

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**FINAL**  
JUNE 2011  
FROM SHPO

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being nominated, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property Rebeil Block

PART OF: Downtown Tucson, Arizona MPS

historic name Rebeil Block; United Bank Building; Litt Building

other name/site number Indian Village Trading Post; Inventory No. 127

## 2. Location

street & number: 72 E. Congress

city/town: Tucson

\_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

state: Arizona

code: AZ

county: Pima

code: 019

zip code: 85701

\_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and  meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

James W. Gowlin ARIZONA 24 JULY 2003  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building (s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing      Noncontributing

ONE buildings  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sites  
 \_\_\_\_\_ structures  
 \_\_\_\_\_ objects  
ONE Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing).

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL  
 RESOURCES OF DOWNTOWN TUCSON  
 ARIZONA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store,  
financial institution, business.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store  
VACANT/not in use (second floor tenant space)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals; Spanish  
Colonial Revival-Influence; Two-Part Commercial  
Block

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
 walls Brick  
 roof Unknown  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- √ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
□ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
√ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
□ B removed from its original location.
□ C a birthplace or a grave.
□ D a cemetery.
□ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
□ F a commemorative property.
□ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Development/Planning

Architecture

Period of Significance

1897-1953

Significant Dates

1897

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Andres Rebeil (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
□ previously listed in the National Register
□ previously determined eligible by the National Register
□ designated a National Historic Landmark
□ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
□ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
□ Other state agency
□ Federal agency
√ Local government
√ University
√ Other

Name of Repository:

UA Arizona Architectural Archives; Arizona Historical Society/Tucson; Assessor's Office; Recorder's Office; UA Main Library, Special Collections; Don Durband

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>502830</u>	<u>3565025</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Janet Parkhurst / Janet H. Strittmatter, Inc

organization University of Arizona Preservation Studies Class date May 10, 2002

street & number College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture,  
University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210075

city or town Tucson state: AZ zip code 85721-0075

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **Black and White** photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name City of Tucson, Rio Nuevo Office

street & number P.O. Box 27210 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Tucson state AZ zip code 85726

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instruction, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Summary

The recent home for many decades to the downtown branch of Indian Village Trading Post, the Rebeil Block has experienced many uses throughout its history. The building is located at 68-72 E. Congress Street on the prominent southwest corner of E. Congress Street and Scott Avenue in the heart of Tucson's central business district. It is a two-story, stuccoed brick commercial building with modest Spanish Colonial Revival influences. Featuring a chamfered corner and two ground floor tenant spaces with high ceilings plus a full set of offices above, it is a two-part commercial corner block. Allegedly built in 1897, the original building was uniquely "styled" with a textured brick skin comprising three distinct zones, brick belt courses, applied piers, parapet turrets, a diamond-patterned frieze band, arched windows and centered pediments; a mixed blend of earlier Classical Revival and turn-of-the-century detailing. By the early 1930s, to serve the tenants' changing needs, the parapets and window openings were modified and the walls were stuccoed to yield a modest Southwestern Revival appearance. Further modification of the store fronts in 1950, within the period of significance, have not compromised integrity. The building is therefore significant under Criterion C as a vernacular, "Main Street" two-part commercial block that has worn two distinct skins during its evolution. As shall be explained in Section 8, it is also eligible under Criterion A for its role in the development of Tucson's central business district.

#### Description

The "two-part commercial block" is the most common type of façade composition found in small and moderate-sized, contiguous-walled, zero-lot-line, historic commercial buildings throughout the United States. In spite of modifications to its exterior appearance, the Rebeil Block has remained compositionally a traditional two-part commercial block with a public first floor zone and a more private office zone above. The street-level zone, divided into two principal tenant spaces (the corner one being much larger) has been used for principal tenants needing to cater to the public. These tenants have included banks, dry goods merchants, grocers, realtors, druggists and specialty merchants. The upper floor has offered office space principally to service practitioners such as accountants and dentists. (See Section 8.)

The turn-of-the-century style of the Rebeil Block (Photo 2) represented the High Victorian era use of ornamentation in a combination of materials on a large portion of the facade surface. At that time, ornamentation could derive from a variety of earlier stylistic traditions, but in this case elements were Classical (or Renaissance) Revival inspired and formed of brick and probably cast iron. Typical Classical inspiration during that era included horizontal division into a base, middle and cap and vertical division into separate bays by means of applied elements such as piers. Other Classical-inspired features were pediments, elaboration at the cornice line, a decorated frieze and arched windows framed with reveals.

The Rebeil Block is located on the northeast part of Lot 1, Block 208 (tax parcel number 117-12-0820). This is a 3,744 square-foot trapezoidal corner parcel (No. 7) as shown on the most recent assessor's map (Fig. 1). The block is odd shaped due its historic layout originating from the initial Hispanic settlement (see Section E, multiple property nomination). Block 208 is bordered by Scott Avenue to the east, Congress Street to the north, Stone Avenue to the west and Broadway Boulevard to the south. Currently the Rebeil Block is the easternmost component of a parcel of real estate owned by the City of Tucson dubbed the "Thifty block" after an earlier drugstore. The City-owned parcel includes 27,570 square feet of land area currently occupied by seven contiguous structures on the south side of Congress Street in various stages of "neglect, disrepair and functional obsolescence" resulting from the commercial decline of Tucson's central business district (Durband, Executive Summary). Largely due to earlier remodeling through façade cover-ups or demolition and replacement, among Thifty block buildings only the Rebeil Block retains its historic integrity. Block 208

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

does, however, feature two of Tucson's most impressive downtown buildings. On its northwest corner is the Valley National Bank Building (included in this multiple property nomination) and on its southeast corner, the National Register listed Federal Court Building.

Being a corner building, the Rebeil Block has two finished, plain stuccoed facades; one facing Congress Street to the north and one facing Scott Street to the east. The principal entry is a prominent corner one on the narrow, chamfered northeast face. Another entry along Congress Street serves the second street-level tenant space. To the extreme west, an additional entry to a staircase provides access to the upstairs offices. A small service entry also provides a southeast access to the rear of the principal tenant space. The dual zone façade composition of the two-part commercial block is evident as is the earlier triple bay division. The facades are not equal and the bays on the east façade are wider since the plan is longer there. Large, rectangular, steel frame storefront windows fitted into wood framing, are found on both facades at the street level. Second story bays are divided by simple plastered piers, with windows in between, and framed above by a blue painted, horizontal stepped reveal. Second story windows are grouped in pairs on the short north façade, and in triples on the longer east façade. Currently painted blue, they appear to be early, if not the original, wood, two-over-two double hung ones. The cornice level today is a simple, blue painted, stepped reveal, possibly part of the earlier cap composition. The former sculpted parapets, now lowered and leveled, are capped by Mission tile. According to the building record card, the roof is flat and clad in laid composition.

