

Historic and Cultural Resources

A primary purpose of this chapter is to identify some of the known areas of significance: pre-historic, historic and/or cultural influence, within the north Peoria Open Space Master Plan area. Information in this section is compiled from various sources. The information in this section is to be utilized only to understand the historical and cultural developments that have occurred over time and develop some historically inspired landscape design themes thus remembering and preserving the historical and culturally significant areas for future generations.

History of the Open Space Master Plan Area

Humans have lived in the Master Plan area for thousands of years, and evidence for occupation of the area ranges from the earliest Archaic era campsites, to later Hohokam era villages, to relatively recent Historic era homesteads. An approximate 7,000-year history is contained within the archaeological record of the Master Plan area. There are four basic time periods that describe the history of human occupation of the area: the Archaic period, the Formative period, the Protohistoric Period, and the Historic period.

The Archaic Period spans from approximately 6,500 BC to AD 300. The Southwest Archaic is understood as one cultural tradition that involves adaptation to the desert environment. Archaic lifestyles focused on the seasonal exploitation of resources in different environmental zones (ecozones). Sites were often settled based upon their access to sources of drinkable water, especially in the arid regions of Arizona. The majority of Archaic sites in Arizona do not have ceramics, and consist mostly of stone tools. Through time, the number and variety of ground stone implements, tools used to process plants increase dramatically through time, suggesting an increased reliance on plant food resources. Between 1500 BC and AD 300 people began settling in villages or circular pithouses and focused on cultivating corn and foraging for wild plants. Many sites dating to this period appear to be of a semi permanent or permanent nature.



Hohokam-style pit house

The first known permanent settlers were the Hohokam Indians, who occupied the area from AD 300 to AD 1500. This is *the Formative Period*. The term Hohokam comes from the Pima language, and is usually translated as “those who have gone.” The transition between the Archaic and the Formative cultures is defined by the introduction of a complex agricultural lifestyle, typically located along or near large permanent streams, and supported by an intricate network of irrigation canals.

The origins of the Hohokam have been the subject of much debate since they were discovered to be distinct from the Mogollon to the east and the Anasazi to the north. Evidence of a strong Mesoamerican (Mexico and Central America) influence is clear in Hohokam and Piman culture, from the presence of such exotic traits as ball courts, palettes, and distinctive effigy styles, to the similar language that appears to stretch from the Gila River to Jalisco, Mexico. However there is also strong evidence to suggest that the Hohokam evolved locally from the regional Archaic tradition.



Ball court near New River



Hohokam compound near the Agua Fria River



Outer compound wall overlooking the Agua Fria River

Several of the largest Hohokam sites are located along the Agua Fria River, or grouped around springs and canyon mouths in the foothills and mountains. Other smaller sites often follow ephemeral drainage corridors. Sites ranged from relatively small areas (consisting of roasting pits or cobble features, with or without artifacts) to larger areas containing evidence of repeated short-term use or single episodes of camping or natural resource procurement and processing. Any sizeable drainage in the Master Plan area is likely to have associated prehistoric archaeological sites located along its banks and terraces. Hilly and mountainous areas can also contain small springs and natural water tanks where native communities might have camped while gathering fruit, hunting small or big game, or gathering upland resources.

Within the Sonoran Desert region the efficient use of water resources is essential for survival. Despite the appearance of a lack of natural resources, the Sonoran Desert has a diversity of plant resources of high caloric value, including many trees and treelike cacti, which store reserves in starchy phylum tissue, and fruit quickly and in direct response to rainfall.

Towards the end of the Hohokam Period, there was an apparent increased expansion of the canal irrigation systems, as well as changes in settlement patterns that possibly included population migration from outlying settlements into larger, central villages. Their dwellings were shallow, rectangular pit homes built primarily below ground. The Classic sub-period of the Formative Period is thought to have occurred between approximately AD 1100 to AD 1450. Changes include alterations in pottery and artistic styles, and alterations in burial practices. Other typical characteristics include rectangular single-unit dwellings; cremations; and the appearance of multi-colored (usually red-on-buff) pottery. For reasons largely not understood, the culture we know as the Hohokam began to unravel towards the end of the Classic period.

This is seen in the archaeological record by the collapse of the complex social system and the abandonment of the extensive settlement systems.

The Protohistoric Period is essentially a continuation of the terminal Classic sub-period, and can be seen as the transition from the Hohokam to the Pima and Papago culture - people who were met by the Spanish in the 16th century. The Protohistoric signals a return to more frequent and smaller occupations. The Apache and Navaho, Athabaskan speaking peoples, are known to have arrived during this time, and interactions between these groups and the Pima-Papago often do not appear to have been peaceful. Domestic structures remain primarily single-unit structures, but now appear to be



Hotevilla Village (NE of Flagstaff) 1921 (Arizona Historical Society)

grouped and surrounded by compound walls. Pima and Papago structures were of pole and brush or clay construction, inhumation (direct burial without cremation) was the most common form of burial, and pottery was either plainwares similar to those of the Classic period, or highly polished redwares. Luxury items also appear to decrease in frequency, and shell items, while frequent, exhibit less elaborate decoration.

Akimel O’odham (Pima) agricultural technology included dams, dikes, ditches, and perhaps irrigation canals, although the presence of canals at the time of contact

remains disputed. The southwestern triad of corn, beans, and squash were cultivated, along with cotton. The Pima also depended on mesquite beans, cactus fruits, and other native products, and trade in foodstuffs was common practice. Trade was maintained with the Pueblos, the Maricopa, and other groups.

The Pima traditionally farmed along the banks of the Gila River. The Maricopa, who had migrated from their homes on the Colorado River in the mid-1800s, often stayed with the Pima and farmed near the Gila River. The Yavapai were nomadic hunter-gatherers who also practiced some agriculture, but also raided the Pima and Maricopa villages. The Agua Fria, while often providing a source of water, is not as reliable as sources found elsewhere, and perhaps because of this, agriculture and more permanent occupations were infrequent. The Kewevkapaya, or Southeastern Yavapai, exploited the middle and upper reaches of the Agua Fria resource area, although their traditional homeland extended from the Bradshaw Mountains to the Tonto Basin to the Superstition and Pinal Mountains. The Pima-Maricopa and Pai groups generally did not have a significant degree of territorial overlap, and these groups may have occasionally been antagonists. All three groups utilized the Master Plan area region for the biotic resources found there, including saguaro fruit, mesquite beans, and various tubers, as well as deer, small birds and rabbits.



Petroglyph

The Historic Period (written record) begins with the Spanish Era. This period begins in the late 1500’s and early 1600’s with the Conquistadors’ search for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. They did not find the fabled cities, but they did come upon the Pima living in small, unplanned villages. Somewhat later, it has been estimated that at least 60,000 American emigrants passed through the Pima-Maricopa lands between 1849 and 1851 on their way to California in search of gold, and while seldom finding such mineral wealth, they often found themselves dependent upon the good nature of the native inhabitants for food and other supplies. By the late 1840s the Pima were participating in cash markets to supply beef and wheat to non-native groups passing through the area. The Mexican-American War and subsequent Gadsden Purchase resulted in the takeover of some Pima homelands.

The first Congressional Act setting aside lands occupied by the Pima as a Reservation was passed in 1859. During these early years, there was extensive cooperation between the settlers and the Pima-Maricopa. Trade prospered and mutual defense was accomplished in response to raiding attacks by the Apache (and later Comanche), which tended to pull the two cultures together. The American Civil War (1861-65) caused most settlers to abandon their lands and those remaining relied heavily upon the protection of the Pima-Maricopa.

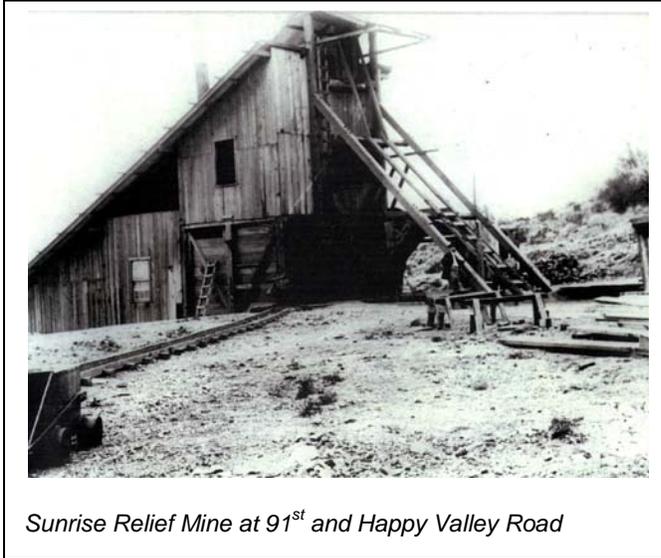
Thousands of non-Indians settled in southern Arizona after the American Civil War. The Homestead Act of 1864 set the stage for rapid increased settlement as the United States Military returned to the southwest. Settlers started immigration at a rapidly increasing rate, and the influx inspired the eventual widespread conflict of the Apache War (1871-86). This violence caused the confinement of settlement to those areas along the Gila River protected either by the Pima-Maricopa or the United States Military.



Within the Master Plan area, the first settlements along the Agua Fria took the form of stage coach and wagon stops. These led to the establishment of a few early farming homes surrounded by small fields. The wagon roads were abandoned with the coming of the railroad, and by the late 1880s, improved transportation and the development of irrigation agriculture encouraged the settlement of the Agua Fria area. Canals and reservoirs such as the Beardsley, Buckeye, and Marinette Canals, as well as Lake Pleasant Dam, led to the growth of agriculture as an economic base for all the communities along the Agua Fria River. This situation dominated the region until recent population growth began to make it more profitable to use the land for residential development.

Mountain men entered the region in search of furs, especially valuable beaver pelts, for the American fur trade, and their searches followed the local rivers. The Sylvester and James Patty group likely explored and trapped along the Agua Fria River, although it was probably not a very productive route, and the 1870 Government Land Office (GLO) map of the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila Rivers labels it the Dry Sandy bed of Agua Fria Creek. These individuals were followed by the early mineral prospectors in search of gold during the Arizona Gold Rush of 1858, when placer gold was discovered along the Gila River. Additionally, trappers and miners often worked for the U.S. Army, looking for good transportation routes and establishing trade with local Native American groups.

Mining activity north of the Gila River dates from the late 1850s and the early 1860s, and in 1863 prospectors were searching near Tonto Foothills for precious metals. Their trips into the region were of short duration, since prolonged prospecting could mean detection by roving bands of hostile Yavapai or Apache.



Sunrise Relief Mine at 91st and Happy Valley Road

During the latter part of the 19th Century, the Master Plan area saw little actual settlement, but did serve as an area people passed through on their way to somewhere else. Gold was discovered near Wickenburg in 1863, and a wagon road branching from the southern overland route led north from the Salt-Gila River confluence, across the Agua Fria to the Hassayampa River, then north to Wickenburg. Additional wagon roads crossed the Planning Area, going to other mining locales like Prescott and the mines in the Bradshaw Mountains.

In 1880, William “Billy” Moore built a cabin and general store to the south of the Master Plan area. This store also had a saloon and served as a stage stop, and was called

Coldwater for the clear, cold water that came from his well. Subsequently, additional stations were established further north along the river, with Captain Martin Heald Calderwood setting up the Agua Fria Station on the Black Canyon stage road. This station stood on the east side of the river near what is now called Calderwood Butte, and Calderwood and his family known for their hospitality to travelers, lived there over 25 years. By 1892, the station was granted a post office with Amer D. McGinnis serving as postmaster, and Calderwood and Darrel Duppa operating the stage station and ranch for some years. In 1895, the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railway was built, linking Prescott and Phoenix. This railway replaced the wagon roads as the main form of transportation, and many of the stage and wagon stations were abandoned. Prior to 1900, the only other Euro-American occupation of the region included a few scattered adobe homes associated with small agricultural fields.

The first Anglo-American settlers arrived in the during the 1820s. However, it was the California gold rush of the mid 1800’s that transformed the Gila River into a virtual highway of settlers and prospectors. Anglo settlement increased because of the expanded presence of the U.S. Army, large scale irrigation development, the discovery of minerals, and the opening of the railroad. The ‘Desert Land Act’ instituted in 1877 permitted settlers to obtain title to 640 acres of desert land if they agreed to irrigate it within three years. By the 1890’s, over 100,000 acres of desert were irrigated in the Salt and Gila River valleys, which attracted more settlers to the region.

Peoria. In 1885 William J. Murphy arranged an exchange of labor to construct the Arizona Canal for the proceeds from the sale of any water rights from the new canal. Mr. Murphy arranged with several families to take up land claims on over 5,000 acres under the new canal. In 1887, Delos Brown and J. B. Greenhut, formerly residents from Peoria, Illinois, purchased four sections along the old Vulture Road, which is now approximately the alignment of Grand Avenue, and platted eight acres of this land for business and residential lots and



J.B. Greenhut

named the town site Peoria, for his Illinois home. Grand Avenue was laid out, linking Phoenix and Wickenburg, via the surveyed townsite of Peoria, and soon became the preferred route.

The first post office opened in August 1888, and James McMillan served as postmaster. In 1889, a grocery store was built on West Washington Street, lasted only one month but was subsequently used for other purposes. The Peoria School District established the first elementary school in the abandoned store. A railway of the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Line was constructed between Phoenix and Prescott, with a depot constructed in Peoria in 1895, and by 1896, the line was shipping cattle, citrus, cotton, and a variety of produce from the Peoria depot.

Access to water is of course a limiting factor in the development of any western community. The Agua Fria Water and Land Company completed a dam of the Agua Fria in 1935 which serviced approximately 40,000 acres of agricultural land. Additional water was obtained from the Arizona Canal and a series of wells drilled on the banks of the Agua Fria River. Life in Peoria continued to be based on an agricultural economy, and only recently has the city's proximity to Phoenix facilitated its transformation into a population center. Within the past twenty years the agricultural-based economy has largely been replaced with housing developments and shopping centers.

Castle Hot Springs. A gold strike on the Colorado River near Yuma in 1862 created local interest in prospecting, and the Hieroglyphics were among many of the local mountain ranges visited by prospectors during this time period, but the ruggedness of the terrain and the scarcity of water largely discouraged permanent settlement. By the early 1800s, local Apache Indians discovered a natural hot spring in the mountains. The location became a sort of "demilitarized zone" where all were welcome to come and treat their wounds. The springs were rediscovered in 1867 by US Army Colonel Charles Craig while pursuing a group of Apaches through the mountains. The area became known as Castle Hot Springs for the castellated appearance of the surrounding mountains and the naturally occurring hot springs. Ongoing fighting between the US Army and the Apache tribes prevented any further development of the area until the 1880s when the springs and the adjacent land were purchased by Frank Murphy for the construction of a health resort.

Castle Hot Springs served as the territorial winter capital of Arizona and was both the residence of the Territorial Governor and a local jail. When the resort opened in 1896, it served 30 guests who would have to make an arduous, five-hour stagecoach ride from Morristown. The springs at Castle Hot Springs



By-gone orchards at Bard Ranch on the Agua Fria

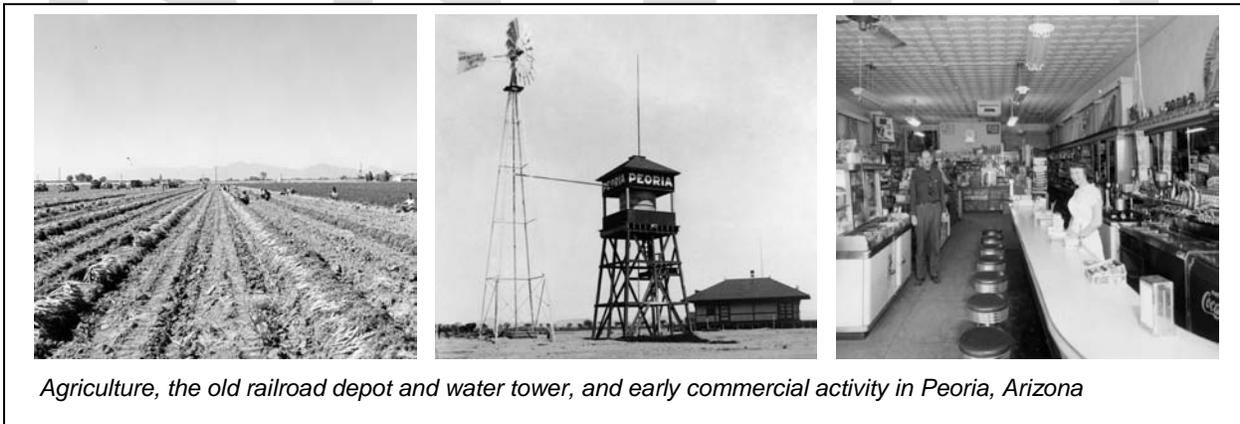


Historic Castle Hot Springs Resort

are fed by a cistern formed out of volcanic rock. The first telephone in Arizona was installed at the resort and its number was "1".

During its heyday, Castle Hot Springs was considered one of the premier resorts in the United States. It was visited by celebrities such as Zane Grey and Clark Gable. It was also popular among famous families such as the Wrigleys, Astors, Vanderbilts, Carnegies, Cabots, and the Rockefellers. Several US Presidents stayed there including Theodore Roosevelt, Warren Harding, Woodrow Wilson, and Herbert Hoover. Between 1943 and 1944 the resort was used by the United States military as a rehabilitation center to treat injured veterans of the war. Future president John F. Kennedy spent 3 months at the resort during this time period to recover from his wounds. The resort remained popular until heavily damaged by fire in 1976.

Lake Pleasant. In 1928 a dam was constructed on the Agua Fria River where it passes through the mountain range, resulting in Lake Pleasant. Originally the lake was used as an agricultural storage facility, but became a permanent water storage facility and an important recreational center with the creation of the Central Arizona Project in 1973. The original dam was replaced in 1993, increasing the size of the lake.



Agriculture, the old railroad depot and water tower, and early commercial activity in Peoria, Arizona

Cotton growing communities began to emerge and took on special significance during World War I. After World War I, a number of settlements in the West Valley began to develop separate identities. In the early 1900s the visual character of the area began to change dramatically. Large tracts of land were cleared for agriculture. Soon, with the development of railroad facilities, other large tracts of land were being cleared for development of towns such as Peoria. Additional settlement was spurred by the construction of the railroad line adjacent to Grand Avenue, linking Phoenix to the West Coast.

Luke Air Force Base was opened in 1941 to train fighter pilots, and was reactivated for pilot training in 1951 after a brief decommissioning period. The post World War II period brought many changes in the land use patterns throughout the West Valley. Following the industrial

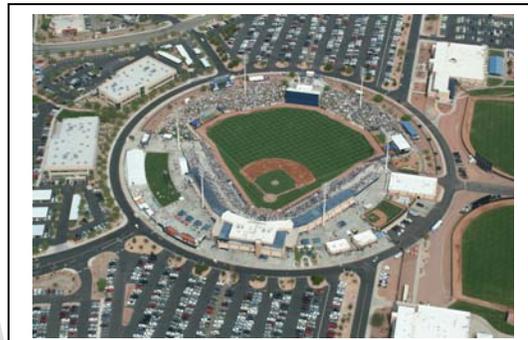


Trainers from Luke Field

decentralization and population growth, retail and service related businesses encouraged people to move west from Central Phoenix.

Peoria has annexed more than 170 square miles and is physically situated within two Arizona Counties: Maricopa County and Yavapai County. The roots of the community are located in the southern-most portion of the City. Grand Avenue (US 60) formed the de-facto boundary for the Downtown area for many years. This area is heavily urbanized and can be described as close to build-out.

The town was incorporated as a city in 1954 largely as a result of the building boom that followed WWII. With the building boom of the 1980's and 90's, Central Peoria expanded rapidly between Grand Avenue and Loop 101. During the 1990's the City developed the Peoria Sports Complex – a Spring training facility for major league baseball. This was the catalyst for retail development and the emergence of an entertainment district adjacent to the sports complex.



Peoria Sports Complex –Spring training home to the San Diego Padres and the Seattle Mariners.

Now, in the 21st Century, Peoria like most of the region, is in transition from rural and agricultural uses to urban/suburban uses. Today, Peoria is an incorporated City and home to over 150,000 residents, making it the fourth largest city in the State of Arizona.

South of SR74 (Carefree Highway), small pocket areas of riparian and xeroriparian areas remain along the Agua Fria River and the New River, but much of the area has been developed or is planned for development. North of SR 74, large tracts of undeveloped land remain under control of the Bureau of Land Management. Throughout the Master Plan area some remnant ranching and agricultural uses are interspersed with existing large lot single family residences. Some of these sites in the north – particularly those adjacent to major river and wash corridors - may be associated with cultural resources that contain tangible remnants of the City's rich pre-history legacy. Unguided growth and development could threaten our remnant heritage and rich vegetative portions of the Sonoran Desert if not managed in such a way that the best qualities and sites are preserved for future generations.

Recent regional cultural studies.

Throughout the early and mid 1960s, Arizona State University (ASU) conducted extensive survey and excavations of the Agua Fria and New River valleys for the National Science Foundation-supported Salt River Valley Hohokam Survey. In 1963, the Arizona State Museum (ASM) conducted surveys of five regional parks in Maricopa County, including White Tanks Mountain and Lake Pleasant regional parks along the Agua Fria River. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, aerial and ground surveys for the Granite Reef Aqueduct Corridor passed through the New River and Agua Fria Valleys. From the early 1930s to the 1960s,

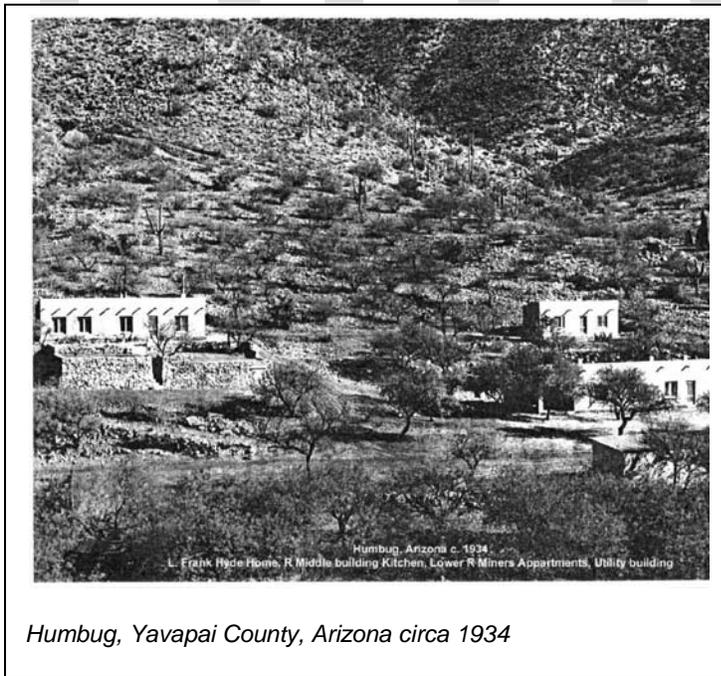


Calderwood Butte

Frank Midvale and Omar Turney conducted surveys throughout the region, with emphasis on canals and other irrigation features, but also noting settlement and activity patterns of much of the region now under development.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a group of volunteer amateur archaeologists initiated extensive survey and excavations in the vicinity of Calderwood Butte and along the lower Agua Fria. These excavations were followed up by work by the ASM at the Beardsley Canal site further north and just south of Lake Pleasant. ASU conducted excavations at the West Wing site as well as the Calderwood Butte area, and in the mid 1970s, they completed investigations in the lower Cave Creek area for the construction of the Granite Reef Aqueduct and flood control features. An estimated 8000 acres within the Master Plan area have previously been surveyed. This is less than 20 percent of the Master Plan area. At least 325 archaeological sites have been identified through this 20% study (including 278 prehistoric, 35 historic and 12 sites with evidence of more than one culture).

The study for the *North Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan* also documented many unnamed houses and homesteads, (including corrals, wells, springs, watering troughs, and windmills). Numerous rock fences, and a large number of goat sheds and rock cabins; instances of hot and alkali springs ; and marked roads including the wagon road from Phoenix to Prescott, and the return wagon road from Prescott to Phoenix. The Frog Tanks Post Office was an early addition to the landscape, and the Holland & Co. Hotel and Bungalow was surely a welcome respite for road weary travelers.



Humbug, Yavapai County, Arizona circa 1934

Mining was an important economic activity in the Master Plan area, and many mine tunnels and shafts exist. The Humbug Hydraulic Mining Works had a large presence in the area, including offices, dams, and many patented mining claims in the Humbug Mining District, which included the El Pero Bonito, Little Joseph, Texas Queen, Dave Crockett, Lizzie Lee, Tip Top, Joker, and Keystone Mine Claims.

Charles Champie began mining operations in 1882 and produced about 3000 ounces of gold on the Llano and Sidewinder Claims, and about 5000 ounces in the El Pero Bonito Claim. Champie started a ranch on French Creek, currently a tributary to Lake Pleasant.

The Humbug District consist of about 100 claims. Today, Humbug is an isolated example of an early Arizona mining camp. The property is privately held and not open to the public although there has been hope to eventually refurbish parts of the historic area and open it to visitors. While the mines are presently non-operational, increases in the price of gold could spark renewed interest in extraction so the property remains fenced off to the public. For more information access <http://n.j.dushane.home.comcast.net/~n.j.dushane/humbug2/humbugbk.htm>

Historic Themes of the Master Plan area

Prehistoric. Habitation in the Master Plan area began with Archaic, Hohokam, and Pai campsites, rockshelters, and resource procurement locations such as rock quarries, fields of wild plants, rivers and streams, and hillsides. Later on, larger groups of people with more settled lifestyles lived in the Master Plan area, which resulted in different types of sites. Smaller dwellings such as isolated field houses were constructed to manage crops or collect specific natural resources.

Items found at Hohokam sites might include milling stones and other plant processing tools, agricultural field tools such as adzes and hammer stones, various knives and cutting tools which may have been used to prepare plants and animals for cooking, and weapons such as spear heads, and bows and arrows, all used in the hunting of wild game. Such artifacts and sites also allow the reconstruction of the prehistoric environment, and allow us to examine resource variability through time.

Several sites include petroglyphs and suggestions of ball courts. This provides a glimpse into the spiritual and artistic side of prehistoric peoples. While we may never know for sure what petroglyphs meant to ancient people, these artistic remains give us a glimpse into the mind of an individual. Rock art panels include zoomorphic (animal-like), geometric, and anthropomorphic (human-like) designs; and some are associated with artifact scatters. Ball courts, which we think represent a game with athletic, social, and religious connotations, are generally associated with larger village sites, but also may be present at smaller, longer duration habitation sites.



Zoomorphic petroglyph (javalina)

Irrigation. As with many other parts of the arid Southwest, water is the limiting resource in the Master Plan area. With the creation of extensive canal irrigation systems, it became possible for agricultural production to be economically viable. Corporations such as the Buckeye Canal Company, the Agua Fria Land and Water Company, and the Roosevelt Irrigation District were all organized to deliver water to agricultural fields and communities. The planning and construction of the Lake Pleasant Dam is a landmark of private enterprise, and is still the only privately funded dam in Central Arizona. From these monumental endeavors to the small rancher or homesteader who builds a cattle trough, check dam, or small runoff canal for his private fields, the history of the region is defined by those who gained control of water resources. Sites that display such events are numerous throughout the Master Plan area and include dams, canals, flumes, pumps, and wells.



Lake Pleasant

Agriculture and Ranching. Closely tied to the control of water is the byproduct of such efforts, agriculture. Agriculture has provided the economic base for most of the Master Plan area since its initial settlement. Agricultural products in the general region have included cotton, alfalfa, orchard fruits, figs, nuts, melons, and various other produce. Corporations such as the Southwest Cotton Company have

been responsible for extensive experimentation in crop rotation to replenish exhausted soils, the development of new strains of cotton, a successful apprentice farmer program, and the development of highly efficient farming techniques that have led to tremendously increased agricultural production.

Among the earliest historic activities in the region were homesteading and ranching. These related activities paved the way for the later influx of people seeking jobs and a place to live. During the historic era, the majority of the Planning Area was used as either grazing or agricultural lands.



The Homestead Act of 1862 and subsequent legislation provided a way for private individuals to acquire to 160-acres of unused government land for virtually no cost, provided they live on the land and improve it in specified ways over a period of five years following the initial claim. Many individuals and families came west with the idea of setting up homes and businesses through the homestead application process. The Desert Land Act of 1877 allowed anyone to purchase 640 acres of land for a total of \$1.25 per acre provided the land was irrigated within three years of filing the initial claim. The intent of the Homestead Act, Desert Lands Act and in 1902 the Reclamation Act was to develop a mechanism to irrigate semi-arid lands and turn them into farmlands.

While the actual artifacts and features associated with homesteads and ranching are often hard to discern, they are plentiful in the region, and include foundations, fence lines, corrals, watering troughs, campsites, and the remains of the homestead dwellings themselves. Often, even these remains are hard to identify, especially when the homesteader failed to earn a patent and was forced to abandon the land. Occasionally, all that remains is a scatter of trash that can be dated to the homestead period, roughly from the early 1860s to the late 1930s.

Transportation. None of the aforementioned themes could have been possible without the development and refinement of a viable transportation system. From the first trappers, to later miners, to stage coach trails to railroad lines, efficient transportation corridors have been essential to economic success and development. The Agua Fria River itself has historically been used as a transportation corridor since the earliest days of exploration. Wagon and stagecoach roads linking population centers, agricultural resource areas, and mining centers passed through the valley. Stage stops and mine supply stations were located throughout the Master Plan area, and several historic rail lines crossed the Master Plan area as well. The shipping points on these routes became essential for ore, cattle, sheep, and agricultural products, and often developed into population centers based upon the need to support the economic efforts.

Mining. Gold and Silver mining was a major driving force in the early colonization of Arizona by Euro-Americans, and the Spanish who came before them. In addition, copper, while not as attractive at first blush, has provided the economic success of many Arizona settlements. Many communities were established in response to economic forces tangent to, if not directly resulting from, mining operations. The northern mountainous portions of the Master Plan area owe a significant part of their developmental history to the early successes of its mining industry.

While the historic importance of the mining industry is popularly known, little in the way of historic preservation efforts have been devoted to mining sites. The difficulties in recording such sites are many, and include the lack of familiarity with mining techniques, and the difficulty in assessing mining camps as

habitations. Such camps often underwent brief but intense occupational histories. In addition, commercial ventures usually dragged away anything of value when the mine was closed up, leaving little in the way of artifacts or evidence to assess, as well as a highly disturbed context. Profitable mines often have remained in private hands, and have been worked and re-worked many times over the years, erasing aspects of the sites depositional history.

Examples of Area Cultural Sites

Several archaeological sites have been selected including a historic era gold mine; a Hohokam pithouse village; the historic era Beardsley Canal; a prehistoric petroglyph site; and a complex of sites that include a prehistoric fortified hill fort, and two large prehistoric Hohokam walled villages to demonstrate the cultural richness of the Master Plan area. These sites have been researched and discussed in the *North Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan*, and are restated here.

A Small Hohokam Pithouse Village [Arizona State Museum Site #AZT:3:4 (ASM)]. This site was originally located in 1970 during a survey by the Arizona State Museum. It is located south of the present location of Lake Pleasant, adjacent to the Agua Fria River. Archaeologists have interpreted this site as a Middle Pre-Classic Hohokam habitation, dating to about the year AD 750.

Houses were used for sleeping, storage, and protection during bad weather. The Hohokam spent most of their time out-of-doors, tending crops, collecting native plants, and hunting. They manufactured and repaired tools, and prepared and cooked food, in the shade provided by ramadas. Built of sturdy posts and covered with saguaro ribs and brush, the ramada was the center of a Hohokam family's living area.

This village was made up of three pithouses, three ramadas, and several hearths, roasting pits, and specialized work areas. About a quarter of the pottery was decorated or imported, suggesting both trade with other people and some access to luxury items. Farming tools such as stone mauls and adzes also were found, as well as an anvil, perhaps used to manufacture other stone tools. Arrow-heads and spear heads, knives, drills, and bone awls also were present, suggesting a variety of activities from hunting to weaving.

The Hohokam culture is best known for its desert farmers, who engineered a wide-ranging system of irrigation canals. Agricultural included cultivation of corn, squash, beans, tobacco, cotton and amaranth. Perhaps two or three families got together, or even several generations of the same family, and set up their homes along the first terrace of the Agua Fria, taking advantage of the access to water, the good soil, and relatively plentiful game and wild plants that would have been found so close to the river banks. Domestic culture is clearly displayed through the items for preparing food, hunting, and gathering. In addition, the household nature of the site displays the domestic setting.

A Large Hohokam Village & Fortified Hill [AZ T:7:34 (ASU), AZ T:7:2 (ASU) & AZ T:7:4 (ASM)]. This complex of sites includes two large walled Hohokam settlements and a fortified hill-top site, all located along the first terrace above the Agua Fria River. These sites were first noticed by archaeologists around the turn of the century working for the Bureau of American Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution. These early explorers noted that the fortified hill site (fortified sites like this are sometimes called trinchera sites) included a central citadel or main room at the top of the hill, with other smaller rooms along the first ledge of the hill, all surrounded by a high rock wall ringing the hill about half-way down. Only a small number of artifacts have been found in and around this hill, suggesting that it was not a place of permanent occupation, but rather a spot that people retreated to in times of need, perhaps during an attack or during a flood. It is also possible that this place served a religious purpose unrelated to defense. Some have speculated that such sites may have been an effort to mimic the temple mounds found in Mesoamerica.



Trinchera site (terraced hillside)

The hill overlooks the two walled villages below, a large milling stone and flaked stone quarry to the east in the East Wing Mountains and the Agua Fria River itself to the west. From both a defensive and aesthetic perspective, this hill fort provides an excellent view of the surrounding territory.

Archaeologists are not quite sure how large a role warfare played in the Hohokam culture, but towards the end of their cultural tradition, consolidation of the populace into walled villages and defensive structures such as these became prevalent. Perhaps this came about as the result of incursions from the western Pai and the eastern and northern Apache and Navajo. It is also possible that as the environment changed, competition within the Hohokam themselves for dwindling resources required communities to obtain protection from their neighbors.

The two walled villages have 25-30 rooms each. Some of the rooms appear to be pithouses, while others were surface structures. All have east-facing doorways, as is common in many Hohokam structures. A rectangular rock wall encloses the entire compound, backing up almost to the edge of the Agua Fria drainage, which drops away in a vertical cliff to the river, perhaps 100 feet below. The compound wall has an opening facing east, which may have been both practical and ceremonial. Along the river edges of both villages are small, round enclosures, which may have served as guard posts or lookout for animals (to be hunted), or flood waters (to be avoided).

Both villages have several large trash mounds outside the walls. These trash mounds have been partially excavated and have yielded ceramics, milling stones, flaked stone tools, and various other debris, suggestive of a long and continuous occupation. It is likely that the inhabitants of these villages used the Agua Fria drainage floodplain below their homes as agricultural fields. Some evidence of check dams and water diversion devices can be found near these sites, along with a scattering of milling stones and small field houses, which were used by the inhabitants while tending the fields.

These sites are prime example of Classic period Hohokam domestic life. The rooms probably served single or extended families, as well as storage of cultivated goods like corn, beans, squash, cotton, and amaranth, and gathered resources like cactus buds and fruits, tansy mustard seeds, screwbean pods, wild buckwheat, cattail, wild onion, sunflowers, agave, wild tobacco, and plantains. Hundreds of milling stones have been found throughout the site, both inside individual rooms, and in collected locations which may have served as communal work stations where village women and children gathered to grind

corn and talk. Other work stations were characterized by flaked stone tool debris; and it is possible that the men gathered in these places to make tools and plan the days' hunt or agricultural activities.

A site complex like this would have required some level of communal organization greater than the family unit to gather a work force, to build the village itself, to tend the fields and collect the harvest, to forage for wild resources, and to enter into trade with their neighbors.

A Prehistoric Petroglyph Site [AZ T:7:37 (ASM)]. This site is actually a multi-component site, which means that it was occupied at different times by different cultures. It is located on Calderwood Butte, and includes many panels of prehistoric petroglyphs, as well as a historic canal segment with several associated structures, and a historic roadway. The canal segment is represented as a flume, dated to 1910, which actually goes right through the butte itself. This flume is associated with the Marinette Heading Canal, which transported water to the community of Marinette, east of the Agua Fria.

The petroglyph site consists of ten to fifteen petroglyph panels along the face of the butte. Many of these petroglyphs are virtually impossible to reach now without mountain climbing gear. It is thus interesting to imagine prehistoric people climbing the steep cliffs to inscribe these pictures and messages. No prehistoric sites have been located close to the petroglyphs however, many sites are located in the vicinity.

The petroglyphs include human figures, swirls and concentric circles, various geometric shapes and designs, what appear to be tree forms, and what appear to be animal forms such as deer. While we do not know for sure what these petroglyphs meant to ancient people, modern Native American myths suggest that some of these shapes express water, sun, and hunting symbols. Whether they represent attempts to influence the spiritual world, or only to tell stories about it, we do not know. Several of the symbols appear to represent building plans or groups of room blocks, perhaps pointing out nearby villages, or perhaps meaning something else entirely. This site is an example of the rock art and ceremonial feature theme, and is another example of the common thread that binds us through time to ancient peoples.

A Historic Gold Mine Site [AZ T:3:45 (ASM)]. This site, dating to before 1917, was first discovered by archaeologists in 1988. The site is located in the foothills of Saddleback Mountain in the northern part of the Master Plan area, and includes two mine shafts and one mine adit. The mine shafts and adit appear to have been excavated by hand, probably with a pick and some dynamite. Even so, the shafts go down over 120 feet, and the adit goes at least 100 feet into the side of a mountain. While it is known that several other large mining operations such as the Pig Iron, Iron Age, and Bessemer Mines were prospering to the north of this site, this one represents the small-scale efforts of a few individuals.

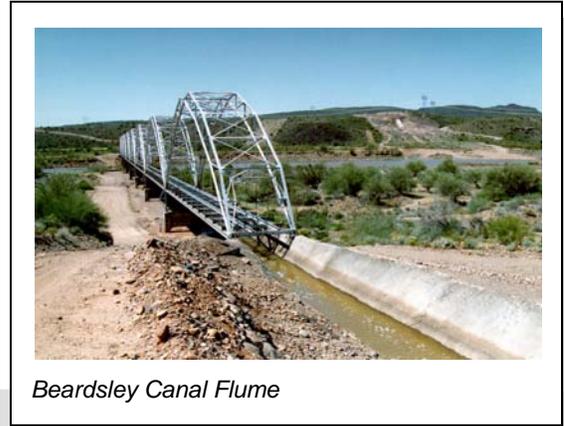
In association with the mines, archaeologists found a cleared platform area and a trash dump with cans, bottles, and mining debris, and a square alignment of stone which likely formed a tent outline for a



The Marinette Canal headwall at Jomax and Tierra del Rio Blvd.

single-man tent, or at least several individuals who worked together. The mines were located on federally owned land, but no actual taxable proceeds were ever reported from the miners efforts.

The Historic Beardsley Canal [AZ T:7:177 (ASM)]. The canal runs through the Master Plan area southwest to northeast. William H. Beardsley began the irrigation project which bears his name, in 1888. The canal runs approximately 28 miles from Lake Pleasant south to a levee adjacent to the White Tank Mountains. Construction on the canal began in the late 1880s, and was eventually completed by the Agua Fria Land and Water Company (also known as the Beardsley Canal Company) in 1927.



Beardsley Canal Flume

As early as 1888, Beardsley and other investors (including Chas. B. Ogelsby and W. A. Hancock), organized the Agua Fria Water and Land Company, whose first goal was to find possible dam sites and locations for canal alignments along the Agua Fria River. By the end of 1891, this vision had grown to incorporate a 300-ft-high storage dam and two 150-ft-high dams upstream of the place called Frog Tanks. After William Beardsley invested heavily in the project and rounded up additional investors, they devised a more modest proposal that proposed two dams in the Frog Tanks vicinity, a diversion dam below, and some 250 miles of canals and laterals to irrigate approximately 160,000 acres on the west side of the Agua Fria.

Work finally began on this project in 1892, but financial difficulties associated with such a huge project combined with frequent floods prevented its completion. Beardsley and his investors did not give up, and through a series of land exchanges, dedicated private investors, and the skilled engineering of Carl Pleasant, the project stayed afloat. Upon Beardsley's death, Pleasant began to direct the project, which was finally completed in 1935. It took over 40 years of "frustration, litigation, engineering controversy, and most significantly, financial difficulties", but the result was the only water-storage dam in central Arizona that was both privately owned and operated.

Carl Pleasant continued the work of Beardsley and his contemporaries and made plans for the construction of a dam and reservoir towards the north end of the Master Plan area along the Agua Fria River. While the travails of this project are another story, plans were finally approved and financing was in place for the construction of the Lake Pleasant Dam. The Southwest Cotton Company filed a lawsuit to stop construction of the dam and reservoir, claiming that it impounded the flow of the river water, irregular at best, and that it would leave their wells useless. Ultimately, the suit was settled in favor of the Agua Fria water developers, and construction was completed 47 years after the initial conception of the project. By 1941, the reservoir was full.

This historic irrigation canal is currently in use, and while it has been upgraded and repaired since its original construction, it still maintains much of its historic character. Siphons (locations where the canal goes underground to permit roadway access to adjacent parcels) can be seen at varying intervals, and often display historic-era construction techniques and materials, including cobblestone and mortar battlements and foundations, and unreinforced concrete.

Palo Verde Ruin [AZ T:8:68 (ASM)]. Acquired by the City on 2001, the 16-acre cultural preserve is a remnant of a large Hohokam community located within the Terramar subdivision, on the east bank of the New River near a large milling-stone and flaked-stone quarry in the East Wing Mountains (now a part of Rock Springs Subdivision).

The New River basin was occupied by the Hohokam between 1 AD and 1450 AD. The Hohokam were renown for their extensive irrigation canal systems, ballcourts, platform mounds, and skills with shell and stone. Artifacts recovered from Palo Verde suggest an occupation period from around 850 AD until about 1100 AD. Palo Verde ruin is the largest village among the nearly 30 sites that compose the New River system. Palo Verde was both a major population center and apparently a locus of inter-regional trade.

Palo Verde seems to be unique among contemporary sites due to its layout and size – it seems to have been more organized and centralized. Palo Verde occupied the most productive agricultural land along New River, and controlled the irrigation systems within the region. As a result, the community enjoyed access to exotic materials that were not widely available to other area communities.

Bisecting the cultural preserve is Old Frog Tanks Road. This was once a major route connecting Beardsley, Peoria, Glendale and Phoenix with the gold mines around Wickenburg and in the Bradshaw Mountains. The nexus of the road system was a late 19th century dam site on the Agua Fria River where standing water in the bedrock attracted frogs. The town of Frog Tanks was also known as Pratt and had a post office from 1860 to 1896.

The site was first recorded in the early 1950's and subsequently by ASU in 1976. ASU first described the site as the Palo Verde ruin. A major exaction and investigation of the surrounding area was completed in 1996 as part of the site investigations for the community of Terramar.

The Terramar investigations encompassed 460-acres and yielded nearly 115 pit houses in 14 distinct residential areas plus a ball court. Nearly 135,000 artifacts were recovered. Twenty-two acres of the remaining cultural site were conveyed to the City for a park site. After several years of study and testing, it has been determined that 4.5 acres can indeed be developed without harm as a neighborhood park. The remaining 16-acres will be preserved as a significant cultural site.

Casa de Piedras [AZ T:7:5 (ASM)]. Translated “House of Rocks” this is a well documented walled compound village encompassing more than an acre. Recovered artifacts suggest an occupation period from around 700 AD until the late 1300's/early 1400's AD. The site location adjacent to the Agua Fria Rive was a key impact for the community. The river itself and the terraces were utilized for agriculture.

Casa de Piedras is significant in that researchers note an unexplained change in architectural expression from caliche to stone as their primary building material. At least four distinct architectural styles have been documented from traditional house-in-pit form to a later cobble masonry compound. More study is warranted, but the intriguing question is what was the cultural shift that occurred here – what was the motivation for change?





Casa de Piedras

The walled nature of the compound may have been defensive however, some researchers believe the walls were made continuous to protect the interior areas from sheet flow flooding

There is some consideration that the location of the site is highly valued due to the height of the water table in the flood plain. Quite possibly, a natural subsurface rock dam allows the water table to rise in the area, making it ideal for agriculture. Clay deposits suitable for pottery are also noted in this location. The river terraces are ideal for agave farming, and the site may have provided surplus food for other populations in the Salt River Valley. It is reasonable to assume the inhabitants cultivated standard crops such as

maize, squash, beans and melons in additions to seeds and pulps from native plants.

Recovered artifacts suggest good evidence that the compound may have used for trading activities. Inhabitants of the compound either traveled as far as the Gulf of California or the pacific Coast, or had trade arrangements with tribes that traveled to these areas.

These examples are included to give the reader an impression of the variety of historic sites that existing in the Peoria Open Space Master Plan area. Many sites are known and have been researched at various times in the past. Others are not so well known; may be in private ownership, small in size, or isolated in location. Additional sites will most assuredly become known as development occurs.