National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

4 Namo -

| historic | Historic-Res | ources of Wick | enburg, | Aizona | |
|---|--|---|----------------------|--|--|
| and/or commo | n N/A | | | | |
| 2. Loc | ation | | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| R o street & numb | ughly bounded by S er he east, Cochise Adams Street to | ols Wash to the Street to the the west. | e north, south, a | the west side of K and the east side o | erkes Street ^f not for publication |
| city, town | Wickenburg | <u>N∕A</u> vicir | nity of | • | |
| state | Arizona | code 04 | county | Maricopa | code 013 |
| 3. Cla | ssification | | | | |
| Category district X building(s structure site object | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considered | Status <u>X</u> occupied <u>X</u> unoccup work in p Accessible yes: rest d <u>X</u> yes: unre | nied progress | Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum park x private residence religious scientific x transportation other: |
| 4. Ow | ner of Prop | erty | | | |
| name | multiple owne | rs; see indivi | dual inve | entory forms | ······ |
| street & numbe | ₽r | | | | |
| city, town | | <u>N/A</u> vicin | lity of | state | |
| 5. Loc | ation of Le | gal Desc | riptio | n | |
| courthouse, ree | gistry of deeds, etc. | Maricopa | County R | ecorder's Office | |
| street & numbe |)r | 115 S. 3; | rd Avenue | | |
| city, town | Phoenix | | | state | Arizona |
| 6. Rep | presentatio | n in Exist | ting S | urveys | |
| title Wickenb | urg Historic Prope | rty Survey ha | as this prope | erty been determined elig | ible? yes 🗶 no |
| date June | e 1985 | | | federal state | county _X_ loca |
| depository for | survey records Ari | zona State Parl | ke Ctata | -Historic Preserva | |
| city, town | Phoenix | | 446 و ج د | H1Storic-Preserya state | tion Office Arizona |

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7. Description

| Condition |
|-----------|
|-----------|

| excellent | dete |
|-----------|-----------|
| X good | ruins |
| fair | une |

Check one ____ original sit __X_ moved

__ original site X_moved date __One_property (site 2-7)______ moved ca. 1925.

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Physical Characteristics:

Location

Wiekenburg, Arizona, is located on the banks of the Hassayampa River fifty-four miles northwest of Phoenix. It is situated at an approximate elevation of two thousand one hundred feet above sea level in the Upper Sonoran Desert. Wickenburg is on the Santa Fe Railroad Line and is served by U.S. 89 to Prescott and Phoenix, U.S. 93 and U.S. 60 to California.

Towniste Development

Henry Wickenburg received the U.S. Patent Deed to his property in 1879. It covered the E_4^{l} NW4 of the W2 NE4 of Section 12 Township 7 North Range 5 West. This 160-acre parcel included all of the original townsite of Wickenburg and extended into the river and south of town.

By 1897, as business activity in Wickenburg was beginning to pick up, the need was felt to have an official townsite recorded. <u>The Arizona</u> <u>Republic</u>, in an article of February 21, 1897, explained, "There was never a townsite there, but Henry Wickenburg run the lines with his eye, and 'stepped off' the distances. Mr. Wickenburg, like a proficient baseball umpire, has a good eye and his step is accurate, but in view of the fact that Mr. Wickenburg may not live forever, in view of the further possibility that his eyesight will in time become impaired and his steps halting and irregular, they have decided at Wickenburg that their metes and bounds should have a fixed definition. Hence, the clamour for a regular survey."

In March the townsite was surveyed by P.C. Bicknell and A.B. Titus of Phoenix. In April the Nogales <u>Oasis</u> reported that the townsite had been recently surveyed and platted and corner lots could be "secured at reasonable rates." Actually, lots were being sold for business and residential purposes prior to the townsite plat, as they had been for decades. The plat of Wickenburg was recorded on September 23, 1898.

Renewed mining activity in the area, aided by the presence of the railroad which had arrived in Wickenburg in 1894, was the foundation for Wickenburg's building boom of 1901. In April Henry Wickenburg was selling lots which, prior to the gold strike, had little value. These sold for between \$100 and \$500. Housetents were erected all over the townsite where the builders of new frame buildings and the renovators of old adobes were living. Development began moving into the Collins Addition, adjoining the townsite on the west, which was platted by D.J. and M.E. Curry, and was recorded in May of 1901. A selling point used in the advertisement of the Collins Addition was that it had an "abundant supply of fine water" piped onto the premises from the railroad tanks which, like the depot, were located in the addition. The Garcia Addition, immediately north of the townsite, was recorded on April 23, 1901.

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In 1902, Henry Wickenburg platted Wickenburg's Addition to Wickenburg which adjoined the Collins Addition to the southeast. The founder was still the owner of some of the most valuable building lots in town, as well as a few mining claims in the surrounding districts.

Henry Wickenburg died in May of 1905. Upon his death, his estate was transferred to Mrs. Helen Holland, who along with her husband, had befriended Wickenburg in his old age.

The building boom continued, and the Weekly Arizona Journal Miner (Prescott) on September 13, 1905 proclaimed, "Wickenburg Notes Greatest Building Activity: Numerous improvements are going on in Wickenburg. The new depot and Collins' Saloon are the most conspicuous on Railroad Avenue, at present being under construction. The Smith Hotel is nearing completion and is the finest in Wickenburg. Jim Adams has added two rooms to his house making it more commodious and comfortable. The stone wall in front and his lot makes a great improvement. Mr. Adams contemplates putting a cement sidewalk on his property. Plans for the new schoolhouse have arrived. Another carload of lumber for the new depot arrived here Tuesday morning. Mrs. Boyd's residence will soon be ready to be occupied. J.B. Collins moved into his new saloon last Tuesday. R.A. Roberts is building two rooms in his residence in Collins' addition. W.S. Holland is replacing the south wall of his house with brick; he will also put in an up-to-date fireplace. J.D. Curry received the lumber with which to erect a water plant for the Collins Addition which will materially increase the value of property in that section. It begins to look as through we will have a really good smelter if something works here ... "

In October, Helen Holland platted the South-Eastern Addition to Wickenburg which adjoined the original townsite to the south between Tegener and Railroad Streets. In June of 1907, the Curry Addition to Wickenburg was recorded by D.J. and Mary Curry. It is a small triangular parcel located northwest of the original townsite.

In the ten years since it had been decided to officially plat the townsite, Wickenburg had doubled in size. The end of the townsite period saw business firmly entrenched along Wickenburg's new Main Street--Railroad Avenue, now known as Frontier Street.

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Architectural Characteristics

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Within the Wickenburg Multiple Resource Area can be found a wide variety of buildings and structures which clearly illustrate not only most of the architectural evolution of the community and surrounding region, but also significantly represent the developmental forces which affected the town's history.

One of the earliest styles to be used in Wickenburg was what has been termed as Sonoran adobe. Like the rest of the Arizona Territory, structures using the flat roofed adobe method of construction were the principal type of buildings during the settlement and early developmental period. Those buildings in Wickenburg which remain from this era have been altered from their original condition and are no longer illustrative of the style. Such is the case with the historic Whiteside/Etter Store and Residence (1-21) on Center Street, and the old adobe dance hall (1-25) in the alley behind it.

For nearly twenty years between the time when area mining's first boom was over and the railroad arrived in Wickenburg in 1894, the community dwindled to a handful of residents. Evidence of this is the almost total lack of architecture dating from this period. Building types which remain from this date were constructed along traditional vernacular lines such as Shotgun or Hall and Parlor Cottages. Many were moved to town from area mines. Noticeably absent are the Queen Anne Cottage types found in other cities such as Nogales or Flagstaff. A rare remaining example of a vernacular plan house on its original site is the adobe Wisdom House (53-3) on Kerkes Street.

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Around the turn of the century business activity in Wickenburg began to pick up due to the boost from the railroad to area mining and farming. As a result of heightened communication afforded by the railroad, coupled with the new telephone service in town in 1902, construction after this time fell more in line with national tastes and fasions.

Wickenburg's Neo-Golonial buildings date from this period, roughly 1901 to 1910. Several good examples remain to illustrate the various interpretations of the Neo-Colonial mode. The largest and most costly of which is the Hassayampa House, originally the Hotel Vernetta and later the Belmont Hotel (3-12). The pair of frame pyramidal cottages at 177 and 185 Jefferson (3-54, 3-55) exemplify a regional variation of the style often known as "Western Colonial" or "Builders Colonial".* This includes an overall impression of symmetry in massing and fenestration, a dominant single roof form, usually hipped, and verandas, either independently constructed along the principal facade or recessed below the main roof. Attention to detail varies, but includes at a minimum boxed eaves, classically shaped cornice moulding, and a plain board frieze below the eave.

An earlier example of the style is the B.J. Thompson House (3-26) on Washington Street. This board and batten house has a truncated hip roof with central chimney and an attached veranda.

Another excellent example of a regional interpretation of a nationally popular style is the Hutchinson House(4-22) across from the Wickenburg High School Gymnasium on Tegner. This adobe house has a traditional Neo-Colonial hip roof, multiple lite wood double hung windows and an attached veranda. The Wisdom/Kerkes house (1-3) also illustrates this stylistic treatment.

The George B. Upton House (3-28) combined the popular material of rusticated concrete blocks with an assymetrical derivative of the Neo-Colonial style. The Upton House (3-28) is the most highly stylized example of Neo-Colonial architecture in Wickenburg. The offset entry has a 6-lite wood panel door with sidelights, the roof has classic bellcast boxed eaves, and the entry porch is supported by stylized capitals and an architrave.

The Sears, Roebuck and Company Catalog of 1908 sold a concrete block machine that was capable of making no less than 15 styles of concrete blocks. On another page they describe concrete's appeal; "...concrete blocks, a material which is identical with hand finished stone, but which will outwear, give better satisfaction, is more sanitary, perfectly dry at all seasons of the year, cool in summer, warm in winter...."

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Styles of block that the machine was capable of producing, among others, were: Standard Rock Face, Panel Face, 5 styles of broken Ashlar Face, Cobblestone Face, Rope Face, Scroll Face, and Gable Rock.

The Bungalow style began to gain national popularity in 1909, and was fully in place as the preferred style for middle class housing by 1920. In the meantime though, a variety of Transitional houses were built as owners wanted to be modern, yet they retained images of what a house should be. An early Transitional house in Wickenburg was the Jacobs House c.1908 (2-19). It retains traditional Neo-Colonial massing, with a hip, bellcast roof, and integrated porch, but the rafter ends were left exposed. Exposed rafters are one of the most common feature of the Bungalow style. The rusticated concrete block house at 185 Washington (4-1) is later (c.1915) and retains a Neo-Colonial entry with a 15 lite door and sidelights. Significant also is the use of concrete block, in this Transitional style, as this material's popularity dropped off sharply shortly after this time.

Popularity of the Bungalow style coincided with Wickenburg's post World War I affiliation with tourism. Of the buildings surveyed, and those which were able to be labeled by styles, the Bungalow style was the most prevalent. The primary construction material in Wickenburg is frame, with brick as a secondary building material. The Bungalow at 130 Center Street (3-40) displays classic Craftsman details such as 6 over 1 wood double hung windows, and a 6-lite Craftsman style door. The house is sheathed with clapboard siding, and has a typical Bungalow roof and massing. A more modest interpretation of this popular style is the frame clapboard Bungalow at 43 Jefferson (4-10). This house dates from c.1932 and is a duplex. It has exposed rafters, 1 over 1 wood double hung windows, and a small offset gabled porch. An excellent and unique local example of a brick Bungalow is the Escheverria House (3-64). It has a gabled wood shingle roof with wood shingles in the gable end, 1 over 1 wood double hung windows, and exposed rafter ends. The house is in excellent condition.

Like the previously mentioned Hutchinson House (4-22), the Shride House at 57 Tegner (4-27) is a rare example of a regional adaptation of a once popular national style. It is a large adobe Bungalow with a wraparound screened veranda and a wood piling foundation. The house was built in 1928 by Orville Shride as his first home in Wickenburg. The family has owned both the house and the Wickenburg Ice and Cold Storage Company (4-15) since that time.

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Building activity naturally slowed with the Depression, but later New Deal funds helped pump life back into the local economy and confidence to invest in the local housing market returned. The Period Revival styles enjoyed wide popularity throughout the country through the late 1920s and 1930s. Wickenburg's first such building was the house School Superintendent MacLennan moved onto his lot in 1925 (2-7). The building is in the Colonial Period Revival style with a gabled hip roof and integrated veranda. The windows are 2 over 2 wood double hung; the entry doors are 10-lite glass doors. The original porch pillars have been replaced by wrought iron, nonetheless, the house is an excellent and unique example of the Revival of the Colonial Period style.

The Period Revival styles which were most popular in Wickenburg, as well as elsewhere in the country following the Depression, were the English Cottage or Tudor Revival styles. The English Period Revival house on Apache Street (3-57B) is a rare local example of this. It is a frame building which was stuccoed so that it would appear to be masonry and has casement windows. The roof is typically gable with gabled ells, and it has a small projecting bay which has a flared roof over it which projects from the main roofline. Sweeping or flared eaves are typical of this style.

As the Period Revival styles evolved, they became less academic interpretations of their inspirational styles, and more Picturesque. Such is the case with the only frame Period Revival house in Wickenburg, the Rohrer House (2-12). It is a modest clapboard frame house with a small gabled entry porch. The porch is detailed with a trellised bargeboard and the ell gable has a picturesque flared eave.

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Survey Methodology

The administrative organization of the project team was established early in the project. The team involved two primary members: (1) an Architectural Historian and Project Coordinator, and (2) Research Coordinator.

Primary responsibilities of the Architectural Historian and Project Coordinator were; field work, evaluation, report preparation, and general direction of the project. Primary responsibilities of the Research Coordinator were; compilation and indexing of all research material generated in-house and coordination of previous research efforts by the town historian and other local volunteers, historic photo search, review of major public historical collections in Arizona relevant to Wickenburg, and liason with City of Wickenburg Planning Staff.

A field survey was conducted and all buildings within the survey area (roughly bounded by Sols Wash to the north, the west side of Kerkes Street to the east, Cochise Street to the south, and the east side of Adams Street to the west), were mapped using the 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps where applicable and County Assessor's Maps for the remainder of the survey area.

An inventory number was assigned to each building or group of buildings, and appropriate field forms (Arizona State Historic Property Inventory Forms or Arizona Building Inventory "Short Forms") were completed. The field forms note type of building, primary construction materials, architectural details, condition and modifications or additions to each building. Black and white photographs of each building, or group of buildings, were taken.

The 100% inventory of buildings within the survey area was divided into two classifications:

1. Historic Buildings (built prior to 1935) which still retain a substantial amount of their original architectural integrity. Documentation of such buildings is recorded on Arizona State Historic Property Inventory Forms. These properties represent the Research Inventory of Historic Properties in Wickenburg.

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2. Buildings of recent construction (post 1935) or those Historic Buildings which have been modified to the extent that their original architectural integrity is unrecognizable.

Research files were created for each building in the Research Inventory (Item #1 above). Research has been conducted during the entire length of the project and was organized into the following tasks.

- 1. Field Survey Data.
- 2. Historical Maps including Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1915 and 1931 to provide specific information about the buildings.
- 3. Secondary resource review of published material relating to the history of Wickenburg.
- 4. Review of the collections of the Arizona Historical Foundation, Arizona State Library and Archives, Arizona Collection at Arizona State University, for information, historic photographs, and maps.
- 5. Biographical research on prominent Wickenburg citizens.
- 6. Current owners names and address information obtained from current Maricopa County Assessor's Records.
- 7. Integration of research material received from the Town Historian.
- 8. Primary research involving the reading and indexing of historic newspapers including <u>Arizona Miner</u>, <u>Arizona Republic</u>, and the Hassayampa Miner for the years from 1864-1917.

All newspaper data was recorded on 3x5 file cards and was indexed as were secondary source materials according to the following major categories: Discovery and Settlement, Townsite Development, Incorporation and Continued Development, Agriculture, Transportation, Commerce, Municipal Services, Mining, Tourism, Education, and Architecture.

All research material pertaining to a particular building in the Research Inventory was copied and placed in the appropriate building research file.

Evaluation of each building on the Research Inventory was undertaken, including the contents of each file, to identify buildings or districts which appear to meet the Criteria of Eligibility (36 CFR 60.2) for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

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PROPERTIES INCLUDED AS COMPONENTS OF WICKENBURG MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

| | 1-12 | Safeway Pay'n Takit | 42 N. Tegner |
|----|------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 1-15 | Masonic Hall | 108 Tegner |
| | 1-17 | Old City Hall | 117 Yavapai |
| | 2-2 | Municipal Light Plant | 245 N. Washington |
| * | 2-4 | Railroad Bunkhouse | 20 Santa Cruz |
| | 2-7 | MacLennan House | 338 Jefferson |
| | 2-19 | Jacobs House | 355 N. Jefferson |
| | 2-29 | Cactus Inn (two buildings) | 158 Yavapai |
| * | 2-34 | Santa Fe Section House | 278 Frontier |
| ** | 2-40 | Garcia Schoolhouse | 308 N. Tegner |
| | 3-11 | Miller Barber Shop | 68 Frontier |
| , | 3-12 | Hotel Vernetta/Belmont Hotel | 1 Apache |
| | 3-16 | Old Post Office | 144 N. Frontier |
| | 3-20 | Santa Fe Railroad Depot | 215 Frontier |
| * | 3-23 | Telephone Office | 41 Washington |
| | 3-26 | P.J. Thompson House | 141 N. Washington |
| | 3-28 | George B. Upton House | 171 Washington |
| | 3-40 | Storms House | 130 Center |

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| | | | |
| 3 - 57B | House | 160 Apache | |
| 3-64 | Echeverria House | 170 Center | |
| 4-1 | House | 185 Washington | |
| 4-15 | Wickenburg Ice and Cold Storage | 48 S. Coconino | |
| 4-27 | Shride House | 57 Tegner | |
| 4-29A | Wickenburg High School & Anne | ex 250 S. Tegner | |
| 4-29B | Wickenburg High School Gymnasium | 252 S. Tegner | |
| 53-3 | Wisdom House | 48 Kerkes | |

 \star Submitted for DOE due to owner objection

** Currently listed on National Register

8. Significance

| prehistoric a 1400–1499 a 1500–1599 X a 1600–1699 X a 1700–1799 a | igriculture | community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry | military music | science sculpture _Xsocial/ humanitarian theater _Xtransportation |
|---|-------------|---|-------------------|--|
| • | | invention | • | other (specify) |

| Specific dates | 1876-1935 | Builder/Architect | Various/u | nknown |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|--------|
| | | | | |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The development of Wickenburg is significant for its important association with the broad patterns of history in the areas of agriculture, architecture, commerce, education, mining, municipal services, railraod, social, tourism, and transportation. Together these areas of significance provide the context for understanding the historical development and events important to Wickenburg and for assessing the community's impact on the region and state.

The history of Wickenburg represents a microcosm of the history of the American West. Originally inhabited by Indians, the promise of gold caused the area to be explored, secured, and settled. As was typical of the boom or bust nature of mining economies, those towns which survived also had non-mining industry, primarily agriculture. The coming of the railroad bolstered many stagnant western towns by way of the anticipation and realization of expanded trade and communication opportunities and through speculation. As the mobility and comparative affluence of Americans increased, the western states began to capitalize on both their climate and the romance of the "Old West" to lure tourists and winter visitors. Tourism has since become a cornerstone of these western economies and a backbone of the economy of Wickenburg and countless other towns like it.

Agriculture in Wickenburg was important throughout the historic period although its focus changed from cultivation to livestock grazing over the course of its evolution.

The architecture in Wickenburg stylistically represents national trends in verncaular architecture as well as Wickenburg's major periods of economic development. This is true primarily for the period after the arrival of the railroad, prior to which the main housing forms were hall and parlor cottages, shotgun plans, or Indigenous adobes.

Commercial development was inevitably linked to the primary factors responsible for Wickenburg's existence throughout its history; mining, agriculture, railroad, and tourism. Commercial activity necessarily fluctuated in response to the conditions of these respective industries.

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Education was always a priority in Wickenburg, and a steady expansion of school facilities was pursued throughout the historic period. Much of this progress was due to donations by local benefactors, including the National Register listed Garcia School (2-40), built in 1905 on land donated by Ignacio Garcia.

Pivotal in the founding and development of Wickenburg was the Vulture Mine, once known as the Cripple Creek of Arizona. The Vulture is reputed to have produced as much as 70 million dollars worth of gold over its course of operation. This figure is, of course, open to dispute. Nonetheless, the Vulture was the most important gold mine in Arizona, at one time being owned by the Guggenheim interests. Together with other area mines such as Congress,Oro Grande, and Rich Hill, the Vulture was a driving and sustaining force for Wickenburg until it was finally closed in the 1940's.

From the earliest use of a mesquite tree for a jail to water, sewer, and street projects funded by the New Deal in the 1930's, municipal services were alternately a cause for lament due to lack of such or a source of civic pride. Particularly noteworthy were the water and electric plants (2-2) which generated enough revenue for the city to make municipal taxes unnecessary.

The arrival of the railroad in 1894 revived area mining, benefited local agriculture, and fueled a building boom. It also connected the relatively isolated town with the outside world. This is best illustrated by now surviving architecture from the period. A further boost was received when Wickenburg became a junction for Santa Fe's North-South and California-Arizona lines.

Wickenburgers were always fond of social diversions, and a proliferation of dance halls, pool halls, and opera houses operated over the years. Later, roller skating, swimming, and movies became popular. In the early years after the turn of the century, an informal "gentleman's club" congregated at the barbershop on Railroad Avenue (3-11). This type of socializing eventually was organized into various fraternal lodges such as the Knights of Pythias and the Masons.

Tourism began to be important to Wickenburg after the Santa Fe line came through. In 1905, the James Creighton designed Vernetta Hotel (3-12) was built to serve business generated by the railroad. Later, several ranches capitalizing on eastern visitors' fascination of the West, as well as those who came to Arizona for their health, became tourist resorts.

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Throughout the historic period Wickenburg served as an important point on regional transportation routes. This began with the earliest travelers along the Hassayampa Riverbed, through the historic railroad period, and up to Wickenburg's role in the link for the auto traveler to the Grand Canyon, Nevada and Utah.

Thirty-three properties have been identified as being potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. These are recognized as those extant properties which are directly and significantly associated with one or more of the themes identified as being important to the heritage of Wickenburg. Additionally, these properties were deemed to retain enough of their context, form, materials, or features from their respective periods of significance to convey their relationship to the theme.

Discovery and Settlement

The town of Wickenburg was founded by a Prussian immigrant, Henry Wickenburg, as a base camp for mining exploration in the area.

Henry Wickenburg was born in the coal mining region of West Germany, when the country was still Prussia, on November 21, 1819. Two days later he was baptized Johannes Henricus Wickenburg in St. Johannes Roman Catholic Church, Essen, Prussia. Family sources indicate that the Wickenburgs, like other farmers, routinely illegally mined coal on land which belonged to them but on which the mineral rights were claimed by the government. Following a raid by the authorities, Henry Wickenburg and his brother left the farm. Henry emmigrated to America and his brother disappeared.

Accounts written during Wickenburg's lifetime indicate that he emmigrated in 1847, landing at the Port of New York, and from there went to San Francisco in 1853. He first came to Arizona in 1862, and in the spring of 1863 was induced to accompanying the Peeples/Weaver party into the interior of the Territory in search of gold. Following the party's first strike at Antelope Peak, they traveled down the Hassayampa Creek to Seymour and across the desert to Maricopa Wells for supplies. The group eventually settled in what became known as Peeple's Valley.

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In October, 1863, Wickenburg, E.A. Van Bibber, and Theodore Green (alias Rusk) left Peeples Valley in search of a rich gold ledge in the Harqua Hala Mountains, which had been described by Col. King S. Woolsey. Traveling down the Hassayampa River, they picked a spot to set up their base camp. The location was known as "Pumpkin Patch" to the Indians because of the crops they cultivated there. While crossing the desert on their way to Harquahala Pass, some fifty miles to the southwest, Wickenburg noticed a quartz ledge about fourteen miles from their camp. Green and Van Bibber dismissed it, and the three continued on in their search for gold near the Penahatchapet Water. After the trio returned to camp, Wickenburg set out alone to find the quartz ledge. Satisfied with its potential, he went back to tell his associates.

On November 24, 1862, a claim for the Vulture Lode was staked and signed by A. Van Bibber, J.B. Green, W. Smith, H. Wickenburg, and N.K. Estil. The partners reportedly then left to seek supplies and for other reasons. Wickenburg spent the winter alone, sleeping under cover of shrubbery and changing his location nightly to protect himself from hostile Indians.

In the spring, Wickenburg was joined by James A. Moore, who had arrived in Peeples Valley from California the previous fall. Others soon followed. Moore went into partnership with Wickenburg, and in his letters to Governor Goodwin and Secretary McCormick, he referenced the tent encampment as Wickenburg's Ranch, and later, Wickenburg. When the miners built the first arrastra in the spring of 1864, they were the only inhabitants between Walnut Grove and the sink of the Hassayampa, about twelve miles below Wickenburg. The citizens of Wickenburg consisted of Henry Wickenburg, James A. Moore, James A. (Coho) Young, Valentine Giegerich, John K. (Yank) Simmons, Richard Draper, and Frederick (Fritz) Tegener.

By February, 1865, there was estimated to be overthirty arrastras in operation along the river bank for a distance of seven miles, and it was expected there would be fifty in the near future.

It was reported that a townsite had been laid out, lots sold, and houses erected; this, however, was never officially recorded. At this time the main orientation of Wickenburg was along the river, both because of the ore crushing activity there and because travel through the region followed the Hassayampa riverbed.

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That year two five-stamp mills were erected, and the town of Wickenburg prospered, boasting numerous stores and saloons. At the same time townspeople were upset at having their mail service cancelled by Mr. James Grant, who had begun to travel a new route which did not include Wickenburg. They were also disgusted that federal troops had not yet arrived to protect them from Indian attacks while they worked the gold which was so important to the reconstruction of the Union after the Civil War. As the mine continued to prosper, Wickenburg grew. It is reported that in 1866 it missed being named Territorial Capital by only two votes of the Territorial Legislature.

In the summer of 1867 the community began experiencing an epidemic of malaria, or Panama Fever, as it was called at the time. This was blamed on a stagnant pond of water lying in a depression on Henry Wickenburg's ranch. The water was eventually pumped out, but for several years Wickenburg was regarded as an unhealthy place, and it was believed that were it not for this, the town would have been substantially larger. Nonetheless, an account of the conditions in 1867-68 by U.S. Army General Rusling found Wickenburg to be an adobe village of about 200 inhabitants which depended primarily on the Vulture Mine. The mining company had recently erected a shingled adobe 20-stamp mill which was capable of crushing 40 tons of quartz per day. The mill was located one mile north of Wickenburg on the banks of the river.

Also in 1867, the Swilling Irrigation Canal Company was organized in Wickenburg with capital of \$10,000. Fifty shares of stock were sold at a value of \$200 per share. Jack Swilling, Henry Wickenburg, L.J.F. Yaeger, and Mr. Latimore, teamsters at the Vulture Mine, were some of the first shareholders. In December a party of about sixteen men left Wickenburg for the Salt River Valley to dig the Swilling, or Town Ditch. As the first historic attempt to irrigate, this and following canal projects quickly brought about the rise of Phoenix and the Salt River Valley as the agricultural center of the Arizona Territory, as well as its subsequent rise as the political and commercial center. According to accounts by early settlers, the pioneers of Phoenix went to Wickenburg for supplies the first year.

In 1868, the townsite was surveyed and platted by Robert Groom, who had several years earlier laid out the townsite of Prescott. Groom's plat of Wickenburg, however, was never filed. By 1870, Wickenburg's population was about 250, and it contained two hotels, the Bradshaw and the Arizona Hotel. Main Street was estimated to be 100 yards long and contained several stores, and the two hotels, which, like the houses, were made of adobe.

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July of 1871 found the town of Wickenburg complaining of dullness while the community around the Vulture Mill, one mile above Wickenburg, remained busy. Wickenburg was hoping to be able to rely on mines in the Bradshaw Mountains to keep its economy afloat. Some satisfaction was taken in the fact that Mr. Grant had decided to run a semi-weekly stage line between Tucson and Wickenburg in addition to his route from Prescott to San Bernadino, California.

James Marion's account of Wickenburg in January of 1872 focuses on the amount of development which had occurred since he first saw Wickenburg early in 1864. He mentions several fine business houses, such as A.H. Peeples' and that of Barnett and Block, and that Smith's Mill in town was not running, but there was hope that it would be soon. Vulture City and its great quartz mill was still competing with Wickenburg for the miners' dollars. Marion lavishes much praise on Henry Wickenburg's fine ranch and his residence in a cave in the hillside. The cave roof and sides were well timbered, and at the end of a tunnel was a large room where the temperature varied little. Prior to this, Henry was living in an adobe.

When Marion came through in May of the following year, trade was still brisk at the local stores even though the Vulture Mill was closed. This was credited to trade by miners from the Weaver district. By October, however, mining, milling, and related trade in Wickenburg had reached an all-time low. The newspapers began stressing the agricultural potential of the place. In January of 1875, Wickenburg was described as "only a wreck of its former self", according to the <u>Miner</u> of January 22, 1875. They believed the stage company had the only good building in town. The Vulture Mine was closed due to mismanagement. Agriculture increasingly became the topic of newspaper articles about Wickenburg. In 1883 it is described as a relic of the past, with 100 houses standing empty.

In February of 1890, the community's agricultrual economy was dealt a severe blow. An earthen fill dam upstream from Wickenburg, at Walnut Grove, broke under pressure from heavy rain. It flooded the Hassayampa Valley and caused considerable loss of life and property. Several feet of rock and debris covered the farms and ranches in the flood plain, substantially reducing their value for agricultural use.

By 1898 as business activity in Wickenburg was beginning to pick up, the need was felt to have an official townsite recorded. In March the townsite was surveyed by P.C. Becknell and A.B. Titus of Phoenix. The plat of Wickenburg was recorded on September 23, 1898.

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Incorporation and Continued Development

As per vote of April 24, 1909, Wickenburg was incorporated in Maricopa County on December 25, 1909. A short time later in July, 1911, D.J. Curry and a group of associates petitioned the County Board of Supervisors to have the town disincorporated. Opposition was raised by "O'Brien, Jones, Baxter, et al." In September Curry was notified that if they did not get a new petition with a sufficient number of signatures, they were wasting the Board's time. The move was subsequently abandoned. The Reed Addition to Wickenburg was recorded on May 20, 1910. It was located to the west of the Collins Addition and was the last addition to Wickenburg during the historic period.

In the opinion of the Wickenburg Miner of July 8, 1915, Wickenburg was in need of: an ore treatment plant, soft drink business, large winter hotel, boarding school and bookkeeping. The same issue also proudly announced the opening of Wickenburg's first bank, the Wickenburg branch of the Central Bank of Phoenix. Credit is given to the Board of Trade for persuading the bank to come to Wickenburg, where it took offices in the Vernetta Hotel (3-12). The fall brought much discussion on the lack of rental facilities for winter visitors from all over the country who were inquiring about wintering in Wickenburg.

Anticipation and realization of another substantial mining period boosted Wickenburg up until the time of the First World War. In 1916 the old part of town along the river was again the site of substantial business activity, including a shoe shop, rooming house, tailor, and dance hall. A man named O.W. Jennings entered into an agreement with the Parker Ferry Co., and as a result, the entire route from Parker to Wickenburg was lined with signs alerting the auto traveler to Wickenburg's offerings. Telegraph business was estimated to have increased 400% due to the railroad and the rise of mining in the area. With the possibility of three reduction plants being built in town and the construction of the new electric light plant (2-2), property values were reportedly increasing daily.

Growth continued and outside capital was considering building rental properties in town in early 1917. By the end of the year, Wickenburg sent soldiers to Europe. The town had been following the war since early the previous year when a Home Guard was organized to be ready, were it necessary to defend the city. Shortly before the Home Guard was organized, a local chapter of the Red Cross had been initiated. Progress slowed as a result of World War I, and by 1920 the local newspaper was moving to a more "progressive" location.

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Following the war, Wickenburg began to solidify its association with tourism. In 1923, the population was estimated at 600 in the summer and nearly twice that during the winter. Twenty-four families were affiliated in some way with the Santa Fe Railroad. No fewer than six guest ranches were opened in the Wickenburg area prior to 1930.

A small building boom followed a fire that destroyed half a city business block in 1929. During the 20's and up until the Center Street underpass was built, Tegner became the third of Wickenburg's main streets.

The New Deal helped to breath life back into Wickenburg's economy and building trades. Sidewalks, bridges, and the high school gymnasium (4-28B) were constructed with the help of grants from the federal government.

In order to relieve congestion, the Center Street underpass (3-66) was completed in 1937. Since that time, and particularly after WWII, development has focused along this route.

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Agriculture

Even during the time of the original gold rush at the Vulture Mine, Wickenburg was making a reputation for itself in agriculture. An October, 1867, issue of the Arizona Miner describes the local ranches: "We took a ride down the river as far as the ranches of our friends, Geo. H. Wilson, F.A. Brill, and Wm. Smith, passing on our way, the ranches of Messrs. Wickenburg, and Swilling. Mrssrs. Swilling, Wickenburg and Brill have, this year, raised excellent crops of corn, sugar cane, and vegetables. Mr. Brill will have several tons of beans. Mr. Wilson, last winter, met with a great loss by the washing away of the largest and best portion of his ranch, but he is an owner in the Vulture Mine, consequently he can stand a great many more losses as his 'feet' will certainly make him rich one day." James Marion in his letter of October 31, 1868, to the Miner mentions that the first apples that had been seen in Prescott in a long time had recently come from Wickenburg. In November, farmers from Wickenburg were selling grain in Prescott for eight cents per pound.

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By the summer of 1870, Wickenburg farmers were growing melons. corn, wheat, barley, sorghum, grapes, peaches, apples, pears, potatoes, and quince. In the spring of that year, over three tons of potatoes had been shipped to Prescott. As the Vulture Mine fell into decline, Wickenburg continued to boast of its rich farmland. 1872 was especially noteworthy for the amount of fruit, primarily peaches and grapes, produced around Wickenburg.

Wickenburg's agricultural prowess was soon overshadowed by the Salt River Valley, which many of the pioneers themselves had helped to reclaim. In 1875 the Brill (formerly Ramboz) ranch, thought by many to be the best in the Territory, was sold to Charles Peterson.

The most devastating blow to area farming came in Febraury, 1890 when the Walnut Grove Dam broke, flooding the Hassayampa River Valley. The one hundred foot high earthen fill dam burst under the pressure of heavy rains. Several people were killed and as rich topsoil was washed away, rock and debris were deposited in its place.

In spite of the flood, the land around the river remained marginally useful for growing. This is illustrated by an article in a December issue of the Wickenburg News-Herald, 1901. "Henry Wickenburg has about completed the installation of his galoline engine and pipeline and next summer will be able to supply the demand for fine home-grown vegetables. He now has a complete irrigation plant and with his new approaches will be able to cultivate much more land than formerly."

A July 8, 1915, issue of the Wickenburg Miner assails the local farmers for not farming their cumulative 4,000 acres in a systematic manner, stating, ".... In no single instance is the modern intensive method of farming being followed.... " Attention soon after turned towards grazing as a use for the land.

A 1923 newspaper article affirms agriculture's role in Wickenburg. "...Health in her climate, Wealth in her mines, only partially express Wickenburg's advantages. There are hundreds of thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats roaming the adjacent gulches, hills and bottom lands along tributaries of the Hassayampa River, which in winter becomes the habitat of cowboys and stockmen. In spring their herds are driven north and the marketable kine are shipped to eastern markets, the rest coming back to breed and winter "

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This rise in ranching soon gave way to tourism as ranchers learned they could supplement their farm incomes by offering accommodations to eastern city dwellers. Originally the "dudes" paid to work as ranch hands, helping cowboys with their daily chores and riding with them into the desert. This, for the most part, gave way to the larger, resort-oriented ranches with tennis, swimming, golf, etc., in addition to optional "duding". Together they helped Wickenburg to be nicknamed "Dude Ranch Capital of the World".

Commerce

Shortly after the Vulture Mine was discovered in 1863, miners and merchants began flooding into the area. In May of 1865, merchants and barkeepers who had been selling on credit were doing a brisk business. Other territorial merchants who followed the mining trail were in Wickenburg by the spring if 1867, having come from such places as La Paz, Ehrenburg, Prescott, and Weaverville. A. Barnett, C.T. Rogers, Fred Henry, A.H. Peeples, S.J. Hensley, and a Mr. Jones are said to have been doing well "from a money making point of view". In the fall of 1867, Barnett was moving into a new store building which he had constructed, and Frank Pouget, the butcher, had recently returned from a buying trip to California. Prior to the slowdown at the Vulture late in 1873, in January the General Stores of M.L. Peralta, H. Mannasee, and Barnett and Block were advertised in the Miner (Prescott) along with A.H. Peeples' Arizona Hotel and Magnolia Saloon and Billiard Room. Another merchant of that period was George H.N. Luhrs, later a prominent Phoenix capitalist. Ten years later, in 1883, the commercial establishments, like the homes, were virtually abandoned.

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During the first period of Wickenburg's development, most commercial activity had been located in and around the corner which is now Center and Kerkes Streets. Following the arrival of the railroad in 1894, the commercial focus of the town shifted to that alignment. The building boom of 1901 was witnessed by such business establishments as Murray and Baxter, "The Big Store"; Sanders and Hall real estate: Reed and Breffitt's Wickenburg Stationery and Confectionary; and Hale and McKean, liquor distributors. It was during this period that Wickenburg got its first newspaper, the News-Herald. A January 11, 1902 ad in the News-Herald advertises Mrs. M. Francis' Railroad Eating House: "Eat! Eat! Eat! 3 times a day!", located on Railroad Street. Several cafes and saloons lined Railroad Street while other establishments, such as the general stores, were found on Center and on Front Streets. In 1905, the Hotel Vernetta (3-12), Wickenburg's largest hotel, was built, and in 1906 the Brayton Commercial Company was established. For the following sixty years, Brayton's was a commercial, and to some degree, social center of Wickenburg. The building which housed Brayton's burned in 1972. The Brayton Commercial Lumber yard, which originally belonged to R.W. Baxter, is located on Apache and Washington (3-24). The lumber yard supplied building supplies for the local housing market, the majority of which was frame construction. A good surviving example of a brick commercial building from this period is the old post office on Railroad Street (3-16). Built between 1909 and 1915, it was first used as a grocery, and later as a printer's office and a newspaper office. It served as the post office throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Some time prior to 1909, the first ice and cold storage plant was built in Wickenburg. This building is incorporated into the present Wickenburg Ice and Cold Storage Company building (4-15). In 1909 they had a building valued at \$300 and an ice plant valued at \$2,250. The manufacture of ice in Wickenburg was necessary not only for its practical applications for food storage, but also to show the Eastern visitors that Wickenburg was a "progressive" town, suitable for investment. Another plant was built by W.R. Curry, behind his grocery on Railroad Avenue (2-30 SF) in 1917. Curry originally planned only a one ton capacity ice plant to serve his business, but later decided to expand to a three ton ice plant to serve the community as the "old ice plant" was out of commission.

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In 1927 Ray Whipple was finishing improvements to the old plant on Coconino Street (4-15). He then sold it to Orville Shride, whose son Carl still owns the plant. The Shrides added soft drink distribution to the business in 1929 and as soon as prohibition was lifted in 1933, began distributing beer. The cold storage plant is one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in Wickenburg.

In 1917 Wickenburg witnessed the opening of its first bank--a branch of the Central Bank of Phoenix. It located in an office in the Vernetta Hotel and purchased all of the frontage on Railroad Street between the hotel and what was then Brayton's Commercial Company, which is now the site of the Desert Caballeros Western Museum. Prominent businessmen of that period included Charles Hyder of the Hyder Garage, located on the corner of Tegner and Apache (3-6); Erle Skadan of the Skadan Drug Store; and George Upton (3-28) of the Upton Oil Company.

Amusements were always a prominent part of Wickenburg. Various pool halls and theaters were operated in everchanging locations. Wickenburg of 1923 boasted of: a hotel, three restaurants, two general merchandise stores, a bank, three barbershops, a bakery, three pool halls, a drugstore, two butchershops, two garages with blacksmiths and machine shops, a dairy, wood and coal yards, three delivery services, an oil distributor, and a thrift/racquet shop (to supply the increasingly popular pastime of lawn tennis). In 1929, Wickenburg's first chain grocery store, the Safeway Pay'n Takit (1-12), was built on Tegner Street. The building currently houses the Western Auto.

During the post historic period Wickenburg's business development focused on services and goods for the increasing number of tourists and the number of surrounding small towns for which Wickenburg is a commercial center.

Education

The first school in Wickenburg was reportedly started in 1865 by a Mrs. Van Tassele, the wife of an early resident, who taught the children of local miners and merchants. Maricopa County School District No. 9 was established in Wickenburg in the fall of 1879. The district included Wickenburg, Vulture Mine, and Seymour. School was originally taught by a succession of teachers in an adobe building owned by Edward Grant. Prior to the erection of the brick Garcia Schoolhouse In 1905 (2-40) (listed on the NationalRegister of Historic Places), a frame building from the Vulture Mine had been used on the site.

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Due to the growth of the community, the citizens of Wickenburg donated two hundred dollars to erect a partition in the building in 1908, making it a two-room building. In 1909 a small tent house was built near the brick building, and Grace Mathews was appointed principal. According to a 1919 article in the <u>Arizona</u> <u>State Miner</u>, high school was first taught in Wickenburg in 1912 by a Mr. Beaver.

As more room was needed, a small wooden house was added to the tent in 1917, and in 1918 the wooden house was divided into two spaces. In 1919 the school system was holding classes at the first and second year of high school level, and the school yard had been fitted with swings, teeter-totters, and basketball and volleyball courts for the students' use.

A new five-room school was completed in time for the start of the 1920-21 school year. It was on the site adjacent to the Garcia School but is no longer standing. The original building of the Wickenburg High School was begun in 1924 and completed in 1925 (4429A). Additions to the high school physical plant constructed during the 1930s with the use of New Deal funds include the 1935 gymnasium/auditorium (4-29B) and the annex behind the main building (4-29A).

Throughout Wickenburg's history, the schools have served not only educational purposes, but social ones as well. The earliest church services, as well as dances and meeting, were held in the school buildings. School functions such as athletic events and school plays have been well attended and supported by the public. Perhaps community support for the system is best illustrated by the fact that schools built during Wickenburg's historic period were located on land donated by prominent townspeople. The Garcia School (2-40) is located on land donated by Ignacio Garcia, while the Wickenburg High School properties (4-29A, B) were built on property donated by the O'Brien family, original owners of the Bar F X Ranch.

Mining

The presence of gold in the region was the impetus for the settlement of Wickenburg, and Wickenburg rose and declined as the local mines rose and declined for decades.

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Gold was first discovered at the Vulture Mine in 1863 and was mined intensively from 1865, when the first stamp mills were erected in Wickenburg, until the panic of 1873. In 1874 it was sold at a sheriff's sale for taxes. The Central Arizona Mining Company laid a pipeline from the Hassayampa River to the mine in 1879 and there built an 80 stamp mill. This triggered the Vulture's second boom which lasted until 1884 when failure to extract high grade ore and damage to the pipeline caused the mill to close.

In an 1899 Report of the Governor to the Department of the Interior, Wickenburg was again recognized as being the center of a large amount of mining activity. By 1901 great prospects at Oro Grande were fueling a building boom in the town of Wickenburg. The local mines continued to prosper, and in 1915 it was announced that a smelter was likely to be built at Wickenburg with European capital. The furnaces of the Arizona Sampling and Reduction Company's plant were "blown in" in January of 1917. There were piles of ore in the yard and on railroad cars waiting to be reduced upon the plant's opening. The large volume of business at the plant necessitated the extension of a railroad spur into their yards three months after it opened for business. The Monte Cristo, Oro Grande, Congress and Rich Hill were among those mines which benefitted from the reduction works.

In addition to smeltering, tailings from the old mines had been worked up to four times through the cyanide process whereby the ore was leached out. Gold was necessary to finance WWI, and draft exemption was accorded to miners. While the price of gold remained at the previous level, miners wages rose as much as fifty to sixty percent. These huge increases in labor costs, as well as the unavailability of cyanide, primarily a German product, caused many gold mines to close.

The Vulture was reopened in 1927 by a Connecticut based firm, the Vulture Mining and Milling Company. Vandaium was discovered in the area in 1929 but was never mined to any noteworthy degree. Various stamp mills and cyanide plants to serve local mines such as the Congress, the Golden Slipper, and the Octave were under construction or being contemplated in 1935. The Vulture continued to change hands, while producing marginal profits until it was closed in 1942.

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Municipal Services

Prior to the construction of the city hall and jail (1-17), various locations were used to conduct town business, including the school buildings. After its construction c.1906 the building was used for municipal purposes until the mid-1930s when rooms were rented in the Belmont Vernetta Hotel (3-12), and the city hall underwent refurbishing. During the post historic period the building was used by the fire department and was known as "Smokeaters Hall". Wickenburg City Hall is now located on Apache Street (1-14).

Wickenburg began receiving telegraph service in November, 1873 when rates were \$1.50 for ten words to San Diego and \$.75 for ten words to Prescott. The line had been built by the military, and Wickenburg opened its new telegraph station on January 10, 1874.

Telephone service was originally furnished to 15 subscribers from J.C. Reed's general store on Frontier Street in 1902. The Sunset Telephone Company was later located on Washington Street (3-23), where it remained some 20 years before selling out to Bell Telephone which returned the offices to Frontier Street.

Prior to the completion of the municipal water works in September, 1914, residents relied on personal wells for water or water which was pumped from the Railroad tanks. The water system provided water to Wickenburg at a cost of \$2.00 per month for a maximum of 16,000 gallons. Led by the editor of the <u>Wickenburg Miner</u>, citizens pointed to the success of the water system and began clamouring for an electric light plant patterned along the same lines. The <u>Miner</u> pointed to the fact that Wickenburg was one of a few towns of its size in the country without electric lights.

At the same time as the demand for electricity was growing, Wickenburg's telephone system was expanded and improved in response to town development. Notice of the new system was given in the local paper on September 16, 1915, and 30 customers had already contracted for new phones. Plans were made for the installation of a new switchboard and cables and the institution of twenty-four-hour local and long-distance service. By March of the following year, the exchange was in use.

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Consulting began on the subject of the proposed lighting plant (2-2) between H.B. Claflin, engineer for the town, and town fathers in May, 1916. A bond issue of \$17,000 was approved by citizens in July for the construction of an electric plant and for repairs and improvements at the municipal water plant. A delay in the construction of the power plant and the closure of the local ice plant prompted W.R. Curry to increase the size of the generator he was installing to run an ice plant and refigeration unit for his grocery business. Curry supplied ice and power to the city until the power plant (2-2) was finally completed late in 1918. The profitability of the electric and water systems was such that the community had no municipal taxes.

Under the Public Works Administration of the 1930s, loans and grants were made available for improvements to the water system, including a new well, water mains, and pumps. Other benefits of federal programs were a \$75,000 sanitary sewer system, improvements to the city cemetery, street improvements, and WPA sidewalks.

Railroad

As early as 1871, a bill promoting a "Wilmington and Wickenburg" railroad was put before Congress. This failed to materialize as did several other attempts to bring rail to Wickenburg. In 1889 the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad began surveying the region, examining its potential as a site for a rail line, as well as the probable cost and the difficulties associated with such.

By the 1890s, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe had taken over management of the A&P. The tracks of the Santa Fe, Prescott, and Phoenix Railroad, a subsidiary of the AT&SF, reached Wickenburg in December, 1894. The line was completed through to Phoenix in March, 1895. The Wickenburg depot (3-20) was begun in 1895, and was likely completed in the late fall of that year. The coming of the railroad was accompanied by a renewed volume of mining activity and ushered in a new propserity for Wickenburg. By 1914, Wickenburg was a junction for Santa Fe's North-South and California-Arizona Lines.

Prior to the railroad, business activity had been centered on the stage route which ran along the river. Following Santa Fe's completion of the line to Wickenburg, Railroad Avenue became the principal business

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Street, with restaurants and saloons being the primary occupiers of frontage. As time went on, a variety of establishments filled the lots with such uses as printers, stores, "tonsorial parlors", etc. The two-story brick Hotel Vernetta (3-12), designed by James Creighton, Arizona's most prolific Territorial architect, was built in 1905 to serve the railroad-related trade.

The railroad also fueled a housing boom as the economy of the town improved. Housing was needed for those working for Santa Fe, as well as for other townspeople. Wickenburg's Neo-Colonial buildings date from this period. Easy access to the rest of the country by rail seems to have had an effect on the housebuilder's aesthetic values as the style of homes they build were more in line with the prevailing architectural tastes of the nation. Prior to this time vernacular house plans which were largely out of fashion elsewhere were being constructed in Wickenburg and some buildings of this type were being brought to town from area mines.

Two examples of housing which Santa Fe built for their employees survive to date. A frame, clapboard Bungalow Section House (2-34) was built to Santa Fe's standard plan. The cast concrete railroad bunkhouse (2-4) is significant not only for its association with the railroad but also for its locally rare use of cast concrete. Both buildings retain an unusually high degree of integrity and date from the 1915 to 1925 period.

Social

Earliest social gathering places were the local hotels. A.H. Peeples ran the Arizona Hotel which sported the Magnolia Saloon and Billiard Room, c.1870. During prosperous times, the community always supported several saloons and pool halls, and at least one dance hall. The most locally famous dance hall was located in what is believed to be the oldest extant building in Wickenburg, c.1865, (1-25SF). Unfortunately, this building has been so severely modified it retains no integrity from its period of significance. Another building which was once a social center, but which has been modified is the Garcia Hall (1-8). Garcia Hall served as a location for banquets, dances, music, billiards, and early movies. The Baxter Opera House (3-9) c.1908 served as an opera house during its earliest years and later as a movie house. It also served as the town's community center and several high school graduations were held there. It operated under various names including the Granada

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Hall, the Alhambra and "Out Wickenburg Way" theater. The building also was used for a period as a rollerskating rink in the 1930s. In 1936 it was turned sideways on its lot to face Center Street instead of Tegner, when the parcel was sold for a filling station. The Saguaro Theater (1-19SF), currently in use was built during the post historic period.

A popular gathering spot which functioned as a sort of gentleman's club around the turn of the century was the old barber shop (3-11), now the Clothesline Ladies Apparel Store. Prominent men about town such as Alvin Purdy, kept their shaving mugs there. This early informal clubbing gave way to organization of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and Free and Accepted Masons. A 1917 newspaper article chronicles the need for a two-story business block because both fraternities' charters called for meetings to be held on the second floor, and none was available. The call was met soon after, however, with the construction of the Masonic Hall building (1-15) on Tegner Street, now the location of Montgomery Wards. This building is also noteworthy as a rare local example of the concrete frame with brick infill method of construction.

In 1930 Eastern Star Chapter #35 was chartered, and during the post historic period local chapters of Elks, Moose, American Legion, Rebekah Lodge, and Shriners, as well as local social clubs were formed. Together with fraternal organizations, churches and the local schools have functioned throughout Wickenbrug's history as social gathering places.

Tourism

Winter visitors became important to the economy of Wickenburg almost as soon as the railroad arrived, and at that time some in the community began to promote the idea of a large resort hotel for Wickenburg. The first of Wickenburg's railroad tourist-related hotels was the James Creighton designed Hotel Vernetta (3-12). The building was built near the depot in 1905 by Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Even with the construction of the hotel, there remained a pressing need for rental housing for winter visitors. A large winter hotel was still on the minds of business people in 1915, and any indication of possible construction of rental housing was met with great enthusiasm. In 1917, Mrs. Smith announced that she had made adjustments at the hotel to accommodate the influx of tourists.

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In the late teens, guest or "dude" ranches began to appear in the Wickenburg area. There is some dispute as to which of the local cattle ranches was the first to take in guests. The Kay El Bar reportedly began in an informal way in 1916 and in 1926 officially started operating as a guest ranch. At the Garden of Allah, a swimming pool was completed in 1917 and golf links were laid out. In 1920 the main building of the complex was built, and it was reported to be rapidly

building of the complex was built, and it was reported to be rapidly becoming a popular resort for out-of-state tourists as well as auto party outings. In 1923, the population of Wickenburg in the winter was twice the summer count of 600. Two rooming houses, several apartments, and small cottages for rent helped house visitors in addition to Mrs. Smith's hotel.

During the decade of the 1920s, at least seven motels and guest ranches opened in the Wickenburg area. These included the Circle Flying W; the Remuda Ranch, which started on Henry Wickenburg's old ranch and later moved to its present location across the Hassayampa River in 1928; and the Bar FX, which opened in 1929 on the former site of the Remuda. Inside the survey area, one motel from this period, the Cactus Inn (2-29), remains.

The tourist industry in Wickenburg got a great boost when J.B. Priestly, an English novelist, wrote an article favorable to Wickenburg following a stay at the Remuda Ranch. It was published in Harper's Magazine in March of 1935 and was excerpted in the London Sunday Chronicle.

While guest ranches continued to be built around Wickenburg until as late as 1973, auto courts became a popular way to house tourists, and by 1935 Wickenburg had two new auto camps: the Hi Ho Court and Nellis Auto Court (53-1). During the post historic period, motels became the "modern" way to house travelers and were utilized in Wickenburg along with auto courts and dude ranches, causing Wickenburg to be labeled "Dude Ranch Capital of the World."

Transportation

The earliest north-south travel in the territory between Prescott and Maricopa Wells followed the Hassayampa River. Travel was difficult, for when the river was not flooded, its bed was full of quicksand.

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As Arizona developed, Wickenburg became a prominent stopping point on the road from California through Ehrenburg to Phoenix. In 1871, Captain J. Grant ran a buckboard mail service between Wickenburg and Tucson. The California and Arizona stage company was operating a mail, Wells Fargo, and passenger line through Wickenburg in 1877. Dr. J.H. Pierson was secretary of the company and the local agent. The stage line offered conntecting service to all points in California, southern Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as connection with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

It was 1894 before the railroad finally was completed to Wickenburg. It had been over twenty years since the first promotion of Wickenburg as a suitable point on a line had begun. The railroad had a profound effect on the physical and financial make-up of Wickenburg, and business people hurried to locate along the railroad frontage.

By 1923, the automobile was rivaling rail transportation in and around Wickenburg although there were three trains to Phoenix; two trains to the east, via Flagstaff; and two trains to Los Angeles daily. On the Central Arizona Highway, Wickenburg was also on the route that connected the southeastern part of the United States with the Grand Canyon, Nevada, and Utah via the Bankhead Highway to Phoenix.

With the rise of the automobile as the preferred method of travel, new businesses were erected on Tegner Street along the east-west route through town. The completion of the new bridge over the Hassayampa in 1935 and the Railroad underpass (3-66) in 1937 shifted primary business development along the Center Street alignment where it remains to date.

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W.R. CURR Y

W.R. Curry immigrated from Canada to Wickenburg in 1910 at age 19. He began operating a retail store and investing in real estate after his arrival. Later when his business grew to include wholesale groceries, he installed a three-ton ice plant in the rear of his store on Railroad Avenue (2-30 SF). This served the cooling needs for his store and the excess ice was sold to townspeople.

Curry married Lois Straughan in 1917. She was the daughter of B.C. Straughan, a well-known and respected Wickenburg businessman, who later served as mayor.

Together with his father-in-law, Curry formed the Traders Bank in 1922. In 1927, he and his wife moved to Phoenix where he was instrumental in helping to establish Western Savings and Loan Association. He served as treasurer to that institution.

Between 1936 and 1943 the Currys also managed the Windsor and Apache Hotels in downtown Phoenix. Mr. Curry died in Phoenix in August, 1970, at age 79.

ANGELA HUTCHINSON HAMMER

Angela Hutchinson Hammer was born to a locally prominent ranching family and as a young woman taught in the Wickenburg Schools. She later married J.C. Hammer, a successful Phoenix contractor and with him had three sons.

Following her divorce from Hammer in 1904, she returned to Wickenburg with her family. They found the town involved in a mining and construction boom. Hammer bought the small local newspaper for \$500 and began publishing the Wickenburg Miner.

Ms. Hammer's newspaper career began at the turn of the century when she worked for the Arizona Republican and Phoenix Gazette as a typesetter and proofreader. By 1912, she owned six newspapers. At that time she moved to Casa Grande where she ran the Casa Grande Valley Dispatch until 1924. In 1926 she moved to Phoenix and together with her sons bought the Messenger, a Phoenix weekly. The group sold the paper in 1937 after greatly increasing its size and circulation. They kept the printshop, however, and continued to operate in that capacity.

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Angela Hammer died in 1955 and posthumously became the first woman ever elected to the Arizona Newspaper Hall of Fame.

H.K. MACHENNAN

H.K. Machennan arrived in Wickenburg from Tempe in 1928. Upon his arrival, he became Superintendent of Schools, in which capacity he continued for forty years.

Under Machennan's administration, the Wickenburg schools experienced great social and physical growth. Citizens took great pride in their schools and supported school events. The elementary and high school plants were expended through the use of federal government programs.

In the fall of 1940, Wickenburg witnessed the arrival of its first school bus. The Machennan Elementary School opened on the McGee land on Yavapai Street in 1956. It offered its students "large modern classrooms, a cafeteria, and well-balanced lunches".

In addition to his contribution as Superintendent of Schools, he founded the Desert Caballeros Western Museum. The museum was located in the old Brayton Commercial Company and following a fire in 1973, it was rebuilt through donations from Wickenburg's citizens. Machennan also founded the Maricopa County Historical Society and served as President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Machennan died April 9, 1982, after over fifty years of community service.

JAMES C. REED (3-13)

James C. Reed was born in Brookville, Pennsylvania, in 1866. In 1901, he moved from Pennsylvania to Wickenburg and opened a general merchandise store.

Reed invested heavily in Wickenburg real estate and was the owner of several properties on Railroad Avenue. These included the rusticated concrete block commercial building which currently houses the Valley National Bank (3-13). In addition to this he owned several rental cottages.

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In 1910, he platted Reed's Addition to Wickenburg. During that year Reed moved to Phoenix where he operated as contractor, capitalist, and politician. Following his move, he continued to own investment property in Wickenburg, suffering heavily in a 1929 fire which destroyed half a block on what is now Frontier Street.

Reed died in Phoenix in June, 1951.

W.L. RICHARDS

Pioneer merchant, W.L. Richards, was born in Tennessee in 1868. In 1902, Richards arrived in Arizona where he took a job in Prescott as a delivery wagon driver for the T.W. Otis Store, later becoming store manager. In 1906, he and his brother Tom Richards bought a small grocery store in Prescott. By the time the brothers sold the business in 1920, Richards Brothers was the largest in that part of the state.

In 1922, W.L. Richards bought and began managing the Brayton Commercial Company. During the period of Richard's ownership, Brayton became Wickenburg's largest business. The store served not only the material needs of Wickenburg and surrounding communities, but in some ways social ones as well.

Brayton's was truly a general store and sold everything from food and dry goods to lumber and mine supplies. They provided mail order service in addition to in-store shopping. W.L. Richards managed the store until January, 1939, when he retired and his son Roy L. Richards became manager.

In addition to his business ventures, Richards participated in local politics, serving on the town council. He and his wife were prominent members of the First Presbyterian Church beginning at about the time the church at Jefferson and Apache was built (3-36A).

Richards died in Wickenburg May 29, 1945, at age 77.

CHARLES SHONTZ

Born in Harmony, Pennsylvania, in 1876, Charles Shontz moved to Wickenburg in 1911. He worked as a bridge foreman for the Santa Fe Railroad and owned a billiards parlor on Railroad Avenue. A carpenter by trade, Shontz built most of the cottages on the Remuda Ranch, the large dude ranch located across the Hassayampa River from Wickenburg.

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Shontz was respected in Wickenburg civic activities and, in addition to serving as chief of the fire department for many years, he acted as mayor for a term from 1934 to 1936. He made an unsuccessful bid for Republican State Representative in the 1946 election.

Charles Shontz died in Wickenburg in 1953 at age 77.

ELIZABETH SMITH (3-12)

Elizabeth Smith was a native of Illinois and a graduate of Northwestern University. She was born in 1868 and arrived in Wickenburg in 1897.

She is best known as the owner of the Hotel Vernetta (3-12), now known as the Hassayampa House. She built the hotel in 1905 to serve the businesses and travelers generated by the railroad. The hotel was a community focal point and the dining room was noted for its excellent food. Her husband William H. Smith ran a saloon on the first story as well.

