

Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District  
Name of Property

Pima County, Arizona  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Tucson Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Historic District is significant for its association with the federal government's commitment to the health care of World War I and World War II veterans. As defined in the United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals Multiple Property Documentation Form, the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is an excellent and the only example of a fully developed Period II tuberculosis Second Generation Veterans Hospital. The historic district is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A at the state level of significance in the areas of Politics/Government because of the importance placed on securing the federal facility and its impact on the local community and veterans of the state of Arizona. The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is also eligible under Criterion A at the state level of significance in the areas of Health/Medicine because of the mission of the federal government, through the Veterans Bureau and the VA, to provide tuberculosis care to veterans of World War I and World War II. The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the state level of significance because the hospital is an excellent example of Period II Second Generation Veterans Hospital exhibiting the Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission Revival styles. The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District reflects the adaptation of standardized plans by local architect Roy Place resulting in an imaginative design utilizing the Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission Revival architectural styles. The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because of the significance of its design; the primary treatment for tuberculosis included exposure to fresh air and sunlight, which is evident through the numerous porches located along the facade and rear elevations that were incorporated into the design of the patient treatment buildings. Construction began on the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District complex in 1927. The facility opened to patients in October 1928. Originally constructed as a tuberculosis hospital, the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is the only surviving example of this sub-type constructed from the late 1920s through 1950 and the contributing resources continue to retain characteristics of this sub-type. Other Period II Second Generation Veterans Hospitals also served tuberculosis patients but the majority of patient care was designated for neuropsychiatric or general medical and surgical care. The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is the only example specifically originally designed, constructed, and designated to serve veterans with tuberculosis. The use of the regionally popular architectural style creates a cohesive design for the overall historic district. The period of significance and assessment of contributing and noncontributing resources for this nomination are based on the historic district's significance within the historic contexts developed in the United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). Resources constructed after 1950, and thus considered noncontributing within this nomination, may possess significance under themes not fully developed as part of the MPDF. Resources located within the medical center campus may be eligible or contributing for other associations or contexts under National Register Criteria A–D, or recent buildings/structures may be eligible under Criteria Consideration G, for resources of exceptional importance that are less than 50 years of age.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The period of significance for the Tucson VA Hospital Historic District extends from 1927 to 1950. It begins with the construction of the hospital and continues through 1950, the date of the last federal veterans hospital constructed utilizing the design philosophies developed for Second Generation Veterans Hospitals. The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is an excellent example of a Period II Second Generation Veterans Hospital that retains characteristics of the tuberculosis sub-type and as an example utilizing Spanish Colonial Revival/Mission Revival architectural styles.

### **Areas of Significance: Criterion A**

#### Politics and Government

The Tucson VA Hospital Historic District is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Politics and Government at the state level of significance because the selection of the site of the hospital was partially determined by the political influences exerted by the local community to acquire the federal hospital and its