
1876
DEADWOOD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic Deadwood
Walking Tour



A Trail to
Deadwood's Past

GOLD!

That exclamation in 1875 began Deadwood's riveting story. Pioneer Frank Bryant was hunting deer that day, but the sparkling metal he found instead set miners scrambling to grab their fortunes from the beautiful Black Hills. Merchants followed, bringing culture, commerce and prosperity.



City of Deadwood Archives

Deadwood's Main Street, circa 1877.

Deadwood's transformation from scruffy tent city to architectural showpiece didn't happen overnight. Indeed, the City has a proud history of faceless miners and famous legends, floods and fires, grand stone halls and log saloons. But Deadwood is a living, breathing place, a community with a legend so real that it can be touched just by feeling the bricks beneath your feet.

This would not be the case without Historic Preservation efforts supported by the citizens of South Dakota. With their approval, profits from gaming pay for Deadwood's continued restoration, ensuring that the shared link among its people, places and events lives on.

So as you walk the streets where Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Seth Bullock strolled, you'll walk alongside Deadwood residents who are still making history today. Welcome to Deadwood — an entire city that's a National Historic Landmark.



LOOK AROUND YOU INTO THE PAST

When you walk the streets of Deadwood, you're strolling through living American history. Your adventure, like the adventures of so many before you, begins at the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad Depot. This restored treasure now serves as one of Deadwood's History and Information Centers, where you can find detailed information about Deadwood's past and present.

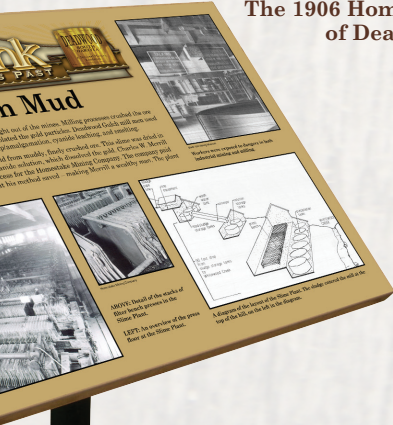
As you begin your tour, let the echoed whistle of the steam train whisk you on your way. In just 30 minutes and less than a mile of easy walking, you'll relive more than 140 years of fascinating history.

On your tour, you'll encounter 21 interpretive signs at easy-to-spot locations. Each will reveal another aspect of Deadwood's history as you travel through time from one display to the next. Feel free to stop at the many historic businesses or chat with one of the town's friendly residents along the way. They will be happy to share their version of Deadwood's golden past.



The 1906 Homestake Slime Plant, a reminder of Deadwood's mining heritage.

Begin your tour across Pine Street from the History & Information Center. Head up the ramp next to the parking garage. You'll see five interpretive signs overlooking Whitewood Creek to your right.





MAP

1. **Architecture of a Unique Building Complex**
The former Slime Plant finds a new role.
2. **Riches from Mud**
Gold mining becomes industrialized.
3. **Bonanza in the Hills**
The miners' search continues underground.
4. **Gold Discovery on the Great Sioux Nation**
Deadwood begins in a prospector's pan.
5. **Gold in the Gulch**
Placer miners search the creeks for gold.
6. **Deadwood Changing – 1884, 1902 and Now**
The community evolves with its prosperity.



- 7. Spanish American War Memorial**
Cannon is a tribute to American patriotism.
- 8. Serving the Black Hills**
Deadwood becomes the region's center of commerce.
- 9. Generations of Change**
From mining camp to Victorian city.
- 10. Ride High, T.C., Ride High**
A promising rodeo career cut tragically short.
- 11. Deadwood City 1876**
A town grows with the gold rush.
- 12. Jewish American Pioneers and Deadwood**
Unheralded heroes of the American West.
- 13. The Badlands**
Saloons, brothels and gaming halls - where the legends made their names.
- 14. Deadwood's Chinatown**
Deadwood had a thriving ethnic Chinese community until the 1920s.
- 15. The Fire of 1879**
Disaster strikes Deadwood more than once.
- 16. The Great Flood**
Whitewood Creek overflows and partially destroys Deadwood.
- 17. Korczak's Wild Bill**
Crazy Horse sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski created a tribute to Deadwood's most famous permanent resident.
- 18. Sherman Street & the East Side**
Deadwood's "other" Main Street.
- 19. Civic Stability**
A community matures, supporting law and order.
- 20. President Taft in Deadwood**
America's 27th president addressed early 20th century citizens here.
- 21. Frontier Crime & Punishment**
Incarcerations and executions play an important role in Deadwood's many stories.

TAKE A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

1 Architecture of a Unique Building Complex

The large, impressive building in front of you serves as a reminder of the reason that Deadwood was born – gold. Known to locals as the Slime Plant, this building was part of the Homestake Mining Co.’s refining operation. It extracted gold from “slime” – a muddy slurry of gold-bearing ore. The Homestake Mine operated for more than 126 years until its closing in 2002. During that time, the mine produced tons of pure gold.

2 Riches from Mud

As gold became more difficult to find, mining in the Black Hills evolved into an organized industry. The price of gold dictated the level of investment made to extract it. As prices went up, mining companies developed new mechanical technologies to tunnel deeper into the rock, new pyrotechnic technologies to blast the rock away and new chemical technologies to separate the metals. Over time, inspired technology made it possible to capture gold previously hidden and out of reach.

3 Bonanza in the Hills

The creek flows beneath you. The Slime Plant rests before you. Remnants of the Homestake Mine dot the hills above. All are tangible evidence of an industry’s evolution. Driven by advances in mining, other innovations came to Deadwood well ahead of other South Dakota communities. Deadwood residents were among the first in the nation to benefit from improvements in communication, commerce and entertainment.

4 Gold Discovery on the Great Sioux Nation

Strange as it may seem, the chaos and excitement of gold fever spawned the first foundations of civil order in Deadwood. Starting from the actual point of Discovery, mining claims were issued upstream and downstream, and from canyon rim to canyon rim. A number of mining camps, bearing names like Ingleside, Elizabethtown and Deadwood City, grew up around these claims. In time these mining camps brought order to the wilderness and formed the basis for community development.

5 Gold in the Gulch

Getting gold out of the ground and into the pouch on your belt was hard and dangerous work. One famous miner who made it look easy was Potato Creek Johnny. In May of 1929, the lucky little miner (he stood only 4 feet 3 inches tall) scooped a nugget out of Potato Creek that weighed in at 7.75 troy ounces – equivalent to over half a pound. The nugget is on display in the Adams Museum. Johnny blamed the decline of placer mining on “so many amachooors rilling up the stream,” making it hard to find nuggets. That was only part of the story.



Deadwood's Main Street in June of 1876, the same month that Wild Bill Hickok arrived.

Now head down the ramp and turn left toward Main Street. The next interpretive sign is at the corner of Main and Pine.

6 Deadwood Changing – 1884, 1902 and Now

The etching on this sign from 1884 shows Deadwood from White Rocks atop Mount Moriah. Several Main Street buildings on the right side of the etching still stand, including the Star & Bullock Hardware Warehouse, the Bodega and the Phoenix Block. Whitewood Creek can be seen running under several bridges connecting Main and Sherman Streets. The photo on the next page, taken in 1902 from a similar perspective, shows many more brick buildings on Main Street. Today, Whitewood Creek still flows through Deadwood, but it runs unseen beneath U.S. Highway 85/14A. Main Street, however, looks largely the same as it did in 1902. The city's golden age of architecture was 1890 to 1920. As you continue your walking tour, see what else has changed – and what hasn't – since Deadwood's founding more than 140 years ago.



Adams Museum and House

Deadwood Main Street, circa 1902. Most of the buildings in this photo still exist today.

Across Main Street, on the stone wall at the base of Lead-Deadwood Elementary School is interpretive sign No. 7.

7 Spanish American War Memorial

The cannon above you was the first war memorial in Deadwood, and it represents early patriotism. Forged in 1862 for the Spanish army, the cannon was captured by the United States in the Philippines during the 1898 Spanish American War. America was in a patriotic fury after the war, and the City of Deadwood, led by then mayor Sol Star, acquired the cannon in 1899 to create a memorial to honor individuals who fought for their country.

Now walk north on Main Street. Across from the Franklin Hotel is interpretive sign No. 8

8 Serving the Black Hills

Here, near the confluence of City Creek and Whitewood Creek, some of Deadwood's first permanent structures appeared. Down along the creek near this sign you can see the original stone foundations of the Deadwood Theater, which burned down with the second City Hall in 1952. This area marks the true beginnings of Deadwood's history as a center for industry and commerce in the northern Black Hills. As you turn to face the opposite direction, you can see the Franklin Hotel and the Black Hills Trust Building — living testimonials to Deadwood's determined growth.

Half a block to the north, on the corner of this block, is interpretive sign No. 9.

9

Generations of Change

In 1899, at the turn of the last century, most of these buildings were already in place. Fabric-covered tents had been traded for timber-framed buildings, which in turn were replaced by bricks and mortar. Ox carts yielded to steam engines, and paving bricks covered the muddy streets for the advent of newfangled automobiles. Deadwood embraced change.



Wyoming State Archives

Automobiles began appearing on Deadwood's streets early in the 20th century.

A few steps to the east you'll find
interpretive sign No. 10

10

Ride High, T.C., Ride High

Cowboy boots, bucking broncs and bulls – rodeo has been part of South Dakota history since the state was first settled. And the state has produced quite a few rodeo stars, including Travis Calvin Holloway, better known as T.C. He was killed in a car accident in 2001, just as his rodeo career was taking off. This bronze sculpture is a tribute to his memory.

From here, head back to the west side
of Main Street and walk north. You'll
see interpretive sign No. 11.

11

Deadwood City 1876

Deadwood is an environmental enigma: it changed the Black Hills forever, yet the Black Hills have not changed. Consider this: you are standing near the spot where the photo on this marker was captured. The ridgeline beyond Main Street is relatively unchanged after a century of Deadwood development. To the east you can see the recently restored Mount Moriah Cemetery, where Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Seth Bullock have all been laid to rest.

Farther north, on the same side of the street, you'll find interpretive sign No. 12.

12 Jewish American Pioneers and Deadwood

The Jewish American pioneers who settled in Deadwood played a fundamental role in helping to tame the rough-and-wild town of Deadwood. Besides helping establish a government, they also operated many businesses. The impressive Franklin Hotel, Goldberg's Grocery and Ben Baer buildings are several creations of these successful pioneers.



Adams Museum and House

Jacob Goldberg's grocery was one of the many Jewish-owned businesses in early Deadwood.

Look across Wall Street, and you'll see interpretive sign No. 13

13 The Badlands

The tinkle of honky-tonk piano keys, the plink of banjo strings, the clink of glasses – and the occasional gunshot. Here at the lower end of Main Street stood Deadwood's saloons, brothels, gaming halls and the large Chinatown district. Since 1990, archaeologists have excavated portions of Deadwood's notorious brothels such as the Gem Theater and the Green Front Theatre.

From this corner you can also experience the range of architectural styles that combine to make Deadwood a historical treasure. Behind you, a streamlined former auto showroom displays the Art Deco style of the 1930s. In front of you, the Fairmont Hotel preens in its Queen Anne style intricacies. Across the street, the Bullock Hotel and

its neighbors formally recall the Italianate style. As evening falls, the town glows in the light of lamps cast from fixtures that originally lit Deadwood's Main Street in 1912.



These are among the thousands of artifacts recovered by archaeologists in this part of Deadwood.

To find interpretive sign No. 14, continue north on this side of Lower Main Street for about two blocks.

14 Deadwood's Chinatown

This section of Main Street was once the bustling center of Deadwood's sizable Chinese community, or Chinatown. Early Deadwood was a diverse mix of immigrants from all over the world chasing the American Dream. The Chinese were no different, but they held fast to their native customs. Evidence of Chinese culture can be found in archaeological exhibits and in the Chinese altar and burner at Mount Moriah Cemetery.



Chinatown, in the narrowest part of Deadwood Gulch, was home to more than 200 Chinese immigrants.

If you cross Main Street and start walking south, you'll see interpretive sign No. 15 at the corner of Main and Lee streets.

15 The Fire of 1879

Built and rebuilt after many fires and floods, Deadwood's commercial center rose again and again from ashes and mud. Like its mythical namesake, the Phoenix Block, in the middle of the next block up Main Street, was the first brick building erected after the devastating Deadwood Fire of 1879.



Adams Museum and House

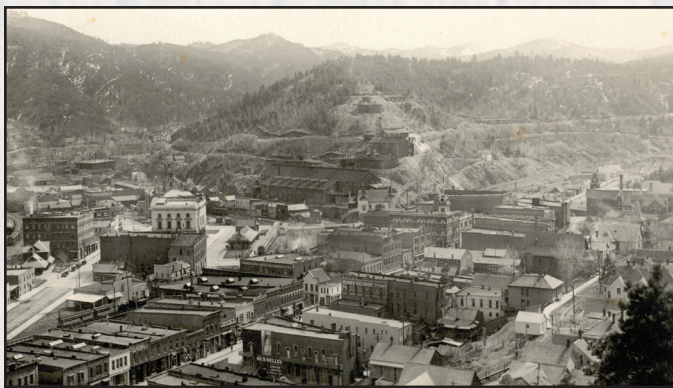
The Fire of 1879 virtually wiped out Deadwood, but its citizens quickly rebuilt.

Continue east on Lee Street across Highway 14A to Site No. 16 on the southeast corner.

16 The Great Flood

This area looks different than it did back when Whitewood Creek was the dominant, and sometimes indomitable, feature of Deadwood. Its waters wreaked havoc in 1883. Flooding returned often until the 1960s, when the creek was contained under the highway.

You are now on the edge of what was Deadwood's wholesale district. Here two rail lines brought commercial goods and new residents to a growing city.



City of Deadwood Archives

This photo is prior to 1910 during the Golden Era of construction. Note the train in the lower left corner.

Follow Lee Street to Sherman Street.
Across Sherman, you'll see a granite carving and interpretive sign No. 17

17 Wild Bill Bust

Famed sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, whose Crazy Horse Memorial near Custer became his life's work, carved this bust of Wild Bill Hickok. Its location, along Sherman Street, is the approximate site of Wild Bill's camp in 1876. Deadwood businessman George Hunter commissioned Ziolkowski to create the granite carving. In 1952, the bust was presented to the City of Deadwood.

In this photo, famed sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski uses hammer and chisel to sculpt the image of gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok.



City of Deadwood Archives

Across Sherman and a bit south, you'll find interpretive sign No. 18 beside the Adams Museum on Deadwood Street.

18 Sherman Street and the East Side

The view here overlooks Deadwood's Federal Plaza, where the Lawrence County Courthouse and the Post Office present the City's most famous examples of neoclassical architecture. The Adams Museum is also clearly visible here, a gift to the city that displays fascinating artifacts of Deadwood history. Please stop in and explore; admission is free, though donations are appreciated.

The next stop on the walking tour is interpretive sign No. 19 at the corner of Pine and Sherman.

19 Civic Stability

By 1900, Deadwood had matured from a rip roaring mining camp to a sophisticated, urban metropolis. The Lawrence County Courthouse and the U.S. Federal Building, both built in 1906, are a testament to Deadwood's civic stability.



Adams Museum and House

Deadwood's Federal Plaza, shown c. 1909, has changed little after almost a century.

Cross Pine Street and head west. In just half a block you'll find interpretive sign No. 20.

20 President Taft in Deadwood

This panel marks the spot where President William Howard Taft gave a 30-minute speech to a large crowd of spectators in 1911. Taft was three years into his first term as president. (It turned out to be his only term; Taft lost to Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 election.) Campaigns moved at a much slower pace in 1911. In fact, Taft spent three days in South Dakota, most of it aboard a train making its way across the state.



Library of Congress

Go back to Sherman Street and continue south for half a block. Just past the Lawrence County Courthouse you'll find interpretive sign No. 21.

21 Frontier Crime and Punishment

On this site, Lawrence County has doled out justice since 1886. For two men, that meant a one-way trip to the gallows, conveniently located next door to the jail. Cha Hopa Nuha, a.k.a. "Two Sticks" was hanged here in December 1894. Three years later, Isador Cavanaugh, a.k.a. Charlie Brown, met the same fate. Although jail buildings have come and gone, this location remains the Lawrence Detention Center, a.k.a. the county jail.

Like the criminals who met their fate here, this is your last stop on the Deadwood Walking Tour. Thanks for exploring Deadwood history.

MOUNT MORIAH

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

A self-guided tour is available.

A visit to Mount Moriah Cemetery offers a dramatic and appropriate conclusion to your walking tour. Among the Legends of Deadwood at rest here are Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Potato Creek Johnny, along with other notable ancestors of Deadwood's famous families. Stop in the Mount Moriah Visitor Center and Gift Shop to see panels that explain the history of the cemetery.

Put your walking tour in perspective with a breathtaking view of Deadwood from the promontory at the far end of Mount Moriah. Feel free to walk among the gravesites and tombs, which underwent a three-year, \$3 million restoration. There are special sections here for Civil War veterans, Jews, Chinese, Masons and children — all providing an intimate look into the people who defined this frontier community for generations.

Thank you for taking the Deadwood Historic Walking Tour. It offers only a small sample of the history, excitement and fun that makes Deadwood a National Historic Landmark.



The grave of Wild Bill Hickok was completely restored as part of a three-year, \$3 million restoration project at Mount Moriah Cemetery.

THERE'S MORE TO LEARN ABOUT DEADWOOD, AN ENTIRE CITY DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.

Consider these books, available at
various locations in Deadwood:

Gold, Gals, Guns & Guts by Bob Lee

All Roads Lead to Deadwood by Irma H. Klock

**Boots on Bricks: A Walking Tour of Historic
Downtown Deadwood** by Mark S. Wolfe

Deadwood: The Golden Years by Watson Parker

Mount Moriah by Helen Rezatto

Deadwood's Mount Moriah Cemetery
by Michael W. Runge

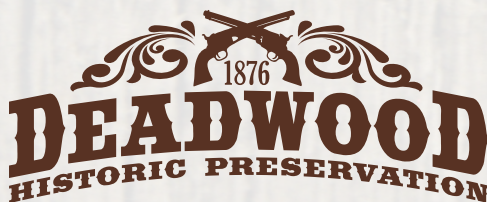
Old Deadwood Days by Estelline Bennett

Wild Bill & Calamity Jane by James McLaird

Calamity Jane: The Woman and the Legend
by James McLaird

A Marvelous Hundred Square Miles by Suzanne Julin

Seth Bullock: Black Hills Lawman by David Wolff



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