

# BOZEMAN

M O N T A N A

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## A DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN HISTORY PRIMER

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1864 -1866 - 3,500 people and 1,700 wagons travel the Bozeman Trail. (Present day Main Street)

1867 - John Bozeman, the town's founder, is found mysteriously murdered near Livingston.

1867 - Establishment of Fort Ellis, three miles east of Bozeman, to protect the Bozeman Trail. Soldiers escort Northern Pacific Railroad surveyors, build roads and lead the first scientific expedition into Yellowstone National Park.

1872 - The Cooper & Black building is erected four years prior to Custer's defeat at the Little Bighorn and Yellowstone being named the nation's first national park.

1919 - The Ellen Theatre is built enriching the lives of residents with movies and weekly vaudeville performances, such as the musical "Kismet" featuring live elephants.

1929 - Baxter Hotel grand opening. An elaborate invite-only banquet and ball for two-hundred and fifty guests.

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TAKE THIS TOUR IN 1880  
AND YOU'RE DODGING  
ROGUE STALLIONS,  
ILL-PLACED WAGON RUTS  
& FLUCTUATING SIDEWALKS.

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Bozeman's Historic Main Street Walking Tour is recommended for those who wish to walk through the past or just take a leisurely stroll down Main Street. Many will appreciate the subtle difference between Art Deco, Italianate and Mission Revival architecture. Others will enjoy neon signs. But nearly everyone will appreciate the revolving yellow horse. Tradition and change. It's all part of the attraction of downtown Bozeman.

Tradition and change occurred throughout Bozeman's history. The log cabins and tents that once dominated our town site were soon replaced with frame structures. Most were traditional gable-ended structures and, if commercial, often presented false fronts. Brick buildings soon made their appearance as well,



The streetcar (Circa late 1920s).  
A mode of transportation that some Bozeman residents today feel should have never been abandoned.



replacing frame structures which often caught on fire. The permanent architectural character of Bozeman became defined during the late 19th century when Victorian eclecticism was popular in the developing frontier West.

Today, many redbrick buildings still stand: the Army Navy Store, the 125-year-old Owenhouse Hardware store and the Baxter Hotel with its flashing blue light signifying news of fresh powder at Bridger Bowl. The Main Street Historic District, covering the blocks between Grand and Rouse Avenues, includes 49 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places next to thriving art galleries, boutiques, bistros and over 100 shops. Evidence that Bozeman's tradition of breaking new ground is alive and well.

Whether you use this guide for the entire walking tour or just a small portion, you'll get a feel for the character and civic pride that make Bozeman's historic downtown one of the nation's best.

The Spieth & Krug Brewery Building has been a Main Street institution since 1882



The spinning yellow horse takes its place next to architectural influences that span well over a century.

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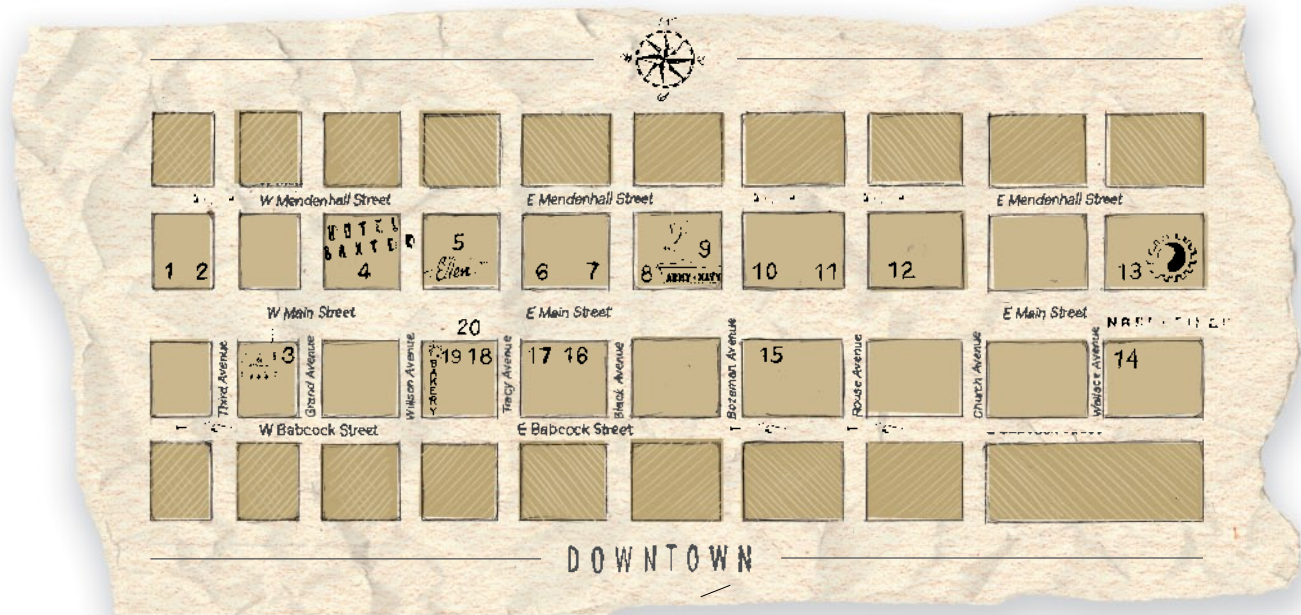
YOU'LL SEE FINE EXAMPLES  
OF ART DECO, ITALIANATE  
AND MISSION REVIVAL.  
LORDED OVER BY A  
HEALTHY DOSE OF KITSCH.

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COURIER BUILDING, ERECTED 1881, W.W. ALDERSON, PROPRIETOR.

# HISTORIC MAIN STREET WALKING TOUR

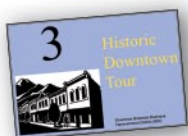


1. Gallatin County Jail
2. Gallatin County Courthouse
3. Holy Rosary Church
4. Baxter Hotel
5. Ellen Theatre
6. Avant Courier Building
7. Lamme Building
8. Willson Company Building
9. Masonic Temple of Gallatin Lodge #6
10. Harper Block

11. Bozeman Hotel and Annex
12. Hamill Apartments
13. Northern Pacific Railroad Freight Building
14. Nash-Finch Building
15. Spieth & Krug Brewery
16. Fechter Hotel and Annex
17. Cooper & Black Building
18. Gallatin State Bank Building
19. Michigan Building/Lovelace Building
20. Bon Ton Bakery Building

THE MAIN STREET WALKING TOUR IS APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES ROUNDTRIP

Look for this decal to identify buildings along this tour.





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1. GALLATIN COUNTY JAIL  
317 W. MAIN

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The Gallatin County Jail was designed in 1911 by Bozeman's premiere architect, Fred Willson. Portions of this Gothic Revival may be comprised of bricks from a ten-foot high exercise yard wall that connected to the original county courthouse, which

stood to the east. The building now houses the Gallatin Historical Society and Pioneer Museum.

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2. GALLATIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
301 W. MAIN

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A great example of architect Fred Willson's talents, the Gallatin County Court House was constructed in 1935-36 and was partially funded through FDR's Public Works Administration. The building's streamlined design symbolized the dawning of a new era.



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3. HOLY ROSARY CHURCH  
220 W. MAIN

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This impressive structure and adjacent rectory are excellent examples of Gothic Revival. Construction of the church was completed in 1908. The red brick rectory to the east was designed by architect Fred Willson and displays many of the same features found on the Gallatin County Jail.



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4. BAXTER HOTEL  
105 W. MAIN

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The Baxter opened March 16, 1929, following one year of construction. Featuring eclectic Art Deco architecture, the landmark was designed by Fred Willson and named for Robert A. Baxter, a Gallatin County rancher and major investor in the project. More than just a lodging stop for tourists, the hotel

was also a place to hold social functions, including those of local fraternities and sororities.

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5. ELLEN THEATRE  
17 W. MAIN

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Considered one of the best motion picture houses between the Twin Cities and the Pacific coast, the Italianate styled Ellen Theatre was designed in 1919 by architect Fred Willson and financed by numerous investors including T. Byron Story and Nelson Story, Jr. The elaborate auditorium employed a Wurlitzer organ in 1925 and was equipped for "talkies" in 1929. The theatre was named for Ellen Trent Story, the wife of Nelson Story, Sr.



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6. AVANT COURIER BUILDING  
1 E. MAIN

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This structure was completed in 1881, and housed *The Avant Courier*, the town newspaper which had influence during the late 1800s and early 1900s. William W. Alderson, one of Bozeman's first settlers, was the proprietor.

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7. LAMME BUILDING  
29 E. MAIN

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This structure is significant not only as the finest example of Italianate style in downtown Bozeman, but also for its affiliation with pioneer merchant Dr. Achilles Lamme, who arrived in Bozeman in 1865. The building was part of a group of three adjacent structures that comprised Lamme's mercantile business. A detailed metal cornice and decorative finial add the finishing touch.



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8. WILLSON COMPANY BUILDING  
101 E. MAIN

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Constructed in 1903 for pioneer General Lester Willson, the Willson Company Building sold dry goods, clothing and carpets to mining camps and local residents throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century. The business was a department store until 1949.

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9. MASONIC TEMPLE OF  
GALLATIN LODGE #6  
137 E. MAIN

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The Masonic Temple of Gallatin Lodge #6 and the three adjacent buildings were constructed during Gallatin Valley's railroad boom of the early 1800s. Each building's height progressively increases to achieve a staircase effect.



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10. HARPER BLOCK  
237 E. MAIN

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This elaborate blacksmith shop was built in 1872 for owner Frank Harper and is the second oldest surviving building on Main Street. Note the similarity in architectural hierarchy shared with the Cooper & Black Building, which was erected a year earlier. The two were symbols of the long-range commitment and hope of permanence at a time when Bozeman's future was not yet certain.

BOZEMAN

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1940



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11. BOZEMAN HOTEL AND ANNEX  
307-321 E. MAIN

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Built by Fargo architect George Hancock in 1890, the Bozeman Hotel gave Main Street cosmopolitan sensibility for Bozeman's bid to become the state capital between 1889-1893. A fine example of Romanesque Revival.

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12. HAMILL APARTMENTS  
427 E. MAIN

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One of four Art Deco examples in Bozeman, Fred Willson's design features a concrete facade and a chrome entryway. The building was built in 1931 for Henry J. Hamill, a contractor, who built several of Willson's structures. Other Art Deco examples include the Gallatin County Courthouse (No. 2 on this tour), the Willson School (404 W. Main), and the Bozeman Armory (24 W. Mendenhall).



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13. NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
FREIGHT BUILDING  
611 E. MAIN

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A branch line once linked this building to the rest of the Northern Pacific line and Story Mill to the north. In 1883, the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in Bozeman, bringing an influx of people and goods into the Gallatin Valley. This is one of Bozeman's finest examples of adaptive reuse of a historic building.

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14. NASH-FINCH BUILDING  
612 E. MAIN

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Originally a wholesale grocery warehouse, this space now houses several businesses. The symmetrical front and flat concrete finish were common during the Art Deco era.

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15. SPIETH & KRUG BREWERY  
240-246 E. MAIN

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This example of Italianate architecture was constructed in 1882-83 for German immigrant brewers Jacob Spieth and Charles Krug, who operated the original frame brewery on this site as early as 1868. The business was situated over Bozeman Creek, which provided water for the operation. The upper level was once a dance hall for Bozeman's 'elite'.





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## 16. FECHTER HOTEL AND ANNEX 128 E. MAIN

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Fred Willson designed this Neo-Gothic Revival hotel in 1918 for saloon keeper and entrepreneur John Fechter. White glazed terra cotta is contrasted by vertical bands of red brick lending distinctive character to the facade.

The storefront's galvanized iron and glass canopy is equally impressive. Early ground-level tenants included the F.W. Woolworth Company and J.C. Penney. The upper level was occupied by rooms and apartments.



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## 17. COOPER & BLACK BUILDING 118 E. MAIN

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This is one of the first brick structures in Bozeman and part of the earliest commercial block. Constructed in 1872 to house Walter

Cooper's Armory and Gun Manufactory, L.M. Black's Mercantile, the W.M. Morris Drug Store and the Perkins and Stone Family Market. The second floor was occupied by the Young Men's Library Association, Bozeman's earliest library. The



Cooper & Black was reportedly the first sporting goods store west of the Mississippi River.

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## 18. GALLATIN STATE BANK BUILDING 2-6 W. MAIN

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Designed by J.R. Scahill for the Gallatin State Bank in 1908, this Classical Revival corner block features a round corner entrance and two non-identical facades. The building underwent substantial restoration in the mid-1990s.



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## 19. MICHIGAN BUILDING/ LOVELACE BUILDING 20 W. MAIN

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Built around 1905 by E. Broox Martin, the three-story building was originally named the "Michigan Building" after Martin's native state. John Lovelace purchased the building in 1934 and moved his Montana Motor Supply business into the west ground floor space, next

to the beloved Bozeman ice cream parlor named "The Bungalow." At the time of purchase, Lovelace also hired Fred Willson to redesign the storefront into an Art Deco style, which features a storefront design that is similar to the original.

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## 20. BON TON BAKERY BUILDING 34-42 W. MAIN

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Eugene Graf, an entrepreneur from Great Falls, acquired the building in 1925 and hired Fred Willson for the remodel. Willson transformed the brick and iron storefront into a classic Mission Revival in 1928, featuring stucco walls, arched windows and a "Bon Ton Bakery" corner mosaic, which was one of Graf's businesses at that time.



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THIS PART OF THE TOUR  
IS FOR THOSE WHO  
DON'T BELIEVE THE  
"WAGONS ONLY TRAVEL  
10 MILES A DAY" SHTICK.

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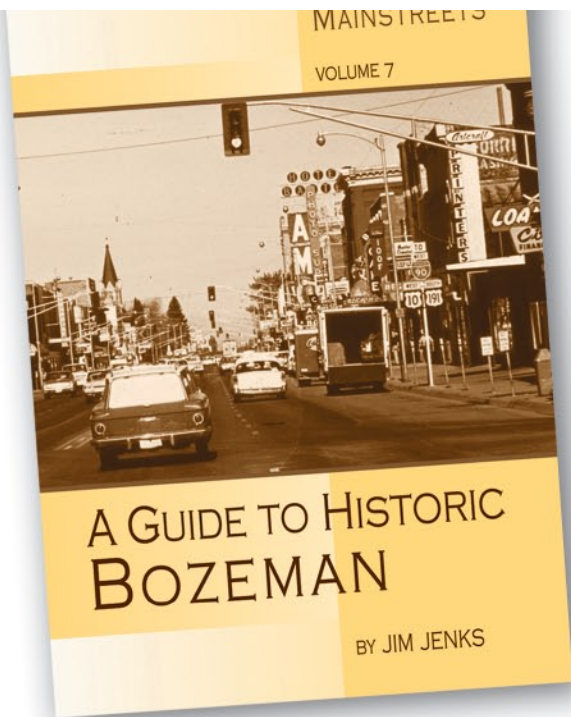
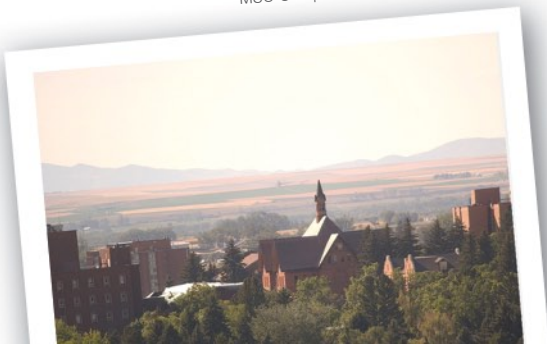
**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**  
Founded in 1893, MSU campus occupies 1,170 acres. The land was donated by Nelson Story, one of Bozeman's pioneers, as the site for the town's bid to become Montana's capital. Historical features include 8th Boulevard, Montana Hall and Hamilton Hall.

**THE "M" HIKING TRAIL - 5 MILES**  
Created by students in 1915, this 250-foot white-washed rock is perched on the southern flank of Baldy Mountain. Two routes lead to scenic views of the Gallatin Valley and the 21-mile Bridger Mountains National Recreation Trail.

**BOZEMAN PASS - 13 MILES**  
Bozeman Pass (5,712 feet) was named for John Bozeman, who from 1863-1867 guided prospectors to the goldfields of Montana. In the 1880s, The Northern Pacific Railroad built a tunnel through and below the pass to avoid switchbacks.

**HEADWATERS STATE PARK - 30 MILES**  
The Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson Rivers converge near Three Forks, an important point on the Lewis & Clark Expedition over 200 years ago. Campgrounds, picnic areas and trails are on-site.

MSU Campus, as seen from Peet's Hill



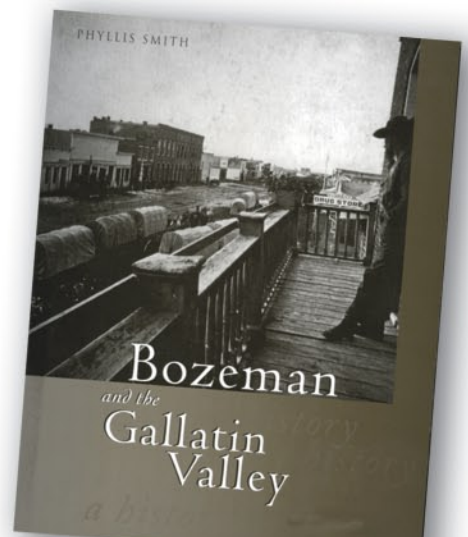
*A Guide To Historic Bozeman*  
Jim Jenks

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FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON  
HISTORIC BOZEMAN

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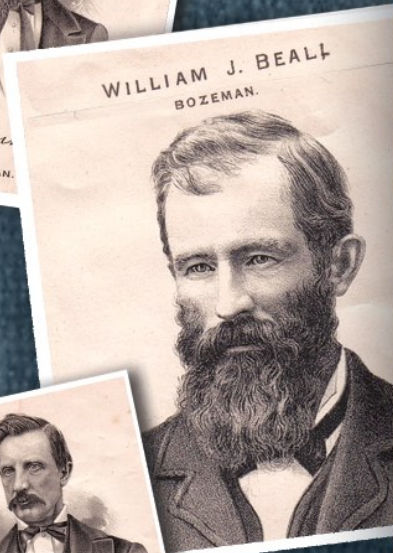
*Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley*  
Phyllis Smith







Daniel Rouse



William Beall



William Tracy

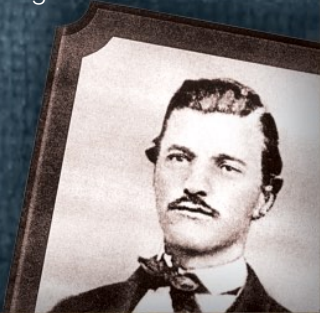
## BOZEMAN PIONEERS

William Beall, 1834 - 1903  
Built some of Bozeman's first buildings.

John Bozeman, 1836 - 1867  
Gold Miner. Trailblazer. Founding Father.

Daniel Rouse, 1834 - 1912  
Was dedicated to plotting a new town.

William Tracy,  
1838 - 1916  
Paved the way  
for downtown brick  
businesses. Many  
still stand today.



John Bozeman



A 1906 Sweet Pea parade down Main Street  
featuring Bozeman's Ladies Imperial Band

# BOZEMAN M O N T A N A

Bozeman Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce  
2000 Commerce Way, Bozeman, MT 59715  
(800) 228-4224 · (406) 586-5421  
[www.visitbozeman.net](http://www.visitbozeman.net)  
[meetings@bozemanchamber.com](mailto:meetings@bozemanchamber.com)  
[info@bozemanchamber.com](mailto:info@bozemanchamber.com)

Additional Historic Information:  
Gallatin Historical Society and Pioneer Museum  
317 West Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 522-8122 · [www.pioneermuseum.org](http://www.pioneermuseum.org)

Montana Historical Society  
225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-4710 · [www.his.state.mt.us](http://www.his.state.mt.us)