

WELLTON-MOHAWK IRRIGATION SYSTEM, BUILDING NO. 6 A-B  
(DUPLEX)  
30651 & 30653 Wellton-Mohawk Drive  
Wellton  
Yuma County  
Arizona

HAER AZ-68-L  
AZ-68-L

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AZ-68-L

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation System, Building 6 A-B (Duplex)

HAER No. AZ-68-L

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Location: 30651 and 30653 Wellton-Mohawk Drive, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) administrative complex, Wellton, Yuma County, Arizona. Building 6 A-B 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 3618953.27 E 770793.10.

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 6 A-B, 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 6 A-B (four-room residence, duplex, Type 4D) is a one-story, wood-frame, rectangular duplex resting on a 6"-wide concrete foundation. Concrete piers set inside the foundation and spaced at 6'-0" intervals support the floor joists. The building is sheathed with horizontal wood siding and covered by a shingled, side-gabled roof with exposed rafter ends. The north (front) facade is symmetrical, with the two entrances at the center sharing a simple extended porch overhang. The south (rear) facade is also symmetrical, with two entrances at the center. There are two foundation vents on the east and west facades. The overall dimensions of the primary building mass are 60'-0" x 25'-3" with a wing on the south (rear) facade that measures 22'-8" x 8'-6". The wing has a low-pitched, shingled roof. The gable ends incorporate louvered vents for moving air through the attic space.

Originally, the front porch entry was constructed of wood with simple, square wood posts supporting the porch covering. A stepped, concrete stoop has replaced the wood porch entry, and the support posts have been replaced by thin metal rods set in the concrete stoop. Similarly, the original wood steps on the south (rear) facade have been replaced with concrete steps. The total square footage for the duplex is 1,780.

As originally constructed, the duplex was outfitted with two elevated evaporative-cooling units on the east and west facades. These units have been replaced by ground-mounted air-conditioning units connected to the building by exterior ductwork.

Two heating vents protrude from the north (front) slope of the roof. Building 6 A-B has an open porch addition on the southwest facade that consists of a concrete pad and a porch covering supported by two wood columns. The concrete pad measures 18'-2" x 8'-8". The porch covering has a low pitch and is covered with roll-roofing material. Pfaff (1997) noted that on December 30, 1954, the H. P. Adams Construction Company was awarded a contract for remodeling some of the buildings at the camp. The porch addition, and the current north (front) and south (rear) porch entries, may have been constructed under this contract.

Originally, there were 22 6/6 double-hung windows on the building's facades. Currently, there are 18 1/1 aluminum-frame windows in use. The original windows on the east and west facades of the utility room (wing) have been filled in. The front entrance to Unit B is covered by a metal security-screen door. The doors on the north and south facades are not original.

This duplex was converted in 1950–1951 from the barracks building sections moved from Yuma Army Air Field to the Wellton Government Camp site. Yuma Army Air Field was activated in 1942 as a training base for aviation cadets. At the end of the war, the base was deactivated, and in 1949, Reclamation acquired both real and personal property at the inactive facility for use on its projects. Some of the buildings were used in the construction of the government camp at Wellton (Reclamation 1949a:22–23). Each half of the Type 4D residence has four rooms: a living room, two bedrooms, and a utility room. In addition, there is a kitchen and bath. Each half has approximately 850 square feet of living space, or an approximate total of 1,700 square feet for the building (Reclamation 1949b). Documentation for this report did not include visual inspection of the building's interior. Pfaff (1997) previously described the remodeled, temporary, two-bedroom duplex as having wood floors covered with salvaged linoleum, plaster-board interior walls, new linoleum countertops, Venetian blinds, and an evaporative-cooling system. The cost to move, set up, and convert Building 6 A-B was \$13,038 (Pfaff 1997).

The current condition of the building's exterior is fair.

### III. REFERENCES CITED

#### Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)

1949a *Annual Project History, Gila Project, Yuma, Arizona*, Vol. XIV. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver. On file, Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Projects Office, Yuma, Arizona.

1949b Wellton Government Camp, temporary residence Type 4D. Drawing 50-308-4566. 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.