

## TEMPE HARDWARE BUILDING

520 SOUTH MILL AVENUE

Designed by well-known territorial architect James Creighton, the 3-story, 14,000 square-foot, unreinforced brick structure is notable for its detailed Victorian territorial "panel brick commercial" façade with Neo-Classical elements and a second floor ballroom, and as the oldest 3-story brick commercial building in Maricopa County. The central bay features a semi-circular cut-stone arch supported on stone piers (inspiration for the Tempe Historic Preservation Commission logo). Originally built as the Odd Fellows Hall in 1899, the building has also served as home to a variety of fraternal organizations, churches and civic groups, in addition to a number of businesses. The Tempe Town Council met in the building, prior to construction of the first Town Hall. The Tempe Hardware Co. occupied the ground floor from 1906-76.

In the 1982 rehabilitation, the original stairwell, wainscoting and windows were restored and modern elements treated in a contemporary fashion. The building now houses retail shops on the first floor, a salon and gallery on the second (in the former meeting hall/ballroom space) and offices on the third. The 0.17-acre property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and the Tempe Historic Property Register in 2001.

**public role:** City contributed with its streetscape program, provision of parking and by supporting one of the former tenants (Fine Arts Center of Tempe).

**developer:** rehab: Old Town Ventures

**architect:** original: James Creighton; rehab : Siefer Associates, Tempe

**builder:** rehab: Glover

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