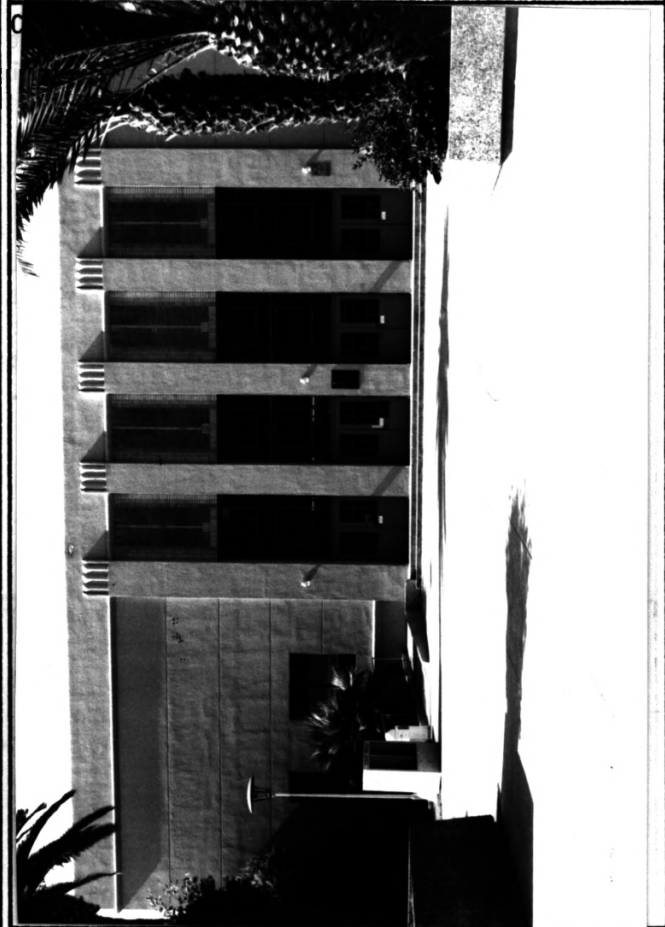


ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME B. B. Moeur Activity Building		
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Moeur Administration Building		
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. ASU campus (Building 37)		
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. NA	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Arizona Board of Regents	PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 1535 West Jefferson		
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 1982	
VIEW looking south		
HISTORIC USE Women's Activities Center		
PRESENT USE Administration offices	ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER architects: Lescher and Mahoney		
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built 1936-1939, Remodeled 1963		

COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 207
--------------------	----------------------

QUAD/COUNTY MAP



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Moeur Building is a large, flat-roofed, one-story structure with a frontage of 177 feet, a depth of 123 feet and a height of over 25 feet. Federal Moderne in appearance, the building faces north and is constructed of concrete, wood, and adobe. The more than 50,000 adobe bricks made on the site were used to infill the concrete post and beam frame. The building is symmetrical and H-shaped with the east and west wings extending approximately 20 feet to the north and five feet to the south.

The entry features four pairs of flush doors with nine-light openings, and 30-light transoms. The doors are separated and flanked by Moderne pilasters with polychrome brickwork between the pilasters over the transoms. Similar pilasters and brickwork appear on other facades of the building. The body of the building is stuccoed and scored horizontally.

Internally, the building features a 22-foot by 40-foot two-story foyer and the original recreation room/auditorium space (68ft by 100ft by 20ft high). Interior remodeling has altered some spatial features although most spacing, including the original auditorium/recreation room, remains intact. The building has been well-maintained.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

The Moeur Building is significant for its architectural value and its historical associations. The combination of Moderne style and use of adobe in construction makes this building unique and the only example of its type in Arizona. Large public buildings incorporating adobe in the 1930s are rare, and the Moeur Building is the best known and largest example of such construction in Arizona. The building is also known as the "largest structure of its kind to be built in Arizona by the labor of the Work Projects Administration." The building retains most of its original integrity and spatial configuration despite functional changes and loss of original wall murals.

The building is historically associated with Dr. Benjamin Baker Moeur, a Tempe physician. He served as secretary to the Board of Education for Arizona State Teachers College (ASU) for many years and as Governor of Arizona for two terms (1933-1936). As a member of the Constitutional Convention for the State of Arizona, he wrote the portions of the Constitution pertaining to education, creating the basis for development of the state's educational system.

Although the building is not yet 50 years old, its architectural and historical significance are of exceptional merit.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

"B. B. Moeur Acitivity Building Dedication Program", September 29, 1939.

Arizona State University Archive, Biographical Data, Building Plans.

Tempe Historical Society, biographical file

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 22 T1N R4E ASU Campus

Tempe Quad

Z-12, E-413040, N-3697800

see map

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY

B. B. Moeur Activity Building
Arizona State University

Statement of Significance (Addendum)

The B. B. Moeur Activity Building possesses exceptional significance within a local and state context for its architectural stylistic characteristics and for its unique combination of materials. It is also noteworthy as one of the few major WPA-constructed buildings in Arizona.

An example of Federal Moderne style architecture, it is unique among the other ASU campus buildings. Typical of buildings of the Moderne style, the ornamental features are predominantly rectilinear and in low relief. A series of stylized pilasters with fluted capitals articulate the central bay of the facade and create a vertical emphasis typical of Moderne buildings.

On the interior, Moderne style detailing is limited to low relief wall and ceiling panels which have incised geometric designs. Original wall murals have been removed, but the stylistic components of the lobby are still readily apparent. The main interior space is the auditorium/recreation room.

This space has been rehabilitated for open-plan office use. The original surface treatments are obscured, but the space itself remains intact. Other aspects of the original floor plan, which include a single loaded U-shaped corridor plan around the main auditorium, are also intact, with simplified interior finishes, doors, and hardware remaining.

The physical construction of the Moeur Building is also unique. The main structural framework is concrete, and the walls are infilled with adobe. No other structure of this type is known in the state. While adobe was a native and common building material in Arizona, the use of adobe had been largely superceded by other materials for anything other than residential structures.

Further, the economic advantages, as well as labor intensiveness of adobe for the nonstructural walls of the Moeur Building, would have made adobe ideally suited to the economy and intent of WPA-financed construction projects. This application of adobe in large-scale projects correlates with the use of adobe for the Casa Grande High School gymnasium, constructed by the WPA in 1936.



Tempe MRA

B.B. Moeur Activity Building

Arizona State University

Photo by Roger A. Brevoort

May 1985

View of main facade illustrating main
entry - view looking south

Photo 1 of 3



Tempe MRA

B.B. Moeur Activity Building

Arizona State University

Photo by Roger A. Brevoort

May 1985

View of interior lobby showing ceiling
detail.

Photo 2 of 3



Tempe MRA

B.B. Moeur Activity Building

Arizona State University

Photo by Roger A. Brevoort

May 1985

WPA medallion on front steps

Photo 3 of 3