Hayden Flour Mill: Landscape, Economy and Community Diversity

Susan L. Shaffer Nahmias, PhD

In the spring of 2006, the city of Tempe hired Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd. (ACS) to conduct a testing project at the historic Hayden Flour Mill, one of Tempe’s most valued landmarks. The project was well underway when the city selected Avenue Communities to redevelop the site. ACS’ project grew to include consultation with the developer to help insure that this historic resource will be sensitively preserved. The mill and, in time, the silos will be the centerpiece of the new development.

Researchers delved into records preserved at the Tempe Historical Museum and other repositories. Historic photos and documents were used to plan archaeological testing and excavation. In addition, a preservation architect began an assessment of the mill’s history, construction and integrity.

In mid-July, archaeologists placed 35 test trenches in the study area, and carefully recorded information about historic structures on the property. They located the edge of the “calaboose” (a small 1890s jail) and a pre-1950s gas station. They recorded the historic Phoenix & Eastern Railroad tracks between the mill and silos. A predictable find was a length of stone wall to the north of the complex that appears in historic photos. In some instances, only foundations or footings of former buildings remained. Concrete pads were documented and removed to allow investigation beneath them. Several prehistoric features, including a Hohokam canal, were found.

ACS returned to the field in November to excavate the key features that were identified during testing. There were some exciting discoveries! Along the east side of the mill building, the field crew uncovered several walls that directed water from the Hayden Canal to power the machinery before electricity was available. Concrete piers that once supported a warehouse were revealed behind the mill.

ACS determined that the foundation of the calaboose was more intact than expected. On the north side of the mill building, a new prehistoric feature — a possible field house — was examined. Work continued as archaeologists exposed a historic stone arch some 24 feet below ground where the Hayden canal exited the mill. A final surprise was the discovery of a large rock wall on the north side of the building that may have been a part of the original Hayden Mill foundation.

The majority of fieldwork is complete and analysis of data recovered during excavation soon will be underway. Over the next year, ACS will continue to gather archival information and acquire oral histories from individuals who were involved with the mill. The final report, including a historic preservation plan, is due in April 2008.
Museum Volunteers are the Best!

We know you’ve heard us say this over and over, but it’s true! Proof was provided once again when three of our museum volunteers were selected to receive awards presented annually by the Tempe Community Council (TCC). Mel Kessler and Historical Museum Advisory Board member Gail Fisher, husband and wife, were the recipients of the 2006 Don Carlos Humanitarian Award. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who exemplify the humanitarian traits for which Charles Trumbull Hayden was known and who make Tempe a better place to live. Gail’s love of the arts and culture is reflected in much of her service, which besides the museum has included the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission, New School for the Arts, Tempe Center for the Arts, as well as numerous other organizations such as the Tempe Public Library and Tempe Sister Cities. Her husband Mel’s record of service to the Tempe community is just as outstanding.

Lindsay Samuel was recognized with the Hayden Youth and Young Adult Award. She was presented with a $500 scholarship at the award reception on November 1. Lindsay has volunteered at the museum since 2002 where she has helped present the museum’s Wild Wednesdays summer programming. Before that, she was a volunteer at the Tempe Public Library. More recently she also served on the museum’s Youth Advisory Committee which works to involve and attract teens to the museum. Lindsay currently attends Arizona State University.

Also recognized was museum docent Herb Fibel. He was recognized as a Tempe Treasure for his exemplary contribution to the Tempe community. Herb has volunteered at the museum since completing docent training in January 2003. He also has volunteered as an instructor of birding classes for the city’s Parks and Recreation Department off and on since 1989. Herb joins a select group of just 12 individuals who have been designated as Treasures.

Congratulations to these three outstanding museum volunteers. Incidentally, they were three of only four individuals recognized by TCC this year! Founded in 1972, the Tempe Community Council provides a means for individuals and organizations to act together to identify and plan for needed human service programs in the community.

Museum Welcomes New Board Member

Service to country and community is nothing new to Frank Schmuck. Frank began his service “career” as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Upon graduation, he served in the Air Force during the Persian Gulf War where he airlifted wounded from the battlefield to safety and earned the Air Force’s Air Medal. His list of other involvements since the war is long and includes Kiwanis Nuevo Club in Tempe, membership on the Maricopa County Veterans Medical Leadership Council, American Legion, LULAC, Tempe Sister Cities, mentoring school children as part of the Adopt-A-Pilot program, and more. In addition, he started his own not-for-profit organization—Voices Take Flight—that promotes “service before self” and awareness of neurological diseases. Frank currently works as a pilot for Southwest Airlines.

Air Force pilot training at Williams Air Force Base first brought Frank to the east valley. He met his wife Andrea while at Williams and they returned to stay in 1993 after his tour of duty with the Air Force was complete. When asked why he chose the Historical Museum Advisory Board, Frank replied that his reasons were two-fold: first, to give back to his city; the second was related to his family history. His grandfather worked for 35 years as a curator at the museum in Verdun, France, a historic World War I battle site. This background made the Tempe Historical Museum a good fit for his interests and skills.

As for his goals for his term on the board, Frank would like to see the museum work in cooperation with other organizations such as the Veteran’s Hall of Fame. He thinks it would be great to utilize his many community connections to bring organizations together and create beneficial partnerships.

Thank you to everyone who supported the “Larry Campbell Tree of Lights” fundraiser. Now in its fifth year, the project is named in memory of Larry Campbell, past president of the Tempe Historical Society, who originally suggested the fundraiser and made it a success. The public purchases lights and ornaments for holiday trees in the name of someone they wish to honor or remember.

Money raised is used to support the museum’s oral history program. Over $1,400 has been raised so far this holiday season.

New Museum Advisory Board member, Frank Schmuck.

(above) Gail Fisher and Mel Kessler, 2006 Don Carlos Humanitarian Award recipients.

(left) Lindsay Samuel, 2006 Hayden Youth and Young Adult Award recipient, with Amy Douglass, Museum Administrator.
JANUARY
TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPEAKERS PROGRAMS
Wednesday, January 10, 11:30 am
Museum classroom / Free

JANUARY 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Museum closed.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Tuesday, January 16, 9 am
Museum Board Room / Free
Come explore all that volunteers can do at the museum during this hour-long orientation.

3RD THURSDAY NIGHT CAFÉ
Thursday, January 18
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Museum / Free
Visit the museum galleries and have a cup of coffee. At 7 pm, Dr. Robert D. Taylor and Aleta Ringlero will discuss the Schwemberger Photographs, a collection produced between 1902 and 1908 of Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo people and places.

FEBRUARY
ANTIQUE SEMINARS
Tuesdays, February 6 through 27
7 – 9 pm
Pyle Adult Recreation Center
Presented by the Hayden’s Ferry Questers. Proceeds benefit the Petersen House. Registration fee. Seminar topics:
February 6: Reading Your Artifacts
February 13: Mexican Religious Art; Ruby Stained & Souvenir Glass
February 20: American Silver; European Christmas Ornaments
February 27: Appraising Session for Jewelry

TEMPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPEAKERS PROGRAMS
Wednesday, February 14
11:30 am
Museum classroom / Free
Dr. Jay Cravath, *When the Spirits Come to Dance*. Bring your lunch. Coffee provided. Sponsored by the Arizona Humanities Council.

MARCH
SPRING SENSATION
Tuesday, March 13
10 am – 2 pm
Museum / Free
Enjoy a day of family fun that celebrates Irish-American Heritage Month and Dr. Seuss’ birthday with activities, crafts and stories.

MARCH 20 through MARCH 26. Petersen House Museum will be closed for conservation.

IMAGES & RECOLLECTIONS: NARRATIVES OF INTERNMENT
Wednesday, March 21
6:30-8:30 pm
The second in a three-part discussion series. Panelists: ASU professors Betsy Fahlman, Anna Holian and Karen Leong. Moderator: ASU professor Brian Gratton. This program was made possible in part by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.

MARCH 30, Cesar Chavez Day
Museum closed.

ROCK ART TOUR
Thursday, March 15, 10 – 11 am
Hayden Butte Preserve / Free
Learn about Hohokam rock art with Dr. Amy Douglass. Museum Administrator and archaeologist. Wear comfortable shoes; bring water and binoculars. Moderate hike. Call for directions.

3RD THURSDAY NIGHT CAFÉ
Thursday, March 15
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Museum / Free
Visit the museum galleries and have a cup of coffee. At 7 pm, “Buck” Rogers from the Tempe Police Department will share some of the Department’s history.

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MARCH 30, Cesar Chavez Day
Museum closed.

Time Lines is now online!
View the newsletter at www.tempe.gov/museum
Call (480) 350-5100 to discontinue receiving a paper copy.

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Petersen House Endowment Receives Community Support
This fall, the Tempe Historical Society and the Petersen House Endowment Committee held their annual fundraising drive to benefit the educational programs at the Petersen House Museum. Over the years, their fundraising has greatly benefited the Petersen House Endowment Fund. The names of this year’s “silver” and “gold” donors will be displayed on a sign that will be placed in the Petersen House.

It is with sincere thanks that we acknowledge the following donors:

Silver ($250 or more):
- Copenhagen Imports
- Cypert, Scherrer, CPAs
- Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Waste Management

Gold ($500 or more):
- Tempe Diablos
- Tempe Mission Palms

The Tempe Historical Museum is a center where the community comes together to celebrate Tempe’s past and ponder the future.