

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN - WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...

(A digital version is online at <http://historic.casagrandeaz.us>)

May 19, 1879 - A work stoppage occurred due to delays in the delivery of rails from the East and the sweltering heat. Southern Pacific set up a temporary camp called Terminus (end of the line), the name of the temporary post office which rolled along behind the railroad workers. Construction resumed in January 1880 and by September 1880 Southern Pacific had renamed the town Casa Grande after the nearby Casa Grande ruins.

July 19, 1890 - At the desire of the local residents, the original townsite map was recorded. The commercial business district had sprung up along Main Street. The downtown streets have a northwest-southeast orientation because they are aligned with the railroad tracks, reflecting its origins as a railroad community and making the historic downtown geographically distinct.

1886, 1893 and again in 1914 fires ravaged the town. 1908 - A flood damaged the town, but each time the community rebuilt and survived.

1899 - The first Protestant church building was erected at the southwest corner of Florence St. and First Ave. By 1927 the Presbyterian Church had built and moved into the Stone Church on Florence Blvd. An adobe chapel on First and Picacho Street served the Catholic congregation until their first church was built on Picacho Street in 1935.

In the 1920s Michael Sullivan, a local stonemason, was leaving the legacy we see today in his fieldstone buildings and in the 1940s and 50s August Wilhelm "Willie" Fricke, a German immigrant, used his unique poured concrete system to construct about 20 downtown buildings.

1928 - Hwy. 84 (the Old Tucson Highway) came from Tucson/Picacho through Casa Grande and continued on to Gila Bend. Motor courts and neon signs came thereafter. This history is being recorded in downtown art projects.

The downtown walking tour will take you past the original grocery stores known as Prettyman's, Pioneer Market, Don Market, George Y. Wah Complete Market, Johnston's Grocery, Pay n Takit and Safeway. There were several downtown post office locations prior to moving to Pinal Avenue in 1992. Two historic bank buildings, the Woman's Club (where it is said that every organization in town had its beginning), the oldest remaining hotel, the first theatre and the first high school are along the walking route.

There are murals (many created by local artists), a variety of design projects, history plaques plus vintage and neon signs to celebrate Casa Grande's rich history. Come join us on a less than three-mile walk through historic downtown where it all began.

DOWNTOWN CASA GRANDE HISTORY WALK

1

110 W. Florence Blvd.
1927 Michael Sullivan - Fieldstone Masonry
National & Local Register - Stone Church
The Museum of Casa Grande

Heritage Hall, the old Stone Church, was designed by nationally renowned church architect Robert Orr and built by local stonemason Michael Sullivan. Although Michael Sullivan built other stone masonry buildings in town, this one is considered his crowning achievement. This Mission Revival styled building served as the First Presbyterian Church until 1969. The walls are uncoursed fieldstone gathered by members of the congregation. Between 1971 and 1977 the hall was used by the Casa Grande Mortuary. The interior was modified for their purposes and a basement apartment was added. The Casa Grande Valley Historical Society purchased the building in 1977 and the Museum was opened February 14, 1978. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in June of 1978. The Hall is currently used for museum programs and private events.



2

110 W. Florence Blvd.
1934 Wood frame
Local Register - Rebecca Dallis Schoolhouse
The Museum of Casa Grande

The Rebecca Dallis Schoolhouse is a one-room wooden ship-lap building with a gable roof. There is a recessed entry on the north end with five primary windows along the west façade. In the 1930s, as agricultural production increased in Pinal County, so did the African American population. The influx of African American cotton laborers and their families brought a need for a separate segregated school to be built. Known as the Southside Colored Grammar School, the building was located on the southwest corner of the Southside Elementary School at 501 S. Florence St. It was staffed by a series of teachers until Rebecca Dallis took over in 1939. She taught between 50 and 70 K-8 students in this one-room on any given day without air-cooling and only a coal-oil heater for warmth in the winter.



Dallis taught in this one-room schoolhouse until a larger segregated school, East School, was built in 1952. The one-room schoolhouse was then used for storage, later a classroom on the main part of the campus and finally a lounge for the school bus drivers. In 1983 the schoolhouse was moved to its current home on the grounds of The Museum of Casa Grande. After some major restorations, it was dedicated as the "Rebecca Dallis Schoolhouse" in honor of the remarkable educator who went above and beyond for the African American children of Casa Grande during the years of segregation. Rebecca Dallis was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame on March 23, 2017.

3

800 N. Park Ave.
1917 Eclectic
Local Register - BeDillon's House/Museum
BeDillon's Restaurant and Cactus Garden

The original house that forms the core of the present-day BeDillon's Restaurant was built by Jean & Mattie Vallette and was their home until 1949. He owned City Transfer, she was active in the local Woman's Club and they spent much of their time collecting cacti, antiques and Hohokam Indian artifacts. One of the many original treasures that still remain is Jean Vallette's local historic



branding iron. The branding iron is embedded in various art projects in the downtown. Lee and Annabel BeDillon bought the property in 1965 and had much to do to bring the home back to its original luster. Michael and Nancy Jackson fell in love with the home and garden in 1986, bought it and opened their restaurant 761 days later. The entrance patio holds the reminiscence of a European Villa, announcing that this is a place of refuge for the fine diner and is unlike anything else in Casa Grande.

4

**465 W. Gila Bend Hwy.
1946 Moderne Roadside Art
National & Local Register - S.S. Blinky
Jr. Building
The Ark/MASH Unit Thrift Store**



An unlikely ship appears to be anchored on W. Gila Bend Highway (Hwy. 84). Complete with railings, portholes, and an anchor, the S.S.

Blinky Jr. has been a quirky presence in the community since it was built shortly after the end of World War II. The building was designed by an inmate in the Florence State Prison. It was constructed to house Wilson Motors and a gas station, owned by Clarence Jay "Blinky" Wilson, a longtime Casa Grande resident who started in the automobile business in his father's garage on Sacaton.

As the story goes, Blinky had a "ship" built to honor his son who was returning from serving in the Navy. Blinky was hoping to impress his son and lure him into joining the dealership, to which the son, upon returning home, stated that "he never had an interest in becoming a car salesman". Blinky, of course, was very disappointed.

This building was featured in Mark Vinson's book *"And Tiko-Tu?"*, The Midcentury Architecture of Greater Phoenix' East Valley.

5

**319 W. 3rd St.
1929 Craftsman
National & Local Register - Gustav Kratzka House
Casa Grande Art Museum**



Gustav and Helene Kratzka were German immigrants who opened the Berlin Bakery and Café on Main Street in 1912, in addition to farming 720 acres west of town. He served on Casa Grande's first city council, was elected director of the Casa Grande Valley Water Users' Association, organized a brass band and bred Percheron horses. Built for their retirement, this seven-room home is an outstanding example of a bungalow executed in rusticated cast concrete blocks with an interesting diamond-shaped composition shingle roof. Interior features included a large bath with tub and shower, an enclosed porch and basement. In 1987, Friends of the Arts, Inc. purchased the Kratzka residence, restored it and opened the Casa Grande Art Museum. The museum has a sculpture garden filled with the works of Arizona artists. The museum has a permanent art collection and during the season features local and Arizona artists.

6

**407 N. Sacaton St.
1924 Michael Sullivan -
Fieldstone Masonry
Tucson Architect Henry Jaastad -
Pueblo Revival
National & Local Register -
Woman's Club
Black Box Theatre**



The Woman's Club organized in 1913. By 1924 they had purchased a downtown block.

Their dream was to house the first Casa Grande library and to have a clubhouse. Lillian Peart, referred to as the “Mother of the Woman’s Club”, and Angela Hammer purchased the final parcels of the block so the club could mortgage the land to raise funds for the building. Most of the organizations in town were launched either by the Woman’s Club or in their building; the library, the Parent Teacher’s Association, the annual Christmas tree event, hot lunches for school children, annual flower show, senior high school proms, movies, soldiers’ recreation center during World War II, Junior Woman’s Club, Senior Citizens’ Club and so on. In 1997 the Woman’s Club gave their deed to the City for \$1.00. With Heritage Funds the City did a full rehabilitation of the property which was completed in 2001. The project received a 1st Place Arizona Main Street award for Best Historic Rehabilitation in 2002 and in 2003 a Governor’s Honor Award for the rehabilitation. In March 2003 the Woman’s Club celebrated with a 90th birthday party at the club. In May 2006 the organization disbanded. In 1991 the Segmented Reality sculpture was dedicated on the west lawn and in 2001 the Prisma Sculpture was moved to the east lawn from Erdmann Plaza. The City restored the original wood sign located at the entrance to this magnificent building in 2014. The sign is eligible as a local sign landmark.

7

**121 W. Florence Blvd.
1962 Neo-Expressive
No Register Listing - Erwin & Erwin
Insurance Building
Retail/Offices**



Built by Erwin & Erwin Insurance, subsequently it became Erwin-Erwin & Lamar and then Lamar Baker & Co. Leslie Erwin moved to Casa Grande in 1955. He was a cotton farmer, city councilman and insurance agent. He was one of the community leaders who convinced the San Francisco Giants to build their Spring Training Camp in Casa Grande. Thomas Erwin came to Casa Grande in 1957. He worked at the insurance agency and developed and owned Valley Warehouse and Storage. He helped develop plans for the city’s first industrial park, served as President of the Chamber of Commerce and was selected as Man of the Year in 1965 for his industrial development efforts. Bob Lamar was a community leader for 35 years, serving as Chairman of Pinal County Planning and Zoning, vice-president of the Industrial Development Authority and president of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. Gary Baker was in the insurance business for 42 years and specialized in farm and hail insurance.

