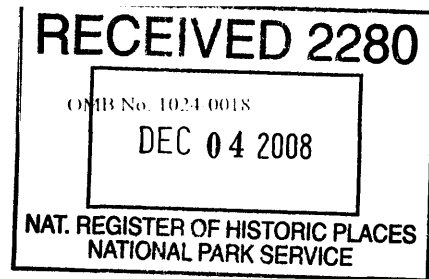


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1312

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fry Pioneer Cemetery

other names/site number Fry Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Between Sixth and Seventh Streets, 1/2 block north of Fry Blvd. not for publication

city or town Sierra Vista vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Cochise code 003 zip code 85635

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gorman, AZ SHPO
Signature of certifying official

31 DECEMBER 2008
Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edson R. Beall

1.15.09

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many as apply)	Category of Property (check as many as apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____
1	_____
_____	_____
1	_____
_____	_____
	building(s)
	site
	structure
	object
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	_____
	N/A
walls	_____
	N/A
Roof	_____
	N/A
other	_____
	Brick Wall
	Stone (Granite/Marble) Monuments
	Metal (Steel) Fence

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement _____

Community Planning and Development _____

Period of Significance

1919-1958 _____

Significant Dates

1919- First Recorded Burial in Cemetery _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder****Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>12</u>	<u>0567270</u>	<u>3491252</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	<small>Zone</small>	<small>Easting</small>	<small>Northing</small>		<small>Zone</small>	<small>Easting</small>	<small>Northing</small>
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	<small>Zone</small>	<small>Easting</small>	<small>Northing</small>		<small>Zone</small>	<small>Easting</small>	<small>Northing</small>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Thomas C Shupert- Chairman</u>	date	<u>September 2007</u>
organization	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee</u>	telephone	<u>520-378-0733</u>
street & number	<u>4818 S Laredo Pass</u>	zip code	<u>85650</u>
city or town	<u>Sierra Vista</u>	state	<u>AZ</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	_____
street & number	_____ telephone _____
city or town	_____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>7</u>	Page	<u>1</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION

Fry Pioneer Cemetery is the original community graveyard in present-day Sierra Vista, a city located in southeastern Arizona within Cochise County. More than 200 known graves are on the half-acre site, but less than two dozen are marked with headstones or outlining. No amenities are present other than sparse native vegetation, a low brick enclosure, and a chain link fence on the perimeter. This historic burial site remains sacred ground, however, and as such, is recognized by local residents who have encouraged the City of Sierra Vista to purchase the land and preserve it as the only visual evidence of the first settlers who founded and grew a town known as Fry, Arizona.

In 1956, the name of Fry, Arizona, was changed to Sierra Vista, which means "Mountain View" in Spanish. A growing city with a population of 45,000, or so, present-day Sierra Vista serves as the business and cultural center of Cochise County and a major regional center for that section of the state. It is surrounded by three mountain ranges—the Huachucas, the Dragoons, and the Mules—and it is bordered to the east by the north-flowing San Pedro River. Sierra Vista is located about twenty miles north of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico, and shares its 131 square miles with its neighbor and progenitor, Fort Huachuca.

Fry Pioneer Cemetery is one mile east of the main gate of the active military post; and it is completely surrounded by urban development, both residential and commercial. But technically, the property is not part of the City of Sierra Vista since it lies in an unincorporated part of Cochise County known as Fry Township (see Appendix B). This unusual enclave was created when the Fry Family refused to have their property included in the incorporation of Sierra Vista in 1956. Located between Sixth and Seventh streets, the cemetery is accessible from either Fry Boulevard, or State Highway 90 Bypass, both of which intersect with Seventh Street. Parking is available on the Sixth Street side of the site.

Given the nature of a community graveyard that developed gradually over fifty or more years, the Fry Pioneer Cemetery probably never had a permanent design of walkways, nor any substantial landscaping. Today, there are four or five native mesquite bushes that are, perhaps, six or seven feet tall. The grass is sparse except inside the Fry Family plot where summer rains have caused the native grass and weeds to grow rapidly. (See photographs).

In the early 1960s, a three-foot red brick wall (60 by 144 feet) was put in place to enclose the family plot of homesteader Oliver Fry and his descendents. There is a wall opening on the west side and a decorative metal sign over it indicates the entrance to what is known as the Fry Family Plot (see photographs #1, #2). The rectangular area is approximately sixteen percent of the total acreage. There are thirteen burials, spaced about

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	<u>7</u>	Page	<u>2</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

three feet apart, and aligned along the west and south sides of the wall. All have headstones, but three of the thirteen, also, have cement covering the grave site (see photographs). The others have gravestones that are set directly into the ground with no visible foundation or support. The headstones are of assorted size and design, made of marble or granite. All are professionally engraved and clearly marked with names and dates (see photograph #4), with the exception of one which has the top broken off, so no inscription remains (see photograph #6).

About the same time the wall was constructed, a chain link fence was built as a protection for the whole cemetery. The east and west sides of the fence are 280 feet long, and the north and south sides are 80 feet in length. If approached from the west side, an old, but still readable, wooden sign can be seen, indicating a gate in the fence; but there is no cemetery sign. Beyond the gate, there is an area approximately 40 feet wide, with mainly unmarked burials. There is one grave outlined in cement, and one remaining flat headstone. Provided by the United States government, it identifies the grave of Pvt. José L. Perez, AZ US Army, WW II (1/26/1910-8/25/1963). Inside the fence, but outside the brick wall to the east, south, and west, there are, at least, 199 graves, many sunken over time. Only two of these outer graves have existing markers and two others are outlined with stones. Erwin Fry, the son of Oliver Fry, gave permission over the years for many persons to be interred in the Fry cemetery who are not related to the Fry Family. In recent years, surviving members of those people have given oral history interviews and have made a diagram of the names and relative location of graves (see photographs #1, #2, #3, and Site Plan, Appendix C). The lack of tombstones in this section is due to acts of vandalism over the years, and to the fact that many families who buried here could not afford to erect a permanent marker for their loved ones.

There are unmarked graves, also, on the south and east sides of the cemetery; some have been identified by relatives as the final resting places of Yaqui Indians. Graves are known to exist, also, under what is presently commercial parking on the west side of Sixth Street; there may be burials on the east side of Seventh Street. These outside sites, to the west and east, are safeguarded, at this point, under *Cochise County Ordinance #1821 Human Remains Protection*.

This important community burial ground has been purchased by the City of Sierra Vista. The Fry Cemetery Preservation Committee has long-range plans to effect equitable transition so that the entire burial area can eventually be one cemetery plot. The plans include having the property (now located in the county as part of the Fry Townsite) brought into the city limits of Sierra Vista. Since 1999, St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church has annually conducted services at the cemetery on Memorial Day and on All Soul's Day. The Parishioners, the Knights of Columbus Council #4584, and Boy Scout Troop #464 maintain the grounds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>7</u>	Page	<u>3</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

Integrity

The Fry Pioneer Cemetery is in the original location that Oliver Fry established in 1919 when his wife, Elizabeth, died, and the first grave was opened on the east side of the Fry homestead. Historic materials and workmanship of the gravestones are in a good state of preservation. So in spite of urban encroachment, the cemetery maintains the ability to convey a feeling of its period of historical significance through its setting, location, materials, and workmanship.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>8</u>	Page	<u>4</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fry Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** at the local level of significance for its prominent association with the original community of Fry, Arizona, (now called Sierra Vista) which was at its beginning, a historical civilian component of Fort Huachuca, one of the state's oldest and most significant military posts. The cemetery also meets **Criteria Consideration D** as it is one of the only remaining properties they conveys the presence of the earlier community of Fry, Arizona. The cemetery, an integral part of the Fry Community, constitutes one of the few remaining recognizable historic sites of the early community, and should be preserved as an important piece of history, relating to the exploration and settlement of the area. The period of significance extends from 1919 when the first grave was opened, to 1958, the 50-year historic threshold. The most recent burial, a granddaughter of Oliver and Elizabeth Fry, occurred in May of 2005. Thus, this pioneer cemetery is considered active; however, the City of Sierra Vista permits only relatives of the Fry Family to be buried in the cemetery.

Historical background and significance:

Sierra Vista's history and that of its predecessor, Fry, Arizona, really began in 1877 when Fort Huachuca was established as a camp, and later, a fort. Sited against a scenic backdrop of the Huachuca Mountains, the post during the course of the "Apache Wars" of the 1870s and 1880s was tasked with vital missions in the remote frontier that was southern Arizona at the time. They were to control Indian disturbances, to patrol the international boundary line, to facilitate construction of a regional railroad network, and to protect the settlers whose numbers grew after the discovery of silver at Tombstone.

After Geronimo surrendered in the late 1880s, conflicts with the Apaches subsided and most of Arizona's military posts were subsequently closed. Fort Huachuca, however, was retained because of its strategic position near the U.S.-Mexican border. In 1913, the 10th Cavalry, one of four units of the famous "Buffalo Soldiers," arrived at Fort Huachuca, the base they called home for the next twenty years. The Black soldiers accompanied General John J. Pershing into Mexico on his Punitive Expedition (1916), an unsuccessful attempt to capture Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. When Pershing went on to France after the U. S. entered the war, the Buffalo Soldiers continued to maintain border security. The Buffalo Soldiers' tenure at Fort Huachuca lasted through the 1920s into the 1930s.

During World War II, thirty thousand troops were stationed at Huachuca, at a post that had been considered in the 1930s to be adequate for only 10,000 men. After World War II, Fort Huachuca was declared surplus property, and was turned over to the State of Arizona. But that "small window of inactivity" lasted only until it was reactivated by Army Engineers during the Korean Conflict. Then in the 1950s, southeastern Arizona was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>8</u>	Page	<u>5</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

discovered to be an ideal climate for communications efforts, and Fort Huachuca's importance began a steady climb. Today, a major player in the national defense picture, the installation has been home to the U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command, the U. S. Army **INTELLIGENCE** Center and School, the U. S. Army Information Systems Command, and at the present time, the U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, along with other commands and services. In its origin, Fort Huachuca was the reason for the existence of Fry and other settlements nearby. Today, the community is a part of the expanding urban scene that has evolved through several names, but today, is Sierra Vista. The changes have been many; the post slogan aptly illustrates Fort Huachuca's history, past and present: "From sabers to satellites."

Evolution of the Community Names

The settlement now known as Sierra Vista has had an "on-again-off-again existence," depending on the fortunes of Fort Huachuca, its primary reason for being. It has, also, had a variety of names. Some references, including Granger's *Arizona Names*, refer to White City, Buena, or Turner. But local researchers believe that some of these were nearby communities, and that Overton was the first post office in what is present-day Sierra Vista. Overton was in operation from 1917 to 1919. From 1918 to 1936 or 1937, the settlement was called Garden Canyon, and then in 1937, the name was changed to Fry, Arizona, in honor of the original settler, Oliver Fry. In 1937, the post-mistress was listed as L. S. Fry--Oliver's daughter-in-law, Lillian S. Fry, wife of Erwin Fry.

The Fry name lasted until the community was incorporated (by petition on August 9, 1955) and officially in 1956 to become the *Town* of Sierra Vista. In 1961, growth resulted in a new name: the *City* of Sierra Vista.

Community Development

When Oliver Fry first came to the general area called Garden Canyon, referring to one of the several beautiful canyons in that part of the Huachuca Mountains, he saw the economic opportunities for a farmer and rancher such as himself who could supply goods and services to the nearby military installation. At the time of Oliver Fry's arrival there was practically no farming or ranching in the area because there was very little economy except for the Fort Huachuca. The non-military population was primarily Hispanic laborers, woodcutters, road workers and such.

In June 1912, Fry filed for a homestead patent, approximately one mile east of the main gate of Fort Huachuca. In November, Oliver and his two sons, Tom and Erwin, seventeen and fifteen respectively, came from their home in Texas with a freight car full of supplies. After finishing the construction of a large, two-room house, Oliver sent for the rest of the family, who arrived in January of 1913. At this time, Oliver and his wife, Elizabeth, had nine children: Tom, Cora, Erwin, Edna, Raymond, Cecil, Arden, Alice, and Agnes. Their last

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>8</u>	Page	<u>6</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

child, June, was born in 1914. There were other settlers in the area, but no schools had been established. In February 1913, Fry had a well dug on his homestead, and then he decided to operate a small store in his home. This was one of the first general stores in that part of the county and may well have been the start of the Fry family's influence in the community.

Approximately five miles east of the main gate of Fort Huachuca, another small community was developing, near the present intersection of Highways 90 and 92. The residents called the vicinity Buena (Spanish for "good"). The first school opened there in 1915. The first graduating class of eighth-graders, in 1916, included Erwin and Edna Fry among the five graduates.

As the Fry family settled into life near the military post, Erwin, Oliver's second son, got a job with a man who butchered meat for the soldiers at Fort Huachuca. The butcher gave the young man "the livers and hearts and other pieces of meat to take home." His mother then made mincemeat to sell at the store. They, also, sold eggs and milk from their farm, as well as supplies they shipped from Benson, thirty miles to the north. Edna and Raymond were in charge of the dairy operation, which provided milk and cream to Fort Huachuca. As the ten Fry children became adults and married, they were active in the growing community just outside the gates of Fort Huachuca. Two sons, Tom and Cecil, were school bus drivers, and Cecil became a teacher in the neighboring Buena School. Much has been written about Cecil and many of those interviewed remembered Cecil and thought highly of him. However, it was Erwin who emerged as the family entrepreneur. He expanded the land holdings, operated several businesses and created the Fry Townsite. Erwin married Lillian Rice on December 25, 1923. Lillian, who had been a teacher at the Buena School, began working in the Garden Canyon General Store and Post Office in 1929. She became the postmistress in 1937 or 1938 (there is a conflict in reported dates). Within one year of this event, Oliver, Erwin, and Lillian Fry opened their own store on what is today known as Fry Boulevard. They transferred the post office with them to the new store. As was often the custom when a new building or store was built and opened, the persons owning the building put their names on it. Thus, the community that had been called Garden Canyon now became known as Fry, Arizona.

The community was known as Fry, Arizona, from the mid- to late-1930s until 1956, at which time the community was incorporated and the name Sierra Vista was chosen. It is reported that Erwin Fry was opposed to the incorporation process and did not want the name changed. This caused some hard feelings that continued for many years. Erwin Fry platted the townsite and it was recorded January 13, 1955. The original Townsite of Fry still exists as an enclave of Cochise County, within the City of Sierra Vista.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>8</u>	Page	<u>7</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

The Fry Cemetery is in Fry Townsite, but is now the property of the City of Sierra Vista. The Fry home and store were located on what is today Fry Boulevard. Both structures were destroyed by fire—the store in 1961, and the home in 1991. The Fry Cemetery is the only remaining site of the Oliver Fry homestead and the Fry family heritage. It is unknown if Fry formally dedicated the burial ground as a cemetery; however, he and his kin were committed to preserving the plot of land as a family cemetery and the adjacent area as a burial ground for those known to the Fry family. This graveyard was the only known cemetery in the vicinity from 1919 until 1961 when Cochise Memory Gardens was established on Charleston Road near Sierra Vista. According to anecdotal evidence, the area of the Fry Cemetery, perhaps, was used for burials before the arrival of the Fry family, possibly as early as the 1880s. It was, also, said that Oliver Fry located the cemetery in its present place because the caliche ground there was unsuitable for raising crops. The first burial in the Fry Cemetery was that of Oliver Fry’s wife, Elizabeth “Lizzie” Ruth Cathcart Fry, who died on December 25, 1919. She was forty-nine years old. Her death certificate identifies her place of burial as “Fry Homestead.” Mrs. Fry’s community property interest in the homestead was distributed to her ten children. Later, in 1940, her title ownership along with Oliver’s, was merged into that of their son, Erwin Fry, and his wife, Lillian S. Fry. Oliver himself did not die until 1959, at the age of eighty-eight.

Fry Pioneer Cemetery

Between 1927 and 1974, four of Oliver and Elizabeth’s children were laid to rest in the family plot: Arden Henry Fry, Cora Belle Fry Stanley Agnes H. Fry, and Cecil David Fry. Oliver Fry’s second wife, Minnie Kneton Fry was interred there, also, along with several family members, including grandchildren. [See Additional Documentation, Page 2, Appendix A for a complete listing of the known family burials.] Surrounding the Fry family plot lay the remains of almost two hundred others, known to be mainly Hispanic, but including some Anglos and a number of Yaqui Indians. Each of the deceased family members has a marker, but the majority of the graves outside the brick wall are unmarked. There is an existing burial list, but many buried here are “known but to God.”

According to affidavits of descendants of a number of those buried in the general cemetery, the Fry family permitted those burials. Due to the lack of funds, the majorities of the graves had wooden markers or were left unmarked. Their locations were attested to by surviving members of the families. Most of the markers had been removed over the years, according to Rosa Leonard, a descendant of several people buried in the cemetery. In 1961, the Fry family erected a brick wall around their plot to protect it from grazing cattle.

In the early 1960s, a chain link fence was erected around the whole cemetery to protect it, but which, also, prevented family members from taking care of their own plots. [See additional Documentation page 3, Appendix B, for a sketch of Fry Homestead and Cemetery in relation to the main gate of Fort Huachuca]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>8</u>	Page	<u>8</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

Ignacio “Nacho” M. Valenzuela, another descendant of those buried in the cemetery, stated that most of those buried in the cemetery either worked for businessmen, or were family members of the laborers. Some of the women buried in the cemetery were employed as domestic help, or in local stores. When asked about the reason why most of the burials outside of the Fry Cemetery walls were non-Anglos, Fern McReynolds, of Hatfield Funeral Home in Sierra Vista, stated that before 1961, no mortuary operated in the immediate area, so many Sierra Vista area residents were buried in Bisbee or Tombstone Cemeteries. Many non-Anglos could not afford the expense of funerals in the other towns, or lacked means of transportation. José Luis Pérez, a Hispanic veteran of World War II, has a military marker at his grave. His was one of the later burials--1963. Pérez was an uncle of several of those who presented affidavits that many graves are located outside the boundaries of the Fry family plot. A number of young Hispanics from this area served in the military, with very little recognition, but with a great amount of pride.

According to Fr. Gregory Adolf of St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Sierra Vista, the parishioners of the area were served by priests from the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Benson (approximately thirty miles northeast of Sierra Vista) and Sacred Heart Parish in Tombstone (approximately sixteen miles from Sierra Vista) during the period from 1890 to 1957. Therefore, parish statistics of the early residents are not in the archives of St. Andrew’s Parish, which was founded in 1958. In addition, because of the distance for priests to travel, as well as the short time that usually elapsed between an individual’s death and his burial, not all local burials were recorded. “Devout laypersons ‘read’ the burial prayers in the absence of a priest, and thus accorded the deceased a Catholic burial, although unrecorded” (Adolf, 1999).

Written histories of towns and cities may limit their scope to those who shaped their communities and made names for themselves. They seldom mention those who worked for the “movers and shakers,” but who were as much a foundation of the present community of Sierra Vista as were their employers. The preservation of the Fry Pioneer Cemetery pays tribute not only to the Fry family, but also to those individuals who were so important to the area. Some of their families can be traced back four or five generations, as early migrants from Mexico. Without the numerous Hispanics and Yaqui Indians serving as the labor force in the early years of this community, Sierra Vista might not have become the thriving city it is today.

A partial burial list is available (see Appendix A). The first known burial was that of Elizabeth Fry, Oliver Fry’s wife, whose interment was December 25, 1919. The last burial was that of Oliver Fry’s great-granddaughter, in May 2005. Many of the graves are those of individuals who worked over the years for the Fry family, or had permission from the family to use the cemetery. Many are Hispanic, six or eight are Yaqui Indians, and, at least, one is known to be a World War II veteran with a government-issued headstone.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>8</u>	Page	<u>9</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

The Fry Pioneer Cemetery is the last piece of evidence of the origins of the community and town that started as a homestead, then a small settlement with the requisite post office, and eventually became what is today the largest of seven incorporated towns and cities in Cochise County, Arizona. The cemetery has been recognized by the citizens of Sierra Vista and by City leadership as a site important enough to purchase with public monies. It is imperative that it be preserved for posterity and for the future generations of this area. It is an important piece of history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>9</u>	Page	<u>10</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adolph, Gregory. Letter to Realtor Nancy Rea, Nov. 12, 1999.

Cochise Genealogical Society. "Miscellaneous Smaller Cemeteries". Retrieved April 4, 2007 from <http://www.mychochise.com/cemmisc.php>. Information on "Fry Cemetery" compiled by Robert S. Griffin July 29, 2001.

Collins, Mary E. Affidavit, Oct. 27, 2006.

Crawford, Stephon. Affidavit, Nov. 28, 2006.

Crawford, Miguel A. Affidavit, Oct. 30, 2006.

Eggen, Florencia C. Affidavit, Oct. 23, 2006.

Garcia, José. Affidavit, Sep. 28, 2006.

Granger, Byrd Howell. *Arizona's Names: X Marks the Place* (Tucson: Falconer Publishing Co., 1983).

Hein, Jac. *Early Sierra Vista: Its People and Neighbors: A Narrative History* (Sierra Vista: Banner Printing Center, 1983).

Interviews of José Garcia, Alberto Laguna, Rosa Leonard, Ignacio "Nacho" Valenzuela by Tom Shupert and Theresa Mueller. May, 2007.

Leonard, Rosa. Affidavit, Oct. 21, 2006.

McReynolds, Fern. Interview June 13, 2007, by Tom Shupert.

Price, Ethel Jackson. *Sierra Vista Young City with a Past* (San Francisco: Arcadia Publishing, 2003).

Price, Ethel Jackson. *A Pictorial History of Sierra Vista, Arizona* (Sierra Vista: *The Sierra Vista Herald*, 2006).

Sheridan, Thomas E. *Arizona: A History*. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1995).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>9</u>	Page	<u>11</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

Smith, Cornelius C., Jr. *Fort Huachuca: The Story of a Frontier Post* (Fort Huachuca: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981).

Theobald, John and Lillian. *Arizona Territory: Post Offices & Postmasters* (Phoenix: Arizona Historical Foundation, 1961).

Trimble, Marshall. *Roadside History of Arizona*. (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1987).

Trujillo, Belen. Affidavit, Oct. 25, 2006.

Valenzuela, Ignacio "Nacho" M. Affidavit, Oct. 18, 2006.

Walker, Henry P. and Bufkin, Don, Eds. *Historical Atlas of Arizona*, Second Edition (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986).

Oral History Interviews: (copies available at the Henry F. Hauser Museum)

Nacho Valenzuela – Living relative of person(s) buried in Fry Cemetery

Albert Laguna – Living relative of person(s) buried in Fry Cemetery

Rose Leonard – Living relative of person(s) buried in Fry Cemetery

José Garcia – Living relative of person(s) buried in Fry Cemetery

Mary Collins – deceased, a woman who knew Erwin Fry and helped to maintain the Fry Cemetery

Vi Attkisson – a caretaker for Erwin Fry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>10</u>	Page	<u>12</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

Fry Pioneer Cemetery is located within the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 34, Township 21 South, Range 20 East of the Gila and Salt River Meridian, Cochise County, Arizona at an elevation of 4598 feet above sea level. The cemetery is 0.52 acres and its dimensions are 180 feet north to south, and 125 feet east to west. The actual property line on the east side is approximately one foot beyond the east brick wall of the Fry Family plot.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the land that has been historically associated with the Fry Cemetery and is now owned by the City of Sierra Vista, Arizona. The current cemetery boundaries do not represent the entirety of the original "Reserved" parcel set aside by Oliver Fry, but they do represent the area currently owned by the City of Sierra Vista, and the area that is pledged for preservation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u> </u>	ADDL	Page	<u> </u>	ADDL	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
						County	<u>Cochise</u>
						State	<u>Arizona</u>

APPENDIX A

From the Cochise genealogical web site. •• www.mycochise.com
FRY CEMETERY

Graves within brick wall:

Ronald James Clark 8/13/1935-7/9/1990

Agnes H. Fry 3/29/1912-3/27/1966

Arden Henry Fry 10/30/1906-11/7/1927

Cecil David Fry 1/12/1903-10/6/1974

Elizabeth Ruth Cathcart Fry 4/3/1870-12/25/1919

Lillian Skeels Fry 7/2/1890-6/21/1966 with this inscription from her favorite poem:

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden,
Than anywhere else on earth. "*

Minnie Kneton Fry 1891-1960,

Oliver Fry 3/20/1871-9/11/1959

Raymond Paul Fry 1/1936-4/1937

Anthony Oliver Stanley 2/13/1918-2/23/1928

Cora Belle Fry Stanley 8/16/1895-6/18/1930

Zelda Cecilia Stanley 12/28/1919-1/16/1924

One Grave added since Dr. Silas Griffin survey is that of:

Kathleen Ann Fry Redding 1/3/1966-5/22/2005

Outside of brick walled area:

Pvt. Jose L. Perez-AZ US Army WW2 1/26/1910-8/25/1963

At least 10 unidentified/ unmarked/ illegible graves

#11- R. Hernandez

(This information supplied by the comprehensive field work done by Robert Silas Griffin of Douglas, AZ on 7/29/2001 during his U of AZ Undergraduate Research on WBTS Veterans in Cochise County.)

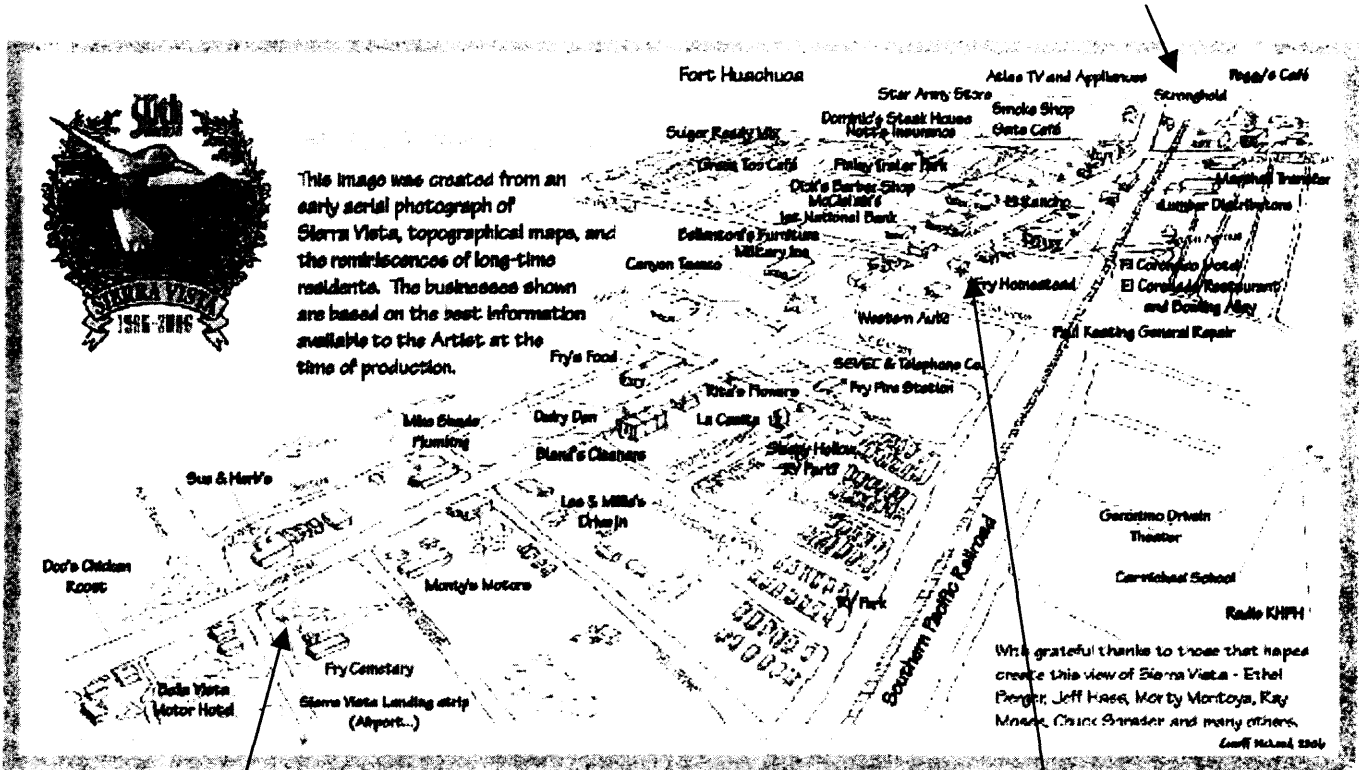
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section	<u>ADDL</u>	Page	<u>ADDL</u>	Name of Property	<u>Fry Pioneer Cemetery</u>
				County	<u>Cochise</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

APPENDIX B

FORT HUACHUCA MAIN GATE, ESTABLISHED 1877



FRY CEMETERY, EASTERN SIDE OF
1912 ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD
1.0 MILES FROM FORT MAIN GATE.

FRY HOME, WESTERN SIDE OF
ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD, APPROX.
0.5 MILES FROM FORT MAIN GATE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

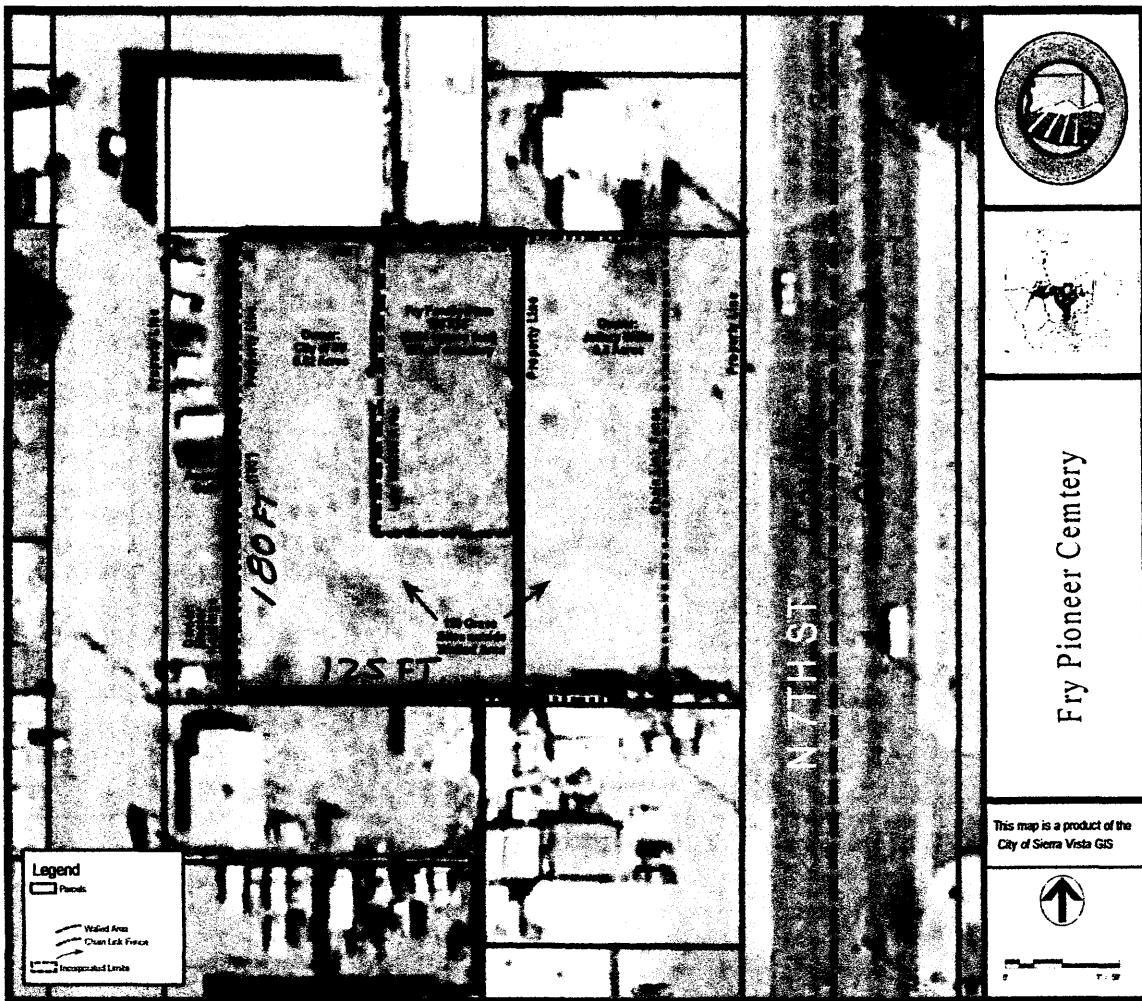
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation Page *ADOL*

Name of property: Fry Pioneer Cemetery
Cochise County, Arizona

Appendix C

SITE PLAN
OF
The Fry Pioneer Cemetery



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation Page *ADD'L*

Name of property: Fry Pioneer Cemetery
Cochise County, Arizona

Appendix D

Fry Townsite showing location of Fry Cemetery

