

Munoz House, 499-501 South Meyer Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-37

HABS,
ARIZ,
10-TUCSO,
30/37-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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)

MUNOZ HOUSE, 499-501 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE HABS No. AZ-73-37

Location: 499-501 S. Meyer Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970

Present Owner: Agnes Robles, c/o H. K. Rollings
901 E. Broadway
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Present Occupant: Jim Vosnos.

Present Use: Residential.

Significance: This small, gable-roofed adobe dwelling is adjoined to the large corner residence north of it, making it appear almost as an extension of the structure. The recessed doors and windows and flush front classify this dwelling as Sonoran, while the gable roof exhibits an anglo influence and sets it in the early transitional phase.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: possibly pre-1880.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Part of Lot 2, Block 241, parcel 11.

- 1879 Deed, October 20, 1897, recorded in Volume 5, page 657. Corporate Authorities of the Village of Tucson to Jesus Valencia.
- 1879 Deed, October 20, 1879, recorded in Volume 5, page 662. Jesus Valencia and Delfinia Salazar Valencia to Dario Muñoz.
- 1884 Deed, June 3, 1884, recorded in Volume 12, page 329. Dario and Luisa Muños to Thomas González.
- 1919 Deed, December 20, 1919, recorded in Volume 73, page 558. Eloisa Bustamante to Tomas González.

- 1919 Deed, December 20, 1919, recorded in Volume 74, page 142.
R. E. Louisa M. Bustamante to Tomas González.
- 1919 Deed, November 6, 1919, recorded in Volume 77, page 539.
Tomas González to Bustamante.
- 1940 Deed, May 31, 1940, recorded in Volume 229, page 321.
L. C. Bustamante, Adm. to Bernabe Robles.
- 1947 Deed, December 27, 1947, recorded in Volume 40, page 489.
Estate of Bernabe Robles to Joaquina S. Robles.
- 1948 Deed, July 28, 1948, recorded in Volume 99, page 27.
Joaquina S. Robles to Bernabe S. Robles, et al.
- 1952 Deed, April 14, 1952, recorded in Volume 452, page 574.
Bernabe S. Robles, et al, to Alfonso B. Robles.
- 1975 Deed, October 14, 1975, recorded in Volume 5122, page 411.
Alfonso B. Robles to T. R. Rollings.

4. Builder: Dario Muñoz, probably.

5. Alterations and additions: This single-family residence was converted to a duplex, and two frame porches added to the rear of the structure between 1914 and 1919. The front of the building had an overhanging porch at least until 1948.

B. Historical Persons and Events Associated with the Structure:

The name of Dario Muñoz, a teamster, is associated with the ownership of this property, and possibly with a residence on this lot, as early as 1881. After 1884, Muñoz disappeared, and the property passed to the Bustamante family, next door (See Ramon Bustamante House 505 S. Meyer Ave (HABS No. AZ-73-6), and Antonio Bustamante House, 485-489 S. Meyer Ave (HABS No. AZ-73-5)), in 1919. By 1940 the Bustamantes had lost the property to Bernabe Robles. A number of short-term tenants, most of them laborers and carpenters, occupied the apartments after the Muñoz family until the property was left vacant in the 1970s.

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Except for the gable roof, this otherwise typical Sonoran adobe dwelling represents the Early Transitional phase of the architecture.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures about 30' north-to-south along its west (front) facade and 32' west-to-east along its south side. There are two small frame additions to the east or rear.
2. Foundations: Inaccessible.
3. Wall construction, finish, color: The 20" thick walls are of mud adobe, stuccoed and painted beige.
4. Structural system, framing: The adobe bearing walls support pine vigas in the principal (west) room. The vigas are spaced about 2'-0" on center, and are laid with alternating tapers. The vigas are 9" thick and taper to 6" thick at the thin end. The second-flank rooms have exposed 2" x 8" wood joists with board ceilings. The additions to the rear of the building are of frame construction.
5. Stoops: The floor level of the building is three risers above grade. The steps are of concrete.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two doorways on the west front. The doorway to the north has a set of double doors, each panel of which has a glass light; the doors are of vertical boards.

The door to the south is paneled and has been fitted into a large opening (probably formerly a double, similar to the other).

There is a set of diamond-pane French doors on the east rear, giving access to the bathroom. There is a paneled and glass door on the east side, giving access to the kitchen.
 - b. Windows: The west facade has a single one-over-one wood double-hung sash window. There is a similar window on the south facade.

There is a skylight on the rear slope of the roof.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: This building has a simple gable roof with its ridge running north-to-south. This gable abuts the gable of the adjacent building to the north. The roof is of corrugated metal.

There are shed-roof additions to the rear.

- b. Cornice; eaves: There is a simple boxed cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The plan is a simple rectangle. There is a single large room extending the width of the unit on the west front. This was formerly two rooms. A bedroom is located behind this room to the north; a dining room is located to the south behind the main room.

A shed roof addition at the northeast contains the bathroom; the kitchen is in a similar addition to the southeast.

2. Flooring: The north half of the main room has a concrete slab floor. The south half has a wood board floor. The bedroom and dining rooms also have wood floors. The shed additions have concrete slab floors.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are of plaster over adobe; the additions have plaster over wire lath. The ceiling of the main room is of wood boards, as are the ceilings in the secondary rooms. The additions have sheet-rock ceilings.
4. Openings:
- a. Doorways and doors: The doorways have simple flat board trim. The doors have been removed.
5. Decorative features, trim: There is a flat board trim on the doorways.
6. Equipment:
- a. Electricity: Electric service has been added to the building.
- b. Plumbing: Plumbing service has been added to the building.
- c. Heating: There is a new wood-burning stove in the dining room.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is located on the east side of South Meyer Avenue and is set at the front property line. The north side of the building abuts the adjacent building; there is a small areaway on the south.
2. Enclosures and planting: The rear yard is enclosed with a corrugated metal and wood fence. There are some mesquite trees in the rear yard.

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

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Old Views: 1880 aerial photograph of Tucson taken from Sentinel Peak. Arizona Historical Society.
- B. Bibliography:
Building Slip, Pima County Assessor's Office
Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.
Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Microfilm, Recorder's records).
Tucson City Directories, 1881-1979.

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 Employ-

ment 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.

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