



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Manzanar National Historic Site
P.O. Box 426
Independence, California 93526

September 28, 2009

To: Superintendent, Minidoka National Historic Site.
From: Archeologist, Manzanar National Historic Site.
Subject: Minidoka Block 22 Mapping (Project Number MIIN 2009 A).

Between September 14 and 19, I conducted fieldwork at Minidoka National Historic Site, near Twin Falls, Idaho. Volunteer in the Park (VIP) Jim Burton assisted in the fieldwork. Ron Beckwith, of the Western Archeological and Conservation Center in Tucson, had imported WRA blueprints of Minidoka into AutoCAD before the trip to facilitate the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was precipitated by the donation of a barracks and a mess hall building to be moved to the historic site. The Minidoka General Management Plan (GMP) calls for the re-creation of Block 22, with barracks buildings and other structures brought back to the former internment camp and restored. Block 22 is located near the central eastern edge of the Historic Site boundary. Of the 36 residential blocks originally included in the Relocation Center, only Block 22 and Block 21 are completely within the Historic Site. Block 22 is closest to proposed visitor contact facilities (Maps 1 and 2).

Precise and accurate placement of the buildings is essential to conveying an accurate picture of the camp, as outlined in the GMP. However, the area has been modified since World War II: up until a few weeks ago it was a functioning farm field, and most traces of the relocation center within Block 22 had been obscured. The road system is no longer discernible, original foundations have been removed, and other features associated with the buildings have been destroyed. The only features remaining from the relocation center are Siberian elm trees, all but one of which are in a row aligned with the projected western edge of the block (Figure 1).

However, according to the WRA blueprint, the northwest corner of Block 22 is about 650 feet from the warehouse area, where several large concrete slab foundations are clearly visible on a low rise. From previous work at Minidoka, I suspected that all or most of Block 22 could be seen from Warehouse 5, near the north edge of the rise, and that from there a total station instrument could be used to survey in key points of the block. Once two points were established within Block 22, we would be able to survey and mark all of the building locations within the block.

Accordingly, the WRA blueprint was imported into AutoCAD so that we could calculate angles and distances from the northwest corner of Warehouse 5 to six key points within Block 22.

These six points would have been barracks corners for the four barracks at each corner of the block (Map 3). The angle from the northwest corner of Warehouse 5 to the southwest corner of



Warehouse 8 was designated as 0 degrees. The layout and spacing between buildings within the block were also determined from the AutoCAD version of the WRA blueprint (Map 4).

In the field, a temporary datum was established at the northwest corner of Warehouse 5. Then a stake was placed at the southwest corner of Warehouse 8. A Total Station instrument set up at the datum was used to measure the angle from the datum to the stake at Warehouse 8, and set that azimuth as 0. Of the six historic building corners for which we had pre-determined direction and distance, only two were visible from the datum; this included the southeast corner of the southeasternmost barracks (Building 12) and the southwest corner of the southwesternmost barracks (Building 2). The others were obscured by trees. The southeast staked corner was designated the Mapping Datum (0.000 N, 0.000 E, 0.000 elev); the southwest corner was used to establish an arbitrary azimuth of 270 degrees. It should be noted that the Block 22 roads and buildings were not aligned to a true north grid, unlike most of the current road system in the area. Of the ten relocation centers, Minidoka was the only one where blocks were not laid out in one single grid; instead, blocks curve around a bend in the North Side Canal.

Using the Total Station and a fiberglass tape, building corners along the zero- and 270-degree azimuths were staked with rebar to match the building measurements and distances between the buildings derived from the WRA blueprint (Figure 2). The Total Station was then reset along the zero azimuth to measure in the remaining building corners. All of the original building corners are marked with plastic safety-capped rebar set flush to the ground, including four rebars for each of the 14 rectangular buildings and 12 rebars for the twelve corners of the H-shaped shower, latrine, and laundry building. Thus, 64 corners were marked in the field with rebar. The rebar was placed flush to the ground so as not to impede farm machinery and grass-mowing (Figure 3). Twenty-four of these corners were also marked with 3-ft-high lath and flagging to make them easier to find (see Map 4; Figure 4).

Then, additional points were shot in from the Mapping Datum with the Total Station to create a topographic map of Block 22 and the immediate area. These points included all of the building corners, points along a modern ditch and modern road (Road 1450 E), fence posts, trees, stumps, rock concentrations, an in-place manhole, a displaced manhole, two loose footings, a collected ceramic piece, and two car hoods. The resulting topographic map has a contour interval of 0.5 foot (Map 5).

Then, at the request of Troy Tetsuka of KPFF Consulting Engineers, we shot points back to the temporary datum at Warehouse 5 and to a concrete fuel tank enclosure feature at the northwest corner of the Warehouse 5 slab, so that the contractor could tie their map into ours (Map 6). The Warehouse 5 slab itself had been previously mapped in 2001¹, however the fuel tank enclosure had been oriented incorrectly.

¹ Jeffery F. Burton and Mary M. Farrell, "This Is Minidoka: An Archeological Survey of Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho" (*Western Archeological and Conservation Center Publications in Anthropology* 80, 2001), Figure 3.66.

The collected ceramic is a white high-heeled shoe, measuring 2 7/8 inches long, 15/16 inch wide, and 1 9/16 inch high (Figure 5). When found, the shoe had a small bit of burned textile within it; it was likely used as a pin cushion holder. The ceramic shoe, as well as the two footings and the rock concentrations, were all found on the slope to the south of the cultivated field.

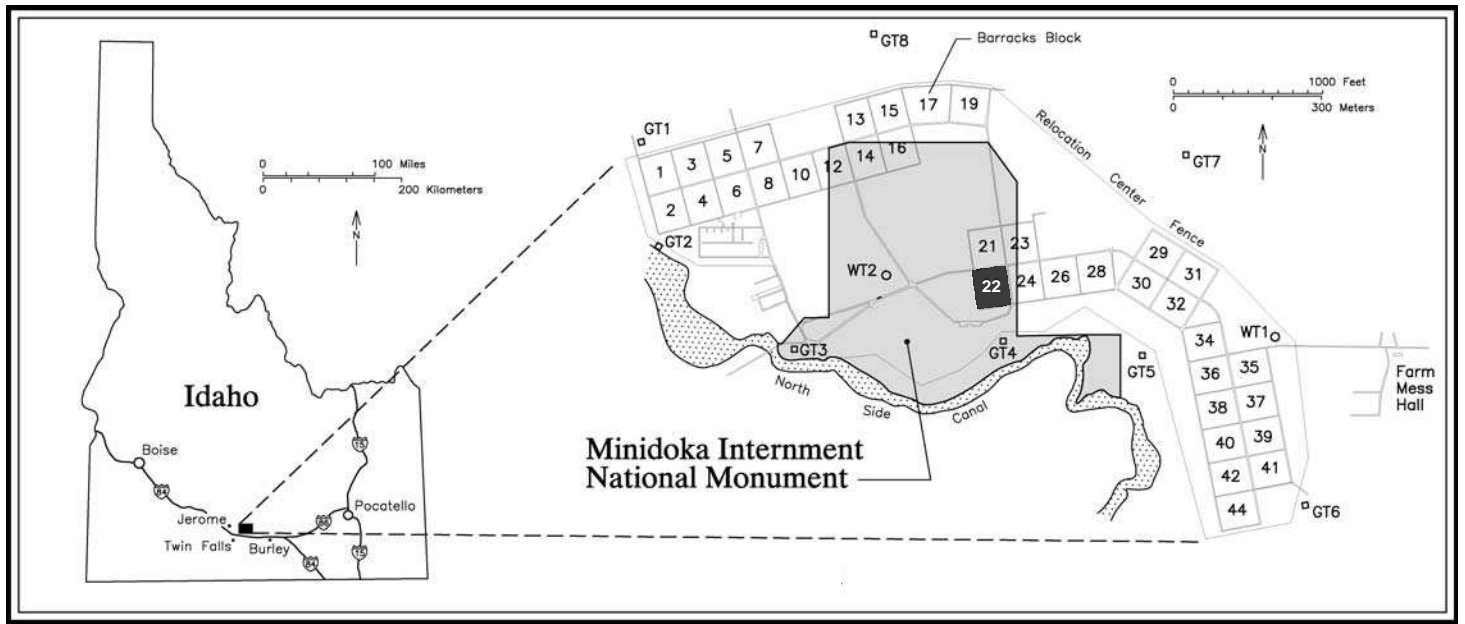
Even though current vegetation was fairly sparse and short and visibility therefore relatively good, the only artifact noted within the cultivated portion of Block 22 was a small fragment of concrete. It seems likely that the area was thoroughly graded and scraped when the foundations were removed. Compared to uncultivated portions of the relocation center, there are very few artifacts on the ground surface within Block 22. Subsurface cultural material also appears to be unlikely within Block 22: repeated plowing over the years would likely have brought artifacts up to the surface. Therefore, no further archaeological work is recommended before the buildings are reconstructed on site. However, as a precaution, ground disturbance occurring as part of the reconstruction (e.g., excavation to place foundations or buried utilities) should be monitored by an archeologist.

Sincerely,

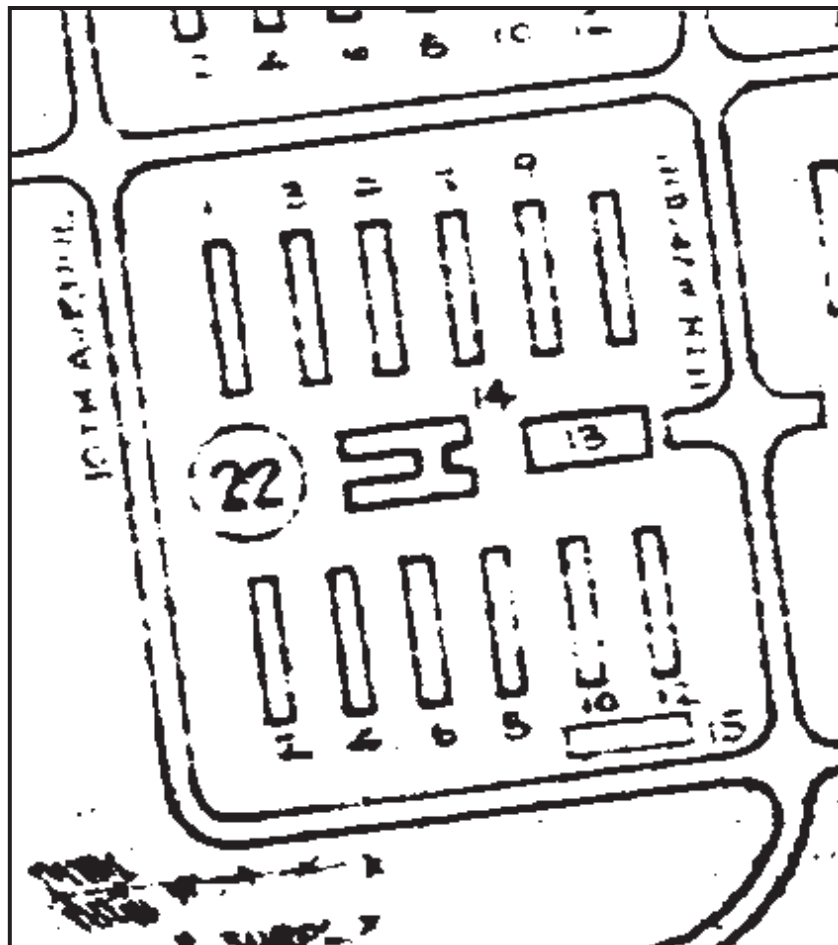
/s/

Jeff Burton

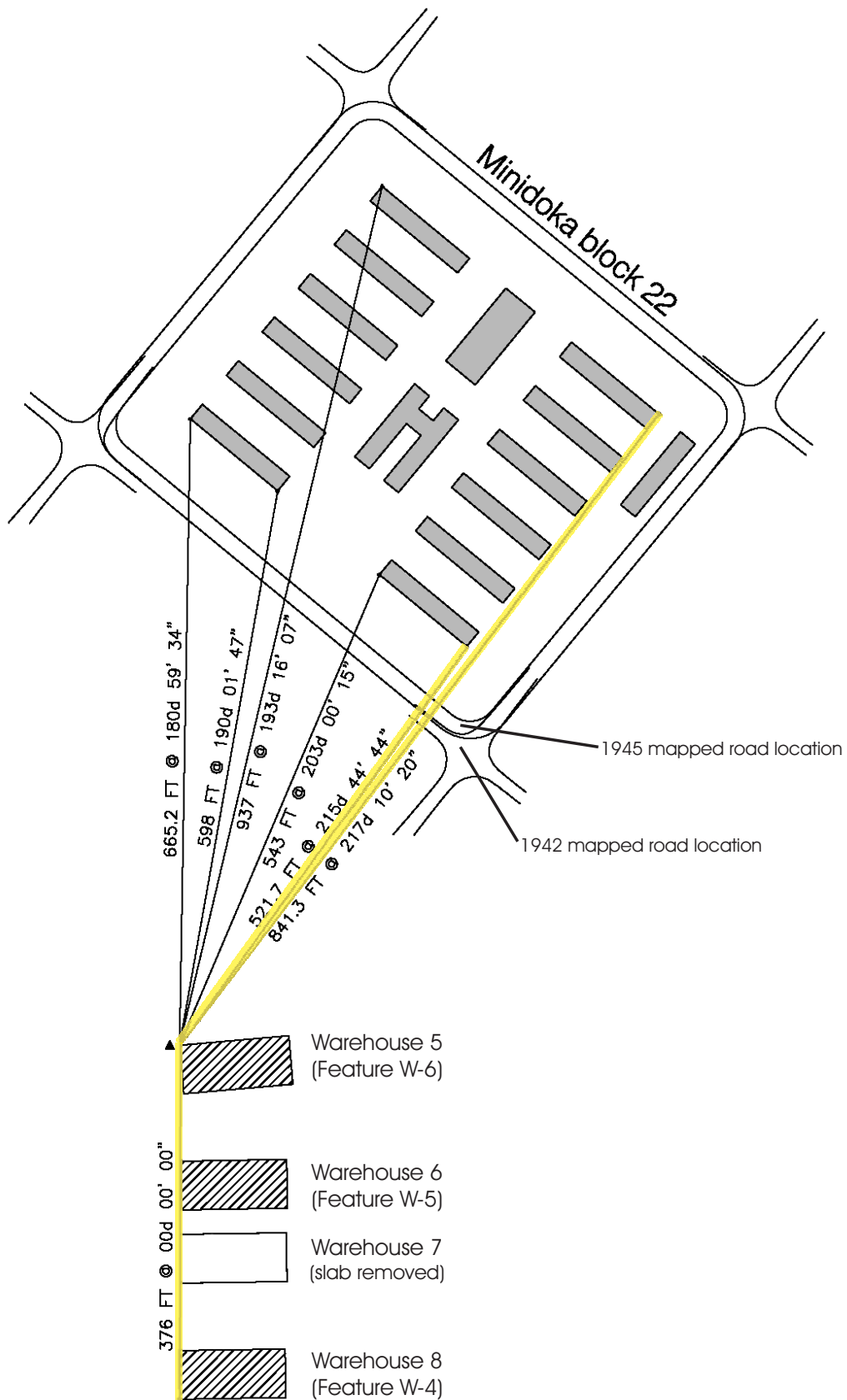
attachments: Maps 1-6, Figures 1-5
cc: Supt, MANZ, Troy Tetsuka (KPFF)



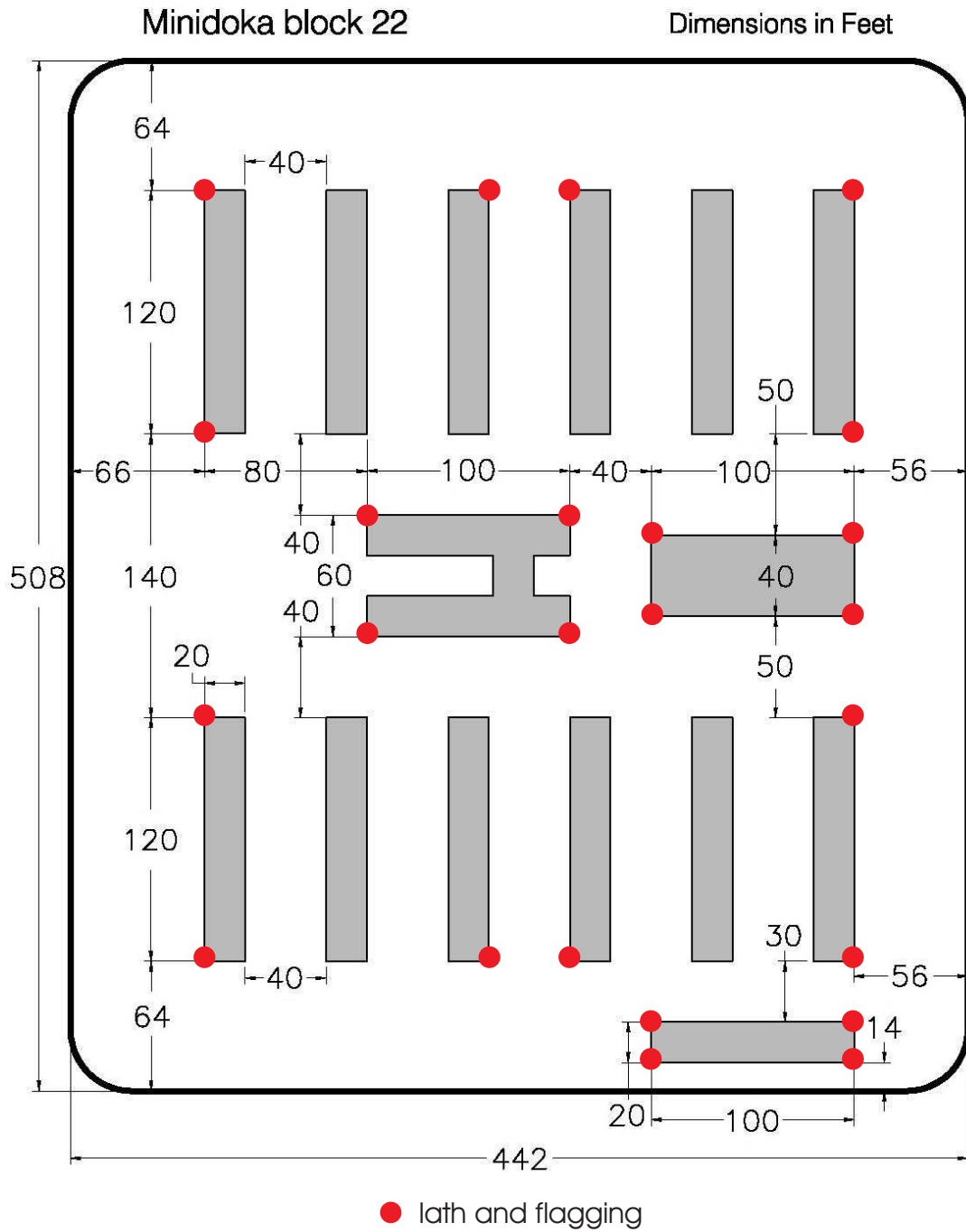
Map 1. Location of Block 22 within Minidoka National Historic Site.



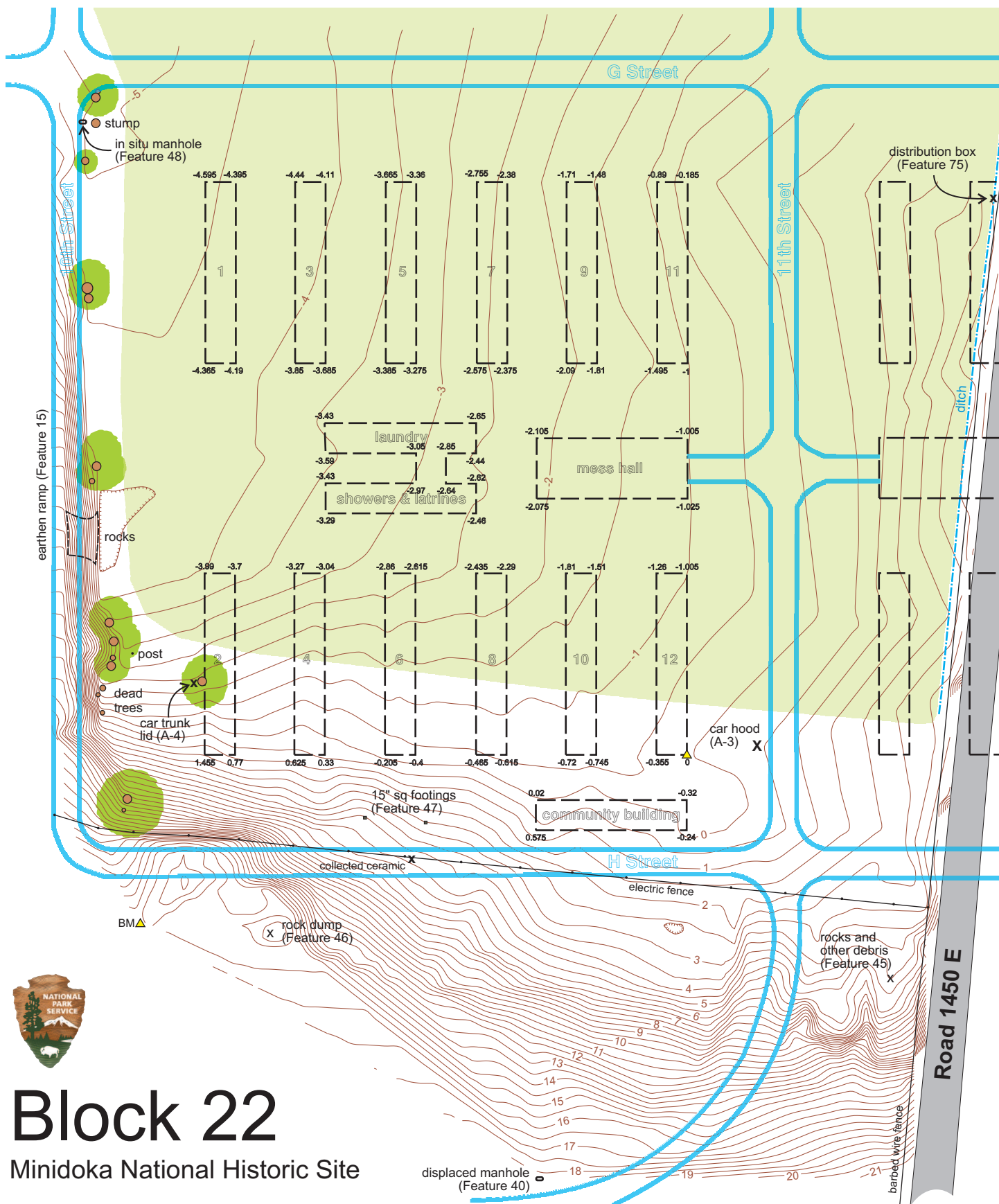
Map 2. Detail of Block 22 from 1945 WRA plan map.



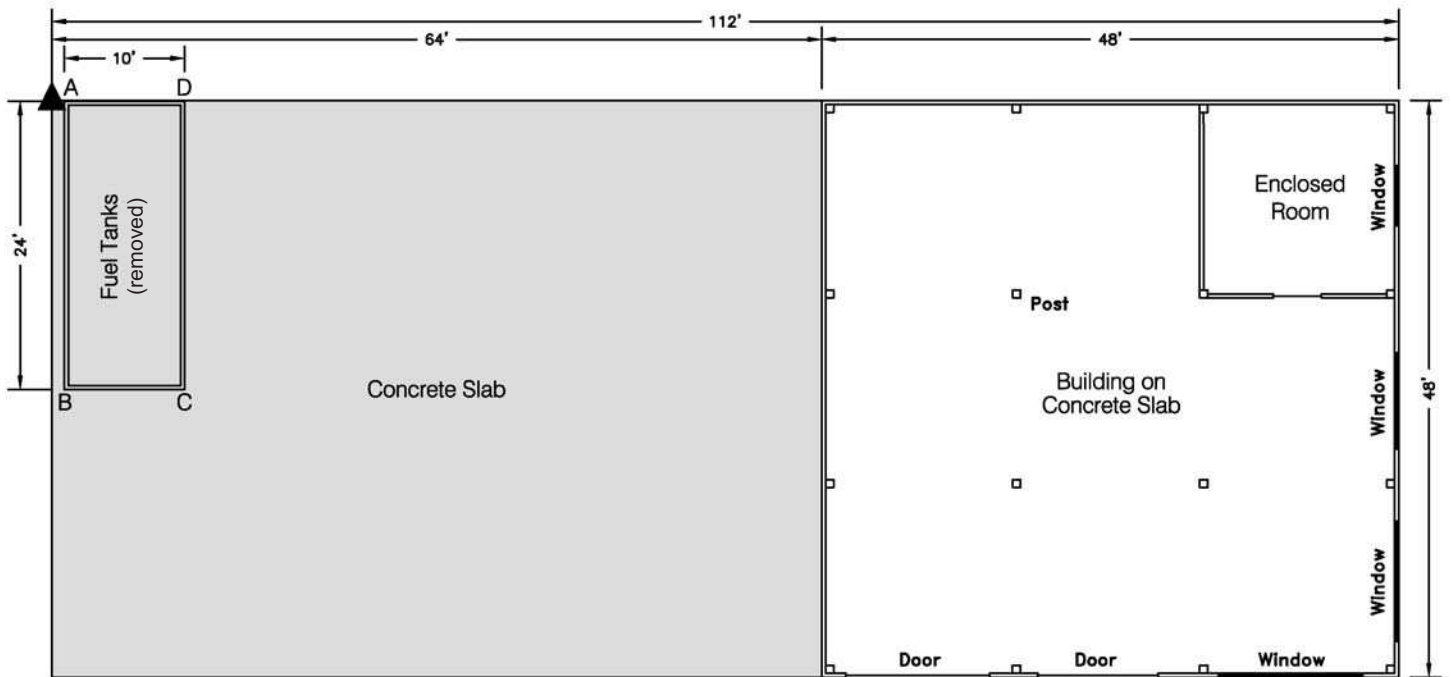
Map 3. Block 22 location in relation to existing warehouse slabs (shots highlighted in yellow used to plot initial building locations).



Map 4. Block 22 building layout and dimensions.



Minidoka Internment National Monument
Warehouse Building 5
Feature W-6



	N	E	elv
A	-37.820	-840.555	17.565
B	-52.975	-855.685	17.665
C	-59.715	-849.490	17.785
D	-44.620	-834.020	17.745
NW corner	-36.520	-840.505	16.815

Map 6. Grid coordinates and elevations of fuel tank enclosure and northwest corner of Warehouse 5 slab.



Figure 1. Farm field showing elm trees along western edge of Block 22.



Figure 2. Laying out and staking barracks corners.



Figure 3. Capped rebar.



Figure 4. Staked corner with lath and flagging.



Figure 5. Collected ceramic shoe pin cushion holder.