

Historic Preservation

THE CITY OF PEORIA ARIZONA

CURRENT NOMINEES FOR THE PEORIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:

- PEORIA CENTRAL SCHOOL ~ 1906
- PEORIA JAIL HOUSE ~ 1934
- PEORIA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ~ 1899

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Revitalization meets Preservation	2
Education Efforts: Walking into Peoria's Past	2
City awarded \$10,000 grant	2
Historic Spotlight: Weedville	3
Historic Preservation Commission 2008 Work Plan	3
Upcoming Events	3
Meet the Commission	4

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The City of Peoria has been charging ahead in efforts to preserve and celebrate Peoria's past.

Leading the task is the Historic Preservation Commission. Commission responsibilities include making determinations regarding local landmark applications and promoting historic preservation activities. As caretakers of the City's history, the Commission seeks to enhance this vibrant community by helping residents to maintain and commemorate the places and people that make Peoria a unique and inviting place to visit and to live.

In the previous year several properties, including the Peoria Central School, have begun the process of becoming the first Peoria Local Historic Landmarks. These prop-

erties may also be sent on their way to gain recognition



Peoria Central School, built 1906

on a national level through listing on the National Register of Historic Places, based in part on determinations made by the State Historic Preservation Office. Placement on the National Register recognizes certain historic properties of exceptional character and may also confer financial benefits such as property tax reduction or grant eligibility. In addition to recognizing Peoria Local Historic Landmarks, the City has engaged a consultant to

study the feasibility of historic restoration of the Hood Building, a historic property in the heart of the City's first commercial district. Supported by a \$10,000 CLG pass-through grant administered by SHPO, this study could pave the way for future façade restoration projects. See page 2 for details.

The City is also recognizing the important role that historic preservation can play in revitalization efforts. The Central Peoria Revitalization Plan Update is underway and historic preservation in and around Old Town will be one focus of the study. See Page 2 for details. Go to www.peoriaaz.gov/planning for more information on historic preservation in Peoria or any of the projects described in this newsletter.

X MARKS THE SPOT: DESIGNATING YOUR PROPERTY AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Do you own a piece of Peoria's past? Individuals may nominate a property for consideration as a Peoria Local Historic Landmark, with approval of the property owner. To qualify, a property must be classified as a building, site, structure, or object; and generally must be

at least 50 years old. Landmarks must be significant in terms of their association with important people, events or architecture from Peoria's past, or hold the potential to provide important information on the history/pre-history of Peoria. Landmark designation

provides properties with a special Historic Overlay Zoning to protect these resources for future generations. Local Landmark Designation applications are available at www.peoriaaz.gov/historicpreservation or at the Planning Division Counter.

THE INTERSECTION OF NEW & OLD: THE CENTRAL PEORIA REVITALIZATION PLAN UPDATE



The City is currently undertaking an update of the Central Peoria Revitalization Plan. The study area for this project centers on Old Town and reaches into the surrounding neighborhoods. The new plan will be the result of a year-long project that is seeking extensive public involvement to create a framework for defining the character and infrastructure of

the study area. One facet of the study will focus on strategies for maintaining the historic context of Old Town through the use of approaches such as historic area designations, educational programs, grants, and special signage. The project will also look at ways to enhance the identity of this area with street improvements,

landscaping, street furniture and other design elements. Redevelopment and infill opportunities and limitations will be explored, which may result in a new Infill Incentive policy as well as design standards specific to Old Town. This plan will provide an illustrated roadmap for making Old Town and the surrounding area a more vibrant place that reflects Peoria's past while embracing its future.

The Making of a City: Peoria's Past Comes to Life in Old Town

Take a walk into Peoria's Past:

Old Town Peoria consists of the area in and around Peoria's original town site. Located southeast of the intersection of Grand Ave. and Washington St., this area covering less than a quarter square mile once contained all of the town's amenities: restaurants, grocery stores, homes, a school, and even a place to see the latest movie. Now, these memories of Old Town's buildings have been captured in a number of informational guides and maps that tell their stories. From descriptions of a movie house that became a fire

house, to a home purchased right from the pages of a catalog, these guides cover the hidden past of Peoria's properties and will give anyone the inside scoop on Peoria's early days. So grab a guide and go for a stroll through the streets of Old Town Peoria. Maps and guides are available at www.peoriaaz.gov/historicpreservation.



CITY RECEIVES \$10,000 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PASS-THROUGH GRANT

The City of Peoria has been awarded a \$10,000 competitive grant to prepare a Preservation Plan for the Hood Building, located at 8301 W. Washington St. Built in 1920, this early mercantile building has undergone several modifications over time that have diminished its potential for listing on the Na-

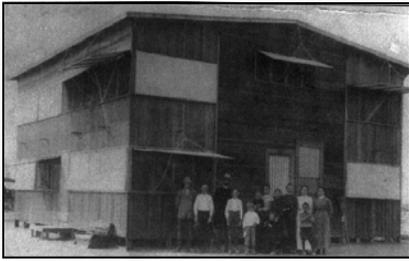
tional Register of Historic Places. Over the next year, the architecture firm *Abell & Associates* will produce a Design Concept Report for the City, charting a potential course of action for the historically accurate restoration of the Hood Building's exterior. If restored in such a manner, the Hood Building

could serve as an important cornerstone in the gateway to Old Town, welcoming new visitors while providing a connection to Peoria's roots. This project will potentially produce results that can be transferred to other commercial buildings in Old Town facing similar issues of impaired historic integrity.



