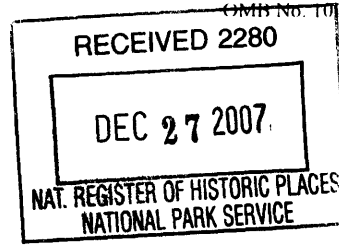


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



01

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 San Rafael Ranch Historic District

other names/site number Ranch San Rafael; Rancho San Rafael de la Zanja; San Rafael Cattle Company; Cananea Cattle Company, San Rafael Division; Greene Ranch; Sharp Ranch

2. Location

street & number HC 2 Box 200 not for publication

city or town Patagonia (Lochiel) vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Santa Cruz code 023 zip code 85624

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 X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gawlin AZSPPO
Signature of certifying official
ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

21 DECEMBER 2007
Date

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

Signature of Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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): _____

Jane McClellan
Signature of Keeper
2/27/08
Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many as apply)

Category of Property (check as many as apply)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

private
public-local
[X] public-State
public-Federal

building(s)
[X] district
site
structure
object

Contributing Noncontributing
4 2 building(s)
5 4 site
9 6 structure
object
Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Cattle Ranching in Arizona, 1540-1950 (MPDF)

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling/ Multiple Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ Agricultural Field/Animal Facility/Agricultural Outbuilding

LANDSCAPE/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/French Colonial Revival

foundation Concrete, Stone

walls Brick, Wood, Adobe

Roof Wood, Metal

other Brick

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)

- X 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.
X 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)

AGRICULTURE/ Cattle Ranching
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1884-1957

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
X Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
X University
Other

Name of repository:

Arizona State Parks; University of Arizona

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 25.0**UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)**

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

 See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Michael A. Freisinger, Museum Curator/ Cultural Resource Manager</u>	date	<u>December 2007</u>
organization	<u>Arizona State Parks</u>	telephone	<u>602.542.7153</u>
street & number	<u>1300 W Washington Ave.</u>	zip code	<u>85007</u>
city or town	<u>Phoenix</u> state <u>AZ</u>		

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.

PhotographsRepresentative **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/title	<u>Arizona State Parks</u>	telephone	<u>602.542.4174</u>
street & number	<u>1300 W Washington Ave</u>	zip code	<u>85007</u>
city or town	<u>Phoenix</u> state <u>AZ</u>		

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

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San Rafael Ranch Historic District
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SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The San Rafael Ranch Headquarters Historic District has been continuously occupied since the 1880s and consists of the main ranch house, machine/blacksmith shop, large barn, and livestock barn, as well as adjacent corrals and other contributing features. The ranch headquarters is unique with contributions to ranching history at the state level, associated with two historic figures, Colin Cameron and William C. Greene, and has significant architectural value. The ranch retains most of its original integrity and reflects the period from 1884-1957.

DESCRIPTION

Location

The San Rafael Ranch Historic District lies in the San Rafael Valley, a high desert grassland environment bisected by the Santa Cruz River and its headwaters to the north. The ranch property is located twenty-five miles southeast of the town of Patagonia in Santa Cruz County, and one mile north of the small community of Lochiel and the U.S./Mexican border. It lies a few hundred feet south of the 1825 San Rafael De La Zanja Mexican land grant.

Materials

Primary exterior building materials found in the district's buildings and structures are brick, concrete, adobe, wood, and metal. Interior materials consist primarily of brick, plaster, and wood. All of the bricks used in the main ranch house and blacksmith/machine shop were manufactured one-half mile east of the ranch complex. Brick kilns were constructed and clay was dug out of a nearby hillside. Since the brick was made locally and not under ideal manufacturing conditions, it is low fired. Materials were either made on site or hauled by wagon from the local rail line near Patagonia.

Natural and Manmade Elements

The San Rafael Ranch Headquarters and compound area is situated on a knoll overlooking rolling hills, cienegas (surface water pools), and rich grasslands in the valley of the headwaters of the Santa Cruz River. Home to antelope, javelina, and a large migratory bird population, the valley is a unique ecological habitat with abundant water resources and rich soil.

The headquarters location commands a full view of the valley and into northern Sonora, Mexico. The buildings on the ranch property include the main house, large barn, livestock barn, and machine/blacksmith shop. There are also

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foundations and archaeological sites of previous buildings and a slag pile from a smelter, that through further evaluation could be contributors to the district.

Prior to becoming the ranch headquarters in 1884, the area was the site of basic smelting activity and a dwelling, probably associated with earlier activity. This dwelling was remodeled and used initially for a residence by Colin Cameron, first owner of the ranch site. He then built three other residences and several outbuildings from 1885 to 1900 at the location. The 1900 French Colonial Revival house is the only residence remaining. The other three dwellings were made of adobe and deteriorated or were demolished or destroyed by fire. The existing main barn is the oldest building remaining on the site and dates to about 1895.

Geographic, Topographic, & Vegetation Information

The ranch is in a high desert landscape nestled between the Patagonia Mountains to the west, Huachuca Mountains to the east, and the Canelo Hills to the north and east. This configuration forms the San Rafael Valley. The Santa Cruz River flows south out of the valley uplands into Mexico then loops north and re-enters Arizona near the city of Nogales.

The topography of the valley consists of rolling hills bisected by eroded washes and cienegas. Shallow water tables and fertile soil along with abundant rainfall have contributed to this unique environment.

The San Rafael Valley is known for three major vegetation communities: short grass prairie, Madrean evergreen woodland, and riparian deciduous broadleaf woodland. The San Rafael Valley ecosystem is noted for its uniqueness and high plant species richness. Of particular interest, the San Rafael Ranch Natural Area was established in order to conserve one of the last remaining "intact remnants of a short grass prairie in the U.S. between southern California and west Texas (Tooling 1980)." It is believed to be a largely intact native plant community and remains a perennial grass-dominated landscape characteristic of this vegetation community. A significant feature of the San Rafael Ranch Natural Area is its diversity of plant life (McLaughlin and Lewis 2001).

Two hundred and fifty-three plant species have been identified on the San Rafael Ranch Natural Area including 77 species in the *Poaceae* family (McLaughlin and Lewis 2001). Two hundred and thirty-seven species are native and 16 are classified as exotic or non-native. Some of the perennial grasses identified in the park, which are characteristic of this community type, include purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea* var. *wrightii*), four species of grama grasses (*Bouteloua* spp.), plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii*), brittlegrass (*Sentaria grisebachii*), and vine mesquite (*Panicum obtusum*).

The Madrean evergreen woodland community consists largely of forests of oak and oak-pinyon-juniper. Common oak and juniper species identified on the Park include Arizona White Oak (*Quercus arizonica*), Emory Oak (*Quercus emoryi*), and Alligator Juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*). Less commonly found is the Gray

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Oak (*Quercus grisea*). Prevalent grass species found dispersed through the woodland understory include bunchgrasses (*Muhlenbergia* spp.), sprangletop (*Leptochloa* spp.) and several species of grama grasses.

The green ribbon of riparian deciduous broadleaf woodland communities is associated with the Santa Cruz River and its springs and tributaries. It is composed largely of Fremont's Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Willow (*Salix* spp.), velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), and a few Walnut (*Juglans major*). (Joanne Roberts, personal communication, 2004).

Architectural Styles, General Character, Types of Buildings

Ranch House

The most prominent building and feature of this historic ranch headquarters is the main ranch house. The 1900 French Colonial Revival style ranch house consists of a full-size concrete basement and foundation partially above ground level supporting two floors with thirty rooms and more than 5,000 square feet of living space. The rectangular building's footprint is 100' x 50'. Exterior and interior walls were constructed of local-made brick from a nearby brick kiln. Masons, carpenters, and laborers were brought in to build the house. California redwood doors, molding, shingles, and trim were installed. These were exceptionally fine materials for domestic construction by the standards of Territorial-era Arizona.

The house includes a full, elevated, wraparound veranda at the first floor under the shingled hip roof and is supported by turned wood colonnette posts. The veranda rests on brick pillars, raising it over six feet above ground level and allowing light into the basement windows. The approach to the main (west side) entrance includes a stone walkway leading to a wide wood stairway up to the porch and double doorway entrance. The entrance to the dining room and ranch office is near the southeast corner and the rear kitchen entrance is on the northeast side. Both entrances have stairways. Large wide sash windows with brick arches appear on all sides of the building in every room as one walks around the veranda. Construction forms such as herringbone cross framing and post and beam joints further embellish the building. The basement area was used as servant quarters, root cellar, and storage area and has a separate entrance on the east side. The second floor includes six dormer windows in pairs extending from the hipped roof and centered on the south, west and east sides. Four rectangular brick chimneys with double cornices pierce the roof.

Originally, gas acetylene lighting was installed as well a large wood furnace. Ornate embossed brass door handles, plates, and hinges were used along with gas light fixtures (one example has survived). The rooms have high ceilings and plaster walls. Fir wood floors, picture molding, and wide redwood door trim and baseboards were installed. There are five fireplaces on the main floor. Back-to-back fireplaces exist in adjacent bedrooms, office, and dining room. The upstairs rooms have lath and plaster walls with wood floors and ornate woodwork around the doors that remained unfinished and unpainted in most of the rooms. Originally, indoor plumbing and gravity-fed water from the large adjacent cistern supplied water to the house.

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The house is presently in good condition with some deterioration on the south and west side of the wrap around veranda & brick support pillars, flooring, and west side stairs. A new shingle roof with gutters was installed in 2001. Repairs are ongoing on the upstairs portion of the house. Solar electricity with back up propane generator and plumbing upgrades have been made throughout the house. A modern enclosed addition was added on the eastside kitchen area. Linoleum and floor tile was added on some of the interior rooms. Comparison with historic photographs from 1900 shows the building has retained most of its original integrity.

Main Barn

The main barn is the largest building in the district. It is a large working ranch barn with a several multi-functional rooms and adjacent livestock stalls. The building is contained in a cluster with the livestock barn, machine shop, weight scale, corrals, inoculation shed, stock shoot, and chemical delousing dip tank. With its wide doors on the east side, it allows vehicles to load and unload supplies with easy access from adjacent road and main ranch house. Its upper hayloft connects to the assortment of livestock stalls and corrals on the west side.

The main barn is a large rectangular building (approx. 50' x 150') and was built around 1895. The building has a rock and concrete foundation, concrete floor, adobe and brick walls, framed roof sheathed with corrugated sheet metal. It has a large front room with a wide sliding doorway, several smaller rooms for tack and storage, and an upper hayloft. There are also small storage/work rooms with sliding doors adjacent to the front. The front portion of the barn was modified on the east end sometime after 1900, probably in the period 1920-1940. On the west side it is connected to horse and cattle stalls. This building and the livestock barn are the oldest buildings on the site. Missing sections of the adobe walls have been previously repaired with wood framing and metal siding. The original workmanship of this building was very good. It is presently in fair to poor condition with deterioration evident in the adobe walls. Although the building has seen modifications and repairs, it retains most of its original appearance and integrity within its period of significance.

Blacksmith/Machine Shop

The blacksmith/machine shop is a rectangular brick building (approx. 60' x 24') built circa 1900 with quality workmanship. Architecturally, the building is industrial in style with brick walls and gable roof, designed for its functional use as a workshop. The building has a concrete foundation and floor with brick walls, wood framed roof sheathed with corrugated sheet metal. A wall running through the center and the length of the building divides two rooms with access through a wide central doorway. There are two fireplaces, one in each room, situated back-to-back, sharing a common chimney. There are large workbenches, hand-powered tools and a large belt driven saw in the building, indicating its specific use as a ranch blacksmith/machine workshop. There are wide sliding doors on both the east and west sides. Windows are small and square wood sash with three on the east side and five on the west. It is in fair condition with some structural cracks in the brick walls and deteriorating metal roof. Roof repairs were made in April 2004.

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Livestock Barn

The livestock barn is adjacent to the larger main barn. Its design indicates it was used as a specialty barn for small ponies and prize cattle. The small loft above serves as storage for feed.

The rectangular livestock barn (approx. 50' x 24') was built prior to 1900 and has been modified since. The building has a rock and concrete foundation, adobe walls, wood framed roof sheathed with corrugated sheet metal. There are main livestock stalls in the barn and a small loft above. Originally, Shetland ponies were kept here necessitating the short height of the stalls. It has an addition on the south side giving the barn an 'L' shape appearance. The addition is about 50' x 24'. Modifications appear to have been constructed between 1920 and the 1950s. Overall the building is in poor condition. Deteriorating adobe structural walls on the west side and roof sagging is a major problem. The newer addition is in fair condition. Roof repair and support work was completed in March 2004.

Contributing Structures

The five contributing structures are located primarily west of the barns in the livestock corrals and are associated with a livestock operation. They are: a 1950s livestock weigh pen with 1880s scale, log corral fencing, 1950s inoculation shed, and 1930-1940s chemical concrete dipping pit for delousing livestock. The weigh scale consists of a metal-framed pen with wood floor and scale beneath. The 1880s brass scale with weights is alongside the pen in a plywood box. The log corral fencing dates from the 1940s-1950s and is identical to all of the fencing in the corral area in 1900. The inoculation shed is a wood framed structure with corrugated metal siding and roof. Inside are a couple of metal frame livestock restraints. The chemical dipping tank consists of a 50' long by 10' wide by 8' deep concrete shoot dug into the ground where livestock were forced through. The fifth contributing structure is a 1930s-40s wind pump and tower located north of the main house and near a smaller adobe barn. This smaller adobe barn is not being nominated as part of the Historic District, as a significant portion of it is located on adjacent private property. The owner of the property does not want the building included in the listing.

There are two non-contributing buildings and four structures. These consist of a wood and generator shed with little significance or integrity, a 1970s stonewall between the house and barn, 1970s stone fishpond, 1970s swimming pool foundation, and rebuilt water tower/cistern with low integrity.

Physical Relationship of Buildings, Appearance and Qualities of District

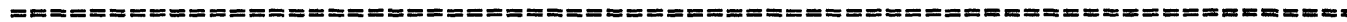
The general layout and physical relationship of the buildings illustrates that this historic district is a working ranch with a main ranch residence and business headquarters. A separate staircase and entrance to the ranch office indicates this. The machine/blacksmith shop is adjacent to the road, barn and stock pens. The main road is situated between the barn and the main house. The barns, machine shop and the other working ranch features

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are clustered in one area with the main house separate. From the porch veranda, one has a view of almost the entire operation and thousands of acres of grazing land in the San Rafael Valley. The proposed district can be seen from miles away and stands out from the rolling hills of grassland. The site of the ranch headquarters was chosen because of its higher elevation and abundant water source. These characteristics and layout have not dramatically changed from the 1884-1957 period. The present buildings and layout reflect the historic use and pattern of activities of the San Rafael Cattle Company. The historic integrity of the ranch and its quality is intact and is a significant example of a ranching historic district.

Bisecting the district is the old main road from Lochiel to Patagonia. Called the Patagonia San Rafael Road, it is now fenced off. The road separated the barn area and the main house. It provided the main travel route through the ranch and could have been used to control access to the area.

Historical Archaeology

There are archaeological remains surrounding the headquarters that consist of building foundations, a mining slag pile, and artifact concentrations. These have not been fully evaluated for their potential to yield significant information about the history of ranching in the Santa Cruz Valley. Should they later be evaluated as having such potential, an appropriate amendment to the historic district nomination will be submitted.

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SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The San Rafael Historic District meets two criteria of the National Register of Historic Places, A and C. The San Rafael Ranch headquarters was the staging grounds for significant historic events that contributed to local and state history. The ranch is directly associated with the development of the ranching industry in Arizona between 1884 and 1957. In 1884 the ranch, already operating for two years, moved to its permanent location where the first of three ranch houses was built on the site, along with barns, bunkhouses, and outbuildings. In the early 1890s, a two-story vernacular adobe territorial style ranch house was built. In December 1899, the ranch house and other buildings were destroyed by fire. In 1900, the present ranch house and machine shop were built. The remaining fire-charred buildings were demolished in the early 1900s. The 1957 end date signifies the end of the large-scale ranching operations for the San Rafael Ranch. With the post-World War II boom in the cattle industry waning and 30-plus year ranch manager Tom Heady retiring, ranching in the region changed. In the 1950s the Greene Cattle Company, San Rafael Division, appears to have lost large holdings of land in Mexico that connected adjoining rangelands, thus having to cut back on their livestock operations. Beginning in the mid-1950s, the San Rafael Ranch and other nearby spreads were used as settings for Hollywood films. The movies *Oklahoma!* (1955), *McLintock!* (1963), and *Tom Horn* (1979) were filmed at the ranch.

The property fully meets the criteria for A and C due to its significant contribution to the historical development of agriculture/ranching and commerce, as well as providing a unique example of a grand architectural style. San Rafael was a successful ranching operation through management's use of new, innovative techniques in raising livestock. These included the introduction to the area of a species of cattle with the ability to adapt to the environment and for being one of the first Western ranches to ship cattle east for profit. Colin Cameron, the ranch's first owner, was a significant figure in Territorial Arizona's ranching industry and contributed to the economic development of southern Arizona.

The San Rafael ranch house, built in 1900, represents a striking example of French Colonial Revival architecture, an unusual choice for the rural ranch lands of southern Arizona. The large building was most likely built to make a statement of permanence and dominance after the previous main ranch house mysteriously burned in 1899. Its fine craftsmanship and distinctive architectural style meet National Register Criterion C as the best example of French Colonial Revival architecture in Arizona. The San Rafael Historic District is significant at the State Level for its unique architectural style.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

The San Rafael Ranch was one of several large Territorial-era ranch empires in Southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Its operations began in 1882 and it eventually encompassed over 200,000 acres in the San Rafael Valley with over 10,000 head of cattle. The ranch played a significant role in the development of the San Rafael Valley and cattle ranching in Arizona and the Southwest.

In the 1880s, after the threat of Apache raiding subsided and the Southern Pacific Railroad was completed in 1881, many large ranches were either founded or expanded in Southern Arizona. The San Rafael Ranch was one of these large ranches contemporaneous with the Empire, San Bernadino, and Faraway ranches. Colin Cameron's development of the San Rafael Ranch included his collaboration with other ranchers in developing, maintaining, and marketing a healthy livestock industry. In October 1883, Colin Cameron introduced Hereford cattle to Arizona. After the successful wintering of the herd, many other ranchers who had witnessed the introduction and success followed suit in the spring of 1884. This experiment changed the dynamics of cattle ranching in Arizona. The change of cattle breed required altering the method of cattle rearing. Cameron was familiar with Herefords and managing them. The Herefords eventually became the dominant breed and virtually replaced longhorns and descendants of the Criola cattle in Arizona.



Colin Cameron
circa 1900

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In the winter of 1884, cattlemen all over the United States were alarmed by epidemics of pleuro-pneumonia and hoof-and-mouth disease. At the time, the Pima County Arizona Live Stock Ranchman’s Association president, Walter Vail (of the Empire Ranch), secretary Colin Cameron, and member Brewster Cameron (Colin Cameron’s brother) of Tucson met and agreed to form an association to combat the situation. In December, they met with other county associations and created the Arizona Stock Grower’s Association. Through this association, Colin Cameron worked with Arizona ranchers and was instrumental in drawing up the “Act for the Protection of Live Stock Raisers” that passed the Territorial legislature. This act called for stricter branding regulations and fines for introducing diseased cattle into the Territory. The formation of the association led to the foundation of the governor-appointed Live Stock Sanitary Commission.

An 1825 Mexican Land Grant known as the San Rafael De La Zanja defined the boundaries of the ranch property. The size of the land grant and its interpretation by owners, lawyers, and government officials led to the Supreme Court ruling in 1903. In 1882, the ranch headquarters was located along the Santa Cruz River to the north. In 1884, it was relocated to its present site. The headquarters and associated buildings that comprise the historic district are the subject of this history. The historic district also represents the struggle between a large cattle rancher with vast land claims, small-scale farmers and homesteaders. The tension led to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that settled the issue.

Criterion A

Under Criterion A, the ranch is directly associated with the development of the ranching industry in Arizona between 1884 and 1957. The ranch was “built and/or used primarily for the purpose of raising cattle” a requirement specifically noted by Collins (1996:84) in the SHPO context study on cattle ranching in Arizona. The significance of the San Rafael Ranch is specifically mentioned in the Cattle Ranching in Arizona, 1540-1950 Multiple Property Documentation Form in Section E, pages 21-22.

Ranching was an integral part of the history of land use in Arizona long before the area was considered for statehood. The first cattle reportedly entered what is now southern Arizona in 1540 with Francisco Vasquez de Coronado for use as meat by the men of his expedition. Later, the Spanish established land grants and moved herds of *criola* cattle north from Mexico in order to establish a buffer against the Apache. Within the San Rafael Valley, one mile southeast of the ranch headquarters along the Santa Cruz River, the recent archaeological excavation of a Spanish *criola* cow at the Bonz site (AZ EE:10:172 ASM) has been dated to approximately 1650 A.D. Many American-owned herds first crossed the territory en route from Texas to the goldfields in California around 1850. After a brief hiatus occasioned by the incursions of Apache raiders and by the Civil War, cattle once again crossed to California in the 1870s to replace the stock depleted by several years of drought (Haskett 1935). In addition, cattle quickly became an essential part of the economies for the Native Americans in the Southwest (Collins, 1996).

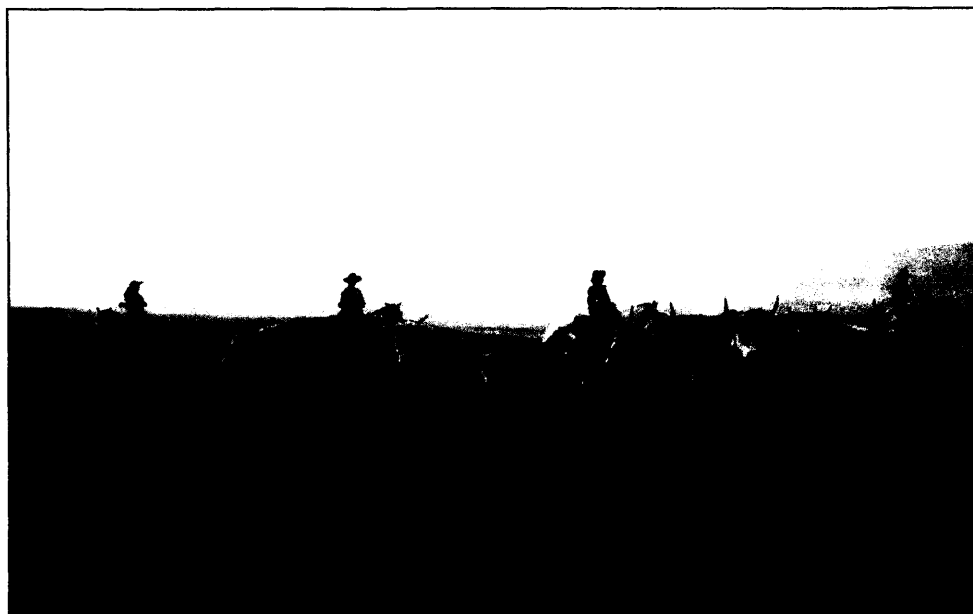
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Hereford Cattle, San Rafael Ranch
circa 1900

In January 1822, the land encompassing the modern San Rafael Ranch was purchased at auction by Don Ramon Romero and several *parcioneros*, or shareholders, under Spanish jurisdiction. On May 15, 1825, the new Republic of Mexico granted the San Rafael De La Zanja land grant to Romero. In 1853, the Gadsden Purchase brought the property into the United States.

With the cessation of Apache raiding, permanent settlement soon followed, and government land policies allowed for the rapid expansion of the ranching industry. Homesteaders and squatters laid claim to the rich grasslands of the San Rafael Valley, where cattle flourished. In 1880, Pennsylvanian Rollin R. Richardson (founder of Patagonia, Arizona), purchased the property and began developing stock on it. Most likely one of his first ventures was smelting ore from the Pocahontas mine. Remains of mining slag are evident on the property, just north of the ranch house.

In 1882, the San Rafael De La Zanja land grant was purchased by a group of eastern investors lead by Pennsylvanian Colin Cameron and his brother Brewster. Colin and Brewster Cameron were the sons of Simon

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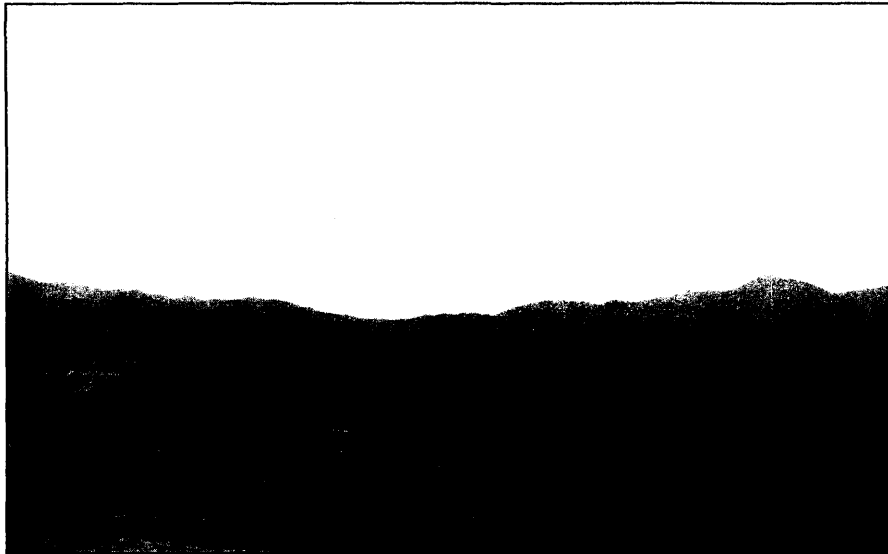
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Cameron, an influential Pennsylvania Republican, railroad magnate, and former member of President Lincoln's cabinet. Colin Cameron, as the owner and manager of the San Rafael Cattle Company, became an influential figure in Arizona ranching, politics, the Arizona Live Stock Sanitary Commission from 1882-1911.



San Rafael Ranch Corrals
circa 1900

The San Rafael Cattle Company was incorporated on December 26, 1885. Colin and Brewster Cameron formed the company with several eastern investors. The ranch became one of the first large-scale enterprises in the territory that established cattle ranching as a major contributor to Territorial Arizona's economy. Under the progressive and sometimes aggressive leadership of Colin Cameron, the San Rafael herds soon filled the valley and numbered in the thousands.

Colin Cameron brought with him the education and experience of managing a large dairy farm in Pennsylvania. The ranch became a center for experimentation by the introduction of new breeds. In 1883, Cameron brought the first Hereford cattle to Arizona and found that it could not only survive, but thrived in the summer heat and winter snows. He constructed a complex of holding pens and corrals and developed successful breeding programs for both Shorthorns and Galloways (Haskett 1935:39). He also imported purebred horses and started the practice of raising and selling two year-old heifers. Cameron was one of the first Arizona cattlemen to ship his stock to Midwestern and Eastern markets, sending calves and feeders, as well as butcher steers, thus pioneering "a transformation of the Arizona range cattle industry (Hadley and Sheridan 1995:103)." According to Jane Wayland Brewster, "from that time forward, ranchers began selling their cattle as feeders, instead of holding them until they were three and four years old. Thereafter, Arizona ranches became essentially

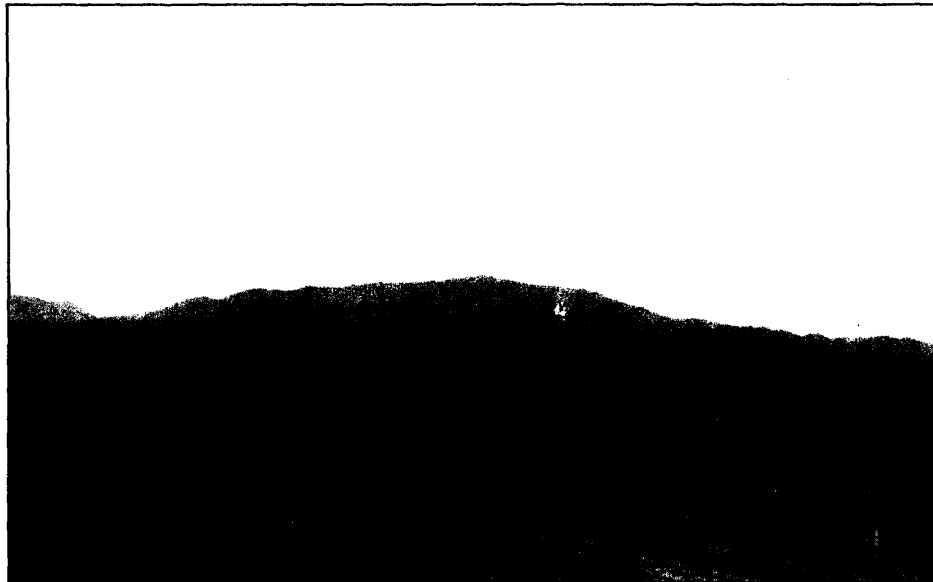
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breeding establishments (1966:140).” Another significant innovation was the development of artificial sources for watering cattle (Hadley and Sheridan 1995). In 1887 Cameron was instrumental in the formation of Arizona’s Live Stock Sanitary Commission in Arizona that focused on preventing the spread of livestock disease. Cameron was selected in 1893 as commission chair and proceeded to reform the livestock laws of the Territory.



Main Barn (left) and Blacksmith Shop (right)
circa 1900

Cameron was also a circumstantial conservationist. Convinced he owned more rangeland than he actually did played a major role in the prevention of deforestation. Through his family contacts in the federal government, he was able to prevent logging activities by the military and nearby mining interests. He also learned to spay heifers during periods of severe drought, thus limiting the size of his herds and possibly blunting the effects of overgrazing. This pattern of developing superior herds continued throughout the life of the ranch, resulting in large numbers of registered and purebred cows and bulls (Hadley and Sheridan 1995). By the turn of the century, the San Rafael Cattle Company had the largest registered Hereford herd in the West. Colin Cameron’s pioneering ranch methods brought him renown throughout the United States (Wayland, 1964).

In the 1890s, legal proceedings began with regards to the actual size of the San Rafael De La Zanja land grant. Cameron claimed over 60,000 acres plus another 200,000 acres surrounding the land grant. Small-scale ranchers, settlers, and politicians were contesting the vague legal description and land claims of the San Rafael Ranch. Similar legal proceedings were occurring amongst private ranchland in New Mexico and Texas.

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In 1903 the U.S. Supreme Court decision defined the grant as 17,264 acres, not as 69,056 acres. The San Rafael Cattle Company was then sold that same year to Colonel W. C. Greene of Cananaea, Mexico for \$1.5 Million.



Cameron's successor as owner of the San Rafael Ranch, William C. Greene, was also a man of great prominence in Arizona and neighboring Mexico. However, because he did not reside permanently at the ranch during his years of ownership (1903-1911), the San Rafael Ranch Historic District is not significant under Criterion B for his association. Still, Greene and his successors continued the ranch's tradition of innovative ranching techniques, not the least important of which were the protection of the native flora. The Greene family sold the ranch, a uniquely intact botanical community, to the State of Arizona in 1998.

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William C. Greene
circa 1900

William Cornell Greene (born August 26, 1853 in Duck Creek, Wisconsin) was already a significant figure in the Arizona Territory because of his extensive mining and cattle interests in the southern portion of the territory and northern Sonora, Mexico. He was prominent in the history of Tombstone as well as being the founder of the town of Cananea, in Sonora, Mexico. Greene owned and developed the copper, silver and gold mine in Cananea and built a large mansion there. In Tombstone during the 1890s, Greene owned a ranch in the area and resided there prior to his move to Cananea. In the summer of 1897 a neighbor of Greene's, Jim Burnett, was accused of blowing up one of Greene's dams, causing the death of Greene's daughter and another young girl. The two men unexpectedly met in Tombstone in July 1897. Greene shot and killed Jim Burnett at the OK Corral. Greene was arrested, but the ensuing trial resulted in his acquittal.

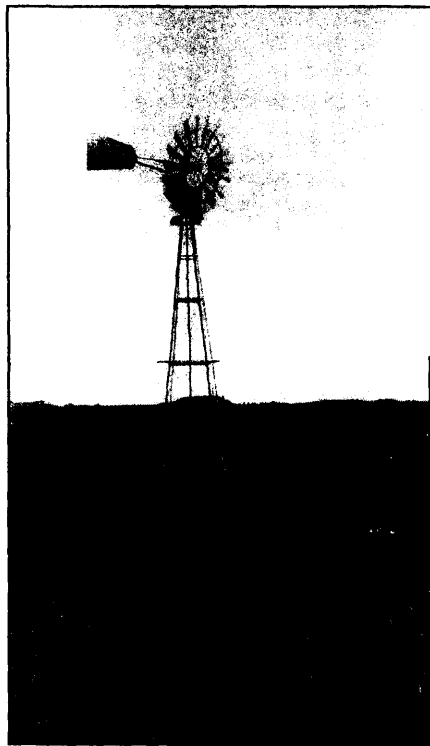
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At the age of forty-six, he returned to New York, raised money through investors, and started several publicly-traded companies that tapped into the Sonora mines. He and his new wife Mary, a young Mexican-American from Arizona, lived at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. They maintained other homes in Los Angeles, California and Cananea, Sonora. The Greenses owned their own railroad car, and by 1905, Greene was said to be worth \$50 million.



Wind Pump and tower
circa 1900

From his Cananea residence thirty miles southeast of the San Rafael Ranch, he expanded his cattle interests. Although Greene never lived permanently at the ranch, it remained in his family until 1998. After Cameron's sale of the ranch to Greene, Cameron initially remained manager of the ranch from his headquarters in Tucson for until both men's unrelated deaths in 1911. Tom Heady managed the ranch for the Greene family from 1915 into the 1950s. In the 1920s, Greene's family expanded the ranch in the United States by purchasing homesteads along the Mexican border near the ranch headquarters. His acquisition of the historic land

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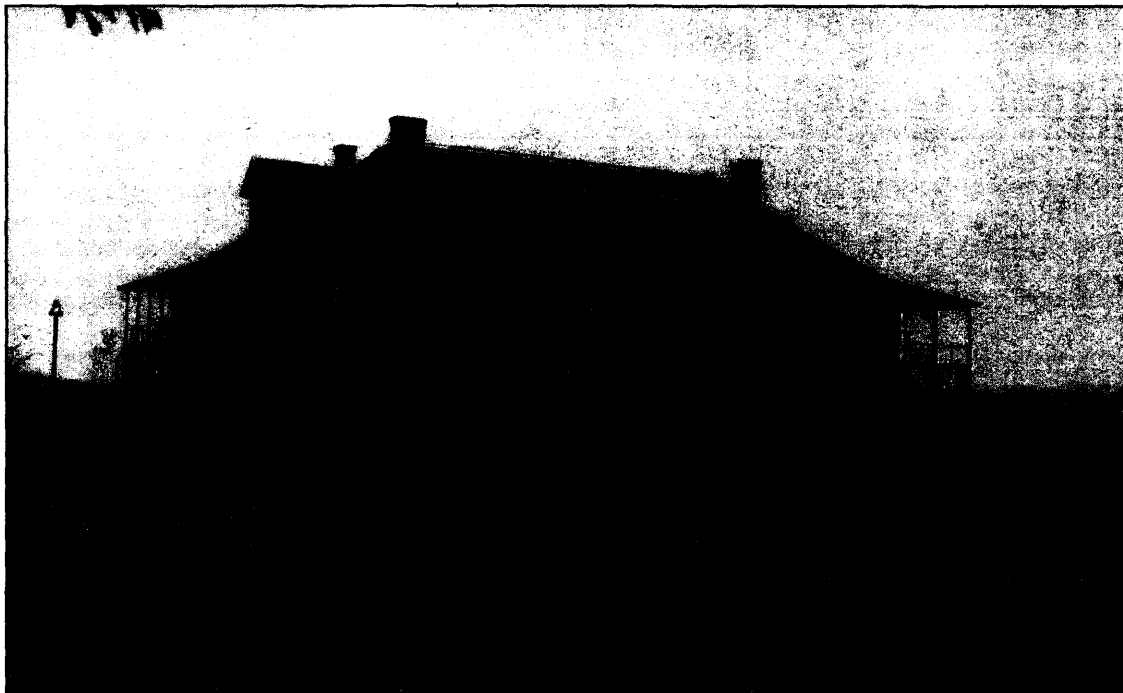
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grant was a natural extension to his ranching properties in Sonora. This purchase was part of a pattern of large ranch expansion. Greene, and subsequently his progeny, adhered to many of Cameron's management practices and continued Cameron's experiments with pasture/range land grazing. More recently, the ranch has become the location for experiments with irrigated permanent pastures and the breeding of superior registered stock (Hadley and Sheridan 1995).



Main Ranch House, view looking north
circa 1905

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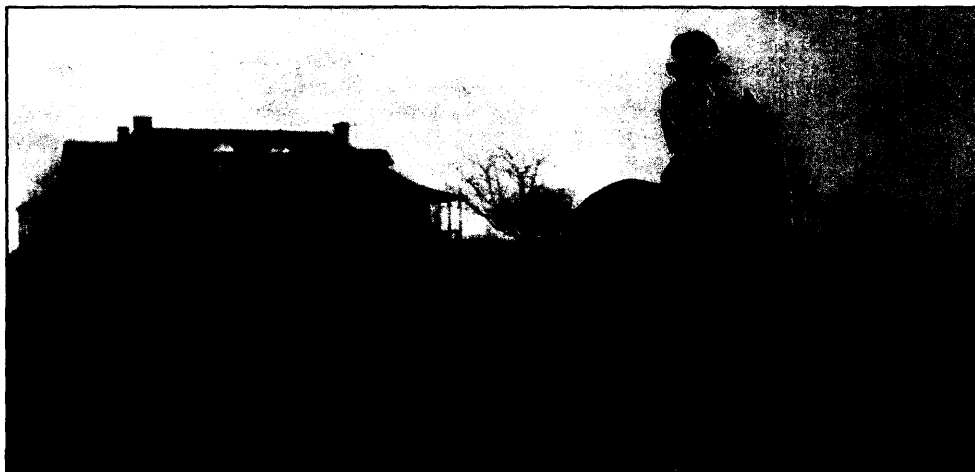
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Criterion C

The San Rafael ranch house is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C. Unlike other ranch houses in Arizona that reflected the Spanish-American tradition of architecture, Colin Cameron’s mansion was designed in the French Colonial Revival style. It bears a strong resemblance to the 1801 Homeplace Plantation in Saint Charles Parish, Louisiana.

The French Colonial Revival style was popular in the U.S. from roughly 1700 to 1860. Examples are typically found in the South, especially in and around New Orleans, Louisiana, where the French maintained an outpost until the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Urban cottage variations of the style rarely had porches, unless of multiple stories; rural homes did. The French Colonial home, even in urban locations, tended to have an outward-looking design, as if to invite passersby.

The reason Cameron selected the French Colonial Revival style for his Arizona ranch house is unknown. Although Cameron is generally credited as the designer and builder of the house, the building is too stylistically and technically advanced to have been conceived without professional architectural assistance. Late in 1900, when construction was nearly complete, the *Arizona Republican* commented that it would be “the finest ranch house ever seen on a cattle ranch (Stewart 1987).”



Alice Faith Cameron, San Rafael Ranch house
circa 1905

The main ranch house is a unique and significant architectural example of one of the largest and best Territorial ranch houses built in Arizona. It was well constructed by knowledgeable builders, utilizing only the finest

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materials and craftsmanship. A brick kiln was constructed nearby and local clay was fired to create all the bricks for the main ranch house. It is the only Arizona ranch house built in the French Colonial Revival style. It is a departure from the Spanish/Mexican adobe architecture prevalent in southern Arizona. Its size, material and prominent location overlooking the San Rafael Valley make it a landmark in the area. The adjacent outbuildings are integral parts of the ranch headquarters that add to the integrity of the property. The main ranch house was the focal point of all ranching activities from 1900 until its acquisition by Arizona State Parks in 1998.

Integrity

Few of the historic ranches that once dotted the Arizona landscape remain. Most have fallen victim to the economic pressures of land development. Drought and the fluctuation of the cattle market have claimed others. Additionally, population growth and its resulting urban sprawl have claimed much of the former open range. San Rafael is one of the few ranches that retains its historic association with cattle ranching as well as the integrity of its immediate landscape and the feeling communicated by the property is very much as it was when the Cameron Family resided there a century ago. Today, through the 3,500-acre state park and adjacent 17,000-acre conservation easement, Arizona State Parks is committed to preserve this crown jewel of Arizona ranching history.

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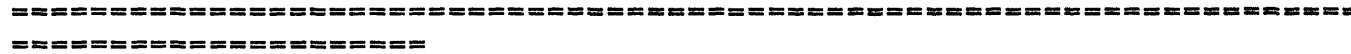
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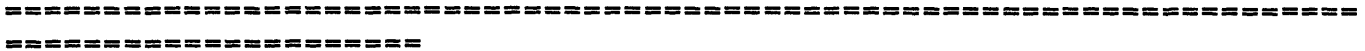
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SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

San Rafael Ranch Historic District

<u>UTM References</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A. NW corner	12	536,548,3468996	
B. SW corner	12	536,548,3468772	
C. SE corner	12	536,893,3468772	
D. NE corner	12	536,893,3468996	

Verbal Boundary Description

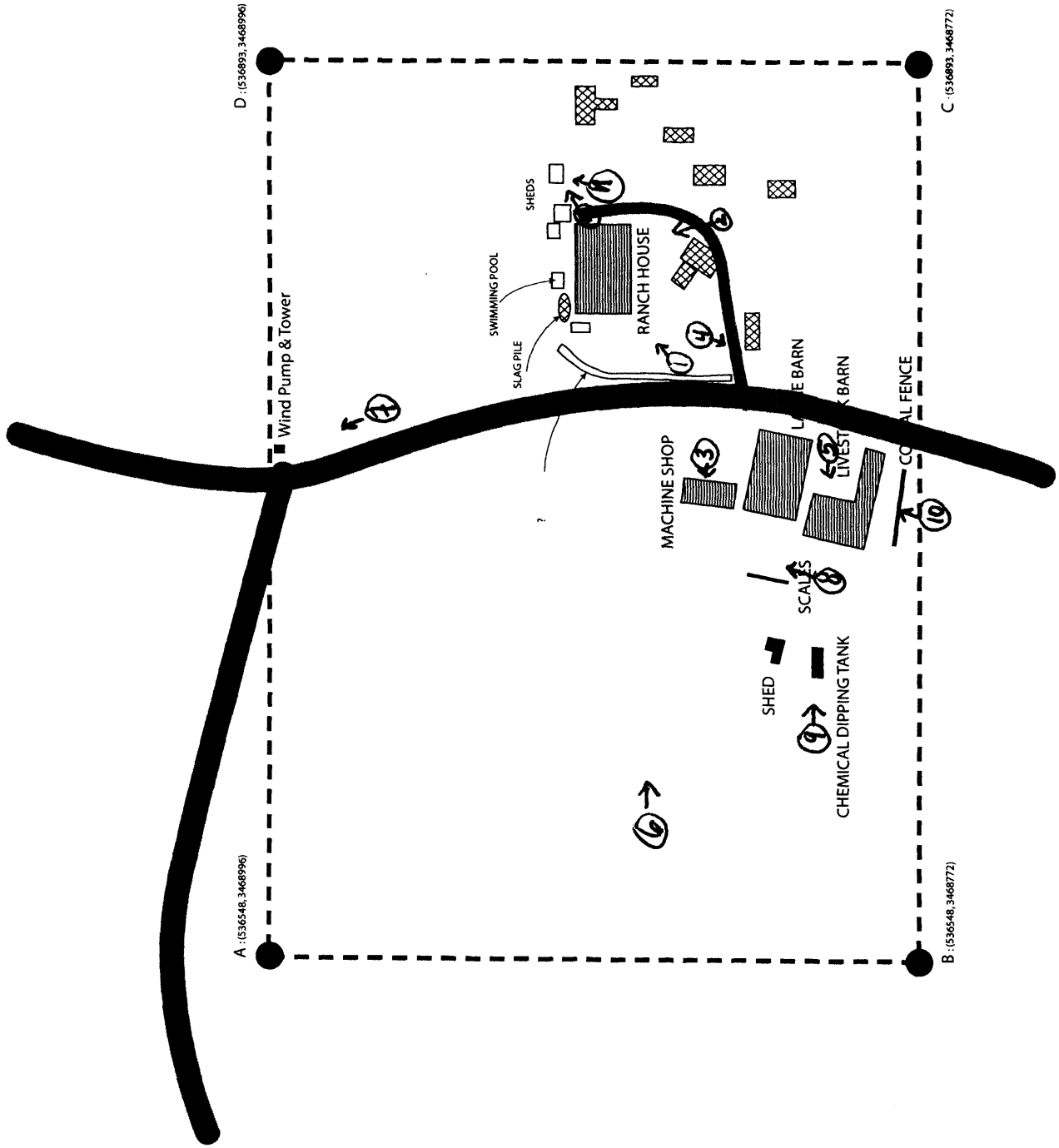
The San Rafael Ranch historic district is located in Sections 9 & 16 of Townships 24 South, Range 17 East (Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian).

See USGS topographic map and district map for precise location.

Boundary Justification

The San Rafael Ranch historic district boundary has been drawn to encompass all built resources (both contributing and non-contributing) associated with the historic operations of the ranch. The northern boundary follows the historical boundary of the San Rafael de la Zanja land grant. The remaining eastern, western, and southern boundaries, although arbitrary, have been selected to encompass the "historic core" of ranch operations.

San Rafael Ranch Historic District Santa Cruz County, AZ



- : Contributing Structure
- ▨ : Contributing Building
- ▩ : Archaeological Features (unevaluated)
- ▧ : Non-Contributing Structure/Building
- - - : District Boundary
- ⓪ : Photo Key

UTM Reference : UTM NAD27 ZONE12
A: (Easting, Northing)



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD


NRIS Reference Number: 08000001

Property Name: San Rafael Ranch Historic District

County: Santa Cruz State: Arizona

Multiple Name: Cattle Ranching in Arizona, 1540-1950, MPS

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

 February 07, 2008
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5: Classification

One Contributing Site is, hereby, added to the Number of Resources, making the total number of contribution resources "10." This corresponds to the 25-acre headquarters site that has been integral to the operation of the ranch since its founding in 1884.

The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**