

Hello Bobbie, Mark and Emily:

At Mark's kind invitation, I am submitting to you some specific feedback on the Draft Narrative for the El Paso Downtown Historic District, which is generally quite good although there are some important omissions. The attached comment matrix form is rather limiting, so please accept my comments as follows:

Page 2, item 7: Architectural Classification. Missing Gothic, Georgian and Pueblo styles. I can cite examples of each if needed.

Page 4: Period of Significance. Should add 1910-1920 (Mexican Revolution)--many buildings were erected to house the new population influx of refugees: tenements, etc.

Page 4: Architect/Builder. Missing Mabel Welch and Gibson & Robertson. I can cite examples.

Page 15: Layout and Circulation Pattern Development. Recent research proves that the area in and around Duranguito was occupied by a large Apache "peace camp" intermittently from 1778 to 1825 but continuously from 1790 to 1795, when the population reached 800-1,000 men, women and children organized into five *rancherías*. The Spanish lured the Apaches there in order to watch over and control them as well as attempt to convert them to Christianity and teach them farming. The effort ultimately failed. There are certainly substantial archaeological traces of this camp below ground, especially in Duranguito. Ponce de Leon's first ranch was the first permanent settlement north of the Rio (which at the time ran along what is now Paisano Dr.) in what is now El Paso. It stood along the north bank between Chihuahua Street and El Paso Street from 1827 to 1830, when it was buried in mud by a flood. After the flood, in 1832, Ponce moved his ranch to what is now the north boundary of Pioneer Plaza. It stood there until it was demolished in 1882.

Page 43: Statement of Significance: No mention of extensive Apache history of downtown (1778-1825). Please note that the Manso and Pirro people were present even earlier, at least as early as the 1680s. David Romo has conducted significant research in this regard.

Page 71: Trost & Trost. Gustavus and Henry Trost formed the firm in 1903 as a partnership. Gustavus was a founding partner and did not join the firm in 1904, as indicated. Henry Trost lived in Chicago 1888-1896, not as indicated. Gustavus joined the firm in 1908 and not before, bringing with him the technology of reinforced concrete; he was the structural engineer. I count 27 extant Trost buildings within the proposed district, not 24.

Pages 74ff: Bibliography. Many works are missing, including:  
Grossman, Max, "Saving Downtown: An Architectural Survey and National Register Nomination for El Paso, Texas," *The Alliance Review*, quarterly journal of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (winter 2017), 12-19.  
Romo, David, *Ringside Seat to a Revolution* (Cinco Puntos Press, 2005; 2017).

Santiago, Mark, *A Bad Peace and a Good War: Spain and the Mescalero Apache Uprising of 1795-1799* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018).

Pages 82ff: Missing oldest known image of downtown El Paso: the Bartlett drawing of 1850 (Brown University), showing Ponce de Leon's second ranch toward the southwest. See attached. Also missing the Henry Cheever Pratt painting of 1853 (El Paso Museum of Art), showing the ranch from toward the southeast, also attached.

I hope this helps. I have copied some researchers/scholars who may have additional input.

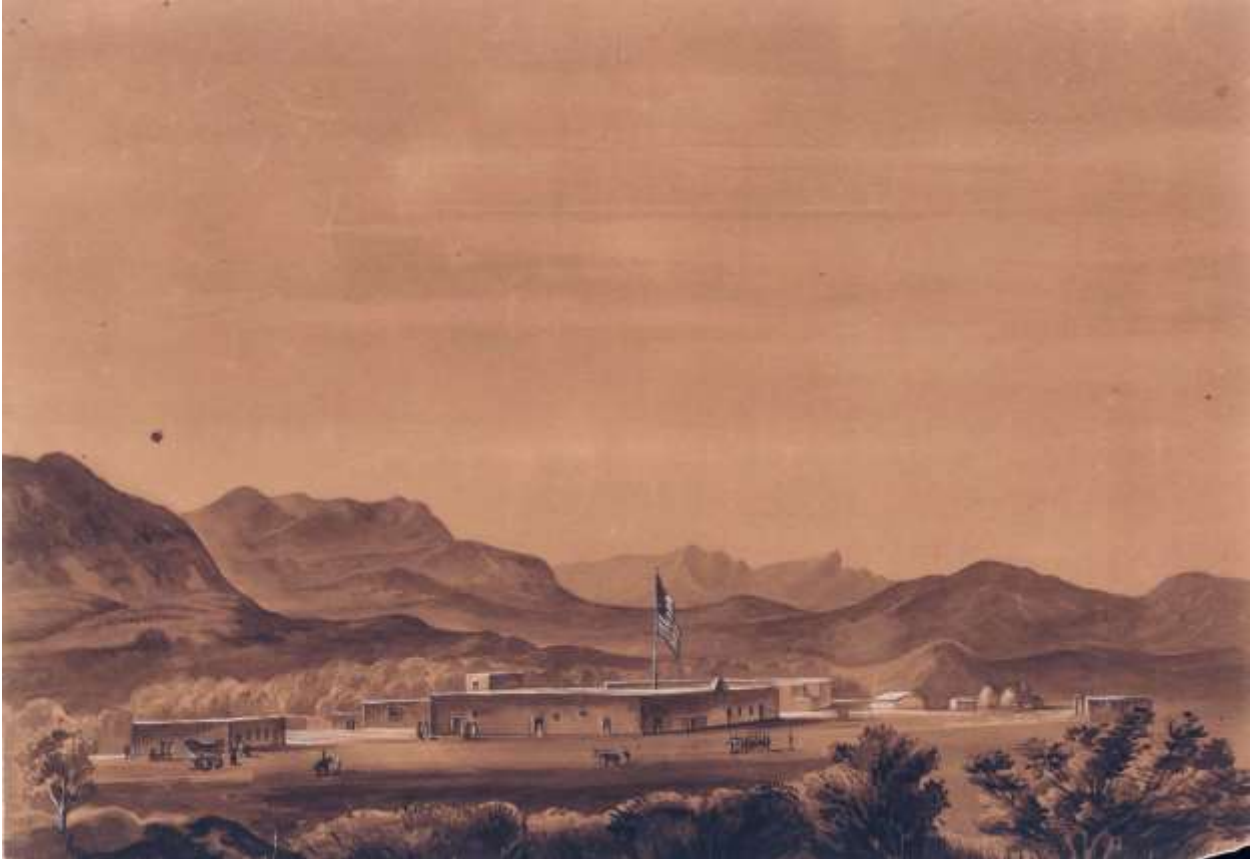
Many thanks,

Max

Max Grossman, PhD  
Board of Directors, Preservation Texas  
Vice-Chair, The Trost Society



Pratt 1853



Bartlett 1850

One point of clarification. The figure 800-1,000 Apaches should be attributed to Dr. David Romo, although it is not yet published.

Max

Hi Emily,

Just one more correction, please.

Below, I accidently wrote "Gustavus joined the firm in 1908" instead of "Adolphus joined the firm in 1908."

Please make the change.

Apologies,

Max

