

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Meehan/Gaar House		COUNTY Pinal County	INVENTORY NO. CG-119
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Gaar House			
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 202 West 1st Street			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Casa Grande		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 507-07-058	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Roger E. & Mildred H. Wolf		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 4928 East Meadowbrook			
CITY, TOWN Flagstaff,		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85001
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates Inc.		DATE 9/82	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 2121 South Priest Suite 127		PHONE 967-7117	
CITY, TOWN Tempe,		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85282
PHOTO BY Janus Associates Inc.		DATE Feb. 1982	
VIEW looking northwest			
HISTORIC USE residence			
PRESENT USE residence		ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built early 1900s			



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This one-story square plan dwelling has a south and east orientation to First and Washington Streets. A veranda extends on three sides with the north, nonstreet facing side infilled with a stucco addition. A wood-shingled pyramidal roof surmounts the stuccoed adobe structure joining to the later shed veranda roof. Hipped-roofed dormers with vents protrude symmetrically from the south and east roof hips. A lattice carport addition to the west has an asphalt-shingled shed roof attaching at the original eave of the house. The Bungalow veranda with large square concrete slab columns and low connecting perimeter walls is a modification of an earlier wood veranda with slender wood posts and a shed roof separate from the main roof. French doors are symmetrical on the east facade and a front door is off-center on the south facade. Original casement windows remain on the south and east. Addition windows are casement or plywood infilled. Chimneys protrude from the north and east roof hips.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

The Meehan/Gaar House is significant for its association with two of Casa Grande's well-known citizens. Tom J. Meehan came to Casa Grande in 1903 and built the house at 202 West 1st Street soon after. Meehan owned the popular Gilt Edge Saloon from 1905 until it was burned in 1914. He rebuilt the saloon after the fire but died in late 1914. He also invested in local mines and served on the Casa Grande Board of Trade.

Fanne Gaar bought the house in 1920. She had arrived in Casa Grande in 1915 and worked in the city's first bank, the Casa Grande Valley Bank. Mrs. Gaar later operated a hardware store and real estate business and was active in Casa Grande civic affairs, serving on the city council. In 1927, she was the first woman to be elected mayor of an Arizona city and served in that capacity until 1929. Mrs. Gaar was one of Casa Grande's most respected citizens and lived in the house until her death.

The house is also architecturally significant as an unusual example of the Colonial Revival influence executed in adobe. Although not original, the bungalow adaptation of the veranda, probably executed by Mrs. Gaar, is now a significant feature of the house.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Casa Grande Valley Historical Society newspaper indexing files
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society photo files and history files
Interview: Opal McNatt Barlow--September 8, 1982

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 18-20, Block 11, Casa Grande Townsite

USGS QUAD - CASA GRANDE WEST

UTM references on continuation sheet

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY