

Phoenix History

1850-1900



Phoenix as a New City



Washington Street in 1870

- Phoenix was finally recognized in 1868.
- In 1870 a townsite was voted upon which now lies within the boundaries of Van Buren to Jackson and 7th Street to 7th Avenue.
- New town site named Salt River Valley Town Association.



- Prescott citizens purchased land and started the erection of city buildings in Phoenix.
- The first store building was the Hancock's General Store built on 1st St and Washington.
- Building served as town hall, county offices and a general meeting place.
- Schooling for youth began in 1871.
- Phoenix retained its town size population until the early 1900s when farming communities began to slow.
- Jack Swilling, a founder of Phoenix, organized the Swilling Irrigation Canal Company. The area later was named Mill City.
- Darrell Duppa suggested 'Phoenix' - new town would spring from the ruins of a former civilization.

1874- 1880



- In 1875 lots ranged from \$7- \$11.
- The first telegraph was introduced to Phoenix.
- 16 saloons, four dance halls, two banks and one faro table inhabited the city.
- Population of 2,453.
- Maricopa County had its first legal hanging.



John T. Alsap, Phoenix First Mayor

Phoenix Government



- First election was held for Mayor and four council members.
- Total population 2,500.
- Government looked towards modernizing the city. 1886 marked the first electrical plants in the city as well as the first fire department run by volunteers.

Downtown Phoenix, 1888



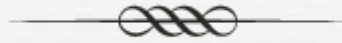


Transportation



- Street cars were installed in 1887 and cars introduced to streets in 1889.
- Street cars later extended over phoenix and to part of Glendale, resulting in an extensive transportation system.

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Icons:

- ❧ Covered wagons
- ❧ The Wild West...
guns, horses,
saloons
- ❧ Canals
- ❧ Land
- ❧ Water
- ❧ Jack Swilling



An aerial lithograph of Phoenix from 1885.

