

Historic Preservation

THE CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA

2009 - 2010 - IN REVIEW

PEORIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES 2009-2010

LISTINGS

- PEORIA CENTRAL SCHOOL
- PEORIA WOMAN'S CLUB
- PEORIA JAIL HOUSE
- PEORIA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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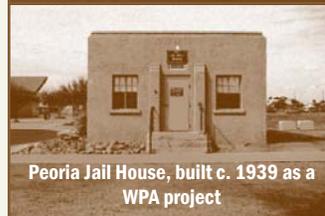
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Peoria Central School, built 1906



Peoria Woman's Club, built 1919



Peoria Jail House, built c. 1939 as a WPA project



Peoria First Presbyterian Church, built 1899



Example Landmark marker design for the Peoria Local Historic Landmark program

2009 and 2010 have been busy times for historic preservation in the City of Peoria. Based upon recommendations from the Historic Preservation Commission, the City Council recognized the first four Local Historic Landmarks, which are now listed on the Peoria Register of Historic Places. The designation will help to ensure that these historic buildings are preserved for future generations and recognizes the important roles that they played in Peoria's development.

One of these landmarks, the Woman's Club Clubhouse, celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2009, which was commemorated with the City's installation of a

bronze plaque in front of the building recognizing its significant role in Peoria's cultural development.

The City also applied for and received national designation as a Preserve America Community (see page 3).

The Historic Preservation Commission approved a draft design for a bronze Local Historic Landmark marker which can be used to identify designated Local Historic Landmarks in the community.

In order to stay informed of the latest strategies and concerns for historic preservation in Arizona, several members of the commission also attended the Annual State-wide Historic Preservation Conferences.



Members of the Peoria-West Valley Woman's Club pose next to the Clubhouse's newly installed commemorative plaque.

OLD TOWN PEORIA REVITALIZATION PLAN REACHES COMPLETION

The City of Peoria has wrapped up a ten-year update of the Central Peoria Revitalization Plan. Renamed the Old Town Peoria Revitalization Plan based on public input, plan's overarching purpose is to establish a multi-faceted strategy to spur revitalization in and around the historic Old Town area.

The plan includes design recommendations for enhancing streets and sidewalks with improvements that will help create a cohesive feel for the area and celebrate its unique

charm. It also includes strategies for historic preservation. The use of directional and interpretive signage is addressed and considered an important tool for distinguishing the Old Town area as a special place as well as helping to guide visitors into Old Town and then to its individual attractions once they arrive. The plan touches on ways to improve upon the existing Local Historic Landmark program and identifies 5 Pilot Preservation Projects. The Pilot Preservation Projects involve buildings that evoke Peoria's past. Several of the projects may require plans for adap-

tive reuse as the building's historic uses are no longer feasible. The rehabilitation and reuse of these pilot project buildings can then serve as a model for the rehabilitation of other buildings in Old Town.



Examples of the types of signage that could be used to enhance Old Town

HOOD BUILDING PRESERVATION PLAN COMPLETED

In 2008, the City of Peoria was awarded a \$10,000 competitive grant to prepare a Preservation Plan for the Hood Building, located at 8301 W. Washington St. Built in 1920, the Hood Building is one of the City's oldest existing commercial buildings and it is the only two-story commercial building in Old Town, adding to its prominence.

While a florist currently occupies the first floor, in the past the building has been home to retailers selling everything from

furniture and appliances, to office supplies, and even auto parts. Unfortunately, over the years a number of changes have been made to the exterior of the Hood Building that are unsympathetic to its historic character.

Abell & Associates, a Tempe-based architecture firm spent the last year creating a Design Concept Report for the Hood Building that illustrates potential options for restoring some its historic charm without diminishing its historic integrity. Recom-

mendations for improvements include reinstalling windows that have been covered over and replacing all of the horizontal sliding windows with more suitable single-hung sash units, selectively removing stucco from key design elements to expose the original red brick, and removing the awning, which is a non-significant addition. Now that the plan has been completed, many of its concepts could be utilized in future rehabilitation projects for this and other Old Town buildings.



The Hood Building, September 1963



The Hood Building, 2009



One of the conceptual designs presented in the Hood Building Preservation Plan

Remembering Peoria's Past

Located just west of 83rd Avenue on the south side of Washington Street (across from Osuna Park), the building known as Fire Station #1 began its existence as Peoria's first dedicated moving-picture theater.

Movies were originally screened at the Woman's Club Clubhouse, which was built in 1919, but business was booming and by 1920 operator O.O. Fuel constructed this building to house his growing crowds.

The one-story building was con-

structed with concrete and brick walls. The front façade was later covered in stucco. There were originally three smaller windows that ran across the upper portion of the façade above the entrance.

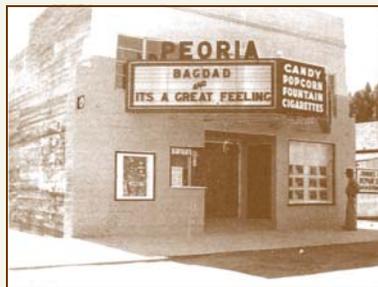
The building changed names several times while it was a theater. Originally called the Paramount Theater, it was soon renamed the Fuel Theater after its operator, and would later be called the Peoria Theater. By the time it was known as the

Peoria Theater, the building seated 450 people. Eventually, in 1957, just a few years after Peoria officially incorporated as a town, the theater was converted into a fire station.

At one point, the Peoria Justice of the Peace and the John L. Meyer Insurance Agency also had offices within the building. It was used as a fire station until 2004, when Fire Station #191 was constructed nearby. It is currently used for Fire Department storage.



A parade goes past the early Fuel Theater, c. 1920



The Peoria Theater, complete with a marquee, c. 1949.



In a later incarnation as Peoria's first modern fire station, c. 1970

PEORIA DESIGNATED AS A PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY

Peoria was honored in February 2010 when First Lady Michelle Obama designated Peoria as a Preserve America community. Preserve America is a federal program that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and celebrate the country's priceless cultural and natural heritage. Its goals include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional

identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities. The designation enables Peoria to apply for Preserve America grants, should Congress appropriate grant funds. Administered by the National Park Service, the grant program was created to support community efforts to

demonstrate sustainable uses of their historic and cultural sites, focusing on economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation administers the Preserve America program with the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with 10 other federal agencies. For more information visit www.achp.gov and www.preserveamerica.gov.

*"It's not good because it's old, it's old because it's good."
~Anonymous*



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HISTORICPRESERVATION](http://WWW.PEORIAAZ.GOV/HISTORICPRESERVATION)



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The City of Peoria Arizona is Arizona's ninth largest city with an estimated year 2008 population of 155,684. Peoria is located in the Northwest portion of the Valley of the Sun with the state capital of Phoenix and the neighboring city of Glendale to the east, and the retirement community of Sun City to the west. Originally incorporated as a city covering one square mile in 1954, Peoria now encompasses almost 180 square miles and encompasses desert landscapes, rural farmland, suburban neighborhoods, and a regional lake, as well as Old Town, the area of Peoria's original town site.

Professional * Ethical * Open * Responsive * Innovative * Accountable

2010-2011 Upcoming Events

2010

December

Peoria's Old Town Holiday Festival

December 3rd, Old Town Peoria

For more information visit

www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents

2011

January

Peoria Historic Preservation Achievement Awards - Applications Due January 31st

For more information visit

www.peoriaaz.gov/historicpreservation

March

Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month

Peoria Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month

April

Peoria's Pioneer Day Festival

April 2nd, Old Town Peoria

For more information visit

www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents

May

National Historic Preservation Month

June

2011 Annual Historic Preservation Partnership Conference

June 22-24

Tucson, AZ

For more information visit

www.azpreservation.com