

PH0661091

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 25 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 1 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC ^{**} Victoria Mine, (La Americana Mine)

AND/OR COMMON
Victoria Mine

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Not applicable
(Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Not applicable VICINITY OF Lukeville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2

STATE Arizona CODE 04 COUNTY Pima CODE 019

2 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
CITY, TOWN San Francisco VICINITY OF California STATE California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
115 North Church Street
CITY, TOWN Tucson STATE Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE "Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument"

DATE April, 1967 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
CITY, TOWN Arizona STATE Arizona

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Victoria Mine is located approximately four miles north of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. Surviving structures at the site include a dilapidated stone building, a rock lean-to shelter, a concrete cistern, a stone stairway, some headframe timbers, and a large shaft hole covered by the National Park Service. The stone building was evidently the store built around 1900 by Mikul G. Levy. Its sheet iron roof is now gone. The building measures roughly 21 feet by 16 feet. Its walls are 30 inches thick and are made of granite with mud and gravel chinking. Originally the structure stood about 6 feet high, but 2 more feet were added at the front to allow for the placement of a flat, sloping roof. Records indicate that, in addition to the above structures, the site was once occupied by a boarding house and kitchen, a bunkhouse, a blacksmith shop, two adobe buildings, and a corral.

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 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 checked="" 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"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1880, 1899, 1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Victoria Mine is one of the oldest known examples of mining activity in the country immediately adjacent to the United States-Mexican border in southwestern Arizona and symbolizes one of the first American enterprises to penetrate this part of the inhospitable Sonoran Desert. It is of regional historical significance.

The earliest history of Victoria Mine is obscure. One account holds that the surface vein was discovered by an American sometime around 1880, while another is that Spaniards mined the site centuries ago. Cipriano Ortega, a border outlaw turned entrepreneur, acquired the site around 1880 and called it "La Americana," probably because of its position north of the boundary. Ortega reportedly extracted large quantities of silver ore before abandoning the site. In 1899 Mikul G. Levy obtained the mine and renamed it the Victoria after the wife of one of his helpers. Levy operated the mine intermittently over the next four decades.

In the course of his enterprise at Victoria, Levy reopened the shaft and prepared to extend it, but shortly before 1910 he encountered water and was forced to close down temporarily. To meet operating costs, he sold shares in the Victoria and filed other claims in the vicinity of the mine. In 1924 Levy's holdings were incorporated in the Victoria Mining and Smelting Company, and in the 1930s the claims at Victoria were leased to independent developers. One group left the scene in 1936, finding it difficult to penetrate beyond the water level in the original shaft. Three years later Levy hired a caretaker to watch the mine, which was not worked again until after his death in 1941. Since then, numerous persons have worked the Victoria without much success. Probably Cipriano Ortega benefited most from the mine. Mikul Levy extracted only about \$30,000 in ore during his entire tenure of ownership and interest there, while subsequent claimants have realized but approximately \$10,000 total.

Today Victoria Mine is part of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The historic values requiring preservation are the ruined stone building, once operated as a store by Levy, and the historic scene. The remains of other appurtenances are located at the site, although these appear to be the vestiges of more recent activity at the mine. Today there are private mining claims held on the Victoria site.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Appleman, Roy E., and Jones, Russell. Victoria Mine. Historic Structure Report.
Washington: National Park Service, 1969.

Greene, Jerome A. Historic Resource Study. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.
Denver: National Park Service, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 2 | 3 2 6 4 0 0 | 3 5 3 3 9 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at a 6" x 6" claim marker located approximately 180 feet east of the stone building, the approximate property line proceeds northerly for roughly 310 feet to a rock monument. It then travels westerly approximately 450 feet, then southerly for about 320 feet to a claim marker near a prospect hole. The line continues southerly for 300 more feet, then moves easterly for about 400 feet. It then turns north for 210 feet to reach the first-mentioned claim marker for Victoria # 4. Measurements were taken with a ten-foot wheel. Corners are marked with 2" x 2" stakes.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jerome A. Greene, Historian

April 15, 1977

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Historic Preservation Division

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

755 Parfet Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-4582

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

12-16-77
Dorothy H. Hall
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JAN 23 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-1-78

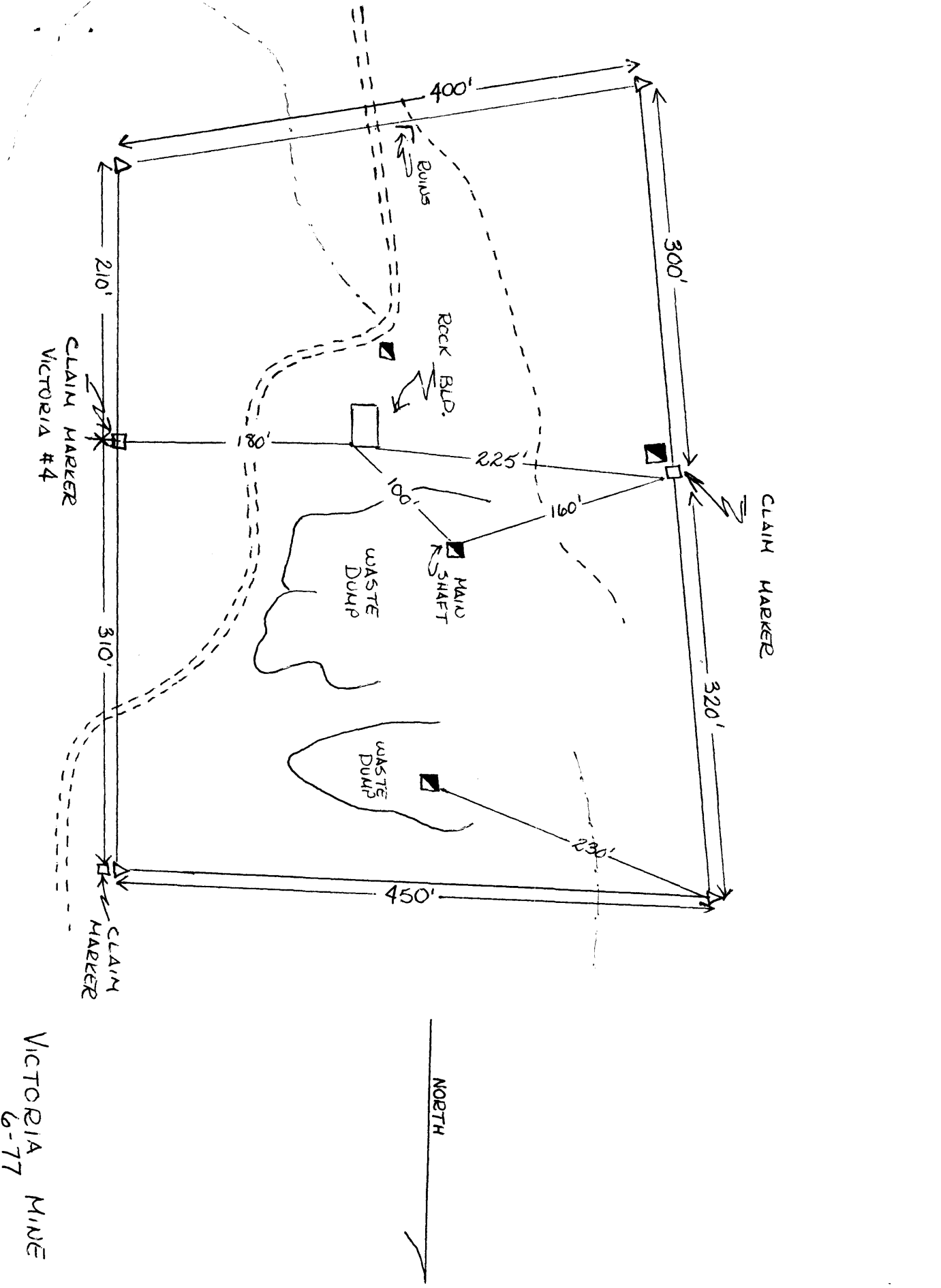
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

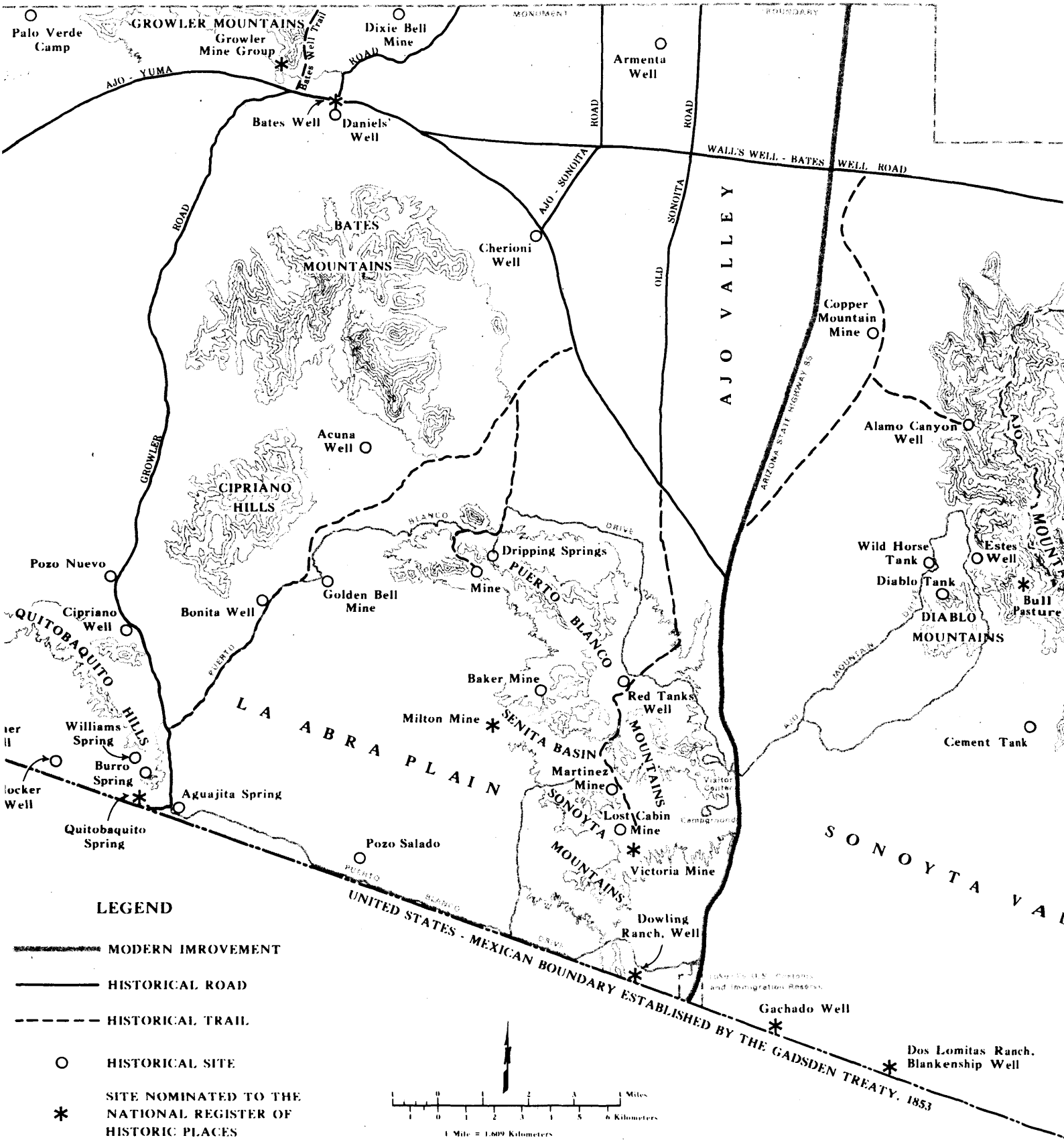
ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE 8-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



VICTORIA MINE
6-77



HISTORICAL BASE MAP, ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUM
ARIZONA
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE