NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

RECEIVED

JAN 29 1990

339

NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Clifton Townsite Historic District

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 37 Acres about the Chase Creek/San Francisco River confluence ☐ not for publication N/A

city, town: Clifton ☐ vicinity N/A

state: Arizona code: AZ county: Greenlee code: 011 zip code: 85533

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[ ] building(s)	42	26	buildings
[X] public-local	[X] district	2	3	sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	10	2	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	1	objects
	[ ] object	54	32	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Shereen Bruner — Jan. 24, 1990

Signature of certifying official — Date

Arizona 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.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[X] entered in the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Entered in the National Register

Helen Bryer — 3/1/90

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register.

[ ] other, (explain:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/Processing Site	DOMESTIC
COMMERCE/TRADE	COMMERCE/TRADE
TRANSPORTATION	TRANSPORTATION
DOMESTIC	VACANT - NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

20th CENT. AM. MVMT - Prairie School
20th CENT. REVIVALS - Mission/Spanish Col.
LATE VICTORIAN

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
Stone
roof Asphalt
other Slag
Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

The Clifton Townsite Historic District is a well-defined area which includes an intact grouping of structures of various types dating from the early years of Clifton's development, 1871-1920. These resources lie within the bottom of the canyon formed by the San Francisco River at its intersection with Chase Creek. This low-lying location, while giving the town a visual boundary, has subjected it to periodic flooding. This has had the greatest impact along Park Avenue where many structures have been washed away in the past and several buildings remain abandoned due to the most recent flood in 1983. Many aspects of life in early Clifton are represented by the various structures: residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, religious, and governmental buildings are included as well as character-defining engineering works such as bridges and flood-control features. Remaining buildings represent a variety of late 19th-Century and early 20th-Century styles. The physical setting in the canyon along the San Francisco River as well as the relative proximity and visual continuity of the structures unifies the district. The general architectural integrity of the district is good, although many properties are abandoned and have fallen into disrepair; 37%, or 32 out of 86 resources included are considered noncontributors.

DESCRIPTION

The San Francisco River canyon forms the setting for the Clifton Townsite Historic District. Visible in all directions are red cliffs and hills which frame the view and provide a feeling of enclosure. In many places, structures abut the steep slopes of the canyon, which forms a natural boundary for the district. The San Francisco River itself provides a major focus of open space and forms a spine which organizes the resources around it into a coherent whole.

The district represents a typical copper mining town of its time, all contained in a small area and having all the essential parts of the historic town. The general character of the district is mixed. The district is composed of a number of major areas representative of the historic town of Clifton: the Smelter Site, as the industrial area; Chase

[x] See continuation sheet

Creek, as the commercial area; a large central hill, the visual focus; Coronado Boulevard, the route to and from Clifton; the bridge across the San Francisco River, linking the east side of the district to the west side; and Park Avenue, the civic/residential area. Each of these major areas plays an important role in defining the character of the district.

The original core of the town was the smelter of the Arizona Copper Company, which formed the industrial base for the town's development. The original Lesinsky smelter, built of adobe in 1873, once occupied this site, but nothing visible remains. The original Arizona Copper Company smelter occupied an area north of the confluence of Chase Creek and the San Francisco River. In the late 1890s, the early wooden smelter complex was rebuilt of concrete and steel. The site was ideal for a copper smelter; it was close to ample supplies of water, and ore was easily transported from the mines at Morenci and Metcalf which were a few miles upstream along Chase Creek. Very little remains of the smelter works; most of the superstructure was dismantled by the copper company in 1914. However, retaining walls, foundations, and ore bins built of slag blocks and stone (No. 130), as well as several storage tanks remain on the cliffside north of the smelter site. A road bed cut along the cliff, originally used for ore trains, is also extant, although the tracks, laid in the mid-1880s, have been removed. Several of the original smelter buildings still exist; in some cases, original foundations of smelter buildings appear to be occupied by new structures. The Powerhouse (No. 50) is a notable original building. This brick structure, with the Victorian details of segmental arched brick window openings and fishscale wood shingles at the gables, is representative of the Arizona Copper Company's pioneering use of electricity in mining operations. The Blower House (No. 52), is the last remaining superstructure of the smelter plant. Its structure of steel frame covered with corrugated metal is typical of most of the buildings that once crowded onto this site. Perris-Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and historic photographs show dozens of buildings closely sited between the cliff and the river. Smaller utility buildings also remain on the site. No historic machinery is known to remain in place with the exception of piping and storage tanks. There is much open space where the smelter once stood. The smelter site may hold historic archeological remains of smelter buildings as well, although their existence and information-yielding potential are not established.

Chase Creek, an area which takes its name from the adjacent dry wash, is an historic commercial area immediately south of the smelter site. Many original buildings remain in Chase Creek, most in fair or poor condition but retaining remarkable integrity. The character of Chase Creek Road (historically called Copper Avenue) is that of a dense commercial area with a narrow street and continuous one- and two-story facade lines. Most buildings along Chase Creek are of masonry construction, having been

rebuilt following the Chase Creek Fire of 1905, and are predominantly of the Commercial style. Pressed tin and brickwork details are featured on many of the buildings, reminiscent of earlier Victorian styles. Many of the buildings were labelled on early maps as being used as "saloons" with "female boarding above." In fact, much of Chase Creek was the historic "red light district" in Clifton, having gained that distinction after such establishments were chased out of the commercial area along Park Avenue. Most of the buildings are vacant today.

Chase Creek Road parallels a channelized Chase Creek to the north, which, along with the present US Route 666, separates the Chase Creek area from the Smelter Site. Commercial buildings lie between Chase Creek and the road, with their north sides actually built atop or as part of the stone and slag flood walls forming the Chase Creek channel. Chase Creek itself was not always so well tamed. Early Sanborn maps show Chase Creek farther south than its present location and in a more meandering configuration. However, because of periodic flooding Chase Creek was channelized and was apparently moved to its present location. At least two generations of slag and stone flood walls are visible along Chase Creek (No. 386), evidently due to increases in their height in response to higher-than-anticipated flood waters in the past.

Immediately east of the Chase Creek commercial area is a 60 foot high rock outcropping which is bordered by Route 666 on the southwest, Chase Creek on the north, and a railroad spur on the northwest. Historically, this hill was the site of at least three water tanks for the smelter. Presently the only historic remains on the hilltop are slag foundations for a round tank (No. 376). In 1987, a modern addition was placed in a prominent location on the hilltop: a stylized, three-dimensional sculpture of a copper crystal (No. 377), by Steven Wilmoth, symbolizing the town's debt to the copper industry as its economic lifeblood. This sculpture is a focal point for traffic moving both ways along Route 666, as well as dominating the view to the east from Chase Creek Road.

U.S. Route 666 continues south from the hill, paralleling the west bank of the San Francisco River. This portion of Route 666 through Clifton is known locally as Coronado Boulevard. A railroad spur and switchyard occupies much of the space between Coronado Boulevard and the River. Since 1884, the main line of the Arizona and New Mexico Railroad ran along this alignment and continued to the northwest to the mines of Morenci and Metcalf, where the bulk of the region's ore was found. The railroad still passes through Clifton from the new smelter at Morenci, but by a different route. The switchyard is in its historical location and may include archaeological remains of a historic turntable and other structures. No evidence of their existence is visible. Comparison of modern and historic photographs indicates that the grade of the switchyard may have been

uniformly raised about three or four feet in conjunction with floodwall construction.

Several notable structures lie along Coronado Boulevard, including the historic headquarters of the Arizona Copper Company (No. 378), the Company store and Elk's hall (No. 49), the town jail (No. 379), and the passenger depot (No. 48). The Company headquarters is a two-story territorial building of brick and stone positioned close to the cliffside to the west. This landmark building has been altered by an addition on one side, identical in construction, with the same window size and spacing as well as hipped roof form as the original. This addition was made during the building's era of significance. The Elk's Hall and company store is a two-story rectangular building with a low-pitched gable roof; the gable and second floor still retain their original half-timbering, although the first floor facades have been altered. The jail consists of a pair of caves hollowed out from the cliffside with an attached stone anteroom. This jail is no longer in use but is preserved as a tourist attraction. The passenger train depot is a Mission Revival structure of brick, which maintains remarkable integrity but sustained damage in the flood of 1983. Silt remains in much of the first floor. The depot appears structurally sound. Between the railroad switchyard and the San Francisco River are floodwalls (No. 1) built of slag and sandstone. Similar floodwalls appear on the east bank as well. Floodwalls on both sides continue for the length of the district, north and south. Through the years, attempts to control the periodic flooding that occurred along the San Francisco River have resulted in the construction of retaining walls in several stages, along with fills to raise the ground level along the riverbanks. Some floodwalls are built of black slag blocks laid carefully in running bond, while in other places molten or semi-molten slag was poured directly on the bank, forming lava-like dikes. At the southern end of the west bank wall, the most recent extension was executed in sandstone masonry with beaded joints. In most places, several generations of floodwalls built atop each other are evident. In several locations along the east bank, obelisks of slag rise six feet above and are integrated into the slag walls as a decorative feature. Near the train depot, a flight of steps is built into the floodwall, leading down to the location of an earlier footbridge across the San Francisco River. The foundations for this footbridge (No. 381) remain in the riverbed. A corresponding flight of steps descends as well from the east bank.

The main link between the east and west sides of the San Francisco River is a single span steel vehicular bridge (No. 16) completed in 1918. This site, approximatley 500 feet south of the confluence of Chase Creek and the San Francisco River, seems always to have been the location of some type of bridge since the 1880s. Prior to 1918, the river was spanned here by a succession of pedestrian suspension bridges. The 1918 bridge is a

steel Parker truss with a wood plank bed and concrete abutments. This bridge was previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

Park Avenue, historically known as Conglomerate Avenue, runs parallel to the east bank of the San Francisco River. Many types of buildings are found along Park Avenue, which was the town's "Main Street" before the Chase Creek commercial area was developed in 1900. The northernmost portion of Park Avenue is residential in character, and includes two vernacular houses and the oldest surviving building in Greenlee County: "La Casa Grande" (No. 41), an adobe building of the Sonoran style. It was built in 1873 by Henry Lesinsky, an early miner and builder of the first crude smelter in the area. La Casa Grande was his residence. This building was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Immediately south of La Casa Grande is an amphitheater, with a stage backdrop of a concave formation of natural rock (No. 106). The raised stage and court in front is of poured concrete. The portion of Park Avenue south of this feature and near the bridge was historically a commercial area. Many original buildings have been lost to floods, but several remain, including the Central Hotel (No. 36). This building is a two story Victorian Commercial structure built of slag at the base with brick walls above and topped by a pressed metal decorative cornice. South of the bridge, the district becomes mixed in use and style. The brick Neoclassical Revival Town Hall (No. 32), a public swimming pool (No. 210) and park (No. 100), minor commercial buildings and residences and a Mission Revival church (No. 21, now a lodge hall) built of stone and faced with stucco occur along the way. The southernmost building within the district is the Arizona Copper Company (now Phelps-Dodge) Manager's house (No. 3), a two-story Craftsman style residence. This building is the largest and the stylistically purest residence in the district.

The historic appearance of Clifton was different from the present appearance in several ways. The difference is a result of the removal of many smelter buildings and related structures, and the subsequent cessation of activities associated with the smelter. Historic photographs of the smelter site show many smokestacks billowing smoke which filled the sky, while the tailings of the smelter were being dumped directly into the San Francisco River. Another, more subtle, difference results from the periodic flooding of the San Francisco. Many structures have been lost in floods, and through the years floodwalls were added and river banks filled in. However, most of the floodwalls and fills, or portions of them, were constructed before 1912. Historic and present activity patterns are much different. The economic downturn that struck Clifton in the early 1980s, resulting from nearly simultaneous labor strikes, floods, and depressed copper prices, has left much of Clifton looking like a ghost town. Many buildings have been left vacant and neglected, particularly in Chase

Creek.

The architectural styles represented in Clifton, where identifiable as such, are widely varied. Most styles are typical of the period represented, including late-19th and early-20th century styles such as Queen Anne, Commercial, Prairie, Mission Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Neoclassical Revival.

The earliest buildings in Clifton were Sonoran, Anglo adaptations of the (by then) indigenous Spanish Colonial structures of the desert southwest. These were built of native adobe with massive exterior walls and flat roofs, and were quite simple in character. The only remaining structure of this era is La Casa Grande, Lesinsky's residence (No. 41). This is typical of the style, but is larger than most adobe structures in Clifton in the 1800s.

Later buildings carried on the tradition of folk architecture, or buildings built without the aid of an architect. The term "National Folk" has been used where buildings built after the arrival of the railroad, and without benefit of professional design, exhibit this vernacular character. The improved shipping lines and communications that the railroads brought contributed to a national similarity of folk architecture. In Clifton, a rough-and-ready mining town, most buildings were vernacular and built of locally available materials such as stone and slag, or those easily transported by rail, such as wood.

The many industrial buildings of the original smelter were designed by engineers to be best suited to the work of smelting. Not pretending to incorporate any "high" architectural styles, these are best typified as being Industrial Vernacular. Examples of this ethic may be seen in one of the few extant smelter buildings (No. 52). Built of steel frame sheathed in corrugated iron with a simple rectangular plan and low pitched gable roof, this building is typical of the industrial buildings seen in historical photographs of Clifton.

Later, more permanent commercial buildings did attain stylistic identity. Chase Creek has the highest concentration of buildings of a coherent unified appearance, most buildings having a similar Commercial character and ornamentation. The majority of these commercial buildings exhibit Victorian detailing, and feature a profusion of pressed-metal applied ornament and decorative brickwork at their facades, such as cornices, false stonework, brackets, pediments, and embossed patterns. The stylistic variants of commercial structures in Chase Creek are reminiscent not only of Victorian styles, but include Neoclassical Revival and more modern, simpler buildings as well.

An unusual style appears in the Arizona Copper Company Store/Elks' Lodge (No. 49): Tudor Revival. The Tudor Revival Style did not become popular in the U. S. until after World War I, when many other Period Revival styles had their day. Built by the Arizona Copper Company as a library, store, and meeting hall in the 1890s, its existence may be attributed to the Company's link to the Scottish heritage of its owners and many of its workers. The influence of the English Tudor era can be seen in the prominent half-timbered gable remaining at the second story. Other hallmarks of the style, such as steeply pitched gable roofs, are absent in this building, but historic photographs show additional embellishment at the first floor.

Several of the early-20th century styles are represented as well. The influence of the Craftsman style is quite evident in the design of the Arizona Copper Company Manager's House (No. 3). This style, popularized as a part of the arts-and-crafts movement in America, was championed by visionaries such as Gustav Stickley in his magazine, The Craftsman. The style emphasized honest use of materials in simple, rational ways that honored the individual worker. Influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style is also seen in this large residence in its symmetrical placement of bands of windows, emphasis on horizontality, and hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves. A Bungalow style residence (No. 5) exists to the north of the Manager's house, another example of the influence of the Craftsman Style. As a western adaptation of Craftsman ideals, the Bungalow style originated in California before blossoming in popularity throughout the U.S. Major features of the Bungalow style include a veranda porch, wide, medium-pitched gable roofs with exposed rafter tails, and the use of exposed materials such as brick, stone, and concrete. An unusual Bungalow-style church (No. 21) was built on Clifton's Park Avenue, featuring a pyramidal-roofed bell tower.

A unifying element in Clifton's structures is the extensive use of black slag. The slag is particularly interesting and notable for its use as a building material. It is used in floodwalls, where it was either poured in a semi-molten state or laid up as a masonry wall. It is also used in several buildings in structural masonry walls, such as at the Central Hotel (No. 36), and in many of the foundations and retaining walls at the smelter site where they form major character-defining elements.

Landscaping in central Clifton is nearly nonexistant. Most landscaping has been planted by residents and has no unified appearance or concept. The major exception to this rule is the site at the ACC Manager's house, which is almost oasis-like in comparison. This site includes broad green lawns dominated by mature palms, deciduous trees, and a line of Italian cypress.

The Clifton Townsite Historic District is readily distinguishable from its surroundings. The cliffs of both the San Francisco River and Chase Creek valleys visually define the district where they occur. To the west along Chase Creek Road, the district terminates at the point where the high-density commercial streetscape ends. To the north across U.S. Route 666 from this location, the western end of the district is marked by the last retaining wall along the cliff leading from the smelter site, which is also a point of constriction in the canyon. The northernmost extension of the district, along the San Francisco River, terminates at the north end of the smelter site. To the north of the district, on both east and west sides of the river, lies a residential area of modern or low-integrity historic structures which do not contribute to the historic feeling. The northeastern boundary follows the foot of the hill at the east bank of the San Francisco River. The Park Avenue streetscape is perceived as a unified whole, and in most cases, the cliff face is so steep that buildings uphill are not seen as being a part of the district. Further to the south, the slope lessens and additional buildings are included. Therefore, some parts of this boundary have been drawn to exclude noncontributing buildings unless they front on Park Avenue. Finally, the southernmost extension of the district is marked by the end of the slag masonry floodwall along the river. At this point, the canyon walls constrict and the river turns a corner, thus forming a visual barrier.

In assessing the integrity of the various features within the district, some particular guidelines were used. Most properties are simple to classify in regard to their contributing status, but some cases require special attention with specific criteria. Particularly for commercial buildings, the line between "contributing" and "noncontributing" buildings can often be difficult to determine. A recurring phenomenon along Chase Creek is that, although many buildings are relatively unaltered from their original appearance, most of them have the first floor windows boarded up as a protection against vandalism and the elements. Boarded-up windows alone, therefore, were not seen as being sufficient in themselves to make a building a noncontributor, unless they obscure important character-defining elements of the facade. Commercial buildings two stories in height offer another difficulty where the integrity of the first floor differs from that of the second. In cases such as this, if the storefront has been altered but the second floor remains substantially intact, the structure is seen holistically as contributing to the district, because more than half of its fabric survives in a visible state.

Of the resources classified as sites, all have lost integrity and do not convey the character of their historic period. Two sites, however, have important information-yielding value; the smelter site (#130) and the

building facade ruin in Chase Creek (#355). Therefore, these two sites are considered as contributors.

The potential for archeology probably exists throughout the district, although little has been studied except surface features. Many of the landforms have been altered over the years, such as was done in raising the level of the riverbanks to avoid flooding. Such alterations made many original building sites inaccessible. The major opportunity for information-yielding archaeology exists at the smelter site, where very little can be seen today of what was once a vast industrial operation.

CONTRIBUTOR LISTING

INV. NO.	NAME, ADDRESS, OR DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION
1	SF Floodwalls	Structure
3	ACC Mansion	Building
5	House	Building
13	Bathhouse	Building
* 16	Bridge	Structure
21	Church	Building
23	Commercial Building	Building
32	Town Hall	Building
36	Central Hotel	Building
37a	Park Ave. Commercial	Building
38a	Park Ave. Commercial	Building
* 41	La Casa Grande	Building
43	House	Building
44	House	Building
48	RR Passenger Depot	Building
49	ACC Store/Elks Hall	Building
50	Powerhouse	Building
52	Blower House	Building
106	Park and Stage	Structure
115	RR Bridge/Chase	Structure
130	Smelter Site	Site
149	Vehicular Bridge/Chase	Structure
210	Swimming Pool	Structure
334	Palacio Home	Building
335	Peoples Bank & Trust	Building
337	269 Chase	Building
338	271 Chase	Building

*Previously listed on the National Register.

339	273 Chase	Building
341	283 Chase	Building
342	Cascarelli Building	Building
343	F. O. E. Hall	Building
344	264 Chase	Building
345	266 Chase	Building
346	270 Chase	Building
347	280 Chase	Building
348	284 Chase	Building
349	Gatti Building	Building
350	292 Chase	Building
351	294 Chase	Building
352	298 Chase	Building
354	312 Chase	Building
355	289 Chase Facade Ruin	Site
357	Commercial Building	Building
359	259 Chase	Building
360	265 Chase	Building
363	260 Chase	Building
365	300-304 Chase	Building
366	306 Chase	Building
372	RR cut retaining walls	Structure
378	ACC Offices	Building
379	Jail	Building
382	Side wash floodwall	Structure
385	Side Wash Floodwalls	Structure
386	Chase Creek Floodwalls	Structure

NONCONTRIBUTOR LISTING

INV. NO.	NAME, ADDRESS, OR DESCRIPTION	CLASSI-FICATION
9	House	Building
10	House	Building
12	Pool house	Building
15	Drugstore foundation	Site
22	House	Building
26	House	Building
30	Warehouse	Building
34	Park Ave. Commercial	Building
37b	Park Ave. Commercial	Building
38b	Park Ave. Commercial	Building
43a	House	Building
51	Shell Distribution	Building

55	PD Pumphouse	Building
100	Park	Site
336	Chamber of Commerce	Building
340	Old Manila Hotel	Building
353	310 Chase	Building
356	Commercial Building	Building
358	255 Chase	Building
361	Commercial Building	Building
362	Commercial Building	Building
364	260 Chase	Building
367	308 Chase	Building
368	Sears Outlet	Building
369	DES	Building
370	Circle K	Building
375	Garage	Building
376	Tank foundation	Structure
377	"Copper Crystal"	Object
381	Footbridge piers	Structure
383	Block Pumphouse	Building
387	Chase Creek Park	Site

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☒ D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Exploration/Settlement	1874-1937	N/A
Architecture		
Industry		

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

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

SUMMARY

The Clifton Townsite Historic District is a largely intact area within Clifton, a copper mining town in eastern Arizona which developed between 1870 and 1930. The district is significant under Criterion A for its association with the early copper mining and smelting operations in that region and with the town which grew to support those operations; it is additionally significant under Criterion C for its intact examples of architecture typical of Arizona's mining towns of the day. Two sites within the district, the smelter ruins and a commercial building ruin, are significant under Criterion D as above-ground remnants which reveal important information about significant aspects of the district. The property's industrial significance lies in its status as the site of one of Arizona's earliest copper smelting operations, and the site of the development of copper smelting methods which were to be used worldwide. The district also represents the origins of the town of Clifton; the settlement of the area was directly related to the copper smelter, around which the town grew. Architecturally, the district contains typical examples of commercial, residential, and public architecture of Arizona's early mining towns. The District's period of significance begins with the construction of the earliest remaining structure in 1874 and ends when the copper smelter moved to Morenci in 1937, signalling an end to Clifton's reign as the regional smelting center.

CONTEXTS

The Role of Clifton in Arizona Mining, 1870-1937

The copper industry has been an important force in Arizona's economy since the early 1870s. By the 1920s Arizona was the largest producer of copper in the United States. The first major discovery of copper in Arizona occurred in the Clifton-Morenci area, ca. 1870, followed by claims in Bisbee, Globe, and Jerome. In the early twentieth century,

☒ See continuation sheet

further copper mining efforts took place in Ajo, Clarkdale, and Douglas. Clifton had been at the center of many significant developments in the course of copper mining and smelting operations in the United States. These developments have made possible the efficient smelting of even low grade ores, allowing the Clifton area mines as well as many others to greatly increase the amount of copper extracted. The area around Clifton has proven to be one of the richest copper mining districts in the world.

The origins of the copper industry in the Clifton area began when the Territory of Arizona was annexed to the United States by the Mexican Cession in 1848. However, the settlement of the Clifton area was to be slow, for the area was inhabited by hostile Apaches. Although mountainman James Ohio Pattie is known to have trapped this area along the San Francisco River as early as 1825, the earliest known report of profitable minerals in the area was not made until 1856, when a U. S. Army detail pursuing Apaches noted such mineral outcroppings. A prospector named Bob Metcalf noted additional mineral outcroppings along upper Chase Creek in 1870, but Indian activity prevented any settlement of the area by Anglos until the Apaches were brought substantially under control in the early 1870s. Other copper producing areas such as Globe and Bisbee were similarly restricted by Indian activity until Presidential Executive Orders in 1871 and 1873 established the Fort Apache and San Carlos Indian Reservations. Eastern Arizona was then open to settlement, and the Federal Mining Law of 1872 made filing of mineral claims easier. As a result, the first Clifton-Morenci regional mining claim, the Arizona Central, was filed in 1872. Many other claims followed soon after, including Bob Metcalf's Longfellow claim, later to become one of the richest in the region and the greatest producing mine of the Arizona Copper Company.

As a result of this land boom, the Copper Mountain Mining District was formed to ease filing of mineral claims. At the time, this area was in Yavapai County. Because Prescott, the county seat, was over 150 miles away, filing of claims had required an arduous trip. With the establishment of the mining district, claims could be recorded locally and accumulated for periodic recordation at the county seat.

Soon after Metcalf patented the Longfellow, he sold controlling interest in the mine to Charles and Henry Lesinsky who then formed the Longfellow Mining Company. The Lesinskys, from New Mexico, had experience in both retailing and mining, Henry having done some mining while in Australia. The Lesinskys found that ore would have to be shipped great distances overland to be smelted, and decided to build their own smelter. Although their first smelter was located along lower Chase Creek, south of the mines upstream, it was soon moved to a site near the confluence of Chase Creek and the San Francisco River. The smelter was to continue at this location for the next forty years. The adobe smelter built here in 1873

had a capacity of two tons of ore per day, which yielded 600 to 700 pounds of copper. The Lesinsky's first smelter may have been the first built by Anglo-Americans in Arizona.

The Longfellow Copper Company operated during the first cycle of mining and smelting operations, while the regional mines were young and the ores were rich. Ores from the towns of Metcalf and Morenci were packed in by burros down Chase Creek to Clifton. Workers were needed for both the mines and the smelter, and a plentiful supply was found in Mexico. These laborers built rude adobe houses near the smelter. In the early 1870s, the Lesinskys built an adobe store to supply their work force. Copper prices fell, but what the Lesinskys lost in copper mining, they nearly recouped in retailing. Clifton grew and began to have the appearance of a town by 1877.

By 1882, the Lesinskys had become disillusioned with the progress of their mining empire. Although they had acquired considerable holdings, the operation had not produced the profits for which thay had hoped. They elected to sell to a mining speculator, Frank L. Underwood, for $1,500,000. Underwood attempted to sell the Longfellow Company to U. S. interests in New York. Apparently American investors were not interested, for Underwood sailed to England and then travelled to Scotland. On March 9, 1883, a group of Scottish investors bought Underwood's holdings for $2,000,000, and on August 5, the Arizona Copper Company Ltd. was organized.

