

Historic Markers

In 2008, the Arizona Office of Rural Tourism provided a grant to fund the installation of 13 "Historic Markers" throughout the Clarkdale Historic District. Additional funding from local businesses and residents allowed this collaborative effort between the Town of Clarkdale and the Clarkdale Historical Society and Museum to move forward. Under the guidance and expert craftsmanship of Drake Meinke (owner of the Arizona Copper Art Museum), the Historic Markers were fabricated using iron railroad rails from the Verde Canyon Railroad and window frames from the historic United Verde Smelter in Clarkdale. The information on the Historic Markers was acquired from local residents, historical magazine articles, postcards, newspapers, open sources and the Clarkdale Historical Society and Museum. In addition to Mr. Meinke's design role, Don Stone played an instrumental role in the fabrication, and Signs 928 produced the sign panels.

Additional Historic Signs

In addition to the 13 distinct Historic Markers that were part of the 2008 project, numerous other historic signs and panels can be found in the Clarkdale Historic District. Some of the most prominent can be found in downtown Clarkdale and are noted with red dots on the map in this brochure.

We hope you'll enjoy your time spent in Clarkdale, and that our vibrant future will be as evident as our rich history as you stroll or drive through our Historic District.



Clarkdale History

Founded in 1912, Clarkdale is renowned as the first master planned community in the State of Arizona. Originally a "company town", Clarkdale was founded by the United Verde Copper Company to provide housing and services for the employees of their copper smelter. The extensive smelter complex was located near the Verde River and processed copper ore that was brought down from the mines in Jerome from 1913-1953.

Unlike other company towns of the period that grew haphazardly, Clarkdale was designed and built from a unified master plan. The main town site was located on a ridge overlooking the industrial smelter complex and was developed with residential homes, including upper and lower-income housing, a commercial area, and administrative center, schools, recreational and cultural facilities, and parks. They intended to include all the parts typically found in a small town within a comprehensive planned design. Today, the original town site of Clarkdale is recognized as an Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.



Clarkdale

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