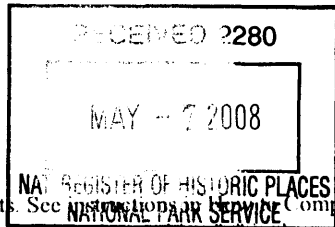


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on the back of the form. 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 Hunt's Tomb

other names/site number Hunt, Governor George W. P. Tomb

2. Location

street & number 625 N. Galvin Parkway

not for publication

city or town Phoenix

vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85008

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official James W. Gorman AZ State  
State or Federal agency and bureau ARIZONA STATE PARKS

Date 5 MAY 2008

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edgar R. Beall 6.12.08

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many as apply)

Category of Property (check as many as apply)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Private
[X] public-local
public-State
public-Federal

building(s)
district
site
[X] structure
object

Contributing Noncontributing
building(s)
site
structure
object
Total
1 0
1 0

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Pyramidal Monuments in Arizona, 1925-1943

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/grave

FUNERARY/grave

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

foundation CONCRETE

walls CERAMIC TILE

Roof

other CONCRETE

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] 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.
[X] C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1932

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Del E. Webb

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Less than one acre**UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)**

1	<u>12</u> Zone	<u>412231E</u> Easting	<u>3701783N</u> Northing	3	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing
2	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing	4	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing

 See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Jodey Elsner</u>	date	<u>April 2008</u>
organization	<u>Arizona State Historic Preservation Office</u>	telephone	<u>602-542-4009</u>
street & number	<u>1300 W. Washington St.</u>	zip code	<u>85003</u>
city or town	<u>Phoenix</u>	state	<u>AZ</u>

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name/title	<u>City of Phoenix Parks &amp; Recreation Department</u>	telephone	<u>(602) 262-6862</u>
street & number	<u>200 W. Washington St., 16<sup>th</sup> Floor</u>	zip code	<u>85003</u>
city or town	<u>Phoenix</u>	state	<u>AZ</u>

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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				County	<u>Maricopa</u>
				State	<u>Arizona</u>

**DESCRIPTION**

**Summary**

Hunt's Tomb was constructed in 1932 for George Wiley Paul Hunt, a seven-term governor of the State of Arizona. The tomb is located in Papago Park in Phoenix, Arizona, high on a hill overlooking the Salt River Valley. It is pyramidal in shape, 20 feet by 20 feet at its base and 20 feet high, constructed of concrete and faced with white ceramic tile. The structure possesses strong integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The tomb not only commemorates the memory of Governor Hunt and his family, but also serves as a conspicuous landmark for park visitors, air travelers and commuters in the area. It is one of four pyramidal monuments in Arizona exhibiting an Egyptian influence, and the only one not constructed of native stone and concrete.

**Location and Setting**

Governor Hunt's tomb is located in what was once Papago Saguaro National Monument, set aside by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914, abolished in 1930, and transformed into a City of Phoenix park. The privately owned Phoenix Zoo, built in 1962, lies to the southwest of the tomb. To the northwest is Hole in the Rock, a popular geographical land formation and hiking destination for over a century. Most natural landmarks around the Salt River Valley are viewable from the tomb including Camelback Mountain, North Mountain, South Mountain, Tempe Butte and Piestewa Peak. The tomb is surrounded by crevassed, bulging red sandstone buttes. Saguaro cacti and creosote dot the hill on which the tomb is situated.

**Description of the Property**

Hunt's Tomb is a pyramidal funerary monument, constructed in classical pyramidal proportions, 20 feet by 20 feet at the base, and 20 feet in height. The tomb is faced with 4" x 4" white ceramic tile with white bull nosed tiles at the corners. The promontory of the tomb is missing, mostly likely due to vandalism. On the east face of the pyramid, a large metal door bolted to a heavy frame secures the entrance to the interior of the tomb. On the door is a plaque describing the accomplishments of Governor Hunt and lists the other occupants of the tomb. The tomb rests on a concrete slab that extends 11" around the perimeter of its base.

A wall of varying height constructed of native stone and concrete circa 1934 surrounds the tomb. The wall is 1' 9" tall at its shortest on the entirety of the east side, and 4' 9" at its tallest on the northwest corner; as the topography of the site is uneven, the varied heights of the wall create an overall "level" effect. Imbedded in the top of the wall is an iron fence roughly 7 feet tall, which completely surrounds the tomb. This was originally installed to combat a graffiti problem that began as soon as the tomb was constructed. The height of the fence

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has been raised, its top half was installed sometime in the late 1960s by Phoenix Parks and Recreation maintenance.

Inside the protective fence lies a landscaped area of reddish pink, small-stoned gravel, large granite specimens, and various species of desert vegetation including hedgehog cactus, cholla, prickly pear, immature saguaro, and barrel cactus.

The site upon which Hunt's Tomb is located overlooks the adjacent Phoenix Zoo (built in 1960) and its giraffe exhibit, the ponds and buttes of Papago Park, and offers views of downtown Tempe and downtown Phoenix.

**Integrity**

Hunt's Tomb possesses strong integrity in the areas of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. The integrity of Del Webb's **design** is evident in the classical proportions of the pyramid's shape. The structure possesses a high integrity of **location, setting and feeling**, as the immediate desert plantings and landscaping have been well maintained throughout the years of heavy visitation. The site upon which the tomb is located is surrounded by the City of Phoenix's Papago Park, a large urban Sonoran desert preserve. Visitors to the tomb can still enjoy the same desert views that sponsored Governor Hunt's selection of his future burial site.

The property's strong **association** as a funerary monument is most evident in the overall pyramidal design of the structure. As is explained further in the associated MPDF, "Pyramidal Monuments in Arizona, 1925-1943," Egyptian forms such as obelisks and pyramids were popular funerary monuments in the United States. The tomb's association with Governor George W.P. Hunt is maintained through the retention of the original bronze plaque on the door to the burial vault, as well as the installation of additional commemorative signage by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Governor W.P. Hunt Chapter in 2004. This signage does not impact the integrity of the property.

The integrity of **materials and workmanship** of the property has been somewhat affected through inappropriate, repair, vandalism and natural weathering. An inspection of the east side of the tomb reveals that the original, white ceramic, 4-inch by 4-inch tiles were sheathed in an identical material, possibly in the late 1960s (at the same time as the addition of fence height). This sheathing does not impact the character-defining features of the property that make it eligible for listing. As can be seen in the photographs below, the sheathing is beginning to delaminate from the original ceramic tile, and is in need of repair.

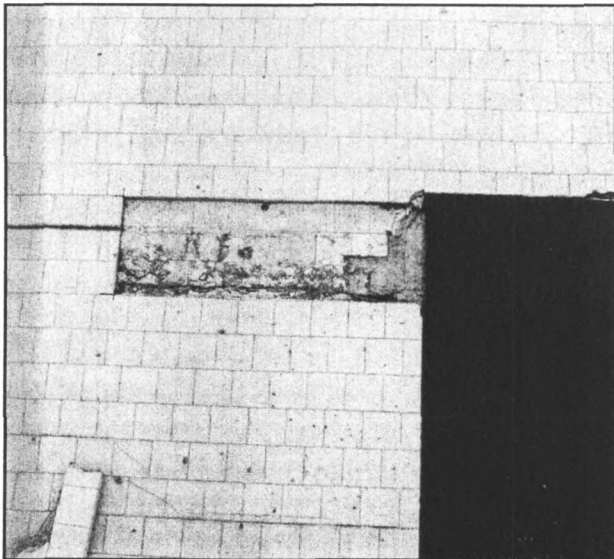
Since the tomb's construction, the property has suffered regular vandalism due to its conspicuousness and easy accessibility. This vandalism has taken the form of "pockmarking" in the ceramic tile, which may have been caused from some sort of ballistic being fired (i.e. "target practice"). Natural causes such as heat spalling or

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State Arizona

hail may have also caused some of this pockmarking. However, this pockmarking is not visible from a distance and does not impact the character-defining features of the property or its appearance as a prominent landmark for visitors to Papago Park and the Phoenix Zoo.



*View of original tile beneath newer tile.  
Reason for original tile's exposure is unknown.  
Location is to the left of the door on the east  
side of the tomb. Sept., 2007*



*View to the south/southwest of exposed, original  
tile work adjacent to tomb's door. Pitting is  
apparent in newer tile surface at right. Sept., 2007*

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

Hunt's tomb is significant under Criterion C as an example of a pyramidal monument as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Pyramidal Monuments in Arizona, 1925-1943." The period of significance for the property is taken as a single date, 1932, reflecting the year of its construction. Since 1932, Hunt's Tomb has been a landmark in Papago Park and along the major travel corridors that surround the park. Gov. Hunt's Tomb is significant at the state level.

As Hunt's Tomb is nominated under Criterion C for its association with the context of pyramidal monuments in Arizona, its primary significance lies in its design, rather than in its function as a grave. As such, it meets the requirements set forth in Criteria Consideration C.

**Historic Context**

**George W.P. Hunt (1859-1934)**

George W.P. Hunt was born in 1859 in Huntsville, Missouri. With little education, Hunt left the Midwest as a teenager and traveled to the small mining community of Globe, in Arizona Territory in 1881. There, he served as a waiter, a mucker in the Old Dominion Mine, and as a store clerk. The store clerk position eventually led to Hunt's ascendancy to president of the mercantile company.

Hunt's political career began in 1890 with his first run for public office; it was unsuccessful. In 1892, however, he was elected to the Territorial Legislature. Hunt's political tenacity would eventually lead to president of the Arizona Constitutional Convention of 1910, and in October of the following year, election to the governorship of the State of Arizona. Firmly ensconced in Arizona politics, Hunt became a champion of progressive reform, organized labor and Arizona's Colorado River water rights. His enthusiasm for the state led to seven terms as governor: he was the first, second, third, sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth governor of Arizona. During an unusual break in his state service in 1918, Hunt became the Minister to Siam.



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*Governor George W.P. Hunt in 1915 and his wife Helen Duett Hunt in 1895.  
Both photos courtesy the Phoenix Public Library.*

As early as 1929, Hunt had his sights on a high-profile location for his eventual burial. In a letter from that year to an unknown recipient, Hunt declared, "It is my wish and desire to be burried [sic] on some Butte or Mountain Overlooking the Salt River Valley" (capitalizations are Hunt's). The former governor lobbied his Washington, D.C. connections for a burial plot within the Papago Saguaro National Monument, which was then sited beyond Phoenix's eastern boundary.

### **Papago Saguaro National Monument becomes Papago Park**

In January of 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed Proclamation No. 1262 creating Papago Saguaro National Monument. Lack of funding for repairs caused by vandals and improper management conspired to the monument's federal abolishment- the first ever- in 1930. The 2,050-acre park was divided between the City of Tempe, the Arizona National Guard and the State of Arizona for recreation purposes. The City of Phoenix purchased 1,200 acres in 1959 and the park remains that size today.

The change in the Park's designation and ownership did not affect Hunt's entreaties, as his request was set in motion prior to the monument's abolishment. U.S. Senate Bill 2426 set aside a small plot for Hunt in what had become a portion of the area's National Guard target range. The fate of the land that eventually housed Hunt's

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Tomb then passed to the U.S. House of Representatives and Committee on Military Affairs chair John J. McSwain of South Carolina. McSwain assured Hunt that even though the House had before them 1,600 bills for review, due process would ensure his burial location. By the close of 1932, Hunt was in possession of a burial plot atop a butte in the former national monument.

**Del Webb**

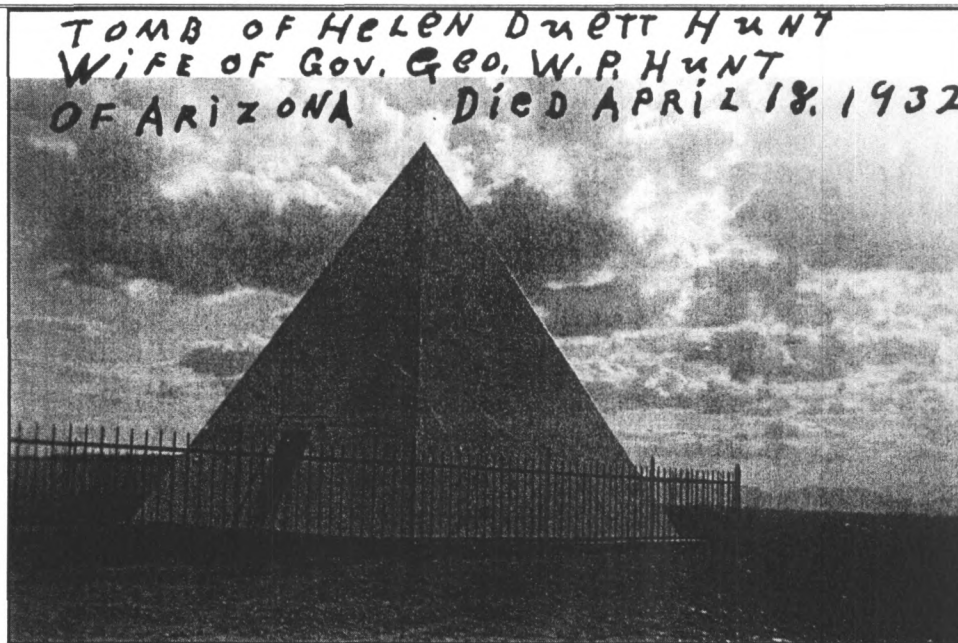
Hunt contracted builder Del E. Webb to design and construct a pyramidal tomb in 1932 at a final cost of \$1,743.49. Webb's construction career was in its infancy; he later became one of the most prolific and widely-varied builders in Arizona and the West, receiving contracts to build military installations and constructing vast neighborhoods including the nationally-famous Sun City retirement community northwest of Phoenix.

Del Webb moved to Phoenix with his wife Hazel in 1928 to convalesce after contracting typhoid fever the year before. As a carpenter, Webb met merchant A.J. Bayless, who found himself without a builder part way through the construction of one of his grocery stores. Bayless was desperate, and with little delay, hired Webb to complete the work. Bayless was exceedingly satisfied at the building's completion, and offered another store construction job to Webb. Various other projects soon crossed Webb's path such as small office buildings, a home for unwed mothers, and building renovations. It was during this period that Webb likely met Governor Hunt and was offered the tomb construction contract.

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*Photograph facing southwest of Governor Hunt's tomb prior to Hunt's death and interment. Only one plaque is visible on the door and the fenced area extends to the east. Photo incorrectly indicates Mrs. Hunt's death year as 1932 rather than 1931. Photo courtesy Arizona State Library and Archives (97-6971.jpg).*

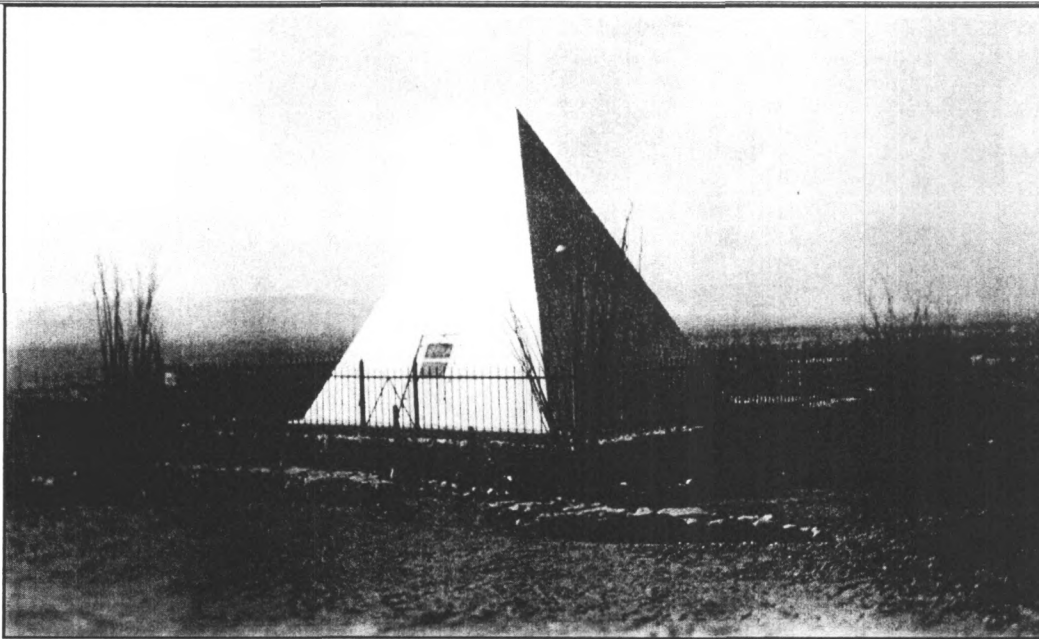
Webb constructed the tomb on a concrete slab with concrete walls sheathed in brilliant white ceramic tile. It was larger than the other pyramidal monuments in the state with a base measuring 20' X 20'. Almost immediately following its construction, it was apparent a protective fence would need to be erected around the tomb. Hunt again contracted Webb to construct an ornamental iron fence four feet high around the perimeter and including a gate four feet wide at a cost of \$210. A letter to Gov. Hunt from Dr. George W. Stephens dated March 17, 1933 revealed, "Some days ago... I visited the splendid mausoleum erected in memory of Mrs. Hunt – vandals, or perhaps thoughtless boys, done put pencil marks on the beautiful white tiles... I hope you will soon have an inclosure [sic] put around this beautiful and fitting sanctuary."

Helen Duett Ellison Hunt passed away on April 18, 1931 of acute appendicitis. As construction of the tomb was not completed until 1932, the temporary disposition of Mrs. Hunt's remains prior to the tomb's completion are unknown. Prior to Gov. Hunt's death, a native stone retaining wall was built around the tomb, and the wrought iron fence inserted into the wall.

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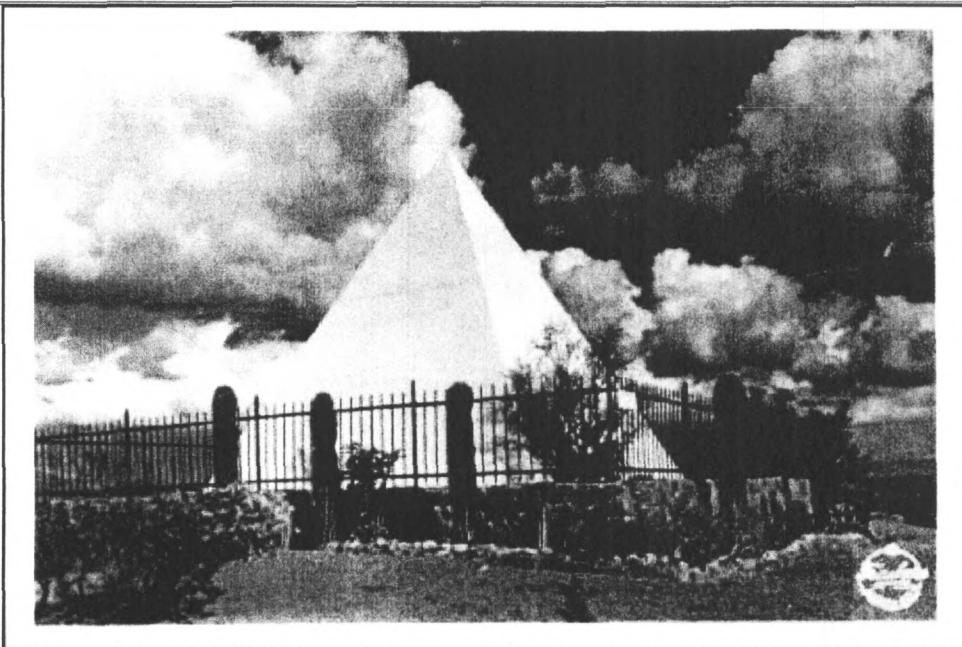
*Southwesterly view of Governor Hunt's Tomb c. 1934 after Hunt's death. A second plaque is visible on the east-facing door. The fenced area has been reduced, a desert rock retaining wall constructed, and cactus planted outside the fenced area. Photo courtesy Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records (98-2715.jpg).*

Governor Hunt died on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1934 and was interred alongside his wife. Mrs. Hunt's parents, Jesse and Susan Ellison were placed inside the tomb at an unknown date (Jesse passed in 1934, Susan in 1929.) Also to follow were Mrs. Hunt's sister Lena in 1953, and the ashes of the Governor's only daughter and her husband, William and Virginia Hunt Frund. Seven individuals rest inside Hunt's Tomb.

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*Governor Hunt's Tomb c. 1940 with the original four feet high iron fence. Photo courtesy the Frasher Foto Postcard Collection, Pomona Public Library, California.*

**Papago Park and Tomb Stewardship**

During World War II, there was no assigned custodian of the neglected park and tomb. In 1949, increasingly alarmed by the lack of maintenance at the tomb, descendants of Governor Hunt lobbied the State Department of Library and Archives to take over management of the park and tomb. The family's suggestion was denied. In the following decade, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters proposed to the state legislature that the American Federation of Labor (AFL) become the keepers of Papago Park. Vandalism of the tomb and the entire park had become increasingly problematic, even under the state's control. The legislature did not approve the suggestion and continued to operate Papago Park. The concern over the maintenance of the park and tomb was constant; in 1958, the state sold a majority of the park to the City of Phoenix. In the late 1960s, the park began to change through positive improvements. A portion of the \$120,000 allocated for park repairs and upgrades was allotted to Governor Hunt's Tomb. The butte on which the tomb was located was transformed into a scenic overlook with the addition of a stepped path to the top, a terraced area supported by

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retaining walls, and some benches. This maintenance may also have included the re-sheathing of the pyramid in new white ceramic tile and the extension of the fence from four feet tall to seven feet tall with similar wrought iron.

The original plaque had been stolen in 1967, so a new one was installed. The bronze plaque on the iron door reads, "Entombment of George W.P. Hunt/Born 1959/Died 1934/Colorful Arizona pioneer and statesman member of various territorial legislatures. President, Arizona Constitutional Convention 1910. Elected Arizona's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> governor to set a national record. Also entombed here are his wife, Duette [sic], her parents, the J.W. Ellisons, and her sister Lena Ellison. Gift of the Arizona school children and friends 1968."

**Eligibility Criteria**

Hunt's Tomb is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of an Egyptian Revival monument in Arizona as documented in the MPDF "Pyramidal Monuments in Arizona, 1925-1943." The period of significance for the property is 1932, the single year reflecting its date of construction. Although sheathed with an additional layer of white ceramic tile, its primary character-defining feature (design) and overall appearance have been preserved. As the Tomb is nominated under Criterion C for its design, it is believed to meet the requirements outlined in Criteria Consideration C.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of Hunt's Tomb encompass a square with dimensions of 33 feet on all sides. The center of the square is situated on the center of the pyramidal monument, with a single UTM Coordinate of:  
Zone 12/ 412231E/ 3701783N

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the pyramidal tomb, surrounding protective fence and wall constructed of native rock, in which the base of the fence is mounted. It does not include the surrounding scenic overlook improvements (benches, sidewalks) constructed in the late 1960s.