

PHO36199X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 2 1976  
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

OCT 14 1976

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

 Fort Apache Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Same

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Theodore Roosevelt School Reserve, Fort Apache  NOT FOR PUBLICATIONCITY, TOWN Whiteriver  CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTFort Apache (0181)  VICINITY OFCODE  
04COUNTY  
NavajoCODE  
017

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
Fort Apache Agency

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Whiteriver

Arizona

VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

U.S. Department of the Interior

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Arizona State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

10/31/73

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Arizona State Parks Board

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

## Z DESCRIPTION

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Apache is situated on the south bank of the East Fork of the White River, a short distance above and within view of its junction with the North Fork at an altitude of nearly 6,000 feet above sea level. The post itself is built on a basaltic plateau of 70 or 80 acres, elevated about 100 feet above the level of the East Fork, which here flows through a narrow and abrupt canyon. The White Mountains, on the southwestern slopes of which the post is situated, consist of a cluster of rounded summits, from ten to twelve thousand feet in height, the highest range in Eastern Arizona. The hills and table-lands support evergreen oak, juniper, abundant natural pastures and several species of pine. Pinon and ponderosa pine are very numerous and it was the latter that furnished the necessary lumber for the construction of the post. The soil of the river bottom is very fertile and suitable for agriculture. Beds of sandstone (A) adjacent to the post were quarried for construction use and limestone, discovered a few miles up the river, was quarried and burned for use at the post.

Previous to 1870, the country, in the heart of which Fort Apache was established, was known as the home of the Coyotero Apache, designated the White Mountain subtribal group of the Western Apache. The White Mountain Apache, easternmost of the subtribal groups, ranged over a wide area bounded by the Pinaleno Mountains on the south and by the White Mountains on the north. Between 1850 and 1870, several farm sites were located along the East and North forks. Although the Western Apache engaged in subsistence farming, their economy was based primarily on the exploitation of natural resources and the spoils of raiding. Agricultural products were estimated to make up only 25 percent of all food consumed in a year, the remaining 75 percent being a combination of undomesticated plants, game animals, and stolen livestock (Goodwin 1937). Except for early spring, when farm plots were seeded in the mountains, and early fall, the time of harvest, they were almost constantly on the move. Because they could not rely on crops throughout the year, permanent residences were not established in any one place (Goodwin/Basso 1971).

The Fort Apache Historic District encloses the original site of the Fort Apache military post. It includes 18 historically significant buildings, the sites of at least two Apache Scout camps, the old military cemetery, prehistoric ruins, prehistoric as well as historic petroglyphs, and the ruins of several post structures, including two lime kilns, machinery foundations, and the original reservoir. These structures reflect the evolution of building styles and construction phases from 1872 to 1922 when the post was abandoned. From 1923 to the present, the Interior Department has operated the Theodore Roosevelt Boarding School for Indians on the site. Many of the fort buildings have been adapted to school use.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The post was established May 16, 1870 as a temporary camp and the troops and officers were quartered in tents. In General Stoneman's report of 1870, he remarked that only the Quartermaster and Post Trader were located in substantial buildings. He also noted that the enterprising Trader would soon be brewing lager beer on the site. When the strategic importance of the camp's location became evident, the post began to take on a more permanent character.

The basic plan for the post was, and still is, the rectangle, the long axis oriented east-west. The north side, about 150 yards from the river, is occupied by the officers' quarters and referred to as "Officers' Row". The first Officers' Quarters built were of rough hewn logs chinked with mud. The boards for the roof and floor were hauled overland 230 miles from Tucson, the nearest supply location. After 1872, boards were manufactured at the post with a steam powered saw mill. The log houses were two 18 by 20 foot huts joined with a central hallway and served as a duplex. Outside end fireplaces of stone provided heat and light. Canvas nailed to the interior walls helped keep out the cold. Cooking was done in a detached kitchen out back. Colonel E. A. Carr, post commandant in 1881 wrote, "I am living in a log house, builded and added to piecemeal; floor flat on the ground and therefore malarious; roof leaky, whole house very open." (Warfield, 1971) Signalman Will Barnes recalled, "They were all of logs, one story, and entirely primitive as to architecture and finish." The Surgeon General in his 1875 report on hygiene stated that: "they are hot in summer and cold in winter, leak badly in rainy weather, are poorly lighted, more than sufficiently ventilated, and altogether afford a miserable kind of shelter." This report continues: "As a general thing they are supplied with badly-constructed fire-places, which render them almost uninhabitable. Many of the rooms occupied by the officers remind the writer of the old-fashioned log cabins used by the negroes in the South and West, only requiring the horizontal iron bar and pothooks in the fire-place to make the resemblance complete." General Crook's quarters, built in 1874 (1), now the Apache Culture Center and Museum, is the remaining example of the log building period.

Two 1½ story frame houses were built early in the 1870s. One was the commanding officers quarters. Neither of these survived into the 20th century.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

East of Crook's Quarters along Officers' Row are three stone houses. They were built ca. 1890 of local stone using random ashlar bond. The first two (2-3) are 1½ stories each with intersecting gabled roofs, 1 story full length porches all roofed with corrugated sheet metal. The double hung windows are set in semicircular arched openings. The front doorways are decorated with a rectangular transom and sidelights. The third stone building was the Commanding Officer's (4) Quarters. It is 2½ stories and irregularly rectangular in outline. The roof is a combination of gable and hip with deck forms. A cupola, square in plan, once adorned the deck. The shingles, now asphalt, were alternately triangular and rectangular in horizontal bands. The once circular ocular of the gables has been squared off. Guttae embellish the boxed cornice. The windows and doors are set in semicircular arches. A flat arch and rectangular transom surmount a doorway leading onto the one story porch deck. Brick columns have taken over the load of the porch roof previously carried by slender wood posts. A low stone wall has been added around the porch. Under the porch a square window is set diagonally. The tall chimneys have corbeled caps. These houses, as well as the rest of those, save the club (5) building, along Officers' Row, serve as residences for school faculty and staff. The impetus to building with stone may have been provided by the fire of June 25th, 1886 that destroyed the sawmill.

During the period 1876-1884, many tradesmen were hired to supplement the work being done by the enlisted men. Carpenters, masons, plumbers, laborers, and a sawyer were brought in by the post Quartermaster. Post returns for the same period showed blacksmiths, carpenters, stonemasons, tinsmiths, painters, and shoemakers among the enlisted men.

Frame Officers' Quarters were built starting around 1879. The one story homes were L-shaped with intersecting gabled roofs and inside end chimneys. A full length hip roofed porch shaded the front. All the windows were shuttered. By 1881, a white picket fence and boardwalk separated the yards from the street. Buildings 6, 8a, and 10, built between 1885 and 1888, represent this style. Only number 6 has a rectangular transom and sidelights. Buildings 8, 9, and 11 are remodeled or rebuilt, maintaining the form of the old quarters.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

The last house on Officers' Row (12) is unique in the area. Built ca. 1930 of plastered masonry, it had at one time a flat roof with parapet. The old roof has been converted to a gable form. This house may have served as an infirmary for the school after the post hospital was destroyed by fire.

The lime kiln ruins (D), from the east end of Officers' Row, are just across the river below the plateau. Made of common red brick and lined with fire brick, they were built to take advantage of the sloping canyon side. Built ca. 1875, they supplied the post with quick-lime. Above the kilns, on the plateau are the petroglyphs (E), pecked into basalt boulders. To the west of the picture rocks, near the escarpment, lies the prehistoric (F) room ruin, a long narrow rectangular foundation divided crosswise into smaller units. The age and origin of the ruin is unknown. A scout camp, one of the earlier, was established here. The wikiup, the Western Apache brush dome shelter, would have been the dominant architectural form at that time.

Back across the river, where the ground slopes up gently, and a little to the east, is where the sawmill and sawyers house stood. The pipeline carrying water to the old reservoir (B), crossed to the post near here. A steam powered pump forced the water to the 70,000 gallon concrete lined reservoir. Before the gravity system was installed (1881), water was hauled from the river, "in an immense tank wagon, drawn by six snow white mules." It was then poured into barrels standing at each set of quarters.

The old cemetery (H) is halfway between the big ridge south of the post and the river, southeast of the mill on a low ridge. It used to have a picket fence, now a 3 foot stone wall partially encloses the yard. In 1931, most of the army dead were moved to Santa Fe. Apache Scounts were buried near their home communities. The cemetery is still in use.

South of the west end of Officers' Row is the Commissary warehouse (13), a long, 1 story plastered adobe with a small covered loading dock in front and a shed roofed partial cellar behind. It was built ca. 1888. The Guardhouse (14) was built of stone in 1891. At the east end of the

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

parade ground is the Adjutant's Office (15), now in use as the post office. Built ca. 1876, this adobe structure has a truncated hip roof and corbeled chimney caps. The decorative roof railing is missing, as is the wood porch from the east side. The entrance doorway has a rectangular transom and sidelights. The casing above the windows is in the form of a pediment. South of the Adjutant's Office, at the south east corner of the parade ground, is the Boys' Dormitory (16). Built in 1932 for the boarding school, this stone, 2 story, Classic revival structure occupies the former site of a stone guardhouse, quartermaster's warehouse, and an adobe Commissary. Between the Commissary and the Adjutant's Office were a telegraph office and the operator's residence. In addition to the military duties, the telegraph operator was required to take, record, and forward by wire four separate weather observations daily to Washington.

In the 1880s, 7 large U-shaped barracks replaced the company kitchens and mess halls along the south side of the parade ground. Previously, from 1874, the troops had been quartered in small (18 x 20) log huts in 3 parallel rows running north-south on the parade ground. The new barracks were of adobe and frame or frame faced adobe. They had much the same form as the frame Officers' Quarters (6) on a larger scale (8 bays long). The remaining barracks (17) has had three small hipped dormers added. The front porch is gone. A grant has been made available to stabilize and rehabilitate this building. Tentative plans are to move the Apache Culture Center to this location. The other buildings (19-22) on the south side of the parade ground are used to store the community fire engine. This building is half stone and half frame with hip roof and wood lintels. The stone half may be the remains of the old guardhouse.

South of Indian Route 700, opposite the parade ground and below the reservoir, were clusters of small buildings. "Laundry Row," a line of nondescript structures of varied architecture and material: canvas, stone, adobe, log and slabs. Many were a combination of all these materials. The married enlisted men had their homes in this area. The men's sinks (toilets), located in the low part of the gully, were deep trenches, surrounded by stockades and covered with brush. The sinks and the hay yard were probably the only places stockades were built, and these were 4 to 5 feet high.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

On a piece of rising ground, which forms the southeastern extremity of the post, were located corrals, stables, grain houses, and many craft shops: carpenter, blacksmith, wheelwright, paint, and quarters. The hay yard was up against the hill. In 1872, the White Mountain Apache sold over 80,000 pounds of maize and fodder. The post trader's outfit was at the edge of the plateau where the road comes up. Today, 2 of the 4 cavalry stables (24-25), built ca. 1906 remain. Three hundred feet long, these frame stables are set on stone foundations. The gable roof is built on two levels allowing ventilation the entire length. The silos and milking shed (25) were added by the school. The magazine (26) was built in 1886. It is square in plan with a low door set in the middle of the east wall. The doorway in the stone wall is spanned with a combination flat and corbeled arch. Across the street from the magazine, two NCO Quarters stand vacant. Built ca. 1887, they are frame, 1 story houses with porches front and back, the latter enclosed. Small ground level dormers face each other between the houses. North of the NCO Quarters is the Quartermasters' Corral (29). The north half of what was a rectangular enclosure remains. The shed roofed frame structure offered sheltered stall space for the stock and enclosed storage and was built in 1885. Next door is the Quartermasters' Warehouse (30), with gabled roof. The windows are set up next to the eaves on this plastered adobe built in 1889. Behind the warehouse is an all metal Granary (32). This windowless storehouse, built in 1900, is crowned with four rectangular ventilators.

Sketch Map Legend

Structures contemporary with military occupation

Sidewalks

Only foundations remain

Area previously heavily occupied by post related structures

1. Officer Quarters, "Crook's Quarters," Apache Culture Center & Museum: 1874, log, plaster chinked, stone fireplaces

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**DESCRIPTION (continued)**

2. Officer Quarters, T.R. faculty-staff housing: 1890-91, stone, 1½ stories, corrugated metal roof, 1 story porch with corrugated metal roof, interior end chimneys, semi-circular window arches, rectangular transom with sidelights.
3. Same as 2.
4. Commanding Officer's Quarters, T.R. faculty-staff housing: ca. 1890, 2½ stories, stone, random ashlar bond, combination gable and hip roof, one story porch, corbeled chimney cap, semi-circular window arches, 1 flat arch over second story doorway.
5. B.I.A. Club Building: 2½ stories, intrusion, ca. 1930.
6. Officer Quarters, vacant: ca. 1885, 1 story, frame with full porch in front, rectangular transom and sidelights, U-shaped.
7. Trailer, residence.
8. Residence; rebuilt frame structure mimics 6, 8a, & 10, board and batten.
- 8a Officer Quarters, T.R. faculty-staff housing: ca. 1888, 1 story frame.
9. Same as 8.
10. Same as 8a.
11. Same as 8.
12. Residence, infirmary for school?: ca. 1930, plastered masonry, 1 story.
13. Commissary Stores, warehouse: ca. 1888, plastered adobe, corrugated sheet metal hip roof, shed roof cellar.

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**DESCRIPTION (continued)**

14. Guardhouse: 1891, stone, arched openings, hip roof with corrugated sheet metal.
15. Administration Office, Adjutant's Office, Post Office: ca. 1876, adobe, hip roof with deck, corbeled chimney cap, shingled.
16. Boy's Dorm, T.R. school: 1932, stone, Greek revival, 2 stories.
17. Infantry Barracks: ca. 1889, 1 story, plastered adobe, U-shaped, corrugated sheet metal roof.
18. Shop, Fire Engine Garage: ca. 1890, 1 story, half stone, half frame, wood lintels, corrugated sheet metal roofing, hip roof.
19. Cafeteria-Dining Hall T.R. School: post 1932.
20. Portable classrooms: recent.
21. T.R. School.
22. T.R. School.
23. Girl's Dorm, T.R. School: 1932, stone, 2 stories, hip roof.
24. Cavalry Stable: ca. 1906, frame, gable roof ventilated entire length, corrugated sheet metal roofing.
25. Same as 24. Milking shed and silos added after 1923.
26. Magazine: 1886, stone, random ashlar bond, hip roof, corrugated roofing.
27. Senior N.C.O. Quarters, vacant: ca. 1887, frame, hip roof with deck, 1 story with full porch in front, enclosed porch in rear, ground level dormer, corrugated sheet metal.
28. Same as 27 except shingled.

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

29. Quartermaster's Corral: 1885, frame, U-shaped, shed roof.
  30. Quartermaster's Stores: 1889, plastered adobe, U-shaped, corrugated sheet metal roofing, windows at eaves, corbeled chimneys.
  31. Maintenance, T.R. School: 1930s.
  32. Granary: ca. 1900, corrugated sheet metal, gabled roof with four ventilators, no windows.
    - A. Stone Quarry: ca. 1874, sandstone for building.
    - B. Reservoir: Concrete lined.
    - C. Water Tower: Steel cylinder.
    - D. Lime Kilns: ca. 1875, common and fire brick, built into the river bank.
    - E. Petroglyphs: historic and prehistoric, animal, geometric, names, and dates.
    - F. Prehistoric Masonry Wall Ruins: long, narrow rectangle divided into smaller units.
    - G. Machinery Foundations: concrete and reinforced concrete, square reinforcing steel, concrete wall.
    - H. Old Military Cemetery: stone wall partially encloses yard, Military bodies moved to Santa Fe in 1931.
    - J. Granary (foundation only): 1888.
- SCOUT CAMP      Area occupied by Apache scouts and their families.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1975	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

---

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Apache Historic District remains a reminder of changing times. Located in the heart of Apache country, an isolated outpost of Anglo expansion, and a focal point of contact between dissimilar cultures, it recalls a turbulent period of both conflict and cooperation between the representatives of the United States and the various bands of the Western Apache. That the names of men who played important roles in the history of Fort Apache are remembered today, one hundred years later, reflects the significance of this important post. Perhaps the most widely recognized are the names of the notorious leaders of renegade Apache bands hunted down by the troops and scouts from Fort Apache: Geronimo, Cochise, Victorio, Nana, and Mangas. Equally important were those White Mountain Apaches instrumental in bringing a lasting peace to the Southwest: Chiefs Alchise and Diablo (Haske dasila), scouts John Rope (tlodilhil) and David Longstreet (nalte), to name just a few. The military men included General George Crook, Commander of the Department of Arizona and architect of the Apache scouts, perhaps the single most important figure of the Apache Wars; Lieutenants Charles B. Gatewood, Thomas Cruse and Britton Davis who commanded scout units, and Captain John Bourke and Sargent Will Barnes whose published accounts shed much light on the events of that time. Arizona pioneers C. E. Cooley and Al Sieber contributed greatly to the settling of this part of the country.

Today, Fort Apache is the site of the Theodore Roosevelt Indian School, educating young Indians in the skills they'll need directing the future of their people, and the Apache Culture Center, preserving the old ways and reminding the Apaches of the important role they played in the resolution of peace.

The following is taken from Western Apache Raiding and Warfare, from the notes of Grenville Goodwin, edited by Keith H. Basso, University of Arizona Press, 1971. It is a concise history of events surrounding Fort Apache.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attachment

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ± 288

E 12 594170 3739060

UTM REFERENCES

NE

A | 12 | 59,3 | 15,0 | 3,71 39 | 17,6 | 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C | 1,2 | 5 | 9,4 | 39,0 | 3,73 8 | 5,60 |

B | 12 | 59,4B | 9,0 | 3,71 39 | 17,80 |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D | 1,2 | 5 | 9,3 | 16,0 | 3,73 8 | 5,60 |

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at the NW corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26, T5N, R22E, Gila and Salt River Base Meridian, Arizona, then 2640 feet E, then 3960 feet S, then 3029 feet W, then 1484 feet N, then 931 feet W, then N to center of the East Fork White River, then following river upstream until it intersects with the E side of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26, then N to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John M. Treeful

DATE

12/75

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board, Historic Preservation Dept.

STREET & NUMBER

3646 E. Fairmount

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Tucson

795-9123

STATE

Arizona 85716

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Dorothy H Hall

TITLE Alternate State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 2-24-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Total

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 10/14/76

DATE 10-8-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

"In the spring of 1870, a road was built into the White Mountains of Arizona under the supervision of Major John Green (First Infantry). On May 16, a post was established at its terminus, near the present town of Whiteriver. Known briefly as Camp Ord, Mogollon, and Thomas, it was renamed Camp Apache on February 2, 1871. In September of the same year, Vincent Colyer, secretary to the Board of Peace Commissioners for the management of Indian affairs, visited Camp Apache and officially designated the surrounding area as a reservation.

"In 1871-72, General George Crook, now commander of the Department of Arizona, journeyed to Camp Apache and there recruited his first company of Indian scouts. This post was of singular importance during Crook's subsequent campaigns into the Tonto Basin region, and gained added significance in the years following 1873 when, in accordance with Washington's ill-fated centralization policy, virtually all the mountain tribes of Arizona and New Mexico were concentrated on the San Carlos Reservation. Camp Apache was renamed Fort Apache on April 5, 1879 and in 1924 was turned over to the Indian Service for use as a boarding school. The Theodore Roosevelt Indian School is still being operated today.

"In 1864, Camp Goodwin was established on the Gila River in White Mountain territory. This was an event of major significance, especially for Apaches living to the north. Sandwiched between Tonto country and Chiricahua country, the northern White Mountain groups were geographically isolated and had remained comparatively undisturbed by Anglo military operations. Led by the powerful Chief Diablo, they were anxious to avoid the fate that had befallen their neighbors to the east and west and so, when the soldiers arrived at Camp Goodwin and made offers of peace, they accepted. In the years that followed, White Mountain raiding parties continued to make forays into Mexico but, with the exception of minor skirmishes, open conflict with the soldiers was avoided. The result was the development of an uneasy friendship that was to have two very important consequences. One was the unresisted establishment of Fort Apache, the other was the willingness of White Mountain and Cibecue Apaches to serve as scouts for General George Crook in his later campaigns against the Tontos and Chiricahuas.

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"By 1870, it was becoming increasingly clear that the Territory of Arizona lacked the military means to exterminate the Apaches. The number of forts continued to grow, but the Army was undermanned and, more important, unable to formulate a clear and consistent plan for dealing with the problem. Following the Camp Grant Massacre in 1871, the federal government implemented its new 'Peace Policy' in Arizona. This policy was intended to put an end to the Army's fumblings and to curtail the activities of corrupt civilian agents.

"The Peace Policy called for the collection of all Apaches on reservations as a first step towards promoting 'peace and civilization' among them. The Indians would be settled on their own lands, given protection against Anglos, and encouraged to make a living through agriculture or the raising of livestock.

"Meanwhile, General George Crook assumed control of U.S. military forces in the Department of Arizona. More than any other single individual, Crook was responsible for engineering the Apaches' final defeat; but at the same time, he developed great admiration for their knowledge and endurance, and consistently treated them with intelligence and understanding.

"Crook was skeptical of the new Peace Policy. Many Apaches had come in to the reservation but a large number, obviously uninterested in peace, stayed away. Everywhere the Indians were fearful, restless, and uncertain. Camp Grant was abandoned when trouble arose, and new headquarters were established at San Carlos on the Gila River. Sporadic raids continued to occur, and the suspicion grew that a massive outbreak was imminent. Crook saw that something had to be done and, toward the end of 1872, when attacks intensified in the Prescott region, he embarked upon a campaign to round up all Apaches who had not yet settled on reservations.

"In the winter of 1872, Crook began a series of vigorous operations against the Tonto Apaches and, within a few months, succeeded in dealing them a resounding defeat. Several hundred Tontos lay dead, and the remnants of their shattered families were taken captive and placed on reservations. The survivors were warned not to escape and urged

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to cooperate with Indian Bureau personnel in the development of agriculture. A measure of peace had been restored to central Arizona, and Crook was hailed as a hero.

"In 1874, the Department of the Interior embarked upon a 'program of removal' which had as its main objective the concentration of all Western Apaches on a single reservation--San Carlos. Centralizing the Indians, it was hoped, would make them easier to control and thus reduce the threat they posed to the Anglo citizens of Arizona. From Washington, the removal strategy looked sound, but its implementation had unforeseen consequences, none of them altogether surprising, that probably did more to prolong the 'Apache Wars' than bring them to a close.

"In February 1875, more than 1400 Tonto Apaches and Yavapais were brought to San Carlos from Camp Verde. They were followed by a large body of White Mountain and Cibecue people from Fort Apache. In 1876, a body of 325 Chiricahuas came into the reservation, although the most hostile factions, under the leadership of recalcitrants such as Juh and Geronimo, remained at large. With the removal in 1877 of the Chiricahua chief Victorio and some four hundred of his followers from Warm Springs, the total number of Indians at San Carlos rose to above five thousand.

"There were problems from the start. Many of the groups living at San Carolos had never before been associated with one another, and their new proximity gave rise to mistrust and suspicion. Then, too, factional disputes developed within single groups, especially the Chiricahua. Some elements, tired of war and constant travelling, seemed to be in favour of peace. Others found the conditions at San Carlos intolerable and waited for the chance to escape. Among all Apaches there was the feeling that the future was uncertain and that, despite attempts by Indian Agent John Clum to give them some control over their own affairs, anything could happen at any time.

"Victorio bolted from San Carlos six months after he had arrived, taking with him 310 followers, men, women and children. He surrendered voluntarily at Ojo Caliente in the fall of 1879, only to break again and

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embark upon a series of depredations that threw the entire southwest into a state of panic. In 1881, after a number of troops were killed at Cibecue while trying to arrest an Apache shaman, more Chiricahuas fled San Carlos, and it appeared that the removal program had back-fired completely. Two years went by before the nearly one thousand Indians who had escaped were hunted down and returned to reservations. The most significant blow was struck by Crook himself who, in 1883, led a force consisting largely of Indian scouts deep into Sonora's Sierra Madre and there entered into negotiations with Geronimo that ultimately resulted in the surrender of nearly four hundred Chiricahuas.

"By 1884, peace had been restored and several groups of Apaches, including Geronimo and a small band of Chiricahuas, were taken to Fort Apache. Here, under strict military control, they set about the construction of irrigation dams and the planting of crops. Crook relied heavily on Indian police to preserve order and, like John Clum before him, favoured a policy of trial by native juries. Most of the Indians at Fort Apache attempted to adjust to the new conditions as best they could. Internal strife was kept to a minimum and there were no outbreaks.

"The calm was shattered in the spring of 1885 when a group of Chiricahuas, led by Geronimo and other seasoned fighters like Natchez, Mangas, and Chihuahua, became disturbed at Crook's refusal to allow the production and consumption of native liquor. Confronting Lt. Britton Davis, they explained that they were tired of restrictions and demanded the right to brew their own intoxicants. Davis, sensing the delicacy of the situation, wired Crook for orders, but the request was short-circuited at San Carlos and never received. Three days later, on May 17, Geronimo, thirty-three men, eight boys of fighting age, and ninety-two women and children broke from Fort Apache and headed south. The Chiricahuas avoided capture for sixteen months but finally, having once again been pursued into Mexico, they agreed to surrender. Shortly after, on September 7, 1886, they were taken to Holbrook, Arizona, loaded into boxcars, and shipped to Fort Marion, Florida. The next few years saw scattered renegade action around Fort Apache and San Carlos, but no more large-scale outbreaks occurred and the Indians on both reservations became conspicuously less restive. By 1890, the 'Apache wars' were over.

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"Throughout the conflict, the Western Apache suffered less severely than the Chiricahua. Fewer of their people were killed, and except for their confinement at San Carlos during the middle 1870's, they were never uprooted from their original territory. From the outset, the Cibecue and White Mountain Apaches were inclined towards peace and adjusted comparatively well to living on reservations. More important, these groups supplied the Army with skillful and dependable scouts whose aid, as Crook himself stated on numerous occasions, was absolutely indispensable in bringing about the Chiricahua's final defeat."

Thus it is seen that Fort Apache was a focal point in the "Apache Wars." Unlike many other military forts in Arizona which were abandoned completely and left to the elements and the vandals, this one has remained in use and under the jurisdiction of the United States government since the beginning. Remarkably, Fort Apache was retained as a military post until 1922. At that time, by Executive Order, "7,597.75 acres, more or less," were placed under the control of the Secretary of the Interior and subsequently established as the Theodore Roosevelt Indian School in 1923. Since then the school reserve has been reduced to 410 acres, returning the excess acreage to the White Mountain Apache Tribe. On November 18, 1965, the White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation passed a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior, "to designate Fort Apache, including the Military Cemetery, as a National Historic Site," and requesting the National Park Service "to assist in planning and organizing a program for the restoration of Fort Apache."

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The archaeological research potential at Fort Apache is extremely high, with numerous sites from different cultures and time periods.

Prehistoric sites include (E) pictographs, and (F) stonemasonry wall ruins.

Historic Indian sites include (ASC) two Apache Scout camp locations.

Historic Anglo sites include (HP9) original military hospital location, (A) two 1874 stone quarries, (B) early water reservoir, (D) two 1875 lime kilns, (G) machinery foundations, (H) military cemetery, (J) 1888 granary foundations, and unmarked civilian sites south of the fort.

Historical archaeology around the early fort buildings which are still standing could yield much information. Unfortunately, the research potential at the barracks was destroyed during the preparation for restoration, but the potential at the other buildings is certainly great.

Overall, the archaeological research potential for the Fort Apache Historic District is unusually high because the sites are relatively undisturbed.

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