

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 6 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 30 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Park of the Canals

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

along Horne Rd from Utah ditch, S to Mesa Consolidated land
Sec. 11, T 1 N, R 5 E

STREET & NUMBER

Horne St. & Consolidated Canal

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Mesa

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Maricopa

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: none

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Mesa

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mesa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maricopa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Park of the Canals lies on the edge of Lehi Bluff overlooking the Salt River channel. The Park reaches to the north almost to the old Lehi Extension Canal or Utah Ditch. On the east it is bounded by Horne Road, and on the south by the modern Mesa-Consolidated Canal. Additional ruins and a portion of the old canal lie east of Horne Road but are not included in the site. The site extends west from Horne Road about 1200 feet.

The Park contains the remains of two canals used both by prehistoric and modern peoples. There is one portion of a prehistoric canal which was not used by 19th Century settlers because erosion during the intervening centuries had left it on a bluff high above the river. The Anglo settlers found they had to tap the river farther upstream.

There are several mounds in the Park, none of which has been excavated. In one place there is evidence of a wall 8-feet wide.

The site is subject to some vandalism, particularly from dirt bike riders who are understandably tempted by the roller coaster effect attained when crossing the canals.

The Park includes the dredge harbor in which the outsized dredge was left when the canal was completed.

The city has made elaborate plans for a public park and museum on the site if funding can be achieved. Arizona State University has expressed an interest in excavating the mounds if some security is assured during the dig. The site could be developed as a unique indoor-outdoor irrigation museum.

The present site occupies 18.92 acres, but the city has plans to acquire the land to the north as far as the Utah Ditch plus the southwest corner (8.5 acres) which includes the old dredge harbor.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Park of the Canals lies in the midst of an area once heavily populated by Hohokam people. The Hohokam, who were primarily located in the lower Salt and middle Gila River valleys, had a highly developed culture based on irrigation. American settlers of the 19th Century cleaned out and made use of much of the prehistoric canal system. Remnants of both systems are preserved in the Park of the Canals.

There are no tree ring dates available for the Hohokam, so it has been necessary to estimate a chronology by cross-reference to the chronology of neighboring peoples. The Hohokam period is estimated to have begun approximately 100 BC and to have faded out after 1400 AD.

The Hohokam resided in the desert valleys of south central Arizona and practiced farming based on intensive irrigation. It is possible that they received maize and the technique of pottery making from the early Mogollon people, but this is uncertain. At any rate, they soon developed a highly successful system of irrigation and formed thriving communities. It should be noted that since Anglo occupation, the deforestation of the hillsides has caused a considerable decline in the valley vegetation and water run-off. At the time of the Hohokam occupation, the possibilities of cultivation, hunting, and seed gathering were much better than at present.

The network of canals constructed by the Hohokam covered a large area and served several villages, so inter-village cooperation was essential not only to build, but to maintain, the canals. Keeping silt out of the canals may have required almost as much effort as digging them in the first place. Some of the canals were in use at least 500 years. The maximum size and depth of the Hohokam canals and the peak of the irrigation system were reached in the period from 1200-1400 A.D. After that time the system dwindled somewhat but was still used fairly efficiently by the Pima.

Irrigation, which was largely responsible for the rise in culture, became so important that agriculture almost entirely replaced hunting in the economy. The Hohokam also raised cotton, and the art of weaving was apparently introduced from Meso America.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Clark, Vernon L. "History of the Project" Mss, 1936
 Fireman, Bert. "Golden Waters" Part II, 1961
 Gladwin, H.S. History of the Ancient Southwest, 1957
 Gladwin, H.S. et al. Excavations at Snaketown, 1965
 Mason, T.M., & Donaldson, Marion. "Our Town," 1948
 McClintock, James Mormon Settlement in Arizona, 1921

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 27.42

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	4,24	4,4,0	3,7	0,0	0,0,0	B	1,2	4,2,4	4,4,0	3,7	0,0	7,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,2	4,2,4	1,1,0	3,7	0,0	2,8,0	D	1,2	4,2,4	0,4,0	3,7	0,0	2,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 12 4 2 4 0 4 0 3 7 0 1 0 0 0

The Park of the Canals is bounded on the southeast by the Consolidated Canal and on the east by Horne Street. On the northwest, the boundary is the old Lehi Extension Canal. The western boundary is 1200' from Horne Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

DATE

2-26-75

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

STATE

Arizona

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

Dennis McCarthy

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DENNIS McCARTHY
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2-26-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

A. F. W. [Signature]

DATE

5/29/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles [Signature]

DATE

5-20-75