

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 Douglass, James S. and Melquides E., House

other names/site number Sult, F. Preston and Frances T., House

**2. Location**

street & number 850 South Park Street (formerly 2306 Park Street)

not for publication

city or town Florence

vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Pinal code 021 zip code 85232

**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        meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide X locally.  
(        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official James W. Sankin ASPTPO

Date 7 APRIL 2004

State or Federal agency and bureau ARIZONA STATE PARKS.

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**

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Linda McElward 5/27/04

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   8   James S. and Melquides E. Douglass House  
Pinal County, Arizona

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

**SUMMARY**

The nominated property is significant under Criterion B as the home of James S. Douglass (c1828-1888). Douglass played an important role in the settlement and development of Florence, Arizona Territory. Following his brief confinement (1862) at Fort Yuma on suspicion of being a Confederate supporter, Douglass served in the Third Territorial Legislature (1866) and was an undersheriff in Pima County (1871) before moving to Florence in 1874. He homesteaded nearly 160 acres of land in south Florence and began subdividing it as an addition to the townsite. The period of significance for the house begins with its construction for Douglass in 1874, and ends in 1888 with the owner's death. The level of significance is local.

**Context: Association with James S. Douglass, Southern Arizona Pioneer and Florence Settler/Developer**

The nominated property is significant as the home of James S. Douglass. Douglass was born in the State of New York about 1828 (Goff 1998). He moved west in the 1850s, and by 1856 was the owner of the Sopori Ranch, some 30 miles southwest of Tucson in the Gadsden Purchase (*Los Angeles Star*, 8/23/1856:2). There, he raised cattle and engaged in mining silver, "not extensively, but profitably," according to one account (*Los Angeles Star*, 5/23/1857:2). He relocated to Tucson in 1859 following a serious illness (*San Diego Herald*, 3/26/1859:2).

The Civil War proved turbulent for Douglass. In February 1862, Captain Sherod Hunter and a company of Confederate troops arrived in Tucson to take possession of the town. According to Douglass, "they threatened to chain me hand and foot and send me to the Rio Grande which threat I have no doubt they would have put in execution had I not succeeded in eluding their vigilance and making my escape from the town sometime previous to their abandonment of the place" (Douglass 1862). He fared no better with Union troops. Within two hours of Colonel J. H. Carleton's arrival, Douglass was arrested on suspicion of being a Confederate sympathizer. His property was seized. He was examined by a Board of Officers, then taken with other prisoners to Fort Yuma, where he arrived on June 22, 1862. Douglass wrote a letter affirming his allegiance to the Union cause, and was released on August 25th (Douglass 1862).

Returning to Tucson, Douglass soon married Melquides (also spelled Milquiades) Elias (1848-1904), a native Arizonan. The couple would eventually have five children, Matilda, Orlando, James W., William, and Elizabeth. The father supported his family by mining, ranching, and owning/operating the Cienega Stage Station, some 15 miles southeast of Tucson (Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records/ASLAPR nd).

Douglass rose to prominence when he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Third Territorial Legislature (Kelly 1926). The session convened at Prescott on October 3, 1866. Douglass served only 17 days. He resigned on October 20th in order to accompany a gravely ill colleague, Henry McC. Ward, back home to Tucson (ASLAPR nd; Goff 1998). In 1871, the former legislator was appointed Under Sheriff and Jailor for Pima County (*Arizona Citizen*, 1/7/1871:3). Two years later, he was selected to be Sergeant-at-Arms when the Seventh Territorial Legislature convened at Tucson (*Weekly Arizonan*, 2/18/1871:3).

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**4. National Park Service Certification**  
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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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
**5. Classification**  
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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>  1  </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:    DOMESTIC                      Subcategory: Single dwelling

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:    DOMESTIC                      Subcategory: Single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:    LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS                      Subcategory: Colonial Revival

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation:    EARTH, CONCRETE  
Walls:    ADOBE, WOOD (Woodframe)  
Roof:    METAL: Sheet metal  
Other:    N/A

**Narrative Description** (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 6-7*)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.
- X   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  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**  
1874-1888

**Significant Dates**  
1874 (construction of house)

**Significant Person**  
Douglass, James S.

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 8-10*)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 11-12*)

**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 Library, Archives & Public Records, Phoenix, Arizona

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** \_\_0.43\_\_

**UTM References** (See accompanying USGS map for point reference)  
Zone 12      464280E      3653829N

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property lies within Township 5 South, Range 9 East, Section 1, NW 1/4(Gila & Salt River Meridian). The boundary of the nominated property is that of Tax Parcel #202-03-123, consisting of Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 31 of the Douglas(s) Addition to the Florence Townsite. The Douglas(s) Addition plat was recorded with the Pinal County Recorder on July 17, 1909. The parcel contains approximately 18,750 sq ft, or 0.43 acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property is the legally recorded boundary line for Tax Parcel #202-03-123, Pinal County, Arizona.

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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name/title:      **Pat Haigh Stein**  
organization:    **Arizona Preservation Consultants**  
street/number:   **6786 Mariah Drive**  
city or town:     **Flagstaff**                      state: **AZ**  
date: **September 2003**  
telephone: **(928) 714-0585**  
zip code:    **86004**

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**Additional Documentation**  
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**Continuation Sheets** (pages 6-13)

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property (Photos 1 and 2)

**Other**

N/A

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**Property Owner**  
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name: **Alfred and Julia Celaya**  
street & number: **515 South Willow Street/P.O. Box 748**  
city or town: **Florence**                      state: **Arizona**  
telephone: **(520) 868-4262**  
zip code: **85232**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section  7  Page  6  James S. and Melquides E. Douglass House  
Pinal County, Arizona

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**DESCRIPTION**

**SUMMARY**

The nominated property was constructed in 1874 as a residence for homesteader James S. Douglass and his family. The building is a one-story, stuccoed adobe dwelling with a hipped roof and square plan. A recessed porch wraps around the north, east, and south sides of the building. The main alteration has consisted of infilling two areas of the porch toward the rear of the building. Despite this alteration, the house still conveys its nineteenth century appearance, retaining sufficient integrity to qualify for the National Register under Criterion B.

**Location and Setting**

The property is located within the Town of Florence on Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 31 of the Douglas Addition to the Florence Townsite. The town has served as the seat of Pinal County since the county was created in 1875. Florence lies approximately 60 mi southeast of the state capital of Phoenix and 70 mi north of Tucson.

The geographic setting is the alluvial plain of the middle Gila River Valley. The elevation is approximately 1500 ft above sea level. Annual rainfall normally varies from 10 to 12 inches. The climate of this Sonoran Desert locality is characterized by mild winters and hot summers.

The property is sited on an approximately square 0.43-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Park and Stewart streets. The principal elevation of the home faces east, onto Park Street. The setback from both roads is approximately 20 ft. To the south, across Stewart Street, is a modern housing development. To the north, east, and west are homes dating from the early to mid twentieth century. The site is flat, with minimal landscaping. One small evergreen grows in the front yard. Along the rear property line are mature deciduous trees that provide shade during the hottest hours of summer. The house is neatly tended and well maintained by its present owners, who use it as a rental property.

**Description**

The Douglass house is a one-story, stuccoed adobe dwelling with a hipped roof. The medium-pitched roof is of woodframe construction with galvanized, corrugated sheet-metal roofing. Exterior walls measure 21 inches thick, and interior walls, 15 inches thick. The footprint is 55 ft east-west by 57 ft north-south. These dimensions include the area occupied by a recessed porch, measuring 10 ft deep, that wraps around the north, east, and west sides of the house.

The main (east) elevation exhibits symmetrical massing and an unadorned facade. The entry has a three-panel wooden door with one large light. To either side of the central entry are wooden-sash, double-hung, six-over-six windows.

The wrap-around porch is the main character-defining element of the building. Porch columns consist of 4 by 4-inch wooden posts. Originally the porch probably had a wooden deck and no balustrade; such was the style of many late

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nineteenth century Florence dwellings (Sobin 1977; Wells and Urbas 1985). The porch of the Douglass house now has a concrete deck and low (16-inch tall), stuccoed balustrade.

Interior walls are plastered. Tongue-and-groove ceilings are approximately 8 1/2 ft tall. Doors are wooden, usually with five panels. Original wooden flooring has been covered in the modern period with (variously) vinyl tile, carpeting, and new wooden flooring.

The main alteration to the house has consisted of infilling two portions of the wrap-around porch near the rear of the building. At the northwest corner, the porch has been enclosed to create a 10 by 14 ft storage space; county records suggest that this change occurred in the mid twentieth century. At the southwest corner, the porch has been enclosed to create a 10 by 29.5 ft space containing two rooms. No records directly indicate when this infill occurred. However, the bungalow-style windows and doors used for the woodframe infill suggest a construction date in the early twentieth century.

**Integrity**

The porch infill at the northwest corner of the house occupies a small area that is barely seen from the front of the property. The infill at the southwest corner *is* seen from the front of the house, but is recessed far enough back from the main elevation that it is unobtrusive. The replacement of the original porch deck with concrete decking has had no adverse visual impact on the house. The porch balustrade is low, and does not block the view of the front facade, with its original door and windows. The property still conveys the appearance of a nineteenth century adobe home. Historic property surveys (Sobin 1977; Wells and Urbas 1985) further suggest that the Douglass House is one of only a small number of Florence buildings that have survived from the 1870s. The building retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to qualify for the National Register under Criterion B.



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The Douglass family moved to Florence in 1874. The town had been founded in 1866 as an agricultural community (Nichols 1975). Levi Ruggles had acquired land there, had divided it into blocks and lots, and had succeeded in attracting buyers. In the late 1860s and early 1870s, the federal government completed subdivision surveys of the land surrounding Florence. The surveys officially opened the area to settlement under the Homestead Act, and attracted waves of new settlers, including James Douglass.

Douglass filed a homestead claim upon his arrival in Florence. The claim consisted of the NW 1/4 of Section 1 in Township 5 South, Range 9 East, containing 159.11 acres (General Land Office 1894). The Douglass claim, which lay south and southeast of the land that Ruggles was developing, would be called South Florence (Pinal County Probate Court Case #97). To meet the requirements of the Homestead Act, Douglass in 1874 built a home on the claim and began residing there. The house (the nominated property) would remain his primary residence for the rest of his life (Pinal County Assessor nd; ASLAPR nd).

Florence became the county seat when Pinal County was created in 1875. To supplement his income from ranching and farming, Douglass often worked for the County as its Spanish Court Interpreter. In January 1885, he was appointed Road Overseer for Florence Precinct, and soon had a force of men working on the community's Main Street. He used his skills as a surveyor to lay out streets, blocks, and lots within his own homestead claim. He named the streets after his children (Elizabeth, Matilda, Orlando) and after members of the Colton family (Georgia, Park, Colton) (ASLAPR nd; Devine 1964).

Subdivision of the homestead was in progress when Douglass died on April 4, 1888. He died intestate, and so the case was probated. Settlement of the estate took seven years. Complications arose when it was discovered that Douglass had not obtained a clear title to the homestead. Other parties contested the claim, and challenged his right to subdivide and sell any part of it (Pinal County Probate Court Case #97).

The General Land Office eventually decided the controversy in favor of the deceased. The federal government accordingly issued (posthumously) a patent deed to James S. Douglass in 1894 (General Land Office 1894). With the issue of title settled, the probate court allowed the Douglass estate to sell land in the subdivision to support Douglass' wife and minor children. Sale of the parcels began in 1895. Major buyers included E. J. McKain, W. R. Stone, John A. Burbank, C. H. Tillman, and Juan Avenenti (Pinal County Probate Court Case #97).

In 1909, the subdivision was officially--although somewhat erroneously--recorded as the Douglas Addition, with one "s". As parcels around them were sold and developed, the Douglasses retained the family home. An heir of the Douglass estate finally sold the home in 1925 for the sum of \$2,375 (Pinal County Recorder 1925).

The buyer was Fred P. Perkins, M.D. (1881-1950). Dr. Perkins owned the property for only two years before selling it to Paul W. Loucks (Pinal County Recorder 1927). A teacher at Florence Union High School, Loucks moved to Coolidge, Arizona, in 1930 (*Arizona Republic*, 12/26/1962:60). Following his move, Loucks likely used the Florence house as a rental property. In 1943 he sold it to F. Preston and Frances Sult (Pinal County Recorder 1943). The Sults used the

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house as their home, in which they raised a large family. Preston Sult became a Pinal County judge; Frances was a teacher in the public schools. The home remained in the Sult family until the mid 1990s, when it was sold to its present owners, Alfred and Julia Celaya. The Celayas currently use the house as a rental property.

