atwell (1987), and Schroeder (1992a, 1992b, 1994a, 1994b, 1997), indicate that the southern foothills of the McDowell Mountains were not only homesteaded, but extensively used by hunters and campers. The sites include wells, target shooting areas, recreational features, erosional control features along jeep trails, trash dumps generally considered to be related to the Baxter Homestead, the Baxter Homestead itself, and the Green Homestead. The significance for the current study area appears to be related mostly to activities at the Baxter Homestead. A brief review of the sites recorded thus far along the southern flank of the McDowell Mountains is provided below.

**AZ U:5:74(ASU).** This site is described as a "... horseshoe tossing rink ... associated with the Green Homestead" (Rice and Atwell 1987:7). The pits described were rock-lined. This site is located in Section 15, SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4.

**AZ U:5:75(ASU).** The next site is reported to be the homestead of Beuthal Green in Section 15, SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4. It consists of the remains of an historic house, latrine, roadway, areas enclosed with rocks thought to be related to flower beds, and rock-lined pathways (Rice and Atwell 1987).

**AZ U:5:76(ASU).** This historic site was recorded with Arizona State University, "... is a semi-circular rock wall with a scatter of metal and glass" (Rice and Atwell 1987:7) located on a low peak of about 2260 feet above sea level in the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 14. A rock-lined fire pit is also associated which showed evidence of recent use. A pathway from the Green Homestead lead in the general direction of this site, but the trail was lost before reaching the summit (Rice and Atwell 1987).

**AZ U:5:15(ASM).** This site is the Taliesin West architectural school founded by Frank Lloyd Wright, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site was recorded on November 12, 1976 by J. Melot. Both AZSITE and ASM Site Files indicate that theaters were added in the 1950s, but give no date for the construction of the original facilities. A phone call to the Archival Department at Taliesin West was more informative. Indications were that the first buildings were an office and storage facility and were constructed in 1937. Improvements were constantly being made and included three theaters, one built before 1940 and the last in 1957. The building are constructed from the local volcanic basalt boulders, and the original roofs and windows were canvas. The structures have been modernized with plastic roofs, glass windows, and air conditioning. Sewage and water facilities have been improved as well (ASM Site Files).

**AZ U:5:73(ASM).** This site is located within the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23 along the *northern* edge of Ars Arroyo. The Cultural Resource Inventory Form for this site simply indicates "... rock wall remnants, 2 to 3 feet high, dirt floors. Possibly a homestead site. Low density artifact scatter. Concrete slabs, driveway" (State Historic Preservation Office Site Files). It is unclear if this site is part of AZ U:5:89(ASM), discussed below, or if it is the same site and was simply mapped on the wrong side of the arroyo.

**AZ U:5:74(ASM).** This site is an historic trash dump apparently used two or three times. It is located on either side of the jeep trail leading to the summit of the foothill within the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14. The entire site measures 100 by 50 feet in size, its long axis running north/south. The main cluster, located east of the trail, consists of at least 73 cans. Overall, there are between 85 and 100 cans. These include: Hills Brothers Regular Grind coffee cans with key and strip type opener, dated to circa 1926-1942 (Pulati 1973); knife opened food cans; rotary opened food cans; key opened meat cans (square, rectangular, and round); a Prince Albert tobacco canister; a baking powder can with twist off lid; a spice can; a Hershey's Cocoa canister; and two hole-in-the-top cans (Schroeder 1992a).

**AZ U:5:75(ASM).** A similar site, also found in the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 14, is located just up the jeep trail (northeast) of AZ U:5:74(ASM). It is another historic trash dump, but apparently represents only a single dumping episode. It measures 90 x 60 feet (long axis northwest x southeast), but has appreciably fewer artifacts (N<50) (Schroeder 1992a).

**AZ U:5:80(ASM).** This target shooting site is located within the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 in Section 23, in the middle of a fork in the jeep trail along the south bank of Ars Arroyo. Targets were likely located within the arroyo. Numerous (MNI=57) metalheads were found. These included: .22 caliber short rim fire casings with either a "F", "C", or "U" headstamp; a shotgun casing with a "20 GAUGE W - W" stamp; and a shotgun casing with a "20 GA REMINGTON PETERS" headstamp. Six pieces of brown beverage bottle glass and two aluminum pull tabs were also found. The entire site measured 30 feet in diameter. Based on the temporal range of the metalheads found here, some use of the site may date as early as the late 1800s, but the major use of the site dates to after 1934 (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:81(ASM).** This site, found in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 23, was an alignment of eight small boulders and numerous other cobbles along the down-slope side of the jeep trail leading to AZ U:5:86(ASM), the Baxter ranch/homestead. The alignment is located in a small wash and was undoubtedly placed in such a way so as to retain a thick layer of gravel and sands, designed to keep the road from eroding. The length of the alignment was about 25 feet. The site probably dates to the use of the Baxter ranch, described below (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:82(ASM).** This site was the remains of well digging activities, and is located in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 23. Central to the activities was a capped 7" pipe leading down into the ground. To the south is a large area of well waste, being a highly consolidated, concrete-like slurry of sand. To the north is an area of fused and vitrified slag material that appears to be from the parent rock. The surrounding area is strewn with tin cans and debris mostly from well digging equipment. It is suggested that this site came into existence either during early homesteading attempts or during the occupation of the nearby Baxter ranch, AZ U:5:86(ASM), perhaps following a drop in the water table that left the proposed water source at that site dried up. A date of 1920 - 1945 is assigned to this site (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:83(ASM).** Another nearby site within the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23, was also probably related to the use of the Baxter ranch, and consisted of a localized cluster of 15 - 20 cans with broken green, clear, and brown glass (MINI = five). Embossed base fragments were recorded. Most of the cans were crushed, or riddled with bullet holes, but, the presence of hole-in-the-top cans date this site to circa 1925 or before (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:85(ASM).** Another target practice area, AZ U:5:85(ASM), was identified. This site is in the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 23. The site consisted of: a crushed historic can with top and bottom lap seam over body; a probable beer can with steel body and aluminum ends, pull tab opener and the words "Pull to Open" embossed on the top; and shotgun shells. Target practice was indicated by a cluster of 23 shotgun shells. Identified were fifteen metal heads stamped "Mohawk 20 GA Remington," seven metal heads stamped "Mohawk 12 GA Remington," and one "W - W 20 GA" (Schroeder 1992b).

Metal beer cans with aluminum ends date no earlier than the late 1950s (Clark 1977; Gillio et. al. 1980; Martells 1976; Rock 1981; and Wright 1977). However, the "W - W 20 GA" metalhead may date as early as 1944, (Logan 1959). The "Mohawk 20 GA Remington" metalheads have not been temporally placed. Whereas, it is likely that this site dates to the late 1950s or early 1960s, it has been included here with the historic sites on the chance that it dates earlier.

**AZ U:5:86(ASM).** This site is by far one of the most extensive Historic period sites found to date in the southern McDowell Mountains, and was a key to the identification of the use of the entire area (Schroeder 1992b). It is located within the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 23, and measured 280 (N/S) x 245 feet (E/W). Seven features were identified. They were the remains of a structure (Feature 1), the remains of a derrick/well (Feature 2), a shotgun shell cache (Feature 3), a trash dump (Feature 4), a compound wall (Feature 5), an external fireplace (Feature 6), and finally, a system of driveways and parking areas (Feature 7). This site is being interpreted, at this time, as the guest house on a dude ranch (the Baxter Homestead) catering to dove and quail hunters. Other than the pure aesthetics and (then) remote nature of the area, the hunting of game birds is seen as the primary function of the ranch, and probably brought in much needed revenue to keep the homestead in operation.

**AZ U:5:88(ASM).** This was a light trash scatter, found in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23. It consisted of six cans and a broken clear glass beverage container identified as a liquor bottle. Whereas this site was not specifically dated, it appears to be associated in character with the occupation and use of the Baxter Homestead (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:89(ASM).** The next Historic period site is interpreted as the main house area at the Harold Baxter Homestead which was occupied circa 1925 through 1945. The main house is located in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23, along the *southeastern* edge of Ars Arroyo. In addition to the house, a parking garage, an auxiliary storage structure, a well, a compound wall, and two privies have been identified. Field notes indicate that the privies were placed over holes measuring 5' x 6'4" in size, although the size of the holes may have been enlarged by post-occupation disturbance.

Both privy holes were filled with trash relating to either the occupation or destruction of the structures at this site. The trash within one of the privies contained artifacts which provided information as to the temporal occupation of the site, subsistence practices, and product availability. Trash within the other privy contained artifacts which indicated the type of materials used for construction at the site.

This site has not been fully recorded nor reported on. However, a site card was filed by this author which identifies this site within the 320-acre Homestead Patent issued on July 23, 1930, to Harold Baxter (Schroeder 1992b).

**AZ U:5:190(ASM).** As noted above, this site is primarily a prehistoric manifestation (discussed above). However, this site also contains an Historic period component which is a capped well head and related debris from the activities of drilling the well and a small trash deposit resulting from the workers taking meals at the site (Schroeder 1997).

#### Temporally Unaffiliated Sites

Several sites have been recorded within the general study area which have not been tied to any particular culture or temporal period. This, in most cases, is due to a lack of diagnostic artifacts. Some of these sites are rock alignments which could have been placed by prehistoric Indians for defensive purposes or vision quests. Alternatively, these alignments could have been placed by historic or modern peoples simply as a way of affecting a minor degree of control over the environment, for the purpose of a simple wind break for a small fire place, et cetera. Only one temporally unplaced site falls within the nine mile study area.

**AZ U:5:135(ASM).** This is a somewhat innocuous site recorded by Douglas (1993), as it only consisted of several depressions that were likely the result of removal of cacti and/or boulders. The site is located along the 128th Street right of way, north of the Cactus Road alignment.

**Surveys without sites.** According to the AZSITE inventory, several surveys have been conducted in the immediate area that did not produce any sites. Unfortunately, complete and full reference listings of these surveys were not available through AZSITE, SHPO, nor the City of Scottsdale. A map showing the areas near the current study parcel that have been surveyed is provided in Appendix A.

#### Bureau of Land Management

Documentation at the Bureau of Land Management office in Phoenix, Arizona, were checked for the historic record of ownership for the current study parcel. The SE 1/4 of Section 22, T3N, R5E, consisting of 160 acres, was the subject property of a Homestead Entry (HE PHX 042321) entered on 6-27-1919. The entry was issued to Charles H. Hollingsworth, 701 N. Central, Phoenix, Arizona. This entry was relinquished on 2-3-1920. On 9-15-1922, a Cash Entry Patent (CE Pat. 878359) was issued to Emily W. Scherzel for SE 1/4 of Section 22, T3N, R5E, consisting of 160 acres. No further record of ownership was kept by the BLM. However, a perpetual right-of-way for metes and bounds was issued to the Bureau of Reclamation for a transmission line (M & B R/W Trans. Line PHX 085401) on 3-2-1950. This transmission line was initialized for the Davis Dam Project and crosses the southwest corner of the current study parcel running southeast to northwest. Proof of construction was filed on 5-28-1952, at which time the name changed to the Prescott-Mesa Transmission Line. Proof of construction was accepted on 6-17-1952.

#### Cultural History

Generally speaking, overall climate conditions have been consistent for the last 9,000 - 11,000 years or so. Undoubtedly, environmental conditions in this area are harsh, primarily due to the rocky, stable surface and the lack of a nearby permanent water supply. The evidence gathered so far indicates that prehistoric use of the area was primarily for hunting and resource procurement, and took place during the Middle to Late

Archaic periods (4800 BC - AD 200). Resources in the area are limited to rock resources, sparse game, and seasonal cacti products and legumes. The archaeological evidence as provided in the site descriptions above, supports a scenario where roving hunting and gathering bands entered into the foothills area looking for game and natural resources, including rock material. Their stay in the area was temporary, possibly extending over several days, given the presence of sleeping circles.

