

WELCOME TO A MEETING

The Arizona State Board on Geographic Historic Names meets quarterly. The meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome.



**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT:
The Arizona State Board on
Geographic and Historic Names
c/o Arizona Department of
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Public Records
1700 W. Washington Room 200
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aznames@lists.lib.az.us**

Websites:

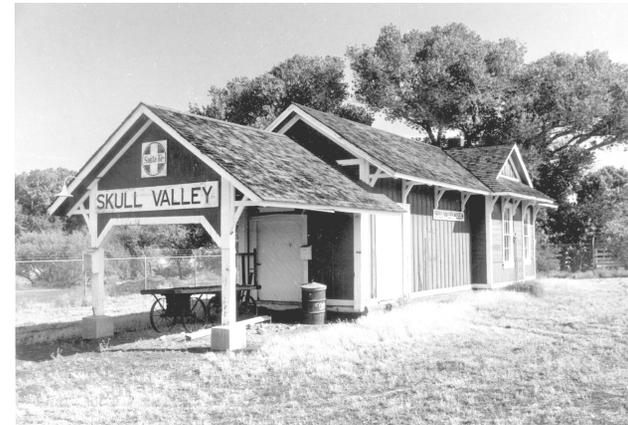
**Arizona Board on Geographic &
Historic Names:
www.lib.az.us/about/bgfn.cfm**

**United States
Board on Geographic Names:
geonames.usgs.gov**

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ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES



WHAT'S IN A NAME!

Arizona's geographic names reflect its colorful history, culture and diversity. These names show reverence and awe, realism and grit, whimsy and humor. Geographic names are a part of the state's historical record.

Many cultures have contributed names to Arizona's landscape. Some have been adopted to memorialize prominent individuals or groups; more commonly, names have been gradually adopted by local residents over time.

The significance of geographic names was recognized by the State as early as 1945, when Arizona's Legislature declared it to be the policy of the state that geographic features retain the names they currently had in order to preserve Arizona's historical records.

The Arizona Board was created in 1982 and is responsible for determining the most appropriate names for geographic features in Arizona.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO HAVE A NAME APPROVED?

A person or agency may submit a proposed name to the Board by submitting a *Name Proposal/Name Change Application* (available on the Board's web site: www.lib.az.us/about/bgfn.cfm). After the Board receives an *Application*, it solicits the opinion of affected government agencies and interested parties, and conducts additional research that it deems necessary to make an informed decision.

The Board considers several factors when making a decision. These include:

- The preservation of Arizona's history as reflected in its place names
- The name current local residents use for a feature
- The connection an individual had to a feature if the proposal is to name the feature after someone
- Whether the name might be considered derogatory to a gender or any racial, ethnic or religious group.

The Board votes on proposed names at its meetings, which are open to the public and subject to Arizona's Open Meetings Law.

When the Board approves a name, it becomes official and may be used on maps, records, documents and other publications of Arizona governmental agencies

Approved names are also forwarded to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. When approved by the U.S. Board they become official for federal agencies.

