

## 5,500 Years Ago

Archaic projectile points found within the park boundaries suggest that the site was used by hunters and gatherers.

## Circa AD 1150

A Hohokam village, referred to as the Whiptail Site, was established that extended into a portion of Agua Caliente in the early Classic Period, about AD 1150 – 1250.

## 1854 – 1870

Periodic Army troop encampments at what is now Agua Caliente Park.

## 1873 – 1875

An adobe building is noted in the mapping survey of the 160-acre preemption claim filed by Peter P. Bain July 25, 1873. At that time, Bain's house at the spring is the only sign of human activity in the entire township.

## 1875 – 1882

James P. Fuller purchased "Agua Caliente Rancho" from Bain on March 1, 1875. Bain and Fuller are known to have erected one or more adobe buildings on the site. Fuller established the fruit tree orchard with a reported 3,000 trees.

## 1882 – August 1885

James Fuller and later, his sister Eliza Jane Fuller Watson, operated a carriage service to bring people out to the ranch for Sunday dinner or to stay over in the guest cottages. In January 1882, poor health prompted James Fuller to convey his property including Agua Caliente Ranch, to his sister Eliza Jane Fuller Watson. Mrs. Watson continued to operate the ranch

as a destination resort for people from town and continued to supply fruits and vegetables for sale in Tucson.

## 1898

Philip Chambers purchased the land from the Federal Government. He had been living there for at least a year. He hoped to develop the resort but lacked the capital.

## August 1899

Philip Chambers sold the Agua Caliente Ranch to William M. Griffith and Edwin P. Drew for \$3500.

## 1919 – 1930

James White purchased the ranch, but was an absentee owner of the property. James White's son Willard White and daughter Edna Bull were part owners who lived and worked at the ranch. In 1922, Willard purchased his sister's interest in the ranch. In 1925, Willard White is said to have added a bedroom wing, a living room, a library, and remodeled the kitchen.

## 1930 – 1935

Joseph Blake and his wife purchased the property from Willard White on April 5, 1930. The Blakes left the ranch in 1934, having made no additions to the house during their ownership.

## 1935 – 1947

Gibson DeKalb Hazard purchased the ranch from Joseph Blake on April 10, 1935. The Hazards made several additions to the Ranch House. Alice Hazard designed the sunroom and vestibule, which were constructed in 1938. The

vestibule was later enclosed to become an entry hallway.

## 1947 – 1951

May 10, 1947 the Hazards sold the 440-acre ranch for approximately \$100,000 to the Chesrow Brothers. The Chesrow brothers Eugene, Albert, and David created the Agua Caliente Ranch Company and planned to continue cattle ranching and establish a resort on the site. The resort did not come to fruition.

## 1951 – 1959

Art and Clare Filiatrault purchased the property from David and Albert Chesrow on June 12, 1951 and moved to the ranch from Wisconsin with their four children: Arthur, Nancy, Frances, and Peter. The buildings that existed on the ranch at this time were the Ranch House, Rose Cottage, the Green Cottage and Machine Shop, the Caretaker's Cottage, and the Bunkhouse. In October 1951, the Caretaker's Cottage burned. One wall of the Ranch House suffered only minor damage. The Caretaker's Cottage was believed to be one of the original buildings dating back to the late 1800s. The Filiatrault's added two bedrooms and two bathrooms to the Ranch House.



Photo courtesy: Pete Filiatrault

## 1959 – 1984

The Filiatraults sold the ranch to Dr. and Mrs. Otis Miller, who in turn sold it to the Lloyd Golder family. In 1960, the Golders transferred ownership to their Rail N Ranch Corporation and in 1962, the Myriad Research and Development Co. owned the ranch. Dale and Lois Corey lived on the ranch from 1963 to 1979 as part owners and caretakers. During 1968 to the 1970s, the ranch became a popular location for filming movies and commercials. There were no substantial improvements or additions to the Ranch House from the time the Filiatraults sold the property and Pima County's acquisition in 1984.

## January 19, 1985

Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Regional Park opened to the public. Pima County acquired the 101-acre ranch property in 1984 for \$1,461,335, with a donation of over \$200,000 from Roy P. Drachman.

## October 1993

The Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. (FOAC) was formed with a mission to insure the preservation of the historic, natural site and buildings at the Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park through education, advocacy and community involvement.

## 1996 - 1997

The FOAC were instrumental in securing a State Parks Historic Preservation Heritage Fund grant for the rehabilitation of the historic Bunkhouse, which was completed in August 1997. The Maintenance shop was built. The park entrance drive and

parking lot was developed. The paths and trails throughout the park were improved.

## April 17, 2004

The restored Agua Caliente Park Ranch House Visitor Center and Art Gallery and the Rose Cottage Education Center were opened to the public. Soon after, the Tucson Audubon Society entered into a lease agreement with Pima County, establishing a Nature Shop in the sunroom in the Ranch House Visitor Center.

## July 9, 2009

Agua Caliente Ranch Rural Historic Landscape was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

## April 7, 2017

The newly renovated Pond 2 was dedicated. The purpose of this project was to provide a holding facility when the main pond is rehabilitated sometime in 2019. Installation of the liner and renovation of the pond is critical to improve both water quantity and quality conditions and to maintain the character of the park. The ponds support diverse wildlife habitat and the lush environment that visitors have come to expect when visiting the park.



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# Roy P. Drachman Agua Caliente Park HISTORY



## Rose Cottage

The Rose Cottage was constructed in two parts. There is some dispute over the construction dates; some believe that the original adobe building dates back to the Fullers' ownership (1875 – 1885). Gibson Hazard, Jr. states that the Hazards built the adobe building in the early 1930s and the Chesrows added the larger concrete block room in the late 1940s.

Pima County bond funds approved in 1997, were used to rehabilitate the historic Ranch House and Rose Cottage. On April 17, 2004, the renovated Agua Caliente Park Ranch House Visitor Center and Art Gallery and the Rose Cottage Education Center were opened to the public.



▲ Photo courtesy: Manley-Prim Photo Inc.

## Machine-Tool Shed and Green Cottage

There is no record of when the two-bedroom adobe house "Green Cottage" was built, but it was in existence in the 1930s. The ranch foreman lived there during the Blake's ownership in the 1930s. There was also a machine-tool shed adjacent to the Green Cottage. A carport was added between these two buildings in the 1950s. The Green Cottage was demolished sometime between 1959 and 1963. The machine-tool shed was removed as part of the 1997 renovation.



▲ Photo courtesy: Frances Chesrow Kainz

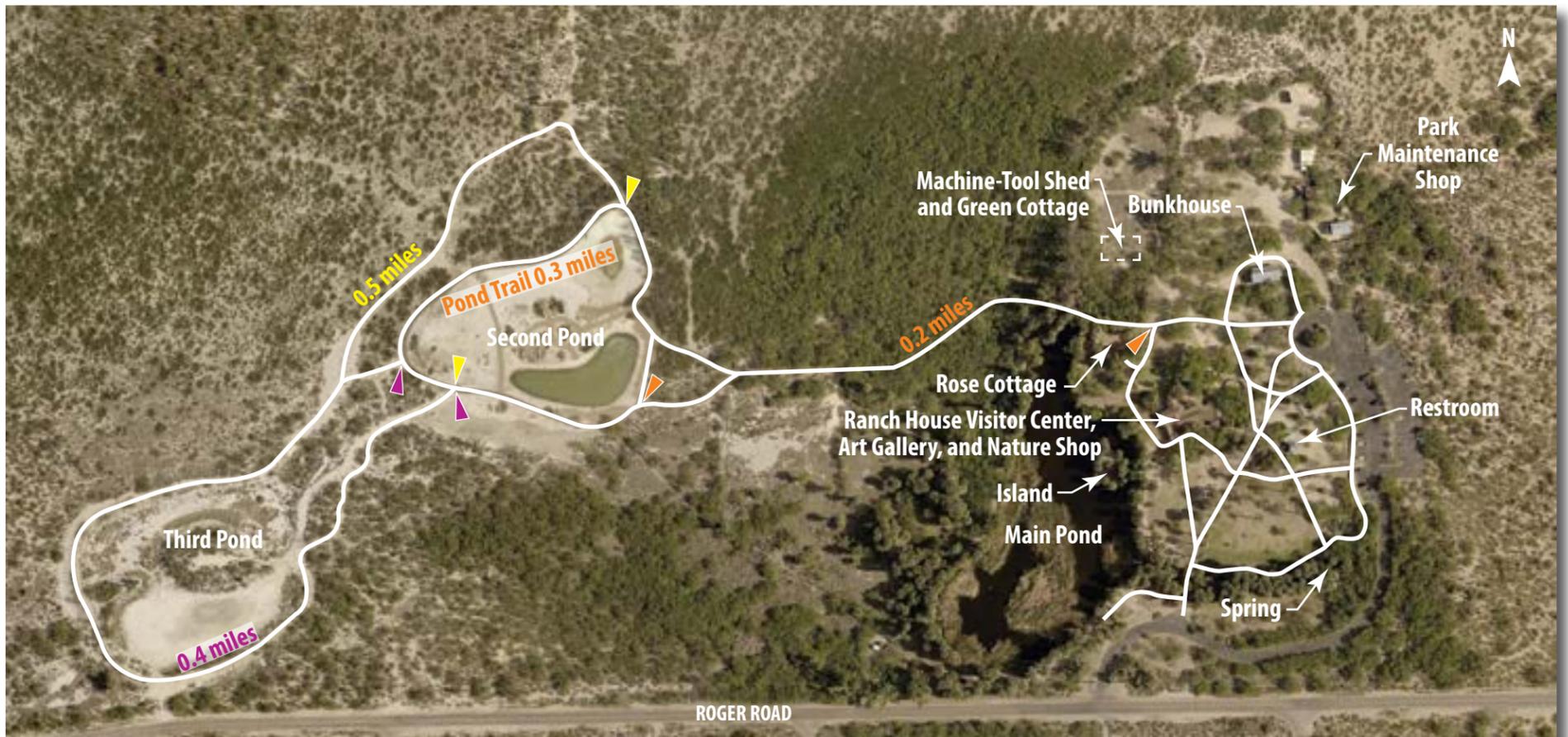
## Bunkhouse

It is believed that Willard White (owner 1922 – 1930) built the bunkhouse of redwood lumber from dismantled railroad cars. It was originally a one-room structure with an open porch. The ranch hands employed by the Blakes (1930 – 1935) lived in the Bunkhouse which at the time had corrugated metal sheets on the roof and walls. When the Hazards purchased the ranch, a partition was added to accommodate the housekeeper and her two children on one side of the bunkhouse.

The Friends of Agua Caliente, Inc. (FOAC) were instrumental in securing a State Parks Historic Preservation Heritage Fund grant for the renovation of the historic Bunkhouse which was completed in August 1997. The screened porch was restored in 2011. Today the Bunkhouse is used for educational activities and office space.



▲ Photo courtesy: Frances Chesrow Kainz



## The Ponds

Water from the spring has been directed through various channels and piping into man-made ponds. The Hazards (1935 – 1947) used the water to maintain the original productive orchard, garden, and alfalfa fields, and raised cattle, hogs, and chickens. It is believed that the Hazards planted the palms and the eucalyptus trees.

During the 1950s, the Filiatrault family increased the number of ponds to seven, with all the ponds connected by channels. When the county purchased Agua Caliente Ranch in 1984, the spring was flowing at a rate of 250 gallons per minute, which was sufficient to maintain three ponds. As a result of reduced

spring flows and extended drought, the second and third ponds went dry. In 2004, to sustain the main pond, the county installed a well to pump water.

The second pond was renovated in 2016 in preparation for a proposed project to re-contour and line the main pond.

## The Island and the Bridge

A popular feature on the main pond was the footbridge to the island. A bridge to a small island appears in images taken in the early 1930s. A larger bridge is featured in many photographs throughout the 1940s until the bridge was removed in 2006.



## The Spring

Evidence found near the spring at Agua Caliente suggests that the area was used by hunters and gatherers 5,500 years ago. In recorded history, the waters from the spring have been impounded and managed for practical and recreational purposes. The flow rate from the spring has varied over time reportedly as high as 500 gallons per minute to an unmeasurable seep in recent years.



◀ Photo courtesy: Frances Chesrow Kainz

