Lea County Reception Numbers Repeat: Cite Book, Page and Volume

LMJ Chalk Talk · Site Walkthrough 103 · Lea County Clerk, New Mexico

Today it's the Lea County Clerk again, and a question that sounds too simple: when a deed points to another instrument, how do you find that one instrument, and only that one?

Every screen here is a real frame from the video, on the Lea County Clerk's public site.

Questions about your title?

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Title. Ownership. Due Diligence.

Step by step

A deed recites a prior instrument by reception number, or by book and page. So let's see what each of those really finds. Login as Guest, then Search Public Records.

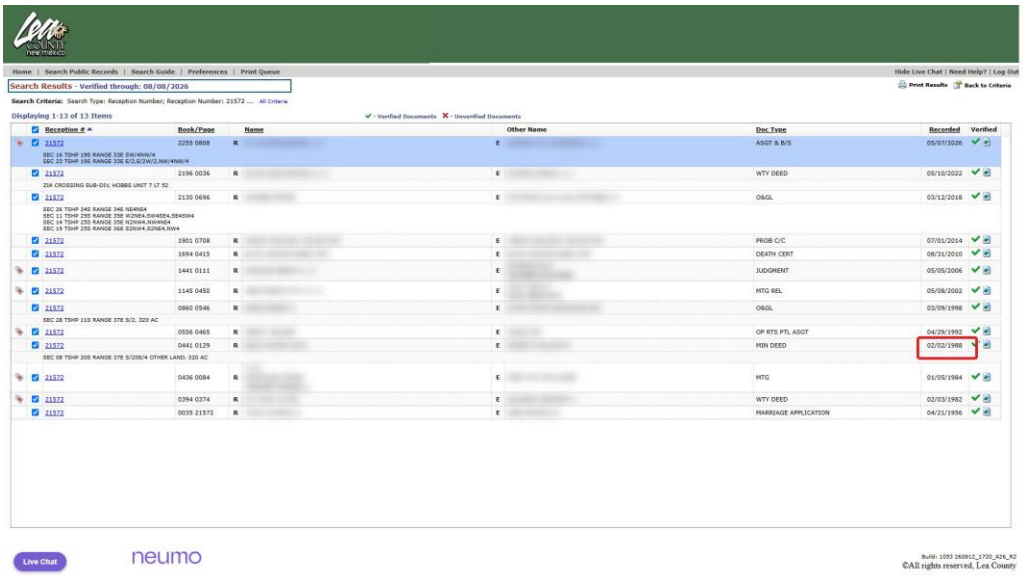


Site Walkthrough 103, at 0:21. Lea County Clerk public site. Names blurred.

Reception Number search. I'll type twenty-one five seventy-two. That's the assignment on our Section sixteen tract from Walkthrough one oh two. Search.

General helpful information only. I'm not an attorney or a teacher, and this is not legal, tax or financial advice. The attorney makes the final call.

Thirteen items. The same reception number, on thirteen different instruments. May 2026, 2022, 2018, 1988, all the way back to 1956.



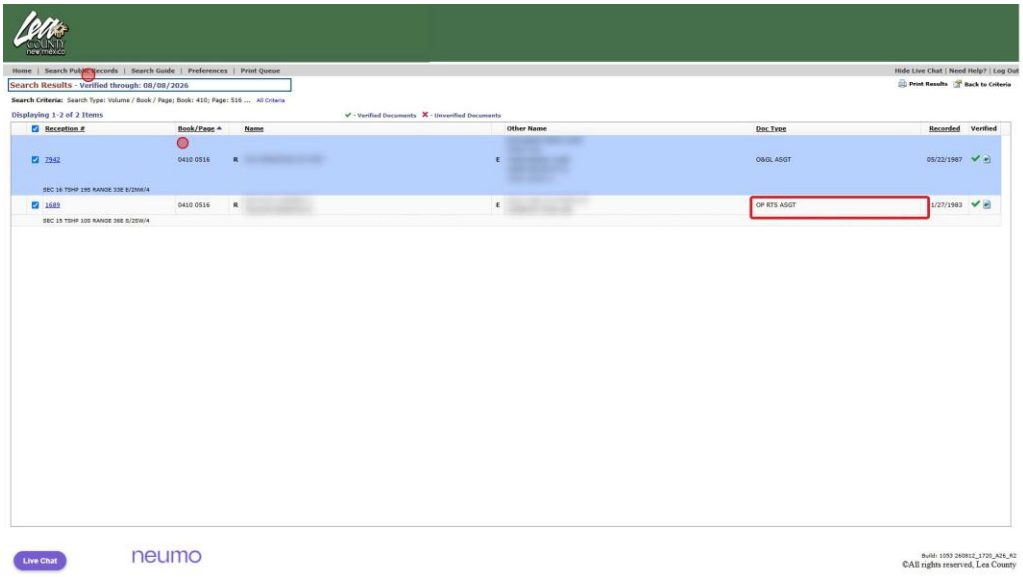
Site Walkthrough 103, at 0:47. Lea County Clerk public site. Names blurred.

Look at the book and page column: thirteen different books. And the document types: an assignment and bill of sale, a warranty deed, oil and gas leases, a mineral deed, even a marriage application. The reception numbers get reused, so the number alone doesn't identify anything.

Book and page is the better cite. Volume, Book, Page search. Book twenty-two fifty-five, page zero eight zero eight. Search. One item. That's the one.

But open the Volume drop-down. Deed, Misc, Mortgage, O and G, OPR, and more. The index carries more than one set of books, and the same book number can show up in more than one of them.

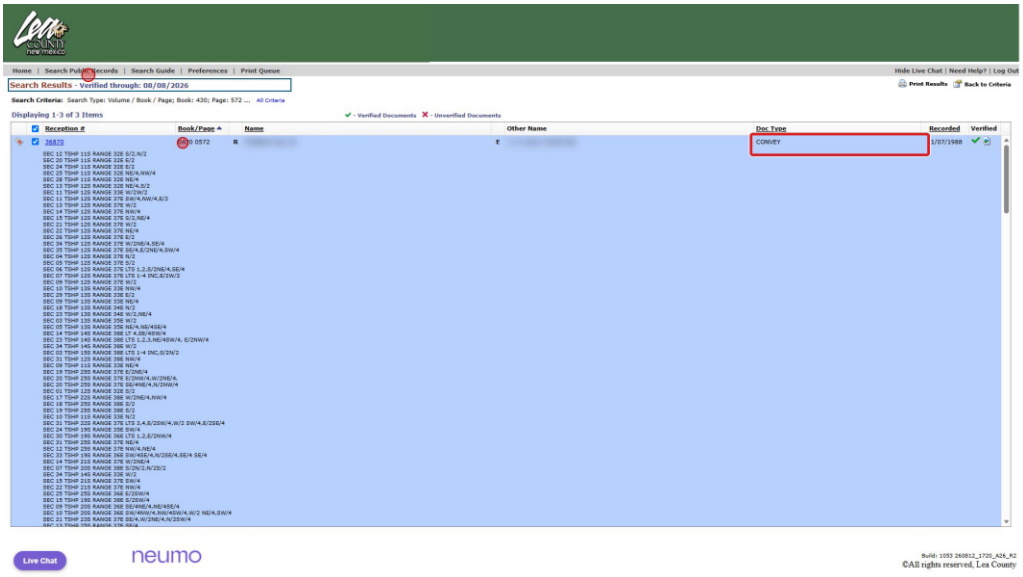
Watch. Book four ten, page five sixteen, with no volume. Two items. An oil and gas lease assignment from 1987, on Section sixteen, nineteen South, thirty-three East. And an operating rights assignment from 1983, on a different tract entirely.



Site Walkthrough 103, at 1:55. Lea County Clerk public site. Names blurred.

Now pick the volume, O and G, same book and page. One item. Reception seventy-nine forty-two.

Book four thirty, page five seventy-two, no volume. Three items: a conveyance, a quitclaim deed and a probate. Three instruments, one book and page.



Site Walkthrough 103, at 2:16. Lea County Clerk public site. Names blurred.

And the older reception numbers carry the year in front. One nine six nine, three one three nine eight. The first four digits are the year it was recorded, 1969, and it sits at book two sixty-four, page seven fifty-three.

So cite all of it. The reception number, the volume, the book and page, and the recording date. If one of them is off, the others still find it.

The routine

1. When a deed recites a book and page, run Volume, Book, Page with no volume first, and count the hits.
2. More than one? Match the date and the parties, then pick the volume.
3. When it recites a reception number, expect more than one hit, and use the year to pick.

The trap

A runsheet that cites only a reception number, or only a book and page. In Lea County, either one alone can point at the wrong instrument.

Links

- **Lea County Clerk records search:** https://countyfusion15.govos.com/countyweb/loginDisplay.action?countyname=LeaNM
- **Watch the video:** LMJ Chalk Talk on YouTube, Site Walkthroughs playlist
- **LMJ directory, New Mexico counties:** https://lmjlandservices.com/directory/new-mexico/
- **LMJ Land Services:** https://lmjlandservices.com

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