

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 13 1987

date entered MAY 27 1987

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

1. Name

historic Willcox Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Downtown Willcox: portions of Section 31, T.13 S., R.25 E., and Section 6, T.14 S., R.25 E. N/A not for publication

city, town Willcox N/A vicinity of

state Arizona code 04 county Cochise code 003

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name See accompanying inventory forms.

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cochise County Courthouse

street & number 118 Arizona Street

city, town Bisbee state Arizona

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Arizona Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
800 W. Washington Street, Suite 415

city, town Phoenix state Arizona

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Willcox Multiple Resource Area is located within the city boundaries of Willcox, Arizona. Willcox is situated in the Upper Sulphur Springs Valley on the shore of the Willcox Playa, a prehistoric dry lake, with the Dos Cabezas Mountains on the east, the Dragoon Mountains on the west, and the Pinaleno and Galliuero Mountains on the north.

The Willcox, Arizona Multiple Resource Area contains one commercial historic district (see Railroad Avenue Historic District Nomination), eleven scattered residential sites, one public building, and the Schwertner House which was listed August 25, 1983. The scattered residential sites in the Multiple Resource Area include good examples of late nineteenth century Queen Anne and early twentieth century Bungalow styles typical of the time period. In addition to the district, a total of thirteen individual properties are nominated. These thirteen properties comprise fifteen contributing elements.

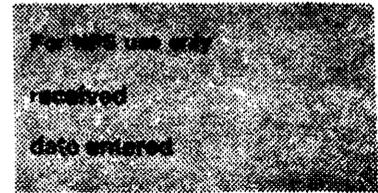
The nominated residences range in size from modest to moderate dimensions. Density of development is sparse in the community with an average of six residences per block on large multiple lot sites. Six of the residences and the Schwertner House were built by 1900 and are representative of Queen Anne style, utilizing adobe, pine, and redwood as building materials. One adobe Western Colonial Revival style home (W039) was constructed before the turn of the century. One Bungalow style residence (W001) was built before the turn of the century, and three Bungalow style structures (W025, W104, W111) were built in the 1920's, representing a transition in style. The one public building (W038) is a large Pueblo Revival style community center built by the Women's Club in 1936.

The residences are scattered throughout the community. Several are "town homes" built before the turn of the century by wealthy cattle ranchers in the Sulphur Spring Valley (Mee Home W025, Hooker Town House W034, Johnson/Tillotson Home W039, Saxon Home W111). The majority of the oldest residences are loosely grouped across the railroad tracks from the commercial district in what was Willcox's earliest residential area. The majority of the residences are single story with a few 1½ story dwellings. The public building, the Women's Club, is located on a large one-half block site bordered by residential and commercial buildings and a public school. The majority of the properties still sit on large lots surrounded by other nearby residential buildings and their context has not markedly changed.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Willcox is unusual in town layout. The Southern Pacific Railroad provided impetus for the founding of the community and brought in building materials such as dimensioned lumber, brick, multi-paned windows, and ornamental details that influenced the development of the built environment. The original townsite, which is a typical rectilinear grid plan, was laid out perpendicular to the railroad track which is on a northeast/southwest axis. This axis was later

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followed by State Highway 89 when it was built through the community. A more traditional east/west axis was adhered to as later additions were platted. The earliest buildings are oriented toward the railroad station, though after the turn of the century the business district shifted one block northwest in response to the building of State Highway 89 at that location.

The majority of the scattered residential sites date from the late nineteenth century and display the Queen Anne style. Common elements include hipped roofs, bay windows, wood sheathing and carved wood porch brackets. These early homes, built between 1881 and 1900, are small to medium sized buildings, reflecting the modest beginnings of this community. Examples of Queen Anne Style residences include Angle Home (W007), Soto Home (W043), and Hooker Home (W034).

The one story Angle Home has a hip and gable shingle roof. The L-shaped plan has an open porch in the pocket. There is a bay window on the gabled frontispiece. The house has clapboard siding, and the front gable end is sheathed with wood shingles.

A pyramidal roof with shingled gablets on all four sides is found on the one story Soto Home. An open porch extends across the east front with four square posts atop a solid porch rail. The generous windows and entrance door have wide board trim and shouldered lintels. The exterior is stuccoed, and the roof is sheathed with wood shingles.

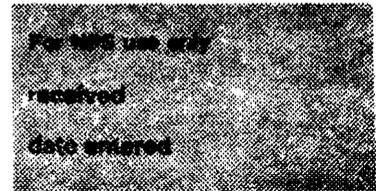
An open veranda, with simple wood posts and open rail, surrounds the one story Hooker Home. There is a hip roof with hipped extension to the south. A ridge ventilator tops the roof. Two chimney masses extend through the roof. Wood double-hung windows are paired or set individually. All have flat board surrounds.

