

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 94000078**

**Date Listed: 3/11/94**

**Apache Powder Historic  
Residential District  
Property Name**

**Cochise  
County**

**AZ  
State**

**Historic Architectural Properties in Benson, Arizona, MPS  
Multiple Name**

-----  
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.

*Paul R. Loring*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

*3/11/94*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Materials:**

Add Wall Materials: Stucco to note the dominant use of the material on the exterior of a majority of the properties.

**Significance:**

The Period of Significance is amended to reflect a starting date of 1925, corresponding to the Apache Powder Company's initial purchase of property and the commencement of construction. [The full period should read: 1925-1942].

This information was confirmed with Reba Grandrud of the AZ SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

0078

RECEIVED

JAN 27 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Apache Powder Historic Residential District

other names/site number Powder Row

2. Location

street & number 100 & 200 Blocks, West 6th Street

not for publication

city, town Benson

vicinity

state Arizona

code AZ

county Cochise

code 003

zip code 85602

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>16</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>17</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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.  See continuation sheet.

James Starnes ASPSAPD  
Signature of certifying official

1/6/94  
Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

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

Paul R. Ferguson  
Signature of the Keeper

3/11/94  
Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling & hospital

Domestic - single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow Craftsman  
Period Revival (Spanish Eclectic)  
Mission Revival

foundation wood  
walls wood  
roof comp. shingle & laid comp.  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**SUMMARY**

The Apache Powder Historic Residential District is located in the city of Benson, Arizona. The residential district was built on land purchased in 1925 by the Apache Powder Company, a large, local explosive manufacturing firm. All the properties were built in the mid 1920s. The builders are unknown. The proposed district totals 4.3 acres and is comprised of a park, nine buildings and ten outbuildings (of which seven are contributors and three are noncontributors). (See text.) The park is located on the north side of West 6th Street (immediately east of Central Avenue) and consists of approximately one and three quarters acres of land. On the south side of West 6th Street and opposite the park are six Craftsman Bungalow houses, which dominate the architectural character of the district. West of Central Avenue, on the south side of West 6th Street are two Period Revival houses and one Craftsman Bungalow. The Apache Powder Historic Residential District is laid out in a rectangular grid pattern. Lot sizes vary from 60' X 135' to 120' X 150'. A short fence separates each house from the sidewalk and from the adjacent houses, forming a front yard and enclosing the property. Some of the buildings have undergone alterations such as rear and side porch infills, additions or window alterations, yet the houses are intact and have retained historic integrity.

**DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES**

**Craftsman Bungalow:**

The Craftsman Bungalow style is considered to have been inspired by the work of two California brothers, Greene and Greene of Pasadena. The Greenes were strongly influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement, interested in oriental buildings, and trained in the manual arts. The word "bungalow" originally came from Great Britain where it had been derived from an East Indian word meaning a house in the Bengal tradition. It referred to a gable roofed structure with a wide veranda. The bungalow combined influences from Craftsman houses and Japanese architecture to create an elaborate hand-crafted structure. One reason the style was so popular was that it allowed for a tremendous variety of details. Pattern books, such as those by Gustav Stickley and The Wilson Bungalow Book, promoted the style, which spread throughout the country as the first mass produced style to be employed by contractor builders.

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The typical Craftsman Bungalow is a one-story residence with a low-pitched, gabled roof (occasionally hipped) with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs and exposed rafters. A lower gabled roof usually covers a deep front porch which may be either full or partial width. Decorative beams or braces are often added under the gables. Porch roofs are usually supported by tapered, square columns, which often extend to the ground level. The most common form of Craftsman Bungalow in Benson is the front gabled house with front gabled porch.

Following the decline in the importance of the railroad in 1910, the stylistic character of domestic architecture in Benson shifted from Colonial Revival to Craftsman Bungalow, which remained popular in Benson through the mid-1920s. This occurred at the time the popularity of this style was spreading throughout America, the use of the automobile was greatly increasing and the Apache Powder Company had opened near Benson.

In the 100 block of West 6th Street, there are six Craftsman Bungalows which are excellent examples of this style. These Bungalows are stuccoed, which is a popular exterior finish in Arizona, and all have wood sheathed gable ends and composition shingle roofs. There is also one wood siding clad Craftsman Bungalow at 255 West 6th Street. Each residence has a separate garage, accessible from the alley to the south. The Craftsman Bungalows have interior hardwood floors, which are supported by redwood piers, and have crawl space below. They are all front gabled with gabled porches. The houses at 143 and 189 West 6th Street feature centered gabled porches with long spans and tapered supports. The house at 143 West 6th Street has a very wide front door flanked by paired double hung windows. The houses at 157 and 173 West 6th Street have off-set gabled roof entry porches. The former, a much smaller house, features exposed beam ends and decorative rafter ends, massive porch walls, and grouped six-over-one-light double hung windows. The latter has a much broader facade with central entry, long porch span, decorative living room windows, gable vents and exposed rafters and beams. The house at 161 West 6th Street may have had a front gabled porch, but before 1931, the porch was infilled with stuccoed walls and double hung windows. Since this change is over fifty years old and blends well with the earlier design, the house should be considered a significant historic property. The Craftsman Bungalow at 193 West 6th Street has integrated the broad front porch with the facade, and the main roof has been projected forward over the porch. Originally a single long span, the porch extended across the entire facade. It has been partially infilled since that time and a secondary post has been added to the left of the stairs. The gabled treatment and exposed rafters and beams also clearly place this house within the Craftsman Bungalow tradition.

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### Period Revival:

By the mid-1920s the Craftsman Bungalow was being replaced by eclectic period houses based upon regional and European prototypes. These are referred to as "Period Revival" or "Period " houses, and their designs were of a wide variety of styles, at first based upon regional Pueblo, Spanish Colonial or Mission architecture and later upon English, French or Mediterranean types. (Strictly speaking, the Mission Revival Style predates the Period Revivals, having become popular around 1893.) Period Revival houses were popular in America during the first third of the twentieth century and, while they showed allegiance to one or another design heritage, their components, such as site orientation, plan and scale, were similar. Period Revival houses were a distinctly American architectural development, and even though they may have differed in style from one another, they were all based upon historical precedents. Architects used such references as the White Pine Series or books on various historical prototypes in order to successfully emulate an earlier style. Most models for Period Revival houses were farm or rural structures such as English cottages, Spanish haciendas or New England farmhouses. Modest examples of Period Revival houses were spread across the country by contractor builders. There are good examples of a Spanish Colonial Revival Style house and a Mission Revival Style house in the Apache Powder Historic Residential District.

The typical Mission Revival Style house is characterized by a shaped mission dormer or roof parapet, porch roofs which are supported by large square piers (commonly arched above), red tile roof coverings, widely overhanging and open gables (not boxed), and stucco wall surfaces. Facades are either balanced and symmetrical or asymmetrical and of widely varying form. Most commonly, typical Hispanic design elements have been borrowed and freely adapted to adorn traditional shapes. At 209 West 6th Street is a vernacular example of Period Revival with Mission Revival Style characteristics. The stuccoed walls, stepped parapets and articulated porch all show some Mission Revival Style influence. The overall symmetrical massing and flanking of the entry door by paired double hung windows is a Colonial Revival Style influence. This building served as Evacuation Hospital No. 1 for the Apache Powder Company.

The typical Spanish Colonial Revival Style residence is characterized by a low pitched roof, usually with little or no eave overhang and a tiled roof surface. There are many variations using gabled or hipped roofs as well as flat roofs with parapets. Sometimes Spanish tiled shed or pent roofs project over porches or windows. The two types of roof tiles generally used are the Mission tile, which is shaped like a half-cylinder, and the Spanish tile, which is "S" curved in shape. Frequently, arches are employed above the entry door or main window or along the front porch. Wall surfaces are usually of stucco, and normally there is an asymmetrical main facade. The style uses decorative details borrowed from the entire history of Spanish

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architecture, with Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic and Renaissance inspiration. This expression is also referred to as Spanish Eclectic. 243 West 6th Street is a good example of a Spanish Eclectic Style house. Distinguishing features include plain stuccoed parapet walls with flat roof, red clay tiled, shed roofed accents, arched openings incorporating the entry and living room French doors.

There are ten garages in the district. The residence at 243 West 6th Street has two garages. The seven contributors retain their original corrugated metal cladding. The three noncontributors appear to have been resheathed since 1942.

**Apache Park:**

This neighborhood park, located in the Apache Powder Historic Residential District, has large open lawn areas which are, and have been, able to accommodate a variety of recreational uses. There are some large mature trees (both evergreen and deciduous), picnic tables and spaces for shuffleboard and horseshoes games.

**CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES  
APACHE POWDER HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**

ADDRESS	STYLE	DATE
<u>West 6th Street</u>		
143	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
157	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
161	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
173	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
189	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
193	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
209	Mission Revival Style	1925+
243	Spanish Eclectic Style	1925+
255	Craftsman Bungalow	1925+
Apache Park		1925+

(There are seven contributing and three noncontributing garages.)

The builders are unknown.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1922-1942

Significant Dates

1925

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**SUMMARY**

The Apache Powder Historic District is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C. The seven Craftsman Bungalows and two Period Revivals represent the distinctive characteristics of their types. They are excellent examples of the late 19th and early 20th century American and Revival movements which were spread, in the vernacular sense, across the United States by contractor builders. These styles were very popular at the time the Apache Powder Company opened its operations nine miles southeast of Benson in the early 1920s. The houses and park were built for its management personnel. Significant in the history of Benson, the Apache Powder Company played a major role in serving to stimulate Benson's economy. Bringing manufacturing to Benson after the close of the railroad era was a strong factor in preventing the town from further declining during those years.

On June 11, 1920, a group of the larger mines from several western states and Mexico incorporated the Apache Powder Company under the leadership of Charles E. Mills. Charles Mills, a mining engineer with a degree from Harvard University, originally came to Arizona in 1888 to work for the Copper Queen mine in Bisbee. He became one of Arizona's leading financiers, being instrumental in the formation of Valley Bank, of which he was president at the time of his death in 1929. The Apache Powder Company became the largest independent producer of nitroglycerin explosives in the country and was one of the best examples of a cooperative industry in the United States. Its primary objective was to furnish high quality explosives to the mining industry of Arizona, New Mexico, northern Mexico and other adjacent territories. It was located near Benson, in Curtiss, Arizona, because of the town's proximity to the majority of customers and because the dry climate was considered beneficial to the production of high grade powder. In addition, the hilly terrain provided an excellent natural means of separating the various operations involved in the dangerous production of explosives. With approximately 140 buildings scattered over 700 acres, the Apache Powder Company was a community in itself, and employed hundreds of people, even during the Depression. Many of them lived on-site in accommodations provided by the company as well as in Benson.

See continuation sheet

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For its management personnel, the Apache Powder Company purchased land on West 6th Street from the Benson Schools in 1925. The individual lots were sold to eight of the officials of the company, who subsequently built homes. A company evacuation hospital, at 209 West 6th Street, was also built at this time. A few years later, owing to a disagreement between the company and some of its officials, Apache Powder repurchased the properties from the owners. The residences were then rented at minimal rates, providing housing for company employees. In the late 1970s or early 1980s the company sold all the houses in the district but still holds the mortgages on three of the properties. The one and three quarters acres of land on the north side of West 6th Street, which Apache Powder Company converted to a park, was deeded to the City of Benson in the 1960s.

According to R. D. Willis, the Chief Executive Officer of today's Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc., the Apache Powder Company originally produced black powder-based explosives but began to produce nitroglycerin in the late 1920s and early 1930s. For reasons of cost and safety, the company switched to ammonium nitrate-based explosives in the 1940's. In the 1950s, the company converted to the DuPont Process, producing ammonium nitrate from anhydrous ammonia and air.

Apache Powder Company changed its name to Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. on April 1, 1990 to better reflect its current business which is the manufacture of ammonium nitrate and detonating cord as well as ammonium nitrate solution and urea-ammonium nitrate solution for fertilizer. The mining industry is its first commitment, comprising approximately seventy-five percent of its sales volume. In addition, Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. sells fertilizer to cotton, wheat, pecan, citrus, lettuce, alfalfa and asparagus growers in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico.

The current ownership of the corporation since the mid 1980s is Phelps Dodge, Magma Copper, Cyprus Copper, Southwest Energy and the four heirs of Charles E. Mills. The plant now occupies 1040 acres and the corporation is in the process of expanding its production facilities an additional fifty percent. Eighty-five to eighty-seven percent of the employees reside in Benson and nearby St. David, Arizona. Although raw materials such as natural gas, anhydrous ammonia and PETN (used in making detonating cord), are purchased elsewhere, Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. obtains its petroleum, diesel fuel, food and services (such as medical care) from Benson.



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### INTEGRITY:

The seven Craftsman Bungalows and two Period Revivals in the Apache Powder Historic Residential District are in good condition. Some have undergone alterations such as porch infills, rear additions, window alterations or kitchen remodels. However, these modifications are minor, or within the historic era, and the general integrity has not been compromised.

The Apache Powder Company gave Benson a badly needed economic boost and played a crucial role in the development of the Apache Powder Historic Residential District in the 1920s. In a very short period of time, a cohesive group of residential buildings was built. These serve as excellent examples of the Craftsman Bungalow and Period Revival styles which were popular throughout the United States at that time.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Davis, Elmer. "Mining Explosives in the Making - The Only Arizona Industry of Its Kind - Some Interesting Facts Incident to Manufacture." *Progressive Arizona*, Vol. 2 (No. 3): pp. 24 & 36, March 1926.

Garrison, James. The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office. "The Architecture of Benson, Arizona," a survey report, 1991.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

Poppeliers, John C., Chambers, S. Allen, and Schwartz, Nancy B. *What Style Is It?* Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1969.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: S. Pedro Arts & Hist. Soc. Museum, Benson & AZ Hist. Soc. Library, Tucson

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 4.3 acres

UTM References

A	1,2	5661,30	35368,80
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,2	5662,40	353674,0
E	1 2	5 5 6 0 3 0	3 5 3 6 8 5 0

B	1,2	5662,70	35368,5,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,2	5660,2,0	353680,0
F	1 2	5 6 6 1 1 0	3 5 3 6 8 3 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are lots 1-10 of Blk. 4, lots 9-13 of Blk. 6 and lots 16-25 of Blk 5, Bryan's Addition to Benson. See accompanying Historic Resource Map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries are based upon a description of the properties provided by the Apache Powder Company. See accompanying Historic Resource Map and Apache Powder documentation.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Janet S. Gibson (Associate) &amp; Janet H. Strittmatter (Partner)</u>		
organization	<u>Johns &amp; Strittmatter Inc.</u>	date	<u>August 16, 1993</u>
street & number	<u>2960 N. Swan, #217</u>	telephone	<u>(602) 325-2591</u>
city or town	<u>Tucson</u>	state	<u>Arizona</u> zip code <u>85712</u>

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Interview with Betsey Browning, resident of Apache Powder Historic Residential District and supplier of historic information relating to Apache Powder Company.

Interview with R. D. Willis (July 23, 1993), Chief Executive Officer of Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc. Supplier of historic and current information. (See letter of July 19, 1993.)

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR ALL PHOTOGRAPHS  
ACCOMPANYING THIS NOMINATION:

- 2). Benson, Arizona
- 3). Janet Gibson
- 5). Johns & Strittmatter Inc.

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

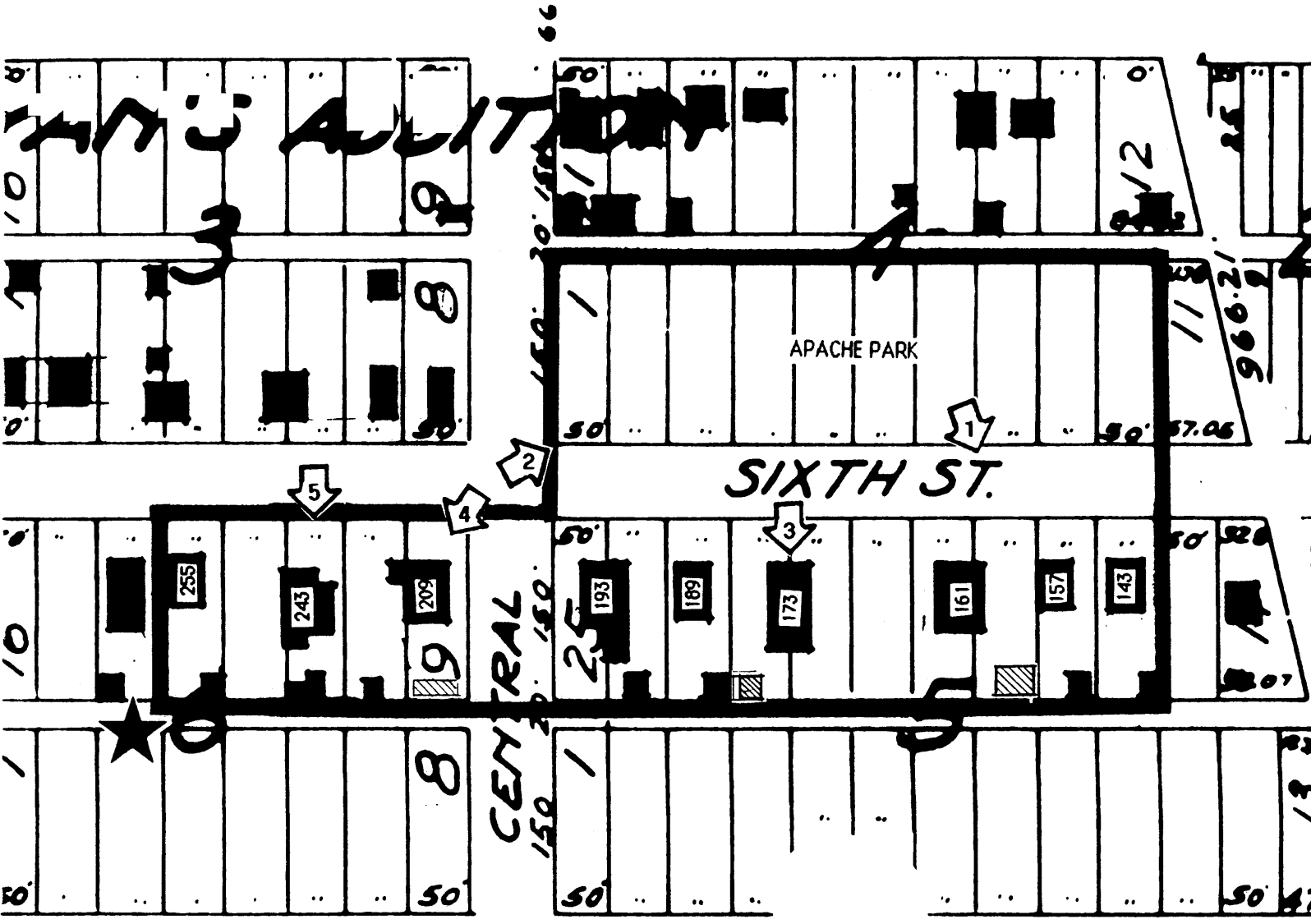
- 1). Streetscape, 143, 157, and 161 West 6th Street, Apache Powder Historic Residential District
- 4). March 5, 1992
- 6). Facing southeast, streetscape
- 7). #1

- 1). Apache Park, Apache Powder Historic Residential District
- 4). April 3, 1992
- 6). 3/4 view, facing northeast
- 7). #2

- 1). 173 West 6th Street, Apache Powder Historic Residential District
- 4). March 5, 1992
- 6). Front view, facing south
- 7). #3

- 1). 209 West 6th Street, Apache Powder Historic Residential District
- 4). April 3, 1992
- 6). 3/4 view, facing southwest
- 7). #4

- 1). 243 West 6th Street, Apache Powder Historic Residential District
- 4). March 5, 1992
- 6). Front view, facing south
- 7). #5



- Contributing
- ▨ Noncontributing

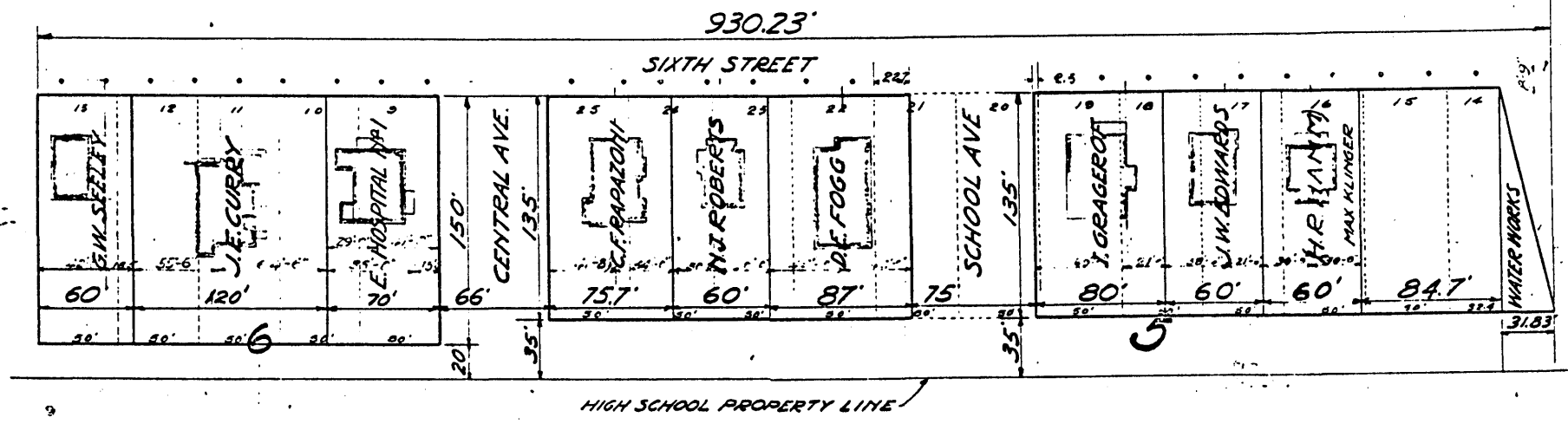
↑ Photographic Views

★ Apache Powder Historic Residential District  
Benson, Arizona





Line of Live Trees



**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

G.W. SEELEY - The west 10 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 12 and all of lot N<sup>o</sup> 13; a total of 50 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 6 Bryans Addition to Benson.

J.E. CURRY - The west 90 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 12 and all of lot N<sup>o</sup> 11 and the east 40 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 12; a total of 120 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 6 Bryans Addition to Benson.

EVACUATION HOSPITAL N<sup>o</sup> 1 - APACHE POWDER Co. All of lot N<sup>o</sup> 9 and the east 20 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 10; a total of 70 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 6 Bryans Addition to Benson.

G.F. PARAZONI - The west 25.7 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 24 and all of lot N<sup>o</sup> 25; a total of 75.7 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

N.J. ROBERTS - The west 35.7 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 23 and the east 24.3 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 24; a total of 60 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

D.E. FOGG - The west 22.7 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 21; all of lot N<sup>o</sup> 22 and the east 143 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 23; a total of 87 front feet; All in Block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

J. GRAGEROFF - The west 27.7 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 18, all of lot N<sup>o</sup> 19 and the east 25 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 20; a total of 80 front feet; All in block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

J.W. EDWARDS - The west 31.7 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 17 and the east 28.3 of lot N<sup>o</sup> 18; a total of 60 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

MAX KLINGER - The west 47 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 16 and the east 123 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 15; a total of 60 front feet; All in Block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

APACHE POWDER Co. - All of lot N<sup>o</sup> 15 and the east 25 feet of lot N<sup>o</sup> 16; a total of 84.7 front feet; all in Block N<sup>o</sup> 5 Bryans Addition to Benson.

**APACHE POWDER CO.**  
CURTISS, ARIZ.

**PROPERTY**  
IN  
**BENSON, ARIZONA**

DRAWN BY: G.W.S.      SCALE: 1/4" = 50'  
 TRACED BY:              DATE: 7-13-25  
 CHECKED BY:            APPROVED:



Center Sec 10  
T17S-R20E

**LEGEND**

- Historic Building (Pre-1942)
- ★ Eligible for National Register
- District Boundary



9

**BENSON HISTORIC RESOURCE MAP**  
**BENSON, ARIZONA**

**JOHNS & STRITTMATTER INC.**

ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • PRESERVATION  
2960 E. SWALE 217  
TUCSON, AZ 85712  
PLAZA PALOMINO  
(520) 325-2591