

# *U.S.-México Border, Nogales, AZ, & Tumacácori Mission*

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Don Garate aka Anza



Border wall at Naco



Fr. Eusebio Kino



Tumacácori

A Field Trip Guide  
Conference of Latin American Geography 2023  
Tucson, Arizona





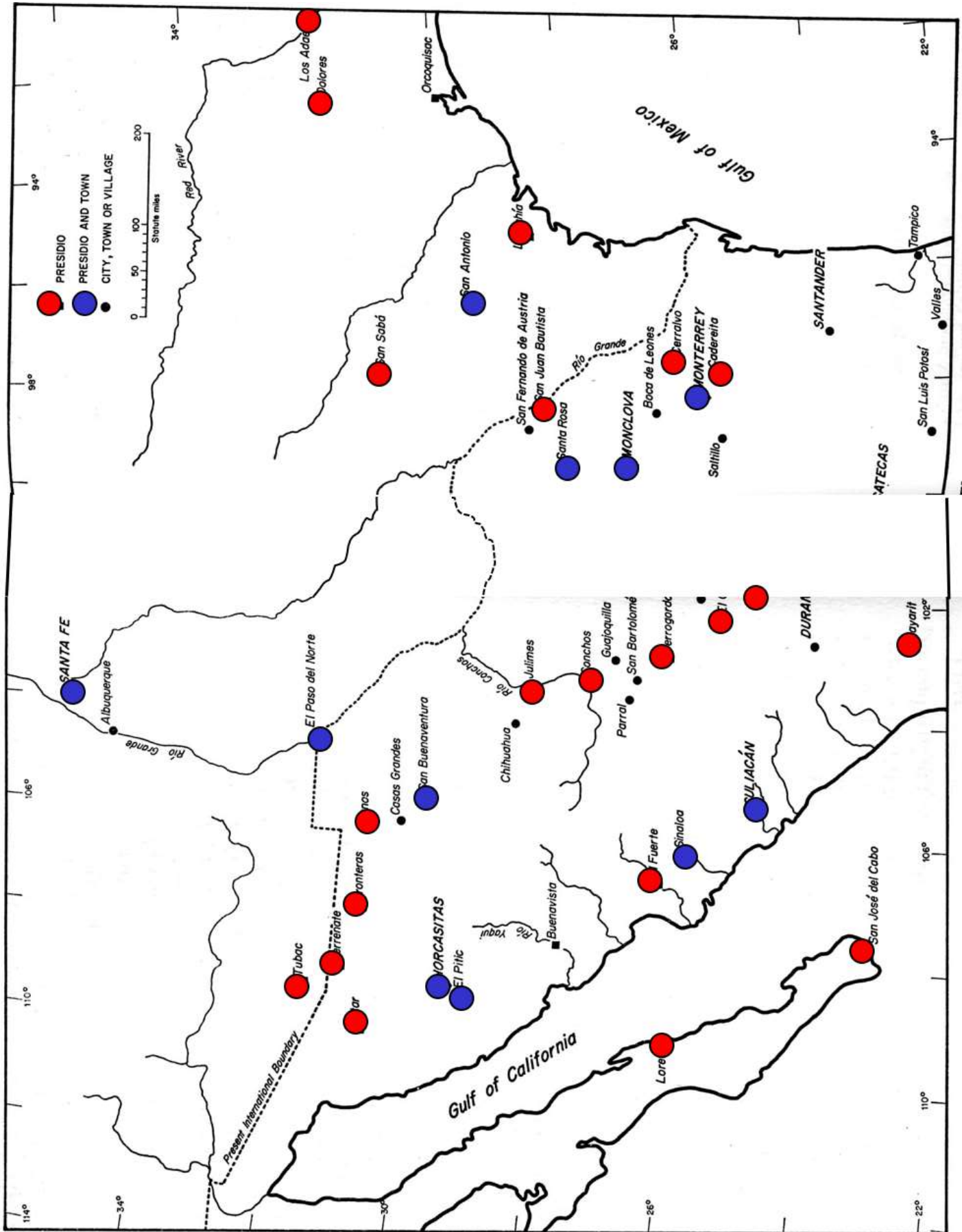
## ***Presidios over the years***

*Presidios* or garrisons (not necessarily forts as popular belief holds) were developed in 16th century on the northern frontier of Nueva España to protect Spanish missions, towns, and settlers from hostile native peoples from the North. Because many soldiers were not the most socially reputable citizens, and hence a possible bad influence on the people they were assigned to protect, the Viceroy decreed that presidios be constructed near, but not too close to, missions and towns. Given poor provisioning, presidio soldiers had to grow their own food. Actually, their native wives grew food.

The presidios proved to be largely ineffective and went through two major overhauls. The first was involved an entourage under the leadership of Brigadier Pedro de Rivera Villalón that included chronicler Francisco de Sánchez, and cartographer Francisco Álvarez Barriero. This group set out in 1724 to assess each presidio and the entire presidio system. Rivera was instructed to report on 1. the status of presidios before the inspection, 2. the status in which they were left after the inspection, 3. the status in which they could be found after new regulations were decreed, and 4. maps. The resulting *Reglamento para todos los Presidios de la Provincias internas de esta Governacion con el numero de Oficiales, y Soldados, que los ha de guarnecer: sueldos que unos, y otros avran de gozar: Ordenanzas para el mexor Gobierno, y Disciplina Militar de Gobernadores, Oficiales, y Soldados; Prevenciones para los que en ellas se comprehenden: Precios de los Viveres, y Vestuarios, conque a los Soldados se le assiste, y se les avra de continuar...1729*, or simply **The Reglamento of 1729** established 1. the number of soldiers at each presidio, 2. salaries, 3. duties, 4. conduct of soldiers, and 5. provisions, including costs. It said nothing about the physical facilities.

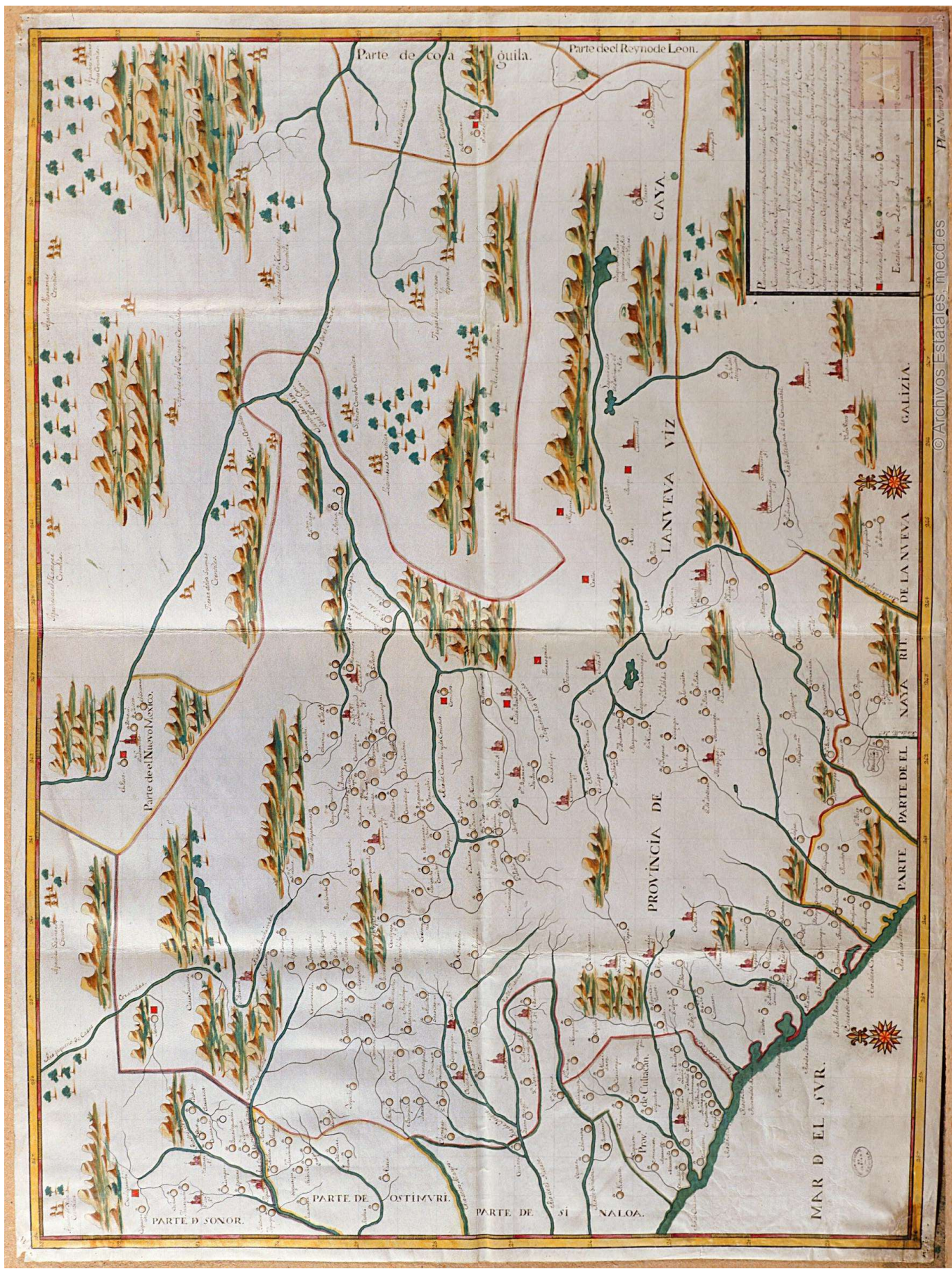
Under these guidelines, the presidio of San Ignacio de Tubac was established in 1752.





The presidios of northern New Spain, 1700-71





Álvarez de Barriero map of 1726. Tubac is off the northwest corner of this map.



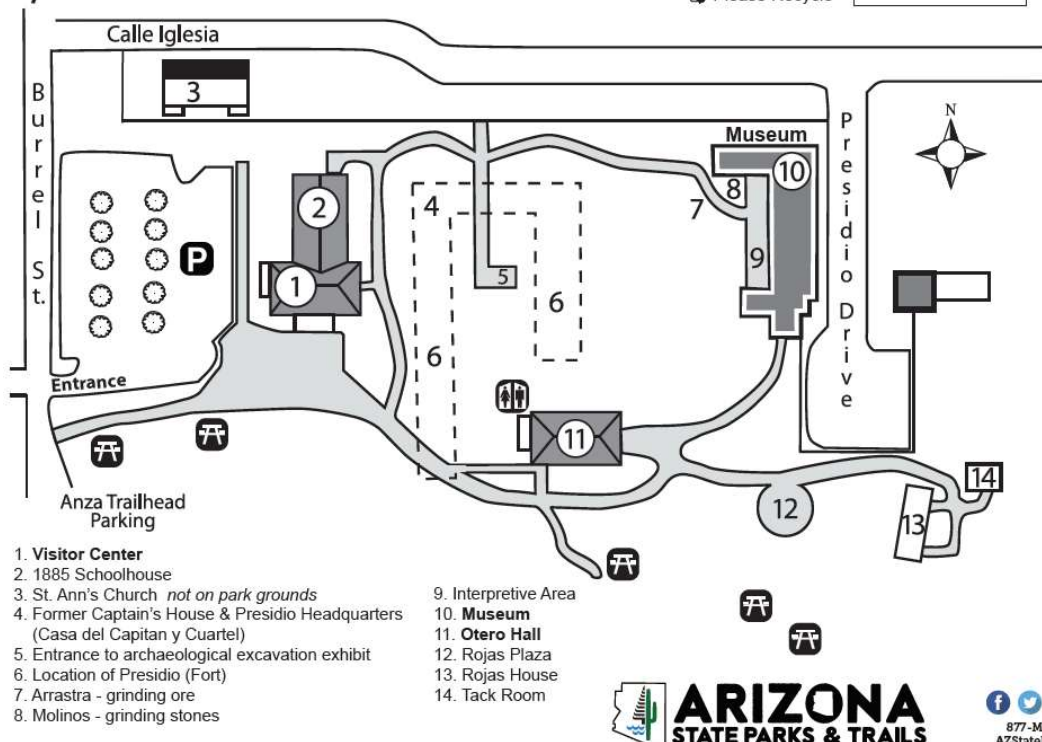
# Tubac Presidio State Historic Park

P.O. Box 1296  
Tubac, AZ 85646  
(520) 398-2252

Map not to scale  
Please Recycle

**Legend**

- Parking
- Rest Rooms
- Picnic Tables



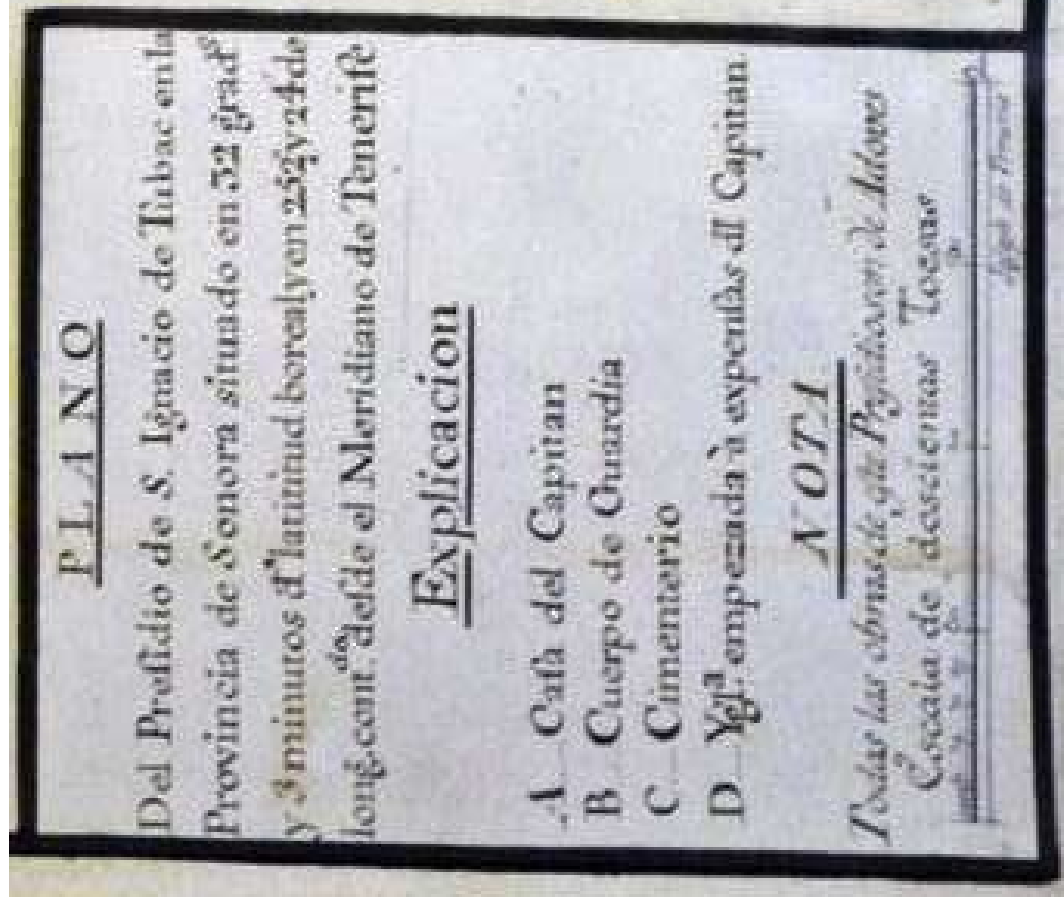
As early as 1500 AD, the northern Pima Indians (today called the O'odham) had a large settlement called Tchoowaka located near the site of the current town of Tubac. Indian settlements consisted of houses built from poles covered with grass thatch arranged around a central plaza. The Native Americans hunted wild game, gathered fruits and berries, and farmed corn, beans, squash, and cotton, irrigating their fields with water from nearby rivers and streams.

