

Chandler: "A City Beautiful"



San Marcos Hotel

At the turn of the 20th century, the idea of a "city beautiful" was sweeping the nation. "City beautiful" emphasized the importance of monumental

structures with spacious parks to encourage citizens to gather. Dr. Chandler's vision of downtown reflected these ideals. One hundred years later, visitors can still see a Spanish Colonial Revival style plaza around a large central park with open-trellised pergolas shading the walkways in front of the plaza buildings.

chandler MUSEUM

300 S. Chandler Village Drive
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The Chandler Museum is an innovative learning environment where the community comes together share our stories, store our cultural heritage, and experience Chandler as a people and place.



Historic Downtown Chandler Walking Tour



Welcome to Downtown Chandler!

In 2000, most of Downtown Chandler was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Chandler Commercial Historic District.

Take this tour to find out more about Chandler.
This walking tour also is available online at chandleraz.gov/DowntownWalkingTour.

Who is Dr. A.J. Chandler?



Dr. Chandler is the founder of Chandler, Arizona. He came to Arizona in 1887 as the first veterinary surgeon for the territory and set about building a large agricultural empire in the Arizona desert. The

land he acquired would eventually become the site of the town that bears his name.

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service administers the program whose mission is to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources. For more information about the National Register, go to nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister.

Chandler has one district and several properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

What is an Historic District?

A district is a grouping of buildings, sites, structures or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Downtown Chandler is recognized as a part of the Chandler Commercial Historic District.



San Marcos Place Street paving, 1920

1. Suhwaro Hotel, 1916

(Today's Eastwind Sushi/Commit Agency)

Originally opened as an affordable option to the San Marcos Hotel, the Suhwaro was later used as a boarding house for San Marcos employees. The curving Mission Revival style facade imitates the design of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

2. San Marcos Hotel, 1913

(Today's Crown Plaza Phoenix-Chandler Golf Resort)

Completed in 1913, Dr. A.J. Chandler named his Mission Revival style hotel after Marcos de Niza, believed to be the first European to explore the Salt River Valley. The San Marcos was one of the Valley's earliest resorts visited by prominent statesmen, industrialists and movie stars. The hotel also boasted Arizona's first grass golf course.

3. Bank of Chandler Building, 1912

(Today's SanTan Brewery)

The Bank of Chandler shared this building with the Chandler Improvement Company until 1925. The Chandler Improvement Company sold parcels of Dr. Chandler's 18,000-acre ranch from this site. Valley National Bank heavily remodeled this building in 1954.

4. Monroe Building, 1912

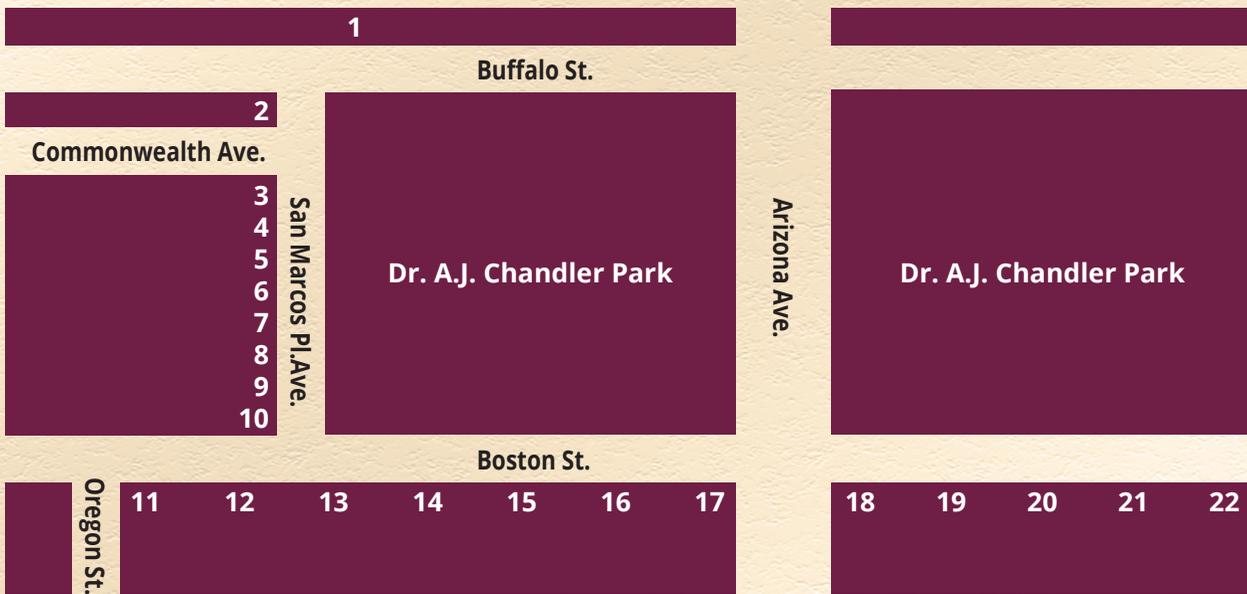
(Today's El Zocalo Mexican Grill)

Originally this two-story building included an open arcade with small shops on the ground floor, such as the Monroe Hardware Store. Offices and meeting rooms were located upstairs. This building is best known as the Parkway Theatre, where Chandler residents watched movies from 1945 until 1979.

5. Morrison Grocery, 1912

(Today's Downtown Chandler Café/ Blue Planet Outdoors)

The Morrison Brothers opened this building as the first grocery store in Chandler in 1912. Six years later, after the Morrisons had closed, Abe Lukin opened Lukin's Cash Grocery.



Residents enjoyed the luxury of phoning in orders to get groceries delivered to their homes.

6. Dobson Building, 1912

(Today's Mingle + Graze / Country Clipper Barbershop)

Over the last 97 years, a series of barbershops and restaurants have occupied this building. While the shops were owned and managed by different people, early owners rented space from farmer John H. Dobson, who settled in the area in the 1890s.

7. Dougherty Building, 1914

(Today's Murphy's Law / Cutting Edge Quilts)

Michael F. Dougherty created this building with two small storefronts including groceries, dry goods and supply stores. Some businesses have included Charles Karp Clothing Company, Chandler Electric Company and Saba's Department Store.

8. Andersen Building, 1914

(Today's Sibley's West Gift Shop)

Most longtime Chandler residents remember this building as either Sink's Pool Hall or Lonnie's Tavern. Rancher John Andersen constructed this building.

9. Price Building, 1914

(Today's Sibley's West Gift Shop)

Chandler's first elected Mayor, David Jacobsen, built this structure. It gets its name from the city's first attorney, Arthur Price, who also had an office here. The building is best known as the Chandler Pharmacy, which opened in 1937 and operated here for nearly fifty years.

10. Hotel Chandler, 1914

(Today's robert brown architects)

The first floor of this building housed a series of drug stores. The second story served as an affordably priced hotel with fifteen rooms. Amenities included shared bathrooms and porch swings.

**11. Chandler Post Office, 1920/
Chandler Arizonan, 1920**

(Today's Pedal Haus / The Brickyard Downtown)

The post office moved to this location in 1920 from its original location in Morrisons Grocery Store and remained at this location until 1954. The *Chandler Arizonan*, the first newspaper in town, was also located in this building until 1955.

12. Menhennet/Rowena Theatre, 1920

(Today's Sasha's Kitchen & Cocktails)

Bill Menhennet opened this building to house the town's first "talking movies." Joe and Alice Woods purchased the theatre in 1932 and renamed it the "Rowena."

13. Gilbert Building, 1918

(Today's Internet Dzyns / Yes, I Do Bridal Art & Photography)

Dr. Kramer M. Gilbert built this two-story structure in 1918 as his medical office, with a dentist's office upstairs.

14. Friedberg Building, 1918

(Today's Saba's Western Wear)

In 1918, merchant Joseph Friedberg opened a new store specializing in clothing, hats, and shoes. In later years, J.C. Penney Company occupied this building before Saba's moved in in 1972.

15. First National Bank, 1918

(Today's Original Chop Shop)

John Dobson and John Andersen established the First National Bank in 1919. They designed the brick building in a Neo Classical style with columns.

16. Reliable Hardware, 1918

(Today's Bourbon Jack's American Tavern / Shoe Thrill)

Town Councilman Alva T. Morgareidge operated the Reliable Hardware Company here until the 1940s. Owners of the Arrow Pharmacy remodeled it as part of the pharmacy's expansion.

17. Arrow Pharmacy, 1918

(Today's Cheba Hut / Charm Thai / Peixoto Coffee)

While former Mayor David Jacobsen built the structure, it was John "Doc" Weber who opened his pharmacy here in 1920. The pharmacy had many owners, but each one kept the "Arrow" name. Chandler residents shopped and drank sodas here for 85 years.

18. Sprouse-Reitz, 1920

(Corner of Boston Street and Arizona Avenue)

In its early years, this building served as a home for the Chamber of Commerce. The Sprouse-Reitz Company operated a five- and ten-cent store in the west end of the structure.

19. Serrano's Popular Store/Vance Bakery, 1920

In the building on the left, Albert and Luis Serrano sold clothing and shoes here until the late 1970s, when they opened a Mexican restaurant. Between 1920 and the 1960s, the building on the right served as a bakery and the popular Chandler Café.

20. Esber Store, 1920

(Located directly east of the former Vance Bakery building.)

Albert Esber opened his dry goods store here in 1920. Starting in 1950, Albert Tibshraeny sold western clothing, boots and hats here until the 1960s.

21. O.S. Stapley Hardware, 1920

(Today's Brix on Boston / Soho63)

O.S. Stapley opened this branch of his Mesa-based store after serving in Arizona's first legislature and helping to write the state constitution.

22. Bashes' Boston Store

(Located on the corner of Boston and Washington streets)

To the left of the Stapley building is a parking lot. On that site in 1920, Lebanese immigrants Najeeb and Najeeby Basha opened their first store in the Valley. This store was a general mercantile business, called the Boston Store. In the early 1930s, the Basha family decided to move from dry goods to focus on groceries. They opened another store in the Ocotillo area, one in Mesa and continued to expand. Their successful supermarket chain was born. The building was demolished many years ago, but Chandler will always be proud to have been a part of the Bashes' legacy.