

Florence *True Value*® Hardware & Commercial Supply

P.O. Box 2087 290 North Main Street Florence, Arizona 85132
Local 520-868-0410 Fax: 520-868-3072
Arizona's Most Unique Hardware Store



OUR HISTORY

* indicates our National Historic Registered Building



Town Founder, Levi Ruggles built a store on this site in 1876. In 1882, it became Peter Willis Brewery. Then, in 1915, the building was demolished for the construction of Powell People's Store*. This new structure was a single-story, buff-colored building composed of common red brick and contained a pressed-metal ceiling. The store also showcased a tile and glass island display.

Beginning in 1919, the Kaufman-Mandell* family operated Mandell's Department Store for more than seventy years.

In 1991, Russ and Cheryl Woodmansee purchased the 1915 corner building from Kay and Celeste Mandell. With minimal funds they converted it to a hardware store. During their initial days, they used a push button register and hand-written statements. Eight years later, they acquired the 7,000sqft attached south building (section at the main entrance) where they began the badly needed restoration. New cement floors were poured. New electrical & plumbing were installed. The saggy ceiling was lifted 12" with jacks. New offices, lunchroom and restrooms were built. Most importantly... ALL renovations were done in-house, without contractors. A total of five years was spent remodeling the current hardware store.

In 2004, they took on another project, renovating the original 1915 Mandell Building. They began by opening three access points, which meant they cut holes in the brick wall to allow interior traffic. Again, new cement floors were poured, new electrical and bathrooms.

Although, the main construction has been completed, minor details are always being hammered out. Russ and Cheryl have spent nearly a quarter of a century working side-by-side making Florence True Value Hardware a fun environment to work and a wonderful destination for customers. Today, they still run the day-to-day operations of their business!

With no intent to reveal it to the world, a few pictures were taken during the Mandell Building renovation. Using those pictures a short slide show is available of the before, during and after.