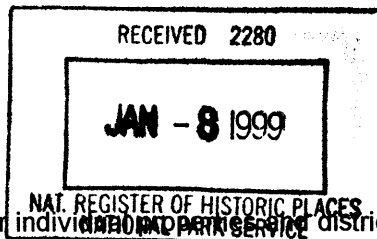


108

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

=====

#### 1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Perkins Store

other names/site number: N/A

=====

#### 2. Location

=====

street & number: No #; W side of St. Hwy. 288 not for publication: N/A  
city or town: Young vicinity: N/A  
state: Arizona code: AZ county: Gila code: 007 zip code: 85554

=====

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant x nationally x statewide      locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gorman AFSHPD  
Signature of certifying official

17 DEC. 1998  
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 for additional comments.)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

=====  
**4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Beall*

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

*2.5.99*

=====  
**5. Classification**  
=====

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- \_\_\_ public-local
- \_\_\_ public-State
- \_\_\_ public-Federal

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

- building
- \_\_\_ district
- \_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   N/A

=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

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

Category: COMMERCE/TRADE Subcategory: General store  
DOMESTIC Single dwelling

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

Category: RECREATION & CULTURE Subcategory: Museum

=====

**7. Description**

=====

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

NO STYLE

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE  
roof: METAL/Sheet metal  
walls: STONE/Sandstone; 2 WOOD (frame) additions  
other: N/A

**Narrative Description** (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS*)

=====

**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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

---

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

LAW

**Period of Significance**

1887

**Significant Dates**

1887

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Perkins, Charles and Molly

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS*)

=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
=====

**Bibliography** (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS*)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of Repository:       N/A

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property**  0.13

**UTM References** (See accompanying USGS map for point references)  
Zone 12      503640E      3772620N

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Perkins Store Floor Plan and Boundary Map." The boundary measures 90 ft north-south by 62 ft east-west.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is drawn to include the Perkins Store building and the small pasture immediately east of it in which John Graham and Charles Blevins were shot on September 21, 1887. The boundary does not include three more modern buildings, west of the old store, that do not contribute to the property's significance. The nominated building corresponds to Tax Parcel #305-12-003H/Building 5 in Gila County Assessment Records.

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title:      **Pat H. Stein**  
organization:    **Arizona Preservation Consultants**      date: **March 1998**  
street/number:   **2124 N. Izabel St., Suite 100**      telephone: **(520) 214-0375**  
city or town:    **Flagstaff**      state: **AZ**      zip code: **86004**

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
=====

**Continuation Sheets** (pages 1-11)

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location (Figure 1).
- A **sketch map** showing the boundary of the property (Figure 2).

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property (Photos 1 through 3).

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) (None included).

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: **C. A. and Wilma Haught**  
street & number: **P. O. Box 32**      telephone: **(520) 462-3293**  
city or town: **Young**      state: **Arizona**      zip code: **85554**

=====

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

**DESCRIPTION**

**SUMMARY**

Perkins Store is located in northern Gila County at the former epicenter of Arizona's Pleasant Valley War. The building gained fame as the site of the September 21, 1887, shooting of John Graham and Charles Blevins by Sheriff William Mulvenon's posse. At the time of the incident, the store consisted of one small sandstone room then in the process of receiving a much larger sandstone addition; the sheriff's men hid behind the unfinished walls of the addition as they waited in ambush for Graham and Blevins. Since the 1887 event, the addition has been finished, some exterior and interior details have been modified, and two woodframe additions have been constructed. Despite these changes, the Perkins Store still possesses sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register, particularly as a rare surviving example of a property associated with the Pleasant Valley War. Owned by C. A. and Wilma Haught, the Perkins Store now serves as a museum.

**Location and Setting**

Perkins Store is located in Young, Pleasant Valley, in east-central Arizona. During the most violent part of the Pleasant Valley War (August and September of 1887), the west half of the valley lay in Yavapai County and the east half lay in Apache County. In 1889, when Gila County was created from portions of the two counties, all of Pleasant Valley fell within the new jurisdiction. Perkins Store therefore now lies in the northern part of Gila County, about 60 miles from the county seat of Globe. The nearest city of any size is Payson, about 50 miles west/northwest. At an elevation of approximately 5100 ft, the rural locality enjoys a moderate climate where ranching is the economic mainstay. Perkins Store is situated on a grassy, gently rolling plain cut by ephemeral streams lined with cottonwood trees. The property lies on the east side of the Young-Globe Highway (State Route 288) approximately 300 yards behind the Valley Store.

**Description**

Perkins Store is named for its original owners, Charles and Molly Perkins, who moved to Pleasant Valley in the early 1880s (their names do not occur on the 1880 census). Circa 1881-1883 they built a one-room, side-gabled home in which they also ran a general store. The building had tabular sandstone walls with mud mortar, a single door (facing east), a sandstone fireplace (on the north end), a tin roof, wooden plank floors and ceiling, and stuccoed interior walls. Mindful of the fact that the Apache renegade Nan-tia-tish had escaped from the San Carlos reservation and plundered Pleasant Valley in the summer of 1881, Charles and Molly designed their building to include defensive features: walls two feet thick, rifle ports tapering from 9 by 22 inches on the interior to about 4 by 5 inches on the exterior, and an absence of windows.

As the only store in Pleasant Valley, Perkins Store enjoyed a lively business that soon demanded expansion. The owners planned an addition to increase the footprint from 15 by 18 ft to 15 by 72 ft. Like the original building, the addition would have 2-ft thick sandstone walls with rifle ports. Construction had progressed to a wall height of five or six feet by September 21, 1887. On that date, Sheriff William Mulvenon of Yavapai County chose the unfinished addition to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   7   Page   2   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

conceal a detail of his posse during a raid on Pleasant Valley. From this position of ambush, Mulvenon's men shot and killed John Graham and Charles Blevins, members of the Graham faction involved in the Pleasant Valley War (see Section 8).

Following the September 21 incident that gained the store its place in history, Charles and Molly Perkins stayed in Pleasant Valley and completed the addition. The resulting "new" Perkins Store was a long (72 ft), narrow (15 ft), low (one-story) building with a side-gabled roof. Its four rooms were arranged in linear fashion, with the store at the north end and living quarters toward the south end. The addition featured a door on the center of the east elevation, several double-hung, wooden-sash windows on the east and west sides, corrugated sheet-metal roofing, and a rifle port on the south end.

Despite constructing so substantial an edifice, Charles and Molly Perkins never acquired title to the land on which it was situated. Indeed, they *could* not acquire title, for during their tenure (which continued into the 1890s), the General Land Office (GLO) neither subdivided the township nor declared it open to public entry (patenting). The GLO finally subdivided the township and opened it to entry in May of 1906. According to title research conducted by the present owners, the land containing Perkins Store was patented by George Hubbard as a homestead on July 3, 1911. The property subsequently changed hands several times. In 1916 Hubbard conveyed it to W. C. and Marian McFadden, who in turn sold it to W. H. and Margaret Armer Park in 1921. A year later the Diamond K. Cattle Company acquired the property, and a year after that, T. E. Pollock assumed title. J. T. and Annie Ellison bought the place in 1924 and sold it in the early 1930s to Samuel A. "Jim Sam" Haught, Jr., and his wife, Lillabell. The property remains in the Haught family today. C. A. "Tobe" and Wilma Haught are the current owners.

Changes to the property occurred during the Ellisons' and Haughts' periods of association. Around 1926 the Ellisons began to provide overnight accommodations for travelers. Travelers slept in a two-room woodframe cottage which the Ellisons built northwest of their stone house (the former Perkins Store) and took meals in the Ellisons' dining room. Jim Sam and Lillabell Haught continued this business into the 1930s. During this era, the original door near the northeast corner of Perkins Store was replaced with a window, and a new door was cut near the northwest corner. This effectively reversed the orientation of the building from east to west, toward the tourist cabin and the Young-Globe Road.

When Tobe and Wilma Haught moved into the stone house in 1954, they made it more liveable by adding a screened, woodframe porch. In the late 1960s they added a 10 by 12-ft woodframe bath/laundry and used the concrete foundation of a former windmill east of the house as the base for a cinder-block meat shed. Through time they modified window openings to accommodate metal casement and aluminum sliding windows. In recent decades the Haughts moved into a modern home east of the stone building, and opened Perkins Store as a museum.

**Integrity**

Despite the adaptations described above, Perkins Store still retains the overall appearance of a long, low, thick-walled stone fortress, the very qualities it possessed when Sheriff Mulvenon's posse chose to hide behind its skeletal walls on September 21, 1887. The rifle ports preserved in each wall are especially notable features that poignantly convey a sense of the uncertainty of life in Pleasant Valley in the 1880s. Although its architectural integrity is not high enough to

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   3   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

warrant designation under Criterion C, the building does possess sufficient integrity to merit listing under Criterion A for its strong association with a significant event of the Pleasant Valley War. Perkins Store is a rare survivor of a war in which incidents often occurred at rural sites difficult to pinpoint, or at cabins that have since been demolished, burned, or relocated. The fact that Perkins Store still exists after 110 years enhances its significance and offsets various impacts it has experienced.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   4   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**SUMMARY**

The Perkins Store is significant under Criterion A for its association with Arizona's Pleasant Valley War, a feud fought most intensely in August and September of 1887 between cattlemen of the Graham faction and sheepmen of the Tewksbury faction. The store was the scene of the September 21, 1887, shooting of John Graham and Charles Blevins by Sheriff William Mulvenon's posse. The Sheriff's raid marked a turning point in the war. It ended the war proper, but began a period of quiet assassination, punctuated by ambush and lynching, that continued "to the last man." Violence begun in Pleasant Valley eventually spilled to the streets of Tempe and courtrooms of Phoenix. The failure of the courts to bring justice to even a single guilty party in the well-publicized vendetta shook the faith of Arizonans in their legal system and convinced many Americans that the territory was an uncivilized and lawless land unfit for statehood. Perkins Store has significance at the state level because it marks the scene of an important event in a local feud that became a territorial sensation.

**Historic Context: The Pleasant Valley War in Arizona**

Set in the valley with the paradoxical name, the bloodiest feud in Arizona's history has inspired many works of fiction and nonfiction (including Coolidge 1921; Grey 1922; Burnham 1926; Horton 1928; Barnes 1931, 1932, and 1941; McKinney 1932; Forrest 1936; Shute 1956; Voris 1957; Allred 1958; Flake 1958; Dederer 1988; and Hanchett 1994). Early researchers could rarely pierce the veil of secrecy that partisans drew tightly over the valley in the wake of their war. Later authors often set out to tell only one side of the story or became convinced, during the course of their research, of the unqualified "rightness" of one feuding party and the "wrongness" of the other. An accurate picture of events in the Pleasant Valley War became further clouded by lurid tales told by oldtimers at countless pioneer reunions. The book *A Little War of Our Own* (Dederer 1988) is remarkable both for its meticulous research and lack of bias, and it is largely although not exclusively from that work that the following narrative is taken.

The rich grasslands of Pleasant Valley were home to only eleven souls when the territorial census recorded the locality in 1880. Among them were John, Edwin, Frank, and James Tewksbury, brothers who had arrived by 1878 to establish a cattle and horse ranch. In 1881 James Stinson brought in 550 head of cattle, the first livestock herd of any significant size. A year later Ed Tewksbury made the acquaintance in Globe of a young man looking for a location where he and his brother could start a cattle ranch. Ed encouraged the man to consider Pleasant Valley, and thus John Graham and his brother Tom moved to a spot about two miles from the Tewksbury place. The Tewksbury clan helped the Grahams build their first shelter and gave them sound advice in livestock husbandry.

It took little time for trouble to brew among the valley's ranchers. Accusations of rustling surfaced during the winter of 1882-1883. James Stinson knew that his cattle were disappearing, and he demanded that his foreman, John Gilleland, stop the thievery. Accompanied by his young cousin Elisha and by Epitacio Ruiz, John Gilleland on January 12, 1883, arrived at the northernmost Tewksbury place on Cherry Creek. The trio encountered the Tewksburys, Tom and John Graham, and Mary Ann Tewksbury (John Tewksbury's wife) all busily working on a new cabin. Whatever the motive for

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   5   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====  
John Gilleland's visit (some say he was looking for wild game, not stolen cattle), a confrontation ensued in which he and Elisha were wounded. Word of the shooting quickly reached the county seat in Prescott. Ed Tewksbury was taken into custody, witnesses were interviewed, a grand jury indicted John Gilleland and Ruiz, and a jury trial ended in acquittal. Throughout the proceedings the Grahams and Tewksburys presented a solid front to oppose Gilleland and his boss James Stinson. However, the incident took a tragic toll on the Tewksbury family. Forced to give testimony in the dead of winter, Frank contracted measles during his return trip from Prescott and died on January 20. As time went on, the death of Frank Tewksbury came to be seen as the first casualty of the war. And in the light of later troubles, the Tewksbury family would even blame the Grahams for the loss of its youngest member.

The relationship between the Grahams and Tewksburys deteriorated in 1883 and 1884. Between the time of the Gilleland proceedings of early 1883 and autumn of the same year, the Grahams secretly arranged to hire themselves out as range detectives to James Stinson. On November 14, 1883, "John Graham & Co." and James Stinson entered into an agreement, recorded in Yavapai County, whereby Graham would give testimony concerning the theft of Stinson's livestock. Stinson would pay Graham 50 head of cattle upon the conviction of any party found to be depredating upon Stinson's stock. Around this same time the Grahams engaged in some complicated paperwork, involving the registering of stock brands, that effectively deprived Ed Tewksbury of equity in livestock that he and the Grahams jointly held.

Trouble between the families flared on March 24, 1884, when John Graham filed a felony complaint that accused Ed, John, and James Tewksbury of stealing 62 head of Stinson's and Graham's cattle by altering brands. A grand jury expanded the accusation into four indictments that implicated not only the Tewksburys but also their friends George Blaine, William Richards, and H. H. Bishop. Read into evidence during the trials, the Stinson-Graham contract was seen as a "smoking gun" that impugned Graham's testimony. After only two days of trials, juries found the defendants not guilty.

The next salvo in the Pleasant Valley troubles occurred on July 22, 1884, just thirteen days after the trials ended and during a roundup of Stinson's cattle. A party consisting of John Tewksbury, George Blaine, Ed Rose, and William Richards rode to Stinson's ranch and confronted Marion McCann, a Stinson employee in charge of the roundup. Heated words gave way to gunfire that seriously injured Blaine and slightly wounded Tewksbury. McCann promptly surrendered to the Payson precinct justice following the shooting but refused to make any statement. A grand jury considered the evidence but failed to indict McCann or others involved in the incident. The shooting and its unsatisfactory outcome riveted public attention in a way that no prior Pleasant Valley incident had. Now the "Pleasant Valley War," as newspapers came to call it, captured the interest of the entire territory and beyond.

As Stinson's cattle continued to disappear, he hired a cowboy, Carr Blassingame, to be his new detective. In the spring of 1885 Blassingame produced ranchers willing to testify that the Grahams were cattle rustlers. Curiously, one Springerville witness stated that he had learned through a tip from none other than James Stinson that the witness's cattle, stolen back in 1882, were at the Graham place in Pleasant Valley. John and Tom Graham were charged in Apache County with grand larceny. Their hearing, originally scheduled for October, 1885, was continued to March 25, 1886. The prosecuting attorney chose not to proceed with the case, and the defendants were released. Once again the simmering troubles of Pleasant Valley had reached the chambers of a court, only to be turned aside unresolved.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page  6  Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

A volatile ingredient was added to the conflict when the Aztec Land & Cattle Company (the "Hashknife" outfit, so-named for its brand) came on the northern Arizona scene in 1884. By acquiring fee-simple title to odd-numbered sections of railroad land and grazing rights to even-numbered sections of public land, the company came to control an area larger than the state of Rhode Island -- in all, some 1,125,999 acres of fee-simple land plus an equal number of public acres. Hashknife cowboys fenced off watering holes and ruthlessly drove all in their way from this vast empire. Among those who experienced pressure from the Hashknife invasion and had the resources to fight it were the Daggs brothers of Flagstaff, then Arizona's largest wool producers.

In the spring of 1886 the Daggs brothers entered into a partnership with the Tewksburys that would become the flashpoint for the Pleasant Valley War: the Tewksburys agreed to take at least two flocks of Daggs sheep into Pleasant Valley (south of Hashknife territory) in exchange for shares in the flocks. Cattlemen who had held their range safe from such encroachments watched in disbelief as the "great mass of maggots" rolled over the valley's rim, "like a plague of locusts, greedily devouring the grass, tearing it out by the roots" (Forrest 1953:17). In the Daggs brothers, the Tewksburys found powerful allies for their feud against the Grahams. Moreover, the Tewksburys' action changed the complexion of the conflict from that of rustlers' vendetta to range war.

Violence began in the form of sheepdog poisonings, cabin burnings, and cruel practical jokes, and then escalated. Early in 1887 the decapitated remains of a Ute shepherd were found. Then in July, cattleman Mart Blevins, father of Andy (Blevins) Cooper and the four other "Blevins boys," mysteriously disappeared. On August 10, John Paine and Hamp Blevins (one of Mart's sons) were killed by the Tewksbury faction. Seven days later William Graham, youngest of the Graham clan, was mortally wounded. On September 2, Andy Cooper killed John Tewksbury and William Jacobs. Two days later, Commodore Perry Owens, Sheriff of Apache County, killed Cooper, Mose Roberts, and Sam Houston Blevins during a shootout at the Blevins family home in Holbrook. On September 17, Harry Middleton was wounded in a confrontation with the Tewksburys on Cherry Creek and died two days later at the Graham ranch.

With casualties growing and perpetrators at large, Yavapai County Sheriff William Mulvenon departed Prescott on September 10 to raid Pleasant Valley. It was his second incursion into the troubled land. His first, in August, was quickly aborted when Mulvenon found himself lacking in manpower. When he returned in September he possessed not only a larger posse (consisting mostly of Tewksbury partisans) but also a clever plan. At dawn on September 21, 1887, Mulvenon and a small detail arrived at Perkins Store in the center of Pleasant Valley and secreted themselves behind the unfinished stone walls of an addition under construction. The sheriff had also instructed another detail of men to take a circuitous route to the store by way of the homes of Graham faction men. Curious about the strangers riding past their homes, John Graham and Charles Blevins followed at a safe distance and watched as the men entered the Perkins Store and then rode away. Graham and Blevins approached the store, believing themselves safe from danger, but instead found Mulvenon and his detail waiting in ambush. The startled men resisted arrest and were shot by the posse. Blevins died instantly; Graham succumbed a few hours later.

Sheriff Mulvenon's ambush at Perkins Store marked a turning point in the Pleasant Valley War. Tom, the one surviving Graham brother, fled the area for his father's, Samuel's, home in the Salt River Valley. There he wed Anne Melton on October 7 and surrendered to the law the following day. Released on October 22, he returned to the Salt River Valley and began life anew as an irrigation farmer in Tempe. The absence of Tom touched off a general abandonment of the

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   7   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

Graham cause in Pleasant Valley; bonafide allies fled, as well as suspected sympathizers. Several members of the Tewksbury faction were also arrested in the weeks and months following the Perkins Store ambush. Like Tom Graham, they, too, were eventually released. Some cases were dismissed on technicalities. Others failed to obtain convictions because of conflicting testimonies.

After the Perkins Store ambush, violence in Pleasant Valley de-escalated from open warfare to "quiet assassination" (Dedera 1988:169). In place of shootouts were ambushes and lynchings that left few witnesses. One victim was Al Rose, a prominent Graham partisan, killed from ambush while searching for horses in November of 1887. Another, known only as Elliot, was shot to death while riding a lonely trail through Pleasant Valley in the winter of 1887-1888; although his exact connection to the vendetta is unknown, he was said to have been shot by Charley Duchet, a sheepman who had changed loyalties to side with the Grahams. Perhaps the most shocking incident occurred on August 4, 1888, when a vigilance committee lynched James Scott, James Stott, and Bill Wilson. James Houck, a Tewksbury partisan, was said to have led the vigilantes.

Violence in Pleasant Valley petered out by the end of 1888. However, feelings of vengence born in Pleasant Valley would continue to simmer before erupting anew in the streets of Tempe. On August 2, 1892, "Farmer Tom" Graham was shot while driving a buckboard of grain between the Cummings and Gregg ranches. On his deathbed Graham stated that his assailants were Ed Tewksbury and John Rhodes.

Taken into custody just after the incident, John Rhodes was ordered to appear at a preliminary hearing. In the courtroom on the second day of the proceedings, Anne Melton Graham pulled a Colt .45 from the folds of her mourning garb and attempted to shoot the defendant. The gun misfired, and the frantic widow was spared the role of avenging her husband's death.

As prosecutors wove a tight case of incriminating evidence, Rhodes' attorneys countered with scores of witnesses corroborating Rhodes' alibi. The judge in the hearing found that the defense conclusively proved the alibi, and he dismissed the case. To the incredulity of the press and general public, Rhodes was a free man.

Ed Tewksbury surrendered to authorities two or three days after the August 2 ambush. Although a jury found him guilty, his defense lawyers held an ace. Before sentencing could be passed, they announced that Tewksbury had never been asked to enter a plea. A frantic search of court records failed to find such a document, and Tewksbury was granted a new trial on procedural grounds. In the second trial the jury deadlocked. Prosecutors considered retrying the case but eventually recommended dismissal. The courts dismissed the case in 1896.

The Pleasant Valley War was finally over but hardly resolved. The failure of the legal system to bring justice to the guilty stuck like a bone in the throats of public officials and civic leaders for many years. It unnerved boosters who wanted to picture Arizona as Utopia, not Bedlam. It subjected Arizona to the cruelest of criticism from within and outside its borders. The *Los Angeles Times* echoed a common sentiment in writing "If Arizona should have a few more feuds like that out in Tonto Basin [Pleasant Valley] it would be difficult to get enough people together there ever to admit her as a state." The *Phoenix Herald* agreed: "The *Times* has hit the nail on the head in this matter. As well might Arizona to expect water to flow uphill as to expect decent people and capital to locate itself in a region of country where life is

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   8   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

subject to the bullet of the assassin at any moment and property is liable to be destroyed without regard to ownership by warring factions, in deadly, vindictive strife" (*Times and Herald* as quoted by Dederer 1988:233).

There were no clear winners in the Pleasant Valley War. No fighting adult named Graham survived it. Although the Tewksburys appeared to hold the upper hand following Sheriff Mulvenon's invasion, their "cause," if they had one, soon evaporated; wary of additional violence, the Daggs brothers withdrew their woollies after 1888, and Pleasant Valley by default again became cattle country. In historical perspective, the Pleasant Valley violence appears to have been less a dispute between cattlemen and sheepmen than a rustlers' feud in the guise of a range war.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   9   Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Allred, B. W.

1958 *The Pleasant Valley Feud. Corral Dust* 3(1).

Barnes, Will C.

1931 *The Pleasant Valley War of 1887 (part one). Arizona Historical Review* IV(3): October 1931.

1932 *The Pleasant Valley War of 1887 (part two). Arizona Historical Review* IV(4): January 1932.

1941 *Apaches and Longhorns*. Ward Richie Press, Los Angeles. Reprinted 1982 by University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Burnham, Frederick Russell

1926 *Scouting on Two Continents*. Doubleday, Page, & Company, Garden City.

Collins, William S.

1996 *Cattle Ranching in Arizona: A Component of the Arizona Historic Preservation Plan*. State Historic Preservation Office, Phoenix.

Coolidge, Dane

1921 *The Man Killers*. E. P. Dutton, New York.

Dedera, Don

1988 *A Little War of Our Own: The Pleasant Valley Feud Revisited*. Northland Press, Flagstaff.

Flake, Osmer D.

1958 *Some Reminiscences of the Pleasant Valley War and Causes That Led up to It*. Manuscript on file, Arizona Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Forrest, Earle R.

1936 *Arizona's Dark and Bloody Ground*. Caxton Printers, Caldwell. Revised and expanded 1952. Reprinted 1984 by University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Grey, Zane

1922 *To the Last Man*. Harper & Row, New York.

Hanchett, Leland J., Jr.

1994 *Arizona's Graham-Tewksbury Feud*. Pine Rim Publishing, Phoenix.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page  10  Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====  
Horton, L. J.  
1925 The Pleasant Valley War. Manuscript on file, Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott.

McKinney, Joe T.  
1932 Reminiscences. *Arizona Historical Review* V(1-3): April, July, and October 1932.

Shute, G. W.  
1956 Pleasant Valley War, Revised. *Arizona Cattlelog*: April 1956.

Voris, Robert  
1957 Unpublished typescript of interview conducted May 20 and July 29, 1957, by Clara T. Woody and Dale Stuart King. Typescript on file, Woody Collection, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page 11 Perkins Store  
Gila County, Arizona

=====

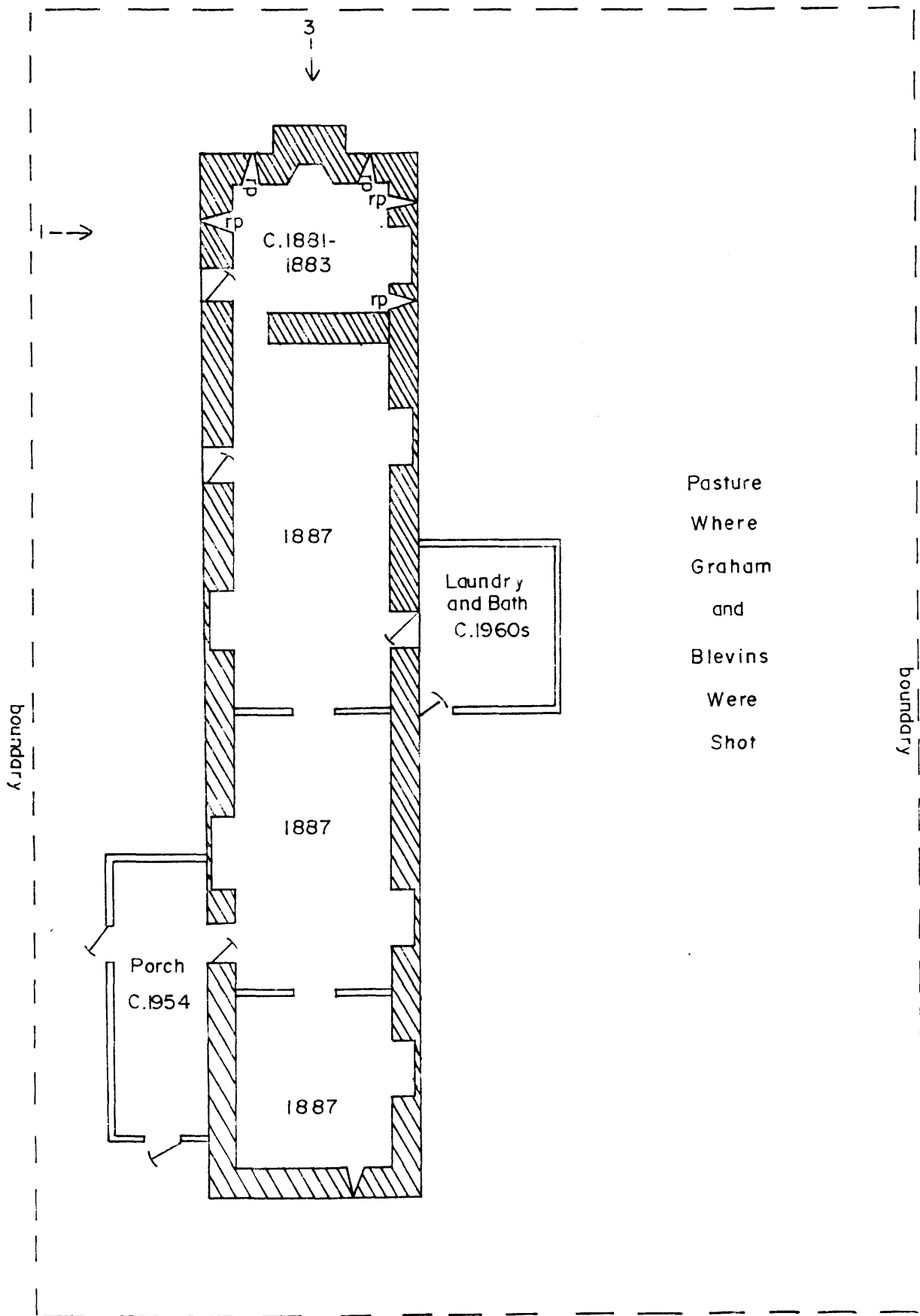
**Photographic Information**

The following information applies to all photographs:

- 1) Perkins Store
- 2) Gila County, Arizona
- 3) Pat Stein
- 4) September 1997
- 5) Arizona Preservation Consultants, 2124 N. Isabel St., Suite 100, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

- 
- 6) Original (circa 1881-1883) part of store, view east.
  - 7) Photo 1
  
  - 6) East elevation and pasture.
  - 7) Photo 2
  
  - 6) Chimney at north end of building, flanked by rifle ports.
  - 7) Photo 3





Pasture  
Where  
Graham  
and  
Blevins  
Were  
Shot

↑ photo view  
rp rifle port

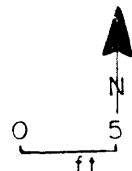


Figure 2. Perkins Store Floor Plan and Boundary Map