

PH0661074

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HC VRS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 25 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Growler Mine Area

AND/OR COMMON

Growler Mine

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable

(Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Not applicable

X VICINITY OF

Lukeville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Pima

CODE

019

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

115 North Church

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

"Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument"

DATE

April, 1967

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Arizona

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Growler Mine Area is located west of Growler Pass and Bates Well in the southern extremity of the Growler Mountains. Virtually nothing remains today of the buildings and structures once associated with the site. At one time there was a store situated on the north side of the road that led from Growler Pass. An adobe smelter was located near the Growler Mine, along with three boilers, two steam hoists, and an air compressor. Residents of the area raised vegetables in a garden nearby. Today the site is dotted with numerous test shafts and prospect holes, all abandoned.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880s, 1897, 1910, 1916 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Growler Mine and its vicinity represent one of the earliest and most intensely worked copper areas in the border country south of Ajo, Arizona. The Growler was one of the first mines opened in the entire region and became a reliable producer of high grade copper ore early in the twentieth century. It is of local historical significance.

Growler Mine was named by Frederick Wall for his friend John Growler sometime in the late 1880s. Occupation of the site occurred quickly following the discovery of rich copper deposits, and by the 1890s there was a small community nearby called Growler Camp. Mining began on a small scale and blossomed early in the twentieth century. Some of the earliest claims in the immediate area included the Alice, the Golden Eagle, and the Morning Star. A claim on the Big Growler Mine was filed in 1897 by John W. Wise and S. B. Wellington. After 1900 the Growler changed hands repeatedly. In 1907 Emil Zitlow and a man named Baker were working the mine. Around 1910 George H. Morrill purchased the mine and incorporated twenty-six claims at the site into his Colonial Copper Company. Productivity peaked in 1916, and in the following year Morrill closed the Growler and the neighboring Yellowhammer Mine. From then on various lessees worked the area until 1928, when Morrill sold his holdings to Albert I. Long.

Under Long's guidance the Growler group did not produce much copper ore, and eventually Long leased the site to John Cameron, who used the abandoned water-filled shafts to water his cattle. Work at the Growler was never reactivated and in 1956 and 1957 the patented claims were turned over to the National Park Service.

Today the Growler Mine Area is part of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The principal surviving historic values requiring protection are the historic scene and archeology-historic.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greene, Jerome A. Historic Resource Study, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.  
 Denver: National Park Service, 1977.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 500 acres

UTM REFERENCES

C	X	1,2	3,1,3	7,0,0	3,5	6,0	9,5,0	A	X	1,2	3,1,4	8,5,0	3,5	6,2	0,5,0
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
B	X	1,2	3,1,4	6,0,0	3,5	5,9	3,5,0	D							
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Growler Mine site is located on a low ridge south of the Bates Well Road. The northwest corner is located on the south side of the road across from an old claim marker. The boundary then proceeds in a southerly direction for approximately 310 feet to an old claim marker and then 300 feet to a 2" x 2" stake. It then travels easterly approximately 800 feet to another 2" x 2" stake, then approximately 600 feet to the road. The 2" x 2" stake is near an ironwood tree in a wash and is approximately 740 feet east of the northwest corner. Measurements were paced.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jerome A. Greene, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Historic Preservation Division

DATE

April 15, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

755 Parfet Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-4582

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

12-16-77

*Dorothy H. Hall*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JAN 23 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
*[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/14/78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE NOV 8, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

516 acres

UTM coordinates, Zone 12:

A 3/15/100 35/62/350

B 3/15/000 35/59/900

C 3/14/675 35/59/325

D 3/14/150 35/59/335

E 3/13/450 35/61/100

The UTM coordinates enclose the historic claim boundaries and all of the sites of mining activities and structures on these claims. By their very nature, mining complexes such as this one encompass a large number of acres to include all mineral outcroppings and potential mineral deposits below the surface. These boundaries include not only the major workings in the area but also typical prospect holes and campsites.

