

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Main Building, Tempe Normal School		COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 170
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Old Main		QUAD/COUNTY MAP	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. ASU Campus/East University			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL N NA	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Arizona Board of Regents		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 1535 West Jefferson			
CITY, TOWN Phoenix		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85007
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 1981	
VIEW looking northeast			
HISTORIC USE school			
PRESENT USE school		ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER Fred Heinlein/ W. A. McGinnis/ 1953 Kemper Goodwin			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES 1894-1898/1953			



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Main Building is two and one-half stories tall with a full basement. The overall massing (30ft by 135ft), the hipped and projecting gable roof, the porch detailing, and the chimneys reflect a Victorian, Queen Anne influence, while the granite base and red sandstone decorative stair copings and entryway hoods have a decidedly Richardsonian Romanesque feeling. The exterior and bearing walls are brick, while the roof is pressed metal with castellated cresting and metal ridge finials. The main facade faces north toward University Drive (8th Street) and is distinguished by two projecting gables separated by the 1953 fire stair addition. Originally the building had a two-story wooden porch and projecting stone stairway. Openings generally have stone lintels, and stone string courses wrap the building at the window sill level. The windows of the upper levels of the north facade have circular arches while openings on the south have segmental arches. The interiors have been modified but with rather limited removal of original elements. The building has been well-maintained and appears to have no structural problems.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

Old Main is historically significant for its association with the Normal School and its growth into Arizona State University. It is the oldest surviving building on the campus and is the focal point of the quad (open space) associated with the original school property. The Main Building was the principal academic and administrative center of the campus until the late forties when the post-war expansion began. In March of 1911, Theodore Roosevelt spoke from the front steps, while visiting Arizona to dedicate Roosevelt Dam.

Architecturally, the Main Building is one of the largest buildings constructed in the Arizona Territory (total cost \$44,071.34). It is distinctive in its use of materials, especially native granite from Tempe Butte and red sandstone from the famous Flagstaff quarry.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ASU Archive
- Tempe Daily News, various issues
- Sanborn Fire Maps, 1898, 1901, 1911, 1927
- ASU Current Building Plans (3 sheets)
- The ASU Story

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NW¼ NE¼ Section 22 TINR4E
 Tempe Quad
 Z-12, E-413240, N-3698100
(see photo map)

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY

There may be an effort to restore the north facade for the University's Centennial in 1986.