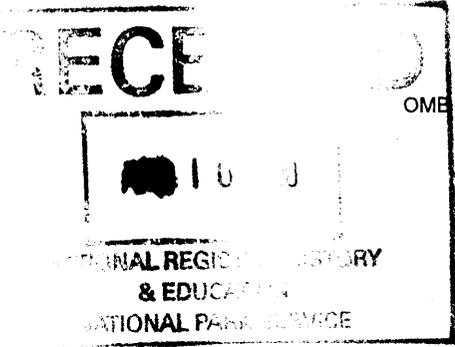


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



OMB No. 1024-0018

443

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: Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 537 to 867 Montezuma Castle Hwy (east side of highway) not for publication: N/A
city or town: Camp Verde vicinity: N/A
state: Arizona code: AZ county: Yavapai code: 025 zip code: 86322

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Garrison Azzano
Signature of certifying official

3 APRIL 2000
Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 5.11.00
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register _____
 removed from the National Register _____
 other (explain): _____

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of Keeper

[Handwritten Signature]

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 4 </u>	<u> 11 </u> buildings
<u> 6 </u>	sites
<u> 1 </u>	structures
	objects
<u> 11 </u>	<u> 11 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (Robt. W. Wingfield House)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: AGRICULTURE Subcategory: Irrigation facility; agricultural outbuildings & fields

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC Subcategory: Single dwellings
AGRICULTURE Irrigation facility; agricultural outbuildings & fields

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (for dominant historic building, the Robert W. Wingfield House)

Category: LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS (Robt. W. Wingfield House)
Subcategory: Bungalow

Materials (Robert W. Wingfield House)

Foundation: STONE & CONCRETE
Walls: STONE/Limestone
Roof: OTHER
Other: N/A

Narrative Description (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 7-9*)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1893-1949

Significant Dates

1893, 1917, 1928

Significant Person

N/A (Note: one resource within the district has been listed for its association with Robert W. Wingfield)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 10-13*)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 14-15*)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register (Robert W. Wingfield House only, at 867 Montezuma Castle Highway)

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: N/A

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property __26__

UTM References (See accompanying USGS map, Figure 1, for point references)

All Zone 12	A:	421660E	3826860N
	B:	421900E	3826860N
	C:	421730E	3826220N
	D:	421630E	3826220N

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses a cohesive district of resources associated with the agricultural history of Camp Verde. The historic name derives from the rows of mature pecan trees that dominate the district and define its edges. East and west boundaries of the 26-acre district are formed by Beaver Creek and the Montezuma Castle Highway, respectively. Anchoring the district at its north and south ends are the historic Robert W. Wingfield House (NRHP-listed) and the historic Basham House, respectively.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include a geographic locality near the end of Eureka Ditch that was historically managed as one agricultural unit. The boundary includes a concentration, continuity, and linkage of resources that express the farming characteristics of the historic landscape and contribute to its significance.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title:	Pat Haigh Stein		date:	March 1999
organization:	Arizona Preservation Consultants		telephone:	(520) 714-0585
street/number:	6786 Mariah Drive		zip code:	86004
city or town:	Flagstaff	state:	AZ	

Based on an earlier draft prepared by Dale Harvey (1996).

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Additional Documentation
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Continuation Sheets (pages 7-16)

Maps

- A USGS map (Camp Verde, Ariz., 7.5 minute quadrangle) indicating the property's location (Figure 1)
- Sketch map showing district boundaries and contributing and non-contributing resources (Figure 2)
- 1892 map of northeast portion of the "Camp Verde Military Reservation" (Figure 3)
- Soil Conservation Service map of original patent holders near the Verde-Beaver Creek confluence (Figure 4)

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property (Photos 1 through 4)

Additional items

None

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Property Owner Information
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The district is in private ownership and includes nineteen tax parcels within the NW 1/4 of Section 29, Township 14 North, Range 5 East, Gila & Salt River Base Meridian, in Yavapai County, Arizona. The tax parcel numbers are as follows (all numbers are prefixed by 404-20-): 007, 008, 009, 010, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 021, 022, 023, 047B, 048A.

