

**Finding Aid
Tucson Museum of Art Research Library
Historic Block**

The Historic Block Collection

This finding aid is an inventory to the Historic Block records housed in the Tucson Museum of Art Research Library. Access to this collection is currently open to the public.

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Overview of the Collection

Creator: Tucson Museum of Art Research Library
 Title: Tucson Museum of Art Historic Block Collection
 Date: 1880-2003
 Quantity: 4 legal-size file cabinet drawers (17" w x 28" depth)
 Location: Tucson Museum of Art Research Library

History of the Tucson Museum of Art Historic Block

The Tucson Museum of Art Historic Block includes five houses: La Casa Cordova, J. Knox Corbett House, Edward Nye Fish House, Leonardo Romero House, and Stevens/Duffield House.

Tucson was established in 1776 as a Spanish Presidio, a military fort built for the protection of the priests and settlers at San Xavier Mission. In 1783, a 12-foot high, 3-foot thick adobe wall was completed which encircled the 10 acre village, the area which would eventually include Tucson Museum of Art's Historic Block. The northwest corner of the Presidio was located where Main and Washington Streets intersect today. Main Avenue, once called Calle Real, was the principal street leading into the fort. Historians believe that portions of the wall were incorporated in the construction of several Historic Block homes, including the Fish, Stevens, and Romero houses.

In 1968, the City of Tucson acquired the entire block as part of its Urban Redevelopment Program and, in turn, leased the block with its five historic houses to the Tucson Museum of Art in 1973.

La Casa Cordova is a restored residence dating from roughly the 1850s. This adobe home is typical of the Mexican style home in Tucson during the second half of the 19th century. A small museum with a replica of the Presidio, artifacts from that period and rooms depicting the home-life during that time in history are featured. Casa Cordova also

houses the seasonal of Maria Luisa Tena's El Nacimiento. This memorial to her mother showcases over 300 earthen figurines depicting the birth and nativity of Jesus Christ.

J. Knox Corbett House, built in 1907, is Mission Revival style, with a clay tile roof and arched front windows. The completely refurbished house features an extensive collection of beautiful and unique decorative objects from the Arts and Crafts era.

Edward Nye Fish House was built in 1867 on the site of the Presidio Barracks. The territorial style adobe building currently houses the Goodman Pavilion of Western American Art featuring the notable Campbell Collection of fine Western American Art.

Stevens/Duffield House was built in 1866 from adobe and is similar in construction to the Fish House. In 2001, the house opened as Palice Pavilion and is the Museum's new home for its permanent collection of pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial, and Latin American Folk Art.

Leonardo Romero House is currently occupied by Tucson Museum of Art's Art School ceramic classes. The house has been altered many times over the years and has seen a variety of uses since its construction in the 1860s. This historic building has gone from private dwelling to rental apartments, and finally was used for a variety of commercial endeavors. Many of the original adobe walls were replaced with brick, and the flat mud roof on the Washington Street side has been covered with a gabled roof.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Correspondence, legal documents, family trees, photographs, slides, newspaper and magazine clippings and articles, photocopies, maps, archaeological reports, architectural reports, guides, invitations, exhibition announcements and overviews, floor plans, restoration and preservation reports, and docent handouts. The correspondence includes letters and interviews with family members regarding family history and property history.

Arrangement of the Collection

The records were grouped by select and specific categories. The collection was weeded for duplicates, with care for original order and structure. Rearrangement was necessary in some cases, allowing for a more logical order to the collection. Many folder titles remained the same, except when clarification was necessary. Records are housed in four legal-sized file cabinet drawers within the Tucson Museum of Art Research Library. The files are arranged alphabetically by home and then alphabetically by topic within each home. Each folder has, also, been assigned an accession number to facilitate retrieval and replacement.

Organization of the Collection

Records are organized in the following primary categories:

- La Casa Cordova (CC)**
- J. Knox Corbett House (CH)**
- Edward Nye Fish House (FH)**
- Romero House (RH)**

**Stevens/ Duffield House (SD)
Tucson Museum of Art Historic Block (TMA)
Photograph/Slide Binders (PSB)**

Related Material

There are a few books on the Library shelves that have some relevance to the Historic Block Collection. They are:

Tucson Historical Sites (La Casa Cordova and Fish House)
979.177 TUC HI

Historical Architecture in Tucson v. 3-5 (Fish House)
979.177 HIS

Voices of El Presidio: Personal Tucson Histories
979.104 BUR

Administrative Information

Restrictions:

Historic block records are non-circulating except for related books, which are available for check-out to Museum staff and members only.

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and/or series here.] Tucson Museum of Art Research Library Historic Block Collection. See The Chicago Manual of Style, 14th edition for additional examples.

Processed by:

Tanya De Angelis, May, 2004.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Note to Researchers: To locate material, refer to the cabinet drawer and folder numbers below.

La Casa Cordova

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

The information provided is related to all aspects of La Casa Cordova, including family, property, and house history as well as family and house photographs. Information on preservation, exhibitions, and celebrations is also included.

Drawer	Folder	Contents
1	1 CC	Architecture Study
1	2 CC	Cordova/Rambaud Family History (Rambaud 1896-1919 owners) (Cordova 1936-1973 owners)
1	3 CC	Correspondence and Interviews
1	4 CC	Docent Handouts

1	5 CC	Excavation Report
1	6 CC	Exhibition Photographs
1	7 CC	Exhibitions
1	8 CC	Holidays and Celebrations (See Drawer 4, Binder 7 – El Nacimiento photographs)
1	9 CC	House History
1	10 CC	House Photographs Before Restoration (See Also Drawer 3, Binder 1)
1	11 CC	House Photographs During and After Restoration (See Also Drawer 3, Binder 1)
1	12 CC	Marriage Certificates
1	13 CC	Miscellaneous
1	14 CC	Los Padrinos de la Casa Cordova
1	15 CC	Preservation and Restoration 1970s
1	16 CC	Preservation and Restoration post-1970
1	17 CC	Property History
1	18 CC	Property Lawsuits
1	19 CC	Ramirez Family Photographs (1962-1864 tenants)
1	20 CC	Ramirez Family Tree (1962-1864 tenants)
1	21 CC	Wills, Obituaries, Death Records, Announcements

J. Knox Corbett House

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

The Corbett House records are limited to information regarding exhibitions, preservation, guides, and appraisals. The collection also includes photographs and maps.

Drawer	Folder	Contents
1	1 CH	Appraisal
1	2 CH	Docent Handouts
1	3 CH	Exhibition (See Also Drawer 3, Binders 2 & 3)
1	4 CH	Family History (See Drawer 3, Binder 2 – Family Photographs)
1	5 CH	Guides
1	6 CH	House History
1	7 CH	House Opening
1	8 CH	House Photographs (See Also Drawer 3, Binders 2 & 3)
1	9 CH	Maps
1	10 CH	Preservation and Restoration

Edward Nye Fish House

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

The information provided is related to all aspects of the Fish House, including family, property, and house history as well as family and house photographs. Information on restoration and exhibitions is also included.

Drawer	Folder	Contents
1	1 FH	Correspondence and Interviews
1	2 FH	Docent Handouts
1	3 FH	Exhibitions
1	4 FH	Family History
1	5 FH	Family Photographs (See Also Drawer 3, Binders 4,5, & 6)
1	6 FH	House History
1	7 FH	House Opening
1	8 FH	House Opening Photographs
1	9 FH	House Photographs (See Also Drawer 3, Binders 4,5, & 6)
1	10 FH	Maps and Floor Plans
1	11 FH	Property History
1	12 FH	Restoration
1	13 FH	Wills, Obituaries, Death Records, Announcements

Leonardo Romero House

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

The Romero House records provide detailed information regarding family, property, and house history as well as family and house photographs. Information on preservation and archeological and architectural research is also included.

Drawer	Folder	Contents
2	1 RH	Archeological and Architectural Research
2	2 RH	Census Information
2	3 RH	Correspondence and Interviews
2	4 RH	Docent Handouts
2	5 RH	House History
2	6 RH	House Opening
2	7 RH	House Photographs (See Also Drawer 4, Binder 8)
2	8 RH	Miscellaneous
2	9 RH	Preservation
2	10 RH	Property History
2	11 RH	Rambaud Family History (owners 1884-1934)
2	12 RH	Rambaud Family Marriage Certificates
2	13 RH	Rambaud Family Photographs (See Also Drawer 4, Binder 8)
2	14 RH	Rambaud Family Wills, Obituaries, Death Records, Announcements
2	15 RH	Romero Family History (owners 1868-1884)
2	16 RH	Romero Family Marriage Certificates
2	17 RH	Romero Family Photographs (See Also Drawer 4, Binder 8)
2	18 RH	Romero Family Reunion
2	19 RH	Romero Family Wills, Obituaries, Death Records, Announcements

Stevens/ Duffield House

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

The Stevens/Duffield House records pertain to information regarding family, property, and house history while also including house and family photographs. Information on archeological research and restaurant paperwork is also available.

Drawer	Folder	Contents
2	1 SD	Archeological Report
2	2 SD	Correspondence and Interviews
2	3 SD	Docent Handouts
2	4 SD	Milton B. Duffield
2	5 SD	Family History
2	6 SD	Family Photographs (See Also Drawer 4, Binder 10)
2	7 SD	House History
2	8 SD	House Photographs (See Also Drawer 4, Binders 9 &10)
2	9 SD	Maps and Floor Plans
2	10 SD	Property History
2	11 SD	Restaurant Paperwork
2	12 SD	Wills, Obituaries, Death Records, Announcements

Tucson Museum of Art Historic Block

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

The TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART Historic Block records provide general information on the history, people, restoration/preservation, and maps of the historic block. Photographs of historic downtown Tucson and people are also included.

Drawer	Folder	Contents
2	1 TMA	Architects Model for Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Houses Photographs
2	2 TMA	Docent Handouts
2	3 TMA	Historic Block History
2	4 TMA	Historic Block Photographs
2	5 TMA	Historic Tucson/People Photographs (See Also Drawer 4, Folder/Binder 11)
2	6 TMA	Preservation and Restoration
2	7 TMA	Maps
2	8 TMA	Miscellaneous
2	9 TMA	Tucson Historic Houses History

Photograph/Slide Binders

Binders are arranged alphabetically.

There are numerous photograph/slide records organized into individual binders corresponding to each house/family. The subject matter includes photographs/slides of the families, houses, before and after restoration, as well as, openings and exhibitions.

Drawer	Binder	Contents
3	1 PSB	La Casa Cordova

3	2 PSB	J. Knox Corbett House
3	3 PSB	J. Knox Corbett House
3	4 PSB	Edward Nye Fish House
3	5 PSB	Edward Nye Fish House
3	6 PSB	Edward Nye Fish House
4	7 PSB	El Nacimiento
4	8 PSB	Leonardo Romero House
4	9 PSB	Stevens/ Duffield House
4	10 PSB	Stevens/ Duffield House
4	11 PSB	Historic Tucson/People Photographs