

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tucson Basin Hohokam people lived within the district at least from 300 to 1250 A.D. Preliminary excavations of the few remaining prehistoric sites have revealed a continuous occupation for this period and have yielded ceramic evidence of cultural transition periods which could not be verified previously. Additional research can be expected to yield the evidential basis for better understanding of this branch of Hohokam.

The original site of Camp Lowell was in the village of Tucson, about 6 miles SW of the nominated district. During the Civil War, Tucson was briefly held by Confederate forces, but in 1862 the California Volunteers took over and established a supply depot. The post was transferred to Prescott in 1864 but was returned to Tucson the following year. In 1866, the post was officially named Camp Lowell, after Brigadeer General Charles Russell Lowell, Jr. of Massachusetts. Lowell, who was with the 6th Cavalry, was killed at Cedar Creek, Virginia in 1862.

The Tucson post consisted of tents and rented buildings, an expensive and generally unsatisfactory arrangement. Numerous social problems arose from having soldiers so close to the various temptations of the town and finally, after the wells became polluted and some unpleasant incidents occurred, it was decided to move the camp to a better location. Lt. Colonel Eugene Asa Carr and Territorial Governor Anson P.K. Safford selected the site by the Rillito at an elevation of 2500' and the camp was moved in 1873.

Unfortunately, the Rillito, like many Arizona streams, was not a permanent source of water. Windmills were erected to pump water but the wind was also unreliable and the storage tanks were too small. Water supply continued to be a problem, especially after 1885, when settlers upstream diverted water for their own use. Piping water from Sabino Canyon was contemplated and the military reservation was extended to accommodate that plan. However, in 1887, the decision was made to dig deeper wells, enlarge the water tanks, and install a steam pump. The water problem was finally solved.

Lowell's major purpose was to be a supply depot for southern and eastern Arizona, storing supplies shipped in from Yuma and Sonora and reshipping them to the various outposts. Troops from Lowell also performed escort duty and scouted against the Apache and against raiders along the international boundary. Forays against the Apache were frequent in the 1870s but Lowell was not much engaged in Indian warfare in the 1880s except during the Geronimo campaign of 1886. Several prominent generals were associated with the post: George Crook, Nelson Miles, Orlando Wilcox, August Kautz, John Mason, and Eugene Carr.

The number of troops at Ft. Lowell fluctuated considerably from year to year. The early 1870s saw much activity but in 1878, a decision was made to abandon the post and for a time, only a handful of men remained as caretakers. The order was rescinded the following year. Sometimes the post was drastically undermanned and sometimes it was regimental headquarters. These fluctuations meant that the buildings of the post were frequently allowed to fall into disrepair. The first and only time Fort Lowell was at full strength was during the final Geronimo campaign of 1886 when there were four companies of cavalry and infantry. There were not sufficient habitable quarters for that number of men.

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Ft. Lowell
CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Throughout its history, Fort Lowell was an important element in the social life of Tucson. There were constant exchanges of parties, dinners, dances, baseball games, and band concerts.

The annual economic contribution of Fort Lowell to the community has been estimated as in excess of \$150,000. The post sutler's store was built by John B. Allen in 1873 adjacent to his farm. Allen was active in the commercial and political affairs of the territory. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1867. In the 70s he was appointed Adjutant General of the Territory. In the 80s he was elected Mayor of Tucson. Prior to establishing the sutler store at Camp Lowell he had operated a store at Maricopa Wells and a farm along the Santa Cruz. Allen later operated a mercantile establishment in Tombstone. In 1874 he sold this store to Frederick Austin, who continued to operate it until the post was abandoned.

Local residents were employed at the post. In 1877 George H. Doe built an adobe wall along the rear of the officers quarters. His ranch was located east of the post. William Dunn was employed as the post's wheelwright. His ranch was located one mile north of the post. The post blacksmith was Branilo Elias who lived about 3 miles east of the post.

The close social and economic ties between the fort and the town were shattered in 1891. Tucson merchants protested vigorously, but the frontier necessity for the fort no longer existed and in January of 1891, the men were transferred to Ft. Wingate, N.M.

The military reservation was transferred to the Department of the Interior. The lumber, glass, and fixtures of the post were auctioned off, and the unprotected buildings decayed. Even the trees of Cottonwood Lane were cut down for firewood.

The occupation of the area surrounding the Fort continued after the abandonment of the Fort. A Mormon community was established west of the post near the present intersection of Fort Lowell and Dodge Boulevard. Delbert Bingham built his house there in 1902 and named the community Binghamton. Gravity ditches were dug parallel to the Rillito as far east as Pantano Wash. The community established a school west of the old fort in 1915.

During the same period a Mexican community established itself in and around the former post. A mission of Holy Family Church, the Chapel of the Guardian Angels, was built in 1915. Ten parishioners lived in "La Barriada de Rillito" adjacent to the ruins of Fort Lowell. The original chapel was destroyed by a tornado in 1929 and rebuilt in 1932. It continued to serve the Mexican community until 1948.

Section 36 (a school section) reverted to the state and was leased to various parties. In the 1930s, there was a move to have the fort area turned into a national monument but this effort came to nothing. In 1945, 40 acres (SW4 NW4 of Sec 36) was acquired by the Catalina Council of the Boy Scouts. The Scouts built a shelter over the hospital ruins. In the late 1950s, this property was sold to Pima County for use as a park. The reconstructed officers' quarters is on this parcel, as well as the replanted Cottonwood Lane.

Future Plans:

The most significant change affecting the proposed Historic District is the rezoning and development of vacant land north of the Cavalry Corral ruins for townhouses. The southwest corner of Parcel 110-14-008A would be preserved by the developers as open space.

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This area contains the adobe walls of the Cavalry Corrals. The developers of the town-house project have agreed not to build more than 35 units. The subdivision plat has received tentative approval. An ordinance granting a rezoning has not been adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

All rezoning requests for this area are being held in abeyance until new policies regarding rezoning of land in Historic Zones are approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

By petition to the Pima County Board of Supervisors, a Fort Lowell Historic District Advisory Board was formed in November 1974. A recommendation was made to the Pima County Planning and Zoning Department for the establishment of an Historic Zone in the Fort Lowell Historic District in July 1976. An ordinance establishing a Fort Lowell Historic District was approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors in September 1976.

Since that time the Fort Lowell Advisory Board has continued to act in the capacity of a neighborhood association in making recommendations to the Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

In October 1977, the Tucson City Council received a request to initiate the establishment of an Historic Zone for that portion of Fort Lowell within the city limits. The City Council approved the creation of a Fort Lowell Historic District Advisory Board. Lack of support from property owners in the city has stalemated the work of this Board.

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Troops Stationed at Fort Lowell
January 1866 - March 1891

1st Cavalry	1866, 1868-1869, 1872-1873	Cos. CDG
1st Infantry	1882-1886	Cos. FI
2nd Cavalry	1890-1891	Troops BDHLM
4th Cavalry	1884-1890	Troops AEFGLM
5th Cavalry	1873-1875	Cos. CH
6th Cavalry	1875-1883	Cos. BEKLM
8th Infantry	1874-1878, 1881-1882, 1886	Cos. ADFGHK
12th Infantry	1881-1882	Co. H.
14th Infantry	1866	Co. G
21st Infantry	1869-1872	Cos. ADE
23rd Infantry	1872-1874	Cos. DE
32nd Infantry	1867-1869	Cos. CE
Volunteers	1866	

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 89

UTM REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jim Bieg, John Jones, Ann Leviton / Marjorie Wilson

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State

DATE

University of Arizona (Urban Planning) / Parks Board

April 1976 & February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

/ 1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

/271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Tucson / Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

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

Dorothy A. Hall

TITLE

DATE

4-10-78

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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