Not only does this Mid-Century building sit on one of the city’s main streets, its roof protruded into the Arizona Department of Transportation right-of-way and was threatened with removal upon completion. An influential member of Casa Grande sat on the State Highway Commission and succeeded in reversing the mandate. The building is not on the historic register; however, the 1962 sign is eligible as a local landmark. The building was featured in Mark Vinson’s book *“And Tiko-Tu?”*, The Midcentury Architecture of Greater Phoenix’ East Valley.

8

**501 N. Marshall St.
1948 Commercial Wilhelm Fricke Poured
Concrete
National & Local Register - William Cox
Building
Commercial/Offices**



William Morton “Bill” Cox, a prominent State politician erected this building. Past tenants included Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph

Company, Dr. Robert W. Renck, Dr. J.W. Holdren (dentist) and radio station KCKY. Other tenants included Southwest Gas, Social Security Administration, Casa Grande Justice Court and the Law Firms of McBryde & Coxon; Stanfield, McCarville, Coxon, Cole & Fitzgibbons and McCarville, Figueroa, Cooper & Vasquez. From approximately 1960-1996 most of the law practiced in Casa Grande occurred in this building.

The architecture and construction is a significant example of August Wilhelm “Willie” Fricke, a German immigrant who moved to Casa Grande in 1915, using a system of horizontally casting concrete forms in place. This is one of more than a dozen Fricke buildings that remain in the downtown area.

The building was rehabilitated in 1998 to restore the exterior/interior for use by the Social Security Administration. While housing the Social Security Administration, the building was bombed on November 30, 2012 in an act of terrorism. The building only suffered superficial damage due to Fricke’s construction methods.

9

420 N. Florence St.
1929 Spanish Colonial
National & Local Register - Paramount Theatre
Paramount Theatre

Opening on December 24, 1929, the Paramount was considered to be as modern and fine a theatre as money could buy. The Publix-Rickards-Nace theatre chain, who opened the Orpheum Theatre in Phoenix on January 5, 1929, regarded the Paramount as one of the finest showplaces in rural Arizona. Live performances and talking movies kept the theatre open until the late 30s. The Long Theatre chain reopened in 1942 and hired Henry Bowers as manager. Under Bowers for 36 years, the Paramount regained its reputation as the premiere showplace until it closed in 1978. It opened as a movie house in the 1980s, but closed October of 1992 with the last show being Mr. Saturday Night starring Billy Crystal. Burdened with back taxes the property was sold at auction in 1993 to Debby Martin who wanted a place for arts and gymnastics for children.

For 10 years Martin worked tirelessly to restore the theatre to its original grandeur. She partnered with the City to obtain a Heritage Grant to restore the façade, removed the modern marquee to acquire National Register status in 1999, partnered with Casa Grande Main Street in 2003 to replace the marquee with a replica and did extensive restoration on the theatre’s interior. In 2003 a First Place Best Façade over \$25,000 award was given by Arizona Main Street and a Finalist award for Best Historic Preservation Project. In 2005 the Paramount received a Governor’s Heritage Preservation Honor Award. The marquee replica is eligible as a local landmark.



10

109 E. Second St.
1929 Spanish Eclectic
National & Local Register - Casa Grande Dispatch
Restaurant

Since January 13, 1912 Casa Grande has had continuous newspaper service. In 1929 two local newspapers merged, changed their name to the Casa Grande Dispatch, moved into this building and occupied it for the next 33 years. In 1962 Ruth and Donovan Kramer Sr. purchased the Casa Grande Dispatch and moved the business to 200 W. 2nd Street.

Our 1940s photo shows Editor and Publisher, Tom Robinson, crouched in front with the white shoes.

There have been a long line of community spirited and



highly respected owners and editors of the newspaper. To mention a few: Angela Hutchinson Hammer, the founder of the Casa Grande Valley Dispatch, was the first woman to be inducted into the Arizona Newspapers Association Hall of Fame and later into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. The second editor of the Casa Grande Dispatch, John "J.F." Brown, was the Pinal County Senator in the first Arizona State Legislature. The Kramer family has owned the paper for more than half of its existence. Like many of his predecessors, Don Kramer played an active role in the community and on the state level. Along with a few other leaders, he is credited with diversifying the area's economy by recruiting industrial employers who provided much-needed jobs to over 1,500 people in the 1980s. Kramer was a member of the Board of Freeholders in 1975 when the city's charter was adopted, served on the state commerce and transportation boards and received numerous awards for his accomplished newspaper career.

11

**221 N. Florence St.
1950 Wrightian/Contemporary
National & Local Register -
Valley National Bank
Cooper & Reuter, LLP**

Valley National Bank was the first to locate in Arizona's smaller towns. It first opened in 1934 a block south of this site. This building, a Central Business District Building designed for use as a bank, was built in response to both the new economic prosperity and the growth of the downtown district in the early 50s. By 1952, Second Street was designated as Hwy. 84 through town, rather than Main Street. In the 1960s there was extensive remodeling of the interior and exterior. Of special interest, note the exterior soffit featuring the Bank's thunderbird logo integrated into the cast stone fascia. The site remained as their local headquarters until 1991. Long-time residents often mention that in the day when John Wayne came into town he was seen at Valley National Bank and later having coffee across the street at Flo's.

This building was featured in Mark Vinson's book *"And Tiko-Tu?"*, The Midcentury Architecture of Greater Phoenix' East Valley.



12

**211 N. Florence St.
1937 Deco Commercial
National & Local Register -
Mandell & Meyer
Land Advisors Organization/Offices**

Mandell and Meyer department store, owned by Harry Mandell and Emil Meyer, was the first occupant. In 1951 the occupier was Cobb's Department Store and on May 26, 1961 Coxon Floor Covering/Western Auto celebrated their grand opening. From 1992-1994 it was a gymnastics center followed by a six-year vacancy and a five-year extensive rehabilitation that received a 1st Place Arizona Main Street award for Best Restructuring Story in 2005. In 2006 it was recognized as one of the top 10 historic preservation projects in the state and was presented a Governor's Honor award for Best Rehabilitation Adaptive Reuse Project. An interesting fact during this extreme makeover was the new footers along the walls required 4½ truckloads of concrete pushed in by hand in wheelbarrows. The property was transformed from a derelict downtown building with a deteriorated shell that had been gutted by the 1994 tenant into an elegant office building.



13

**117 N. Florence St.
1922 Commercial
National & Local Register Listing -
Pioneer Market
Against Abuse Offices**

Brothers Elmer and Roscoe Crabb built this double bayed brick commercial building, with the stone warehouse behind it. They operated the Crabb Brothers Trading Co., during the 1920s, moving on by 1928. In 1926 Mr. K.W. Ingram bought the George Bennett Meat Market located on Front Street (later Main Street) and renamed it Pioneer Market. In 1931 Charlie San Filippo and Gene Smith bought the store, moved it to this location and operated the grocery until 1957, when chain stores began moving in, making it difficult for a small business.

The Casa Grande Valley Bank was located next door. After the money was totaled at day's end the owner walked over to the south wall, pulled back some cans of product and pushed the daily deposit through a hole in the wall that went directly into the bank's vault. Vern Hancock always loved to tell the story about this being Casa Grande's first direct deposit. In 2002 there were substantial interior upgrades, new sidewalks and trees. The barely visible ghost sign on the building is eligible as a local landmark.



14

**119 N. Florence St.
1922 Commercial
National & Local Register Listing - Stone Warehouse
Against Abuse Offices**

This building is the only stone warehouse in Casa Grande. Built by local stonemason Michael Sullivan, also the contractor for Heritage Hall at The Museum of Casa Grande and the Woman's Club, the building was used as a warehouse and cooling storage facility by the Pioneer Meat Market, situated on the same property. The building's most unusual feature is a metal roof covered with three feet of dirt and topped with another metal roof. It was reported the coolest warehouse in town. The basement is where they hung the sides of beef. Take a close look on the west side of the building, just past the cozy patio breezeway area, to see the metal rings to which horses were tied in the early days. There is also metal signage that reads: "Danger Cesspool" that is eligible as a local landmark.



15

**110 & 108 W. Main St.
1914 Mission
National & Local Register -
Prettyman's Market & Brigg's Jewelers
Commercial Building**

Most of the original buildings on Main Street burned down. This building is one of the earliest replacements. Architecturally it's significant because of its unique curved parapet design.

Prettyman's served as a butcher and food market for Robert Andrade, Ramon Andrade and Don Prettyman at various times, and is on the same site of the A.J. Armenta General Merchandise Store.

Brigg's Jewelry was best remembered for selling jewelry, pawned items, records and record players. Bowser's Indian Store, known as Tee-Pee Trading Post and Ochoa's Trading Post have been occupants in this building.

Prettyman's/Brigg's and Armenta's are featured on the Casa Grande Main Street mural in the alleyway just north of Second St.



16

**200 W. Main St.
1937 Pueblo Revival
National & Local Register - Cruz Trading Post
Ochoa's Trading Post**

The original building was erected after the 1883 fire and is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Casa Grande. Located at the corner of Main St. and Top and Bottom St., it has served as a general store, post office and express office, saloon and dance hall, doctors' office, telephone office, lodge hall, bank and was then remodeled in the Pueblo Revival style by Ramon Cruz, Jr. for his trading post. For years it was Cuco's Tavern and recently returned to a trading post.

The Cruz family has been an important part of Casa Grande's history for at least three generations. Ramon Cruz, Sr. migrated to the Arizona frontier in the 1870s. Cruz began a family retail business tradition beginning as a clerk in trading posts on the Gila River Indian Reservation and by purchasing and operating Cruz Trading Post in various locations in Casa Grande, which was continued by his sons.

The Cruz Trading Post is featured on the Casa Grande Main Street mural in the alleyway just north of Second St. The American custom of cattle branding was adopted from Mexico. The Cruz branding iron is presumed to have come from Mexico. It is embedded in the sidewalk in front of the building, is represented on a Door to the Past on Third Street and may be found in sidewalks at other locations in the downtown.



17

**201 W. Main Ave.
c.1898 Adobe
National & Local Register -
Casa Grande Hotel/Gould Hotel
Vacant**

The Casa Grande Hotel/Gould Hotel is noteworthy as the earliest remaining hotel in Casa Grande. Initially the hotel served railroad passenger traffic. Mr. Gould purchased the hotel in 1909 and made additions before he died in 1916. His daughter operated the hotel until 1961. From the 1930s through 1961 the hotel's restaurant and banquet room served monthly luncheons to the city's civic organizations. Prominent Arizona residents, including Governor G.W.P. Hunt, were frequent guests.

This vacant property is to become part of the history plaza in the City's Life on Main project.



18

**115 W. Main Ave.
c.1890 Adobe
National & Local Register - Shonessy House
Vacant**

This single-story rectangular stuccoed adobe home with front veranda retains its original configuration. It's been the home of several prominent Casa Grande families: William Shonessy, who owned much property in downtown Casa Grande between 1900 and 1922; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Fisher, who used the back porch for a mortuary in the 1920s; and the Don Chun Wo family, highly respected local businessman and grocer in Tucson and Casa Grande, in the 1930s and 1940s.

This vacant property is to become part of the history plaza in the City's Life on Main project.



19

**215 N. Picacho St.
1935 Spanish Colonial Revival
National & Local Register - Murphy Hall
(Now known as Divine Mercy Chapel)**

In 1906, parishioners Ramon and Emilia Cruz donated a parcel of land to build this chapel in response to the growing population of St. Anthony's community. Meanwhile, a smaller adobe chapel located on First and Picacho streets served as the people's place of worship.

In 1932, Fr. Patrick J. Murphy, the founding pastor, led the task of raising funds and organizing labor to start the project while serving the missions in Eloy and Coolidge and the chaplaincy of the State Penitentiary in Florence at the same time.

In 1935, with people's support, this chapel was completed and served the congregation for 25 years until the present parish church across from it was dedicated on February 12, 1961. Consequently, this building became an activity center and was eventually named Murphy Hall.

In 1985 this building and the nearby Rectory were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2014, this building was renovated and restored to its original appearance and purpose. It became again a place for Eucharistic celebrations and was renamed Divine Mercy Chapel when Pope Francis launched the Jubilee Year of Mercy on December 8, 2015.

Both buildings are stucco over adobe brick. A small cross rises slightly above the roofline, the bell tower rises to four arched openings in a diamond pattern, the front façade has a small circular glass window and the ground story niche enclaves a statue. Special attention was paid to preserving the appearance of the original central arched wooden door during the renovation.



20

**301 N. Picacho St.
c.1907 Territorial Adobe
National & Local Register -
Johnston's Grocery Store
The Landmark Event Center**

This adobe building is one of 10 commercial adobe historic register buildings in the downtown. The property has taken on many names and owners since 1907. In the early years G. W. Johnston owned and operated Johnston's Grocery Store until Mr.

Johnston was robbed and murdered in 1935. After this tragedy his son, Lester, ran the store for awhile before selling the business to T.A. Morgan. Unfortunately, Mr. Morgan died of a brain hemorrhage in the same location where Mr. Johnston was murdered.

John Oliver Wilson purchased the building for "taxes owed" and operated the town's first Help Yourself Maytag Laundry until the mid-1950s. In 1959 Sofia helped Mr. Wilson's daughter, Christine, turn a catering business into a restaurant. In spite of the beautiful neon sign made by Sofia's relative Pedro Guerrero, the restaurant was only open a short time. In 1961 Christine reopened as Sofia's Mexican Kitchen until she sold the business in 1982. The amazing sign which has been dark for many years is eligible as a local landmark.

Along came Joe and Karen Revak, the new owners, in 1982. In the years that followed restaurants such as Casa Grande Café and Lupita's served the community. The building was empty and aging when Joe Revak sold the property to long-time resident Greg Serrano in the fall of 2014. Serrano transformed the entire property into an elegant event center. In this space you can enjoy the rich history of the past by viewing the preserved architectural features.



**510 E. Florence Blvd.
1921 Spanish Colonial
National & Local Register - Old Main
Casa Grande City Hall**

Casa Grande Union High School “Old Main” was built in 1920-21 at a cost of \$135,000. The two-story building with basement plus a natatorium and auditorium on either end was a milestone for a small community.



