

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 6 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAR 6 1975

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

Douglas Municipal Airport

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

T 24 S, R 28 E, Sec. 16

At the east end of 10th Ave.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Douglas

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arizona

04

Cochise

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Douglas

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Douglas

VICINITY OF

Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cochise County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bisbee

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Douglas International Airport (elev. 4,100 ft.) occupied 221.8 acres in a triangular shape. All of the field could be used for landing or take-off and the field could be approached from any direction. The sandy loam surface sloped slightly to the southwest with natural drainage. The prevailing winds were from the southwest.

The 60 ft. radio mast, 58 ft. beacon tower, and 40 ft. hangar were all in the northwest corner of the field. The 24 inch beacon rotated 6 times a minute. In addition to this beacon there were boundary lights, obstruction lights, and flood lights for the landing area.

The hangar was 120 ft x 100 ft with a 120 ft door opening and 20 ft overhead clearance. It was built in 1931.

In 1933 the airport was improved by the addition of a 4,000 ft runway surfaced with 5" of caliche. The east-west runway was paved. At present the runways are gravel.

At the present time the airport is leased by the city to American Aviation Company. The international function has been taken over by the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport owned by Cochise County.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Douglas Municipal Airport is a capsule history of early aviation in Arizona.

There were several airplane landings at Douglas before the airport was built. In 1911 Robert Fowler, the first east bound pilot to fly from the Pacific to the Atlantic (Los Angeles, California to Pablo Beach, Florida), landed at Douglas in a field north of town.

There were several early landings on the parade grounds at Camp Harry J. Jones Military Reservation about a mile west of the present airport. The first military aircraft to fly into Arizona landed there in 1916. In July of 1919, Lt. Morton H. McKinnon landed on the parade grounds when he made his first border patrol flight from El Paso to Douglas.

In August of 1919, the 96th Aero Squadron became the first air squadron based in Arizona. It performed as a border patrol.

In 1926 the border airdromes at Douglas and Nogales were closed, and steps were taken to secure an international airport for Douglas. Early in 1928, Cochise County and Douglas appropriated \$17,500 for that purpose, and the Douglas International Airport was in use by July 1928.

The first transcontinental air-rail schedule was established by Standard Airlines in February of 1929 with stops at Douglas. At this time there were no night flights, so passengers transferred to the Texas and Pacific at El Paso.

In March of 1929 Army aircraft engaged in border patrol during the Escobar Rebellion were based at Douglas. In August of that same year Douglas was an overnight stop for the first Powder Puff Derby. In October 1930 Douglas became a stop on the first transcontinental airmail route.

Probably the most unusual feature of the airport was the fact that its

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with Walter Johnson, Airport Manager  
 J & P. Hereford. Flying Years  
 Interviews and correspondence with pilots.  
 Interview with Paul Huber, Mayor of Douglas  
Western Flying Feb 1928  
Douglas Dispatch 1919-1920, 1927-1928.

Stacey Hinkle. Wings  
 Over the Border

Ruth Reinhold "The Old Douglas  
 Intnatl. Airport" Journal of Az  
 History, Winter 1974

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 221.8

### UTM REFERENCES

642-700			34 69 150			642-725			34 69-500		
A	12	64, 10, 14	34	69	150	B	12	64, 10, 14	34	69	500
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING
C	12	64, 20, 15	34	67	0, 10	D	12	64, 20, 15	34	67	0, 03
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION 500 641-700 150

The Douglas Municipal Airport is bounded by the western edge of Sec. 16, T 24 S, R 28 E. The northern and southern boundaries also follow the section lines but not for the entire width of the section. The southern edge parallels the Mexican border. All of the country on the N, S, and E of the airport is open desert. On the West there are a few houses between the airport and the city limits a 1/2 mi. away.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie Wilson, Historian, State and National Register 2-26-75

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

*Dennis Mc Carthy*

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DENNIS MCCARTHY  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2-26-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

*Stanley P. ...*

DATE

12/30/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-31-75

*ack*

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Douglas Municipal Airport

runway extended into Mexico, and planes could taxi through a gate from one country to the other. The Mexican side of the airport is now unusable because of arroyo cutting, and the town of Agua Prieta, Sonora, has built a new facility a little to the southwest.