



## Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

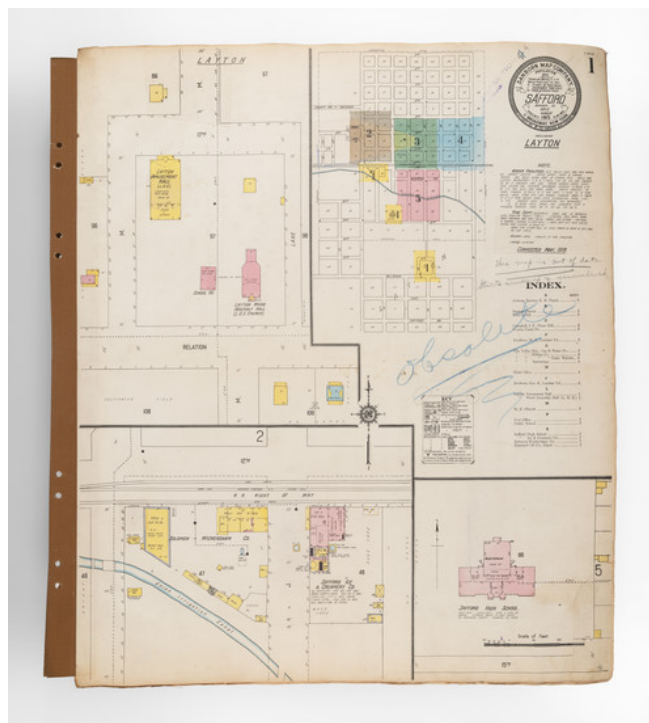
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### **(Mormonism in Arizona) Safford Graham Co. Ariz. Including Layton**

**Stock#:** 97295  
**Map Maker:** Sanborn Map Company  
**Date:** 1915 (updated to May 1919)  
**Place:** New York  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** See Description  
**Size:** 21.5 x 25.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



#### **Description:**

#### **One of the Rarest of Arizona Sanborn Atlases**

*Safford, Graham Co., Arizona, Including Layton*, released in 1915 by the Sanborn Map Company, offers a comprehensive representation of the urban landscape of Safford and Layton. Consisting of 5 sheets, the atlas was originally made as a specialized tool for insurance company underwriters in determining the degree of fire risk associated with any property shown therein. At the time of the atlas Safford had a population of 2000.

Executed with a scale 50 feet to an inch, the atlas shows nearly every building in Safford and Layton, with block-by-block, street-by-street, structure-by-structure, color-coded representations. Use of each structure is given: dwelling, grocery, storage, lumber yard, movie theater, church, hardware, etc., often recording the name of the individual business owner. Color coding denotes building material (yellow for frame structures, tan/brown for fireproof buildings; red for brick, blue for stone, and the like).

In the 1920s, Safford served as a vital hub in Graham County, a junction for both agricultural and cultural activities in the region. The neighboring Mormon community of Layton, named for Mormon pioneer



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Christopher Layton, grew alongside Safford. The Mormon community had established a strong presence in the area since the late 19th century, with many families drawn to Safford for its potential as farmland. Layton developed itself separately from Safford, and its many businesses were established primarily along what is now Relation Street. Businesses such as aloons, dance halls and brothels were located in mostly non-Mormon Safford. The present atlas documents Layton's establishments, such as the L. D. S. Layton Amusement Hall, and the Mormon Layton Ward Assembly Hall, as well as a schoolhouse. All of these buildings are now gone, with this mapping probably constituting one of the best records of some of the earliest Mormon infrastructure in the area.

Throughout the 1920s, the Safford-Layton community grew, contributing significantly to the region's economic landscape. The decade saw the consolidation of Mormon farms, the establishment of businesses, and a strengthening of religious and community bonds within this group.

The atlas draws attention to the town's water sources situated at the base of Graham Mountain and to the distribution mains established in 1913, indicating Safford's urban growth and emphasis on fire prevention. The Union Irrigation Canal features prominently in the maps.

Here follows a selection of structures shown in the atlas:

- Cooper Bros. Garage
- Gila Motor Co.
- Hotel Olive
- Layton Ward Assembly Hall (L.D.S. Church)
- Layton Amusement Hall (L.D.S. Church)
- J. D. Halstead's Lumber Yard
- Safford Ice & Creamery Co.
- Safford High School
- Solomon - Wickersham Co.
- W. C. Faulkner Lumber Yard

The atlas illustrates the internal layouts of some industrial buildings, a feature typical of fire insurance maps. The classification of structures by their materials—be it frame, brick, stone, iron, or adobe—provides a straightforward overview of the prevalent architectural styles. Annotations on the index page concerning street renaming and renumbering serve as evidence of the town's evolving urban framework.

#### **Rarity**



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This Arizona Sanborn atlas is very rare in the market as well as in institutional confines. Our atlas is almost certainly the unique surviving exemplar with 1919 additions.

Not a single example is located in OCLC. California State Northridge lists a 1941 edition for Safford and Layton. The Library of Congress has digitized editions of 1901, 1909, and 1915, but the latter does not incorporate the May 1919 updates of our example.

**Detailed Condition:**

Original hand-color. Unbound, with sheets mounted on alternating tabs. 5 sheets, including the index page. Complete. Pastedown updates to May 1919. The index page includes an annotation in pencil "This map is out of date. Streets renamed & renumbered" and, in blue colored pencil: "Obsolete." Old tape repair along lower margin of sheet no. 3, and a couple of repaired small marginal tears on two other sheets. Else very good.