

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 18 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center
other names/site number Camp DG-32

2. Location

street & number US 191, approx. 13 miles north of Moab N/A not for publication
city or town vicinity of Moab N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Grand code 019 zip code Unknown

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wilson S. Mat 3/10/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Beth Beland Date of Action 5/2/94

Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center
Name of Property

Moab vicinity, Grand County, Utah
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT / other (CCC camp)
DEFENSE / other (internment camp)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STONE (cistern)

roof N/A
other STONE (-lined pathways)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- ETHNIC HERITAGE / Asian
- CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

- 1935-c.1941
- 1942-1943

Significant Dates

- 1935
- 1943

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Japanese-American

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Cal. State Fullerton Library
Bancroft Library, Berkeley

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center
Name of Property

Moab vicinity, Grand County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 6/1/3/0/7/0 4/2/8/5/5/0/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Located primarily within the SE/4, NE/4, NW/4, Section 22, Township 24 South, Range 20 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian (see site plan). The proposed National Register boundary includes the entire historic camp area, the access road to US 191 and the concrete entry pylons, with a 10 foot buffer surrounding all separate elements.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the historic camp was determined by the evidences of development from the historic period (i.e., concrete pads, roadways, debris) and historic photos. It includes the entire historic camp area (all identifiable remains) and the access road to US 191 with concrete entry pylons.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Louthan and Lloyd M. Pierson (GCHPC) and Kurt Wall / Preservation Intern (UT SHPO)
organization Grand County Historic Preservation Commission date March 1994
street & number 118 East Center telephone (801)259-7911
city or town Moab state UT zip code 84532

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry
street & number 3 Triad Center, Suite 400; 355 W. North Temple telephone (801)538-5508
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84180-1204

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section No. 7 Page 1

Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

Narrative Description

The Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center site is located approximately 13 miles north of Moab just east of US Highway 191. Accessed by a straight, graded road about 1000 feet in length, the site of the CCC camp is on the western edge of the wide, sandy flood plain of Courthouse Wash (see site plan). Barren hills and cliffs rise on both the east and west sides of the mile-wide valley. The Thompson railhead, which provided rail transportation and access during the historic period, is about 22 miles further north. Historic photos from the mid 1930s show the main highway as a narrow graded road. While adequate water was developed for the CCC camp and later minimal agricultural purposes, the site is one of over-powering isolation and remoteness (see Photo No. 1).

All of the buildings that comprised the CCC camp are gone; however, some of the concrete foundation pads remain. The roadways into and within the camp are still mostly discernable. Two concrete pylons that once held the camp signage/entry portal remain, located on the main access road and about 100 feet from US 191 (see Photo No. 3). A few of the whitewashed rock-outlined pathways are visible (see Photo No. 5). Many of the camp roads and pathways were graveled to help prevent trucks and equipment from sinking and getting stuck in the fine sand.

Also present in the area is an above-ground stone reservoir or cistern (located about 600 feet northwest of the camp), the concrete opening of a well with the collapsed remains of a windmill (see Photo Nos. 5 & 6), and a loading dock on the edge of the wash. This latter element may post-date the historic period. The cistern is approximately 20 feet square and 6 feet tall (see Photo No. 8). The foot-thick stone walls are braced by battered stone buttresses on the corners and at mid-point on the side walls. The base of the buttresses span a small, curious stone moat that encircles the cistern at its base. A few inlet/outlet pipes are present within the cistern which has apparently been repaired and used within the last ten years or so. Pipes visible within the concrete opening of the well angle directly toward the cistern and were apparently the supply lines. While it appears to be of CCC-era construction, some accounts place its construction after the governmental uses of the site. The inclusion of the moat, which would function well as a stock watering trough supports this idea of later construction. Until this issue is resolved, this element is considered noncontributing to the site and is not included in the currently proposed boundaries.

A small, one-room ranching shack is also present on the site, but is of fairly recent construction. Several large, mature cottonwood trees outline a portion of the primary entrance area of the camp with a second group near the south end of the camp. Historic photos show these trees as saplings planted during the CCC period (see Photo No. 2). Other trees at the east end of the site may represent saplings planted later by the CCC. Most of the limited natural vegetation was apparently removed during construction of the camp in 1935. While the visible remains of a few

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Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

historic structures and features exist, the presence or significance of any sub-surface remains is unknown.

Historic photos show that the camp was typical of many CCC camps: simple, gable-roofed, wooden structures with board and batten walls, tar paper or composition roofing, wood panel doors, and windows that were perhaps top or bottom hinged, with four lights per sash. The barracks appear to have been grouped at the southern end of the camp and the headquarters buildings located at the northern end of the main access road. Support, storage, and supply buildings formed a third group along the eastern edge of the camp. An unconfirmed report suggests that a perimeter fence was installed when it was converted to an internment camp for Japanese Americans, but one inmate stated that the desolate setting alone was enough to keep the prisoners in camp. The only fences present today are ranching fences which seem to align with the section lines rather than the camp boundaries. Although some payments were made to a private individual when the site was developed as a CCC camp (perhaps for grazing or water rights), the property was owned by the federal government until c.1965 when it was transferred to the Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry.

___ See continuation sheet

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Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The significance of the Dalton Wells site derives from its association with two important events in American history: New Deal work programs, particularly the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the relocation of Japanese Americans to inland concentration camps during the Second World War. As a CCC camp and later as a relocation/isolation center for Japanese American internee "troublemakers," Dalton Wells figured prominently in Moab, Grand County, and American history. The site's political/governmental significance stems from its role in federal policy decisions to relieve Depression-era unemployment and later, to segregate Japanese American "security risks" during World War Two. As an artifact of social history, Dalton Wells represents a response to the Great Depression and symbolizes American prejudice against people of Japanese descent. The site's military importance results from its use as a relocation center. Finally, Dalton Wells is significant because it stands as evidence of Depression-era efforts to conserve and develop the resources of the desert grazing land in and around Grand County, Utah, part of similar efforts that took place throughout the West during the CCC era.

Politics/Government

Dalton Wells' political and governmental significance inheres in its embodiment of two historic federal policy decisions. The first decision was locating the first of four Moab-area CCC camps at Dalton Wells. Primarily an agricultural region, the Great Depression arrived early and hit hard. The camp, established July 10, 1935 and actually staffed on October 25, 1935, provided much-needed jobs, brought cash into local businesses, and developed the natural resources and improved the ability of Grand County's range to support grazing.¹ The Dalton Wells CCC camp boosted the attitudes and economy of Moab's residents. "Enrollees" typically earned about \$25 per month with \$20 being sent home or banked, leaving \$5 to spend on the usually limited diversions in the area of the camp. Several CCC enrollees remained in Moab and married local women and relations with the community were good.² Older Moab natives recall the CCC camp with warmth and nostalgia. Enrollees had varied experiences at Dalton Wells. The week-day work of building flood control devices, developing water supplies, etc., was challenging. On the weekends, some languished at the pool table in camp while others explored the surrounding desert and rock formations. The Dalton Wells CCC camp apparently ceased operation c.1941. Baldrige reports that it was unclear if it was included in the "17th Enrollment Period, 1 April - 30 Sept 1941."³

X See continuation sheet

¹"Camp DG-32, Dalton Wells-Moab, Utah: Report on Activities," 23.

²James Crosby, interview with Arthur Whitehead, 6/28/91, 4, 5, 8, 12.

³Kenneth Baldrige, Nine Years of Achievement--The CCC in Utah, 376.

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Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

The second federal policy decision was the War Relocation Authority's resettlement of Japanese American citizens to inland locations to neutralize their threat as a potential "fifth column" and saboteurs on America's Pacific Coast. Called "internment centers," camps such as those at Manzanar and Tule Lake, California, Gila, Arizona, and Topaz, Utah were bleak at best and little better than concentration camps. The abandoned Dalton Wells CCC camp was converted to the Moab Relocation Center,⁴ becoming in effect a penal institution for the internment camp system. Fear, trauma, anger, and bigotry fired the removal of alien and citizen Japanese Americans to the main camps. As the numbness and shock of forced relocation wore off, groups of internees, often led by those holding American citizenship, began to ask embarrassing questions, demand better treatment, and to point out corruption in the camps' administration. This group of internees also came into conflict with members of the Japanese American Citizen's League (JACL), an organization in the camps that sought to cooperate with the WRA and whose members dominated community councils established in the camps as liaisons between the inmates and the WRA.⁵ Such "troubles" began at Manzanar in late 1942 but were common occurrences in all the camps.⁶ Rather than address their grievances, the War Relocation Authority shipped sixteen of the Manzanar "ringleaders" to the abandoned CCC camp at Dalton Wells. This first group arrived on January 11, 1943. Thirteen more from Gila arrived on February 18, followed six days later by ten more from Manzanar. The Tule Lake camp sent fifteen on April 2.⁷

Conditions in Dalton Wells were worse than conditions in the regular camps. The inmates, all men, were denied permission to visit Moab, had their mail censored, and were not allowed contact with their families. The site itself had been abandoned for some time, though how long is unclear, so considerable building repair was necessary to make the relocation center habitable. One officer in charge of the camp suggested that the inmates might be made available for range improvement projects, suggesting the possibility of forced labor.⁸ Even at Dalton Wells, protests against harsh treatment and poor living conditions and conflict between dissenters and JACL members and sympathizers continued, resulting in the removal of

X See continuation sheet

⁴In a telegram to the War Relocation Authority in Washington D.C., on January 11, 1943, Commander R.R. Best calls the Dalton Wells facility the "Moab Relocation Center." Contemporary newspaper articles refer to the camp as the Dalton Wells CCC camp or relocation center.

⁵Report, "Leupp Isolation Center," 2.

⁶Richard Drinnon, Keeper of Concentration Camps (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987), 98-99.

⁷Lloyd Pierson, "The Moab Concentration Camp," The Zephyr, July 1989, 20.

⁸Times-Independent (Moab), 12/31/42, 1.

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Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

seven men to the Grand County Jail in nearby Moab.⁹ At peak occupancy in late April 1943, the relocation center held 49 men. Finally, on April 27, 1943, all the inmates were moved to an abandoned Native American boarding school at Leupp in northwestern Arizona.¹⁰ Apparently Leupp was chosen, according to WRA records, "for the purpose of bringing together the families of those persons sent to the [Moab] Isolation Camp." Nevertheless, the WRA recommended that "incorrigibles" be placed in an isolated, fenced area of the camp in order to segregate troublemakers from their more compliant fellow inmates.¹¹ The move to Leupp ended the use of the Dalton Wells CCC camp as an relocation center. Available evidence suggests that Dalton Wells was the only facility of its kind that existed and that after the inmates were moved to Leupp, the site was completely abandoned. On December 2, 1943, Leupp's director, Paul Robinson, announced that the camp was being abandoned and that within a week all the inmates would be sent to Tule Lake, California.¹²

Social History and Asian Ethnic Heritage

Dalton Wells is an artifact of U.S. social history and of the experience of Japanese Americans, particularly those Issei and Nisei (i.e., first and second generation Japanese Americans) who lived in the camps. The internment camps were another episode in a long history of American anti-Japanese bigotry, a history including anti-immigration laws and prohibitions against property ownership. The Dalton Wells relocation center represented the lowest point of this history because it was reserved for those internees who challenged their treatment by the War Relocation Authority, treatment that was based, in the final analysis, on a long history of antipathy to people of Japanese ancestry, not criminal behavior or their alleged threat to national security.

In its earlier incarnation as a CCC camp, Dalton Wells demonstrated the acceptance during the 1930s of the assumption that the federal government had an obligation to take a pro-active role in the national economy during periods of national crisis. It also serves as a reminder of the Depression itself, an event which shaped the national character to a pronounced degree and whose legacy survives today.

Conservation

The Division of Grazing of the Department of Interior ran the Dalton Wells CCC camp.

X See continuation sheet

⁹Pierson, *ibid*; Sue K. Embry, A.A. Hansen, and B.K. Mitson, "Manzanar Martyr: An Interview with Harry Y. Ueno (Fullerton: California State University, 1986), 74; Times-Independent (Moab), 4/22/43, 1.

¹⁰One account of the Leupp facility indicates that 83, not 49, inmates were transferred from Moab to Leupp. See Arizona Republic, "Forgotten Arizona compound housed Japanese-American 'troublemakers'," (date unknown).

¹¹Report, "Leupp Isolation Center," 1, 5.

¹²Winslow Mail (Arizona), 12/3/43, 1.

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Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

The efforts of its enrollees both to conserve the area's natural resources and to develop the quality of the grazing range are central to the site's significance.

