

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARIZONA

Date Entered APR 13 1972

Name

Location

Tombstone Courthouse

Tombstone  
Cochise County

Old Main

Tucson  
Pima County

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

Hon. Paul J. Fannin  
Hon. Barry Goldwater  
Hon. Morris K. Udall



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P. L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Arizona
COUNTY:	Pima
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

STATE GOVT  
FROM SHPO

FINAL

1. NAME

COMMON: "Old Main"

AND/OR HISTORIC: University of Arizona, School of Agriculture (1891)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: University of Arizona

CITY OR TOWN: Tucson Zip 85720

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arizona	04	Pima	019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: University of Arizona (State of Arizona)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Tucson STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: State Land Department

STREET AND NUMBER: 1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN: Phoenix STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

STATE: Arizona

COUNTY: Pima

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered Interior	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"OLD MAIN", University of Arizona, Pima County, Tucson, Arizona.  
 Dates of Construction - October 27, 1887-October 1, 1891.  
 Architect - G. H. Creighton; Builder - M. H. Sullivan.

JAMES M.

Old Main is a two story structure, consisting in plan of a center section about 100' on the north-south sides and 95' on the east-west sides. From the north-south sides of this center section and centered upon these sides, two wings project which are about 50' long and 35' wide. The result in plan is a bi-symmetrical elongated cross about 195' on the long (north-south) axis, and 120' on the short (east-west) axis. All portions of Old Main were constructed and finished at the same time. The interior has witnessed major alterations in response to changing functional demands, while the exterior has changed very little since 1891.

There are four towers, capped with pyramidal roofs and about 50' in height, centered upon the four sides of the cross type plan. These towers mark the entries, with primary entries on the east and west sides and the secondary on the north-south sides. These entries are notable, for they utilize a semi-circular arch to further express the points of entry.

The floor of the first story is about 3' below existing grade, which results in a "raised basement" tucked under a 12' wide roofed porch which surrounds the entire second story. Each floor--first and second-- is reached by stairs centered upon each side. The ceiling heights are 12' for the first story and 17' for the second story. The roof of Old Main can best be described as a variety of the "Mansard" which was a popular architectural mode c. 1890, while the porch roof, which is lower, is a simple sloping shed roof surrounding the entire structure. In general, the exterior character of Old Main is one of horizontality due to the surrounding porch and a resulting deep horizontal shadow which emphasizes this horizontality by accentuating the fascia of the porch roof. The four towers punctuate this horizontality and provide vertical accents as well as expressing entry points.

The basis structural concept is wall-beam. The first story wall is of ashlar stone masonry, while the second story wall to its intersection with the roof is of red brick. Beams in all cases are of dimensioned lumber, with wooden trusses used

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arizona	
COUNTY Pima	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

in the roof structure. The porch floor and roof also utilize demensioned lumber, while the porch posts on the first story are of red brick. The second story porch posts are of wood with a wooden porch handrail between. Some wooden brackets occur on both the porch eaves at the column points and on the cornice of the main structure.

Openings, both doors and windows, are spanned by flat lintels of stone on both stories. The only exceptions to this are the tower entries which are spanned by semi-circular arches of brick. The windows were the double-hung wooden single light type. Exterior doors were the typical paneled raised moulding doors of the 1890's. Roof surfaces have been replaced, and as far as can be ascertained, the present roof is not original.

The interior of Old Main has seen the greatest number of physical alterations, due to continuously changing uses since 1891. At present, the plan has a "through-hall" from east to west on axis of the main entries, while the remainder of the plan responds not to axial symmetry but instead to functional demands. While there have been considerable internal changes since 1891, sufficient detail, i.e., doors, mouldings and other trim, remains which, when correlated with early photographs, gives a clear picture of the original interior if a restoration were contemplated. All interior floors are of wood, and the porch at the second story is also of wood, while the first story exterior floor below the porch is of concrete.

