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October 17, 2025

Dan Klocke
Gorman & Company
608 East Missouri Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

RE: Class I Literature Review for Scottsdale United Methodist Church Community Housing Project in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona

Dear Dan Klocke:

Gorman & Company contracted Chronicle Heritage to conduct a site file search and literature review of 4.56 acres of private land for a proposed Scottsdale United Methodist Church Community Housing in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona (Project). The Project area is on private land; thus, the Project is subject to compliance with the City of Scottsdale Historic Preservation Ordinance, Scottsdale Revised Code, Chapter 46, Article 6 and Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 41-865 regarding human remains on private land.

The Project area consists of one small rectangular-shaped parcel approximately 115 meters (m) north–south by 192 m east–west at its furthest extents. The Project area is northwest of the intersection of North Miller Road and East Indian School Road within Assessor Parcel Number 173-52-001A. The Project area is within the SW¼ NE¼, Section 17, Township (T) 2 North (N), Range (R) 3 East (E) Gila and Salt River Base Line and Meridian (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 7.5-minute Sunnyslope, Arizona [1973]) (Figure 1). The Project area is at 1983 North American Datum (NAD 83), Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 12, 414671 mE, 3706654 mN.

Project Description

Gorman & Company is planning to develop affordable community housing within Scottsdale, Arizona. Potential ground disturbance includes demolition and excavation for new buildings including footings, vegetation removal blading, and other construction-related activities. Chronicle Heritage is conducting this Class I records search to evaluate if further archaeological work is necessary prior to the start of construction.

Setting

The Project area is within a developed parcel surrounded by private and commercial buildings in the City of Scottsdale, Arizona, and within the Salt River Valley at an average elevation of 1,255 feet (ft) above mean sea level. The Project area is approximately 2.7 miles (mi) northwest of Papago Park and 2.1 mi southeast of Camelback Mountain. The Salt River is 4.1 mi south of the Project area. This area is within the Gila/Salt Intermediate Basins subregion of the larger Sonoran Basin and Range Ecoregion. The Sonoran Basin and Range is made up of several mountain ranges and valleys of moderate elevation (1,000–4,000 ft) and semi-arid temperatures that extend from northwestern Arizona to the most northern portion of Sonora, Mexico. The Gila/Salt Intermediate Basins

subregion is marked by low elevations (900–1,800 ft) and high temperatures. Topographically, this subregion includes low sloping basins and valleys composed of bajadas, alluvial fans, eroded washes, stream terraces, and floodplains. Intermittent flowing streams branching from the Salt and Gila rivers are found within the subregion. The flow of these streams has been significantly impacted by the creation of canals, reservoirs, and channels that have diverted and controlled water flow to support urban populations and agricultural production. Historically, the natural vegetation in the region included a variety of desert scrub plants such as ocotillo, saguaro, ironwood, paloverde, creosote bush, fourwing saltbush, and cholla cactus (Griffith et al. 2014). Although the land within and immediately surrounding the Project area is now completely urbanized, the local natural vegetation would have been typical of the Sonoran Desert, specifically the Creosote-White Bursage series of the Lower Colorado River Valley Subdivision (Brown 1994).

Soil in the Project area consist of Laveen Loam (0–1% slopes; alluvial fans and stream terraces landforms) (Soil Survey Staff 2025). Geology within the Project area consists of Late and Middle Pleistocene Surficial Deposits (10-750 ka), comprised of unconsolidated to weakly consolidated alluvial fan deposits with moderate to strong soil development and poorly sorted, moderately bedded gravel and sand deposits (Arizona Geological Survey 2025).

The Project area is previously developed. Development in the vicinity of the Project area within the City of Scottsdale began as early as the late 1800s, which includes the construction of the Arizona Canal—only 0.58 mi to the northwest—in 1885. Development of hundreds of residential and commercial structures as well as major roads has continued throughout the century, which has resulted in dense urban development. Portions of the Project area contain structures and a parking lot for the Winfield Scott School, which was constructed prior to 1952.

Previous Research

Chronicle Heritage consulted records from AZSITE, National Register Information System database, the city of Scottsdale on October 15, 2025, the Scottsdale Historic Register, and historic maps within 1 mi of the Project area. Eight projects are within the search radius, of which no projects extend into the Project area. None of the Project area has been surveyed in the past 10 years (Table 1).

Seven archaeological resources are within the search radius, of which no resources extend into the Project area. Resources within the search radius include one historic school (AZ U:9:53(ASM)), one commercial district (5th Avenue Commercial District; Property Key No. 31549), and five Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) bridges (Table 2).

Two National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites and one Scottsdale Historic Register (SHR) sites are within the search radius including Scottsdale Grammar School No. 1, Coronado School (Little Red School House) (Reference No. 94000571; SHR-00-1), the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission Church (Reference No. 100002979; SHR-01-7), and the Scottsdale Grammar School No. 2 (Reference No. SHR-005). None of the NRHP or SHR properties are within the Project area (Table 3; Figure 2).

Historical Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) and USGS maps were also reviewed, including GLO plat 0076 (filed 12/02/1870) and the following USGS maps: 1:250,000 Mesa, Arizona, 1954, 1967, 1960, and 1964; 1:62,500 Mesa, Arizona, 1913 and 1952; 1:24,000 Tempe, Arizona, 1952 and 1958. One GLO map feature—a road—is within the search radius. On the USGS maps, six features (Arizona Canal, 3 schools, 1 well, 1 levee), over 50 unlabelled structures, over 20 improved roads, over 10 unimproved roods, and 6 secondary highways are within the search radius.

Aerial imagery from 1957 depicts the Project area and its immediate surroundings as predominantly agricultural, with unimproved roads, the Arizona Canal, and a small cluster of buildings southwest of the parcel within the City of Scottsdale. Development expanded over the following decades, and by the 1970s the broader area within the search radius was urbanized with numerous structures. Currently, the Scottsdale Methodist Sanctuary, constructed circa 1957, is the only structure on the parcel. The parcel is vacant in 1953 imagery, shows initial development by 1957, and complete development with associated paving by 1991 (Nationwide Environmental Title Research Online 2025; Table 4; Figure 3).

Recommendations

This Class I literature review documents that the 4.56-acre Project area has not been previously surveyed and is fully developed and in active use. Because existing development and prior disturbance eliminate ground visibility and render intensive pedestrian coverage infeasible, a Class III intensive pedestrian survey is not warranted. The Scottsdale Methodist Sanctuary, constructed circa 1957, is the only structure on the parcel and exceeds the 50-year threshold. Chronicle Heritage recommends conducting a historic building assessment by a qualified architectural historian to document age, integrity, and character-defining features; evaluate eligibility under local criteria; and provide a basis for assessing potential project effects and treatment. Because the parcel was developed before the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, any new ground disturbance could encounter subsurface cultural deposits. If human remains are encountered during ground disturbance, excavation should cease immediately, the area should be secured, and the discovery should be reported to the Arizona State Museum Repatriation Office in accordance with A.R.S. § 41-865; work should not resume until authorized under that statute's procedures. These recommendations were made to inform review under the City of Scottsdale Historic Preservation Ordinance (Scottsdale Revised Code, Chapter 46, Article 6).

Sincerely,
Chronicle Heritage

Sebastian Chamorro | Senior Archaeologist

Results of Previous Research

Table 1. Previous Projects Within the Project Area

Project Reference Number	Project Name	Associated Reference
N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within the Project Area

Site No./ Name	Affiliation	Site Type	Eligibility Status	Associated Reference(s)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3. Historic Buildings/Districts/Neighborhoods Within the Project Area

Property Name or Address	Year	Eligibility Status
N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4. Historic USGS Map and GLO Properties Within the Project Area

Property Description	Map Year
N/A	N/A

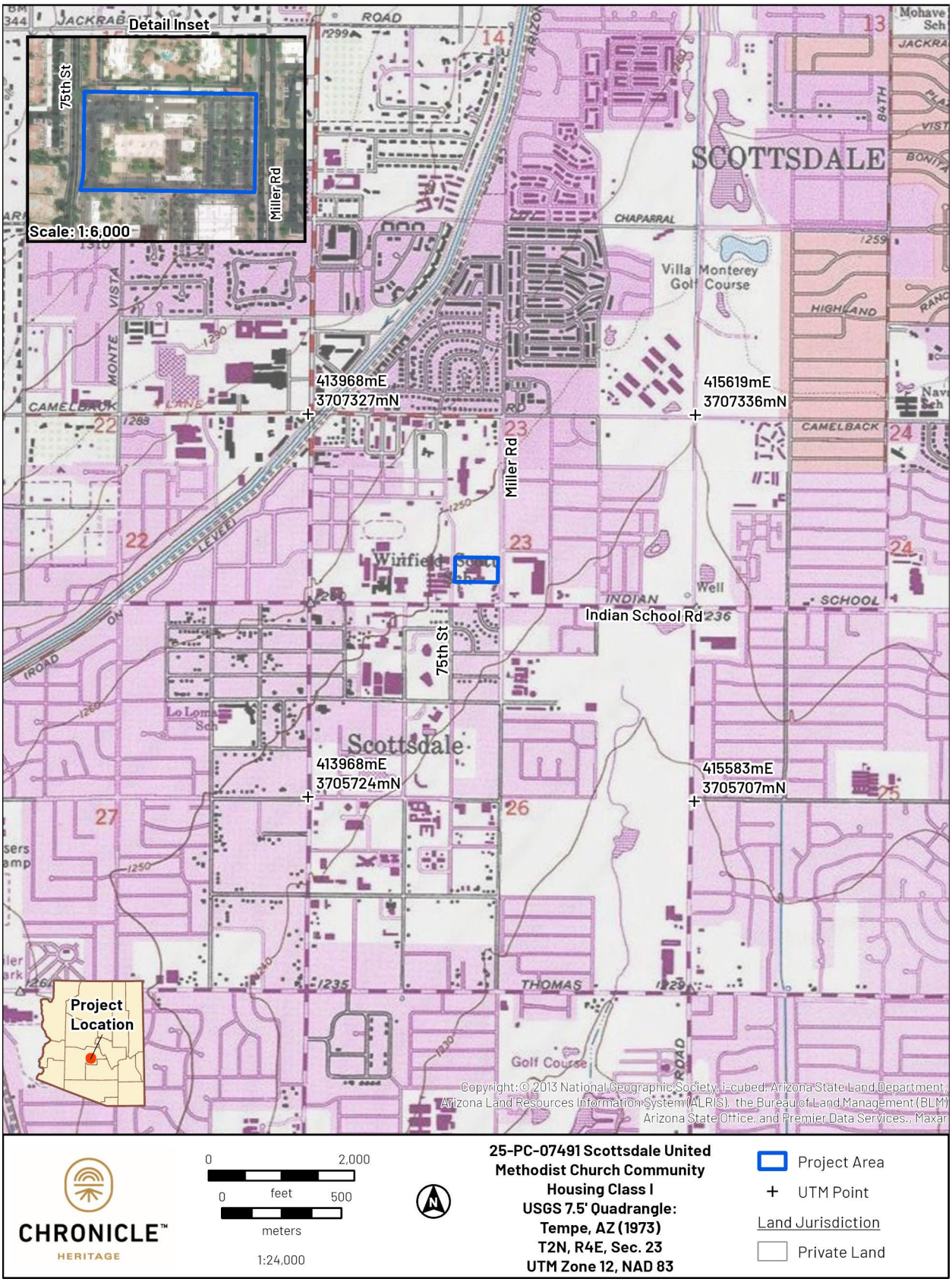

Figure 1. Project location map showing land jurisdiction.

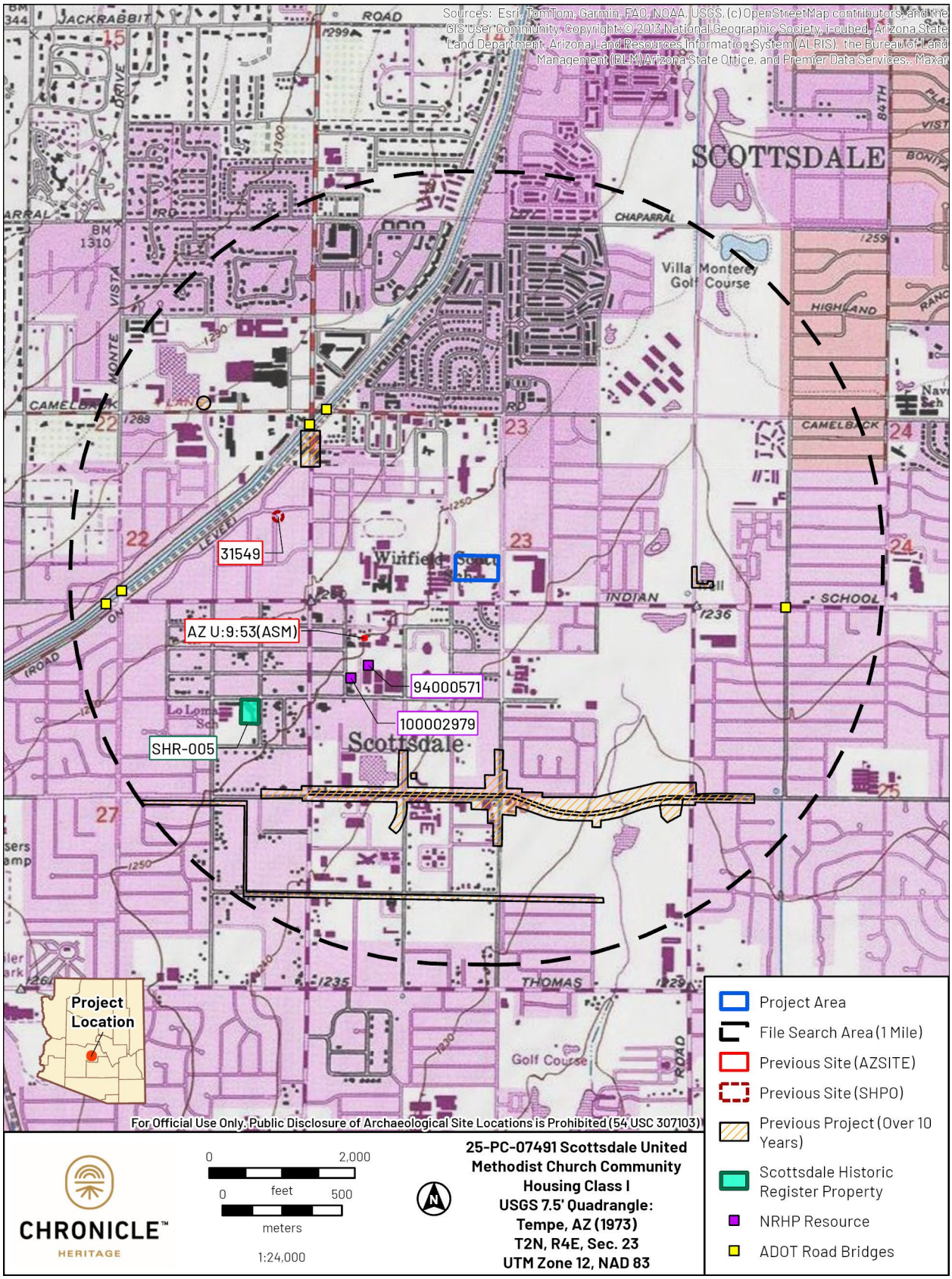

Figure 2. Project area map showing previous projects and sites.

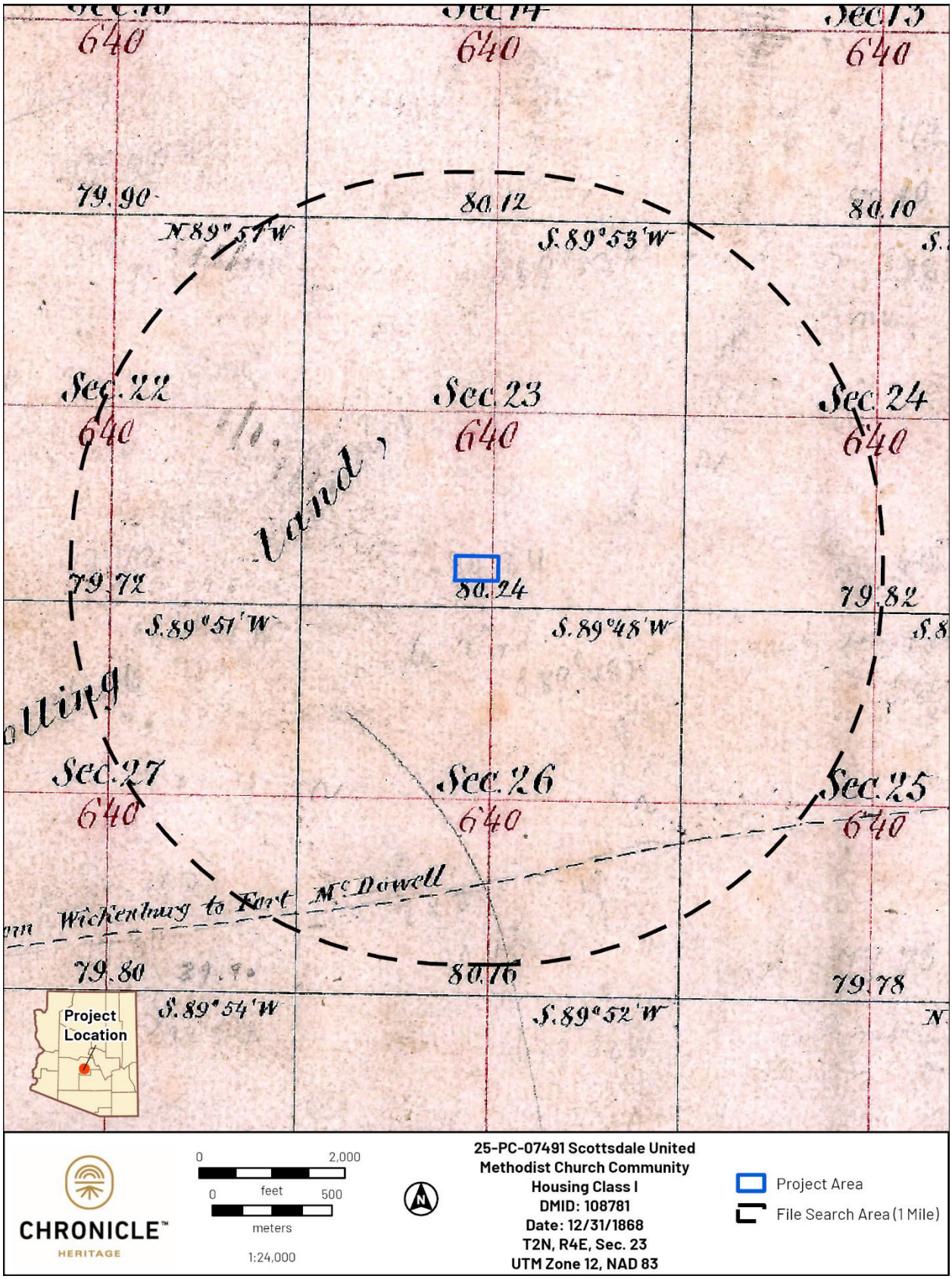

Figure 3. 1870 GLO map depicting the Project area.

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