

American Veterinary Medical History Society

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Chandler (Maricopa), Arizona

Chandler Commercial Historic District

NRHP Ref #00001127

Added September 22, 2000



Photo source: National Register of Historic Places Application

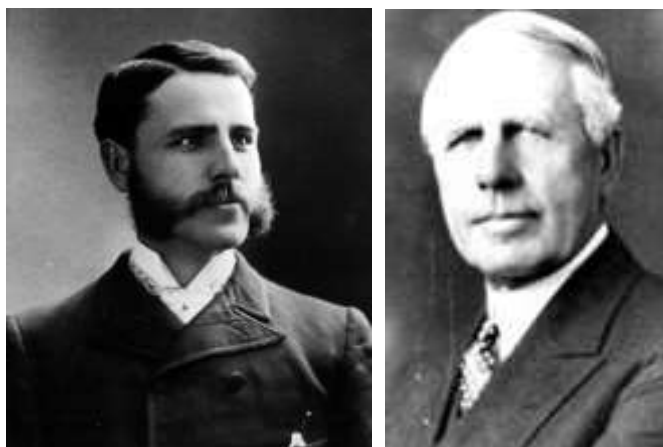


Historic commercial district, west of Arizona Avenue. Photo source: Chandler's Historic Sites.

Chandler, Arizona was named in honor of its founder Canadian-born veterinarian Alexander John Chandler (1859-1950). When incorporated on September 16, 1920, Dr. A.J. Chandler was named Mayor.

After receiving his veterinary degree from the Montreal Veterinary College at McGill University in 1882, he worked as a livestock inspector for the Canadian government and then established a successful practice in Detroit, Michigan. When relocating to the Southwest in 1887, he was appointed to the Territorial Livestock Sanitary Commission and served as Arizona Territory Veterinary Surgeon, perhaps being the first graduate veterinarian to practice in the area.

In turning his interests toward agriculture, he acquired considerable land holdings beginning in 1891 that soon included construction of a system of irrigation canals. Along with selling his Consolidated Canal Company, he established a town site in 1912 that featured a central business district with boulevards, parks, hotel, railroad station, and other facilities to support the growing grain and livestock industry in the surrounding area. He was the first to grow fine quality Egyptian cotton in North America and established a large ostrich raising enterprise for feathers to adorn hats.



Alexander John Chandler (1859-1950)

MORE INFORMATION:

Keeley, Joseph. Chandler's historic sites: Explore some of Chandler's historic buildings with this interactive map. February 4, 2020.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f8cf870107f2481381ca6a01bdc61a0d>

Dr. A.J. Chandler. *A Historical and Biographical Record of the Territory of Arizona*. Chicago: McFarland & Poole, 1896; p. 488. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/chi.22239681>

Chandler Museum Archives. Chandler, Alexander J. (A.J.) *Chandler Pedia*. Last modified 2014 Dec 22.

http://archive.chandlermuseum.org/People/C/Chandler%2C_Alexander_J.

History of Chandler, Ariz. Chandler Arizona. [History of Chandler, Ariz. | City of Chandler \(chandleraz.gov\)](http://www.chandleraz.gov/history)

Whitaker, Susanne and Phyllis H. Larsen. A Veterinarian's Namesake in Arizona. AVMHS Time-Bite, September 28, 2016.

Updated January 10, 2022