

CATALINA CAMP

The remains of an old mining camp exist on the northern slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains. As of July 2015, one building remains relatively intact and a second, smaller building has completely collapsed. The surviving building provides a very interesting look into what life might have been like in an early mining camp, or at least what the miners did to add a little bit of “civilization” to the camp.

The cabin (Figure 1) has a sign over the door identifying it as “One Park Place”. Inside the cabin you will find a chandelier hanging from the ceiling (Figure 4) and two stained glass windows (Figures 2 and 3 depict the windows). You will also find a wood burning stove (Figure 2) to keep you warm in the winter. There are currently (as of July 2015) chairs and a cot if you



Figure 1: Catalina Camp Main Cabin
Photo by Patsy Sills



Figure 2: Interior of the Main Cabin
Photo by Patsy Sills

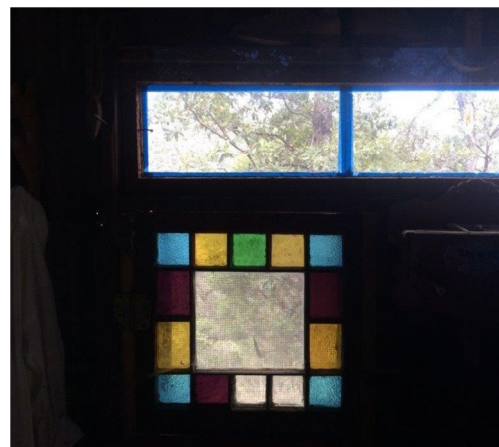


Figure 3. Stained Glass Window
Photo by Patsy Sills

want to use the cabin for an overnight stop. There is an orange folder depicted in Figure 5. This is a log book where you can document your visit. The entry on the bottom of the page was recorded by Patsy Sills, Valerie Robinson and Sue Palfrey of the Green Valley Hiking Club on 8 July 2015

The small structure that was found in a collapsed state in 2015 had previously been used as a storage shed. It had a sign over its door identifying it as “10 Downing Place”. The shed prior to its collapse is depicted in Figure 6. There was also a “deck” with chairs so you could rest up before commencing the long climb back to your cars (Figure 7).



Figure 4: The Famous Chandelier
Photo by Patsy Sills

There were numerous mines and prospects in the vicinity of the camp. The Catalina camp was owned by the Detroit Company and managed by Frances B. Hartman. The camp was active from the early 1900s to the 1940s. The principal minerals produced in the surrounding mines were gold, silver and copper.

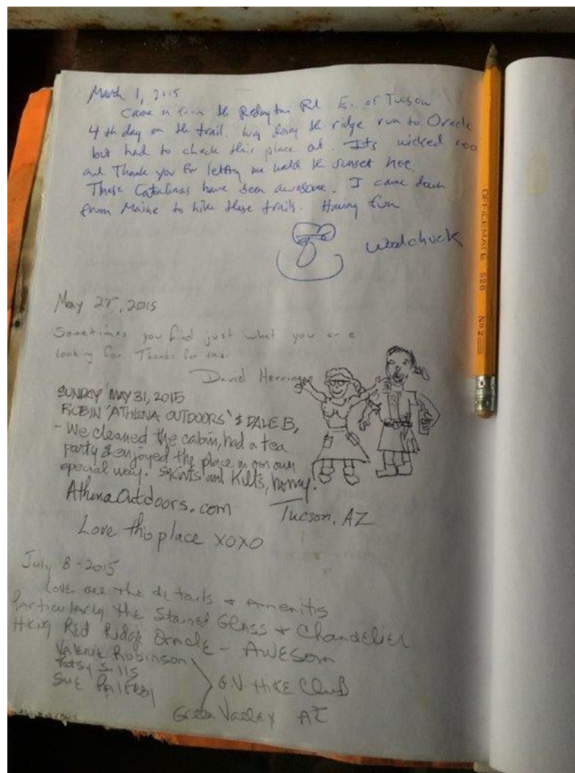


Figure 5: Log Book with Entries
Photo by Patsy Sills

Catalina Camp can be accessed from the upper slopes of the Catalina Mountains by two different routes. One way is to take the Red Ridge Trail (Trail #2) from the trailhead on the road to Ski Valley and the top of Mount Lemmon down to a trail intersection just west of the camp-. The other route is via the Arizona Trail/Oracle Ridge Trail #1 from the trailhead on the Control Road down to Dan Saddle. From Dan Saddle, take the Catalina Camp Trail #401 to the Camp. If you can stage a vehicle at one of the trailheads, a loop hike is a nice way to visit the camp.



Figure 6: "10 Downing Place" Shed
Photo by Unknown Photographer



Figure 7: Hikers Rest Area
Photo by Patsy Sills

Summary by T. Johnson from various web sources.