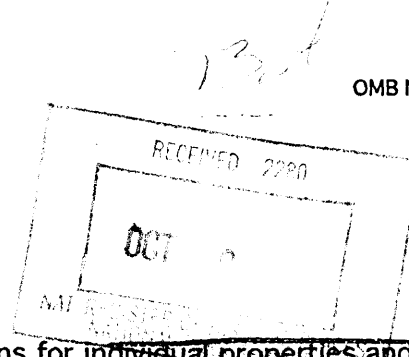


(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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

=====

Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Overland Mail Co. Stage Station at Picacho Pass AZ  
historic name \_\_\_\_\_

other names/site number \_ Battle of Picacho Pass

=====

#### 2. Location

=====

One mile northwest of Interstate 10 Interchange #219, opposite Arizona Picacho Peak State Park  
not for publication \_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_ Picacho \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity X  
state Arizona \_\_\_\_\_ code \_ AZ \_ county Pinal \_\_\_\_\_ code 021 \_\_\_\_\_ zip code  
85241

=====

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

James W. Bowman ATSHPO 1 OCTOBER 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====



Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Not in use _____	Sub:	_____
---	Not in use _____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

   N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other    One Site with different features \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof \_\_\_\_\_  
 walls \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X 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" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. a birthplace or a 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)

Military \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1858-1862

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1858

- 1862

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder [Stage Station]- Overland Mail Company

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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

X Other

Name of repository: William R. Strader, 4940 N. Avenida Largo, Tucson AZ 85745

\_\_\_\_\_



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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property \_\_ 774 \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 12	459240	3615580	3. 12	462900	3613600
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 12	459240	3616320	4. 12	462900	3612740

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

name/title \_\_ William R. Strader  
organization \_ Historical Research Association of Southern Arizona date April 1, 2002\_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_4940 N. Avenida Largo \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_ 520/743-9587\_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_ Tucson \_\_\_\_\_ state AZ \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_ 85745 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Documentation**

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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 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**

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_ Arizona State Land Department

street & number \_ 1616 West Adams \_\_\_\_\_ telephone 602/542-2767 \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state AZ \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 85007 \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Overland Mail Stage Station

Section 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 \_\_\_\_\_

name of property  
Pinal Co., Arizona

county and State

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The 2-3/4 mile by 1/4 mile site consists of 774 acres of the Sonoran Desert covering portions of Township 8S, Range 9E, Sections 32 and 33; and Township 9S, Range 9E, Sections 3,4, and 10. Its elevation rises from 1700' on the west to 1750' on the east. Primary drainage is by the McClellan Wash, which runs for some 13 miles along the east side of the Picacho Mountains, and in that time period, continued south past the east side of Picacho Peak to the Santa Cruz River. After the Southern Pacific Railroad was built through the Pass in 1880, the channel changed to drain through the Pass running to the northwest. This caused extensive sheet flooding which destroyed the remnants of the Overland Mail Picacho Station. A very short distance west of the station, the formation of narrow arroyos flowing towards and, or parallel to, the railroad is shown on modern topographic maps as McClellan Wash. Other than at the stage station, the terrain is very similar to that as described by Lt. Shinn seven weeks after the skirmish. He wrote in his report that at the skirmish site graves, 13.9 miles from Blue Water Stage Station, there were "...graves [of 3 Union killed in skirmish] on left of road, The chaleos or water holes, now dry, are in mesquite, on the right side of the road. Here quite a thicket; some grass, but dry. The road is level, or nearly so, for 3 or 4 miles." This thicket was the site of the main skirmish and is an accurate description of the that area today. As you enter the western Skirmish Boundary as shown in photo #1, you continue on the old mail road for about a mile, the present State Land road then veers left as in Photo 2 and the mail road goes straight ahead on a well defined, slightly depressed roadway heading straight towards the main skirmish site about a mile farther. Other than a few modern visual distractions - communication towers on Newman Peak to the north and near Picacho Peak Interchange of Interstate 10, both several miles away, nothing is severely distracting. The worst offender is the railroad some 700' from the skirmish site, but is unseen due to heavy chaparral, but obviously is noisy while trains pass. Photos 3 and 4 are looking towards the tracks at the skirmish site and nothing can be seen. Lt. Shinn stated that exactly one mile east of the skirmish site was the stage station. After the station was abandoned in 1861 after only 3 years, the road was rapidly overgrown and is now difficult to trace. After the Civil War, Wells Fargo took over, eliminated that station due to poor water supply and used one 8 miles farther west. They moved the road slightly north, but within the boundary, avoiding the deep arroyos. The artifact site mentioned in the archaeological report lies a short distance west from the stage station, undisturbed by sheet flooding, and though not described by participants, was probably similar to that vegetation shown in Photo 17.

Additional Details

On June 1 of 1862, Lt. John B. Shinn, Commanding Officer of Light Battery A, 3rd United States Artillery, was ordered to leave Ft. Barrett at Casa Blanca Stage Station "...with battery, one ambulance, and eight transportation wagons (loaded to 3,600 pounds with ammunition, flour, and forage), 87 men and 153 animals." as per Special Orders No. 15, Headquarters Column from California. His detailed report of odometer readings, vegetation description, and water supplies between mail stations was instrumental in confirming locations of pertinent sites in battlefield area. He passed through Picacho Pass on June 4th seven weeks after the skirmish. The other details of the terrain came from participants and their comrades in conversations hours after the skirmish and noted in diaries and articles written later as well as after-action reports of the two commanders of the forces involved. Using Surveyor Office Maps and their journals of the early 1880's, we have adjusted the scale of their maps to coincide with present topographic maps and superimposed the old mail road onto the new and correcting it with on site investigations. We then used Shinn's mileages to nearest 10ths from adjoining known stage stations to place the sites with acceptable accuracy.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7, 8 Page 2

Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Original Picacho Overland Mail  
Stage Station of the Overland Mail

name of property

Pinal County, Arizona  
county and State

name of multiple property listing

=====

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)**

The Pass lies between Picacho Mountains and Picacho Peak. The latter is an extremely rugged ridge of almost solid rock, geologically separate from the mountains just to the north, rising to 3382' and running in a northwest-southeast direction. About two miles to the north across the Pass lies the south end of the Picacho Mountains running 14 miles to the north with its high point, Newman Peak, 4508' high at the Pass end. The Pass itself is 1750', with very gradual access slopes of less than 1% grade on either side

Modern intrusions of structures, etc. into the skirmish site have been for the most part minor except for the aforementioned railroad. No structures are seen from here, except communication towers on Newman Peak in the Picacho Mountains. One mile southeast is the Picacho Stage Station site and from there the railroad is farther away, but still hidden. However, communication towers near the Interstate Exit can be seen 3/4 mile distant and Interstate 10 parallels the railroad, but being farther south it can barely be heard or seen. The terrain is very much like it was in the 1860s.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**SUMMARY**

The Picacho Pass Skirmish is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because its real significance must be seen in the effect it had on the development of Arizona. It showed the Confederates that they had no chance of securing control of the Gadsen Purchase area south of the Gila River. Additionally, in order to separate the strong factions of Confederate sympathizers in the New Mexico Territory which extended from the Colorado to the eastern border of what is now New Mexico, a new border was created to establish a north-south border separating New Mexico from Arizona Territories as it is now. The Confederate's dream of having a nation extending to the Pacific coast would have been a boon to having European countries giving their new nation legitimacy. The most important value would have been the acquisition of the great mineral resources and wealth from the West and change the economic balance between the North and South. Also important was that many of the Union force-the California Volunteers, were of good character, hard workers and many were former gold miners, and after the War settled in Arizona and New Mexico boosting their economy.

Counting the battles at Valverde, Glorieta Pass, as well as the minor actions at Stanwix, Picacho Pass, Peralto, La Mesilla, and Albuquerque, a total of some 6,000 men were involved and nearly 1,000 were killed or wounded for the same cause as was fought in the east.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section  8   
Mail

Page  3

Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Original Picacho Overland  
Station

name of property  
 Pinal County, Arizona   
county and State]

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

The site of the Picacho Overland Mail and later Wells Fargo Stage Station deserves recognition for both its historic transportation value and its related importance to the Skirmish site.

#### Additional Information

In order to properly understand the Civil War engagement at Picacho Pass, Arizona Territory, it is necessary to understand the most influential geographical factor in the events leading to the skirmish. That factor was the establishment of the mail road through Arizona by John Butterfield's Overland Mail Company. It ran from St. Louis to San Francisco over an all weather route south through Texas, and what became New Mexico and Arizona and into California.

The construction started in the east and came through this part of Arizona in late 1858 and early 1859. The portion of the mail road most pertinent to this narrative started at Stanwix Station about halfway between Yuma and Gila Bend, Arizona, then through several other stations to the Casa Blanca station at the western edge of the present Pima Indian village of Casa Blanca. The road continued east 12 miles to the Pima Village of Sacaton (these two were of a group of Pima villages referred to at the time as the Pimos). Then it went south 12 miles to Oneida Station, continuing south another 12 miles to Blue Water Station, just east of today's Toltec. From here it went southeast for 15 miles to the original Picacho Station located in Picacho Pass. The Southern Pacific Railroad (now the Union Pacific Railroad) followed alongside the mail road for some 38 miles to Tucson, when the railroad was built in 1880. These locations and distances are an important part of this narrative.

In 1861 it was decided to withdraw most of the Union forces from New Mexico-Arizona Territories, placed there to protect the settlers and the mail roads from the Indians. They went to various West Coast ports, leaving their weapons, equipment, horses, and mules at government arsenals, and left by ship for the East Coast. After being reoutfitted, they engaged the Confederates there. The Overland Mail Company, left without army protection, as well as under Union suspicion of being sympathetic to the Confederate cause, abandoned their line west of El Paso. In the same year, the Union decided to ask California to organize a militia force to protect the mail roads and settlers from the Indians and secessionists, as well as other reasons. They eventually called themselves the California Volunteers. They were under the command of Colonel James Henry Carleton and were armed and equipped with the stored military supplies in the western arsenals. At the same time, the Confederacy decided that it was a good time to expand west from Texas to California.

After careful training in the area around Camp Carleton. San Bernardino, California, Carleton's force headed towards Arizona via the Overland Mail road. It offered a well traveled wagon road, some shelter and the all important water wells, and often forage for their horses and mules. His force was reported to be 2350 strong, but this was only if all companies were at full strength, which is doubted by some. Upon arrival at Yuma, the main force regrouped as they had to cross the California desert in small groups so as to not overtax the water supplies. They spent some time here to train and to try to break in their California horses for combat, as the big cavalry Morgans left behind were deemed not up to a long desert march.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Mail Station  
name of property  
\_\_\_ Pinal County, Arizona  
county and State]

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

A Union commander at Fort Yuma, Major Edward A. Rigg, became concerned for a Union sympathizer, Ammi White. White operated a mill, Overland Mail Station and a trading post at a location near Casa Blanca and had sent back much information on what the Confederates, who now occupied Tucson, were doing. As he hadn't been heard from in some time, Rigg dispatched Captain William McCleave, a highly valued officer, and a few cavalry to visit White and see what was happening. Upon arrival at the Casa Blanca site, they approached the trading post, and not knowing what White looked like, mistakenly assumed that the stranger summoned by the man answering the door was White. After a few minutes of conversation, McCleave revealed how few men he had. As the room filled with about thirty men, "White" identified himself as Captain Sherod Hunter, commander of the Confederate force in Tucson. Being dressed in civilian clothes as was common for the Confederates in this area, McCleave and his men were completely fooled and were made prisoners of war. The Confederates soon left after dismantling part of the mill and partially burning it down.

