Historic District Zone (HDZ)

(Map 3)

Actions within the historic district Zone shall be governed by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (1995). The standards include the categorization of actions as: 1) preservation, 2) rehabilitation, 3) restoration, 4) reconstruction. Vegetative manipulation and management of the HDZ has varied considerably over time. The current approach established by PISP staff is preservation with limited restoration and rehabilitation as needed.

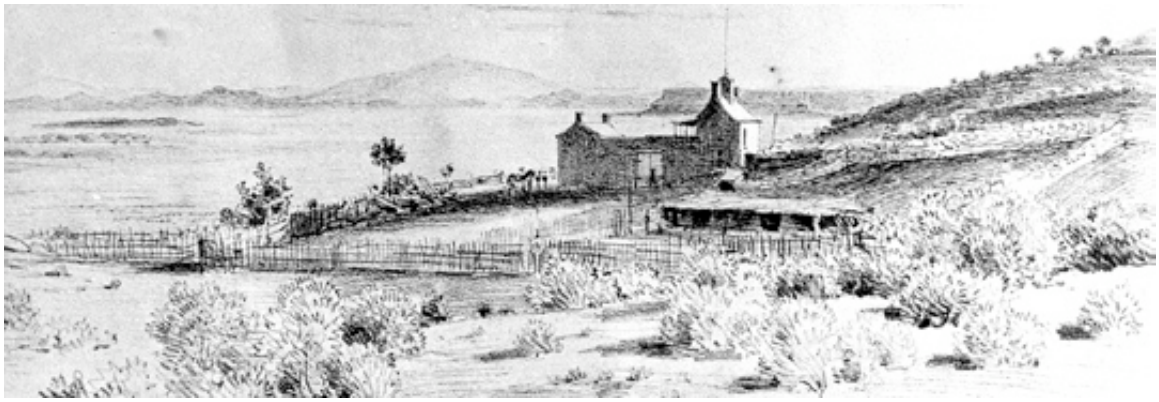
Desired Future Condition

Preserve historic integrity by prioritizing the maintenance/enhancement of contributing elements and secondarily the maintenance/enhancement of compatible elements.

Existing Condition

The HDZ is primarily a cultural landscape characterized by introduced shade trees, native desert shrub steppe and pinion/juniper woodland. The native desert shrub steppe community is dominated by sagebrush (*Artemisia spp*), saltbush (*Atriplex spp.*), and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus spp.*). This community has been disturbed by historic activities associated with ranching, as well as more current NPS activities. The community has a deficient perennial grass/annual forb understory and no perceivable biological crust. The area bordering the Hillside Zone to the north is dominated by juniper/juniper woodland species with a shrub, perennial grass and annual forb understory. As noted in the PISP Avian Inventory Report, junipers observed in the NE of the HDZ may be following a successional pattern through which desert shrub steppe is over time replaced by pinyon/juniper communities (Johnson, Holmes, and Stuart 2004, 30).

The introduced trees in this zone clustered near the fort and around the ponds were for most of the historic period the only trees growing on the site. The 1885 sketch of the fort by Tissandier depicts only a few trees growing around the ponds in an otherwise barren landscape … a quality retained and depicted by photographs into the early 20th C. It is documented that *Ailanthus*, cottonwood, elm, and willow were planted near the fort during the Woolley period of 1885-1891 (NRHP 2000). Relict Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*) to the west of the fort are contributing historic features, their planting noted in Woolley family histories circa 1886. The remaining older trees are in decline, with seedlings/saplings of the dying elms growing in their shadows.



View of Pipe Spring fort from the east sketched by Tissandier, 1885, showing earliest trees in area of building. (PISP neg. 5013, reproduced in Shapins, Assoc., PISP CLI, June 2005)

The cottonwoods and *Ailanthus* within and adjacent to the ponds have been in decline over the past 15 yrs, matching trends seen throughout the monument. The reason for this decline is unclear and may be due to natural processes, changes in the water table, a prior period of drought, or disease. As noted by PISP staff during the Dec. 2007 briefing, many of the trees along the south pond walls have died, and it is expected that the remainder will be dead within a few years. Seeps from the ponds support cultivated roses and herbaceous riparian species such as common mallow, bind weed, and Kentucky blue grass.

The riparian vegetation surrounding the ponds, springs and seeps has created an oasis of critical importance in the context of the surrounding arid landscape to migratory and some breeding bird species. The cottonwoods in particular provide essential migratory bird stop-over habitat which is deserving of protection and management (Johnson, Holmes, and Stuart 2004, 33,37).

Further north within the historic zone are the remnants of silverleaf cottonwoods (*Populus alba*) near the chicken house, as well as barren areas near the wagon where *Ailanthus* once grew. A few decadent cottonwoods remain in this area.