

# ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Hugh Laird House		COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 222
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Hugh Laird House		QUAD/COUNTY MAP	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 821 South Farmer			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 124-69-5 & 6	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Barr		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 821 South Farmer Avenue			
CITY, TOWN Tempe		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85281
FORM PREPARED BY Janus Associates		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 1982	
VIEW looking east			
HISTORIC USE residence			
PRESENT USE residence		ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built c1908			



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Hugh Laird House is composed of two parts, both constructed during the same time period. The major portion of the house is rectangular in plan, 25 feet deep by 30 feet wide, and covered with a hipped roof. A 10' x 15' extension to the north is constructed of matching clapboard siding and supports its own crimped gable, hipped roof. Enclosed eave and plainboard fascia detailing is the same on both, as are the doors and double-hung sash windows. An original pitched-roof screen porch extends the length of the front of the house, and access is through a central entry. The house shows the influence of the neo-Colonial style in a very modest format. Symmetrical plan, hipped roof, eave details and clapboard siding are all characteristics of this popular residential style during the turn of the century. The house has been well-maintained and still conveys its association with a particular place in Tempe's architectural development.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY**

The house at 821 Farmer Avenue is significant for its historic association with one of Tempe's most outstanding citizens, Hugh Laird. It is noteworthy as well for its architectural value as one of the best-preserved remaining frame dwellings dating from the first decade of the twentieth century. Designed in a subtle neo-Colonial format, the house, with its boxlike massing, hipped roof, clapboard siding and modest exterior detailing, provides a good example of the pre-bungalow style in local residential construction.

Hugh Laird came to Tempe with his family in 1888 at the age of 5 years. His residency in Tempe continued until his death in 1970. During that time his business and public service career included 60 years as a registered pharmacist, 66 years as owner of Laird and Dines Drug Store (#196), twelve years as Tempe postmaster and two terms as a representative in the state legislature. Perhaps his most outstanding contribution to local politics was his 32-year consecutive seat on the Tempe City Council, 14 of those years as Mayor. During that period, from 1930 to 1962, Tempe's population rose from 2,500 to 25,000 and the town saw substantial growth far beyond its anticipated boundaries, especially after the close of World War II. City government issues, which had yet to be addressed, such as city planning, growth policies and rapidly expanding municipal budgets came to the forefront during Laird's lengthy tenure on the City Council. Policies generated during that time did much to shape the present environment and image of modern Tempe.

The Hugh Laird House was built c1908 and was continuously occupied by Laird for almost 30 years. Its importance as the home of one of the community's most productive pioneer businessmen and politicians merits its recognition and preservation.

**SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Tempe News, various issues, 1888-1935
- Arizona Republic, 1970
- Tempe City Directories, 1892-1932
- Raymond, Minnie Laird, Personal Interview, 1982
- Maricopa County Assessor's Records, various years

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 5 and 6, Block 1  
 Tempe Quad  
 Z-12, E-412325, N-3698160

**GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY**