

New

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium	
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. NE corner of Mill and Apache	
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. NA
OWNER OF PROPERTY AZ Board of Regents	PHONE
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 1535 West Jefferson	
CITY, TOWN Phoenix,	STATE Arizona
ZIP 85007	
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates	DATE 2/83
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 602 North 7th Street	PHONE 254-0826
CITY, TOWN Phoenix	STATE Arizona
ZIP 85006	
PHOTO BY not available	DATE
VIEW	
HISTORIC USE auditorium	
PRESENT USE auditorium	ACREAGE 18
ARCHITECT/BUILDER Frank Lloyd Wright	
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES 1959	

COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 140
QUAD/COUNTY MAP Tempe Quad	



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

On a prominent corner location, Gammage Auditorium, which seats 3000, has a plan based on interlocking circles. Exit ramps extend outward on each side of the building into the integrated parking areas. There are 50 concrete columns cast on the site, and each rises 55 feet to support the outer roof. The exterior walls are brick and marblecrete in "desert-rose" finish. The interior, with continental seating, features brick and sand finish plaster. The grand tier is suspended forward of the rear wall, on a 145-foot long steel beam, to solve the acoustical problems of seating between the orchestra and balcony.

11/28/84

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium is architecturally significant as the last non-residential design undertaken by Frank Lloyd Wright before his death in 1958. As a masterpiece of circular design it is expressive of Wright's post 1936 theories on architecture which emphasized his feelings about "plasticity and continuity of space and structure". The circle as a theme in Wright's architecture dominated his work beginning in 1936 with the Johnson Wax Building throughout the final years of his career, ending with this Auditorium for the performing arts at Arizona State University commissioned by President Grady Gammage.

Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium is exemplary of the culmination, both in form and theory, of Wright's circular mode of architecture and deserves recognition for its important place in the evolution of the career of this master architect. The building is published in the works of noted architectural historians, William Storrer and Marcus Whiffen.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASU Archives

Storrer, William, The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, MIT: 1978

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles, MIT: 1969

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 22

Tempe Quad

See sketch map

See UTM's on topographic map.

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY