City of Mesa Historic Preservation

What's Happening?

Issue 1, August 2017

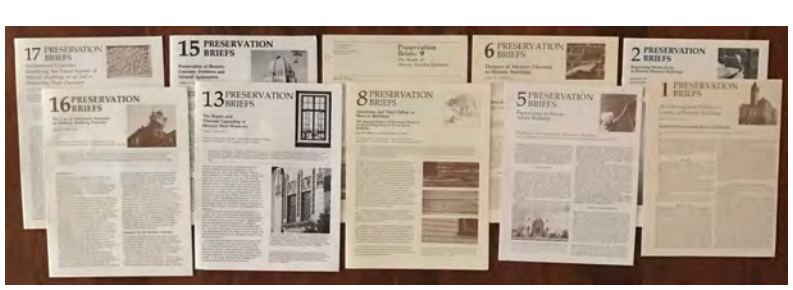
Bi-monthly

Certificate of Appropriateness

One of the requirements of being within a historic district is for owners to help retain the character and integrity of the neighborhood. The Historic Preservation office (HPO) sometimes hears that it's a burden to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for every little repair or change. The goal is to lend our expertise in historic preservation to your major projects, not the day-to-day repairs. Broken a window? We don't need to know that you replaced the glass. Changing out your windows or thinking about stuccoing your bricks? Yes, a certificate is needed, but we're also available to talk to you about your choice. (Please visit the new website: <http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/historic-preservation> and under Maintenance, you will find help in making your decisions, such as new windows.)

A Certificate of Appropriateness, for example, is required—along with a permit—for changes to or installation of additions, driveways, doors, windows, siding or painting historically unpainted surfaces. For a more complete list and understanding of the CofA program, visit the website's Resource page: <http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/historic-preservation/resources> and scroll down to this topic. A CofA is required prior to doing any repair or remodel work on the exterior of a structure. If the applicant does not agree with the requirements of the HPO, the decision can be appealed to the Historic Preservation Board.

Key to remember is that the HPO is here for you! We want to do everything we can to help your structure retain its historic features while adapting to 21st century needs. Check out the economic benefits of historic preservation also found on the website's resource page.



Endangered History of Mesa: Old Safeway

The Safeway, situated on the SE corner of Main Street and Horne, was constructed in 1964 using plans created by Gonzales and Ludlow, Phoenix architects. Sadly, it has been vacant for some time. Recently, a development company wanted to demolish the building for low-income housing, but residents of Mesa were vocal enough that the company pulled out. Mesa's Central Main Plan (http://issuu.com/cityofmesa/docs/central_main_plan_full_document?e=8777604/8360610) cites several goals as incorporating new structures with historic ones and the need for a fresh food market. Preservationists—residents and professionals alike—are working with the owner on these goals. Research continues to determine if Bennie Gonzales, the architect, could make the Safeway eligible for the National Register.

Westside Clark Historic District

After seven long years overcoming a variety of different issues, Westside Clark Historic District resubmitted their application to the City to become a local historic district. It unanimously passed the HPB and the Planning & Zoning Board. City Council is the last step and that is scheduled for late August.

Property Tax Reductions

Did you know that if your building within a National Register historic district is cited as 'Contributing' to the district, you are eligible for property tax reductions?

The key website is: <https://azstateparks.com/state-historic-property-tax-reclassification-spt-for-owneroccupied-homes> If you scroll down, you will see Forms. Click on application and instructions and the proper form will come up. Every three years property owners must verify that the property is being maintained.

If you are unclear whether your building is contributing, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (602) 542-4009 or Mesa's Historic Preservation office at 480-276-7714.