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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Surveys

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

Properties within the Multi-Resource district which are already on the State or National Registers.

#### State Register

Hassayampa Inn, 121 East Gurley

#### National Register

Old Governor's Mansion, 400 block of West Gurley Prescott Public Library, 125 East Gurley Yavapai County Courthouse, Courthouse Square

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, <b>.</b>	CONI	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK	ONE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND OHIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The City of Prescott stands on the NW slope of Bradshaw Mountains of Central Arizona at an elevation of 5354 feet. Much of the surrounding area is heavily forested. The climate is mild and semi-arid, with distinct seasons.

Entering the historic section of Prescott from the east, one by-passes shady streets lined with handsome two-story homes before reaching the commercial core of the community. This area has traditionally been located about a spacious park which surrounds the Yavapai County Courthouse (NR). Interspersed with the commercial and residential structures are churches, schools, libraries, and fraternal halls. A large proportion of these buildings date from Arizona's territorial period. During that span of nearly fifty years, Prescott was founded, functioned intermittently as the territorial capital, and grew to prominence as a social and economic center. Numerous politicians, merchants, and capitalists chose the community as their place of residence during that time. Prescott's historic buildings faithfully represent the town's genesis and have formed the basis for most subsequent development.

For purposes of discussion, Prescott's building activity may be divided into three phases: early territorial (1864-1880), middle territorial (1880-1900), and late territorial (1900-1912). Buildings built during the early territorial phase tend to be simple in construction and detail. Locally available materials were employed throughout the period. The earliest structures used uncut logs; later building was done with lumber cut at the Curtis mill or its competitors. Toward the later part of the 1870s, a brick plant added masonry to the materials pallet. Except for log structures, buildings erected during this period tend to be vertical and thin in porpo-tions. These qualities are primarily derived from the character of windows, doors, and porch columns. Roofs are primarily gabled although some commercial buildings have shed or flat roofs. Ornamental details are frequently non-existent. Where they do occur they are small and greatly simplified versions of their prototypes. Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, and Renaissance Revival forms constitute the stylistic body after which designs were usually patterned.

Few of the buildings erected prior to 1880 have survived. What has survived intact from this phase of development is the land use pattern and general townscape character. Commercial structures have no set back from the front property line and usually abut another building on either side. They form a dense linear mass which is particularly apparent around the courthouse plaza. On the other hand, residences are usually situated at least 20 feet from the front property line and have adequate side yards. Each residence is thereby set in its own frame of grass and trees; a necessary condition for the picturesque tradition which dominated nineteenth century design. Public and semi-public buildings are sited according to their function and location in the town. Examples of the early territorial period include the Wells House (103) and the Shekels House (112).

Completion of the trans-continental railroad across northern Arizona signalled the arrival of new building materials and styles in Prescott. Although construction in any significant volume did not begin until the 1890s, the middle territorial period might be considered to be a high water mark in terms of architectural activity. Many of the structures built at this time are multi-storied, well constructed, and elegantly detailed. In the commercial sector, structures are commonly tall and narrow with a classically derived facade. Masonry is typically used, especially on the two and three-story buildings. Pressed metal or cast iron elements cover earlier fronts or are integrated into new ones. The Knights of Pythias Hall (123) on North Cortez is one of the rare examples of commercial building from this period. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In contrast to the rectangular, utilitarian character of the commercial blocks, residences from the middle territorial period are highly sculptured and ornate. Massing is typically asymmetrical, although floor plans include both irregular and rectangular forms. In terms of proportions the middle territorial residences are clearly vertical but they lack the thrust of earlier designs. Even the towers seldom extend upward as clearly independent elements. Materials are used in combination on the exterior with lower surfaces frequently done in masonry and upper surfaces done in clapboard or shingle. Roofs are most commonly gabled with a variety of ridge heights. Hip roofs and gambrel roofs are to be found occasionally. Details are usually small and classical in derivation, but they are frequently supplemented with jigsawed and turned ornament in the carpenter built tradition. Bay windows, turrets, Palladian windows, dormers, "L"-shaped verandas, and bracketed columns are major design elements.

