

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Lowell Multi-Cultural District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

vicinity of Craycroft & Ft. Lowell Roads

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Pima

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 - PRIVATE
 - BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
 - BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

multiple public and private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

115 North Church Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

See continuation sheet.

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Ft. Lowell Survey SYSTEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Surveys:

- 1) Historic American Building Survey
1941/Library of Congress/Washington, D.C.
- 2) Tucson Historic Sites Survey
September 1969/Historic Sites Preservation Office
Arizona State Parks Board/ Phoenix, AZ
- 3) Property Inventory Forms/ College of Architecture
1975/ %Roz Spicer, 5344 East Ft. Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ
- 4) Property Inventory Forms/ Committee on Urban Planning
1976/Arizona Historical Society/ Tucson, AZ
- 5) Archaeological Investigations at Fort Lowell
August 1960/Alfred E. Johnson/ Arizona State Museum/ Tucson, AZ
- 6) Summary of Excavations
July 1977/Arizona State Museum/ Tucson, AZ

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earliest known settlers in the district were Tucson Basin Hohokam people who established a village there as early as 300 A.D. Occupation was apparently continuous until the middle of the 13th century. Sherds and lithics from this occupation are imbedded in the adobe of the fort buildings of the 19th century.

Although about 75% of the archaeological evidence has been destroyed by modern construction and agriculture, some undisturbed sites remain. One site within Ft. Lowell Park has been partially excavated, revealing pithouses, trash mounds, caliche puddling pits, decorated ceramics, and trade items. This area will be developed as an interpretative exhibit.

The Fort Lowell District lies around the intersection of Craycroft Road and Ft. Lowell Road and is transected by the boundaries of two political jurisdictions--the City of Tucson and Pima County. The District includes portions of the old fort and its associated structures and houses built after 1870 in addition to the Hohokam sites.

The District lies within the original Fort Lowell Military Reservation established in 1873. The location of the reservation was "on a plain or mesa...bounded on the north by the Rillito River and the Santa Catalina Mountains, on the east by a continuation of those mountains (the Rincons), on the south by the Santa Rita Mountains, and on the west by the Santa Cruz River and a low range of mountains which have not received a name (the Tucson Mountains)." At that time, the Rillito received "an underground tributary (Pantano Wash) near the post, its waters coming from the cienaga or swamp in the southeastern portion of the mesa...about 23 miles distant" from Camp Lowell. (Surgeon General's Report, 1875).

The reservation was laid out extending five miles north, five miles south, eleven miles east, and four miles west of the center of the post. This large reservation was necessary to ensure a sufficient area for grazing and for securing control of the watercourse. The reservation had a dry, sandy soil and was studded with mesquite trees, sagebrush, and several varieties of cactus. It afforded excellent grama and sacaton grasses which were used for the cavalry horses and stock on the post. (Surgeon General's Report, 1875).

On March 20, 1873, soldiers began clearing the brush and erecting tents as temporary quarters. The original allocation for erecting the buildings on the post was \$17,500. Because of heavy rains and the recall of funds at the end of the fiscal year, the pace of construction was slow.

The post at Camp Lowell was laid out in a manner similar to other posts in the southwest. Adobe buildings were constructed around a rectangular parade ground, about 700 feet east to west and 400 feet north to south.

By the end of 1874, the first two officers quarters on what was to become officers row were completed. The commanding officers quarters was built in the center of the south end of the parade ground. It was 46' by 45' divided into four equal rooms. Two wide hallways bisected the building. The exterior walls were 10' high topped by a flat roof. Vigas of wood supported a layer of saguaro ribs with an adobe mud covering. At the rear of the quarters was a detached building which contained a kitchen, a dining room, two rooms for servants, and a pantry. A cellar was constructed under part of this structure.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Ft. Lowell ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

In 1962 Pima County Parks Department undertook the reconstruction of the Commanding Officer's Quarters and Kitchen. The reconstruction is on a site to the northeast of the original. The change in location was due to the widening of Craycroft Road. The Commanding Officer's Quarters is used to house a military museum operated by the Arizona Historical Society.

The other six Officers Quarters were constructed in a similar manner. Each one was approximately 43 feet by 40 feet with a central hall. A rear building contained a mess room, kitchen, pantry, and servants room. A privy was built about 100 feet behind each kitchen. In 1877, an adobe wall was constructed behind the privies. Another wall separated the officers quarters from each other. In 1883, the quarters were improved by plastering the interior walls, laying wood floors and the addition of porches.

The remains of the three Officers Quarters west of the original Commanding Officers Quarters are located opposite the County Park. For convenience, the buildings will be referred to as 1, 2, and 3. OQ 1, which is located at the west edge of Officers Row, is now in ruins. Adobe walls varying between three and six feet in height are visible. The ruins of the kitchen lie south of the main building. To the east is OQ 2. This building and the detached kitchen were used as living quarters after the abandonment of the post. Both buildings were gutted by fire in 1970. OQ 3 was also used as a residence. Porches and bathrooms were added to both 2 and 3 in the 1930s.

The outline of the original adobe wall runs along the rear of the OQ lots. A short section of the wall that separated OQ 2 and OQ 3 is also visible. OQ 3 is now occupied.

Between 1875 and 1880 a double row of cottonwood trees was planted in front of the Officers Quarters along the southern edge of the parade ground. The trees were irrigated by two parallel ditches. Pima County Parks Department planted trees near the original site in 1962.

On the west edge of the parade grounds a guardhouse was built in 1873. This building was 52 feet square. It contained a general prisoners room, a room for the officer of the guard, a room for the sergeant of the guard, a guard room, and a room for garrison prisoners. There were four cells with walls made of stone. The walls in the cells and the general prisoners room were the only ones made of stone on the post. Remains of one wall are visible south of Fort Lowell Road.

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South of the guardhouse a bakery was built in 1873. The main building contained two bakehouses and quarters for the baker. An addition housed the ovens which had a capacity of two hundred rations a day. A combination schoolhouse and library was added to the post in 1884. The Post Returns show one schoolteacher on the civilian payroll in June 1884 and 3 teachers the following September. There are no visible remains of either the bakery or the schoolhouse.

North of Fort Lowell Road are the remains of the Quartermasters and Commissary Offices. One room was used as a telegraph office. A military telegraph reached Fort Lowell on 6 March 1885. Over the years the building was used as the post library, court martial room, post adjutants office, and office of the regimental headquarters staff.

On the northwest edge of the parade grounds a Quartermaster and Commissary Storehouse was constructed in 1873. Since the post served as a supply depot for other army posts, this storehouse was necessarily large. Construction was hastened on this project in order to transfer supplies from rented quarters in Tucson to the post. The storehouse was U-shaped with 12-foot walls vented at the eaves. A cellar for the commissary supplies was dug under the northwest wing to a depth of 15 ft.

The walls of the original structure were used in the construction of apartments in 1934. The east wing contains an apartment and open patio. The south wing is used for 3 apartments. An opening in the wall separates a fifth apartment from the other four and a cellar with stone walls lies north of the fifth apartment. The walls of the present structure are plastered.

East of Craycroft Road are the remains of the band barracks. The original structure was built in 1874 and was 92 feet by 18 feet. A kitchen was located north of the barracks. Between 1879 and 1882, the barracks was used as a storehouse since there was no band assigned to the post. The adobe walls of the east end of the building are still visible.

Three barracks were constructed at the post. Two were 145 feet by 18 feet with detached kitchens and privies in the rear. A third one was 155 feet by 18 feet and also had a detached kitchen and privy. The two identical barracks were in line with the band barracks on the north end of the parade ground. The third barracks was on the east end of the parade ground. Remains of the adobe walls for the barracks and kitchen are visible on the north edge of the County Park.

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Also on the east edge of the parade ground the post hospital was constructed beginning in 1874. The main building contained 13 rooms. On the north end was a general ward for patients. The south section contained a surgeon's office, stewards quarters, dispensary, isolation ward and store rooms. A detached kitchen was built to the east of the hospital. The building housed the matron quarters, pantry, messroom, laundry, and kitchen. The walls of the main building were 15 feet in height. A porch was added to each building in 1879. That same year roofs of tin were put over the mud adobe on the hospital and kitchen. By 1882 all buildings on the post had tin roofs which served to protect the occupants from violent summer storms.

The remains of the hospital building were covered by a ramada in 1952. Pima County has erected a chain link fence around the building in order to protect the remaining walls from vandals. The ward area on the north end is unprotected. The walls and archways of the hospital are a good example of the method of construction used at Fort Lowell. Remains of the plaster on the interior walls are also visible. The hospital kitchen is visible as a low rectangular mound 30 feet east of the hospital.

The parade ground was the focal point for all buildings on the post. On the south side stood the flagstaff directly in front of the Commanding Officers Quarters. Mesquite and cottonwood trees bordered the edges of the parade ground. The flagstaff was brought from old Camp Lowell and raised on December 27, 1873. This flagstaff was replaced by one made of California redwood. It was made in two sections and stood 50 to 60 feet high. After the abandonment of Fort Lowell it was removed to Plaza School near Armory Park. When Plaza School was replaced by Safford School the flagstaff was sold as salvage to a junk yard on Anita Street. There it was cut in two and used as a hoist.

North of the Commissary and Quartermaster Storehouse a corral for the quartermaster was built in 1874. Within an enclosed area 295 feet by 163 feet were the blacksmith's and wheelwright's shops, a granary, and quarters for quartermaster employes. A 16 foot wide shed was later added to protect the animals and wagons of the quartermaster. Located to the west of the enclosed area were the hay yard, 172 feet by 130 feet, and a stock watering yard, 130 feet by 123 feet. The walls surrounding the enclosed area were made of adobe 8 feet high. Portions of the quartermaster corral are visible on the west side of Craycroft Road.

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East of the Quartermaster Corrals were the corrals of the cavalry. An enclosed area was built with a 16 foot wide shed to protect the horses. Within this 145 ft. by 108 ft. area were located shops and storerooms. A 170 ft. by 170 ft. hay yard was located on the west side. Portions of the wall for the Cavalry Corral and Shops are visible east of Craycroft Road.

East of the post, two-room adobe quarters were built between 1879 and 1882 for the post laundresses. Eight of these buildings were constructed. They were also used as civilian and married NCO quarters. None of these buildings remains. In this area, Pima County Parks Department has constructed a bathhouse, pond, and baseball fields.

Lumber for construction on the post was rough-sawn in the Rincon Mountains and hauled to the camp. There is also a site within Saguaro National Monument where limestone was burned to produce lime. The lime was carted to camp and used for plastering interior walls.

Water for the fort was originally supplied by means of acequias running from the Rillito and shallow wells. Because of problems of purity with both methods, deeper wells were eventually sunk. Power for water pumps came from wind mills. In 1887 a steam engine was purchased to power the water pumps and run an ice making machine.

In the spring of 1873, John B. Allen constructed a Sutlers Store adjacent to his farm, the Riallito House. The farm and store were about 100 yards west of the Commissary and Quartermaster Storehouse. The farm buildings, residence, and store were built within an adobe wall 290 by 55 feet. On the west end were located stables, a chicken coop, and wagon shed. On the east end of the courtyard were the rooms used by Allen as living quarters. The store consisted of four rooms, two on either side of a covered archway. In addition, there were two other buildings used for storage.

In 1874, Allen sold the store to Frederick L. Austin, who operated the store until 1891 when the post was abandoned. He supplied the post with lumber for flooring under a contract of 1877.

In 1935, remodeling of the Store was begun. The four rooms were plastered on the outside and the connecting patio was enclosed. A bathroom was added to the southeast corner. Additional rooms were added to the west side where the sleeping quarters had been. The south facade and the wall of the courtyard remained as they were originally.

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Beginning in 1973, construction was once again undertaken. Another bathroom was added to the east end. The south facade was enclosed by an additional wall that duplicated the original. The addition was 12 feet high and 10 feet away from the original wall. The residential area on the west end was enlarged to the north leaving the south wall intact.

The wall that connected the residence to the stable area has been destroyed to the west of the living quarters. The western wall of the chicken coop, stables, and storeroom has been incorporated into a residence. The chicken coop wall remains exposed on the west side of this residence.

Austin's storehouse was directly opposite the stable area. This two-room adobe building has been converted into an artist's studio. The location of Austin's other storehouse has not been determined.

Because of pressing military matters, soldiers were not able to make all the repairs necessary to maintain the post. Consequently, civilians were employed as plasterers, stonecutters, and laborers. Additional civilians were hired for specialized tasks such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights, teamsters, and schoolteachers. Some of these civilians lived on the post in the laundresses' quarters and it is probable that others lived nearby.

Architecture:

The architectural style of houses within the proposed Historic District is predominantly Sonoran for the historic buildings and Contemporary for the remainder. However, all the houses have similarities as to materials used: adobe and burnt adobe; color of exterior walls: tan, off-white, and natural cement stucco; roof form: flat with parapets; and to floor plan: one story with irregular plan. It is interesting to note that the most recently constructed houses follow the local conventions. The Lisk and the two Bolsius homes are one story, flat roof with parapets, burnt adobe walls with a mortar wash and have an irregular floor plan. The renovation and restoration of the Post Traders Store and the Quartermaster Storehouse have followed the essential characteristics of the Sonoran style.

West of the proposed Historic District and north of Fort Lowell Road is a neighborhood of eight houses clustered around the intersection of a dirt lane. This rural barrio is populated by primarily Mexican-Americans who are inter-related. The architectural style and the spatial arrangements of the homes are informal and represent a folk architecture. The inhabitants of the homes were also the designers and builders of them. The homes have been added to as the need arose, with more recent additions made from burnt adobe.

Vegetation:

The life zone of the proposed Fort Lowell Historic District is the Lower Sonoran. The creosote bush association is the predominant biotic community with the area. Creosote bush, prickly pear cactus, cholla, and catclaw are the dominant plants while saguaro, palo verde, and barrel cactus are occasionally found. In bottomland, with fine deep soil and good drainage, are found dense stands of mesquite.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Ft. Lowell ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

Inventory of Prehistoric Sites and Structures in Fort Lowell Historic District:

- H-1 Hohokam Sites
- H-2 Officers Quarters (c.1874). Ruins.
- H-3 Officers Quarters (c.1874). Guttled by fire in 1970.
- H-4 Officers Quarters (c.1874). Exterior stuccoed and sleeping porches and bathroom added in the 1930s. Noted in HABS, 1941.
- H-5 Officers Kitchen (c.1874). Ruins.
- H-6 Officers Kitchen (c.1874). Guttled by fire in 1970. Noted in HABS, 1941.
- H-7 Adobe Wall behind and between Officers Quarters (1877). Ruins.
- H-8 Reconstruction of Commanding Officer's Quarters (1962-1963). Fort Lowell Museum, operated by Arizona Historical Society.
- H-9 Reconstruction of Commanding Officer's Kitchen (1962-1963). Arts and Crafts, operated by Pima County Parks and Recreation Department.
- H-10 Cottonwood Lane. Replanted 1962-1963 near original site.
- H-11 Post Hospital (1874-1879). Archway and walls in ruins. Protected by ramada in 1952 and chain link fence in 1960s. Noted in HABS.
- H-12 Post Hospital Kitchen (c.1875). Adobe mound.
- H-13 Cavalry Barracks (1874). Ruins.
- H-14 Cavalry Barracks Kitchen (1874). Ruins.
- H-15 Band Barracks (1874). Ruins.
- H-16 Guardhouse (1873). Stone wall ruin.
- H-17 Commissary and Quartermaster Offices (1874). Adobe mound. The major portion of the site is covered by Fort Lowell Road.
- H-18 Commissary and Quartermaster Storehouse (1874). Converted into apartment units in 1930s.
- H-19 Commissary Cellar (1874). Intact.
- X H-20 Cavalry Corral and Shops (1875). Ruins.
- H-21 Quartermaster Corral and Shops (1874). Ruins.
- H-22 Sutlers Store (1873). South facade reconstructed as addition in 1974-1975.
- H-23 West Wall of "Riallito House" (prior to 1873). Converted to residence in 1930s.
- H-24 Sutlers Storehouse (1873). Converted into residence in 1930s.

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Inventory of structures which contribute to the district:

- C-1 5460 East Ft. Lowell
- C-2 5460 East Ft. Lowell
- C-3 5495 East Ft. Lowell
- C-4 5429 East Ft. Lowell
- C-5 5651 East Ft. Lowell
- C-6 5668 East Ft. Lowell
- C-7 3031 North Craycroft Road
- C-8 5531 East Ft. Lowell

Inventory of intrusions:

- X-1 steel shed
- X-2 storage tanks