

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

562980

# 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Stout's Hotel

Other names/site number: Jewel in the Desert

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 133 E. Pima St.

City or town: Gila Bend State: Arizona County: Maricopa

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 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  
Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

Katelyn Reed AZ SHPO 14 August 2018  
Signature of certifying official/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Arizona State Parks and Trails  
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

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

**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:)



Signature of the Keeper

9/24/18

Date of Action

**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

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / Hotel  
COMMERCE/TRADE / Specialty Store  
COMMERCE/TRADE / Restaurant  
GOVERNMENT / Post Office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
            
            
            
          

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS / Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Walls: Stucco Roof: Asphalt Other: Terra Cotta, Concrete, Adobe

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

Stout's Hotel is a two-story hotel building occupying a half-block at the core of the historic central business district of Gila Bend, Arizona. The property includes the main hotel building and a site containing a ruin of an adobe commercial building and open space that was historically the site of a related mercantile building, all on a parcel 75 feet wide by 150 feet long bordered by streets on three sides. The main hotel building occupies the north side of the parcel facing Pima Street (State Route 85). The ruin and mercantile site faces south to Murphy Street and the railroad tracks beyond. Capitol Avenue borders the east side of the site. The main building was designed as a simplified commercial adaptation of the Spanish Colonial Revival style constructed of reinforced concrete and wood framing. It consists of a rectangular, two-story, flat-roofed body bordered on the two street sides by a one story open concrete porch. The second floor forms a U around a light court that additionally skylights the first floor. Notable exterior materials include integral colored stucco with specialty exposed aggregates such as abalone shell and black/white gravel and mission tile decorating the parapet top. The interior of the main hotel building is largely unaltered, although some parts are in poor condition. Notable intact interior spaces at the first floor include the Hotel Lobby, Barber Shop, Drug Store, and Post Office. The second floor plan, which was used for guest rooms, is largely unaltered. The adobe ruin faces the opposite side of the block behind the main building. It pre-dates the main building and was the original hotel. Once two stories, the ruin today is one story of adobe with an unprotected wooden floor structure on top and a half basement of concrete beneath. The second floor and street-side veranda of the ruin have been lost. The Stout's Hotel main building possesses integrity in all seven aspects. The site of the earlier mercantile building and ruined hotel retains only integrity of location, setting, and materials and is considered non-contributing.



Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

## Description

Stout's Hotel is located in the historic central business district of Gila Bend, Arizona, approximately 50 miles southwest of the state capitol, Phoenix. Gila Bend originally developed in an east-west orientation along Murphy Street, next to the Southern Pacific (later Union Pacific) railroad line and along State Route 85, named Pima Street through town, which ran parallel one street north. The Stout's Hotel property occupies about half a city block between these two commercial frontages and had storefront on both. The east side of the parcel is bordered by Capitol Avenue, a secondary street. The western end of the block is occupied by historic (currently un-designated) commercial buildings, the Owl Buffet on the northwest corner of the block and the Holt Oil Company on the southwest corner. The block across Pima Street to the north was historically developed with commercial buildings but is now vacant land along the highway. To the east, across Capitol Avenue, the town's "911 park" occupies former commercial land. The railroad right-of-way south of Murphy Street retains its tracks but the railroad depot that once was sited there was demolished in the 1970s.

The Stout's Hotel site includes lots 3, 4, and 5 of Block 14 of the original plat of Gila Bend (1888). Each lot measures 25 feet wide by 150 feet deep – each lot stretching clear from Murphy Street north to Pima Street. The site contains two buildings and some vacant land where a third building once stood. The Main Hotel building occupies the north half of the site while the south half of the site was split between the original hotel, now a ruin, on the west, and the Stout's Mercantile building on the east, now demolished.

The two-story body of the Main Hotel building measures 74'-3" on the Pima Street side and 77'-0" along Capitol Avenue. An open veranda porch one story in height extends into the Capitol Avenue right-of-way ten feet, supported on concrete columns. On the north side, the porch extends into the Pima Street right-of-way a distance of four feet, suspended from the wall by diagonal steel rods. The north side was originally similar to the east, but was altered in 1959 due to widening of the state highway. Both north and east porches shelter concrete sidewalks that abut the storefronts on the first floor, and form porches serving guest rooms on the second floor. Structurally, the first floor of the building is concrete post-and-beam with concrete infill walls supporting a concrete slab second floor. The concrete walls extend above the second floor to support a conventionally-framed low-slope wooden roof structure behind low parapets. Interior roof supports are wood-framed walls.

While the form of the building is simple, the street sides are richly detailed with a variety of patterns, textures, and colors rendered in stucco. The principal façade is oriented north to Pima Street. The first floor is divided by the structural columns into five storefront bays. These provide windows and entry doors to various commercial suites which included a café, hotel lobby, barber shop, and corner drug store. The typical storefronts incorporate wooden framed plate glass windows above low wood framed bulkheads. The bulkheads are finished with stucco panels incorporating crushed abalone shell aggregate bordered by integral colored stucco scored to appear like a line of tiles. The windows are interrupted at suite entrances by single-light wood commercial doors with transoms. A line of vertically proportioned transom window lights

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

finishes the top edge of each storefront bay. Between and above the storefront bays, the concrete columns and beams are finished with exposed aggregate stucco that has a salt-and-pepper finish above a five-foot high integrally-colored stucco wainscot scored to appear like masonry. The second floor balcony porch divides the first floor from the second floor façade. The second floor takes the form of a solid wall with punched door and window openings. Wall surfaces are stuccoed with two-tone integral colored plaster. Projected sills and a cornice molding above the door and windows heads are finished in terra cotta color stucco while the field of the wall is colored a dark golden buff. Paired French wood doors connect each guest room to the balcony, with the only windows being small double-hung wood windows in bathrooms. A line of terra cotta mission tile on the top of the parapet terminates the top edge of the façades.

Two notable signs are suspended from the north façade. The main original building sign remains from the earliest days of the Main Hotel building with only slight alterations. It is a two-faced sheet metal box sign with neon on each side, in the form of a large capital letter "I" (including serifs). The sign copy reads "STOUT'S / HOTEL / AIR CONDITIONED / STEAM HEAT." A later L-shaped extension dangling from the bottom of the sign repeats "REFRIGERATED / STEAM HEAT." In its original form, the sign included only the "I" and read "STOUTS / HOTEL / CAFÉ." A second, separate vacancy/no vacancy sign flags from the wall near the hotel entry. It is a two-faced sheet metal box sign with neon copy.

The secondary, eastern façade is finished identically to the primary facade, with the exception that there is only one storefront entry, into a suite that originally contained the Post Office. The eastern façade additionally retains its original colonnade supporting the porch. Each column is stuccoed in patterns matching the wall surfaces.

The inward-facing west and south sides are of utilitarian exposed rough concrete. Discrete doors and wood double hung windows are located where needed to provide light and air to interior rooms, in no particular pattern. The plan of the second floor is U-shaped around a narrow light well extending from the back (south) side of the building. In addition to providing a window to each of the guest rooms interior to the building, the light well provides a skylight into the back of the first floor lobby.

The first floor interior is divided into five main suites, each connecting to its corresponding storefront. The center of the plan is dominated by the hotel Lobby. The Lobby focuses on the reception desk, which is faced in dark blue terrazzo with shell aggregate ground smooth, and which has a terrazzo countertop. The foot of the stairs to the second floor is integrated with the reception desk. The walls of the lobby have paneled wainscots with abalone-shell stucco matching the exterior. This treatment extends to the walls of the stairs. The floor is finished with a two-color checkerboard pattern of marbleized concrete tiles, which probably date to the 1950s. The ceilings are exposed concrete structure, plastered and painted, as is the case throughout the first floor. The Lobby is connected to the Café on the west side through a glazed door and large plate glass window, and to the Barber Shop on the east through a glazed door. A one-bedroom living suite for the hotel managers lies behind the Lobby with windows to the back side of the building. The Café suite lines the western side of the building with the Dining Room in front and

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

the Kitchen in back. The Dining Room has an elongated service bar lining the west wall, built of concrete block. The bar is an alteration (likely dating to the 1950s). Original decorative wall surfaces remain, with abalone-shell stucco wainscots similar to that seen in the Lobby. The Barber Shop is a fairly small suite that connects only to its storefront and the Lobby. It retains Art Deco style cabinetry at each barber station as well as other notable paneled and mirrored wall surfaces. The Drug Store occupies the northeast corner of the plan, with the entry recessed at the building corner. Scored concrete floors are the only notable feature; the space is otherwise simple and unadorned. The same can be said of the small Post Office suite at the southeast corner of the building. The Drug store and the Post Office share a small work room conveniently placed between them.

The second floor contains only guest rooms and suites, and related support spaces. The floor is organized around a double-loaded corridor that makes a U around the south-facing light court. 26 guest rooms were provided, ranging in quality from first class (a room with attached closet and private bathroom, on the "view" sides of the building with balcony) to third class (small interior room with a lavatory, window to the light court, and shared bathroom "down the hall"). The interior was spare, no matter the class of room. Walls and ceilings were simply plastered; floors were asbestos composition tile, about half of which remains. Where tile has been removed, the concrete floor topping is exposed and painted. Each end of the corridor terminates at the south side of the building in a dead end; each originally connected through to additional guest room blocks on the second floor of the southern two buildings that were on the site.

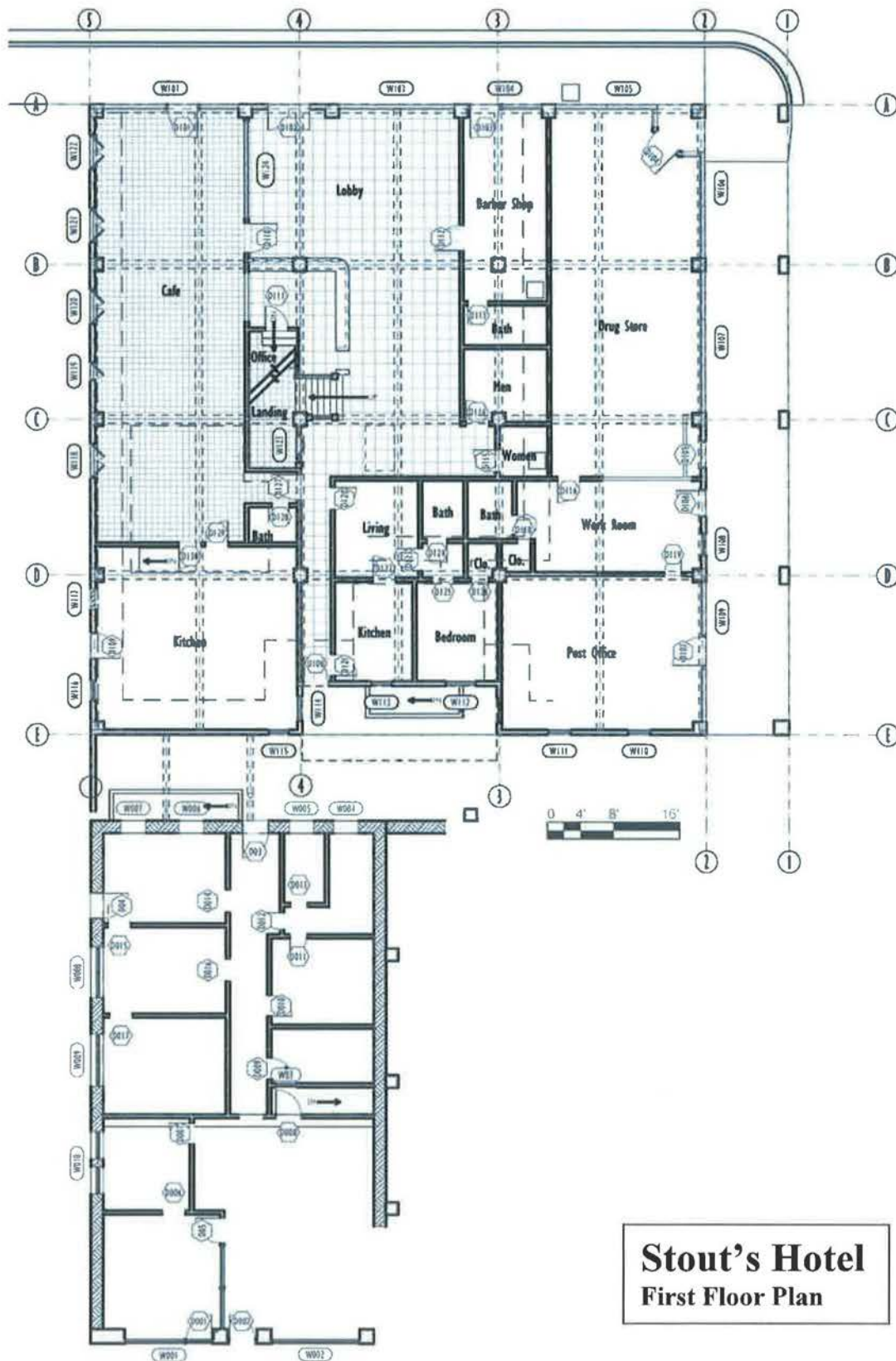
There are two small cellars below the first floor of the Main Hotel building. One is accessible from an exterior stair on the south side, and accessed the boiler room. The other is accessed by way of an interior stair from the Café Kitchen, and was likely used for storage.

The Ruin is a rectangular building measuring 36 feet wide and 63 feet deep, hugging the western site boundary with a narrow side fronting south to Murphy Street. The façade is of concrete post and beam with a stuccoed surface, divided into three bays, a narrow center entry bay flanked by larger storefront bays. The three other walls of the building are of adobe one story in height. The back 36 feet of the building is constructed over a basement 10 feet in height below grade. A wood framed floor spans the basement, with the front of the building being slab-on-grade. A wood frame second story floor remains supported above the entire building. The front part of the building contained the hotel lobby and offices. A double loaded corridor extended to the back to provide access to rooms of uncertain use (now in ruins) and to the Main Hotel Lobby. A line of three concrete columns buttresses the east adobe wall of the building, and may be a remnant of the Mercantile building that once abutted this side of the Ruin. The Ruin originally had a second floor (probably entirely of wood frame) and a full width arcade porch facing Murphy Street.



Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State



**Stout's Hotel**  
**First Floor Plan**



Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State



### Evaluation of Integrity

Quotes and approaches below on the integrity of the building are from the NPS description of each aspect in National Register Bulletin [15] on Criteria and integrity (Savage 1995:44-45).

Location: The buildings retain integrity of location in that they occupy their original site from the period of significance, 1927-73, through the present.

Design: The design characteristics of the Stout's Hotel Main Building are intact and represent excellent integrity. The essential aspects of the design, the "elements that create the form, plan,

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

space, structure, and style” are intact from original construction with the exception of the alteration of the north porch, which occurred during the period of significance and is considered to have acquired its own significance. In addition, this alteration is in itself transportation-related, having been completed for widening of the highway; thus it reinforces the area of significance rather than detracting from it. The Ruin lacks integrity of design, as it has lost the street side porch and the second floor structure, completely altering its apparent form.

Materials: The physical components of the buildings “retain the key exterior materials dating from the period of...historic significance” and “reveal the preferences of those who created the property and indicate the availability of particular types of materials and technologies.” Alterations to the buildings have mostly removed historic fabric (such as the porch), but not added any notable modern materials. The Ruin has suffered more loss of historic material, but that which remains is original to the building.

Workmanship: Through preservation of the materials present during the period of significance, workmanship retains “evidence of the crafts” of the historic period, essentially the 1920s, and illustrates “the aesthetic principles of [this] historic period.” In addition, workmanship here reveals “individual, local, [and] regional...applications of both technological practices and aesthetic principles.” Workmanship is particularly evident in the large expanses of detailed and decorative stucco both interior and exterior.

Setting: The buildings’ physical environment retains adequate integrity to convey its historic setting. The historic downtown area of Gila Bend, with the Stout’s Hotel at its center, is still evident. Most importantly, the entire block upon which Stout’s Hotel is found contains intact historic buildings, which are also owned by the Town and will be preserved. Buildings on adjacent blocks to the north, east, and south have all been lost, presenting a blow to the integrity of setting; however the street grid and railroad line continue to convey key aspects of the hotel property’s setting.

Association: The property is associated with commercial activity and travel accommodations along an important transportation corridor between Phoenix and southern California, both by rail and by highway, which is conveyed by the building form indicating a commercial/hotel use located between the rail and highway. Integrity of association is strong.

Feeling: The physical features of the buildings, “taken together, convey the property’s historic character.” The buildings’ retention of original design, materials, workmanship, and setting relate the strong feeling of the history of the hotel during the period of significance.

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

## 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.)

- 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

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

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

Transportation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
1927-1973  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
1927  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Trost & Trost, Architects  
\_\_\_\_\_



Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Stout's Hotel is significant under Criterion A at the State level of significance in the area of Transportation as a prominent lodging facility for Southern Pacific railroad employees as well as highway travelers making their way between Phoenix, Arizona and California between 1927 and 1980. The Period of Significance begins with the construction of the hotel expansion in 1927 and continues through 1973, the year construction of Interstate Highway 8 through Gila Bend was completed, marking a precipitous decline in highway trade and a conversion of the hotel to apartments.

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

**Historic Context:**

**Transportation across Southern Arizona, 1858-1977**

The community of Gila Bend owes its existence to the circumstances of geography and the trails, rails, and roads that crossed southern Arizona, connecting California with points east. Prior to the town's establishment, the Gila River was part of an important transportation route through the region. Spanish missionaries moved cattle along the river in the later part of the 1700s and early part of the 1800s as it provided life-sustaining water in harsh desert conditions. As the Southwest region was settled, soldiers, trappers, and others heading further west used the Gila River as a guide. The route became known as the Gila Trail and was a main southern connection to California.<sup>1</sup>

John Butterfield started his Butterfield Overland Mail and Stage line in 1858 and established a station, the Gila Ranch Station, near the bend of the Gila River that same year. Three miles from present-day Gila Bend, the station was a critical staging point. The trail parted from the river for many miles to the east, a short-cut largely without watering points. Although local Indians destroyed the first station, it was rebuilt in 1860. Even though the Butterfield Overland line lasted for less than five years, its station near the Gila River helped cement a presence on the trails east and west.

Gila Ranch Station was also a freighting point on the Gila River. Today one would not know that the Gila River once supported river travel for both cargo and people. Upriver traffic generally stopped near Texas Hill (Dateland, Arizona), but teams of mules could haul the freight to the Gila Ranch Station where it could then be taken to other destinations.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vinzant, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 3-4.

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

### Railroad Transportation

The railroads did not come to this part of Arizona until after the Civil War. It was this mode of transportation which encouraged growth of the area. Gila Bend was located on the Southern Pacific Railroad line about midway between Yuma and Tucson. It served as a loading area for agricultural products and a place to take on water for the engines. It also served as a stopping point for crew members.<sup>3</sup>

The rail stop at Gila Bend, established in 1879, was three miles from the Gila Ranch Station. The small settlement by the former Butterfield Station moved to this new area too.<sup>4</sup> Daniel Noonan built the first hotel in Gila Bend on the north side of the tracks, near the train station. Soon thereafter, the new community of Gila Bend was platted in 1888 on a quarter-section of land spanning the rail line. In a pattern typical of many rail-oriented towns of the day, Murphy (Murphey) Street, paralleling the rails on the north side of the right-of-way, became the commercial main street of Gila Bend. With the train station and Noonan's hotel already on the north side, the pattern of expansion for the town to the north was established.

The Southern Pacific Railroad advertised this section of the line as the Maricopa Route or "The Cutoff" to California.<sup>5</sup> Passengers would have the option to get off and spend the night. Initially the only choice would have been the Noonan Hotel. But as more people took the option to stop, other hotels like Stout's Hotel provided a place to stay.

Stout's Hotel was established in 1914 on a key commercial block immediately across from the Southern Pacific railroad station. The hotel served not only rail passengers, but also received consistent business from rail workers, which provided a substantial and stable income for the proprietor. In fact, Stout's Hotel adjoined "the Southern Pacific eating club and dormitory" for the railroad's freight crews that changed in Gila Bend.<sup>6</sup>

### Highway Transportation

As the popularity of automobiles increased in the decade of the 1910s, "good roads" movements across the country lobbied for improved highways for cross-country travel. The old Gila Trail wagon road remained a natural route from San Diego to Tucson, and continuing east. In 1914, the Ocean-to-Ocean highway bridge was constructed in Yuma, becoming the first bridged crossing of the Colorado River and increasing the popularity of the route for auto travel.

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<sup>3</sup> Ryden Architects, 16.

<sup>4</sup> Vinzant, 3-4.

<sup>5</sup> Ad for Maricopa Route. *Arizona Republican*, 31 July 1906: 5.

<sup>6</sup> "A.H. Stout is renovating...." *Arizona Republican*, 22 March 1928: sec2:2.

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

Between 1917 and 1919 the route became part of the Dixie Overland Highway. Starting in Georgia, it stretched across the U.S. to San Diego, California. Paving of the road between Dome and Buckeye began in 1920. Before the completion of the Gillespie Dam in 1921, cars traveling east or west through Gila Bend had to use a ferry to cross the Gila River. When water was low over the top of the dam, cars could cross the river at that site rather than using a ferry.<sup>7</sup> The Federal Highway Act of 1921 was a major factor in the construction of a route from Douglas, Arizona, northward through Tucson to Phoenix and then west through Gila Bend to Yuma and beyond. This route became U.S. Route 80.<sup>8</sup>

Through Gila Bend, the highway was designated to run on Pima Street, one block north of Murphy Street. As traffic increased, Pima Street began to attract auto-oriented businesses such as hotel courts and service stations. Stout was fortunate that his property ran clear through the block with frontage on both Murphy and Pima Streets and was able to take advantage of both the rail connection and the highway connection. In an addition constructed in 1927-29, he astutely changed the "front" of his hotel from facing the railroad tracks to facing the new highway. Eventually commercial activity in Gila Bend largely shifted to Pima Street in response to this change in the primary mode of transportation through town.

When traveling by car, Gila Bend was approximately halfway between Tucson and Yuma and still a couple of hours from Phoenix. Hot desert temperatures and poor road conditions made Gila Bend a perfect rest stop for overnight stays or even day time stays to avoid the heat for people traveling east by car from either Los Angeles or San Diego or heading to California. The 1947 and 1948 registries of Stout's Hotel indicate that overnight guests came from California, Arizona, Mexico and points as far east as Illinois.

As the traffic through Gila Bend diminished with the Interstate Highway 8 bypass starting in 1973, Stout's Hotel and the rest of Gila Bend began to decline. The construction of Interstate 8 provided a quick pass-by option for travelers which reduced commercial activity overall and contributed to the demise of Stout's Hotel as a place to spend the night.

### **Historical Background**

Edward A. Stout, a railroad man, and his wife Anna settled in the Gila Bend area sometime after their marriage in Tombstone, Arizona in January 1881. Perhaps because of the nature of Edward Stout's employment, the family appears to have moved back and forth between Arizona and California several times over the next twenty years. So their oldest living son, Charles, was born in California, and their youngest, Albert H., was born in Arizona. Besides working for the railroad, Edward Stout also raised cattle on his homesteaded acreage near Gila Bend.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ryden Architects, 24.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> According to Bureau of Land Management records, Edward Stout filed homestead papers on 163.83 acres in December 1892.

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

Anecdotal stories attest that Albert met his future wife Frankie Fogal in 1905 when her family's wagon got stuck in the mud while crossing the Gila River on their way from the Tempe, Arizona area to Yuma, Arizona.<sup>10</sup> It was a long distance romance that soon led to a marriage in 1906. Like his father, Albert or A.H., raised cattle on the family land.

Gila Bend was growing and A.H. decided to open a store and hotel and rented apartments by the Gila Bend railroad station. The hotel opened in 1914 and was named Stout's Hotel. It offered accommodations for railroad employees and passengers as well as automobile travelers. The hotel originally faced Murphy Street across from the railroad station grounds. Stout's Hotel appears to be the second hotel in Gila Bend.

Following a devastating fire in June, 1916, which completely destroyed the hotel and Stout's store, a new building was constructed.<sup>11</sup> Stout soon observed that more people were traveling to and through Gila Bend and his small hotel could not accommodate this increase in potential patrons. He added sixteen rooms in 1923, along with a pool hall in the basement.<sup>12</sup> Stout also had a mercantile store and a gas station to provide the necessary items which travelers might want. To ensure the careful management of the hotel, the Stout family lived on site.

The Southern Pacific Railroad owned the water system in Gila Bend, supplying their steam engines as well as domestic uses from a system of wells. As the locomotives changed from steam to diesel, the railroad no longer needed to use Gila Bend as a water stop. A.H. Stout leased the wells from the railroad company and formed the A.H. Stout City Water Works in 1926, which continued to provide water services to the town.<sup>13</sup>

All of these Stout-owned businesses required management and his two sons, Eddie and A.H., Jr. gradually took on the oversight as they got older.

Stout's Hotel was expanded in 1927-1929 to a design by architect Henry Trost of the firm Trost & Trost, headquartered in El Paso, Texas but with offices in Tucson. Trost designed a new addition on the north side of the original hotel and moved the entry onto Pima. This reconfigured entrance faced the newly constructed Highway 80 (now known as Old US Highway 80).<sup>14</sup> The 1931 Sanborn Insurance Map of Gila Bend indicated that there were now 65 rooms with the back part of the building (the "old or original" section) as adobe and the front (the Trost expansion) constructed of reinforced concrete.

<sup>10</sup> Karie, Jack. "Handsome Cowboy's Chivalrous Act Wins Him Faithful Bride." *Arizona Republic*, 6 May 1956: Sec2:1

<sup>11</sup> "Two Men Severely Burned in Fire at Gila Bend." *El Paso Herald*. 15 June 1916:7; "Mr. Bickley has returned..." *Casa Grande Dispatch*, 2 September 1916:4.

<sup>12</sup> In Gila Bend section. *Arizona Republican*, 24 February 1923:5; In Gila Bend section. *Arizona Republican*, 20 January 1923:6.

<sup>13</sup> Ryden Architects. *Historic Resource Survey of Gila Bend, Arizona*. 1999: 28.

<sup>14</sup> "Stout's Hotel, Gila Bend, Arizona." [www.henrytrost.org/buildings/stoutshotel](http://www.henrytrost.org/buildings/stoutshotel). accessed 21 March 2018.



Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

This new complex provided even more services both for guests and the residents of Gila Bend. There was a post office, café/restaurant, and store. Over time, the post office moved to larger quarters and a drugstore moved in. The other businesses also changed over time, as eventually their highway-related services were no longer necessary.

A 1955 advertisement in *Arizona Days and Ways* touted the modern aspects of Stout's Hotel with 51 rooms, steam heat, and air cooling.<sup>15</sup> About the same time that the Stout's Hotel Pima Street façade was altered in 1956 when Arizona State Highway 85 was built, A.H. and Frankie moved from the hotel into a new home.<sup>16</sup> A.H. had "retired" and Eddie now completely ran the hotel while A.H. Jr. and later his son A.H. III oversaw the water company and the other farm holdings. The water company offices were on the Murphy Street side of the hotel building.

Albert H. Stout died in 1959. Frankie later remarried, but did maintain ownership of the hotel. When she passed in 1976, the hotel property was equally divided between two heirs: Edward A.<sup>17</sup> and William C. Stout (Frankie's son, Edward A. Stout, died in 1966) when the estate was settled in 1981. William deeded his half interest in the property to Edward and his wife Rhonda shortly thereafter.

The operation of the hotel had ceased by the time Eddie and Rhonda Stout took ownership. However, the Stouts did allow some people to live in the building rent-free.<sup>18</sup> It was too difficult for the couple to care for the hotel when they lived in Phoenix. After Eddie retired around 2000, he decided that it was time to bring the hotel back to life.

Work began to upgrade the mechanical systems and possibly bring a few rooms back to their 1929 style. The Stouts lived in the hotel much like the Stout families before them while planning to operate a small boutique bed and breakfast.<sup>19</sup> Unfortunately this did not come to fruition and the town of Gila Bend purchased the property from Edward and Rhonda in January 2017.

<sup>15</sup> *Arizona Days & Ways*, 6 February 1955:12.

<sup>16</sup> Karie, Jack, 1.

<sup>17</sup> There is no Junior associated with this Edward A. Stout, but he is the grandson of Albert H. and Frankie Stout.

<sup>18</sup> Lowe, Sam. "Stout resolve will restore Gila Bend Hotel." *Arizona Republic*, 3 September 2000: F3.

<sup>19</sup> Reid, Betty. "Stout's Hotel." *Arizona Republic*, 8 October 2000: F1.

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

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"Two Men Severely Burned in Fire at Gila Bend." *El Paso Herald*, 15 June 1916:7.  
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George Trost letter to A.H. Stout. 13 April 1927.  
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**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: Town of Gila Bend

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

GB-46, Gila Bend Historic Resource Survey (Ryden, 1999)

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 0.31

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.947120 | Longitude: -112.715870 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

Zone: Easting: Northing:

Zone: Easting: Northing:

Zone: Easting: Northing:

Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

All of lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 14 of the Town of Gila Bend, together with 8 feet of right-of-way on Pima Street adjacent to said lots and 10 feet of right-of-way of Capitol Street adjacent to said lots.



Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary corresponds to the site historically occupied by the Stout's Hotel, right-of-way of Pima Street to the curb line, and right-of-way of Capitol Street to the curb line, to include porches encroaching into the public way.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Robert Graham, AIA, Historical Architect with Donna Reiner, Historian  
organization: Motley Design Group LLC  
street & number: 1114 Grand Avenue  
city or town: Phoenix state: AZ zip code: 85007  
e-mail rgraham@motleydesigngroup.com  
telephone: (602) 254-5599  
date: June 14, 2018

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Stout's Hotel  
Name of Property

Maricopa County, Arizona  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Stout's Hotel

City or Vicinity: Gila Bend

County: Maricopa State: Arizona

Photographer: Roberta L. Graham

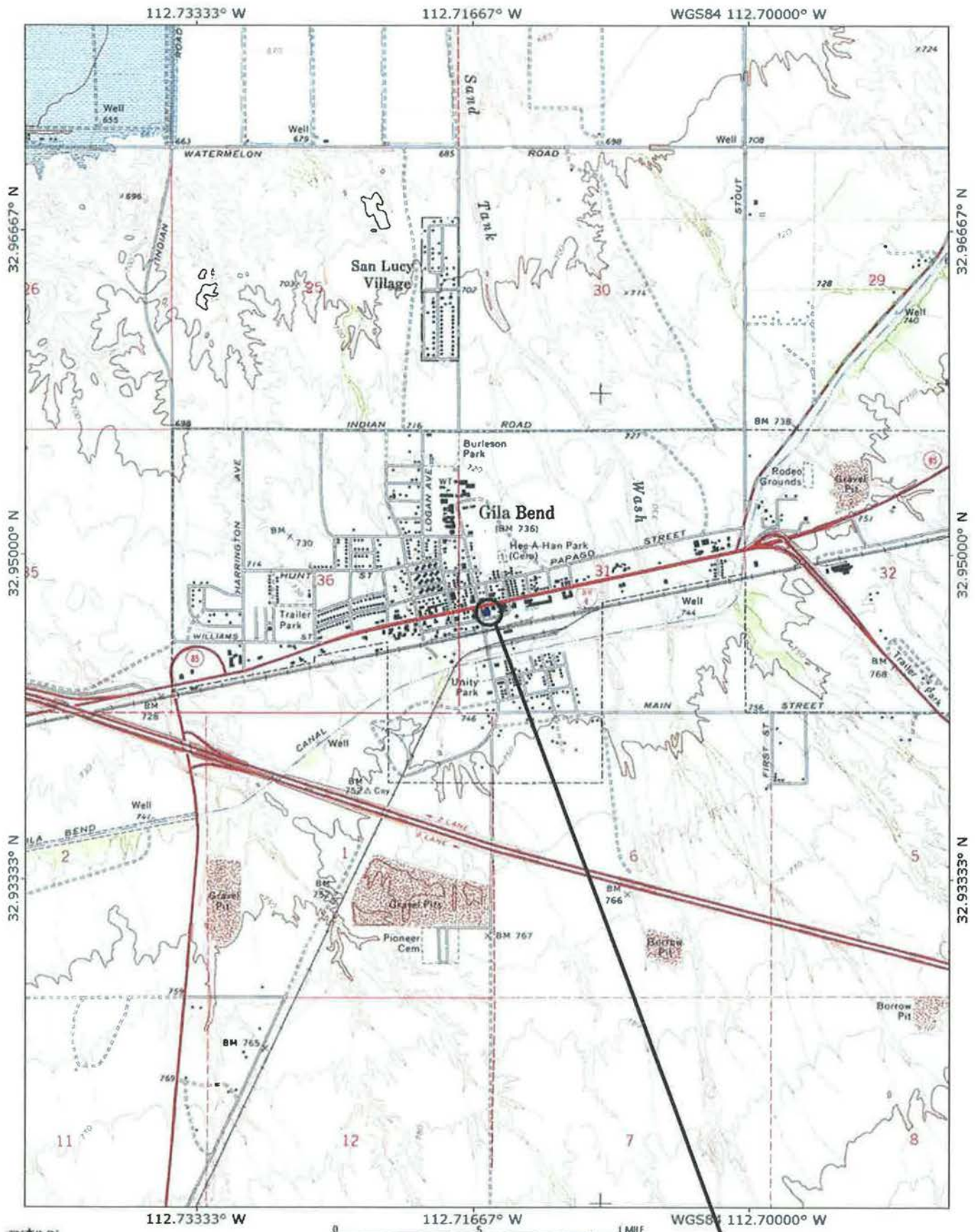
Date Photographed: March 23, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 11	SW	Main Building
2 of 11	SE	Main Building
3 of 11	NW	Site overview, Ruin and Main Building
4 of 11	NW	Main Building
5 of 11	N	Ruin south front
6 of 11	SW	Interior, Lobby
7 of 11	NW	Interior, Lobby
8 of 11	SE	Interior, Barber Shop
9 of 11	S	Interior, second floor west corridor
10 of 11	N	Typical Guest Room interior (Room 11)
11 of 11	S	Typical private Bath Room interior (Room 11)

**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 100 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.



**Stout's Hotel**  
 Maricopa County, Arizona  
 Lat 32.947120 Long 112.71587





STOUT'S  
HOTEL

STOUT'S HOTEL





STOUT'S  
HOTEL

WALKWAY  
RESTAURANT

NO PARKING

RESTAURANT













AMERICAN

EMBER

STOP

























Evaluation/Return Sheet For Single/Multi Nomination

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/17/2018   
 Date of Pending List: 8/31/2018   
 Date of 16th Day: 9/17/2018   
 Date of 45th Day: 10/1/2018   
 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:


Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Date Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept   
  Return   
  Reject   
  Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer   Discipline

Telephone  Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)  
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION  
TRANSMITTAL FORM  
\*\*FEDERAL EXPRESS\*\***

**DATE:** August 14, 2018

**TO:**

Joy Beasley  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**FROM:**

William Collins  
National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
1100 West Washington Street  
Phoenix AZ 85007

**Three National Register Nomination Submittals:**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission Church  
Scottsdale, Maricopa County**

**Stout's Hotel  
Gila Bend, Maricopa County**

**West University Historic District (Boundary Expansion)  
Tucson, Pima County**

**Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at  
wcollins@azstateparks.gov or 602.542.7159.**

