

F110041564
HB No MTM

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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 NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cordova House 5-4-72

AND/OR HISTORIC:
None

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
173-177 North Meyer

CITY OR TOWN:
Tucson

STATE Arizona	CODE 04	COUNTY: Pima	CODE 019
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Maria Navaretta Cordova

STREET AND NUMBER:
173 North Meyer

CITY OR TOWN:
Tucson

STATE:
Arizona

CODE
04

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City of Tucson Community Development Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
250 West Alameda

CITY OR TOWN:
Tucson

STATE:
Arizona

CODE
04

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Tucson Historical Sites Survey (Tucson Community Development)

DATE OF SURVEY: **September, 1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
City of Tucson, Department of Community Development

STREET AND NUMBER:
250 West Alameda

CITY OR TOWN:
Tucson

STATE:
Arizona

CODE
04

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Arizona**

COUNTY: **Pima**

ENTRY NUMBER: **APR 26 1972**

DATE

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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

NOTE: Because of pending legal difficulties between the City of Tucson and the Cordova family, historical surveyors and others have been denied access to the interior of the house. When this situation improves and an inspection of the house's interior is permitted, this report will be amended accordingly.

The present structure is "L" shaped in plan with the short leg of the "L" facing east and Meyer Avenue. The house is a single story dwelling constructed of unfired adobe block. Walls are approximately 24 inches in thickness. The exterior, and, presumably, the interior, walls are covered with cement plaster.

Fenestration is simple and direct. Windows are double hung and embellished with only the simplest of wood trim. Doors on the Meyer Avenue facade are simple panel doors; narrow, fixed lights border the doors on three sides. There are no porches or roof overhangs; in typical Mexican Town house style, the doors open directly to the street and walk.

The roof is flat. Presumably, the roof is framed with the traditional vegas overlaid with lesser members and the whole covered with adobe mud. A slight parapet, probably added at a later date, is created by two courses of fired adobe brick laid around the roof perimeter.

The oldest portion of the Cordova House is thought to be the rear section of the "L". The front or Meyer Avenue portion was probably added at a later date to serve as a retail outlet. However, deed history is not precise about this point.

What is indicated through deed and family history is the strong probability that the house dates back to the mid 1850's or even earlier. The house indicates little change has taken place in its facade. The records demonstrate that the Cordova House has been continuously occupied since the time when Mexico could claim Tucson as a northern frontier town.

Additional information is xeroxed and enclosed. This information is taken from the Tucson Historic Sites Committee report. Gordon Heck, Architect, AIA, surveyed the Cordova House. The City of Tucson, via Urban Renewal, is attempting to acquire the structure and have it restored.

*See letter
May 18, 1972
for additional
info.*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1848 (?); 1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house and a nearby "sister structure" were cited as "Must Save" sites in a report prepared by the Historic Areas Committee, Tucson Community Development Program, under the auspices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The property has a tangled and uncertain deed history. However, evidence indicates that the house may be the oldest surviving structure in Tucson; dating as early as 1848. The house certainly existed in 1862, according to the Fergusson Map of 1862. Inferences drawn from the histories of families associated with the house push the date into the period of mid 1800's.

The Cordova House almost certainly dates back to the Mexican period, i.e., prior to 1854. It is also the City's oldest continuously occupied residence. The house is not isolated from similar, later structures and the area will eventually be nominated as an architectural district.

Pending court settlements, the City will acquire the property. The City of Tucson intends to lease the property to a local historic preservation group who will restore the property.

Currently, private construction in the rear of the property may threaten the house's integrity. National Register listing is requested on the basis of the house's value to the City of Tucson as an architectural entity which has survived from the period when Tucson and all Arizona south of the Gila River were once part of Mexico. Register listing will lend the necessary recognition and prestige to insure that the site is not permanently impaired.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information submitted by the Arizona Historical Society,
Tucson, Arizona.

Tucson Historical Sites Survey, September, 1969, HUD.

Report of Tucson Historic Preservation Consultants, 1969.

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' 25"	110° 58' 27"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Robert Fink, Historic Sites Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION: **Arizona State Parks Board** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
1688 West Adams

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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*
DENNIS MCCARTHY

Title Director, Ariz. State Parks Board

Date 4/18/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Van Vleet
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/4/72

ATTEST:
W. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date May 4, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Cordova House
Tucson, Arizona

Long. = 110° 58' 27"
Lat. = 32° 13' 25"

Map reference: Gen'l Highway Map
Pima County, Arizona, 1961, p. 22
Arizona State Highway Department
Scale: 1" = 2000'

