

A little about Rincon Heights National Historic District,

Period of Significance: 1881 to 1962

Rincon Heights long build-out period covered three distinct periods of development and representative architectural expression: post-railroad (1881-1918); inter-war (1918-1945); and post-World War II (1945-1970). The neighborhood is a comprehensive textbook of single- and multi-family residential building types and architectural styles reflecting the budding cultural values of each period. The combined factors of an elongated build-out period for the neighborhood, changing housing trends, the evolving relationship between the automobile and housing types, and the reaction to the needs for university student housing, make Rincon Heights the most architecturally diverse neighborhood in Tucson.

1. 1140 E. 10th

Home to Lucy & Felton Parrish

May 24, 1973 – 12 train cars carrying 500lb bombs to Naval Base in San Diego CA

Felton was the Train Conductor, he and his brakeman lept from the caboose of the Southern Pacific Train out in the desert near Benson, explosions rocked the area for over 2 hrs, made NBC nightly news the next day. Heat from brakes ignited explosive powder in one of the train cars.

Thankfully only minor injuries

2. TUSD Admin Bldg

Associated with 2 iconic Tucson Architects. Original 1941 building designed by Roy Place: (Steward Observatory, Arizona State Museum, UA Memorial Fountain, Bear Down Gym, Centennial Hall, Historic Pima County Courthouse, Pioneer Hotel). Roy is credited with the iconic “red brick building” look of much of the UA Campus.

A 1955 addition was designed by Josias Joesler (Broadway Village, St Phillips in the Hills church, Ghost Ranch Lodge, 4th Ave, Don Martin Apts)

3. 103 N. Park Ave - Lim You Market

Lim You started the market in the downtown area in early 1900s and sold it to his son H.F. in 1919. H.F. Lim and his wife Marian moved the Lim You Market to this location in 1924 and operated it until about 1950. You'll see the map & list of Chinese Markets across Tucson and important they were to the economy and culture of Tucson. Pictures of HF and Marian holding their son Ray Lim, as well as a picture of him while serving in the Navy during the Korean War. Ray wife was Lucy Estella, the product of really uncommon interracial marriage of that day. Her father was Chinese and mother was Mexican who traced her history from the De Anza expedition. [Link](#)

Ray's mother, Marian, also has a fascinating history – her Mom was smuggled as baby into SF and was raised & worked as a child servant for a Chinese family. Her dad immigrated to San Francisco in 1861 at the age of 23. Just a year later he was serving on a Union Gunboat on the Miss River under the promise that foreign Civil War Vets would be granted citizenship. He was granted citizenship in 1874, but had it stripped in

1892 as part of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Marian also had family involved in numerous Chinese Markets (Ban's Mkt 6th & Campbell, OK Market on 4th Ave & 16th St)

4. Fire Station No. 3

Built in 1923, "East Side" Fire Station

1928 pic: This fire truck, a 1923 American LaFrance, is pictured during the Hotel Congress fire in 1927 that flushed out the Dillinger Gang. Fireman on the far right was involved in recovering the Dillinger Gang luggage and in reporting suspicions to Police. Notice palm leaves and no east wing of bldg.

1953 picture: notice the lush lawn that was common in the area at the time, and the other palm tree – both palm trees are still there, approaching 100 years old.

The 1923 fire truck served TFD until 1949, was in service in Juarez, MX for a while, and ended up in El Paso before being purchased and brought back to Tucson for restoration. Now on display at new Main Fire Station south of Convention Center.

Station No 3 moved to Norris Ave in 1953, now the longest service fire station in the city

5. TPD Officer Barry Headricks Memorial

Officer Headricks was an undercover officer involved in a drug bust in these apartments. He was shot & killed by Rufus Mincey. His appeal went all the way to US Supreme Court, ultimately tried 3 times. Ultimately he served 25 years in prison

6. 1104 E 7th St – Nealy Pennington Residence

Born in TN, Nealy was a contractor and developer who built and managed the Geronimo Hotel & Zuni Court, at Euclid & University in 1919 (Now Geronimo Plaza).

Nearly condemned/demolished in late 80's, restored by The Marshall Foundation and now a thriving retail area.

7. Mansfeld Middle School

Notable Alumni: Astronaut Frank Borman, 1968 Apollo 8 mission;
John Denver

Built 1930, Roy Place Architect, it was named for Jacob Mansfeld, born Germany in 1832. He established the first Public library in the AZ territory here in Tucson in 1883.

Mansfeld, on May 3, 1886, picked out the site and persuaded the owners to give 40 acres of land to the UA Regents. Mansfeld was chosen the first Regent of the University on May 6, 1886 and is considered the founder of the University of Arizona ([link](#))

He was very actively involved in Jewish social and cultural activities in Tucson;

Rincon Heights was one of the first neighborhoods to be developed in Tucson without deed restrictions. This resulted in the demographic inclusion of a wide variety of middle class ethnic and social minorities. including Mormons, Christians, Quakers, Asians, Jews and Hispanics. Mansfeld's descendants became prime movers behind the Temple Emanu-El. Congregation Anshei Israel was built on the north side of 6th Street just east of the stadium. 6th St was also home to two Kosher markets. In 1924 an LDS Church was built on the north side of 6th St

across from Santa Rita Ave, now a UA Parking Garage. Prior to demolition it was the original Loft Cinema.

8. Highland & 7th St - 1978 Jet Crash

October 1978, midday, A-7d Corsair flying from Tinker AFB Okla. to DM, suffered engine failure. The pilot aimed for UA practice field where the current Rec Center is located, but had to eject at 200 ft. The jet crashed at 7th St & Highland, narrowly missing UA buildings and Mansfeld Middle School, both packed with students. Two sisters in a car were killed, 5 others injured.

In 1978, 65 planes from DM flew over UA every hour. Following the uproar from this crash, the amount of overflights were reduced 90 %.

9. 1419 E 10th St – Delores Lerua Residence

Delores Lerua started a catering business her from her back porch in 1932, opened Lerua's on 4th Ave in 1945, and moved to Broadway in 1952. She sold the business and retired in 1965. Lerua's flourished until it was demolished as part of the Broadway road-widening in 2019.

10. 1604 E 10th St – Soleng Tom Residence

Soleng Tom was born in China. He had multiple business ventures, including the Soleng Center in South Tucson, and he also worked in real estate and owned a cotton farm in Marana. He served in the Navy during WWII and was involved in numerous organizations in Tucson including the American Legion and the South Tucson Chamber of Commerce as well as many Chinese organizations. He was instrumental in opening the Chinese Community Center in 1956. He served on the Tucson Unified School District board from 1964 to 1980 and was the board president five times. Soleng Tom Elementary School, located on the east side, opened in 1988 and was named for him.

11. 1601 E. Broadway, the Wheeler House

Wheeler House, is a Tudor Revival bungalow, of a style rare in Tucson, is a local landmark, and a crown jewel of Rincon Heights Historic District. Architectural features distinguishing this unique property include an entryway under arched covered porch, chimney with three vents on top, three entryways, one with French doors, buttresses, attic vents with metal screens, and Porte cochere. Roof form is Mansard with a high pitch and wood shake roof shingles. Originally owned by Raymond and Gladys Wheeler who purchased the home in 1926. Raymond Wheeler was a fireman for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Homes on this entire block were purchased by Rio Nuevo and moved back to avoid demolition from the Broadway road project. They will be redeveloped as part of a City of Gastronomy focus with a connected outdoor plaza space along the back. Bungalow Block will also have rotating chefs, cooking classes, different shops, markets, bands, and be a place for the University of Arizona's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Food Studies students to learn.

12. 116 N Santa Rita

Milo Walker, TPD Motorcycle cop, lived here in the 1930's. After the Hotel Congress fire, the Dillinger gang rented a house on N 2nd Ave but within a couple days, all but John Dillinger had been arrested. John Dillinger was completely unaware of that as he casually walked up to his rented house only to be surprised TPD Officer Milo Walker, Milo held the gun on John Dillinger while 2 other TPD Officers arrested him, to which John Dillinger exclaimed "Well I'll be damned".

13. 1146 E 10th St

Residence of Harold “Porque” Patten who coached at Tucson High School until he was appointed Tucson Recreation Director in 1933, where he served until 1940 when he joined the military during WWII. Patten later served 3 terms in the US Congress 1948-1954 for second district as a Democrat. Nicknamed "Porque" because he was always asking why.

Residence of Dr. JB McQuown

Broadway underpass under the RR tracks was completed in 1930, but Broadway was just a dirt road to the east, oiled to keep the dust down. Town leaders expected downtown development to begin moving east, but the Great Recession killed their dreams until Dr. JB McQuown opened his Vet clinic in 1935 – making it the first business along the Sunshine Mile – still in business today as Broadway Animal Hospital.