

- 1. **Smithsonian Trinomial:** 42GR1274
- 2. **Temporary Site No.:**
- 3. **Site Name:** J.A. Johnston’s House

- 4. **Date Recorded:** 8/30/2020
- 5. **Type of Recording:**  First Recording  Full Re-record  Update
- 6. **Project Name:** A Cultural Resources Inventory of the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project in Grand County, Utah
- 7. **State Project Number:** U20HP0620
- 8. **Land Status:** Private
- 9. **USGS 7.5’ Quad Map Name and Date:** Danish Flat (1970)
- 10. **Township:** 20S, **Range:** 23E, **Section:** 24, **(1/4):** CT/NE **County:** Grand

- 11. **Meridian:**  Salt Lake  Uintah
- 12. **UTMS:** Zone 12 645446 mE 4324291 mN **NAD:** 83 (at 2008 cap and rebar datum)
- 13. **Site Dimensions:** **Length:** m **Width:** 180 m **Area:** 8,736 m<sup>2</sup>  GIS  Estimate

- 14. **Site Class<sup>a</sup>:**  Prehistoric  Protohistoric  Historic

- 15. **Site Type:** Prehistoric/Ethnohistoric Historic
  - Long-Term Residential  Task Specific  Domestic  Transportation/Communication
  - Temporary Camp  Specialty Site  Agriculture/Subsistence  Defense
  - Unknown (sites in which the primary pattern of Use is prehistoric or ethnohistoric, but the nature of Use cannot be confidently determined)  Industry/Processing/Extraction  Unknown
  - Other  Other<sup>b</sup>

- 16. **Site Characteristics<sup>a</sup>:**  Artifact Scatter  Rock Art/Inscription  Lithic Source/Quarry  Rock Shelter/Cave  Architectural Feature(s)  Non-Architectural Feature(s)  Linear

- 17. **Impacting Agents:**  None  Erosion  Livestock Concentration  Recreation  Road/Trail  Vandalism/Looting  Other: Abandonment, dismantling of structures

- 18. **Site Condition:**  Stable  Deteriorating  Imminently Threatened  Destroyed

19. **Description** (as needed): This homestead site has been abandoned since ca. 1930. Structural features have been removed and it appears likely the site has experienced some looting. Despite these impacts, it is likely that additional information is still intact within the site and subsurface middens or privy vaults are likely to exist.

- 20. **Recorded by:** Sandy C. Pagano **21. Organization:** Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (CHG)

- 22. **Material Collected:**  No  Yes (describe in Site Description) **Repository:** N/A

**NRHP Evaluation**

- 23. **Is the Site Significant:**  No  Yes, under criterion<sup>a</sup>:
  - A (event)  B (person)  C (design/construction)  D (important information)

- 24. **Does it Retain Integrity:**  No  Yes, aspects present<sup>a</sup>:
  - Location  Design  Setting  Materials  Workmanship  Feeling  Association

- 25. **NRHP Status:**  Not eligible  Eligible  Listed

26. **Justification** (include discussion of historic context, significance, and integrity): This site is an historic homestead associated with the Danish Flat dry farming community. The site was previously recorded in 1982 by Grand River Consultants (Babcock, Hartley, and Kimsey 1982). No NRHP recommendation was given at that time based on the need for archival research to assist in making a determination. In 2008, the site was revisited by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, and a recommendation of Not Eligible was given at that time (Russell 2008a). This site retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, and some integrity of materials. However, this site cannot be associated with a significant person in the past, nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Therefore, Commonwealth recommends this site Not Eligible to the NRHP under Criteria B and C. However, the site does represent the broad pattern of 1910-1920s dry farm homesteading in the area. Further, there is good potential for intact deposits within the midden and potential privy feature at this site. Therefore, Commonwealth does not agree with the overall recommendation of Not Eligible, and recommends this site as Eligible to the NRHP under Criteria A and D.

27. **Site Description** (interpretation, context, size, artifact and feature assemblage, dating, previous works and curation, etc.): This site is an historic homestead that was originally settled by John A. Johnston in the 1920s as part of the Danish Flat community. The site has been previously recorded twice. Originally documented in 1982, it was described as consisting of “occupational debris and features” (Babcock, Hartley, and Kimsey 1982). The original site form describes 3 depressions, a fence line, a gate, and a road with an associated scatter of domestic and agricultural debris

<sup>a</sup>Check all that apply

<sup>b</sup>See manual for additional categories

1. **Smithsonian Trinomial:** 42GR1274
2. **Temporary Site No.:**

with an artifact concentration near the depression and one on the south side of the site near an old road segment. The original documentation also included a small sample of surface artifacts that were collected for possible temporal analysis. The site was revisited in 2008 by Montgomery Archaeological Consultants (Russell 2008a). The revisit found the same features as originally described and expanded the site form to include additional artifact details, including a collector's pile of prehistoric artifacts within the main artifact concentration near the features. The revisit also separated out the originally described wagon road as a linear site and created a separate documentation for the road (42GR4107). The site is located along Danish Wash, with the features occurring in the slope on the north side and the fence line and artifact scatter along both slopes and the bottom of the wash. The majority of the artifacts are located in a dense concentration between the features.

In 2020, Commonwealth revisited the site for the third time. The features described by the previous documentations were found still intact, including the artifact concentration as well as the collectors pile of prehistoric artifacts. A few additional artifact trademarks were noted that were not included in the previous site records (see Part C). No evidence of additional looting since the 2008 recording was observed. See previous site forms for site sketch maps and detailed feature and artifact descriptions.

### Site History

Multiple homestead sites related to this community have been documented on Danish Flat. The current study included the recordation and/or revisit of four homestead sites noted on the 1925 GLO plat map including: J.A. Lander's house (42GR7582) (current site); the J.A. Johnston house (42GR1274); R. Claycomb's house (42GR7585), and the Selah J. Chadwick house (42GR7586). In addition, three other previously documented sites related to the community, but outside the current study area, are the homestead sites of H.A. Dunston (42GR5236), M.T. Johnston (42GR5237), and Adam Buttell (42GR4426).

About a decade into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a change in the 1862 Homestead Act created the opportunity for homesteaders to try their luck in the Danish Flat area where the current project is located. *The Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909* allowed homesteaders to patent 320-acre tracts of land (up from 160 acres) and reduced the residency requirement from 5 years to only three. However, this change only applied to non-irrigable lands in some western states (Firmage 1996:117, 233; Bradsher 2012:35). Scientific studies around the turn-of-the-century had begun to explore alternative methods of irrigation for agriculture in arid regions. One of these methods was dry farming, also known as the "Scientific Soil Culture" (Libecap and Hansen 2000:13; Russell 2007:506-507). The head of Utah's Agricultural College, John A. Widstoe, lent support to these methods that included banking soil moisture created by winter rainfall and other methods. These new farming methods, as well as access to markets via the Cisco-Colorado auto road and the D&RG Narrow Gauge railroad siding at Cisco made Danish Flat seem like the perfect place to homestead.

The first settlers to Danish Flat was the Quintus Cato family (Salmon 2004:22). This was sometime around 1916 or 1917, shortly after the Grand Junction Automobile Association opened the roads between Cisco and the Colorado state line for auto travelers providing reliable access to the area. (According to the Cato family, the area was called Danish Flat before they moved there.) Prior to this, the 1910 US Census shows Cato living in the town of Cisco where he worked as a blacksmith (Familysearch 2020). The Cato family raised cattle and horses and began dry farming operations, supplemented by irrigation from Cottonwood Creek. This effort saw some successful crops of melons, hay, and grains. In 1921, Quintus Cato was appointed U.S. Land Commissioner in 1921 to give people filing land patents a local option and saving them the long trip to the land office in Moab (TTI 1921b). Some homesteaders patented lands through the *Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909*, whereas other purchased it from existing owners.

Around this time, two businessmen in Grand Junction, Colorado, Henry M. Kingsley and C.E. Woodman, began encouraging dry farm homesteading in the Danish Flat region. By the end of 1921 the partners boasted that "seven homesteaders had just arrived [in Danish Flat] with at least another two coming soon" (Salmon 2004:21). Soon, over 2,000 acres of land had been filed on and settlers began moving in with high hopes of productive farms (Times-

<sup>a</sup>Check all that apply

<sup>b</sup>See manual for additional categories

1. **Smithsonian Trinomial:** 42GR1274
2. **Temporary Site No.:**

Independent 1921a). Settlers also purchased cash-sale patents on Danish Flat, and other non-irrigated areas in the State of Utah, hoping to cash in on dry farming (Firmage 1996:232).

Multiple homestead sites from the Danish Flat community were documented within the current study area. This included the recordation and/or revisit of 4 homestead sites: the J.A. Johnston house (42GR1274); the J.A. Lander house (42GR7582); the R.R. Claycomb house(42GR7585), and the Selah J. Chadwick house (42GR7586). Only one of these families (the John A. Johnson family) actually filed a land patent through the US Government for their property at Danish Flat. It is assumed that the other three homesteaders purchased their lands from existing owners. Outside of the current project area but within the Danish Flat community, two additional homestead properties were previously recorded. These are the homestead sites of H.A. Dunston (42GR5236) and M.T. Johnston (42GR5237). It is likely there are additional undocumented homestead sites related to this community in the area. Site 42GR7581 an industrial processing site, may also contain an older homestead component.

The small community grew rapidly and diminished just as quickly. According to Quintus Cato's son, by 1922 there were 50 settlers at Danish Flat (Salmon 2004:22). In May of that year, the Grand County School Superintendent noted that with 22 children enrolled in school from the community, that they needed their own school (Salmon 2004:22). The community quickly declined likely due to three factors. First the best lands were already claimed; second, precipitation was higher in the late 1910s and early 1920s and declined into the late 1920s; third, the price of wheat plummeted throughout the 1920s (Firmage 1998:232). Throughout the "roaring 20s", the Times-Independent (TTI), a newspaper based out of Moab, ran a weekly column of community county happenings and a segment of "Danish Flat Notes". As early as March 1924, the column gave news of two settlers leaving the community:

R.L. Haggard left Monday for eastern Colorado looking for a new location. He has sold his claim here.  
and  
Mr. Fox has moved to Fruit where he has rented a ranch. He said he didn't think he could raise anything here as it was too dry, and he didn't miss it any. . . if it doesn't rain soon there won't even be any grass here (TTI 1924).

By 1928, the community was all but defunct. An article from this year states: "Mr. and Mrs. D J Larsen moved to the Cato Ranch in May 1928 with plans to farm that summer" (TTI 10 May 1928:8). Another story tells of a terrible storm striking the community in 1929 in which 75 head of sheep were lost after being buried in snowdrifts (TTI 1929). Quintus Cato was one of the last people to leave. Cato died in 1930 and his obituary states that he had recently moved to Fruita, Colorado from his ranch at Danish Flat (TTI 1930). The Stock Market crash in 1929 sealed the fate of the doomed community as the Great Depression took hold throughout the nation.

**28. Environmental Context** (topography, vegetation, ground visibility, depositional context): The site is located within and on the sloped banks of Danish Wash at 4,600 ft ASL. The vegetation in the area is a typical desert shadscale community with sparse sagebrush, saltbush, greasewood, and low grasses with some riparian vegetation in the drainage bottom where thick stands of greasewood and tamarisk occur. Sediments are light tan silty sands with a high content of angular and rounded gravels, cobbles, and boulders. Ground visibility is good.

**29. Notes Regarding Access** (as needed): The site is accessible by foot from a modern oil well about 200 m to the north via Cisco Springs Road.

**30. Additional Part A Comments:**

#### References

Babcock, T., J. Hartley, and M. Kimsey

1982 *Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) Form for Site 42GR1274*. Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

Bradsher, Greg

<sup>a</sup>Check all that apply

<sup>b</sup>See manual for additional categories

1. Smithsonian Trinomial: 42GR1274

2. Temporary Site No.:

2012 How the West was Settled: The 150-Year-Old Homestead Act Lured Americans Looking for a New Life and New Opportunities. *Prologue Magazine*, Winter 2012. National Archives and Records Administration. Washington D.C. <https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/prologue/2012/winter/homestead.pdf>

## Familysearch

2020 Timeline of Quintus Cato. Accessed online 8 October at <https://www.familysearch.org>.

## Firmage, Richard A.

1996 *A History of Grand County*. Utah State Historical Society, Utah Centennial County History Series. Salt Lake City.

## Libecap, Gary D., and Zeynep Kocabiyik Hansen

2000 “Rain Follows the Plow” and Dryfarming Doctrine: The Climate Information Problem and Homestead Failure in the Upper Great Plains, 1890-1925. *National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper Series on Historical Factors in Long Run Growth*, No. 127. Cambridge, Massachusetts. Electronic document, <https://www.nber.org/papers/h0127.pdf>, accessed September 22, 2020.

## Russell, Hannah

2008a *Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) Form for Site 42GR1274*. Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

2008b *Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) Form for Site 42GR4107*. Inventory files, Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City.

## Salmon, Rusty

2004 Marrs and Danish Flats – Strange Names in a Strange Land. In *Canyon Legacy: Ghosts of Grand County, Northeast, Vol. 51 (20-24)*. Managing Editor Rusty Salmon. Moab Museum, Moab, Utah.

## Smith, Arva

1987 Gardening is Rich and Rewarding Hobby. *The Sun Advocate* 21 July:B1. Price, Utah.

*The Times-Independent (TTI)* [Moab, Utah]

1921a “Cisco Items, appointment of Quintus Cato as US land commissioner” 17 March 1921:8. Moab, Utah.

1921b “Colonizing Rich Tract of Land Near Cisco” 31 March 1921:47(17)1

1924 “Danish Flats Notes” 13 March 1924:8. Moab, Utah

1928 “Cisco News” 10 May 1928:8. Moab, Utah

1929 “Westwater Events” 14 February 1929:8. Moab, Utah.

1930 “Quintus Cato, Former Cisco Man, Summoned [obituary]” 23 January 1930:1. Moab, Utah.

- 1. **Primary date of site use:** 1916-1930
- 2. **Secondary dates of site use:**
- 3. **Architectural Features:**

Type	Description
Dugout/depression	Dugout/depression excavated into north slope of wash
Road	Dirt road leading from Danish Flat down into the site on both sides of Danish Wash. Road is stone-lined on north side. Recorded as separate site 42GR4107

- 4. **Non-Architectural Features:**

Type	Description
Fence	Rough-hewn juniper posts

- 5. **Feature Comments:** The three depressions at this site are excavated into the north slope of Danish Wash. Although the structures have been removed, portion of rock walls and some milled lumber debris suggests that these depressions likely represent what was once dugout/pithouse-style houses that were typical of the homesteading era. The features are well described in previous documentation. See original site forms for full feature descriptions.

- 6. **Cans – Total Quantity:** 40+

Quantity	Type	Description

- 7. **Can Comments:** See 2008 site form for individual can descriptions (Russell).

- 8. **Glass Bottles – Total ENV:** 30

ENV	Manufacturing Method	Description
30	Automated or unknown	Varies; See 2008 site form

- 9. **Glass Bottle Comments:** It is estimated that there are fragments and sherds from at least 30 different bottles. See previous site forms for individual bottle descriptions.

- 10. **Ceramics – Total ENV:**

ENV	Ware	Description
1	Crock	Dark brown glazed crockery vessel in 15 sherds. Trademark on base fragment not included in previous site form reads “MADE IN / COFFEYVILLE, KA-- / BY / COFFEYVILLE POTT--/ & CLAY MFG –”

