

# ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME W. A. Moeur House		COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 165
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Moeur House/9th and Ash		QUAD/COUNTY MAP	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 850 Ash Ave.			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 132-42-001A	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Three Seasons Inc.		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 100 West Clarendon, Ste 1500			
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona	ZIP
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates, Inc.		DATE 12/82	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 2121 South Priest Suite 127		PHONE 967-7117	
CITY, TOWN Tempe		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85282
PHOTO BY Tempe Historical Society		DATE May 1981	
VIEW looking west			
HISTORIC USE residence			
PRESENT USE restaurant		ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built 1910			



**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION** The two-story W. A. Moeur House is square in plan with a projecting wing at the north end of the front facade and is of brick construction. The most outstanding features of the house are the concrete brick quoins outlining all corners and edges of the house, and the bellcast copper roof. The house design is a variant of the Western Colonial style that employs a roof form reminiscent of the Victorian style. Major Western Colonial characteristics include the square plan, columned porch, central hipped roof, and dormers. The pedimented front gable, gabled roof intersecting the central hipped roof, gable dormer, gable vents, and bellcast roof exemplify Victorian qualities. The slightly bellcast copper-clad roof features an irregular plan and a gablet at the front. The gable end over the front wing is pedimented with a short roof overhang and a round ventilator. A sun room at the south of the house has been enclosed and has a hipped roof. All eaves are boxed. The front porch is also covered by a bellcast roof, which is supported by square brick pillars springing from a low brick wall framing the porch. The porch is reached by a short flight of steps. All windows in the house have been replaced but the original segmentally-arched openings were utilized. Concrete brick quoins demarcate all corners and outline the windows and the front slope chimney. A band of decorative concrete brick surrounds the house at the height of the window arches. The exterior is little changed except for enclosures of the porches. The interior has been modified somewhat to accommodate the restaurant currently occupying the house. The house's most outstanding features, the copper bellcast roof, and all exterior brickwork have been preserved and are in excellent condition.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY**

The house at 850 Ash is well-known as the permanent home of William A. Moeur, prominent Tempe citizen. Moeur was a brother of B. B. Moeur, well-known Tempe physician and governor of Arizona during the 1930s (#148). His son, Sidney B. Moeur (#122) was a prominent Tempe businessman and attorney. Moeur moved to Arizona in 1893; lived as a businessman in Tempe between 1899 and 1901; then lived in Phoenix until 1905, when he bought a ranch near Tempe. In 1910, he built the house at 850 Ash, and lived there until his death in 1929. During his residency in Tempe, Moeur assisted in organizing the Tempe schools and was a member of the first Tempe school board. He was chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors from 1912 to 1915 when he was appointed first State Land Commissioner, a post he held until 1921. He also served as Justice of the Peace in Tempe for several years.

Although the interior of the house has been modified, the exterior remains a good example of styling transitional between Victorian and classic box. Executed in brick, the house retains most of its original detailing and stylistic features. Of special note are the concrete brick quoins outlining all corners and edges of the house, and the bellcast roof.

**SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Tempe News 4/1/10, 4:2
- " 4/29/10, 3:1
- " 12/28/29, 2:1-2
- " 1/4/30, 3:1

Tempe City Directories, 1910-1932

Tempe Historical Society photograph and historical files

Arizona Historical Review, January 1930, p. 22

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lot 1 and 2, Gage Addition  
 Tempe Quad  
 Z-12, E-412440, N-3698120

**GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY**

The house most outstanding features, the copper bellcast roof, and all wall framing the porch. The porch is reached by a short flight of steps. All windows in the house have been replaced but the original segmentally-arched openings were utilized. Concrete brick quoins demarcate all corners and outline the windows and the front slope chimney. A band of decorative concrete brick surrounds the house at the height of the window sashes. The exterior is little changed except for enclosures of the porch. The interior has been modified somewhat to accommodate the restaurant currently occupying the house.