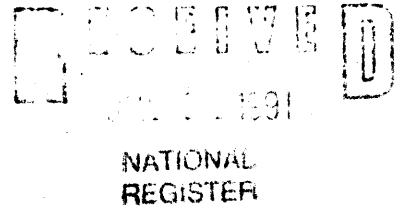


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Strauch House

other names/site number Fuller House

2. Location

street & number 148 North Macdonald

NA not for publication

city, town Mesa

NA vicinity

state Arizona

code AZ

county Maricopa

code 013

zip code 85201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Shereen Lerner
Signature of certifying official

6/25/91
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Shelous Byers
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

7/31/91
Date of Action

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mission Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls stucco over brickroof tar paperother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY:

The Strauch House is a 1906 Mission Revival style residence located in the original town center of Mesa, Arizona, just two blocks north of Main Street. The house is a one story structure distinguished by mission shaped parapets and an arcaded porch. The home displays a high degree of architectural integrity, and remains where it was originally built. There was an addition to the rear of the home circa 1940, but it is congruous with the architecture and not visible from the front streetscape. A wheel chair ramp has also been added to the front steps but is not permanent. Neither of these additions detract from the integrity of the structure.

DESCRIPTION

Original Framing and Construction: The Strauch House is a brick building, finished off with a sheathing of painted stucco, resulting in smooth planed walls. This is a common feature among mission revival buildings. The foundation is also brick including a brick floor in the unfinished basement. All materials are original.

There was an addition to the rear of the house built circa 1940 which included a small laundry room projecting from the north. Also at this time a carport was built alongside the laundry room. The laundry room is sheathed in the same stucco as the rest of the house and the carport is a simple wood structure.

The interior walls of the living and dining room are finished six foot wainscot molded paneling made of walnut and oak relief. Around the rest of the house the walls are plaster with wallpaper. The ceiling is also plaster with false walnut beams. The floors throughout the home are hardwood strip.

Originally, the home was designed to be two stories, but the second floor was never added. This helps explain the contour of the roof, which is flat except for a stairwell which rises out of the southern end. The walls around the house are mission shaped parapet style, with coping made from brick just as is the rest of the construction. True to the style, all the walls are smooth planed stucco. There is an open porch on the front with

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six arches facing the street and one on each end. The arches are supported by six heavy squared piers, another characteristic of Mission Revival style structure. The porch is flat roofed and joins the main structure about two-and-a-half feet lower than the top of the walls on the main structure. It is here that the curvilinear gables and parapet rise over the porch. The front of the porch is itself decorated with a parapet and curvilinear gables. Two steps rise into the third arch from the north and the entrance to the home is located under this arch. The entrance is an oversized wood framed doorway. The door itself is original and carved of walnut. The back door is in the southern corner of the west (rear) facade.

The fenestration around the entire house is original. The windows are on a 1/1 pattern, double hung with wood sash, and original multi-paned leaded glass transoms. There are two windows on the south side of the front entrance and three on the north side of the entrance. On the north side of the home there are two windows towards the rear. On the rear of the home there is one window on the north end, one multi-paned horizontal window in the center, and another window before the rear entrance. On the south side there is one window towards the front and one towards the rear, they are separated by another horizontal multi-paned window. It is on this side of the home that a room extends and breaks with the pattern of a rectangular model. There is one window on the front of this extension and one on the south side but neither of them have the multi-paned transoms characteristic of the others. This, most likely, is due to the fact that the room is not as tall as the rest of the house and there is not sufficient room for the transoms.

Current Appearance and Alterations: The alterations made over time have not appreciably changed the appearance as described above. The most significant alteration was the addition circa 1940 of a laundry room projecting off of the back of the home on the north side. This addition is not visible from the street, however, and has been tastefully molded onto the house in a successful attempt not to alter the original style or material. Also in the rear, a carport has been added, but this is removeable and does not detract from the integrity of the building. A wheelchair ramp has been added to the front entrance, but this addition is not permanent, and could be removed without damage to the building.

There is some deterioration to parts of the stucco around the home, particularly in the rear on the porch, and along the inside of the curvilinear gables. None of the alterations or deterioration are so severe that they detract in any way from the integrity of the

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home. With the exception of those changes mentioned above the house stands as it originally was constructed.

Interior: The interior is classic Craftsman style. The interior walls of the living and dining room are wainscot oak and walnut molded panelling six feet high. Above this panelling, and around the rest of the interior, the walls are plaster, usually wallpapered. On the north end of the living room there is a large fireplace with original stone work and a built in L shaped bench to the left and built in shelves to the right. The ceiling is also plaster with false walnut beams. The floors throughout the home are hardwood strip. There are two bedrooms in the rear of the home, divided by a shared bathroom and a connecting closet. The kitchen is in the rear corner along the south, a room protrudes from this southern side. The dining room and living room take up the entire front half of the house. The condition of the interior is excellent.

Site: At the end of the walkway remains an original mounting block used for stepping up to a carriage. There was also originally one of these located on the north side of the porch but it has been removed and is now located in the Mesa Southwestern Museum.

There are two buildings on the property which are non-contributors to the nomination. Originally there was a wooden garage in the back of the home which was removed around 1940 when two additional structures were built on the property. The first was a small brick residence built about forty feet from the main home. The other, a larger brick and wood structure was built at the same time and was originally used as a warehouse but was converted to a residence in the 1950's.

The Strauch House faces east and is located in the town center section of Mesa, just two blocks north of Main Street and one block north of the Mesa Southwest Museum. The neighborhood is quiet, consisting of a large number of older homes of architectural significance. The street is wide and divided by a median strip with orange trees growing in it. This streetscape was common in the area at the time. The neighborhood was considered the upperclass section of town when it was first established.

Integrity: The changes that have occurred to this home over the last eighty-five years are minimal and constitute virtually no permanent changes to the building. Only the wheelchair ramp and a swinging chair on the porch are visible from the front, and neither feature is permanent. The other two additions are only in view from the rear of the house. Given the rarity of such an excellent example of this style of architecture in

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Mesa, the location in such a unique neighborhood, the early construction date, and the lack of alterations, the building is worthy of recognition and preservation.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1906

Significant Dates
1906

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The Strauch House, constructed in 1906, is significant under National Register Criterion "C" as a rare example of Mission Revival style residential architecture in Mesa and Maricopa County. Despite very minor modifications this home still conveys a high level of architectural integrity. The house was originally constructed for Paul E. Fuller, an irrigation engineer for the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Fuller lived in the house for thirteen years, until 1918. After 1918 the house was occupied by a number of different residents but it is not known whether ownership was actually transferred or the property was leased. In 1936, the Donald Strauch family moved into the house. It is this family which has owned the house for the past forty-five years. The Strauch family runs a local business in Mesa.

HISTORIC CONTEXT-ORIGINS OF MESA, ARIZONA

The town of Mesa is located on land which for many centuries was part of an ancient Hohokam Indian village site. The Hohokam chose this land because of the ease with which they could irrigate crops with water from the Salt River which courses through the valley. These Indians disappeared from the Valley early in the 15th century. After the American Civil War the Salt River Valley's population began to grow, and the site of Mesa was once again viewed by the immigrants as an attractive to place to settle.

In 1875, a Mormon exploring expedition travelled south from Salt Lake City, Utah, and settled in the Salt River Valley. In 1877, Brigham Young, who became the leader of the Church of the Latter Day Saints when Joseph Smith was murdered in 1844, sent out the Lehi Company to begin settling the Salt River valley and the next year sent out the Mesa Company. On February 14, 1878, the Mesa Company camped five miles east of the Lehi

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maricopa County, Arizona, Assessors Records.

Mead Tray C. and Robert C. Price. Mesa: Beneath the Shadows of the Superstitions. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, 1988.

McClintock, James H. Mormon Settlement in Arizona. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985.

Mesa Historic Inventory Survey, by Linda Laird and Associates.

Interview with Mary Strauch by Robert Carriker, October 25, 1990.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Mesa Southwest Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 12 422480 3697790
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Strauch House is in the lot with tax parcel number 138-34-029, located in the north-east quarter of the northwest quarter of township 1 north, range 5 east, section 22, Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the full extent of the property historically associated with the Strauch House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Carriker
 organization Arizona State University date April 8, 1991
 street & number Mariposa Hall, Box 154 telephone (602) 784-9877
 city or town Tempe state Arizona zip code 85281

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settlement on the Salt River. On July 12, 1878, Theodore Serrine filed for possession of Section 22, the area now known as Town Center.

The town site was set out according to the plan given by Joseph Smith for the City of Zion and used as the basis for all Mormon settlement. The Section was divided into plots of ten acres with very wide streets typical of Mormon towns. The plots alternate in alignment of their lots, running north-south in one and east-west in the next.

The settlement flourished with the high quality soil and irrigation from the river. Ten years later the town had 300 inhabitants and one year after that it officially took the name of Mesa. The town continued to grow. Part of the expansion can be credited to the passage of the Reclamation Act in 1902, which allowed a group of valley farmers to organize and construct Roosevelt Dam by 1911. This water storage facility made farming in the Salt River Valley a safer and more prosperous endeavor.

The original owner of the house at 148 N. Macdonald was an irrigation engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation. The fact that Mr. Fuller would have worked for these irrigation projects, and had the stability to build such a nice house is an example of the growth which was taking place in Mesa. It is even more representative of the degree of influence by the Bureau of Reclamation in this population growth.

When Mr. Fuller moved out of the house in 1918 a diverse group of residents occupied the property for the next eighteen years: two widows, a cotton buyer, a lawyer, a rancher, and a salesman. This wide range of people shows the growth of Mesa during this time and the sundry opportunities available. It was in 1936 that Donald Strauch, a local printer and stationary salesman purchased the house and it has remained in his family ever since. This too is representative of how Mesa was now settling into its role as one of the main cities in the East Valley. The Strauchs have been respected businessmen in the city since 1929 and still own a stationery company located on Main street. Mrs. Strauch is a past-president of the Mesa Woman's Club.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT-LOCAL

Early Mesa buildings were characterized by thick adobe walls, gabled roofs, high ceilings, and a central entry. The Strauch house was one of the first homes constructed

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in one of Mesa's oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Today, the neighborhood remains very pleasant with its architectural integrity largely intact.

Though many interesting homes were built in the area, the Strauch House is the only Mission Revival style home remaining in the neighborhood. A Mission Revival style church was built in Mesa in 1915. At the time the Strauch House was constructed, residential architecture in Mesa was dominated by the Bungalow and Vernacular styles. In addition to the Strauch House few more Mission Revivals were built during the 1920s and 1930s, but the Bungalow and Vernacular styles remained the most popular.

INTEGRITY

In form and design, the Strauch House still clearly exhibits the characteristics of the Mission Revival style of the early 1900's. Symmetrical in appearance, the house has mission style parapet walls, and an arcaded porch. The entire house is stuccoed brick. All of these elements are hallmark features of the Mission Revival style. The minor alterations on the rear are not visible from the front, streetscape facade, and the addition of the wheel chair ramp on the front is not permanent.