The Tillotson House is the only Western Colonial Revival style residence in the Multiple Resource Area and represents an early, ca. 1900, shift from the previously utilized Queen Anne style. The one and a half story building is constructed of adobe with a wood shingled hip roof. The open porch centered on the front facade is hipped with its major slope being an extension of the main roof slope. A hipped roof dormer is centered on the front roof slope. The front porch has square, tapered posts set atop masonry and stuccoed pedestals. The windows have exposed heavy wood lintels.

There are four Bungalows included in the Multiple Resource Area Nomination. The one and a half story Briscoe Home (W001) has an unusually wide gabled roof with recessed porch and enclosed clapboard piers. The house was built ca. 1898 and represents the earliest transition from Queen Anne style to the Bungalow form.

The one story Gung'l Home (W104) was built in 1920 from plans that Mr. Gung'l had prepared in El Paso where he obtained the hard fired brick used in construction of the 1 1/2 story residence. It is a fine example of the Bungalow style, having a broad front porch with clustered wood columns on elephantine posts.

The one story Saxon Home (W111) has a low gable roof which extends across the main portion of the building and covers the L-shaped veranda. Windows and entry door reveal broad bungalow proportions.

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The one story Mee Home (W025) is a rare and unusual Craftsman Bungalow in that it is constructed of adobe. Stuccoed adobe walls extend up to the eave line on all sides, and the gable end is finished with wood shingles. The corner porch has intersecting low gable roof forms, exposed roof beams and rafters, clustered wood posts, and saddle brackets. Segmental arches span openings containing grouped and single windows.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

The primary building materials employed in the Willcox Multiple Resource Area are wood frame, adobe, and brick. The evolution of the buildings to a large extent follows a normal Southwestern progression. Wood frame, brought in by the railroad was used from 1880 until the turn of the century. Many early residential and commercial buildings, as indicated on the 1893 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, utilized this material. The destruction of commercial buildings by fire was a serious factor within the historic district and by 1927, as indicated on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, many of the original wood frame buildings were replaced by brick structures.

Wood frame was also commonly used in residential structures. Wide dimensioned redwood was an early building material brought by the railroad. The Crowley Home (W094) and the Schwertner Home (W044) are the earliest extant wood frame residences that display the Queen Anne style sheathed in redwood. This building material was not common in Arizona until the coming of the railroad. The wide redwood shiplap was not imported from California after 1900, and very few structures displaying this material remain in Arizona. Later residences such as the Angle Home (W007), built in 1900, and the Morgan Home (W088), built in 1888, are sheathed in narrow clapboard.

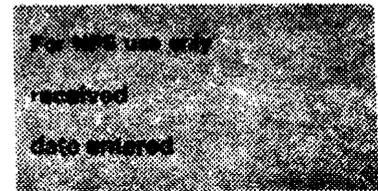
Adobe, the only locally available building material, was employed in residential and commercial structures before the turn of century. Four of the residential buildings dating before 1900 utilized this material. Residential adobes such as the Wilson Home (W089) and the Soto Home (W043) display typical Queen Anne elements shared by the wood frame residences.

Adobe was again used in the 1920's for residential construction. A reference dated August 20, 1920 in the Arizona Range News indicates that "Contractor W.S. Hunt is highly skilled in the art of adobe construction." This may account for the unusual use of this material in Bungalow style residences, such as the Saxon Home (W111) and the Mee Home (W025), at such a late date. The Mee Home is one of two known Craftsman Bungalows built of adobe in southern Arizona.

There were no brick buildings shown on the 1893 Sanborn but by 1927 the majority of commercial and a few residential buildings were brick. This material may have been imported by rail from Tucson where there were numerous active brick producers. There is no indication that bricks were locally made. No brick residences built before the 1920's are extant today, although a brick foundation was later added to the Crowley Home (W094) John Gung'l imported hard fired brick from El Paso to build his home (W104) in 1920.

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DELINEATION OF BOUNDARIES

Boundaries of the Multiple Resource Area are delineated on the accompanying map and are individually defined as the current City of Willcox tax parcels as identified by the tax parcel number on each inventory form. Each individual parcel is less than one acre. The boundary for the Willcox Multiple Resource Area was drawn to include the Railroad Avenue Historic District and all potentially eligible scattered sites in Willcox. The entire community was inventoried for historic resources in 1985 to determine all potentially eligible buildings.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The consultants relied primarily on the very few records that exist for the community. These included oral interviews and the few early photos that are available. During the historic period the local newspaper, the Valley Cattlemen, did provide some information. However, it contains very little material on the community and the built environment. Exact dates for buildings were very difficult to obtain. No city directories or building permits exist. The best resource on the history of Willcox is Southeastern Town: The Story of Willcox, Arizona by Vernon B. Schultz.

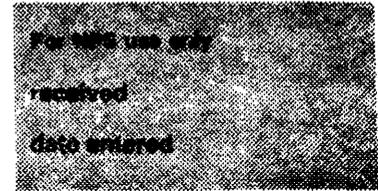
A preliminary windshield survey with two community volunteers provided a starting point for research by determining from a visual perspective and memory which buildings potentially met the age criterion. A field survey team then covered the entire area, containing 567 properties, filling out a building inventory form for each structure whose architectural style and other features indicated a pre-1940 building date. One hundred and nineteen structures were located on a map, evaluated for architectural integrity and photographed. Particular attention was given to buildings recorded on the 1897 and 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps.

Further research was conducted at relevant research collections such as the Arizona Historical Society Library, the University of Arizona, the State Archives and the back files of the local newspaper, the Arizona Range News. Oral interviews were conducted with long time residents and early photographs were collected. All materials relating to Willcox were assembled and reviewed. Very little material was found in the above collections. In addition, the following information sources were utilized:

1. Aerials - a recent aerial photo was used to map the architectural resources.
2. Current Assessor's Records - all records of the survey area were reviewed for property ownership data. No building dates appear on these records. Early assessor's records were searched for property assessment increases that indicated a building date.
3. Archaeological Site Files - site files maintained by the Arizona State Museum were reviewed for the study area. No site listings were found.

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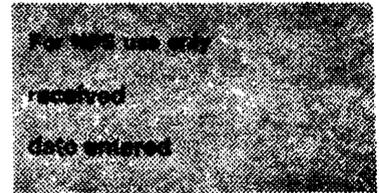
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An archaeological survey has not been done within the Multiple Resource Area. The Willcox Playa is currently being surveyed for prehistoric archaeological sites by the Amerind Foundation. The proximity of the town of Willcox to the Playa may indicate that prehistoric archaeological sites may exist within the historic district although no evidence is currently available. Historic archaeological evidence has not been surveyed. However, there is a reasonable probability that sites may exist on vacant parcels once occupied by structures built before 1900.

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NOMINATED PROPERTIES BY INVENTORY FORM NUMBER

Willcox MRA

<u>Survey Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Counting Elements</u>
W001	Briscoe Home	358 N. Bowie	1
W007**	Angle Home	363 S. Arizona	1
W025	Mee Home	265 W. Stewart	2
W034	Hooker Town House	235 E. Stewart	2
W038	Women's Club	312 W. Stewart	1
W039	Johnson/Tillotson H.	124 N. Curtis	1
W043	Soto Home	108 E. Stewart	1
W044*	Schwertner House	124 E. Stewart	1
W088	Morgan Home	242 E. Maley	1
W089	Wilson Home	258 E. Maley	1
W094	Crowley Home	175 S. Railroad Ave.	1
W104	Gung'l Home	210 El Paso	1
W111	Saxon Home	308 S. Haskell	1
Total			15

*The Schwertner House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 25, 1983.

Also nominated is the Willcox Railroad Avenue Historic District, comprising seventeen counting elements. See District nomination.

** The owners of the Angle Home have objected to listing, so it is being submitted for a determination of eligibility only.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1880-1936 **Builder/Architect** various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

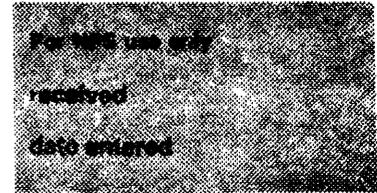
The significance of the Willcox Multiple Resource Area lies in its historic association with the settlement of the Sulphur Springs Valley and its development as a major freighting and shipping point on the second transcontinental railroad. The community served as a significant commercial trade center for military, ranching, and mining activities in the valley and throughout southeastern Arizona. The Multiple Resource Area is architecturally significant for the commercial district, isolated residential structures, and a public building that represent styles prevalent in the period of historic growth, 1880-1936.

Willcox was founded in 1880 as a freighting and shipping point on the second transcontinental railroad to serve all of southeastern Arizona. The southern railroad route was vital to the opening of the Southwest for settlement, mining, and commerce. The Willcox Railroad Station (W084), built in 1880, is the last known intact, on-site, original station on the second transcontinental route which ran from Los Angeles to Chicago.

During the final years of the Indian Wars, Willcox functioned as an important military shipping point for the goods and troops that were necessary for the defeat of the Apache Indians, which occurred with the surrender of Geronimo in 1886. The small community quickly grew to become an important center of commerce for all of southeastern Arizona and was the only trade center in the 5,000 square mile Sulphur Springs Valley until 1900. Trade goods brought by rail and unloaded at the Willcox Railroad Station (W084) were freighted to Army forts, mining camps, and ranches in the region by freighting companies owned by Pablo Soto (W043) and Henry A. Morgan (W088). These two men also operated mercantile establishments on Railroad Avenue: the Norton-Morgan Commercial Company (W045) and the Soto Brothers Mercantile (W046).

Cattle ranching was the major industry in the Sulphur Springs Valley after the 1880's. Cattle ranchers such as Henry Hooker (W034), who founded the Sierra Bonita ranch which still encompasses 48,000 acres, and the Riggs family (W077), whose holdings still include 175,000 acres, were important to the growth of the historic commercial district of Willcox. Ranching families also built town homes in Willcox from which they conducted business (Mee Home (W025), Hooker Town House (W034), Johnson/Tillotson Home (W039), Saxon Home (W111).

