

## Apache Park Historic District

In 1922 Apache Powder Company, now Apache Nitrogen Products, Inc., began producing dynamite and other blasting products for the numerous copper mines in southeastern Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico. Today, Apache Nitrogen Products continues to manufacture products to serve both mining and agricultural industries.

To recruit and retain employees, in 1925, Apache Powder Company, purchased the land between Patagonia Street and Land Avenue from the Benson Schools to build houses for their executive employees. The houses were provided to employees as part of their compensation package until they were sold in the 1970's. The Lewis house at 209 W. 6th Street was formerly the Apache Power Company infirmary.

The land across the street from the houses was donated to the City of Benson in 1949 and is now known as Apache Park.

The seven houses in the neighborhood and Apache Park were placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 11, 1994. The houses are a fine example of craftsman bungalows. Apache Powder was significant in their contributions to the community and the mining industry.