allows us to also honor the diversity of cultural influences that created them, recognition and preservation of Tucson's historic neighborhoods featured on The local historic preservation movement that began in the 1970s led to the in these Tucson neighborhoods.

Tucson's post-World War II population boom led to new subdivisions extending houses on a gridiron pattern of streets and blocks – and an eclectic mix of Americanization evident in everything from fashions and food to building After the arrival of the railroad in 1880, Tucson experienced an increasing ORIGINS CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE PREHISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORIC NATIVE AMERICAN

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND SPANISH PERIOD MISSION AND PRESIDIO SETTLEMENTS

This Victorian-era style became popular throughout the United States, American Territorial (1880-1910)

Transitional (Territorial) (1880-1900)

the railroad in 1880, Tucson experienced an increasing...
ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

PRE-RANCH STYLE

Sonoran (1840–1900)
Tucson’s earliest surviving homes date from the 1840s, when Southern Arizona was still part of Mexico. The Sonoran style is characterized by one-story9 ranch-like structures with their front on the street, and construction of exposed adobe block. Common features include high columns, stone foundations, casitas (small houses), low-pitch roofs, and detached, stuccoed or adobe walls.

TRANSITIONAL (1880–1900)
Early Ranch construction continued to dominate buildings on the streets. Walls were usually lime stuccoed, and rock-and-lime plaster adobe walls were common. Large windows were set back to accommodate a front porch, high-pitched tile roof, and dormers. Early Ranch houses are typically characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans.

RANCH STYLE

American (1880–1900)
A new American style adapted for the Arizona desert came with the development of the first local brick factory in the 1880s. Houses followed design standards set by the widely-read National Ranch Style, which was developed by the National Electric Light Association to encourage the use of electricity. American Ranch style houses were typically one-story, with a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans.

SOUTHWESTERN VERNacular STYLES

National Posts (1880–1955)
National Post offices are characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans. The American Post style, with its single-story brick construction and gabled roof, was popular in the southwestern United States. Post offices are typically characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans.

Early Modern Styles

Art Deco (1920–40)
This style is an expression of Modernity through decoration with geometrical shapes and streamlined forms. Art Deco architecture is characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans. The Art Deco style is often associated with the International style and features streamlined forms.

Streamline Moderne (1930–45)
Streamline Moderne architecture is characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans. The Streamline Moderne style is often associated with the International style and features streamlined forms.

Post-Modern Modern and Revivals

Ranch (1950–1970)
Ranch style is an expression of Modernity through decoration with geometrical shapes and streamlined forms. Ranch houses are typically characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans.

Mid-Century Modern (1950–1970)
Mid-Century Modern architecture is characterized by a horizontal emphasis and rectilinear or L-shaped floor plans. The Mid-Century Modern style is often associated with the International style and features streamlined forms.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Additional Information

Erika Parrino, artist; Jonathan Mabry, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer; Jennifer Burdick, City of Tucson Preservation Planner; R. Brooks Jeffery, UA Drachman Institute and College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture; Preservation Planners in the Tucson Historic Neighborhoods’ region.

The Blenman-Elm Neighborhood Guide has been made possible through the contributions of: UA Drachman Institute and College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture; Preservation Planners in the Tucson Historic Neighborhoods’ region; and the City of Tucson’s Historic Preservation Division.

For more information, please contact Erika Parrino (artist) at erika@artbyerika.com or R. Brooks Jeffery (UA Drachman Institute at brooks@arizona.edu).
During Tucson's Mexican period, neighborhoods were based on Spanish community planning principles – attached, row-abutting buildings enclosing outdoor courtyards – and occupied by the increasingly mixed populations of American and Mexican descent.

By the 1880s, Tucson developers began promoting regional revival styles - Spanish Colonial, Mission, and Pueblo - to connect with the imagery of the romantic Southwest. Some of Tucson's new subdivisions were located outside the corporate city limits using curvilinear streets, native landscaping, and architectural themes regulated through deed restrictions as marketing tools to lure the affluent to Tucson.

Tucson's post-world War II population boom led to new subdivisions extending further from the city's core and defined by community planning that was increasingly influenced by suburban lifestyle and ranch-style house, which followed design standards driven by federally mandated housing loan regulations, soon replaced the regional revival styles as the dominant residential expression in these Tucson neighborhoods.

The local historic preservation movement that began in the 1970's led to the recognition and preservation of Tucson's historical neighborhoods featured on this map. Understanding and experiencing the diversity of these neighborhoods allows us to also honor the diversity of cultural influences that created them, and continue to define Tucson's unique sense of place.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

PRE-RAILROAD STYLE

Sonoran (1840-1880)
Tucson's oldest surviving homes date from the 1840s, when southern Arizona was still part of Mexico. The style is characterized by one-story masonry with their fronts on the street, and construction of exposed adobe blocks. Common features included high ceilings, stone foundations, casitas (small service area, such as a root cellar), and windows with round-arched tracery, and iron railings in early railings.

Post-RAILROAD STYLES OF THE TERRITORIAL PERIOD

Transformed Sonoran (1885-1915)
The arrival of Americans, notably in small numbers, and settlers in a rush after the Southern Pacific Railroad connected to Tucson in 1880, brought new construction materials and architectural tastes from the eastern U.S. and California. Sonoran style houses were hand-made additions of adobe and metal roofs, iron windows and front porches, and Victorian embellishments.

Transitional (1880-1900)
Early transitional construction continued to locate buildings on the street. Often, walls were usually light-colored, and glass windows with shutters began to appear. Late transitional houses were set back, and accommodate a front porch, half-p-inline, and half-and-half designs, with smooth and unornamented wall surfaces, and attached garages or carports.

ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT STYLES

Prairie/Wrightian (1900-1920)
The Prairie School architectural style of Frank Lloyd Wright and was influenced by Japanese architecture and the Arts and Crafts Movement. It is characterized by horizontal massing, large expanses of transparent glass, flat roofs projecting over, cornices, hip-roofed porches and dormers, and casement windows in horizontal grouping. The early phase of this style, sometimes called "Prairie," also has horizontal massing that is distinguished by stained glass, linear geometry and stylized ornamentation.

Craftsman Bungalow Style (1905-1910)
The Craftsman style integrates design elements from the Arts and Crafts Movement, but was often influenced by the Prairie School and Japanese architecture. Its style is characterized by large expanses of transparent glass, flat roofs projecting over, cornices, hip-roofed porches and dormers, and casement windows in horizontal grouping. The box-like style is characterized by "Craftsman," which has horizontal massing that is distinguished by linear geometry and stylized ornamentation.

EARLY MODERN STYLES

Art Deco (1925, 1940)
This style is an expression of Modernity through decoration with geometric and stylized floral motifs. Vertical elements are emphasized, and bas-relief ornament decorate entries and roof lines. The Zigzag variation features geometric, chevron, trilobate and baton ornamentation.

Streamline Moderne (1930-1945)
This stripped-down version of Art Deco borrowed from aeronautical industrial design, emphasizing horizontal massing and angles. Other characteristics include flat roofs, symmetrical façades, curved horizontals, metal curtain walls, steel and glass panels, and rounded "corner" windows.

International (1925-present)
Like the other Early Modern styles, this style intentionally broke away from historical references and is generally characteristic of locations, and climate. Like Streamline Moderne it emphasizes aesthetic properties of materials rather than ornament and treats houses as "machines for living." Characteristics include one or two stories, symmetrical façades; flat roofs; smooth and unadorned wall surfaces; and steel casement windows, often with horizontal edges, and lack of decorative detailing at openings.

POST-WAR MODERN AND REVIVALS

Ranch (1950-1970)
Housing development boomed in Tucson after World War II, and in response to the need for inexpensive housing the modern Ranch style was introduced from California. It set back from the property line these houses feature a horizontal emphasis and rectangular or a shaped floor plans, and are constructed of brick, adobe, or stucco. They usually feature flat roofs, porches and carports or garages under the main roof, large picture windows, and sliding doors connecting to the outdoors. Characteristics include many variations of the basic Ranch style in roofs and materials, and trim, ornamentation.

Post-war Territorial (1955-1965)
This style closely resembles the Prairie Revival style of the 1930s and 1940s, but it is smaller. This style is characterized by horizontal massing and flat openings, and with applied decorative elements and garages.

Mid-Century Modern (1950-1970)
Known as "Contemporary" during the height of its popularity, this one story style is characterized by the use of horizontal massing and expanses of glass uninterrupted with solid walls. Houses are often L-shaped, with a flat back, and are built of brick, concrete block and garages, or with trim and shed roof elements. Other features include entry courtyards, entry walls, and carports.

KNOCKDOWN ELEMENTS

The Tucson Historic Neighborhood Guides and their accompanying Street Guide encourage residents and visitors alike tosteps to increase the awareness and appreciation of historical architectural elements and neighborhoods. These guides include an introduction to the history of Tucson, a description of the neighborhoods, and instructions on how to identify and appreciate the unique architectural features of each. They also provide resources for further exploration and preservation of Tucson's historic architecture.

Additional Information
Erika Parrino, artist; Jonathan Mabry, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer; Jennifer Burdick, City of Tucson Historic Preservation Officer; Blenman-Elm Neighborhood Association, historic districts, and the City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office to highlight, recognize, and preserve Tucson's oldest neighborhoods.

Sources used for this Guide and available on the THPO web site:

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TUCSON’S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

ALDEA LINDA

This 19th-century Tucson neighborhood is a mix of distinctive Southwestern homes, including Puritan Revival, Prairie, and Spanish Colonial Revival. The dense creosote, curvilinear architecture, and floor plans larger than was typical for the period. Many homes were designed in the post-World War II Ranch and Mid-century Modern styles.

BARRIO ANTIGUO

This neighborhood was cultivated land on the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River. Named for the quince trees that grew here, this historically Mexican barrio between the freeway and Sentinel Peak Road was known as Elysian Grove. It became a popular gathering spot and amusement park known as Elysian Grove. The neighborhood features a park-like Midwestern flavor. The sense of community is fostered by the annual Festival of Lights, a neighborhood landmark on Sixth Street.

BARRIO SANTA RITA

This neighborhood lies directly south of Barrio Linda. Part of the urban core of the city, its history began in the 1900s and 1910s, when the area was developed for its rich agricultural heritage and the mission visita of San Agustín del Tucson, completed in 1775. The neighborhood features a park-like Midwestern flavor. The sense of community is fostered by the annual Festival of Lights, a neighborhood landmark on Sixth Street.

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BERNARR PARK

This first suburban neighborhood in Arizona, Colonia Solana was laid out on the floodplains of the Santa Cruz River. Designed by architect Frederick Law Olmstead, designed Colonia Solana in 1889 incorporating natural elements such as the Armory Wash. This neighborhood was cultivated land on the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River. Named for the quince trees that grew here, this historically Mexican barrio between the freeway and Sentinel Peak Road was known as Elysian Grove. It became a popular gathering spot and amusement park known as Elysian Grove. The neighborhood features a park-like Midwestern flavor. The sense of community is fostered by the annual Festival of Lights, a neighborhood landmark on Sixth Street.

BARRIO EL MONTE

This neighborhood is where Tucson began as a Spanish Colonial outpost. Most of the structure dates from 1855 to 1860, and it includes buildings: transformed locations. This neighborhood is testimony to the rich cultural diversity of the city, with buildings representing various architectural styles, including San Xavier del Bac, the historic Indian House, and a variety of restaurant and retail establishments.

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BARRIO ANITA

This neighborhood takes its name from the Military Plaza where the Armory was located downtown. The neighborhood features the unique community of Winterhaven. 

BARRIO EL MEMBRILLO

This midtown neighborhood consists of 17 styles of homes popular between the 1940s and 1950s. The architecture is predominantly Southwestern lifestyle, which appealed to its early residents, including internationally renowned pianist Van Cliburn. Notable architects who designed houses in this neighborhood include Merritt H. Starkweather, Richard A. Morse, and Gordon Luepke. 

BARRIO SANTA ROSA

According to the 1870 U.S. Census, the neighborhood was composed of 278 households, with the most prominent household being the home of the school principal. The neighborhood is characterized by large lots, non-native trees, and a walkable neighborhood.

BIALEY ELM

Mildew on the field of the garden menu, the Arizona Inn (1930), as well as Ollin Elementary School (2002). The neighborhood is composed of 17 styles of homes popular between the 1940s and 1950s. The architecture is predominantly Southwestern lifestyle, which appealed to its early residents, including internationally renowned pianist Van Cliburn. Notable architects who designed houses in this neighborhood include Merritt H. Starkweather, Richard A. Morse, and Gordon Luepke.

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TUCSON’S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

**ABEJA LOBATA**

This subdivision, its same meaning, “beautiful small village,” was founded in 1946 by Tornillo Arizona Governor Samuel P. Goddard, Jr. In effect it added aesthetic restrictions protecting the neighborhood and guaranteeing that the area, with its large lots, will remain residential. The majority of the 30 residences date between 1947 and 1964 and reflect post-World War II styles, including Ranch and Modern, as well as Federal Ranch Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival. The shrubs, trees, and specimen cacti and shrubs, as well as the street design, define the character of the neighborhood.

**ARMORY PARK**

The first wedged district in Tucson to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this neighborhood is named for the 8th Armory of the Arizona National Guard. Formed in 1903, the Armory Park neighborhood contains 264 examples of modern Ranch style residences, reflecting various urban development styles from Rural-Urban to post-WWII Ranch style. These homes were designed and built primarily between 1929 and 1961. The formal, curvilinear, Neoclassical subdivision plan of midtown El Encanto Estates was inspired by the “City Beautiful” movement and represented the kind of development that was typical for the Santa Catalina foothills of the Tucson Mountains.

**BARBARO ARITA**

The neighborhood also contains a large number of homes designed by Swiss-born Tucson architect Arthur T. Brown. Developed as Carrillo Gardens, a lush park with large trees and small ponds. It later became the site for the University of Arizona’s School of Architecture. The neighborhood streets have wide avenues, and the Queen Anne, Greek Revival, and Colonial styles predominate. The Carnegie Public Library, completed in 1901, is now home to the Tucson Children’s Museum.

**BARDOLO EL HIJO**

The neighborhood also hosts El Ticadito (“The Little Castaway”), is a 1940 update of a shrine established in the 1800s. It celebrates the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patroness of Mexico, and the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patroness of Mexico.

**BARRO CONCIENTIA**

In 1923, developer Stanley Williamson named this east-central subdivision after the seacoast town of Malibu, California. This area has a large number of homes designed by Tucson architect H. Starkweather. The neighborhood initially grew with architectural revival styles popular between the 1890s and 1960s, including Spanish Colonial Revival, Craftsman Bungalow, Prairie, and Mid-century Modern (Contemporary) styles. Indian House follows in the tradition of earlier Tucson subdivisions that were established to promote a distinct Southwestern lifestyle. The neighborhood’s historic character.

**BARRIO DE MENILLO**

This neighborhood is located at the 1890s, historical Hohokam basin. Home to the historic Michaelson Ranch, the area was also farmed by the Hohokam tribe. The neighborhood also contains a large number of homes designed by Swiss-born Tucson architect Arthur T. Brown.

**BARRIO RIO HOTO**

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TUCSON’S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

ALDORADA

This subdivision, its same meaning ‘beautiful small village’, was founded in 1956 by former Arizona Governor Samuel P. Goddard, Jr. It is in effect a deed-restricted protection of the neighborhood and guaranteeing that the area, with its large lots, will remain residential. The majority of the 83 residences date between 1957 and 1990 and reflect post-World War II styles, including ranches and moderns, as well as Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival. The homes have a variety of styles and colors, and most are built on lots larger than 1 acre. The neighborhood is home to the Aldorada Community Park.

ARMORY PARK

The first western district in Tucson to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this historic neighborhood lies adjacent to the main post office and the University of Arizona. This neighborhood was established in 1879 by the Southern Pacific Railway and has been described as a 'frontier frontier’ neighborhood. The neighborhood features a variety of architectural styles, including Victorian, Craftsman, and Spanish Revival. The neighborhood is home to the Armory Park Historic District, which includes the Armory Park School and the Armory Park Historic District Museum.

