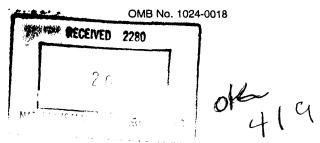
NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property			=======================================	=======================================	=====
historic name Wigwam					
other names/site number	Wigwam Motel				
2. Location				*======================================	
street & number 811 W. city or town Holbroo state Arizona	Hopi Dr. k code <u>AZ</u> co	unty_Navajo	code_017	vicinityzip code_86025	
3. State/Federal Agency C	ertification			######################################	:=====
nomination request National Register of Histor In my opinion, the property property be considered sig statewide loca Signature of certifying office	for determination ic Places and me was meets nafficant na lly. (See constitution ATS/	of eligibility mee eets the procedur does not me tionally ontinuation sheet	ts the documentation so al and professional req	·	perties in the FR Part 60.
State or Federal agency a			······································		
In my opinion, the property sheet for additional comm	/ meets _ ents.)	does not r	neet the National Regis	ster criteria. (See conf	tinuation
Signature of commenting	or other official	Date			
State or Federal agency a	nd bureau				

4. National Park Service Certification	
., hereby certify that this property is:	
See continuation sheet determined eligible for the	
National Register removed from the National Register	
other (explain):	
Signature of Keeper	ラ/ ユ/ ゥュ Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal	
Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s) district site structure object	
Number of Resources within Property Contributing Noncontributing	
Number of contributing resources previously listed in th	e National Register
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if pr Historic US Route 66 in Arizona (amended)	roperty is not part of a multiple property listing.)
essessessessessessessessessessessessess	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Sub: Hotel

	Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: Hotel	
			
7. Description			_
	Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Other-Novelty/roadside vernacular		=
Materials (Er	iter categories from instructions) foundationConcrete roofN/A	-	
	roof N/A walls wood frame, chicken wire and stucc other Iron	o exterior	
	scription (Describe the historic and current conditions SERVICE STATES OF STATES OF SIGNIFICATION SERVICE STATES OF SIGNIFICATION SERVICE STATES OF STATES OF STATES OF SIGNIFICATION SERVICE STATES OF ST	on of the property on one or more continua	ition sheets.
	tional Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more bo		or Manchal
Register listin		xes for the officina qualifying the property is	or mational
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Hegister listin	g)X A. Property is associated with events the	nat have made a significant contribution to	
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Register listin		of persons significant in our past. naracteristics of a type, period, or method or possesses high artistic values, or y whose components lack individual ield information important in prehistory or head for religious purposes.	the

Areas of Significance	(Enter categories from instructions)	
	Transportation	
	Architecture	
		
Period of Significance	e <u>1950</u>	
		
Significant Dates	<u>1950 </u>	
•		
Significant Person (C	omplete only if Criterion B is marked al	pove)
	N/A	
Cultural Affiliation	N/A	
		
Architect/Builder	Frank Redford	
	Chester Evert Lewis	
		
		e of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Major Bibliographica		
Bibliography (Cite the b	ooks, articles, and other sources used	in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentat		
preliminary determ	nination of individual listing (36 CFR 67	has been requested.
previously listed in	the National Register	
	ined eligible by the National Register	
	onal Historic Landmark	
	ric American Buildings Survey #	
recorded by Histor	ric American Engineering Record #	
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Primary Location of A		
State Historic Pres		•
Other State agenc	y	
Federal agency		
Local government		
University		
X Other	Mariana Maria Maria and Adams	n
Name of repository:	Wigwam Motel Museum (Holbrook, AZ	<u>) </u>
Collect	ion includes autobiographical and biog	aphical data of builder as well as numerous magazine and
newspa	aper articles addressing the significance	e and popularity of this site. Publications containing said
articles	include, but are not limited to, Arizona	Highways, The Mother Road Journal, Historic Traveler,
Sojouri	ns, Holbrook Tribune-News, Chicago S	un-Times, Los Angeles Times, and The Sunday Oklahoman.

10. Geographic	
	perty_About 1 acre
UTM Reference	es (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
	Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing 1 12 575990 3862320 3
Verbal Bound	ary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Jus	tification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prep	
	Paul Lewis/Geologist
organization	Wigwam Motel, L.L.C. date Sept. 13, 2001
street & number	er <u>3501 Gulf</u> telephone (915) 697-1809
city or town	Midland state TX zip code 79707
Additional Doc	======================================
Submit the follow	example items with the completed form:
Continuation	Sheets
Maps	A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional ite	ns (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
Property Owne	
(Complete this	item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
street & number	ertelephone
city or town	state_zip code

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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				county	Navajo	
				state	Arizona	

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Wigwam Village #6 is located seven blocks west of downtown Holbrook, Arizona on Business I-40, historic U.S. Route 66. The village is a motel consisting of individual non-connected, sleeping units built in the style of the teepees of the Plains Indians. The name, consequently, is perhaps a misnomer since 'wigwams' were hogan-like shelters with roofs of timbers, furs, and/or mud which did not culminate in a conical point typical of the teepees. The architect, Frank Redford, however, selected "Wigwam Village" for the title of his designed motel rather than "Teepee Village". The former was more pleasing to him. The novel design and public display of Wigwam Village #6 has made it one of the most prominent man-made landmarks in the town of Holbrook and in all of Northern Arizona along old U.S. Route 66. Photographs in color and black & white of the Village have graced the covers of and appeared in periodicals, travel magazines, newspapers, history books, and calendars worldwide for more then a decade (see Section 9).

The lot has 270 feet of frontage on Business I-40 and a depth of 230 feet. The motel itself consists of 18 contributing structures (units) arranged in a rectangle that occupies the majority of the lot. There are four units on each of the short sides of the rectangle and seven units on the back side for a total of 15 sleeping units. The remaining 3 units are concentrated in a cluster in the center on the frontage side of the lot on Bus. I-40 and consist of the office (60′ X 40′) which is flanked by two smaller units (wigwams) that serve as bathrooms for the office. The three structures located along the back side of the lot behind the back row of the 7motel units consist of one two-story, 20-room apartment complex, a storage shed (which house spare fixtures and parts, tools, and shop space for the motel maintenance work), and a small residence. These buildings are not considered part of the nominated property.

The 15 large wigwams (units) are laid out in an open rectangle as described (see photographs) in order to resemble an Indian village. The office, with its flanking, smaller wigwams, represents the dwelling for the chief and his family. The office contains appropriate administrative facilities and a gift shop. The office also houses a museum that contains biographical data on Chester E. Lewis I, some of his collectables, a nice assortment of polished petrified wood slabs, a few 19th and 20th century firearms, and sundry items. Each of the 15 wigwams is identical in construction and measurements with an equal space between each. A 3 foot sidewalk follows the inside perimeter of the 15 wigwams passing 5 feet in front of each thus connecting all with a pathway. A short walkway connects the doorway of each unit with the sidewalk. The entire interior of the courtyard is dry

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				county	Navajo	
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landscaped with small gravel for parking and a driveway from the highway. There are 10 to 12 foot high juniper trees located between the wigwams.

Each of the 15 wigwams is a cone 21 feet wide at the base and 28 feet high to the top of the yellow 2' pipes at the top. The base/foundation is a regular 16-sided polygon with the exception of the one side with extended tongue for the doorway exit. Each of the 16 sides form a triangle measuring 4 feet on the base and narrowing to inches at the crest where the pipes protrude from the top of the cone. All 16 triangles are anchored to the concrete foundation and to a 1' X 2" iron pipe at the top. Each side or rib is numbered for architectural purposes starting with the door which is rib #1 and proceeding counterclockwise around the structure. Recessed windows are located at ribs #4 and #14. All ribs are regular equilateral triangles except #'s 1, 4, & 14 where the door and windows are. These are customized, of course, to accommodate the structural penetration. The window is a diamond shape on the exterior rib. The doorway was the more difficult of the ribs to build. The edges of the doorway are sculpted with a wraparound fringe that gives the appearance of canvas or fur being turned back on itself at the opening. The exterior is a stucco finish on a wood frame furred or decked with 1" lumber and covered with 1/2" chicken wire. Some of the Wigwam Villages in other locations were framed with angle iron that was welded together and then finished with stucco such as with Village #2, but Village #6 was all done in wood. The exterior is painted a bright white with latex paint. A border of red triangles highlights each window. Twelve feet above the base a red zigzag design circumscribes the unit. Mr. Lewis always referred to this as the "lightning of the wigwam." The top 20" of the cone is also highlighted in the same red color. One of the four protruding yellow pipes at the top supports a flood lamp light fixture that brings the village to life at night.

