

Historic Significance and Integrity Assessment Report for Listing Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop on the Scottsdale Historic Register

Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop

3805 N. Brown Avenue, Scottsdale, Arizona
Scottsdale Historic Register No. SHR-00-2
Resolution No. 5550

Background

In July of 1999 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 5324 and Ordinance No. 3242 which established the Scottsdale Historic Register, the City's official list of historic and archaeological resources with special significance in the United States, Arizona and Scottsdale history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture. The first group of properties to be considered for designation were those properties that had previously received HP overlay zoning under an earlier City Historic Preservation (HP) program. The building housing the Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop business was zoned HP on February 1, 1983 in case 9-Z-83. The property has been owned and continuously operated as a blacksmith shop by the Cavalliere family since it was constructed in 1920.

Historic Context: Early Town Building, 1908 – 1933

Scottsdale's historic development followed a pattern typically found in Western communities. Like other Arizona cities and towns, the provision of a reliable water supply was critical to sustaining the community's viability after its initial settlement in the late 1800s. With the construction of Granite Reef Dam in 1908, followed by Roosevelt Dam in 1911, Scottsdale shared in the population boom that transformed the Salt River Valley. A main line rail connection to the national railway system completed into the Valley in 1924 provided further impetus for growth and development. During this period Scottsdale grew slowly, but steadily, as a small market town principally providing services for families involved in agricultural pursuits.

Within the core of the original Scottsdale town site are several extant buildings that represent this early period of the community's development. The dates of their construction, the types of buildings, their uses as well as their locations illustrate the traditional pattern of community development that occurred in Scottsdale, Arizona and throughout the nation in the early twentieth century.

Description

The blacksmith shop is a one story square building constructed in three sections related to its utilitarian function. The address is 3805 North Brown Avenue and 7314 East 2nd Street and the building is located right on the sidewalk with no setback from the corner of Brown Avenue and 2nd Street. The same family also owns the properties at 3811 and 3815 North Brown Avenue, but these adjacent properties to the north and the commercial buildings on them (signs identify them as Scottie Reid's Southwest Designs and Across the Border) are not included in the HP overlay zone. The blacksmith shop is on a 100' x 125' lot, approximately .3 acres. The property includes parcel nos. 130-23-181, 130-23-182, 130-23-183 and 130-23-184.

Two rectangular sections, covered with low pitched, tin gable roofs, are situated on the north and south sides of the building's layout along Brown Avenue. These areas contain the blacksmith operations. Battered, curvilinear style parapet walls extend above the rooflines on the Brown Avenue facades of these two sections. The middle section, which houses the business office, has a flat roof and simple square proportions. The building is constructed of 12" thick adobe walls with a two-layer stucco finish. A pit was dug on the east side of the buildings to make the adobe and was later filled in with an old car.

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The exterior stucco surface is deteriorated in some areas exposing the adobe bricks, particularly on the south elevation facing 2nd Street. The current condition of the adobe behind the stucco surface is not apparent. Current surface treatment for adobe recommends using different techniques than the existing impermeable stucco surface to allow moisture captured within the adobe to escape. Large, sliding tin doors provide access to the smithing work areas. The office has an ornamental iron door. Windows include wood casements and small metal windows with fixed panes. Ornamental iron light fixtures are found on the front facade. A corrugated tin addition is located at the rear of the building.

History

Blacksmith operations are a traditional Western occupation. Shoeing livestock and repairing metal equipment was a service needed in all settlements but particularly in those serving ranching and agricultural activities. George Cavalliere, grandfather of the current owner and operator of the shop, came to the Salt River Valley to work on a project to deepen the Arizona Canal.

When the canal dredging was completed in 1909, he settled with his family in Scottsdale. At that time his business was located on outskirts of the town site, although it is only two blocks south of Main Street. In 1920 the current building was constructed from adobe on his lot. When the use of horses began to decline, the Cavallieres added repairing farm machinery and automobiles as well as making ornamental iron fixtures to their general blacksmithing. The building has been operated continuously as the Cavalliere's family business since its original construction. George Cavalliere III is the third generation of the Cavalliere's family and now runs the business. The demand for custom ironwork continues in the community today.

Significance

The Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop is historically significant as one of the initial industrial buildings of the community serving ranching and agricultural activities. It dates from the earliest period of the town's development and has been in continuance operation for 80 years.

Architecturally the building is significant as one of the few remaining examples of owner-built local adobe construction with a straightforward utilitarian vernacular style and hand crafted ornaments. Exterior custom ironwork includes light fixtures and door hardware. The making of the adobe blocks on-site by the owner-builder reflects the self-sufficient approach to construction more prevalent during the time than today. The physical character of the building still conveys the integrity of its original owner-built construction.