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PROPERTY FILE

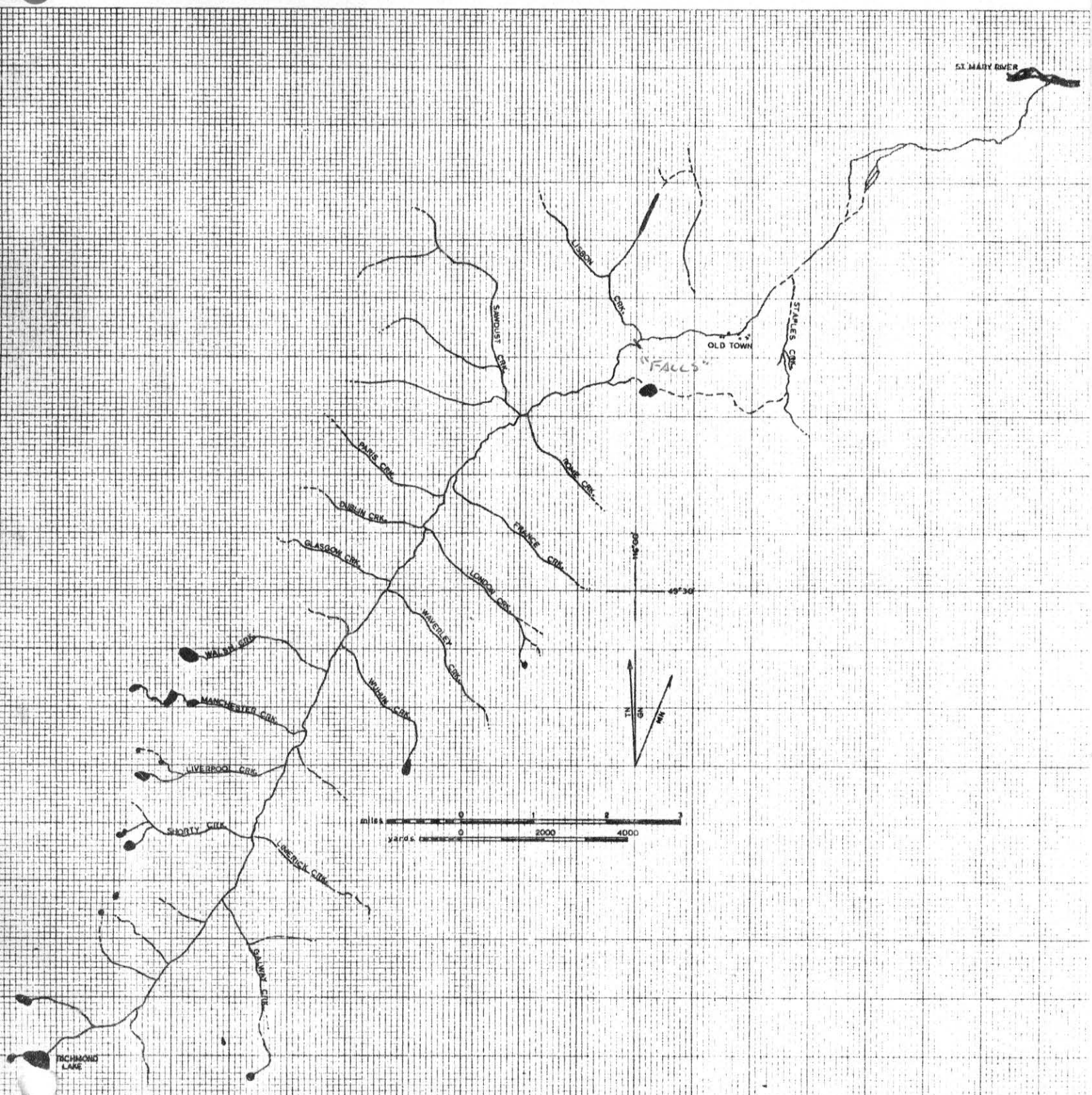
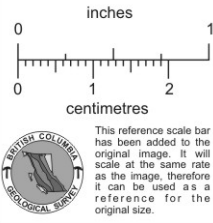
T. 1

003474

1979 ASSESSMENT WORK
ON PERRY CREEK, BC.
by M.N. STRONG

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Perry Creek Drainage System

INTRODUCTION

Perry Creek, located in the Purcell Mountains of Southeastern B.C., has been the scene of placer gold mining since its discovery in 1868. Perry Creek was prospected over its entire length and it was soon noted that a change of character occurred in the vicinity of the "Falls", about two miles upstream from the townsite, presently known as "Old Town". Above the falls were known as "deep diggings", where the topography is rounded and the valley bottom is filled with thick overburden. Below the falls the slopes are steep and the bedrock was near the surface in many places. The earliest mining efforts were concentrated below the falls where good pay was within easy reach of the surface, but the surface diggings were soon exhausted and the majority of miners left to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

The Perry Creek Falls are a relatively recent feature, and the serious prospector-miner must look beyond the surface to be successful here. This drainage system has an ancient and complex history - far older than the Rockies to the east. Over the years many old channels have been located and have rewarded these miners with high quality coarse gold*. There will be many surprises yet on this creek because it still has never been properly interpreted or assessed from a competent geological viewpoint.

* Perry Creek gold is generally coarse and easy to recover. It has a fineness of about 900 or 90% pure.

Much of the prospecting required to find the buried channels, benches and paystreaks is beyond the reach of the individual prospector like myself, so for my 1979 assessment work I decided to investigate an area at the junction of Lisbon and Perry Creeks. In the 1950's and 60's, several prospectors found that coarse gold remained in this area, both on bedrock (where it is near the surface) and in paystreaks or pockets in the deeper diggings. The results on bedrock were well known, so this year I proposed to test the banks of the creek to find if any paystreaks could be followed in the banks and if it would be economically feasible to strip mine such paystreaks.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On the 20 October, 1868, Government agent P. O'Reilly reported to Victoria that "a new and important goldfield has been discovered in the Kootenay district and that the surface gravel or pay dirt yields good prospects for a depth of from four to six feet...making eight to sixteen dollars per day to the hand. Underneath this gravel is a stratum of clay through which there has been no prospecting as yet."* In the same letter he reports that where bedrock was exposed, large values were recovered from the surface.

During the following season the good results continued yielding "an ounce per day to the hand...working in the top strata of ground."** But by the end of the 1868 season, work had declined and very few claims were paying wages (\$6.00/day).

* P. O'Reilly (Gold Commissioner), Report to Colonial Secretary, October 20, 1868.

** J. Normansell (Constable), Report to P. O'Reilly, June 1, 1868.

In 1874 there were 33 white miners on Perry Creek but no Chinese miners, according to the Minister of Mines Report for that year.* There is very little mention of Chinese miners on Perry Creek, one rumour has it that a lot of Chinese were killed in an underground cave-in, and that they avoided this creek. Even though the returns were poor in the 80's, Perry Creek remained "A favourite creek amongst miners!"** The 1877 Minister of Mines Annual Report states "The value of the deep ground on Perry Creek is today as great a mystery as ever."

In the 1880's, several large companies tried their fortune on Perry Creek. The Black Hills Gold and Silver Mining Company and the Kootenay Mining Company were frustrated by loose ground conditions in their attempts to establish mines. Again, the 1886 Annual Report encourages exploration by saying "There is no doubt in the minds of those who, from their experience, are capable of forming an opinion as to the richness of Perry Creek,... and that some company with sufficient capital may be induced to take interest in its development, a prosperous mining camp would be the result." As if to respond to this advice the Perry Creek Gold Mining Company drove a tunnel 900 feet into an old channel near the base of the Falls and got good results. Company efforts continued sporadically, and in 1903 two companies made noteworthy attempts to establish mines on Perry Creek. The Perry Creek Hydrolic Company set up a monitor at the base of the falls but their tailings backed up and they were forced to shut down. Another company walked a steam shovel about 16 miles up the creek and began to dig surface gravels, at a value of about 26¢ per cubic yard, but their machinery was inadequate and tailings were also a problem.

* B.C. Minister of Mines Annual Reports, 1874 to present.

** IBID 1876

About the turn of the century several small companies of individuals did extremely well by shafting to bedrock and drifting in old channels. Around 1920 the hydrolic operation started again but the tailings were too much to handle. In the early 30's a deep shaft near Old Town was put down over 100 feet but operations were not continued, presumably for lack of value (?). Soon after, the Jordon shaft was sunk about a half mile upstream and hit good pay on bedrock and drifting operations continued quite successfully, for over ten years. Since the 50's only a few individuals have attempted to win gold from Perry Creek; I have interviewed two men who prospected the area in question.

RECENT WORK

In the 1950's and 60's several investigations were carried out on this property which showed interesting results. The man doing the most work here was Ernie Pinchback of Marysville, B.C. He put in a short inclined tunned which found bedrock to be about four feet below the creek water level at a distance of forty feet away from the edge of the present creek. He has stated several times that he got \$72.00 (2 ounces) worth of gold from 12 yards of gravel. He could see no visible paystreak but claimed the ground to be spotty in value, some places being richer than others. He mentioned a rich pocket toward the back of his tunnel which, at the time, I assumed to be an enriched horizon. The purpose of Ernies tunnel was to test the bedrock, which he struck at a distance of 8 feet into the bank, but found discouraging results and did not continue underground. He also stated that he worked an area to the right (north) of his tunnel and retrieved 6 ounces of gold near the surface. This area appeared to be about 100 square feet at the most.

Another person I have been able to interview is Bob Williams of Kimberley, B.C., who worked on Perry Creek from the 1950's to the mid 70's. He is one of many prospectors that have high regards for this area. He and a partner were subleasing along Lisbon Creek when they dug some test holes and found coarse gold on shallow bedrock near Lisbon Creeks junction with Perry Creek. They found a one ounce nugget and several large pieces of gold.

My personal investigations of years past (I have been on Perry Creek since 1972), have shown me bedrock outcropping in the creek at the Lisbon Perry junction and in Lisbon Creek upstream 150 feet from this same junction. Based on Williams work I assumed bedrock to be near the surface and rising uniformly with the slope under the old cabins. Farther upstream on Perry Creek I expected the bedrock to trend away from the surface and the overburden to be quite thick - this is where I expected to test for paystreaks in the stream banks and test their richness and continuity.

1979 ASSESSMENT WORK

With the necessary approval, work began in June with the old road being reopened, a working surface was stripped off for the backhoe, and then trenched by the backhoe. My original plan called for six trenches at 50 foot intervals, but plans changed as results are received, and the first trench (T-1) surprised me with bedrock near the surface, which I expected to be much deeper. This bedrock was well worked, having been broken out, and leaving very little value. In order to define the limits of these old works and find where the bedrock must necessarily drop off, I had the backhoe trench at approximately right angle to T-1*. This right

angle trench was called T-A and went over 40 feet before sharply dropping off out of reach of the machine. In light of the information from the right angle trenching I discarded the 50 foot interval between trenches and extended T-A about 75 feet until in line with Ernie Pinchbacks old tunnel. T-2, in contrast with T-1 never reached bedrock in a 47 foot length, with a 26 foot highwall. From T-2, I went to the north-east end of the prospect area and dug T-3, which was similar to T-1, in that bedrock followed the surface contour at a depth of a yard or so. But here in T-3 the bedrock presented a waterworn surface - it had never been broken out and cleaned up. I made an effort to connect T-3 with T-2 and got about halfway before the machine had troubles and pulled out. This last trench, T-B, went far enough to indicate the nature of the bedrock and provided good information, although unfinished.

HANDWORK

The machine work took three days. The hand work took twenty-six days. One to three men worked sluicing test samples from different parts of the section. T-1 was only tested briefly, some small amount of gold was found but I could see no good reason to spend time on old works. Most of the hand testing was directed at evaluating the alluvial material in T-2 above the bedrock. A diagram and table outline the results of this testing. In brief, the dirt tested yielded about \$2.00 per cubic yard, in contrast to Ernie Pinchbacks reported findings of \$50.00 per cubic yard.

* Trenches into the bank, perpendicular to Perry Creek are designated by numerical designation and trenches at right angles, parallel to Perry Creek, are alphabetical.

My project was running out of time and I was only briefly able to test the bedrock in T-3, where the bedrock had not been worked and the results there were far more interesting. The crevice material there gave several dollars per pan and the "ironstone" was thick, several pounds per pan. In general the gold in a pan of the pay dirt equalled the gold in several yards of the overburden material! I cleaned up about 10 square feet of gravel and got a pennyweight (1/20 ounce) of gold, which agrees with results elsewhere on the area of shallow bedrock.

RESERVE ESTIMATE

The most promising part of this area appears to be the shallow bedrock from T-3 north. About 25,000 square feet of bedrock lies under about three to five feet of overburden. The bedrock should yield an ounce for every 200 square feet, providing a reserve here of 125 ounces. It must be stressed that this bedrock is above the Perry Creek waterlevel and has Lisbon Creek water coming from above, providing an ideal sluicing opportunity.

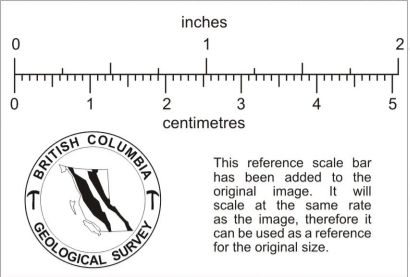
In the vicinity of T-2, about 1000 cubic yards of material could be removed containing \$2.00 per cubic yard equalling \$2000 or about 7 ounces of gold. Much of this material is underwater which would be no problem to retrieve if a backhoe was used, but the underlying bedrock would have to be pumped dry to be cleaned up. I have not figured this into the calculation.

The area around T-1 and to the south I expect to be all worked out and give it no value for reserves.

Old work was done across the creek, but some opportunities may exist there also.

SUMMARY

The 1979 assessment work exposed some good prospects and some bad prospects. All information is valuable because it is as important to know where not to mine ~~and~~ it is to know where to mine. The paystreak strata I had hoped to define in the creek banks did not materialize. There was not even evidence of stratification in the lower material in T-2 (this is an example of where not to mine). I doubt the volume of material near T-2 is worth the effort to process, but machinery might make it possible. In contrast, a good, although limited, situation exists where bedrock is above water level and may be profitably mined. The southern part of the tested area has already been well worked and I hope they got their share.

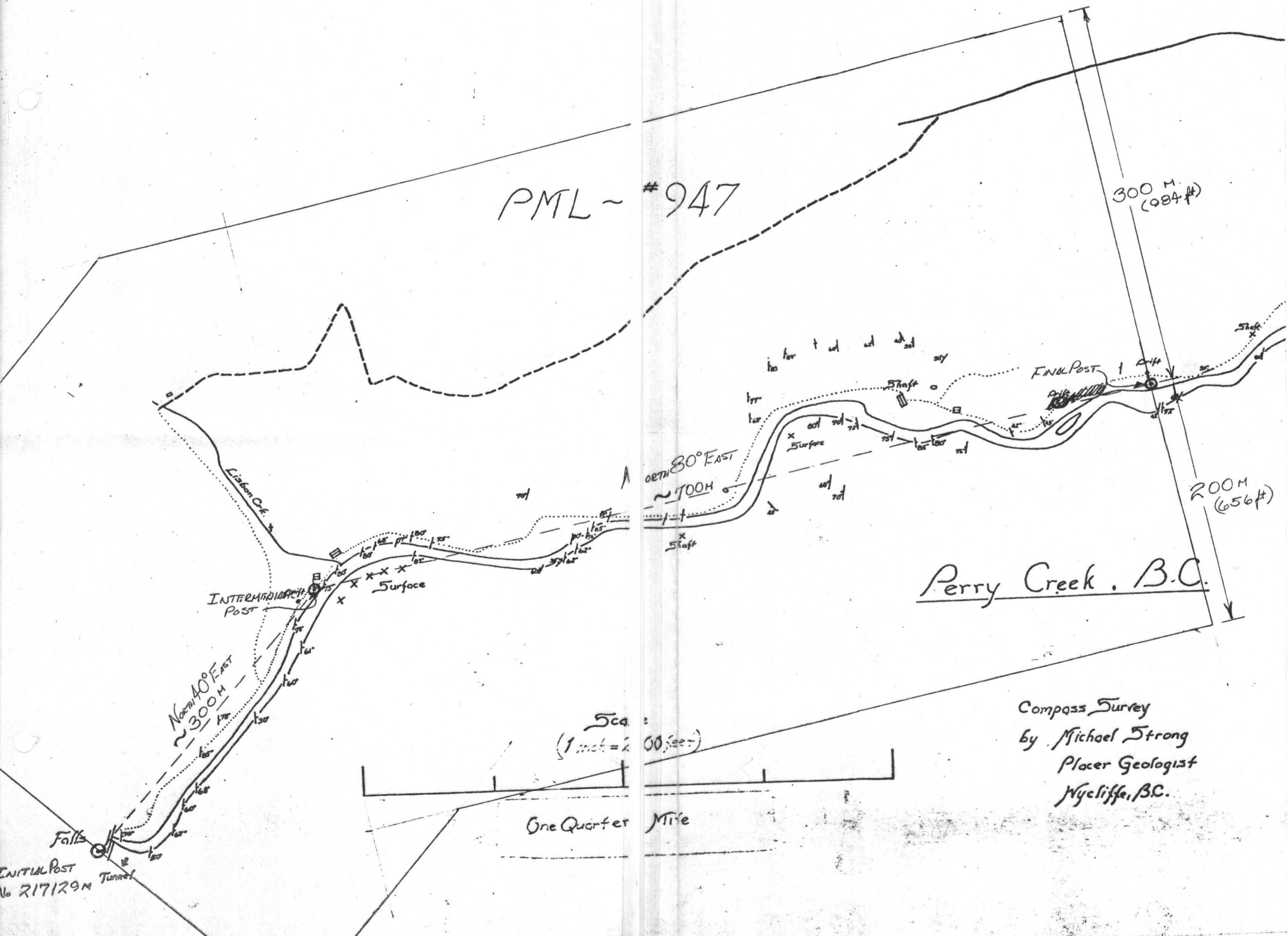


PML - # 947

300 M.
(984 ft)

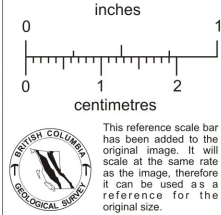
200 M.
(656 ft)

Perry Creek, B.C.



Scale:
(1 inch = 200 feet)

Compass Survey
by Michael Strong
Placer Geologist
Nycliffe, B.C.



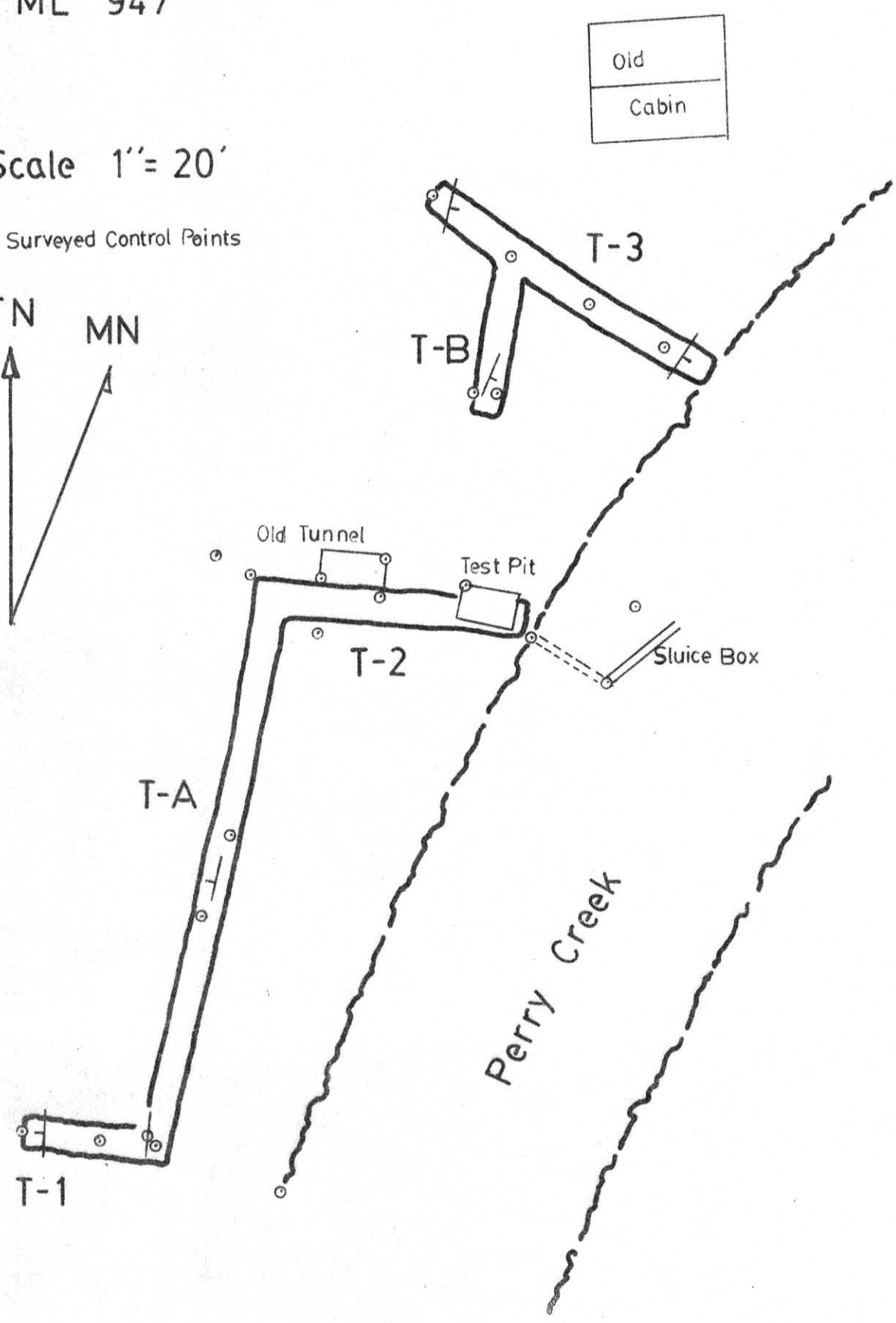
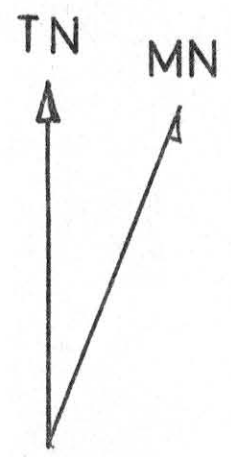
Lisbon Creek

