

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

56-1786

# 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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Beadle House No. 11  
Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & Number: 4323 East McDonald Drive  
City or Town: Phoenix State: Arizona County: Maricopa  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

Karen Russell 26 Sept 2017  
Signature of certifying official Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
AZ SHPO/Arizona State Parks and Trails  
State or Federal Agency/Bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register  
 Determined eligible for the National Register  
 Determined not eligible for the National Register  
 Removed from the National Register  
 Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

11/13/17  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private   
Public – Local   
Public – State   
Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

- Buildings   
District   
Site   
Structure   
Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	Buildings
_____	_____	Sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Structures
_____	_____	Objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style/Miesian

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**Materials:** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior material of the property: steel, stucco, concrete, glass, and wood.

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Beadle House No. 11 is located at 4323 East McDonald Drive in Phoenix, Arizona. It is a single-family residence built in 1963 and designed by locally prestigious architect<sup>1</sup> Alfred Newman Beadle for his family. Characteristic of the architect's work, the house has a steel skeletal post and beam frame with curtain walls of stucco sheathed, wood-framed panels and floor to ceiling sliding glass doors. These features create a versatile, open interior with an emphasis of volume over mass. As part of its adaptability to its site, the house is positioned on a sloped lot and straddles an unnamed desert wash. A swimming pool on a raised concrete block terrace is a contributing structure. An outdoor cabana, also on the property, is not a contributing structure. With the exception of modifications made to the dining room and kitchen, and minor changes to the landscaping, the property retains an appropriate level of integrity to convey its historic significance.

### Narrative Description

Beadle House No. 11 is situated within the Camelback Foothills, a single-family, residential subdivision, which derives its name from its proximity to nearby Camelback Mountain. The subdivision is on the boundary between the municipalities of Phoenix and Paradise Valley and is bisected by McDonald Drive, which meanders through the subdivision on an east-west alignment. When originally platted in 1956, the right-of-way for the street was 130 feet wide—a significant width for a non-arterial street—allowing for the creation of an approximately 60-foot wide, desert landscaped island between two, 25-foot wide, east- and west-bound traffic lanes. The remainder of public domain extends ten feet from the asphalt on the north and south. There are no concrete curbs, a typical feature on most streets within the city. Instead, like the island, desert landscaping flanks the asphalt roadways, extending into the front yards of the homes in the area.

Where it seems that nearly all nature has succumbed to personal aesthetic preferences, the natural features of the yards facing McDonald Drive—ubiquitous dirt, sand, and plants native to the Sonoran Desert—have been enhanced with well-maintained xeriscapes typically consisting of beige decomposed granite, and an amalgam of indigenous flora such paloverde and mesquite trees, sage and creosote bushes, and various succulents. The native plants are interspersed with non-native oleanders, palms, eucalyptus, kaizuka juniper, and allepo pine trees. This selection of drought tolerant foliage provides a manicured appearance with the added benefit of reduced water usage and landscape maintenance.

While in the same subdivision, the homes on the south side of McDonald Drive are within the boundaries of the city of Phoenix, the largest municipality in the state of Arizona. Those on the north side, along with the island, are within the town of Paradise Valley, a small, affluent suburb. On both sides of the McDonald, the majority of the homes were erected in the late 1950s and 1960s, though a few are of later construction.

Beadle House No. 11 is located at 4323 East McDonald Drive, within the southern (Phoenix) portion of Camelback Foothills. Like the other properties in the subdivision, the lot is an

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Alfred Newman Beadle did not become a registered architect until March 30, 1967.



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irregular shape and just under one acre. The landscape conforms to those around it; natural appearing xeriscape with the ubiquitous selection of native and non-native flora. However, unlike the other homes in the neighborhood, where the desert has been scraped flat to accommodate construction, Beadle House No. 11 is adapted to the natural, undulating grade of the topography.



**Figure 1. The front of Beadle House No 11 from McDonald Drive. Sara 2016.**

Set back from the roadway approximately 43 feet, the house plan is a grid of rectangles measuring 12-feet by 14-feet extending into the planting and paved areas of the front and backyard. The design of the house consists of twenty-five, box-like modules, created by the steel framework laid out on the rectangular grid, with open and closed spaces accomplished through the placement of large sliding glass doors and wood-framed curtain walls. Wood trusses support the plywood floor and roof, the latter of which is flat and built up with an elastomeric coating. Some of the exterior walls have a 4-foot wide vertical ribbon of sliding and fixed windows to add air circulation and light. The exterior walls are stucco coated and interior walls are painted drywall.

The modules are configured singularly and in multiples to create rooms, terraces, and planting areas that integrate the indoor and outdoor space. The design also allows for changes in the room configuration by enclosing or opening spaces or future expansion.<sup>2</sup> To conform with the topography of the site, the house is on a raised, pier-supported, steel square-tube frame which partially spans an intermittent desert wash. Only the carport is at the natural elevation of the lot;

<sup>2</sup> Herbert L. Smith, *25 Years of Record Houses* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981), 118.



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the driveway and reflecting pool in the front of the house, and the swimming pool in the rear are on raised terraces with concrete block retaining walls adjacent to the wash.

A concrete driveway with an exposed aggregate surface enters the two-bay carport, which is separated from the house by an open terrace. To the right of the carport is a storage room connected to the house by an open breezeway. To the left, separated from the garage by obscured glass panels, is a reflecting pool with a wrap-around wooden boardwalk consisting of 2x4s. This use of 2x4s for decking material is also used in the patio area between the master bedroom and living room and in the dining room.



**Figure 2. The boardwalk entrance into the house. Sara Abbott, 2016.**

The boardwalk leads to the entrance of the house which is adjacent to an open terrace where a mature tree grows from the bank of the wash. The front door leads into an open area consisting of a living room-dining room-kitchen space. To the left (east) of the entrance are three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The master bedroom is in the southeast corner of the house and adjoins the patio area with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors on three sides, with the open end facing the backyard.

The dining area was similarly configured, with large sliding glass doors on three sides and open to the back yard. However, a few years after construction, the sliding glass doors were moved from between the kitchen-family room area to the exterior to enclose the space. The doors between the living room and dining room were removed to unite the space, and the doors between the fourth bedroom/maid's quarters and replaced by a solid, wood-framed wall. A sliding door provides access to the utility area, and fourth bedroom and bathroom. The 2x4s used for the flooring of dining room remain bare.



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**Figure 3. The kitchen with both historic and contemporary features. Sara Abbott, 2016.**

The cabinets in the kitchen are original and built of teak and white laminated plywood, though one bay was removed to create a wet-bar. The top of the built-in kitchen island was extended to accommodate dining space. The built-in appliances, including the stove top on the island, were replaced with newer models. Cabinets in the master bathroom are also original.



**Figure 4. The rear of the house. Sara Abbott, 2016.**

The backyard is reached from the house by concrete steps from the dining area. The landscaping is minimal and contained within planting areas with the same grid layout as the house. Located in the center of the yard, the pool measures 12 feet wide and 28 feet long. It was built at the same time as the house and is a contributor to this nomination. A cabana is located adjacent to the south end of the pool. Measuring 12 feet by 14 feet, the structure conforms to the design of the house, but was added later and is a non-contributor.



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Construction of houses to the north of the property changed the hydraulics of the wash and it no longer flows. However, the landscaping of the wash near the house retains the desert riparian look with river rock, granite boulders and desert flora. Within the developed areas of the property, the landscape is restricted to planting areas laid out within the grid.

Unlike most of the homes in the area which are designed and built in the Ranch Style, Beadle House No. 11 is recognizable as a distinctly mid-century modernist building. It entails a minimal use of materials, lack of exterior ornamentation, horizontal profile with flat roof, modular repetition inside and outside, and an expansive use of glass. As noted by the *Architectural Record*, which featured the house in its publication *Record Houses of 1965*:

In his own house, Beadle used the regular, disciplined bay spacing as a “design motif” throughout the raised or built up areas of the house and grounds; the same module is used for dimensions of planting beds, drive, and the like. In these areas, planting is carefully controlled to contrast with the natural site—a device which considerably reduces the maintenance required for the grounds. It would be possible, if desired at a later date, to enclose some of the open deck areas in the house to enlarge some of the existing spaces, or to add new ones.”<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 5. Dining area. Sara Abbott, 2017.**

The dining area was modified by the moving and removal of glass doors and walls as is allowed by the “design motif” mentioned by the *Architectural Record*. A cabinet in the kitchen was converted into a wet-bar and the island expanded to create a dining table. Though the landscape has matured, there have only been minor changes made to the lot since construction, including a painted steel pool fence which added for safety reasons and as required by state law. In addition to fencing in the developed area of the backyard, similar fencing was installed under the house to restrict access to the pool.

<sup>3</sup> *Architectural Record: Record Houses* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1965), 80.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Period of Significance

1963

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Dates

1963

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Alfred Newman Beadle, designer  
Len Pritchard, building contractor

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Beadle House No. 11 is architecturally significant, at the local level, under Criterion C as the work of a master, Phoenix designer, builder, and architect Alfred Newman Beadle. Though his career began in Minnesota in 1949, Al Beadle arose to prominence in Phoenix during the late 1950s and early 1960s, receiving local, state, and national acclaim for his commercial and single- and multi-family residential buildings. Until his death in 1998, Beadle was renowned for designs using steel skeletal frames on raised platforms as a solution for building on sites with topographical limitations. Built as a home for Beadle and his family in 1963 (the period of significance), Beadle House No. 11 was his first application of this construction method. The house is an award-winning design and has received national acclaim in both the art and architectural worlds.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Alfred Newman Beadle

Beadle House No. 11 receives its name from its number within the sequence of homes designed by Al Beadle. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 23, 1927, Alfred Newman Beadle V was the son of Fred and Marie Beadle. At the time, Fred worked in sales for the Joesting & Schilling Company which initially specialized in hotel supplies, but eventually diversified into manufacturing and jobbing hotel and restaurant supplies and equipment. By 1934, he had risen to an engineering position, becoming a branch manager two years later. Fred eventually became general manager and continued to work with the company until around 1945, when he started the Beadle Equipment Company.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> R. L. Polk & Co.'s *St. Paul City Directory, 1927* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1927), 175 and 603; *Polk's St. Paul (Minnesota) City Directory* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1932), 156, 577; *Minneapolis City Directory 1934* (Minneapolis: Minneapolis Directory Company, 1934), 100, (1936), 105, (1940), 109, and (1946), 116.

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In the meantime, on July 3, 1945, just a few months shy of his eighteenth birthday, Al Beadle enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country until mustering out on July 18, the following year. During his brief service, Al was a member of the Navy's Construction Battalions in the South Pacific. Known as the "Seabees" the construction battalions built the support infrastructure for the naval forces, which may have been Beadle's first experience with construction projects outside of his father's business.<sup>5</sup>

When Beadle returned from the military, he worked for his father at the company as a draftsman and married Nancy Leland in 1948. Shortly thereafter, the couple rented a house in Minneapolis and Al began designing and building homes in the suburbs west of the city. Though he learned drafting in his father's employ and construction in the military, Al Beadle's architectural experience was self-taught.<sup>6</sup>

In 1949, Beadle Equipment Company began working on a downtown Phoenix restaurant called the Flame. Like the Beadle family, the owners of the restaurant were from Minnesota, where they owned another Flame branded restaurant in Duluth. After completing the project, Fred and Marie Beadle decided to move to Phoenix where Fred set up a new company called Beadle of Arizona. Al and Nancy and their toddler son, Steve, soon followed.<sup>7</sup>

After arriving in Phoenix, Al continued working as a draftsman for his father. He also began designing homes, some of which his family lived in, if only temporarily. The first of these homes were in the Ranch Style, but by 1953, Beadle's building designs were becoming clearly influenced by the Modern Movement and the work of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, as discussed below.<sup>8</sup>

Assisted by King Lees, a former neighbor and salesman with Clevenger Real Estate, who promoted Beadle designed homes, Al Beadle soon became well known in the Phoenix area for custom homes. By 1953, he was also designing commercial buildings and, within two years, had contracts for the design of hotels such as the Desert Sun Hotel which opened in March 1955 and the Safari Hotel which opened in the fall of 1956.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010 [database on-line]. (Provo: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011) accessed online October 3, 2016.

<sup>6</sup> *Minneapolis City Directory 1948* (Minneapolis: Minneapolis Directory Company, 1948), 125 and (St. Paul: Minneapolis Directory Company, 1950), 115; *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, May 30, 1948, W.12.

<sup>7</sup> "Phoenix Roundup," *Arizona Republic*, 25 April 1952, 25 and Advertisement, 25 December 1949, 5.

<sup>8</sup> *Mullen-Kille and Baldwin Phoenix, Arizona Classified Buyers' Guide* (Phoenix: Mullen-Kille Company and Baldwin ConSurvey Company, 1952), 1542; Alfred Newman Beadle, and Bernard Michael Boyle, ed., *Constructions, Buildings in Arizona by Alfred Newman Beadle* (Cave Creek: Gnosis, 2008), 90.

<sup>9</sup> Advertisement, *Arizona Republic*, 13 July 1952, 6.7 and 20 July 1952, 6.6, "Thomas Road Store Unit Is Started," 5 July 1953, 4.6, Advertisement, 11 December 1953, 49, "Desert Sun Hotel Open To Visitors," 20 March 1955, 4.8, and "Two Luxury Hotels In Scottsdale Race For Fall Opening," 5 August 1956, 5.10.



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**Figure 6. Hotel Desert Sun, Petley Studios, 1956.**

On March 27, 1956, the Maricopa County Attorney filed two misdemeanor charges against Al Beadle for violating the Technical Registration Act, a 1935 Arizona law. The charges stated that Beadle was practicing as an architect and as an engineer in the design of a Scottsdale motel (the Safari) without being registered by the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration. Though city directories listed him as an architect and a builder, Beadle contended that he was a designer and, as such, not practicing in either capacity.<sup>10</sup>

Lumped together with two other cases that bore some similarities, on May 28, 1958, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled in *State v. Beadle*: “The inclusion of design, insofar as it bears relation to the safety of the structure, regardless of the designer's assumption of responsibility therefor, is one of the primary objects of protection furnished by the statute. A person who designs buildings cannot escape the necessary responsibility therefor by merely declining to assure the safety of the structure when it is constructed according to his plans. He is practicing architecture and as such must be registered.”<sup>11</sup>

In an apparent plea deal, the charge of practicing engineering without being registered was dropped. Al Beadle pled guilty to the practicing architecture charge and received a ninety-day suspended sentence. While Beadle could claim that he held qualifications through practical experience, he needed formal college training and an apprenticeship to meet the registration requirements as an architect in Arizona.<sup>12</sup>

In 1956, amid Al Beadle's legal battle, Alan Augustine Daley moved to Phoenix with his wife Constance. Daley was a recently retired architect from the Rochester, New York firm of Dailey, Briggs, and Yaeger. According to various sources, Dailey contacted Beadle about joining his firm, Alan A. Dailey and Associates, where Al could continue designing buildings under

<sup>10</sup> “Motor Hotel Charges Filed,” *Arizona Republic*, 28 March 1956, 20; *Phoenix, Arizona Con-Survey City Directory, 1956* (Phoenix: Mullin-Kille Company, 1956), 1043.

<sup>11</sup> “State v. Beadle” 84 Ariz. 217 (1958), 326 P.2d 344; Robert A. Brevoort and Donna J. Reiner, “Executive Towers,” *National Register of Historic Places* (Phoenix: Brevoort Preservation Strategies, 2016), 8.17.

<sup>12</sup> “Action Taken on Beadle,” *Arizona Republic*, 12 December 1958, 13.



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Dailey's mentoring. It would also allow Beadle to be gainfully employed while acquiring the requisite education needed to become an architect in the state of Arizona.<sup>13</sup>

Alan Dailey passed away in 1962 but Beadle continued to work for the firm until 1967 when he met the education and apprenticeship requirements necessary to perform work as an architect in the state of Arizona. During this time, Beadle was involved in a number of multi-family residential projects that increased his recognition and acclaim including the Executive Towers (completed in 1963 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016), Three Fountains (1963), and Boardwalk Apartments (1965, listed on the National Register in 2015). While this period is considered the apex of Beadle's multi-family residential work, in 1962, Al also designed a home for himself and his family at 4323 East McDonald Drive.<sup>14</sup>



**Figure 7. Three Fountains. From "Beadle Archive," Modern Phoenix. [www.modernphoenix.net](http://www.modernphoenix.net), accessed March 22, 2017.**

According to a 1964 interview with Beadle, urban development in the Camelback Foothills and adjacent areas was rampant, "...but this lot was a reject." This rejection was due to a desert wash running through the lot. After the family, which included Al, Nancy, and five children, moved into the house, they discovered an unusual characteristic of the home. "We can be our own Peeping Toms," remarked the designer.

We call the living room our glass bowl. And what pleases us most about the house is a phenomenon which surprised us completely when we first moved in. When the lights are on, the reflections from room to room and the reflections of the city lights make the dimensions of the house disappear. Then we're suspended in space. Every house should have a surprise for its owners. This was our surprise. We had never suspected this talent of our home.<sup>15</sup>

Within a short time, the Beadle house on McDonald Drive began receiving recognition for its design and ingenuity. In February 1965, the house won a *Design in Steel Award* from the American Iron and Steel Institute and was featured in the institute's *Design in Steel 65* publication which highlighted the biographies and products of award winners and citation

<sup>13</sup> *Polk's Rochester Directory, 1954* (Rochester: R. L. Polk Co., 1954), 230.

<sup>14</sup> "Alan Dailey, Designer of Executive Towers, 10 August 1962, 24.

<sup>15</sup> "Reject Lot-Prized Site," *Arizona Republic*, 29 March 1964, 1-E-2-E.

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recipients from its 1964-1965 "Design in Steel" Program. Beadle House No. 11 was also featured in May 1965 issue of *Arts and Architecture* and chosen by the *Architectural Record* as one the twenty "Record Houses" it selected that year for recognition. The house was later distinguished again (in 1981) by the *Architectural Record* in their publication, *25 Years of Record Houses*.<sup>16</sup>

In 1967, Beadle House No. 11 received international recognition in the June issue of the Swiss architecture magazine, *Bauen+Wohnen*. The magazine, apparently unaware that Beadle recently met the requirements to practice architecture in the state of Arizona, stated that he had "no real architectural training." Beadle's name is also absent from the summary, instead the magazine used the name Dailey, referencing his previous place of employment.<sup>17</sup>

The *Bauen+Wohnen* issue centered on the functional relationship between the living room and rooms adjoining it. The case study included Beadle House No. 11, which was referred to as the *Stahlskeletthaus* ("steel skeleton house" in German), and included the works of fourteen architects from Australia, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, as well as the United States. Over a decade after its construction, the Museum of Modern Art in New York also recognized the artistic quality of Beadle House No. 11 including the design in a 1979 exhibition entitled "Transformations in Modern Architecture."<sup>18</sup>

In a 1967 interview with *Phoenix Magazine*, Al Beadle stated that his focus had moved to commercial buildings, but he continued to design homes albeit not as frequently. He designed hundreds of buildings primarily in Arizona before passing away in 1998 during which time he earned numerous awards and became one of the most recognized architects in Arizona.

#### The Modern Movement and the Miesian Beadle Box

The Modern Movement evolved in the early decades of the twentieth century as a product of events that had been shaping the Western World since the Industrial Revolution. Technological advancements in materials such as sheet glass, aluminum, and steel, in engineering and construction techniques using reinforced concrete, along with mass manufacturing and prefabrication of building materials, allowed architects to become more innovative with their designs. The development of democratic institutions, combined with the need for urban development, created a rejection of historical precedents and predetermined models and placed an emphasis on how architecture could respond to the basic needs of the working class by designing and building more livable environments. While some architects, such as Raumplan inventor Adolf Loos, focused on form following function, others such as Werkbund founder Peter Behrens, saw the aesthetic of the new technologies and their application.

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<sup>16</sup> *Art and Architecture*, Volume 82, No. 5 (May 1965), 22-24; "Steel Booklet Features Local Architect's Work," *Arizona Weekly Gazette*, 15 June 1965, A.2 (At the same time, the Western Savings and Loan building at 3030 North Central Avenue in Midtown Phoenix received a citation for excellence in design and engineering. Beadle shared this award with architect William F. Cody); "Institute's Awards Point Up Variety in Use of Steel," *New York Times*, 7 February 1965; "Beadle Home 'Record House,'" *Arizona Republic*, 21 March 1965, E4; *Architectural Record Houses of 1965* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1965), 78-81 and "Architectural Record Award of Excellence for House Design," *Beadle Collection*, Design Library, Arizona State University; Anita Welch, "Award Winning Home on the Desert," *Phoenix Magazine*, October 1967, 48-49.

<sup>17</sup> "Stahlskeletthaus in Phoenix, Arizona," *Bauen + Wohnen*, 21 (1967):204, 206.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 221-223; "Construction market, even buildings, reaching to sky," *Arizona Daily Star*, 9 September 1979, J.10, reprinted from *New York Times*.



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These innovations in architecture took place throughout Europe--especially in Austria and Germany--and were soon influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and his rejection of historical style. Subsequent to World War I, limited financial resources created opportunities for architects to apply their new utilitarian philosophy to meet public housing demands by producing larger scale multi-family residential buildings using the then-new methods of construction. Modern architecture developed under the leadership of Walter Gropius, one of the founders of the Bauhaus art school in Germany, the Swiss born, French architect Le Corbusier (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret-Gris) and Ludwig Mies van Der Rohe.<sup>19</sup>

During the 1930s, amid the escalating political turmoil in Europe, Mies joined a number of Modernist architects who immigrated to the United States and accepted teaching positions. The Armour Institute of Technology (now Illinois Institute of Technology) hired Mies as the director of the Department of Architecture to transform its traditional architecture program into "one of international stature and innovation." As past-director of the Bauhaus (1930-1933), Mies was internationally recognized as being at the forefront of architecture and possessed a stellar reputation in the field of architectural education.<sup>20</sup>

While working at the institute, Mies designed a number of campus buildings including S. R. Crown Hall (listed as a National Historic Landmark in 2001), which he regarded as "the clearest statement of his philosophy of a universal building type."<sup>21</sup>



**Figure 8. S. R. Crown Hall. Illinois Institute of Technology.**

At the campus, Mies laid out a grid of 24-foot squares where he could connect individual buildings at any point while retaining the integrity of the original plan. Beadle used a similar application on his multi-family residential projects such as the Boardwalk Apartments which are

<sup>19</sup> Chris Evans and R. Brooks Jeffrey, *Architecture of the Modern Movement in Tucson, 1945, 1975* (Tucson: Preservation Studies Program, University of Arizona, 2005), 7-10

<sup>20</sup> "Mies Van Der Rohe," Illinois Institute of Technology, [arch.iit.edu/about/mies-van-der-rohe](http://arch.iit.edu/about/mies-van-der-rohe), accessed 10 October 2016.

<sup>21</sup> John H. Sprinkle and Carolyn Pitts, "S.R. Crown Hall," *National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Washington: National Historic Landmarks survey, National Park Service, 2001), 4.

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designed on a 12-foot square grid over the site and the single-family Beadle House No. 11 which is on a 12 feet by 14 feet grid.<sup>22</sup>



**Figure 9. Mies van der Rohe (center) takes a break during construction of the Farnsworth House, Plano, Illinois. From D. C. Hillier, "Farnsworth House: Beyond Academic," *MCM Daily*, June 1, 2015. [www.cmdaily.com](http://www.cmdaily.com), accessed March 2, 2017.**

Mies also designed the Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois (listed as a National Historic Landmark in 2004), which is a steel-framed, single-family residence suspended above a flood plain, with walls of glass. Beadle House No. 11 bears some similarities to the Farnsworth House in its steel-framed skeleton, supported on piers, with floor-to-ceiling windows, partially suspended over a floodplain, in this case a desert wash. However, the walls of glass are primarily located in the rear of the house, overlooking the pool and the city lights in the distance; solid walls provide privacy on the east and west sides. However, in an almost Miesian style, the grid is in an orderly arrangement, with deviations conducted only in one-half and one-third fractions.

Beadle House No. 11 was not Beadle's first foray into Miesian-influenced residential construction. The precursor of Beadle's use of a grid for what has become popularly referred to as the "Beadle Box" was the sixth home that he designed. Built in 1954, Beadle House No. 6, a.k.a. White Gates, has a flat roof and a rectangular plan measuring 84 feet by 36 feet, with divisible squares of 12 feet by 12 feet, but with a wood frame, and not a steel skeleton as is used in Beadle House No. 11. Houses designed after White Gates carried an irregular plan, but laid out on a grid.

<sup>22</sup> [Redacted] "Boardwalk Apartments Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Phoenix: Arizona State Historic Preservation Office), 8.3.



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**Figure 10. "White Gates – Alfred Newman Beadle Architect" azarchitecture.com accessed March 13, 2017. The photograph is likely from the late 1950s.**

Subsequent to the construction of the house on McDonald Drive, Beadle's forte for residential design was to be prolific with glass and steel and with an emphasis on adapting design to difficult lots. Beadle would later note, "I have always preferred, in my practice, doing residences that have unbuildable lots. I think they produce the best architecture."<sup>23</sup>

Reed Kroloff, former director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, referred to Beadle's approach at architecture as "rooted Modernism," noting that Al "not only never forgot that he was in the desert, he celebrated it." As a result, according to Kroloff, Beadle's buildings are "remarkably clever...reconciling the rigorous logic of plan and construct with the delicate irregularity of the Arizona landscape."<sup>24</sup> The Beadle House No. 11 is an antecedent to this adaptability and future houses such as the Driggs House (1970), Novak House (1995), and Gruber House (1998), all of which expanded on both Beadle's ability to build on difficult sites and his preference for steel frames, curtain walls, and large glass windows.

In a 2015 interview with *Images AZ* magazine, Al and Nancy's daughter, Gerri Beadle-Murray, noted, "He (her father) loved odd lots and the McDonald house was a good example of that. Most people would try to level the desert or build it up to tame the wash, but his philosophy was to work with what you have. When it rained, we could see water flow under the house." Nancy Beadle, who worked behind the scenes with Al for years performing bookkeeping and other administrative tasks, stated to the magazine, "My husband's homes are pieces of art. Each one is unique, designed with consideration of the environment and the family [who lived] in them." Nancy was very familiar with many of Al's works. From the time they arrived in Phoenix, until Al's death, the Beadle Family had lived in about a dozen of the houses and apartment complexes he designed. Though they only lived in it for two years, Beadle House No. 11 was Nancy's favorite.<sup>25</sup>

Until his death, in 1998, the steel skeletal frame on a raised platform supported by piers became common for Beadle-designed commercial, and multi-family residential buildings. Beadle House No. 11 however, was its first application in a single-family home, and exemplifying Mies's

<sup>23</sup> F. Scott Davidson, *Beadlearchitecture* (Cave Creek: Gnosis, 2000), video.

<sup>24</sup> Peter J. Wolf, "Meet the Beadles," *Modernism Magazine*, Fall 2007, 60-69.

<sup>25</sup> Sue Kerri Fleischer, "Al & Nancy Beadle: Architecting: A Life of Love," *Images AZ*, January 2015, 50-55.

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influence—specifically as applied to the Farnsworth House—was a precursor for building houses on sites with topographical limitations.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Davidson, F. Scott. *Beadlearchitecture*. Cave Creek: Gnosis, 2000.

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- Welch, Anita. "Award Winning Home on the Desert," *Phoenix Magazine*, October 1967.
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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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: homeowner

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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## 10. Geographical Data

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.524363 Longitude: 111.988179
2. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or

NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property are those of Lot 11, Camelback Foothills as recorded with the Maricopa County Recorder's Office in the *Book of Maps*, volume 70, page 2 on November 28, 1956 and approved by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors December 13 of the same year.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those of the lot purchased by Al and Nancy Beadle in 1962, which has remained unchanged to the present.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By:

Name/Title: Vincent S. Murray, Architectural Historian  
Organization: Arizona Historical Research  
Street & Number: 1155 East Bishop Drive  
City or Town: Tempe State: Arizona Zip Code: 85282  
Email: vince@azhistory.net  
Telephone: (480) 829-0267  
Date: September 20, 2017



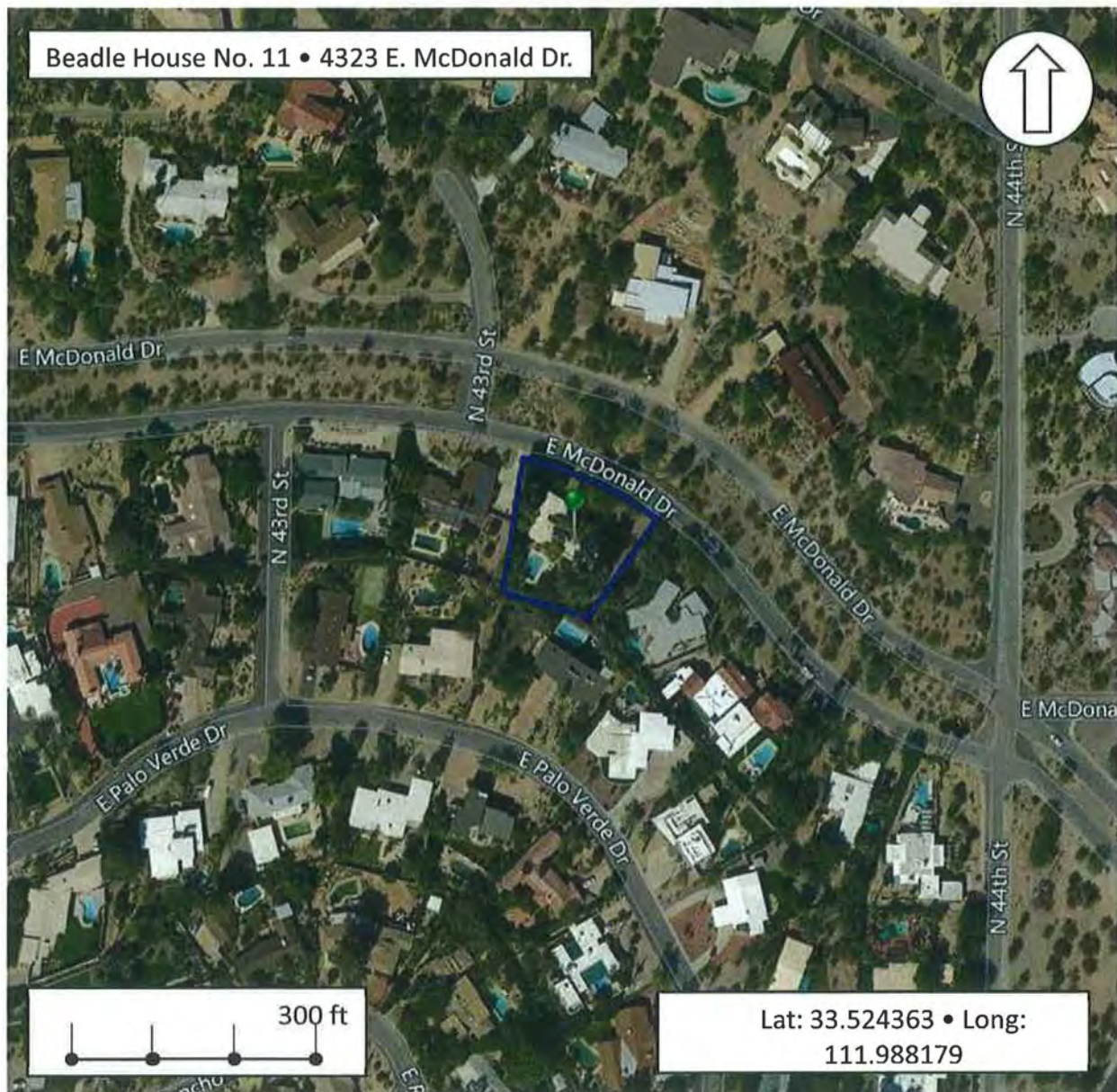
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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.





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## Photographs

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Beadle House No. 11

City or Vicinity: Phoenix County: Maricopa County State: Arizona

Photographer: Sara Abbott

Location of Original Digital Files: 1100 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1. Street view, facing southwest. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
2. Front façade, facing southwest. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
3. Desert wash façade, facing southwest. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
4. Raised boardwalk, facing southwest. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
5. Boardwalk, facing south. Photographed: July 27, 2016.
6. Boardwalk, fountain, and entrance, facing southwest. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
7. Carport planting area, facing east. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
8. Rear corner and patio, facing north. Photographed: February 7, 2016.
9. Rear façade, facing west. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
10. Rear façade and planting areas, facing north. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
11. Pool area and rear façade from cabana, facing northeast. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
12. Rear façade, facing northeast. Photographed: February 14, 2016.
13. Kitchen cabinets and island, facing northeast. Photographed: September 14, 2016.
14. Dining room, facing southeast. Photographed: April 11, 2017.
15. Dining room, facing south. Photographed: April 11, 2017.
16. Kitchen island, facing northwest. Photographed: September 14, 2016.
17. Living room, facing east. Photographed: April 11, 2017.
18. Living room, facing west. Photographed: April 11, 2017.
19. Master bathroom cabinet, facing north. Photographed: April 11, 2017.



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**Photograph 1 of 19. Street view, facing southwest.**



**Photograph 2 of 19. Front façade, facing southwest.**



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**Photograph 3 of 19. Desert wash and façade, facing southwest.**



**Photograph 4 of 19. Raised boardwalk, facing southwest.**



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**Photograph 5 of 19. Boardwalk, facing south.**



**Photograph 6 of 19. Boardwalk, fountain, and entrance, facing southwest.**



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**Photograph 7 of 19. Carport planting area, facing east.**

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**Photograph 8 of 19. Rear corner and patio, facing north.**



**Photograph 9 of 19. Rear façade, facing west.**



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**Photograph 10 of 19. Rear façade and planting areas, facing north.**



**Photograph 11 of 19. Pool area and rear façade from cabana, facing northeast.**



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**Photograph 12 of 19. Rear façade, facing northeast.**



**Photograph 13 of 19. Kitchen cabinets and island, facing northeast.**

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**Photograph 14 of 19. Dining room, facing southeast.**



**Photograph 15 of 19. Dining room, facing south.**



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**Photograph 16 of 19. Kitchen island, facing northwest.**

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**Photograph 17 of 19. Living room, facing east.**



**Photograph 18 of 19. Living room, facing west.**



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**Photograph 19 of 19. Living room, facing east.**

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

























4323























































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Beadle House No. 11

Multiple Name:

State & County: ARIZONA, Maricopa

Date Received: 9/28/2017      Date of Pending List: 10/26/2017      Date of 16th Day: 11/13/2017      Date of 45th Day: 11/13/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001786

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      11/13/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Criterion C. Architecture. Local level. POS 1963. Alfred Newman Beadle, designer.

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 11/13/17

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION  
TRANSMITTAL FORM  
\*\*FEDERAL EXPRESS\*\***



**DATE:** September 26, 2017

**TO:**

**Edson Beall  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, D.C. 20240**

**FROM:**

**William Collins  
National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
1100 West Washington Street  
Phoenix AZ 85007**

**National Register Nomination:**

**Beadle House No. 11  
Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona**

**National Register Amendment (Resubmittal):**

**Encanto-Palmcroft Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona**

**National Register Amendment (New Submission)**

**Barrio El Hoyo Historic District (Amendment)  
Tucson, Pima County, Arizona**

**Accompanying documentation for each National Register nomination and amendment is enclosed, as required. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [wcollins@azstateparks.gov](mailto:wcollins@azstateparks.gov) or 602.542.7159.**