



# Clarkdale First Annual Historic Building and Home Tour

December 12 & 13, 2009

Clarkdale is a unique example of a “company” mining town. Planned, owned, and developed by William Andrews Clark, a senator from Montana, he supervised and prescribed every detail of construction from the modern sewer system to hardwood floors in all the houses. These amenities did not appear in other company towns of the period, but Clark used the finest most modern construction materials and equipment in all his industrial projects and he directed the same careful attention to this town which he built as a monument to himself. Clark bought Jerome’s United Verde copper mine in 1888 after many attempts by others failed. By 1912 the need for a new smelter location was necessary and work began. Commercial and residential areas were designed and reflected the social prejudices of the time. Employees paid rent and were expected to abide by the rules whether they were on or off duty. Join us today on a journey through the culture and history of CLARKDALE THE COMPANY TOWN. Try to imagine the 400 foot smelter stack and smell the caustic sulfur smoke that permeated the lives of the town’s citizens.



Sponsored By the  
Clarkdale Heritage Museum  
900 1st North Street  
Clarkdale, AZ

**#1** 115 VW Bug Boulevard-- Pilot House--Built in 1913 as a prototype or first of its kind, it is a 6 room concrete stucco built at a cost of \$4,055. It was the only two-story home built in Clarkdale at this time. Senator Clark did not like the design, therefore he canceled future plans of building any more. Many of its original features remain today. It is currently the home and business location of Peggy Brimhall.

**#2** 313 Main St.—Built in 1916, this four room brick is an example of the many houses built in Lower Town for smelter workers. It originally had a screen sleeping porch on the back supported only by cinderblock as the foundation. Floors were Oregon pine. Access to the bedroom, which is totally original today, was made from the living room with another doorway to the sleeping porch but was changed 10 years ago. Once on the deck, one can view the Clark Mansion (built for Senator Clark’s grandson and his family). A garage once stood in the back and don’t miss the grand view of Jerome and Tuzigoot. A mid-wife once lived and worked here in the 1930’s, according to several local people who have this house listed on their birth certificate. Several furniture pieces have been passed down through the owners’ families, such as the tall desk in the corner which belonged to a doctor in the Civil War. This residence is owned by Rocky and Marsha Foutz.

**#3** 721 Third North---This home was originally one of the 18 two-room brick duplexes which were built in 1914 in Lower Town in this area. A screened sleeping porch, Oregon pine floors and a bathtub were standard in these duplexes along with double course brick on the outer walls possibly for insulation. The original wall, which divided the house into two separate residences, was also double course brick. A portion of the back brick wall is exposed. Each house had a front and a back porch, which may have been the cooking area. During remodeling of this house, the interior was extended to include the front porch. Main rooms were square giving access by going through one room to get to another. There was no garage; however, a small brick building in the alley was perhaps a wash house or bathroom since there are floor drains. Renovations have included lowering the ceiling making room for an upstairs room and adding a stairway along the center wall. This residence is owned by Curt and Winnie Bohall.

**#4** 889 First South --St. Thomas of the Valley Episcopal Church—The first church built in Clarkdale in 1917 was funded by a donation from William Clark’s daughter, Mary, in memory of her five year old son who died. Before this, the church had been meeting in a private home on the banks of the Verde River and in December of 1913 they signed the charter that established their early church mission. Several original features remain such as the altar windows and the pews. \*\*\*

**#5** 1320 First North---This three-room tile was built in 1925 as part of the construction expansion moving north from Main St. It has stucco walls and a jerkinhead roof imitating thatch with a corbelled (bracketed) porch opening, which we identify as English Cottage Revival. It originally had a glass sleeping porch and no garage. Notice the original coal shed behind the house. This home has been remodeled but retains many of its original features such as maple floors, windows and the outside cabinet on the carport. Joe and Armida Zepeda

**#6** 1402 Main Street--This fine example of Craftsman style was built in 1917 and was part of the first homes built in Upper Town. Note the wide hipped roof with a central gable dormer and a shallower pitched gable roof over the porch. This five room brick cottage with bath cost \$5, 816 to build and had maple floors, an Arcola furnace, a glass sleeping porch, two front doors and a garage. Only upper level administrative mine personnel occupied these homes that are located on larger corner lots. Most of this home’s features are original and many have been salvaged from local homes being torn down. The owners are Red Poston and Katie Cannon who have done nearly all the remodeling. It is also the location of Cannon Realty.

**#7** Walking Tour of The Commercial Block---These buildings were built in 1914 and 1915. Made of local brick, each has an individual style and color giving the businesses a unique design. Starting from 10<sup>th</sup> St. the businesses were: a furniture store, the Grand Theater with a Masonic Lodge above, a drug store, a dry goods store, a barber shop, a cigar store/pool hall, a jewelry and tailor shop, Bank of Arizona (with original teller cages and bank furniture), and the T.F. Miller General Store. \*\*\*

\*\*\* indicates public restroom availability

**#8 Clarkdale High School**—Built in 1928, this was the third school built in Clarkdale. Solid oak floors and original lavatory fixtures are in place. The teachers' mailboxes are located just outside the original administrative office. Clarkdale High School closed in 1960 due to the low price of copper and the closure of the smelter in 1953 which forced people to move elsewhere. Students from Clarkdale, Cottonwood, and Jerome went to Mingus High School in Jerome until 1972 when Mingus Union High School was opened in Cottonwood. The American Heritage Charter School first held classes there; Yavapai College also used the facility for some of their classes. Presently the school is owned by Drake and Elena Meinke. The ground floor is being remodeled into a copper museum with second floor as a private residence. \*\*\*

**#9 Clark Memorial Clubhouse**—This building was constructed as a memorial to William A. Clark who died in 1925. It was built in 1926 and 1927 with his bequest of \$100,000 as a clubhouse for his employees. His sons and grandsons oversaw the completion of this building. The total cost of construction was \$117,355 with furnishings added in 1928 to 1930, at an additional cost of \$29,180. Charles W. Clark (Wm. Clark's son) dedicated this clubhouse to the public. The building contains an auditorium, Ladies Lounge, Kitchen, Reading Room, and Men's lounge still furnished with original pieces of furniture such as: billiards tables and lighting, a cue rack, floor lamps, reading lamps, chairs, tables, bar stools, soda fountain and cigar counter. Two card rooms are located off the main floor. Originally there was a four-lane bowling alley in the basement. An outdoor swimming pool in the back of the building is still used. Rooms are rented for special occasions and the Clarkdale Town Council conducts their meetings in the men's lounge. \*\*\*

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