Writing in 1937, after two year's existence, J. Pratt Allred, camp superintendent, summarized the enrollees' activities: "The work consists of Water Development, Rodent Control, Road and Trail Construction, Corral And Fence Construction and various other range developments." The enrollees also conducted lineal and grade line surveys and built check dams on steep slopes to control erosion caused by flash floods.¹³ In addition, in keeping with contemporary conservation theory, thousands of prairie dogs, considered pests by the locals, were poisoned to prevent the destruction of such graze as existed and to prevent injuries to sheep and horses caused by collapsing tunnels. These efforts forced coyotes, natural predators of prairie dogs, to turn to sheep and cattle, which led in turn to calls for coyote abatement efforts.¹⁴ Dalton Wells is clearly significant in local conservation history.

Many of the conservation and range development activities of the CCC remain in the form of check dams, trails, livestock watering ponds, etc. A multi-agency effort is underway to identify and evaluate these resources. While the visible remains of the Dalton Wells camp are very limited, there is a potential of some sub-surface remains.

Summary

Dalton Wells symbolizes enduring themes in American history. As a CCC camp it represents the impact of both the Great Depression and the federal government's response, on hundreds of rural agricultural communities. It reminds us of efforts to preserve and improve the quality of marginal agricultural land and of misguided efforts at "pest" animal control. Most important, Dalton Wells speaks volumes about American attitudes towards ethnic difference and about the difficulties Americans have had integrating ethnic groups patently not Anglo European. Most Americans know about the Japanese American internment camps; far fewer are aware of their resistance to wholesale violations of their constitutionally-guaranteed rights; fewer still are aware of the fate that awaited dissenters in these camps -- internment at an isolation facility such as Dalton Wells. The Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center site serves as a reminder and a lesson of this most unfortunate period of American history.

___ See continuation sheet

¹³"Report on Activities," 3. 19.

¹⁴Whitehead interview, 2-3, 6-7.

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Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

Bibliography

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- Times-Independent (Moab, Utah), December 12, 1942, p.1, and April 22, 1943, p.1.
- War Relocation Authority Records, National Archives, Record Group 210, Series 16.
- Weglyn, Michi. Years of Infamy. (New York: Morros Quill, 1976).
- Whitehead, Arthur (former enrollee at Dalton Wells CCC Camp). Personal interview by James B. Crosby, June 28, 1991. (Copy of interview available at the Utah SHPO.)

___ See continuation sheet

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Section No. PHOTOS Page 8

Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

Common Photo Label Information

1. Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center
2. Moab vicinity, Grand County, Utah
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1

3. Photographer: Unknown
4. Date: c.1936
6. Historic view of CCC camp with access road from unpaved road (now US 191) in foreground (concrete pylons and entry signage not yet installed). Camera facing approximately east.

Photo No. 2

3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: March 1993
6. Modern view (same as Photo No. 1) of site of CCC camp with concrete entry pylons at right-center edge, remains of original access road, modern 'cut-off' road to the east, and two stands of mature trees. Camera facing approximately east.

Photo No. 3

3. Photographer: Unknown
4. Date: c.1936
6. Historic view of administration /headquarters area, reportedly the Technical Service Office and Quarters with the Mess Hall behind. Note cottonwood saplings and stone-lined pathways near buildings. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 4

3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: March 1993
6. View of concrete pylons on access road near US 191 and remaining mature cottonwood trees in former administration area of camp. Camera facing northeast along route of original access road.

Photo No. 5

3. Photographer: Lloyd Pierson
4. Date: 1989
6. View of stone-lined, gravel pathway and non-historic debris. Precise location on site and camera direction unknown.

Photo No. 6

3. Photographer: Lloyd Pierson
4. Date: 1989
6. View of remains of windmill located in northern corner of original camp area. Camera facing east.

