

AJO ATTRACTIONS

- A. Historic Walking Tour begins in Plaza
- B. Triangle Park. History and photos of Mexican Town and Indian Village
- C. Ajo Copper News mural
- D. Company Hospital
- E. Greenway Mansion (private, no entry)
- F. Mine Overlook and Lake Ajo!
- G. St. Catherine's Indian Mission, now a museum (open seasonally).
- H. Lahissa Cross, copper epitaph
- I. Ajo Community Golf Course
- J. Michael Chiago saguaro harvest mural
- K. Scenic Loop Drive (another brochure)
- L. Ajo Airport

AJO HISTORY (SO FAR)

c. 11,000-0 BC "The Ancient Ones" were nomads who made stone tools, petroglyphs and shell jewelry.

c. 1-1450 AD Ancestors of today's Native Americans were farmers who left irrigation canals, clay pots, sleeping circles, rock art, trails, mortars and stone tools.

c. 1500 AD to present. Hia-Ced O'odham, also known as "Sand Pimas" or "Areñeros," are the group that historically traded between the Sea of Cortez and inland peoples. They called a red body paint made from cupric oxide, "au'auho," which became "Ajo." (Enjoy O'odham radio, 91.9 FM)

c. 1540 Spanish explorer Melchior Diaz came through this area on his way to the Colorado River. One legacy: burros, now feral, are still here.

1750-1769 Spanish mined silver in Ajo. "Las minas de plata de Ajo" (silver mines) appears on old maps.

1821 Mexican Independence. Spanish land in N. America claimed by Mexico.

1846-48 U.S. at war with Mexico ("Halls of Montezuma"). In Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, most of Southwest was sold to the U.S. for \$15 million.

1847 Tom Childs Sr. first visited Ajo looking for silver. He left, but his son's extended family is still here.

1853 Gadsden Purchase. The U.S., needing a level train route to California, bought the rest of Arizona—Gila River to border—for \$10 million.

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1854-1914 Ajo mining activity increased, becoming more scientific and investment-oriented. Scams abounded.

"Professor" McGahan invented a "vacuum smelter," enlisted investors, then disappeared with their money.

1912 Arizona became a State, the last until Alaska.

1914-1929 New Cornelia Mine begun. Modern Ajo built. See Walking Tour notes on other side.

1927 Ajo paid half of all Pima County tax revenues.

1931 Phelps Dodge Corporation acquired the mine and most of town.

1947-1952 A construction boom built dozens of new workers' homes in the historic district and later, to the north.

1965 Ajo population was 7,000 people: 1,400 working for the Company, 550 kids in high school, 1,200 in elementary school.

1983-1984 Bitter strike. Mine closed. Many families left town.

1986 Phelps Dodge began marketing company houses to snowbirds, billing Ajo as the place "Where Summer Spends the Winter."

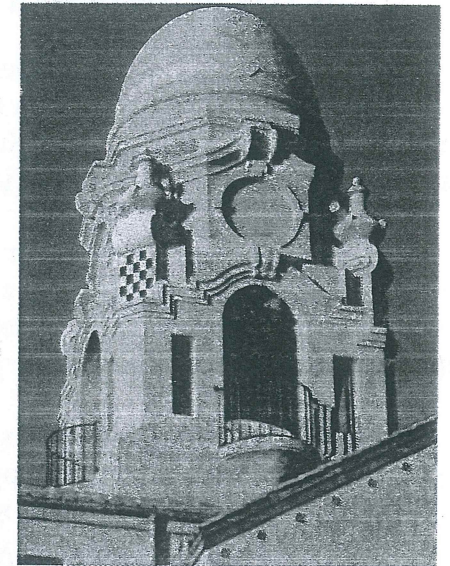
2001 Downtown Ajo plus 100 homes entered the National Register of Historic Places.

2007 Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold bought Phelps Dodge, the New Cornelia Mine and Ajo Improvement, the utility company.

2010-2013 New utilities and roads in the Historic District and beyond. Company benevolence lives on.

Welcome to the Heart of the Sonoran Desert

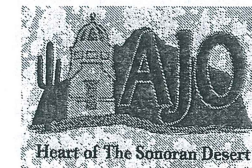
AJO HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR



Modern Ajo was designed in 1914 specifically to keep its copper miners happy and productive. The architecture, layout and generosity of the buildings were carefully planned to achieve those results, and that paternal spirit has endured in some degree to this day.

ALSO INCLUDED

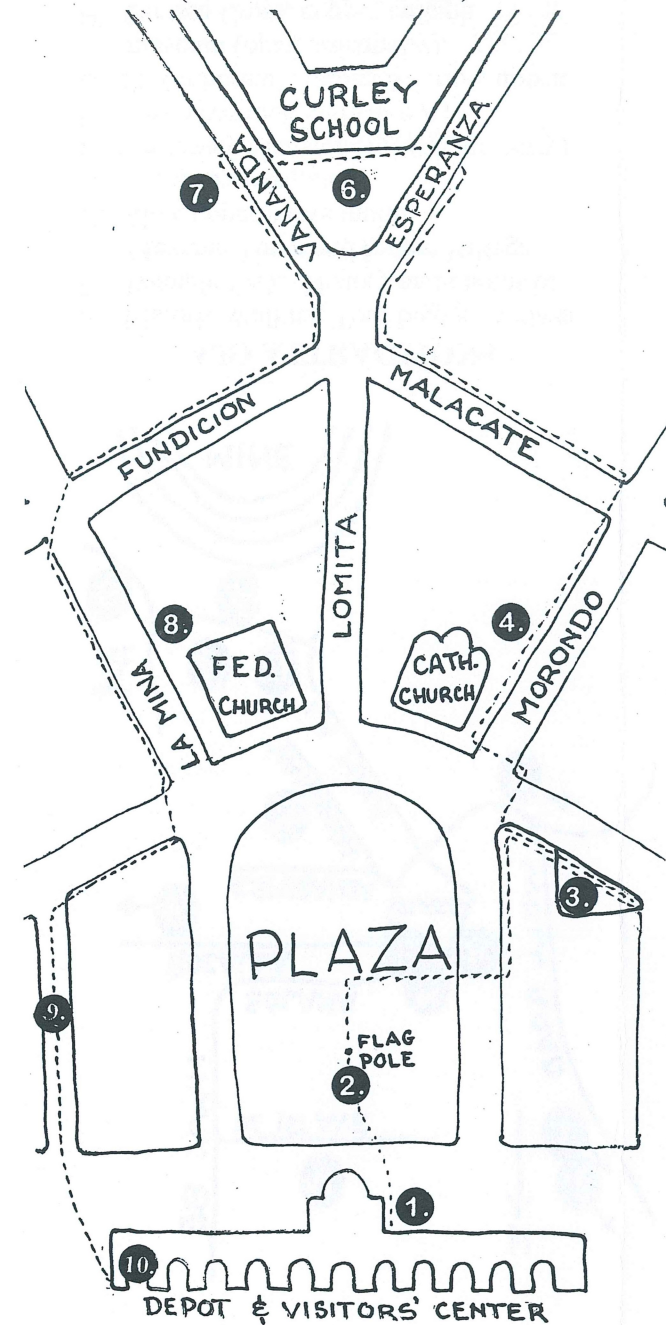
- Ajo History in a Nutshell
- Ajo Attractions



Ajo Chamber of Commerce
1 W Plaza St., Ajo AZ 85321
520-387-7742
www.ajochamber.com

AJO HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

(half mile, 30 minutes)



1. VISITOR'S CENTER. Ajo's design, which includes wide streets, magnificent public buildings, cozy homes and elegant architecture, is the result of two historical realities in the U.S. during the late 19th century.

The "City Beautiful Movement," a philosophical response to the squalor, overcrowding and tenement housing then common in U.S. cities, sought to uplift human existence through beautiful, carefully-planned public spaces, parks and housing in attractive architectural styles. Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of Central Park in New York City, was an important contributor to the Movement.

At the same time, the U.S., still adjusting to massive immigration, industrialization and sweeping social change, was undergoing the worst labor unrest in its history: there were 37,000 strikes between 1881 and 1905, and Colorado's Ludlow Massacre took place in 1914, just as Ajo was being planned.

John Campbell Greenway, Yale graduate, Rough Rider friend of Teddy Roosevelt and founder of modern Ajo, worked as a young man in a steel mill and ran two mines before he came here, making him well aware of the pitfalls of unhappy workers. In 1914 he hired the Minnesota firm of Kenyon & Maine to design a town which would keep his workers content and productive.

2. FLAGPOLE. From here, Ajo's design is easy to see. Note how everything from the Visitor's Center to the mountaintop cross lies along one axis and that the streets radiate symmetrically out from that line like "the wings of a bird." The style selected for Ajo was Spanish Colonial Revival, a Mediterranean-derived architecture with Moorish influence which features arches, stucco surfaces, towers, domes, tile roofs and generous decoration. The attractive results can be seen all around you.

3. TRIANGLE PARK. Here are insightful historical photographs and interpretive plaques celebrating Mexican Town and Indian Village, separate neighborhoods that lasted through the 1970s. While here, step onto the sidewalk footprints along the highway at the northwest corner of the park to properly view the Copper News mural.

4. MORONDO AVE. On your left is the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, completed in 1925 and designed by George Washington Smith in Spanish Colonial Revival. It is adobe construction, unlike the other downtown buildings which are hollow clay tile. To your right (100, 120, 140 Morondo) is a row of Spanish Colonial Revival homes from 1916. Locally, all homes of this era are called "Territorials."

5. ESPERANZA AVE. The homes to the right show distinct Prairie influence, an architecture style featuring strong horizontal lines that the designers, being from the Midwest, just couldn't ignore.

6. CURLEY SCHOOL. Named for mine manager Mike Curley, this is an important classic of Spanish Colonial Revival by the firm of Lescher & Mahoney. Note the bell tower, the tile work and curriculum medallions—and the wise old owl over the doorway. A ghost resided in a broom closet until 2007, when the building was painstakingly renovated to provide live-work spaces for 30+ artists.

7. VANANDA AVE. On your way back to the Plaza, note the varied building styles on your right. Each evokes a period or school of design.

8. LA MINA AVE. On your left is the Federated Church, designed in 1926. Note the almost complete lack of ornamentation.

9. ART ALLEY. In contrast to Ajo's many historical structures, this colorful lane features ever-evolving current themes.

10. RAILROAD DEPOT & VISITOR CENTER. Now that you're familiar with Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, you'll appreciate the style and grace of this restored building.