In 1701, the Spanish frontier reached the area of Tubac, with Jesuit missionaries attempting to alter the lifestyle of the local Indians. By the 1730s, Spanish settlers were established at Tubac as supervisors of a mission farm and visita. A visita was a community visited regularly by a priest from a nearby mission.

On November 21, 1751, the northern Pima revolted against the Spanish missionaries due to the Spanish appropriation of Indian lands, the punishment system of the missionaries against the Indians, plus increasing Spanish demands and controls. As a result of the rebellion, a new presidio was established at Tubac in 1752.

Shortly after the Pima revolt, the Apache became a serious threat to the northern Pima and frontier Spaniards, attacking settlements. The primary military mission of the new presidio was to conduct retaliatory strikes following Apache raids.

In 1787, the Pima Indian Company, a group of Native American soldiers working for the Spanish, was transferred from Buenavista to Tubac to help fight the Apache. Peace existed between the Spanish and Apache until just after the Mexican Republic declared its independence from Spain in 1821. The new nation was unable to afford the food and liquor subsidies given the Apache under Spanish rule. Apache raids intensified during the late 1840s with settlers from Tubac moving north to Tucson and south to Magdalena after a full-scale Apache assault. Apache raids continued into the late 1850s and did not end until 1886.



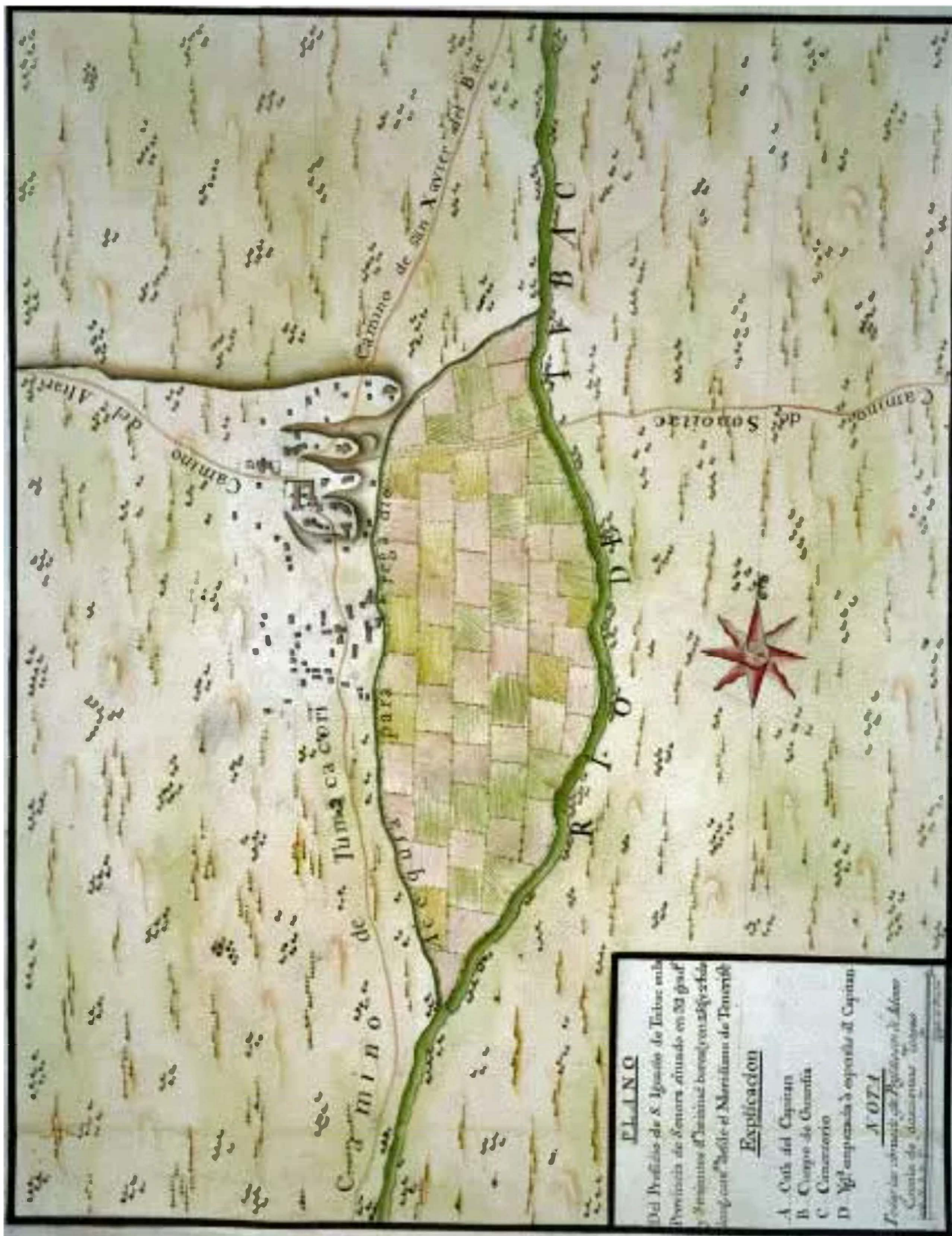
Close-up view of Urrutia's map showing the presidio buildings and layout, and an enlargement of the legend.





Artist Bill Arendt's rendition of Presidio del Tubac, looking West, in the 1700s.





Urrutia map of Presidio Tubac and surroundings, 1767



Google Earth Image of Tubac. Yellow line is the present-day channel of the Santa Cruz River. The old acequia pirated the stream channel.



### ***Presidios over the years (continued)***

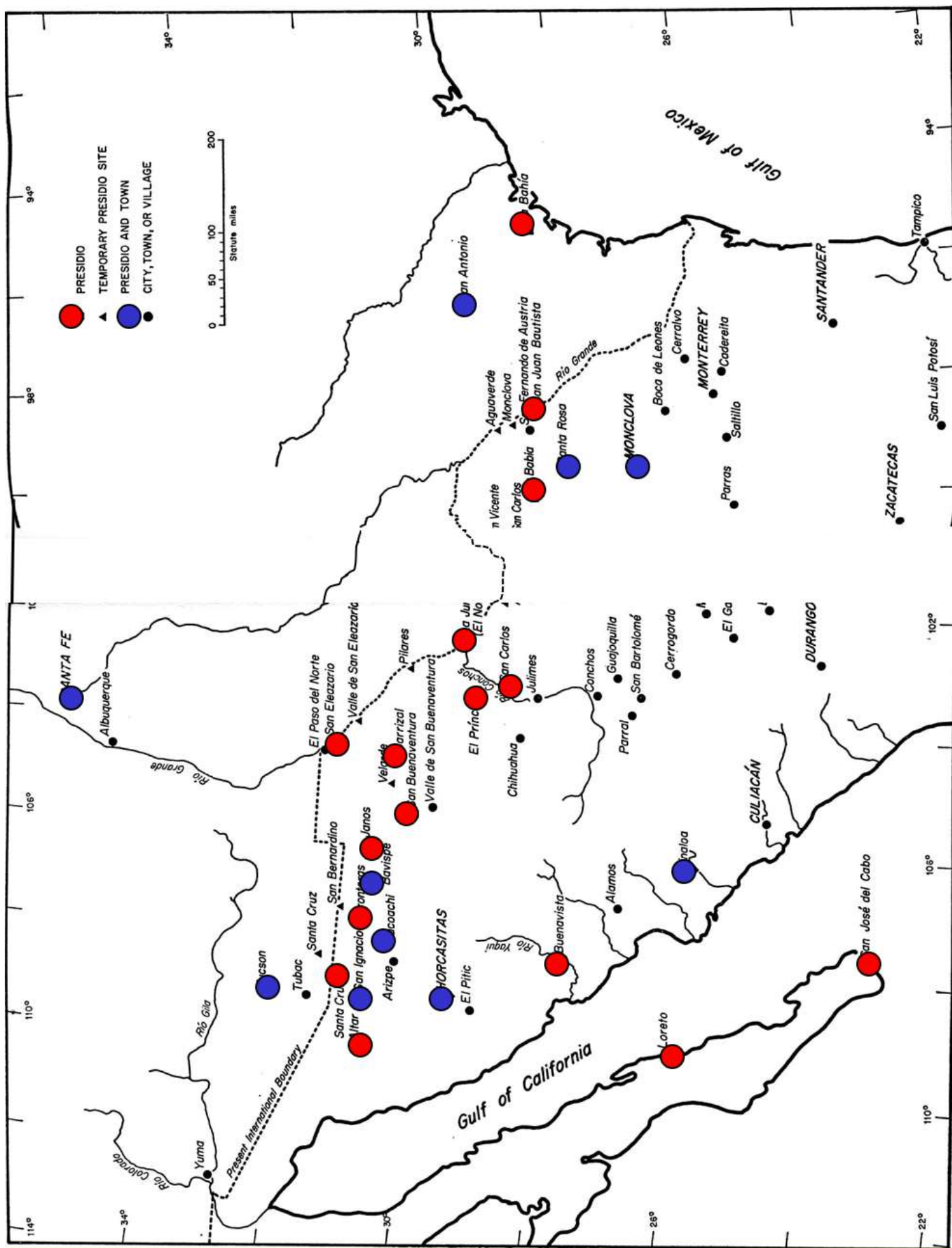
The second major restructuring of the presidios and the presidio system occurred as a result of the 1766-1768 expedition of the Marqués de Rubí. Its leader was Cayetano Maria Pignatelli Rubí Corbera y Saint Climent. The chronicler was Nicolás de Lafora, and the cartographer was Joseph Ramón de Urrutia de las Casas. Lafora's account has been translated into English and is easily available at most university libraries. All of Urrutia's maps are curated in the British Library. This expedition resulted in the *Reglamento e instruccion para los presidios que se han de formar en la linea de Frontera de la Nueva Espana, Resuelta por el Rey Nuestra Senor en Cedula de 10 de Septiembre de 1772*, or simply **The Royal Regulations for Presidios, 1772**. Dealing with the physical facilities, it mandated that presidios be:

1. Located on high ground. ✓
2. Located near good farm land. ✓
3. Styled after Moorish forts. ✗
4. Built of rock or adobe. ✓
5. Walls >3 meters high, and >1 meter thick. ✗
6. Square to rectangular, 60 - 240 meters (200 – 800 feet). ✗
7. One gate. ✗
8. Bastions on two opposing corners. ✗

At this time Tubac failed on five of these eight characteristics and was relegated to a town and Tucson became a presidio and town.

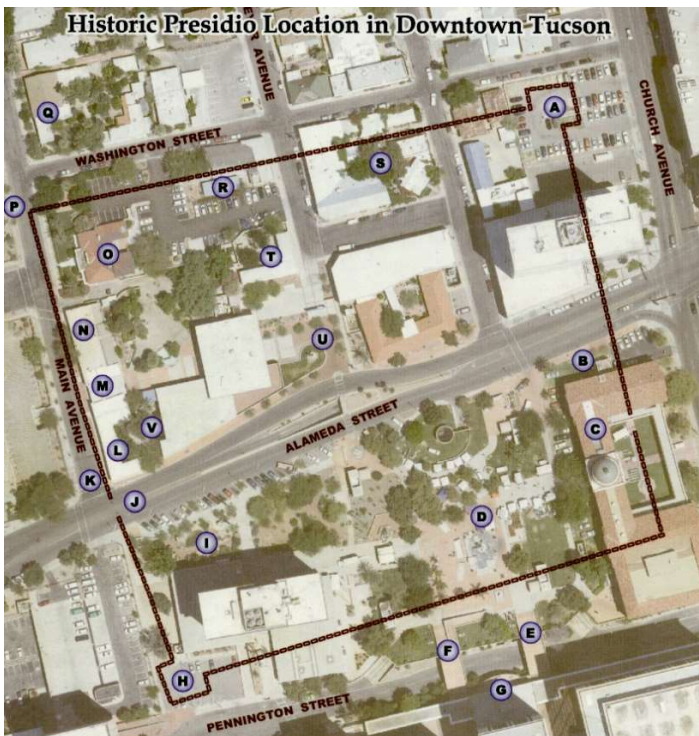
If you have not done so, please try to visit the Presidio San Agustín de Tucson at 196 N. Court Street in Tucson, open Wednesday-Sunday 10-4.

Other presidios that became towns include San Francisco, California, and San Antonio, Texas.





**Presidio San Agustín, Tucson.** The reconstructed section is letter A (NE corner) of the map.



## ***Tumacácori***

The Jesuit priest Father Eusebio Kino baptized a group of O'odham people along the banks of the Santa Cruz River, thereby establishing the mission San Cayetano de Tumacácori in 1691. A mission was more than a church. It was an endeavor to convert native peoples to Christianity and to make them tax-paying citizens of the Spanish government. The earliest structure was undoubtedly a *ramada*.

In 1751 the mission was moved to its present location and renamed San José de Tumacácori. Construction began on a simple church typical of Jesuit structures. As part of global shake-up, King Carlos III expelled the Jesuits from all Spanish colonies in 1767. This included missionaries those at Tumacácori.

Members of the Franciscan order took control of Tumacácori and began building a more elaborate church. It was never completed.

México became independent in 1821 and all Spanish missionaries, soldiers, and officials were expelled. Apache activity increased making life difficult for settlers. By 1848 the mission was abandoned and the church and other buildings began falling into severe disrepair.

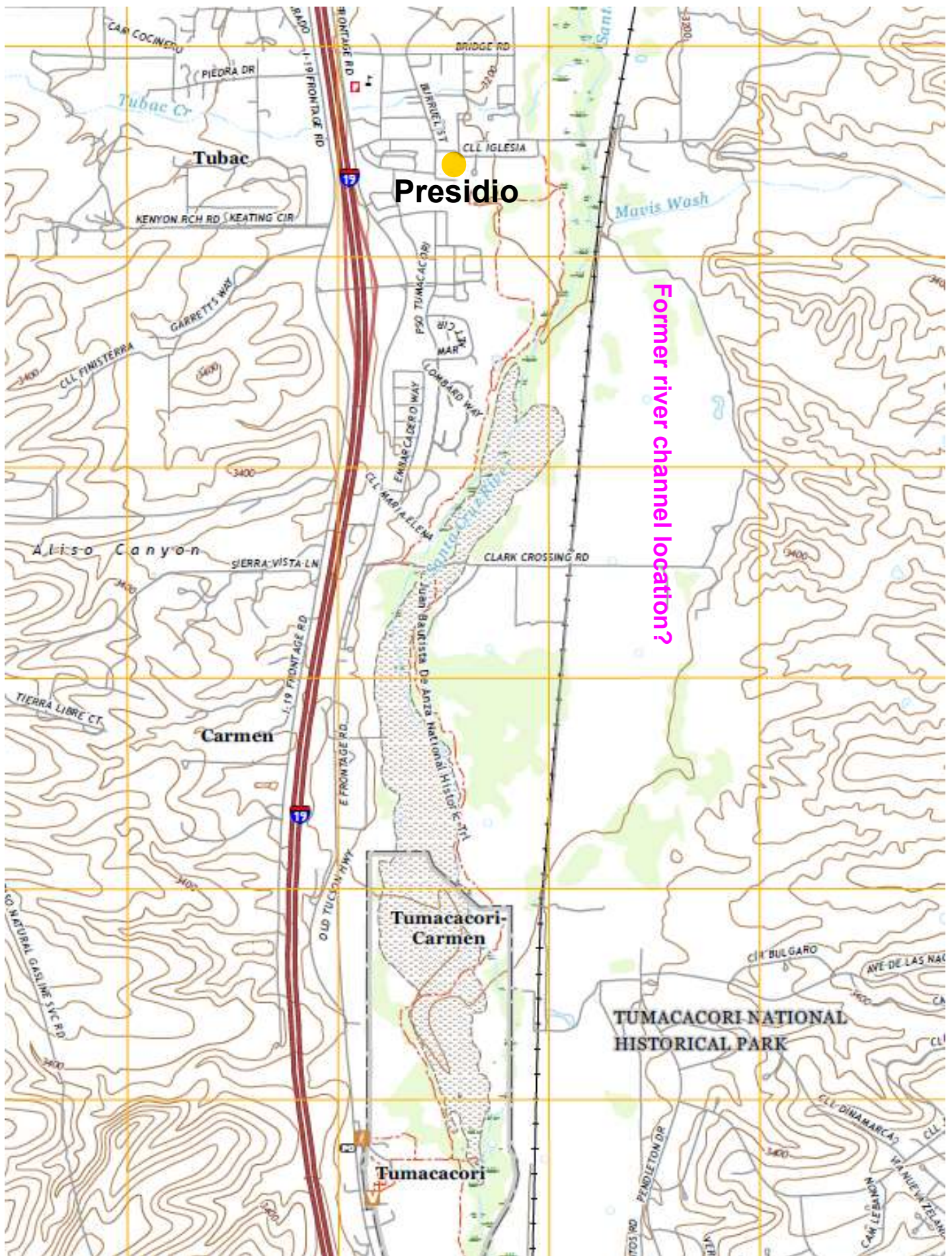
The mission grounds became part of the U.S. Arizona territory after the Gadsden Purchase of 1854. Restoration began in 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt declared it a National Monument. Tumacácori became a National Historic Park in 1990.



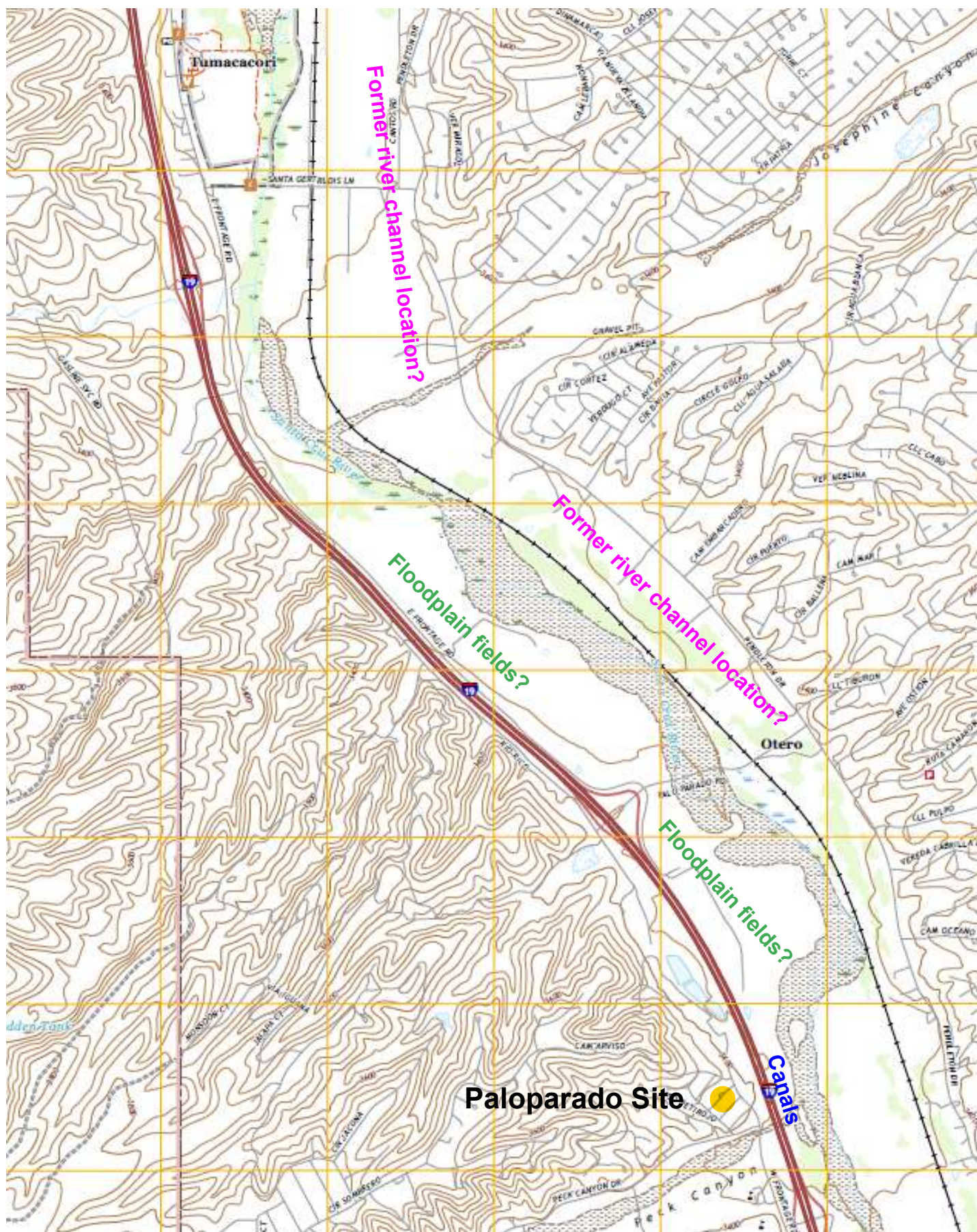


Artists birds-eye rendering of Mission Tumacacori. The acequia is indicated by the tree lines between the mission compound in the fore and the orchard and fields beyond.











## ***Ancient Irrigation***

In the early 1950s, Charles C. DiPeso archaeologically excavated the Paloparado site, approximately four miles south of the Tumacacori NHP. This site had two marked components. The upper component was historic and the original location of the Mission Tumacacori. The lower component was pre-European. DiPeso also uncovered three irrigation canals, two of which were associated with the older component. He published his results in *The Upper Pima of San Cayetano del Tumacacori: An Archaeological Reconstruction of the Ootam of Pimeria Alta*. Dragoon, AZ: The Amerind Foundation, No. 7, 1956.

The irrigation canals were later destroyed by the construction of I-19, but DiPeso described them in detail and provided photographs on pages 202-203.

"Canal A was a small ditch made in modern times which paralleled the older canals but was not part of the older system."

"Canal B was cut into a native clay bed; it averaged 1.8 m in width and 45 cm in depth." "...much of the debris of Canal B was recent fill."





"Canal C was located approximately 50 cm to 1 m east of Canal B; it was cut approximately 50 cm deep into the clay sterile, and measured 3.20 m in width. It was probably abandoned because the Santa Cruz River changed its course." "...the fill of Canal C consisted of soil thrown over it and into it as Canal B was constructed."

