

Old Town Peoria 83rd Ave. & Washington St.

C I T Y O F P E O R I A , A R I Z O N A



In the summer of 1917, a devastating fire broke out that destroyed virtually the entire commercial district of Peoria. Fortuitously, this event came as locals had begun to call for the construction of more enduring and attractive brick buildings to replace those built of wood and tin. The businesses did rebuild, and the town benefited from the enhanced construction methods which took advantage of the recent availability of electricity brought on by Peoria's contract with the Salt River Valley Water User's Association. As the 1920's arrived, the sturdy buildings and modern amenities of Peoria's commercial district, which included a newly built hotel, declared that Peoria wasn't just a tent camp, but a thriving community that was here to stay.

Note: This guide is not associated with any local, state, or federal Registers of Historic Places. It is simply intended to indicate places that may be of historic interest within the City of Peoria.

105) 8307 W. Washington St

Peoria Theater/Peoria Fire Station #1 –1920

This building served as the Paramount Theater, later renamed the Peoria Theater. In 1947 the building was rebuilt after being damaged by fire. It was converted to a fire station when Peoria incorporated in 1954.

104) 8301 W. Washington St.

Hood Building –1920

Constructed after a fire in 1917 destroyed much of the commercial district, the Hood Building has housed numerous businesses including Western Auto as well as a church. The second story accommodated high school classes prior to the construction of the Peoria High School.

103) 10411 N. 83rd Ave.

La Tapitia Café/R&E Key & Lock

This building, covered in board and batten siding, is the former home of La Tapitia Café.

102) 10455 N. 83rd Ave.

Lazy J. Café/Bud's Barber Shop

This building was home to the Lazy J. Café and Bud's Barber Shop, the later of which is still in operation at this location.

101) 8295 W. Washington St.

Saliba's Day 'n Takit/Park & Shop –c. 1918

This building housed Peoria's first supermarket, run by the Saliba family, which competed with existing grocery stores such as nearby Tang's Grocery.

100) 8291 W. Washington St.

Arizona Bank –c. 1918

This storefront still possesses the original signpost from its time serving as the location of Arizona Bank.

99) 8281 W. Washington St.

Tang's Grocery/Sunmaid Grocery –c. 1918

This store is the former Tang's Grocery, owned by the prominent Tang family who were involved in Peoria's Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, and City Council.

98) 8273 & 8277 Washington St.

Western Auto/U.S. Post Office –c. 1918

This is the former location of the Western Auto store and the first permanent home for Peoria's U.S. Post Office.

97) 8271 W. Washington St.

Wood's Pharmacy –c.1918

This building was home to Wood's Pharmacy, a popular hang-out for local kids. Charles Vickery, one of the proprietors of the pharmacy, also served as Mayor of Peoria.

96) 8265 W. Grand Ave.

Thurston Insurance –c. 1918

This store once held Thurston's Insurance and Real Estate Company run by Thomas F. Thurston. Thurston also served as the secretary as secretary of the Peoria Chamber of Commerce.

95) 8255 W. Grand Ave.

Manuel's Place –c. 1918

This building was home to the local watering-hole Manuel's (pronounced Man-yuhl's by the locals). The owner, Manuel Leyva, was also a member of Peoria's City Council.

94) 8245 W. Grand Ave.

Wilhelm's Garage –c.1918

Built for Jennings' Garage, this shop was bought and renamed in 1928 by Joseph Wilhelm. Maintenance of farm machinery, including cotton picking machines, was historically a prime source of business for the garage.

84) Osuna Park

Peoria Jail House –1934

Constructed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, in addition to serving as the local jail, this building also held City Council meetings. The Chamber of Commerce also used the jail for their offices at one point in time.

75) 8325 W. Washington St.

Edward's Hotel –c. 1918

This building served as Peoria's first hotel. In the 1920s, sleeping porches were added with canvas tarps that could be tied up for ventilation or tied down to provide protection from dust storms.

74) 10440 N. 83rd Ave.

Kosier's Hardware –1938

This building was the long-time home of Kosier's Hardware, owned by the prominent local family of the same name.

B) 10360, 10350, & 10340 N. 83rd Ave.

School Buildings

These small buildings, now used as museums, were once part of the original Peoria school campus. A cafeteria building and nurses' station were also part of the campus at one time.

C. 10320 N. 83rd Ave.

Peoria Central School –1906

Many locals thought this two-room school house was one room too big when it opened. The Central School building served the community as a school for 70 years and is now home to the Peoria Historical Society Museum.

Old Town Peoria 83rd Ave. & Washington St.



- 105. Peoria Theater/Peoria Fire Station #1
- 104. Hood Building
- 103. La Tapitia Cafe/K&E Lock & Key
- 102. Lazy J. Cafe/Bud's Barber Shop
- 101. Saliba's Pay 'n Takit/Park & Shop
- 100. Arizona Bank
- 99. Tang's Grocery/Sunmaid Grocery
- 98. Western Auto/US. Post Office
- 97. Woods Pharmacy

- 96. Thurston Insurance
- 95. Manuel's Place
- 94. Wilhelm's Garage
- 84. Peoria Jail House
- 75. Edward's Hotel
- 74. Kosier's Hardware
- B. School Buildings
- C. Peoria Central School

Numbers correspond to Historic Resource Survey codes. Letters denote properties not included in the Surveys.

105. Peoria Theater/Peoria Fire Station



104. Hood Building



103. La Tapitia Café/R&E Key & Lock



102. Lazy J. Café/Bud's Barber Shop



101. Saliba's Pay 'n Takit/Park & Shop



100 Arizona Bank



99. Tang's/Sunmaid Grocery



98. Western Auto/U.S. Post Office



97. Woods Pharmacy



96. Thurston Insurance



95. Manuz's Place



94. Wilhelm's Garage



84. Peoria Jail House



75. Edwards Hotel



74. Rosiers Hardware



B. School Buildings



C. Peoria Central School



For more information on historic preservation in the City of Peoria, please our website at: www.peoriaaz.gov/historicpreservation