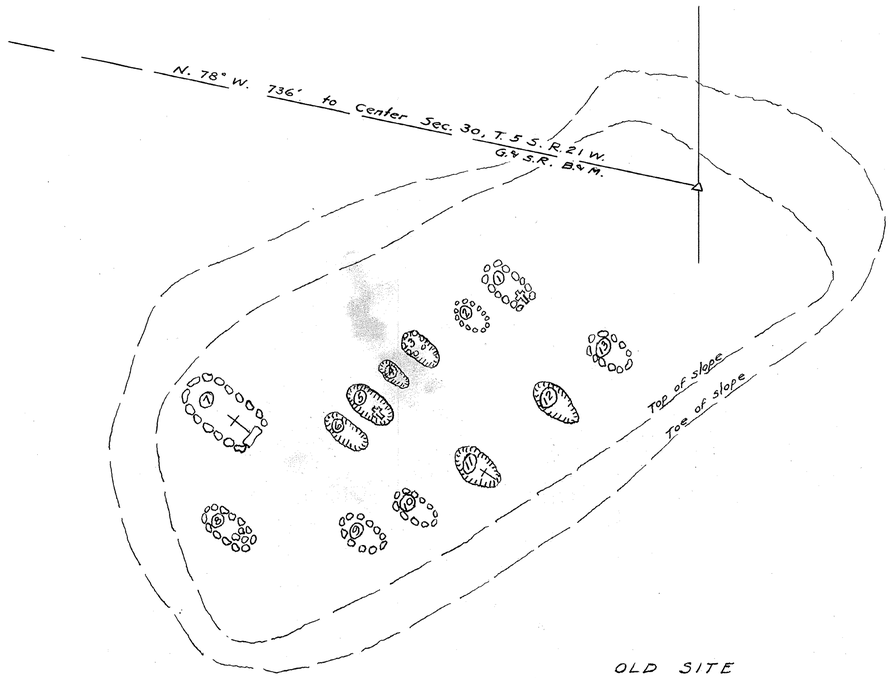
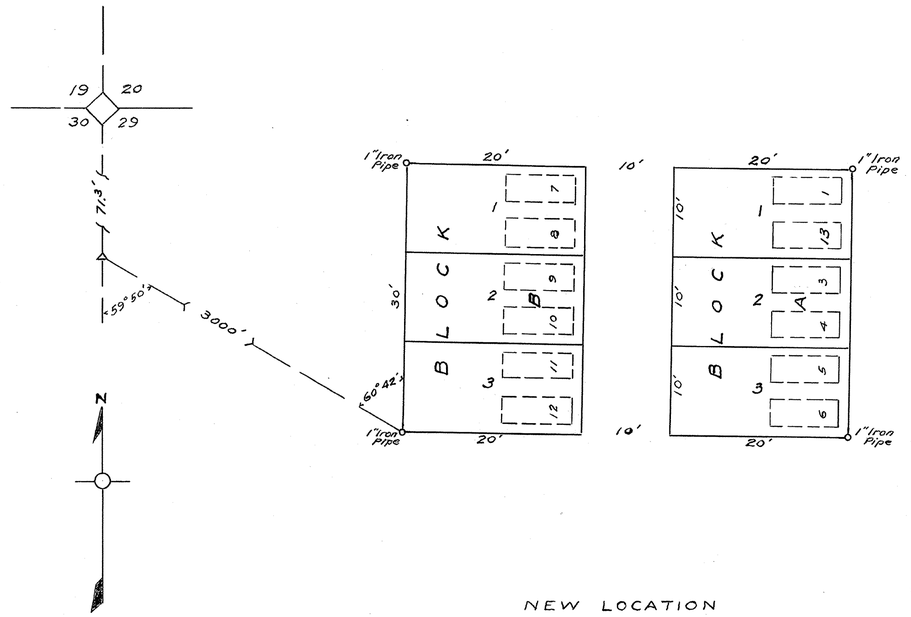
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF YUMA
ARIZONA — CEMETERY PROJECT

Castle Dome Landing Cemetery

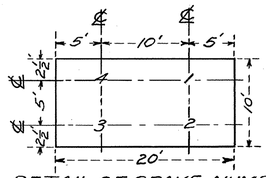
Located in Imperial County, California



OLD SITE
CASTLE DOME LANDING
CEMETERY
Scale ~ 1" = 10'



