NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

174

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Benson Historic Barrio

other names/site number The Barrio, Sal Si Puede, Tortilla Flats

2. Location

street & number 307-572 Fifth Street, between San Pedro Street and Route 80 ☐ not for publication

city or town Benson ☐ vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Cochise code 003 zip code 85602

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

James W. Garrison — 18 FEBRUARY 2011
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

AZ STATE PARKS / SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Linda McClelland — 4-8-11
Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

Section number _____ Page_____ County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 11000174

Property Name: Benson Historic Barrio

County: Cochise State: Arizona

Multiple Property Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper April 8, 2011
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5: Classification:
Category of Property is, hereby, identified as "District."

Section 7: Significance:
"Hispanic" is, hereby, listed with "Ethnic Heritage" as the Area of Significance to be consistent with the text of the nomination.

Section 10: Geographical Data:
Acreage is, hereby, given as 9.93 acres.

The Arizona SHPO Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Benson Historic Barrio
Name of Property

Cochise, Arizona
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [X] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
32	8	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
33	8	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant/organizational
EDUCATION: school
RELIGION: religious facility, church school
RECREATION & CULTURE
SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC:single dwelling
RELIGION: religious facility, church school
GOVERNMENT: public works
VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: vernacular
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT: OTHER: contemporary

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE, EARTH
walls: WOOD, STUCCO, CONCRETE, BRICK, METEAL
roof: ASPHALT, METAL
other: STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The proposed Benson Historic Barrio is a very small but important neighborhood in Benson, Arizona. Established early in Benson's history and settled predominately by people of Mexican descent, the *barrio* (neighborhood) is located on the east side of the original Townsite just south of the business district. It comprises a three-block-long strip of properties lining both sides of E. Fifth Street. The barrio is primarily residential in character but has always included non-residential occupancies, the most important being Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. With the exception of the architect designed church, the buildings are Hispanic or Euroamerican vernacular types. Most housescapes reflect decades of Hispanic ownership in such ethnic traits as garden walls along the front property line,vibrant colored walls and yard shrines.

Narrative Description

Natural and Man-made Elements

Benson Historic Barrio is located on the east side of the original Benson Townsite in the southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 17 south, Range 20 east of the Salt River and Gila River Meridian. South of the railroad right-of-way and E. Fourth Street (Benson's "Main Street"), the Barrio consists of houses, lots and other buildings lining E. Fifth Street between San Pedro Street and Route 80. The historic district incorporates lots on the south half of Blocks 19, 20 and 21 and on the north half of Blocks 23, 24 and 25 in Benson Townsite (Map 1). The north boundary of the district ends at the alley behind the Fourth Street commercial blocks. The south boundary ends at the alley between E. Fifth and E. Sixth Streets. Fifth Street is crossed by Gila Street and San Carlos Street (originally named Catarina Street).

For the most part, the buildings in the district stand on narrow, deep lots, measuring about 25 by 150 feet. While many residences occupy just one lot, larger properties combine two or more lots. The largest property, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, occupies the east six lots, 17 through 22, in Block 25.

Formerly nearly built-out and fully-occupied, today's Barrio has several vacant lots where the houses have been demolished plus a number of abandoned buildings that have fallen into disrepair. At the same time, there are restorations taking place, for example at 351 and 369 East 5th Street in Block 19. The house at 526 East 5th Street, Block 23, has been completely restored and most other occupied houses have been restored or repaired.

The neighborhood has a peaceful, cohesive atmosphere in which E. Fifth Street becomes a main street (Photo 1). There are thirty-two (32) contributing historic buildings, one (1) contributing structure and eight (8) non-contributors. The structure is an historic shed standing alone on a vacant lot.

General Character of the Barrio

The Barrio is primarily residential but has included other occupancies throughout its history like educational, institutional and small-scale commercial. The most important non-residential function has been religious in the form of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (Photo 13) located near the center of the neighborhood on the southeast corner of E. Fifth and Gila Streets.

Across Gila Street from the church is the former 1920s-era Quihuiz Grocery Store (Photo 16). This building also functioned as a tortilla factory, a church and recently, as Trader Jack's antique shop. The currently vacant 480 E. Fifth Street was formerly a pool hall (Photo 18). At the southwest corner of E. Fifth and San Carlos Streets stands the vacant, former La Deliciosa, a small restaurant and variety food store (Photo 17).

On the north side of Fifth near San Pedro Street is 337 E. Fifth Street, a residence that was formerly a barn. Early in its history, 351 E. Fifth Street was a girls' school. Next to 411 E. Fifth Street is a small warehouse that once belonged to local merchant Hi Wo. At the rear of Lots 14, 15 and 16 of Block 20, between Fifth and Fourth Streets, is the old 1915 Jail (Photo 15). Across San Carlos Street in Block 21 is a day care center in the World War II barracks building that once housed the Alianza Hispano-Americana, a Mexican mutual-aid society.

Including present and former, mixed residential and non-residential occupancies, the Barrio has maintained a cohesive character. The dwellings are small, one-story buildings. West of Gila Street, in the former "Barrio Americano" portion of the Barrio, the houses on the north side of Fifth Street are constructed of wood with vertical board-and-batten siding and gable roofs. The two houses on the south side of the street are built of masonry with gable roofs and front porches. These houses are Euroamerican vernacular types, typical of their era, with signs of Hispanic occupation at some point during their history.

East of Gila Street there are notable differences. Most houses are constructed of stuccoed masonry, including mud adobe, with low-pitched gable roofs. Many of them are placed close to the street. Most of the front yards are enclosed by fencing, predominantly of chain link. Some of them have yard shrines. These features are typical of Hispanic *barrios* in the southwestern United States.

North of the historic Barrio are vernacular, commercial buildings of Euroamerican derivation along E. Fourth Street. To the south, along E. Sixth and E. Seventh Streets, is another, unrelated Mexican *barrio* with a few stuccoed masonry houses that are located on larger lots with typical Euroamerican setbacks. To the east, the neighborhood ends with a truncated edge at Route 80. West of San Pedro Street lie the residential blocks of Benson Townsite that feature the typical layout and vernacular dwelling types characteristic of Euroamerican settlement.

Historic Appearance

With the exception of the architect-designed 1949 Church, today's Barrio contains an interesting mix of otherwise vernacular (commonplace) buildings influenced by two cultural traditions. Around 1900 apparently there was a clear distinction between Euroamerican types in the "Barrio Americano" and Hispanic types in the "Barrio Mexicano" portions of the Barrio (see Section 8). Euroamerican dwellings were generally of frame with front or side gabled roofs. [The first Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (no longer existing) was a modest Gothic Revival style building, albeit of adobe, reminiscent of the northeastern United States.]

The first Hispanic dwellings may have been Sonoran, flat roofed, parapet-walled types of adobe as shown in an early photograph of the Figueroa house complex, today's 463 E. Fifth Street on Block 20. Or they may have been like 478 E. Fifth Street, a lower walled adobe house with either a flat or low-pitched gabled roof and a front porch.

During the next building wave, the pitched roof became predominant on both sides of Gila Street. The second generation types were simple, front- and side-gable-roofed forms. (The exception was the flat-roofed La Deliciosa Café.) This was achieved either through new-construction or modification of earlier buildings. An example of new construction was the side-gabled "railroad house," 387 E. Fifth Street (Photo 11). Another example was the front-gabled Meza house, built in 1928, at 419 E. Fifth Street (Photo 8).

An example of modification was the conversion of the flat-roofed Figueroa house from Sonoran to "transitional" after a fire in the 1930s. Several additional adobe houses have been modified over the years. The Ellsworth House, 418 E. Fifth Street, has incorporated the original ca. 1900 adobe walls into additions and alterations undertaken in the 1950s. Likewise, the 1902 adobe house of Severiano Bonillas, 504 E. Fifth Street, was modified into its present hip-roofed, massed-plan form in the 1940s. (Ellsworth n.d.)

In former times, when fully occupied, the Barrio was filled with trees and other plants. Today, except for the gardens of occupied homes, mature trees and shrubs are suffering from neglect. Large volunteer mesquites can be found especially in vacant lots. Probably a mid-century development, concrete curbs and sidewalks were installed along both sides of Fifth Street. Some residents then planted privet, arbor vitae and chinaberry trees inside their low front walls adjacent to the sidewalks. (Ellsworth n.d.)

Present-Day Landscaping

Current residential landscaping in occupied houses comprises modest flower beds or desert plants in the narrow front yard. In contrast, resident Edward Ellsworth has developed elaborate gardens on all sides of his three-lot property earning him first prize in Benson's 2004 garden show. There is a groomed lawn, a lilac tree, a crepe myrtle tree, hollyhocks, hybrid tea roses, pruned trees and other plants. Tree trunks are white washed at the base, a practice commonly seen in Mexico and elsewhere in the Barrio. Edward has planted a vegetable patch towards the rear of the property. In addition, the Ellsworths have a religious yard shrine and other shrines incorporated into the garden scheme. (Photo 2)

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church is also lushly landscaped (Photo 3). The grounds east of the sanctuary are landscaped with pavement and plants. There is a concrete retaining wall along Gila Street, a flagstone terrace, a lawn, Italian cyprus, arbor vitae and a large deciduous tree. An asphalt parking lot has been installed on the west side of the Church.

Hispanic Cultural Characteristics

With the exception of a few buildings, some of the clear-cut distinctions between Euroamerican and Hispanic vernacular building types in this neighborhood have faded over the years. Nonetheless, Hispanic ownership through the decades has left a definite ethnic stamp east and west of Gila Street.

First, several buildings have zero-lot line emplacement (placement along the property line) either in front or along the sides. Interesting examples include 464, 478 and 480 E. Fifth Street on Block 24 (Photo 4). The buildings are contiguous- or close-walled and 464 and 480 are placed along the front property line. Also, 412 E. Fifth Street, the 1940 gable-front-and-wing house owned by the Soza Cota family, has its projecting wing close to the front property line.

Second, many residences have distinctive, low garden walls or fences along the front property line. [Geographer Daniel Arreola (1981) identifies the Mexican American practice of fence use to define, delimit and decorate space (see Section 80.] There is a rubble stone masonry wall in front of 345 E. Fifth Street and a unique, hand-poured concrete wall in front of 371 E. Fifth Street (Photo 5). The crumbling, rubble stone wall of abandoned 478 E. Fifth Street is another good example. Likewise, the Barrios house at 362 E. Fifth Street has a rubble stone masonry wall with a neatly trimmed privet hedge inside it. Other houses, like 452 East Fifth Street, have simple chain link fences.

Third, many residences have characteristic, vibrant colored walls. The Ellsworth house has mint-green wall siding. The Barrios House is constructed of block, painted brick red with black mortar joints. The former Alianza Building is pink. Tan paint is also in common usage as shown on the Meza house at 419 E. Fifth Street.

Fourth, there are several noteworthy, religious, yard shrines in the Barrio, most important markers of Hispanic settlement. [Tucson folklorist Jim Griffith has studied such shrines extensively (1992) (see Section 8).] One carefully tended yard shrine has been built at 387 E. Fifth Street, the house currently owned by Rudolph and Carmen Hernandez Aldinger (Photo 6). Integrated into the manicured garden of the Ellsworth house is a shrine of the *nicho* sort embellished with flowers and potted plants.

An important, public shrine was built on the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Known as the Shrine Grotto, it is located in La Placita de Lourdes north of the Parish Offices and east of the church (Photo 3). The grotto is an upright, stone masonry structure flanked by Italian cyprus trees and attached to a concrete fountain and pool. The grotto has an arched niche containing a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes with a kneeling supplicant. The shallow, water-filled pool has scalloped concrete walls with names of donors inscribed on top. The pool bottom is lined with plain mosaic tile and a depiction of the Virgin of Guadalupe on square ceramic tiles

Architectural Types and Styles

Construction Technology & Materials

Construction technology in Benson's Barrio consists of two primary systems; wood framing and masonry. Nearly all of the original "railroad houses" west of Gila Street in the Barrio were of wood frame. Two excellent examples that still stand are 351 and 369 E. Fifth Street (Photo 7). The walls of these dwellings have vertical board-and-batten cladding, an indication that the framing technique may be "box construction," an earlier alternative to balloon framing.

Masonry construction, either of fired clay bricks, concrete block or adobe, was a common walling system for domestic and other architecture found in Benson's Barrio. Sun-dried mud adobe was used by the first builders of Mexican descent east of Gila Street. Lucas Silvas Mendoza and sons, associated with today's Ellsworth property at 418 E. Fifth Street, were highly skilled, adobe masons. As early as 1886, there was a commercial, adobe block factory on the northwest corner of Fourth and San Pedro Streets. A good example of early adobe construction can be seen in the wall ruin of the recently demolished Cota house built adjacent to 463 E. Fifth Street.

Masonry construction is also found in the use of brick or block. East of Gila Street, most historic buildings, whether built of adobe, block or frame, have stucco finish. West of Gila Street, most frame buildings on Block 19 tend to have siding. On Block 25, there is a mix of exposed masonry, the Church and 362 E. Fifth Street, and stucco cladding, 203 S. San Pedro and 374 E. Street.

Front Gabled Types

Euroamerican-derived, front-gabled "railroad houses" west of Gila Street are of frame with wood siding. They tend to be slightly larger, have higher walls, and symmetrical facades. Front-gabled dwellings built by Mexican families east of Gila Street differ in having lower, stucco-clad walls built of mud adobe, frame or brick. Front facades may be either symmetrical or asymmetrical. The form may have resulted from new construction or the modification of prior construction, possibly flat-roofed with parapets.

Gable-Front Massed-Plan Dwelling: This type was introduced into the Arizona region by Euroamericans. It has a massed plan, meaning it is more than one room-sized unit in width and depth. Affiliated with the Greek Revival movement that dominated styled dwellings from 1825 to 1850, the front-gabled shape was similar to the pediment façade of typical Greek temples.

In the Barrio, the earliest contributing dwellings of this type are found side-by-side on Block 19 at 351 and 369 E. Fifth Street (Photo 7). These "railroad houses" were built in 1900 to accommodate employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad. They are Greek-Revival influenced due to their temple-front shape and gable cornice returns. Both houses have wood, double-hung windows and full-width, drop-shed, front porches on wood posts.

Also on Block 19 is another excellent example. It is 393 E. Fifth Street, the 1905 house moved to its present location in 1941 by the Wo family. This house has non-original composition siding and two rear additions. Because it was relocated during the historic era and all elements are original except for the siding, the house is a contributor.

419 E. Fifth Street, built in 1928, also looks like an example of the type (Photo 8). Although it appears to have a massed plan of two units in width, it has a single front and rear room. The façade is symmetrical with one-over-one, wood, double-hung windows. The residence is built of adobe, clad in beige painted stucco. There is vertical siding with chamfered ends painted a contrasting color on the upper gable wall; a siding treatment seen elsewhere in the Barrio.

418 E. Fifth Street, the Ellsworth house, is a gable-front-massed-plan dwelling that resulted from the modification of the original adobe dwelling (Photo 9). Built in stages, it incorporates adobe, brick and frame walls. It was altered in 1954 to its present appearance with an off-center, gabled porch on brick piers. Wall sheathing is horizontal metal siding, painted mint green. It has vertical wood siding, painted white, on the gable wall.

546 East Fifth Street in Block 23 is an unusual looking example that has an early but uncertain construction date. Its peach-colored, stucco façade is asymmetrical with wood double hung windows irregularly placed on either side of a slightly off-center entry door.

362 E. Fifth Street was built in 1956 and has been owned by the Gilbert N. Barrios family. The residence has an off-center front porch that gives it a Bungalow-like appearance. It is built of red-painted block with vertical siding, chamfered at the bottom and painted white, on the gable ends. The mortar joints have been painted black and the roofing is corrugated metal. The house features wood double-hung windows, a very late example of this window type. Mexican influences can be seen in the low, masonry wall along the front property line as well as the painted block and mortar joints of the house walls.

Front-Gabled Bungalow: This is the most common variant of the Bungalow, a "phenomenon" most strongly associated with California's suburban explosion in the early 1900s, especially that of the city of Los Angeles. The Bungalow commonly assumed three forms: the front-gabled, side-gabled and cross-gabled types.

A late example of this type is 203 S. San Pedro Street in Block 25. According to the building record card, it was built in 1937. This Bungalow has typical outrigger brackets as well as the original double-hung windows. It has been re-stuccoed and painted white. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

Pyramidal Types

The *pyramidal,* with its square footprint and pyramidal hip roof, was introduced into the Arizona region by Euroamericans. It may have multiple origins but authorities associate its type with the Southeast.

In the Barrio, there is one example of this type. It is located at 550 E. Fifth Street. Built in 1930, it is a classic pyramidal with adobe walls and rolled composition roofing. Most walls are stuccoed, painted brown. The west wall, however, has horizontal composition-siding, painted blue. There are rear shed additions. Hispanic influences included the brown and blue painted walls and the steel post and mesh fence along the front property line (Photo 10).

Side-Gabled Types

Historic, side-gabled vernacular dwellings are the most common type in Benson's Barrio. Like the front-gabled types, Benson's, Euroamerican side-gabled "railroad houses" west of Gila Street are frame with siding. Side-gabled houses built by families of Mexican descent east of Gila Street are modest, stucco-clad dwellings. Among them are several placed on the front lot lines. In addition, several are constructed to abut their neighbor's side walls. While some of these were built at one time, others were modifications of earlier dwellings.

Side-Gabled Linear-Plan Dwelling: This type is a small, single-story, two-room cottage. This traditional British folk type, also known as the hall-and-parlor, was brought to New England and the Tidewater South. The type spread across America and was possibly first introduced into Arizona by settlers from the Southeast.

A similar, linear-plan dwelling was common in the "transitional tradition" which combined a Hispanic (Sonoran) dwelling type with a side-gabled roof. Although small gabled buildings were part of the Spanish colonial heritage, the flat roof was most common in the Sonoran region and the pitched roof commonly represented an Euroamerican influence.

This small type tends to be expanded by shed additions to the rear. Two "railroad house" examples are 371 and 387 E. Fifth Street in Block 19 (Photo 5). Although their floor plans have not been studied, their side gable roofs appear to cover a single room in depth and one larger or two smaller rooms in width. Each had Mexican ownership at some point and currently shows characteristic Mexican influences. As mentioned, 371 E. Fifth Street has a unique, concrete wall along the front property line and aqua-colored house walls. 387 E. Fifth Street has a wire mesh front fence, a yard shrine, and carefully pruned trees with white-washed trunks.

East of Gila Street, the clearest example of the "transitional tradition" is 463 E. Fifth Street, part of the old Figueroa complex built in 1900. Currently a vacant duplex, this pink, stuccoed adobe dwelling with blue trim was modified after a 1931 fire. Originally a Sonoran, parapet-walled type, the parapets were removed and a frame, side-gabled roof was added (Photo 12). Its Hispanic traits include zero-lot-line emplacement and colored stucco walls of thick adobe. On the west wall are exposed adobe wall remnants from the dwelling that once adjoined.

Another very old, side gabled, linear-plan dwelling of the "transitional tradition" is 478 E. Fifth Street on Block 24 (Photo 4). Built around 1905, it abuts its neighbors on either side. The vacant dwelling is in very poor condition today and its full-width frame porch (showing on the 1931 Sanborn Map) has completely collapsed. It is not known whether the dwelling originally had a flat roof. Currently it has a side-gabled roof with roll composition roofing.

Side-Gabled Massed-Plan Dwelling: Found in both the Euroamerican and Hispanic traditions, these houses are at least two room-sized units in width and depth. (They may have a single, larger front room).

In Benson's Barrio there are several, very similar dwellings of this type on Blocks 23 and 24. Building record card and assessor's information date them as second generation dwellings, built in the 1920s and 1930s. Several of these

dwellings have in common stuccoed walls and symmetrical facades. They are built of frame or block. They are also expanded by shed additions to the rear.

482 E. Fifth Street was built in 1925. It served as a rental for the Padia family. An exception to the stucco rule east of Gila Street, this dwelling has painted block walls. Its gable is very low-pitched. The windows of this abandoned dwelling are covered with boards. 464 E. Fifth Street, associated with the Ruiz Padia family, is very similar. This well-maintained property with its white painted walls is located very near the front property line. Its aluminum windows appear to be recent replacements.

526 E. Fifth Street has been upgraded recently. It is located near the front property line and is continguous-walled with 512 E. Fifth Street. This residence with its symmetrical facade has been rehabilitated with replacement, aluminum windows. It appears to have been re-stuccoed and has new corrugated metal roofing. Because these materials are the same as the historic ones, 512 is a contributor. The residence also has a recent, sculpted, stucco garden wall on the east side.

Compound Plan Types

These Euroamerican types juxtapose linear and/or massed elements at right angles to create "bent" or "cross-wing" forms. The L-shaped variant is most common in Arizona. Bent-plan forms derive from the picturesque cottage or house, first introduced in the early 1800s by authors of influential, architectural pattern books responsible for the popularization of these forms. Compound-plan dwellings were builder-derived forms that reflected community growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Strittmatter 1998)

Gable-Front-and-Wing: While most L-shaped dwellings are oriented with the projecting wing frontal, some L-plans have the projecting wing oriented towards the rear. This is the case with 345 E. Fifth Street in Block 19. A "railroad house" built in 1900, the L-shaped footprint shows on the 1901 Sanborn Map. Like its gable-front neighbors, this frame dwelling is sheathed in board-and-batten and may be of box construction. At some point, an addition was built within the L to the rear. The residence once had a full-width, open front porch that was filled in two stages. Although the dates of the porch infill are unknown, the work appears be over fifty years old. Hispanic influences include red painted house walls and the stone wall on the front property line.

In a somewhat isolated location at the east end of Block 23, is 572 E. Fifth Street. This stuccoed block residence was originally a gable-front-and-wing dwelling built in 1944. It was later modified by the addition of a second projecting wing. The original windows were steel casements. Mexican influences include the ochre colored walls.

Gable-Block-and-Wing Dwelling: This Euroamerican type, like its more popular cousin, the Pyramidal-Block-and-Wing, is a variant of the compound-plan dwelling. This type may have been a simplification of a more complex Victorian form or an elaboration and variant of a later and increasingly popular pyramidal dwelling.

An example of this type is another "railroad house," 374 E. Fifth Street in Block 25. It first shows on the 1901 Sanborn and probably was built in 1900. Unlike its frame contemporaries on Block 19, it is constructed of stuccoed block on a stone foundation. The front façade appears to have been altered, possibly in the 1920s or 30s, so that the windows are surrounded by a substantial reveal that looks like an ornamental pilaster. The aluminum windows are a recent installation. Hispanic influences include the yellow wall color and the low, burnt adobe retaining wall with wrought-iron fencing along the front property line.

Styled Buildings

The only professionally-designed (as opposed to vernacular) historic building in the Barrio is Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (Photo 13). It is the main building of a complex that also includes La Placita de Lourdes, the Shrine Grotto, Rosettie Hall (a classroom building/parish hall), the church office building and a parking lot. Built in 1949, the current sanctuary is of moderate size, being approximately 50 feet wide by 80 feet long and about 20 feet high and seats perhaps 250 people. In this neighborhood, it seems like a large structure.

[Its predecessor no longer exists. Apparently the original 1895 church was an interesting building constructed of adobe with a steep, overhanging, gable roof and matching slope-roofed belfry above (Photo 22).]

Tucson architect Terry Atkinson designed the existing church in the Contemporary style. The Contemporary style developed during the late 1940s in the work of innovative architects and was most favored for custom designed houses built between 1950 and 1970. This style evolved from the International style and the Craftsman and Prairie styles as well as from the traditional Japanese villa, rural Alpine and Scandinavian forms and from the early, indigenous, Western ranch architecture which also inspired the Ranch style. Like the International style, it is based on certain intellectual premises relating to design, construction and the use of material.

The sanctuary has a low-pitched, slightly overhanging, gabled roof. The front façade has heavy, masonry walls with battered ends and a central, entry panel with glazed, cut, bronzed, sheet metal doors below and a large metal cross mounted on stucco above. Each door is marked with the name of one of the four gospel saints, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The side facades have stained glass windows and spaced masonry piers to support the wood trusses. The masonry is concrete brick (Cal-Clay block) sprayed with Tuff Tex, a white textured masonry coating.

The interior of the sanctuary is simple and noteworthy for its dark stained wood trusses and simple stained glass windows individually donated. The pews are of oak (Photo 14).

Recent improvements to the church and grounds include new asphalt shingle roofing, the textured exterior wall coating (see above), new stained glass and metal doors in the original opening, an exterior cross and parking lot paving. After a fire in 1980, the church was refurbished. These modifications do not compromise the integrity of the church.

The rectory was built in 1950. Facing Gila Street, it is a Ranch style house with masonry walls and a side-gabled roof. It had a full-length open porch to the west that later was enclosed. Recently, this rectory has become the church office.

Rosettie Hall was named in honor of Monsignor Rosettie who came to Benson in 1970. This non-historic building at the back of the complex is a fellowship hall that has several rooms of various sizes and restrooms. It is an extensive, L-plan building built of block with parapet walls. Inside the "L" is a long, covered porch on block posts.

Social Institution Buildings

Alianza Hispano-Americana Building

For many decades Benson's Barrio was graced by the Alianza Hispano-Americana, a Mexican mutual-aid society that set up in a retired barracks purchased from Fort Huachuca. Currently a day-care center, this corner building at 505 E. Fifth Street is entered from the San Carlos Street side. It is an elongated, rectangular-plan, hall building with a gabled roof. Probably originally wood-siding clad, recently it has been stuccoed and has replacement aluminum sliding windows. There is a small shed addition to the northwest. Due to the alterations, this building is a non-contributor.

Jail

Dating back to 1915 the old Jail is a 314 square-foot building with a trapezoidal plan. Built of reinforced concrete, it has a slightly gabled, overhanging, concrete roof. Typical of a jail, the single window has small, steel-frame window ports with bars and a rusted metal door (Photo 15). There is a ghost sign on the east façade advertising "RUIZ'S MEXICAN AMERICAN – CARNE – STEAK" plus two other illegible words.

Commercial Buildings

The growth of commercial architecture was very intense in the United States and was closely related to the settlement of much of its territory. Town building was an important facet of the westward movement in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Vernacular, false-front commercial buildings developed as a separate typology generally found along "Main Streets."

Food Purveyors

At various times during its history, Benson's Barrio also enjoyed the convenience of mom-and-pop commercial enterprises that set up shop in buildings adjacent to the residences. Best known were the Quihuiz Grocery Store, 408 E. Fifth Street, (Photo 16) and Deliciosa Café, 498 E. Fifth Street (Photo 17). They are historic examples of free-standing, neighborhood commercial buildings.

The Quihuiz Grocery Store was built in 1925 and operated by members of the Quihuiz family that resided in the back. This unusual, stuccoed, gable-front building is quite unlike the parapet front form generally associated with its type. There is an off-centered, entry door with a large, wood, storefront window. With frontage also on Gila Street, on this side are paired, double-hung windows and entries for a back room and addition.

The former Deliciosa Café is Hispanic-influenced. The building has large storefront windows (boarded up), a central entry door and sculpted parapets, higher in front. There is a lean-to addition on the west wall. According to neighbor Edward Ellsworth, there is a large front room and a back room that served as the kitchen. Hispanic influences include the construction material, stuccoed mud adobe, and the shaped parapets.

Pool Hall

Built by Jose Ruiz Lopez around 1936, this side-gabled, vernacular building at 480 E. Fifth Street is an unusual example of a neighborhood recreational building. Except for the large, storefront windows flanking a central door, it has a residential appearance with its gabled roof and low front wall (Photo 18).

Condition

Today Benson's historic Fifth Street Barrio is a neighborhood in transition. During the historic period there was an occupied house or other building type on nearly every lot. Today there are a number of vacant lots, and of the thirty-two historically significant properties, fifteen are vacant. While occupied buildings are in good or fair condition, unoccupied ones are in poor condition. If these buildings are not stabilized and restored soon, they will become beyond repair and much of the historic character of the Barrio will be lost.

These small, vacant houses and former stores, if restored and modernized, could provide desirable retirement housing. The City of Nogales has undertaken a federally sponsored retirement housing project in a small neighborhood with very similar, historic dwellings. In fact, most of the currently occupied houses in Benson's Barrio are charming, comfortable and well maintained. Although two or three houses in the neighborhood are being restored by private owners, realistically most of the others will need to be part of a broader program. The City of Benson may need to provide leadership in generating funding and guiding the preservation process. Considering the condition of these dwellings, this effort should not be delayed.

In sum, the condition of the building stock in this neighborhood ranges from good to very poor. The relatively large number of vacant properties, nearly all of which are in poor condition, has put the Barrio under threat. There is urgent need for stabilization and preservation. It is very important that Benson's Barrio be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BENSON HISTORIC BARRIO INVENTORY LIST

PARAPET	Address	Year	Style	Eligibility
148	163 San Pedro St.	1988	Side-gable vernacular	nc (age)
149	307 & 325 E. 5th St.	1973	Side-gable vernacular	nc (age)
150	337 E. 5th St.		Vernacular Barn	nc (integrity)
151	345 E. 5th St.	1900	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
152	351 E. 5th St.	1900	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
153	369 E. 5th St.	1900	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
154	371 E. 5th St.	1925	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
155	387 E. 5th St.	1925	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
156	393 E. 5th St.	1905	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
166	403 E. 5th St.	1966	Vernacular-front gable	nc (age)
167	411 E. 5th St.	1910	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
168	400 Block E. 5th St.	1930	Vernacular Shed	contributing
169	419 E. 5th St.	1928	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
170	427 E. 5th St.	1905	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
174	463 E. 5th St.	1900	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
175	476 E. 5th St.	1990s	Side-gable manufactured	nc (age)
176	481 E. 5th St.	1990s	Side-gable manufactured	nc (age)
177	Jail	1915	Vernacular Jail	contributing
185	505 E. 5th St.	1940	Side-gable vernacular	nc (integrity)
197	572 E. 5th St.	1944	Cross-wing vernacular	contributing
198	550 E. 5th St.	1930	Pyramidal vernacular	contributing
200	546 E. 5th St.	1910	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
201	534 E. 5th St.	1945	Vernacular-side gable	contributing
203A	526 E. 5th St.	1916	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
204	512 E. 5th St.	1932	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
205	504 E. 5th St.	1905, 1940	Hip-roof vernacular	contributing
216	498 E. 5th St.	1936	Parapet-commercial vern.	contributing
217	482 E. 5th St.	1925	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
218	480 E. 5th St.	1936	Gable-commercial vern.	contributing
219	478 E. 5th St.	1905	Trans. side-gable vern.	contributing
220	464 E. 5th St.	1939	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
221	452 E. 5th St.	1928	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
225	412 E. 5th St.	1940	Cross-wing vernacular	contributing
222-224	418 E. 5th St.	1900,1957	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
226	408 E. 5th St.	1925	Gable-commercial vern.	contributing
232	383 E. 5th St.	1950	Side-gable vernacular	contributing
233-234	383 E. 5th St.	1948	Modern Church	contributing
235	374 E. 5th St.	1900	Gable-block/wing vern.	contributing
236	362 E. 5th St.	1956	Gable-front vernacular	contributing
237-238A	300 Block E. 5th St.	ca. 1970	Vernacular commercial, slight Modern influence	nc (age)
239	203 S. San Pedro St.	1937	Bungalow	contributing

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE
TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1880-1956

Significant Dates
1880 Railroad Construction
1895 First Our Lady of Lourdes Construction
1921 Pavement of Route 80

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
HISPANIC, HISPANIC AMERICAN

Architect/Builder
Terry Atkinson (church)
Jose Ruiz Lopez

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Benson Historic Barrio is 1880-1956. The year 1880 was chosen because that is the year the railroad came to Benson. The period of significance ends in 1956 because that was the year that the most recently-built contributing house was constructed.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Benson Historic Barrio is significant under Criterion A for its association with the history of Hispanic residents of Mexican descent in this ethnic enclave in Benson, Arizona. Mexicans and Mexican Americans have been part of Benson's history since the agricultural and railroad eras in the late 19th century through the changes that took place during World War II and beyond. Once established in the Barrio, the Mexican community developed a unique lifestyle that contrasted with that of its Euroamerican neighbors and added richness to Benson's social fabric. Barrio resident Edward Ellsworth provided much of the information about the families that settled in his neighborhood. The Barrio is significant also under Criterion C for its association with community development in Benson as a unique neighborhood with Hispanic settlement characteristics and for its architecture: an unusual collection of vernacular dwellings, yardscapes and buildings that represent Mexican and Mexican-influenced Euroamerican popular culture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Introduction

According to Edward Ellsworth, the *barrio* ("neighborhood" in Spanish) where he grew up and lives today in Benson, Arizona, comprises a row of houses and vacant lots lining both sides of E. Fifth Street east of San Pedro Street (see Section 7). Occupied through much of its history by families of Mexican or part-Mexican descent, the Barrio was for many decades a cohesive community with a vibrant street life of wall-to-wall houses, Benson's Catholic Church at its heart, several mom-and-pop commercial businesses, a mutual-aid social club and a jail.

Other Hispanic enclaves developed in Benson, like the small *barrio* north of the railroad tracks occupied by the family and neighbors of Teresa Mendivil Gradillas, and a neighborhood of families with Spanish surnames on E. Sixth Street just south of this barrio. However, the Fifth Street Barrio has maintained a distinctive identity. Edward Ellsworth maintains that its residents were rivals of those that lived on Sixth Street. Popularly called "The Barrio," this neighborhood has also been known to its inhabitants as "*Sal Si Puede*" (Run if You Can), the "Mexican District" and "Tortilla Flats."

Mr. Ellsworth learned much of what he knows about the Barrio from his paternal grandmother, Aurora Bonillas Mendoza, who as a young girl came to live in what became Benson's Barrio from the family farm at Tres Alamos along the San Pedro River. She accompanied her father, Severiano Bonillas, her stepmother, brothers and stepsister. She later married her neighbor Reyes Mendoza. Widowed in 1920, Aurora Bonillas Mendoza acquired the property at 418 E. Fifth Street. She shared her home with the Ellsworth family until her death. The property is currently owned by her son, George Bonillas Ellsworth II. (Photo 19.)

Besides the Bonillas family, several other families migrated *del rancho al barrio* - from Tres Alamos to Benson's Barrio - in the early decades of the twentieth century. Still other families came from nearby rural areas along the San Pedro River like Redington and Cascabel. Rural life had become increasingly difficult for these families and Benson offered employment opportunities. Influencing the migration was the arrival of the railroad and diminishing supplies of San Pedro River irrigation water.

The Barrio is a significant component of Benson's community development. During the historic era, it contrasted in ethnicity, architecture and cultural characteristics with Benson's largely Euroamerican-inhabited neighborhoods west of San Pedro Street. Barrio residents found employment in or near Benson and were affected by regional and local economic trends as well as social interactions with the greater Benson community and within the Barrio itself.

The Barrio is increasingly under threat today. Although much of the property ownership remains with family heirs, some residences have been demolished and several buildings are abandoned and boarded. The economic situation in Benson and environs has forced many younger Barrio residents to seek employment elsewhere. Only a few old Barrio families remain in their carefully maintained houses. While some historic houses are being rehabilitated by newcomers, the Barrio as a whole is threatened by the advanced level of deterioration of its unoccupied properties.

History

1800s Farming in the San Pedro Valley

Farming in the region was dependent on San Pedro River water. Irrigated farming encouraged cooperation and fostered the development of small communities at Tres Alamos, Pomerene and St. David. Such farming was precarious, too, since periodic flooding damaged or destroyed dams and portions of canals and ditches used to water the fields. The San Pedro River supplied sufficient water until the earthquake of 1887 after which the flow diminished and marshlands in some areas disappeared.

The Tres Alamos Connection

Prehistoric Era: The low-lying, floodplain land along the San Pedro River in the area known as Tres Alamos (Spanish for "Three Cottonwoods") has always been very fertile and was undoubtedly used in prehistoric times for agricultural purposes. The prehistoric peoples of Tres Alamos were Ootam derived from a Cochise (Desert) culture with Hohokam and and Salado connections (Tuthill 1947, Walker 1974).

Historic Era: When the region was under Spanish, then Mexican control, it is known that Tucson settlers planted and harvested crops at Tres Alamos (Officer 1987). Although the Spanish government granted a few Arizona land grants, most were awarded under Mexican rule. Edward Ellsworth identifies the original land grantee as a man named Guadalupe Saenz Pacheco. In addition, it is known that Tres Alamos was the only *empresario* (promoter) type of land grant in Arizona. (Mattison 1946.)

After the Gadsden Purchase of 1854 Euroamerican contractors improved the southern wagon road between Texas and California. The Butterfield Overland Mail Co. established a relay station at what later became the Middle Crossing of the San Pedro River in the southern portion of the Los Alamos zone. This station, near the future town of Benson, was operated by William Ohnesorgen. (Dobyns et. al. 1996.)

The half dozen brave Tucsonans who began to colonize the San Pedro River Valley at the end of 1865 were a multi-ethnic group including Irish-American John Montgomery who married a daughter of his Mexican partner, Eugenio Ruíz. Although plagued by Apache depredations and other hardships, members of the group began to establish homesteads on the fertile floodplain soil. (Dobyns et. al. 1996.)

Homesteader Montgomery, his wife María Fraijo Ruíz and family (Photo 20) operated the Montgomery Ranch, later called the Tres Alamos Ranch. Eugenio Ruiz and family homesteaded nearby. Montgomery and Ruíz constructed the main irrigation ditch, the Ruíz Ditch, on the west side of the river and later excavated an east-side canal. The colonists planted successful crops of maize, wheat, barley, beans and vegetables to sell to the U.S. Army and Tucson merchants. (Dobyns et. al. 1996, Ellsworth "Forgotten Pioneers" n.d.)

By 1875 the population of the Tres Alamos area numbered 100 men, 47 women and 56 children (Ellsworth "Forgotten Pioneers" n.d.). Along with farmsteads, a prominent, nuclear settlement called Tres Alamos developed in the Lower Crossing zone at the road junction (Map 3). The community was a remarkable, ethnically diverse group of Mexican, northern European, Euroamerican and bi-cultural families. Other Mexicans associated with Tres Alamos settlement were Francisco and Severiano Bonillas, Basilio Tautimez and Reyes Mendoza (Ellsworth "Forgotten Pioneers" n.d.).

The Development of Benson

Railroad Era (1880-1910)

The railroad fundamentally altered the economy and settlement pattern of the middle San Pedro River Valley. When Southern Pacific tracks were laid in 1880 south of Tres Alamos, this greatly diminished the importance of the community. The Pacific Improvement Co., the California-based land company of the Southern Pacific Railroad, platted Benson on the west bank of the San Pedro River. The company named the town "Benson" after William B. Benson, a friend of railroad magnate Charles Crocker, and began to sell town site lots June 21, 1880, the day before regular train service to the Pacific coast commenced. (Dobyns et al. 1996.)

Benson became the only town in the area with transcontinental connections and the introduction of regular train service brought rapid growth. Employment and trade for Benson were fostered by nearby mining operations. Benson became a "hub city" with the arrival of two additional railroads, the New Mexico and Arizona Railroad in 1882 and the Arizona Southeastern Railroad Company in 1894. At this time, Benson became the only point in Arizona served by three independent railroad lines. (Johns & Strittmatter 1994.)

Soon after the arrival of the railroad, a smelter was built in Benson. It shows on the 1886 through 1909 Sanborn Maps but apparently was no longer in service by 1894. Also by 1894 the Roman Catholic parish of Tombstone stretched from Bisbee to Benson. In 1895 Benson got its own church, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (Photo 22). It was built on Block 25 in the heart of what would later become Benson's Barrio. The Knights of Pythias also established a hall on the opposite corner from the church in Block 25. (Dobyns et. al. 1996.)

In 1901 Arizona's Territorial legislature selected Benson as the site for a boys' industrial school. In 1902 a two-story building was constructed to house this reform school. The institution was established to train delinquent boys in trades and gardening. (Dobyns et. al. 1996.)

Post-Railroad Era (1910-1942):

The thirty-year railroad era ended in 1910 when the Southern Pacific Railroad opened a direct line from Tucson to Nogales. In addition, the former Arizona Southeastern Railroad Company, having been incorporated into the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad Company in 1901, changed its route. This left Benson with only one railroad and a great decrease in traffic causing a significant, negative impact on business interests in Benson. (Johns & Strittmatter 1994.)

In the 1920s Benson underwent important changes as it responded to factors that stimulated the town's economy. At that time, substantial growth in automobile use fostered road and highway improvement nationally. In 1921 federally funded work on U.S. Route 80 (now State Route 80) began, improving an existing principal route to gravel road status. Route 80 connected Washington D. C. and San Diego, passing through southern Arizona via Douglas, Bisbee, Benson, Tucson, Phoenix, Gila Bend and Yuma. Benson thus became an important junction point within the national and state highway system

During the 1920s and 1930s Benson's economy further benefited from the increase in ranching and agriculture activities in the area owing to improvements in irrigation technology. This increase in importance of ranching and agriculture brought many people to the region, creating a demand for both residential and commercial building and construction.

In 1922, the Apache Powder Company opened a few miles southeast of town bringing manufacturing to the Benson area and employing many Benson residents. As the largest producer of nitroglycerin explosives in the United States, the company furnished high quality explosives to the mines of Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico.

The Development of the Barrio

Late 1890s through Early 1900s

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and information gleaned by Edward Ellsworth from his grandmother, Aurora Bonillas Mendoza, and other sources, Benson's future Barrio began to develop in earnest between 1898 and 1901. As mentioned, the Barrio grew east of San Pedro Street along both sides of E. Fifth Street. The Barrio formed initially because the Southern Pacific Railroad offered land and employment opportunities and because of the presence of the first Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, built in 1895. In addition, a pattern of Mexican habitation east of San Pedro Street on Block 25 was established by that time (Sanborn Map 1895).

The railroad influenced initial growth of the Barrio west of Gila Street around the year 1900. Aurora Bonillas Mendoza observed that what would later become a cohesive Mexican Barrio originally had two components. "Barrio Americano" incorporated wood frame houses built west of Gila Street (some of which stand today). These "railroad houses" were built by "Americans," that is, employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad who were not of Mexican descent, although some did marry Mexicans. Many of the railroad houses were later sold to families with Spanish surnames and were certainly so owned during the 1960s and 1970s, as indicated on the archival building record cards.

East of Gila Street, however, appeared houses of a different character occupied by Mexican farming and ranching families who migrated from nearby, rural areas along the San Pedro River, especially Tres Alamos. These houses tended to be built of adobe, had contiguous walls and were placed near the front property lines in the Hispanic building style. To Aurora Mendoza, this was the true "Mexican" part of the Barrio.

Initial Barrio Development West of Gila Street

Very important to the early development of Benson's future Barrio was the establishment of two social institutions: the Knights of Pythias and the Catholic Church. Their buildings (no longer existing) were located at each Fifth Street end of Block 25. The first Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (Photo 22) was built in 1895 by Don Miguel José Castaneda, a prosperous hotel owner, and William Ohnesorgen, the former station master at the Middle Crossing of the San Pedro River. While the church served the entire community of Benson and surrounds, it became the undeniable heart of the Roman Catholic Barrio. (See Context).

According to Sanborn maps, residential development in the "Barrio Americano" component started around 1900 on Block 19. Three of the original houses in this block remain while the rest have been replaced by residences built in the 1920s or later. Edward Ellsworth states that 351 E. Fifth Street functioned as a girls' preparatory for home economics. A railroad employee named Benton owned 369 E. Fifth Street. His widow, Ada M. Benton, lived there for many years until her death in the late 1970s.

Associated with 393 E. Fifth Street was Benson's well-known Hi Wo family. Hi Wo came to America from China when he was sixteen years old. From San Francisco to Tombstone to Benson, Hi Wo established a general merchandise store on the northeast corner of Block 19. He married a woman of Mexican descent, Emeteria Moreno, and the couple had several children. In 1905 Hi Wo purchased the house in Tres Alamos for relocation to Fourth Street just north of the Barrio. After Hi Wo's death, in 1941 the family moved the house to its current location (Photo 23).

Three residences were built by 1901 on Block 25 of which only 374 E. Fifth Street still stands.

Initial Barrio Development East of Gila Street

Between 1898 and 1901 several Mexican families established homes along Fifth Street on Block 20 and Block 24. While they had migrated into Benson's future Barrio from San Pedro River irrigation districts like Redington and Cascabel, most came from Tres Alamos. Some early family names were Bonillas, Figueroa, Mendoza, Mejía, Padía, Soza, Lopez, Ruíz, Caballero, Cota and Comadurán. Some of these families, like the Bonillas, Comadurán and Soza families, could trace their ancestry back to the days of the Tucson and Tubac presidios.

These rural families came to Benson to find work. Edward Ellsworth's grandparents' generation worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Benson Smelter. They also engaged in building construction and various trades. Apparently there was a blacksmith in the Barrio during the early days. Some, like the Gauna and Mejía families, owned and operated small grocery and dry goods stores on East Fifth Street where they also resided (Photos 30-32). In addition, built in the early 1900s on the Mejía property, was a concrete jail.

Some did agricultural work on nearby farms and ranches. According to Edward Ellsworth, between 1902 and about 1917, farming took place near Benson in the floodplain of the San Pedro River. Severiano Bonillas, Juan Cruz and Pancho Lopez were among those who worked these farms using an irrigation system and artesian wells. They grew produce for Benson's grocery stores and hay for the livery stables.

The following is information provided by Edward Ellsworth about some of the original Barrio families. ["Original Owners of 5th Street" (n.d.)]

As mentioned, Severiano Bonillas moved his family including his second wife, Juanita, and children, including Aurora, from Tres Alamos in 1902. The family built the residence at 504 E. Fifth Street. Severiano Bonillas opened up a leather shop and a barber operation. In addition, he made musical instruments. Severiano Bonillas had an ancestor connected with the Tubac presidio. He died in 1920 in Benson and is buried at the Seventh Street Cemetery. [Ellsworth "Forgotten Pioneers" (n.d.)] Aurora Bonillas married Reyes Mendoza (see following).

Today's abandoned adobe house at 463 E. Fifth Street is what remains of a set of contiguous-walled houses that once accommodated an extended family from Tres Alamos (Photo 12). Built in1900, its second owners were Genaro Lopez Figueroa and family. His wife was Francisca Celaya, daughter of Policarpio Cota and Damacia Celaya Villa Cota (Photo 24). Both the Figueroa and Celaya families had presidial ancestory.

Relative Ramon Villa Cota was a smelter man for the Benson Smelter who also worked for the railroad (Photo 25). He owned a house (no longer existing) at 439 E. Fifth Street. The property was later owned by nephews, Antonio Celaya Figueroa and wife, Elena, then Antonio Figueroa Meza. The houses of Ramon Villa Cota and Policarpio and Damacia Cota were demolished in 2002 (Photo 26, Photo 27).

The house at 418 E. Fifth Street is currently owned by George Bonillas Ellsworth II and his wife Carolina (Photo 9). The property comprises Lots 25, 26 and 27 in Block 24. The house grew over the years from an original 1900 adobe dwelling on Lot 26. The original lot owner was Lucas Silvas Mendoza, from Redington, who purchased the land from the Southern Pacific Improvement Company March 31, 1902. A skilled adobe mason, Mendoza ran a contractor's business with his sons, Alejandro and Reyes. The house was left to the son, Alejandro S. Mendoza. In the late 1940s, he signed it over to his sister-in-law, Aurora Bonillas Mendoza, widow of Reyes Mendoza. In 1956, the house was signed over to the current owners.

Lucas Mendoza also owned Lot 25, now the east garden of 418 E. Fifth Street, where there was once a house built around 1900. He sold the property to a Euroamerican man named "Red," an architect. The Mendozas worked under Red to build Benson's Industrial School, the reform school for boys. In the 1920s, Reyes Mendoza and Red helped build the Apache Powder plant near St. David, Arizona.

The house that once existed on Lot 27, now the west garden for the Ellsworth property, was owned by Benjamin Caballero from 1910 to 1989. The original house may have been built around 1900 and its owner is not known. (Benjamin Caballero's father, Augustus Caballero, was the territorial governor's secretary and later a sheriff in Tucson. His wife was a Pacheco, descended from the Tres Alamos land grant family.) Benjamin's wife, Rafaela, was related to the Cota family. The lot was purchased by George B. Ellsworth in 1989.

The house at 464 East Fifth Street is associated with the Padia/Ruíz families. Marcelo Galindo Ruíz was head of one of the last families to leave Tres Alamos, arriving in the Barrio around 1910 (Photo 28). The property was passed on to daughter Jesús Bracamonte Ruíz Padia, then to son Frank Ruíz Padia and his wife Beatrice Bernal Padia (Photo 29). The Padia family originally came from Cascabel.

The Mejía family is associated with Lots 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 in Block 20. Until recently, what remained of the Mejía family occupation was a small, ochre-colored, stuccoed residence and secondary dwelling at 481 E. Fifth Street, owned by descendent Katherine Mejía. Originally from Sonora, in the 1880s the family had a nearby, 160-acre ranch that spanned both sides of the San Pedro River. (Brenner 1997.) Then Manuel Mejía and his wife, Rafaela Maldonado Mejía, relocated to the Barrio around the turn of the previous century (Photo 30). They resided on the property and ran a grocery and dry goods store in a false-front adobe building, no longer standing, near Fifth Street (Photo 31). They built several dwellings on the premises.

The Gauna family had a grocery store, just west of the first Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (1895), where the 1949 church building now stands. They resided in the back of their store (Photo 32).

Barrio Development (1920s and 1930s)

In the "Barrio Americano" section, families of Mexican descent increasingly acquired property and on both sides of Gila Street, house ownership tended to remain in the same families. This fostered great stability as the second generation of Barrio families began to own the properties. A number of the families were related. Some of the important names during this era were Comadurán, Blanco, Bonillas, Mejía, Caballero, Mendoza, Meza, Lopez, Ruíz, Padia, Guitierrez, Cota, Moreno Wo and Quihuiz.

After the Apache Powder Company was built, a number of Barrio residents were employed there, a fact that undoubtedly helped during the difficult years of the Great Depression. Also during this era, mom and pop businesses like Deliciosa Café and Quihuiz Grocery Store appeared. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and the Knights of Pythias Hall continued their significant roles.

During the 1920s, small circuses came to Benson, often from Mexico. They set up on vacant Lots 31 and 32, later the site of the Quihuiz Grocery Store.

Barrio Development in the 1940s and 1950s

After World War II the mutual-aid society, Alianza Hispano-Americano, set up in the Barrio. A building to hold its functions was obtained in the form of a barracks from Fort Huachuca. In 1940, the Diaz family built 412 E. Fifth Street, now owned by the Cota family. In 1944, 572 E. Fifth Street in Block 23 was built by Timoteo Olivan and is still owned by the Olivan family. In 1945, Jesús Lujan and his wife Anita Caballo Lujan built 534 E. Fifth Street.

Post 1950s Until Today

Born in 1959, Edward Ellsworth remembers the Barrio when 5th Street was full of children at play. During his childhood, there were sixty-two children and plenty of water fights and other lively activities. He remembers church festivals, street fairs, and other festivities. "We had so much fun!" (See following Context.)

Post 1950s changes in the Barrio included the demolition of a few more first- and second-generation houses. A few have been replaced with recent, modest houses like 163. S. San Pedro Street. There is a mobile home at 475 E. Fifth Street where a 1936 house once stood and, prior to that, a 1900 house. A vacant duplex, 463 E. Fifth Street, remains of the old Figueroa house and its contiguous walled neighbors. Today's historic fabric includes several remaining 1900 houses, numerous second generation homes and a few residences built or modified prior to 1957.

Social Institutions

Knights of Pythias: No longer existing when Edward Ellsworth was a youth, the old Knights of Pythias Hall was still being used during his parents' era. It was a venue for silent movies, dances, banquets and events coordinated with the Catholic Church. In addition, there was a roller rink. Barrio residents attended pageants commemorating important Mexican holidays like the 16th of September and the Cinco de Mayo. "Lock-in" dances were held at the facility in which participants were locked in during the evening and let out at dawn the following day.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church: The following is from "Our Lady of Lourdes – One Hundred Years of Lasting Faith" (1995) by Edward Ellsworth. When the Catholic Church decided to establish a sanctuary in Benson, in 1894 Father Felix Dilly was sent from Tombstone to buy the two corner lots on E. Fifth and Gila Streets. The first Our Lady of Lourdes was completed by 1895 (Photo 22). It became an important institution in the Benson Barrio giving new arrivals the opportunity to become active in the life of the church. The events of the church calendar provided opportunities for worship, celebration and fellowship.

The current or second church (Photo 13) was built just west of the original 1895 church. Construction was completed in January 1949 under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Doyle. The architect was Terry Atkinson of Tucson and the builders were Shorty Martinez and Vern Bell. Volunteer labor from the community was used in the construction, especially during foundation work when the 5 ft. x 5 ft. concrete footings were built. The congregation's perception of the church was that it was designed in a "modified Spanish style" and that the exposed beam and truss ceiling represented the stable in Bethlehem.

After 1949, the 1895 church continued to be used as a parish hall to house the school, social activities and meetings. A church rectory facing Gila Street was built behind the old church in 1950. In the mid- 1960s, the original church was deteriorating and Father Whalen, the church pastor then, made plans to build a new parish hall and classroom building. In 1967, the first church was torn down.

For the expansion he had in mind, father Whalen had the Church purchase the house, on Lots 19 and 20, Block 25, just west of the sanctuary, as well as the adjoining, vacant Lots 21 and 22 (Photo 33). After the house was razed, a new parish

hall was built at the rear of the property with a parking lot installed on the west side of the church, accessed from E. 5th Street. At this time, a new garage was attached to the north end wall of the 1950 rectory.

Monsignor Rosettie, the priest at that time, worked with Abe Samuels to design La Placita de Lourdes, the distinctive stone masonry shrine and adjacent retaining walls just east of the church. Construction was completed in 1976 using rock from the local Whetstone and Dragoon Mountains. Many volunteers worked on the project. The shrine is the focus of a shaded, park-like setting north of the rectory and east of the sanctuary.

Alianza Hispano-Americana: To combat the influence of the nativist organization known as the American Protective Association, a major Mexican mutual-aid society, the Alianza Hispano-Americana, was formed in Tucson, Arizona, in 1894. U. S. nativist groups wished to restrict immigration and exclude Catholics and Catholic foreigners from political positions and certain jobs. Carlos Velasco, a Mexican intellectual and editor of the Tucson newspaper *El Fronterizo*, campaigned tirelessly against such discrimination. He and several dozen prominent citizens of Mexican descent founded the Alianza which grew into the largest Hispanic mutual-aid society in the U. S. (Sheridan 1995)

According to Edward Ellsworth, Benson's Alianza members may have first met in the Knights of Pythias building which they shared with other users. By the early 1950s, the Alianza Hispano-Americana secured its own building - a retired barracks purchased from nearby Fort Huachuca in the late 1940s that had first served as a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. The Alianza building was used for dances, fund raisers, pageants for Cinco de Mayo celebrations, weddings and club activities. In the early to mid 1980s, the Alianza building became a children's day care center first owned by Erasmo Saenz then taken over by Katherine Mejía. Currently under new ownership, the building still functions as a day care center.

Girls' School As mentioned, at one time during its history, the old wooden railroad house at 351 E. Fifth Street served as a preparatory school for girls where home economics was taught.

Jail: Very little is known about the old Jail House, built in 1915 except that it was in use (Photo 15). Edward Ellsworth was told that in 1918, several W.W.I. deserters were captured and imprisoned in this building. One person escaped and fled alongside the Pool Hall with the sheriff shooting at him.

Commercial Enterprises

Residents of the Barrio lived just south of the Fourth Street commercial strip and undoubtedly worked in and frequented a number of the stores. Of particular interest was the nearby Hi Wo Company Grocery located at 398 E. Fourth Street, on the southwest corner of Fourth and Gila Streets. The grocery was not only a purveyor of goods but an important social attraction for the community. The family of Hi Wo lived near the Barrio and was very prominent in the community and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. In 1941, the descendents of Hi Wo relocated the family house to 393 East Fifth Street (Photo 23).

In addition, the Barrio was noteworthy for several, isolated, "mom and pop" commercial businesses that sprang up along E. Fifth Street and nearby in the 1920s and 1930s. Barrio residents used the nearby W. D. Martinez General Store, a small, neighborhood-oriented commercial building built in 1921 on the west side of San Pedro Street. (National Register listed in 1994, this building is not part of the Barrio district.)

The former Quihuiz's Grocery was owned and operated by Rafael Figueroa Quihuiz and family who lived in quarters at the rear of the building (Photo 34). The grocery was in business from the 1920s until 1955 and shows on the 1931 Sanborn map. Rafael Quihuiz was born in Benson in 1889. At the age of fourteen, he began working for the Maier Brothers, merchants who ran a business on E. Fourth Street, where he learned about merchandizing. Mr. Quihuiz then ran a couple of businesses including a grocery in the G. W. Martinez building before occupying the Fifth and Gila Street store. At first he handled general merchandise and later just dealt in groceries and meats. ("Rafael Quihuiz Retires from Business" n.d.) Recently the building was converted into a residence.

Deliciosa Café at 498 E. Fifth Street was run by Diego and Angelita Gutierrez and still operating when Edward Ellsworth was a youth. The building was constructed around 1936 by Leandro Leon. It does not show on the 1931 Sanborn Map. (The first Delicosa Café was located in the old "railroad house" at 374 E. Fifth Street.) The small restaurant also offered

grocery items like bread, sugar, milk and package liquor. The present owners are the Alvarez family, including the granddaughter Gloria Comadurán Alvarez. (Ellsworth "Original Owners" n.d.)

Vacant 480 E. Fifth Street was the Pool Hall. Originally owned by José Ruíz Lopez, it was built in 1936 according to the building record card. After its use as a pool hall, the building was a rental. It was owned by Paulina Lopez and then by the son, Joe Padia Lopez and has remained in the Lopez family until recently.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

HISTORIC CONTEXTS

"Del Ranch al Barrio"

The creation of Benson's Barrio exemplified a local, Mexican response to what was really a worldwide industrial movement involving the migration of people from rural areas into cities. The tendency for people of Mexican or part-Mexican descent to group together in urban enclaves in southern Arizona resulted from complex factors.

In a typical southwestern pattern, rural, pioneer Hispanic families often sprang from a fluid, frontier society where close ties and intermarriage between Euroamericans, northern Europeans and people of Mexican descent were common. Once settled in town, these families were considered to be "Mexican" and found themselves residents of Mexican enclaves. The pioneer families that settled in Benson's Fifth Street Barrio wanted to live close to each other in family groupings and be near the Catholic Church. Nonetheless, distinctive and colorful Mexican neighborhoods like this Barrio resulted from discrimination as well as voluntary congregation. This phenomenon is explained in Thomas Sheridan's *Los Tucsonenses* (1986).

> Of course, plenty of Tucsonenses had no desire to leave the barrios...(that) offered them both identity and security, protecting them against some of the most overt manifestations of subordination or discrimination. The barrios also gave Mexicans a chance to recreate portions of the cultural and geographic landscapes they had known in Sonora or rural southern Arizona. Within barrio boundaries, Spanish was spoken and traditional religious beliefs were respected. Extensive networks of family members and *compadres* also were available nearby. Food, labor, and tools could be exchanged. Children could be cared for in the home of a sister, an aunt, or a cousin. Chickens, goats, and dairy cows could be raised, and gardens of corn, beans and vegetables cultivated. In short, the barrios allowed Mexicans to work in Tucson yet live in a world of Sonoran touchstones and close kin. The society which flourished in these neighborhoods was never an exact replication of Hermosillo or Altar or the San Pedro valley, but at least it provided some continuity with the past.

The presence of the Alianza Hispano-Americana in Benson's Barrio was a characteristic response. Starting in the late 19th century, Hispanic mutual-aid and fraternal insurance companies began to appear in southwest urban centers. These societies were a response to the stresses of migration from rural areas into cities. Immersed in strange and hostile environments, immigrants were forced to create new institutions that provided them security. The *mutualista* movement embodied cultural pride, morality and a desire to improve conditions of Mexicans living in the United States.

Membership in the Alianza offered psychological and material benefits. Low-cost insurance protected working-class families during major crises. Especially strong during World War I through the 1930s, at its zenith the Alianza included more than 17,000 members in local chapters across the western United States and northern Mexico. In spite of its success, the Alianza never became a major political movement. (Sheridan 1986.) The Alianza undoubtedly played an active role in Benson for many years and, as mentioned, occupied 505 E. Fifth Street soon after World War II.

The Catholic faith has remained one of the primary bastions of Mexican culture. Edward Ellsworth claims that before Benson was established, rural people in scattered homesteads would congregate at a central location to worship. When there were enough children to baptize or participate in the First Holy Communion, a priest would be invited to officiate. Eventually, a *capilla* (small chapel) might be built for a small community.

Barrio social life followed the calendar of the Catholic Church. Saints days were celebrated. Important celebrations included the days of San Juan, San Ignacio, Our Lady of Lourdes, San Francisco, the Holy Child of Atocha and the Feast of the Holy Cross. These celebrations involved *velarios,* praying all night before the feast day, followed by a feast. Neighborhood women would join together to prepare festive meals of *tamales*, *enchiladas*, *menudo, empanadas* and hot chocolate. Often groups of families would celebrate together. There were Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations. Symbolizing the search by Mary and Joseph for a place to give birth to the Christ child, the traditional *posada* was held. Families also quietly honored their dead by visiting graves at the Seventh Street Cemetery on the Day of the Dead in early November.

These communal celebrations remained strong in the Barrio up through World War II; then they gradually died out. Today, a number of the Barrio residents remain involved with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and honor saints privately in their homes and gardens.

The Knights of Pythias also contributed greatly to Barrio social life. In the 1890s a dance for Euroamerican and Mexican-American couples in this hall could well be the highlight of the season. Benson's vibrant, Mexican festival of San Juan attracted local residents and people from the San Pedro River area to participate in festivities. Mexican songs were sung and hotly-contested horse races were held. (Dobyns et. al. 1996.)

Barrio social life focused very much around street activities. Fifth Street itself functioned as a Mexican "plaza." It was the locus of social interaction between neighbors and teamed with children at play. It could be closed off for special functions. Lively street dances took place there as well as coming-of-age celebrations for girls. For the latter, live doves contained in large clay jars were released. For street festivities, neighbors made beer, wine and fancy foods. There was also a considerable amount of bootlegging and gambling in the Barrio.

Mexican and Euroamerican children attended the same schools in Benson. Barrio children of Edward's grandmother's generation attended a school located on Sixth and San Pedro Streets while Edward's parents' generation attended the old Benson Grammar School on Patagonia and Eighth Streets (this school was torn down in the early 1980s). At one time, Spanish-speaking students were relegated to a "baby class" in the school basement and commonly suffered from discrimination.

Architecture

Barrio Settlement Pattern

Two different planning traditions have prevailed in Benson's Barrio; the Euroamerican and Hispanic. Euroamerican lot utilization commonly places detached dwellings within setbacks some distance from property lines. This contrasts greatly with the typical zero-lot-line, urban tradition of the Hispanics. "Railroad houses" in "Barrio Americano," west of Gila Street, were set back from the front and side property lines. In contrast, some of the early houses in "Barrio Mexicano" in Blocks 20 and 24, were contiguous-walled and located close to the front property line, a typical Hispanic pattern. Likewise, it is common to mix commercial and residential buildings. Throughout its history, this ingrained cultural pattern of building emplacement with mixed usage has manifested itself on some of the urban lots in Benson's Barrio east of Gila Street as well.

Architects

Architect Terry Atkinson arrived in Tucson in the 1940s. At different times, this prominent designer worked for established Tucson architects like Roy Place, Art Brown and William Starkweather. He had strong social connections and undertook many projects for the Catholic Church. Tucson buildings designed by Terry Atkinson include several on the University of Arizona campus like the College of Architecture, the old College of Law and the College of Nursing. Atkinson also designed the old Tucson International Airport building, Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church and numerous bank branches. (Jeffery 2005.)

Building Types & Styles

Prior to the arrival of the Euroamericans after the Gadsden Purchase, Spanish and Mexican dwellings of the sort encountered in southern Arizona were rectilinear-plan, flat-façade, flat-roofed, detached or row house types generally constructed of adobe or stone masonry. The parapeted, flat-roofed variant was dominant in southern Arizona until the spread of the railroads in the 1880s (McAlester 1989). It is likely that, prior to their migration from San Pedro River irrigation districts into Benson's Barrio, the Mexican families occupied modest, rustic adobe dwellings (with flat or "modernized" pitched-roofs) characteristic of the region's rural areas.

What is known by local scholars as the "transitional tradition" resulted from the cultural interaction between Mexicans and Euroamericans. Transitional dwellings incorporated Euroamerican pitched-roof forms and industrialized materials like dimension lumber and fabricated windows into otherwise Hispanic, adobe types. These dwellings were either newly constructed or resulted from the alteration of earlier flat-roofed Sonoran types. The most obvious modification was the addition of the wood-frame gabled roof.

Geographer Daniel Arreola (1988) has described a combination of traits to identify the Mexican American "housescape," a detached, single-family dwelling (and its immediate surroundings) in an urban barrio in the Southwest. While the dwelling may be a Euroamerican popular type like a Bungalow, separated by setbacks from neighboring properties, the Mexican American stamp is commonly a fence along the front property line; a symbol of "zero-lot line" emplacement. Another cultural trait is the use of bright pastel colors on house exteriors. Some Mexican American families also build religious yard shrines.

Vernacular buildings are commonplace and reflect collective or group ideals. They are products of folk or popular culture. Morphology (form) is the attribute that most easily allows distinction among vernacular property types. Form is a product of a building's footprint (the mark its perimeter makes on the ground) in combination with its wall height and roof shape. This basic building envelope is independent of structure, materials and ornament. (Strittmatter 1998.) Variations in the Barrio's vernacular buildings are described in Section 7.

Integrity

The Benson Historic Barrio appears much the same as it did during its period of significance. Its integrity can be evaluated by examining the following seven qualities:

Location: The Barrio's boundaries and blocks lining E. Fifth Street have not changed and the neighborhood has retained integrity of location.

Design: The form and layout of the Barrio has changed little since the period of significance. The residential lots have not been altered, although some yardscapes have changed. While the yards of abandoned houses are neglected, others have been landscaped. One, in particular, has an outstanding garden. The houses have not been altered, but several contributors have window replacements. Two houses have been removed and replaced by mobile homes. Overall, the integrity of design remains good.

Setting: The setting of the Barrio remains the same as it was during the period of significance. As a linear enclave surrounded by historic residential neighborhoods and Benson's Fourth Street commercial strip, the Barrio retains very good integrity of setting.

Materials: The residences have the same exterior materials they had during the period of significance; in particular wood, composition and metal siding and stucco and painted block. Plant materials, or the lack of them, have changed in the yards, but the materials of walks, curbs, fencing, etc. remain the same. The overall integrity of materials is good.

Workmanship: The Barrio's modest vernacular houses are built in practical fashion, in some cases using local materials like adobe. No doubt, some were hand-built by family members or friends. Wall adornment of the simple facades consists of pastel colored paint. Most of the front property line walls, yard shrines and other Mexican characteristics are hand-built. The Catholic Church retains the high quality workmanship specified by architect Terry Atkinson. The integrity of workmanship is very good.

Feeling: There is still good integrity of feeling in the Barrio. A sense of past time and place prevails due to ownership continuity by long-term Barrio families and Mexican cultural markers found in housescapes. Most important, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church remains the heart and soul of the Barrio. However, increasing deterioration of residences and the introduction of mobile units threaten to detract from this feeling.

Association: The Benson Historic Barrio reflects its integrity of association as a unique Mexican Barrio and conveys the period when it achieved historic importance. Although no longer a vital family enclave, many elements of its past remain.

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Maps

"Map of Southern Arizona in the Late 70's." Traced from a map dated 1879 by G. H. Schneider, Tucson, December 1927. Prepared by Paul Riecker under the direction of 1st Lieut. Fred. A. Smith, Adjutant 12th Infty. Arizona Historical Society Library, Tucson.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
__X__Other
Name of repository: Edward Ellsworth files; JH Strittmatter files.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	12	566660	3537040	4	12	567000	3536820
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2	12	566930	3536970	5	12	566620	3536902
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	12	567018	3536980				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Benson Historic Barrio are shown on Map 1 in the Maps Section. The Barrio comprises houses, lots and other buildings lining E. Fifth Street between San Pedro Street and Route 80. The historic district incorporates lots on the south half of Blocks 19, 20 and 21 and on the north half of Blocks 23, 24 and 25 in Benson Townsite (Map 1). To the north, it ends at the alley behind the E. Fourth Street commercial blocks and to the south, it ends at the alley between E. Fifth and E. Sixth Streets. E. Fifth Street is crossed by Gila Street and San Carlos Street (originally named Catarina Street).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet H. Parkhurst, Ralph Comey and Karen DeLay
organization Janet H. Strittmatter Inc., Ralph Comey Architects date July 19. 2010
street & number 3834 E. Calle Cortez telephone 520-320-9043
city or town Tucson state Arizona zip code 85716
e-mail jhparkhurst@yahoo.com, comeyarchitects@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:	Benson Historic Barrio
City or Vicinity:	Benson
County:	Cochise
State:	Arizona
Name of Photographer:	Ralph Comey, Unknown (Archival)
Date Photographed:	March 2005 and July 2005
Location of Original Digital Files:	Janet H. Strittmatter Inc. archives
Number of Photographs:	35

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1
Barrio Streetscape. Looking southeast.

Photo 2
Edward Ellsworth in his Garden. Looking southeast.

Photo 3
La Placita de Lourdes. Looking southwest.

Photo 4
478 E. Fifth Street. Looking southwest.

Photo 5
Wall at 371 E. Fifth Street. Looking northeast.

Photo 6
Religious Yard Shrine. Looking northeast.

Photo 7
369 E. Fifth Street, a 1900 "railroad house." Looking northeast.

Photo 8
419 E. Fifth Street, a second-generation stuccoed dwelling. Looking northeast.

Photo 9
The Ellsworth House, 418 E. Fifth Street. Looking southwest.

Photo 10
550 E. Fifth Street, a Mexican-influenced pyramidal. Looking east.

Photo 11
387 E. Fifth Street, a second-generation "railroad house." Looking northeast.

Photo 12
Genaro Figueroa House, 363 E. Fifth Street. Looking north.

Photo 13
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Looking southeast.

Photo 14
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, interior. Looking southwest.

Photo 15
The old Jail House. Looking northeast.

Photo 16
Former Quihuiz Grocery Store. Looking southeast.

Photo 17
Former Deliciosa Café. Looking southeast.

Photo 18
Former Pool Hall. Looking southeast.

From Edward Ellworth's archives:

Photo 19
Aurora Bonillas Mendoza.

Photo 20
John H. Montgomery and Maria F. Ruiz Montgomery.

Photo 21
Family of Severiano Bonillas.

Photo 22
First Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Photo 23
Hi Wo's family home in transit.

Photo 24
Francisca Celaya Figueroa.

Photo 25
Ramon Villa Cota.

Photo 26
Demolition of Villa Cota Houses.

Photo 27
Panchito Mendoza.

Photo 28
Ruiz Family.

Photo 29
Ruiz Padia Family.

Photo 30
Card in Memory of Manual Mejia and Rafael Maldonado Mejia.

Photo 31
Wo Sisters at Mejia's Store.

Photo 32
The Gauna Family.

Photo 33
Block 24 Streetscape.

Photo 34
Figueroa Quihuiz Family.

Photo 35
Maria Librada Quihuiz.

Property Owner:

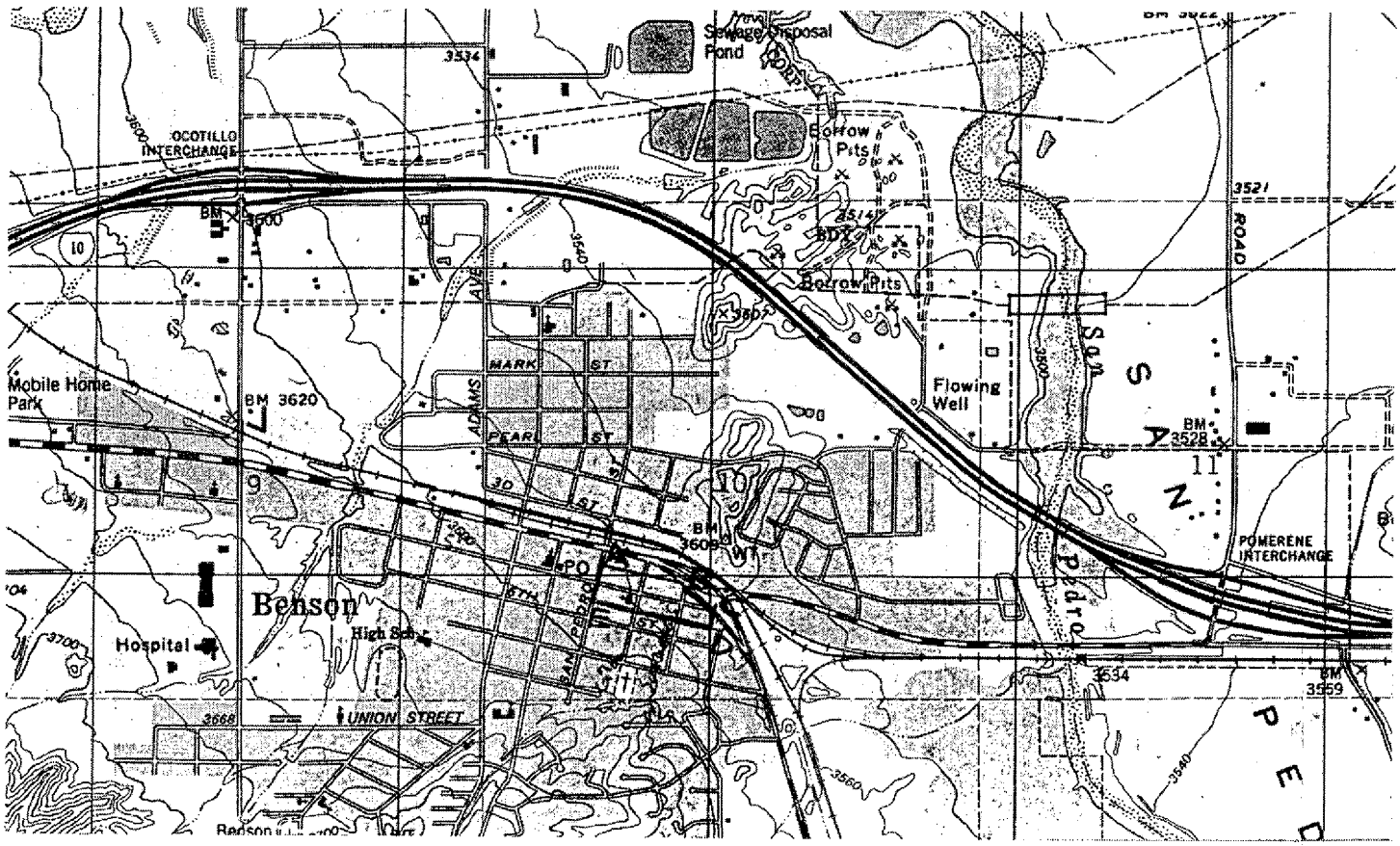
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



DISTRICT UTM'S

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B E566930/N3536970
C E567018/N3536980
D E567000/N3536820
E E566620/N3536902

BENSON, ARIZONA 7.5' MAP

BENSON HISTORIC BARRIO
RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
BENSON, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA

SCALE 1:24 000

1 .5 0 KILOMETERS 1 2
1000 0 METERS 1000 2000
1 .5 0 1
MILES
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000
FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 3 FEET)
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

UTM References
USGS 1996
Excerpt

MAPS

Map 1, Benson Historic Barrio

Map 2, Tres Alamos Archaeological Site Map

Map 3, Map of Southern Arizona in the Late 1870s

Map 4, Benson Townsite 1907

Map 5, Sanborn Map July 1886

Map 6, Sanborn Map November 1890

Map 7, Sanborn Map May 1898

Map 8, Sanborn Map April 1901

Map 9, Sanborn Map March 1909

Map 10, Sanborn Map February 1931

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

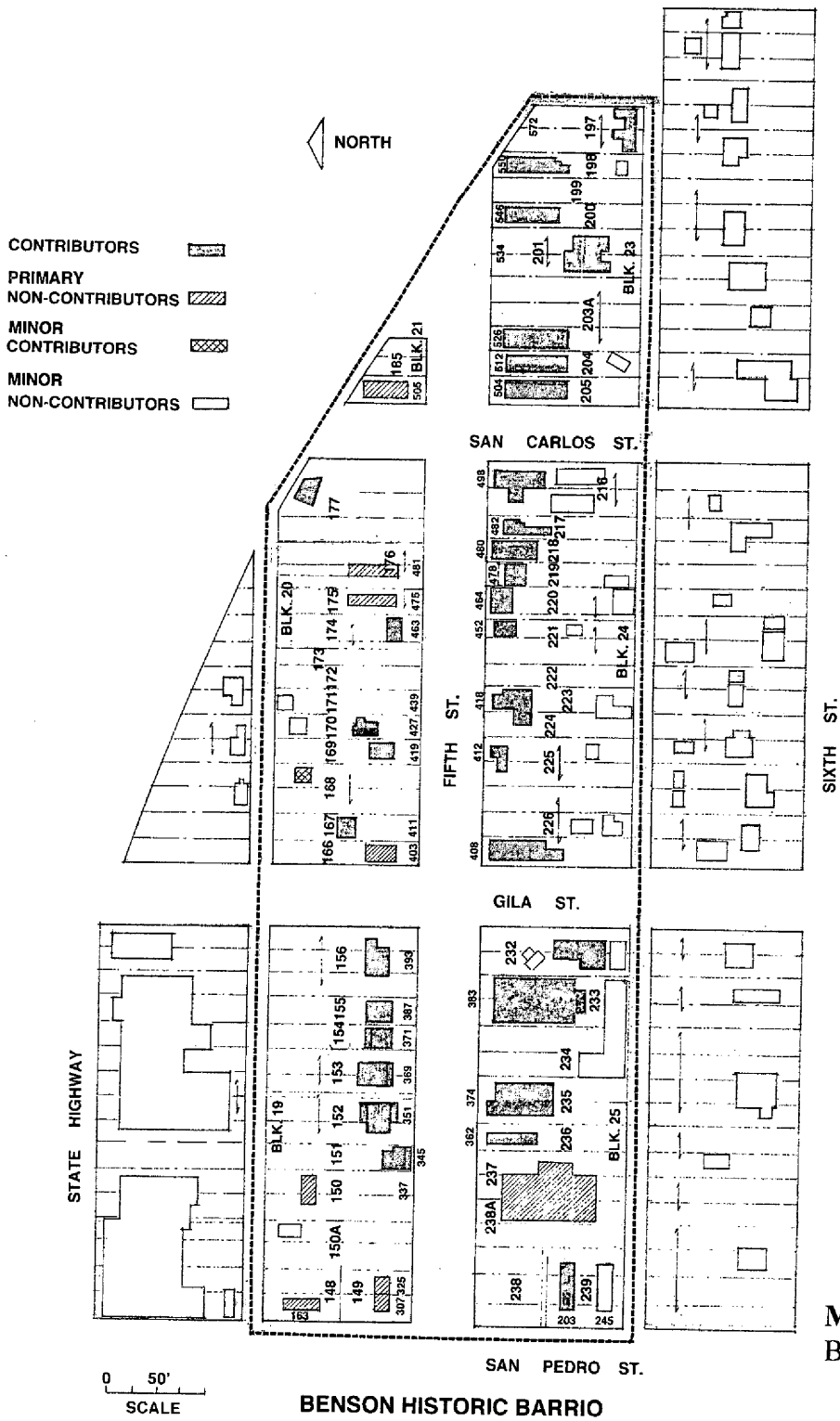
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Benson Historic Barrio
Name of Property

Cochise, Arizona
County and State

Section number Maps Page 31

N/A
Name of multiple property listing



Map 1.
Benson Historic Barrio

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

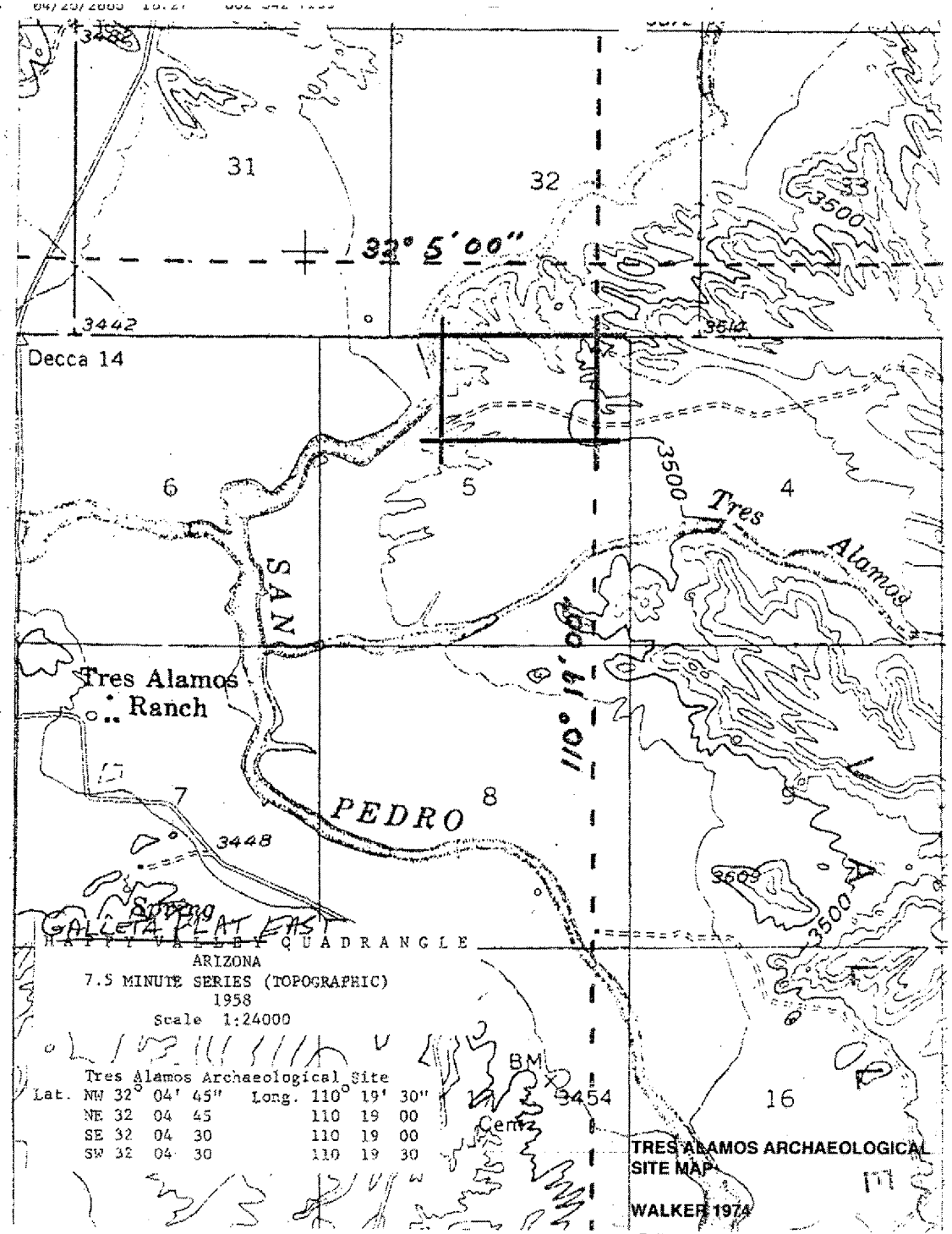
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Benson Historic Barrio
Name of Property

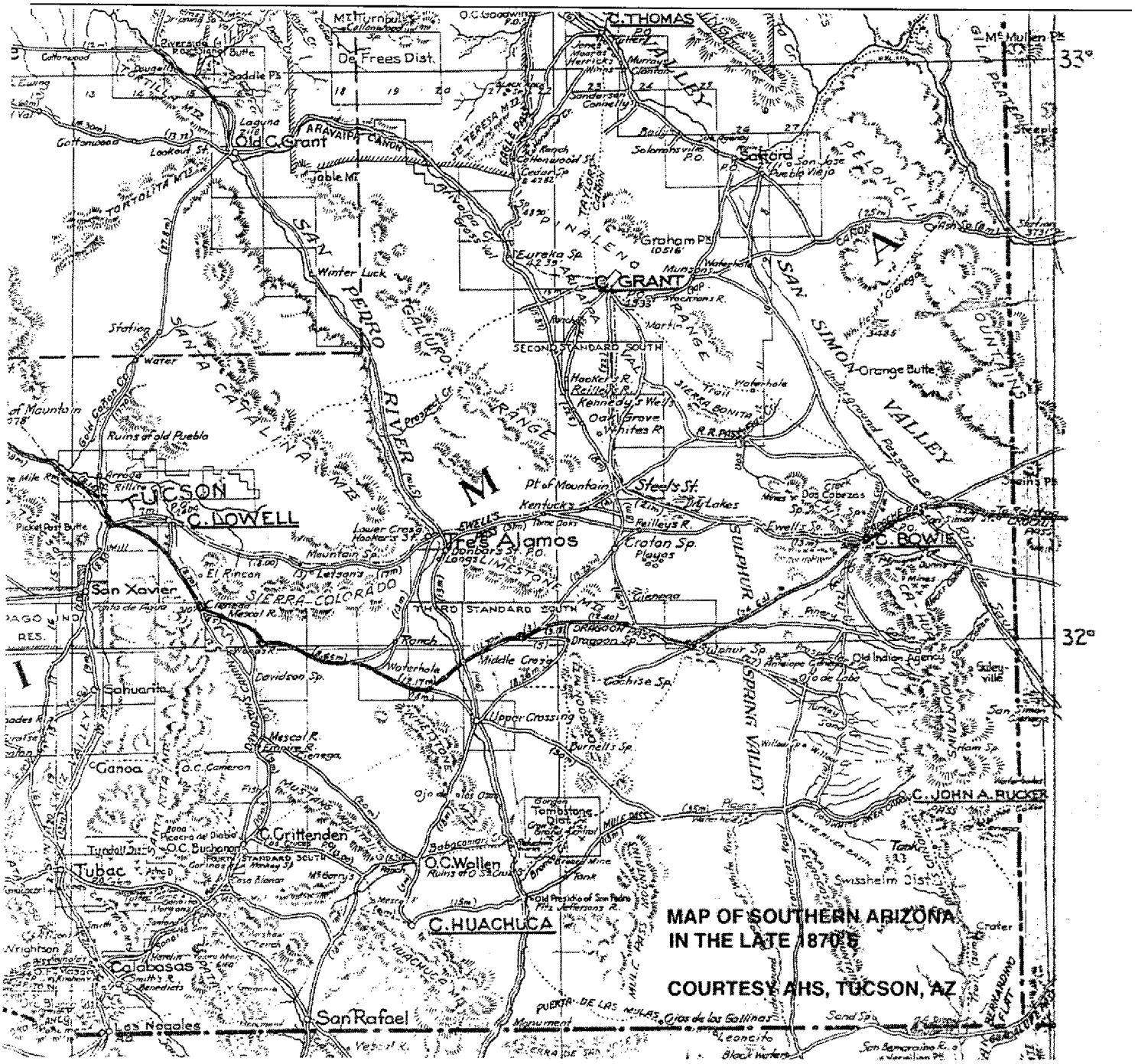
Cochise, Arizona
County and State

Section number Maps Page 32

N/A
Name of multiple property listing



Map 2.
Tres Alamos Archaeological Site Map
Walker 1974



Map 3.
Map of Southern Arizona in the late 1870s (excerpt)
Courtesy AHS, Tucson, AZ

Following Insert:

Map 4
Benson Townsite 1907

State of California, }
City & County of San Francisco } s.s.

Know all men by these presents, that the annexed is an accurate map of a certain sub-division of land into lots for the purpose of sale to be known as the Town of Benson and that the same sets forth and describes all the parcels within said sub-division intended for sale, by number and precise length and width; ALSO all the parcels reserved for streets and alleys, by their boundaries and extent, which are hereby dedicated to the public for its free use and enjoyment.

That said sub-division of land is situated in the S.W. 1/4 of Section 10 T. 17 S.R. 20 E Salt River and Gila River Meridian, and is owned by the Pacific Improvement Company, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said PACIFIC IMPROVEMENT COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its President pro tem and Secretary thereunto authorized and empowered thereto by its by-laws, and sealed with its corporate seal; this 18th day of September 1907.

PACIFIC IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

By H. G. Platt
President pro tem

and A. D. Shepard
Secretary.

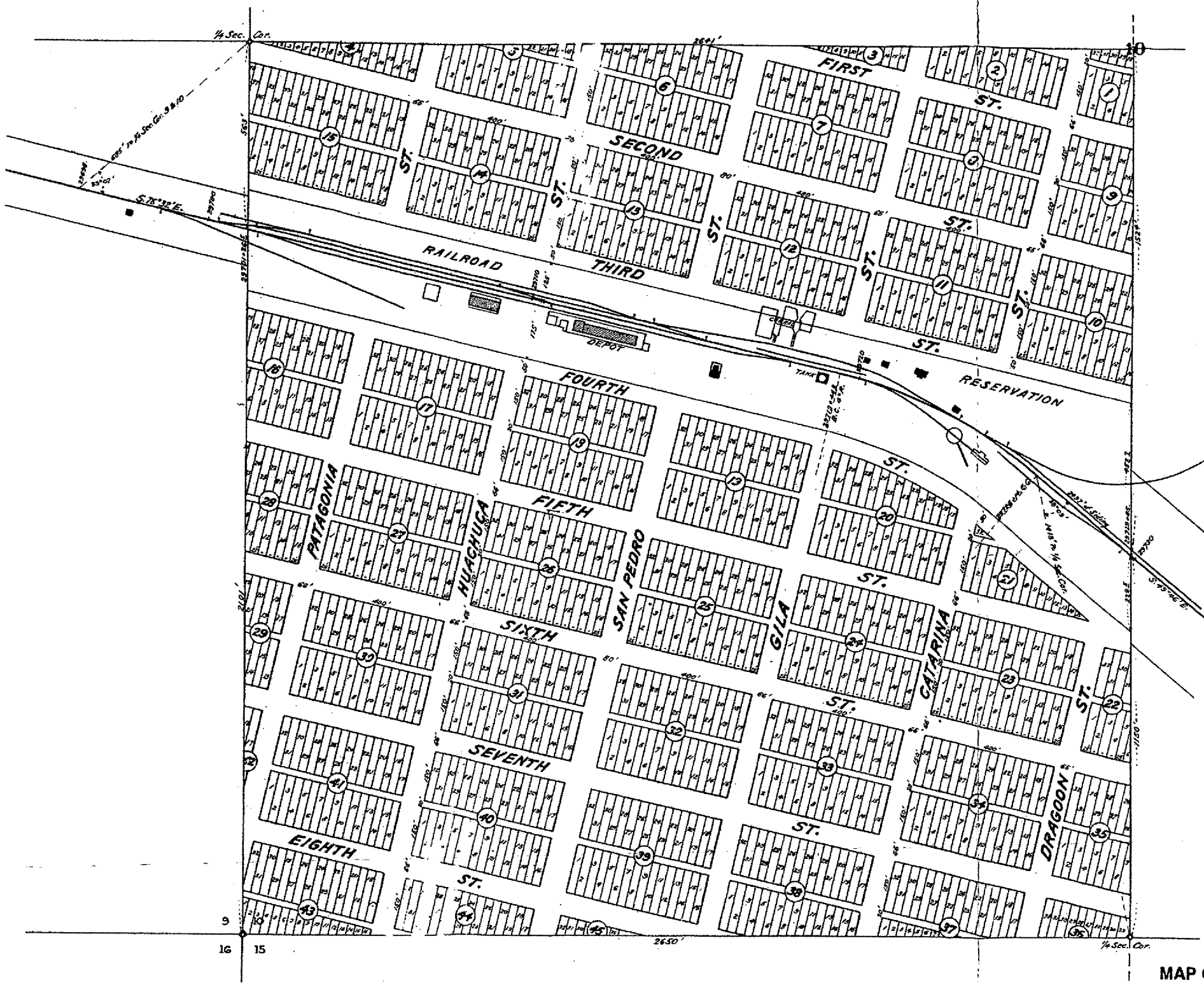
State of California, City and County of San Francisco } ss

On this 20th day of September in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven before me, ADELINE COPELAND, a Notary Public in and for the said City and County, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared H. G. PLATT and A. D. SHEPARD known to me to be the President pro tem and Secretary, respectively, of the PACIFIC IMPROVEMENT COMPANY the Corporation that executed the within instrument, and duly acknowledged to me that such Corporation executed the same.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in said City and County of San Francisco, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

