

Diaz House  
483 South Convent Avenue  
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)  
Tucson  
Pima County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-15

HABS,  
ARIZ.  
10-TUCSO  
30/15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

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,

30/15

DIAZ HOUSE, 483 SOUTH CONVENT AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-15

Location: 483 South Convent Avenue, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona

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

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Ramon Montaña.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: This Mission Revival style dwelling with enclosed front porch adds a distinctive flavor to this portion of South Convent Avenue. Built about twenty years later than the row of Transicional Sonoran dwellings to the north of it, the structure displays the design standards in vogue during the 1910s and 1920s. Standing detached from both its neighbors, the main portion of the house is also set back farther from the street than any of the structures to the north; however, the enclosed front porch and a low adobe garden wall extending from it bring the house visually forward to the street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1920.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Block 240, Lot 11, arb . . .

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|------|--|
| 1917 | Deed, January 5, 1917, recorded in Volume 65, page 18.<br>Theodore and India Fitch to Ramón Soto.                      |
| 1920 | Deed, November 8, 1920, recorded in Volume 80, page 443.<br>Ramón and Rita C. de Soto to Rita Y. de Díaz (north part). |
| 1934 | Deed, March 17, 1934, recorded in Volume 175, page 364.<br>Robert Soto et al to Marie C. de Soto (south part).         |
| 1935 | Deed, April 13, 1935, recorded in Volume 185, page 77.<br>Malaquio and Rita Y. Díaz to Ramón Montaña (north part).     |
| 1941 | Deed, January 16, 1941, recorded in Volume 4719.<br>County Treasurer to Atlantic Municipal Corp. (north part).         |

1949 Deed, June 28, 1949, recorded in Volume 179, page 100.  
Antonio S. López to Mercedes V. López (north part).

4. Builder: Melaquio Díaz.
5. Additions and alterations: This odd-shaped adobe house replaced a smaller one that was located on the lot between 1915 and 1919. The enclosed front porch was added after 1940 by present owner.

B. Historical Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

Melaquio Díaz and his wife Rita were the builders and first occupants of this residence. Diaz was an employee of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. His family occupied the house until the early 1930s. Ramon Montaña, a salesman for a wholesale grocery company, and his wife, Enedina, purchased the property in 1935, and have occupied it to the present time. Two unrelated Montaña families have been associated with this block of South Convent Avenue. Ramon Montaña was the son of Leonides Montaña who lived in a house at the corner of South Convent Avenue and West 17th Street that has since been demolished.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (See Significance, above, and Barrio Libre (Barrio Historico) (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 Co. (Microfilm, Recorder's records).  
Tucson City Directories, 1897-1979.

Oral Interviews:

Eliazar Herreras, 1331 E. Waverly  
Adelina Flores, 56 W. Kennedy Street

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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 Cotta; 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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ADDENDUM TO  
483 SOUTH CONVENT AVENUE (HOUSE)  
(DIAZ HOUSE)  
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Tucson  
Pima County  
Arizona

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
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