The present-day Hood Building on the southeast corner of 83rd Ave. & Washington St. in Old Town

HISTORIC SPOTLIGHT: WEEDVILLE REVEALED



The Weed family in front of their new home just outside of Peoria near present day 75th & Thunderbird Avenues.

In 1912 a Methodist Reverend from Kansas, along with his family and a small group of followers, settled on 160 acres of land on the outskirts of

Peoria in the area known today as Weedville. Rev. Ora Weed founded a small religious community that supported itself with farming, sales from a small country store, and by making and selling brooms made from broom-corn. The Reverend also established the Old Path Church, cemetery, and boarding school. In the late 1940s, after Rev. Weed passed away, the 160 acres was slowly sold off, with the majority of the land going to the Southwest Indian School and other religious organizations. The private cemetery still exists today and is maintained by Rev. Weed's descendants. The Southwest Indian School has become the Southwest Indian Ministry Center. Much of Weedville remains a quiet, unincorporated county island just off of busy, suburban Thunderbird Rd. Tucked just off the beaten path, Weedville seems miles and decades away from the modern retailers and restaurants that flank this little piece of Peoria's past.



COMMISSION WORK PLAN

In May, the Historic Preservation Commission held a workshop meeting in order to consider their work plan for 2008-2009. As a result of the workshop, several key themes were identified as areas of focus for the coming year. Specifically discussed were objectives related to increasing the effectiveness of the Commission by fostering

dialogue with other City commissions and the City Council. Promoting public engagement will also be a high priority. In addition, there will be particular emphasis placed on strengthening Historic Preservation efforts in the Old Town area of Peoria. The area known as Weedville, at 75th Ave. & Thunderbird Rd., once home to a small religious

community, will be further investigated to determine its potential as a historic resource. Overall, the Commission is looking forward to a accomplishing a variety of goals over the coming year that will benefit residents and visitors alike by recognizing and promoting the City's distinct historic resources.

It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future. ~

OTHER HISTORIC PRESERVATION HAPPENINGS

Upcoming Events

March is AZ Archaeology Awareness Month

2009 Archaeology Expo

March 14-15

Pueblo Grande Museum & Archaeological Park

www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/shpo/shpo.html

Pioneer Days Festival

April 4, 2009

Osuna Park, 10510 N. 83rd Ave. (just south of Grand Ave.)

www.peoriaaz.gov/specialevents

May is Historic Preservation Month

7th Annual Arizona State Historic Preservation Conference

June 18-20, 2009

Hyatt Regency Phoenix
Phoenix, AZ



Snow! A winter wonderland created just for Peoria's Old Town Holiday Festival

VISIT US AT [WWW.PEORIAAZ.GOV/
HISTORICPRESERVATION](http://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: 623-773-7256
E-mail: planning@peoriaaz.gov

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. Incorporated as a city covering one square mile in 1954, Peoria now covers 162 square miles and encompasses desert landscapes, rural farmland, suburban neighborhoods, and a regional lake, as well as Old Town, the area of the original town site.

Professional * Ethical * Open * Responsive * Innovative * Accountable

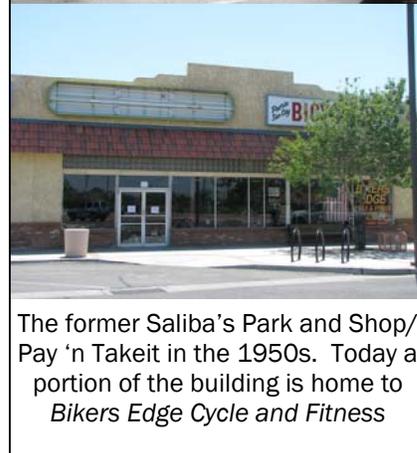
Then & Now:

Meet your Commissioners

The Peoria Historic Preservation Commission consists of seven individuals appointed by the Mayor. Members serve a four year term and meet on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings called on an as-needed basis. Commissioners have both personal and professional interests in Historic Preservation. At least 5 commissioners must be residents of Peoria, while two non-residents are permitted provided that they are professionals in fields related to Historic Preservation, such as archaeology,

architecture, history, or planning. Current Commissioners include an archaeologist, an architect, and several members of the Peoria Historical Society.

**Historic Preservation
Commissioners**
Steve Poe, Chair
Pricilla Cook, Vice Chair
Mark Hackbarth
Karen Garbe
Harold McKisson
Gary Nelson
Shelby Duplessis



The former Saliba's Park and Shop/ Pay 'n Takeit in the 1950s. Today a portion of the building is home to *Bikers Edge Cycle and Fitness*