1. Name of Property

---

historic name: Hardyville Cemetery
other names/site number: Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery

2. Location

---

street & number: 1776 Highway 95
City or town: Bullhead City
State: Arizona code: AZ county: Mohave
Vicinity: ___
Zip code: 86442

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. Gardner, Arizona State Parks
Signature of certifying official
Date: 11 July 2001

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  
- determined eligible for the National Register  
- determined not eligible for the National Register  
- removed from the National Register  
- other (explain):  

**ENTERED AUG 30 2001**

Signature of Keeper  
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(s)  
- district  
- site  
- structure  
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **N/A**

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: FUNERARY  
- Sub: CEMETERY

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: FUNERARY  
- Sub: CEMETERY
Hardyville Cemetery
Mohave County, Arizona

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
    foundation N/A
    roof
    walls
    other __ Stone - granite
    fence material - steel and wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Statement of Significance

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

    _X_ 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, 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

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.
    _X_ 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.
Hardyville Cemetery
Mohave County, Arizona

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
- Exploration
- Settlement

Period of Significance 1866-1897
Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ 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: Mohave County Historical Library, Kingman
Mohave County Library, Bullhead City Branch
Hardyville Cemetery
Mohave County, Arizona

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elmona (Mona) Dahlstrom - Chapter Historian

organization Ft. Mohave Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

date May 2000

street & number 1390 Willow Lane telephone (520) 758-1830

city or town Bullhead City state AZ zip code 86442

Additional Documentation

Submit the following 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 items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(name City of Bullhead City

street & number 1255 Marina Blvd telephone (520) 763-9400

city or town Bullhead City state AZ zip code 86442)
The Hardyville Cemetery is a unique piece of history. It is the only remaining historic landmark dating back to Hardyville - a once thriving river community nestled on the banks of the Colorado River. Known as a shipping hub, Hardyville was the county seat from April 1867 to April 1873 and was home to the first U.S. Post Office in Mohave County. It was a thriving shipping port for steamboats, which carried both passengers and freight up and down the Colorado River. The cemetery is located in Bullhead City, Arizona, on a cliff overlooking the river in a part of the community with a mix of residential and commercial development. The cemetery, well hidden within a residential neighborhood, is just a few feet away from such commercial businesses as Pizza Hut, Denny’s and Safeway. It rests atop the bluff overlooking Bullhead City’s main roadway through the community, Highway 95, which is used by more than 20,000 cars daily. The Arizona Department of Transportation maintains Highway 95 and a large retaining wall that supports the west side of the cemetery as it rests upon the bluff.

The cemetery itself sits on a small level mesa and was originally fenced with native poles made from small trees. The plot is between 60 to 220 ft long (east-west) by 90 ft wide (north-south), and contains 17 graves sites, each of which is marked by an elongated pile of granite cobble stones, as it was in the 1800s. The cobble sites vary in height from 12 to 18 inches and are an average 3 ft wide by 8 ft long. The graves are approximately six feet apart in two separate rows. There is very little vegetation in the cemetery as is typical in the desert terrain in Bullhead City. It has remained in its natural state with no additional planting. The fence deteriorated over the years and was replaced between 1975-1980 by the local Kiwanis club and the developer of the Holiday Shores development.

There are no grave markers in the cemetery. Over the years, weathering, natural deterioration and vandals caused all but two of them to disappear. Those two were turned into the Kingman, Arizona, Chamber of Commerce by Vern Peterson, who had owned the surrounding property. The Chamber of Commerce then gave the markers to the Mohave Museum of History and Arts - Kingman. The markers are now housed at the Colorado River Museum in Bullhead City. The two head markers are on wooden slabs, 2 inches by 12 inches and about two feet in length. The markers are weathered, but remain quite legible. They are carved in raised relief and indicate the graves of the following.

G.E. Mathews Died May 11, 1867 Age 14 years 8 months
A.O. Perkins Died December 31, 1897
Cemetery Records at the Mohave Museum of History and Arts, Kingman, Arizona; list this information about those buried in Hardyville Cemetery:

Atchison, Capt Chas. - Fort Mohave Soldier and Farmer; Died July 1891
Killian, Johnny - Teamster; Died October 1866
Mathews, G.E.; Died May 1867
Perkins, A.O. - Store Owner; Died December 31, 1897
Tuttle, William J. - Stage Driver; Died May 1867

Since 1982, the cemetery has been maintained by a Bullhead City Boy Scout Troop (Troop 82), under the supervision of the Kiwanis of the Colorado River Club. They have rehabilitated the fence around the property, maintained the granite cobbles and cleaned around each grave site. The City of Bullhead City also provides help and supports the cemetery through its Public Works Department.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8  Page 3  Hardyville Cemetery
name of property
Mohave County, Arizona
county and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hardyville Cemetery meets the National Register Criterion A because it is
the last remaining vestige of the once thriving shipping crossroads and mining
community of Hardyville, Arizona. It is the only piece of history in Bullhead
City, the city now in that location, that dates back to the days of William
Hardy and his efforts to turn the river community into a center for mining and
trading. Due to its great age - there is no earlier cemetery in Mohave County -
and its connection to the history of Hardyville, the site meets Criteria
Consideration D.

Imagine being out in the Mohave Desert, Arizona Territory, in the 1860s and
coming upon a lush growth of cottonwood, willow, mesquite, ironwood, and acacia
trees and an equally lush green meadow. That is what William Harrison Hardy
found as he approached the banks of the Colorado River at a stop known at that
time as "Colorado River Crossing or Ferry." (Per Editor: John Nicholson in
footnotes to "The Arizona of Joseph Pratt Allyn", in 1864.)

William Hardy worked very hard to turn his town into the second county seat. It
also hosted the county's first United States Post Office. It also became a
regional trading center. Hardy was a New York native, crossed the Colorado River
from California and laid out the 80-acre townsite on the east bank roughly six
miles north of the U.S. Military post of Fort Mohave (1850-1890).

However, it didn't take the astute businessman long to turn this ferry area into
"Hardyville," according to correspondence to an Eastern Newspaper, (May 20,
1865). This had become a thriving shipping port for steamboats, which carried
both passengers and freight up and down the river. There was a fleet of barges,
hotel and hotelkeepers, with adjuncts of bar and billiard room, a blacksmith
shop and a five-stamp quartz crushing mill. There was also a block of adobe
houses which Hardy rented out.

The founder of Hardyville was a colorful figure, who tried many kinds of
enterprises: mercantile, raising Angora goats, drilling wells, mining and
building and operating the Mohave-Prescott toll road. The Mohave Road through
Hardyville cut off some 6 to 8 miles from the trip between Fort Whipple
(Prescott) to San Bernardino and points west.
William Hardy was the Postmaster in the first Post Office in Mohave County established January 17, 1865. Weekly mail service between Hardyville and San Bernardino was contracted to start July 1, 1866, but did not start until August 5, 1866. The contract was also to take the mail from Hardyville to Prescott. Later that year, Paiutes crossed the Colorado River near Hardyville and killed a teamster on this route, by the name of John Killian. According to cemetery records from Mohave Museum of History and Arts, John Killian was laid to rest in Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery October 1866, as was James Tuttle a stage driver, May 4, 1867.

Names of the residents in the 1864 census included W.H. Hardy, James Anderson, F. Baker, a mason trade; Perry James Bull, H. Lance; Jack Nicker; J. Chandler and J.H. Hanley. The men in the 1864 census ranged in age from 21 to 42, two of whom were married.

During William H. Hardy’s life on the Colorado River, he was the first postmaster, county supervisor and territorial legislator. Other well-known personages serving as justice of the peace in Hardyville at various times were W. I. and Alonzo C. Haskell and F. M. Mathews. Another item taken from the Arizona Citizen, Tucson, dated March 15, 1873, stated that Judge Samuel Todd died in Hardyville. He was a personal friend of Governor Stafford, who praised him as a gentleman of nobility and high character. Prior to his death an advertisement in the Arizona Miner - September 12, 1871 stated, “Samuel Todd has the largest store in the territory, on the east bank of the Colorado River where he has groceries, provisions, clothing, dry goods, boots and shoes, hardware, tin ware and all other ware. Also liquor, wines, tobacco, cigars, farming and mining implements, and everything also needed by the housekeeper, miner, prospectors, farms, etc., all of which he sells cheap.” The ad continued, “Persons traveling from Nevada and California, Wallapai and other mining districts and vice versa can find no better place to purchase supplies than at Mr. Todd’s Store.”

Sam Todd was born in Springfield, Posey County, Indiana in 1820. He died in March of 1873 in Hardyville, Arizona Territory. No burial records have been found to date.

According to that 1864 Federal Census, Hardy’s Landing had a population of 32, including 22 miners. It is noted that this census included individuals beside miners such as a mason, an attorney, a printer and a farmer. These people had been residents in this informal community, which Hardy subsequently developed.
The 1870 federal census for Hardyville listed 24 males. Occupations represented included 11 laborers, 6 cattle dealers, a grocer, a store clerk and others. Hardy listed property valued at $5,000. Mohave County assessment roll for the year 1866 listed properties in Hardyville, blacksmith shop - value $1,200; house-$400; another house-$300; quartz mill-$1,000; and a few other structures. Hardy’s assessment roll indicated two blocks of abode buildings- $2,000; one quartz mill-$600; corral and feed house-$100; and in addition, merchandise and personal property valued at $1,700.

Secretary of the Territory of Arizona, Richard C. McCormick, in a letter published in the New York Tribune, wrote in June 1865; “Hardyville is a young but active settlement. It has a large trade from the quartz mining district and even from the Wauba-Yuma District, 40 miles in the interior, and from Prescott 160 miles inland. Recently, the Utah people have flocked to Hardyville for their annual supplies, finding it much easier than to go to San Bernardino.”

Hardyville remained and continued to flourish, furnishing the needs of the time until a fire in 1872 and again in 1873. It was rebuilt after the fires but never to its former state. The mail route had been returned to the La Paz Road, much further south, in the early part of 1867. This was a more feasible route because of the terrain and less hostile Indians.

The railroad survey in January and February 1868 proved a more favorable route from Ft. Whipple to the Colorado River but took them about 30 to 40 miles (south) down river from Hardyville. This meant a shorter more direct access to the river and shipping to the West Coast. Mining was moving inland also; to Oatman and Gold Road. With rumors of the railroad coming soon, everyone wanted access to that form of transportation. The railroad was completed in 1883. William Hardy remained in Hardyville operating his business until after the railroad came. Being the astute businessman that he was, shortly after the railroad came to Needles, he saw the opportunity and took his ferry equipment down river and went into the business of transporting cargo and passengers across the Colorado River. Ft. Mohave, about six miles down river from Hardyville in 1890, was deactivated and took the army out of the area. These events, along with the coming of the railroad and mining moving inland, gradually caused the demise of the town of Hardyville.

There are a few mentions of Hardyville Cemetery after this time. A 1917 U.S. General Land Office map of T20N, R22W (surveyed in 1915) indicates a cemetery in use between 1867 and 1897. The site mentioned graves. Also, an article in the Mohave County Miner, Kingman, AZ, dated Sept. 1, 1939, states “The 5000 acre estate of Jesse Sprague Harker will be sold for delinquent taxes. Located within that acreage is the remains of Hardyville, which consists of the structural ruins of reduction mills, numerous residences and graves from many old time citizens.”
With the coming of the railroad in 1883 more and more people came west. The United States government under the Department of the Interior wished to know more about the territory. They authorized exploration of the Colorado River affectionately known as “Big Red” at the time. Arthur Powell Davis was sent to survey the river. He determined at that time, a dam should eventually be constructed in Pyramid Canyon. Identifying a potential dam site in an area known as “Bulls Head Rock”, because of an out-cropping looking like a bull’s head. The rock was expected to be covered with water after the dam was built.

The Bureau of Reclamation started construction of the Dam in 1940, which was named after the Bureau Director, Arthur Powell Davis.

Houses were constructed near the dam site for the officials and engineers and this became known as “Davis Camp”. While about a mile down river a few homes had been built and business sprang up to supply food, building materials, relaxation and other necessities for workers on the dam. This became “Bulls Head” for the landmark they felt would soon be under water. This was changed, probably by accident, by the U.S. Post Office to Bullhead City in 1946.

Work on the dam continued from 1940 to 1942 when it was temporarily abandoned because of World War II. After the war work resumed and was completed in 1953. Davis Dam, Bullhead City, and the former town of Hardyville are all located within what is now know as Bullhead City limits.

Hardyville Cemetery is located within a 238+ acre parcel sold at public auction to Holiday Shores Incorporated an Arizona Corporation in the early 1970s and was being developed as a resort recreation community. (Per Mohave County Records; Book 707, Page 992, dated April 20, 1981.) As previously mentioned, the City of Bullhead City now owns this property and several local organizations work to maintain this last connection to the town of Hardyville.

The cemetery itself is on a small mesa. The construction companies that developed lots in the surrounding area have left the cemetery intact. The integrity of the original cemetery has not been touched. The local residents in the adjacent lots keep a watchful eye on the activities there as does the city to ensure that it remains in its natural state. The Local Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution has erected a monument of native stone with bronze plates outside the eastern entrance to the cemetery. The plates contain a short history of Hardyville and the names/dates of those known persons who are buried within the cemetery. This cemetery was the only civilian cemetery in the area from 1860-1900 and the only gravesite that remains intact for that period.
Research is still ongoing by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for any verifiable names and dates of persons who could have been buried in the cemetery.

Hardyville Cemetery continues to watch over the Colorado River area. It represents a variety of important aspects of the area’s early settlement by William Hardy and the rest of the Hardyville community.
BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Mohave County Historical Museum Library
Kingman, Arizona

Mohave County Library
Bullhead City Branch, Arizona

Phaer, Stanley W., 1970

*Northern Arizona Ghost Towns*

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Hardyville Pioneer Cemetery site. The ca 1860s - 1890s Hardyville cemetery, designated a component of Site AZ F:14:1 (Hardyville) by the Arizona State Museum, is located within the S1/2, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 16, (T20N, R22W) at an elevation of 560 ft above sea level, and is bordered on the north by the approximate south right-of-way for State Route 95, on the west by a steep embankment and private property adjacent to Colina Drive, and on the east by a steep embankment and private property adjacent to Verano Drive. The south bank of the Colorado River is located 800 ft north of the cemetery. Dorado Drive is on the east of the cemetery and where the entrance is. These boundaries are the ones listed on the Mohave County Recorders Records, Book 707, Page 992, Mohave County, dated April 20, 1981 and registered land surveyor #19826; dated 3/15/99.

The cemetery site was on private property until April 27, 1981 at which time the Mohave County Board of Supervisors accepted the Warranty Deed from Joe Hancock, developer of Holiday Shores, Bullhead City, Arizona. Special Warranty Deed, Legal description is:

Parcel A, Block 2, Buena vista Unit 4, Tract 1148, Mohave County, Arizona.

The above Warranty Deed was transferred to Bullhead City by unanimous approval by both Mohave County Board of Supervisors and the Bullhead City Council. Date of transfer February 19, 1999. /s/ James Zaborski, Chairman Mohave County Board of Supervisors, March 8, 1999.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the land that has been historically associated with Hardyville Cemetery and is now owned by the City of Bullhead City.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Section

Hardyville Cemetery
name of property
Mohave County Arizona
county and State

PICTURES, MAP AND SKETCH - HARDYVILLE CEMETERY

1. USGS Map Davis Dam Se Quadrangle 7.5 Series 38/89 7/20
2. Sketch of Hardyville Cemetery - by Elmona Dahlstrom
3. Hardyville Cemetery - taken by Elmona Dahlstrom 3/1999
   (original negatives on file - applies to all photos)
   inside actual grave yard - towards North, North/West
4. Hardyville Cemetery - 10/1999 - taken towards North, North/East
   inside actual grave yard
5. Hardyville Cemetery - 10/1999 - taken towards East, South/East
   inside actual grave yard
6. Hardyville Cemetery - 10/1999 - taken towards East
   inside actual grave yard
7. Hardyville Cemetery - 10/1999 - taken towards North, from
   Pizza Hut parking lot. Steep embankment, south side of
   Hardyville Cemetery.
8. a. Head Markers, remaining from Hardyville Cemetery
    b. Museum Catalogue Records - from Kingman Historic Museum
       Mohave County, Kingman, Arizona
    b. Hardyville Cemetery - Sept. 2, 1965
       taken by Maggie McShane
       Source: Mohave Valley Shopper/Needles Desert Sun