



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 1, 2015

To: Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

Re: **2015 Historic Preservation Awards to Pima County Projects**

I am pleased to inform you that Pima County will receive the following two awards for two historic preservation projects completed this year:

1. Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission and Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation Award

Each year, the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission and the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation have recognized individuals and projects that have made significant contributions to historic preservation in the City of Tucson, City of South Tucson and Pima County. The award-winning County projects include:

- Acquisition, protection and rehabilitation of the 1880s Officers' Quarters on the Adkins parcel for inclusion in Fort Lowell Park.
- Las Capas archaeological project at the Ina Road Wastewater Treatment Facility, which received recognition as one of the earliest agricultural sites in North America.

The Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission and the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation ceremony and reception will be held on May 2, 2015 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM in the San Pedro Chapel, 5230 E. Fort Lowell Road, in the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood

2. Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Awards

Since 1982, the Arizona Preservation Foundation and Arizona State Historic Preservation Office/Arizona State Parks have collaborated to present the Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Awards. These awards recognize people, organizations and projects that represent outstanding achievement in preserving Arizona's prehistoric and historic resources. The Preservation Awards Ceremony is the signature event of the 13th Annual Arizona Historic Preservation Conference.

The Fort Lowell project will receive a 2015 Governor's Heritage Award at a ceremony to be held on May 15 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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A copy of the Fort Lowell nomination submission for the Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Awards is attached for your review and information.

Ms. Linda Mayro, Director of the County's Office of Sustainability and Conservation, will represent Pima County at these two awards ceremonies.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation



Nomination of:

Fort Lowell Park Officers Quarters Rehabilitation, Ruin Stabilization, and “Ghosted” Protective Structures

For 2015 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Awards

Narrative Statement for Consideration of the Fort Lowell Park Officers Quarters Rehabilitation, Ruin Stabilization, and "Ghosted" Protective Structures

History

The land upon which Fort Lowell Park is constructed has been used by a wide range of human groups beginning in the Paleoindian Period, perhaps as early as 11,500 B.C.E. During the fort era beginning in 1873 C.E., seven Officers Quarters and a number of other military buildings encircled a central parade ground. The footprint of the fort is now bisected by Craycroft road. Three Officer's Quarters remain within the portion of the fort to the east of the road.

At the time that the project was undertaken, the buildings were in a rapidly accelerating state of decay. All that remained of Officers Quarters number one was a single interior wall approximately 6 feet high and 15 feet long. The exterior walls of Officers Quarters number two were largely intact but were beginning to melt. All roofs and ceilings had collapsed. Officer's Quarters number three was in significantly better condition, with all roofs and walls intact. Leaks in the roof had begun to damage the interior finishes within the building. Exterior windows and doors had degraded beyond the point of any hope of rehabilitation. Each Officer's quarters building had an associated kitchen outbuilding.

Rehabilitation and Stabilization

Officers Quarters Numbers One and Two

The first priority for the project was to arrest the rapid decay of the adobe ruins for Officer's Quarters numbers one and two. A sacrificial coating of mud plaster was added to the top edge of all adobe walls, and to all wall surfaces of the kitchen buildings as they would not eventually be under roof. Wherever possible, the remnants of wood flooring, lintels and other elements were preserved in place. Where failure of wood elements was risking further decay of the adobe walls, new wood to match existing was installed.

Officers Quarters Number Three

The treatment of Officers Quarters building number three was entirely different from that of numbers one and two. As more historic material was in place and sound, an in-kind restoration was possible.

- *Failing stucco was removed and replaced.*
- *Later period additions were removed*
- *The post fort era porch which wrapped a portion of the building was removed and a fort-era porch was restored using physical and photographic documentation.*
- *Masonry chimneys were reconstructed*
- *Failed wood windows and doors were removed and replaced in kind.*
- *The building was reroofed, and drainage systems were reworked to keep water away from the building.*

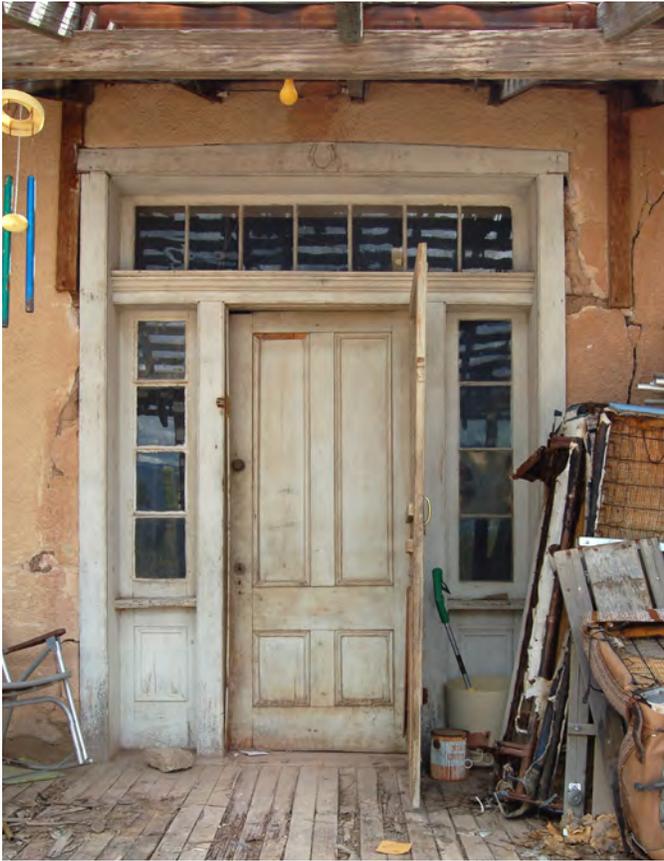
In addition to the work on the fort-era buildings, a number of non-contributing buildings were removed from the larger site. These buildings had been used for metal fabrication, and much of the soil adjacent to the buildings had become contaminated. Remediation of this material required an extraordinary level of coordination between the architect, City of Tucson, Pima County, Desert Archaeology, and the remediation contractor. This surgical approach was absolutely critical, as the entire site is host to large quantities of artifacts.

“Ghosted” Protective Structures

The design of the “Ghosted” Protective Structures at Fort Lowell park marks a new concept in the protection of historic buildings in a ruined state. This treatment method simultaneously allows for the preservation and protection of these irreplaceable buildings while offering the public the opportunity to understand the original form and mass of the building. Perhaps most importantly, the line between what is historic material and what is contemporary protective structure is absolutely clear to any viewer. Protecting the fragile adobe ruin with a roof structure in the spirit of the covering of Casa Grande Ruins, but also to build that structure in the abstracted form of the original building, in the spirit of Robert Venturi’s Ben Franklin House in Philadelphia. The Protective structures are constructed from clearly contemporary materials using contemporary construction techniques. The structures over the ruins of Officer’s Quarters numbers one and two interface with the ground (which in both cases is actually the historic melt pile) as lightly as is possible. Helical pier footings are used for all new footings. The advantage of this footing type is that there is a minimum of excavation; the pier threads into the ground without displacing the material and any artifacts it may contain.

Legacy

The importance of this treatment method must not be understated. It strikes a balance between preservation and interpretation which has historically been lacking. This method may be used where in the past buildings may have been reconstructed at the expense of historic fabric, or left as ruins beneath protective structures which themselves serve no interpretive purpose. This treatment is also beneficial at a larger, site-wide scale. By restoring the original mass of the buildings, one can understand how they related to each other, and to other site elements. With such close proximity to a high traffic thoroughfare, this treatment was particularly apt, as members of the public will be exposed the project, and to thoughtful preservation of our priceless Arizona history even as they commute to work.



Before and after of main entry door to Officer's Quarters building three



Before and after of porch at Officer's Quarters building three



North elevation of Officer's Quarters building three before rehabilitation



North elevation of Officer's Quarters building three after rehabilitation



Officer's Quarters building three before rehabilitation



Officer's Quarters building three after rehabilitation



Officer's Quarters building two before stabilization



Officer's Quarters building two after stabilization and installation of "Ghosted" protective structure



Kitchen buildings prior to application of sacrificial coating



Kitchen buildings with sacrificial coating



View beneath "Ghosted" protective structure at Officer's Quarters building two



View beneath "Ghosted" protective structure at Officer's Quarters building two



View beneath "Ghosed" protective structure at Officer's Quarters building one



View of "Ghosed" protective structure at Officer's Quarters building one