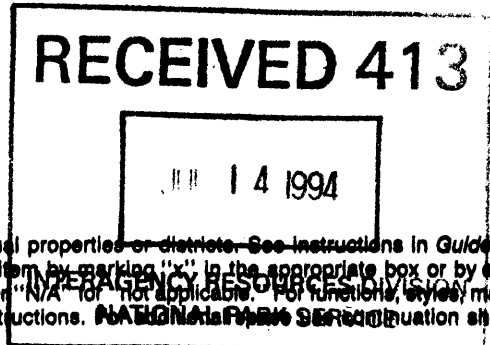


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Magma Hotel  
other names/site number MacPherson's Hotel/ Historical Resource Survey #322

2. Location

street & number 100/130 Main Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Superior N/A  vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Pinal code 021 zip code 85273

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
JAMES W. DANIEL AZSHPO 6/30/94  
Signature of certifying official Date  
ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 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:)  
G. R. Ferguson 8/19/94  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ hotel

COMMERCE/ restaurant

SOCIAL / civic

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

WORK IN PROGRESS

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mission Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete/adobe/brick

roof roll roofing over wood framing

other Stucco covers concrete and  
adobe sections

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Magma Hotel is a two-story, concrete, adobe, and brick building in the historic commercial district of Superior, Arizona. It occupies Lots 9-13, Block 12, of the original 1912 townsite plat, at the corner of Main Street & Magma Avenue. Stucco sheathing covers the 1912 concrete structure and 1916 adobe addition; the 1923 addition retains its original faced brick finish. Foundations of the 1912 and 1923 structures are concrete; the adobe addition rests on a series of wood blocks and jacks set on bare earth. Roofs of composition roll roofing over wood framing are flat, sloping to the north for drainage; parapets are segmented by areas of Spanish tiles. The overall property is in fair condition, with one or more adobe walls in danger of collapse and a considerable amount of interior water damage the principal structural problems. It retains its historic integrity to 1923, with exterior alterations consisting mainly of the removal of a second story porch from the concrete structure and changes to window and door openings.

The original 1912 two-story reinforced concrete building and adjoining 1916 two-story addition form a single rectangular whole. In 1916 or soon thereafter, both structures were plastered with stucco and the joint roof line changed to a segmented, curvilinear parapet with small Spanish tile eaves between parapet segments to give the appearance of one symmetrical structure.

The second story of the frontal facade contains six rectangular 1/1 and 2/2 windows across--three each in the concrete and adobe sections. The center window in the concrete section was originally a door leading into an overhanging enclosed porch with a shed roof. This interesting "sleeping" porch (the nearby Coleman Hotel had one also) was added to the building between 1913 and 1916 to accommodate workmen during the early mining boom. When the porch was removed (date unknown), the doorway was changed to a window.

The first story of the concrete structure's frontal facade contains the original main entrance flanked by two large 2/2 store front windows, one of which is boarded up. The second story porch formed a covered entry way in the early years; today, a makeshift and decre wooden awning serves the same purpose. The first story of the adobe structure's frontal facade contains two door ways and two windows. The west window

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce  
Community Planning & Development  
Architecture

Period of Significance

1912-1923

Significant Dates

1912  
1916  
1923

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person N/A

Architect/Builder

Davey, Jack (1923 addition)

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

The Magma Hotel, constructed in 1912 with additions in 1916 and 1923, is significant within Criterion A for its association with early community planning and development as well as early commercial activities in Superior Arizona. Owner-builder John M. MacPherson erected the original concrete structure at the northwest corner of Main Street & Magma Avenue, setting a trend for permanent structures in the new townsite and encouraging development at what was to become the town's commercial hub. The 1923 brick addition is significant within Criterion C as a superb example of Superior's architectural trends in the early 1920s and for its association with locally prominent architect-builder Jack Davey. Recognized as one of the finest examples of Davey's work at the time of its construction, it retains this distinction and nearly every aspect of its integrity to this day.

Community Planning & Development

The town of Superior originates from Charles Mason's 1874 location of the Silver Queen Mine within northern Pinal County's Pioneer Mining District. Operations at the Silver Queen, nearby Silver King, and other district mines continued into the mid-1890s when a combination of transportation difficulties, lower grade ore, and a precipitous drop in silver prices all but ended local production. During the boom, the ramshackle community of Hastings developed by 1882 south of the mines and just north of Queen Creek. Between 1900 and 1902, the Lake Superior and Arizona Mining Company's development of rich copper deposits gave new life to the languishing town. By the latter year, local miner George Lobb, Sr. superimposed an informal townsite over the scattered development and became the first postmaster of the "new" town of Superior.

Although a platted town on paper, Superior in the years 1902-1911 remained a collection of shacks, tents, and small frame homes and stores "scattered haphazardly on the plain north of Queen Creek," with a population of perhaps one hundred. George Lobb named many of the town's streets after area pioneers and opened a store as early as 1903 fronting

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Anderson, Michael F. Field observations and photographs, March and April, 1994. Photographs at the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Phoenix, Arizona.

Arizona: The New State Magazine, August 1913 and April 1922 editions. Copies in Arizona Collection, Hayden Library, Arizona State University (ASU) Tempe, AZ.

Arizona State Business Directory. Denver: Gazetteer Publishing Company, 1911-1912, 1914-1915, 1918, 1919. Copies of these directories are in the Arizona State Library, Phoenix, AZ.

Bayle, Bernard Michael, ed. Materials in the Architecture of Arizona, 1870-1920. Tempe: College of Architecture, ASU, 1976.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approximately 1/3 of an acre

**UTM References**

A 12 491080 3683680  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

Superior Quadrangle, Arizona--Pinal County 7.5 Minute Series

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 of Block 12, Superior Townsite plat of 1912. The five lots, each 25' x 125', form the 125' x 125' northwest corner of Main Street & Magma Avenue, Superior, Arizona.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The original 1912 concrete hotel is situated on the east 60' of lots 10, 11, 12, 13, but since 1916, lots 9-16 have passed in ownership as a group. The hotel since the 1923 addition has occupied portions of all five lots.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michael F. Anderson date April 15, 1994  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ telephone (602) 423-1602  
 street & number HCR 1, Box 1216 state Arizona zip code 85544  
 city or town Strawberry

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is one large pane and the east window is 1/1. No clear photographs have been found of the original adobe front, but varied first floor uses over the years suggest that the window openings are original and the doorways later additions. Flaking stucco reveals moderate creeping damp deterioration of adobe bricks in the southwest corner at sidewalk level.

In combination, the frontal facade is a hodgepodge of afterthought: asymmetrical and aesthetically displeasing, conforming to Bernard Michael Bayle's description of Arizona frontier buildings as "typical of their time and the social and economic circumstances which evoked them." The facade retains its monolithic massing, but the modification and addition of doorways and the uneven plane of second story windows reflects exigent modifications with little regard for appearance. Particularly lamentable is the loss of the original bare concrete structure which in 1912-1916 emerged from the surrounding sea of desert to mimic the optimism of an early mining populace.

The broad eastern facade (concrete structure) is similarly disturbing. Six rectangular 2/2 windows with wood frames and concrete sills line the second story, serving the six sleeping rooms inside. These are symmetrically spaced and appear unmodified since construction. The first story, however, reflects seventy years of varied commercial uses with windows and doors added then plastered over. Four small irregularly-spaced windows originally admitted light to the first floor tonsorial parlor and cafe. Three of these are today plastered over with patched pink stucco while the fourth is buried beneath a wall-wide stucco application. While one doorway originally entered along this wall near the north end of the building, three more were added then plastered over or boarded up over the years. These entry changes reflect the needs of businesses which leased space on the first floor at least into the 1970s. The original roof line was formed by a parapet, stepping down in ninety degree angles to the rear of the building. This was modified soon after 1916 with the segmented curvilinear parapet noted earlier. Flaking stucco reveals minor concrete spalling in the lower southeast section of the wall.

The original two-story concrete building included an attached one-story kitchen with shed roof at the rear (north side), which was removed after the cafe gave way to office spaces. A doorway led from the main building into the kitchen,

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but it is now buried beneath a stucco application. Today, a wooden staircase ascends to a second story landing fronting a doorway which is flanked by windows. This may have been the original entrance to the second floor hallway separating east and west hotel rooms, since there is no indication of an interior staircase and other two-story hotels in early Superior had similar entrances. This window-door arrangement is identical to the original second story of the frontal facade, but all three openings are boarded over. Detached storage room, Delco power plant, and other small outbuildings once stood to the rear of the concrete building and adobe addition.

The west side brick addition was constructed in 1923 by locally-prominent architect/builder Jack Davey. The two-story rectangular hotel section lies nearly thirty feet west of the adobe addition and is connected to the adobe by a matching high-ceilinged one-story lobby. The entire addition is laid up in running bond masonry of faced bricks which highlights extensive use of headers and vertically-laid bricks for ornamentation. The roof line is formed by a parapet with a border of vertical stretcher bricks, stepping down to the rear in ninety degree angles. The foundation is concrete.

Near the top of the frontal facade the words "MACPHERSON'S HOTEL MAGMA" are spelled out in dark, glazed-brick headers laid in relief from the wall. The words are bordered by a rectangle of horizontal and vertical stretchers. Beneath the border are three second story windows: a small, square, 4/1 central window flanked by larger, rectangular, 5/2/1 windows. Beneath these are three first floor windows: a central 4/1/4/1 raised above the plane of the flanking windows which are 5/2/2. As is true of all windows in the brick addition, the six on the frontal facade are capped by segmental arches of header bricks. All second story arches have two courses of header bricks; all on the first floor have three courses. Additionally, all windows have a single course, header brick sill and wooden frames.

The west wall contains ten second story windows which are symmetrically spaced in a pattern of two large windows to one small window running from front to rear. The seven larger windows are 5/2/2; the three smaller windows are 4/1. Ten first story windows are placed directly below their second-story counterparts and are exactly the same other than a third course in the segmental arches. An additional ornamental touch is the

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use of colored brick to spell the words "MAGMA HOTEL" in the upper southwestern corner of the wall.

The east wall which runs through the courtyard and across the top of the lobby connector has a pattern of second-story windows similar to the west wall. The first story within the courtyard has windows of differing sizes and two doorways with two-step concrete steps and no capping arches. The doorways and first-story window placements may be modifications to accommodate a later beauty parlor and conversion of first floor rooms into apartments, but the brickwork is so consistent it is difficult to tell if this is the case.

With the brick addition, hotel customers passed from Main Street through a landscaped courtyard to enter the hotel. The connecting segment from the brick addition to the adobe addition is fronted by a decorative Roman arch facade to a narrow concrete-floored porch with a shed roof sheathed in copper. The entry is through a central wood-framed vestibule, positioned on the porch, into a high-ceilinged lobby. A central monumental staircase rises to a second-story open hallway which leads to rooms in the west (brick) and east (adobe/concrete) wings. Entry ways on east and west lobby walls access first-floor rooms.

The interior lobby elements of entry ways, monumental staircase, and movement of overnight guests from lobby to rooms retain their integrity to 1923. It is also probable, given window placements and known usage, that the interior floor plan of the entire brick addition and second stories of the adobe and concrete structures are close if not identical to the original plans. These sections of the interior have always been used as hotel bedrooms for the traveling public, boarding rooms for unmarried Superior residents, or family apartments. The condition of these rooms, walls, and ceilings today range from fair to poor, most suffering from water damage which has recently been arrested by owner repairs to the roof.

First floor interiors of the 1912 concrete building and 1916 adobe addition in no way resemble their original configuration. During the years 1912-1923 alone, this space was modified from its use as bedrooms (first floor adobe), hotel office, and cafe to business offices, a pharmacy, a tonsorial parlor (barber shop), and newspaper office. Since 1923, these changes have

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continued as lessees modified space to fit their needs. Today, these areas are basically gutted.

As noted earlier, the exterior of the concrete building exhibits little integrity other than massing in relation to its original construction. The concrete and adobe structures, together since 1916, can be viewed more favorably as roof line, foundations, second floor windows, and the overall stucco finish date to that year. Still, with the removal of the second floor porch, extensive changes to first floor windows and entry ways, and the 1923 addition, it would be difficult to argue for structural integrity.

It is easier to consider historical integrity of the Magma Hotel from the year 1923. The brick addition of that year has changed not at all since construction, and alterations to the earlier structures have been restricted to first floor openings and removal of the porch. Despite the use of three different primary building materials in three distinct structures, an incongruous exterior appearance of stucco adjoining faced brick, and other shortcomings, a benevolent eye will recognize the owner's persistence to build in the Mission Revival Style. Rectangular plans, monolithic massing, flat roofs with curvilinear parapets, plastered walls, Roman Arch lobby facade, and sparse sculptural ornamentation are features of this style found throughout the property.



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what would become east Main Street, but early accounts and photos indicate that there was little rhyme or reason to development and nothing that we would call today streets or roads. By 1911, C.M. Johnson had opened a boarding house, John McGrew operated a meat market, and long time prominent resident E.F. Kellner, Jr. managed the Superior Commercial & Trust general merchandise store as well as the Superior Improvement Company. There was an air of impermanence about the town, however, until William Thompson and George Gunn incorporated the Magma Copper Company in 1910 with \$1.2 Million in capital and firm plans to develop and expand the old Silver Queen claims. Magma Copper gave the local populace the confidence to build a permanent community.

In July and August, 1912, E.T. Stewart drafted a formal townsite plat which overlaid and expanded upon the existing town, fifty residents signed a petition for a townsite patent, and a number of people from Globe, Arizona, joined in the ensuing rush for lot assignments. One of these early claimants from Globe was John M. MacPherson, a 47-year-old Canadian who had come to Arizona in 1902, made his way to the mining region of central Arizona by 1912, and now planned to make his fortune in the promising boom town of Superior. By October, 1912, MacPherson obtained Lots 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Block 12 and began construction of a "two-story cement building." The 30' x 60' structure was completed in late December of that year and on December 21 MacPherson convinced a local widow, Anna G. Lawrence, to join in his future by deeding her half interest in the property. Soon after the turn of the year, the Magma Hotel opened for business. The property remained in MacPherson hands until Anna's death on January 15, 1962.

The MacPhersons' Magma Hotel represents one of the earliest, all reinforced concrete commercial buildings in the State of Arizona. The 1908 Valley Bank constructed on Adams between Center and First streets and the 1910 five-story second Adams Hotel--both built in downtown Phoenix--predated the Magma, but this hotel fits comfortably with the earliest of Arizona's all concrete structures. MacPherson apparently got the idea from residents of nearby Ray, Arizona, who in August, 1912, responded to a devastating town fire by rebuilding almost entirely in concrete. Ray's residents went so far as to develop a "form-less" method of reinforced concrete construction. Within a few months and for the next 5-10 years, concrete became the dominant

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building material in the neighboring Pinal County towns of Ray, Florence, and Superior.

Research indicates that the Magma Hotel was the first all reinforced concrete commercial building in Superior. As noted above, Superior's buildings until the Magma Copper Company began operations were at best serviceable wood-frame structures. Several of the businesses operating in Superior prior to 1913 are known to have started in wood frame buildings, including Lobb's store and Kellner's Superior Commercial and Trust Company. An historical Resource Survey prepared for the Town of Superior in 1988, although it incorrectly dates the Magma Hotel to 1910, identifies only one concrete commercial structure built before 1913--the Coleman Hotel (1909). A search of newspaper and other records failed to confirm but also failed to disprove construction of an all concrete Coleman Hotel in 1909.

In any event, Superior businessmen immediately bought in to the new building material as the town boomed between 1913 and 1917. The Superior Commercial & Trust Company completed a 30' x 105' concrete building and vault reinforced by steel I-beams at the corner of Main & Magma in April, 1913, and broke ground for a second concrete building (a bank) on the opposite corner in October, 1915. With the completion of the Magma Arizona Railroad in 1915 and resultant increase in copper production, Superior's building boom continued unabated through 1917. By that year at least two dozen businesses, most of which were housed in new concrete commercial blocks, radiated from the corner of Main & Magma with the Magma Hotel at dead center.

Commerce

Aside from furthering the precedents of concrete construction and development centering at Magma Avenue & Main Street, the Magma Hotel and its associated business activities are significant to Superior's early commercial activities. Within this context the property's owners, John and Anna MacPherson, and early hotel manager, Frank Ennis, sometimes set the trends but more often reflected the incessant activity of a handful of prominent business persons in the burgeoning mining town. The MacPhersons' assumed a respectable position among the notables: George Lobb, Sr., who remained prominent through the early years; E.F. Kellner, Jr. who appears to have had his hand

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in nearly every business enterprise; R.T. Jones, successively store owner, postmaster, and later governor of Arizona; Mary Coleman, owner of the significant Coleman Hotel about which many early social activities centered; and O.C. Hing, who arrived from China via Phoenix in 1918 and remained a leading Superior businessman until his death in 1978.

Commerce at Superior originated with the early mining companies which undertook operations and attracted regional miners to the town as employees. Between 1902 and 1912, these companies included the Lake Superior & Arizona Mining & Smelting Company; the Queen Copper Mining Company, managed by E.F. Kellner, Jr.; and most important to the history of Superior, the Magma Copper Company with its superintendent James Neary. A number of support businesses sprang up early, including McGrew's meat market and Johnson's boarding house. The Superior Improvement Company was incorporated in 1907 with E.F. Kellner, Jr. as manager to address elementary community services. By 1912, Superior's business activities supported a town populace of approximately 200, nearly all of whom were engaged in mining.

With the platting of a formal townsite in mid-1912, several citizens began to build beyond single-story, single-purpose stores to what were termed "business blocks": structures still of wood and adobe, but increasingly of concrete, which were intended to serve multiple commercial purposes. A few of these appeared in the years 1912-1916, including the Superior Commercial & Trust Company, the Coleman Block, George Halverson's hotel block, and the Magma hotel block. This type of commercial construction accelerated in 1917 and again in 1923 as economic catalysts like the Magma Arizona R.R. (1915), transcontinental Highway 60-70 (1921), and the Magma Copper Company Smelter (1922-24) encouraged both local and remote capitalists to invest. Many early block owners added on to their original buildings as the economy continued to boom.

The Magma Hotel is best understood in terms of this accelerated economic development at Superior. John MacPherson was among the first of only a few to invest heavily in the nascent 40-acre townsite because secure deeds could not be had until President Woodrow Wilson approved the townsite on November 20, 1915. In February, 1916, Judge Otis J. Baughn of the Pinal County Superior Court, acting as trustee for the Superior townsite, began accepting applications for title. Not until June

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of that year did MacPherson acquire a deed to Lots 9-13, Block 12, by paying the nominal fee of \$10 per lot. Others who had gambled on the townsite approval, and still more who had awaited patent approval to join the commercial rush, flocked to the county courthouse at Florence about this time to buy and record their deeds.

According to Frank Ennis, manager of the Magma Hotel from its opening in January, 1913, until March, 1916, the original two-story concrete building was intended to operate as a hotel on the second floor and a store on the first floor. A May 1, 1913 photograph of the structure with a concrete or adobe one-story kitchen attached to the rear suggests, however, that most of the first floor served initially as a restaurant. The doorway in the east wall near its north end likely gave direct access to the restaurant, while the main entry in front opened to the hotel office. Four early restaurant operators have been identified as "Bozie," described as an "old Chinese"; George Halverson & wife, who sold out in 1917 to build a new business block; O.C. Hing, another Chinese immigrant who started his long Superior business career in charge of the hotel's Magma Cafe; and Mr. & Mrs. D.H. Stumbo, "experienced caterers" from Tombstone who remodeled and operated the cafe in 1923. John and Anna MacPherson appear to have been silent owners between 1913-1916--John employed as manager of the dry goods department at the Superior Commercial & Trust store--until they bought out whatever interests Ennis possessed in March, 1916, and took direct charge of operations.

Others operated restaurants and boarding houses in Superior prior to the Magma business block, but the Magma appears to be the first "first class" combination hotel/restaurant--a fact which it advertised through its entire business life. By 1915, however, the Coleman block with its hotel, Palace Cafe, pool hall, barber shop, and numerous social activities exerted considerable competitive pressure. Frank Ennis responded with what may have been the town's first commercial electric lighting system, powered by a Delco generator, which lit up the corner of Main & Magma. In the same year the automobile stage line of a Mr. McKinnon began to offer twice weekly trips to Phoenix from the Magma, and M.A. Moody began a "flivver service" between the hotel and the mines north of town. A shuttle to the mines reflects the number of unmarried miners who responded to the town's chronic housing shortage by claiming space in the hotel's

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second-story sleeping porch. Both the Magma and the Coleman offered this type of accommodation through the 1910s.

By 1916, business justified expansion and Frank Ennis undertook construction of a two-story, 30' x 88' adobe addition adjoining the concrete building. The (Florence) Arizona Blade-Tribune on 26 February 1916 mistakenly identified this structure as concrete when it reported its completion and Ennis' intention to operate a "first class meat market" therein. In fact, initial use appears to have been hotel rooms on both floors, with frontal portions of the first floor quickly giving way to commercial entities. The town's first newspaper, the Superior Sun, opened for business in Room 31 of the Magma block in mid-1916. Paul E. Fernald, a U.S. Mineral Surveyor, established his office/residence here in early 1917. The Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company installed Superior's first long distance service in the Magma in March, 1917, with MacPherson in charge of the toll station. In addition to these leased businesses, the hotel at this time averaged thirty registrations per day.

Superior's initial boom peaked in 1917. H.H. Heiner, editor of the Superior Sun and the town's greatest booster, noted at least one new substantial building or business block under construction every week in the first several months of the year. Most of these were of concrete, but an increasing number of builders began to choose brick as a primary material. Amid the town's bustle, which sometimes led to trashy conditions deplored by the newspaper and investigated by the county health department, the Magma maintained its reputation as a quality business block. In April, 1917, Gabriel Gioiello and Joseph Blevins, described as "expert workmen with metropolitan experience," enhanced this reputation when they opened The Style Shop in the southeast corner of the concrete building. The new tonsorial parlor sported walls, ceiling, and woodwork

in steamboat white and enameled. The new steel features, including two chairs, a wall case with beveled-glass mirrors, heavily enameled in white, as well as a cigar case, finished in the same style.... A full line of Coke's Tonics and barber's toilet articles.... vibrator and other apparatus for successful and beneficial scalp and face massaging.

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A "revolving barber sign of the stick-candy variety" on the building's exterior advertised the new establishment. Indirect evidence suggests that Frank Ennis operated a small barber shop in this same corner in earlier years and The Style Shop only improved and expanded upon the operation. Blevins and Gioiello lasted only a few months, but a barber shop continued in this corner until at least 1919.

Newspaper accounts and annual reports of the Magma Copper Company indicate that Superior experienced an economic recession between 1918 and 1923. Declining copper prices led to steadily decreasing profits of the town's principal employer. The company lost money for the first time in 1921 (\$300,000), 1922 (\$701,000), and 1923 (\$514,000) before rebounding sharply in 1924. The town emerged from its business lethargy in 1923 when copper prices rose and Magma increased its hiring to expand mining operations and to construct the Superior smelter.

Employment and additional dollars of the traveling public along the recently-completed transcontinental highway through downtown Superior ignited an unprecedented building boom in 1923. Population grew from nearly 2000 at the beginning of the year to 4000 at year's end. Local builders put up more than 175 new homes in one six-month period yet housing lagged seriously behind demand. An estimated \$4 Million was spent on new construction in 1923 alone, and in any one week at least half a dozen business blocks could be seen rising from the curbs of Main Street and Magma Avenue. Commercial lots on Main Street sold for \$100 per frontage foot. Civic improvements included the new brick Harding School on west Main Street, wiring for the town's first telephone exchange, formation of the town's first chamber of commerce (John MacPherson, charter member) and formal fire district, concrete walks, and improvements to principal commercial streets.

The Magma hotel business block kept pace with the economic revival and maintained its reputation as a first class operation. Mr. & Mrs. D.H. Stumbo of Tombstone leased and completely remodeled the Magma Cafe. The Stumbos replaced a long lunch counter with an apparent local innovation, "boxes [booths] which practically gives to patrons a private dining room." They also brought in an experienced chef, assistants, and waiters. The renovated cafe opened in late January, 1923, with short orders as well as regular meals and offered to feed hotel boarders for \$35 per month. MacPherson also leased a suite of frontal offices

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Magma Hotel, Pinal County, Arizona

(likely in the adobe addition) to the national brokerage firm A.E. Weideman & Company, who installed their own leased wire to the outside world. Richard Fleming, local real estate and insurance broker, also leased space in the block toward the end of the year.

In March, 1923, the MacPhersons responded to the economic boom with preparations for a new addition. Anna moved her frame home beside the hotel to south side lots to allow excavation of the west side of Lots 9-13. In June, they contracted with the locally prominent, unbelievably busy architect-builder Jack Davey to erect the brick annex for a reported \$25,000--the largest construction project in town at the time other than the smelter and new school. Davey completed the addition and the annex opened for business in the first days of December, 1923, just in time for Superior's first community Christmas tree party which was held in the new hotel lobby.

The Magma Hotel's brick addition of 1923 marks the end of the historic period under consideration. In this year, the property achieved its current configuration (outbuildings, kitchen, and sleeping porch since removed), as did Superior's commercial district. As the hotel set some trends and mirrored others in the 1912-23 period, so did it prosper and decline with the community in succeeding years. John MacPherson retired from active management a few years before his death in 1944, and Anna hired a manager to run the place long before her death in 1962. The property passed from the MacPherson estate to Frank & Erma Sarver in 1963, then to Soho Chun Wing and wife Daisy in 1967. The enterprising Wing family, all twelve of them, continued to operate the hotel, provide rooms and apartments to long term boarders, and lease space to varied businesses until sale in 1980. After that year, Superior's economic fortunes continued to slide downward as did commercial uses of the Magma hotel block. All occupation ceased by 1992.

Architecture

The Magma Hotel's 1923 brick addition is considered significant for its representation of Superior's building trends in the early 1920s, its association with the town's premier architect-builder, Jack Davey, and as one of the better extant examples of ornamental brickwork in Superior's commercial

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district. Although the Magma business block's 1912 and 1916 structures lack integrity and/or significance, the 1923 annex may be considered for its own merits. It was, in fact, considered in an aesthetic sense as a separate entity by its builder and individuals who commented on its appearance soon after construction.

With the return to economic good times in 1923, Superior residents and businessmen turned to brick as the principal building material. This trend derived from the completion in that year of the Superior brick plant ("Davey Brick Yards"). Jack Davey completed the massive yard in late 1922 and opened for production in February, 1923, with a capacity to produce 60,000 common bricks per day at \$16 per thousand. Capacity, price, proximity, and the ability to produce all form of glazed and colored bricks virtually dictated brick construction in Superior during the 1920s.

Jack Davey, not satisfied with producing building materials, aggressively pursued all forms of residential, commercial, and public construction as contractor, architect, and builder. An estimated 200 or more residences went up in Superior during 1923 alone, and it is likely Davey had a hand in many if not most of them. Beginning with the 19 January 1923 edition of the Superior Sun, he advertised floor and elevation plans for a four-room and bath brick bungalow at \$1800 complete, and offered an assortment of other residential plans. Aside from homes constructed for the general public, Davey contracted with the Magma Copper Company in this year for construction of approximately twenty employee homes, and with the local school district to build the Harding school on west Main Street. Davey's commercial starts in 1923 included George A. Mauk's theater on Main Street, Mrs. E.F. Kellner's new business block, R.T. Jones' Superior Drug Store counter (of colored bricks), and the Standard Oil warehouse & garage. He also found time to build his own 30' x 60' residence on Magma Avenue, a magnificent residence at Picket Post Mountain for Magma Copper magnate William Thompson, and the 1923 Magma hotel annex.

John MacPherson contracted with Davey in June, 1923, to construct the annex for \$25,000. Although the Superior Sun reported that MacPherson designed the structure himself, it is likely that the two worked together on architectural details and plan alterations during the six-month period of construction. As



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completed in early December, the annex added 25 sleeping rooms to the hotel, the attractive lobby with monumental staircase, and a special basement with a steam plant to deliver heat to each of the rooms including those in the concrete and adobe structures. Other improvements included hot and cold water to every room in all three structures and an attempt to style "along Spanish lines" with landscaped courtyard, Roman arch entry facade, and appropriate lobby furnishings.

The MacPhersons lived up to their establishment's first class reputation with the finest of interior decorations and furnishings. Anna selected furniture from "Arizona's leading furniture houses," including beds with the most modern mattresses and springs. Each of the 25 new rooms boasted a private bath and stationary washstands. Rooms were painted in bright cheery colors. Upon completion, travelers and visiting dignitaries such as Superior Court Judge Stephen Abbey and United States Senator Ralph Cameron judged the annex "one of the town's best advertisements," and an example of how far Superior had come since its pioneer days.

Bernard Deutsch Associates' 1988 historical resource survey notes that the Magma Hotel addition and Mrs. Kellner's building--both constructed by Jack Davey in 1923--stand today as the most ornamental commercial buildings in Superior. The Magma annex deserves this judgment for the decorative combinations of glazed and colored bricks, running bond masonry offset by intricate header and vertically-laid stretcher bricks, intricate brick bordering, and entry facade detailed in the description section of this nomination. The 1923 addition should also be considered for its landscaped courtyard, the only one of its kind along Main Street; bold, monolithic massing and clean lines, achieved by virtue of its courtyard separation from the rest of the business block; and its exceptionally fine exterior condition, representing the work of a master craftsman.

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Bernard Deutsch Associates. "Superior Arizona Historical Resource Survey (April 30, 1988)." Copy at the Arizona SHPO.

Chappell, Gordon. Rails to Carry Copper: A History of the Magma Arizona Railroad. Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Company, 1973.

City of Phoenix. Historic Homes of Phoenix: An Architectural and Preservation Guide. City of Phoenix Publication, 1992.

(Florence) Arizona Blade-Tribune, 4 February 1911; 24 February, 16 March, 30 March, 13 April, 13 July, 3 August, 10 August, 5 October, 28 December 1912; 4 January, 8 March, 29 March, 12 February, 19 April, 26 April, 3 May 1913; 13 February, 27 February, 6 March, 20 March, 27 March, 3 April, 10 April, 24 April, 1 May, 8 May, 15 May, 25 May, 10 July, 31 July, 7 August, 11 September, 9 October, 23 October, 20 November, 27 November 1915; 1 January, 15 January, 5 February, 26 February, 18 March, 25 March, 15 April, 13 May, 17 June, 1 July 1916. These editions have information of varying importance to Superior. When the Superior Sun began printing in mid-1916, the Blade-Tribune lost interest in the town.

Magma Copper Company Annual Reports, 1915-1935. Copies at Arizona Historical Foundation, Hayden Library, ASU.

Mahoney, Ralph. "Superior, Arizona." Arizona Days & Ways (22 May 1955), copy in Arizona Collection, Hayden Library, ASU.

Mesa Tribune, 24 May 1978.

"O.C. Hing Recalls Old Days in Mining Town (no date)." Copy in Arizona Collection, Hayden Library, ASU.

Pinal County Assessor's Office, Florence, Arizona:

Magma Hotel Property File:

- Assessment List (dates back to 1963 only)
- Commercial Property Record Card (1965 property sketch)
- Commercial Property Analysis (1980)
- Income Analysis Worksheet (1980)

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- Petitions for Review of Real Property (1989, 1992)
- Petition for Change in Classification (1985)
- Petition for Review of Full Cash Value (1980)

Pinal County Recorder's Office, Florence, Arizona:

Book of Deeds:

- Book 28/Page 481: MacPherson to Anna Lawrence (12/21/12).
- Book 31/Page 38: Baughn to MacPherson (06/24/16).
- Book 31/Page 39: Baughn to MacPherson (06/24/16).
- Book 31/Page 305: MacPhersons to Fleming (12/13/16).
- Book 31/Page 338: MacPhersons to Norris (01/02/17).
- Book 31/Page 439: Fleming to J.M. MacPherson (03/12/17).
- Book 33/Page 164: Anna to John MacPherson (12/18/18).
- Book 34/Page 17: Ennis to J.M. MacPherson (07/19/19).
- Book 49/Page 331: Anna MacPherson to Ennis (1931).
  
- Docket 341/Page 26: J.M. to Anna MacPherson (01/07/63).
- Docket 353/Page 179: Estate of Anna MacPherson (05/20/63).
- Docket 506/Page 221: Sarver to Wing, agreement (03/17/67).
- Docket 634/Page 720: Distr. of Sarver Estate (06/03/71).
- Docket 702/Page 859: Sarver to Wing, deed (03/03/67).
- Docket 999/Page 179: Wing to Munoz, agreement (01/31/80).
- Docket 1500/Page 358: Munoz to Wing & Ong, deed (07/87).
- Docket 1717/Page 338: Wing & Ong to Allen, deed (08/16/90).
- Docket 1717/Page 339: Allen to Wing, assignment (08/16/90).
- Docket 1828/Page 332: Allen to Apache Leap, Inc (05/15/92).
- Docket 1914/Page 462: Wing & Ong to Sanchez (03/03/93).
- Docket 1914/Page 464: Sanchez to Wing, assignment

"Superior Townsite, Pinal County, Arizona." 1912 Plat Map.

Pinal County Treasurer's Office, Florence, Arizona:

- Duplicate Assessment Rolls of 1912 and 1913.

Polk's Arizona and New Mexico Pictorial State Gazetteer and Business Directory: First Statehood Edition, 1912-1913. St. Paul: R.L. Polk & Company, 1912. Copy in Arizona State Library, Phoenix, Arizona.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.

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Ryder Ridgeway Photograph Collection, Arizona Collection, Hayden Library, ASU:

- RR241: Superior in 1908.
- RR274: Superior rooming house in 1905.
- RR275: Lobb Store in 1903.

Sanborn Map Company. "Superior: May 1919" and "Superior: June 1926." Microfilm copies in Arizona Collection, Hayden Library, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

Slaysman, Melvin J. to James Garrison, letter, 17 September 1993. Magma Hotel File, Arizona SHPO, Phoenix, Arizona.

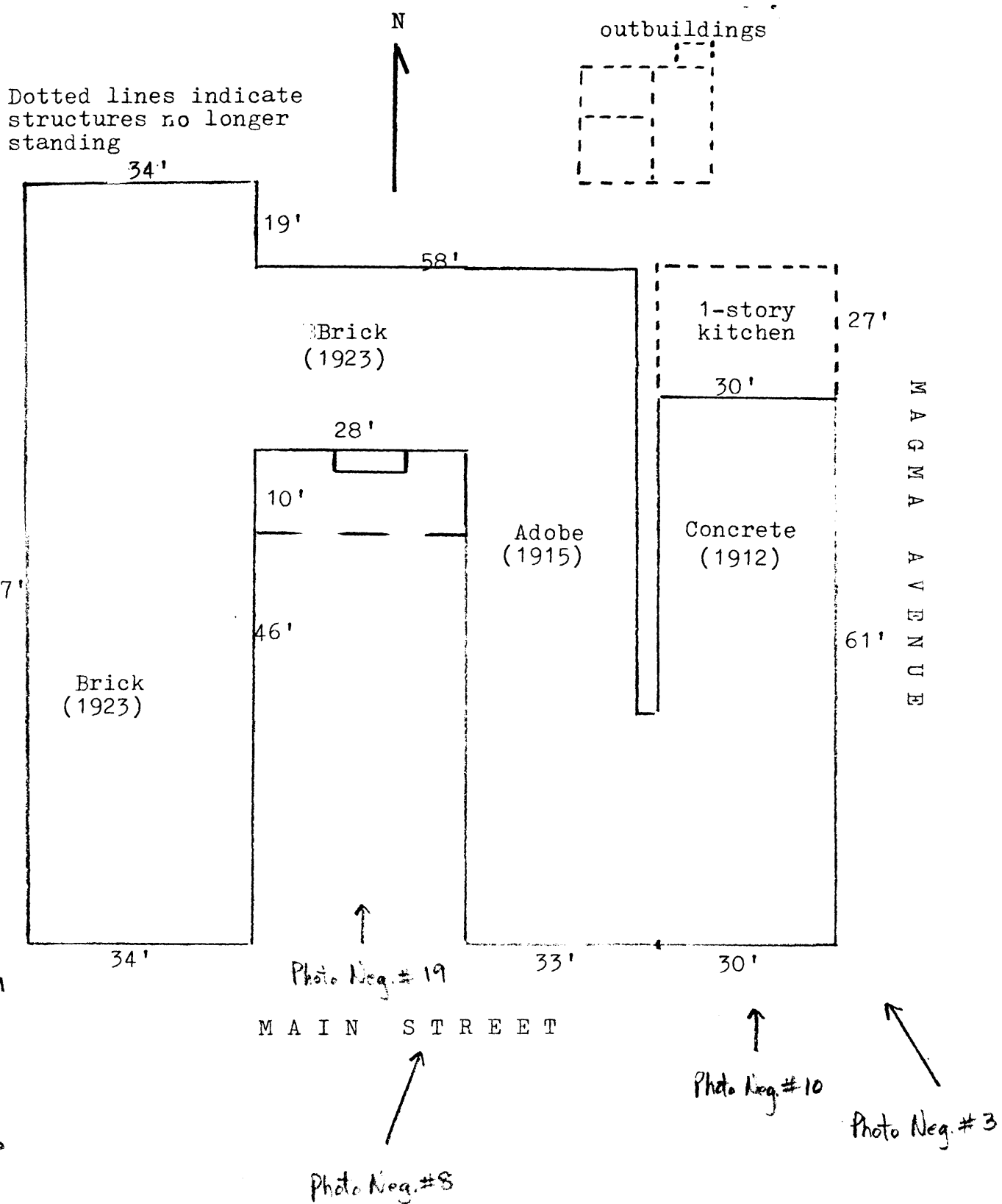
"Superior Townsite & Plats." Bound folder of Superior townsite patent and deeds for Block 17, in possession of Gladys Walker, Superior Historical Society, Superior, Arizona.

"Superior, Arizona: 1882-1892 Centennial." Bound manuscript with historical articles and genealogies, copy in possession of Gladys Walker and elsewhere in Superior.

Superior Sun. 2 February, 16 February, 23 February, 2 March, 9 March, 16 March, 23 March, 30 March, 6 April, 13 April, 20 April, 27 April, 22 June, 22 June, 27 July, 24 August 1917; 12 January, 19 January, 26 January, 2 February, 16 February, 2 March, 9 March, 16 March, 23 March, 30 March, 6 April, 13 April, 27 April, 11 May, 1 June, 8 June, 15 June, 22 June, 29 June, 6 July, 13 July, 20 July, 10 August, 24 August, 31 August, 7 September, 21 September, 28 September, 19 October, 16 November, 23 November, 30 November, 7 December, 14 December, 21 December, 28 December 1923; 22 September, 20 October 1944; 18 January 1962. The first edition of the newspaper found was that of 2 February 1917, on microfilm at the Arizona State Library, Phoenix, Arizona. The library's comprehensive newspaper index indicates that no earlier editions are extant.

Walker, Gladys. Interview by author, transcribed notes, Superior, Arizona, April 1994.

Close approximation of measurements, from 1965 appraisal.

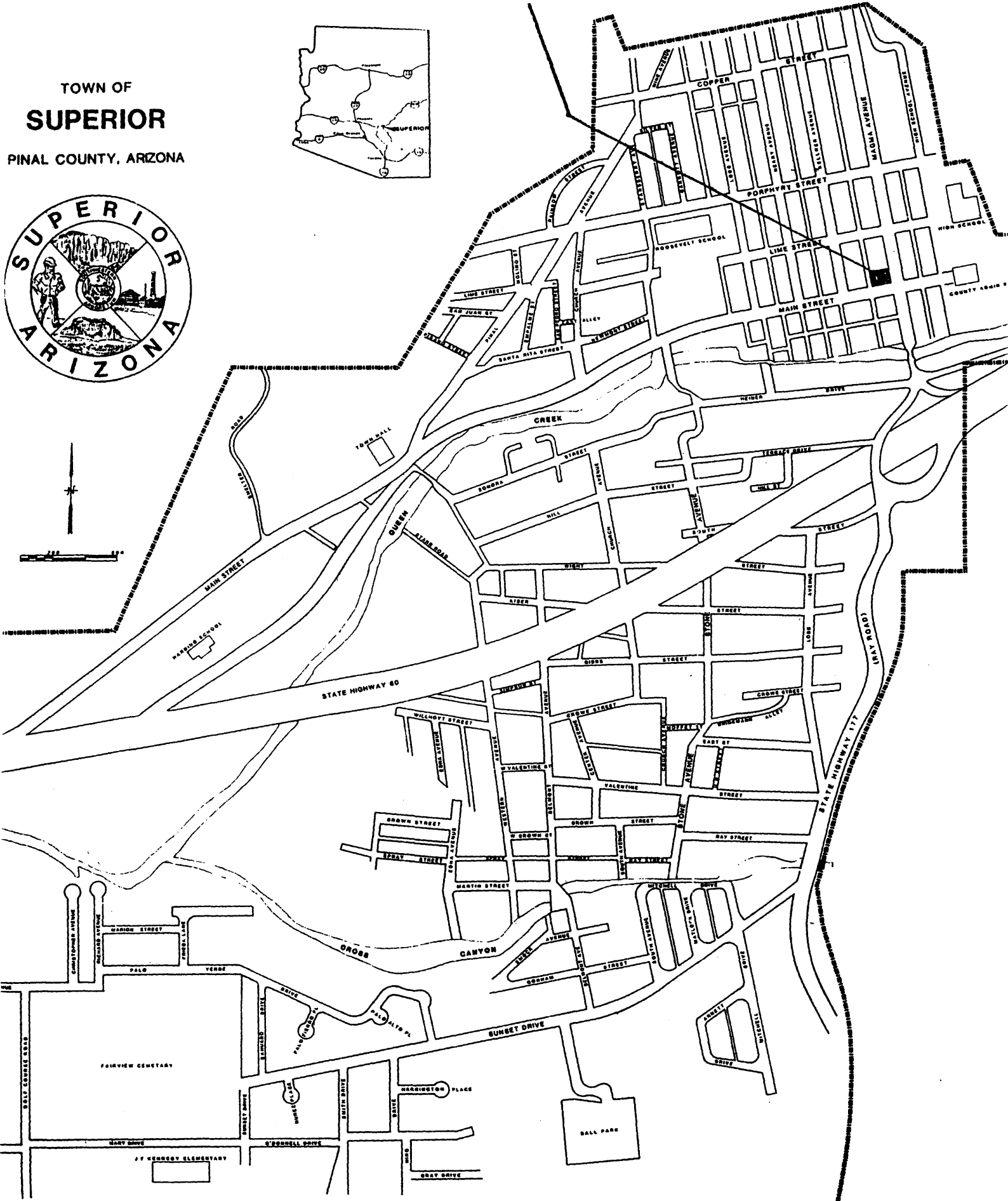
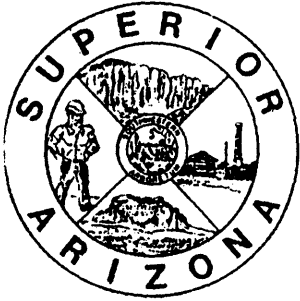


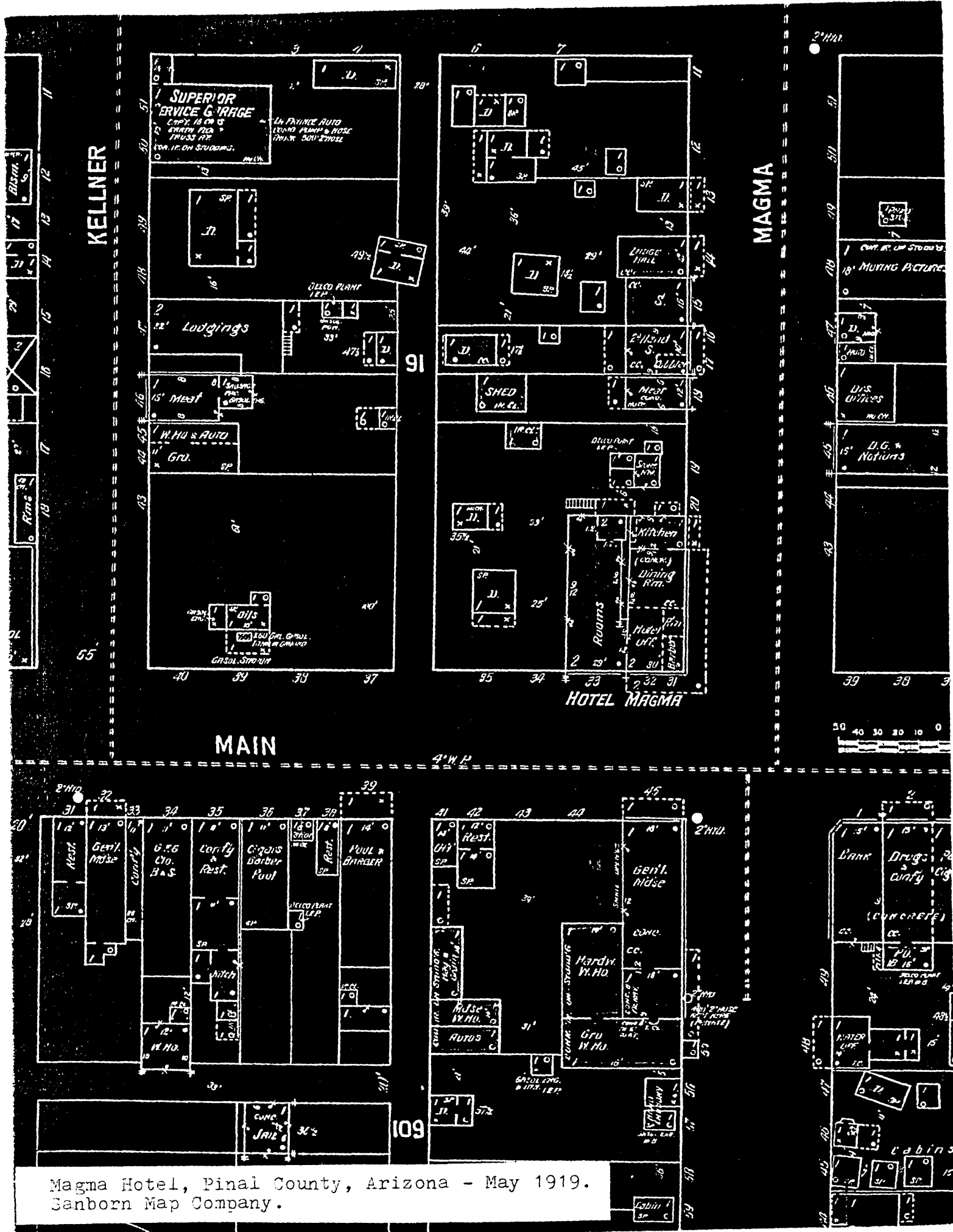
Magma Hotel, Pinal County, Arizona.

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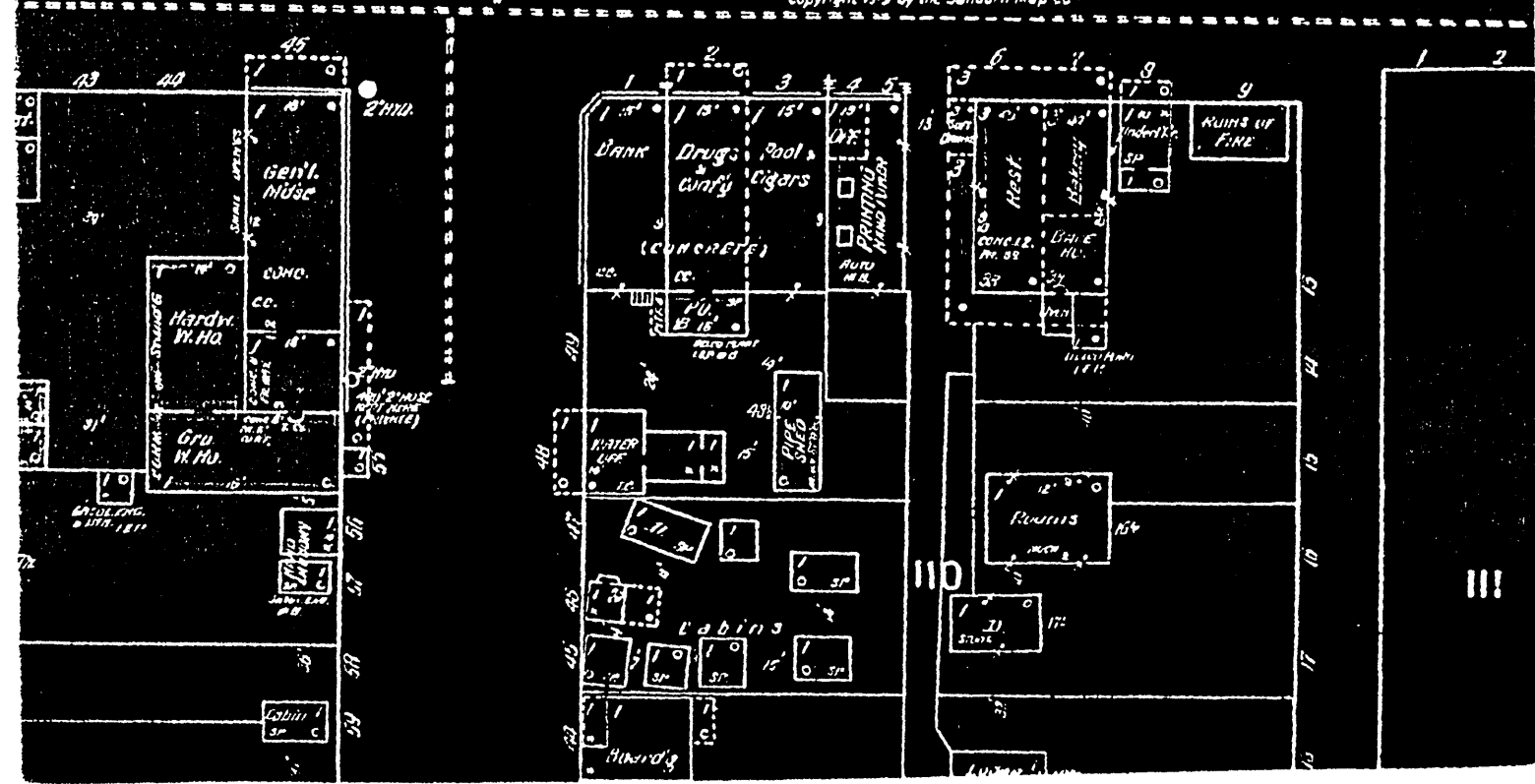
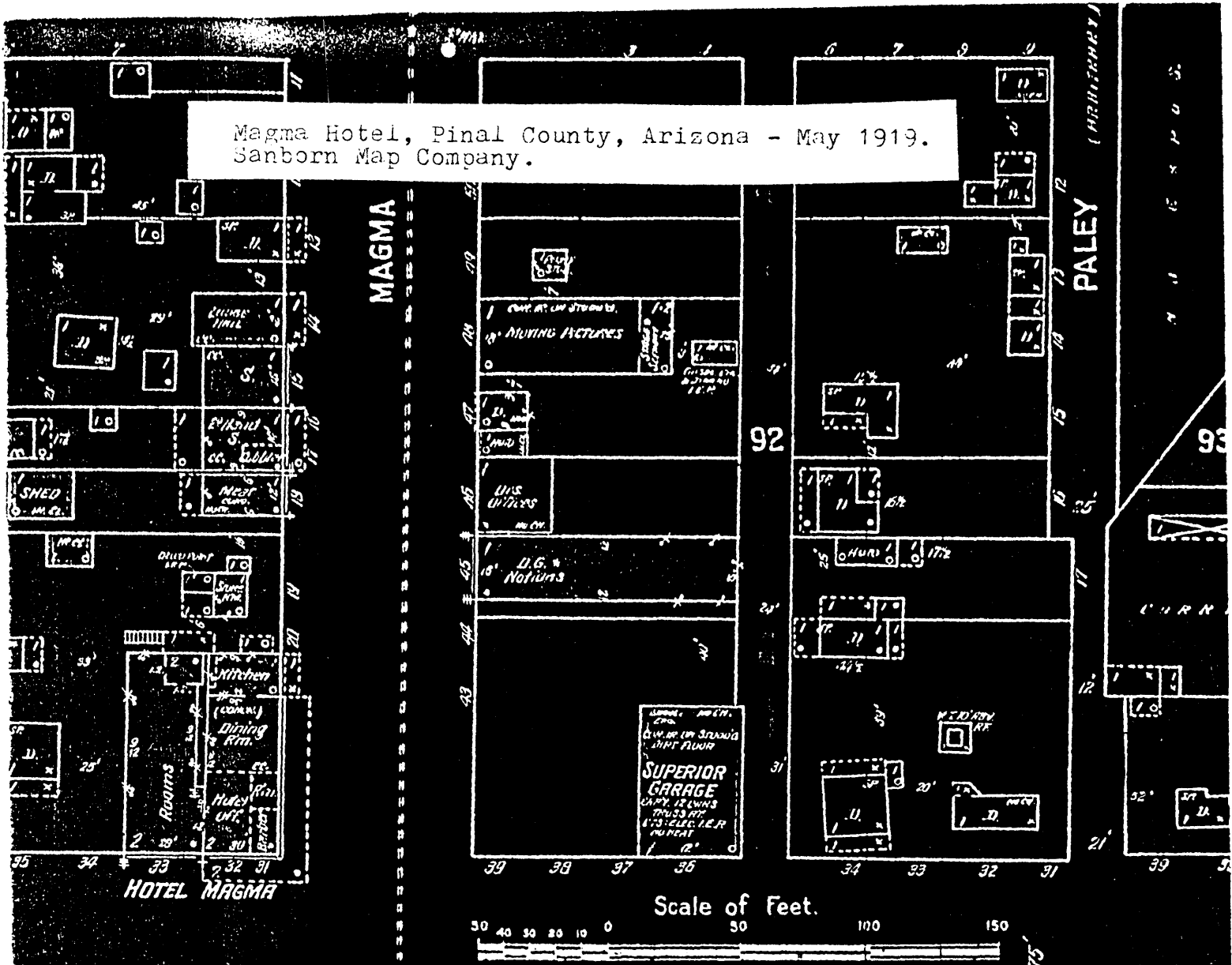
PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA





Magna Hotel, Pinal County, Arizona - May 1919.  
 Sanborn Map Company.

Magma Hotel, Pinal County, Arizona - May 1919.  
 Sanborn Map Company.









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### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000981

Date Listed: 8/19/94

Magma Hotel  
Property Name

Pinal  
County

AZ  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*G. R. Ferguson*  
Signature of the Keeper

8/19/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Level of Significance:

The property was evaluated as eligible at the local level of significance.

This information was confirmed with Reba Wells Grandrud of the AZ SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)