The rear façade is plain stuccoed and obscured on its bottom by the adjacent Café Poca Cosa building. Still existing on the upper zone, however, are the earlier segmental arched windows, minus their brick framing.

The building has a trapezoidal plan, following that of its lot, as shown on the archival building record card (Fig. 1). This pattern of filling the lot for the maximum economic gain was typical of Main Street buildings. The first floor plan shows the two principal tenant spaces. Storefront windows on the north façade are divided to accommodate this division. The rear of the larger corner space has concrete stairs to the cellar and a spiral metal staircase up to two offices and the HVAC unit. These spaces, approximately 6'-10" high, are located at the mezzanine level, beneath the second floor of the building. The first floor is the location of two of the thick walled early bank vaults, now converted to other uses, on the south wall.

Only the interior of Indian Village space has been observed for this study. As the plan shows, the ground floor of the primary tenant space is L-shaped and occupied principally by the tenant's display shelving although there is a roomy office zone in the southwest end. After 1957, the Atkinson family, owner of Indian Village Trading Post, lowered the ceiling by means of suspended acoustical panels. The earlier ceiling is visible from the mezzanine offices, clad with a different sort of composition acoustical material. The original ceiling cladding is not observable. Walls are plastered and the original wood floors are covered with old vinyl tiles. The two mezzanine offices are partitioned and plastered. They have sliding glass windows facing north into a space between the original ceiling and the dropped one. It is not possible to ascertain anything about the second story from this location.

Two full-sized basement spaces serve the tenant spaces above. The cellar for the corner tenant is accessed from concrete stairs in the southeast corner. The old stairs feature diamond metal toe pieces. The cellar floor is concrete. The partitioned rooms, also plastered, are used for storage. Although there are two bathrooms for the corner tenant, currently the only functioning toilet is located on the north cellar wall. Another bank vault, directly below those on the first floor, is located in the southwest corner. According to the building record card, this 11' X 23.5' structure is built of 18" thick reinforced concrete, plastered walls. The words Tucson National Bank are painted in gold lettering on its entry.

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Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

Down the course of this concrete staircase and from the cellar below, it is possible to observe some of the structural system of the building. The tall foundation walls are thick and built of mortared rubble stone sheathed with a 1" to 2" layer of deteriorated plaster. Walls are brick, undoubtedly more than one wythe thick at this point. The ground level floor is built of very old open web steel truss joists at approximately 18" on center. Several heavy plastered piers support this truss floor, as well as the partition of the smaller west tenant space above, along the north-south center line of the cellar.

The structure of the second story floor or roof could not be observed but according to Durband, it is 2x wood joists spanning between interior wood frame load bearing walls and exterior brick walls. The flat roof is likewise spanned by 2x wood trusses running east-west.

The Rebeil Building, in good condition on the exterior, appears to need much repair and rehabilitation inside to bring everything up to code, both on the first floor and the mezzanine. The condition of the smaller tenant space and the second story offices has not been observed. According to Mr. Atkinson, the second floor of office spaces has been condemned.

By the early 1930s, to "modernize" and serve the tenants' changing needs, the original textured north and east facades were altered by removal of the elaborate sculptured parapets and ornamental diamond patterned frieze, by storefront window modifications and the addition of stucco sheathing. The storefront windows were further modified in 1950. Most of the alterations to the exterior are more than fifty years old. More recent, street level storefront window opening modifications are not sufficient to compromise the overall integrity of the Rebeil Block. The building has also lost the earlier painted signage and renowned neon Taos hoop dancer sign, symbols of Indian Village.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

### NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

In recent decades the Rebeil Block, 68-72 E. Congress, has been recognized by Tucsonans largely for its principal tenant, Indian Village Trading Post, a specialty store featuring Native American artifacts like silver jewelry, carved kachina figures, woven rugs and pottery. Since 1957 until the present, the major retail space of the building has been leased by the Atkinson family, renowned Indian traders and founders of Indian Village. This corner building, also called the United Bank Building and the Litt Building, dates back to approximately 1897. The period of significance for this building begins with its construction in 1897, during the third period of Tucson's central business district development (1896-1935) and continues through the fourth period of downtown development (1935-1970) to the current time period.

Partitioned to allow for two ground floor occupants with a full floor of office space above, the Rebeil Block ("block" is an early term for building) has experienced the occupancy of many tenants through its history. Among these were banks, dry goods merchants, realtors, a grocer, a meat vendor, Tucson Rapid Transit (the first downtown terminal) and two druggists. Jewelers, realtors, curio shop owners, a detective and others occupied the second, smaller retail space to the west while second story offices accommodated insurance salespeople, dentists, accountants and optometrists. The wide variety of tenants in this building reflect important social and economic themes and commercial uses significant to the development of Tucson's commercial heart. These include the bank, the dry goods store, the grocery, the drugstore and the specialty store. With the exception of Indian Village, a specialty store, the remainder of the City-owned building is currently vacant.

The Rebeil Block is a two-part commercial block which occupies a prominent location on the southwest corner of Congress and Scott. In many respects a typical "Main Street" downtown building, the original, styled turn-of-the-century structure with textured brick façades was later stuccoed and otherwise modernized sometime between 1925 and the late 1930s, giving it a modest Spanish Colonial Revival look. The integrity is good since alterations are more than fifty years old. Therefore the building is also significant under Criterion C as a vernacular, "Main Street" two-part commercial block that has worn two skins during its evolution (see Section 7).

#### Historical Overview

This building appears in a photograph allegedly shot in 1898 (Historic Photo 2) and according to Durband in Chapter 2 of his report, was originally constructed in 1897 for a bank. To expand upon the pre-1900 origin of this building, it is recommended that the reader consult the O'Quinn Abstract Books, Volume 1, on file at Special Collections, University of Arizona Library. Title research for this nomination uncovered a deed recorded October 10, 1900 transferring the subject Lot 1 (with no mention of a building) comprising 51' of frontage along Congress Street, from Theodore G. and India E. Fitch to Andres Rebeil. Most certainly, in 1901 Andres Rebeil owned the subject building in its present location (addressed No. 68) from which he operated a dry goods and clothing store, as shown on the 1901 Sanborn map and the photograph (Photo 1). The 1903-1904 Tucson City Directory lists two Rebeil Blocks; No. 1 located on the southwest corner of Congress and Scott and No. 2 addressed 171-179 S. Meyer.

Andres Rebeil, a Republican and early chairman of the county board of supervisors, was born in France. Married to Concepcion (Chonita) Redondo, of the prominent Redondo family, Rebeil was strongly associated with Tucson's Mexican community (Sheridan 1986: 117). According to his obituary and that of his son, Andres Rebeil arrived in Tucson sometime around 1885. The memoirs of Federico J. M. Ronstadt, renowned Tucson pioneer, indicate that Rebeil was a personal friend who had been looking around for a business to buy. At one point the pair considered founding a

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Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

mercantile business together and they looked at the Hitinger lot, site of today's Chicago Store on the southwest corner of Congress and Sixth Avenue, which Rebeil felt was too expensive (Bordeman: 2, 5). Around 1889 Rebeil established his own mercantile business on S. Meyer Street. Apparently he moved this business several times. He owned Rebeil Block No. 1 until 1914 but no longer operated his dry goods store there for the 1909 Sanborn map shows a bank, notably the Merchants' Bank and Trust. At the time of Andres Rebeil's death in 1915, Rebeil and Company Inc. was operating from one corner of Congress and Sixth Avenue. Rebeil's son, Paul William Rebeil, a pioneer local ladies ready-to-wear merchant, ran the business started by his father until 1927. Paul William became the manager of Montgomery Wards in 1930. (Andres Rebeil Prominent Merchant is Dead, nd, Arizona Daily Star 1938).

The following information largely describes subsequent building tenants. They are not necessarily the building owners. In the absence of a detailed title search, ownership is time consuming to ascertain but, when known, has been noted. From 1909 to 1933, Don Durband's report shows that the principal tenants of this building were generally banks. The exception was a brief grocery tenancy in 1918 and 1919 under Brainard and Homer Hocking Co. at the same time Charles Goldstein operated a clothing store from the west space. The banks shown were Merchant's Bank and Trust, 1909 through 1914, Tucson National Bank from 1922 to 1925 and the United Bank from 1929 through 1933, at which time the building was called the "United Bank Building." In 1925 the corner building served as waiting room, the first downtown terminal for Tucson Rapid Transit bus service (Photo 1). The year 1934 was significant as the date when Jones Drug became the principal "corner" tenant of the United Bank Building for sixteen years (Photo 3). Concurrently the ground floor space was divided to accommodate other tenants. Jewelers often tended to occupy the west space, mainly Field's Credit Jewelers.

Robert T. "Bob" Jones, state senator from Pinal County and veteran druggist with twenty years experience in Superior, Florence and Mesa, Arizona, chose Tucson as the site to open his latest business venture because he felt competition would be strong but "clean." In 1933, Jones promised to provide light lunches, a soda fountain and a full line of drugs and accessories. Born in 1884, Robert Taylor Jones was from Rutledge, Tennessee. In his youth he learned civil engineering by working on construction projects in Mexico and on the Panama Canal. He came to Arizona Territory in 1909 where he worked on Southern Pacific Railroad projects and in the mines before establishing himself in the drug store business. His growing interest in Democratic politics led to his election to the Arizona Senate for which he served three terms representing Pinal County from 1931 to 1935. In 1938 the popular politician was elected governor of the state of Arizona. He served one term at the time the nation was facing the challenge of World War II. During this term, Governor Jones' concerns were focused upon the militarization of the state. He sought but failed to win re-election in 1942, pledging rigid economies to help win the War. Bob Jones then returned to business and operated, among other ventures, this Jones Drug until 1949. (Goff 1983 and "Bob Jones..." 1942).

Back in 1936, Theobald Edward Litt (T. Ed Litt), a competing Tucson druggist, had purchased the United Bank Building for \$70,100. At that time the property not only housed Jones Drug but the Tovrea Realty Company and the Cozy Lunch on the ground floor, while the second floor was occupied by miscellaneous small offices ("United Bank Building is Bought by Ed Litt": 1936.) In 1950 T. Ed Litt Drugs moved into the subject site. The founder of this business was a popular pioneer Tucson druggist well known for his earlier landmark drugstore on the northeast corner of Stone and Congress, a site he occupied for forty years. The soda fountain and the store's colorful owner made that location, known as "Litt Corner," a very popular gathering place. Litt, the "consummate small businessman type of his time," featured an annual sale on his birthday, a promotion that became a tradition ("Everybody's Neighborhood": 5/7).

Born in Stratford, Ontario, Mr. Litt began his career as a pharmacist in Canada. He came to Arizona in 1894, returned to

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

Rebell Block  
Pima County, Arizona

Canada to marry Belle Bown in 1902, then moved to Tucson in 1908 to start his own drugstore. The first, on North Stone near Congress was destroyed by fire. This was followed by his renowned Litt Corner establishment. As mentioned, several decades later, in 1950 T. Ed Litt Drugs relocated on the southwest corner of Scott and Congress. This was shortly before Litt's death in 1952 at the age of eighty one. (AZ Daily Star 1952). The business continued to operate in the corner location under the same name until 1957. According to Durband, during the era of the T. Ed Litt Drugs tenancy, Field's Jewelers occupied the west street level space.

In 1957, a new principal tenant arrived to lease the corner space in what had become known as the Litt Building. The following information is based upon an interview, July 1, 2002, with John Atkinson, current owner of Indian Village Trading Post. At this time Mr. Atkinson is leasing this space from the City of Tucson, the latest owner of the building. Indian trading has been the business of the Atkinson family for decades. John's late father, Jake, and uncles, Leroy and Herman, were raised on a farm in Texas. Some time in the mid 1930s the three brothers went to Gallup, New Mexico to work in a trading post. They soon ventured out to found their own trading posts on the Navajo Reservation. Atkinson trading posts were part of a long standing tradition on reservations, "life support systems" for the tribe where native jewelry, rugs, crafts, livestock and wool were purchased and sold by the trader in exchange for some services and material goods of the "outside world." (Downs 1972: 115, 116). John Atkinson recalls that the last reservation post his father ran was 35 miles west and 10 miles north of Albuquerque in a place called Canoncito.

John's parents still had the reservation post in 1964, when he graduated from high school. Meanwhile uncle Leroy had decided to set up business in Tucson. First he leased a store called Indian Village in Monterrey Village, on the southeast corner of Broadway and Wilmot. In 1957 he subleased downtown space in the Litt Building from Art Grunewald. At that time Grunewald held a long term lease from owner T. Ed Litt. Leroy remained until 1960 then returned to Gallup to open a store there. For a few years, before Jake Atkinson arrived in the mid 1960s, Grunewald and Armand Ortega ran jewelry stores in the space. In 1971, after his stint in the Navy, John came to Tucson to work in this store for his father. This downtown store became a unique one. Shoppers could watch a Native American kachina carver and rug weaver practice their crafts in the storefront windows. In this downtown store Chief Gray Squirrel created the first permanent Navajo sand painting. This was the era when the popular neon hoop dancer sign was mounted to shine for decades from the building's chamfered corner (Photo 4).

John Atkinson worked for his father for five or six months, then, with a business loan from Valley National Bank, set up his own store, Tucson's Indian Trading Post, on Pennington. John Atkinson then began to greatly expand the family business. He set up a shop in the newly built Tucson Mall and purchased Indian Village from his mother around 1978. Now he runs twelve shops, all of which are located in Tucson. His two sons, John David (JD) and Larry, have gone into business with him. Indian Village shops can be found in the Tucson Mall, Park Place and in several hotels. The sons oversee the shops while John does most of the purchasing. A typical buying trip takes from three to five days. John Atkinson purchases either directly from the artists or from traders. His shops feature work largely from Navajo, Zuni and Hopi artists.

This Spanish Colonial Revival influenced two-part commercial block is significant for its architectural contribution and for its association with two eras of Central Business District development. Founded around the turn of the century, it was established and utilized during the era when Arizona was striving for and achieving statehood through the Great Depression. It was likewise an integral component of Tucson's thriving downtown commercial district through the early 1950s. The current tenant, Indian Village Trading Post, has survived several ownership changes plus the decline of the commercial viability of Tucson's central business district. This modest two part commercial block,

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

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Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

adjacent to the deteriorated, vacant Thrifty Block and so out of scale with much of downtown's contemporary and high rise development, will hopefully contribute significantly to anticipated downtown revitalization.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 8

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

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See also Section I: Major Bibliographic References of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Historic and Architectural Resources of Downtown Tucson, Arizona.

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National Park Service

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Section Number 10 Page 9

Reibeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northeast portion of Lot 1, Block 208, City of Tucson. This defines a trapezoidal corner lot, bordered by Congress Street and Scott Avenue, 50.785 feet long on the north, 70.11 feet long on the east, 48.81 feet long on the south and 77.34 feet on the west boundaries.

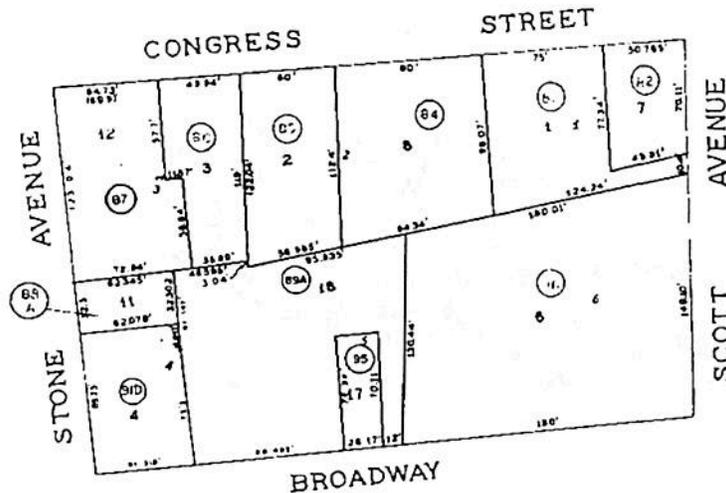
### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds with the current ownership of the property; accessor's parcel number 117-12-0820

## ASSESSOR'S RECORD MAP

### BLOCK 208, CITY OF TUCSON

117-12  
12/17



SCALE - 1" = 50'

SEE BOOK 3, PAGE 70, M & P.

1972

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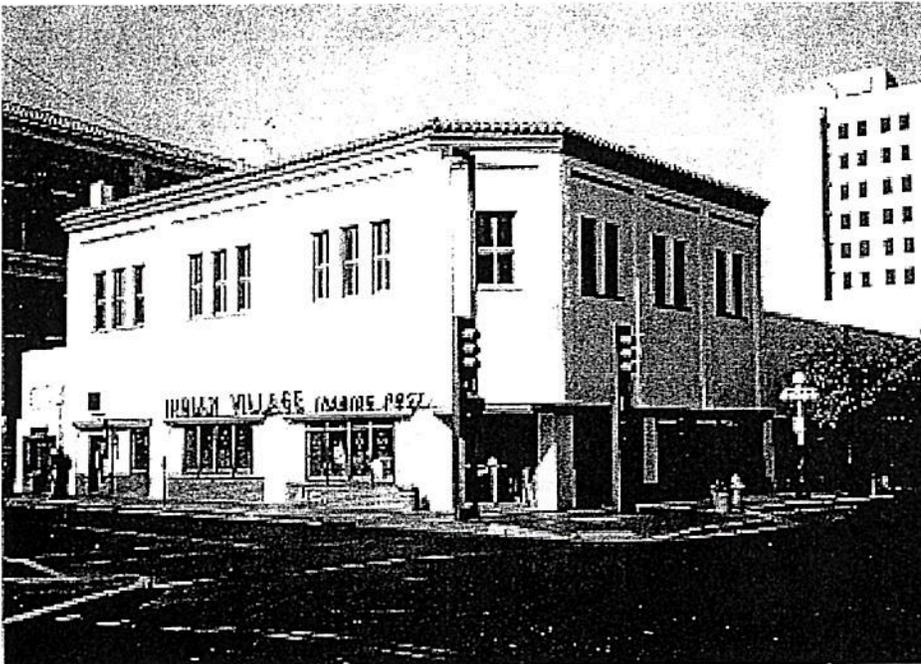
Section Number PHOTOS Page 10

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

NOTE: Archival pen used to label all original photos.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-16  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #1: Diagonal view showing north and east facades, corner of Congress and Scott; looking SW



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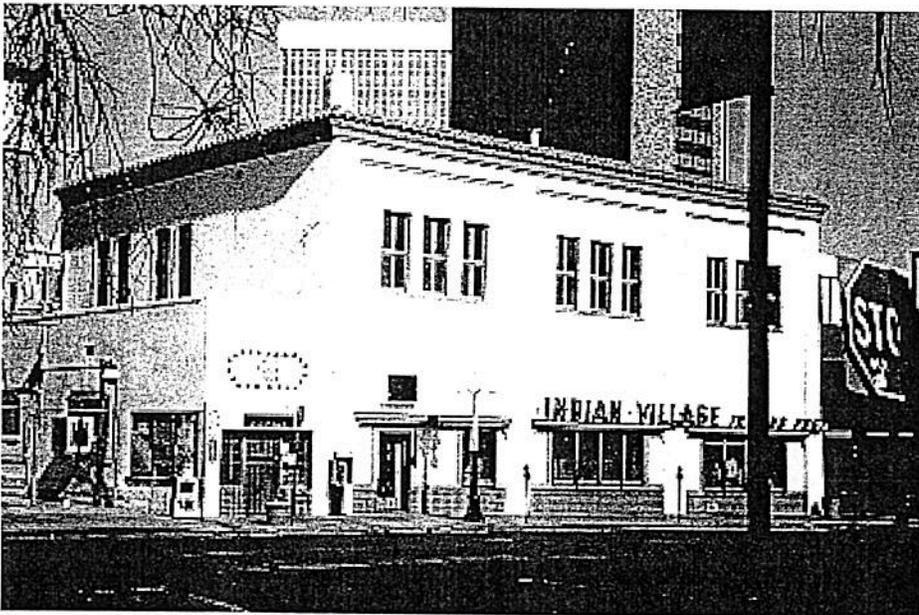
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 11

Rebel Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-18  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #2: East façade, Scott Street showing Café Poca Cosa; looking NW



(8-86)

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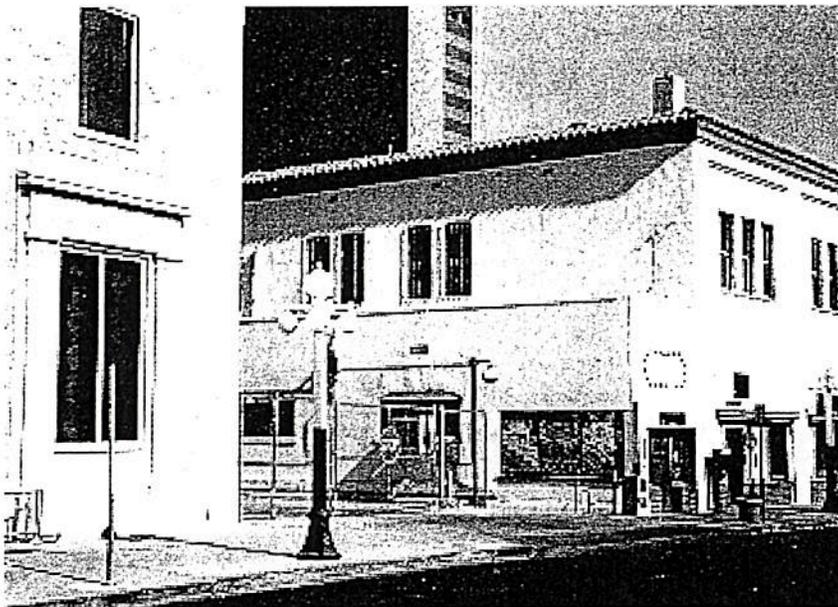
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 12

Rebell Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-23  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #3: South façade showing Café Poca Cosa; looking NW



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Section Number PHOTOS Page 13

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-19  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #4: Detail of second-story double-hung windows, reveals and cornice; looking SW



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 14

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 1, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-1  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #5: View of Shop interior, Indian Village Wares; looking south at mezzanine



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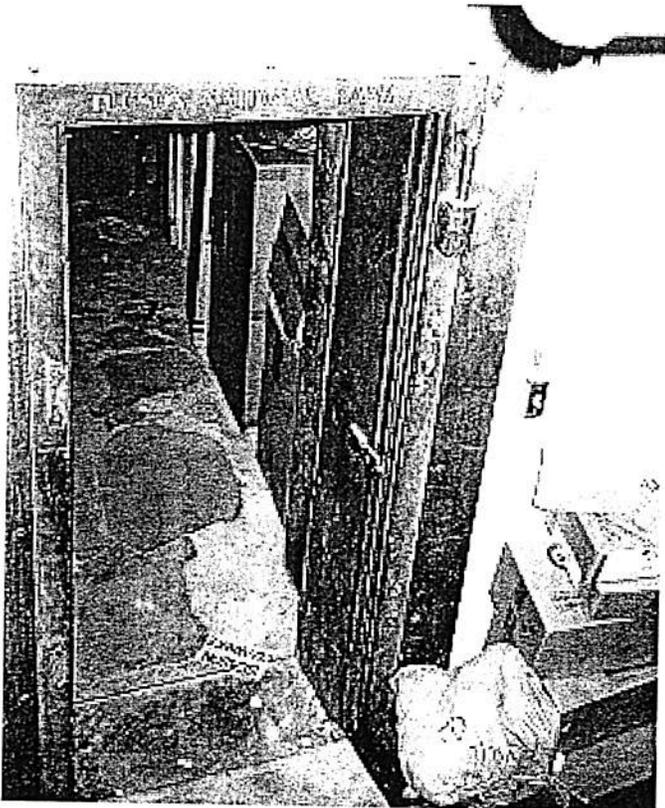
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 15

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 1, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-12  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #6: Basement showing vault of former Tucson National Bank



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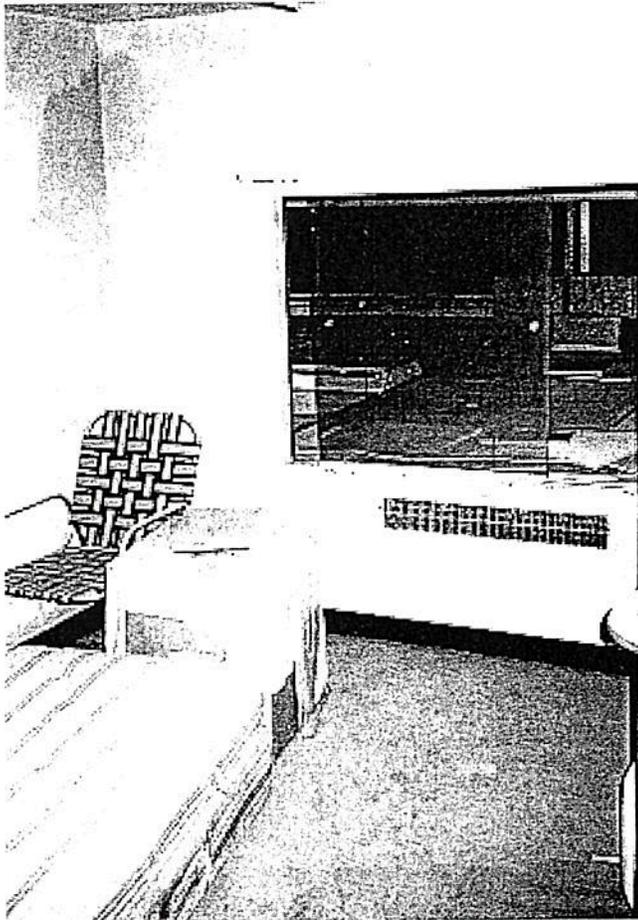
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 16

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 1, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-5  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #7: Mezzanine Room; Dropped ceiling of street-level space viewed through sliding glass window; looking north





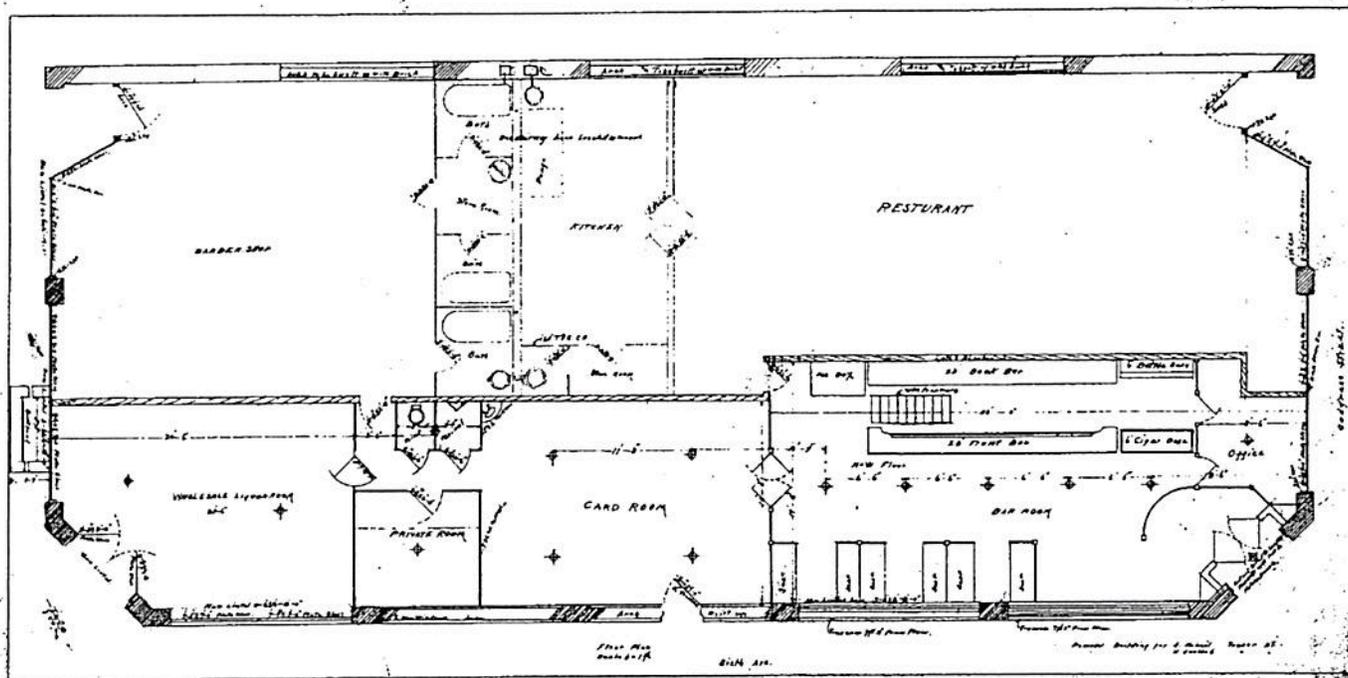
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 18

Rebell Block  
Pima County, Arizona

DRAWING #2: Remodeled Floor Plan by Henry O. Jaastad, 1933 (courtesy of the Jaastad Collection, Arizona Architectural Archives)



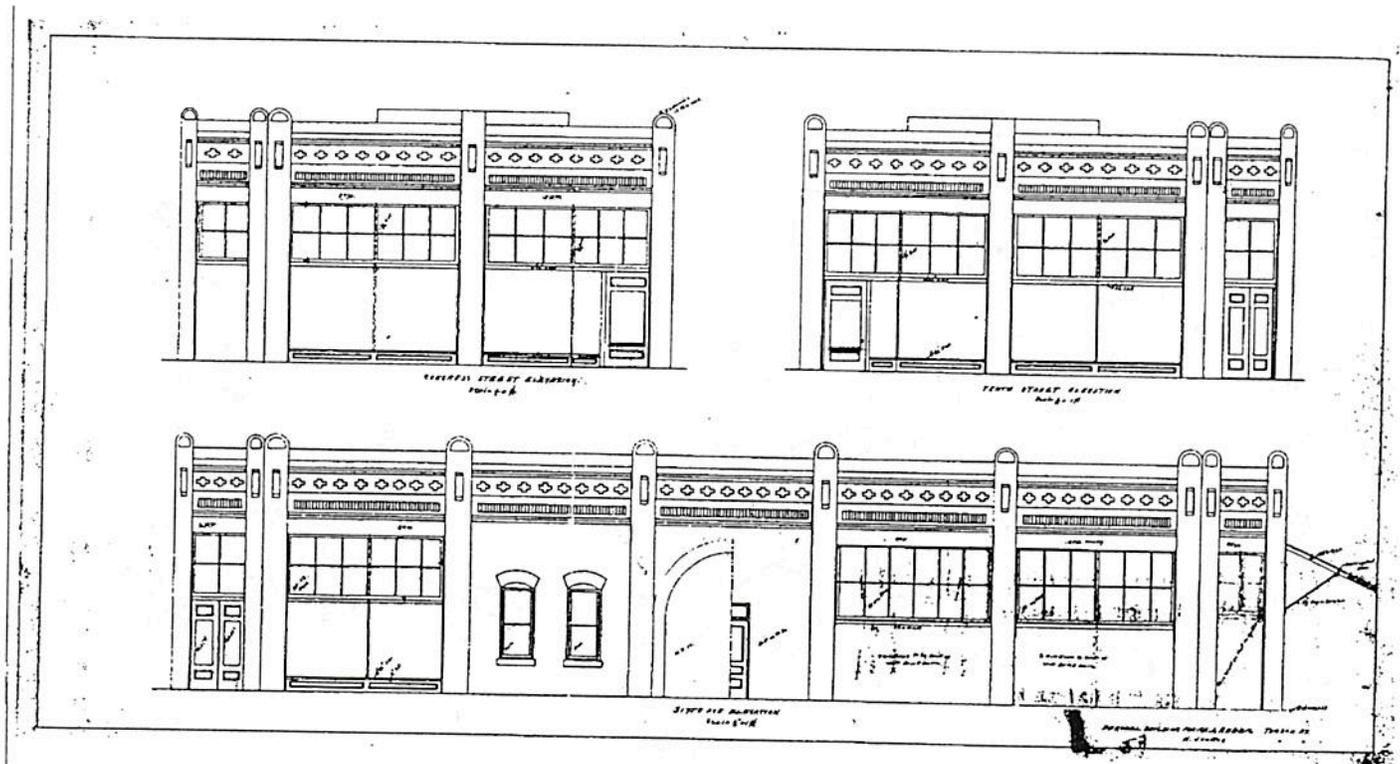
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 19

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

DRAWING #3: Remodeled Elevations by Henry O. Jaastad, 1933 (courtesy of the Jaastad Collection, Arizona Architectural Archives)



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 20

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

HISTORIC PHOTO #1: Rebeil Dry Goods Co., allegedly photographed in 1898 looking west on Congress Street (Photo courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 21

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

HISTORIC PHOTO #2: Rebeil Block with street awning, looking west on Congress Street; postcard dated March 26, 1911 (Postcard courtesy of Don Durband)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 22

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

HISTORIC PHOTO #3: Rebeil Block as downtown terminal for the Tucson Rapid Transit Company, c.1925. (from Scavone and Caywood, "Please Step to the Rear..." p. 24)



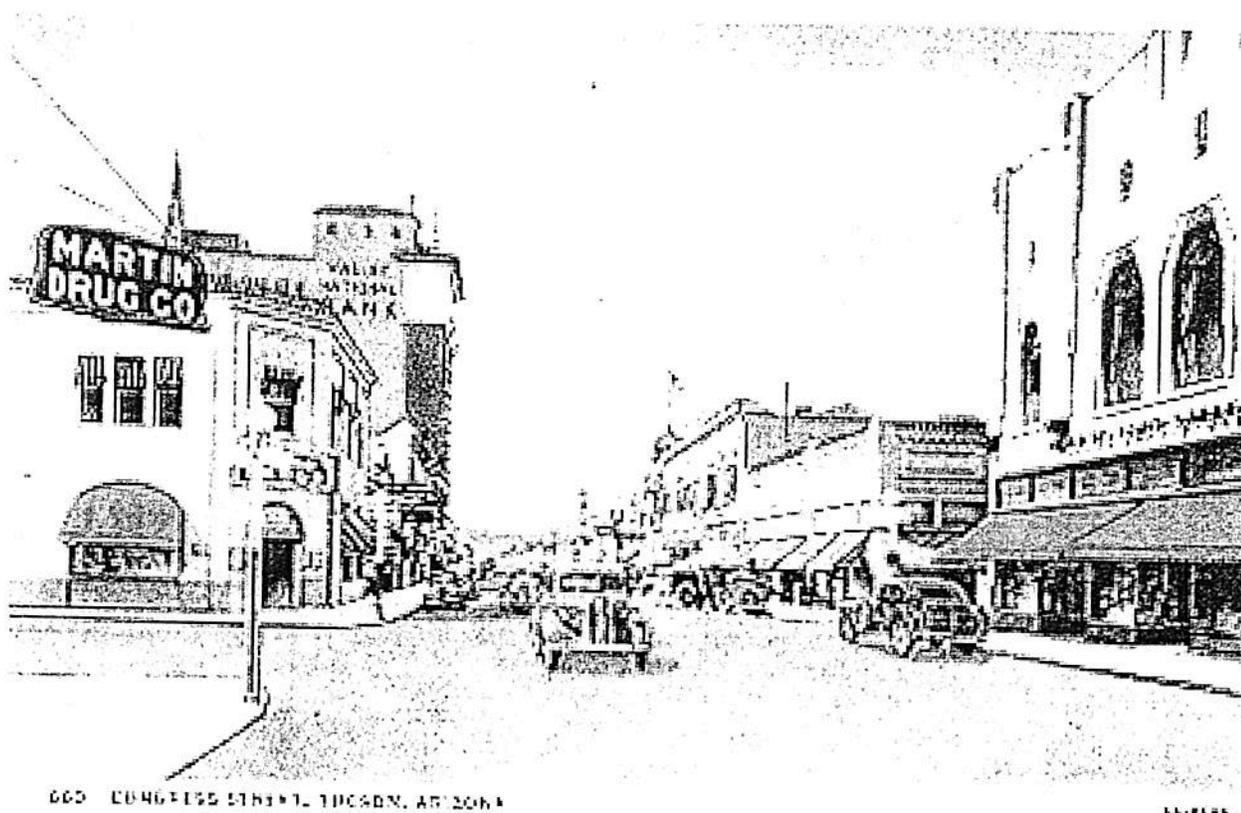
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD. INFO. Page 23

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

HISTORIC PHOTO #4: Rebeil Block when it housed Jones Drug, 1934-1950, looking west on Congress Street.  
(postcard of sketch courtesy of Don Durband)



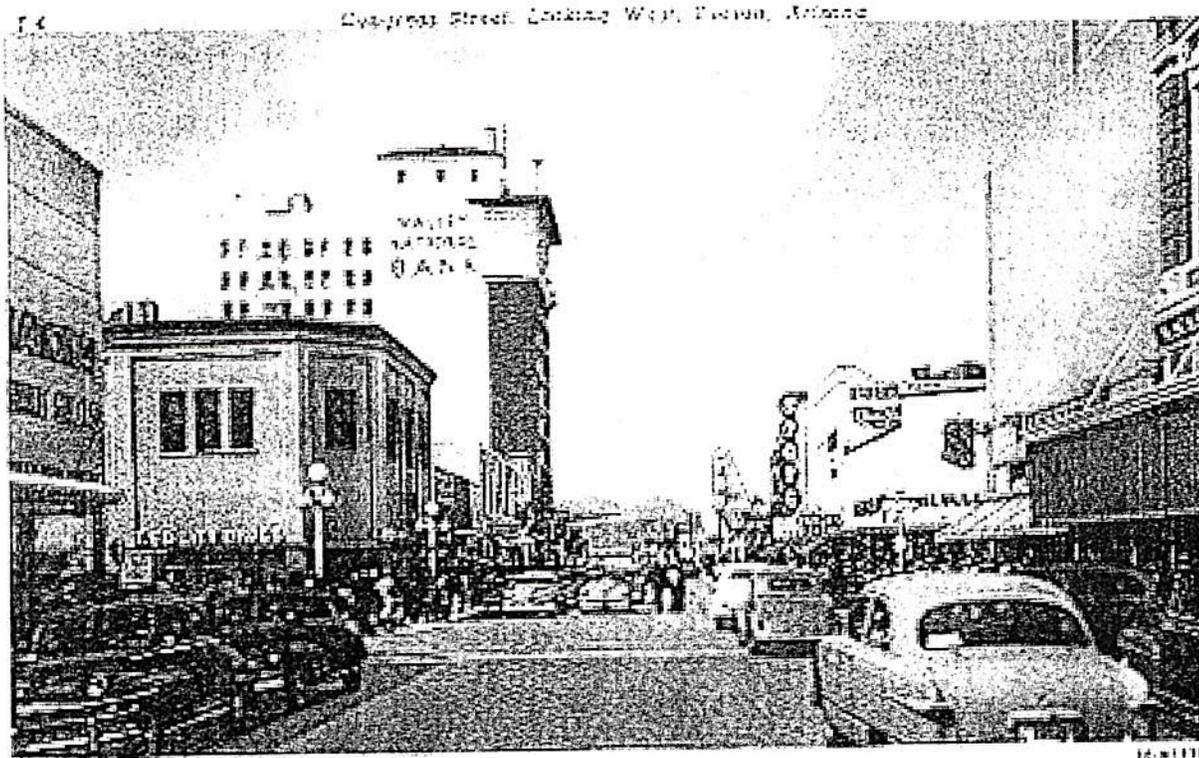
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 24

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

HISTORIC PHOTO #5: Rebeil Block when it housed T. Ed. Litt Drugstore, 1950-1957 (Postcard courtesy of Don Durband)



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number ADD.INFO. Page 25

Rebel Block  
Pima County, Arizona

HISTORIC PHOTO #6: Rebel Block when it housed the Indian Village Trading Post with neon "Indian Hoop Dancer" sign, 1957-1970 (Postcard courtesy of Don Durband)



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 10

Rebell Block  
Pima County, Arizona

NOTE: Archival pen used to label all original photos.

PHOTOGRAPHER:	Janet H. Parkhurst
DATE:	July 13, 2002
NEGATIVE NUMBER:	DTT-5-15A
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES:	Arizona Architectural Archives College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture P.O. Box 210075 The University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #1: Diagonal view showing north and east facades, corner of Congress and Scott; looking SW



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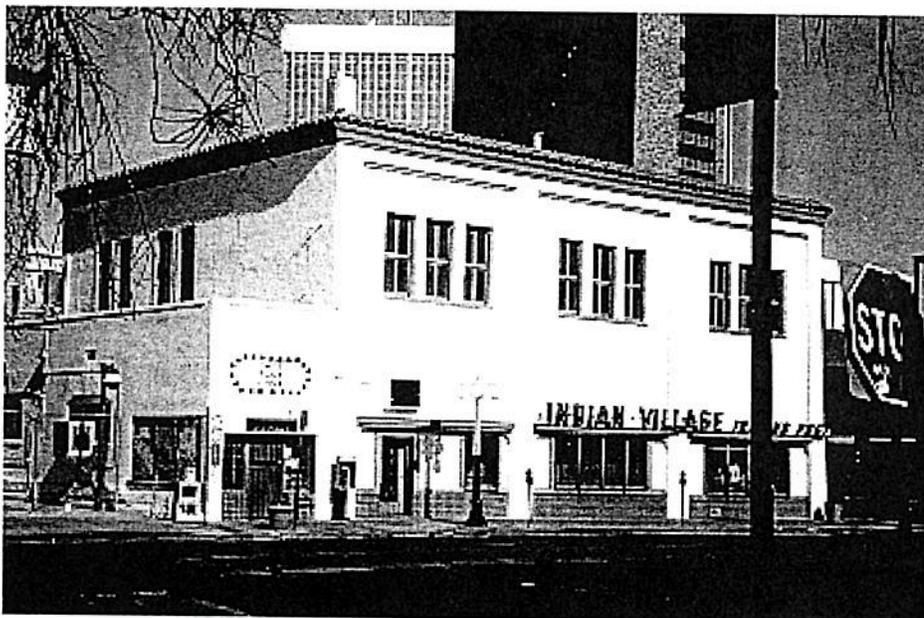
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 11

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-17A  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #2: East façade, Scott Street showing Café Poca Cosa; looking NW



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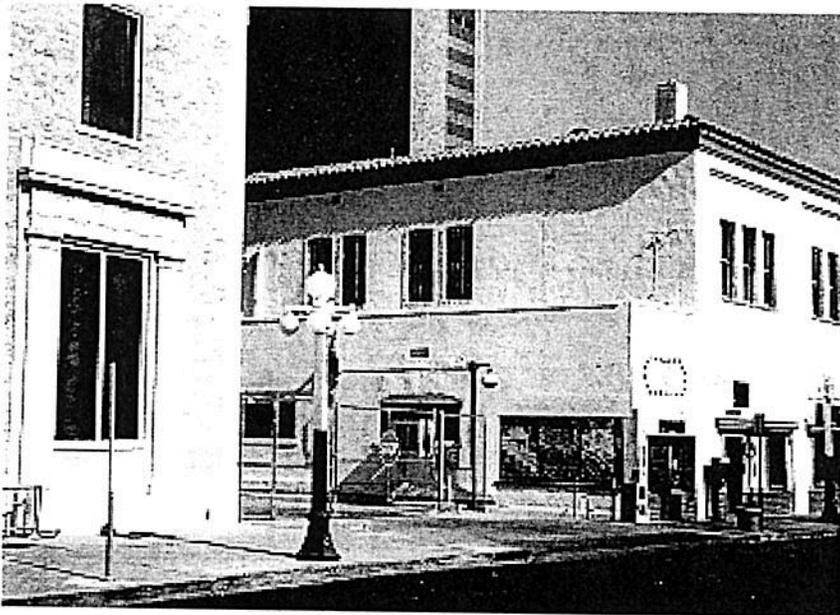
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 12

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-22A  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #3: South façade showing Café Poca Cosa; looking NW



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 13

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 13, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-18A  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
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Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #4: Detail of second-story double-hung windows, reveals and cornice; looking SW



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 14

Rebel Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER:	Janet H. Parkhurst
DATE:	July 1, 2002
NEGATIVE NUMBER:	DTT-5-0A
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES:	Arizona Architectural Archives College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture P.O. Box 210075 The University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #5: View of Shop interior, Indian Village Wares; looking south at mezzanine



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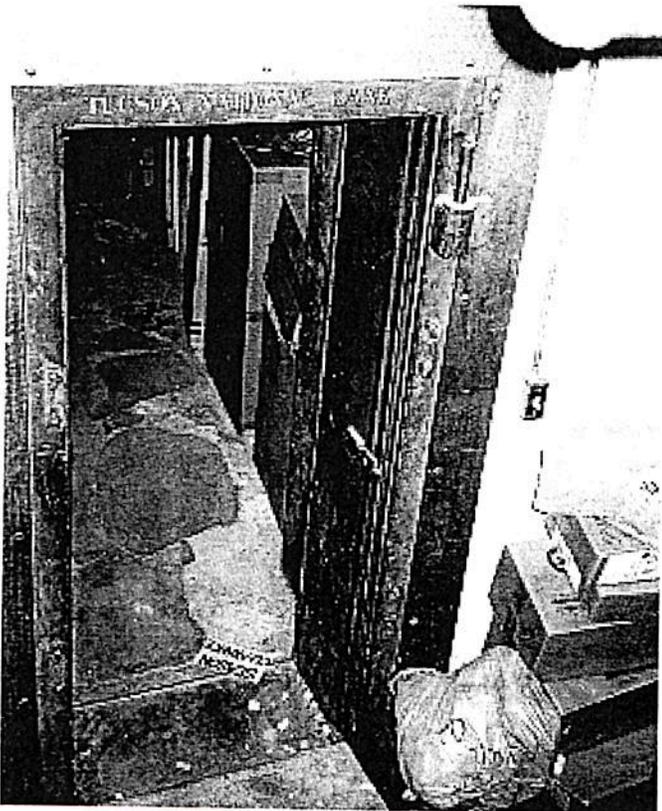
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 15

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 1, 2002  
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LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #6: Basement showing vault of former Tucson National Bank



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number PHOTOS Page 16

Rebeil Block  
Pima County, Arizona

PHOTOGRAPHER: Janet H. Parkhurst  
DATE: July 1, 2002  
NEGATIVE NUMBER: DTT-5-4A  
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES: Arizona Architectural Archives  
College of Architecture Planning and Landscape Architecture  
P.O. Box 210075  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 857212-0075

PHOTO #7: Mezzanine Room; Dropped ceiling of street-level space viewed through sliding glass window; looking north

