

## Did You Know...

Located at 416 Dibble Street West is the building once known as the home of successful merchant, Chauncey H. Peck. A New York native who moved to Prescott soon after the War of 1812 had ended, Peck quickly established himself as one of the town's leading businessmen on Water Street, which at the time was the main business street of Prescott. In 1851 Lovell's Business Directory, he was listed as a dealer in goods, from his store at the corner of Centre and Water Streets.

After purchasing the lot on Dibble Street from Susannah Jessup in 1845 for 130 pounds, Peck proceeded to build this impressive home, which was based on a style popular in the United States, known as Federal or Greek Revival. It is a stone house with a stucco finish, and large Greek columns and wide staircases, giving the building its impressive stature.

Peck founded Prescott's first library in the 1830's, called the Prescott Union Library, consisting mostly of his own personal collection of books, which he made available to the paying public. The bylaws of the library were printed on the inside page of each book. The Museum is fortunate in having two of the books, one of which is on display in the lobby of the town hall and the other in the museum. Peck's library was the foundation of all future libraries in Prescott, down to today's public library in the town hall on Dibble Street, not far from Peck's home. Today Peck's house is home to the Mackay Funeral Home.

You can learn more about Chauncey Peck, and other notable merchants of Prescott at the Prescott Museum and Visitor Centre, located at 202 King Street West. Open 11am-5pm, Wednesday to Saturday.