

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name State maintained Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide

other names/site number NM 122

2. Location

street & number W. of Milan to Continental Divide ☐ not for publication

city or town Continental Divide ☐ vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Cibola, McKinley code 006 031 zip code 87312

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lyn Sebestian SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

10-1-97
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Jody Boland

Date of Action

11/19/97

Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide

Cibola, McKinley, NM

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hist. & Arch. Resources of Rt. 66 through NM

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other asphalt surfacing, concrete culverts,
concrete bridge

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic & Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through NM

Section number 7 Page 1

State maintained R. 66: Milan to
Continental Divide

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico

7. Description

This 31.4 mile section of state maintained Route 66, now designated NM 122, serves as a frontage road along Interstate 40 from west of Milan to Continental Divide. The eastern 8.6 miles are a divided four-lane road completed in 1951 when several sections of Route 66 in New Mexico were widened. The remaining 22.6 miles are two lanes, often closely paralleling I-40 and the tracks of the former AT&SF Railroad as they climb toward the Continental Divide. The two-lane alignment was straightened and paved in 1937 and served as a part of Route 66 until it was replaced by I-40 after 1956. Features of the road include large cut banks, cut and fill grades across arroyos, several concrete box culverts, and a concrete slab bridge with steel beams and a bridge plate dated 1935. This historic alignment, cross-section template, and the surrounding landscape remain largely intact, imbuing this road section with a strong feeling of travel along Route 66 from the late 1930s through the mid-1950s. Brown and white signs denoting "Historic Route 66" have recently been erected by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department along the roadside.

The road's climb out of the Rio San Jose drainage toward Continental Divide takes motorists out of an area known for its irrigated agriculture, especially carrots, in the 1940s. The discovery of uranium and development of nearby mines in the 1950s is evident from the road in distant tailing piles and settling ponds near Bluewater. As the road begins to climb toward the continental divide, the highest point on Route 66 with an elevation of 7,263 ft., pastures give way to a pinyon and juniper landscape with Navajo homesteads, or outfits, trading posts and other businesses periodically lining the roadside. From Prewitt westward, Entrada sandstone cliffs parallel the road to the north, offering a stretch of spectacular unbroken red sandstone extending to the Arizona border. These vistas contribute to the location, setting, and feeling of this section of Route 66.

Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide
Name of Property

Cibola, McKinley, NM
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☒ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

Period of Significance

1937-1956

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic & Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through NM

State maintained R. 66: Milan to
Continental Divide

Section number 8 & 9 Page 2

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico

8. Significance

Designated as State Highway 6 in 1914 and a part of the National Old Trails Highway, a trans-regional road association that preceded the creation of the federal highway system in 1926, the road from Milan to Continental Divide remained a gravel road until the 1930s. Funding under FAP 75 resulted in projects to realign and pave the highway that were completed in 1937. Among these improvements was the elimination of two grade crossings by realigning the highway entirely south of the AT&SF Railroad line. As a result, Thoreau and other villages which had seen roadside businesses appear in the 1920s saw them disappear or relocate in the late 1930s when Route 66 no longer passed along the towns' main streets. The four-lane section west of Milan is also important as a reminder of the stopgap measures taken in the post-World War II years to accommodate increased traffic along Route 66 and other important highways. This section of state-maintained Route 66 is significant for its association with the rise of automobile tourism in New Mexico and thus is eligible under Criterion A.

9. Bibliography

"Plan and Profile of FAP 75" dated 4/26/50. On file at the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, Records Control Unit of Records Management, Santa Fe.

Rt. 66: Milan to Continental Divide

Cibola, McKinley, NM

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 380 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	13	235950	3897300
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	13	234560	3901340

3	13	221841810	31901851010
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	12	771121910	31911591810

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title David J. Kammer, Ph.D.organization contract historian date August, 1996street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic & Architectural Resources
of Route 66 through NM

State maintained R. 66: Milan
Continental Divide

Section number 10 Page 3

Historic and Architectural Resources of Rt. 66 through NM
Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico

UTM References

5. 12 762240 3918680
6. 12 754940 3919800
7. 12 744240 3923220

Verbal Boundary Description

This property is 31.4 miles long and is maintained as a frontage and local road by the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department. The east end lies at the junction of Route 66 (NM 122) and NM 609, and the west end is at the junction of Route 66 NM (122) and the westbound exit ramp of I-40 at Continental Divide. The sides are a corridor extending fifty feet on either side of the centerline, marking a right of way of 100 feet, a minimum width used by the State Highway Department during the 1930s.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with this section of Route 66.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97001394

Date Listed: 11/19/97

Rte. 66, St. Maintained, Milan-Continental Divide, Cibola Co., NM
Property Name **County** **State**

Route 66 Through New Mexico MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

8/12/98
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Criterion Consideration G should be checked.

This information was confirmed with Mary Ann Anders of the NM SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Rte. 66, state maintained from Milan to Continental Divide
NAME:

MULTIPLE Route 66 in New Mexico MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW MEXICO, Cibola

DATE RECEIVED: 10/10/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/22/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/07/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/24/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97001394

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N
(See 1398)

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - A

REVIEWER Poland

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 11/19/97

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



1. Rt. 66, Milan to Continental Divide

2. McKinley, NM

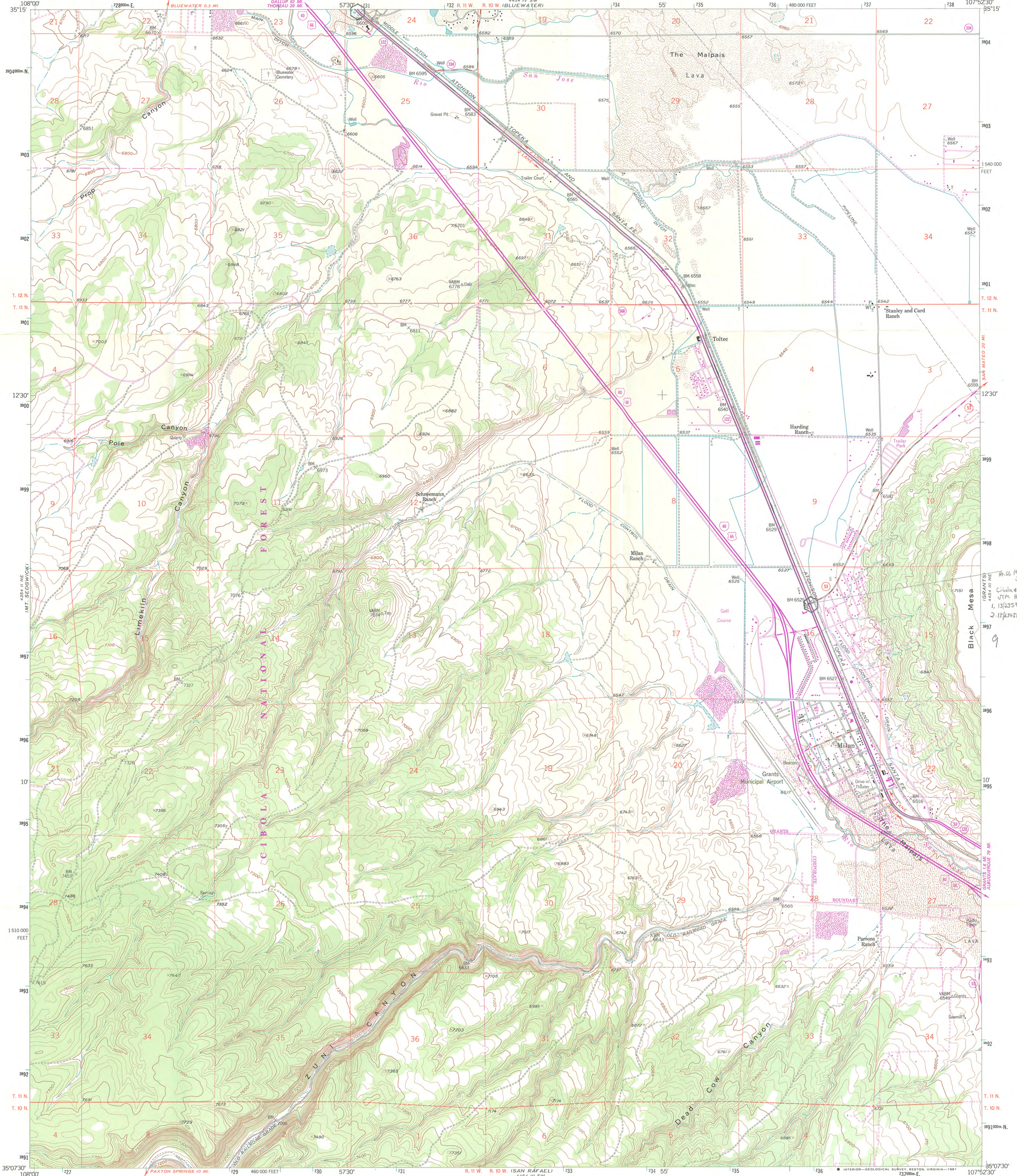
3. D. Kammer

4. 4/96

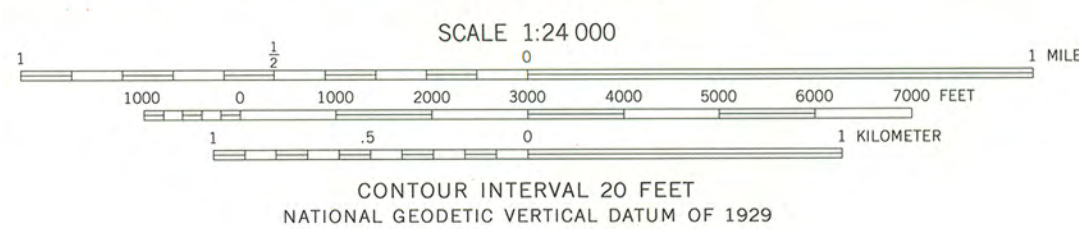
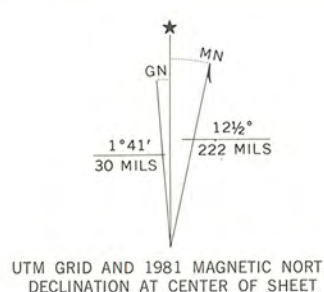
5. NM SHPO

6. bank cut near Prewitt, E

7. 1



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system,
west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 1 meter south and
55 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



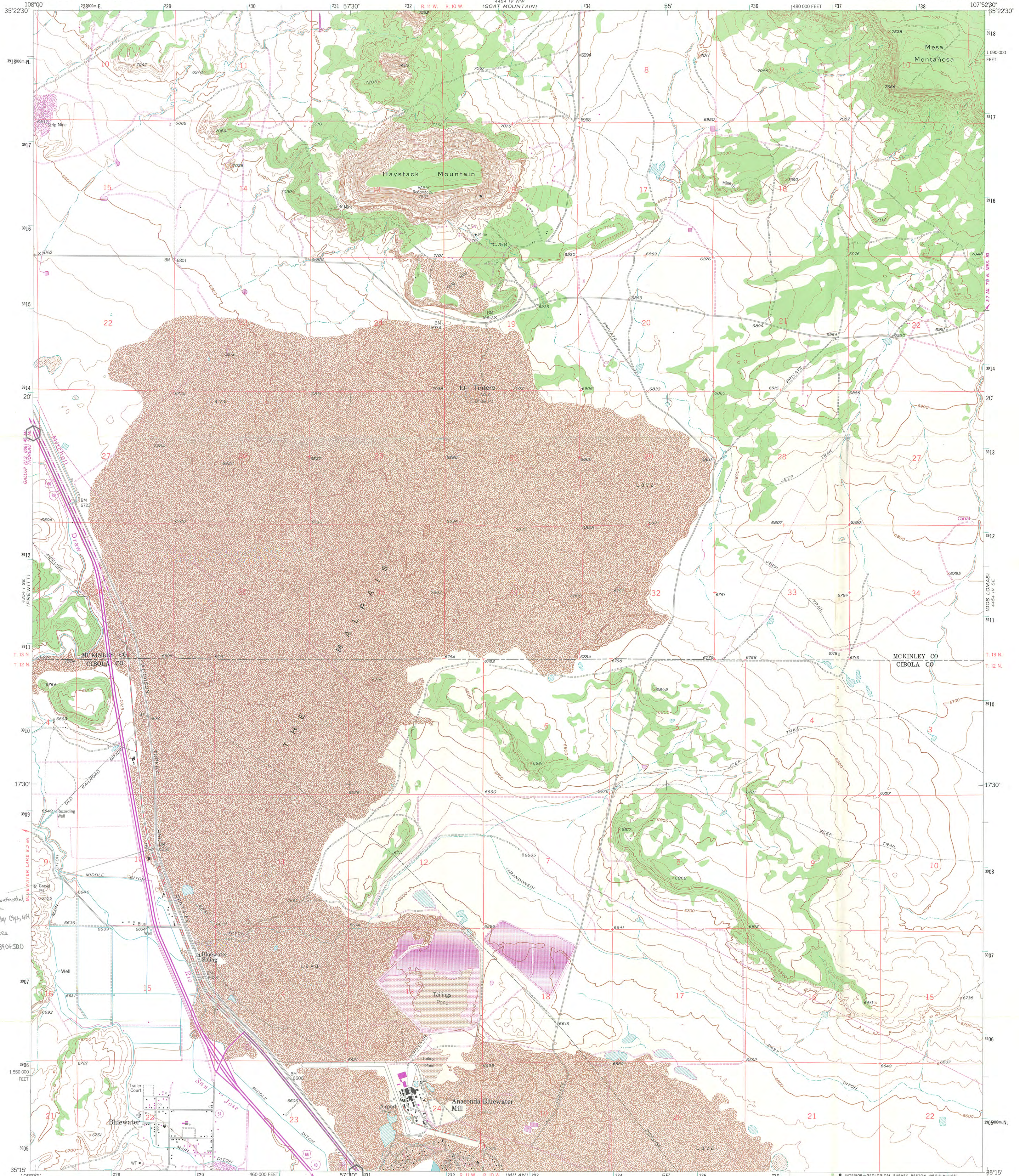
ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

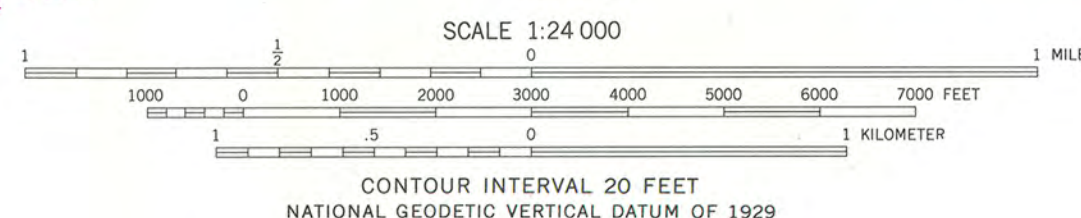
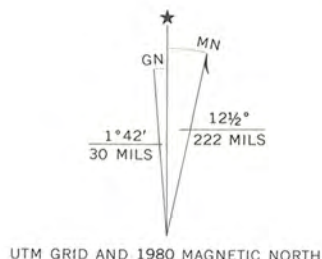
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1978 and other source data. This information not
field checked. Map edited 1981

MILAN, N. MEX.
N3507.5-W10752.5/7.5
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 4454 III NW-SERIES V881

9



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Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1956. Field check 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system,
west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 13, shown in blue
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field checked. Map edited 1980

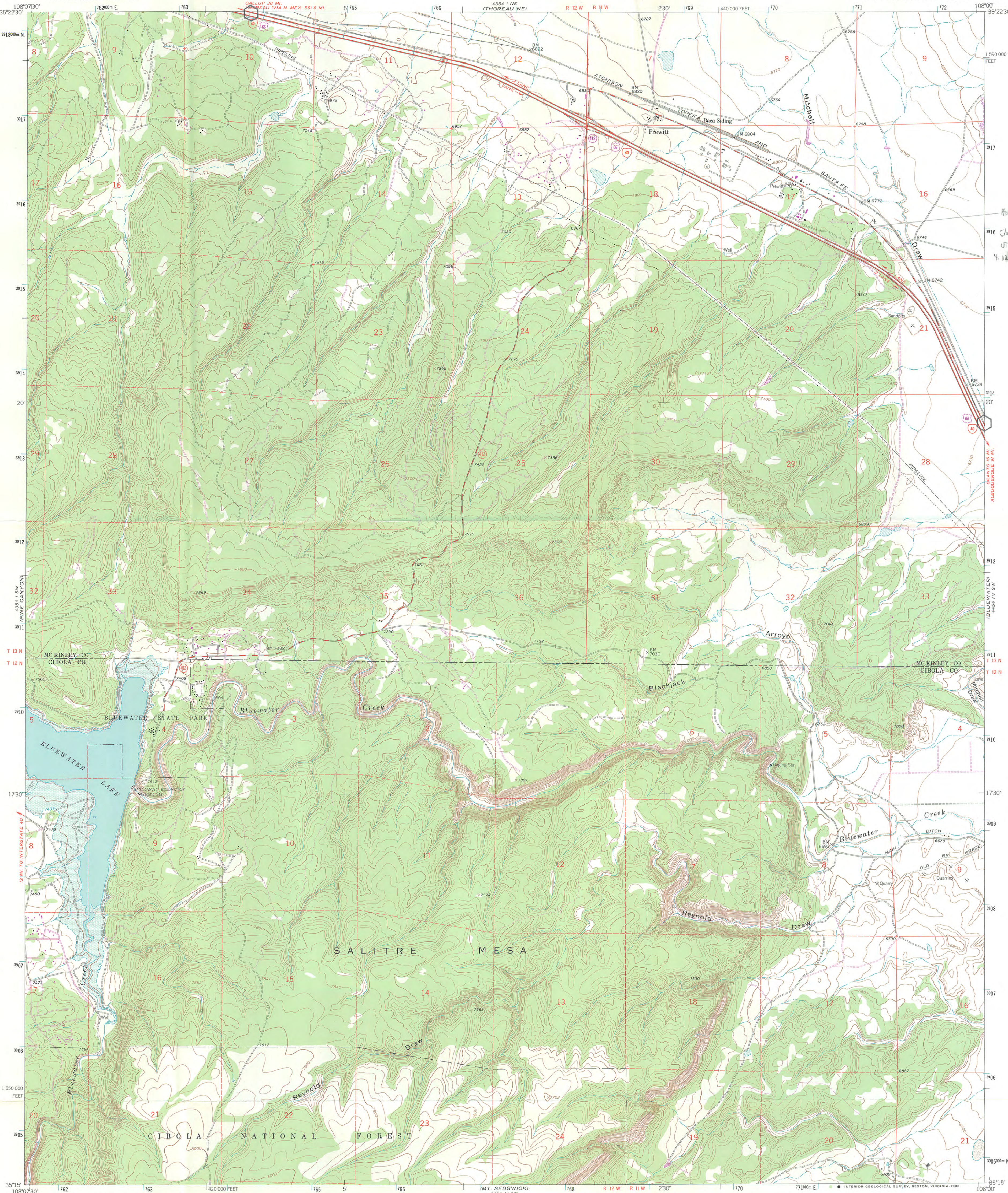


ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
Slate Route	

BLUEWATER, N. MEX.
N3515-W10752.5/7.5
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 4454 IV SW-SERIES V881

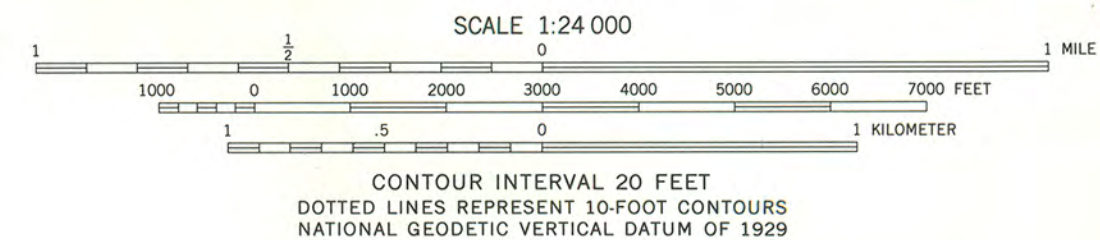
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PREWITT QUADRANGLE
NEW MEXICO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

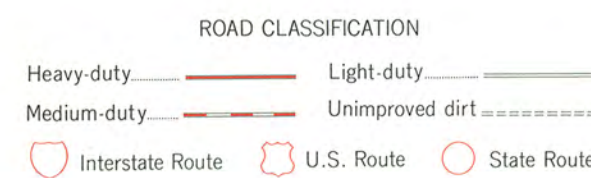


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
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Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1945, 1956, and 1958. Field checked 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 12, shown in blue
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject
to controlled inundation
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 56 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

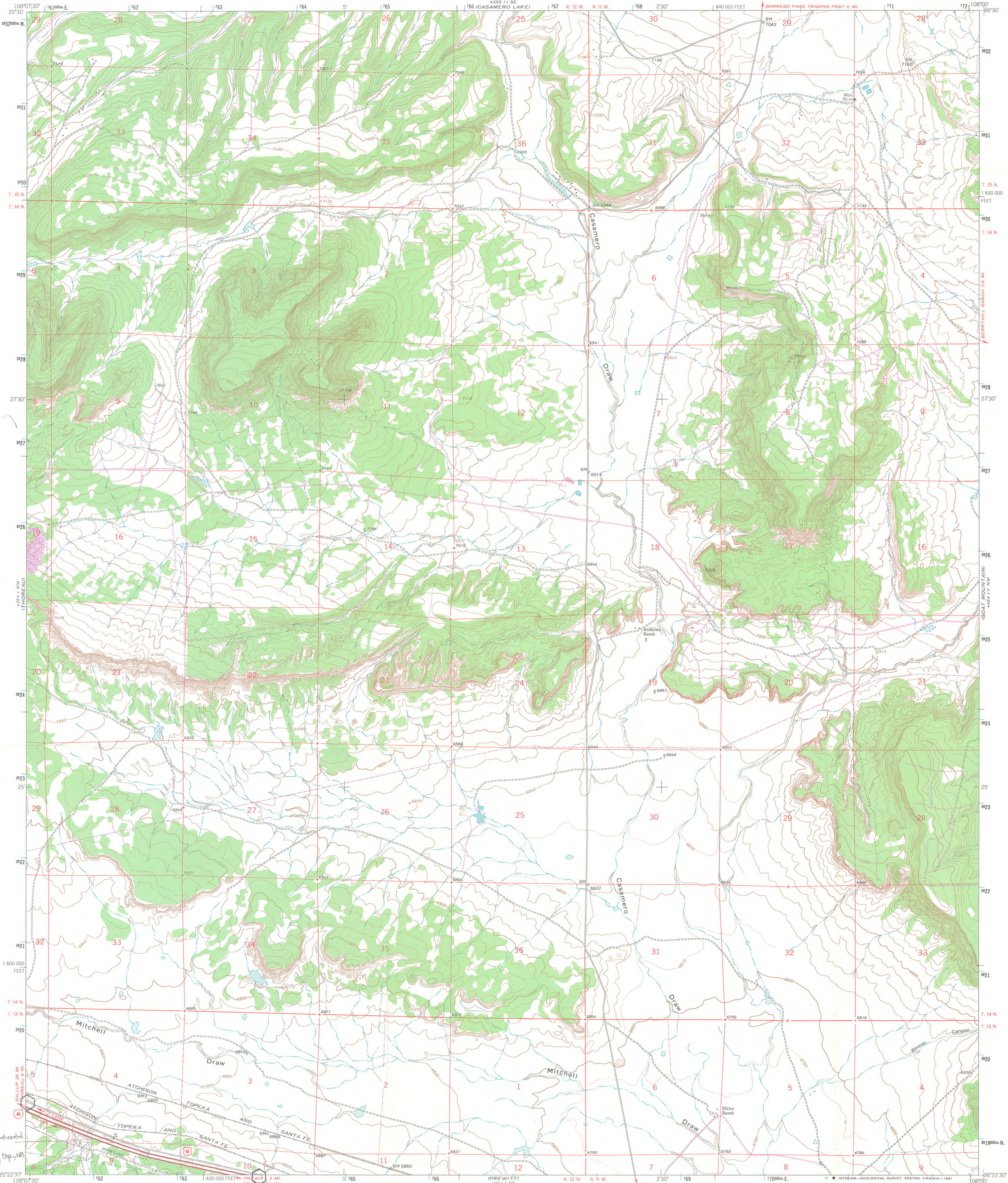
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data.
This information not field checked. Map edited 1980



