

## SECTION 3

### HISTORY AND STUDY AREA

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#### 3.1 HISTORY OF POLACCA AIRPORT

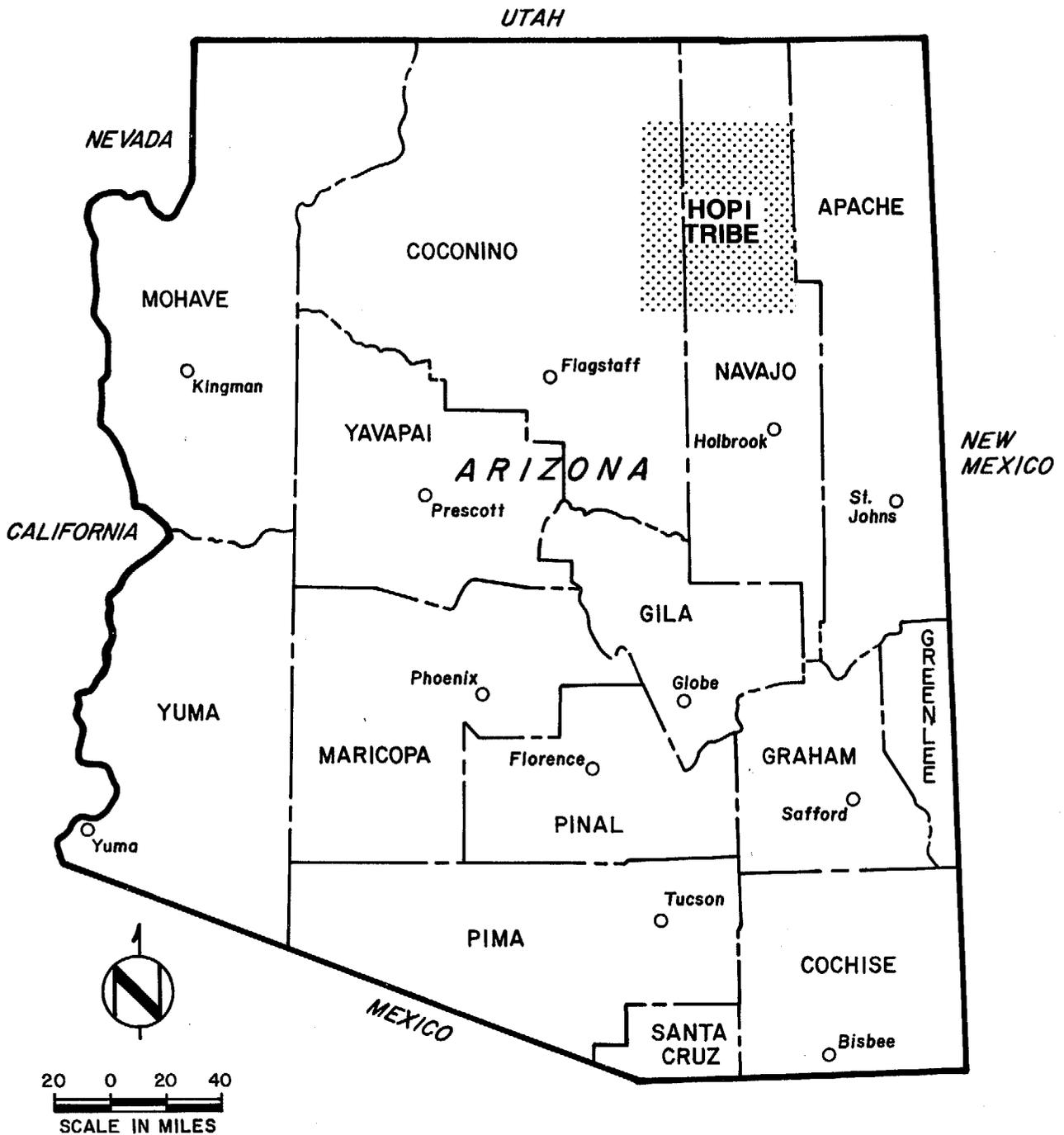
Polacca Airport was initially opened during the early 1960's as a graded dirt strip. The strip was located in a flood plain with washes at each end of the runway which, when combined collected storm runoff from tributary areas, totals 150 square miles. The airport has been inundated and washed out on many occasions since its construction.

The original dirt strip was paved with a road mix in 1972, and in 1975 an asphalt topping was applied. At a later date, medium intensity runway lights were installed and a lighted wind cone erected. The airport also includes a paved aircraft parking apron capable of accommodating ten to twelve aircraft.

#### 3.2 STUDY AREA

The study area of the airport site selection and master planning study is the Hopi Indian Reservation, located in the four corners region of northeastern Arizona. The reservation is located 285 miles northeast of Phoenix, 270 miles west of Albuquerque, and 329 miles south of Salt Lake City. Exhibit 3-1 illustrates the reservation's location.

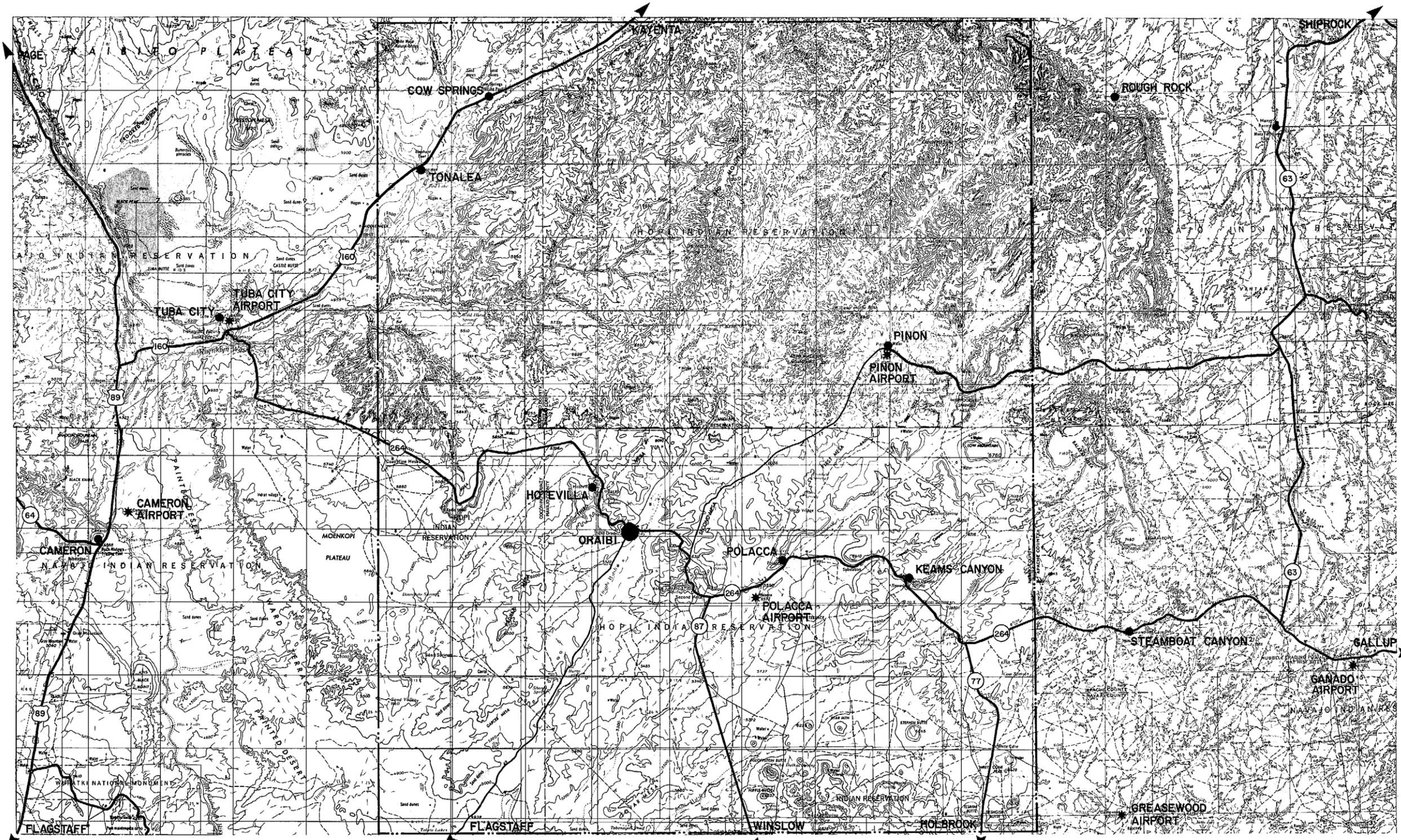
The Hopi Reservation was established by Executive Order dated December 16, 1882, and encompasses slightly less than 2.5 million acres. Although the reservation was officially dedicated in 1882, Old Oraibi which is believed to have been established between 1100 and 1500 A.D., is the oldest continuously inhabited village in the United States. Climatic records show



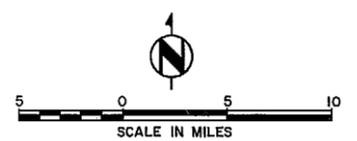
a relatively mild temperature variation, ranging from a low of 16<sup>o</sup> F in January, to a high of 89<sup>o</sup> F in July, and averaging about 51<sup>o</sup> F. On the average there is 10 inches of annual rainfall, with about 3 inches occurring during July and August. Winds generally prevail from the southwest.

Whereas the northern portion of the reservation is characterized by many mesas, the southern portion is generally rolling desert. The entire reservation is atop the Colorado Plateau and ranges between a low of 4,900 feet in the southwest to a high of 7,000 feet in the northeast. Springs and wells are the only reliable source of water, since most streams and lake beds are dry, except during or immediately after rain. There is no extensive vegetation coverage of the land, nor any major resources of wildlife.

The Executive Order 1882 Hopi Indian Reservation is illustrated in Exhibit 3-2.



**LEGEND**  
 - - - - - RESERVATION BOUNDARY  
 = = = = = PAVED ROADS  
 ——— UNPAVED ROADS



No.	Revision	By	Appr.	Date

Approved  
 By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**R. DIXON SPEAS ASSOCIATES**

Designed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drawn \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checked \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**HOP I TRIBE  
 ORAIBI, ARIZONA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 1882  
 HOPI INDIAN RESERVATION**