Upon learning of this, Major Rigg, now in Stanwix with a major force, dispatched Captain William P. Calloway as commanding officer of detachment of 272 men to rescue McCleave. They consisted of:

- Remnants of Cavalry Company A, 1st Cavalry Regiment, California Volunteers, whose company commander was Captain McCleave, now a prisoner of war
- A few men from Company B, same regiment
- Cavalry Company D, same regiment, Capt. Nathaniel J. Pishon, commanding officer
- Infantry Company I, Capt. Calloway (now force commander)
- Artillery Company, assigned but unattached recruits and volunteer infantrymen from Co. I, armed with two 12 pounder brass mountain howitzers. 2nd Lieutenant Jeremiah Phelen, commanding officer.

Their orders were to catch up with the Confederates and release Captain McCleave. Major Rigg had also hired Pauline Weaver, a scout who had been in this area for decades, to go in advance of Calloway's force and report back to him via Indian messengers what he found on his way to Tucson. This was a cause of some delay, but the information was received that Confederate pickets were at the abandoned Overland Mail Station at Picacho Pass. On Monday April 14, 1862, Calloway then left the Pimos Villages, probably about two miles east of Casa Blanca Station, and followed the Overland Mail Road as they had from California towards Picacho Pass. In his after-action report of April 18, 1862 to Major Rigg, Calloway specifically mentions that he "proceeded to the Picacha [sic] Pass or Station...where an engagement took place between my Advance [sic] and the enemy's pickets."

Captain Calloway followed alongside the Little Gila River in Sacaton, encamped on the river at Sacaton, then continued through a pass between Sacaton Mountains and Thin Mountain. They traveled on a good road to the abandoned Oneida Stage Station with its excellent well of cold, sweet water capable of watering all the horses and mules. They continued on to Blue Water Stage Station, located just northwest of the present Eleven Mile Corner Road and Shedd Road, about a 1-1/2 miles east of present village of Toltec. This was a hard days march of 32 miles for the heavily burdened infantry. As Calloway's force headed southeast along the mail road and neared the Pass, Private J. C. Hall wrote years later that their "...orders were to proceed with greatest caution

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

and under no circumstances were to discharge a musket or make unusual noises. The white covers were taken from our wagons so they would not attract attention."

This location had water and feed for the livestock, and was 13 airline miles from the west end of the Picacho Peak vantage point. The Union force's officers were justified to expect that some of the pickets with their horses would be spread out across the two mile wide pass to cover the mail road running down the middle.

THE ACTION

On Tuesday, April 15, 1862, (The Confederates dated the engagement as on April 16th, as does the National Archives, but subsequent Hunter documents seem to indicate a confusion on his part on dates at this time) Confederate Sgt. Henry Holmes, a veteran Arizona frontiersman but apparently not a militarily oriented man, with nine Cavalry privates had been encamped for some time at the Picacho (Pass) Stage Station, having been left there by Capt. Hunter on his retreat from Casa Blanca . . The approach from the west was water washed clay and very smooth, extending for miles on either side of the road. It had been a wet spring and thousands of poppies and lupine were in bloom on the lower slopes. A short distance into the Pass, a heavy thicket of mesquite was on the south side of the road with some grass.

Capt. Calloway's after-action report continues: "On the morning of the 15th, I ordered Lt. [James] Barrett to take an advance party of 12 men [including a non-commissioned officer], and Mr. [John W.] Jones for a guide and proceed around the Pichaca {sic}mountain to cut off the enemy's pickets, if stationed at the pass." Lt. Barrett's detachment of Company A, 1st Cavalry Regiment, California Volunteers was ordered to make a detour east through a saddle, which generally lines up with the present Houser Road east off AZ Highway 87, over the Picacho Mountains, then proceed south to the east end of the Pass rendezvousing with Lt. Ephraim Baldwin from the same unit with 12 men riding southward to keep away from detection of the pickets, then proceed east, south of Picacho Peak, then north to meet Barrett's detachment. This would put 26 Union men and a guide behind the pickets, blocking any escape to warn Capt. Hunter's Confederates in Tucson that the Union forces were not two-thirds of the way to Yuma but in their own backyard. Capt. Calloway's main force of 246 men was then to march into the Pass from the west and "force the surrender of the pickets, likely without any loss of men."

According to their sergeant, the Confederates had been up the mountain, possibly at the volcanic knoll on the western slope of Picacho Peak or on an southwestern extension of Picacho Mountains earlier in the day and saw nothing unusual on the Mail Road coming from the west. They remained complacent, thinking that the nearest Union forces were still at "Gennels" [sic](actually Grinnall's Stage Station or even better known as Stanwix, between Yuma and Gila Bend). They returned to their campsite next to the Stage Station.

A very descriptive account of the skirmish was done by a participant, Pvt. J.C. Hall who was attached to the Artillery Company in Caldwell's main force, from information obtained from Barrett's troops as well as his own experiences. His account states that about 3 o'clock in the afternoon Barrett's patrol arrived at the area where they expected to find the pickets that were not on duty at their posts in the Pass. "(T)he Indian [actually the white guide, Mr. John W. Jones] told them to stop, and then dropping on his hands and knees he

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Station  
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county and State

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

crawled like a panther...through the brush and grass till he came to an opening and saw 10 or more men seated in a circle on the grass playing cards. They were not dreaming of the approach of our command..." The scout crept back to tell what he had observed and requested twice that Barrett dismount and lead their horses in to continue the surprise, a move overridden by Barrett,. Suddenly, Barrett and his men dashed in among the rebels at the stage stop. The Confederates were on the point of surrendering ." [W]hen Barrett purposely or by accident, discharged his pistol, which they supposed was a movement to shoot them down. The Confederates returned the fire." The first returning fire emptied four saddles, when the Confederates retired a short ways further west following the mail road,( on accompanying map referred to as munitions artifact site) and had time to reload. They made a stand, then further retreated west along the road. The emptied saddles likely weren't all to have been the result of enemy fire, though several Union were probably wounded at this time. The lack of experienced cavalry horses used to close-in firing had their toll of thrown riders. Capt. Barrett called to his men to follow him on their horses. A mile west of the stage stop, the fleeing Confederates made a determined stand hiding in the dense mesquite thickest just south of the mail road. Barrett's force overran three rebels including their sergeant. He dismounted to aid in tying them up, and as he remounted, he was mortally wounded and shortly died.

As the fighting continued, Pvt. George Johnson was shot near the heart and died in a few moments. Pvt. William Leonard was shot in the back with the ball ranging upwards exiting out of his mouth and died the next morning. When the approaching main Union force was notified of the engagement by a messenger, the cavalry units were rushed forward. A trooper named George Brandon, a saddler of Company D, 1st California Cavalry, said when they arrived they found Lt. Barrett's body with the index fingers of each hand in the bullet holes in his neck, trying to stop the flow of blood. Barrett's men were still pointing their weapons towards the thicket. They shortly found that the pickets had disappeared. The three men were buried on the north side of the road within paces of where they were killed. Pvt. William Tobin was shot on the forehead but the brass insignias on his hat deflected the ball upwards and left an ugly scar but not fatal wound. Corporal James Botsford and Pvt. Peter Glenn suffered wounds in the arm and shoulder, probably earlier in the fire fight. The Confederates lost three men as prisoners of war, no fatalities, and Capt. Hunter, normally very frank in his after-action reports, made no mention of any wounded, only the prisoners taken.

Somehow the seven surviving pickets managed to get through the dense mesquite thicket back to their horses at the stage stop corral. Whether some were prevented to reach their horses and walked to Tucson is not known. The important fact is that some reached Tucson to spread the warning -exactly what the Union plan was to prevent.

The captured Rebels told them that the Confederates were "in large numbers" and "strongly fortified" in Tucson. Author Hall related that night the uneasy Californians put out pickets in the Pass and "placed our little battery where we could command a clearing in front, and had everything ready should the Texans [actually half were Arizonans and only numbered about a hundred], march on us in the morning." Finally, the Union troops "lay down to get what rest we could.

"Their sleep was fitful. Pvt. Leonard, who had been shot through the back, and whose "groans could be heard at every hour of the night" kept many awake. Hall remembered "suddenly we were awakened by a command to turn out and bury the dead...[T]he moon was shining brightly.... We rose quickly to a half dazed condition.... The scenes being enacted before us in the wild pass in the mountain, with lazy misty light falling

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE (CONTINUED)

around and casting strange shadows upon the men as they moved about...like so many specters, with now and then a command given in a whisper to perform the last sad duty to our comrades. Seemed unnatural.... The graves being dug, without a word or a prayer we rolled the bodies in their blankets and laid them to rest." In the morning, Pvt. Leonard died. Hall continues "We placed him by the sides of our comrades and covered their graves with wild cactus, so that the wolves would not disturb them, and our sad duty was over." That morning, Calloway thinking he was outnumbered, retreated back to Casa Blanca, where he was stopped by the main force and shortly headed back to Tucson with them.

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Maps: Surveyor General Office Maps:

Township 7 south, Range 8 east, Gila & Salt River Meridian, Arizona #1740, Surveyed Nov. 19, 1913

Ditto, #1739, Surveyed Sept.-Dec., 1887  
Portion of T8S, R8E, Surveyed 1889.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section   9   Page   8   Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Original Picacho Overland Mail  
Station  
name of property  
   Pinal County, Arizona  
county and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources (Continued)

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Ditto, Surveyed April, 1916, corrected March, 1920  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   9  , 10, PHOTOS         
Overland Mail

Page   9  

Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Original Picacho  
Station  
name of property  
   Pinal County, Arizona  
county and State

BIOGRAPHY

Secondary Sources (Continued)

Maps

U.S. Dept. Of Interior Geological Topographical 7-1/2 minute Maps.

Jaynes Quadrangle, Rev. 1992  
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Red Rock Quadrangle, Rev. 1993  
Picacho Reservoir SE Quadrangle, 1996  
Picacho Pass Quadrangle, 1980  
Newman Peak Quadrangle, 1981

Eloy North Quadrangle, Rev. 1982  
Coolidge Quadrangle, Rev. 1982  
Casa Grande Quadrangle, 1992  
Sacaton Quadrangle, Rev 1981  
Gila Butte SE Quadrangle, Rev. 1981  
Sacaton Butte Quadrangle, Rev. 1967

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References (Continued)

5.	12	460500	3614500	7.	12	460000	3614840
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
6.	12	460500	3614840				

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Boundary includes enough of the old mail road on either side of the engagement so as to give the sense of isolation that was so much part of the events. The southern boundary follows the north side of the railroad right of way and adjoins the northern boundary of Picacho State Park in the event future incorporation of the battle site into the Park becomes a reality. The western boundary is to include the only existing practical access road to the site, as well as a one mile section of the old mail road.

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Section PHOTOS Page 10 Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Original Picacho  
Overland Mail Station  
name of property  
Pinal County, Arizona  
county and State

PHOTOS Photographer: William Strader, 2001

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Looking east on Overland Mail Road built in 1858. The cross road is the access road of the State Land Department from the frontage road. The old mail road and the present road coincide southeast from here for just under one mile.
2.	The abandoned mail road continued straight ahead, while the present road veers to the right and basically parallels the old road.
3.	Area where the main skirmish happened as the Confederates sought shelter in the dense mesquite thicket and the Union were more in the open. The mail road remnant is in the clearing in the foreground. This whole area is remarkably similar as was described by Lt. Shinn, USA, on his travel through on the mail road seven weeks after the skirmish.
4.	Same area as previous photo, but taken 30' to the left.
5.	On present road looking south towards the stage station which is about 0.2 of a mile away. Picacho Peak is in background.
6.	Photo taken at same spot as previous, but looking northeast. Eastern edge of Picacho Mountains is at left background. Lt. Barrett likely approached stage stop from right of volcanic knoll.
7.	A view from same spot as #5 & 6, but looking in opposite direction-southwest. The northwest end of Picacho Peak is at the left, while another volcanic knoll is at the right and very likely the Confederate's lookout point for observing the mail road coming from the west. About 0.2 of a mile away from spot is the main artifact site where the Confederates made their first stand.
8.	View south of where photo #5 was taken, on way to stage station, showing nearest modern building site of restaurant and service station, as well as microwave tower about nine tenths of a mile away.
9.	View taken from previous spot looking towards Picacho Peak. Old mail road passed left to right just the other side of saguaro. Stage stop was just a short distance to left of saguaro.
10.	Mail road as it is today, passing on right of saguaro shown in above photo. Note surveyor's tape on each side of road. Stage stop is short distance ahead.

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- Section PHOTOS Page 11 Picacho Pass Skirmish Site/ Original Picacho  
Overland Mail Station  
name of property  
Pinal County, Arizona  
county and State
11. Approximate location of 1858 Overland Mail stage station
  12. Same area as above.
  13. View of station area from the north side with Picacho Peak in background.
  14. View from station area looking south. Highway I-10 is in middle background with railroad closer.
  15. Mail road looking towards Tucson from station area.
  16. View from the present road just south of Boundary point 3 looking south to point 4. The Interstate highway can be seen in middle background. With the Union Pacific Railroad and the Boundary point 4 about 600' this side of highway where the darker trees are near the truck. The Peak is in background.
  17. Site of first stand made by Confederates after being surprised by the Union at the stage station just past the saguaro in the background. A number of Civil War munitions artifacts were found here by a citizen with a metal detector in the 1980's. They have been turned over to the State Museum in Tucson for evaluation. Their report is attached as Item 20. More modern ammunition shell casings were also found there. It is known that the area was the site of an Arizona Ranger unit after the Civil War in the 1880's.

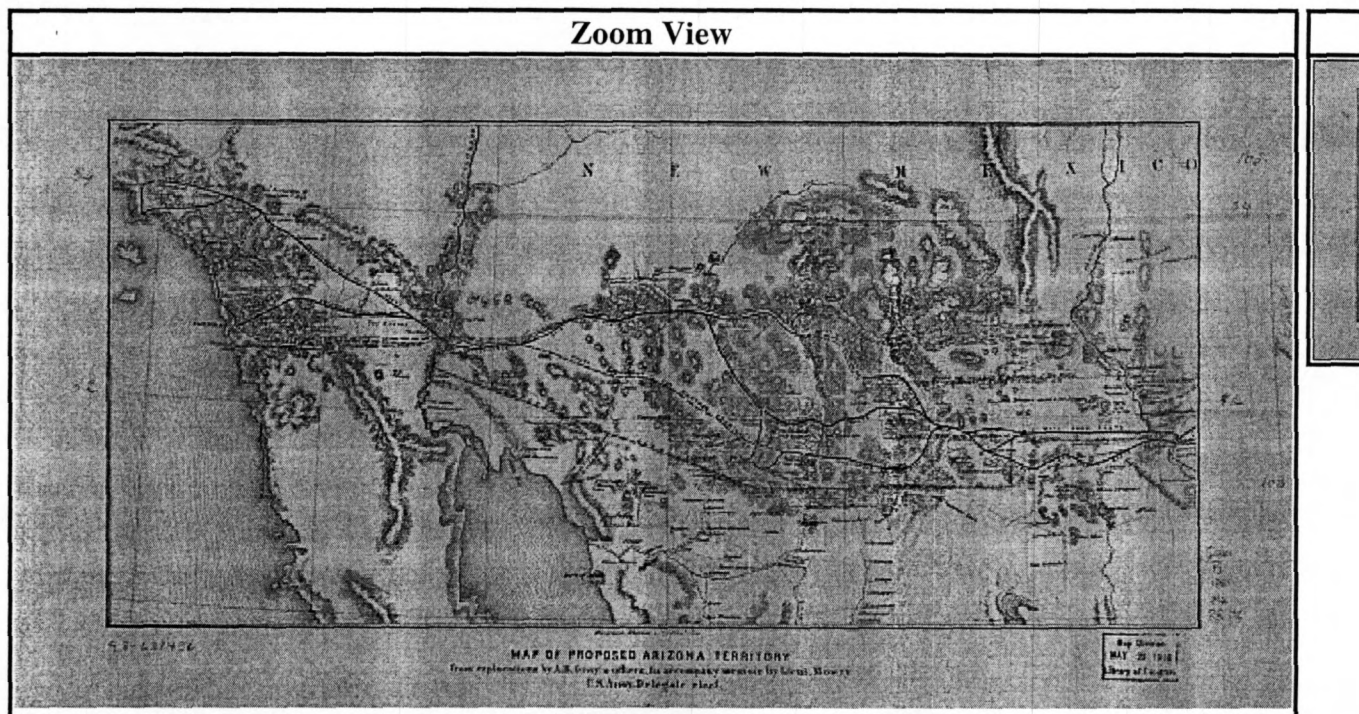
Additional Documentation

- 1857 map of New Mexico Territory
- 1867 map showing Arizona and New Mexico territories.
- Overland Mail Company road through Arizona Territory. Drawn by W. Strader.
- Detailed map of Picacho Pass Skirmish Site.
- Newman Peak Quad marked with information about skirmish.
- Arizona State Museum Site No. AA:7:502 (ASM) Project Report, Madsen.

## Map of proposed Arizona Territory.

Gray, A.B., Cincinnati, Middleton, Wallace & Co. Lithos., 1857. Library of Congress.

To change view, select desired zoom level and window size from the options below the Zoom View window and then click on the image. The display will be centered where you click. To move up, down, left, or right within a zoom level, click near the edge of the image in the Zoom View or select an area in the Navigator View. The red box on the Navigator View indicates the area of the image being viewed in the Zoom View.



Zoom In     Zoom Out [Full Image](#)

Window size  256 x 256  400 x 400  600 x 400  640 x 480  Initial (632 x 322)

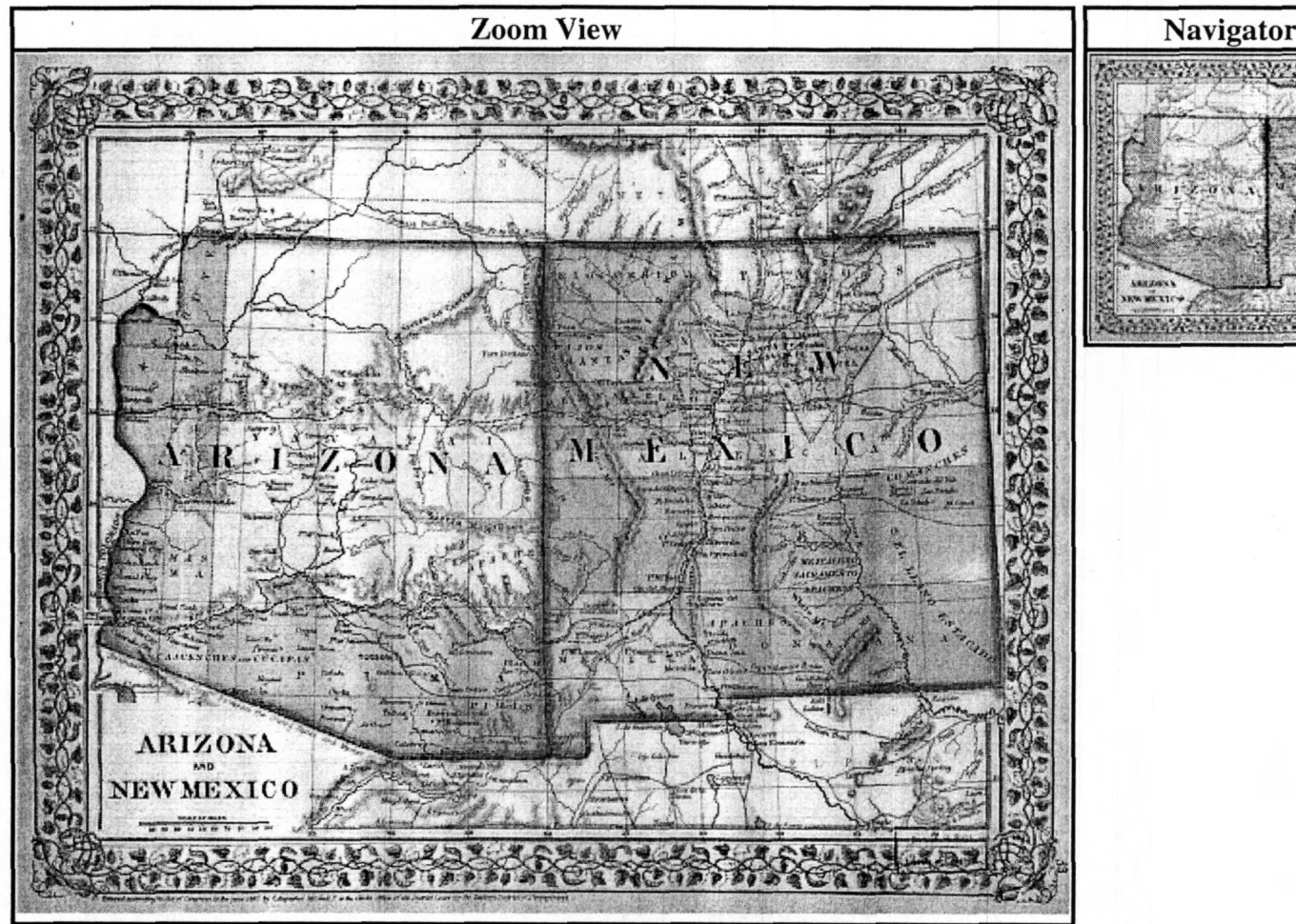
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### Arizona and New Mexico.

Mitchell, S. Augustus, 1867. Library of Congress.

To change view, select desired zoom level and window size from the options below the Zoom View window and then click on the image. The display will be centered where you click. To move up, down, left, or right within a zoom level, click near the edge of the image in the Zoom View or select an area in the Navigator View. The red box on the Navigator View indicates the area of the image being viewed in the Zoom View.



Zoom In     Zoom Out      Full Image

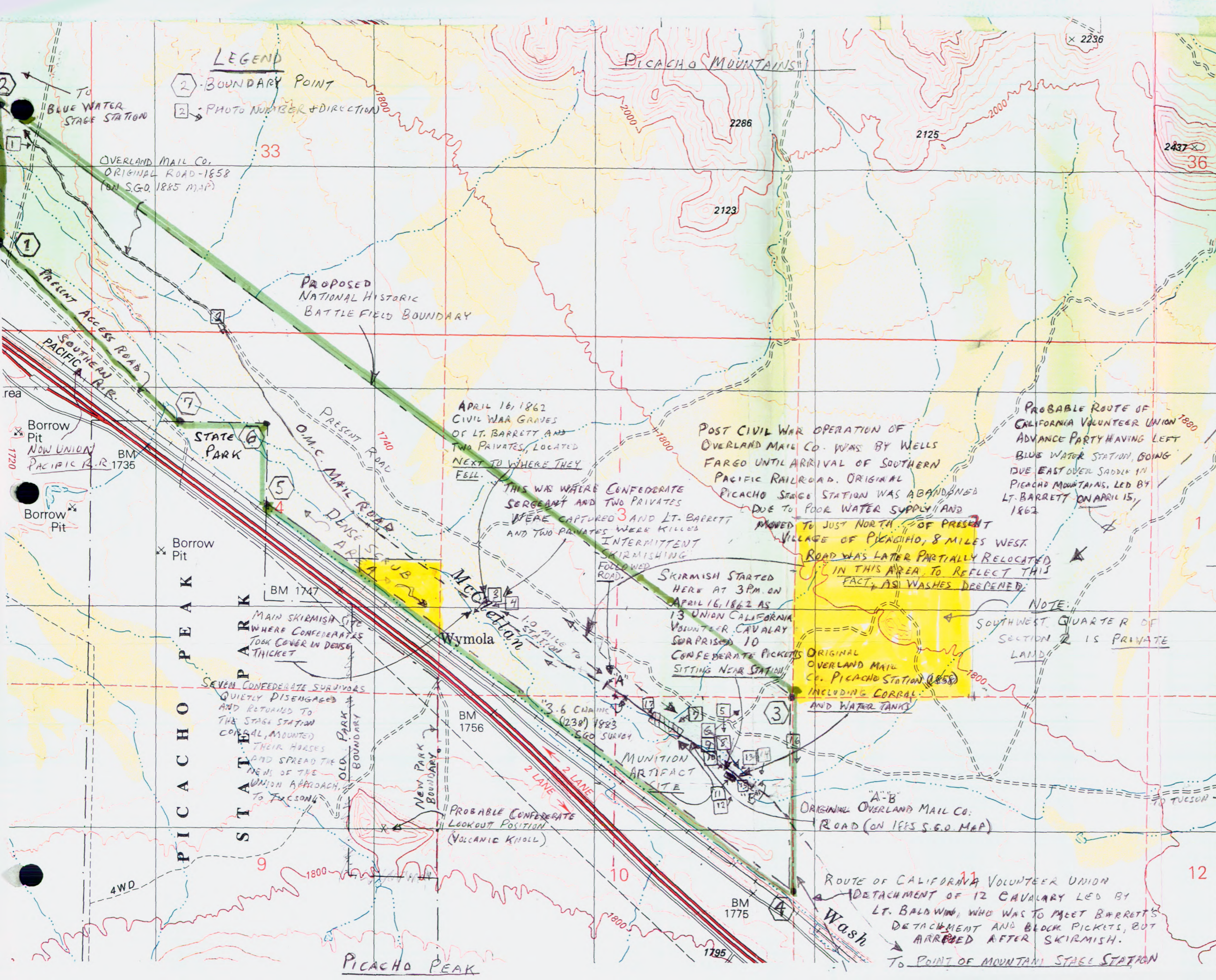
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[Home Page](#)



# DETAILED MAP OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PASS SKIRMISH IN ARIZONA TERRITORY. ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1862



T 8 S  
T 9 S

3615 LT. JAMES BARRETT, Co. A, 1st Cavalry Regiment, California Volunteers (Union Forces) was ordered by Capt. William P. Calloway, Commander of 272 Main Force of California Volunteers, to head east from Blue Water Stage Station, go over Picacho Mtns, and proceed to east end of Picacho Pass and meet Lt. Ephraim Baldwin, ordered to go south of Picacho Peak. They were to

3614 Block escape of the Confederate pickets stationed there

U.T.M. REFERENCES ZONE 12

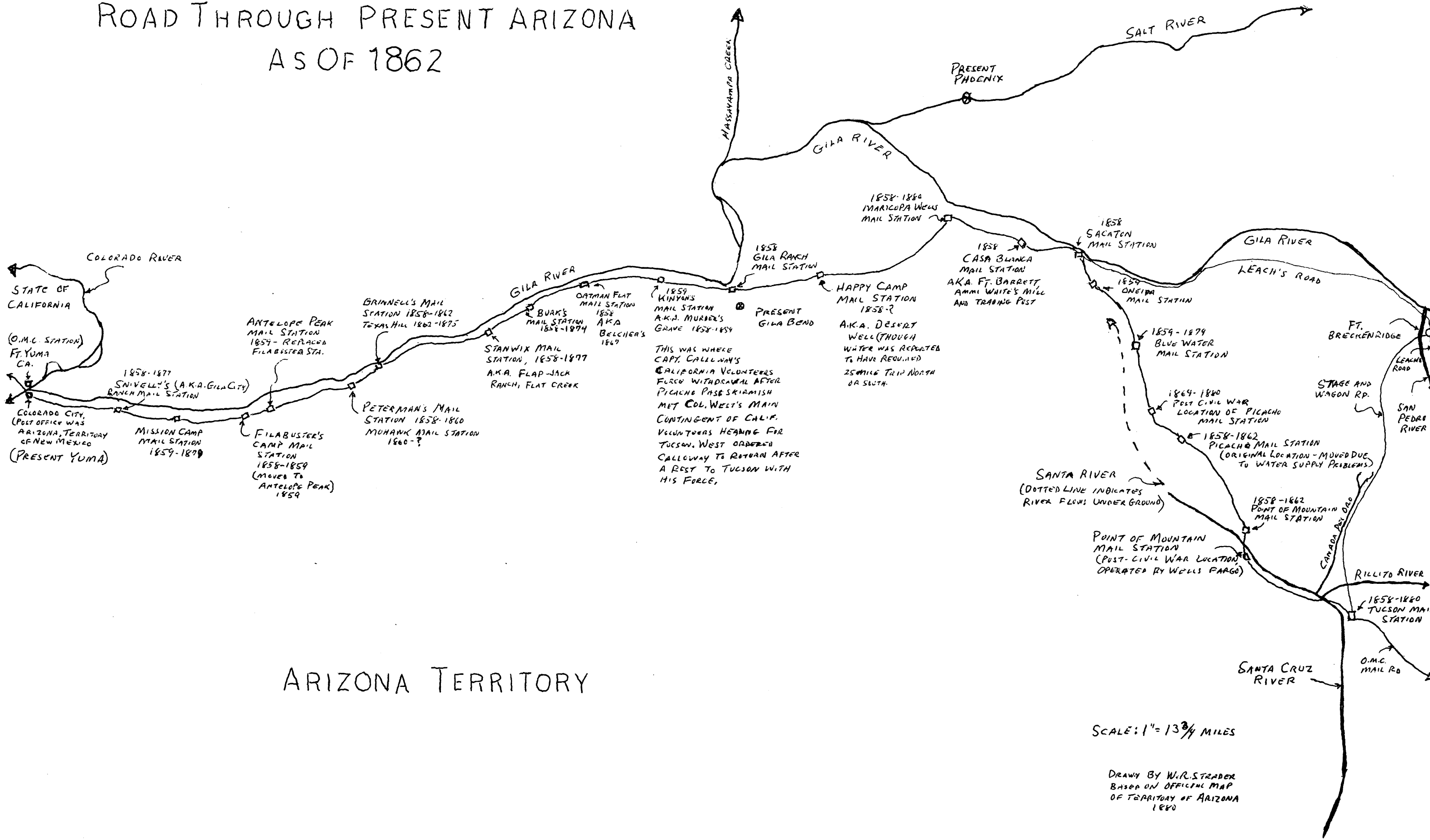
1	459240 E	3615580 N
2	459240 E	3616320 N
3	462900 E	3613600 N
4	462900 E	3612740 N
5	460500 E	3614500 N
6	460500 E	3614840 N
7	460000 E	3614840 N

NOTE: YELLOW SHADED AREAS ARE:  
STATE GRAZING LEASE - 14.7 ACRES

SCALE 1 MILE = 3 15/16"  
ENLARGED 150%  
W.R. STRADER



# OVERLAND MAIL COMPANY'S 7<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION ROAD THROUGH PRESENT ARIZONA AS OF 1862



ARIZONA TERRITORY

SCALE: 1" = 13 3/4 MILES

DRAWN BY W.R. STRADER  
BASED ON OFFICIAL MAP  
OF TERRITORY OF ARIZONA  
1860



Field No.: 16 Recorder: William Strader, Eleanor Stader Madsen, John H.

Recording Organization: ASMUA

NatlReg Opinion Eligible

Date Recorded: 2/18/00

Proj. Name: Looking for the Butterfield Station Picacho Pass

Site Name: None

Land Status: State Trust

Owner/Agency name: Arizona State Land Department

Survey Collections (check if Yes)  Repository Inst: ASMUA

Report Ref: Related: The Picacho Pass Skirmish, April 15, 1862 by William and Eleanor Strader June 06, 1999

Location

USGS Map: Newman Peak Series: 7.5 State: AZ Co.: Pinal El: 1755 ft

Site Size 10000 Length: 100 Width: 100 How measured pace

	BL	TWN	RNG	SC	SUBDIVISION
Center UTM: Z <u>12</u> E <u>462550</u> N <u>3613390</u>					
Peri UTM E <u>0</u> N <u>0</u>	<u>GI</u>	<u>9S</u>	<u>9E</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>NWSWNE4</u>
UTM derived by: GPS E <u>0</u> N <u>0</u>					
Site Remarks: E <u>0</u> N <u>0</u>					

Wagon road w/ associated artifacts See GLO T9S, R9E G&SRM May 22, 1885. An individual metal detecting recovered 65 artifacts dating from the mid to late 1800's over a broad area near the road segment. These artifacts might be related to the Butterfield stage station and perhaps the location of the April 15, 1862 civil war skirmish. The Butterfield station has not been found. The visible portion of the wagon road is about one half mile long. Artifacts include a wagon axle clip, 17 glass fragments from a beer bottle (ca 1880s), a barrel-stap fragment and a square nut. Artifacts recovered by metal detecting near this road include ammunition, horse and mule shoes, keys, hinges, nails, spikes, buttons and other types of hardware dating from the mid to late 1800's.

Agency Site No.: AZ AA:7:502(ASM) Additional Document Type Manuscript Document Location ASMUA

Agency Proj. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Natl Reg Rec: Eligible

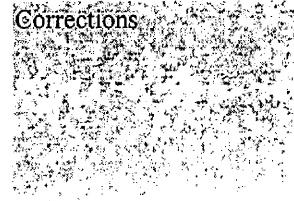
ASM Site No: AZ AA:7:502 (ASM) ASM Proj No. \_\_\_\_\_ ASM Permit No. 2000-88b1

ASM USE ONLY Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Within AZ \_\_\_\_\_ (ASM)

QP \_\_\_\_\_ Contains AZ \_\_\_\_\_ (ASM)

QP \_\_\_\_\_ Biblio Ref. \_\_\_\_\_ Plotted \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

QP \_\_\_\_\_ Acc. No. \_\_\_\_\_ AZSITE DE \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_



AZ AA:7:502 (ASM)

AZ  
AA:7:502 (ASM)

**Environment**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Open, no depth                 | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Open, exposed only in profile | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Cave, no depth    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Open, depth                    | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Rockshelter, no depth         | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Cave, depth       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) Open, depth unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Rockshelter, depth            | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Cave, depth unk. |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Rockshelter, depth unknown    |  |

Topo. setting: McClellan Wash Floodplain between Picacho Peak and Picacho Mountains. The plain is dissected by deeps channels.

Vegetation: Mesquite, Palo verde, burrsage, creosote-bush and grass

Geology/soils: Active floodplain with sandy clay loam. Occational gravel lenses and high points not affected by overflow from McClellan

Site Condition: A shallow linear depression marks the wagon road and is visible on aerials. Artifacts are buried in the alluvial deposit of the floodplain but some are exposed by soil deflation

**Artifacts**

- Site Type (Check one)  (a) Artifact Scatter (No other feature visible on the surface)
- (b) Features with associated artifacts  (c) Features with NO associated artifacts

Assemblage Composition (indicate quantities as counts, estimated ranges, "P" for types known to be present, "0" for types not seen at the site.)

_____ prehis ceramic	_____ FCR	<u>P</u> glass	_____ animal remains/artifacts
_____ chipped stone	_____ shell	<u>65</u> metal	_____ plant remains/artifacts
_____ grnd stone	_____ hist ceramic	_____ hist wood	_____ human remains

Diagnostics (indicate quantity of cultural/temporal/functional types as counts, estimates, or "P")

<u>16</u> Bullets/ball type	<u>2</u> Buttons	<u>1</u> hinge pin
<u>13</u> Bullets/ conical	<u>2</u> Spikes	<u>2</u> mule shoe
<u>20</u> Cartridges	<u>1</u> Buckel	<u>1</u> horse shoe
<u>2</u> keys	<u>1</u> Hinge	<u>P</u> Glass

**Assemblage Remarks:**

Objects listed above are from a private collection recovered near the wagon road. Minie balls, conical bullets and cartridges cluster in the 1860's based on Pat. dates. Only two cartridges and no bullets made after 1880 are in the collection.

**Feature Data: (Complete one feature record for each type of feature recorded for this site.)**

Feature No.	Count	Use	Culture	Age	Period/Phase
Name: <u>Wagon Road</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>middle historic</u>

**Feature Remarks**

Half mile segment of Butterfield Overland Mail Road? Artifacts along road include brown beer bottle glass, a barrel strap fragment, wagon axle clip and square nut.

Feature Data: (Complete one feature record for each type of feature recorded for this site.)

Feature No.	Count	Use	Culture	Age	Period/Phase
Name <u>Scatter</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>AD 1800-1900</u>

Feature Remarks:

Approximately sixty five metal artifacts were recovered by a person looking for the Picacho Pass Civil War skirmish of 1862. The artifacts include bullets-ball, mine ball, and conical bullets, cartridges, horse and mule shoes, 2 keys, a hinge, a hinge pin, and other hardware. The scatter might be related to the 1862 skirmish or the Butterfield Stage Station. Research continues.

Feature No.	Count	Use	Culture	Age	Period/Phase
Name _____	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	_____

Feature Remarks:

Feature No.	Count	Use	Culture	Age	Period/Phase
Name _____	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	_____

Feature Remarks:

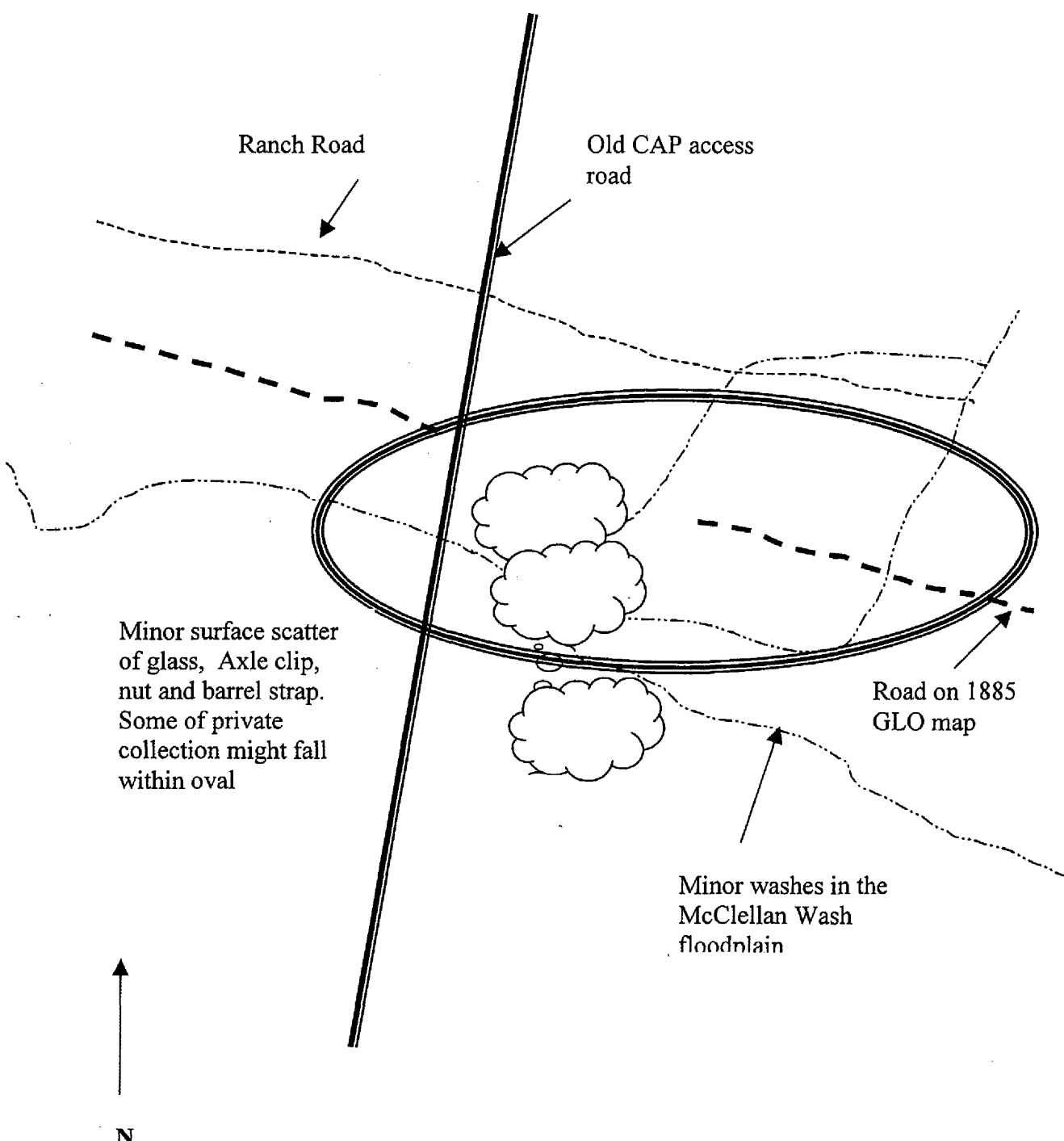
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Feature Remarks:

Feature No.	Count	Use	Culture	Age	Period/Phase
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Feature Remarks:

AZ AA:7:502 CASM



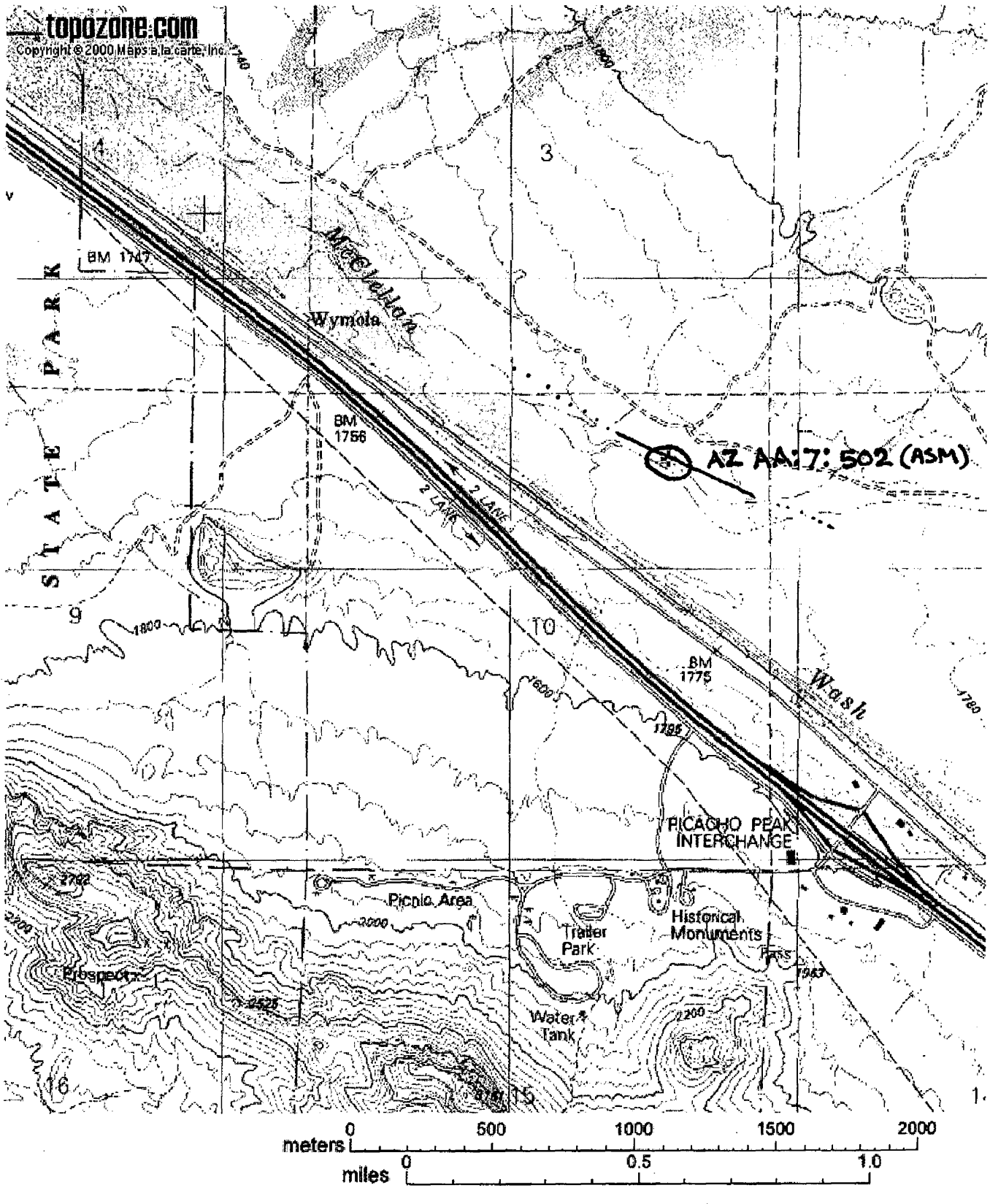
Minor surface scatter of glass, Axle clip, nut and barrel strap. Some of private collection might fall within oval

Minor washes in the McClellan Wash floodplain

Site plan for AZ AA:7:502(ASM) Wagon road segment and light artifact scatter.

# TopoZone.com

Target is UTM 12 462554E 3613384N - **NEWMAN PEAK** quad [Quad Info]

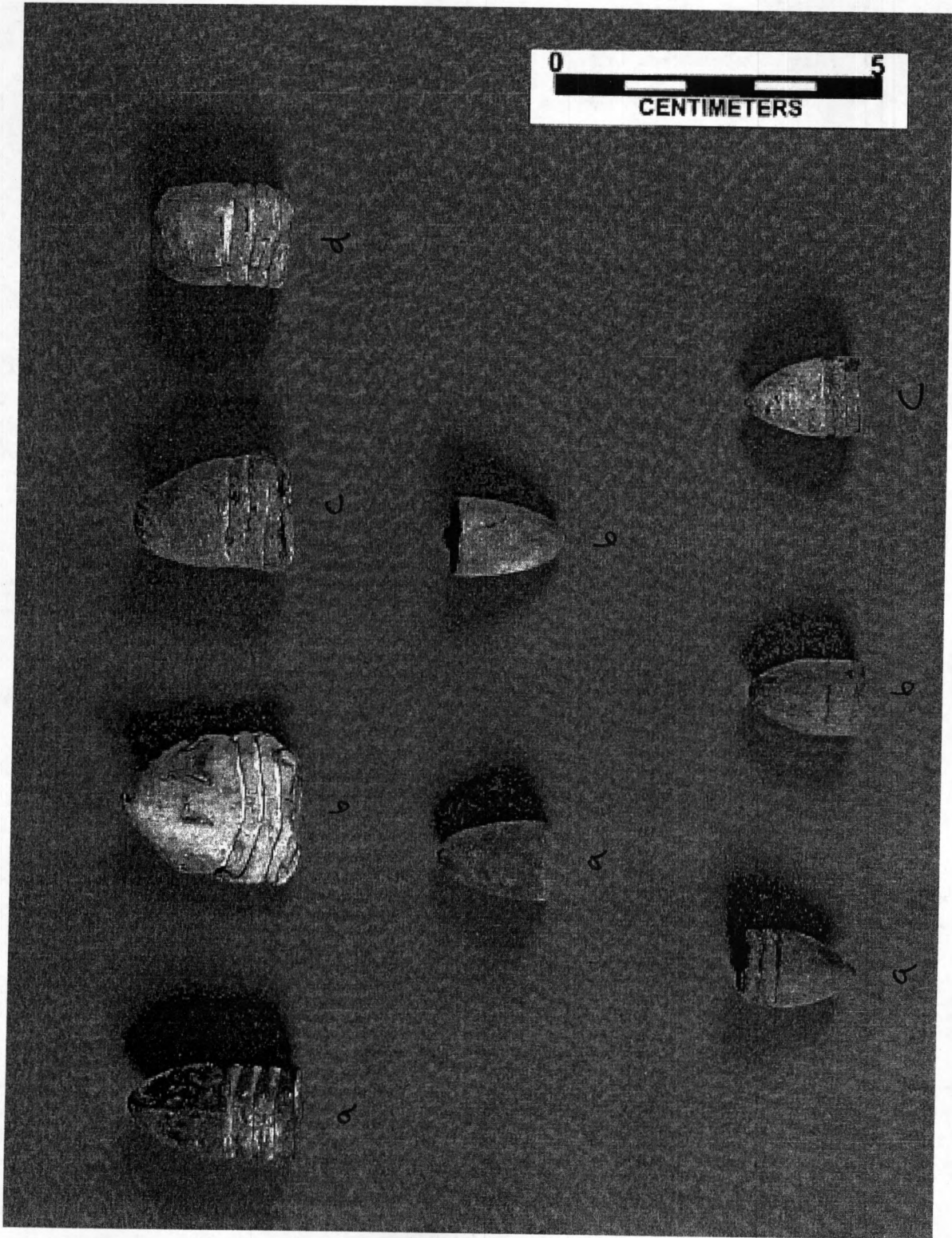


## Bullets

Top Row: a. b. c. and d.: Caliber 58 Springfield Minié balls. These are deep hollow-based bullets with three lubrication grooves. The cartridge was paper and developed for the 1855 Springfield musket.

Center Row: a. and b.: Caliber 44 conical with no lubricating grooves. Pat. date ca 1858.

Bottom Row: a. b. and c.: Caliber 44 conical with 2 lubrication grooves. These might be 44 Colt revolver bullets. Pat. date ca 1861



TOP

CENTER

BOTTOM

## Bullets

Left Column: Item a. through d. are caliber .44 balls. Ball b. and d might be belted balls (see Prudy rifle of 1868).

Center Column: a. through d. are .44 caliber balls. Balls a. c. and d. might be belted balls. See Prudy rifle of 1868.

Right Column: a. and b. might be 34 caliber balls for a revolver or might be balls for a multi-ball load. See caliber 69 Buck and Ball for a musket or musketoon. Item c. might also be a .44 caliber belted ball. Items d. and e. are .38 caliber balls



Left

Center

Right



a



a



a



b



b



b



c



c



c



d



d



d



e

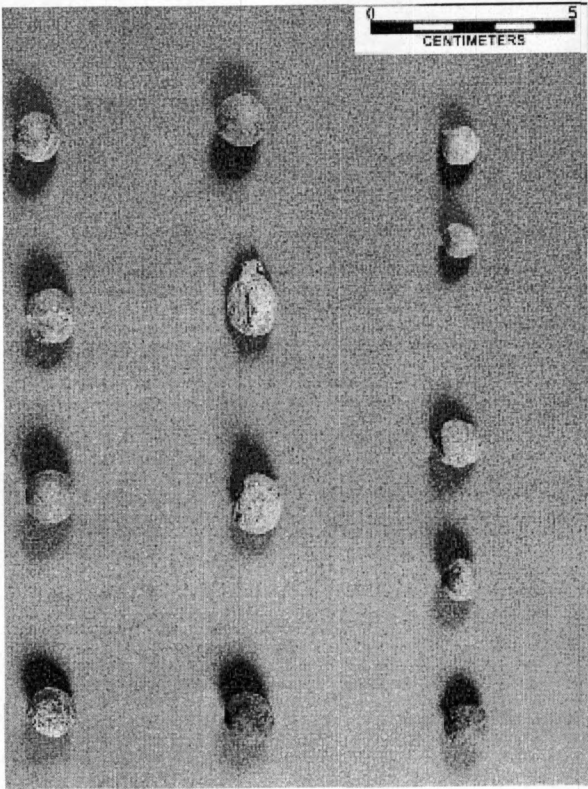
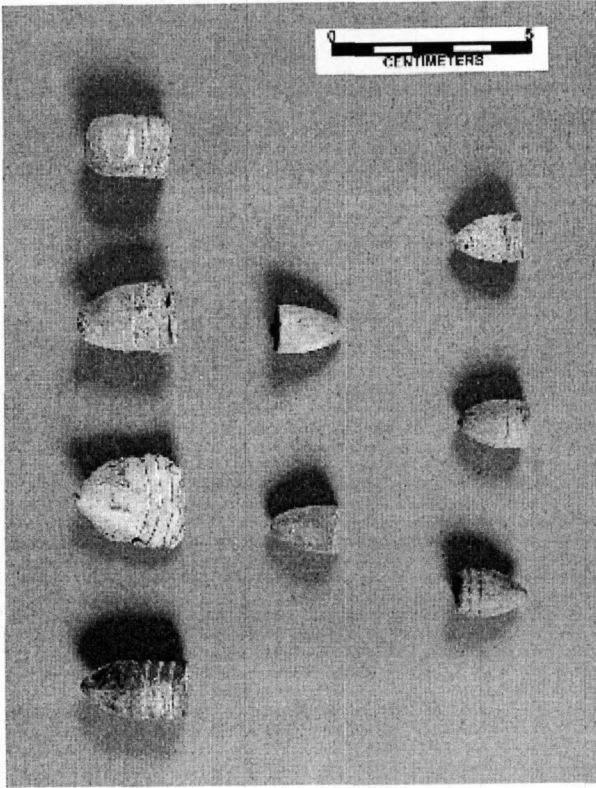


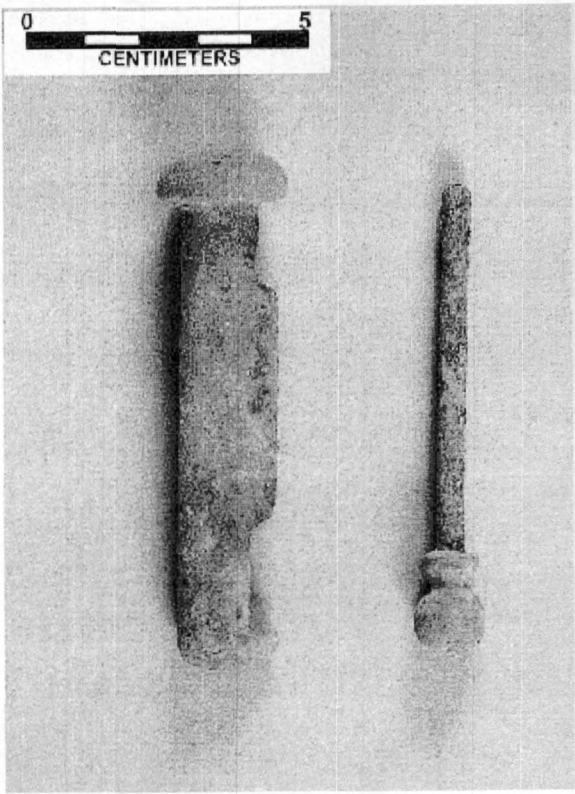
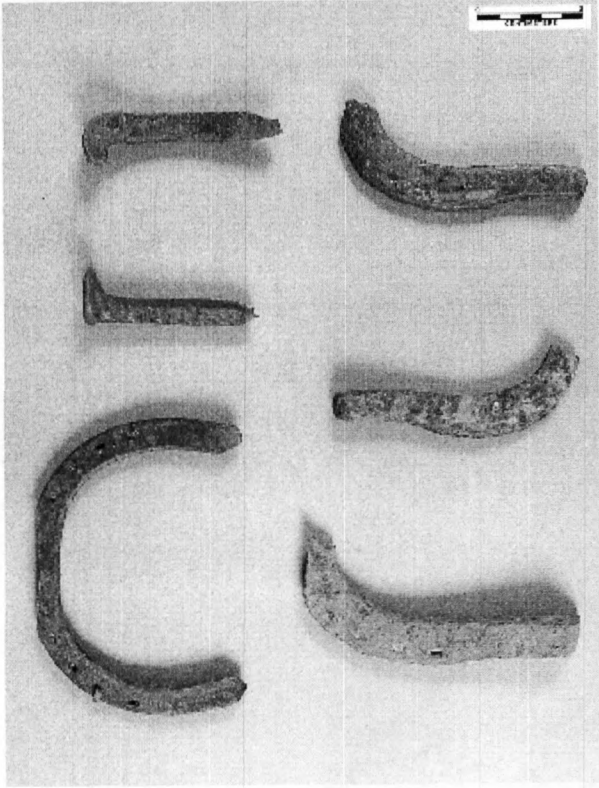
## Cartridges

Top Row:    **a.** caliber 50 solid head center-fire.   **b.** caliber 52 head stamp CDL (for Leet, Springfield Mass.), rim-fire .   **c.** caliber 44 center-fire external prime.   **d.** caliber 44 rim-fire.   **e.** caliber 44 rim-fire, head stamp P (for Peters).

