PHOO 55999 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVEDMAR 2 4 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 3 1875

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parker Jail is a cement block building 24' x 30' standing in Pop Harvey City Park. It originally had two cells and an office. Some time after 1947, when the building was no longer used as a jail, the VFW added a bathroom and side door with a covered porch. This doorway, which had formerly been a window, is now being restored The side porch has been removed. Each cell has two as a window. There are three windows in the office. The cement barred windows. blocks are of a type once much used in Arizona and were made in a mold to resemble the rough surface of stone blocks. The roof is gabled hip with wood shingles. Each window has a plain lintel. One cement step leads to the only door. The building is being restored by the city for use as a museum. The building was painted white in the 1940s but will be sandblasted to the original grey. The wiring has been replaced. Air conditioning will be added and the interior will be painted.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| AR | EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH | IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION |
| ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | CONSERVATION | LAW | SCIENCE |
| AGRICULTURE | ECONOMICS | LITERATURE | SCULPTURE |
| ARCHITECTURE | EDUCATION | MILITARY | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| ART | ENGINEERING | MUSIC | THEATER |
| COMMERCE | EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | PHILOSOPHY | TRANSPORTATION |
| COMMUNICATIONS | INDUSTRY | -XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT | OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | INVENTION | | |
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SPECIFIC DATES 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John King & John F. Collins

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parker Jail was apparently the first county building constructed

in the northern part of Yuma County. It was built in 1914 and was used as a jail until 1947. The city is now restoring it for use as a museum.

The Parker area had long been occupied by the agricultural Mohave people who tilled the flood plains of the Colorado. In 1864 the Parker Valley was selected as a Reservation for the Hualapai, Yavapai, Yuma, and Mohave. The first Indian agent arrived in August of 1868. The post office for the agency was named Parker, after General Eli Parker, who was then Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In 1905 the Santa Fe Railroad built its line nearby, and a settlement sprang up by the railroad, which was four miles north of the agency. In 1907 the post office was transferred to the new town.

Regulation of the turbulent Colorado River was essential to the development of modern agriculture in the area. This was accomplished by a series of dams. Parker Dam was planned to provide a desilting basin for the Colorado River aqueduct and was of great importance to Southern California. Arizona, however, demanded a share of the water and refused to allow California interests to attach the dam to the Arizona side of the River. The Arizona National Guard was sent by the Governor to stop construction. Two rowboats, under the direction of Parker resident and Arizona legislator, Nellie T. Bush, patrolled the River.

An agreement was finally reached, and the dam was completed in 1938. It was the world's deepest, since it was necessary to go down through 235 feet of silt to reach bedrock. The dam is 856 feet long and 39.5 feet wide.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by the Save-the- Jail Committee of Parker.

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FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED MAR 2 4 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 3 1975

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When the town was moved in 1906-1907, a jail became a necessity. The first jail was originally a Santa Fe Railroad ice house near where the depot is now. It was in use from 1910 to 1914 when the new jail was built.

The jail was built by Contractor John King and carpenter-mason John F. Collins. The cement blocks were poured in molds by hand at the site. The jail cost the county \$1500 and was a necessary item for a town already several years old. One of the last prisoners in the jail was a man who had killed a deputy sheriff.

The VFW and other local organizations used the old jail as a meeting hall between 1947 and 1960. In October of 1972 a committee was formed to preserve the jail and use it as a museum.

The Pop Harvey Park, in which the jail stands, was named in honor of James Stephen Harvey, who managed the city swimming pool from 1955 until he died in 1967.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number



Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

Name Parker Jail State LaPaz County, AZ

Nomination/Type of Review

County change from Yuma to LaPaz County-Approved

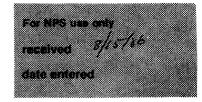
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Correction to Parker Jail, listed 4/3/75

Previously listed as being located within Yuma County, this property is now located in La Paz County. The La Paz County code is 012.

This change is the result of the creation of La Paz County, which became a separate entity from Yuma County on January 1, 1983.

ihde Signed

Donna J. Schober Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer