

Quitobaquito Earthen Dam



Identification:

Preferred Structure Name:	Quitobaquito Earthen Dam				
Structure Number:	HS13B				
Other Structure Name(s):	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Other Structure Name(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>SON B:4:27 (ASM)</td> </tr> </table>	Other Structure Name(s)		1.	SON B:4:27 (ASM)
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Park:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument				
Historic District:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Historic District</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">No records.</td> </tr> </table>	Historic District		No records.	
Historic District					
No records.					
Structure State:	Arizona				
Structure County:	Pima				
Region:	Intermountain				
Cluster:	Southwest				
Administrative Unit:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument				
LCS ID:	056750				

Historical Significance:

National Register Status:	Determined Eligible - SHPO
National Register Date:	08/18/1994
National Historic Landmark?:	No
Significance Level:	State
Short Significance Description:	The Quitobaquito Earthen Dam, Organ Pipe NM, was determined eligible as contributing elements, state level, Criteria D, likely to yield archeological information in the future about agricultural systems in the harsh environment of the Sonoran Desert. Period of significance, 1860-1957.
Long Significance Description:	The Quitobaquito Earthen Dam, Organ Pipe NM, was determined eligible as

contributing elements for the NR, at the state level of significance, under NR Criteria D, likelihood to yield information important in history about a successful agricultural system in the harsh environment of the Sonoran Desert, with the period of significance, 1860-1957.

Quitobaquito Springs is significant because it is a cultural landscape that reflects the occupation and interaction of several different ethnic groups with the springs, basin, flats, and hills at Quitobaquito from prehistoric times to the present period. With two or more flowing springs, Quitobaquito has served as a crucial water source for travel and trade, settlement and habitation, exploration and migration, and irrigation and agriculture. The continuity of occupation ranges from San Dieguito use in 9000 BC to Hia C'ed O'odham habitation until AD 1957 and ongoing ceremonial use by the Hia C'ed O'odham and Tohono O'odham. Included are prehistoric and historic sites of habitation and occupation, historic irrigation, as well as two main springs, a human-made pond, and sites of a fig and pomegranate orchard and adjacent corn field.

The Determination of Eligibility for the Quitobaquito Earthen Dam was signed by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer on August 18, 1994.

Construction Period:

Construction Period:

Historic

Chronology:

		Begin		End		Designer	
Physical Event	Begin Year	Year AD/BC	End Year	Year AD/BC	Designer	Occupation	
1. Built	1860	AD	1865	AD	Dorsey, Andrew	Other	

Function and Use:

Primary Historic Function:

Dam - Earthen

Primary Current Use:

Dam - Earthen

Structure Contains Museum Collections?:

No

Other Functions or Uses:

Other Function(s) or Use(s) Historic or Current
No records.

Physical Description:

Structure Type:

Marine/Waterway

Material(s):

Structural Component(s) Material(s)

1.	Superstructure	Earth
2.	Substructure	Earth

Short Physical Description:

Earthen dam built on west side of existing marsh.

Long Physical Description:

The Quitobaquito Earthen Dam was developed in the early 1860s by the first Anglo settler, Andrew Dorsey, and served to retain the water in the pond for distribution to the agricultural fields and orchard planted by Dorsey. The system of natural springs, connected by canals to an enlarged pond and dam that Dorsey developed, served for irrigating the orchard and fields from the early 1860's to the 1890's and were re-excavated and utilized again beginning in the early 1900s by Thomas Childs, who married an Hia C'ed O'odham woman from Quitobaquito and settled there.