

# **McMillan Mesa Site Visit to Parcel Number 101-46-002B in Flagstaff, Arizona**

Prepared for

Mogollon Engineering & Surveying, Inc.

Prepared by



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Federal and state agencies have legal responsibilities to safeguard locational information about cultural resources and must restrict access to cultural site locations depicted in this report and other information about cultural resources per Arizona Revised Statute §39-125, the National Historic Preservation Act, Title III, §304, and the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (16USC470aa et seq.).

November 2020

## **1. REPORT TITLE**

**1a. Report Title:** McMillan Mesa Site Visit to Parcel Number 101-46-002B in Flagstaff, Arizona

**1b. Report Author(s):** Jack Treichler and Kevin Dickinson

**1c. Date:** November 25, 2020

**1d. Report Number:** CEC 20-129

## **2. PROJECT REGISTRATION/PERMITS**

**2a. ASM Accession Number:** NA

**2b. AAA Permit No.:** 2020-008b1

**2c. ASLD Lease Application Number(s):** NA

**2d. Other Permit Number(s):** NA

## **3. ORGANIZATION/CONSULTING FIRM**

**3a. Name:** Cornerstone Environmental Consulting, LLC (Cornerstone; CEC)

**3b. Internal Project Number:** CEC 20-129

**3c. Internal Project Name:** McMillan Mesa Archaeological Survey

**3d. Contact Name:** Jack Treichler

**3e. Contact Address:** 320 N. Leroux Street, Suite A, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

**3f. Contact Phone:** (928) 522-4148

**3g. Contact Email:** JTreichler@Cornerstone-Environmental.com

## **4. SPONSOR/LEAD AGENCY**

**4a. Sponsor:** Mogollon Engineering & Surveying, Inc. (Mogollon)

**4b. Lead Agency:** City of Flagstaff

**4c. Agency Project Number(s):** NA

**4d. Agency Project Name:** NA

**4e. Funding Source(s):** Private

**4f. Other Involved Agencies:** Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

**4g. Applicable Regulations:** Since the proposed undertaking is within the city limits of Flagstaff, the project is subject to the Flagstaff Zoning Code, Section 10-30.30.050, regarding historic properties and cultural resources. Pursuant to Section 10-30.30.050.A.3.c.1 (Letter Reports) of the Flagstaff Zoning Code, a Letter Report is considered the appropriate level of study if site conditions, archival records, or

previous research suggest that cultural resources are not likely present, the integrity of a cultural resource is already severely compromised, or the proposed work will not compromise the integrity of the cultural resource, or when no mitigation measures are warranted. Therefore, the project must undergo a Class III archaeological survey to identify, document, and evaluate cultural resources that could be affected by the proposed undertaking. This report was prepared per guidelines specified by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (AZSHPO 2009, 2016).

## **5. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR UNDERTAKING**

Cornerstone was contracted by Mogollon to conduct a pedestrian archaeological survey (site visit) of 16.7 acres of a parcel of private land (APN 101-46-002B) in the City of Flagstaff, Arizona. This work is being performed prior to housing development on the lot by the owner and will assist in complying with the City of Flagstaff's (City) zoning codes (10-30.30.050) regarding historic properties and cultural resources.

## **6. PROJECT AREA/AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS**

The survey area consists of 16.7 acres of a parcel of private land (APN 101-46-002B) in the City of Flagstaff, Arizona, on McMillan Mesa in Township 21N, Range 7E, Section 15, as described by Mogollon and as shown in Figures 1 through 3. The survey area includes a 50-foot buffer (not exceeding the parcel boundaries) per the City of Flagstaff.

## **7. PROJECT LOCATION**

**7a. Address:** 1571 North Gemini Drive, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

**7b. Route:** NA

**7c. Milepost Limits:** NA

**7d. Nearest City/Town:** Flagstaff

**7e. County:** Coconino

**7f. Project Locator UTM:** 0441960 m E; 3896360 m N

**7g. Datum:** NAD83

**7h. Zone:** 12 N

**7i. Baseline & Meridian:** Gila & Salt River

**7j. USGS Quadrangle(s):** Flagstaff West (1983)

**7k. Legal Description(s):** Township 21 North, Range 7 East, Section 15

## **8. SURVEY AREA**

**8a. Total Acres:** 16.7

**8b. Survey Area.**

<b>1. Land Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2. Total Acres Surveyed</b>	<b>3. Total Acres Not Surveyed</b>	<b>4. Justification for Areas Not Surveyed</b>
City of Flagstaff, Arizona Land	16.7	NA	NA

**9. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXTS**

**9a. Landform:** The project area is atop McMillan Mesa and incorporates the western edge of the mesa as it drops into Switzer Canyon.

**9b. Elevation:** 2150 meters (7053 feet) AMSL

**9c. Surrounding Topographic Features:** The survey area is atop McMillan Mesa, which is at the southern end of Switzer Mesa. Elden Mountain is just to the northeast.

**9d. Nearest Drainage:** Switzer Canyon is just to the west of the project area and is a tributary to the Rio de Flag. The Rio de Flag drains to San Francisco Wash, which drains to Padre Canyon, which drains to Canyon Diablo, which drains to the Little Colorado River, which drains to the Colorado River, which drains to the Gulf of California.

**9e. Local Geology:** Geologically the project area consists of Holocene to middle Pliocene volcanic rocks (0–4 million years). These are rhyolite to andesite deposited as a sequence of lava flows and associated rocks; generally light to medium gray, tan, or reddish brown. These rocks are part of the San Francisco volcanic field.

**9f. Vegetation:** Brown (1994) classifies the area as Petran Montane Conifer Forest. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) trees dot the mesa top, and the rills and low spots at the edges of the mesa are moderately to densely populated with Gambel oaks (*Quercus gambelii*) and ponderosa pines. Many low segmented cacti of the genus *Opuntia* hide in the grass and among the rocks.

**9g. Soils/Deposition:** Soils in the project area are classified as Hereford soils, which are Pachic Argiustolls. They are very clayey and rocky and would be poor for agriculture.

**9h. Buried Deposits:** Deposition is generally minimal presenting little likelihood for buried deposits.

**9i. Justification:** See above.

**10. BUILT ENVIRONMENT:** No historical standing architecture is present in any of the survey area.

**11. INVENTORY CLASS COMPLETED**

**11a. Class I Inventory:**

**11b. Researcher(s):** Kevin Dickinson

**11c. Class II Survey:**

**11d. Sampling Strategy:** NA

11e. Class III Inventory:

## 12. BACKGROUND RESEARCH SOURCES

12a. AZSITE:

12b. ASM Archaeological Records Office:

12c. SHPO Inventories and/or SHPO Library:

12d. NRHP Database:

12e. ADOT Portal:

12f. GLO Maps:

12g. Land-Managing Agency Files: NA

12h. Tribal Cultural Resources Files: NA

12i. Local Government Websites: NA

12j. **Other:** San Francisco Mtns (1:250,000) 1886, 1891, 1894, 1899 Flagstaff (1:125,000) 1908, 1912 Flagstaff (1:250,000) 1947, 1954, 1960, 1962 Flagstaff West (1:24,000) 1962, 1974

## 13. BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

In order to determine what previous projects had been conducted and what archaeological sites had been previously recorded within one mile of the project area, Cornerstone personnel conducted a site-file-search of AZSITE records on November 10, 2020. Cornerstone also reviewed the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP 2020) electronic database, as well as various historic maps (*see* Section 12j). There were no notable observations on historic maps.

### 13a. Previous Projects and Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within Search Area.

AZSITE records identify no projects within the current project area and 14 projects within one mile of the project area (Figure 4). Full citations are only required for projects within the project area. AZSITE records identify one archaeological site within the current project area and 11 previously recorded sites within 1 mile of the current project area (Table 1; Figure 5).

**Table 1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources (Figure 5)<sup>1</sup>**

Site Number/ Property Name/Address	Cultural/Temporal Affiliation	Site Type	Associated Reference (Author, Year) <sup>2</sup>
NA19184, AZ I:14:550(MNA), 03-0240	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Unknown

<sup>1</sup>SHPO requires full citations only for those projects within the APE (direct and visual APE for FCC projects).

### 13b. Previous Research Comments:

AZSITE plots Site NA19184 within the [REDACTED] corner of the project area and describes the site as a large lithic scatter consisting of small and fine tertiary/thinning flakes, mostly chert and fine-grained basalt with some obsidian, and one chert core. This area is now fully developed with two excavated and

fenced-in drainage ponds. The area was fully investigated, and no archaeological finds were observed in the vicinity of the plotted location.

The NRHP lists 150 properties within Coconino County, Arizona, as of November 10, 2020 (NRHP 2020). The NRHP lists 10 properties within the one-mile search area, but no properties within the project area. The 1904 General Land Office (GLO) map for Township 21 North, Range 7 East yielded no notable observations. Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Company (Sanborn) maps are not available for the project area since it is completely undeveloped.

Beginning in 1863, with the discovery of gold in Prescott, a new road was created to connect the area to the Beale Wagon Road and Flagstaff. Known as the Overland Road on GLO maps, the Prescott Cutoff of the Beale Wagon Road (Site AZ I:14:5[ASM], or 02-1672), lies [REDACTED] and outside of the project area. Further information on the Overland Road can be found in Edwards (2016) and O'Hara and Downum (2005).

#### **14. CULTURAL CONTEXTS**

**14a. Prehistoric Culture:** Northern Sinagua

**14b. Protohistoric Culture:** Apache, Diné (Navajo), Hopi

**14c. Indigenous Historic Culture:** Apache, Diné (Navajo), Hopi

**14d. Euro-American Culture:** 1600s to present

#### **15. FIELD SURVEY PERSONNEL**

**15a. Principal Investigator:** Joshua S. Edwards

**15b. Field Supervisor:** Jack Treichler

**15c. Crew:** Jack Treichler

**15d. Fieldwork Date(s):** November 17, 2020

#### **16. SURVEY METHODS**

**16a. Transect Intervals (maximum):** 20 meters or less

**16b. Coverage:** 100%

**16c. Site Recording Criteria:** ASM (1993, 1995)

**16d. Ground Surface Visibility:** 0–60% visible, with some areas somewhat obscured by grassy vegetation and some areas heavily obscured by pine duff.

**16e. Observed Disturbances:** The area is minimally disturbed. Observed disturbances include a portion of the Flagstaff Urban Trails System (FUTS) that runs through the project area, some limited construction staging areas, and two excavated and fenced-in drainage ponds in the northeast corner of the project area. There is some modern trash scattered around.

## 17. FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

17a. No Cultural Resources Identified:

17b. Isolated Occurrences (IOs) Only:

17c. Number of IOs Recorded: 1

17d. Table of IOs (Figure 6):

IO #	Cultural/Temporal Affiliation	Description	Location (UTM) NAD 83, Zone 12N
IF01	Unknown/Unknown	C-shaped rock alignment with a secondary linear rock alignment ( <i>see</i> Section 18).	

**18. COMMENTS:** Cornerstone archaeologist Jack Treichler surveyed the 16.7-acre project area using standard techniques and following Arizona State Museum protocol for 100% pedestrian coverage. No archaeological sites or historical buildings were observed in the project area. One isolated occurrence was located during the survey (IF01).

IF01 is an isolated feature consisting of a C-shaped rock alignment, open to the west, with a secondary linear rock alignment (Figures 11–18). The C-shaped alignment measures four meters north-to-south by three meters east-to-west and is at the foot of a west-facing bedrock outcrop that runs along the western edge of the mesa. It is constructed of 90–100 unshaped, locally sourced boulders, roughly stacked 2–3 courses high. The secondary linear alignment extends to the southwest and measures two meters southwest-to-northeast and consists of 30–40 boulders and is of similar materials and construction. There is no apparent wall-fall, but there are scattered boulders within and around the features, suggesting the area was not cleared. The area in and around the features is heavily obscured by pine duff and several areas were cleared to investigate the ground surface; no prehistoric or historic artifacts were observed. There is some modern trash scattered around. The boulders are lightly lichenated, but there is no other evidence to support cultural/temporal affiliation for the features; they may be modern. The features' age and function are unknown.

Isolates are not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and require no further action or management. Cornerstone recommends that the proposed project be allowed to proceed with no further archaeological work.

There is some potential for the inadvertent discovery of significant archaeological remains within the project area. In the event that previously unreported cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 meters (100 feet) until a qualified archaeologist has documented the discovery and evaluated its eligibility for the Flagstaff, Arizona and/or National Register of Historic Places (F/A/NRHP) in consultation with the lead agency, AZSHPO, and Tribes, as appropriate. Work must not resume in this area without approval of the lead agency.

**19. ATTACHMENTS**

**19a. Project Location Map:**

**19b. Land Jurisdiction Map:**

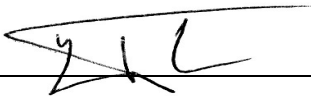
**19c. Background Research Map(s):**

**19d. GLO Map(s):**

**19e. References:**

**20. CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION**

I certify the information provided herein has been reviewed for content and accuracy and all work meets applicable agency standards.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

11/25/2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Principal Investigator  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

## **21. DISCOVERY CLAUSE**

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### **INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES AGENCY/CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SURVEYS WITH NEGATIVE FINDINGS**

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In the event that previously unreported cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 meters (100 feet) until a qualified archaeologist has documented the discovery and evaluated its eligibility for the Flagstaff, Arizona and/or National Register of Historic Places in consultation with the lead agency, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Tribes, as appropriate. Work must not resume in this area without approval of the lead agency.

If human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 meters (100 feet) of the discovery and the area must be secured. The Arizona State Museum, lead agency, SHPO, and appropriate Tribes must be notified of the discovery. All discoveries will be treated in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Public Law 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) or Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S. § 41-844 and A.R.S. § 41-865), as appropriate, and work must not resume in this area without authorization from the Arizona State Museum and the lead agency.

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## REFERENCES CITED

### Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (AZSHPO)

- 2009 Arizona Reporting Standards for Cultural Resources. Developed by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Arizona State Museum (ASM), and the Arizona State Land Department (AZLD). Adopted by the Arizona State Parks Board in 2002, with minor edits, revisions, and updates in 2009; 2016.

### Arizona State Museum (ASM)

- 1993 *Archaeological Site Recording Manual*. Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson.

- 1995 *Revised Site Definition Policy*. Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson.

### Brown, David E. (editor)

- 1994 *Biotic Communities: Southwestern United States and Northwestern Mexico*. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

### Edwards, Joshua S.

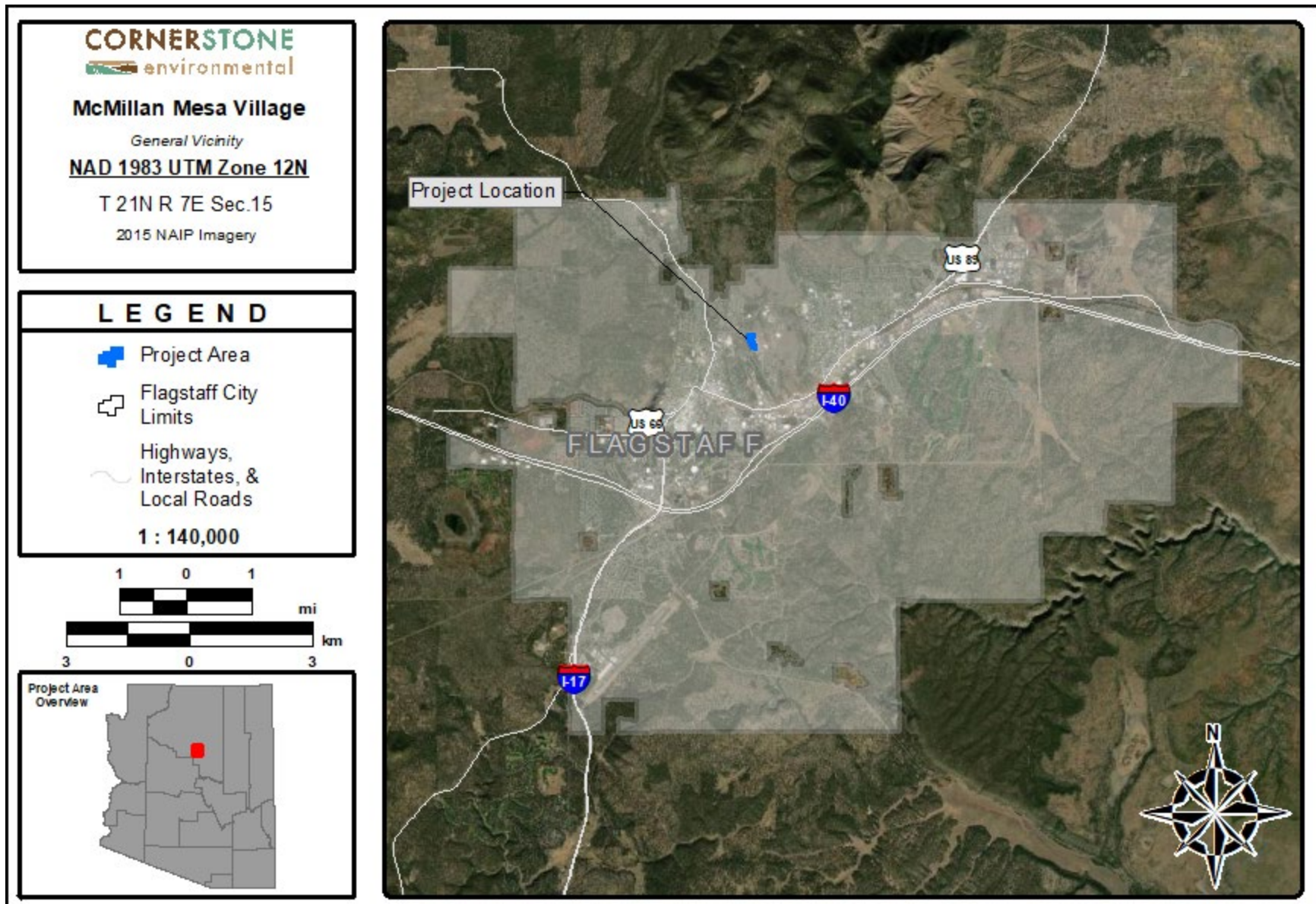
- 2016 *Cultural Resources Survey of 13 Acres at the USGS Campus, Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona*. Cornerstone Technical Report No. 16-101.

### National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

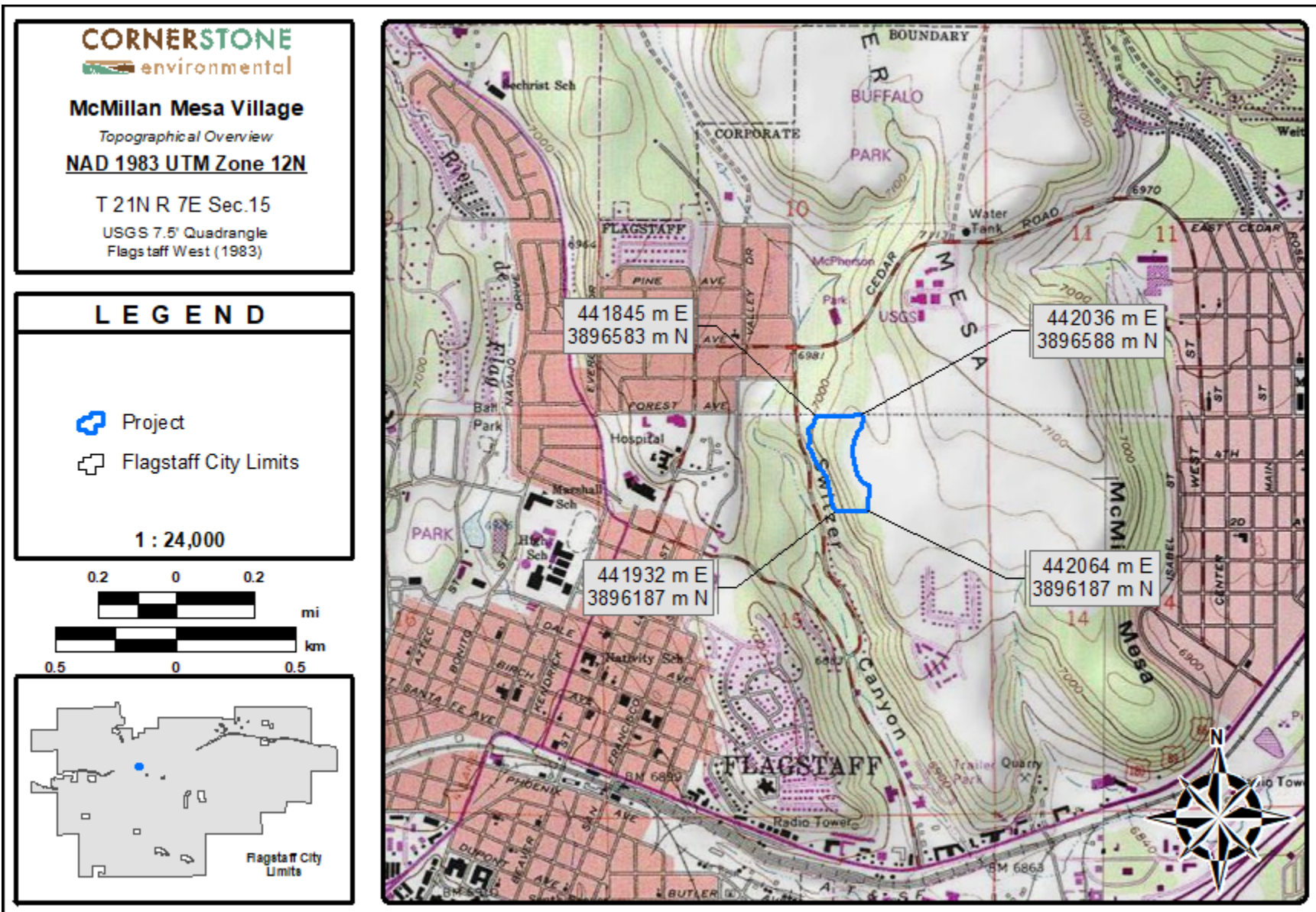
- 2020 National Register of Historic Places by State/County. National Register Information System. Electronic Document, <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AZ/Coconino/state.html>, accessed September 18, 2020.

### O'Hara, Michael F., and Christian E. Downum

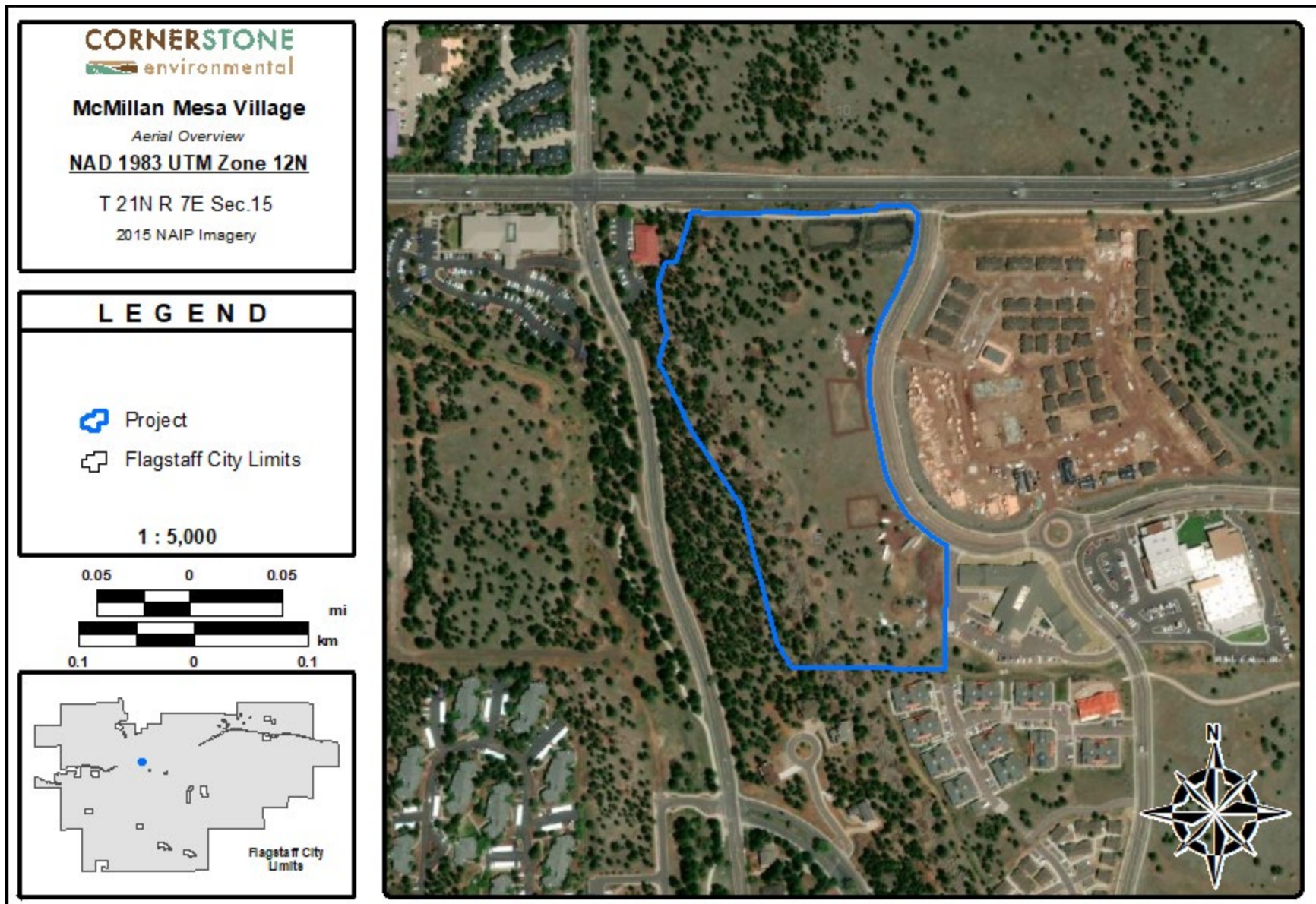
- 2005 *Archaeological Overview of the USGS Campus, Flagstaff, Arizona*. Northern Arizona University Archaeological Report No. 1262.



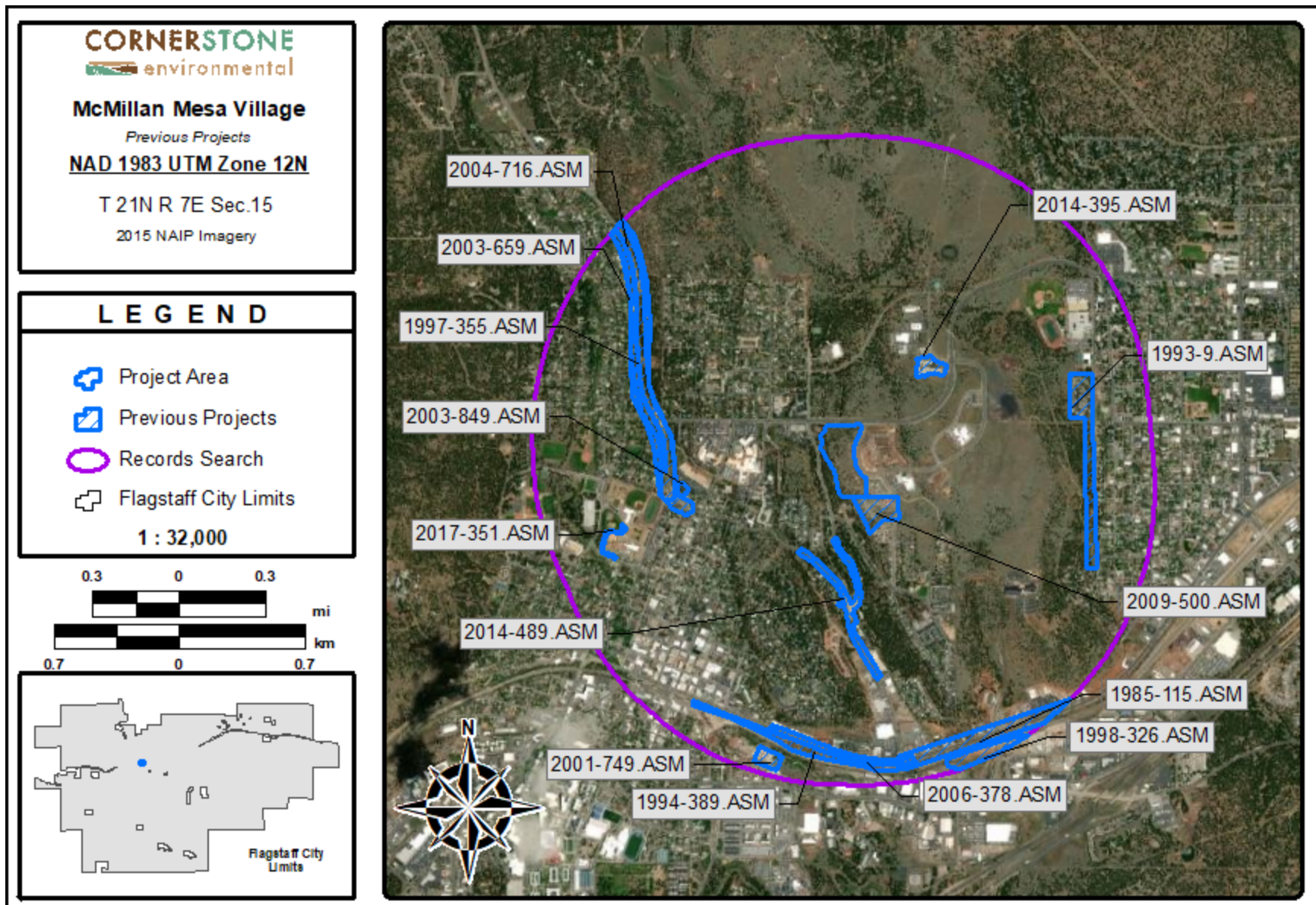
**Figure 1.** General location of the project area.



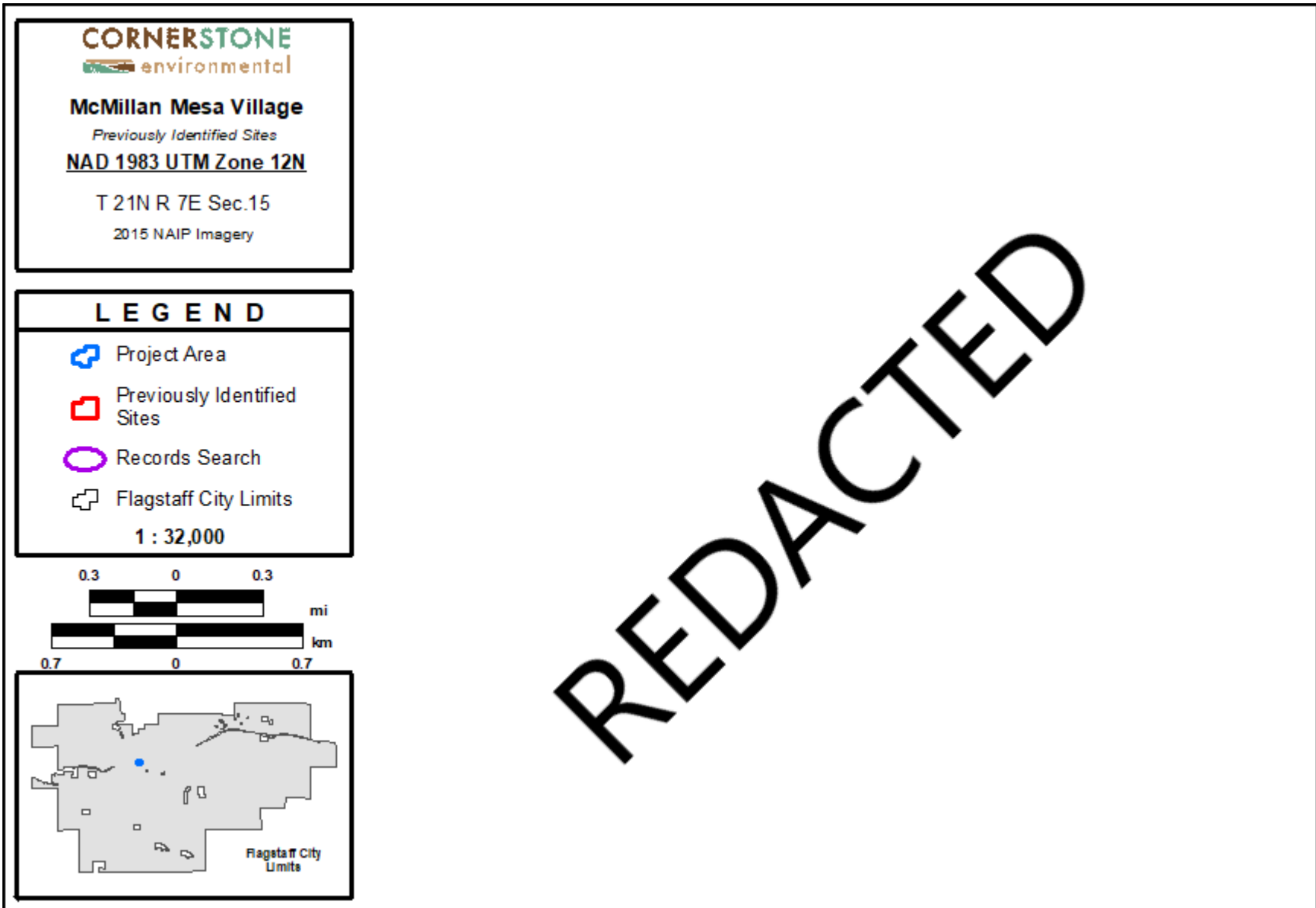
**Figure 2.** 1:24,000 scaled topographic map of project area with UTM location.



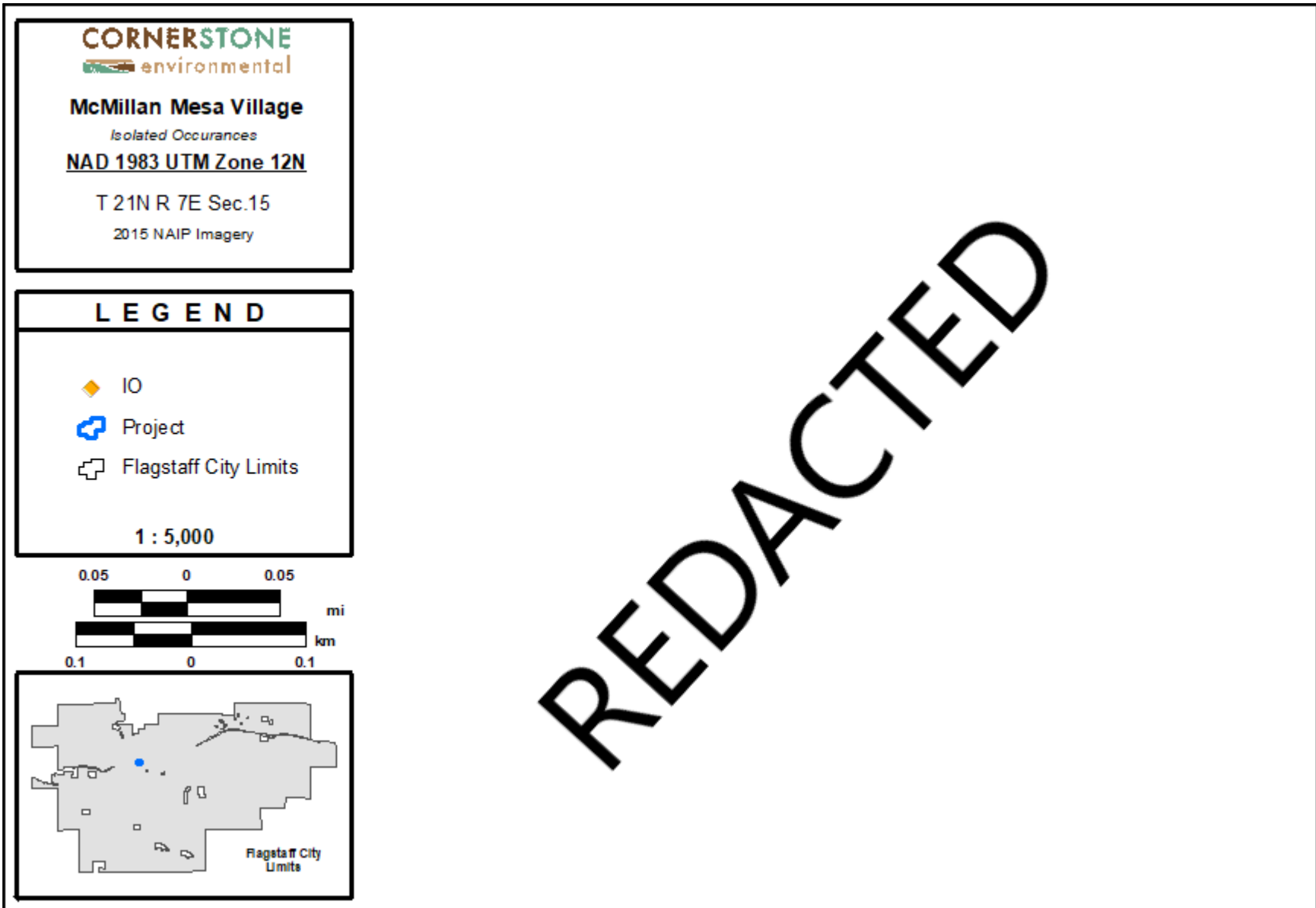
**Figure 3.** Aerial image of project area.



**Figure 4.** Previously conducted archaeological surveys within the 1-mile buffer area.



**Figure 5.** Previously identified sites within the 1-mile buffer area.



**Figure 6.** Isolated Occurrences.



**Figure 7.** Project overview from middle of project area, looking north.



**Figure 8.** Project overview from middle of project area, looking south.



**Figure 9.** Project overview from middle of project area, looking east.



**Figure 10.** Project overview from middle of project area, looking west.



**Figure 11.** Sketch map of IF01.



**Figure 12.** Overview photograph of IF01, facing south.



**Figure 13.** Overview photograph of IF01, facing east-southeast.



**Figure 14.** IF01, C-shaped rock alignment, facing east.



**Figure 15.** IF01, C-shaped rock alignment, facing north.



**Figure 16.** Overview of IF01, C-shaped rock alignment, facing west.



**Figure 17.** IF01, linear rock alignment, facing southeast.



**Figure 18.** IF01, linear rock alignment, facing northwest.