Prior to opening the Hotel Vernetta, she managed the old hotel on the present site of the Rancho Grande Best Western Motel. Smith also spoke fluent French and gave lessons to individuals from as far away as Phoenix. She was a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church of Wickenburg and was one of its most active members until racial prejudice against Blacks caused her to withdraw from active participation.

Mrs. Smith died in 1935 and is buried in the cemetery outside of town on the Prescott Highway.

B.C. STRAUGHAN

Four-time mayor, B.C. Straughan was born in Morrilton, Arkansas, in 1866. He moved to Wickenburg in 1917 and resided there until 1937 when he retired and moved to Phoenix.

During his residency in Wickenburg, he was a prominent local businessman and civic leader. In 1922 he, along with his son-in-law W.R. Curry, founded the Traders Bank for which Straughan served as president.

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Straughan's real estate holdings included the commercial parcel between the old post office (3-15) and the J.C. Reed property (3-13), (3-14 SF) on Railroad Avenue. He at one time ran a funeral parlor in conjunction with a man named Oscar Fuell. It was located further down the street where Transfer is now located (3-25 SF). Snyder

Straughan's four consecutive terms as mayor began in 1924. In addition, he and his wife were actively involved in the First Presbyterian Church. They, like many members of the congregation, held services in their home prior to construction of the second church facility in 1923 (3-36 A).

He died in Wickenburg in 1959 at age 93 and is buried in Wickenburg cemetery.

PATRICK "BERRY" THOMPSON (3-26)

Patrick Thompson, one of the earliest settlers in the area, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1843. He was most frequently known as "Berry", that being his mother's maiden name.

In his youth, Thompson worked for Armour and Company. When the civil war broke out, he enlisted in the Union Army and served under Sherman on his march to the sea. At the end of the war, he moved west, first working for the U.S. government as a lineman on the telegraph lines between Phoenix and Prescott. He was later engaged in cattle ranching, his property being located about two miles upriver from Wickenburg.

Following his retirement from ranching, he lived in Wickenburg (3-26), and was well-known and admired by the community. After his death in Wickenburg in 1917, several of the town's prominent citizens served as pallbearers at Thompson's funeral.

(3-28)GEORGE B. UPTON

George B. Upton moved to Arizona from Iowa in 1895 and was originally a prospector in the Rich Hill area south of Prescott. Upton had been interested in geology since childhood and upon moving from Iowa donated his fossil collection, one of the largest in the state, to Iowa State University.
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Upton discovered the Oro Grande gold mine near Wickenburg in 1901 and continued to develop it until 1907 when it was closed. At that time he founded the Distillate Storage Company, later called the Upton Oil Company, and established a wholesale and retail plant in Wickenburg. He subsequently expanded the business to Prescott, Ashfork, Jerome, and Cottonwood.

The Upton residence on Washington Street (3-28) is the most sophisticated Neo-Colonial style home in Wickenburg. The house is fitting for Upton who was considered a community leader.

He was influential in accomplishing the incorporation of Wickenburg in 1909 and is credited with helping to route a state highway through Wickenburg.

Upton sold his company to the Standard Oil Company in 1922, and after the death of his wife in 1935, lived in semi-retirement. He died in Congress in 1962 at age 99.

JAMES MILLER CREIGHTON

James M. Creighton was the most prolific and influential architect practicing in Arizona during the post-railroad territorial period. His major building in Wickenburg is the Vernetta Hotel (3-12).

J.M. Creighton was born on September 14, 1856, in New Brunswick, Canada. After becoming a carpenter in Canada, he moved to Denver, Colorado, in March 1879 where he studied drafting.

He moved to Tucson in 1881 and on to Phoenix in 1882 where he supervised and assisted in construction. In 1883 he opened an office as an architect and continued an active practice until 1926 when he retired. He died in Phoenix on November 24, 1946, at the age of ninety.

Other major buildings in Arizona designed by Creighton include: 1885 Normal School Building, Tempe (NR); 1887 Old Main, University of Arizona, Tucson (NR); 1888 City Hall, Phoenix; 1889 Customs House, Nogales; 1889 Second Pinal County Courthouse, Florence (NR); 1891 John Y.T. Smith House, Phoenix; 1892 Osborn School, Phoenix; 1892 Niels Petersen House, Tempe (NR); 1892 Public School, Tempe; 1896 George Roskruge House, Tucson (NR); 1896 Adams Hotel, Phoenix; 1897 William J. Murphy House, Phoenix; 1898 I.O.O.F. Hall (Tempe Hardware), Tempe (NR); 1898 Petersen Building, Tempe (unverified) (NR); 1905 Dominion Hotel, Globe.

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MRA VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Begin at a point along the N line of Section 11, T7N, R5W, 540 feet west of the NE corner of Section 11; then east along N line of Section 11 and Section 12 to a point 3000 feet E of the NW corner Section 12; then southeast a distance of 1500 feet along the west bank of the Hassayampa River; then southwest in a straight line to the center of Section 12; then NW along the center line of the Adams Street Right-of-Way to the Point of Beginning.

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

The MRA contains 27 individual parcels, one of which has two buildings for a total of 28 contributing resources. Each parcel is less than one acre in size.

The verbal boundary description for each parcel is defined as the current Town of Wickenburg tax parcel number for each parcel. This is provided on the individual property forms. Coterminous references to block and lot numbers from the original Wickenburg townsite subdivision are also provided.

In the specific case of the Wickenburg High School properties (sites 429A and 429B), the nominated area is defined as that portion of the tax parcel described on the rear side of the form with reference to the original Townsite plot. The described areas are adjacent rectangular parcels encircling each of the nominated buildings. See accompanying maps.

UTM references for all sites appear on the individual survey forms.

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

| Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 1 2 3 |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group | dnr-11 |
| Name Wickenburg MRA | | |
| | County, Arizona | |
| Nomination/Type of Review | v joue | Date/Signature |
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| $\circ {f 2.}$ City Hall and Jail | Substantive Review Keeper | Fuisa mccleeler thesta |
| 3. House at 160 Apache | National Resister WKeeper | Delover Byen 1/10/ |
| ්4. House at 170 Center | Attest | Lunda Me allan 1/10/51 |
| 5. House at 185 Washingt | | Sulous Byur 1/10) |
| 6. Jacobs House | Attest | Junda Mc Cle land of 10/8 |
| 7. MacLennan House | Entered in the Keeper | Allow Byen 7/00/ |
| 8. Masonic Hall | Attest Substantive Review Keeper | Lunda Mc Clellard 7 (10/0 |
| REA 9. Municipal Light Plant | Attest 5ubs mutive Review Keeper | Lande mic Celland 9/15/8 |
| v 10. · Old Brick Post Office | e SubeFentive Keeper Attest | Junda mc Calland 1/10/8. |

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number



Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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| Nom | nination/Type of Review | Date/Signature |
| 11. | Old Barber Shop | National Registor Keeper Aubrest Jul |
| 12. | Safeway Pay'n Takit | Attest Substanting Reeper Linda McClillard 1/10/80 |
| 13. | Santa Fe Railroad Depot | Attest Theeper Allow 7/10/ Method and Attest |
| <u>)</u>]4. | Shride House | Keeper Landa Mcclulland 9/10/4 |
| 15. | Storms House | Attest Rations heelsterf Keeper Allous Byn 7/10/ Attest |
| <u>í</u> 16. | Thompson, P.J., House | Ante Sentine Keeper Lunda me Clelland 7/10/82 |
| 17. | Upton, George B., House | Attest Received the fixeeper Alloursbyur 7/10/ |
| <u>/</u> 18. | Vernetta Hotel | Attest Keeper Lender Melllant 7/10/0 |
| 19. | Wickenburg High School and Annex | Attest Hational Register Jokeeper <u>Alloubyur 7/10/</u> Attest |
| <u>120.</u> | Wickenburg High School Gymnasium | Attest |

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form

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Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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| Stat | e Maricopa County, | AZ | | · · · |
| Nom | ination/Type of Review | | / | Date/Signature |
| e ⁶ 21. | Wickenburg Ice and Cold Storage | te per d'alla d he Santa - San teter . | Keeper | Alourgyen 1/10/00 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 22. | Wisdom House | Substance Acys. | 40 Keeper | Linda Willand Stofs, |
| ~23 . | Santa re bunk house | Substantive Xeview | Attest Determined Keeper N | Finder mc Clelland Jos |
| | | | Attest | The ball |
| ⁷ 24. | Santa Fe Section House | | Keeper | Sinda McCelland 7/10/4 |
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| pul 25. | Sunset Telephone Compan | - | пеерег | Salar 15 |
| , | DOE/OWI | NER OBJECTION | Attest | |
| 26. | Garcia School | | Keeper | |
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| 27. | | | Keeper | |
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| 28. | | | Keeper | |
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