

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**Arizona**

COUNTY:  
**Santa Cruz**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
**FEB 20 1975**

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Pete Kitchen Ranch**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**El Potrero**

2. LOCATION **3.5 mi N of Nogales off U.S. 89**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**T23S, R14E, Sec 30 NW 1/2**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Nogales vicinity**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**2**

STATE:  
**Arizona**

CODE:  
**04**

COUNTY:  
**Santa Cruz**

CODE:  
**023**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**Was open to the public until death of Co. Procter in 1972**

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Attached List**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Santa Cruz County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Nogales**

STATE:  
**Arizona**

CODE:  
**04**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
**1938**

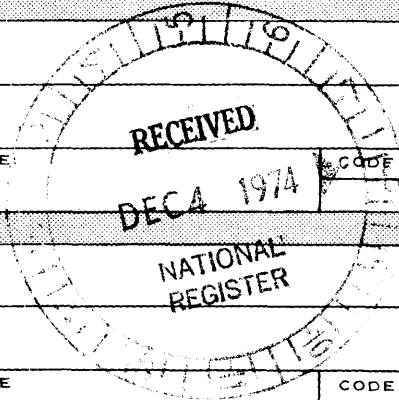
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pete Kitchen ranch is located on US 89 about 4 miles north of Nogales. According to some sources, the site was long inhabited by prehistoric peoples and the fields were, up until at least 200 years ago, a shallow lake. Apparently the NE corner of the lake washed away, leaving a waterfall fed by two creeks. The waterfall is just to the west of the house and the creek which runs about 100 feet south of the building supplied much of the water for domestic use. There is also a 60-foot well, from which water was drawn in leather buckets, about 20 feet south of the smokehouse. The well is still in use.

The first building on the ranch was a one-room adobe which supposedly still stands. It may be, however, that the present structure contains very little of the original building.

The main house was built by Indian workers on a foundation of rocks from the canyon east of the house. The doors and windows were topped by mesquite logs hewn with an adze. The door posts came from nearby oak trees and were set into large stones at the bottom and into holes in the mesquite logs at the top. The hingeless plank doors then swung on these posts. The windows had no glass but were covered by leather-hinged shutters.

This new building was L-shaped, with a fireplace in each of the two front rooms and an adobe stove in the kitchen. Several rooms have since been added.

Around the top of the house a four-foot parapet with loopholes afforded protection during Indian raids and a sentinel was stationed on the flat dirt-topped roof 24 hours a day in the first few years. On the inside corner of the L on the outside of the house was an adobe stairway to the roof. There is said to have been a trap door to the roof, too, but if so, it has since disappeared. The stairway is also gone. The ceilings of the rooms are 12 feet high and the walls are 25 inches thick.

Several other buildings were added as the need arose: a smokehouse, a storeroom, a hayshed, and other small structures necessary to the activities of such an establishment. At first the Oyata workers lived in caves dug in the side of the hill to the north of the main house but later they built one-room adobe homes about 50 yards behind the house. Domestic water for these families came from the creek, and it was there that the Oyata women did the laundry for the ranch. During Indian raids these women and children hid in a dugout.

West of the hayshed was the cemetery and a 6' x 8' adobe mortuary. The graves were covered with stones. (continued)

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**#7. Description**

The 5-acre site includes a reconstruction of the original adobe house, the cemetery, the corral, the smokehouse, and the stronghold. The original stronghold had a flat dirt roof and a parapet for defense against Apache raiders. Two wings have been added to this building. Near the stronghold is a "replica" of the Sonoran chapel of Father Kino. The stronghold is in excellent condition and contains numerous artifacts of the old Southwest. Until Col. Procter's death, it served as a museum.



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of the Pete Kitchen ranch is said to have been occupied for several thousand years by prehistoric peoples. In October of 1774, Juan Bautista de Anza apparently camped there, noted the good water and defensive location, and called it Las Lagunas.

Pete Kitchen was probably born in Kentucky about 1822. As a young man he joined the army and served in the mounted rifles as a wagonmaster in the Rio Grande area during the Mexican War. He then went to Oregon and to the California gold fields and made his way to Tucson in 1853 or 1854. Deciding to settle in the Santa Cruz valley, he stayed at La Canoa on the river north of Tubac from 1855 to 1862, according to his own testimony.

Accounts differ on who owned the ranch on Potrero Creek before Kitchen decided to settle there. It may have been owned by Johnny Ward or by William E. Grant or perhaps by each in succession. Originally the land is said to have been part of an 1807 Spanish land grant to the Tumacacori Indians. At any rate, it is probably the first permanent American-owned ranch in Arizona because it was maintained throughout the Civil War. Other ranches were abandoned during that time because of the withdrawal of troops and lack of protection from Indian raids.

Kitchen moved to the Potrero with a number of Opata and Mexican workers and by arming them and developing a well-organized plan of defense managed to hold his ranch in spite of repeated Indian attacks. John G. Bourke, who visited the ranch in 1870 or 1871, described the armed sentinels on the roof and with the stock, the men in the fields carrying cocked, loaded rifles on their plow handles, and all the men and boys armed with one or two revolvers. The walls of the rooms were lined with rifles, revolvers, and shotguns. In this way the essential life of the ranch was maintained: the enormous variety of field, shop, and domestic activities necessary to support such a (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

There are a great many references on Kitchen but these are among the most useful:

- Arizona Citizen
- Arizona Star
- Bourke, John G. On the Border with Crook. 1891.
- Arizona Historical Foundation
- Lockwood, Frank C. Life in Old Tucson. 1943.
- Procter, Gil. Trails of Pete Kitchen. 1964.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

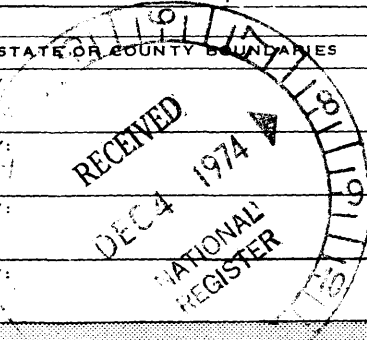
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		31° 24' 08"	110° 57' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
12/504325  
3474600  
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Marjorie Wilson, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Arizona State Parks** DATE: **27 Nov 74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1688 West Adams**

CITY OR TOWN: **Phoenix** STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Dennis McCarthy*

Title: State Parks Director

Date: November 27, 1974

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

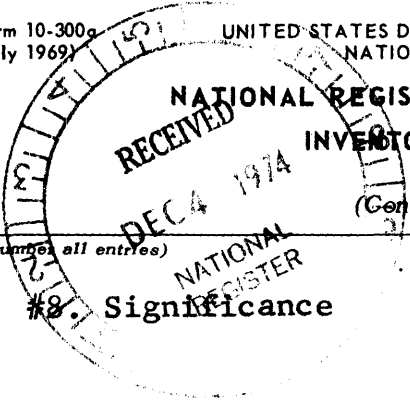
*D. R. Mortenson*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/20/75

ATTEST:

*Ronald N. Rainey*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2/20/75



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#8. Significance

number of people and produce a surplus for market as well.

Newspaper accounts show that in 1869 the ranch had large numbers of chickens and horses, 440 sheep, and nine yoke of oxen. In 1872 Kitchen was reported to have 20 acres in potatoes and 120 acres of grain. He had sold 14,000 pounds of bacon and ham and 5,000 pounds of lard. He also raised fruits and vegetables. His yearly cash income was estimated at \$10,000 and his produce found customers from Tucson to Nogales and as far as Silver City, New Mexico.

In January of 1883 the Tucson paper reported that Kitchen had "sold his ranch and cattle for \$36,000." Apparently the railroad had increased the competition to the extent that he felt the ranch was no longer sufficiently profitable. A three-day fiesta celebrated the selling of the ranch to Col. C. P. Sykes. Kitchen moved his family to Tucson and became semi-retired. He still bought and sold cattle. In 1885 he built a house on Remington Street. In 1892 he was appointed cattle inspector by the Sanitary Board.

In addition to his ranching interests, Kitchen had been involved in fairly profitable mining ventures. He was half owner of the Kitchen Mine, about 15 miles south of Arivaca, which was reported in 1878 to assay at \$232.48 in silver with some assays going as high as \$400. In 1879 Kitchen sold his interest in four mines in the Pajarito Mountains, about 12 miles southwest of Calabasas, for \$14,000. He was said to have mines on the Sonora border near the line between the Arivaca and Oro Blanco districts and a mine about one and a half miles east of the ranch which was worked by some of his Opata.

Although Kitchen had made a considerable amount of money from his ranch and his mines, he became a poor man because of his gambling and his generosity. He died 5 August 1895 in Tucson and was much mourned as a man of unusual courage and integrity. The ranch was purchased by Col. Gilbert Procter in 1943 from a Dr. Chenoweth and was used as a museum for many years.

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#4. Owner of Property

List of Pete Kitchen Ranch owners:

Thomas Procter  
2923 Park Street  
Honolulu Hawaii 96817

Col. Gilbert Procter, Jr.  
633 Canby Road  
Schofield Barracks  
Hawaii 96557

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Barry  
2085 University Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97403