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Section No. PHOTOS--cont. Page 9 Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center, Grand County, UT

Common Photo Label Information -- continued

1. Dalton Wells CCC Camp/Moab Relocation Center
2. Moab vicinity, Grand County, Utah
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

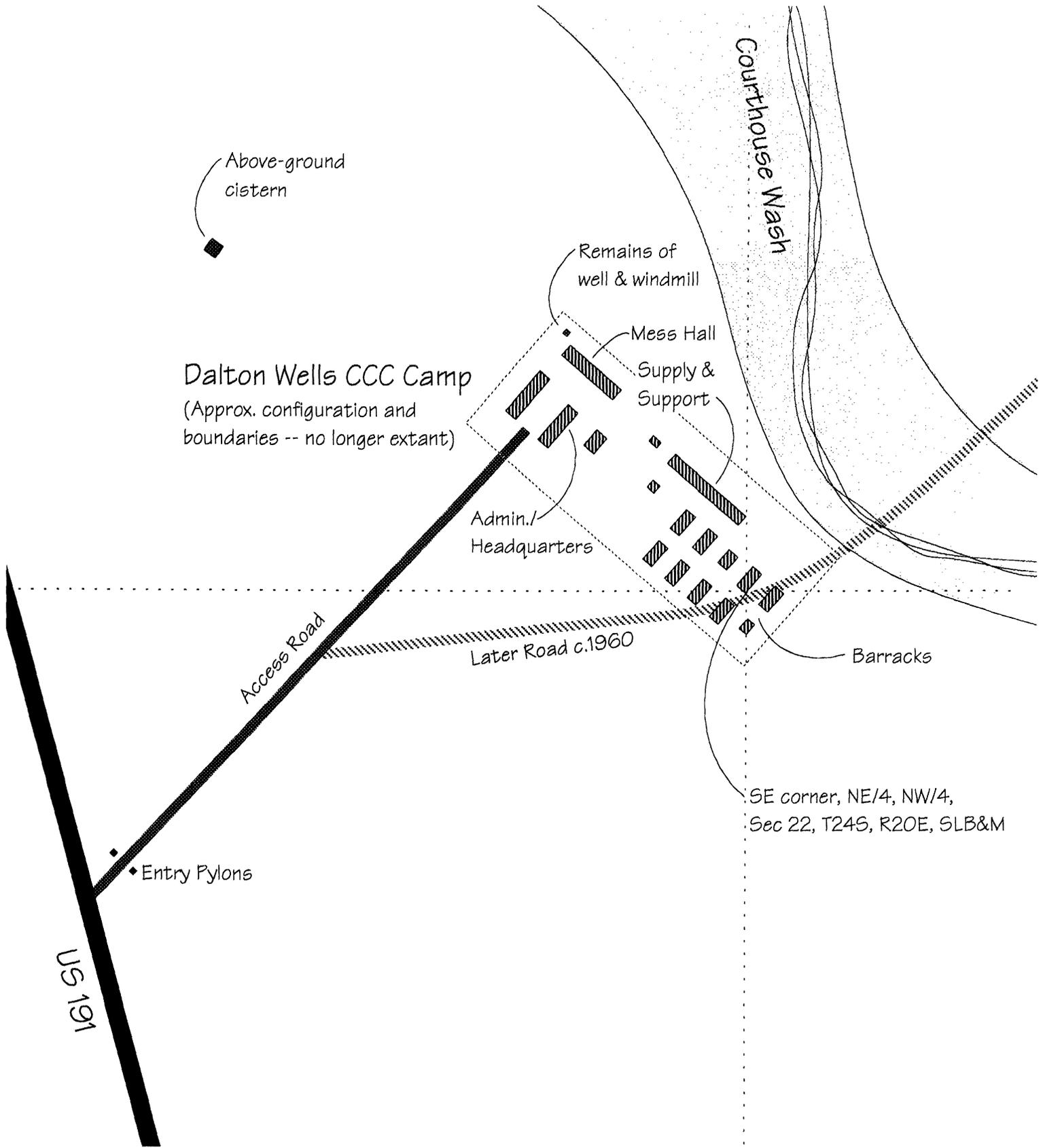
Photo No. 7

3. Photographer: Lloyd Pierson
4. Date: 1989
6. View of remains of well and windmill tower supports. Camera facing east.

Photo No. 8

3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: March 1993
6. View of cistern (outside NR boundaries). Camera facing north.

___ See continuation sheet



Dalton Wells CCC Camp
 (Approx. configuration and boundaries -- no longer extant)

Dalton Wells CCC Camp / Moab Relocation Center

Grand County, Utah

 Approx. building location

Site Plan (Based on historic photos, site observation, and the Merrimac Butte, Utah 7.5' USGS quad)

Approx. 13 miles to Moab

