

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARIZONA

Date Entered

Name

Location

EL TIRADITO (THE WISHING SHRINE)

Boundary changes were approved 3/16/76

Also Notified



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

Gary Everhardt

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P.L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ARIZONA
STATE

Date Entered

Name

Location

The revised boundary for the El Tiradito (The Wishing Shrine) was approved March 15, 1976

Also Notified



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Director of the National Park Service

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P. L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARIZONA

Date Entered NOV 19 1971

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine)	Tucson Pima County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Paul J. Fannin
Hon. Barry Goldwater
Hon. Morris K. Udall

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 **REVISED FORM SENT 12.16.75**
HISTORIC **APPROVED** **3.16.76**
El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 221 South Main NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Tucson CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Arizona VICINITY OF CODE 04 COUNTY Pima CODE 019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME City of Tucson (parcel 36) Private (parcels 37 and 38) City
STREET & NUMBER 250 West Alameda has option to purchase.
CITY, TOWN Tucson VICINITY OF STATE Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pima County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original Physical Appearance

El Tiradito (The Wishing Shrine) is a site attached by legend to a murder. Mexican-American tradition claims that those who light a candle on this site will have their prayers (or wishes) answered.

El Tiradito is located in the Barrio Libre of Tucson. It was originally located in the late 1870s about one block east of its present location and consisted of "a little collection of battered pieces of oil cans... (a) miniature tin hut...within a tiny cross of wood along side a dirty half-burned candle." This was in the center of Simpson Street on the west side of Meyer Avenue. At this time, Simpson between Meyer and Main was not used as a street, but was simply vacant land covered by creosote bushes. Simpson did extend west from Main Street past an artesian well (One of Tucson's first sources of water and focus of many of El Tiradito's legends) on the North and on down and across the Santa Cruz River. In the late 1870s through the 1890s, this was the road to San Xavier Mission, 10 miles to the south across the river.

Sometime between 1894 and 1909, Simpson was opened between Meyer and Main Streets, and the site of El Tiradito was moved to a new location near the Northwest corner of Simpson and Main Streets.

Although north of the corner, the Wishing Shrine was simply incorporated with vacant land on the corner where "any evening after dark you will see from one to one hundred candles burning."

In September 1927, the City was deeded a lot 40' x 120', 90 feet north of the corner which has been the official site ever since. Soon after this, a building was constructed on the northwest corner of Simpson and Main Streets, divorcing the Shrine's connection with the corner. The Shrine was still simply a spot on vacant land where the candles were lit.

Present Physical Appearance

Today, the site is still essentially a vacant lot with candles, although in 1940, National Youth Administration workers constructed an adobe U-shaped wall at the rear of the lot as a backdrop and focal point of the shrine. The wall is approximately 12 feet high, is capped with red brick and is designed in the "Mission Style." A simple "altar" steps out from the wall. Above the altar is a niche with a figurine of the Virgin and above, at the top of the wall, is a wrought iron cross.

In front of the wall are several wrought iron candle holders which help support the votive candles and plastic flower arrangements which are constantly being replenished.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Folklore
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1870s, c.1895, 1940 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Dr. Byrd Granger, an authority on American folklore, this is the only such "Wishing Shrine" in the United States. A similar shrine exists in Sonora, Mexico.

El Tiradito (which means "the castaway") is a site attached by legend to a murder. Mexican-American tradition claims that those who light a candle on this site will have their prayers (or wishes) answered. This tradition and those legends associated with the site form a part of the cultural heritage of the Barrio Libre of Tucson. This site does not have the official sanction of the Catholic Church and is therefore quasi-religious.

The "Tradition" has always been the same since it began in the late 1870s. Light a candle, say a prayer (or make a wish). The physical site has been changed once between 1893 and 1909 (see the physical description section).

The "Legends" which support the tradition are numerous and attached to many different murders.

In 1927, the Tucson City Council accepted the following as the official version:

"As told by Mrs. C. B. Perkins whose pioneering father, Dr. F. H. Goodwin, employed on his sheep ranch the young murdered man. Juan Oliveras was the young shepherd at the Goodwin Ranch. He, his wife, and father-in-law all worked at the Goodwin Ranch, but his mother-in-law worked in Tucson. Juan was infatuated with his mother-in-law and often visited her. One day the father-in-law followed Juan to Tucson and surprised his wife and her young lover together. A struggle followed and Juan fled the house, but his father-in-law seized an axe from a wood pile and killed Juan. The grave marked only by desert shrubs. Mexicans call the spot "EL TIRODITO," or lying dead. Devout Mexican women thought that there should be prayers said for Juan's soul. They slipped through the spiny shrubs at night to light candles beside the grave. Among them there grew the belief that their own personal wishes, made after prayers were said for Juan, came true. The superstition spread through the village. More and more candles guttered through the nights, protected from winds by shields of tin cans and scrap iron."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Significance (continued)

Prior to his death in 1935, Moses Drachman (who was born in Tucson in 1870) recorded this account of the legend:

"On account of the proximity of this excellent spring, (the well near the northwest corner of Simpson and Main Streets, one of Tucson's first water sources) many of the teamsters who drove freight wagons used to camp on the spot. There was a teamster who drove a wagon between either Magdalena or Hermosilla and this place, who had married a widow with a grown son. He murdered this woman, then came on to Tucson with his team. The son followed him here and, finding him at the camp, killed him. It is customary, even to this day, with the Mexican people, to erect a cross over the spot where a murderer's victim was killed and this case was no exception. The report got out that this man who was killed, could perform miracles, and a great many people got the idea that if they placed a lighted candle here and prayed, they would get whatever it was they earnestly desired - whether it was good health or anything that they wanted badly enough."

Whatever legend is believed, the tradition is still carried out today and every night candles flicker and wishes are made on the site of El Tiradito.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	510, 212, 0	3, 56, 4104, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Garrison, Historical Architect

10-28-75

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks

(602) 271-4174

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

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

Dennis McCarty

November 14, 1975

TITLE State Parks Director

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

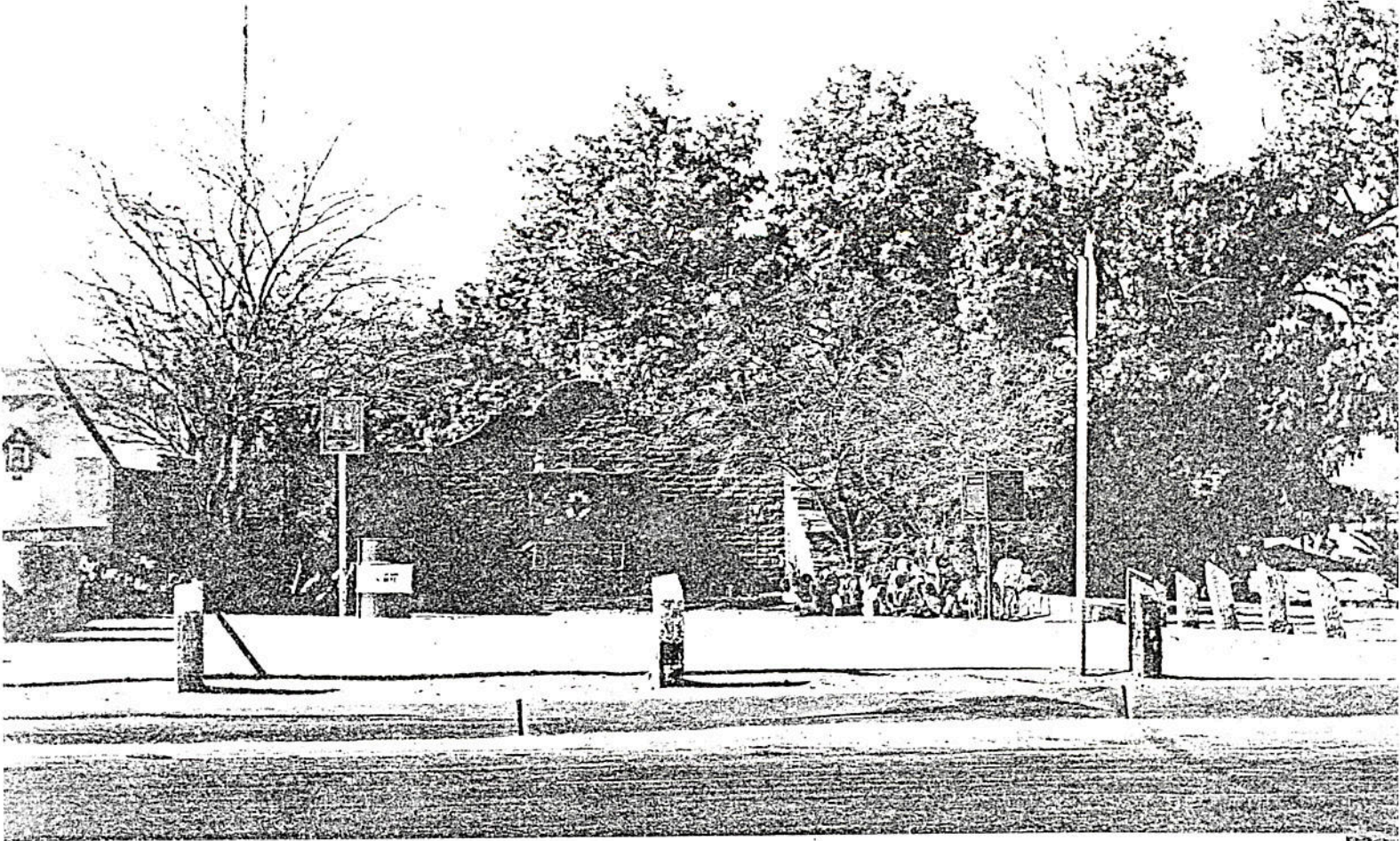
Major Bibliographical References:

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Tucson
1883, 1896, 1901, 1909, 1919, 1947

"Wishing Shrine" subject file,
Arizona Historical Society

Moses Drachman File,
Arizona Historical Society

Byrd Granger "Secrets of the Wishing Shrine"
The West, April 1970



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

221 South Main

— VICINITY OF

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

COUNTY

Pima

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Arizona State Parks

DATE OF PHOTO

Nov. 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

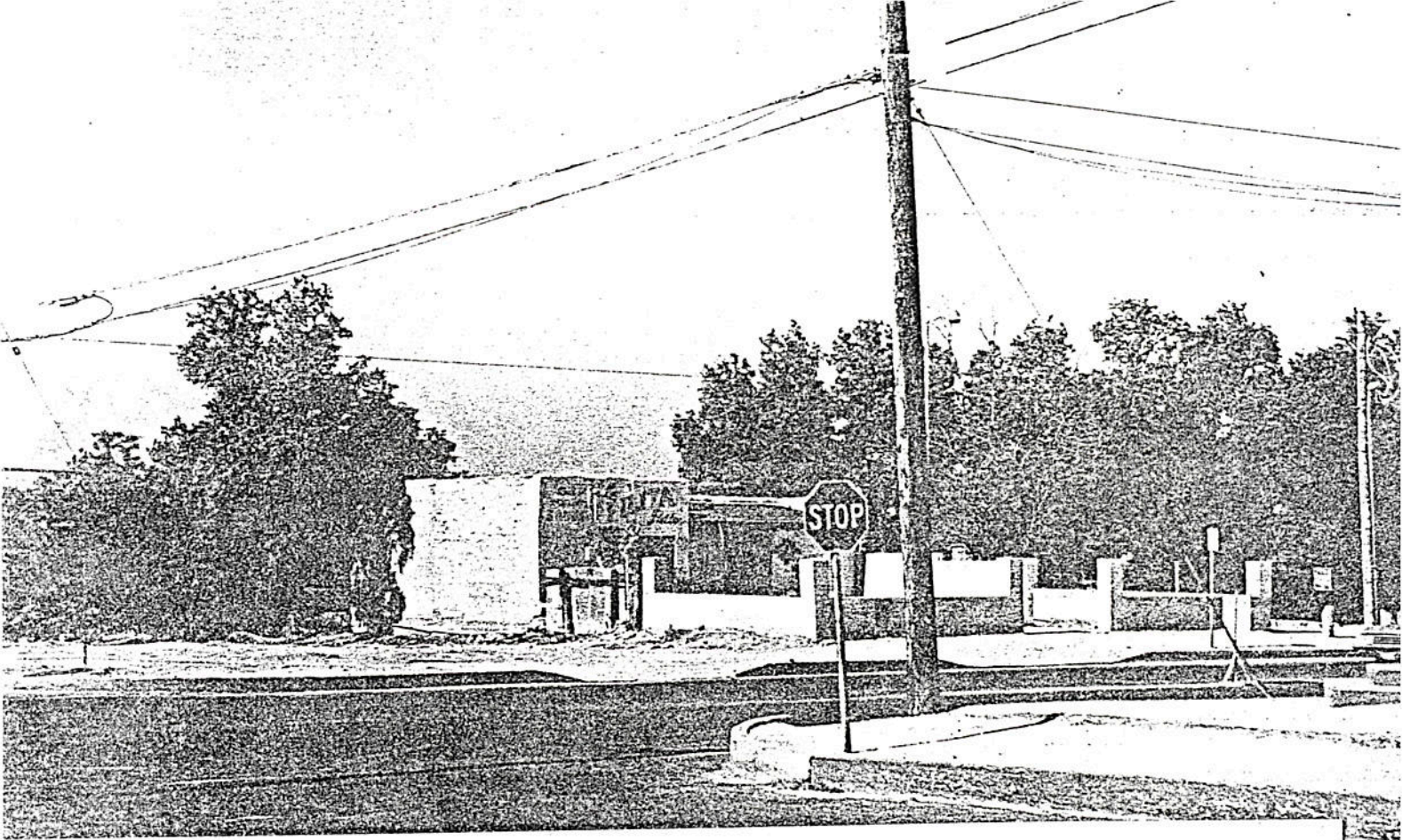
Arizona State Parks

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Looking west toward parcel 36

PHOTO NO. A



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

221 South Main

___ VICINITY OF

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

COUNTY

Pima

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Arizona State Parks

DATE OF PHOTO

Nov. 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arizona State Parks

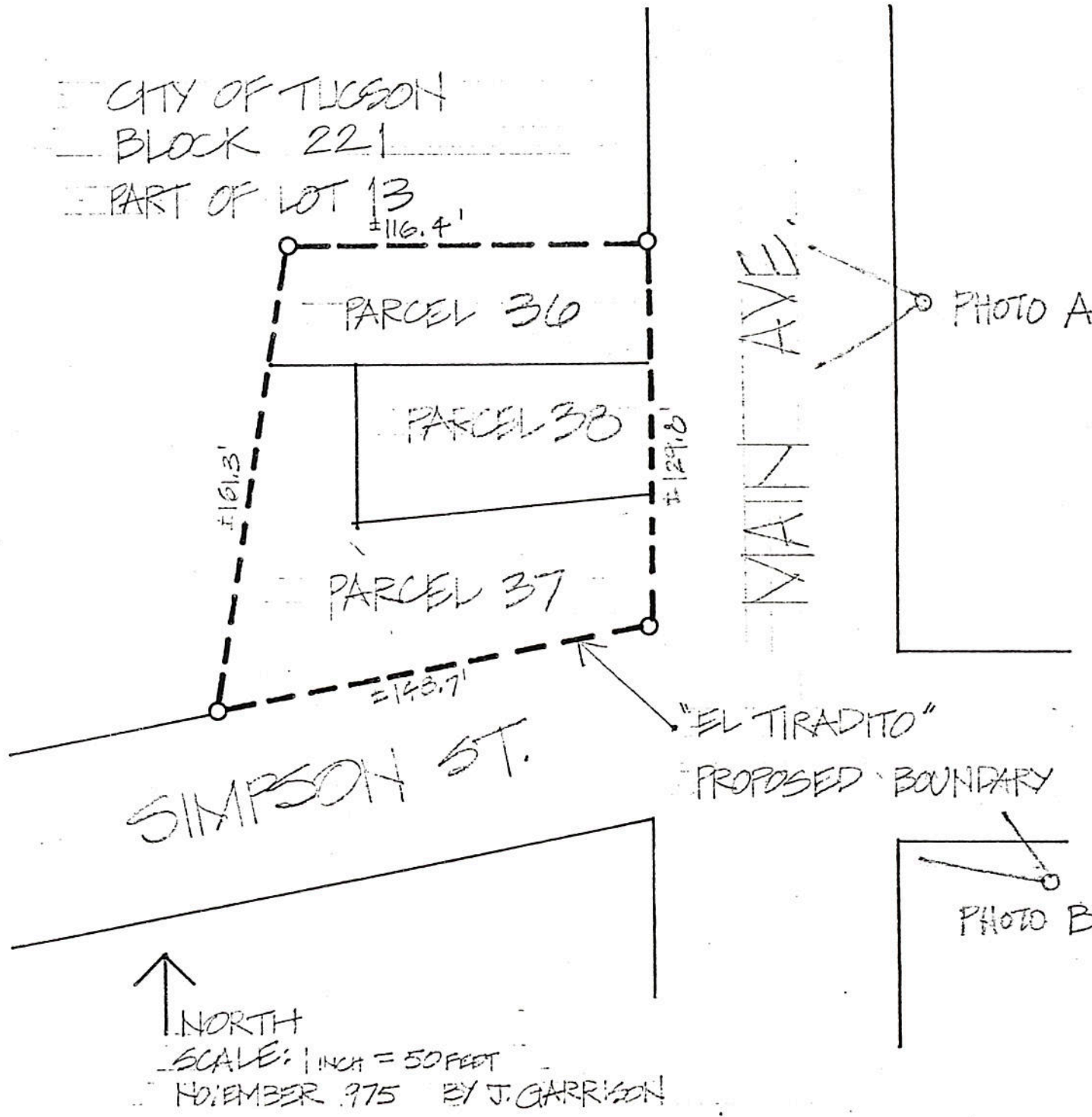
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Looking northwest from se corner of Simpson
and Main Streets

PHOTO NO. B

CITY OF TUCSON
BLOCK 221
PART OF LOT 13



SIMPSON ST.

MAIN AVE.

PHOTO A

"EL TIRADITO"
PROPOSED BOUNDARY

PHOTO B

↑ NORTH
SCALE: 1 INCH = 50 FEET
NOVEMBER 1975 BY J. GARRISON

KEEP w/ NEW FORM
(NOTE BOUNDARY CHANGES)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arizona	
COUNTY: Pima	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine) 1971 FORM

AND/OR HISTORIC: El Tiradito (Wishing Shrine)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 221 South Main

CITY OR TOWN: Tucson

STATE: Arizona

CODE: 04	COUNTY: Pima	CODE: 019
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Tucson

STREET AND NUMBER: 250 West Alameda

CITY OR TOWN: Tucson

STATE: Arizona

CODE: 04

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Pima County

CITY OR TOWN: Tucson

STATE: Arizona

6. REPRESENTATION

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____

STATE: _____

CODE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Arizona

COUNTY: Pima

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The location of the El Tiradito is within one of Tucson's oldest Mexican-American neighborhoods. The area was once referred to as the barrio; the working man's district.

The Shrine site resembles a vacant lot which is backed by an adobe wall and which fronts South Main. On either side of the area are one story structures. Prickly pear cactus serves as a spiny hedge border delimiting the space from adjacent properties.

The wall located at the rear of the El Tiradito Shrine serves as a back drop and as a focal point of the Shrine. The wall is constructed of unfired adobe brick and stands approximately 12 feet high. Capping the U-shaped wall is a course of red brick which protects the adobe from erosion. Central to the wall is a portion which is stepped-out from the rest of the wall. This resembles a fireplace but is designated as an "altar" for the Shrine. Above the altar is a niche which houses a figurine of the Virgin. Topping the highest point of the adobe wall is a cross of wrought iron. In architectural style, the wall which was constructed circa 1940 by National Youth Administration workers resembles the popular "Mission Style" motif.

In front of the wall are numerous wrought iron candle holders; similar to those seen in Catholic Churches. These holders serve as supports for votive candles and plastic flower arrangements which are constantly being replenished.

The wall and the ground in the vicinity of the candles is stained darkly with many years' accumulation of melted parafin. Candles are the Shrine's only source of light at night; a fact which serves to enhance the appearance of El Tiradito considerably after sunset.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 18/1/ 1940 (wall)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | ethnic culture/folklore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Dr. Byrd Granger, an authority on American folklore, there is only one such "Shrine" in the U.S. A similar shrine also exists in Sonora, Mexico.

El Tiradito is a physical representation, on a small scale, of an ethnic group's cultural traditions. Many of these traditions have their source of origin, legends with quasi-religious significance. Nevertheless, to the Mexican-American community, these legends form a basis of cultural identity which is part of their heritage.

The "Living Shrine (the Anglo woman) does not enjoy official sanction of the Catholic Church. Rather, the Shrine is the manifestation of the belief which acknowledges that certain deceased individuals grant wishes to those among the living who light votive candles for them. In this instance, the deceased was a social outcast within the Mexican-American community (el Tiradito means "the outcast").

Like all such legends of origin, the tale may vary with the teller. One generally accepted version mentions the name of Juan Oliveras as the unfortunate sinner who was murdered because of his transgressions. The story relates how Juan's amorous adventures got him killed by an enraged husband. According to citizen recollections recorded by the Arizona Historical Society, the murder took place on the southwest corner of Main and Simpson Street. When Simpson was extended, the Shrine was relocated a few yards to the north of its original location. Contemporary maps indicate Simpson Street's expansion to the west prior to 1872. This evidence would substantiate the locally made claim that the El Tiradito Shrine has been in its present location for a period of 100 years.

Although the El Tiradito Shrine originated with the incident described above, the belief that tiraditos may grant wishes must have existed previously; possibly originating from Sonora. According to the story, votive candles, accompanied by prayers, began to be placed upon the site of the murder very shortly thereafter.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arizona	
COUNTY Pima	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

This practice continued and became especially popular during the years of World War II. At this time, women prayed for the safe return of their men at war. At other times, girls might pray at the Shrine; beseeching El Tiradito for certain favors involving their love lives.

To this day, the practice of placing lit candles and flower arrangements at the Shrine continues. During the day, the Shrine does not appear attractive; it resembles a vacant lot which fronts the street. At night, however, it assumes an entirely different character under the influence of candle light. With the aid of flickering candle light, the transformation is remarkable.

El Tiradito is owned by the City of Tucson as a city historical landmark. The City also owns the property. At this time however, the immediate vicinity of the Shrine is being considered as a possible routing for the proposed Interfield Stage line. To insure a measure of protection for this site with which the Mexican-American community so strongly identifies, National Register listing is sought.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arnulfo D. Trejo, Associate Professor of Library Science, U. of A.
 Byrd Granger, Professor, English Department U. of Arizona
 "Secrets of the Wishing Shrine", D. N. Bentz, The West, April, 1970
 "Legends of the Wishing Shrine", A. A. Reynolds, Progressive Arizona, July, 1927
 "The Wishing Shrine", Robert M. Riddell, Arizona Highways, February, 1950
 "Wishing May Make It So", The Magazine Tucson, January, 1952

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE								
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32°	12'	59"	110°	58'	27"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one (3500 sq. ft.)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Robert Frank, Historic Sites Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION: Arizona State Parks DATE: Aug. 13, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
1688 West Adams

CITY OR TOWN: Phoenix STATE: Arizona CODE: 04

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Dennis McBride

Title: Director, Ariz. State Parks

Date: August 17, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

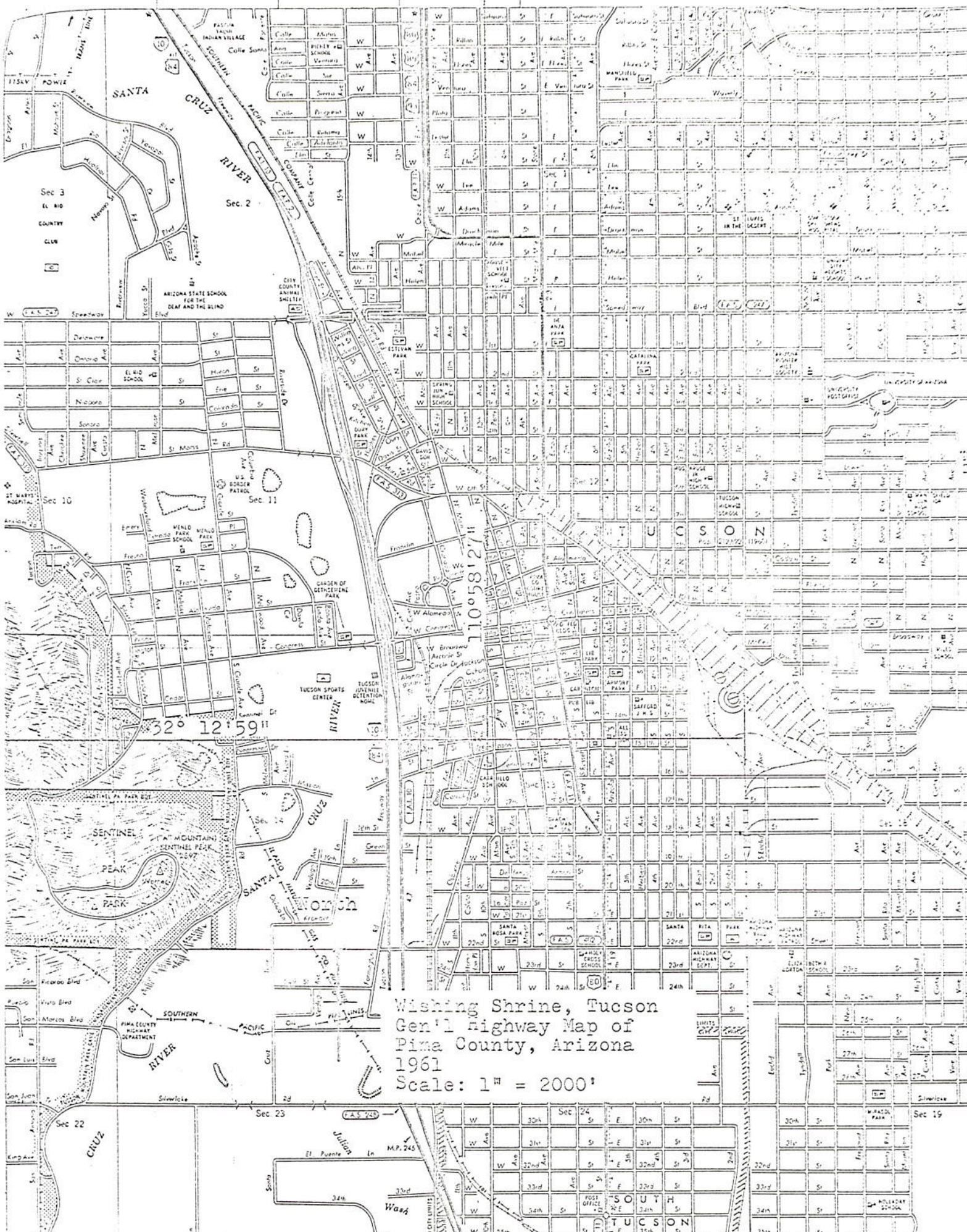
STATE	
Arizona	
COUNTY	
Pima	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

"The Wishing Shrine: An Object of Interest", Tucson, December, 1933

The Wishing Shrine in Tucson, Mrs. C. B. Perkin, typescript housed in University Library, University of Arizona



Wishing Shrine, Tucson
 Gen'l Highway Map of
 Pima County, Arizona
 1961
 Scale: 1" = 2000'

1. STATE Arizona COUNTY Pima County TOWN Tucson VICINITY Carrillo School STREET NO. north of junction of S. Main & Simpson Streets; on Main, west side. ORIGINAL OWNER Sabino Otero ORIGINAL USE unknown PRESENT OWNER City of Tucson PRESENT USE Shrine WALL CONSTRUCTION unfired adobe brick NO. OF STORIES open area	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME El Tiradito DATE OR PERIOD 1871 STYLE Spanish Mission style (wall) ARCHITECT none BUILDER wall by NYA 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC yes.

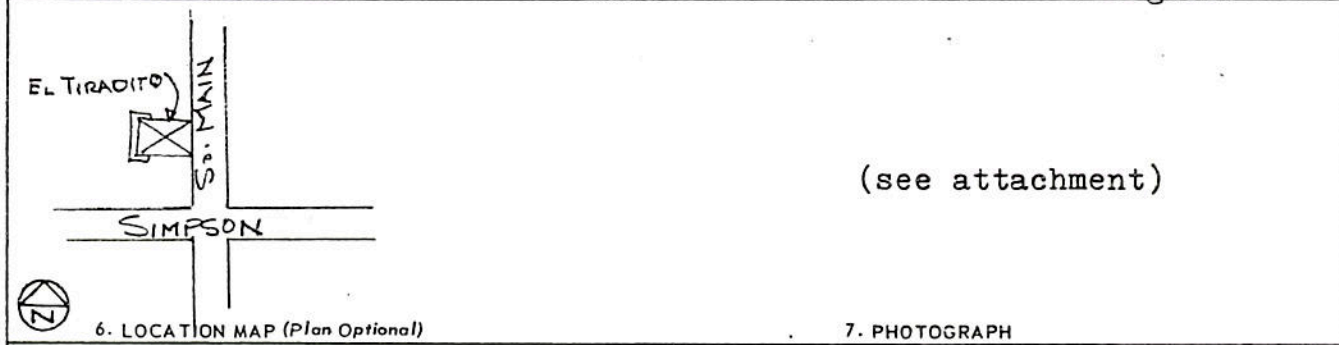
Located within one of Tucson's older Mexican-American communities, the Wishing Shrine is probably Tucson's oldest, local cultural tradition. El Tiradito as it is known to the Spanish speaking community, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary May 15, 1971.

The Shrine does not enjoy official sanction by the Church. Rather, the Shrine is the outgrowth of an ethnic belief which acknowledges that certain dead could grant wishes if votive candles were lit to them in prayer and supplication. In this instance, the deceased was a social outcast (tiradito means outcast). The tiradito's amorous adventures got him killed by an enraged husband. According to tradition, the Shrine marks the spot where the lover was killed with an axe. Like all such traditions, the story may vary with the teller. One generally accepted version names the unfortunate sinner as one Juan Oliveras.

The site appears today as an open area backed by an unfired adobe wall which reaches a height of approximately 12 feet and is free standing due to a corner return at each end. Fired adobe bricks serve as a wall capping; protecting the wall from erosion. The wall was constructed in 1940 by the National Youth Administration workers. Centrally placed within the wall is a fireplace, also of adobe. Atop the fireplace mantle is a niche for the statue of the Virgin. Various arrangements of paper and plastic flowers adorn the fireplace.

In front of the fireplace but well within the area enclosed by the wall are the candle holders and candelabra. (continued)

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no. Interior Exterior good.



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. interview w/ Mrs. A.A. Torres article in <u>Tucson Daily Citizen</u> Monday, May 10, 1971 (error in article re location)	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Robert Fink Historic Sites Preservation Officer Arizona State Parks Board 1688 West Adams Phoenix, Arizona 85007 DATE OF RECORD June, 1971

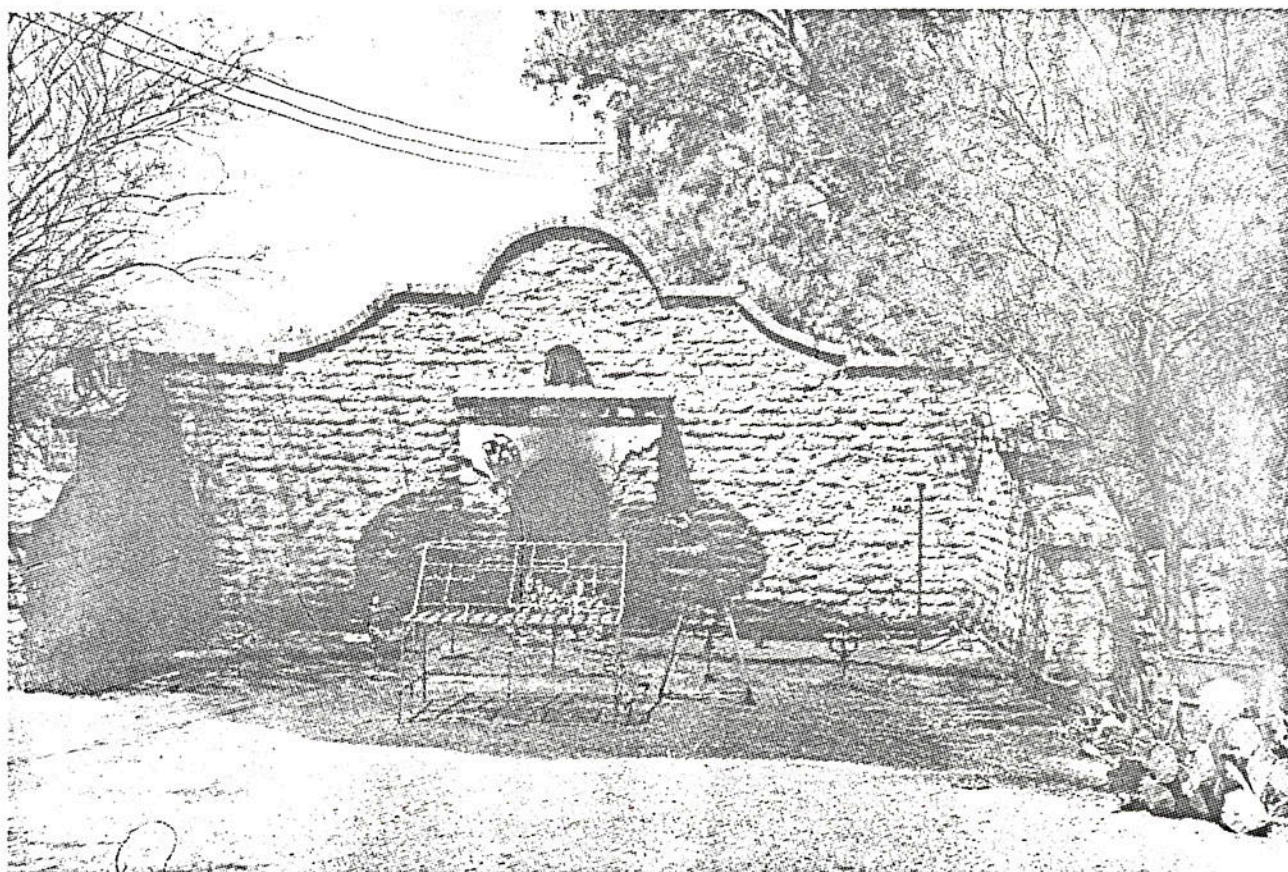
El Tiradito-continued; page two of two.

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

These implements are constructed of wrought iron. Day and night, these holders may be seen with lit candles in them. The candles are placed there by local believers and by supporters of the Wishing Shrine and are not maintained by the City. Occasionally, the parafin accumulates to such a degree that it must be removed from the holders and the wall. Both the wall and the ground in the vicinity of the candles are stained darkly with the melted wax.

The chief value of the Wishing Shrine lies with the fact that it is a unique reminder to Tucson and to the State of their Spanish and Mexican heritage. El Tiradito is a cultural manifestation which has been supported by the Spanish speaking community for a hundred years. There is none other like it in the State of Arizona.

Photograph: Day time view of the Wishing Shrine (El Tiradito). The viewer is looking to the West. Photograph taken in 1970.



on Hat

N O M I N A T I O N F O R M

ARIZONA STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES

1. NATURE AND NAMES OF PLACE

Wishing Shrine: El Tiradito

2. LOCATION

Near the corner of South Main and Simpson Street.

3. ENDANGERED Yes, plans have been discussed to run a freeway through this area.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

5. INTEGRITY

6. CONDITION

- History
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Culture

- All Original
- Changes Minor
- Much Altered
- Moved or Re-constructed

- Sound
- Restorable
- Ruinous
- Site Only

7. HISTORY OR JUSTIFICATION

(See attached page 3)

8. Photo

9. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION FEATURES SIZE

(See Attached page 4)

Attach

Recent

Photo

Here

Photo is enclosed.

10. PRESENT AND POTENTIAL USES

11. OWNERS

Original:

Present:

City of Tucson

Address:

12. ACCESS CONTROLLED BY

Name: City of Tucson

Phone:

Address:

13. INVENTORIED BY

Organizations: Los Tucsonenses &
La Placita Committee of Tucson

Person: Arnulfo D. Trejo

Phone: 296-0859

Address: 5852 E. 31st St.
Tucson, Ariz. 85711

Date Surveyed: May 20, 1971

14. SOURCES CONSULTED

In addition to the literature cited on p. 5 several old-time residents of Tucson have been interviewed.

15. REMARKS

At a time when Mexican-Americans are searching for symbols with which this ethnic group can identify, recognition of the Shrine on a national basis is of special importance.

7. History or Justification (from page 1)

The history of "El Tiradito" dates back to the 1870's when supposedly a man of Mexican descent was violently killed and buried near the corner of Meyer Street and Simpson. The remains of the dead man were later uncovered, removed and buried again at the present location of the Shrine. No one really knows the true story of how the Shrine originated, but over the years a number of legends have evolved. Invariably the narrations relate the story of a love triangle. In 1927 when the Tucson Landmarks Association decided to officially make "El Tiradito" a historical site, the legend chosen to describe the Shrine tells of a young sheepherder by the name of Juan Oliveras who became infatuated with his mother-in-law. While he was visiting his loved one, his father-in-law appeared unexpectedly. A struggle followed in which young Oliveras was killed with an ax. The body was unceremoniously buried where it fell. In time people began to place lighted candles at the burial site in the belief that their tribute to the memory of Oliveras would help in the realization of their own wishes. During World War II mothers, wives and sweethearts, lit thousands of candles for their loved ones who were fighting overseas. Today people of all races, ages and creeds find their way to the Wishing Shrine. However, it continues to be the people of the barrio who are most devoted to the Shrine. Regardless of the questionable origin of "El Tiradito," it is a recognized landmark of Tucson. Moreover, it has become part of the folklore with which Mexican-Americans identify. While this site is of local historical significance, its importance is in a true sense national, for it represents our regional heritage and folklore of the greater Southwest.

9. Physical Description Features Size (from page 1)

The overall site covers approximately 3,500 square feet. The Shrine itself consists of a U-shaped adobe wall, topped with red brick. In the center of the wall is a built-out section which serves as an altar. To the immediate left of the altar is a small headstone crowned with a cross. Candelabras of many sizes and shapes are located within the semi-enclosed area of the Shrine. Wreaths are also hung on the adobe wall. The Shrine is not especially attractive with its blackened wall and the candle grease that has soaked the ground over many years. At night, however, "El Tiradito" is a sight to see, especially in its setting where there is little light coming from any other source. The flickering candlelight helps to silhouette the figures of the individuals who have taken a moment of their life to say a prayer, make a wish, and light a candle.

14. Sources Consulted (from page 2)

Bentz, Donald N. "Secrets of the Wishing Shrine,"
THE WEST, (April, 1970), pp. 27; 44-46.

Reynolds, A. A. "Legends of the Wishing Shrine,"
PROGRESSIVE ARIZONA, (July, 1927) pp. 12-13; 31.

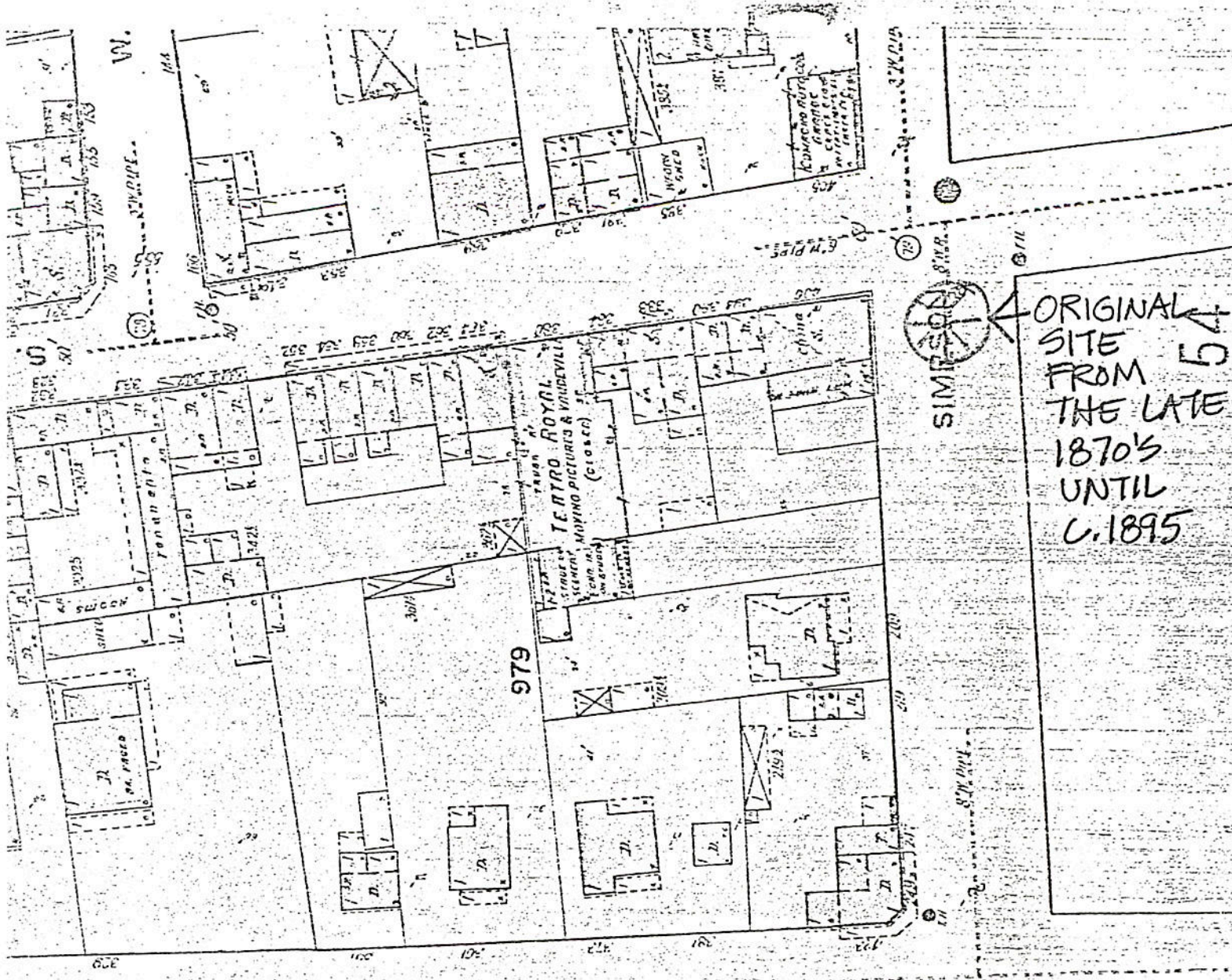
_____ . "The Wishing Shrine," TUCSON, (July,
1937), pp. 4 and 10.

Riddell, Robert M. "The Wishing Shrine," ARIZONA
HIGHWAYS, (February, 1950), pp. 10-11.

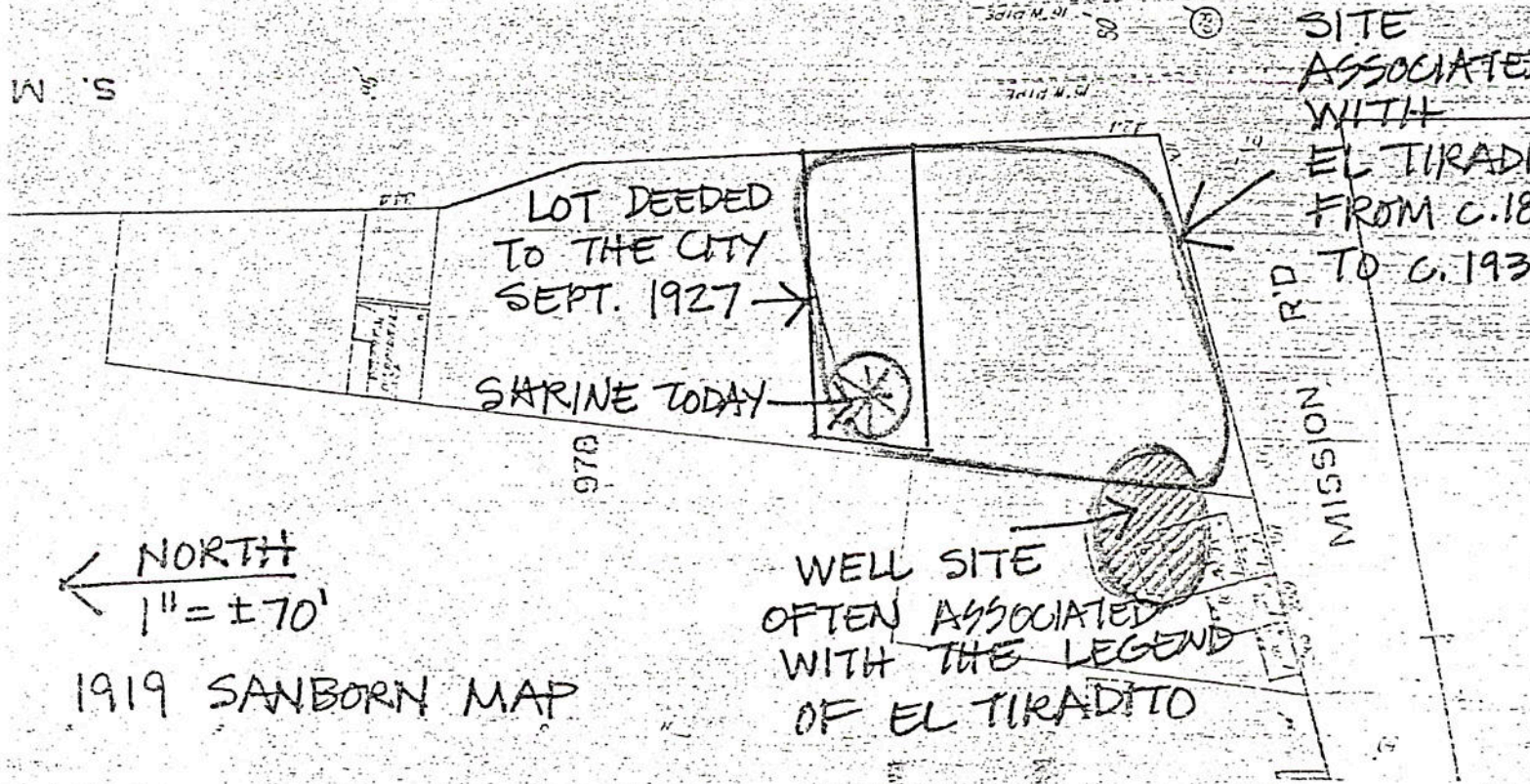
"Wishing May Make It So," THE MAGAZINE TUCSON,
(January, 1952), pp. 8 and 36.

"The Wishing Shrine: An Object of Interest,"
TUCSON, (December, 1933), p. 8.

The Wishing Shrine in Tucson. Typescript (carbon)
by Mrs. C. B. Perkin of the story of the Wishing Shrine.
Housed at the University Library, University of Arizona,
Tucson, 22



ORIGINAL SITE FROM THE LATE 1870'S UNTIL C. 1895



SITE ASSOCIATED WITH EL TIRADITO FROM C. 1870 TO C. 1930

LOT DEEDED TO THE CITY SEPT. 1927

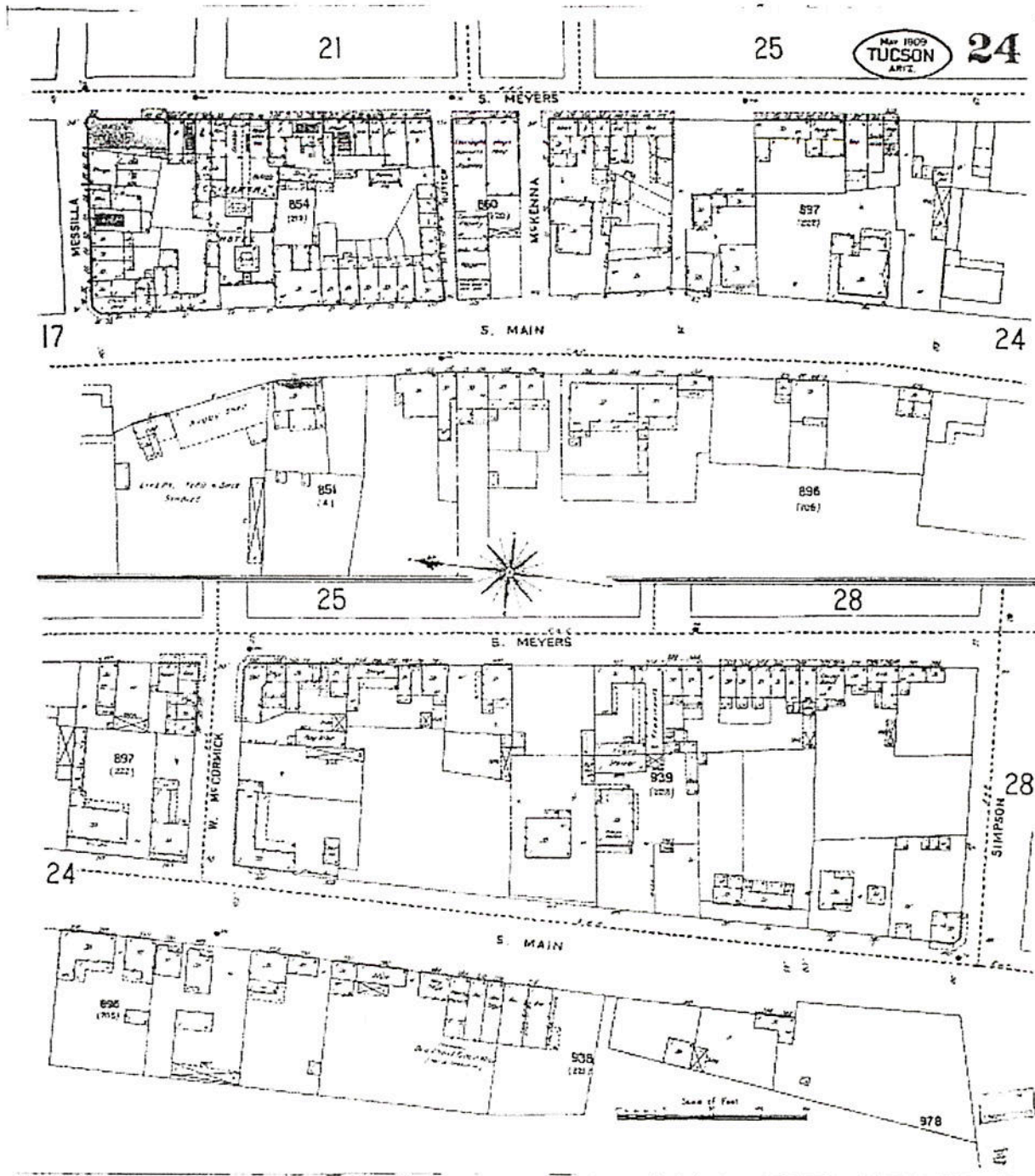
SHRINE TODAY

WELL SITE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEGEND OF EL TIRADITO

NORTH
1" = ± 70'

1919 SANBORN MAP

MAY 1909



Tucson 1919
sheet 53



Click on map to: zoom in re-center

Zoom: **Fit to window**

Select window size for viewing:

Tucson 1919-Oct. 1947

