



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

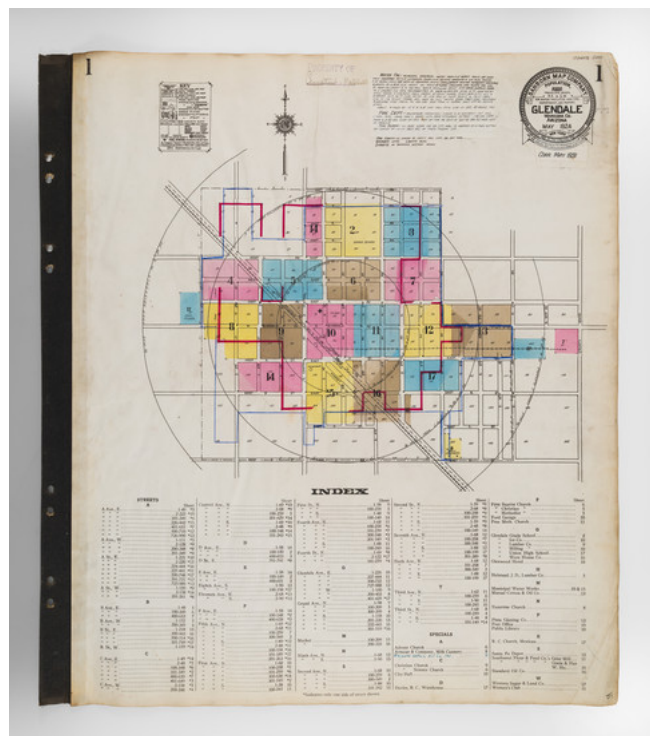
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(Arizona Fire Insurance Atlas) Glendale Maricopa Co. Arizona

Stock#: 97556
Map Maker: Sanborn Map Company
Date: 1924 (updated to May 1931)
Place: New York
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: See Description
Size: 21.5 x 25.5 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Glendale, Arizona in 1931

A fire insurance atlas of Glendale, Arizona, produced by the Sanborn Map Company in 1924, and updated to May 1931. The atlas comprises 17 unbound sheets with hand-colored maps originally intended for the use of insurance company underwriters in determining the degree of fire risk associated with any property shown therein. Today it is an unrivaled record of Glendale's urban and architectural landscape at the time, before its explosive suburban growth.

Executed with a scale 50 feet to an inch, every structure in Glendale is accurately shown with block-by-block, street-by-street, structure-by-structure representations. Use of every structure is given: dwelling, grocery, storage, lumber yard, church, hardware, water tower, etc., often recording the name of the individual business owner noted. Color coding denotes building material.

In the 1920s, Glendale, located near Phoenix, in Maricopa County, was a small Arizona agricultural community primarily focused on cotton farming thanks to its participation in the Salt River Project, an ambitious water reclamation initiative. The city served as a trading center for the surrounding farms and



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ranches. It had a modest downtown area featuring essential businesses like general stores, banks, and a post office. The Beet Sugar Factory in Glendale was another significant employer and economic pillar, processing sugar beets into refined sugar. Although it was a far cry from the bustling suburban city it has become, the 1920s saw Glendale laying the foundations for future growth.

Here follows a selection of the structures in the atlas:

- Arizona Cotton Oil Co. Inc.
- Associated Dairy Products Co., Ice Factory and Creamery
- R. C. Davies Warehouse, formerly Western Sugar & Land Co.'s Beet & Cane Sugar Factory
- Glendale Grade School
- Glendale Union High School
- J. D. Halsted Lumber Co.
- Mutual Cotton & Oil Co.
- Roman Catholic Church (Mexican)
- Western Sugar & Land Co.

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. The present Glendale, Arizona atlas bears out Tyler's assertion.

Rarity

The Glendale, Arizona Sanborn atlas is very rare in any edition. Our example is almost certainly the unique exemplar of the 1924 edition with May 1931 updates.

OCLC locates a single unidentified edition at the University of Arizona. The Library of Congress has digitized a 1915 edition, but as of this writing they have not made their two 1924 examples available online (a base 1924 edition, and a November 1948 updated example, respectively). No holdings of the Glendale, Arizona atlas reported in extensive Sanborn map collection at California State Northridge.

Detailed Condition:

Original hand-color. Unbound, with sheets mounted on alternating buckram cloth tabs. 17 sheets, including the index page (maps printed on rectos only). Complete. Some minor dust soiling along edges of



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first and last map sheet. Generally clean and nice. Early ownership stamp in upper margin of first sheet:
Property of Connecticut-Westchester.