

P#0041416

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arizona
COUNTY: Graham
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 9 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Kearny Campsite and Trail

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Army of the West Trail

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *NE of Safford off U.S. 666*  
Junction of Bonita Creek and Gila River

CITY OR TOWN:  
~~13 miles NE of Safford~~ *vicinity*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
No. 4

STATE: Arizona      CODE: 04      COUNTY: Graham      CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Recreational</u>
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. AGENCY**

Bureau of Land Management

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1707 Thatcher Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Safford

STATE:  
Arizona

CODE:  
04

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Graham County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Safford

STATE:  
Arizona

CODE:  
04

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
*None* Interim Plan For Historic Preservation in Arizona

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970     Federal     State     County     Local

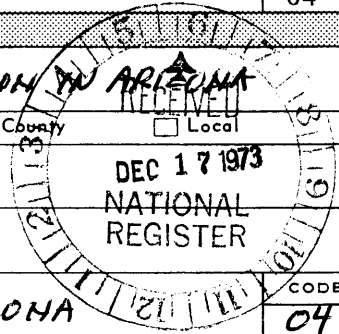
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1600 W. ADAMS

CITY OR TOWN:  
PHOENIX

STATE:  
ARIZONA

CODE:  
04



STATE: Arizona

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

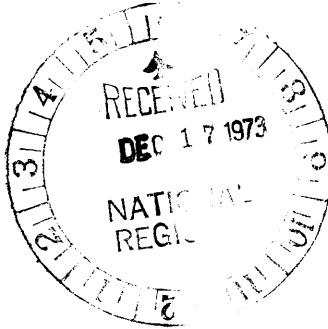
(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The campsite is located at the junction of Bonita Creek and the Gila River. It is still in a relatively primitive state, little changed from 1846 when Colonel Kearny's Army of the West camped there.

On October 27, 1973 the Graham County Historical Society will erect a monument at the campsite.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE AND ARTS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the war with Mexico, 1846-48, General Stephen Watts Kearny and his Army of the West, a force of 1700 men, left Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas on June 28, 1846.

Kearny's troops occupied Santa Fe, New Mexico on September 25. At Santa Fe he divided his force sending most of the Army, with wagons, down the Rio Grande River to find a wagon route to California.

General Kearny with a 100 man force of dragoons and with Kit Carson for a guide then proceeded to California down the Gila River. Their trip through the River was extremely difficult. Adding to their problems they were pulling two small howitzers which the main force was constantly waiting to catch up.

Lt. William H. Emory, the cartographer for the expedition, referred to the Gila Box Area between present Duncan, and the Bonita Creek campsite as the "Devil's Turnpike".

The Bonita Creek campsite is doubly significant as Lt. Emory located the site, recording the latitude and longitude readings, making the site easy to re-locate.

General Kearny's army fought bravely to victory at San Pascaal, California on December 6-10, 1846.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarke, Dwight L., The Original Journals of Henry Smith Turner,  
University of Oklahoma Press, 1966.  
Lt. William Emory, Notes of a Military Reconnaissance.

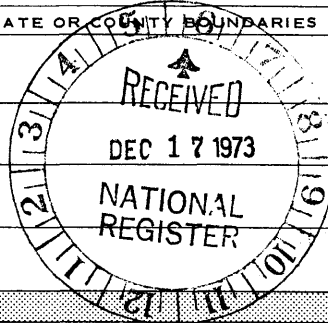
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32° 53' 34"	109° 28' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8+

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



will  
include  
...

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Bureau of Land Management - Safford District      DATE: 7-9-73

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 1707 Thatcher Boulevard

STREET AND NUMBER:      PHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Safford      STATE: Arizona 85546      CODE: 04

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

*Dennis Mc Carthy*  
State Liaison Officer Signature

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

*Louise E. Reid* May 23, 1974  
Federal Representative Signature      Date  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of the Interior

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Robert W. ...*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/9/74

ATTEST:

*Charles R. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-8-74