

South El Paso's Historic Buildings Under Threat

Photographs by Bruce Berman.

These are just some of the historical buildings mostly in the Segundo Barrio neighborhood that are under threat of demolition if the Paso Del Norte Group redevelopment plan is carried out. Dozens of other threatened sites in the Magoffin, Chihuahueta and Union Plaza district are not included.

Should these buildings be on El Paso most endangered historic buildings list?



Teresita Urrea-Henry Flipper site (Third & Oregon Street)

A plaque is now at this site where healer-saint-revolutionary Santa Teresita Urrea lived in 1897. It was also the site of the first customs house, a Ladies Hospital, Aoy Elementary School and a Chinese Laundry. In 1907 it was refurbished by a Frenchman named Pierre Cazanabe, alias Felix Robert. The building that is standing there today was the home of Henry Flipper in 1919 and 1920. Flipper was the first African American graduate from West Point.



El Paso Del Norte Press—(609 S. Oregon Street)

The first novel of the Mexican Revolution, *Los de Abajo* by Mariano Azuela, was published here in serial form by the Villista doctor in 1915 when it housed the El Paso del Norte printing press. According to the El Paso County Appraisal District, this building was constructed in 1910 and turned into the Pablo Baray apartments in the 30s.



The El Paso Times-Labor Temple—(223. S. Oregon Street)

This building housed the *El Paso Times* in the 1890s and then became the Labor Temple and the printing press for the *Labor Advocate* newspaper from 1919 to 1962.



The Ira Bush Home—(809 Magoffin)

Dr. Ira Bush was appointed by the Maderista revolutionary as head of their medical corps. He established the Insurrecto Hospital where the wounded were taken during the Battle of Juárez in May 1911. He helped steal the McGintty band canon for the rebels during this period. He was a good friend of Pancho Villa. His revolutionary activities are documented in his memoir, *Gringo Doctor*.



Baptist Temple—(801 Magoffin)

This Baptist church was built in 1907. Today it is owned by the Catholic Daughters of America.



Chinatown laundry—(212 W. Overland Street)

Site of a 19th-century Chinese laundry. Oregon and Overland streets was where the heart of Chinatown was located in El Paso during the turn of the century.



Henderson Baby Clinic-(South Mesa Street)

The Henderson Baby Clinic was first established in 1919 as the Freeman Clinic by the Methodist Church in the Segundo Barrio.



Baptist Printing House- (Virginia & Myrtle Street)

The Baptist Publishing Home bought this building for \$40,000 in 1925. By this year it had already published 1,250,000 copies of numerous magazines, booklets and leaflets including literature for Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution. The Baptist Publishing Home was founded in Mexico City in 1904.