

## Nomination - ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

The following images are of several documents associated with the "Nomination of El Encanto Estates Residential Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places" in 1988. The nomination contains an impressive description of the history of El Encanto, its early residents, and its architectural and landscape plans. The website file "history-1.html" contains the text of the nomination document.

- (1) cover letter from the Board for the copy of the nomination document given to residents of contributing homes.
- (2) announcement from State Historic Preservation Office of the successful nomination.
- (3) article from Arizona Daily Star on the nomination, April 15, 1988.
- (4) sketch of the layout of El Encanto Estates, July 1928.
- (5) sales map, by parcel, of El Encanto Estates, December, 1932. Perhaps 20 percent of the lots had been sold, at prices ca. \$3,000. The minimum cost of homes to be built was \$8,000, \$10,000, or \$12000, according to the (barely legible) lot groupings at the bottom of the sheet.



**El Encanto Estates  
Residential Historic District**

January, 1989

Dear Neighbor,

El Encanto is a wonderful place to live, we're sure you'll agree. Few cities our size can claim an urban oasis affording its families a quiet refuge just minutes from the city center. Even fewer western cities can claim an intact neighborhood old enough to qualify for national historic status. Yet that is just what we are - historic!

The fact that our neighborhood was laid out in a circular pattern, departing from the other "grid" neighborhoods of Tucson at the time, and the fact that our landscaping was designed at the same time and has been maintained to date, led to our being found historically significant, and listed on the National Register in January of 1988.

Enclosed is a copy of the actual nomination which was submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. Also enclosed is our official notification letter, and a copy of the Daily Star's coverage of this historic event.

We hope that you will find this book a welcome addition to your library, and that you will treasure it along with your El Encanto home. We're sure that you and your family will find many of the facts in the nomination are fascinating. Enjoy the book and El Encanto.

Cordial and sincere regards from

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
EL ENCANTO ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION, Inc.



# ARIZONA STATE PARKS

300 W. WASHINGTON  
SUITE 415  
DENIX, ARIZONA 85007  
TELEPHONE 602-255-4174

March 23, 1988

Mr. Rick Secrist  
President  
El Encanto Estates Homeowners Association  
35 Calle Clara Vista  
Tucson, AZ 85716

RE: El Encanto Estates Historic District

ROSE MOFFORD  
ACTING GOVERNOR

Dear Mr. Secrist:

STATE PARKS  
BOARD MEMBERS

It is my pleasure to inform you that the property listed above was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 1988. The National Register is the official listing of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

DUANE MILLER  
CHAIRMAN  
SEDONA

If you have any questions regarding the property nominated or the implications of listing on the National Register, I will be pleased to respond to them.

JONI BOSH  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
PHOENIX

Sincerely,

Shereen Lerner, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WILLIAM G. ROE  
SECRETARY  
TUCSON

KEESE G. WOODLING  
TUCSON

RONALD PIES  
TEMPE

ELIZABETH A. DRAKE  
PHOENIX

M. JEAN HASSELL  
STATE LAND COMMISSIONER

BENNETH E. TRAVOUB  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COURTLAND NELSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Hon Medvesoki, The Arizona Daily Star

The area around Calle Primorosa gained attention for its landscaping and layout

## El Encanto becomes 6th neighborhood in Tucson to gain national historic status

By Joe Burchell  
The Arizona Daily Star

El Encanto Estates in central Tucson has been added to the National Register of Historic Places — the sixth city neighborhood to gain that recognition.

Rick Secrist, president of the area homeowners association, said the listing is a source of neighborhood pride and will hopefully protect the area from development.

Secrist and others have been working to get the 123-acre neighborhood listed in the register since 1979, a year after it hit the 50-year minimum age requirement.

Although El Encanto has had its share of prominent residents and architecturally significant homes, it was the layout and landscaping that won it a spot on the register, Secrist said.

The neighborhood, bounded by East Fifth Street, East Broadway, North Country Club Road and North Jones Boulevard, was the first to abandon Tucson's normal "grid" pattern of development. El Con Mall is immediately east of the subdivision.

"With its circular streets, diagonals and cul-de-sacs, it was an unusual layout that was far ahead of its

time," when the subdivision was founded in 1928 by W.E. Guerra, Secrist said.

Landscaping includes 157 saguaros in the circular park at the center of the development, and hundreds of date and Mexican fan palms, planted along the streets in 1928.

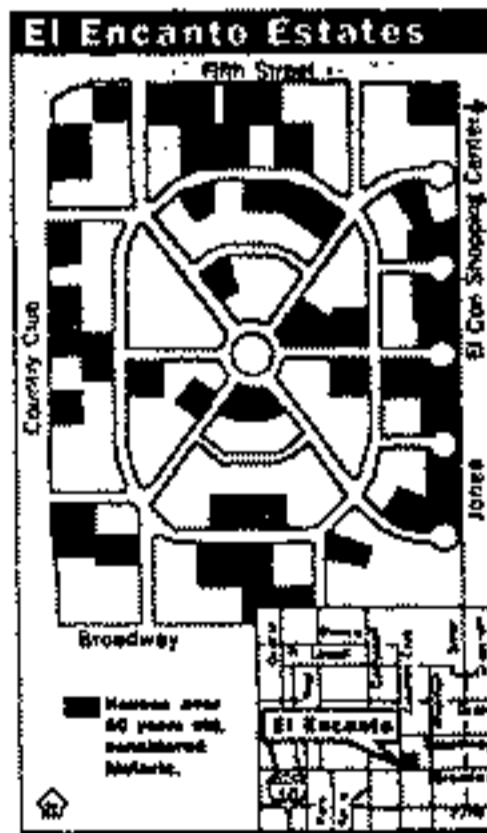
Secrist said the most famous person to live in one of the neighborhood's luxurious single-family homes probably wasn't a Tucsonan. It was actress Elizabeth Taylor, who lived there briefly in the 1960s.

Taylor quickly moved out when she couldn't get any privacy from gawkers standing in her yard trying to get a glimpse of her.

Others who have lived in the community include author Erskine Caldwell, Monte Mansfield, one of the city's early car dealers, Ben McKinney, who was a longtime Pima County Sheriff, rancher Henry Boice and Secrist's father, Delbert Secrist, a physician and board member for Tucson School District I, now Tucson Unified School District.

One of the reasons residents started seeking a listing on the register was the fear of commercial development pushing its way into the neighborhood.

Being listed doesn't give a home



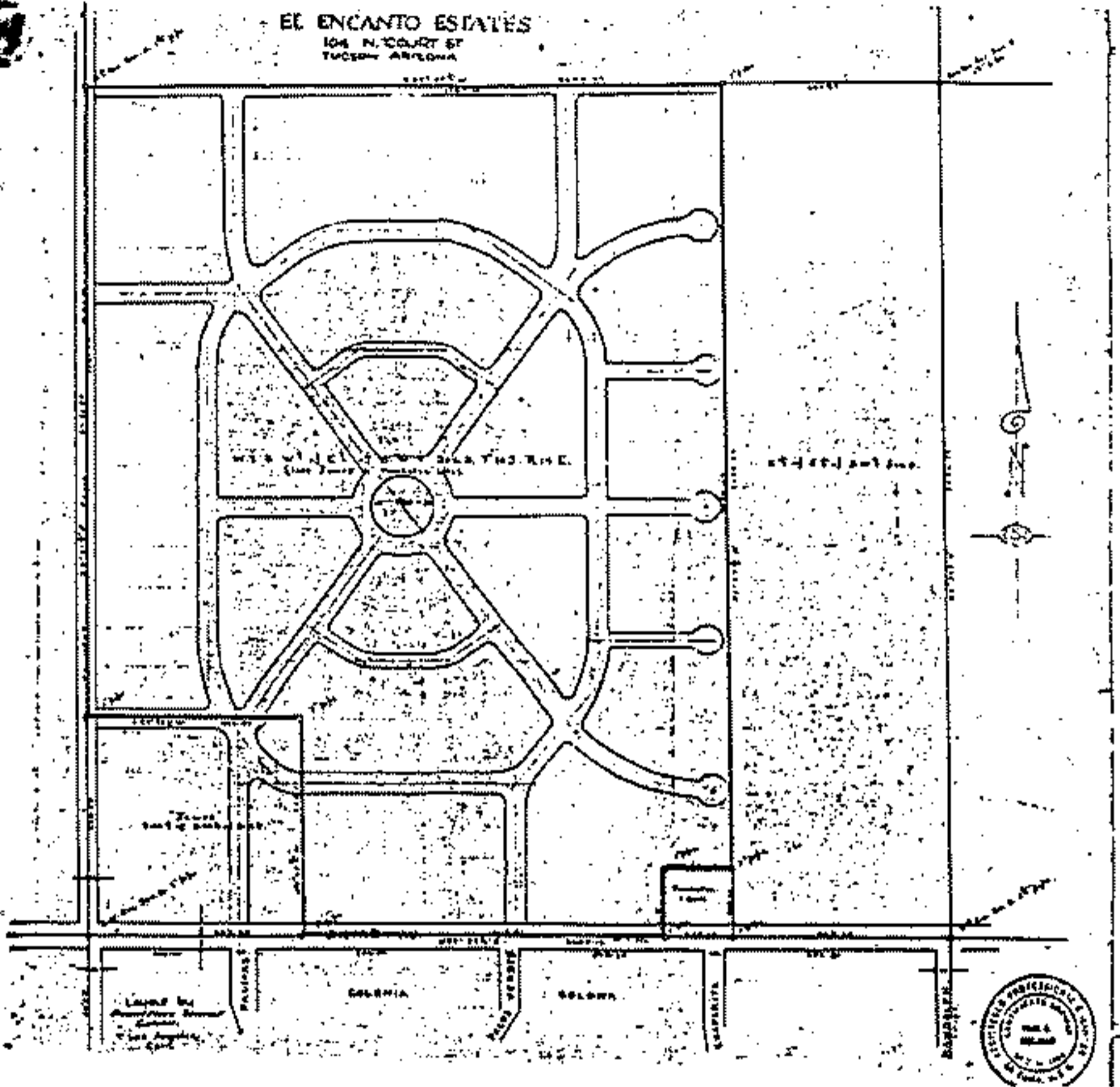
Map: Morgan, The Arizona Daily Star

or neighborhood any greater legal protection, said Shereen Lerner, Arizona Historical Preservation Officer.

But it gives the area a mystique that makes people at least think twice about tearing the houses down to make way for some new development, she said.

EL ENCANTO ESTATES

104 N. COURT ST  
TUCSON, ARIZONA



Original Sketch Map — Dated July, 1928