The origins of middle territorial residential design in Prescott are commonly traced to the popular Queen Anne Style. Although the Fisher/Goldwater House (124) comes closest to capturing the medieval character of that style, most of the designs are better considered as eclectic components on a Queen Anne base. For example, numerous structures are enveloped by their exterior surfaces in the manner of the Shingle Style. Other buildings contain pointed windows, tie rods, and spikey silhouettes characteristic of Victorian Gothic. In a few instances the Queen Anne form is ornamented with details in the Eastlake style. It is probable that most of these designs were based upon pattern books although professional architects began to appear about 1890.

Late territorial buildings are distinguished from their immediate predecessors by the use of more industrialized materials and a controlled, formal quality to the designs. Most of the buildings are multi-storied and regular in plan. Commercial structures are more theavily ornamented: principally in a manner derived from either the Renaissance Revival, Remanesque Revival, or Classical Revival. Public and semi-public buildings are designed in the same tradition although a few red brick schools may be ascribed to the Georgian Fevival. Residential design is greatly influenced by the neo-classical and the shingle style during this period. Classical details are much larger and more accurately rendered. Symmetrical facades are common. Roofs are either hipped or gabled. When gabled, the roof often sweeps down in an uninterrupted plane from the ridge to a one-story porch. Hipped roofs may be truncated and topped with a short railing as in the Sloan House (151). In spite of the obvious influence of classical forms, many buildings continued to follow some of the precedents set during the Victorian era. For example, the Gage/Murphy House (131) is obviously Renaissance Revival in character yet its unusual asymmetrical massing can be test understood as an extension of the Queen Anne.

In the years following Arizona's statchood, Prescott's architectural design has paralleled stylistic and technical developments common to the American scene in general. Examples of the Mission Style, Bungaloid, Modernistic, and International Styles may be found in the community. However, these later works have tended to respect the land use pattern and tecmiscape character established during the territorial years.

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#### SPECIFIC DATES

#### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Arizona Territory was established on the 24th of February in 1863 and in May, gold was discovered in the Prescott area by the Joseph Reddeford Walker party. The population of Arizona at that time included numerous Indian tribes, most of whom were less than pleased at the heretofore feeble attempts of Anglos to gain a foothold in the territory. Thousands of Anglos had passed through Arizona on their way to California gold fields and some of these disappointed argonauts had come back for a second look. Strikes were made and small beachheads established, with the help of the military, in the 1850s. The beginning of the Civil War caused the withdrawal of federal troops and the abandonment of the stage line. Sympathy for the South was strong among those few settlers who remained and an abortive attempt was made to capture and hold the territory for the Confederacy.

The return of Federal troops and the establishment of the Territory made the political organization of Arizona possible and necessary. Tucson was the only settlement of any size but its Southern sympathies made it unacceptable to the military. The gold discoveries of the Walker party caused a rush to the Prescott area, troops followed, and the new governor was urged to locate the territorial capitol in this economically promising and politically uncompromising region. The governor and his staff arrived in the territory in December and a temporary capitol was set up near Del Rio Springs early in 1864.

By the Spring of 1864, a better location was found on Granite Creek and a townsite was laid out in May by Robert W. Groom and Van C. Smith\*. The townsite covered two quarter sections and was divided into blocks of 325' x 600' with 100' wide streets and 25' alleys. A central plaza was surrounded by commercial lots of 25' x 125' on the North and South side and 25' x 100' on the East and West side. The remainder of lots were 50' x 150'. Near the plaza, a block was set aside for public building. The town was named to honor noted historian William Hickling Prescott and many of the streets were named for historic figures. The first lots were sold on June 4th and building began immediately. The original governor's house still stands and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to being the capital, Prescott was also the county seat of Yavapai, the largest of the four counties into which the territory had been divided, and one blessed with rich mineral resources.

Because of its prominent political and economic position, Prescott was the scene of many Arizona firsts. The year 1864 saw the opening of the first school in the territory, the first sawmill, and the authorization of the Arizona Historical Society. The newspaper published that year was not a first, however, as the <u>Arizonian</u> had been published briefly in Tubac in the 1850s. In 1865, the first Arizona Masonic Lodge was organized. In 1866, nearby Fort Whipple was made the military headquarters of Arizona, gold mining was at its peak, and Prescott's future looked bright. In the meantime, however, Tucson and the mining areas of Southern Arizona had also been thriving and in 1867 the legislature voted to move the capitol to Tucson. The loss of the capitol was a serious blow to the economic and social life of Prescott and there were also serious Indian problems in the 1870s. On the

\* The original platting and selling of lots was not done according to the correct legal procedure. This issue was not resolved until 1872.

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other hand, the lumber business was thriving because of the growing demand in Tucson and the new community of Phoenix and a number of important silver strikes were made.

The town was incorporated in 1872, a year which also saw the first influx of Chinese into the community. The previous year, Arizona's first protestant church was established. In 1874-75, several wagons of settlers from Kansas arrived. For the rest of the decade Prescott had a steady growth, adding new buildings, more sawmills, the first hospital, a hookand-ladder brigade, a library association, and a telegraph line to Yuma, The capital was returned in 1879 and remained in Prescott until 1889, when it was permanently located in Phoenix.

In 1878, the town had a population of 2000, two newspapers, two hotels, and 25 stores. In addition to the sawmills, there were brick yards, lime kilns, and a sash-blind-and-moulding factory. The economy was based on mining, the military, and government.

The 1880s started badly with a mining slump but this was partially offset by the growth of the cattle industry which had started in the 1870s and continued through the 1880s with an influx of midwestern farmers and cattlemen. In 1882, the Atlantic and Pacific Railway completed its line across Northern Arizona and a branch line to Prescott was built in 1886. In the meantime, mining had revived and a number of new ore reduction works were constructed in 1883. Another slump came in 1885, serious enough to cause several Prescott businesses to close. Mining revived in the late 1880s with new discoveries of gold, silver, copper, and lead and new methods of extracting and processing them. At the same time, the transcontinental railroad created a string of new towns in northern Arizona that became trade rivals of Prescott.

In spite of the economic see-saw, Prescott was never in any danger of collapse and its history has been one of steady, unspectacular growth. By 1881, there were five churches and in 1884, the town built a waterworks and a new city hall. An electric light plant was built in 1889. On the political front, the Arizona Republican Party was organized in Prescott in 1880. A notable cultural event was the fourth of July rodeo in 1888, which, unfortunately, was a month too late to be the first rodeo in Arizona.

The turn of the century brought several changes. Fort Whipple closed in 1898 and did not reopen till 1902. The year 1900 brought a major fire to the commercial district. There had been a number of smaller fires in previous years but this one destroyed 4½ blocks of downtown Prescott and led to a complete rebuilding of the commercial area. The loss was estimated at one and one quarter million dollars.

Merchants set up tent shops on the plaza during the rebuilding as frame buildings were replaced by brick and stone. That same year the federal government informed the city that Fort Whipple would be reopened and expanded if Prescott could enlarge its water system. A new system was constructed and water was piped from Del Rio Springs, 23 miles away, to a reservoir near the town, which now had a population of 5000.

Transportation and communication facilities continued to improve. A branch railroad to lerome was built in 1898 and in 1904 a branch was extended to the Bradshaw mining district. lectricity and telephones had arrived in the 1890s and a streetcar franchise was granted o Frank Murphy in 1892. Nothing came of this venture however, and in 1902, a new franhise was granted to Frank L. Wright. Wright named his company the Prescott and Mt. Union Form No 10-300a (Rev 10-74)

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Railway, since he expected to supply the town with passenger cars and the Mt. Union area with freight cars. The Santa Fe Railway opposed the freighting idea and forced its abandonment, but did not build a line of its own. Wright then decided to add passenger service to Ft. Whipple.

The first portion of the city track opened July 26th, 1904 with two electric Brill-type cars made in St. Louis and equipped with electric heaters for the chilly Prescott winters. The Ft. Whipple line opened November 14, 1905. For a few years the line did very well but as the number of people stationed at the fort gradually decreased, the streetcar project had to be abandoned. By the end of 1915, the tracks were being torn up, although a few are still in place and paved over. Some of the tracks were used to make the vaults for the Bank of Arizona. One of the streetcars was sold to Bisbee and the other remained in Prescott, where it was used as a dwelling and later junked.

Throughout the 20th Century, Prescott has remained the largest city in the County. Its 1970 population was 13,000, and half of the people in the County live in or near Prescott. Mining continues to be of major importance to the economy, but government (including federal, state, county, and municipal) is still the primary employer. Prescott National Forest and the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Whipple are among the major federal agencies and county government is still centered in Prescott.

