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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Barrio Libre

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Bounded roughly by 14th St., Stone, 19th St., & Osborne

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Arizona

VICINITY OF

CODE  
04

COUNTY  
Pima

CODE  
019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

115 North Church

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Tucson

Arizona

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine), National Register of Historic Places

DATE

16 March 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Parks

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

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THE DISTRICT'S LOCATION

Inclusive Street Numbers within the Barrio Libre

- South 9th Avenue: 526-536
- South Stone: 376-574
- South Main Avenue: 221-803
- South 8th Avenue: 536-616
- South Convent Avenue: 300-610
- South Rubio: 503-708
- South Meyer Avenue: 201-685
- South 7th Avenue: 710-726
- West 14th (Cushing) Street: 38-342
- West Simpson Street: 24-209
- West Kennedy Street: 29-235
- West 17th Street: 19-329
- West 18th Street: 25-438
- South 10th: 808-837
- South Coleta: 829
- South Osborne: 733

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Barrio Libre is an approximate rectangle bounded by South Stone on the East and Samaniego & Osborne Avenues on the west; and 14th (Cushing) and 19th Streets on the north and south. Cross streets, running east and west, are Simpson, Kennedy, 17th Street, and 18th Street. The interior north-south arteries are Meyer, Convent, and Main.

#### Density

Density was great throughout the district during its period of highest development, 1885-1900, with cheek-to-jowl rows of adobes, some wall-sharing. That density exists from 300 to 350 South Convent, also from 441 to 517 South Convent and from 440 to 506 South Convent. There are clusters of row houses within the district, but the density of the streets is presently broken by pockets of vacant lots or ruins. Most frequent occurrence of voids is from 380 to 486 South Meyer Avenue. The south side of Simpson, from Meyer to Main Avenue is nearly vacant, and the south end of the block along 17th Street between Main and Meyer Avenues is occupied only by the corner market at 600 Meyer Avenue. Density is minimal in the blocks to the south, with voids occurring along Meyer between 17th and 18th Streets and 18th Street between Meyer and Main Avenues. Density lessens along the eastern border of the district, and to a certain extent along the western and southern borders, where detached buildings are set back in larger lots.

#### Styles--Facade Lines and Other Physical Relationships--Plantings

The major building style found in the Barrio is the Sonoran Adobe, either with flat roof or added hipped or gable roof. The adobes were either rows of dwellings, often an entire block length, or just two or three units. These were set flush with the property lines and presented a regular facade line of abstract geometric buildings of human scale, broken only by the roof lines and the few openings.

There is a tradition of building activity in the block interiors of the Barrio. These spaces were utilized and developed. 135 West Simpson (S-22), in the lower block center, dates before 1883 as a dwelling, and in most of the interiors there are extensions of the adobes which front the street. There are also many examples of adobes sited within the blocks which are smaller and less important than that at 135 West Simpson.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF STYLE ACCORDING TO SCALE, MATERIALS, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Walls are about two feet thick and made of adobe bricks of sand, clay, water, and binding of manure and straw. Foundations consist of volcanic basalt from the Tucson Mountains, to the west of the district. Adobe bricks were formed and dried in egg crate-like molds. Because of their lack of structural strength, the walls were seldom more than a single-story in height, and in the Barrio they were exclusively single-story. While adobes were early stuccoed with a mud plaster in neighborhoods north of the Barrio, adobes in the Barrio remained exposed until about the 1890s.

The roofs of vigas and saguaro ribs were slightly sloped to encourage rain runoff through the canales. The canales extended through the parapet walls to prevent water from washing away the perishable adobe material. The roof assemblage was covered with layers of mud and straw, and viga ends were confined within the thick walls.

Room sizes were determined by the length of available beams. Floors were packed, dampened earth and most walls were without whitewash. Openings were limited in size by the weight of adobe and the load bearing and spanning capacities of timber lintels. They were located at or near wall centers in order to leave corners intact for maximum strength.

The openings were wood-trimmed, more elaborately so after the availability of dimensioned lumber and factory trim. Windows were often grilled, and glass appeared in Tucson after 1865, but glazing was a decided luxury.

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in the windows.

Exterior doors were recessed to the inner surface of the wall, forming a stoop, and windows were set flush with the exterior wall so that a deep sill resulted and became a characteristic of interiors. Windows were usually double hung.

Toldos were frequently seen in the Barrio. This light-weight timber canopy was attached to the adobe walls and was usually supported by timber posts to provide shade at entrances and windows. Toldos were used along the public street facades as well as in the rear garden or patio, and are still seen today, especially at corner entrances.

Plans were simply a string of contiguous rooms running from street to patio or, in larger dwellings, an L or U-shaped form. Through these ran the ubiquitous zaguan or center hall, a multi-purpose room and breezeway. Rooms extended from the hall, there being no traffic between rooms. Corner fireplaces were numerous, and many have been salvaged in Barrio rehabilitation. Interiors were furnished in the simplest manner with only mats upon the floor for sleeping, tables and chairs of simplest construction. Madonnas were present in each room. Published catalogues had a profound influence upon Tucson. After the 1880 arrival of the railroad provided easy access to these and copy books, the town became more Anglicized with shipments of wall paper, carpets, and furniture.

Hybrid Styles: The Early and Late-Transitional buildings were developed from the flat-roofed adobe of Sonoran tradition. The Early Transitional house was topped by a gabled roof and sometimes shingled. This roof was an original component, not an addition as was the roof of the Transformed-Sonoran. The Late-Transitional buildings were actually the most compatible with the hot arid climate. Still built of adobe walls, they were capped with a gabled or pyramidal wood-frame roof, sometimes covered with sheet metal, which swept beyond the wall and gave greatest sun protection. The Late-Transitional house was fronted with a deep porch and was set back within its lot.

Through the importation of new materials, copy books, and further availability of craftsmen, the railroad made possible the introduction of Queen Anne and American Victorian, or Anglo-Territorial, buildings. In the Barrio, these occur predominantly along the eastern fringe of the district, Stone Avenue, which borders Armory Park Historic District (see Armory Park Historic District National Register nomination) and relates historically and architecturally to that district. The majority of the residents along Stone Avenue and the eastern portions of the cross streets were associated with the railroad (Armory Park was a railroad-oriented district) and most of the buildings are Victorian. Deep eaves overhang fired brick walls. Segmental arches & doors with side- and overlights of beveled glass signal the arrival of eastern materials and details. Multi-material facings include the fish scale shingles of gables. Painted wood trim predominates. Still, there is the occasional Victorian building of adobe, emphasizing the importance of adobe as a building material in the Barrio.

The Barrio includes numerous examples of Early Twentieth Century Commercial Style buildings and a number of Bungaloids and some rather poorly built Mission Revivals. The craftsmanship and scale of the Mission Style buildings in the Barrio are both less than that found in El Presidio District. Those in El Presidio were built within ten years of the popularization of the style. Those in the Barrio came later, between 1930 and 1940, and were poorer quality, small copies of the high style El Presidio homes.

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The Bungalow is a small and economical house characterized by a full-width front porch, gently sloped gable roofs, and deeply overhanging eaves. Popularized in the first two decades of the 20th century and identified with California, they are found in the eastern and southern portions of the Barrio where much of the 1930s and 1940s buildings occurred.

Scale of the buildings throughout the district remains small and color is primarily an earth tone stucco, broken only by the occasional red brick or painted Queen Anne. Decoration consists of wood trim, white, or a now-faded Victorian green. There is a horizontality to the district resulting from the contiguous row houses, broken in profile only by existing voids. Only the few two-story buildings along Stone Avenue introduce a sense of verticality.

Workmanship of the adobes is varied. There are those, primarily ones already selected for rehabilitation, of a high degree of craftsmanship with fine wood trim. Others exhibit lesser workmanship. Queen Anne, Anglo-Territorial, and Early Twentieth Century buildings vary in craftsmanship and range from well-built structures with well-chosen ornamentation to poorer ones lacking in craftsmanship and detailing.

Facade lines remain regular throughout the adobe row houses, there being no setback. Several transitional adobe houses and later style buildings are set back about 20 to 30 feet and may follow the same setback along the entire block. Adobes with no setback also exist at random among the later style buildings with setback, creating an irregular facade line.

There are no parks or planned green spots--the streets serve as the Barrio's parks. The only planned park was Carrillo's Gardens west of the northwest corner of the district, but that ceased with the building of Carrillo School on the Gardens site in 1930. Streets are loosely planned, although many still bend.

Plantings in the district include chinaberry, tamarisk (salt cedar), rhuslancia, cottonwood, fruitless mulberry, palm, and pepper trees. The major shrubs seen are oleander, elderberry, and mesquite.

During the period of the district's greatest development, 1885-1900, buildings were entirely adobe. Density was thick along Cushing (14th) and the northern portions of Meyer and Convent and the cross street, Simpson. The major aspect of the early appearance of the district, as compared with its appearance today, is that buildings were mostly cheek-to-jowl, voids were filled in with new adobes. Buildings of the turn-of-the-century, the 30s and 40s, and the few alterations (some considered intrusions) constitute the major difference between the district during its most formative and significant years and the present. The fabric of the district, the character, has not been changed.

Building types found in the district are primarily residential, although there are churches as well as commercial buildings. One of the three churches has been secularized, and commercial usage includes a tortilla factory and two large Chinese-owned grocery markets. There are numerous offices, particularly in the rehabilitated and new buildings of the northern part of the district. There are approximately 200 buildings within the district.

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Condition ranges from excellent to ruins among the adobes of the district. The range of condition of the later buildings is not so great. Many are excellently maintained and others, such as the string of Mission Revivals along Simpson Street, were of poor quality when built and are in relatively poor condition. There are no precise restorations within the district, and the extensive rehabilitation program is described on Page 4 of Item 8. Rehabilitation has been conducted by primarily one family, with another being very active in such work in the district. Several single families have acquired properties and are rehabilitating them, reportedly, for private dwellings. The northern and eastern portions of the district contain the better buildings and ones in the best state of repair. There are good examples of all styles represented in the Barrio still extant, and they occur in clusters along certain streets at random or appear as single examples. The southern portion of the district is marked not only by voids but by examples of a poorer craftsmanship in its adobes. Those adobes are also later examples. The area of greatest deterioration is bounded by 17th Street, 18th Street, Main, and Convent Avenues, where great voids occur. Consideration was given to the inclusion of this portion of the district, and it was felt that it must be retained in order to secure the district, prevent inroads, and protect those good examples of historically, socially, and architecturally valuable buildings still extant.

There are over 200 structures in the district and ten intrusions. The district's intrusions are:

- X-1 Billboard immediately north of 447-451 South Main.
- X-2 201-203 West Cushing, a contemporary office building.
- X-3 380-388 South Meyer, the south half of the street facade of the building.
- X-4 600 South Meyer, facade only.
- X-5 89 West Kennedy.
- X-6 340 South Stone.
- X-7 Billboard at southern edge of South Stone.
- X-8 452 South Stone, advertising sign.
- X-9 564 South Stone, pop additions to the facade.
- X-10 602 South Stone

Ethnohistorian Charles W. Polzer believes that at this date there appears to be no indication of archaeological potential within the district, other than the normal expectation that there might be findings once digging is begun, and ethnologist Bernard L. Fontana concurs with this belief.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

F O O D

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>Urban Form |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barrio Libre has played an important role in the development of Tucson as the city's major Spanish-speaking neighborhood and remains a significant area whose architecture (primarily Hispanic, but also Anglo, in heritage) is basically unchanged from its territorial appearance. The district has survived because it has been overlooked by the city and has not been affected by post World War II progress. The original Spanish-speaking culture of this multi-heritage district has prevailed to the present day. The Anglo-Saxons, Russian and German Jews, Italians, and later Chinese who settled in the Barrio adopted Spanish as the language for both trade and social purposes.

### ORIGINS

The earliest known habitation of Tucson was the pre-historic Indian Pithouse, dating between A.D. 700-900, when it was one of a probable number of Hohokam (desert culture) Indian villages. The first and major European settlement came with the founding of the Presidio of San Agustin del Tucson, in 1775/76, when the fort became a northern link in the Spanish Crown's chain of establishments in the New World. Both the pithouse and Presidio were located in the present El Presidio Historic District of Tucson. The Presidio's establishment marked the beginning of settlement of Tucson as a non-Indian community, and this included the Barrio located south of the fortress. The Presidio perpetuated the social and economic supremacy of military officers and clergy in New Spain and, most important to Tucson and the Barrio district, it provided security for settlement.

The Presidio gate opened to Main Street, the major thoroughfare for trade and shipping and the northern extension of the Camino Real from Mexico City. It was the only through street and Tucson's first business district. That business center extended south to the Eagle Milling Company, located near the northwest corner of the Barrio Historico, at Main and Cushing. Erected in 1870, the flour mill was one of the city's earliest and most important industries and was owned by two important citizens, E.N. Fish and, later, Leo Goldschmidt (see El Presidio Historic District, 1976).

Of Main Street, early Arizona educator John Spring had this to say:

The one street of Tucson was fairly bubbling with life and motion. Its whole length was taken up with a long train of Army wagons and prairie schooners, carrying flour from Sonora, Mexico...this place was the chief Depot of supplies for all the military posts of Southern Arizona. (Spring, 1966, p. 46)

The most significant factor in the settlement of the Barrio and of Tucson as a whole was the establishment of the Presidio, for it provided job opportunities previously unknown in the community and protection from Apache attack. Sobaipuri Indians came in from the community Mission Fields below Sentinel Peak (then a lookout and now known as "A" Mountain) and began to build dwellings near the Presidio and work for the military installation. Inter-marriage occurred and Mestizo families settled outside the Presidio walls. Families drifted southward and established homes in today's Barrio district. Some Indians may have moved directly toward the Barrio from the Convent's Mission Fields along Mission Lane, for there was an important water supply, a large spring, just below the intersection of Mission Lane

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and South Main. Mission Lane, at the intersection, became Simpson Street, an east-west thoroughfare of the Barrio. This spring was the second most important reason for the settlement of the Barrio Libre.

After the Gadsden Purchase of 1853-54, adventurers came on their way to or from the California gold fields, others simply happened by and stayed to settle in the desert town along the Santa Cruz. In 1863, President Lincoln signed the Ashley Bill establishing Arizona as a Territory of the United States. The following year Pima County came into being, and Tucson was its most important and enterprising community. Incorporated as a village in 1871, it became a city six years later. Tucson became the leading military supply depot for the Territory in 1862 and money poured into the community. Tucson's significance became a certainty when, in 1880, the railroad arrived. Yuma's river traffic dwindled as a result and Tucson took over as the major supply center and hostelry between El Paso and the California Coast. Arizona's industries were copper, cotton, and cattle. Tucson was the center for these exploding enterprises, and the Barrio's Mexican-Americans played a major part in their development. Many of the inhabitants were ranchers who kept town houses in the Barrio, for their families preferred living in town, rather than at the remote and lonely ranches. Mexicans' lives were tied to the church bells and extended families within the Barrio, forming a strong social pattern. The Sotos (S-21) were ranchers who owned a large spread south of Tucson. The Carrillos, who later lived in the Soto's Meyer Avenue house, were related to Leopoldo Carrillo, developer of Carrillo's Gardens which bordered the district.

**FURTHER SOCIAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Further significant families were the Montijos (S-41) who were successful in business and added to their originally small adobe on Cushing Street until it numbered 17 rooms. The Valencias ran a hearse (for the Carrillo Mortuary, Tucson's oldest and now known as the Arizona Mortuary) and carriage rental service. Their Convent Avenue house (S-50) of brick exhibits a high grade of craftsmanship and, with its finely appointed living room, was probably a significant Barrio home. The building covers an early adobe and includes a basement and attic and elaborate foyer. One of the University of Arizona's earliest graduates and city's first teachers was Clara Ferrin Bloom who lived in the adobe (S-20) alongside the country store within the Barbary Coast Stables. The stable area and store are noted on an 1883 fire map. It was Clara Ferrin who organized the first meeting of Tucson's leading Jewish members to form plans for the city's first Synagogue on Stone Avenue (X-9). Another teacher, Elizabeth Borton, for whom a Tucson elementary school is named, lived in an unusually large adobe building (C-82), now renovated for offices, on Stone Avenue. Many of the Barrio's citizens prospered and took part in shaping the city, but as a whole, the inhabitants were laborers. Small businessmen such as bakers, blacksmiths, saloonkeepers, and shop keepers supported the neighborhood and gave it a social cohesiveness and self-containment. After the Chinese ceased working on the railroad (1880-1881), they stayed on to open restaurants, laundries, and the inevitable corner grocery market in the Barrio. The markets became social centers in the neighborhoods and survived until the present time.

