

ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY IN RUCKER CANYON

Coronado National Forest

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To most people, history and archeology in Rucker Canyon means Camp Rucker, the small US Army post used in the late 1800s in the Army's quest to subdue the Chiricahua Apaches. However, the history of human occupation in the Canyon is much longer, both before and after the Army's brief stay. Recently the Forest Service has identified a total of 13 prehistoric and historic sites and has nominated them to the National Register of Historic Places. This account is based on excerpts from the National Register nomination.

The Rucker Canyon Archeological District (RCAD) is located in the southern Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona approximately 65 kilometers (40 miles) north of Douglas, Arizona. Thirteen archeological sites comprise the district, a 1,800-acre tract of land administered by the Coronado National Forest. Sites have three primary temporal and cultural associations; late prehistoric habitation, the U.S. military and Apache conflict, and early ranching. The focus of the district is Camp Rucker which was, successively, an aboriginal habitation, a U.S. Army post, and a ranch headquarters.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Rucker Canyon Archeological District is located in the Rucker Basin, an open valley drained by Whitewater Draw, a major tributary of the Rio Bavispe and in turn the Rio Yaqui of Sonora. The basin is in the southwestern portion of the Chiricahua Mountains, located approximately 7 kilometers eastward from the west front of the mountains. Elevations of the district range from approximately 5,550 to 6570 feet above sea level. Peaks in the headwaters area of Rucker Canyon, 6 kilometers to the northeast, exceed 9000 feet in elevation. The bedrock geology of the basin is made up by a series of Cretaceous marine and terrestrial sedimentary rocks including limestone, mudstone, quartzite, and conglomerate units that dip predominantly to the east at variable angles. The surrounding higher peaks and ridges are made up of thick layers of mid-Tertiary extrusive volcanic rocks, predominantly rhyolite ash flows derived from nearby calderas in the central Chiricahua Mountains (Pallister and du Bray 1989). Although the Rucker Basin is topographically lower than the surrounding terrain, structurally it is an uplifted block bounded by high-angle faults on all sides (Drewes 1980). Quaternary sediments, including gravelly alluvial terraces along the main stream and alluvial fans emanating from surrounding highlands, cover much of the lower elevations of the basin.

The stream which drains the basin is identified variously as Rucker Canyon, Whitewater Draw, or, in the nineteenth century, as White River and White River Canyon. Several tributaries join the main stream within the RCAD including Cottonwood Creek, Brushy Creek, and Red Rock Canyon. Streams flow throughout much of the year with permanent water available at the confluence of Rucker and Cottonwood Creek.

Annual precipitation averages approximately 450 millimeters (18 inches) per year. The 1931 to 1972 average from the Rucker Canyon weather station is 442 mm/year (17.6 inches) (Sellers and Hill 1974); this station is located several miles west of the RCAD at a lower and drier locality. Precipitation is strongly biseasonal with maxima in December-March and July-September. Rainfall is also highly

variable with annual totals for the 1931-1972 period ranging from 181 mm (7.2 inches) to 750 mm (29.8 inches).

Vegetation throughout the RCAD is predominantly Madrean oak woodland with Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), Emory oak (*Q. emoryi*), Silverleaf oak (*Q. hypoleucoides*), Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*), Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*), Mexican pinyon (*Pinus discolor*), Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), and Skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*) all abundant. Larger trees dominate riparian habitats with Chihuahuan pine (*Pinus leiophylla*), Sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*), Arizona white oak, Arizona cypress, and Alligator juniper all abundant. A few open grass-covered parklands occur on some of the older alluvial terrace and alluvial fan surfaces in the central part of the basin. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) are common potentially important game animals. Black bear (*Ursus americana*), Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), and wolf (*Canis lupus*) were all reportedly common until the 1930s when wolves were eliminated and populations of the other two large carnivores reduced.

PREHISTORY IN SOUTHERN CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS

Several PaleoIndian sites have been discovered in southeastern Arizona, particularly in the San Pedro Valley, 50 kilometers west of the Chiricahuas. Closer to the RCAD, a possible PaleoIndian point was found at Willcox Playa, and a Clovis point was discovered near Portal, on the east side of the Chiricahuas. Folsom material has been discovered in southwestern New Mexico (Bronitsky and Merritt 1986:95).

A trend away from hunting toward plant processing is evident by the early Archaic. Sulphur Spring, the earliest stage of the Archaic period, dates between 8,000 and 10,000 (possibly 10,400) years ago (Waters 1986a, 1986b). Early Archaic sites have been found in Sulphur Spring Valley along Whitewater Draw, less than 40 kilometers southwest of the RCAD. Detection of Early Archaic sites in other areas of the Sulphur Spring Valley may be inhibited by Holocene sediments and the lack of temporally diagnostic artifacts (Waters and Woosley 1990:170). Neither PaleoIndian nor early Archaic sites have been identified in Rucker Canyon.

Middle Archaic sites, dating from about 8000 to 3200 years ago and indicated by projectile points similar to Pinto Basin and San Jose types, are more common, and Late Archaic sites have been well represented in survey around Willcox Basin (Waters and Woosley 1990). The Late Archaic, dating from ca. 1200 BC to AD 500, is marked by San Pedro and Cortaro projectile points, and ground stone (milling stones, handstones, mortars, pestles), in both residential sites and special activity loci (Waters and Woosley 1990). One Cortaro point and other possible Middle and Late Archaic points have been found in the RCAD, but whether they represent true Archaic components or were scavenged and brought to the area by later inhabitants is not known.

The Archaic settlement system indicated by the Willcox Basin survey results suggest a "relatively stable, sedentary existence, a prelude to the agricultural societies that followed" (Waters and Woosley 1990:173). In fact, although Bronitsky and Merritt (1986:178) note the lack of evidence for a transition from the Late Archaic to ceramic sites in the Sulphur Spring Valley, this gap likely reflects a lack of research rather than an occupation hiatus. A gradual transition from the Archaic to San Simon Mogollon was documented on the east side of the Chiricahuas (Sayles 1945), and elsewhere in southeastern Arizona evidence for unbroken occupation and similar adaptations from the Archaic to the ceramic period is accumulating (e.g., Roth 1993).

At this point, not only the initial dating but also the type of ceramic sites to be found in the Sulphur Spring Valley and surrounding mountains is in question, since the area does not fit neatly into any of the traditional culture areas defined for the Southwest. As Bronitsky and Merritt point out (1986:169), southeastern Arizona is peripheral to both Mogollon and Hohokam areas, and sites have been interpreted as having a blend of Hohokam and Mogollon characteristics, with influences from both north and south. Various cultural branches and complexes have been defined based on limited excavation and even more limited regional settlement data. To clarify relationships with other areas, Woosley and Kriebel (1985) call for more systematic analysis of southeastern Arizona ceramic traditions to provide data on diversity and homogeneity in the region. Until such research can provide more specific answers, the interpretation of sites in the Sulphur Spring Valley as Mogollon with Chihuahuan or Anasazi influence (e.g., Johnson and Thompson 1963) appears reasonable. The type sites for the San Simon Mogollon are located nearby, on the eastern slope of the Chiricahua Mountains.

Although a series of individual phase names have been proposed for first part of the ceramic period in southeastern Arizona (Sayles 1945), researchers have used general terms such as "Pit Structure Period" (Gilman 1990) or "Pithouse Period" (Douglas 1990) to encompass the early part of the ceramic period. In the San Simon Mogollon area, this period would be represented by small habitation sites with pithouse architecture, and pottery of the San Simon red-on-brown series, Cerros Red-on-white, and Mimbres Black-on-white (Douglas 1990:185). The Pithouse Period is considered tentatively to bracket the time from about A.D. 500 to 1150, although strong chronological data are lacking. Sites AR03-05-01-66 and -370 in the RCAD contain pottery characteristic of the latter part of the Pithouse Period (e.g. Encinas Red-on-brown and Mimbres Black-on-white), suggesting that there may be Pithouse Period components (including pithouses) present.

Following the Pithouse Period, at about A.D. 1150, there is a shift to above-ground architecture and different pottery types. All five prehistoric sites in the RCAD are identified as Animas Phase occupations, which was first defined based on excavations at Pendleton Ruin in southwestern New Mexico (Kidder et al. 1949). The Animas Phase is distinguished from the early Mogollon by above-ground architecture (usually in compounds with plazas), Cloverdale Corrugated pottery, and small amounts of Chihuahuan pottery types. Architecture is characterized by adobe or jacal walls built on rows of upright slabs or "cimlentos." Houses are often recognized by cimlentos exposed on the ground surface.

Based on existing chronological data (some radiocarbon analysis, obsidian hydration rates, and ceramic cross-dating), the Animas Phase is generally considered to date from A.D. 1150 to about A.D. 1375, although DeAtley and Findlow (1982) place it from A.D. 1200 to 1425. Douglas (1990:183, 372) divides the Animas Phase into Early Animas (A.D. 1150-1300) and Late Animas (A.D. 1300-1375), with Late Animas defined by the presence of Salado Wares, which date to after 1300. Although the specific identification of Animas Phase sites has been confined to southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and adjoining areas of Chihuahua and Sonora, Douglas (1990:61) notes that sites with similar architecture and Chihuahuan wares are found from east of the Rio Grande west to the Rio Sonora.

The previously studied Animas Phase sites are relatively large, with over 350 rooms estimated for the Box Canyon Site, and over 80 rooms at least partially excavated at Pendleton Ruin. Even the "small" Animas-Phase Ringo Site contains two compounds and a total of over 25 rooms. These sizes, along with the distribution of other known Animas Phase sites, suggest change in population or social organization. Available evidence has led researchers to believe that during the Animas Phase, sites are clustered at lower elevations than earlier sites, with more intensive use of fewer areas, less mobility and less dependence on wild resources than during the late Pithouse Period (Douglas 1990:236-241).

Although they contain the cimiento architecture and the Cloverdale Corrugated and Chihuahuan wares of the Animas Phase, the RCAD sites differ from most of those previously studied, calling into question previous models of aggregation and adaptation. With fewer than a dozen rooms apparent at each, all five are significantly smaller. In contrast to the general Animas Phase pattern of contiguous rooms surrounding a plaza, the RCAD sites exhibit a "rancheria" pattern of dispersed households. Further, they are located at slightly higher elevations and in different physiographic settings than Animas Phase sites studied to date.

Even greater changes in settlement patterns have been postulated for the subsequent Salado period: sites with Gila polychromes predominating, which indicate a post-1300 date, appear to be larger and located along large floodplains (e.g., the Kuykendall site, Mills and Mills 1969). Although Gila Polychrome pottery has been observed at one of the RCAD sites, the small quantities there are consistent with an Animas Phase designation; there is no evidence of a true Salado manifestation in the Rucker Canyon area.

Prehistoric Materials at Camp Rucker

The prehistoric site that lies within the boundaries of historic Camp Rucker was first described by R.T. Burr (1880:333-334), the physician stationed at the Camp from its founding in 1878 until 1879. Burr's account includes the following observations:

The remains occur in groups, some consisting of from two to four or five squares or circles, showing that at the time they were built defense was not a primary object....

The other two isolated groups are small, the nearest having three or four squares and no circles; the second, on the east of Rucker's Branch [Rucker Canyon], having five or six squares from 10 to 15 by 20 or 30 feet.... I traced out the walls of the main building as well as I could, the only guide I had being the upright stones placed singly from 6 to 12 inches apart. No remains of a wall exist save these stones that are placed on end and partly buried in the ground. Walls or lines are, with one exception, due north and south, and east and west. I tested this by means of a compass, and, making allowance for variations of the needle, they are certainly wonderfully correct. The walls, if they were walls, must have been made of adobe, and the heavy rainfalls of the Canyon, about 30 inches this year, would have destroyed all traces, as this building was erected on the incline of the ridge, while the circles are on the level ground. The large circles, all about 30 feet in diameter, have the walls much better preserved than the squares. The mounds are from 12 inches to 2 feet higher than the surrounding land, and, in some cases, spread out some 4 to 10 feet. The walls seem to have been made of adobe and stones....

Near the center of most of the mounds is quite a depression, caused, I suppose, by the washing down of the walls.... On the ground I have found an abundance of pottery in small pieces, some of it glassy, one piece ornamented in colors, many bits carved or marked....

The small circles, about 3 feet in diameter, were ovens. They have a floor of flat stones well fitted, around which a wall is built up 8 to 12 inches high. There is no indication of a covering. In one I discovered some charred juniper wood....

Burr also noted mortars and metates at the site, and surmised that the large circular remains may have been built after the rectangular structures.

Despite extensive disturbance by the military and ranching developments at Camp Rucker, portions of the site appear to be intact. Prehistoric artifacts and features are clustered in an area approximately 180 by 90 meters at the end of the upper terrace at the interfluvium of Cottonwood Creek and a tributary of the main Rucker Canyon drainage. One 30-meter-long rock alignment (possibly part of a compound wall) and other rock alignments are still visible. The large circular depressions and the ovens that Burr noted are no longer evident, and at least some may have been located in the vicinity of the current stock tank.

Artifacts present at the site include over 20 whole or partial pieces of ground stone, hammerstones and cores, flaked stone including bifaces and projectile points of obsidian and chert, debitage of jasper, cherts, quartzite, and rhyolite, and plain and decorated pottery. Decorated pottery includes Cloverdale Corrugated (probably what Burr described as carved or marked sherds) and an unidentified red-on-brown type, consistent with an early Animas Phase ascription, A.D. 1150-1300. The construction of the stock tank appears to have been the primary destructive historic intrusion on the site: although four historic buildings or features as well as fences have been constructed within the site boundary, these appear to have involved relatively little ground disturbance or occur on the periphery of the artifact scatter.

Other Prehistoric Sites in Rucker Canyon

All five prehistoric sites within the RCAD, including the prehistoric component of Camp Rucker described above, appear to be small occupation sites inhabited during the early Animas Phase, A.D. 1150 to 1300. All have evidence of surface architecture, and four exhibit Cloverdale Corrugated pottery, characteristic of the Animas Phase. Some of the sites may have been occupied earlier, as evidenced by some late pithouse period pottery types, and later, as evidenced by the presence of Salado wares. Chihuahuan pottery types, also characteristic of Animas Phase sites, are also present. Although Animas Phase sites have been extensively studied in both southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona (e.g. Douglas 1990; DeAtley 1980; DeAtley and Findlow 1980, 1982; Kidder et al. 1949; McCluney 1965; Mills and Mills 1971), the RCAD prehistoric sites differ from those previously studied in their smaller size, mountainous setting, and dispersed settlement pattern.

AR03-05-01-05 is a relatively extensive habitation site located at the confluence of Whitewater Draw and the unnamed tributary draining the watershed west of the Rucker Administrative Site. Upright slab wall footings of at least five rectangular houses (walls are 3-6 m in length) are evident, as are other smaller features (probable roasting pits or hearths). Two of the houses have been partially pothunted, but this disturbance appears to be at least 15 years old. Ceramics and chipped stone are scattered over an area ca. 240 m by 200 m in size and a relatively large number (ca. 10 items) of mano and trough metate fragments (and one complete metate) are present. Three projectile points (all of them unnotched and unstemmed forms) were noted. Ceramics include abundant Cloverdale Corrugated and smudged red and brownware bowls. Painted sherds are identified as St. Johns Polychrome, Chihuahuan polychromes, and Mimbres Black-on-white. These are types characteristically found in southeast Arizona Animas Phase sites (e.g., Douglas 1990), and together suggest occupation sometime between A.D. 1150 and 1300.

AR03-05-01-66 is also a habitation site showing upright slab architecture and abundant trash. The site, covering an area approximately 150 m by 140 m, is located on a truncated alluvial fan above Whitewater Draw. Outlines of at least three and probably more house structures are evident. A ca. 8 m diameter shallow depression near the center of the site may mark a large feature. Chipped stone, groundstone, and ceramics are abundant. Pottery includes several sherds of Cloverdale Corrugated (many of them smudged bowls), smudged brown and redware bowls, one White Mountain redware,

one Mimbres Black-on-white, one Cibola-series black-on-white (Snowflake Black-on-white?), and two Gila Polychrome. Other artifacts present at the site include one piece of turquoise near the houses, two triangular obsidian projectile points in the southern part of the site, and several manos. Although the Cloverdale Corrugated pottery indicates an Animas Phase habitation, other decorated pottery may suggest a longer span of occupation for this site: Mimbres Black-on-white dates as early as A.D. 1000, and is considered to predate the Animas Phase, while the Gila Polychrome dates to A.D. 1300 to 1450, from the late Animas Phase or Salado period.

AR03-05-01-370 is a late prehistoric habitation site featuring what appears to be a collapsed rectangular masonry structure with probably at least two rooms, and other possible rock alignments that may indicate other surface structures. There is a small but dense trash deposit ca. 10 m to the southeast of the masonry structure. However, trash (including some possibly earlier ceramics) is scattered over a much larger area (ca. 125 m X 90 m), which suggests that pithouses may be present as well. Ceramics include plainwares, redwares (many smudged), Cloverdale Corrugated, other patterned corrugated, one White Mountain Redware bowl sherd, one red-on-brown (Encinas Red-on-brown?) bowl sherd, and one Babocomari Polychrome jar sherd. One sandstone mano and one intact Cortaro-style projectile point were observed, as well as abundant chipped stone. This is the only one of the Rucker Basin habitation sites which shows masonry construction in addition to upright slab wall bases (cimientos). The edge of the truncated alluvial fan on which the site is located is suffering some erosion, and there is an old (perhaps 20 or more years) pothunting hole evident within the masonry structure, but most of the site appears undisturbed.

AR03-05-01-371 is a habitation site with 7-9 upright slab wall alignments from at least five rectangular houses. Surface trash is much sparser at this site, probably because the area has received a small amount of alluvial fan sedimentation since occupation, rather than experiencing sheetwash erosion as at the sites with more abundant surface artifacts. Artifacts were found thinly scattered over an area 160 m X 125 m. No decorated ceramics were noted, but a brownware sherd disk was found. Two projectile points were found on the site. No pothunting or other vandalism is evident at the site, apparently a reflection of its low visibility in a location where woodland vegetation is relatively dense.

THE HISTORIC PERIOD

The Apaches and the Army

Rucker Canyon was the setting for a number of events and developments that marked the transition of dominance of southeastern Arizona from the Chiricahua Apaches to the Anglo-Americans. For at least 200 years up to the 1860s the southern Chiricahua Mountains were the heartland of the Chokonen band of Apaches. In the mid-1800s the Chokonen were led by the famous leader Cochise. Spanish and Mexican incursions into the Chiricahua region were minimal, largely because of the presence of the Apache and predominantly hostile relationships (e.g., Moorhead 1975; Naylor and Polzer 1986).

Relationships between the United States and the Chiricahuas were relatively friendly beginning with the Mexican-American War in 1846. Southeastern Arizona, including the Chiricahua Mountains, was included in the Gadsden Purchase negotiated in 1853 with the United States taking possession in 1856. Chiricahua/Army relationships deteriorated in 1861 with the famous Bascom Incident at Apache Pass where several of Cochise's kinsmen and Anglo hostages were killed (Thrapp 1967; Sweeney 1991). The subsequent Battle of Apache Pass with General James H. Carleton's California

Volunteers in 1862, and the execution of Mangas Coloradas in 1863 marked the beginning of a decade of hostilities between the Chiricahua Apaches and the Anglo-Americans.

Throughout the 1860s the southern portion of the Chiricahua Mountains was Apache territory that was visited only occasionally by other people. Both the United States and Mexican Armies made occasional forays into the southern Chiricahua Mountains during the 1860s but with little impact on the Apaches (e.g., Wilson 1987; Hayes 1992). In the autumn of 1869 the U.S. Army began to step up its military efforts in southeastern Arizona. In early October, a large group of Apaches, apparently including Western Apaches as well as Chiricahuas, ambushed a stage carrying John Finkle Stone, the owner of the Apache Pass mine. All members of the party, including a military escort, were killed near Dragoon Springs at the north end of the Dragoon Mountains. The following day the Apache warriors captured a herd of 250 cattle being driven from Texas to California. The Apaches headed southeast across the Sulphur Spring Valley before crossing to the east side of the Pedregosa Mountains. On October 8 Lieutenant William Winters and 25 cavalry troopers from Camp Bowie caught up with and captured the cattle herd, claiming 12 Apaches were killed.

