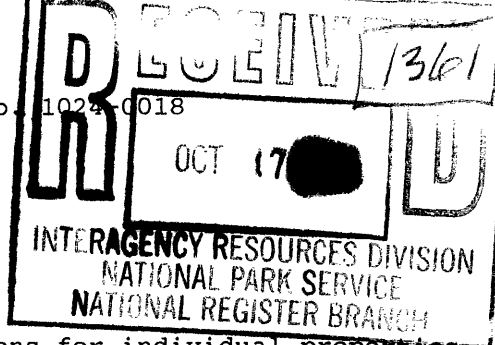
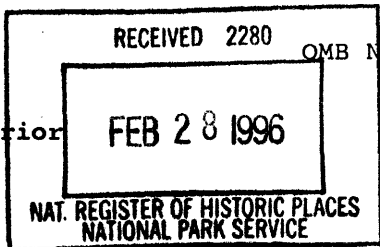


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Date Creek 1868-1873
other names/site number Camp McPherson 1867-1868

2. Location

street & number SE1/4 Sec. 30, NE1/4 Sec. 31, T11N,R6W / /not for publication
city or town Hawkins area in vicinity of Hawkins Ranch and Date Creek /X/ Vicinity
between the present towns of Hillside and Congress
state Arizona code AZ county Yavapai code 025 zip code none*
*Nearest P.O. is Congress, AZ 85332

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources w/in Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		Total
		<u>1</u>	

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

James W. Sawicki
Signature of certifying official

SHPO

September 11, 1995
Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery. (A cemetery is present on the site)
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Historic -non-aboriginal
- Native American
- Exploration/Settlement
- Military
- Transportation

Period of Significance 1867-1873 Military occupation

Significant Dates: 3/30/1870 Military Reservation established
10/1871 Temporary Indian Reservation established
Under Orders of Gen. Crook
9/08/1872 Date Creek Incident

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Yavapai Apache Indian Reservation

Architect/Builder Brevet Capt. J.W. Weir/14th Infantry, et al.

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

SUMMARY:

Camp Date Creek played a pivotal role in the Indian Wars and the settling of western Yavapai County. The Camp and its Military Reservation once maintained a population of approximately 750 Yavapai Indians in one of the earliest attempts at such a reservation. In what became known as the "Date Creek Incident" the stage was set for a subsequent battle between the 5th Cavalry from Camp Hualapai and a band of Indians (which had fled the reservation at Camp Date Creek) which ended Indian resistance in "western Apacheria."

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: The ruins of Camp Date Creek are spread over approximately 263 acres. The Military Reservation covered 5,623.9 acres. Only the actual site of Camp Date Creek is being nominated at this time.

UTM References:

- UTM Zone 12
1. N 3793075/E 322600
 2. N 3793270/E 323430
 3. N 3792300/E 323260
 4. N 3792330/E 322300

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

The boundaries of the Camp are shown on Sec. 10, p. 3, as well as on maps in Addendum B. The site is located in the S 1/2 SE of Section 30 and the NENW and N 1/2 NE of Section 31, T11N, R6W.

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

The boundary of the camp as shown on the map in Sec. 10, p. 3, includes the ruins of Camp Date Creek, e.g. buildings, parade grounds, etc. based on historical maps as well as field investigations. Additional maps are included in Addendum B. The boundary was determined by the Arizona Archaeological Society during a field survey conducted in February, 1992.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Patrick H. Boles, Prescott District

organization Arizona State Land Department

Date August 7, 1995

street & number 809-C Gail Gardner Way

telephone (520) 778-9567

city or town Prescott state AZ

zip code 86301

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

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SUMMARY Cont'd:

By the time of its abandonment on August 30, 1873 the Camp had 23 buildings. With the exception of the Quartermaster's Building which was constructed of cut and shaped native basalt rock the buildings had basalt rock foundations with adobe walls. By 1873 all of the buildings had peaked roofs with wooden shingles.

The ruins are located south of Date Creek. Elevation is 3215 feet. The surface is covered with basalt rock. Range sites include loam hills, loam uplands, and loam bottoms. Vegetation on the dry uplands include: mesquite, bush muhly (called "hoe grass" by early soldiers and settlers), range ratany, Wright's buckwheat, barberry, tobosa, Christmas cholla, turpentine bush, blackfoot daisy, banana yucca, beavertail pricklypear, catclaw, acacia, curly mesquite, flattop buckwheat, graythorn, Engelmann pricklypear, desert rabbitbrush. Vegetation along Date Creek at the north end of the Camp includes: Fremont cottonwood, Goodding willow, Arizona ash, watercress* (planted in Date Creek in 1873 by the Post Surgeon, Dr. W.H. Corbusier), hollyleaf buckthorn, elderberry, desert honeysuckle, canyon grape, walnut, and littleleaf mulberry. * = "Father planted watercress that was brought to him from the Hassayampa River, which grew so luxuriously in the creek at the base of the bluff that in a short time it choked back the water and we had more then we and the soldiers could eat. It was a grateful addition to our canned fare and often the only fresh vegetable we had," (Corbusier, 1968).

Date Creek was supposedly named for the fruit of the banana yucca (yucca baccata), which is common on upland areas adjacent to the stream.

Historic physical appearance: Attached in Addendum B is a copy of the 1871 map (as redrawn in 1964 by Don Bufkin) of Camp Date Creek showing the arrangement of the buildings, parade ground, etc. The majority of buildings were built with a masonry foundation of native basalt rock with walls of adobe brick. The adobe walls have all melted. Before the post was abandoned in 1873 all of the building's roofs were shingled (wood). The Quartermaster's Building was (and is) the most substantial building. Portions of the west wall are still over 7 feet tall. The QM building's walls were built entirely out of native basalt rock and were 2 feet thick. The fireplaces built at each end of the QM building are still evident.

In a letter to the Post Adjutant dated August 24th, 1868 the commanding officer, Captain Davis listed some of the material being used to build the Camp. Seven thousand feet of sawed lumber had been used up to that time in the building doors, window frames and sills, roofing, and flooring. Captain Davis pointed out that the wood flooring was for the officers' quarters. The floors in the company's quarters would have been packed dirt. He went on to estimate that, as a minimum, a total of 20,000 board feet of lumber would be needed to complete construction projects currently under way or planned at the Camp. Captain Davis mentioned in his report that only the labor of the troops was being used in the construction of the camp. Dirt roofs were experimented with, but were declared failures by Captain Davis. In his August, 1868 report Captain Davis estimated that 150,000 wood shingles would be needed for the roofs at the Camp.

At its peak in 1873, Camp Date Creek had 23 active and substantially built structures. The southern portion of the post was arranged to enclose a quadrangle parade ground. To the north were two company quarters, two company store houses, a laundress building, an adjutants office, along with two kitchens. 8 officers buildings occupied the south side of the parade ground, with a guard house to the east, and the hospital to the west. The post traders building was located just north of the post and outside the main quadrangle. The livestock corrals were maintained about midway between the location of the QM building and parade ground.

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

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The company quarters measured 76' by 20' and were built of adobe brick with peaked shingled roofs. Each company quarters had an open fireplace at each end, and a cast iron woodburning stove in the center. The floors were of packed earth.

Four of the five officers living quarters were built of adobe brick and had shingled roofs. The commanding officers quarters was built of stone and also had a shingled roof. Some of the officers quarters had wooden flooring. Two of the three officers kitchens were built of adobe brick and had mud roofs. The commanding officers kitchen was built of adobe brick, but had a shingled roof. Each officers living quarters measured 26' by 13'. The wives of two officers left descriptions of their quarters.

Mrs. Orsemus Boyd who lived at Camp Date Creek for 9 months in 1869-1870 left this description of officers' quarters and daily life during this time period in her book Cavalry Life in Tent and Field (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1982; 1st published in 1894);

"The houses were built of mud-brick (adobe), which was not, as is usual, plastered either inside or out. Being left unfinished they soon began to crumble in the dry atmosphere, and large holes or openings formed, in which vermin, especially centipedes, found hiding-places. The latter were so plentiful that I have frequently counted a dozen or more crawling in and out of the interstices. Scorpions and rattlesnakes also took up their abode with us, and one snake of a more harmless nature used almost daily to thrust his head through a hold in the floor. Altogether we had plenty of such visitors.

The house consisted of one long room, with a door at either end, and two windows on each side. The room was sufficiently large to enable us to divide it by a canvas curtain, and thus have a sitting-room and bedroom. We felt very happy on account of having a floor other than the ground, though it consisted only of broad, rough, unplanned planks, which had shrunk so that the spaces between them were at least two inches in width, and proved a trap for every little article that fell upon the floor.

The brown, rough adobe walls were very uninviting, and centipedes were so numerous I never dared place our bed within at least two feet of them. The adjoining house, which was vacant, I used for a dining-room. Our kitchen stood as far away in another direction, so I seemed to daily walk miles in the simple routine of housekeeping duties."

Dr. William Corbusier and his wife arrived at Camp Date Creek on January 5, 1873. Mrs. Corbusier left an account of daily life at the Camp in the book Verde to San Carlos, Recollections of a Famous Army Surgeon and His Observant Family on the Western Frontier 1869-1886, 1969. Her husband was the Post surgeon until the Camp's abandonment on August 30, 1873. The following is her description of their officers' quarters: "Our quarters were two rooms, front and back, built of adobe. The roof of dirt had been recently shingled over, and the ceilings were made of old shelter tents sewed together and stretched overhead. The dirt roof harbored scorpions, centipedes, and we don't know what else. Back of this was a jacal, a brush shelter about 12 feet square, which separated the two rooms from the kitchen and dining room, which were also of adobe but having old canvas roofs. The canvas, of course leaked badly and during the heavy rains the water poured down in streams. The floors were pounded earth and the pools of water in the wet season soon became muddy. We placed bowls on the dining table to catch the water and the cook wore his boots, hat, and slicker. The old stove would get so wet that it was hard to keep the fire burning."

The guard house was an adobe brick structure with a shingled roof, 23' by 15' containing one guard room, and one prisoners room.

The post hospital was quite an elaborate adobe structure with a peaked shingled roof. The building was 82' in length and had 6 rooms, consisting of a ward, surgery room,

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

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dispensary, store room, kitchen, and mess room. The hospital was usually staffed by a surgeon, assistant surgeon, and matron. At times patients were even brought up from Wickenburg for treatment at the facility.

