

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FDR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 21 1985  
DATE ENTERED JUL 16 1985

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Taylor Cabin Line Camp

AND/OR COMMON

Taylor Cabin

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sedona

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Arizona

CODE

0428

COUNTY

Coconino

CODE

005

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- N/A IN PROCESS
- N/A BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Recreation

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Prescott National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

344 S. Cortez

CITY, TOWN

Prescott

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 86301

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Forest Supervisor, Prescott National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

344 S. Cortez

CITY, TOWN

Prescott

STATE

Arizona 86301

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### SUMMARY CONTEXT

The Taylor Cabin Line Camp is a grouping of natural and man-made features in Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, a meandering red sandstone canyon in northern Arizona. The designated wilderness area encompasses 47,762 acres and is twenty miles in length and a maximum of seven miles in width from rim to rim. Elevations within the canyon range from 3600 feet in the bottom to 7000 feet on the rim. The canyon encompasses portions of the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests. The elements included within the nomination are Taylor Cabin, two sandstone caves, a poured concrete dam and a sandstone masonry dam.

### DESCRIPTION

#### Taylor Cabin--Exterior

Taylor Cabin, constructed in 1931, is the most prominent feature within the complex area. It is a (vernacular) coursed sandstone structure, measuring approximately 14 feet in width by 16 feet in depth. The cabin sits on a cobble foundation and is sited at the base of a sandstone bluff, incorporating the base of the bluff as the rear wall. The walls are surmounted by a gable roof finished with corrugated metal panels.

The front (south) elevation of the cabin is punctuated by a central entry framed with heavy timbers and enclosed by a vertical batten door. A smooth sandstone inscription stone is located to the lower right of the entry. The stone is carved with the date of construction, the brands of the four ranches associated with the construction, and abbreviations of the names of the two principal stonemasons.

Roof rafters of debarked juniper logs are exposed below the slightly projecting eaves in the gable end. The ends of the spaced 1" x 4" roof sheathing and split log plates are also visible on the front elevation.

Both the east and west elevations have a single, wood frame, two light casement windows in the center of the wall. The openings, like the entry, are framed with heavy wooden timbers. Each window features a projecting sandstone sill.

The unique physical feature of Taylor Cabin is the rear (north) wall which is the base of the sandstone bluff against which the cabin was constructed. The upper half of the bluff rises above the cabin. The fireplace chimney is constructed of coursed sandstone capped with volcanic cobbles and integrates a crevice which runs the full height of the bluff. The chimney follows the natural slope of the bluff away from the cabin, creating the cabin's most unique exterior feature.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Interior

The spartan interior of Taylor Cabin consists of the exposed sandstone walls and an original floor constructed of flat sandstone slabs overlain in portions with a concrete cap. Two debarked pine vigas span the walls and rest on exposed split log plates. The roof structure is entirely exposed and consists of spaced, debarked juniper and ash logs overlain with widely spaced 1" x 4" sheathing. The corrugated steel panels which finish the roof are also exposed. The rear wall of the cabin is comprised of the roughly textured base of the bluff and a fireplace constructed diagonally across the northeast corner. The fireplace is built of round cobbles and features a large sandstone mantel and a steel lintel-supported jack arch opening with sandstone voussoirs. A woodburning stove (original) is located in the northwest corner.

TAYLOR CAVES

Sited southwest of the cabin are two caves at the base of the sandstone canyon walls. The larger cave faces southeast and measures approximately 70' in depth, 95' in width, and 50' in height at the highest point in the cave.

The smaller cave measures approximately 27' in depth, 9' in width at the widest point, and 10' in height. The entry is rectangular and is framed in timber. A small sandstone anteroom was added to the front of the cave (late 19th Century) to increase its capacity, but only the lower courses remain in place.

DAMS

Two dams constructed in the early 1930's are in direct proximity to Taylor Cabin. The larger of the two, constructed by the DK Ranch, is sited in a large wash southeast of the cabin, on the east side of the canyon. Constructed of poured concrete with a solid cobble aggregate, it measures approximately 18' in height at the center, 36' in width at the crest, 10' in width at the base, and 10" in thickness at the crest. A small iron sluice gate is centrally positioned approximately 3' above the base. A length of 1½" pipeline projects from the base. A sandstone retaining wall is located above the dam on the south side and a rectangular poured concrete trough (10' x 3' x 1½'), (a related component in the water procurement system), is located approximately 82' downstream from the dam.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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A second dam (Dutch Kid Tank) constructed by Nick Perkins, located approximately 1400' northwest of the cabin is built into a shallow "V" cut into the sandstone. The structure is built of coursed sandstone and measures 28' in width at the crest by a maximum height of 6.5'. The dam is 20" thick at its crest. What is believed to be the quarry site for the Dutch Kid Tank is located approximately 70' above the dam to the north.

Above Dutch Kid Dam, in an overhanging rock cave is located a Southern Sinagua dwelling site (AR-03-09-01-28), consisting of three walled rooms. Though this site is outside the nominated area, it is an interesting feature in the general area.

INTEGRITY

All the components within this nomination exhibit a high degree of physical integrity. Although in need of maintenance, Taylor Cabin appears to be in sound structural condition. Each of the dams appears well preserved with no signs of structural deterioration. Although the upstream side of each structure is partially filled with silt, they continue to hold water.

The caves appear as formed over time through natural geologic processes. The smoke blackened ceilings provide evidence of their use by man over time.

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

2A

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3

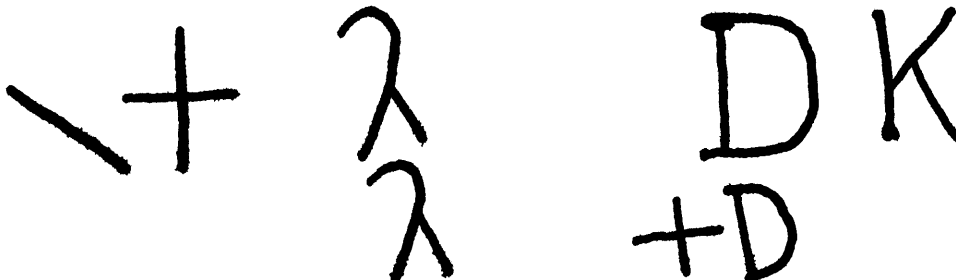
Interpretation of important carvings on  
stone on the front of Taylor Cabin

Bar Cross  
Johnson Cattle Co.

Inverted Y6 Doubled  
Perkins Cattle Co.

DK or  
Windmill Ranch

Cross D  
Shea and Goodwin  
Ranch


  
 1931 < Des Por >

Year Cabin was built

Despain & Porter (Despain's son-in-law)  
stone masons  
who built Cabin

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885, 1913, 1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oscar Despain, Nick Perkins, Porter

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY:

The Taylor Cabin Line Camp is historically significant as an intact example of a ranching line camp complex, constituted to accommodate seasonal grazing practices in a remote and arid environment. Line camps of this type were, and continue to be, necessary for the carrying out of ranching activities in remote areas of the West. Taylor Cabin, and its associated features, meets the National Register criteria for its historic association with the development of cattle ranching in Northern Arizona.

### HISTORIC BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Sycamore Canyon, located north of the Verde River, has a prehistory similar to that of the Middle Verde River area. Many prehistoric archeological sites within Sycamore Canyon are classified as Southern Sinagua, such as the cave site above Dutch Kid Tank (AR-03-09-01-028). It is believed that Sycamore Canyon served as a trade route between the Prescott Culture around Chino Valley to the west and Sinagua and Anasazi cultures to the north and northeast.

Between 1100 and 1130 there was a climatic change with more moist conditions which increased flows from seeps and springs within the canyon. There are many caves and cliff dwellings within Sycamore Canyon that were used between 1130 and 1300 during the Honaki phase of the Sinagua culture. These people were agriculturists and grew corn, cotton, squash and other products on the flats above Sycamore and other creeks.

Though several early European expeditions were made into the Verde Valley between 1583 and 1605, the area was generally ignored except for a few fur trapping mountain men until gold was discovered along Lynx Creek and the Hassayampa River near Prescott in 1863. In 1865, the Verde Valley was permanently settled, primarily by farmers who homesteaded the area, growing crops to supply Prescott's miners and government soldiers at Camp Lincoln (which was later abandoned and replaced by Fort Verde).

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Sycamore Trail Ride", by Bill Beers; Arizona Wildlife Sportsman, 36:17+, September 1965
- "Deep in the Heart of Sycamore Canyon", by Ed Ellinger; Arizona Highways, PPG. 35-38, July 1958
- "The Historic Period on the Coconino National Forest", Cultural Resource Overview of Coconino National Forest by Peter Pilles, Jr., Paul Fish, Susanne Fish, and Pat Stein, 1981, Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office, Flagstaff, Arizona

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 27

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	4 1 0 0 9 0	3 8 7 1 7 9 0	B	1 2	4 1 0 1 5 8	3 8 7 1 9 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 2	4 0 9 3 8 5	3 8 7 2 1 3 5	D	1 2	4 0 9 4 3 8	3 8 7 2 2 3 8
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area referenced above in Item 10 represents the smallest rectangular area required to include all referenced resources. Corner No. 1, point of beginning, a distance of 200 feet from the east end of Dutch Kid Dam at 270° thence at a bearing of 115°, a distance of 2600 feet to Corner No. 2, thence on a bearing of 25°, a distance of 450 feet to Corner No. 3, thence on a bearing of 295°, a distance of 2600 feet to Corner No. 4, thence on a bearing of 205°, a distance of 450 feet to Corner No. 1, the true point of beginning. Bearings based upon grid North of 0° 32' West of True North.

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

STATE	Arizona	CODE	04	COUNTY	Yavapai	CODE	025
STATE	Arizona	CODE	04	COUNTY	Coconino	CODE	005

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Richard Streeper, Forester; Jay Eby, Forester; Gerrish Willis, Forester; Sherri Mauti, Range Conservationist, Bill Perreault, Arizona SHPO Staff.

ORGANIZATION Prescott National Forest Chino Valley Ranger District DATE 02/15/85

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 485, TELEPHONE (602) 636-2302

CITY OR TOWN Chino Valley STATE Arizona

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

*Donna J. Schuber*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National  State  Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Wm. J. McBlain*

TITLE AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE FEB 28 1985

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Linda McClelland*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7/16/85

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

There is no evidence that any significant Anglo use of Sycamore Canyon occurred until the mid-1880's, when the canyon was first used to graze livestock. With the end of the Indian resistance after the Battle of Big Dry Wash in 1882, and the construction of the railroad across northern Arizona in 1881-1882, the Euro-American population increased dramatically. The railroad was constructed close to the old Beale Wagon road, and thousands of railroad ties were cut from the forested areas along this route.

With the railroad came the ability to easily market livestock raised in northern Arizona. By 1883, it is estimated that 145,000 cattle were on the open range in the state. By 1893, this number increased to over 800,000.

The cattle operations in Sycamore Canyon were generally based around winter grazing, due to the lack of reliable water during dry seasons of the year. Summer temperatures often exceed 105° and winter temperatures sometimes get below 0°. In 1885, Ben and John Taylor first placed cattle into the canyon to overwinter there. They used the (present) Taylor Cabin site as their base of operations. They constructed a door over the smaller cave and used it as a shelter from storms and a dry place to store provisions. Their access to the canyon was the Black and Vail Trail, which runs past Winter Cabin four miles to the northeast on the rim.

Ben Taylor married Florence May Newman in 1892. They built a small anteroom onto the cave. This room was the original "Taylor Cabin" which is marked on a map of a 1904 Surveyor General's Office survey. Ben and Florence continued to use the canyon until the winter of 1903-04.

The existing Taylor Cabin was constructed in 1931. Its construction was due to the efforts of Marion Nicholas (Nick) Perkins, Sr., owner of the Johnson Cattle Company. Through his coordination, four ranches--the Windmill Ranch, headquartered southwest of present-day Sedona, the Cross D Ranch, headquartered north of Clarkdale, the Johnson Cattle Company, headquartered at Sand Flat and Pine Flat, and Perkins Cattle Co. at Perkinsville, pooled money and materials toward construction of the cabin.

Nick Perkins hired Oscar N. Despain, a stonemason and Despain's son-in-law, a Mr. Porter, to build the cabin. Perkins packed the necessary building materials other than the sandstone in on mules. He later packed in the stove, cupboards, table, and other items to make the cabin functional as a line camp. The cabin allowed ranch hands from these ranches to stay in the canyon in relatively comfortable quarters while working their cattle during the winter months.



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CONTINUATION SHEET 4 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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Because of the need for a more predictable water source than Sycamore Creek, the two dams were constructed. These dams provided water for man and livestock, and increased the duration of periods that the area was used, since water was often in short supply.

In 1935, the Sycamore Canyon Wild Area was enacted. In 1937, the Perkins Cattle Company, also owned by Nick Perkins, acquired an exclusive grazing permit to the Prescott National Forest portion of Sycamore Canyon, in which Taylor Cabin is located. However, the DK Ranch (Windmill) Ranch also used the cabin after this date, from time to time, as it had the grazing permit on the Coconino National Forest land on the east side of Sycamore Creek. Until Nick Perkins died in 1975, the cabin was used every winter as his base camp.

Currently, Thomas Perkins, Nick's son, has the grazing permit on the Prescott National Forest land in Sycamore Canyon, which he acquired at the time of his father's death. He continues to graze cattle in Sycamore, but because of a shortage of water in the Taylor Cabin area, hasn't used the cabin every winter.

In 1972 the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness was designated of those lands encompassed by the Sycamore Wild Area. Currently, Taylor Cabin is used extensively by horsebackers and hikers, especially in the winter months. Taylor Cabin still serves the original capacity, providing shelter in a harsh, arid environment.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Taylor Cabin Line Camp is historically significant because it embodies the historic theme of ranching in Sycamore Canyon and attests to the adaptability of early ranchers in a harsh physical environment. Without the establishment of a permanent base camp deep within Sycamore Canyon, the difficulties encountered with managing a cattle operation would have severely limited the area's usefulness.

The camp possesses additional significance as an intact example of a ranching line camp complex. No other man made facilities are extant today within the unique context of Sycamore Canyon and its continued existence provides dramatic evidence of the now diminished historic endeavor of seasonal grazing in the canyon.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

5

ITEM NUMBER

9

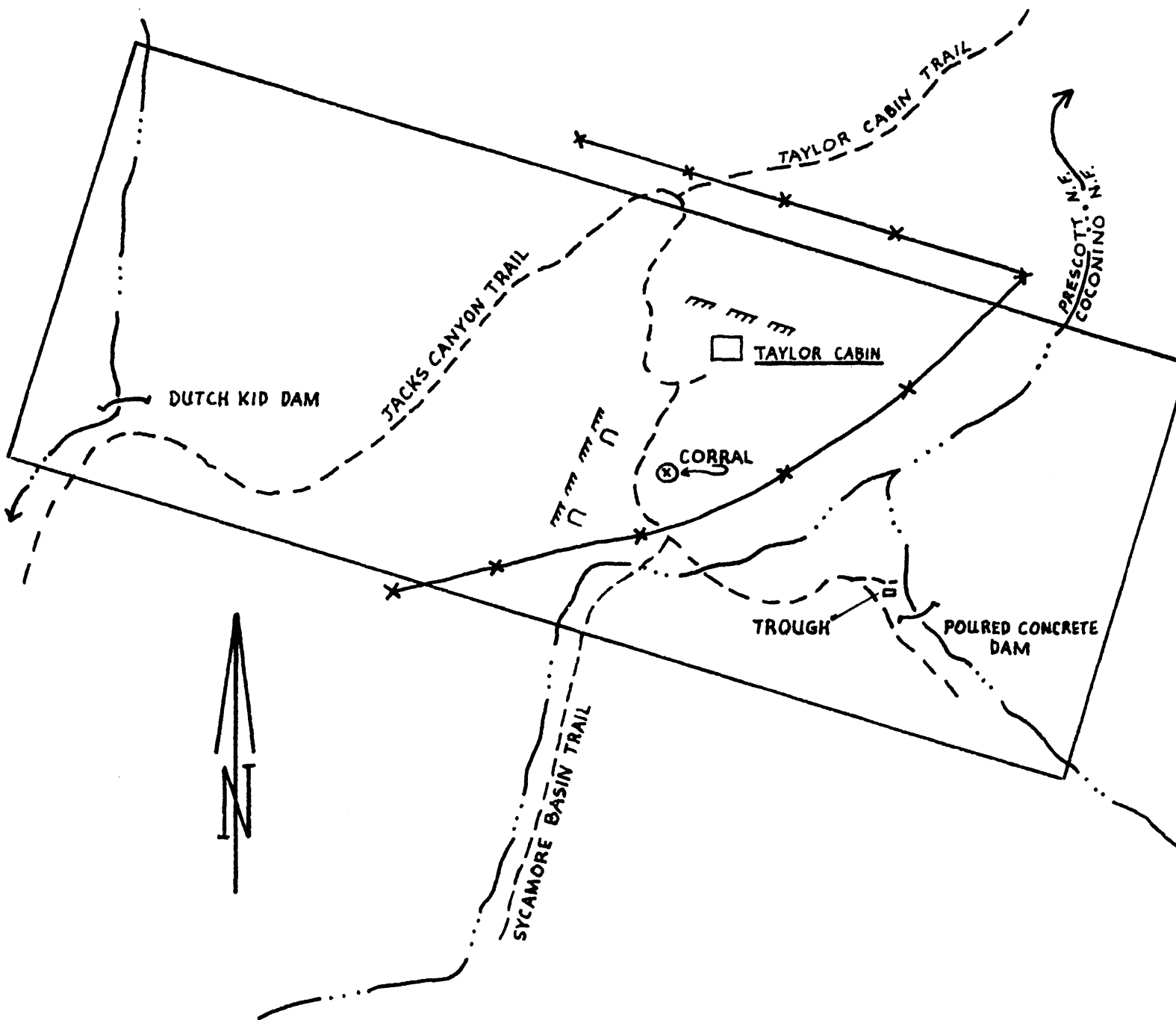
PAGE

1








1904 Survey Plat, Township 19 North, Range 4 East, Surveyor General's Office,  
surveyed by Andrew Barry, 1902-1903.

"The Southern Sinagua", by Peter Pilles, Jr., 1981, Plateau  
53:1 ppg. 6-17.

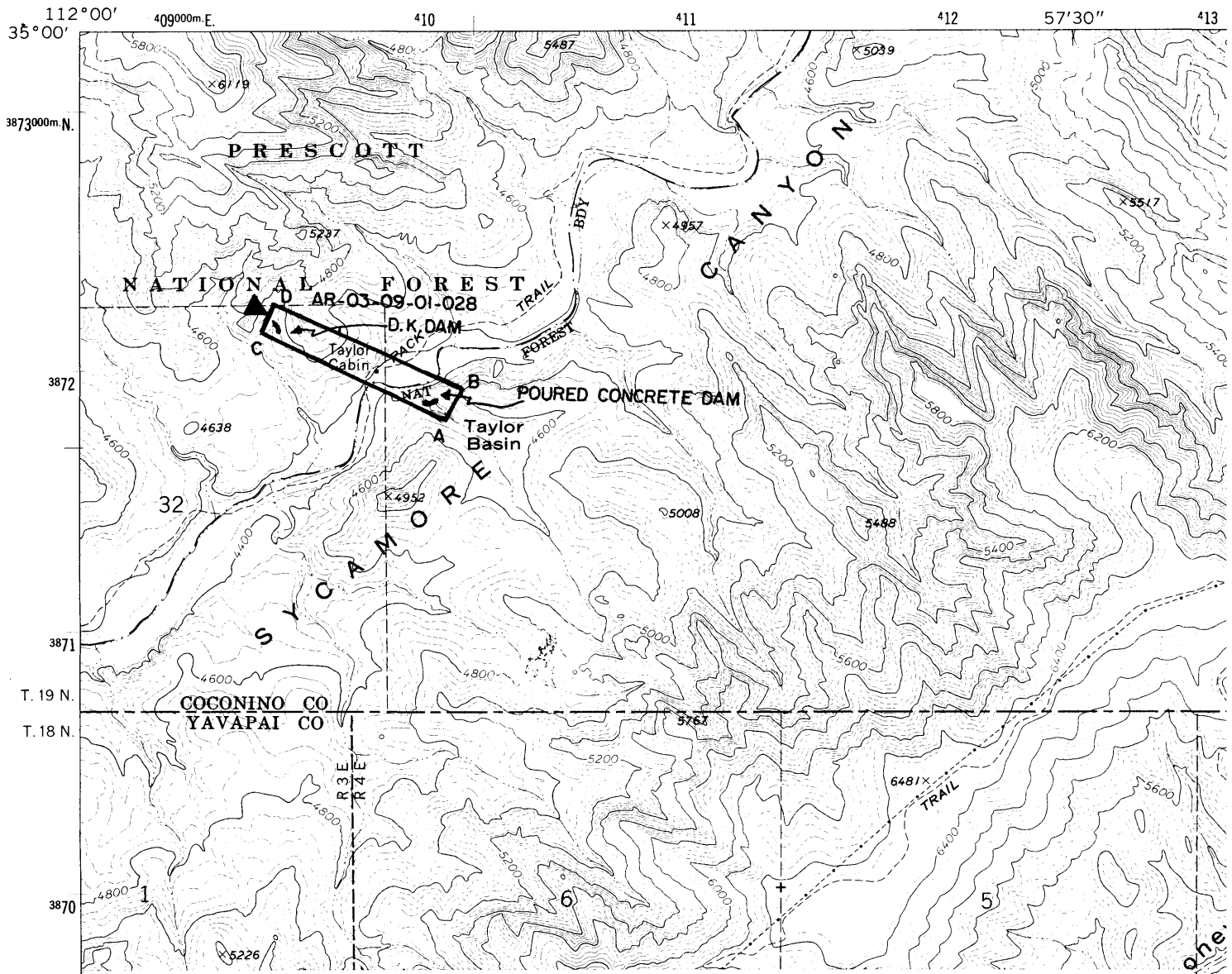
Interviews: A. L. Favour, Prescott, Arizona, February 1982  
Marion Perkins, Jr., Hat Ranch, Ashfork, Arizona, March 1982  
Thomas Y. Perkins, Chino Valley, Arizona, February 1982 and September 1984  
Zeke Taylor, Cottonwood, Arizona, January 1982  
Duane Miller, Flagstaff, Arizona, January 1982



**TAYLOR CABIN  
SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS  
PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST  
COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST  
LEGEND**

	NOMINATED AREA BOUNDARY
	BLUFF
	CAVE
	DAM
	TRAIL
	CREEK
	FENCE

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
DRAWN BY S. STONE



# TAYLOR CABIN LINE CAMP SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

### UTM REFERENCE

- A 12-410090-3871790
- B 12-410158-3871900
- C 12-409385-3872135
- D 12-409438-3872238

### LEGEND

- NOMINATED AREA BOUNDARY
- DAM
- INVENTORIED ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

Drafted By: V. Sifford  
11/5/84