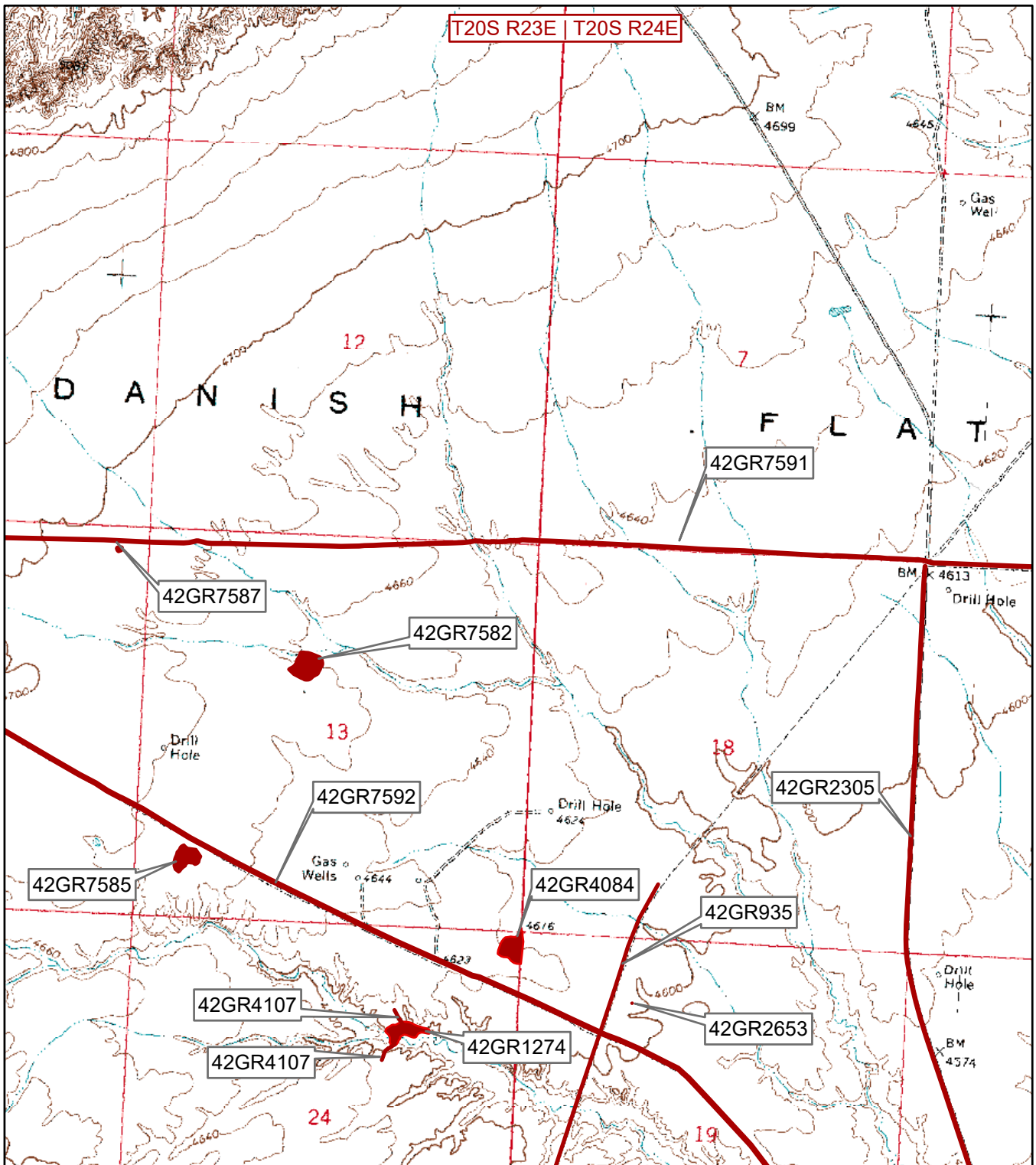
- 11. **Ceramic Comments:** Two ceramic trademarks were previously described from this site (See previous site forms for full ceramic artifact details. The crockery sherds were previously mentioned, but the description did not include the trademark embossed on one of the base fragments.

- 12. **Additional Artifacts/Debris:**

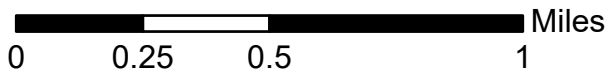
- Ammunition/Firearms
- Car/Car parts
- Glass (non-bottle)
- Nails (wire)
- Toys
- Bone
- Ceramics (non-tableware)
- Hardware
- Plastic
- Other
- Building Materials
- Clothing
- Nails (cut)
- Stove Parts

- 13. **Additional Artifact/Debris Description:** A large amount of domestic and agricultural debris was observed at this site. Detailed artifact descriptions were provided in the two previous documentations. Additional artifacts are likely present. The 2020 revisited observed the artifacts previously mentioned. Some additional artifacts noted include 3 harmonica reeds and art glass fragments.

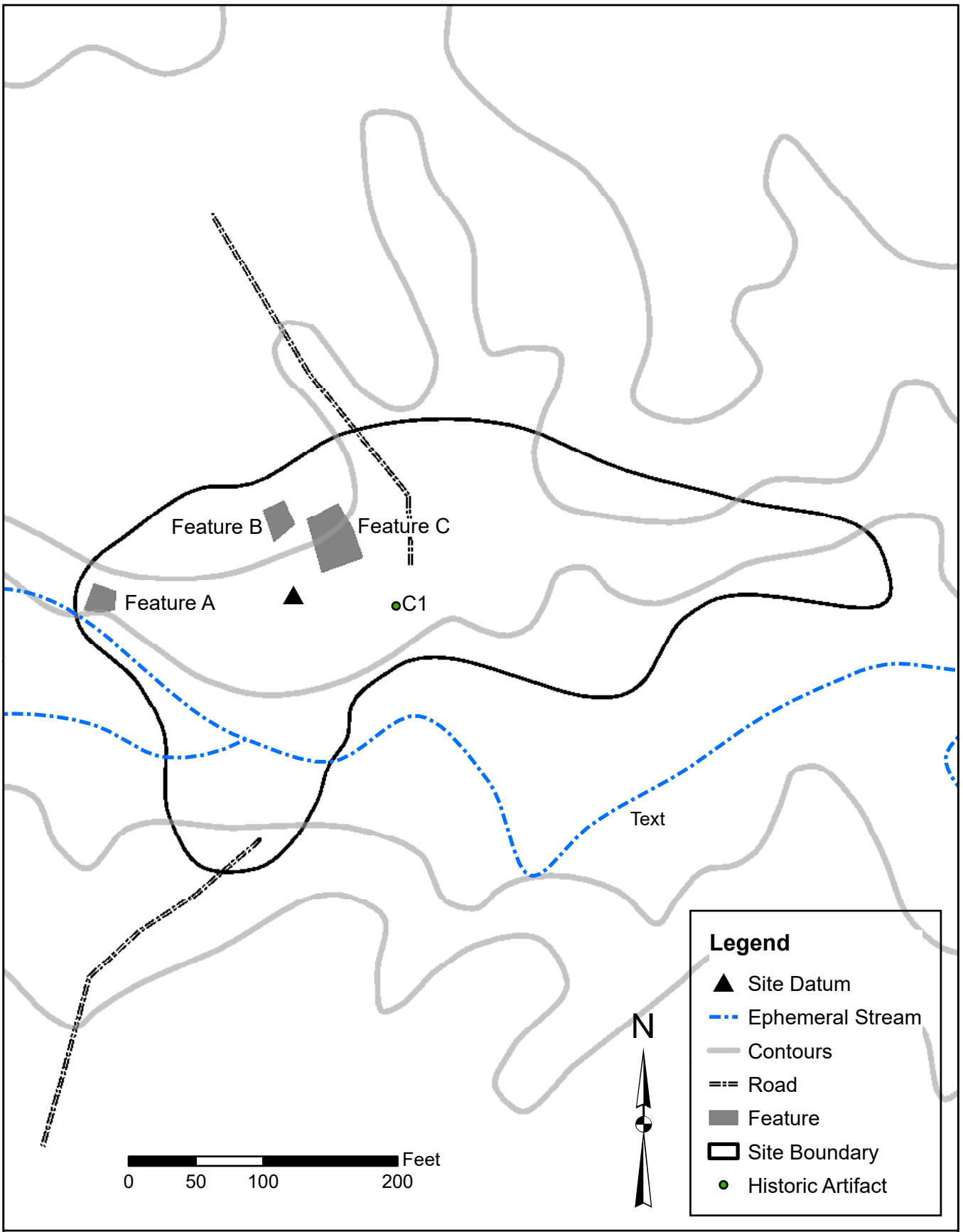
- 14. **Additional Part C Comments:**



1:24,000



Location of sites located during the Cisco Spring 2D Seismic Project. Taken from the USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Danish Flat, Utah (1970).



