

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Arizona	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XVI Indigenous People and Cultures	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 40
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Apache Pass and Fort Bowie		
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) 13 miles south of Bowie, Arizona		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Earl J. Neel and Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior		

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)  
Apache Pass was a much-traveled mountain crossing used by the Chiricahua and other Apaches because of the presence of spring water, and important need to the traveler in this arid country. The Spanish named it Pass of Doubt.

In 1854, after the United States obtained the region by the Gadsden Purchase, Lt. John G. Parke surveyed the pass for railroad use.

In 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail Company ran its trail over the pass and established a stage station, which Cochise, the Chiricahua Chief, kept supplied with wood. The Chiricahuas also received their first official ration issue here. In 1861, Lt. George N. Bascom arrested Cochise and a few other Chiricahuas at the pass in an attempt to obtain the return of a small boy allegedly made captive by these Apaches. Cochise managed to escape, and for ten years thereafter led his warriors on one raid after another throughout southeastern Arizona.

In July 1862, Cochise and his warriors, joined by Mogollon Apaches under Mangas Coloradas, battled the advance guard of the California Column in the pass, but were forced to retreat when a howitzer was turned on them. Gen. James H. Carleton, realizing the importance of the pass and the spring, immediately ordered the building of Fort Bowie, which was to play an important part in campaigns against Cochise and later against Geronimo.

In 1872, Gen. O. O. Howard rode through Apache Pass to discuss peace terms with Cochise, and for a short period, after the Chiricahuas had been assigned to a reservation, the agency headquarters were located in the pass. In 1876, when the Chiricahuas were moved to the San Carlos Reservation, Geronimo led a faction to Mexico from where he periodically raided into Arizona. Off and on for another ten years, troops from Fort Bowie took the field in pursuit of Geronimo and his warriors before their final surrender, thus bringing an end to 190 years of almost continual Apache warfare with Spanish, Mexicans, and Americans in southeastern Arizona.

The spring, aside from a pipe extending out of one side, remains as it was, and well-preserved traces of the Butterfield Trail are evident at various points throughout the pass.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Richard Y. Murray, The History of Fort Bowie (Master Thesis, Univ. of Ariz., 1951).  
Frank C. Lockwood, The Apache Indians (New York, 1938)

\*Photo - see Historian's Inventory Form

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Special Report Covering the Proposed Fort Bowie National Monument (Ms. Rpt. NPS, 1939).  
Robert M. Utley, Historical Report on Fort Bowie, Arizona (Ms. Rpt. NPS, 1958).  
Z.P. Arnberger, Field Investigation Report, Fort Bowie, Arizona (Ms. Rpt. NPS, 1957)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Ruins - Fair	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Grazing land	13. DATE OF VISIT Apr. 17, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Albert H. Schroeder</i>	15. TITLE Archeologist	16. DATE Dec. 13, 1961	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Arizona	Apache Pass and Fort Bowie

The original fort, badly eroded, stands on a hill overlooking the strategic springs. It was replaced in 1868 by a larger post, the adobe walls of which, in varying stages of erosion, mark practically all the buildings. The stone corrals still stand and the water system still is evident. The pass remains much as it was when used by the Indians.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
NPS Photo by Richard Frear  
195-1855

The remains of a trading post known as "post traders" as seen from the southwest corner of the building. Light colored bricks denote soil cement bricks placed to retain rain-erodable soil in 1967-68. Dark colored adobe is original. Soil-cement bricks were removed in summer of 1978 and replaced with covering of untreated natural adobe to allow even hardness of structure.

FORT BOWIE  
National Historic  
Site

