

479, 481, South Convent Avenue  
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)  
Tucson  
Pima County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-9

11ABS,  
ARIZ,  
10-TUCSO,  
30/9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

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

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

479- 481 SOUTH CONVENT AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-9

Location: 479-481 South Convent Avenue, Tucson, Pima Co., Arizona.  
 USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
 Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970

Present Owner: Francisco M. and Angelita F. Rivera.

Present Occupants: #479, Francisco Rivera.  
 #481, Mary C. Rivera.

Present Use: Residential.

Significance: Standing in an isolated situation, this adobe duplex is connected to its northern neighbor (473 South Convent Ave., (AZ-73-52)) by an archway and gate. The two structures were probably joined when the present owner purchased 479-481 and half of the building next door in 1939. Although this duplex exhibits the Anglo influence of a hipped roof, gabled dormer vent, and isolated site location, it is built of the traditional adobe and set flush with the street, lending continuity to the planar qualities of the South Convent Avenue street facade. See also AZ-73-52.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1900.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Block 240, Lot 5, arb. 26.

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1901 | Deed, March 21, 1901, recorded in Volume 32, page 11. Corporate Authorities of the Village of Tucson to Jesus B. Tallmadge.         |
| 1912 | Deed, September 26, 1912, recorded in Volume 52, page 394. Estate of Jesus B. Tallmadge to Brigida B. de Granillo.                  |
| 1915 | Deed, January 4, 1915, recorded in Volume 59, page 261. Estate Brigida B. de Granillo to Virginia Tapia and Francisca G. de Romero. |
| 1925 | Deed, June 5, 1925, recorded in Volume 104, page 622. Virginia G. de Tapia to Francisca G. de Romero.                               |

- 1927 Deed, March 22, 1927, recorded in Volume 115, page 184.  
Francisca G. Romero to R. J. Rojas.
- 1929 Deed, November 9, 1929, recorded in Volume 142, page 88.  
R. J. Rojas to Melacquo Díaz.
- 1930 Deed, April 29, 1930, recorded in Volume 147, page 62.  
Mr. Malaquio Diáz to Manuel O. Soto.
- 1931 Deed, March 31, 1931, recorded in Volume 155, page 630.  
Manuel Soto to Malaquio Diáz.
- 1931 Deed, September 8, 1931, recorded in Volume 160, page 192.  
Malaquio Diáz to Ramon Guitiérrez et al.
- 1939 Deed, May 3, 1939, recorded in Volume 221, page 147.  
Ramon Gutierrez et al to Manuel Rivera.
- 1940 Deed, May 18, 1940, recorded in Volume 229, page 255.  
Manuel and Angela Rivera to Francisco M. and Angelita F.  
Rivera.

4. Builder: Unknown.

5. Alterations and additions: Originally an irregularly shaped, three-room structure, this single-family dwelling was converted to two apartments in the 1920s, an adobe addition at the rear giving it a more regular outline.

B. Historical Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

This dwelling was occupied until 1940 by a succession of renters, most of whom worked as laborers and employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. In 1939 Francisco Rivera purchased this house, and half of the building next door (473 S. Convent Avenue), for \$1,000. Rivera was a Southern Pacific employee whose family had lived for many years in the brick apartments on the opposite side of S. Convent Avenue (440-446). Rivera was responsible for much of the remodeling of the structure, adding a room at the rear for which he and his wife made the adobes, taking out the mud ceiling, and plastering the exterior of the buildings. Rivera retired from the Southern Pacific Company and still resides at #479. His sister occupies the apartment at #481.

For background information, see Barrio Libre (AZ-73).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (See Significance, above, and Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico) (HABS No. AZ-73) for site plan and historical background essay.)

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.

Oral Interviews:

Frank (Francisco) Rivera, 479 S. Convent Ave.

Prepared by: Ann E. Huston  
Project Historian  
Maureen L. Gerhold  
Assistant Project Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
September 1980

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 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  
479 & 481 SOUTH CONVENT AVENUE (HOUSE)  
Barrio Libre (Barrio Historico)  
Tucson  
Pima County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-9

HABS  
ARIZ,  
10-TUCSO,  
30/9-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C., 20013