

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000170

Date Listed: 3/6/98

Geronimo Surrender Site  
Property Name

Cochise  
County

AZ  
State

Warfare Between Indians and Americans in Arizona, MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*J.R. [Signature]*  
Signature of the Keeper

3/6/98  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

At the present time insufficient information is available to draw the period of significance for this property from 1886-1945. The documented significance of the site in the area of *military history* (as defined within the MPS cover document) is directly associated with the events that took place in September of 1886. The appropriate period of significance, therefore, should be 1886.

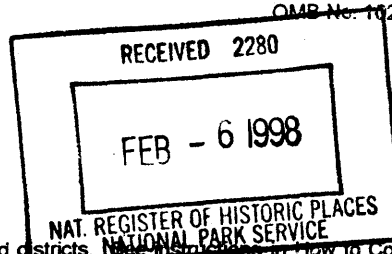
[No one disputes the strong feelings engendered by the site. The appropriate area of significance for this commemorative importance, however, would be ethnic or social history not military history. At this time, the current nomination does not provide sufficient documentation regarding this aspect of the site's history. In order to justify the eligibility of this site within those other areas, the site's significance would need to be analyzed in context with other such sites of commemorative value. Simply stating that Indians continue to revisit the site is not sufficient. Most battle sites and treaty locations (Indian as well as Euro-American) share this commemorative aspect to some degree. What needs to be identified and documented is the specific place and importance this particular site holds within the broader cultural traditions of the local Indians. What role did it or does it still play in the continued Indian perspective regarding their history and treatment at the hands of Americans, and what is the relative significance of that role.]

This information was confirmed with W. Collins of the AZ SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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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. Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being nominated, 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 Geronimo Surrender Site  
Other name/site number Chiricahua Apache Final Cessation of Hostilities Site

2. Location

On a bluff overlooking Skeleton Canyon about 45 mi. NE of Douglas, Arizona  not for publication  
city/town: SW quarter, Section 15, Township 21S, Range 32E  vicinity  
state Arizona code: AZ county: Cochise code: 003 zip code: N/A

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. Cannon ASHP 27 JAN 1998  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

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

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other(explain): \_\_\_\_\_

6 Del B. Pugh 3/6/98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Property Name

Geronimo Surrender Site

County, State

Cochise County, Arizona

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 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Warfare Between Indians and Americans in Arizona, 1846 - 1886

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: commemorative marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE: commemorative marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

other: Stone Monument

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cobblestone, walls, roof, other

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)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with descriptions of property significance.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G for property type (religious, reconstructed, etc.).

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Period of Significance

1886 - 1945

Significant Dates

1886

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Henry W. Lawton, builder

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):

- Checkboxes for previous documentation status (preliminary, listed, landmark, etc.).

Primary location of Additional Data:

- Checkboxes for data location (State historic preservation office, Federal agency, etc.).

Name of Repository:

.....

Property Name

Geronimo Surrender Site

County, State

Cochise County, Arizona

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property one.....

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12.....	682790.....	3497490.....	C	.....	.....
B	.....	.....	.....	D	.....	.....

**Verbanl Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation 10-1

**Bounday Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet 10-1

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Don W. Ryden, AIA - Historical Architect/Doug Kupel, Ph.D. - Historian.....

organization Ryden Architects..... date January 1997.....

street & number 902 W. McDowell Road..... telephone 602/253-5381.....

city or town Phoenix, AZ 85007.....

**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 FHPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Ben P. Snure.....

street & number P.O. Box 1002..... telephone .....

city & town Douglas..... state AZ..... zip code 85607.....

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Geronimo Surrender Site  
Cochise County, AZ

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

The Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apache final cessation of hostilities site is located on a small bluff overlooking Skeleton Canyon in southeastern Arizona. The site itself overlooks the canyon and provides a broad vista of the San Bernardino and San Simon Valleys to the west and east, respectively. The site is marked with a pile of rough rocks erected by Lt. Henry W. Lawton to commemorate the occasion of Geronimo's surrender to General Nelson A. Miles in 1886. Today, the rock pile is located within a small horse corral. Few artifacts are present at the site. Those present consists of a few pieces of brown and olive-green glass fragments and a few stone flakes.