The Arizona Copper Company operated in Clifton from its inception in 1883 until it sold its holdings to Phelps-Dodge in 1921. During this period, the Arizona Copper Company pioneered many improvements in copper smelting and mining techniques and contributed materially to the growth and development of Clifton. It served Clifton economically, as the major employer, as well as culturally and intellectually.

Two other smelting works were also built in and near Clifton, the smelters of the Shannon Copper Company and the Detroit Copper Company. The Shannon Copper Co. was named after local pioneers Charlie and Baylor Shannon, whose holdings were bought in 1899 when W. B. Thompson organized the company. Their 1000 ton capacity smelter was located nearby, on Shannon Hill (not within the historic district). The Detroit Copper Company was organized in 1881, half owned by William Church and the other half owned by Phelps-Dodge. By 1887, Phelps-Dodge had bought 100% interest in the company, which in 1917 became a part of the Phelps-Dodge Corporation. The Detroit smelter was located in Morenci.

Over the next forty years, the falling quality of ores necessitated improvement of copper producing technology. This challenge brought on

"second and third cycle development." Copper mining and smelting in a region typically follows three stages of development. These stages are based on the type and quality of the ores available in the region. The first cycle of operations is characterized by rich ores with a copper content of 10% to 35%. The second cycle of operations processes ores with copper contents ranging from 2% to 10%; these ores require new smelting techniques to profitably produce copper. The third and final cycle, for ores below 2% copper, requires still more advanced techniques. Great volumes of ore must be processed to yield significant amounts of copper.

As the grade of the ore drops, greater volumes of ore must be moved at lower cost. At first, the initial high-grade ores may be packed out by burros. As these ores are depleted, roads must be built and the ores are transported by wagon. Finally, for the lowest grade ores, transportation must be by rail, the most efficient and least costly (per ton of ore) of any other method. It should also be noted that each improvement in the transportation system requires a greater and greater initial investment to put the system in place; this is true as well of the improved smelting processes used as ores lose quality.

By 1892, the mines had run out of high grade ores, bearing 26% copper, which had sustained the industry, and were producing oxide ores which contained only 3% to 4% copper. This type of ore required a new method to extract the copper, and a method of concentrating in jigs and sulfuric acid leaching was selected. This seems to have been the first large-scale commercial use of this method to extract copper, and was the beginning of the second cycle of development of the copper industry in Clifton.

James Colquhoun had arrived in Clifton from Scotland in 1883 to take charge of the new smelter built by the Arizona Copper Company upon its purchase of the mine. Born in Chapelhall, Scotland in 1858, Colquhoun began work for the Monkland Iron and Steel Company at an early age. At night he studied chemistry and metallurgy, while earning practical experience during the day at the company's laboratory. In the beginning, he was hired by the Arizona Copper Company as a Bookkeeper and Assistant in Metallurgy, earning 250 pounds per annum and with an understanding that he would later be given a management position. He subsequently rose to Assayer and Mine Superintendant. By 1892 he had become General Manager of the plant, and directed the company in its conversion to second cycle operation.

At the time Colquhoun took over as General Manager the company still had not turned a profit. For the second cycle of operations, the concentrating/leaching process was implemented because it was cheap and rapid and would improve the cash flow. Using this process, copper production was increased 44% and the company was able to pay off its

mortgage and begin paying dividends.

By 1895, even the oxide ores were depleted and the Longfellow Mine was played out. It was determined that a great volume of sulphide ores, known as porphyry, existed at nearby Humboldt Hill. This ore held a 1% to 4% copper content. At the time, such low-grade ores had not been profitably smelted anywhere in the world; other producers sometimes had as high a percentage of copper in their tailings. Under the direction of Mr. Colquhoun, the Arizona Copper Company pioneered in the development of the wet concentration method for processing porphyry ores in 1895. This was at least five years before any rival used the process, and resulted in the processing of great volumes of ore that were previously thought to be useless. The development of the wet concentration method was to have a major impact on the future development of Arizona's copper industry, as well as development in other countries with major supplies of the otherwise worthless porphyry ore.

The Arizona Copper Company made other advances in mining and smelting technology through the years. They pioneered the use of electric hauling in mines, replacing mules and gravity. Electricity was also used for lighting. Another area of advance was in the recovery of copper from copper-bearing mine water. It was found that if water with dissolved copper were run through sluiceways, the copper adhered to tin surfaces and could be removed by electrolysis.

The breakthroughs made in smelting technology in Clifton contributed materially to the development of the copper industry in Arizona. With the new techniques and technologies, copper producers in other areas, such as the Globe-Miami-Superior area, the Bisbee-Douglas Area, and the Jerome-Clarkdale area were able to make Arizona one of the major sources of copper, producing one-third of the world's supply.

When the Arizona Copper Company took over the smelter, most of the smelter buildings were built of wood. In 1884, a new smelter was built on the site of the old one. The advantage of this location was the water power available from the San Francisco River, but the drawback was the periodic flooding along Chase Creek. A major fire in 1897, which shut down the operation for months, prompted them to replace all wooden smelter buildings with new ones built of concrete and steel. The smelter buildings were built in the flood plain of Chase Creek and were subject to flooding. Floods and technological improvements forced changes and additions to the smelter until 1904, after which the smelter remained largely unaltered until it was closed in 1914. The remains of foundations and other extant features seen today in central Clifton were a part of this 1884-1914 era smelter.

In 1914, a new smelter, necessitated by the outdated and worn machinery, was built by the Arizona Copper Company about two miles further south along the San Francisco River. There were several reasons given for this move, among them being the limited space remaining for the smelter in central Clifton and the benefit of removing the smoke pollution from town.

As the First World War broke out, the price of copper rose. The government began stockpiling copper to supply the army in Europe; after the war this would be the cause of a major depression in the copper industry. The rising price of copper brought a boom to Clifton and the copper companies. Unfortunately, labor difficulties occurred at the same time. By the time the labor problem was solved the war was over. The copper market collapsed, and Clifton was back in hard times.

Labor problems have been recurrent in Clifton ever since the labor movements of the early 1900s. Prior to the first world war, labor difficulties were not generally a problem, for the miners had no organization to represent them. During these early years, the Arizona Federation of Miners and the Western Federation of Miners came into existence and operated within Arizona, giving laborers the ability to stage effective strikes. A major strike began in late 1915, in a conflict that eventually earned national importance. Governor George W. P. Hunt mediated between the mines and labor, bringing the strike to an end by January, 1916. Following this dispute were 17 minor strikes in 1916 and 1917; finally, in July, 1917 a second major strike was called. By October, President Woodrow Wilson had appointed a federal commission to end the copper strikes. This strike was resolved by November. Labor conflicts have continued to the present day, seeming to be as recurrent as the floods within Clifton.

Following the postwar copper slump, the Arizona Copper Company decided to sell its holdings. Low copper prices and declining ore quality were making business unprofitable without large capital outlays for new equipment and techniques. The industry was ready to enter the third cycle of operations.

The Arizona Copper Company had experimented with possible third cycle smelting in 1918 using the flotation method of extraction. The results of these experiments, as well as the presence of large amounts of suitable ore, induced the Phelps-Dodge Corporation to buy out the Arizona Copper Company in 1921. However, third cycle operations had to wait for the return of the copper market. Although the price of copper increased from 1921 to 1928, the Depression of 1929 delayed third cycle development until 1937. The ore body to be used for third cycle operations was buried under a considerable quantity of overburden. By 1929, Phelps-Dodge had decided

that the open pit method would be used in mining this ore. The volume of the overburden nearly equalled the total volume of ore available; a large amount of capital was necessary to fund this open pit process, as well as to build a third-cycle reduction works before profitable operations could begin.

The new reduction works were built by Phelps-Dodge in Morenci rather than Clifton. This choice marks the end of Clifton's reign as the regional smelter town, a position it had held since mining operations began in 1872. Since the relocation of the smelter, Clifton has continued to function primarily as the seat of Greenlee County and as a bedroom community for workers at the mine and the smelter.

The town that grew up around the smelter over the years was shaped by the development of the copper industry which supported it. The core of the town remained close to the smelter and clustered around Chase Creek and the San Francisco River. Town development was tied to the fortunes of the copper companies and fluctuations in the copper market, and was additionally shaped by floods, fires, transportation needs, as well as other aspects of typical community development.

The Arizona Copper Company held an important place in the community of Clifton. Most of the land in the town was owned by the company, which built or donated money or land for many of the town's essential services and cultural resources. Under the influence of James Colquhoun, the Company was involved in municipal utilities, schools, flood control projects, churches, and other community improvements. The Arizona Copper Company built a fine residence (No. 3) for the manager of the company in 1912 in a prominent location on Park Avenue overlooking the bend in the river. This residence is still the largest and finest in Clifton. When Phelps-Dodge took over in 1921, the high level of community involvement set by the Arizona Copper Company over the years came to an end.

The commercial area of Clifton originally grew along what is now Park Avenue parallel to the east bank of the San Francisco River, known as "East Side." The core of this business district centered around what was then a pedestrian suspension bridge, now the site of the Park Avenue vehicular bridge (No. 16). All the commercial enterprises clustered here: stores, hotels, saloons, and the inevitable brothels. By 1900, the prostitution industry had become unwelcome in the town's business district, and in 1905 they were evicted from East Side and moved to Chase Creek where a new commercial area was beginning to form. The saloons followed them. Soon a second business district had developed along Chase Creek; this area eventually eclipsed East Side as Clifton's major commercial area.

The development of Chase Creek was slow at first, because the area was prone to flooding. Channelization of Chase Creek in 1903 improved the situation, and the area developed further. By 1910 most businesses had located in Chase Creek. Development suffered serious setbacks in 1913 and 1917 as major fires swept this area. Many of the buildings remaining in Chase Creek were built following these fires.

Periodic floods occurring in Chase Creek and the San Francisco River heavily influenced the development of Clifton. The earliest recorded floods occurred in the early 1870's, not long after the smelter was established. Other major floods occurred in 1880 and 1891; five floods struck between 1903 and 1906. Following a 1903 Chase Creek flood, the Arizona Copper Company built a ten foot stone floodwall on the north bank beside the smelter. Local citizens built a matching wall on the south side of the creek to protect houses and businesses. The channel was thus created. Following a major flood in 1906, it was decided to build floodwalls along the San Francisco River to contain future floods. These were built by the Arizona Copper Company of mortared slag blocks. Another flood in 1916 prompted the town to raise the floodwalls an additional two feet.

The disposal of waste materials produced by the smelter had an effect on the town. Disposing of slag was most difficult. In the early years, the slag was used to build up the low spots along the banks of the San Francisco River and Chase Creek to help eliminate the flood danger. The slag was used as a building material as well; it was cut or molded into blocks and used for masonry walls of various sorts, including retaining walls and foundation walls of buildings and other structures. It is a very visible feature in central Clifton, appearing in the floodwalls and the retaining walls near the smelter site. In some locations, it appears that semi-molten slag was poured directly along the banks of the river to form the foundation for the floodwalls, or to form a floodwall in itself. Eventually, it was found that if the molten slag were dumped into the river, it would granulate and wash downstream. This disposal method was used for many years, the alternative being to haul out the hardened slag to be dumped. The farmers downstream in Safford complained and forced the smelter to stop dumping their tailings in the river. The other major waste product produced by the smelter was the sulphurous smoke which often choked the town. This became such a major concern that a vertical shaft was drilled in the mountain adjacent to the smelter, and a smokestack placed on top in a futile attempt to get the smoke out of the town. The final solution to this problem was to move the smelter south of town, out of the confined valley in which Clifton rests.

Bridges have, of course, always been necessary in Clifton to gain access to both sides of the San Francisco River. In the early days only suspended

pedestrian bridges crossed the river. Wagons and automobiles had to ford the river. In 1917-1918 the Park Avenue vehicular bridge (No. 16) was built. It is a well-preserved example of a Parker type truss bridge, and continues to be the major link to East Side. The location of a second pedestrian suspension bridge (No. 381) downstream from the Park Avenue bridge is still apparent from the remaining concrete footings in the river and corresponding stairs built into the floodwall.

Clifton's periodic economic depressions prompted the residents to organize the Clifton Improvement Company in the 1920s. Their solution to Clifton's economic woes was to boost Clifton as a tourist attraction and health resort. Toward this goal, it was decided to take advantage of the hot springs which occurred within the town. A large pool (No. 210) and a bathhouse (No. 13) were completed in 1928; this enterprise was never a complete success. The pool was converted to a community swimming pool instead of a health resort.

Another project to promote tourism was the rehabilitation of the old jail. The jail (No. 379) had been carved out of solid granite in the cliff west of the river in 1878. A flood had filled the jail with silt in 1906, and it was abandoned. In 1929 its value as a historic site was recognized, and the old jail was cleaned out and restored as a tourist attraction.

The boom periods of Clifton's growth coincided with the highs of the copper market. Around 1900, many changes occurred in Clifton: north and south Clifton expanded during this period, and the Chase Creek area got its start. In the period from 1912 to 1914, the Arizona Copper Company built its new smelter, The Chase Creek business district buildings were constructed, and the passenger and freight depots were built. At this time, the town population was projected to grow as large as 20,000 people, and the passenger depot (No. 48) was built to accommodate projected growth. Unfortunately, in 1910 Clifton had hit its peak population of 4,874 people, and the depot turned out to be drastically oversized. It was later used as a restaurant for many years.

