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HISTORIC AWARD HONORS MYRTLE AVENUE CULTURAL GATEWAY

GLENDALE, Ariz. – The city of Glendale Planning Division recently received the Distinguished Historic Plan/Program/Landmark Award from the Arizona Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) for the Myrtle Avenue Cultural Gateway project.

The Gateway serves as the primary entryway into Historic Downtown Glendale and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The historic northeast corner of Myrtle and Grand avenues features two buildings as part of the restoration project - an adobe house and service station. The adobe house was built in 1936 by Ed and Bessie Morcomb who actually used earth from the site for the bricks. The corner was known for decades to thousands of local residents as the Morcomb property; the family owned and operated the service station and later an auto and farm equipment repair shop on the site until 2003.

The public opening of the Myrtle Avenue Cultural Gateway occurred in Jan. 2013. Preservation efforts enhanced the look of the corner while protecting its historic nature.

Visitors and residents are welcome to visit the Myrtle Avenue Cultural Gateway, which has also become a popular stop on various historic preservation tours. The site includes the restored adobe house and service station as well as an historic outdoor display plaza, artwork, parking lot and landscaping.

The APA award was accepted by Thomas Ritz, senior planner for Glendale Planning Division. In addition, Ritz was elected as an officer as the North Central Section Director for the Arizona Chapter of APA. The APA is an organization of professional planners and public officials who serve Arizona's communities in many ways, at all levels of government, the private sector, and not-for profit organizations. Planning and preservation work together to conserve neighborhoods, while encouraging

economic development and revitalization. For more information on the city's historic preservation efforts, visit www.glendaleaz.com/historicpreservation.

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