

Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District
Name of Property

Pima County, Arizona
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Tucson Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Historic District is a Second Generation Veterans Hospital located at 3601 South Sixth Avenue, approximately three miles south of downtown Tucson. Located in a campus setting, the hospital property is surrounded by residential, commercial, and light industrial development. Interstate 10 is located to the north and South Sixth Avenue serves as the western boundary of the property. The medical center property is bounded to the south by Ajo Way and to the west by railroad tracks. Julian Wash cuts through the northern half of the property in a northwest-southeast direction. The original and ongoing mission of the facility has been to provide health care to veterans of the United States. The hospital opened in 1928 as a tuberculosis hospital and was converted to a general medical and surgical hospital in 1959. The historic district preserves the characteristics of the tuberculosis sub-type of Second Generation Veterans Hospital. It was the last Second Generation Veterans Hospital built specifically to serve tuberculosis patients and the only Period II hospital included in the United State Second Generation Veterans Hospitals Multiple Property Document Form (MPDF) that remained solely designated a tuberculosis hospital throughout its period of significance. The property consists of approximately 117 acres; the historic district is comprised of approximately 42 acres of the total tract and includes thirty-nine resources. The period of significance for the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District in Tucson, Arizona, extends from the initial construction of the hospital in 1927 through 1950, the date of the last federal veterans hospital constructed utilizing the design philosophies developed for Second Generation Veterans Hospitals. Twenty resources are considered contributing to the historic district. Contributing resources include those that retain integrity to convey the historic district's significance and were constructed during the period of significance (1927-1950). Nineteen resources are considered noncontributing resources to the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District. Located outside the historic district are buildings constructed after the period of significance, such as the nursing home care unit, the two-story ambulatory care building, the animal research facility, various smaller buildings, and large areas covered in paved parking lots. Also located outside the historic district are various maintenance/utility buildings that were constructed both during and after the period of significance. Contributing buildings within the historic district include single- and multiple-story buildings constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission Revival architectural style with exterior stucco surfaces. The original four buildings servicing patients are constructed in a cloister arrangement that appear to be an interpretation of the eighteenth-century Mission San Xavier del Bac located approximately 10 miles south of downtown Tucson. Local architect Roy Place has been credited with adapting the cloister plan of the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District to standardized plans developed by the Veterans Bureau. Due to the use of such a distinct architectural style, the historic district is closely associated with the architectural heritage of the region.

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The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is located in the south-central section of Tucson, the county seat of Pima County, Arizona, approximately 3 miles south of downtown. Tucson is located in the western part of the county and lies only 60 miles north of the United States-Mexico border. The historic district is comprised of approximately 42 acres of the property's total 117 acres and includes twenty contributing resources. The historic district is bordered to the north by Air Force Loop and Julian Wash; to the west by South Sixth Avenue; along the south by Navy Way; and on the east by Coast Guard Avenue. Small-scale residential neighborhoods edged by commercial development are located west and south of the medical center property; commercial and light industrial development is located to the east. Undeveloped land lies northeast of the medical center across Interstate 10.

See Continuation Sheet, page 7.1.