

Walking through Banff's History



Tourism in Banff is about the visitor's experience

It means “exceptional experiences”. The visitor's expectations are exceeded and they take home an enriched understanding of Banff National Park.

It supports integrity of place. The visitor experiences the authenticity of Banff National Park. Visitors connect with, and are inspired by, the landscape, heritage, ecology, architecture, products and services, gaining a respect for the values of the national park and World Heritage Site.

It informs. Visitors gain an understanding of the importance of Banff National Park, its values, and sustainability, further enriching their travel experience and becoming stewards of the park.

It promotes stewardship. Businesses are committed to sustaining the ecosystem, heritage sites, scenic appeal and local culture. Both business and visitors minimize pollution, waste, energy consumption, and water usage.

It benefits residents and businesses. Locals have a sense of place and are enthusiastic ambassadors for Banff National Park.

It strives for quality. Businesses are successful by celebrating local culture and tradition, providing exceptional service, and sharing our rich heritage; leading to our sustainability.

Tourism in Banff provides unique and memorable experiences, fosters local and visitor appreciation and stewardship of the nature, history and culture of Banff National Park while respecting the health of the region and laying foundations for a lasting, sustainable tourism destination.



Our role

To provide a free orientation program which businesses can use to educate their staff, giving new employees a sense of place, and helping them become ambassadors for the destination.

To inspire and partner with businesses and organizations to develop new experiences, products or services that celebrate our nature and culture, which contributes to the economic health of the community.

To recognize, support and promote businesses and organizations that have shown leadership in creating authentic experiences for visitors.

To encourage businesses and organizations to integrate the values and objectives of heritage tourism into their corporate culture.

Our vision is that every visitor experiences, and is inspired by, the authentic heritage of Banff National Park.

- Our objective is to ensure our residents and visitors know why Banff National Park is a special place and part of a World Heritage Site by:
- Encouraging products and services that create memorable experiences unique to Banff National Park
- Supporting stewardship and sustainability initiatives in Banff National Park
- Helping staff be informed Ambassadors for Banff National Park to enrich their own experience and to better share our nature, history & culture with visitors.

For more information visit www.banffheritagetourism.com.

Your walking tour

Learn about Banff's history and heritage buildings at your leisure by taking your own walking tour. Each building has a street address and a corresponding map number for quick reference (see map on page 25). Many of the buildings on the tour are private residences and may be viewed only from the sidewalk or street. Explore the interiors of some of these buildings every August as part of Doors Open Banff. Visit www.doorsopenalberta.com for Doors Open updates.



Banff Avenue looking north toward Cascade Mountain, c. 1920 V469-261

The Archives at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies provided all of the photographs in this brochure.

Banff's Historical Designations

Federal Heritage Building

A federally owned building that is 40 years or older. Designation of a Federal Heritage Building is the responsibility of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) and is based on an evaluation of a building's heritage character.

Heritage Railway Station

A railway station that is designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) based on a review and evaluation of its heritage character. The designation is approved by the federal Minister responsible.

National Historic Site

Any place that has been reviewed and recommended by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and subsequently declared to be of national historic interest or significance by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada.

Municipal Historic Resource

A significant site, structure, object, or cultural or natural feature that is legally protected through designation under the Alberta's Historical Resources Act. Designated historic resources are an important part a community's history. Designation, in the form of a bylaw, is issued and maintained by the local municipal council.

To learn more about Banff's Historic Resources visit the Canadian Register of Historic Places at www.historicplaces.ca.

Legend



Plaqued Historic Building or Site



Historic Building or Site

Rocky Mountain Architectural Style

At the start of the 20th century a tradition of “rustic” architecture was born in the national parks. This Rocky Mountain style relied on exposed natural materials as a way of connecting buildings to their environment. This design approach was intended to give the impression of an indigenous architecture hand-built by local craftsmen. This rustic approach resembled other architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular, the original Cave and Basin Bathhouse (now a replica) and the Banff Park Museum show influences of the Stick and Shingle Style that involved the ornamentation of buildings with logs and shingles.

As a part of their tourism campaigns, the Federal Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) promoted the romantic lifestyle associated with mountain living. This was achieved by designing buildings that reinforced a picturesque, rustic style that was successful in attracting the discerning traveller to the Rocky Mountains.



Banff Park Museum, built in 1903 V488/327(1)

Banff's history

Banff was planned as a resort town from its inception. In 1883, as the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) made its way westward through the Rockies, railway workers came upon the natural hot springs now known as the Cave and Basin National Historic Site. The turmoil of conflicting claims that resulted from the discovery, coupled with recommendations of the Canadian Pacific Railway, led the Federal Government to establish the Hot Springs Reserve in 1885.

During the national debate on the Rocky Mountains Park Act in 1887, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald predicted that Banff would become “a great watering place”, or health spa. Lured by the CPR's extravagant advertising campaign, visitors to Canada's first national park were the wealthy and well-travelled class of the Victorian era. The first Park Superintendent, George A. Stewart, was sent to the new Reserve in 1886 to establish a townsite worthy of attracting well-to-do travellers. Two thousand miles from Ottawa, Stewart had almost unlimited authority during the early years of his tenure. He was, in effect, the park administrator, townsite surveyor and town planner. Stewart produced two distinct plans for the town. South of the river, large “villa lots” were laid out for the wealthy, as well as for hotels, sanatoria, and hospitals. The north side of Banff was quite different. More typical of western prairie towns, it was based on a grid of small lots and rudimentary zoning.

The distinctions of class and a vision of Banff as a tourism-based town were already evident. Guides and outfitters such as Tom Wilson, who had worked for the CPR during the survey and construction of the railway through the Rockies, stayed on in Banff. These men and other locals began small guiding operations that took rail visitors, adventurers, artists and hunters from the town by horseback to the backcountry of the national park and beyond. In partnership with the CPR, these local personalities provided the basis for a strong tourist centre in Banff.

In response to local concerns over the impact of the automobile, the Federal Government banned automobiles from entering the Park in 1905. This led to years of wrangling over permission to bring motorcars into Banff. In 1909, the “Banff Coach Road” from Calgary reached the eastern boundary of what had

become Rocky Mountains Park. Shortly after, in 1911, a motorcade of Calgary Auto Club members invaded Banff in defiance of the government regulations. In 1912, the Crag & Canyon newspaper proclaimed that, “New buildings, new sign boards and a most remarkable increase in tourists and visitors have convinced even the most hard-shelled moss-back in Banff that a new era has arrived.” That same year, the Minister of the Interior lifted the ban. Local guiding operations such as the Brewster Brothers motorized their equipment and expanded into the mass tourism and transport business. This marked the transition from the original vision of Banff, as an exclusive spa and resort for elite travellers, to a year-round tourism destination accessible to the masses.



Early Banff, c. 1880 NA66 - 1796



Photo taken by the Vaux family of Banff Avenue looking north towards Cascade Mountain, 1894 V484/NA 80 - 40

Banff Park Museum National Historic Site Of Canada

#1 - 91 Banff Avenue

Built in 1894, this was the first museum in Banff and included part of the house originally intended for the first Park Superintendent George A. Stewart. In 1903 it was replaced by a more sophisticated building designed by John Stocks, an engineer for the Territorial Government. Built in the rustic building tradition, it is the oldest natural history museum in Western Canada. The large central lantern is a distinctive feature of the building. From 1904 to 1937 a park zoo and aviary operated adjacent to the site in today's Central Park.

- National Historic Site of Canada;
- Federal Heritage Building;
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Rundle Memorial United Church

#2 - 102 Banff Avenue

This church, built in 1927, commemorates Robert Terrill Rundle, the first missionary to come to Alberta. Reverend Rundle held a small service for a congregation of Stoney Indians in 1841 at Lake Minnewanka.

Banff Avenue was the earliest access road from Siding 29 -- the original settlement of Banff located at the base of Cascade Mountain along the CPR line. This area was typical of other western commercial centres consisting of a main street lined with wooden false-fronted structures. Some of these "boom-town" buildings were replaced with more substantial brick structures in the early 1900s.

Dave White Block

#3 - 103/105 Banff Avenue

Dave White, a former CPR section foreman, opened a general store here in 1894 called the Park Store. In 1908 it was replaced with a brick building done in the Edwardian Commercial design and was expanded in 1913. This is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Banff.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places



The Dave White Block during a large motorcade visit from Calgary, c. 1916 V683/III.F.I.a - B66

Harmony Lane

#4 - 111 Banff Avenue

Byron Harmon, the Alpine Club of Canada's first official photographer, bought this building in 1908. It burned down and was rebuilt in 1917 and has housed a photo studio, curio shop, tea room, bookstore, beauty parlour, theatre, library and drugstore. Harmony Lane had Banff's first gas lighting. The front façade was extensively restored and was designated as a Municipal Historic Resource in 2001.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Paris Tea Room

#5 - 114 Banff Avenue

The Paris Tea Room, once located here, was opened by George and Ida Paris in 1903. Their sons Herb and Ted (twins) and Cyril were members of the first winter trip to Mount Assiniboine in 1929 and acted as ski guides into Skoki Lodge in the early 1930s.

Cascade Dance Hall

#6 - 120 Banff Avenue

This structure was built in the Dutch Colonial style in 1921 by William “Billy” Warren, a local guide, entrepreneur and husband to Mary Schäffer Warren. It featured Jim Hutchins’ orchestra and was the centre of many town holidays and functions until 1963, when it was converted to a wax museum, and later, shops and restaurants.

Rocky Mountain Tours & Transport Building

#7 - 207 Banff Avenue

In 1946 this site served as the office and garage for Rocky Mountain Tours. A second storey was added to the structure in 1955 and a restaurant was opened in 1968. The building’s original garage entrance remains visible behind the canopy of the Grizzly House restaurant.

Brewster Transportation Co. Building

#8 - 202 Banff Avenue

Across the street is a streamlined Art Moderne style building unique in Banff. This architectural style represented a deliberate backlash against the earlier ornate Victorian styles.

Banff School Auditorium

#9 - 224 Banff Avenue

Near the corner of Banff Avenue and Wolf Street is the location of the old school auditorium, which was constructed in 1939. The building design emulated the architectural style used by Harold Beckett in the construction of the park gates and the Park Administration Building. The Banff School of Fine Arts became the summer tenant of the building. Well after the construction of the Tunnel Mountain Campus in 1947, the Banff School of Fine Arts (now the Banff Centre) continued to hold summer classes at the auditorium. In 1972 Parks Canada acquired the building and opened its information centre.

• Federal Heritage Building

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

#10 - 230 Banff Avenue

This church was built in 1930 of Rundlestone in the Victorian Gothic Revival architectural style and is most noted for its large stained glass image of Mount Rundle above the front door.

Fire Hall

#11 - 201 Beaver Street

During the Great Depression, the federal government constructed many public buildings. The southern half of the present Fire Hall, once the central garage for the Parks Engineering Service, is one example of these relief efforts. Built in 1935, its rustic, aesthetic appearance is typical of buildings designed by the Parks Service Architectural Division during the 1930s. In 1963 this building was converted to serve as the Town's fire hall and underwent extensive renovations in 1994, including the addition of loft apartments.

Luxton Residence

#12 - 206 Beaver Street

Built in 1905, this was the home of Norman and Georgina Luxton, both of whom were important figures in Banff's development, as well as friends to the Stoney Indians. Known as "Mr. Banff," Norman Luxton acquired Banff's Crag & Canyon newspaper in 1903. Some of his other enterprises included the King Edward Hotel, Sign of the Goat Curio Shop and the Luxton Museum of the Plains Indian. Georgina Luxton, a member of the missionary McDougall family who worked among the Stoney Indians, is said to have been the first non-native child born in what is now Alberta. Their daughter, Eleanor Luxton, was an engineer and a noted historian and writer. The Luxton Residence, Tanglewood, and Beaver Lodge were all designated as Municipal Historic Resources in 2002.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Tanglewood

#13 - 208 Beaver Street

Beaver Street was one of the first streets settled in Banff as indicated by the number of log homes. One of these, Tanglewood, is believed to have been the National Park Post Office (c.1887) built by Fred Woodworth at Siding 29 (the original settlement of Banff). In 1897 Siding 29 was abandoned after a station was built further west along the railway line. Tanglewood was subsequently moved to Banff and remains one of the only buildings in town from that early settlement. In 1919 Norman K. Luxton acquired the building.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places



The National Park Post Office (known as Tanglewood) at Siding 29 “Part of Old Banff”, by D. Clark, 1888
Tanglewood is setback, left of centre in the photo.

Beaver Lodge

#14 - 212 Beaver Street

Built and owned by the Luxton family, Beaver Lodge has been home to hundreds. This eight-bedroom log structure is representative of typical early Banff rooming houses. The rustic detail of the log exterior, varnished wood interiors and minimal alterations make this structure a fine example of a building style once common in Banff. The Beaver Lodge cost \$3500 to build in 1913-1914.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Holmes Residence

#15 - 214 Beaver Street

Reggie Holmes, a member of the Alpine Club of Canada and one of Banff's earliest pioneers, built his log cabin in 1905. Reggie was with the first non-native party to visit Maligne Lake in Jasper in 1907.

James Thomson House & Tourist Cabins

#16 - 220 Beaver Street

During the rush to provide tourist accommodation throughout the 1920s and 1930s many town folk built backyard cabins and tent houses. These cabins are fine examples of such development.



The Kidney residence, built around 1910 in Bankhead V218/PA165 - 285

Kidney Residence

#17 - 328 Muskrat Street

Many of Banff's homes were moved from the town of Bankhead, which was a coal mining town located nearby on the lower slopes of Cascade Mountain. The Bankhead Mine was established in 1904 and remained in operation until 1922. Houses were sold for \$50 a room and moved to Banff, Canmore and Calgary. One of these homes is the Kidney Residence, built c.1910.

Bankhead Train Station

#18 - 801 Tunnel Mountain Drive

Located about a 20-minute walk up Tunnel Mountain Drive (behind the Banff Hostel) the Trainstation is one of 12 remaining "Bankhead" buildings in Banff. It was restored in 1986.

Bayne Residence

#19 - 202 Otter Street

This home was built by D.C. Bayne, a long-time Banff resident who gave freely of his time for the betterment of the community. This house, built in 1913, incorporates brick, stucco, timbering and a unique cobblestone foundation. The large covered porch and interior layout suggest the property's intended prominence among Banff's high society in the early twentieth century.

Gair Lodge

#20 - 607 Caribou Street

Cottage style architecture was a favoured design for early, pre-WWII park residences and Gair Lodge, built in 1919 by C.F. McGuffin, is one of the finest examples in Banff. Influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement, the building clearly shows simple structural elements such as rafters and roof brackets, and an honest use of natural materials, including wooden shingles and river stone.



The Greenhams and class in front of the Mountain School, 1945 V227/103

Greenham Residence

#21 - 606 Caribou Street

Mountain School Annex

#22 - 608 Caribou Street

The Greenham's established Banff's first private Mountain School in 1922. During the Second World War many British parents, including the actress Vivien Leigh, enrolled their children here. Margaret Greenham promoted the dramatic arts in Banff, organizing the Banff Literary Dramatic Society and the first children's theatre group in Alberta. Their cultural activities later contributed to the establishment of the Banff School for Fine Arts, now the Banff Centre, where there is a theatre named in her honour.

Old Banff Cemetery

#23 - 117 Grizzly Street

Tarry-a-while (Mary Schäffer-Warren Residence)

#24 - 117 Grizzly Street

This cemetery quietly dominates the south end of Grizzly Street. Dating from 1890, it is the final resting place of early Banff residents such as Mary Schäffer Warren, whose home was built directly across from the cemetery in 1911. A Quaker from Philadelphia, Mary Schäffer Warren had a strong interest in the natural sciences. Known to the Stoneys as Yahe-Weha, or Mountain Woman, she explored the Rockies and recorded her findings in writings, paintings and photographs.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places



Mary Schäffer Warren's residence on Grizzly Street, built in 1913 - 1937 Block 27 Lot 23-25

Harmon Residence

#25 - 136 St. Julien Road

Named after the First World War battle, the St. Julien subdivision was added to Banff in 1917. The street gave access to the scenic “tally ho” (a horse-driven carriage) route that is now Tunnel Mountain Road. Byron Harmon built his home here in 1929. He was the Alpine Club of Canada’s first official photographer and after arriving in Banff in 1903 made it his personal goal to photograph every mountain and glacier in the Rockies. The Byron Harmon photograph collection is now housed at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies.

Transformer Substation Building

#26 - 606 Buffalo Street

The substation building was built in 1905, the same year electricity came to Banff. This is one of Banff’s finest examples of industrial architecture designed with Italianate details such as the raised pilasters and curved door and window surrounds.

Painter Residence

#27 - 505 Buffalo Street

Childe Residence

#28 - 533 Buffalo Street

In 1911, the local newspaper noted that Buffalo Street “promises to be the finest built in the entire townsite”. Many of Banff’s prominent families are represented on this street.

Architect Walter S. Painter built two homes on Buffalo Street: his own home in 1913 and one for Cyril Childe, the resident Parks Engineer, in 1934. As Chief Architect for the CPR, Painter designed the 1914 additions to the Banff Springs Hotel and the Cave and Basin Bathing Pavilion. He also designed the Painter Wing of the Chateau Lake Louise (c. 1912).

Orr Residence

#29 - 510 Buffalo Street

Architect J. G. Johnson designed the imposing Orr Residence in 1928. It is architecturally unique with its stucco finish and red tiled roof. Lorne Orr managed the King Edward Hotel for 25 years.

Grant/Hemming Residence

#30 - 504 Buffalo Street

This residence was built in 1921 of local materials including the riverstone chimney and the Rundlestone steps. The design of this residence was influenced by Prairie style architecture as seen in the three arched front bays and tapered columns.

Norman Sanson Home

#31 - 110 Muskrat Street

Around the corner lived Norman Bethune Sanson. Known as "Nature's Gentleman", Sanson was the local meteorologist and curator for the Banff Park Museum from 1896-1932. He also made over 1000 ascents of Sulphur Mountain to take weather observations.

Senator Forget Residence

#32 - 501 Buffalo Street

Built in 1910, the Senator Forget Residence is a significant example of a large prefabricated house. Forget, a Saskatchewan senator, had the residence transported by rail from Winnipeg and assembled for summer use. It later belonged to the Brett family estate.

St. George's-in-the-Pines Anglican Church

#33 - 406 Buffalo Street

The cornerstone for the oldest church in Banff was laid in 1889 and the building grew by increments until the church was completed in 1926. In 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth worshipped here.



The Park Superintendent's residence on Buffalo Street, built in 1920 - 1937 Block B Lot 3-5

Park Superintendent's Residence

#34 - 313 Buffalo Street

In 1910, a permanent residence was built for the Park Superintendent. It was replaced by the present log home designed in the Rustic architectural style in 1920 and renovated in 1926 and again in the 1950s. This Federal Heritage Building was restored in 2000.

- Federal Heritage Building

Whyte Museum Of The Canadian Rockies

#35 - 111 Bear Street

Discover the rich history of the Canadian Rockies at the Whyte Museum. The museum is open year-round and offers guided heritage tours.

Whyte Residence

#36 - 130 Bow Avenue

The residence of Peter and Catharine Whyte, built in the Rocky Mountain architectural style, has been preserved on the grounds of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies. Peter Whyte, son of the prominent local merchant Dave White, and Catharine (Robb) Whyte, daughter of a wealthy New England family, built their log-studio home in Banff in 1931, with an addition in 1939. Together, the Whytes painted and photographed throughout the Rockies. In the interest of preserving local heritage, they established a heritage foundation in 1958 and later built the Wa-Che-Yo-Cha-Pa Foundation building in 1968 (now the Whyte Museum).

Crosby Residence

#37 - 136 Bow Avenue

After moving from Prince Edward Island in 1907, Louis S. Crosby married Gertrude E. Seaton, one of the first female CPR telegraph operators in Banff. Together they became significant tourism operators in the mountain parks. While Louis acted as General Manager, and later President, of Brewster Transport, Gertrude operated the Lake Louise Trading Co. (now Deer Lodge). The Crosby's home, which they built around 1913, incorporates an eclectic mix of Craftsman and Mission architectural styles. In the tradition of naming homes, the Crosby's called their home "Abegweit" after the Native Miq'maq name for Prince Edward Island. This means, "cradled in the waves". The Crosby home was designated a municipal historic resource in 2005.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Moore Residence

#38 - 125 Lynx Street

The Moore family built their residence in the Rocky Mountain style. Philip A. Moore, a Princeton University graduate, met Pearl (Brewster) Moore when he became partners with her brothers in Brewster Transport, Banff's premier local transportation company. Built in 1907, their home was unlike other log houses in Banff; it came complete with wiring, central heating and indoor plumbing. The Moore's living room housed their large collection of Stoney Indian artefacts and inherited antiques from the eastern United States. In 1971, the building was moved from its original location at the corner of Banff Avenue and Fox Street to the Whyte Museum grounds.

Sibbald /Brewster Residence

#39 - 135 Lynx Street

Another fine example of the rustic Cottage style is the Sibbald residence built in 1915. Howard Sibbald lived here after he retired as the first Chief Warden of the Rocky Mountains Park (now Banff). The house is often referred to as Fern's house, after Fern Brewster who owned it for many years.

Cascade No. 5 Masonic Lodge

#40 - 103 Caribou Street

This Masonic Lodge is a building of significant historical value as the hub of social life in Banff for many years serving as the meeting place for the Freemasons, Shriners and Members of the Order of the Eastern Star. The building was also used as year-round community space when most of the hotels would close for the winter season. The building is still used as a Masonic Lodge, one of the oldest still in operation in Canada, and is also a museum of local Masonic history. In 2004, the Cascade No. 5 Masonic Lodge was designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.

- Municipal Historic Resource
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Old Crag Cabin

#41 - 211 Bear Street

Built between 1888 and 1890 by Athanese Laurendeau, the Old Crag Cabin is one of Banff's oldest and storied buildings. It was home to the local weekly newspaper from 1901 to 1929. The building was restored in 1999 and now has a permanent home in the Bison Courtyard on Bear Street, just metres away from its original location. Thanks to Norman Luxton and his daughter, historian and engineer, Eleanor Luxton, the Cabin was retained.



The Homestead Hotel on
Lynx Street, c. 1930 V469/2461

Homestead Hotel

#42 - 210 Lynx Street

John Locke constructed the original Homestead Hotel around 1910. Additions were made to the hotel and tavern in 1930 to cater to the booming automobile tourist industry. The hotel's rustic log interior dining room (now Melissa's Missteak) is the last remaining portion of the early hotel.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

#43 - 312 Lynx Street

St. Mary's was constructed from local quarry stone (rundlestone) in 1951 and also has stained glass windows from Austria. It was designed by Father Robert McGuinness who was the resident architectural engineer of the Banff Springs Hotel before he became a clergyman. The first Catholic Mass to be held in the area was at the Athabasca Pass in 1833, 140 miles north of Banff at the request of the Hudson's Bay Company for their employees.

Canadian Pacific Railway Station (CPR)

#44 - Lynx Street

In 1888, the CPR built a station at the end of Lynx Street. This reflects the direct association of the CPR with the development of Canada's national parks. In 1910 a new station was built to accommodate the dramatic increase in tourist traffic. The station became one of three important landmark buildings in Banff including the Cave and Basin Bathing Pavilion and the early Banff Springs Hotel, around which most of the town was developed.

- Heritage Railway Station
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places

Bow River Bridge

#45

The first bridge was built on pontoons just west of the current site to facilitate the transportation of building supplies to the south side of Banff. The bridge was relocated upstream and replaced by a steel truss bridge in 1887. The present Bow River Bridge was completed in 1923 and features magnificent views, decorative Rundlestone and river stone, and six bas-relief concrete Indian heads, designed by the Calgary artisan, James L. Thomson. The bridge was restored in 1987.

Park Administration Building and Cascades of Time Gardens

#46 - 101 Mountain Avenue

Harold Beckett as part of the 1930s federal work relief program designed this building and its gardens in 1935. The Administration Building was designed in a domestic Tudor Revival architectural style with Tudor Gothic elements. It was constructed on the site of the former Brett Sanatorium (a spa-hospital), which burned in 1933. The gardens were originally designed to have waterfalls cascading into pools lined with rock from the surrounding mountains. Each pool was intended to reflect a stage in the geological history of the Rockies. Unfortunately, this plan was not carried out. The garden itself, however, was successfully completed and remains much as it was originally planned. The Administration Building is designated as a Federal Heritage Building.

- Federal Heritage Building

Sign of the Goat Curio Shop & Luxton Museum of the Plains Indian

#47 & 48 - I Birch Avenue

Norman Luxton's strong rapport with the Stoney Indians is reflected in his establishment of the Sign of the Goat Curio Shop in 1904 and the Luxton Museum of the Plains Indian in 1952. Luxton traded with the Stoney Indians from a small post at Morley (located between Banff and Calgary) and sold their beadwork and furs at the Curio Shop. His personal collection of native artefacts and handwork formed the basis of the Luxton Museum's exhibitions. In 1992, the Buffalo Nations Cultural Society began operating the museum. The name was formally changed to the name you see today, the Buffalo Nations Luxton Museum.

Charlie Beil Kiln Building

#49 - 119 Cave Avenue

This is where cowboy sculptor Charlie Beil handcrafted and fired many of his famous bronze sculptures.

Rundle Campground Service Building

#50 - Cave Avenue

Built in 1924, this saddle-notched log cabin was originally constructed to house washrooms for the national parks first automobile campground on the present location of the Banff Springs Golf Course. In 1998 the Town of Banff saved the structure and relocated it to the Recreation Grounds.

Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada

#51 - 311 Cave Avenue

This site commemorates the birthplace of Banff National Park and the Canadian National Parks system.

- National Historic Site of Canada
- Federal Heritage Site of Canada
- Listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places



Government Bath House, Coast Publishing Company, Vancouver, Malins Collection c. 1920

Old Mineral Springs Hospital Buildings

#52 - 102 Spray Avenue

The Sisters of Saint Martha operated the original 1911 Mineral Springs Hospital. Today, this site houses several buildings with unique and different construction styles and is best viewed from Glen Avenue.

Belmore Browne Residence

#53 - 124 Spray Avenue

In 1921 Belmore Browne, an American adventurer and wildlife artist, arrived in Banff and purchased a single room log cabin known on this site. This structure is a fine example of the adaptation of buildings in the Banff townsite and is now part of the Elkhorn Lodge.

Fish Hatchery Superintendent's Residence

#54 - 302 Glen Avenue

In 1913 the Department of Marine Fisheries established a fish hatchery in this area to introduce non-native sport fish into the region's lakes. This building is a typical prairie "four square" design. Between 1904 and 1988 nearly 34 million fish were released into the region's lakes. In 1988 fish stocking of Park's lakes was discontinued altogether due to high costs and a change in philosophy toward the region's resource management. The actual hatchery facility was removed in the early 1970's.

Banff Upper Hot Springs

#55 - Mountain Avenue

At the Banff Upper Hot Springs naturally heated springs on Sulphur Mountain feed an outdoor pool allowing visitors the opportunity to soak in a beautiful historic setting.

It is about a 30-minute uphill walk on Mountain Avenue to the Hot Springs. Along the way, turn west onto Middle Springs Drive and proceed to the far end, to find the Rundle Campground Buildings.

- Federal Heritage Building

Rundle Campground Buildings

#56 - Middle Springs Drive

These three old campground buildings were joined to form this local neighbourhood centre.

Banff Springs Hotel National Historic Site of Canada

#57 - 405 Spray Avenue

This hotel has been providing accommodation to visitors since June 1888. It was designated a National Historic Site in 1988.

- National Historic Site of Canada



Tobogganing on Caribou Street,
Banff Winter Carnival, 1945 V227/190

Discover more of Banff's history, nature, and culture...

Historical Celebration of Lodging

As a tribute to Alberta's Centennial in 2005, the Banff Lake Louise Hotel Motel Association, The Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies and the Banff Heritage Tourism Corporation launched an exhibit detailing the rich history of Banff National Park's accommodations. Featuring historic photographs of the Park's earliest lodgings - ranging from a healing sanatorium to a regal mountain castle -you can compare the black and white photo from an earlier time to its contemporary counterpart. There are over 40 hotels in Banff and Lake Louise - all with a unique story to tell. Visit one of them today to see their compilation of facts and photos that will engage, educate and entertain residents and visitors to Banff.

Audio Walking Tour

Stroll down Banff's memory lane with a pocket sized tour guide that goes at your pace. Rent a compact MP3 player from the Friends of Banff store at the Information Centre, 224 Banff Avenue) or the Bear and Butterfly Store, 214 Banff Avenue to accompany you on your discovery of Banff's rich and diverse history.

Banff Culture Walk

Banff Culture Walk is an opportunity to visit some of Banff's most vibrant art galleries, museums, and cultural organizations. Pick up a self-guiding tour brochure and map today.

Walking Through Banff's Nature

Banff's natural history makes it unique as a town within a national park. Discover fascinating facts about our natural environment, and explore Banff's remarkably diverse terrain by picking up a copy of Walking Through Banff's Nature. The brochure provides a self-guided tour of Banff's most interesting natural features, all within walkable distances.

Banff's historic buildings & sites

1. Banff Park Museum National Historic Site of Canada (1903)
2. Rundle Memorial United Church (1927)
3. Dave White Block (1908-1913)
4. Harmony Lane (1917)
5. Paris Tea Room (1903)
6. Cascade Dance Hall (1921)
7. Rocky Mountain Tours & Transportation Building (1946)
8. Brewster Transport Co. Building (1939)
9. Banff School Auditorium (1939)
10. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (1930)
11. Fire Hall (1935)
12. Luxton Residence (1905)
13. Tanglewood (c.1887)
14. Beaver Lodge (1913)
15. Holmes Residence (1905)
16. James Thomson House & Tourist Cabins (1950; 1914)
17. Kidney Residence (c.1910)
18. Bankhead Train Station (1907)
19. Bayne Residence (1913)
20. Gair Lodge (1919)
21. Greenham Residence (1920)
22. Mountain School Annex (1940)
23. Old Banff Cemetery (1890)
24. Tarry-a-while (Mary Schäffer-Warren Residence) (1911)
25. Harmon Residence (c.1929)
26. Transformer Substation Building (1905)
27. Painter Residence (1913)
28. Childe Residence (1934)
29. Orr Residence (1928)
30. Grant/Hemming Residence (1921)
31. Norman Sanson Home (1910)
32. Senator Forget Residence (1910)
33. St. George's-in-the-Pines Anglican Church (1889-1926)
34. Park Superintendent's Residence (1920)
35. Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies (1968; 1993)
36. Whyte Residence (1931)
37. Crosby Residence (1913)
38. Moore Residence (1907)
39. Sibbald/Brewster Residence (1915)
40. Cascade No. 5 Masonic Lodge (1924)
41. Old Crag Cabin (1888-1890)
42. Homestead Hotel (1910)
43. St. Mary's Catholic Church (1951)
44. Canadian Pacific Railway Station (1910)
45. Bow River Bridge (1923; 1980s)
46. Park Administration Building and Cascade of Time Gardens (1935)
47. Sign of the Goat Curio Shop (c. 1904)
48. Luxton Museum of the Plains Indian (1952)
49. Charlie Beil Kiln Building (c. 1942)
50. Rundle Campground Service Building (1924)
51. Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada (1885; 1985)
52. Old Mineral Springs Hospital Buildings (1911)
53. Browne Residence (1921)
54. Fish Hatchery Superintendent's Residence (1913)
55. Banff Upper Hot Springs (1932)
56. Rundle Campground Buildings (1923)
57. Banff Springs Hotel National Historic Site of Canada (1888; 1914; 1927-2000)

Legend



Plaqued Historic Building or Site



Historic Building or Site



Banff Heritage Corporation

Mission Statement

The Town of Banff Heritage Corporation seeks to identify, protect, preserve and commemorate the community's rich historic resources in order to enhance the quality of life of current and future generations.

For more information contact:

The Banff Heritage Corporation
110 Bear Street
Box 1260
Banff, Alberta
T1L 1A1
403.762.1215
www.banff.ca



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