



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT NO. 84-5

Subject: Cultural Resource Inventory Near Clear Creek, Utah,  
for Valley Camp of Utah, Inc.

Project: Valley Camp of Utah 1984 Exploration (VCU-84-1)

Date: September 8, 1984

Permit: Utah Antiquities Permit No. U-84-24-  
USDA Forest Service, Price Range District,  
Special Use Permit No. 70, 8/20/84

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## ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey was conducted by ARCON for a proposed mineral exploration program by Valley Camp of Utah. Four seismic lines totalling about 3.5 miles, one drill location, and 5 land tracts totalling 330 acres were intensively inventoried. No cultural resources were observed on or near the seismic lines and drill site. Tract surveys resulted in locating two historic sites that date to the early 1900's-- a possible sheep herder's camp, and a cabin remnant. Neither site has National Register quality and the sites will not be adversely affected by possible subsidence action from mining activity. ARCON recommends a cultural resources clearance be granted to Valley Camp of Utah for this project.

## INTRODUCTION

On August 22-28, 1984 archaeologists V. Garth Norman and Bruce Warren of Archaeological Research Consultants (ARCON) completed an intensive archaeological inventory of 4 seismic lines totalling approximately 3.5 miles, one drill location, and 5 land tracts totalling 330 acres, in the Manti-La Sal National Forest west of Clear Creek, Utah. The work was requested by Mr. Trevar Whiteside of Valley Camp of Utah, Inc., and authorized by Forest Service and Utah State permits.

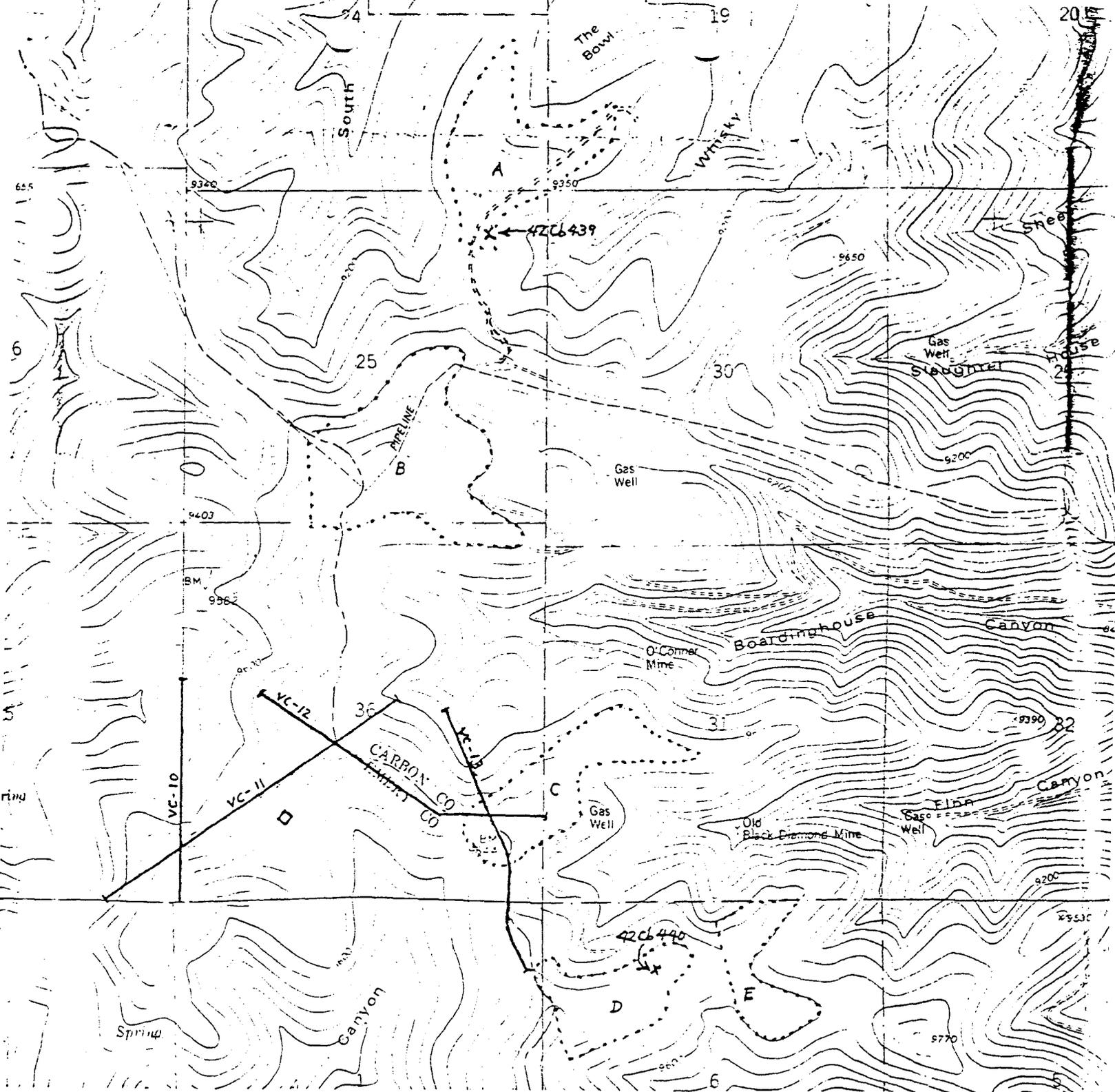
The survey area is located within Carbon and Emery Counties, Utah, found on the Scofield Utah USGS 7.5 minute map, Salt Lake meridian, and is contained within Secs. 24, 25, 35 & 36, T 13S, R 6E; Secs. 19 & 31, T 13S, R 7E; Sec. 1, T 14S, R 6E; and Sec. 6, T 14S, R 7E. (See map.)

## ENVIRONMENT

The survey area is in the ridge areas at the heads of Whisky Canyon, Boardinghouse Canyon, Finn Canyon, and James Canyon, and is part of the Wasatch Plateau subdivision of the Basin and Range Colorado Plateau Transition (Stokes 1977). The elevation ranges from 9360 to 9920 feet asl. The numerous canyons drain north, east and west from the study area. The area is late Cretaceous, Price River Formation (Hintze 1980). Soils are shallow on the rocky ridge areas, and heavier in the saddles and slopes where trees and heavy vegetation have produced loam and humus deposits.

The area is within the Hudsonian - High Mountain Forest Zone and Spruce/Fir Community. Major species noted include Englemann spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Understory includes blueberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), mountain currant (*Ribes montigenum*) and red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*). A variety of grasses, annuals and broad-leaf plants inhabit the area. The unusually wet summer has produced thick vegetation that made ground visibility limited in many areas. In Tract E undisturbed by grazing, thick wheatgrass with large full heads reached to nose height and contained as many as 180 cernals almost half the size of domesticated wheat. Surface visibility was much better throughout Tracts A, B and C where sheep grazing had removed much of the vegetation along ridges.

Fauna observed include mule deer, squirrel, and domesticated sheep. A wide variety of birds were also observed.



Project: Valley Camp of Utah - Clear Creek Area Survey  
 (VCU-84-1) ARCON Report No. 84-5

County: Carbon, Emery

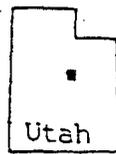
USGS Quad: Scofield 7.5'

Location: T 13-14S, R 6-7E

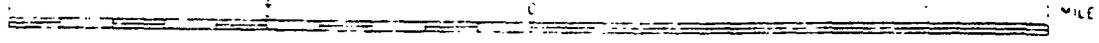
Key: X Historic sites

— Seismic lines

⋯ Tract survey



SCALE 1:24,000



## PREVIOUS RESEARCH

A review of the files at the State Historic Preservation Office show no known recorded sites on or near the survey areas that will be affected by this project. Prior surveys have been conducted near the area. Two quarter sections were surveyed along the same mountain ridge within three miles to the northwest (Hauck 1979). A survey was conducted on a transmission line that passes through the area, and on drill locations and access roads (Hauck 1976a, 1976b).

## SURVEY METHOD

The survey was completed by two archaeologists walking parallel and zigzag transects about 15-20 meters apart depending on visibility and terrain. Transects normally followed around contours of slopes. Ridge areas and saddles were inspected intensively, particularly in soil exposed areas. The seismic lines were inspected intensively along the well flagged corridors. The ridge area of the drill location, partially disturbed by prior grading, was inspected intensively.

## SURVEY RESULTS

No cultural resources were observed along the seismic lines or in the drill location. Survey of the five tracts identified two historic sites (described below). Scattered historic trash of recent date was noted throughout the study tracts on ridge areas from hunters' campsites and livestock workers. This trash consisted mostly of beer and pop bottles and cans. None of these finds were recorded because of their recent date and limited significance.

A presumed sheep herder's campsite (42Cb439) is located on the NW side of a saddle in the southern end of the north study tract (A) situated at the head of Whisky Canyon directly above Valley Camp's main mine. The site has been partly impacted by a corridor grade. Artifacts datable to the early 1900's include sherds of a crock pot and porcelain ceramics, blue, purple and green glass, a whisky or medicine bottle body, a whisky bottle top, a metal strap, and a harmonica reed plate.

A remnant cabin site (42Cb440) is located on a flat point of a ridge in a timber-aspen stand in Tract D overlooking the open slope to the east. The structure is completely collapsed and has mostly been removed for possible firewood at adjacent camp sites of more recent date. Remains consist of a single log on three sides that either formed a floor foundation or wall logs. Resting on top of these logs are the ridge pole and west wall roof support pole, with three inch-thick roof boards still nailed to them. Other detached boards lie underneath. Nails used in the construction are 8 penny box. The structure

was 8 x 9 feet. The prize artifact was a single part of a cast iron cook stove with a USA Patent date of May 22, 1900. Other artifacts consist of a quart jar, a pint bottle, rusted tin cans with crimp edges, a leather strap from a harness, and leg bones of butchered sheep or possibly deer.

Occupants of this cabin site have left a historic record engraved on aspen bark of trees directly behind the cabin and a short distance to the front (NE). Most are not decipherable, but those that can be read are as follows:

ED win(?) Hanson 1916  
Max Hansen 1920  
Alma Siepe(?) 7-29-32, 9/7/32, 1928  
H. S. Collard(?) (no date) or H. S. C. Uard  
Mont Nielson (no date)  
Mary Tucker 1932  
Jeanne Luder (or Tuder) 9.4.33  
Bertheiba Farrer July 31 1936

The dates are given above in the style recorded. The three women engravings are on the same tree adjacent to the cabin, and are the only names of women that were observed in the many name-date engravings on aspen found throughout much of the study area.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Neither of the historic sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and do not have significant depth potential for further study that might yield significant data for further evaluation of these sites. Neither of the sites can be adversely affected by possible subsidence action from future mining activity. On the basis of these evaluations ARCON recommends that Valley Camp of Utah be granted a cultural resource clearance for this project. ARCON also recommends that Valley Camp of Utah comply with the follow stipulations for this project clearance:

1. that all personnel and equipment be confined to the areas surveyed;
2. that construction personnel refrain from collecting or otherwise disturbing any cultural materials that may be encountered during development; and
3. that construction activities cease and the Price District Office of the Manti-La Sal National Forest be notified immediately if unrecorded cultural materials are encountered.

## REFERENCES

- Hauck, F. Richard  
1976 Cultural Resources Evaluation Along the Sigurd to Emery Transmission Line for UP&L. AERC, Salt Lake City.
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