



Figure 4.5 Tribal Site No. 3.

Top: An overview of the depressed area, looking south/southwest. The darker green vegetation delineates the boundary of the feature, with the central part of the feature (pin flag) marked by the arrow.

Bottom: Close-up of the recently dried mud flat marking the center of the depression, looking west. The boundary of the depression to the west can be clearly differentiated by the vegetation color change from green to brown.

Tribal Interpretation: This feature was interpreted by the Santee Sioux field crew as possibly having religious significance, perhaps a former Sundance place.

Additional Information: There is no clear evidence that this site has a cultural connection. The larger area to the south and west was inspected for evidence of past cultural usage, e.g., a temporary camp that would have been associated with the Sundance activities. No such indications were observed. If there had been any American Indian activity at this place, it would have probably preceded June 1891, when this quarter section was patented through a cash-entry homestead patent by Burt E. Harris of Dawes County, NE.

More likely, this feature began as a small natural depression that has been enlarged by cattle using the feature as a wallow and natural watering tank. Over the years, the depression enlarged as cattle annually used the feature and carried away sediment as mud adhering to the animals' legs. It is possible that the feature may have been artificially enlarged during historic ranching use of the pasture, but this is not readily evident today.

4.1.4 Tribal Site No. 4

Tribal Site No. 4 (Site No. 10 in SSN 2013) is located just east of the Squaw Mound County Road on another hilltop marked by the presence of eroding Arikaree sandstone cobbles. The feature is located in the [REDACTED], Township 29N, Range 51W (Figure 4.6; Appendix D). It was identified by the Tribal field crews as a stone feature, possibly a lone tipi ring. At the location of the pin flag in Figure 4.6, there is a short alignment of five sandstone cobbles. This stone feature is located about 13 m west/northwest of the stone feature identified as Tribal Site No. 5 (described in Section 4.1.5).



Figure 4.6 Tribal Site No. 4, looking north.

The pin flag marks an alignment of sandstone cobbles. The lighter soil area extending from the pin flag to the lower right-hand corner of the photograph is a reclaimed and revegetated surface marking the location of a former mud pit associated with an earlier CBR exploratory drill site.

Tribal Interpretation: The Tribal field crews interpreted the alignment of stones comprising Tribal Site No. 4 as a possible remnant from a stone circle associated with a single tipi structure.

Additional Information: When using a GPS instrument to relocate this tribal site, a CBR geologist observed that this is the precise spot of a reclaimed and vegetated former mud pit that was adjacent to a former drill site. All former CBR drill site locations at the MEA are programmed into the GPS software for use in the field when siting new drill sites. The possible alignment of cobbles lies at the northwest border of this reclaimed area and thus is a byproduct of the previous exploration activity, during which some cobbles were pushed to the edge of the reclaimed area. As is the case elsewhere in the MEA, no cultural artifacts were encountered on this hilltop.

For comparison with the reclaimed mud pit at Tribal Site No. 4, Figure 4.7 shows another nearby drill site and mud pit, recently filled in (completed during the week preceding the field visit) but not yet fully reclaimed and revegetated.