



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

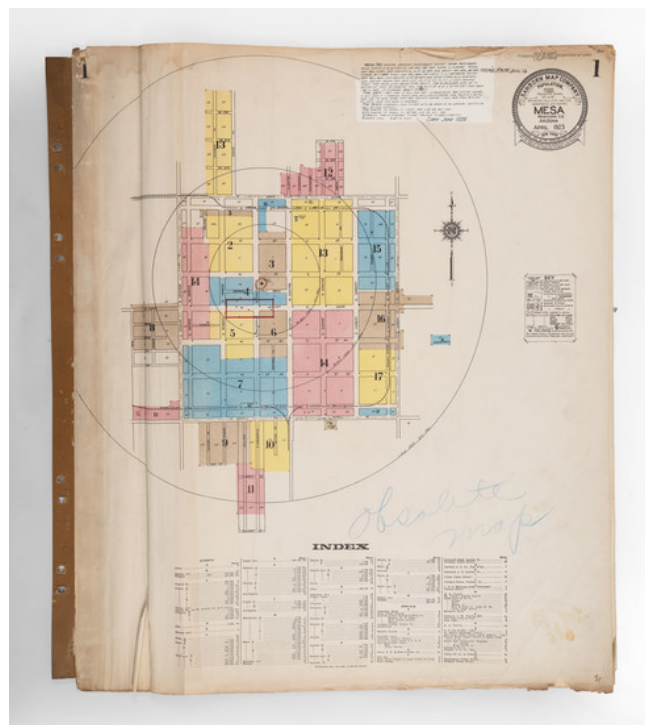
7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

[www.raremaps.com](http://www.raremaps.com)

(858) 551-8500  
[blr@raremaps.com](mailto:blr@raremaps.com)

## (Arizona Fire Insurance Atlas) Mesa Maricopa Co. Arizona

**Stock#:** 97424  
**Map Maker:** Sanborn Map Company  
**Date:** 1923 (updated to June 1926)  
**Place:** New York  
**Color:** Hand Colored  
**Condition:** See Description  
**Size:** 21.5 x 25.5 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### Description:

#### ***Detailed Snapshot of Mesa, Arizona's Built Environment in 1926***

*Mesa, Maricopa Co. Arizona*, a fire insurance atlas published by the Sanborn Map Company in April 1923, updated to June 1926 in the present example, provides a detailed representation of Mesa's buildings and civic amenities during the early 20th century.

In the 1920s, Mesa experienced significant growth and transformation. As part of the greater Phoenix area, Mesa saw its population expand during this decade, largely due to the increased availability of water from projects like the Roosevelt Dam, completed in 1911. This infrastructure allowed for greater agricultural development, with the region becoming a hub for cotton, citrus, and alfalfa farming. The 1920s also witnessed an expansion in transportation connectivity. The Southern Pacific Railroad had reached Mesa in the late 19th century, and the 1920s brought improved roadways, fostering greater connectivity within the state and with neighboring states. Despite the national economic challenges of the Great Depression starting in 1929, the groundwork laid in the 1920s positioned Mesa to continue its growth and development in the decades that followed. Notably, Mesa already had at least half a dozen Mormon churches.



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## **(Arizona Fire Insurance Atlas) Mesa Maricopa Co. Arizona**

Produced by the Sanborn Map Company, known for their detailed fire insurance maps, the atlas provides a granular breakdown of Mesa's infrastructure, both municipal and private. It differentiates buildings based on construction materials — from frame to red brick to stone — and includes details on fire safety measures such as automatic sprinklers and fireproof constructions. Information about water facilities is precise, detailing the depth of wells, pump capacities, and the network of cast-iron mains.

A selection of the buildings and sites noted in the atlas here follows:

- Alhambra Hotel
- Mesa City Water Works
- Mesa Seed & Feed Co.
- Metsford Hotel
- Mormon L.D.S. Maricopa Stake Tabernacle
- Second Ward Chapel Church of Jesus Christ of L.D.S.

Additionally, the atlas highlights the city's fire department structure, resources, and fire alarm system. The inclusion of an electric Gamewell system and an air diaphone (located on the roof of the fire station) indicates the city's utilization of technology to bolster safety measures.

A methodical record of Mesa's urban layout and infrastructure in the early 20th century, shedding light on the city's growth trajectory, essential to understanding urban expansion and safety during that time.

### **Rarity**

The Mesa, Arizona Sanborn atlas is extremely rare in the market. Our example is almost certainly a unique exemplar with 1926 updates. OCLC fails to locate a single example of any edition. California State Northridge, which boasts a massive collection of Sanborn atlases, does not list anything for Mesa, Arizona. The Library of Congress has digitized editions of 1898, 1901, 1911, and 1915. As of this writing, LC's 1923 edition holdings (none of which include updates to June 1926) have not been made available online as of this writing.

### **Detailed Condition:**

Original hand-color. Unbound, with sheets mounted on alternating tabs. 17 sheets, including the index page. Complete. Pastedown updates to June 1926. Some creasing and minor damage to sheet edges, particularly at the beginning. Blue pencil "obsolete map" on the index sheet. Ink stamp and ownership inscription of "Assc'o F&M Ins. Co."