

## **Heritage Square Audio Tour: Introduction**

Welcome to Heritage Square! Home to a historic house museum, shops and restaurants, this city block is the last remaining residential block from the original 1870 Phoenix townsite. That townsite was divided into 98 blocks, and Heritage Square encompasses Block 14 and part of Block 15. Phoenix has expanded quite a bit since then, growing from just a half square mile to over 500 square miles today!

The CJ Dyer Map shows how Phoenix looked in 1885 - if the Visitor Center is open, you can see the map for yourself, or you can see a copy on your phone or device. Block 14 is in the top right corner along Apache Street, which today is 7th Street.

Phoenix was a farming community during this time, thanks largely to the extensive canal systems that were originally constructed by the Ancestors of the O'Odham and Piipaash Peoples, who lived in the area from the early years AD to 1400 AD. Canals spanned nearly 500 miles, redirecting water from the Salt and Gila River to farms and villages. Abandoned for centuries by their creators, these canals were eventually re-dug by settlers starting in the 1860s and are still used today.

To imagine what Block 14 looked like when the Rosson's built their Victorian-style home in the 1890's, remove the steel, concrete, and glass structures from your mind and visualize the unpaved dirt roads and the view of Camelback Mountain to the East. There would have been fig and citrus trees, and the canals would have been within walking distance- perfect for a swim in the hot summer months.