

# ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME ✓ Ellis/Shackelford House		COUNTY ✓ Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. BA-39A (S)
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Central Arizona Museum		QUAD/COUNTY MAP Phoenix Quad	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. ✓ 1242 North Central Avenue			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Phoenix ✓		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 111-33-2	
OWNER OF PROPERTY State of Arizona		PHONE 261-7587	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 205 S. 17th Avenue			
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona ✓	ZIP 85007
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates Rev. by Gerald A. Doyle & Assoc.		DATE August 1982	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 4331 N. 12th Street		PHONE 264-3082	
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85014
PHOTO BY Robert Graham		DATE June 1982	
VIEW Toward NW			
HISTORIC USE Residence			
PRESENT USE Museum		ACREAGE 40,000 s.f.	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER R. A. Gray Architect; Tom Weatherford Contractor			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Constructed 1917			



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The large two-and-a-half story, natural tapestry brick Ellis/Shackelford House is rectangular in plan and covered by a broad, clay tile, cross-gabled roof. The building's design is an artful blend of the Craftsman Movement with detailing related to Spanish Colonial Revival. The most notable feature of the house is its roof; the large gables are actually dormers at each face of a great hipped roof. The fascia and soffitted overhang, with its repeating paired brackets, form a kind of red tiled skirt across the lower margin of the brick gables. A broad one-story front porch stretches across the front of the house and is distinguished by an octagonal bay at the north end. A low-key, flat-roofed porte-cochere projects from the south side of the porch. The white-painted trim and the natural concrete sills contrast with the dark, russet-toned wire-cut bricks and, thus, emphasize the porch openings. A small, tiled, hipped roof protects the north porch at the breakfast room. A pergola shades the west side of the house. Combinations of double-hung and casement windows are found throughout. Decorative leaded, beveled glass is used at the living room windows, in the front door, and in the sidelights. Naturally finished materials are used both inside and outside. Philippine mahogany is used for stairwells, wainscoting and built-ins in the tradition of the Craftsman movement. The Ellis/Shackelford house is virtually unaltered, in excellent condition and very well maintained.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

The Ellis/Shackelford House is noteworthy as the home of prominent physician W. C. Ellis and as an excellent example of a craftsman style Central Avenue home. William Clyde Ellis (1875-1931) came to Phoenix from Ohio in 1907, and built up a successful practice as a physician and surgeon. He was responsible for the financing and erection of the Physicians building and just west of that in 1923 the structure known as the Ellis building - one of the leading office and store buildings in Phoenix at that time.

Ellis was organizer of the group which established the Arizona Deaconess Hospital, (later renamed Good Samaritan Hospital) where he served as chief of the medical staff. He also served a term as city commissioner in 1920-21.

In 1917 Dr. Ellis had architect R. A. Gray (best known in Phoenix for St. Mary's Church) design a house for him on Lot 2 in the Blount Addition. T. L. Weatherford was the contractor. Ellis resided there until his death in 1931. At that time his daughter Helen and her husband J. Gordon Shackelford moved into the house. The Shackelfords lived there until 1964 when the building became the San Pablo Home for Boys. Since May 1973 the Phoenix Historical Society has been maintaining the building as the Central Arizona Museum.

The Ellis/Shackelford House is also significant as the best example of a Craftsman Style home remaining on the Central Avenue corridor, once an exclusive residential  
(See Continuation Sheet)

#### SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Central Arizona Museum Files.

Charles Hall Page & Associates, Inc. Phoenix Historic Building Survey, prepared for The City of Phoenix Planning Department, 1979.

Janus Associates, Inc., Historical and Architectural Resources Along the Inner Loop Corridor, Phoenix, Arizona, prepared for the Arizona Department of Transportation, 1981.

Maricopa County Assessor's Records.

Maricopa County Recorder's Records.

Phoenix City Directories

Sanborn Insurance Maps.

Sloan, R. E., History of Arizona, Vol. IV, Phoenix: Record Publishing Company, 1930.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2, Blount Addition

#### GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY

The Keeper of the National Register determined that this property is eligible for inclusion on the National Register on April 8, 1977.

1242 North Central Avenue  
Ellis/Shackelford House  
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY (Continued)

thoroughfare. The Craftsman Style was popularized by cabinet maker Gustav Stickley in the first two decades of the twentieth century. This style, an offshoot of the bungalow, was characterized by a naturalistic use of materials, which encompassed a particular emphasis on woodwork and built-in furniture. Mahogany from the Philippines, milled and finished in Phoenix, was emphasized in the woodwork of the house. Chandeliers and light fixtures were of custom design and hand painted. The wire-cut tapestry brick used on the exterior was shipped from Colorado.

The house is also noted for its early use of technological devices such as a solar hot water heater, automatic flush toilets, a dual soft and hard water plumbing system, and a central vacuum system.