In 1938, due to neglect by the University, Old Main was condemned and ruled as unsafe by city authorities. Nothing was done to rectify this until 1942 when the U. S. Navy took over the structure and provided considerable funds for the necessary repairs. At this time, the Sundt Construction Company of Tucson repointed the exterior walls where needed, and the first story exterior concrete walk below the porch was repaired. The second story porch floor and roof were also renovated, as was the porch handrail and all wooden stairs. All interior wooden floors were put into good condition, and interior walls were patched where necessary. Several bad trusses in the roof were replaced, and roof leaks were repaired. Since this major renovation of 1942, the building has been relatively well maintained, and it continues to function as part of the University. It now

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arizona	
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7. Description (continued)

provides space for the ROTC program and other minor campus offices.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) October 27, 1887 - October 1, 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Main is the original University of Arizona. The University was authorized in 1885 by an act of the 13th Arizona Territorial Assembly, which appropriated \$25,000 for the purpose. Two years later, the Regents approved a contract of \$37,969 for construction of "Old Main", which was originally intended to house the School of Mines. Ground was broken on October 27, 1887 in a picturesque ceremony at which school children, soldiers from Fort Lowell, a traveling stock company and citizens of Tucson all participated. Construction went along until funds ran out. When the Regents learned that federal funds were available for schools of agriculture, the School of Mines was moved out, and Old Main became the home of Agriculture. With the resulting federal money, Old Main was completed and opened its doors on October 1, 1891.

Today, Old Main stands in a central position within a great university. Its site is astride an east-west mall, upon which it occupies a most significant position as the termination of vistas from the east and west arrival gates of the University. Thus, it has immense significance as a vital piece of the present campus plan. While fulfilling this focal function, it further acts as a significant symbolic landmark, reminding all who view it of the historical educational aspirations of a western territory which viewed education as a civilizing force on the frontier. It is one of the oldest surviving western educational structures.

Architecturally, Old Main is a well preserved gem of the "Territorial" period of Arizona's history. It presents today the architectural idiom in use for educational and civic structures in the Southwest of c. 1890. Its exterior, especially, possesses an architectural integrity found all too seldom in the Southwest of today, for structures of this vintage have all too often been badly altered or even destroyed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

There is no surfeit of such structures in the Southwest, and because of its significance as a vital piece of the campus plan and its historical and architectural merit, Old Main deserves to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- A. File on "Old Main" (books, clippings and other documents),  
Special Collections Division,  
University of Arizona Library, Tucson, Arizona
- B. Photographs and other documents,  
Collection, Arizona Pioneers' Society Historical Society  
Tucson, Arizona

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	13'	55"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	110°	57'	10"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Prof. Gordon Heck, AIA & Mrs. June Caldwell Martin, Ed., Ariz. Alumni Mag.

ORGANIZATION: College of Architecture DATE: 15 Jan. 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: University of Arizona

CITY OR TOWN: Tucson STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Dennis McCarthy 

Title Director, ASPB

Date 8/12/71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

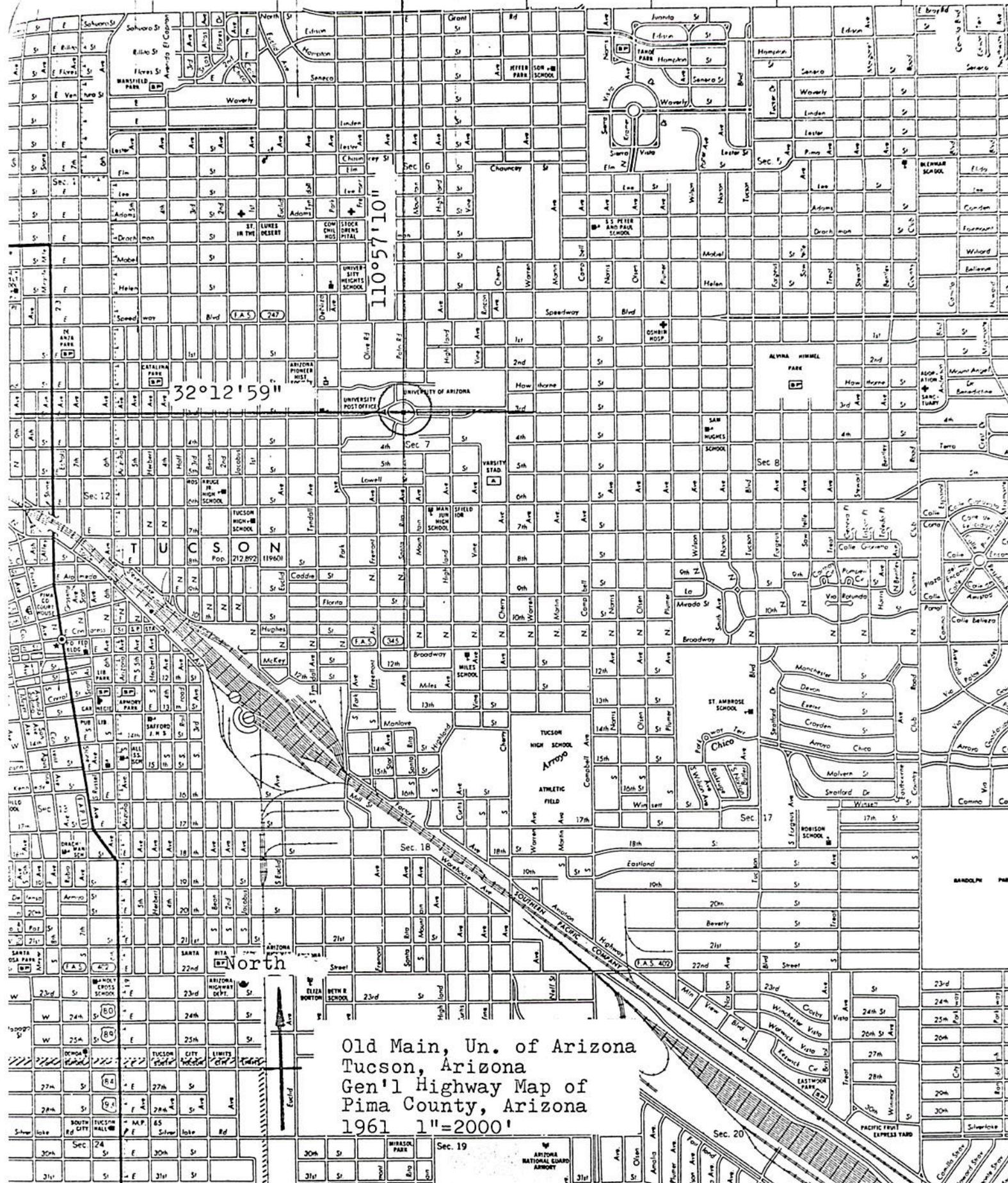
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

794,000 FEET 798,000 FEET MATCH LINE TO SHEET 13-19 802,000 FEET 806,000 FEET



32°12'59"

110°57'10"

Old Main, Un. of Arizona  
 Tucson, Arizona  
 Gen'l Highway Map of  
 Pima County, Arizona  
 1961 1"=2000'

Sec. 20

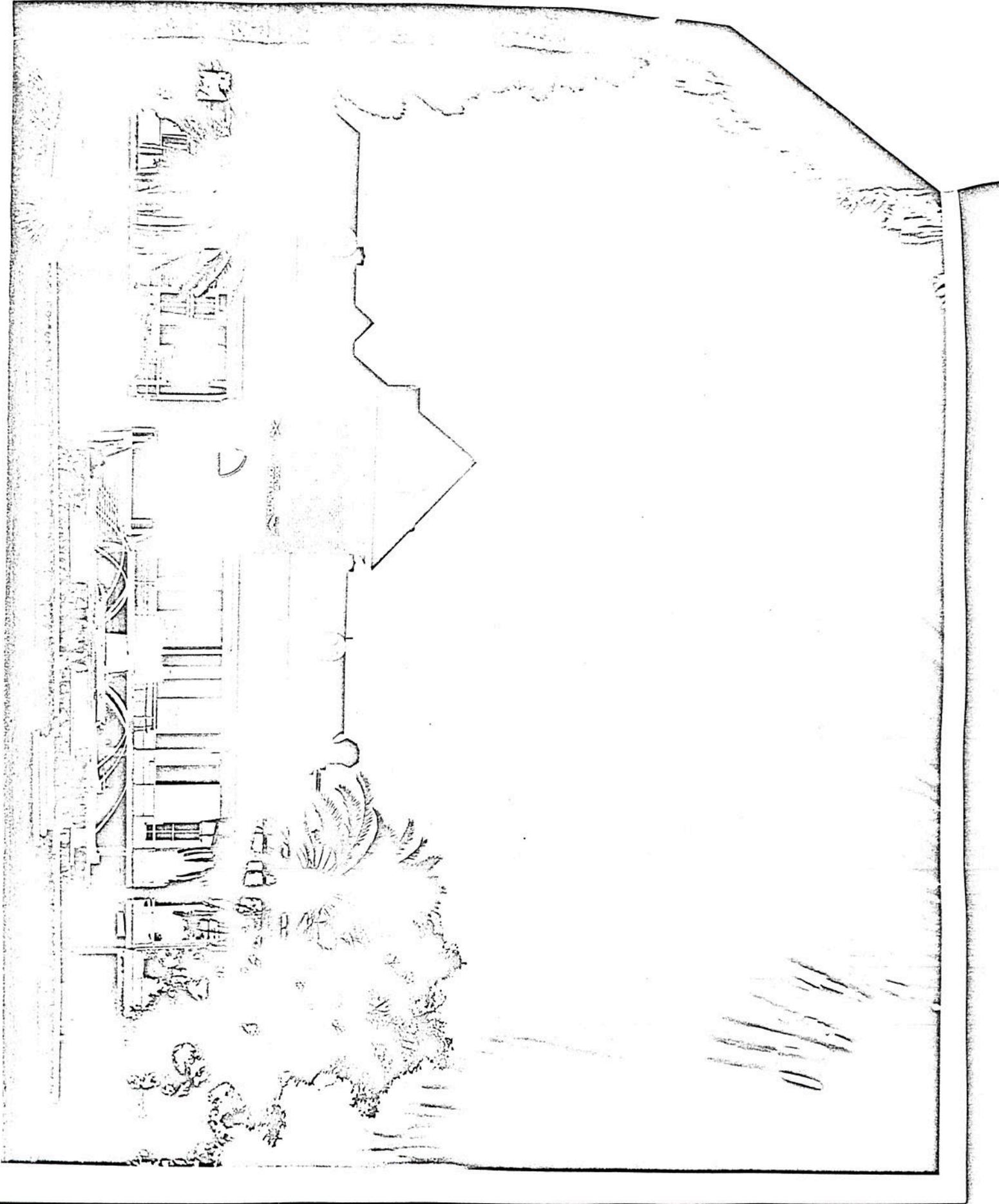
Sec. 19

North



ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD AIRPORT

BANDOLINI PARK



N O M I N A T I O N F O R M

ARIZONA STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES

1. NATURE AND NAMES OF PLACE

"Old Main"  
 University of Arizona, School of Agriculture (1891)  
 educational facility

2. LOCATION

University of Arizona campus, Tucson, Pima County

3. ENDANGERED

no.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

5. INTEGRITY

6. CONDITION

History

Archaeology

Architecture

Culture

All Original

Changes Minor

Much Altered

Moved or Re-constructed

Sound

Restorable

Ruinous

Site Only

7. HISTORY OR JUSTIFICATION

Old Main is the original U. of A. The building was originally intended to be a school of mines. However, during construction in the late 1880's, funds were depleted and the project endangered. At this time, it was learned that the federal government would help finance construction of agricultural schools. Hence, the educational theme was switched from mining to agriculture and the building reached completion in October 1, 1891.

In addition to the building's educational importance to the development of Arizona, Old Main is noteworthy for its architectural merits. Old Main's exterior possesses an architectural integrity found all too seldom in the Southwest today. It presents an architectural idiom which was in use for Arizona's educational and civic structures circa 1890.

The architect of Old Main was C. H. Creighton.

*James M.*

8. Photo

Attach

Recent

Photo

Here

9. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION FEATURES SIZE

Two story structure of stone and brick. Basic plan is that of a cross with the main entry facing west. At each of the entries is a pyramidal roofed tower. Beneath the towers, the entries are further enhanced by semi-circular brick arches.