

# LIVINGSTON MONTANA

THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

## Historic District Walking Tour



Native American communities inhabited this area as early as 11,500 years ago, perhaps longer, according to evidence from the Anzick archeological site near Missoula, the oldest known Native American burial ground in North America. Captain William Clark reentered the first Anglo-European contact in the area as his party camped in Livingston, July 15, 1806, and then continued to join Meriwether Lewis at the headwaters of the Missouri River. In 1863 through 1866 travelers on their way to the Virginia City gold fields, followed the Bozeman Trail through what is now Livingston. Then

in 1864, gold was discovered in Emigrant Gulch, and at the same time five million acres of Crow land opened up to settlement. Fort Parker, a Crow Indian Agency, and trading post were established. Ranching began to flourish. Legendary figures like Nelson Story, the man behind the book and movie, *Lonesome Dove*, and the Bottler brothers started some of the first ranches in the Paradise Valley.

In 1871 the Bottlers helped guide the Hayden party that explored Yellowstone. The members of that party then joined Northern Pacific Railway in lobbying Congress in 1872, to create Yellowstone

National Park.

Two parallel events ensured the future of Livingston as a community and the original entrance to Yellowstone National Park.

Far to the east, the Northern Pacific Railroad officials were laying out what would become Livingston. NP wanted to build its shops, the largest facility between St. Paul and Seattle, at about the midway point where trains would begin their climb from the plains into the mountains. As railroad historian, Warren McGee quipped, "You had to have more than your reputation to climb those passes." By August 1882, heavily laden ox-

driven carts and railway contractors arrived, officially initiating the existence of "Clark City," a tent city near East Clark Street. That same year the railroad reached Livingston.

Then in 1883, a spur line from Livingston to Yellowstone at Cinnabar was completed, and Livingston boomed as the historic districts you see today were constructed, as the Northern Pacific's shops went into full gear, and as tourists arrived on four trains daily. Livingston took its place in history as the region's first tourist community and the original entrance to America's first national park.



# A TOUR OF LIVINGSTON, MONTANA NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

## THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

### THE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

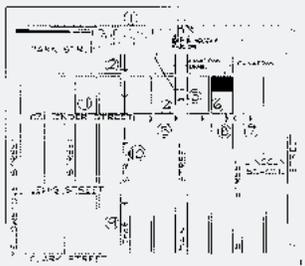
Livingston's commercial core developed rapidly after Northern Pacific surveyors had laid out the street grid in 1882. Tourist and local dollars flowed in, and Livingston financial institutions banked much of the revenue from Yellowstone Park and its concessions. Intense rivalry among merchants and bankers sparked a frenzy of buying and building. Entrepreneurs like A.W. Miles and the Thompson and Hefferlin brothers vied to dominate downtown business. Their substantial blocks remain. Brick factories and lumberyards sprang up to meet the demand. Citizens founded (and supported) several cigar factories. The most successful, Charles Garriner's, boasted a payroll second only to that of Northern Pacific Railroad. His factory on Second Street burned, but you can still see the sidewalk ad, "Smoke Montana Sport," at the old factory site. In just 27 years, Livingston grew from a dream in the minds of Northern Pacific executives to the panoramic picture you see above, taken on the corner of Callender and Main Street, in 1909.



- 1. Commercial District
- 2. Westside District
- 3. Eastside District
- 4. B Street (Red Light) District

### A WALK THROUGH HISTORIC LIVINGSTON

The small historic town of Livingston is studded with historic architecture and, as was intended in the early days, well suited to walking. In 1979, with the formation of the Historic Preservation Commission, four historic districts were identified as well as several individual sites meeting National Historic Register criteria. Other parts of town, yet to be inventoried, are also rich in early structures worth seeing. This guided walking tour allows you to stroll any or all of the four core Districts and gives directions to other sites. Sacajawea Park, lying along the Yellowstone River, offers a shady interlude during or after your meanderings. To start your tour from the Depot Center, cross the street to the Murray Hotel. Reference the coded orientation maps.



### THE CHINESE COMMUNITY

By 1870, ten percent of Montana's population was Chinese. They were laborers on the railroads, worked in the mines, and worked in the laundries and kitchens. The 1886 exclusion act prohibited Chinese women from immigrating to this country. Thus Chinese communities were largely made up of single men with foreign habits, foreign clothes and long thin braids indicating their subservience to the Chinese empress, and they were looked on with suspicion and distrust. A fashion for Chinese food may have raised the level of tolerance in Livingston. Several Chinese restaurants were on the first block of Main Street. The Chinese built "shotgun" houses twenty feet wide, allowing dozens to be packed into a city block. When the makeshift "Chinatown" community at 111 North B was torn down, large amounts of money were found in the walls of the shanties.

### The Chinese Underground

The presence of the underground tunnels and large living spaces below ground in Livingston is evidence of the prejudice the Chinese community faced. One tunnel connected Sam's Noodle Parlor on the first block of main street and "Chinatown." One of the reasons for that tunnel, according to Mrs. Talcott, was that the community insisted that the food be prepared in Chinatown and then transported by tunnel to the restaurant. The Chinese underground is indicated on the map above.

### LIVINGSTON, ONE OF CALAMITY JANE'S FAVORITE HAUNTS

For most of her adult life, Livingston and outlying communities like Aldrich, Horr, and Castle were the favorite haunts of Calamity Jane. Intelligent, independent, and accomplished, this western icon was most famous as a scout, a "dead-eye" marksman, and bullwhacker, being a master of the 20-foot whip used to drive teams of as many as twenty oxen hauling three freight wagons. Before and during Livingston's "Clark City" days, this six-foot woman drove freight from Benson's Landing, just east of Livingston, to Fort Ellis, just outside of Bozeman, down Trail Creek to Cinnabar, and then on to Cooke City. She earned her living through many enterprises though never, as erroneously believed, as a prostitute. In addition to scouting and trail driving, she had a restaurant in Castle, bought and sold cattle for ranchers in the Paradise Valley, lived for some time on the proceeds of her biography which she sold in Yellowstone Park to tourists, and entertained audiences with the Kohl and Middleton Palace Museum Western Show. Capitalizing on Calamity Jane's celebrity, the Livingston Enterprise followed this free-spirited woman closely in the latter years of her life from 1884 to 1903. She died in Terry, South Dakota two years after leaving Livingston for good. Because she had no burial site, a benefactor gave up his plot in Deadwood, South Dakota for her and, by chance, it turned out fittingly to be next to a friend she had only known for two weeks before he was shot in a bar there, "Wild Bill" Hickok. For many years, a sign hung on a cabin at the 200 block of South Main Street in Livingston, placed there by Billy Miles to draw visitors to his park, advertising it as the home of the famous Calamity Jane. The cabin was torn down in the 1930s for firewood.

Imagine that you are a visitor here in 1914. You've just spent 43 hours traveling 1008 miles on the Northern Pacific from St. Paul and are excited about seeing Yellowstone for the first time, but you are tired, hungry and wanting a hot bath. There are signs wherever you look in Livingston saying "Tourist Supplies." You might buy provisions for your trip to the Park and go to a hotel as you wait for your rail connection to take you 54 miles through the Paradise Valley into Yellowstone.

### HOTELS

To accommodate newcomers to the burgeoning community, as well as the visitors to Yellowstone, thirteen hotels were constructed between 1883 and 1914. A significant number of the existing brick structures in the downtown area of Livingston were originally the hotels built in that short period of time, some are now gone. Many Presidents and dignitaries from the East Coast and Europe visiting Yellowstone stayed in Livingston at one of the hotels.

- A) The Murray (across from the Depot Center)
- B) The original Park Hotel (across from the Murray)
- C) The Park Hotel (200 block of Second Street/east side)
- D) The Yellowstone Hotel (Lewis and Main Street SW - now the Senior Citizen's Center)
- E) The Sterling Hotel (in the 200 block on South Main Street)
- F) The Montana Block Hotel (Lewis and Main SE)
- G) The Northern (128 South Main)
- H) The Yellowstone Block Hotel (102 North Main - The Mint Bar)
- I) The Albemarle (105 West Park - now the Guest House)
- J) The Merchant's Hotel (now Sky Credit Union)
- K) The Livingston Hotel (204 East Park - now TJ's)
- L) The Callender Hotel (northwest corner of Callender and B)
- M) The Grabow Hotel (202-206 East Callender)

### 7. The Grabow

**202-206 East Callender**  
German emigrants, William and Elizabeth Grabow built the 30-room Grabow Hotel in the years 1908-1911. Its guests included John D. Rockefeller, European royalty, and other travelers to Yellowstone. William, who had arrived in Livingston in 1884, died suddenly in the flu epidemic of 1918, leaving Elizabeth, a hard working, benevolent six-foot woman to run the hotel with the help of their then grown children.



### 8. Historic City Hall/Fire House

**120-126 East Callender**  
In 1896 a \$10,000 bond issue provided monies to build a structure housing both the city offices and the fire station. (The west bay was a later addition.) When it was formed, the volunteer fire company boasted a hand drawn horse cart. Later a motorized fire truck became the company's pride and joy. The main ornament to the original City Hall, the belltower, was removed as an earthquake hazard.



### 9. Goughnour Lumber Company

**214 South Second Street**  
Built in the 1880s by entrepreneur Emanuel Goughnour, the lumber office and part of the lumberyard are among the last remnants of Livingston's early logging and milling industry. This common Western vernacular commercial structure originally occupied all the lots to the north except the corner, and two lots on 3rd Street.



### 10. The A.W. Miles Block

**100 Block South Second**  
A. W. Miles arrived in Livingston in 1882 and started a hardware store, delivering his first wares by wheelbarrow. He became Livingston's first mayor, the youngest mayor in America at the time, and one of the town's most substantial property owners. Park Hotel block was built in 1901, burned in February of 1904, and was rebuilt and back in business in November, further testament to Miles' energy.



### 11. The Carnegie Library

**228 West Callender**  
The design of this Classical Revival building, constructed from 1903-1904 with funds from the Carnegie Foundation, is typical of hundreds of Carnegie libraries built throughout the U.S. and Canada in the early 1900s. Libraries varied according to local building materials and made some stylistic acknowledgement of regional architecture, but all were embellished with such classical details as the four Doric columns across the facade.



**1. The Northern Pacific Depot**  
**200 West Park Street at Depot Rotary Park**  
The Italianate Northern Pacific Depot completed in 1902 with its rich architectural detailing is the centerpiece of Livingston. In keeping with the first rail access to Yellowstone National Park, it was designed by Reed and Stem of St. Paul, the original architects for Grand Central Station. The Depot Foundation now maintains a railroad museum and makes the building available for private and public events.



**2. The Murray Hotel**  
**201 West Park**  
This local landmark originated as "The Elite Hotel" in 1904 when a woman hotelier named Josephine Kline built the brick structure just across from the Depot. The Livingston Enterprise, Livingston's first newspaper, was located on that corner, and she built the hotel around it. The Elite was two stories at first; as the business prospered, more stories were added. Its lobby features century-old terrazzo floors and detailing.



**3. North Main Street**  
**100 Block at Park Street**  
Some of the oldest commercial buildings in Livingston adorn the east side of this first block of Main Street. All were constructed before 1900 and many in the 1880s. Some still carry the names of their merchant builders: Danforth (106), Frank (114) and Orschel (122). The rhythm created by the alternation of one and two story structures makes an interesting streetscape.



**4. The Thompson Block**  
**101-103 North Main**  
This two-story brick business block has occupied a prominent place in Livingston's commercial district since the earliest days. The three Thompson brothers established a general mercantile store here in 1883, which became well known throughout southern Montana. The building retains much of its original detailing, including glass spandrels over the shop windows and a barred iron rail guarding a basement barbershop entrance.



**5. Sax & Fryer**  
**109 West Callender**  
Livingston's oldest continuous business was founded in 1883 as the John O. Sax Co. The owners were booksellers and stationers who sold general merchandise. After occupying three locations on E. Main St., Sax & Fryer moved to its current address in 1914. The photo shows John W. Fryer (on the right) in the E. Main Street Store in 1911.



**6. The Blue Slipper Theater**  
**113 East Callender**  
This sandstone building once housed the Livingston Post and later The Park County News. Livingston's support of the dramatic arts began when Main Street was graced with the elaborate Strand Theatre and a magnificent Opera House, now gone. Today live entertainment flourishes in two theatres, the Depot, and several venerable taverns.

## THE WEST SIDE RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT



A stroll through this thirteen-block historic district will give you a sense of the lives of those whose fortunes flourished with the beginnings of Livingston. On and around South Yellowstone Street resided the city's wealthiest and most prominent citizens as well as those of more modest means. Many of the houses date from the turn of the century. A few of the smaller homes were built in the 1880s. Cut sandstone ornaments these earliest houses, perhaps the work of a single stonemason.



### 1. Reber House

**315 West Callender**  
Dr. W.H. Campbell built this house in 1890. William Hruza, the successful young owner of a meatpacking store, bought the parcel in 1900. The nine lot parcel allowed the family room for a stable with hayloft, a large chicken yard, a vegetable garden, and an apple orchard. This residence remains in the family to this day. Much of the 1890 hand-grained woodwork is intact; someone replaced the lacy Victorian porch detail with Arts and Crafts supports.



### 2. H.J. Miller House

**323 West Callender**  
Hugh J. Miller came to Livingston to practice law in 1891. He was elected county attorney and, in 1897, the governor appointed him Judge Advocate of Montana. In 1900 Miller and his wife, Georgiana, constructed this large two story brick home. A diagonally placed square tower capped with a flared hip roof, popular during that era, allowed leisurely conversation while enjoying the landscape.



### 3. Lott Birthing Hospital

**128 South Yellowstone**  
This house was built in 1889, the year Montana achieved statehood. During the late 1920s, the residence was converted to a birthing hospital run by a local nurse, Edith Lott. "Maternity houses" were scattered throughout Livingston before hospitals were thought important for "lying in."



### 4. E.H. Talcott House

**206 South Yellowstone**  
Edward H. Talcott built this imposing residence on six city lots in 1903. The exterior is of Omaha pressed brick, the hipped roofs are clad in metal and ornamented with an inland widow's walk. Talcott was president of Livingston's first bank, National Park Bank, and his need to entertain dictated the two porticoed entrances. After Talcott died in 1908, his widow had a smaller "ultramodern" Prairie Style home built nearby and sold the Talcott house to A.W. Miles.



## Historic Livingston Churches

The four churches on the west side are integral to the district and, along with the West Side School, give it its public character. All are versions of Gothic Revival. Dates range from c. 1884 (St. Mary's Catholic Church, now Livingston Congregational, at 226 S. 3rd) to 1933 (Holbrook Methodist, by architect Fred Willson, Bozeman 5th and Lewis). You may recognize the Redeemer Lutheran Church (425 W. Lewis) from the popular Redford/Markay film, "A River Runs Through It."



## Livingston's Historic Schools

**Two Preserved as Museums**  
The newspaper recorded the first day of school in Livingston as December 4, 1892. Shortly after, Livingston's first substantial brick schools were built on 16 lot parcels allocated by the railroad. THE WEST SIDE SCHOOL at 5th and Callender is the oldest still standing, built in 1892 but restored after a 1907 fire collapsed the roof into the upper floor. The construction was so tight that not a single brick fell off the exterior. The replacement roof is smaller, but the building was restored to its form in 1907, including the hand-grained woodwork. THE EAST SIDE SCHOOL, at the corner of Lewis & E streets was built in 1902 to respond to overcrowding in the original 1883 school building. Citizens hired C.E. Bell, architect of the Montana State Capitol, to design a "perfectly modern" school worthy of Livingston's bright future. Bell incorporated the best features of contemporary and Prairie Style architecture, notably the hand-framed hipped roof and the handsome arched main entrance. A wide entrance stair leads to a grand hallway complete with radiators in the floor "on which the children may warm their toes in severe weather." THE NORTH SIDE SCHOOL (118 West Chinook), now The Yellowstone Gateway Museum, was built in 1907. THE LINCOLN SCHOOL (215 E. Lewis) now the International Flyfishing Center, was built in 1914-15.

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### 5. Harvat House

**229 South Yellowstone**  
John H. Harvat arrived in the Livingston area in 1890 and became a successful sheep rancher. In the early 1900s, Harvat moved his family to town, probably so his children could attend school here. Their Queen Anne style house was constructed of sand beige brick with colored mortar joints. The large octagonal corner tower repeats a popular feature of 19th century houses.



### 6. Swindlehurst House

**304 South Yellowstone**  
Joseph Swindlehurst, Sr. built this house c. 1910, nearly 20 years after he arrived in Livingston. Swindlehurst was the original franchise owner of the telephone company and founder of a local savings and loan institution; he was also active in Democratic party politics. This Colonial Revival residence features a handsome front porch supported by paired Ionic columns.



### 7. Garnier House

**313 South Yellowstone**  
In 1886, Charles Garnier founded the first cigar factory in Montana, "Montana Sport." His house, built in 1902, is cut sandstone topped by a pressed metal roof with ridge ornaments. The restored porch provides a light counterpoint to the heavy stone walls.

## ALONG THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER IN LIVINGSTON



### Sacajawea Park and A.W. Miles Park

South Yellowstone Street continues directly on to the bridge to Sacajawea Park. There you will discover the vitality of Livingston as a river community. The Yellowstone flows past picnic areas, horseshoe pits, the Pompey's Playground (named after Sacajawea's child), the old Civic Center, site of the Livingston Farmers' Market, the Miles Bandshell just to the east in A.W. Miles Park. A walk west along the river to 9th Street will take you to three other historic sites.

### The Pump House

**9th Street and River Drive**  
The handsome pump house is located across from the 9th Street Bridge. Nearby, between 8th and 9th Street the community purchased ice harvested from Lehrkind's ice pond.

### Lewis and Clark

Also on this spot, William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition noted in his journal, July 15, 1806: "Struck the Roche Thome a mile below the branch we came down & 1 ms. below where it passes out of the Rocky mountains. The horses' feet are very sore many of them Can Scarcely proceed on over the Stone and gravel in every other respect they are Sound and in good Spirits." (A Crow raiding party stole all fifty horses the next day.)

### Urbach Log Cabin

**9th Street Island**  
(across from the 9th Street Bridge visible from the road)  
This log house is a good but decayed example of northern European folk technique of log construction. Built in 1884 with squared, fitted beams and half-inch dovetail corner notching, it is the earliest example of its type in the area. The German-born Urbach was representative of the large numbers of Midwest German-Scandinavian immigrants that settled in Livingston following construction of the Minnesota-based Northern Pacific Railroad.

### The Bozeman Trail

North of Livingston in places, you can still see the ruts created by the thousands of wagons that followed the Bozeman Trail to the gold fields of Virginia City during 1863-1865.

## The Northern Pacific Shops



The 15-stall roundhouse, the largest between the East and the West coasts when it was built in 1883, provided for the accommodation of engines in from a division run. In 1900 the payroll had grown from \$5000 to a payroll of \$25,000 in the machinery shop alone. The Northern Pacific enlarged shops and doubled employment in 1901; dispatchers, trainmen, switchmen, telegraph, bridge and repair crews all contributed directly to the prosperity of Livingston.



Of all the rival towns desiring the location of the Northern Pacific Railroad machine and repair shops, Livingston, headquarters of Northern Pacific's Central Division, was selected for its central position between terminal points and its location in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.



## THE EAST SIDE RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Railroad workers settled opposite the Northern Pacific shops during the period of railroad expansion, defining the character of this neighborhood. The route into Livingston from the east passed through these blocks, crossing the Yellowstone at Mayer's Landing. About three-quarters of the houses were constructed before 1907. Economical square plans and hip roofs characterize almost half these simple wood frame structures, giving an attractive unity to the neighborhood. Details on the facades lend individuality and variety.



### 1. Krohne Spring House

**329 South H Street**  
Charles O. Krohne emigrated from Sweden and in 1889 found work in Livingston as a machinist for the Northern Pacific Railroad. The sandstone block spring house he built over the well on the rear of this small clapboard house is the only remaining structure of its type in Livingston. The spring or milk house provided the family with refrigeration. Ten-gallon pails filled with perishables were suspended on ropes and meat was hung from the walls.



### 2. Trowbridge Dairy

**207 South M Street**  
Henry W. Wolcott bought this land on the edge of the Eastside neighborhood in the 1890's and built the existing house in 1906. Frank Trowbridge bought the property to raise horses and built the large barn in 1909 for his three stallions. When the Model T cut into his profits, Trowbridge turned to dairying. The original white clapboard house, and the surrounding barns and mature trees, are a last vestige of agrarian lands in town and evoke the charm of early days.

## 3. THE B STREET HISTORIC (RED LIGHT) DISTRICT

All over the frontier West, particularly in railroad towns with large transient populations of men, the arrival of railroad construction crews meant that numbers of camp followers were close behind. Livingston's "ladies of the night," also known as "soiled doves" settled down on South B Street at a convenient but respectable distance from the town's railroad hub and the blue collar neighborhoods and a discreet distance from the more affluent neighborhoods across Main. The east side of the street between Lewis and Clark Streets was lined with nine houses. Four of these one-story houses built between 1896 and 1907 remain, looking remarkably like small wooden temples, each with recessed front porch supported on four thin columns.



### The Detention Hospital

**325 E. Gallatin**  
In 1900, city fathers first saw the need to forcibly isolate cases of cholera and other contagious diseases. They designated a residence for quarantine and then in 1904 built a "pest house" at the "poor farm" east of town. The "detention hospital," as it then became, moved to this north side location in 1908 and was used until 1917 when it was considered no longer needed. The Spanish flu epidemic hit in 1918, killing many citizens. The newly built Lincoln School was requisitioned as an emergency hospital.



### KPRK Radio

**East Park Street**  
This building, designed by William Fox of Missoula and built in 1947, is a popular interpretation of Art Deco architecture. Note the four-tiered, round, roof structure with concentric levels diminishing toward the top. The stylized call letters and lightning bolt on the front door were originally repeated in neon on the roof.

## MUSEUMS



**Livingston Depot Center**  
200 W. Park



**Yellowstone Gateway Museum**  
118 W. Chinook



**International Fly Fishing Center**  
215 E. Lewis

This brochure co-sponsored by Park County Friends of Historic Preservation

Sincere thanks is extended to local historians Doris Whitthorn, John Fryer, Warren McGee and others who contributed to this brochure.