

Using the SHPO Black Book and Interpreting Old SHPO Numbers on AZSITE

In the pre-AZSITE, Pre-GIS days, the SHPO kept its site and project boundary “shapefiles” on 7.5-minute USGS topographic maps. The “attribute information” was kept in a black three-ring binder known as the Black Book. Each entry, whether a survey, a site, or a standing structure, was given an Inventory Number (or I-Number) in the Black Book. At some point, the SHPO decided that it could not keep negative cultural resources surveys (i.e., those that found no archaeological sites) in its library. Only reports that resulted in identification of sites were also given a Report Number (R-Number) of the form R-xxxx in the Black Book and kept in the library. A catalog of these reports is available as a searchable pdf on the AZSITE mapping application as the “SHPO Old Library Document” (see the pop-up screen when you activate the “SHPO Topo Sites” or “SHPO Topo Projects” layers).

However, the same sequence of I-Numbers was generated for each county. The result was that there could be several duplicate I-Numbers in the database. The only way to make these I-Numbers more unique was to generate a label that incorporated both the I-Number and the county. As a result, a tripartite labeling system was developed of the form _____.____.SHPO. The first number is based on the county in which the project was conducted. The number is based on an alphabetized list of counties – except La Paz and using number 16 for projects located in multiple counties (see below). The next number is preceded by a “.” and is based on the I-Number followed by another “.”. The final part is “SHPO”. For example, project number 3.475.SHPO refers to the project associated with I-Number I-475 in Coconino County. Looking this label up in the Black Book (available as a searchable pdf on AZSITE; again, see the pop-up screen when you activate the “SHPO Topo Sites” or “SHPO Topo Projects” layers) shows that this was an archaeological survey for the Power Well Pipeline Extension. (Note that this is generally not the title of a survey report, just a summary project name.) In this case it also was conducted for or by the BLM. Because there is an R-number associated with it, one or more archaeological sites presumably were identified by the survey. Looking up the R-number in the SHPO Old Library Document file on AZSITE finds the report citation Christenson et al. 1994, which should be available through the AZSITE report library.

County List:

- 1 – Apache
- 2 – Cochise
- 3 – Coconino
- 4 – Gila
- 5 – Graham
- 6 – Greenlee
- 7 – Maricopa
- 8 – Mohave
- 9 – Navajo
- 10 – Pima
- 11 – Pinal
- 12 – Santa Cruz
- 13 – Yavapai
- 14 – Yuma
- 15 – La Paz
- 16 – Multiple Counties

Unfortunately, many of the shapes on the AZSITE Project layer having SHPO tripartite labels are not projects. As another example from Coconino County, 3.487.SHPO is listed in the Black Book as the Del Sue Motor Inn (Grand Motel). Many of these properties are also indicated on AZSITE’s SHPO County Sites layer. An example from Maricopa County is 7.1231.SHPO, which in the Black Book is listed as archaeological site T:12:24(ASU).