

Questor Questions



About the Peterson House



Look at the old photograph of the Petersen House.

Which of these elements can you point out? (Steps, stained glass window, porch railing, decorative roof trim, dormer up on the roof, window railings?)



What building materials do you think were made to build the house?

Compare the photographs taken 120 years apart. How has the landscape around the house changed?

How is the landscape similar?



In 1892, when Arizona was still a Territory, Niels Petersen, a successful cattle rancher built a two story Queen Anne Victorian-style house for his bride, Susanna. Back then, the house was five miles south of a small town named Tempe, located at the northern part of the Sonoran Desert. It was surrounded by shade trees, fields of crops and grazing cows.

What do you think is the oldest building in your neighborhood?

Today, the Petersen House is part of the Tempe History Museum and the land around the house is a small public park.

Do you believe Susanna and Niels Petersen would recognize their house today?

Do you believe they would recognize the landscape?

Why do you think the city of Tempe restored the Petersen House?

