

Figure 14: LA 179150, 1935 Aerial Photograph (EDAC).

VI.3 LA No.: 179151

Field No and Name(s): 1766-003, "Ruin 2"

Affiliation: Pueblo I to Pueblo III Anasazi/Ancestral Pueblo (A.D. 800 to 1300) and

Anglo-Euroamerican NM Statehood-WWII to Recent (ca. A.D. 1933 to 1953)

Eligibility: Eligible, Criteria A and D

Location: Township 5 North, Range 17 West, Section 3

Description

This historic homestead site is located in a meadow/clearing along a hill slope extending into a wooded area (Figures 15 through 20). The site consists of at least two rock foundations and other associated features, as well as a corral and an artifact scatter, and is accessible via two track road. Vegetation consists of piñon, juniper, grasses, and forbs. Surface visibility is between 76 percent and 99 percent.

Overall Site Assemblage

Lone Mountain observed hundreds of artifacts at this location. A representative sample of these artifacts was subject to in-field analysis in order to identify the temporal affiliation of the site. The recorded sample consists of cans, glass, ceramics, and a variety of metal and miscellaneous items. A small number of prehistoric artifacts was observed, including several clear chalcedony pieces of flaked-stone debitage, a chalcedony biface, and corrugated grayware sherds.

Cans include one hole-in-top can, 36+ sanitary cans, five lard pails, square meat and seafood tins, hinged shirt-pocket tobacco cans, square and cylindrical oil or gas cans, 85+ vent-hole cans, pre- and post-1963 coffee cans (n=10+), two aerosol cans, numerous rusted can tatters and pieces, two Clabber Girl baking powder can lids, and a KC baking powder can lid mentioning that the product

has been the same price for over 35 years (A.D. 1925+). Clabber Girl became a popular brand during the 1930s.

Glass shards occur as green (61+), manganese decolorized glass that appears as purple or amethyst (10+), clear (50+), 40+ pieces of flat window glass, 10+ cobalt blue glass shards, and 76 amber glass shards, milk glass, and portions of clear bottles and jars. Observed makers' marks include a 1937 or 1947 Owens Illinois Makers' mark, originating from the Alton, Illinois Owens-Illinois plant; a 1933 Owens-Illinois maker's mark made at the Glassboro, New Jersey plant, which was closed around 1940 (Toulouse 1971:395); a post-1945 mark associated with the Glass Containers Corporation mark (Toulouse 1971:220); and a 1920 to 1964 Hazel-Atlas mark (Toulouse 1971:239).

Historic ceramics are white-glazed semi-porcelain (n=8+) and one sherd of porcelain. Other artifacts observed include four pieces of men's shoes and boots, a spark plug, rubber fragments, a wooden door frame, bits of aluminum foil and plastic, and a five-lug metal wire-spoked wheel resembling the wheels introduced on the 1926 Model T Ford and continuing on various subsequent Fords until 1935 (Henry 1965, Moloney 1999).

Some of the historic artifacts (such as the KC baking powder lid and the manganese decolorized glass) may reflect pre-1930 manufacture, while others (such as some of the coffee cans) appear to reflect a post-1963 manufacture. These artifacts occur most frequently in the area between the two-track road and a refuse dump consisting entirely of mid-1970s items, suggesting that this material was scattered along the route to the dump. The artifact assemblage potentially represents a date range between 1925 and 1977, narrowed further by the archival data.

Feature and Site Structure

Lone Mountain found a recent refuse dump, an artifact concentration, and six historic features. Much of the site is covered by a diffuse scatter of artifacts, and individual artifacts are spread for some distance across the landscape surrounding the site. Most prehistoric artifacts are scattered within the

southwest portion of the site. The six features are the remains of two rock foundations, two rock alignments (one a possible retaining wall), a rock pile, and corral. The artifacts found in association with these features are described in the discussion of the overall assemblage (above) and with respect to their specific proveniences on the site (below).

The refuse dump is a mechanically-excavated trench measuring approximately 10 m by 3 m (Figure 16). It appears that fill was pushed over part of the trench, suggesting that a substantial quantity of household refuse may be buried in this location. The materials buried here are less than 50 years old, and include cans, bottles, and household appliances. These are not described as a part of the artifact assemblage listed as belonging to this site above, as these materials are likely associated with LA 179153, a house known to have been occupied during the 1970s. There are push-button lid aluminum Coors beer cans within this dump suggesting deposition of these materials between 1972 and 1977 (Maxwell 1993:109).

The artifact concentration measures 4 m in diameter and contains the hole-in-top can, 15 sanitary cans, five lard pails, three square meat cans, a Clabber Girl Baking powder can top, seven large metal machinery parts, and wooden door frame.

Feature 1 is a rock foundation made of roughly-shaped sandstone slabs with no evidence of mortar (Figures 17 and 18). The feature measures 4 m by 8 m with one course approximately 12 cm in height. There is an assortment of artifacts within and near the feature, including five sanitary cans, nine vent-hole cans, two aerosol cans, and both pre- and post-1963 coffee cans, a clear bottle with a Hazel Atlas maker's mark, and other clear bottle shards (n=12+) including an RC Cola or Dr. Pepper bottle shoulder, eight cobalt glass shards, wire nails, aluminum foil, and plastic. It is possible that some of these materials were dropped in this location during the creation of the mid-1970s refuse dump described above. This structure is no more than 20 percent intact.

Feature 2 is a C-shaped rock alignment made of roughly-shaped sandstone slabs, and is only 5 m north of Feature 1 (Figure 18). The alignment measures 2.5 m by 3.0 m. There is a piece of stove pipe, wood, and metal fragments associated with the feature. This may be the base of a privy or a small shed, if it represents a foundation. The feature, if it is a foundation, is no more than 20 percent intact.

Feature 3 is a 6-m by 8-m rectilinear rock foundation made of roughly-shaped sandstone slabs (Figure 18). Associated artifacts include a sanitary can, a lard pail, 30+ tattered can fragments, two purple or amethyst glass shards, a spark plug, wire, and a metal strap. The feature has been affected by wind and water erosion and is less than 20 percent intact

Feature 4 is a 4-m by 5-m disarticulated rock pile made of the roughly-shaped sandstone slabs (Figure 19). There is rodent burrows present along with historic artifacts, including a hinged shirt pocket-tobacco can, a cylindrical gas can, 10 purple or amethyst glass shards, and five clear glass shards. This feature is less than 30 percent intact.

Feature 5 is an 11-m by 3-m rock alignment/possible retaining wall made of roughly-shaped sandstone slabs (Figure 19). The slabs are placed along the hill slope and are not stacked. The rocks are eroding down the 3 percent to 5 percent slope. A crushed can, a clear glass shard, and one white porcelain sherd are associated with the feature.

Feature 6 is a partially erect corral made of barbed wire and wooden fence posts (Figure 20). The corral measures 8 m by 9 m and is located 50 m southwest of the 1970s refuse dump. The associated artifact assemblage includes a metal bed frame/spring attached to the fence, the Ford wheel rim, two oil cans, a lard pail, 10 can pieces, jars with the above-described 1933, 1937 or 1947, and post-1945 maker's marks, 40+ clear glass shards, and one purple or amethyst glass jar. Two large fence posts are present approximately 15 m to the northwest that may be associated with the corral.

Sediments are colluvial and eolian sands. There are numerous partially-buried artifacts across the site and potential for more deeply buried cultural deposits within Features 1, 2, and 3.

Archival and Historic Data

LA 179151 falls on lands patented by Elbert Gill on April 29, 1937, under the 1916 Homestead-Entry: Stock-Raising Act. As with Mr. Jagers above, Mr. Gill needed to have begun “proving up” on his property no later than the spring of 1934, and had at least three years to make a set of improvements (more limited than those required for Mr. Cone above) on the land at the value of \$1.25 an acre. Cultivation of crops was not required. In December of 1937, Elbert sold the northern half of his section to his father, Daniel (VCB B-6:351).

Elbert was one of several Gills that settled in the Fence Lake Area. His sister Inez married Jesse Jagers and his sister Media married Merl Bell, while other siblings Webb Gill (Daniel W.) and Velma (Gill) Wilson obtained their own patents in the Fence Lake area, also in 1937. Elbert Gill first married Hattie Fern Landers. The Landers family operated the post office in Tingle, a small settlement to the east of Fence Lake (Wilson and Wilson 1987:8). In 1944, Elbert transferred the east half of his holdings to his wife Hattie (VCB 2:568), and next year he and a second wife, Florence, transferred the west half to his sister Velma (Gill) Wilson and her husband, Robert A. Wilson (VCB 62:199).

Webb Gill describes being in Fence Lake for the winter of 1931 (suggesting the possibility that his siblings may have also arrived at that time) and notes that the Gill family sold their holdings in the Fence Lake area and moved to Albuquerque (Wilson and Wilson 1987:68). In 1946, Elbert’s first wife Hattie had remarried and was now Hattie Fern Lessley. On July 1, 1946, she sold her quarter section to Arthur Thomas, Jr. (VCB 74:194) for a loan arranged through the Farm Security Administration. The property become part of the Paul E. Long ranch by 1953 and continued in the same chain of owners discussed above. The current land owners acquired this piece of property in 1998 from the Allen family (CCB 13:1340).

Site Condition

LA 179151 is affected by slope and sheet wash and winds, with most elements of the site subjected to deterioration from weathering. Construction and land development has disturbed the site, possibly represented by the 1970's trash dump. The site is in fair condition, remaining between 26 percent and 50 percent intact.

Conclusions

LA 179151 has artifacts and archival data indicating Pueblo I to Pueblo III Anasazi/Ancestral Pueblo (A.D. 800 to 1300) and Euroamerican NM Statehood-WWII to Recent (ca. A.D. 1931 to 1953) components. The site is a good example of an early homestead for the Fence Lake area, represents the earliest Euroamerican settlement of the area, and is associable with an identifiable family (though not one of known historic significance). The homestead no longer retains sufficient integrity to be a characteristic example of the workmanship of this era and appears to contain buried cultural deposits. LA 179153 is therefore recommended eligible for nomination to the NRHP under Criteria A and D.

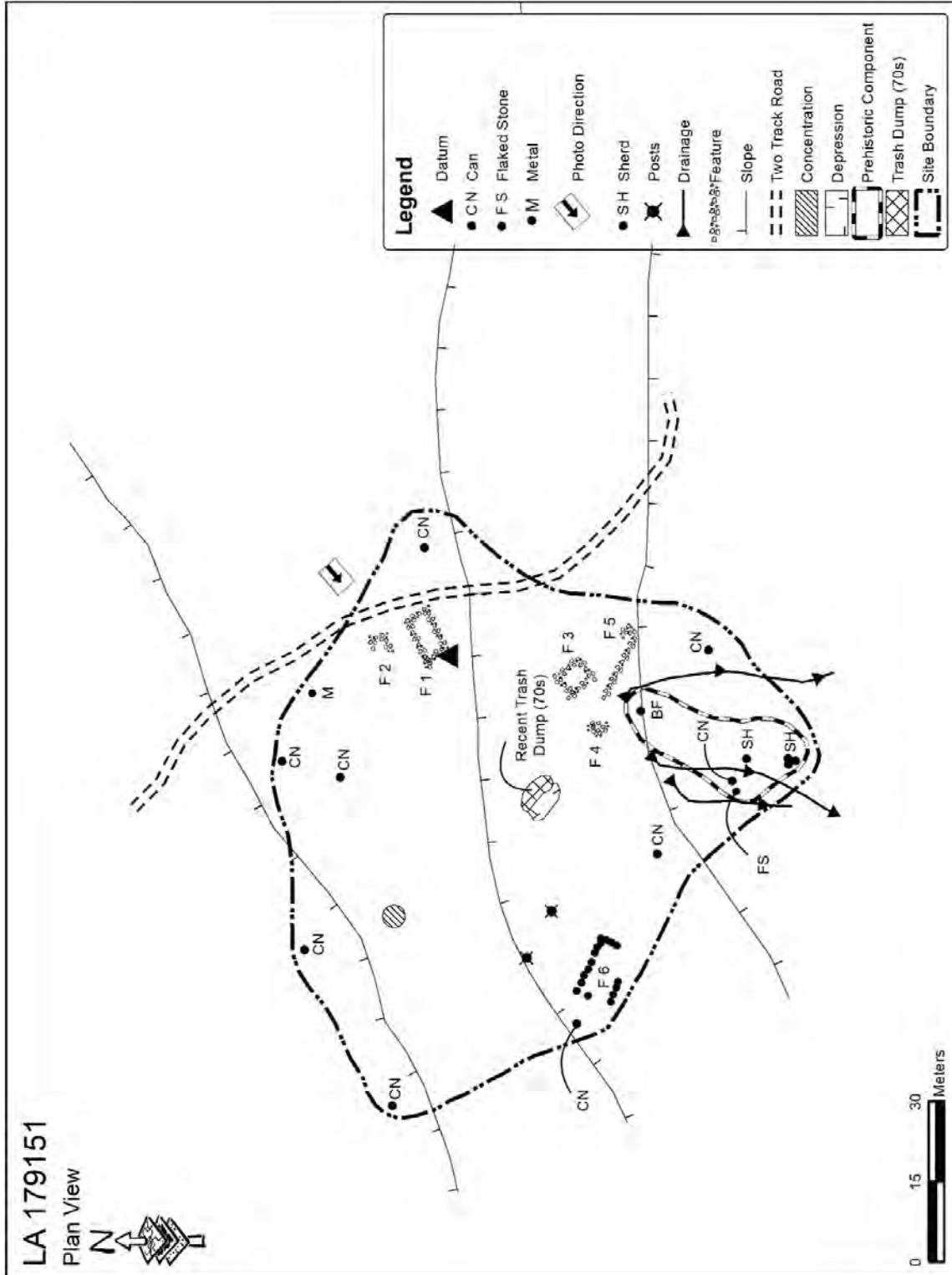


Figure 15: LA 179151 Site Overview.



Figure 16: LA 179151 Site Overview Facing Southwest (top) and Modern Dump Facing East (bottom).



Figure 17: LA 179151 Feature 1 Facing Northeast (top) and Facing West (bottom).



Figure 18: LA 179151 Feature 1 Artifacts (top) and Feature 2 Facing North (bottom).



Figure 19: LA 179151 Feature 3 Facing North/Northwest (top) and Feature 4 Facing South (bottom).