NEW LOCATION
CASTLE DOME LANDING
CEMETERY
Scale ~ 1" = 10'

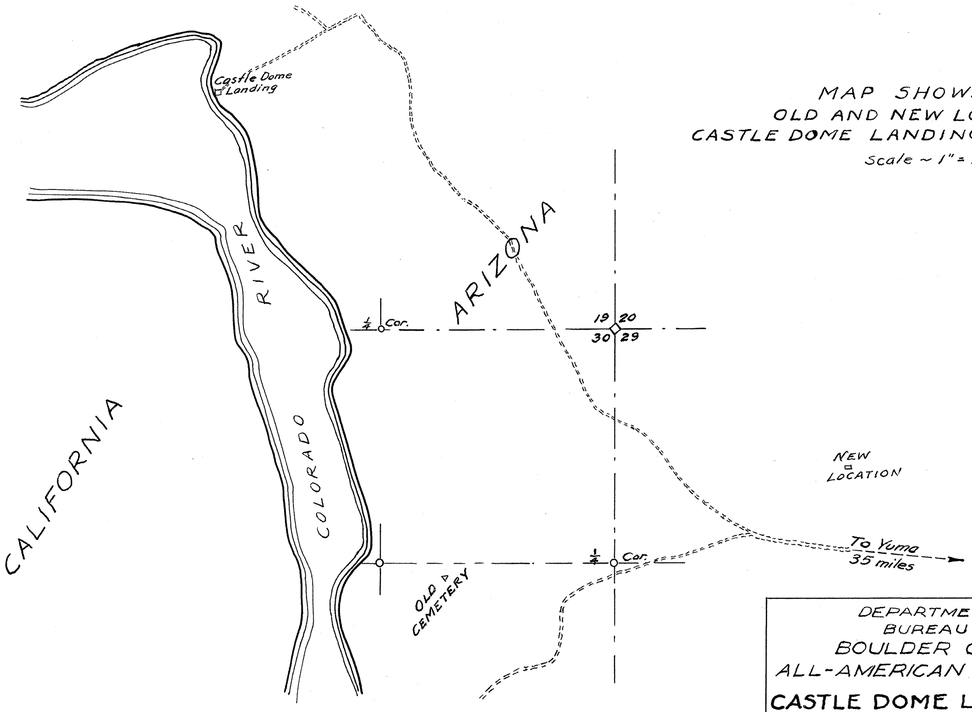


DETAIL OF GRAVE NUMBERS
IN LOT

CASTLE DOME CEMETERY

No.	NAME	NEW LOCATION BLOCK	LOT	GRAVE
1	John Doe (Unidentified Adult)	A	1	1
2	No Remains Found			
3	John Doe [Unidentified Child (2-3 yr.)]	A	2	1
4	John Doe [Unidentified Child (2-3 yr.)]	A	2	2
5	John Doe [Unidentified Child (8-12 yr.)]	A	3	1
6	Jane Doe [Unidentified Female Adult]	A	3	2
7	Antonio Preciado (Adult)	B	1	1
8	John Doe [Unidentified Child (4-7 yr.)]	B	1	2
9	John Doe (Unidentified Infant)	B	2	1
10	John Doe [Unidentified Child (1-3 yr.)]	B	2	2
11	John Doe (Unidentified Male Adult)	B	3	1
12	John Doe (Unidentified Infant)	B	3	2
13	Jane Doe (Unidentified Female (12-18)	A	1	2

Note: Except as definitely stated above, sex is unknown. Ages shown are estimated from size etc.



MAP SHOWING
OLD AND NEW LOCATIONS
CASTLE DOME LANDING CEMETERY
Scale ~ 1" = 1000'

