

# SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS

No visit to Missoula is complete without taking the time to appreciate the unique attributes of Downtown. Follow these self-guided walking tours of historical landmarks and public artworks and get to know the real Missoula, historic and modern.

Compiled by the Missoula Cultural Council and Missoula Historic Preservation Commission, these tours are a great way to understand the pulse of the city.

## DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART

A vital component of any urban landscape, the presence of public art in a community signifies the character of the neighborhood. Downtown Missoula has a wealth of public art and culture. Listed below are over 20 works of public art on display in the Downtown neighborhood alone. Tour Missoula's art and discover the pride of Downtown.

### 1. "SCENIC"

The Scenic mural on the north wall of the Boys & Girls Club/Higgins Hall at the southwest corner of Higgins and Fourth features a giant bald eagle, mountain peaks, and a flowing stream. The mural was designed by an artist and painted by children.

### 2. "WAGON WHEEL"

The Wagon Wheel mural is on the north wall of Big Sky Embroidery store on the southeast corner of Higgins and Fourth. Artist unknown.

### 3. "PEACE WORKS"

Peace Works was created by area high school students Peter Bradstock, Sarah Jackson, Amanda Keeland, Bittany Kirkland, Sarah Logan, Yuki Sugimoto, and Tara Westle with artist Amie Thurber in the summer of 2000. A mural celebrating diversity with a colorful, festive atmosphere, Peace Works is located at the rear entrance of the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center at 519 S. Higgins.

### 4. "DREAMING MISSOULA"

The Dreaming Missoula sculpture is in the Clark Fork Natural Park on the south side of the Clark Fork River near the Orange Street bridge. The sculpture was created in 1994 by Lynne Hull and Kioko Mwitki, a native of Kenya. Hull sculpted the wood elements and Mwitki fabricated the metal components.

### 5. "RETURNINGS"

The Returnings sculpture is on the East Side of the Higgins Avenue Bridge just north of the Clark Fork River. Created by Jeffrey Funk in 1989 as a project of the City of Missoula Public Art Committee, these three large bronze fish twist among boulders and are a favorite among children.

### 6. "UNTITLED"

The untitled mural in Bess Reed Park on the south end of Clay Street is behind the Holiday Inn - Parkside along the Clark Fork River. Volunteers and children of Big Brothers Big Sisters painted this vibrant and humorous mural in 1997.

### 7. "CATTIN' AROUND"

The Cattin' Around sculpture adorns Central Park parking garage in the 100 block of West Main Street. Mike Hollern created this whimsical, ferrous cement depiction of a sprawled alley cat in 1991 as a project of the City of Missoula Public Arts Committee. A small puddle of water collects on the cat's back to create a birdbath.

### 8. "STUDEBAKER"

The Studebaker on the side of the Studebaker Building at 216 West Main Street was created by noted local artist Stan Hughes in 2000. The work pays tribute to the historical background of the Studebaker Building and the heart of the Gasoline Alley historic area, which evolved on West Main Street in the early 1900s and was a project of the City of Missoula Public Arts Committee.

### 9. "UNTITLED"

The untitled mural on the East Side of the Salvation Army Thrift Store at 339 West Broadway was painted with recycled paint by Joseph Fidance free of charge in 1994.

### 10. "E.S. PAXSON MURALS"

The E.S. Paxson Murals are located inside the Missoula County Courthouse at 200 West Broadway. Created sometime between 1912 and 1914, these historical scenes were painted on canvas with oils.

### 11. "VETERAN'S MEMORIAL"

The Veteran's Memorial honors veterans of WWI and WWII. Located on the Missoula County Courthouse lawn on the corner of Broadway and Ryman, this cast bronze sculpture of a WWI soldier was created by J. Pauling in 1921. A 1927 plaque lists WWI veterans, and a 1948 plaque lists WWII veterans.

### 12. "UNTITLED"

John Carlon painted this scenic view of Montana in 1996 on the West Side of the Salad Bar & Sandwich Co. at 130 West Broadway.

### 13. "UNTITLED"

John Carlon painted these figures in 1997 on Plexiglas to fill real windows on the north and east sides of the Oxford at 337 North Higgins Avenue.

### 14. "SCENIC"

The Scenic mural, a painting of scenic mountains and rivers, was created by John Carlon in 1996 on the East Side of the Army Navy Economy Store at 322 North Higgins Avenue.

### 15. "MOUNTAIN LINE TRANSFER CENTER MURAL"

The mural is located in the Mountain Line Transfer Center between the Missoula County Courthouse and City Hall. The mural features 200 tiles decorated with deer, eagles, bears, trout, bitterroots, roses and other symbols that represent the natural heritage of Montana. The mural was created in April of 2000 by Missoula County Public School students with the help of their art instructors Katherine Lynch, Jackie Alford, Carla Getz and Susanne Woyciechowicz with local artist Dana Bousard

### 16. "PROPER SHOPPERS"

The Proper Shoppers is Missoula's newest piece of public art. Installed at the Mountain Line Transfer Center in August 2002, the solid bronze sculpture was created by Missoula artist Tom Rippon, a ceramics professor at UM, and is a project of the City of Missoula Public Arts Committee. The stylized grandmother and her favorite grandchild watch as dozens of buses and hundreds of pedestrians scurry about.

### 17. "WALTER HOOK SERIES"

The Walter Hook Series is located inside the Council Chambers in City Hall at 435 Ryman Street. Painted in 1984-1985 by Missoula artist Walter Hook, the series of seven oils was purchased with the Bill Cregg Memorial Fund and was a project of the City of Missoula Public Arts Committee.

## 18. “VIRGIN MARY”

The Virgin Mary sculpture is set in a river cobble grotto in the side garden of St. Francis Xavier Church at 420 West Pine Street. Sculpture and creation date unknown.

## 19. “FIRST NIGHT TILE PROJECT”

The First Night Tile Project is on the Northside/Westside Pedestrian Bridge near the Grand and First Street intersection. Created by children and adults who participated in the First Night Missoula public tile project on New Year’s Eve 1999, these tiles were installed in April 2000. The theme features animals of all types.

## 20. “CHAINSOSAURUS”

The Chainsaurus sculpture, located in the front yard of 324 West Alder, is a dinosaur constructed of chains and carrying a mailbox. Paul Golden created this sculpture in 1988.

## 21. “CROSSINGS”

The Crossings sculpture is located in front of the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot at the north end of Higgins Avenue. Consisting of four large red Xs made of enamel on metal with concrete wingwalls and platform set on a stone ballast, it represents railroad themes. “Crossings” is a project of the City of Missoula Public Arts Committee. Created by Taag Peterson in 1986, the XXXs relate to the tall trestles necessary for crossing mountain ravines.

## 22. “JOHN MULLAN”

The John Mullan marble sculpture is located in the plaza at the end of North Higgins Avenue in front of the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot. Created in 1914 and one of just six sculptures remaining, this structure was erected to mark the route of the wagon road, surveyed and built by John Mullan, from Fort Benton to Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River.

## 23. “M.C.F.D.”

The Missoula City Fire Department mural is a bas-relief located in the arched alcove on the west side of the Missoula Headquarters Fire Station at the corner of Pine and Madison. Rudy Autio created this colorful work – a project of the City of Missoula Public Arts Committee – in 1995 with scenes relating to fire fighting history.

## 24. “UNTITLED”

The untitled mural at the YWCA, located at 1130 W. Broadway, is a beautiful tribute to the courage and transformation of women, the mural was designed and produced in 2000 by area high school students Amanda Keeland, Melissa McNay, Carla Rothenbuecher, AC Rothenbuecher and Rachel Bailey with artist Amie Thurber.

## 25. DOWNTOWN FLOWER BASKETS

Designed by local artist Russell Smith, the son of Russell Smith, Sr., whom the Federal Courthouse is named after, the Downtown Flower baskets were created in two batches and hung in 1981 and 1985. Each of the 72 baskets are individually designed and crafted with a theme of their own. The Missoula Downtown Association hangs and waters the flowers throughout the summer months.

## 26. DOWNTOWN BANNERS

A capital improvement project introduced to the Downtown scene by the Missoula Downtown Association and the Missoula Redevelopment Agency in 1999, the banners feature four designs on four distinct-colored fabrics. The artwork on three banners depict scenes of Missoula taken from a Mark Gutow watercolor painting. The red banners highlight the Carousel and Snowbowl in a winter scene. The blue banners feature the Courthouse and Waterworks Hill. The green banners showcase St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The purple banners depict Caras Park with the Wilma Building and Mount Sentinel in the background. A project fostered by Mark Gorseth, the banners are changed seasonally and cover 112 light posts throughout Downtown.

# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

“History can never be covered up,” said Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, and those words could never be truer than in Downtown Missoula. Take the time to look up as you tour the many and varied historical landmarks listed below, and remnants of the past will appear to you in tucked-away corners. Count the historic billboards of long-forgotten places like the Atlantic Hotel and the Diner Cafe and you will realize the many layers of history as peels of an onion in the story of Missoula.

## 1. WILMA BUILDING

104 SOUTH HIGGINS

Previously known as the Smead-Simons Building, this eight-story Sullivanesque style building was commonly referred to as the “Showplace of Montana” after it was constructed in 1921. It was built by William “Billy” Simons, an early western entrepreneur, who produced Wild West shows and built several theaters in Oregon, Idaho and Alaska during the Gold Rush. The theater became a living memorial to his wife, Edna Wilma, a famous light opera star. The Wilma Building houses three theaters (two small cinemas and one large 1,000-seat theater), three private banquet/meeting rooms, office and residential space. The Wilma is Missoula’s first modern steel framed “skyscraper.”

## 2. MISSOULA MERCANTILE

110 NORTH HIGGINS

The Missoula Mercantile was established in 1866 and eventually became one of the largest mercantile enterprises between the Twin Cities and Seattle. Many of Missoula’s most prominent business and civic leaders began their careers at “The Merc.” Now home to the Missoula Bon Macy’s, the building was constructed in stages between 1882 and 1891. It utilizes a vernacular commercial style and some elaborate ornamentation, including an 1890’s cast iron storefront facing Higgins Ave.

## 3. FLORENCE HOTEL

111 NORTH HIGGINS

Constructed in 1941, the Florence Hotel occupies the same site as two earlier Florence Hotels, both of which burned. Much like the east section of the Palace Hotel (Broadway & Ryman), this hotel was built to accommodate the increasing number of automobile travelers, and included an interior, multi-level parking garage. Today this excellent example of Art Moderne architecture has been converted to an office complex with retail businesses occupying the main floor. The Governor’s Room, located on the second floor, is still used as a ballroom/banquet room for special events. The Lobby was recently refurbished to its original state and is also available for special events.



# SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOURS

## 4. HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

113 WEST FRONT

Advertised as “An Ornament to the Street,” when constructed in 1888 as a men’s social club and saloon, this building and its 1916 partner to the west, the Daily Company Annex, were “remuddled” over the years, with wide metal panels and modern windows dominating the front facade. In 1892 the building witnessed a major fire and the mysterious murder of Maurice Higgins, son of a Missoula founder. The Headquarters’ 1990s restoration captures the feel of Missoula’s “red-light” district of the 1880s while the Daily Annex addresses the reform movement to shut down the district. Recognized with both local and state preservation awards, the Headquarters Building/Daily Annex contains a nice display of artifacts and project progress on the second floor. Today the building is home to Wide World of Travel, World Games of Montana and Laurel Creek Clothing & Gifts.

## 5. GLEIM II BUILDING

255 & 257 WEST FRONT

The Gleim II was a brothel owned and operated by Mary Gleim, whose splashy career included conviction for attempted murder of a rival and a prison term in Deer Lodge. Built around 1893, after two major fires swept the downtown, this red brick, sage-green building was restored by David Paoli in 1995 and captured an Historic Preservation Award for that effort. This building was one of eight owned by Gleim during the peak years of Missoula’s “Red Light District.” “Mother Gleim” retained title to this two-story vernacular commercial style brick building until her death in 1914.

## 6. GLEIM BUILDING

265 WEST FRONT

This classically-styled brick building served as the headquarters for Mary Gleim’s bordello businesses along Front Street from early 1890s to approximately 1914. Original arches were uncovered by James Hoffmann in a 1980’s renovation. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this building is an excellent example of Romanesque Revival architecture with its arched windows, brick pilasters, checkerboard banding and granite sills. Through its lifetime, businesses located here included the Pullman Pool Hall (1929), Carroll Nash Cigars (1932), and the Hawthorne Club, a 1940s jazz club.

## 7. STUDEBAKER BUILDING

216 WEST MAIN

As the automobile gained popularity in the 1910s, stables and garages existed side by side. The succession of businesses at this address documents the transition that must have been hard on the old timers. By 1921, the Main Street Motor Company advertised repairs and rental space for 70 vehicles here. Louis Nybo sold Studebakers, the choice of the Missoula police force until the 1950s. Recently restored by Historical Architect James McDonald, the building is now home to Cedar Creek Salon & Day Spa, River Rock Candy Emporium and Dye & Moe Law Firm.

## 8. PALACE HOTEL

147 WEST BROADWAY

First opened as the Savoy Hotel in 1909, this building is one of the few remaining symbols of the prosperous period of time when the expansion of the railroad through Missoula enhanced the growth of the lumber and manufacturing industries. The original structure and a 1941 annex formed Missoula’s largest single hotel. As time passed, the hotel’s upper floors became an empty, decaying shell, but a 1995 rehabilitation project created 60 upper-floor housing units. Today the Palace Apartments beautifully illustrate how preservation can rejuvenate a city center.

## 9. MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

200 WEST BROADWAY

The Neo-classical style sandstone Courthouse was designed by prominent local architect, A.J. Gibson, and completed in 1910. Features of the building include the impressive clock tower which houses a two-ton bell, massive Ionic support columns, copper-faced entry doors and vertical panels of beveled glass. Eight murals created by well-known western artist, Edgar S. Paxson, hang in the building’s entryway and document the valley’s early history.

## 10. SIMONS BLOCK

314 NORTH HIGGINS

Built in 1899, the Simons Building is one of Downtown Missoula’s newest additions to the National Register of Historic Places, earning honors in 2000. Named after Missoula businessman Louis N. Simons, the building was originally an art store that evolved into a general hardware store in the 1920s. It was also home to one of the city’s last bordellos. The second floor was vacant for close to 30 years before Dick Clemow began renovation. The main floor is home to Moose Creek Mercantile.

## 11. HIGGINS BLOCK

202 NORTH HIGGINS

The Higgins Block, commissioned by Missoula co-founder C.P. Higgins in 1889, is Missoula’s finest example of Queen Anne commercial architecture. Higgins was one of Missoula County’s original county commissioners and a member of Montana’s first Territorial Legislature. The Higgins Block includes the gray granite, copper-domed corner building and the red polychromed brick structures to the north and east. This National Register building was restored in the early 1980s. The Higgins Block is home to countless businesses today, including Sterling Savings Bank, Doc’s Gourmet Sandwich Shop and Gallery Saintonge.

## 12. MASONIC TEMPLE

120-136 EAST BROADWAY

Built in 1909, the Masonic Temple is the only Beaux Arts Style building in Missoula’s central business district. Particularly notable for its arched bays and elaborate terra cotta cornice and frieze work, the building still serves as home to the Masons in addition to numerous office and retail businesses.

## 13. U.S. POST OFFICE & FEDERAL BUILDING

200 EAST BROADWAY

Designed in the Italian Renaissance revival style and constructed of Indiana limestone and granite, this building was formerly called the Federal Building. The original building was erected between 1911-1913, and the east addition was built in 1929. The north addition was erected in 1937. Listed on the National Historic Register, the building has housed the U.S. Federal District Court since 1929.

## 14. NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT

RAILROAD & NORTH HIGGINS

When the track of the Northern Pacific reached Missoula in 1883, it was possibly the most significant event in the town’s history. Reliable transportation created a major economic and commercial distribution hub for Western Montana. This depot building was designed by Reed and Stem, a celebrated architectural firm from St. Paul, Minn. that designed over 100 depots in America, including New York City’s Grand Central Station. Built in 1901, this National Register building is an architecturally significant example of simplified Renaissance Revival architecture, which represents the historic importance of rail transportation to this city.

## 15. ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

420 WEST PINE

Constructed between 1891 and 1892, this church is a major religious, architectural and artistic landmark in Missoula. Its 144-foot-high polygonal tent roof spire continues to be a landmark of the Missoula skyline. The interior of this National Register church contains murals painted around 1900 by Brother J. Carignano, who also painted the murals in the St. Ignatius Mission.



## OTHER DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS ON THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

A. ATLANTIC HOTEL	519 NORTH HIGGINS
B. BELMONT HOTEL	430 NORTH HIGGINS
C. BLUEBIRD BUILDING	220 - 224 NORTH HIGGINS
D. BRUNSWICK HOTEL	223 RAILROAD
E. CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY	335 NORTH PATTEE
F. DIXON-DUNCAN BLOCK	232 - 240 NORTH HIGGINS
G. GARDEN CITY DRUG	118 NORTH HIGGINS
H. GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL	118 WEST ALDER
I. HAMMOND ARCADE	101 SOUTH HIGGINS
J. HELLGATE LODGE	120 NORTH PATTEE
K. INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY	207 EAST MAIN
L. KNOWLES BUILDING	200 - 210 SOUTH 3RD WEST
M. LABOR TEMPLE	208 EAST MAIN
N. LENOX FLATS	300 - 306 WEST BROADWAY
O. LUCY BUILDING	330 NORTH HIGGINS
P. MARSH & POWELL FUNERAL HOME	224 WEST SPRUCE
Q. MILWAUKEE DEPOT	250 STATION DRIVE
R. MISSOULA LAUNDRY COMPANY	111 EAST SPRUCE
S. MODEL LAUNDRY & APARTMENTS	131 WEST ALDER
T. MONTGOMERY WARD BUILDING	201 NORTH HIGGINS

## MISSOULA HISTORIC DISTRICTS

### I. EAST PINE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Missoula's first exclusive residential area grew up along East Pine Street, and today it's one of Missoula's seven historical districts. The predominating man-made feature and unifying visual element of the District is its historic boulevard, which consists of approximately 15-foot-wide boulevards with large maple trees on each side of the street and a unique 25-foot-wide grass median. There are a variety of historic buildings, most of them are multi-family or single-family residences built between 1872 and 1940. All but six of the 50 major buildings were constructed before 1940. The district contains the city's oldest residence (Francis Worden House - 1872), and the A.J. Gibson designed Governor Joseph Dixon mansion, both located in the 300 block of East Pine.

### II. SOUTHSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

This colorful historic district charts Missoula's transformation from a rough frontier town to an established community. Anticipating a need to escape the flurry and bustle of Missoula's town center, north of the Clark Fork River, Federal Judge Hiram Knowles platted this addition in 1890. By the mid-1890s, gracious Queen Anne style residences proclaimed the Southside as a wealthy haven. Between 1908 and 1910, the arrival of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad on the Southside's edge added the Milwaukee Depot. There are over 60 structures on the Southside Historic District walking tour.

### III. UNIVERSITY AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Bounded by South 4th Street East, Beckwith Avenue, Arthur Avenue and Higgins Avenue, the University Area Historic District was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 13, 2000. Missoula's largest historic district, the University Area District contains some stunning examples of Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Revival styles of architecture.

### IV. NORTHSIDE MISSOULA RAILROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

### V. LOWER RATTLESNAKE HISTORIC DISTRICT

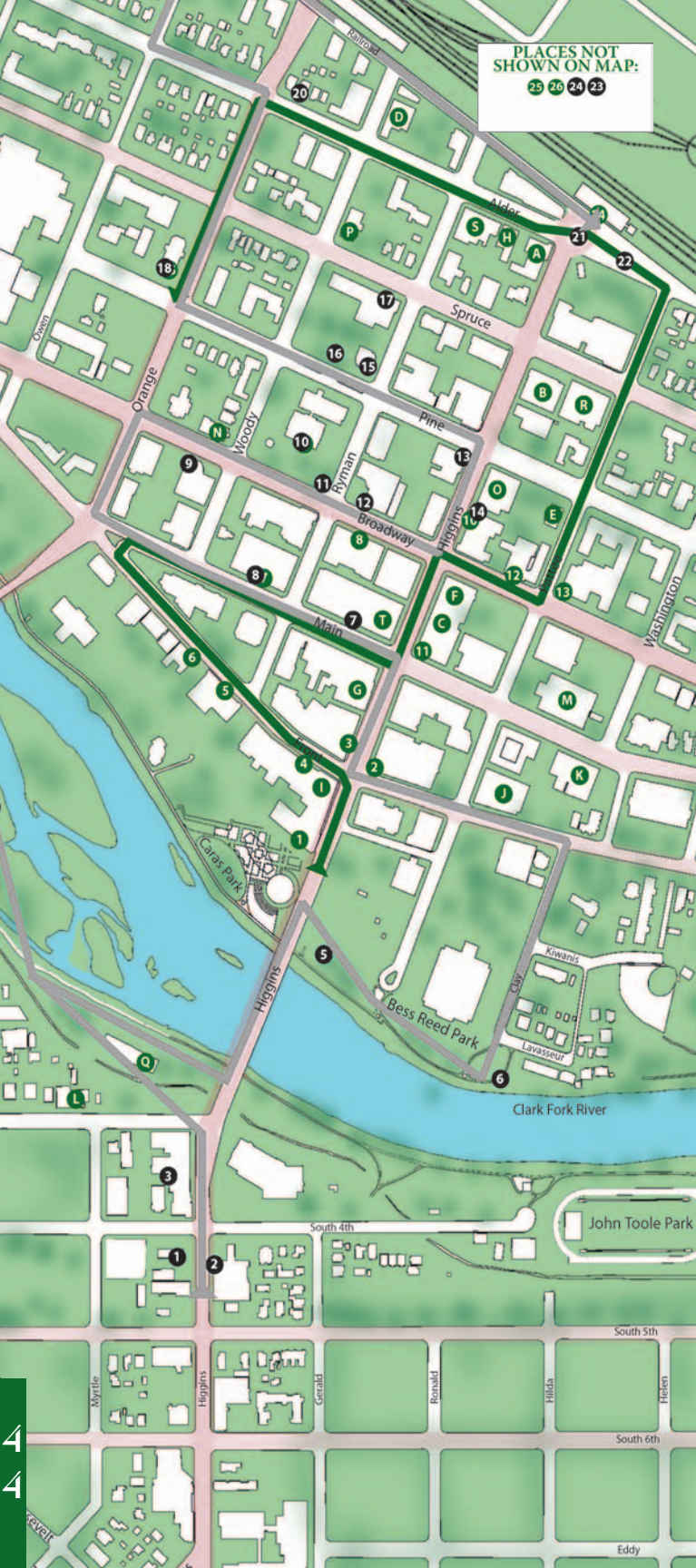
### VI. UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA HISTORIC DISTRICT

### VII. FT. MISSOULA HISTORIC DISTRICT

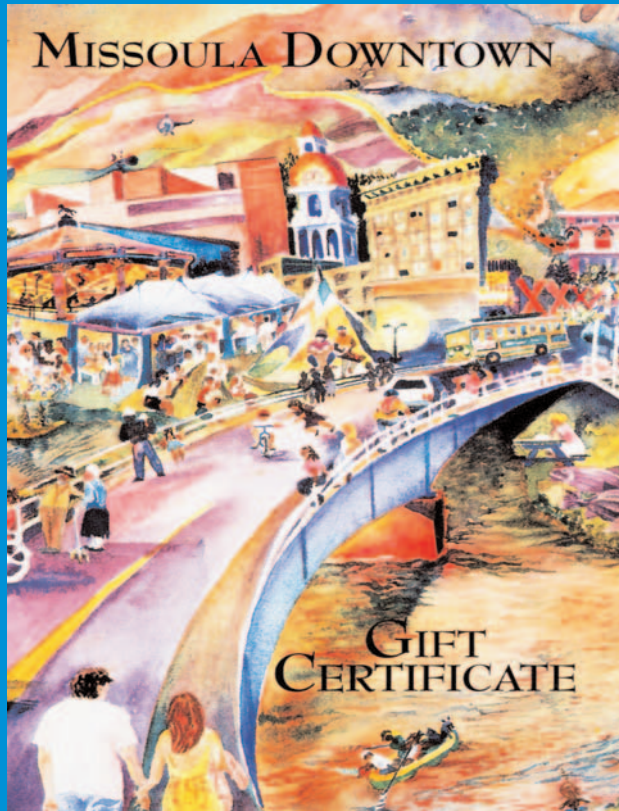
With assistance from James McDonald and a student group from The University of Montana, the Missoula Historic Preservation Commission is seeking an additional Historic District for Downtown Missoula following the completion of the McCormick Area Historic District. Additional information on historic buildings or districts in Missoula can be obtained from Philip Maechling, Missoula Historic Preservation Officer. Phone: (406) 523-4657.







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Let's meet in the lobby.



The restored lobby of the historic Florence features elegant, cozy furniture and vintage photographs of the building.

Join us for coffee and good company when you're visiting Downtown Missoula.



The FLORENCE