

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

153



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Converse, Ralph, House

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6617 North Central Avenue not for publication

city of town Phoenix vicinity

State Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85012

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

James W Bowman
Signature of certifying official

25 MARCH 2010
Date

AZ STATE HISTORIC PRES. OFFICER
Title

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

Sandra McElhattan

4-8-10

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
2	2	Total

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

North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 1895-1959

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Pueblo Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: STUCCO/ADOBE

roof: UNKNOWN/CERAMIC TILE
other: _____

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Ralph Converse House is a single-story, Pueblo Revival rural estate home built in 1935. The house has an elongated irregular U-shaped plan and a multi-level flat roof hidden behind a horizontal parapet and blunted wall and roof corners. The foundation is concrete and the walls are stucco-covered adobe. A long wall creates a courtyard space in the front. A guesthouse, swimming pool, and small utility shed are located in the rear of the property. The guesthouse is a contributor and the pool and shed are non-contributors. The Converse House is located in the prestigious Orangewood Addition in North Central Phoenix, and fronts to the west on Central Avenue. It is an excellent representation of the rural estate home property type detailed in the associated Multiple Property Documentation Form, "North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 1895-1959," and as a rare example of the once popular Pueblo Revival Style, which is covered in the same MPDF.

Narrative Description

The Ralph Converse House is located at 6617 North Central Avenue in North Central Phoenix. It is a residential property consisting of one primary residence and a guesthouse. Located on 1.4 acres and set back from Central Avenue 125 feet, the main residence is reached by a curved driveway. The front yard of the Converse House is well maintained with mature landscaping. A row of olive trees, which are a component of the North Central Avenue Streetscape Historic District, delineate the property from the public right of way. The driveway is asphalt and curves from the street to a small parking area in front of the house as well as proceeding through a gate at the south edge of the property to the rear of the house.

The main house is a rambling compound of battered adobe walls with a frontage consisting of a 115-foot long, six-foot high wall with a wooden gate leading into a courtyard and access to the main entrance. An alcove is built into the wall to the right of the gate. Another small gate provides access to the side yard and is located on the north end of the courtyard. Also located in the northern portion of the courtyard wall is ventana with wood slats. Another gate, at the southern end of the courtyard provides access to the driveway. Completing the separation of the front yard from the rest of the property is a wall extending from the northwest corner of the house to the north property line. A tall hedge runs the length of the southern property boundary.

The residence is a single story, 7,262 square-foot house, designed by architect Orville A. Bell in the Pueblo Revival Style, with Spanish Colonial accents. The walls are constructed of adobe, sheathed in stucco. The plan is irregular. The roof is flat, heavy timbered, with two layers of adobe bricks for the purpose of insulation. The roof steps down over the entrance supported by wood posts and vigas. Left of the entrance are three matched wood casement windows. The main entrance to the house is a carved wood. Another carved wood door, flanked by wood combination casement windows, enters the southern section of the house from the courtyard.

The southern façade has two asymmetrically placed wood casement windows. Two square scuppers / canales protrude from the parapet. A single, fixed, lead glass window provides a decorative accent on the east wall of the southern section. A five-car carport extends from and lengthens the southern section creating a central courtyard in the rear of the house. The courtyard surrounds a swimming pool, which was installed in the 1970s and is a non-contributor. The interior of the courtyard has verandas covered with low-pitched, open rafter, clay tiled roofs, supported by stucco-covered columns. An outdoor bar faces the pool from the rear of the house. To the right of the bar, a wood beam portico, with four, twelve-light French doors provides for the main rear entrance into the house. Multiple wood casement windows are found along the north side of the inner courtyard, with one French door entrance.

The north side of the house creates a narrow passage between the house and the shared wall along the property line in the northeast corner. This opens up into a courtyard in the northwest corner. There are two five-light French doors and two sets of casement windows, one wood and one steel. The wood casement windows are a matched pair. The steel casement windows are a combination.

The guesthouse is located a little north of center in the backyard. It is a small, approximately four hundred square foot, vernacular residence with Spanish Colonial influences. The plan of this building is also irregular, with a low-pitched, cross-gabled, clay tile roof. The building is constructed of adobe with combination of wood and steel casement windows, one with a projecting sill. The doors are single-light French doors. A small patio courtyard is created by a four-foot wall on the south side of the building. There is a small covered porch on the northwest corner. There is a small shed abutting the east end of the building. It is a non-contributor.

Integrity

The main house is essentially unaltered with minor additions, such as the poolside bar, made to the rear of the structure using similar materials and design elements. The carport was added on 1970s. The quality of workmanship is evident in the massing of the house as well as the unusual feature of double bricks in the roof of the main house. The guesthouse appears to be unaltered. The design of the Converse House and its setback create a monumental presence when viewed from Central Avenue. Possessing a high level of architectural integrity, the house is one of the best examples of the Pueblo Revival Style in the north central Phoenix area. The property's mature landscaping and the its location on a prominent street in the Orangewood subdivision exemplify the house's association with rural estate development in North Central Phoenix.

All of the mentioned modifications do not alter the Converse House's massing or sense of feeling. Like all other properties that can be covered by the MPDF "North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 1895-1959," the size of the original lot has been reduced but in this case it was done during the historic period. In addition, the mature landscape, accessory structures, and location on a prominent street in the Orangewood subdivision exemplify the house's association with rural estate development in North Central Phoenix and, with its design, workmanship, and materials, it is a fine representative of the once popular Pueblo Revival Style.

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)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1935-1959

Significant Dates

1935

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Orville A. Bell, Architect

Harvey Scull, Contractor

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is from 1935, when the house was built, to 1959, when the rural area was annexed by the city of Phoenix.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

n/a

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Ralph Converse House is a rural estate home designed in the Pueblo Revival Style. The home is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, "Community Planning and Development" because it is one of the few remaining homes that are representative of rural estate subdivision development trends in North Central Phoenix during the period 1895 to

1959. The Converse House is also eligible under Criterion C, "Architecture" because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Pueblo Revival-style architecture that developed in North Central Phoenix during the same period. For a more detailed explanation of both contexts, please refer to the associated Multiple Property Documentation Form, "North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estates Homes, 1895-1959."

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

The Ralph Converse House is significant under Criterion A because it is an excellent example of a rural estate in the North Central Phoenix area as detailed in the associated MPDF "North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 1895-1959." This area features most of the few remaining high-style rural estates and rare farmhouses in the middle of the greater Phoenix metropolis. The property is located on a prominent street, North Central Avenue, which anchors the Orangewood subdivision. The property retains most of its architectural integrity as well as many of its original characteristics such as mature, well-maintained landscaping. The lot size is 1.4 acres in an area where average lots size is under a quarter acre. The house is over 7,000 square feet in an area where the average house is 2,500 square feet. These features convey a sense of feeling and association of rural estate subdivision development trends during the period 1895-1959.

The Converse House is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of rural estate homes described in the MPDF "North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 1895-1959," because it is one of the best examples in North Central Phoenix of this property type designed in the Pueblo Revival Style. Characteristic of this style, the house features stucco sheathed adobe walls with an uneven roofline, and smooth, curving surfaces. Spanish Colonial influences are evident in the rear verandas which are covered with low-pitched, open rafter, clay tiled roofs, supported by stucco-covered columns. Unique to this house is the heavy timbered roof, which has two layers of adobe bricks to provide insulation. The house is a well-maintained example of its style with most of its original architectural integrity intact. The home was designed by local architect Orville A. Bell, who also designed the El Encanto Apartments (2820 East 6th Street, Tucson, listed on the National Register, December 30, 1994), homes in the Williams Residential Historic District in Williams, Arizona (listed on the National Register, January 8, 1998) and homes in the North Encanto historic district in Phoenix (listed on the National Register, January 24, 2007). The house retains a high degree of original architectural integrity, and its setting and landscaping remain intact.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Located in the prestigious Woodson Place subdivision on north Central Avenue, the house was built during the height of the Depression (1935) as a residence for prominent businessman Ralph Converse. Converse was the owner of Converse Beauty and Barber Supply. The house was designed by Phoenix-based architect Orville A. Bell and built by Harvey C. Scull. Converse and his family lived there until his death in 1955.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Arizona Republic

Murray, Vincent S., and Kevin Weight, *North Central Avenue Streetscape Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 2004.

_____, "North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes," National Register of Hisrtoric Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, 2009.

North Central Corridor Estate Survey: Phoenix, Arizona. Tempe: Woodward Architectural Group, 1993.

Phoenix City Directory. Dallas: R. L. Polk & Company, 1935-1959.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Converse, Ralph, House
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona
County and State

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____ Other _____
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

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

1	<u>12</u>	<u>400399</u>	<u>3710721</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary of the property is that of Maricopa County Assessor's parcel number 161-22-071, which is the western 350 feet of Lot 3, Woodson Place. This parcel also includes the southern half of the former right-of-way for Tuckey Lane.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The original Woodson Place subdivision was created in 1922 from Lots 13 and 14 of Block 4 of the Orangewood Addition. The new subdivision created four lots from each Orangewood lot. Tuckey Lane, which traversed the boundary between the original lots, was created to provide access to the new interior lots. In 1951, Tuckey Lane was abandoned and new subdivision was created, encompassing all of Woodson place except for Lots 3 and 4, which were reduced to their current size.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vincent Murray, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization Arizona Historical Research date February 16, 2010
street & number 5025 North Central Avenue, Suite 575 telephone (480) 829-0267
city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85012
e-mail vince@azhistory.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Converse, Ralph, House
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona
County and State

Photograph List

Photographer: Vincent Murray

Date Photographed: March 3, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Front façade facing southeast.
2. Front courtyard facing north.
3. Carport facing west.
4. Inner courtyard facing west.
5. Inner courtyard facing west.
6. Guesthouse facing southwest.

Property Owner

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

name Robert S. Murphy Trust

street & number 6617 North Central Avenue

telephone (602) 254-3959

city or town Phoenix

state AZ zip code 85012

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ralph Converse House

Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona

County and State

North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural
Estate Homes

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation Page 8

BOISE
25% Cotton

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Converse, Ralph, House

MULTIPLE NAME: North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 189
5-1959

STATE & COUNTY: ARIZONA, Maricopa

DATE RECEIVED: 2/26/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/17/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/01/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/12/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000153

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Excellent example of rural estate property type
in Pueblo Revival Style. Property type is charac-
teristic of North Central Phoenix, and this example
designed by local architect Oruello A. Bell
is distinctive for its stucco sheathed, adobe walls
uneven roofline, and smooth curving supports and
it remains one of the few examples associated with
period of area's subdivision, 1895 to 1959.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J McClelland DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 4/8/10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y N see attached SLR Y N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



T. Ralph Converse House
Maricopa County, Arizona



2 Ralph Converse House
Maricopa County, Arizona



3. Ralph Converse House
Maricopa County, Arizona



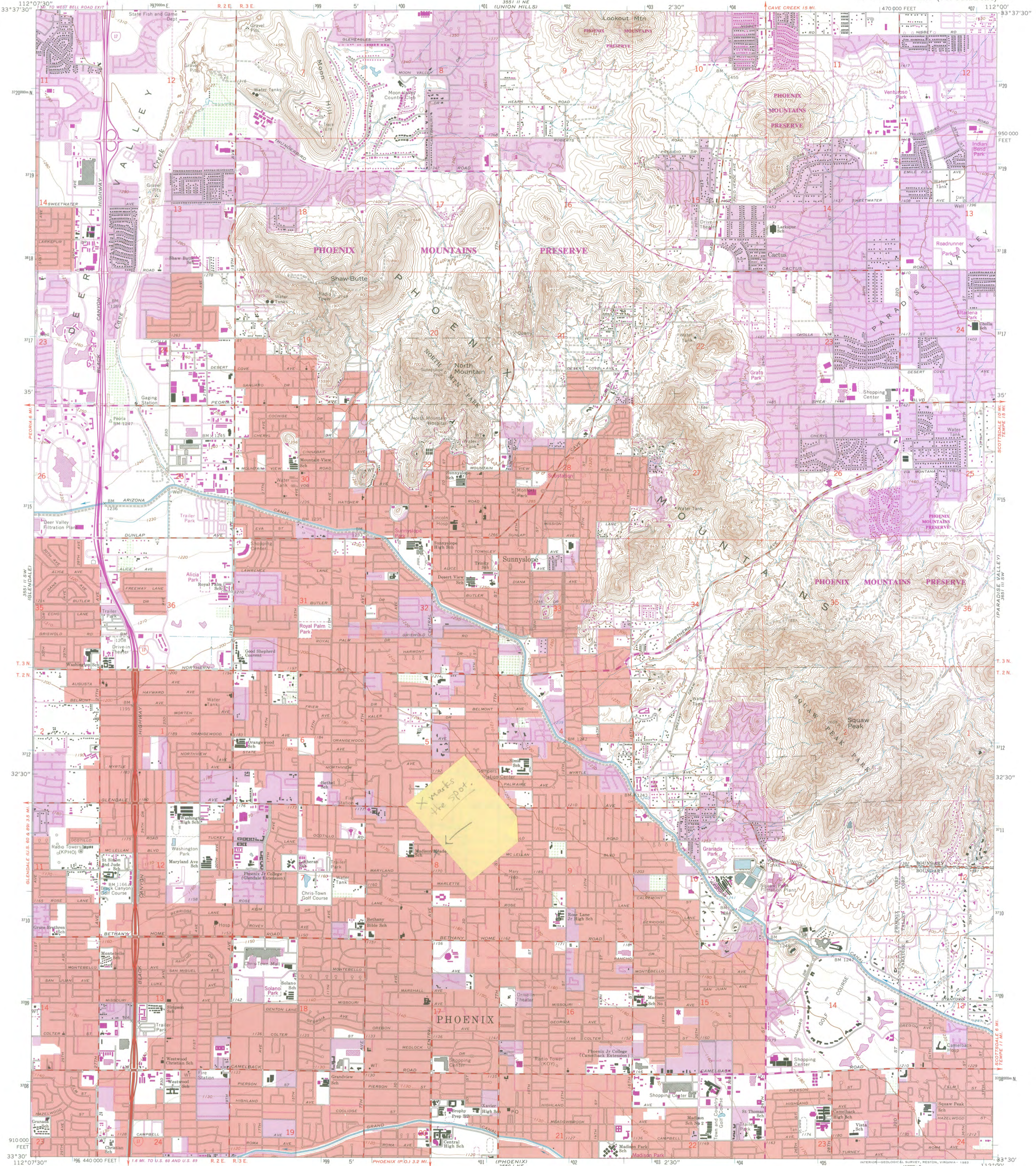
4. Ralph Converse House
Maricopa County, Arizona



5. Ralph Converse House
Maricopa County, Arizona



6. Ralph Converse House
Maricopa County, Arizona



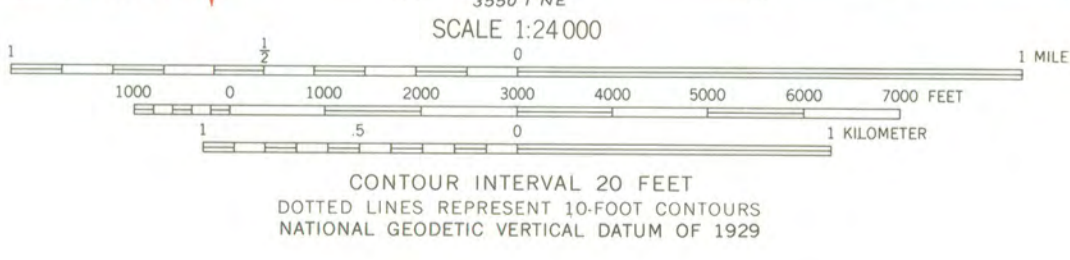
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1965

Polyconic projection, 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Arizona coordinate system, central zone, 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 12, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters south and
65 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1978 and other sources. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

SUNNYSLOPE, ARIZ.
N3330-W11200/7.5

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 3351 II SE-SERIES V988

RALPH CONVERSE HOUSE
6617 N. CENTRAL AVE PHX AZ





"Managing and conserving Arizona's natural, cultural and recreational resources"

February 22, 2010



Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th Floor (MS2280)
Washington, D.C. 2005-5905

RE: North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes MPDF
Asbury, Cline R./Riney B. Salmon House
Converse, Ralph House
Olney, George A./Everett E. Ellinwood House
Vradenburg, George H. House
Maricopa County, AZ

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

State Parks
Board Members

Chair
Reese Woodling
Tucson

Tracey Westerhausen
Phoenix

Larry Landry
Phoenix

Walter D. Armer, Jr.
Vail

Arlan Colton
Tucson

William C. Scalzo
Phoenix

Maria Baier
State Land
Commissioner

Renée E. Bahl
Executive Director

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Tel & TTY: 602.542.4174
AZStateParks.com

800.285.3703 from
(520 & 928) area codes

General Fax:
602.542.4180

Director's Office Fax:
602.542.4188

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am pleased to submit the National Register of Historic Places nomination forms for the properties referenced above.

The North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form is organized around two historic contexts and their associated property types.

The Asbury, Cline R./Riney B. Salmon House contains 1 contributing building, and 2 contributing structures. Noncontributing resources include 1 building, 1 structure, and 2 objects.

The Ralph Converse House contains 2 contributing buildings, and 2 noncontributing structures.

The Olney, George A./Everett E. Ellinwood House contains 2 contributing buildings, and 4 noncontributing buildings and 1 noncontributing structure.

The George H. Vradenburg House contains 1 contributing building, and 2 noncontributing structures.

Accompanying documentation is enclosed, as required. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me at vstrang@azstateparks.gov

Sincerely,

Vivia Strang, CPM
National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures



March 30, 2010

Linda McClelland, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th Floor (MS2280)
Washington D.C. 2005-5905

Dear Ms. McClelland:

Thank you for calling my attention to the signature line....I will try not to forget this important step again! Enclosed are the following signed cover sheets:

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

State Parks
Board Members

Chair
Reese Woodling
Tucson

Tracey Westerhausen
Phoenix

Larry Landry
Phoenix

Walter D. Armer, Jr.
Vail

Arlan Colton
Tucson

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- North Central Phoenix Farmhouses and Rural Estate Homes, 1895-1959 (MPDF)
- Asbury, Cline R./Riney B. Salmon House
- Converse, Ralph, House
- Olney, George A/Everett E. Ellinwood House
- Vradenburg, George H., House
- Sarah and Jack Harelson House (not part of the North Central MPDF)
- Kerr, Louise Lincoln, House & Studio
- Thunderbird Estates and The McDonald Addition Historic District
- Northfield Historic District
- Village Grove 1-6 Residential Historic District
- Old Bisbee Historical Residential District

Sincerely,

Vivia Strang, CPM
National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
602.542.4662 (p)
602.542.4180 (f)
1300 West Washington Street
Phoenix AZ 85007

Only when the PAST lives in the PRESENT does it have a FUTURE.

Enclosures