

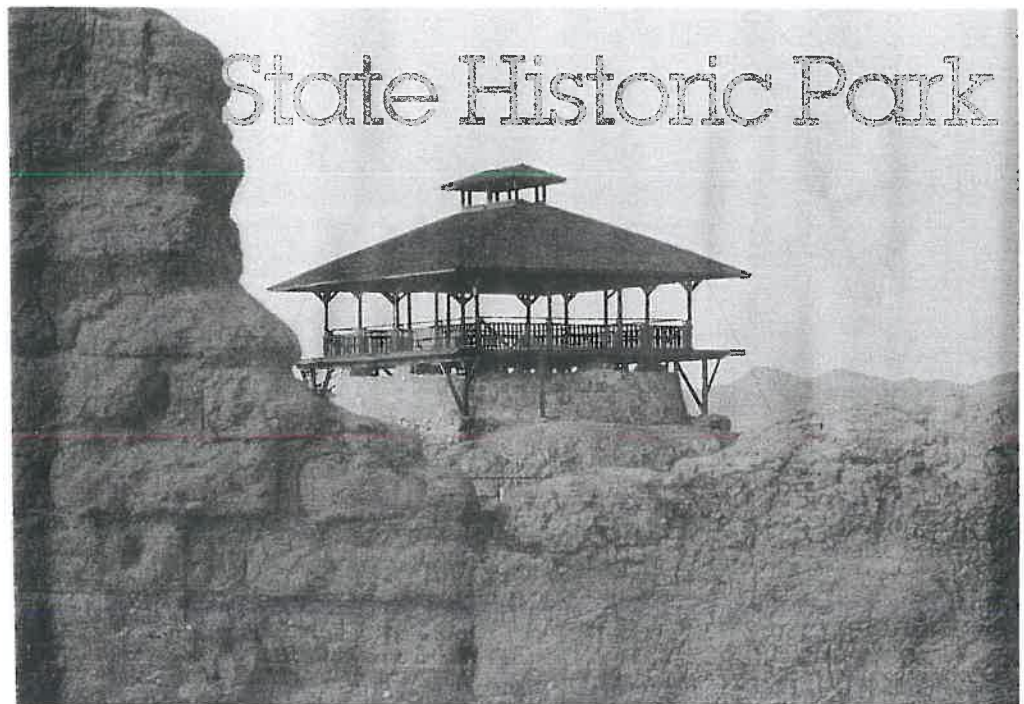
Riverfront Development

Presents

The Town Tour

An Historic Overview of Yuma

Yuma Territorial Prison



The Territorial Prison

For many of its early years, Yuma's main claim to fame was the fact that it was the location of Arizona Territory's prison. Even now the name Yuma inspires visions of a hellhole penitentiary around the world. Don't miss a visit to this Yuma landmark, but don't be misled by the way it has been portrayed in books, films, and on television. It really didn't deserve the bad reputation it received. But it wasn't any bed of roses, either! The Yuma Territorial Prison was probably no better and no worse than any western prison in the 19th century.

You reach the prison by taking Interstate Highway #8 in the direction of San Diego. Access to the highway can be easily gained by taking an off ramp from 16th Street. Before you reach the bridge over the Colorado River, you will come to an off ramp leading directly to the prison.

Outlawry was rampant in Arizona when the prison was built in 1876. The need for a prison had been recognized as early as 1868 when the Territorial Legislature passed a bill to build one without appropriating any money for it. Naturally, none was built!

When a Phoenix legislator introduced a bill in 1875 to build a prison in Phoenix, two Yuma County legislators deftly amended the bill by inserting the word "Yuma" in place of "Phoenix." The bill passed in the amended form and even permitted the sale of bonds to pay for the institution. Yuma had its prison. Rather than hire an expensive architect, the prison commissioners held a contest to obtain building plans. A Yuma man, A.L. Grow, drew the plans that were finally accepted and won himself \$150 for his efforts. Convicted felons helped build the prison, and it was occupied in July 1876. Seven of the prisoners who had been involved in the construction work were the first inmates.

There is a great deal of myth about the old prison. One of the most persistent tales is that no one ever escaped from there. It is true that escape was difficult because Yuma was an isolated community with desert on all sides, and local Indians were paid a reward for capturing escapees. But some got away! At least twenty-six who escaped were never recaptured. A majority of the prisoners who escaped were outside the walls on work gangs when they got loose, but two got away from within the prison walls.

Another notion that seems to be false is the idea that prison authorities were much stricter in their pardon and parole policies in those days. Actually, there is some evidence that they may have been more lenient than penal authorities these days. Many inmates received pardons before serving their full terms and had their civil rights restored. The cases of the prison's two most celebrated inmates, "Buckskin" Frank Leslie and Pearl Hart, are a good illustration.

Leslie acquired a reputation as a bad man during Tombstone's silver boom days. He first gained attention there by killing a jealous husband. Leslie had been romancing the man's wife, and the jealous spouse took a shot at his rival. Unfortunately, the aggrieved husband missed, but Leslie didn't when he returned the fire. A jury saw the killing as self-defense, and Leslie married the widowed woman whose husband he had killed. When the newly-weds couldn't get along, divorce soon followed.

It is said that Leslie was responsible for a number of Tombstone killings in the years that followed, but the law didn't get him until 1889. When he murdered a live-in girl friend, an eye witness lived to tell the authorities. Trial for murder produced a guilty verdict and a life sentence in Yuma Prison. He served only seven years before being pardoned by Governor Ben Franklin who called him "a man of good character."

Pearl Hart's early release is still somewhat a mystery. She had robbed the Globe stagecoach with the help of her lover, Joe Boot, in 1899. Two days later the pair were captured about twenty miles from Benson and transported to Tucson for trial. Pearl escaped from jail before a trial could be held, but was soon recaptured near Deming, New Mexico. When her trial was finally held on charges that she had robbed the Globe stage, she captivated an all male jury with her charms, and they found her "not guilty." The presiding judge was outraged by their verdict and ordered her held on charges of taking a gun from one of the passengers on the stage. She wasn't so lucky in her second trial and got a five year sentence at Yuma Prison.

Pearl's behaviour while an inmate is a matter of some controversy. She was addicted to morphine at the time of her incarceration and seems to have been cured before her release. The local newspaper, *the Arizona Sentinel*, told its readers that prisoner Hart "took particular delight in making pretty trouble, for everyone at the prison, guards, officials, and all including herself." One writer has even alleged that she encouraged

one male prisoner to escape, and turned him in to curry favor with the officials when he attempted it. There is no proof that this is true. Strangely, the prison secretary later called her a model prisoner and wrote that "her record was excellent."

The prison released Pearl Hart in 1902 although she hadn't served enough time to be eligible for parole. Some have said the prison authorities wanted to be rid of her because she was a trouble maker. Others allege that she was pregnant and was released to avoid scandal. Perhaps the truth will never be known.

What about the claim that Yuma Prison was a hellhole? It depends on one's point-of-view. Yuma gets terribly hot in the summer, and the heat must have been nearly unbearable. Nevertheless, the prisoners may have been cooler than the residents of Yuma. Situated as it was on a knoll overlooking the river, the inmates probably benefitted from breezes that the folks farther away from the river missed. After electricity was installed in 1885, huge fans blew air through the institution. Few people in Yuma had that luxury and must have considered the prisoners coddled.

There is no denying that life was rough for the prisoner who misbehaved. The "dark cell" dug into a caliche hill served as a solitary confinement cell for the disobedient. An escape attempt could gain a prisoner from 22 to 43 days in there with a ball and chain on the legs and only bread and water to eat and drink. Failing to take a bath could bring a two day confinement, talking after taps at night three days, and talking back to the guards twelve days. It has been charged that some of the guards dropped snakes and scorpions down the air vent into the cell, but this was denied by the authorities. Yet the solitary cell has been called the snake den.

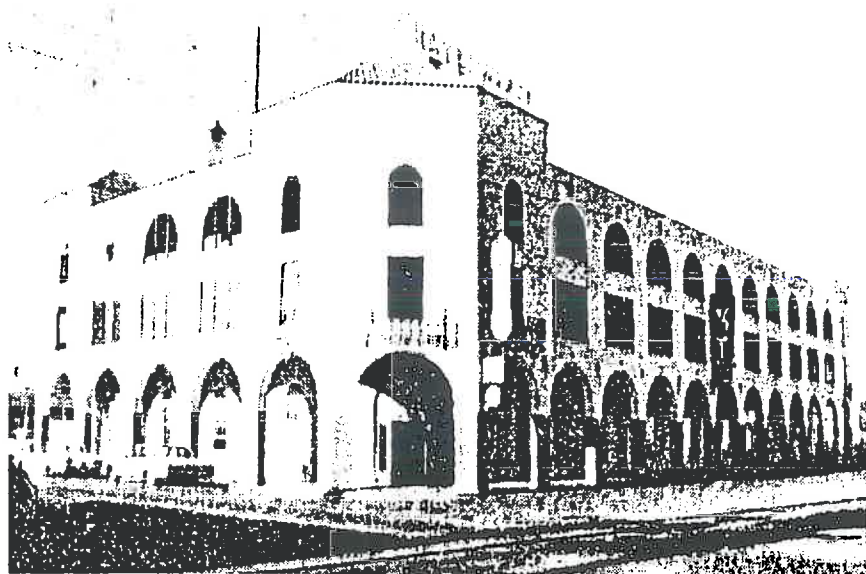
The Prison Museum is open daily. Exhibits in the main building include photographs and the criminal records of some of the inmates, prisoner made articles, exhibits of guns used by the guards, and leg irons among other things. Outside the main building are the cells where most visitors like to have their picture taken. The cemetery is just beyond the prison wall.



The "Dark Cell", one of three forms of punishment at the prison.



The entrance gate at Yuma Territorial Prison.

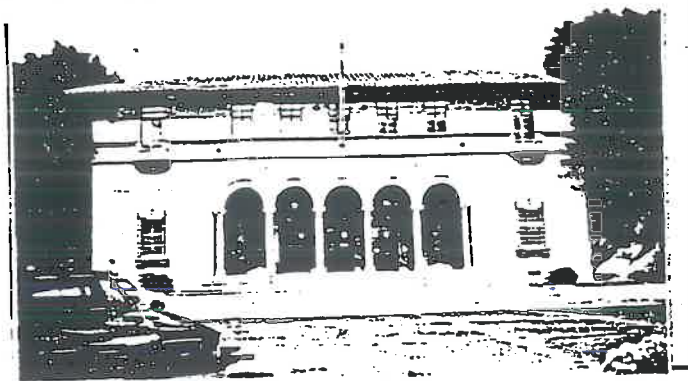


The Hotel del Ming is of primary value as an architectural and contextual complement to the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot (NR). Although the hotel is a local landmark in its own right, both buildings are expressions of Spanish Colonial Revival; the Hotel is by far the less elaborate of the two. Built in 1926, just a year after the completion of the Depot, the Hotel was intentionally sited diagonally from the new station in order to capitalize on the shortage of overnight accommodations in that section of the City. Taylor and Taylor of Los Angeles were the architects. The hotel was named after Yuma mayor F.S. Ming who headed the investment groups which built the facility.



ALLEN B. MING

Hotel Del Ming (del Sol)
1926
300 Gila Street



MAIN STREET POST OFFICE

THE MAIN STREET POST OFFICE, DESIGNED BY PROMINENT TUCSON ARCHITECT ROY PLACE (PART OF THE FIRM THAT DESIGNED CITY HALL), IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL POSTAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA. NATIVE ARIZONA TUSA STONE IS USED ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING AND THERE ARE MANY NOTABLE DESIGN FEATURES ON THE BUILDING INCLUDING:

- PROMINENT LOGGIA
- SIX SMOOTH SHAFT COLUMNS WITH CORINTHIAN CAPITALS
- VOUSOIRS OF THE COLUMN-SUPPORTED ARCHES HAVE DECORATIVE MOLDING.
- MOLDED BELT COURSES
- WROUGHT IRON RAILINGS ON BALCONIES
- WROUGHT IRON GATES OVER WINDOWS
- BRACKETED PROJECTING CORNICE WITH DECORATIVE PANELS
- SPANISH TILE ROOF

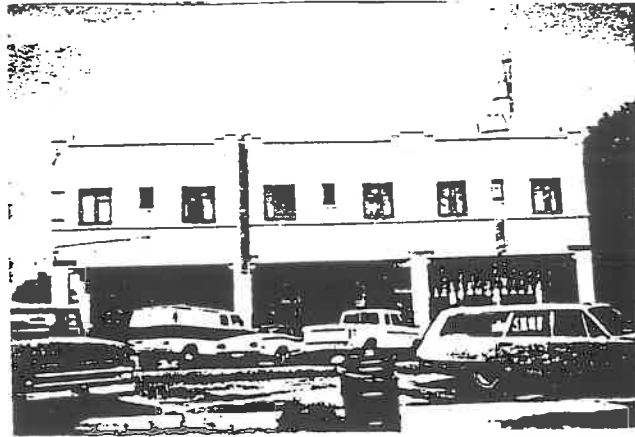
THE USE OF NATIVE STONE FOR AN ENTIRE FACADE IS EXTREMELY RARE.

THE POST OFFICE WAS THE FIRST FEDERALLY CONSTRUCTED POST OFFICE IN YUMA. IT IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH A PERIOD OF MAJOR PUBLIC BUILDING IN THE CITY INCLUDING THE CITY HALL IN 1921 AND THE 3RD COURTHOUSE IN 1928. ALSO SYMBOLIZES

THE IMPORTANCE OF YUMA AS A GROWING REGIONAL CENTER . ITS CONSTRUCTION WAS A MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENT.

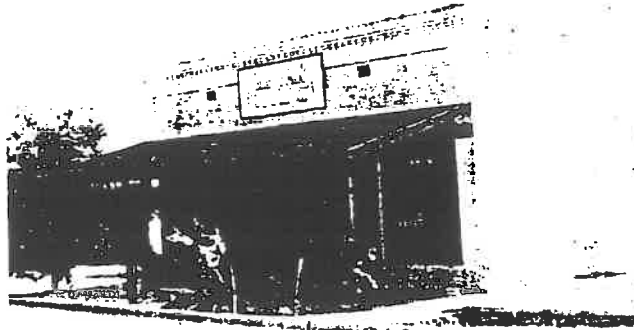
Hotel Lee
1917

390 S. Main Street



The Hotel Lee is Yuma's oldest hotel. It is an important structure in its role as a landmark in downtown Yuma and as an example of the Spanish Colonial Revival Influence. Located at the southern terminus of the commercial district, the building with its simple planes, applied ornaments and arched side windows is an early (1917) and simplified version of the Spanish Colonial Revival which was to become a major trend in western architecture during the 1920's and 30's. The building, relatively unchanged, contributes to the district in its scale and siting. The Lee has additional significance as the only remaining example of Spanish Colonial Revival on Main Street.

The Hotel Lee, named for Robert E. Lee and the southern "ocean to ocean" route, the Lee Highway, is currently under restoration and will become Yuma's first Bed and Breakfast. Yuma's first radio station opened at the hotel in 1934.

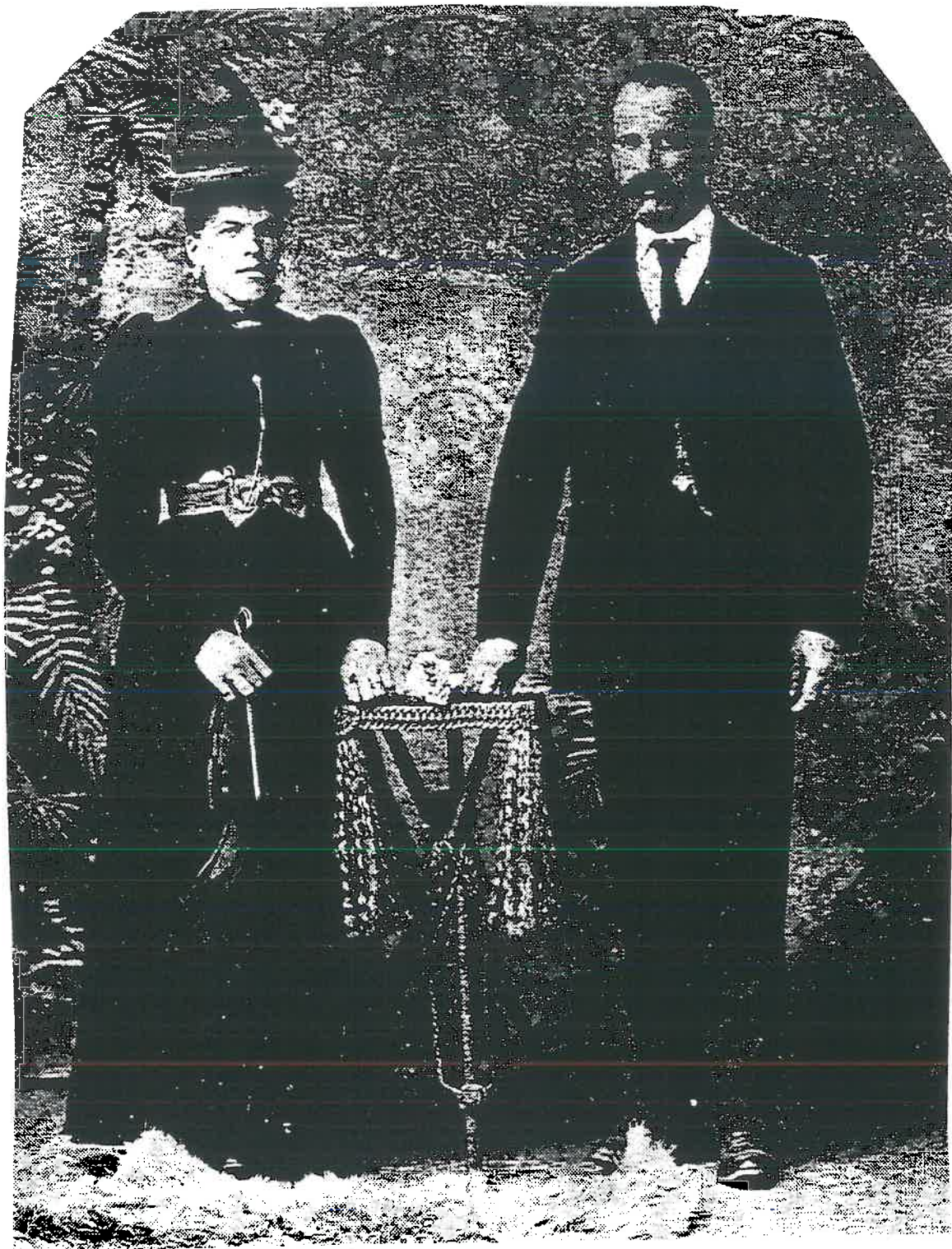


"Old Yuma" at 447 Main Street may be the oldest mercantile building still used in the city. It once housed a saloon and general store.

The Stoffella Store/Railroad Exchange

Constructed in 1899, now known as Old Yuma, the Stoffella Store is situated at the southernmost extent of commercial development along Main Street. The Stoffella Store stands as the best preserved of the 19th century business houses which were built in Yuma. Its longevity is due in part to the fact that it was situated near the freight depot in a relatively under-developed business area and it was one of the few buildings on Main Street to survive the devastating flood of 1916. To accommodate the wants of their customers one room of the store was developed for use as a saloon. The remainder of the rooms were stocked with groceries, clothing and sundries.

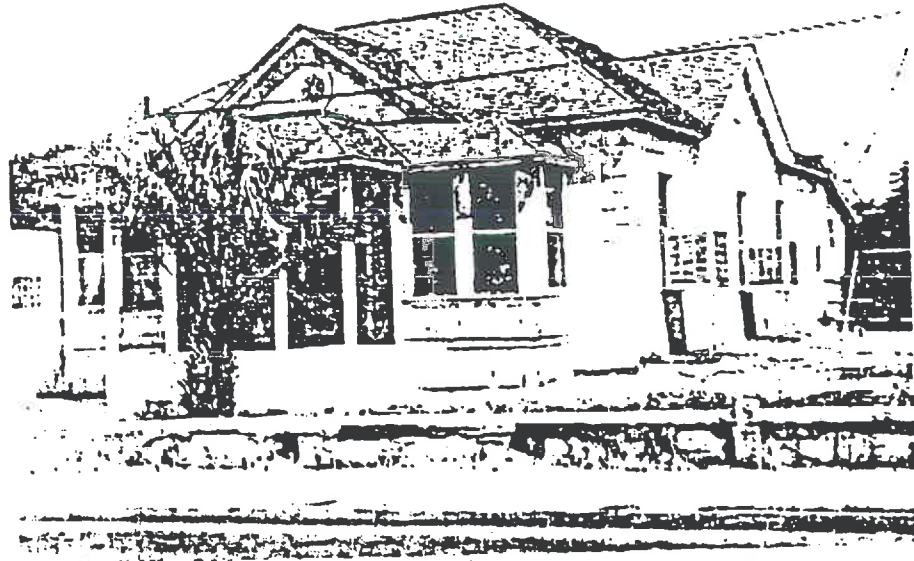
Style: Late 19th century Commercial brick Replacement of the original porch is the single largest change which has been made to the historic fabric of the building.



Anna and Louis Stofella

Parents of John Stofella
The family came from Austria

Norma Folly relates the following story about her father, John Stofella and J.M. Molina. Mr Molina had a horse that had been successful in several local races, and he thought it was the best in town. Mr. Stofella also had a horse of which he thought highly, and so a race was staged on Main Street. Molina was then the owner of property on Main Street, which is now occupied by Red's Bar; this he put up against Mr. Stofella's store, and the race was on. The Stofella horse won, and the Stofella family took possession of the Main Street property which remains in the family to this day. After the race Mr. Molina refused to walk in front of his former property, but would cross the street and walk down the east side of the street.



Built in 1905 by Peter B. Hodges, the house at 209 Orange Avenue is noteworthy, a unique adobe structure with Neo-Colonial characteristics. Its symmetry plan, basic roof configuration, and exterior wall finish are strongly suggestive of Georgian Colonial architecture; The absence of classical detailing, use of rectangular bay windows and jig-saw work, and entry configuration are obvious exceptions to Neo-Colonial tenets. However, within the context of local building development, the Hodges house shows the greatest concern for stylistic integrity of those structures built with adobe. Hodges himself was a businessman and the son of a pioneer Yuma family.

Peter B. Hodge House
1905

209 Orange Avenue

CRUEL MURDER OF P. B. HODGES

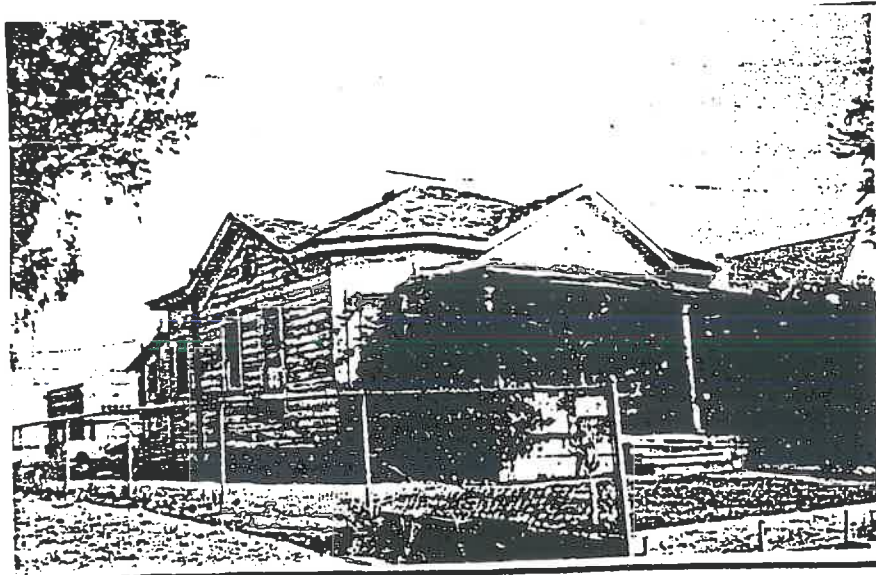
Lured to Lonely Place and Assassinated--A Sordid Crime, Carefully Planned and Deliberately Executed.--Murderer Safe Inside Penitentiary Walls.

Peter B. Hodges, member of a widely-known pioneer family, and a former treasurer of Yuma county, was last Thursday cruelly assassinated near Cipriano Pass in the Fortuna mountains, about 55 miles from Yuma, by Francisco Marquez, a Chihuahua Mexican, who wounded and nearly killed Manuel Arviso at the same time. The apparent motive was robbery.

The three men left Hodges' ranch on the Gila, five miles from Yuma, on Monday morning, June 15, to look at a gold prospect Marquez claimed to have in the Fortuna range and wished Hodges to buy. Near Cipriano Pass Marquez claimed to see signs of mountain sheep and, at Hodges' suggestion, took the latter's Winchester rifle and climbed the mountain side in quest of the game, Hodges and Arviso waiting below in the wagon in which they were traveling.

Several hundred yards up, Marquez disappeared from view in a break in the mountain side, and soon a shot was heard by those waiting below. He came in view again and called to Hodges to come up. Hodges went up the mountain and soon disappeared from view. Arviso then heard two shots in rapid succession and Marquez appeared and called to him to bring up a knife to skin the sheep he had killed. Arviso complied, and was half way up the mountain when a fourth shot rang out and a rifle bullet tore across his breast. Arviso, badly scared but not seriously wounded, scrambled down the hillside to the wagon, where he secured Hodges' revolver and awaited developments. Marquez stood above and beckoned persistently for Arviso to come up. No sign of Hodges appearing, Arviso mounted one of their two horses and leading the other, set out for Gila City, or Dome station.

Arizona Sentinel June 24, 1909

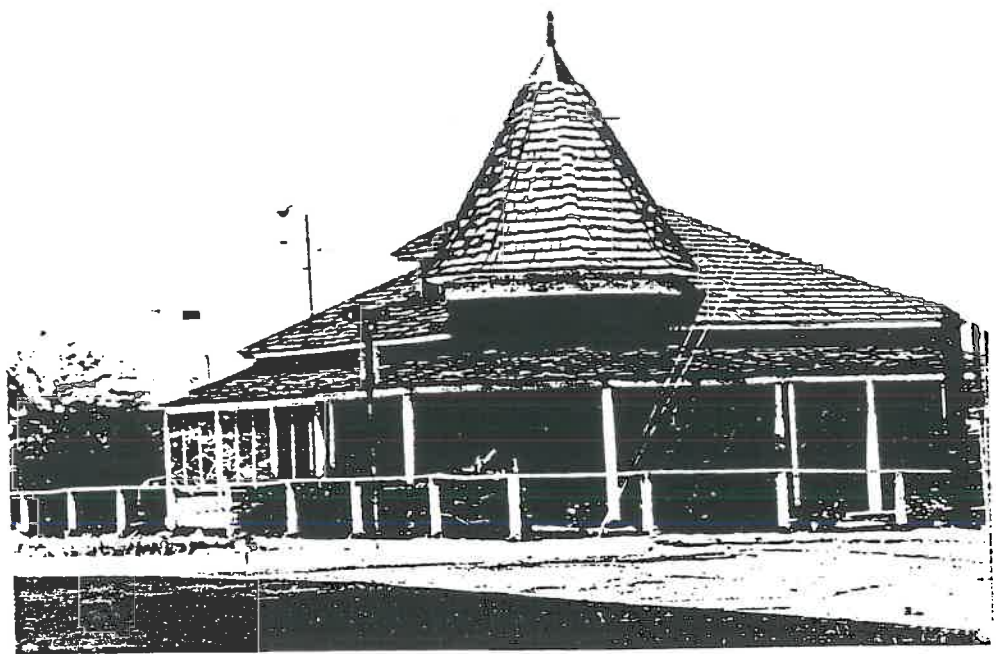


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Marable House is significant as the best example of Georgian Revival influenced architecture extant in Yuma. Built in 1906, at the time regional designs like the Mission Style were gaining prominence, the Marable House appears to be an anomaly in the general pattern of Yuma's development. There was, however, a distinct preference amongst some local residents for Eastern or classically derived forms. This was expressed in the Marable House through such features as a low profile roof, prominent gable/pediments, simulation of classical stone detailing, symmetrical window bays and attention to both side and front facades.

George Marable House
1906

482 Orange Avenue

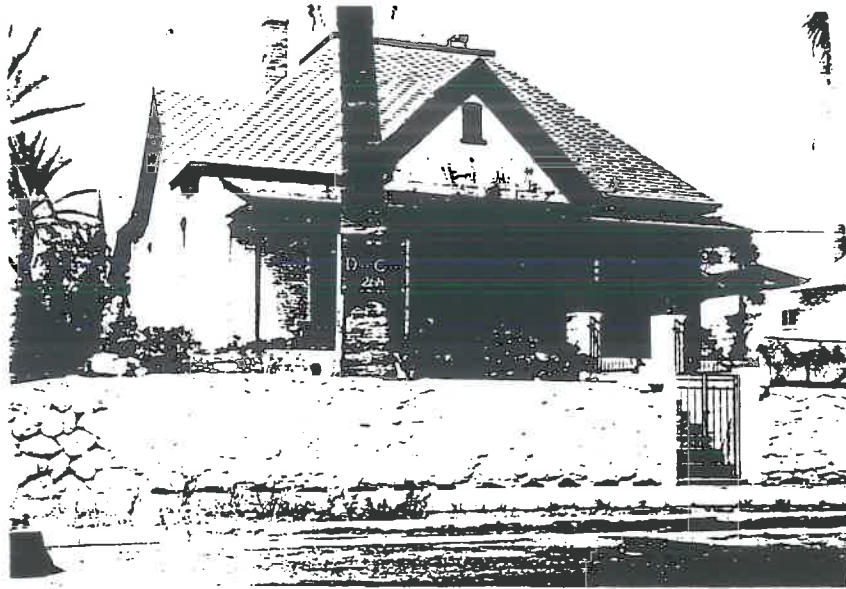


Joe Redondo House

c.1915

94 4th Street

style: Queen Anne



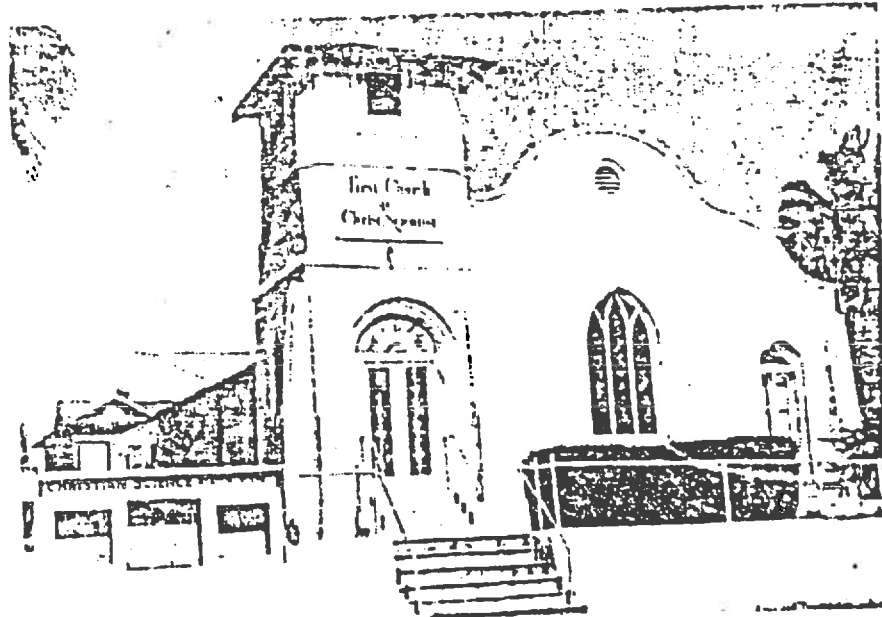
Built in 1893, it was a boarding house for many years which catered to employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad. After 1907, it was the residence of the C.L. Brown Family. Unlike the homes at 206 and 226 1st Avenue, brick rather than adobe was used as the basic construction material for this house.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1893 by F. B. Wightman, the Brown House is a well preserved example of a lodging house from the turn of the century. It has been used principally by railroad men as a stopover between Los Angeles and Tucson. In 1907 C. L. Brown acquired the property and used it as a family home until 1943. With the exception of reshingling the roof, and enclosing the breezeway between the kitchen and main building, the structure is little changed from its original appearance. Situated on a rise at the south end of the historic district the house is a prominent landmark.

C.L. Brown House
1893

268 S. 1st Avenue



The **Methodist Episcopal Church**, an example of Mission Revival architecture, was built in 1905 on the site of the first Protestant church in Yuma. Associated with the development of religious institutions in Yuma, the church is a significant local landmark.

It was for many years the home of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the town's first Protestant church. The Methodists organized as a congregation in 1892 and built their first church on the site of the present building. The one standing there now was built in 1905 replacing the original structure. Methodists continued to worship there until 1937. It was a mortuary for awhile and is now the First Church of Christ, Scientist. The home on the right side of the old church served as a Methodist parsonage.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Methodist Episcopal Church on First Avenue is noteworthy as an example of Mission Revival architecture and for its association with the development of religious institutions in Yuma. Built in 1905, the building is located on the site of the first Protestant church in Yuma. The church itself was organized in 1892 by the Rev. J.A. Crouch, an industrious Methodist missionary whose service in Arizona began in 1888. In 1937 the church was sold to finance construction of a newer and larger facility. Structurally sound and substantially intact, the Methodist Episcopal Church is a local landmark of great significance.

Methodist/Episcopal Church
1905

266 S. 1st Ave



Known by local historians as the Norton House, it was actually built in 1874 for banker George Duke. Several different persons owned the house before it was purchased by George Norton in 1913. He was a pioneer who first appeared in Yuma in 1877 as a surveyor for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Norton played an important role in Yuma County history and resided here while serving in the State Legislature.

George W. Norton House
c.1894

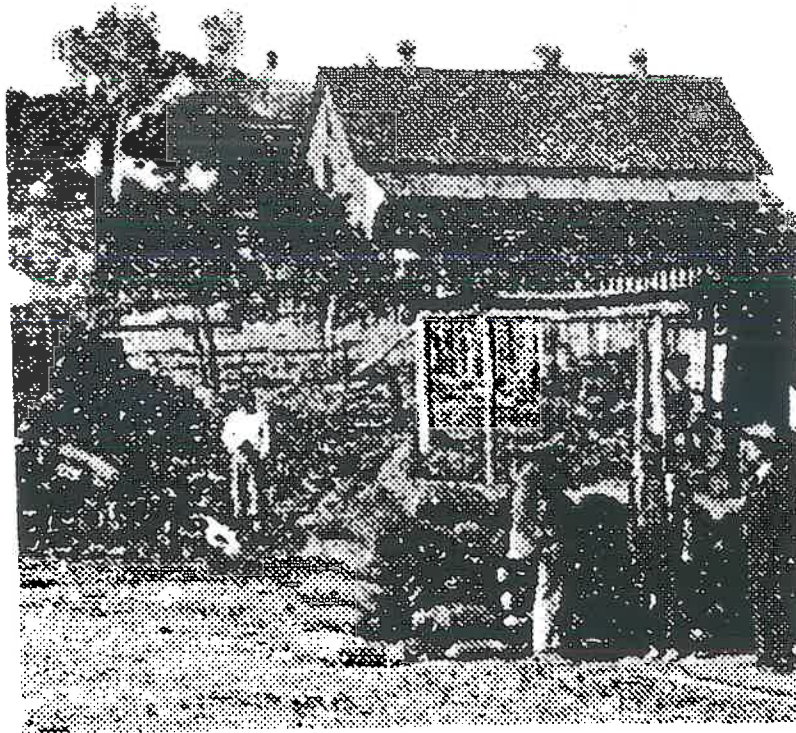
226 S. 1st Ave



GEORGE W. NORTON

HON. GEORGE W. NORTON, a large owner in and contractor for the construction of the Mohawk Canal, spent two or three days of this week in town. He reports the work is steadily progressing toward completion. There are 12 teams and about 20 men regularly employed excavating and three more teams just arrived from Sacramento, will be at once added.

Arizona Sentinel
October 17, 1885



G.A Ortiz House
1901

206 S. 1st Avenue

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ortiz House is the best example of Anglicized Sonoran architecture to be found in Yuma. Built in 1901, the main part of the structure features a floor plan, window treatment, and front elevation typical of many Sonoran buildings in the last half of the 19th century. Its "Anglo" character stemmed chiefly from siting (detached with side yards) and roof configuration (gabled with the ridge parallel to the front property line). This marriage of styles was accomplished by G. A. Ortiz, a carpenter and mason who moved from Sonora to Tucson in the late 1890's. He then relocated in Yuma about 1900. The house he built is still sound and is a significant contribution to the integrity of the historic district.





Walking tour begins at this 1st Avenue building which once housed Yuma's leading theatre, the Gandolfo.

The Gandolfo Theatre was constructed in 1917 by local entrepreneur John Gandolfo and opened to much fanfare on the 26th of October. The building, which had a seating capacity of 635, served as a movie house and regularly presented vaudeville, stage plays, and musical comedies. Occasionally the theater featured plays and variety acts from Mexico. The top floor of the building was a ballroom. In November of 1925, a fire destroyed the ballroom, and the top floor was removed.

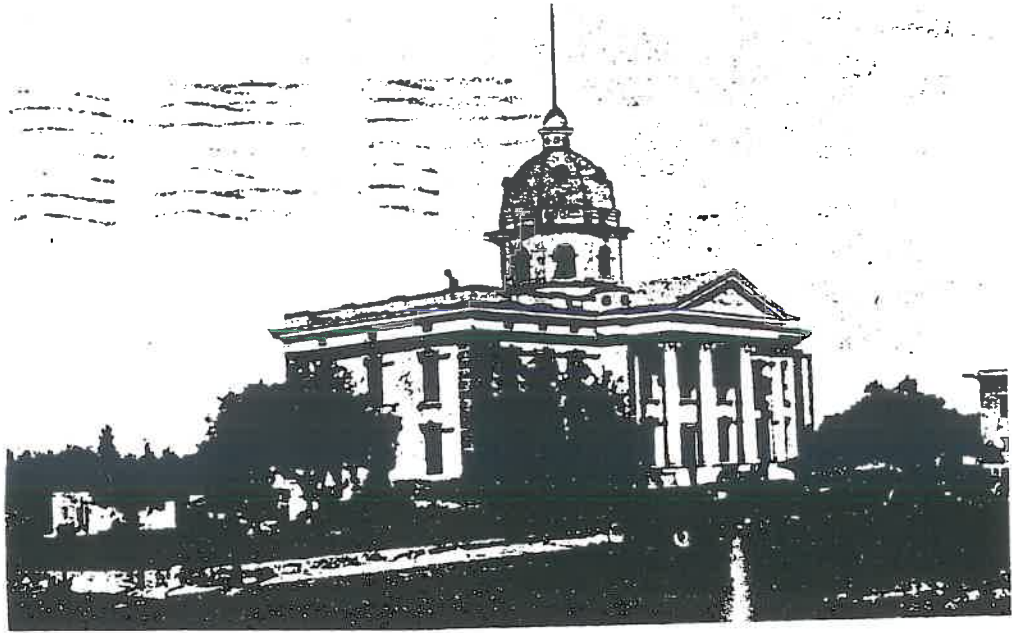
During World War II, the theater served as a USO canteen. After the War, the building was vacant except for a brief period when it served as a furniture store. In May of 1960 it was purchased by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for use as a lodge. It is now for sale again.

Gandolfo Theater
1917

200 S. 1st Avenue

John Gandolfo

Born in Genoa, Italy. Came to Yuma in 1875. In General Merchandise business. Founder of the firm of Gandolfo and Sanguinetti. Married Beatrice Imperial-family of 10 from that union. Was owner of river steamboat "Cochan" which plied between Yuma and Needles. Member of early board of county supervisors. Came to Yuma from Denver via San Diego. Died in Los Angeles Calif at age of 84.



YUMA COUNTY COURTHOUSE - THIRD COURTHOUSE

AFTER MUCH COMMUNITY DISCUSSION, THIRD WAS AUTHORIZED BY CITIZENS IN A BOND ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, 1927.

CORNERSTONE WAS LAID IN MAY, 1928. BUILDING WAS OCCUPIED DURING LATE DECEMBER, 1928 AND JANUARY, 1929.

BUILDING IS SECOND RENAISSANCE REVIVAL STYLE WITH DESIGN FEATURES SUCH AS A CENTERED ARCHED MAIN ENTRANCE ARTICULATED WITH FOUR PILASTERS SUPPORTING A LOWERED CORNICE. ABOVE THE CORNICE IS AN ATTIC STORY WITH A STEPPED PARAPET, BRACKETS, AND URNS AND FIVE SMALL ARCHED MULTI-LIGHT WINDOWS. STUCCO FINISH HAS BEEN SCORED TO SIMULATE STONE. NORTH AND SOUTH WINGS HAVE CORNER QUOINS, A SIMPLE CORNICE WITH PARAPET AND LARGE SECOND FLOOR ARCHED MULTI-LIGHT WINDOWS WITH PROJECTING KEYSTONES.

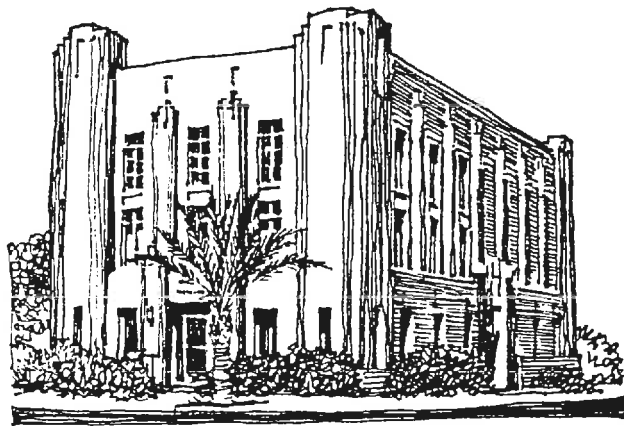
AN ADDITION WAS CONSTRUCTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO PROVIDE AN ELEVATOR AND HANDICAPPED RESTROOMS. ADDITION IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF AN APPROPRIATE CHANGE TO AN HISTORIC BUILDING. WINDOWS, STUCCO, SCALE, MATERIALS ETC. ARE COMPATIBLE BUT DON'T EXACTLY REPLICATE ORIGINAL BUILDING. CLEAR DEMARCATION OF WHERE OLD AND NEW BEGIN.

168 S. 2nd Avenue

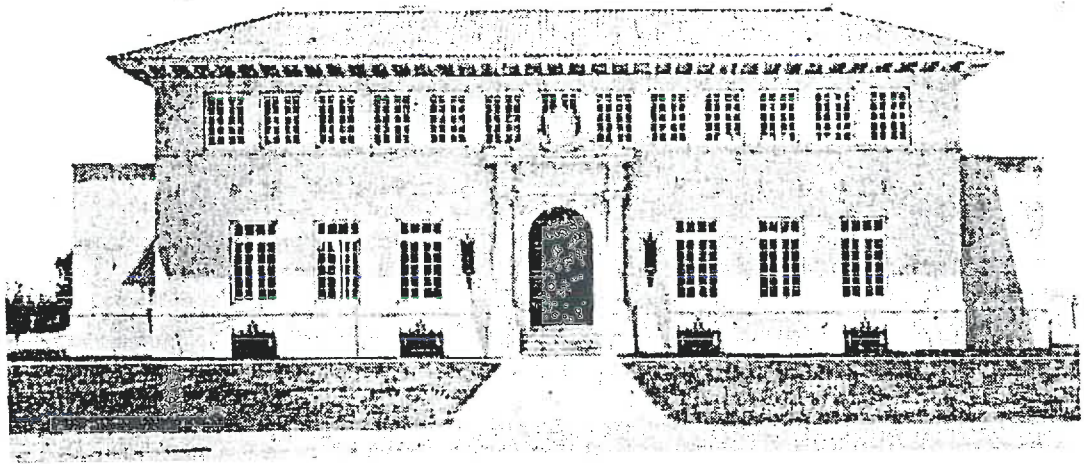
1928

MASONIC TEMPLE
153 South Second Avenue

The Masonic Temple, constructed in 1931, is significant as an example of the Zig-Zag Moderne style popular in the 1930s. The building's geometric ornamentation and the emphasis on verticality are hallmark features of this style. The geometric entry treatments on the main facades are also typical. The lodge



was designed by architects Edward Gray Taylor and Ellis Wing Taylor of Los Angeles. The Masonic Temple has served as the lodge headquarters for the Masons in Yuma since it was built.



BEFORE THE TREES

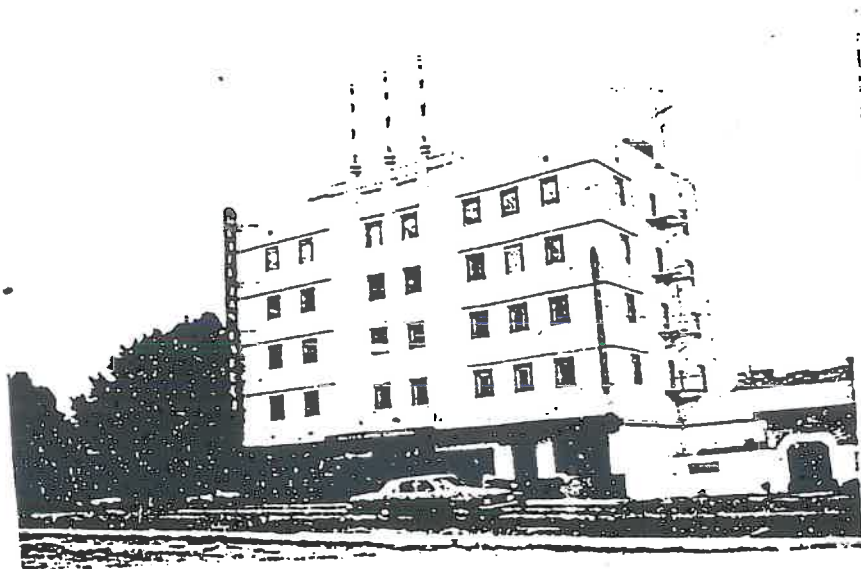
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Yuma City Hall is noteworthy as a local landmark and for its exemplary architectural style. Since its completion in 1921 the building has functioned as the center of local government. To enhance and emphasize this function the City Council chose to locate the building on a rise at the northern end of the town. Lyman and Place, a distinguished southwestern architectural firm were hired, to design the building. They executed the project in the popular Spanish Colonial Revival Style. With the exception of a few modifications--notably window changes--the exterior of the building is still original. Modifications at the rear are not distracting.

Yuma's City Hall is in the downtown area at 180 West 1st Street. This center of city government was constructed in 1920. Only a few blocks away is the Yuma County Court House on 2nd Avenue between 1st and 2nd Street. Built in 1928, it replaced an earlier one which had burned. A small memorial monument on the lawn honors fifteen Yuma men who gave their lives in the service of this country during World War I.

Yuma City Hall
1921

180 W. 1st Street



HOTEL SAN CARLOS

THE HOTEL SAN CARLOS, AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF MODERNE OR ART DECO ARCHITECTURE, WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1930. THE BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY DORR AND GIBB OF LOS ANGELES, AND BUILT BY COL. CHARLES HARRIS.

THE BUILDING FACADE INCLUDES MANY DESIGN FEATURES OF THE ART DECO PERIOD INCLUDING THREE STREAMLINED PILASTERS RISING TO THE TOP OF THE PARAPET ENDING IN ORNAMENTAL CONCRETE BASES FOR THREE DECORATED ALUMINUM SPIRES. IT HAS HIGHLY TEXTURED HORIZONTAL BANDS DEFINED AT EACH OF THE UPPER FLOOR LEVELS, AND THE ORIGINAL COLORS PROVIDED A SUBTLE CONTRAST OF THESE FEATURES. THE HOTEL WAS THE HUB OF DAY AND EVENING SOCIAL EVENTS FOR MANY YEARS AND HOSTED A BEVY OF MOVIE STARS IN YUMA TO FILM OR TO GET MARRIED DURING THE TIME WHEN THERE WAS NO WAITING PERIOD FOR MARRIAGES.

THE SAN CARLOS IS BEING COMPLETELY RENOVATED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND GROUND FLOOR COMMERCIAL SPACE BY A LOCAL NONPROFIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE OUT TO BID WITHIN THE NEXT 30 DAYS, WITH PROJECT COMPLETION SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1996.

San Carlos Hotel
1930

106 W. 1st Street



Power Apartments

Built in 1915, the Power Apartments is a well preserved example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Yuma. The building was erected by Mary E., Nugent, daughter of a pioneer Yuma family, after her marriage to the Rev. Stephen Power, an Episcopal minister. At the time it was built, the structure was situated at the southern end of the main commercial district. Since business activity later extended past third Street, the apartments have been incorporated into the fabric of the downtown area.

20 W. 3rd Street



STEPHEN F. POWER

Member of the City Council,
City of Yuma

Stephen F. Power was elected member of the City Council of the City of Yuma at the December election of 1918. Mr. Power is one of Yuma's best-known citizens. He has been a resident of Yuma for seven years and has taken an active part in its material development. He stands for those things which are for the best interest of all of the people. During the late war he was the president of the American Red Cross Chapter in Yuma county and devoted most of his time to Red Cross and war work. The Power apartments on Third street, which Mr. Power and his wife have as their home, is one of the show places of the City of Yuma. Mr. Power devotes a good portion of his time to the work of city councilman. He is a good business man, fair, honest and upright. He has no higher ambition than to serve the people of Yuma to the best of his ability. P.F.P.



CACTUS PRESS/PLAZA PAINT BUILDING
YUMA MRA

The Spanish Colonial Revival Style Cactus Press/Plaza Paint building is located at 30-54 E. Third Street (Y.M034). This poured concrete building was built ca. 1927 and remains principally intact. It is the only single story arched, poured concrete commercial structure extant in the Main Street area. This building form was common in Yuma during the 1920's but is rarely found in the Main Street area today (see MRA text, #7, p.3).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The one story, Spanish Colonial Revival Style building, including the arcade, is constructed of poured concrete. The curvilinear arcade dominates the front of the building and complements the stepped parapet with cap row and original ornamental details found on the building. Arcading is a common southwestern design element which was once found on Main Street and in the surrounding area, covering the sidewalk to provide shoppers with protection from the intense heat and common rains. The Spanish Colonial Revival Style lends itself well to the use of this design element.

The Cactus Press/Plaza Paint building remains intact except for minor, reversible modifications which include a small addition placed towards the rear of the building on the west end and the covering of the plaster bulkheads with brick. These are five bays with plate glass display windows, wood frame doors, and a row of transom windows running the length of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Cactus Press/Plaza Paint building is a significant representation of poured concrete construction which incorporated an arcade into the main block of the building. The Hotel Del Ming (Y.M011, National Register #Yu.106) is the only other intact example of this type of construction from the historic period (prior to 1936) in the Main Street area. The building is also significant for its design, with integration of the arched arcade into the building front.

Because it is representative of an unusual method of construction in Yuma and because it is an example of a design type once common, but now rare, it is eligible for the National Register under criterion C.

Cactus Press -Plaza Paint
1920

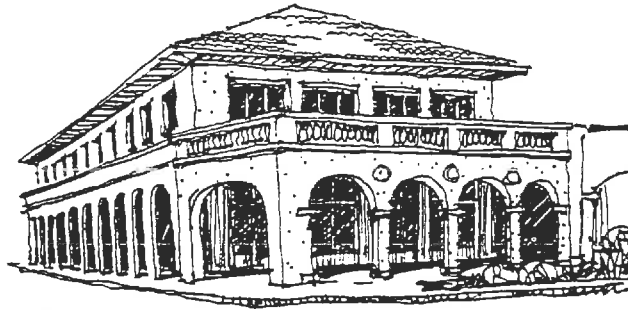
30-54 E. 3rd Street

History Brinley District

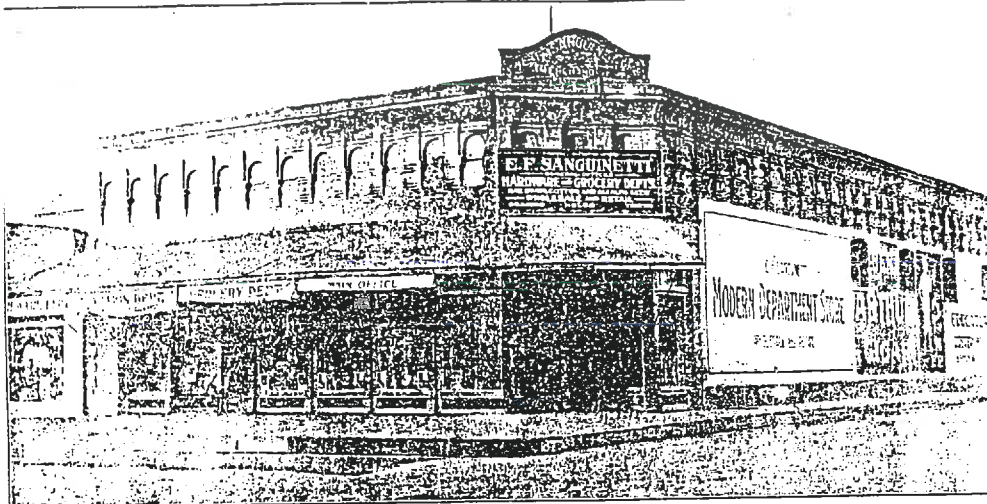
YUMA'S HISTORY IS MARKED BY FLOODS AND BY THE PASSING THROUGH OF EVERY MAJOR MOVEMENT WHICH SHAPED WESTERN HISTORY - AT THE YUMA CROSSING. IT'S BEEN A TRANSPORTATION CENTER AND AN AGRICULTURAL CENTER. MODERN YUMA BEGAN IN THE 1850'S - SOON AFTER THE GADSDEN PURCHASE. COLORADO CITY WAS THE ORIGINAL NAME OF THE SETTLEMENT WHICH GREW UP ALONG THE BANKS OF THE COLORADO RIVER. THE NAME HAD CHANGED TO ARIZONA CITY BY 1860, AND TO YUMA BY THE LEGISLATURE IN 1873. THE LAST MAJOR FLOOD IN 1916 LITERALLY WASHED AWAY MOST OF THE ADOBE BUILDINGS IN THE DOWNTOWN. THE HIGH WATER MARK WAS MADISON AVENUE, AND FORT YUMA AND PRISON HILL WERE ISLANDS. THAT'S WHY THERE AREN'T MANY ADOBE BUILDINGS LEFT.

YUMA NATIONAL BANK
198 South Main Street

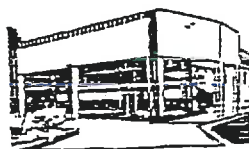
The Yuma National Bank was one of several financial institutions to be founded in Yuma early in the 20th century. Organized in 1909, the bank occupied two nearby locations before erecting this building in 1924. Designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival



style by Phoenix architects Lescher & Mahoney, the structure was one of the finest in the community. The building has been beautifully restored in recent years and stands as an example of Yuma's appearance in the 1920s.



The "Old Store" of E. F. Sanguinetti, Corner of Main and Second Streets, Yuma, Arizona



Sanguinetti General Merchandise - 200 South Main Street

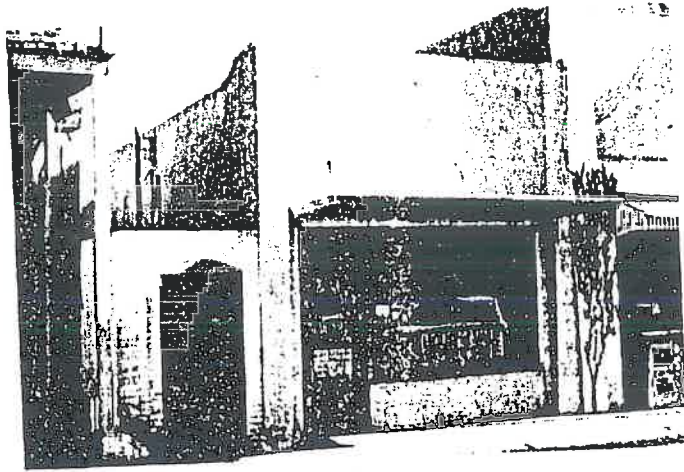
This was the main store and home office for E. F. Sanguinetti's extensive business interests. Beginning in 1898, Sanguinetti eventually expanded to half a dozen specialized stores in Yuma and branch stores in four other towns.

It is one of the few early brick buildings to survive flood, fire and urban renewal.

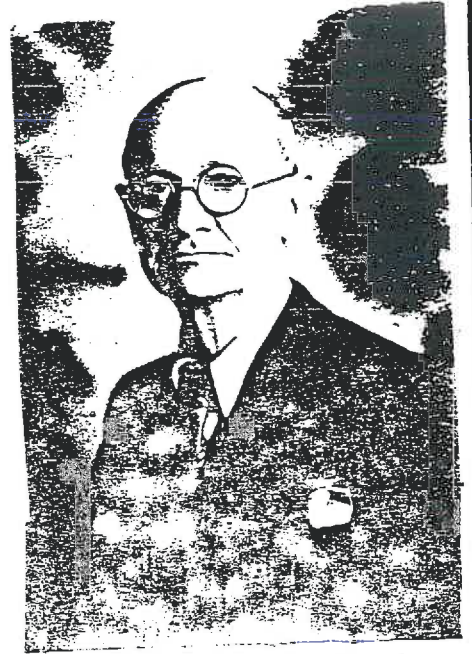
In 1916 it was occupied by Imperial Hardware which remained there until the late 1970's.

It was the custom in the early days for stores to remain open until 10 p.m. and during springtime the mosquitoes made shopping a painful experience. To combat this, Sanguinetti's had pots of smoldering manure in their store, emitting clouds of pungent smoke that filled the room. The question was, "Who could last the longest - the mosquitoes or the customers?"

The Sanguinetti General Merchandise is one of the few early 20th century commercial brick structures still standing. Built in 1900, it served as the main store and home office for E. F. Sanguinetti's extensive business interests.



- Built in 1903 and refaced in 1910, the Wupperman Building is one of the early 20th Century commercial buildings erected on 2nd Street. Originally occupied by Henry Wupperman, a local attorney, the building has housed many businesses since then. Presently houses Jimmie Dees.



H. H. Wupperman

YUMA FOOTPRINTS
William H. Westover
page 124

When I commenced to practice law there was a lawyer at the local Bar by the name of H. Wupperman. He was a small meek man, colorless and unimpressive, but he had been elected City Attorney, a position he held for many years. He had a peculiar way of trying cases. He would never object to the questions asked by his opponent, and permitted everything to go in, but usually he was well grounded in the law and knew what he wanted to establish and was fairly successful.

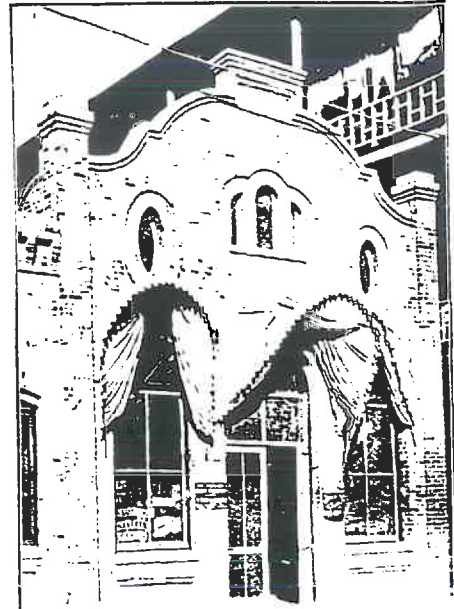
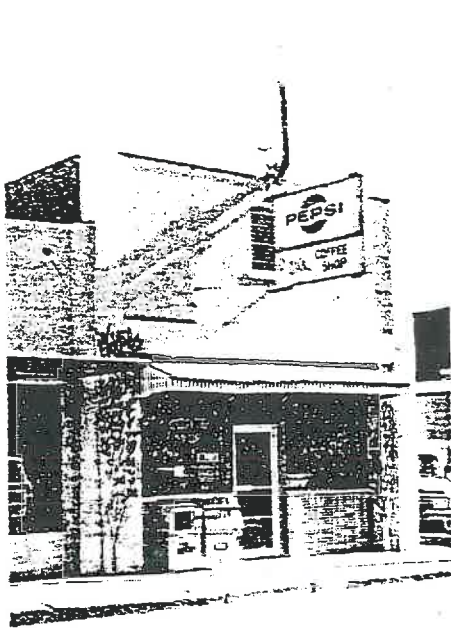
The one thing that I remember best about Wupperman was this. In that day attorneys did not have secretaries. They did their own typing and took care of their own office, and when they left their office there was no one to answer the phone or meet clients, and so Wupperman, when leaving his office, invariably placed upon his door, this notice:

WILL BE BACK IN THIRTY MINUTES
HAVE BEEN GONE 15 MINUTES ALREADY

Wupperman Office
40 West Second Street

1908

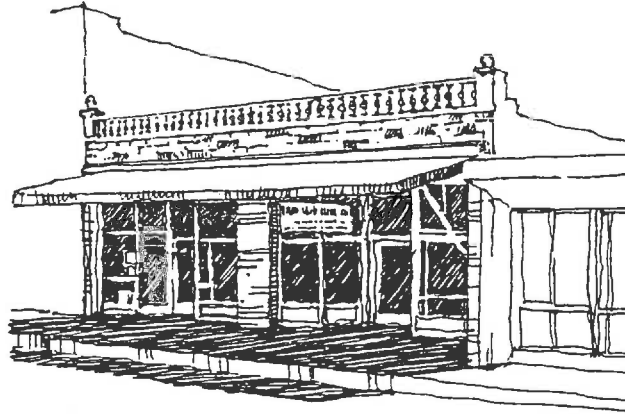
Yuma Title Abstract Building 1908 38 West Second Street



Because of its siting, scale, major features, and age the Yuma Title Abstract Building contributes to the character of 2nd Street and the Brinley Avenue Historic District, as a whole. The building was the original location of the Yuma National Bank and was subsequently occupied by the Yuma Title Abstract Company.

DORRINGTON BLOCK 41-45 West Second Street

The Dorrington Block is a rare example in Yuma of Neoclassical influence in the design of a commercial facade. This stylistic influence may be seen in the



balustrade at the parapet and in the use of concrete block cast to have the appearance of rusticated stone. The original storefronts with recessed entries and plate glass remain as well. Constructed in 1908, the building is one of the best-preserved commercial blocks of its age.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dorrington Block is a rare example in Yuma of Neo-Classical Revival influence in the design of a commercial facade. Both of the original features indicative of this influence, the balustrade and the rusticated block, are intact. Original storefronts with recessed entry and plate glass display cases are also extant. As a whole the building is one of the best preserved commercial blocks of its age. In addition the property is significant for the contribution it makes to the overall character of the historic district by its scale and siting.

This was the location of Colonel Dorrington's combined office, print shop and home. He was the owner of The Sentinel for over thirty years. This newspaper later became the Yuma Daily Sun.

In front of his home stood a gnarled, old mesquite tree. The Town Council wanted to widen and improve the street; the proposal included cutting down that tree. Colonel Dorrington fought the proposal. It was the most-talked-of-tree in existence. For awhile the Colonel placed a guard at night on the tree to prevent its disappearance. Miss Post was on the Colonel's side. Cement sidewalks were laid in all parts of town and miles of streets and roads were paved - but the Colonel's tree continued to stand! When he was finally deceased - Down came that tree and down went the pavement!



Second Street looking east from Madison Avenue about 1910. The annex to the Gandolfo Hotel is on the left, while the John W. Dorrington residence is on the right. Dorrington could possibly be termed one of the territory's first ecologists. In later years he waged a successful battle against the town council to save the tree in front of his house. — CLARISSA WINSOR COLLECTION

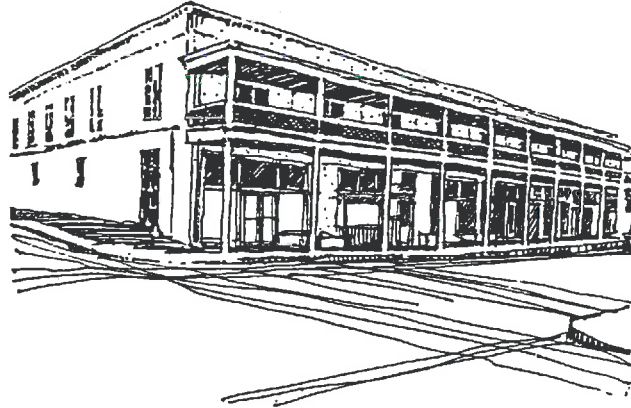


JOHN WEBSTER DORRINGTON

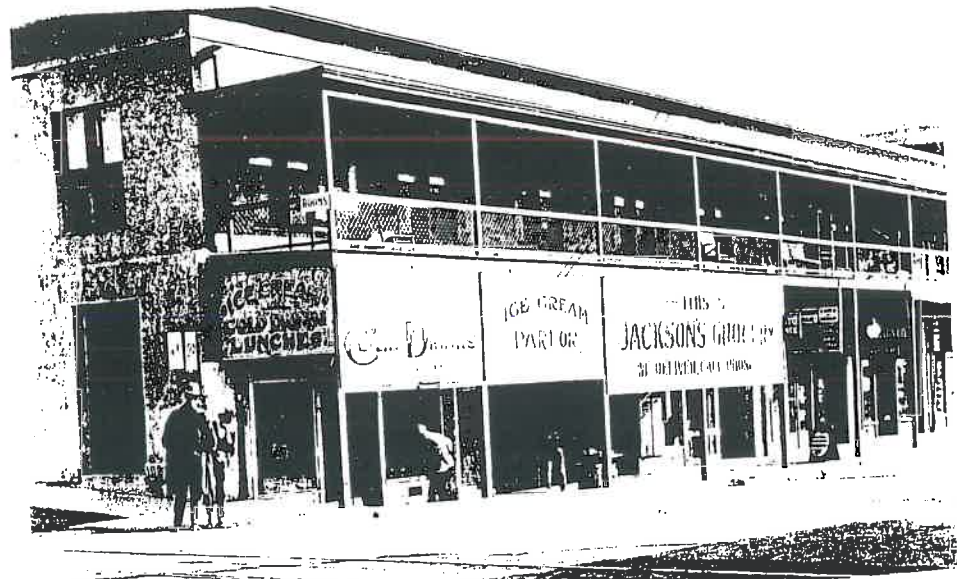


GANDOLFO ANNEX
44-56 West Second Street

The adobe Gandolfo Annex is one of the few two-story commercial blocks built in the early 20th



century to survive Yuma's various fires, floods, and redevelopment programs. It was built in 1905 by John Gandolfo, Sr., as a commercial house and hotel annex. The building was remodeled in 1915, had a major fire in 1916, and was rebuilt in 1917. Continually in use since its opening, the Annex has become a local landmark because of its prominent location and size. The building retains much of its original character, including details, and is one of the largest adobe structures in the city.



Continually in use since its opening, the Annex has become a local landmark because of its prominent location and size. The building has much of its original character, including details, and is one of the largest adobe structures in the city. It is a major feature of the historic district. Individually, its primary significance is as a building type.

Building History

The Gandolfo Hotel, constructed in 1899, was the largest building in Yuma at that time. In 1905, John Gandolfo added a second building with shops on the first floor and additional hotel rooms on the second. It was called the Gandolfo Annex, a somewhat misleading name, as the two buildings were not contiguous. The annex, around the corner from the main building and beside the railroad tracks, may have been intended to divert less genteel clientele from the hotel itself. The separation of the two buildings, for whatever reason, proves to have been fortunate from an historical perspective; the main building burned many years ago, but the annex remains.

The annex did have a fire, in 1917. Damage was apparently extensive; the entire second floor was rebuilt about this time, probably as post-fire repairs. The present two-story porch was probably constructed at that time; earlier photos of the building show an overhang shading the sidewalk, but no porch. Early Sanborn maps show ten small skylights, now gone. The main alteration in the second floor reconstruction, however, is that the walls were built in wood frame instead of brick, a change that has caused ongoing deterioration problems for the adobe below.

The Gandolfo Annex, later called the Hotel Yuma, continued to serve as a hotel into the 1970's.

The building represents the territorial era in Yuma's history. The Gandolfo Annex is listed on the Arizona State Register of Historic Sites. It is a contributing building in the Brinley Avenue Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

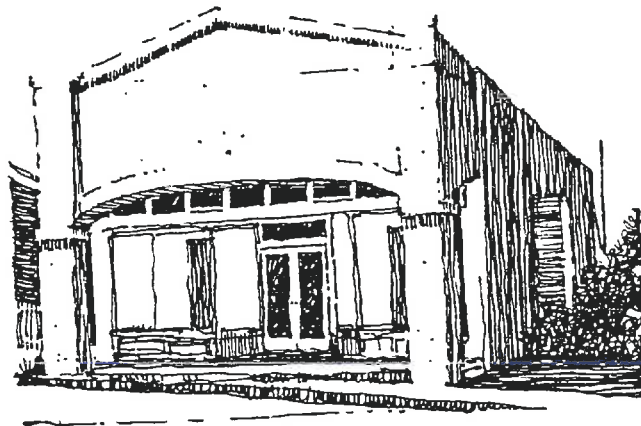
VENEGAS HOUSE 70 West Second Street

This residence is typical of the concrete block buildings erected during the first two decades of the 20th century. It is reputed to have been built by the sons of Rita Laviás Venegas for her use. Constructed in 1906, its Neoclassical Revival influence can be seen in the careful symmetry of the facade, the even line of porch columns, and in the use of concrete block cast to replicate rusticated stone.



VENEGAS STORE 78 West Second Street

Originally built by Jose Maria Venegas c. 1924 as a storehouse and soon after modified as a dry goods outlet, the Venegas Store contains a front which is a rare example of the facade style popular for commercial facilities in Yuma during the 1920s. Characteristic features of this style include plain white plaster surfaces, broad flat-topped arches, heavy corner columns, and a recessed wall plane containing the entry and display windows. The Venegas Store exhibits all of these features.



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally built by Jose Maria Venegas as a storehouse and soon after modified as a dry goods outlet, the Venegas Store contains a front which is a rare example of the facade style popular for commercial facilities in Yuma during the 1920s. Characteristic features of this style include plain white plaster surfaces, broad flat-topped arches, heavy corner columns, and a recessed wall plane containing the entry and display windows. The Venegas Store exhibits all of these features. In addition to this architectural significance the property contributes to the overall character and integrity of the Brinley Avenue Historic District because of its scale, siting and massing.

Louis Jaeger

Martinez House

1875

106 Madison Avenue



The **Martinez House**, although greatly modified, is an example of mid-19th century residential architecture in Yuma. It has been occupied since the turn of the century by the Martinez family, descendants of pioneer ferryman, Louis J.G. Jaeger.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance of the Martinez House is its value as a potential example of mid-19th century residential architecture in Yuma. Existing records suggest that the building was in existence in 1875, but local lore would have it built as early as 1860. If so, the building was owned by a succession of prominent Yuma citizens: J.B. Allen, George Bryant, David Neahr, and Louis J.F. Jaeger. In 1903 it was occupied by Gabriel Martinez, son-in-law of Jaeger. The property has remained in the Martinez family every since. Although greatly modified the house retains significant portions of the original fabric which would be invaluable in determining the character and technology of 19th century Yuma



Louis Jaeger
ferryman on the Colorado

Louis J. F. Jaeger

LOUIS J. F. JAEGER was a man of tremendous energy and enterprise; and there was almost nothing going on in the Gadsden Purchase that he did not have a hand in; and, long after he was dead, his son, Louis J. F. Jaeger, Jr., managed the Santa Rita Hotel, at the time it was built in 1902, the finest one in the Territory of Arizona, and to this day one of the most attractive and best known.

The fact is Jaeger came into the region in 1850, before there was either a Gadsden Purchase or an Arizona. He was Knight-errant of the Colorado River; Yuma's earliest and most enterprising citizen—the first who came, saw, stayed, and conquered. When he arrived in 1850 to establish a ferry, he found only the Yuma Indians and the Colorado River. However, he was not the first to run a ferry. From the beginning of the gold rush things had been doing at the Colorado crossing. The Yuma Indians were operating a ferry there in 1849, and were giving friendly assistance to emigrants entering California, as they had done in Anza's time and even in Kino's. They crossed not far below the present Southern Pacific railroad bridge, hiring an American for chief boatman and demanding only a small fee for the passage.

LOUIS J. F. JAEGER

YUMA CROSSING
Douglas Martin
page 157

History has been speeding up at the Yuma Crossing and never again will the desert years be awakened only by the passage of padres, conquistadores, emigrants, and soldiers. A strong young man has arrived who will plant his feet at the edge of the red current. He is a simple German workman, but he is a builder and for twenty-seven years he will help to write more history here than all the legendary and romantic figures who preceded him. His name is Jaeger, although thousands will know him as "Don Diego, the Ferryman."

Many travelers who wrote about him spelled his name Yaeqer. Others thought it was "laeger". Sometimes he, himself, wrote it "Yaeger." But in Washington D.C., where he died, the Bureau of Vital Statistics records the name as Jaeger, and so does the Reformed Lutheran Church of Hamburg, Pennsylvania, in the graveyard of which his bones rest.

Born on October 8, 1824, in a Greenwich, Pennsylvania, farmhouse, near Hamburg, Jaeger attended the first grades of public school as a boy and then learned the machinist's trade at the Baldwin locomotive shops in Philadelphia. He worked in the Washington navy yard from 1846 to 1848, and in 1849 joined the gold rush, shipping on the "Mason" and rounding the Horn. He reached San Francisco in October and somewhere his path crossed that of Johnson. (Colorado Steam Navigation Company)

Now here he was at the crossing, twenty-six years old, and the chief owner of a strange enterprise. He was not a big man - five feet ten inches - but he was all muscle. His eyes were blue and steady and his forehead was high. He was not well educated, but he was a tireless worker and he had the foresight in business which is carelessly called the Midas touch. The nearest the Indians could come to pronouncing his name was "Diego," which the Mexicans embellished with the prefix "Don" so that "Don Diego" soon became his name.

Business was good. The emigrant wagons continued rolling down from the Gila trail, and one California authority claims that the ferry handled forty thousand persons in 1850 and 1851.



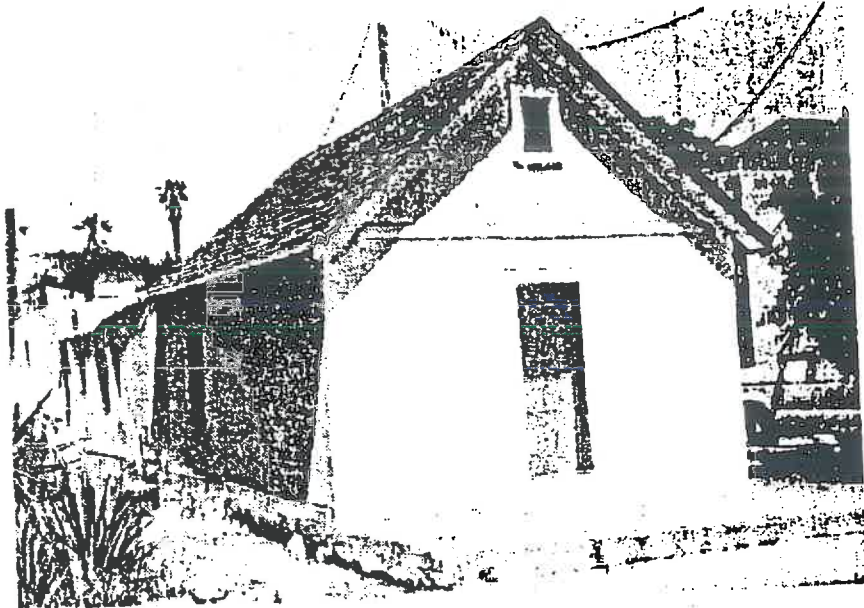
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building at the corner of Madison and First Street has been an integral aspect of Yuma's business community since it was erected in 1891 by J. M. Molina. Initially used as a drug store, the structure was later converted for use as a Chinese laundry, a wedding chapel, and a single family residence. Although many small business houses of this type were built during the 19th century in Yuma the Popular Drug Store is the only one which is known to still exist. Its historic fabric is substantially intact and its integrity is recoverable. By its scale, massing, and siting the building also makes a major contribution to the overall character of the Brinley Avenue Historic District.

Popular Drug Store
102 Madison Avenue

1891

has also served the community as a Chinese laundry and a wedding chapel. Marrying people quickly was an important business in Yuma for many years. Californians fled to Yuma to get "hitched" to avoid the more restrictive laws in their home state.



Mary Neahr Pancrazi House

1899 118 Madison Avenue

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built about 1899 by David Neahr for his daughter Fryda Mary Neahr Pancrazi, the house at 118 Madison is typical of the small adobe residences common in Yuma at the turn of the century. It is also an interesting example of building expansion by linear accretion. The single largest addition was in 1936 when a second apartment was added on the rear and the entire building was modernized. Despite these changes significant portions of the original fabric remain as evidence of late 19th century building technology. The building is thus an important feature in the historic district and contributes to its overall character.

DAVID NEAHR

DAVID NEAHR WAS BORN OF PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH PARENTS IN 1825, AND AFTER GAINING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN ENGINEERING, EMIGRATED TO THE SOUTHWEST IN 1853. NEAHR NEVER MADE IT TO THE WEST COAST BECAUSE DREAMS OF NAVIGATION ON THE COLORADO LEAD TO HIS SETTLING AT THE YUMA CROSSING. BEFORE LONG, HE HAD HIS OWN STEAMBOAT AND HAD MARRIED A YOUNG COCOPAH GIRL. WITH THE HELP OF HIS WIFE, HE ESTABLISHED THE FIRST MERCANTILE COMPANY IN YUMA. WHEN THE TERRITORIAL PRISON WAS BUILT, IT WAS NEAHR WHO WAS SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION. BRANCHING OUT INTO RANCHING, MINING, AND REAL ESTATE. NEAHR GAVE THE STATE OF ARIZONA THE LAND ON WHICH THE CAPITOL IN PHOENIX WAS TO BE BUILT. DAVID NEAHR DIED ON MARCH 26, 1881 AND WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE AND TEN CHILDREN.

David Neahr Was a Noted Yuma Pioneer; Married an Indian Maiden, Had 10 Children

(Editor's note: Yuma's history is rich with noteworthy persons who contributed to the early development and growth of the area. One such was David William Neahr. An early day riverman and raucher, Neahr was also one of our original teamsters. This story is told by his grandson, David William Arriola, born here in 1899. He resides at 712 Vaughn Avenue.

David William Neahr was born in Pennsylvania, a member of one of the old Pennsylvania Dutch families. Having graduated as a civil engineer, Mr. Neahr moved to New York City and went to work in the shipyards as a boat builder. It was during this time that he and Captain Isaac Poihamus, (an often mentioned figure in Yuma history who was a riverboat captain on the Colorado) came to know each other and became close friends.

The ambitious men were moved by the stories of the great fortunes to be found in California. They joined a wagon caravan heading West, and so it happened that Mr. Neahr and Captain Poihamus arrived at the Colorado Crossing around the year 1853 or 1854, both in their early twenties.

A Rest

Stopping at the Colorado Crossing was meant to be a few days' rest for the travelers and their teams before attempting the long journey into California and crossing the desert which lie immediately ahead. While the caravan rested, however, Mr. Neahr was busy looking over the area and was soon overcome by the possibilities he could see in the area and by the thought of possibly navigating the mighty Colorado River. It occurred to him that by obtaining a Government contract, riverboats could be built and used to haul freight to the various Government forts along the river.

soon a shipyard appeared just east of what was the old power plant on North Main Street, Yuma. Indian families were "contracted" to cut cords of wood every so many miles along the river to provide fuel for the boats. Shortly after, Mr. Neahr and Captain Poihamus had made their homes aboard the boats and freight was being hauled up and down the river.

Mr. Neahr found his new endeavor pleasant and rewarding. He decided that he would make his home in the area. Women were, of course, very scarce in the West in those days; so it happened that along the river banks he discovered and courted a beautiful young Indian maiden, Maria Hupchauss, who became his wife. She was a full blooded Cocopah and the daughter of one of the Indian couples whose family helped supply the wood for the ship fuel.

On the Boat

Mr. Neahr moved his young bride aboard the riverboat. The new Mrs. Neahr proved to be a very intelligent person though, of course, she had had no formal education. It became the duty of the Chinese cook aboard the boat to instruct her in the art of house-

hold chores, and in a short time she was skilled in cooking, baking, sewing, and the other common activities of white women.

Thus the Neahrs, lived up and down the river until the time of the birth of their fourth child. By now the children were forever falling into the river, much to the delight of the Indian boat hands who were kept busy diving in after one child and then the other. About this time the Neahrs felt a need to find some spot along the river to settle down and make a more permanent home. The Colorado Crossing was chosen and proudly the family moved into its first real home.

10 of Them

(The children came to be ten in number — eight boys and two girls — whose interesting

names may be worthy of mention. The boys were named James Fresson, William Freedom, Harry Freedom, Frank Freecome, Charles Freeborn, Mayor Freelee, Joe Freeland, and Patrick Freechild. Fannie, Freeda and Mary Freedom were the girls.)

In the days of the riverboats, the Colorado River possessed mighty and powerful currents. A trip upriver and back home was a matter of a very long period of time for Mr. Neahr. Before leaving on a trip he would stock the family with what he thought would be abundant supplies, but on return always discovered that the supplies had been exhausted. There was, he thought, a need for supplies to be made available to the little community which was developing as more and more people traveling to California chose to settle in the area. Because of this, Mr. Neahr opened Yuma's first store and also started another business, haul-

ing freight and supplies by wagon all the way to Fort Huachuca.

First Owner

Mr. Neahr was the first owner of the Agua Caliente hot springs where he established a large cattle ranch. There were many large Indian tribes along the river, but Mr. Neahr managed to gain their friendship and respect. Each year the Indian tribes would gather at the Agua Caliente cattle ranch and camp there to make preparation for the annual deer hunt. Mr. Neahr would order his cowboys to bring to his Indian friends a couple of his best beef and would also supply them with flour, coffee, and beans to help them on their hunt.

The Neahr family was never

troubled by Indians as they traveled from the ranch to Yuma. On the contrary, when met with Indians, the tribe would often provide an escort of its own people to travel with the Neahrs for protection.

On occasion Mr. Neahr's wagon trains carrying supplies were attacked and robbed, but he was always blamed white men and Mexican bandits who were known to band across the border and dress as Indians to make their well-planned profitable raids on supply trains. Sometimes while fighting off the bandits the horse of the assailants were shot at later were discovered to be mounted with Mexican saddle and silver-plated bridles.

Much Land

Through the years, Mr. Neahr continued to acquire much land in the ever growing areas what today are Yuma and Phoenix. He was taking an active part in the development of these promising communities

and even then there was talk and speculation as to the possibilities of developing the G. and Yuma valleys into agricultural areas.

Already engaged in agriculture was an important piece of the area, Don Jose Mar Redondo, owner of the Hacienda San Isidro (now called Redondo Ruins) in the G. valley. Don Jose was also voted to the development of

the area and was one of the legislators of the Territory. When it became necessary to establish a territorial prison, Mr. Neahr was instrumental in having Yuma selected as the site of the penitentiary.

Posed Problems

The construction of a territorial prison posed problems however. Knowledge of construction was scarce and skill workers even more so. Because of his background as a developer and his knowledge of construction, Mr. Neahr was appointed superintendent of construction for the new prison.

Mr. Neahr realized that many of the prisoners who created such a need for a prison were young men. Many of the criminals had been committed through simple ignorance and few had had opportunities for education or for acquiring skills trades. The construction of the prison could offer just such an opportunity.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF YUMA COUNTY, DOCKET NO. 94.
 NAME OF DECEASED Neahr, David
 ADDRESS OF DECEASED Yuma, Arizona
 DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH Yuma, Arizona. March 26, 1884.
 BURIED AT (TOWN) Yuma. (CEMETERY) Yuma.

ADMINISTRATOR Freedom Neahr.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ATTORNEYS Samuel Purdy, Yuma, Arizona.

HEIRS AND RELATIVES CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE

NAME	ADDRESS
Epsas Maria Neahr, (widow)	Yuma, Arizona.
- Freedom Neahr, (son)	" "
- Freeson Neahr, "	" "
- Freeman Neahr, "	" "
- Freeborn Neahr, "	" "
- Freeling Neahr, "	" "
Fanny Neahr, (daughter)	" "
- Freecome Neahr, (son)	- Freeland Neahr, (son), Yuma.
Fida Mary Neahr, (daughter)	and Freechild Neahr, (son) "

LIST OF PROPERTY AND APPRAISED VALUE OF EACH ITEM

Neahr's Addition to City of Phoenix, Arizona....	\$ 4901.00	
200 acres patented land near Palomas, Yuma Co.,.	2500.00	
58 head cattle @ 25.00.....	\$1,450.00	
20 " " " "	500.00	
55 " calves " 10.00.....	550.00	2500.00
1 stallion.....	100.00	
8 mules..... @ 50.00.....	400.00	
13 mares and geldings @ 40.00.	520.00	
1 Kentucky Jack.....	100.00	1120.00
1 heavy 2 horse wagon.....	100.00	
1 thoroughbred "	100.00	
1 double harness.....	15.00	215.00

The records of Castle Dome Mining District show that he located mining claims there in 1863. His occupation was that of ranching and stock raising.

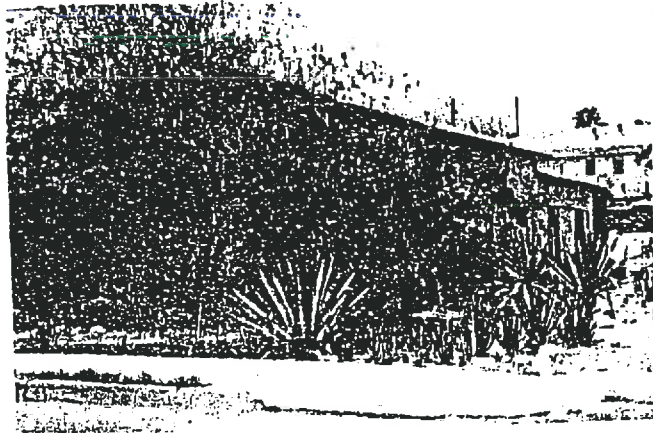
TOTAL VALUE OF THE ESTATE\$ 11, 236.00

DATE WHEN THE ADMINISTRATOR WAS DISCHARGED February 25, 1892.



Bill Neahr House
1901 124 Madison Avenue

1896



Built in 1892 by Bill Neahr, son of David Neahr, who was superintendent of the Territorial Prison. The bricks for the home were made by prisoners and are 60' long. The foundation is boulders filled with sand to act a roller in case of earthquake. Used as a family home and office by J.M. Molina, early business man. Later as his family home.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built for Bill Neahr, son of pioneer David Neahr, 124 Madison is one of the few 19th century adobe buildings still standing in Yuma. Despite extensive changes and additions since it was first built the house retains evidence of early construction techniques. Particularly interesting is the foundation which was reputed to have been designed as a precaution against earthquakes. By virtue of its history and character the Bill Neahr House is a contributing property within the Brinley Avenue Historic District.

POLHAMUS HOUSE
224-226 South Madison Avenue

The Isaac Polhamus House contains the remains of what may be Yuma's oldest house. The building is known to have existed in 1869 when James M. Barney gave it to Cecilia Peralta, his future wife. In 1884, the property was purchased by Captain Polhamus of the Colorado Steam Navigation Company. During the typhoid epidemic which followed the flood of 1891, a front room of the house was used by Dr. Cotter as a medical office. The building originally featured a full wooden porch on the street side.



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Isaac Polhamus House contains the remains of what may be Yuma's oldest house. The building is known to have existed in 1869 when James M. Barney gave it to Cecilia Peralta, his future wife. In 1884 the property was purchased by Captain Polhamus of the Colorado Steam Navigation Company. During the typhoid epidemic which followed the flood of 1891 a front room of the house was used by Dr. Cotter as a medical office. Although the building has been rehabilitated and modified for use as an office complex the floor plan, massing, and much of the original fabric have remained intact.



E A R L Y P I O N E E R



Isaac B. Polhamus
Photo courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Yuma

Isaac B. Polhamus Steamboat Captain

steam navigation on the Colorado, and worked on Johnson's side-wheeler, 'General Jesup,' only the second steamboat on the river. This was just the beginning of 50 years on the river as pilot, captain and boat owner.

Polhamus worked for Johnson for many years, serving as superintendent of the Colorado Steam Navigation Company. By 1876, business was booming, with four steamboats running from the Gulf of California to Hardyville, 400 miles to the north. Points of call along the way were Yuma, Laguna Castle Dome, Norton's Landing, Ehrenberg, Aubry, and Ft. Mohave.

Polhamus had many experiences on the river, some of them nearly unbelievable. On Christmas Day in 1879, he wrote, "It blew a northwest gale and very cold. Froze all day in the shade. Night of December 24th, coldest night ever seen on the Colorado River below Ehrenberg. Morning of the 25th: river full of floating ice which ran until 12 o'clock noon. Indians 90 years of age say they never saw anything like it before or never heard of such weather."

The La Paz, about 125 miles north of Yuma, was abandoned as the original county seat, Captain Polhamus was on hand to lend a hand. In 1870, the territorial legislature ordered that the county seat be moved to Arizona City, now the City of Yuma. Polhamus took all of the county officials, their records and their property on board his steamer 'Nina Tilden,' and transported them downriver to Yuma, which remains as county seat to this day.

With growing competition from the railroads in the late 1870s, steamboating began to decline, with the larger boats being the first to go. Johnson sold out to Polhamus, who continued operations on a smaller

scale. In 1886, he and one of his captains, Jack Mellon, bought up all the remaining steamboats, operating the business until Polhamus' retirement in 1904. By 1908, construction of Laguna Dam had permanently blocked the river to steamboat traffic.

Polhamus was married in Yuma to Sacramento Sambrano de Polhamus, and established his residence on the corner of Madison and Second Street. His two sons were active in law enforcement, with Jim Polhamus being elected to two terms as Yuma County Sheriff, and Isaac Polhamus serving as Yuma Chief of Police.

When his days as a steamboat captain came to an end, Polhamus still had a number of other interests. In 1878, he actively pursued the stocking of the Colorado with catfish that could be "harvested" for commercial purposes. Polhamus, in 1884, formed a corporation to manufacture paper in Los Angeles. He also tried his hand at cattle ranching and at mining in the 1890s.

Polhamus was involved in civic and governmental affairs, as well. In 1875, he was appointed by Governor Stanford as commissioner of the Territorial Prison. Although a Catholic, he was one of several prominent Yuma men who contributed to the construction of the only Protestant church between Casa Grande, Arizona, and Beaumont, California. Polhamus was also active for many years with the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society.

Captain Isaac Polhamus died in Yuma on January 16, 1922, at the age of 93 years. His river has long been tamed and his steamboats only memories, but Polhamus' contributions to the development of the community of Yuma and the state of Arizona will not soon be forgotten.

The general manager of the Colorado Steam Navigation Company and a highly skilled navigator, Isaac B. Polhamus was one of the most renowned of the steamboat captains whose craft plied the waters of the Colorado River at Yuma during Arizona's territorial days.

Polhamus was born on April 27, 1829, in New York City, and spent his childhood years in Albany, New York. His love of steamboats came at an early age, working on the Hudson River. As with many of Yuma's early pioneers, Polhamus was attracted to the West Coast in 1849, when gold was discovered in California.

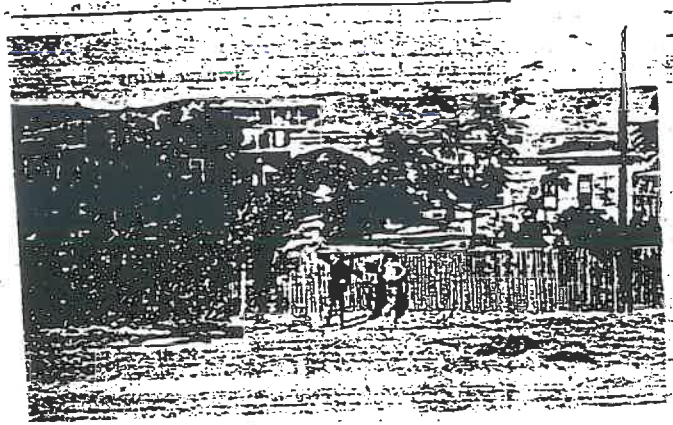
Sailing around Cape Horn Polhamus arrived in the Sacramento River area, where he prospected for a few months before returning to the river as a boatman. He located in the Yuma area in 1854, a seasoned river pilot, just as steamboating was being developed as a means of supplying the Army post at Fort Yuma.

Polhamus was associated with George Alonzo Johnson, a pioneer of

BY BEN C. ROWE, JR.

Site of Mary Elizabeth Post House
Trautman Building
190 Madison Avenue

1908



Way back when

Historical structures in Yuma are a matter of continuing interest. This was the 100 block of Madison Avenue on the west side near 2nd Street in 1895. This was the home of pioneer school teacher Mary Elizabeth Post.
(Photos Yuma Co. Historical Society)



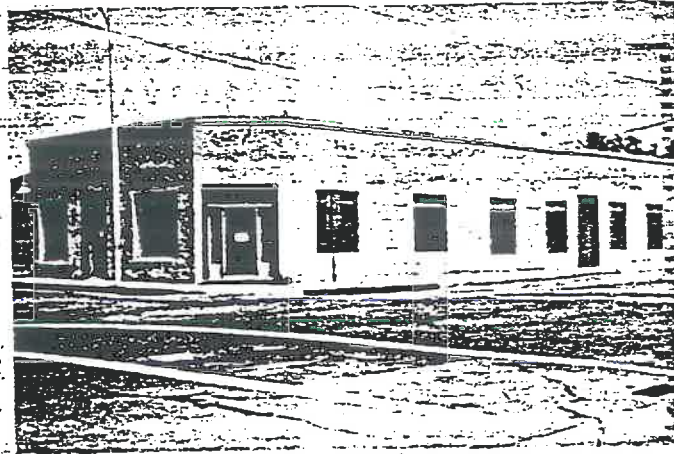
POST

Mary Elizabeth Post home

Post Home - Northwest Corner of Madison Avenue and 2nd Street
Mary Elizabeth Post, in the 1880's, purchased a home for herself. It was of adobe brick which was just then beginning to replace stick and adobe. Walls were one to five feet thick to protect against intense heat. It was at this time they began building wooden floors.

She sent for seeds and bulbs and planted a garden which was a showplace but expensive because water was very expensive. Her banana and fig trees became the pride of the town.

A little more about this remarkable woman: She began teaching in 1856 when 15. She taught 57 years and died in Yuma in 1934 when she was 91 years old. In Iowa there had been a romance and she was engaged. She then found out (perhaps mistakenly) that he'd given other ladies affection elsewhere and she broke her engagement. Neither ever married.



To this day

Now occupied by Schwark and Vaughn, accountants, the building has a modern-day facade. For many years, the building was occupied by the Westover law firm which improved it several times. A meeting on historic buildings will be held here Thursday evening at Century House.



Moving up in time

By 1908, the northwest corner of Madison and 2nd was occupied by this building. It was occupied by E. Trautman, jeweler. Photo is from the Christmas edition of the Yuma Examiner of that year. Historic building such as this are being searched out in the Yuma area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

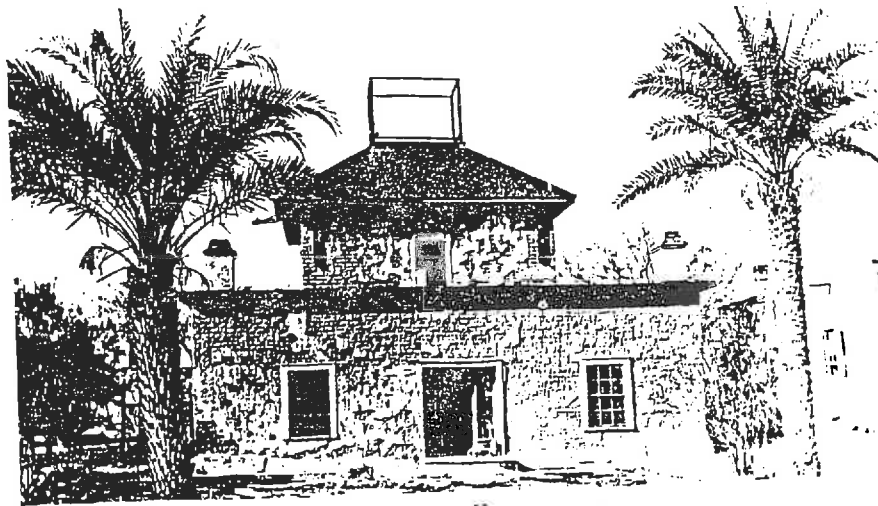
Built in 1908 by Chas. Olcester for J. W. Dorrington, the structure at 190 Madison is one of the few remaining examples of commercial architecture in Yuma which used diamond cut concrete block on the exterior facades. Upon its completion, it was leased to Ernest Trautman, a jeweler and optician with whom the building has come to be identified. Despite a number of changes in the building, the integrity of the original design is recoverable. The structure is situated on a prominent corner in the historic district and is a complement to it.

FITZGERALD/GODFREY HOUSE 228 South Madison Avenue

The house at 228 Madison is the largest adobe residence in Yuma and, with the exception of a hip roof added at the turn of the century, it is one of the best



preserved examples of 19th century architecture in the community. Although portions of the structure may have been built earlier, most of the building was constructed in 1873 and 1874 by H. S. Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald, the town's Postmaster and a Civil War veteran, died in 1880. His wife sold the property to Joseph Godfrey, a river boat captain, whose family occupied the house until 1915. Throughout the ownerships by Fitzgerald and Godfrey, the second story hall was used as a meeting place by local organizations.



SANGUINETTI HOUSE

240 South Madison Avenue

The building at 240 Madison is most significant as a symbol of Yuma's history and cultural development. Constructed as early as 1870, the house probably consisted of two adobe rooms at the outset. Numerous additions and changes were then made to the house, most notably by E. F. Sanguinetti, one of Yuma's most prominent businessmen during the first half of the 20th century. He bought the property in 1890 and lived there until his death in 1945. Surrounded by rose gardens and aviaries, the house became a center for social activity.



The Century House

The best place to begin to get a feel of the history that has been made in Yuma is the Century House Museum at 240 Madison Avenue. This former home of merchant prince Eugene Sanguinetti has displays and exhibits to help the visitor gain a feeling for the exciting events that took place at the town by the Yuma Crossing. Operated as a branch museum of the Arizona Historical Society, it has attracted thousands of visitors from around the world.

Sanguinetti became an Arizona legend while still living. He was an example of American success through hard work and initiative. Born of immigrant parents in Coulterville, California in 1867, he came to Yuma in 1883 as a youth of fifteen. Clerking in the general store of Ginochio and Company was his first job, a position which was the springboard for his later career. When Ginochio retired after a few years, Sanguinetti and John Gandolfo purchased the store. By 1898, Sanguinetti had prospered sufficiently to open his own establishment at the corner of Main and Second Streets.

When the Main Street store became successful, he branched out into other fields. He became involved in an ice-making company, mining ventures, ranching, and opened other stores in Yuma and Somerton. His farming enterprises involving cotton, alfalfa, thoroughbred cattle, hogs and sheep led the *Yuma Morning Sun* newspaper to proclaim him "the biggest farmer in Arizona" and the "alfalfa seed king" in 1919.

Sanguinetti was not the first owner of the house, and did not acquire it until the 1890's. He must have bought it because of its ideal location only a few blocks from the business district. It is now more than a century old having been built in the early 1870's by Henry Fitzgerald.

The Century House was originally a two room adobe structure. It had a ceiling made of arrow wood which was plastered over with six inches of Colorado River mud. Muslin was draped across the ceiling in early days to prevent dried pieces of mud and insects from falling into the room. It had only a dirt floor then, but wooden flooring was added in later years. All but the two rooms facing Madison Avenue were added afterward.

JACK MELLON HOUSE 248 South Madison Avenue

Built in 1873 by William Johnson, the house at 248 Madison Avenue is most notable for having served as the residence of Captain Jack Mellon from 1874 to 1883. Mellon was one of the most distinguished and skillful steamboat pilots on the Colorado River. He began work for the Colorado Steam Navigation Company in 1864 and spent more than 30 years on the river. Although modified from its original appearance when it was used by Mellon, the building still contains portions of the original fabric.



CAPTAIN JACK MELLON

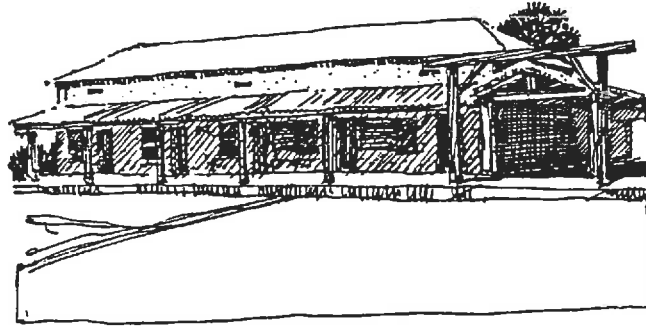
CAPT. MELLON is again up for laurels. He recently made the trip with his steamer *Cocopah* from Yuma to the mouth, and returned in six days and one hour, including stoppages, which is the fastest time on record on the waters of the Lower Colorado.

Arizona Sentinel
September 27, 1873

A famous Colorado River steamboat captain, Jack Mellon, occupied the house at 248 Madison Avenue, number 7 on the map, for nearly a decade. Madison Avenue was the center of an upper class residential district in the late 19th century, and steamboat captains were among the best paid professionals in town. Built in 1871 of adobe, the original facade was later faced with the brick now visible on the exterior. It now houses the offices of the Yuma County Historical Society.

MOLINA BLOCK
272 South Madison Avenue

The Molina Block appears to date to c. 1875, with major upgrading taking place c. 1900. The first owner was James Barney, who owned the building in 1877. Barney was a prominent Yuma citizen, having served



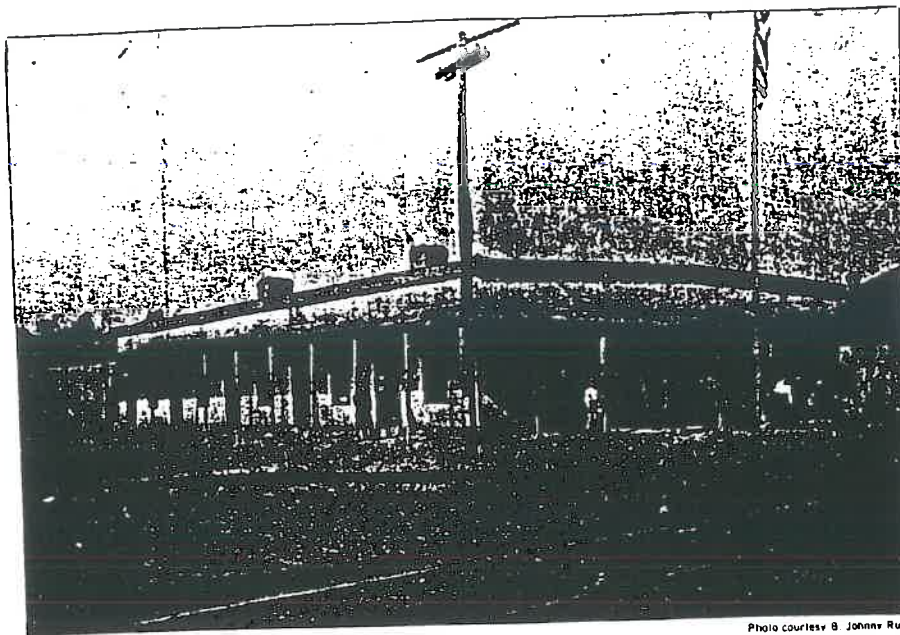
as Mayor, County Treasurer and County Supervisor. The building was purchased in 1891 by J. M. Molina, a prominent Yuma businessman. The Molina Block is one of the oldest adobe buildings on Madison Avenue, and has a long history of use as a residential and office complex.

1875
Built in 1891 by Alejandro Figueroa for J.M. Molina, the Molina Block has a long history of use as a residential and office complex. Architecturally it is a good example of adobe construction in the later part of the 19th Century. Major modification c. 1940. Presently houses the Lower Light Rescue Mission.

The Molina Block was built shortly after the Courthouse. It was Yuma's first mall.

- 1893 - grocery and restaurant
- 1920 - 30 Apartments
- 1937 - 43 doctors residence and hospital
- 1948 doctors offices
- 1960 Lower Light Rescue Mission

Site of First Courthouse



County jail on corner of 3rd Street and Madison — photo was taken in about 1880

1873 structure was imposing, but not escape-proof

By B. JOHNNY RUBE
For Que Pasa

The new jail building at Madison Avenue and 3rd Street was 30-by-40 feet with adobe walls two feet thick and 10 feet high. The general cell was 12-by-26 feet and there were four other smaller cells.

The cells and corridors were lined with boiler iron $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick with rivets six inches apart along the seams. In 1901 one of the cells was completely encased in boiler iron to keep dangerous prisoners from escaping.

A stockade of sound timbers — six inches in diameter, set two feet in the ground, and reaching 11½ feet high — completely surrounded the jail. The adobe jail wall itself was 18 inches thick and 10 feet high. Both the jail and stockade were covered with a roof of timbers.

The ventilation of the cells was well provided for and prisoners had a wide and clear promenade. All the comforts of home, right?

Escape was a very common occurrence because all a prisoner had to do was get out of the cell, dig through the adobe

wall and scale the stockade. This is how the killer of Sheriff Dana escaped.

He used a two penny nail to wrench out the staples that held the iron door to the cell. Once outside the cell, he used a piece of iron shaped in a "T" six inches long to dig through the adobe wall. His escape from the stockade was via a pole left laying about. This he placed against the stockade wall and disappeared into the night.

Another Yuma County jail was built because of a fire at the county courthouse in 1927. Frank Connor, a local contractor, was the successful bidder at \$26,600.

This construction separated the jail from the courthouse: It was located on the southwest corner of the courthouse. It was then considered a thoroughly modern building, built so more cells could be added later. It was two stories with the lower floor containing four cells. The upper floor contained the big "tank," juvenile and women's cells, as well as the jailors office.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The northeast corner of Madison and Third Street is the site of the first Courthouse built for Yuma County. Erected in 1873, the single story adobe structure contained a courtroom and offices in the front portion, and a jail with stockade in the rear. Overall the complex measured about 60 feet wide by 145 feet deep. The roof was pitched at a very low angle off of a central ridge beam. Initially all the exterior walls were plastered; however, the front facade appears to have been faced at a later date. Major features included numerous fireplaces and a porch which surrounded the main building on three sides. The site is currently in use as a body shop with parking in the front area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At its opening the first Yuma County Courthouse was acclaimed as a "magnificent" structure, an appropriate accolade for the building given its rather remote and primitive context. In fact the decision of the Board of Supervisors to erect the courthouse did indicate a growing confidence in the stability and future of Yuma as the county seat and provides a measure of the economic growth in southwestern Arizona. Expansion of the county's activities by 1909 required that a new facility be built but by then the historic significance of the first courthouse had been firmly established. The site deserves to be preserved for its historic associations and for its potential archeological value.

HISTORIC YUMA:

Our Courthouse in 1872 Magnificent

By ISABEL BUSE
Historical Society

The village of Yuma's business, growth, prosperity and winter climate were beckoning to other states as early as 1872. A courthouse was built on 1st Avenue and Third Street. It was built of adobe and was "magnificent for the times" wrote Father Paul Figueroa in his

manuscript. The court room was partitioned off with curtains from the office rooms for the sheriff, his deputy, and the county recorder. Wide adobe walls braced inside with an iron cage made the jail secure.

William Werninger, brother-in-law of Jose Maria Redondo, having married Isaac Contreras, was elected sheriff at the time of the building. Paul Figueroa Sr. was jailer, Frank Townsend, constable, and George Norton, treasurer. Dr. Albert E. DeCorse and O. Rinwal were Supervisors.

Kept Store

Rinwal kept a store on Gila Street, selling and buying raw materials and all kinds of animal pelts. He also had a harness and saddle shop. Prior to 1871 he had been in charge of the commissary department at Ft. Yuma.

James Doton operated carpenter and blacksmith shops and a wagon factory, with a yard for repairing vehicles. He was a widower with three sons. The Dotons owned the hill on which the Territorial Prison Museum now stands.

Freighters with their own wagon teams were: James Queenly, Jesus Contreras, Phillip Amavisca, E. Fredley, E. McCormick, Frank Salazar, An-

draw Thone, John Noriega, Tiburcio Figueroa, Joseph Arango, J. Cavañas, Frank Maldonado and J. Mendoza.

River Port

Yuma was then a river port of consequence. Steamboats arrived every other day and freighters were loading daily. Freight was hauled to and from New Mexico, Texas and La Junta, Colo. Another wagon repair shop was operated by L. Crishner and James Pulfan. John Palmer was an independent painter. Freighters were often delayed for repairs. Saloons were their recreation.

El Rincon was a neighborhood by itself, located between the river and the hill. There were dances every night. There were also tamales and coffee stands, beds and meals for the drivers. Mrs. Mercedes Mendoza operated a restaurant and laundry in connection with a large room containing beds at 50 cents per night.

The tall brick San Francisco style house was added to her complex after she returned from San Francisco where her husband, Capt. John Wilson, U.S. Army, had been stationed. The buildings were known as the Wilson House. They were removed in 1968. The Colorado Hotel was owned by J. Johnson.

The commissary of Ft. Yuma occupied six acres on the south side of the river. It was fenced with an adobe wall and contained two large stables for mules and horses of teamsters loading freight to go to various forts and army camps in the Territory. Also enclosed was a corral for government mules.

Outside the wall on the west near the river was the resi-

dence of Capt. Isaac Polhamus. Next to it and very near the bank of the river was the home of Dr. Arnabar. Dr. Candido Arnabar was born in Bisengo, Spain, 1823. He was a well educated man, especially in medicine. He came to Yuma in 1852 making his home at first with the Jose Maria Redondo family. He died May 29, 1877 and is buried in the Redondo plot, Yuma Cemetery.

Next to the Arnabar house was the home of Capt. Jack Meilon, a river boatman here for many years. Those three residences had the privilege of being so close to the Quartermaster depot only because they were there before the Army took over the area.

Another large residence had been built in 1852 by Neil Johnson, captain of the "Nina Tilden" a river steamer. It was

situated a quarter mile from the river outside government grounds. It was almost always empty in a forest of mesquite. The family of David Neahr had lived there and after that the family of Judge Friel. The house was later outlawed as a pest hospital.

The next year, Jan. 6, 1873, the seventh Territorial legislature convening in Tucson, changed the name of the Village of Yuma to "Yuma" and provided for incorporation.

Note: The next regular meeting of Yuma County Historical Society will be held Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11, at 210 Madison Avenue, when an illustrated lecture on Plectro and the Sombrano family will be given. All historical society members and their guests are invited to attend.