N. H. L. - ARCHITECTURE IN THE PARKS

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONL	Ÿ
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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

Tumacacori Museum (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Tuma

Tumacacori Visitor Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Tumacacori	National Monument	NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	пст
Tumacacori			5th	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	COOE
Arizona		04	Santa Cruz	023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENT USE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	XGOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MIL/TARY	X_OTHER: Visitor Center

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (# applicable) National Park Service -- Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY. TOWN San Francisco

- VICINITY OF

STATE California

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. National Park Service--Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY. TOWN San Francisco

5 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

1) National Register of Historic Places

2) List of Classified Structures Inventory

оате 1) 1966 2) 1976	X-FEDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service	
CITY, TOWN	STATE
Washington	D. C.



	CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
EXCELLENT GOOO FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED X_ALTEREO	X_ORIGINAL SI MOVED	OATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Included in this nomination are the Tumacacori museum building, the comfort station, the museum garden, and the adobe walls surrounding them.

The Tumacacori museum building, also known as the visitor center/administration building, is an adobe building on a concrete foundation with a concrete block addition at the end of the east wing. The generally T-shaped structure has ten rooms and comprises approximately 5500 square feet. To the north and south of the easternmost wing are arched portals (arcades)--one opening into the 1939 garden, the other looking out toward the ruins of the mission church.

The flat roof of the museum is surrounded by a parapet and drained by channels cut into the adobe piers of the portals. The roof is finished with a new four-ply built-up roof similar to the original. The roofline encircling the structure is finished with a stepped coping. Finials articulate the western corners of the building.

The main entrance at the west side of the building is through carved wooden doors set underneath an enormous shell motif in the reveal. The doors, carved by the Civilian Conservation Corps at Bandelier National Monument, feature floral designs used in other Sonoran mission buildings. The scallop-shell motif is seen even more frequently in Sonoran mission architecture, and symbolizes Santiago de Compostela, patron saint of Spain.

The main entrance leads into the museum lobby. The room has a corner fireplace at the southeast, and a floor of large bricks The ceiling beams are supported laid in a herringbone pattern. by carved corbels. The room also features handmade furniture of Spanish Colonial design, as do many of the other museum spaces. Some of the furniture is original to the structure, and the remainder was constructed in the late 1950s. The information desk is of recent construction and is triangular in shape. The original rectangular information desk was transferred to Coronado National Memorial. A small office south of the lobby is behind the information desk through an arch. The arch has been partially filled with a screen of wooden spindles which are removable and have not been attached to the structure.

The museum exhibit and audio-visual rooms have carpeting covering the original finish. The most important of the museum rooms is the "view room" which is an open-air room with a groin-vaulted ceiling. This room looks out to the mission church, and houses a



AND JUSTIFY BELOW
INDSCAPE ARCHITECTURERELIGIDN INDSCAPE ARCHITECTURERELIGIDN IND COLORSCIENCE ITERATURESCULPTURE LITARYSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN USICTHEATER INDOSOPHYTRANSPORTATION DUTICS/GOVERNMENTOTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1937 - Present

Scofield Delong, Charles D. Carter, BUILDER/ARCHITECT and other NPS personnel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Museum/Visitor Center at Tumacacori National Monument is an unusual structure. Not only is it a fine example of Mission Revival architecture, but also it was constructed as an interpretive device so that visitors could better understand the architectural sense and history of that monument's prime resource: the Tumacacori Mission complex.

Although the ruins of Tumacacori Mission had been under federal protection since 1908, very little had been done in terms of development of the Monument. Rather than restore and reconstruct the mission complex on conjectural information, as the Works Progress Administration had done at Mission San Jose in San Antonio and other locations, the National Park Service historians, archeologists, and architects decided to preserve what remained of the adobe mission structures and instead put considerable effort into interpretation. This effort included the development of museum exhibits, but more importantly the construction of a museum that was an exhibit in itself.

Frank "Boss" Pinkley, the National Park Service head of the Southwestern Monuments, had definite ideas about the utilitarian aspects of the museum building. He wanted a low building that would not interfere with the historic mission complex and that was close to the parking lot so that visitors entered immediately. He wanted a pleasing facade, but nothing too ornate. He felt the building should be large enough for future expansion if required, but of a design that complemented the mission's architecture. He wanted reproductions of doors, windows, and floor and ceiling structure that were found in other Sonoran missions of the Kino chain. He also wanted a "view room" where visitors could look out at the mission complex, and he even set the axis of the museum building at a particular angle so that visitors could see that "knock-out" view he chose.¹

¹ <u>Southwestern Monuments Monthly Reports</u> (September, 1936), p. 207.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheets.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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VEDDAL DOUNDARY DECODIDITION	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is shown as the dotted line on the enclosed sketch map. The boundary begins at a point 10 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the adobe wall, then proceeds south — southeast 700 feet (running parallel to and 10 feet west of the north portion of the adobe wall), then east 20 feet, then north to the south edge of the access road adobe wall, then east 150 feet, north 150 feet, west 150 feet, then northerly 450 feet running parallel to and 10 feet east of the adobe wall, then 20 feet west to the starting point.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COOE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
FORM PREPARED	BY		
NAME / TITLE			
Laura Soullière Harr	rison Ar	chitectural Hist	orian
ORGANIZATION	······································		DATE
National Park Servio	.ce Southwest	Regional Office	2 1986
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE (505) 988-6787
P.O. Box 728		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
CITY OR TOWN Santa Fe			STATE New Mexico
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STAT		ATION OFFICER RECOMI	MENDATION
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		ST	ATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE
In compliance with Executive Ord	ler 11593, I hereby nom	inate this property to the	e National Register, certifying that the State
Historic Preservation Officer has b	been allowed 90 days in	n which to present the no	omination to the State Review Board and to
evaluate its significance. The evalu	_	e isNationalS	itateLocal.
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIG	JNATURE		
TITLE			DATE
R NPS USE ONLY			
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUD!	ED IN THE NATIONAL R	EGISTER
			DATE.
DIRECTOR. OFFICE OF ARCHE	OLOGY AND HISTORIC	PRESERVATION	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER	***************************************	

NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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Continuation sheet

scale model of the mission for comparison with the stabilized ruins. The original Spanish-Colonial design of the ceiling has been repainted with a hand not quite as steady as that of the original painter.

Construction began on the museum building in 1937 by contractor M.M. Sundt of Phoenix as a Works Progress Administration project. An addition of new offices and storage space was constructed on the eastern wing of the building in 1959. The addition's construction of concrete block finished with cement stucco was incorporated well into the museum building and is practically indistinguishable from the original building on the exterior because of its proper scale, design, and exterior finish. The additions contains approximately 430 square feet, less that 10 percent of the total area of the building. The remodelling was done by the construction firm of Krupp and Sons of Nogales, Arizona.

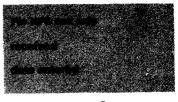
The patio garden, begun in 1939, is planted with plants similar to some of those grown in the missions of northern Sonora. In the center of the garden is a square fountain with small channel drains that lead off into the planted areas from the four corners. The meandering pathways through the garden have brick pavers. Adobe benches provide resting places to the east and west of the fountain.

A seven-foot high adobe wall stretches north and south from the western wall of the museum. The wall screens all but the upper portions of the mission ruins from the road and parking lot, and thus serves as a security device, and also channels visitors through the main entrance to the museum. The northern end of the wall stops nearly at the monument boundary. South of the museum the wall is incorporated into the west and south walls of the comfort station, wrapping around that building toward the east and then the north enclosing the patio. An additional wall to the south of the comfort station runs east-west along the service road to the monument's housing area. The walls are adobe on concrete foundations, capped with flat and arched copings, and finished with stucco. The wall is pierced by openings in several places where multi-panelled doors provide access into the patio or the area of the former mission compound.

The comfort station is an adobe building constructed on a concrete foundation, just like the museum. The exterior is finished with cement stucco. The simple, rectangular structure

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is incorporated into the adobe walls of the patio and service road. Pipe canales and structural log vigas with sawn ends project from the western exterior wall. The comfort station, constructed in 1932, is scheduled for some changes that would allow wheelchair access. Continuation sheet

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Pinkley sent a team of park service men to Sonora, Mexico, in 1935 to record the remaining mission structures of the Kino chain and to study the architectural elements. Their task included studying the architectural structure of the missions to answer questions regarding stabilization or possible restoration, and gathering material for museum exhibits and architectural ideas for the museum itself. Members of the team were engineer Howard Tovrea, naturalist Robert Rose, official photographer George Grant, laboratory technician Arthur Woodward, and architects Leffler Miller and Scofield DeLong. Their visits to each of the missions was admittedly too short due to rebel uprisings,² but the information they gathered was an invaluable contribution to the history and archeology of the southwest. DeLong. the representative of the Branch of Plans and Design, became the principal designer of the museum building. He was ably assisted by other talented designers from that group including Dick Sutton, Charles D. Carter, and others, in addition to the vocal staff members from the Tumacacori and the Southwestern Monuments offices.

DeLong incorporated many of the elements he had seen in the Sonoran missions in his design for the museum building. First, he chose construction materials similar to those used in the Sonoran missions. Walls were of sun-dried adobe bricks and cornices of fired brick. The shell motif in the reveal of the main entrance was patterned after the entrance to the mission church at Cocospera. The carved entrance doors were quite similar. although not exact duplicates, of those at San Ignacio. Other panelled doors in the museum building were similar to doors of Caborca. The carved corbels and beamed ceiling of the museum lobby were similar to the nave ceiling of Oquitoa. The museum lobby counter followed the design of the confessional at Oquitoa. The piers and arches of the museum portals were copied from those at Caborca. The groin-vault ceiling of the View Room was chosen because it was frequently used in Sonoran missions--at San Xavier, Tubutama, and in the baptistery at San Ignacio. The wooden grilles on the windows, the painted wainscotting, and the painted decoration of the groin vault in the View Room were also

² Scofield DeLong and Leffler Miller, <u>Architecture of the</u> <u>Sonora Missions; Sopora Expedition--October 12-29, 1935</u> (San Francisco: National Park Service, 1936), pp. 1-2.

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used as they had been in the historic missions. 3

The construction of the building between 1937 and 1939 prompted visitors' questions about when services would be held in the new church, and what were they going to do with the national monument they were constructing. In a 1939 letter defending the new museum, one park service official noted that:

... Our architects and historians and museum men investigated the possibilities. One suggestion was to have the museum a string of adobe rooms along and around the parking area, but this would make a very sprawled out structure of NO PARTICULAR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (his emphasis), for we must remember the architecture in the Jesuit and Franciscan periods was not unplastered adobe, but adobe walls neatly lime plastered and coated with bright colors....From all of this endeavor and thought there emerged the plan to make the museum and administration building at Tumacacori duplicate to the minutest detail the secular buildings which accompanied the Sonora-Arizona missions, always in the same quadrangles with the churches. As you know, usually on one side of each mission is a quadrangle forming the living quarters of the priest; in front of the church is the patio, lined by the quarters of the neophytes, which sometimes developed into the town plaza if a town grew up around the mission. Tumacacori museum duplicated this Iiving and working quarters^{*} style of architecture as of about 1800 A.D.4

Even the choice of plants for the museum garden was based on lists provided by historians such as Herbert Bolton from information garnered from mission records.⁵ Although not exactly

3 Southwestern Monuments Monthly Report, supplement for February, 1938, pp. 175-176.

⁴ Dale S. King, "In Defense of the Tumacacori Museum Building," <u>Southwestern Monuments Monthly Reports</u>, supplement, (February, 1939), pp. 138-39.

⁵ Charles E. Peterson, Memorandum to Mr. Thomas C. Vint, March 6, 1930, Record Group 79. As early as 1930 Peterson was supplying this information to the landscape division. He noted that the list, which Bolton translated from the Kino papers from the archives in Mexico City, contained "few species of decorative Continuation sheet

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what Boss Pinkley had in mind--he preferred beans, squash, corn, and the like--the plants cultivated in the museum garden were all grown by the colonial mission padres. 6

The overall architectural concern in the design of the museum was not so much for the archeological fantasy that architect Mary Jane Colter had accomplished in her design of Hopi House at Grand Rather, the park service architects and museum staff saw Canvon. the Tumacacori Museum as a three-dimensional device that would give a sense of the shape and extent of the mission development and that could be used by the museum staff to show the visitors the historic construction techniques and materials. Their success remains evident in the well-designed structure.

The design for the Tumacacori Museum developed out of some contemporary architectural traditions. Pueblo Revival, Territorial Style, and Mission Revival architecture was popular throughout the west and southwest at the time. In addition the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design under the direction of landscape architect Thomas Chalmers Vint had by that time developed its own design ethic of using onsite materials and primitive construction techniques to create an architecture in harmony with its setting. In large natural areas the architects designed rugged rustic buildings of stones and logs. In an area like Tumacacori the architects concentrated on cultural aspects and local building traditions, which in this instance stretched south to Mexico. The Tumacacori Museum was a part of those mainstreams of architectural thought.

An interesting side note is that Scofield DeLong began working for Tom Vint in the late 1920s as a temporary employee, during the formative years of park architectural thought. He was unable

Peterson also felt that although even in those early value." stages of development there was nothing compelling them to use historic plants that he also felt that it would be desirable to do so.

⁶ Pinkley and Custodian Louis Caywood both preferred a garden of the principal staples; the "landscape men," as Vint's group in the Branch of Plans and Design were known, preferred a garden that had historical accuracy and also was aesthetically appealing. After all, beans, corn, and squash were not much to look at in the off-season. As usual, the landscape men won out.



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to get a civil service rating so he left the park service for a time and worked for Lewis P. Hobart, who was working on Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. The cathedral is a noteworthy building not so much for its impressive Gothic architecture but because of its poured-in-place concrete structure. Also of note are the cathedral's bronze doors which are casts of the Ghiberti doors on the Baptistery in Florence, Italy. One cannot help but notice a few parallels with the Tumacacori design. DeLong returned to work for the park service during the work relief programs of the 1930s. After World War II he worked for several years with the San Francisco architectural firm of Miller and Pfleuger, responsible for a number of progressive buildings in the Bay Area.⁷

⁷ Telephone interview with William Carnes, retired NPS landscape architect, conducted by William Tweed, August 31, 1976; and David Gebhard, et al., <u>A Guide to Architecture in San</u> <u>Francisco & Northern California</u> (Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1973).

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Main Entrance

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Front elevation

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Adobe wall and parking lot North of Museum

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Entrance doors

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison 11/85



Detail of Entrance door. carved by CCC enrollees at Bandelier National Monument. The doors are similar in design to those at San Ignacio in Sonora, Mexico Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison, 11/85



Main Entrance

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Portal, northeast corner of museum

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument NPS photo by Laura Soullière Harrison



Portal off garden leading into museum

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Portal off garden, with new water fountain

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Portal. North side of museum

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



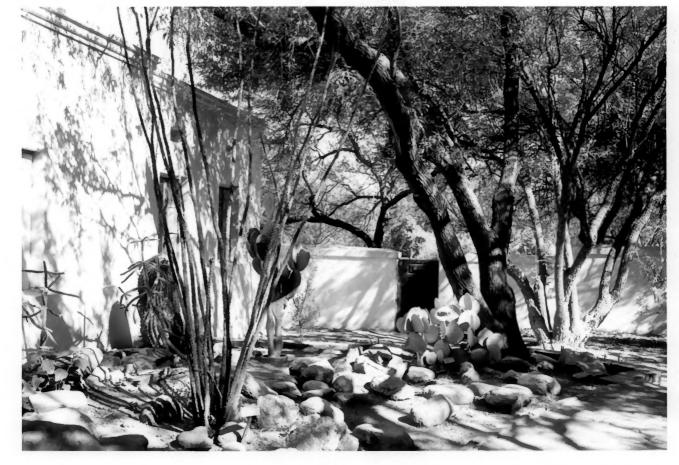
Museum patio garden

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Large fountain and benches, museum patio garden

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



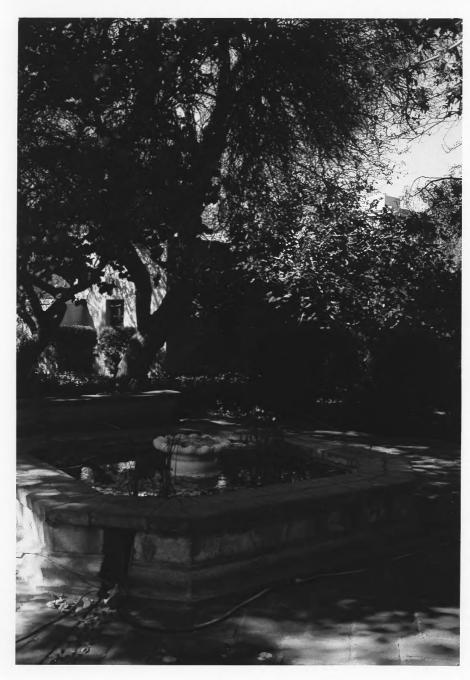
Patio garden and administrative office wing (left)

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



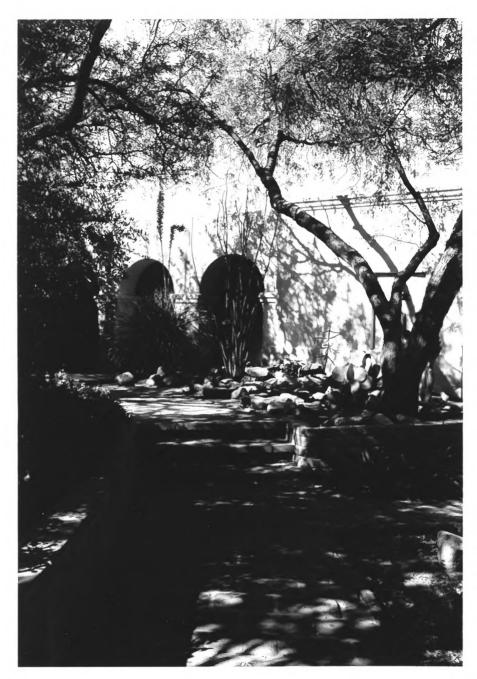
Patio garden and administrative office wing (left)

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison 11/85



Fountain in patio

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Patio garden

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Portal, Northeast Corner

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Looking Southwest

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Portal, North Side of Museum

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Portal and original furnishings

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Comfort station, looking Northeast

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Comfort station and adobe walls edging service road

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Comfort station left and walled service road

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Service road bordered by adobe walls

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Lobby with tile floor, corbeled ceiling beams, and thick adobe walls

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Lobby

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



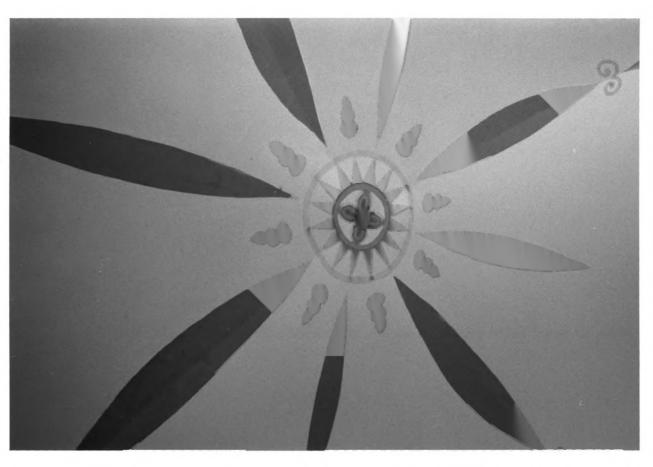
Multi-panelled doors into portal

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Multi-panelled doors with Elliptical Arch above

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison 11/85



Deatail of dome mural, recently re-touched.

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument NPS photo by Laura Soullière Harrison 11/85



Office directly off lobby

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Arched entrance to museum

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Looking from portal into lobby

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Museum Lobby

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Furniture of Spanish Colonial Design, lobby

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Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument



Lobby furniture of Spanish Colonial design

Tumacacori Museum Tumacacori National Monument