

*Lady Blackmore's tombstone, designed to suggest her namesake, Mount Blackmore.*

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## HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY

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When the wealthy “Lord” and “Lady” Blackmore left England to tour the West, they agreed that if either should die on their travels, they would simply be laid to rest where they perished. Unfortunately, the beautiful socialite Mary Blackmore fell ill in Bozeman and died in General Lester Willson’s home. William Blackmore bought five acres to bury Mary, and donated the land to the town for use as a cemetery.

In 1910, Elizabeth Bogert helped establish the local cemetery board, which brought in water lines, planted weeping birch and spruce trees, and cleaned overgrown graves. Bogert suggested the cemetery’s current name, Sunset Hills.

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## SYMBOLISM ON THE HEADSTONES

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The carvings and sculptural elements on the headstones at Sunset Hills decorate the graves, but also serve a symbolic purpose.

Many graves feature flowers, symbolizing the fragility of life. A plucked flower represents a life in full bloom, cut short, as does a grave shaped like a chopped tree. Lilies stand for purity and innocence, while roses suggest romance, passion, and beauty.

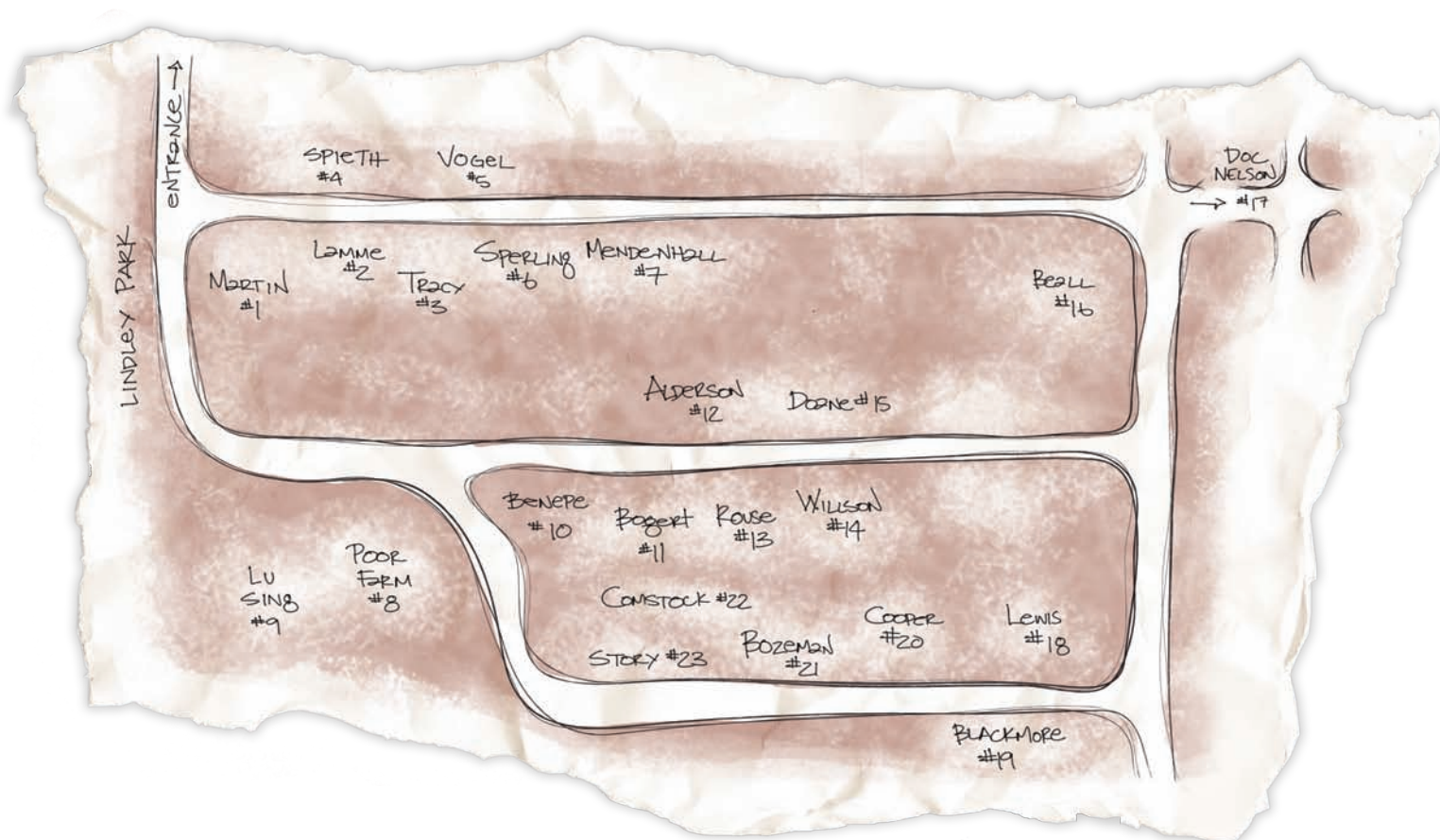
Animals decorate several stones. Lions indicate courage; roosters and flying birds are associated with resurrection. On Christian headstones, ants stand for industriousness while a pelican means redemption through Christ. A stone with a coiled snake accuses the buried of sin, but a snake with its tail in its mouth indicates an everlasting life in heaven.

Scales represent the weighing of justice for the judgment of the dead, while arrows stand for mortality. Graves of sailors and captains might feature anchors and ships, but these also stand for hope. Arches symbolize a victorious, heroic death (as in battle).



*The original Sunset Hills gates.*

# HISTORIC CEMETERY WALKING TOUR



- |                                     |  |                              |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. James Edward Martin/Julia Martin | 9. Lu Sing                             | 17. Frank "Doc" Nelson       |
| 2. Dr. Achilles Lamme               | 10. Frank and Jennetta Benepe          | 18. Samuel Lewis             |
| 3. Tracy Family                     | 11. John "Vesuvius" Bogert             | 19. "Lady" Mary Blackmore    |
| 4. Jacob Spieth                     | 12. Alderson Family                    | 20. Walter and Miriam Cooper |
| 5. Friedrik Vogel                   | 13. Daniel Rouse                       | 21. John Bozeman             |
| 6. Lewis Sperling                   | 14. Willson Family                     | 22. Henry T.P. Comstock      |
| 7. John Mendenhall                  | 15. Gustavus and Mary Lee Hunter Doane | 23. Nelson and Ellen Story   |
| 8. Poor Farm                        | 16. William and Rosa Beall             |                              |

THE HISTORIC CEMETERY WALKING TOUR IS APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR WALK



- 
1. JAMES EDWARD MARTIN  
B. 1840, D. 1920  
JULIA MARTIN (DAUGHTER)  
B. 1884, D. 1966
- 



Reusing the wagon wheel irons that brought him from Missouri in 1864, 24-year old James Martin paid a blacksmith \$175 to fashion the first plow in Montana, with which he planted the first potatoes and earliest wheat in southwestern Montana. His daughter, Julia, was born and

raised in the Martin's South Grand mansion, where she lived until her death.

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2. DR. ACHILLES LAMME  
B. 1832, D. 1888
- 

Dr. Lamme was the only doctor in the area when he arrived in Bozeman in 1865. As such, he reluctantly attended the sick but never accepted payment, garnering a reputation for exceptional kindness. In 1869, he opened a successful store with John Mendenhall.



- 
3. WILLIAM H. TRACY  
B. 1838, D. 1908  
SARAH JANE BESSEY TRACY  
B. 1851, D. 1916
- 



Considered "one of the honored pioneers in Montana," William Tracy arrived in 1863 to profit in mining, real estate, and wholesale dealings. In 1868, he returned from a trip back east with 19 year-old Sarah, making him one of the first to arrive in Bozeman with a bride.

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4. JACOB SPIETH  
B. 1833, D. 1892
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A German immigrant, Jacob Spieth arrived in Montana in 1863, bringing with him a love of beer. With Charles Krug, he established Spieth and Krug Brewery on Main Street over Bozeman Creek, using the creek water for both brewing and refrigeration.

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5. FRIEDRIK BOZEMAN VOGEL  
B. 1883, D. 1883
- 

This gravesite is a poignant reminder that more than a century ago, infant mortality rates were extremely high due to harsh frontier conditions, influenza, and no vaccinations. Most Bozeman families endured the loss of at least one child.

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6. LEWIS SPERLING  
B. 1836, D. 1890
- 

"Lewie" Sperling was an Orthodox Jew from Poland. In New York, he stocked a peddler's wagon and headed west, arriving in Bozeman in 1868. Here, he became a merchant of groceries, clothing, boots, and shoes; as well as the father of six children. The Hebrew inscription on his monument reads, "May he rest in peace in his place of repose."



*Spieth and Krug  
Brewery on Main,  
established by  
Jacob Spieth with  
Charles Krug.*

- 
7. JOHN MENDENHALL  
B. 1835, D. 1896  
MARY MENDENHALL  
UNKNOWN
- 



In 1865, John Mendenhall arrived in Bozeman and commenced farming. Known for both serving as the first Territorial Sheriff of Gallatin County and constructing the first saloon in town, Mendenhall also established a major wholesale and retail store with fellow pioneer Achilles Lamme.

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8. POOR FARM
- 



Poor Farms were established throughout Montana as self-sufficient working farms for indigents. 25 people from the poor farm were buried in this part of the cemetery, unnamed and unmarked. The Chinese section has been lost with time, yet a few tombstones with Chinese inscriptions can still be found.

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9. LU SING  
B. UNKNOWN D. 1906
- 

In 1906, the second legal hanging took place after Lu Sing of San Francisco tracked his wife's lover to Montana and shot him dead in the streets of Bozeman. Few responded to the engraved invitations to the hanging day, but trees outside the jailyard were thick with onlookers. He has no tombstone.

- 
10. FRANK L. BENEPE  
B. 1851, D. 1934  
JENNETTA BENEPE  
B. 1861, D. 1955
- 

Frank Benepe came to Bozeman in 1877 and started an outfitting store for miners and ranchers. He married Jennetta Trent, who was living with her sister Ellen and brother-in-law Nelson Story. In 1891 he created the Bozeman Implement, Carriage, and Harness Co. with several others.



- 
11. JOHN "VESUVIUS" BOGERT  
B. 1851, D. 1895  
ELIZABETH BOGERT  
B. 1848, D. 1951
- 

During his eight consecutive terms as Bozeman's mayor, John Bogert established a proper fire department, gravelled Main Street, banned the smoking of opium and outlawed walking nude about town. His sister, Elizabeth, is remembered for establishing a local cemetery board and naming Sunset Hills. "Vesuvius" was his pen name for a local newspaper column.



*A historic picture of Sunset Hills. Today, it is graced by stately trees that appear as saplings here.*



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12. WILLIAM WHITE ALDERSON  
B. 1831, D. 1906  
FRANCES W. ALDERSON  
B. 1834, D. 1910
- 

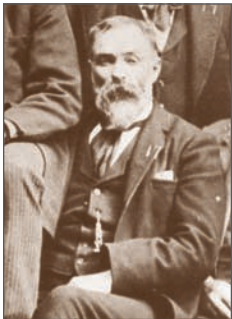


The Alderson's were well-educated, progressive-minded and famous for establishing local churches and schools during Bozeman's first years. Frances, shown here, was locally renowned for her exceptional culinary skills. Bozeman millers tested their flour by sending Frances flour for baking

samples. The first person to plant a flower garden in Bozeman, Frances kept flowers blooming inside year-round so that her husband, William, (shown) could wear one in his buttonhole every day of the year.



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13. DANIEL ROUSE  
B. 1834, D. 1912
- 



With John Bozeman and William Beall, Daniel Rouse laid out a townsite along the Bozeman Trail. Following Bozeman's establishment, Rouse profited handsomely from real estate ventures, but also gave away most of his Main Street holdings to builders in order to bolster

Bozeman's growth. His grave marker was erected 77 years after his death.

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14. GENERAL LESTER WILLSON  
B. 1839, D. 1919  
EMMA WEEKS WILLSON  
B. 1841, D. 1923  
FRED F. WILLSON  
B. 1877, D. 1956
- 

War-decorated General Lester Willson fell in love with Emma Weeks for her incredible singing, but she also used her voice to lobby for local churches, schools, and libraries. Their son, Fred F. Willson (shown), was the most prolific architect in Bozeman, building many private residences and also buildings like the Ellen Theater, the Baptist Church, the Emerson, and several MSU buildings.



- 
15. GUSTAVUS DOANE  
B. 1840, D. 1892  
MARY LEE HUNTER DOANE  
B. 1859, D. 1952
- 



For twenty years, Gustavus Doane fought to remove Native Americans from their western homelands, infamously participating in the Baker Massacre. He also led the military expedition of future Yellowstone Park which helped persuade Congress to create the first national park.





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16. WILLIAM BEALL  
B. 1834, D. 1903  
ROSA BEALL  
B. 1838, D. 1930
- 



An architect, contractor, builder and rancher, William Beall helped Daniel Rouse and John Bozeman lay out the Bozeman townsite. His wife, Rosa, was the first woman to settle in the community, playing a critical role in the religious, educational, and social life of the city until her death at age 91.

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17. FRANK "DOC" NELSON  
B. 1867, D. 1964
- 

"Doc" began his wrangler career early, helping drive 1000 head of cattle at age 11. As depicted on his tombstone and in C.M. Russell's popular painting "Bronc to Breakfast", one day Nelson and an ornery pony bucked right through the breakfast cookfire. Nelson is in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.



*"Bronc to Breakfast" by C.M. Russell, inspired by Doc Nelson.  
Photo courtesy Montana Historical Society.*



- 
18. SAMUEL LEWIS  
B. 1832, D. 1886
- 

The well-travelled, well-known musician Samuel Lewis chose to make his home in Bozeman in 1868, establishing a successful barber shop that same year. The barbershop was renowned for its tidiness and order. In 1886, Lewis died as one of Montana's wealthiest and most influential African Americans.

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19. "LADY" MARY BLACKMORE  
B. UNKNOWN, D. 1872
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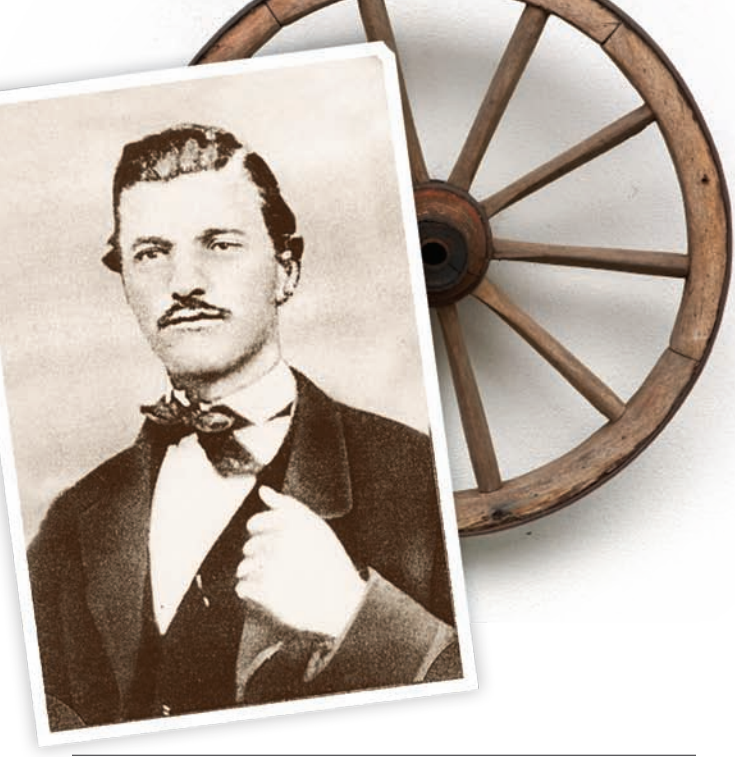
Mary Blackmore was a well-to-do English socialite who fell ill and died during a visit to Montana. Her husband purchased five acres where he buried Mary. He then donated the land to the city for use as a cemetery, marking the official beginning of Sunset Hills. Looking south from the grave, one can see Mt. Blackmore, named in Mary's honor.

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20. WALTER COOPER  
B. 1841, D. 1924  
MIRIAM SKEELS COOPER  
B. 1852, D. 1925
- 



Walter Cooper chased gold rushes all the way to Montana, but he created his own gold mine in the form of a massive firearms and sporting goods house, manufacturing the most famous rifle in the West, the 50-caliber Sharps Buffalo Gun.





21. JOHN BOZEMAN  
B. 1835, D. 1867

Inspired by a steady stream of immigrants flowing to Montana, John Bozeman laid out the course of the Bozeman Trail which provided a convenient overland road to the mining camps. Hardly the trapper-type, Bozeman was described by contemporaries as over 6 feet tall, with the looks and ways of a well-dressed Southern gentleman. While the accepted story at the time was that Bozeman was murdered by Blackfeet Indians while on a business trip, as his gravestone depicts, inconsistencies in the story have spun a mystery concerning his death. He may have been killed by a fellow Bozemanite.

Whether it was a business partner named Tom Cover who survived the "attack," or a jealous husband of one of the few women in town still remains a mystery today.

*John Bozeman's headstone at Sunset Hills.*

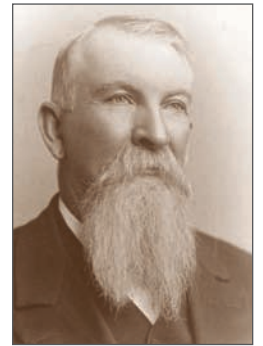


22. HENRY T.P. COMSTOCK  
B. 1820, D. 1870

"Old Pancake" was said to have enough badness in him for three men. He claimed ownership of a silver strike that he neither found nor excavated. He bragged so much about the strike that it became known as Comstock Lode. Comstock sold out early to a developer for \$11,000, but the Comstock Lode became the single greatest mineral strike in history.

23. NELSON STORY SR.  
B. 1838, D. 1926  
ELLEN TRENT STORY  
B. 1844, D. 1924

Montana's first millionaire Nelson Story amassed his wealth through a lucky gold strike, a huge cattle drive, transportation ventures, and, allegedly, illicit practices like overcharging customers and under-delivering orders.



The Ellen Theater on Main Street is named for his wife, Ellen, a leading Bozeman society matron. Marble columns taken from their mansion decorate the Story graves.

*The Ellen Theatre, circa 1940s, named for Ellen Story.*





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## HOW TO TAKE A GRAVE RUBBING

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Sunset Hills is one of a diminishing number of cemeteries that still allow grave rubbings. Use caution, but feel free to take a safe rubbing using the following steps.

If a stone has begun to flake or has a “hollow” sound when rapped lightly, rubbing could cause further damage. Choose a different stone: granite and slate gravestones are better options.

Before you start the rubbing, clean any loose dirt or debris off the grave with a small brush. Write any desired grave information (location, date, etc.) on the back of the paper to avoid smudging the rubbing later. Using drafting tape, tape the paper (newsprint, vellum, or butcher paper are good choices) onto the grave, making sure that it covers more than the area to be recorded. With a lumber crayon or rubbing wax, begin in the center of the grave, making gentle strokes onto the paper with the broad side of the wax. Start lightly - you can always go deeper later. Uniform pressure will avoid color variations.

Step back to ensure you haven't missed a spot. Then, carefully remove your rubbing, making sure to check the grave for any missed tape. The rubbing is suitable for framing, historical documentation, or scrapbooking.