When the High School District built a larger facility on McCartney Road, the City of Casa Grande stepped forward to purchase the landmark and remodel it for the new City Hall at a cost of over \$4 million. An adobe gymnasium built at the rear of the building by the WPA in 1936 was removed during the rehabilitation. Small pieces of the adobe bricks were wrapped in net and given as mementos at the City of Casa Grande and The Garnet Retirement & Assisted Living community celebration on May 13, 1998. In 1999 the Casa Grande City Council received a Governor’s Award for “Organization of the Year” given for their creative adaptive reuse.

Funds were raised by former Mayor Bob Mitchell for the clock on the front lawn. The fountain and benches on the front lawn were dedicated April 4, 2006, as a tribute to Mike Candrea who coached the 2004 USA Olympic Gold Medal Women’s Softball Team and a remembrance for his wife, Sue Candrea. On the west end of the front lawn is the Ed and Lillian Pederson Memorial for Fallen City Employees dedicated October 11, 2010. At the rear of the building is the City Hall Plaza Project, dedicated August 7, 2000. The Arts and Humanities Commission have overseen these projects.

CASA GRANDE CURRENT HISTORIC REGISTER STATISTICS:

- 54 Properties listed on National & Local Historic Register
- 4 Properties listed only on Local Historic Register
- 1 Residential National & Local Historic District - Evergreen Addition
- 1 Local Sign Landmark

DOWNTOWN HISTORY PLAQUES

16" x 20" Limited Edition parchment Original Townsite Maps are available for a \$10 donation. 100 percent of the proceeds fund the downtown History Plaques. Maps are available at these downtown locations: Casa Grande Main Street, Adventures in Stained Glass and Western Trading Post.

1 Built 1951 - U.S. Post Office
200 W. 2nd St.

2 Built 1931 - Sprouse-Reitz Building
402 N. Florence St.

3 Built 1949 - George Y. Wah Complete Market
403 N. Florence St.

4 Built 1948 - Reliable Furniture Company
407 N. Florence St.

5 Casa Grande History Mural (Years 1879 to 1967)
4th St. & Florence St. (southeast corner)

6 Built 1945 - B & L Supply Co. Building
113 E. 4th St.

7 Built 1948 - William Cox Building
501 N. Marshall St.

8 Built 1922 - Pioneer Market
117 N. Florence St.

9 Built 1935 - Murphy Hall (now known as Divine Mercy Chapel)
215 N. Picacho St.



DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK PLAQUES

Sidewalk plaques are located from the northeast corner of 1st St. and Sacaton, down to Main St. then on Main St. to Florence St. These plaques were donated by Achen-Gardner/Ellison Mills during the 2006 Downtown Street Improvement Project on Main Street and Sacaton Streets. They highlight commemorative sites in the historic downtown.

1 **JC Steele & Co. concrete**
1st St. and Sacaton (northeast corner)

2 **Central Creditor's Association Building**
118 N. Sacaton St.

3 **Ward's Variety Store**
112 N. Sacaton St.

4 **Cruz Trading Post**
200 W. Main St.

5 **Jack's Place**
120 W. Main St.

6 **Horse Rings**
110 W. Main St.

Observe wrench imprints in the sidewalk at 117 N. Sacaton (Historically the Casa Grande Garage).



DOWNTOWN LOCAL HISTORIC BRANDING IRONS

Local historic branding irons are imprinted at several locations in the downtown area. They can be viewed at the following locations:

- 1** **The Museum of Casa Grande**
110 W. Florence Blvd.
- 2** **Doors to the Past**
Northeast corner of 3rd St. and Florence St.
- 3** **2nd St. Alleyway off Florence St.**
- 4** **100 W Main St.**
- 5** **110 W. Main St.**
- 6** **200 W. Main St.**
- 7** **Curvilinear sidewalk west of downtown roundabout**



DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR - ART PROJECTS

1

Prisma Sculpture

Designed by Artist Gary Slater in 1981.
Moved to this location 2001.
Arts & Humanities Commission Project
Location: Woman's Club - front lawn



2

Segmented Reality

Designed by Artists Les Wallach and Melody Peters.
Dedicated 11/9/91
Arts & Humanities Commission Project
Location: Woman's Club - back lawn



3

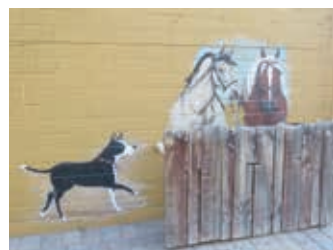
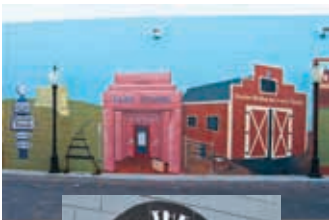
History of Top and Bottom St.

Historic Preservation Commission Project.
Dedicated 12/15/16
Location: Dispatch Window,
2nd St. Alleyway and Top and Bottom St.



4

Mural of the Francisco Grande Resort and the original Main Street Commercial District, Directional Hand, Horses and Sadee at Corral, Pearl Hart & Lamp Post, Pink Door, Saloon Girl at Window, ArtWalk 2008 Logo – Child with Palette, Louie Johnson & The Duke Door, Repurposed Horse Shoe Motel awnings, and Window with Flower Box





Local artists: Steve Kelly, Patti Kramer, Don Easterly & Ken Granger, Van DeLashmutt, Noelle Wells, James Fleming, Mark White, Marge Jantz, Diane Wehr, John Rooney, Gran Ma Gigi (Gloria Smith), Susan Ramos, Thom Poor, Anje Toothman, Tina Carter, Richard Ankrom, Hazel Bonebrake and Nancy Peterson

Completed May 2008

Casa Grande Main Street Project. 1st place Arizona Main Street Awards in 2007 & 2008

Location: 2nd St. Alleyway off Florence St. and Main Street Patio

5 **Table Top Mountain Mural**

Artists: Mark White, Duffy Sheridan & Nancy Peterson

Casa Grande Main Street Project

Completed 2007

Location: Main Street Patio in 2nd St. Alleyway off Florence St.



6 **Pedestrian Park**

Entryway features including the Metal Prickly Pears in

Planters designed by Metal Sculptor Charlie Lundgren

Casa Grande Main Street Project

Dedicated 5/31/05

1st Place Arizona Main Street Award 2005

Location: Southeast corner of 2nd St. & Florence St.



7 **Original Townsite Map Plaque and Pedestal**

Historic Preservation Commission Centennial Project

Dedicated 2/5/13

Location: Southwest corner of 3rd St. & Florence St.



8

Sunset Court Neon Sign

Historic Preservation Project

Dedicated 10/13/17

Location: Northwest corner of
3rd St. & Florence St.

9

Hwy. 84 History Trail MuralCasa Grande Main Street
ProjectMark White, Artist
(Under Construction)Location: Northwest corner of
3rd St. & Florence St.

10

Vintage & Neon Sign ParkCasa Grande Main Street & Historic
Preservation Commission Project
(Design & construction scheduled 2018)
Location: Downtown Arizona Plaza

11

Doors to the Past9 doors designed by local artists:
Bill Ludeke & Janet Sanders, John
& Susan Rooney, Marge Jantz,
Thom Poor, Amanda Berglund, Mark
White, Betty Pate & Linda Garrett,
Patti Kramer, Yvonne Johnson,
Gran Ma Gigi (Gloria Smith) and Van
DeLashmutt

Casa Grande Main Street Project

Dedicated 12/18/13

Location: Northeast corner of 3rd St. &
Florence St.

12

Paramount Theatre Marquee

Casa Grande Main Street Project

Dedicated 10/25/02

1st place Arizona Main Street Award 2003

Location: 420 N. Florence St.



13

History of Casa Grande Mural

Artist - Rose Johnson (10/2/60 – 6/1/09)

Casa Grande Main Street Project

Dedicated 5/1/98

1st place Arizona Main Street Award 1998

Location: Southeast corner of 4th St. & Florence St.



14

Open Linear Movement No. 18 Sculpture

Artist - Steven Jay Rand. Constructed and donated by Dana Baker in February 1982 to the City of Casa Grande.

Dedicated 8/12/82 to the graduates of Casa Grande Union High School who were killed in the Vietnam War.

Location: Southeast corner of 4th St. & Picacho St.



15

History of Firefighters

Artist - Bonnie Mostert

Arts & Humanities Commission project.

Dedicated 11/29/94

Location: Fire Station No. 1, Southeast corner of Florence St. & Florence Blvd.



16

War Memorial

"Proudly dedicated to the Men and Women of The Greater Casa Grande Valley who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States of America."

Donated by: An unnamed veteran

Location: Northwest corner of Peart Park (Florence Blvd. & Marshall St.)



17

Fountain of Dreams

Designer/Architect John Campisano
Arts & Humanities Commission project
in partnership with Beta Sigma Phi, Xi
Gamma Theta Chapter.
Dedicated 4/4/06
1st place Arizona Main Street Award 2006
Location: City Hall - Front lawn



18

Ed & Lillian Pederson Memorial for Fallen City Employees

Artist/Designers: Margaret and Michael
Joplin
Arts & Humanities Commission project
Dedicated 10/11/10
Location: City Hall - Front Lawn



19

City Hall Plaza Project

Design & Collaborations - Margaret Joplin
Arts & Humanities Commission project
Dedicated 4/8/00
Arizona Main Street Finalist Award 2002
Location: City Hall - Behind City Hall



CASA GRANDE MAIN STREET PROJECTS

These plaques recognize the volunteers and sponsors contributing to the success of the Casa Grande Main Street downtown design projects.

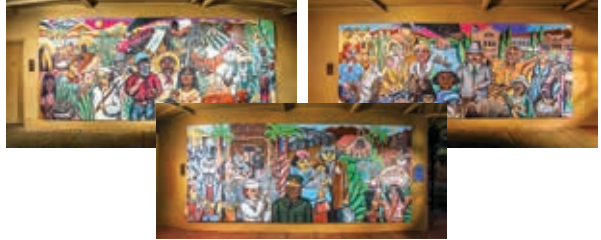


1998 History of Casa Grande Mural

Dedicated 5/1/98

1st Place Arizona Main Street Award 1998

Location: Southeast corner of 4th St. and Florence St.



2000 Main Street Patio

Completed 12/2000

1st Place Arizona Main Street Award 2001

Location: 2nd St. Alleyway off Florence St.



2000 Downtown Monument Signs

Installed 12/21/00

Finalist Arizona Main Street Award 2001

Location: Five Points intersection at Florence Blvd. and Pinal Ave. and Southeast corner of Florence St. and Florence Blvd.



2002 Paramount Theatre Marquee

Dedicated 10/25/02

1st Place Arizona Main Street Award 2003

Location: 420 N. Florence St.



2005 Erdmann Plaza

Dedicated 5/3/05

Finalist in two categories Arizona Main Street Award 2005

Location: Five Points intersection at Florence Blvd. and Pinal Ave.



2005 Pedestrian Park

Entryway features including Metal Prickly Pears in planters

Dedicated 5/31/05

1st Place Arizona Main Street Award 2005

Location: Southeast corner of 2nd St. and Florence St.



2007 Table Top Mountain Mural

Dedicated 9/30/07

Location: Main Street Patio - 2nd St. Alleyway off Florence St.



2008 Mural – Francisco Grande Resort and the Original Main Street Commercial District

Duration of Alleyway Art Project 8/2006 to 5/2008

1st Place Arizona Main Street Award 2007 & 2008

Location: 2nd St. Alleyway off Florence St. and Main Street Patio



Directional Hand



Horses & Sadee at Corral



Pearl Hart & Lamp Post



Pink Door



Saloon Girl at Window



Artwalk 2008 Logo - Child with Palette



**Louie Johnson/
John Wayne
Door**



Repurposed Horse Shoe Motel Awnings



Window Flower Box



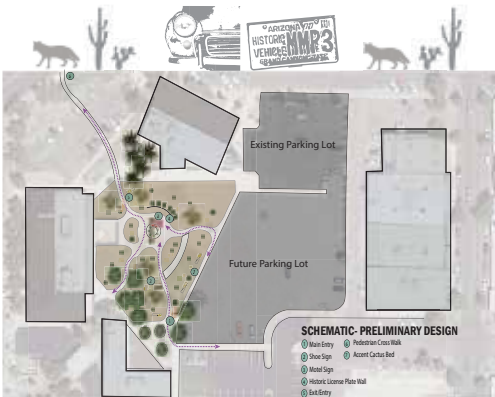
2014 Doors To The Past
 Dedicated 12/18/13
 Location: Northeast corner
 of 3rd St. and Florence St.



2017 Hwy. 84 History Trail Mural
 (Under construction)
 Location: Northwest corner
 of 3rd St. and Florence St.



2018 Vintage & Neon Sign Park
 (Design & construction scheduled 2018)
 Location: Downtown Arizona Plaza



DOWNTOWN POTENTIAL LOCAL SIGN LANDMARKS

Historic Name of Property, Location

Valley Pump & Machine Works
701 W. 2nd St.



SS Blinky Jr. Building
465 W. Gila Bend Hwy.



Boots & Saddle Motel
509 W. 2nd St.



The Wonder Bar
310 W. 2nd St.



Historic Name of Property, Location

Woman's Club
407 N. Sacaton St.



**Arizona Savings & Loan/
Casa Grande Valley Newspapers Inc.**
210 W. 2nd St.



Mandell & Meyer
121 N. Florence St.



Pioneer Market
117-119 N. Florence St.



Stone Warehouse
119 N. Florence St.



Historic Name of Property, Location

J.J. Kruse Building

112 N. Florence St.



Don Market

200 N. Florence St.



Casa Grande Dispatch

109 E. 2nd St.



Johnston's Grocery

301 N. Picacho St.



Paramount Theatre

420 N. Florence St.



Historic Name of Property, Location

Erwin & Erwin Insurance Building

121 W. Florence Blvd.



Dairy Queen

Designated 4/18/16

Local Sign Landmark

211 E. Florence Blvd.



Little Sombbrero

419 E. Florence Blvd.





Acknowledgements

FINANCIAL SPONSOR

Pinal 40, Inc.

OTHER FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Historic Preservation Commissioners

Clara Trulove, Jim Sommers, Marge Jantz and Susan Rooney

PARTNERS

City of Casa Grande - Historic Preservation Commission,
Casa Grande Main Street and The Museum of Casa Grande

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RESEARCH

Marge Jantz

CITY WEBSITE WALKING TOURS AND MAPS

<http://historic.casagrandeaz.us>

City of Casa Grande Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
and Planning and Development Department