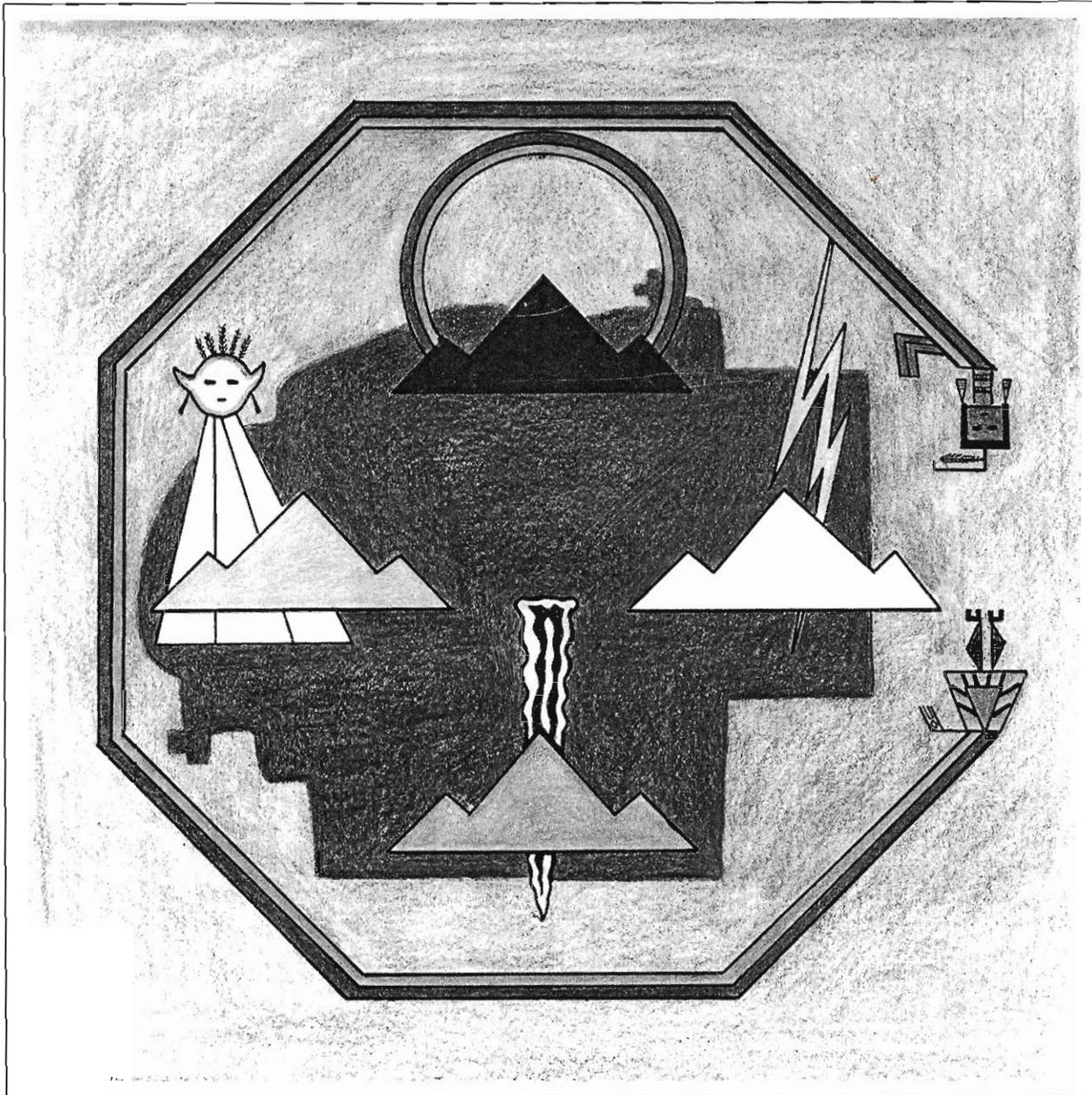


THE NAVAJO ATLAS

Environments, Resources, People, and History of the Diné Bideyah



By James M. Goodman

BY JAMES M. GOODMAN

Investigations in Environmental Analysis (Dubuque, Iowa, 1971)

The Navajo Atlas: Environments, Resources, People, and History of the Diné Bikeyah (Norman, 1982)

Publication of this work has been made possible in part
by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Goodman, James Marion.
The Navajo atlas.

Includes index and bibliography.

1. Navajo Indian Reservation—Maps, Physical.
2. Navajo Indian Reservation—Economic conditions—
Maps. 3. Navajo Indian Reservation—History. 4. Navajo
Indian Reservation—Natural resources—Maps. 5. Navajo
Indian Reservation—Social conditions—Maps. I. Goodman,
Mary E. II. Title.

G1497.N3G6 1982 912'.79137 81-40287
AACR2

Copyright © 1982 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Publishing Division of the University of Oklahoma. Manufactured in the U.S.A. First edition.

l located in

ric Site pre-
illustrious
Navajo peo-
of Lorenzo
g skills en-
Ganado to
terns, often
anado red.
xcellent ex-
lding tech-

at Valley is
ell-defined
er above a
imitive dirt
he deep re-
e imposing
rns of light
ty. Even in
has an aura

Part VI

THE DISPUTED NAVAJO-HOPI LANDS



This view near the Coal Mine Mesa Chapter House is in the former Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area. These waters and the surrounding lands that once supplied the needs of Navajo people living nearby have been awarded to the Hopi Nation.

INTRODUCTION TO PART VI

THE TURMOIL associated with the 1882 Executive Order Area (EOA) Reservation (Map 28) and the recent redrafting of a boundary between the Hopi Reservation and the surrounding Navajo Reservation deserves special attention. To this point in this atlas the 1882 EOA and District 6 (Maps 28 and 10) have been recognized as distinct elements because descriptive information has been collected by these units. But in 1977 the old outlines of the 1882 EOA and the 1963 Exclusive Hopi Reservation which were used to define the Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area (JUA) were dissolved, along with the JUA. Now only one boundary exists, and it separates land that is exclusively Navajo from land that is exclusively Hopi. The 1882 EOA and the 1963 JUA no longer exist.

The 1882 Executive Order Reservation was ill conceived; it was created in an atmosphere of confusion, misunderstanding, and haste. The Executive Order that established the reservation (see Maps 6, 7, 8, and 28) was brief. It defined a quadrangular area that was one degree of latitude in length along the eastern and western boundaries and one degree of longitude in length along the northern and southern boundaries, that is, about 70 miles north-south by about 56.5 miles east-west. Further, the order withdrew the area from the public domain, thus making any non-Indian settlement thereon illegal. Unfortunately the terse language was imprecise in the phrase ". . . for the use and occupancy of the Moqui [Hopi] and such other Indians as the Secretary of Interior may see fit to settle thereon." This phrase specifically recognized the Hopis (then called Moqui) but not the Navajos as being settled in the area; conversely, it did not give the Hopis an exclusive right to the entire area.

The weakness of the order that allowed a conflict to develop and persist for a century revolves around the following inadequacies. First, the bounds of the Executive Order Area (EOA) did not encompass all the Hopi villages; Moenkopi village was not enclosed within the EOA. Second, the bounds were extended well north of the three main clusters of Hopi settlements—First, Second, and Third mesas—into an area that at the time, was occupied by Navajos. Third, exclusive use rights were not defined, thus providing the basis for the conflict arising from the two distinctively different settlement habits of the Navajo and Hopi people. Fourth, the recommendation for the creation of the reservation was not based on a firsthand examination of the needs of the Hopis or the Navajos, but came from a frustrated, poorly-prepared Indian agent whose chief intent seemingly was to remove from the Hopi vil-

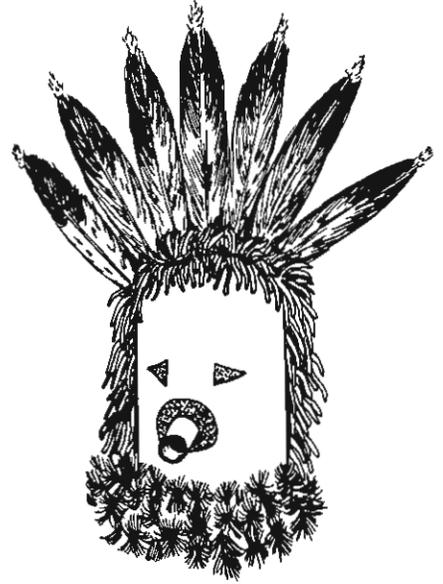
lages two non-Indians who challenged his authority. Further, the commissioner of Indian Affairs did not require a full investigation of the effects of the creation of the area upon its inhabitants, probably because he was embarrassed by his inaccuracies in declaring that the Hopi Reservation did exist when in fact one did not. In his attempts to enforce his own illegal order to remove the two interlopers, "mischief makers," the commissioner acted hastily. The Hopi agent, like most other agents at this time, was trained as a missionary and viewed the presence of Mormon settlements near the Hopis as a threat to the federal government's influence on these Indians. In addition, the commissioner failed to weigh the recommendations of his inspectors in the field, especially of one who had collected extensive field intelligence and had recommended that the northern portion of the EOA area be assigned to the Navajo Reservation. Earlier recommendations that outlined Hopi claims as determined by other Indian Affairs representatives were also ignored by the commissioner.

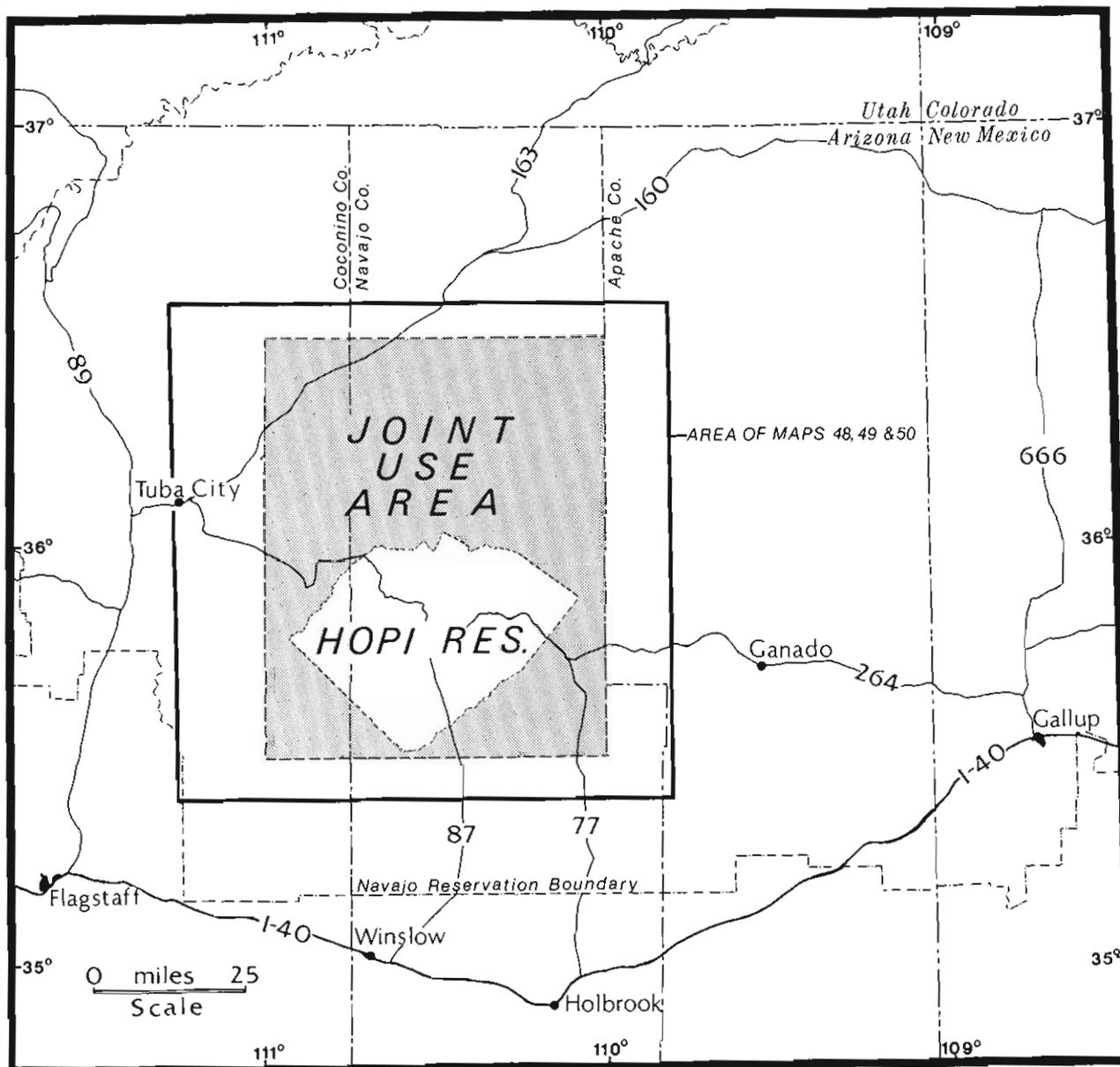
During the century of existence of the area, friction developed between the two tribes. The Land Management Districts (see Map 10) created in the 1930s provided for District Six, a 630,000-acre tract in the 1882 Executive Order Area. District Six contained most (but not all) of the land upon which the Hopis resided. In 1934, District Six was recognized as exclusive Hopi land; Navajo settlement was excluded from the area. An Act of Congress in 1958 (Public Law 85-547) provided that use rights of the two tribes in the 1882 Executive Order Area would be determined in federal district court. A decision rendered in 1963 (*Healing v. Jones*) confirmed the Hopis' exclusive rights to District Six, and decreed that both tribes held "joint, undivided and equal rights and interests" in the balance of the rectangular tract (see Map 45). The results of these decisions divided the 1882 Executive Order Area into two regions: the Exclusive Hopi Reservation (District Six), and the Joint Use Area.

The Joint Use Area was dominated by Navajo settlements—about 8,000 Navajos lived in the area. There was no practical way to provide each tribe with a 50 percent interest in a tract of land which the court had declared as being "undivided." The problem of limited land area for resettlement of Navajos elsewhere, and, more important, a strong emotional tie between the Navajos and the land where they were born and where their ancestors had lived, caused the Navajo Tribe to offer to purchase the Hopi interest in the Joint Use Area. The Hopi Tribal Government refused to sell.

In 1974, an Act of Congress provided for the partition of the Joint Use Area by the federal district court. A court decision was handed down in 1977: a boundary was established dividing the Joint Use Area into an exclusive Hopi use area to be appended to District Six and an exclusive Navajo use area to be appended to the surrounding Navajo Reservation. The 1882 Executive Order Area and the Joint

Use Area passed into the pages of history after creating untold court costs, much conflict between two tribes who basically have very little animosity toward one another, and emotional hardships which have been and will continue to be heaped upon the Navajos who do not really understand why they must leave their land because of decisions made years ago in places far away.

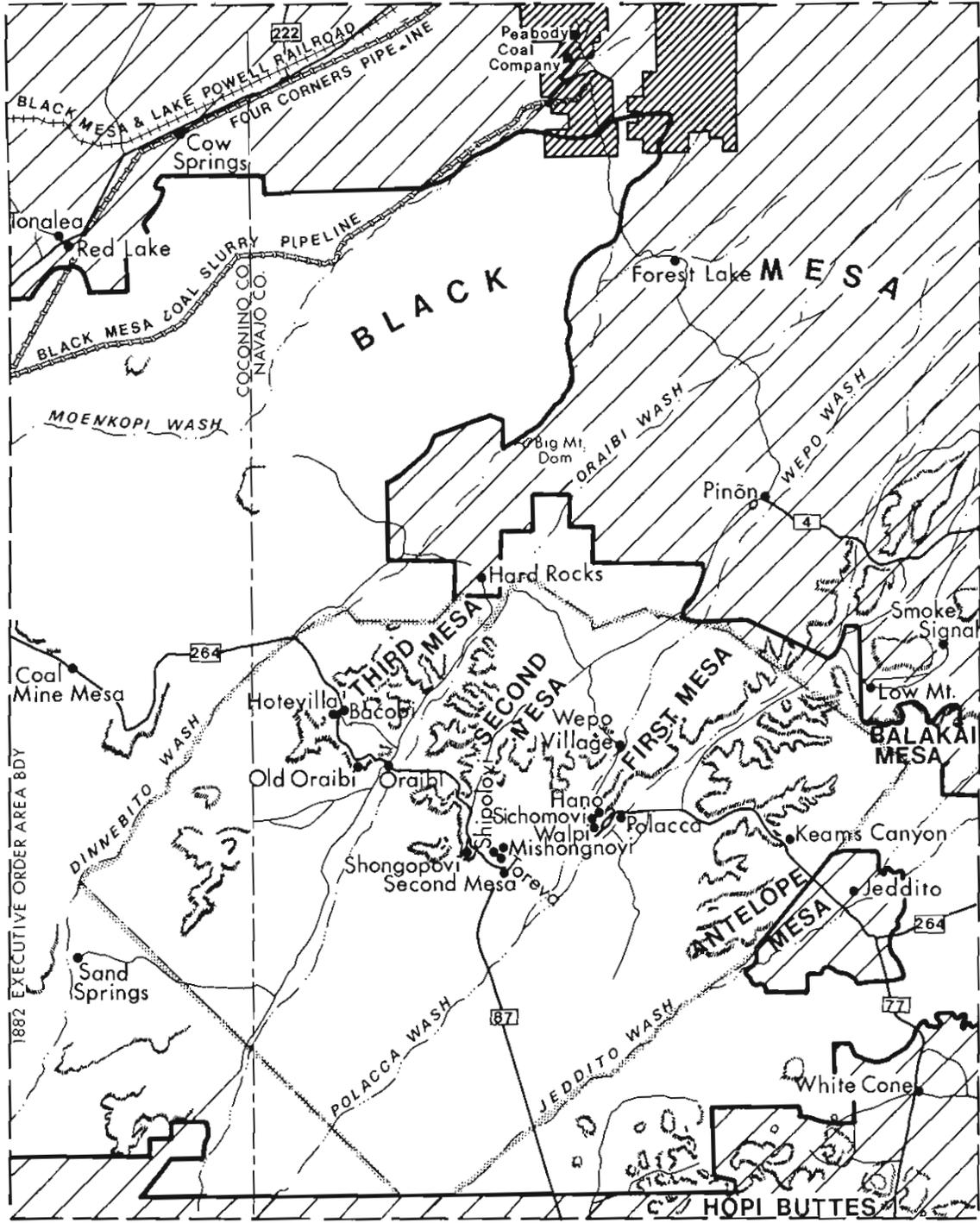




© 1982 by the University of Oklahoma Press

MAP 45. THE DISPUTED LANDS: THE 1962 DIVISION

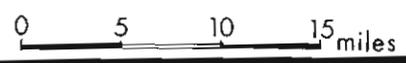
MAP 46. THE 1977 DISPOSITION OF THE JOINT USE AREA



 Peabody Coal Company Leases
 Areas Designated for Exclusive Navajo Use

 Navajo-Hopi Reservation Boundary Established by Court Decision 1977

© 1982 by the University of Oklahoma Press



DISPOSITION OF THE JOINT USE AREA

THE DIVISION of the Joint Use Area by the federal district court is exhibited on Map 46. The relatively small Hopi Tribe, some five to seven thousand persons, will gain sizable areas of land surrounding the Hopi mesas. The Hopi Indians are village dwellers and farmers. In prehistoric periods the ancestors of the modern Hopis probably lived in the canyons west of Kayenta (Navajo National Monument area) or in the Flagstaff area, or in both regions. Sometime before the arrival of the Navajos, the early Hopis migrated to the sites of their historic villages on Antelope, First, Second, and Third Mesas. The village dwelling pattern of the Hopis probably was related to the defensive advantages which mesa-top locations afforded. The early villages on Antelope Mesa are ruins today, but well-defined and inhabited settlements still exist on the other mesas. Tracts of land in the valleys are farmed, and herds of cattle, sheep, and goats are grazed on the sparse pastures of the region. In recent decades some Hopi people have established housing sites off the mesas, and new villages, such as Polacca and New Oraibi, have grown.

The Navajos, unlike the Hopis, live widely dispersed across the land (see Map 47). Their pastoral lifestyle places them in open areas where herds can be grazed. Although the Navajos do some farming, they have not developed the art of dry-land farming to the same extent as the Hopis. Map 47 displays the contrast in settlement patterns between the two Indian tribes.

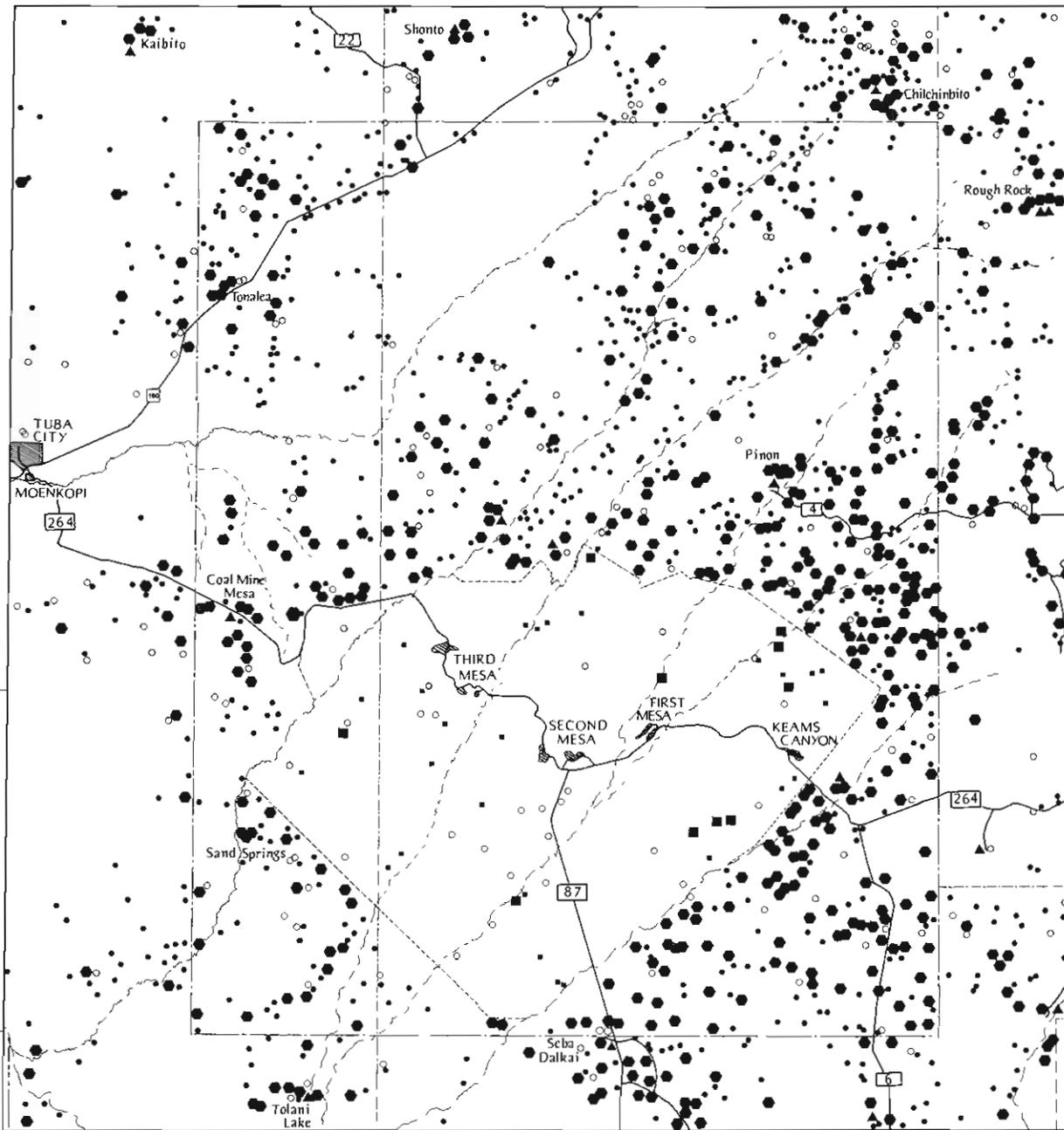
The environment of the 1882 Executive Order Area is illustrated on Map 48. Climatically, the region changes from a desert in the southwest to a piñon-juniper steppe in the northeast. Streams which head in the higher elevations of northeast Black Mesa are intermittent, but active enough in the past to have produced alluvial-filled valleys with excellent soils and to have carried quantities of sediments to the lowlands southwest of Black Mesa, where

alluvium and reworked alluvial sands in the form of dunes are spread over extensive areas. In the localities where Polacca, Wepo, Oraibi, and Dinnebito washes emerge from the valleys of Black Mesa, the Hopis practice much of their farming activity.

The Wepo formation (Cretaceous age, see Map 16) contains numerous seams of coal. Peabody Coal Company has extensive leases in the northern portion of Black Mesa (see Map 36), but vast reserves of coal underlie most all of the Black Mesa surface (see Map 48). Under the provision of Public Law 93-531 (1974), regardless of surface right disposition, mineral rights will be jointly shared by the Navajo and Hopi tribes. It would appear that mining activities could be extended into other sections of Black Mesa. Since much of the addition to the Hopi Reservation extends northward to the vicinity of the current Peabody Company leases, and since Navajo people will be relocated from this area, possibly these lands will be free for the extension of mining operations.

Reclamation of land damaged by surface mining operations in the Black Mesa environment has yet to be proven. Although spoil banks have been reshaped and planted in piñon pine, juniper, and grasses, long-term questions regarding pollution of the valley floors and ground waters by the liberation of sulphur compounds and other noxious materials during the mining operation have not been answered. The amount of precipitation on Black Mesa is low, and the growing season is short. The survival of plants placed on the reclaimed lands is uncertain. The best soils are developed on the alluviums of the valley floors, and ground water that can be pumped by wind machines is stored in these alluvial materials. Since the Navajo people of Black Mesa are without benefit of electric power to pump water from deep aquifers, the valley ground waters and their quality are extremely important to the continuance of human life there.

MAP 47. RURAL DWELLINGS, 1972



© 1982 by the University of Oklahoma Press

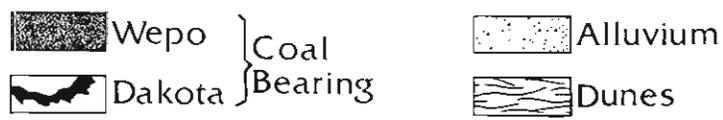
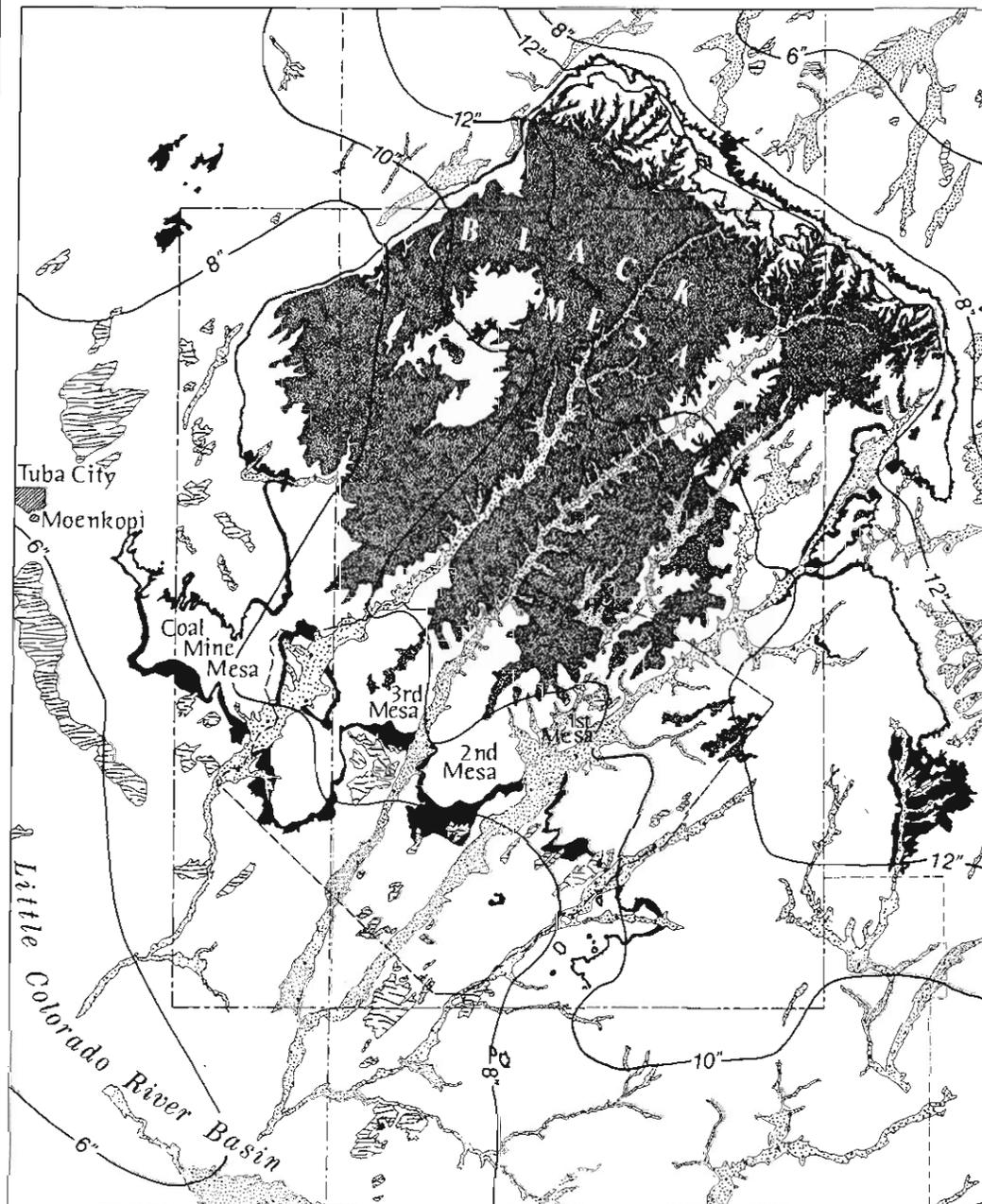
DWELLINGS

Navajo : 1 or 2 : Hopi
 3 to 7

▲ School ▨ Village ○ Well 0 ————— 25 miles

Dwelling locations were determined from Arizona County Highway Atlases of Apache, Coconino, & Navajo Counties. Some dwellings may be unoccupied; some may be seasonally occupied.

Map 48.
 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: ALLUVIUM, DUNES, COAL-BEARING
 FORMATIONS, AND ANNUAL ISOHYETS



© 1982 by the University of Oklahoma Press