

Interpretive Guide to:

**MAGOFFIN HOME
STATE HISTORIC SITE**



MAGOFFIN HOME STATE HISTORIC SITE TELLS THE STORY OF TRADE BY WAGON TRAIN, AMERICAN EXPANSION, HISTORIC TIES WITH MEXICO AND THE ADVANCE OF REFINEMENT INTO THE SOUTHWESTERN U.S. THROUGH THE MAGOFFIN FAMILY AND HOME, VISITORS CAN GLIMPSE 19TH CENTURY ADVENTURES AND CONFLICTS: TRAVEL ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL, HARD-SHIP OF THE MEXICAN WAR, TURMOIL OF THE CIVIL WAR, IMPACT OF RAILROADS AND SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST.

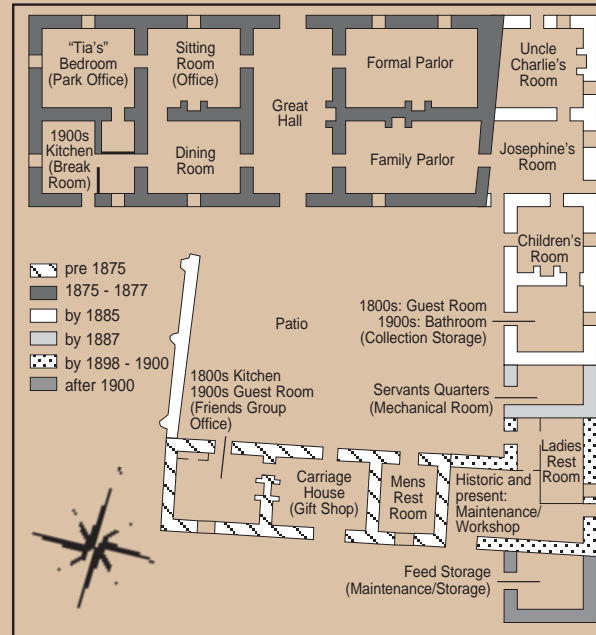


FURTHER READING

Stella M. Drumm, ed., *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin 1846-1847*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1926.

C. L. Sonnichsen, *Pass of the North: Four Centuries on the Rio Grande*. El Paso, Texas Western Press, 1968.

Wilbert H. Timmons, *James Wiley Magoffin: Don Santiago – El Paso Pioneer*. El Paso, Texas Western Press, 1999.



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**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
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The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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JAMES WILEY MAGOFFIN



1799-1868

Born in Kentucky, James Wiley Magoffin ventured to Mexico in the early 1820s seeking adventure and opportunity. There he married the socially prominent Maria Gertrudis Valdez de Veramendi in 1834. His business sense and respect for Mexican culture won him standing as a trusted

trader and merchant on the Santa Fe and Chihuahua Trails. Magoffin's influence extended into politics as he arranged the peaceful surrender of the New Mexico territory to American forces during the Mexican War.

After the war, James Magoffin settled opposite El Paso del Norte. There, he established a trading post that catered to speculators and settlers as they rushed to the California gold fields. The community surrounding the trading post, named Magoffinsville, flourished and was the forerunner of present-day El Paso.

JOSEPH MAGOFFIN



1837-1923

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico and educated in private schools in Kentucky and Missouri, Joseph Magoffin joined his father, James, in Magoffinsville in 1856. Joseph married Octavia MacGreal of Victoria, Texas in 1864 while serving in the Confederate Army.

Following the Civil War, the couple settled in El Paso. While Octavia's life centered on their children, James and Josephine, Joseph's attention turned to the construction of their residence and the growing community. One of the incorporators of El Paso in 1873, his active civic and political life included four terms as mayor, and the establishment of city utilities, the first hospital and the first public schools. His business interests were equally extensive and ranged from banking and real estate to transportation.

THE MAGOFFIN HOME



Josephine Richardson Magoffin, circa 1900.

In 1873, Joseph recovered his father's property, which federal officials seized after the Civil War, and began construction of the family's home. What began as a small, three-room house grew to twenty rooms between 1875 and 1901. The house is a prime example of Territorial-style architecture. This style took the native material of the Southwest, adobe, and embellished it with Victorian touches inside and out. Built in phases, the single story structure has three wings arranged around an open patio. The exterior was plastered and scored to give the appearance of large stone blocks.

Historical photographs of the home's interiors taken between 1887 and 1910 reveal typical late-Victorian decorations, furnishings and arrangements. Carpets, wall paper and painted or papered ceilings reflected the home of a locally prominent family of the time.

In the late 1920s, the home's interiors were remodeled and modernized in the Mission Revival style. Gas heat was installed and the utilities were updated. It was home to four generations of Magoffins, spanning 110 years. Many of the original 1880s Eastlake style furnishings remain in the home today.



THE LAST RESIDENTS: THE GLASGOWS

Among the later residents of the Magoffin home were Joseph and Octavia's daughter, Josephine, and her husband, army officer William Jefferson Glasgow, whom she had married in 1896. Although the couple and their five children moved often during Glasgow's military career, they did return to El Paso and settled in the Magoffin house in 1927. After their deaths in the 1960s and the home's purchase by the state and the City of El Paso, daughter Octavia Glasgow continued to live in the house until she died in 1986.

Cover photo: Josephine Magoffin marries William Jefferson Glasgow in 1896 in what newspapers declared "the wedding of the century."

Detail of front elevation.

