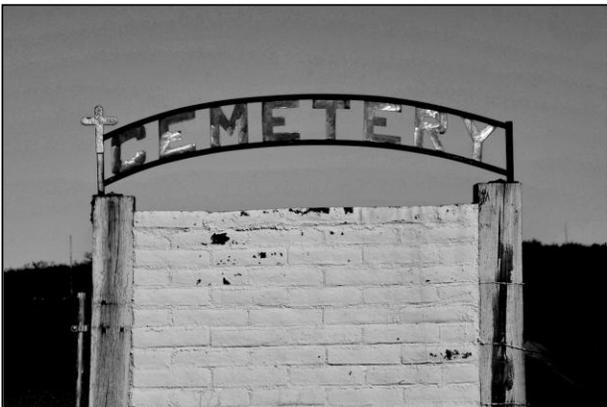


Stop 5 – The Joe Bono Store



The Joe Bono building was originally built as the Gleeson outlet for Charles M. Renaud, a shopkeeper with stores in Courtland and Pearce as well. Over the years, it also served as a gas station, a private home, a hotel, and a general curio shop. The major portion of its life, however, was spent as a saloon. The building is crumbling and locked now, but looking in the windows, you can see a mural painted in 1982 depicting the town of Gleeson as local residents then remembered it. The basement remnants just north of the Bono Store once supported the B.A. Taylor warehouse, starting location of the 1912 fire which burned most of Gleeson.

Stop 6 – The Cemetery



The Gleeson Cemetery is still maintained, the most recent burial taking place in 2008. It is the final resting place of many local characters, including Yee Wee, who ran a restaurant in Gleeson for decades, and of Eugene Yoakem, the last resident of the nearby ghost town of Courtland. Some of the graves are surrounded by fences, and one local resident recalls his grandfather's story about stumbling out of the Bono Saloon in its heyday, blind drunk, and deciding to sleep it off after securing his horse for the night "in a little corral", only to find to his horror the next morning that he had penned the animal inside one of the fenced plots in the cemetery.

Stop 7 – The Martinez Home

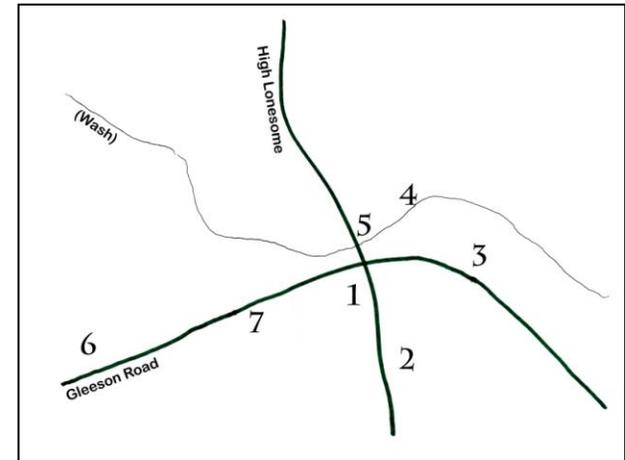


The last family to live within Gleeson proper was the Martinez family. Members of this family lived in this home until 2003, and held reunions here for those who had moved elsewhere. The home was built in several stages, and inside, the floors tilt in several directions. It is electrified, though there is no running water in the house. A dual outhouse stands behind the house, and for years there was a scrap metal collection in back, gathered locally by two Martinez men who planned on selling it to a company that used such scrap metal as a catalyst in a refining operation.



A Walking Tour of Gleeson

(October 2010 edition)



[Please note: Most of the tour stops are located on private property. Please enjoy them from a distance and stay on the roads and other public access land.]



Stop 1 – The Gleeson Jail



Completed in April of 1910, the jail was built entirely of reinforced concrete at a cost of \$1,778. It originally had two cells, and replaced a temporary wooden jail which had a tin roof. The concrete building originally had a single steel door in the middle, which opened into an interior hallway. This hallway is now the open-air “porch” in the front of the building. Each cell had a barred interior door, and barred windows on the side and back.

Jail records indicate you could find between 2 and 8 inmates confined here on any given day, most for petty theft, public drunkenness, or assault. The jail was often used for the temporary confinement of prisoners who were being transported to Tombstone from the further reaches of Cochise County. One cell was also used as a secure lock-up for confiscated bootleg liquor during both the Arizona Prohibition period (1915-1920), and national Prohibition (1920-1933). The murderer and escaped convict Luther Price was held here while being transported back to prison in 1917.

The jail fell into disuse by the mid-1930’s, and was converted into a private home for a time. In 1938, the film “Mysterious Rider” filmed a lynch mob scene here, although the interior jail scenes were filmed elsewhere. In 2008, the jail property was purchased and it was repaired and renovated into the structure you see today.

Stop 2 – The Old School



The Gleeson School opened in 1918, and was a massive two-story building with an arched entryway. The bottom floor contained storerooms while the top floor had classrooms, often used for community meetings and other functions after school hours. There were as many as four teachers, and scores of students, although the numbers varied greatly depending on the year. The last classes were held in 1945, and parts were removed for construction and renovation elsewhere. The wooden floors, for instance, were torn out and used to renovate Tombstone’s Crystal Palace.

Stop 3 – The Shannon Hospital



In 1906, John Gleeson sold the Copper Belle mine to the Shannon Mining Company. By 1913, the Shannon Company was making a

good profit on its operations, and opened a hospital for its workers and their families. Alternately known as the “Shannon Hospital” or just the “Gleeson Hospital”, it was the only medical facility from Douglas to the south, Willcox to the northeast, and Tombstone to the west. It treated not only mining injuries, but also the ailments of miners, ranchers, and their families. During the Spanish Flu pandemic (1918-1920), the Shannon Hospital was host to some who died, but also many who recovered as influenza raged through the area. The hospital had its own well (just south of the building), and was fully electrified. While mining operations continued through 1958, the hospital was in use only until the late-1930’s, when the post-office closed and most of Gleeson’s residents moved away.

Stop 4 – The Jail Tree



When Gleeson began, local miscreants were locked up at the “Jail Tree”, which is next to the wash, between the hospital and the Bono building. A cable was secured around the massive trunk of the oak, and prisoners were chained by the wrist to the cable. The jail was cleaned only when water ran down the wash and carried away the prisoners’ refuse. Passing children used to throw rocks at the prisoners. The jail tree was replaced by a temporary wooden jail in 1905, and ultimately by the concrete jail in 1910.