Heritage Square Audio Tour: The Mognett-Burgess Carriage House

Built in 1881, the Mognett-Burgess Carriage House is technically the oldest building in all of Heritage Square- however, it is not original to this location. During the restoration of the Square in the 1970's, this building was moved here from 130 E. Taylor Street; that area is now the location of the Downtown Campus for Arizona State University.

The carriage house is the only remaining structure from the Francis Marion Mognett Ranch. The owner, Francis Mognett, came to Arizona from Oregon in 1876. After running a successful ranch just south of Prescott, Francis moved operations to the Phoenix area and invested in real estate. His initial 62 acres were bordered by Roosevelt Avenue on the North and Van Buren Avenue on the South; it ran between Central Ave. and 3rd/4th Streets West to East. The carriage house was one of several outbuildings to the large house on second street that included a chicken coop, a tack barn, and a canary cage. The carriage house was ultimately owned by Forest Burgess, who donated the structure to Heritage Square in 1976 - it was moved to Heritage Square on a flatbed tractor trailer in November of that year.

Carriage houses were built for the storage of carriages and horses, so the architecture is focused on function over beauty. It has a loft and two sliding barn doors, as well as a cupola, which is the small structure that sits on the roof; this detail was designed to allow the heat to escape, which is very important to help keep spaces cool in the heat of Phoenix!