

Aztec Ruins

National Monument
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Changes Ahead

Echoes from the past invite visitors to explore and speculate about Aztec Ruins National Monument. These unique remains that are so fragile, yet have withstood the ravages of time, are experiencing changes that will help their preservation and broaden our understanding of them.

EXPANDED BOUNDARIES

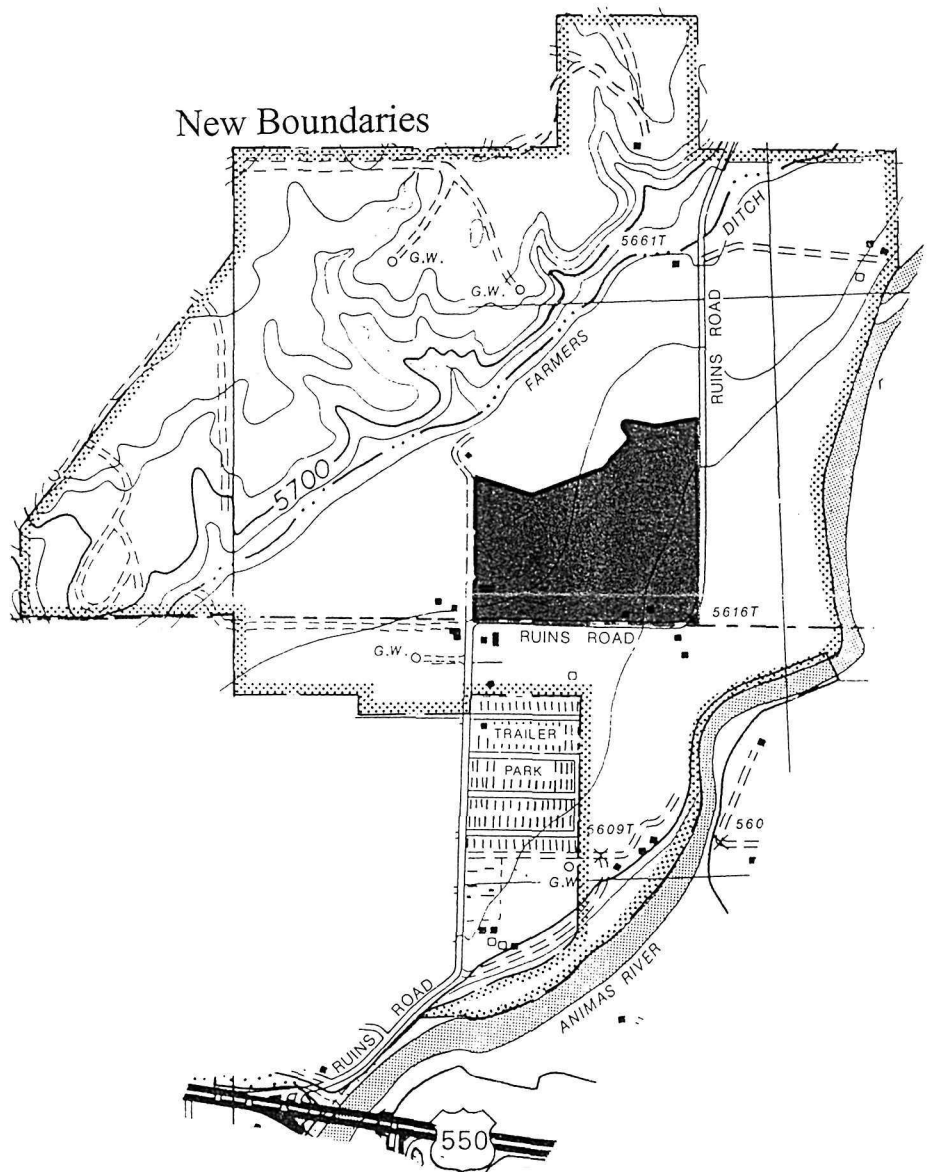
Growing concerns for the protection of Aztec Ruins, along with increased visitor use and a need for more efficient operations prompted Congress to pass legislation in 1988 that expanded the monument's boundaries from 27.14 acres to almost 320 acres.

The expanded boundaries encompass private lands surrounding the original monument. Parcels include the three trading posts near the visitor center, and others abundant with prehistoric buildings, earthworks, kivas, and road segments that enlarge the story at Aztec Ruins. Congress appropriated \$500,000 in 1992 to begin purchasing these parcels.

A LONG RANGE PLAN

With the additional acreage, the National Park Service and the public developed a long range management plan. The plan guides the land acquisition process, and proposes solutions for management problems facing the monument.

Some of those problems include:



- The visitor center is too small to adequately serve visitors and provide office space for the growing monument staff.
- Nearby archeological sites essential to research and increased understanding are exposed to vandalism.
- Incompatible use, such as residential and oil and gas development will increase.
- More parking is needed for increased visitation.
- Irrigation of land north of the ruins saturates the soil and contributes to deterioration of prehistoric walls.
- Maintenance work, roads, and buildings in the monument detract from the visitor experience, affect archeological sites, and hinder operations.



