

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0055999 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 24 1975  
DATE ENTERED APR 3 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

\* Parker Jail  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pop Harvey Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Parker

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

CODE  
04

COUNTY  
Yuma

CODE  
027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: none

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Parker

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Parker

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Yuma County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Yuma

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

THIR ATAD

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parker Jail is a cement block building 24' x 30' standing in Pop Harvey City Park. It originally had two cells and an office. Some time after 1947, when the building was no longer used as a jail, the VFW added a bathroom and side door with a covered porch. This doorway, which had formerly been a window, is now being restored as a window. The side porch has been removed. Each cell has two barred windows. There are three windows in the office. The cement blocks are of a type once much used in Arizona and were made in a mold to resemble the rough surface of stone blocks. The roof is gabled hip with wood shingles. Each window has a plain lintel. One cement step leads to the only door. The building is being restored by the city for use as a museum. The building was painted white in the 1940s but will be sandblasted to the original grey. The wiring has been replaced. Air conditioning will be added and the interior will be painted.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John King & John F. Collins

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parker Jail was apparently the first county building constructed in the northern part of Yuma County. It was built in 1914 and was used as a jail until 1947. The city is now restoring it for use as a museum.

The Parker area had long been occupied by the agricultural Mohave people who tilled the flood plains of the Colorado. In 1864 the Parker Valley was selected as a Reservation for the Hualapai, Yavapai, Yuma, and Mohave. The first Indian agent arrived in August of 1868. The post office for the agency was named Parker, after General Eli Parker, who was then Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

In 1905 the Santa Fe Railroad built its line nearby, and a settlement sprang up by the railroad, which was four miles north of the agency. In 1907 the post office was transferred to the new town.

Regulation of the turbulent Colorado River was essential to the development of modern agriculture in the area. This was accomplished by a series of dams. Parker Dam was planned to provide a desilting basin for the Colorado River aqueduct and was of great importance to Southern California. Arizona, however, demanded a share of the water and refused to allow California interests to attach the dam to the Arizona side of the River. The Arizona National Guard was sent by the Governor to stop construction. Two rowboats, under the direction of Parker resident and Arizona legislator, Nellie T. Bush, patrolled the River.

An agreement was finally reached, and the dam was completed in 1938. It was the world's deepest, since it was necessary to go down through 235 feet of silt to reach bedrock. The dam is 856 feet long and 39.5 feet wide.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by the Save-the-Jail Committee of Parker.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

*UTM OF 8D*

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u>	<u>74,9</u> <u>4,8,0</u>	<u>3,7</u> <u>18,1</u> <u>74,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board

DATE

2-26-75

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ SIGNATURE

*Dennis McCarthy*

DENNIS MCCARTHY

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-20-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Al B. [Signature]*

DATE

4/3/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

APR 2 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 24 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 3 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET *Signif.* ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

---

When the town was moved in 1906-1907, a jail became a necessity. The first jail was originally a Santa Fe Railroad ice house near where the depot is now. It was in use from 1910 to 1914 when the new jail was built.

The jail was built by Contractor John King and carpenter-mason John F. Collins. The cement blocks were poured in molds by hand at the site. The jail cost the county \$1500 and was a necessary item for a town already several years old. One of the last prisoners in the jail was a man who had killed a deputy sheriff.

The VFW and other local organizations used the old jail as a meeting hall between 1947 and 1960. In October of 1972 a committee was formed to preserve the jail and use it as a museum.

The Pop Harvey Park, in which the jail stands, was named in honor of James Stephen Harvey, who managed the city swimming pool from 1955 until he died in 1967.

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

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

For NPS use only

received 8/15/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

~~Multiple Resource Area~~  
Thematic Group

Name Parker Jail  
State LaPaz County, AZ

Nomination/Type of Review

County change from Yuma  
to LaPaz County-Approved

Date/Signature

*JH* Keeper Delmont Byers 8/15/86

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For NPS use only  
received 8/15/86  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Correction to Parker Jail, listed 4/3/75

Previously listed as being located within Yuma County, this property is now located in La Paz County. The La Paz County code is 012.

This change is the result of the creation of La Paz County, which became a separate entity from Yuma County on January 1, 1983.

Signed



Donna J. Schober  
Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer