

Arizona Copper Company, Library Hall (Elks' Lodge)
Clifton Townsite
Coronado Boulevard
Clifton
Greenlee County
Arizona

HABS
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6-CLIF,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARIZONA COPPER COMPANY LIBRARY HALL
(Elks' Lodge)

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HABS No. AZ-174-D

Location:

Clifton Townsite, Coronado Boulevard, Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona

Significance:

Associated with the Arizona Copper Company's holdings in Clifton and with the development of Clifton.

Description:

The ACC Library Building is sited between Frisco Street and Coronado boulevard (Arizona Highway 666) near the Park Avenue Bridge (AZ-179). The site is barren except for the building and an asphalt-paved parking lot at the south side. The building is constructed of stuccoed brick, two stories in height with a gable roof. Half-timbering in the gables and at the second floor of the south front reflects the Scottish ancestry of its builders. The south gable end also features decorative brackets and vergeboards. The original windows are wood, double-hung, with a two-over-two pattern. The roof is sheathed with modern asphalt shingles. A one-story, flat-roofed addition has been made to the west side, and a second, shed-roofed addition was made to the north back. The first floor of the original building was altered when this addition was made. The front facade has been covered over by a modern canopy. A modern steel exit stair from the second floor has been added to the side of the building.

History:

This large two-story brick and stucco building was constructed in 1898 by the Arizona Copper Company to house the town library and post office on the first floor and the Masonic Lodge on the second floor. The Masonic Lodge then sublet the hall to other fraternal organizations such as the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. Of these, the Elks became most closely associated with the building and it is also known as the Elks Lodge. The Company donated the books for the library and then turned it over to a committee of local citizens to run. The Library Hall was also noteworthy as the site of the annual dinner given by A.C. Co. general Manager James Colquhoun and other events of a social nature.¹

In 1907 the A.C. Company re-furbished the old library and lodge building by making repairs and improving the stairway. In March of 1916 the Company announced that it would relocate its drug department into the Library Hall. The entire first floor of the building would be converted to sale of medicines and jewelry with the addition of a large glass display window. The Company also planned to place a soda fountain in a prominent location in the building. J.R. Farahay took over operation of the new drug store in July of 1916. In later years the building housed a branch of the Phelps Dodge Mercantile Co. and in recent years the store has been occupied by the American Legion Post and Voza's Steakhouse.²

Sources (endnotes):

1. The Mining and Industrial Reporter, Volume XV (December 1897), P. 20; Arizona Republican (Phoenix newspaper) March 23, 1898 (I, 3: 2-3) and September 19, 1898 (I, 3: 1); Copper Era January 17, 1901 (I, 3: 2-3).
2. Copper Era October 24, 1907 (I, 3: 3); March 17, 1916 (I, 5: 2); June 23, 1916 (I, 1: 3); interview with Charles A. Spezia, December 16, 1993. The old drug store in South Clifton was razed and the lumber salvaged. It was constructed in 1894 as Clifton's first school building, later housed a church, and in 1902 the A.C. Co. drug department moved in. See the Copper Era August 4, 1916 (I, 1: 3).

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