

# HISTORIC *old* HAILEY



A Nineteenth Century Town

*May 2007*

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## -HISTORIC SITES

**1. F. E. Ensign Home Site: 103 3rd Ave. N.** Francis Edward and Margaret Reid Ensign purchased this property in 1881. In 1868 Francis was elected to the Territorial Council of Idaho for Owyhee County and was chairman of the Judiciary Committee of that body. He came to Hailey as the attorney for the Idaho and Oregon Land Improvement Co., then owners of the new Hailey town site. He ruled over a precedent setting court case concerning water rights in Quigley Gulch. This case set standards for water right issues that are still used today. The home currently on this site was designed by Arthur Troutner and features signature trusses. The Oakley stone wall forms the exterior/interior west wall. The mature Tamarack and Chestnut trees are a contribution to Hailey's urban forest.

**2. The Mint Site: 116 S. Main St.** Located on lots 15 and 16 in Block 33 of the City of Hailey is the site of the current Mint Bar. These lots were formerly occupied by Brook's Tavern, Ensign, Davies and Ensign, an insurance firm, and the original Mint.

**3. Alturas (Hiawatha) Hotel Site: N.E. corner of Croy and Picabo Sts.** Construction began in 1883 and was completed in 1885 at a cost of \$65,000. The three-story brick hotel, which features a wood stove in every room, was billed as "the finest hotel between Denver and the West Coast." Some rooms were turned into apartments in 1915. It burned in 1899. When rebuilt, hot water was piped from the Hailey Hot Springs Hotel west of town to heat the building and provide water for the plunge in the rear of the hotel where many townspeople learned to swim. A fire in January of 1979 marked the final end of a proud Hailey landmark. Atkinsons' Market is now on this site.

**4. Snug Bar Site: N.W. corner of Croy and Picabo Sts.** Ernest Hemingway and friends frequented the bar at this location. This area was the hub of downtown Hailey businesses around the turn of the century. The site is west of the corner of Bullion and Picabo Street.

**5. Union Pacific (Oregon Short Line) Depot Site: W. of the bike path between Croy and Walnut Sts.** A brass band, orators and much ado, greeted the first train on May 23, 1883. With the railroad came the telegraph, and Hailey was connected with the rest of the world. Townspeople and newspaper reporters gathered at the depot for each arrival and departure of the daily train. Trains stopped coming to the Wood River Valley in 1981.

**6. Wood River Times Site: S.E. corner of Croy and Main Sts.** T. E. Picotte pitched a tent here in 1881 and then built a log building to house his paper and printing business. Picotte was as outrageous an editor as any on the frontier and was horse-whipped a number of times for the personal attacks published in his paper. His staff followed the leader; one editor ended up with two gunshot wounds.

**7. First Telephone Exchange: 14 E. Croy St.** The building that is now the Eye Center housed Idaho's first telephone exchange which opened Oct. 1, 1883. Three operators worked eight-hour shifts around the clock and were the lifeline for the community. It was a sad day in August 1963 when the system switched to dial phones. The operators were faster circulating the news than the weekly paper, and listening in on the party line was even better than gossiping at the soda fountain.

**8. Idaho Electric Supply Company Site: S.E. corner of Croy and Main Sts.** On February 17, 1887, Hailey was the first municipality in the Idaho Territory to produce electricity. The water was

diverted from the Wood River to the Trail Race Canal. Electricity was generated at a site located at the end of West Silver Street. The first business office for West Coast Power was located here. This building was destroyed by fire in 1888.

**9. Aukema Drugstore Site: 126 S. Main St.** John C. Baugh was an early druggist in town. He and his wife Clara Silver Baugh built this building in 1904. Mark W. Aukema worked for him and for J. J. Tracy, and later leased the building from Baugh. Mark's son, Edgar M. Andrews followed his father in the drugstore business. It also housed the Opportunity Shop and a dry cleaning business. The building was razed and a new E. G Willis business plaza was built by Bruce Willis and named for his father. Shorty's Diner is on the ground floor of this building.



*Aukema Drugstore*

**10. Dot Allen's House Site: Corner of River and Bullion Sts.** Always referred to by both names, a prostitute, Dot Allen, was the undisputed "boss of River Street," and "handsome John Donnelly was her right hand man." Hailey folklore has it that she was a very beautiful woman and always gorgeously dressed. Other houses of prostitution north of Bullion Street and on both sides of River Street included Lizzie's, Anita's, Mary's, Gloria's, Georgia's and Mabel's. Just before midnight September 21, 1911, during an attempted robbery, Dot Allen's piano player, M. J. Crowley, was shot dead. After an ugly investigation, compromising many stalwarts of the town, Charles Allen and Reece Clevenger were found guilty of murder and Charles Crawford and Lorenzo Swift were convicted as accomplices. Dot Allen continued in business for some years, but no one ever knew what finally became of her. In the early 1900s this became the site of the pelota (Basque handball) court. There was an adobe Basque boarding house immediately to the south.

**11. Basque Boarding House Site: Between Croy and Bullion Sts. and River St.** Established circa 1910 by Eusebio and Pia Unamuno Arriaga for "Basques only." Basque shepherders and sheep men were guaranteed a hot bath, hearty dinners followed by cigars and café royales, a game of cards, and dancing and singing to the accompaniment of guitars, concertinas and musical spoons.

**12. Chinatown: S. of Walnut N. of Aspen and W. of River Sts.** The Chinese worked on railroad construction crews. They also cooked for the mining camps. In town they ran laundries, restaurants and worked for the prostitutes. They maintained gardens just west of the original city limits and grew all types of vegetables and sold them around town from horse drawn wagons. The area is now called China Gardens.

## EXISTING BUILDINGS

**13. Blaine County Historical Museum: 218 N. Main St.** Built of adobe circa 1883, the building served as an armory during the Spanish American War, a meeting hall for the Knights of Labor, a dance hall and public meeting place, an opera house, liquor store, and Hailey's first movie house, and then owned by the Friedman Company. The existing mural on the north wall is by Hailey artist, Ralph Harris. Mr. Harris used many local photographs to create the pictorial history of the Wood River Valley. The ox yoke over the main entrance was made and used by freighter Ed Fleming. The property was donated by Leon and Lucile Friedman to the City of Hailey to be used as a museum in 1961.



*Friedman and Blaine County Museum*

**14. Charles Harris Home: 313 2nd Ave. N.** Charles E. and Josephine Harris arrived in 1882 and built the house on the corner of Galena and 2nd Ave. N. in 1892. The Harris's were the great-great paternal grandparents of artist Ralph Harris. The house features gingerbread at the gables. The bay window on the east side was added later.

**15. Miners' Hall/Residence: 2nd and Silver Sts.** The structure was built in 1902. It housed the First Baptist Church until 1929 and has also been used by the miners, American Legion, Senior Center, Blaine County Schools and is now a residence. The foundation was recently replaced. The North Star Teacherage was moved to the back of this site in the 1940's.

**16. S. M. Friedman Home: 215 E. Silver St.** This home began as a one story cabin in 1885. It was enlarged to its present size in 1911. The front of the home features a carved door with elliptical beveled glass. Simon Moses brought the first sheep to the valley in 1881. He served on the first board of Trustees of the incorporated city of Hailey. He purchased Wilman and Walker's grocery store on Main Street in 1881 and renamed it the Hailey Mercantile Company in 1891. The land for the existing airport was donated by his son, Leon and daughter, Lucile, to the city in December 1930. (S. J. and S. M. Friedman were second cousins.)

**17. S. J. Friedman Home: 123 2nd Ave. N.** S. J. built this home and his daughter Myrtle lived in the house until she was in her 80's. The gracefully restored Victorian home features a wonderful front porch with spindle railings and rip rapped dormers. A few weeks after Hailey was platted, S. J. opened his general store on Main Street in a 20' by 40' tent where he sold dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes. He designed and supervised the building of his permanent store which featured a roof covered with one foot of dirt, and steel shutters attached to every window. As the 1889 fire wiped out four blocks of both sides of the street, Samuel stayed inside his building. Both he and the building survived.

In recognition of Hailey's first fireproof building and Samuel's bravery, the Union Insurance Company sent a letter of thanks to him accompanied by a silver pitcher and tray.

**18. Knight Home: 423 3rd Ave. N.** Brought in three sections from the old town of Broadford south of Hailey and west of Bellevue, the home was purchased by Mrs. George Knight in 1904. The foundation stones are the same as was used for the courthouse. The home has recently been refurbished but maintains many of the original architectural amenities. The barn is one of the last remaining in the city and may soon qualify for the National Register of Historic Homes.

**19. Dorr Farm: 500 4th Ave. N.** Jeanne and Jim Dorr bought this property in 1952 and are continuing the tradition of farming within the city limits, a common practice of many residents from the 1880s to well into the 20th century.

**20. Horne Home: 202 3rd Ave. N.** It was built as a single story house with a finished basement. The home features a 19th century home porch. The home was built by William Fayette Horne, who was the county assessor. His son Robert was mayor of Hailey in the 1930s and was the father of Roberta Mc Kercher and Billie Buhler, both long-time residents of Hailey.

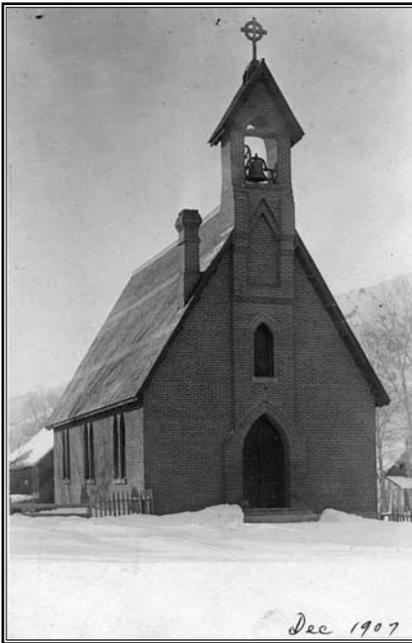
**21. Dr. Wright's Home: 120 4th Ave. N.** This home was previously owned by the Brownells, founders of Wood River Building Supply. Dr. Robert Henry Wright was a pioneer doctor who practiced in Hailey for 60 years. He organized the rescue effort at the 1917 avalanche at the North Star Mine near Triumph in which 17 men were killed. Two original chimneys are evident at this very well-preserved clapboard house.



*Peter and Maria Snider Home*

**22. Peter and Maria Snider Home: 203 E. Bullion St.** This home was originally built by Peter Snider, an Italian immigrant and owner of the Challenger Mine. His wife Maria's ravioli rolling pin, brought in her pack from Italy, is on display at the Blaine County Historical Museum. The portion to the right is a recent addition.

**23. E. A. Worswick Home: 119 E. Bullion St.** The original structure was erected in 1881; one of the first in Hailey, and the log cabin is still contained within the existing building. The original lot sold to C. B. Fox for \$25 by the town's founder, John Hailey, in 1881. Between 1885 and 1919 the house changed hands six times. It was owned by Hunter and Zeo Nelson from 1943 to 2000. Under the direction of the current owners, the Wood River Land Trust, a remarkable historical restoration occurred and turned the exterior into a turn-of-the-century appearance. An interior log wall is visible in the interior.



*Emmanuel Episcopal Church 1907*

**24. Emmanuel Episcopal Church: 101 2nd Ave. S.**

Built with Quigley Gulch bricks, this appealing church features Gothic arches and two corbelled chimneys. The cornerstone was laid in July 1885 and the first services were held in the unfinished church on Christmas Eve, 1885. This is Hailey's oldest church structure.

**25. Masonic Lodge: 100 2nd Ave. S.** There were three Masonic Lodge sites through the years. The original Masonic Lodge was made of wood and was located above the Mint

Bar Site. It burned in 1889. The site of the second structure is not clear. The existing structure was built by architect and builder, Jack Rutter in 1937.

**26. Community Baptist Church: 202 2nd Ave. S.** This structure was built in 1886 as a Methodist church. The Baptists acquired the church in 1929. Frances Julia Helman, wife of Methodist Rev. C. E. Helman, wrote in 1885: "Businessmen, who never think of going into a church, pay \$2 a month for each of the three preachers in town. The women have to do all of the collecting of the salary and do everything about the church business." The shaped bell tower houses Schulmerick Carillon Bells donated by Joe and Lulu Fuld.

**27. Zinc Spur School: 208 2nd Ave. S.** This school was moved from the Zinc Spur site (south of the intersection of Buttercup Road and Highway 75) to its present location (the first house south of the Baptist church) by Enfield "Pop" Sowers in the early 1940s.

**28. Dr. J. J. Plumer Home: 202 3rd Ave. S.** Dr. Plumer began the practice of medicine here in 1881. Noted for his affability, he would tell patients: "It isn't the potatoes that are bad for you – it's what you put on them. And it isn't the whiskey that'll kill you- its what you mix with it." Drs. Plumer and Fox devised a medicine which successfully combated the dreaded Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

**29. Beamer House: 202 4th Ave. S.** The spot of many a town gathering, this gracious home still has the original floors, moldings and etched glass windows. Beamer's lumberyard and warehouse was located behind the house.

**30. James McDonald Home: 702 3rd Ave. S.** Now called "Inn at Ellsworth Estate," this handsome home sits on two acres of park-like property belonging to James McDonald, a British Oil Company heir. He had the home built in the early 1920s for his bride, Beulah Lamb, a Hailey girl. The house was purchased by the Fox family in the 1930s. From 1945 to 1961 it was used as a Mormon Church. Other residents were the Ellsworth family. Around the late 1980s Sonja Tarnay purchased, the home,

restored and converted it to a Bed and Breakfast Inn. The original home was built by Jack Rutter, a Cornwall England immigrant, and was his first major project in Hailey. Mr. Rutter also built the Hailey Hotel, the Masonic Temple, the Liberty Theatre, the Harris Building, the American Legion building, and the Lone Star furniture store.

**31. Pound Home: 314 2nd Ave. S.** This home was built in 1883. Poet Ezra Pound was born in this house on October 30, 1885. In December his mother, Isabel, took him to live in the Alturas Hotel because the house was too cold. His father, Homer, was registrar at the U.S. Land Office in Hailey from 1883 to 1887. The family left the valley on a train that used the railroads first rotary snowplow when Ezra was an infant. The wrought iron fence is one of the few remaining in the Wood River Valley. Ezra Pound has been referred to as the "father of modern literature", and influenced writers like James Joyce, T. S. Elliot, and Amy Lowell. He helped Ernest Hemingway's first short story collection be published. During World War II he was accused of being anti-Semitic. Roberta Mc Kercher, who wrote for the Wood River Journal newspaper and was involved in numerous local organizations, lived in the home until her death in 1996. It is now owned by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

**32. St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church: 315 1st Ave. S.** Built in 1913 by Nicholas F. Wirtzberger for the Diocese of Boise at a cost of \$7,200, this church features an elaborate symmetrical belfry with stamped metal. St. Charles was the first parish established east of Boise and is considered the mother parish of southeastern Idaho. The first Catholic Church in Hailey was located on the site of Atkinsons' market. A Circular window from the original church may still be seen in the Reinheimer Barn along Highway 75 south of Ketchum.

**33. Blaine County Court House: 206 1st Ave. S.** The cornerstone was laid August 11, 1883. The structure features three-stories, a major stone foundation, elaborate window sill trim, and a widow's walk over the front steps. The building housed the county offices, courtroom, and jail. A two-story vault and a jury room were added in 1907. The \$40,000 cost of building the courthouse made it the most expensive in the Idaho Territory and severely strapped Alturas County. Alturas County was made smaller and renamed Blaine, for the Senator of Illinois at that time. A custodian on the midnight shift claims that he has seen the ghost in the form of a man walking the halls.

**34. Rialto Hotel: 201 S. Main St.** This building is now the Hailey Hotel. Originally a boarding house and a café were on this site. It was built for Julio and Mary Astoriquia in 1934. Through the years the hotel served as a private residence, bar and dining room. It opened as the Hailey Hotel in 1980. It is now home to a bar and houses a radio station on the upper floor.

**35. J. C. Fox Building: 115 S. Main St.** Built by Dr. Earl William Fox in 1920, it was heated from water piped from the Hailey Hot Springs approximately 2 miles west of Hailey. The first floor housed a saloon, the First National Bank of Hailey and a jewelry Store. The second floor housed a 10- room hospital until the 1960s. Many townspeople were born over the "Saloon and under the skylight". The building was renovated in 1984. Dr. Fox was born in 1887 and raised in Hailey and gave 41 years of medical service to the community. For his long-distance house calls he used a forerunner of the snowmobile, powered by an airplane engine. The building to the left of the Fox building was the IOOF building. Around 1964, heavy snow collapsed the

roof of the building that housed the Odd Fellows Hall. The Opera House, the State Theatre (owned by Sonny Osborne), and a bowling alley, occupied some of the spaces. It was rebuilt and now houses the Hailey Public Library and Hailey City Hall Offices.

**36. J. J. Tracy Building: 111 S. Main St.** Built in 1906-07, it was a drugstore for 83 years. It was first owned by Tracy and W. T. Riley, then Tracy alone. It then became Broyles Pharmacy. Otto and his son Ted ran the establishment complete with a grand soda fountain. It now houses the Barkin' Basement. Take a look at the original tin ceiling.

**37. Wertheimer Building: 101 S. Main St. - Bullion Block** Also known as the first court house. The jail was located in the basement. The second floor was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. For several years the first floor was occupied by Vancil's Grocery Store and the Sage Shop, (a clothing store.) It is now occupied by North and Company.

**38. First National Bank: 100 S. Main St.** A stone wall from the first permanent building at this site survived the fire of July, 1889, and may be seen from the back parking lot. The original two-story First National Bank was built here in about 1900. The First Security Bank was constructed in 1967 and occupied the building until April, 2001. It is now the Wells Fargo Bank.



*Merchant's Hotel*

**39. Harris Building: 100 N. Main St.** This site housed the original Merchant's Hotel which burned in the fire of 1889. Charles E. and Josephine built the Harris Furniture Company in 1891. In 1896, they also became the town morticians. Son Ralph D. and Lena, his wife, took over the family business and in 1903 moved the store here. The front part of the one-story, hip roof building was the furniture store and the mortuary was in the back. During the 1917 North Star avalanche tragedy, which took the lives of 17 miners, the store closed and the whole building became a mortuary. At the same time three people died of an influenza epidemic. It was a dark time for the small town. When the original building burned in 1935, Hailey's master builder, Jack Rutter, designed and erected the present two-story brick building.

**40. Commercial Building: 108 N. Main St.** The cornerstone of this building contains ore from each of the mines that were active at the time of its construction in 1910. The building features arched brick windows with keystones. The white brick was brought in from Salt Lake City. This is where the Commercial Club originally met. It would in turn be a post office, a Sears Store, an American Legion Hall, and is now occupied by an appliance and kitchen store.

**41. Liberty Theatre: 110 N. Main St.** On the site of an outdoor ice skating rink, the present building was built by Jack Rutter in 1938 for Sam Brooks. The finest cinder bricks from Burley, Idaho formed the walls and glazed tiles were on the facades. Special scaffolding built in the form of a spiral allowed the finish material to be wheeled up to the ceiling in a wheelbarrow. The front facades sports an art-deco neon sign and a marquee. The building was purchased and refurbished by Demi Moore and Bruce Willis in 1995. It hosts live theatre and is the home of The Company of Fools, a non-profit, professional theatre company.

**42. W. H. Watt Bank: 120 N Main St.** Built in 1889 of hand-molded brick with a mortised stone foundation. It became the office of Dr. Robert Wright, who practiced in town for 60 years. Born south of Bellevue in 1881, he worked in the Minnie Moore Mine west of Bellevue to earn money for school and rode the sheep trains to attend school in St. Louis. The building had many occupants over the years and is now a jewelry store.

**43. Inchausti Home: 19 W. Bullion St.** Madam Peggy Palmer had this house built. It was said that "Peggy's was the best red light house in the valley" and was the site of many a rowdy party. David and Epi Inchausti bought the house around 1941. They also owned and operated the Gem bar across the street to the south until the west half of that building was destroyed by fire in 1950. Epi Inchausti's cooking brought customers from Sun Valley, such as Bing Crosby, Gary Cooper, Ernest Hemingway, Janet Lee, Colonel Sanders and many other notable people.

**44. Aukema Home: 102 4th Ave. S.** Built in the 1890s, like most of the buildings that are found in the commercial and residential heart of Hailey, are folk or vernacular versions of traditional architectural styles such as the Queen Ann and stick style of the Victorian era that spanned from around 1880 to 1910. This is the family home of the druggist, Mark W. Aukema. Roger and Edith Snider Home: 302 3rd St. Built in 1931, with an addition in 1962. This is an example of the arts and crafts, bungalow and rustic style of the early 20th century period from approximately 1900 to 1935. The Sniders owned and operated a laundry and dry cleaning business.



*Assay Office*

**45. Assay Office: 19 E. Bullion St.** Built in 1907, this was originally the Assay Office. It was a local testing station for assaying ore from the surrounding mines and was maintained in connection with the registration of mineral claims and purchases of ore. It became the Hailey Free Public Library and now houses the Episcopal Church Thrift Store.

