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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property Blixt/Avitia Househistoric name Blixt House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 830 W. Alameda Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Tucson

N/A vicinity

state Arizonacode AZcounty Pimacode 019zip code 85745

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Dodson/Esquivel HouseNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Antonieta Allee2/30/92

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation vesicular basalt

walls brick

roof flat, laid composition

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

The Blixt/Avitia house, 830 W. Alameda Street (Survey #13-12-13), is an early 20th century residence located in the Menlo Park Neighborhood Survey Area on land that is unsubdivided just north of the Menlo Park subdivision. An example of a locally significant Spanish Colonial Revival style house, the Blixt/Avitia house represents the late 19th and 20th century Revival style buildings in the Survey Area. The house is a stuccoed, parapet walled variation of the typical Spanish Colonial Revival style and has an atypical, symmetrical facade. It consists of the main residence, with a dwelling unit to the rear. Larger and of more complex massing than most other late 19th and 20th century Revival style buildings in the Menlo Park Neighborhood, the Blixt/Avitia house has a very formal entry sequence and facade. Other than a wing addition to the rear, the house has experienced very few alterations over the years and remains an excellent, intact example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style for which it is considered significant.

SITE AND SETTING

The Blixt/Avitia house is located on its original parcel of an unsubdivided area, a strip with houses facing south on Alameda Street. Believed to have been constructed around 1923 by owner/builder Charles Blixt, the residence, like the relatively few others during this era, was surrounded by vacant land. Most of the houses in the vicinity were constructed during the 1950's, 1970's and 1980's.

CONSTRUCTION

The Blixt/Avitia house is constructed of brick walls on a vesicular basalt foundation. The parapet walls are stuccoed and capped with Spanish tiles and soldier course, red bricks. The raised floor and roof are of wood frame construction; lintels are of wood and windows are 2/1 and 3/1 double hung, pine sash. Other than the capping treatment of the parapet walls, the residence is unornamented.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

The Blixt/Avitia house had a formal, symmetrical, imposing facade in front of which a volcanic stone supported, segmented arch porte-cochere was centrally located. The front yard, based on the circle, was also symmetrical and featured a circular driveway which vehicles entered by passing through a massive entry gate of volcanic stone supporting a rustic wooden beam. The front garden had a centrally located fountain with walks surrounding it. The stuccoed walls of the facade contrasted with the purplish vesicular basalt of the foundation and porte-cochere supports. Double hung pine windows were shaded by Spanish tile covered pents which were supported with wooden brackets.

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

The original residence featured an essentially rectangular floor plan with a barely discernible U shape surrounding the covered entry porch which led out into the car shelter. The interior of the Blixt/Avitia house was less elaborate in appointment than the exterior but did feature hard wood floors and a massive stone fireplace with built-in bookcases in the living room. Interior doors and double hung windows were framed with simple wooden casings characteristic of the era. There was a partial basement to the rear of the house.

CURRENT APPEARANCE AND ALTERATIONS

The Blixt/Avitia house has experienced no discernible alterations to the Alameda Street facade which is, at present, in average condition. The interior, also in average condition, appears as though it has in the main never been renovated. Other than the addition of a two bedroom, bathroom wing to the rear around 1958, and possible kitchen modifications, the integrity of the house has not been compromised by modification.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1905-1941

Significant Dates

1924

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Blixt, Charles (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Blixt/Avitia house, a Spanish Colonial Revival style residence, is an excellent representative of the late 19th and 20th century Revivals. The house is locally significant under National Register Criterion C and for its contribution to architectural development in Tucson from 1905 to 1941. It is an excellent example of a popular style in a city with strong Hispanic roots.

OWNERSHIP

Little has been found about the original owner of the Blixt/Avitia house, Charles Blixt. It must be assumed that, owing to the scale and elaborateness of 803 W. Alameda Street, he was a contractor of some prominence locally at that time. The present owner, Yolanda Avitia, is also affiliated with the contracting profession.

INTEGRITY

The Blixt/Avitia house, as an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, remains sufficiently unaltered so that its massing, materials and workmanship are truly reflective of the architectural qualities for which the property is considered significant.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bargain and Sale Deed between G. E. P. Smith et. al. and Charles Blixt,
February 27, 1924

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property less than one

UTM References

A 12 501420 3564940
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are those of tax parcel number 116-19-1790/180A; part of lot 38 which is 75' of west 680' of that part of section lying north of Alameda St. & east of Melwood Ave., south 24 ac p 75-11-14-13

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the parcels above. This is the present and historic extent of the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Strittmatter, Project Coordinator

organization Johns & Strittmatter Inc. date February 9, 1992

street & number 2960 N. Swan, Suite 217 telephone (602) 325-2591

city or town Tucson state Arizona zip code 85712

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY PROPERTY INVENTORY

1" = 200'



Prepared for:
Menlo Park Neighborhood Association
February, 1991

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