

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



295

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name ~~Governor Benjamin B. Moeur House~~ MOEUR, GOVERNOR BENJAMIN B. HOUSE
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 34 East Seventh Street not for publication
city or town Tempe vicinity
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85281

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

James W. Gorman 6 APRIL 2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

AZ STATE PARKS / SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Sp. Alvine 5/30/12
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements:

Western Colonial Box/Bungalow

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Masonry piers

walls: Brick

roof: Wood shingles

other: Exterior veranda/porch; bellcast eaves;

Double-hung wood windows

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Benjamin B. Moeur House is located at 34 East Seventh Street in downtown Tempe, Arizona. The house, exemplifying the City of Tempe's adaptive reuse initiatives, sits prominently on the northwest corner of Myrtle Avenue and Seventh Street, one block east of Mill Avenue and one block north of Arizona State University's main campus. The revitalized Moeur House features prominent signage in the front lawn informing passersby of its historical importance. Large trees and lush green grasses surround the property and provide a welcoming atmosphere, one that perpetuates Mrs. Moeur's well-maintained gardens that locals once associated with the property. The Governor Benjamin B. Moeur house exhibits remarkable levels of historical integrity in the form of location, association, feeling, and setting, as well as design, materials, and workmanship, all critical components of a historic property.

Narrative Description

LOCATION AND SETTING

The Benjamin B. Moeur house at Seventh Street and Myrtle Avenue in Tempe is situated in central Arizona's hot and dry Sonoran Desert environment, and sits only a half mile south of the crucial Salt River, which has been the lifeblood of civilization in the region for centuries. Moeur's house is located near the base of Tempe Butte, a well-known and highly revered local landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tempe Butte is home to hundreds of prehistoric Hohokam petroglyphs and features a wide array of prehistoric remnants, including pottery sherds and physical features on the surface. The surrounding area has been verified through numerous archaeological investigations to have been home to large numbers of Hohokam people in the eleventh through fifteenth centuries. Tempe (Hayden) Butte served as the predominant (and sacred) landmark for the Hohokam, and continues to be a highly revered feature in modern times both for Tempe residents and for local Native American communities.

To the south of the Moeur House is Arizona State University, which, at the time the home was built, existed as the Tempe Normal School (established in 1885). The proximity of Moeur's house to this school would prompt a lifetime of involvement for him in the educational and administrative aspects of what later became Arizona State College (1945) and, ultimately, Arizona State University in 1958. To the immediate west of the Moeur House, Mill Avenue served (and continues to serve) as Tempe's commercial hub and placed Moeur in the thick of the community's early economic development. In the historic period, Tempe's Mexican-American neighborhood of San Pablo (no longer extant) sat just east of Moeur's House near the present site of ASU's Sun Devil Stadium. Thus, by the time Benjamin B. Moeur moved into the home at Seventh Street and Myrtle in the 1890s, he was placing himself in the center of a diverse array of local features, essentially centralizing himself between the educational community, the economic community, and the segregated Mexican-American laboring community.

ASSOCIATION AND FEELING

The Moeur House is significant for its longtime association with one of the city's most prominent early businessmen and politicians. Moeur occupied the house continuously from 1896 until his death in 1937. In the forty intervening years, his career evolved from that of a local physician to the governor of the state, holding a variety of other local positions during the intervening years. The property therefore bears association with a variety of local and state historic themes, including health/medicine, politics, education, and statehood (1912). The recent architectural revitalization of the property (undertaken by the City of Tempe in the 1990s) restored the house to its original 1930s splendor as a Western Colonial Box-Style home, an architectural form which it continues to exhibit to this day.

Benjamin B. Moeur, with whom this property is most closely associated, moved to the Salt River Valley in 1896 after graduating from medical school at the University of Arkansas. He succeeded in establishing a reputation as a "country doctor" through his willingness to make long-distance house calls to homesteads throughout central Arizona. His most important civic contributions were in education, including eight years on the board of the Tempe Normal School. Moeur was known for his good humor and for having "the most vivid swearing vocabulary the state had ever known." An acquaintance of his once recalled that, "some of the church-going ladies, upon the Governor's election, paid him a formal call and requested that, for the effect upon the young and innocent, he modify his asperities of vocabulary," a request which he purportedly refused to comply with. Moeur's home serves as a fitting vestige to local memory, vividly depicting through its unmistakable historic feeling the everyday life of one of Tempe's most renowned citizens.

DESIGN

As originally constructed in 1893, the Benjamin B. Moeur House constituted a simple two-room frame cottage; however, it underwent several subsequent structural expansions over a forty-year period until becoming a large, prestigious home of 2,800 square feet, exhibiting a unique evolution of additions, modifications, and stylistic interpretations.

Moeur began renovating the property in 1901 following the births of his first two children. The current appearance of the house shows major changes that were made in 1912, giving the home's façade a more upscale appearance representative of the then-popular Neo-Colonial Revival architectural style. As years went by, additions and renovations continued to transform the house into a more contemporary Western Colonial Box-Style home with a bungalow-style porch. More changes were made in 1929, when new brick veneer walls enclosed the building's original exterior frame walls. With all of its period renovations and structural expansion, the residence is a locally significant example of early twentieth century residential architecture and reflects the changing styles of Arizona's homes over a period spanning forty years.

By all accounts Honor Anderson Moeur dedicated herself wholeheartedly to the proper maintenance—inside and out—of the home. One visitor, conducting an interview with Mrs. Moeur in the 1930s, wrote a newspaper editorial praising her as a homemaker. The visitor found Mrs. Moeur "in her large rambling red brick house, with its colorful checkered roof which bespeaks coziness within and its cool green shrubbery artistically bedecking its walls. Inside . . . attractive furniture and deep, soft rugs give more than an impression of good interior decorating."¹

MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP

The Governor Benjamin B. Moeur House exhibits a wide variety of materials and workmanship as a result of its thirty-year transformation from 1901 until 1937, a time that saw the house evolve in many ways as a result of structural additions and architectural modifications. All of these evolutionary traits are exhibited, in various fashions, in the present house as the result of a careful and meticulous adaptive reuse activity that restored the property to its 1929 appearance, arguably the period of greatest significance inasmuch as this date roughly coincided with Moeur's rise to statewide political prominence. The Governor Benjamin B. Moeur House features:

- Western Colonial Box/Bungalow Stylistic components
- Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Architectural Style Movement components
- Masonry piers
- Brick exterior walls
- Exterior veranda/porch on the south side
- Double-hung wooden windows
- Bellcast eaves
- Wood shingle roofing
- Original brick fireplace
- Fully restored interior complete with tongue-in-groove wood flooring
- Landscaped yard consistent with Mrs. Moeur's original garden landscaping

ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION DETAILS

After many decades of private ownership the City of Tempe acquired the property and, in 1993, slated the five-bedroom, 2,800 square-foot house for adaptive reuse as Tempe Community Council offices. At that time, the Hatton Hall community building was added next door for nonprofit community meetings and City of Tempe-sponsored events. Hatton Hall is a compatible yet distinct structure that hosts a number of events each month and therefore serves the important purpose of lessening the strain of use that might otherwise be placed on the historic fabric of the adjacent Moeur House. All told, the City of Tempe invested approximately \$2.2 million in the restoration and rehabilitation of the Moeur House and surrounding property. The Benjamin B. Moeur House has previously been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by Arizona State Historic Preservation Office personnel, but no nomination has ever been written and it has not been officially listed at this time.

¹ Joyce Booth Penfold, "Mrs. Moeur Successful Homemaker," Arizona Republic, Undated clipping, in Moeur Family Papers, Scrapbook, Box 2.

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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1896-1937

Significant Dates

1896

1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Moeur, Governor Benjamin Baker

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The subject property was built in 1892 and purchased by Benjamin B. Moeur in 1896. Moeur and his family continuously inhabited the house until his death in 1937; he lived in the home during his two terms as Arizona governor from 1933-1937 and died there two months after leaving office.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

As the primary residence of one of Arizona's leading civic leaders, this house enjoys all the prestige incumbent upon a property associated with a significant person in history, the quality necessary for a property to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion 'B'. Benjamin Baker Moeur lived in Tempe, Arizona for over forty years, from 1896 until 1937, during which time he served as a leading, well-known physician, volunteered for school boards, owned numerous successful businesses, helped draft Arizona's 1912 statehood constitution, and served as Arizona's governor for two terms during the Great Depression. As a result of his incredible generosity through his medical practice, as well as his unique and unforgettable personality, Moeur became a popular figure throughout central Arizona, a popularity that ultimately catapulted him to head of state. The property, having been meticulously restored to its full early-twentieth-century splendor, is a fitting vestige to Benjamin Baker Moeur and serves as a reminder to modern residents of their important local and state heritage.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

EARLY LIFE

Benjamin B. Moeur was born on December 22, 1869 in Dechard, Tennessee (about seventy miles from Nashville) to John Moeur, a French-born doctor, and a mother from a pioneer Tennessee family. They moved to south Texas in 1873 to join other family members in a ranching business and to provide his father with a suitable location to establish a medical practice. Between the ages of six and twenty, Ben worked cattle on the family ranch while attending school and, according to one historian, "was one of the original cowboys."² In his late teenage years he began working for a local cattleman with the surname Anderson, who showed Ben a photograph of his daughter. He supposedly remarked that he would like to marry that young lady, but Anderson assured him that his daughter would never marry a cowboy. "According to family legend, it was then that Benjamin B. Moeur decided to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather [and father] and become a doctor."³

In 1889 the nineteen-year-old Moeur enrolled at Arkansas Industrial University, but later transferred to the University of Arkansas, where in 1896 he graduated at the top of his class with a medical degree. During his studies he occasionally traveled back to Texas, where he met and began courting his former ranch boss's daughter. She taught grade school for two years until Moeur finished college, completing his studies at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, where he conducted his post-graduate work. He then returned to Texas, where he married the young lady in the photograph—Honor Glint Anderson—on June 15, 1896. They would go on to have four children: John Kelly, Vyvyan Bernice, Jessie Belle, and Benjamin B. Jr.⁴ The rapidly growing family necessitated numerous structural additions and modifications to the existing house, and Moeur subsequently added on to the home four times: in 1901; 1911; 1912; and 1929.⁵ Honor Moeur maintained extensive gardens surrounding the home, including citrus trees, roses, and various exotic plants, providing a welcoming atmosphere in a parched desert environment.⁶

MOEUR IN TEMPE

Moeur began his medical career by following his older brother William to Arizona. He first practiced medicine in Tombstone, but soon moved to Bisbee, where he became Relief Physician for the Copper Queen hospital. However, the air pollution from the smelter caused Honor Moeur's asthma to worsen, and in November 1896 the family moved to Tempe where her health rapidly improved.⁷ Although he worked as a physician in Tempe for many years after his arrival there, Moeur did not receive his license to practice medicine in Arizona until October 24, 1913. Initially Moeur maintained offices for his medical practice on Fifth Street (between Mill Avenue and Maple Avenue) and at 12 West Sixth Street. Between 1918 and 1929, Moeur moved his office to the Tempe National Bank building on Mill Avenue. Ultimately, upon partnering with his son John, the pair occupied one of the "most up to date" offices in the Salt River Valley, located at the corner of Sixth Street and Myrtle Avenue, less than a block from Moeur's home.⁸

As his practice grew in Tempe, Moeur quickly became known as a true "horse and buggy country doctor" because of his willingness to travel long distances to make house calls. He often endured severe hardships in making such calls, especially in his earlier years when transportation and roads remained primitive. On an 80-mile stage coach trip to Payson

² Myers, *The Governors of Arizona*, 41.

³ Woodward, *The Governor B.B. Moeur Residence*, p. 5.

⁴ Myers, *The Governors of Arizona*, pp. 41-42.

⁵ Woodward, *The Governor B.B. Moeur Residence*, p. 5.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

⁷ Myers, *The Governors of Arizona*, p. 41.

⁸ Woodward, *The Governor B.B. Moeur Residence*, p. 6.

to attend to a patient, for example, Dr. Moeur and the other passengers had to push the coach through Fish Creek in pouring rain.⁹ On a trip to see a patient at the Roosevelt Dam construction site, Moeur had to be transported across the canyon in a cable bucket.¹⁰ Perhaps it was his willingness to undertake such harrowing endeavors that he became renowned throughout Arizona for having "a big, big heart" and for being "a servant to all who needed medical attention."¹¹ During his years as governor, whenever time permitted, he conducted free medical clinics at the state capitol building, and every year he sent Christmas cards to indigent patients with his bill marked "paid in full."¹² It has been said that Moeur never charged a widow or a preacher for his medical services, and during World War I no serviceman or his family was ever billed. Even as governor, Moeur took time off to tend to war veterans in need of medical care.¹³

Doctor Moeur's successful medical practice was augmented by his involvement in several profitable business ventures in Tempe. He was president of the Southside Electric and Gas Company and part-owner of the Moeur-Pafford Company cattle operation (in partnership with his brother-in-law J.K. Pafford). In 1906 he partnered with M.E. Curry and George L. Compton to found the Tempe Hardware Company at 520 S. Mill Avenue, and at one time he also owned the Broadway Moeur Drug Store. Moeur dabbled in real estate as well, building two rental cottages, at 29 and 31 E. 6th Street, in 1916. Always interested in education, Moeur served eight years on the Tempe School board and twelve years on the Tempe Normal School's board of education. During that time he acted as the college physician, began a scholarship program, and sponsored a medal for speech competitions.¹⁴ Examples of his community-wide benevolence were shown by treating students for free and giving loans to aspiring young teachers.¹⁵ In 1912 Moeur combined his interest in education and politics by serving as a delegate to the Arizona Constitutional Convention, acting as chairman of the education committee. Pursuant to advice from Dr. Arthur Matthews of the Territorial Normal School, the committee drafted the educational provisions of the new Arizona Constitution. In spite of adamant objections from segregationists, Arizona's 1912 Constitution contained no provisions for school segregation, something quite rare for that time period.¹⁶ Moeur's role in the committee debates remains somewhat uncertain: many available sources praise him for playing a critical role in the passage of the anti-segregation measure; however, at least one primary source indicates that Moeur, with Southern roots, told the committee to "do what you please," but assured them that he would never allow his children to attend schools with non-Whites.¹⁷ Indeed the drastic differences in published sources make it difficult to determine exactly where Moeur stood on the issue of public school segregation.

MOEUR AS ARIZONA GOVERNOR

In 1932 Dr. Moeur saw Arizona firmly in the grip of the Great Depression. The state could not pay its debts; with a \$7.5 million revenue shortfall, state warrants were being accepted for only 80% of their value and 21,000 Arizonans found themselves jobless.¹⁸ Seventy-three year old Governor George W.P. Hunt, an eight-term incumbent, suffered from poor health at that time and had been saddened by the recent death of his wife. His low spirits, coupled with the widespread economic crisis surrounding the Great Depression, spelled certain defeat for Hunt in the election; indeed, countless incumbents across the nation found themselves being ousted from office by frustrated, desperate voters in need of rapid and widespread economic reform.

With Sidney P. Osborn as his campaign manager, Dr. Moeur defeated Hunt in the Democratic primary on September 12, 1932; upon conceding defeat, Hunt stated that he intended to leave public life and "retire to my home and watch."¹⁹ Against all odds, the greenhorn politician took a 2,000 vote lead over his Democratic opponent, Hunt, in early polls; when the final vote had been tallied, the Tempe doctor had won the primary election by more than 5,000 votes.²⁰ Furthermore, Moeur defeated Hunt by an astounding two-to-one margin in Maricopa County, his home district, doubtless a reflection of his decades of humanitarian work as a physician.²¹

⁹ Arizona Republican, April 21, 1904.

¹⁰ Myers, *The Governors of Arizona*, p. 44.

¹¹ James, *Memories of Old Settlers of Tempe*, p. 153.

¹² <http://tempehistoricalsociety.org/page13.html>

¹³ Los Angeles Times, September 3, 1933.

¹⁴ Myers, *The Arizona Governors*, p. 44.

¹⁵ Weekly Arizona Republican, August 3, 1905.

¹⁶ Myers, *The Arizona Governors*, p. 44.

¹⁷ J. Morris Richards, *The Birth of Arizona*, p. 24.

¹⁸ <http://tempehistoricalsociety.org/page13.html>

¹⁹ Los Angeles Times, September 16, 1932. Ironically, Hunt entered the 1934 Democratic primary campaign despite his assurances that he had permanently retired, perhaps hoping to avenge his 1932 defeat at the hand of Moeur. Hunt did not receive the party nomination in 1934. Los Angeles Times, September 12, 1934.

²⁰ Los Angeles Times, September 15, 1932.

²¹ Los Angeles Times, September 14, 1932.

In the general gubernatorial election Moeur faced J.C. Kinney as his Republican opponent. His campaign expenses totaled a mere \$75.80.²² On November 8, 1932, he was elected Governor of Arizona by a plurality of 33,000 votes and was inaugurated on January 2, 1933.²³ Moeur's ascension reflected a national trend in the 1932 gubernatorial election, with Democrats defeating nine Republican incumbents nationwide.²⁴ Within the state of Arizona, an astounding number of long-serving politicians failed to achieve reelection, including not only multi-term Governor Hunt but also several others who had served at least seven or more terms.²⁵ Clearly, the ravaging economic effects of the Great Depression took their toll on the nationwide status quo and resulted in the ascendancy of innumerable relative newcomers to political positions.

Upon taking office Governor Moeur immediately began working to return Arizona to fiscal solvency. He slashed state government expenses by \$4.5 million dollars and instituted both a personal income tax and a sales tax; he also supported luxury taxes on liquor, beer, wine and tobacco, proclaiming that, "It is far from being a perfect bill, but I realize that Arizona must have additional sources of revenue if we are to preserve the financial integrity of the state."²⁶ At the same time, however, he reduced property taxes.²⁷ Aided by Arizona's Congresswoman Isabella Greenway's friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt, Moeur instituted relief programs for the unemployed which brought over 14,000 federal works projects jobs to Arizona. In all, \$22.5 million of New Deal federal program funding came to Arizona, and by the end of Moeur's first term, the state could claim solvency and its warrants were selling for 100% of their face value.

Also during his administrations, work began on the Yuma-Gila Reclamation Project, the state ratified the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the spillway of the Boulder Dam was officially opened to provide irrigation water to Arizona farmlands. His annual message delivered on January 14, 1935 assured Arizonans that the state was "definitely on the road to [economic] recovery," pointing to increased retail sales, resumption of business activities, an improving copper industry and declining unemployment as clear evidence that his first-term policies had had a positive impact.²⁸

Moeur moved into a penthouse atop a downtown Phoenix hotel during his time as governor and shuttled back and forth between there and his Tempe home on weekends. He retained his fiery temper even while in office, reflecting the waning days of the Wild West in which he had been raised. In 1935, at a banquet in a "fashionable" downtown Phoenix hotel, an attendee, one Arthur Crowell, took exception to one of Moeur's comments and punched him "flush on an eye, closing it and sending the governor to the floor." Moeur immediately arose and returned the favor "with a hard right to the mouth," at which point intermediaries jumped in and broke up the melee, "though the Governor was held only with difficulty." The next morning, Moeur wryly ordered police to "release him [from jail] and give him a cigar," instructing that all charges against Crowell be dropped, much to the astonishment of law enforcement personnel.²⁹

Moeur announced that he would seek reelection as governor on December 20, 1933.³⁰ After earning the Democratic Party's re-nomination in the September primary he went on to achieve reelection to a second term as governor on November 6, 1934 (at that time the governor was elected for two-year terms).³¹ In the 1934 election Moeur handily defeated his opponent by a margin of over 5,000 votes.³² On being elected, Moeur reportedly commented in a private conversation that he "didn't give a damn whether or not I was elected, and don't give a damn whether or not I am ever elected again, but here I am."³³

Moeur's eldest son, John, who had become a partner in the family medical practice, suffered an illness and an automobile accident in 1934 and, in December of that year, was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix. Later that month John Moeur, at the age of 37, passed away, mirroring his father's reelection triumph and gravely impacting the governor's psychological constitution as he planned his second term agenda.³⁴

²² Myers, *The Arizona Governors*, p. 47.

²³ For a statewide breakdown of voting by county see *Arizona Republic*, November 9, 1932; Stephen C. Shadegg, *Arizona Politics*, p. 21.

²⁴ *Los Angeles Times*, November 10, 1932.

²⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, September 15, 1932.

²⁶ *Los Angeles Times*, March 26, 1933. The Arizona sales tax law was modeled on a similar existing law in Mississippi.

²⁷ "Statement of Policies" Pamphlet, September 11, 1934, in Moeur Papers, Box 1, Folder 1/3. See also Moeur's address to the eleventh state legislature on January 9, 1933, the full text of which is found in the *Phoenix Gazette* issue of the same date.

²⁸ *Los Angeles Times*, January 15, 1935.

²⁹ *Los Angeles Times*, "Gov. Moeur Walloped and Responds in Kind," February 12, 1935.

³⁰ *Los Angeles Times*, December 21, 1933.

³¹ *Los Angeles Times*, September 13, 1934.

³² *Los Angeles Times*, November 7, 1934.

³³ Harry Carr, *The Lancer*, in *Los Angeles Times*, February 6, 1935.

³⁴ Myers, *The Arizona Governors*, p. 49.

During his second gubernatorial term Moeur appointed one of the first females to serve as executive secretary in 1936, Mrs. Myrtle Harris. Harris replaced Moeur's former aide, Herbert Hotchkiss, whereupon she expressed her astonishment at the appointment and stated that she believed herself "the only woman in the nation to hold such a position."³⁵

That Moeur was a controversial governor from the onset cannot be denied; his initiation of numerous statewide taxes on businesses and private purchases, as well as his legislative maneuvering relative to certain New Deal programs, met with disfavor among some Arizona citizens. As early as April 1933 various activist groups began calling for Moeur's recall. In some instances, former state appointees within his own party called for his recall simply because they had been displaced upon his ascendancy to the gubernatorial position. In other instances, business interests vowed to pursue his removal if the state legislature approved the new sales tax measures. Most of the unrest, however, emanated from the contrivances of disenchanting persons with mostly personal grudges and, to be sure, no recall vote ever transpired.³⁶

In October 1934, in further perpetuation of citizens' anger, residents in nearby Paradise Valley burned in effigy Governor Moeur, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, and State Representative Isabella Greenway following the rescinding of a Verde Irrigation Project Loan.³⁷ This overt act of aggression on the peoples' part foreshadowed further turmoil to come during Moeur's second term as governor, which saw the eruption of intercultural chaos between Anglo-American and Japanese farmers in the Salt River Valley and the implementation of martial law in response to the Parker Dam dispute with California. Both occurrences catapulted Arizona—and Governor Moeur—to the forefront of national attention.

In August 1934 the brash actions of Salt River Valley farmers threatened to ignite an international incident with Japan, with the Japanese embassy in Washington, D.C. expressing "apprehension over the situation" and approaching the State Department to request that the federal government intervene. A dispatch from Tokyo went so far as to declare that, "Arizona has supplanted Manchuria as Japan's principal trouble zone."³⁸ The incident began when a group of Anglo-American farmers from the "Fowler District," under the leadership of Fred Kruse, warned Japanese farmers in central Arizona that if they did not leave the state within a week "steps would be taken to move them out." Farmers asserted multiple violations of Arizona's alien land law as a basis for their threats. Secretary of State William Phillips contacted Governor Moeur and instructed him on how best to proceed. "I am confident that you will use your authority and influence in every possible way toward preventing any unlawful or violent treatment of Japanese residents," Phillips wrote, "which would afford them and the Japanese government ground for complaint."³⁹

Estimates suggested that in 1934 some 1,000 Japanese farmers occupied the Salt River Valley (many of whom had recently relocated from California's Imperial Valley), in comparison with approximately 800 Anglo-American farmers. However, alien land laws prohibited Japanese persons (or any other non-citizens regardless of ethnic background) from owning or leasing agricultural land. Japan itself operated under a similar land law at that time and recognized the right of other nations to institute such legal restrictions, but the island nation took issue with the threat of force in central Arizona. Arizona farmers claimed that Japanese nationals had obtained title to farmlands through "secret subleases" in clear violation of the law.⁴⁰

Moeur assured State Department officials that Arizonans could handle the situation appropriately and would avert a diplomatic crisis, vowing to uphold the law without prejudice towards either side. "I am sure that the common sense of Arizona's citizens will prevent any violence," Moeur told Secretary of State Phillips, adding that, "you may be assured that the laws of Arizona will be enforced."⁴¹ The Maricopa County Attorney's Office immediately took steps towards determining possible Japanese violations of the alien land law, an action that sufficed to dissuade the Anglo-American farmers from aggression while Moeur continued to devise possible solutions to defuse the crisis. In the wake of international tensions and unforeseen diplomatic ramifications, local leaders in the "anti-alien element" of farmers pledged to shun violence so long as the state made adequate attempts to enforce the land laws.⁴²

All remained quiet for three weeks, until on September 19 a group of "Night Riders" belonging to an Anglo-American farmer coalition known as the Anti-Alien Land Law Association "bombed two irrigation canals and a home, flooding twenty acres across a farm occupied by an Oriental." The bombs targeted the homes of M. Ishikawa, who claimed to be an American citizen and therefore in legal possession of his farm, and Fred Okuma, whose canal was targeted but not

³⁵ Los Angeles Times, October 20, 1936.

³⁶ Los Angeles Times, April 23, 1933; July 6, 1933. A recall vote would have required a petition signed by more than 30,000 eligible voters at that time. Ibid. See also Editorial, Arizona Daily Star, July 7, 1933.

³⁷ Los Angeles Times, October 15, 1934. Greenway was a close personal friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and wife Eleanor; some people speculated that this helped to sway additional New Deal program funding to Arizona during the 1930s.

³⁸ Los Angeles Times, August 23, 1934.

³⁹ Los Angeles Times, August 22, 1934.

⁴⁰ Los Angeles Times, August 24, 1934.

⁴¹ Los Angeles Times, "Moeur Gives Promise," August 23, 1934.

⁴² Los Angeles Times, "Alien Drive Protested," August 24, 1934.

seriously damaged. In a separate incident, several men drove to the farm of D. Tadano, where they held him at gunpoint while the remainder of the group pushed his vehicle into the irrigation canal.⁴³

Governor Moeur, distraught by these unmitigated acts of violence, continued to assure citizens that he would do all in his power to prevent further outbreaks and to ensure that those responsible were brought to justice. A week later the governor was visited by Japanese Vice-Consul Shintaro Fukushima, who remained in Phoenix for a week to assist in devising an acceptable solution to the crisis.⁴⁴ Moeur subsequently appointed a committee to gather information on various aspects of the situation, including statistics on farms and acreage as well as legal immigrant status of Japanese and Hindu farmers inhabiting said farms. In composing the committee Moeur appointed one Japanese farmer and one American farmer, in addition to several lawmakers and legal experts, in hopes of obtaining the most untainted results possible from the investigation.⁴⁵ By December, due in part to Moeur's lackadaisical leadership on the issue, the situation still had not been satisfactorily resolved and Japanese diplomats continued calling on the State Department, as well as Governor Moeur, to take immediate and effective action. Ultimately the crisis played out and no serious international incidents arose, although the tensions during that time remained high and presented a tremendous challenge for Governor Moeur.

Despite the intense nature of the Japanese farming conflict that plagued the latter months of 1934, the most controversial action of Governor Moeur's second administration was his calling out the Arizona National Guard to stop the construction of Parker Dam. The dam was intended to serve as a diversion point to redirect Colorado River water to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Attorney General Arthur La Prade opined that the Metropolitan Water District had no right to build such a dam on Arizona lands without the state's permission.⁴⁶ Using that opinion as justification for further action, Moeur made known in February 1933 to the United States attorney general that Arizona would fight any dam construction in the Colorado River "with such legal and proper means as may be at her disposal" until an acceptable agreement could be reached allowing Arizona a significant percentage of the water flow.⁴⁷

To augment his verbal protestations, on March 3, 1934 the governor dispatched six Arizona National Guardsmen to the town of Parker, Arizona to observe the construction.⁴⁸ Moeur took the action after learning that employees of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District, the primary California proponent of the dam, had anchored steel cables to the Arizona side of the river, intended to hold a barge in the river's current.⁴⁹ California newspapers condemned Moeur's decision to call in troops, calling it a drastic and unnecessary overreaction and going so far as to say that the governor had acted "foolishly" and without legal right.⁵⁰ Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes reiterated this sentiment, proclaiming that, "if Arizona's rights are being infringed the proper recourse would have been to take the matter into court."⁵¹ Moeur responded by writing a lengthy article for the *Los Angeles Times* defending his position and explaining the necessity of the troops as a strictly supervisory, and not hostile, body.⁵²

The Arizona National Guardsmen traveled to the town of Parker aboard the "Arizona Navy," two ferry boats named the *Julia B* and the *Nellie T*, furnished by Parker, Arizona resident and Yuma County State Representative Nellie T. Bush. Arizona officials found it necessary to utilize an amphibious landing at the dam site because of the harsh desert terrain, travel across which they conceded to be "hopeless, or too costly for a guard unit and its necessary supplies."⁵³ This "Colorado River Expeditionary Force," comprising Arizona's makeshift naval force, became the brunt of jokes nationwide and received national coverage, as media outlets mocked Moeur and the State of Arizona.⁵⁴ Reports of activity on the Arizona side spurred Governor Moeur to issue a proclamation entitled, "To Repel An Invasion," and shortly thereafter he declared martial law and sent 60 soldiers (40 infantrymen and 20 machine gunners) to the dam site to prevent construction on the Arizona side of the river.⁵⁵ A hawkish Moeur declared that, "It's a showdown this time, we are going to get something or we aren't. And if we can't expect anything we want to know it before this project is further advanced."⁵⁶

⁴³ Los Angeles Times, "Night Riders Use Bombs Against Arizona Aliens," September 20, 1934.

⁴⁴ Los Angeles Times, September 28, 1934. Fukushima's visit evidently did little to dissuade local farmers from violence. Only a week after his departure from Arizona, on October 4, five more bombings of Japanese farms occurred in the middle of the night, destroying one home and narrowly averting killing a fifteen-year old Japanese girl. Los Angeles Times, "Exploding Bombs Spread Terror for Arizona Japanese," October 5, 1934.

⁴⁵ Los Angeles Times, "Moeur Acts in Alien War," October 6, 1934; *Ibid.*, October 7, 1934.

⁴⁶ Kleinsorge, *The Boulder Canyon Project*, pp. 44-46; Los Angeles Times, "State Gets Warning," January 25, 1934.

⁴⁷ Los Angeles Times, "Arizona to Fight Dams," February 17, 1933.

⁴⁸ See Shadegg, *Arizona Politics*, pp. 23-24.

⁴⁹ Los Angeles Times, "Troops Act to Bar Dam," March 4, 1934.

⁵⁰ Los Angeles Times, "Gov. Moeur Acts Foolishly," March 6, 1934.

⁵¹ Los Angeles Times, "Ickes Frowns on Calling of Troops," November 11, 1934.

⁵² Los Angeles Times, "Moeur Defends Action at Dam," March 26, 1934.

⁵³ Los Angeles Times, "Guard Pays Dam Visit," March 7, 1934.

⁵⁴ Myers, *The Arizona Governors*, p. 47.

⁵⁵ <http://tempehistoricalsociety.org/page13.html>; Los Angeles Times, "Parker Dam Work Continues Despite Arizona's Threat," November 12, 1934.

⁵⁶ The Lima News, November 12, 1934.

The troops were ultimately recalled and Moeur rescinded his martial law order when Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes halted construction on November 13, 1934, promising that no further work would take place on Parker Dam until Arizona's protest was settled in the courts.⁵⁷ This action represents the last time one U.S. state took up arms against another. Infuriated with Governor Moeur's brash actions, Ickes and his Interior Department sued Arizona in the United States Supreme Court to obtain an injunction that would halt Arizona's interference with the construction of Parker Dam. Much to the surprise of Interior Department officials, the Supreme Court sided with Arizona, issuing a unanimous ruling on April 29, 1935 stating that Congress never authorized the dam's construction and ordering the indefinite suspension of all work at the site.⁵⁸ Using this court decision as leverage, a shrewd Governor Moeur agreed to drop opposition to Parker Dam if the Roosevelt administration approved the Gila River irrigation project. The two opposing sides successfully arranged such an agreement, whereupon California completed construction of Parker Dam (creating Lake Havasu).⁵⁹ The Wellton-Mohawk district of the lower Gila River was included in the Parker Dam legislation in accordance with the federal government's agreement with Moeur.⁶⁰ One newspaper columnist later summarized the entire Parker Dam incident, sardonically writing that, "If ever there was a comic opera war, the one-sided military fray between California and Arizona was it. . . . Mosquito bites and a few scorpion stings were the most devastating casualties suffered."⁶¹

Doctor Moeur had easily won re-election in 1934, but by 1936 the lingering effects of the Great Depression and the sales tax he had implemented began to cut deeply into his popularity. Moeur continually claimed that he had little interest in running for reelection, perhaps becoming frustrated with the burdens of political office and his continually deteriorating health, a condition partially attributable to the stress accompanying his chaotic second term. Still, he entered the Democratic primary, citing the necessity for a "continuance of the sound policies which have been inaugurated," and the need for Arizona to "grow in material and social aspects."⁶² In June the incumbent governor appointed Don C. Babbitt as his campaign manager and John B. McPhee as director of publicity, gearing up for what promised to be an uphill battle towards reelection.⁶³ Ultimately, despite his wholehearted efforts, he lost the nomination to fellow Democrat R. C. Stanford, who was easily elected in the primary by a margin of over ten thousand votes and went on to win the governorship in the general election.⁶⁴ A gracious loser, Moeur showed his compassion by being the first Arizona Governor to welcome his successor to office and also attended Stanford's inauguration.⁶⁵

Moeur left office on January 4, 1937 and 71 days later, on March 16, 1937, he died in his Tempe home from heart trouble at age 67.⁶⁶ Indeed Moeur had suffered from heart-related ailments for the duration of his two gubernatorial terms, having a mild heart attack in October 1934 while attending a ceremony in Tucson.⁶⁷ He was buried at Double Butte Cemetery in Tempe. The strain of the 1936 campaign, the death of his son, and the countless cigars had taken their toll. Like many doctors, Moeur dedicated so much time to treating others that he largely neglected his own health.

CONCLUSION

Benjamin B. Moeur's contributions to Arizona history were profound and widespread, spanning a period of more than forty years and involving a multitude of professional capacities. As a physician, Moeur tended to thousands of patients during his lifetime, going to any length to ensure the well-being of others and frequently offering free services to those in need. As a civic leader, he led the charge for local education and helped draft a segregation-free Arizona State Constitution in 1912. When his state faced tough times during the Great Depression, Moeur once again stepped forward and offered his services, this time as governor. Serving two terms in that capacity, he helped alleviate the state's deficit burdens, defused intercultural crises, and upheld Arizona's rights in the conflict with California over Parker Dam. Through all of these undertakings, Moeur exhibited arguably one of the most unique and captivating personalities in Arizona, a cigar ever-present in his mouth, profanities streaming forth in every sentence, all the while acting as a humanitarian who cared more for others than for himself. Indeed, few Arizona personalities can claim such a diverse range of contributions to the state's early twentieth century history.

⁵⁷ Los Angeles Times, "Parker Dam Work Stopped by Ickes," November 14, 1934.

⁵⁸ Los Angeles Times, "High Court Ruling Forces Halting of Parker Dam Work," April 30, 1935.

⁵⁹ Los Angeles Times, "New Parker Dam Start to be Made Under Truce," October 31, 1935.

⁶⁰ <http://tempehistoricalsociety.org/page13.html>

⁶¹ "Arizona's Comic War Never Heard a Shot," Arizona Republic, Undated clipping, in Moeur Papers, Box 1, Folder 1/6.

⁶² Los Angeles Times, April 26, 1936.

⁶³ Los Angeles Times, June 28, 1936. McPhee served as publicity director in both of Moeur's previous campaigns. Babbitt was a former State Land Commissioner and came from a highly prominent Arizona family. A Los Angeles Times article of October 4, 1936 reported that the Democratic Party in Arizona had found itself highly factionalized as a result of the campaign between Moeur and Stanford, noting that "the factions . . . are battling more viciously [during the general election] than at the height of the primary campaign."

⁶⁴ Los Angeles Times, September 10, 1936.

⁶⁵ Myers, *The Arizona Governors*, p. 49.

⁶⁶ Los Angeles Times, March 17, 1937. Moeur had suffered a heart attack a week earlier, on March 8, and never recovered. Los Angeles Times, March 10, 1937.

⁶⁷ Los Angeles Times, October 24, 1934.

GOVERNOR B.B. MOEUR TIMELINE

- 1869 Benjamin Baker Moeur born on December 22 in Franklin County, Tennessee.
- 1873 Moeur's family moved to Texas, settling in the southern portion of the state between Del Rio and San Antonio.
- 1889 Moeur enrolled in the Arkansas Industrial University at Little Rock, graduating with high honors in the medical field.
- 1893 The home that is to become Moeur's residence is built in Tempe. Originally a wood frame structure measuring approximately 22 feet X 24 feet, the house boasted a brick chimney and fireplace, along with a recessed entry porch on the southwest corner.
- 1896 Moeur married Honor Anderson in Texas.
- 1896 Moeur and wife Honor move to Arizona, settling first in Tombstone and Bisbee before moving to Tempe in November of that year.
- 1897 John Kelly Moeur is born.
- 1898 Moeur purchases the home at Seventh Street and Myrtle, which he had previously been renting.
- 1898 Second child, Vyvyan Bernice Moeur, is born.
- 1901 Moeur begins building the first structural addition to his residence. The addition was of wood frame, consisting of two equally sized rooms and measuring 14 feet X 36 feet. It was constructed immediately to the front of the existing 1893 building. Moeur also installed indoor plumbing at this time and enclosed the front porch.
- 1901 Third child, Jessie Belle, is born.
- 1901 Moeur becomes the sole proprietor of the former Broadway & Moeur Drug Store after buying his partners interest.
- 1902 Moeur purchased an 80-acre ranch six miles south of Tempe.
- 1903 Fourth child, Benjamin B. Moeur Jr., is born.
- 1908-10 Moeur serves as a member of the Arizona Constitutional Convention as a chairman on the educational committee.
- 1911-12 A second structural addition is made to Moeur's Tempe residence. Modifications included installation of a new roof and preexisting rooms were renovated. At least three new rooms were added at this time and the outside façade was altered to create a Neo-Colonial Revival Style house.
- 1917-18 Moeur provides free medical care to World War I veterans and their families.
- 1920-32 Moeur serves as secretary of the Board of Directors at Tempe Normal School.
- 1929 A final structural addition is made to the Moeur residence. The local newspaper reports it to be "one of the most comfortable and attractive homes in the Valley." The old wood-plank floor was replaced with modern tongue-in-groove style flooring and the kitchen and bathrooms were modernized.
- 1932 Moeur elected to first term as Arizona governor, defeating incumbent Democrat George W.P. Hunt in the primary and Republican J.C. Kinney in the general election.
- 1934 Moeur reelected to a second gubernatorial term. The second term became well known for his declaration of martial law in relation to the construction of Parker Dam.
- 1934 Moeur's eldest son, John Kelly, died.
- 1934 Moeur suffers a mild heart attack while attending an event in Tucson.

- 1936 Moeur runs for third term as governor but is defeated in the Democratic primary by Judge Stanford.
- 1937 Moeur suffers a debilitating heart attack on March 8.
- 1937 Benjamin B. Moeur dies of heart failure at his home on March 16.
- 1945 Honor Anderson Moeur dies on August 19 at the Moeur residence. She was born March 29, 1876 in Kerrville, Texas. Her funeral services were held on August 21 at Memory Chapel.
- 1954 Benjamin B. Moeur, Jr., sells the Moeur residence to Carl Hilstrom, marking the first time in over fifty years that ownership of the property fell outside the Moeur family.
- 1958-61 Moeur's residence serves as a fraternity house, being occupied by no less than three different Arizona State University fraternities.
- 1962 The Moeur house is sold to Byron Hunter, who established an Indian curio shop that operated until 1983.
- 1985 The City of Tempe acquires the Moeur House and surrounding property.
- 1993 Development and renovation of the Moeur House property begins; the City of Tempe adapts the Moeur House into office space for the Tempe Community Council. Hatton Hall is built next door to provide additional meeting space.
- 1997 On September 11 the Moeur House is officially listed on the Tempe Historic Property Register.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Manuscript Materials

Moeur Family Papers, Hayden Library, Arizona State University.

Tempe History Museum Archives.

Books

Goff, John F. *Arizona Biographical Dictionary*. Cave Creek, AZ: Black Mountain Press, 1983.

Kleinsorge, Paul L. *The Boulder Canyon Project*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1941.

Pere, Madeline Ferrin. *Arizona Pageant*. Tempe, AZ: Tempe Historical Foundation, 1965.

Richard, J. Mossir. *The Birth of Arizona: The Baby State*. Phoenix: Arizona State Department of Education, 1940.

Ryden, Don. *City of Tempe: Multiple Resource Area Update*. Volume One. Tempe, AZ: Ryden Architects, 1997.

Shadegg, Stephen C., *Arizona Politics: The Struggle to End One-Party Rule*. Tempe: Arizona State University, 1986.

Sobel, Robert, and John Raimo, eds. *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States, 1789-1978*. 4 vols. Westport, CT: Meckler Books, 1978.

Woodward Architectural Group. *The Governor Benjamin Baker Moeur Residence: An Adaptive Rehabilitation of an Historic Resource*. Tempe, AZ: Woodward Architectural Group, 1999.

Newspapers/Periodicals

Arizona Daily Star

Arizona Republic

Phoenix Gazette

The Lima News

The Los Angeles Times

Time Magazine

Internet

<http://tempehistoricalsociety.org/page13.html>

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.29fab9fb4add37305ddcbeeb501010a0/?vgnnextoid=b769224971c81010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1 _____
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>12</u>	<u>412820</u>	<u>3698420</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The subject property sits on the northwest corner of Myrtle Avenue and Seventh Street in downtown Tempe, Arizona. Access to the property is gained from Seventh Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary selection coincides with the B.B. Moeur House property boundaries as stipulated by Tempe city ordinance and reflects the property currently owned and maintained by the City of Tempe.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Billy Kiser
organization Tempe Historic Preservation Office date March 2012
street & number 21 East Sixth St. Suite 208 telephone 480-350-8870
city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85281
e-mail billy_kiser@tempe.gov ; joe_nucci@tempe.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Governor Benjamin B. Moeur House

City or Vicinity: Tempe

County: Maricopa **State:** Arizona

Photographer: William S. Kiser

Date Photographed: September 23, 2011.

Note: All historic photographs are reproduced with permission of the Tempe History Museum; originals are stored in the archives there.

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 8

Benjamin Baker Moeur in the 1890s, about the time he moved to Tempe.

2 of 8

Moeur and family standing in front of their house, circa 1900. This is the earliest known photograph of the house.

3 of 8

Moeur House, date unknown.

4 of 8

Moeur House as it appeared in 1991, just prior to restoration and renovation by the City of Tempe.

5 of 8

View of the Moeur House, front façade, facing 7th Street. Photo taken in 2011.

6 of 8

View of the Moeur House, West-facing façade. Photo taken in 2011.

7 of 8

View of the Moeur House, East-facing façade. Photo taken in 2011.

8 of 8

View of the Moeur House, Back side. Photo taken in 2011.

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

name City of Tempe
street & number 31 East 5th St. telephone 480-967-2001
city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85281

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Moeur, Gov. Benjamin B., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARIZONA, Maricopa

DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/04/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/24/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000295

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/30/12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Home of Gov. Benjamin Moeur, governor of AZ from 1932-1937. State level.

RECOM./CRITERIA B.

REVIEWER Usi Deline

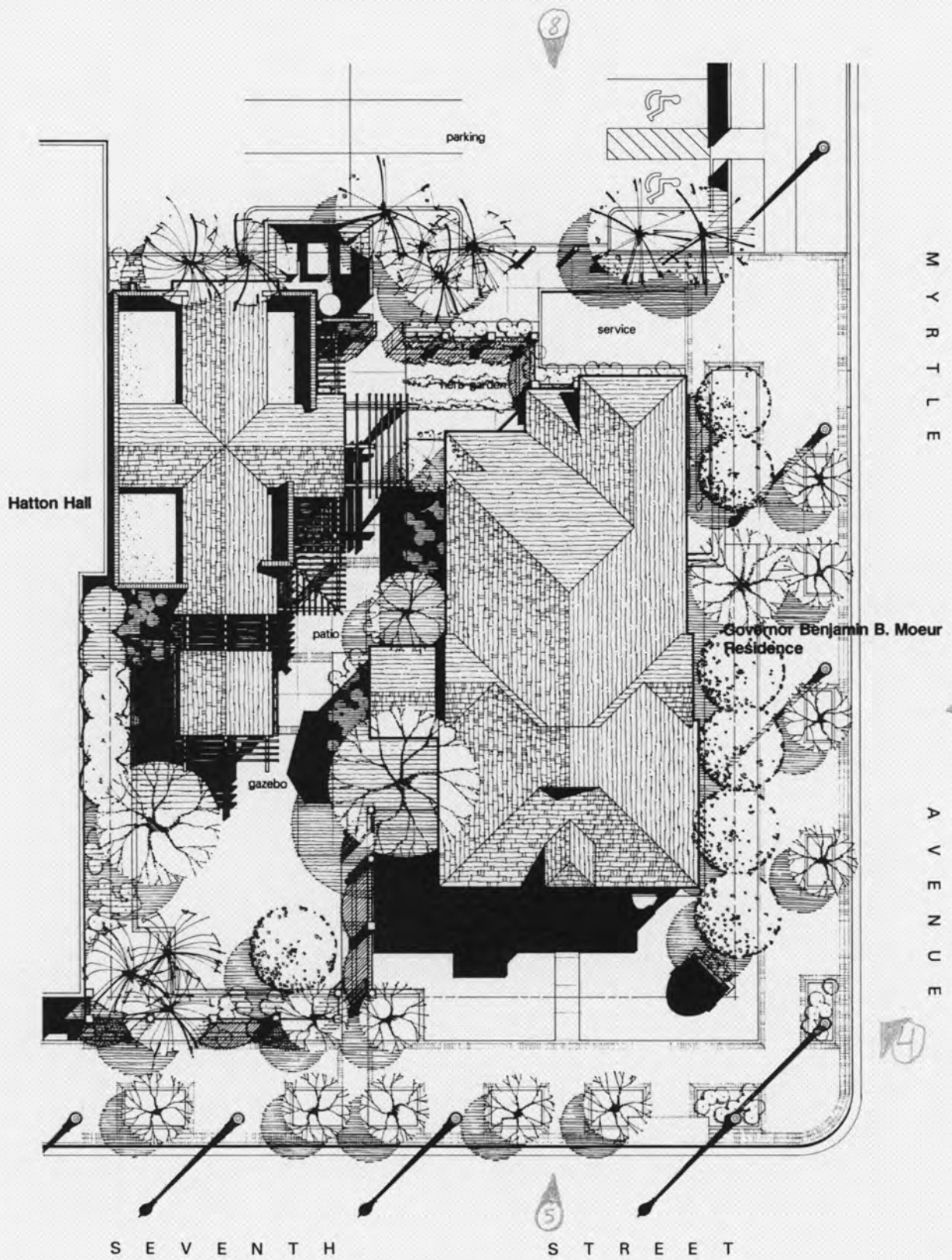
DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 5/30/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