Cattle and sheep ranching have been important for a century and the town still serves as a regional trade center. Tourism is of increasing value and there are many summer homes and children's camps nearby. The excellent climate has also attracted numbers of retirees and health seekers. Throughout its history the town has had a vigorous cultural life with a strong emphasis on education.

Prescott has often been described, both culturally and architecturally, as under New England or midwestern influence and much of that quality remains. Motel strips, trailer parks, and suburbs have encroached very little on the core of the town and the residents are working vigorously to retain the special qualities which attracted them to Prescott in the first place. Zoning ordinances have been passed and historical surveys are in progress. A number of individuals and businesses are engaged in, or contemplating, restorations.

Prescott contains one of the oldest and best preserved bodies of American architecture built in the southwestern United States during the nineteenth century. The style and construction of these buildings is an important part of the general American culture complex brought into the region during its territorial development. As an architectural tradition, the buildings are further distinguished as they pre-date completion of the transcontinental railroad and they show no indication of influence from Hispanic or Indian traditions. These features are significant for they contradict the common notion that diffusion of American styles in the southwest occured after completion of the railroad and that such styles were overlaid on preexistent Hispanic or Indian forms. Of course, as a general observation, this characterization is quite valid. However, it should be recognized that Hispanic influences in the southwest were centered in the Rio Grande valley of New Mexico with only a thin veneer in Arizona south of the Gila River. As for Indian building patterns, it would appear that during the nineteenth century they were usually little more Form No 10-300a (Rev 10.74)

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than objects of curiosity... if that. Thus, in many areas there were no indigenous forms which could supplant or modify the incoming models. Prescott was situated in such an area and so came to embody American building styles at an early date. By the time the railroad could facilitate its realization, American architecture had a twenty year precedent in the community.

While the buildings of Prescott are distinctly part of the American tradition they were initially guite peripheral to the main lines of architectural development in this country. This state of affairs was directly related to Prescott's geographic isolation. Travel in Arizona during the 1860s and 1870s was arduous, time consuming, and often very dangerous. Goods had to be transported hundreds of miles by steamer and mule train from the West Due to high costs, only tools and small building elements were imported; locally Coast. processed materials, such as sawn lumber and pressed brick, and the skills of available labor, made up the rest of the Prescott building industry. Structures such as Curtis Hall (102), the Theodore Otis House (105), and the Jane Roberts House (107) are characteristic of this period. Gothic Revival, Renaissance Revival, and derivations from the Classical Revival were the principal styles employed. One building, the residence of Dr. Warren E. Day (104). was built in the Octagonal Mode.

The arrival of the railroad in northern Arizona greatly reduced Prescott's separation from the distant centers of American culture. Tools, materials, and building elements became -available in larger and heavier units. Imported machinery greatly improved the sophistication of local material suppliers and more knowledgeable craftsmen were attracted to the region. Beginning about 1880 and continuing through the turn of the century, building istyles became more elaborate and complex. Commercial buildings were commonly faced with imported fronts of pressed metal. Public and semi-public buildings, such as Sacred Heart Church (118), were constructed with permanence and appearance in mind. But it was the homes, built by some of the territory's most prosperous and influential citizens, which were the focus of design skills and the best workmanship. The majority of homes built during this period were located east and south of the commercial center of town. The predominant style was Queen Anne. However, it was loosely interpreted and usually incorporated features associated with other styles. For example, the Head House (132) combined Queen Anne details with Shingle Style massing. The Martin/Ling House (134) incorporates both Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne details in the same structure. Eastlake details were often mixed with these other styles.

At the turn of the century, arhaitectural design began to change from one of exuberance to controlled formality. Neo-Classical, Romanesque Revival, and Second Renaissance Revival styles each became a pronounced aspect of the Prescott landscape. Sometimes these approaches were combined with earlier forms, as in the Burmister/Timerhoff Residence (157) or the Gage/Murphy Residence (131). At the same time, a degree of stylistic purity was occasionally realized: the Sloan Residence (151) is a faithful execution of the Georgian Revival. One of the major factors influencing this shift toward formality was the appearance of trained architects in Prescott during the 1890s. Another influence was the increased availability of mail order designs and catalogs of building elements. This increased standardization of the local building industry was well revealed in the construction activity which followed the city's disastrous fire of 1900. Although they are each

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designed in a different style, the Palace Hotel (147), Bank of Arizona Building (180), and St. Michael Hotel (191) are clear manifestations of a professional approach and an extensive material pallet. Public projects such as the Masonic Temple (146), Elks Theater (198), and Congregational Church (148) convey a similar spirit.

The settlement pattern established during Prescott's territorial period set the precedent for much that followed it. Commercial properties still ring the courthouse plaza. east Prescott remains essentially a prestigious residential area, and noteworthy semi-public buildings facilitate the activities of numerous social groups. New design concepts such as the Mission Style, Bungaloid, and Modern have made their appearance; but, for the most part, buildings in these later styles did not replace older structures. Suburban development and dispersed shopping centers have taken pressure off of the city's historic core without detracting from the utility and symbolic value of the area. Although much of Prescott's anhCitectural heritage is a record of territorial maturation and pioneering spirit, it is also a viable contemporary force.

Courthouse Plaza District List of Properties

A. The following buildings may be considered as significant features in the district: Bank of Arizona Building .: Knights of Pythias Building Prescott National Bank Building Levy Building Palace Hotel St. Michael Hotel Masonic Temple Goldwater Mercantile Electric Building B. The following buildings may be considered as intrusions in the district:

Prescott Auto Supply (210 West Goodwin) Deming Chevron (210 South Montezuma) Downtown Gulf (202 South Montezuma)

All of these properties fail to maintain the distinguishing features of buildings in the district and do not make a positive contribution by the variation.

C. The remainder of the buildings in the district are considered to be contributions to the character of the area either by maintenance of the street front, use of masonry on the front, or development of a significant architectural statement from a period later than 1900.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

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Billy Garrett Marjorie H. Wilson	National Register A National Register C	rchitectural Historian ontract Historian	
ORGANIZATION	Natural & Cultural Resource	DATE	
Arizona State Parks Board.	Conservation Section	3/8/78	
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE	
1688 West Adams Street		(602) 271-4174	
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	
Phoenix		Arizona 85007	

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION** 

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

LOCAL\_

NATIONAL	********
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STATE.

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESE	RVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	outing Il	Lail	
TITLE	•	<i>q</i>	DATE 2 2	2-78
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY	THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDE	D IN THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER	
			DATE	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE ATTEST:	OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC	PRESERVATION	DATE	•

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER** 

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Prescott: Multi-Resource Area Boundary Justification

The Prescott Multi-Resource Area boundary was determined by a combination of historic and practical interests. It is intended that the boundary circumscribe the area developed as the City of Prescott during Arizona's territorial period (1863-1912). Thus, the boundary includes the original Prescott townsite, adjoining land which was later annexed by the city, and the site of a small, short-lived settlement on Granite Creek which slightly preceded the establishment of Prescott. Fort Whipple and surrounding mining districts were excluded on the premise that although they affected the growth of Prescott they existed as separate entities and should be handled as such.

As no natural or man-made features adequately encompassed the historical Prescott area, section lines were chosen for boundary references. The western limit of the Multi-resource Area falls on a section line; northern, eastern, and southern boundaries parallel section lines. On the northeastern corner allowance has been made for the railroad route and the edge of Fort Whipple Military Reservation(now Yavapai Indian Reservation).

Survey work within the Multi-resource Area was done in two phases. The first was conducted during the fall and winter of 1974. Volunteers from the Yavapai Heritage Foundation made most of the "windshield" inspections. They had been trained by a staff of architects and historians hired by the Foundation. Results of the survey were checked, corrected, and evaluated by the professionals. Top rated buildings were subsequently documented and researched by more volunteers prior to submission of Arizona State Historic Property Forms. Structures surveyed by the volunteers were restricted to the area covered by the 1924 Sanborn fire insurance map. The remaining portion of the Multi-resource area was surveyed in the fall of 1977 by one of the architectural historians working for the Foundation. No major resources from the territorial period were found. This result supported the assumption of the advisory team that the 1924 Sanborn map had included most of the historic resources associated with Prescott's development.

# **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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		Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group		dnr-11
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