Although the site has a structural and an archaeological component, it is being nominated as a treaty site for its significance to Arizona military history. Because the property is being nominated under Criterion A as a treaty site, our concern in the description of the property is with the integrity of the site's location, setting, feeling, and association. The site location was surveyed in the field to determine the boundaries for the purposes of this National Register nomination. The site itself has undergone very few changes since the agreement was reached.

There is some confusion about the exact location of the site. The USDA Forest Service has marked a location about one-half mile south of the pile of rocks identified in this nomination as the location of the treaty site as the "true" location of the Geronimo's surrender. The location marked by the Forest Service with a sign is within Skeleton Canyon itself. This location in the canyon was examined in the field and contains no evidence that a

marker of rocks was ever erected there during the historic period. The Forest Service relied on oral evidence that discredited the rock pile on the bluff as the basis for its selection of the alternative location. The location selected by the Forest Service is just within the boundaries of the Coronado National Forest.

Based on the physical differences between the two locations, it seems certain that the site on the bluff is the actual location of the agreement. The bluff overlooking Skeleton Canyon gives a good view of the surrounding area, a factor that was important to Geronimo and his band. In March of 1886, Geronimo had selected a similar location at Canyon de los Embudos in Mexico for his earlier negotiations with General George Crook. This type of visible location at both treaty sites gave the Apache room to escape if the negotiations took a turn for the worse.

In addition, the bluff overlooking the canyon contains a large amount of surface area that matches the description of the surrender itself. Geronimo and Miles took center stage, surrounded on either side by Geronimo's band and Miles' troops. There is not enough room at the canyon location marked by the Forest Service for the ceremony to have taken place the way it was described.

The final bit of evidence for the selection of the bluff location as the agreement site is the presence of the rock pile itself. No corresponding rock pile exists within the canyon. The size and shape of the rock pile are similar to that described by Lawton. Angie Debo, in her book on Geronimo, describes how the rock pile was disturbed by cowboys who were seeking relics. The present condition of the rock pile, and its condition in a 1934 photograph, match the type of disturbance that would be associated

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Geronimo Surrender Site  
Cochise County, AZ

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with this activity. The center of the pile has been removed, and the rocks tossed around it. This is the exact condition that would occur if the pile had been disturbed by someone searching in it.

The Forest Service has offered an alternative argument for the existence of the rock pile, claiming that it is the result of clearing the small corral in which it is located. This is based on oral evidence of a ranch hand who stated that the rocks were piled to clear the corral. This seems unlikely, as the rock are piled at the center of the corral and not at the sides. The corral is still very rocky despite the presence of the rock pile.

During the course of the research for this nomination experts in the period of Apache warfare were consulted regarding the exact location of the treaty site. Jay Van Orden, Bill Hoy, and Larry Ludwig, all support the bluff location as the treaty site. Based on the field investigation, contemporary accounts, historical research, and consultation with experts, it is certain that the location on the bluff with the pile of rocks is the actual location of the cessation of hostilities ceremony.

The property retains its integrity of setting as well. Its location above Skeleton Canyon remains much as it did during the surrender. Ranches and ranch buildings have been erected along Skeleton Canyon and in the surrounding area, and these are visible from the site location. However, these intrusions do not detract from the setting of the site itself. It still affords a panoramic vista of Skeleton Canyon, San Bernardino Valley, and San Simone Valley. The site is surrounded by a small barbed-wire enclosure serving as a horse corral. The barbed wire fence is located some distance from the pile of rocks and does not detract from the immediate setting of the site.

Integrity of association is present as evidenced by the rock pile. Although the rock pile has significance as a commemorative marker or memorial, its significance to the site is to locate the spot of the agreement. The rock pile has been disturbed, but this does not detract from its purpose as a means to mark the location of the agreement. The rock pile serves to document the association of the event with the location.

Integrity of feeling is perhaps the most difficult to ascertain. However, standing on the site one does get a feeling for the events which took place there. Frank A. Trinker, a free-lance writer who has visited the site, described it as "ordinary enough, but it also seems to have a built-in air of tragedy and loneliness. Or is it so only for those who are impressed with its history?" The cessation of hostilities site evokes a feeling of sorrow for the fate that befell Geronimo and his band once they left here to live in exile from Arizona for the rest of their lives.

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Geronimo Surrender Site  
Cochise County, AZ

## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY

The Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apache final cessation of hostilities site, known historically as the Geronimo surrender site, is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the broad patterns of military history in Arizona. It is specifically associated with the historic context of "Military Engagements and Peace Talks Between Americans and Indians in Arizona, 1846-1886," as defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form submission titled "Warfare Between Indians and Americans in Arizona, 1846-1886." Although the period of significance for the defined historic context ends in 1886 with the cessation of hostilities, the significant dates for the Geronimo Surrender site with respect to this individual nomination extend to the fifty-year limit of the National Register. It has remained a significant site during the post-warfare period as a location of memorial importance associated with the events that took place there. Although the site has an structural component, consisting of a pile of rough cobble rocks marking the location of the surrender, for the purpose of this nomination it is being nominated as a treaty site under Criterion A for its association with Arizona military history.

The Geronimo surrender site is the location where, on September 4, 1886, Apache leader Geronimo and General Nelson A. Miles of the US Army agreed to terms that ended the period of warfare between Indians and Americans in Arizona. To commemorate the occasion, Captain Henry W. Lawton erected a monument of rough stone at the location of the agreement. It originally stood ten feet across and six feet high. The agreement reached at Skeleton Canyon to end hostilities is arguably the most

significant of all accords between Americans and Indians in Arizona. It brought an end to a forty-year period of warfare in the Arizona Territory.

Historic Context: Skeleton Canyon in Relation to Military Engagements and Peace Talks Between Americans and Indians in Arizona, 1846-1886

The agreement reached at Skeleton Canyon on September 4, 1886, was the culmination of the final ten years of warfare between Indians and Americans in Arizona. This final era began in 1876 when the US government began to pursue a policy of concentration of native groups on reservations in the territory. The extension of the concentration policy in 1875 triggered another wave of violence in Arizona.

As early as 1873, the Interior Department's Indian Bureau had moved 1,500 Arivaipa and Pinal Apache to the San Carlos sub-agency. In March of 1875 the Indian Department closed the Camp Verde reservation and transferred more than 1,400 Yavapai and Tonto Apache to San Carlos. In July of 1875, nearly 1,800 Coyotero Apache were moved from Fort Apache to San Carlos.

The last group designated to move were the Chiricahua Apache. Under the able leadership of Cochise, the Chiricahua had waged a bloody war against Americans from 1860 until 1872. In 1872 Cochise and General Otis O. Howard agreed to make peace in exchange for the U.S. government establishing the Chiricahua Indian Reservation in southeast Arizona. Cochise died in 1874, and leadership of the Chiricahua fell to his eldest son, Taza. The Chiricahua were divided over the wisdom of the move to San Carlos. On June 12, 1876, Indian Agent John P. Clum convinced 325 Chiricahua to make the



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journey. However, more than 400 resisted the move and broke free toward New Mexico and the Sierra Madre range in Mexico.

Those Apache that escaped the government's concentration policy in 1876 included three of the tribe's most able leaders: Juh, Noglee, and Geronimo. Geronimo gradually assumed a position of leadership for the resisters. Often described as more of a medicine man and spiritual leader than a military chief, Geronimo struggled between resistance and accommodation. Geronimo and other Apache leaders continued the battle with U.S. troops for the next ten years, alternating periods of accommodation with the repression of the reservation system with periods of violent resistance to it.

San Carlos Indian agent John P. Clum is associated with the end of one of Geronimo's periods of resistance in 1877 at the Hot Springs Reservation in New Mexico. In a tense confrontation on April 20, 1877, Clum contended that he and his Indian allies surrounded Geronimo and compelled his surrender. An alternative view would be that Geronimo and his allies decided that accommodation was the best course of action at the moment. In the aftermath, Clum rounded up 343 Warm Springs Apache and 110 Chiricahua Apache and transferred them to the San Carlos reservation. The accommodation was short-lived. On September 2, 1877, Apache leader Victorio engineered an outbreak from San Carlos. He led more than 310 Apache, mostly Warm Springs with some Chiricahua, on a two year hiatus from the reservation. Although Geronimo remained on the reservation, Victorio's escape demonstrated that the control of the U.S. military and the Indian Bureau over the Apache was tenuous at best.

Conditions at San Carlos contributed to the discontent of the Apache. Confined on the reservation in close proximity to other native groups, many of whom had enmity for each other, the Apache suffered from a complete breakdown of their traditional social fabric. With their historic lifeway replaced by a ration system for sustenance, the Apache suffered from hunger and deprivation. Crook called the Apache "these tigers of the human race." Those tigers took to the regimentation and control which accompanied reservation life stoically. They tried to make their conditions bearable by using their sense of humor, joking and laughing at the predicaments of the American reservation agents.

Despite their attempts at accommodation, the abuse and deprivation of the reservation system contributed to the resistance of Warm Springs and Chiricahua Apache, triggered in part by the Cibecue Creek Massacre of August 30, 1881. A medicine man named Noch-ay-del-kinne began to circulate stories of how the Apache could raise the dead and induce the white invaders to go away. The process included a special dance, and in many ways was similar to the Ghost Dance movement which originated among the Paiutes of Nevada in about 1870 and spread later through the Great Plains. The visions espoused by Noch-ay-del-kinne inspired many White Mountain Apache. However, they greatly troubled San Carlos agent J.C. Tiffany. The agent wanted the prophet arrested, and even killed if he did not cooperate. This situation contributed to a feeling by the Apache that military authorities would arrest and kill Apaches on the slightest pretense.

Col. Eugene A. Carr of the 6th Cavalry received the orders to arrest Noch-ay-del-kinne. Carr viewed the assignment with distrust, because he felt that it was ripe for violence.

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On August 30 he marched into the prophet's camp on Cibecue Creek about 28 miles northwest of Fort Apache. The confrontation with Noch-ay-del-kinne was intense, but he finally submitted. As Carr marched back to Fort Apache with two troops of cavalry, eighty five men, twenty-three White Mountain Apache scouts, and his captives, his column was dogged by followers of Noch-ay-del-kinne. After the troops had camped for the night, the followers attacked. During the violence which ensued, several Apache scouts turned on their commanders for the first and only time in the period of warfare. Several were killed on both sides, including Noch-ay-del-kinne and Captain Edmund C. Hentig. Carr managed to retreat during the night to Fort Apache.

The Cibecue Creek Massacre, as the event became known, rekindled fears on the San Carlos reservation and resulted in renewed outbreaks. In the aftermath of the battle troops swarmed over the reservation. Many Apache felt that retribution would be forthcoming after the conflict. On September 15, 1881, a group of 74 Chiricahua under the leadership of Juh, Naiche, Geronimo, and Chato escaped during the night. They quickly fled for the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico. A second Apache leader, Natiotish, also escaped in the aftermath of Cibecue and led a group of Apache into the mountains of Arizona.

The outbreak of Natiotish precipitated the last major battle of the period of warfare. Known as the Battle of Big Dry Wash, it started when Natiotish and his group of White Mountain Apache spotted a group of the 6th Cavalry in pursuit and decided to set an ambush. The Apache occupied two sides of a narrow canyon and waited. Unbeknownst to them, veteran guide Al Sieber detected the trap. The 6th Cavalry was reinforced with units from the Third Cavalry. On July 17, 1882, as one group

mustered a feint down the canyon, two cavalry troops executed a flanking maneuver on the plateau. Between sixteen and twenty-seven Apache died. Those that remained were quickly returned to the reservation.

In the wake of the Cibecue Creek Massacre and the Battle of Big Dry Wash, the military command re-organized the military Department of Arizona. War Department brass in Washington, D.C. turned to a proven and effective commander: General George Crook. Although conditions seemed poor, only one Apache group was still considered hostile by the U.S. military. Geronimo's band of Chiricahua Apache, operating out of its strongholds in Mexico's Sierra Madre mountains, was the last remaining group still in a state of war. The Battle of Big Dry Wash marked the end of hostilities by all other Apache groups.

Crook faced three tasks as he assumed command at Whipple Barracks on September 4, 1882. He needed to bring the Indians confined on reservations under control, he needed to protect lives and property in Arizona, and he needed to subjugate the Apache resisters operating out of the Sierra Madre. Crook first appointed officers to improve conditions at San Carlos and Fort Apache. To combat the Apache in Mexico, Crook forged a reciprocal border crossing agreement with Mexican President Porfirio Diaz.

Resistance by Apache leader Chato in March of 1883 allowed Crook to put his system into operation. Chato blasted through southeastern Arizona, raiding day and night, and managed to escape back into Mexico without being engaged by military authorities. Crook mounted an expedition. On May 1, 1883, Cook crossed the border and made his way to the Sierra Madre range. Crook engaged bands under the leadership of Chato and Benito

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on May 15, attacked their camp. After several hours of fighting Crook crushed their resistance and brought them back to the reservation.

The presence of Crook within the heart of their refuge cause many Apache to reconsider continued warfare, as opposed to seeking accomodation with the American general. Crook conducted extensive negotiations with Apache leaders Geronimo, Chihuahua, Chato, Benito, Loco, Naiche, and Nana. Crook managed to convince them to stop fighting and accompany him back to the reservation in Arizona. On June 10, 1883, Crook crossed the border with over 300 members of the Warm Springs Apache band. It took some time for the remaining Chiricahua and Warm Springs groups to arrive. Between December of 1883 and February of 1884, groups under Naiche, Chato, and Mangas trailed in. Geronimo was the last to arrive.

The surrender of the remaining Chiricahua Apache bands in the spring of 1884 shifted the scene of action back to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Conditions there had changed little. The recent arrivals chafed under the control of military authorities. While those who had been confined for some time had become accustomed to the routine, those who had only recently given up the taste of freedom found the regulations offensive. On May 17, 1885, forty-two men and ninety-two women and children fled the reservation to seek their traditional homeland. The group included Geronimo, Naiche, Chihuahua, Nana, and Mangas. Geronimo headed directly for Mexico, while Chihuahua used diversions as tactics and strategy to resist the superior force. These actions took him through New Mexico before crossing the international border.

The 1885 outbreak of Chiricahua Apache led to another

campaign by Crook in the mountains of Mexico. A summer expedition in 1885 proved futile. Another expedition in the fall of 1885 also failed to encounter the Apache resisters. Finally, a third expedition led by Capt. Emmett Crawford located the group near the Aros River in Mexico. A chance encounter with Mexican troops resulted in the death of Crawford, claimed by Mexican troops as an error during the confusion of the fight.

Despite Crawford's unfortunate end, Crook's campaign soon bore fruit in the form of negotiations to end hostilities. On January 13, 1886, Lt. Marion P. Maus discussed the possibility of ending hostilities with Geronimo, Naiche, Chihuahua, and Nana. Geronimo, dictating the terms of the negotiations, stressed that he needed to discuss the matter with Crook personally. Geronimo promised to meet with Crook in two months near the border. On March 25, 1886, Crook sat down with Geronimo and other Apache leaders to discuss the surrender at Canyon de los Embudos in Mexico. At first, Crook demanded an unconditional surrender. After negotiation, Crook offered terms of confinement in the east for two years followed by a return to the reservation.

The Chiricahua spent some time discussing the proposition. By March 27, they had agreed with terms. They agreed to exchange hostilities for peace and return to the reservation in Arizona. Crook returned to Arizona with the good news, leaving Lt. Maus to escort the group. It turned out that Crook's relief was premature. During the night of March 28, both groups celebrated with mescal purchased from an itinerant trader. During the night the Apache reconsidered their situation. Geronimo and Naiche, along with twenty men and thirteen women, fled into the mountains of Mexico. Chihuahua and Nana, with about seventy-five others, returned to Arizona.

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Cochise County, AZ

The failure to capture Geronimo angered officials at the War Department in Washington, D.C. General Phillip H. Sheridan ridiculed the performance of Crook and his Apache scouts, expressing a common belief that the combined forces should have been able to bring Geronimo and his small band to Arizona. Crook, anticipating the inevitable, asked to be relieved of command on April 1, 1886. Sheridan responded quickly. The next day Sheridan assigned Brig. Gen. Nelson A. Miles to command the Department of Arizona.

Miles abandoned Crook's reliance on Apache scouts, trusting that American troops would eventually wear down and conquer the Apache combatants. Miles also adopted a reliance on technology. He brought a system of communications based on the heliograph to Arizona. This system used mirrors and sunlight to flash messages quickly from peak to peak across the vast terrain of Arizona and New Mexico. In addition, Miles planned to remove all of the Chiricahua and Warm Springs Apache on reservations in Arizona to Florida. Miles hoped that the removal would stop the threat of continuing resistance.

With these plans in place, Miles then unleashed a full campaign to kill or capture the the small band of Apaches still resisting. He dispatched Captain Henry W. Lawton and Lt. Charles B. Gatewood to Mexico to track down Geronimo and his band. On August 24, 1886, Geronimo and Gatewood met along the Bavispe river in Mexico. There, Gatewood delivered the news that the families of the Apache combatants would be sent to Florida in five days. This depressing bit of news - a choice of family over freedom - convinced Geronimo to end his resistance. However, he would only surrender to General Miles himself. As Gatewood and Lawton hurriedly tried to convince Miles to meet with Geronimo, the two groups -

Apache and U.S. military - began the trip northward to the border to meet Miles at Skeleton Canyon.

Geronimo arrived in the vicinity of Skeleton Canyon of August 28 and set up camp. In the meantime, Gatewood and Lawton hurriedly tried to convince Miles to meet with Geronimo. Miles finally arrived in the late afternoon on September 3, 1886. Geronimo went immediately to meet with Miles. The two men discussed the terms. While Geronimo was impressed with Miles and the terms, Naiche hesitated. He remained hidden in the hills above the canyon. Gatewood set out to meet with him, and managed to convince Naiche to agree to the terms as well.

During the late afternoon on September 4, 1886, Geronimo and Miles met in Skeleton Canyon, Arizona Territory to finalize the terms of the agreement. Geronimo stood in front of his warriors on one side of a blanket as Miles stood on the other side in front of his troops. The two men placed a rock on the blanket and pledged to keep to the terms of the agreement until the rock crumbled to dust. Captain Lawton and his men then built a monument of rough stone at the location. It was ten feet across at the base and six feet high. Lawton placed a bottle with a paper listing the officers present in the monument.

The following morning, Miles took Geronimo and Naiche in his ambulance to Fort Bowie. During the trip Geronimo remarked to Miles, "this is the fourth time I have surrendered." Miles replied, "And I think it is the last time." The rest of the group walked to Fort Bowie as prisoners of the U.S. government, where they awaited arrangements for a train to take them to Florida. Four days later, as the military band played "Auld Lang Syne," the prisoners were

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Cochise County, AZ

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escorted to Bowie Station and boarded a train for Florida.

This final agreement to cease hostilities reached between Geronimo and Miles at Skeleton Canyon is accepted as the end of the period of hostilities between Indians and Americans in Arizona. The exile of the Warm Springs and Chiricahua Apache to Florida ended any real threat of continued violence. Some additional episodes did take place between Indians and Americans following 1886, but these are seen as isolated incidents of violence and not as part of any organized resistance by native groups. The U.S. military soon began to abandon and dismantle its elaborate apparatus of defense in Arizona.

There are two other monuments to the cessation of hostilities by Geronimo in Arizona. In 1934 the City of Douglas used Federal funds to construct a monument on U.S. Route 80 in the community of Apache, and in 1986 a monument was erected near Fort Bowie to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the cessation of hostilities. Neither of these two other monuments are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The stone monument erected in 1886 is considered to be the only marker erected at the actual location of the surrender.

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A one-acre square centered on the pile of rocks.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn to include the pile of rocks and the immediate surrounding area. This incorporates the amount of space that estimated to have been used during the cessation of hostilities ceremony.

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Photographer: Don W. Ryden, AIA

Date: 11 November 1995

Location of Original Negatives: Ryden Architects  
902 West McDowell Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Historic photograph of the ruined cairn originally constructed by Captain Lawton's cavalry detail to mark the location of the agreement between Geronimo and General Miles to cease hostilities. The four unidentified people stand among the stones which once formed a monument about ten feet across and six feet high. [Photo courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson #2763.]
2.	A roadside monument several miles from the actual Geronimo Surrender Site built in 1934 by the City of Douglas with federal C.W.A. funds.
3.	The brass plaque at the roadside monument to the surrender of Geronimo. Prehistoric Indian metates (corn grinding stones) have been incorporated into the native stone masonry of the monument shaft.
4.	A sign within the National Forest boundary erroneously indicates the location of the Geronimo Surrender Site in the narrow passage of Skeleton Canyon rather than on the open plains several hundred yards beyond the mouth of the canyon where the ruined cairn still lies. It is possible that preliminary negotiations between the Army and the Apaches may have occurred in this vicinity. The stones in the foreground cover a brass survey monument. Mitchell Kupel photographs Col. Lloyd Clark at the crossroads sign.
5.	View from the rock cairn at the Geronimo Surrender Site toward the direction of Fort Bowie from whence General Miles approached the ceremony of final surrender of Geronimo and his warriors.



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6. Today a mesquite tree grows up through the ruins of the rock cairn at the Geronimo Surrender Site. Pictured are Bill Collins, SHPO historian, Dr. Douglas Kupel and his son, Mitchell, and a local canine who wished to remain anonymous.