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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE GALISTEO DAM BOUNDARY
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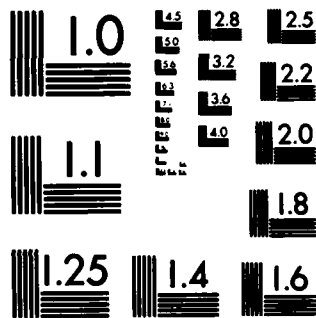
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
GALISTEO DAM BOUNDARY LINE,
SANTA FE COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO

by

Richard W. Lang

Prepared for

The Department of the Army,

Albuquerque District,

Corps of Engineers

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Submitted by

John D. Beal

Contract Program Administrator

School of American Research

Santa Fe, New Mexico

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INTRODUCTION

Through order DACW 47-77-M-0339, and its later attachments, the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, contracted with the School of American Research to conduct a cultural resources survey of the boundary of Corps held lands adjacent to the Galisteo Dam, Santa Fe County, New Mexico (see Appendix A). The reason for the survey was that the proposed erection of a fence along the boundary line might have a negative impact upon known or potential cultural resources in that area through: (1) vehicular traffic over certain kinds of archaeological sites; (2) the excavation of post holes in site areas; and (3) the presence of a work crew at archaeological sites and the possibility of displacement or removal of archaeological specimens.

Portions of the western boundary area, within the Santo Domingo Basin of local geology, had been previously surveyed under the direction of the writer (Lang 1976) and were not, therefore, revisited during this survey. While portions of the holding east of the dam on the Galisteo Platform had been surveyed in 1964 (Kayser and Ewing 1971), within the pool limit area at or below 5,600 feet of elevation, most of the boundary zone lies above this elevation. In addition, the 1964 survey was oriented toward the identification of major archaeological sites in the area which were to be critically impacted by the construction and use of

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the Galisteo Dam and Reservoir and did not manifest particular concern with less obvious, but not unimportant, sites. For the most part then, field work of June 2 and 13 was concentrated upon the approximately 8 mile long portion of the boundary line extending from a point about midway between boundary markers 34 and 1, through 1 to boundary marker 14 (see Map 1). The work was carried out by Donna Roxey, District Archaeologist for the Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, and the writer, representing the School of American Research. The method of field coverage employed involved spacing the two crew members approximately 25 feet apart to give adequate coverage to the probable "impact zone" of the boundary line fencing project. Whenever cultural materials were encountered, the survey participants closely examined the general locality and recorded data related to the artifacts, features, and natural context of the site. For more general information on the natural environment and archaeology of the dam area the reader is referred to Lang's (1976) "An Archaeological Survey of Certain Lands Adjacent to the Galisteo Dam, New Mexico" and (1977) "Archaeological Survey of the Upper San Cristobal Arroyo Drainage, Galisteo Basin, Santa Fe County, New Mexico." The latter contains an up to date review of the implications and significance of some of the reservoir area sites in the context of greater Galisteo Basin prehistory.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND DISCUSSION

All archaeological manifestations encountered during the survey were given site status, independent of the extent of material or feature content. As with sites located during the 1976 survey, those recorded in June of 1977 were numbered consecutively (beginning with number 20), and were prefaced by the letters "GR" for Galisteo Reservoir. Map 1 shows the location of the ten sites found during the boundary survey, as well as the five excavated in 1964-65 by the Museum of New Mexico, and the thirty recorded during the 1976 survey¹.

SITE GR-20

GR-20 occupies the rocky, primarily east exposed and west protected slope of the uplift ridge upon which boundary marker 14 is located. It lies about 375 feet south of that marker, directly on the axis of the boundary line. Ground-cover is sparse grass with yucca and juniper as minor constituents. Elevation is approximately 5,700 feet. An unexcelled view of the creek valley eastward and the great

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In Lang (1976) eleven locations productive of material remains were classed as "isolated artifact localities" and designated with letters A through K. For purposes of consistency here, these have been redesignated GR-30 through 40 on Map 1, with the numbering sequence following the order of the A through K descriptions as given on pages 70-71 of the 1976 work.

upland grassland area called La Bolsa is offered by the locality of GR-20. From the ridge top, about 125 feet to its west, an equally good western view of the valley can be obtained.

Three artifacts were found at GR-20, each separated from the other by a distance of about 2 feet. All were made from the same material, a poorly metamorphosed, light-gray quartzite which locally outcrops from the sandstone ridge. The three items may be described as follows:

1. Biconvex, bifacially flaked scraper of irregular outline. Scraper edge retouched unifacially. Some cortex on one face. Overall patina high;
2. A long subrectangular slab of quartzite. One flake has been driven from one face of the slab. Unifacial retouch exists along the flake scar lateral margin junction over the length of the piece. The opposite face exhibits a few retouch (?) flake scars on this same edge. Patina is notable; possible use as both knife and scraper;
3. A large flake exhibiting no cortex. A deep semi-lunar concavity has been created through the removal of a flake on the lateral margin, and wear is evident within this concavity. The specimen may be classed as a spoke-shave. Patina is notable.

The GR-20 data suggest: (a) very limited and probably single component use of the site; (b) manufacture of heavy duty scraping and cutting tools from immediately available,

low quality raw material for facilitation of some tasks of immediate importance; (c) removal from the site of relatively large flakes which were biproducts of the manufacture of the tools noted; (d) overview and/or raw material availability dictation of site occurrence and location; and (e) substantial antiquity, assuming the degree of patination noted to be significant. With regard to precise cultural and chronological associations, it may be suggested that GR-20 is of relatively early Archaic affiliation.

SITE GR-21

This site is located about 3,500 feet south of boundary marker 14 and about 1,250 feet north of boundary marker 13. GR-21 occupies a gravel-based knoll at about 5,640 elevation. The knoll overlooks a feeder tributary of the large arroyo which enters Galisteo Creek from the south directly above the dam. Cover is juniper-grassland. Exposure is to the north, south, and east. Locus is on the northeast point and slope of the knoll, with the site area measuring about 66 feet north-south and 122 feet east-west. Only one feature was noted--a hearth area in sandy soil of the upper knoll (about 55 feet west of the fence line) represented by about 8 heat-spalled and fire reddened cobbles scattered over an area measuring approximately 5 feet north-south by about 2.5 feet east-west. Between about 61 feet east and 62 to 80 feet northeast of the hearth area were found: (1) a fine-grained dark gray quartzite (?) core chopper exhibiting wear along one sinuous edge (about 4 inches across);

(2) a highly patinated black argillite knife measuring about 6.5 by 3.5 inches in length and width, and exhibiting areas of bifacial retouch on both lateral edges; (3) a knife or scraper of banded gray slate or shale with unifacial retouch on one lateral edge, and measuring about 3.5 inches long by about 2.5 inches wide; and (4) several small to large argillite flakes. This complex is definitely bisected by the boundary line. Two chert tools were found between 65 and 73 feet east on the line and near the sandy eastern margin of the knoll. One item is a biface of plano-convex cross-section measuring about 2.5 inches across, and exhibiting possible knife wear on its edge. The material is an unusual mottled blue-gray chert flecked with orange. The second item is a plano-convex end scraper of mottled dark to light gray chert. The working edge is heavily worn and exhibits extensive resharpening. About 66 feet southeast of the second item and about 60 feet east of the line 2 sherds from a single Galisteo Black-on-white bowl with a classic IA4 (Colton 1953) rim were found. Both sherds are from the rim area.

In terms of the relative distribution of related and unrelated classes of artifacts and materials, GR-21 would appear to be divisible tentatively into 4 basic units:

(1) the upslope hearth area of primary south and east exposure with artifacts absent; (2) the primarily north and east exposed cluster of dark colored nonchert tools and

debitage, i.e. flakes, core chopper, knife, and knife-scraper; (3) the more easterly cluster of 2 chert tools, bifacial knife and plano-convex end scraper; and (4) the Galisteo Black-on-white vessel fragments. There may or may not be this component to the site, but it is fairly certain that GR-21 was periodically used over a long period of time and probably by peoples of substantially different cultures. The patination of the lithics forming the second unit suggests the likelihood of an Archaic affiliation, as perhaps does the functional and material content of this unit (Honea 1971; Lang 1976; 1977). It is presently impossible to place units 1 and 3 in specific time or culture. Unit 4, as formed by the Galisteo sherds, may be dated to Pueblo III-IV times of circa A.D. 1270-1425 or 1450 (Lang 1977) east of the Rio Grande in the Galisteo Basin. The precise reason or reasons behind the selection of the GR-21 site location are not readily determinable. If the reason lies in some economic element of the past natural environment, it is not apparent today, since the situation of GR-21 seems far from hospitable or inviting. However, the past natural environment of GR-21 may have been decidedly different from that of the present in its subsistence potential.

SITE GR-22 (Fig. 1)

The primary site indicator of GR-22 is a roughly rectangular rock outline located on a terrace point of the 5,640 foot elevation about 125 feet south of GR-21 and about 1000 feet north of boundary marker 13. The site is located in a small generally protected basin ringed by ridges, and overlooking a small arroyo. Exposure is primarily to the east. Cover is juniper-grassland with the notable addition of numerous cane cholla near the site. Rock alignments are present on the north, east, and west, consisting of irregularly spaced rocks measuring between approximately 4 x 4 x 2 to about 14 x 12 x 7 inches in size. The long axis of the feature is oriented north-south, with no evidence of a short axis alignment on the south end. Alignment lengths are as follows:

1. East - 4.0 meters
2. North - 2.0 meters
3. West - 4.22 meters

The feature is located about 20 feet west of the boundary line and probably represents the stone base of a brush or hide-covered pole structure. The only artifact found in association was an argillite flake exhibiting bifacial re-touch along one lateral edge and probable knife wear. The specimen measured about 3 x 1.5 inches in length and width. Part of an iron strap was noted within the rock outline; but probably has no relationship to it.

SITE GR-23

GR-23 is the location of a large argillite flake on the boundary line about 375 feet north of marker 10 on a generally exposed terrace of the 5,580 foot elevation directly overlooking the lowest terrace of Galisteo Creek to the south. Cover is grass, snakeweed, juniper, yucca, and little chamisa. GR-23 appears to lie directly east of the extensive Archaic site of La Bolsa (LA 356) (Honea 1971), and might be considered an extension of that site.

SITE GR-24 (Fig. 2)

GR-24 occupies a knoll on the 5,580 foot elevation about 1500 feet north of Galisteo Creek overlooking a major feeder arroyo. Exposure is general and plant constituents of the juniper-grassland community are the same as those noted for GR-23, although cover is sparse. The primary site feature--either two contiguous rectangular room outlines or adjacent one room structures--lies on the point of the knoll about 110 feet east of the boundary line and about 375 feet northeast of boundary marker 8. The north room measurements are:

1. North alignment: about 1.90 meters long;
2. South alignment: about 2.0 meters long;
3. East alignment: about 1.85 meters long;
4. West alignment: between 1.87 and 2.30 meters long
(probably the former).

The south room measurements are:

1. North alignment: about 2.10 meters long;
2. South alignment: between 1.71 and 2.53 meters long
(Probably the former);
3. East alignment: about 2.50 meters long;
4. West alignment: about 2.50 meters long.

The space between the two features, which appear to be separate fieldhouse structures, is about 41.0 cm. The wall alignments are primarily formed of blocks or slabs of local sandstone which have been either laid horizontally on their broadest surface or set on edge, to provide footings for upper walls (quite probably of adobe or jacal with an occasional stone incorporated). Scattered slabs on the west side of the south structure appear to reflect downslope erosional drift of the west wall. However, the gaps in the north and south walls of the north and south structures appear to be due to cultural, rather than natural, disturbance resulting in the mounding of rock in the northeast corner of the north structure. Maximum stone size is about 30 x 30 x 12 cm.

