FORM NO. 10-300 (Rev. 10-1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMEN OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS U.

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SEEI	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T	O COMPLETE NATION. COMPLETE APPLICABL	AL REGISTER FORM	S .
NAME	TITE ALL LIVINIES (	COMPLETE AFFLICABL	LE SECTIONS	
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HISTORIC	Conquistadon Natas Ta		TAN.	
	Conquistador Water To	ower		
AND/OR COMMON				
"E	1 Con"		JUNE 2011	
2 LOCATION	J	Alle Service Control	FROM SHP	0
STREET & NUMBER				
Near the inte	ersection of Broadway	and Randolph Way	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT
Tucson		VICINITY OF	Pima	
state Arizona		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF		04	Pima	019
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	2.00			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	<b>ENT USE</b>
DISTRICT  XBUILDING(S)	_XPUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
ASTRUCTURE .	PRIVATE	LUNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	<b>X</b> GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	XOTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
O WINDER OF	ROILRII			
NAME City of	T	Charles and a second of the se		
STREET & NUMBER	Tucson, Arizona (Depa	irtment of Water and	Sewers)	
STREET & NUMBER				
P.O. Box	x 2/210			
(2007)			STATE	
Tucson		VICINITY OF	Arizona 8	35726
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		1-40000 11-30-01-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10
COURTHOUSE.		,		
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. City of Tucson O	effice of Water 8 C		NETE OF
STREET & NUMBER	erey or rueson, o	ffice of Water & Se	ewers and/or City	Clerk
	City Hall, 250 We	st Alameda Street		
CITY, TOWN		se maineda sereet	STATE	
Tucson				35701
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	NC STIPVEVE	M 120na C	3701
000000000000000000000000000000000000000	IMITON IN EXIST	MG BOK VE 19		
TITLE				
DATE				
DATE				
DEPOCITORY		FEDERALS	TATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN				NO. 1304
Ciri, iOWN			STATE	N 479-6100000 4801700



\_\_EXCELLENT

XGOOD

\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

XUNALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND OHIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The El Conquistador Water Tower consists of a 50,000 gallon-capacity water storage tank supported by steel girders, encased in a Spanish Colonial Revival style outer shell. The structure, which assumes the form of a truncated obelisk topped by an octagonal cupola, measures 30' square at the base and stands 90' tall. The exterior walls of the tower are constructed of sheet rock applied to a steel frame which is independent of the steel girders supporting the water tank, and are finished with tannish-brown colored stuccoed plaster.

Entry to the structure is by two large double doorways, one positioned at the center of the north facade at ground level, and one occupying a similar position on the south facade. Each set of double doors is framed by a rectangular surround embellished with Baroque ornamentation centered around a cartouche. The north and south facades each contain three rectangular, multi-paned windows spaced at regular intervals in a vertical alignment, while the east and west facades contain no openings. The top of the obelisk-shaped portion of the structure is marked by a parapet. Atop the obelisk is an octagonal cupola that features four semi-circular arched windows facing east, west, north and south. Each window rests on a balconet supported by scroll-shaped brackets, projecting from the parapet of the obelisk. Each window is framed by spiral columns topped by Corinthian capitals and elaborate finials, and embellished by ornate cartouches. Interspersed between the windows are four curvilinear-arched niches.

A terra-cotta tiled roof divided into eight segments covers the cupola, and rising from the apex of the roof is a 75-pound, four-feet-tall wrought iron weather vane depicting a prospector and his burro. The weather vane was removed by the City in 1978 after high winds weakened its bearings. A few months later, community outcry persuaded the City to replace the weather vane. The original weather vane, with a new mounting created from the front axle assembly of a 1955 Buick station wagon, is now back in place atop the "El Con."

The structure has remained substantially unaltered since 1932, and is in fairly good condition.

y strong

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

		INVENTION		- LOTHER (SPECIFY)
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	THEATER
_1700-1799	ART	ENG)NEERING	MUSIC	
_1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The El Conquistador Water Tower, constructed in 1928, is a rare example of the application of Spanish Colonial Revial architectural design elements to an essentially ordinary and utilitarian engineering structure. Built to serve the water supply needs of two early Tucson residential areas, the "El Con" nurtured the growth of the Colonia Solana and El Encanto subdivisions. Neighborhood residents today are returning the favor by fighting to preserve this local landmark, which provides a strong identity to the surrounding neighborhoods although it no longer supplies them with water.

Tucson's existence has always been dependent on groundwater to supply the needs of its residents and businesses; in fact, it is the largest city in the country entirely dependent on groundwater for its survival. As desert land gave way to city streets, new wells had to be drilled and water storage facilities built to accommodate the citizens' needs. The "El Con" was constructed in 1928 near the intersection of Broadway and Randolph Way to provide water for the new subdivisions of Colonia Solana and El Encanto, under development by John W. Murphey, and the now-demolished El Conquistador Hotel, a prominent early resort located to the north of Colonia Solana. Murphey was a well-known Tucson land developer, who was particularly important in the development of the area west of the University of Arizona.

In addition to its obvious function as a water tower, the "El Con" was intended as a promotional device to attract attention to the new subdivisions and to facilitate the sale of lots and homes in the area. Complaints from neighborhood residents that the water tower was an eyesore prompted Murphey to effect cosmetic improvements to the structure. As a result, prominent Tucson architect Josias T. Joesler was engaged to design an exterior shell for the structure to make it compatible with the character of the adjacent neighborhoods, which boasted many stately Spanish Colonial Revival and Mission Revival style homes. In 1932 the structure was encased with a Spanish Colonial Revival style outer shell, creating the appearance that the "El Con" essentially presents today.

Although the "El Con" has not functioned as a water storage facility since 1944, the City of Tucson Department of Water and Sewers continued to maintain the structure and uses it for equipment storage. Occasional threats to demolish the structure, prompted by rising maintenance costs, have been met with, and thwarted by, large-scale public opposition because the community considers the "El Con" to be an important local historic and architectural landmark worthy of preservation.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Ms. Helen Murphey, December 1, 1978.

Interview with Mr. Frank Brooks, Tucson Water Department, October 17, 1979.

Interview with Mr. Gene E. Cronk, Tucson Water Department, January 4, 1979.

		(See	continuation she	eet)
OGEOGRAPHICAL DA		QUADR	ANGLE NAME Tucso	on, Arizona
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY UTM REFERENCES	.112 acres	QUADR	ANGLE SCALE 1:24	1000
	NORTHING	B ZONE EASTING	S NORTHING	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIP	TION			
Pt. Lot 36 of Subdivision 52.08 feet east and 52.03 point being the true point north 00 <sup>0</sup> 01'20" west 70 fe point of beginning	feet north of the sof beginning; thenet; thence west 70	southwest corner nce north 89 <sup>0</sup> 58' feet; thence so	of said Lot 36 40" east 70 feet outh 70 feet to t	said ; thence he true
LIST ALL STATES AND CO	OUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	OVERLAPPING STAT	E OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE '	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
FORM PREPARED E  NAME/TITLE  Mary Jane Gregory	3 Y 			
ORGANIZATION	Panud		May 6, 1980	
Arizona State Parks B	ouar u		TELEPHONE	
1688 W. Adams			(602) 255-4174	
CITY OR TOWN  Phoenix			STATE Arizona 85007	
12 STATE HISTORIC P	DECEDUATION	OFFICED CEL		
6U-0-3-000	ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH			
NATIONAL	STATE		LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic Pre hereby nominate this property for in criteria and procedures set forth by t	nclusion in the National Reg			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFI	CER SIGNATURE . James	et yes		
TITLE	SHA	00	DATE 16 W	lay 1980
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS P	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN	THE NATIONAL REGI	STER	
			DATE	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEO ATTEST:	LOGY AND HISTORIC PRE	SERVATION	DATE	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REG	SISTER			

GPO 892.453

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Interview with Mr. Lloyd Gay, May 13, 1980.

