

HISTORIC STREETLIGHT FIXTURES IN PHOENIX

Street lighting fixtures with pole-top mounted luminaires were apparently used in Phoenix until the beginning of World War II. Following the war, in the late 40's and into the 50's, poles with top mounted luminaires were replaced in the downtown area and some neighborhoods by overhead lights on cantilevered mast arms. It may not have been until this time that many Phoenix residential neighborhoods first received street lighting.

Historic photographs show streetlights in the downtown area early in the 20th Century. Electric arc lamps can be seen hanging suspended above some street intersections by the late 1890's. As early as 1908, pole-top electric lighting fixtures can be seen in the downtown area. The same style fixtures with five round globes (four hanging pendent style and one top-mounted in the center) are evident in photos throughout the downtown area into the 1940's. Following the WWII, tall metal poles with cantilevered mast arms start to appear in historic photographs. Although, the luminaires have changed, the same metal poles remain in many areas downtown today. Interestingly, one 1946 photo at the intersection of Central and Monroe shows what appears to be two of the Union Metal lighting poles, with single pole-top luminaires, existing along side the modern cantilevered mast arm poles.

At present, there are five styles of concrete or metal historic street lighting poles of the top-mounted luminaire design that are known to remain in Phoenix. Three are in neighborhood settings and two are in City parks developed in the 1930's.

Standard designs for several historic street light fixtures have been located in City records dating from 1929. One is a Union Metal, metal pole design and one is a Marbelite Corp. concrete pole design. There are also two wall-mounted bracket light fixtures. None of these designs resemble the existing fixtures in Phoenix neighborhoods nor do they resemble earlier fixtures visible in historic photos of the downtown area. However, an old concrete street lighting pole now located in the front yard of the home at 2252 N. Laurel, Fairview Place Historic District, strongly resembles the Marbelite design. The pole may in fact be an old City lighting fixture.

Records of the Union Metal Corp. list fourteen fixtures of various designs installed in Phoenix prior to 1930. Installations after 1930 are apparently unknown. One of these, Design No. 1292, appears to be the historic metal pole style that remains in the Alvarado and Palmcroft neighborhoods.

Concrete poles in the Encanto portion of the Encanto-Palmcroft Historic District are of a slightly different (more ornate) design and do not match the Ashland Place lighting fixtures. These poles were originally advertised as *"A De Luxe Marbelite Standard- Encanto Model"* Historic light poles in the Palmcroft portion of the district are metal poles similar to the two remaining Alvarado District light poles.

Luminaires used in the Encanto, Palmcroft and Ashland Place Districts have similar globe designs. Only the two remaining fixtures in the Alvarado neighborhood have a noticeably different globe design that may represent an earlier period.

Luminaires used on the two styles of poles found in City parks are unique to those locations.

Also, it should be noted that, as of December 1993, a number of cast iron bases and luminaires for the unique "Coronado Park" type lighting fixture were stored at the back of the City's surplus materials yard. These fixtures were probably once used in other City parks.

RECENT INSTALLATION OF FAUX HISTORIC LIGHT FIXTURES

Many faux historic light poles and fixtures have been installed throughout the City. Most have been on private property and many are of an ornate design that is suggestive of a much earlier period than historic development in Phoenix.

Several styles have been installed in City Parks. There are several designs at Heritage Square and another design has been used at Encanto Park.

The Amron Olympian concrete pole with the "Acorn" style luminaire has recently been used as a replacement for damaged historic fixtures in the Ashland Place and Encanto-Palmcroft Historic Districts. The Amron Olympian pole and the Union Metal concrete model 800 poles are both almost identical to the original concrete poles originally manufactured by Marbelite that remain in the Ashland Place Historic District.

The Amron Olympian pole and "Acorn" style luminaire have also been installed in two historic districts as well as in other non-historic neighborhoods. Lights installed in the Country Club Park and East Evergreen Historic Districts were installed without federal assistance and were not subject to Section 106 Review.

Four of the Coronado Park style metal poles and pendent luminaires were recently salvaged from City surplus, refurbished and installed by the Fire Department in front of historic Fire Station #8 at 541 W. Encanto Blvd.

RECENT INSTALLATION OF NON-HISTORIC LIGHT FIXTURES

The following are two recently installed street light poles that may serve as examples of modern fixtures that do no attempt to replicate historic styles, but do evoke the pedestrian sensibility of an earlier period of street lighting.

- The Streetscape poles installed along Adams Street in the Downtown area in 1994-95. Originally painted purple, the luminaires were conceptually designed to be used as single top-mounted fixtures or double, side-mounted, fixtures on larger poles.
- The new cast concrete octagonal light poles installed at Steele Indian School Park.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

Introduction of visual, atmospheric or audible elements that did not exist historically diminishes the historic integrity of a historic property or district. Alteration of a property or district by the introduction of conjectural features, such as faux historic street light fixtures, may have an adverse effect as defined under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary Of The Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The standards below apply to the introduction of new streetlights and the replacement of historic streetlights in historic districts.

- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alterations of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as added conjectural features (such as streetlights) or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration require replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and where possible, materials.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

Representatives of a number of historic districts and other neighborhoods in Phoenix have expressed interest in installing "historic type streetlights" in their neighborhoods. Although well intentioned, and often beneficial in other ways, the ultimate effect on the true historic character of a neighborhood is not always well understood. The purpose of this guideline is to establish a policy that will guide future decisions on the installation of new streetlights and maintenance of existing historic streetlights within designated historic districts in the City of Phoenix.

PROPOSED STANDARD STREETLIGHT DESIGNS FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS Two alternative designs are proposed. The appropriate use of each style should be in determined according to the following Policy for Streetlight Installation in Historic Districts.

1. Amron, Olympian or Union Metal, model 800, cast concrete light poles with "Acorn" style luminaire.
2. Lumec, Transit series TR10-SHA luminaire with a traditional/bottleneck aluminum or metal pole and base. Base model to be specified.

PROPOSED policy FOR STREETLIGHT INSTALLATION IN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

The Amron, Olympian or Union Metal, model 800 cast concrete light poles with the "Acorn" style luminaire are proposed for use within designated historic districts-where the original Marbelite or Union Metal concrete poles of similar design were originally installed. These poles would be appropriate for replacement of severely deteriorated or destroyed historic

light fixtures of similar design. These fixtures may also be considered for installation within the same subdivision in these districts when additional fixtures are needed to supplement the existing lighting. Additional fixtures would only be considered appropriate when installed with similar siting, spacing and spatial relationship to other streetscape features such as streets, curbs, sidewalks and landscaping. They must also be installed to match the installation appearance of the original fixtures.

- The Lumec, Transit series TR10-SHA luminaire with a traditional/bottleneck aluminum ornamental pole and base. This fixture would be appropriate for installation within designated historic districts where there is no evidence of historic period streetlights or they cannot be matched with modern replacements. This fixture would also be appropriate where there is a desire to replace modern overhead mast arm type street lighting with pole mounted lights.
- Existing, authentic historic light fixtures will be maintained and repaired where possible rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement, the replacement must be with in accordance with this guideline.
- In the event additional existing historic streetlight fixtures, of a distinctive design, are identified in newly designated historic districts, replacements will match the old in design, color, texture, and where possible, materials.
- The Streets Department will coordinate each neighborhood proposal with the City Historic Preservation Office in advance to ensure conformance with the policy from a historic standpoint, and to coordinate the siting, placement and installation details of the lamps.
- The Streets Department and the City Historic Preservation Office will continue to work together to refine the design details of the light fixtures.