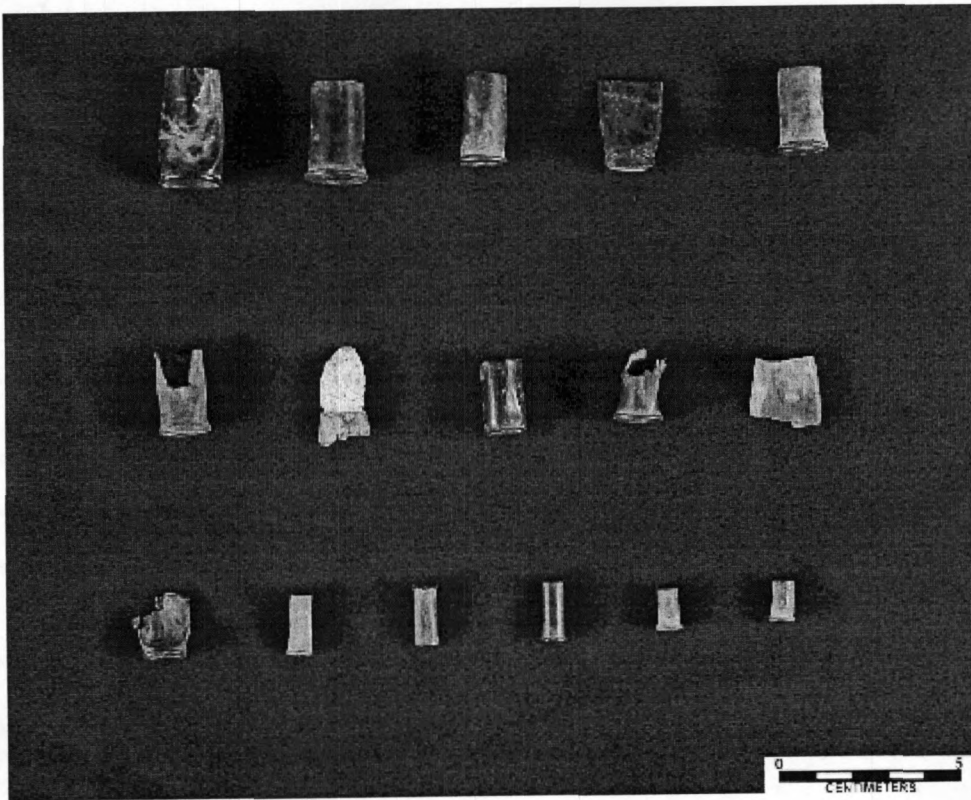
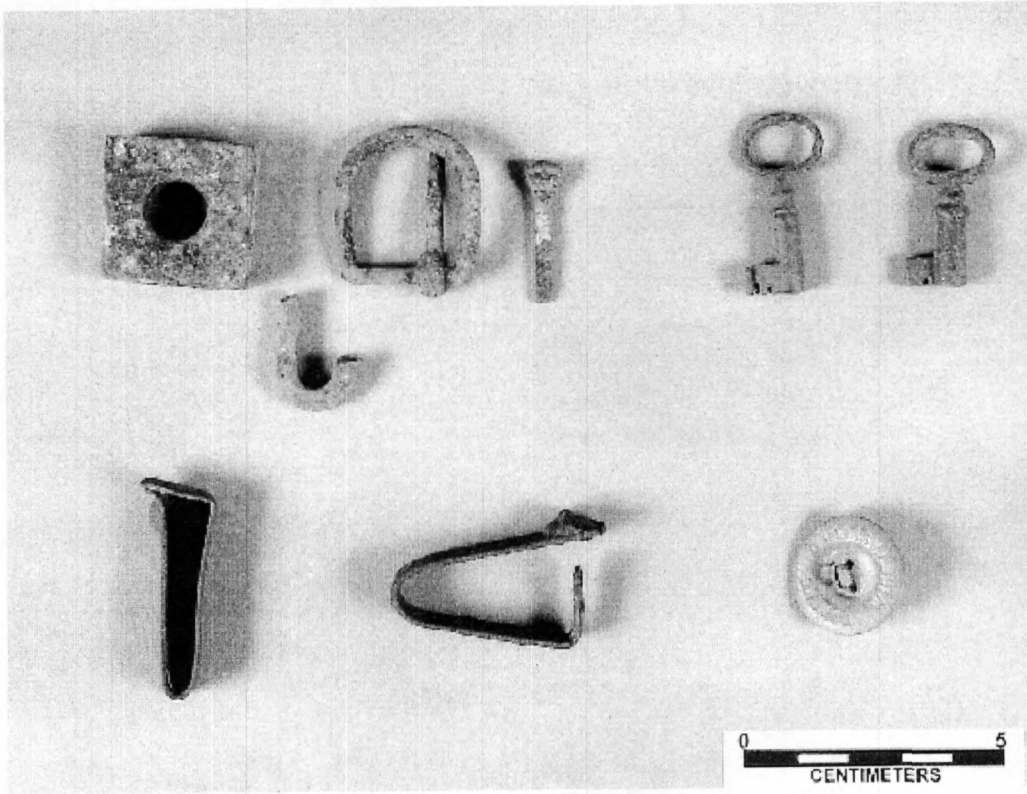
Center Row:   **a.** caliber 42 rim-fire, head stamp H (for Henry).   **b.** caliber 44 casing fragment attached to bullet (attaches to item **d** center row).   **c.** caliber 35 rim-fire, head stamp H (for Henry).   **d.** caliber 44 center-fire.   **e.** brass cartridge sheet.

Bottom Row:   **a.** caliber 35 rim-fire.   **b, c, d,** caliber 22 long, rim-fire, head stamp H (for Henry).   **e** and **f** caliber 22 short, rim-fire, head stamp H (for Henry).





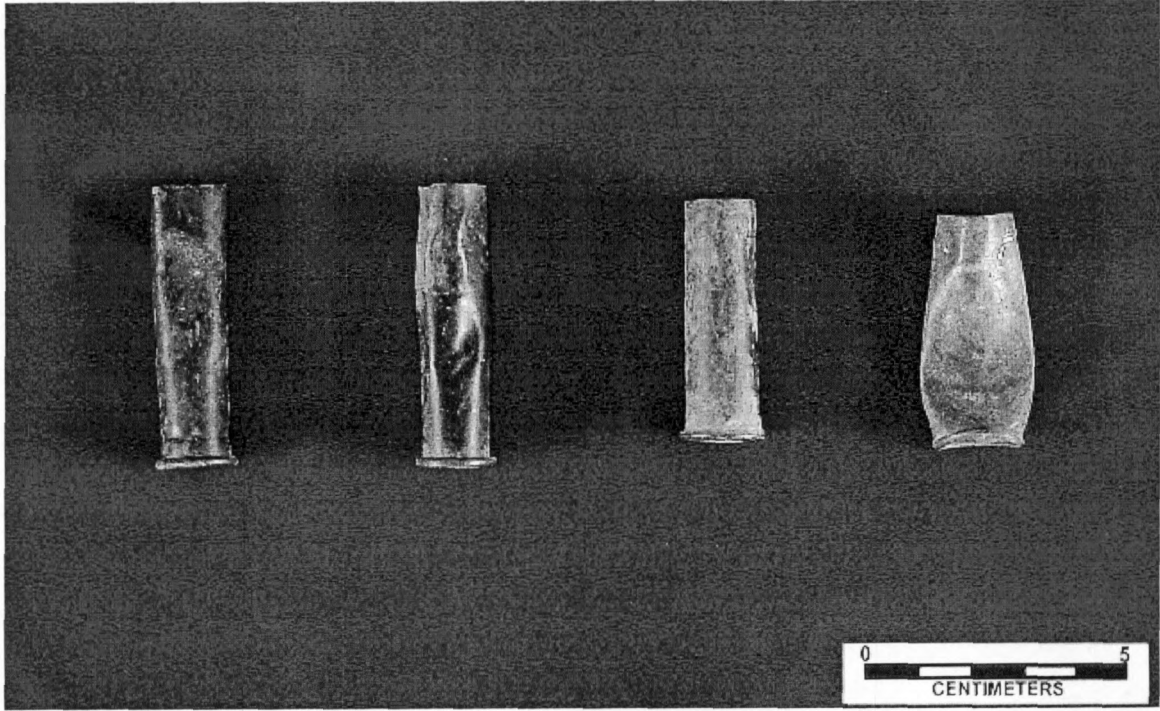




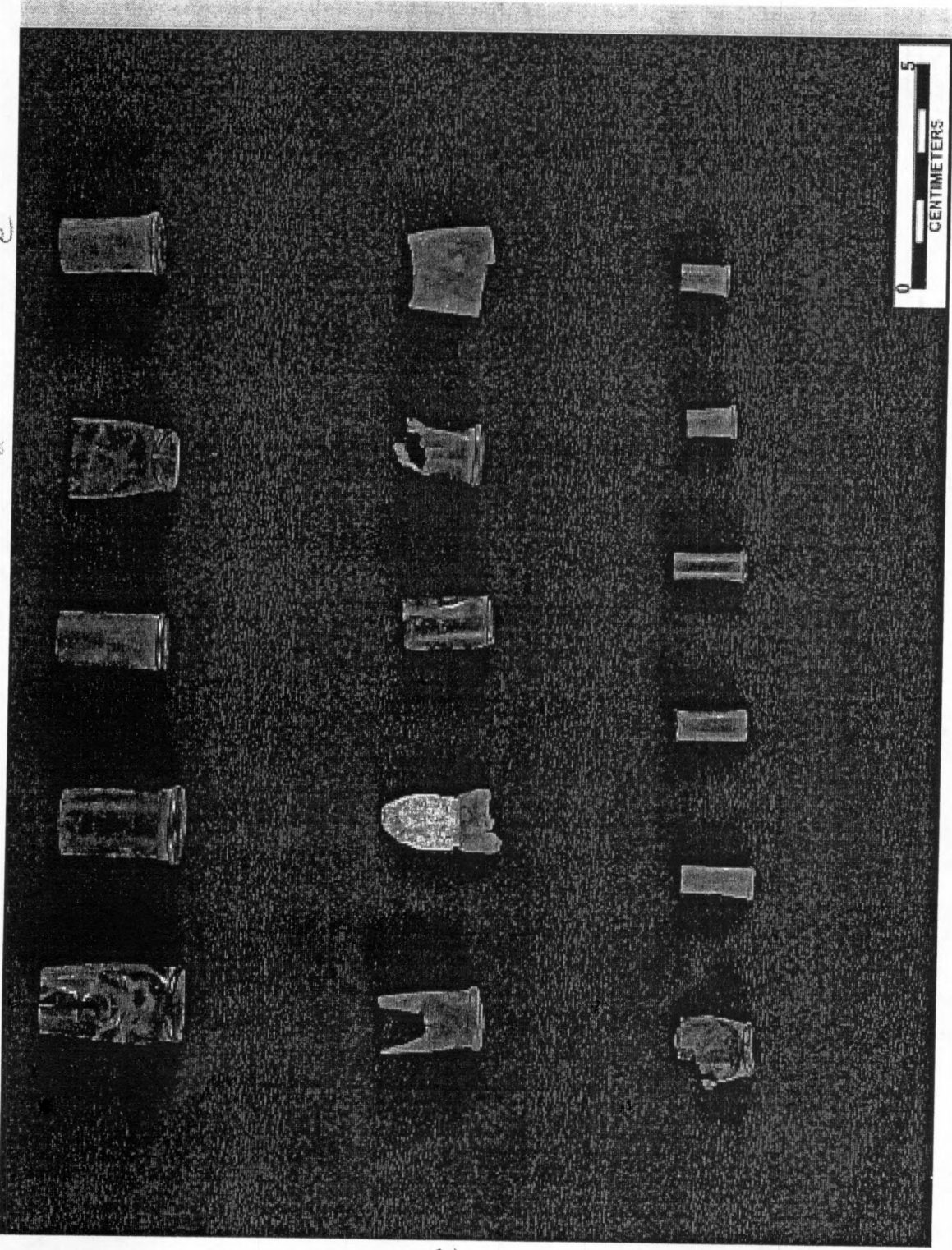
Bill and Eleanor Strader

Sorry for the delay and the quality of the photos! Jay said I can keep the artifacts for the summer so I can get better B/W photographs and also I want to measure the artifacts and ID each when I have the time. The ASM photographer doesn't have time at the moment to do side work. If you end up needing better photos, then perhaps ASHS can do the work as you previously suggested.

John



a b c d e



0 5  
CENTIMETERS

TOP

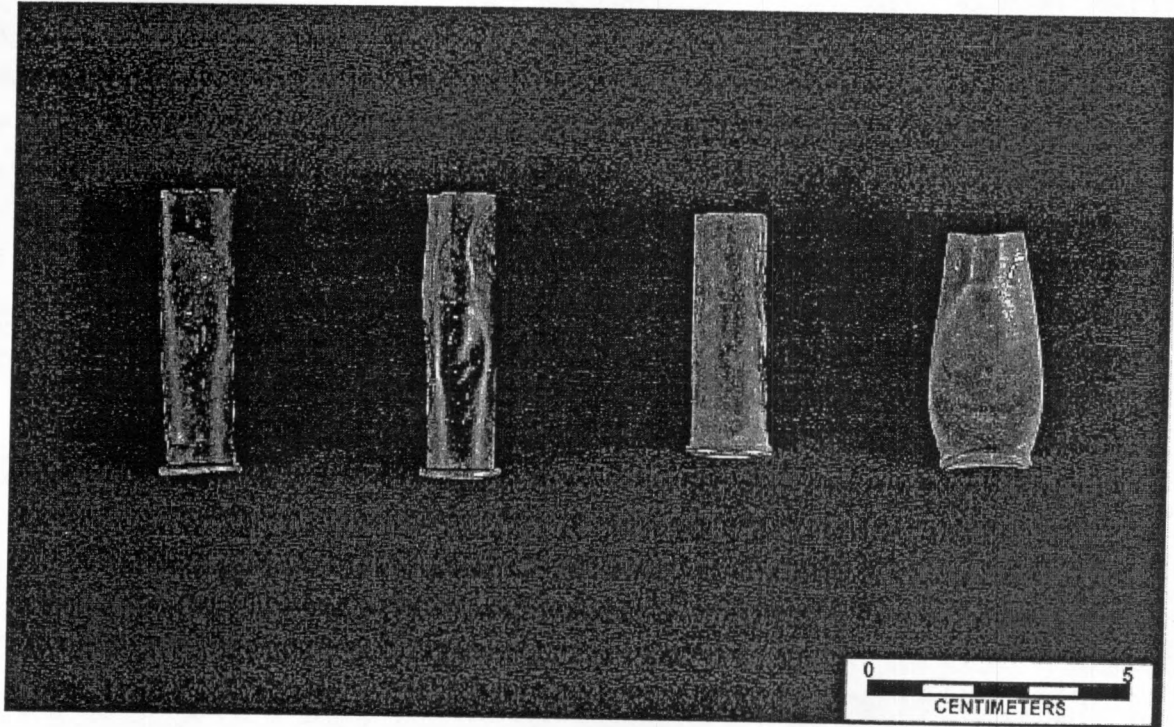
CENTER

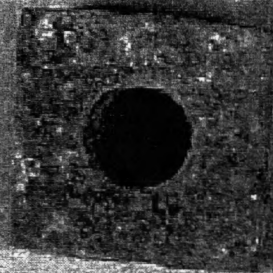
BOTTOM



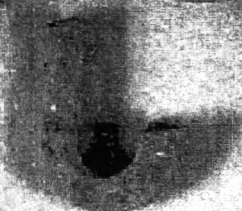
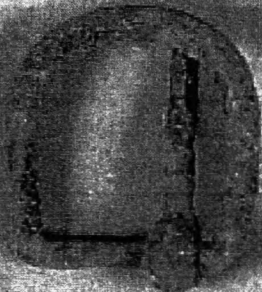
## Cartridges

Row: **a.** caliber 45-70 solid head, crimped, center-fire with cup anvil primer ca 1868, head stamp R-12-81-F (Rifle December 1881 Frankford Arsenal). **b.** caliber 45-70 external primer, head stamp Peters. **c.** and **d.** caliber 50 solid head center fire internal primer.

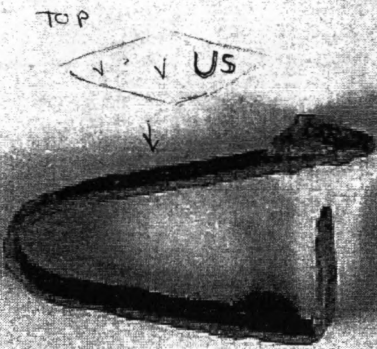
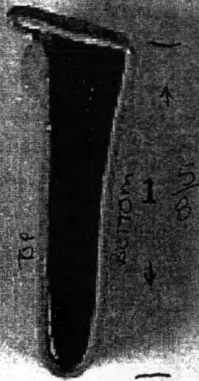




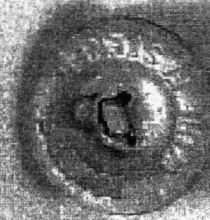
NUT



TOP  
SAGCTB  
Bottom  
DN 75562

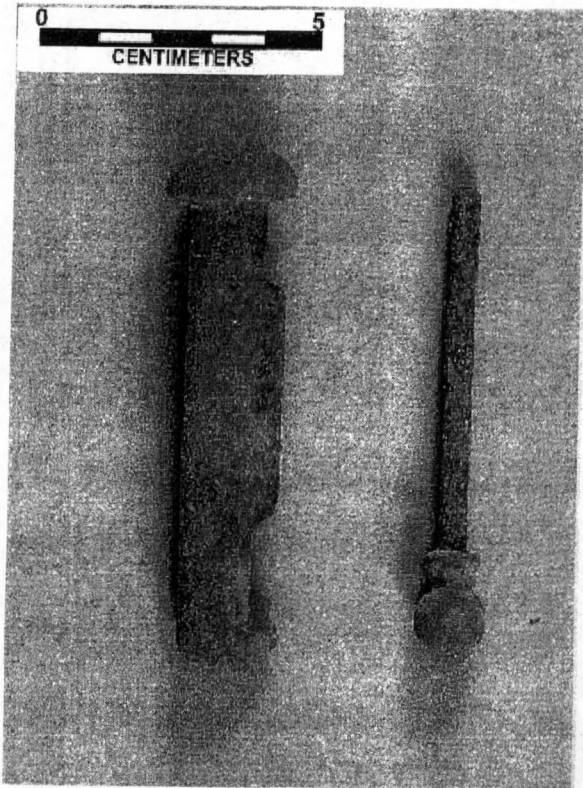
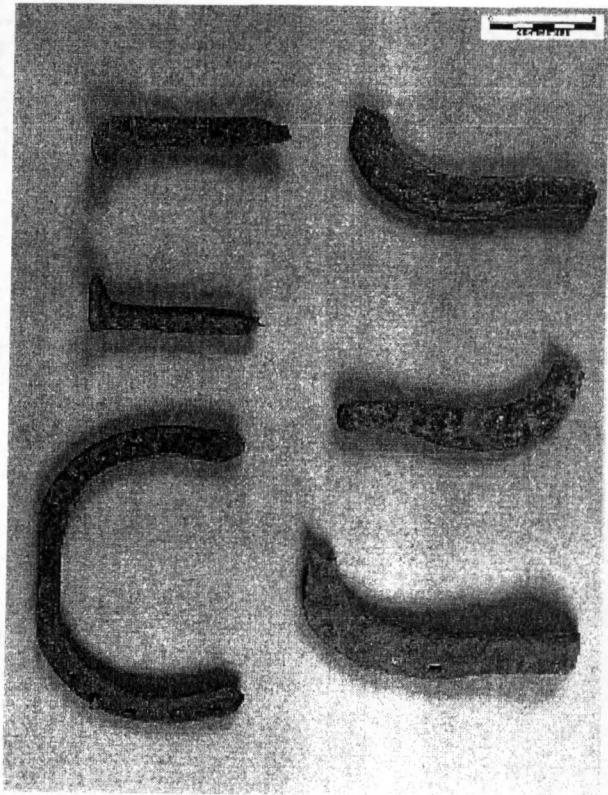


Different manufactures  
but same use (unknown)



TOWERS  
WIRE FASTENED  
1 inch Dia.





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

name of property

Picacho Pass Skirmish Site--Overland Mail Co. Stage Station  
at Picacho Pass

county and State

Pinal County, Arizona

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02001384

Date Listed: 11/22/02

Property Name: Picacho Pass Skirmish Site--Overland Mail Co. Stage Station at Picacho  
Pass

County: Pinal

State: AZ

Multiple Name: N/A

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

(f) Sarah D. Bpe  
Signature of the Keeper

11/22/02  
Date of Action

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

In the National Register's opinion, the current documentation for the Picacho Pass Skirmish Site does not support its listing at a national level of significance. The documentation has not established the property's strength of historical associations and integrity in relation to comparable properties in order to evaluate it at a national level of significance. **An amendment is made to list the Picacho Pass Skirmish Site at a statewide level of significance.**

Confirmed with Christine Weiss in the Arizona SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)