This continuation sheet supersedes the data in item 10 of the nomination form - please correct accordingly.

are the dump ramp, platform, and tippie made of timbers, which facilitated the loading of extracted ore onto trucks for transport to Ajo. The tippie is built of rough lumber of variable dimensions. Nearby is a concrete leaching vat measuring 14 feet long by 12 feet wide by 2-1/2 feet deep. This was used to precipitate the copper oxide from the ore by means of a mixture of sulphuric acid and water. There is also an explosives locker, a small excavated pit lined with timbers used to store dynamite and similar blasting equipment. Other excavations in the area comprise a test shaft drilled vertically into the ore to find the depth of the principal ore body, and another such shaft that was only barely started.<sup>14</sup>

The overall significance of Milton Mine is difficult to assess. It never produced much and its history was never as far-reaching as that of the Victoria Mine. Indeed, the evidence suggests that the site was never officially called the Milton Mine; rather, it went by a number of names dependent on the caprice of the particular owner at a given time. Moreover, the site was never very active--the chief periods of interest in the location occurred sporadically from 1917 into the 1960s--and it appears probable that Milton himself never worked the site intensively. Because of its local impact and its exemplification of this low-budget form of surface imining the Milton Mine should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Third Order of Significance. However, its restricted accessibility, owing to current private claims, and its tenuous human and historical associations recommend against an active, on-site interpretive effort. The story of the Milton Mine and of surface mining should be told, but this might be accomplished away from the site.

### 3. Growler Mine and Mining District

Growler Mine represents one of the most intensely worked copper areas within the national monument. Located west of Growler Pass and Bates Wall, in the southern extremity of the Growler Mountains, this mine was named by Frederick Wall for his friend John Growler sometime in the late 1880s. Wall was a well-known prospector and had frequented the area of southern Arizona since at least 1874. Virtually nothing is known about John Growler for whom the mine, pass, and mountains are named. Archeological findings indicate that the Growler area has been intermittently inhabited for centuries by Indians from prehistoric times through the present Papago occupation.<sup>1</sup> Copper deposits at the mine site have primarily been located in the sedimentary limestone rock rather than in the underlying granite.<sup>2</sup>

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14. *Ibid.*, pp. 1, 22-23, 24, 25, 27.

1. Bryan, *The Papago Country*, p. 418. Barnes, *Arizona Place Names*, p. 193; Irish, "Place Names of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument"; Bernard L. Fontana, "Archeological Survey of the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Arizona" (unpublished manuscript dated 1965 in the Arizona Archeological Center library, Tucson), p. 80.

2. Butler and Lewis, "Mineralization in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument," p. 29.

Occupation of the Growler area following discovery of the copper deposits took place quickly, and by the early 1890s there was a small settlement nearby called Growler Camp.<sup>3</sup> Evidently mining began on a small scale and blossomed early in the twentieth century. Some of the earliest claims in the newly-designated Growler Mining District included the Alice (1888), Golden Eagle (1888), Black Copper (1890), Morning Star (1892), Toledo (1893), and New Years Gift (1896).<sup>4</sup> A claim on the Big Growler Mine was filed January 29, 1897, by John W. Wise and S. B. Wellington, and apparently these two individuals were among the first to actively work the site.<sup>5</sup> The mine changed hands repeatedly after 1900. In 1907 Emil Zitlow and a man named Baker were working the mine. Around 1910 George H. Morrill purchased the mine and incorporated twenty-six claims at the site into his Colonial Copper Company.<sup>6</sup> Productivity peaked in 1916 and in the following year Morrill closed both the Growler and the neighboring Yellow Hammer Mine. From then various lessees worked the area until 1928, when Morrill sold his holdings to Albert I. Long, who with others operated the Growler over the next several decades.<sup>7</sup>

As the Growler Mine and its subsidiary mines developed early in the 1900s, a small supportive community grew up in Growler Pass. Bates Well, located two miles away, provided water for the settlement and underwent a temporary name change to Growler Well. Carl Lumholtz visited the mine during his scientific survey of the Papaguería in 1909-10. "There is a copper mine here," he wrote,

but work on it has been suspended, and the place is inhabited by very few people. An American who was in charge of the mine and the store received me hospitably. He invited me to a square meal or two, presented me with some copies of magazines and recent newspapers, and, above all, helped me out

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3. "Official Map of Pima County, Arizona. 1893." Compiled and drawn by George J. Roskruge. Reprint, Tucson Blueprint Company, Tucson, Arizona.

4. "Index to Mining Record. Name of Mine." Office of Pima County Recorder, Tucson, Arizona. Vol. 4. A complete list of patented claims in the Growler District between 1888 and 1976 is presented in Appendix C.

5. Record of Mines. Pima County Recorder's Office. Deed Book FF, pp. 408-9.

6. Claims located in 1909 by the Colonial Copper Company were the Madison, Portland, Palo Verde, Thrush, Butte, Liberty, Copper Flat, Hawk, Arizona, Tuesday, Advance, Daisy, Growler, American, Blue Bird, Gila, Copper Hill, Treasury, Wednesday, Washington, Boston, Quail, Lincoln, Maggie, Munroe, and Yellow Hammer. Bureau of Land Management Survey Plat of the Claim of Colonial Copper Co., 1909. BLM Office, Phoenix, Arizona.

7. Hoy, "Frontier Period," p. 178.

with a new supply of rope for my outfit, of which I was sadly in need.<sup>8</sup>

According to one account the store was situated along the north side of the road that traversed Growler Pass, while the main mine shaft lay south of the road.<sup>9</sup> At one time an adobe smelter stood near the mine,<sup>10</sup> and Tom Childs reported that the Growler once boasted three boilers, two steam hoists, and an air compressor.<sup>11</sup> Residents of Growler Camp supplemented their diet with vegetables and water-melons raised near the mine and with fish hauled overland from Puerto Penasco on the Gulf of California.<sup>12</sup> Cattle also ranged over the flatland adjacent to the mine. In the late 1920s John Cameron managed several hundred head of livestock at Growler Ranch, a mile or so west of Bates Well.<sup>13</sup>

When Albert I. Long took over the Morrill claims at Growler in 1928 they had changed little from their appearance in 1909.<sup>14</sup> Some of the claims had hardly been worked. The Daisy, for example, had produced nothing; nor had the Copper Flat, which became the tract on which Long's adobe home rested. But other Long holdings proved to be paying concerns, like the Copper Hill shaft, 268 feet deep, and especially the Yellow Hammer, 250 feet deep, which evidently was the richest claim.<sup>15</sup> Eventually Long leased the group to John Cameron, who used the abandoned water-filled shafts to water his cattle. By 1940 the site was empty and the water was not being used.<sup>16</sup> About 1942 one of the frame houses was dismantled and moved from the pass to Henry Gray's ranch at Bates Well.<sup>17</sup> Work at the Growler Mine and adjoining claims was never reactivated.

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8. *New Trails in Mexico*, p. 290. A diagram of the Growler Mine area showing the mine and Growler Camp in relation to the pass is included on "Map of Mines Tributary to the Custom Smelter to be Erected by the Arizona Smelting Co." Tucson, Arizona, 1907. Map Collection, University of Arizona Library, Tucson.

9. Fontana, "Archaeological Survey," p. 80.

10. Butler and Lewis, "Mineralization in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument," no pagination indicated.

11. *Ajo Copper News*, December 28, 1917, cited in Hoy, "Frontier Period," no pagination indicated.

12. Hoy, "Frontier Period," no pagination indicated.

13. *Ibid.*

14. "List of Mineral Claims, Growler District, 1932." Bureau of Land Management Survey Map, Township 14 South, Range 7 West, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona. BLM Office, Phoenix.

15. Hoy, "Frontier Period," no pagination indicated.

16. *Ibid.*, p. 178.

17. Gray Interview.



Long, who had vigorously opposed the National Park Service and whose agitation aided passage of the 1941 law permitting mining on the monument, saw little prosperity at the Growler after that date. In 1956 and 1957 Long and Thomas Alley sold their patented claims in the Growler District to the National Park Service. Subsequently in the mid-1960s the Mineral Trust Corporation and the Phelps-Dodge Corporation filed claims on the acquired property. The Mineral Trust Corporation quit its claims upon notification that they had been previously acquired by the National Park Service. Phelps-Dodge, however, contested the federal acquisition for a time before finally withdrawing.<sup>18</sup> The Growler Mine and its immediate environs have been protected from development since that incident.

Growler Mine has an intimate historical association with the area of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. It is one of the earliest mines located in the region south of Ajo and it was once a reliable producer of high grade copper ore. Unfortunately, the National Park Service made a regrettable management decision when it allowed the surviving structures at Growler Camp to be destroyed. Their absence considerably lessens the desirability for interpreting this site. It appears that the rationale for this action lay in consideration for public safety, even though the site is geographically remote to most park visitors and such procedure in no way justifies the elimination of irreplaceable historical properties. Growler Mine played an important role in the mining industry along Arizona's southern border but its history should be interpreted to the public at another location, such as the visitors center or at an interpretive facility placed at Victoria Mine. The Growler Mine site is classified as belonging to the Third Order of Significance and is recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### 4. Other Mines, Prospects, and Mining Districts

The following sites, taken together, are significant to the broad history of mining within the area of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Individually they are of less importance and in all cases they fail to meet criteria to justify their nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

##### a. Martinez Mine

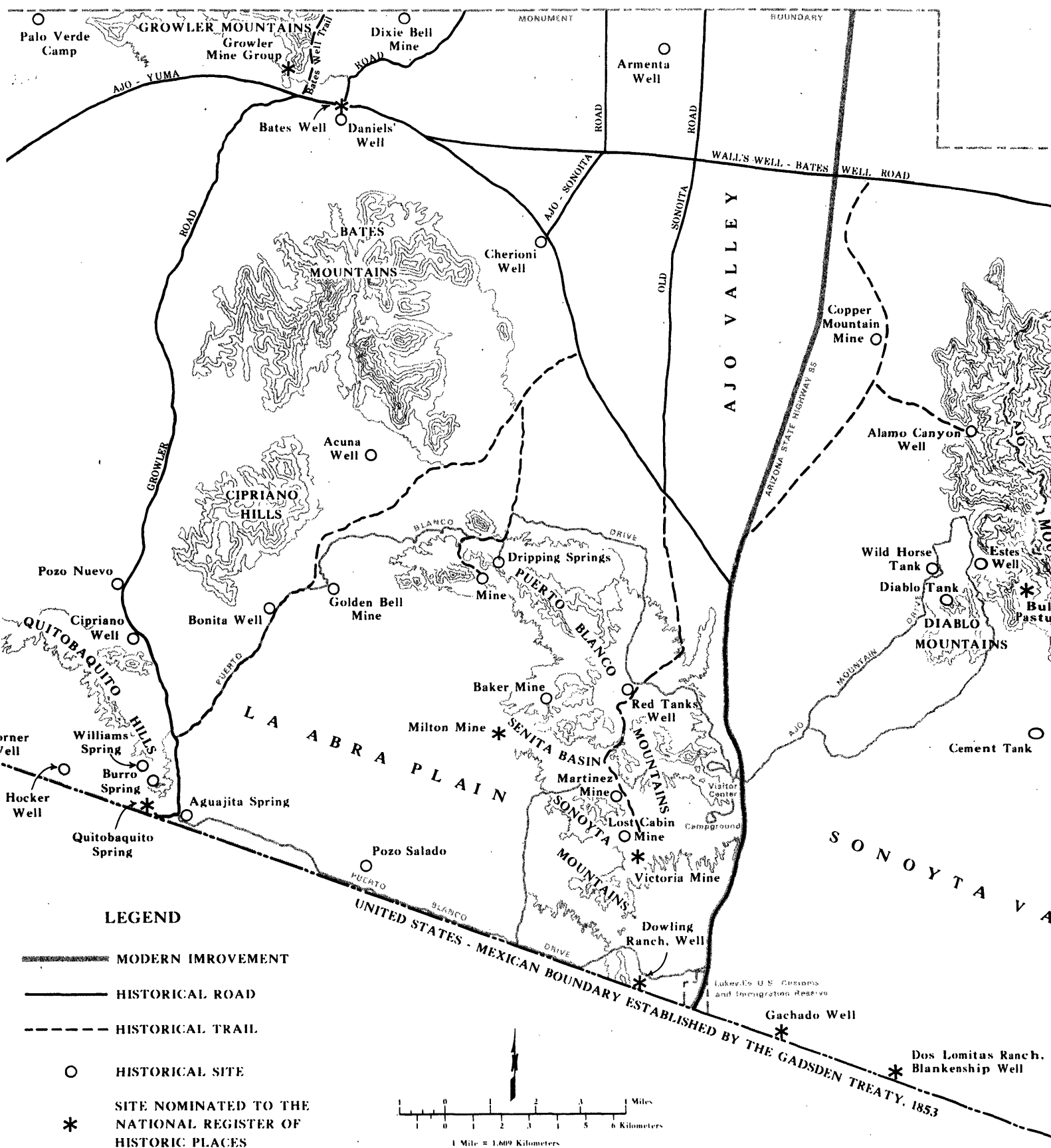
Less than two miles northwest of the Victoria Mine is Martinez Mine, named after its discoverer, J. A. C. Martinez, of Ajo. Martinez was employed at a co-op store and on weekends he prospected in the Sonoyta and Puerto Blanco mountains.<sup>1</sup> He located this site in the northern Sonoytas sometime prior to 1917,

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18. Phelps-Dodge withdrew after an opinion favorable to the National Park Service was delivered by the Associate Solicitor for Parks and Recreation. Hoy, "Frontier Period," no pagination indicated.

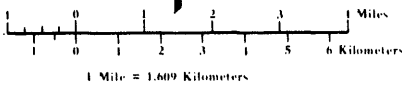
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1. Hoy, "Frontier Period," p. 190. Irish, "Place Names of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument."



**LEGEND**

- MODERN IMPROVEMENT
- HISTORICAL ROAD
- HISTORICAL TRAIL
- HISTORICAL SITE
- SITE NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



**HISTORICAL BASE MAP, ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT, ARIZONA**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



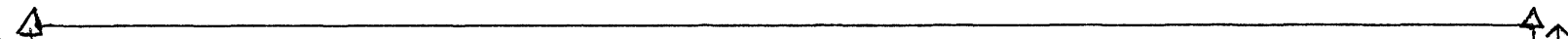
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument,  
Arizona

GROWLER MINE SITE  
6-77

NOV 4 1978

NORTH  
↓

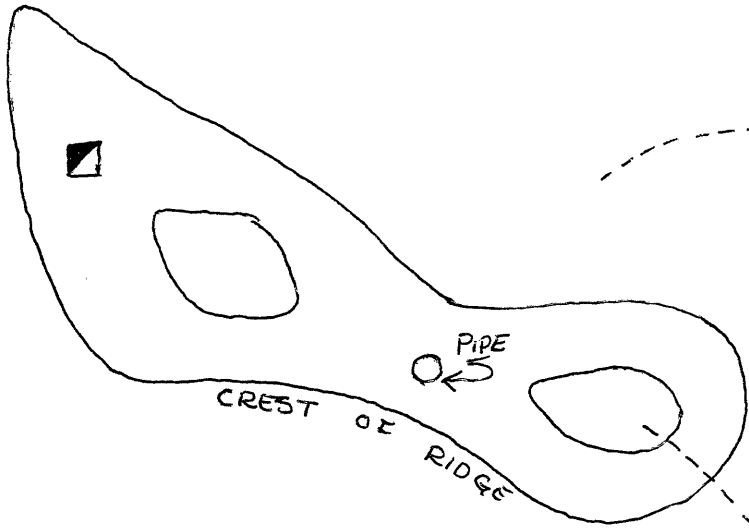
800'



600'



600'



CREST OF RIDGE

PIPE

CLAIM MARKER 2

BATES WELL ROAD

740'

CLAIM MARKER

