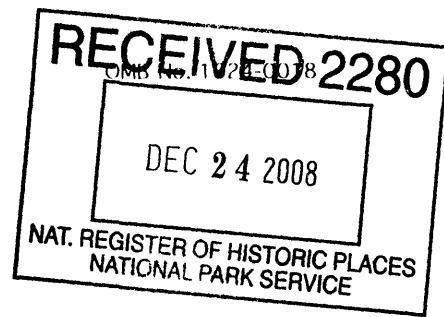


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1405



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 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 Valley Field Riding and Polo Club

other names/site number _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 2530 N. 64th Street not for publication _____
city or town Scottsdale vicinity _____
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85257-1107

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gowkeni AZSITPO 19 DECEMBER 2008
Signature of certifying official Date

Arizona State Parks, State Historic Preservation Office
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): _____

For Edison H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

2-5-09
Date of Action

=====
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(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> 1 </u>	sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 2 </u>	<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)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE sports facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: clubhouse

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Pueblo Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Built up
walls Adobe

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance 1937 - 1959

Significant Dates 1937

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____ Lester Byron Sr., Architect
 _____ H.R. Meadows, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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: Valley Field Riding & Polo Club archives

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 9.29

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>412202 E</u>	<u>3704107N</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Helana Ruter & Deborah Abele

organization Akros, Inc. date September, 2007

street & number 502. S. College Ave, #311.

telephone 480 774-2907

city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85281

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

Buildings and structures owned by:

name Valley Field Riding & Polo Club

street & number _____ P.O. Box 10570

telephone _____

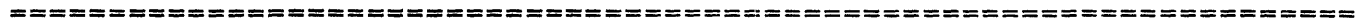
city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85064

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Valley Field Riding and Polo Club
name of property
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county and State



NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Valley Field Riding and Polo Club consists of an adobe clubhouse building which originally sat on 21.6 acres of isolated desert land northeast of the Papago Buttes in Scottsdale Arizona. The city has subsequently grown and now residential, commercial and institutional uses surround the Club's property which has been reduced to approximately nine and a half acres. The remaining acreage primarily consists of open space and mostly native desert vegetation with some gravel pathways which allows the property to retain its historic appearance as a desert reserve even though it is in the midst of an urban context. The single story rectangular plan adobe clubhouse was constructed in 1937 from locally made adobe brick, with vigas and latillas supporting the flat roof structure, an integral color concrete floor and extensive interior millwork. In 1966 a room was added to the north side of the building to provide a formal dining space. In 1991 a smaller addition, also projecting from the north, created more dining space as well as an additional fireplace. It was during this 1991 project that the building entrance was re-oriented to the east, from the north, in order to maximize the view shed of the remaining acreage. The building still functions as the clubhouse for the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club which meets there monthly.

Location and Setting

The nominated property is located in the Papago Buttes area of the city of Scottsdale in Maricopa County. This is a rolling desert area marked by prominent sandstone buttes, including one pierced with a natural opening known as Hole-in-the-Rock. At the beginning of the twentieth century, this area was largely untouched by either settlement or agriculture and giant saguaro cacti and other desert flora thrived in abundance. The site of the property is northeast of the buttes and approximately a quarter mile from the northern boundary of Papago Park. At the time the property was acquired it was above a level that could be watered by the Salt River Project, and therefore the land was considered un-arable and had remained as open desert land.

The clubhouse is located off of 64th Street in Scottsdale, approximately one half mile north of McDowell Road. A subdivision of duplex homes bounds the property to the west, nearly beyond view from the clubhouse and its patio. A 1990 subdivision of upscale suburban homes lies to the north, between the club site and the City of Phoenix water reservoir, on 10 acres sold by the club. Single family homes are across 64th Street to the east, but are out of sight due to noise abatement walls constructed with the widening of 64th Street in the last decade. To the south and southwest lie mixed non-residential uses, including United Blood Services of Arizona's headquarters and primary

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operations center and the Elks Club. The club sold 1.5 acres of land to the west of the clubhouse to United Blood Services in 1988.

Since construction in 1937 and the World War II years, Phoenix built up toward the east, reaching the club's west boundary in the late 1950's. Simultaneously, Scottsdale was expanding southward from its center toward the club from the other direction. Eventually the club found itself surrounded by suburban development.

The remaining 9.29 acres of the original 21.6 acre site are clearly bounded by a stuccoed masonry wall and entrance gate. The landscape of natural desert flora consists primarily of creosote bushes, palo verde and ironwood trees and saguaro cacti. Interior driveways and parking areas are decomposed granite, retaining a natural desert aesthetic.

Original Appearance

The clubhouse was designed by notable Phoenix architect Lester Byron, Sr. and was constructed by the builder H.R. Meadows from January to April 1937. The clubhouse and grounds were designed to provide a place for the club members to associate in social gatherings and participate in athletic recreation, namely riding and polo. The large rectangular shaped building has a poured concrete foundation and one foot thick adobe walls with a smooth trowel plaster finish. The flat roof is supported by vigas and latillas with a small overhang.

The north elevation originally featured the main entry into the clubhouse which consisted of double doors on either side of a large central stepped fireplace. Typical of the Pueblo Revival style, the walls contain limited punctuated recessed openings. The original windows are small, wood casement, with fixed double panel glass, concrete sills and decorative iron elements. The original entry doors were a combination of horizontal wood and glass panels, with the rear service entry remaining a horizontal wood in glass panel door.

An expansive great hall provided the multi-function space for the club, flanked by men's and women's restrooms. A kitchen and bar occupied the southern portion of the building. The great hall space was partitioned from the kitchen and bar by an arcade with arched openings that continues on as windows that separate the great room from the kitchen. The interior finish of the walls includes both plaster and exposed adobe brick along with wooden tongue and groove panel wainscoting. Walls are 15 feet high giving the great hall a large and open feeling. The ceiling consists of wood beams as well as the massive exposed hand carved vigas over 30 feet in length.

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Decorative elements within the interior include large iron chandeliers and fireplace screen. The grand fireplace in the great hall has a large wooden plank mantle supported by wooden vigas similar to the vigas overhead in the ceiling. Inside each casement window, latillas cover the window allowing light in while also providing shade from the desert sun. These stylistic elements are characteristic of Pueblo Revival architecture.

Other original features of the property included stables, the polo field, as well as a caretaker's cottage. Each of these structures was located east of the clubhouse building.

Later Modifications

A series of changes were made to the clubhouse from its original construction date of 1937 to its last expansion in 1991. The exposed adobe brick walls were plastered. Plans to undertake this work was first discussed by the club's board in 1948 and it was completed some time before the first addition to the main building. In 1959 wind damage and lack of use, led to the dismantling of the stables. In 1966 a rectangular addition was constructed on the north elevation to house a new dining room. Designed by Lester Byron, Jr, it was constructed of double bonded brick with a flat roof and two large rectangular windows in its north wall. Although compatible in its form, its style was more Modern than Pueblo Revival. In 1976 a fire struck the caretakers cottage but it was rebuilt by September of 1977. In 1980 three new donated doors were installed. December 8, 1988 a special meeting was called to sell 60,000 square feet of the club's land order to raise money for improvements to the club including: expanding the dining room and patio and replacing electrical, plumbing and sewage systems. In 1991 the construction work was completed. A 16 foot by 40 foot addition was added to the existing dining room. The addition included a large indoor/outdoor fireplace that extended out to a new north facing patio. A west patio was also added to the property. The main entry was reoriented from the front (north) elevation to the side (east) elevation. The flat roof block addition was covered in stucco, as was the 1966 double bonded brick addition.

The 1966 and 1991 additions to the original great hall building are in similar rectangular shapes but are of irregular massing. This does not detract from the original building as this is a typical characteristic of the Pueblo Revival style. The additions continue to use materials, finishes and decorative detailing which complement the original building. In the 1966 addition and 1991 additions, for example, a plaster finish was placed on the inside walls, while the ceiling is comprised of vigas and small crossing latillas. The double doors found on the north side of the additions are horizontal glass panel doors which are similar in style to the original horizontal wood in glass doors. Other decorative elements which carry over from the original great hall include: a large built in side bar to the dining room created from a solid wood plank like that found on the great hall fireplace mantle and iron sconces and chandeliers. Also

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within the 1991 addition, a beehive fireplace was constructed in the center of the north elevation, mirroring the location of original grand fireplace. Consequently the north elevation of the club building continues to house a fireplace as it did originally.

Integrity

While the clubhouse has undergone a number of changes since its construction in 1937, this was typical for clubhouse buildings in America. According to James Mayo, author of *The American Country Club Its Origins and Development*, by 1930 “architects had developed basic clubhouse plan types”. One of these types, being the “great hall plan”, included a large central dining/meeting space that could be used for a variety of functions which is the form that the Valley Field clubhouse followed. He goes on to state that styles of architecture were regional, and “in the southwest, architects used the Pueblo style...”(Mayo 150). He argues that the depression and World War II years stopped most clubs from further developing their properties, but beginning in the 1950s many clubs decided to add on to their facilities. During this time period progressive architects looked to incorporate modernist elements, as can be seen in the 1966 addition at the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club.

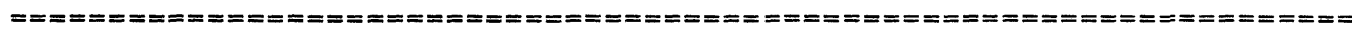
In the 1980s and 1990s however many clubs choose to replace modernistic style additions with expansions to their buildings that were more in keeping with their original historic style. In keeping with that trend, the 1990 addition to the Valley Field clubhouse removed most of the modern elements of the 1966 addition and sheathed both expansions in stucco to blend with original 1937 adobe structure. Therefore, despite the fact that the clubhouse building had undergone several modifications it is significant in its ability to represent the evolving nature of clubhouse architecture in America. The additions are smaller in scale than the original building, and their modern windows allow them to be distinguished from the original building. The building continues to possess sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally the intact nature of the surrounding acreage contributes to the property. As noted, the majority of the site remains rolling desert terrain with native vegetation of creosote bushes and ironwood and palo verde trees. In the immediate vicinity of the club house is landscaping that includes trees, cacti and other plantings salvaged from the portions of the original acreage that was sold for other uses. The intact site contributes to the property’s integrity of location, setting, feeling and association.

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SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Valley Field Riding and Polo Club property is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of recreational and athletic country clubs within the Phoenix area, following a pattern that had been occurring on a national level. The building represents the center for social life for many of the leading and historic figures in the community, including prominent political, legal and business families. The period of significance, from 1937 to 1959 has been chosen to mark both the opening of the club building and the date which the stables on the property were demolished. In 1959 the property transitioned from a joint equestrian and recreational facility to being purely a social club. The level of significance is local.

Historic Context

The Origins and Development of American Country Clubs and Polo:

American country clubs were modeled from British organizations and came to the United States in the nineteenth century. James Mayo states that “the American elite eventually adopted the British club system as an organizational model to create social status and to organize their leisure activities. City club founders had a common purpose – to ascribe status for members”.(Mayo:11) Leisure time was a key factor in this equation as people with wealth could afford to invest time and money into different activities and sports that were not within the reach of the working class and this furthered their status in society. Country clubs were founded to pursue a number of recreational, sport and leisure activities including: tennis, golf, hunting and equestrian sports. Polo, and equestrian sports in general, were given an especially high status in society due to the funds that were required in order to maintain horses and stables.

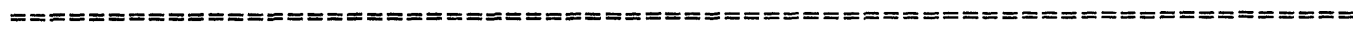
James Gordon Bennett is credited with bringing the game of polo to the United States in 1876. After traveling to England and watching the game there, Bennett brought back polo equipment in order to try out the game with friends at home in New York. The game soon caught on and spread rapidly on the east coast. In 1890 the U.S. Polo Association was formed and by 1925 the game was being played throughout the United States and beyond. In the year 1925, the U.S. Polo Association divided the country into eleven regional divisions comprised of: Eastern, Southeastern, New England, Southern, Central, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern, Pacific Coast, Northwestern, Far Eastern, and Hawaiian.(Bent:78) One Arizona team that was included in the Southwestern region, was the University of Arizona Team, which won the Western College Champions in 1924.

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The University of Arizona Polo team appears to be the first organized polo team in Arizona, having been founded as part of their ROTC program. The team was organized by ROTC Unit Commander Col. Ralph M. Parker during the 1922-23 school year.” According to the Arizona Republic article, “Recollections of Early Day Polo, “polo started in the Valley about 1926 when players used their best cow ponies.” The origins of the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club can be found in the merging interests of a riding club, polo players and a hotel seeking to give guests the opportunity for western horseback rides.

The Founding of the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club:

Captain H.A.M. Mosse established a Riding Academy located between Central Avenue and Seventh Street on Missouri Avenue, on land leased from the Phoenix Land and Investment Company. Mosse taught English style riding and polo at his Riding Academy. In 1929, Mosse’s business branched out in several directions. George Lindholm, the manager of the new Westward Ho Hotel, made arrangements with Mosse for hotel guests to ride at the stable. Some Phoenicians began to stable their horses there to allow them to ride in the desert. Another group of horsemen played polo and were eager to promote it in the valley. The outcome of these related interests was the formation of a club.

With the help of Captain Mosse, the Westward Ho Riding Club was created. Articles of incorporation were filed on October 2, 1929 and the certificate of incorporation was issued on January 10, 1930. The other two key men behind the incorporation of the club were Roland Haskell and Dr. S.I. Bloomhardt, however Mosse was given controlling interest in the corporation. Little is known about Roland Haskell, in an oral interview of one of the presidents of the club, John Clements, stated that Haskell was either an employee of the Westward Ho Hotel or was a local lawyer. Dr. S.I. Bloomhardt on the other hand, was very well known by the club serving as president from its inception in 1929 to 1941. Dr. Bloomhardt was a well respected medical doctor in Phoenix and he and his wife Kitty lived in the Phoenix Country Club, an upscale development north of Thomas Raod and east of Central Avenue, the main thoroughfare of Phoenix. They kept their horses at Mosse’s stable. A number of other members of the polo club were also members of the Phoenix Country Club which was founded in 1899 as the Phoenix Golf Club. This club focused more specifically on golf and tennis as recreational activities. While the articles of incorporation for the Westward Ho Riding Club allowed for acquiring property for the playing of tennis, golf, and hunting these activities were never developed. Instead the club’s central focus remained on riding, polo and social activities.

A January 10, 1930 article from the Arizona Republican hailed the opening of the club stating “the first field day of the Westward Ho Riding Club has been scheduled for Saturday afternoon at the Club field on Missouri between Central Avenue and Seventh Street.....among the events carded for the afternoon are the walk, trot, and canter race; tilting the ring tournament; iced bun race; men’s

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steeplechase; whistling race; girl's steeplechase; costume race; polo pony 100 yard return race; eight race; and high jumping exhibition." It went on to state that "the club is interested primarily in the advancement of equestrian sports and already boasts a considerable membership in Phoenix and the vicinity." Due to the initial success of the club, by March 1, 1930, Mosse and Haskell were directed to get a clubhouse built on the grounds which was completed by October of the same year. This new clubhouse was called "The Barn" and the complex as a whole was known as "Valley Field". The Valley Field Blues became the name for the polo club team. News clippings of the time describe several polo games involving the Valley Field Blues. Capt. Mosse had developed a team of young men, called the "Sparkplugs". They often played "the Blues". Other games were played against the Southern Arizona Polo Club, the University of Arizona team, The Camelback Quartet and the Yuma Valley Polo Club. Proceeds gained from these matches were often donated to charity. Despite the success of the riding club and "the blues" team, by 1931 there were several key factors that would result in the Westward Ho Riding Club transforming into the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club.

The fact that Captain Mosse had controlling interest in the corporation proved to become a problem as the Westward Ho Hotel withdrew its support of paying the \$500 ground lease for the complex. Mosse personally assumed the lease, offering to transfer the lease to the Westward Ho Riding Club with himself a sub-lessee responsible for part of the rent. However an agreement could not be reached between the other shareholders and Mosse. In the end, Mosse was paid to turn in all but two of his shares of stock. At the December 27, 1932 meeting, the stockholders voted to change the name to Valley Field Riding and Polo Club, and it made it a non-profit organization with no dividends. On August 1, 1936 the "barn" burned down and the club members were faced with the option of rebuilding at their existing location or relocating. It was at this time that a member of the club volunteered to donate land in order for the club to establish a new clubhouse and polo field.

Colonel J.E. Thompson, brother of Boyce Thompson famous Arizona mining Tycoon, was employed by the Magma Copper Mining Company. However, he also built and sold houses in Morenci Arizona during a mining boom. He owned 21.68 acres of land located in township 2 North, Range 4 East, Section 33 south of the Phoenix city reservoir property, located on Thomas Road near the Crosscut canal. This land was above the level that could be watered by the Salt River Project and therefore could not be used for farming. He offered this land to the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club as well as offering to buy \$1500 of first mortgage bonds to help build a new club facility. Lou Ella Archer, whose family were owners of the Archer-Daniels-Midland company, was another club member who volunteered to buy mortgage bonds in the amount of \$500 in order to build at the new site.

The board of directors accepted Col. Thompson's offer. At the November 19, 1936 meeting of the board, prominent Phoenix architect and club member Lester Byron presented his preliminary figures for the construction of an adobe clubhouse and stables. Mr. H.R. Meadows was given the contract to

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build the large rectangular adobe building, which was completed by October of 1937. A 1937 newspaper picture shows the new clubhouse in background with the Bloomhardts on horseback and six other members standing. The headline is "Valley Field Riding and Polo Club to Open New Home Today". Pictured standing are Mrs. Webb Griffen, Harry Fennemore, Mrs. Alfred Loveland, Sam Wilson, Mrs. J.E. Thompson and Mrs. Baron Goldwater. The stables, being a long row of stalls with a tack room and a feed room, were completed in November of 1938.

Another key member who was behind the transformation of the club from the Westward Ho Riding Club to the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club was Harry M. Fennemore of Fennemore, Craig Allen and Bledsoe. He was a lawyer for Colonel Thompson in the Magma Copper Company and a prominent lawyer in his own right. Fennemore became president of the club and strove to create a truly elite membership. According to a 1998 oral history interview with John Clements, a former club president, Harry had grown tired of being a member of the Phoenix Country Club in the 1920s as they took in people that he did not feel were "the right kind". He went on to state that "Fennemore picked the people he wanted. He selected people he thought would carry out his ideas of what the membership should be. They had to be people with families that were standing." Thus Fennemore was able to organize a club of Phoenix's elite families, which in his estimation the Phoenix Country Club had failed to do.

Club Membership:

The Valley Field Riding and Polo Club is associated with a who's who of Valley powerbrokers from the 1920s through the 1950s. The club was an elite social organization during the period when control over Phoenix's political economy was still in the hands of a select group of local businessmen and professionals. In the November 29, 1931 edition of the Arizona Republican the cover of section two was titled "Social Leaders Turn to Equestrian Sports". The article goes on to state that "Phoenix society has always endorsed with un-qualifying approval the sport of riding. Equestrians have followed desert trails and mountain paths with unflagging interest and many have formed riding clubs in order that social activity and riding might be combined." The article shows the prominent members of the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club and states that "informal parties are frequently formed with the result that groups of congenial companion ride out on the Arizona desert together and return to a hot supper".

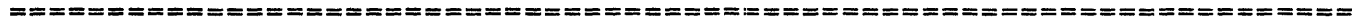
The first members of the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club were all prominent Arizonans. Among those issued the first shares of stock were Lou Ella Archer, who helped start the Desert Botanical Garden; Frank Brophy, rancher and banker; L.H. Chalmers, layer; Dr. W.C. Ellis, who was on the original Board of Directors of Good Samaritan Hospital; Robert T. Evans who built Jokake and

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Paradise Inns; Joe C. Haldiman who was in the insurance business; Mrs. Dwight B. Heard who built the Heard Museum; Edwin S. Lane, Dean of Trinity Cathedral; George Lindholm, the first manager of the Westward Ho Hotel; Arthur Luhrs, a Phoenix pioneer and builder of the Luhrs Building; H.M. Fennemore, a lawyer with Chalmers and Fennemore; Walter O. Boswell, well known and respected west-side farmer; Clarence Budington Kelland, noted writer and Dean Stanley, Agriculturist and philanthropist among a host of others.

The membership in the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club, of which 150 memberships were made available according to the membership offering "congenial people who have lived in Arizona a substantial number of years" and were involved in cultural, charitable and civic organizations in Phoenix and Arizona. Club members continued to go riding, have polo matches and social parties throughout the 1930s, even as the Great Depression continued. Ironically, as the Phoenix area entered a boom of war time production and prosperity in the 1940s, the riding and polo aspects of the club began to decline.

The Valley Field Riding and Polo Club and War World II:

World War II proved to be very taxing for polo and country clubs throughout the nation. James Mayo states that "a club's leadership confronted not only a decline in club revenues but also material and labor shortages that had not existed during the depression"(Mayo: 165). In response to these challenges some clubs gave temporary memberships to military personnel. Other clubs sought ways in which to contribute to the war effort either by providing relief or their grounds for the use of armed forces. Despite the efforts and contributions, polo in country clubs never regained the prominence it held prior to the war.

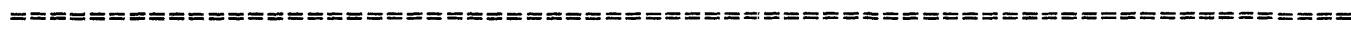
During the war, Arizona became the site of several Prisoner of War (POW) Camps. Papago Park became the site of one of these camps and was located south of Thomas Road in the area of 64th Street and the cross cut canal. In November of 1942, the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club rented their clubhouse to the 364th Infantry of the U.S. Army, who were guarding the German POW's. The army officers placed a tent over the south entrance and used it for the duration of the war. While the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club continued riding following the war, polo activity declined and by the late 1950s due to lack of usage and wind damage, the stables at Valley Field Riding and Polo Club were dismantled.

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Valley Field Riding and Polo Club
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Concluding Statement:

While the stables came down in 1959, the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club remained a central location for the socialization of its club members. The club grounds and buildings, still under the ownership of the club today, host monthly social dinner parties for the club members. The remaining club grounds, while smaller in size than the original site, serve as a preserve of the desert rural character from which the club was founded. While the prominence of country clubs as power institutions of the elite might have dwindled within American society, the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club holds on to its prestigious and elite nature with members who have remained in the club for decades. The Valley Field and Riding Club therefore remains as a legacy of an era of the social organizing of Phoenix's elite citizens.

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National Park Service

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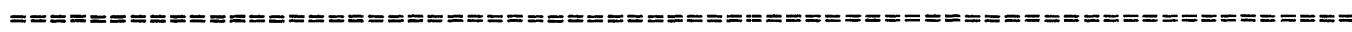
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Valley Field Riding and Polo Club
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Verbal Boundary Description

The property lies in Township 2 North, Range 4 East, Section 33, within the SE ¼ of the NE ¼. The boundary of the nominated property is that of Tax Parcel #129-24-003C, Maricopa County, Arizona. The parcel contains 9.29 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is what remains of the undeveloped portion of the original 21 acres Valley Field Riding and Polo Club. It coincides with the sonorant desert landscape and view sheds enjoyed historically by the club members. The boundaries also follow the legally recorded boundary line for Tax Parcel #129-24-003C, in Maricopa County, Arizona still owned by the Club.

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Valley Field Riding and Polo Club
name of property
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For all Photographs:

Photographer: Helana Ruter/Jim Coffman
Date: July 14, 2007/ November 24, 2008
Location of Negative: Files are digital, submitted on disk and housed at Akros, Inc.

<u>Photo Number</u>	<u>Description and View</u>
1	Detail of window; view to southeast
2	view to West
3	view to South
4	view to northeast
5	view to southeast
6	Detail of door and window; view to southeast
7	Interior of addition; view to north
8	Interior, original fireplace; view to north
9	Interior, wall dividing great hall and kitchen; view to south
10	Interior, arch dividing great hall and bar, view to south
11	Caretakers Cottage; view to the southeast
12	Remnant Adobe Wall; view to the south
13	Gravel Entry Road; view to the west
14	Clubhouse Entrance; view to the west
15	Service Yard; view to the west
16	Modified Desert; view to the west
17	Undisturbed Desert, view to the southeast
18	Gravel Entry Road; view to the west

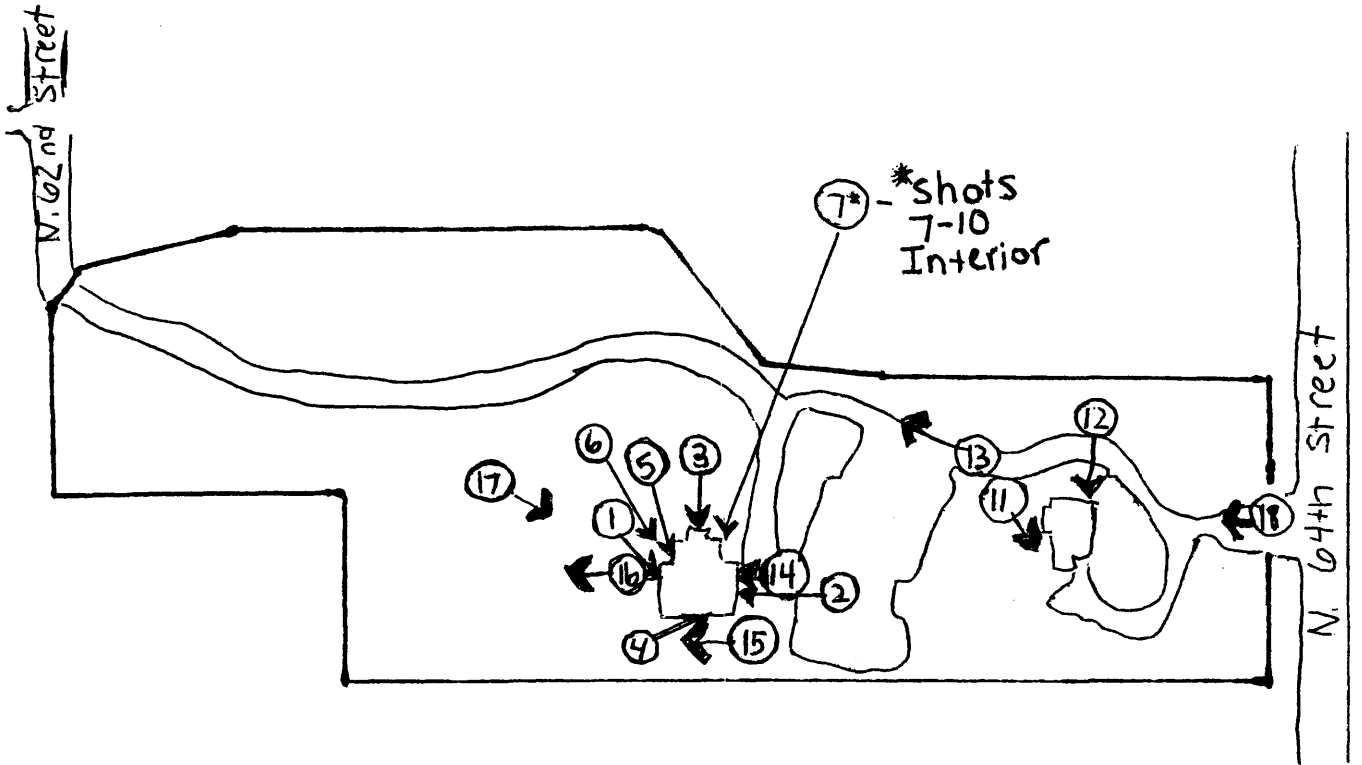


Photo Locations

National Register of Historic Places Nomination

VALLEY FIELD RIDING AND POLO CLUB

2530 North 64th Street
 Scottsdale, Arizona 85257