

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Saint Anthony's Church and Rectory	
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Murphy Hall	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 215 North Picacho	
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Casa Grande	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 507-07-163
OWNER OF PROPERTY Catholic Church	PHONE
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 192 South Stone Avenue	
CITY, TOWN Tucson,	STATE Arizona
ZIP 85702	
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates Inc.	DATE 9/82
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 2121 S. Priest Suite 127	PHONE 967-7117
CITY, TOWN Tempe,	STATE Arizona
ZIP 85282	
PHOTO BY Casa Grande Survey Volunteer	DATE 6/82
VIEW looking southwest	
HISTORIC USE church	
PRESENT USE church hall	ACREAGE less/one
ARCHITECT/BUILDER	
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built 1935	

COUNTY Pinal County	INVENTORY NO. CG-113
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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This small church with gabled roof is simply designed with a Spanish Colonial Revival influence of stucco over adobe brick. A bell tower topped with a small cross rises slightly above the roofline at the north corner of the front facade. A small gabled addition extends from the rear with a second, smaller addition extending further. A central arched wooden door in a tiled recess dominates the front facade with a small circular stained glass window in the gable above. The bell tower rises to four arched openings in a diamond pattern. This pattern is expressed in curvilinear termination of the tower. A ground story central niche enclaves a statue. The north facade is punctured by five arched openings. The smallest addition has three small, uniformly placed windows. The larger addition has a door and a small vertically pivoting window. The church is well-maintained and unaltered except for the rear additions.

The stuccoed adobe rectory to the south of the main church has an equally simple design. Its original Spanish Colonial Revival influence conformed with the church design in exterior detail. The original interior of the same influence has a large (16' x 31') open beamed ceiling.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

Saint Anthony's Church, built in 1935, and the nearby rectory, built in 1936, were the first structures built to serve St. Anthony's Catholic Parish, established in 1932. Previously, a small adobe chapel had served the visiting priests and Catholic congregation. Father P. J. Murphy, the first resident priest, led the drive to build the church and rectory. Much of the materials and labor for the construction were donated by parishioners and all the church's appointments were gifts. Both buildings were designed in Spanish Colonial Revival Style to blend with the southwestern environment and religious tradition. Dedications of the buildings, in 1935 and 1936, were attended by visitors from around the state, including Governor B. B. Moeur, who spoke at each function. After the building of the new St. Anthony's in recent years, the 1935 church was renamed Murphy Hall and continues to be used for church functions.

Both the church and rectory are the only religious buildings in Casa Grande built of adobe. Material salvaged from the razing of the old church was incorporated into the construction of the rectory. Adobe bricks in the church were made at the site and are reported to be 18" thick. Interiors and exteriors of the buildings are little changed. Both buildings are significant examples of the revival of adobe as a construction material during the 1930s and each building retains a high degree of integrity.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Casa Grande Valley Historical Society newspaper index files
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society history and photo files
Interview: Mollie Cruz--August 29, 1982
"Souvenir of the Dedication of St. Anthony's Church" December 3, 1935

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 13-20, Block 24, Casa Grande Townsite

USGS QUAD - CASA GRANDE WEST

UTM references on continuation sheet

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY