

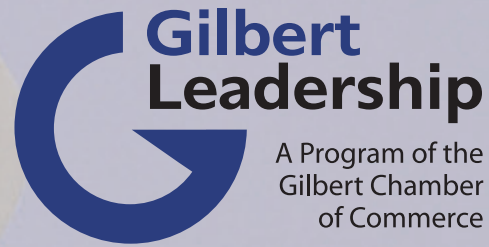
GILBERT

Heritage District History Walk

The Gilbert Heritage District History walk takes you back in time to the early 1900's when Gilbert was known as the "Hay Shipping Capital" of the world. The streets of this Town are filled with memories of years gone by, but several of the original buildings still remain.

The first settlers arrived in Gilbert in 1891. They came from other parts of Arizona, different states, and even other nations to farm the area's rich soil. Some of these farms were given away free if the family stayed for at least 5 years and made improvements to the land. Others purchased their land from the government for as little as \$1.25 an acre. The Arizona and Eastern Railroad purchased land from William "Bobby" Gilbert and constructed a train depot in 1905, and the town grew up around the depot.

Around 1910 there were no paved streets, no electricity, no telephones, and no indoor running water or toilets. Most people built sleeping porches onto their homes because there were no cooling devices. 1920 saw several major changes. People began getting telephones, and automobiles and more homes were built. Businesses grew in size and number. With a population of about 500 within the town limits of one square mile, the town chose to incorporate and added a water system and electricity. Mr. E. R. Wilbur was elected to be the first town mayor during these busy times. Gilbert stayed the same small farming community until the mid 1970s when the Mayor and Town Council annexed 53 square miles. In 1970 the population was 1,971, and in 1980 it was over 5,700. In 2010 Gilbert had over 206,000 residents and is projecting over 305,000 by 2030. In 2012 the last square mile of farmland was sold to a home developer. While the agricultural roots of Gilbert have come to an end, the rich history of this community remains embedded deeply into the soil.



A Program of the
Gilbert Chamber
of Commerce

Class XX

gilbertleadership.com

In conjunction with



hdsouth.org

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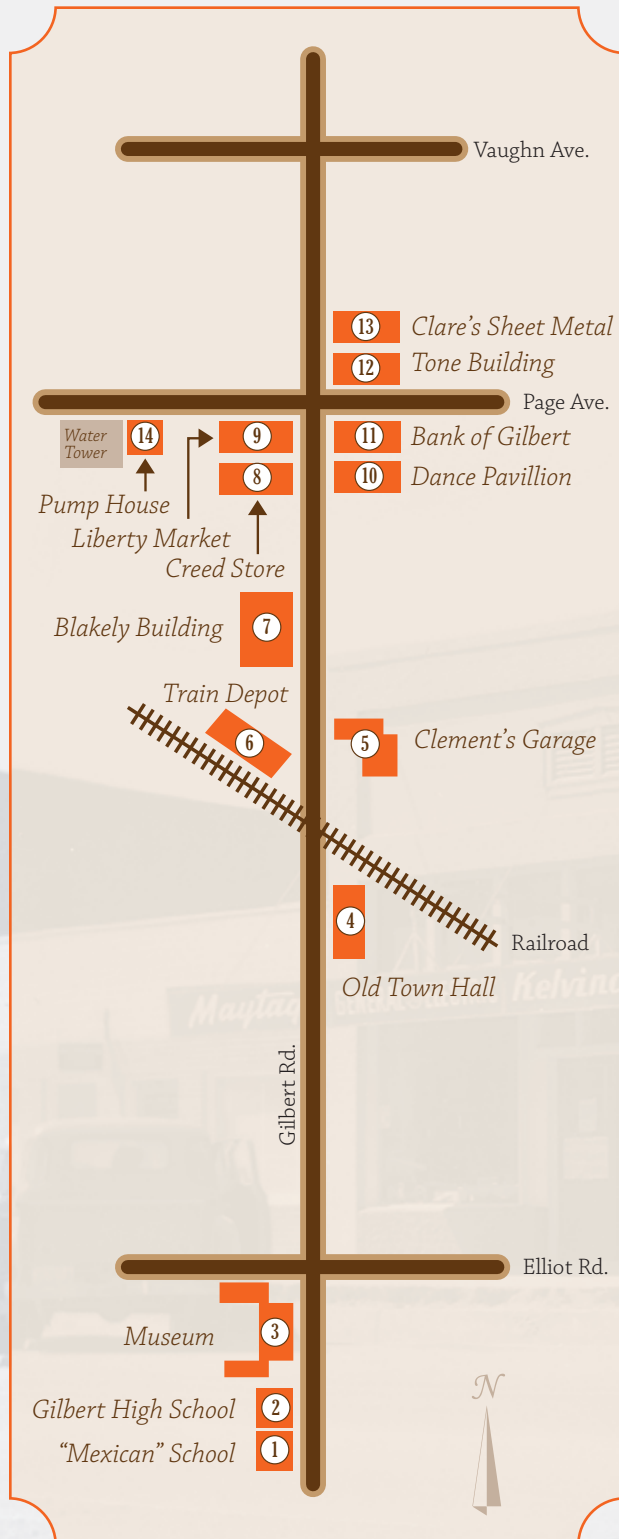
MAP



GILBERT



Heritage District History Walk



1 “Mexican” School

Currently Gilbert Public Schools
Administrative Offices
140 S. Gilbert Road

2 Gilbert High School

Currently Gilbert Public Schools
Administrative Offices
140 S. Gilbert Road

3 Gilbert Elementary School

Currently The Gilbert
Historical Museum
10 S. Gilbert Road

4 Old Town Hall

Currently Gilbert Chamber
of Commerce
119 N. Gilbert Road

5 Clement’s Garage

Clement’s Automotive Repair
141 N. Gilbert Road

6 Train Depot

No longer present
NW corner of Gilbert Road and
the Railroad Tracks

7 Blakely Building

Currently Norwood Furniture
216 N. Gilbert Road

8 Creed Building

Currently
Farmhouse Restaurant
228 N. Gilbert Road

9 Liberty Market

Currently Liberty Market
230 N. Gilbert Road

10 Dance Pavillion

Currently Gallery 225
225 N. Gilbert Road

11 Bank of Gilbert

Currently Allstate
Insurance Agency
231 N. Gilbert Road

12 Tone Building

Currently Joe’s Real BBQ
301 N. Gilbert Road

13 Clare’s Sheet Metal Shop

Currently Bergie’s Coffee
Roast House
309 N. Gilbert Road

14 Pump House

At the base of the
Water Tower