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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Anza-Borrego Desert is geologically and historically one of the most primitive and awe inspiring areas in California. Although a land of little rain, intense summer showers and cloudbursts have carved out canyons and washes forming a variety of bad lands and desert terraces seldom encountered in so limited a space. Exposed volcanic magma and granites, eroded by time and parched by hot sun and winds provide shelter and escape from civilization for thousands of desert creatures, as well as for tension-filled city dwellers.

For the latter, climate and season are important factors in the enjoyment they seek; but for the former, adaptation to the region has produced a variety of wild life, each fashioned by nature to live in the desert area. Plants, also fashioned to the environment abound in vast number, providing the visitor with a rare botannical experience. As a geographical, paleontological, faunal and floral phenomenon, Anza-Borrego Desert is one of California's outstanding State Parks.

The trails nominated in this submittance are three in number--though interrelated and interpolated one upon the other along portions of their route. Originally, they were Indian trails--later horseback trails, and then wagon trails. Today, they are popular routes of access by automobile or, in some areas, open only to foot traffic, jeep or trail bikes. S

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PERIOD <i>(Check One or More as</i>	16th Century	X 18th Century	20th Century
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	ate)	
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Associative with the geographical and environmental cualities (identified through Section #7) Anza-Borrego Desert possesses (astorical and archeological values of outstanding significance. This applies to the whole area with specific attention being drawn to the Fages Trail-The Anza Trail and the Old Southern Emigrant Road.

Originally nomadic Indian family groups representative of two broad spheres of ancestry--the Shoshonean and the Yuman--occupied the land. These carried on their stone age culture from prehistoric times well into the 19th Century. Sporadic upnsings against the whites were made, beginning in 1781 when the adjoining Sonoran Road was closed by revolt, and later, in 1851, when Indians under Garra fought a last ditch battle with Major Heintzelman's San Diego volunteers.

A brief history of the Anza-Borrego Desert discloses <u>Pedro Fages</u> as being the first white man to traverse Coyote Canyon (1772), The Orriflame Canyon, and the Cuyamaca Mountains. <u>His trail is one of three</u> migor trails identified with Anza-Borrego. In 1774-75 De Anza passed through the area on his way from upper Sonora to Alta California. The following year he led his Spanish Colonists over the route on their way to find what was later to be the City of San Francisco. In 1825 Arguello, Commandante of San Diego entered San Felipe and Vallecito Valleys via Warners Valley of Buena Vista and in 1831 the Jackson Party of American Trappers worked its way west over what was later to become the Southern Emigrant Trail.

In 1846 Stephen Watt Kearny and his dragoons were guided through this area by Kit Carson. The name southern Emigrant Road was applied to this route shortly after the arrival of Col. St. George Cooke and his Mormon Battalion (1847).

In 1849, and for some years thereafter, thousands of Americans poured into California via this route while on their way to the gold fields, and in the 49 period, the Whipple boundary commission passed that way.

In 1857, the ill fated filibustering expedition led by Henry A. Crabb followed the road. That same year the first transcontinental mail (iniated by James Birch and operated by J.C. Woods) used a portion of the route, then turned west over the Cuyamaca Mts. to San Diego.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RI	EFERENCES						
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8. Significance

The latter trail ultimately became known as the Camino de San Diego.

In 1858, the Butterfield Overland Trail used the Southern Emigrant Road via Yuma Station, Borrego (Vallecito) Desert, Warners Ranch, Temecula, L. A., etc. This service was ultimately terminated by the Civil War. Throughout the war the Southern Emigrant Road was the route usually taken by the army for transport of men and supplies to the east.

In 1900 the first homesteading of Borrego Valley began.

In 1933-34 Anza-Borrego became part of the State Park System.,

In 1942 military maneuvers were held throughout the Anza-Borrego Basin.

In 1944-45, Di Georgio and Burnand developed locations throughout the valley.

Subsequent acquisition of land by the state has brought State Park ownership to more than 500,000 acres. Largest of all the State Parks, it attracts visitors each year--most of them through spring and winter months. Most of these visitors seek recreation and communion with nature. Others seek to retrace routes once used by their ancestors.

Attempts are underway to develop additional roads-facilities in the park area. Some of these would materially affect archeological and historical values. We must insure that these historical, archeological, and environmental resources are preserved. Preventive care is required if Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and its inhabitants are to survive.



