

WELLTON-MOHAWK IRRIGATION SYSTEM, BUILDING NO. 22
(HOUSE)
30600 Wellton-Mohawk Drive
Wellton vicinity
Yuma County
Arizona

HAER AZ-68-AA
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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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- Location:** 30600 Wellton-Mohawk Drive, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) administrative complex, Wellton, Yuma County, Arizona. Building 22 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 3619006.27 E 770685.27.
- 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 22, 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 22 (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 north (rear) facade that measures 12'-0" x 10'-0". The wing has an end-gabled roof. The Type 6C roof plan differs from the Type 6B plan 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 interior space is approximately 1,000 square feet. The south (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 west corner wraps around to the west facade. There are 14 multipane, metal-sash casement windows in use on the building's facades. The north (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 east gable end received an elevated evaporative-cooling unit, which has since been replaced by a ground-mounted air-conditioning unit and ductwork.

The front and rear entrances are covered by metal security-screen doors. The current occupants have installed a satellite dish to the roof trim on the north facade, just above the rear entrance.

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 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 6C, indicate the kitchen and bathroom floors were covered with asphalt tile and that the remaining interior floor surfaces consisted of finished concrete (Reclamation 1949). The interior ceilings and walls were plastered. Construction costs for this house were \$9,286 (Pfaff 1997).

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

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.

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.