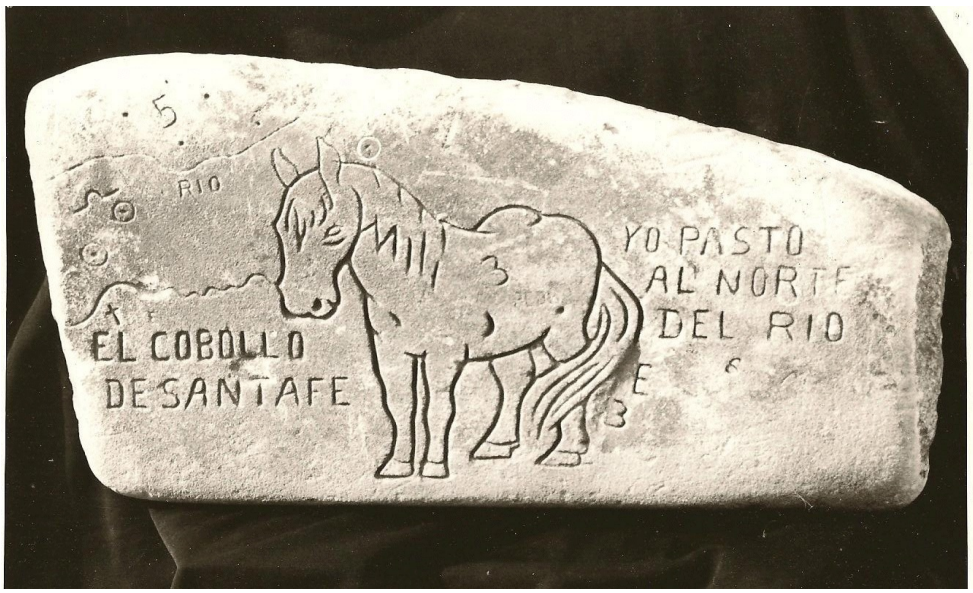
FURTHER

DISCUSSIONS

OF THE

HORSE STONE

On the Superstition Tablets stone referred to as the HORSE stone:



on the horse's stomach is the symbol which will be referred to as the "scar":

measurements from photo analysis software shows that the number of pixels from the top of the horse where the butt starts leaving the back line to the stomach line is 302 pixels and the scar height is 62 pixels. This means that the scar is about 20 percent of the total distance. Measurements also showed that the scar was entirely in the bottom half of the horse - the top of the scar was 63 percent below the top of the horse.

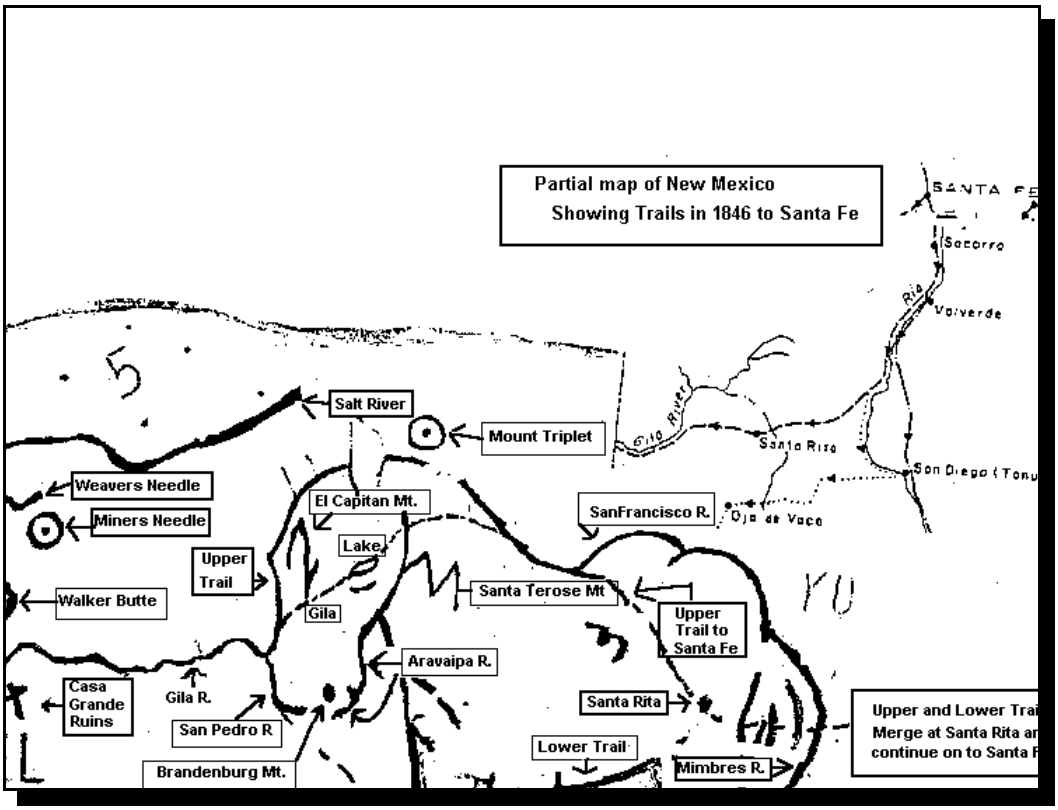
Is it possible to tell what the scar represents within the constraints of the Robinson/Reyes theory of the Superstition Tablets?

I believe that the answer is "yes" and what follows is the discussion of the points of argument.

First let's review the geophysical layout of the HORSE map as suggested by the Robinson/Reyes theory of the Superstition Tablets.

From the book “Superstition Tablets, Window to Lost Treasures” we have:

> While the HORSE stone appears to contain the drawing of a horse, the horse is actually an encoded map. Most of the constructs of the horse are actually natural geological features or trails which existed in the 1800s. This map shows the reader how to get from Tucson (or Southeastern area of Arizona) to Santa Fe. The map contains two paths to Santa Fe - the "Upper" trail (the head and back of the horse) and the "Lower" trail (the belly of the horse). The "Upper" trail indicates a passage which could be used in all weather conditions and all sizes of groups; while the "Lower" trail indicates a route which contained little water but one which could be used during wet weather or for small parties or ones well supplied with water. Some of the lines (i.e. the ears) in the drawing of the horse are, of course, added to complete to impression that the drawing is that of a horse. The following illustration is a reproduction of the HORSE stone with most of the major geographical features identified.



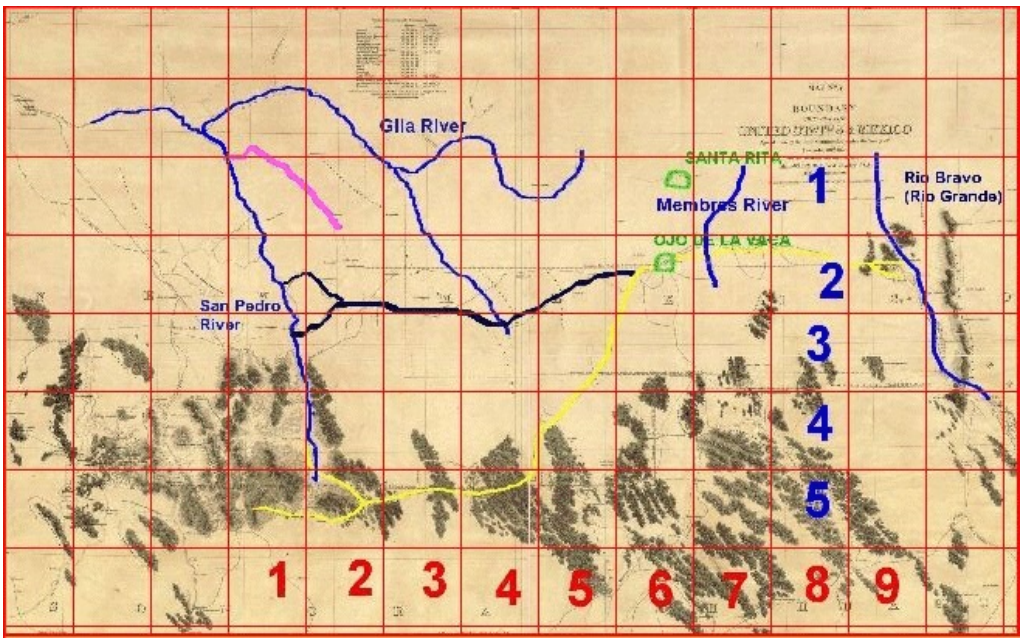
Geographical areas involved

From this illustration, it can be seen that the horse figure can be explained without having to move it from where it resides on the stone in relationship to the Salt River and the Gila River. Weavers Needle, Miners Needle, Walker Butte and the Casa Grande Ruins symbols are examples of selective magnification, that is, the symbols are larger than the physical objects for the scale factor of the map.

It should be noted that in the above figure that the scar is not shown. It was always believed to be a mountain by the Robinson/Reyes theory but the location was not known. Robinson thought at the time (from Diary 1/28/1989) that it was perhaps the Peloncillo Mountain just east and north of Highway 10 just past San Simon in Arizona or the Pinaleno Mountains north east of Willcox. The closeness of the Peloncillo Mountain to Highway 10 which closely follows an old trail which existed in the 1800's was one of the arguments; however, the mountains seemed to far east to be correct and the Pinaleno Mountains were to large .

Also note that the dot symbol by the hind leg was labeled "Santa Rita" but further research has lead to the belief that the symbol is actually "Ojo De La Vaca" a hub town during the 1800's. This was arrived at by studying the map (map 3 of 4) generated by Major W. H. Emory, First Calvary USA, survey in 1855 for the Joint Commission defining the boundary line between the USA and Mexico. The maps can be found on-line at the Library Of Congress (http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html)

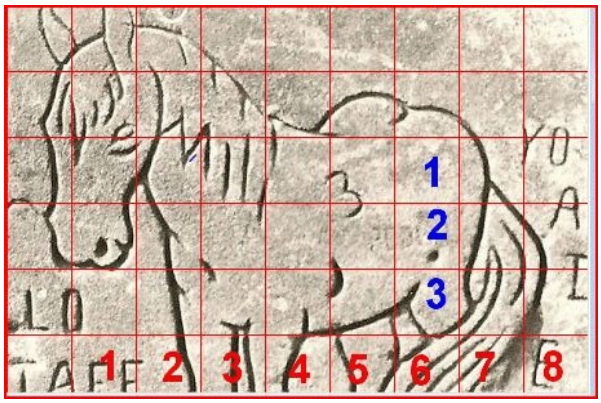
The map edited to highlight trails, towns and rivers (and a scale overlaid) is:



The black trail across the center was the existing trail from the San Pedro river to Ojo De La Vaca. Note how the upper trail leaving the San Pedro River and Ojo De La Vaca are at about the same Latitude (Ojo De La Vaca slightly more north) which agrees with the HORSE stomach line. At Ojo De La Vaca several trails merge and then continue on to the Rio Bravo River (Rio Grande today) where there are the towns Dona Ana, Las Cruces and La Mesilla. One would then follow the Rio Bravo to go Santa Fe. Note that in the old geographical layout by the Robinson/Reyes theory suggested that the tail of the horse was the Mimbres River; however, a better explanation geographically, is that the carving of the rear leg of the horse is the Mimbres River and the back of the tail is the Rio Bravo.

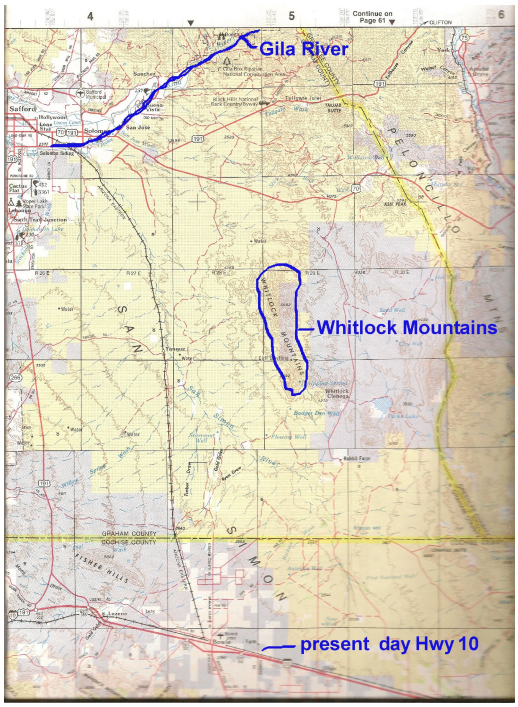
So how do you plan to determine a Mountain that fits within the Robinson/Reyes theory?

If we look again at the HORSE stone with a scale overlaid on it:



The first thing to note is that the scar is slightly past the arch in the horse's back starting it's back haunches. Second the top of the scar is at about the end of the horses neck (Aravaipa canyon according to this theory) and below the horse's nose (Brandenburg Mountain according to this theory).

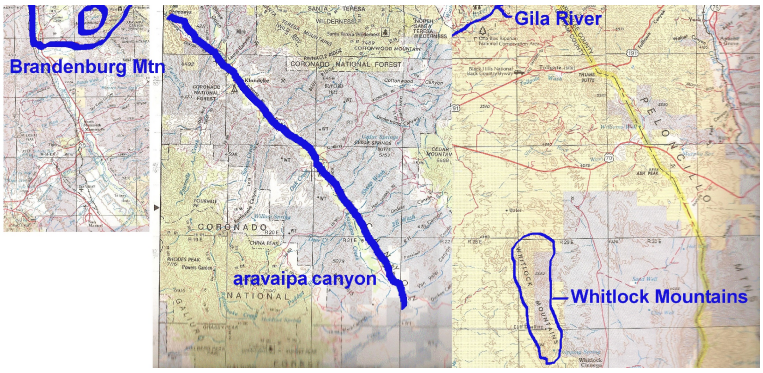
Using the Arizona Atlas & Gazetteer, we find a map, part of which is shown below with some of the features highlighted:



This shows the Whitlock Mountains between the Gila River (just past the upward arch in the river) and the present day Highway 10. An interesting point is that the Mountain - as outlined - takes up 20.3 percent of the distance between the Gila River and Highway 10 (in agreement with the HORSE measurement) - although is starts at 37 percent from the Gila River and not as on the HORSE stone of 63 percent below the top of the horse!

What about the horse's neck (Aravaipa Canyon) and the nose (Brandenburg Mtn) - how do they line up?

Again using the Arizona Atlas & Gazetteer; however, we have to piece together parts of three maps we have:



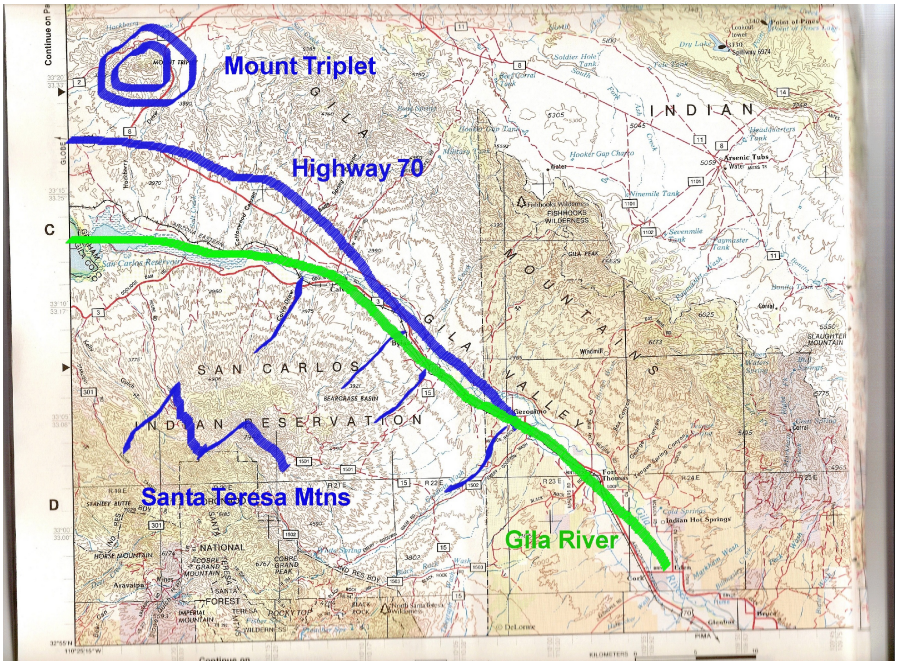
Compared to:

The horse's neck (Aravaipa Canyon) agrees very well but the nose (Brandenburg Mtn) seem to be further north on the map than shown on the horse carving. It has always been maintained by the Robinson/Reyes theory that the horse carving did not maintain a high degree of accuracy between geography and the drawing using "artistic" licence to generate a believable horse representation.

Focusing on the head of the HORSE stone :

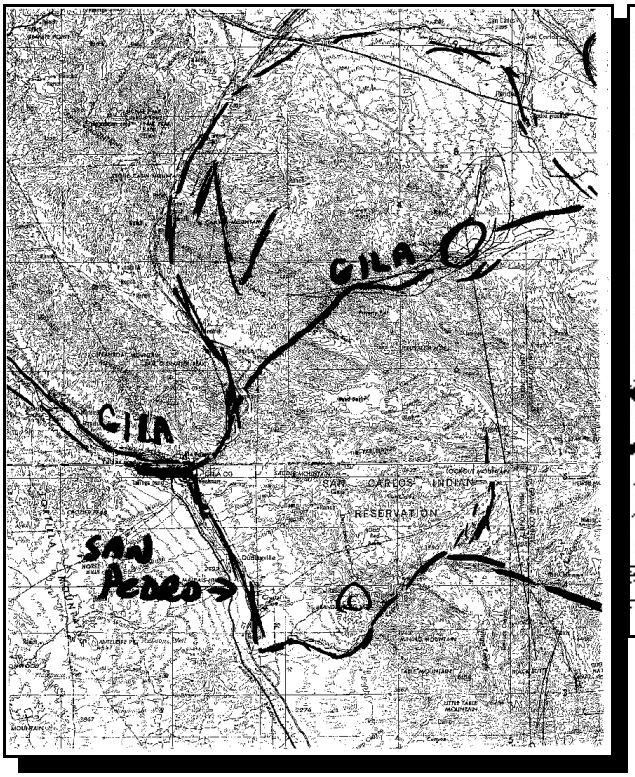
notice behind the ear the symbol : 

The Robinson/Reyes theory of the Superstition Tablets maintains that the symbol represents a butte or pinnacle. In the original book the book “Superstition Tablets, Window to Lost Treasures” this particular symbol was said to be “Mount Triplet” but went into no further detail. The following highlighted Topographical map is provided to correct that oversight.

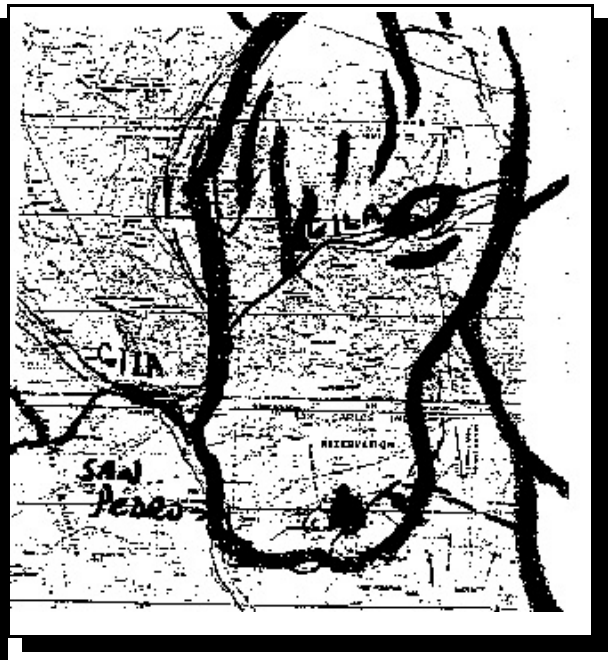


The blue line is presently Arizona Highway 70 and the Robinson/Reyes theory of the Superstition Tablets suggests that in the 1800's that a trail existed which left the Gila River much as Highway 70 does to skirt the remaining treacherous portion of the Gila River and take a better route to the

junction of the Gila River and the San Pedro River. The remainder of this route was shown in the book “Superstition Tablets, Window to Lost Treasures” and , if fact, the head of the horse was overlaid on the Topographical map to show how closely they matched. It is duplicated below:



Highlighted Geological Survey map



Overlay map and Stone

The highlighted head from the Gila River is Arizona Highway 77 which junctions with Highway 70 near the top of the head.

Written: October 31, 2008

However, no field research was performed at the time of the writing. No verification was attempted to assess if “Mount Triplet” could reasonably be the referenced butte or if there was any more favorable candidate. Also it was not verified if Santa Teresa mountain (today it is called Mount Turnbull) has the shape indicated by the symbol on the head of the horse. In November 2008 a trip was made to the area to verify these points. Santa Teresa was shrouded in clouds at the time so it could not be verified that the peak of the mountain agreed with the symbol; however, it appears that Mount Triplet is not the only possible solution for the butte symbol. There were several peaks in the area within a few miles of each other that I felt could have been what the symbol represented; in fact, one such butte actually hid Mount Triplet from view on Highway 70. TO actually get a view of Mount Triplet we had to take Highway 8 north about 4 or 5 miles. The following are pictures of Mount Triplet and several candidates for the butte symbol.

Mount Triplet

Butte south of Mt. Triplet - hides Mt Triplet from highway

Possible butte south-east of Mt. Triplet

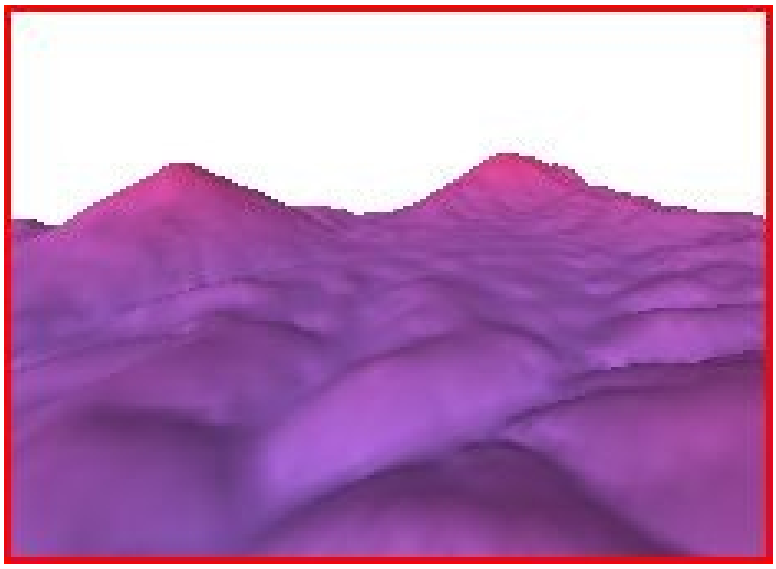
Same butte as seen from highway

Another butte close to Highway 70

Mount Turnbull was hidden in clouds during our trip so it was not possible to verify that the Mountain had the “M” shape indicated on the HORSE stone:

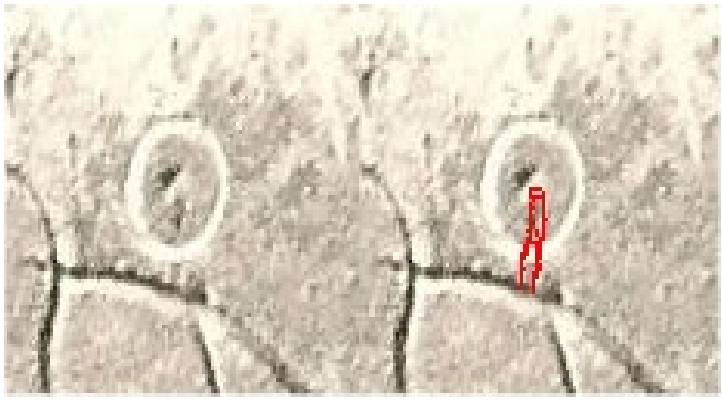
Mount Turnbull in clouds

Another trip to the area will be necessary to confirm or challenge the claim; However, using some software that projects DEM (Digital Elevation Model) map files into a three dimensional terrain view appear to show that the peak of the mountain as viewed from the north east of the mountain does have a “M” shape:



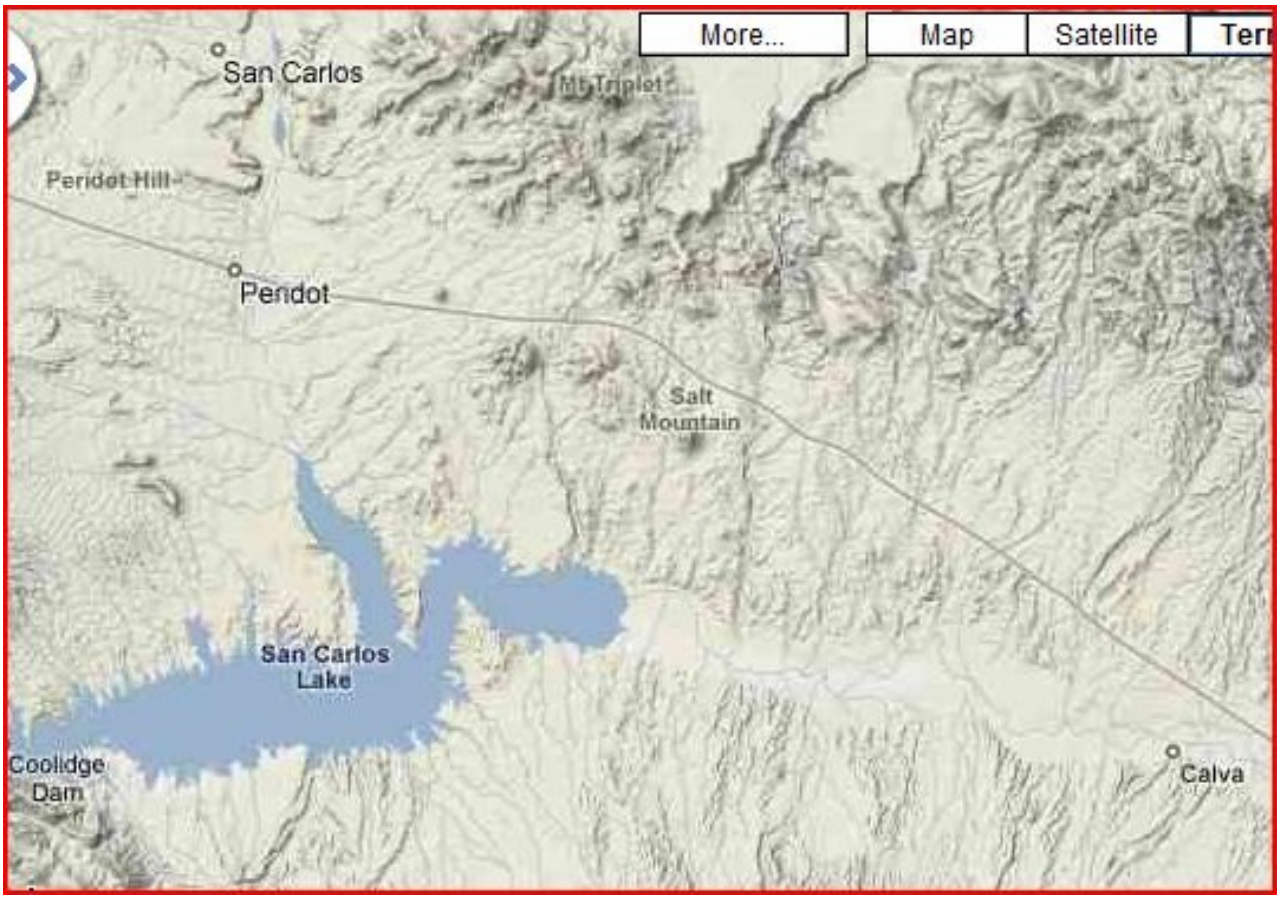
DEM simulation of Mount Turnbull peak

Another Field trip was performed in December 2008 and will be discussed shortly; however, a remark concerning the nature of the butte symbol will be discussed first. After discovering the number of possible butte that could be what the symbol represented, I took a closer look at the symbol on the stone. While it is not obvious in pictures of the tablet but can be felt and actually observed, there is a slight indent that goes from the head of the horse to the center of the butte symbol. The following figure has highlighted the indent:

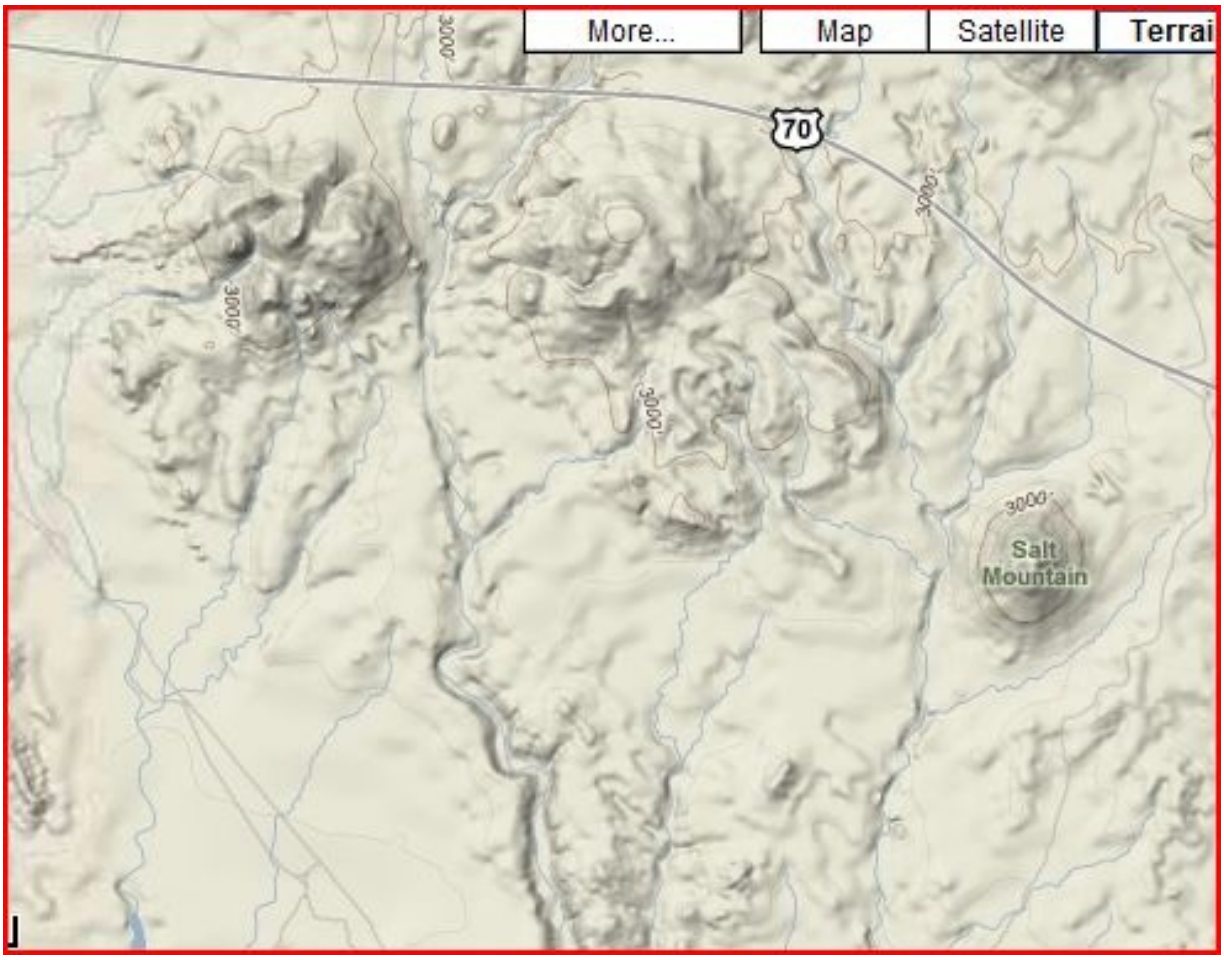


Highlighted indent

After noting the above, I researched the area and came to realize that the “old” trail skirted closer to the Gila River than highway 70 does. Note in the following terrain picture The butte “Salt Mountain” which is actually on the south side of highway 70.:



A Closer look shows that at the present time there is a road to the south of the butte which follows closer to the Gila River (RD400 and RD410) and that a road from highway 70 (RD420) leads to the butte. Note also the gully that goes south from the butte to the Gila River:



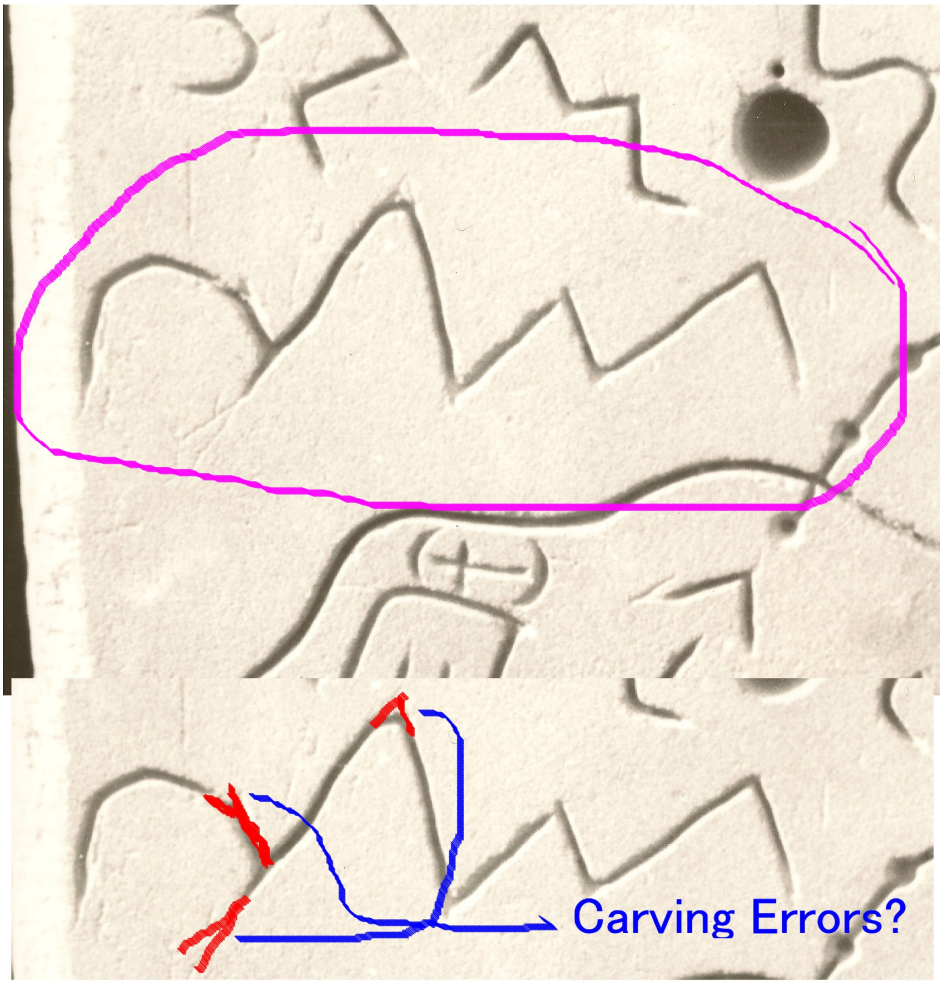
On December 20, 2008 , my daughter Laura and I went back to take some pictures of Mt Turnbull. The weather cooperated and the mountain was not covered in clouds. We took pictures of the mountain peak from several different locations separated by several miles. The following picture is how the mountain peek looked from the different locations:

From position (1) , the furthest west picture, the peak appears to be a single peak. From position (2) it appears to have two peaks and from position (3) , the furthest east picture, it appears to have three peaks. Nowhere along the way did Mt. TurnBull have an appearance that resembled the shape shown on the HORSE stone:

Mountain carving

The question arises “Could the Author of the Tables have meant to convey some information by this particular carving other than that there was a large mountain at that location?”. Another question is “Why did the Author include the mountain symbol? (And for that mater the “butte” symbol)”, since it is not needed to enhance the image that the carving is of a horse or give directions. When you ask such questions and look carefully at the carving you notice some peculiarities. In particular, one of the lines extends past the meeting point of the peak on the west side and more is caved out on the peak on the east side:

It would be easy to excuse this as just a carving error; however recall that such "carving errors" on the THREE stone led to the locating of a buried object at the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. To review, look at the following figure:



Mountain alignment on THREE stone leading to buried object discovery

The "carving errors" were actually giving information about the alignment of three mountains (from left to right the Superstition Mountain, Walker Butte and Cholla Mountain) which isolated a spot in the desert to an accuracy of about 10 feet (in an east-west direction only - other carving information gave the north-south location to the same accuracy).

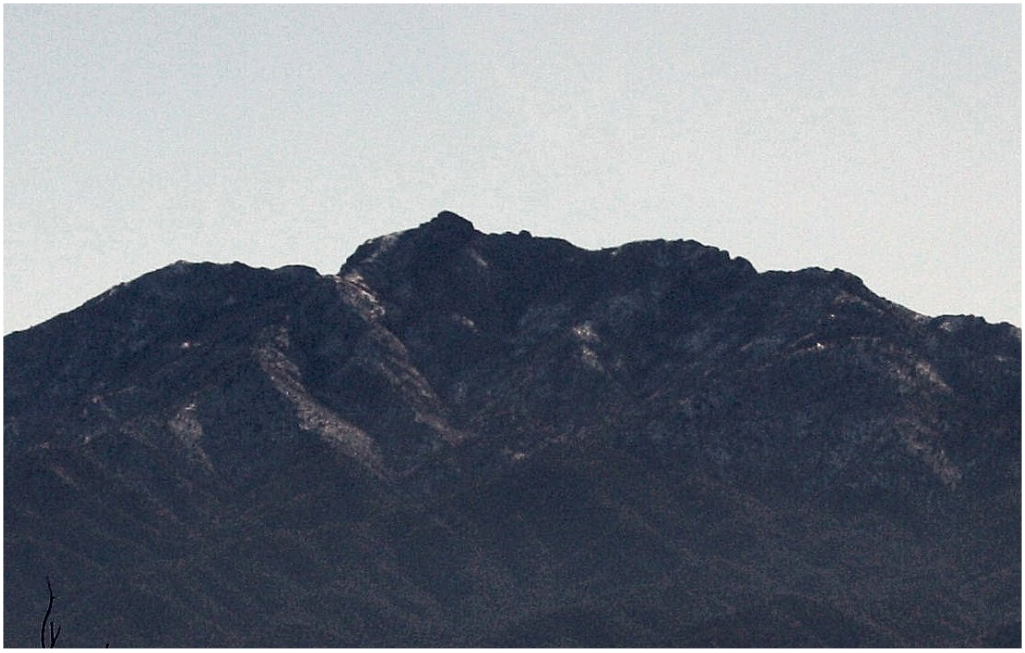
So, after some basic field research, we have two enigmas regarding the research objectives. First, it appears that Mount Triplet is not the only butte candidate for the "butte" symbol on the HORSE stone and in my opinion it is not even the best candidate. Second, The symbol for Mt. Turnbull does not accurately represent the mountain. My daughter and I talked about several reasons why the Author might have included the mountain symbol. The major possibilities that we arrived at are (1) that the particular drawing of the mountain symbol tells one something about how to locate

which “butte” of the possible butte candidates in the area, and (2) that the drawing somehow isolates some location on Mount Turnbull.

During our trip, we came up with two possible interpretations (of course, since there were two people we came up with 2 theories - if there had been three of us there would have been 3 theories) of the mountain symbol.

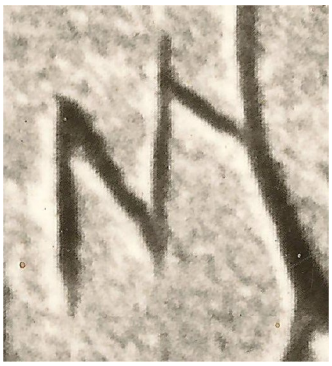
Theory 1 - the main peak theory (Richard Robinson):

The peak of Mount Turnbull where it has a single peak is:



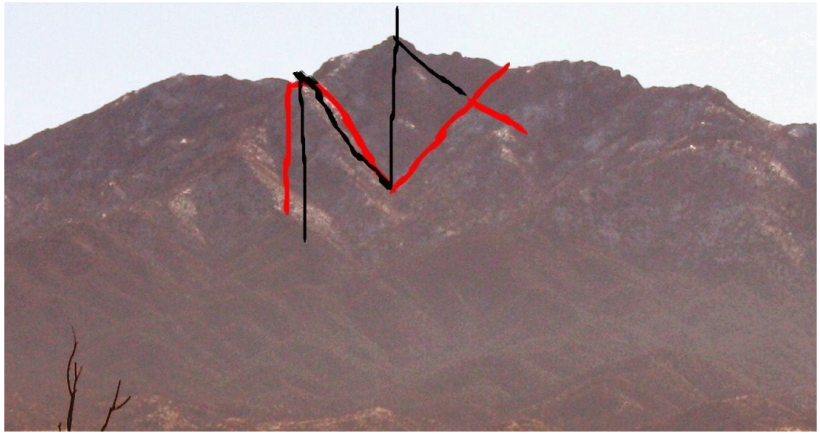
It is possible to follow the side crevices and make an “M” symbol.

“M” drawn on Mt. Turnbull peak



Mirror image
East now on left side

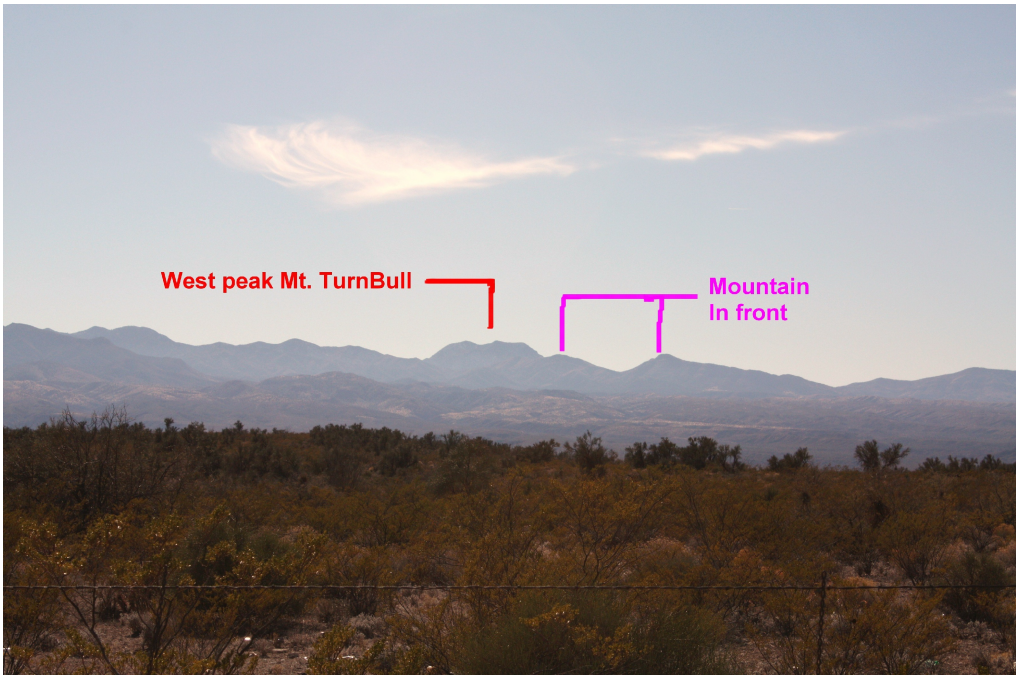
With this theory it is possible to locate a spot on the peak of Mount Turnbull or define a area in front of the mountain where this alignment holds. While the "M" that was drawn on the mountain might look "good", some liberty was taken in drawing it. The following picture has the "M" outline and the actual scaled to size symbol (black outline) overlain on the mountain:



"M" symbol overlay on mountain & drawn "M" symbol

Theory 2 - the side peak theory (Laura Robinson):

When standing at the location where the previous picture was taken, the west most end of Mount Turnbull is:



Nothing particularly exciting. However, if we travel further west about 6 miles to 110 deg 17.359 min West we get:

Now the west end and the mountain in front align. With the peak and the mountain in front highlighted we get:

With a proper two mountain alignment (the definition of which is not known) the east-west location could be defined to a relatively small area - as compared to Theory 1 - if the symbol is to be used to define which butte is meant by the butte symbol on the HORSE stone.

At this more western location the main peak of Mount Turnbull still looks about the same; thus providing every poor information about any east-west location as can be seen in the next two photo's (these were even taken about a mile further west than the above picture):

Mount Turnbull in background

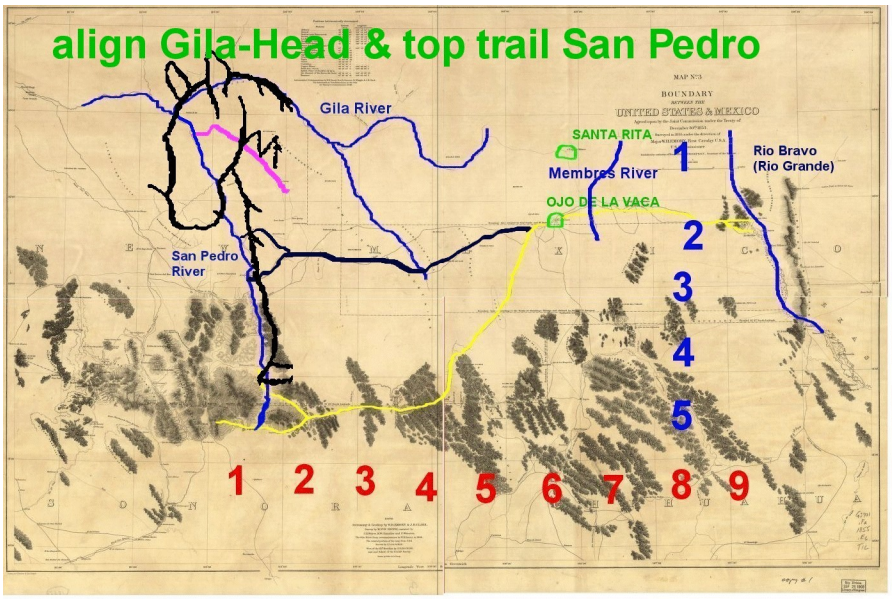
Closer look at Mount Turnbull

And still further west about four miles (110 deg 19.499 min West):

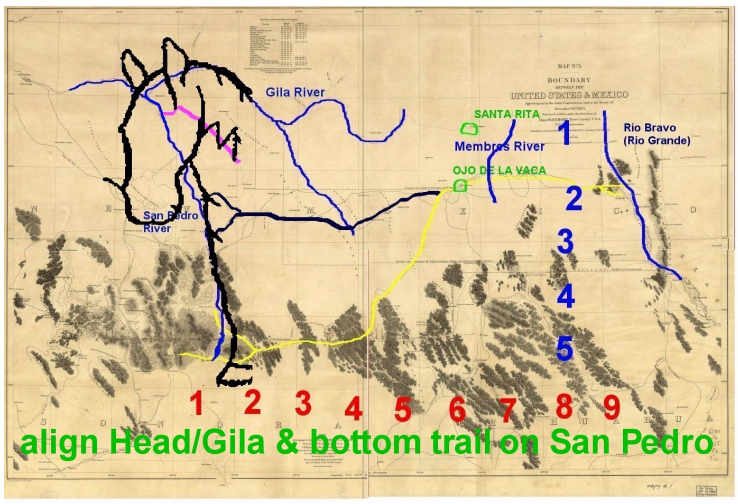
Discussion of the scaling of the HORSE Stone

The following images are overlays of the portions of the HORSE stone and the highlighted Emory map. The HORSE stone portion is resized to fit some part of the highlighted Emory map. For instance, in the first image the front of the horse is resized to match with the top trail leaving the San Pedro River and the top of the head is made to match with the Gila River. The Robinson/Reyes theory of the Superstition Tablets maintains that the top of the head on the HORSE stone actually leaves the Gila River so it is expected that the alignments with the Gila River will not match well.

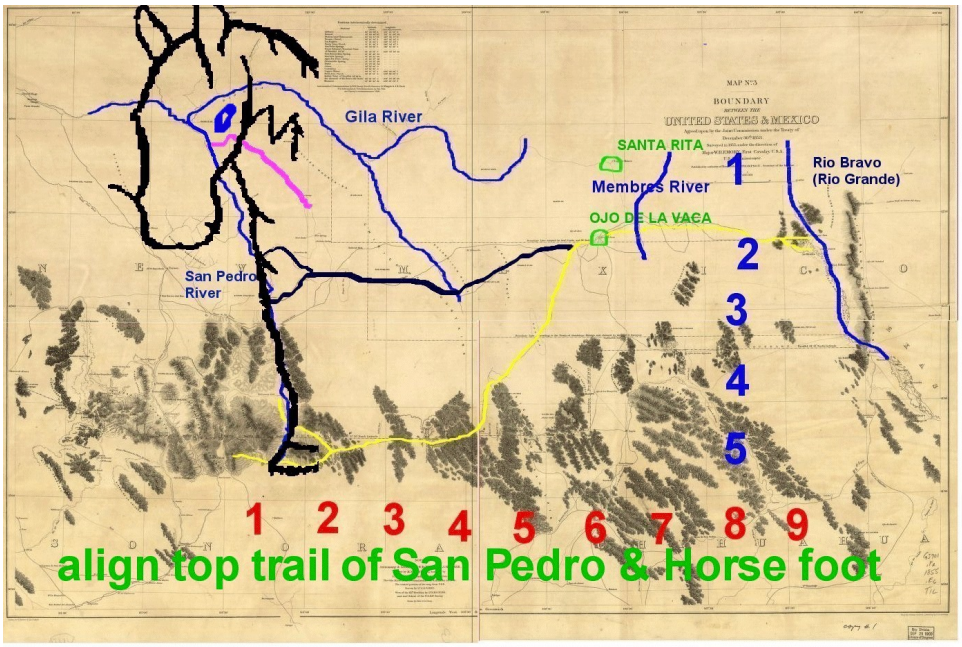
Alignment with top trail from the San Pedro and Gila River:



Alignment with bottom trail from the San Pedro and Gila River:

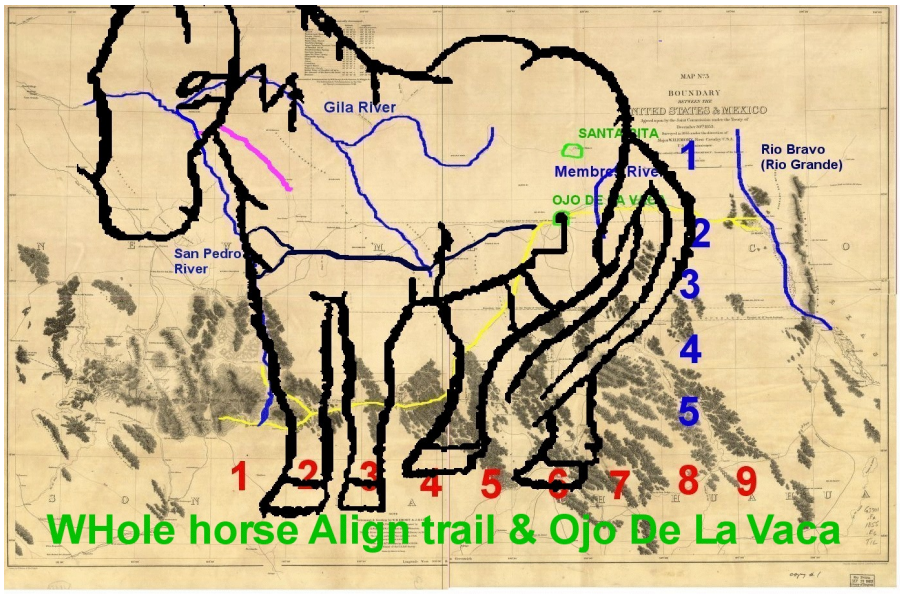


Alignment with top trail from the San Pedro and hoof with San Pedro:

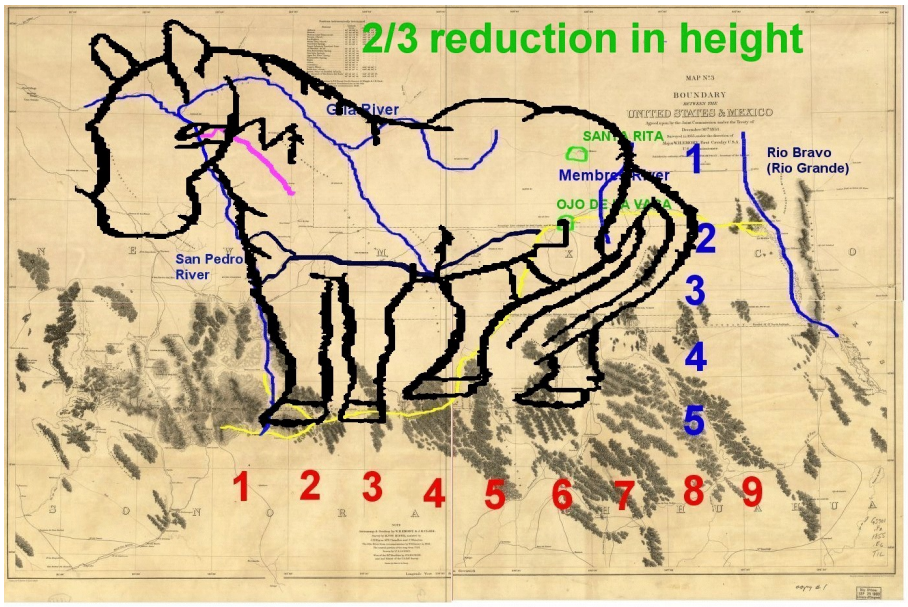


Note that with this alignment that the top of the head is above the Gila River (as suggested by the Robinson/Reyes theory) and that the eye almost aligns with the Gila River and the "M" lays between the Aravaipa Canyon and the Gila River where the Santa Teresa Mountains lay. The Robinson/Reyes theory of the Superstition Tablets suggest that the "M" is the Santa Teresa Mountains. Note how the bottom of the leg matches the San Pedro river and the hoof matches the trail.

The following is the whole horse outline overlaid with the top trail leaving the San Pedro and Ojo De La Vaca:



If the height of the horse is reduced by 2/3 which is the scale factor on the PRIEST stone we have:



Actually a much better fit.

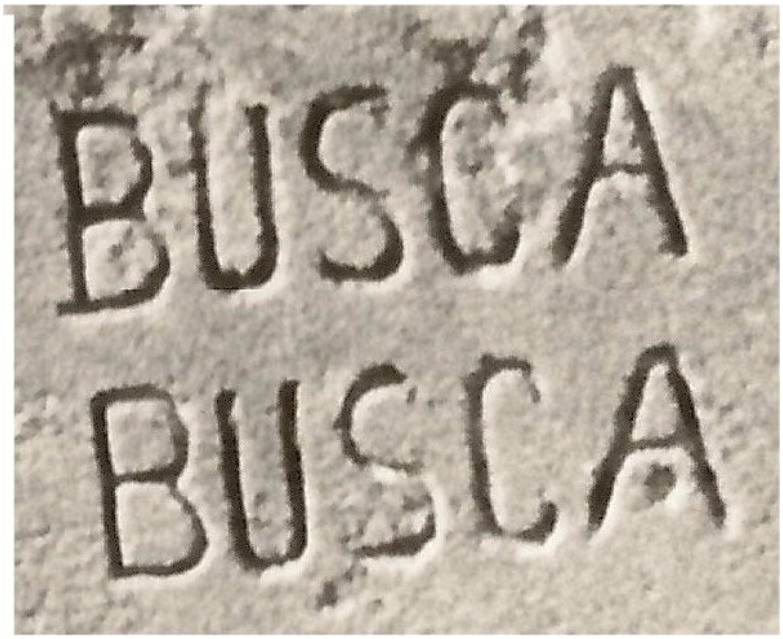
STUDY OF LETTERS ON TABLETS

first draft January 22, 2010

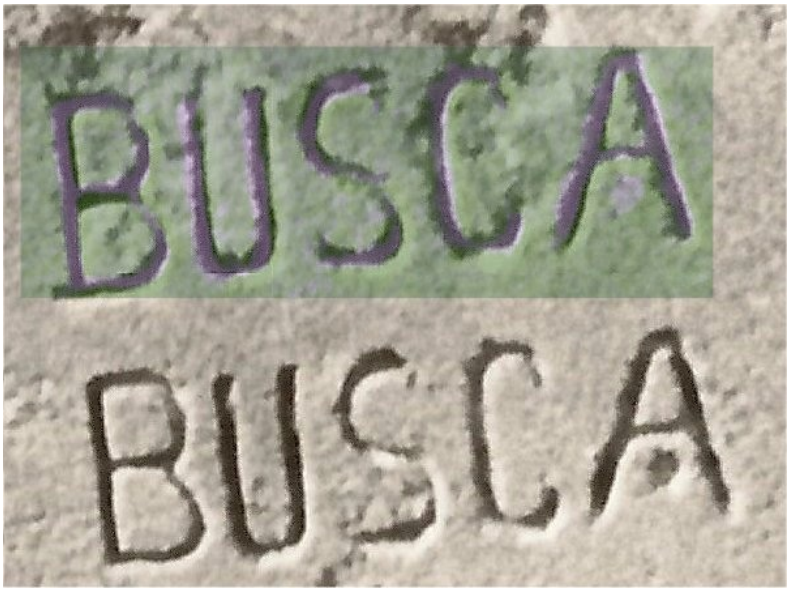
Reviewing the carved letters on the HORSE and PRIEST Stone reveals some peculiarities which could be some form of imbedded directional information. Discussing the PRIEST Stone first:

Note that there are 4 "B" characters on the stone (a) the B in **BEREDA**, (b) the B in **BOY** and (c) the 2 B's In the two words **BUSCA.**

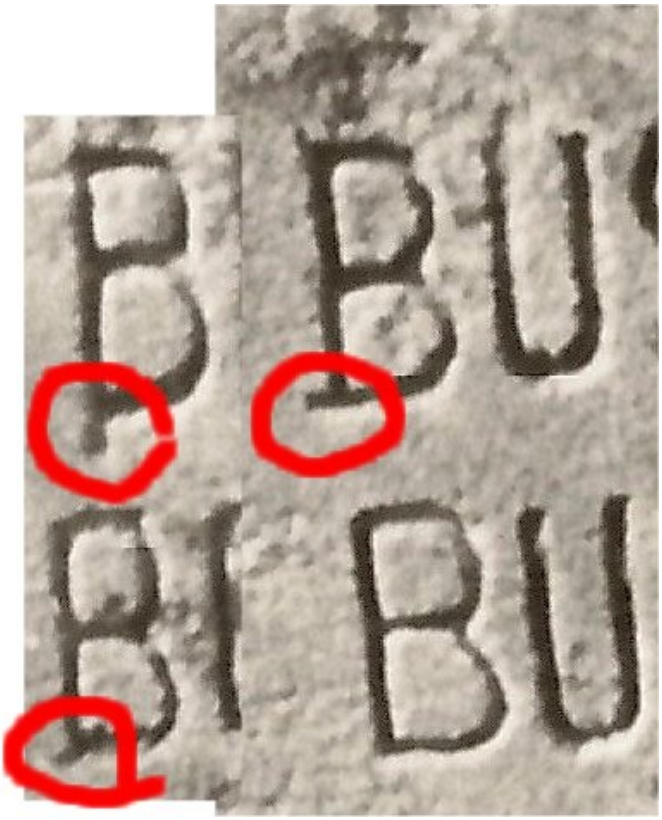
Taking a closer look at the 2 **BUSCA** it can be seen the carver carved the 2 **BUSCA** almost identical:



In fact if the bottom **BUSCA** is overlaid on the top one (green shading with a opacity of about 30% to let the bottom **BUSCA** show through), it is possible to see how close the letters match each other:



However, there are slight carving differences in the B's of the **BUSCA** and the other two B's as noted in the following figure:

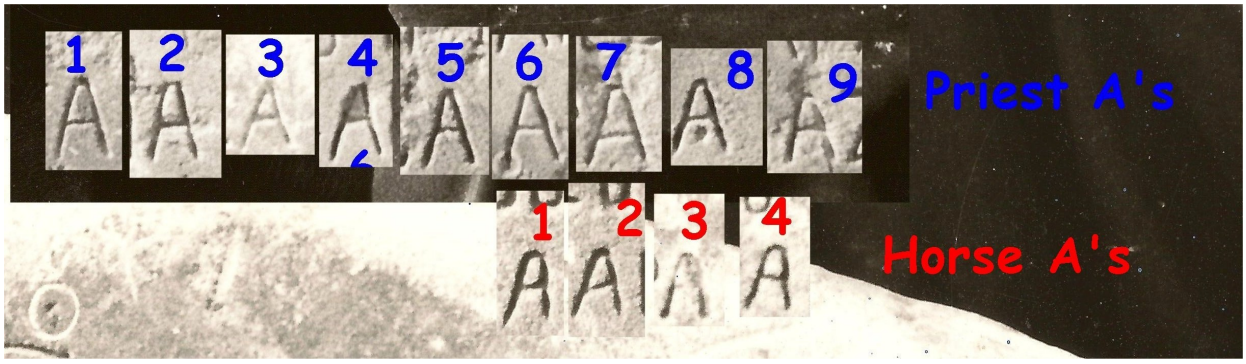


The first B (the B in **BEREDA**) continues the back line of the B below the bottom of the B, the second B (the B of the first **BUSCA**) continues the base line past the back line of the B and the third B (the B in **BOY**) has a diagonal line added to the intersection of the B back line and base line (while the diagonal line appears quite noticeable in the picture of the original stone, on my replicate of the stone it is not visible - perhaps the paint covered it up) . It would be hard to ascribe these differences to carving errors. While this author does not have any explanation at the present time for these inclusions, however, based upon the presently known accuracy of information embedded in the Tablets, to postulate that the author of the Tablets meant to convey information by them is not a far-fetched theory.

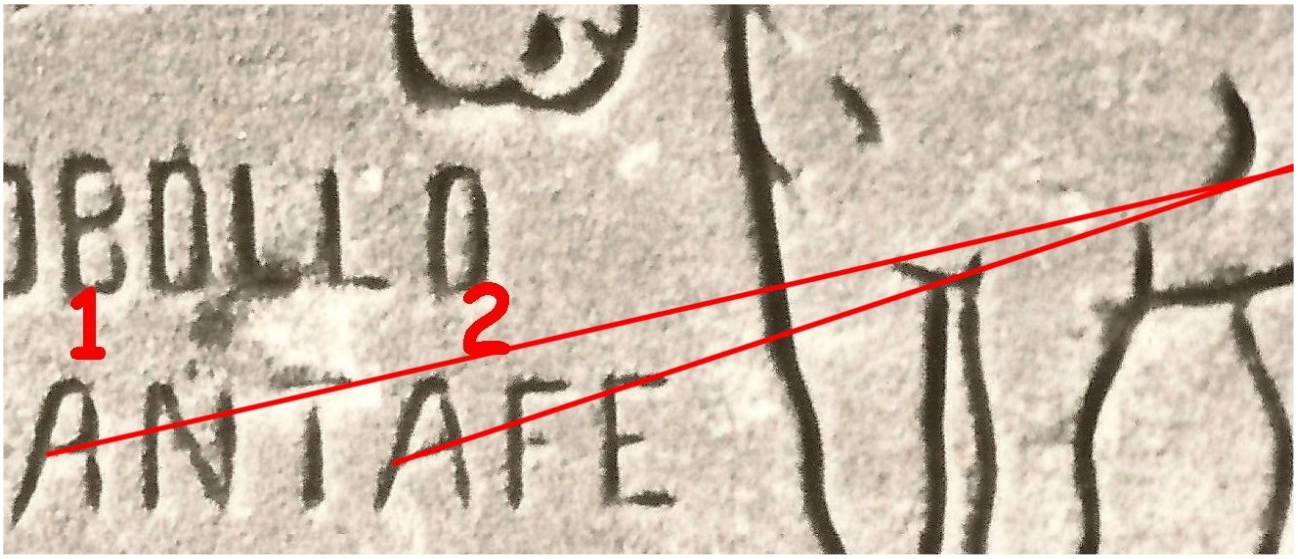
There is a similar problem with the As on the HORSE and PRIEST Stones although it is more subtle. There are nine As on the PRIEST stone:

and four As on the HORSE stone:

Looking at all the As one can see a basic similarity between them:



However, as I have said there is a variation which is very subtle, note that the two As (1 and 2 above) in SANTTAFE have more of a slant on the A crossbar than the other crossbars which are vertical. This slight difference could easily be ascribed to carving differences; however, if one draws and extends a line from each A one gets:



The point where they cross has just been isolated - according to the Robinson/Reyes theory of the Tablets - to be the Whitlock Mountains which is researched above.

Another possible “strange” A is the A in the second **BUSCA** shown below:

Visual inspection of the hole below the cross-bar, in the opinion of this author, does not appear to be a natural indentation in the rock but was placed there through either an accident or on purpose. But, alas, if it was on purpose what could it mean?