At the historically important intersection of Main and Simpson is El Tiradito, the Wishing Shrine (S-1). It is the only such shrine in the United States and perpetuates a meaningful

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act of faith, if not a precisely religious one, among the Barrio's residents. In 1976, El Tiradito was entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Leopoldo Carrillo laid out Carrillo's Gardens within the southwest portion of that intersection until they covered eight acres with orchards, trees, spring-fed lakes, and rose gardens. The city's bailes, boating races, and concerts were held there from the 1880s until the 1920s. Carrillo School (S-2 and S-3) is now at the site of Tucson's first park and one of its most ambitious developments, Carrillo's Gardens.

**PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

Rehabilitated Buildings

<u>Address</u>	<u>Present Use</u>
100-116 West Cushing (S-41)	Offices
122-124 West Cushing (S-19)	Offices
343-349 South Meyer (S-20)	Bar and Restaurant
363 South Meyer (S-21)	Art Gallery
371 South Meyer (C-28)	Model Cities--Legal Aid Society
38 West Simpson (C-46)	Dwelling
84 West Simpson (C-49)	Title Company
92 West Simpson (S-72)	Real Estate Company
196 West Simpson (C-6)	Model Cities--Economic Development Corp.
310-314 South Convent (S-42)	Offices
316-318 South Convent (S-43)	Community Design Center--Model Cities
360-370 South Convent (S-46)	Dwelling
482-484 South Convent (S-52)	Duplex

Current Rehabilitation Activities

<u>Address</u>	<u>Present Use</u>
63 West Simpson (S-70)	Dwelling
350 South Convent (S-45)	Commercial
451 South Convent (S-79)	Dwelling
459 South Convent (S-80)	Dwelling
510-512 South Convent (C-41)	Dwelling
529-531 South Convent (S-84)	Dwelling

Major rehabilitation work has been done under the direction of Ed Herreras, adobe specialist, who directed the restorations of San Xavier Mission Church and the Cordova House.

**ARCHITECTURAL COHESIVENESS OF THE DISTRICT**

Cohesiveness is maintained throughout the interior of the district and its northern border by materials (adobe and wood trim), style, setback, and scale. Setback varies with the introduction of transitional adobes and Eastern styles. Stuccoed adobe prevails as building material and facing. The major style is Sonoran. Variations of trim and workmanship lend variety. The late nineteenth century is the major period and adobe building continued

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well into the thirties. The Eastern styles are from the same period and scale is maintained throughout the district core. Two-story buildings occur along the Stone Avenue edge and serve to embellish the district and introduce visual interest by the use of wood and brick as major building materials, by use of front gardens and the American concept of the single structure placed upon a large lot allowing for front, rear, and side lot space. Where smaller Queen Annes, American Victorians, bungaloids, and Mission Revival examples occur, they serve to present a later period, but are compatible with the original adobe streetscape in scale.

**INTRUSIONS AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE DISTRICT**

The integrity of the district is not particularly threatened by its intrusions (there are ten). Three intrusions are easily removable signs or billboards. One painted facade, fronting Stone Avenue, can presumably be renovated to its original state when the building served as the city's first synagogue. A small fast-food building at the corner of Stone and Cushing could be removed, leaving that corner lot available for buildings compatible with the district. One contemporary building on Cushing, serving as offices, imitates the nineteenth century adobes but is set back. This signals the necessity for clear education in historical architecture when new construction takes place.

The major intrusion involving an entire structure is that of a church at the corner of Stone and 17th Street. The function is compatible with the district, but the building is not. Historicism was not a consideration in the building of this church. The building's material is random-colored brick and light in tone. Red commercial brick or stucco would have been more compatible. Exterior metal work is objectionable, and the building's character is out of keeping with buildings of the district.

**CONTRIBUTION OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDINGS TO ITS TIME AND PLACE**

The concentration of Sonoran, transitional, and American Victorian adobes contributes to the district's place in time, the late nineteenth century, and its location, the southwestern desert.

Later building types, brick Queen Annes and Victorians, set back within their large lots and fronted by eastern gardens, bring the district forward in time to the turn of the century. They introduce the element of building luxury and technique unknown among the earlier residents. Commercial brick structures and Mission Revival examples identify the district's major date of viability.