A week later two cavalry companies, commanded by Captain Reuben Bernard and Lieutenant John Lafferty, 1st Cavalry, and guided by Merejildo Grijalva, left Camp Bowie for the southern Chiricahua Mountains. The command proceeded along the east base of the Chiricahuas to the vicinity of Winter's encounter with the Apaches. Fresh tracks were observed and followed over Chiricahua Pass into the Rucker Basin. On October 20, 1869, the soldiers encountered Apache warriors at the confluence of Rucker and Red Rock Canyons, and for much of the day attempted, without success, to dislodge the Apaches from the prominent mesa between the two drainages.

The exact location of the battle had not been known to historians until the past few years. Recently the location has been established through examination of a panorama drawing made soon after the battle and now found in archival sources (Bernard 1869). The drawing, combined with Bernard's descriptions, are sufficient to identify the location of the October 20 battle as the rocky mesa at the confluence of Rucker and Red Rock Canyons; AR03-05-01-393 is the battlefield site.

As described by Bernard, the battle took place from around noon until sunset during which time the Army command, numbering 61 men, attempted unsuccessfully to dislodge the Apaches from the mesa top. The Apache group was estimated to number a hundred or more and probably included Western Apaches as well as Cochise's Chiricahuas (Sweeney 1991). The Apaches used both rifles and bows and arrows. Two soldiers were killed and Lieutenant Lafferty was seriously wounded attempting to ascend the mesa. Bernard claimed 18 Apaches were killed, though this estimate may not be accurate since the hilltop was not taken. Indeed, the two soldiers' bodies were not recovered until a week later when Bernard returned with a larger force. On the 26th, a larger Army force returned to Rucker Canyon and skirmishing was renewed. On the 27th, Cochise sought to discuss making a peace agreement, but was rebuffed by Bernard. Additional cavalry troops arrived in Rucker Canyon from Camp Goodwin, Camp Crittenden, and the Mexican Army. Sporadic fighting occurred in Rucker Canyon and on the mountain slopes to the north and east over a period of several days through November 7. These later skirmishes are not included in the October 20 battle site designated by AR03-05-01-393.

A total of 33 Medals of Honor were subsequently authorized by General William T. Sherman to be awarded to soldiers who participated in the October 20 battle. This is a surprisingly large number, in as much as fewer than 200 Medals of Honor were awarded to soldiers during the entire U.S. Army and Apache conflict in the Southwest. More medals of honor were awarded for this battle than for any other encounter in the Southwest.

The Battle of Chiricahua Pass and the related skirmishes of October, 1869, represented an important turning point in Chiricahua Apache/Anglo-American relationships in southeastern Arizona. It was the biggest head-to-head confrontation between Cochise and the Army any time after the 1862 fight at Apache Pass. Although the Army failed to drive the Apaches from their mesa position, the attack undoubtedly had a strong impact on Cochise. As Bernard reported in November, 1869, "In this campaign Coches (sic) has been greatly injured; in fact, much worse than he has ever been before." He also predicted, correctly, that "This wily Indian, Coches, will not stand to fight a command as large as mine was, and perhaps will never again give battle to any number of troops under circumstances so favorable to himself as he did on the 20th of October on the rocky mesa" (Bernard's report of Nov. 14, 1869).

For the first time since the early 1860s Cochise felt compelled to make overtures for peace (Sweeney 1991). He was surprised by the tenacity, previously lacking, of the Army's pursuit and began to negotiate for a peaceful settlement. In October, 1872, in Cochise's Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains, an agreement was finally made between Cochise and General O. O. Howard. This created the short-lived Chiricahua Indian Reservation which included Rucker Canyon along with all of the Chiricahua Mountains. Cochise died in 1874 and the Reservation was terminated in 1876.

Most of the Chiricahua Apaches were removed to the San Carlos Reservation on the Gila River, but some chose not to go or did not stay for long. Throughout 1876 and 1877 conditions in the Chiricahua Mountains were uneasy with scattered "renegade" Apaches, occasional prospectors and early Anglo settlers, and the U.S. Army all frequenting the area. By the end of 1877, a considerable debate was being waged between General August V. Kautz, Commanding General of the Department of Arizona, and the newspaper publishers and politicians of Tucson, most notably Territorial Governor Anson P.K. Safford. Kautz maintained there were few hostile Apaches in the mountains of southeastern Arizona while the citizens of Tucson argued that there were numerous renegades and pressed for increased military activity. General Kautz lost out and was replaced in March, 1878, by General Orlando B. Willcox (Altshuler 1991).

Camp Rucker

One of General Willcox's first actions was to order the establishment of a new military post in extreme southeastern Arizona. This post was set up by Captain Daniel Madden and Co. C of the 6th Cavalry on April 4, 1878, near San Bernardino Springs on the international border. That same day, Geronimo, just becoming a leading figure among the Chiricahua Apaches, departed from San Carlos and headed for the Sierra Madres (Debo 1976). A few days later Governor Mariscal of Sonora expressed his displeasure with the location of the new post, prompting a decision to relocate. By the end of April supplies had been moved to White River Canyon (the present Rucker Canyon) and "Camp Supply" established there.

The new post was designed to serve as a base of operations and supply depot for two companies of Indian Scouts sent out to patrol for hostile Apaches in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Evidently, it was the only military post in the Southwest established with the objective of supporting Indian Scout companies (cf. Altshuler 1983). The two Indian Scout companies in the early summer of 1878 were commanded by two young aggressive Lieutenants, John Anthony (Tony) Rucker and Austin Henely (see Chapel 1973; Johnson 1965, for biographical sketches). They had directed only limited scouting from Camp Supply when both were drowned following very heavy rains on July 11, 1878, while crossing the normally calm Cottonwood Creek at the west edge of the Camp (see Chapel 1973 and Wilson 1987 for accounts of the drowning).

Rucker and Henely were replaced within a few weeks and scouting activities were renewed. In December, 1878, the name of the post was officially changed to Camp John A. Rucker. By that time the resident cavalry company had been replaced by Co. E of the 12th Infantry, commanded by Lt. James Halloran. Indian Scouts continued to use the post, but shifted their base of operations to better established posts (Camp Huachuca and Camp Thomas). Few notable events occurred at Camp Rucker in 1879 until December when Geronimo, Juh, and a large band of Chiricahuas surrendered to Lt. Haskell in the Guadalupe Mountains. Geronimo's entourage and escort came to Rucker in late December enroute to San Carlos.

In the spring and summer of 1880 the garrison at Camp Rucker engaged in more intensive building activities than it had previously. Two relatively large adobe and stone buildings -- the bakery and commissary storehouse -- were constructed, and a third -- the hospital -- was begun. Previously, large structures (e.g., a storehouse) were predominantly log stockade construction with canvas roofs while officers and soldiers lived in tents. Actually, the first building at the camp was evidently a trader's store, built by the post sutler in the summer of 1878, long before the Army started any construction.

In the autumn of 1880 the decision was made to remove the small garrison from Camp Rucker. The single company, 12th Infantry, Co. E., commanded by Captain Alexander MacGowan, departed on November 22, 1880, for duty at Fort Apache. Victorio and his Warm Springs Apaches had been ambushed and decimated in Chihuahua, marking a temporary end of a period of warfare in the Southwest (Thrapp 1967). A small detachment of soldiers continued to occupy Camp Rucker into 1881 though all post records end with November, 1880. On May 31, 1881, the Commanding General of the Department of Arizona recommended that the buildings at Camp Rucker be dismantled and available materials, such as doors and windows, be sent to Camp Huachuca. There were essentially no such materials, since they had not arrived at the camp prior to the departure of the garrison. On July 7, 1881, the Secretary of War approved the closure of Camp Rucker and it lay abandoned.

Rapid and lasting changes occurred in southeastern Arizona during the official occupation of Camp Rucker from 1878 to 1880. Coincident with its use, the rich silver discoveries at Tombstone became known and a massive influx of miners took place. By 1880 Tombstone was one of the biggest settlements in Arizona. Also in 1880, the Southern Pacific Railroad was completed across southern Arizona and new towns such as Willcox and Benson appeared. Lumber harvesting and cattle raising grew rapidly in the grassy basins as Anglo settlement dramatically increased and Apache presence in the mountains declined (e.g., Wilson 1987).

The abandonment of Camp Rucker did not mark the end of its use by the U.S. Army. Throughout the remainder of the Apache Wars until the final surrender of Geronimo and Naiche in September, 1886, the Army made periodic use of the camp. However, in 1882, Michael Gray and his family, knowing the Government had officially closed the post, took up residence. For \$150 the Grays purchased the post trader's store from Norton and Stewart, the company which had run the sutler's store. The military post they simply claimed under "squatter's rights" (Gray 1940). The Army frequently visited the post, apparently maintaining amicable relationships with the Grays, though ownership of the post was in question (Gray 1940). In April, 1882, when a major "breakout" of Apaches from San Carlos took place, the Army established a new post, Camp Price, on the east side of the Chiricahua Mountains, rather than reoccupy Camp Rucker. In the summer of 1883, Geronimo and other Apache leaders surrendered to General Crook in the Sierra Madres (Debo 1976). As in 1879, the party passed through Rucker on the way back to San Carlos. Gray (1940) reports the large party spent four days in Tex and Rucker Canyons. Regimental returns indicate that troopers from the 4th Cavalry and 10th Cavalry (Buffalo Soldiers) spent time at Camp Rucker during 1885.

Though no longer an official post, the most intensive use of Camp Rucker at any time occurred in the summer of 1886 during the final campaign against the hostile Apaches. General Nelson Miles's strategy for ending the Apache Campaign involved posting large numbers of soldiers throughout southeastern Arizona. Camp Rucker became a central outpost for southeastern Arizona with numerous companies posted there at one time or another through the period from April to September. For example, five companies of the 4th Cavalry were stationed there for approximately one month each. Companies or detachments of Indian Scouts, 10th Cavalry, and regular Infantry were also present. Major Eugene Beaumont, the Commanding Officer at Fort Bowie, made a number of trips to Camp Rucker and sent several messages from there.

In May a heliograph station was established by Lieutenant Alvarado M. Fuller one mile west of Camp Rucker to allow communication with Fort Bowie and other stations. The station was a terminal node in the system, interacting with only one other station, that at the north end of the Swisshelm Mountains. As Fuller reported, "Rucker Canyon being an important point, and the camp of several troops" warranted an early connection with Fort Bowie (Fuller 1886:1). The camp, staffed by two heliograph operators and two guards, continued in operation until the end of September, after the surrender of Geronimo. Although it interacted with only one other station, the Rucker Heliograph Station was an active one; during the 1886 campaign, the Rucker Heliograph Station was reportedly second only to Fort Bowie in the number of messages sent (Smith 1981:125).

When Camp Rucker was reoccupied in April, 1886, General Miles evidently wanted a clarification of the ownership of Camp Rucker. Lt. E. J. Spencer, the officer in charge of preparing a detailed map of Miles's campaign against the few remaining hostile Apaches, sent an inquiry to Washington, D.C. requesting information about "the military history of 'Old Camp Rucker,' and certain information relative to the occupancy of the military buildings there by Michael Gray." (NA, Records Group 393, 1886 Letters Received pertaining to Apache Campaign, Dept. Arizona). The reply from the Office of the Chief Engineer offered little information other than indications that it was closed in 1881. The Army and the Grays worked out arrangements which included letting officers stay in the camp's buildings. John P. Gray (1940:111) later recalled that several young officers stayed at "our ranch...at their urgent request."

On September 2, General Miles stayed the night at Camp Rucker on his way to receive Geronimo's final surrender in Skeleton Canyon. However, unlike 1879 and 1883, Geronimo's group apparently did not pass through Rucker after giving up; instead, they went directly to Fort Bowie and then on to the train and exile in Florida (e.g., Utley 1977). A few days after the Apaches surrendered, Michael Gray wrote to Captain William Thompson at Fort Bowie, asking, in unedited grammar:

Der sir will you do me the favour to have the troops moved from my ranch. They will bank rupt me if allowed to remain by killing my hogs. When they came hear I had 100 head fine hogs now I only count 40 head...

Gray suggested that \$2,000 dollars would cover the damages done to his hogs and crops, and apparently he did receive some compensation, though perhaps not the full amount.

The close of the Apache Wars in September, 1886, brought about a major reduction in the role of the military in southeastern Arizona. Camp Rucker was used briefly on at least two other occasions, in 1890 and 1896. By that time it was clearly a cattle ranch with the Army just visiting. On both occasions, a company of soldiers was dispatched to Rucker following homicides of Anglo-Americans by still hostile Apaches (in 1890 Robert Hardie was shot and killed in Rucker Canyon while visiting the Grays and in 1896 Alf Hands was killed in Cave Creek). During both of these years the Army also conducted signalling exercises using an expanded heliograph system. Pencilled signatures of sol-

diars of the 7th Cavalry on signal duty are preserved in one of the standing adobe buildings at the Camp.

The Ranchers Move In

For a 90-year span, from the military occupation until 1970, Camp Rucker and the RCAD were the focus of successive family-owned livestock-raising operations. Four different families used Camp Rucker as a ranch headquarters during this time span. These were, successively, the Grays (1882 to 1896), Hampes (1896 to 1919), Raks (1919 to 1943), and Mrs. Dana (1943 to 1970). Fortunately, members of each of the first three occupying families had literary aspirations. A total of four monograph-length accounts include descriptions of ranch life in Rucker Canyon in the late 1880s through the Depression Era. Two of these were books by Mary Kidder Rak published by the Riverside Press of Houghton Mifflin Co. of Boston. These two books, *A Cowman's Wife* (1934) and *Mountain Cattle* (1936), depict ranch life in a southern Arizona mountain ranch during the Depression. The accounts by both John Gray ("When All Roads Led to Tombstone," 1940) and Mathilde Hampe ("From Artist to Cowboy and Personal Reminiscences", 1938) are recollections made many years after they each lived at Camp Rucker. Both are unpublished manuscripts on file at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson.

The history of livestock raising in Rucker Canyon is representative of the development and evolution of the industry in southern Arizona during Anglo-American occupation. Evidence of use of the canyon by Spanish and Mexican herders is lacking. Herding focused in the broad, open, low elevations such as the San Bernardino, San Pedro, and San Rafael Valleys. The nearest Spanish or Mexican ranch was ca. 50 kilometers to the south at San Bernardino, a short-lived 1770s presidio site and an active ranch in the 1820s (Wagoner 1975; Wells 1985). Use of the mountains, including the Rucker Canyon area, was probably precluded by the presence of the Apaches.

General accounts of the history of cattle raising in southern Arizona are given by Wagoner (1952) and Wilson (1987). More detailed studies of southeastern Arizona ranching have focused on biographical accounts of well-known ranchers who had very large herds over very large land tracts in the open valleys. These include discussions of the Slaughters in the San Bernardino Valley (Wells 1985, 1989; Erwin 1965), Colin Cameron in the San Rafael Valley (Brewster 1966), and H.J. Hooker's Sierra Bonita Ranch in the northern Sulphur Spring Valley (Forrest 1965). As Wilson (1987) has pointed out, most ranching histories provide only general overviews of the cattle industry, because few ranches leave enough records to provide more specific accounts. Old Camp Rucker Ranch is one of the few ranches with sufficient documentation to focus on the history of an individual ranch. The evolution of ranching in Rucker Canyon is in many ways representative of the development of the industry in southern Arizona, though not without individualistic attributes.

Through time, the livestock industry in Rucker Canyon progressed through several stages of development, roughly paralleling the development of the ranching industry in Arizona as a whole. Cattle raising in the canyon effectively began in 1878 when the army post was established and a beef contract was let. From 1878 through the early 1880s the region was characterized by unregulated herding involving a considerable amount of cattle rustling. From 1882 to about 1890, large herds (many owned by big companies) roamed large expanses of open range. Drought, land degradation, and lowered beef prices led to the demise of many of the large companies in the 1890s, and from about 1890 to 1915 much smaller operations strove to survive on the marginal mountainous environment. In Rucker Canyon, the small operations gave way to larger ranches holding National Forest grazing permits. The last private-land use of the Camp Rucker Ranch (1943-1970) was as a non-

economic retirement ranch supported by independent finances. Finally, in 1970, the Rucker ranch properties became part of a large Forest Service range allotment with no on-site residents.

The Military and Rustlers -- Livestock raising in Rucker Canyon effectively began with the establishment of the military post there in 1878. A contract was granted to Theo White and Bros., one of the earliest cattle raisers in the southern Sulphur Spring Valley. The Whites lived along the west front of the Chiricahua Mountains near the mouth of Turkey Creek. The Whites' ranch later became the base for the Chiricahua Cattle Company, one of the large turn-of-the-century cattle companies. Cattle for the Camp Rucker military contract were simply kept untended in Rucker Canyon in the vicinity of the post. The Army kept track of butchered beeves and deducted the expenses of one soldier butchering meat from the price paid the White brothers. The Army also solicited bids for supplying beef to Camp Rucker in 1886, though the identity of the contractor has not been determined.

By 1880 cattle rustling had become a prevalent activity in southeastern Arizona, even at Camp Rucker itself. The booming growth of Tombstone and the military posts in the area (Camps Bowie, Huachuca, and Rucker) created new markets for beef. Cattle were imported from Texas and from neighboring Sonora. Theft, cattle brand modification, and illegitimate business transactions were common. In April, 1880, six mules were stolen from Camp Rucker by livestock thieves. Lieutenant Hurst reportedly tracked them to a ranch near Tombstone but did not succeed in recovering the mules (Waters 1960; Camp Rucker, Post Records).

In 1880 the Commanding Officer of Camp Rucker wrote to the Department of Arizona Headquarters in Prescott, complaining about rampant rustling in the Chiricahua Mountains. Captain MacGowan reported that:

There is an organized band of horse, mule, and cattle thieves located in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico who make this pass in [these] mountains their route with stolen stock. The band is well known to Civil authorities and inhabitants, but being too weak, cannot or dare not, arrest them.

They steal in New Mexico and run stock into Arizona and Sonora.

They steal in Sonora and run stock into Arizona and New Mexico.

The "rustlers" or "cow-boys" frequented the Animas Valley in southeast New Mexico, and around Galeyville and Tombstone in southeastern Arizona. Included were several well-known figures in popular Arizona history, such as the Clantons, Curly Bill Brocius, and Johnny Ringo (e.g., Boyer 1976; Marks 1989). The US Army officers at Camp Rucker knew the identities of rustlers who stole stock from them and from others, but were unable to counter the thievery.

The Grays -- Michael Gray, his wife, and his son John moved into Camp Rucker in 1882 and began herding cattle. On December 1 of that year John purchased the old trader's store from Norton and Stewart of Willcox, the company which had held the sutler's contract for Camp Rucker. As described by Gray (1940), the family simply took possession of the military buildings, claiming them as abandoned property.

Cattle rustling was even more prevalent in the area in the early 1880s, after Camp Rucker was officially closed. Michael Gray and his sons were on very friendly terms with the rustler faction and often sided with them in public disputes. Michael Gray was a central figure in the unsettled boom years in Tombstone, between 1879 and 1882 (e.g., Boyer 1976; Gray 1940; Walker 1979). He was, at one time or another, Justice of the Peace, Village Clerk, member of the town council, central figure of the

Tombstone Townsite Company, mine operator, and restaurateur. Gray was a leader of the Democrat faction, frequently at odds with the famous Earp Brothers. Decades later, both sides still accused the other of illegal activities, including even hired assassinations (Boyer 1976; Gray 1940). Walker (1979) has identified Mike Gray's central role in the so-called Tombstone Townsite Scandal, a real estate venture of dubious legality. From son John Gray's perspective, as a result of the Townsite Company dealings, "much bad feeling resulted and 'Townsite' Gray, as my father was called, became the object of much abuse, unjustly so, by the lot jumpers" (Gray 1940:11).

The Grays had used the support of the rustlers to establish the expansive Gray Ranch in the Animas Valley in 1881 (Gray 1940). In August of that year, Michael Gray's younger son, Dick or Dixie, was killed along with "Old Man" Clanton and other members of the rustler faction in Guadalupe Canyon southeast of Rucker Canyon. Although John Gray insisted the Grays were not rustlers, he also makes it clear that they relied on the rustlers' support in establishing their ranching operations in the early 1880s (Gray 1940; also Marks 1989). Accordingly, there is circumstantial evidence that the beginnings of the Camp Rucker Ranch involved cattle rustling. John Gray reported that the initial herd for the Rucker Ranch was purchased from John Chisum, the well-known Pecos Valley cattle baron. In addition, he says he purchased cattle for \$10 a head from Geronimo when he passed through Rucker after surrendering to the Army in 1883 (Gray 1940). Given the close association with the rustlers, it is possible that the Gray's Rucker Canyon cattle herd was supplemented with rustled cattle as well.

The Grays' ranching enterprise expanded rapidly in the 1880s, soon including not only the Gray Ranch in the Animas Valley and the Camp Rucker Ranch, but also the upper San Simon Valley around Tex Canyon. At the Rucker Ranch, the initial herd of 334 head in 1882 expanded to over 700 head within three years (Gray 1940:75). Its growth is representative of a regional trend with numbers of cattle increasing drastically on the open ranges of the 1880s. Although their ranch holdings were expansive, the Grays maintained family ownership of the properties while many other ranches aggregated into larger corporate cattle companies. Like other ranchers, the Grays experienced losses in the early 1890s when drought conditions, combined with overstocking, led to widespread cattle deaths and range degradation (Bahre 1991; Gray 1940).

In addition to cattle, the Grays also imported a herd of approximately 250 Angora goats, keeping them both for their wool and to reduce the fire hazard around the ranch (Gray 1940). This early adoption of goats by cattlemen stands in contrast to the traditional view of cattle ranchers and goat herders as antagonists (e.g., Wilson 1987). Moreover, the early date of this adoption (early 1880s) is before goat herding became popular in southeastern Arizona (ibid.). The Grays also kept pigs at the Rucker Ranch (Gray 1940).

Mike Gray stayed active in politics and was twice elected to the Territorial Legislature as a Democratic representative of Cochise County. Among other things, Gray introduced a bill, which passed, to establish an Arizona Bureau of Archaeology and Ethnology (Tombstone Epitaph, Feb. 26, 1899). In 1896, with Michael Gray approaching 70 years of age, the Camp Rucker Ranch was sold to the Hamps. Mrs. Gray and a daughter had passed away in California, and John Gray had returned to California to attend law school, leaving Michael Gray alone (Gray 1940; Hampe 1938). Gray moved to Pearce, near Tombstone, and lived there into the 1900s.

Construction activities at Camp Rucker during the Grays' stay are not documented. Mary Kidder Rak (n.d.), based on information from Theo Hampe, thought that the Grays did very little, noting that "Colonel Gray had done little to keep the old Fort in repair" (Rak n.d.:6). The open range period of cattle ranching was coming to a close with the large corporate ranches being replaced by more

abundant small-scale family ranches. The Grays' ranchlands and stock numbers were much smaller than before, and other ranchers such as the Hunsakers had moved into Rucker Canyon.

The Hampes -- Both Theo and Mathilde Hampe were artists in San Francisco, and before that in New York City. Theo Hampe had spent several summers vacationing in Rucker Canyon and elsewhere in southeastern Arizona. In the mid-1890s he decided to retire from his job as newspaper illustrator for the San Francisco Examiner and move to southeastern Arizona. The Hampes purchased the Camp Rucker Ranch in September, 1896, acquiring with it 130 goats, two horses, twelve cows and calves, two pigs, and all the ranch appurtenances (Cochise Co. Records Office Book of Deeds, Book 12:308). The Hampes immediately began building up the ranch, adding the barn, modifying the ranch house (the old commissary) with new leaded glass windows, interior wall coverings, and an added bathhouse, digging a new well, and building up a cattle herd (Hampe 1938; Rak n.d.).

In 1902 the Chiricahua Forest Reserve was created with Rucker Canyon included within its boundaries. Residents within the Reserve, later incorporated into the Coronado National Forest, were required to file homestead claims if they wished to remain. The Hampes patented 160 acres including the Camp Rucker buildings then extant. They subsequently acquired other private holdings in the canyon. In 1907, Theo's cousin Adolph Hampe and his wife Dorette established a residence immediately south of Camp Rucker. The wooden house he built later became the main ranch house at the Camp Rucker Ranch (Building 6), though it was originally in a separate homestead. With Forest Service administration of public domain in and around Rucker Canyon came the permit and fee system for cattle raising. The Hampes herded cattle over a large area of mountainous terrain centered on Camp Rucker.

The Raks -- In 1918 the Hampes sold all their Rucker Basin properties to Charles and Mary Kidder Rak. Charlie Rak had been working for the State Forestry Service, though he had worked as a rancher before then. Mary Kidder Rak had graduated from Stanford University and had been teaching at the University of Arizona (Donham 1958; Hoecker 1960). Soon after moving to Camp Rucker, the Raks acquired several other private land holdings in the canyon, including the Hermitage, which had passed through several owners in the 1910s (Cochise Co. Records Office, Book of Deeds). In the 1930s, Mary Kidder Rak, with the encouragement of western writer Dane Coolidge, began writing about her experiences at the Camp Rucker Ranch. Her book *A Cowman's Wife* was published in 1934 and received favorable reviews, leading to a followup volume, *Mountain Cattle*, published in 1936. Mrs. Rak also wrote magazine articles, including one about the Camp Rucker Ranch illustrated with photographs (Rak 1936b), and additional non-fiction and fiction manuscripts, most of which remained unpublished.

Mrs. Rak's writings present a detailed account of the trials of operating a family-run cattle ranch in a mountainous valley during the Depression Era. In his 1950 account of cattle ranching throughout the western United States, noted historian C.L. Sonnichsen included comments about the Raks. Regarding Mary Kidder Rak's two books about Rucker Canyon, Sonnichsen remarked: "Of all the books which attempt to tell life on a modern cattle ranch, these two seem to me the truest and best" (Sonnichsen 1950:286). In addition to offering general accounts of Depression-Era cattle ranching, Mrs. Rak's writings are also of note for their perspective on women in ranching, and on relationships between Anglo-American ranchers and Mexican laborers.

Several additions and modifications of Camp Rucker buildings took place during the Raks' tenure. In 1921, the main ranch house at Camp Rucker burned down, forcing the Raks to move into the small house that had been occupied by Adolph Hampe (respectively Buildings 2 and 6, below). The Raks built another two-room house for the use of Mexican families they hired to help with cattle or to cut wood. Mexican families also intermittently occupied the large adobe house at the Hermitage, though

this site was abandoned during the Raks' ownership and never reoccupied. While the Raks owned the Camp Rucker Ranch, the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 was enacted, bringing about the Range Allotment system and greater federal regulation for grazing on public lands. The Rak Allotment was established including most of the Forest Service lands in the Rucker Basin. The Rak Allotment remains one of the largest range allotments in the Coronado National Forest.

Mrs. Dana – In 1943 the Raks sold their Rucker Canyon properties to Mrs. Ella Dana and her associate Mr. Sidney Vail. Mrs. Dana was a wealthy New Yorker, the widow of William Dana, publisher of the *New York Sun*. Sidney Vail was a western rancher who took care of the ranch management. Unlike the Raks, Mrs. Dana did not rely on stock-raising as her main source of income. The ranch ceased to be an active ranch and was used more as a horse ranch and retirement home. Sidney Vail moved a few years later to a ranch in nearby John Long Canyon. Few improvements were made during Mrs. Dana's tenure other than the addition of a large adobe room to the ranch house. In 1970 Mrs. Dana's Rucker Canyon holdings were acquired by the Forest Service as part of a land exchange. This brought an end to nearly a century of ranch operations at Camp Rucker. However, the Rak Range Allotment is still in effect and cattle are still grazed in and around Camp Rucker.

BUILDINGS AT CAMP RUCKER

The Army constructed few permanent structures at Camp Rucker. Throughout the existence of the Camp, both officers and enlisted men lived in tents and most other facilities were either tents or wooden stockade structures. Two adobe buildings were completed and a third was under construction at the time of the closure of the post in 1880. Some construction by the Army may have occurred in 1886 when the Camp was used extensively, but confirming documentary evidence has not been found.

By the summer of 1880, when an annual report of the condition of all buildings was prepared, Camp Rucker featured nine structures. Table 3 shows what these structures were and their present designation, for those that can be identified. In addition to these adobe and log buildings, facilities included three hospital tents for the hospital ward, dispensary, and kitchen, wall tents for the officers, common tents for the enlisted men, and wall and common tents for up to three laundresses.

The following section describes the buildings and features at Camp Rucker, including information on their construction and use.

Building #1 (Bakery or Bakehouse) is the best preserved of the structures built by the US Army, and the one with the best documented construction. Initial construction was in early December, 1878, soon after Co. E, 12th Infantry, became the post garrison. The original structure was little more than a low arched adobe oven on a rock platform. In the spring of 1880 the structure was expanded to make a larger adobe building, 14'X30', with a shingle roof. Post records indicate that both construction projects were supervised by the same enlisted man, Private Joseph Jones, a brick mason as a civilian. The 1878 oven was reportedly built for \$65, the majority of it going for Jones's wages.

In 1880 Jones was a 49-year-old mason from Wales (10th Census Schedules; Post Records). In 1878 he was paid \$5 a day for 10 days to build the oven, although Major James Biddle, when he inspected Camp Rucker, thought Jones should not have been paid this amount and recommended the money be refunded. The 1880 construction work cost \$100, all of it for materials.

This 1880 building is still largely intact. The building has a dirt floor and shingle roof. Adobe walls are made of half-size bricks, nominally 16"X8"X4" laid in a "common bond" pattern of stretchers and

headers (Saylor 1952). Only the north wall of the initial oven remains, showing the burned adobe arch and chimney of the original oven. This wall was incorporated into the larger building; other walls were enclosed within the 1880 structure and subsequently removed. During the Ranch period the structure was used as a blacksmith shop, and a log anvil stand is still present. In 1982 a small portion of the east wall was replaced after it collapsed.

Building #2 (Commissary or Subsistence Storehouse) was the largest permanent structure built at Camp Rucker. It was 54' X 22' in area, with thick adobe walls built on top of a rock masonry cellar with massive rock walls up to five feet high. The adobe walls were up to four wythes wide (16" X 8" X 4" blocks). Its construction during the summer of 1880 was a major undertaking for the garrison at the post. Work was supervised by Private Jones, who built the bakehouse, and Private Charles Le Marquis, an experienced carpenter. The 1880 Census lists Le Marquis as a 35-year-old single man born in France. Both Jones and Le Marquis were members of Co. E which left Camp Rucker in April, 1880. However, their expertise with adobe masonry and carpentry were substantial enough that the Camp Rucker Commanding Officer secured a temporary assignment for them to stay at the post until completion of the commissary in July.

This structure served as the main ranch house for the Grays, Hampes, and Raks from 1882 until 1921, when it accidentally burned. The Hampes made several modifications including installing leaded glass windows, small circular leaded windows in the gable ends, and an adjoining wooden bathhouse. Numerous photographs of the house interior and exterior dating from ca. 1900 are contained in the Hampe collection at the Arizona Historical Society. At the present time, the rock foundation is still intact, but the adobe walls are limited to the west corner of the building which stand about one and one-half stories high.

Building #3 (One-room Adobe) is still standing and in good condition. Measuring 23' X 17', it is a single room with a gabled roof. Wall construction is similar to Building #1 with double-wythes of 16" X 8" X 4" adobe bricks on a stone foundation. Porches were added to both ends in recent decades but have been removed. The rafters and sheathing boards of the open roof have been decorated with white painted designs, apparently dating from the Hampes's ownership of the ranch. Pencilled inscriptions on the wooden door jamb of the east door include the names of four soldiers of the 7th Cavalry who spent time at Camp Rucker during the summer of 1896. Regimental returns indicate the soldiers were there on signal duty in conjunction with a test run of the heliograph system.

Although this structure has been traditionally identified as the officers quarters or Captain's cabin (e.g., Rak 1936a:67; Hampe 1938), documentary evidence of its construction has not yet been located. It evidently had not been constructed by October, 1880, when the decision to remove the garrison was made, and it clearly predates 1896, the date of pencilled signatures of soldiers still evident on one of the door jambs. John Gray (1940:71) recalled that when his family moved in in 1882, Camp Rucker was "well equipped with several well-built adobe houses". In contrast camp records indicate only two adobe houses were completed by 1880. This discrepancy could mean either the Army built the house after 1880, or that Gray's recollection was inaccurate. One possibility is that the Army built the structure in the 1882-1886 period when ownership of the Camp was uncertain.

Building #4 (Barn) -- This large wooden structure is 70' X 22' with four open internal divisions. Exterior walls are large upright pine logs averaging 7' high and 9-11" in diameter and set on large double-axed log sill plates. Interior partitions are constructed of milled lumber and half logs. The roof is gabled with corrugated metal covering older wooden shingles. A dormer window is present in the west side of the roof.

The upright log construction is identical to the "stockade" construction used by the US Army in wooden buildings at Camp Rucker and elsewhere. Mary Kidder Rak (n.d.:6) wrote that Theo Hampe, soon after he moved there in 1896, tore down "the delapidated pine barracks" and the logs were "made into haybarn and stable." Accordingly, the logs in the walls of the barn were almost certainly originally used in one of the large 1878-1880 Army stockade buildings, either one of the storehouses or the company kitchen.

Building #5 (Two-room Adobe) -- This small adobe building is located on the west side of Cottonwood Creek, opposite the military buildings of Camp Rucker. Mary Kidder Rak mentions the two-room house in her books, referring to it as "Alcario's cabin" after Alcario Rincon who lived there with his family (Rak 1934), or the "Mexican Quarters" (Rak 1936a). Date of construction of this building has not been established; it probably was built in the first part of the twentieth century.

The building is approximately 30' X 15' with adobe walls and poured cement floors. Masonry is of 16" X 8" X 4" adobe bricks laid in alternating double-wide stretcher and header courses. This bonding pattern differs from the common bond pattern evident in the earlier Army adobe structures. A low pitched roof over a flat parallel log roof was present until the 1980s. Repair work on the adobe walls and the roof have been made in recent years by the Forest Service.

Building #6 (Ranch House) -- This is a sprawling structure of six rooms built with several additions over a long period of time. Overall, the building is 72' long and 26'-32' wide. Local folklore has identified this building as originally being an Army Officer's Quarters. However, no documentary evidence has been found to suggest an association with the military, and neither Mary Kidder Rak nor Mathilde Hampe refer to it as an Army building in their discussions of it. Rather, it appears to have been first built by Adolph Hampe when he joined his cousin Theo in Rucker Canyon in the early 1900s. His Homestead Claim that he settled on the land on November 1, 1907, with the "actual residence established" on May 1, 1908. The Adolph Hampes raised a small number of cattle, grew a garden, and taught music and art at the house. A draft version of the Forest Service homestead claim notes that many bright paintings decorated the walls and carved and painted totem poles surrounded the front of the residence. In the 1910 U.S. Census Schedules, Adolph Hampe's occupation is listed as "Artist" and type of business as "Health Home."

The initial phase of this building is two small adjacent rooms showing an unusual post and girt construction with horizontal planked walls, a medium-pitched roof, and elevated floors. Adolph Hampe soon added three more rooms -- a kitchen, living room, and bedroom. All are of frame construction with floor levels ca. 2 feet lower than the original two rooms and low-pitched roofs. The Raks made several modifications after they moved in to the building in 1921. A bathroom was added, a new corrugated metal roof was added over the earlier roofs leaving an air space between them, and the exterior of the house was enclosed with adobe blocks from the burned commissary/ranch house (Building 2). Mrs. Rak wrote that "Mexican masons came and tore down the adobe walls of our burned home, brick by brick, brought the adobes over here in wheelbarrows and enclosed the frame cottage in a second wall of sun-dried bricks" (Rak 1934:171). In addition, a small partially subterranean adobe storeroom with a cedar closet was built behind the house by an Indian from Mexico. Mrs. Dana made one major addition to the house in the early 1950s. This is a large room, 18' X 22', located south of the rest of the house and connected to it by a small passageway. The walls were made of large square (16" X 16") adobe bricks, the only place such full-sized bricks were used at Camp Rucker.

Buildings lacking standing architecture:

Feature #1 (Hospital Foundation) – This is a massive stone foundation 53' X 21' located near the east edge of Camp Rucker. The Army started construction here in the summer of 1880, planning an adobe building with a shingle roof. Construction was suspended with the onset of the summer rainy season. Work did not resume in the autumn because of a lack of trained builders (the mason, Jones, had been mustered out of the Army and the carpenter, Le Marquis, had returned to his company at Camp Thomas). Also there were debates among the officers at Camp Rucker whether to use adobe or frame construction. The post was closed before any additional work was performed.

Feature #2 (Razed wooden structure) – This was originally the Army's combination Company Kitchen/Mess/Reading Room, one of the large stockade buildings built soon after the post was established. The June 30, 1880, annual buildings report lists this building as one of the facilities that was repaired during the preceding fiscal year. By that time, the building was a 70' X 20' log stockade building with adobe partitions and a shingle roof. One of the photographs in the Hampe Collection (Arizona Historical Society) shows this large stockade structure with a medium-pitched roof. It is not known when the building was razed. At the present time this feature is marked only by a level area on the ground surface and by several small glass and metal artifacts, including round and square nails.

Feature #4 (Razed log structure east of Bakery) – This was originally the guardhouse at Camp Rucker as represented on the 1879 map of the post. In post records it was described as a 12' X 12' log building with a log and earth roof. By June, 1880, its condition was listed as "poor and unsuitable for its uses." One undated historic photograph shows this horizontal log structure in dilapidated condition. All walls are now completely razed, though a segment of rock foundation is still evident.

Feature #5 (Razed log structure west of Commissary) – The lowest rotted course of a log structure is still evident at this location. Identity of this building has not been established; no structure at this location is evident on any historic maps, photos, or documents. Glass artifacts found at this location suggest a late nineteenth or early twentieth century date. However, it is unclear whether or not these artifacts are related to use of the building.

Feature #6 (Rock foundation) – This is a large rectangular stone foundation ca. 55' X 30'. The location suggests it may have been one of the large stockade storehouses built by the Army in 1878-1880. However, the dimensions do not correspond to either the Quartermaster or Subsistence Storehouses that were built near here. Metal and glass artifacts are present including some glass partially melted from intense heat.

Feature #7 (Post Trader's Store) – This is a small rectangular stone foundation, 24' X 18', located west of Cottonwood Creek. The location corresponds closely with the "Trader" structure marked on the May, 1879, map of the post. An abundance of thick brown nineteenth century beer bottle glass at the foundation helps confirm the identification. Post records note that sale of alcoholic beverages was a major part of the store's business, and one that was intermittently restricted or banned throughout Camp Rucker's existence.

This was apparently one of the first structures erected after the founding of the post. The unpublished diary of Patrick J. Coyne (n.d.) notes that he commenced work on the sutler's store on June 4, 1878, about one month after Camp Supply was established there. Work was completed on June 12. It is not clear what materials were used in this initial construction; the rapid construction suggests it was of wood rather than adobe. The store was owned by the company of Norton and Stewart who hired local clerks to manage the store. It was purchased by the Grays when they took up residence at Camp

Rucker, and so was not a functioning store when the Army was present after 1882. At the time of its purchase by the Grays the store was described as an adobe building.

Feature #8 (Officer's tent locality) -- A small concentration of glass and metal artifacts is present on the ground surface near the place where "Officer's Quarters" are designated on the 1879 map of Camp Rucker. Included is a military issue underwear button, suggesting the deposit is related to the Army occupation.

Feature #9 (Blacksmithing remains) -- Cinders and pieces of iron have been found near the 1879 map location of the Camp Rucker blacksmith shop. In June, 1880, this shop was described as a log stockade building with an earth roof, in very poor condition and "entirely unsuitable for its uses." Exact location of this structure has not been established.

Other Features at Camp Rucker:

Feature #10 (Sand Spring) -- This is an active spring along Cottonwood Creek near its confluence with the main Rucker Canyon drainage. This was the water source used by the Army when Camp Rucker was in operation. A small pool is surrounded by a U-shaped mound of piled rocks.

Feature #11 (Sand Spring Well -- Photo 22) -- A rectangular log-lined well is present along Cottonwood Creek a short distance south of Sand Spring. The well is now nearly filled in. A log leaning over the well evidently once served as a hoist. Date of construction of this well is unknown but is almost certainly in the nineteenth century.

Feature #12 (Rak's Water Tank) -- This is an elevated circular metal water tank supported by log posts on a massive concrete foundation. Inscriptions in the concrete moldings around the bases of posts include "O C R", the Rak's cattle brand, and a date, "19_8" (a crack in the concrete has destroyed the decades digit).

Feature #13 (Rock piles) -- Located on the west bank of Cottonwood Creek are ca. 10 small piles of rocks. Piles are up to ca. 3' X 8' in area and up to 1' high. Rocks are predominantly small rounded alluvial boulders. Date and function of these rock piles are unknown.

OTHER ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN RUCKER CANYON

Sites Associated with the US Military

In addition to the military site of Camp Rucker, described above, four sites are directly associated with late nineteenth century military operations in Rucker Canyon. These are the October 20, 1869, Chiricahua Pass Battlefield site, the Camp Rucker rifle range, a set of Soldiers graves, and the 1886 Rucker Heliograph Station.

AR03-05-01-393 -- Chiricahua Pass Battlefield. This site includes a ca. 1.5 X 1 kilometer area which is the site of the October 20, 1869, encounter between US Army troops and a large group of Apaches led by Cochise. Descriptions of the battle help define the location and boundaries of site AR03-05-01-393. The exact location of the battle location has recently been established through examination of a panorama drawing made soon after the battle and now found in archival sources (including Bernard 1869). The drawing, combined with Bernard's descriptions, are sufficient to identify the location of the October 20 battle as the rocky mesa at the confluence of Rucker and Red Rock Canyons.

The battle on October 20 was the most intensive battle in the Rucker Canyon area, lasting from around noon to sunset and including 61 US Army soldiers and an estimated hundred or more Apaches. Two soldiers were killed in the US Army's unsuccessful attempt to dislodge the Apaches. Sporadic fighting occurred in Rucker Canyon and the mountain slopes to the north and east over a period of several days between October 27 and November 7.

Few archeological materials are still present on the site surface. Recent surface examinations have located seven contemporary metallic cartridges, six of them .56-caliber Spencer cartridges and one a .50-70 cartridge. Both of these were in use by the US Army in the late 1860s. Cartridges are located on the hillslope where the soldiers attempted to ascend the mesa, on level areas in the valley below, and on the Army's position on the small hill at the south side of the site. No artifacts have been found in the Apaches' positions, nor have any features such as rifle pits been recognized. Additional archeological materials may have become buried through hillslope processes which are notably active on the steep flanks of the mesa.

AR03-05-01-37 – Soldiers Graves. This is a group of three graves marked with identical poured cement markers placed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. All three read "An Unknown Arizona Pioneer – Erected by CCC 1936." The graves are linear piles of rocks with the monuments positioned at their west ends. Although the monuments date from the 1930s, the graves clearly date from the 1800s, since the 1899 GLO survey of the township shows "Soldiers Graves" marked in the identical location. The graves and markers are in good condition and have not been disturbed. The identities of the persons interred at this site are not known. Two soldiers are known to have died while Camp Rucker was an official post. These were Corporal George Himrod and Sergeant George Adams, both noncommissioned officers of the 12th Infantry, Co. D, and who both died during the summer of 1880 at the ages 26 and 25 respectively. Alternatively, these graves could potentially be of the two soldiers killed in the Battle of Chiricahua Pass in 1869. Bernard's report indicates that these soldiers, Sergeant Stephen Fuller, 8th Cavalry, Troop G, and Private Thomas Collins, 1st Cavalry, Troop G, were buried in Rucker Canyon. Lieutenants Rucker and Henely were buried at Camp Bowie and later reburied at Arlington Cemetery and San Francisco Presidio respectively. Fort Bowie and Fort Huachuca cemetery record do not include the four soldiers known to have died in Rucker Canyon in 1869 and 1880.

AR03-05-01-394 – Camp Rucker Rifle Range. This is a large open grassy area, or dry meadow, located approximately 150 m east of Camp Rucker. Post records indicate it was used throughout the 1878-1880 occupation of the Camp. More than 50 metallic rifle cartridges and lead bullets have been found from the rifle range. The great majority of these are .45-70-caliber cartridges lacking heads-tamped dates, indicating manufacture prior to 1877. Post records from 1880 indicate that several thousand rounds fitting this description were on hand at Camp Rucker at that time. Low mounds of earth may represent rifle stands and target butts. In 1880, the post commander also reported that a 1000-yard target range with a butt 10-feet square, 9-feet high, made of heavy logs and filled with earth was under construction. Physical evidence of such a large feature has not been identified.

AR03-05-01-395 – Rucker Heliograph Station. The heliograph station west of Camp Rucker was one of the first established in 1886, after General Nelson Miles took over command of the final campaign against Geronimo and called for the establishment of a heliograph signalling system. The Rucker Heliograph station was set up by Lieutenant Alvarado Fuller, 2nd Cavalry, on May 13, 1886, and designated as Station No. 6 of the Arizona heliographs (Fuller 1886; Collins et al. 1993). The camp, staffed by two heliograph operators and two guards, continued in operation until the end of September, after the surrender of Geronimo. Old Camp Rucker was included in a briefer, but more extensive heliograph exercise conducted in 1890 (Smith 1981; Robbins 1983) and again in 1896; locations of these later heliograph stations have not been established.

Site AR03-05-01-395 includes both the station itself, where the heliograph instrument and mirror were set up, and the associated camp. Two redwood posts, approximately 5"X5" in cross section, are present but are not standing in their use-positions. These apparently supported the instrument and mirror required to signal the next station, located at the north end of the Swisshelm Mountains. About 50 items have been inventoried at the signal station including cartridge casings, glass, metal trouser buttons, clothing buckles, a sewing needle, a tobacco tag, and wood fragments.

The adjoining camp site is a well preserved archaeological site, containing a surprisingly intact assemblage of artifacts exposed on the surface. Artifacts observed include numerous lead-soldered tin cans of varying sizes and shapes (including baking powder, sardine, meat, and lard cans), beer bottles, other glass bottle fragments, shoe leather, small scraps of lumber, buckles, and .45-caliber rifle, carbine, and pistol cartridges.

A total of 19 .45-70 rifle and carbine cartridges recorded in the field all have headstamps giving dates of manufacture. These range from April, 1877, through October, 1883. All but four of the casings date from October, 1882, through October, 1883. This 3-4 year lag time between manufacture and documented use, in 1886, is identical to that found at other late nineteenth century military sites (Ludwig and Stute 1993). The condition of artifacts on the ground surface indicates the camp site has not been disturbed by either later developments or by relic-hunters. Accordingly, it has very good potential for contributing information on the layout and content of a small nineteenth century military camp and, in particular, of one of the 1886 Geronimo Campaign heliograph stations.

Sites Associated with Ranching and Early Settlement

As discussed above in the historic context section, Camp Rucker was the focus for the ranching period developments in Rucker Canyon. Other sites include:

AR03-05-01-36. This is a home site known as the Hermitage, named for the original occupant, R. "Doc" Monroe, a loner who took up residence by 1879 while Camp Rucker was in existence. Both John Gray (1940) and Mary Kidder Rak (1945) wrote about Monroe, the latter in an article called "The Hermit of the Chiricahuas." Monroe was present at least by January, 1879, when he filed a claim for 400 acres of coal land centered on the spring near his house (Pima County, Book of Misc. Claims). Although coal deposits are not now evident, making Monroe's claim somewhat confusing, he did sell charcoal to soldiers at Camp Rucker (Gray 1940). Monroe built a jacal structure and constructed a tunnel through an alluvial terrace behind the structure, reportedly to be able to escape attacks from renegade Apaches (Rak 1945).

In 1880 the US Army informed Monroe he would soon be evicted because of the location of his domicile within the proposed expanded boundaries of the Military Reservation around Camp Rucker (Post Records). Monroe protested and refused to leave. The new boundaries were not officially adopted before Camp Rucker was abandoned and Monroe stayed at his domicile. The property was subsequently acquired by Nicholas Hunsaker and his family, including his children James and Laura, in the 1880s. Other structures, including a large adobe house, were probably built at this time. The Hunsakers herded cattle until the early 1900s. Laura and her husband, William Abbott, homesteaded the property when the Chiricahua Forest Reserve was created and lived there until 1912. The land containing the Hermitage eventually was bought by the Raks in 1920, becoming part of the Rucker Ranch. As described in Mary Kidder Rak's books, the adobe house here was occupied by Mexican families who worked for the Raks.

The main adobe house and three or four smaller adobe or masonry structures at the site have completely collapsed in the past few decades and no longer have standing wall remnants. The tunnel is still evident but has partially collapsed. A moderate amount of historic trash, including a variety of glass and metal artifacts, is evident on the surface. A small amount of pothunting has occurred in a small structure near the north end of the tunnel, and a number of large metal artifacts (presumably dug up) are piled at the site of the digging.

AR03-05-01-366 is a largely intact trash dump located ca. 1 kilometer south of Camp Rucker. It contains abundant domestic and ranch-related discards including brown, blue, purple, light and dark green, and clear bottle glass, whiteware and porcelain ceramics, earthenware crockery, numerous tin can fragments, mainly with soldered seams and hole-in-top lids, and other metal artifacts including bed springs, barrel hoops, stove parts, buckets, and wash basins. Non-cylindrical cans include a Log Cabin maple syrup container and an oval soldered-seam tin of "...Fairbank & Co. Pure Refined Family Lard, Chicago." Diagnostic artifacts suggest a late nineteenth century to early twentieth age, with very little more recent material. Beer bottles include several bottle marks that were common at Fort Bowie, including companies such as the Wisconsin Glass Co. that were not in production after 1886 (Herskovitz 1978). No artifacts specifically indicative of a military association have been observed at the site. This suggests that it is probably associated with the early ranch habitation of the site, either the Grays or the Hampes.

AR03-05-01-367 is a rectangular wood-lined well located ca. 1/4-mile east of Camp Rucker. The well is ca. 5'X5' and 12' deep (water level noted at 11') and lined with square-cut logs fitted with single-notched lapped joints. The well is located at the south edge of the Rucker Canyon floodplain, at the base of the edge of the prominent geomorphic surface of the Rucker rifle range. A vertical shaft and collapsed adit of unknown function are located in the terrace edge hillslope, ca. 20' south of the well. The small ditch (AR03-05-01-368) leading to Camp Rucker passes within 10' of the well, on the uphill side of the well; it is not clear how, or whether, the well was connected to the ditch.

AR03-05-01-368 is a small irrigation ditch which formerly conveyed water from the main Rucker Canyon drainage (Whitewater Draw) to Camp Rucker. The ditch is ca. 3,500 feet (1 kilometer) in length and is a simple shallow ditch averaging less than 40 inches in width and about 8-12 inches in depth with a maximum depth of about 40 inches near the takeout from the stream. The ditch traverses the Rucker Canyon floodplain and the slope of the alluvial terrace on which the Rucker rifle range is located. Total elevation drop is approximately 35 feet, giving an average slope of 1.0 percent. Date of construction of the ditch is unknown; it could have been built either by the Army during use of Camp Rucker, or by one of the earlier ranchers at the camp (the Grays or Hampes). In September 1886, Michael Gray complained about "the troops camping on my ditches using the water." The ditch was present at least by 1914 when it was described and mapped for Adolph Hampe's homestead entry with the Forest Service. At that time the ditch provided water for a garden and alfalfa field near Adolph Hampe's house.

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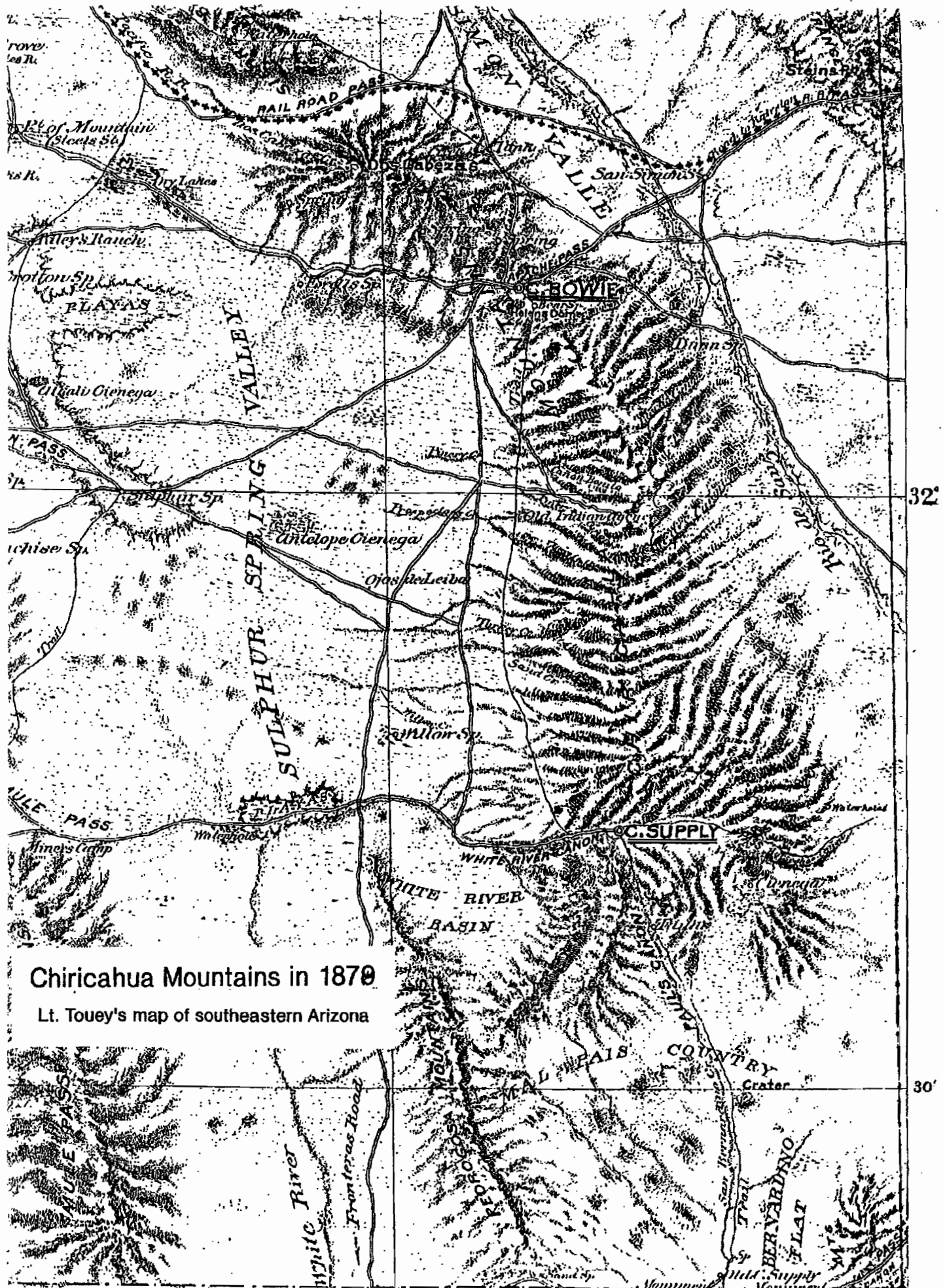
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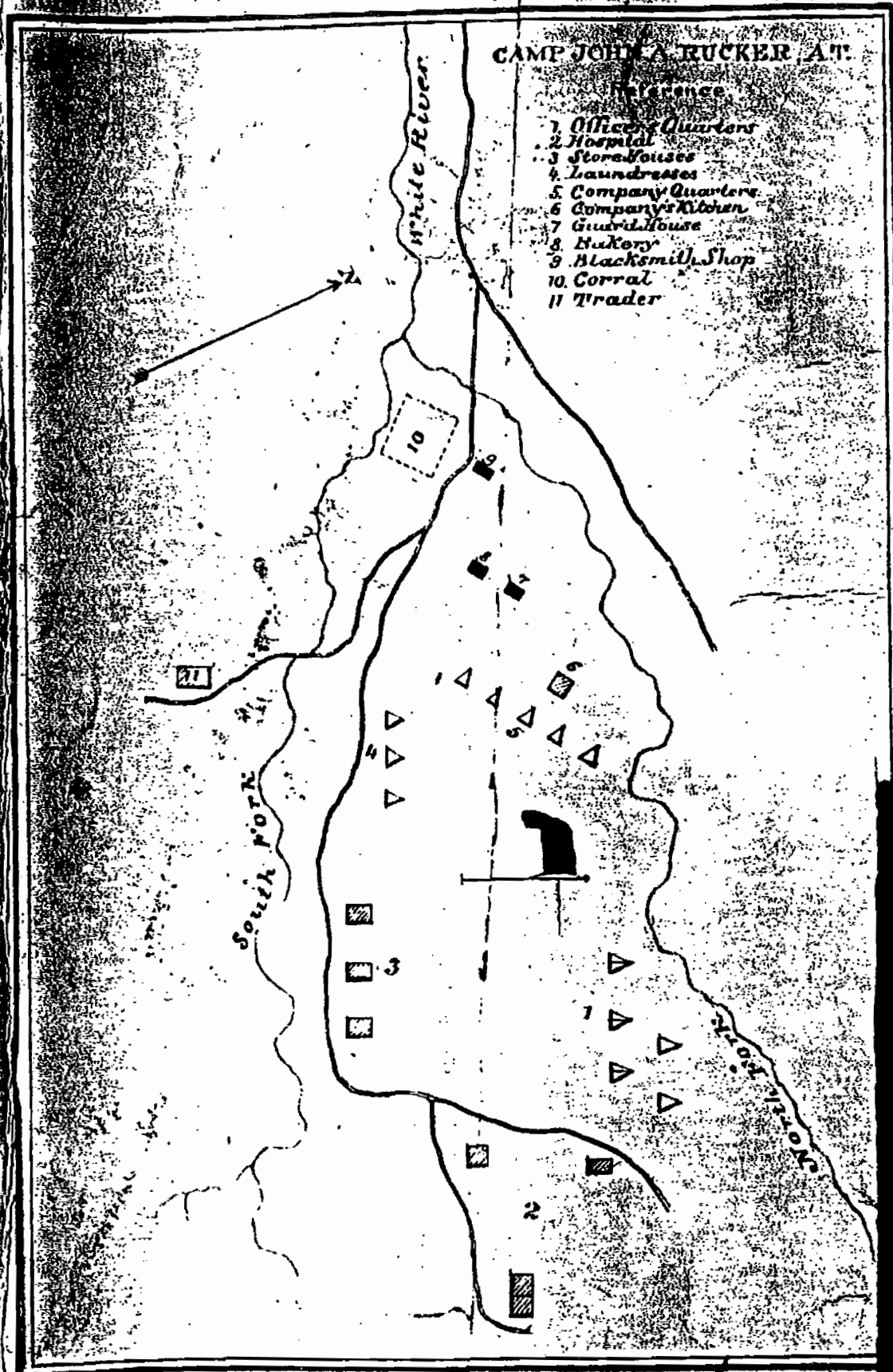


Chiricahua Mountains in 1870

Lt. Touey's map of southeastern Arizona

32°

30°



Camp Rucker Buildings as of May, 1879.