

History of the Tucson Magnetic Observatory

1902	Magnetic observatories were initially set up Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Maryland, and near Baldwin, Kansas. It was later decided that the Baldwin station should be moved farther to the west, near Tucson, Arizona.
1909	172.8 acres, described as the NW ¼, Sec 5, T14S, R15E, Gila & Salt River Baseline and Meridian in Tucson, Arizona, consisting of Lot 3 containing 46.29 acres; Lot 4 containing 46.51 acres; and the S ½ of the NW ¼ of said section containing 80 acres, was reserved for use as a magnetic observatory site by Executive Order No. 1082, signed June 3, by William H. Taft.
1910	Magnetic observatory in Baldwin, Kansas was relocated to the new site, which at that time was about 9 miles from central Tucson.
1915	A 30' right-of way on the north side of the property, 12.49 acres, was deeded to Pima County June 5, 1915 for Tanque Verde Road.
1922	<u>Main Quarters</u> were described as “a modern bungalow, with living room 23’ long, a commodious kitchen, one large bedroom with bathroom adjoining, and two roomy screened sleeping porches. Another room is equipped as the office. There is running water in the kitchen and bathroom. In winter, it is heated by a large fireplace, In summer, it is said to be much cooler than most houses nearby. Excellent lighting is obtained from a gasoline lamp.” The <u>Assistant’s Quarters</u> were a “furnished stucco cottage with large living room, convenient kitchen, and a screened sleeping porch with shower bath at one end.” It was noted that the seismograph recorded 14 earthquakes.
1925	New seismological instruments were installed.
1925	The main quarters, and most of the records and files, were destroyed by fire. The quarters were rebuilt of sun-dried adobe.
1930	New assistant’s quarters were also built of sun-dried adobe.
1931	A wood frame office building was constructed.
1934	Tucson Gas, Electric Light, and Power Company License given license for power transmission line (to furnish light and power to the observatory) for \$1.00 per year.
1936	The observatory consisted of “2 quarters, 1 magnetic observatory, 1 absolute observatory, 1 seismological observatory, 1 garage, 1 shop, 1 pumping plant, 1 elevated tank, 1 windmill, with 20 acres fenced.”
1941	Petition for Establishment of Public Road (Tanque Verde Road, No. 7), increased the right-of-way on the north side to 50 feet on January 6, 1941.
1957	Rapid Run building was added.
1960	North side right-of-way increased to 75’, described as the N 75’ of NW ¼ of Sec 5, T14S, R15E, G&SR B&M. Deed of Dedication to Pima County, May 12, 1960.

History of the Tucson Magnetic Observatory (continued)

1962	World Wide Standard Seismograph Station was built in nearby Bear Canyon, on 2-1/2 acres of permitted Forest Service land.
1964	Right-of-way given on May 22, 1964, to Tucson Gas, Electric Light and Power Company for electric service to University of Arizona, Institute of Atmospheric Physics' Lightning Observatory (2 small buildings and a pad).
1972	Right-of-way Agreement for sanitary sewer in NW corner of Sec 5, more specifically, the E 15' of the W 164' of the S 37.5' of the N 87.5' and the S 15' of the N 87.5' of the W 149' of Lot 4. October, 20, 1972.
1972	Permit issued November 15, 1972 to Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers to conduct electronic equipment tests for accuracy and dependability at varying ranges and azimuths with respect to each other and the test center at Fort Huachuca. The permit covers an area of 400 SF (0.0092 acres) centered around a Survey Marker stamped "Magnetic 1935." Longitude 110° 50' 13.581, Latitude 32° 14' 45.986, Grid Coordinates: North 3,567,538.48, East 515,345.32."
1973	GSA transfers 172.8 acres of Public Domain from NOAA to USGS, on November 13, 1973.
1975	Permit issued January 1, 1975 to the Department of Army, Corps of Engineers for use of 0.0092 acres MOL in connection with activities with Fort Huachuca.
1979	City of Tucson, Parks and Recreation Department application December 28, 1979 to BLM for a 25 year lease on the entire 172.8 acre site, under the "Congressional Recreational and Public Purposes Act."
1980	City of Tucson received conditional 25 year lease from BLM on May 16, 1980. The USGS retained the right to approve proposed park development, and the right to disapprove park usage which could impair the quality of the magnetic data gathered at the Observatory. A major portion of the property was then developed by the city of Tucson as "Udall Regional Park."
1980	Executive Order No. 1082 modified October 28, 1980, transferring jurisdiction of the 172.8 acre observatory parcel from USC&GS TO USGS for use as a magnetic observatory, withdrawal to remain effect for 20 years. It was further modified to permit mineral leasing, and as noted that a <u>portion</u> of the lands are under lease to the City of Tucson for use as a Regional Park.
1984	Five year permit issued to Department of the Army on January 1, 1984 for continued use of 0.0092 acre parcel
1987	The City of Tucson requested a 150' Right-of -Way along the west boundary of Udall park for extension of Kolb Road; approved by USGS on April 20, 1987.
1995	USGS opens new site and starts data collection at Saguaro National Park.
1996	USGS closed original observatory at Udall Regional Park.