

PH 0506699

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 28 1977  
DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC \*\*  
Pima County Courthouse  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
115 North Church  
CITY, TOWN Tucson VICINITY OF 2  
STATE Arizona CODE 04 COUNTY Pima CODE 019  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
STREET & NUMBER  
131 West Congress  
CITY, TOWN Tucson VICINITY OF Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Pima County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
115 North Church  
CITY, TOWN Tucson STATE Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spanish Colonial Revival courthouse has many characteristics of the style: low-pitched red tiled roof, arches, plastered walls, elaborate ornamentation around doorways, doors flanked by pilasters, balconies, and arcaded post-and-lintel type portales.

The building is U-shaped with the two wings connected by an arcade with bracketed beams to form a quadrangle. The entry, both from the street and from the courtyard, is churrigueresque. Balconies have carved ornamentation. First and second story arcades look onto the courtyard.

The most prominent feature of the building is its elegant blue-tiled dome which tops a large central tower. The base of the tower is octagonal with a carved parapet decorated with finials and there are finials at the base of the dome. The parapet cornice is denticulated. On top of the dome is a copper lantern with finial.

Pima County is presently in Phase II of a three-phase renovation of the Court House. The philosophy behind the renovation has been to alter the interior for increased functional capabilities while keeping the exterior appearance intact except for minor restorations.

The north and south wings of the building are two stories high. The center is three stories high. It supports a dome that is 32 feet in diameter and towers 100 feet over downtown Tucson. The dome is covered with blue, yellow and green tile. There is also a 55-by-128-foot basement.

Constructed by general contractor Herbert Brown for a cost of \$300,000, the external walls and floor are built of reinforced concrete and plaster on the outside. The exterior ornamental work is done in cast stone. The windows are steel-framed.

Essentially, the Court House has undergone three remodelings since it was built. In 1956, a south wing was added on to accommodate the expanding courts function at a cost of \$460,000. The south wing addition, designed by Blanton and Cole, was constructed by the M.M. Sundt Construction Company.

In 1965, the north wing of the Court House was remodelled for removal of the jail to make more room for courtrooms. In November 1975, Pima County completed Phase I of a three phase remodelling program. This was done at a price of \$875,665. Architects for this renovation are the Anderson Associates. The general contractor is Metz Construction.

Currently, the Court House provides office space for three departments of Pima County: assessor, treasurer, and recorder. The justice courtrooms are here as well as the County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury will soon be relocated in the Pima Governmental Center.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Roy Place

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Most of the county courthouses in Arizona resemble those throughout the country and are based on European architectural design. The design for the Pima Courthouse, however, developed from the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego and is the most outstanding Spanish Colonial Revival building in Arizona.

Roy Place (1889-1950), prominent local architect, designed a great number and variety of buildings in Tucson including hotels, theaters, office buildings, stores, houses, clinics, schools, a convent, and 25 buildings for the University of Arizona. He also designed the Cochise County Courthouse and a number of public buildings in other Arizona cities. His Spanish Colonial Revival design for the Pima County Courthouse is far more appropriate to its setting than the boxy modern office buildings which now surround it.

Bonds for the new courthouse were put up for sale in December of 1928. The general contractor was Herbert F. Brown of Tucson who bid \$180,876 for the job. J. Knox Corbett's bid of \$18,249 for the plumbing and heating was accepted, and the electrical contract went to the Grabe Electric Company, which bid \$4,234. The County Board of Supervisors was overjoyed that the bids were lower than expected and used the surplus to pay for the copper lantern and the tile for the dome.

The old courthouse on the same site was left intact until enough of the new offices were completed for the county employees to move into. The old building was then demolished and the new one was completed in December of 1929.

During construction, portions of the city wall of 1776 were unearthed beneath the south-east corner of the foundation. The wall had been constructed under the direction of Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza when the presidio garrison was transferred from Tubac to Tucson. Part of the old city wall was saved and is displayed on the second floor directly above where it was excavated.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arizona Historical Society. Clipping file.  
 Hinton, Harwood. Interview. June 21, 1977.  
 Kelly, James. Interview. June 7, 1977.  
 Lew Place. Correspondence. 1977  
 Pima County. Records  
 Tucson Citizen. 1928, 1929.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.04

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	5 0,2 6,2,0	3,5 6,5 0,6,0	B	1,2	5 0,2 6,3,0	3,5 6,4 9,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,2	5 0,2 5,7,0	3,5 6,4 9,0,0	D	1,2	5 0,2 5,4,0	3,5 6,5 0,3,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Pueblo Center Redevelopment Project Arizona R-8 Block 503 Lot 6. Bounded on the North by Alameda, on the South by Pennington, on the East by Church Avenue. West boundary is the lot containing the City Council Chambers.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marjorie Wilson, Historian  
 Andrew C. Williamson, Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION Arizona State Parks DATE September 21, 1977  
 Pima County Board of Supervisors June 24, 1977  
 STREET & NUMBER 688 West Adams Street TELEPHONE 271-4174  
 Pima County Courthouse 782-8126  
 CITY OR TOWN Phoenix STATE  
 Tucson Arizona

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

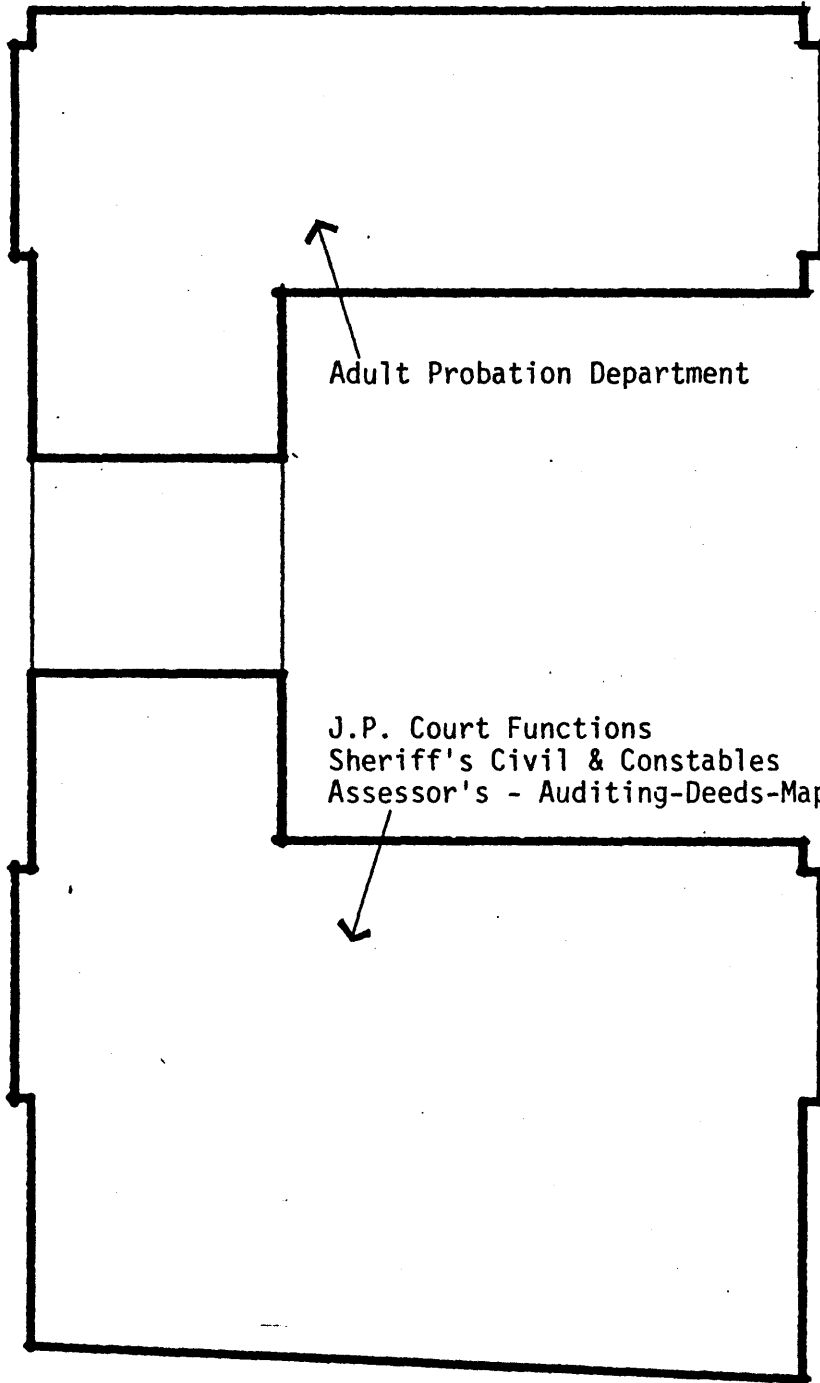
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL XX STATE \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

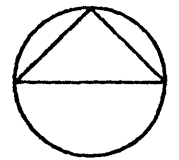
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Dorothy H. Hall*  
 TITLE SHPO DATE 9-21-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 6-23-78
ATTEST: <i>Walter Cole</i>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 6-6-78



Adult Probation Department

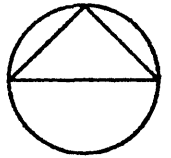
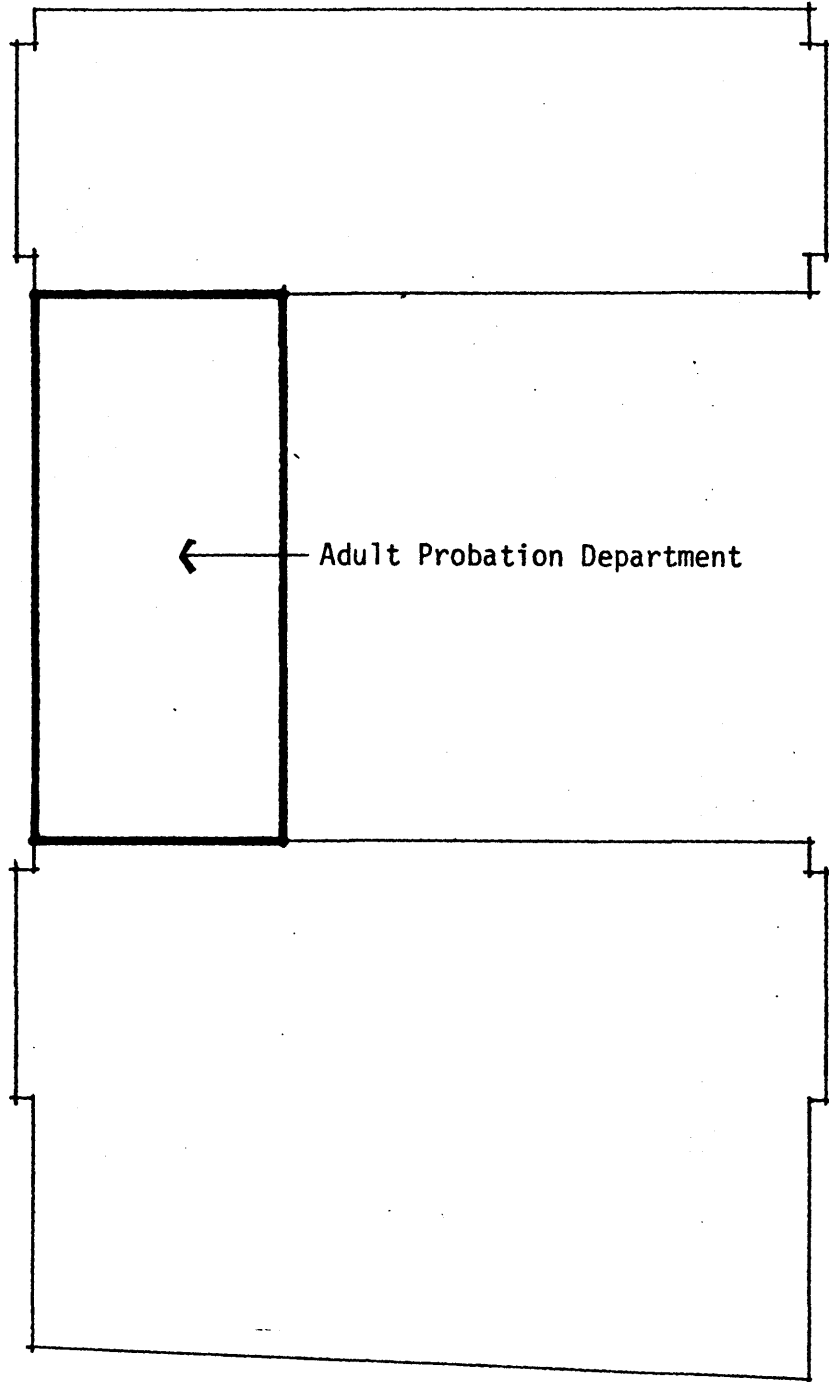
J.P. Court Functions  
Sheriff's Civil & Constables  
Assessor's - Auditing-Deeds-Mapping



Phase I *completed*  
~~STEP~~ 2 - CONSTRUCTION

Location - 2nd Level - Pima County Courthouse





*Phase I* *Completed*  
~~STEP 2~~ CONSTRUCTION (CONTINUED)

Location - 3rd Level - Pima County Courthouse

Note: This is a continuation of previous sheet

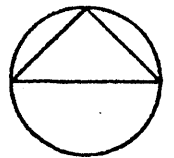


Former Superior Court

Construction to begin on connection to El Presidio Plaza

Former Auditing-Deeds-Mapping

Former Superior Court

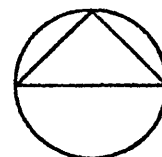
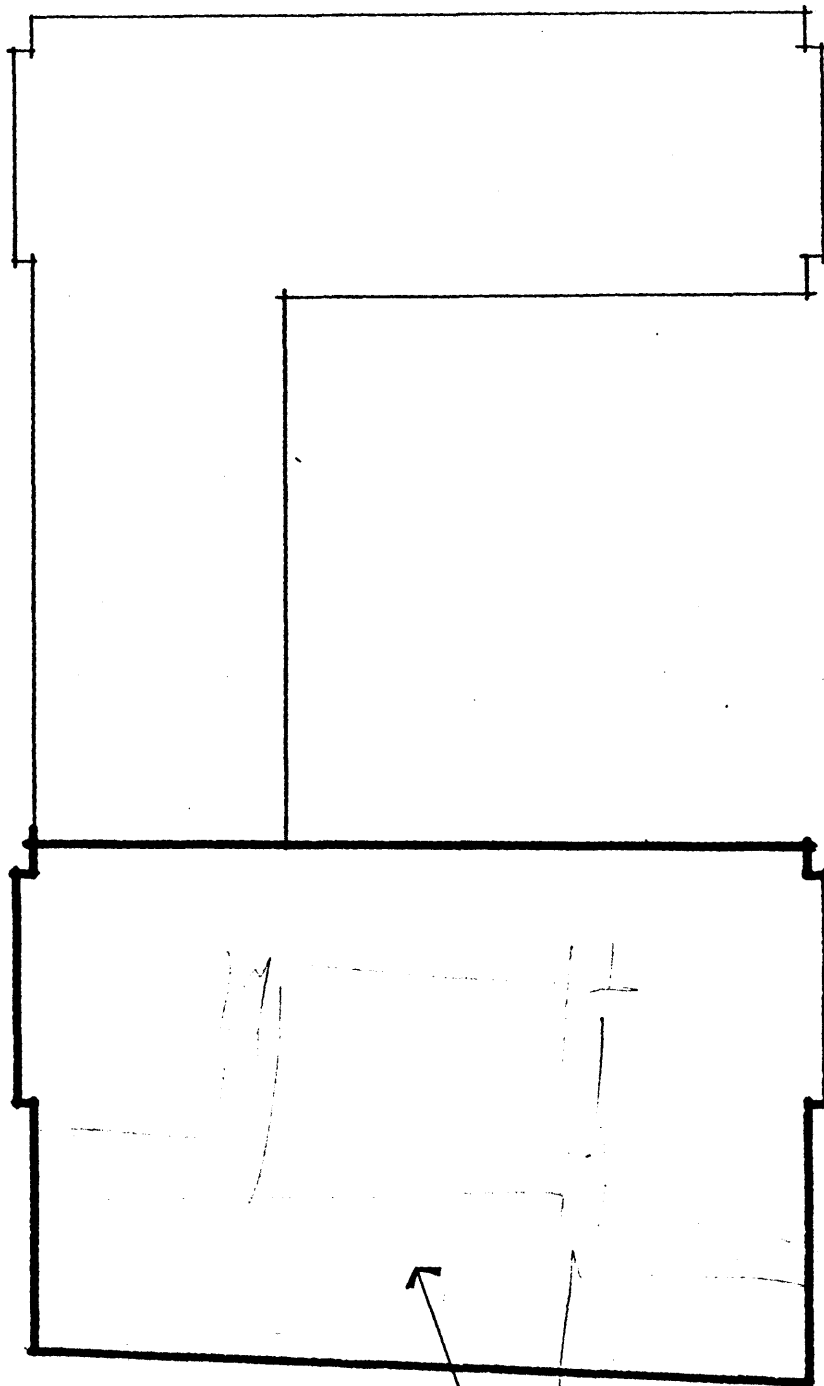


Phase II

~~STEP 3~~ CONSTRUCTION

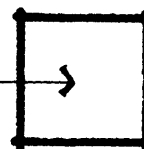
*In progress*

Location - Ground Level Pima County Courthouse



Renovation Basement Level

Connection to  
central plant  
utility system

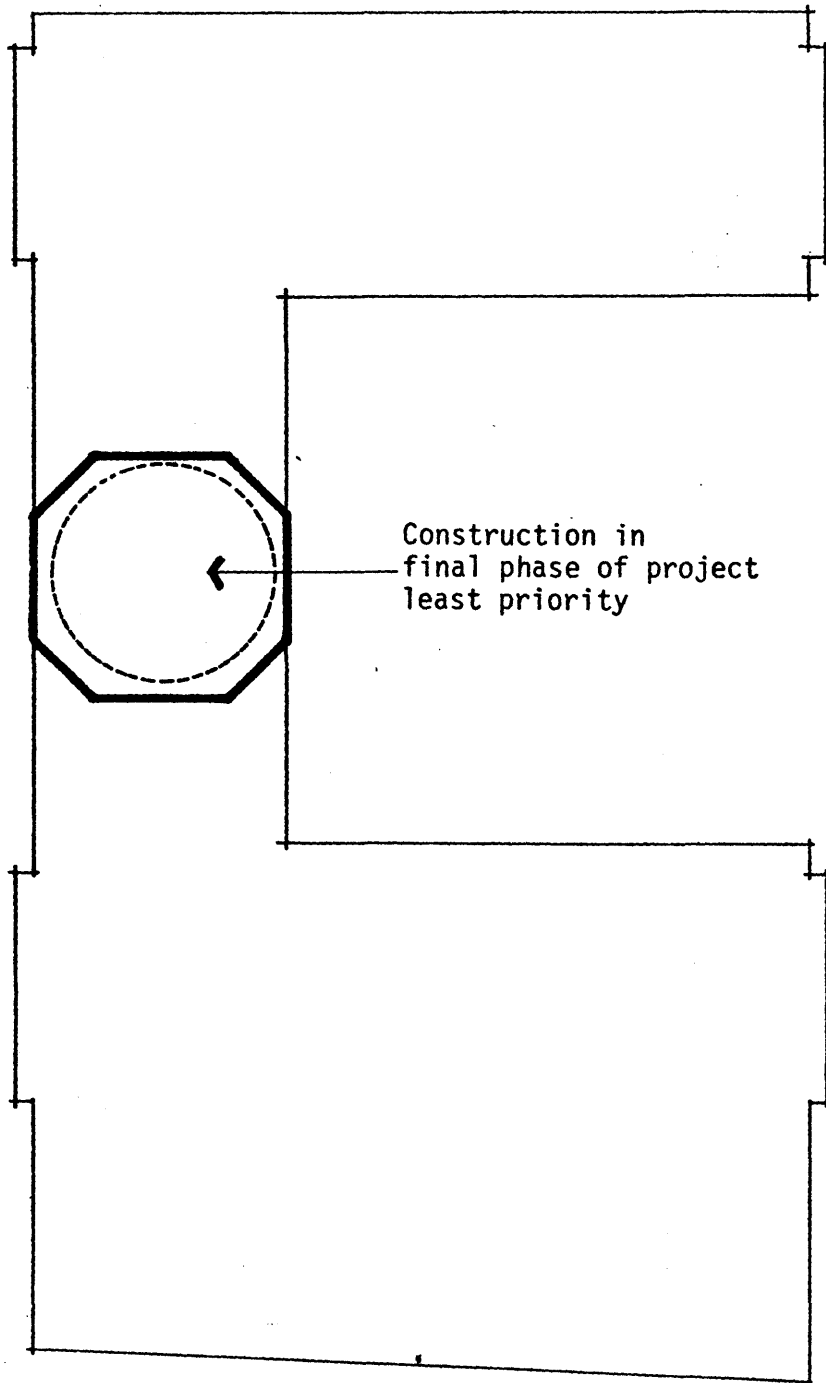


Phase *IA*  
~~STEP 1~~ CONSTRUCTION

Location - Basement Level Pima County Courthouse  
Pima County Parking Garage







SUCCEEDING CONSTRUCTION

Location - 4th Level Pima County Courthouse  
Dome Pima County Courthouse

