



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES AZMILS DATA

PRIMARY NAME: LIMESTONE LODGE MINING CLAIM

ALTERNATE NAMES:  
GERONIMOS MINE AREA

YAVAPAI COUNTY MILS NUMBER: 488

LOCATION: TOWNSHIP 17 N RANGE 3 E SECTION 5 QUARTER NW  
LATITUDE: N 34DEG 53MIN 00SEC LONGITUDE: W 112DEG 04MIN 15SEC  
TOPO MAP NAME: SYCAMORE BASIN - 7.5 MIN

CURRENT STATUS: EXP PROSPECT

COMMODITY:  
GOLD  
SILVER

BIBLIOGRAPHY:  
ADMMR LIMESTONE LODGE MINING CLAIM FILE  
USGS BULL 1230-F MINERAL RESOURCES OF  
SYCAMORE CANYON PRIMITIVE AREA AZ 1966 P F15  
CLAIMS WERE BEING CONTESTED BY THE FOREST  
SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Sedona Ranger District  
P. O. Box 300  
Sedona, Arizona 86336

2820

November 27, 1979



Mr. Frank Russell  
6515 Glidden Lane  
San Diego, Ca. 92111

Dear Frank:

Enclosed please find a copy of the report you requested. Through persistence, Ron found the District file on the mine. It contains many things including pictures and maps that most certainly would be of interest to you. I suggest on your next trip that you contact Ron at the office before going into the Canyon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert B. Gillies, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

for ROBERT B. GILLIES, JR.  
District Ranger

Enclosure

Sedona RD

REPLY TO: 2810 Mining Claims

January 8, 1971

SUBJECT: Graves, O. G. and Hoy, Richard L.  
Limestone LMC (Your ltr. 12/16/70)



TO: Forest Supervisor, Coconino NF

On December 30, 1970, we attempted to contact Mr. Graves at his mining claim in Sycamore Canyon. We were unable to locate him, but we did inspect the mine and base camp area.

At the mine, they have removed the tracks which ran from the mine out onto where they had dumped their mining waste. They have also moved the compressor from where it had been to near the mine entrance. The base camp area near Summers Spring has been cleaned up and the house trailer they had been living in was gone.

On January 4, Ron Plapp and myself contacted Mr. Graves at his home in Cottonwood. Mr. Graves stated they had found the vein of ore, but because their water pump had gone bad and because of the cold weather, they did not remove any ore. In April, they plan to pump out the water and get an ore sample to be assayed. If it is high grade ore, they will let the courts decide if it is a valid claim. If the ore sample is not high grade, Mr. Hoy and himself agreed that they would close the mine in compliance with the permit. In the meantime, they are cleaning up the mine site and plan on removing the compressor this winter.

It appears he is complying with the permit except for his plan to return in April for an ore sample. If he has removed his compressor by then, there is little chance he will start mining again in the spring.

*Ray Wrobley*  
RAY WROBLEY  
Acting District Ranger

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Coconino NF

December 16, 1970

REPLY TO: 2810 Mining Claims

SUBJECT: Graves O. G. and Hoy, Richard L.  
Limestone LMC



TO: District Ranger, Sedona RD

You will note that the subject permit issued to Mr. Graves and Mr. Hoy expires on December 30, 1970. Even though Mr. Graves and Mr. Hoy did not return a signed copy of the permit, we believe we must proceed to achieve termination of this use.

Please refer to stipulation 8 which requires that all structures, facilities, equipment or miscellaneous materials placed on the land shall be removed within six months of December 31, 1970.

It would be appropriate to make a personal contact with Mr. Graves or Mr. Hoy sometime soon to be sure they understand the terms of the permit. When this contact has been made, please report to this office so we may notify the Regional Forester.

  
DON D. SEAMAN  
Forest Supervisor

cc: RO

ROUTE	
.....	Rogers
.....	Wrobley
.....	Fitch

RECEIVED  
DEC 17 1970  
SEDONA DISTRICT

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Southwestern Region

2810- COCCINIO  
Graves, O. G.