The formation of Greenlee County in 1909 influenced Clifton's growth as well. When it was founded in 1872, Clifton was a part of Yavapai County. It was later made a part of Apache County, which separated from Yavapai County in 1879. In 1881, Graham County was formed with Solomonville as its county seat. By 1900 the mining interests of Clifton and Morenci organized against the Graham County government, and proposed the establishment of another county. The reason for the proposed split was that although the majority of the financing for the county came from the mining interests of the Clifton-Morenci area, the politicians were largely elected from the Safford area. Various proposals for separation followed

from 1900 to 1909. Clifton and Morenci were in contention to be the proposed county seat, but Clifton could not be chosen if it were an unincorporated town. This led to incorporation of the Town of Clifton in 1909, when the struggle for county division came to a head. The copper companies could not agree on whether to call the new county "Douglas," after the Phelps-Dodge General Manager, or "Colquhoun," after the Arizona Copper Company General Manager. As a compromise, the new county was named "Greenlee," after a well-regarded early pioneer. In 1911 County division was approved by the legislature with Clifton as the new county seat.

Mining Town Architecture in Arizona, 1900-1920

Common characteristics are found in the architecture of Arizona's mining towns. Most mining towns were impermanent boomtowns, constructed of indigenous or inexpensive materials and built in common vernacular forms. More permanent towns, although also containing a large volume of vernacular structures, usually built structures striving toward "respectability," trying to play down their rough mining-camp image. Such is the case in towns such as Bisbee, Globe, Jerome, Miami, Superior, Douglas, and other mining towns of the 1900s.

The residential architecture of these towns followed the popular styles of their day, and often borrowed from eastern precedents. In Clifton, the most striking residences were built by the Arizona Copper Company. The Manager's house (No. 3), built in 1912, is an excellent example of the Prairie style with Craftsman features. Next to the Manager's house is a smaller Bungalow style home (No. 5) built at the same time. Both houses show Arizona Copper Company's role as a leader in the cultural scene of Clifton, investing in architecture which was up-to-date and worldly in comparison to other contemporary residential architecture in the area. Both houses remain in exemplary condition. Other residences in town follow vernacular precedents, being simply built by their occupants with materials at hand or readily available by rail.

This pattern of company-built architect-designed houses versus owner-built and designed homes is typical of Arizona's mining towns in general. As an example, the town of Clarkdale in the central part of the state was completely developed by the United Verde Copper Company with total control over the styles and quality of architecture built. However, even here adjacent areas were developed with occupant-designed and built homes similar in character to homes in Clifton. Further examples of folk architecture in mining towns may be seen in Jerome, near Clarkdale, and in Bisbee, in the southeast corner of the state.

Much of the architectural character of Clifton is manifested in its commercial buildings. Commercial ventures strove to project an air of

permanence and stability. A few commercial buildings in Clifton remain from the period prior to 1900; later alterations have "updated" most of these. Early commercial buildings were built similarly to residential buildings of vernacular design. The earliest remaining commercial buildings along Park Avenue are built of more permanent materials than their wood frame and adobe predecessors. The Central Hotel (No. 36) is at least partially built of slag; others are brick. Still, these buildings are simple in design. Commercial buildings along Chase Creek, however, are typical of mining town architecture of 1905-1915 and are similar in character to those found in Bisbee and Globe. Using pressed metal elements and ornate brick cornices at the parapets, these buildings form a coherent and dense commercial streetscape possessing a strong identity and sense of place. Neoclassical Revival and eclectic commercial styles which retain many Victorian elements are typical. The streetscape compares favorably with the well-known "Brewery Gulch" in Bisbee and with central Jerome as having a character identified with commercial buildings of the period from 1890-1920 in Arizona's mining towns.

Outside of Chase Creek, other commercial and governmental buildings represent diverse styles. The Town Hall (No. 32), built 1920, was designed by local architect Duncan McNeil and is an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style. The Passenger Depot (No. 48) was built in 1915, and is contemporary with many of the Chase Creek buildings. Built in the Mission Revival style, it is typical of many large railroad depots built across the West. Its size demonstrates best the expectations of continued population growth that were never met.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

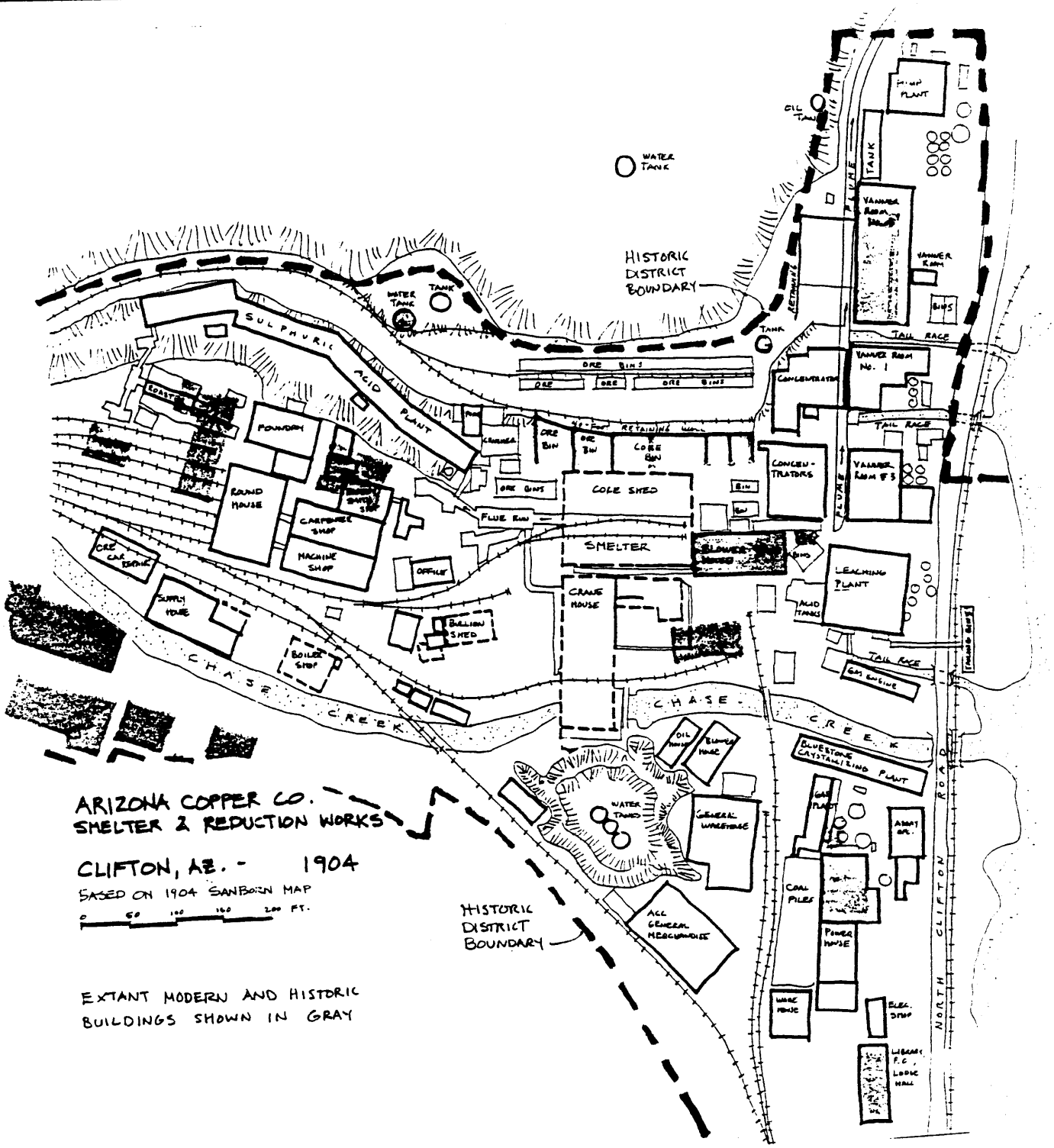
The district is significant under Criteria A, C, and D. It is shown to meet Criteria A and C by the context discussions above regarding the historic association of the district as a whole to mining and smelting operations and the town which it supported, and the unique examples of mining-town architecture found in Clifton. The smelter site and the commercial building ruin are eligible under Criterion D and require further elaboration.

Although the building ruin site in Chase Creek does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its historic appearance during the period of significance, the extant standing facade elements provide important information to the viewer regarding the original appearance of the streetscape. This arched concrete remnant and foundations which remain also give clues to a possibly unique construction technique as applied to a Neoclassical style building within Clifton during this period.

Similarly, the smelter site is also considered to be significant under Criterion D. The visible, above-ground elements which remain at the site are important clues for the viewer regarding the size, scale, and configuration of what was once a very large industrial complex. The visible remains of foundations, retaining walls, and other features convey the building locations as well as construction methods and types.

The foundations and other elements which remain in this area are known to be a part of the 1884-1914 smelter. A comparison of the given building locations from historic maps coincides with many of the visible surface features. Only a small part of the original smelter site has been redeveloped with new structures since the plant was dismantled c. 1914. (See sketch map, based on 1904 Sanborn map, on following page.)

See Continuation Sheet



ARIZONA COPPER CO.
SMELTER & REDUCTION WORKS

CLIFTON, AZ. - 1904

BASED ON 1904 SANBORN MAP

0 50 100 150 200 FT.

EXTANT MODERN AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS SHOWN IN GRAY

DRAWN BY R. GRAHAM

9. Major Bibliographical References

Patterson, James M. History of Clifton. Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce, 1977.

Phillips, David A. (New World Research, Inc.). Clifton's Historic Buildings: A Flood Control Related Cultural Resources Study of Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona. 1985.

Texas Tech University, Center for History Engineering and Technology. Architectural/ Historical Survey of Greenlee County, Arizona. 1983.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 37 Acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	658350	3658655
B	12	658555	3658510
C	12	659305	3658455
D	12	659355	3658200

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Clifton Townsite Historic District is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "CLIFTON TOWNSITE HISTORIC DISTRICT".

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the properties within an area in central Clifton which retains integrity and is associated with the functioning of Clifton as a major copper smelting center. Boundary excludes, where possible, properties which have lost integrity and/or have no significance.

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert G. Graham
organization Don W. Ryden, AIA/Architects, Inc. date September, 1989
street & number 645 N. 4th Ave., Suite A telephone (602) 253-5381
city or town Phoenix state Arizona zip code 85003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 **Page** 1

UTM References (continued)

E. 12 658700E 3658555N

F. 12 658350E 3658450N

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION, CONT'D

Beginning at the northwest boundary of the District, the cliffs form a natural and well-defined limit which includes the visible remnants of the smelter and associated structures.

Proceeding clockwise, the northern limit of the district is marked by the transition from industrial uses to a residential area which contains modern and historic houses of poor integrity. At the point at which the floodwalls appear at the east bank of the San Francisco River, the boundary includes the riverbed and floodwall.

The northeast boundary may be divided into two parts: at the north end, geographic limits of the cliffside define the boundary, no further structures being visible uphill; to the south, the slope becomes less steep and additional structures, either modern or of poor integrity appear uphill from Park Avenue. Properties one lot-width uphill from Park Avenue are included within the District, because all properties, even noncontributors, are an important part of the Park Avenue streetscape.

At the southernmost end of Park Avenue, no structures exist at the northeast side of the street and the boundary is drawn to exclude this open land. The boundary continues south, excluding open land, but including the east floodwall south to its end.

The southern boundary is defined by a line connecting the southernmost ends of the formally-constructed floodwalls at both sides of the San Francisco River (slag-rubble walls continue to the south through much of the town). This location coincides with a constriction in the width of the canyon, a bend in the river, and a break in continuity of development from the remainder of the town to the south.

The boundary continues northwest along the western floodwall, excluding the site of the former freight depot (now demolished). The boundary then is drawn to include the passenger depot, following the geographic boundary of the cliffside, which firmly delineates the boundary at this location.

At the point where the canyons of Chase Creek and the San Francisco River meet, the boundary is drawn at the edge of U.S. Route 666 to exclude an area of intruded properties which step up the cliffside, which is not as steep at this point.

At the south side of the Chase Creek commercial area, the property line or street curbline and the cliffside largely coincide to define the edge of development in Clifton. The westernmost termination of the district at

Chase Creek is drawn at the end of the area of dense commercial character of Chase Creek and at the westernmost extent of the stone retaining wall at the cliffs north of Chase Creek. This location coincides with a restriction in the width of the canyon, and a corresponding pause in the continuity of developed sites from development further west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs listed:

Property Name: CLIFTON TOWNSITE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Location: CLIFTON, ARIZONA
Photographer: DON W. RYDEN
Date: OCTOBER, 1988
Negatives at: RYDEN ARCHITECTS

PHOTO	VIEW	DESCRIPTION
A	S	Overall District view from Highline Road
B	SW	Overall District view from Highline Road
C	W	Overall District view from Highline Road
D	N	Overall District view from hilltop
E	NW	Overall District view from hilltop
F	NE	Overall District view from hilltop
G	SE	Overall District view from hilltop
H	E	Route 666 and Chase Creek channel
I	NE	Chase Creek Streetscape
J	SW	Chase Creek Streetscape
K	SE	Park Avenue Streetscape
L	NW	Park Avenue Streetscape
M	NW	San Francisco River bed