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Mining activities in the region depended on Willcox as a shipping point and commercial center. Local businessman Pablo Soto (W043, W046) and rancher James A. Riggs (W061) were involved in the development of the mines in Dos Cabezas. Local merchants at the Schwertner Saloon (W049), Norton-Morgan Commercial Company (W045) and the Soto Brothers Mercantile (W046) provided supplies. Local banks, the Willcox Bank and Trust (W048), the Central Bank and Trust (W061), and the Riggs Bank/ Bank of Willcox (W077), cashed the cowboy's and miner's paychecks and arranged the necessary financing for the ranchers and mine owners.

The Railroad Avenue Historic District contains the original Railroad Station (W084), the community's first public park (W113), Nicholson Drug (W055), the Norton-Morgan Commercial Company (W045), and three bank buildings from the early twentieth century. Nicholson Drug displays a rare, intact Mesker Brothers cast iron and pressed tin storefront. The Norton-Morgan Commercial Company (W045) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

The scattered residential sites include a number of modest late nineteenth century Queen Anne styles that typify early frontier building techniques after the arrival of the railroad. Two 1920's adobe, one wood frame, and one brick Bungalow are included. These residences represent the unusual late use of adobe in Craftsman style residences, the influence of early twentieth century styles, and the importation of hard fired brick by rail from El Paso. The residences are historically associated with town leaders, prominent businessmen, and particularly with cattle ranchers in the Sulphur Springs Valley who built town homes in Willcox and used the city for business and social transactions.

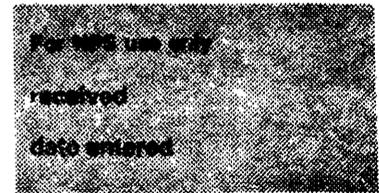
The public building (W038) is the only existing community center in Willcox, a large Pueblo style building built in 1936 as a project of the Willcox Women's Club and the Works Progress Administration.

HISTORIC CONTEXTS

THE RAILROAD AND THE FOUNDING OF WILLCOX

The founding of Willcox was generated by larger factors affecting the opening and development of the West. The town was founded as a major eastern Arizona shipping and freighting point on the second transcontinental railroad in 1880. Until 1900 Willcox was the largest town and the only trade center in the Sulphur Springs Valley, an area of 100 miles by fifty miles. The small community quickly grew to become an important center of commerce for all of southeastern Arizona, providing supplies to several Army posts during the final years of the Indian Wars as well as to ranchers who were settling in the area.

The need for a southern transcontinental railroad was recognized by the U.S. Government in the 1830's and 1840's. The winning of the Mexican War and the discovery of gold in California increased interest in the southern route. It is estimated that by the end of 1851 approximately 50,000 immigrants had passed through Arizona in their quest for gold. Previous boundary exploration had shown that a southern route could only be constructed

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south of the Gila River. The U.S. Government successfully negotiated the Gadsden Purchase and took control of the area in 1854, which cleared ownership as an obstacle to construction of the southern railroad.

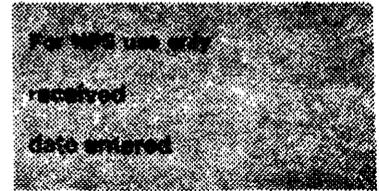
In the early 1850's Lt. J.G. Parke had surveyed southeastern Arizona for a transcontinental railroad. His first survey was through Apache Pass, but this route proved too unfavorable because the grade was too steep, at two hundred feet to the mile. Furthermore, the descent from the pass was broken by many small valleys and would have required extensive filling to construct a road bed. Parke then made a reconnaissance around the northern end of the Dos Cabezas Mountains and south of Mt. Graham, where he discovered an easy and practicable railroad route, with the heaviest grade only 64 feet to the mile. In 1854 the land for this route was acquired from Mexico by the Gadsden purchase.

The discovery of rich sources of mineral ore and burgeoning mining activity increased the need for inexpensive freighting in the Arizona Territory through the 1870's. The Southern Pacific Railroad Company was granted permission for a southern railroad connection at the Yuma Crossing in 1871, but the national economy and intense competition among major railroad powers postponed the building of the line. It was not until the late 1870's that political maneuvering between the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, the Central Pacific Railroad, and politicians at all levels had been resolved.

It was not until November 19, 1878, however, that actual construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad began in Arizona. The track was laid eastward from Yuma towards Casa Grande, reaching that city on May 19, 1879. Work was then discontinued and was not resumed until January 26, 1880. The first train arrived in Tucson on March 20, 1880. At the same time, grading was being done in the Sulphur Springs Valley in 1877, and a railroad construction camp was established at the present site of Willcox sometime before January 3, 1878. On August 26, 1880, the Arizona Star carried an item concerning a new city called Maley, located 40 miles east of Benson, "which would have a post office in a few days." The railroad reached there sometime during that month, but the exact date is unknown.

Further construction continued eastward across Arizona and New Mexico, and on March 8, 1881, the Southern Pacific rails from the west met the Santa Fe rails from the east. A silver spike was driven in Deming, New Mexico to celebrate the completion of the second transcontinental railroad. The little railroad town in the Sulphur Springs Valley continued to grow. The name of the town was changed from Maley to Willcox in honor of General O.B. Willcox, who was well known for his military operations against the Indians and rode the first train into the Maley station.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company built a two story clapboard depot (W084) at Willcox soon after the tracks were completed. The depot quickly became a focal point for commercial development on Railroad Avenue. The station was expanded IN 1914 with the building of a new waiting room.

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MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS OF WILLCOX

Another important reason for Willcox's rise to prominence as a service/trade center was its location on the railroad relative to military camps such as Fort Bowie, Fort Grant, and Camp Thomas as well as the communities of Dos Cabezas, San Carlos, and Globe. Goods arrived by rail and were freighted by wagon train to these military posts and communities until 1898 when a rail line was completed from Bowie to Globe. Military personnel also arrived on the railroad and were dispersed to the various forts to continue military campaigns against the Indians which were conducted until the surrender of Geronimo in 1886.

COMMUNITY GROWTH AND ARCHITECTURE

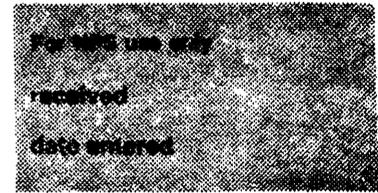
The first substantial commercial buildings in Willcox were built facing the railroad tracks and were constructed of wood frame or adobe. At various times fire damaged portions of the business area and gradually the wood frame and adobe structures were replaced by brick commercial buildings.

The largest adobe building on Railroad Avenue remaining from this period is the Norton-Morgan Commercial Company (W045). The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 1983. The Norton-Morgan Commercial Company originated through the efforts of John H. Norton and M.W. Stewart, two of the earliest businessmen in the community. Norton was a post trader at Fort Grant in 1876 and recognized the larger regional opportunities of the mercantile business that the coming of the railroad would provide. He joined forces with Stewart, and in 1880 they set up the John H. Norton and Stewart Company in Willcox. The first portion of the present building was erected at this time along with a large warehouse.

Norton and Stewart handled a large number of government freighting contracts, carried the mail and ran a stage line from Willcox to Camp Thomas, Fort Grant, and Globe. They were reported as doing the "heaviest business of any firm outside of Tucson or Tombstone" in 1884 with goods brought in by rail. Stewart's interest in the company was purchased by Henry A. Morgan, who had previously worked for the firm, and the building on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Stewart Street was expanded.

The only other surviving adobe structure on Railroad Avenue is the Schwertner Saloon and Grocery (W049) which was built before 1893. Joseph Schwertner opened his saloon in this building soon after his arrival in Willcox in 1897. He later converted the saloon to a grocery store just before prohibition was declared in Arizona. A rear addition of soft fired brick was added at that time.

Saloons abounded on Railroad Avenue-- at one time there were seven. In April of 1900, local cowboys were drinking at the Headquarters Saloon (W056). A disagreement escalated into violence during which Warren Earp, brother of Wyatt Earp, was shot. He was carried to the Commercial Hotel (W057) where he died. The Headquarters Saloon burned in the 1940's and was replaced by a similar wood frame structure (W056).

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Another commercial building on Railroad Avenue remaining from the 1890's is the Nicholson Drugstore (W055). It was purchased by A.A. Nicholson in 1897 and was the first drugstore in Willcox. Nicholson was active in community affairs, helped found the Willcox Trade Bureau in 1906, and was one of the first members of the City Council. The Nicholson Drug building presents one of the few intact pressed tin facades in southern Arizona and the only one in Willcox. These storefronts were common in southern Arizona before the turn of the century. The prefabricated storefronts were manufactured in St. Louis and shipped by railroad to towns across the country.

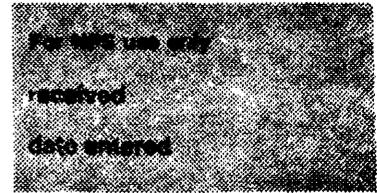
At the turn of the century several other one story commercial buildings (W047), (W052), (W054) were built on Railroad Avenue and have housed a variety of businesses over the years.

Corresponding to steady business growth in Willcox, there was an increase in the town's population and residential fabric. The 1890 census lists Willcox as having a population of 324. By 1910, the precinct population, which included some of the contiguous rural areas, reported a population of 1,632.

Two important early residences exist in the commercial area just off Railroad Avenue on Stewart Street. The Schwertner House, constructed from redwood, was built by Delos Smith, a former Army quartermaster, as an United States Army reception center for officers travelling between West Point and Fort Grant. Later, the Army used the house as Officers Quarters for soldiers from Fort Grant and Fort Bowie who were arriving and leaving by train. Joseph Schwertner, a store and saloon keeper, purchased the house in 1897. This house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 25, 1983 and is currently being restored by the Sulphur Springs Historical Society to its original dimensions and condition.

The Pablo Soto House, next door to the Schwertner House, is in the Queen Anne style. Constructed ca. 1880, it is reported to be older than the Schwertner House. Pablo Soto was a prominent merchant in southern Arizona, one of two brothers who started the mercantile firm of Fall & Soto Brothers on Railroad Avenue in 1897.

The first residential area to be developed was across the railroad tracks to the east of the business district. A number of these early residences, which display the Queen Anne style and were built of clapboard or adobe, still remain today. The Morgan Home (W088) was built in 1888 by Henry A. Morgan, one of the town founders and part owner of the Norton-Morgan Commercial Company. The J.C. Wilson Home (W089) was built by Dr. Wilson, district surgeon for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Wilson settled permanently in Willcox and was active in community affairs and founder of the American Legion in 1919. The Crowley Home (W094) is the best surviving example of Queen Anne style architecture in Willcox. It was built of redwood ca. 1883 by John F. Crowley. He served as deputy sheriff in 1883 and was appointed U.S. Commissioner from 1902-1912 (his obituary fails to mention what commission). Later he managed the lumber business of W.F. Nichols and was active in Republican politics. Another prominent dwelling is the Hooker Town House (W034) which was constructed by Colonel Henry Clay Hooker, who established the Sierra Bonita Ranch in the Sulphur Springs Valley in 1872. The town house was used by the Hooker family when they came to Willcox to shop and socialize and by Hooker and his ranch hands when in town on business.

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Hooker founded the Sierra Bonita Ranch, located twenty-two miles north of Willcox, in 1872. The ranch land controlled by Hooker included an area thirty miles long and twenty seven miles wide. By 1895 Hooker owned half a dozen outlying ranches and was running twenty thousand head of cattle. The ranch has remained in the family and today includes seventy five sections of some of the best grazing land in Arizona.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY AND RANCHING IN THE WILLCOX AREA

The cattle industry in the Sulphur Springs Valley began in the eighteenth century when Spaniards occupied the lower portion of the valley. Many wild cattle were left when the Spanish retreated in the face of Apache raiding. The California goldrush of 1848 increased the need for trailing cattle from Texas to the west coast and by 1869 William Osborn observed over 15,000 head of Texas cattle between Apache Pass, just east of Willcox and Phoenix, two hundred miles to the northwest.

Large ranching operations developed to take advantage of the mild climate and the lush, green grass that thrived in the Valley. The Riggs family homesteaded in the Chiricahua Mountains southeast of Willcox in the late 1880's and expanded their family holdings to approximately 100,000 acres of patented land by 1929, with ranches from Dos Cabezas to Rodeo, New Mexico. The Riggs family have long been active in Willcox community affairs and opened the Riggs Bank (W077) in 1920.

The JH ranch, operated by Captain W.H. McKittrick in the 1890's and early 1900's, extended from Willcox to the ranch house fourteen miles to the northwest and ran as many as 28,000 head of cattle at one time. The Chiricahua Cattle Company held a range that extended thirty miles by seventy-five miles and had one of the largest herds in the Arizona Territory.

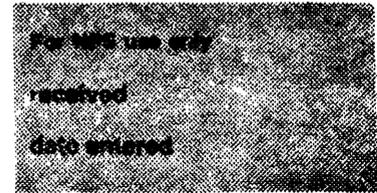
Cattle production reached its peak in the Sulphur Springs Valley in 1891 with an estimated 1.5 million cattle grazing the ranges. Willcox was the trade center for this large industry and the shipping point for hundreds of thousands of cattle annually. In 1896, 209,839 head were shipped and 24,097 were killed for home consumption. The Sulphur Valley News (Range News, W073) reported on June 2, 1896 that "Not less than 5,000 cattle will be shipped from Willcox this week. When one stops to think that 5,000 cattle means about \$65,000 in the pockets of the stockmen in this vicinity, people cease to wonder that this is a busy town."

Willcox continued to thrive after the turn of the century as the trade center for the Sulphur Springs Valley. Agriculture and cattle ranching expanded because of the extensive grazing available, and the farmland with its sufficient water became increasingly productive. Willcox continued as an important cattle shipping point and as late as 1936 was called "The Cattle Capitol of the Nation" when Mr. J. Frank Wootan, a United States cattle inspector, stated in Arizona Range News that Willcox "is now the leading shipping point in the entire United States for shipping cattle direct from the range". Even today it is the only freighting point in southern Arizona that holds a weekly cattle auction.