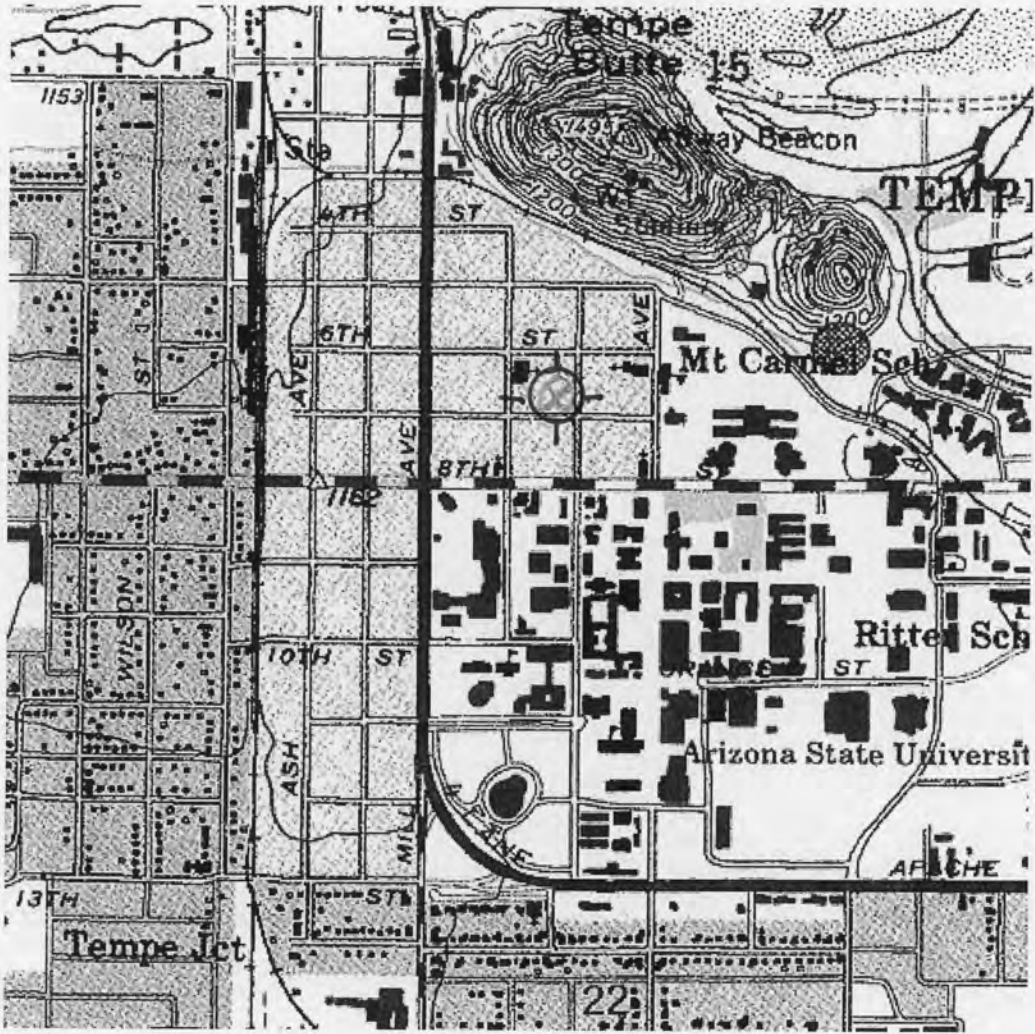
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The
Governor Benjamin B. Moeur
 RESIDENCE

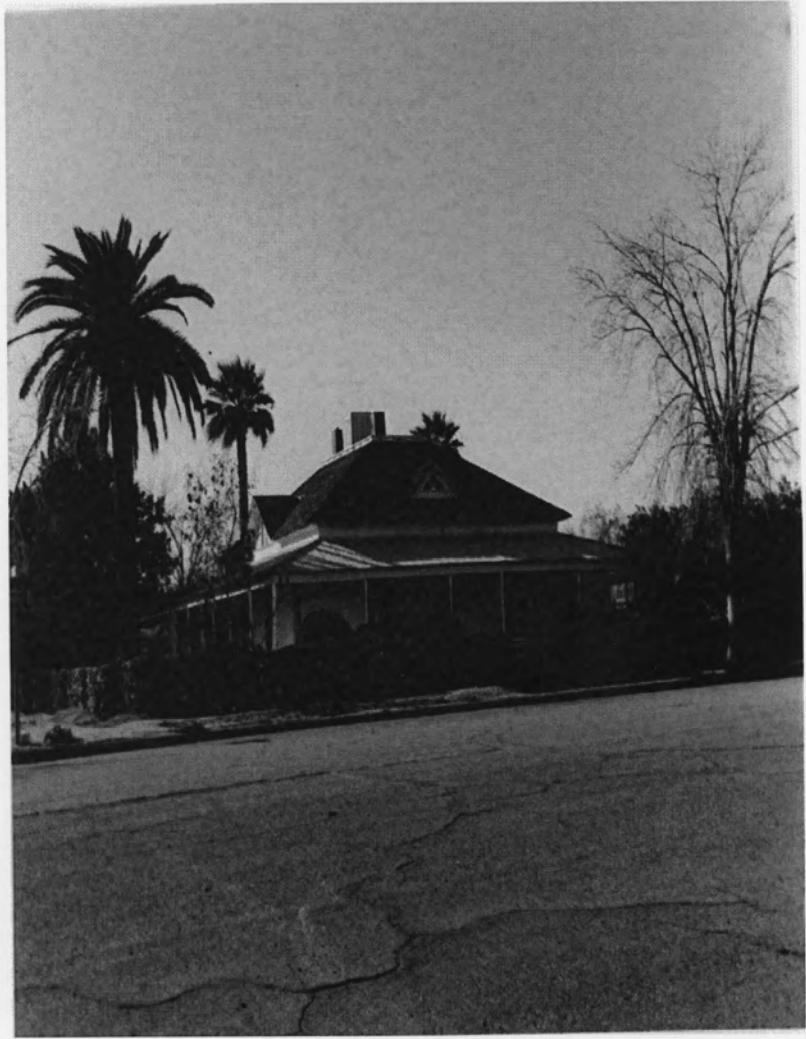
An Adaptive Rehabilitation

Photo Key

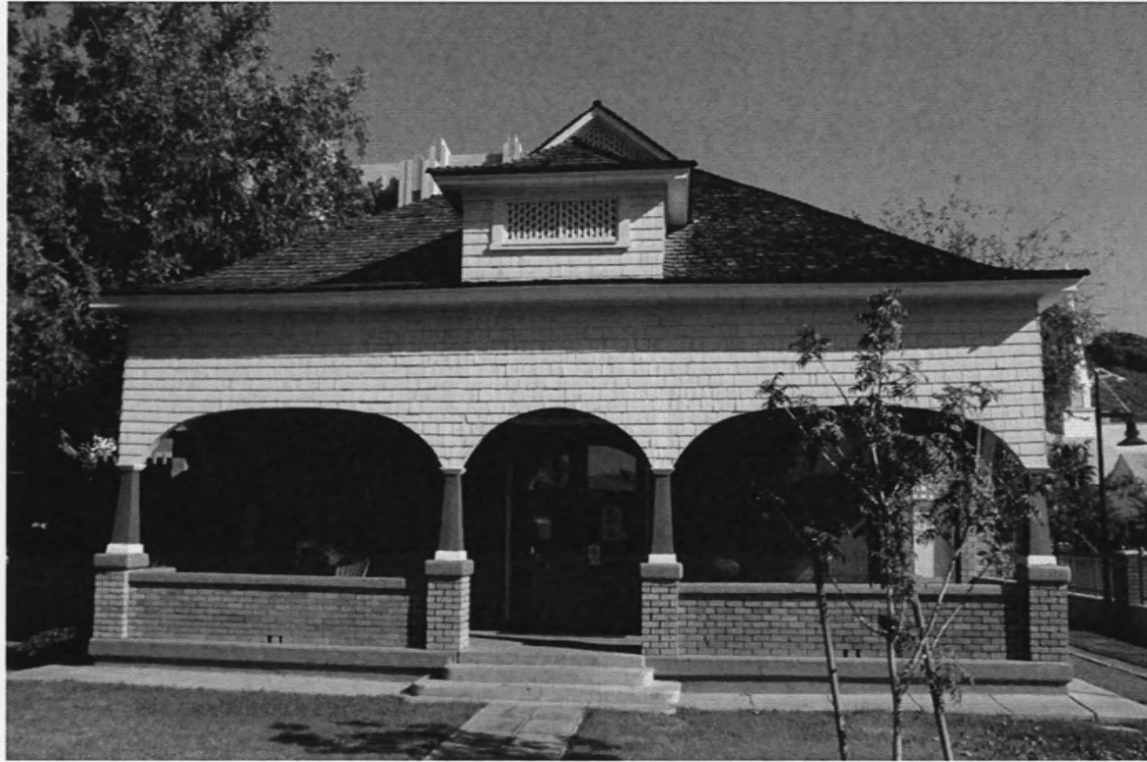




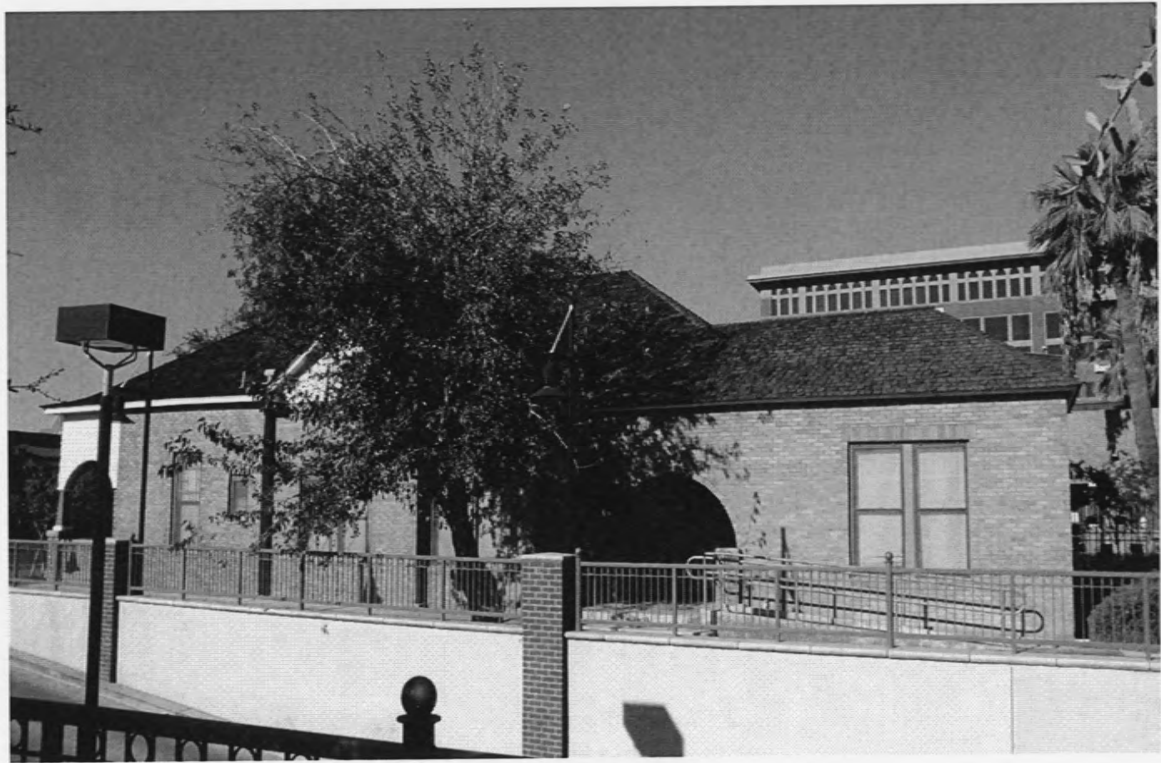




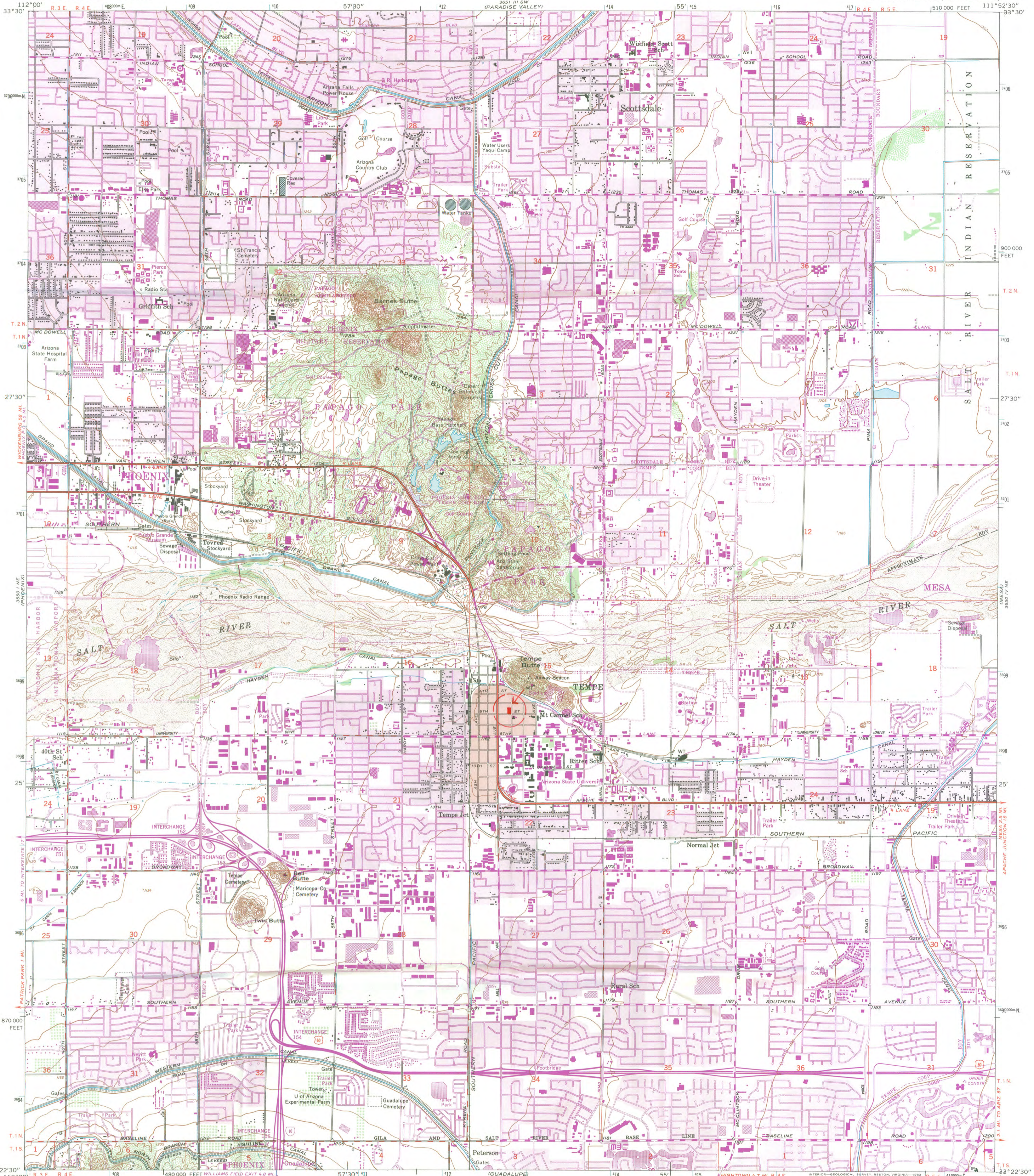












Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and USCE

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1951. Field checked 1952

Polygonic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
Arizona coordinate system, central zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 12, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters south and
65 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the
Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1978 and
other sources. This information not field checked
Map edited 1982

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

0°31' 13"

9 MILS

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



0 00000 01433 5

TEMPE, ARIZ.
N3322.5-W11152.5/7.5

1952
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 3650 IV NW-SERIES V898

CHANDLER
3650 IV SE

ISBN 0-607-07266-0

9 780607 072662

THE GOVERNOR B.B. MOER HOUSE
MARICOPA COUNTY, AZ
UTM ZONE 12 EASTING 412820 NORTHING 5698420

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Bill Feldmeier
Interim Executive Director



Board Members

Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail, *Chair*
Maria Baier, State Land Commissioner, *Vice Chair*
Alan Everett, Sedona
Larry Landry, Phoenix
William C. Scalzo, Phoenix
Tracey Westerhausen, Phoenix
Reese Woodling, Tucson

April 6, 2012

Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th Floor (MS2280)
Washington, D.C. 2005-5905

**RE: GOVERNOR BENJAMIN B. MOEUR HOUSE – TEMPE, MARICOPA, AZ
GHOST RANCH LODGE – TUCSON, PIMA, AZ**

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am pleased to submit the National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms for the properties referenced above.

Accompanying documentation is enclosed, as required. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me at vstrang@azstateparks.gov or at 602.542.4662.

Sincerely,

Vivia Strang, CPM
National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures

VS:vs