

# City of Flagstaff



The City of Flagstaff's latest indoor art project is a photographic exhibit of Flagstaff's Townsite neighborhood. Photographed in 2012 by Duffie Westheimer, the exhibit documents many of Townsite's historic homes, streetscapes, and artistic elements. Besides photography, Duffie is active in historic preservation, creating fiber art, and can usually be seen riding her bike all over downtown. Her photographs of Townsite are currently on display at the airport and Aquaplex.

## **Flagstaff's Townsite Neighborhood**

Townsite's three main streets, Aspen, Birch and Cherry, are more than 100 years old and connect the district directly with downtown, the heart of our community. Most houses are small bungalows though there are examples of Queen Anne, Craftsman, Pueblo Revival, and other styles and sizes typical of the last century or so. Also found are apartment complexes built at different times since the end of World War II. The neighborhood is full of character with well-worn sidewalks, residents of diverse backgrounds, ages and interests, tall trees in yards and lining the streets, and structures built with unique local materials. Some homes are occupied by descendants of families who established the neighborhood more than a century ago.

The original Townsite neighborhood plan was recorded in Coconino County in April, 1894. In April of 1985, the Townsite Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Then in April of 2007, Townsite became Flagstaff's first residential historic district.

Citizens went through a two year process to create the Townsite Historic Design Review Overlay District. The neighborhood structures illustrate life in Flagstaff from the late 1800s to the present. Their size, materials, relationship to each other, and the parcels of land on which they sit represent a living museum of 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century life in Flagstaff.

If you or someone you know has information about Townsite, including images and/or stories to share from any time frame, please contact Duffie Westheimer at [townsiteoralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:townsiteoralhistory@gmail.com)