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Yavapai County, Arizona

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DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

Pecan Lane is a cohesive district of resources associated with the agricultural heritage of Camp Verde. The name derives from rows of pecan trees that dominate the district and delineate its edges. Other contributing elements include two historic houses, two barns, an irrigation ditch, and three agricultural plots. Non-contributing elements consist of eleven houses constructed in the modern period. The non-contributors are masked to a considerable degree by the pecan trees, and thus do not constitute a major integrity-destroying intrusion. The district still conveys a sense of the era when Camp Verde was the leading agricultural producer of the Middle Verde River Valley.

Location and General Appearance of the District

The nominated property is located in Camp Verde, a town of approximately 7200 people in Yavapai County in central Arizona (Figure 1). The elevation of the town is approximately 3000 ft. It is an area of fertile soil, a long growing season, and little rain. Were its water supply limited to precipitation (usually less than 12 inches annually), then Camp Verde's desert aspect would be more apparent. However, Camp Verde occupies an enviable and rare position among Arizona's cities and towns; it is a desert community on a permanent stream. The Verde River meanders through the community, supporting riparian vegetation (such as cottonwood, sycamore, ash, and willow) and giving Camp Verde the appearance of an emerald enclave.

Containing 26 acres, Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape has a long and narrow configuration, measuring 2000 ft in length and varying from 360 ft to 725 ft in width, with the long axis oriented north-south (Figure 2). The district is situated on an alluvial plain near the confluence of the Verde River with Beaver Creek. The creek -- a perennial stream in this locality -- forms a natural eastern boundary for the landscape. Montezuma Castle Highway forms the western boundary. Two historic buildings, the Robert W. Wingfield house and the Basham (also called Vyne) house, anchor the district at its north and south ends, respectively. Between the Wingfield and Basham houses lie a pasture, garden, and fruit orchard that were historically managed as one agricultural unit, originally a homestead. Running in a generally north to south direction through the district is Eureka Ditch, the irrigation canal that made farming on the homestead possible.

Eureka Ditch produced and sustained the dominant feature of the rural landscape: three towering rows of pecan trees (Photo 1). The eastern row follows the approximate bank of Beaver Creek. The western row follows the edge of Montezuma Castle Highway. The central row follows the course of the ditch through the approximate center of the district. It is the pecan trees that define and delineate the landscape, conveying the sense that Pecan Lane's history is distinctly agricultural.

Contributing Resources

The district contains 11 contributing and 11 non-contributing resources. The contributors consist of one structure, four buildings, and six sites dating prior to 1949. Collectively they form a cohesive landscape that documents patterns of land



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use and development through time. The following paragraphs describe the contributors in approximate chronological order and classify them as to property type. Figure 2 indicates their locations within the district.

Eureka Ditch (contributing structure): Pecan Lane is located at the lower end of Eureka Ditch, a seven-mile-long structure that heads on the Verde River above the Middle Verde Yavapai-Apache Indian Reservation. Constructed in 1893, the ditch originally delivered water to four properties, including this one (Turney 1901:6-7). The ditch is and has always been unlined (Ralph Matheny, interview dated 3/9/1999). Flumes have been installed where the ditch crosses washes; however, no such flumes occur within the Pecan Lane district. The ditch enters the district at its northwest corner (Photo 2) and continues in a southerly direction through the center of the property before exiting the district at its southwest corner. Eureka Ditch empties into the Verde a short distance south of the district.

1904 barn (contributing building): A one-story barn is located on the east side of the Eureka Ditch in the northern portion of the district (Photo 3). It is of woodframe construction with clapboard siding and a shed on the back facing east toward Beaver Creek. The gabled roof has wooden shakes covered with tin sheet metal. The building was constructed in 1904, the year that James D. Price received a homestead patent for the property.

Robert W. Wingfield House (contributing building): In 1917 Robert Wingfield owned the former homestead and constructed a fine farmhouse there. The building is a bungalow distinguished by a full-front veranda, gabled roof, gabled dormer, and coursed limestone construction (see Photo 2). Situated at the north end of the rural landscape at 867 Montezuma Castle Highway, the bungalow possesses excellent integrity. The house was individually listed on the National Register in 1986 (Harvey and Harvey 1985).

Three rows of pecan trees (counted as three contributing sites): In 1926 Noah Haydon purchased the property and moved there with his son Carl and daughter-in-law Eva. In 1927-1928, Eva planted pecan seedlings in an attempt to introduce a new cash crop. With assistance from Eureka Ditch, the seedlings developing into the majestic trees that distinguish Pecan Lane today (see Photo 1). The eastern row, approximately 1700 ft long, grows along the western bank of Beaver Creek. The middle row, approximately 805 ft long, follows the course of Eureka Ditch as it flows from north to south through the central part of the landscape. The western row, 2000 ft long, extends along the east side of Montezuma Castle Highway. A 1946 aerial photograph indicates that very few trees have been removed from the rows between that date and the present. Currently there are a total of 91 trees. They have an average limb spread of 75 ft, heights over 40 ft, and are spaced at intervals ranging from 36 to 57 ft. They still bear the distinguishing trait of trees grown from seedlings: they have dominant central trunks (trees grown from grafts or buds diverge into low "scaffold" branches, and lack a dominant trunk).

Circa 1940 barn (contributing building): A barn was added circa 1940 when the Haydons owned the property. The barn is located near the northern district boundary, between the Wingfield house and the 1904 barn (see Photo 3). The 1940 barn is a one-story wooden building with a loft. Its gabled roof is covered with shingles and sheet metal. The main elevation (facing west toward the highway) is painted with a large "Rafter-H" brand (an "H" below a rafter and above a rocker). The building possesses good integrity and contributes to the rural feeling of the landscape.

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Basham house (contributing building): Built in 1939, this woodframe cottage is believed to have been built by the Vyne family. It is more commonly known as the Basham house, named for the family that resided in it for many years during modern times. The Haydons moved into the house in 1943 when they sold most of their property to Buster and Alma Tatum. Located at the south end of the district at 537 Montezuma Castle Highway, the house has a gabled roof with composition shingles, wooden and stucco siding, and exhibits no particular style (Photo 4). When the Haydons split this house the original property in 1943, they began a trend toward suburbanization that would continue in modern times (see below, "Non-Contributing Resources").

Pasture, fruit orchard, and garden (counted as three contributing sites): Buildings and structures occupy a small percentage of the 26 acres of the district. Agricultural plots account for the majority of its acreage. Archival records, informant data, and aerial photographs indicate that agriculturalists worked the plots in historic times; the plots are thus integral and contributing elements of the rural historic landscape. They include a large pasture south of the Wingfield house, a vegetable garden near Beaver Creek, and an apple and peach orchard near the south end of the district. Continued use of these areas for pasturage, gardening, and fruit-growing maintains the district's integrity and its association with agriculture. The locations of these resources are shown in Figure 2.

Non-Contributing Resources

Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape includes eleven non-contributing elements. Each is a house constructed in the modern era (after 1949). They generally are of one story, have relatively small footprints, have gabled or flat roofs, and exhibit wooden or stucco siding. Collectively they represent a trend toward suburbanization -- namely, the development of "ranchettes" (small homes on 2+ acres) -- that has occurred in rural Arizona in recent decades. Their street addresses are 557, 587, 597, 627, 647, 667, 687, 727, 757, 807, and 837 Montezuma Castle Highway

Integrity

The non-contributing resources do not constitute a major integrity-destroying intrusion within the district. The main reason is that they are masked to a considerable degree by the pecan trees; each home is behind at least one row of the trees and several are behind two. The deep setback of the non-contributors from Montezuma Castle Highway lessens their visual impact. Even during the season when the pecan trees are without foliage (from November to May; see Photo 1), the non-contributors are not overwhelmingly obvious.

A second factor lessening the impact of the non-contributors is the visual effect of the pecan trees and agricultural plots. The trees not only dominate the district but also unify it, conveying the sense that Pecan Lane was, historically, one agricultural property. Similarly, the agricultural plots (pasture, orchard, and garden) cross-cut the ranchettes, reinforcing the notion of Pecan Lane as a single and discrete agricultural unit. Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape possesses sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to qualify for listing on the National Register.

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SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape is significant under Criterion A at the local level for its association with the agricultural history of Camp Verde. Agriculture was Camp Verde's leading industry in historic times. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the community served as truck farm and bread basket to the major cities of Yavapai and Coconino counties, including Jerome, Prescott, and Flagstaff. Once a major farm of Camp Verde, Pecan Lane is now one of its best-preserved, still conveying the sense of a rural country lane in a farming community. Its period of significance begins with its settlement in 1893 pursuant to the Homestead Act and continues to the end of the historic period (1949, fifty years before the present).

Historic Context: Agriculture in Camp Verde in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

The prehistoric Southern Sinagua practiced irrigated agriculture in the Middle Verde River Valley centuries before Euroamericans arrived. Aside from Spanish explorers and "mountain men" who briefly visited the valley, Euroamericans paid little attention to the area until a territorial capital and military fort were established in Prescott (40 miles west of Camp Verde) in 1864. During that summer, hay cutters from Prescott harvested the Middle Verde's lush black grama grass for sale to the Army at Fort Whipple. However, the hay cutters were transient visitors, not permanent settlers (Pierson 1957:327).

In January of the following year, a party of Prescottonians led by James Parrish scouted the Middle Verde to locate a site for a farming community. The scouting party selected a wedge of land at the mouth of Clear Creek (also called Clear Fork), a short distance below present Camp Verde. The plot contained less arable land than desired, but offered other advantages: good irrigation potential, a defensible position in case of Indian attack, and plentiful stone for building (Farish 1916, Volume 4:217). In February, the settlement party, consisting of 19 men and six wagons of supplies, left Prescott for the new land. A day after reaching the valley, the party ruptured into two factions. One faction, led by James Swetnam, proceeded with the plan to settle at Clear Creek. There the settlers built a stone fort, dug a well, installed an irrigation ditch, erected a dam, and by May planted over 200 acres in barley, wheat, corn, potatoes, beans, melons, and greens (Farish 1916, Volume 4:225). The second faction, led by Parrish, favored a plot on the Verde above Clear Creek; the spot had more arable land but would be more difficult to irrigate. The Parrish faction attempted settlement, but soon disbanded over the irrigation issue (Pierson 1957; Munson 1981).

The Swetnam faction struggled to make its farming community viable. Fearing the loss of lives, crops, and livestock, the settlers petitioned the Army for protection from Indian attack. In August of 1895, the Army responded by sending a small detachment of soldiers from Fort Whipple to establish a tent camp near the settlers' fort. In December of that year, the Army relocated the encampment to a spot upstream, and named the new camp "Lincoln" (Eason 1966:3).

The early days of Camp Lincoln were as precarious as those of the settlers' fort. Its forces were demoralized by inadequate food and an almost complete lack of pay and supplies (Eason 1966:3-4). The men had to make their own shoes, frequently had to purchase their own rations, and sometimes found that food seized from the Native Americans

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was superior to that provided by the government (Munson 1981:25). Although only a few miles away, the settlers' fort was so besieged with problems of its own -- Native Americans were "harvesting" the settlers' corn at the rate of 30 to 40 bushels per night -- that it could not provide Camp Lincoln with adequate provisions (Munson 1976-1977:20). The site of the military camp proved unhealthful, prone to malaria-carrying mosquitoes. In 1868 the camp was renamed Camp Verde to avoid confusion with other Camp Lincolns of the West. The name change did nothing to alleviate problems at the camp. Conditions did not improve appreciably until the military in 1871 relocated Camp Verde to a more elevated and healthful site about a mile to the southeast (the location of present-day Fort Verde State Historic Park).

The military fort of Camp Verde gained a firm presence that encouraged civilians to settle in the valley. The 1870 census listed 174 settlers in the area, including 68 farmers, 88 farm laborers, and 4 teamsters. The civilian population was overwhelmingly adult male, as the Verde was still seen an unsafe valley for women and children. That situation began to change in 1872-1873 when General George Crook led a successful campaign against the Yavapai and Apache. Following removal of the native population in 1875, the valley attracted many new Euroamerican farmers and their families.

Military operations at Camp Verde decreased after Crook's campaign. The government abandoned the fort in 1881. Although the government occasionally regarrisoned the post, Camp Verde (by then called Fort Verde) never regained its former military importance. The last garrison of soldiers departed in 1891.

As the Army took leave of Fort Verde, farmers hungrily eyed the military reservation that had surrounded the fort, an 18-square-mile tract of prime agricultural land. Lucrative new markets had developed for produce and meat in the copper-mining camp of Jerome, 20 miles west of Camp Verde. The boom town was soon buying all that the Middle Verde could yield. A symbiotic relationship was forged between the region's mines and farms. Well before the "Camp Verde Military Reservation" was opened to private settlement, civilians began to squat there, construct irrigation ditches, and farm its land. The government's 1895 announcement declaring the land open for private entry triggered a run on the General Land Office, as squatters rushed to record their claims (Munson 1981:32; *Ft. Verde Days* 1996:23).

The Pecan Lane property evolved from exactly this set of circumstances. Its acreage lay within the Camp Verde Military Reservation (Figure 3). In 1893, the Pecan Lane parcel was entered by a squatter who hoped to file a claim under the Homestead Act. In that same year, Eureka Ditch began delivering water to the parcel as well as to other plots above the Verde-Beaver Creek confluence. Persons associated with the ditch in its earliest years were Thomas A. Smith, who filed a notice of location for the ditch head in 1892; John H. Hicks, who filed an identical claim in 1894; and A. P. Hutcheson, Burton Maxwell, W. F. Hutcheson, Tommie Bristow, and C. A. Wingfield, who jointly filed a notice of the ditch's location in 1895 (Mitchell 1983).

Homesteader James D. Price patented the Pecan Lane property in 1904. His entire claim included 80 acres in the NW 1/4 of Section 29 and 80 contiguous acres in the SW 1/4 of Section 20, all in Township 14 North, Range 5 East (Figure 4). The 160-acre homestead straddled Beaver Creek. Only a small portion, lying west of Beaver Creek and watered by Eureka Ditch, was arable and agriculturally worked by the homesteader. The rest of the acreage consisted of creek bottom and rocky terrace. The cultivable portion, containing about 26 acres, became the Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape.

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A delegation studying irrigation and water use along the Verde in July of 1901 made the earliest observations about farming along Eureka Ditch. The delegation reported unusually dry conditions in the valley. Eureka Ditch carried only 448 miner's inches of water -- about 60 percent of its capacity of 747 inches. It irrigated a total of 420 acres belonging to four different owners. In addition to the Eureka, four other canals delivered Verde water to local farms. Corn was the principal crop of the area, followed by hay, fruit, potatoes, and garden produce. The main market was Jerome, followed by Prescott and Flagstaff. Demand for the agricultural goods exceeded the supply (Turney 1901:15-16).

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, Jerome developed a particularly voracious appetite for Camp Verde's produce. New strikes, strong markets, and improved methods for working ore increased the population of the mining town manifold. In the 1910s, Jerome's population soared to fifteen thousand, making it Arizona's third largest city (Trimble 1986:361). Camp Verde's small population (269 in 1910) devoted itself to feeding miners in Jerome and smelter-workers in Clarkdale and Clemenceau near Jerome (Peplow and Peplow 1954).

In was during the copper boom period that Robert W. Wingfield acquired Pecan Lane. In 1917 he built on the property a fine family residence (Harvey and Harvey 1985). The stone farmhouse with its verdant fields quickly became a local landmark. It was the first sizable farm seen by travelers entering Camp Verde from the north, signaling their arrival in the agricultural community. Pecan Lane remained a working, commercial farm under Wingfield's ownership. Peaches, plums, Johnson grass, and vegetables were the principal crops grown.

The end of World War I brought recession to the local copper industry and to the agricultural industry that supported it. Some farmers moved out of the valley to seek more lucrative work elsewhere. Those who remained, scaled back production accordingly. The economic downturn forced marginally profitable lands out of production; included in this category was acreage that had been difficult to irrigate, such as a tract below Camp Verde where floods had repeatedly destroyed diversion dams. Irrigated land in the Middle Verde declined from 7,000 acres in 1901 to 5,747 acres in 1920 (Allen 1937:149-150). Wingfield's farm did not suffer such a fate. A choice farm that was both fertile and easily irrigated, the Wingfield property remained agriculturally viable through the recession.

An increase in mining after the post-war recession brought new concerns to local farmers. During World War I they had begun to notice that the acrid, sulphurous smoke emitted from Clarkdale's and Clemenceau's smelters appeared to damage the tissue of fruit and vegetables. Periods of high humidity (such as in the summer "monsoon" season) produced acid rain that could impact orchards and fields miles away from the smelters. As the Middle Verde's farmers became more aware of the effects of air pollution on their properties, some filed lawsuits alleging crop damage. In several instances the copper company agreed to buy the damaged properties (Allen 1937:151).

Farms near the smelters were most affected by the pollution. Damage to farms in distant Camp Verde was more difficult to gauge. In April of 1925, the United Verde Extension Mine (UVX) commissioned a study of the problem. Robert Wingfield's farm was among those studied. In his report to the UVX, William Thompson described the property:

Bob Wingfield, owner: A fairly large orchard, freshly plowed and cultivated in both directions. Generally well kept and trees well pruned. Considerable Jonson [sic] grass now showing on freshly plowed ground. Spring crops interplanted between trees in good condition. Most of trees in good condition. Foliage well

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colored and healthy. Peaches well fruited. This orchard recently visited by severe wind or hail storm, shaking off percentage of fruit, particularly plums. Cottonwoods, other shade trees and ornamental plants and shrubs in vicinity in excellent foliage. No signs of smoke injury [Thompson 1925].

Despite Thompson's finding of no smoke damage, the UVX in 1926 purchased Wingfield's house and acreage. Later that year the company sold the property to Noah Haydon, a miner in its employ.

Noah, his son Carl, and daughter-in-law Eva moved onto Wingfield's former property in 1926. Noah continued in mining while Carl and Eva worked the land. At that time, a commercial orchard of peach and apple trees lay at the south end of the property, and a family orchard of peaches, pears, apricots, and plums lay behind their house. It was Eva who planted the pecan trees in 1927-1928 from nuts brought from Texas by a relative (Eva Haydon, interview dated 6/22/1996). Eva got one-gallon cans from a store in Camp Verde and grew the trees from seeds. Her goal was to develop a new commercial crop, perhaps one less susceptible to smoke damage. The nuts of the seedling pecan trees would tend to be smaller than those of cultivar pecan trees, but their shells would be generally thicker.

To thrive, pecans need a suitable climate, adequate water, protection from predators and disease, and well-nourished soil (Manaster 1994:20-21, 64). They generally favor alluvial floodplains where they can compete successfully for light and space amid other plant growth. A permanent, static water table, ideally ten to twenty-five feet below the surface, provides the foundation for their growth. In addition to ground water, irrigation water is need to launch spring shoots and leaves, and to promote the growth of nuts between April and October. Virtually all of these conditions were present at the Haydons' property, and the pecan seedlings thrived. The Haydon orchard marked the earliest known attempt to grow pecans along the Middle Verde. Pecans eventually became a significant crop of the region (Ralph Matheny, interview dated 3/9/1999).

Seedling pecans are slow to mature and may not bear for as long as fifteen to twenty years. The Haydon trees were not bearing by 1943, when the UVX closed, Noah lost his job, and the family was forced to sell most of its property. The buyers were Buster and Alma Tatum. Under the Tatums' ownership (1943-1945), the property produced flowers, melons, corn, apples and peaches, while its pastures were used to raise milk cows (Alice Tatum, interview dated 6/22/1996). The pecan trees planted by Eva Haydon in 1927-1928 likely began bearing just as the historic period ended (circa 1949).

Originally intended to provide a commercial crop, the pecan trees yielded much more than that as they aged. They provided shade, filtered dust, and gave rise to a cherished local custom; each year, local families would stop by to harvest nuts dropped outside the fenceline along Montezuma Castle Highway. Pecan Lane became fixed in the public eye as the quintessential property representing Camp Verde's agricultural past.

The pecan trees pleased and attracted new residents. Inevitably the land was sold, divided into parcels, and used for new homes. Despite these changes, Pecan Lane continues to retain the qualities that make it a rural historic landscape. Listing on the National Register will help Pecan Lane remain a symbol of Camp Verde's agricultural heritage for generations of Verde residents to enjoy and remember.

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Alice Tatum, telephone interview dated 6/22/1996 with Dale Harvey.

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Section _Photos_ Page _16_ Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape
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Photographic Information

The following information applies to all photos; camera directions are shown on Figure 2.

1. Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape
2. Yavapai County, AZ
3. Pat Stein
4. February 1999
5. Arizona Preservation Consultants, Flagstaff, AZ

6. View southeast, showing western pecan row and pasture along Montezuma Castle Highway
7. PHOTO 1

6. View southeast, showing Eureka Ditch (to left) and Robert W. Wingfield House
7. PHOTO 2

6. View east, showing 1904 barn (right) and circa 1940 barn (left)
7. PHOTO 3

6. View northeast, showing 1939 Basham house.
7. PHOTO 4

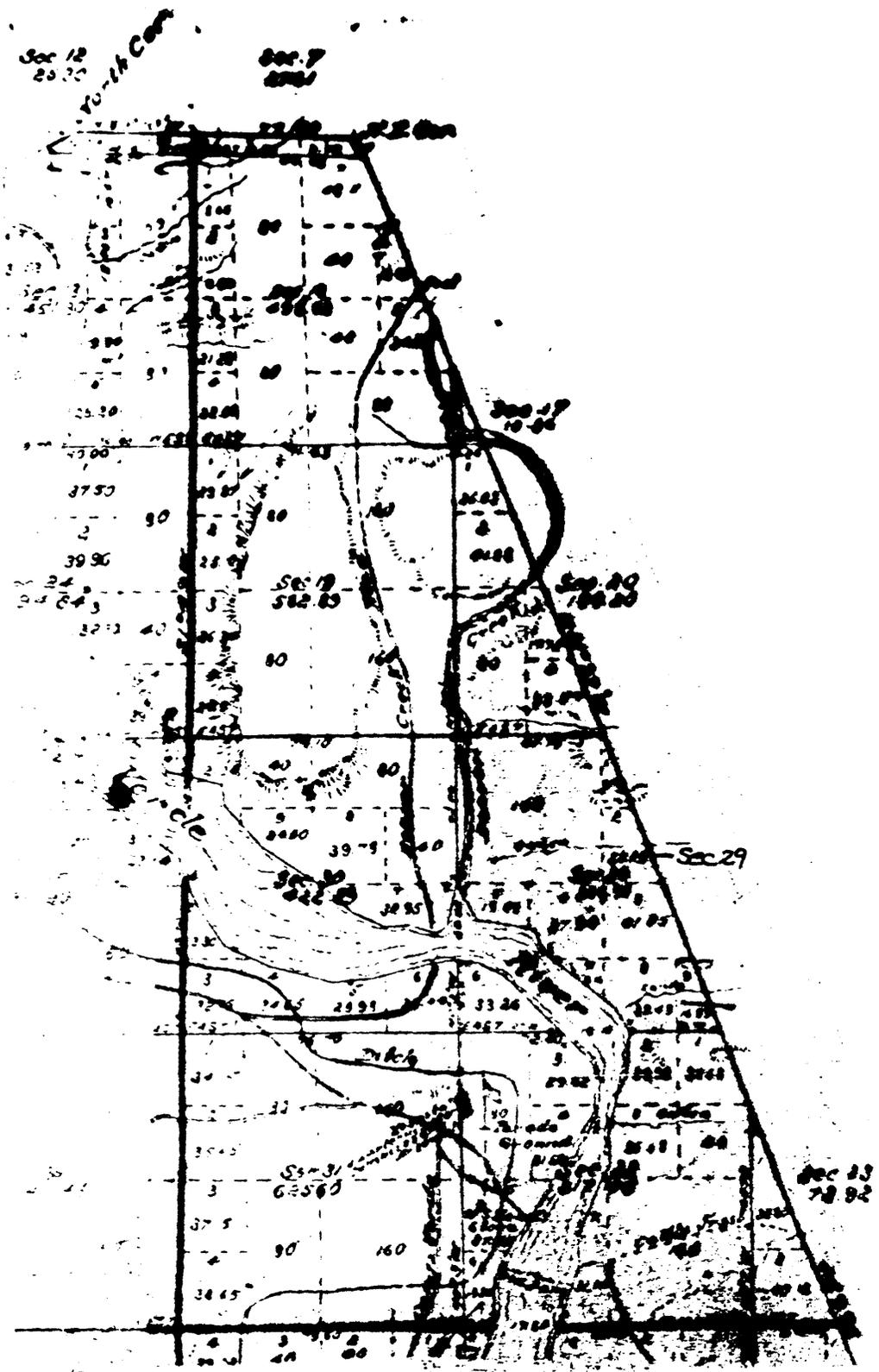


Figure 3. 1892 MAP OF NORTHEAST PORTION OF
"CAMP VERDE MILITARY RESERVATION."

Pecan Lane Rural Historic Landscape lies in NW 1/4 of Section 29 along west bank of Beaver Creek.

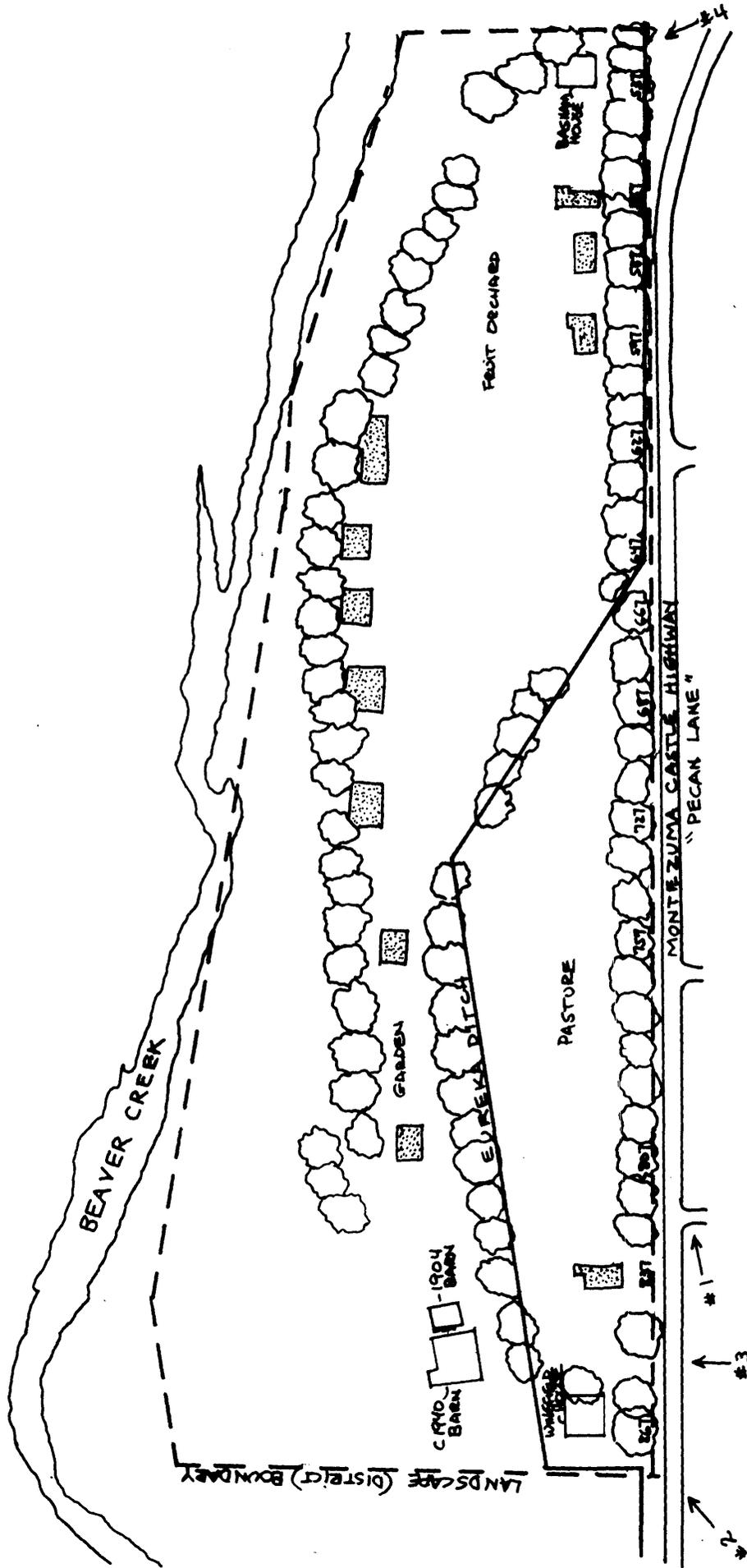


Figure 2. PECAN LANE RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
Camp Verde, Yavapai County, Arizona

- KEY
- Non-contributors
 - Pecan tree
 - Photo number & camera view #1 →
- Contributors: Wingfield house, 1904 barn, c1940 barn, Eureka Ditch, Basham house, eastern row of pecans, central row of pecans, western row of pecans, pasture, garden, fruit orchard.