*Lichen can be removed from stone faces like this one with a firm natural-bristle brush.*



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## CEMETERY ETIQUETTE

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Please stay on paths and do not touch the memorials. Do not alter a memorial in any way: leave what is already there and do not add to the memorial. Some people damage headstones by scraping shaving cream into the inscriptions to make them more visible, or taking rubbings improperly. These activities can be more destructive to headstones than acid rain. Never leave a car idling by a cemetery as the fumes are detrimental to historical structures.

Let the caretaker manage natural vegetation. You can help, however, by picking up litter.

Please do not interrupt funeral or memorial services. Refrain from approaching others in the cemetery, as they may be mourning or seeking solitude. Preserve the peace of the cemetery by speaking only in subdued tones. Joking is inappropriate. Children are welcome if they are quiet and respectful — no running or playing. Sunset Hills does not allow pets into the cemetery.





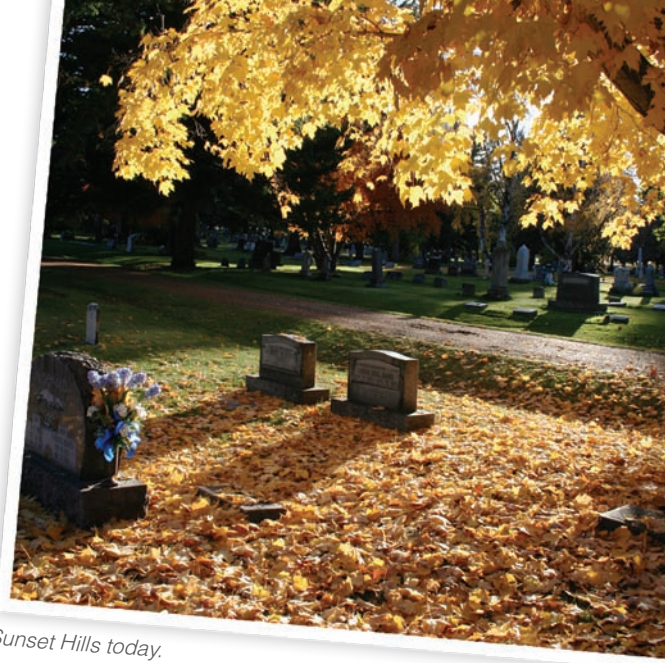
VOLUME 7



# A GUIDE TO HISTORIC BOZEMAN

BY JIM JENKS

*A Guide to Historic Bozeman*  
Jim Jenks



*Sunset Hills today.*

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FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON  
HISTORIC BOZEMAN

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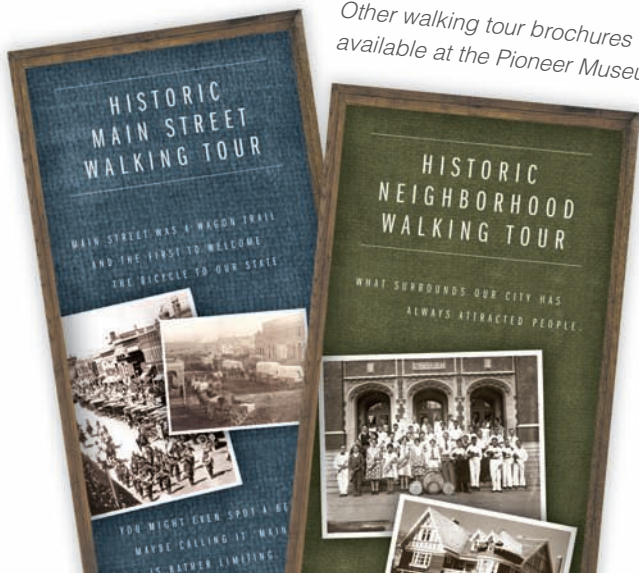
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Additional Historic Information:  
Gallatin Historical Society and Pioneer Museum  
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Historic Preservation Program  
Bozeman City Planning Office  
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(406) 582-2272 · [preservebozeman@bozeman.net](mailto:preservebozeman@bozeman.net)

*Other walking tour brochures  
available at the Pioneer Museum.*



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