

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Hunt Bass Hatchery Caretaker's House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Phoenix Zoo Grounds, 455 North Galvin Parkway not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Phoenix vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85008

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Thomas W. Gorman AZ State Parks 5 December 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

*Edson H. Beall 1/23/03*

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Educational Exhibit Building

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements--Bungalow

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Asphalt Shingle

walls Coursed River Rock

other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Conservation  
Social History  
Government  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1935-1953  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** 1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** W. H. Collie/Civilian Conservation Corps  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Less than one

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>412000</u>	<u>3701580</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title William S. Collins, Ph.D., Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Arizona State Parks date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 1300 W. Washington telephone (602) 542-7159

city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85007

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

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Property Owner

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

name City of Phoenix

street & number 200 W. Washington telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85003

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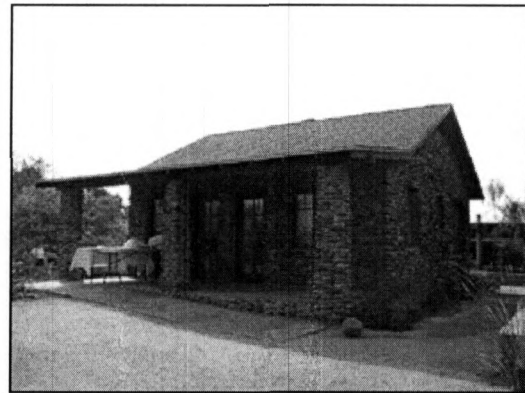
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Hunt Bass Hatchery Caretaker's House  
name of property  
Maricopa, Arizona  
county and State

**SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION**

**SUMMARY**

The Hunt Bass Hatchery Caretaker's House is a simple Bungalow style house built on a hill overlooking the grounds of the former Hunt Bass Hatchery, now the Phoenix Zoo. Workers with the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the building in 1935. It was constructed with coursed river rock and has a gable roof and wood casement windows. Its front porch features three prominent cobblestone piers supporting the porch roof.



Front of Caretaker's House

**DESCRIPTION**

**Location:**

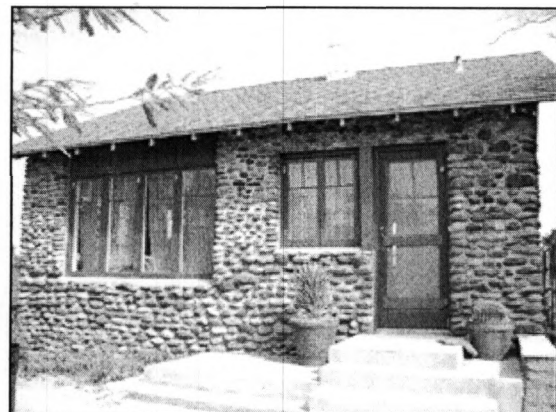
The Hunt Bass Hatchery Caretaker's House is located on the grounds of the Phoenix Zoo, which is part of Papago Park. Papago Park is located in Phoenix, Arizona near the boundary of Phoenix with Tempe, just north of the Salt River bed, and consists of hilly desert terrain and a number of prominent sandstone buttes. The building faces the northwest and has not been moved.

**Materials:**

One of the house's most distinctive features is that it was constructed of river-worn stones. It has a concrete foundation, an asphalt shingle roof, and wood casement windows.

**Design:**

Stylistically, the house can be classified as a Bungalow, primarily because of its prominent front porch marked by three large cobblestone piers that support the porch roof. In its use of river cobbles as its primary material, the house conveys a rustic image that probably is due to the design influence of W. H. Collie, a National Park Service official who supervised its construction in 1935. The building has two doors in the front opening onto the porch and a single back door. Its exterior dimensions are 23' 6" across the front and back and 25' 3" along the sides. Its porch has a depth of 6' 6". The building's height to its eaves is 10' and 17' to the peak of the roof. It also has a small chimney, slightly off center but near the middle of the roof that was originally connected to



View of the rear of the house

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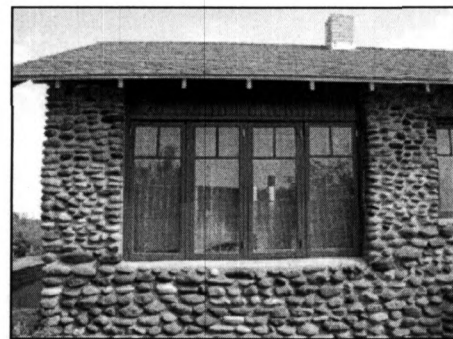
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two stoves. There is also a small concrete ramp in front that leads to the porch and provides access to the porch and house.

Workmanship:

This house was constructed in 1935 by workers with the Civilian Conservation Corps under the guidance of W. H. Collie. As was typical of work done by the CCC here and elsewhere, the workers took advantage of materials that would have been locally available—in this case the coursed river stones—and constructed a simple, though sturdy building. The house has survived 67 years, many of which were years of neglect, in excellent condition. When it was rehabilitated between 1996 and 2000, it required little significant work other than the replacement of its roof and repair of the windows.

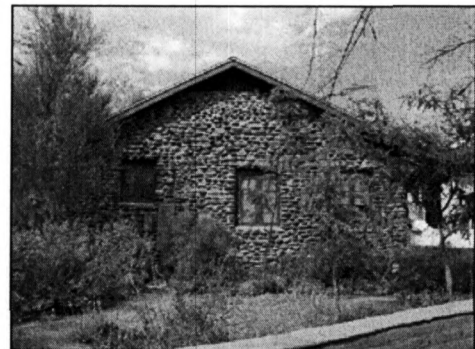


Window detail

Setting:

The Caretaker's House is located on rising ground in what is now the Phoenix Zoo. When originally constructed the building overlooked several of the small reservoirs that constituted the Hunt Bass Hatchery. These reservoirs were integrated into the design of the zoo, providing it with an appealing, lush physical environment that is distinct from the surrounding desert that constitutes the majority of Papago Park. Much of Papago Park is visible from the house, particularly its prominent sandstone buttes. While many of the zoo's exhibits can be seen from the house, no animals are displayed in its immediate vicinity. On the southwest side and the rear of the building are seating areas and ramada shade covers constructed at the time of its rehabilitation to provide an area for meetings and interpretation. Nearby to this building, the zoo constructed a facility for meetings and group activities. Although a thoroughly modern building, its designer took from the caretaker's house the idea of using cobblestone as a decorative motif. There is an abundance of low-water-use plants and cacti that have been planted in the vicinity of the house.

For many years, the caretaker's house stood isolated from the rest of the zoo. On its hill were the remnants of natural desert plants and the house overlooked the reservoirs that constituted the old bass hatchery. The front porch overlooks the large reservoir that is in front of the zoo and is still easily visible today. Other reservoirs are more difficult to see from the house because the mature plantings of trees and other plants have obscured the view over the years. The setting has also been altered by the construction of the modern building to the east.



Northeast side of house

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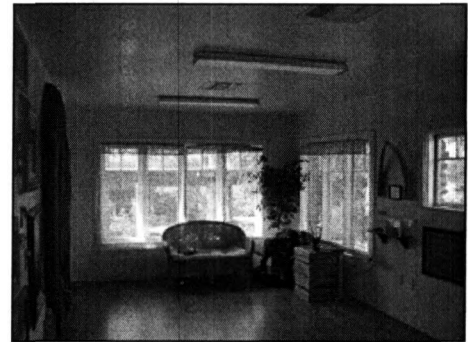
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Feeling:

The excellent condition of the caretaker's house and the maintenance of its distinctive stylistic elements allow the building to convey the general feeling of its historic character. Although its location has not changed, the most significant alteration in the property's integrity of feeling has been in its surroundings. Over the past forty years, the original character of the old bass hatchery has been altered into that of a modern zoo with a variety of animal displays and visitor facilities. However, in 2002, the fortieth anniversary of the zoo's opening, it is recognized that it has become one of the most important institutions in the Valley—a major tourist attraction and cultural amenity for visitors and citizens alike. The zoo itself is rapidly becoming recognized as an important historic resource in Phoenix. The recent rehabilitation of the building has, for the first time, allowed it to become an integral part of the zoo's facilities and educational programming, rather than the isolated remnant of the old hatchery that it once was.



Interior view of Caretaker's House  
main room

ALTERATIONS:

Between 1996 and 2000, the Phoenix Zoo completed rehabilitation of the caretaker's house that included refurbishing of the original wood casement windows, repair of the roof (replacing the original wood shingles with asphalt shingles), construction of a ramp for accessibility, and refurbishing of the interior. The most significant alteration resulting from this rehabilitation was that the windows were changed from single panes of glass within their wood casement frames to 2-over-1 lights. The original wood frames, however, were retained and are still operable. The building now contains a display in honor of the zoo's late beloved elephant, Ruby, famous for her painting.



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**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**SUMMARY**

The Hunt Bass Hatchery Caretaker's House is considered significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the development in the 1930s by the State of Arizona of a major fish hatchery—the largest in the United States in 1932—for the purpose of stocking the increasing number of reservoir lakes in Arizona with sport fish in order to promote tourism and outdoor recreation. This particular endeavor was significant as one of the last major accomplishments during the final term of Arizona's seven-term governor, George W.P. Hunt. Begun during the early 1930s, this project gained additional significance as one of the few State-sponsored, non-road projects providing employment during the pre-New Deal years of the Great Depression. After 1933, the hatchery was expanded as the Arizona State Game and Fish Department worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide relief employment by constructing new facilities. The Caretaker's House, built in 1935, is the property with the greatest level of integrity associated with the Hunt Bass Hatchery. While the hatchery's ponds still exist, their integrity has been compromised by their integration into the design of the Phoenix Zoo, the current occupant of the former hatchery grounds. This property is recommended at the local level of significance.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**PAPAGO PARK, 1914-1930**

At the border of the cities of Phoenix and Tempe north of the Salt River is a rolling desert area marked by prominent sandstone buttes, including one pierced with a natural opening known as Hole-in-the-Rock. At the beginning of the twentieth century, this area was largely untouched by either settlement or agriculture and giant saguaro cacti and other desert flora thrived in abundance. The area was impressive enough that a few local boosters thought it worth preserving as a park. Arizona's congressman, Carl Hayden, promoted it as a national park. No one outside the state thought it worth that status, but as a compromise and perhaps as a reward to a fellow Democrat, President Woodrow Wilson set it aside as the Papago Saguaro National Monument in 1914. Since at that time there was no National Park Service to provide management to the new monument, it was left in the hands of the General Land Office, who did no more than give it an annual inspection. Neither the GLO nor the National Park Service after 1916 provided much in the way of improvements. Locals carved their own dirt roads to get their cars up to Hole-in-the-Rock and cattle were free to wander across its range. Papago Saguaro was one of the more beautiful spots easily accessible to both Phoenixians and Tempeans looking for a place for a picnic or other activity, and trash and vandals soon marred its natural beauty. The Phoenix Chamber of Commerce suggested a number of improvements such as a large auto campground, a tennis park, a golf course, and a ball park. The National Park Service did eventually hire a caretaker and appropriated all of \$70 one year for improvements, but the area continued to degrade.<sup>1</sup>

With no facilities, the monument attracted only occasional and irregular uses. Its high grounds made a beautiful vista for Easter sunrise services. In 1922 it was the gathering place for the Valley's largest Ku Klux Klan rally. Over the years, as little was done to develop the area as a real park, pieces of land were taken away for other uses. As early as 1909 a portion of the area was set aside as a "rifle range" for the National Guard. This was expanded until it became, ultimately, the primary armory for the National Guard in the Phoenix area. Land was taken for a railroad right-of-way and road rights-of-way for Washington Street and McDowell Roads. A shale

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deposit was separated for cement manufacturing. In addition to these actual takings, many other suggestions for incompatible uses were made including development of homes, resorts, and a sanitarium, and when the Arizona Game and Fish Commission began lobbying in 1926 for locating a bass hatchery there, the National Park Service realized that its perception of what a national monument was all about differed from what the local citizens wanted from the land. Certainly no locals of prominence thought it worth preserving as pristine desert. The federal government removed itself from the question by removing national monument status from the area and dividing its land between the State Land Department, the City of Tempe, the National Guard, and the Salt River Valley Water Users Association.<sup>2</sup>

**GOVERNOR HUNT AND THE BEGINNING OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION**

George W.P. Hunt was the first governor of the State of Arizona, elected in 1912 and subsequently reelected to six addition terms. He was elected for the seventh and final time in November 1930 just as Arizona was beginning to feel the effects of the Great Depression. In normal times, institutions of public aid and relief barely met the needs of the destitute and indigent. In both resources and attitude, they were inadequate to the challenge of aiding thousands of unemployed able-bodied workers and their dependents. There remained considerable philosophical opposition even to work relief, let alone direct relief, for those in need. Many people fell into deprivation and poverty as public officials debated what could and ought to be done. State action was hindered because the legislature met in regular session only once every two years, from January to March following their election, to set the budget for the next two fiscal years. Unless called into special session no legislative means to address the critical issues that were rapidly arising could occur. The legislature, in January 1931, voted \$650,000 to match available federal aid funds for highway construction under the first unemployment program enacted by Congress. Some 5,000 men found jobs on increased highway work, but this was the limit of the legislature's action. Hunt called the legislature into special session in 1931 to consider two proposals regarding unemployment. The first, a bond issue to fund state programs, would have required a special election to amend the constitution. The second proposal was to create a relief fund paid by the state luxury sales tax that Hunt estimated would raise a million and a half dollars. The legislature rejected both proposals and adjourned without making any of its own.<sup>3</sup>

The unwillingness of the legislature to provide assistance to the increasing number of unemployed left Hunt with few alternatives and little authority to deal with the worsening situation. Near the end of 1931, he created a Governor's Unemployment Relief Fund and called on all State employees to contribute one day's pay each month. Between December 1931 and August 1932, the Governor's Relief Fund collected over \$53,000. One of the first work relief projects undertaken with this fund was on the grounds and buildings of the teachers' college in Tempe, giving temporary work to several men from Tempe and Mesa. Another project set men to work at the Arizona State Hospital. More important was work undertaken at Papago Park to build dams and reservoirs for a new fish hatchery.<sup>4</sup>

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUNT BASS HATCHERY**

In March 1932, the State set aside approximately 200 acres under the administration of the Game and Fish Department for development into a fish hatchery. The initial cost estimate for the hatchery was \$30,000, with labor paid out of the Governor's Relief Fund, and the cost of materials covered by a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation—the agency created in 1932 by Congress and President Hoover to provide loans to stabilize the economy and provide work relief. The project was formally designated the Hunt Bass Hatchery at its

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dedication on December 19, 1932 to honor the governor who gave it his full support, and who had been defeated for reelection that year. Such was his interest in the project that when he died the following year, the State allowed construction of his tomb—a small pyramid—to be built on a hill overlooking the hatchery. Initial construction of a set of six compound dams and ponds occurred in the fall and winter of 1932-33.<sup>5</sup>

On March 21, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt called for the creation of a Civilian Conservation Corps to provide work for thousands of unemployed men on projects related to the conservation of natural resources and development of parks. In the initial planning during 1933, Arizona was allocated a quota of 1,000 CCC jobs for unemployed, non-Indian young men (a special branch of the CCC provided employment to unemployed Indians on reservations). Beginning in May 1933, Arizona's quota was rapidly filled by young men eager to work in the outdoors for the modest pay of \$25 per month. They were organized into camps administered by the U.S. Army and put to work on projects under the direction of sponsoring agencies. These sponsoring agencies might be other federal bureaus such as the Forest Service or the National Park Service, and it was they who determined what projects the CCC workers would labor on.<sup>6</sup>

The Game and Fish Department looked to take advantage of the CCC by requesting that a CCC camp be placed in Papago Park to further develop the hatchery. The department's plans called for two additional ponds, and an administrative "compound." It was supported in this request by the Chamber of Commerce that supported development of additional recreational facilities in the area, such as roads, picnic tables, and an outdoor amphitheater. The Department of the Interior, which oversaw a number of CCC workers through its State Parks Emergency Conservation Work program, approved of the idea and agreed to locate a camp at Papago Park. The camp was dedicated on 9 December 1933 and named Camp Jack Swilling (the name selected in a contest sponsored by *The Arizona Republic*). The CCC workers were rapidly put to work constructing the seventh and eighth ponds during the winter and spring. The latter pond would be the largest with a surface area of about five acres and a capacity of about eighteen acre-feet of water.<sup>7</sup>

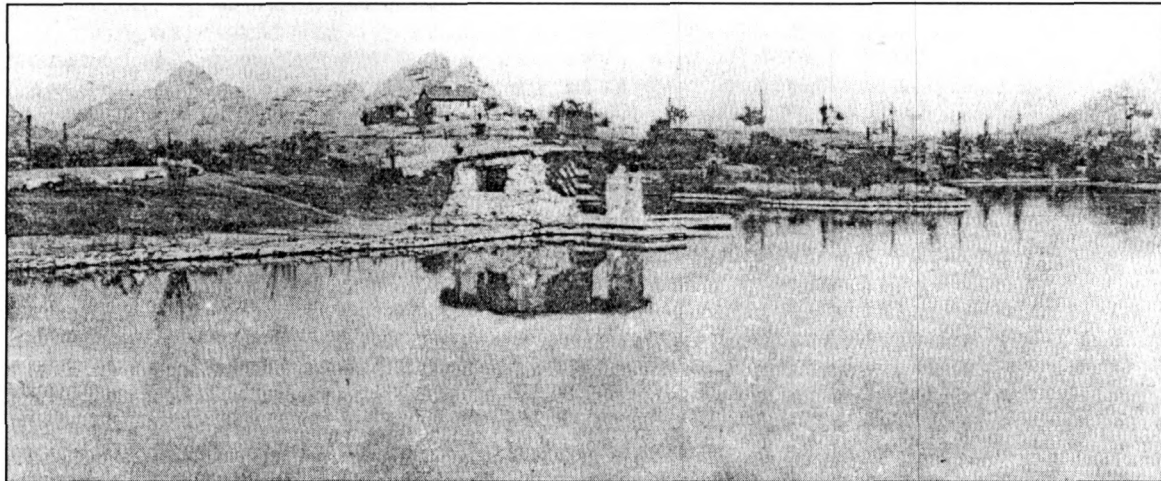
Civilian Conservation Corps camps relocated throughout the state at different seasons so its initial work ended soon after the dedication of the seventh pond on 13 May 1934. The camp returned to work a second season during the winter and spring of 1934-35 during which time they constructed the caretaker's house, a boat house (now gone), and completed the eighth pond. After this work by the CCC, more work was done in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), whose workers labored to repair the spawn beds.<sup>8</sup>

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Hunt Bass Hatchery with view of caretaker's house on the hill in the background (ca. 1938). The boathouse (center) no longer exists. State Library, Archives and Public Records photo

**CLOSURE OF THE HATCHERY AND OPENING OF THE PHOENIX ZOO**

After World War II, the City of Phoenix experienced tremendous population growth that placed great pressures on the existing park and recreational facilities. There was increasing pressure to develop Papago Park. Ideas included a sports stadium and educational buildings for Arizona State College (now University), a new state fair grounds, a new capitol for state government, a golf course, a children's zoo, and other facilities. Also, by 1950, the Game and Fish Department was no longer satisfied with the hatchery and planned to close it following completion of a federally-built hatchery on lower Oak Creek. The State of Arizona no longer wanted to retain ownership of Papago Park, apart from the portion housing the National Guard, and on 25 February 1959, officially turned the majority of it to the City of Phoenix.<sup>9</sup>

The story of the zoo eventually located in Papago Park is an example of the direction provided the city by its civic boosters. Phoenixians had only to look west, to San Diego, to witness the value of a public investment into a major zoo. The San Diego Zoo—one of the premier animal display facilities in the world—was built in Balboa Park, one of that city's crown jewels of self-identity and self-promotion. City boosters looked jealously at San Diego, which in addition to Balboa Park and its zoo, also had an abundance of public golf courses to help drive its economic growth. *The Arizona Republic* was a strong backer of municipal development of Papago Park on the San Diego model. The Phoenix Zoo story also illustrates another important aspect of Phoenix boosterism—its inability to follow through in reproducing the amenities it saw so many California cities building up so successfully. If the San Diego zoo was a world-famous tourist attraction it was because the citizens of that city and its leaders were willing to invest heavily in making it so. Most reputable zoos around the country were supported by municipal or county governments. Private zoos, often, were merely roadside menageries, designed to draw a few tourists to purchase curios or food, and with little thought to the welfare of the animals imprisoned in their stifling cages or of serious environmental education.<sup>10</sup>

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However much they might recognize a good zoo as a worthwhile civic improvement, Phoenix's municipal leadership was unwilling to invest public funds in such a venture. In the late 1940s there was a small menagerie called the E. A. Tovrea Memorial Zoo on East Washington that displayed 168 animals of Arizona and the Southwest, including a mountain lion, three bears, and some ringtails. Three Rhesus monkeys was about the extent of this zoo's exotic range, and 100 guinea pigs constituted the majority of the collection. Phil Tovrea, president of the Tovrea Packing Company, tried to unload this menagerie on the city in April 1947. Mayor Busey liked the idea, suggesting South Mountain Park as a good location to build a zoo, but did not think the city could afford it and so let the offer pass. A more promising suggestion for a zoo was briefly made in 1950 as part of Arizona State College's proposal to use a portion of Papago Park for plant and habitat studies. This was one of the earliest mentions of Papago Park being a possible location for a zoo. J. Robert Burns, director of publicity for the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, revived the idea of a zoo in 1953 at either South Mountain or Papago Park, but because he believed a zoo "could and should be financed by a non-profit zoological society," rather than the city, no progress was made. Another opportunity came in March 1954 when famed circus owner and wild animal trainer Clyde Beatty offered to relocate his winter headquarters from Deming, New Mexico to Phoenix. Both Beatty and the city first considered a site at South Mountain, but when cost estimates for sewer and water connections proved prohibitive, the city leadership, led by Mayor Murphy, turned to Papago Park. This opportunity also lapsed because of the city's problems in obtaining use of Papago Park from the state. City planning for Papago Park after 1956 always included an anticipation that some sort of zoo should be located there, though it was usually at the minimal "children's zoo" level. The city would do no more than offer land for a zoo at a nominal rent, a valuable contribution to be sure, but it would provide no funds for construction of facilities or operation. This lack of positive support from the city existed despite indications that the public strongly supported a local zoo. In 1959, the Camelback Mountain Lions Club sponsored the first serious effort to build a children's zoo by forming a nonprofit corporation to raise funds. This drive included drafting plans for a small zoo at a cost of about \$250,000 that would include a picnic area for kiddies' birthday parties and a few small buildings in which children could see a few animals.<sup>11</sup>

Private philanthropy fortuitously stepped up to fill the void in municipal support and brought the zoo idea to reality. Dr. Robert E. Maytag, a grandson of the founder of the Maytag appliance company, and his wife Nancy, according to the story, came up with the idea while on a sport-fishing vacation in the Caribbean. Upon their return to Arizona, they established the Arizona Zoological Society and donated \$100,000 to start a fund-raising drive. The city leased the new society 120 acres at the former fish hatchery ponds for a nominal rent and construction at the site began in 1962. While working at the zoo site on an especially blustery day in March, Robert Maytag apparently contracted pneumonia and died shortly after. Nancy Maytag continued their work as a memorial to her husband and the new Phoenix Zoo opened to the public on 21 November 1962.<sup>12</sup>

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View of the Caretaker's House on the hill from the old Bunny Bridge, 1963.  
Photo by Herb and Dorothy McLaughlin

#### THE CARETAKER'S HOUSE

Detailed records of the use of the caretaker's house have not been found. It was probably only occupied for approximately fifteen years following its construction until the closure of the hatchery. When the zoo opened, it remained a prominent, though unused building, except for some storage. In 1986, the building was inventoried as part of an identification and evaluation of historic properties owned by the City of Phoenix. This led to the misconception that the property was officially designated as historic. This was a fortunate misconception as it may have helped to avoid demolition when some zoo officials considered other uses for the prominent site. In 1999-2000, the decision was made to retain the caretaker's house and rehabilitate it for use as an educational facility and memorial to the zoo's beloved painting elephant, Ruby. It was at this time that the roof and windows were repaired, a wheelchair ramp constructed and seating and landscaping added to the surroundings.

In 2002, the Phoenix Zoo is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. As one of the city's most important attractions for citizens and tourists alike, it is increasingly being considered a site of historic importance in its own right. The zoo wishes to maintain the old caretaker's house in recognition of its place in the history of Phoenix, Papago Park, and the zoo in particular.

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ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Jason H. Gart, *Papago Park: A History of Hole-in-the-Rock from 1848 to 1995*, (Master's thesis, Tempe: Arizona State University, 1996): 35, 42-3, 46-8, 52-3.

<sup>2</sup> Gart, 36, 55-6, 60, 64-6; 69-70.

<sup>3</sup> William S. Collins, *The New Deal in Arizona*, (Phoenix: Arizona State Parks Board, 1999): 30-1.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 31.

<sup>5</sup> Janus Associates, Inc., *Final Report: City of Phoenix Historical/Architectural Survey of City-Owned Properties*, (Phoenix, 1986): 49.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 207-9.

<sup>7</sup> Janus, 49; *Arizona Republic*, 25 November 1933, 10; 9 December 1933, 7; *Arizona Republic*, 30 March 1934, 8.

<sup>8</sup> Janus, 50; *Arizona Republic*, 4 November 1936, 1:5; *Works Progress in Arizona: Official Bulletin*, (Works Progress Administration, Vol 1., No. 4, April 1936): 3.

<sup>9</sup> *Arizona Republic*, 16 May 1950, 1; 28 November 1950, 1; 29 November 1950, 6; 25 February 1953, 19; 12 February 1957, 6; 26 February 1959, 17.

<sup>10</sup> *AR*, 22 February 1957, 6.

<sup>11</sup> *AR*, 26 April 1947, 5; 8 May 1947, 8; 3 April 1953, 1; 29 March 1954, 6; 24 July 1954, 2; 7 July 1957, 2:12; 30 June 1959, 14; 15 April 1959, 16.

<sup>12</sup> Gart, 150.

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**SECTION 9: BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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*The Arizona Republic*

Books, Theses and Reports

Collins, William S., *The New Deal in Arizona*, (Phoenix: Arizona State Parks Board, 1999).

Gart, Jason H., *Papago Park: A History of Hole-in-the Rock from 1848 to 1995*, (Master's thesis, Tempe: Arizona State University, 1996).

Janus Associates, Inc., *Final Report: City of Phoenix Historical/Architectural Survey of City-Owned Properties*, (Phoenix, 1986).

*Works Progress in Arizona: Official Bulletin*, (Works Progress Administration, Vol 1., No. 4, April 1936).

**SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHIC DATA**

Verbal Boundary Description

The Hunt Bass Hatchery Caretaker's House is located on the grounds of the Phoenix Zoo, located at 455 North Galvin Parkway, which is located within the City of Phoenix's Papago Park. It is within the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 4, Township 1 North, Range 4E.

Boundary Justification

The building itself, with no additional area around it, is the nominated property. The surrounding area of the former Hunt Bass Hatchery has been altered by the construction of buildings, structures and objects related to the Phoenix Zoo.