

DOE 5/2/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

AUG 6 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 16 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rincon Mountain Foothills Archeological District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Saguaro National Monument, [REDACTED]

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

ST FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

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 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Department of the Interior, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

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 Arizona State Museum Survey

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Western Archeological Center, NPS, Tucson, AZ

Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

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

The Rincon Mountain Foothills Archeological District is an area of the [REDACTED] of Saguaro National Monument near Tucson, Arizona. Approximately 110 prehistoric and historic sites are found within a total of 25 square miles. The District is located in the [REDACTED] between [REDACTED]

Although no permanent water sources are within the District area, the headwaters of [REDACTED] originate in the northern District area and [REDACTED] drains portions of the southern District area. The location is within what is called locally "the cactus forest" since one environmental zone - the Upper Sonoran Desert - characterizes the terrain. Distinguished by stands of giant Saguaro cactus, this zone includes palo verde trees, ocotillo and cholla cacti, creosote bushes and seasonal flowers. Faunal species are equally diverse, including jackrabbit, cottontail, ground squirrels, collared peccary and mule deer. Commonly seen birds are roadrunner, cactus wren and Gambel's Quail. Over 50 species of reptiles and 10 amphibians are also found in this district area.

The prehistory of the [REDACTED] is closely related to the Tucson Basin portion of the Santa Cruz River drainage of southern Arizona. Although some evidence of a pre-3000 BC human occupancy of the Tucson Basin has been found, no sites of this Paleo-Indian period are known for the District area as yet. Five sparse scatters of stone artifacts of the Cochise Culture, an eastern, and the San Dieguito Culture, a western manifestation of the widespread Desert Archaic lifeway, dated between 3000 BC to 300 BC, are found in the District. These scatters probably represent seasonal camps for these early hunting and gathering peoples. The earliest ceramic-bearing sites in the [REDACTED] are of the Rillito (AD 700-900) and subsequent Rincon (AD 900-1200) phases which are localized time periods of the Hohokam cultural tradition, a major Southwestern prehistoric pattern. It is known that Hohokam peoples were in the Tucson Basin earlier than AD 700 but no datable sites of pre-AD 700 times have been located in the District. Most of the Rillito and Rincon Phase villages are distinguished by red-on-brown pottery, clusters of pithouses, and stone artifacts located along [REDACTED]. Some of these cultural materials indicate more affiliations to the mountain-dwelling Mogollon Culture to the north and east than with local Tucson Basin contemporaneous sites.

The Tucson Basin variants of the Classic Hohokam Period, Tanque Verde Phase (AD 1200-1300) and Tucson Phase (AD 1300-1450) are well represented by sites within the [REDACTED]. Sites of these periods show changes in ceramics (increase in multicolored ceramic types), in architecture (increase in multi-room adobe structures), and in burial practices (increase in earth burial or inhumations). The distribution of sites over the landscape also changes. These different patterns are attributed to influences continuing to reach the Tucson Basin from the north and east, particularly from the Salado Culture, a variation of the Mogollon tradition.

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A 250-year gap in data exists between AD 1450 to AD 1690 for the Tucson Basin region. Although the entrance of Europeans began in 1690, no permanent 17th or 18th century habitation sites are found within the District. Several sites do indicate historic Papago redware ceramics which indicates that the District was visited by Papago groups, probably seeking foodstuffs and raw materials. Aside from this use, little ethnographic data exists for specific Apache or other Native American utilization of the District's resources. After the end of the Apache conflicts, homesteading and cattle grazing were begun. The Freeman Homestead is on the park List of Classified Structures and has been recorded as AZ:BB:14:75. It was occupied in the early decades of the 20th century and is evidenced by a concrete pad with melted adobe walls, associated trash dumps, a check dam, and a well. Two adobe and native rock "beehive" lime kilns have been recorded as AZ:BB:14:74 and are also on the LCS inventory.

Four recent surveys have been conducted within the District area: Zahniser's in the 1960's, T. J. King's in 1976-77, R. A. Goddard's in 1976 in the Madrona Ranger Station locality, and Mercado, et al's in 1979. Although the late Bryon Cummings, then head of the Arizona State Museum, excavated site AZ:BB:14:33, a village site, in the 1920's, no reports or collections have been located. In the 1930's, Emil Haury conducted excavations at site AZ:BB:14:3 but results were not reported in detail. In 1976, the "Four Saguaro Rockshelter" was mapped, surface collected, and fenced to prevent vandalism (Johnson and Hewitt 1977). An archeological overview study has been prepared and published (Stacy and Hayden 1975).

These surveys have not been extensive since only about 12% of 9 sections, less than 12% of 5 sections, and 30% of one section have been examined. An extensive survey of the [REDACTED] area has been done however. At least four large village sites, greater than 40,000 square meters in size, about 10 smaller village and campsite locations of about 40,000 square meters in extent, and 95 campsites, work shop areas, rock art panels, and other types of sites of less than 10,000 square meters have been recorded (see attached site descriptions). Zahniser's surveys as reported did not discuss survey methods or show examined terrain areas but yielded 31 sites (1965, 1970). King's surveys, done in 1976, were limited to a 200 meter corridor, centered on unofficial horsetrails, in the Rincon Unit of the Monument. His work added 78 sites, including several located by Goddard near [REDACTED]. The most recent survey in 1979 yielded yet 10 more sites in a small area, witness to the intensive occupation of the district in prehistoric times.

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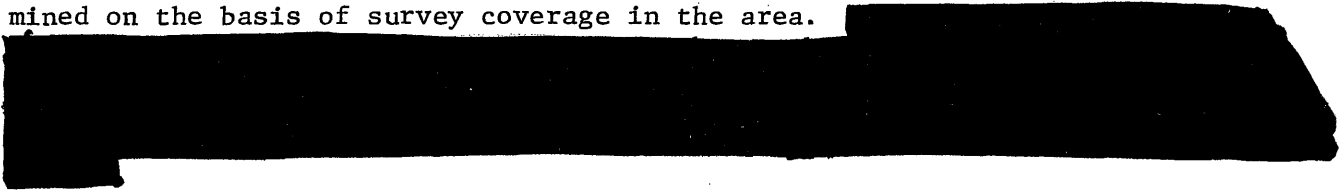
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Impacts have been documented on about 30 sites as resulting from direct or indirect impacts from horse use. Natural erosion is affecting margins of several sites and paved or unpaved roads and an airstrip have impacted some sites. An NPS visitor road loops through the middle portion of the district area. No standing historic buildings other than the adobe walls of the Freeman Homestead and the Lime Kilns remains in the District area. Since much of the terrain between trail corridors and site locations has not been thoroughly examined, any ground alterations within the District area will be subject to a terrain survey prior to a project. Proceedings of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation shall be followed for achieving compliance with Historic Sites Preservation Act of 1966, Section 106.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the proposed Rincon Mountain Foothills District were determined on the basis of survey coverage in the area.



Known site locations are clustered in the western and eastern portions of the District. The thin corridor between these areas has not been as intensively surveyed and, hence, fewer sites have been recorded. However, this area has the potential of producing sites similar to those already documented due to similarity in terrain and location to other major sites. Site AZ:BB:14:35 is witness to this potential.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☒ PREHISTORIC	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES AD 700-1450
19th/20th Century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The approximately 110 sites in the Rincon Mountains Foothills Archeological District represent a wide variety of site types and time phases, including historic periods, which have yielded basic data at a local level of significance. Since urban expansion, vandalism, and nonprotective public ownership of some lands in the Santa Cruz River Valley has led to destruction or adverse impacts on a majority of known sites in the Tucson Basin, the potential data contained within these known sites (and those yet to be recorded for the Monument) is of regional significance. Fruitful comparisons of these data to those from other Hohokam-related National Park Service areas and State parks within southern Arizona could be made. The District area contains undisturbed examples of large and small village sites, work camps, rock shelters, rock art panels, and quarries, as well as evidence of resource procurement patterns of Arizona's native Papago people. Parallels to this variety of resources could be found within Casa Grande National Monument, Hohokam-Pima National Monument, and the State-operated Painted Rock Reservoir Park, for example.

Potential research could provide archeological data in the fields of chronological changes of technology, cultural behavior in desert environments, and relationships between prehistoric populations in Arizona. Archeomagnetic studies, geomorphological research, paleoclimate patterns, and changes in faunal/floral species in time could be research interests of other sciences aided by data in archeological contexts. Since the District area is located in the [REDACTED] prehistoric trade relationships to other cultures to the east and north could be investigated. Settlement pattern comparisons to other geographical localities in southern Arizona are possible from the known sample of sites and from future surveys in Saguaro National Monument.

Historical archeological values are extant within the lime kilns and the Freeman Homestead as well as in the Papago use of the area for gathering purposes. Changes in cultural land use through nearly a millenia could be described using the archeological evidence in the District. Although somewhat impacted, remedial actions such as rerouting trails, sealing rock shelters, or moving visitor activities should enhance site preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16,255

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

See attached Continuation Sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Keith Anderson, Regional Research Archeologist

6/6/79

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Western Archeological Center

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 41058

(602) 792-6477

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tucson

Arizona 85717

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X

NO

NONE

[Signature]
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National X State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Asst. Director, Cultural Resources

DATE

7/31/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10-16-79

ATTEST:

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-18-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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