

The Arizona State Museum Site Number System

The Arizona State Museum (ASM) site number system is a modification of the one originally developed by Gila Pueblo in the late 1920s. Both systems systematically and increasingly subdivide areas to ultimately designate site numbers.

The ASM system uses a five-part designation that includes a political designation (e.g., AZ), a quadrangle designation (e.g., U), a rectangle designation (e.g., 15), a site-in-rectangle designation (e.g., 2), and a suffix (i.e., ASM). These examples would form site number AZ U:15:2(ASM).

The Five Parts of an ASM Site Number

1. Political divisions are the first component of ASM site numbers. The name of the political division is abbreviated. Examples of abbreviations are AZ for Arizona, NM for New Mexico, NEV for Nevada, SON for Sonora, and CHIH for Chihuahua.
2. Quadrangles are the second component of ASM site numbers. Each political division is divided by meridians and parallels to form quadrangles, representing one degree of longitude and one degree of latitude. Quadrangles are designated alphabetically (e.g., A), beginning in the northwest corner and ending in the southeast corner of the political division. If there are more than 26 quadrangles in the political division, the additional ones are identified by double letters (e.g., AA, BB, CC). See Figure 1.
3. Rectangles are the third component of ASM site numbers. Quadrangles are subdivided into 16 rectangles that are based on USGS 15-minute-series maps, the area covered by four maps in the USGS 7.5-minute series. Rectangles are numbered 1 to 16, beginning in the northwest corner and ending in the southeast corner of each quadrangle. See quadrangle S in Figure 1.
4. Numbers within rectangles are the fourth component of ASM site numbers. Sites in a rectangle are numbered sequentially as they are recorded. These numbers do not represent specific geographical locations.
5. The suffix “(ASM)” is the fifth component of ASM site numbers. The suffix is essential for identifying site numbers that were assigned by ASM so that ASM can effectively administer its responsibilities, and to distinguish site numbers other than those from ASM. Other institutions (e.g., Arizona State University, Museum of Northern Arizona) have similar site number formats, but different systems. While AZ U:15:2(ASM) and AZ U:15:2(ASU) are both in the AZ U:15 rectangle, they are not the same site.

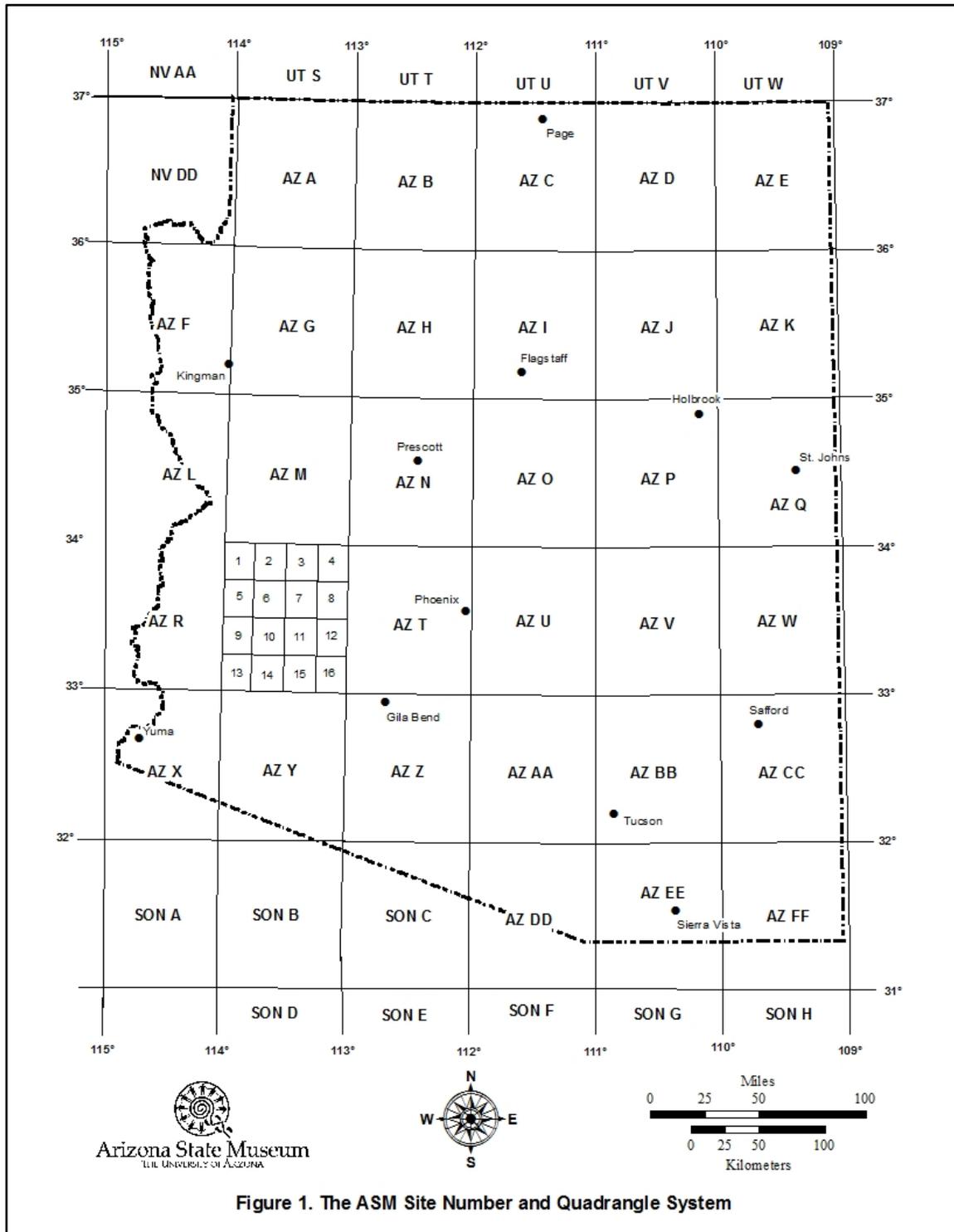


Figure 1. The ASM Site Number and Quadrangle System