

BUTTE, MONTANA

Uptown Historian Program

An educational program from

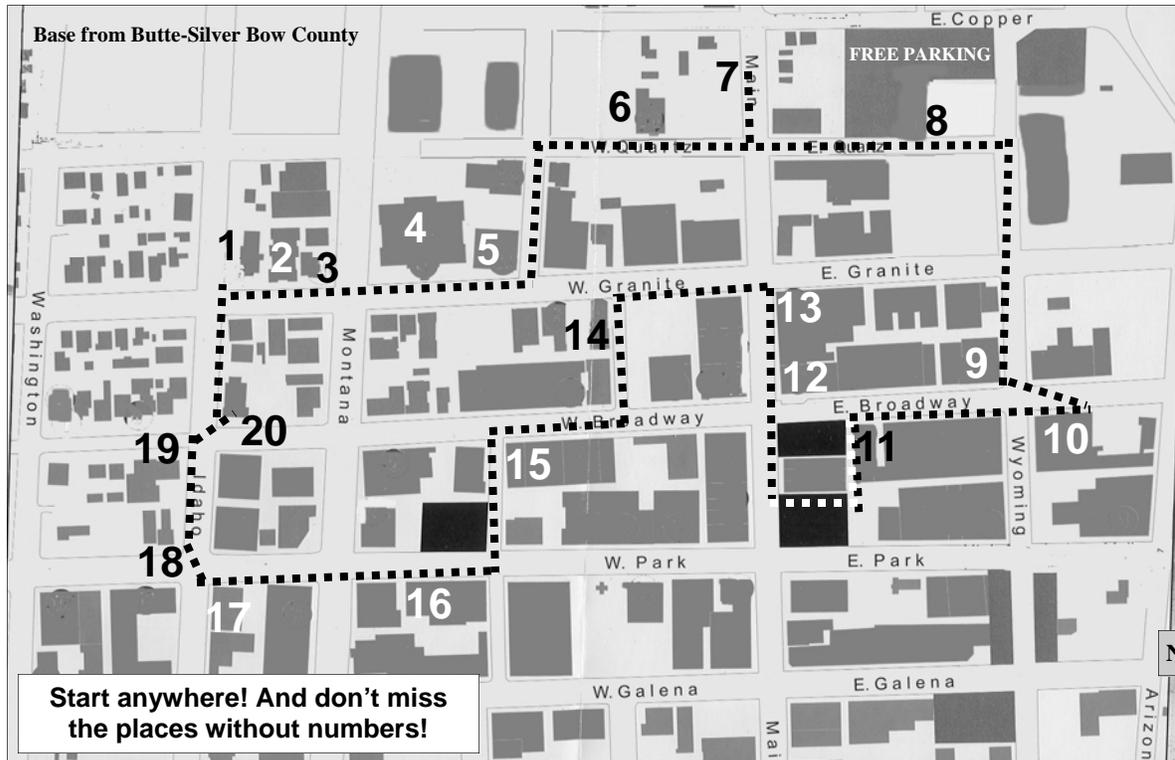
Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization



Uptown Butte is exceptionally diverse in its history, reflecting the hopes, dreams, and successes of rich and poor, Irish, Italian, and Finn (and 30 more ethnicities). The cradle of American unionism, Butte’s miners built—and then helped destroy—the “Gibraltar of Unionism.” This walk is designed to lead you through a taste of that remarkable history.

DIRECTIONS

All the answers to these questions can be found on the historical plaques attached to the buildings—and you’ll find dozens more plaques not listed here. We hope you discover something unexpected and fascinating!



1. Built in 1885-88 by Copper King W.A. Clark, this mansion cost how much to construct?

Today the Copper King Mansion is a Bed & Breakfast and is open for tours seasonally.

2. An upscale apartment building for families as well as single miners, the Leonard Hotel was built in 1906. How much would you have paid for a full dinner in its basement dining room? _____

3. One of Butte’s first brick structures, this building was home to Butte’s first Mayor, Henry Jacobs. Jacobs came to Montana in 1866, but where was he born? _____

4. The second county court house to stand here, this building cost about \$383,000 to erect in 1910-1912. Name one of the famous speakers to have addressed crowds from these steps.

The Court House is open during business hours M-F. If it is open, please enter through the copper doors to see the dramatic rotunda, capstan of the USS Maine, and other displays.

5. East of the Court House stands the 1906 Silver Bow Club, a rich-man's hangout. The hooks in the front steps held down red carpets. What organization had its headquarters here after the depression made a "millionaire's club" obsolete? _____

Today the Silver Bow Club houses offices. During weekday business hours, please enter to see some of the original opulence of this well-preserved building.

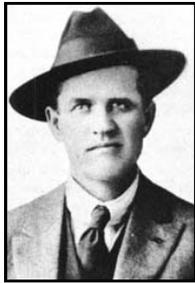
Turn left (north) onto Alaska Street. Ahead of you is the Original Mine headframe, topping a shaft that went down 3,569 feet. This mine began in 1878. **Head north one block to Quartz Street; turn right (east).**

6. B.F.D. stands for Butte Fire Department. After fires in 1879 destroyed most of the commercial district, Butte still suffered many conflagrations. When was this building built to house the main uptown fire department? _____

This building today houses the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives. Open to the public weekdays; entrance on north side of building.

Walk east on Quartz to Main Street. Turn left (north) and go a half block.

7. The remnant of the Miners Union Hall is a reminder of internal strife within the unions. The building that stood here was dynamited as part of a dispute that created a new union, not affiliated with the Western Federation of Miners. When did the explosion happen? _____



Return to Quartz Street, continue across Main to the east.

8. The sign by the parking lot on the north side of Quartz tells part of the story of Frank Little (left), abducted from his bed at a boarding house where the Capri Motel now stands (N. Wyoming St., to the east). When did this famous abduction and lynching occur? _____

Turn right (south) on Wyoming Street.

9. At the corner of Wyoming and Broadway stands the Thornton Hotel with its heavy overhanging balconies. Teddy Roosevelt dined here in 1903, when the hotel was two years old. How much did it cost to build this building in 1901? _____

10. Cross to the southeast corner, and the Finlen Hotel. Modeled after the Hotel Astor in New York City, the eastern paired tower here was never finished because of a post-World War I depression in copper prices. What year did the Finlen open? _____

The lobby of the Finlen is usually open. If you are not staying in Butte's most elegant and historic hotel, please enter to see the magnificent Art Deco décor.

Walk west on Broadway Street.

11. Butte's second City Hall with its Richardsonian Revival clock tower served the community from 1890-1977. Who was the Mayor when this building was erected to deal with Butte's exploding population? _____

Walk south through the alley on the west side of the City Hall, then turn right (west) along the parking lot and back to Main St. Turn right (north). You will pass the Rookwood Building with a speakeasy beneath the sidewalk.

The basement of the City Hall houses the notorious Butte Bastille—the city jail. Guided tours there and in the Speakeasy are available from Old Butte Historical Adventures, 117 N. Main St.

12. **Cross Broadway.** The narrow tower on the northeast corner of Broadway and Main is one of the first skyscrapers west of the Mississippi, built with internal steel girder support. What year was this innovation erected in Butte? _____

13. The massive red brick Hennessey Building at the corner of Main and Granite housed the corporate headquarters of what major multi-national corporation for nearly 7 decades?

14. **Walk west one block on Granite to Hamilton, turn left (south).** Julian's piano bar occupies the lower level of the Maley Block, a structure with a cast-iron façade. What year was this building built?

Go south on Hamilton to Broadway, cross Broadway, turn right (west), go one block to the corner of Dakota.

15. The small building with the rounded corner is the Morier Block. Original structures here date to 1884-1891, but when was the present renovation completed? _____

Go south on Dakota to Park; cross Park and turn right (west).

16. The orange-front Hacienda Restaurant occupies an 1884 structure that served as Butte's first

At the southwest corner of Park and Montana, the elegant turret of the Stephens Hotel overlooks the intersection. Old Butte Historical Adventures (117 N. Main) provides tours inside this interesting building.

17. **Cross Montana St., continue west.** The Knights of Columbus hall was erected during Butte's last great building boom in 1917-18. Name the architect of this building.

Across the street from the Knights of Columbus hall is a newly renovated pair of buildings, the Park Hotel (1901) and Dodge Brothers Auto Showroom (1912), occupied today by a coffee shop and restaurant.

18. Cross Park and Idaho Streets to the yellow and white Second Empire home on the northwest corner. Built in 1887, this home was occupied by the Lavell family until 1941. How did the French-Canadian Lavell make his fortune?

Head north on Idaho Street.

19. At the southwest corner of Idaho and Broadway stands the 1881 St. John's Episcopal Church. A fire here in what year led to one of Butte's first preservation projects? _____

20. Cross the corner to the Gothic-style Presbyterian Church, designed in 1896 by Butte's most prestigious local architect. Name the architect. _____

This former church today houses the Covellite Theater and coffee shop (entrance on east side). Repertory productions are enacted here throughout the summer season

One block further north and you are back at the Copper King Mansion.

THANKS FOR VISITING BUTTE!