

## **Heritage Square Audio Tour: The Baird Machine Shop**

The Baird Machine Shop was built in 1928 by Kathryn Baird. She and her son, Arthur Franklin Baird, opened the machine shop in 1929. The large bay windows on each side of the door were likely designed to display the machinery to passers-by.

A man named George W. Wilson continued to operate a machine shop in the building until 1933. Various owners continued operating machine shops on the same property until 1964, including a bicycle shop, several auto repair businesses, general machine works companies, and an auto body paint shop. The building was purchased by the City of Phoenix in 1978.

While this industrial type of building might seem somewhat out of place among its residential neighbors on Heritage Square, Block 15 (where the Thomas House and Baird Machine Shop are located, south of Adams Street) has spent most of its history being more industrial in nature. Block 15 has been home to a lumber yard, an auto ignition repair business, and an auto supply business, among others. There were residences on two lots of Block 15 - but most of the block was dominated by the lumber yard and other various businesses that operated here.

The machine shop has been the home of the award-winning Pizzeria Bianco since 1996.