

Architecture & Design

The Peoria Central School is a two-room Mission Revival-style building that has masonry block walls with a rough-plaster finish and a Spanish tile roof topped with a cupola. It has a curvilinear parapet on the main entry pavilion, which is offset from the main wall plane.

Background

This two-room Peoria Central School was constructed in 1906. The school was built to replace a school building on the same site that burned down in a fire the previous year. The two-room school building is symbolic of the optimism of early residents who were planning ahead to a time when Peoria's population would be large enough to require a two-room school house. In fact, the decision to fund the construction of the school was a source of controversy among residents at the time, as some folks did not believe that Peoria would ever need a two room school house. Those who believed Peoria's population would continue to grow prevailed. Not only was the Peoria Central School soon put to full use, but by the 1910's additional classrooms were built nearby to accommodate Peoria's expanding student body.

In 1976 the school was sold to the City of Peoria by the Peoria Unified School District. In 1982, the Peoria Central School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building was renovated in 1998, and is currently occupied by the Peoria Arizona Historical Society Museum. It is the oldest extant school building in Peoria, as well as one of the earliest masonry buildings constructed in the Peoria townsite.