Site 42SV1274

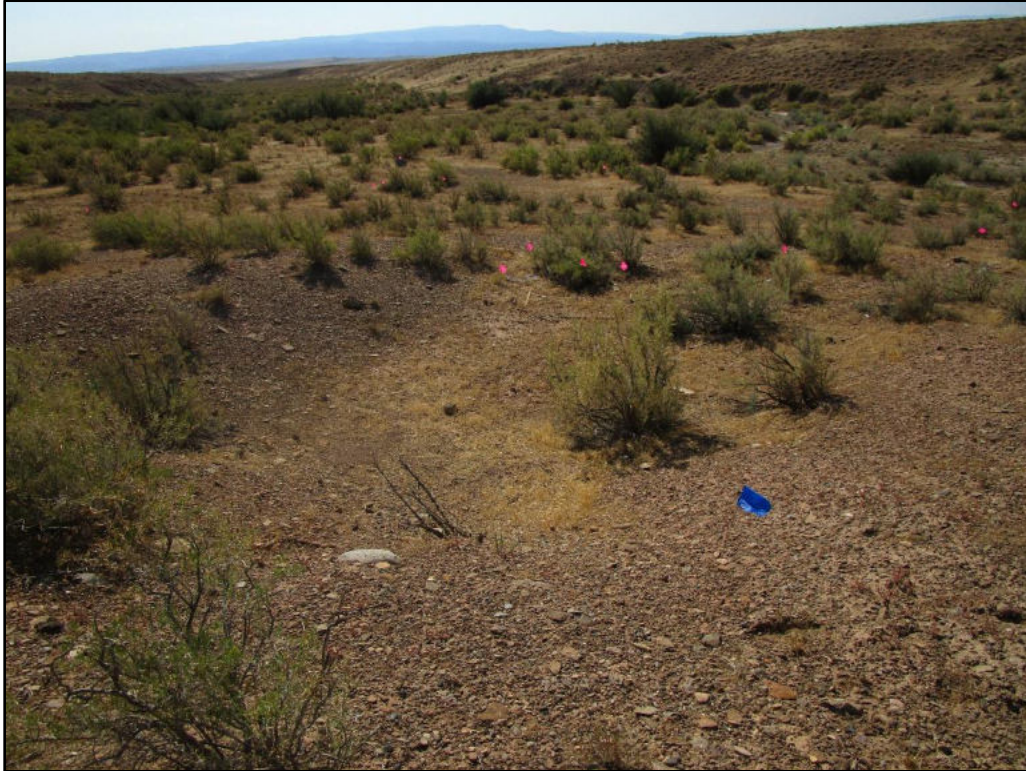


**Site 42GR1274.** Feature A, overview of lower rock wall; view to the northeast.



**Site 42GR1274.** Feature B, overview showing rock wall in southwest corner; view to the north.





**Site 42GR1274.** Feature C, overview from above showing depression berm and Danish Wash in background; view to the southeast.



**Site 42GR1274.** Wagon road (42GR4107), overview on south side of site; view to the southwest.



**Site 42GR1274.** Wagon road (42GR4107) overview showing rock alignment on edge of road; view to the southeast.



**Site 42GR1274.** Coffeyville Potters & Clay Mfg. trademark on crockery base; close-up view.



Site 42GR1274. Miscellaneous metal artifacts in artifact concentration; close-up view.



Site 42GR1274. Harmonica reeds found in Feature C; close-up view.



Site 42GR1274. Art glass fragments from Feature C; close-up view.



Site 42GR1274. Coffeyville Potters & Clay Mfg. trademark on crockery base; close-up view.



**Site 42GR1274.** Geared mechanical mechanism from artifact concentration; close-up view.



**Site 42GR1274.** Stemmed projectile point base from collector's pile in artifact concentration; close-up view.