



# A Look Back in Time...

A skilled local stone mason, Michael Sullivan, built many of the stone buildings in Casa Grande. His crowning achievement is Heritage Hall, the home of the Casa Grande Valley Historical Society. The Stone Church (the historic property name) was the largest fieldstone building to be built by Mr. Sullivan who died of a heart attack while driving his car just three months after the church was dedicated.



**STONE CHURCH (HERITAGE HALL)**

Native Fieldstone Building Built 1927 110 W. Florence Blvd.  
(National & Local Historic Registers)

Aside from the magnificent stone masonry, the floor level is raised above grade by over six feet. Some significant features of the building are a full raised basement, the cement porch with stone arches and an arched doorway with double doors leading to a projecting vestibule. Over the vestibule is an octagonal belfry with a copper dome. The sanctuary stained glass window was added in 1952.

Officially organized in October of 1896, 17 years after Casa Grande was founded, the Presbyterian Church became the first Protestant church in this small desert community with fewer than 300 inhabitants. Their first church was located at First Avenue and Florence Street and was known as the "Little White Church".

Through the efforts of a growing Presbyterian congregation, the Stone Church was built in 1927 and the first service in the new church, with the glittering copper-plated dome, was held in January 1928. Church services were held in this building until 1971. The building stood empty from 1971-1973, at which time it was purchased by the Casa Grande Mortuary. The Casa Grande Historical Society acquired the Stone Church in June 1977.

Over the years the 152 seat auditorium has served as an intimate setting for lectures, meetings, programs, musicals and theatrical performances, which included the home of the former Casa Grande Valley Players. Through the efforts of an Eagle Scout project, the aging auditorium seats were removed on August 6, 2011. The wood flooring has been refinished and a wall removed to create newly improved space to accommodate fund raising events and an intimate venue to better serve the needs of the museum.

Three pulpit chairs, the pulpit, 4 auditorium seats, paintings and photos from the historic Stone Church are on display in a history room created by Bill Heinle at the First Presbyterian Church, 702 E. Cottonwood Lane. The communion table from the Stone Church continues to be used in their sanctuary.