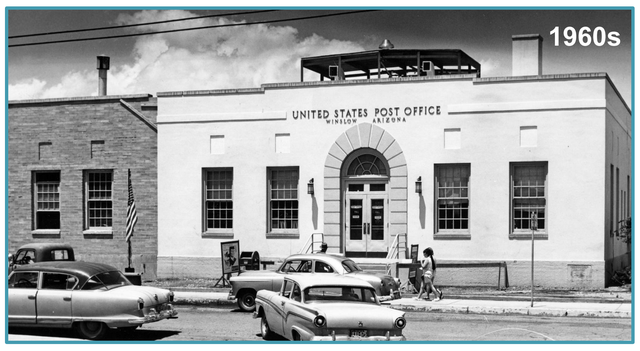
Old Trails Museum
WINSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

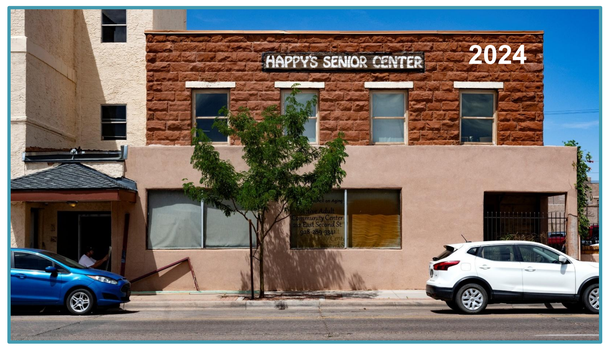
100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66 IN WINSLOW

Civic Life on Route 66

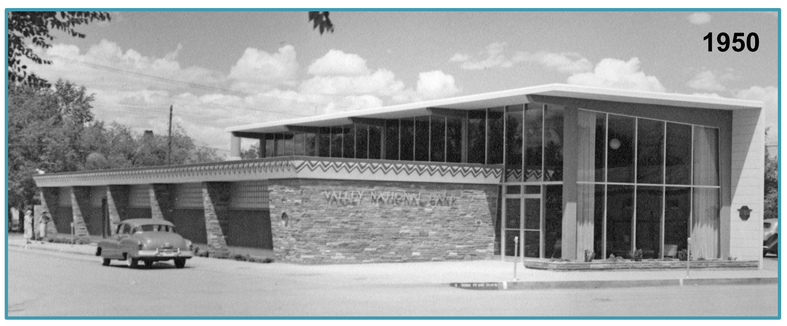
Route 66 through downtown Winslow has encompassed the city's civic district since its designation in 1926 and through its expansion in 1953, decline in the 1980s, and renewal today. Downtown—defined by Second and Third Streets and the cross-streets in between for several blocks east and west of Kinsley Avenue—has included governmental buildings such as the federal post office, city hall, and police and fire departments; public utilities including the phone and gas companies; several banks and churches; professional services such as doctors and morticians, and community organizations such as the Elks Lodge.



Then & Now: In 1936, a New Deal project of the Works Progress Administration relocated Winslow's US Post Office from Second Street to a new Federal Moderne structure on the southwest corner of Williamson Avenue and Third Street, which became westbound Route 66 in 1953. A southern addition was erected in 1965. In 2023, *Architectural Digest* named it one of "the world's 11 most beautiful post offices" for its "strong sense of place."

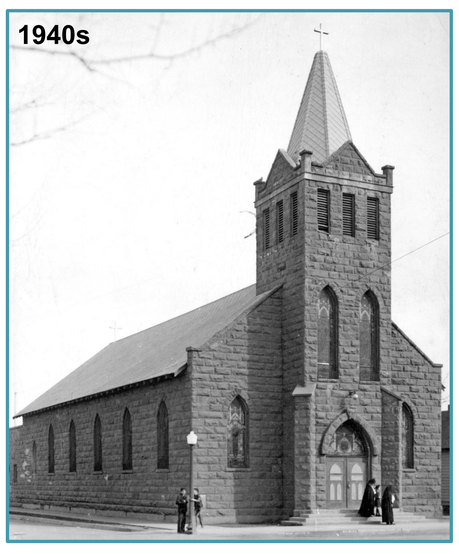


Then & Now: The building at 212 East Second Street served as city hall, fire station, jail, and library. The Winslow Fire Department relocated to 901 East Second Street in 1975, and the building has since housed the Winslow Council on Aging's Active Adult Community Center. Winslow City Hall and the Winslow Public Library recently relocated from other locations to 102 East Third Street and 617 West Second Street, respectively.



Above, Then & Now: In 1950, Valley National Bank moved from Kinsley Avenue to the northeast corner of Third Street and Williamson Avenue. The new building combined Mid-Century Modern architecture with Native American-influenced decorative elements. The location has housed a series of financial institutions including Bank One in 1992, Community First National Bank in 1997, Bank of the West in 2004, and BMO Banking Center since 2023.

Right, Then & Now: The building at 210 West Second Street has housed a series of financial institutions, starting with the First Navajo National Bank in 1962 and followed by the Great Western Bank in 1968, Citibank in 1986, Norwest Bank Arizona in 1993, and Wells Fargo Bank since 2000.



Then & Now: In 1922, St. Joseph Church was dedicated at 220 West Second Street on the site of the original 1891 church. Its 17 stained glass windows, steeple, copper ceilings, and main doors are original and have been refurbished.

Then & Now: The building at 122 West Third Street has housed a series of professional health services since Dr. Myron G. Wright opened the Nancy Wright Clinic in 1945, including the Winslow Manor Rest Home in 1960, the McCormick Vision Center in 1979, and the Stuart Eye Center since 1994.

Above, Then & Now: The building at 316 West Second Street has been in continuous use as a mortuary since 1929, first as Drumm Mortuary, then Scott & McMillan Mortuary in 1942, Scott Mortuary in 1970, and Greer's Mortuary since 1989.

Left, Then & Now: Winslow Elks Lodge No. 536 was granted its charter in 1900. It dedicated a new two-story lodge at 315 West Third Street in 1924 and an auditorium addition in 1950. The Winslow Elks both rent and donate the auditorium for community events.

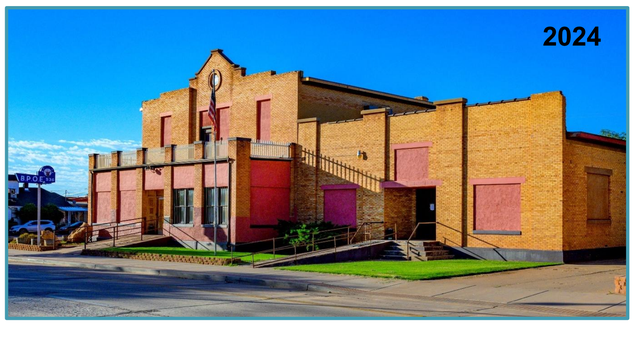


Photo Credits: 1 & 2: Lawrence Kenna

Acknowledgements: *100 Years of Route 66 in Winslow* was developed for the Winslow Route 66 Centennial Committee's celebration by the Old Trails Museum and funded by the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, City of Winslow, and Winslow Chamber of Commerce. For more Winslow history, visit the Old Trails Museum.