Adeline Copeland
Notary Public, in and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.
608 CROCKER BUILDING

My commission expires May 27th, 1909

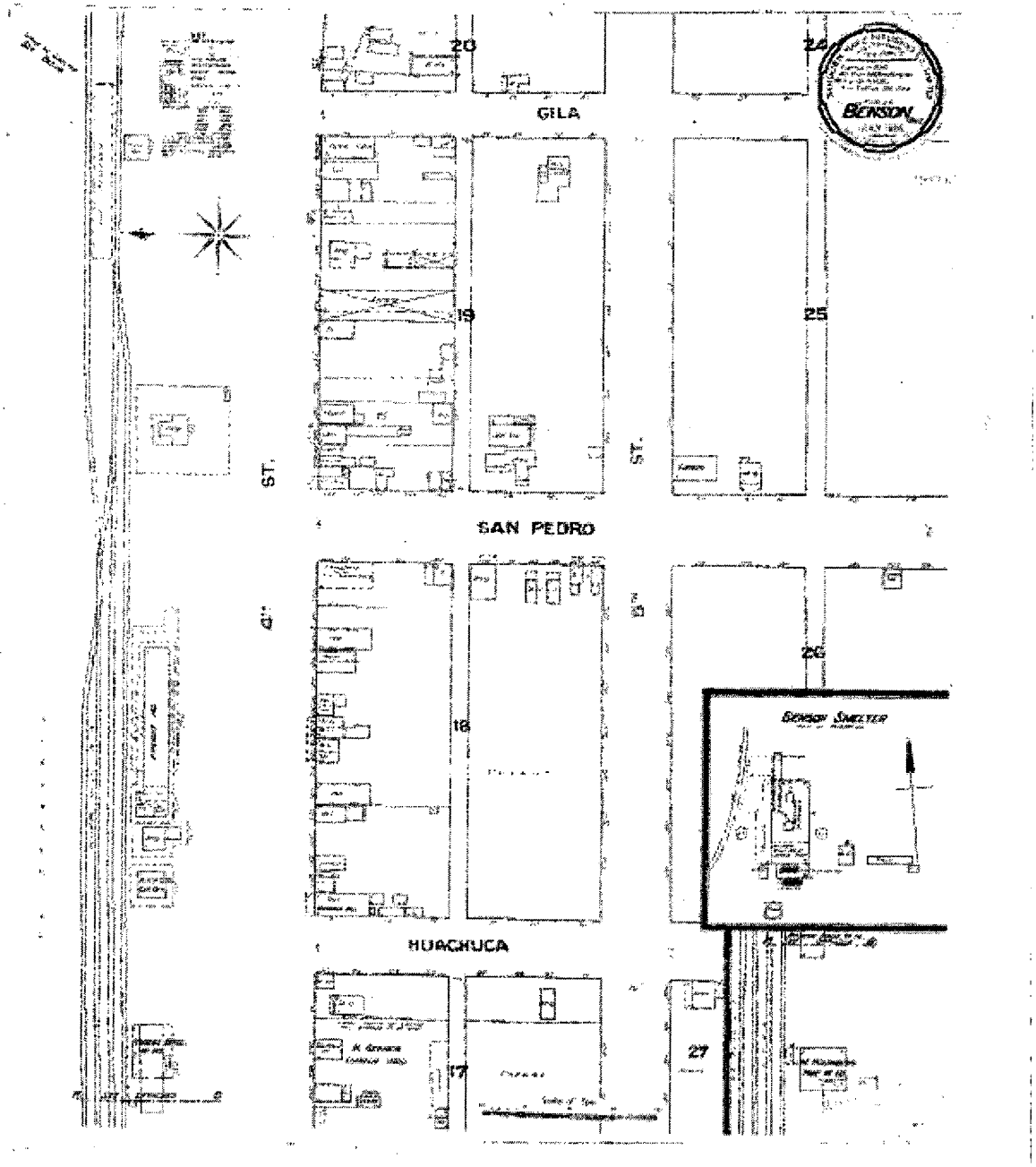


MAP
OF THE TOWN OF
BENSON
S.W.1/4 SEC. 10
AND
ADJOINING LAND
S.E.1/4 SEC. 9
T.XVII S.-R.XX E.
COCHISE CO.
ARIZONA.

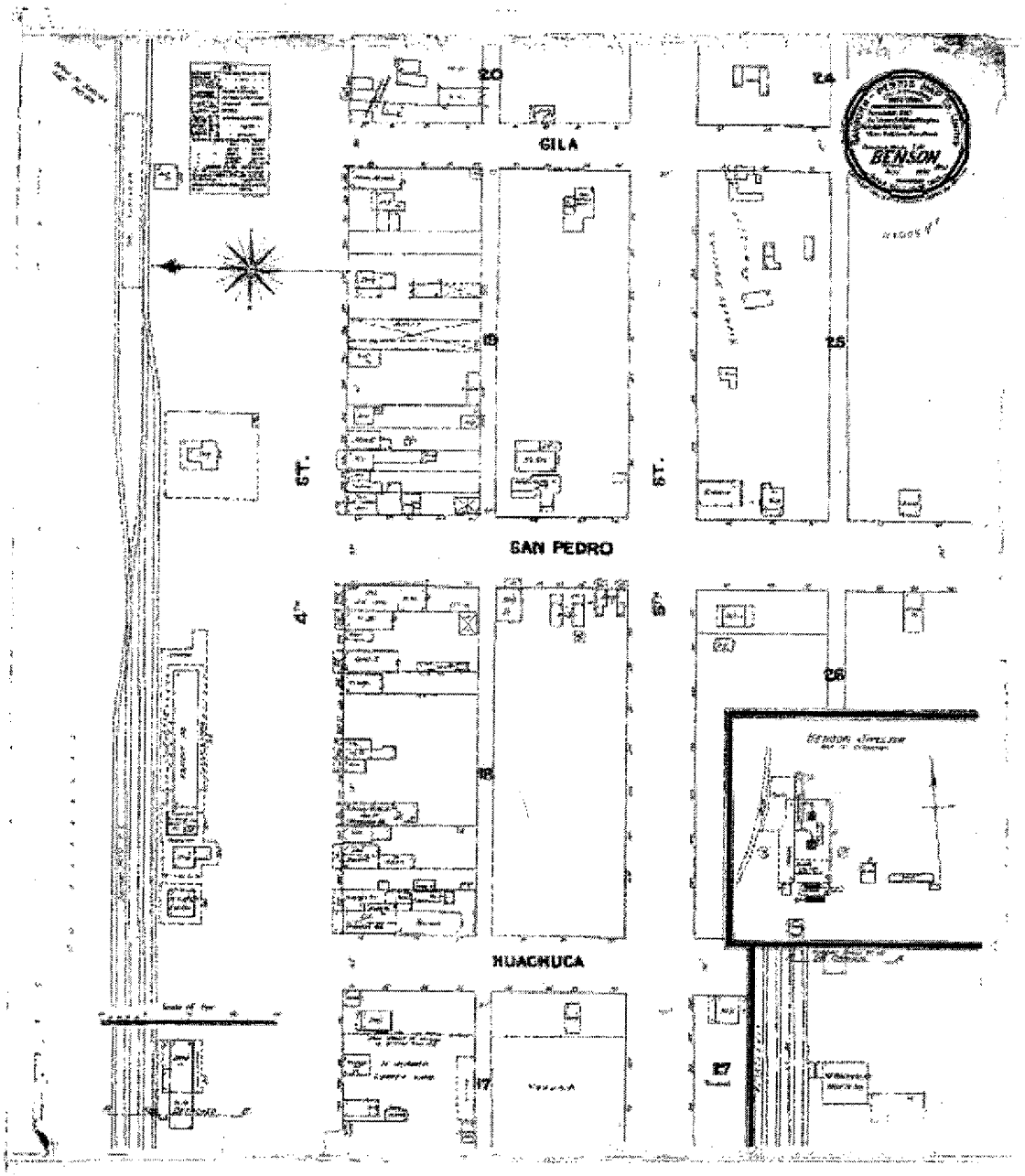
SCALE:
100' 0 100' 200' 300' 400' 500'

MAP OF THE TOWN OF BENSON 1907

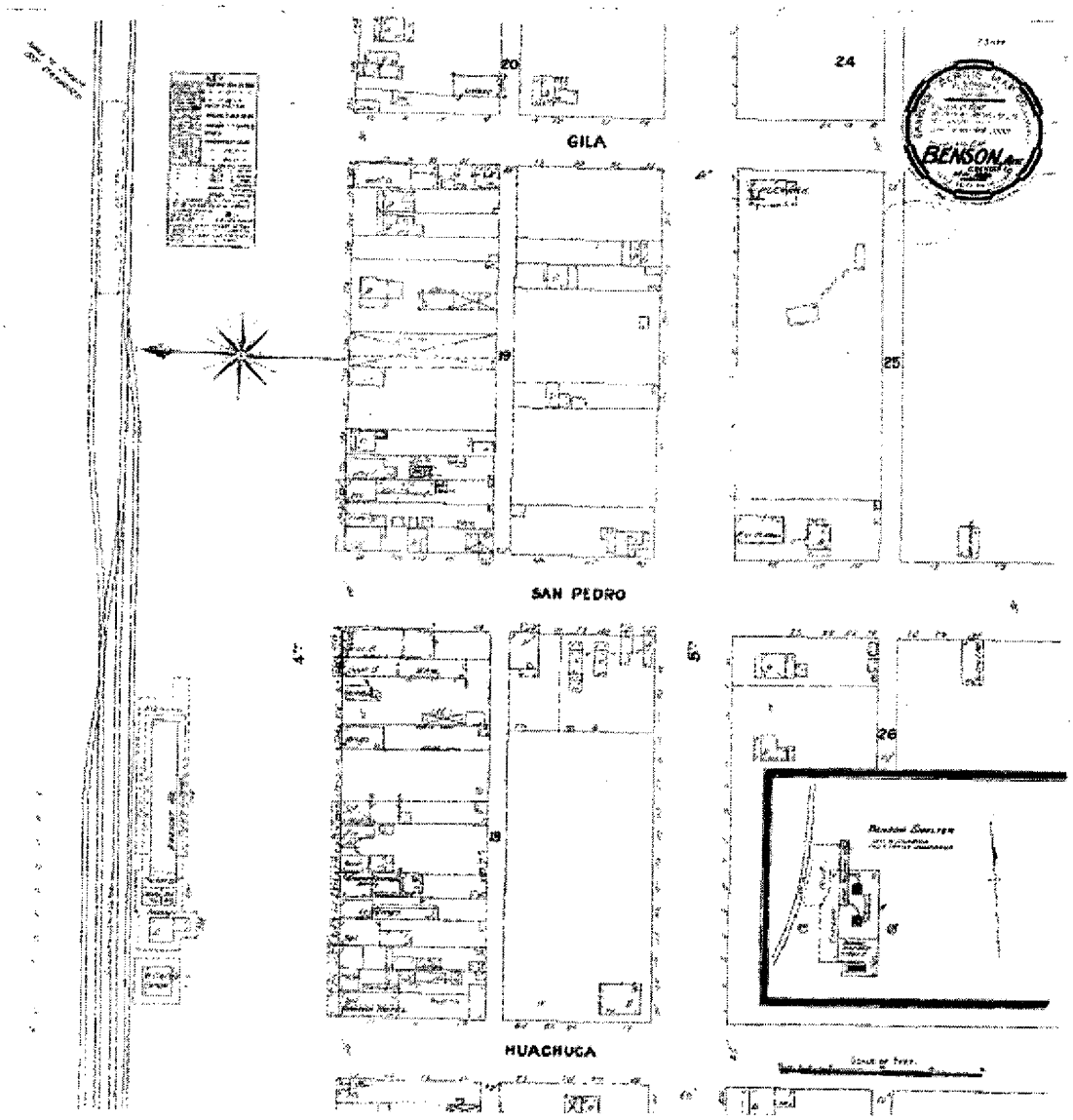
COCHISE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFIC
BISBEE, AZ



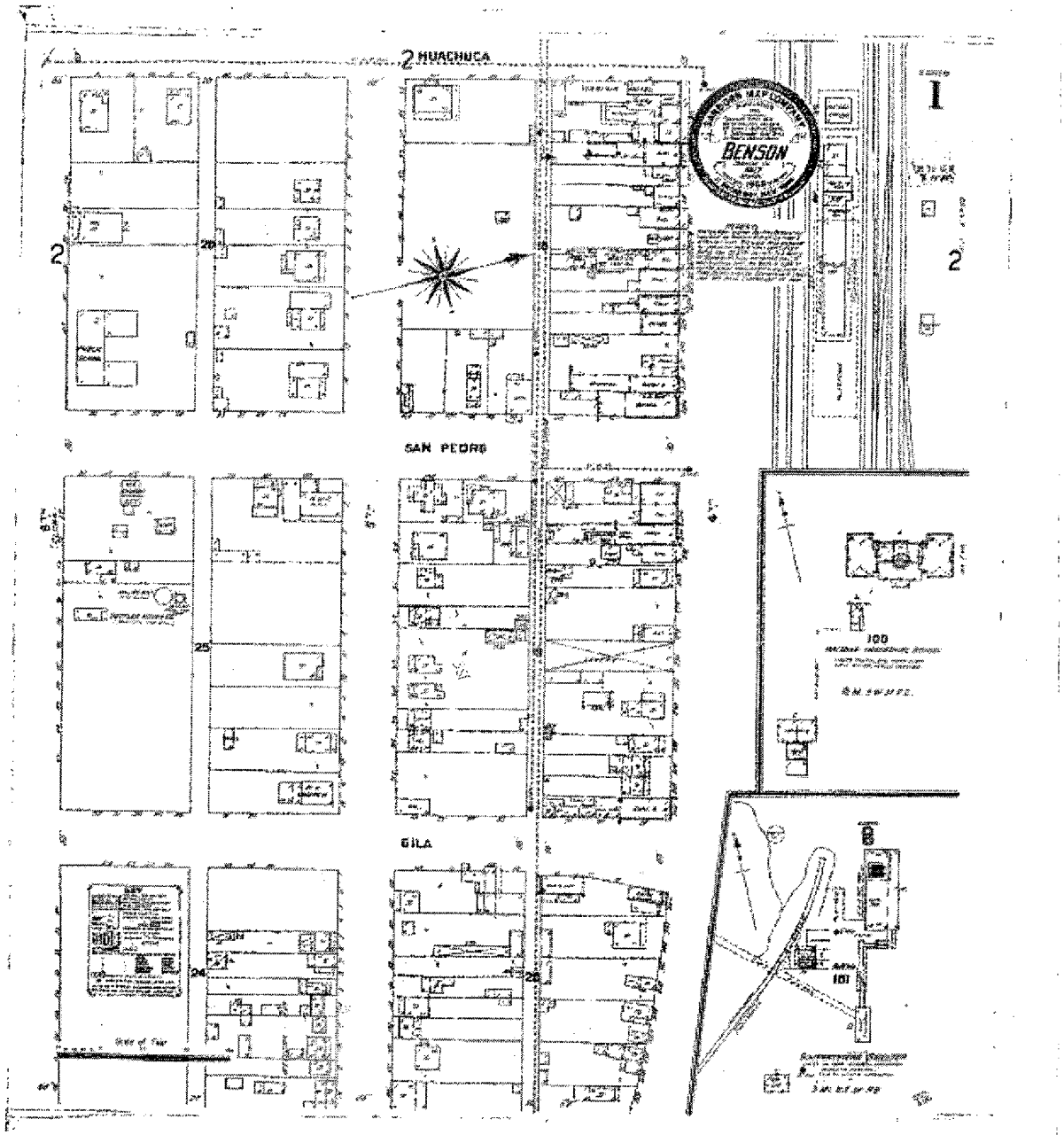
Map 5.
Sanborn Map July 1886
UA Library, Tucson, Arizona



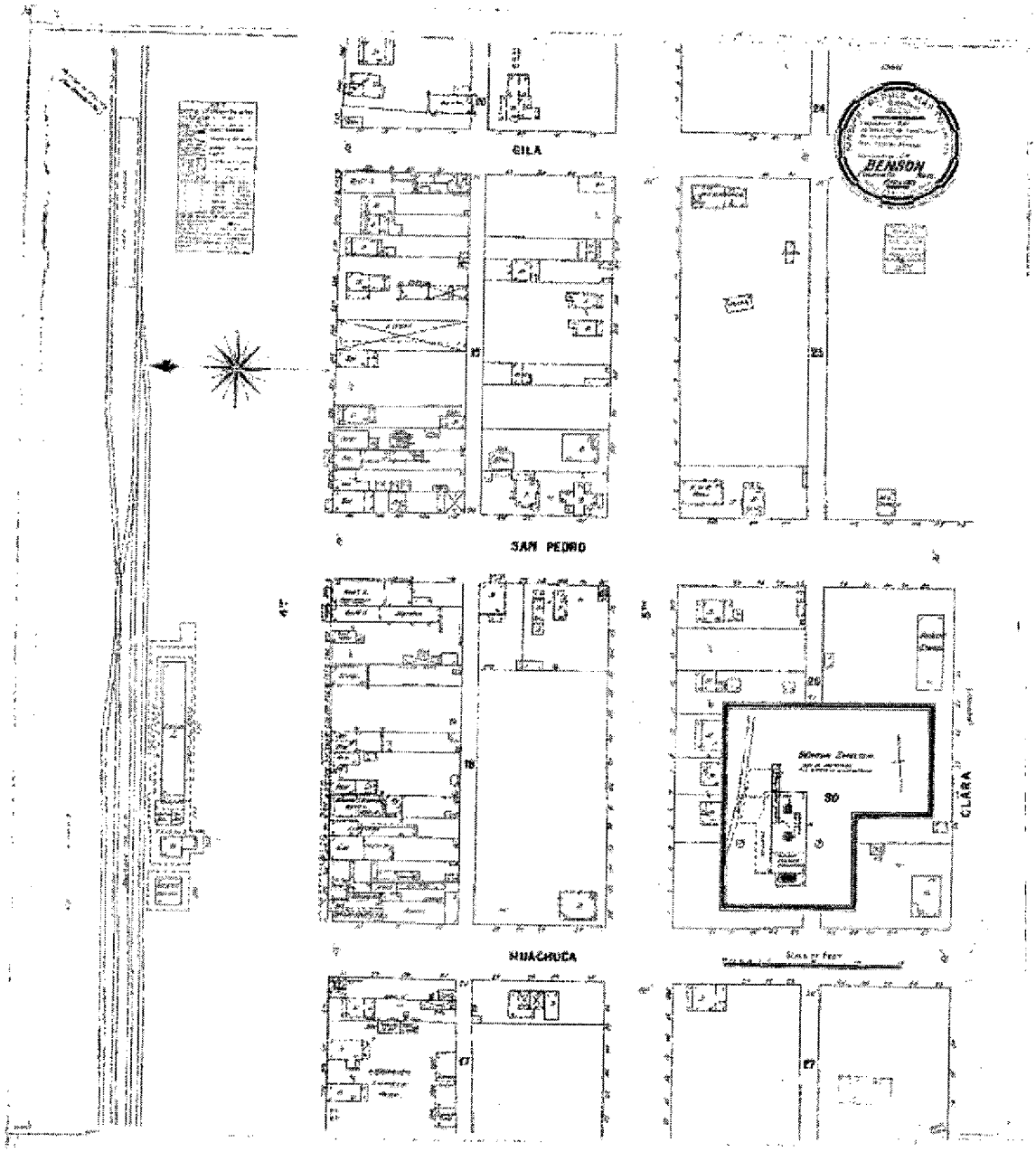
Map 6.
Sanborn Map November 1890
UA Library, Tucson, Arizona



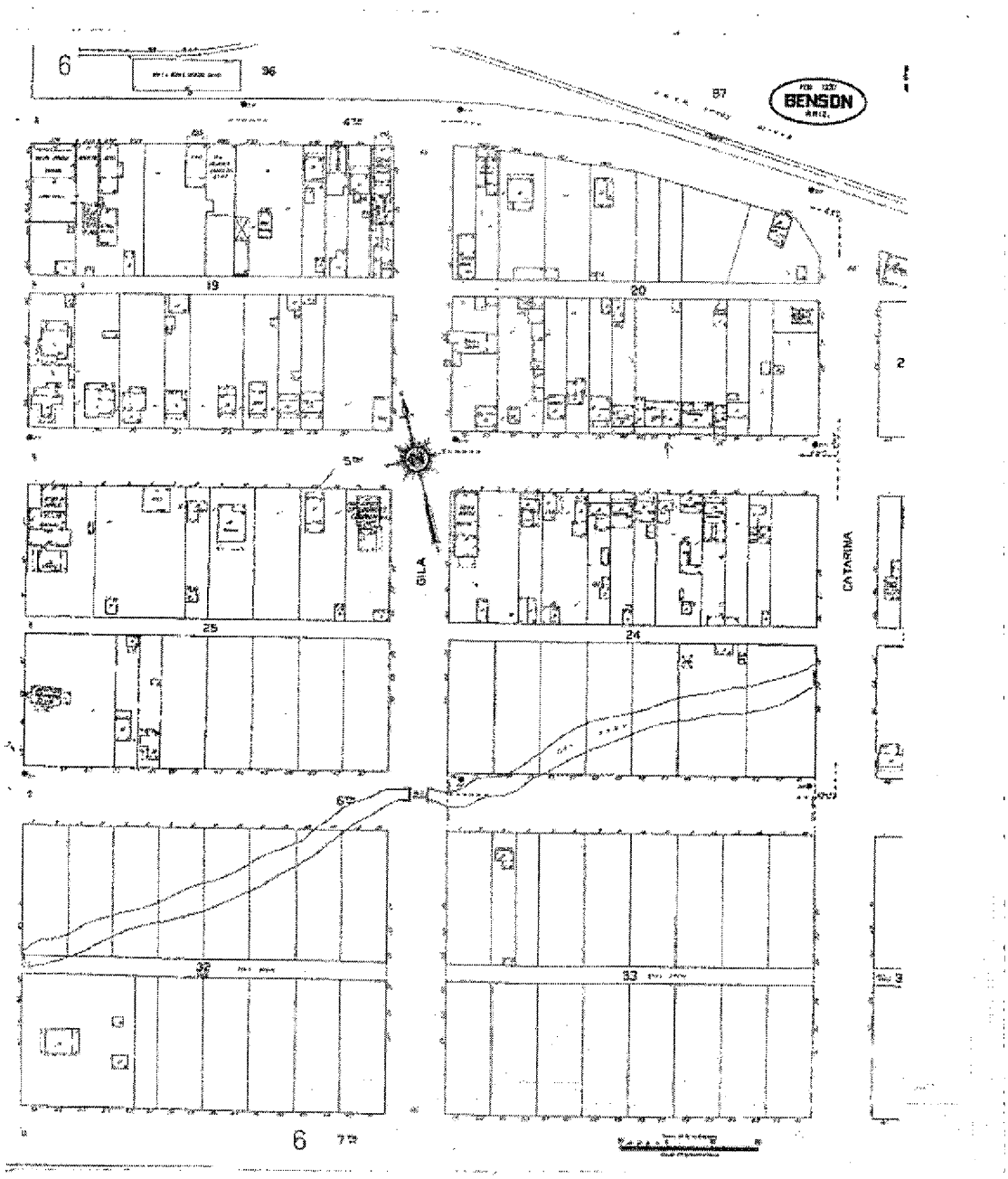
Map 7.
Sanborn Map May 1898
UA Library, Tucson, Arizona



Map 8.
Sanborn Map April 1901
UA Library, Tucson, Arizona



Map 9.
Sanborn Map March 1909
UA Library, Tucson, Arizona



Map 10.
Sanborn Map February 1931
UA Library, Tucson, Arizona

Edward Frederick Ellsworth

Edward F. Ellsworth has been associated with Benson's Barrio and his family home at 418 East 5th Street his entire life. He was born in 1959 in Dr. Hesser's Clinic at Huachuca and 7th Streets. Edward is the youngest of four brothers born to George Bonillas Ellsworth II and Carolina Acuna Ellsworth (Photo 1C). His brothers are George III, William and Ronald.

Edward's father, George, was born in the house at 418 East 5th Street in 1929. He is the son of Aurora Bonillas Mendoza, originally from Tres Alamos, and George Ellsworth I, who was born in Benson in 1906. Edward's mother, Carolina Acuna Ellsworth, was born in Douglas in 1930.

Edward's grandmother, Aurora, was a sometimes feisty woman of many talents who lived to be 100 years old (Photo 1D). An avid gardener, this skill she no doubt acquired as a child in Tres Alamos and passed on to Edward. In 2004, Edward's lush, carefully groomed garden won first place in Benson's Garden Show (Photo 1B).

Edward Ellsworth worked for the Benson Public School system. He is actively involved with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Recently he has participated in the 7th Street Cemetery project, a comprehensive effort undertaken by the Benson Historical Society and the City of Benson to locate and identify graves of early Benson citizens. Mr. Ellsworth has gathered an extensive amount of information, including obituaries and historic photographs, about numerous families, many of which resided in Benson's Barrio.

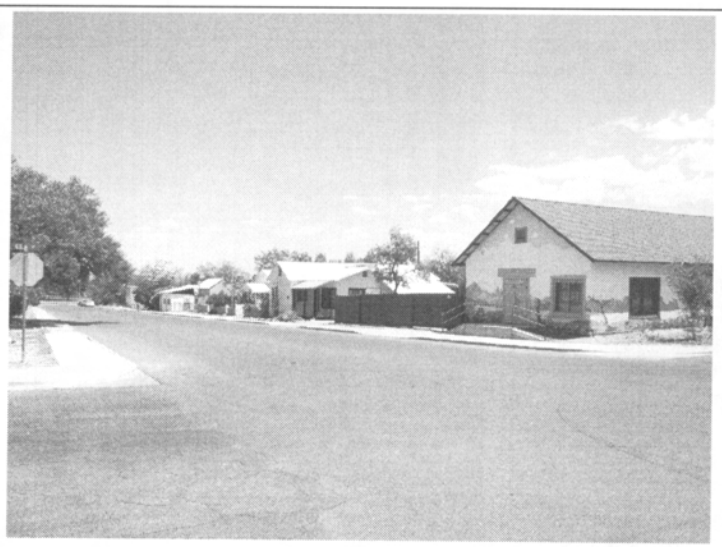


Photo 1. Barrio Streetscape. Looking southeast from the intersection of E. Fifth and Gila Streets towards buildings in Block 25. The building with the red gabled roof on the corner is the former Quihuiz Grocery Store.

Photo 2. Edward Ellsworth next to crepe myrtle planted for Aurora's 100th birthday. He holds a portrait of San Ysidro, patron saint of farmers. At this time, Edwards is hoping for rain.

Photo 3. A view of La Placita de Lourdes showing the stone masonry retaining wall, lush lawn, Italian cypress and other plantings around the Shrine Grotto.

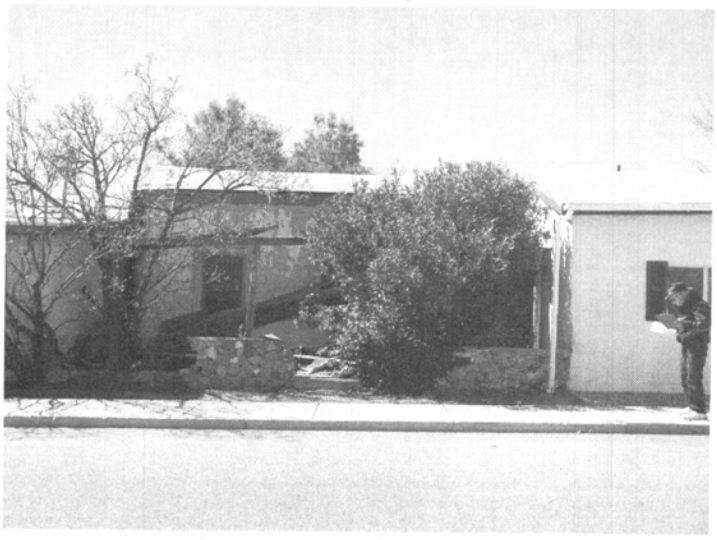


Photo 4. 478 E. Fifth Street. This transitional, side-gabled massed-plan dwelling is placed so that its walls abut those of its neighbor, a Mexican settlement trait. 464 E. Fifth Street, next door, is placed very close to the front property line.

Photo 5. Unique, hand-poured wall marking the front property line of 371 E. Fifth Street. Note also the green painted house walls. Both the garden wall and the pastel color of the house walls are Mexican cultural traits.

Photo 6. Religious yard shrine at 387 E. Fifth Street, an important marker of Mexican settlement.

Photo 7. 369 E. Fifth Street. A 1900 "railroad house" west of Gila Street. This is a gable-front, massed-plan dwelling, a Euroamerican vernacular type. Built of frame, it may be an example of "box construction."

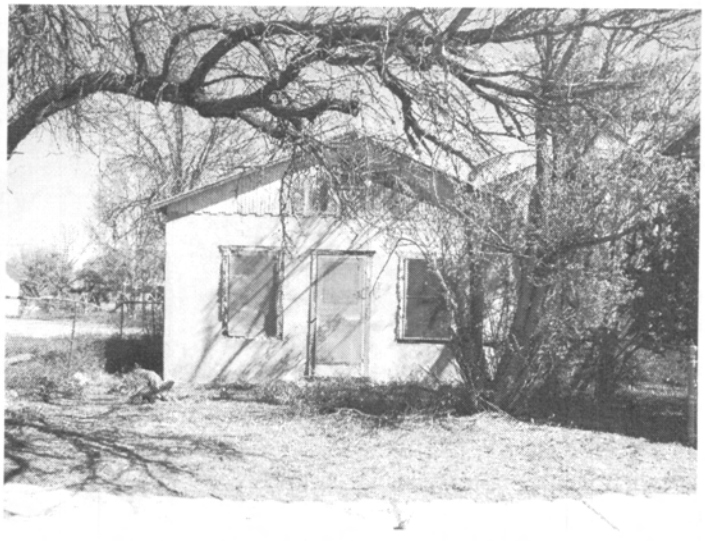


Photo 8. 419 E. Fifth Street. A second-generation, front-gabled, tan colored, stuccoed dwelling built in 1928 by Joaquin and Ana Figueroa Meza. The dwelling has only two rooms.

Photo 9. 418 E. Fifth Street, the Ellsworth House. This gable-front, massed-plan dwelling acquired its current form and front porch through a 1950s remodel of the original ca. 1900 adobe walls. The siding is painted a vibrant mint green color.

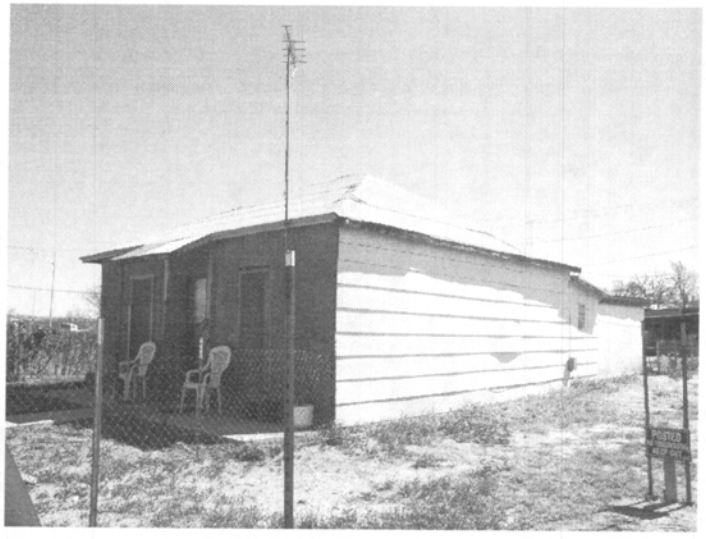


Photo 10. 550 E. Fifth Street. This is a classic pyramidal cottage built in 1930 of stuccoed adobe. The west wall has blue, horizontal, composition siding.

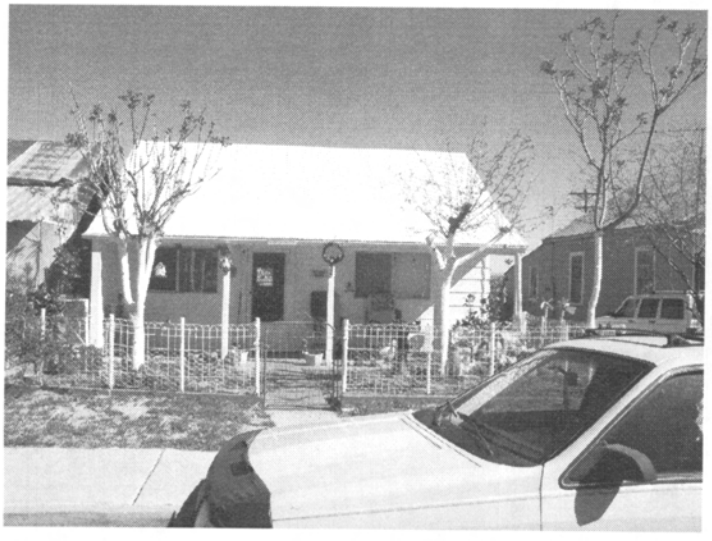


Photo 11. 387 E. Fifth Street. A second generation "railroad house" built in 1925. This is a side-gabled linear-plan type with shed additions to the rear.

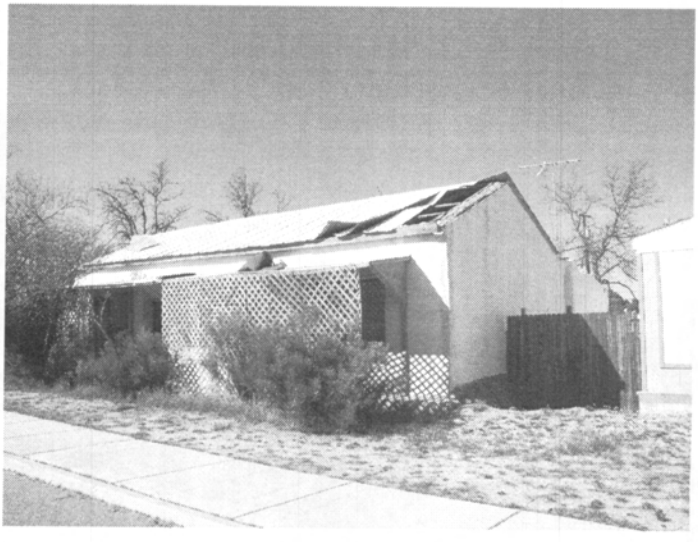


Photo 12. 463 E. 5th Street. The 1900 Genaro Figueroa house was originally a Sonoran, parapet-walled, flat-roofed dwelling. It was later transformed by the addition of a pitched roof, exemplifying the "transitional" tradition.

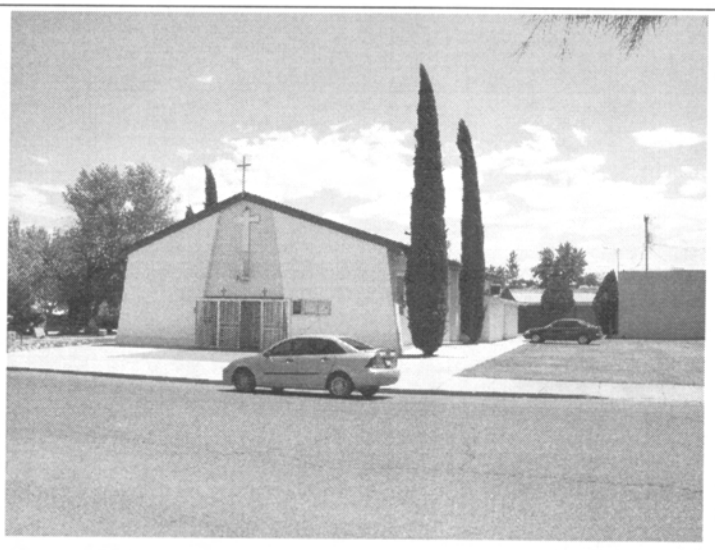


Photo 13. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Located near the center, it is the "heart" of the Barrio.

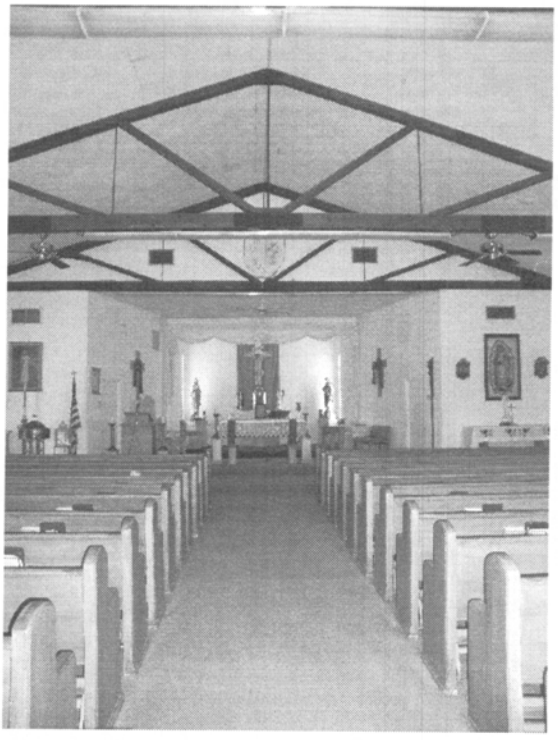


Photo 14. Interior of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. View towards altar showing trusses and oak pews.

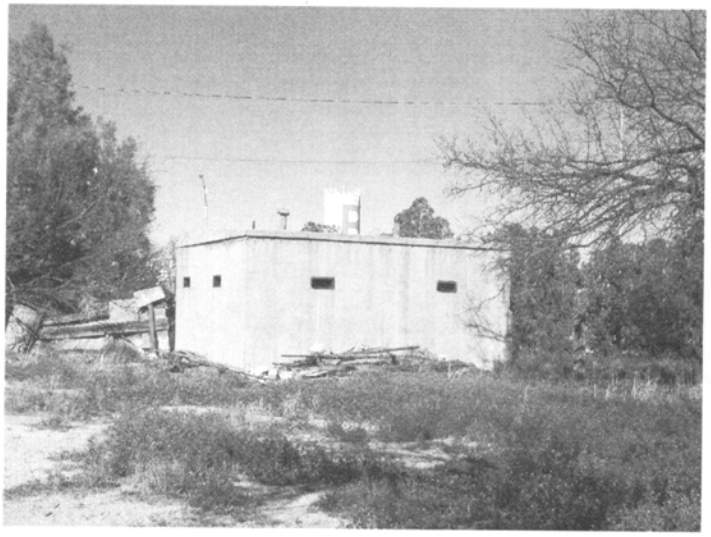


Photo 15. The Old Jail House. Built in 1915, it is located on what was for many years the Mejia property. Constructed of concrete, it has a trapezoidal plan and an overhanging, slightly gabled, concrete roof.

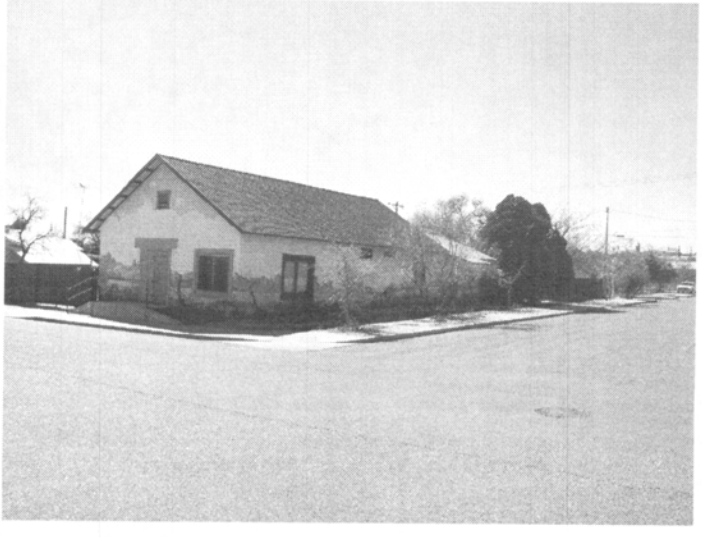


Photo 16. Original Quihuiz Grocery Store, built in 1925. Owned and operated by the Quihuiz family who resided in back. Unusual for a corner commercial building is its elongated, gabled form.

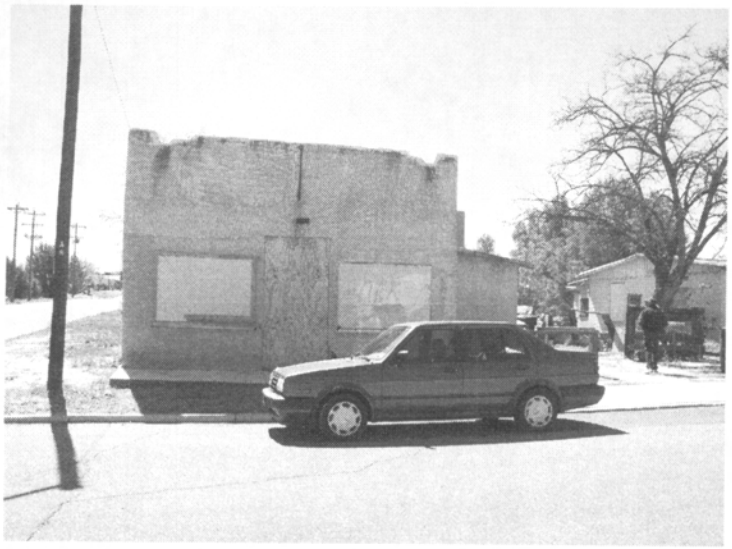


Photo 17. Former Deliciosa Café, now vacant, built around 1936. Owners Diego and Angelita Guitierrez ran a restaurant and package liquor store from the premises. Built of stuccoed adobe, this corner store has large storefront windows, a central entry and sculpted parapets.

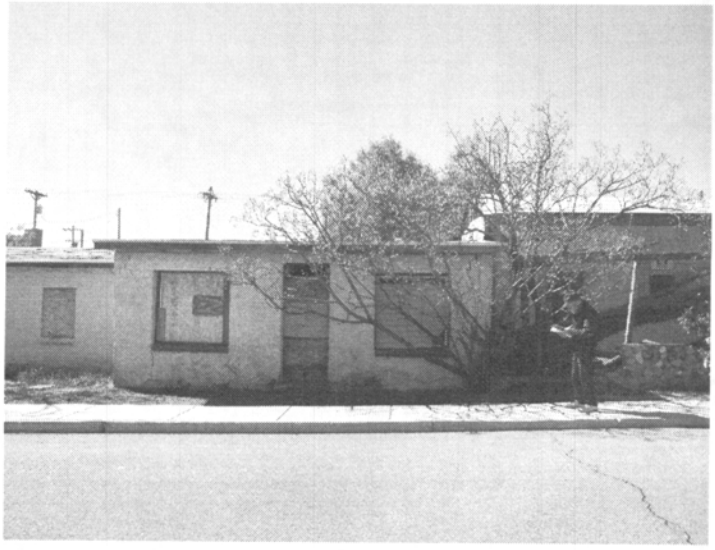


Photo 18. The Pool Hall, built around 1936 by Jose Ruiz Lopez. Currently vacant, it has been owned by members of the Lopez family for many decades. Residential in scale and appearance, this side-gabled, vernacular hall of mud adobe is unusual for a commercial building.

Photo 19. Aurora Bonillas Mendoza. Approximately 1905. .

Photo 20. John Henry Montgomery and Maria Fraijo Ruiz Montgomery, Tres Alamos homesteaders. Prior to 1879.

Photo 21. The family of Severiano Leon Bonillas. From left, Angelita Bonillas Ronquillo, Fernando Leon Bonillas, Cristobal Bonillas (boy), Severiano Leon Bonillas, Rita Bonillas (girl), Gregoria Aurora Bonillas (baby and Edward Ellswroth's future grandmother), Maria Ruiz Montgomery Bonillas. Date unknown (prior to death of Maria).

Photo 22. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, first building. Built on Block 25 in 1895, this modest, Gothic Revival-influenced adobe church served Benson and surrounds and as the heart of the Barrio, probably around 1895.

Photo 23. The home of Hi Wo's family being transported to its current location at 393 E. Fifth Street from its former location on E. Fourth Street. (The 1905 house originally came from Tres Alamos.) January 1941.

Photo 24. Francisca Celaya Figueroa, wife of Genaro Lopez Figueroa. In the early 1900s, Francisca came with her husband and parents, Policarpio and Damacia Celaya Villa Cota from Tres Alamos, to settle in an extended family complex on Block 20. She is associated with today's 463 East 5th Street. Date unknown.

Ramon Villa Cota

Photo 25. Ramon Villa Cota, brother of Francisca Celaya Figueroa. Ramon was a smelter-man for the Benson Smelter. His house was attached to the west end of the extended family complex. Date unknown.

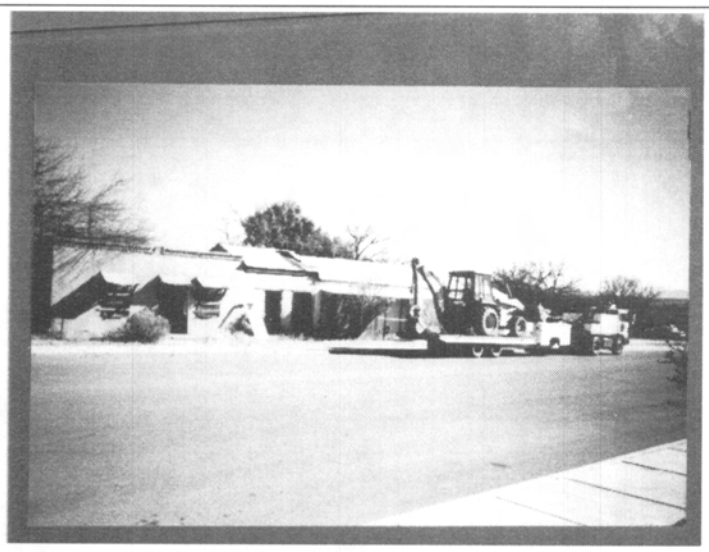


Photo 26. View showing the demolition of the houses of Ramon Villa Cota (left) and Policarpio and Damacia Celaya Villa Cota (center). The home of Genaro L. and Francisca C. Figueroa, modified with a pitched roof in the 1930s (right), is today's 463 E. Fifth Street. It is currently vacant. February 2002.

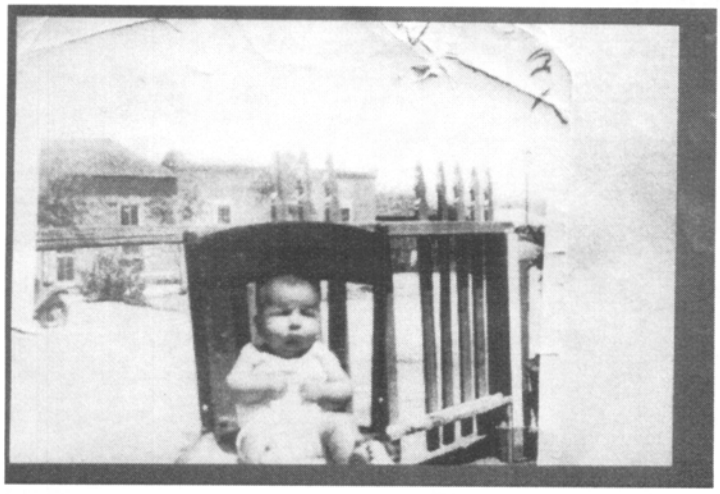


Photo 27. A member of the Mendoza family, baby Panchito, with a view of the old Figueroa/Cota complex across the street. The building to the right with parapets and corner "turrets," the Genaro Figueroa house, is today's 463 E. Fifth Street before it was modified. Around 1937.

Photo 28. Members of the Ruiz family with their uncle, Marcelo Galindo Ruiz, head of one of the last families to leave Tres Alamos around 1910. Marcelo was the owner of 464 E. Fifth Street. Shown in the picture from left to right, with Marcelo Ruiz in the center, are Rosa, Andres, Jesus and Alfonso Ruiz. Date unknown.

Photo 29, The Ruiz Padia family, associated with 464 E. Fifth Street. From left to right, Pete, mother Jesus Bracamonte Ruiz Padia, father Frank and baby Frank. Date unknown.

Photo 30. An old card in memory of Manuel Mejia and Rafaela Maldonado Mejia who both died in 1918. The Mejia family was associated with several lots on the east end of Block 20 where they owned a dry goods store facing E. Fifth Street.

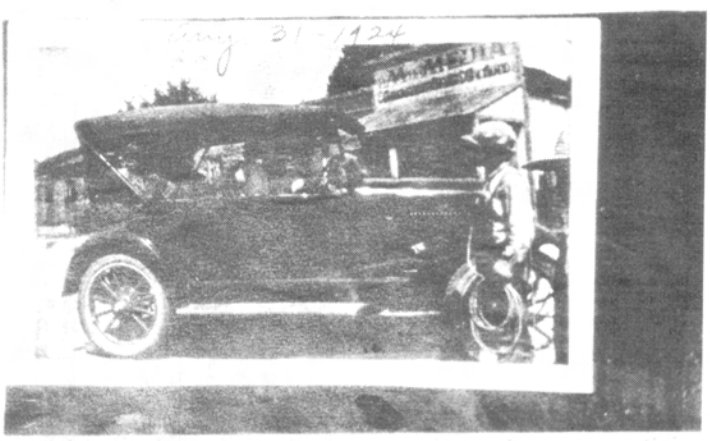


Photo 31. The Wo sisters at Manuel Mejia's store on Fifth Street. The store (in the background) had a false front and canopy on posts. August 1924.

Photo 32. The Gauna Family. From left to right, Josefa, Dolores, Manuel, Francisco and Ramona Gauna. The family owned the Gauna Grocery Store and lived in residential quarters behind. This store, no longer existing, was located on the site of the present Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on Block 25.

Photo 33. Block 24 streetscape with a nun, shows houses that were later demolished for the expansion of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. The third house from the left still stands. It is 374 E. Fifth Street. Date unknown.

Photo 34. The Figueroa Quihuiz family, associated with 408 E. Fifth Street, the Quihuiz Grocery Store. From left to right, Maria, Eulalia, father Rafael, Maria Librada (Lopez), Rafael Jr., Ysidora and Carmela. May 1938.

Photo 35. Maria Librada Quihuiz by the Quihuiz Grocery Store (shadow) with the Comaduran house (no longer existing) on the opposite corner on Block 20. No date.

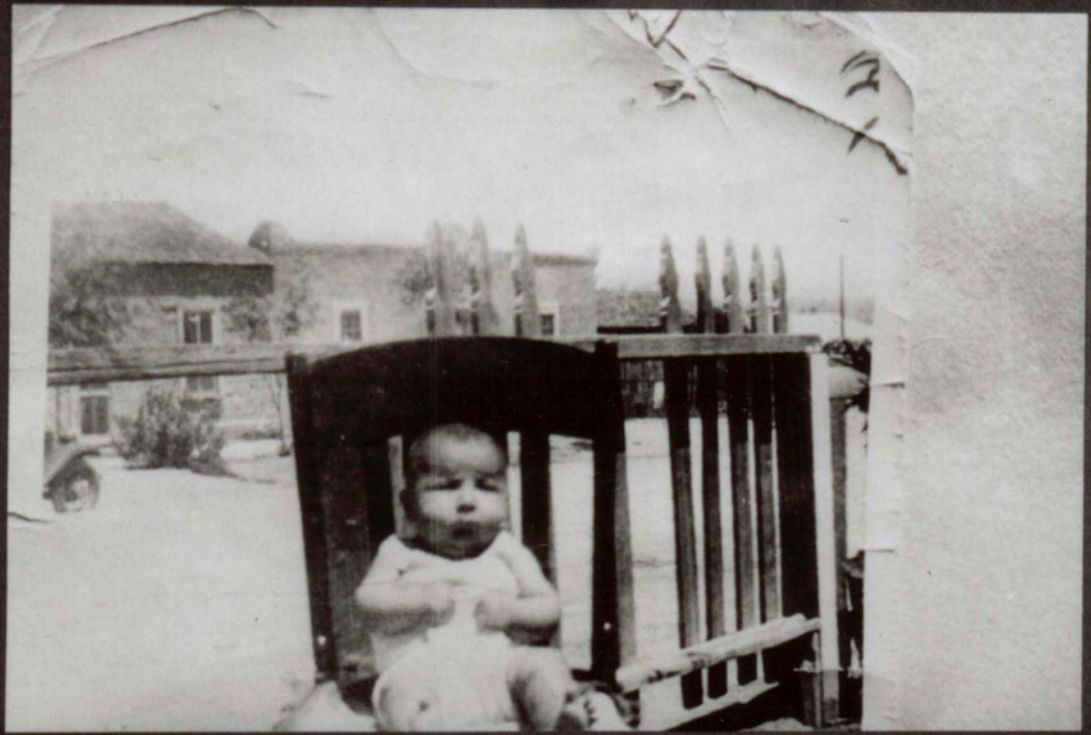
POSTED
NO TRESPASSING
KEEP OUT

gomery & Mari
Legislature

January 23 - 1941

Francisca Celaya Figueroa

Ramon Villa Cota



back row left to right:
Rosa B. Ruiz,Andres B. Ruiz
Front:Jesus B. Ruiz.
Tio marcello Ruiz,Alfonso B. Ruiz

. Padia
. Padia
sco V. Padia I
sco R. Padia

Dearest Father
MANUEL MEJIA
Born Feb. 12, 1860
Died July 10, 1918
Age 58 Years

IN LOVING MEMORY

Dearest Mother
MRS. RAFAELA MEJIA
Born Dec. 12, 1866
Died Dec. 6, 1918
Age 52 Yrs. 11 Mos. 24 D.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Dearest father, thou hast left us,
And our loss we deeply feel,
But 'tis God that has bereft us,
He can all our sorrows heal.
Yet again we hope to meet thee,
When the day of life is fled,
When in Heaven in joy to greet thee,
Where no farewell tear is shed.

'T is hard to break the tender cord
When love has bound the heart,
'T is hard, so hard, to speak the words
"We must forever part."
Dearest loved one, we must lay thee
In the peaceful grave's embrace,
But thy memory will be cherished
'Til we see thy heavenly face.

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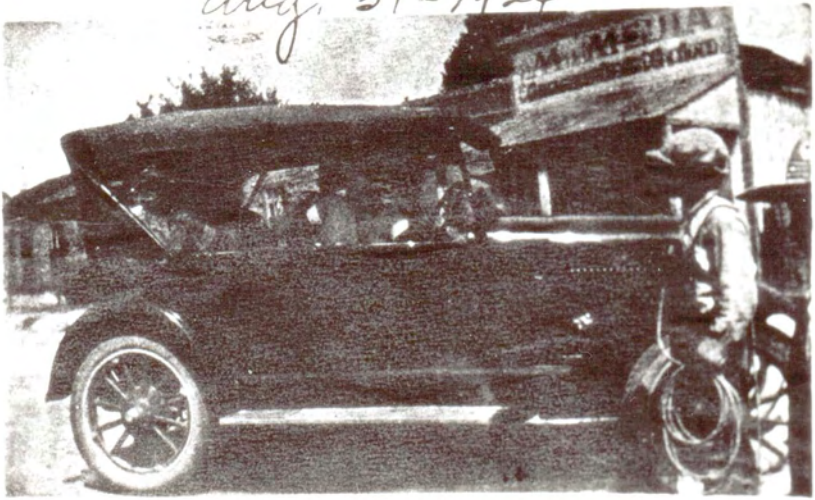
Courtesy of Soledad MC

Aug. 31 - 1924



MC Sisters at Manuel Mejia's Store 4th St

Maria, Eulalia, Rafael, Maria Librada