

MHSHS Suggested On-Site Activity

4th Grade Learning Level

Building Early El Paso

Courtyard Introduction

Before facilitating the guided tour of the home, divide the visiting class(es) into three groups to rotate through the front of the home (architecture/construction), the central hall (family history), and the courtyard (Magoffin, civic leader and businessman).

In the courtyard, direct attention to Joseph Magoffin's city hall cornerstone. Share with students that while the Magoffins lived in their home, El Paso went through a boom in population and industry. The Magoffins were an important leading family in early El Paso.

Focus on a few of Joseph's occupations and leading roles:

- Between 1880 and 1900, Joseph was elected and served as the mayor of El Paso four times.
- During that same time period, Joseph was one of the founders of State National Bank, the first bank in El Paso.
- Joseph sold plots of his own land and developed the Magoffin addition for other homeowners.
- The Magoffins farmed and owned acres of orchards around their home.

Ask the students if they had settled in El Paso in the late 1880s, what talents and skills would they have brought to the growing city to help build El Paso?

Hands-On Activity

Activity sheet and sources below can be used in an on-site activity in the Visitor's Center multi-purpose room to further student engagement about the building of early El Paso.

Have them study the buildings, businesses, and city landmarks in the large bird's eye view map of El Paso. Laminated printouts of business advertisements from the time are also provided.

Ask the students, if they were selling land for development, what requirements would they have for buyers? Would they allow the land to sit empty or would they require that a buyer have plans to use the land?

Hand out the loan application activity sheet (double-sided). Ask students to imagine that they are moving to El Paso in 1885 and that they have received this loan application for the State National Bank, where Joseph Magoffin is Vice President, for the purpose of building a home or a new business. Will they build a home? A business? What will they contribute to early El Paso?

C. R. MOREHEAD, President.

J. C. LACKLAND, Cashier.

JOSEPH MAGOFFIN, Vice Prest.

J. H. RUSSELL, Assist. Cash.

STATE NAT'L BANK.

ESTABLISHED APRIL, 1881.

BUILDING EARLY EL PASO

LOAN APPLICATION

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Type of loan:

- \$500.00 Homestead Loan—for the purchase of land and building of a home.
- \$5,000.00 Business Loan—for the purchase of commercial land and building of a business.

How do you plan to pay back the loan to State National Bank?

If building a home, how will you support yourself and your family?

If starting a new business, describe it. What is the name of your business? What goods or services will you sell?

Complete a drawing of your building here.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing of a building. The box is oriented vertically and occupies most of the page's width and height.

The State National Bank building is located at the corner of San Antonio Street and Oregon Street. Find it on the map so that you can turn in your loan application.

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