Early cattlemen were a continuing influence on the business affairs of the community. Several built town homes in Willcox including the Johnson/Tillotson home (W039), the Hooker Home (W034), the Mee Home (W025), and the Saxon Home (W111)

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MINING

Willcox has been greatly influenced by the success or failure of various mines located within its trading area because of its importance as a shipping point and commercial center. The Dos Cabezas Mining District, located twelve miles southeast of Willcox, was probably most important because of its proximity to the town. Mining began with discovery of the Juniper Mine in 1878. Willcox businessman Pablo Soto (W043) and James J. Riggs (W061) helped organize the Chicago and Arizona Copper Company in 1903 to work the mine.

The Mascot Copper Company was formed in 1907, with a capitalization of ten million dollars, to work several claims in the Dos Cabezas area, including the Juniper. This mining venture expended a generous amount of capital on construction and employment which increased the economy of Willcox. A railroad spur from Willcox to Dos Cabezas was operated by the company from 1913 until 1931 to bring ore from the mines to the Willcox shipping point. The company was reorganized several times and went broke in the mid-1930's because of lack of production and unrealistic management.

Other mines in the region have used the town as a shipping, commercial, and banking center. The mining activity considerably increased business in Willcox as local businessmen actively promoted Willcox as the supply and shipping center for the region. Many local residents have been employed in mining operations.

Other mining activities in the Willcox trade area included the Commonwealth Mine, discovered in 1895, located twenty-five miles south at Pearce where John H. Norton (W045) built a store which is now listed on the National Register. The Aravaipa Mining District, fifty miles north of Willcox, has also been mined periodically since the 1870's. The Johnson Mining District and the Courtland-Gleeson District, twenty-five miles south, have periodically been productive since the 1870's, depending on Willcox for supplies and shipping. Mining operations in Globe, Arizona, 110 miles northeast, depended on Willcox as a shipping point. Freight teams of oxen and mules, pulling three or four wagons, hauled copper to the railroad until the Gila Valley, Globe, and Northern Railroad was completed in 1898.

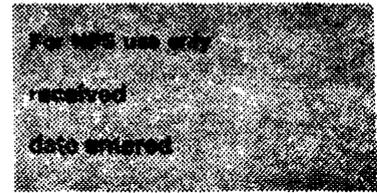
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Commercial activities were quickly established as the community grew in importance as a railroad cattle shipping point and commercial center. One of the most important of these early commercial activities was banking. The first bank was started on Railroad Avenue by the Soto Brothers in their store (W046) in 1888. Several other banks were organized and functioned for brief periods around the turn of the century.

The first bank building in town, the Willcox Bank and Trust (W048) was constructed on Railroad Avenue in 1916. The imposing Neo-classical Revival Style building was an indication of the growing importance of finance and commerce in the community. The bank was organized by Norton, Morgan and Horace Dunlap, who at one time owned the Arizona Range News.

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The Central Bank of Phoenix established a branch bank in Willcox in 1915 in a new Pueblo Style building (W061) on the corner of Maley Street and Haskell Avenue. The bank was reorganized as a local bank two years later. The Riggs bank (W077) opened in 1920 just across the street. It was organized by the Riggs family, early and important ranchers who homesteaded in the Dos Cabezas. This bank was locally controlled until the Valley National Bank bought it in 1936.

In 1916 the members of Willcox Lodge #10 of the Federation of American Mason built the two story Panel Brick Commercial building opposite the banks. Masonic activities continue to be conducted on the second floor while a variety of commercial uses have been employed on the street level.

The banks and Masonic buildings represent a shift in the focus of downtown. Up until the 1900's the central business district was clustered on Railroad Avenue and oriented toward the railroad. As the automobile replaced the railroad, the center of downtown shifted one block west to the corner of Maley and Haskell. Haskell later became State Highway 89 and the only traffic light in Willcox was placed at this intersection.

In the first quarter of the century it seemed that every town in America was building a theater, often in the Art Deco style. Willcox was no different. The Mystic Theater, later called the Willcox Theater, opened on Railroad Avenue in 1929. This small theater of 150 seats, with a simple Art Deco motif on the upper facade, was the only theater in Willcox, as well as the only expression of the Art Deco style in the community. It is historically associated with Rex Allen who performed on his hometown stage early in his career. Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers also performed here. The Willcox Theater was also the location of country western singer Rex Allen, Jr.'s first performance at age eight.

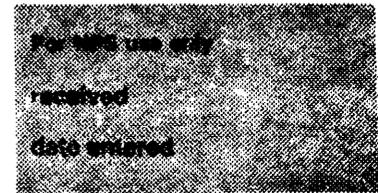
During the twenties and early thirties a number of new commercial buildings were constructed; Frank Rottman built a dry goods store (W060), Harley Windsor built Valley Hardware (W058), Thomas Huffman built the Toggery (W079) and the Piggly Wiggly (W078). All of these buildings are examples of the Panel Brick style. The Toggery and Valley Lumber are still owned and managed by the original owner's families, and the interiors and display cabinets remain unchanged.

The Arizona Range News moved into a new adobe building (W073) on August 20, 1920. This newspaper was started in 1881 to serve the communication needs of Sulphur Springs Valley ranchers. Its early publications reflect this with short articles on community activities and lengthy news about cowboys, cattle theft, and publication of brands.

The area now encompassed by Railroad Park (W113), located directly across from the businesses on Railroad Avenue, had long served as a gathering place for the community. In 1928 the community obtained an easement from the Southern Pacific Railroad Company for the land between the Railroad Avenue commercial buildings and the railroad tracks and developed the first city park. The area was a particularly low spot, prone to floods and mud. The one block area was filled with cinders and top soil and planted with elms and cottonwoods. The park (W113) with tall shade trees and benches, became the first formal park in Willcox, a source of community pride, functioning as a place for socializing in the historic downtown.

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Residential building continued in the 1920's. Many wood frame houses were moved into Willcox from the surrounding mining communities of Dos Cabezas and Pearce as the mines folded. John Gung'l, a local attorney, who later served as City Attorney and owned the local water works, built the most elaborate brick residence in Willcox (W104). A rather modest brick Bungalow by other community's standards, it received a great deal of publicity as Gung'l traveled to El Paso to have it designed and to purchase the brick.

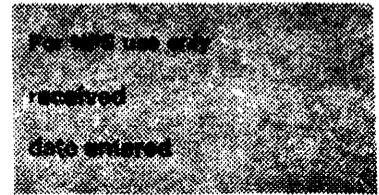
Two other residences from the early 1920's deserve notice. Both are unusual for their use of adobe as a construction material. The Saxon House (W111) was built by Harry Saxon, a prominent rancher who owned the Box Bar Ranch and served in the Arizona Legislature. The Mee House (W025), a unique example of an adobe Craftsman Style Bungalow, was built by the cattleman son-in-law of town founder H.A. Morgan. This residence is surrounded by decorative wrought iron fencing taken from the old Willcox Cemetery.

The Women's Club of Willcox was formed in 1911 as a branch of a nationwide movement that flowered in the eastern United States in the 1860's and followed the westward movement to begin in Arizona in the 1890's. A women's suffrage campaign and the Arizona state constitutional convention were the political issues of 1911. Needless to say, there was great consternation in the rural and conservative community over the founding of the Women's Club. The Arizona Range News, October 21, 1938 recalled that it was rumored that the women were organizing for the purpose of running the town, "to the neglect of their homes, their husbands, and their children."

In spite of these dire predictions, the early activities of the women followed the pattern of their eastern foremothers and included founding a public library and mobilizing the community for voluntary support of war activities during World War I. During the 1920's the women began raising money for a club house. Three lots were purchased near the High School, but WPA funds could not be received by a private entity. The women donated the lots to the City along with \$3,500. The rest of the building fund was provided by the federal government through the Works Project Administration and the Arizona Governor's Fund. Their dream was finally realized on February 13, 1937 when the large Pueblo style community building was dedicated. It remains the only community center in Willcox.

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INDIVIDUAL UTM'S

W001 12/609390E/3569420N
W007 12/609520E/3568760N
W025 12/609920E/3569090N
W034 12/609300E/3568870N
W038 12/609840E/3569070N
W039 12/609910E/3568930N
W043 12/610120E/3568940N
W044 12/610130E/3568920N
* W066 12/610320E/3568700N
W088 12/610240E/3568680N
W089 12/610265E/3568675N
W094 12/610200E/3568620N
W104 12/609620E/3568865N
W111 12/609860E/3568580N

DISTRICT UTM'S

A 12/610260E/3568860N
B 12/610150E/3568680N
C 12/609940E/3568820N
D 12/610160E/3568920N

* W066 has been deleted from the MRA and is not being nominated.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Wilcox MRA
State Cochise County, ARIZONA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87

1. Angle, Joseph, House

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87
2 visible

Attest _____

2. Railroad Avenue Historic District

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87

Attest _____

3. Briscoe, Benjamin E., House

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87

Attest _____

4. Crowley House

Keeper Linda McClelland 8/6/87

Attest _____

5. Gung'l, John, House

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87

Attest _____

6. Hooker Town House

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87

Attest _____

7. Johnson-Tillotson House

Keeper Linda McClelland 4/8/87

Attest _____

8. Mee, Joe, House

Keeper Linda McClelland 4/6/87

Attest _____

9. Morgan House

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 8/18/87

Attest _____

10. Saxon, Harry, House

Keeper Linda McClelland 5/27/87

Attest _____

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Willcox MRA
State Cochise County, ARIZONA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Soto, Pablo, House

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 8/18/87

Attest _____

12. Willcox Women's Club

Keeper Linda McClelland 8/27/87

Attest _____

13. Wilson, J. C., House

Keeper Beth Grosvenor 8/18/87

Attest _____

14. Schwertner House
(Already listed 8-25-83)

Keeper _____

Attest _____

15.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

16.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

17.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

18.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

19.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

20.

Keeper _____

Attest _____