

PH0661155

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 27 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUN 15 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC \*\*  
Casa Grande Stone Church  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Florence Blvd. and N. Park Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Casa Grande  
STATE  
Arizona  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
04  
COUNTY  
Pinal  
CODE  
021 ✓  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society  
STREET & NUMBER  
110 W. Florence Blvd  
CITY, TOWN  
Casa Grande  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Pinal County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Florence  
STATE  
Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Casa Grande Stone Church stands near the northeast corner of Florence Blvd. and Park Avenue. Joined to the Sunday School building, it forms an L on the north and east sides of the lawn (90' x 70') on the corner. The building, which has a full raised basement, is 4' from the sidewalk on the south side and 5' on the east. On the north side it is flush with the Sunday School complex.

The rectangular one-story building has walls of local fieldstone and a gabled roof of red tile. On the southwest corner of the building, there is a cement porch with stone arches and an arched doorway with double doors leading to a projecting vestibule. Stepped gables over the entry and vestibule are at right angles to the main roof. Over the vestibule is an octagonal belfry with a copper dome. The east and west sides of the building are broken by stone buttresses and three-over-one double-hung windows with flat arches. The south end of the building, facing the street, has a curved parapet and a stained glass window with a belled arch.

The church is approximately 70' x 40' with a 24' wide vestibule projecting 10' from the southwest corner. The sanctuary has a 15' ceiling and retains the original pews and black metal light fixtures. Composition paneling was added in the early 1950s. The basement was used for Sunday School classes, meetings, and social occasions. It also contained the church offices which, during the mortuary period, were converted to one-bedroom apartment. The building was refrigerated in the 1950s without altering the exterior.

The Sunday School building, or Fellowship Hall (130' x 40'), forms an L with the church and was constructed of cement blocks in 1952. The entire complex is now being converted for use as a museum, as shown in the accompanying sketch. The sanctuary will be used for meetings and special programs.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Orr

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Casa Grande Stone Church is one of four large cobble buildings constructed in Casa Grande. The pueblo style Casa Grande Woman's Club building across the street is on the State Register of Historic Places. The armory building, about two blocks away, is being demolished. There is also an apartment building. Architecturally, the church is probably the most distinguished. All of the buildings resulted from the need to use inexpensive local materials and from the availability of a skilled local stonemason.

The community of Casa Grande was named in 1879 and was at that time the nearest settlement to what is now Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. In 1879, the Southern Pacific Railroad was being constructed across Arizona and reached Casa Grande in late May. At that time, the town had 22 stores and saloons, reflecting the temporary boom of railroad construction.

The town economy was based on agriculture and its position as a shipping point for mines in the area. In 1882, it had a population of 180 and a handful of business establishments. Many of the residents lived in tent houses and the commercial structures were not much more substantial. However, a fire in 1893 destroyed the business section. Although this catastrophe occurred in the midst of a mining depression, the merchants gradually rebuilt and many of the older brick buildings date from this period.

By 1894, there were enough local Protestants to form a congregation and they were served for the next three years by a Presbyterian licentiate. Since the Endeavor Church, as it was called, was the first (and for many years the only) Protestant church in Casa Grande, it was ecumenical in nature. This was the eleventh Presbyterian congregation organized in Arizona Territory. The town then had a population of about 350 and it continued as a small trading center on the railroad with emphasis on mining, freighting, and irrigation agriculture.

The congregation, like the town, grew slowly and steadily. A small frame church was constructed on the corner of First Avenue and Florence Street and in 1898, a resident minister came and lived in a tent house next to the church. As attendance increased, two tent houses for the Sunday School were added.

