

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Garcia School
and/or common The Little Red Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number NW corner Yavapai Street and U.S. 89 N/A not for publication
city, town Wickenburg N/A vicinity of _____ congressional district 3
state Arizona code 04 county Maricopa code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Wickenburg Unified School District No. 9
street & number P.O. Drawer 1418
city, town Wickenburg N/A vicinity of _____ state Arizona

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maricopa County Recorder's Office
street & number 111 South Third Avenue
city, town Phoenix state Arizona

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Garcia School is located in Wickenburg, Arizona, a small, rural town in the central section of the state, approximately 50 miles northwest of Phoenix. The school stands on the northwest corner of Yavapai Street and U.S. 89 at the northern edge of the present town center.

The Garcia School is a one-story structure, rectangular in plan and symmetrical in massing. The building consists of a single room and partial basement; the attic space is non-functional. Although changes have been made to the school, most of these alterations are cosmetic and reversible and the property has a high degree of integrity.

The roof is of hipped configuration with the ridge beam running parallel to the long axis of the building (north-south). It is framed as a series of wood Howe trusses located at about 36" on center. Major beams appear to be 4x8s; trusses and sheathing are of 1x6s. The roof planes are unbroken except on the south face which features a rectangular ventilator with a low-pitched pyramidal cap. Both the main roof and the ventilator are surfaced with wood shakes. These replace what were almost certainly the original covering of wood shingles. The roof edge is finished as a plain, boxed cornice.

The main walls are of fired brick laid up two wythes thick in a common bond pattern. The south, or principal, facade is punctuated by a central entry flanked by a single window on either side. The entry is composed of a double door (6'-8" height) below a boarded-up transom. These elements are not original but their frame is. The entry is reached by a portico with a four-riser stair accessible on three sides. A shingled, hip roof supported by wood posts covers the area. Windows are two-over-two, double-hung sash. Above each window is a segmental arch of rowlock brick; below the sill line is a string course which is two bricks thick. On the east and west elevations this string course runs continuously from the outside edge of the southern window to the outside edge of the northern one. Originally each of these facades contained four evenly-spaced windows similar in type to those on the front side. All are still in place except for the third one from the south in the west facade. This opening was converted in 1908 to a doorway which is reached by a stoop with stairs on the south and west. The porch is protected by a bracketed hood which partially overlaps the transom - thereby making the transom unusable. There are no penetrations on the north facade. All exterior masonry is painted a dark red. Woodwork is painted white.

The foundation for the structure is composed of large stones set randomly in a concrete matrix. The exterior of this wall is plastered with portland cement. Floor joists run parallel to the short axis (east-west). They are 2x6s located approximately 24" on center. At the foundation wall they bear directly on the concrete without benefit of a plate. Four by six beams provide intermediate support for the joists at quarter and mid-points. Loads from the beams are carried to the ground by 4x4 posts located roughly 7 feet apart. Access to the area within the foundation walls is through a low doorway on the east facade. Another opening on the north has been blocked up. The north half of the basement is used for storage; the other portion, which is less deeply excavated, contains mechanical equipment and ducts.

The interior of the building is finished primarily with materials from various remodeling efforts. Most, however, are easily reversible. For example, the ceiling is acoustic tile mounted on 2x4 joists. This structure is 3 feet below the original ceiling height of 13'-3". Portions of the original tongue-and-groove ceiling are still in place, although most of this material is gone. Walls are covered with gypsum wall board but could be removed. Although the wall board extends across window openings in several instances, the windows themselves have been left in place with their blinds drawn. A 6'-8" partition encloses an office area in the southwest corner of the room. The present floor is 27' 7" wide and 44' 8" long.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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The original floor measurements are one to two inches larger. The floor is 3¼" tongue-and-groove laid over another tongue-and-groove sub-floor. This surface is in excellent condition. Upon close inspection of the floor it is possible to locate the point at which the room was sub-divided in 1908. This wall was later removed when the building was converted to a library.

Structurally the building appears to be quite sound. The roof shows no evidence of deterioration or distress. The south wall does have what appears to be a settlement crack which runs vertically through the east window. On the north facade the wall is slightly distended, perhaps due to rotation of the foundation. Neither of these conditions appears serious; it is not known whether they are active. The foundation wall has lost portions of the exterior plaster coat but appears to be intact. Overall, the property has been well and sensitively maintained.

The site of the Garcia school remains substantially intact. The building is situated in the southeast quadrant of a parcel 200 feet wide and 200 feet long. To the west is a paved play area with basketball goals, to the north the original slope has been leveled to create athletic fields. The grounds south of the school are planted in grass and are shaded by a number of trees. The walkway to the school passes between this lawn and the site of the 1920 grammar school. This site, as well as two extant temporary classrooms and several outbuildings, is located on parcels which were added to the original site. The aggregate property of about 12 acres is bounded by U.S. Highway 89-93 on the west, Yavapai Street on the south, Sols Wash on the north and private development on the east.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
Built 1905	Not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Garcia School is the best preserved example of a one-room brick schoolhouse in Arizona. It is also significant for its association with Ygnacio Garcia, a notable Wickenburg businessman, whose concern for the local educational system prompted him to donate land for the school building and to serve on the school board for many years. Due to this tie with Garcia, the school has become an important landmark to the present Hispanic community of Wickenburg.

Development of educational systems and associated facilities followed a typical pattern in territorial Arizona. Initial impetus for a strong educational system came from Governor Anson P. K. Safford, who persuaded the Eleventh Territorial Assembly (1871) to approve a general tax for support of schools. The law further provided for establishment of school districts managed by county-appointed boards of trustees. As public interest in education gathered strength, teachers were hired and facilities rented for instructional purposes. If the number of students remained constant or began to expand, the school boards acquired or built properties primarily for school use. Many of these buildings had only one room because the number of students did not permit a separate graded system. Schools of this type were built of adobe, frame or fired brick. Due to the often perishable construction and inherent limitations of use of these buildings and the frequent discontinuity of settlement growth, few of these one-room schools have survived into the last quarter of the 20th century. The only other property of a similar type is at Shumway. Placed on the National Register in 1978, this building pre-dates the Garcia School but is in a more deteriorated condition.

Erection of the Garcia School well represents the shift in Wickenburg from temporary educational facilities to permanent ones. The brick building replaced a frame structure that had been moved to Wickenburg from the Vulture Mine in 1895. Ygnacio Garcia donated land for the new school building in 1900, but it was not until 1905 that bonds totaling \$1600 were sold to provide funds for building and equipping a new school. Ten dollars were allotted for purchase of plans and specifications, and the school board trustees were empowered by the building committee to "build the new building in the best way possible". The brick school house was ready for occupation by January of 1906. On January 10, 1906, the school board resolved that "no church service or dancing or any kind of service not in harmony with the spirit of our schoolhouse shall be tolerated in the new school house".

Population growth of Wickenburg and interest in the school from outlying areas quickly increased attendance, and in 1908 the Board decided to make the one-room schoolhouse into a graded school. A partition divided the building into two rooms, each headed by a single teacher. In 1909, a small tenthouse was built about thirty feet west of the schoolhouse. The canvas structure was modified in 1917 with the addition of a wood house at one end. In 1918, the wood-canvas facility was partitioned into two rooms. By this time, four teachers were teaching primary, intermediate, and advanced grades in these structures.

Overcrowding was recognized as a problem by 1918. In 1919, a bond proposal was passed authorizing funding of a new elementary school. This facility was ultimately erected adjacent to the Garcia school after the Hispanic community successfully opposed another site on the opposite side of town. The new building was completed in 1920 on land donated by Abelina de Verdugo at a cost of over \$23,000. Initial enrollment exceeded 200 students.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Ladies Auxiliary of Maricopa County Historical Society, The Right Side Up on the Upside Down River. 1975

Arizona State Miner 1919, 1923

Interview: H. K. MacLennon 8/19/81

(See Continuation Sheet)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Wickenburg, Arizona

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 12 340060 3760050
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 1, Lots 1 and 2 and parts of Lots 3,4,5 and 6, Garcia Addition, Wickenburg, Arizona

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janus Associates, Inc.

organization date September 2, 1981

street & number 2121 South Priest telephone (602) 967-7117

city or town Tempe state Arizona

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

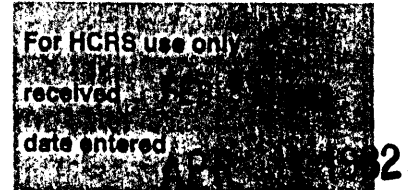
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Ann A. Pitzlaff

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 18 January 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Brownham</u>	date <u>4.1.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	date <u>4/1/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

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The old tent and frame structure were sold at auction, and the brick Garcia schoolhouse began service as the first grade classroom.

During the early 1920's, the school grounds were leveled by Garcia, and students planted cottonwood trees to celebrate Arbor Day. Drinking fountains were also installed outdoors. In 1922, a basement was excavated beneath the new (1920) building for additional class space for the high school students. A four-year high school was authorized in 1923, and a new high school building was erected in 1928 at a site several blocks to the south of the Garcia School. WPA funds further enlarged and improved the buildings during the 1930's. The elementary school built in 1920 was destroyed by fire in 1978.

Ygnacio Garcia was born of Spanish parents in Sonora, Mexico in 1836. He settled in the La Paz-Ehrenburg placer mining area on the Colorado River in Arizona in 1860 where he developed a mining and freighting business. He moved upriver into Ehrenburg in 1866. His business interests took him to central Arizona, and in 1876 he moved his family and business to Wickenburg, bringing his crews and teams with him. Garcia and his wife, Dona Manuela, settled permanently in Wickenburg near the junction of the Hassayampa River and Sols Wash. By 1895, the family included ten children.

Garcia moved to Wickenburg to take advantage of the school established there. He quickly took an active role in local education, serving as a school board trustee from 1884 to 1912. It was during this tenure, in 1900, that he donated the land for the Garcia schoolhouse in order to provide the town with a permanent school site.

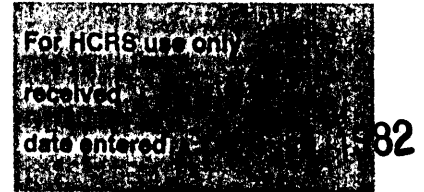
Garcia was also a key figure in the rebuilding of Wickenburg in the 1890's, following the collapse of the Walnut Grove Dam upstream on the Hassayampa in 1890. This accident caused substantial loss of life and destruction of agricultural acreage in the Wickenburg area. Garcia utilized his freighting facilities for rescue and clean-up operations and donated land for a town cemetery. He subsequently donated a portion of the land for Wickenburg's Catholic church, and in 1901 he platted a section of Wickenburg for a new subdivision called the Garcia addition.

He continued to be a respected and benevolent member of the community until his death in 1928. He is buried in the Garcia cemetery. His descendants still reside in Wickenburg.

The Garcia School has been an integral part of the Wickenburg educational system since its erection. As the first permanent school building in Wickenburg, the structure initially served as a traditional one-room school, was subsequently sub-divided into two classrooms, and was most recently modified as a library supplementing adjacent classroom buildings. The school has played an important role in Wickenburg's history and is highly regarded by the community as an historic landmark.

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Additional Bibliographic References:

Arizona Republic, 1/2/78 p.A-13:1

Arizona Republican, 5/5/01 p.8:2
4/24/01 p.5:2
5/14/38

Arizona State Miner, 12/19/19
1/19/23 p.1-2

Fishleder, Jack. The Development of the Wickenburg Public Schools; 1879-1948. A thesis submitted for Master of Arts, University of Arizona, 1948.

Phoenix Gazette, Romantic Progressive Addition, 11/16/40

Phoenix Gazette, weekender, 3/10/80

Phoenix Gazette, 12/13/77, Section A, p.16:1-4

Wickenburg Sun, 3/26/81
4/16/81
5/7/81
5/14/81

Wickenburg School District No. 9, Trustees' Reports, Minutes

Personal Interviews:

Mr. H. L. MacLennon, former school superintendent, 8/19/81, and Mr. Joe Ocampo, Wickenburg resident, 8/28/81, conducted by Ms. Cindy Myers, Janus Associates, Inc.