

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 Nohlechek, Rhoda, House

other names/site number _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Northwest corner of 2nd St. and Date Ave. not for publication
city or town Wenden vicinity _____
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85357

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Garrison SHPO/AZ State Parks 1 APRIL 96
Signature of certifying official Date
James W. Garrison
State Historic Preservation Office

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

Edson H. Beall 5-10-96

Entered in the
National Register

___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	___ buildings
___	___ sites
<u> 1 </u>	___ structures
___	___ objects
<u> 3 </u>	___ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

 N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling - Residence

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling Sub: _____

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood and Concrete
roof Galvanized steel
walls Wood, granite rock and concrete

other _____

Narrative Description (See 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

Period of Significance 1911 to 1945

Significant Dates 1911

1914

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Bray, George

Nohlechek, Rhoda

Narrative Statement of Significance (See continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Bibliography

Elsing, Morris J. and Heineman, Robert E. S. "Arizona Metal Production," Arizona Bureau of Mines, Economic Series No. 19, Bulletin No. 140. Tucson: University of Arizona, 1936.

Field Engineers Report. Department of Mineral Resources, State of Arizona, January 10, 1940.

Granger, Byrd. Arizona Place Names. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1960.

Keane, Melissa and Rogge, A. E. Gold and Silver Mining in Arizona 1848-1945. A Component of the Arizona Historic Preservation Plan, December 1992.

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: Arizona State Dept. of Mineral Resources, University of Arizona, Bureau of Mines

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	<u>264900</u>	<u>3745075</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	<u>264830</u>	<u>3745075</u>	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located on lots 10-13, Block 20, Wenden. Located at T6N, R12W, on boundary of Sects 31 & 32

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the historic lots associated with the house and outbuildings.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Ned Buchanan (Typed and editing by SHPO staff and Nancy Smith, Consultant)

organization _____ date 9/20/95; 02/20/96

street & number P.O. Box 232 telephone _____

city or town Wenden state AZ zip code 85357

=====
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 (same as above)

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Nohlechek House
name of property
La Paz, AZ
county and State

=====

SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Nohlechek property consists of a single-story house, a two-stall wagon barn (now used as a garage), and a smokehouse. It is situated one block south of Highway 60 (a.k.a Santa Fe Avenue) in Wenden, La Paz County, Arizona. The house was built in two phases in 1911 and 1914 with the two outbuildings added also in 1914. The Nohlechek House is one of only two extant Wenden buildings that date to early Statehood days. The other building has been highly altered.

DESCRIPTION

Built on rectangular plan of twenty feet by thirty feet with a straight gable roof, the house consists of five rooms. The original twenty-foot by twenty-two-foot wood portion was built by George Bray in 1911. In 1914, Rhoda McLeran Nohlechek, who owned mining properties in Yuma County, built a sixteen by twenty-foot addition of granite rock and concrete.

The wood portion of the house has walls constructed of one inch by twelve-inch planking, with two inch by four-inch underpinning, resting on four inch by six inch redwood mine skids. There are two roofs. The outer roof is galvanized steel elevated above the inner roof of one inch by twelve-inch planks, forming an air space that contributes to the free flow of air, prohibiting hot air entrapment. The inner roof also is the ceiling for the interior.

The sixteen by twenty-foot addition of rock and concrete has walls about twelve inches in width resting on a concrete foundation. The roof is galvanized and the floor is concrete.

INTERIOR

The 1911 portion of the house has one-by three-inch tongue and groove pine floors and the built-in cabinets are made of pine with iron latches. All the room doors are pine with iron latches. Some have black ceramic knobs, others have glass knobs that have turned purple over the years from exposure to light. Ceilings are supported by exposed two-inch by three-inch beams. Windows are wood framed, many still have their original wavy glass.

The 1914 addition served as a kitchen and bath. The bathtub was in the kitchen area near the Majestic wood cooking stove, a typical practice on the Arizona frontier. The stove also heated the house during cold weather and supplied hot water through its auxillary tank hooked into the water piping system.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 2

Nohlecek House
name of property
La Paz, AZ
county and State

=====

BARN

The barn was built about the same time as the addition to the residence, 1914. It is constructed of rough-sawed two-by twelve-inch planking and two-inch by four-inch boards. Its dimensions are twenty-four feet by twenty-seven feet with a loft. The sides and roof are galvanized steel and the floor is dirt. In the the early days, the ore-freight wagons were kept in the barn. It was also used to store hay and grain for the mules and mine supplies, and at times, served as a safe place for holding high-grade gold concentrates.

SMOKEHOUSE

The smokehouse is six feet by six feet by eight feet high, constructed of rock and concrete. It also dates to ca. 1914. This building, like the others on the property, is a facility associated with the mining activity in the Wenden area, specifically with the Critic Mine that was operated by Rhoda Nohlecek.

The building was used for the preparation of meat, hams and pork bellies or bacon. This was salt cured and smoke finished with readily available mesquite wood. The food was then taken to the mine to feed the twenty or twenty-five miners who lived in the boarding house and two large bunkhouses at the Critic.

ALTERATIONS

The most significant change to the property was the elimination of the outdoor privy and the designation of one of the smaller rooms for a toilet, to conform to county codes. In 1985, the house was wired for electricity, eliminating the use of and need for kerosene lamps for lighting. These changes have not significantly detracted from the property's integrity. In fact, the three buildings look essentially as they did eighty-plus years ago.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

Nohlechek House
name of property
La Paz, AZ
county and State



SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nohlechek property is significant under Criterion A as a rare surviving property type associated with the early mining industry in western Arizona Territory. After the death of George Bray, the original owner, Rhoda Nohlechek, a mine operator, acquired the property and expanded the living quarters and added the barn and smokehouse. The property is nominated at the local level of significance.

HISTORY

The mineral wealth deposits of Arizona extend from the northwest to the southeast. Located in this band are the western Arizona silver and gold mining districts that attracted miners even after the initial gold and silver strikes of the mid-nineteenth century. In the 1890s, economic incentives combined with new processes and new capital caused a second mineral boom to occur. Around the turn of the century, the desolate reaches of Yuma and Mohave Counties were traversed by prospectors. Settlements and boom towns were constructed by those who came to provide necessities and luxuries to mine owners and workers. The interaction of the railroads, electric dynamos, and electric and telephone lines transformed the isolated settlements into communities that were expecting to be more permanent than the working mining camps themselves.

Wenden was established as *Wendendale* in 1905 by Otis E. Young, named for his home in Pennsylvania where he owned a farm called Wendendale. The same year, a U.S. Post Office was established there. Prior to 1909, a freighters' well which served freight teams, various stage lines, and travelers commuting between Prescott, Wickenburg, and La Paz on the Colorado River was the only source of water. When the Arizona California Railroad was completed in 1909, the railroad established a water well to serve the steam engines and the town. The railroad built a freight depot, telegraph office, siding track, and loading ramps for the mines in the area. At that time, the post office name was changed to Wenden. In 1911, the Wenden Townsite was dedicated.

One of the gold prospectors who came into Wenden was George Bray, who built his small house there in 1911. Bray was a burro miner who reportedly found a rich gold deposit in the Harcuvar Mountains eight miles north of Wenden. A dispute arose over mine claim ownership, and Bray was found dead on the trail, shot by unknown persons. Subsequent to these events, Rhoda Nohlechek, a mining entrepreneur, acquired the mining claims known as the Golden Treasure and Bray's house in Wenden.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Nohlecek House
name of property
La Paz, AZ
county and State

=====

The Critic Mine, Cunningham Pass

In 1910, Rhoda McLeran left New York and a distinguished musical career because of health problems and came to visit her father who had retired to San Diego. There she met and married Joe Nohlecek who had a lead-silver property in the Castle Dome Mining District of Yuma County, Arizona Territory. The new Mrs. Nohlecek "grubstaked" into the mining operation and became a full-fledged partner. Thus began a mining career that spanned more than thirty-five years.

Nohlecek's reputation in mining derived mainly from her ownership of the Critic Mine located in the Cunningham Pass area, about twelve miles north of Wenden in the Harcuvar Mountains. She developed the Critic into one of the highest producers of gold, silver, and copper in the Ellsworth District of Yuma County. The Critic was discovered in the mid-1860s by Charles Cunningham who built a rock cabin at the mine site, sharing the area with Indians who became friends. However, the Indians killed Cunningham by mistake in Bells Canyon, Yavapai County, Arizona Territory, on May 3, 1871. Discovering they had killed a friend, they left without mutilating his body, according to reports of the time.

In 1914, Mrs. Nohlecek acquired the Critic Mine. Early development work at the site was done by hand drilling and the use of horse *whims* to draw the ore to the surface from the shafts. When Mrs. Nohlecek acquired the property, she brought in diesel and gasoline hoisting engines and air compressors so the ores could be extracted on a larger volume. She employed miners (from five to twenty-five at various times over the years) and also worked in the mine herself, sorting ore, running hoists, etc. Much of the ore was processed at the Humboldt Smelter in Humboldt, Arizona. After the Humboldt smelter closed, the ores were shipped by rail to American Smelting and Refining Company at Hayden, Arizona. Total production of the Critic between 1917 and 1940 was estimated at \$500,000 and it was said to be the main producer of gold, silver, and copper ore in the Ellsworth District from 1920 to 1940.

Before health problems brought her west, Rhoda McLeran Nohlecek enjoyed a career as a concert pianist. She graduated from Smith College for Women in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she majored in music and piano. In 1901 she was awarded a scholarship by the Ladies Home Journal to take piano instruction under Edward MacDowell at Carnegie Hall. She also studied under Rafael Joseffy, a noted pianist of the time. She then acquired a studio in Carnegie Hall where she was a piano instructor. When Ignace Paderewski came to the United States on one of his many highly successful tours, Rhoda McLeran was selected to play concert duets with the great Polish musician.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

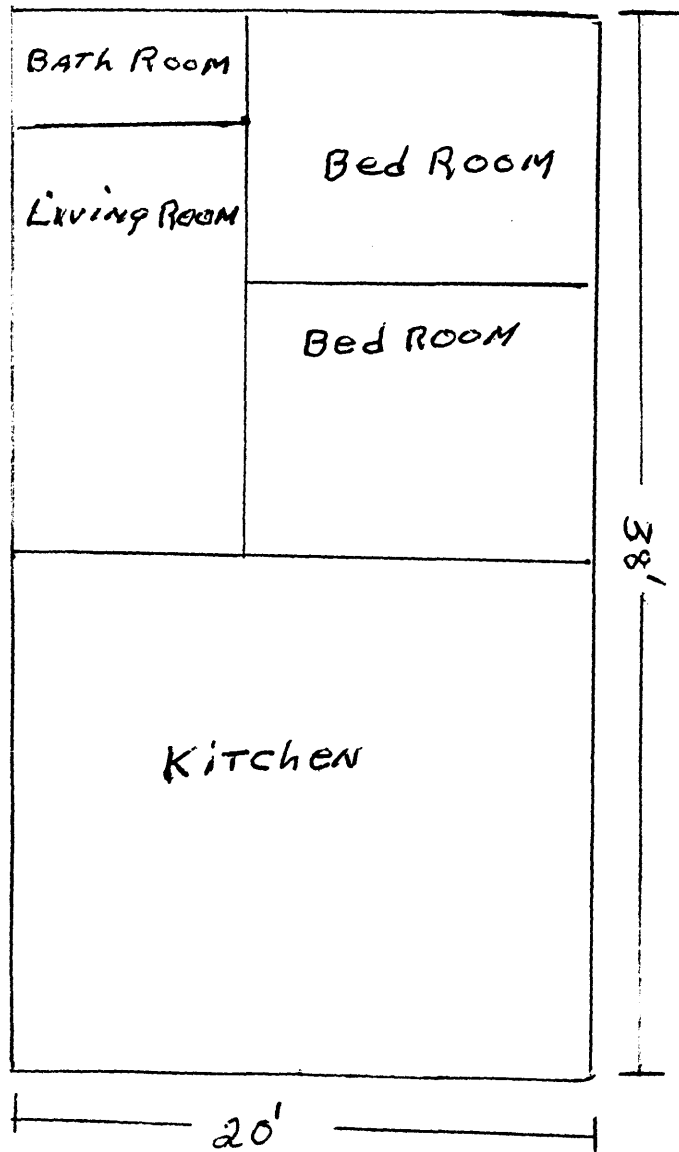
Nohlecheck House
name of property
La Paz, AZ
county and State

=====
Rhoda Nohlecheck combined her mining and musical interests in a satisfying way. She and other miners at the Critic spent time with Harold Bell Wright helping give him some background in mining for his books, The Mine with the Iron Door, and The Winning of Barbara Worth. One room of her Wenden house was used as a music study and featured a grand piano that she had shipped in from New York. She performed locally with visiting musicians and opera singers. She and Carmelita Ward played piano duets for Radio Station KTAR. On one occasion, she and a friend who had a homestead near Wenden entertained local Wendenites at the school house. Nohlecheck played and her friend sang. *The friend* was Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, dramatic Austrian contralto, who had performed in Europe and with the Metropolitan Opera in *Das Rheingold*.

SIGNIFICANCE

Very little remains today of the earliest period of Wenden's development. The only other historic period residential property is an adobe house that has been heavily modified. This modest Nohlecheck property with its associated historic barn and smokehouse represents a link between the town and the mining activities in the surrounding region that were its reason for being. The Nohlecheck House is a particular property type associated with mining in western Arizona. Owners and operators did not always live and work full-time at the mines. In this instance, the mine owner, Mrs. Nohlecheck, used this property as her town house when not at her mine.

FLOOR PLAN of Nohlecher
House, Wenden, ARIZONA.



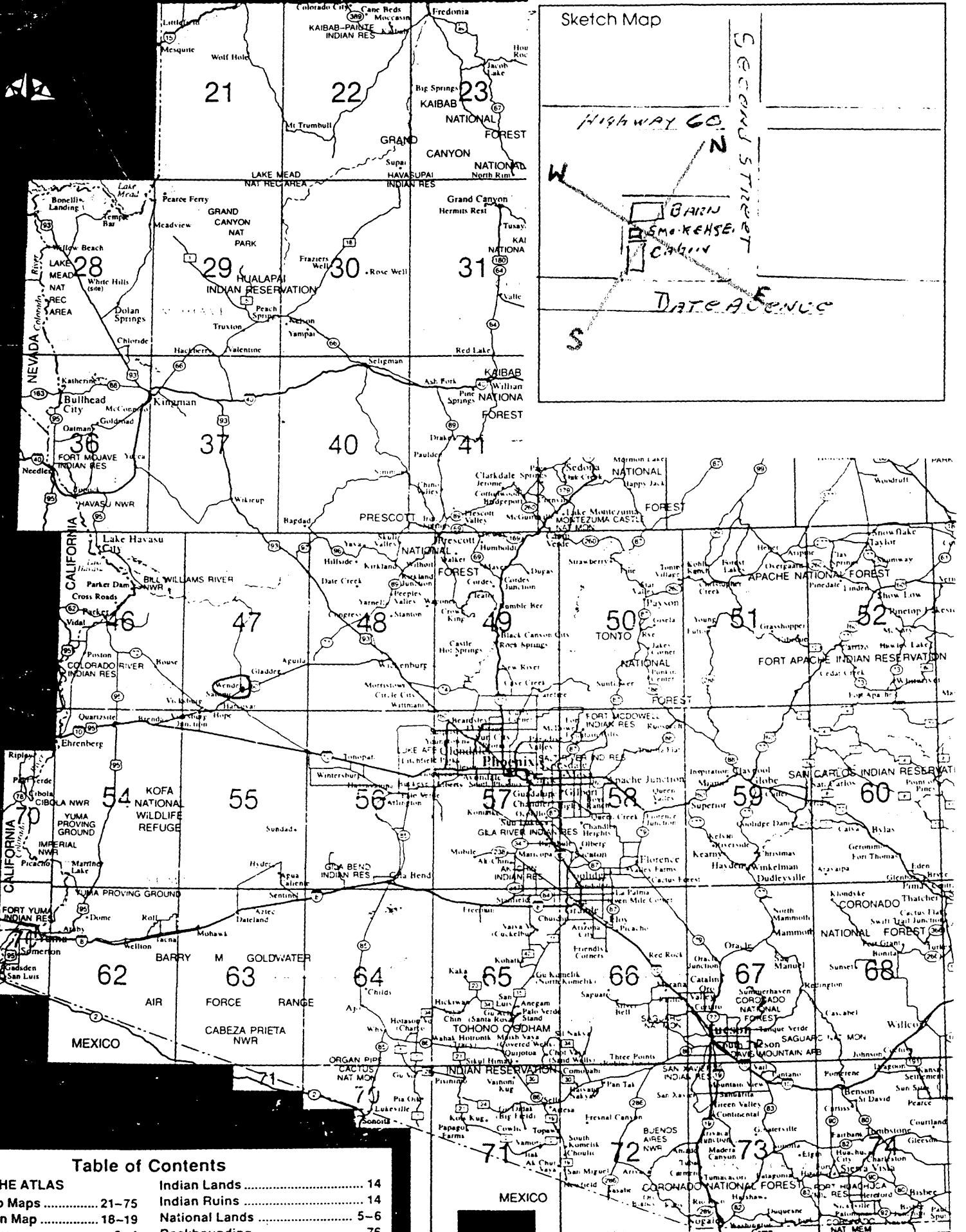


Table of Contents

THE ATLAS	14
led Topo Maps	21-75
d Canyon Map	18-19
of Placenames	3-4
nd	Inside Front Cover
ch Owned Lands	6
Indian Ruins	14
Indian Lands	14
National Lands	5-6
Rockhounding	76
Scenic Drives	76
State Parks	6