

Begin the Historic Kalispell Tour

HISTORIC KALISPELL TOUR

Photograph and write up any 10 of the following places on the tour.

1. KALISPELL HOTEL (100 Main Street) Opened in 1912, this was one of several hotels opened in the downtown area. A giant electric sign adorned the roof to attract people from the railroad depot down the street. The 52-room hotel was once run by renowned Montana author Frank Bird Linderman and visited by many important guests, including famous artist Charles M. Russell. The hotel was expensive for its day, with room costing \$2 a night, yet travelers had running water and other amenities not offered at other hotels. Renovated in the early 90's, it now contains 40 rooms.

2. FLATHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE (Main Street) The Flathead County Courthouse is a contributing property in its namesake historic district, Courthouse Historic District. The Flathead County Courthouse was built in 1903. At the time it was built is stood as a solitary building a full half mile from the main focal point in Kalispell, the train depot. Development around the courthouse did not take place until the 1920's. The courthouse has continued to serve as the center of county government since its construction however court is now held in the nearby Justice Center about one block further south.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM29QZ>

3. GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY DEPOT (15 Depot Loop, off of Main and Center Streets) The first train arrived in Kalispell in 1891. Kalispell was along the route of the transcontinental railroad and Kalispell was the location of one of the divisions along the line. Great Northern Railway Depot was built in 1899. The railroad heyday in Kalispell was short-lived, lasting only 12 year, when in 1904 the main line of the Great Northern Railroad along with division operations were moved north to Whitefish, Kalispell continued to be served by a branch line. The depot has been renovated and now serves as offices and visitors center for the Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM2786>

4. CONRAD MANSION (313 6th Avenue East) In 1895, five years after serving as one of the first directors of the Kalispell Townsite Company, Charles E. Conrad moved his extended family into this 23-room mansion. the pioneer businessman had arrived in Montana from his native Virginia in 1868, at age 18, with his brother, William. They were employed by, and then bought L G. Baker Company, a mercantile and freighting business based in Fort Benton. The brothers expanded that business and ventured into banking establishing the Conrad Brothers Bank here in 1892. Over the years, Charles traveled into the Flathead Valley to hunt, referring to it as the "Valley of Paradise." Conrad's friendship with James J. Hill influenced the great Northern Railroad's route here and Kalispell's early growth. The entrepreneur chose prominent Spokane architect Kirkland K. Cutter to design a home that would fit his 72 acre wooded estate. Cutter selected a shingle style design, with four native stone chimneys serving eight fireplaces, stand and mullioned glass, hardwood interiors, and many up-to-the-

minute conveniences. Conrad died 1902, but his wife carried on the family tradition of exuberant hospitality until her death in 1923. The home was donated to the City of Kalispell in 1975 by the youngest Conrad daughter, Alicia Conrad Campbell.
<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM29W5>

5. MCINTOSH OPERA HOUSE (48 Main Street) Jon McIntosh built the McIntosh Opera House in 1896; he and a partner added the building to the north in 1903. The upper floor served Flathead Valley residents as an opera house (seating capacity 1,000), lodge meeting hall, ball room, theater, roller skating rink, high school graduation auditorium, etc. One of the first shows was “Little Lord Fauntleroy.” The showing of “Uncle Tom's Cabin” had one of the largest audiences, drawing over 1100 people. Admission usually ranged from 50 cents to \$1. Eugene Debs, labor leader and Socialist candidate for president, spoke at the Opera House in 1902. Today, the first floor is still used for retail space, but the upstairs has been vacant for a number of years. Inside the corner entrance of the building is a large, ornate back bar and bar set that reportedly moved to a bar in Kalispell from Demersville in 1894.

6. O'NEILL LUMBER COMPANY OFFICE (424 Main Street) The O'Neil Lumber Company was an important lumber company in Kalispell. The company was founded 1895. This building was built in 1909 to serve as their headquarters in 1909. The family owned company remained in business until 1980. The building is now occupied by a coffee roasting business and art gallery.
<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28GW>