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

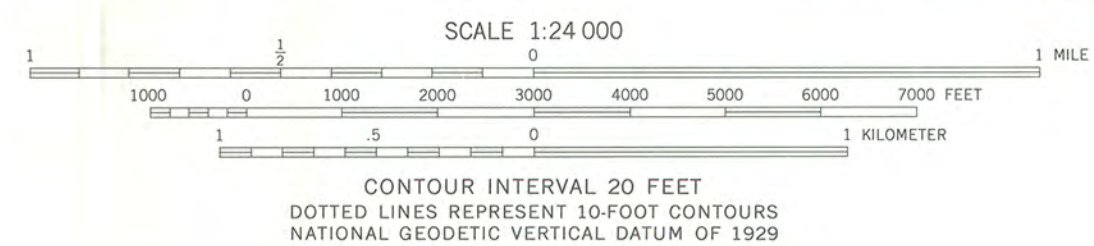


PREWITT, N. MEX.
35108-C1-TF-024
1963
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 4354 I SE-SERIES V881



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Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1956 and 1958. Field checked 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 12, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 56 meters east as
shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data.
This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

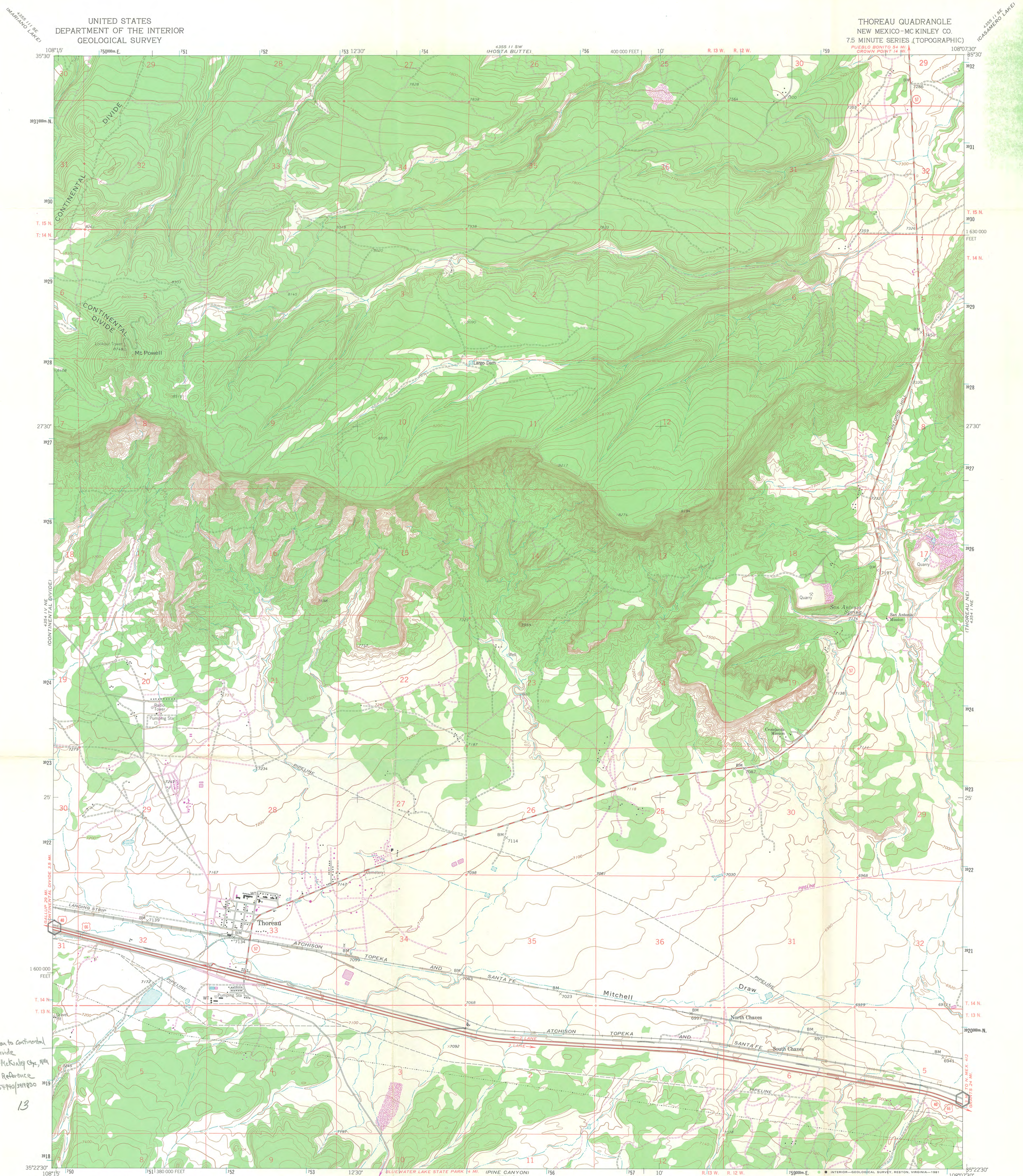


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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ———

THOREAU NE, N. MEX.
N3522.5-W10800.7/5
1963
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 4354 I NE-SERIES V881

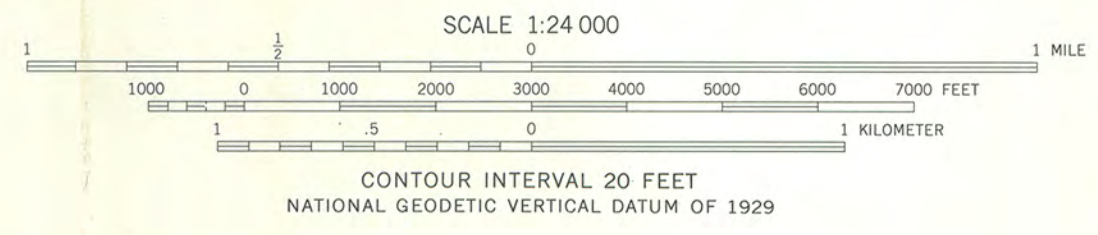


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THOREAU QUADRANGLE
NEW MEXICO-MCKINLEY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Mexico coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 12, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 56 meters east as
shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1978 and other source data. This information not
field checked. Map edited 1980



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

THOREAU, N. MEX.
N3522.5-W10807.5/7.5

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 4354 I NW-SERIES V881

Rt. 66 Milan to Continental
Divide
Cibola-McKinley Cpx, NM
UTM Reference
6. 1275440/3919800
13

4354 I SE
COTTOWOOM
CANYON

4354 I SE
PREWITT
CANYON

