



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

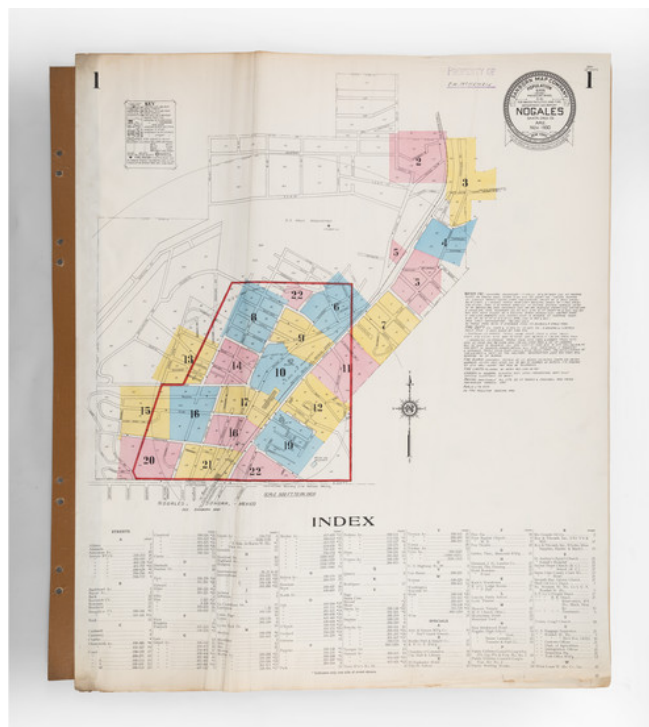
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(Arizona Fire Insurance Atlas) Nogales Santa Cruz Co. Ariz. Nov. 1930

Stock#: 97389
Map Maker: Sanborn Map Company
Date: 1930
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: See Description
Size: 21.5 x 25.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

A Street-by-Street View of an Arizona Border Town's Built Environment:

Nogales in 1930

Nogales, Santa Cruz Co. Ariz., produced by the Sanborn Map Company in November 1930, and copyrighted in 1931, offers a detailed cartographic representation of the urban landscape of Nogales, Arizona, its municipal infrastructure, fire-preparedness facilities, and the like. The atlas includes information on Nogales's water facilities, the fire department's capabilities, and the overall built environment of the town, emphasizing its construction quality and condition. Depths of the wells, the capacity of the pumps, and the strategic placement of reservoirs within the community are all noted. Fire limits, for instance, are indicated by a heavy red line, while annotations on ground elevations, paving types, and building structures reveal the urban texture of the town, indicative of its growth, planning, with great attention to architectural nuances. Situated at the U.S.-Mexico border, Nogales was a quintessential early 20th-century border town, an important node of cross-border trade and immigration.

In the 1930s, Nogales, Arizona, served as a key port of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona.



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Located directly across from its sister city, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, the town played a vital role in the cross-border trade and cultural exchange. The period witnessed the impacts of both the Mexican Revolution and the U.S. Great Depression, which influenced migration patterns and economic activity. As part of the New Deal's infrastructure projects, the federal government made improvements to the area, such as road building, to help combat the economic downturn. Nogales' strategic position made it a hotspot for customs and immigration activities, and by the end of the decade, it was further solidified as a bustling binational community that was intertwined economically, culturally, and socially with its Mexican counterpart.

In terms of cartographic makeup, the present Sanborn Insurance Map Atlas offers a level of detail that was indispensable for insurance underwriters, urban planners, and local government at the time. The hand-colored lithograph sheets provide a precise visual representation of most of Nogales's then extant buildings, their construction materials, and utilities. This granularity, while originally made for insurance risk assessments, today provides a meticulous snapshot of the town as it stood in the 1930s. In many ways the the Sanborn maps surpass even aerial and panoramic photography in terms of explicit visual information, clearly labeled and indexed.

The atlas thus not only serves as an example of the insurance industry's need for data, but stands as a historical artifact capturing the spatial and structural aspects of a 1930s Southwestern border town. Its details illuminate the town's urban character, from the distribution of commercial and residential zones to the presence of specific infrastructures, such as railway lines and warehouses, critical to its function as a hub of cross-border activities.

Rarity

The Nogales Sanborn atlas is extremely rare. No examples of any edition are noted in OCLC. California State Northridge lists an example of the present 1930 edition in their holdings. The Library of Congress has digitized editions of 1890, 1893, 1898, 1901, 1909, and 1917, but as of this writing their 1930 edition is not accessible online.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Unbound, with sheets mounted on alternating tabs. 22 maps, including the index page. Complete.