The nearest permanent water source was the Salt River which, unlike its current condition, provided an oasis in the desert. Flora and faunal resources would have been plentiful along the river, leaving the rock resources as the primary reason these bands entered the foothills in the area of 116th Street. Further, the largest prehistoric site in the immediate area, the Sky Ridge Site, has been interpreted as a stone knapping site which is supportive of a hunting strategy. The lack of ground stone and other non-hunting related artifacts indicate that the Sky Ridge Site was a specialized site. This scenario is consistent with Late and Middle Archaic hunting and gathering strategies identified in the Tucson Basin (Roth 1996).

Thereafter, the southern foothills of the McDowell Mountains saw little use until the Historic period. Just 3.2 - 4.0 k (2.0 - 2.5 m) to the east-southeast of the current study parcel is an area of ground stone (mano and metate) manufacture. Two sites, AZ U:5:143(ASM) and AZ U:5:144(ASM), have been identified there that were specifically used by the Hohokam Indians during their occupation of the Lower Salt River Valley (Crowner et al. 1999). The vesicular basalt that dominates the surface of the foothills there was sought out for mano and metate manufacture, probably circa AD 900-1400. Some evidence exists suggesting the Sky Ridge Site might have been temporarily reoccupied during the Post-Classic period, circa AD 1425 to 1640 (see Schroeder 1997). However, it was not until Harold Baxter homesteaded the area, circa 1925, that land use patterns are again identified. Although numerous homestead entries were made and even fewer homestead patents were issued, few individuals made substantial improvements to the land. The Harold Baxter Ranch was an exception. Land use included the main ranch, a possible guest house providing an economic base, trash dumps - usually along or near jeep trails, efforts to locate water by drilling wells, and hunting. The Baxter homestead appears to have been abandoned circa 1945. Evidence at the Baxter Homestead infers there may have been some degree of organized hunting activities, perhaps involving a hunting lodge. This homestead failed, maybe due to a lack of water and/or a reliable supportive economic base. After 1945, use of the area is limited to seasonal hunting and camping by a predominantly Anglo population, which continued well into the Modern period.

### Survey Expectations

Based on the above assessment, it was a considered possibility that prehistoric knapping stations and/or resource procurement camps might be found. Historic Period sites that could exist within the current study parcel might include trash dumps, wells and/or windmills, corals, and other support structures related to homesteading. Modern period sites in the area would likely be restricted to hunting camps (consisting of rock-lined fireplaces and related refuse) and target shooting locales.

### Survey Methods

The current study parcel was initially identified by driving to the four corners of the property. The outer edge of the parcel was first surveyed, after which the property was surveyed in 20 meter transects along east-west parallel transects. The entire parcel was systematically surveyed in this fashion.

## Survey Results

Only two isolated occurrences (IO) were identified during the current project that were 50 years old or more (Figure 3). Most of the current study parcel was heavily disturbed. It was apparent that a bulldozer or paddle wheel scraper was used to modify the surface of the study parcel, especially along the arroyos and along the outer edges of the property. A large artificial berm, some ten feet high, has been created along the west edge of the site adjacent to 116th Street. This berm included heavy rubble such as cobbles and small boulders, as well as asphalt. A heavy density of modern trash was found along the west and south sides along 116th Street and Shea Boulevard, respectively, with a lighter debris scatter along Sahuaro Drive on the northern edge of the property. In addition to the glass and plastic beverage bottles typically found along streets, debris included sofas, tires, rugs, mattresses, and construction barricades. Two diagnostic examples of the lighter modern debris included a "REMINGTON 12 GA PETERS" metalhead, and a Type 6 tobacco tin lid (see Schroeder 1996: Figure 3.22). The metalhead attests to the use of the area by modern bird hunters, whereas the tobacco tin lid dates the trash from 1987 to the recent past.

**IO-1.** The only prehistoric artifact recorded within the current study parcel was a river cobble type mano. The mano was made from granite and measured 13.2 x 1.0 x 3.3 cm. It had been pecked along the lateral edge into an ellipsoid shape and was nearly ground flat on both faces. The mano was found in the extreme southeastern corner of the current study parcel in an area that had been disturbed from construction of the adjacent residential neighborhood to the east and dumping of debris. Thus, the mano may not be in situ.

**IO-2.** The only Historic Period artifact noted within the current study parcel was a crushed, all steel beverage can that had been opened with a church key. No measurements could be taken. It was located north of the artificial berm described above, along the western edge of the parcel.

## Evaluation of Significance

Only one prehistoric IO and one historic IO were located during this project. The prehistoric artifact was likely not in situ. The historic artifact was crushed. As such, these remains do not constitute significant archaeological finds.

## Evaluation of Effects of Proposed Project and Recommendation

Much of the surrounding area has been developed into a residential community, and the proposed development is a continuance of this community. Although several sites have been found in the immediate area, there are no known sites *within* the current study parcel. Although the proposed development of the current study parcel will have a negative affect on the above mentioned artifacts, the loss to the archaeological community is minimal. No further archaeological work is necessary and archaeological clearance is recommended.



Figure 3. Locations of the Isolated Occurrences (#) found within the current study parcel.

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## **Appendix A**

**AZSITE map of known Archaeological Surveys  
Near the Current Project Parcel**

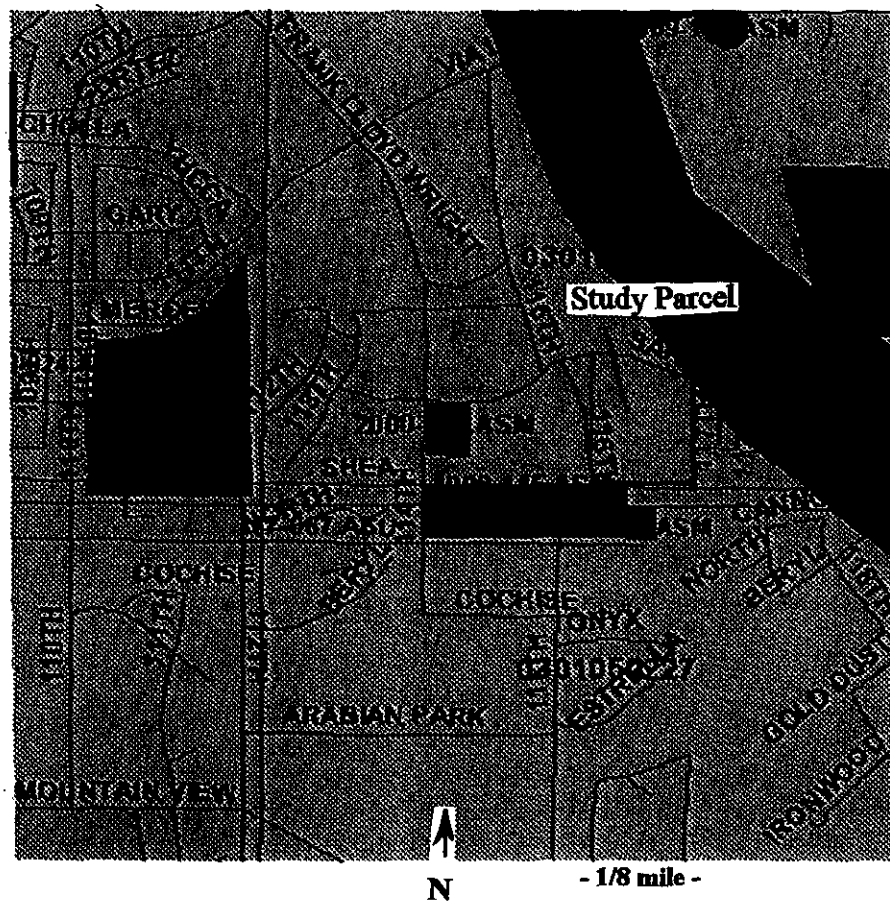


Figure A.1. AZSITE map of known archaeological surveys near the current project parcel. (Complete survey references were not available through AZSITE, SHPO, or the City of Scottsdale).