

EL MINUTO CAFE
354 S. Main



Circa 1936 Carmen Lopez stands in front of the original "El Minuto" located at Congress before it was demolished to build the freeway.



1968 after urban renewal removed the Shaar home north of the restaurant

Right: El Minuto in 2007. Compare the roof lines to see the addition added in 1988.



The first El Minuto was established by Juan Shaar. He was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He was tri-lingual. He came to Tucson from El Paso about 1936 where he opened his restaurant at Congress.

His only son, George, married Rosalva Lopez whom he had met in Nogales, Sonora. George and Rosalva moved to the little house on 340 S. Main next to their own El Minuto Café. During urban renewal the house was lost, but the restaurant remained. In 1988 the Shaars expanded the small restaurant north with a patio and additional dining room.

*"I remember as a little girl, peeking across at the restaurant from our home to see mom cooking in the restaurant. I remember buying ice cream from La Pilita as a child.
Terry Shaar(daughter of Rosalva and George Shaar)*

