

1775

1863

1912

1914

1945

PRESIDIO

AZ. TERRITORY

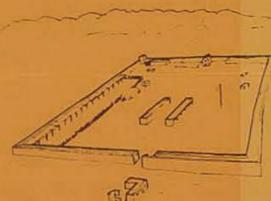
STATEHOOD

WWI - WWII



Hohokam Pit House 700-800

First Written Reference to Tucson made by Fr. Kino 1698



Presidio 1775



Mission San Xavier Del Bac 1797

Gadsden Purchase 1853



Butterfield Route 1858



1863 Maj. Ferguson - 1862



La Casa Cordova 173-177 N. Meyer

Civil War 1861-65

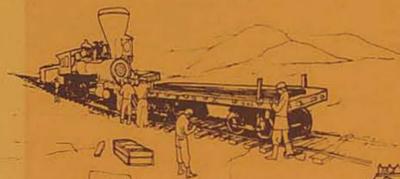


1867 G. W. Foreman - 1872

Tucson as Territorial Capital 1867  
Village of Tucson Incorporated 1871  
First Public School 1872  
First Telegraph 1873  
Fort Lowell 1873



317-325 N. Main  
Verdugo House



Southern Pacific Railroad 1880  
1881 First Telephone

1881 City Waterworks:  
Street Grades Established

First Gas Street Lights 1882

1884 Electric Street Lamps

1884 Arizona Historical Society

1891 University of Arizona  
1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition



Main Library 200 S. Sixth



W. W. Williams House  
(no longer standing)



Steinfeld House  
300 N. Main

1909 Death of Geronimo



Wright-Zellweger House  
288 N. Church

1904/05 Automobiles

1906 Electric Street Cars



Healy House  
329 S. Sixth Avenue



612 S. Fifth Avenue



Gil House 447 S. Stone

World War I 1914-18



1915 San Diego Exposition



Safford School  
300 S. Fifth



Typical Bungalow  
515 E. Second Street



Main Library  
200 S. Sixth



Spanish Colonial Revival House  
601-603 E. Second Street



Art Deco  
521 E. Third Street

1928 Building Code Adopted

First Zoning for Tucson 1930

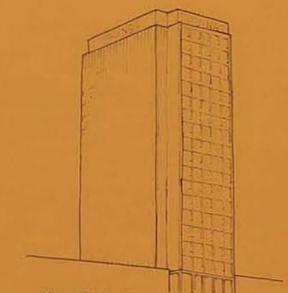
World War II 1941-45

This chart has been designed to give an impression of the major architectural styles found in the Tucson area, and to list the dates of some of the more important events that influenced the appearance of our city. We have shown here outstanding examples of architecture. Frequently, a house will provide only a few hints as to its construction date—an irregular floor plan, a gabled roof, or Classic or Gothic detailing on the porch, for instance. In most cases, however, these clues are sufficient to transform "just another house" into a document of the history of our community.

Beginning with San Xavier, all the styles have been imported. Tucson has always been on the receiving end of cultural impulses from the outside world—Mexico, the Eastern United States, California. Until the coming of the railroad in 1880, mainly ideas and techniques were brought in. After that materials—notably lumber—could be imported.

Up to the turn of the Century, our fashionable architecture tended to deny a sense of place and local heritage. However, starting around 1903, a series of styles came in from California that at least paid lip service to the Hispanic presence in the Southwest. These styles, often lumped together as "Mission Revival," had a lasting effect on the appearance of our city through such designs as the County Court House and the Veteran's Hospital. In more recent years, this sense of place has again disappeared to a large extent, and many of our contemporary buildings could be anywhere in the world.

Of course there are important events and structures that have been left off the chart due to lack of space. The introduction of the evaporative cooler in the late 1930s and the later development of air conditioning have played as important roles in our growth as the automobile. But this much should give us a feel for the changing face of Tucson and suggest that, carefully observed with an historical perspective, buildings can help us understand that it is a complex interrelationship of people, ideas and events that influences our built environment.



Home Federal

Historic Zoning 1972

Historic Districts 1974/75

Poster by Robert C. Giebner, Richard D. Johnson, Randi J. Rendahl  
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POPULATION

150

1500

7000

15000

18000

32000

40000

350,000

TUCSON'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT