

National Register Historic Districts

ALDEA LINDA meaning “beautiful small village,” was founded in 1946 by former Arizona Governor Samuel P. Goddard, Jr. (12th Governor in 1965). He dreamed of creating a Tucson neighborhood where families had room to live and play. Still in effect are deed restrictions protecting the neighborhood and guaranteeing that the area, with its large lots, will remain residential. The majority of the 18 residences date between 1947 and 1964 reflect post-World War II styles, including Ranch and Modern, as well as Territorial Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival. The dense creosote, curvilinear streets, and cul-de-sac layout have insured a rural feel to this oasis near 22nd Street.

ARMORY PARK The first residential district in Tucson to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this downtown neighborhood takes its name from the Military Plaza where the Armory was located prior to its relocation to Fort Lowell in 1873. The neighborhood features wide avenues, and the Queen Anne, Greek Revival, and Territorial styles predominate. The Carnegie Free Library, completed in 1901, is now home to the Tucson Children’s Museum.

BARRIO ANITA First platted in 1903, over 90 percent of the houses in this historic Hispanic barrio were built by 1920, with the remainder built prior to World War II. Early neighborhood dwellings were constructed in the Sonoran style with adobe walls and flat roofs, and later houses were built in the American Territorial and Queen Anne styles.

BARRIO EL HOYO El Hoyo (“the Hole”) was so named because it is lower than the surrounding land. Developed as Carrillo Gardens, a lush park with large trees and small ponds. It later became a popular gathering spot and amusement park known as Elysian Grove. The houses, mostly built between 1908 and 1950, include many small adobe structures built in the Sonoran style by the owner-occupants.

BARRIO EL MEMBRILLO Until the late 19th century, this historically Hispanic barrio between the freeway and Sentinel Peak was cultivated land on the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River. Named for the quince trees that grew here, El Membrillo was platted in 1920. Of the 13 houses left today, the characteristic type is the single- or multiple-unit dwelling built in the Sonoran style with bearing walls of adobe brick and flat or pitched roofs.

BARRIO LIBRE Tucson’s third oldest historic district, this neighborhood provides a sense of Tucson during the 1870s. It has more Territorial-period adobe buildings than any other part of Tucson. El Tiradito (“The Little Castaway”), is a 1940 update of a shrine established in the 1870s. Barrio Libre, along with neighboring Barrio El Hoyo and the tiny Barrio El Membrillo, are commonly known together as Barrio Viejo.

BARRIO SANTA ROSA This neighborhood lies directly south of Barrio Libre. Part of the original urban core of the city, its history began in the 1890s and two-thirds of its historic buildings are representative of Tucson’s indigenous Sonoran style architecture, consisting of adobe structures with flat roofs, typically grouped in row houses with their fronts flush with the street.

BLENNAN-ELM Midtown home of the 14-acre garden resort, the Arizona Inn (1930, this midtown neighborhood consists of 17 styles of homes popular between the 1920s and the 1950s, a majority of which are Ranch style with Spanish Revival influences.

CATALINA VISTA Officially platted in 1940, this 170-acre neighborhood was once part of the Kramer Ranch, home of Tucson's first rodeo. Its design was influenced by the "City Beautiful" movement and incorporates landscaped medians, traffic roundabouts, curvilinear streets and a small neighborhood park. Many of the homes reflect the modern Ranch style.

COLONIA SOLANA One of the first suburban subdivisions in Arizona, Colonia Solana is located in midtown on the border of Reid Park. Landscape architect Stephen Child designed Colonia Solana in 1928 incorporating natural elements such as the Arroyo Chico, a lush desert riparian habitat for birds and wildlife. Architectural styles range from Spanish Colonial Revival to post-World War II Ranch houses.

DUNBAR SPRING/JOHN SPRING Platted in 1904, this neighborhood reflects its diverse early roots in its mix of architectural styles, from Sonoran to early 20th-century revival styles.

EL ENCANTO ESTATES With houses built primarily between 1929 and 1961, the formal, curvilinear, Neoclassical subdivision plan of midtown El Encanto Estates was inspired by the "City Beautiful" movement. A central circular park is notable for its idyllic rendering of a native desert landscape. Formal plantings of palm trees and green lawns enhance the architectural designs in the Spanish Colonial, Mission, and Pueblo revival styles.

EL MONTEVIDEO Founded in 1930, EL MONTEVIDEO features native desert vegetation, the neighborhood initially grew with architectural revival styles popular in the 1930s, including Spanish Colonial, Territorial (Sonoran), and Pueblo Revivals.

EL PRESIDIO This eminently walkable neighborhood is where Tucson began as a Spanish Colonial outpost. Most of the structures date from 1860 to 1920, and styles include Sonoran, American Territorial, Mission Revival, and Craftsman Bungalow. Preserved remnants of Hohokam pit houses, the 18th-century Spanish period presidio, and the subsequent Mexican village can be found here. Celebrated Territorial period families including merchants such as the Steinfelds and Jacomes, are still associated with houses they built.

FELDMAN'S Near the University of Arizona, Feldman's was platted in 1901 and includes the first house built on Speedway Boulevard (then called Feldman Street) in 1904. Most construction occurred between 1920 and 1927, and these structures predominate in the neighborhood's core. Numerous architectural styles can be found, including National Folk, Craftsman Bungalow, Mission Revival, Pueblo Revival, Spanish Eclectic, and Monterey Revival.

FORT LOWELL This semi-rural neighborhood in the central urban area offers an abundant mix of icons of Tucson's history, including the soldiers of Fort Lowell (1873-1891) and the priests of the San Pedro Chapel (1932), along with the families, craftsmen, and historians who have called it home since the 1890s. Protected remnants of the mesquite groves along the Rillito River and Hohokam archeological sites offer reminders of the original natural setting and ancient indigenous peoples of the valley.

HAROLD BELL WRIGHT ESTATES In the center of this semi-rural subdivision sits the home of popular American novelist Harold Bell Wright (1872-1942). Street names gracing this 116-acre neighborhood are all derived from the characters or places in his numerous novels. Intended for relatively affluent homeowners, many of the burnt adobe buildings built primarily in the 1950s are situated on large desert-landscaped lots, with floor plans larger than was typical for the period. Many homes were designed in the post-World War II custom Ranch style.

INDIAN HOUSE Located in the east central part of Tucson, this semi-rural neighborhood includes 11 contributing historic residences built between 1926 and 1950 on 2 to 6½ acre lots, all excellent examples of Southwestern Revival and Mid-century Modern (Contemporary) styles.

IRON HORSE Developed beginning in 1890, this neighborhood presents a mix of building styles, including Sonoran, American Territorial, Craftsman Bungalow, and Queen Anne Revival. Foundation stones of basalt on numerous residences were gathered locally from Sentinel Peak ('A' Mountain). 180 historic properties, add to the charm of this neighborhood, noted as the "most walkable in Tucson" thanks to bike and walking paths and its proximity to North Fourth Avenue and downtown.

JEFFERSON PARK Established in 1898, this walking- and bike-friendly neighborhood has its roots in early to mid-20th century construction of distinctive Southwestern homes, including Craftsman Bungalow, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Pueblo Revival. Post-WWII Ranch style brick homes followed as this historic "outskirts" development transformed into a central neighborhood of rich history and diversity.

MENLO PARK Nestled dramatically between downtown Tucson and the Santa Cruz River to the east, and Sentinel Peak ("A" Mountain) and Tumamoc Hill to the west, this neighborhood includes the birthplace of Tucson, and the area of irrigated fields for the mission visita of San Agustín del Tucson, completed by 1800. Platted in 1913, Menlo Park evolved into Tucson's most upscale Mexican-American barrio.

MIRACLE MILE HISTORIC DISTRICT Located north of downtown. This was an area that functioned as the northern vehicular gateway of Tucson for travelers traversing the nation. Also included in the district and associated with the highway site is a two block segment of Main Avenue lined with trucking transfer warehouses and roadside commercial buildings, as well as four blocks of Flores Street containing a cluster of small motels.

PIE ALLEN Named for homesteader and former mayor, John Brackett "Pie" Allen—known for selling dried-apple pies to soldiers.

RINCON HEIGHTS Developed as one of Tucson's first suburban neighborhoods, Rincon Heights exhibits an eclectic blend of 1920s-1940s revival styles and vernacular designs. Neighborhood planting and beautification projects continue to make this a popular housing area intent on keeping its historic character.

SAM HUGHES This early suburban neighborhood developed between 1921 and the 1950s immediately east of the University of Arizona campus. Named after well-known business leader Sam Hughes, who was instrumental in establishing Tucson's free public school system. A major bike route boulevard is an additional amenity of this popular area.

SAN CLEMENTE Developed in 1923 by Stanley Williamson, is considered the first Tucson neighborhood to pioneer automobile-related Ranch Style Suburb planning.

SAN RAFAEL ESTATES Developed by the Lusk Corporation from 1954-1956.

WEST UNIVERSITY was built out between 1890 and 1930. The neighborhood includes more than 700 buildings in a great variety of architectural styles, ranging from Transitional to Art Deco, with about half being Craftsman Bungalows. In 1980, this neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and became the largest historic district in Arizona.

WINTERHAVEN The unique community of Winterhaven was developed between 1949-1961 by developer C. B. Richards, who sought to emulate the environment and architectural aesthetics of the Midwest. The sense of community is fostered by the annual Festival of Lights, a popular Christmas light display. There are 265 examples of modern Ranch style residences.

Also: Fourth Avenue Commercial District, John Spring Multiple Resource Area, Marist College Historic District, Rillito Racetrack Chute, Sunshine Mile Historic District, Tucson Community Center Historic Landscape, Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District, University of Arizona Campus Historic District, Valley of the Moon Historic District and Warehouse Historic District

FOR UPDATED AND INFORMATION VISIT: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/preservation/national-registerhistoricdistricts>