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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES AZMILS DATA

PRIMARY NAME: TOLLGATE WASH PROSPECT

ALTERNATE NAMES:

GREENLEE COUNTY MILS NUMBER: 141

LOCATION: TOWNSHIP 7 S RANGE 29 E SECTION 01 QUARTER SE  
LATITUDE: N 32DEG 51MIN 08SEC LONGITUDE: W 109DEG 19MIN 43SEC  
TOPO MAP NAME: ASH PEAK - 7.5 MIN

CURRENT STATUS: RAW PROSPECT

COMMODITY:  
UNKNOWN

BIBLIOGRAPHY:  
ADMMR TOLLGATE WASH PROSPECT  
MINE WAS NOT SHOWN ON TOPO



Site AZ CC:3:71 (ASM)

**Location.** This site is on BLM lands north of US 191 between Mileposts 144.76 and 144.83 (Stations 744+25 and 747+55), in Segment 1 of the project area (**Figure 1a**). It lies partially inside the existing 400-foot-wide ADOT ROW, and partially inside proposed new ROW for Alternative Alignment D. The site is in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , of Section 1, T7S, R29E (USGS Ash Peak, Ariz., 7.5', 1986).

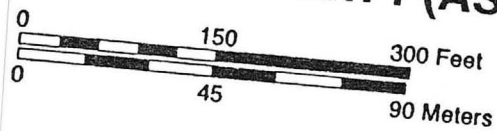
**Description.** This site consists of an abandoned mining prospect, the remains of a small, short-term mining camp, and an associated historic artifact scatter (**Figure 30**). The site, which measures 150  $\times$  350 feet (46  $\times$  107 meters), is on the south end of a small finger ridge north of Tollgate Wash. Soils are a cobbly alluvium/colluvium (exposed in the mine shaft) with gravelly silt near the surface. Local geology consists of volcanic basalts, with some rhyolites and ashy tuffs. Vegetation in and adjacent to the site includes acacia, prickly pear, yucca, snakeweed, and grasses in higher, well-drained areas, with foothill palo verde in washes adjacent to the site. The elevation is approximately 4560 feet (1390 meters) AMSL. The site is in pristine condition, with no modern disturbances other than a highway-related fence along its southern boundary.

Four features were identified. Feature 1 consists of a single mine shaft estimated to be 40 to 50 feet deep. The mouth of the shaft measures 5  $\times$  8 feet and is partially covered by wooden cribbing consisting of five-inch-by-eight-inch timbers on a wooden frame. Spoil from the shaft was dumped in a crescent-shaped pile, about 30 feet long and 2 to 5 feet high, immediately downslope (south) of the shaft. This spoil consists of soil and shattered rock resembling a grainy rhyolite or a metamorphosed purple-gray tuff with no apparent mineralization. Several unidentified machine parts and a piece of flexible rubber hose were also observed in the vicinity of the mine shaft and presumably relate to the mining operation.

Feature 2 is a rectangular rubble masonry foundation measuring about 25 feet north-south by 15 feet east-west. This foundation consists of rocks and small cobbles stacked two to four courses high and three to six courses wide, with a two-foot-wide entry in the center of the south wall. The area enclosed by this foundation has been cleared of large rocks, but is otherwise unimproved natural ground surface that slopes down to the south. No artifacts were noted inside the foundation. The lack of wood, wall fall, or structural hardware suggests that Feature 2 served as the base for a temporary shelter such as a tent; alternatively, it could represent a structure that was abandoned prior to completion.

Features 3 and 4 are rockpiles located adjacent to each other in the northeastern portion of the site. Feature 3 is composed of large cobbles and small boulders piled about three feet high and covering an area 8 to 10 feet in diameter. The rocks are partly covered with white paint or plaster. A two-inch-by-four-inch post, 10 feet in length and wrapped in wire, lies on the ground adjacent to this feature, suggesting that it may have served as a survey or claim marker. Feature 4 consists of a linear rockpile measuring approximately 25 feet long, from 8 to 10 feet wide, and approximately three feet high. This feature may have resulted from a bulldozer push or other mechanical disturbance to the surrounding area.

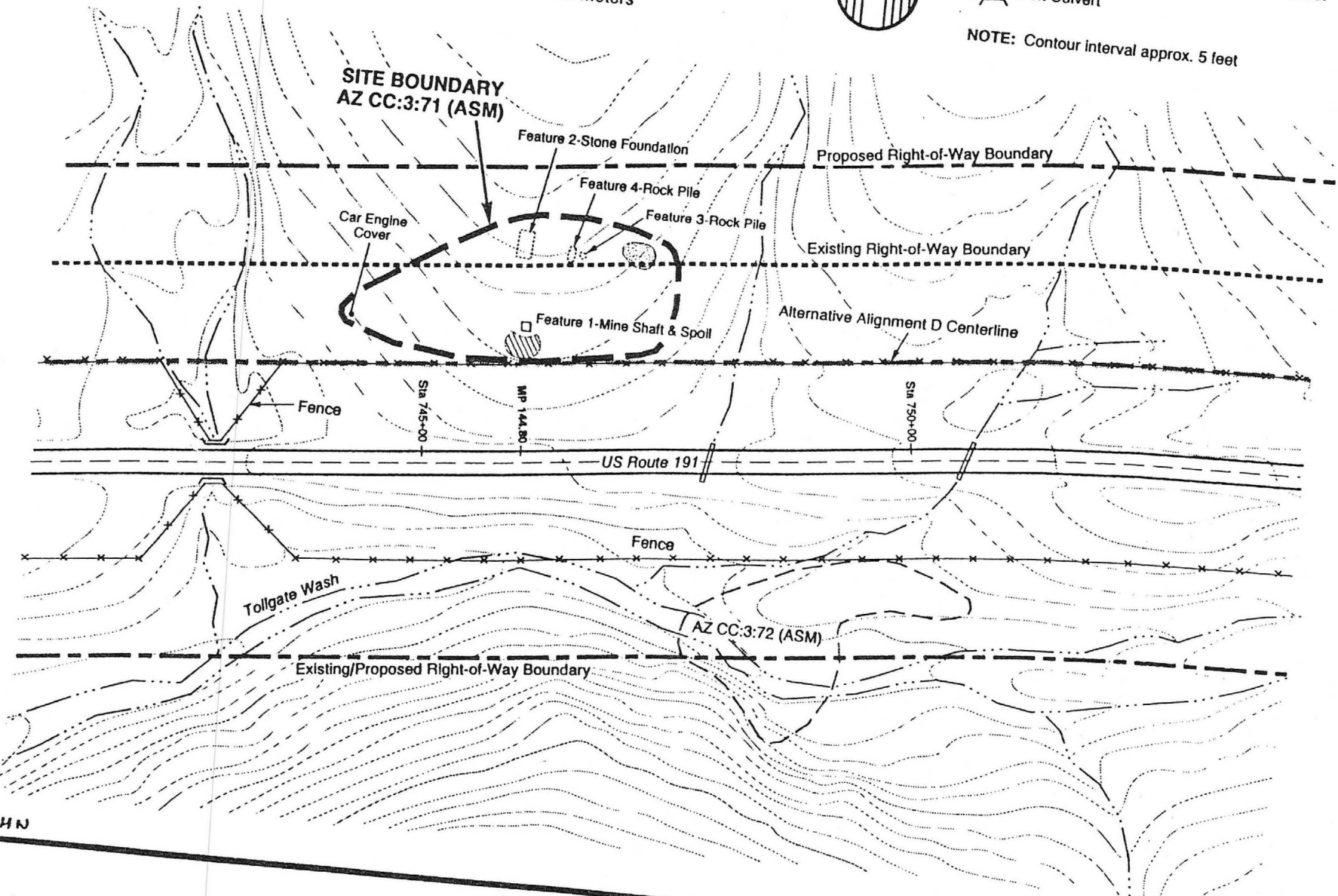
Figure 30  
**Plan of Site AZ CC:3:71 (ASM)**



**KEY:**

- Artifact Concentration
- Pipe Culvert
- Box Culvert
- Drainage
- Contour

NOTE: Contour interval approx. 5 feet



S. VAUGHN



Historic artifacts observed at the site suggest an early 1900s occupation. These include SCA glass (pre-1917), aqua glass (pre-1920), solder-seam and hole-in-cap cans, numerous lard buckets, a galvanized steel bucket, a rectangular can bucket with an improvised wire handle, a metal cigarette or tobacco case with the word "Drummond" embossed on the lid, a friction lid with the words "FRESH COTTOLENE" and "ALWAYS PLEASES" embossed around the edge of the lid, an assortment of "Schilling's Best" metal friction lids dating from 1882 to 1918 (Zumwalt 1980), a partial William Frazen & Son maker's mark (1900 to 1929) on a brown glass bottle base, and an Adolphus Busch maker's mark (1886 to 1929) on an aqua glass bottle base (Toulouse 1971). Other historic materials on the site include one hand-riveted barrel hoop, several horseshoes, a well-used sharpening stone of fine white sandstone, a variety of smashed and partial cans and sheet metal scrap, and a tool or machine part consisting of a triangular metal tooth, beveled and sharpened on two sides and riveted to an iron strap approximately two inches wide and one-quarter inch thick. Most of the lard buckets and smashed or partial cans occur in a discrete artifact concentration (possibly a deflated trash dump) in the northeastern portion of the site; other materials are scattered throughout the site, but predominantly on the top and eastern side of the ridge.

The western slope of the ridge, below Features 1 and 2, contains a low-density scatter of automobile parts, including an oil filter, a metal dipstick, several pieces of flat clear window glass, a radiator cap, and two halves of an old-style hinged engine cover. Found among this material was a large clear-glass textured jug base with an Owens-Illinois maker's mark (1929 to 1956) and the number "50," possibly indicating a 1950 manufacturing date (Toulouse 1971). This appears to postdate other materials at the site and may be associated with highway construction activities or roadside trash dumping ca. 1950.

Prehistoric artifacts at this site were limited to six white chert flakes in various stages of reduction. Only two of these flakes were convincingly cultural; others may have been caused by mining activities. Naturally fractured chert cobbles were also present across the surface of the site. Overall, prehistoric material at this site is negligible.

**Discussion and Recommendations.** Site AZ CC:3:71 (ASM) appears to be a mining prospect and camp, briefly occupied sometime between about 1900 and 1920—roughly the period when the nearby La Grita Toll Road (Site AZ CC:3:69 [ASM]) was in use. Diagnostic historic artifacts at the site seem to bracket this period, though the broad range of dates for some artifacts may indicate periodic working of the mine or reuse of the site at different times. However, the lack of identifiable ores in the tailings suggests that the prospect located no useful materials and was abandoned after a short time.

Site AZ CC:3:71 (ASM) is recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D (information potential). It could yield valuable data applicable to the historic context of mining activities in the northern Peloncillo Mountains in the early 1900s. The site should therefore be avoided by all ground-disturbing project activities. If avoidance is not possible, further evaluation of site eligibility will be necessary. This work should include thorough documentary research on the site, detailed mapping and photodocumentation of features, collection and analysis of surface artifacts, and test excavations to examine the depth and integrity of cultural deposits on the site (e.g., within the structural foundation and trash concentration). The resulting data may be used to reach a final determination of eligibility, which point either cultural resources clearance may be granted or further, more intensive work may be required.