

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 6 1986  
date entered SEP 19 1986

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

1. Name

10 inc

historic Cottonwood Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

N/A not for publication

city, town Cottonwood

N/A vicinity of

state Arizona

code 04

county Yavapai

code 025

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple - see accompanying inventory forms.

street & number

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yavapai County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Plaza

city, town Prescott

state AZ 86301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cottonwood Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date January, 1986  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Phoenix

state Arizona 85007

# 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**

SUMMARY

Cottonwood, Arizona is situated at the upper end of the luxuriant Verde Valley, which traverses the central portion of the state in a southwesterly direction. Mingus Mountain, the area's most prominent peak, rises to a height of 7,825 feet approximately five miles to the west of Cottonwood, and the Red Rock area of Sedona is visible to the east. The Verde River transects the fertile grasslands of the interlying valley, with the river banks still lined by overhanging Cottonwood trees. The original town of Cottonwood was centered along the river, while contemporary growth has expanded the community towards the west.

The Cottonwood Multiple Resource Area encompasses a four square mile area that at one time included the two related communities of Cottonwood and the adjacent smelter town of Clemenceau, which was created by the United Verde Extension Mining Company in 1917. The establishment of Clemenceau dramatically changed the appearance of Cottonwood and the surrounding area from an agricultural setting to an industrial copper smelting center.

Cottonwood today is a regional trading and commercial center serving the scattered smaller communities in the upper Verde Valley. It has a small industrial base, strip commercial development along the major highways through the town, and a burgeoning retirement community.

The Cottonwood MRA contains ten sites which most accurately depict the agricultural origins of Cottonwood and its transition to a copper town and also includes those resources related to the consequent residential development in the town. The residential, commercial, and industrial resources range in date from circa 1880 through 1925 and include a variety of architectural styles, building types, and materials.

HISTORIC CONTEXT - CURRENT APPEARANCE

In 1986 a historic resource survey was undertaken to locate all extant historic properties within the town. The survey boundaries included three major growth areas in the city; Old Cottonwood, Clemenceau, and Smelter City. Other sections within the survey area have been infilled by new subdivisions so that only these three areas have any concentration of historic properties. Many of the residential structures have not survived because of their poor initial construction during the rapid development of the mining town, and many structures were only intended to be temporary facilities. Numerous buildings have also been extensively modified over the years. These factors are responsible for the lack of any cohesive grouping of historic properties, and as a result the properties which were identified by the survey are being nominated as components of the Cottonwood Multiple Resource Area. The ten sites are scattered, but they do tend to be clustered around the historic nodes of Old Cottonwood and Clemenceau. One site, the Thompson Ranch, is outside the community center at a river crossing historically used as an access point into the town, which later became the crossing point of Highway 89A, the main highway through Cottonwood today.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page A

COTTONWOOD MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

NOMINATED SITES

<u>Form Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>
L001	114 W. Main	Willard Home
L009	725 E. Main	Strahan Home
L019	1 N. Willard	Clemenceau School
L022	S. Sixth Street	UVX Machine Shop
L023	315 S. Willard	Garrett Home
L024	333 S. Willard	Langdon Home
L025 A-D	261 S. Willard	UVX Complex (4 contributing buildings)
L026	2874 Hwy. 89-A	Thompson Ranch (2 contributing outbuildings)
L030	1015 N. Cactus	Edens Home
L031	826 N. Main	Cast Block Commercial Building

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7

Page 2

**INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTURE OF COTTONWOOD--THE CLEMENCEAU  
SMELTER DISTRICT**

A wide range of architectural styles and building types is represented by the properties in the MRA. The primary industrial buildings stand in the Clemenceau section, south of the initial town center where the smelter was located. Those structures which remain intact are the four buildings which served as the company offices (L025, A-B-C-D), including the Company Operations Office (L025A), the Changing Room (L025B), then Timekeeper's Office (L025C), and a Clinic building (L025D). All four are one-story utilitarian buildings illustrating the Panel Brick style and are characterized by corbelled brick cornices, engaged piers, and concrete lintels and sills. The Operations office is more imposing with a parapet wall articulated by corbelling and a wrap-around veranda featuring brick piers. Unfortunately, all of the surviving buildings have been sandblasted, but they remain in good condition.

At the adjacent smelter site, the smelter building and smokestack were demolished, and the ore bins have been converted into a shopping complex. Other facilities, the cooling ponds, dumping bins, and other ancillary structures around the smelter complex have been extensively modified. The industrial style smelter machine shop (L022), a two-story, gable-roofed building with a full monitor, does remain intact and is of variegated brick construction.

To the north of the smelter site are two residences built by the UVX company. The Master Mechanic's house (L024) and the Superintendent's Residence (L023) are both major local examples of the Bungalow style.

The major architectural resource in terms of public buildings in Cottonwood is the Spanish Colonial Revival style Clemenceau School (L019), constructed of poured concrete in 1925. The school is located in the center of the Clemenceau neighborhood as it was constructed

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 3

Item number 7

Page 3

adjacent to where the population of smelter workers actually lived. By 1924 the Clemenceau population had reached 5,000, making the construction of the large school essential. Although the architect of the school is unknown, it is presumed to have been the work of a UVX company architect. The use of poured concrete is probably attributable to the experience of the company in using concrete for much of the smelter complex, as well as economic reasons.

#### COTTONWOOD TOWN CENTER

The commercial center of town was established along Main Street prior to the development of the smelter. Although the location of the commercial district never shifted, its appearance changed dramatically over the early years as a result of numerous fires. Following a 1925 fire, an ordinance was passed prohibiting wood construction for commercial buildings. Also, the growth of the town center after 1917 altered its original character so much that very few buildings from before the smelter era survive. Typically, the commercial buildings in the town center have been substantially altered. The most intact commercial building is a single bay, cast block structure (L031) built in 1925 after the ordinance was passed. It is also important as the only example of the use of cast block for a commercial building and is one of only three examples of cast block construction in Cottonwood.

Two other notable structures of local importance to the town center are the stone Civic Club building, 1939, and a steel girder bridge faced with river cobbles, built in 1937-8. The Civic Club building is a large NeoClassic style stone structure featuring a cut sandstone entry and engaged pilasters at the corners. Although not currently nominated due to their age, they may be worthy of nomination in the future.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 4

Item number 7

Page 4

## RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE IN COTTONWOOD

The residences in Cottonwood included within the MRA nomination indicate the evolution of construction materials and architectural styles witnessed before and after the turn of the century. These changes correlate with the shift from the Territorial period styles and the related settlement practices through the shifting architectural styles found in twentieth century communities. The stylistic changes evident in Cottonwood are fairly consistent with other areas of Arizona, particularly in those communities settled by homesteaders migrating from the eastern and midwestern regions of the country.

Cottonwood was first settled in the 1870's by Anglo ranchers from a mid-western background. Buildings were in general indigenous adobe structures utilizing available building materials. Adobe was a common material for temporary residences and was even used for construction of the first school building in 1877.

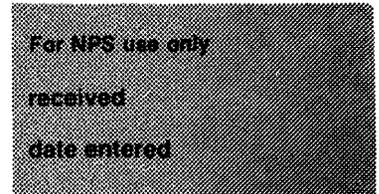
With the construction of the railroad lines across Northern Arizona in 1882, materials for building more permanent houses became more available, although hauling of supplies from Flagstaff remained expensive, and many items still had to be produced locally, including brick.

The earliest known use of brick in the upper Verde Valley occurred in Cottonwood in 1886 when Mary Willard built her Queen Anne style house (L001). Clay was dug near the site, and kilns were constructed to fire the brick.

The Willard house is a sophisticated example of the Queen Anne style, particularly considering its completion in a remote area of Arizona in 1890. It also clearly illustrates how faithfully the midwestern settlers brought their architectural traditions with them to the west.

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

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



Continuation sheet 5

Item number 7

Page 5

Similarly, the Strahan House (L009), was completed in the Western Colonial Revival style circa 1895. It was built of bricks manufactured on the Willard property. Stylistically, the house is also clearly derived from the simplified Queen Anne houses built in Arizona's Territorial period, featuring hip roofs, segmental arched window openings, and broad front porches. At the turn of the century, Colonial Revival styles were also beginning to appear in western towns, and houses began to be built with symmetrical designs suggesting the Colonial Revival influence. The Strahan House reflects this transitional period between the two styles.

The Thompson Ranch (L026) is a ranch complex built at the main crossing of the Verde River on the road to Cottonwood. Built before 1900, the complex includes the house, barn, and outbuildings and is the only one of the ranches established by early Cottonwood area settlers still to be intact. The main house is a vernacular Queen Anne building with a multi-pitched roof, wood siding, and verandas on all sides. It also has a two-story well house built into the rear of the main house.

Simple wood frame structures were the main building type in Cottonwood at the turn of the century; however, stucco was introduced in the 1920's, and many of the frame buildings were covered with stucco. With the arrival of the smelter, numerous frame and stucco buildings were erected for residential and utilitarian purposes. Many of these survive in Cottonwood, although many were either moved or demolished when the smelter closed, as is typical of all Arizona mining communities.

The two Bungalows built for the Superintendent and the Master Mechanic of the UVX (referenced above) also deserve mention here as Cottonwood's most notable examples of the Bungalow style. The superintendent's residence is an elaborate Craftsman Bungalow. Constructed of brick like the other UVX buildings, it still has Craftsman style exterior trim and elaborate interior detailing. Other

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 6

Item number 7

Page 6

features include a full front veranda underneath the main clipped gable roof and a centrally placed jerkinhead dormer. The Master Mechanics house, although less elaborate, also illustrates the Craftsman style and is also built with a variegated pattern in the brickwork.

Another of the major residences in Cottonwood is the Francis and Elta Edens home (L030). Constructed in 1928, it is the town's only example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It is sheathed with stucco and features a coping of Spanish tile along the eaveline and a front porch with arched openings. The Edens family owned and operated the Cottonwood Lumber Yard, one of the major lumber yards in town supplying building materials to merchants during the period of rebuilding of the downtown area after the 1925 fire.

During the depression years, residents again turned to using available materials, and river stone, gathered from the Verde River, became quite common. Numerous residences and several commercial buildings were built with river stone in the 1930's, and its use continued into the 1950's.

#### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The aforementioned Historic Resource Survey was conducted in 1986 by Linda Laird and Associates of Tucson, Arizona, as follows:

##### Field Survey:

Initially, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, current aerial photographs, assessor's maps, and the few written materials available on the community were gathered. Assessor's records were copied, and a few local residents were consulted about the history of the community.

A windshield survey of the entire community was conducted to familiarize the survey team with common building forms, prevalent

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 7

Item number 7

Page 7

architectural styles, details, and construction materials. Structures within the boundaries, which included approximately three square miles, were then evaluated. They were ranked according to level of significance using the following numerical system:

1. Structures that appear to meet the age criterion of 50 years or more, are outstanding architectural statements, and are intact.
2. Structures that appear to meet the age criterion, are common building forms, and are intact or have minor alterations.
3. Structures that appear to meet the age criterion and have been so altered as to irreversibly compromise their architectural integrity.
4. Structures that do not appear to meet the age criterion of 50 years or more.

This information was color coded and mapped. The results were reviewed with the Town of Cottonwood and the State Historic Preservation Office. The decision was made to proceed with an in-depth field survey of 88 structures, which were considered scattered sites since no potential historic district was found.

Each level 1 structure was photographed and videotaped. A computerized field form was tailored to the area and a map was made of all potential historic structures. The State Historic Preservation Office survey forms were completed from the information gathered.

**Research:**

Research was conducted by Wendy Laird, utilizing the Cottonwood Public Library, Arizona State Archives, University of Arizona library collections, and Arizona State Historical Society records.

The following research sources were consulted:

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 8

Item number 7

Page 8

- Current Assessor's Records - provided owner information and building dates.
- Maps - Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1939 were obtained. Current aerial and base maps of the survey area were obtained from the Planning Department.
- Directories - were unavailable.
- Monographs and Articles - see bibliography.
- Collections - Cottonwood Public Library, State Archives Obituary collection, University of Arizona Library, Arizona State Historical Society Library.
- Oral Interviews - Many local residents were gracious and giving of their time and memories. See acknowledgments and bibliography.
- Newspapers - Articles from the Verde Independent, Verde Daily Copper News, and the Jerome Sun were reviewed.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1886-1925      **Builder/Architect** N/A

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY

The major areas of significance of the properties included in the Cottonwood Multiple Resource Area are Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Commerce, and Industry as they relate to the settlement of the Upper Verde Valley in the 1880's, the development of the United Verde Extension Mining Company (UVX) smelter town at Clemenceau, and the related commercial expansion of Cottonwood. Cottonwood initially flourished as an agricultural center supporting regional mines. In 1917 the UVX purchased land on a hill immediately south of Cottonwood and built the Clemenceau smelter to process stockpiled ore from the mines at Jerome. Cottonwood grew rapidly to become the commercial center for the Clemenceau-Clarkdale-Jerome area. The resources included in this nomination reflect the period from initial residential settlement through the influence of the UVX on Cottonwood until the smelter closed in 1939.

### COTTONWOOD HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

#### THE VERDE VALLEY - PREHISTORY

Cottonwood, Arizona is situated at the upper end of the luxuriant Verde Valley. Mingus Mountain rises to a height of 7,815 feet to the west of town, and the red rocks of Sedona are visible to the northeast. A large quantity of Cottonwood trees remain, lining the banks of the Verde River. Lush grasslands abound throughout the Verde Valley. The climate is mild and attractive to settlement.

Evidence of prehistoric Indian dwellings is found throughout the Verde Valley. The reconstructed ruins at Tuzigoot National Monument are a few miles north of Cottonwood. These ruins, built between 1125 and 1400 A.D., once housed the Sinagua who built the rock dwellings, farmed the lush valley, and hunted and gathered wild plants and animals. They used stone tools such as axes, knives, and hammers, and manos and metates for grinding grain. They wove cotton and dried skins for clothing and fashioned ornaments of shell, turquoise, and red stones. The Sinagua mysteriously abandoned the area by 1425.

More recently the Yavapai Indians lived along the Verde at Cottonwood. They followed a nomadic existence, living in caves and camping in temporary wickiups along the river, gathering wild plants, and hunting animals. Some domesticated plants were also farmed. They were loosely organized in small bands of several family units. Each band ranged over a large territory of 1,600 to 2,000 square miles that included several environmental zones, each with specific resources.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See individual forms.

Quadrangle name Cornville, Cottonwood, and Clarkdale

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See individual forms.

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundaries of the nominated properties are defined as the tax parcel numbers for each site as currently drawn on the Cottonwood tax parcel map. Numbers and individual maps are appended to each form.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Laird Edited by Roger A. Brevoort, Arizona SHPO

organization Linda Laird and Associates date February, 1986

street & number 735 N. Fourth Avenue telephone (602) 792-1802

city or town Tucson state Arizona 85705

# 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Donna J. Schuber

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 21, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews date 9/19/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: See Continuation sheet for Justing date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 9

Item number 8

Page 2

The band followed the plant ripening seasons, scattering throughout a large area for much of the year. Leaders were those men with the greatest knowledge of subsistence and location of resources. After a successful season of gathering, the bands would come together to dance, exchange stories, and to seek spouses for the unmarried. The Yavapai lived in this manner until the middle of the nineteenth century when Anglo settlement thoroughly disrupted their lifestyle along the Verde.

#### SPANISH EXPLORATION

The first explorer known to view the Cottonwood area was Antonio de Espejo. He arrived in the valley in May, 1583, twenty-four years before the English founded Jamestown. Espejo had first heard of the rich mineral deposits in the Mingus Mountains while exploring the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico and literally followed the rumor west. With Hopi guides to show the way, the Spaniard descended the Mogollon Rim by way of Rattlesnake Canyon. Diego Perez de Luxan, the expedition's chronicler, described the area: "We descended a slope so steep and perilous that a mule belonging to Captain Antonio de Espejo fell and was dashed to pieces. We went down by a ravine so bad and craggy that we descended with difficulty...This place (the Verde Valley) is surrounded by an abundance of grapevines and by many walnut and other trees. This is a warm land in which there are parrots. The whole region is warm rather than cold."

The Espejo party crossed the Verde River at the Bridgeport Crossing and continued up to the mines at present day Jerome where Luxan reported "...the mines were so worthless that we did not find in any of them a trace of silver, as they were copper mines, and poor."

Other Spanish explorers briefly crossed the valley during the next quarter century, but the continuing hostility of the Apache and the difficult terrain on the Mogollon Rim prevented intensive exploration until the mid-19th century.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 10

Item number 8

Page 3

AMERICAN EXPANSION AND THE SETTLEMENT OF ARIZONA

Westward expansion beyond the Ohio Valley began in earnest with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The 1840's brought cautious government support for the pioneer movement across the "Great American Desert." The mapmaking expeditions of Charles Fremont opened the Oregon Trail. The California Gold Rush, which began in 1849, brought the West with its mineral resources to the attention of the American populace.

The War with Mexico brought vast new territorial holdings to the United States. The Territory of New Mexico, which included all of Arizona, was created as part of the Compromise of 1850. The Gadsden Purchase followed in 1854, adding the portion of Arizona that lies south of the Gila River. The new land attracted several hundred settlers and prospectors, and a few small settlements came into existence.

The Verde Valley was explored by K.S. Woolsey, Lieutenant Colonel of Commanding Volunteers from the Weaver and Walker mines, in the summer of 1864. By January of 1865 a party of settlers left Prescott to settle the lower Verde. The need for military protection was so great that Camp Lincoln (later moved and renamed Camp Verde) was established in September, 1865.

By the 1860's there were a few thousand settlers in the Arizona territory and an increasing number of military personnel. The Civil War brought further confusion as Washington tried to balance North/South tensions and the effect of slavery on new territories. On February 24, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Organic Act which created a separate Arizona Territory. The territorial capital was established in 1864 at Prescott (Fort Whipple) because Tucsonans, in the southern part of the Territory, were known to sympathize with the South.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 11

Item number 8

Page 4

By 1871, Indian depredations had caused the United States government to establish a reservation for the Yavapai that extended forty miles up the river from Camp Verde and ten miles on either side of the river. This reservation included much of present day Cottonwood. Unfortunately, Indian raids continued until in the winter of 1872 General Crook launched a successful campaign that ended with the surrender of chief Chalipun on the Commanding Officer's doorstep at Camp Verde. The Yavapai were again placed on the Rio Verde Reservation. In 1874 soldiers from Camp Verde were probably the first Anglos to settle in Cottonwood when troops from the 6th Cavalry and the 9th Infantry were stationed there.

Although the Indian threat persisted through the end of the nineteenth century, the establishment of the Territorial capital, the increased interest in mining in the Mingus Mountains, and the military presence at Camp Verde continued to draw settlers into the central regions of Arizona. The Verde Valley offered prime agricultural land with a mild climate and was ripe for settlement if the Indian problem could be resolved. By December, 1883, two companies of California Volunteers were occupying Camp Verde.

Over a decade later, James H. Strahan, who arrived with his parents in Cottonwood in 1878, reminisced: "We were afraid old Geronimo and his band of renegade Indians would come back to the reservation so we fortified up and sent out our best scouts to look for signs...(which) proved to be a false alarm, so we disbanded and went home again until the next scare...We never got to see Geronimo until we went to the World's Fair at St. Louis in 1904. He had been tamed and looked all right."

HOMESTEAD PERIOD AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 12

Item number 8

Page 5

Military protection, although not always effective in preventing raids, encouraged the opening of the Verde Valley to permanent settlement by homesteaders. By the 1870's, small homes and outbuildings dotted the agricultural lands of the Valley, and a wagon trail ran through the region, bringing additional settlers. It became customary for travelers to stop for the night at a thick grove of cottonwood trees on the Verde River. The town of "The Cottonwoods" was settled at this location and named for the trees.

In the same period, prospectors were again exploring the mines in the Mingus Mountains to the west. In 1873 Captain John D. Boyd headed an experienced group of men who located and filed claims on a number of mines, including the North and South Chrome, the North and South Azure, the Gift, and the North and South Venture. These were the same mines that Espejo had reported as lacking ores, but which are now known as the United Verde Mines. The mines, though rich in copper ore, were difficult to develop due to the lack of transportation. Eastern financiers sent James S. Douglas to look the situation over in 1880 when the nearest rail line was in Pueblo, Colorado. His recommendation was "Don't invest."

Most of the early homesteaders came to the Verde Valley via the Santa Fe Trail looking for rich land in a mild climate to homestead. In some instances one family member or neighbors made the long trek and sent word back to the mid-west encouraging others to come west. Several large families, the Willards, the Bristows, and the Strahans, immigrated to the valley as a group.

The four Willard brothers, Ninian, Charles, Dolph, and Alex, arrived in Cottonwood in June, 1879. They had started for the Verde the previous fall, driving a large herd of cattle from Pine Valley, California. Their father, Joel, was moving the family to a warmer climate for his health. His condition worsened and the four grieving sons buried their father near Kingman, Arizona at Dolan Springs. Two of the brothers, Ninian and Alex, drowned in the Verde the same month they arrived in Cottonwood.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 13

Item number 8

Page 6

Their grieving mother, Mary, remained at the ranch in Pine Valley with three younger children, Frances, Mac, and Jim, until 1883 when they joined the brothers in Cottonwood. Mary Willard bought a large tract of land and homesteaded another parcel. Her sons planted alfalfa, an orchard, and a garden on her land. With the help of her sons, she began building a large, two-story Queen Anne style house (L001) on her homestead in 1885. Clay was dug near the site and kilns were constructed. This was the first brick known to have been manufactured in the Upper Verde Valley.

"During the month of January of 1890, Mary Willard's two-story brick house was completed. There was a fireplace in every room, even the bathroom, except one bedroom upstairs which could be closed off from the large front room or opened up with double sliding doors. The house was very well furnished and there was even a Steinway Square piano in the front room upstairs." -- Sally Munds Williams.

Many Willards and Garrisons were to be born in this large rambling house. Charles homesteaded the acreage across the road from his mother and built an equally impressive home (now demolished by fire).

Many pioneer reminiscences were collected in 1933 and included in Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley which was published by the Verde Valley Pioneers Association. The following memories are taken from that collection:

"Arriving at our destination, my father worked at hauling hay for the government with an ox team...We then bought a ranch from the Casner brothers at Cottonwood. Here we lived, wresting our living from the soil, raising corn to be made into meal and all sorts of vegetables for our table. Our flour, coffee, and sugar were bought sometimes from Captain Russell at Fort Verde. Other times, when it was possible to pass peacefully through Indian territory, we

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 14

Item number 8

Page 7

purchased our commodities at Prescott, 40 miles away." -- Naomi Bristow Strahan.

More and more settlers were arriving in the Cottonwood vicinity. Some farmland was sold to newcomers by previous homesteaders who were eager to invest in cattle, but the majority of the early families stayed, and ultimately became quite successful by raising the crops that would support the mining population in Jerome.

"By this time - 1877 - most of the available land for farming had been located...Beginning at the upper end of the valley lived the Hawkins family who were farming land located on the banks of Peck Lake. Jim O. Bristow lived on the place that later became the home of Mrs. Mary Willard...On down the river the farm known now as the Jerome Dairy belonged to Dave Strahan...Joining the Strahan's place, Bill and Henry Wingfield lived. The Wingfield brothers soon bought cattle and moved to the Mogollon mountains. This place later became the homes of Dolph Willard and Tom Carrol." -- J.M.W.

The Strahan family subsequently built a large brick home (L009) on the south side of the highway, using brick from the Willard's kilns. This Western Colonial Revival style residence and Grandma Willard's home (L001) are the only remaining brick residences from the settlement period of Cottonwood. Both are also significant for their architectural design. The Willards, from California, and the Strahans, from Kansas, transplanted new styles into the area and utilized more sophisticated elements such as crowned hoods over windows, turned wood posts, and brick walls.

By the mid-1870's, Cottonwood was well on its way to becoming a permanent settlement. A school building was erected in 1877 and a temporary post office established in 1879. Land for a cemetery, beside the school, was donated to the community in 1879.

**RAILROADS, MINING DEVELOPMENT AND COTTONWOOD'S  
RELATIONSHIP TO JEROME**

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 15

Item number 8

Page 8

Concurrent with Cottonwood's initial settlement in the 1870's, the mines at Jerome were steadily developing, with transportation of ore the largest stumbling block. The Atlantic & Pacific Railroad was laid across northern Arizona in 1882. A wagon road was built from Ash Fork to Jerome, but freight rates were high -- \$20 per ton one way.

By 1886 a standard gauge rail line, the Prescott and Arizona Central, had been completed to Prescott. The freight line from the Verde Valley connected at Jerome Junction in Chino Valley. This brought new materials and goods much closer to Cottonwood. In 1895 the Santa Fe Railroad bought out the Atlantic & Pacific and ran a new line, the Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix, from Ash Fork to Phoenix. This line also went through Chino Valley.

William Andrew Clark, a United States Senator from Montana, purchased the United Verde Mine in 1888 and Jerome began to boom. Fluctuating copper prices, however, decreed the necessity of lower freighting costs, and in 1895, under Clark's direction, the narrow gauge United Verde and Pacific Railway was completed between Chino Valley and the mines at Jerome. With 186 curves, this difficult piece of railroad construction was described as "the crookedest line in the world." The Jerome depot was located several hundred feet above and a mile northwest of the town.

By the end of the century, with the Verde Valley connected by rail with the outside world, Jerome was becoming a major mining center. The Jerome Reporter, printed on December 28, 1899, told the story: "As the smelter and mine were extended, the swift camp of Jerome kept pace. At first but a small gathering of canvas and pine board shacks, it rapidly became a city closely built up of pretentious edifices. ...it (Jerome) was incorporated and a Council appointed by the Board of Supervisors, consisting of...well known citizens... stringent fire and building regulations were drafted, and today we have as a monument to their steadfastness a modern town of brick

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 16

Item number 8

Page 9

and stone, with cement sidewalks, graded streets, electric lights and telephone system, and a model police surveillance."

Down below in the Verde Valley, Cottonwood farmers were growing the food that fed Jerome. Mac Willard started the Jerome Dairy. Lon Mason ran the post office from his dry goods store. Charles Stemmer and Lon Mason took some time in 1908 to lay out Main Street by pulling a heavy wooden beam, called a drag, down Main Street. Valley farmers grew fruits and vegetables to be sold "up the hill." Cattlemen provided the beef. It was this agricultural activity, generated by Jerome's growth, that caused Cottonwood to flourish in the early twentieth century, and the town grew accordingly.

In 1911 another railroad line was begun to connect the Verde Valley directly to the main rail lines. The standard gauge Verde Valley Railroad linked the proposed smelter town of Clarkdale, located between Jerome and Cottonwood, with the Santa Fe Railroad. The United Verde Mining Company provided the building materials and rail connection necessary for the new smelter. The Clarkdale facilities were the first major expansion of UVX operations outside of Jerome. This rail line still functions today, primarily hauling cement and flagstone.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COTTONWOOD SMELTER

By the second decade of the twentieth century, the mining industry was coming ever closer to Cottonwood. As soon as the smelter and the company town of Clarkdale (1915) were built, the United Verde began looking for a location to build a second smelter. Spurred in part by the forecasting and preparation of the United States for World War I, the UVX had stockpiled 10,000 bins of copper ore at Jerome, that by 1917 were essential for wartime production. All of the surplus ore had been shipped to the smelters that the UVX mining interests also owned in the city of Douglas, located in the extreme southeastern corner of the state. The cost of transportation and the wartime demand for fast production were jointly factors that

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 17

Item number 8

Page 10

necessitated additional smelter capacity. The UVX facility in Cottonwood is the result.

The hill above Cottonwood was selected as the site of the second smelter, and homesteads were purchased from Waldo Dykus, the Connallys, and the Ellefson sisters. Smoke rights were prudently purchased by UVX for the entire neighboring valley. The company knew that the smelter would destroy the lush cropland around Cottonwood, and with the purchase of these smoke rights, they assured a more comfortable transition of the agricultural land. The Cottonwood economy shifted within a short period of time from an agricultural base to industrial support for the second UVX smelter built in the area that would become known as Clemenceau.

The Verde Valley Improvement Company was formed by Charles Willard, and speculation began in earnest. Many of Cottonwood's original families, shifting from agriculture, were quick to capitalize on the rapid industrialization.

"Lured back into the Valley by the great prospects afforded by the sudden prominence of the United Verde Extension Mining Company, mother and I once more came back to the Verde...and also visited my old friend, Charles D. Willard. The Verde Valley Improvement Company had just purchased ten acres from Alonzo Mason and was selling lots in the sub-division called Cottonwood Addition. I persuaded Mr. Willard to subdivide forty acres on the west of the County Road (old Highway 89A) along the east side of which the Cottonwood Addition fronted. He and I laid out his Willard Addition and in the Office of the County Recorder in Prescott can be seen the blueprint of the sub-division I made." -- Charles Stemmer.

#### THE UVX SMELTER COMPLEX AND THE ORIGINS OF CLEMENCEAU

The smelter was built in 1917 in the area roughly bounded by South Sixth Street, South Willard, East Cherry, and Highway 89A. It was designed to handle 500 tons of ore each day brought in by rail from

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 18

Item number 8

Page 11

the Jerome mines. The new smokestack was 425 feet tall, the highest in the world. The bedding bins (now Clemenceau Plaza) were built of reinforced concrete several feet thick. The machine shop (L022) was built of variegated brick with metal expansion joints and stands two stories tall with a monitor roof. The cooling ponds were behind the electric shop, and children were sometimes allowed to use them as a swimming pool.

To the west is a group of four brick buildings that housed the Company Office (L25A), the Changing Room (L25B), the Timekeeper's Office (L25C), and a Clinic (L25D). The four brick one-story buildings are similar in Commercial style. The Change Room, Timekeeper's Office, and Clinic are rectangular, flat-roofed buildings, displaying corbelled cornices and engaged brick piers with concrete lintels and sills. The operations office is more imposing with a flat roof and parapet with concrete cap row, multi-engaged brick piers with decorative brickwork displayed on the core building, and a wide veranda that surrounds it on three sides. A concrete foundation was added in the 1940's.

Two "modern residences" in the Bungalow style were built just to the north of the complex. These bungalows housed the families of the Master Mechanic, Mr. Langdon (L024), and the Smelter Supervisor (L023). (The supervisor's home later became the residence of John Garrett, a prominent Arizona pharmacist. Garrett moved to Cottonwood in 1919 and owned and operated drugstores until 1965. He was recognized by the University of Arizona for his outstanding contribution to the history of pharmacy in the state, having practiced for 72 years. Garrett was the first Mayor of Cottonwood, when the town was incorporated in 1960, and served for two terms.)

The building of the smelter did not occur without problems as the Verde Daily Copper News reported on August 14, 1917: "Notwithstanding the idleness of the structural steel workers at the new smelter, owing to a misunderstanding in regard to the wage scale, considerable steel continues to arrive, and it is hoped that the

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 19

Item number 8

Page 12

differences will be adjusted shortly and work on the new smelter prosecuted without further delay. When seen yesterday, Supt. McCurnin of the Kansas City Structural Steel Co. remarked to the representative of the News that he had nothing to say concerning the situation."

The new facility, although seen as temporary by the company from the beginning, fostered growth of a whole new section of Cottonwood, initially a separate town called Verde. UVX company housing was built at the townsite along curvilinear streets on either side of West Mingus Avenue. The houses were wood frame with outdoor privies called "Chic Sales." Toilet rooms were added at the rear in the thirties. The best remaining example, though now stuccoed, is the Plumstead Home (L021 - not nominated). Approximately eighty of these homes were built in 1917.

A company store, clubhouse (where the first radio reception was heard), a restaurant, gazebo (where the UVX band played), a commissary (the concrete slab still remains), Garret and Norris drugstore, and boarding houses were nearby. The Baptist Church met in the theater. The Verde Hill Cigar Company opened a dance hall. A post office was established on October 10, 1917, and the town was officially named Verde. The Bank of Clemenceau (L020) was established with James S. Douglas as President.

Newspaper articles from the Verde Daily Copper News describe the company town's beginnings in 1917:

"The new bunk houses under course of construction on the north side of the U.V. Extension camp are being rushed to completion as rapidly as possible on account of a scarcity of sleeping quarters. Each of the bunk houses will be 12 X 300 feet and have a capacity of 60 men, thus furnishing sleeping accommodations for 129 more men. Even with this additional number of single rooms, it is expected that others will be necessary when the Extension company finally has a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 20

Item number 8

Page 13

full quota of men employed and is considered working under full headway." August 14, 1917

"Every size and description of habitation can be seen on the hill just north of the temporary townsite at the U.V. Ex. camp. In a short time all the vacant space on that particular site will have been taken up, and "another addition" to Verde will have to be started." August 24, 1917

The population fluctuated between 1,000 and 5,000. Most families lived in company housing and paid \$12 per month, including water and utilities, a bargain for workers who earned \$3 to \$6 per day. A small Mexican community was built by individual families to the north of Verde (Clemenceau) on land rented from the company. These Mexicans came mostly from Sonora and the northern province of Jalisco. Julia Avalos remembers that these young men came "looking for a better life, spending the earned money at 'home' in Mexico." It had a bakery and a pool hall. Many miners chose to live in Cottonwood and new housing sprang up rapidly. Joseph Becchetti owned a number of houses in Clemenceau townsite, which he rented to the UVX workers. (See copy of receipt slips for rent paid.)

In 1920 the Post Office Department noted that there were several communities in Arizona with the name of Verde and that some confusion was occurring. James S. Douglas had met and become acquainted with the French Prime Minister, Georges Clemenceau, while doing Red Cross work in France during World War I. He chose to honor his friend by naming the company town Clemenceau. The name was changed on July 4, 1920.

School rooms for the children of the workers were immediately necessary and a temporary school was built in Clemenceau. "As the population grew, the school district, with the aid of the company, built a large frame building on land now occupied by the Cottonwood Civic Club which was used until 1924, at which time the company

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 21

Item number 8

Page 14

erected a \$100,000 structure and furnished it, donating buildings and furnishings to Cotton-Clemenceau School." --Charles Stemmer.

The new elementary school (L019), on the hill at the corner of North Willard and East Mingus Avenue, was just across the street from the Clemenceau townsite. Built in 1924 by the UVX mining company, the large Spanish Colonial style school provided schooling to grades one through nine. High school students were bussed to Clarkdale, although a number of the more affluent families sent their children to Phoenix for further education after grade school.

#### COTTONWOOD IN 1917 - A YEAR OF BOOMTOWN GROWTH

The year 1917 markedly altered the town of Cottonwood. The Verde Daily Copper News, published in Jerome, ran a column in 1917 entitled "Clarkdale, Verde and Cottonwood." The following stories were reported:

Emil Kovacovich hired Gilmore, Schwitters and Chesney to build a one-story concrete store thirty-six feet by sixty feet. The cost was \$5,000. - March 22

F.L. Fraunce was offering land to build on in the Verde Addition. Twenty-four business lots were for sale at \$150, \$175, and \$200. Thirty-six residential lots were offered at \$100, \$125, and \$150. Terms were \$25 down, \$10 per month at no interest, with 5% off for cash. By mid-May the lots were sold. - April (no date)

"Lots have been secured and a Methodist church is soon to be erected." - May 17

Charles Stemmer and Matt Mungovan announced that they were building a dance pavilion on Main Street. The pavilion, in the Bungalow style with a spacious porch surrounding a sixty by seventy-five foot maple floor, would provide entertainment for the weary miners. - June (no date)

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 22

Item number 8

Page 15

The Kovacovich store opened. The store owner had underestimated his business by 800% and would soon employ five men to sell the fresh fruits and vegetables supplied by farmers in the Oak Creek and Verde Valley areas. He also carried hardware. - June 17

"Cottonwood Growth Phenomenal; Future is most Rosy Looking"

"Where formerly but a post office, one store, and several substantial brick ranch houses and outbuildings went to make up the little hamlet of Cottonwood, there are today between 30 and 35 places of business...urgent needs are a bakery, laundry, resident physician, drugstore, and bank." - July 2

The Upper Verde Baptist Church moved to Verde. Services were held in the new theater building. - July 31

"Cottonwood can now boast of its first concrete pavement, finished last evening..." It was on Main Street. - August 14

"Cottonwood has under course of construction its first manufacturing enterprise. The business will be known as the Cottonwood Bottling Works and is owned by Messrs. Erickson and Rucker." - September 4

A cement plant is called for. Experienced workers, sand, and gravel are abundantly available. - September 6

The Progressive Association was looking at bids for the grading of Main Street. "Careless and extremely fast driving of autoists passing through Cottonwood" was decried. - September 22

Perry and Paine were wiring homes and businesses for the electricity soon to be furnished by the Cottonwood Electric Company. - October 13

"Cottonwood Fire Risks Cancelled"

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 23

Item number 8

Page 16

"All outstanding insurance in Cottonwood has been canceled as a result of the fire which devastated the business section of that town Sunday night...no more insurance will be written in Cottonwood until buildings of a better class are put up or adequate fire protection is provided." The fire burned out of control and destroyed the area between Cottonwood Lumber Company (where the Sundial Motel (L003) now stands) and the Cottonwood Drug Store. - December 7

And so it went in 1917, and for several years after, as the United Verde Extension built the smelter on the hill to the south of Cottonwood, changing it from a sleepy little village to an up-and-coming town.

#### EXPANSION AND COMMUNITY GROWTH--1920-1937

Cottonwood continued to expand after the construction of the smelter. A residential area quickly grew up around the commercial district on Main Street. Many people lived in tents until they could construct the two- and three-room wood frame buildings that were most common. Shotgun style buildings are mentioned in the early years; Bungalow styles became more prevalent in the thirties.

The area east of the smelter and the town center began to develop as the population expanded. This new area was called "Smelter City." Modest vernacular structures were built of a variety of materials. After the smelter closed, some of the Clemenceau houses were moved down the hill to this area.

Stucco came into use and covered some of the wood frame residences. It was used as the prevalent exterior wall surface by the thirties. Pascual Trujillo, a smelter worker, was the first person in Cottonwood to use stucco. He built a total of five frame and stucco houses.

One Spanish Colonial style residence (S009) was built and is the premier example of this style of architecture in Cottonwood. Cast

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 24

Item number 8

Page 17

block was used to build two homes (S024), (S028), and one business, an Italian restaurant (S022).

There are four very small residences that deserve some mention as a group, although they are not eligible for the National Register. These modest dwellings were built of variegated and clinker bricks that came from the smelter where workers periodically replaced the furnace bricks that were damaged by the intense heat of the smelter operation. The homes were built at scattered locations over a ten-year period: 801 N. 6th Street (S035), built in 1924; 1644 E. Mingus (S054), built in 1929; 16 N. 17th Street (S053), built in 1934; 1309 E. Cochise (S046), built in 1934. Andrew Jackson Thomas, a smelter worker and part-time mason, is rumored to have helped with the construction.

Another building material commonly used during the years of the Great Depression was river stone. Inexpensive and free for the hauling, it was used to build residences (S056), (S047), (S058), (S029), (S038), the bridge on West Main (L002), the Eden Motel (L003), and the Cottonwood Community Civic Center (L006). River stone was also used in the fifties to build some of the businesses along South Main Street.

### FIRE

Fires had a major impact on the development of Cottonwood. Most businesses and residences were built of wood frame and thus burned easily. To add to this problem, Main Street had a wood boardwalk which extended from the present day Rialto to the "Cottonwood Hotel" (L004). This boardwalk was built in three levels of 2x12 planks spaced one-half inch apart. Virginia Montonye recalls, "The kids used to crawl under the boardwalk to gather stray coins lost by people." The 1925 fire, which was the most devastating of all fires in Cottonwood, began, it is surmised, in the cracks of this boardwalk,

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet 25

Item number 8

Page 18

possibly from a discarded cigar. It began between the Rialto Theater and MacIntyre's Hardware (now the Leaf Line (L005)).

An article in the Verde Independent on December 1, 1960 best describes the continuing fire problem in Cottonwood:

"Fire Has Hit Often in Cottonwood"

"A form of calamity that has hit often and tragically in Cottonwood's history has been the ravage of fire...

A two-story frame hotel that was located...(at the northeast corner of East Pima and Main) burned to the ground in November of 1922.

Probably the worst occurred on April 20, 1925 when a 45 mile per hour wind spread a fire which destroyed the entire area from Verde Hardware to the Stemmer Building (about three-fourths of Main on the west side). ...fourteen business houses, two residences on Main Street, nine residences, warehouses, garages, and automobiles were razed.

In 1933 another blaze destroyed the McGimsey building, a clothing store, two residences, and a hot dog stand (on the south side of Main), and the following year in February fire destroyed four business buildings and a residence which was built where Cottonwood Cafe now stands (Vaughter's Printing today)."

#### THE DEATH OF COPPER

The copper mines at Jerome were always seen as a finite resource by the UVX and Phelps Dodge. As the copper ore dwindled, plans were made to shut down the mines and smelters. On December 31, 1936, the Clemenceau smelter closed. The railroad equipment and rails were sold to Japan. The smokestack remained until the forties when it was dynamited. The massive concrete ore dumping bins were converted to a shopping center in the seventies. The office complex (L025A-D) was used for social service activities.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 26

Item number 8

Page 19

Clemenceau almost became a ghost town. Some of the houses were moved down the hill into Smelter City and Cottonwood. Others were patched together with a variety of materials, with new additions tacked on, and remain today as low-income housing with little thought for building safety code. The bank (L020) has been converted to a church. A concrete slab is all that remains of the company store.

Life was hard in the small community of Cottonwood after the closing of the mines. The nation was in the grips of the Great Depression, at the same time that the local economy went bankrupt. Federal relief programs such as NRA, CCC, and WPA provided assistance to the town. The excavation of Tuzigoot National Monument and the building of the visitor's center provided employment. Road building was another WPA project. The bridge (L002) on Main Street over Blowout Wash was constructed in 1936-1937. WPA funds also provided training in Native American crafts to the Yavapai Indian women in the area.

In 1937 the Women's Service Club (later called the Community Civic Club) was organized by Mrs. Catherine Robinson. The women immediately set out to organize a cleanup week, send Boy Scouts to camp, serve at luncheons and dinners, buy glasses for needy children, and support the Progressive Association's project of better fire protection for Cottonwood.

In January, 1938 the members focused their collective attention on fund raising to build a community center. The WPA furnished two-thirds of the funding and the rest was matched locally. Many bake sales were held and many breakfasts were served to help raise the money. Charles Willard loaned the club ladies the final amount needed and the building was begun in November.

The rectangular, flat-roofed building (L006), faced with river rock, was completed in 1939 and was used as a town hall. During World

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 27

Item number 8

Page 20

War II, the building was leased to the Defense Department as barracks for the Naval Air Cadet Flight Training Programs held at the Cottonwood Airport. The cadets used the cast-block commercial building on the other side of the street at 826 N. Main for their mess hall (L031).

**COTTONWOOD TODAY**

Due to Cottonwood's location, the town benefitted slightly from Arizona's growing tourist industry in the 1940's and 1950's, but it has never regained any economic viability. Gradually, because of its mild climate and beautiful setting, Cottonwood has begun to attract retirees.

Many of the old families remain or have moved back to their hometown -- Garrison, Garrett, Becchetti, Medigovich, Ochoa, and Trujillo. New shopping centers have been built, new residential areas have developed, and very little of the built environment remains from the exciting smelter years.

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet 28

Item number 9

Page 1

Interviews by Linda Laird

Interview with Pasqual Trujillo and his daughters, Velia and Mary Lou. Cottonwood, Arizona: October, 1985.

Interview with George Siler. Cottonwood, Arizona: October, 1985.

Interview with Jennie Garrison. Cottonwood, Arizona: October, 1985.

Interview with Eva Girdner Stone. Cottonwood, Arizona: October, 1985.

Interview with Sally Munds Williams. Cottonwood, Arizona: October, 1985.

Interviews by Wendy Laird

Interview with Jim Benson. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Julia Avalos. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Virginia Montonye. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Thelma Farley. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Ernesto and Emma Ochoa. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Kathryn Klein. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Charles Garrison. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Don Willard. Carefree, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Frank Becchetti. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Rachel Verretto. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Richard "Pat" and Eudora Patterson. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Mike Medigovich. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Interview with Mrs. Gene Redmond. Cottonwood, Arizona: November, 1985.

Books:

American Association of Retired Persons. Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Cornville

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 29

Item number 9

Page 2

History. Cottonwood, Arizona: Fran's Print Shop, 1985.

Johnson, Jerrell G. The Sutler's Store. Tempe, Arizona: Beaumaris Books, 1973.

Munds Williams, Sally. History of Valuable Pioneers of the State of Arizona. Unknown place and publisher, 1979.

Richards, Leonard H. The First 60 Years of Mormonism in North Central Arizona: 1918-1978. Prescott, Arizona: Unknown, 1982.

Stemmer, Charles. A Brand from the Burning. Boston: The Christopher Publishing House, 1959.

The Verde Valley Pioneers Association. Ed. Bonnie and Ed Peplow. Pioneer Stories of Arizona's Verde Valley. Unknown place and publisher, 1954. Part one was originally published in 1933.

Wahmann, Russel. Verde Valley Railroads, Trestles, Tunnels & Tracks. Cottonwood, Arizona: Starlight Publishing, 1983.

Newspapers:

Cottonwood Independent. November 13, 1985.

Jerome Sun. April, 1918 to October, 1985.

The Verde Daily Copper News. September 1917 to June 1918.

Sedona Times. June 28, 1984.

Verde Valley View. February 23, 1983.

Arizona Miners Journal. aka. Weekly Arizona Miner. aka. Arizona Journal Miner. 1878 to 1920.

Pamphlets, Collections, etc.

Clemenceau, Arizona, P.T.A. 1931-1932. A collection in the possession of Eudora Patterson containing newspaper articles from the Verde Copper News, Arizona Republic, Prescott Evening Courier, Winslow Daily Mail, and Arizona Parent-Teacher as well as photographs, miscellaneous articles and P.T.A. flyers for the years 1931 to 1932.

Clemenceau/Cottonwood P.T.A. 1929-1930. A collection in the possession of Eudora Patterson containing newspaper articles from the Verde Copper News,

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet 30

Item number 9

Page 3

Arizona Republic, Prescott Evening Courier, and the Arizona Parent-Teacher, as well as photographs, copys of awards received, program flyers for the years 1929 to 1930.

Pamphlet purchased at Tuzigoot. People of the Verde Valley. Volume 53, Number 1 of the series Plateau. Flagstaff, Arizona: Museum of Northern Arizona, 1984.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 31

Item number 10

Page 1

COTTONWOOD UTM's

Zone 12

<u>Form Number</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	
L001	405860	3845620	Clarkdale Quad
L009	406540	3844880	Cottonwood Quad
L019	406090	3844500	Cottonwood Quad
L022	406350	3843730	Cottonwood Quad
L023	406080	3843800	Cottonwood Quad
L024	406080	3843740	Cottonwood Quad
L25 A-D	406070	3843670	Cottonwood Quad
L026	409160	3842400	Cornville Quad
L030	405970	3845415	Cottonwood Quad
L031	406010	3845160	Cottonwood Quad

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs attached to each Inventory form are taken from Cottonwood Historic Resource Survey. All negatives are filed with the Arizona SHPO. The negatives for accompanying supplemental photographs are filed with the Town of Cottonwood, Planning and Zoning Department.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 9/6/86  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Cottonwood Multiple Resource Area  
State Yavapai County, ARIZONA

Substantive Review Cover Patrick Andrews 9/19/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Building at 826 North  
Main Street

for Keeper

Alvina Bryan 9/19/86

Attest

2. Clemenceau Public School

for Keeper  
for Attest

Patrick Andrews 9/19/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/19/86

3. Edens House

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Alvina Bryan 9/19/86

Attest

4. Master Mechanic's House

for Keeper  
for Attest

Patrick Andrews 9/19/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/19/86

5. Smelter Machine Shop

for Keeper

Alvina Bryan 9/19/86

Attest

6. Strahan House

Substantive Review for Keeper  
for Attest

Patrick Andrews 9/19/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/19/86

7. Superintendent's Residence

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Alvina Bryan 10/14/86

Attest

8. Thompson Ranch

for Keeper  
for Attest

Patrick Andrews 9/19/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/19/86

9. Willard House

for Keeper

Alvina Bryan 9/19/86

Attest

10. UVX Smelter Operations  
Complex

for Keeper  
for Attest

Patrick Andrews 9/19/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 9/19/86