

Bernal House, 571 South Meyer Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Historico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

AZ-73-3

HABS
ARIZ,
10-TUCSO,
30/3 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLIO 3...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

HABS, ARIZ, 10-TUCSO,

30/3

BERNAL HOUSE, 571 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-3

Location: 571 South Meyer Avenue, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680.3563970

Present Owner: Carlos G. Robles, c/o Rene Verdugo.

Present Occupant: Rene Verdugo.

Present Use: Residential.

Significance: This L-shaped adobe house with attached porch stands out through its non-characteristic shape and its relationship to the street. Built in a Late Transitional Sonoran style, the gabled and hipped roofs are of corrugated metal and the porch with its turned posts may have been built by the Tucson master carpenter, Manuel Flores. It exhibits Traditional Sonoran influences through its flush front and contiguity to the dwelling on the south.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1908-1910.
2. Architect: None known. See reference above, however, to "master carpenter Manuel Flores." See also Barrio Libre, AZ-73, historical essay, page 12.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Part of Lot 6, Block 241, parcel 24.

1907 Deed, February 13, 1907, recorded in Volume 41, page 468.
Laurencio and Angelita Huerta to Facundo Bernal.

1965 Deed, March 2, 1965, recorded in Volume 2440, page 355.
Benjamin T. Bernal to Robles.

1965 Deed, August 31, 1965, recorded in Volume 2568, page 280.
Robles to Errazu.

1967 Deed, March 20, 1967, recorded in Volume 2953, page 305.
Ricardo Errazu to Carlos G. Robles.

4. Builder: Facundo Bernal. Covered porch possibly by Maestro Flores.

5. Alterations and additions: The rear porch of this house was enlarged between 1914 and 1919. Between 1919 and 1948 an addition was built onto the rear of the porch.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Facundo and Emilia Bernal built this house at 571 S. Meyer Ave. in approximately 1910, and lived there until the 1960s. Bernal was a carriage and hack driver, and worked for Diego Valencia. Valencia, who lived on the corner of Convent and Kennedy, owned wagons and hearses, and contracted for hauling and driving. The Bernals had a son Benjamin and a daughter Emilia. The property passed from Facundo to Benjamin before falling into the hands of Bernabé Robles in 1965. (See p. 13 in Barrio Libre (AZ-73) historical essay.)

Prepared by: Ann Huston
Project Historian
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Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1980

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building is a good example of the Late Transitional Sonoran style of architecture in Tucson. It is constructed of traditional adobe, but exhibits 'Anglo' building forms and site utilization.
2. Condition of fabric: Generally good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures approximately 18' north to south on its west facade and 46' west to east on its north facade. There is an addition measuring about 8½' x 18' on the west side. The building abuts the adjacent building to the south.
2. Foundations: There appears to be a concrete foundation under the building.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The building is constructed of mud adobe, stuccoed on the exterior, and painted green. The addition to the east is of frame construction and has horizontal wood tongue-and-groove siding, also painted green.

4. Structural system, framing: The mud adobe walls support a standard 2" x 10" joist ceiling system and a light-weight hip roof system.
 5. Porches: There is a porch at the northwest corner of the building, abutting the building on two sides. A matching porch formerly existed at the northeast corner of the house. It has been replaced by the frame addition. The porch has a concrete slab floor and one turned wood column on the corner. The roof is essentially flat, having a low slope for drainage.
 6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance doorway is located on the west face, under the porch. Another door is situated on the north face under the same porch.
 - b. Windows: The west facade window has a double-hung sash with two-over-two lights, surrounded by a flat board trim. One window on the north facade has a two-light sash which is in a fixed position. It is also surrounded by a flat wood trim with dimensions 1" x 5½".
 7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The roof of the building is gabled with the ridge extending north and south. There are hip roof extensions to the east and west. The northern gable has vertical board-and-batten closure with two diamond-shaped vents. The roof is covered with corrugated metal.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves of the house are boxed on the west sides and have exposed rafter ends on the east side.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plan: The building was originally a double house facing to the north. The plan of each unit was that of an "L", and contained two rooms. The wall which separated the two units has been penetrated with a door opening to connect the units. The east rear has a frame addition containing the kitchen (in location of former northeast porch) and a general storage room and bathroom.
 2. Flooring: The floors are of wood boards, 3 1/4" Douglas Fir. Floors of the porches and additions are of concrete.
 3. Wall and ceiling finishes: The walls are of plaster on adobe. Ceilings are of wood lath and plaster. Ceiling height is 9'-4". In addition, the walls are of plywood. The ceiling of the addition is the underside of the roof.

4. Openings: Doorways between rooms have had the doors removed with one exception. Door jambs are of wood boards. There is one five-panel door mounted with surface hinges and having a box lock. The openings have 5½" flat board trim.
5. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: There is no heating system.
 - b. Electricity: There is a standard electrical service.
 - c. Plumbing: Plumbing has been included in the additions.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is located on the east side of South Meyer Avenue. It is oriented with its broad side facing north, possibly the original direction of the front facade when the building was a duplex. The west facade is situated at the property line. The building abuts the adjacent building to the south. There is an open area to the north, defined by a corrugated metal fence on the west side. The rear yard is shared with the property located at 551/555 South Meyer Avenue.

Prepared by: Prof. Robert C. Giebner
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University of Arizona
July 1980

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.
Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Microfilm, Recorder's records);
Tucson City Directories, 1897-1979.
Building Slip, Pima County Assessor's Office

Oral Interviews:

Eliazar Herreras, 1331 E. Waverly.
Felix Fimbres, 462 E. 31st St.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cota; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.

ADDENDUM TO
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