The house is nominated to the National Register under Criterion B for its association with James S. Douglass and his important role in the settlement and development of Florence. No other Florence property appears to have a strong association with this historical figure. SHPO inventory records have not identified other properties in the state having a specific association with James S. Douglass.

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Arizona Citizen*

1871 Transcribed newspaper notation dated 1/7/1871, page 3, concerning James S. Douglass. Legislator files, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

*Arizona Republic*

1962 Obituary for Paul W. Loucks. December 26, p. 60.

Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records (ASLAPR)

nd File for James S. Douglass. Legislator files, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Devine, Lottie C.

1964 *Es Verdad, or It Is True*. Coolidge Shopper Printing and Publishing Company, Coolidge, AZ.

Douglass, James S.

1862 Letter dated June 25, 1862, from James S. Douglass, Fort Yuma, to Brig. General Wright, San Francisco. Copy of letter on file, Legislator files, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

General Land Office

1894 Homestead Certificate No. 139 issued to James S. Douglass by President Grover Cleveland, February 1, 1894. Copy on file, State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix.

Goff, John S.

1998 *Arizona Territorial Officials VI, Members of the Legislature A-L*. Black Mountain Press, Cave Creek, Arizona.

Kelly, George H. (compiler)

1926 *Legislative History Arizona 1864-1912*. Manufacturing Stationers, Inc., Phoenix.

*Los Angeles Star*

var. Transcribed newspaper notations concerning James S. Douglass. Legislator files, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Nichols, Roger L.

1975 "A Miniature Venice: Florence, Arizona, 1866-1910." *Journal of Arizona History*, Winter, Vol. 16(4).

Pinal County Assessor

nd Property Record Card, Tax Parcel #202-03-123. County Assessor's Office, Florence, AZ.

Pinal County Probate Court Case #97

nd Microfilmed copy on file, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

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**Pinal County Recorder**

- 1925 Deed dated August 18, 1925, from Sophia Hast Douglas to Fred P. Perkins. Deed Book 48, page 546. Pinal County Recorder's Office, Florence, AZ.
- 1927 Deed dated August 24, 1927, from Fred P. Perkins and Ethel Moody Perkins to Viola Louise Loucks and Paul W. Loucks. Deed Book 48, page 547. Pinal County Recorder's Office, Florence, AZ.
- 1943 Deed dated November 26, 1943, from Paul W. and Viola Loucks to F. Preston Sult and Frances Sult. Deed book 76, page 463. Pinal County Recorder's Office, Florence, AZ.

***San Diego Herald***

- 1859 Transcribed newspaper notation dated 3/26/1859, page 2, regarding James S. Douglass. Legislator files, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

**Sobin, Harris J.**

- 1977 *Florence Townsite A.T.: Final Report of Florence Townsite Historic District Study*. Harris Sobin & Associates, Tucson, AZ.

***Weekly Arizonan***

- 1871 Transcribed newspaper notation dated 2/18/1871, page 3, regarding James S. Douglass. Legislator files, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

**Wells, Reba N., and Andrea Urbas**

- 1985 Florence Multiple Resource Area: National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. Copy on file, State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks, Phoenix, AZ.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 13 James S. and Melquides E. Douglass House  
Pinal County, Arizona

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**Photographic Information**

1. James S. and Melquides E. Douglass House
2. Pinal County, AZ
3. Pat H. Stein
4. 2003
5. State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
6. View northwest, showing the Douglass House
7. Photo 1

1. James S. and Melquides E. Douglass House
2. Pinal County, AZ
3. Pat H. Stein
4. 2003
5. State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
6. View west, showing the Douglass House
7. Photo 2

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

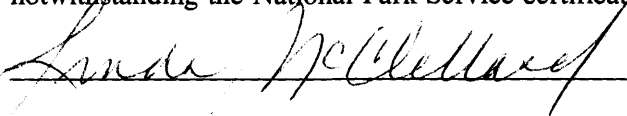
NRIS Reference Number: 04000486

Property Name: Douglass, James S. Melquides E., House

County: Pinal State: Arizona

\_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple Name

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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.

 \_\_\_\_\_ May 27, 2004  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: State Certification

The block indicating the SHPO's certification that "the property meets the National Register Criteria" is hereby marked.

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

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