ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME
President's House

COMMON PROPERTY NAME
University Archives

PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO.
ASU campus

CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF
Tempe

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.
NA

OWNER OF PROPERTY
Arizona Board of Regents

PHONE

STREET & NO./P.O. BOX
1535 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN
Phoenix

STATE
Arizona

ZIP

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
1982

VIEW
looking north

HISTORIC USE
residence

PRESENT USE
archives

ACREAGE
less/one

ARCHITECT/BUILDER
Architects: Creighton and Millard
Contractor: Clinton Campbell

CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES
1907/1931/1937

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The President's House is a symmetrical two-story Western Colonial brick building with a copper shingle roof. Located on part of the original campus on the northwest corner of Normal Avenue and Tyler, the house faces south. The central entry was originally a projecting hipped porch with classical detailing. The porch was enclosed in 1937 with four-light casement windows and a 12-light entry door with 8-pane sidelights. The main house (35ft square) has a two-story bay window on the west and a two-story bay with fireplace on the east. The roof is hipped with projecting gables and features boxed eaves and a central hipped dormer. The double-hung windows have segmental arches. In 1931, two rooms and a bath were added to the northwest corner.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

The President's House is significant as the most intact building over 50 years old on the ASU campus. Its integrity is high with the 1931 and 1937 changes sympathetic and reversible. As the home of the university president, it is significant for its association with presidents Matthews and Gammage, the two most important leaders of this institution of higher education. Arthur Matthews was principal from 1900 to 1930 and President Emeritus for 12 more years. Grady Gammage was president through the 1940s and 1950s, and was responsible for guiding the post-World War II growth which culminated in the Teachers College becoming Arizona State University. The house is also associated with territorial architect James Creighton, who designed the original Normal School (demolished). This house is the only remaining campus building associated with Creighton and is the last known design with which he was involved, having begun his career as an architect in 1885.

The building was used as the president's residence until 1959, after which it was the Alumni House and Alumni Executive Offices. The building is presently occupied by the University Archives.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASU Archives, Building Plans, Construction Data Files
ASU Story, Ernest Hopkins and Alfred Thomas
Sanborn Maps, 1911, 1927

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 22, T1N, R4E
ASU Campus: Tempe Quad
Z-12, E-413340, N-3698080

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY