

EL TIRADITO

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The Castaway
The Wishing Shrine
National Historic Register

This is the third site of the shrine. The first was at Simpson and Meyer, then Simpson and Main. The Trujillo family donated the land to the city and Mr. Herrera designed the final shrine in 1927. This is the only shrine in the United States dedicated to a sinner.



Wax from the candles is said to be at least 10 feet deep and darkens the floor and walls of the shrine. Visitors are asked not to touch or climb on the crumbling walls.

HISTORY El Tiradito has the distinction of saving Barrio Viejo from the Butterfield Express construction. Plans for the Butterfield Express followed close behind the Urban Renewal (mid 1960's) that eliminated

all the barrio housing north of Cushing Street. The express was planned as an east west expressway for Tucson. It would have removed Carrillo School and most of the remainder of the Barrio. A brave coalition of neighbors and Tucson citizens worked to get the shrine on the National Register. Once that was established, the Department of Transportation would have a hard time removing it, because of public opinion.

FOLKLORE From the very beginning, stories of the powers of the shrine began. It is said that if you light a candle, and it stays lit until the next day, your wish will be granted. There are a variety of stories about the death of the young man for whom the shrine is dedicated. All stories involve a love triangle, and a violent death. The victim's sin was so great he could not be buried in the church cemetery, so he was buried where he fell.

Women of the barrio were saddened by the death of the young man, so they began to light candles by his grave. Wishes were made and they were granted—miracles!. So began the legends of El Tiradito (the castaway).

