

WELLTON-MOHAWK IRRIGATION SYSTEM, BUILDING NO. 3  
(HOUSE)  
30621 Wellton-Mohawk Drive  
Wellton  
Yuma County  
Arizona

HAER AZ-68-I  
AZ-68-I

HAER  
AZ-68-I

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
PO Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation System, Building 3 (House)

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Location: 30621 Wellton-Mohawk Drive, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) administrative complex, Wellton, Yuma County, Arizona. Building 3 is 1 of 22 residential buildings arranged in a horseshoe-shaped plan on Wellton-Mohawk Drive, located approximately one-half mile north of Interstate 8.

The building lies within the N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4, Township 9 South, Range 18 West, on the 1965 Wellton Mesa, Arizona, 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle (photorevised 1982). Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 11, N 3618949.90 E 770729.39.

Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
Boulder City, Nevada

Present Use: WMIDD employee housing.

Significance: Building 3, as part of the former Wellton Government Camp, is associated with the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project. Construction of the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation system began in 1949 and was essentially completed in 1957. With its completion, Colorado River water was delivered to previously arid lands in the lower Gila River valley. Concomitant to construction of the irrigation system, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) built Wellton Government Camp to provide office space and housing for employees engaged in fieldwork associated with the irrigation project. Today, the headquarters of the WMIDD stand on the site of the camp offices, and the houses serve as residences for WMIDD employees. The WMIDD administrative complex is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a district under Criteria a and c (Thompson and Sterner 2005:106). The residential buildings have retained their integrity and contribute to the significance of the headquarters complex.

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Tucson, Arizona

Date: September 2006

## I. PHYSICAL HISTORY

See AZ-68-G for information pertaining to the physical history of the former Wellton Government Camp.

## II. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Building 3 (six-room residence, Type 6C) is a one-story, ranch-style, wood-frame house with a shingled, side-gabled roof; stucco exterior; steel-sash casement windows; and a concrete-slab foundation. There is no basement. The overall dimensions are 37'-4" x 23'-8" with a wing on the south (rear) facade that measures 12'-0" x 10'-0". The wing has an end-gable roof. The Type 6C roof plan differs from the Type 6B in that it employs roof dormers on the gable ends for ventilation purposes. Moreover, the gable ends of the Type 6C residence do not have horizontal wood siding but are covered by stucco. The end gable of the utility porch incorporates a louvered air vent. The north (front) facade has an off-center entrance with a concrete sill covered by a simple porch hood. A multipane, metal-sash, casement picture window at the east corner wraps around to the east facade. There are 14 multipane, metal-sash casement windows in use on the building's facades. The south (rear) facade has an off-center entrance with a concrete sill leading into a 120-square-foot utility room that extends from the primary building mass.

As originally constructed, the west gable end received an elevated evaporative-cooling unit, which has since been replaced by a ground-mounted air-conditioning unit and ductwork.

The front entrance is covered by a metal security-screen door. An aluminum-frame screen door covers the south (rear) entrance. Building 3 has a porch addition on the southwest facade consisting of a concrete pad and a porch covering supported by three wood columns. The concrete pad measures 21'-4" x 10'-0". The porch covering has a low pitch and is covered with roll-roofing material. The addition is open on the sides. On December 30, 1954, the H. P. Adams Construction Company was awarded a contract for remodeling some of the buildings at the camp (Pfaff 1997). Presumably, the porch addition was performed under this contract. The current occupants have installed a satellite dish to the roof on the north (front) of the residence. A metal television antenna is attached to the building's southeast facade.

Six rooms make up the Type 6C residence: a living room, a dining room, three bedrooms, and a utility room. In addition, there is a kitchen and bath. The interior space is approximately 1,000 square feet. Documentation for this report did not include visual inspection of the building's interior. Plan drawings for the permanent house, Type 6C, indicate the kitchen and bathroom floors were covered with asphalt tile and that the remaining interior floor surfaces consisted of finished concrete. The interior ceilings and walls were plastered (Reclamation 1949). Construction costs for this house were \$9,286 (Pfaff 1997).

The current condition of the building's exterior is fair to good. Portions of the exterior walls have been patched with stucco.

### III. REFERENCES CITED

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

- 1949 Wellton Government Camp, six-room residence Type 6C. Drawing 50-308-4547. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma, Arizona. Drawing on file, Record Group 115, Project Reports, 1910–1955, Box 416, National Archives and Records Administration, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver.

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- 1997 *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region: Historic Building Reconnaissance Survey*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Technical Services Center, Denver.

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- 2005 *Inventory and Documentation of the Irrigation System of the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project*. Technical Report 04-62. Statistical Research, Tucson.