Arizona Daily Star, 2-29-29

6-20-70

10-31-75

10-5-78

10-28-78

Tucson Citizen, 10-16-75

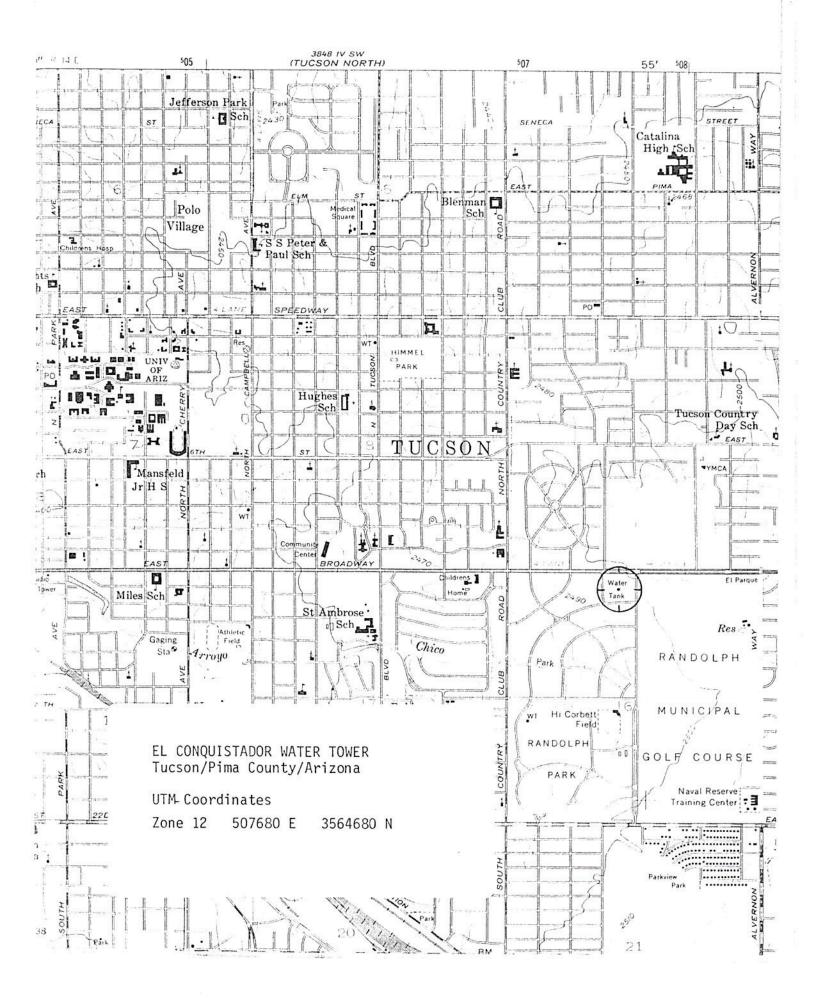
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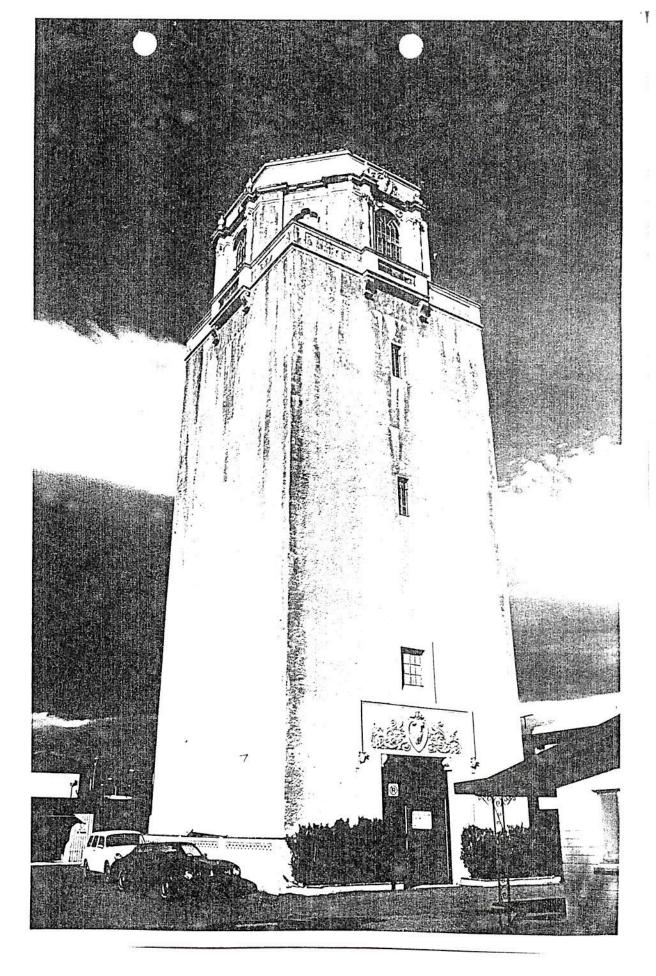
1-20-76

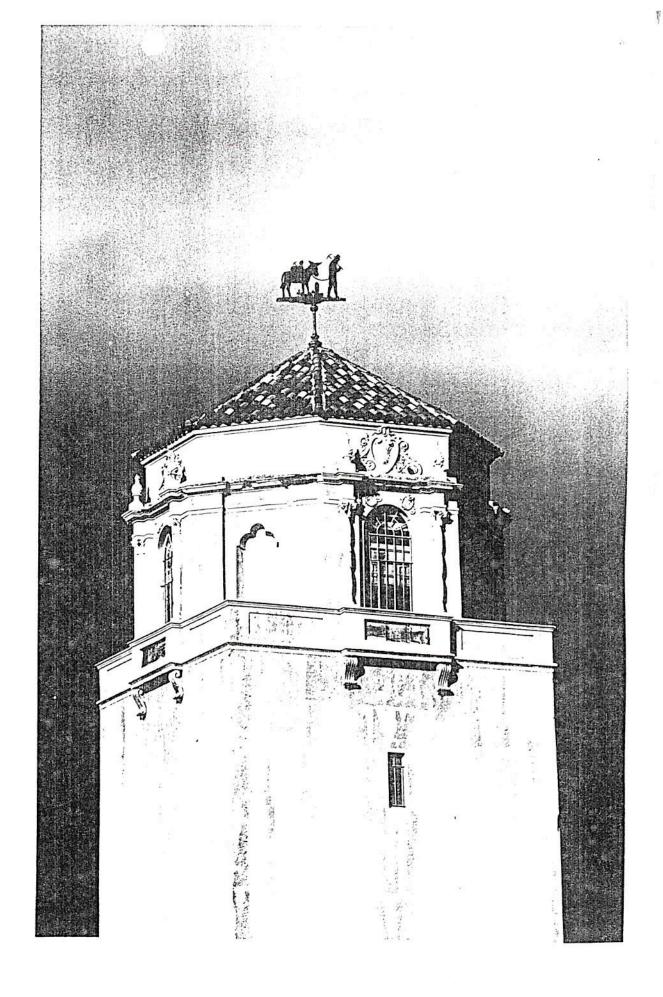
1-27-76

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UNITED STATES DEPART' NT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# VATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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AND/OR COMMON		8		
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Tucson		CODE	COUNTY Pima	CODE
Arizona			Fillia	
3 CLASSIFIC.	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENT USE
DISTRICT	X <sub>PUBLIC</sub>	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	X_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
X_STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATION
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	XOTHER:
		NO		
A OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
City of Tucso	on, Arizona (Department	t of Water and Sewe	ers)	
STREET & NUMBER				
Post Office E	Box 27210		STATE	
CITY, TOWN		VICINITY OF	Arizona	(85726)
Tucson	Y OR LECAL DESCE		chi kin berkula da kanana da k	
5 LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	CIF ITON		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS	s,ETC. City of Tucson, Of	fice of Water & Se	wers and/or City C	lerk
STREET & NUMBER	City of Tucson, or	Tice of Mater a se		
STREET & TOWNSON	City Hall, 250 Wes	t Alameda Street	STATE	
CITY, TOWN				(85701)
	Tucson	THE OXIDIATION	ALIZONO	100/01/
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	TING SURVEYS		
TÎTLE				
DATE		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOC.	AL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	_		27.177	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTME OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME EL CONQUISTADOR WATER TOWER HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON 2 LOCATION Near the intersection of Broadway and Randolph Way. STREET & NUMBER NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Pima Tucson, VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE STATE Pima Arizona CLASSIFICATION **PRESENT USE** STATUS CATEGORY OWNERSHIP  $\overline{X}^{\text{OCCUPIED}}$ \_\_MUSEUM X<sub>PUBLIC</sub> AGRICULTURE \_DISTRICT \_\_COMMERCIAL \_\_PARK X\_BUILDING(S) LUNOCCUPIED \_\_PRIVATE \_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE \_\_EDUCATIONAL \_WORK IN PROGRESS X\_STRUCTURE BOTH \_\_RELIGIOUS **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** ENTERTAINMENT **ACCESSIBLE** \_\_SITE XYES: RESTRICTED \_SCIENTIFIC \_OBJECT IN PROCESS TRANSPORTATION \_YES: UNRESTRICTED \_INDUSTRIAL \_\_BEING CONSIDERED OTHER: \_MILITARY 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (Dept. of Water and Sewers) NAME City of Tucson, Arizona STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 27210 Arizona CITY, TOWN Tucson, VICINITY OF 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION City of Tucson, Office of Water & Sewers and/or City Clerk. COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. STREET & NUMBER City Hall, 250 W. Alameda STATE CITY, TOWN Arizona Tucson, 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE DATE \_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL



#### CONDITION

\_EXCELLENT
XGOOD
FAIR

\_DETERIORATED

\_RUIN\$
\_UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X\_UNALTERED \_\_ALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

X\_ORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tower is 30 feet square at the base and 65 feet tall. The east and west facades are unbroken, whereas the north and south facades are characterized by three small windows on the obelisk-like main portion of the structure. Atop this base is an octagonal cupola with arched windows flanked by ornate twisted columns. These windows face north, south, east and west. The cupola is topped with a Spanish tile. At the apex is a wrought iron weather vane, about four feet high, depicting in silhouette a prospector and his donkey. At the base of the Tower are two large doors, on the north and south sides. Above these are elaborate bas-relief scroll plaster ornamentations. The basic architectural style is Spanish Mission Revival

### **8** SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	· AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	$\underline{X}$ community planning	XLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE .	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	XENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		····	Josias T. Joe	sler (architect)
SPECIFIC DATES c 1929		BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT John W. Murph	ey (builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This ornate tower was designed and constructed to cover and camouflage a large water tank, built on this site to provide water to the new subdivision of Colonia Solana, under development at the time by John W. Murphey. water tank was also intended to serve the El Conquistador resort hotel complex across Broadway to the north of Colonia Solana. The tower was designed in the popular "Mission Revival" style of architecture, characteristic of many of the Joesler designed and Murphy built homes. From its inception, and up to the present time, the El Conquistador Tower has been a landmark. In addition to its functional purpose, it was intended to draw attention to the subdivision, promote the sales of lots and homes, and stand as a monument to its architect and builder. In all of these roles the tower has served admirably. It has become an "institution" not only to the neighborhood, but to the City Department of Water and Severs which continues to maintain it though the water tank has not been in service for many years. The entire community considers the El Conquistador Tower an important historic structure, deserving of preservation, as witnessed by recent efforts by private citizens as well as City officials to repair the damaged weather vane.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

GEOGRAPHICAI	L DATA		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PRO	PERTY	-	
UTM REFERENCES			
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		Lania Salana (Mar	ns & Plats 5 / 32)
		Lonia Bolana (ma	ps & Plats 5 / 32)
see appo	ended survey.		
LIST ALL STATES A	ND COUNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING STATE	OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
	0005	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	3552
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	ED BY H. Peterson, Chai		DATE January 20, 1979
ORGANIZATION TUCSON-	H. Peterson, Chai		DATE January 20, 1979 TELEPHONE 791-4213
ORGANIZATION Tucson-	H. Peterson, Chai Pima County Histo Box 27210		January 20, 1979
ORGANIZATION TUCSON— STREET & NUMBER CITY OR TOWN TUCSON TUCSON	H. Peterson, Chai Pima County Histo Box 27210 ICPRESERVATIO	orical Commission	TELEPHONE 791-4213  STATE Arizona 85726  TIFICATION
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## ARIZONA STALE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY\_

PROPERTY NAME		
EL CONQUISTADOR WATER TOWER		
LOCATION	CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH	
INTERSECTION OF BROADMAY & RANDOLPH WAY		
CITY/TOWN/VICINITY COUNTY		
TUCSON PIMA		
OWNER		
CITY OF TUCSON - DEPT OF WATER TSEWERS		
OWNER'S ADDRESS		
PO BOX 27210	000	
TUCSON AZ 85	SEE SUPP FILE	
1000011200		
FORM COMPLETED BY		
TOM ROTHWEILER		
ADDRESS		
ASPB		
HCS		
1,100		
PHOTO BY DATE		
Tom PETERSON		
VIEW		
PRESENT USE JACREAGE		
UNOCCUPIED - UN USIED		
STYLE OR CULTURAL PERIOD		
Professional Company (Company Company		
SPANISH MISSION REVIVAL		
SIGNIFICANT DATES JOSIAS T. JOESLER - ARCH.		
CA 1929 JOHN W MURPHY-BUILD.		
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION BASILALLY A METAL WATER TOWER WITH	AN ENCLOSURE SERGUYDING , T.	2750 KI
- 30'SOMMARE AT BASE, 65'TAL		
- EAW FACADES UNBROKEN, NA		VINDO. 25
- TOURS CARRED BY COTOCOURS ON	00: 5 - (00:00)	
- TOUBRIS CAPPED BY OCTAGORAL CU.	TOLIS W/ BILLHED WINDOWS FLA	inked by
- CUPOLA TOPPED BY SAGNISH TILE & WA	CUGHT IRON WEATHER VAME DE	PUTING
H PROSPECTOR & HIS PONICEY		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	00163	
- TOWER DESIGNED TO ACCENT COLOR	IA SOLAWA SUBDIVISION & ST	UPPLT
WATER FOR SAME & EL CONQUISTA	The state of the s	
to supplies east		
- INTENDED TO HELP ADVENTIZE LOTS		
- MAINTAINED BY CITT		
- HAS BECOME AN INSTITUTION.		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		
LOT 36 OF COLONIA SCLANA (F	260 5 35)	
	CR 5 - 32)	

