

The Magma Copper Company Smelter at Superior, Arizona

In 2018, WestLand Resources, Inc., carried out historical and architectural documentation of the abandoned Magma Copper Company smelter at Superior, Arizona. Built in 1922–1924, the smelter operated continuously until 1971. Many of the original smelter structures were subsequently removed, but in 2018 some of the largest structures, including the 300-foot-tall brick smokestack, were still in place. WestLand conducted archival research into the history of the smelter, field documentation of the extant structures (including drone photography and 3-D modeling), and oral-historical interviews with former smelter workers. In addition to a technical report, the project deliverables included a professionally produced video about the history of Magma and its smelter, including excerpts from the oral-historical interviews. The results of the project have allowed an informed interpretation of the construction and use of individual smelter structures, and the project has helped Resolution preserve an important part of the history of Superior, a community with great pride in its mining heritage.

Magma Smelter Study: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCkcG1j-z0I> (long version)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5uFzSNxa04> (short version)