

# Victoria Mine Cistern



## Identification:

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Preferred Structure Name:	Victoria Mine Cistern
Structure Number:	HS09C
Other Structure Name(s):	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           Other Structure Name(s)            No records.         </div>
Park:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Historic District:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">           Historic District            No records.         </div>
Structure State:	Arizona
Structure County:	Pima
Region:	Intermountain
Cluster:	Southwest
Administrative Unit:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
LCS ID:	056733

## Historical Significance:

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National Register Status:	Entered - Documented
National Register Date:	09/01/1978
National Historic Landmark?:	No
Significance Level:	Local
Short Significance Description:	Victoria Mine Cistern is one of the surviving structures of the Victoria Mine, Organ Pipe NM, entered on the NR, at the local level, the oldest known example of mining activity in the monument & one of the oldest in southwestern Arizona. Intermittent period of significance, 1880 -present.
Long Significance Description:	The Victoria Mine Cistern is one of the surviving structures of the Victoria

Mine, Organ Pipe NM, which was entered on the NR, at the local level, as the oldest known example of mining in the monument and one of the earliest in the inhospitable Sonoran Desert area adjacent to the US/Mexican border in southwestern Arizona. The period of significance begins with 1880 then Cipriano Ortega acquired the site and called it "La Americana," through Mikul Levy's purchase of it in 1899 and his death in 1941, to the present, as there may still be claims held on the site

Early on in its existence the Victoria Mine produced silver ore in large quantities, but Levy extracted only about \$30,000 and subsequent claimants realized around \$10,000 total, possibly due to the high water table and the technical problems associated with sinking the shaft below it.

The Victoria Mine, with its associated surviving stone building and historic scene, was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on September 21, 1978.

### Construction Period:

Construction Period:

Historic

*Chronology:*

	Physical Event	Begin		End Year	End AD/BC	Designer	Occupation
		Year	AD/BC				
1.	Built	1880	AD	1889	AD		

### Function and Use:

Primary Historic Function:

Water Storage Facility

Primary Current Use:

Abandoned/Unmaintained

Structure Contains Museum Collections?:

No

*Other Functions or Uses:*

	Other Function(s) or Use(s)	Historic or Current
1.	Mine	Historic

### Physical Description:

Structure Type:

Grounds/Landscape

Volume:

1 - 2,000 cubic feet

Square Feet:

85

*Material(s):*

	Structural Component(s)	Material(s)
1.	Substructure	Fieldstone
2.	Superstructure	Concrete

Short Physical Description:

Below ground cistern w/ smooth concrete lining. Outer dimensions approx

Long Physical Description:

7'6" x 11', 5' deep. Rock & mortar base.

Below ground cistern w/ smooth concrete lining. Outer dimensions approx 7'6" x 11', 5' deep. Rock & mortar base. Vegetation has taken root and needs to be removed.