



A SELF-GUIDED



MAGOFFIN HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR



1 MAGOFFIN HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE ★

1120 Magoffin Ave.

The Magoffin Home State Historic Site was built around 1875 by civic leader Joseph Magoffin and his wife Octavia. Their striking adobe home tells the story of a multicultural family who influenced the development of the Southwest borderlands. The homestead was originally surrounded by orchards and gardens and was a well-known social center in the community. It should not be confused with Magoffinsville, a settlement established by James Wiley Magoffin (Joseph's father) in 1849. It was located several blocks to the east at present-day Magoffin Ave. and Willow St.

The Magoffin Home is the most significant building in the district. Take a step back in time and tour the Home. It is open Tuesday through Sunday of each week. There is an admission fee. For current information see www.visitmagoffinhome.com



Look north across the street.

2 DR. AUGUST JUSTICE / ENRIQUE C. LLORENTE HOME

1117 Magoffin Ave.



Magoffin Home Visitor Center.

August Justice, a physician, came to El Paso in 1881 after serving as a surgeon during the Civil War. He established a successful medical practice and by 1901 had moved his office to the Coles Building at the southeast corner of Oregon and San Antonio Streets. He moved into this home in 1902. He died in 1907, but his wife continued to live here for many years, often renting the rooms to boarders.

Between 1911 and 1912, the home was rented to Enrique Llorente, who was the Mexican Consul under President Francisco Madero during the Mexican Revolution. While in El Paso, he ran an espionage agency with more than a 100 spies. In 2014, the Justice Home was renovated and became the Visitor Center for the Magoffin Home State Historic Site.



Walk east on Magoffin Ave.

3 EDWARD VINCENT BERRIEN HOME

1215 Magoffin Ave.

This home was built around 1888 and became the home of Edward and Eliza Berrien. Berrien came to El Paso in 1881 and along with G.W. Emerson opened one of the first furniture stores in the city on the northwest corner of San Antonio Ave. and Oregon St. The store carried furniture from different parts of the country. A devout Catholic, Berrien was one of the founders of the Order of Knights of Columbus in Texas, the Southwest, and Mexico.



Continue east on Magoffin Ave.

4 MONASTERY OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

(Northwest corner of Cotton St. & Magoffin Ave.)

In 1927, the Sisters of the Order of Perpetual Adoration moved to this residence. They arrived in El Paso in 1925 after fleeing Mexico to avoid religious persecution. This order of Catholic nuns dedicates their lives entirely to prayer. On June 16, 1938, Reverend Anthony J. Schuler laid the cornerstone for a new shrine, which included the beautiful silver-painted dome you see today. At times, visitors are allowed to go inside the church

through the west door but no one is allowed to tour the monastery itself. Please be respectful.



5 SITE OF THE MORMON REFUGEE CAMPS

(Look to the east across Cotton St.)

In 1912, Mayor Charles Kelly and County Judge Albert Eylar set aside the area bounded by Magoffin Ave., Cotton St., and the Texas and Pacific Railroad tracks as a refugee camp for Mormons fleeing northwestern Mexico during the Mexican Revolution. In 1912, 600 Mormons lived here, near the car barn on Olive Ave. and Cotton St. Three hundred women and children were housed in an abandoned lumber shed of the Long Lumber Co. on Magoffin Ave. Tents dotted the landscape and the whole area was known as the “Magoffin Refugee Camp.” By September of 1912, the refugees started to leave the camps. Some remained in El Paso, others returned to Mexico, and still others moved to Mormon communities in Utah and elsewhere.



Turn right onto Cotton St. and walk south.

6 MOTORMAN'S BUILDING

130 Cotton St. (Look east across Cotton St.)

Built around 1917, this building was used by the people who worked on the streetcar system as their operational headquarters. It provided the motormen with a place to eat and sleep and it even included a library. In later years, when the city switched from trolleys to buses, it was used in the same way by the bus drivers and the basement became an area for tallying the fares collected on the bus routes. Today, it is vacant and owned by the El Paso Water Utilities - Public Service Board.



Walk south to the corner of Cotton St. and Olive Ave.

7 TROLLEY / STREET CAR BARN

131 Cotton St. (Northwest corner of Cotton St. and Olive Ave.)



In early El Paso, mule-driven street cars provided public transportation. Early routes included Magoffin Ave. and San Antonio Ave. There were also tracks on Stanton and El Paso Streets. In 1902, electric street cars replaced the earlier

cars and by 1910 the city had grown so much that service and storage space was needed to maintain the fleet of vehicles. That year, the El Paso Electric Co. Railway decided to build this car barn. Electric cars were used by El Pasoans in the downtown area until the early 1970s. Since then, the building has been used by the El Paso Fire Department as a maintenance, training and storage facility.



Turn right onto Olive Ave. and head west.

8 SAN JACINTO SCHOOL

1216 Olive Ave.

San Jacinto School opened on November 20, 1905 and was named in honor of the Battle of San Jacinto (1836). The school was a brick structure three stories high with fourteen classrooms. It was considered the largest school in El Paso at the time, with classes for kindergarten through the eighth grade and it primarily served students of Mexican descent. There was also an auditorium in the basement and a magnificent belfry. By 1908, the school was equipped with vocational training shops that included large sewing rooms and a kitchen for the girls' domestic science classes. The school was closed in 1976 and two years later it became and has remained an Adult Learning Center of the El Paso Independent School District.



Turn left onto Noble St. Stop at the corner of Noble St. and San Antonio Ave. and look east across the street to the left. You can see the Art Deco Pump Station in the distance. Feel free to walk there to get a closer view.

9 ART DECO PUMP STATION - HUECO WELL NO17A

1340 E. San Antonio Ave.

This pump station was built in 1937. Pumps like this were built in several areas of the city as part of the original El Paso Waterworks. This pump station is still being used to supplement the city's water supply. It is currently owned by the El Paso Water Utilities - Public Service Board. The structure is a very good example of the Art Deco architectural style, which was popular in the 1930s. Art Deco buildings often featured sleek geometric designs with repeating, ornamental patterns and terraced pyramids with complex groupings of rectangles and trapezoids.



Continue west on San Antonio Ave.

10 SUN PLAZA HOUSING PROJECT

1221 E. San Antonio Ave.

This housing project was built for the elderly in 1966 on a twelve-acre site. The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso operates the facility. Although this high-rise is the most visible building, there are also many one-story buildings in this area that are part of the project. The property on which this was built was originally part of the Magoffin's property which originally included 1,280 acres in this area. Around 1897, Joseph Magoffin began subdividing the property. Joseph and his descendents maintained about five acres around the Magoffin Home for many years until this project was completed.



Continue west on San Antonio Ave.

11 SITE OF THE SAM HING HOME

1226 San Antonio St. (Corner of Park St. & San Antonio Ave.)

Although nothing remains of the original home, Sam Hing built a two-story home here in 1887. Hing was well known as one of the wealthiest Chinese residents in the city during the 1880s and the father of the first Chinese child born in Texas. Hing was a merchant and businessman and his home was one of the most elegant and costly in the city at the time.



12 TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD

Look to the south

The Texas and Pacific Railroad was the third railway to reach El Paso, arriving on January 2, 1882. A small depot was built on the northeast corner of First and Ochoa Streets. Later, a round house and water tower were built near the adjacent Pujido Barrio. By 1898 the track extended all the way west to Stanton St. After the Union Passenger Station was completed in 1906, this depot became a freight station. By 1964, the roundhouse had been torn down. The T & P Railroad Co. merged into the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1976 and the yards are no longer used.

13 BIRTHPLACE OF CHRIS P. FOX

1210 E. San Antonio Ave.

Born in 1897, Chris Fox was a well-known El Pasoan. He was a marine veteran of WWI, El Paso County Sheriff, and the Vice-President of State National Bank. He helped organize the Fort Bliss Centennial in 1948, among many other community activities. He was known as "Mr. El Paso" for the contributions he made to improving civilian and military relations in the city. The home is now occupied by law offices.



14 SITE OF THE TILLIE HOWARD RESIDENCE

1201 E. San Antonio Ave.

(Northwest corner of San Antonio Ave. & Tays St.)



Tillie Howard was a wealthy “madam” who ran a brothel on Mesa Street from about 1890-1910. In 1899 she had an impressive home built here, though it no longer exists. Architect George King designed the expensive two-story, four bedroom brick home. Howard spent a lot of money decorating the interior with hand-carved furniture, oriental carpets, velvet drapery, and statuary. The bathroom had a marble sink, a lavishly decorated tub and the latest in plumbing accessories. Her large yard was landscaped with cottonwood and willow trees. She had a staff of servants and was known for giving elaborate dinner parties for her friends. Rumors circulated that her guests ate from gold plates and sipped champagne from golden goblets. Tillie Howard died in 1911 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

 Continue walking west down San Antonio Ave.

15 ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1109 E. San Antonio Ave.

This former brick church was built in 1900. It originally had stained-glass windows and a bell tower. Many residents of the neighborhood attended church here. In 1923, the church moved into a new building on Pershing Ave. and this structure was converted into a residence. The gothic windows and other architectural features reveal its original use.



16 TRIANGLE BUILDING

Corner of St. Vrain Street & San Antonio Ave.

This two-story building on the corner of Olive Ave., San Antonio Ave. and St. Vrain St. was built around 1910. It was called the “triangle” or “flats” building because of its distinctive shape. This was originally an apartment building and later held the Sun Drug Company. In the 1920s the Triangle Store was located here. The small grocery store served the surrounding neighborhoods. Today it is used by a non-profit organization.

 Turn right and head east on Olive Ave. In the 1890s an acequia (irrigation ditch) ran along Olive Ave., passing north of St. Vrain St. The acequia was damaged by a flood in 1897 and was never used again.

17 THOMAS JEREMIAH BEALL HOME

817 Olive Ave.

In 1881, Captain T.J. Beall, a lawyer from East Texas, came to El Paso to try a court case. He liked the town, bought a plot of land here on the corner of Olive Ave. and St. Vrain St. and built this house in 1882. The home was built from California redwood trees and is said to be the oldest wooden residence in El Paso. Captain Beall formed a law firm with Charles Davis that still exists today as Kemp, Smith, White, Duncan, and Hammonds, one of the oldest law firms in continuous existence in the state of Texas. Beall was active in many community organizations and was also influential in local politics. A school was later built and named after him on Piedras St.



Turn around and head west back to San Antonio Ave. Continue west on San Antonio Ave. Be careful! Stay on the north side of the street.

We are leaving the Magoffin Historic District for several blocks but there are several significant buildings tied to the area that you don't want to miss.

On the left you will pass by the Consulado General de Mexico, an important diplomatic office. This structure was built in 1981, although the Consul had existed since 1850 when a Mexican Vice Consulate was originally established. Before the consulate, this was the location of William H. Austin's home. In 1893, Mr. Austin was elected mayor of El Paso.

18 TOLTEC BUILDING ★

717 E. San Antonio St.

The five-story Toltec Building was designed by Denver architect John James Huddart in 1910. Its unusual trapezoidal shape and brick-and-sandstone finish make it unique. When it opened on October 14, 1910, the Toltec Club soon became the social center of El Paso for business and professional men. The members and founders of the club included

Henry C. Trost, Zach T. White, A. P. Coles, W. W. Turney, Joseph Magoffin and others. The Toltec featured a restaurant on the ground floor and living quarters and club rooms on the upper floors. Visiting dignitaries, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Francisco I. Madero, Porfirio Díaz, and General John J. Pershing, were entertained at the Toltec Club during their visits to El Paso.



19 RICHARD C. WHITE FEDERAL BUILDING / CITY MARKET

700 E. San Antonio

In 1916, the City Market building was dedicated at this site. Many people in the neighborhood came to the market to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The building was demolished in the 1980s to make way for the Federal Building.



The Federal Building was constructed here in 1986 in honor of Congressman Richard C. White. White served in the Marine Corps during World War II. After the war he returned to El Paso and became a lawyer. In 1954 he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. This was the beginning of many years of public service representing the 16th Congressional District. In 1982 he returned to El Paso to resume his law practice. Take a few minutes to go inside to see the mural painted by John Valadez, entitled "A Day in the Pass of the North."

20 ALEPPO PINE

West side of the Toltec Building



The Texas A & M Forest Service has designated this Aleppo pine tree as the largest in Texas with a circumference of over 112 inches and a height of more than 72 feet. It has been designated a State Champion Tree and is listed on the Texas Big Tree Registry. It was originally planted in the

late 1950s or early 1960s. The Aleppo Pine is native to Syria and Lebanon. Please note the small pine tree in the photo!



Look north across the street.

21 ALBERT ARMENDARIZ SR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

525 Magoffin Ave.

This courthouse was opened in 2010 and was designed by Antoine Predock Architects. The structure, which has received awards for its environmentally innovative design, is largely composed of limestone and copper. The building was named after Judge Albert Armendariz Sr., who practiced law in El Paso for fifty-seven years and was a prominent civil rights leader. In 1954, Armendariz took part in the Supreme Court case, Hernandez versus the State of Texas, that established Hispanics as a distinct class entitled to equal protection under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. He was a founding member of the Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund and the Mexican Bar Association. He was also a national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens; a member of the El Paso Civil Commission; an immigration judge; and a judge for the 8th Court of Appeals.

On the second story of the building is a remarkable light mural by artist Leo Villareal. An animated portrait of the sky, the mural presents a changing field of colors representing the changing sky above a desert landscape.



Look west across the street, cross the street very carefully and walk to the fountain.

22 ANIMAL DRINKING FOUNTAIN

Animal Drinking Fountain

This fountain was donated to the City of El Paso and installed at this location in 1909. One of 125 watering troughs/fountains presented to communities around the United States in the early 1900s by the National Humane Society Alliance, it features an ingenious design of water flowing from a lion's mouth into a polished Maine granite basin. The upper bowl served as a watering trough for horses and the four small cups at the base were for dogs.



Cross to the south side of San Antonio Ave. and continue west past Campbell St.

The old Federal Courthouse is on your right.

The County Courthouse is on your left.

23 OLD FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

511 E. San Antonio Ave.

This courthouse was built in 1936. A team of architects contracted by the U.S. Treasury Department designed the impressive five-story building, constructed of buff-colored limestone, terra cotta ornaments and coping, cast-aluminum spandrel panels and steel windows. It is a good example of an Art Deco style building. Its design and construction were part

of the federal programs enacted to reduce unemployment during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The first floor lobby still has the original Works Progress Administration (WPA) mural painted by local artist, Tom Lea. His mural, entitled "Pass to the North," depicts the early inhabitants of this area of Texas. Above the door in the center of the mural are the following words, "O Pass to the North-Now the Old Giants Are Gone-We Little Men Live Where Heroes Once Walked the Inviolable Earth."



24 EL PASO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

500 East San Antonio Ave.

This 14-story building was completed in 1991. The third county courthouse at this location, and the seventh since 1850, it was designed by Garland & Hills/Fischer Cordova Partners. It is a modern building made of steel and concrete with an Alamo-shaped granite entrance and sky blue reflective glass. There are over 405,000 square feet of usable space here with room for expansion. Stop in to see the mural painted by Carlos Callejo, entitled "Our History." A blend of past, present and future, the mural portrays over fifty people in vivid scenes that depict life in El Paso. The Lady Justice statue that once adorned the 1886 El Paso County Courthouse at this location was installed in the lobby in 2014 following its restoration.



Turn around and walk back to Campbell St.
Cross Campbell St. then turn left and head north on
Campbell St. to the Church.

25 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

118 Campbell St.

This church was one of the earliest Catholic Churches built in El Paso. The parish was started by a locally famous Jesuit Father Carlos Pinto, who served as its first priest. The building was completed in 1893 by Richard Caples, a prominent El Paso builder. The original exterior was red brick that was later covered by the stucco finish you see today. In 1902, the first Knights of Columbus Council in Texas was founded here. From 1914-1916 the church served as the Provisional Cathedral for the newly created El Paso Diocese until St. Patrick Cathedral was completed. In the 1970s it was the home of the Diocesan Apostolate for the Deaf. The building has been renovated several times, in 1899, 1953, and 1992; and in 2010, it was given a face lift by the General Services Administration as they were building the Federal Courthouse next door. There is a plaque on the west wall that honors the founding of the Knights of Columbus.



Continue to the corner of Campbell St. and
Myrtle Ave. Turn right

26 SITE OF CENTRAL SCHOOL

(Northeast corner of Campbell and Myrtle Ave.)

In January of 1884, a contract was given to B. Schuster and Co. to erect a school at this site. It replaced the temporary school building, made of adobe at 408 E. San Antonio Ave., which had opened on March 5, 1883. The structure was two stories high and had massive white sandstone pillars at its entrance. Total enrollment for the 1883-84 school year was 235 and a high school was established on the second floor in 1885.



In 1906, the BPO Elks Lodge No. 187 purchased the building and remodeled it. They were said to have the best dining room in Texas and they drew large crowds. A small open air stage was built there and local and professional entertainers performed for the members during warm summer evenings. The building was torn down in 1931 to make way for a new Elks Building.



Continue east on Myrtle Ave.

Myrtle Ave. was known as Calle de los Muertos or the “road of death” because it became the route for many funeral processions to the Evergreen and Concordia cemeteries. During the processions, people would line the roadway. Several prominent El Pasoans lived on this avenue in the 1800s, including Charles Moorehead, Solomon Schutz, and Judge Josiah Crosby.

27 GILBERT ROLAND HOME

719 Myrtle Ave.

This was the home of Luis Antonio Damaso de Alonso, better known as the Hollywood actor Gilbert Roland. Luis was born in Ciudad Juárez in 1905 and in 1913, during the Mexican Revolution, his family moved to El Paso. He attended Franklin, Vilas, and Sunset schools. He eventually dropped out of school, caught a train to Hollywood and got a job as a movie extra for \$3 per day. He combined the names of his two favorite movie stars, John Gilbert and Ruth Roland, to create his screen name, Gilbert Roland. His first role as an actor was in a 1925 silent movie, *The Plastic Age*, with Clara Bow. He would go on to star in more than 67 major films and was featured in 16 national television productions. Roland was mostly cast as a “Latin Lover” in his youth but became known for his versatility as a character actor in his later years. He died in Beverly Hills, California in 1994 at the age of 88.



28 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUILDING / BAPTIST CHINESE MISSION

800 Myrtle Ave. (Northwest corner of Myrtle Ave. & Virginia St.)

This three-story structure was completed in 1909 for the Knights of Columbus. El Paso Council No. 638 was established on April 12, 1902. The Denver and Albuquerque councils assisted in the ceremonies at Immaculate Conception Church. Members of Council No. 638 then embarked on a train trip to help organize councils in other Texas cities, including San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Galveston. In 1926, the Council sold the building to the Baptist Chinese Mission for use as a Sunday school and by 1985, it was converted into apartments.



Turn right onto Virginia St. and head south.
Turn left onto Magoffin Ave.
Stop in front of the church.

29 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

801 Magoffin Ave.

The building that you see here today was built in 1907 and was the second location of First Baptist Church. The first building (no longer existing) was two blocks west on the triangle where the Toltec Building now stands. In 1929, the building became the Goodwill Boy's Club, a place where young men living on the street could go for lodging and "wholesome recreation." In 1936, the church decided to establish the First Baptist Memorial Mission here. Later, the building became part of the Catholic Daughters of America. In 2012, the building was purchased and renovated.



Continue east on Magoffin Ave.

30 DR. IRA BUSH HOME

809 Magoffin Ave.

Dr. Ira Bush lived here from 1903 to 1905. In 1911, during the Mexican Revolution, he was commissioned by Francisco Madero to be the chief surgeon for his army. He set up the "Little Chihuahua Hospital" on Campbell St. to care for the rebel army. In March 1911, he collaborated with Ned Harper, Abram Molina and Dr. Frank Thatcher to steal the famous McGinty Cannon from the square at City Hall. It was then smuggled over the border and used by the insurrectos at the battle of Ojinaga. Bush was also a doctor at Madero's camp near El Paso's ASARCO plant and was involved in the battles at Juárez and Bauche. Known as the "Gringo Doctor," the story of his experiences in the Mexican Revolution and his life along the border were later published in a book of the same name.



31 SITE OF ST. MARY SCHOOL

900 Myrtle (Current site of the large apartment complex.)

St. Mary School was built in this area in 1903 and was affiliated with Immaculate Conception Parish. Father Carlos Pinto oversaw its construction and it was operated under the direction of the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross. The parochial school provided religious and academic instruction to hundreds of children from El Paso and Juárez and each child paid one dollar per month in tuition. By 1911, the enrollment was so large that a second story was added to the building and in 1948, 310 students were enrolled. In 1966, the school was closed because of declining enrollment and a shortage of nuns. Many of the school's former students became civic and business leaders in El Paso.



32 MRS. D. T. LAND HOME ★

912 Magoffin Ave.

This is one of the best-preserved and renovated Queen Anne-style buildings in El Paso. Built in 1902, the red-brick walls, elaborate architectural details, high-pitched roof, and wrap-around porch give it a distinctive look. Many wealthy Anglo families who came to the city at the turn of the century built homes in this area. It is a good example of the architecture, materials and construction techniques that accompanied those who settled in El Paso. The home was saved from demolition and renovated in 1991.



Though there are many more interesting buildings to see in this district, it is time to head back to the Magoffin Home where the tour began. Continue east on Magoffin Ave. to the Magoffin Home State Historic Site.

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#20-Alepo Pine

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