

## **Maps of the Long Walk**

by  
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for  
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### **Lay Report**

#### **Background**

During the years 1863 and 1864 some 11,000 Navajos (Diné) and about 500 Mescalero Apaches were forcibly removed from their homelands in northeastern Arizona-northwestern New Mexico and the region of the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains of south-central New Mexico, respectively. Escorted by U.S. Army troops, the Navajos in 30 to 50 groups and the Mescaleros in two groups were conducted to a newly created reservation along the Pecos River at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, known as the Bosque Redondo.

The trek, of as much as 550 miles on foot, was grueling. Many of the native people being relocated died or were killed along the way. The plan, conceived by Brigadier General James H. Carleton, was to convert the semi-sedentary Navajos and semi-nomadic Mescaleros into full-time farmers on the 40 square mile reservation. The effort was an utter failure, undermined by unscrupulous government contractors, severe weather, psychological shock and physical strain suffered by the uprooted Indians, their unfamiliarity with farming as a full time occupation, and friction between the two native peoples. In the late fall of 1865 the Mescaleros escaped from the reservation en masse; and the army made only halfhearted efforts to return them. In 1868 the Indian Peace Commission, under the direction of General William Tecumseh Sherman and Samuel F. Tappan, concluded a new treaty with the Navajos at Bosque Redondo, authorizing their return to a portion of their homeland.

The new treaty came too late for many Navajos who suffered and died on

the reservation. Some had also fled. But more than 7,000 Navajos were conducted under guard back to Fort Wingate in the southern portion of their homeland. They were provided subsistence supplies and allowed to return to their homes or take up new ones. Likewise, in 1872 a reservation for the Mescalero Apaches was created at Fort Stanton, New Mexico, in the Sacramento Mountains.

Now, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation and Mescalero Apache Tribe, the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe (NTSF) of the National Park Service is studying the feasibility of commemorating the events of the Long Walk through establishment of a Long Walk National Historic Trail. To establish a National Historic Trail, it is necessary to know with considerable certainty the routes by which various Indian groups traveled to and from Bosque Redondo.

It has been possible to reconstruct a number of those routes on the basis of contemporaneous textual documents and recorded oral statements. But gaps in routes and ignorance of some segments of routes have resulted from incompleteness of, ambiguities in, and apparent internal conflicts within the documentary record, as well as shifts and changes in place names in the past 140 years.

It was in an effort to fill in those gaps and in general increase precision of the route reconstructions being prepared by the NTSF that historians Richard Flint and Shirley Cushing Flint spent a week in February 2005 at the National Archives in both College Park, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. Our goal was to obtain copies of pertinent contemporaneous maps and related documents that would shed light on routes and place names in use in New Mexico and Arizona at the time of the Long Walk.

### **Maps and Textual Documents Located**

Our search resulted in location and reproduction of 45 relevant maps. We also located and examined another 43 maps that did not contribute additional information about the Long Walk route or place names along the routes of the Long Walk. In addition to maps, we located and reproduced 85

historic textual documents that provided information potentially useful in delineating routes followed by the Navajos and Mescalero Apaches in traveling to and from the Bosque Redondo. We also located and reproduced three historic photographs with relevance to the Long Walk.

As had been hoped, our research at the National Archives yielded a large amount of cartographic and textual material not previously available to the NTSF that bears on the routes followed by both Navajos and Mescalero Apaches traveling to and from their internment at Bosque Redondo. The maps and textual documents help translate place names of the 1850s and 1860s to modern maps, making it easier to reconstruct with precision the routes to and from Bosque Redondo. They are also aiding NTSF staff in identifying topographic features referred to in historic documents and oral stories.

The National Archive maps and documents confirm previously suspected routes and suggest others formerly unknown in any detail. In all cases, they add significant geographical context to places and routes already known. As a result, the Long Walk routes can be more fully and accurately interpreted and delineated both for purposes of the current feasibility study and later after establishment of a National Historic Trail, should that become a reality. Maps, in particular, can be used to illustrate vividly events of the Long Walk.

In order to give an idea of the important information gained from this research, we discuss in detail one particular map. It was located in the Cartographic Section of the National Archives in College Park. It was found in Record Group 77, Records of the War Department, Chief of Engineers, Headquarters Map File. With catalog number W177-1, it is a "Map of Road from Santa Fe to Fort Wingate, 1873." It is a small (12 1/2" x 13"), previously unpublished, manuscript map that depicts the corridors of two routes between Fort Wingate and Santa Fe, New Mexico. They diverge at Provencher's Ranch west of Mount Taylor (see Figure 1). The routes themselves are shown in considerable detail. In particular, this is an important representation of the route from Albuquerque to Galisteo, by way of San Pedro (see Figure 2). This particular route was used by several of the Long Walk parties. On the 1873

map the route can clearly be seen, for instance, passing through the villages of San Antonito and San Pedro and crossing two branches of what today is known as the Tonque Arroyo, just north of San Pedro. Such information makes it possible to know, very precisely where many Navajo and Apache people, and their military escorts, traveled on their dispirited journey to internment in 1863.

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FROM NOTES TAKEN BY  
**2<sup>nd</sup> LIEUT. C. C. MORRISON, 6<sup>th</sup> CAV.**  
 ACTING ENGINEER OFFICER, DIST. OF N.M.

SCALE 1:1000,000

MILES 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES

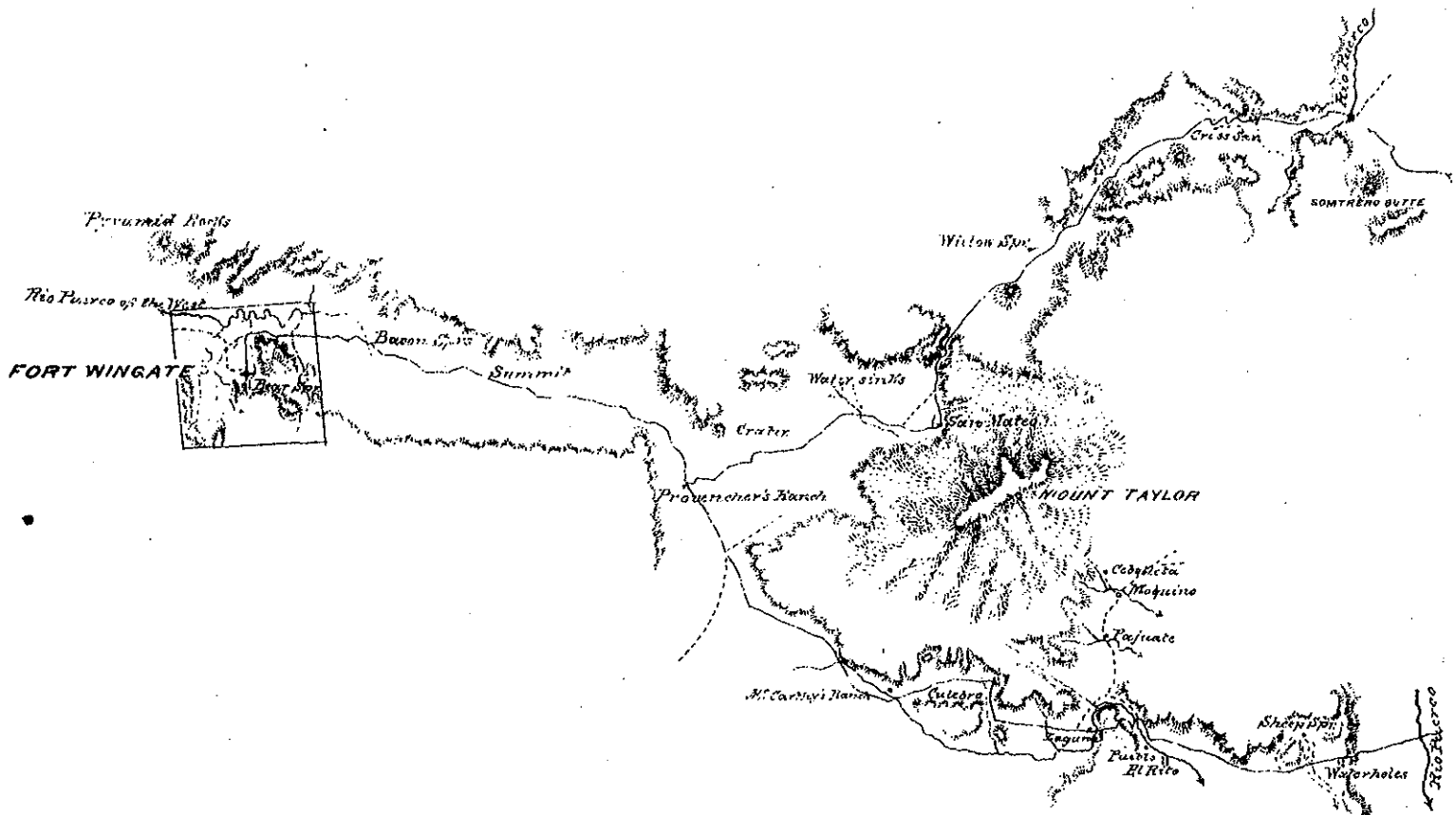


Figure 1



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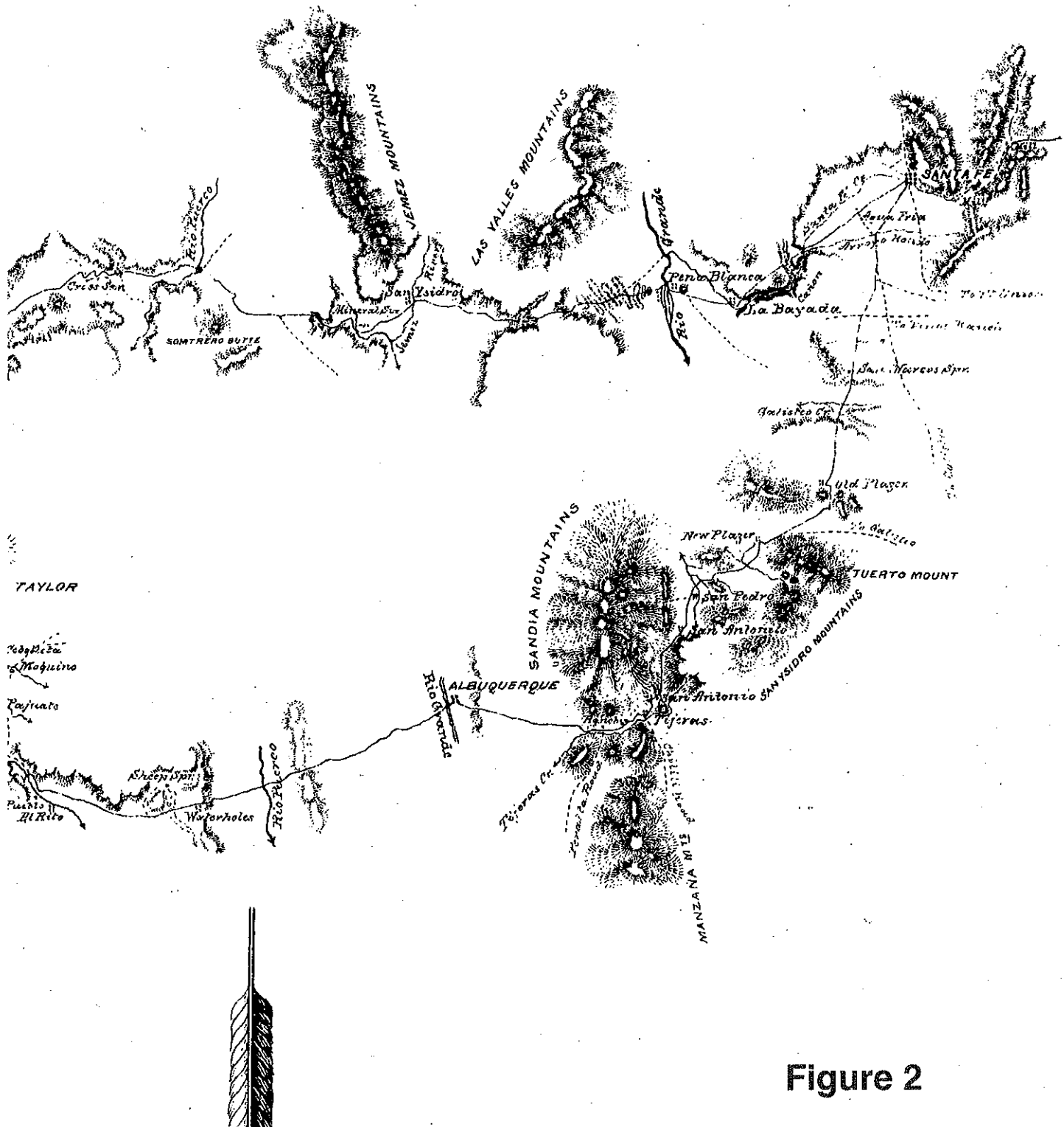


Figure 2