

# ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME Harrington/Birchett House		COUNTY Maricopa	INVENTORY NO. 111
COMMON PROPERTY NAME Birchett House		QUAD/COUNTY MAP	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 202 East 7th St			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Tempe		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 132-27-06	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Olivia H. Birchett		PHONE	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 202 East 7th			
CITY, TOWN Tempe		STATE Arizona	ZIP 85281
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 north			
HISTORIC USE Residence			
PRESENT USE Residence		ACREAGE less/one	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER Birchett Brothers			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Built 1895; Remodeled 1931			



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Originally a Victorian cottage, the Harrington/Birchett House was remodeled in 1931 into a Period Revival style with English Tudor overtones.

The house is presently irregular in plan with an asphalt-shingled, steeply-pitched hipped roof and a wall dormer with a lancet head ventilator with louvers on the east end of the front facade. The front facade steps back for the central entry and steps back again at the east end. The single leaf door is reached by two concrete steps and is set into a semi-elliptical arch of decorative brick. Windows are either casement or double-hung and are wood-framed. A single leaf entry is located at the rear of the house in a small porch. The house is surfaced with stucco. A double garage at the rear of the property is also covered with stucco and has wooden auto doors.



**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY**

This house is noteworthy as an excellent example of Period Revival styling. The core of the Harrington/Birchett House was built in 1895 as part of the J. W. Harrington homestead. The original house was a single-story brick Victorian cottage built by the Goodwin Brothers who were operating a brick manufacturing business at that time. In 1904, the house was acquired by Mattie Birchett at the time her son, Joseph T., married Mattie, Joseph, and his family occupied the house until around 1920, after Joseph retired from the Birchett Brothers store, the family mercantile business, for health reasons. Mattie died in 1925. The house was a rental property until the 1930s, when it was reoccupied by Joseph and Guess Birchett. Joseph T. Birchett, in addition to partnering with his brother John in a mercantile store, owned considerable Tempe real estate, was a director of the Tempe National Bank, and was Mayor of Tempe from 1912 to 1914. He died in 1953. Guess was well-known locally for her work in bird and nature studies and her participation in beautification efforts for Tempe. She died in Tempe in 1979. The Birchett family still owns the property.

The building was remodeled in 1931 into a Period Revival style house with English Tudor qualities. The remodeling included rebuilding of floors, enclosure of porches, and covering of exterior brickwork with stucco. The house is in excellent condition and deserves recognition for its architectural qualities and its association with important Tempe business and civic leaders Joseph T. and Guess Birchett.

**SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Tempe City Directories 1892-1932

Tempe News, 1/22/04, 3:1

3/7/31, 3:2

Tempe Historical Museum Oral History: Mrs. J. T. Birchett 3/11/70

Tempe Historical Museum Birchett Family History file

Tempe Old Settlers Book

Maricopa County Assessor's Records

Chain of Title

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

Lot 11, Block 12, West Tempe

Tempe Quad

Z-12, E-413040, N-3698420

**GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY**