

618 Arizona Street

[Grand Canyon Airlines depot]

historic documentation

compiled by
Dennis McBride
April 6, 1998

The house at 618 Arizona Street was built in about 1933 or 1934 and served as the depot and ticket office for millionaire aviator Glover E. "Roxy" Ruckstell's Grand Canyon Airlines [GCA], the first tourist airline to operate in southern Nevada. GCA commenced operations at the Boulder City airport around 1934-35, and by 1936 had become a component in Grand Canyon-Boulder Dam Tours, Inc. [GCBDT], the first concessionaire to operate for the National Park Service in what later became the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. When GCBDT built a new pueblo-style depot at the Boulder City airport in 1938, Ruckstell moved the small frame ticket office to its present location at 618 Arizona Street. He remodeled the building and used it as the home for his black employees, Henry and Ocie Bradley. Blacks were not allowed to live in Boulder City independently and if the Bradleys had not worked for Ruckstell they would not have been allowed to live in Boulder City. The Bradleys, in fact, were the *first* black people to live in Boulder. Their home at 618 Arizona Street was damaged in a fire in 1939 and they later moved into a small home they built themselves on Boulder City's southern outskirts in a location noted as "not adjacent to other homes in the town." Since 1939 618 Arizona Street has remained a private residence under a succession of owners.

* * *