A standard 8-foot ceiling greets the visitor on the inside. This ceiling is a major support feature for the structure, and above it the remainder of the cone's interior is hollow except for wiring, ventilation shafts, and sixteen horizontal 2" X 4" cross beams about 10 feet below the apex of the cone. The interior wall parallels the 68 degrees sloping wall and is utilized for wiring, plumbing, insulation, and a hot water heater. At the doorway the vertical interior wall is recessed far enough toward the center to allow the height of the wall to reach 7 feet instead of the 4 feet common to the rest of the room. This 7-foot wall is necessary to accommodate the door. Parallel to the doorway and twelve feet toward the opposite rib is an 8-foot partition that separates the bedroom from the bathroom. The commode is at one corner and the shower stall at the opposite with the sink in between mounted on

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the wall corresponding to rib #9. The bedroom floor is carpeted, the bathroom floors tiled, the ceiling has incandescent light fixtures. Two corner lamps are present, there are hickory chairs and a vanity, and one or two double beds occupy each room. The curtains, spreads, and comforters are of Indian design. One of the interior windows is square on the inside but the outside shape is a diamond. An air conditioning unit occupies the other window. The furniture consists of caned, handmade hickory beds, night tables, 5' lamps, chairs, armchairs, vanity tables with stool, and hat racks all made in Indiana. A number of chairs and stools have been re-caned, and a few of the stools have been replaced, but 95% of the furniture in use today in the sleeping rooms is the very same original furniture placed in the rooms in 1950.

The two small wigwams next to the office/service station, which served as restrooms for the same, are designed and constructed in the very same fashion as the larger sleeping rooms. The interiors, of course, are finished differently. The small wigwams are 12′ in diameter and 17′ high. The entry door of the bathroom is 7′ X 28″. Parallel to the entrance is a partition 6′ high that divides the floor plan in half. The front half contains the lavatory mounted to the partition opposite the entrance and trash receptacles placed next to the lavatory. The rear half of the two interior halves is divided yet again in half by a 6′ partition forming two triangular 'corners' that occupy one-fourth of the total floor space. Each of these two corners contains a commode. The interior ceiling is a standard 8′ ceiling. The small bathroom wigwams have no side windows. The exterior is finished and painted just as the sleeping units. The interior of the two bathrooms is identical with one exception. The Ladies' Room (Squaws) has two lavatories mounted on the wall opposite the entrance while the Men's Room (Braves) has one lavatory and one urinal.

The office/service station was constructed in 1956 to replace the largest wigwam that originally served as office/service station. The large, office wigwam was about 30′ in diameter and 40′ high. Despite being the largest of the wigwams it was not large enough to handle the traffic of people in the office for both the motel and service station during peak business months of the year. The replacement office measures 55′ X 36′ on the front with an additional section 12′ X 36′ attached behind. This forms a rectangular building 55′ X 48′ with a 19′ X 12′ alcove at the southeast corner of the building. A garbage dumpster is located in this alcove of the building. The construction consists of a 4″ concrete slab floor with 18″ X 24″ footings, cast iron plumbing, and above ground wiring and

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telephone lines. All walls are 2" X 4" studded on 16" centers, and the roof is a 5' asymmetrical vaulted one with gabled sides and desert brown composition shingles. All exterior walls are finished with stucco over chicken wire on the sheathed 2" X 4" stud frame. The office is divided in three sections; a front 20' section, a middle16' section, and the back 12' section. The front 20' section of the office has a 10' X 20' covered canopy on the east corner, open on two sides. The covered portion of the front 20' section is the part of the office for the public business, and this part contains counters on the west side and north sides for registration and payment and a small gift shop. This front section of the office has remained the same since its construction in 1956 with the exception of minor changes in the arrangement of furniture. There are five large 5' X 6' pictures window along the street side of this section and one each on both sides. The interior walls are finished in varnished, tongue and groove pine paneling, the ceiling is 10', and the floor is carpeted. Originally the floor had gray linoleum tile. Carpet was used to replace this when it wore out. The middle 16' section of the office building houses the museum ($16' \times 40'$) and a manager's office ($16' \times 15'$). The interior of the museum displays a medium grit plaster over chicken wire on the sheathed stud frame painted in natural white. The manager's office has interior walls finished in pine paneling like the front, public section of the building. There is a partition between the museum and the manager's office with a door for employees. The museum contains the memorabilia mentioned earlier. Originally this middle section was comprised of a storage area for the motel and service station and a bedroom/bathroom for workers. This was never opened to the public. In 1988 the middle section was remodeled as described, and the museum portion was opened to the public. The back 12' section of the office building is divided in half; a washroom area on the east and a merchandise/filing storage area on the west. The back 12' section has only an 8' interior ceiling. This section has never been open to the public.

There is a 16′ X 16′ canopy extending street side from the very front of the office covering the driveway immediately in front of the office and the area where the island of gasoline pumps used to be. Above the canopy is an 8′ X 24′ billboard. This originally advertised the Texaco Station but was altered to advertise the motel when gasoline sales terminated. The asymmetrical, vaulted roof was added in 2000 since the flat, hot tar roof was continually leaking over the last three decades.

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				state	Arizona	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because it satisfies the registration requirements outlined in the Multiple Property Document entitled "Historic US Route 66 in Arizona (amended)" and accepted by the Keeper of the National Register on August 26, 1996. The Wigwam Village #6 qualifies under the "Traveler Related Facilities" property type and meets the requirements of 1. Association, 2. Design, Location, and Workmanship, and 3. Feeling and Setting.

Chester E. Lewis I of Holbrook, Arizona visited a Wigwam Village in Kentucky constructed by Frank Redford. Mr. Redford had designed the architecture of his motel/cafe/gift shop/gas station buildings using the form and motif of Native American teepees. This use of architectural imagery by automobile service-oriented establishments along the American roadside has come to be known as place-product-packaging (Wigwam Village No. 2 National Register nomination). A detailed account of Mr. Redford's venture can be found in Roadside America-The Automobile in Design and Culture (1990, Iowa State University Press, Jan Jennings editor, pp. 125-135). His design of wigwams or teepees was intended to be an aesthetic eye-appealing gimmick to capture the attention and patronage of the automobile masses. Mr. Redford built three villages himself and authorized the use of his blueprints for four other villages. Two of the seven were constructed along Route 66, one by Mr. Redford himself (Village #7) in San Bernardino, California, and a second by Mr. Lewis in Holbrook, Arizona. Mr. Lewis was very much impressed with Mr. Redford's idea and success that he had observed in the 1930s, and some ten years later he visited Mr. Redford and negotiated a trade with him. For the use of his blueprints, Mr. Lewis agreed to pay Mr. Redford a royalty from his village, which was to consist of all the proceeds from the coin-operated AM radios that would be installed in the motel units at Mr. Lewis' expense. Mr. Redford and Mr. Lewis became life-long friends.

Wigwam Village #6 was located on busy Route 66 and offered a unique place to overnight as well as to refuel the family automobile. The national prosperity and the Baby Boomers of the 1950s and 1960s often choked Route 66 with traffic during the summer vacation months including eager youngsters who cried if they didn't get to sleep in a wigwam. Many of those youngsters, now aging, return in the 21st century to experience once again one of their childhood delights or fulfill a dream if they were denied it as a child. Only three of the seven villages still stand today, Village #2 in Cave City, Kentucky, Village #6 in Holbrook, and Village #7 in California. The Cave City Wigwam Village is listed on the National Register and the California Wigwam Village is in poor repair.

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The motel meets the registration requirement of the MPDF in the following ways:

1. Association. This property is related to the traveling tourist industry on Historic Route US 66. Wigwam Village #6 was designed and constructed as a motel to cater to tourists and travelers on Route 66, and it has served as such since is first opened 51 plus years ago. Chester E. Lewis I of Holbrook, Arizona constructed Wigwam Village #6 in the late 1940s on Highway US 66 in Holbrook, Arizona at 811 W. Hopi Drive (Route 66). The business is currently located on Historic Route US 66 (Business I-40) at the same address in Holbrook. Mr. Lewis opened his motel for business on June 1, 1950. Navajo County Court records in the County Clerk's office show that Mr. Lewis, or a Lewis owned Arizona corporation or L.L.C. has paid the property taxes and owned the motel until the present day. City street plans on file at Holbrook City Hall verify that Route US 66 and Historic Route US 66 have always constituted W. Hopi Dr. in Holbrook and that it passes immediately in front of the property in question.

Originally, a set of gasoline pumps stood in front of the office. The motel was shut down from 1974 till 1988 in response to the drastically reduced flow of business through the small towns that were bypassed by the interstate highway system in the early 1970s. During this era Wigwam Village #6 did not function commercially in any other capacity except to sell gasoline until 1984. In 1988 the motel reopened and has operated as such since that time.

2. Design, Location, Workmanship. The design and physical layout of the 18 contributing structures of Wigwam Village #6 is identical to its original down to the colors used to paint and highlight the sleeping units, with one exception. One of the 18 structures, the 40' X 60' office between the two small bathroom wigwams, was originally constructed in 1955 as a large teepee that measured 30' X 37'. The large teepee was replaced with the rectangular office building in 1956 to better serve the need of the retail gasoline sales. Although the two-story apartment building (outside the boundary of the nominated property) is readily visible behind the teepees, the building does not infringe on the original courtyard space created by the placement of the sleeping units.

The structural workmanship of the 18 contributing structures is original and that of Mr. Chester E. Lewis I. Painting and maintenance, of course, is required, and these are carried out in such a manner as to not alter the original structure. The interior design of the motel rooms has not changed although various color schemes have been used over the years, and curtains, spreads, furniture, tile,

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state Arizona	

carpet, lighting fixtures, etc. have been replaced due to wear and tear. The use of Native American motifs has been maintained by using replacement items with appropriate designs. Some gas heaters have been replaced with electric ones and plumbing fixtures must be replaced from time to time, but the bathrooms still preserve the original layout of commode, sink, and shower and have the original 1950s floor tile in place. The courtyard grounds have always had a gravel cover. Playground equipment for children has been installed and removed periodically over the decades; the original 1950 courtyard did not contain any such equipment.

3. Feeling and Setting. Wigwam Village #6 retains its feeling and setting. The design of the buildings and layout has been maintained and is quite unique. As previously stated, the motel has been the subject of numerous newspaper and magazine articles over the years, with the most recent one appearing in the Arizona Republic on December 9, 2001. Some tourists today make an impromptu visit to Wigwam Village #6 while some come with reservations made months in advance to enjoy the feeling and setting preserved here of the early days of the 'Mother Road'. One tourist will visit to escape from the modernism of the day just as visitors did decades ago, another to briefly open the nostalgic capsule of his/her childhood visit when the Baby Boomers were just toddlers, another to enjoy the Indian motif of the setting, and yet another just to photograph the novelty of the village or the dumpster behind the office in which the actor Lou Diamond Phillips discards some burning papers in a scene from the movie "Dark Wind."

As a unique example of Route 66, travel-related facilities, Wigwam Village #6 is a significant part of the history of Holbrook, Arizona, and Route 66. This family-owned business has contributed to the aura of Route 66 since 1950 and the family continues to run the motel today. Obviously unique as roadside architecture, the continued ownership by the Lewis family for over 50 years is as much a part of the story as the sign that asks "Have you slept in a wigwam lately?"

CONDITION AND INTEGRITY

The condition of Wigwam Village #6 is very good. Seventeen of the eighteen buildings are in their original state, and the quality of their condition is evidenced by the fact that the motel is open for business year round. None of the 18 buildings has undergone any major or minor structural repairs since their construction. Only the office has undergone any remodeling, as described above.

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The integrity of the original motel has been maintained as there have been no significant changes to the buildings and they are in very good condition. The best evidence supporting the aesthetic integrity of the village is the feeling and association one experiences upon visiting the motel with its collection of 1950s vintage motorcars. A comparison of 1950s photographs with the village today, as well as tourists' and residents' testimonials, also supports the claim that the integrity of the Wigwam Village #6 is intact and well preserved, providing the same ambiance today for the traveler as in the past.

Wigwam Village #6 is nationally significant for several reasons. The Wigwam Village in Cave City, Kentucky, is the only other of these motels that yet survives intact and it is listed in the Register as nationally significant. The motel in Holbrook is related to place-product-packaging (as is the Cave City version) but moreover, it is directly related to place-product-packaging on Route 66. Acting on the idea that a unique motel would appeal to travelers on Route 66, Chester E. Lewis opened the "wigwams" in 1950 and this mom and pop business has been owned and operated (in some fashion) by the Lewis family ever since. Known around the world through many publications, Wigwam Village #6 is not only an icon of Holbrook and northern Arizona, but of all of Route 66, the "Mother Road."

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Bibliographical References

See bibliography in MPDF "Historic US Route 66 in Arizona" and "Historic US Route 66 in Arizona (amended)." For specific bibliography related to this nomination, see below:

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- Harlow, Dan. "In Search of the Wigwam." Route 66 Magazine, Winter 1993-94, 45-47.
- "Highway to Heaven." Holiday Inn Express Navigator, June-July 1999.
- Jennings, Jan, ed. *Roadside America, The Automobile in Design and Culture*. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1990.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Wigwam Village #6 is located in the town of Holbrook, Arizona, bounded on the north by Old Route U.S. 66, on the south by a railroad tie fence, on the west by 8th Ave. and on the east by 7th Ave. The boundary is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Wigwam Village #6."

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries described are chosen since they discretely define the confines of the Wigwam Village #6 Motel leaving out the non-contributing buildings on the property. The motel is easily visible from these limits as well as distances of 200' to 300' up and down Old Route 66 (Hopi Dr.).

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				state	Arizona	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			· .			

The following information applies to all photographs:

1. property:

Wigwam Village #6

2. location:

Holbrook, Navajo County, Arizona

3. photographer: Chester E. Lewis II

4. date:

January 7, 2002

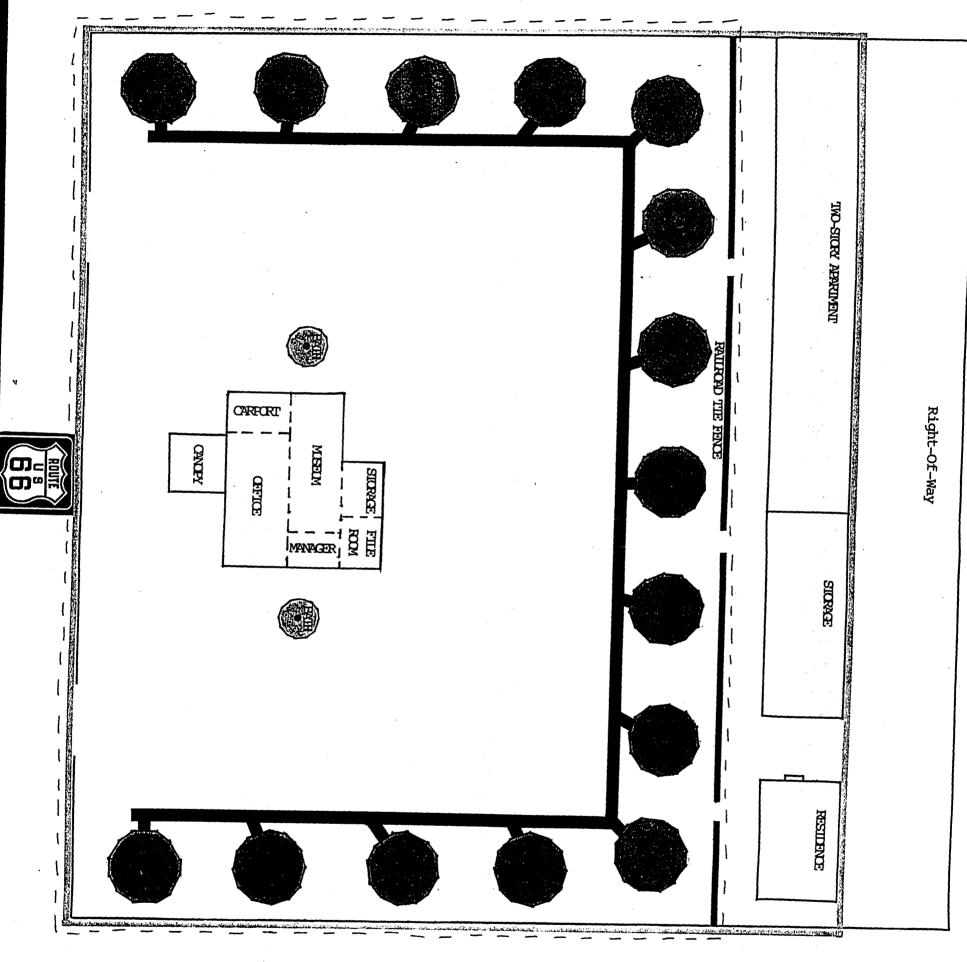
5. negatives at:

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

Photo 1: View southwest; Route 66 in foreground, Wigwam Village # 6 in background

Photo 2: View south-southwest; close-up of teepees

Photo 3: View westl; row of teepees at back of property



8th AVENUE

HOL SCA	
WAM # BROO	
VIL 6 K, ARII Boundar	
ILLAGE RIZONA about 30′	