BARRIO ANITA

This area, named after a wealthy local rancher, was once known as the ‘Ranchos’ due to its large haciendas and estates. The neighborhood is known for its historic adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is also home to the Bardo Museum, which is dedicated to the history and culture of the American Southwest.

BARRIO EL HOYO

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which are over 100 years old. The neighborhood is home to the El Hoyo Historic District, which includes the El Hoyo Historic District Museum and the El Hoyo Historic District Park.

BARRIO EL MONTÓN

This area, named after a nearby mountain, is known for its historic adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the El Montón Historic District, which includes the El Montón Historic District Museum and the El Montón Historic District Park.

BARRIO SANTA ROSA

This area, named after a nearby mountain, is known for its historic adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Santa Rosa Historic District, which includes the Santa Rosa Historic District Museum and the Santa Rosa Historic District Park.

BLOOMFIELD ELM

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Bloomfield Elm Historic District, which includes the Bloomfield Elm Historic District Museum and the Bloomfield Elm Historic District Park.

CATALINA VISTA

This area, named after a nearby mountain, is known for its historic adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Catalina Vista Historic District, which includes the Catalina Vista Historic District Museum and the Catalina Vista Historic District Park.

EL MONTEVIDEO

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the El Montevideo Historic District, which includes the El Montevideo Historic District Museum and the El Montevideo Historic District Park.

EL PREMIO

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the El Premio Historic District, which includes the El Premio Historic District Museum and the El Premio Historic District Park.

EL RENDIMIENTO

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the El Rendimiento Historic District, which includes the El Rendimiento Historic District Museum and the El Rendimiento Historic District Park.

EL TIRADITO

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the El Tiradito Historic District, which includes the El Tiradito Historic District Museum and the El Tiradito Historic District Park.

EL UNIVERSAL

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the El Universal Historic District, which includes the El Universal Historic District Museum and the El Universal Historic District Park.

FABRICIO

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Fabricio Historic District, which includes the Fabricio Historic District Museum and the Fabricio Historic District Park.

FRIAS

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Frias Historic District, which includes the Frias Historic District Museum and the Frias Historic District Park.

GOLDEN COVE

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Golden Cove Historic District, which includes the Golden Cove Historic District Museum and the Golden Cove Historic District Park.

GUADALUPE

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Guadalupe Historic District, which includes the Guadalupe Historic District Museum and the Guadalupe Historic District Park.

HARBOURSIDE

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Harbourside Historic District, which includes the Harbourside Historic District Museum and the Harbourside Historic District Park.

HAYDEN\S SPRING/JOHN SPRING

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Hayden\s Spring/John Spring Historic District, which includes the Hayden\s Spring/John Spring Historic District Museum and the Hayden\s Spring/John Spring Historic District Park.

HOMETOWN

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Hometown Historic District, which includes the Hometown Historic District Museum and the Hometown Historic District Park.

INDIAN ROCKS

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Indian Rocks Historic District, which includes the Indian Rocks Historic District Museum and the Indian Rocks Historic District Park.

JOSE LUIS

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Jose Luis Historic District, which includes the Jose Luis Historic District Museum and the Jose Luis Historic District Park.

JUANITA

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Juanita Historic District, which includes the Juanita Historic District Museum and the Juanita Historic District Park.

KERRVILLE

This neighborhood, one of Tucson’s oldest and most historic, is known for its adobe homes andios, many of which date back to the early 19th century. The neighborhood is home to the Kerrville Historic District, which includes the Kerrville Historic District Museum and the Kerrville Historic District Park.

Las terraza del Monte: A comprehensive guide to the historic neighborhoods of Tucson, Arizona

This is a comprehensive guide to the historic neighborhoods of Tucson, Arizona, including maps, photos, and descriptions of each neighborhood.

The guide covers neighborhoods such as Armory Park, Bando, Churchhill Park, El Presidio, and many others.

It also includes information about the historic landmarks and local attractions in each neighborhood.

This guide is an essential resource for anyone interested in the history and culture of Tucson.