As Mexican-Americans built farther and farther south of the Presidio, they settled in the Barrio and implanted their Sonoran form of building, their culture, and their language upon the community. The quarter became known as the Barrio Libre, or free district, outside the city's jurisdiction and open to squatters. Tucson's City Directory of 1881 expresses the Anglo prejudice toward the Mexican district:

This designation Barrio Libre was given by the Mexican residents to that quarter of the city lying along Meyer and adjacent streets, southward of the business portion and in earlier times was allowed to remain without legal restraints or the presence of a policeman...Fandangoes, monte, chicken fights, broils, and all amuse-

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ments of the lower class of Mexicans were indulged in without restraint: and to this day much of the old-time regime prevails although the encroachments of the American element indicate the ultimate doom of the customs of the Barrio Libre. It must be understood that these remarks apply to the lower class of Mexicans and not to the cultured Mexican residents of the city, who, for intelligence and enterprise, are foremost among our people (p. 39).

In the state capitol at Prescott, the Arizona Daily Star reported (in the Arizona Weekly Journal, November 16, 1883) that "it is a hades for those who love peace and order... where stiff regulations demanded by law are unknown. But good citizens have accumulated property there, have established business houses and residences."

The Barrio has given a special Latin character to Tucson. Its citizens frequently moved upward economically and culturally and so fled the district for eastern locations of the city as it developed at the turn of the century. But it has remained a quarter for low-income people of different backgrounds who would be absorbed in the Spanish-speaking neighborhood.

**DISTINGUISHING QUALITIES OF THE DISTRICT**

The Barrio Libre is readily distinguished from the neighborhoods that surround it. Within the district, especially along portions of Meyer and Convent Avenues, row houses are contiguous, with flush facades, and are built to the front property lines. This tradition of urban site emplacement creates an enclosed and well-defined street space not found in later residential neighborhoods based upon the Anglo tradition of front and side yards.

The Barrio and its architectural and urban traditions began outside the Presidio walls. They filtered southward to the Barrio of the 1880s and 1890s to approximately 18th Street, where the district development fades. Today, however, the Tucson Community Center and "La Placita," a pseudo-Mexican shopping center included as part of the urban renewal scheme for downtown Tucson, form the link between the Barrio Libre and downtown Tucson. East of the District lies Armory Park Historic District, an essentially residential district of late nineteenth and turn-of-the-century Anglo-style buildings. West of the district lies El Hoyo, a residential neighborhood of mixed building traditions culturally closely tied with the Barrio. The neighborhood south of the district contains a great deal of vacant land, several dwellings similar in tradition to those of the District, and La Reforma, a low-income housing project.

**COMPARISON OF THE BARRIO LIBRE TO SIMILAR AREAS IN TUCSON AND ARIZONA**

The Barrio Libre stands among a handful of southwestern neighborhoods which still retain nineteenth century Hispanic traditions of architecture and urban form. It represents a very good example of one of the United States' few intact physical manifestations of our Spanish-Mexican heritage, and is located in a major city where it is accessible to the public for educational and cultural study.

A comparison of the Barrio might be with the city's El Presidio Historic District in that its earliest idiom is the Spanish-Mexican architecture and urban traditions. El Presidio

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however, has long since lost its Spanish-speaking heritage, residents of its adobes are not descendants of original owners, but Anglos of mixed background and economic strata. El Presidio expanded to become the site of Tucson's first elite residential neighborhood, with buildings designed by noted architects. The Barrio has remained a primarily laboring neighborhood. The district's edges, especially Stone Avenue, include examples of Queen Anne and American Victorian styles, structures built by people of greater means and Anglo heritage, but the inner streetscapes remain Spanish-Mexican in idiom. The district is unchanged, and regardless of its settlement by multi-ethnic groups, it was and remains Spanish-speaking, with Mexican cultural traditions.

Florence, Arizona shares the beginning traditions of the Sonoran adobe idiom with later Transitional, Transformed Sonoran, and Late Transitional as well as Anglo Territorial, or American Victorian. These types are represented in the Barrio, but they are simpler versions, except for the Sonoran and Sonoran Transformed with addition of Anglo roof. Florence is a town which has passed through many stages, the Barrio remains unchanged. By 1887, Florence eschewed its Sonoran heritage (Sobin, p. 358), and its public architecture was expansive. The Barrio knows no public architecture; it presents a simple neighborhood of Spanish-Mexican heritage with some Anglo buildings and traditions through which the Spanish-speaking culture prevails.

#### SELECTION OF THE DISTRICT'S BOUNDARIES

The northern boundary of the district is the corridor between the remains of the Barrio and that area destroyed by urban renewal and replaced with the present Tucson Community Center. The eastern boundary is Stone Avenue, and alongside it lies Armory Park Historic District, a residential district of turn-of-the-century Anglo types. The districts complement one another and act as buttresses, each for the other. The southern boundary at 18th and 19th Streets was chosen because the visual quality of the district begins to fade. Vacant lots plus fewer and newer adobes dictated this decision. To the west lies El Hoyo neighborhood, compatible with the Barrio. El Hoyo presents a mixture of styles within a primarily Mexican cultural system.

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David Bloom, Ferrin descendant, regarding the Ferrin House, August, 1977.

Bertha Carella, resident Montijo House, regarding the Montijo House, August, 1977.

Henry Dobyns, Southwest historian, regarding settlement of the Barrio Historico area, August, 1977.

Bert Elias, Montijo descendant, regarding La Fronterizo newspaper office, August, 1977.

Bertha Espaza and John Espaza, regarding the Valencia House-Office, Valencia descendants, September, 1977.

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Charles Polzer, ethnohistorian, University of Arizona, regarding Indian settlements along Mission Lane and its eastern extension in the Barrio, Simpson Street, August, 1977.

Kelley Rollings, major developer involved in rehabilitation of Barrio Libre buildings, regarding his properties, August and September, 1977.

Rudolph Soto, Soto family, regarding Carrillo-Soto House, July 1977.

Charles Stilwell, recently rehabilitating a Convent Avenue adobe, regarding that property.

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UTM References

A 12/502 840/3564 300  
B 12/502 870/3563 730  
C 12/502 950/3563 730  
D 12/502 950/3563 660  
E 12/502 870/3563 660  
F 12/502 550/3563 730  
G 12/502 550/3563 700  
H 12/502 760/3563 700  
I 12/502 760/3563 590  
J 12/502 300/3563 590  
K 12/502 380/3563 880  
L 12/502 330/3563 880  
M 12/502 430/3564 250

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at Point A, the NE corner of Lot 20, Block 233, City of Tucson, then southerly along Stone Avenue to 7th Avenue, then S on 7th Avenue to 18th Street and the NW corner of Lot 13, Block 132, then E to the NE corner of Lot 2, then S to the SE corner of the same lot, then W to the SW corner of Lot 13, then N to the NW corner of the same lot, then W to the NE corner of Lot 1, Block 135 then S to the SE corner of the same lot, then W to the SW corner of the same lot, then S to the SE corner of Lot 11, then W to the SW corner of Lot 11 in Block 136, then northerly along Osborne Avenue to the SE corner of Lot 1, Block 243 (Carrillo School), then W to the SW corner of the same lot, then northerly along Samaniego Avenue to Simpson Street, then easterly along Simpson to the SW corner of Lot 37, Block 221, then northerly along an extension of the west property line of Lot 37 to 14th Street (Cushing Street), then easterly along 14th Street to the Point of Beginning.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

e continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 77

UTM REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

A	<input type="checkbox"/>								
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						

B	<input type="checkbox"/>								
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tim Fisher, Dale Frens, Janet Stewart

Contract Researchers

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board

DATE

September 26, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona 85007

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Dorothy H. Hall* 8-10-78

TITLE

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Item 6 of the bibliography should be corrected as follows:

Giebner, Robert C. "Tucson's 'Barrio Historico'", Arizona Architect, August, 1973, pp. 8-10.

Sobin, Harris J. "Tucson's 'Barrio Historico'", Arizona Architect, August, 1973, pp. 10-13.

The following entry was cited in Item 8, page 5, but was inadvertently omitted from the bibliography:

Sobin, Harris J., ed. Florence Townsite A.T., 1977

The architectural style categories devised by Professor Sobin have been used in the nomination.

*sent to NR  
11 Sept 78*