

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0692964

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 5 1978
DATE ENTERED JAN 23 1979

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Muheim House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

207 Youngblood Ave

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bisbee

VICINITY OF

2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Arizona

CODE
04

COUNTY
Cochise

CODE
003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

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

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

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

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: None

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Bisbee

STREET & NUMBER

118 Arizona Street

CITY, TOWN

Bisbee

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona 85603

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cochise County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bisbee

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Muheim House stands on an irregular lot at the head of Youngblood Avenue on a hill overlooking the old business district of Bisbee. The irregular plan, one-story frame house has a cross-gable roof and a cone-roofed, circular tower. The tower, which contains a 9-foot diameter parlor, is skirted by an 8 foot wide semi-circular porch. Vertical wainscoting on the front of the building accents the porch area. The porch roof is supported by turned posts with ornamental brackets.

The original wooden porch was recently replaced with concrete. The foundation is also concrete. Roof deterioration caused water damage and in the early 1960s, the top of the tower was removed in an attempt to stop leakage. This was rebuilt under an EDA project in 1977.

Several original features remain, including wallpaper, rippled window glass, transoms, and iron fence posts. Restoration and stabilization are occurring as funds permit. The house is now used for storage by the Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities.
(See Exhibits "A" and "B")

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1898 - 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Muheim House has a commanding view of the old business section of Bisbee along Brewery Gulch where young Joseph Muheim began as a bartender and rose to affluence as a merchant, banker, investor, and mining magnate. The house itself has a projecting front porch to take advantage of that view and it was constructed in stages as the young businessman's family and fortunes increased.

Joseph Maria Muheim (1867-1951) came from his native Switzerland to San Francisco in 1883. Two of his uncles, Frank and Henry Dubacher, were miners who had been in the U.S. for several years, arriving in Bisbee sometime before 1882. By 1886 they were engaged in the commercial life of Brewery Gulch. Young Joe's first job, after he arrived in 1888, was to work as a bartender for his uncles.

Muheim soon branched out into other activities. He grubstaked prospectors and contracted to supply wood and silica to the smelter. In a few years, he purchased his uncles' saloon. He continued to prosper, and was one of the founders of the Miners & Merchants Bank. In partnership with his uncles and Baptiste Caretto, another prominent businessman, he built several buildings on Brewery Avenue and OK Street, including the Pythian Castle, the Philadelphia Hotel, and the Bisbee Ore newspaper building.

In 1898, Muheim married Carmelita La Forge, a French-Canadian born in Michigan and raised in Quebec. They met while she was working in her aunt's boarding house in nearby Lowell.

Construction on the residence began in 1898 but Henry Showers, the long-time Muheim employee who built it, was extremely slow. In 1900, the house was almost completed, but it was already too small because of the birth of the Muheim's first child. The first addition to the house was begun before the roof of the original section was finished. Additions continued to be made as three more children arrived and by 1905, the house had reached its present proportions.

Muheim's business interests continued to prosper and in 1905 he constructed the imposing Muheim Block (The Brewery) and the Orpheum Theatre at the foot of Brewery Avenue. The Muheim Block is an imposing building that still dominates the entrance to Brewery Gulch. It contained two stores, a restaurant, a saloon, and several offices. Muheim also had extensive mining interests, particularly in northern Mexico.

The Muheim House was occupied by the family until 1973. Mrs. Muheim died in 1947 and her husband in 1951. Their son Henry lived there until his death in 1973. In 1975, the remaining children gave the house to the City on the condition that the Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities should restore and maintain it as a living museum. Much of the original furniture will be returned to the building. A caretaker will reside in part of the house. Plans are now being drawn up to improve the electrical wiring, gas connections, and plumbing.

The Muheim House reflects the growth and development of Bisbee by its historical association with a pioneer merchant-banker-investor. The history of the house itself also

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewery Gulch Gazette. December 30, 1976.
Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities, Correspondence.
Bisbee Pioneer Homes, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4
 UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 65 and 66 in Block 13, Townsite of Bisbee, together with the surface to a depth of forty (40) feet of the following described property being commonly known as lots 51 and 52 in Block M on the Wee Wee patented Mining Claim:

Being at Corner No. 5 of the Wee Wee patented mine in the Warren Mining District, known by Survey No. 1715, and the true point of beginning. Thence North 78 degrees, 32 minutes west 8.3 feet; thence North 9 degrees 3 minutes east 31.49 feet; thence North 76 degrees, 13 minutes east 65.55 feet, thence South 18 degrees, 40 minutes east 110.03 feet; thence North 85

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie H. Wilson

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board, Heritage Conservation Section

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

Registrar

DATE

8-24-78

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

STATE

Arizona 85007

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Dorothy H. Hall

TITLE

DATE

11-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William C. Covich*

DATE

1/23/79

DATE

1/19/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Muheim House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

reflects the development of the town, which expanded with prosperity and increased population, settled into reasonably stable middle years, declined as the mines declined, suffered a period of deterioration, and is now being appreciated for its past and its individual character.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

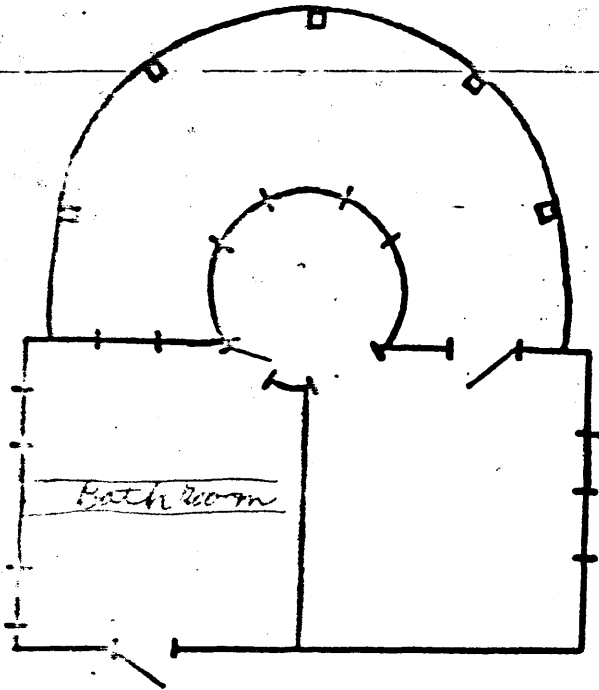
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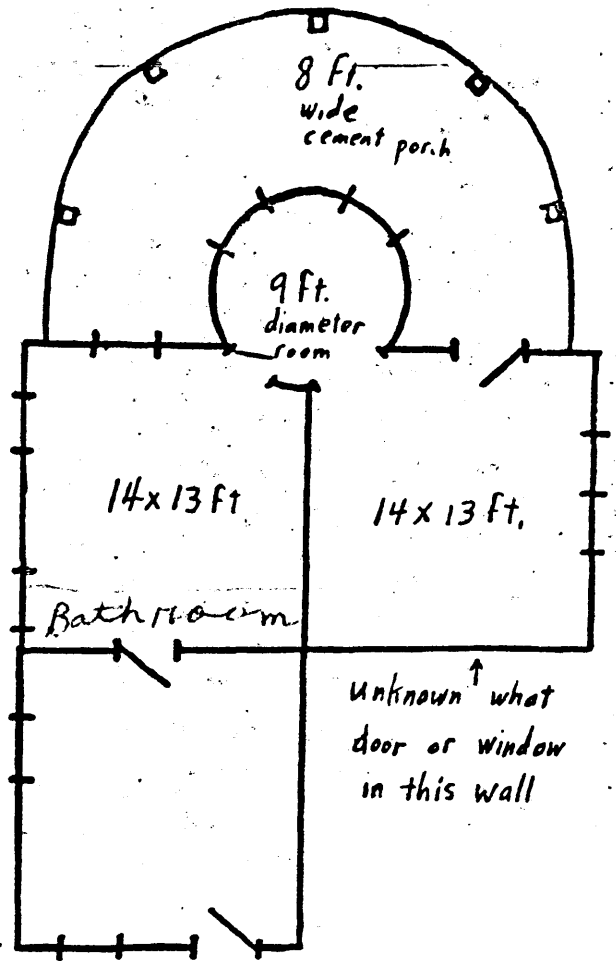
CONTINUATION SHEET Muheim Hse.-VBD ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

degrees, 8 minutes west 56.08 feet; thence South 75 degrees, 45 minutes west 32.93 feet; thence North 10 degrees, 56 minutes west 59.46 feet to the true point of beginning.

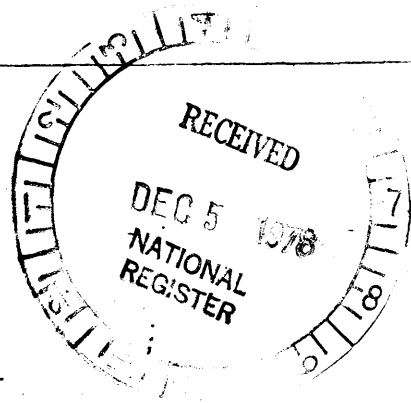
"EXHIBIT A"



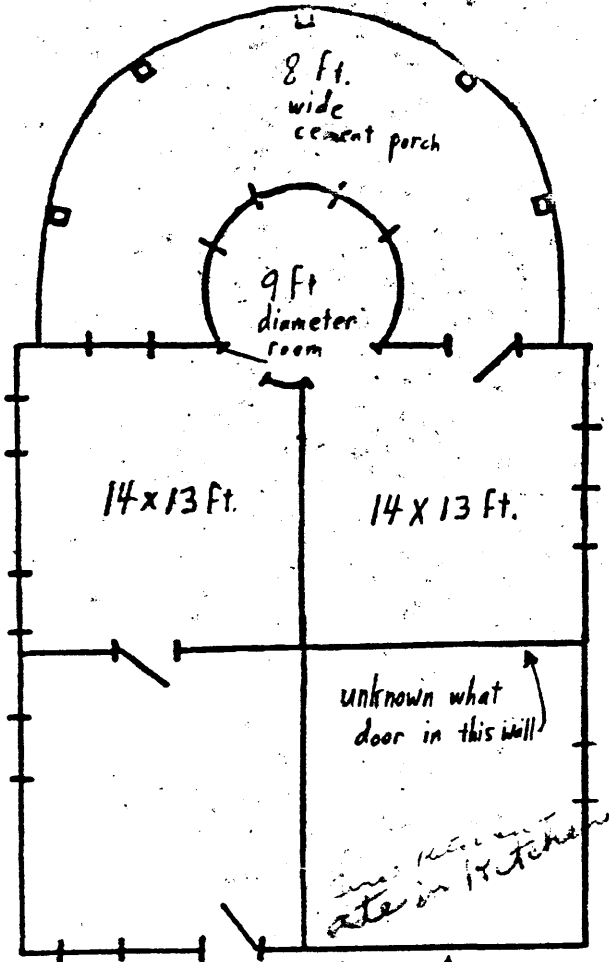
The house as planned.



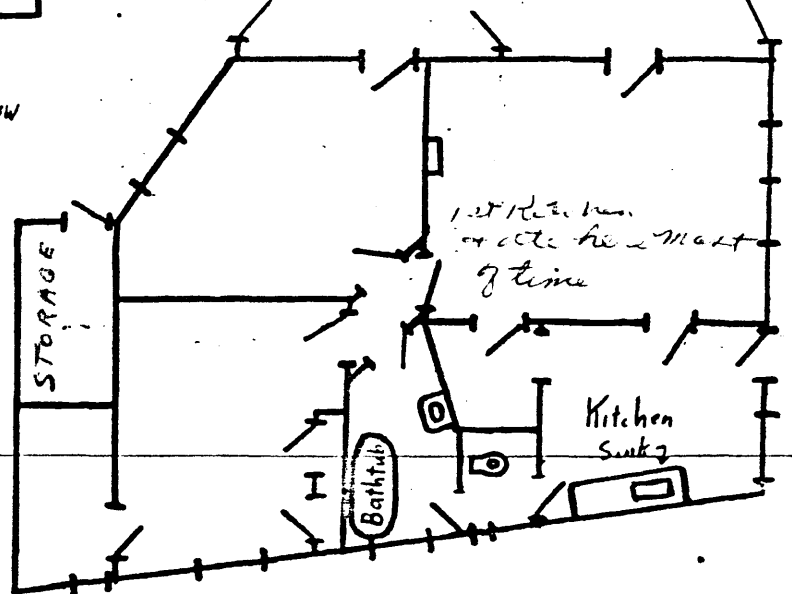
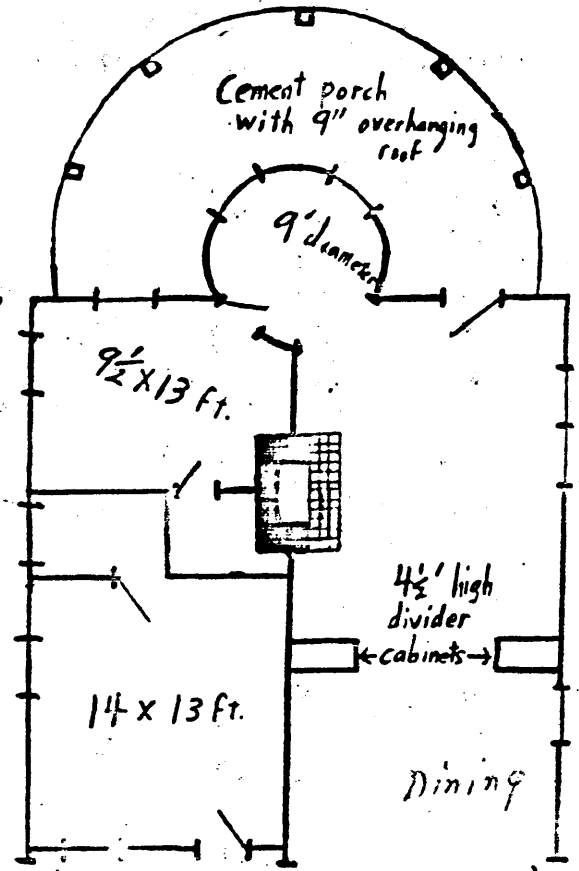
The house as first completed, c. 1902



"EXHIBIT B"



The house as enlarged prior to 1909.



The house as it was remodeled and enlarged in 1914-15 and as it still is in 1976.

