

# ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME <i>Concrete Block House</i> ✓		COUNTY ✓ Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. BPP-4 (S)
COMMON PROPERTY NAME		QUAD/COUNTY MAP Phoenix Quad	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 640 North 6th Avenue ✓			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Phoenix ✓		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 111-39-196	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Shegeki Takahashi & Patricia Godfrey		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 3749 East Cholla			
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE ✓ Arizona	ZIP 85028
FORM PREPARED BY Gerald A. Doyle & Associates		DATE August 1982	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 4331 North 12th Street		PHONE 264-3082	
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85014
PHOTO BY Robert Graham		DATE July 1982	
VIEW Toward NW			
HISTORIC USE Single family residence			
PRESENT USE Single family residence		ACREAGE Less/Acre	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Constructed ca. 1911			



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This vernacular Neoclassical cottage is square in plan with a cut-away porch. An asphalt-shingled, hipped roof with bellcast eaves covers the house. The roof features a bellcast, hipped dormer with a pair of louvered ventilators flanking what was once a glass light, now boarded. The dormer is faced with wood shingles. One-over-one, double-hung windows with concrete lintels and projecting sills light the rooms. The most notable aspect of the house is its construction material: concrete block. The porch features a concrete block pillar at the Southeast corner and cast concrete columns with Tuscan capitals at the corners and the center of the front opening. A rear sleeping porch has been enclosed with wood siding. Additional modifications include a one-story addition on the rear, and a room extension projecting at the northeast corner; both additions are constructed of wood siding on a wood frame. The house is in good condition and fairly well maintained.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

This vernacular Neoclassical cottage, constructed ca. 1911, is architecturally significant for its use of precast concrete block simulating rusticated stone. Although the use of concrete block at the turn of the century was not uncommon, this cottage is one of the few remaining examples of concrete block construction in Phoenix. Precast concrete block was promoted as "better and cheaper" than brick or stone and was valued for its insulating and fire resistant qualities. The blocks were made hollow to permit air circulation in the walls. The origin of the concrete block has not been determined. Concrete block was available in Phoenix as early as 1906, and concrete block machines were available through the Sears Catalogue. Moreover, by 1909, a concrete block manufacturer is known to have existed in nearby Tempe. As many as fourteen block designs were available with Sears' Wizard Concrete Building Block Machine. The design used in this house was the "Panel Face" with beveled edges. As one of the few extant examples of early concrete block construction in Phoenix, the house appears eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance.

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## SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boyle, Bernard Michael. Materials in the Architecture of Arizona, 1870-1920.  
Tempe: Arizona State University, College of Architecture, 1976.
- Maricopa County Assessor's Records.
- Maricopa County Recorder's Records.
- Phoenix City Directories.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps.
- Schroeder, James J., ed. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 1908. Catalogue No. 117. Chicago:  
Follett Publishing Company, 1969.
- Woodward, Jim. Personal Communication, 1982.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BLOCK G, LOT 10, BENNETT AND PLANKS ADDITION.

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## GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY