

= Jerome , Arizona =

Jerome is a town in the Black Hills of Yavapai County in the State of Arizona . Founded in the late 19th century on Cleopatra Hill overlooking the Verde Valley , it is more than 5 @,@ 000 feet (1 @,@ 500 m) above sea level . It is about 100 miles (160 km) north of Phoenix along State Route 89A between Sedona and Prescott . Supported in its heyday by rich copper mines , it was home to more than 10 @,@ 000 people in the 1920s . As of the 2010 census , its population was 444 .

The town owes its existence mainly to two ore bodies that formed about 1 @.@ 75 billion years ago along a ring fault in the caldera of an undersea volcano . Tectonic plate movements , plate collisions , uplift , deposition , erosion , and other geologic processes eventually exposed the tip of one of the ore bodies and pushed the other close to the surface , both near Jerome . In the late 19th century , the United Verde Mine , developed by William A. Clark , extracted ore bearing copper , gold , silver , and other metals from the larger of the two . The United Verde Extension (UVX) Mine , owned by James Douglas , Jr . , depended on the other huge deposit . In total , the copper deposits discovered in the vicinity of Jerome were among the richest ever found in any time or place .

Jerome made news in 1917 , when strikes involving the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) led to the expulsion at gunpoint of about 60 IWW members , who were loaded on a cattle car and shipped west . Production at the mines , always subject to fluctuations for various reasons , boomed during World War I , fell thereafter , rose again , then fell again during and after the Great Depression . As the ore deposits became exhausted , the mines closed , and the population dwindled to fewer than 100 by the mid @-@ 1950s . Efforts to save the town from oblivion succeeded when residents turned to tourism and retail sales . Jerome became a National Historic Landmark in 1967 . In the early 21st century , Jerome has art galleries , coffee houses , restaurants , wineries , and a state park and local museum devoted to mining history .

= = Geography = =

Jerome is about 100 miles (160 km) north of Phoenix and 45 miles (72 km) southwest of Flagstaff along Arizona State Route 89A between Sedona and Prescott . Other nearby communities include Clarkdale , Cottonwood , and Prescott Valley , all along Route 89A .

Jerome is in Arizona 's Black Hills and within the Prescott National Forest at an elevation of more than 5 @,@ 000 feet (1 @,@ 500 m) . Woodchute Wilderness is about 3 miles (5 km) west of Jerome , and Mingus Mountain , at 7 @,@ 726 feet (2 @,@ 355 m) above sea level , is about 4 miles (6 km) south of town . Jerome State Historic Park is in the town itself . Bitter Creek , a tributary of the Verde River , flows intermittently through Jerome .

= = Geology = =

Most of Cleopatra Hill , the rock formation upon which Jerome was built , is 1 @.@ 75 billion (1 @,@ 750 million) years old . Created by a massive caldera eruption in Precambrian seas south of what later became northern Arizona , the Cleopatra tuff was then part of a small tectonic plate that was moving toward the proto @-@ North American continent . After the eruption , cold sea water entered Earth 's crust through cracks caused by the eruption . Heated by rising magma to perhaps 660 ° F (349 ° C) , the water was forced upward again , chemically altering the rocks it encountered and becoming rich in dissolved minerals . When the hot solution emerged from a hydrothermal vent at the bottom of the ocean , its dissolved minerals solidified and fell to the sea floor . The accumulating sulfide deposits from two such vents formed the ore bodies , the United Verde and the UVX , most important to Jerome 1 @.@ 75 billion years later .

These ore bodies formed in different places along a ring fault in the caldera . About 50 million years after they were deposited , the tectonic plate of which they were a part collided with another small plate and then with the proto @-@ North American continent . The collisions , which welded the plates to the continent , folded the Cleopatra tuff in such a way that the two ore bodies ended up on opposite sides of a fold called the Jerome anticline .

No record exists for the next 1 @, @ 200 million years of Jerome 's geologic history . Evidence from the Grand Canyon , further north in Arizona , suggests that thick layers of sediment may have been laid down atop the ore bodies and later eroded away . The gap in the rock record has been called The Great Unconformity .

About 525 million years ago , when northern Arizona was at the bottom of a shallow sea , a thin layer of sediment called the Tapeats Sandstone was deposited over the Cleopatra formation . Limestones and other sediments accumulated above the sandstone until about 70 million years ago when the Laramide Orogeny created new mountains and new faults in the region . One of these faults , the Verde Fault , runs directly under Jerome along the Jerome anticline . Crustal stretching beginning about 15 million years ago created Basin and Range topography in central and southern Arizona , caused volcanic activity near Jerome , and induced movement along the Verde Fault . This movement exposed the tip of the United Verde ore body at one place on Cleopatra Hill and moved the UVX ore body to 1 @, @ 000 feet (300 m) below the surface . Hickey Formation basalts , laid down between 15 and 10 million years ago , cover the surface beneath the UVX headframes and Jerome State Historic Park .

In the 21st century , the natural rock features in and around Jerome have been greatly altered by mining . The town is underlain by 88 miles (142 km) of mine shafts , which may have contributed to the subsidence that destroyed the downtown Jerome structures that slid slowly downhill during decades of active mining . The United Verde open pit , about 300 feet (91 m) deep , is on the edge of town next to Cleopatra Hill , which is marked with a large " J " . The side of the pit consists of Precambrian gabbro . Mine shafts beneath the pit extend to 4 @, @ 200 feet (1 @, @ 300 m) below the surface .

= = History = =

= = = Early history = = =

Since the United Verde ore body at Jerome was partly visible on the surface , it is likely that native peoples had long mined it for the colorful copper @-@ bearing minerals malachite and azurite . Later , in 1585 , a Spanish exploring expedition made note of the ore . In 1598 , Captain Marcos Farfán de los Godos , hired by Juan de Oñate to explore the land , staked out claims of copper mines in modern @-@ day Jerome .

= = = 19th century = = =

The first mining claims in the Verde District were filed in 1876 . In 1880 , Frederick Augustus Tritle , a governor of the Arizona Territory , and Frederick F. Thomas , a mining engineer from San Francisco , bought these claims from the original owners . In 1883 , with the aid of eastern financiers including James A. MacDonald and Eugene Jerome of New York City , they created the United Verde Copper Company . The small adjacent mining camp on Cleopatra Hill was named Jerome in honor of Eugene Jerome , who became the company secretary . United Verde built a small smelter at Jerome and constructed wagon roads from it to Prescott , the Verde Valley , and the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad depot at Ash Fork . However , transport by wagon was expensive , and in late 1884 after the price of copper had fallen by 50 percent , the company ceased operations .

William A. Clark , who had made a fortune in mining and commercial ventures in Montana , bought the United Verde properties and , among other improvements , enlarged the smelter . He also ordered construction of a narrow gauge railway , the United Verde & Pacific , to Jerome Junction , a railway transfer point 27 miles (43 km) to the west . As mining of the ore expanded , Jerome 's population grew from 250 in 1890 to more than 2 @, @ 500 by 1900 . By then the United Verde Mine had become the leading copper producer in the Arizona Territory , employing about 800 men . Over its 77 @-@ year life (1876 to 1953) , this mine produced nearly 33 million tons of copper , gold , silver , lead and zinc ore . The metals produced by United Verde and UVX , the other big mine in

Jerome , were said to be worth more than \$ 1 billion . Taken together , the copper deposits of Jerome amounted to " some of the richest ever found on Earth " .

Jerome had a post office by 1883 . It added a schoolhouse in 1884 and a public library in 1889 . After four major fires between 1894 and 1898 destroyed much of the business district and , in 1898 , half of the community 's homes , Jerome was incorporated as a town in 1899 . Incorporation made it possible to collect taxes to build a formal fire @-@ fighting system and to establish building codes that prohibited tents and other fire hazards within the town limits . Local merchant and rancher William Munds was the first mayor .

By 1900 , Jerome had churches , fraternal organizations , and a downtown with brick buildings , telephone service , and electric lights . In addition to banks , hotels , and stores , among the thriving businesses were many associated with alcohol , gambling , and prostitution , serving a population that was 78 percent male in 1900 . In 1903 , the New York Sun proclaimed Jerome to be " the wickedest town in the West " .

= = = Early 20th century = = =

Jerome , which was legally separate from United Verde and supported many independent businesses , did not meet the definition of a company town even though it depended for decades largely on this one company . In 1914 , a separate company , the United Verde Extension Mining Company (UVX) , led by James S. Douglas , Jr . (Rawhide Jimmy) , discovered a second ore body near Jerome that produced a bonanza . The UVX Mine , also known as the Little Daisy Mine , became spectacularly profitable : during 1916 alone , it produced \$ 10 million worth of copper , silver and gold , of which \$ 7 @.@ 4 million was profit . This mine eventually produced more than \$ 125 million worth of ore and paid more than \$ 50 million in dividends . Total production amounted to four million tons , much less than the United Verde total , but uncommonly rich , averaging more than 10 percent copper and in places rising to 45 percent .

Starting in 1914 , World War I greatly increased the demand for copper , and by 1916 the number of companies involved in mining near Jerome reached 22 . These companies employed about 3 @,@ 000 miners in the district , and Jerome 's population rose to an estimated 10 @,@ 000 by 1917 . Meanwhile , United Verde was building a large smelter complex and company town , Clarkdale , and a standard gauge railway , the Verde Tunnel and Smelter Railroad , to haul ore from its mine to the new smelter . After the new railway opened in 1915 , the company dismantled the Jerome smelter and converted the mine to an open @-@ pit operation . The switch from underground to open @-@ pit mining stemmed from a series of fires , some burning for decades , in the mine 's high @-@ sulfur ores . Removing the overburden and pouring a mixture of water , waste ore , and sand into rock fissures helped control the fires . By 1918 , UVX also had its own smelter in its own company town , Clemenceau , a part of Cottonwood .

= = = Jerome Deportation = = =

In 1917 , two miners ' strikes involving the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) , which had been organizing strikes elsewhere in Arizona and other states , took place in Jerome . Seen as a threat by business interests as well as other labor unions , the Wobblies , as they were called , were subject nationally to sometimes violent harassment . The labor situation in Jerome was complicated at the time by the existence of three separate labor unions ? the International Union of Mine , Mill , and Smelter Workers (MMSW) ; the Liga Protectora Latina , which represented about 500 Mexican miners in Jerome ; and the IWW . The MMSW , which in May called a strike against United Verde , regarded the rival IWW with animosity and would not recognize it as legitimate . In response , the IWW members threatened to break the strike . Under pressure , the MMSW voted 467 to 431 to settle for less than they wanted .

In July , the IWW called for a strike against all the mines in the district . In this case , the MMSW voted 470 to 194 against striking . Three days later , about 250 armed vigilantes rounded up at least 60 suspected IWW members , loaded them onto a railroad cattle car , and shipped them out of town

. Nine were arrested and jailed temporarily in Prescott though never charged with a crime ; others were taken to Needles , California , then to Kingman , Arizona , where they were released after promising to desist from labor agitation .

== = 1920 ? 53 == =

Following a brief post @-@ war downturn , boom times returned to Jerome in the 1920s . Copper prices rose to 24 cents a pound in 1929 , and United Verde and UVX operated at near capacity . Wages rose , consumers spent , and the town 's businesses ? including five automobile dealerships ? prospered . United Verde , seeking stable labor relations , added disability and life insurance benefits for its workers and built a baseball field , tennis courts , swimming pools , and a public park in Jerome . Both companies donated to the Jerome Public Library and helped finance projects for the town 's schools , churches , and hospitals .

In 1930 , after the start of the Great Depression , the price of copper fell to 14 cents a pound . In response , United Verde began reducing its work force ; UVX operated at a loss , and a third big mine , Verde Central , closed completely . The price of copper fell further in 1932 to 5 cents a pound , leading to layoffs , temporary shut @-@ downs , and wage reductions in the Verde District . In 1935 , the Clark family sold United Verde to Phelps Dodge , and in 1938 UVX went out of business .

Meanwhile , a subsidence problem that had irreparably damaged at least 10 downtown buildings by 1928 worsened through the 1930s . Dozens of buildings , including the post office and jail , were lost as the earth beneath them sank away . Contributing causes were geologic faulting in the area , blast vibrations from the mines , and erosion that may have been exacerbated by vegetation @-@ killing smelter smoke .

Mining continued at a reduced level in the Verde District until 1953 , when Phelps Dodge shut down the United Verde Mine and related operations . Jerome 's population subsequently fell below 100 . To prevent the town from disappearing completely , its remaining residents turned to tourism and retail sales . They organized the Jerome Historical Society in 1953 and opened a museum and gift shop .

== = After 1953 == =

To encourage tourism , the town 's leaders sought National Historic Landmark status for Jerome ; it was granted by the federal government in 1967 . In 1962 , the heirs of Jimmy Douglas donated the Douglas mansion , above the UVX mine site , to the State of Arizona , which used it to create Jerome State Historic Park . By sponsoring music festivals , historic @-@ homes tours , celebrations , and races , the community succeeded in attracting visitors and new businesses , which in the 21st century include art galleries , craft stores , wineries , coffee houses , and restaurants .

== = Climate == =

July is typically the warmest month in Jerome , when highs average 90 ° F (32 ° C) and lows average 67 ° F (19 ° C) . January is coldest , when the high temperatures average 49 ° F (9 ° C) and the lows average 33 ° F (1 ° C) . The highest recorded temperature was 108 ° F (42 ° C) in 2003 , and the lowest was 5 ° F (? 15 ° C) in 1963 . August , averaging 3 @.@ 03 inches (77 mm) of rain , is the wettest month , while as is typical for Arizona the spring months of April to June generally do not have significant rainfall .

Although most precipitation arrives as rain in Jerome , snow and fog sometimes occur . On average , about 2 @.@ 5 inches (6 @.@ 4 cm) of snow falls in Jerome in January and lesser amounts in February , March , April , November , and December . Even so , the average depth of snow on the ground in Jerome between 1897 and 2005 was so close to zero that it is reported as zero . Jerome is often windy , especially in spring and fall . Summer thunderstorms can be violent .

== Demographics ==

The makeup of early Jerome differed greatly from the 21st @-@ century version of the town . The original mining claims were filed by Whites , but as the mines were developed , workers of many nationalities arrived . Among these were people of Irish , Chinese , Italian , and Slavic origin who came to Jerome in the late 19th century . By the time of World War I , Mexican nationals were arriving in large numbers , and census figures suggest that in 1930 about 60 percent of the town 's residents were Latino . This statistic is supported by mining company records showing that about 57 percent of the UVX workers were Mexican nationals in 1931 and that foreign @-@ born and Spanish @-@ surnamed workers accounted for about 77 percent of the UVX work force .

The ratio of females to males also varied greatly over time in Jerome . Census data from 1900 through 1950 show a gradual rise in the percentage of female residents , who accounted for only 22 percent of the population at the turn of the century but about 50 percent by mid @-@ century .

As of the census of 2000 , there were 329 people , 182 households , and 84 families residing in the town . The population density was 462 people per square mile (179 / km2) . There were 215 housing units at an average density of about 302 per square mile (117 / km2) . The racial makeup of the town was about 92 % White , 0 @.@ 30 % Black or African American , about 2 @.@ 5 % Native American , 0 @.@ 30 % Asian , about 2 % from other races , and 3 % from two or more races . About 8 % of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race . At the 2010 census , the population of the town was 444 .

In 2000 , there were 182 households out of which 17 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 29 % were married couples living together , 10 % had a female householder with no husband present , and 54 % were non @-@ families . About 42 % of all households were made up of individuals and 8 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size was 1 @.@ 81 and the average family size was 2 @.@ 37 .

In the town the population was spread out with about 13 % under the age of 18 , 7 % from 18 to 24 , 27 % from 25 to 44 , 41 % from 45 to 64 , and 12 @.@ 5 % who were 65 years of age or older . The median age was 46 years . For every 100 females there were 103 males . For every 100 females age 18 and over , there were 98 males .

As of 2014 , the median income for a household in the town was about \$ 32 @,@ 000 . About 10 % of families in Jerome were below the poverty line in 2014 .

== Education and government ==

Children from Jerome in kindergarten through eighth grade attend the Clarkdale ? Jerome School in Clarkdale . Older students from Jerome are enrolled at Mingus Union High School in Cottonwood . Each of these communities had its own schools during the first half of the 20th century , but declining populations and shrinking tax revenues led to consolidation .

Jerome has a mayor @-@ council government . The five seats on the council are filled by public election once every two years . Traditionally , the council member receiving the most votes in that election becomes the mayor . Nikki Check , who got the most votes in the 2012 election , is the mayor through 2014 .

The town is in the Verde Valley Precinct of the Yavapai County Justice Court system . Along with Clarkdale and Cottonwood , it is in Sector Two of the Eastern Area Command of the Yavapai County Sheriff 's Office .

== In popular culture ==

Jerome is referred to in the Barenaked Ladies album , All In Good Time , released in 2010 . It is the title of Track 9 with references to Mingus Mountain , from which Jerome can be seen . Folksinger Kate Wolf wrote and recorded a song , " Old Jerome " , first released on a posthumous album , The Wind Blows Wild , in 1988 .

John Olson 's model railroad , the Jerome & Southwestern , was originally developed as a series of articles in Model Railroader magazine and later released in book form . The railroad was set in and around Jerome , and referred to other local sites such as Clarkdale , Cleopatra Hill , and Mingus Mountain .

The novel Muckers (2013) by Sandra Neil Wallace , a former sportscaster for ESPN , is a historical novel for young adults that is based on the Jerome High School football team of 1950 . The team went undefeated that year , shortly before the copper mine closed and Jerome 's population dwindled .

= = Notable residents = =

Maynard James Keenan , lead singer of the band Tool , A Perfect Circle , and Puscifer .

Katie Lee , folk singer

Fred Rico , major league baseball player

= = = Fiction = = =

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Rabago , Roberto (2011) . Rich Town Poor Town : Ghosts of Copper 's Past . Jerome , Arizona : MultiCultural Educational Publishing Company . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 9703721 @-@ 9 @-@ 2 .

= = = Non @-@ fiction = = =

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Brewer , Jr. , James W. (1993) . Jerome : Story of Mines , Men , and Money (pamphlet) . Tucson , Arizona : Western National Parks Association . ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 877856 @-@ 31 @-@ 0 .

Rodda , Jeanette , and Nancy R. Smith (1990) . Experience Jerome : The Mogules , Miners and Mistresses of Cleopatra Hill . Sedona , Arizona : Thorne Enterprises . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 935810 @-@ 77 @-@ 6 .