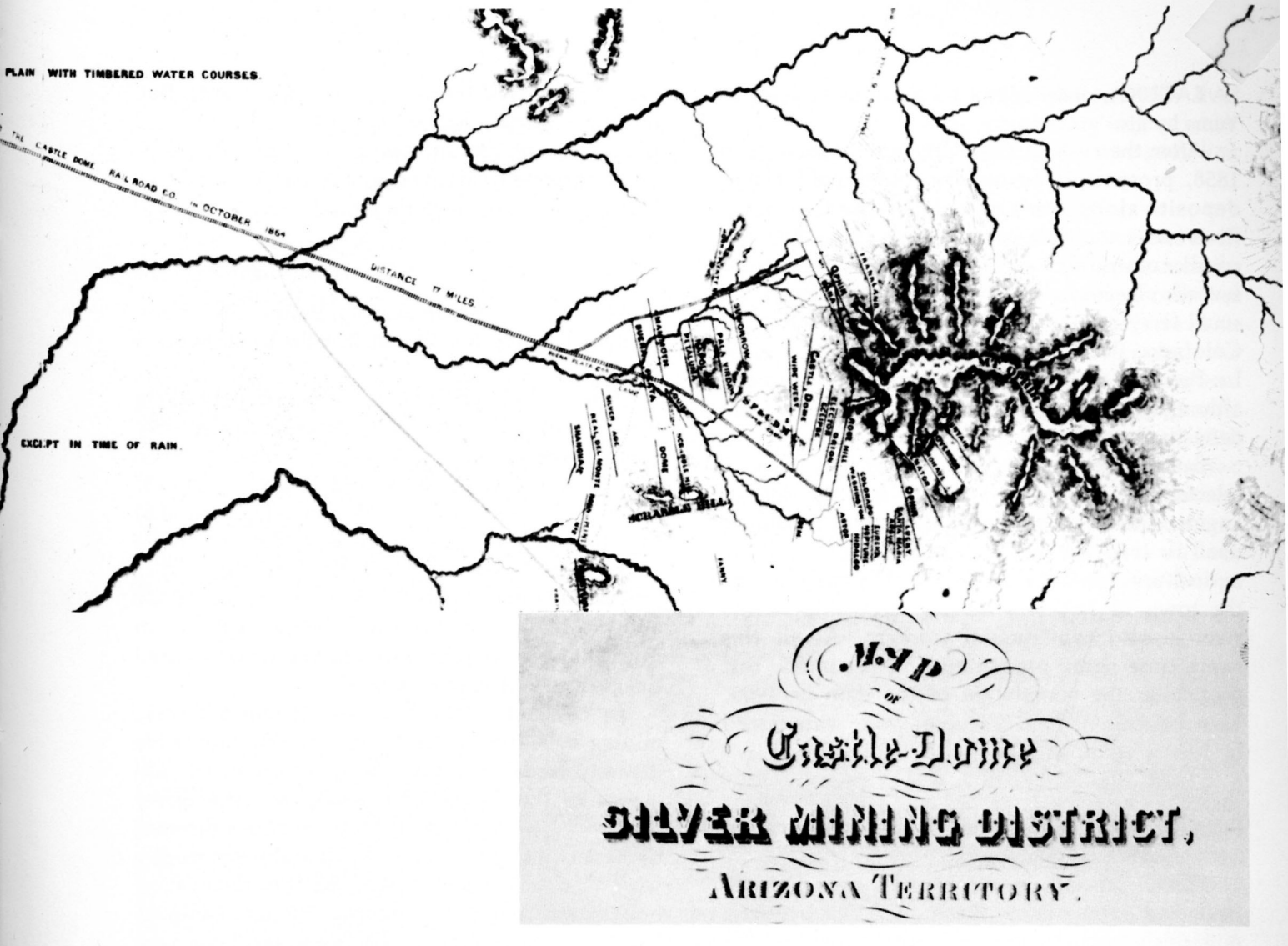
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
BOULDER CANYON PROJECT
ALL-AMERICAN CANAL SYSTEM-CALIF.

CASTLE DOME LANDING CEMETERY.
SEC'S 29 & 30, T. 5 S., R. 21 W., G. & S.R. B & M.

DRAWN H.M.L. SUBMITTED J.A. Clark
TRACED H.M.L. RECOMMENDED Grant Bloodgood
CHECKED L.E.C. APPROVED [signature]

~~13-N-250~~ | YUMA, ARIZONA. APR. 6, 1936 | 212-303-2010

MICROFILMED MAR 31 1978



CASTLE DOME CITY, under Martinez Lake, 30 miles north of Yuma by air.

In 1864 famed mining engineer William P. Blake prospected the Castle Dome Range for silver outcrops. During the previous two years, nearby Indians, Fort Yuma soldiers and others had dug shallow prospect holes into mineralized ledges, but they ignored the lead-copper ores they found. Sent by California investors eager to develop another Comstock, Blake convinced the group to purchase the most promising of the 100 existing claims.

As 1864 progressed a mild boom developed. In October the Castle Dome Mining Company platted Castle Dome City on the east bank of the wide Colorado, while Richard Gird surveyed a 17-mile long railroad eastward to the mines. Construction never got underway, since the ore proved to be chiefly lead, and investors decided to stand pat. Most of the residents then left for central Arizona, except for Gird who ultimately co-discovered Tombstone.

During the early 1870's James M. Barney and William B. Hooper, both prominent Yuma businessmen who had gained control of the mines, began shipping ore to San Francisco Bay smelters. Later they built a small furnace at Castle Dome City. In 1879 Blake was back on the scene buying up claims for San Franciscans. He soon began loading ores on Yuma-bound steamers, from where Southern Pacific freight cars completed the delivery to his company's works at Melrose, opposite San Francisco. Within two years a reported $2 million had been mined. But by decade's end the high-grade ores gave out and adobe Castle Dome became a quiet stop for steamers loading cord wood. Lake Martinez has covered the site of Castle Dome City, while ruins at the mines are of a 20th century development.

LA LAGUNA, under Mittry Lake, ten miles north of Yuma by air.

After the rush to Gila City got underway in 1858, prospectors eventually found gold placer deposits along the east side of the Colorado River near mounds of potsherds. By 1860 the small community of La Laguna consisted of several *placeros* and even a few merchants. A small ferry carried the gold-conscious across the Colorado. But following the gold discoveries at La Paz in 1862, the district was abandoned, although placer miners occasionally worked the deposits thereafter.

Early in this century the Reclamation Service selected the La Laguna district for the site of Laguna Dam and reservoir. Its waters would be used to irrigate the Imperial Valley and the agricultural lands below Yuma. During that era the town of Potholes on the west side of the river housed construction workers. About this same time some placer mining resumed. But soon after the completion of the dam in 1909, both La Laguna and Potholes were submerged by Mittry Lake.

PICACHO, California, under the Imperial reservoir, 21 miles north of Yuma by air.

Placer deposits in the ravines near Picacho Peak had been worked since 1861 and a quartz mill unsuccessfully crushed ores mined in the 1870's; but a boom did not get underway until the mid-1890's when technical inventions including the cyanide process made reduction of low-grade ores profitable. In 1897 Jose M. Mendivil platted the townsite of Picacho near the Colorado River, and by century's end the town boasted about 500 people.

In 1896, promotional activities of Stephen A. Dorsey intensified interest in the Picacho district. Although his reputation had been tainted by several shady deals in the East, including a railroad fraud in Arkansas where he was a U.S. Senator, Dorsey consolidated the richest claims into the California King Gold Mines Company. Gullible New York investors funded the erection of a twenty-stamp mill on the west bank of the Colorado, as well as the construction from there of a five mile long Picacho & Colorado River Railroad to the mines.

The company payroll soon swelled to 700 and the district hummed with activity. Since everyone was paid with Eastern capital and not from the result of mine production, the company collapsed in 1904 when it ran short of funds. But promoter Dorsey had wisely sold out two years earlier and retired in splendor. Mine ruins and an abandoned railroad grade lie west of the submerged townsite of Picacho.

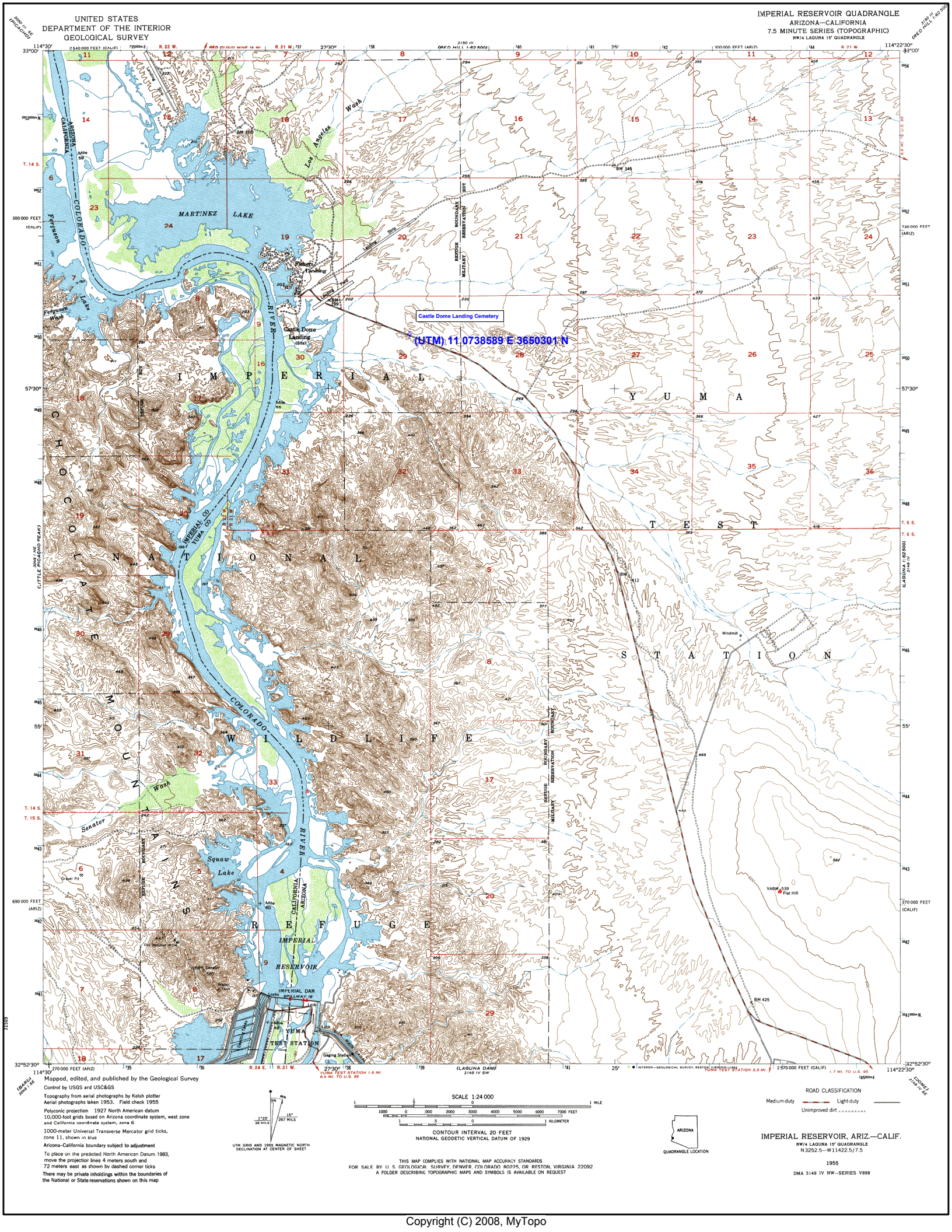
SILVER DISTRICT (Eureka, Clip, Pacific City, Silent, Norton's Landing, Red Cloud), 20 miles by air north of Yuma.

After gold-bearing deposits immediately along the Colorado River had been claimed in the early 1860's, prospectors began searching inland. When they found silver in the rugged Trigo Mountains, the district took the name Weaver (later Eureka) but the camp was called Eureka. But the locals were soon lured away by the news of richer strikes elsewhere. Through the rest of the 1860's and the 1870's the area was quiet, except for an itinerant Mexican *gambasino* or two who captured the curiosity of area travelers.

In 1878 after the railroad reached Yuma, mining men took a fresh look at this low-grade district. Local prospectors then relocated old claims in the Trigos and established the Silver district. New York and Boston investors directed by Arizona's governor, The famous pathfinder John C. Fremont and judge Charles Silent, soon bought the claims surrounding the new camp of Pacific. In gratitude to the promoter-judge, the miners rechristened the town Silent, which by 1881 was growing fast. Eastern money opened the mines and erected two smelters each four miles west on the Colorado River at Norton's Landing.

Merchants, saloon men and speculators crowded in. After a Boston company's smelter was completed, the boom ended because "the ore repudiated the idea of being smelted." The other smelter belonging to a New York firm also stood idle most of the time. In 1883 a reporter wrote that it "mournfully marks the grave of an enterprise murdered by Eastern stupidity." Stockholders had wasted about $250,000 in these ventures.

Following these two fiascos, two Arizona operators, George W. Bowers and Anthony G. Hubbard, purchased the nearby Clip mine. Proving that the mine showed values, they built a ten-stamp mill near the river in 1884. The new town of Clip with post office and stores, grew around the facility. During 1884-88, 50 men recovered about $750,000 in silver.



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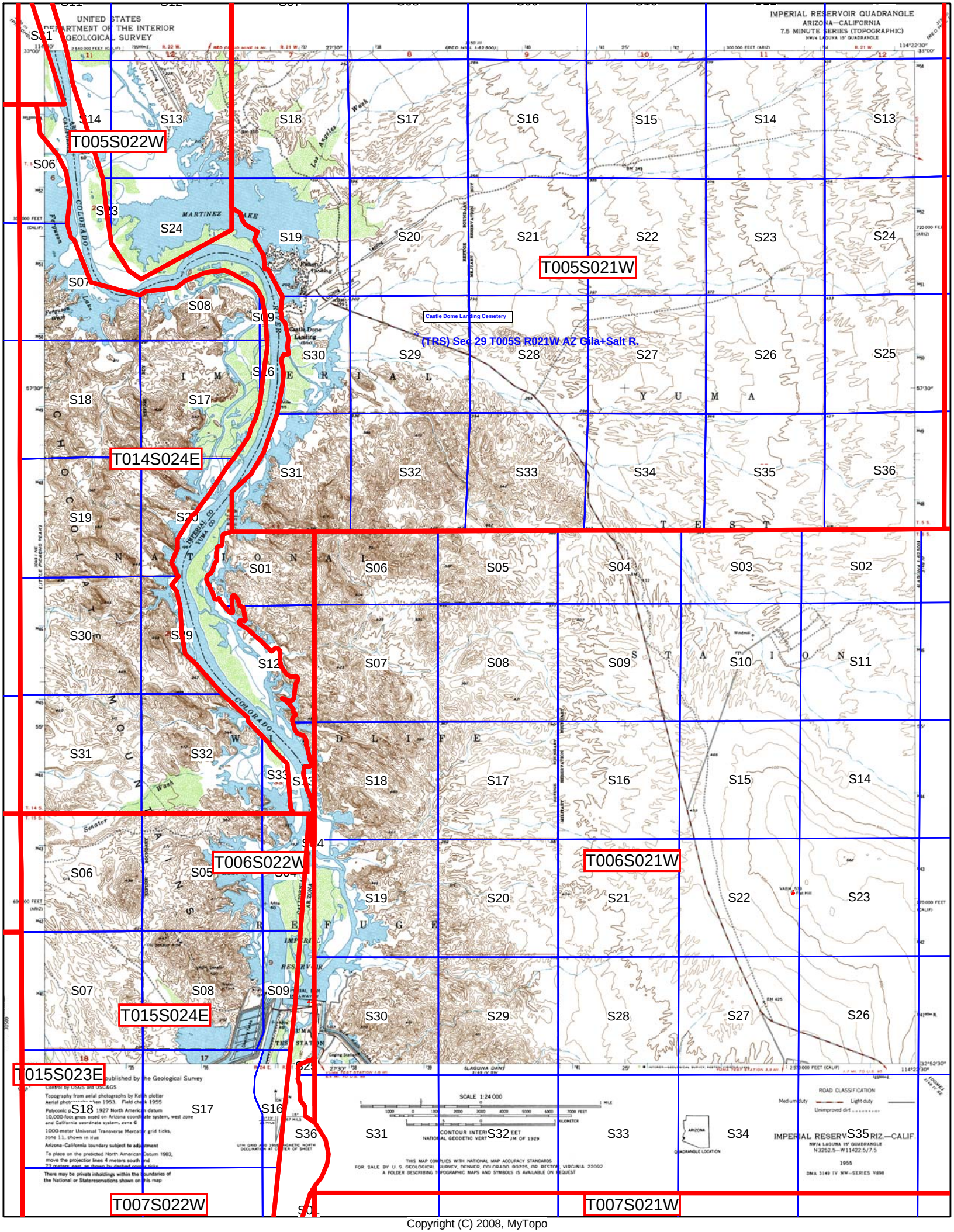

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

IMPERIAL RESERVOIR QUADRANGLE
ARIZONA—CALIFORNIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 LAGUNA 15' QUADRANGLE

Castle Dome Landing Cemetery
(Lat/Long) 032° 57' 54.06" N 114° 26' 50.28" W

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1953. Field check 1955

Polyconic projection 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Arizona coordinate system, west zone and California coordinate system, zone 6

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 11, shown in blue

Arizona–California boundary subject to adjustment

To place on the projected North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 4 meters south and 72 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1955 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty — Light-duty ——
Unimproved dirt - - - -

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

IMPERIAL RESERVOIR, ARIZ.—CALIF.
NW/4 LAGUNA 15' QUADRANGLE
N3252.5—W11422.5/7.5

1955

DMA 3149 IV NW—SERIES V898

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
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