

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 6 1979  
DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Andre Building

AND/OR COMMON

Andre Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401-403 S. Mill Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tempe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Maricopa

CODE

13

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Tempe

STREET & NUMBER

31 E. 5th Street

CITY, TOWN

Tempe

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arizona

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maricopa County Recorders Office

STREET & NUMBER

111 So. Third Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey Prepared for the City of Tempe  
Neighborhood Development Program, prepared by CNWC Architects

DATE

March 16, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City of Tempe

CITY, TOWN

Tempe

STATE

Arizona

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Andre Building is a two-story brick masonry structure, rectangular in plan 75 feet wide and 60 feet long. Both levels of the main (west) facade are divided into three bays. On the first level, each bay is comprised of cast iron columns which separate transomed plate glass store fronts or double door entries. Access to the second level is from a street entrance within the central bay.

The second level is constructed of plain pressed facebrick in running bond over double wythe common bond masonry construction. All facade elements are symmetrical with one brick pilaster at either end of the facade. Each outside bay contains two independently situated segmental arched windows.

The central bay on the second level is of simple neoclassical revival design with two pairs of pilasters separating four segmental arched windows. The pilasters have corbelled bases and molded brick capitals with connecting string courses between each capital.

A terra metal cornice with denticulation below runs the length of the west facade and the low parapet above is topped with a central corbelled pediment.

Modifications to the original west facade are limited to some painting of the brick on the first level, applied wood facing also on the first level, and a suspended metal canopy over the sidewalk.

The north facade is symmetrical in design and contains the same neoclassical revival elements as the main facade, although with less detail. All openings on the first level have been infilled. The second level is separated into three bays, with each outer bay containing two independently situated segmental arched windows. The central bay is composed of four pilasters separating three more segmental arched windows. The parapet is corbelled as is the central pediment. The arches of all windows on the north and west facades are of brick masonry simulating rusticated stonework.

The interior of the building (lower level) is divided into three bays, each 60' x 25' with its own storefront and door on the west side. The floors throughout are wooden. The distance from floor to ceiling is fourteen feet.

The upper level is accessible by a stairway originating from the sidewalk on the west side and ending in the upstairs hallway which runs the length of the building, east to west. The upper level can best be described as three bays, 60' x 25', each partitioned differently. The bay on the north of the hallway, had been at one time, divided into office size spaces- the doors and transoms are still in place. Part of the partitioned middle bay has a kitchen which was left from the activities of an early lodge organization. The remaining bay on the south wall is one large room with no sign of ever having been partitioned. The floors in the upper level are also wooden and approximately 14' to ceiling.

While the general condition of the interior of the Andre building does not show a long history of good care and maintenance, neither has it suffered modernization of any kind. Most original doors and frames, window frames and flooring, especially in the upstairs, are intact and repairable. There is a walk-in safe, from a post office at one time, located in the south bay on the first floor.

(See Continuation Sheet)

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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An Initial Survey of Historic Resources within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area, Maricopa County, Arizona, prepared for the Department of Defense, Corps of Engineers, L.A. District, by Dorothy H. Hall, State Historic Preservation Officer.

Depository - Arizona State Parks Board  
Phoenix, Arizona

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Future Use:

At the present time plans are under way for restoration of the building. The intention is to conduct retail business in the lower level and offices and studio spaces in the upper floor. Plans include bringing the building into compliance with the building code while retaining the original architectural details and floor plan.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

James M. Creighton

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tempe, Arizona was an important agricultural, educational, and political center in territorial Arizona. First established as Hayden's Ferry in 1871 by one of Arizona's most renowned pioneers, Charles Trumbull Hayden, Tempe was strategically located along the Salt River and became the first beneficiary of a canal system, established on the remnants of the ancient Hohokam canals, which became the key to central Arizona agriculture. Here the first grove of citrus trees in the valley was planted and the first large experimental date farm in the West was established. In 1885, Tempe became the home of Arizona's first school of higher education, the Territorial Normal School. Of even more importance, however, was Tempe's contribution to Arizona politics. In 1912, Carl Hayden, the son of Tempe's founder, took his seat as Arizona's first and only member of the U.S. House of Representatives. After seven terms as Congressman, he was elected to the Senate, where he served for 14 years as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and as President Pro Tempore. When he voluntarily retired in 1968, he had served on Capitol Hill longer than any American.

During this period, Mill Avenue, which ran south from the Salt River to Eighth Street (now University Drive), was the focal point of business activity in Tempe. This area experienced a construction boom beginning in the late 1880s, and one of the first of these buildings that remains on Mill Avenue, the Andre Block displays the best integrity of territorial commercial architecture of any building continuously used for commercial purposes in the Salt River Valley and is one of the last remaining buildings with a cast iron front. The Andre has housed numerous merchantile businesses and professional offices in its 90 year history.

The first business to file title to what became the Andre Block, in 1887, was the Tempe Land & Improvement Company. This company made the first development of the present Tempe possible when it purchased 80 acres of land from the Mormon colony, located just south of University Drive, as well as 320 acres from two ranchers and 305 acres from Charles Trumbull Hayden. They then subdivided the newly acquired land for hotels, businesses, and homes.

In June 1888, R.G. Andre, a prominent Phoenix entrepreneur, purchased the lot at Fourth Street and Mill Avenue and erected a two-story building, as well as a one-story building, designed by Phoenix architect James M. Creighton. Creighton was undoubtedly the most prominent architect in territorial Arizona. Some of the more well-known buildings erected under his direction include the original Adams Hotel in Phoenix, the original Phoenix City Hall, the Phoenix Court House, the First Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Old Main at the University of Arizona, the Pinal County Court House in Florence, and the Old Dominion Hotel in Globe. The latter three buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, Creighton designed several other Tempe buildings, including the original building at the Territorial Normal School,

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the Curry Block, Oddfellows Hall, the Petersen Block, and the Niels Petersen residence (which is on the National Register of Historic Places). In 1894, the one-story wooden section was replaced with a two-story brick structure, which was attached to the main building. The building was then remodeled in 1900, at which time the present facade was added.

During the territorial period, lodges and secret societies were the basis for social and cultural activities in Tempe. The Andre Building played an important role in these activities by housing, through the years, the Ancient Order of United Workmen(AOUW), Degree of Honor Alden Lodge, the Grand Fraternity Butte City Lodge, the International Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Macabees, Knights of Pythias, Modern Workmen of America, Rebekah Silver Star Lodge, United Moderns, Woodmen Circle, and the Woodmen of the World. Andre Hall was most important, however, to the Masonic Lodge, which gathered there for 35 years, from 1918 to 1953. The Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Good Templers also called Andre Hall their home. And as a result of the efforts of these temperance groups, Tempe became the first town in Arizona to enact a Prohibition ordinance some years before the nation went dry. Moreover, both the Congregational Church and the Christian Church held services in Andre Hall before they could afford to build their own houses of worship.

The first commercial business to open its doors in the Andre Block was Andre & Mertz, Andre's own saddle and harness shop. Other businesses included the Pioneer Meat Market, Tempe's first office of the Sunset Telegraph & Telephone Company, and the Wells Fargo Express. From 1916 to the 1930s, Wickliffe's Furniture and Undertakers was located on the first floor; it was the building's longest-residing commercial tenant.

In 1918, the Tempe Post Office moved into new quarters in the Andre Building, at 403 Mill Avenue. During this time, it functioned as a central gathering place for this rural community. From 1916 to 1924, Tempe's most prominent merchant, Hugh Laird, was the postmaster in the Andre Building. Laird also served as mayor of Tempe for 14 years, and his 32 years on the city council is a state record. Following Laird, Charles Wolf (who served in the Territorial Legislature) served as acting postmaster for a short time. Then the office was assumed by Floyd Miller, who served for 31 years (1926-1957). In 1947, the post office moved from the Andre Building to other quarters.

The Andre Building's architectural integrity as well as its association with James M. Creighton, the Masonic Lodge, and other cultural groups, and the post office certainly makes this a most historically important commercial building in Tempe. But more than this, the Andre Building has a strong sense of character and lends a feeling of uniqueness to downtown Tempe, which sets the area apart from other communities in the Salt River Valley. It is a landmark which serves as a reminder to Tempeans that their city has roots in a proud territorial past; many residents have been attracted to Tempe for this very reason. Indeed, the building is the subject of many artists' and photographers' works. Certainly, this remnant of our cultural heritage should be preserved as a historic site for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

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Phoenix City Directory, Phoenix Directory Co., 1892, 1899-1900.

Phoenix City and Maricopa County Directory (Arizona), A.P. Skinner, 1905-1906.-

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City Directory of Phoenix, Arizona, Cox & Fleming, 1898.

Phoenix City and Salt River Valley Directory, 1913.

Phoenix and Maricopa County Directory, Arizona State Press, 1914.

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Mesa, Tempe, Chandler and Gilbert Arizona Consurvey City Directory, 1952.

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Perris and Sanborn Map Co. Limited, New York, New York, Maps of years 1890, 1893,  
1898, 1901, 1911.