In 1920, plans were made to build a manse and a sanctuary at a location which was then on the edge of town and the Presbyterian Home Mission Board was appealed to for financial help. By this time, there were other Protestant churches in the community and the town itself was in the midst of a brief building boom, adding several commercial structures and a high school.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 429500 3638025  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Block 3  
 First addition to Casa Grande

*- at meeting of Casa Grande 2/21/78  
 3/1/78*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

DATE

November 4, 1977

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

STATE

Arizona

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Dorothy H. Hall*

TITLE

DATE 1-24-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

ATTEST: *Walter M. Cole*

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

DATE

*6/5/78*

DATE

6-5-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 24 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUN 1 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 1

In 1925, the congregation had 82 members and pledged \$6,707 for the building fund. A loan was received from the Home Mission Board and the manse was built that year. The following year, a contract was let for the sanctuary and ground was broken on March 13th. The church was designed by Architect Robert Orr of Los Angeles and constructed by Mike Sullivan, a Catholic stonemason, who built several residences and commercial buildings in Casa Grande. In 1924, he built the cobble Casa Grande Woman's Club Building across the street, following the design of Tucson architect Henry Jaasted. First services in the new church were held on Christmas Day 1927.

The town continued to grow steadily, especially after the construction of Coolidge Dam in 1929 which irrigated 100,000 acres in the fertile Casa Grande Valley with its 275-day growing season. After World War II, Casa Grande shared in the statewide population boom and the Presbyterian congregation was forced to expand its facilities.

Between 1946 and 1956, more seating was added in the sanctuary, and more classrooms in the basement. A new manse was built and the old one was used for Sunday School and nursery purposes. A large Sunday School building was added in 1952. The sanctuary also acquired an electric organ, with chimes, and a stained glass window. Even these additions could not keep up with the growing congregation and by 1965, it was decided to move to a donated five-acre lot north of town. The expense of expansion at the old site and the lack of parking space made the new location a necessity. The stone church was abandoned in 1969 and acquired by a mortuary firm.

The central location of the stone church, its attractive and distinctive architecture, and the affection which many local people had for it caused it to be considered for a museum. In 1977, it was acquired by the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society for \$125,000 which must be paid in three years. The building is now being refurbished for use as a museum and is expected to open in February. There will be no basic alterations to the building, since it is structurally sound and its original character is regarded as one of its greatest assets.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 27 1978

DATE ENTERED

JUN 15 1978  
...

CONTINUATION SHEET BIBLIOGRAPHY ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

---

Casa Grande Bulletin, 1924-1926

Casa Grande Dispatch, 1926-1928, 1977

Casa Grande Valley Historical Society, correspondence and records

Johnson, Charlotte, First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande, 1976

Tucson Citizen, 1921

Phoenix Gazette, 1940

Arizona Sentinel, 1879

Phoenix Herald, 1882, 1888

Arizona Daily Citizen, 1885, 1893

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 24 1978
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

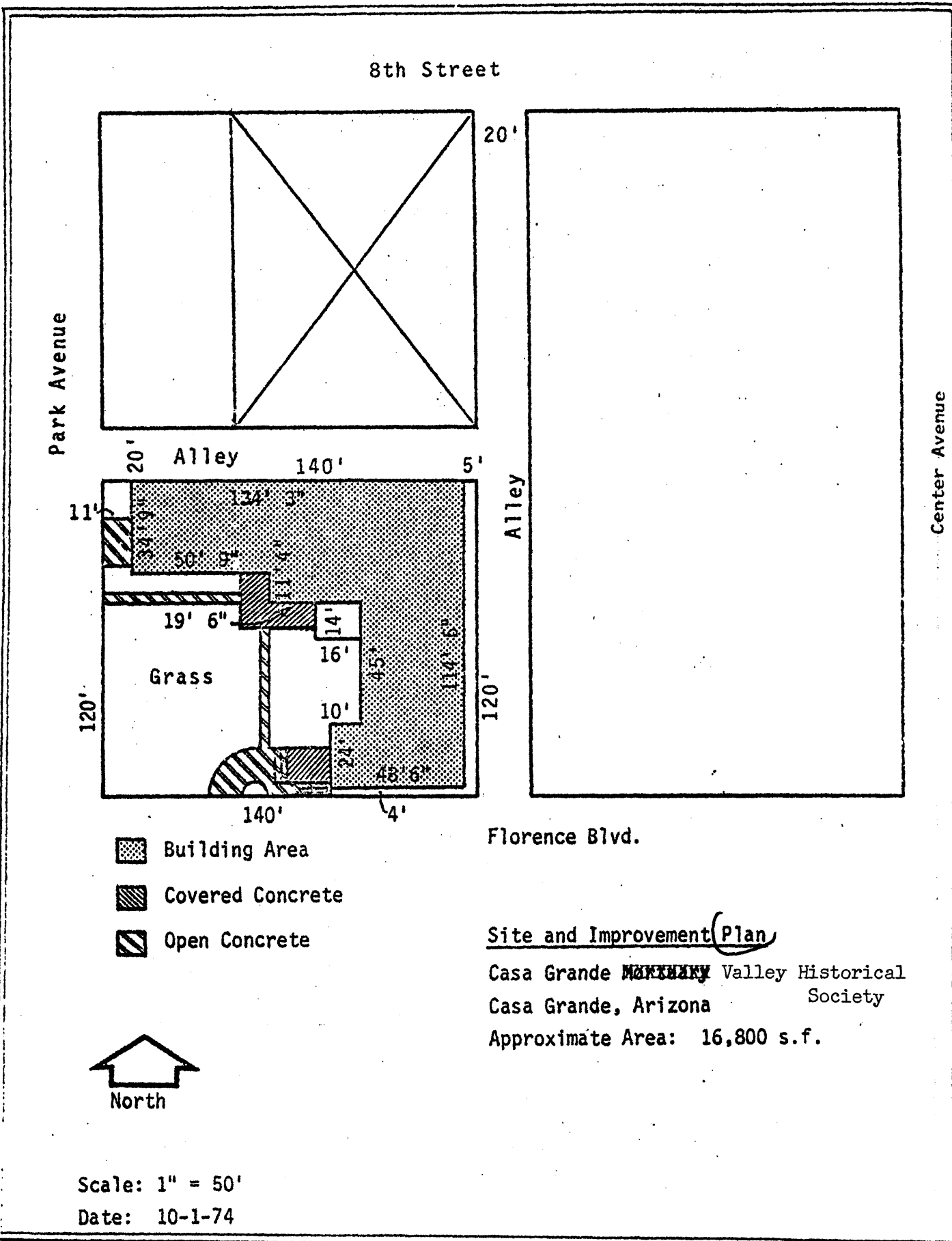
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Appendix

Pastors of Casa Grande Presbyterian Church

- 1894-1897 - Served by a licentiate and by visiting ministers from Florence
- 1898-1899 - Rev. Isaac Whittemore, transferred from Florence
- 1899-1901 - Rev. Herman B. Mayo
- 1902-1904 - Rev. Benjamin C. Meeker
- 1904-1905 - Rev. James L. Barnes
- 1906 - Temporary ministers
- 1907-1908 - Rev. Josias Friedli
- 1908-1909 - Rev. Allen Kennedy
- 1909-1910 - Licentiate J. R. Waits
- 1911-1912 - Rev. Giles A. Henderson
- 1912-1913 - Rev. George Logie
- 1913-1916 - Rev. J.W. Henderson
- 1916-1917 - Rev. Charles H. Churchill
- 1917-1919 - World War I - No minister
- 1919-1922 - Rev. N. R. Curtis
- 1922-1924 - Rev. J. W. Purcell
- 1924 - Rev. Benjamin H. Freye
- 1925-1939 - Rev. Curry Love
- 1939-1941 - Rev. H. W. Rotz
- 1942-1943 - Rev. Alexander Muirden
- 1944-1945 - Rev. R. C. Palmer
- 1946-1956 - Rev. Elias Jones
- 1957-1969 - Rev. Richard Archibald
- 1970 - Rev. Robert Stahner



Florence Blvd.

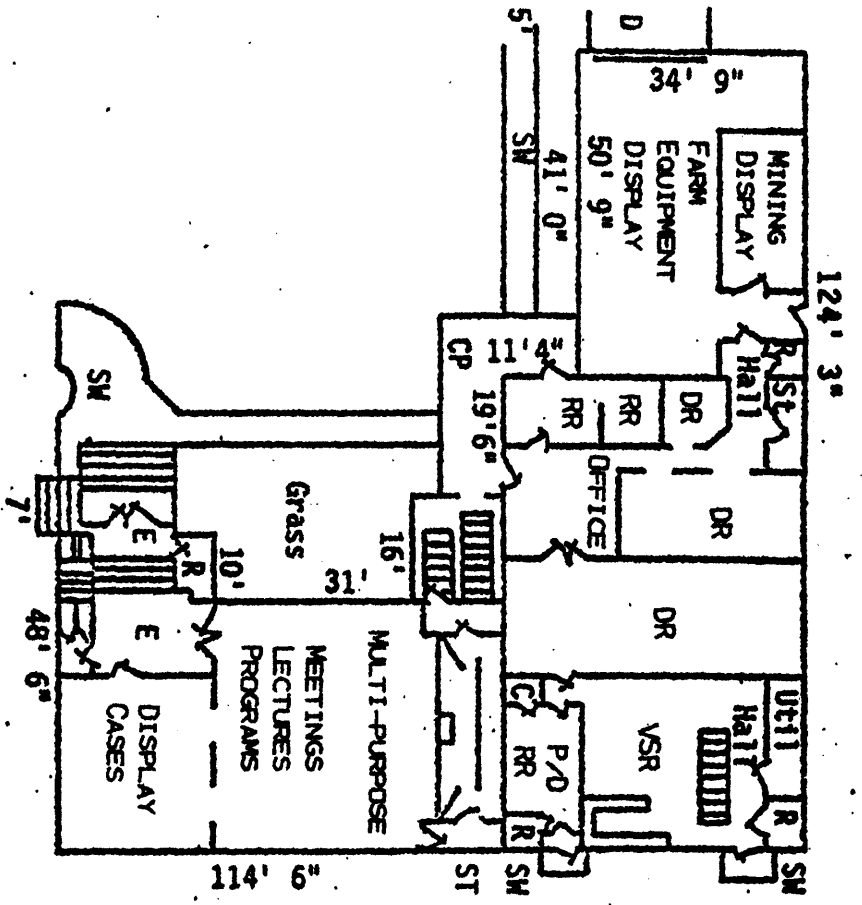
Site and Improvement Plan

Casa Grande ~~MONTHLY~~ Valley Historical Society  
 Casa Grande, Arizona  
 Approximate Area: 16,800 s.f.

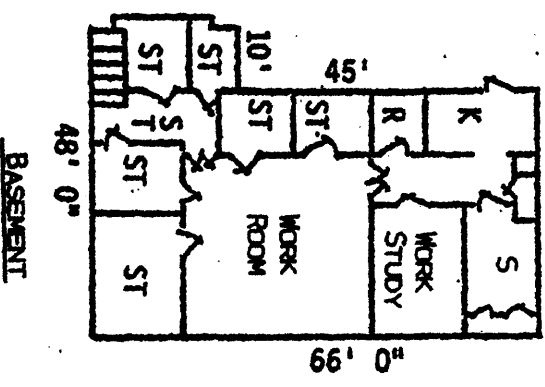
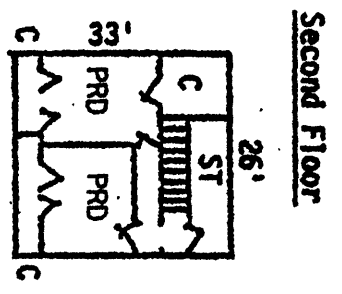


Scale: 1" = 50'  
 Date: 10-1-74





- CP --- COVERED PORCH
- DR --- DISPLAY ROOM
- SN --- SIDEWALK
- RR --- RESTROOM
- RR --- RECORD ROOM
- ST --- STORAGE
- VSR --- VISITOR STUDY ROOM
- K --- KITCHEN
- E --- ENTRY
- C --- CLOSET
- D --- DRIVEWAY
- PRD --- PERIOD ROOM DISPLAY
- RR- --- PHOTO-DOCUMENT RECORD ROOM



APPROXIMATE AREAS

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM .....	2764 SF
BASEMENT STORAGE AND WORK ROOM.....	2764 SF
MUSEUM DISPLAYS AND RECORDS.....	2611 SF
FARMING AND MINING DISPLAYS.....	1152 SF

FLOOR PLAN  
 CASA GRANDE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 AND  
 MUSEUM



JUN 15 1978