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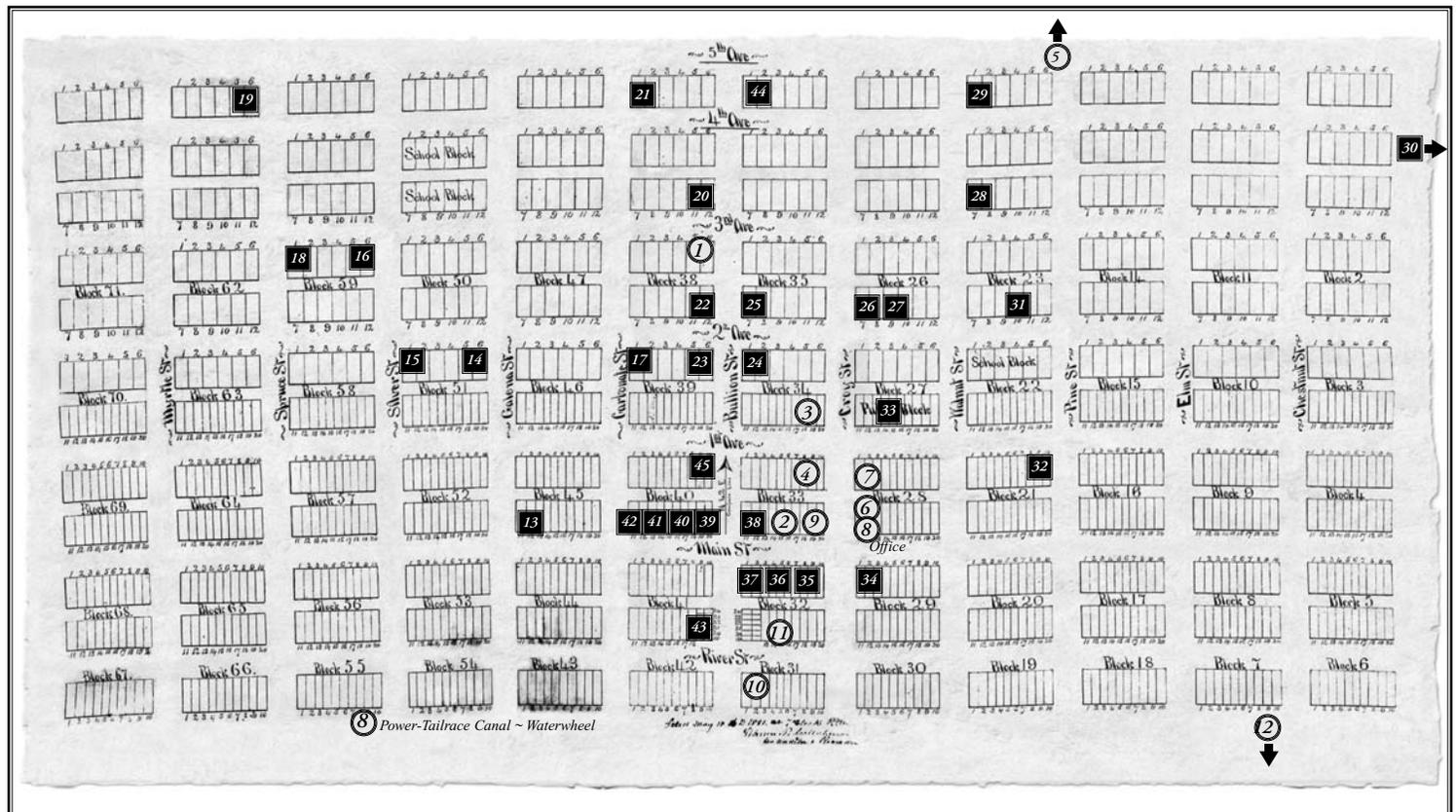
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# HISTORIC HAILEY WALKING TOUR



# HISTORIC OLD HAILEY

## A Nineteenth Century Town

From prehistoric times until well into the 20th century the Wood River Valley was visited in the warm weather months by Native Americans. Fur trappers roamed the inter-mountain Rockies in the early 1800s and Alexander Ross led a band of trappers into the area for a look-see in 1824. The first mining claim was filed in the Gold Belt west of Hailey in the summer of 1865.

Settlers and miners, however did not come to the area in earnest until 1879. Things got really serious in 1881, when on July 1 the first shipment of ore left Hailey. It weighed 22,000 lbs. (11 tons) and contained 154.5 ounces of silver to the ton. The mining boom continued until the mid-1800s when many of the veins played out and the bottom fell out of the silver market.

The town's founder, John Hailey, was an early pioneer in the Northwest who took part in the Boise Basin Gold Rush in 1862. He established an extensive stage and freight line and at one time controlled 2,000 miles of service.

Betting the Wood River Valley was going to be a center of mining and commercial activity, Hailey filed a homestead on the future townsite in 1879. The next year, he increased his holding with a desert land claim of 440 acres. Calling themselves the Hailey Town Company, Hailey, A. H. Boomer, U. S. Marshal E. S. Chase and W. T. Riley had the townsite surveyed April 20, 1881 and officially platted at the county seat in Rocky Bar, May 10, 1881. The speculation paid off. By July 6, \$30,000 worth of lots had been sold.

In 1882, when the Town Company sold to the Idaho and Oregon Land Improvement Company for \$10,000, the transaction included 2,500 acres in Quigley Gulch (east of town) and 8,000 acres in Croy Gulch, the site of the Hailey Hot Springs Hotel (west of town).

On August 24, 1882, the townsite was amended, expanding from 72 blocks to 140 blocks. This annexation process would continue sporadically throughout Hailey's history, reaching a peak with the Woodside extension to the south in the 1970s and the Northridge addition in the 1980s. The original Old Town plat, however, remains the heart of Historic Old Hailey.

The town John Hailey and his friends laid out is the quintessence of a 19th century town. In the residential part the wide tree-lined streets provide an open inviting avenue for course and discourse. The long narrow lots march back to alleys – an added living space, and by common agreement (before planning and zoning directives) homes were set back 25 feet from the street.

When Florence and J. C. Fox arrived in Hailey on May 1, 1881, they had to walk the last mile from Bellevue as the horses had given out. What they found on the wide, dusty, dirt road that would become Main Street was a hubbub of activity. Tin horns, merchants, madams, lawyers, land agents and barkeeps hustled to meet the needs of the hundreds of miners who were working all the hills and gulches surrounding the future town.

The first thing the Foxes did was pitch their tents on Main Street. J. C. went into the grocery business in one and Florence set up a room and board establishment in another. She later wrote that the floor was dirt, which she swept with a hoe. "When rocks turned up we hoed them out." The dishes were dusted when placed on the raw plank table and dusted again when the food was served. Water was carried from the river until a town well was dug at the intersection of Main and Carbonate. J.C. showed his business acumen by charging Florence for her groceries, but taking his room and board at no charge from her. Fox finally limited his store to women's dresses and accessories, notions and dry goods. In the middle of the store was a "pretty little fountain, furnishing pure water at all times to patrons." Fox went on buying trips to the big cities and brought back the latest fashions for all the women of Hailey. After hours, he would open his store to the women of River Street, who entered by the

back door, to do their shopping. J. C. finally ensconced himself in a brick building that housed his successful dry goods store, and Florence "retired" to their elegant Queen Anne home on Third and Bullion. The home has since burned and two new homes grace the lovely site. Each were built and owned by contractor and authors Arthur L. and Cynthia Thiede.

Early arrival H.Z. Burkhart opened a stationery store in a tent and guaranteed "subscriptions to any paper published in America." After unpacking his first shipment of goods, Burkhart sold the box to Frank Harding, editor of the Hailey Miner, who made his bedstead from it.

At this time, the town boasted a population of 2,700 housed in hundreds of tents plus 75 "buildings" and five saloons, where "first class liquor is sold at two bits a drink." By 1884, Sheriff C. H. Furey had issued 18 saloon licenses and 12 gambling licenses. "Round the clock" gambling, including poker, faro and roulette was de rigueur.

In the beginning, the various elements of society joined together in common purpose, working hard during the day and hurrying off to a dance at night. "Someone would pass the word along to the next one – "there'll be a dance tonight" – and in an hour or two everyone would be there." The first dance was held at the Riley and Tracy drugstore – a tent with a roof of bed ticking – at the northwest corner of Bullion and Main. The dances were later held on the upper floor of the Grand Central Hotel.

The egalitarian society continued until 1883, when in an attempt "to separate the gambling and saloon elements from social functions," a secret group was formed. Thereafter, every invitation was signed "By order of the Committee" and the gentlemen arrived at dinner and social affairs in the accepted dress attire of the day. Few knew for sure who "the Committee" was, but it was suspected that Homer Pound and his sister Florence, who was described in a local paper as "a cultural lah-de-dah," T. E. Picotte, editor of that very same paper, and members of the Republican led

"Hailey Ring," had not a little to do with it. It is certain they all received invitations to all the social affairs.

From Bullion Street north on River Street were the Red Light District and some 75 "shacks" where the Chinese population lived. The alley behind the Main Street businesses and homes was the dividing line.

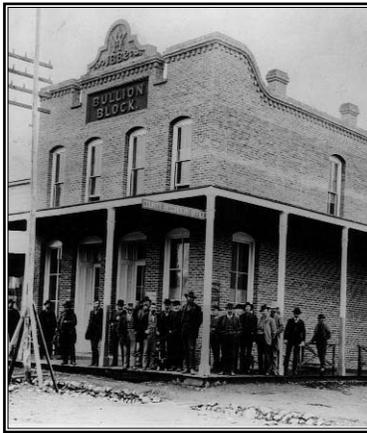
Though generations of youngsters would sell buckets of berries to the residents of River Street over the alley fence and neophyte newspaper boys would learn not to haphazardly toss the paper and run, but instead deliver it to the front door of each "house."

The prostitutes remained in business until 1942, when Sun Valley became a naval hospital, and they were not so politely asked to leave town. A local merchant was heard to lament, "There goes the mainstay of Hailey's business. They always paid in cash."

By all evidence, 19th century Hailey offered a varied, seldom boring, active life for all walks of life in an incredibly intimate, indelibly human atmosphere. Other boomtowns have faltered and turned to dust, but the people of Hailey have persevered.

Although there is not a 19th Century building in Hailey today that has escaped fire or the unrelenting remodel, there is still a basic integrity to the remaining buildings. Because of space limitations this brochure does not identify all the historic buildings. Rather, readers are encouraged to use this as a basis for their own quest through Hailey Old Town to recreate the 19th Century town.

Some things to look for on Main Street are the brick detail, the ornate, stamped metalwork on some of the storefronts, and the few remaining stores with stamped tin ceilings.



*Bullion Block (Whertheimer)*



*Alturas (Hiawatha) Hotel*

*Sponsored by*

**BLAINE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

218 N. Main Street – Hailey – 788-1801  
[www.bchistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.bchistoricalmuseum.org)

The Blaine County Historical Museum serves as a place for participants to explore the Wood River Valley's past, research family histories, and view stored vignettes of mines, schools, agricultural contributions, transportation expansion, famous literary personalities, period fashions, western attire, and political memorabilia. Each display contributes to the historical perspective of life as early inhabitants and pioneers experienced it.

Hailey Historic Preservation Commission  
[www.haileycityhall.org/historicpreservation](http://www.haileycityhall.org/historicpreservation)

The mission of the commission is to promote the historic, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage, features and qualities of Hailey and to promote the general welfare of the public of the City of Hailey through the identification, evaluation, designation and protection of those buildings, sites, areas, structures and objects, which reflect such significant heritage, features and qualities in the City of Hailey, the state or the nation.

The Hailey Chamber of Commerce  
513 N. Main Street – Hailey – 208-788-2700  
[www.haileyidaho.com](http://www.haileyidaho.com)

The Visitors Center of the Hailey Chamber of Commerce is located at 513 North Main Street, in the State of Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor Building at the corner of Myrtle and North Main Street (Hwy. 75). At the Visitors Center you will find visitors and relocation information and a friendly staff of volunteers to assist you.

The Travel Council  
Info from Julie Ingram

For future sponsorship opportunities, please contact us.

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Special thanks to all the people who worked on this and the two previous brochures who have greatly influenced the information contained herein.

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*Almost never recognized . . . are those citizens who conserve and maintain unheralded properties – ordinary buildings on ordinary streets that, if kept from deteriorating, can become the historic districts of the future . . . the unrecognized conservers of everyday houses and neighborhoods are the unsung heroes of the preservation movement in the United States. – Robert B. Rettig,  
“Conserving the Man-made Environment”*