



# A Look Back in Time...

*"The Alley" mural, completed May 2008, portrays our history by taking a walk down the old Main Street.*

Most of the original buildings on Main Street burned down. The Briggs Jewelers & Prettyman's Market building located today at 110 W. Main St. is a Mission Style built in 1914 with a unique parapet design. It served as a butcher and food market for Robert Andrade, Ramon Andrade and the first location for Don Prettyman's Market in the downtown. Briggs Jewelry store sold pawned items, records and record players as well as jewelry from 1928-1971. Bowser's Indian Store, known as Tee-Pee Trading Post, was also in this building in later years. Today the entire building is occupied by Ochoa's Trading Post.

A.J. Armenta General Merchandise aka Jose Armenta Merchandise was originally located on the 110 W. Main Street site. This store is an important part of our Casa Grande heritage.

Cruz Trading Post at 200 W. Main originally built in 1888 as a one-story rectangular adobe building. It functioned as a general store and post office until 1897. Between 1897-1898 the building was operated as Bible's Saloon. In later years, it was a lodge meeting hall and the Casa Grande Valley Bank until Ramon Cruz purchased the building in 1937 for his trading post. The building was subsequently remodeled into the present Pueblo Revival Style and continued as Cruz Trading Post until 1955. Today the building is vacant.

Chief Theatre c. 1940 was the movie house on Main Street.

Heritage Hall was built in 1927 by stone mason, Michael Sullivan for the Presbyterian Church. This building was said to be his crowning achievement. Located at the north end of Sacaton Street, today this building is on the campus of our Casa Grande Valley Historical Society and Museum.

The famous Gilt Edge Saloon on Main was destroyed in the 1914 fire. Saloons were popular on Main.



**Gordon McMurray's Livery Stable**, c. 1900, was located just off Main Street but for purposes of our recreation we needed a livery stable to display the two mule shoes that were uncovered on Main Street during the 2007 Downtown Streets renovation project. The mule shoes were gifted to Councilman Dick Powell who gave them to Casa Grande Main Street for this project.

**Railroad Depot** Our original depot was destroyed by fire in 1937 and was replaced by a Pueblo Deco Style Station in 1939. This station was destroyed by fire June 5, 2009; about a year after the mural was painted. Pueblo Deco symbols from this station appear in several art projects downtown and have been brought into the new downtown streetscape design.

Moving out of town on the railroad tracks we travel to the **Francisco Grande Hotel** on Hwy. 84. The hotel was built in 1959 as the San Francisco Giants Spring Training Camp.

Take a stroll down this artistic Main Street in "The Alley" and thrill to other subtle representations of Casa Grande's past.