7. KALISPELL CARNEGIE LIBRARY (302 Second Avenue East) Citizens organized the Kalispell Public Library in 1897 and reorganized it as the Free Library a few years later. In 1900, Kalispell banker J. Harrington Edwards met with the private secretary of New York philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to discuss funds for the construction of a library building. Carnegie agreed to donate \$10,000 and the City promised to furnish the site plus \$1,000 per year over the next decade for maintenance. Constructed of gray sandstone from the Columbus quarries near Butte and pressed brick shipped by rail from Menominee, Wisconsin, the unusual Colonial Revival style building features a domed octagonal entry. Citizens flocked to the grand opening on January 12, 1904. The library boasted 4,500 volumes and by 1921, that number had increased to 10,000. Carnegie's gift served as the Kalispell's library until 1969 when its holdings were consolidated with the county library. This landmark building then acquired a new function as the Hockaday Center for the Arts, a non-profit community art center and museum. <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM27V0>

8. SCANDANAVIAN METHODIST CHURCH (203 Fifth Avenue West) The Scandinavian Methodist Church was built in 1895 to serve the growing Scandinavian population in Kalispell. The building is now used as a thrift store. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.
<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28KF>

9. NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PARSONAGE (344 and 332 Fifth Avenue West)

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was built in the 1890's and the parsonage was built in 1905. The church has been used by various congregations through the years including Swedish Lutheran Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Latter-Day Saints and currently the First Bible Presbyterian.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28V3>

10. CENTRAL SCHOOL The Museum is housed in the historic Central School building, which first opened its doors in 1894. In nearly 100 years of serving the educational needs of the Flathead Valley, Central School had been a high school, a junior high school, a grade school, and housed classrooms for Flathead Valley Community College. Today Central School carries on its educational tradition as a museum preserving and presenting local history. It is a sturdy brick and stone structure, one of the few remaining examples of classic Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, with most of its original hardwood floors, wainscoting, and tin-plate ceilings still in place. The building was boarded-up and threatened with demolition in 1991, but the City of Kalispell renovated the structure at a cost of 2.4 million dollars, and since late 1999, has leased it to the Northwest Montana Historical Society for exhibits, performances, and community meetings. <http://www.yourmuseum.org/building.htm>

11. WAGGENER & CAMPBELL FUNERAL HOME (228 Second Street West) In 1905 James E. Waggener purchased the business of retiring undertaker Nelson Willoughby. At his time nationally, the mortuary business was in transition. Funerals in the previous century had traditionally been held in the home, and the undertaker provided such necessary accoutrements as casket, chairs, drapery, door badges, stationery and flowers. After 1900 the home became less suitable for funerals, and the "funeral director" began to offer services in addition to goods. These included embalming, funeral arrangements and transportation. Undertakers needed more space for laboratory facilities, casket sales, and reception services. In 1913, Waggener built this substantial brick building to replace Willoughby's original two-room quarters at 134 West 2nd Street. The new building offered a chapel with seating for sixty-five, a modern embalming room, up-to-date casket show rooms, and the area's only receiving vault. Mahogany woodwork and sliding doors graced the family home upstairs; skylights, still in place today, brightened the kitchen and bathroom. Waggener and Campbell again moved to more modern facilities in 1929, and this building was converted for other commercial use. Architecturally typical of the 1910s, it is historically significant as an early Kalispell funeral home and pioneer family business. <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28J6>

12. HOTEL NORDEN,(24 First Avenue West) The Hotel Norden was operated as a hospital by local physicians with the financial back of the business community from 1905 to 1909. In 1909, the business adventure had financial problems and the hospital closed. The building was used as a hotel for many years with various names including Hotel Norden, Frontier Hotel and Silver Block. The building is now apartments and is known as the Rosebrier Inn.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28ET>

13. FLATHEAD WHOLESALE GROCERY (5 First Avenue East) Flathead Wholesale Grocery building was built in 1914 and is located along the railroad tracks in central Kalispell. The building served as wholesale food warehouse for many years. The building is now used for a variety of businesses.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM27AZ>

14. A.J. DEAN HOUSE (244 Woodland Avenue) The Dean house was built in the 1890's. The house was designed by Spokane architect Kirkland K. Cutter in a Tudor Revival style and was originally part of the stable and carriage house at the Conrad Mansion along with the houses near it at 615 and 623 3 rd Street East. Look for the horse with surrey weathervane on house. Five houses were created from the carriage house, including one at 19 Fifth Avenue and the tattoo parlor at 393 North Main Street.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM29WA>

15. CORNELIUS HEDGES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (827 Fourth Avenue East) Kalispell architect Fred Brinkman, whose versatility is evident in many local buildings, designed this 1929 elementary school in a style reminiscent of the colonial mansions and homesteads of Maryland and Virginia. The original "open plan" was intended to allow a maximum of sunlight and fresh air into all classrooms and halls. An open-air porch and twin chimneys enhanced the "homelike facade" while interior domestic features included a library with beamed ceilings and fireplace. In the kindergarten room, a cozy fireplace and alcove with miniature inglenook seats added to the homey atmosphere. South Side School, as it was originally called, was the first in Kalispell to have its own gymnasium, which it shared with junior high school students during the 1930s. In 1940, South Side School was renamed for Cornelius Hedges, the territorial superintendent of schools who came to be known as the "father of education" in Montana

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM29R7>

16. FISHER HOUSE (441 Second Street West) The Fisher House was built in 1892 for George McVey Fisher in a Stick/Eastlake style. George McVey Fisher was a pioneering Presbyterian preacher in Montana, first in Missoula and then the Flathead Valley area. He settled in Kalispell prior to Kalispell being founded. He was first minister for the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell.

<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28K5>

17. HELLER BUILDING (140 Main Street) The Heller building was built in the in the 1890's. The build is classed as a Chicago style building and was designed by the Stahl Brothers. The building served many years as a bar and restaurant known as the Pastime Bar and had apartments in the upper levels. The building is now used by an art gallery and glassworks. <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM28F5>

18. FEDERAL BUILDING (247 First Avenue East) The federal Building in Kalispell was built in 1917. The building was designed by architect James A. Wetmore in a Colonial Revival style. The building became the Flathead County Library when the city

and county libraries merged in 1969. The building also serves as the local school district headquarters. <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM2825>

19. KALISPELL AMERICAN LAUNDRY (121 First Avenue East) Kalispell-- American Laundry was built in 1919 and was designed by prolific Kalispell architect Marion Rizzo. The building has served as a laundry and linen supply company since it was built. <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM27C9>

20. KALISPELL VETERANS MEMORIAL (located adjacent to Great Northern Railway Depot on Main and Center Streets)

21. ST. MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH The St. Matthews Catholic Church is the second church serving the parish. The construction of the building began in 1910 and completed in 1911. The parish continues as an active parish in the Diocese of Helena, Montana. <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM29ZD>

22. KALISPELL MERCANTILE BUILDING (200 First Avenue East) The Historic KM Building was the original shopping center in Kalispell. Built in 1894, it served the area as the main mercantile in the area. Originally named the Missoula Mercantile, it was the grocery store, drug store, clothing store, and supply store all rolled into one. It was the equivalent of today's malls, with three floors of goods delivered to Kalispell by wagon, train and later trucks. Customers could find everything from dishes to farm equipment inside.

23. EASTSIDE BRICK BUILDING (72 Fifth Avenue East) The Eastside Brick building was built in 1911 as the first Kalispell General Hospital. The building served as a hospital for until 1973, with additional sections being added in 1948 and 1964. When it was built, special care was taken to make the building quieter, with thick concrete floors and 18-inch brick walls. It later served as part of the Courthouse complex, housing offices in the 1970s that eventually moved to newer building near the current Courthouse. It was purchased in 2005 and renovated for office and professional use.

HISTORIC HOME DISTRICTS

24. EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The East Side Historic District mainly consists of residential building but also includes many public buildings. Contained in the district are the former Carnegie Library building, the Conrad Mansion and the Hedges Elementary School. The buildings in the district were designed by many different architects however many in the district were designed by local architect Fred Brinkman, and were mostly constructed in the late 1800's through the 1930's. The district continues to be well maintained area of the city. Street address: Roughly bounded by Central St. E., Woodland Park, Woodland Ave., 13th St. E. and 1st Ave. E. Homes to look for include: Green/Bjorneby House (312 6 th Ave East), Elliot House (505 6 th Ave East), Keith House (538 5 th Ave East), McIntosh House (511 4 th

Ave East), Conlon House (305 4 th Ave East), Campbell/Johns House (302 4 th Ave East). <http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM27VB>

25. WEST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The West Side Historic District in Kalispell is a predominately residential district. There are many styles of buildings in the district including Late Victorian, Late 19th And Early 20th Century American Movements, and Late 19th And 20th Century Revivals. The district overall is well maintained. Street address: Roughly bounded by 4th St. W., Main St., 10th St. W. and 4th Ave. West. Homes to look for include: Ringleberg House (1028 3 rd Ave West), Woll House (905 4 th Ave West), Bader/Jacquette House (46 and 36 5th Ave. West), Sherman and Son Funeral Home (343 First Ave West)
<http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM29Z5>

Sources for Historic Tour Information: Historical Walking Tours of Kalispell by Kathy McKay and www.waymarking.com .