

***Purman, Connell, Smurthwaite House***  
***1317 West Jefferson Street***  
***Phoenix, Arizona***

- ❖ 1880s – General Clark Churchill, wealthy lawyer and politician comes to Phoenix and invests heavily in land north of town. It became known as the Churchill Addition and was the place to be for the elite of Arizona Territory. (Adjutant General Clark Churchill, 1836-1896 buried in Mason Cemetery P&MMP).
- ❖ 1880s – Canadian-born architect James Miller Creighton begins career in the Arizona Territory. He was the architect for many city halls and courthouse buildings around the state, including the Pinal County Courthouse in Florence and the Carnegie Library in Phoenix. His style reflects the necessary features for living in a desert landscape – broad, airy verandas; multiple sleeping porches; and attention to ventilation and multiple transom windows.
- ❖ 1894 - Dr. Darrius M. Purman and Mary Purman move to Phoenix from Indiana for her health. He develops a large practice and becomes the head of the first Medical Examining Board in Arizona.
- ❖ 1897 – Deed to Dr. and Mary Purman, Lots 11 & 12, Block 46, Churchill’s Addition from the AZ Land Stock Company. Their primary residence is next door to the rental house.
- ❖ 1897 - The Purmans commissioned Architect James Miller Creighton to design and build the 3,000 square foot residence for \$2,875. The House was designed as a Queen Anne Shingle Style residential property, with two and a half stories and a steeply pitched roof. The second story is framed with wood shingles, and a large-hipped dormer and two small-hipped dormers located on the front roof slope. All windows have original wood-framed one-over-one sash. It may have been a rental property at one time, but later modifications made it into a single-family dwelling and that is how the House has been preserved.
- ❖ 1898 – Captain Trustrim and Anne Connell move to Phoenix from Los Angeles with family.
- ❖ 1902 – Contents of both houses are auctioned and the Purmans move to California, where Dr. Purman dies in Los Angeles in 1904 after moving there to regain his health. He is buried in the Rosedale Cemetery in Los Angeles CA.
- ❖ 1903 – The House was leased and finally purchased by Captain Trustrim Connell. Captain Connell was a Civil War veteran and selected to head the Wells Fargo Express in Indian Territory. For Valor in the Civil War he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism at Deatonsville (Sailor’s Creek) VA. Captain Connell and his wife Anne had three children, though by 1903 only their daughter Caroline and grandson Charles M. Downey were living. The family moves into the House and stayed for 79 years!
- ❖ 1904 – James Miller Creighton Jr. (age 12) dies from diphtheria and is buried in the Mason Cemetery (P&MMP). He is one of the nine children born to Creighton Sr. and first wife Mary Effie Smith who died in 1913. Creighton married her sister, Nellie Smith, who had moved to Arizona to help him raise the children.
- ❖ 1907 – In the House on December 11, 1907 Caroline Connell married Charles Frederick Smurthwaite, a prominent mining superintendent from Michigan. They had their own home in Cave Creek but soon move back to Phoenix and live with her parents.

- ❖ 1918 – Carolann is born in the House to Caroline and Charles Smurthwaite.
- ❖ 1921 – Anne Eliza Maffet Connell passes away in the House – age 74 (1848–1921) and is buried in Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles CA. Trustrim and Ann Connell were married for 53 years.
- ❖ 1929 – Caroline Smurthwaite opens the first gift and antique shop at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel. The House was also used as a gift shop in the early 1930s. Caroline was a collector of Native American art, an expert on fine China, and became a nationally recognized authority on art. She designed needlepoint projects for the Ladies Home Journal during World War I.
- ❖ 1931 – Trustrim Connell deeded the House to his daughter Caroline Smurthwaite.
- ❖ 1934 – The Smurthwaite marriage ends in divorce April 1934. Caroline and Carolann continue to live in the House and care for Captain Connell.
- ❖ 1937 – Trustrim Connell passes away in the House – almost 93 years old (1844-1937). He is buried in Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles CA next to his wife Anne and near their daughter Ella Claire Connell. Captain Connell played a significant role in the history of Arizona through his work in the Indian Services and Express Companies during territorial days and early Statehood. He was respected and greatly admired as a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- ❖ 1940s – Caroline and Carolann Smurthwaite stay involved with the Art Community, remain active in the DAR, and continue working in the antique and gift shop business.
- ❖ 1971 – Caroline Smurthwaite passes away in the House in October – 89 years old (1881-1971). Her daughter Carolann continues to work with the collections of Native American art doing business under her mother’s name out of the Biltmore shop and using the parlor of the House as a gift shop.
- ❖ 1982 – Carolann Smurthwaite passes away in the House – 64 years old (1918-1982). Carolann never married and never moved. In her will, Carolann requested the Smurthwaite House be given to three museums; The Phoenix Art Museum, The Museum of Northern Arizona, and the Heard Museum.
- ❖ 1987 – The three museums deed the property to the City of Phoenix.
- ❖ 1994 – Due to construction and city plans for the neighborhood, it was determined the House could not stay in the Churchill Addition, so it was moved. The House was moved from 602 North Seventh Street (7<sup>th</sup> Street & Fillmore) to its present location at 1317 West Jefferson Street. A wood-framed addition on the East side of the House and a carport were not stable enough to move to the new location. Restoration work began in 1998 and was completed in 2001.
- ❖ 2001 – The Smurthwaite House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 17, 2001 for its architecture and new location at 1317 W. Jefferson Street.
- ❖ Present – The House is open for public tours, with portions of the upstairs being used for meetings, records, research documents, library, and Pioneers’ Cemetery Association (PCA) administrative records.

