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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

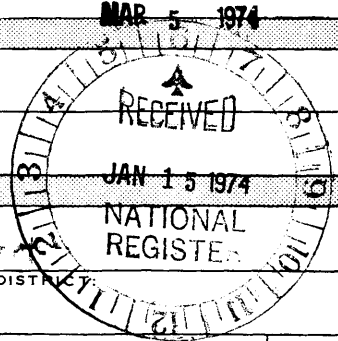
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	ARIZONA
COUNTY:	PIMA
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	MAR 5 1974

HIS E 507 860  
2/17 N 3564500



#### 1. NAME

COMMON: **VELASCO HOUSE**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **471-475-477 S. Stone and 522 S. Russell Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tucson** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **2**

STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04** COUNTY: **Pima** CODE: **019**

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
			<b>Not Used</b>	

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Wm. L. Dillon, Jeff Brown, and Wm. Cobb**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Cypress Garden Apts. 3737 E. 5th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tucson** STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Pima County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **115 N. Church Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tucson** STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Arizona State Inventory of Historic Places**

DATE OF SURVEY: **12-8-71**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Arizona State Parks**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1688 West Adams**

CITY OR TOWN: **Phoenix** STATE: **Arizona** CODE: **04**

STATE:	Arizona
COUNTY:	Pima
ENTRY NUMBER:	MAR 5 1974
DATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original part of the building known as the Velasco House was apparently constructed some time in the 1850's according to tree ring specialists at the University of Arizona. They have dated the ceiling beams which they believe were added later to the main rooms and entry hall, probably around 1879 or 1880. The report of the Tree Ring Laboratory is attached.

The house was built in the manner typical of construction in Sonora and in Southern Arizona during the territorial period... That is with a central zaguán or entry hall and rooms radiating from a central courtyard. Originally the house was an L shape with two rooms and zaguán facing on Stone Avenue. The "L" projected to the east toward Russell Street. Eventually, six additional rooms were attached to the main structure creating a U-shaped building, but the date of the additions is not known. A separate building facing on Russell Street once served as residence for the Velasco family while the building facing Stone housed the print shop and offices.

All of the structures are of adobe construction. The original part of the "house" has ceilings of 14' to 15' high with beams of Douglas fir primarily, some of Ponderosa pine, while the beams above the doors are of hand cut mesquite. The ceiling construction is of saguaro ribs, grass and 18-24 inches of adobe above. Each of the original rooms, excluding zaguán, had a fireplace. The addition had two fireplaces but one is now closed.

The house is in fair condition now and has had a chainlink fence constructed around it by the City of Tucson to help prevent vandalism. However, since the building is standing vacant, deterioration is taking place. The owners appreciate the historic value of the house and wish to preserve it to the best of their ability.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1878**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Velasco House derives its significance from several sources. Physically, it is an excellent example of the regional architecture of the 19th century. Historically, it is one of the few remaining houses in Arizona associated with prominent Mexican-Americans of the territorial period. In addition, the Velasco house was the home of one of Arizona's first Spanish-language newspaper, El Fronterizo, which was published continuously until Velasco's death in 1914. Carlos Ygnacio Velasco (1837-1914) was a native of Hermosillo, Sonora and the son of prominent citizen of that state. In his home state Velasco had studied law and had at one time been a judge and a member of the legislature of Sonora, but his first career after coming to Arizona in 1865 was that of merchant. In 1878 Velasco sold his store and began his publishing career with the weekly El Fronterizo. The press which he purchased for this venture and installed in the Velasco house was the same press which had printed Arizona's first newspaper in 1859. El Fronterizo had a wide circulation in Sonora as well as in Arizona. In 1889 Velasco branched out with a new paper, El Hijo del Fronterizo, published in Phoenix partly in Spanish and partly in English. After 1897 El Fronterizo was also bilingual. From 1897 to 1899, while Velasco was in partnership with Tucson Mayor Ben Heney, the paper was a daily, but after the partnership was dissolved, Velasco returned to the more profitable weekly edition. Velasco was well-known in Arizona and active in civic affairs. In 1894 he founded a highly successful fraternal insurance society, the Alianza Hispano-Americana. He was a friend of Ponficio Diaz and served for a time as Mexican Consul. The house was owned by the Velasco family from 1878, when it was purchased from R. Woffenden, until 1963. The present owners would like to restore the original building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bourke, John G. On the Border with Crook, 2nd ed.  
 N.Y. Scribners, 1902 (1891)  
 Lutrell, Estelle. Newspapers & Periodicals of Ariz.  
 1859-1911 U. of A. Press 1949  
 Serrano Cabo, Tomas Las Cronicas de la Alianza Hispano-  
Americana

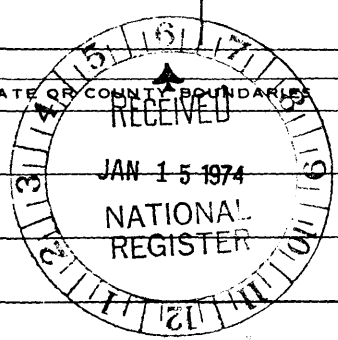
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	32	°	13	'	8	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	110	°	58	'	11	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dorothy H. Hall - Historic Sites Preservation Officer**

ORGANIZATION: **Arizona State Parks Board** DATE: **1-7-74**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1688 W. Adams Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Phoenix** STATE: **Arizona, 85007** CODE: **04**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name **Dennis McCarthy**  
 Title **Arizona State Parks Director**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**

Date **1-10-74**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

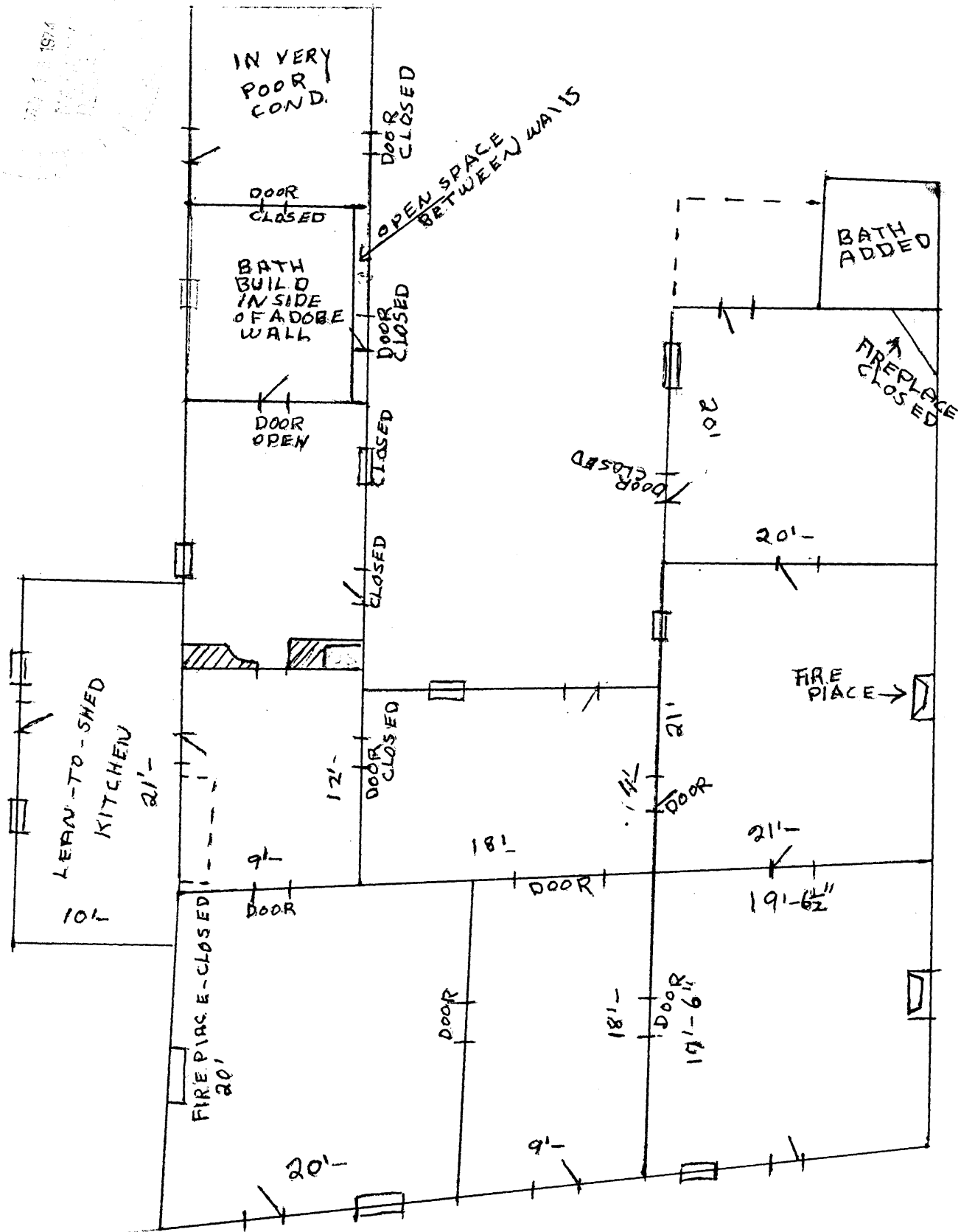
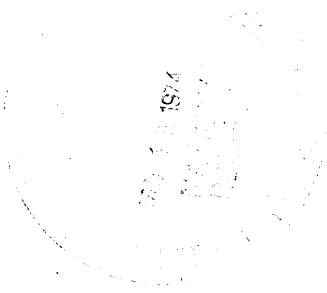
**A. R. Quatrecasas**  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **3/5/74**

ATTEST:  
**Wm. J. [Signature]**  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **3.7.74**

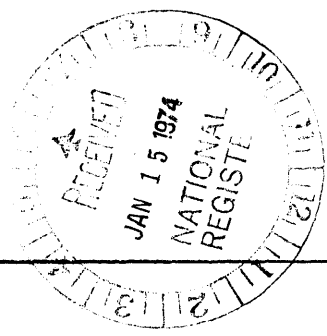
VELASCO HOUSE  
WM. L. DILLON



STONE AVE.  
↑

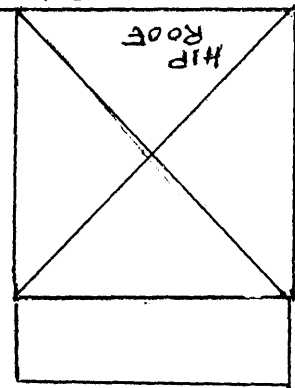
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LOT 6 - PART OF 7  
BLK 238

VELASCO HOUSE  
WM. L. DILLON

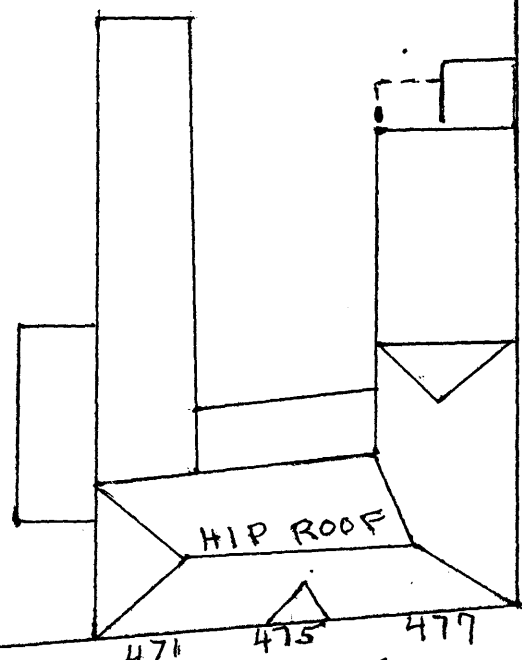


RUSSELL ST,

HOME OF  
CARLOS Y. VELASCO  
1878  
522 S. RUSSELL



LOT 6 - PART OF  
BLK 238



STONE AVE  
PRINT SHOP AND  
OFFICE OF C. VELASCO  
1878  
ALSO APARTMENT  
AS HE DID NOT USE  
THE BUILDING