MINERAL REPORT  
(For Administrative Use Only)

Jack McK. Pardce  
Mineral Examiner

May 18, 19, 1965

Date of Examination  
May 20, 1965

Date of Report

Category: **Validity**

Claim Names: Limestone, Amended, Lode

Lead Office and Serial No.: Phoenix, Arizona

Brief of Recommendations:

That adverse proceedings be directed against the subject location.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*C. C. Trajans*  
Chief Mineral Examiner

6-3-65

Date

Approved: *451* \_\_\_\_\_

*E. M. Housley*  
Forest Supervisor

6-17-65

Date

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

**A G BRENNEIS**  
Acting Regional Forester

6-22-65

Date

LANDS INVOLVED:

T. 17 E., R. 3 E., CASRIEM, Yavapai County, Arizona  
Section 5 (Unsurveyed) Part of SW $\frac{1}{4}$

The examination involves the Limestone, Amended, lode mining claim as shown on the attached Claim Sketch, Exhibit No. 1. The claim is described as 600 ft. wide and 1500 ft. long, but the west side line was found to be about 1770 ft. in length from the southwest corner to the northwest corner monument. The area embraced in the claim as monumented is about 24.3 acres.

RECORD DATA:

The following data on the Limestone mining claim were obtained from the Official Records of Yavapai County in Prescott:

<u>Name of Claim</u>	<u>Date Located</u>	<u>Recorded in Yavapai County, Ariz.</u>		
		<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>
Limestone	6/ 1/46	6/ 3/46	Mines 153	111
Amended	6/22/48	6/22/48	" 154	520

The claim was located and amended by O. G. Graves and Jos. E. Dixon. The amended notice of record was made on a "Notice of Mining Location" form marked "Amended", but without reference to the original location.

Mr. Graves stated that Dixon was recently deceased, and the fact was confirmed by a copy of the Certificate of Death, File No. 2063, from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics which shows the date as February 12, 1965.

Mr. Graves lives in an old cabin known as the Packard place at the mouth of Sycamore Canyon. His mailing address is Cottonwood, Arizona. The request for a mineral examination was initiated by District Ranger James Perry, Sedona Ranger District, because associates of the mining claimant have recently constructed an access road to the workings on the Limestone claim in the Sycamore Wilderness in violation of Forest Service regulations.

LOCATION, ACCESS AND IDENTIFICATION:

The Limestone mining claim is situated in the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area on the Sedona Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest and in the Verde Mining District, Yavapai County, Arizona.

To reach the claim from the Post Office in Cottonwood, drive north 2.5 miles on U. S. 89A and turn right on the side road. Follow the Tuzigoot National Monument direction signs across the Verde River bridge to a "Y" at 3.2 miles, cumulative. Take the left fork, bear left again at 3.4 miles, and right at 7.4 miles. Enter the Coconino National Forest at 7.6 miles, and follow "Mouth of Sycamore Canyon" signs, ford Sycamore Creek and arrive at Graves' cabin at 15.0 miles. The road up Sycamore Canyon is open to vehicle travel a distance of 1.4 miles above the cabin to the vicinity of the Wilderness boundary. From that point Adit No. 1 on the Limestone claim lies about one mile farther up the canyon.

The Limestone mining claim was identified by Mr. Graves who accompanied the writer during the field examination on May 19, 1965. He pointed out the southwest corner and identified the northwest corner and location monuments as plotted on the Claim Sketch. The approximate position of the other five claims held by Mr. Graves was determined from the amended location notice descriptions as recorded in Yavapai County.

The land on which the claim is located was identified by comparison of the distinctive pattern of Sycamore Canyon on the Clarkdale Quadrangle 1/ and on aerial photographs with features observed on the ground.

#### TOPOGRAPHY AND VEGETATION:

The Limestone mining claim is situated in the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, an area of rugged natural beauty in the Upper Verde River watershed. Erosion of cliff-forming limestones and basalt by Sycamore Creek and its intermittent tributaries has produced a maze of verticillated promontories and embayments extending about 15 miles in length and several miles in width. Sycamore Creek is a permanent stream which empties into the Verde River about 2½ miles below the Limestone claim. The stream bed elevation on the claim is about 3650 ft. above sea level.

Vegetation on the slopes and benches above the creek consists of scattered juniper and chaparral species. The canyon floor supports groves of Sycamore, oak, walnut, ash, and other species which grow to large size. Some of these appear in the attached photos.

The climate in the Verde Valley is mild and dry with an average annual precipitation about 16 inches.

1/ U. S. Geological Survey Map, Clarkdale Quadrangle, Arizona, 15-min. series (topographic) 1944.



### GEOLOGY AND MINERALIZATION:

The subject claim is located in an area of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks, and remains of overlying Tertiary and Quaternary basalt flows deposited on an erosion surface of high relief. The basalt exhibits a typical pattern of columnar jointing as seen in Photos A and B on the Limestone claim.

The bluish-gray, hard, crystalline Mississippian Redwall limestone forms the lower part of the Sycamore Canyon walls on the mining claim, and the structure of interest to Mr. Graves and his associates is a filled fracture along a vertical jointing plane in the limestone. There is no evidence of faulting, and the 1-ft. wide opening was filled with erosional debris, and in some places near the surface with molten basalt that poured in from above. There was no evidence of mineralization in the "vein."

### DEVELOPMENT WORK AND SAMPLING:

The accessible workings consist of two crosscut adits driven in the Redwall limestone about 10 ft. above the level of the creek bed. As shown on the Mine Sketch, Exhibit No. 2, both adits intersect a drift on the debris-filled fracture, and amount to about 300 lineal feet of underground work.

Other underground workings of unknown extent and now abandoned are indicated by dashed lines on the sketch.

The locators of the claim, Graves and Dixon, began their search for the vein in 1946 based on a legend of the Lost Geronimo mine. A section of prehistoric masonry wall at the base of the cliff near Adit #2, and a natural rock profile of an Indian head on the cliff were key indicators. The Indian's nose points toward the concealed portal of the lost mine. The story had its beginning with the pre-Columbian Indians, who were succeeded by the Conquistadores, and finally by the Apache Geronimo who brought in 300 squaws to gob the mine and hide the entrance so that it would not fall into the hands of the long-knives.

The partners used hammers and hand steel to drive crosscuts and inclines in the limestone for six years before finding the black drift which Graves believes will lead either to a rich gold bearing section of the vein, or to a treasure of gold at the end of the drift. The drift was recognized by the heavy accumulation of carbon black on the walls from the smoke of many Indian fires. But the black drift, 2½ ft. long originally, according to the story, was back filled with

broken limestone that has become consolidated and difficult to excavate. Dixon fell ill about three years ago and little work was done until recently when Graves acquired two new partners. At the time of examination, two men were at work with pneumatic tools cleaning out a muck pile in the black drift just east of the Adit #1 intersection. The muck is loaded into a lightweight mine car, pulled up the inclined section of Adit #1 by a wire rope and compressed air hoist, and hand trammed to an outside waste dump.

The objective of the partners is to re-open the black drift to the original 242 ft. length or 100 ft. at most from the present face. Three assay samples of the fracture filling were taken at the places indicated by Nos. 5469, 5470 and 5471 on the Mine Sketch, mailed to Hawley & Hawley, registered assayers in Tucson, and assayed for gold and silver. Assay Certificate No. TUC326961 is attached as Exhibit No. 3 and shows trace amounts only.

Sample No. 5469, weight  $4\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, was chipped 1.0 ft. long across the filled fracture in the back of the black drift at its intersection with Adit #1. The material sampled was a brown plastic silt containing angular limestone fragments about 1 in. in size.

Sample No. 5470, weight 7 pounds, was chipped across the same fracture at the intersection with Adit #2. At this point the fracture was 0.4 ft. wide and composed of reddish brown silt and angular limestone fragments.

Sample No. 5471, weight 4 pounds, was chipped about 0.5 ft. long across a basalt filled portion of the fracture where it is exposed in the cleft shown in Photo B. This sample was taken by Mr. Graves.

#### OTHER DATA:

Mr. Graves stated that his new partners, Mr. Dick Hoy, and another person, whom he did not identify, plan to incorporate the mining claim and the operation as the Sycamore Mining Co. The unnamed partner is believed by Ranger Perry to be Mr. Ronald Skaggs. An inquiry made to the State Corporation Mining Commission on May 25, 1965 revealed no record of the Sycamore Mining Co.

The stated objective of the operation, according to Messrs. Graves and Hoy is to extend the black drift an additional 100 ft. from the present face (5/19/65), the work to be completed by October 1, 1965. At that time if no valid mineral discovery has been made, they will relinquish the claim to the Government. Mr. Graves added that he intends to leave the cabin and move away from the Canyon whether or not they find the gold.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is the opinion of the writer that a valid discovery of minerals within the meaning of the mining laws does not exist on either of the two subject mining claims. This conclusion is based on the poor assay results of samples obtained by the writer and the claimant from the mine workings, and the absence of exposed mineralized structures on the claim.

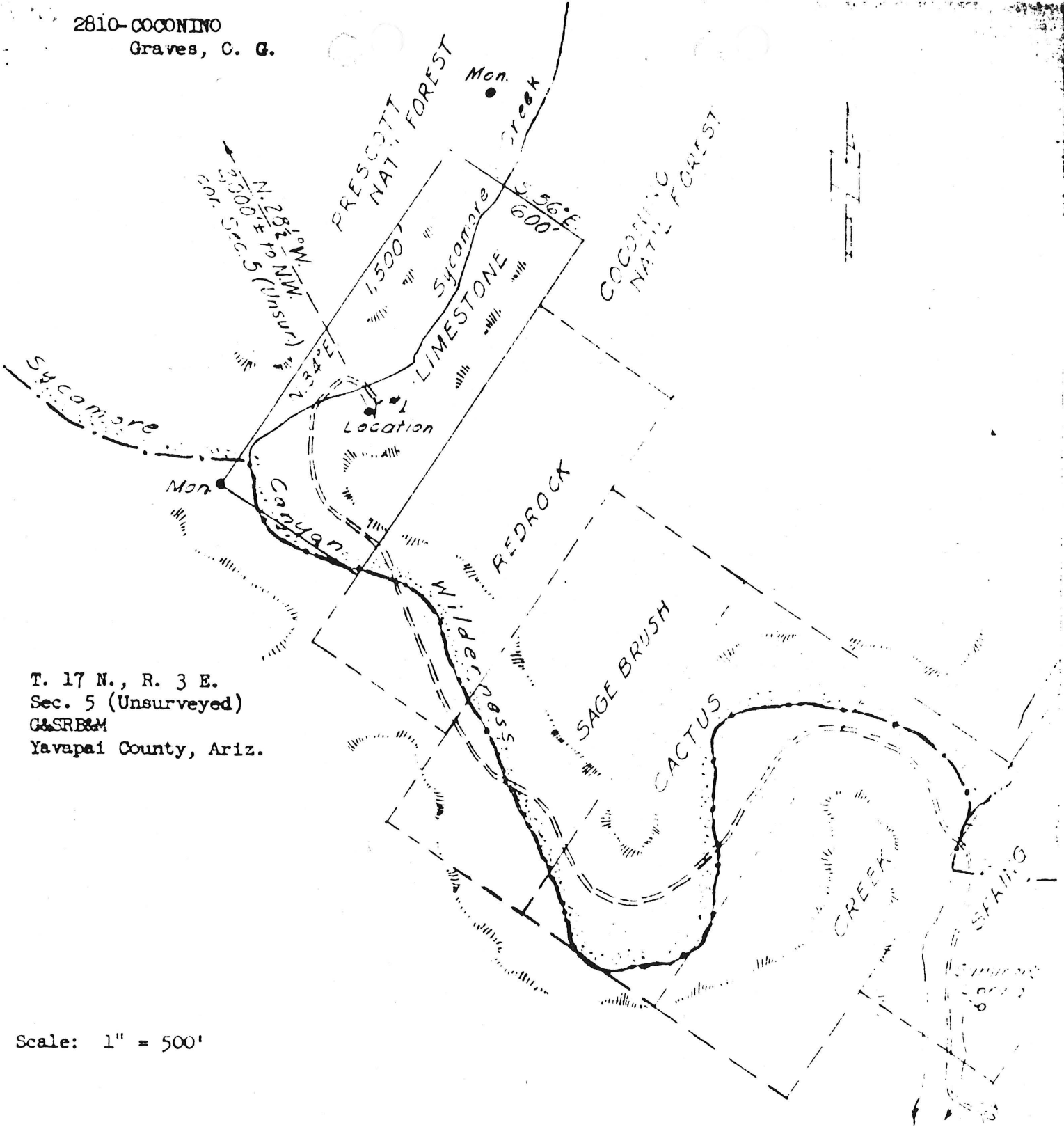
Therefore, it is recommended that adverse proceedings be initiated by the Government against the Limestone Lode mining claim under the following charges:

1. That a discovery of mineral in sufficient quantity and quality to constitute a valid discovery does not exist within the limits of the claim.
2. That the land embraced within the claim is not chiefly valuable for mineral.

*Jack McK. Perdee*  
Jack McK. Perdee  
Mining Engineer

Attachments:

- |             |     |   |                   |
|-------------|-----|---|-------------------|
| Exhibit No. | 1   | - | Claim Sketch      |
| "           | 2   | - | Mine Sketch       |
| "           | 3   | - | Assay Certificate |
| "           | 4.1 | - | Photo A           |
| "           | 4.2 | - | Photos B & C      |
| "           | 4.3 | - | " D & E           |



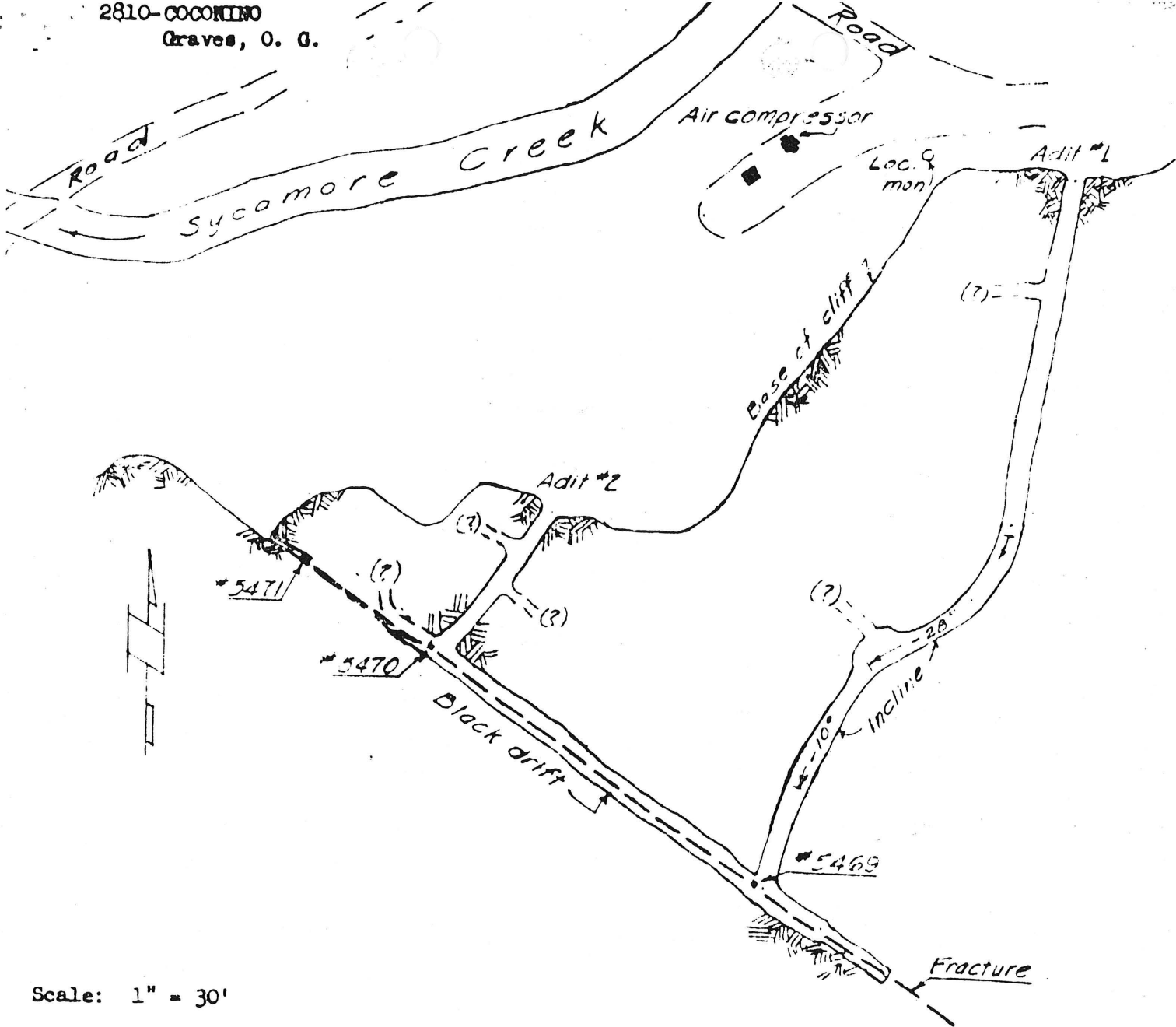
T. 17 N., R. 3 E.  
Sec. 5 (Unsurveyed)  
G&SR&M  
Yavapai County, Ariz.

Scale: 1" = 500'

CLAIM SKETCH

The Limestone lode mining claim and other contiguous claims held by O. G. Graves in the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Area. (5/19/65).

EXHIBIT No. 1  
Jack Mer. Purdee



Scale: 1" = 30'

MINE SKETCH

A sectional plan view of the accessible workings on the Limestone claim situated in Sycamore Canyon. Assay samples are indicated by Nos. 5469-5471. 5/19/65.

EXHIBIT No. 2  
Jack McK. Pardee