1979 ASSESSMENT WORK

PML 947

Scale 1" = 20'

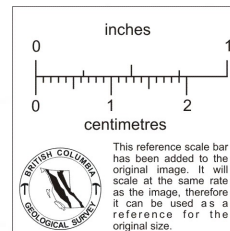
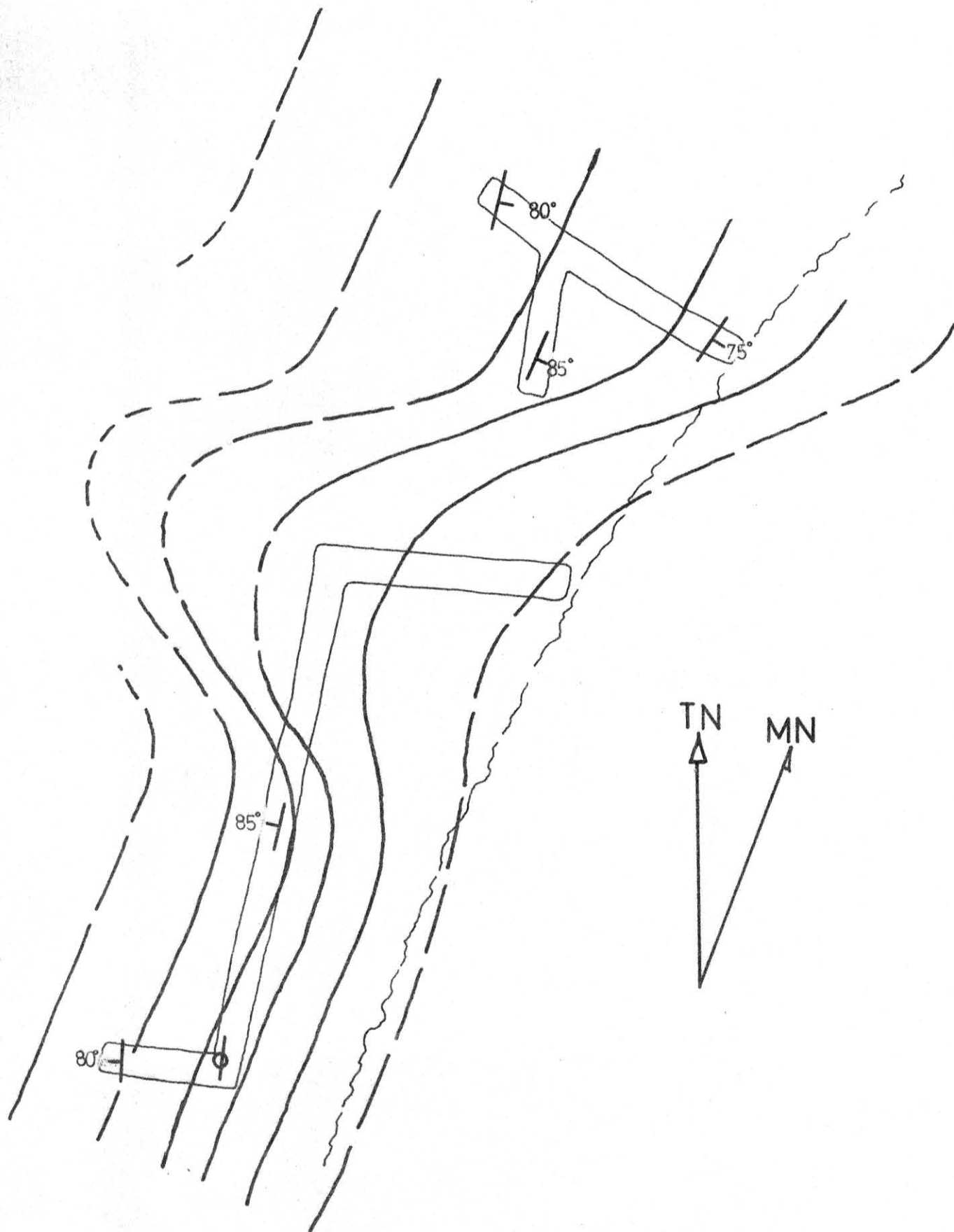
○ Surveyed Control Points



BEDROCK CONTOURS


Contour Interval - 5'

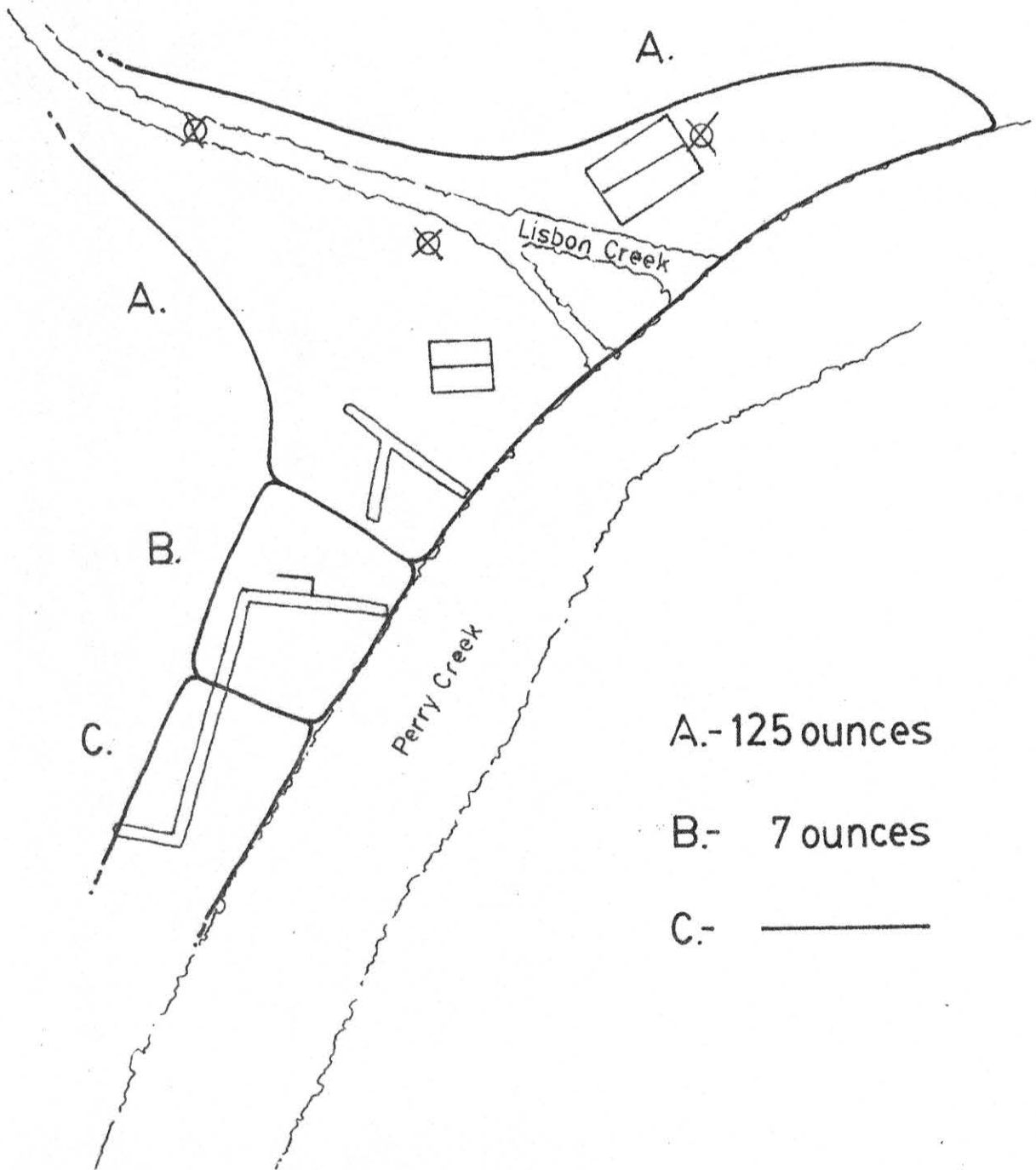
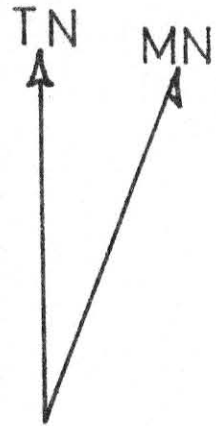
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RESERVE POTENTIAL

Scale 1" = 50'

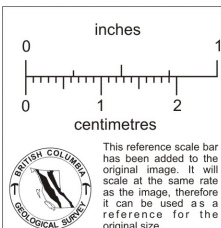
Bedrock Tests 



A.- 125 ounces

B.- 7 ounces

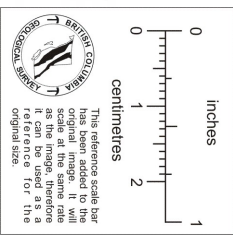
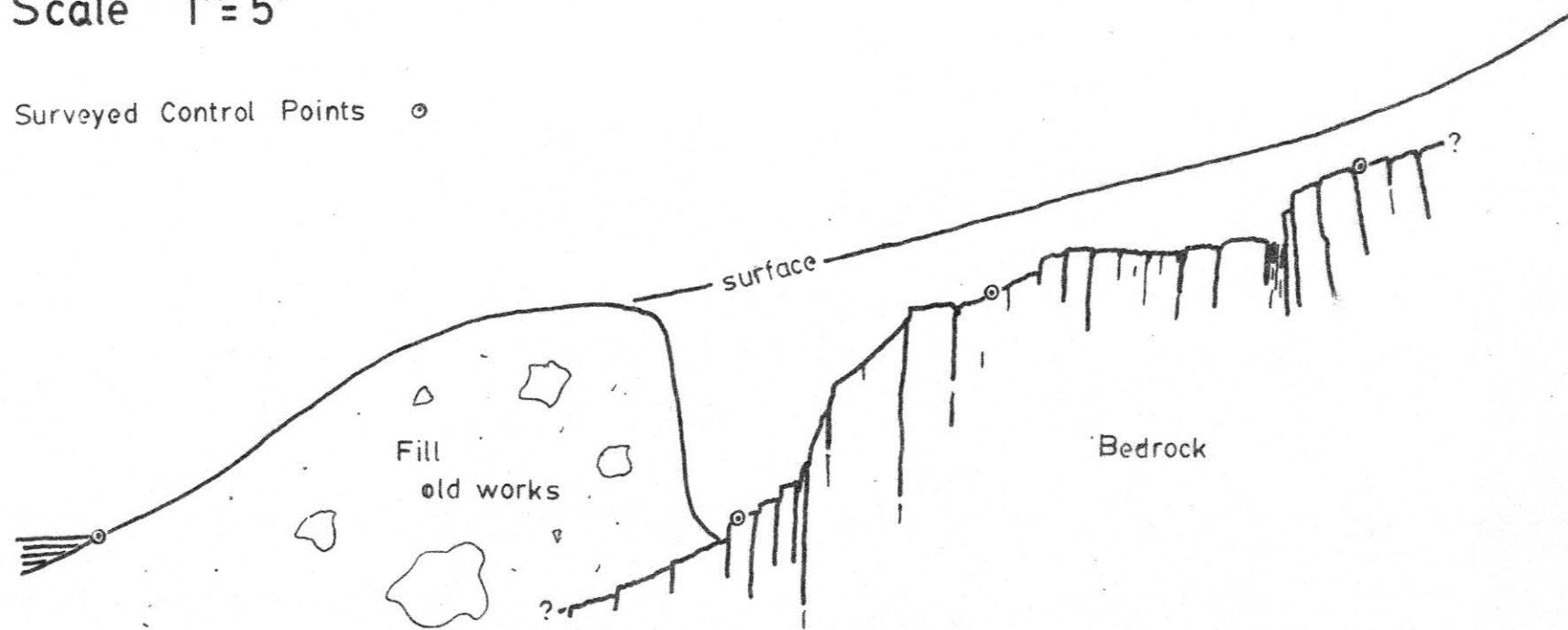
C.- _____



CROSS SECTION of T-1

Scale 1" = 5'

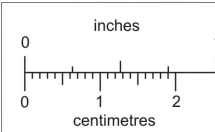
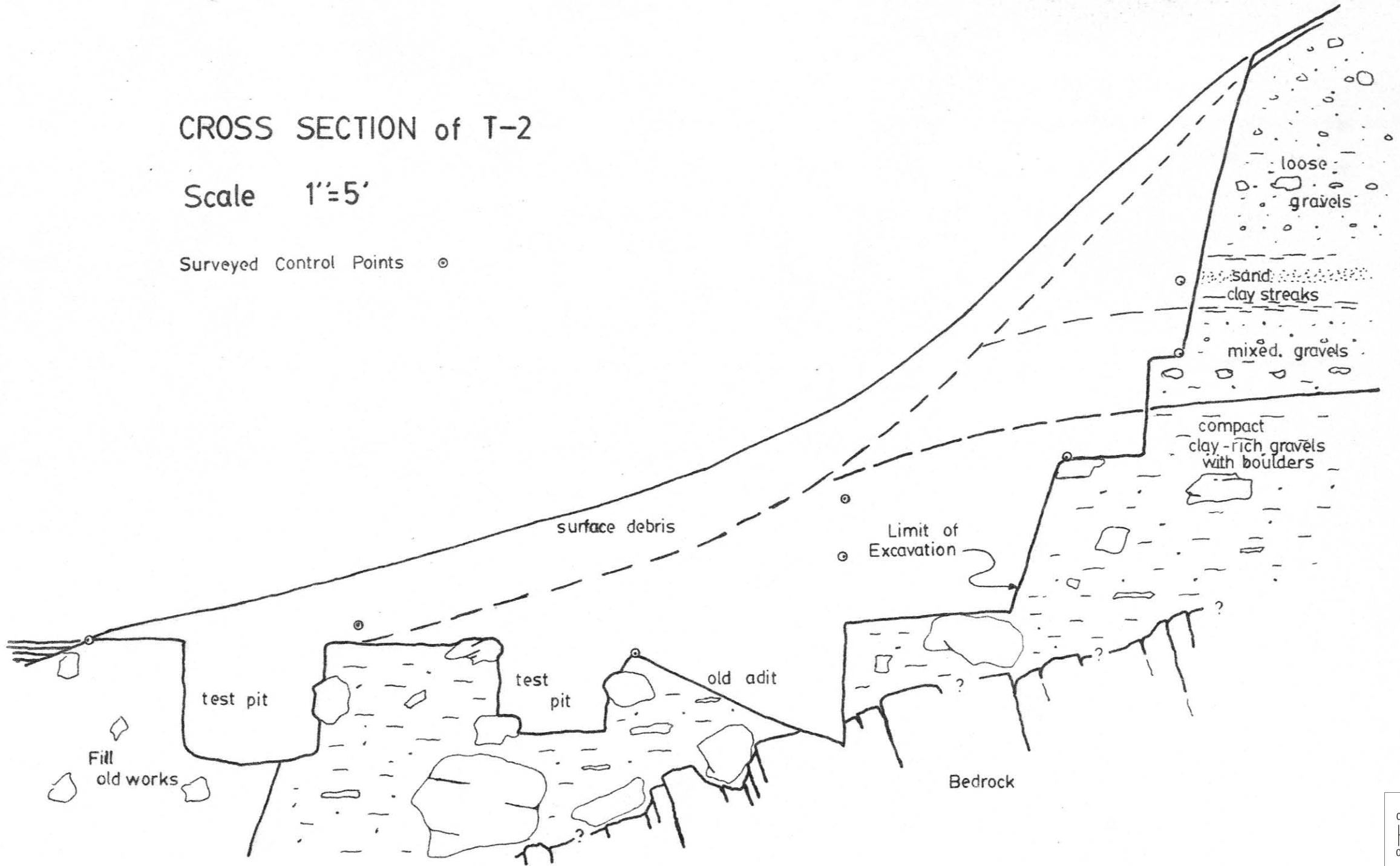
Surveyed Control Points ◉



CROSS SECTION of T-2

Scale 1"=5'

Surveyed Control Points ⊙



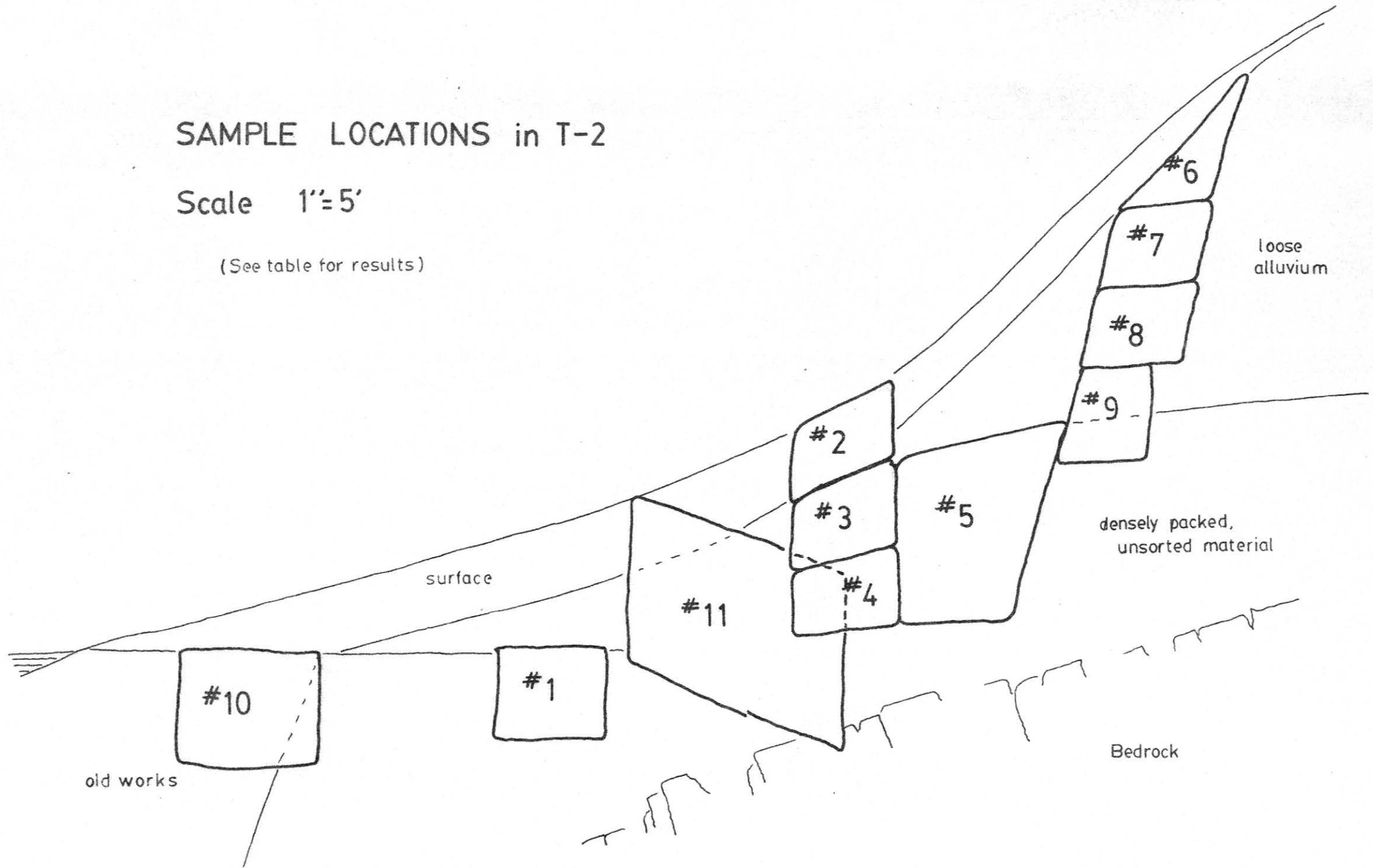
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SAMPLE LOCATIONS in T-2

Scale 1"=5'

(See table for results)



0 1
inches

0 1 2
centimetres

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Sample	Amount of Mat. Tested	Amount of Gold Rec.	Value*/Volume	Remarks
#1	3 yd.	20 grains	\$4.13/yd.	Test Pit
#2	2 yd.	6 "	\$1.86/yd.	Surface Material
#3	2 yd.	5 "	\$155.00/yd.	Clay rich material
#4	1 yd.	3 "	\$1.86/yd.	Clay rich material
#5	12.5 yd.	39 "	\$1.93/yd.	Trenched Material removed by backhoe
#6	1.5 yd.	2 "	\$.83/yd	Loose gravel
#7	2 yd.	trace	-----	Loose gravel some clay streaks
#8	2 yd.	trace	-----	Well layered sands, open gravels clays
#9	2 yd.	6 grains	\$1.86/yd.	entered the compact clay rich ground of tests #3-5
#10	3.5 yd.	Trace	----	Old Works
#11	12 yd.	2 ounces	\$50.00	Ernie Pinchbacks old test adit
#12	10 feet 2 bedrock	24 grains (1 pennywght.)	14.88	Paydirt - crevice material from T-3

* At \$300.00/ounce (Troy) - one grain = $\frac{\$300.00/\text{ounce}}{480 \text{ gr./ounce}}$ = 62¢ per grain

CROSS SECTION of T-3

Scale 1"=5'

Surveyed Control Points ◉

