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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Buckhorn Baths Motel
Other names / site number Buckhorn Mineral Wells, Buckhorn Mineral Baths, Buckhorn Wildlife Museum

2. Location

Street & number 5900 E. Main Street not for publication
City or town Mesa vicinity
State Arizona Code AZ County Maricopa Code 013 Zip code 85210

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gowen AZSHPO 25 MAR 04 2005
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
ARIZONA
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 / Title 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 5/10/05
Signature of the Keeper 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

Number of Resources Within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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.)

- DOMESTIC/hotel: motel, HEALTH CARE/resort: bath, RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum, COMMERCE/department store: general store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling, DOMESTIC/hotel: motel, RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Pueblo

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: concrete, walls: stucco, roof: asphalt, tin, other: clay tile, wood

Narrative Description

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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: tourism

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Theodore W. "Ted" Sliger

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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: Mesa Room; Mesa Public Library; Mesa, Arizona

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>434800</u>	<u>3697500</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.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name / Title Mark E. Pry
 Organization Southwest Historical Services Date 18 March 2005
 Street & number 315 E. Balboa Drive Telephone (480) 968-2339
 City or town Tempe State Arizona Zip code 85282-3750

Additional Documentation

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.)

Property Owner

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

Name Alice Sliger
 Street & number 5900 E. Main Street Telephone 480-832-1111
 City or town Mesa State Arizona Zip code 85210

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Buckhorn Baths Motel
Maricopa County, Arizona

Narrative Description

Summary

The Buckhorn Baths Motel is a small resort with cottages, motel units, a mineral hot springs bathhouse, and a building containing an owner's residence and office, lobby, taxidermy museum, and store/office, located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street (U.S. Hwy. 60) and Recker Road in Mesa.

Although built in stages over an eleven-year period, all of the buildings were designed in the Pueblo Revival style, and today they exhibit a high degree of architectural unity. Every building has a similar stepped parapet, as well as such characteristic Pueblo Revival features as projecting vigas, wood window headers, wood columns for porches and carports, and rough stucco finish. Complementing the architecture is a landscape of gravel drives surrounding islands of irrigated grass, trees, and shrubs, all defined and ornamented by pools, ditches, walls, and fountains made of mortared stone.

When the Buckhorn Baths was established in 1936, it was surrounded by open desert; now the eastward expansion of Mesa is bringing development to the area. Through all this the motel and bathhouse have remained virtually unchanged since construction ended in 1947. Although the buildings are in need of minor repairs, their historical integrity is excellent, and the Buckhorn Baths stands as an excellent example of a regionally themed tourist facility from the 1930s and 1940s.

Setting

When Alice and Ted Sliger first began developing the Buckhorn Baths property in the mid-1930s, the surrounding area was undeveloped desert. However, their property, which was located about seven miles east of downtown Mesa (at the time a small farming town), was well situated to capitalize on Arizona's tourist trade. Located near the eastern end of the broad Salt River Valley, it was less than twenty-five miles by road westward to downtown Phoenix and a similar distance eastward to the fabled Superstition Mountains.

The highway that ran past their property was not only the principal commercial street of Mesa but also the Salt River Valley's most important tourist road, connecting Phoenix with recreation areas such as the Salt River lakes, Apache Trail, Superstition Mountains, the Mogollon Rim country surrounding Showlow and Pinetop, and the copper mining towns of Superior, Miami, and Globe. The highway brought substantial local and tourist traffic to the Sligers' property, and over time it enticed other tourism-related businesses to locate in the vicinity of Buckhorn Baths.

Until recent years the environs of the Buckhorn Baths remained only partly developed, with large vacant lots intermingled with recreational vehicle parks and service businesses. Now the pace of development is quickening as the city of Mesa expands eastward. A relatively new shopping center sits across Recker Road, and apartment complexes have been built to the northwest. Gradually the surrounding area is being filled with subdivisions and commercial developments.

The motel, bathhouse, and immediate grounds have been insulated from these changes, however, for the current owner of Buckhorn Baths, Alice Sliger, owns three adjacent parcels of property that have served as a buffer between the motel and new development. One parcel, immediately north of the Buckhorn Baths property, is still vacant desert. Two parcels to the west of the motel buildings, both fronting on Main Street, are partially developed but still provide a large expanse of open space. These were acquired by Sliger and her husband after the motel and bathhouse were built, and eventually they were incorporated into the motel grounds.

As developed by the Sligers, the area to the west now contains three landscaped ovals—two with grass lawns, one with a lawn and substantial vegetation—surrounded by gravel drives. A sidewalk around the perimeter connects to the walkways on the original motel grounds. An ornamental pool is located in the center oval, and an elaborate stone-and-metate fireplace/barbecue is situated immediately north of the easternmost oval, near the western edge of the original

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motel property. Five buildings, several of which were moved to the site sometime after the Second World War, stand on the western and northern edges of this area. Today this extension of the motel grounds remains largely unchanged, though the landscape features and most of the buildings are in disrepair.

Only a small part of these parcels—a strip of land located immediately west of the row of cottages, and containing the stone fireplace/barbecue and a shuffleboard court—is included in this nomination. The remainder is excluded from the nomination because it was not part of the original motel and bathhouse property.

General Description of the Buildings and Grounds

The nominated property occupies roughly five-and-a-half acres located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Recker Road in Mesa. The overall plan of the motel is square, with the cottages, motel units, principal landscape features, and bathhouse and office complexes surrounding a large expanse of gravel used as a driveway and parking area.

The nominated property also includes a strip of land west of the cottages and a strip of land north of the motel units. These are included to preserve the fireplace/barbecue (which lies west of the cottages) and to serve as a small reminder of the spaciousness and isolation in the desert that was part of the Buckhorn Baths' original ambience.

There are three important groupings of buildings on the site: a row of cottages, a row of motel units, and a cluster of buildings comprising the bathhouse, cactus garden, residence/office, lobby and taxidermy museum, former post office, and store/office. The cottages and motel units form an "L" that faces onto the gravel parking area, in the center of which is a grass island enclosed by a low stone wall. The remaining buildings are located on the opposite corner of the square formed by the "L," with the rear of the buildings facing the gravel parking area.

The facade of the office, lobby/museum, post office, and store face south, onto Main Street, while the

bathhouse faces onto the cactus garden, which is the most prominent feature of the property when viewed from the intersection of Main and Recker. This cactus garden is enclosed by a low wall constructed of mortared stone and *metates* (Indian grindstones) scavenged from the desert, and it contains a "wishing well" of similar construction.

Although built over a period of nearly twelve years, all of these buildings are unified architecturally by a Pueblo Revival theme carried out consistently from building to building: rough stucco finish, flat roofs with stepped parapets, false projecting vigas, clay roof tiles (atop porch covers and carports, and also as ornament on some of the walls), wood window headers, and rough wood beams and posts (as columns for arcades and porch covers). The motel units, bathhouse complex, and office complex share common parapets, and all of the buildings, including the cottages, are decorated with a single tube of neon light that follows the top edge of their parapets.

The architectural unity of the property is further enhanced by the extensive use of mortared stone and river rock in the landscape, primarily in low walls that define many of the landscaping zones and line many of the sidewalks, but also in ornamental structures and as a lining for the water pools and ditches.

The principal buildings—the cottages, motel units, bathhouse complex, and office complex—are connected by a concrete sidewalk that encircles the gravel parking area. On the southern edge of the parking area, immediately west of the bathhouse and office complexes and adjacent to the main driveway for vehicles entering the parking area, is a landscaped area with grass, rock-lined pools of water, palm trees, and other vegetation. It is ringed by a sidewalk and partially enclosed by a low stone wall. On the north edge of this landscaped area is a gravel service drive that angles northeast behind the bathhouse complex; the northern edge of this service drive is defined by a sidewalk and another low stone wall.

The area behind the bathhouse and office complexes is a network of concrete sidewalks, rock-

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lined ditches (most of which no longer have water running through them), and low walls built of mortared stone. It is also in this area that one of the mineral-water wells is located, as well as cooling towers and storage tanks once used to pump and store the heated mineral water. Because the bathhouse is closed, these mechanical structures are not being used now, and some are in disrepair.

At one time access to the gravel parking area was possible from both Recker Road and Main Street. Currently the driveway from Recker is closed and entry to the parking area is possible only from Main Street. In addition to the parking area inside the property, there is also a gravel parking area along Main Street that extends across the entire frontage of the property.

The northernmost section of the nominated property—the area between the two irrigation ditches located behind the motel units—was at one time a trailer park. Now this area is closed to public vehicle access, and all that remains of the trailer park are a handful of crumbling concrete pads and a small restroom; the landscape here is not maintained. The northernmost irrigation ditch is lined by tamarisk trees, and eucalyptus and other trees are scattered along the southernmost ditch. On the western edge of this section, just east of the curve in the ditch, are a small utility building and several temporary wooden enclosures that appear to have been built for storage.

The irrigation ditch that defines the northern boundary of the nominated property curves south and runs behind the row of cottages, ending just north of the gravel parking area along Main Street; it is lined by shrubs and small trees. The land west of this ditch that is included in the nominated property is a level expanse of dirt and grass. At its northern end, screened from the street by a row of large oleander bushes, is a fireplace and barbecue built of mortared stone and *metates*, in a style similar to the low wall surrounding the cactus garden. At the southern end of this strip of land is a shuffleboard court.

Two sidewalks, one on the north edge of the Main Street parking area and one leading to the

fireplace/barbecue, connect this section to the main motel grounds. The area north of the fireplace, which is not a maintained landscape and has largely reverted to desert, contains a small utility building and a mineral-water well enclosed by a block wall and chain-link fence.

Contributing vs. Noncontributing Resources

For this nomination, all of the buildings on the property are considered contributing resources except the two smallest utility buildings. The structures related to the pumping and storing of mineral water are also considered contributing resources. With one exception, none of the landscape features is counted as a separate resource; instead these are considered ancillary to the buildings. The contributing resources are:

(1) The motel units. Because they share common walls, they are counted as one building.

(2) The cottages. The two northernmost cottages, which share a common carport, are counted as one building. The remaining cottages, of which there are four, are counted as separate buildings.

(3) The bathhouse complex, which is counted as a single building.

(4) The office complex, which contains the office/residence, lobby/museum, post office, and store. These are counted as a single building because they share a common facade, parapet, and front arcade.

(5) The two freestanding restrooms, and the laundry building located immediately north of the bathhouse, which are counted as three buildings.

(6) The fireplace/barbecue, located behind the northernmost cottages, which is counted as a structure.

(7) The equipment related to the pumping and storing of water for the bathhouse—two wells, two tanks, one tank tower, and one cooling tower—which are counted as six structures.

The noncontributing resources, which are identified on the site plan, are two small utility buildings (one located behind the motel units and one behind the fireplace/barbecue) and a shuffleboard court located west of the southernmost cottage.

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Description of Contributing Resources

Motel Units

The motel units are integrated into a single building in which duplex units alternate with double carports, with a single carport located at each end of the building. The units are identical except for the two easternmost ones, which are larger and have two sleeping rooms as opposed to the single sleeping room found in the others.

The building is constructed of concrete block and clad in stucco, and each duplex has a low-pitch shed roof with a parapet on all four sides. The carports have flat roofs and parapets, with a swinging wood gate on the rear parapet that once was accessible by ladder from the rear of the building, allowing the rooftops to be used as sun decks (the ladders have been removed, presumably because the roof decks can no longer support the added weight).

Each unit has two single doors, one in the front and one in the rear. The front doors are wood slab doors of recent manufacture, with wood-sash screen doors. The rear doors are wood panel-and-frame doors with a single upper window. Each front entry has its own shed-roof porch cover clad with clay roof tiles and supported by three round wood columns. The windows are steel casements.

In addition to the clay roof tiles, ornamentation includes false projecting vigas, false wood headers over the windows, wood shutters on the facade windows, round wood carport and porch support columns, and a single tube of neon light tracing the parapet's top edge. Mechanical services (evaporative coolers and water heaters) are at the rear of each unit.

The interior floors are covered with vinyl tile and the interior walls are plastered. Each unit has a full bathroom and a kitchenette with sink, stove, and refrigerator.

Cottages

The cottages, which are freestanding except for the two northernmost ones that share a common carport, are identical. Square in plan, with attached flat-roof carports, they are constructed of concrete block and clad

with stucco. They have low-pitch shed roofs concealed behind stepped parapets, and the carports have flat roofs of rolled asphalt over wood decking, with an ornamental row of clay roof tiles along the facade edge. Each cottage has a single entry, with a wood panel-and-frame door and wood screen door. The entry is sheltered by a shed-roof cover clad with clay roof tiles and supported by round wood columns. The windows are wood casements.

The ornamentation is similar to that on the motel units: false projecting vigas (which are not only on the facade but also the sides), false wood headers over the windows, wood shutters, and a single tube of neon light that follows the top edge of the stepped front parapet. The carport support columns are round as well. Some, but not all, of the units have air conditioners or evaporative coolers installed in a rear or side window.

The interior floors are painted concrete, except in the bathroom, where they are clad with vinyl tile, and the interior walls are plaster. The cottages do not have showers or tubs, as guests were expected to bathe in the bathhouse, but they do have modest kitchenettes equipped with a sink, stove, and refrigerator.

Bathhouse Complex and Cactus Garden

The bathhouse is a sprawling building of irregular plan that was built in stages. Constructed of concrete block and clad in stucco, it has a flat roof covered with rolled asphalt and hidden by a stepped parapet similar to that on the cottages and motel units. The building has no obvious facade, and the east elevation (which faces Recker Road) and the south elevation (which faces the cactus garden) are equally prominent.

The east elevation, which is close to the street, has two single-door entries, each with a shed-roof cover clad in clay roof tiles and supported by brackets attached to the wall. The windows are varied: wood casements, 1/1 wood double-hung, and wood awning windows. A large sign, with some of its letters missing, is attached to the parapet, and a smaller sign is mounted on the wall next to the leftmost entry. The windows are ornamented with false wood headers and wood shutters, but there are no

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projecting vigas. A neon light traces the top edge of the parapet, and a row of clay roof tiles is attached to the wall above each of the two groupings of windows.

The south elevation, which is not easily seen from the street owing to the dense vegetation in the cactus garden, has two single-door entries facing onto the garden and 1/1 wood double-hung windows similar to those on the southernmost part of the east elevation. There are no porch covers over the entries, but there are projecting vigas and a neon light traces the outline of the parapet.

The cactus garden on the south elevation also serves as the patio and garden for the east elevation of the residence/office, which forms the eastern wing of the other main building, the office complex. The garden is enclosed on the east and south sides by a low wall built of mortared stone and *metates*, or Indian grindstones, that were collected by owner and developer Ted Sliger, and a third wall of similar construction separates the garden from a concrete patio situated in front of the residence/office. The entry to the garden from the front parking area is framed by two stone pillars with a connecting wooden beam ornamented by two small projecting beams similar to the vigas on the building walls. The garden is landscaped with cacti, palm trees, and other desert vegetation, as well as a wishing well built of mortared stone and *metates*.

One of the motel's two signs, an oval of steel with the painted words "Wildlife Museum," is mounted on two steel poles just east of the garden wall, next to Recker Road.

Office Complex

In contrast to the bathhouse, the office complex has a prominent facade oriented toward the street—Main Street—from which it is separated by a long gravel parking lot that runs the length of the property. Viewed from Main Street, this complex appears to be a single building, and for the purposes of this nomination it is counted as such. However, like the bathhouse, this complex was built in stages and it is, in some respects, a row of individual buildings.

The first two parts to be built, the office/residence and lobby/museum, share a common wall but have different roofs: a front-gabled tin roof on the office/residence, and a shed roof on the lobby/museum. The two most recently built parts, the post office and store/office, do not have any common walls and in fact are physically separated, creating two walkways (between the lobby/museum and post office, and the post office and store) that provide direct passage from the front parking area to the grounds, cottages, and motel units. Both of these have shed roofs with parapets around both the front and the sides.

What unifies these components, so that they are counted in this nomination as a single building, is their common arcade and parapet, as well as the Pueblo Revival architectural elements that tie all of the Buckhorn Baths buildings together. The shed-roof arcade, which is supported by square wood columns topped with corbeled brackets, is covered with clay roof tiles and runs the length of the complex. The parapet, which is stepped like those on the other buildings, is ornamented by a single tube of neon light tracing its upper edge, and by projecting vigas. Hand-lettered, carved, and painted wooden signs are mounted on the parapet and hung from the facade edge of the arcade roof. All of the windows and doorways have false wood headers. The walls, which are concrete block except in the lobby/museum (which was constructed of brick), are clad in rough stucco.

The residence/office, in addition to its facade facing Main Street, has what amounts to a secondary facade facing the cactus garden. This elevation, which belongs to the residence once occupied by the owners, has all of the design features found on the other buildings—stepped parapet with neon light, projecting vigas, and clay tiles on the porch cover and above the windows—as well as a sign, "COTTAGES," painted on the parapet, its letters traced with neon light. It has metal casement windows and two single doorways, one under the porch cover and another to the left. These doors and windows look out onto a concrete patio that is separated from the cactus garden by a low stone-and-*metate* wall.

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The office, which occupies the southeast corner of the complex, has two single panel-and-frame doors with windows, one on the north elevation facing the cactus garden and patio, the other on the facade facing the front parking lot. All of the windows on the office have fixed wood sashes and wrought-iron security grates. Two of the windows, one on the north elevation and one on the facade, are ornamented with glass block. Neon signs are mounted on the parapet at the intersection of the facade and east elevation.

The lobby and museum part of the complex has four wood casement windows and no separate entry. The post office also has wood casement windows; these flank an entry with a double wood panel-and-frame door with windows. The store/office has four wood fixed-sash windows that flank a single glass-and-wood frame door. The two passageways to the rear, between the lobby/museum and post office and between the post office and store, have swinging wood doors. The west elevation of the complex has a single small window and a sign, "Buckhorn BATHS," painted on the parapet, with its letters traced in neon.

In front of the complex, perpendicular to the facade, is the motel's principal sign. Supported by sandstone-clad columns, it has neon-outline lettering and is visible for blocks up and down Main Street.

Restrooms and Laundry Building

Three outbuildings are counted as contributing resources in this nomination: two restrooms, one located north of the motel units and the other immediately north of the post office, and a laundry/utility building, which is located north of the bathhouse. All of these buildings are constructed of concrete block clad with rough stucco finish; all have flat or low-pitch shed roofs hidden behind a stepped parapet similar to that on the other buildings; and all have steel casement windows.

The two restrooms are ornamented with projecting vigas, and the restroom behind the motel units also is ornamented with clay roof tiles. The laundry building has no projecting vigas but is ornamented with a row of clay roof tiles on the north elevation.

Fireplace/Barbecue

The fireplace/barbecue, which is constructed of mortared rough stone, river rock, and *metates*, was built in a style similar to the wall surrounding the cactus garden. The fireplace structure, which is round with a large opening on its south side, encloses a poured concrete patio. It has a central fireplace with a tiered chimney, flanked on each side by grills and secondary fireplaces.

Mineral Water Pumps and Storage

The structures formerly used to pump and store the hot well water used in the mineral baths include two water tanks mounted on a single wood platform located on the south elevation of the north wing of the bathhouse; a large wood platform, with a small horizontal tank underneath, located west of the bathhouse; a large vertical water tank standing on the ground just east of the largest platform; a wooden cooling tower located on the west elevation of the north wing of the bathhouse; and two mineral-water wells, one located on the south edge of the main gravel drive and parking area, the other located north of the fireplace/barbecue and enclosed by a chain-link fence and concrete block wall.

History of the Buckhorn Baths Property

The Buckhorn Baths Motel was conceived and designed by Theodore W. "Ted" and Alice Sliger. They bought their first piece of land on U.S. Highway 60, which is now Main Street, in 1936. They purchased a house from a nearby resident and moved it to the site, and they built a small store and gas station to cater to tourists traveling between the Salt River Valley and the mountains of central Arizona.

In 1939 the Sligers drilled what they thought would be a drinking-water well and instead tapped into a natural hot spring, which prompted them to develop the mineral baths. Over the next eight years, they undertook an ambitious building program that by 1947 produced the buildings and structures now located on the property and included in the nomination.

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In 1939 the cottages were built, as was the first part of the bathhouse, and their original house was expanded to become what is now the residence/office. The original store remained, apparently with a porte-cochere for the gasoline pumps, but sometime between 1939 and 1947 the porte-cochere was removed, the present-day neon sign was built, and the store became a combined lobby and taxidermy museum. The motel units were built in 1940.

Between 1940 and 1947, the bathhouse was expanded to its present configuration and the Main Street frontage was increased, adding the two buildings that eventually became the post office and store/office. By 1947 the bathhouse and office complexes had attained their present-day configuration and appearance. The Sligers made minor improvements to the buildings in later years, but no important additions or design changes were made.

The mineral baths remained in operation until 1999, when they were closed after sixty years of continuous use. The motel was operating as late as August 2004, but at the time this nomination was written it was closed with no immediate prospects of reopening, although some of the units were being rented out as apartments. The taxidermy museum also was closed in late 2004 but was expected to reopen.

Integrity

The Buckhorn Baths Motel has remained under the ownership of one family throughout its existence, so its integrity is quite good for a tourist property of its age. Indeed, because the Sligers made only minor changes to their property after completing it in the late 1940s, it is something of a tourism time capsule. No buildings have been demolished or remodeled, the landscape is largely the same as originally designed, and almost all of the original architectural features (windows, doors, etc.), furnishings, and signage remain intact.

Maintenance in recent years has not kept up with the effects of age and wear, however, and clearly the Buckhorn Baths needs attention. The stucco is showing signs of age, and many of the windows and doors need

repairs. The bathhouse has been unused for five years, and the mechanical structures associated with it (the tanks, pumps, and cooling towers) have deteriorated. Fortunately the landscape has been maintained and watered continuously, so there has been no significant loss of vegetation on the property.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Buckhorn Baths Motel is significant at the state level under Criterion A, for its role in the development of tourism in twentieth-century Arizona, and under Criterion C, as an example of the Pueblo Revival style as manifested in commercial tourist architecture.

The Buckhorn Baths is the best-preserved historic mineral springs resort in Arizona, thanks in large measure to the fact that it was in operation as recently as 1999 and remained under a single owner throughout its history, without any major changes being made after its development in the 1940s. It also is representative of an important phase in the evolution of tourist lodging in Arizona and elsewhere in the United States, namely, the transformation of the motor court into the motel, which rapidly became the dominant form of lodging along highways across the country.

Finally, the Buckhorn Baths is an excellent and well-preserved example of the Pueblo Revival style, and in particular of how that style was used by the early developers of Arizona's modern tourist industry. By building a spa and motel in a "native" style and with materials that were indigenous to the region, the Sligers created a tourist environment with the romantic qualities and regional character necessary to attract patrons from across the country.

For the purposes of this nomination, the Buckhorn Baths' period of historic significance is considered to have begun in 1936, the year the Sligers first acquired the property, and to have ended in 1955, which marks the fifty-year cutoff for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Buckhorn Baths is considered significant at the state level because, while there are a good number of Pueblo Revival tourist properties from this period still standing in Arizona, there are none that are as well preserved as this one *and* associated with a much rarer and less well-preserved component of the state's tourist economy, namely, mineral hot springs. Also, because

the Buckhorn Baths is located on a major thoroughfare that passes through the state's largest metropolitan area, it has become something of a landmark for Arizonans—a symbol of a vanished world of leisurely desert tourism that has been overwhelmed by the urbanization (and suburbanization) of Phoenix and the Salt River Valley.

History of the Buckhorn Baths

The development of the Buckhorn Baths began in 1936, when Theodore W. "Ted" and Alice Sliger bought a parcel of land east of Mesa and adjacent to U.S. Highways 60, 80, and 89.¹ Although the surrounding land was almost entirely undeveloped desert, well outside the city limits of Mesa, it fronted on one of Arizona's most popular tourist routes, connecting the cities of the Salt River Valley not only with Florence and Tucson to the south but also with central Arizona, the Mogollon Rim, and the White Mountains in eastern Arizona.

For several years previously, Ted Sliger had operated a store and lunch counter called Desert Wells that was located near the present-day intersection of Main Street and Power Road in Mesa. On Christmas Eve of 1935, three months after the Sligers were married, the Desert Wells store was destroyed by fire.

Searching for land to purchase, the Sligers found ten acres of desert land at the current Buckhorn Baths site, which was two miles west of their old home. They purchased the land from Charles Mitten in 1936 and then bought a small house from a nearby resident, moving it onto their newly acquired property. The Sligers also built a new store out of bricks salvaged from the demolished North School in Mesa. Completed in March of 1936, this small building housed a gas station and store in which the Sligers sold Indian jewelry and rugs, fishing tackle, groceries, and hunting and fishing licenses.

¹ Portions of this statement of significance are drawn from an earlier draft nomination prepared by Ron Peters AIA, of Mesa, and edited by William Collins, of the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office.

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As he had done at his earlier location, Ted also offered taxidermy services to hunters and fishermen. In 1938 the Sligers built their first addition to the property, expanding the store to display Ted's taxidermy work—the genesis of the "wildlife museum" that is on the property today. One of the items displayed was a buck's head that had been the only piece of Ted's work to survive the 1935 fire (it was on loan to a Mesa merchant), and it was that taxidermy specimen that inspired the Sligers to name their establishment Buckhorn.

Up to this time all of the drinking water used by the Sligers had to be hauled to the property. In 1939, hoping to develop their own source of water, the Sligers sunk a well. They struck water, but what came up was far too hot to drink—112 degrees out of the ground—and filled with minerals. However, recognizing that a mineral baths would be a good tourist attraction, the Sligers capitalized on their new find by developing the hot springs. They built a bathhouse capable of serving 75 patrons each day, and cottages that allowed patrons to stay overnight. The Sligers continued to operate the gas station and store, as well as a cafe, but soon the mineral baths and motel operation eclipsed their other enterprises.

Over the next seven years, between 1940 and 1947, the Sligers expanded their operation. The motel units were built, the bathhouse was expanded, and additional commercial space was added to the Main Street frontage. The gas station was closed and the porte-cochere that sheltered the gas pumps was removed, to be replaced by the prominent neon sign that still overlooks the highway today.

In 1942 the Buckhorn Baths became a Greyhound bus depot, and in 1947 the New York Giants baseball team selected it as their base of operations during spring training. Both would remain at the Buckhorn until 1972, when the Giants moved to the Francisco Grande Hotel near Casa Grande and the bus depot was closed.

By the time the Giants arrived, in 1947, the Buckhorn Baths had been built out to its present-day configuration, with its Pueblo Revival architectural

theme and its unique landscape features—the handmade walls, fountains, ditches, and pools built of stone, river rock, and *metates* (Indian grindstones).

At its peak, the motel could accommodate a hundred overnight guests. It offered patrons a cafe and dining room, a beauty parlor and gift shop, a post office, the museum with its collection of more than four hundred taxidermy specimens and assorted Indian relics (which also served as a lobby and television room), and a desert golf course with eighteen holes.

Over the succeeding years, four additional hot water wells were dug and a contract post office was opened in 1956—it remained at the Buckhorn until 1983—but otherwise little changed at the resort. In a 1974 newspaper article, the bathhouse was described as having twenty-seven private baths supplied with 106-degree mineral water, whirlpool baths, massage rooms, "cooling rooms," dressing rooms, separate lobbies for men and women, and a "colon therapy department." Patrons were assisted by trained masseurs, masseuses, nurses, and physical therapists in crisp white uniforms.

That same year, 1974, the Buckhorn Baths became part of the city of Mesa, which was steadily expanding eastward. Ted died in 1984 and Alice continued operating the baths, motel, and museum. The baths remained open until 1999. The motel and museum were operating in 2004, but by the end of the year, at the time this nomination was being prepared, they had been closed by Alice Sliger, who still owned the property. Some of the motel units continued to be occupied as rental apartments, however. Whether and when the motel or museum would reopen was not clear.

Mineral Springs Resorts in Arizona and the West

For thousands of years, since ancient times, humans believed that mineral springs had medicinal properties. Popular faith in the medicinal benefits of mineral springs ebbed and flowed with the centuries until the 1700s, when it reached new heights and initiated a period of spa development that produced some of Europe's greatest resorts. This carried over to the American colonies, where resorts like Stafford Springs

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(Connecticut), Yellow Springs (Pennsylvania), Berkeley and Warm Springs (Virginia), and Saratoga Springs (New York) soon became popular with wealthy colonists.

As settlement advanced westward across the continent, so did mineral spas. Now-famous resort areas like Hot Springs, Arkansas, were developed, as well as western resorts like Calistoga and Palm Springs, in California, and Colorado Springs and Glenwood Springs, in Colorado.

By the first decade of the twentieth century, mineral bath resorts were all the rage with Americans. Their popularity derived from two factors. The most important was a widespread belief in the curative powers of warm water saturated with minerals. Immersion in mineral waters, or "balneotherapy," was believed by many physicians to be therapeutic for a wide range of ailments, thanks both to the heat of the waters and to their mineral content. Mineral baths were touted as a cure for conditions as varied as lupus, measles, ulcers, dyspepsia, eczema, blood poisoning, enlarged glands, gout, boils, tumors, "womb disease," venereal disease, and—of course—arthritis and rheumatism. Some springs were even believed to ward off old age.

The other factor in their popularity was the social prestige they conferred. For many years, and certainly in the 1700s and 1800s, their clientele was mostly drawn from the wealthy leisure class. Most of the hotels and resorts that developed in association with hot springs went to great lengths to emphasize their gentility, refinement, and quality of service, and to assure their patrons that fellow bathers would be drawn only from the highest levels of American society. Even as medical theories changed and the benefits of mineral springs were questioned by more physicians, and even as mineral bath resorts became more democratic in their clientele, still the resorts were seen as conferring a degree of sophistication on their patrons. To "take the waters" was a special kind of vacation, one not sought by the ordinary tourist.

From the time Arizona was established as a territory in 1863, it attracted more than its share of

health seekers, many of whom were drawn to the territory's arid climate in search of relief from respiratory ailments such as asthma and tuberculosis. Knowing a business opportunity when they saw one, the railroads, hotel owners, and local chambers of commerce serving Arizona and its fledgling communities aggressively promoted the region's healthy climate and lifestyle, thus giving birth to the state's tourism industry. Hot springs and mineral baths fit quite nicely into this budding industry, and a number of mineral bath resorts were developed in Arizona starting in the 1860s and continuing into the 1920s and 1930s.

The first to appear in Arizona was Agua Caliente. Developed as a resort in the mid-1860s, it was located north of the present-day town of Sentinel, near the Gila River. The most famous mineral bath resort in Arizona was Castle Hot Springs, which opened in 1896 and was the territory's first luxury resort. Catering to the wealthy and prominent from across the United States, the hotel and baths at Castle Hot Springs remained in operation until 1976, when a fire forced its closure. Among its many famous guests was John F. Kennedy, who spent three months there recovering from the wounds he suffered during the Second World War.

There were other mineral bath resorts in Arizona as well. Hooker's Hot Spring, located thirty miles northeast of Willcox, was first developed in 1885 and then, after a period of private use, became a guest ranch that was in operation from the 1920s to the early 1980s. Radium Hot Spring, near Wellton, had a resort from the 1920s to the 1940s. Clifton Hot Springs, in the copper mining town of the same name, was popular with miners for years before a public swimming pool and bathhouse were built at the springs in 1927 and 1928; they were closed in 1931, as the Depression hit Arizona's copper mining towns especially hard.

Verde Hot Spring, along the Verde River west of Strawberry, was developed in the 1920s with a hotel and baths that remained in operation until the 1940s. Indian Hot Springs, located between the southeastern Arizona towns of Safford and Pima, also had a hotel and baths, and the town of Tonopah, west of Phoenix, was for a

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time known for its baths, with as many as five hot springs resorts in operation at one time until the 1980s.

Little research and writing has been done on the history of hot springs resorts in Arizona, in large part because most of the resorts have long been closed and, in many cases, abandoned. Agua Caliente, Castle Hot Springs, Radium Hot Spring, Clifton Hot Springs, and Verde Hot Spring are no longer in operation; most have been shuttered for many years. None of the historic Tonopah resorts is still in business, though newer and less ambitious ones have been developed in recent years. Indian Hot Springs was briefly revived in the 1970s as a New Age health resort, but it is now closed. Of all these developed resorts, only Hooker's Hot Spring is still operating, as part of the Nature Conservancy's Muleshoe Ranch Preserve.

The decline of hot springs resorts in Arizona, as well as in the United States generally, can be attributed largely to changes in medical practices and to improvements in public health. The wide embrace of the germ theory of disease, combined with the introduction of vaccines and antibiotics, offered new theories of illness to Americans and new methods of treatment. Refrigeration and a carefully monitored food supply eliminated much of the chronic "dyspepsia" suffered by Americans, eliminating the need for so many people to dose their gastrointestinal system with mineral water.

Still, faith in the curative powers of mineral waters persisted through the twentieth century, and even in the 1940s hot springs were believed by many Americans to be useful in the treatment of stubborn chronic diseases like rheumatism and arthritis, gastrointestinal complaints, mild heart problems, and skin ailments. In part this explains the success of the Buckhorn Baths, which were established at a time when many hot springs resorts across the country were losing their clientele and slipping into decline.

In a brochure from around 1950, the Sligers advertised the Buckhorn waters as "beneficial in the treatment of arthritis, neuritis, neuralgia, gout, anemia, sciatic, overweight, underweight, high blood pressure, nicotine poisoning, blood and skin diseases, kidney,

bladder and liver troubles, chronically nervous and exhausted, inflammatory rheumatism, stomach disorders [and] rehabilitation following: strokes, polio, fractures. Also good for muscle toning and reconditioning."

As the last entries in that list suggest, the Buckhorn Baths survived in part because the Sligers adapted their sales pitch to the times, emphasizing how their water's "healthful" and "restorative" properties could benefit people who were not ill. Indeed, much of what they offered their patrons was similar to modern-day physical therapy: whirlpool baths and massages administered by physiotherapists, nurses, masseurs, and masseuses.

As the same brochure advised, "The resort is also popular with persons in good health seeking an active, happy vacation or quiet and relaxation in the sun." The Sligers offered a full line of resort amenities that would appeal to any tourist—golf, dining, beauty parlor, gift shop, post office, and comfortable common areas—and in so doing were able to place the Buckhorn Baths squarely in the tradition of luxury and pampering that had always been associated with mineral spas and resorts.

Auto Courts and Motels in Arizona and the West

The Buckhorn Baths also is illustrative of another important development in the history of tourism in Arizona and the West: the rise of the motel. Although the Sligers promoted the Buckhorn as a resort, its proximity to the highway, automobile-friendly layout, and reliance on the European plan (in which meals were not included in the room rate) were more characteristic of a motel than of a hotel or traditional spa. Indeed, while their brochures never used the word "motel," the prominent sign on Main Street did—and in large letters.

The 1920s brought a dramatic increase in the number of Americans using the automobile to take vacations and tour the country. Starting in the late 1920s, new federal highway programs helped create a national network of paved and improved roads, and it was no coincidence that the following decade, the 1930s, saw the emergence of the motel as the dominant form of tourist lodging in the United States. The

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widespread distribution of automobiles, as well as improved roads, combined to make the automobile vacation a middle-class institution.

The first auto tourists had to either camp or stay in hotels, which catered more to traveling businessmen and railroad passengers than to families and automobile tourists. As the number of automobile campers increased, local governments began creating public tourist camps. These camps offered free tent space, water, wood, electricity, laundry, and sanitation facilities, and they were patrolled by the police, making them safer than the roadside. Many cities viewed them as a good way to advertise their communities to prospective residents.

Eventually the auto camps began to compete with each other, which required improvements in service that were attractive to tourists. Cities and counties began charging camping fees to cover the cost of these improvements. Then came the Depression, which brought a flood of transients into the camps, and in particular into camps that did not charge a fee. The free camps were consistently overcrowded, with many plagued by sanitation problems, and auto camping began to be associated with the poor. As the 1930s unfolded, an increasing number of municipal auto camps were closed by the authorities as public nuisances.

Meanwhile, a new type of tourist lodging facility was emerging that would eventually fill the gap created by the closure of the auto camps: the auto court. The earliest of these were little more than tents on wooden platforms constructed in the old auto campgrounds, but they were soon followed by small cabins, some of which came equipped with bedding and even cooking utensils. The earliest of these auto courts in Arizona appeared in the 1910s, in Douglas, but they did not become common in the state until the 1920s.

Once the economy began to improve in the late 1930s, the number of automobile tourists started climbing again. Auto courts, cabins, and cottages rapidly proliferated, especially in the Southwest. By 1935, some 9,000 motor courts had been built in the United States. By the time the Buckhorn Baths opened in 1939, this

number had grown to 13,000. In Arizona tourism was growing rapidly, especially in central Arizona, which received a boost in the mid-1930s when a local advertising agency came up with "Valley of the Sun" as a promotional name for the Salt River Valley. During the winter of 1939-40, when the Buckhorn Baths was established, an estimated 35,000 tourists visited the Phoenix area.

Under these conditions, the motor courts in the Salt River Valley thrived, but soon travelers were asking for yet more comfort in lodging. The next step in the evolution of automobile tourist lodging was the "motel." As its name suggests, the motel represented something of a hybrid of the hotel and motor court: the units shared common walls and were all in the same building, yet patrons could still park their cars next to their rooms and were able to enter and leave without going through the office or lobby.

Most motels were small establishments—up to 1950 the average size of a motel was less than twenty-five units—and run by families, for the capital needed to build one was not great. In order to attract passing motorists, motels worked hard to project a cheery appearance. Fresh paint and well-maintained grounds were a necessity to stand out from similar units lining the highway, and many motels adopted a distinctive style based on a historic or popular-culture theme, or on regional vernacular architecture.

Because of their convenience and commercial appeal, motels quickly became a roadside institution. Tourism slowed considerably during the Second World War, as the war effort brought gas rationing and a hiatus in passenger car production. However, the war's end brought a quick recovery for the lodging industry. After the war the number of motels and auto courts increased steadily; by 1956 there were 60,000 nationwide. In the Phoenix area, tourism rapidly became a major factor in the local economy, and by 1950 there were 155 motels and auto courts in the Valley.

The history of the Buckhorn Baths provides an excellent illustration of the development and evolution of the auto lodging industry. The Buckhorn Baths began

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with small cottages, or cabins, and then added larger motel units. Over time it grew to emphasize the breadth and quality of its services, fueling its rise to prominence in the Valley's tourist economy, and then—as happens to all tourist facilities sooner or later—its definition of luxury could not keep up with changing tastes, and the motel began to lose its prominence.

Throughout its history, the Buckhorn Bath Motel's Pueblo Revival architecture helped bolster its appeal to tourists, who associated the style with the Southwest's indigenous cultures and exotic desert landscape. Although the Buckhorn Baths no longer functions as a spa and motel, its well-preserved buildings and grounds endure as a reminder of the "motor court" period in the history of American automobile tourism.

The Pueblo Revival Style and the Buckhorn Baths

The emergence of the Pueblo Revival style, along with the related Mission Revival style and their offshoots, reflected two developments: a search by professional architects for a "native" American architecture, and a growing desire on the part of writers, tourism promoters, and business interests in the American Southwest to promote their region as a romantic and exotic one with visible ties to its Indian and Hispanic past.

The earliest Pueblo Revival buildings, which were built in northern California, appeared in the 1890s; by the turn of the century, the style had been embraced by the Santa Fe Railroad and used for a number of prominent tourist facilities along the railroad in New Mexico and Arizona. By 1915 the Pueblo style had been adopted officially by the planning board of Santa Fe as the preferred style for buildings in the older section of the city, and by the 1920s it was well established in both domestic and public works architecture in California, Arizona, and especially New Mexico, where it became the dominant style. In the 1930s, the Pueblo revival received further impetus from the public building programs of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which promoted regional styles not only in its architectural projects but also in its arts programs.

The Pueblo Revival style represented the convergence of an aesthetic viewpoint with an economic imperative. First, westerners of a romantic bent—writers, artists, and promoters—argued that the region's exotic desert landscape and deep-rooted Indian and Hispanic cultures could provide an antidote to the artificiality inherent in industrial society, by offering harried Americans a chance to escape the pressures of urban life. They saw in indigenous Indian and Hispanic buildings an architectural style that embraced nature and bespoke a more natural lifestyle, one that was harmonious with the surrounding environment.

Then, as business interests found that the Southwest's exoticism could be turned into a promotional advantage, those with a direct interest in the economic development of the region—tourism promoters, hotel and resort owners, and local governments—began to embrace the Pueblo Revival style in order to attract tourists and residents. For years the Southwest—first southern California, then Arizona and New Mexico—had struggled to overcome negative publicity focusing on its arid environment and non-Anglo cultures. With the rise of a Pueblo aesthetic, however, what were once liabilities were now assets. The region's boosters could actually advertise the desert's Indian and Hispanic cultures, and they found that doing so made it possible to sell the Southwest to tourists as one of the last places in the continental United States where Americans could experience the romance of the western frontier.

By building the Buckhorn Baths in a "native" style and with materials that were indigenous to the region, the Sligers created a tourist environment with the romantic qualities and regional character that their patrons associated with the Southwestern desert. All of the style's important features—rough stucco wall finishes, flat roof with parapet, projecting vigas, clay roof tiles, rustic wood columns and window headers, and covered portals or arcades—are present in the Buckhorn's buildings. In addition, the landscaping contains one unique feature that further amplifies the regional romanticism of the building's architecture: the

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walls built of mortared stone and *metates*, or Indian grindstones.

In addition to their romanticism, Pueblo Revival buildings also exhibit a certain rusticity, usually through the use of simple, "honest" materials and building methods that give the appearance (if not the reality) of being unpretentious, even primitive. The Buckhorn Baths achieves this effect quite well, and it does so not only in its buildings but also in its landscape, with walls and other features (water ditches and pools) built of mortared river rock and rough stone.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is: on the east, Recker Road; on the south, Main Street (U.S. Hwy. 60); on the west, a line running due north from Main Street and passing approximately 14 feet west of the stone fireplace and barbecue structure; and on the north, a line running due west from Recker Road along the irrigation ditch.

This includes all of Maricopa County tax parcel 141-49-008-A and the eastern portion of Maricopa County tax parcel 141-49-007-A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to include the original motel and cottages, the mineral springs bathhouse, and the office complex fronting on Main Street, plus a strip of land west of the cottages and a strip of land north of the motel units. The land west of the cottages is included to protect the stone-and-*metate* fireplace/barbecue (which lies west of the cottages). The land to the north, which was once developed as a trailer park by the Sligers but is now vacant except for two small outbuildings, is included to preserve a sense of the spaciousness and isolation in the desert that was part of the Buckhorn Baths' original ambience.

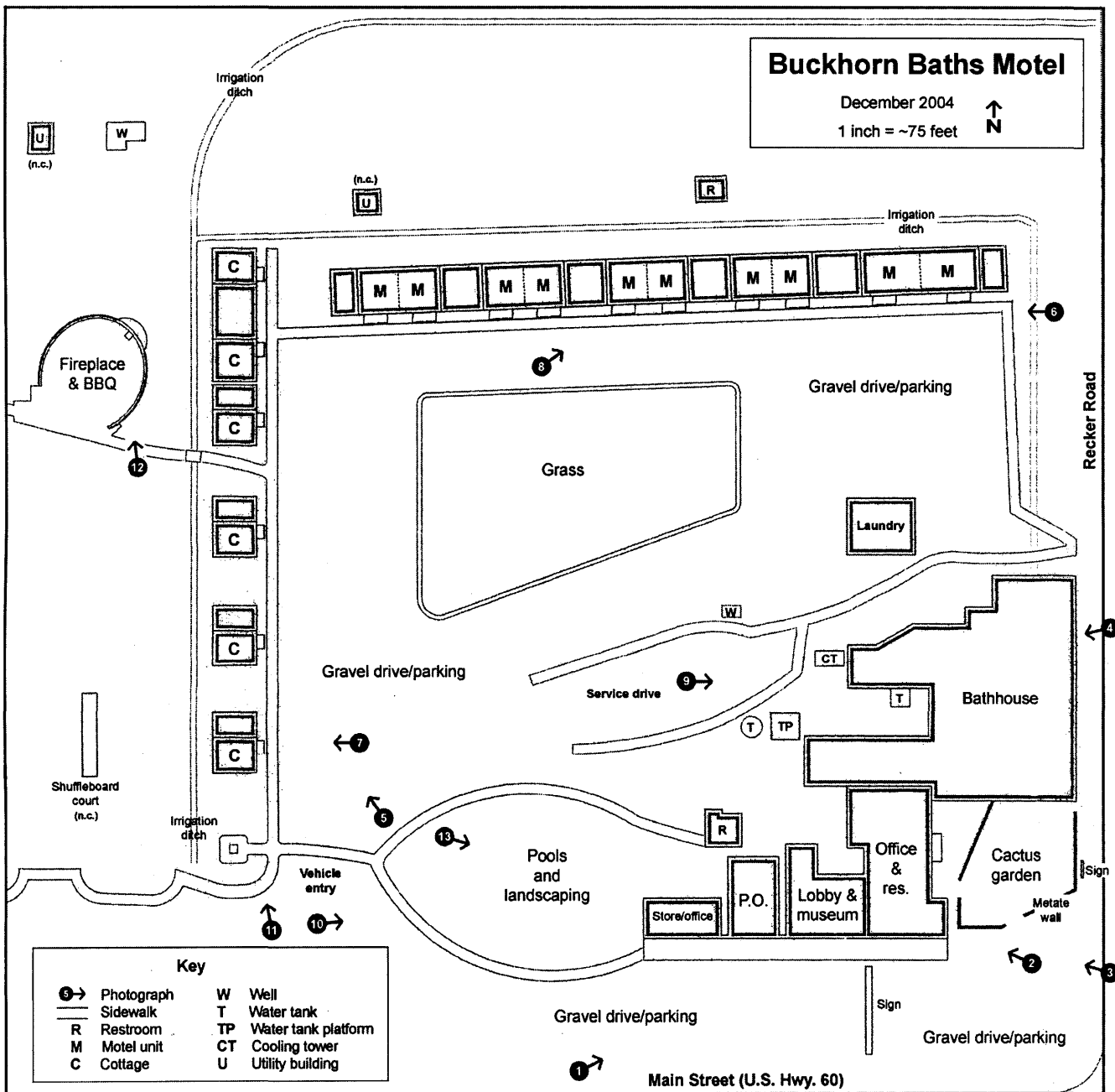
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Historical Photographs

Aerial View

This photograph, from a postcard circa 1980, shows the Buckhorn Baths Motel as it appeared before development began in the area. At this time Recker Road was little more than an informal gravel road. The buildings and facilities pictured here are intact today, but the small trailer park visible on the right is no longer present.



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Interior of Lobby and Museum

This undated photograph shows the interior of the Buckhorn Baths lobby, which also doubled as a museum displaying the large collection of taxidermy specimens prepared by Ted Sliger.



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List of Photographs

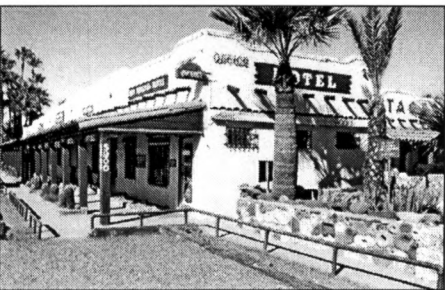
For all images

Property: Buckhorn Baths Motel
Photographer: Mark E. Pry
Date taken: November 7, 2004
Location of negatives: Mesa Room, Mesa Public Library; Mesa, Arizona

The vantage points of the photographs are identified on the site plan; the numbers in the map symbols correspond to the numbers assigned below.



No. 1 : The facade of the office complex and the large neon sign, with the gravel parking area on Main Street visible in the foreground.



No. 2 : The southeast corner of the office complex. The owner's residence is just visible in the right background, and part of the stone-and-metate wall enclosing the cactus garden can be seen in the right foreground.



No. 3 : The cactus garden and office complex, viewed from across Recker Road. The south elevation of the bathhouse can be seen to the right of the garden.

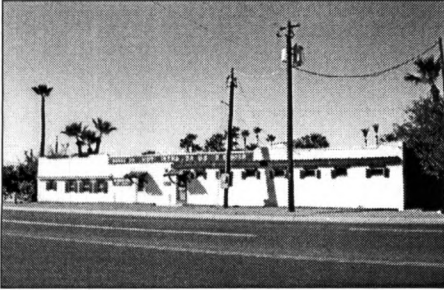
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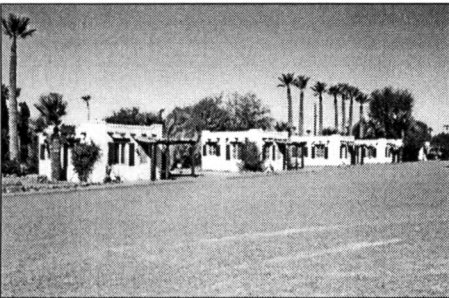
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Buckhorn Baths Motel
Maricopa County, Arizona



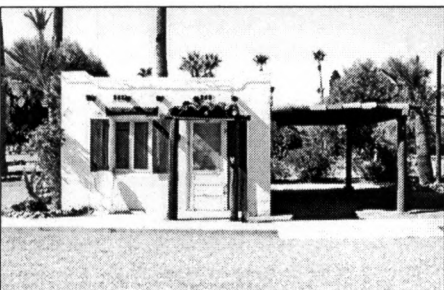
No. 4: The east elevation of the bathhouse, viewed from across Recker Road.



No. 5: The row of cottages on the east edge of the main gravel drive and parking area, which can be seen in the foreground.



No. 6: The motel building, as viewed from near the northeast corner of the property, with the row of cottages in the background. The main gravel drive and parking area is visible in the foreground, and part of the grass landscape island can be seen to the left and in front of the cottages.



No. 7: The facade of one of the cottages.

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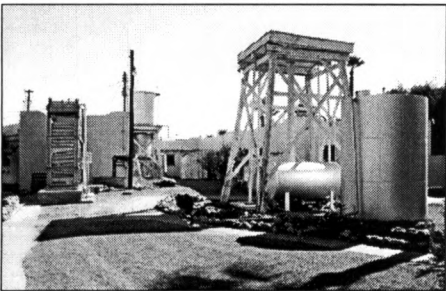
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No. 8: Part of the facade of the motel building, showing a double carport on the left and one of the duplex units on the right.



No. 9: This view toward the rear of the bathhouse shows four of the structures once used to store and cool the hot mineral water: (left to right) a cooling tower, a water tank on a small platform, an empty tank platform, and a large tank.



No. 10: The landscaped area, with irrigated vegetation and rock-lined water pools, located immediately east of the office complex.



No. 11: This view toward the southernmost cottage shows some of the mortared rock landscape features, in this case a low wall of the type that defines many of the property's landscape zones, a fountain, and a miniature castle.

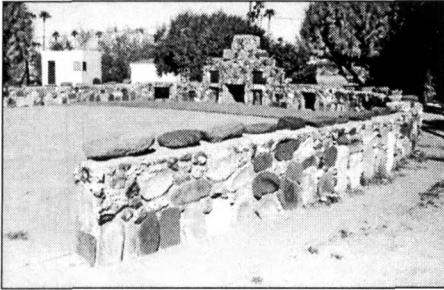
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No. 12: The stone-and-*metate* fireplace and barbecue.



No. 13: The rock-lined water pools in the landscaped area adjacent to the office complex, the east elevation of which is visible in the left background.