

An Historic District

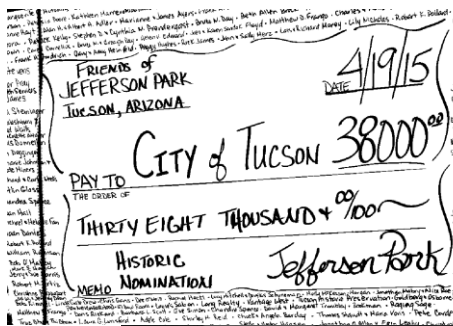
In order to be named a National Historic District, over 50% of the homes must be fifty years or older and have facades that have not been significantly altered since the original construction. Becoming an historic district requires a thorough inventory of the homes and extensive research. Additionally, the neighborhood is required to pay one-half of the cost of the consultant to write the final nomination document.

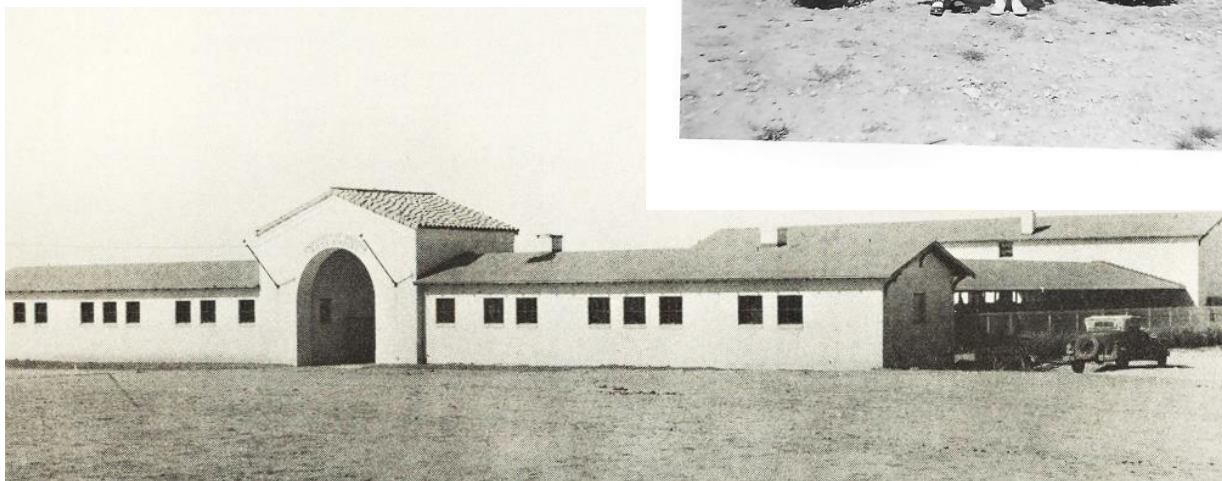
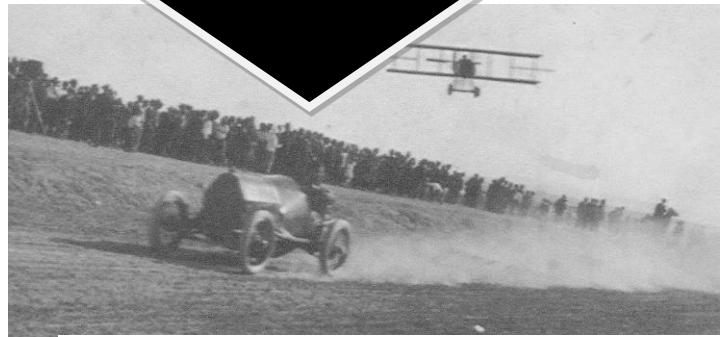
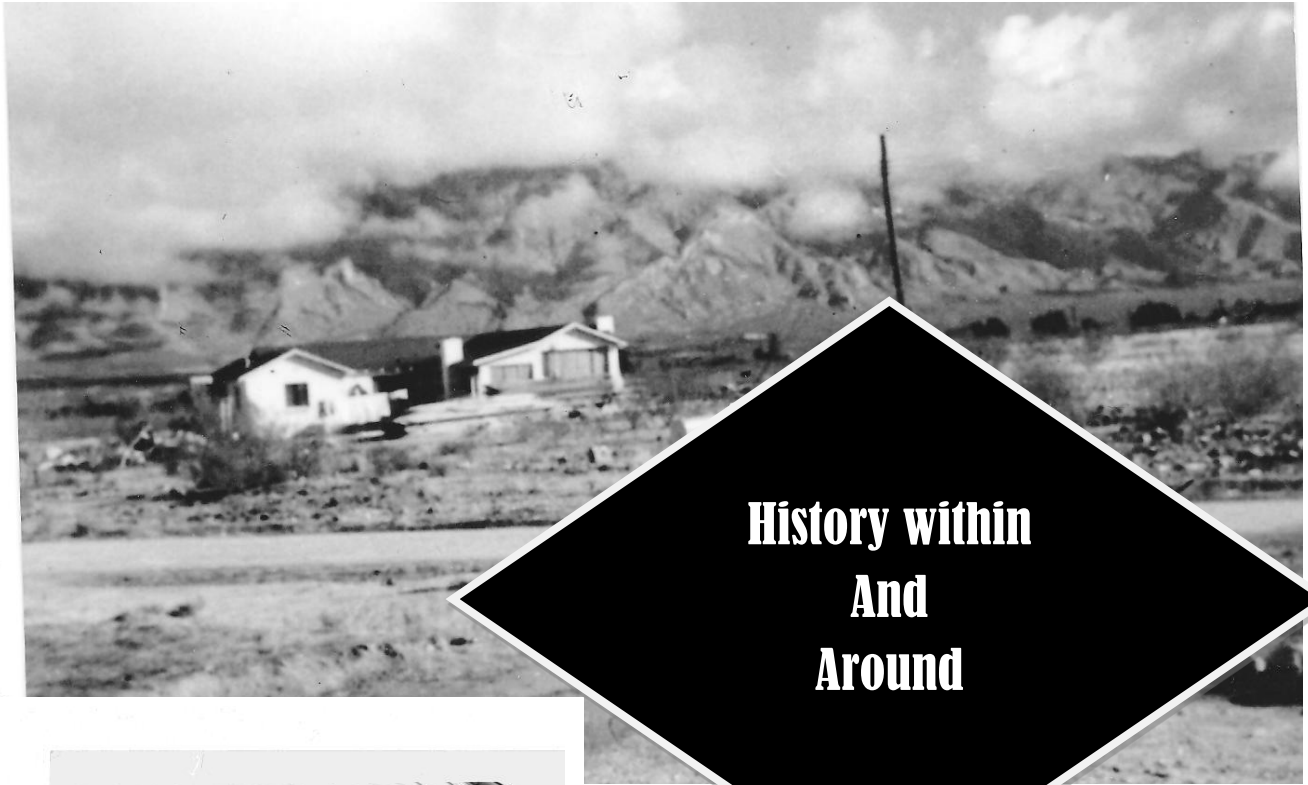
The road to the historic designation began in 2005. Volunteers researched properties at the AZ Historical Society. Neighbors organized four home tours, many individuals gave donations, and several fundraisers resulted in \$38,000 – the required match.

In 2015 Jefferson Park became the 31st National Historic Neighborhood in Tucson, Arizona.

The neighborhood then was able to acquire a “Neighborhood Preservation” zoning designation which further protects the integrity of the area.

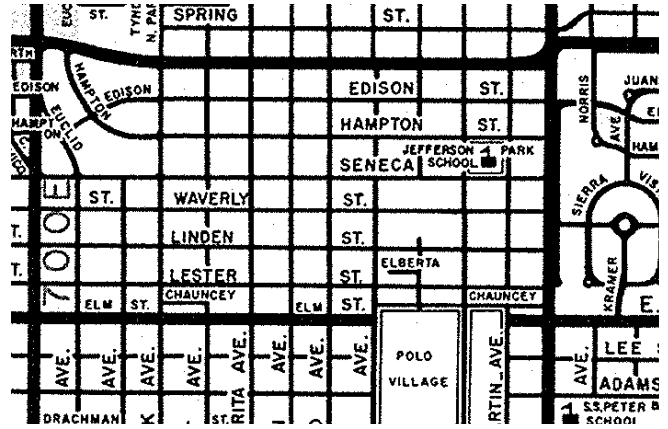
The story of Jefferson Park is closely woven into the history of the University of Arizona-its giant southern neighbor





1921-1960 Southeast Border

- 1921 – U of A Poultry Science Department
- 1922 – Polo field
- 1925 – First Tucson Rodeo
- 1945– Pearl Harbor Day, last polo game played
- 1946– Polo Village Quonset Huts built for returning soldiers with families
- 1973 – University Medical Center is built and stables demolished



1957 Tucson map

1922 – 1955 U of A Poultry Science Department had between 1,200 and 1,400 hens in this area. It hosted an annual egg-laying contest where leading breeders in the country sent their birds to be tested. In 1955 the chickens were moved to a modern research lab on the Casa Grande Highway.

1922 – 1945 U of A ROTC Polo Field

The ROTC polo team was formed to ready young men for the cavalry. The playing field was initially where the football stadium is now. • When the new stadium was build the polo field was moved to the edge of the neighborhood as indicated in the map. The stables for the horses were also moved to this site.

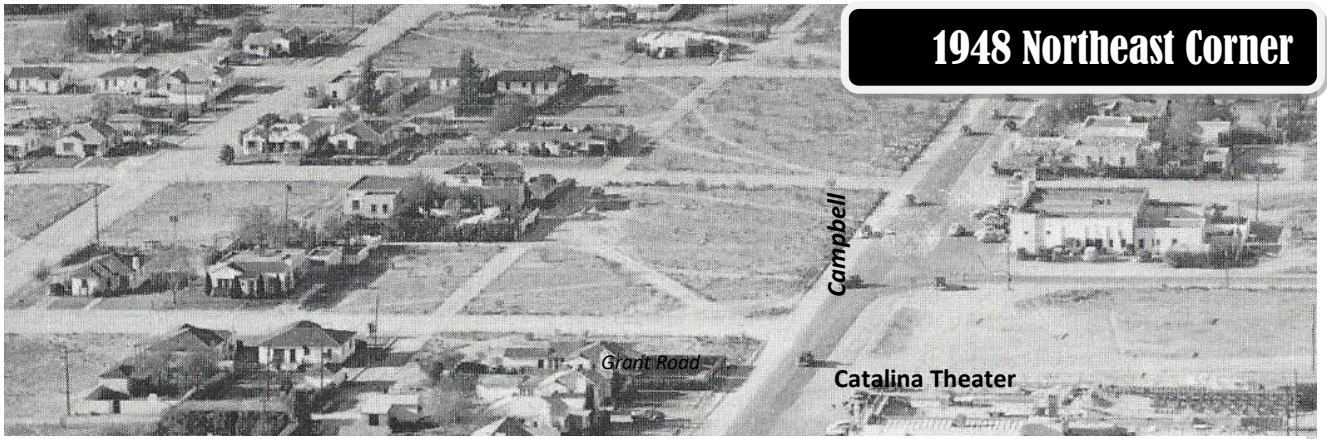
- The team played with regular army cavalry horses. Spectators would sit on top of the cars parked on Chauncey lane. The most famous win was an “away game” over Harvard and Yale in the 1930’s.
- The last polo match was played on Pearl Harbor day, December 1, 1941. The young men went off to war. However; by this time the war was mechanized, and the 90-95 horses were auctioned off.



1946-1960 Polo Village (*Married Student Housing*) After World War II Quonset huts were built around the polo field for the returning veterans. Government financial aid to returning veterans brought many vets back to the U of A. Polo village housed up to 248 families in 1946. Two-families were housed in each of the 114 “Quonset huts”.

- The U of A 1960 yearbook reports an egg rolling contest for the children on the Polo Field, a study hall and a recreation hall.

Photo : Reprinted with permission-University of Arizona Photo Collection



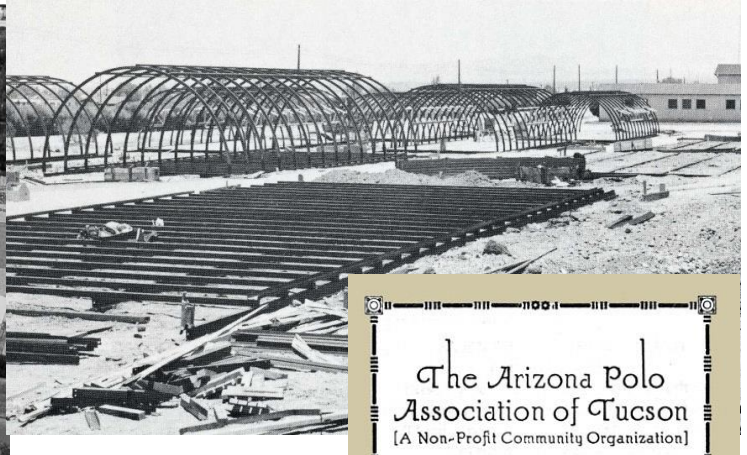
1948 Northeast Corner

Northeast – 1947 CATALINA THEATER After World War II, Jefferson Park began to expand with University families and prominent Tucson citizens building residences. Built within walking distance, the Campbell Theater met the entertainment needs of the local neighborhood and U of A community.

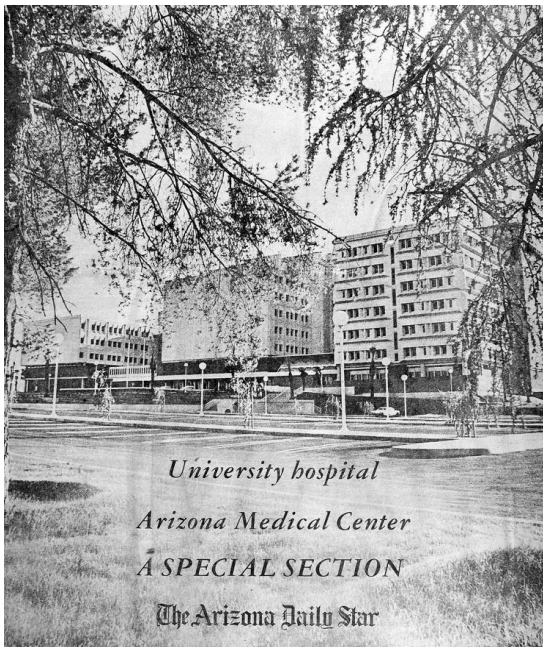
Above Tucson, Then and Now, p 40



Southeast – 1945 Polo Pony Stables



Construction of Polo Village



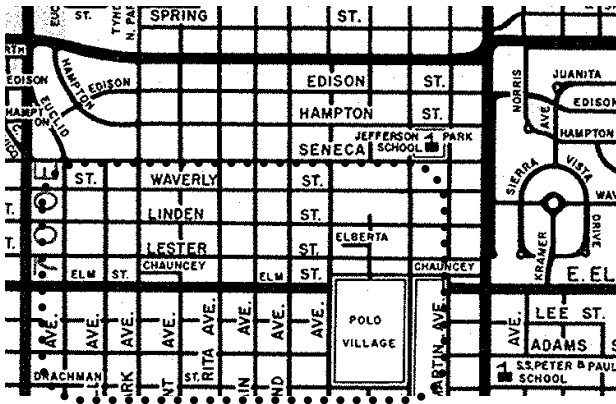
South - 1971
The University Medical Center

East – 1925
Kramer Ranch
and the first
Tucson Fiesta de
los Vaqueros

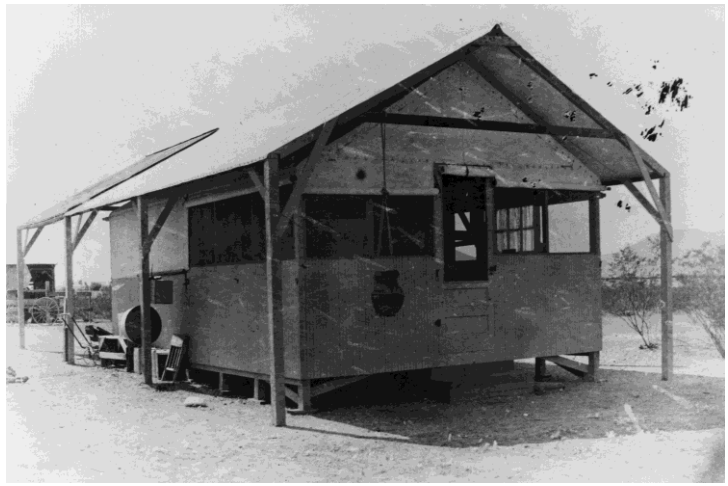
Today the
neighborhood of
Catalina Vista

The Arizona Polo Association of Tucson
[A Non-Profit Community Organization]
PRESENTS THEIR
Annual Rodeo
"La Fiesta de los Vaqueros"
Yip! Yip!
Ki-Yi!

February 21-22-23
1925
Tucson, Arizona
"The Sunshine-Climate City"



1920 On the South – East to West



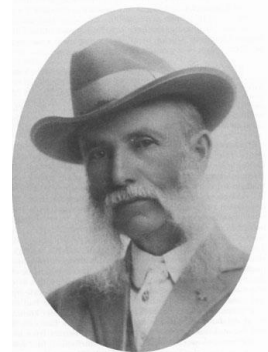
The “Lungers” – by 1920 .”Tucson’s tubercular population numbered about 7000, perhaps a third of the entire population of the city.”

◆ **A resident’s Story** - “Tent City, or Tentville as it was called, extended about three-quarters of a mile north of Speedway between North First Avenue on the west and Campbell on the east. These boundaries, however, were not too strictly defined since growth was a haphazard affair. When a sick person needed a place to live, beginning about the turn of the century, he somehow got a tent set up in this general area. The streets were unpaved and consequently it was very dusty. There were no street lights. An outside toilet served behind each tent. It was "a place of squalor shunned by most citizens."¹

In the spring of 1909 my mother, Lucy, and her children John and Richard (myself) left St. Louis for Tucson. The doctor had ordered her to go to a dry climate or face certain death in a few months from tuberculosis. My father came with us but stayed only a few days. For him the desert around Tucson was like a foreign country and he could not identify with it...Mother accepted this separation as inevitable, but it made her very sad at heart. John, then about twenty-five years old, acted as head of the family. He found us a tent-house on Park Avenue some three blocks north of Speedway. This was one of several rentals owned by a family who lived at Park and Lester, a few blocks north of us. It was one of the better sort, having a wood floor, wooden sides, a steel roof three feet above the canvas and two cottonwood trees which gave us some shade. The interior, about thirty feet long, was divided into a bedroom for Mother and a kitchen-bedroom-living room for the rest of us. Thirty-five feet to the rear was a one-hole toilet. An outside faucet supplied water from a shallow well owned by the people from whom we rented the tent.”

as told by Dick Hall in The Journal of Arizona History, Volume 19, Number 2, Summer 1978

◆ **Comstock and the Adams Street Mission** - The situation was not all bad. On the good side, there were always people who cared (for the “lungers”). Foremost among them was the Reverend Oliver E. Comstock, who came to Tucson in 1907 from Alabama when one of his daughters contracted the disease. In the course of the following year his oldest son died of appendicitis. Comstock took the boy’s body back home for burial, sold out his printing business and returned to Tucson in the summer of 1909 to take up permanent residence. ... He organized the Comstock Mission, better known as the Adams Street Mission, at 1034 East Adams, financing it with his own money and with what he could extract from his friends and business associates.



Excerpted from: Ointment of Love, Oliver E. Comstock and Tucson’s Tent City, Dick Hall From The Journal of Arizona History, Volume 19, Number 2, Summer 1978