

WELLTON-MOHAWK IRRIGATION SYSTEM, BUILDING NO. 5  
(HOUSE)  
30641 Wellton-Mohawk Drive  
Wellton  
Yuma County  
Arizona

HAER AZ-68-K  
AZ-68-K

HAER  
AZ-68-K

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 5 (House)

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- Location: 30641 Wellton-Mohawk Drive, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) administrative complex, Wellton, Yuma County, Arizona. Building 5 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 3618952.66 E 770767.988.
- 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 5, 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.
- Report Prepared by: Scott Thompson, Senior Historian  
Statistical Research, Inc.  
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 5 (six-room residence, Type 6B) 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. All of the gable ends are covered with horizontal wood siding and incorporate a louvered air vent. The interior space is approximately 1,000 square feet. 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 had ductwork for receiving an elevated evaporative-cooling unit. The evaporative-cooling unit has since been replaced by a ground-mounted air-conditioning unit and ductwork.

The front entrance is covered by a metal security-screen door, and an aluminum-frame screen door covers the entrance at the rear of the house. Building 5 has a porch addition on the southwest facade that consists 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.

Six rooms make up the Type 6B residence: a living room, a dining room, three bedrooms, and a utility room. In addition, there is a kitchen and bath. The building has approximately 1,000 square feet of living space. Documentation for this report did not include visual inspection of the building's interior. Plan drawings for the permanent house, Type 6B, 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 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 6B. Drawing 50-308-4546. 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.

Pfaff, Christine

- 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.

Thompson, Scott, and Matthew A. Sterner

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