The quartermasters building was a building built entirely of native basalt stone. It measured 96 feet long and 22 feet wide (internal measurements), with walls 11 feet high. The interior was divided by adobe partitions into 4 apartments, sales room, subsistence and storeroom, clothing room and grain and flour room. Weevils were a constant problem, and infested most of the flour stored in the quartermasters building. The cellar was ventilated by means of 2 ventilators 6 inches square running from the cellar through the roof of the storehouse. The roof was shingled and peaked, with roofing materials shipped down from Prescott.

Col. D.B. Sacket, Inspector General, conducted the final inspection of Camp Date Creek on June 3, 1873. The following descriptions of the posts buildings are from Col. Sacket's inspection report dated June 3, 1873:

"The following changes have taken place in the buildings at this Post since February 1st, 1872.

Quarters For Officers. One set of Officers Quarters have been added consisting of an adobe building with shingle roof (two rooms) with Kitchen and Dining Room attached. Proportions are the same as the four sets mentioned in description.

Offices. An adobe building with shingle roof, floored and ceiled 23' X 15', used as Quartermaster and Commissary Office.

Guard-house. An adobe building with shingle roof 42' X 18', containing one guard room, and one prisoners room, 19' X 15'.

Bake-house. An adobe building with shingle roof, 27' X 18'.

Cavalry And Quartermaster Corrals. Adobe walls 238' X 172', divided by a wall of adobe. The Cavalry Corral contains a stable of poles covered with canvas 150' X 24', 38 double stalls, and one adobe building with mud roof 74' X 16', used as granary, saddle rooms, and Blacksmith Shop. The Quartermaster Corral containing a stable as above 64' X 24', with 16 double stalls, and one adobe building with lumber roof, 60' X 17', used as granary, harness room, and Saddle Shop.

Shops. One adobe building with shingle roof 77' X 23', used as Carpenter, Wheelwright and Blacksmith Shops, and quarters for civilian employees.

Indian Store House. Built by the Indian Department for storage of supplies for Indians. Frame building with shingle roof, 60' B 24', about 300 yards West of the Post.

The Indians were removed from Camp Date Creek to the Camp Verde Reservation on May 1st, 1873.

Post Trader Building. An adobe building with shingle roof, 36' X 30'."

Present physical appearance: Photos No. 1-15 show the present condition of the major buildings/sites.

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

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The area of the Camp is presently covered with native shrubs, grasses, and forbs. The parade ground which is on slope is dissected with a number of small gullies/drainages that go around the sites of the buildings. It is my belief that several of these originated from foot paths used by the soldiers. Likewise, some of the roads used by the soldiers during the Camp's occupation are now drainages lined with mesquites.

The following discussion of the present condition of the buildings/features is keyed to the 1871 map (as redrawn by Don Bufkin in 1964) of the Camp that is included in Addendum B. The majority of the buildings had foundations of native basalt rock with adobe walls. After the shingled roofs were removed (for use elsewhere by neighboring settlers) or simply caved in over the years the adobe walls began to melt.

The walls of the Quartermaster's building ("L" on 1871 map) were built entirely of basalt rock. The ruins of the building is 103 feet long and 26 feet wide (external measurements). An east-west property fence cuts across the south end of the building, with 13 feet of the building being on State land (south of the fence) and the remainder on Private land to the north. The walls are 2 feet thick. In some places the walls are only a few feet high, although the west wall, near the middle of the building is still 80 inches tall (this is the tallest surviving feature).

In April, 1988, an archaeologist from the Arizona State Museum and P.H. Boles spent two days mapping the northern portion of the Camp which includes the Quartermaster's building. During the field work, we observed and mapped a depression in the north end of the Quartermaster's building (see map in Addendum B). At the time neither of us were sure exactly why the depression was there. However, the explanation for the depression was found in a July 29, 1872 letter from Capt. O'Beirne in which he gives the following description of the Quartermaster's building (aka Commissary Storehouse): "Since last report the Commissary Storehouse, which was destroyed by fire Dec. 20th, 1871, had been rebuilt and is a building which is in every way, suitable for the purpose, and the supplies in it are perfectly protected. The building is constructed of stone (100 X 30) eleven feet high, has a shingled roof and is well ventilated. It is divided into four apartments, respectively, Sales Room, subsistence Storeroom, Clothing Room, & Grain & Flour Room, the latter having a cellar (10 X 10) seven feet deep, and lined with adobes, for the storing of butter & cheese." The depression we mapped was the cellar. In the same letter Capt. O'Beirne goes on to say "Barrels of water are kept near the storehouse for use in case of fire." Fire was a recurring problem at Camp Date Creek. The Quartermaster's Building was heavily damaged by fire on December 21, 1871. Barrel rings are still commonly observed on the site (see photo No. 14).

The blacksmith shop is shown as "O" on the 1871 map with a proposed building immediately east of it designated by "t". "O" has not yet been discovered at the site. However "t" is present and its basalt foundation measures 75' by 23'; this building appears to have actually been the blacksmith shop. Horse shoe nails and bites of metal and pieces of glass are common artifacts on and adjacent to this ruin. The foundation is mostly buried by the melted adobe with only two corners of the building exposed.

Three laundress quarters are shown (designated as "K") in the northeast corner of the camp on the 1871 map, however, apparently only one of these existed. The laundress quarters at the lower left, shown as a proposed building, is a fairly substantial ruin. The walls of the foundation (of basalt) are two feet thick, with the size of the dwelling being 16' by 16'. It has an L shaped extension on the north side. The location of the fireplace can still be discerned on the west wall, with the entry way having been on the east side. The rock foundation/lower walls of this ruin are still 2 to 4 feet high. There is a small rock structure (foundation) where "N" is shown on the map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

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The corral area ("j" on the 1871 map) is on a flat area between two distinct parts of the Camp (the north end being the original Camp as established in 1867 and the south end being the permanent Camp after it was relocated to get farther away from the creek with its mosquitos and malaria). The area where the corrals were have a distinctly lighter density of larger shrubs, such as mesquite, perhaps from the compaction of the soil. In the approximate locations where the 2 easternmost haystacks (designated by "S" on the map) are shown there are the remnants of rock (basalt) outlines. These were probably built as retaining walls to keep the hay from being scattered.

The basalt rock foundations of all the buildings shown on the map for the main camp, south of the La Paz road are visible and their locations correlate to the map. The buildings have portions of their basalt foundations exposed and some, e.g. the hospital ("C" on the map) are mounded as a result of the melted adobe. The most substantial ruin at the south end of the Camp is the commanding officers' quarters (Figure 7 of this document); it is the easternmost building designated as "A" on the 1871 map. Its foundation/lower walls are still a couple of feet above the surface and where the entrance was located on the south end is still discernible.

In addition to the building ruins a number of structures associated with the military occupation are still evident. These include the depressions from the privys ("r" on the map, a linear rock alignment northwest of the Quartermaster's building (it perhaps was built as a foundation for a wooden water trough or conduit), a rock retaining wall in Date Creek's canyon for a road that went north from the camp through the canyon, rock structures built to confine haystacks, and the camp's hand dug well ("q" on the map).

Although the surface has been illegally collected extensively, very little actual ground disturbance has occurred with only a few small "potholes" on a couple of the building mounds. Artifacts on the surface are still relatively common, such as buttons, cartridge cases, and barrel rings. The material documenting day to day life in the post-Civil War west on a frontier military camp is still in place protected by the mounds from the melted adobe wall. Camp Date Creek is a time capsule for the period it was occupied.

On page 1 of this form under "Item 3. Classification" 23 buildings, 1 site, and 10 structures are listed. As discussed above Camp Date Creek had 23 active buildings. The site is given to include the entire Camp and associated features. In addition to the buildings there are remains of several "structures", e.g., post well, privys, rock alignments, rock fence (probably for livestock control), rocked up bench next to Date Creek, rock retaining "walls" for haystacks near the corrals, etc.

As discussed in Section 8 below the Camp was established on crossroads that at the time were the busiest roads in northern Arizona. The road from the Camp towards La Paz ran directly in front of the company quarters. This "main road" through the Camp is presently an ungraded, two-track ranch road. A prehistoric roasting pit is eroding out from the middle of this road across from the Adjutant's office (f. on the 1871 map). The road leading southeast from the Camp and identified as "Road to Wickenburg" on the 1871 map evidently ran south of the South Fork of Date Creek, before following the present day county road that runs between Hillside and Highway 89 north of Congress. Although this road showed up on a 1904 Congress topographic map as a ranch road it is no longer discernible in the field. Some of the other historic roads within the Camp and leading to and from it have become mesquite lined washes or gullies.

The site also includes the post's cemetery which at one time held the remains of 28 soldiers, plus 14 civilians. The cemetery had an adobe wall around it. The footings of this wall should still be detectable below the surface. The April 16, 1875 issue of "The Arizona Miner" published in Prescott carried an account by a passenger on a stage that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

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made a stop at the former military post: "The adobe houses are fast going to ruin.... I visited the "bivouac of the dead"; found many graves caved in, and the walls of the cemetery almost level with the ground."

By the early 1890's the bodies of all of the soldiers had been removed (some were reburied at the cemetery near Fort Whipple in Prescott while others were sent to the Presidio in San Francisco). The body of Captain Phillip Dwyer had been reburied in Prescott prior to the 1883 publication of Price's book Across the Continent With the Fifth Cavalry. Capt. Dwyer, the only officer to die at Camp Date Creek, was a Civil War veteran who took part in several battles including Yorktown, Manassas, Williamsburg, Hanover Courthouse, Antietam, and Gaine's Mill. The 14 civilian graves were left in Camp Date Creek's cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

259

CAMP DATE CREEK, Arizona Territory. Established, 1866, as Camp McPherson. Name changed to Camp Date Creek by General Orders No. 29, Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, November 23, 1868.

Location..... Latitude, 31° 45' north; longitude, 112° 18' west. Post office address, Wickenburg, A. T. Nearest town, Wickenburg, A. T., twenty-six miles distant.

Quarters..... For two companies, size 70 by 22 feet, built of adobe. For officers, four sets of quarters, three of adobe and one of stone; three sets having kitchens and dining-rooms of adobe attached. Officers' quarters, 25 by 18 feet; kitchens and dining-rooms, 32 by 16 feet. There are three sets of laundresses' quarters, all of adobe, two of them 20 by 20 feet, and one 18 by 12 feet. Cavalry and quartermaster's corrals are built of logs. Sheds covered with cornstalks and manure are erected to cover horses and mules. Separate apartments for beef cattle and sheep.

Store-houses..... One building, 100 by 22 feet, built of stone, used both as quartermaster's and commissary store-house. The building is divided into four apartments, used respectively as office, subsistence store-room, grain-room, and clothing-room, each of them provided with a stone floor and well ventilated.

Hospital..... Hospital built of adobe, 80 by 14 feet; ward-room in the center, twenty-two feet deep; south wing, containing three rooms, used respectively as dispensary, store-room, and surgeon's quarters; and north wing, containing two rooms, used as dining-room and kitchen. Capacity of ward, sixteen beds.

Guard-house, &c.... A tent used at present for that purpose. Two buildings, of adobe, each 20 by 20 feet, form the company store-rooms and offices. Each company has an adobe kitchen, 20 by 20 feet. Temporary mess-rooms of poles covered with canvas are attached. One building, 32 by 14 feet, used as blacksmith's and carpenter's shop, built of logs and covered with canvas.

Supply depot..... The nearest supply depot is at Fort Yuma, Cal., from which all commissary and quartermaster's stores for the Post are drawn. The route of supply is by water to Ehrenberg, A. T., and thence by wagon to this Post, one hundred and seventeen miles. Supplies can be transported at all seasons of the year, provided there is sufficient water in the Colorado River to allow steamers to come up to Ehrenberg.

Water and wood.... The Post is supplied with water from a well fifty-six feet deep. Water for animals being taken from Date Creek, where a good supply can always be had for that purpose. Wood can be found in limited quantities some five miles from the Post, and is furnished to the Post by the labor of the troops. The quality is poor, being only cottonwood and willow.

Indians..... Nearest Indians are the Apache Mojaves.

Communication.... Between Post and nearest town is by wagon.

Reservation..... The reservation is six miles in length (east and west), and two and one-half miles in width (north and south), and covers an area of five thousand six hundred and twenty-three and ninety-hundredths acres. Declared March 30, 1870.

Description of the country, &c. Surrounding country hilly and mountainous. Soil sandy, except in the creek bottom, where the soil has been cultivated as a post garden with success. Grass plenty. Climate mild; very little, if any, snow during the winter, but very warm in summer, the thermometer ranging as high as 112° Fahrenheit in the shade. Average temperature, 69.04° thermometer. Health of locality excellent.

Garrison.....

Commanding Officer.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

CAMP DATE CREEK, ARIZONA TERRITORY.

475

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY ASSISTANT SURGEONS R. M. O'REILLY AND CHARLES SMART, UNITED STATES ARMY.

Camp Date Creek, until recently known as Camp McPherson, is on the left or south bank of the creek, about 700 yards distant from it and 100 feet above its level. Communication with San Francisco, California, is effected by way of Camp Whipple and Prescott, which is 60 miles distant by the road, although but little more than half that distance in a direct line northeast, and with Washington by way of Maricopa Wells and Tucson. The road from La Paz, on the Colorado River, east to the mining town of Wickenburg, passes the post, intersecting the northern road to Prescott. The upland valley in which the camp is placed is surrounded by high lands. Three miles distant on the east is the divide between the waters of the Hassayampa, tributary to the Gila, and the Williams Fork of the Colorado, of which Date Creek is one of the headwaters. The soil of the valley is gravelly and well covered with gramma and gayeta grasses, except where the underlying metamorphic rocks crop out into broad belts of cactus and yucca-covered *mal pais*. Half a mile down stream, to the west of the post, the creek flows through a cañon 150 feet wide and from 50 to 200 feet deep, below which there are some strips of fertile bottom land, on which farms have been located by a few settlers. Mesquite, cottonwood, and willow grow along the creek.

The climate of this part of the country is hot and dry, with a rainy season occurring in autumn. The mean temperature for the year ending June 30, 1869, was 63.04° F., with the wet-bulb indicating 54.75°. The extremes of temperature were 21° and 108° F. Prevailing wind, southerly.

The Date Creek Camp was originally established in 1864, by California volunteers. In 1866 the troops were moved 25 miles north on the road to Prescott for the protection of settlers in Skull Valley. In 1867 the command returned to Date Creek, and went into quarters close to the bank. This position was found to be very unhealthy, the greater portion of the men being prostrated during the fever season commencing with the July rains. Hence in 1868 they were moved to the higher ground further from the creek—the present location. In this the drainage is good, both from the gravelly character of the soil and the incline toward the bed of the stream.

The buildings are arranged so as to inclose a quadrangular parade ground—the men's quarters, kitchens, and post bake-house on the north, those of the officers on the south, the guard-house on the east, and hospital on the west. The soldiers' quarters are two adobe buildings, each 76 by 20 by 13 feet, with shingled roof and earthen floor. Ventilation is effected in each by eight windows, two doors, a series of apertures, 9 by 4½ inches, just above the ground level, and an air space between the roof and walls. These are aided by an open fireplace at each end and a wood-stove in the center. Air space per man of average occupation, 350 cubic feet. The bunks are framed, and, with the arm-racks, form the only fixtures of these dormitories.

The hospital is a shingled adobe building, warmed and ventilated in the same manner as the quarters of the men.

The arrangement of the building is shown in Figure 58. A, ward, 30 by 18 feet; C, surgery, 14 by 12 feet; D, dispensary, 14 by 14 feet; E, store-room, 14 by 8 feet; K, kitchen, 14 by 14 feet; M, mess-room, 14 by 12 feet. Height of rooms, 14 feet.

The ward is furnished with twelve beds, to each of which it affords 630 cubic feet of air space. Its average occupation is six patients. Its supplies are obtained from San Francisco, California, and are required for yearly. No ambulance at the post.

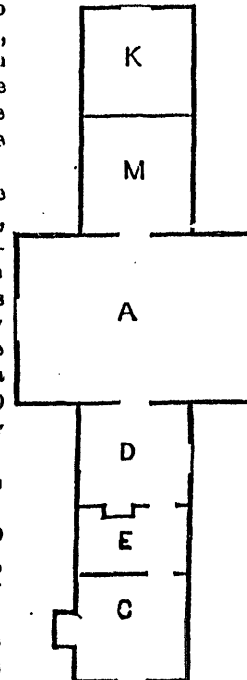


Figure 58.—Scale 20 feet to 1 inch.

REF: War Department, Surgeon General's Office. 1870. A Report on Barracks and Hospitals with Descriptions of Military Posts. Circular No. 4. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

476

DESCRIPTIONS OF MILITARY POSTS.

The first sergeant's room and company store-room, each 16 by 14 feet, and the kitchens (two in number) and bake-house, each 23 by 14 feet, are of the same kind of materials as the barracks. No mess-rooms have yet been built. The officers' quarters are four mud-roofed adobe buildings, each containing a single room, 26 by 13 feet. The guard-house, at present, is represented by wall tents for the ten members of the guard and average of three prisoners. The quartermaster and subsistence store-house is outside the line of buildings around the parade. It is 100 by 22 feet, built of stone and roofed with shingles. The sinks, properly in rear, are open trenches with willow shades.

The water supply is carted from the creek in barrels and run through charcoal filters. It is largely impregnated with organic matter. In the unhealthy autumn season permanganate of potash was likewise made use of. A well is being sunk.

The diseases prevalent are all of malarial origin. It is expected that the removal of the camp from the immediate neighborhood of the creek, and success attending the attempt to sink the well, will materially decrease the sick rate of this post.

The Indian tribes in the vicinity are hostile; Yavapais and Apache Mojaves.

Statement showing mean strength, number of sick, and principal diseases at Camp Date Creek, Arizona Territory, for the year 1869.

Year.	Mean strength.	Whole number taken sick.	Malarial fevers.	Diarrhoea and dysentery.	Tonsillitis.	Veneral diseases.	Scurvy.	Rheumatism.	Catarrhal affections.*	No. of deaths.
1869.....	108.16	364	132	79	9	1	1	17	16

* Include laryngitis, bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

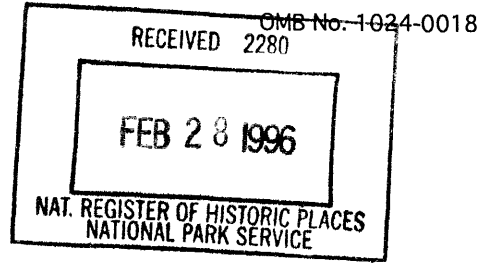
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 11

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Ruin of Post's hospital looking SW from the NE corner of the building. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
2. Post's hospital, view is looking SW at the illegal digging at the exposed NE corner of the building. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
3. Looking west at laundress quarters in upper NE corner of the Camp; shown as a proposed building on the 1871 map. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
4. Another view of same building as Photo No. 3. View is NW. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
5. View looking east, from building "K" at the NW corner of the parade ground, across mounds of Company Storehouse and Company Quarters. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
6. La Paz Road, looking east towards Weaver Mountains. Mounds of Company Storehouse and Company Quarters to right (south) of road. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
7. View is north (standing on mound of Officers' Quarters) looking at Commanding Officers' Quarters at SW corner of parade ground. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
8. Looking west at ruin of Post's Hospital. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
9. Looking south at the ruin of the Blacksmith's shop (shown as a proposed building SE of the QM Building on the 1871 map). Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
10. Metate in wash upstream from the QM Building. Prehistoric cultural artifacts are common on the grounds of the Camp. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
11. Looking east towards the Quartermaster's Building with the Weaver Mountains in the background. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
12. Quartermaster's Building, at NE end of the ruin looking SE. Date Creek Mountains in the background. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
13. At north end of ruin of Quartermaster's Building looking south. Date Creek Mountains in the background. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
14. East wall (outside) of Quartermaster's Building; view is to the west. Note barrel rings in the foreground. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.
15. Looking north down the east wall of the Quartermaster's Building. Photo taken April 8, 1991 by P.H. Boles.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

Camp Date Creek Historical Archaeological Site
name of property
Yavapai County, Arizona
county and State

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Archaeological Significance

Camp Date Creek has already yielded some information about the location, layout, configuration, and construction of the fort. Given the presence of intact subsurface deposits, the site has the potential to yield additional information in these areas as well as important information in a number of other research areas including:

- 1) Daily military life - The archaeological deposits at the site could provide a picture of daily military life in the late 1860s to early 1870s and would include information on diet, leisure time activities, work activities, living conditions, health care, etc.;
- 2) Economic interaction, production, and trade - Given the camp's location on the main road from La Paz to Prescott and its role as a supply post for soldiers, Camp Date Creek has the potential to provide important information concerning sources of manufactured good and supplied for western military installations and any changes in trade interaction through time. What types of goods were produced at the camp? What good were supplied through long distance trade and from where? To what extent did local goods supply the camp? What was the extent and type of trade with settlers, travelers, and indigenous populations in the area?
- 3) Acculturation - The role of Camp Date Creek in the Indian conflicts and its function as a temporary reservation for Yavapai Indians makes it an important site for studying the changes in lifestyle, material culture, diet, health, etc. of Native Americans resulting from the interactions and conflicts between the two cultures.

Although there are a number of written records and surviving documents providing information on life at Camp Date Creek, they fail to provide a full picture of life at the camp due to contradictions in the records, gaps in the written documentation, and a lack of detailed information concerning the condition of life for Native Americans at the camp. Archaeological deposits at the site contain information that would add to existing information, provide new information and clarify contradictions in the written record.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

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The Camp, originally named Camp McPherson was established to protect travelers on the road from Prescott to LaPaz as well as settlers and miners. The camp also served as a supply point for soldiers campaigning in the area. The camp was located at the junction of the LaPaz, Prescott, and Wickenburg roads. It was the site of one of the earliest government attempts to keep Indians on a reservation and was also the site of a violent confrontation ("the Date Creek Incident") between the two cultures.

The Yavapai Indians conflicts with Anglos began in 1863 after several gold discoveries. These gold discoveries led to a rapid influx of miners. Along with the miners came ranchers and farmers which pushed the Indians off of some of their traditional hunting and farming areas. The Indians were no longer free to plant crops such as corn, squash, and beans along fertile river valleys and then move up into mountains to gather seeds, berries, fruit, and game while the crops grew. Hunting pressure from the Anglos on the native wildlife also decreased the availability of this natural food supply to the Indians. With both their food supply and the amount of open country dwindling depredations against the Anglo miners, travelers, and settlers quickly increased.

The Camp was originally established as Camp McPherson (for General James B. McPherson, who was killed in the Civil War Battle of Atlanta on July 22, 1864) in orders published by General John Gregg on May 11, 1867. The post return for May 20, 1867 read:

"Camp McPherson was established on the 11th May 1867 in pursuance of SO No 13 dated Hd. Qrs. District of Prescott May 7 1867. It is situated on S side of Date Creek, about three miles (3) NE of the old Camp on Date Creek is about twenty five miles (25) NW of Wickenburg about seventy five (75) miles East of Williams Forks on the Colorado River- about 50/fifty miles SW of Prescott and about one hundred and forty (140) miles NE of La Paz AT."

In the summer of 1867 a little over 100 men of the 14th Infantry (Companies H and I) under Brevet Captain James W. Weir began the task of building Camp McPherson. Construction was to continue under future post commanders into 1873.

Almost from the start the men were hit hard by malaria. It was soon realized that somehow the proximity to the Creek was the cause of the illnesses (at the time it was not known that mosquitos spread the malaria). In the fall of 1867 it was decided to build the main Camp 700 yards south of the Creek. However, by this time the Quartermasters building, the laundress quarters, blacksmith shop and a few other buildings had already been constructed and were to remain in use. This is the reason that the ruins of the Camp cover such a relatively large area (263 acres). Some sources have stated that this Camp was moved several times. However, this is incorrect. "Moved" implies that the original or previous site was abandoned and that is not the case.

Once Camp McPherson was formally established in May of 1867 it was not actually moved but rather "stretched" or enlarged. The "original" site next to the Creek remained an active and very integral part of the Camp. For a nine-month period in 1869-1870 Lt. Orsemus Boyd was in charge of the Quartermasters building. His wife later wrote of their experiences in her book Cavalry Life In Tent and Field. Since the Camp was so spread out she worried about her husband working at the QM Building:

"My husband was the busiest man imaginable. He had not only to command his company, but was also in charge of all stores and buildings. The quartermaster's storehouse was a long distance off, and Mr. Boyd was there all day long. I used to be in continual fear lest Indians should attack him."

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

On November 23, 1868 the post commander, Captain George W. Davis, entered the name Camp Date Creek on his morning report for the first time. The enlargement of the Camp into the higher country to the south of the creek was well under way.

Although companies of the 3rd, 5th, and 8th Cavalries were stationed at Camp Date Creek at various times, it was primarily an Infantry outpost. Companies from the 14th, 21st, 23rd, and 32nd infantries saw duty at Camp Date Creek. Some of the officers left fairly detailed reports on their scouting expeditions in which the Infantry in full field gear marched several miles per day over rough country in the middle of summer.

A scouting report filed on June 22, 1868 by Lt. Samuel Purdy, Jr. of the 14th Infantry told of covering over 20 miles in a full day of marching. Lt. Purdy concluded his report by stating "I would respectfully call the attention of the Post Commander to the almost unpracticably (sic) of men marching over this country on foot at this time of year. The intense heat of the sun during the day and the roughness of the country (which becomes doubly difficult to traverse during the night) soon uses up men so that at the end of a short march they are unable to accomplish any undertaking during the rest of the day." He offered his opinion that a well equipped cavalry would be much more practical and efficient in pursuing Indians.

The following is a listing of the garrison and the periods of duty for the various companies at Camp McPherson and Camp Date Creek, A.T. from 1867 to 1873.

Infantry:

- 14th Infantry (Companies H and I) 1867 to 1869;
- 21st Infantry (Company H) 1869 to 1872;
- 23rd Infantry (Company B) 1872 to 1873; and
- 32nd Infantry (Company H) 1869.

Cavalry:

- 3rd Cavalry (Companies B, D, E, and G) 1870 to 1871;
- 5th Cavalry (Companies E and G) 1872 to 1873; and
- 8th Cavalry (Company B) 1869 to 1870.

I believe that a rather unique feature of the ruins of Camp Date Creek is that the site is still intact after over 120 years of neglect. As the photos show, most of the walls are gone, except for those which were made of native basalt, such as the Quartermaster's building. However, with a copy of the redrawn 1871 map of the Camp, a person can easily locate all of the major buildings from the basalt used for their foundations and the mounds left by their melted adobe walls. The surface of the site has not been greatly impacted since the Camp was abandoned in 1873. Due to its isolated location, it has escaped the obliteration that has occurred to some of the other military posts of this period, such as Camp Willow Grove and Fort Mohave.

Walking alone around the ruins of Camp Date Creek gives one a real sense of history. This history especially comes to life after getting to "know" some of the principal characters who peopled the camp through reading their letters, scouting reports, etc. This cast included officers such as General George Crook, Lt. John Bourke, Lt. Orsemus Boyd, Dr. William Corbusier (the post surgeon; the watercress he planted in 1873 to provide a green in the soldiers' diet can still be found along Date Creek), Capt. Phil Dwyer, Capt. George Davis, and Capt. Richard O'Beirne. Civilians who played a role included Chief of Scouts Al Sieber, Charles Genung, Burton Sparks, Mrs. Boyd, and others. Indians included chiefs Irataba and Ochocama and a young boy who was given the name "Mike Burns" by Capt. James Burns of the 5th Cavalry. Mike Burns spent the summer of 1873 at the Camp and was cared for by Mrs. Corbusier.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

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Contemporary accounts of life at Camp Date Creek were not altogether favorable. John Bourke, the personal aide to Gen. Crook, in his book On the Border With Crook left this description of Camp Date Creek, "...the sickly and dismal post..." Mrs. Orsemus Boyd, in her book Cavalry Life In Tent and Field described her impression of the Camp and its surroundings as, "It was indeed a desolate and undesirable locality. The country was ugly, flat, and inexpressibly dreary." She must have overlooked the Date Creek Mountains to the south and the Weaver Mountains to the east when describing the country as flat.

It is interesting to compare the two above impressions of Camp Date Creek with the following statements made by Major M. Cogswell in his Camp inspection report dated October 16, 1870: "The health of the Post is excellent owing partly to its location..." and "The officers and men are more comfortably housed at this post than at any other in the Department."

Camp Date Creek also played an important role in the economy of the area. Freight wagons brought in supplies from communities such as La Paz, Yuma, and Prescott. Merchants in Prescott sold supplies to the Camp ranging from eggs at \$2.50 per dozen to kerosene which varied in price from \$5 to \$11 per gallon. Well known Arizona rancher Henry Hooker had a contract to supply beef to the post in 1870.

The Camp's inspection reports give an interesting glimpse into the day to day workings of life at a frontier military post. The final inspection of Camp Date Creek was conducted by Col. D. B. Sacket on June 3, 1873. In addition to listing equipment on hand, Col. Sacket also reported on such things as "the hair of the men is kept short and beard neatly trimmed" and that "the clothing on hand is of the old pattern, of fair quality and in good order..." In 1873, the two laundresses at the Camp received "one dollar per month per man for washing." Col. Sacket listed the current costs of various items: firewood was \$11.96 per cord, hay cost \$24.95 per ton, barley was \$6.40 per bushel, and beef was furnished "at sixteen cents per pound and is issued seven in ten days." The Camp's blacksmith was paid "\$120 per month in currency, and one ration," and the tools in his shop were judged to be "in fair order only, mostly condemned." For diversion from the military routine, "the men are encouraged in all games, such as foot and baseball." Col. Sacket reported that the buildings on the post had received shingled roofs since the February 1, 1872 inspection and gave the dimensions of the major buildings as well as the Quartermaster's corral.

The camp was designated as a Military Reservation on March 30, 1870. The Reservation was six miles in length (east to west) and 2.5 miles wide. The reservation encompassed 5,623.9 acres. The military reservation was laid out by Capt. Davis and described in his report dated March 14, 1868 to the headquarters at Camp Whipple:

"I have the honor to report that in obedience S.O. No. 3 dated Hd'qrs. Sub Dist. of Prescott, Camp Whipple, A.T. Jan. 28th, 68- A Military Reservation for the Post has been taken up, the boundary established and notices posted defining the same, warning all persons against trespassing.

The boundaries are as follows- Beginning at a stone monument on the east side of the Wickenburg road near the first stone hut in Martinez Canon- six miles distant from the present Camp by the travelled road- from thence in a straight line in a westerly direction along the slope of the Date Creek Mountains to a stone monument on the top of a high rock on the south side of Date Creek and about a half a mile distant from the Lehi Ranch in a southwesterly direction from thence in a straight line across Date Creek Valley about one fourth of a mile to a stone monument standing on the top of a hill on the north side of the same creek which bound is five hundred and seventy (570) yards distance from the old Government Corral (old Camp on Date Creek) three miles (3) and

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

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twelve hundred and ninety nine (1299) yards by the travelled road from the present camp- from thence in a straight line- in a northeasterly direction across the mesa to a large Cottonwood tree standing in the arroyo which merges with Date Creek Canon at a point nearly due north of the present Camp. Said Cottonwood tree being about one mile north from the Camp in a straight line- from thence in an easterly direction to the place of beginning. The whole area of this tract I estimate to be eight (8) square miles, and in my opinion the exclusive area and occupation of the whole is necessary as a Military Reservation. Mr. Wm. Gilson is living at the Lehi Ranch and farming lands upon the Reservation under authority from the Hd'qrs. of the Sub Dist.- Mr. Gilson is however aware that any violations of orders or regulations of this Camp will result in his ejection."

The attached 7.5 minute topographic map in Addendum B gives the boundary of the reservation based on a 1912-1913 resurvey by the Government Land Office (GLO). In December, 1912 through January of 1913, surveyors from the Government Land Office (GLO) resurveyed the boundary of the Camp Date Creek Reservation. During the survey, the original wooden stakes marking the boundary were removed and replaced with brass caps.

The chief surveyor, Charles M. Pidgeon, began his resurvey on December 25, 1912 after locating "the east gable of the old hospital from the ruins of adobe walls at Camp Date Creek." Mr. Pidgeon's report contained a small scale (1/2 inch to the mile) diagram of the boundary of the "Abandoned Date Creek Military Reservation." From the small scale map, I projected the boundaries onto a 7.5 minute topographic map (included in Addendum B). With my topographic map, along with Mr. Pidgeon's descriptions, I successfully located the southeast corner of the reservation on February 22, 1991. The corner is marked by a brass cap dated 1913. Unfortunately the corner marker is not secured in concrete, but rather merely supported by rocks piled around its base. This puts it in danger of being destroyed or lost by vandalism.

Camp Date Creek served as a temporary reservation for approximately 750-900 Yavapai Indians by order of General Crook in October of 1871 from 1871-1873. General Crook established the temporary reservation at Date Creek in order to postpone the movement of the Yavapais to the new reservation at Camp Verde. This makes the site of the camp important in the history of the Yavapai Indians.

On November 5, 1871 a stagecoach was held up near Wickenburg and several passengers were killed including Fred Loring. Mr. Loring was a nationally known journalist. The two survivors, one of which was wounded, were brought to Camp Date Creek. The wounded passenger (a woman) was treated at the post's hospital. They claimed that the crime had been committed by Indians. The popular belief at the time and for many years thereafter was that the guilty Indians were from the reservation at Date Creek. Captain Meinhold of the 3rd Cavalry, stationed at Camp Date Creek was sent out with a detachment of soldiers on November 6, 1871 to track the party that had attacked the stage. The trail was lost near the Hassayampa River. The incident became known as the Wickenburg Massacre. Captain Meinhold filed a report dated November 9, 1871 with the Post Adjutant (Lt. Ebstein) at Camp Date Creek detailing his search for the killers. He also offered in his report that there was some doubt in Wickenburg that the attack was actually carried out by Indians.

In June, 1872 Joe Goldwater, an ancestor of former Sen. Barry Goldwater, was brought into Camp Date Creek, after he was attacked by Indians on the Ehrenburg road and treated at the post's hospital. Two bullets were removed from Mr. Goldwater, who recovered from his wounds. The Camp is important in the Goldwater family history. See letter from former Senator Barry Goldwater included in Addendum D.

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

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Gen. Crook began his 1872-1873 winter campaign against the Yavapai Indians from Camp Date Creek. On September 8, 1872, "the Date Creek Incident" occurred at the camp. This incident occurred when General George Crook, in an attempt to find the Indians who murdered the passengers of a stagecoach near Wickenburg on November 5, 1871, was the subject of an assassination attempt. Attached (in Addendum A) is a copy of a letter Gen. Crook sent to the Assistant Adj. Gen. at Fort Whipple, dated September 18, 1872, in which he gives his account of the incident. Present at this incident were several historic figures in addition to Crook. Those present included John G. Bourke, William Ross, Charles B. Genung, Herman Bendell (Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Arizona), Al Sieber, and Chiefs Irataba and Ochocama.

The following is John Bourke's account of the Date Creek Incident from his book On The Border With Crook:

"As soon as General Crook learned of the death of Dwyer,¹ he hurried to Date Creek, now left without any officer in its proper garrison, and informed the Indians that he intended having a talk with them on the morrow, at a place designated by himself. The conspirators thought that their scheme could be carried out without trouble, especially since they saw no signs of suspicion on the part of the whites. General Crook came to the place appointed, without any escort of troops, but carelessly strolling forwarded were a dozen or more of the packers, who had been engaged in all kinds of melees since the days of early California mining. Each of these was armed to the teeth, and every revolver was on the full cock, and every knife ready for instant use. The talk was very agreeable, and not an unpleasant word had been uttered on either side, when all of a sudden the Indian in the center asked for a little tobacco, and, when it was handed to him, he began rolling a cigarette; before the first puff of smoke had rolled away from his lips one of the warriors alongside of him levelled his carbine full at General Crook, and fired. Lieutenant Ross, aide-de-camp to the General, was waiting for the movement, and struck the arm of the murderer so that the bullet was deflected upwards, and the life of the General was saved. The scrimmage became a perfect Kilkenny fight in another second or two, and every man made for the man nearest to him, the Indian who had given the signal being grasped in the vise-like grip of Hank Hewitt, with whom he struggled vainly. Hewitt was a man of great power and able to master most men other than professional athletes or prize-fighters; the Indian was not going to submit so long as life lasted, and struggled, but, and kicked to free himself, but all in vain, as Hank had caught him from the back of the head, and the red man was at a total disadvantage. Hewitt started to drag his captive to the guard-house, but changed his mind, and seizing the Apache-Mojave by both ears pulled his head down violently against the rocks, and either broke his skull or brought on concussion of the brain, as the Indian died that night in the guard-house.

Others of the party were killed and wounded, and still others, with the ferocity of tigers, fought their way out through our feeble lines, and made their way to the point of rendezvous at the head of the Santa Maria. Word was at once sent to them by members of their own tribe that they must come in and surrender at once, or else the whole party must expect to be punished for what was originally the crime of a few."

/X/ See Continuation Sheet

¹Capt. Phillip Dwyer, 5th Cavalry, Company E was in command of Camp Date Creek at the time of his death on August 29, 1872.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

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The version of the "Date Creek Incident" left by Charles Genung differed greatly from those of Bourke and Crook. Genung claimed that the Indians were unarmed when they arrived for the meeting with Crook. This would explain why in the ensuing fight only one soldier was wounded (by a knife). In the recent book Death In His Saddlebags Charlie Genung's grandson, Dan B. Genung also gave the same account. The book also identified the individuals responsible for the Wickenburg Massacre as Anglo and Mexican bandits. According to the Genungs the Yavapai Indians were not involved in the stagecoach holdup.

The "Date Creek Incident" becomes more significant in an historical context when the events it set in motion are considered. Following this attempt on Crook's life a band of Indians escaped from the reservation and established a rancharia on a bluff overlooking the headwaters of the Santa Maria River. Troops of the 5th Cavalry from Camp Hualapai led by Capt. J.W. Mason tracked these Indians with the resulting fight being called "The Battle of Mucho Canones" (several canyons including those of Kirkland Creek and Sycamore Creek come together to form the Santa Maria River). Forty Indians were reported to have been killed in this battle and a number of prisoners were taken. Their rancharia was destroyed by the soldiers. Al Sieber led the Hualapai's scouts who accompanied the soldiers. Dan L. Thrapp, in his book The Conquest of Apacheria, discusses the expedition and battle and concludes "...this operation ended forever the resistance of the Indians of western Apacheria..." and freed Crook and his troops to "turn their attention to the principal enemy, farther east" (pp. 113-114). This makes "the Date Creek Incident" a pivotal event in the Indian wars.

With the Indians safely confined to the temporary Reservation at Date Creek the roads were now safe to travel and the need for the Camp ceased to exist. On May 1, 1873 approximately 750 Yavapai Indians were marched out of Date Creek to the reservation which had earlier been established for them at Camp Verde. Camp Date Creek was officially abandoned on September 1, 1873 when Company B left for their new assignment: the construction of a telegraph line between Prescott and Phoenix. The post had been established in the heart of the Yavapai Indians' country on the junction of the busiest roads (La Paz to Wickenburg and the road north to Prescott) in northern Arizona to subdue the Indians and to protect travelers, miners, and settlers. Camp Date Creek and its soldiers, both infantry and cavalry, had accomplished its mission.

A rancher named William Gilson lived on the military reservation during its occupation by the Army. There are letters in the post records between Mr. Gilson and the post commander concerning his lease (from the military) of the ranch he occupied on the reservation. He later came into possession of the land. The February 17, 1885 issue of the "Weekly Prescott Courier" contained the following news item: "William Gilson, of Date Creek, has sold his cattle and ranch to Messrs. Hugo Richards, Jim O'Neill, and General Crook for \$30,000." O'Neill used the Quartermasters Building and perhaps others as well for a ranch headquarters as early as 1875. A traveller on the stage which passed through the site in April, 1875 reported in "The Arizona Miner" newspaper that "the 'fort' is now garrisoned by Jim O'Neill and a Mexican. Jim has a large flock of sheep in the vicinity, and the Mexican is herding cattle for C.W. Beach." The land has continued to be used for livestock grazing to the present time going through a series of owners (the private land at the north end of the Camp) and grazing lessees (the State Land which makes up the majority of the site). Cecil Billingsly bought the ranch from Jim O'Neill around 1905. The Billingsly family kept the ranch up into the 1960's. The private land at the north end of the Camp is presently owned by John Murphy, Jr. See letters from the landowners in Addendum C.

Addendum A - letter from General George Crook describing the Date Creek Incident.

Addendum B - Maps of Camp Date Creek and the Camp Date Creek Reservation.

Addendum C - Letters supporting the Historic Register Nomination and listing from the Landowners.

Addendum D - Letter from Barry Goldwater.

/ / See Continuation Sheet

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Smith, B.W. Camp Date Creek, Arizona Territory: The Prescott Connection. Published by the author, Phoenix, AZ. 5 pp.

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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 (State Land Department, Prescott and Phoenix offices)

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other (Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott, AZ)

Name of repository: Arizona State Museum/University of Arizona

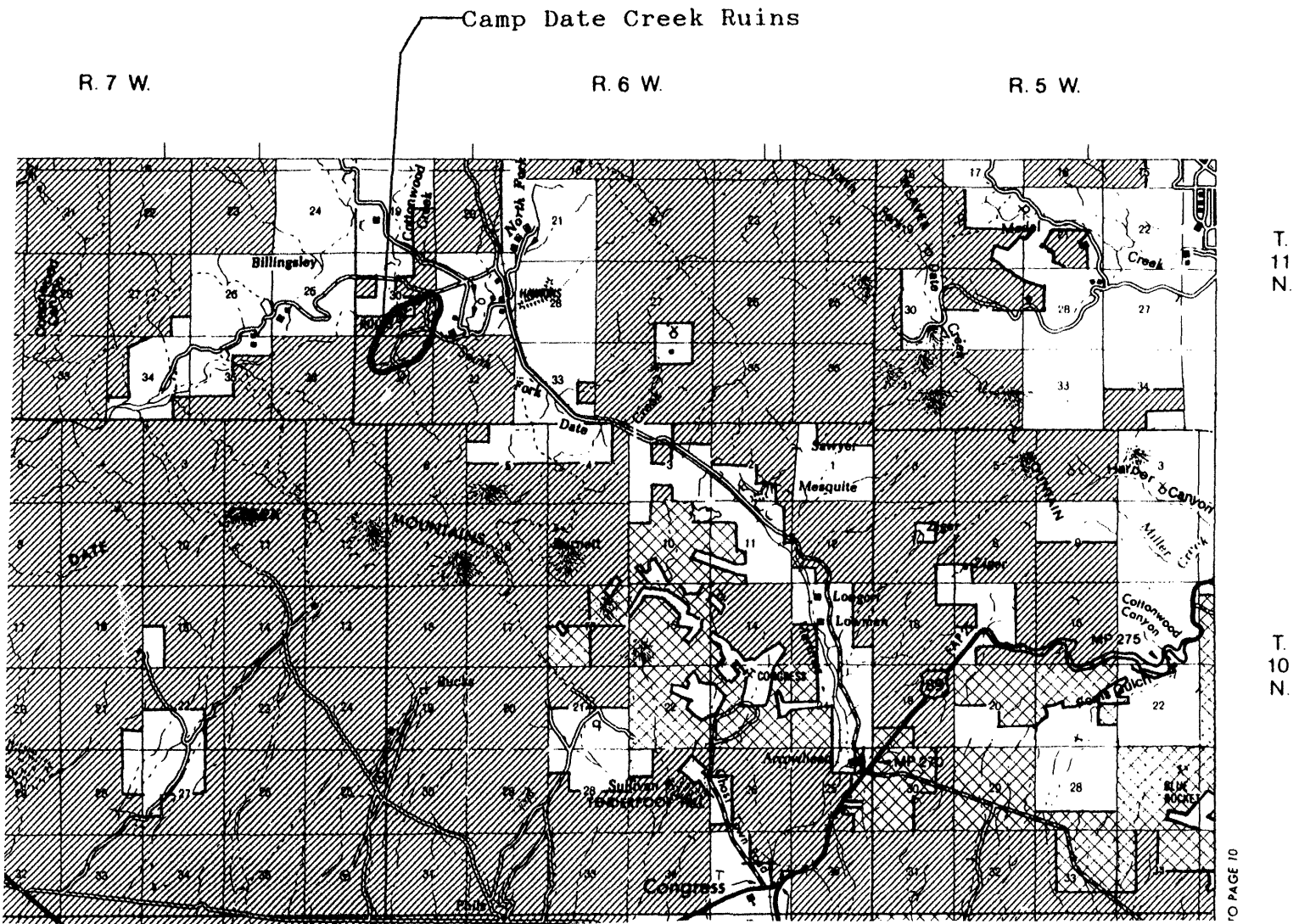
United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 3

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GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND LAND OWNERSHIP



LEGEND



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. A Page 1

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Letter from General George Crook, dated September 18,
1872, describing the Date Creek Incident.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. 1 Page 2

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Pacific Mil. Div.
Asst. Adj. Gen.

Headquarters Department of Arizona
Prescott, September 18th, 1872

Sir:

I have the honor to report that for some time I have been satisfied who the parties were who committed the massacre of the stage passengers via Wickenburg last November, in which Mr. Loring and others lost their lives, and have been keeping as quiet about it as possible while using every endeavor to get the individual Indians into position so as to capture them.

Having completed my arrangements, I left here on the 6th instant to meet Irataba, the Chief of the Mojaves with an Interpreter at Date Creek. The Chief was cognizant of the massacre and the parties who committed it, and was to identify such as were present at the council at Date Creek, so that the arrest could be made.

On arriving at Date Creek I found that at least two thirds of the Indians, belonging on the reservation were absent from it, and that one band had left in a defiant manner, stating that they were not coming back, while others had left with the permission of the Agent to go to a certain place with the promise to come in whenever he sent for them, both of which promises they had failed to keep, and in addition several bands of stock were stolen from parties on the road from Date Creek to Ehrenberg, the trails leading to the country over which these Indians were roaming.

The Indians who were at Date Creek seemed uneasy and suspicious, and in very bad temper, approaching with their arms and war paint. Some of the parties who had participated in the stage massacre were there, but very uneasy, and when the Indians were assembled I had some men detailed to make the arrests as soon as the Indians were identified. As they were designated the soldiers stepped up to arrest them, when one of the Indians friends, standing back of the soldiers, stabbed one of them in the back. A shot was fired, by whom I could hardly say, but I think it was by the soldier stabbed, and in an instant firing commenced on both sides, the Indians making for the hills. I made every effort, as did all the officers present to stop the firing, but it was all over in an instant.

I returned to Prescott on the 9th, and on the 10th instant, received a despatch from the Commanding Officer of Camp Date Creek stating that the Indians wanted to talk with me and I went there at once.

The Indians came in again and I promised them that I would grant amnesty to all the assassins, except one of the ring leaders who

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. 1 Page 3

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Headquarters Department of Arizona
Prescott, September 18th, 1872

Continued-

was still at large, as I had one in the guard house and two others were killed. Upon this, nearly all the Indians I had met the first time came in again and said if I would allow them to remain- they would be responsible for all the Indians who would come in. They did not deny their complicity with the stage massacre, but said there were a good many bad Indians among them, and that therefore they had been afraid to tell on each other, when depredations were committed. They promised that hereafter they would not only tell me when any depredations were committed, but they would go out with the troops if necessary, to punish the offenders.

As much as I regret that the arrest could not have been made without trouble, I am well satisfied that as it now transpires, the affair will be productive of good, as it is upon this basis and no other that you can rely upon Indians who come in upon our reservations.

The applications must come from them, and not from us, they must sue to come in, and not feel all the time, that they confer a favor upon us by doing so.

I am Sir very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

George Crook,

Lieut. Colonel 23rd Infantry,
Brevet Major General,
Commanding Department.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. B Page 1

=====

Maps of Camp Date Creek and the Camp Date Creek
Reservation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. B Page 2

CAMP DATE CREEK

Map Legend

Dashed line = maximum extent of surface trash scatter and visible surface features as found during the Arizona Archaeological Society survey of February, 1992.

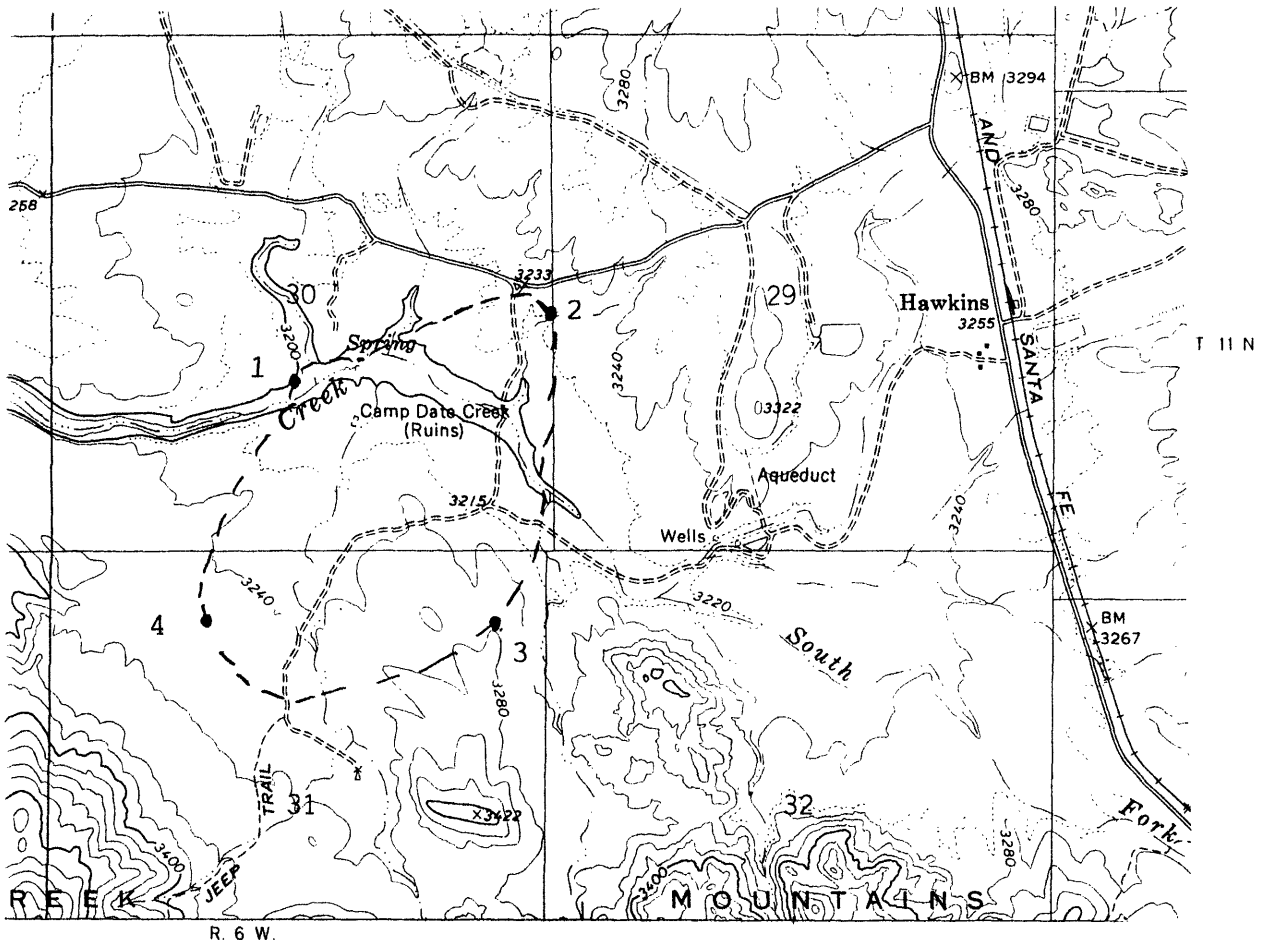
Site orientation - skewed along NE-SW axis. Long axis = 1,500 meters. Short axis = 950 meters.

Estimated Acreage of Camp Date Creek + associated scatter = 263 acres (based on modified acreage grid count @ 64 dots per square inch).

Two original USGS topographic maps of "Date, Ariz." 7.5 min. attached to this submittal.

UTM Zone 12

1. N 3793075/E 322600
2. N 3793270/E 323430
3. N 3792300/E 323260
4. N 3792330/E 322300



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

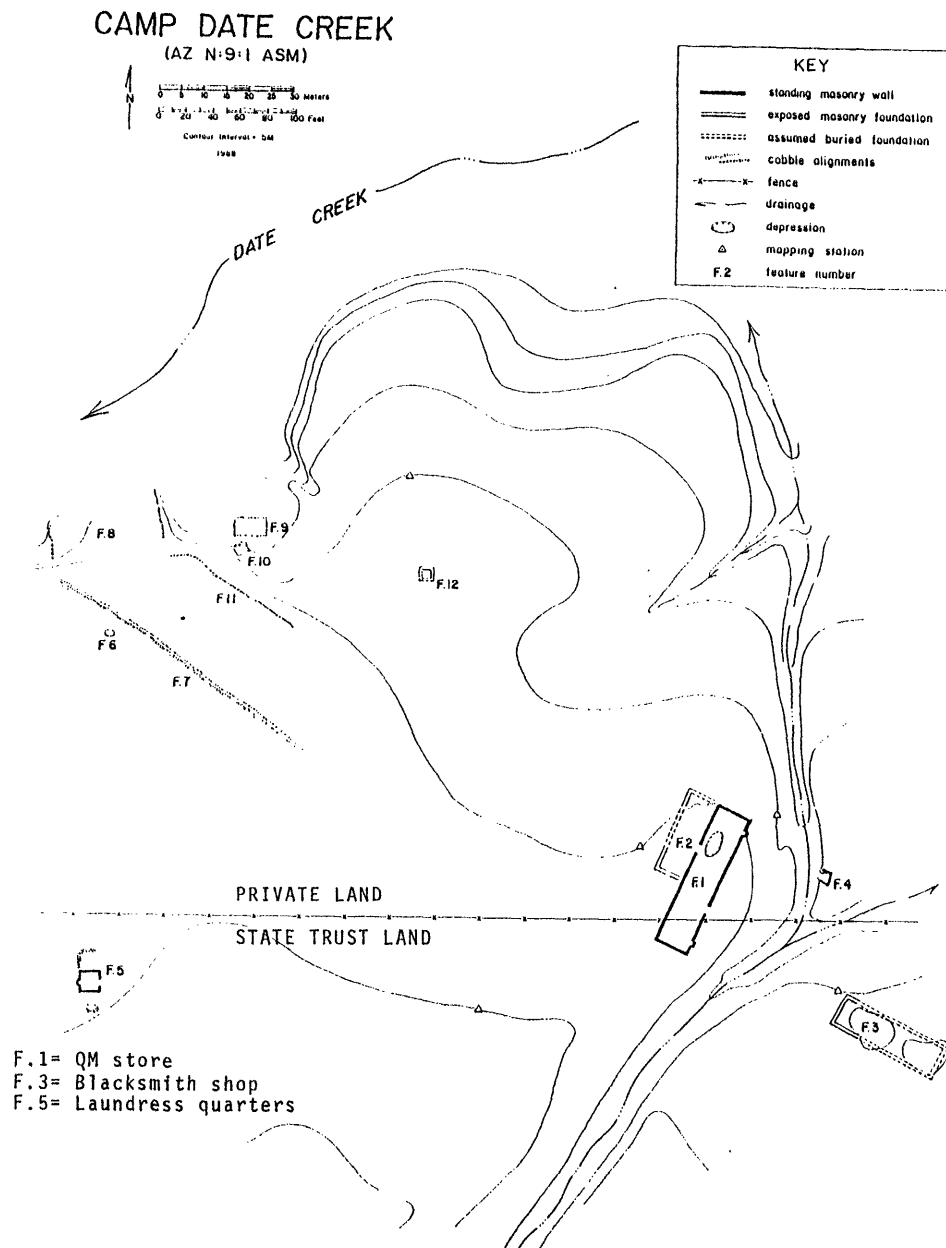
Section number Add. B Page 3

Map of northern ruins of
CAMP DATE CREEK

April 19-20, 1988 field work.

Land Status: That land north of the fence is private land currently owned by John A. Murphy, Jr.

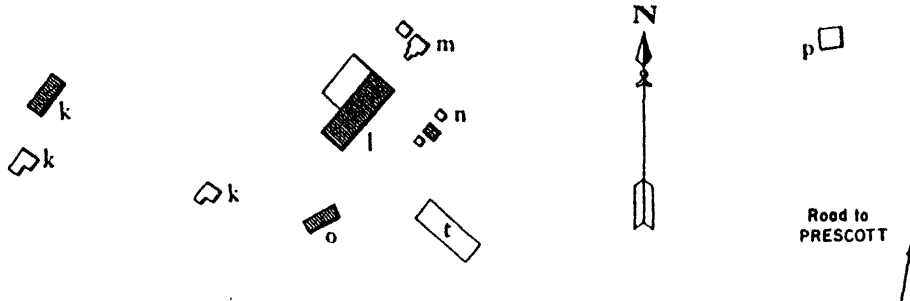
The land south of the fence is State Trust land. All of the ruins south of the fence, which includes the majority of the camp are on State Trust land.



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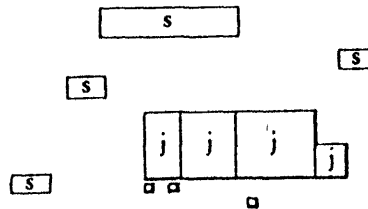
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. B Page 4



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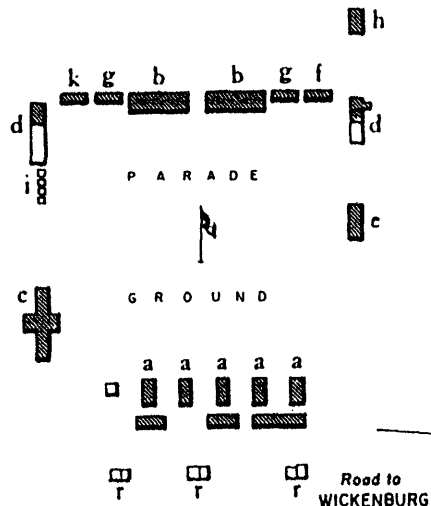
- a - OFFICERS QUARTERS
- b - COMPANY QUARTERS
- c - HOSPITAL
- d - KITCHEN & MESS ROOM
- e - GUARD HOUSE
- f - ADJUTANTS OFFICE
- g - COMPANY STORE HOUSE
- h - POST TRADER
- i - TENTS
- j - CORRALS
- k - LAUNDRESS QUARTERS
- l - COMMISSARY STORE
- m - POST BAKERY
- n - POST SADDLER
- o - BLACKSMITH & CARPENTERS SHOP
- p - SLAUGHTER PEN
- q - POST WELL
- r - SINK
- s - HAYSTACK
- t - PROPOSED BUILDINGS



Road to LA PAZ

1871

Camp Date Creek
ARIZONA TERRITORY

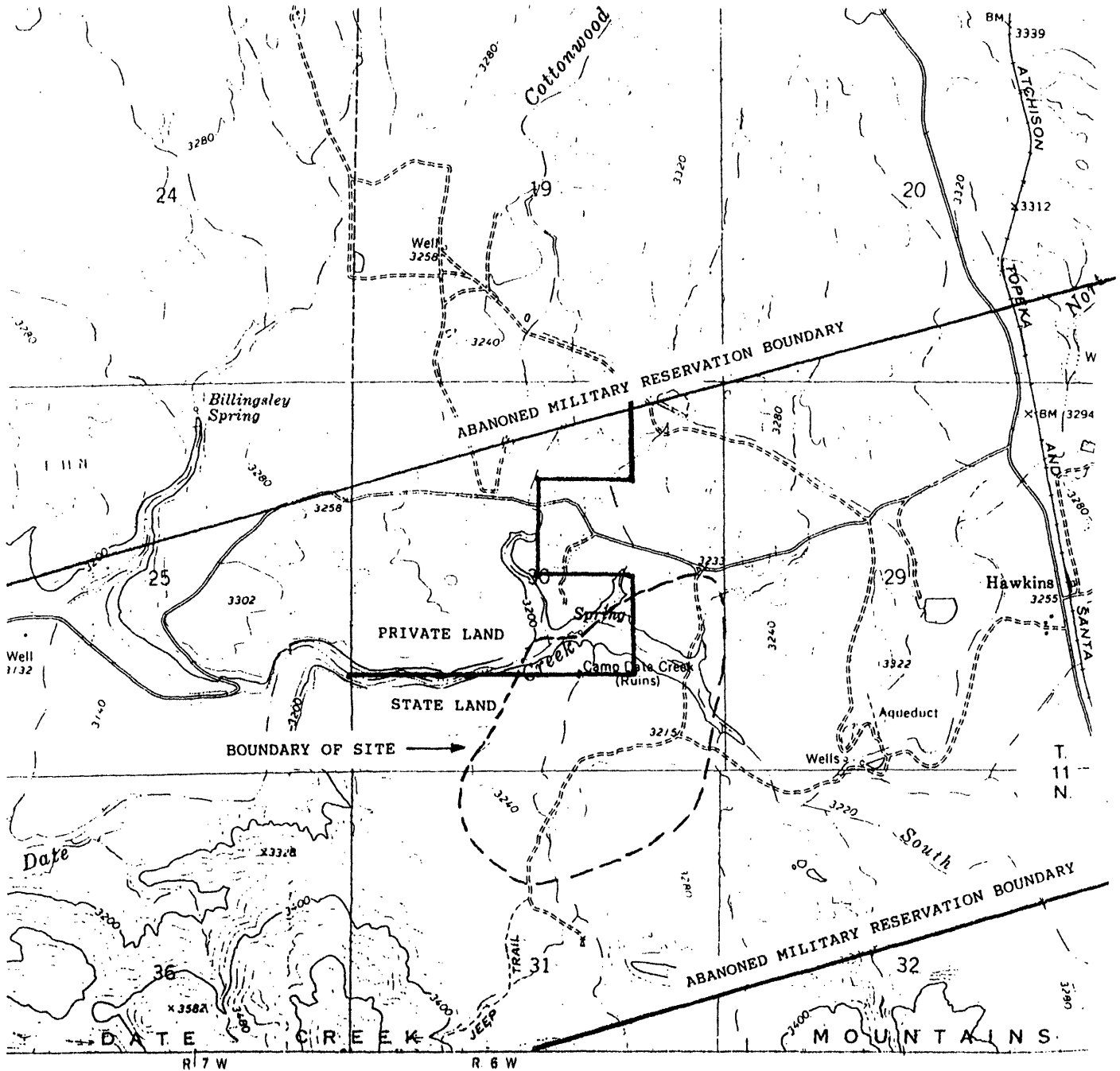


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. B Page 5

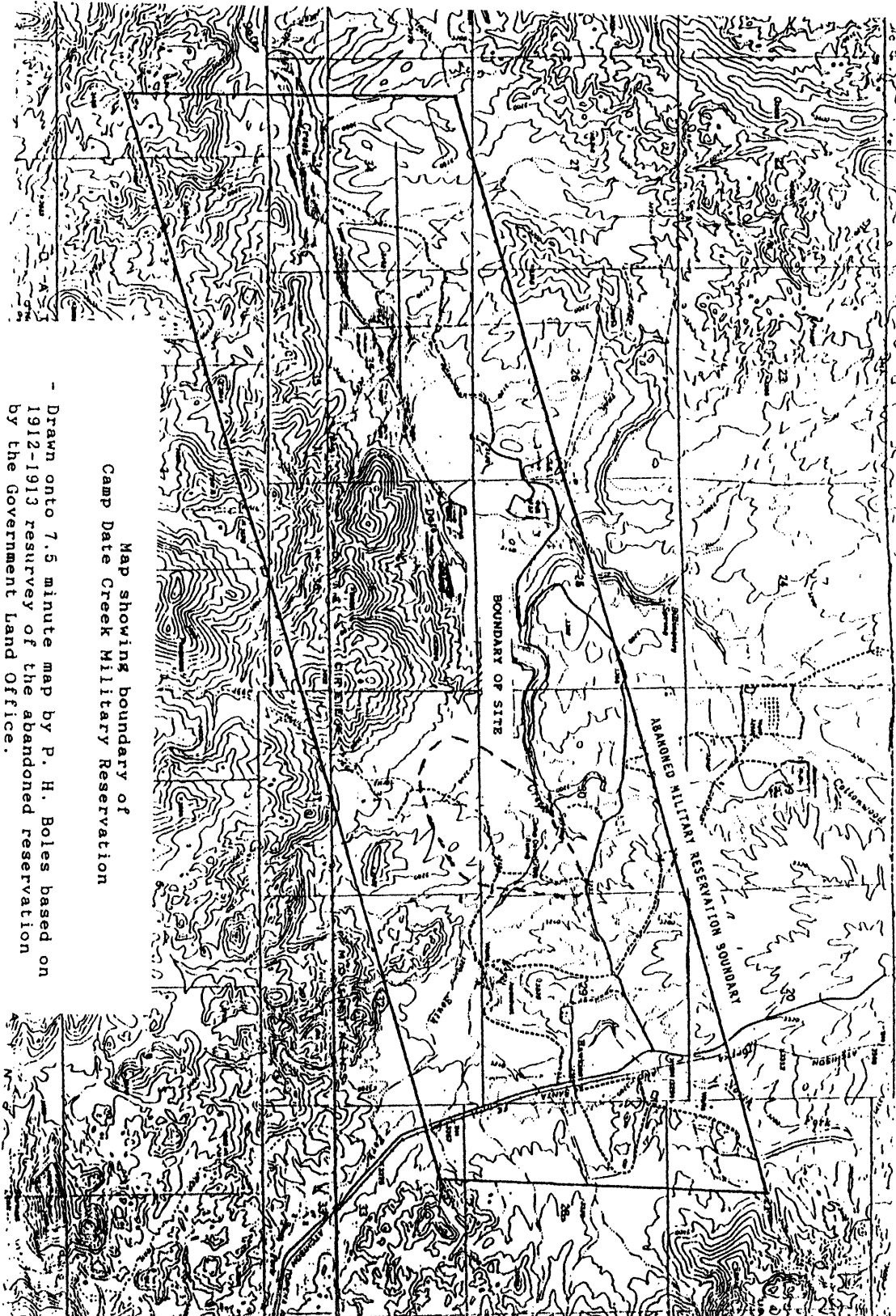
CAMP DATE CREEK
LAND OWNERSHIP



United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. B Page 6



Map showing boundary of
Camp Date Creek Military Reservation
- Drawn onto 7.5 minute map by P. H. Boles based on
1912-1913 resurvey of the abandoned reservation
by the Government Land Office.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. C Page 1

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Letters Supporting the Historic Register Nomination
and listing from the Landowners.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. C Page 2

=====



FIFE SYMINGTON
GOVERNOR

Arizona
State Land Department

1818 WEST ADAMS
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007



M.J. HASSELL
STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

August 6, 1992

Teresa Hoffman
State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Parks
800 West Washington Street, Suite 415
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: National Register Nomination for AZ N:9:1(ASM)
Camp Date Creek, Yavapai County, Arizona

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

The historic military post known as Camp Date Creek (Camp McPherson) is situated on both private and State Trust lands, near Hawkins, in southwestern Yavapai County. As you know, the State Land Department, the private landowner and interested individuals have met to discuss land use issues and preservation of the area. These discussions are continuing at this time.

The State Land Department has prepared a draft nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. We also submitted a grant proposal to Arizona Game and Fish, to use heritage funds, to realign and close ranch roads at Camp Date Creek to enhance protection and preservation of the post and associated riparian areas.

The final National Register documentation will be completed this Fall. As the principal landowner, the State Land Department is completely supportive of the nomination of Camp Date Creek to the National Register of Historic Places. We believe this nomination will enhance the preservation and land use initiatives now underway.

Our agency Cultural Resources Manager, Brian Kenny, will contact you to arrange consultation for the grant proposal and the Register nomination. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Kenny at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Jean Hassell".

M. Jean Hassell
State Land Commissioner

MJH:mb

cc: Brian Kenny, Cultural Resources Manager
John A. Murphy, Jr., Little Horse Ranch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. C Page 3

=====

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3200 EAST CAMELBACK

PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85018

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JOHN K. SKOMP
J. ERNEST BAIRD

FORECLOSURE DEPT. (602) 224-9853
TELECOPIER (602) 224-5754

*PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

OUR FILE NUMBER:

August 3, 1992

Mr. Pat Boles
State Land Department
809C Gail Gardner Way
Prescott, Arizona 86301

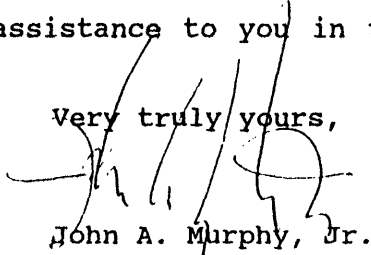
Re: Camp Date Creek

Dear Pat:

As owner of the property lying adjacent to Camp Date Creek and upon which a portion of Camp Date Creek is located, I wish to express my support and appreciation for your work in preserving and protecting Camp Date Creek and in applying to have Camp Date Creek listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

If I can be of assistance to you in this endeavor, I would be happy to do so.

Very truly yours,



John A. Murphy, Jr.

JAM/sjm
cc: Mr. Brian Kenny

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. D Page 1

=====

Letter from Barry Goldwater. Joseph Goldwater was brought into Camp Date Creek in June, 1872 following the Indian attack. The Post's surgeon removed two Yavapai Indian bullets from Mr. Goldwater's back and saved his life.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. D Page 2

=====

Barry Goldwater

P. O. BOX 1601
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85252

April 2, 1992

Mr. Patrick H. Boles
Arizona State Land Department
809-C Gail Gardner Way
Prescott, AZ 86301

Dear Pat:

Thank you so much for that copy of the "Date Creek Effort".
It is absolutely superb, and I really enjoyed reading it.
I certainly didn't see any need for even one change, but
your the author.

This is a wonderful addition to the history of Arizona, and
I commend you heartily for it.

Sincerely,


Barry Goldwater

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

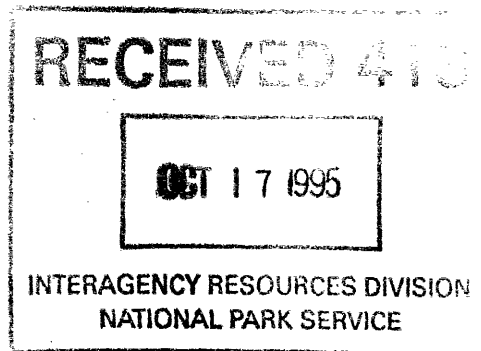
Section 6.7

Page 1

Camp Date Creek
name of property

Yavapai County, Arizona
county and State

n/a
name of multiple property listing



=====
This nomination has been revised, sometimes reluctantly by the preparer, over several years, and is being forwarded to the Keeper in this state rather than delay its consideration for National Register designation by further text refinement. For example, this version still contains addenda that should have been summarized; there are references in the text to 23 *buildings*, 2 *sites*, and 10 *structures*--these should be referred to as *features* of one archaeological site. The numbering of continuation pages is not consistent. The historic and current function or use does not strictly use categories from NPS instructions, however, those uses are clear from the categories listed. They, perhaps, should be given as follows:

Section 6. Historic Functions

- Defense Military Facility, Food Storage (Indian Agency)
- Domestic Camp (Temporary Indian Reservation)

The military patrolling of main roads in the area was more a part of the defensive aspect of the post rather than transportation related though safe movement of settlers, miners, and others was one of the reasons for having a military camp in the area.

Current Functions

- Agriculture/Subsistence Unoccupied grazing land (state and private)
- Landscape Conservation area

Section 7. Description

No roofs nor floors are extant, so wood shingles and wood floors should not be listed.

Camp Date Creek played a pivotal role in the Indian Wars in Arizona and the development of western Yavapai County by white settlers. The ruins of the military post have aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association and is being recommended at the state level of significance.