

Historic Preservation

THE CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

**2012
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
COMMISSION
REGULARLY
SCHEDULED
MEETINGS:**

- JANUARY 11
- APRIL 11
- JULY 11
- OCTOBER 10

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE**

Palo Verde Ruin National Register Listing	2
Palo Verde Interpretive Plan	2
Historic Spotlight : Edwards Hotel	3
Historic Preservation Achievement Award	3
Upcoming Events	4

2011 has been a successful year for historic preservation in the City of Peoria. Work continued toward achieving the goals of the current Historic Preservation Work Plan, and significant progress has been achieved, including the following:

- Historic Markers have been placed on three of the City's Local Historic Landmarks: Peoria Woman's Club, Peoria Jail House, and Peoria Central School.
- A Historic Preservation Achievement Award program was

developed, and the first award was presented in April 2011.

- The City has designated a portion of the Palo Verde Ruin as a Local Historic Landmark and placed it on the Peoria Register of Historic Places.
- The Palo Verde Ruin has been placed on the Arizona and National Registers of Historic Places .
- The City has received a CLG Grant of \$8,000 for the Palo Verde Ruin Interpretive Plan that is nearing completion.
- The Historic Preservation Master Plan has been

revised and is pending City Council approval.

Looking forward, 2012 holds the potential to be another promising year for historic preservation in Peoria. Upcoming projects will include a study to explore the history of Weedville, another area of the city that holds stories of Peoria's past.



PALO VERDE RUIN NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING

The Palo Verde Ruin is a significant cultural site located north of Jomax Road near 73rd Drive, within the Terramar residential development that was inhabited by the Hohokam Native Americans from around 900 A.D. to 1070 A.D. . The City contracted with Logan Simpson Design to prepare a National Register nomination for the 20-acre City-owned portion of the Palo Verde Ruin known as Palo Verde Park. Based on the nomination, the site was listed on the Arizona Register of Historic Places in July 2011, and in November was officially placed on the National Register of Historic

Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. This designation occurs following extensive efforts by the City over the past decade to protect the significant resources of the site while accommodating the surrounding neighborhood’s need for recreational space and amenities. Listing on the National Register provides formal, national recognition of the archaeological significance of Palo Verde Ruin and may open future grants opportunities for projects that further preservation or educational efforts for the site.



View from recreation park into preserved open space at Palo Verde Park



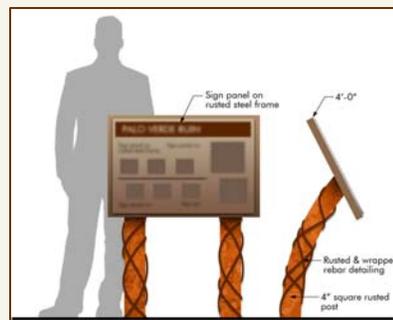
Excavated floor of a pit house

PALO VERDE RUIN INTERPRETIVE PLAN

One of Peoria’s historic preservation goals is to increase public awareness of Peoria’s historic and pre-historic resources. The Palo Verde Interpretive Plan, currently under development, will be one tool for achieving this goal. The Plan will outline a strategy for developing educational/interpretive media and infrastructure for the Palo Verde Park (which contains a portion of the Palo Verde Ruin archaeological site) in order to showcase the area’s archaeologically significant pre-historic resources. The Interpretive Plan will also serve as an example for future interpretive planning

efforts for the other cultural and natural resource sites in northern Peoria. The Plan includes recommendations for signage with text and graphics, audio recordings, and internet-based resources. A conceptual design for the interpretive sign frames is included in the plan, along with possible layouts for the sign panels. The

plan also provides recommendations for other enhancements that will stabilize and maintain the site’s cultural resources.



Proposed design for sign frames



Map of potential interpretive trail and sign locations

Remembering Peoria's Past

Situated at the southeast corner of 83rd Drive and Washington Street, the old Edwards Hotel rises above its surroundings, standing tall as Old Town Peoria's only 3 story building. Opened in July of 1918 by C.E. Edwards, the hotel demonstrated that Peoria was an up and coming town in its own right. As a matter of practicality, it gave travelers that disembarked the train at the nearby



An early photo of the Edwards Hotel, facing southeast.

depot a more formal place to stay, instead of the boarding house previously located on the site. In addition to sleeping quarters, the hotel featured a restaurant. Even after its construction, the hotel continued to be a model of modernity, as Edwards had a cement sidewalk added out front in 1919 and had wiring for electricity added to the building in 1920. The hotel was later converted



Edward's hotel in the late 1950's with the addition of sleeping porches.

into an apartment building, and the central front entrance and restaurant were removed. The sleeping porches were also modified; their columns widened and covered in stucco. Despite these changes, the Hotel has endured and remains as a reminder that Peoria has strived to be a welcoming and inviting place for visitors since its earliest days.



The building as it stands today, with stuccoed porch columns

PEORIA CONFERS 1ST HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In March 2011, the Historic Preservation Commission granted the first Peoria Historic Preservation Achievement Award. The awards are intended to recognize local achievements in furthering awareness and preservation of Peoria heritage and historic resources. The Peoria Arizona Historical Society (PAHS) was given the award for the salvage and reuse of the Peoria High School "Old Gym"

Floor. The salvaged floor came from Peoria High School's first gymnasium, which was constructed in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). When the "Old Gym" was scheduled for demolition, PAHS sought permission from the School District to save the floor, and was allowed to remove a portion with the stripes from one of the basketball "Key" areas. The floor was

stored until PAHS could renovate one of the one-room buildings next to the PAHS museum, located at 83rd Avenue and Madison Street in Old Town Peoria. The floor was installed at the Peoria Business & Government Museum, where visitors can see the original markings including Key area stripes and free throw lines, preserved under the carefully refinished surface.

"Preservationists are the only people in the world who are invariably confirmed in their wisdom after the fact..."
~ John Kenneth Galbraith

VISIT US AT WWW.PEORIAAZ.GOV/
HISTORICPRESERVATION



**THE CITY OF
PEORIA, ARIZONA**

Planning Division
Development and Community Services Building
9875 N. 85th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345
Phone: 623-773-7200
Fax: 623-773-7233
E-mail: planning@peoriaaz.gov

The City of Peoria Arizona is Arizona's ninth largest city with population of 154,079. 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

2012 Upcoming Events

February

Arizona Centennial Celebration
February 4th, Centennial
Plaza, 84th Ave. & Mountain
View Rd. For more information
visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/
specialevents](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents)

March

Peoria Historic Preservation
Achievement Awards -
Applications Due March 15th
For more information visit
[www.peoriaaz.gov/
historicpreservation](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/historicpreservation)

March (cont.)

*Arizona Archaeology and
Heritage Awareness
Month*

April

Peoria's Pioneer Day
Festival
April 14th, Old Town Peoria
For more information visit
[www.peoriaaz.gov/
specialevents](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents)

May

*National Historic
Preservation Month*

June

2012 Arizona Historic
Preservation Conference
June 13th-15th
Prescott, AZ
For more information visit:
www.azpreservation.com

December

Peoria's Old Town Holiday
Festival
December 7th, Old Town
Peoria
For more information visit:
[www.peoriaaz.gov/
specialevents](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents)