

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 6 1987

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page b

RESUBMISSION WILLCOX MRA

Pablo Soto House (108 E. Stewart)
Cochise County
ARIZONA

Summary

The Pablo Soto House was returned by the reviewer for a clarification of applicable criteria and area of significance. The reviewer suggested that additional significant information be researched to justify criterion "B". The Soto House was nominated under criteria "B" and "C". Criterion "C" was considered justified by the reviewer. This document is an addendum to the original nomination that justifies significance under criterion "B" only for the significance area of Soto's contributions to Willcox. This addendum does not change the boundary of the nominated property.

Significance

In order to understand best the historical significance of the Soto House, a discussion is required on Pablo Soto and his contribution to the economy of Willcox. The best description of the history of Willcox is found in Vernon B. Schultz's scholarly publication, Southwestern Town: The Story of Willcox, Arizona (1964). Much of the following discussion is based on this scholarly study.

For Item 8, this property is nominated under criterion "C" for architecture and also under criterion "B" for its significance as a property that is historically associated with Pablo Soto, who was an important businessman in Willcox along with his brother Mariano, during the early years of Willcox. The area of significance under criterion "B" is commerce. As was already mentioned previously on the original nomination form, the two brothers became partners with John C. Fall during the 1880s, and they established the firm of Fall and Soto Brothers. (John C. Fall was a native of Virginia who had arrived in Willcox via Ohio, Sacramento, California, and Nevada, to open a small store in Willcox which quickly turned into a successful venture as the town grew.) In 1893 the two brothers purchased Fall's interest in the business, and the firm Soto Brothers Mercantile was formed. The business was located on Railroad Avenue, and they were the chief competitors of Norton Morgan (who mainly supplied the southwestern part of Arizona with agricultural supplies) on Railroad Avenue. In 1902 their store was completely remodeled, and it was considered one of the finest between Tucson and El Paso.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

JUL 6 1987

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page c

The Soto Brothers also established the first banking operation in Willcox in conjunction with their store in about 1888. Deposits were accepted by anyone. For a small charge, interested persons could also purchase checks bearing the firm's name. These checks could be cashed anywhere in the area without difficulty.

In 1897 the brothers purchased the old store and warehouse of J. Lieberman and Company to use for storage. (J. Lieberman and Company was a freighting operation that travelled to Globe and in 1889 employed about 45 wagons and 50 teams.)

Pablo Soto also held investments in mining around the Willcox area. For example, the Dos Cabezas Mining District, probably the most important mine to the economy of Willcox, is located about 12 miles southeast in the Dos Cabezas Mountains. There, the first important claim was the Juniper, located by John Casey in 1878. Although Casey did not have the capital to develop the mine, he refused to sell or lease it for many years. Finally, in April, 1903, the Chicago and Arizona Copper Company was organized by a group of local businessmen with Thomas B. Chattman of Dos Cabezas as president. Others interested in the venture were W. F. Nichols, Pablo Soto, and James J. Riggs. After developing the mine, they leased it to various outfits who worked it with varying degrees of success.

I concur with the statements as presented in this resubmission:

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Shereen Arner*

Title SHPO

Date 7/2/87