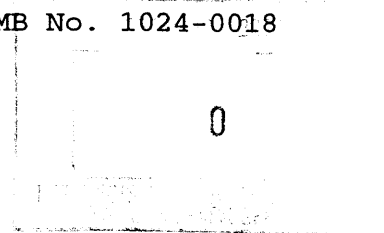


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**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

historical name Miller, Pryor, House
other names/site number Historic Resources of Pine, Arizona, Inventory #11

2. Location

Street & Number 3800 State Highway 87 not for publication
City or Town Pine Vicinity _____
State Arizona Code AZ County Gila Code 007 Zip Code 85544

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. (X See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gannon ASST PD 26 JANUARY 2009
Signature of certifying official 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):

Elson H Ball 3/16/04

[Signature]

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>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce Sub: Business

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

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: no style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone
roof Composition Shingles
walls Sandstone

other Porch - wood
Porch floor - concrete
Addition - wood

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)
Community Development and Planning, Architecture

Period of Significance 1898-1954

Significant Dates 1898

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

Cultural Affiliation Mormon

Architect/Builder Nursey, Ed Mr.

Narrative Statement of Significance

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

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: Isabell Hunt Library, Pine, Arizona

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

Acreage of Property 0.253

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 12 458222 3804800

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====
Name/Title Cynthia Hill

Organization N/A Date July 19, 2003

Street & Number 2637 Lillie Avenue

Telephone 928)753-8914 w, (928) 753-5540 h

City or Town Kingman State AZ Zip Code 86401

=====
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.

A floor plan showing the original construction, removed walls, and added walls of the downstairs floor and the upstairs floor.

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 First America Title Company

Street & Number 3800 Highway 87 Telephone 1-800-975-4488

City or Town Pine State AZ Zip Code 85544

=====
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.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Miller, Pryor, House
name of property
Gila, Arizona
county and State

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Section 7: Narrative Description

SUMMARY

The Pryor Miller House is a two-story, stone masonry, domestic dwelling, built in 1898-99. The bilaterally symmetrical double cell plan was constructed in the pioneer Mormon vernacular tradition. The foundation and exterior walls are built entirely of rock face coursed ashlar cut sand stone from Pine Creek and lime for the cement came from a hill southwest of Pine. The gabled roof and front porch are covered with composition shingles. Built with high quality craftsmanship from rock that would last forever, the building reflects the Mormon influence in the Pine Creek area in the late nineteenth century.

DESCRIPTION

The original structure was constructed in a "T" shaped cross-winged configuration with a double gable form façade, which gives the impression of dormers. The broad wing of the "T" faces the street and consists of a one-room deep, hall-parlor configuration. The building is approximately 36 feet wide by 34 feet deep.

A Mr. Ed Nursey, a good mason, was hired to build the house in 1898. The family tradition has it that Mr. Nursey was paid \$1 and a fifth of whiskey a day for his labors on the house and it took over a year to construct. There was no running water in the house until 1925 or 1926 when plumbing and a bathroom was added. The walls are 1 ½ feet thick and the stones came from Pine Creek. Downstairs was a dining room, kitchen, bedroom and living room. Upstairs there were three big bedrooms. Dora Miller was the first child to be born in the house, her mother, Katie Miller, lived in this home until her death in 1944.¹

In 1926 a bathroom was added to the southwest interior corner of the "T." It was a single story of wood frame construction.

In the 1940s Frank Krebs purchased the property from Pryor Miller. Mr. Krebs proceeded to begin remodeling the house in 1956. According to Lois Krebs, his

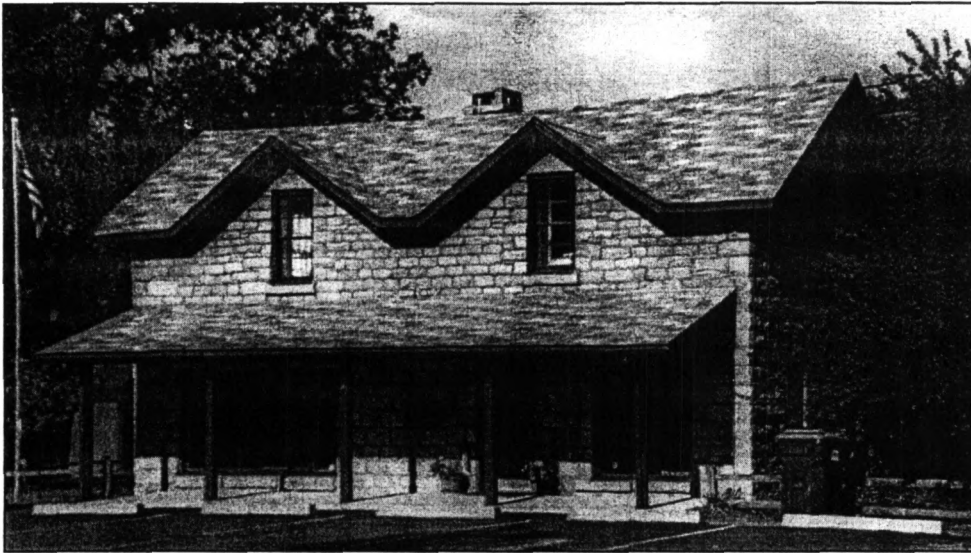
¹Dennis and Lynn Reber, *Pryor Commodore Miller Katie Chloe Fuller*, unpublished paper, 2000, author's possession.

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The Pryor Miller House, Pine, Arizona.

daughter who lives in Pine and participated in the remodel the summer she graduated from college, Jack Lofgren, a local mason, and Ed Patterson were hired to remodel the house and the following alterations were made (refer to the attached PRYOR MILLER HOUSE FLOOR PLAN showing original construction, removed and added walls):

- 1) Originally the first floor house front was symmetrical with two sets of dual windows and two front doors. During the remodel, on the right side of the house front, a set of the dual windows was replaced by one fixed glass window. On the left side the other set of dual windows and the door were removed and were replaced by another fixed glass window.
- 2) The original front porch was centered and about half the width of the house front. It was removed and replaced with a post and beam porch spanning the entire building front.
- 3) A second story addition was constructed over the northwest corner of the

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Miller, Pryor, House
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house where plumbing and a bathroom were added in 1957. An outline of where the first story original rock wall ended is still visible to one looking at the rear wall of the house. Mr. Lofgren used the native Pine Creek sandstone and the masonry methods of the original construction. This resulted in a uniform exterior appearance of the second story addition.

4) A garage was also constructed during that period of time at the northwest corner of the house and is connected by a concrete patio and roof. It echoes the house in design, construction methods and materials.

Within the interior of the building:

5) The original steep stairs were removed. In the front of the house one wall and the double fireplace were removed, creating one room from what was the sitting room and a bedroom.

6) In the now open front room, stairs were built along the southeast rear wall between the front and back wings and a new fireplace was built along the rear wall on the other side of the doorway to the back rooms.²

Upstairs the three bedrooms remain in their original configuration and are currently used for storage. It appears that the existing closets were most likely constructed where the fireplace chimney had been located.

A notable feature of the building is the thick doorways. The 4 original doorways are openings in the 1-½ foot thick walls and project the feeling of strength and permanency.

The bay window located downstairs on the south side of the house is of the original construction. With its three windows placed in rock walls constructed at 45-degree angles from one another, it provides light and visual interest to the otherwise simple design of the building exterior.

The site is located in the community of Pine on Arizona State Highway 87. The community along Highway 87 was originally mostly residential. The township was laid out in a linear configuration to allow for agricultur^e in the arable valley of Pine Creek (Collins 2003:113). Highway 87 is becoming more commercial with many of the original pioneer buildings being used for

²Lois Krebs, Pine Arizona, interviews in May and July of 2002.

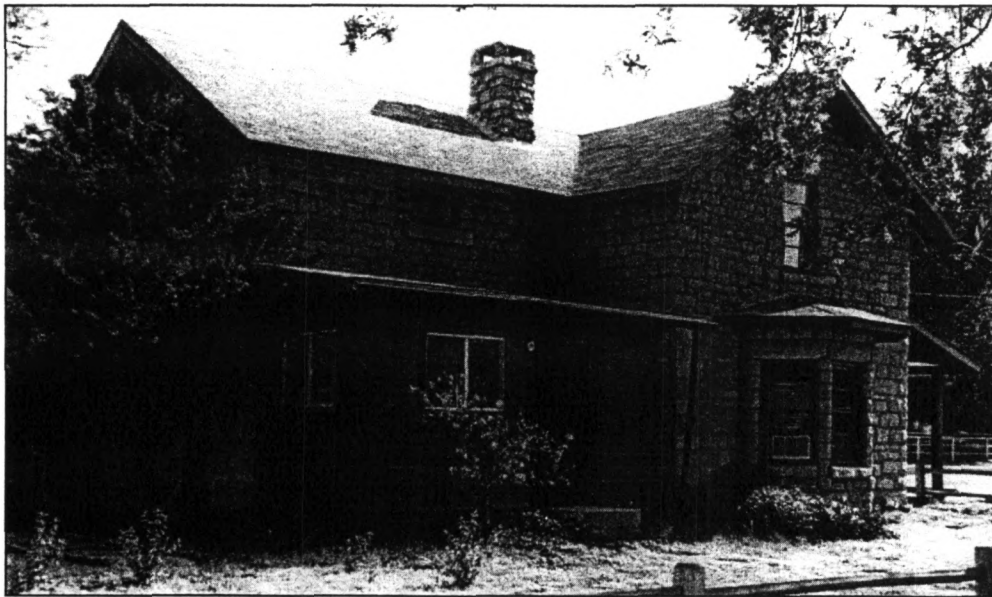
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businesses such as antique stores and restaurants. Grass and trees surround the north, west and south sides of the building. The house faces east towards the Mogollon Rim on Highway 87 with a non-original paved parking lot separating the building and the highway. It appears that the large ash tree located on the south side of the building has been there from before the construction of the Pryor Miller House.



A view of the rear and one side of the Miller House shows a small addition, as well as the overall integrity of its materials, workmanship, design and setting.

INTEGRITY

Although the Pryor Miller House has had some alterations, overall, it retains its ability to visually convey its significance. Located in the original settlement area of Pine, along what is now Highway 87, its setting includes a number of other historic buildings, including log buildings from the community's earliest settlement and twentieth century institutional buildings like the historic school that convey the sense of a settled town. Large lots

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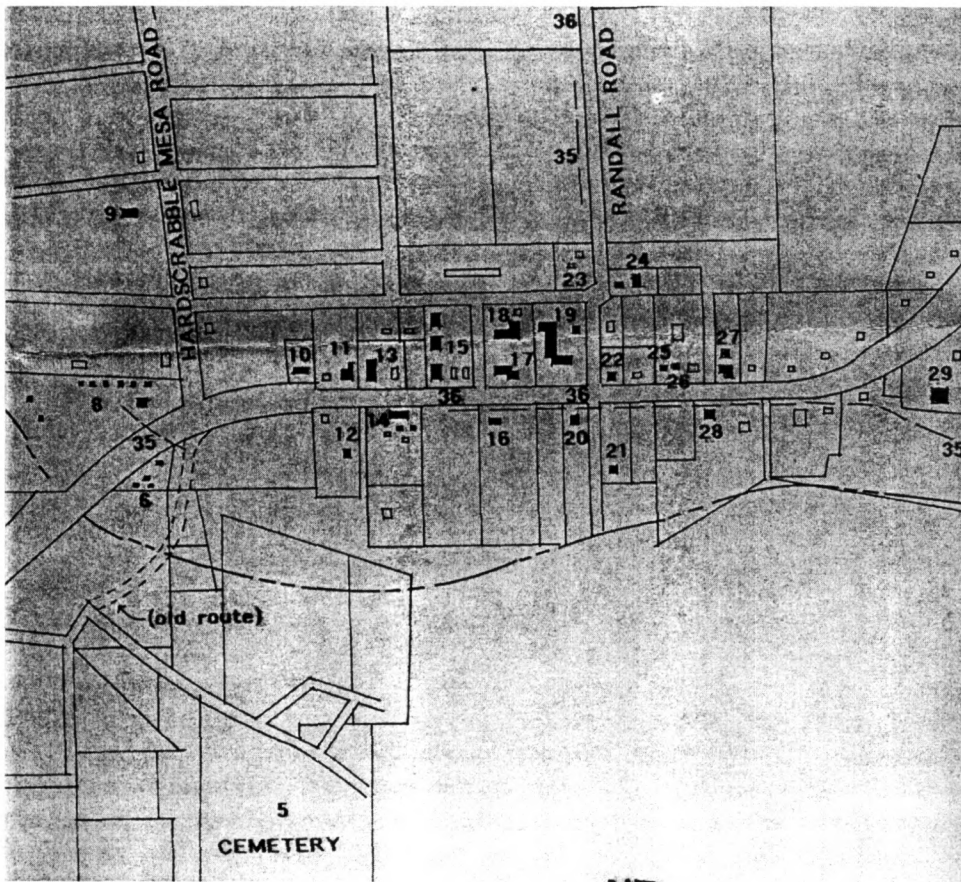
with open irrigation ditches and agricultural fields still convey the town's origins as an agricultural settlement. The Pryor Miller House was constructed in the community's second phase in which Mormon pioneers began replacing pioneer buildings with solid stone structures to give the community a sense of permanence. This was typical of Mormon community settlement patterns in Arizona. The Miller House is the only surviving house associated with this trend. The building retains a high degree of integrity of materials and workmanship. It was constructed by a skilled mason using locally available stone, and its main structure remains in good condition. Its integrity of design has been altered by the ca. 1956 remodeling that affected the its front window openings and porch. Still, its fundamental vernacular character is identifiable.

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Detail from the survey map from *Historic Resources of Pine, Arizona* (Strittmatter 1996) showing relation Miller House (#11) with other historic properties in Pine and historic settlement patter.

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

SUMMARY

The Pryor Millor House is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the community of Pine, Arizona. Constructed as a private home, the building became the town post office in 1917. For many years, the building served the community as an important social center. The house is also significant under Criterion C as an example of early Mormon vernacular domestic architecture. The house displays the cultural attributes of the early Mormon settlers who pioneered many areas of Arizona in the latter nineteenth century. It is a rare surviving example of the second phase of typical Mormon settlement in which buildings of a permanent nature replaced early frontier log buildings. It is significant at the local level.

THE MILLER HOUSE AND THE COMMUNITY OF PINE, ARIZONA

The Pryor Miller house is located in Pine, Arizona, a Mormon-founded community located in the Mountain Highlands Province near the Mogollon Rim. In 1879 and 1880, a handful of Mormon pioneer families came by a circuitous route, to found Pine, Arizona in the midst of a ponderosa stand. The pioneer families were typical of Mormons sent out from Utah to fulfill the Church's mission and organized themselves into the Tonto Basin Ward, a political, ecclesiastical, and social unit. They then proceeded to divide homes sites, equitably among heads of household, construct an irrigation system, which is still in use today, build a ward chapel, raise large families, develop farms, and practice cattle ranching (Collins 2003:100).

The Pryor Miller house represents a cornerstone in the original community of Pine. The original long time residents, Pryor and Katie Miller, were active in creating a community from a frontier. This is the only sandstone building of its type in the area and has served as mail stop, lodging, and community center for the first 50 years of its life. Despite the various alterations made to the building façade, the construction and vernacular style of this building located in the pioneer community of Pine, Arizona, associates the high quality of the masonry using the native sandstone with an enduring quality. Some aspects of the façade's appearance have been diminished by later owners. However, the fact that this building has seen mail riders, fed outlaws and

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lawmen, offered its hospitality to a pioneer community, the recognition and future preservation of this building is of importance to the people who come after us.

Katie Miller became the postmistress in Pine on November 16, 1897. In 1917 the post office was moved to the Pryor Miller home. It is believed that she served in that position until Pryor was appointed in 1924. Pryor Miller became the postmaster of Pine on June 16, 1924, and was the justice of the peace in Pine for several years. The house was a mail stop on the 50-mile path running from Camp Verde to Payson.

Many in the community benefited from her (Katie's) generosity. During the great depression, many families had food and clothing because Katie was willing to extend them credit at her store (located next door). She and Pryor deeded to the town of Pine and Strawberry the land used for the cemetery.

Their home was always open to visitors and overnight guests. Katie would often board travelers at her home. In spite of her small stature and gentle nature, she commanded respect from all. She had strict rules that there were to be no guns or fighting inside her home. Guns were hung on pegs on the front porch and were picked up on the way out. On more than one occasion, men running from the law were provided food and lodging in her home at the same time those hunting them were eating there.

Katie and Pryor Miller's home was the gathering place for friends and family alike. The lives of Pryor and Katie Miller spanned from the covered wagons to the jet airplane. Katie died December 12, 1944 in Los Angeles, California...just six days short of her 76th birthday. Pryor died April 13, 1952, in Winslow, Arizona. He was nearly 97 years of age.

The Pryor Miller House is a hall-parlor configuration, one of the principal vernacular house types found in the Mormon West, 1849-90 (Carter 1997:50) and it meets the registration requirements in these ways:

- 1) It is the most elaborate residence built during the pioneer era of Pine.
- 2) The folk design it displays show an order and balance present in much of the Mormon architectural style of the late 1800s, a distinctive folk house type associated with the Mormon settlement in the 19th century (Collins 2003: 116).
- 3) It is the only pioneer house built in Pine that was constructed of rock, a permanent structural material, reflecting the importance the Mormon Church

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placed on permanency. It is the most "Mormon" of all Pine's residences and is associated with the Mormon settlement.

4) The cut stone shows the inclination of the pioneering Mormons to take the time to shape quarried stone rather than to use natural stone in their houses (Collins 2003: 116)

While the building originally had a strong symmetry, the alteration of one of its two entries and a window into a single opening only slightly diminishes the overall mass of the dwelling. It is still a viable building, displaying the building methods and style preferences of a bygone era. The materials, design, and construction methods are visible reminders to the community of its Mormon pioneer heritage. The Pryor Miller house retains enough of its original appearance and personality to affect the viewer with its sense of dignity and permanence.

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Section 9: Bibliography

Thomas Carter, *Images of an American Land, Vernacular Architecture in the Western United States*, 1st edition. University of New Mexico Press, 1997, pp 41-60.

[Draft] William S. Collins from the context study prepared by Janet H. Strittmatter, "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Arizona, Prehistory to 1950 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Arizona SHPO, 2003, p 100, p 113, p 116.

Section 10

Verbal boundary description

Parcel 3 of property located in Section 36, T12N, R8E, as shown in the attached site plan by Dashney and Associates, registered surveyors, 9/82 and revised 12/8/83. The Gila County Assessor Number is 301-21-059C.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes 0.253 of an acre of the original 3.2 acres parcel on which the house was constructed.