

## Goldfield: Mesa's Living History

Looking back, there are thousands of things I should have kept because one day they might even be historic. One of the best-known historic sites in Mesa, AZ is the Goldfield Ghost Town. The old town can date back to the 1890's and is now a very good example of what history in Mesa, Arizona is like. The gold rush is what led to the finding of the town, although the people of the town didn't find any gold they wished for, leading to the town being abandoned. Soon it was rediscovered and turned into a remarkable historical site in our town, Mesa, Arizona. The town remains an important part of our history.

To start, the goldfield boom is the initial start to becoming a mining town and rise as a mining community. "The town boasted three saloons, a boarding house, butcher shop, and a school in no time. For five years, the town boomed until 4,000 souls were residing in the burgeoning city." In other words, the main idea is that miners rushed to the town, the population was growing and helped support the town. This period of growth shaped the town and laid the importance of why it is now considered historic. "Goldfield Ghost Town, Arizona, just a 45-minute drive east of Phoenix, is a prime example of leaning into the past. A former Gold Rush site founded in 1893, the settlement sought its precious metals from the local mines." This suggests that everyone was intended and interested in staying for long term.

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However, the town failed to find gold, so the early settlers moved to find better opportunities to find gold. "By, 1934, workings below the 200-foot level of the mine were underwater forcing the Goldfield Mining Leasing Co. owner at the time to appropriate measures to "de-water" the mine. Despite installing pumps to de-water the shaft, their attempts failed, with water returning to the 75-foot level." Eventually, it became a ghost town. This is significant because it illustrates why the town could never find the gold they were desperately hoping for, the cost of keeping the mine dry eventually exceeded the value of the gold they hoped to find. "However, it was not to last; the seam eventually grew barren, and for decades the town remained deserted." In other words, the gold didn't disappear, the miners could no longer locate the profitable section of the gold. Overall, although it once showed great promise to miners in the area, it had a lack of lasting gold and soon led to the abandonment of the town.

Today, the town has become a significant and well-loved site for tourists and citizens of the town to visit, there are still buildings from the town that allow people to step back in time where history becomes real life. "After several unsuccessful attempts to reopen the mines, the town did come to life again in 1910 on and off until 1926. After more than 115 years, travelers from all over the world still visit this gold mining town located on the historic Apache Trail and enjoy the excitement and grandeur of Arizona's wild west!". The interest from global travelers is primarily due to the beautiful landscapes of the Superstition Mountains, and the buildings that have been

preserved for many years now. The buildings that are in the old town today are the buildings miners used to walk in many years ago, that's what makes the experience come to life and why many enjoy the town the way it is. By preserving the town's appearance, and still

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exploring its history, it helps keep Mesa's history alive and known. "Expert a Wild West-style strip of characterful wooden shops and attractions. The mine tour is especially interesting, with an actor-guide taking visitors underground to explore the history of the town and the challenging life of a miner during the gold rush." In addition to the visual experience, the actor-guide explains how the guide's storytelling builds a gap between modern tourists and the souls who worked there. The structures serve as a living history museum; the experience is significant because it focuses on the physical toll of the industry. The paradox of modern Goldfield is that while the mine failed to produce wealth for the miners, the town has become a better place and is found as a cultural treasure.

In conclusion, to the start of becoming a mining town, then to being a ghost town, also the attractions it has to offer today, are all parts of preserving history in Mesa, Arizona. Without the precious history we have today, Mesa wouldn't be the same. The greatest part of living in Mesa is all the new attractions of everyday life (that will soon become historic) and all the history that is already preserved (such as historic sights and museums etc.)

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