A light sheet trash deposit extends about 112 feet north-south and 87 feet east-west over the north slope of the knoll below the fieldhouses. Among the lithic items noted, black argillite, or similar locally available materials, appeared to be most common. The following were noted: (a) 6 flakes and 2 flake knives of black argillite;

(b) 1 core and 1 flake tool of a black igneous rock; (c) 1 core and 1 flake of dark gray limestone; (d) 2 gray chert cores; and (e) 1 combination flake side-scraper and knife of translucent yellow to white chert. In ceramics, both plain to smeared-banded sherds from non-micaceous appearing culinary jars (late variations of the type Tesuque Corrugated) (Lang n.d.) and glaze-on-yellow jar sherds, probably Cieneguilla Glaze-on-yellow, were most commonly noted. Three jar sherds exhibiting polychrome design work were noted. Four glaze painted bowl sherds (glaze-on-yellow) were noted. Two were from the same bowl, which exhibited an excurvate rim with flattened lip, or IB4 in the Colton (1953) system, and appears to represent an early, non-polychrome prototype of Espinosa Glaze Polychrome, having potential relationships to the Cieneguilla rim variation termed "Sanchez Glaze-on-yellow" by Honea (n.d.). Also noted were several sherds from an unslipped, red paste (as in the glaze specimens) bowl with a IA10 rim and a bowl sherd with a IA4 rim which either represents the type Wiyo Black-on-white or an oddly fired example of Cieneguilla Glaze-on-yellow.

The data suggest that GR-24 is a Pueblo IV fieldhouse site associated with agricultural activities near the mouth of the arroyo upon which it is located. The complete absence of Agua Fria Glaze-on-red, the dominant representative of Rio Grande Glaze Ware in the Galisteo Basin between about

A.D. 1350 and 1425 or so, suggests in combination with more general data on the quantitative and temporal aspects of Cieneguilla (Lang 1977) that GR-24 was probably occupied at some time between 1425 and 1500. In this regard, it is notable that Espinosa Glaze Polychrome appears to emerge as a common and well established type at around A.D. 1480. While the functions of GR-24 may be assumed to be comparable with those ascribed to fieldhouse sites noted in the 1976 survey west of the dam, GR-24 shows departure from the pattern of these in: (a) its general exposure as opposed to north exposure with southwest protection; and (b) the absence of both Agua Fria Glaze-on-red and San Clemente Glaze Polychrome (Lang 1976) and the prominence of Cieneguilla. The latter departure suggests that GR-24 is of later date than any of the Pueblo IV fieldhouse sites noted during the 1976 work.

SITE GR-25

This site number designates the location of an obsidian flake (translucent variety of southcentral Jemez Mountain origin) noted about 22 feet northwest of boundary marker R-2A-4. The specimen exhibits lateral knife wear. Cover is pinyon-juniper grassland; exposure general; and elevation about 5620 feet on an upland terrace point about 4000 feet north of the Galisteo Creek bed.

SITE GR-26

This site is located about 520 to 750 feet west of boundary marker 5, and is bisected by the boundary line. The total site area measures about 375 feet north-south and 250 feet east-west with artifacts and features concentrated on the southern top and south to east to northeast slopes of a low and wide knoll formed of stabilized sand dunes. Cover is somewhat more diverse than generally observed in most areas of the transect. Grasses, little chamisa, narrow leaf yucca, prickly pear, dagger cholla, and juniper were noted as well as some composites. Common along the upper slopes and top of the dune area were numerous fragments of fire reddened and heat cracked rock representing eroded hearths. Artifacts noted were: (1) at least 16 black argillite flakes, and 3 cores, 1 obvious flake knife, and 1 chopper-hammer of this material; (2) 1 core of black igneous rock; (3) 1 flake each of gray slate, gray quartzite, gray chert, white chert, mottled black-gray-brown chert, translucent white chert with broad black areas and flecks of red, translucent yellow chert, and opaque black obsidian; (4) 1 flake knife and an informal plano-convex end-scraper of mottled gray chert; (5) 1 flake and formal plano-convex end-scraper of mottled red-gray chert; (6) 2 flakes and 1 hammerstone of red chert; (7) 7 flakes and 1 core-hammer of "moss agate"; (8) over 25 flakes, 2 flake scrapers, and

1 bifacially flaked scraper of translucent obsidian; (9) 1 white quartz hammerstone; (10) 1 fragment of highly ground and polished gray-green slate (?) from some large object such as an axe or maul; and (11) numerous fragments of a basin milling stone made of light gray sandstone with red blotches. Essentially local materials are represented by the black igneous rocks and slate; materials of probable intra-Basin origin are the gray to red and red cherts, the quartz and quartzite. The remaining cherts are fairly exotic and of undetermined geographic origin. All of the obsidian is apparently of Jemez Mountain origin, with the dominant variety probably coming from the Redondo Peak-Valle Grande area. The milling stone fragments were found on the western side of the dune top, which was also the primary locus of obsidian occurrence. Items of argillite or an unidentified black igneous rock seem to have been fairly uniformly distributed over the site area, although larger items of argillite appeared to be concentrated on the lower northeast slope. Moss agate was most common on the upper east slope.

Although the opaque black obsidian represented by 1 flake at GR-26 has been observed by the writer (Lang 1977) at no site of earlier than Pueblo IV association in the Basin, it appears highly probable that the major use of GR-26 occurred during the long Archaic stage; however, assignment of precise cultural affiliations is impossible given the

general absence of diagnostic artifacts or dated materials. Of note is the fact that the basin milling stone appears to have been introduced into the northern Rio Grande at around 1500-1000 B.C. and continued to occur into Basketmaker III-Pueblo I times of ca. A.D. 400-850. Also of potential significance is the association of a high incidence of Jemez Mountain obsidian with Basketmaker II sites (ca. 100 B.C.-A.D. 1 to 400) in the eastern Galisteo Basin (Lang 1977).

SITE GR-27

Site GR-27 is located about 500 feet southwest of boundary marker 1 and about 125 feet south of the boundary line. It occupies the extremely rocky and steep eastern slope of the uplift scarp northwest of the dam. It is generally west-southwest protected and otherwise exposed. Cover is primarily sparse grass with snakeweed and scattered juniper. Elevation is 5700-5740 feet. The general site area commands the best overall Basin view in the dam area and directly overlooks Galisteo Creek, which lies about 1200 feet to the south and some 240 feet below. A broad natural bench of the slope marks the general center of the site and exhibits lithic artifacts scattered over an area measuring about 30 feet north-south and 25 feet east-west. The surface of the bench is generally devoid of the rock which naturally litters most of the areas in this locality. Artifacts noted consist of (1) 9 argillite flakes; (2) 3 flakes and 1 small

bifacial end-scraper of Polvadera Peak-Valle Grande type obsidian; (3) 2 cores, 3 flakes, and 1 flake scraper of gray chert; (4) 2 cores and 1 flake of mottled red to gray chert; (5) 1 chopper and 1 flake of pinkish-gray locally occurring quartzite; (6) 1 core of black opaque pebble chert; and (7) 1 flake each of opaque black obsidian, brown chert, moss agate, translucent white chert, and a white opaque chert burned pinkish. The only artifact noted downslope from this area was a bifacially flaked black argillite chopper.

Four features similar to those termed "sleeping circles" or rock outlined "houses" (Rogers 1966; Bettinger 1977) in the San Dieguito Archaic of the far West and among Great Basin peoples surround the bench activity area noted above, with 3 to its west and 1 to its east. No other features such as hearths were noted, suggesting, along with the nature of exposures, warm season use of the site. All of the "circles" represent modification of natural rock terraces through the removal of rocks over a small area to the downslope side of the feature thus created. Natural low outcroppings of rock were usually incorporated into the outline of the features. The single "circle" to the east of the main bench is located on the east margin of the bench and is of rectangular shape. Here, large rocks outcrop upslope on the west, and to the north and south. Smaller rocks and boulders have been dumped downslope to the east where

they form a band about 1.80 meters wide, 4.0 meters long, and about 30.0 cm in maximum height. The cleared area west of this rock dump measures about 3.60 meters north-south by 1.50 meters east-west. A major gap in the rock outline is present on the south.

The lowest of the upslope "circles" lies on the west side of the bench, about 72 feet west of the "circle" previously described. Unlike the latter, this feature is roughly circular in outline with the interior space measuring about 3.61 meters north-south and 3.37 meters east-west. Here, rocks have been piled to the east, north, and south. Maximum width and height is 1.70 meters and 30.0 cm respectively, as found on the east, downslope side. A low natural outcrop lies on the west, upslope side. Present within this feature were several artifacts: (1) 5 flakes of black argillite; (2) 2 flakes of Polvadera Peak-Valle Grande type obsidian; (3) 1 flake each of gray quartzite, mottled red to gray chert, gray chert, and translucent white chert.

About 52 feet west and upslope of this "circle" is another circle exhibiting an interior space which measures about 2.0 meters north-south and east-west. This feature is open on the north and south and backed upslope on the west by a low natural outcrop. A semicircular belt of heaped rock, about 2.0 meters long north-south, 2.5 meters wide east-west, and about 20.0 cm high maximum lies downslope. No artifacts were present here. However, about midway between this feature and the "circle" to the south a white quartz flake was found.

The last "circle" lies about 15 feet to the south of that described above. It is of basically rectangular outline measuring about 3.0 meters north-south by 1.0 meter east-west on the interior. Rock outcrops to a height of about 60.0 cm on the upslope west side and on the south. Rocks and boulders have been piled downslope over an area about 3.0 meters long and wide, exhibiting a maximum height of about 50.0 cm. A gap about 50.0 cm wide occurs in the north-west corner. Present in the "circle" was 1 opaque white chert flake.

GR-27 is probably of Archaic affiliation and associated with periodic warm season use. The writer does not know of any other features quite like these in northern New Mexico.

SITE GR-28 (Fig. 4)

This site is positioned on a north gravel and sand terrace of Galisteo Creek at about 5540 feet elevation. The locality is somewhat protected from the north and west, and primarily south exposed. Cover is little chamisa, narrow leaf yucca, snakeweed, and grass with a few small juniper. The main feature, a loosely arranged stone ring, lies about 260 feet north of the terrace edge and about 470 feet north of the bed of Galisteo Creek. The feature exhibits a diameter of about 2.50 meters. In size and form it is similar to the small stone rings resulting from the erection of tipi-like sun and wind shelters by some Navajos engaged in the sale of jewelry and other items along certain highways in Arizona today. The GR-28 feature and possibly

a very similar, but less regular, arrangement of stones about 150 feet to the west, were probably similar in concept and function. No artifacts were found in the GR-28 area.

SITE GR-29

GR-29 is an open mine shaft located just to the south-east of boundary marker 2 at about 5660 feet elevation. The shaft is lined with hewn logs. Located nearby were metal objects and fragments of a cork-stop aqua blue glass bottle of probably blown-in-the-mold manufacture. The mine probably dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, and may have some relationship to the camp of similar apparent date near GR-18 (Lang 1976).

RECOMMENDATIONS

In so far as the significance of these sites and those previously reported (Lang 1976) is understood, there are presently no indications that recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places would be warranted for any of them.

With regard to the recommendations on fencing the Galisteo Dam and Reservoir boundary:

1. As may be seen through examination of Map 1, several sites in the Galisteo Dam area lie near the boundary line, although only GR-20, 21, 26, and 38 appear to be bisected by the line. Posts have already been set in place for the fence at GR-21, which has also seen vehicular traffic, both without any observable damage. In the same way, it is not believed that normal fencing procedures should have any negative effect on GR-20 or on other sites reported lying near the line (fence posts have also been set in the GR-22 area without resultant damage).

2. With the exception of GR-26, it is therefore suggested that fencing proceed following normal methods. However, as inappropriate collection of specimens or general disturbance of archaeological materials poses some threat, it is further recommended that persons participating in the fencing project be cautioned against collection or disturbance of any archaeological material encountered.

3. As GR-26, the large Archaic site, is located in a fragile dune environment and exhibits hearth features, it is recommended that the district archaeologist or her representative be on site at the time of fencing to monitor post excavation and placement with regard to artifacts and features, and that the use of a vehicle in the dune area be prohibited.

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APPENDIX A

FIGURES



Figure 1: Rock alignments at GR-22. Drawing based upon field sketch.

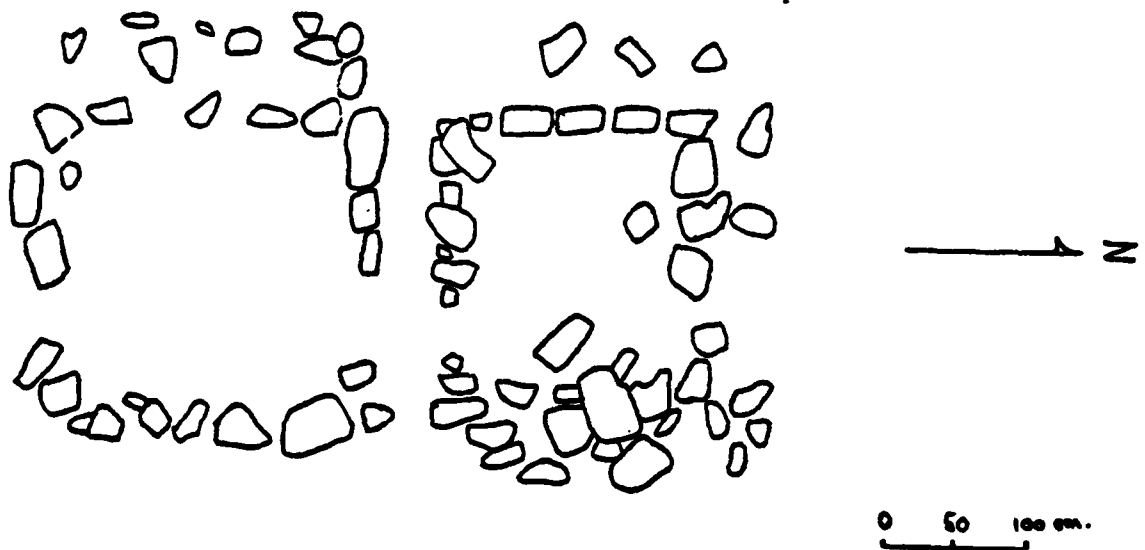


Figure 2: Room foundations at GR-24. Drawing based upon field sketch.

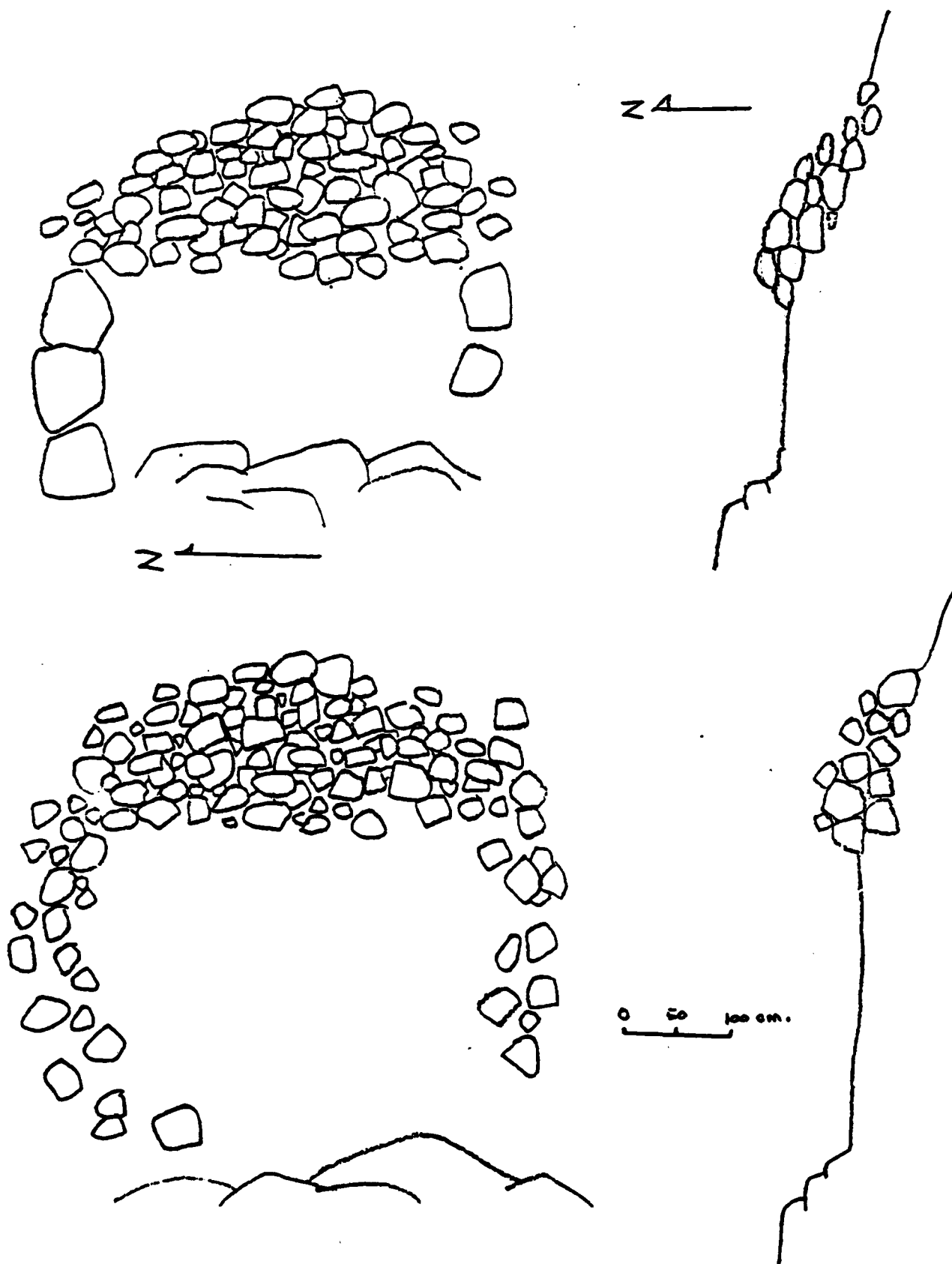


Figure 3: Representative examples of the house "circles" of GR-27. Cross-sections to right. Based on field sketches.

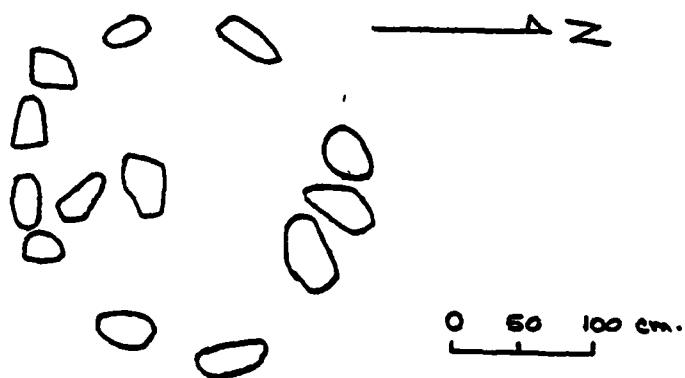


Figure 4: Ring of rocks at GR-28. Based on field sketch.