

WELLTON-MOHAWK IRRIGATION SYSTEM
(Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation & Drainage District)
Approximately 125 square miles adjacent to the Gila River
Wellton vicinity
Yuma County
Arizona

HAER AZ-68
AZ-68

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation System

HAER No. AZ-68

HAER
AZ-68
(page 1)

- Location:** Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD), Wellton vicinity, Yuma County, Arizona. The WMIDD encompasses approximately 125 square miles adjacent to the Gila River, extending from east of the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers at the point where the Gila River passes between the Laguna and Gila mountain ranges to Texas Hill, about 45 miles to the east.
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles: 1991 Dome, Arizona; 1965 Fortuna, Arizona (photorevised 1979); 1955 Growler, Arizona (photorevised 1982); 1955 Laguna Dam, Arizona (photorevised 1979); 1965 Ligurta, Arizona; 1965 Mohawk, Arizona (photorevised 1982); 1986 Red Bluff Mountain East, Arizona; 1955 Roll, Arizona (photorevised 1982); 1965 Tacna, Arizona (photorevised 1982); 1965 Texas Hill, Arizona (photorevised 1982); 1965 Wellton, Arizona (photorevised 1982); and 1965 Wellton Mesa, Arizona (photorevised 1982). Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 11, N 3625447 E 740582 (western boundary of WMIDD); Zone 12, N 3634937 E 247662 (eastern boundary of WMIDD).
- Date of Construction:** 1949–1957
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Regional Office
Boulder City, Nevada
- Present Use:** Delivery of Colorado River water to lands within the WMIDD.
- Significance:** The Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project was a major engineering feat. Water diverted from the Colorado River and delivered to farmlands via the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation system has transformed the once-arid land into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country. According to Thompson and Sterner (2005), the irrigation system is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria a and c. It is significant under Criterion a for its impact on the settlement and economic development of the lower Gila River valley. The irrigation system is a significant engineering achievement with its miles of canals and laterals, pumping plants, and appurtenant structures for regulating the delivery of water to project lands; it is considered eligible under Criterion c.
- Report Prepared by:** Scott Thompson, Senior Historian
Statistical Research, Inc.
Tucson, Arizona
- Date:** September 2006

I. HISTORIC CONTEXT FOR THE WELLTON-MOHAWK DIVISION OF THE GILA PROJECT

The Wellton-Mohawk Division begins approximately 12 miles east of the city of Yuma, Arizona, and extends upstream along the Gila River corridor for approximately 45 miles (Figure 1). The irrigation system of the division was constructed between 1949 and 1957, and Colorado River water diverted at Imperial Dam was routed to the partially completed Wellton-Mohawk Division beginning in 1952. The Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) was established as the local water users organization to administer the irrigation project. The WMIDD is a state-chartered agency legally constituted to own lands and facilities and to contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for diversion of Colorado River water for use on division lands and for the repayment of construction costs.

The historical information presented below draws heavily on the historic context developed for the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation system by Thompson and Sterner (2005), which focused on the growth of large-scale irrigation technologies and the effects of irrigation agriculture on local and regional economies. This section summarizes the development of the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project. It begins with a brief historical narrative of Euroamerican efforts to control water along the lower Gila and Colorado Rivers for agricultural purposes.

A. Early Irrigation on the Colorado and Lower Gila Rivers

Irrigation has been practiced along the lower Colorado River for centuries. Sources claim that prior to the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans had practiced irrigation agriculture in the valley between Yuma and the Gulf of California for more than 1,000 years (e.g., Robertson 1942:104). As early as the sixteenth century, Spanish missionaries in the Yuma area noted that the Quechan were engaged in irrigation farming. Several early irrigation efforts were made by Euroamericans, although large-scale irrigation in the Yuma area did not take place until the early twentieth century.

The historical significance of Euroamerican land settlement in the area now defined by the WMIDD boundary has long been tied to water control. Despite evolving technologies that allowed farmers to harness the life-giving water from the Gila River, they nevertheless had to struggle with nature—extended periods of drought, intermittent floods, and saline groundwater.

Farming in the area initially began to support military installations and various settlements along the Colorado River. As transportation improved and the local population increased, so too did demand for cultivated produce, which made irrigation agriculture in the area a profitable enterprise. Moody (1947) dates Euroamerican irrigation in the area now within the WMIDD to the years 1858–1861, when attendants at the way stations along the Butterfield stage line diverted water from the Gila River to grow vegetables and feed for livestock. At the time, the Gila River flowed as a continuous stream, making it relatively easy to control for irrigation.

During the 1870s, Charles Baker grew hay for the stagecoach line that passed through the valley (Wright 2004). A native of New York, Baker arrived in Yuma in April 1862. He dabbled in prospecting and established a cattle ranch on the Gila River around 1870 (Arizona Historical Society n.d.). Baker and later settlers realized the agricultural potential of the lower Gila River and the rich soils of its floodplain. An article in the *Arizona Sentinel* (AS) (1885) remarked that Gila River water “is of a superior quality for purposes of irrigating and constantly enriches the soil by alluvial deposits.” By the early 1880s, two irrigation ventures were underway in the Mohawk and Antelope Valleys. The Mohawk Valley is a portion of the Gila River valley and stretches westward from Texas Hill to Antelope Hill; the Antelope Valley extends from Antelope Hill on the southern bank of the Gila River for approximately 15 miles to the town of Wellton (see Figure 1). By 1890, several thousand acres were under cultivation (*Arizona Daily Star* [ADS] 1886; Moody 1947).

The promise of a reliable water supply attracted more settlers to the region. Homestead claims were filed, and many homesteaders were able to “prove up” their claims by turning the previously arid soil into productive farmland. In 1891, a devastating flood destroyed the diversion works of the Mohawk and Antelope Canals and changed the course of the Gila River. Area farmers repaired the headworks and canals, but subsequent floods left the facilities useless (Moody 1947). The ensuing years were characterized by severe drought, limiting the Gila River’s flow to barely a trickle. Without a steady, reliable water source, many farmers abandoned their lands. A new wet cycle in 1904 brought farmers back to the area to try their hand at farming again.

By about 1915, some farmers in the area began drilling wells to maintain their water supplies during periods of low flow along the Gila River. In 1919, the diminishing flow of the river, due in part to the construction of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River (a major tributary of the Gila River), forced farmers to abandon the diversion works and tap the vast supply of groundwater to meet their irrigation and municipal water needs. This required electric power for pumping and more wells to distribute water to the lands under irrigation. Farmers organized the Mohawk Municipal Water Conservation District (MMWCD) in August 1923 to distribute water from district-owned wells to lands under irrigation. Encompassing 18,500 acres of fertile bottomland in the lower Gila River valley, the district boundaries extended from 3 miles west of Antelope Hill to approximately 4 miles west of Texas Hill (Lippincott 1926). Electric power for pumping irrigation water from MMWCD wells and for domestic use was supplied by the Gila Valley Power District (Moody 1947). Water and electricity brought rapid development to the region, and by 1930, approximately 11,000 acres of land were under cultivation. Between 1926 and 1933, farmers produced high yields of cotton, sorghum, alfalfa, other hay, and grain. The water table dropped at an alarming rate, and, by 1934, salt in the wells had reached excessive levels, forcing many farmers to abandon their lands because the soil and water were too saline for successful farming. Some farmers remained in the area, growing alfalfa seed and Bermuda grass seed, which are salt-tolerant crops (Moody 1947). Those farmers who remained turned to Reclamation for assistance. After years of investigations and negotiations, Congress authorized the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project on July 30, 1947.

B. The Gila Project

The Gila Project, originally known as the Parker-Gila Project, was authorized for investigation by Sections 11 and 15 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act, as approved by Congress on December 21, 1928. Initially, the Parker-Gila Project plan included the development of the Colorado River Indian Reservation near Parker, Arizona, and the lower Gila River valley. Delivery of water to the Gila River valley would be accomplished via a diversion work south of the town of Ehrenberg and conveyed through miles of canals, tunnels, and siphons (Figure 2). Subsequent investigations convinced Reclamation to separate the two projects. The plan to potentially develop 585,000 irrigable acres on the Yuma Mesa and in the lower Gila River valley became known as the Gila Project, authorized under the provisions of Reclamation Law, the Act of June 16, 1933 (48 Stat. 195), and subsequent appropriation acts (Reclamation 1948:16) (Figure 3).

Reclamation officials divided the Gila Project into two divisions: the Yuma Mesa Division and the Wellton-Mohawk Division. The Yuma Mesa Division was further subdivided into three units: the Mesa Unit, located immediately east and south of Yuma, and the North Gila Valley and South Gila Valley Units, both of which lie east and north of Yuma. The main features of the Gila Project include the diversion and desilting works at Imperial Dam; the Gila Gravity Main Canal; the Yuma Mesa canals and distribution systems; the canal and lateral system in the North Gila Valley, which was originally part of the Yuma Project; and the Wellton-Mohawk Division, which includes the distribution system, drainage system, and protective works. Imperial Dam, completed in 1938, essentially bypassed Laguna Dam and currently supplies water for both the All American Canal system and the Gila Gravity Main Canal. The Gila Project was first authorized on June 21, 1937, and construction was initiated under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and continued through the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 (Pfaff et al. 1999:63).

The Gila Gravity Main Canal and its associated features were constructed between 1936 (prior to the project's official approval) and 1939. Construction on some ancillary features continued through early 1942, when the War Production Board issued a stop-order halting work on the project because of U.S. involvement in World War II. After the war, work on the Gila Project resumed (Reclamation 1946:3). The canal system currently supplies water to the portions of the original Yuma Project and the Wellton-Mohawk and Yuma Mesa Divisions of the Gila Project. The canal begins at Imperial Dam and passes through the northern tip of the Laguna Mountains southward and eastward around the mountains and then flows under the Gila River via an inverted siphon. The tunnels, the canal, and the siphons at the Gila River and Fortuna Wash and the gates at the Gila River Siphon are considerable feats of engineering. The Gila River and Fortuna Wash Siphons were the largest that Reclamation had constructed up to that time (Pfaff et al. 1999:63–64). Among the other features associated with the Gila Gravity Main Canal are water measurement and protective devices used to gauge the flow of water and its distribution.

By the late 1930s, several of the irrigation features authorized by the Gila Project were under construction; however, farmers in the proposed Wellton-Mohawk Division had no guarantee as to when Colorado River water would be delivered to their lands. Many farms had failed because of the highly saline groundwater used for irrigation, and those farmers who remained desperately awaited a sweet supply of water. Residents of the greater Mohawk Valley formed the Gila Project Association in 1936 to lay the groundwork, in terms of authorization, for the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project. The Gila Project

Association lobbied intensively in the halls of Congress, hoping to convince federal officials of the dire situation facing farmers in the greater Mohawk Valley and of the area's tremendous agricultural potential. Hugo B. Farmer, secretary of the association, made repeated trips to Washington, D.C., to appear before congressional committees (AS 1952a). Congress passed the Gila Project Reauthorization Act on July 30, 1947, and allocated funds for the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project. Under the project reauthorization, Congress reduced the total irrigable acreage from the original 585,000 acres to 115,000 acres—40,000 acres in the Yuma Mesa Division and 75,000 in the Wellton-Mohawk Division. Furthermore, the reauthorization act limited each division to 300,000 acre-feet of water annually. Construction began in September 1949 on the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation features. Prior to construction, the lands of the Wellton-Mohawk Division were largely undeveloped with approximately 7,900 acres under cultivation and irrigated by privately developed wells (Reclamation 1949a:16, 19).

C. The Wellton-Mohawk Division

The Gila Project comprises lands along and adjacent to the lower Gila River valley in southwestern Arizona. As originally intended under the Reauthorization Act of 1947, the project would serve a total of 115,000 acres of land consisting of 40,000 acres in the Yuma Mesa Division and 75,000 acres in the Wellton-Mohawk Division. Prior to bringing Colorado River water to the Antelope and Mohawk Valleys, the lands of the Wellton-Mohawk Division were mostly undeveloped with approximately 7,000 acres under cultivation in the vicinities of Wellton and Roll (Reclamation 1950:6).

Between 1949 and 1957, Reclamation oversaw the construction of the Wellton-Mohawk Division irrigation system. The major features of the Wellton-Mohawk Division consist of five main canals, three major pumping plants and four smaller pump stations on the larger laterals, a distribution system (laterals), protective works (levees), and turnouts for each 160 acres or individually owned small parcel.

The Wellton-Mohawk Division begins roughly 12 miles east of Yuma and extends approximately 45 miles up the Gila River to its eastern terminus at Texas Hill (see Figure 1). Water from the Colorado River is diverted from the Arizona side of the Imperial Dam to the Gila Main Gravity Canal. The Gila Gravity Main Canal diverts water into the Wellton-Mohawk Canal through a check and turnout located south of the Gila River Siphon. Flow in the Wellton-Mohawk Canal proceeds up the Gila River valley opposite the river flow, therefore requiring three pumping plants along the canal to lift the water a total of 170 feet (Figure 4). Approximately 10 miles downstream of the Wellton-Mohawk check and turnout, the Dome Canal branches off to the north to carry water to the western lands of the district. Pumping Plant No. 3, located at approximately mile 18.4 on the system, serves as the terminus for the Wellton-Mohawk Canal. The Wellton Canal diverts from the Wellton-Mohawk Canal at mile 18.0 and carries water by gravity flow to a point about 1 mile west of Antelope Hill. From there the canal trends west-northwest, delivering water to the central part of the region. The Mohawk Canal begins at Pumping Plant No. 3 and extends northeast to the Gila River where it crosses under the river through a siphon then turns west and roughly parallels the Union Pacific supplemental main line between Wellton and Phoenix. The Texas Hill Canal begins at mile 30.9 on the Mohawk Canal and extends east-northeast to Texas Hill at the eastern boundary of the Wellton-Mohawk Division. The approximate lengths of the canals are: Wellton-Mohawk, 18.5 miles; Dome, 13 miles; Wellton, 19.9 miles; Mohawk, 46.8 miles; and Texas Hill, 9.8 miles (Reclamation 1981:511–512). Distribution systems branching off the canals convey irrigation water through a

network of laterals across the Wellton-Mohawk Division. The delivery of Colorado River water turned previously barren desert into productive farmland. By the end of 1953, over 21,000 acres were under irrigation in the Antelope and Mohawk Valleys (*Arizona Farmer-Rancher* 1954).

D. The Wellton-Mohawk Division: Delivery of Project Water

On April 21, 1952, Reclamation made a test run that marked the first delivery of water into the system (Reclamation 1956:5). The first delivery of water onto farmland via the newly constructed Wellton-Mohawk Canal arrived on May 1, 1952, as part of Reclamation's Golden Jubilee celebration commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the agency. Thousands of district residents and well-wishers attended the celebration held at Roll, Arizona, to mark the arrival of Colorado River water to valley lands. Arizona Governor Howard Pyle (Figure 5) delivered the keynote address and, in dramatic fashion, Reclamation Commissioner Michael W. Straus switched off an electric pump lifting water from a nearby well before using a gold-plated shovel to turn the first water from the canal onto district soil (*AS* 1952b). Landowners received water from the Wellton-Mohawk, Mohawk, and Wellton Canals through temporary licenses to take water to irrigate 9,480 acres during 1952 (Reclamation 1952:7).

With the delivery of Colorado River water to the Wellton-Mohawk Division, economic development skyrocketed. Reclamation figures indicate the gross crop value for 1952 (\$3,118,404) was more than double the 1951 income, with nearly twice as many acres under cultivation than in the previous year. Increases in farmed area and crop production brought new businesses to the Wellton-Mohawk area. A Reclamation survey conducted at the end of 1952 enumerated "two cotton gins, two seed houses, three grocery stores, three motels, three farm machinery stores, and an additional service station, variety store, lumber company, barber shop and restaurant" within the Wellton-Mohawk delivery area (Reclamation 1952:6).

The Reclamation Act of 1902 required a local water users organization to administer all aspects of the project upon its completion, including the delivery of water to private lands, the collection of use fees, and the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system (Pfaff et al. 1999:28). To satisfy this requirement, on July 23, 1951, the Arizona State Legislature created the WMIDD. As a political subdivision of the state of Arizona, the WMIDD has a corporate boundary and a board of directors, who are elected by the owners of irrigable land within the municipal corporate boundary (WMIDD n.d.:2). Because most of the lands in the Wellton-Mohawk Division were privately owned, Reclamation law required the execution of a contract for repayment of project costs estimated at \$42 million before water could be delivered. The WMIDD Board of Directors signed the repayment contract on March 6, 1952. Under the terms of the contract, the WMIDD was responsible for 60 annual installments, with the first payment due at the end of a 10-year development period (*Yuma Daily Sun* 1952).

Currently, the WMIDD operates and maintains approximately 400 miles of main canals, laterals, and return-flow channels. Most of the private ditches in the WMIDD are now lined with concrete, resulting in decreased seepage and greater farm efficiency. Several small communities within the WMIDD receive water through municipal and domestic distribution systems, each with their own treatment facilities. Hundreds of individual turnouts convey water to individual residences; however, it is the responsibility of the user to properly treat the water. The WMIDD provides potable water to the district-maintained residences

adjacent to its headquarters (WMIDD n.d.:3, 4, 16). The Wellton-Mohawk Division has made a significant impact on the area it serves, creating a vast source of new wealth by bringing Colorado River water to previously arid lands. Today, approximately 62,000 acres are under irrigation.

E. Construction of Wellton Government Camp

During the construction of the Mohawk and Wellton Canals and their respective distribution systems, Reclamation built the Wellton Government Camp to provide office space and housing for employees engaged in fieldwork associated with the irrigation project. Reclamation chose the site just outside the town of Wellton because of its location near the center of the Wellton-Mohawk Division area (Figure 6). Because there were no facilities in or near the project area, camp requirements called for the construction of “a water-supply system, a sewage collection and disposal system, and an electrical supply and distribution system” (Purdin 1951:9). The general contracting firm of Sooy and Jackson of Redlands, California, was awarded the contract on June 6, 1950. Notice to proceed was issued on June 28, 1950, and construction of Wellton Government Camp commenced on July 5, 1950. Working from architectural and engineering plans developed by Reclamation, the contractor constructed all of the roads, buildings, and utilities associated with the camp (Figures 7 and 8). All work was completed on March 16, 1951 (Reclamation 1950:7, 1951:7) (Figure 9). Beginning in 1951, the camp provided office space and living quarters for Reclamation employees while work progressed on the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation system. Once the WMIDD assumed responsibility for operating and maintaining the irrigation system, district employees occupied the offices and residences. Today, the headquarters of the WMIDD stand on the site of the camp offices and the houses serve as residences for WMIDD employees.

Wellton Government Camp occupies a 20-acre parcel of land. The original built environment included office space, a garage for vehicle storage, a maintenance shop, a warehouse, a dormitory for single men, and 30 single-family residential units. As originally developed, the residential area consisted of the dormitory, 10 six-room permanent-type houses of frame and stucco construction, and 12 temporary-type residential buildings of frame construction. The six-room residences—Types 6A, 6B, and 6C—have identical floor plans. Where they differ is in the roof plans. Type 6A incorporates a hipped roof; Type 6B has a side-gabled roof; and Type 6C uses a side-gable design with the addition of dormer vents on the gabled ends. The temporary-type buildings consisted of four duplex apartments with two bedrooms each (Type 4D), four duplex apartments with one bedroom each (Type 3D), and four single residences with two bedrooms each (Type 5R) (Purdin 1951:6). All of the temporary-type buildings at the camp (including the dormitory, office, garage, shop, and warehouse) were converted from salvaged buildings originally located at the Yuma Army Air Field. In 1949, the War Assets Administration transferred both real and personal property at the inactive Yuma Army Air Field to Reclamation for “use and disposal in connection with the veteran settlement program on Reclamation projects” (Reclamation 1949a:22). Some of the buildings were used in the construction of the government camp at Wellton (Reclamation 1949a:23) (Figures 10 and 11). In addition to the housing units, there are four double-car garages and one single-car garage associated with the permanent-type residences. The character-defining elements of the house and garage types represented at Wellton Government Camp are described later in the report.

The residential area is laid out in an elongated horseshoe design with all of the houses facing a central, grassy median (Figure 12). Roads in the camp area have bituminous surfaces. A bladed dirt road encompasses the perimeter of the residential area. The original office, garage, shop, and warehouse buildings have been replaced, and the dormitory has been torn down; however, the residential buildings remain largely intact.

The housing units are located along the 30600–30694 block of Wellton-Mohawk Drive. For this report, residential buildings are numbered 1–22 (see Figure 12). The original Building 11, a wood-frame duplex (Type 3D) constructed from military barracks sections, was relocated around 1959 to a section of the Mohawk Canal for use as a ditchrider's house (Pfaff 1997). The current Building 11 is a simple, one-story, wood-frame house with a stucco exterior and a low-pitch, front-gabled roof. It appears to be of ca. 1960s construction. Thompson and Sterner (2005:Appendix A) considered Building 11 to be a noncontributing resource; therefore, the structure is not documented in this report.

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Purpose

Reclamation proposes to transfer title to the facilities and lands of the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project from federal ownership to the WMIDD. This title transfer was authorized under the Wellton-Mohawk Transfer Act (Public Law [PL] 106-221), dated June 20, 2000. The transfer of federal property and facilities is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended). Therefore, Reclamation has an obligation to inventory historic properties on the lands proposed for transfer and to evaluate their potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In May and June 2004, Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI), inventoried and documented certain irrigation features and appurtenant structures of the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project in southwestern Arizona. SRI's subsequent report (Thompson and Sterner 2005:106) recommended that Pumping Plant Nos. 1, 2, and 3 be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion a for their role in regulating the flow of Colorado River water in the canals for distribution to farms in the division. The pumping plants are major features of the system and are significant under Criterion c for their design and operational characteristics. The WMIDD headquarters complex (formerly Wellton Government Camp) is eligible for listing in the NRHP as a district under Criteria a and c. Twenty-one of the 22 residential buildings contribute to the significance of the administrative complex. Building 11, because of its later construction date, is considered a noncontributing resource. The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (Collins 2005) concurred with SRI's eligibility recommendation, prompting Reclamation to proceed with Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation for the original residential units. Several of the houses are in a dilapidated condition and have asbestos and lead issues; the WMIDD would like to demolish the houses prior to implementing the memorandum of agreement for the proposed title transfer. SRI also recommended HAER documentation for unique examples of contributing resources on the system (Thompson and Sterner 2005:114).

In September 2005, the WMIDD, on behalf of the WMIDD and Reclamation, tasked SRI to document the following properties according to HAER Level II guidelines (National Park Service 2003): Pumping Plant Nos. 1, 2, and 3; relift station, Texas Hill Canal 2.5; radial gate check with drop, Wellton Canal 9.9; Wasteway No. 1, Wellton-Mohawk Canal; and the exteriors of Buildings 1–10 and 12–22, Wellton Government Camp.

B. Report Preparation

Archival research and field investigations for this project were conducted in October 2005 by SRI Senior Historian Scott Thompson. Thompson performed a literature and historical-records search to supplement information presented previously in SRI's historic context for the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project (Thompson and Sterner 2005). Primary and secondary sources regarding the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation-system features documented in this report were obtained from the following locations: Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Office, Denver, Colorado; Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office, Boulder City, Nevada; Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Projects Office, Yuma, Arizona; National Archives and Records Administration, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, Colorado; and the WMIDD, Wellton, Arizona. The following WMIDD employees provided additional information: Kenneth Baughman, project manager; Charles Slocum, manager; Roger Rinehart, senior technician; and Bob Smith, office manager. Fieldwork consisted of photodocumentation, obtaining measurements of additions to the housing units, and assessing the current condition of the properties under study.

Thompson wrote and compiled this document. David G. De Vries, of Mesa Technical (under contract to SRI), completed the large-format photodocumentation of properties addressed in this report.

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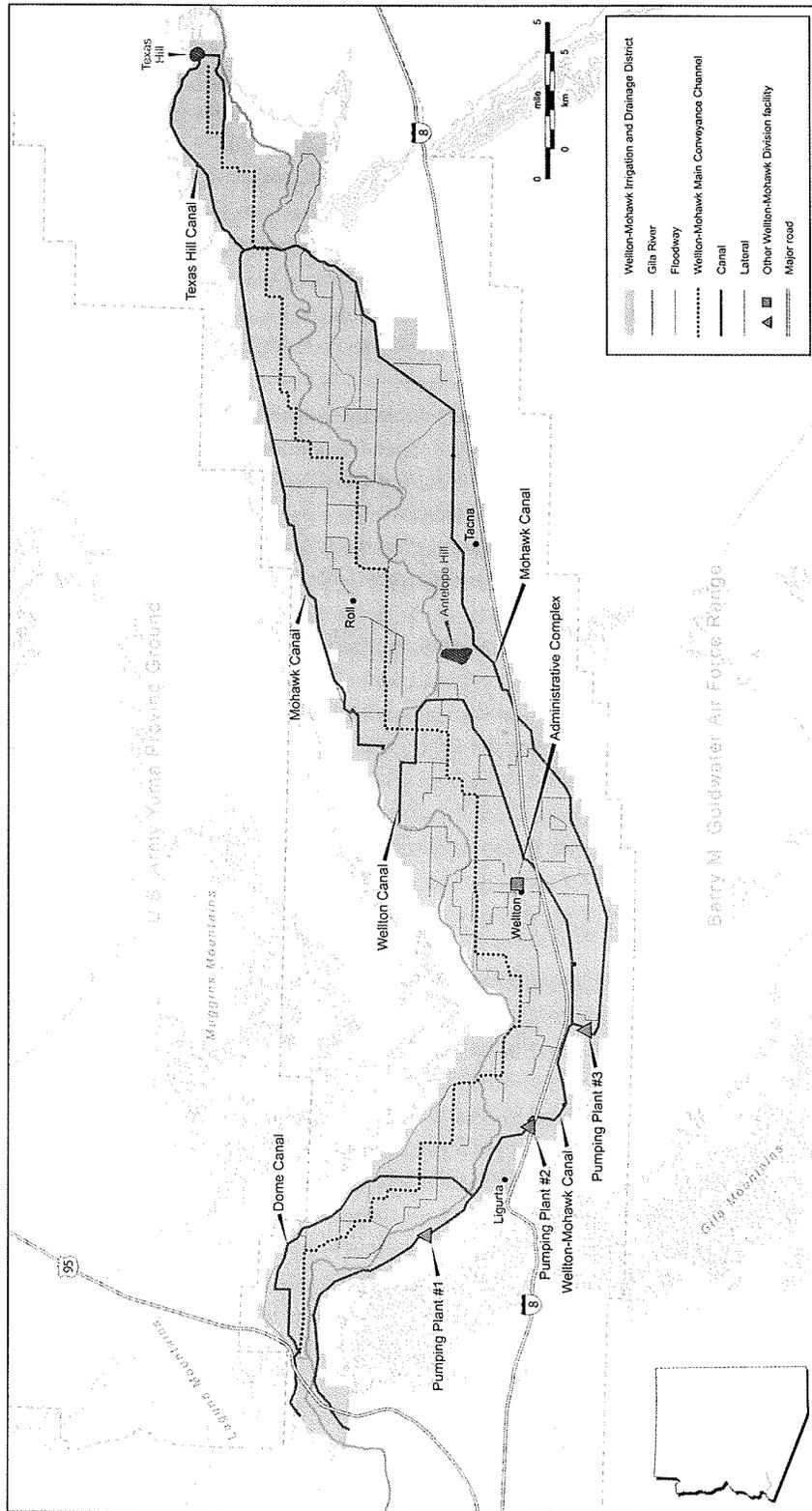


Figure 1. Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project, southwestern Arizona.

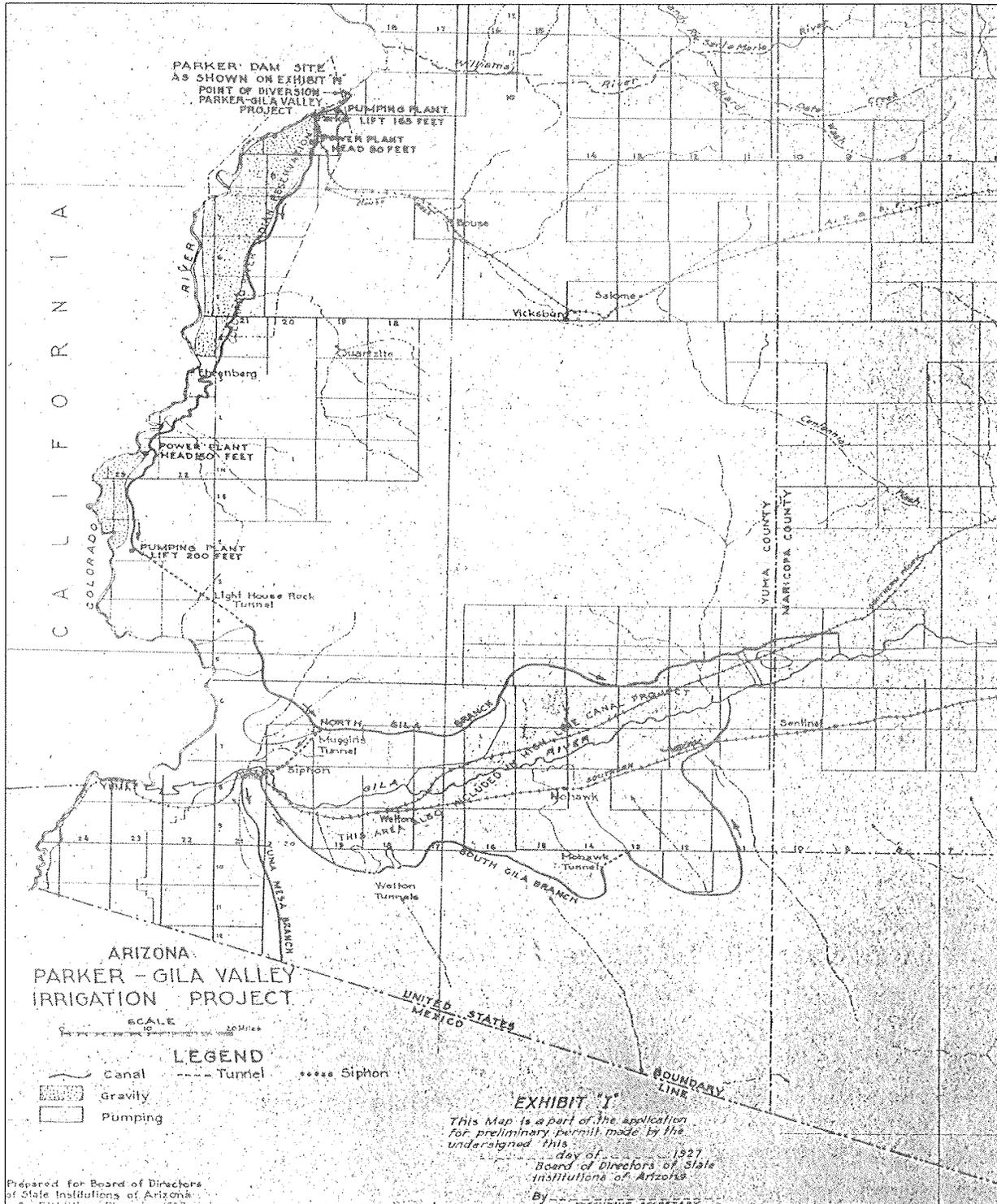


Figure 2. Map of the Parker-Gila Project, as originally conceived, 1927 (Miller 1927).

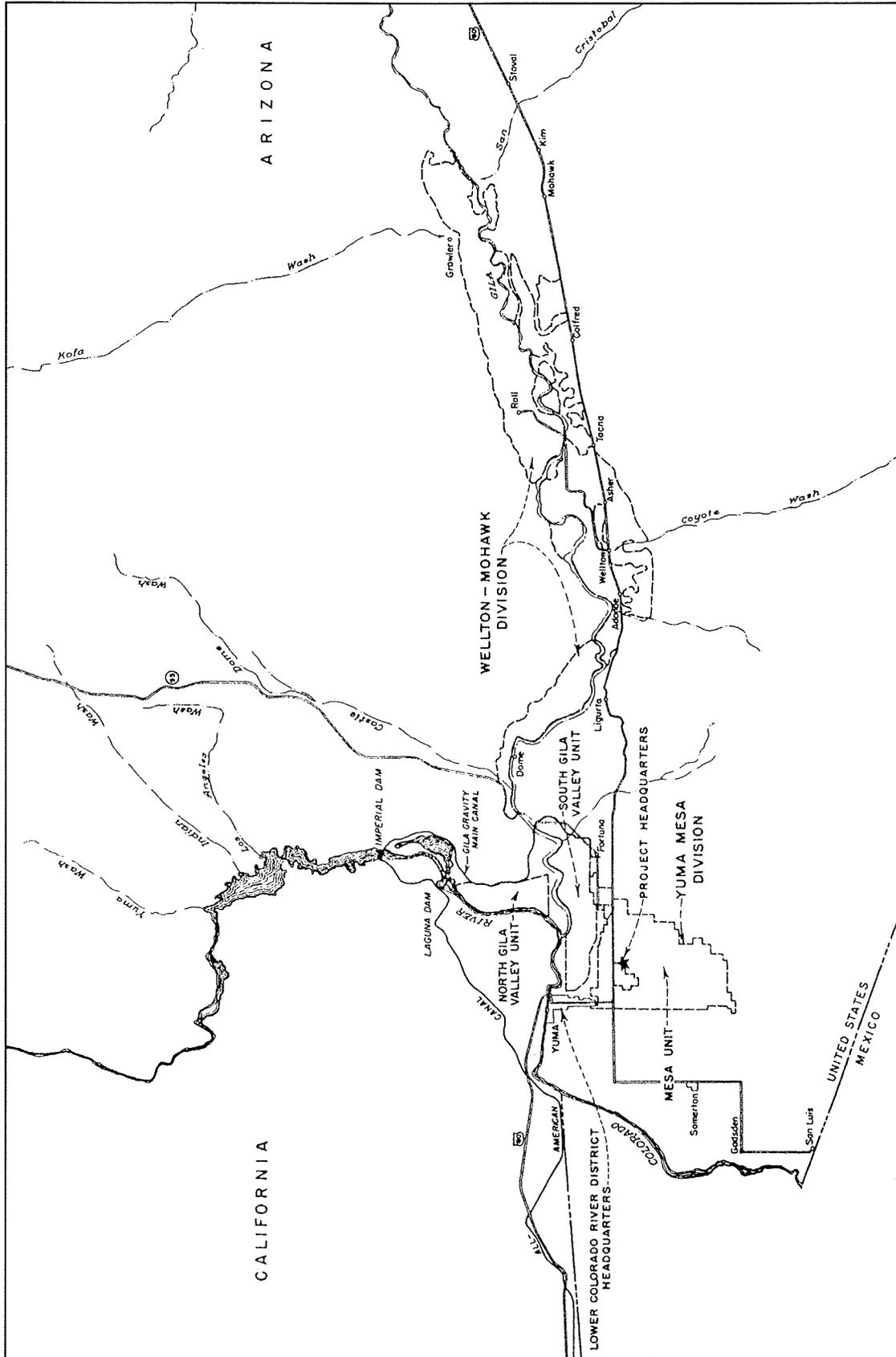


Figure 3. Map of the Gila Project showing the boundaries of the Yuma Mesa and Wellton-Mohawk Divisions (Reclamation 1950).

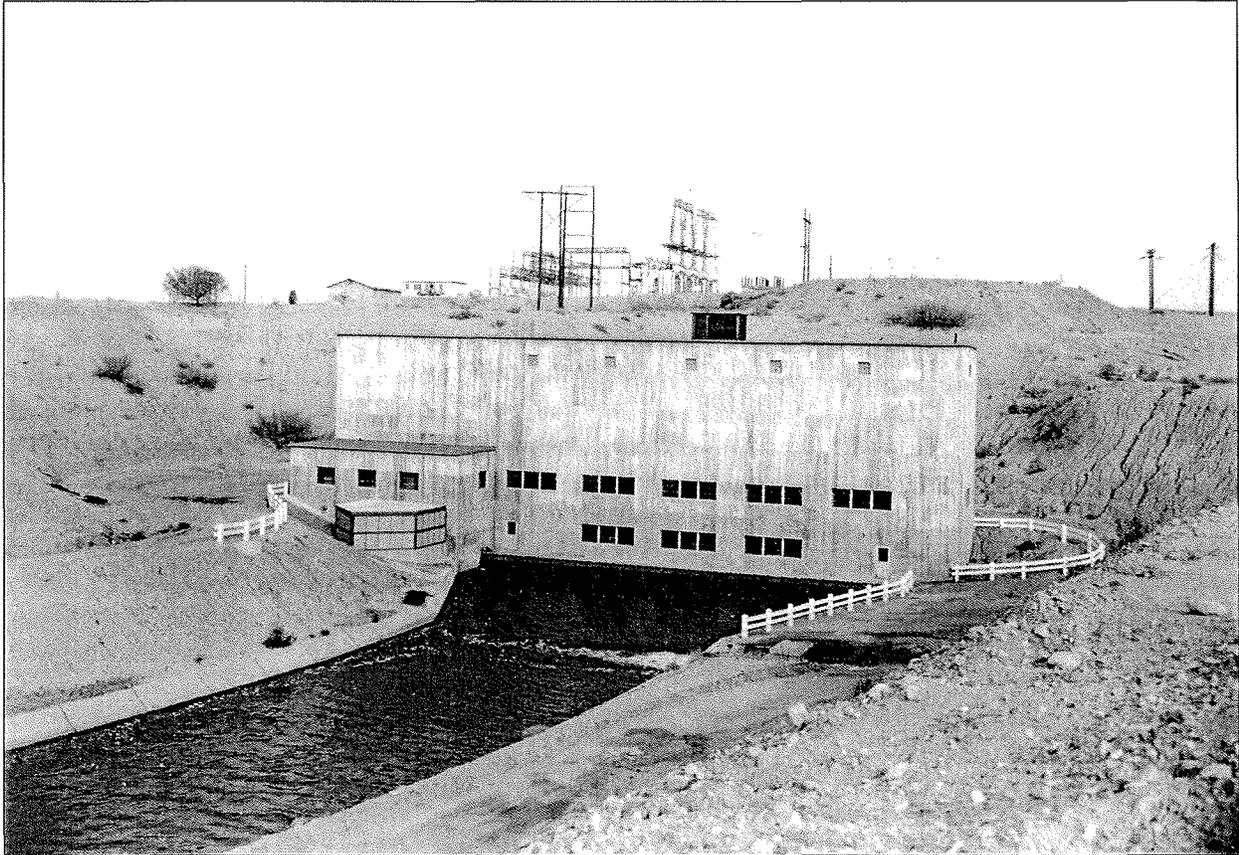


Figure 4. Pumping Plant No. 2, January 1967 (photograph courtesy of WMIDD).



Figure 5. Arizona Governor Howard Pyle, with microphone, delivering speech as the first Colorado River water flows onto Wellton-Mohawk farmland, May 1, 1952 (Reclamation photograph courtesy of WMIDD).

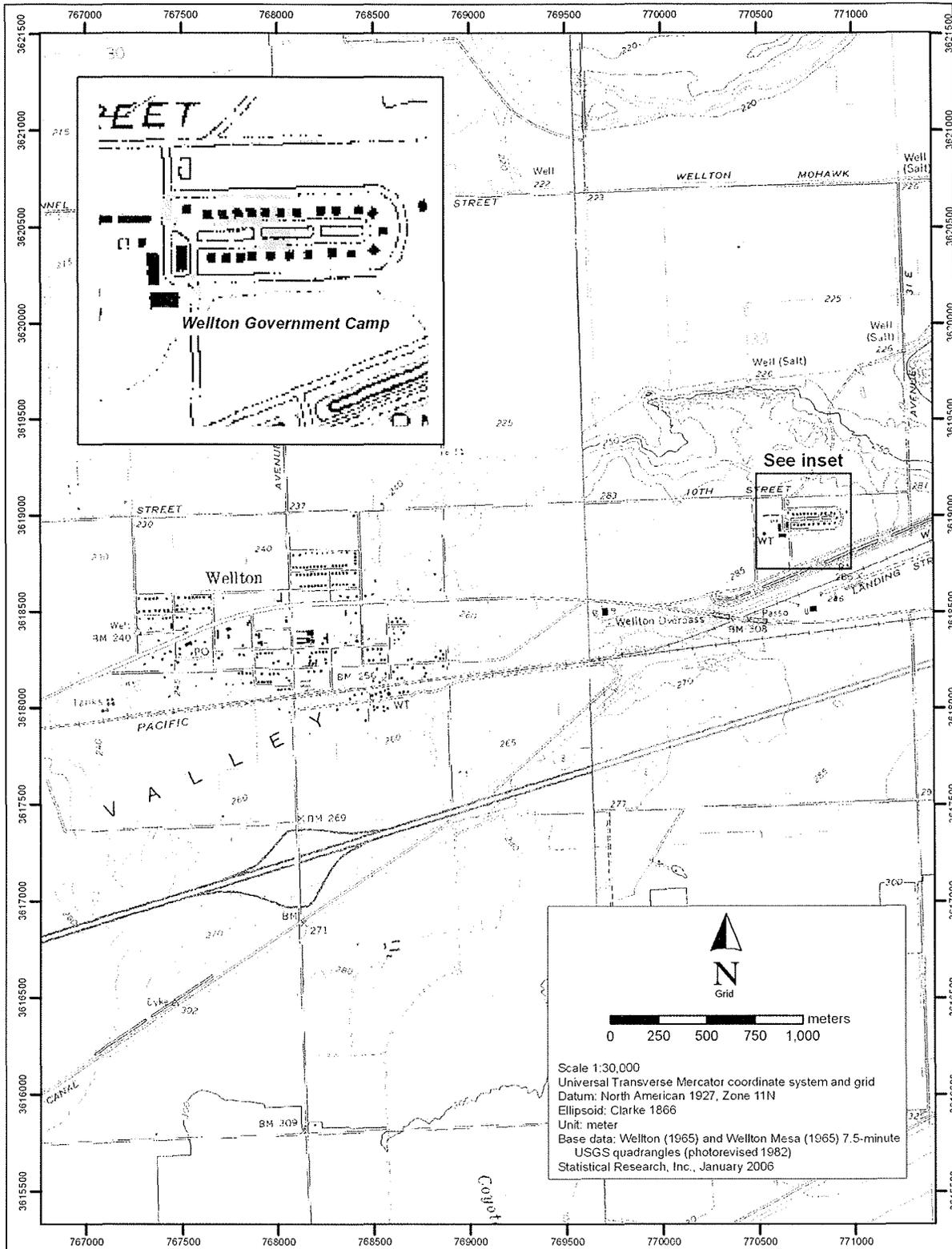


Figure 6. Location of Wellton Government Camp (composite of 1965 Wellton, Arizona, and 1965 Wellton Mesa, Arizona, 7.5-minute USGS quadrangles [photorevised 1980]).

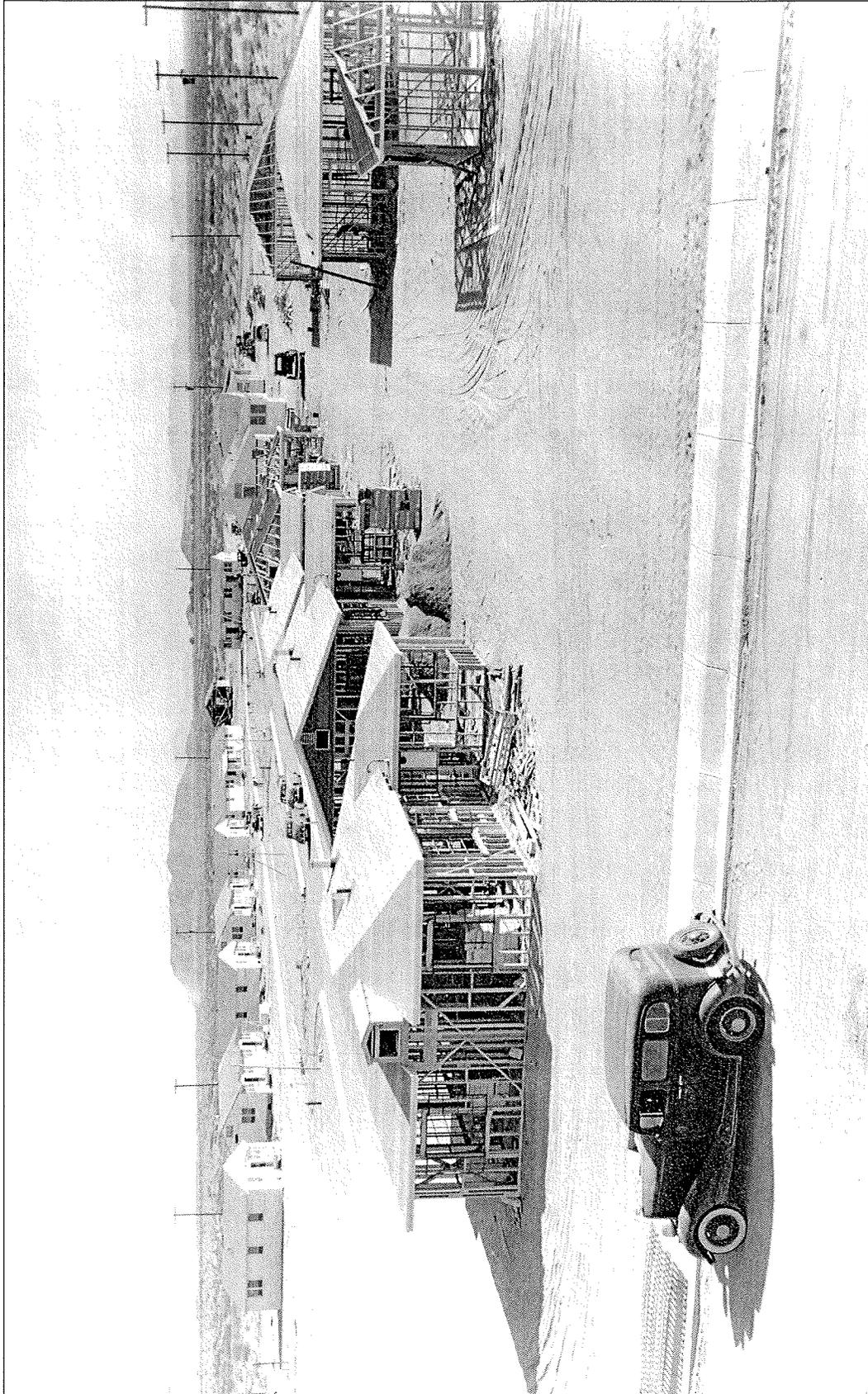


Figure 7. View to the east across camp, with construction proceeding on the permanent residences, garages for permanent houses (right), temporary-type duplexes, and single-family residences (background), November 20, 1950 (photograph courtesy of Reclamation).

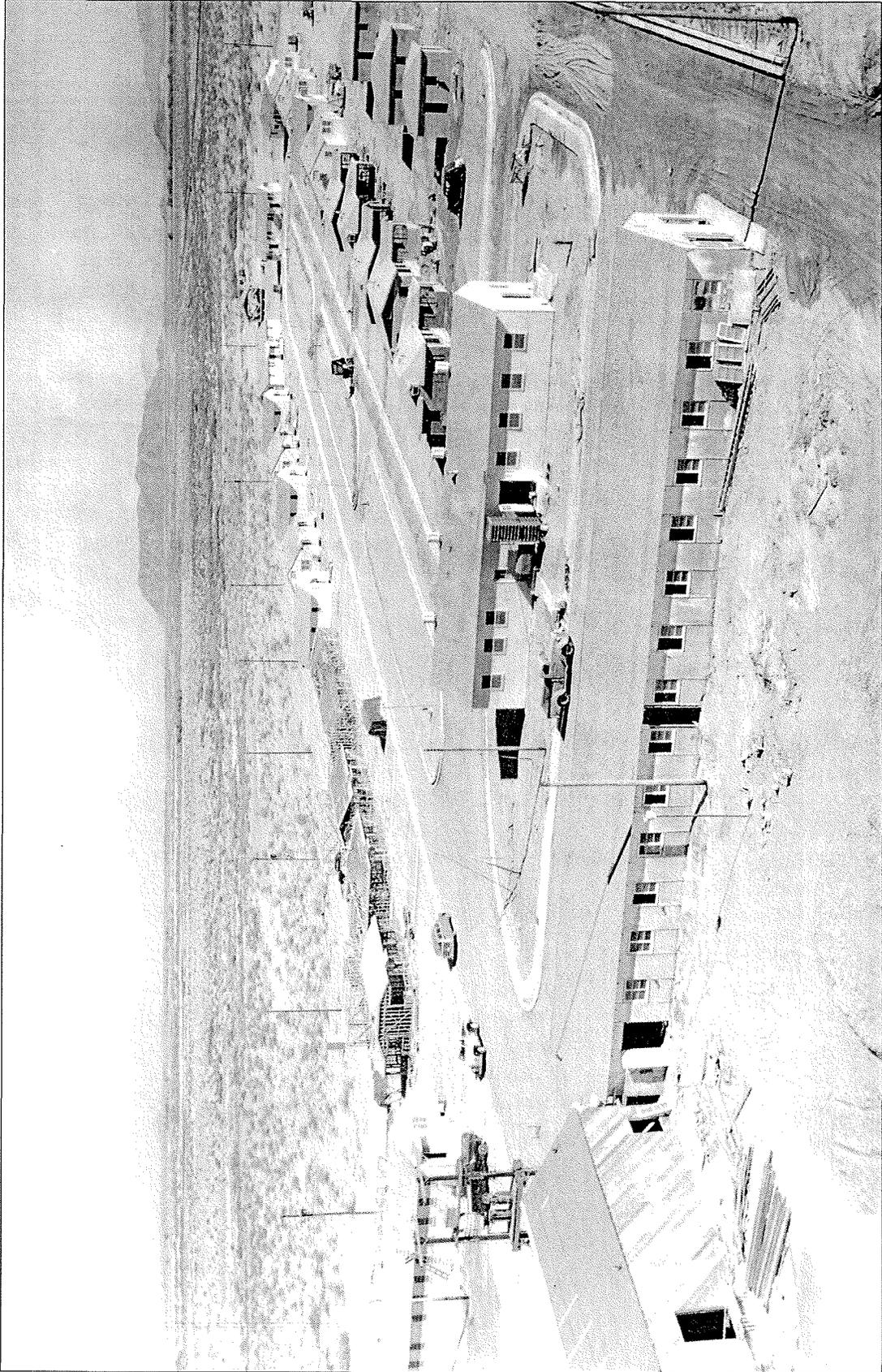


Figure 8. Project buildings include the shop (left foreground), dormitory (far left), vehicle garage (immediate foreground), and project office (behind garage), December 15, 1950 (photograph courtesy of Reclamation).

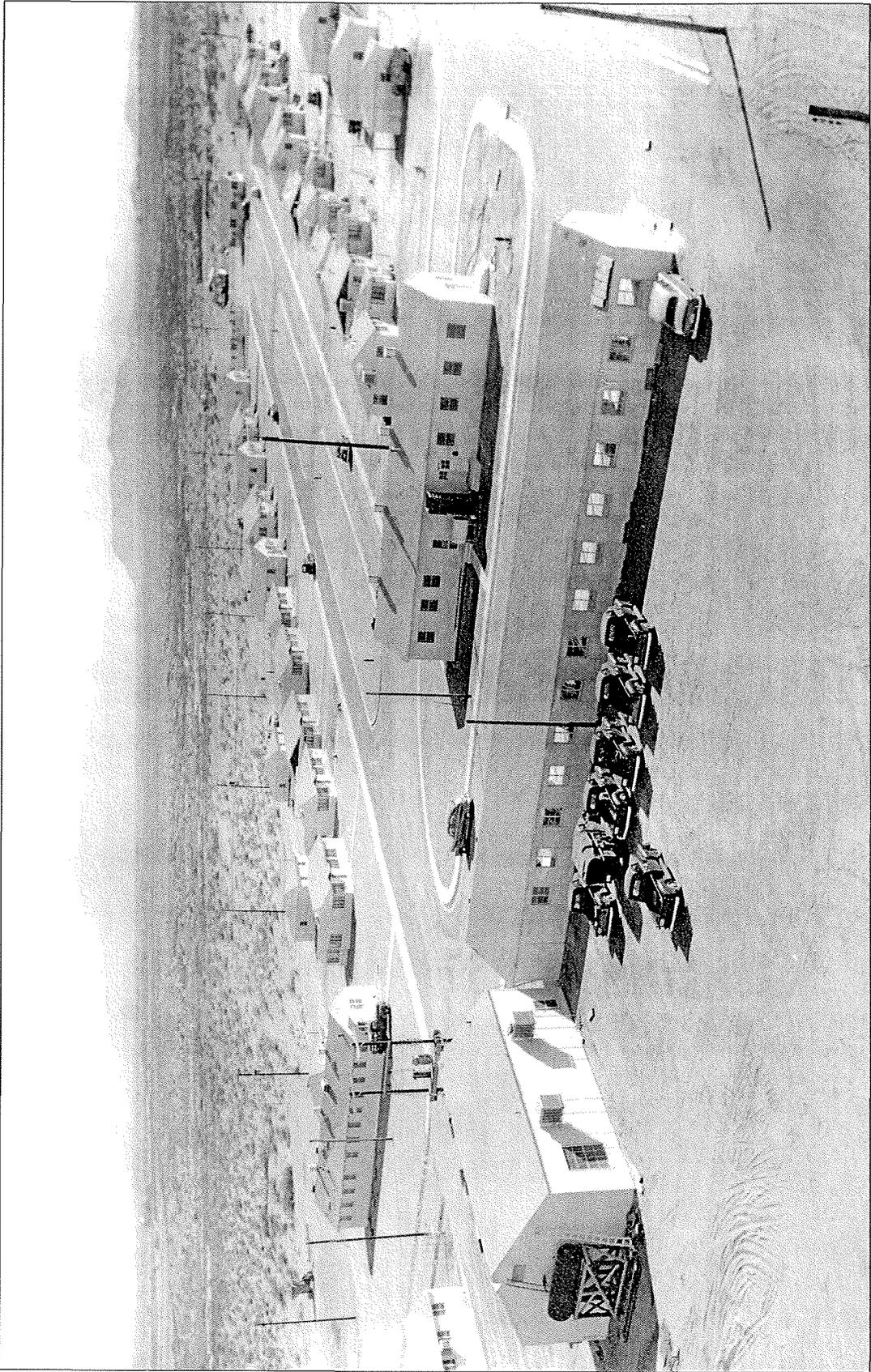


Figure 9. Wellton Government Camp. March 13, 1951 (photograph courtesy of Reclamation).



Figure 10. Moving of sectionalized buildings from Yuma Army Air Field to Wellton Government Camp site by C & C House Moving Company, September 22, 1950 (photograph courtesy of Reclamation).

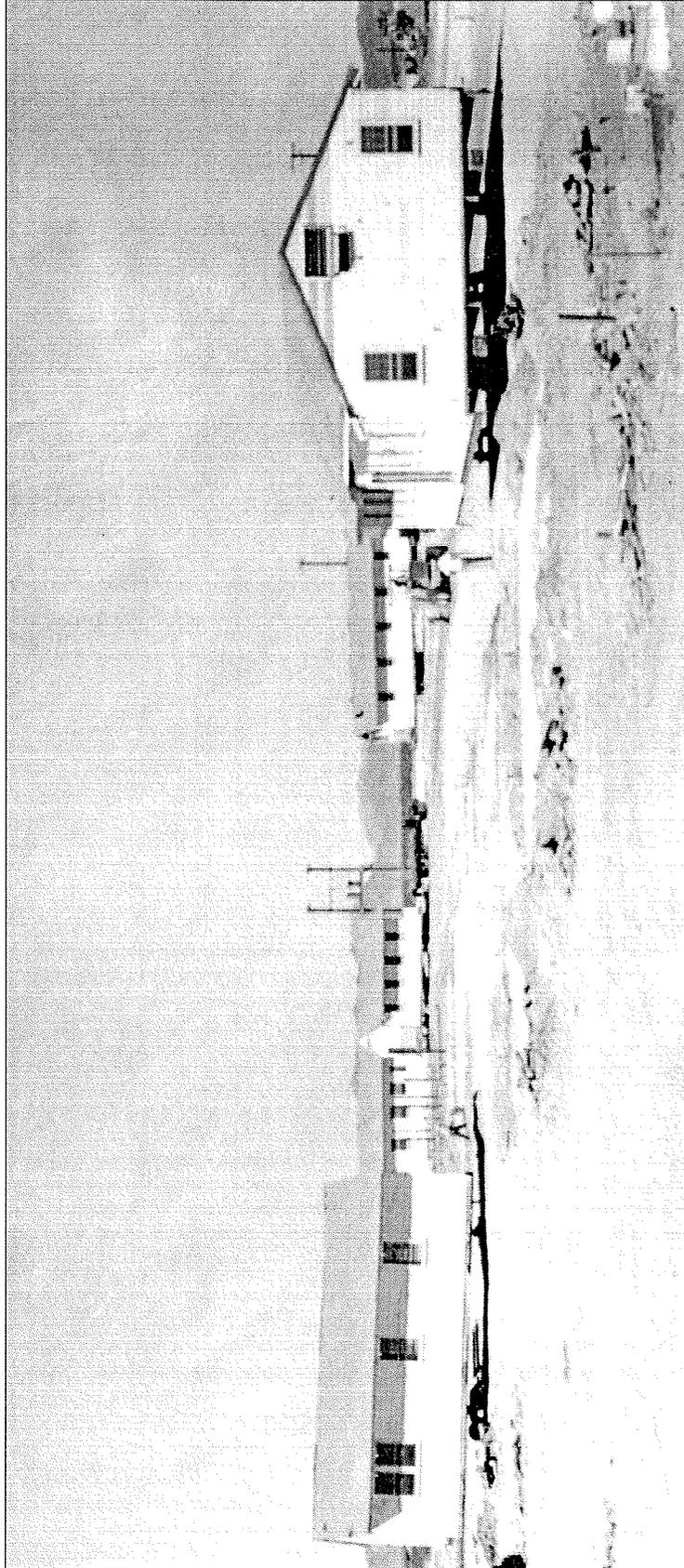


Figure 11. View to west across camp showing sectionalized barracks moved into place, September 22, 1950. Concrete foundations and piers (foreground) are designed to support the floor joists (photograph courtesy of Reclamation).

