

In May of 1863, Joseph R. Walker led a gold hunting expedition into the mountains of central Arizona. The company struck gold along Lynx Creek, which was the impetus for the subsequent Anglo settlement in the Prescott area.

Walker as a town has had several booms and busts over the years and once boasted of a population of about 3000 residents, complete with all of the usual businesses normally found in a mining town. Walker's first post office was established in 1879. A fire devastated the town in 1909, which most of the businesses burned to the ground and were never rebuilt

The original Walker Road was a toll road. The lanes off of Walker Road are named for the mining claim located in their vicinity.

Sheldon Mine (established 1892) was the largest mine employing as many as 150 people and reaching a depth of 1500 feet. In 1904, the 8000 foot long Poland-Walker Tunnel was completed, connecting the Walker Mining activities with the mining town of Poland and the Bradshaw Mountain Railroad.

Most of the serious mining ceased in the late 1920's but there were several short revivals of some of the mines up until the early 1950's, with one into 1967.

Just north of the town of Walker was the town of Howells (1880's) that was situated where later the CCC camp was in the middle 1930's. Howells once had a stamp mill and smelter. It also had its own post office, blacksmith, assay office, stores and saloons. Morris Goldwater, Barry Goldwater's uncle, opened his second general store at Howells in 1883.

In the late 1940s, Walker began to attract people who wanted to escape the heat and the hustle and bustle of the Phoenix area and summer cabins began to spring up. Many of these early places were nothing more than small mobile homes that over time morphed into mountain cabins.

As more people came to the Walker area, the need was recognized for a fire department. In 1970 the Walker Fire Protection Association, Inc. was formed and the first firehouse was built just off of Humming Bird Lane. The first fire truck was one donated by the state of Arizona. In the late 1990's the community raised enough money to build a firehouse on the Good Hope Claim.

In 1992, the U.S. Forest Service, in a Federal Land Exchange program made additional land available and the Walker Final Plat was developed. This created an opportunity for even more people to build homes.

Several landmarks still exist: the charcoal kiln built by the Carmichael brothers around 1880 (on the National Register of Historic Places), the Sheldon mine dump, the filter plant, the Blue John Mine, the foundation of the Howell Smelter, the Hassayampa Mine site, the Pickerel Mine and Mill site, the Poland-Walker Tunnel

(only visible at Poland) and more. Placer mounds along Lynx Creek, mine shafts and old mine tailing dumps are in evidence through out the area.

In 1964, Alvina N. Potter published the book "The Many Lives of the Lynx", which tells of the history of Walker. It can be found at many libraries. Sharlot Hall Museum has an extensive collection of information on the history of Walker