

ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

AHAC Mission: Develop, encourage and coordinate a statewide plan for Arizona's centennial in 2012 including advising the legislature and state agencies on centennial history and heritage, arts and culture, assisting the governor's countdown to the centennial to support school children learning about Arizona's history and recommending activities and projects that will ensure lasting accomplishments to commemorate the centennial.

Vision for Centennial Projects: Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

Legacy Project Criteria: This is a request for official designation as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must 1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
4. Describe the project location.
5. List project partners, if applicable.
6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources.
7. Please also provide letters of support from project partners and sponsors.
These are in addition to the three-page maximum.

Name of project: 1912 Administration Building, Arizona State Hospital

Applicant: Arizona Department of Health Services

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Signature

6/24/08
Date

The Arizona Historical Advisory Commission will review the Committee's recommendations and make final decisions regarding Legacy Project designations. Submit application to:

Arizona Historical Advisory Committee
1700 W Washington, Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Project Description

The Arizona State Hospital, located at 24th Street and Van Buren in Phoenix, will stabilize and rehabilitate the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building to its historic character. The Mahoney Building, like the Hospital, has a rich history which has been documented and archived over the years. As a result, there is a large amount of archival material, including photographs, which the Hospital is currently unable to display. A rehabilitated Mahoney Building would provide a long term venue for permanent and changing interpretive public displays.

The Hospital will adaptively reuse the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building as a mixed use, public facility containing a visitors' information and welcome center, interpretive exhibits displaying the history and many advances in mental healthcare in Arizona, conference rooms, and possibly a medical research library. The building anchors the Hospital's main Van Buren Street entrance and is one of the first structures one encounters upon entering the campus.

Narrative

The 1912 Mahoney Administration Building is unique in that it is one of the few remaining government buildings in the Valley dating from 1912, the year of Arizona's statehood. The building represents the first institutional commission for the architectural engineering firm of Lescher & Kibbey (later Lescher & Mahoney), a prolific company responsible for many significant buildings throughout Arizona. It is the second oldest remaining structure on the Arizona State Hospital campus and is one of the earliest remaining examples of Mission Revival-style architecture in Phoenix.

Built after a major fire in February, 1911 which nearly destroyed the Hospital's main edifice, the Mahoney Building was constructed with the most advanced technology for the period — concrete post and beam framing with concrete floors and internal and exterior masonry walls considered to be "fire-proof." The 1912 State Asylum for the Insane Board of Control Annual Report records that:

The Officials of the Asylum, and the Board of Control, have been for some time aware of the need of an administration building, and on January 6th the plans of Royal W. Lescher for the construction of such an edifice were accepted, and the bid of George H. Gallagher of \$16,893.00 for construction of this building was accepted on February 8, 1912. The building will be completed and occupied by the first of November. This will provide quarters for the Superintendent's family, executive offices, and recreation rooms for the attendants.

In recognition of its distinction as a valuable historic state resource, the building was re-named for Dr. D. L. Mahoney, the first Superintendent of the Arizona Territorial Asylum for the Insane (appointed 1886) during the Hospital's Centennial decade. If successfully awarded, future donations and Heritage grant funds will be used to sensitively plan the rehabilitation for public use of what the Hospital's 1913 Annual Report described as, "This substantial, fireproof, handsome building of which the State may be proud."

Since it occupies such a key, publicly-accessible location, the rehabilitation of the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building would intuitively offer many long term community benefits and opportunities, not least of which would be to provide a historical location for members of the Hospital and the general

community to gather together to learn about the history of the State Hospital and mental healthcare in Arizona.

Mental illness is a term used for a group of disorders causing severe disturbances in thinking, feeling and relating, resulting in substantially diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 6% (1 in 17) of Americans suffer from a serious mental illness, and 1 in 5 families are affected in some way by mental illness. Traditionally, public awareness of the Hospital and its patients has unfortunately been characterized by fear, prejudice and ridicule. Locating a mental health history museum within the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building would provide a valuable public asset to be utilized in the effort to engage and inform the community at large about mental disorders and to dispel the stigma, misinformation and discrimination that surrounds serious mental illness.

PLANNING

As a State-owned building, the importance for historic preservation for the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building has been included in various state, local and neighborhood planning activities. The following **Comprehensive Plans** represent the community's efforts to plan for preservation of historic buildings and the heritage of the community:

Arizona Historic Preservation Plan Update 2000

In describing the **External Effects on the (Arizona Historic Preservation)Plan**, SHPO discusses the concern over sprawl and open space, resulting in the State's "Growing Smarter" legislation. The premise of growing smarter is that resources are better managed through logical planning and considerations of all environmental impacts. It also addresses neighborhood conservation and infill incentives. By rehabilitating the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building and offering its use to the community and public, our project supports this section of the plan. The Plan's **Public Survey Findings** show that the general public sees an important connection between historic preservation and the protection of cultural resources and supports using older buildings to reduce urban sprawl. By rehabilitating the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building and making it available for the community and public to use, we are reducing the need to build community meeting space elsewhere and are helping to improve the appearance of the East Van Buren corridor, thus making a positive contribution to redevelopment initiatives in the area.

City of Phoenix General Plan

Having consulted the relevant elements of the City's General Plan, it is evident that preserving and rehabilitating the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building is compatible with and supports local preservation and development elements established in the sections:

- **Land Use Element**
- **Neighborhood Element**
- **Conservation, Rehabilitation, & Redevelopment Element**

SHPO 1984 Letter/State Historic Property Inventory Form

- SHPO opined that the "Superintendents Building, 1912" met the criteria for listing on the Arizona and National Registers of Historic Places
- Property Inventory Form suggested the building "would be an ideal facility for a State Hospital Museum" and that its "Proximity to the main gate would allow public access".

Historic Building Analysis of the Historic Administration Building, Arizona State Hospital (Ryden Architects, October 1995)

While “suffering from weather deterioration, the exterior of the building retains much of its historic character.” The Department of Health Services has “chosen to stabilize and restore the building to its historic character” to have “a mixed use facility containing a visitors’ information and welcome center, public restrooms, Arizona State Hospital interpretative exhibits, . . .”

Arizona State Hospital Annual Reports, 2004 to 2007

In its Annual Reports to the Governor, the need to stabilize, protect and rehabilitate the 1912 Mahoney Administration building has been noted and identified as a funding need.

Community Involvement

One of the most important public constituencies is the Hospital’s own community of employees. A **nine-person employee team** has volunteered to participate as the Official Employee Project Team for the rehabilitation of the 1912 Mahoney Administration Building and creation of a mental health museum. These employees have technical expertise that will be invaluable as we move forward. The Hospital has also met and consulted with the following stakeholders:

- **Phoenix Historic Preservation Commission**
- **Phoenix Central City Planning Commission**
- **Will Bruder**, noted architect
- **Elisabeth Ruffner**, historic preservation activist
- **Downtown Voices Coalition**
- **Jim McPherson**, historic preservation activist
- **Van Buren Civic Association**

The following stakeholders have provided letters of support :

- Society of St. Vincent De Paul Ozanam Manor
- The Salvation Army Southwest Divisional Headquarters
- Garfield Organization, a neighborhood alliance
- Phoenix Central City Village Planning Committee
- City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office (CHPO)

Project Timeline

Planning has already begun. The initial interpretive exhibits and display of hospital memorabilia will be completed by June 2010. The physical building rehabilitation will depend on funding. However, the intent is to have the building rehabilitation complete before the state’s Centennial.