

Duncan Pride Society Projects

2001-2024

Hal Empie "Greenlee" mural conservation



Memorial lamp post project

Hill Street Mural



Spezia Square

Sandra Day O'Connor Walkway

Packer Park

Gila River Birding and Wildlife Trail



Javelina Chase Cycling Event

Pioneer Awards

Cookbooks & Postcards

Community Cleanups

Downtown Business Facade Improvements



BILLINGSLEY HOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT



Duncan P.R.I.D.E. Society

*A Community Effort —
Get Involved!*

www.duncanazpreservation.org



Benjamin Franklin Billingsley, known in the early 20th century as “Duncan’s Oldest Merchant,” opened a general merchandise store in 1895, catering to farmers and miners in the newly founded town. In his spare time

he was out in the foothills above the Gila River, prospecting and staking claims. Then, while doing some work out at the H.C. Day Ranch on the Arizona-New Mexico border – the ranch where, some years later, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor spent her childhood – he met Mrs. Day’s sister Nellie Hilton, who was teaching at Duncan’s first primary school.

A native of England, Nellie eventually agreed to marry B.F. Billingsley. She had one condition: he must build her a proper house. And that’s what he did, finishing the structure of English brick, marrying Nellie, and completing the interiors with her oversight.

B.F. Billingsley’s grandsons, Leslie, Richard and Charles, slept in the screened back porch in summer, and went outdoors to the outhouse since their grandpa thought it uncivilized to have a toilet inside the home. Family added a bathroom to the house after the patriarch’s passing.



Now the Billingsley family and the Duncan P.R.I.D.E. Society have come together on a plan to rescue and restore the house. Charles Billingsley donated the house to the P.R.I.D.E. Society. Volunteers are prepping the building for restoration after installing a new roof.

To keep costs down, this restoration project will be a community effort, like an old barn raising. Young and old will be a part of it.

We need donations of money, materials, and labor from the public, and funds from a number of grant sources.

Can you help?

When the restoration is complete, the P.R.I.D.E. Society will operate the Billingsley House as a venue for events: wedding receptions,

concerts, family reunions, lectures and more. It will also house the P.R.I.D.E. Society office, with historical displays that they have collected for 15 years.

P.R.I.D.E. Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Vision Statement: P.R.I.D.E. is committed to work with our town government, community leaders, and all area residents to preserve and enhance our town’s overall image and historic value.

Preservation, Restoration in Duncan’s Enhancement

Send donations to:
Duncan P.R.I.D.E. Society
P.O. Box 210
Duncan, Arizona 85534

To donate materials or labor, contact:
Dianne Vandell
928-792-9546
vandellbrss@gmail.com

