



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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(Arizona Fire Insurance Atlas) Florence Pinal Co. Ariz. June 1915

Stock#: 97553
Map Maker: Sanborn Map Company
Date: 1915 (updated to July 1927)
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: See Description
Size: 21.5 x 25.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

The Most Detailed Mapping of 1920s Florence, Arizona

A fire insurance atlas of *Florence, Pinal County*, produced by the Sanborn Map Company in June 1915, and updated to July 1927. The atlas offers a detailed record of the built environment of an Arizona town. Comprising 2 unbound sheets with hand-colored maps, the atlas was originally made as a specialized tool for insurance company underwriters in determining the degree of fire risk associated with any property shown therein. Today it is an unrivaled visual record of Florence's urban and architectural landscape for the time.

Use of every structure is given: dwelling, grocery, storage, lumber yard, barbershop, corral, auto garage, pool hall, church, hardware, water tower, etc., with the name of the individual business owner or public building noted. Color coding denotes building material. Notably, several buildings are noted as adobe structures.

Noted Murder Trials



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During the 1920s, Florence, Arizona, a town of 1000 inhabitants located in Pinal County, was primarily an agricultural hub - anchored by cotton farming and cattle ranching, facilitated by the proximity of the Gila River. The town was home to the Arizona State Prison, established in 1908, which was a significant employer. The Pinal County Court House, which is illustrated on the second sheet of the atlas, was the scene of several sensational murder trials, including those of Eva Dugan and Winnie Ruth Judd. Dugan, who was sentenced to death by hanging, was unintentionally decapitated on February 21, 1930, when the noose around her neck severed her head. This incident caused Arizona to change its execution method, to gas chamber, and later to lethal injection.

Although the decade of the 1920s saw modest growth in Florence (attested here by the extensive July 1927 pasted-on slips which updated the present 1915 edition atlas), Florence's core identity as a center for agriculture and governance as the county seat, continued steadily. Today the city of Florence has a population of 26,000.

A selection of structures noted in the atlas here follows:

- Hotel Florence
- Pinal Lumber Co.
- Florence Improvement Co.
- Pinal County Court House and Jail - the site of several sensational murder cases
- Municipal Pumping Station
- Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) - Priests' dwelling adobe construction

Fire insurance maps were designed to assist insurance underwriters in determining the degree of risk associated with almost any property. For nearly a century (from 1867 to 1961), Sanborn Map Company produced their fire insurance maps for nearly all U.S. cities. Ron Tyler (*Prints of the West*, pages 153-55) describes the fire insurance maps as a successor to the bird's-eye view in documenting the growth of towns and cities.

Rarity

The Florence, Arizona Sanborn atlas is very rare in the market. Our example is almost certainly the unique surviving exemplar of the

OCLC locates a single example of an unidentified edition of the Florence atlas at the University of Arizona. The Library of Congress has digitized a base 1915 edition as well as an updated-to-1941 edition, both of which differ substantially from our updated-to-1927 edition.



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Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Unbound, with sheets mounted on buckram cloth tab. 2 sheets (maps printed on rectos only). Complete. Extensive pasted updated for July 1927. Some edge chipping, but quite clean overall.