

# City of Mesa Historic Preservation

## What's Happening?

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Bi-monthly



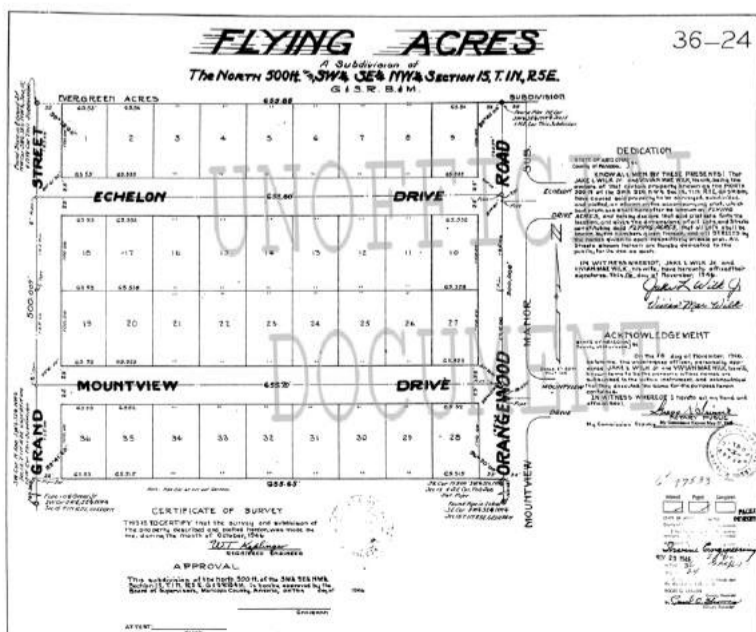
### Flying Acres potential Historic District

The residents of a historic neighborhood created in 1946 have recently petitioned the city to become a historic district. Bounded by Grand Street on the West, Macdonald Street on the East and encompassing the North and South sides of W. 8th Place and W. 9th Street, the area known as Flying Acres was originally a 5.5-acre site owned by Jake L. Wilk, Jr. and his wife. Wilk was a Major and training and operations officer at Williams Field during World War II, so Flying Acres was well named.

W. 9th Street was originally named Echelon Drive and may have been chosen by Wilk as the word, echelon, is commonly used in the military to define a flying formation where aircraft fly in parallel rows with the end of each row projecting further out than merely in line behind the first aircraft. W. 8th Place was named Mountview Drive and may have referred to Uesery Mountain which served as a landmark to pilots.

Many neighborhoods were created as World War II soldiers and war workers decided to make Arizona their home after the war, but there were no obvious links to Mesa's Air Force and Pilot Training bases quite like the name Flying Acres!

The zoning overlay process that locally creates the historic district begins on Tuesday, May 1st at the monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Board.



### Mesa to Present at the 2018 AZ HP Conference

Every year the State of Arizona holds a Historic Preservation conference. In 2013, it was held in Mesa.

This year several active preservationists in Mesa will be presenting sessions that focus on key sites and important tools in the field—using Mesa as the case studies.

Ron Peters' and Jay Mark's session is entitled "From Fire to Empire: The Remarkable Story of the Buckhorn Baths" and delves into how changing circumstances, fortuitous discovery and innovative enterprise converged at this site in Mesa. Their presentation is scheduled for Friday, June 8th at 2:50pm.

The City of Mesa's Historic Preservation Professional, Lauren Allsopp, has a session entitled "Celebrating Community: Tools for Preserving Historic Buildings' Fabric." At 10:50am on Thursday, June 7th, she will cover the importance of energizing historic communities through knowledge of their buildings' fabric. Attendees will learn hands-on, practical tools they themselves can use to achieve similar success in their hometowns.

Both sessions have been selected as Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending AIA members. For more information, visit <<https://azpreservation.com/>>.



Neon on Main - 1981 photo using a telephoto lens

### Neon Signs Rediscovered

Main Street in Mesa was once awash in neon signs. Part of our neon sign grant has been to document and inventory the remaining old—and new—neon signs. Working with the community has yielded invaluable stories and some new information. Just last week, we discovered that several signs thought to be long gone are still here in the Valley. Efforts are underway to find out if these signs can be returned to Mesa. Stay tuned!