

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Utah</b>	
COUNTY: <b>San Juan</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>718.49.0026</b>	DATE <b>8/12/71</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Edge of the Cedars Indian Ruin**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1/4 mile west of 4th North and 4th West. Legal description:  
Beg 1320' S and 760' E of NW cor Sec. 27 th S 545', E 258', N 140' E 561.3'**

CITY OR TOWN: **Blanding** W 395' to beg. B.C.D. Area: 4.085 Acres 1704-2-1 Sec. 27  
Twp. 36 S., R 22 E

STATE <b>Utah</b>	CODE <b>49</b>	COUNTY: <b>San Juan</b>	CODE <b>037</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Edge of the Cedars Cultural Center**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c/o Cleal Bradford, Box 309**

CITY OR TOWN: **Blanding** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**San Juan County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Recorder's Office**

CITY OR TOWN: **Monticello** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Statewide Archeological Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

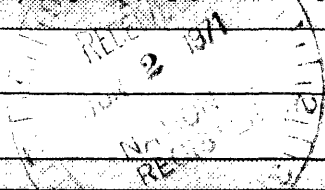
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**University of Utah**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Department of Anthropology**

CITY OR TOWN: **Salt Lake City** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Utah**  
COUNTY: **San Juan**  
ENTRY NUMBER: **718.49.0026**  
DATE: **8/12/71**  
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site consists of a series of rubble masonry mounds and circular depressions either ceremonial chambers called kivas and/or pithouses. One of these, a large depression 40-45 feet in diameter, is one of the largest single kiva known in the state of Utah for this time period. The ruins are located along the top of a north-south ridge near Westwater canyon on the outskirts of Blanding, Utah. The results of excavation during the summer sessions are summarized below.

The 1969 Season--The entire season was devoted to Complex C. Unit 1, a patio or plaza area, was excavated through the rubble fill and tested to its floor at the northwest corner of Unit 2. Unit 2, at first thought to be a large room, was discovered on excavation to contain a kiva. This structure was completely excavated, stabilized and rebuilt in accordance with the excavated evidence. Where no direct evidence was available for some roof feature the reconstruction was patterned after an intact cliff kiva on Cedar Mesa dating to the same time period.

Excavation of Unit 3 revealed no domestic features such as grinding bins or firepits. Therefore, on the basis of the copper bell, and the charred basket containing corn and corn leaves, all found on the floor of this room, our present interpretation is that this room was used for the storage of ceremonial paraphenalia. It is in the proximity to three kivas. Units 4 and 6 appear to have been storage rooms also. Stratigraphically, beneath Unit 6 floor an oval pit structure was partially excavated. Pottery from the fill and floor of this structure was all Pueblo I in style.

The 1970 Season--The second year was devoted to expanding our knowledge of the Complex C area plus testing on the southern portions of the site. In Complex C, the oval Pueblo I structure below Unit 6 was completed. Unit 5 was also excavated and found to contain about two feet of ash on its floor. This ash was laced with sand lenses and contained Pueblo III pottery. It appears that it was abandoned by its Pueblo II builders and later in Pueblo III times used as a trash dump while the roof was still intact. This supports our notions of abandonment arrived at during the 1969 season based on the excavation of Unit 2 which appears to have fallen into disrepair rather than suffered violent destruction. The Pueblo III pottery, however, indicates that at least in the early portion of that period a remnent of population was present on the site. Their habitation area awaits discovery.

A passage between Units 3 and 4 was discovered when we removed the profile along the north wall of Unit 4. This profile had been left intact from the previous season. A close inspection of the south wall of this same unit revealed another passage between Unit 4 and the triangular section formed by the northwest corner of the great kiva. Only additional excavation will reveal whether or not these rooms are connected directly with the great kiva.

The plaza area (Unit 1) was laid out in five foot squares for excavation. Nine squares scattered over the area west of Complex C were dug to sterile clay. In the process a stone masonry retaining wall was discovered running north-south through the plaza area. It has been traced for a total of 30 feet but the season ended before we were able to reach its ends in either direction. On the north, this wall probably connects directly with Complex B near a large kiva. If so, this plaza area may have had ceremonial importance as it would be surrounded on three sides by kivas and ceremonial storage rooms. East of the retaining wall, that is toward the structure, there is a noticeable increase of artifacts, including two very well preserved

(continued on following page)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1971  
MONTANA  
REGISTER

DESCRIPTION (continued):

turned up a broken but intact storage jar set in sterile clay. This find appears to rest just on the limits of a wattle and daub structure which awaits excavation.

Further south along the ridge the basal stones of a small storage room were uncovered just beneath the surface. These show plow marks on their upper surfaces and some missing stones appear to have been removed by the plow. This structure appears to have been burned as the floor is littered with burned corn grains and a few cobs. Most of the corn stored here had been shelled. A mano and metate were found immediately south of the structure in a patio-like area badly disturbed by plowing.

Restoration activities included repair of the west wall of Unit 3 and the roofing of Units 4 and 6, all Complex C.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

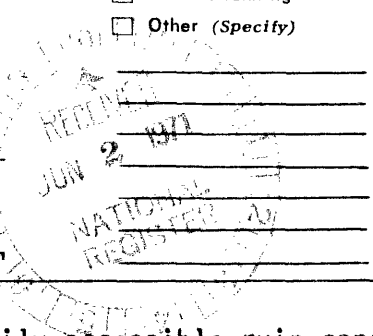
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **800 - 1150 A.D.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edge of the Cedars Pueblo is the largest easily accessible ruin containing stratigraphic structures dating between about 800 and 1150 A.D., in San Juan County, Utah. This site has produced the only reported copper artifact dating from aboriginal times found in the state of Utah. This artifact, a small bell, was probably traded into the area from the Hohokam culture in the Gila-Salt River drainage areas of Arizona, and may have reached there from Mexico.

The site's numerous Kivas or ceremonial chambers including one in the neighborhood of 40-45 feet in diameter also argue for a role as a regional ceremonial center. No such site has ever been fully and systematically excavated and restored in Utah. It should be preserved because it combines unique scientific value with a ready accessibility to the public, and represents one of few apartment-like houses existing on the high plateau areas, where most of the aboriginal people lived.

DESCRIPTION (continued):

metates. West of the wall the cultural debris is thin and soon gives way to sterile clay.

Complex E was selected for testing since the low mounds and depressions offered a potential for uncovering domestic activities in contrast to the ceremonial nature of Complex C. Two small storage rooms were excavated, Unit 1, the southernmost of these, contained an infant burial in its north-east corner. In testing under the floor an earlier occupation surface was detected consisting of the post holes of an earlier structure. Time did not permit extending the excavation beyond the walls of the Pueblo II structure above. It is possible that the earlier structure is Pueblo I but confirmation will have to await additional excavation. A series of five foot squares were laid out just to the east of these two small granaries in a shallow depression. We had anticipated perhaps a pithouse-style structure but it soon became apparent that a kiva very similar to Unit 2 of Complex C, except for the outer wall, was beneath the ground. Again, time did not permit its complete excavation, however, five pilasters were found and the plastered bench and inside wall were discovered on the west side.

Land beyond the south fence was not available during the 1969 season and so does not appear on our contour map. However, with its purchase between seasons it was made available for excavation in 1970 and designated Complex F. This area has no mounds or surface indications of structures as such. Nevertheless, artifacts are scattered over the surface and a number of test pits were sunk in areas which showed artifact concentrations. These pits produced results in two areas. Just south of the fence a test pit  
(continued on attached sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See files: Dee F. Green, "Edge of Cedars Excavation 1969-1970," Department of Archeology and Anthropology, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah.  
 Cornelia A. Perkins, et al., The Saga of San Juan, (Monticello: San Juan County D.U.P., 1957).  
 Statewide Archeological Survey, Department of Anthropology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	37'	53"	109°	29'	23"
NE	37°	37'	53"	109°	29'	16"
SE	37°	37'	44"	109°	29'	16"
SW	37°	37'	44"	109°	29'	23"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **11.6**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Melvin T. Smith

ORGANIZATION: Utah Historical Society DATE: March 4, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Milton L. Weilenmann ATTEST: William M. ...  
 Title Utah State Liaison Officer Keeper of The National Register  
 Date March 4, 1971 Date AUG 12 1971

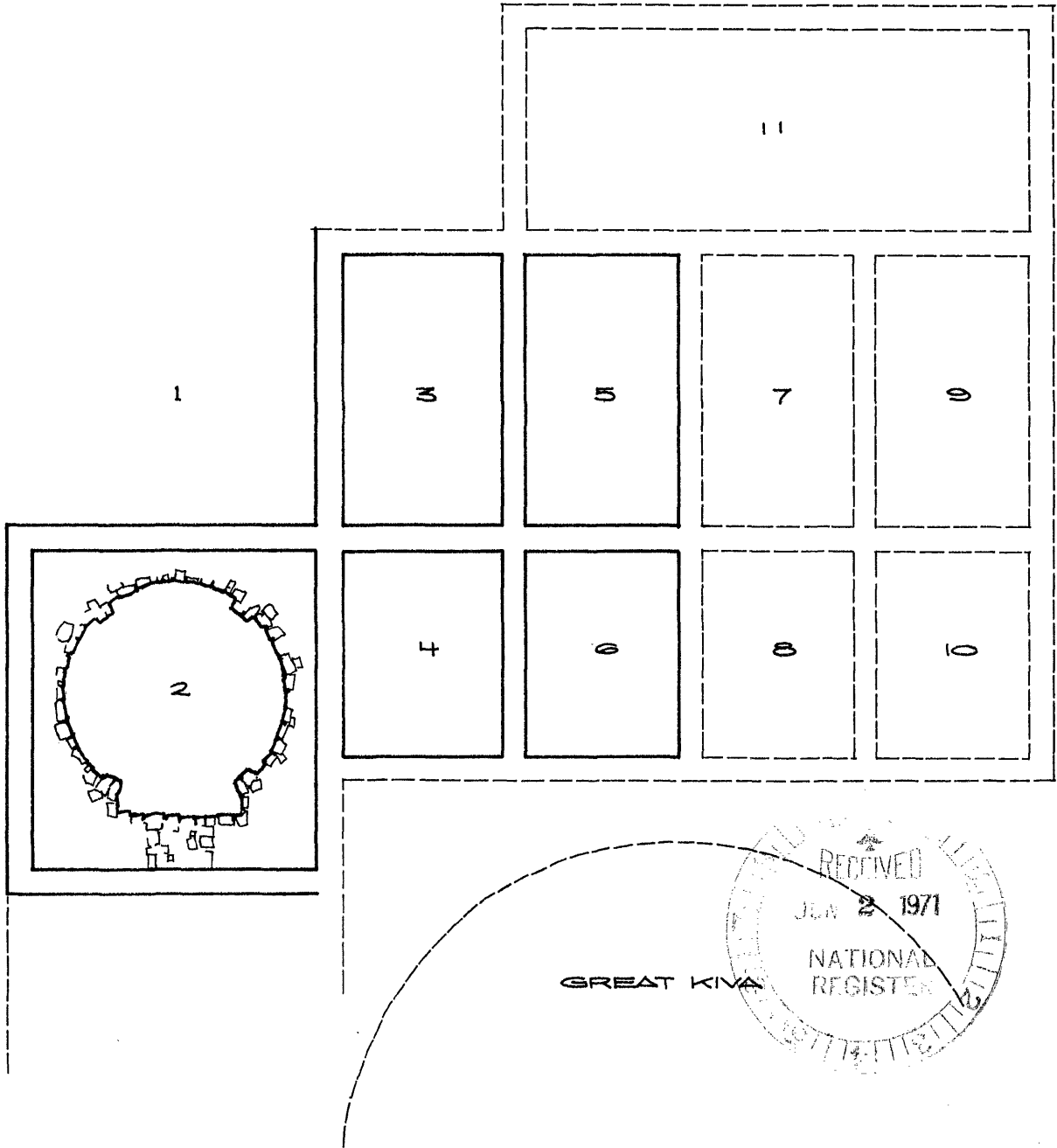
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. ...  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

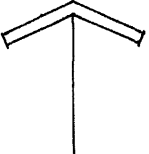
KEY:

DASHED LINE    || UNEXCAVATED AREA  
SOLID LINE     || EXCAVATED AREA



PLAN OF COMPLEX C

SEE ATTACHED SHEET FOR LOCATION ON SITE.

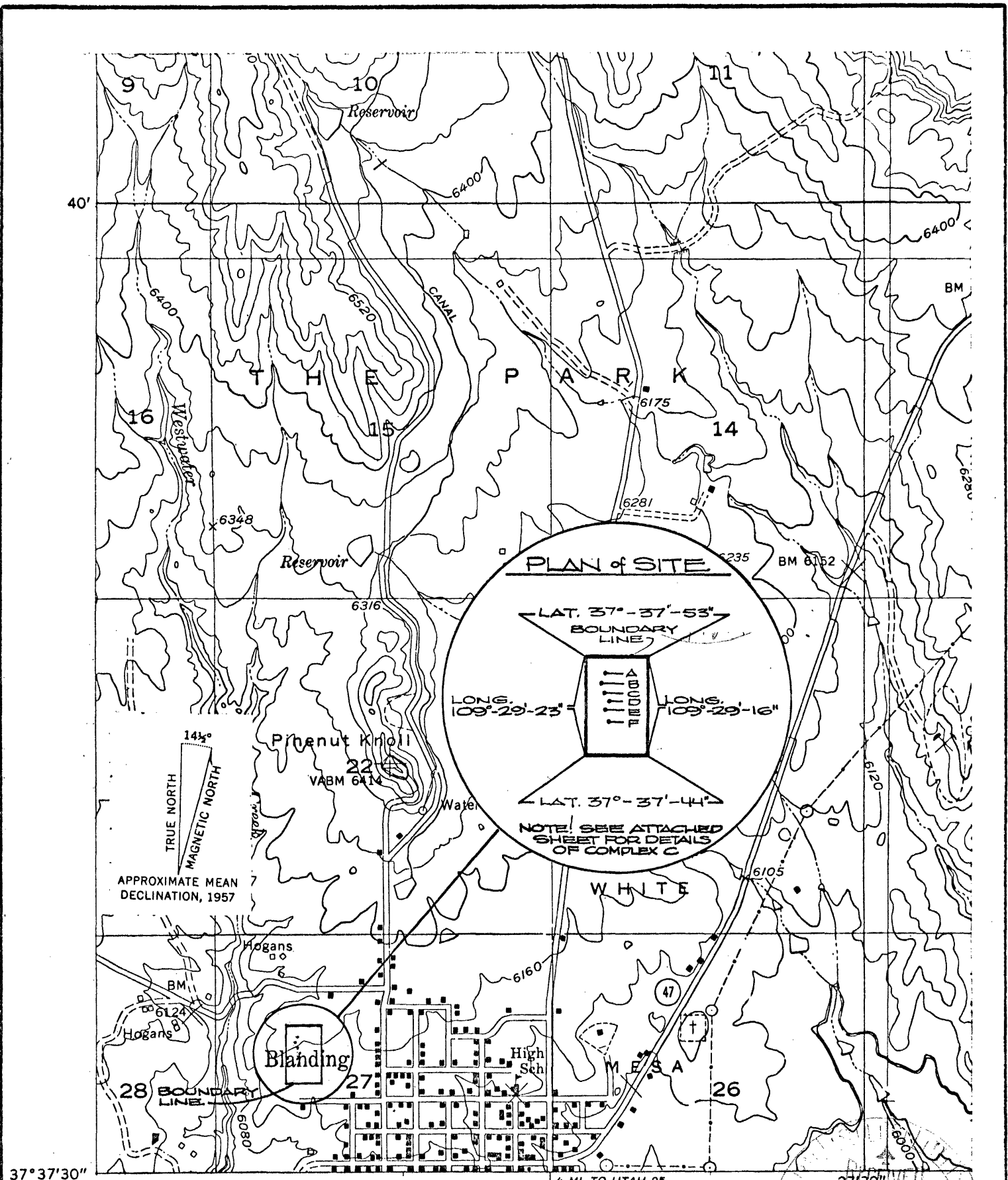


EDGE OF THE CEDARS INDIAN RUIN

BLANDING, UTAH

DATE : JAN 1971

SCALE : 1" = 10'



37°37'30"  
109°30'

4 MI. TO UTAH 95  
MEXICAN HAT 51 MI.

27°30' W  
JUN 2 1971

**EDGE OF THE CEDARS INDIAN RUIN  
BLANDING, UTAH**

DATE : DEC 1970  
SCALE : 1" = 2000'

