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BOZEMAN  
**WOMEN'S**  
**HERITAGE**  
TRAIL



**A SELF-GUIDED TOUR**

Connie Staudohar~Anne Banks~Linda Peavy~Ursula Smith~Derek Strahn



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To credit everyone who has helped me in this project would be almost as difficult as collecting a definitive history of Bozeman women. Knowing there may be omissions or oversights, I nevertheless want to thank the many people who have contributed to this booklet. First and foremost, many thanks to Ursula Smith, Linda Peavy, Dr. Melody Zadjel and Derek Strahn, each of whom read and edited all of the work.

I am grateful to the archivists, historians, and family members who have helped me track down manuscripts, letters and photographs. Among them are: Debbie Nash and the Special Collections Staff at Montana State University; Eleanor Buzalsky and the staff at the Gallatin County Historical Society; Anne Banks; Dr. Merrill Burlingame; Mrs. Helen Heckenlaible; Carol Jo Thompson; Frances Senska; and Ray and Kay Campeau.

I appreciate the very capable assistance of photographer Vicky Enger at MSU's Communication Services; Kathy Dawkins and Cathy Brosz at Insty Prints; mapmaker Teresa Larson; and graphic designers Anne Garner and Daphne Gillam.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Montana committee for the Humanities. I am grateful to Yvonne Gritzner, Administrative Assistant at MCH and Dr. Mary Murphy, MCH board Member. Also, many thanks to the Gallatin County Historical Society who sponsored the grant for the BWHT.

Finally, my family Chris, Dan and Brenna Boyd have been the best supporters, giving me their feedback on the stories and walking by the sites – formally and informally – for many an hour. A very special thanks to them.

Connie Staudohar  
Bozeman, Montana

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Supported by the  
Montana Committee for the Humanities

# INTRODUCTION

Women's lives and accomplishments have enriched the community of Bozeman since its beginning, yet their stories have largely gone untold. The **Bozeman Women's Heritage Trail** (BWHT) is an attempt to broaden our understanding of this community's unique and diverse history. In recovering the stories of local women and associating them with specific places, the **Bozeman Women's Heritage Trail** seeks to restore women to their rightful place in our public memory while also drawing attention to Bozeman's built environment.

Encompassing an area of Bozeman's South Side that lies between the city's Main Street business district, and the Montana State University (MSU) campus, this walking tour will acquaint you with many buildings that were central to the lives of some of Bozeman's most notable women. You'll also find streets named for the families from which these women came, a city park that was shaped by the benevolence of women's organizations, and a school that symbolizes the early dedication of women to education even as it reminds us of the inequities women faced in employment.

This booklet focuses on a specific geographic area and is not meant to be a complete history of Bozeman women. Because of the town/gown nature of this specific neighborhood, it has been home to many professional women and founding families—in numbers not necessarily characteristic of other Bozeman neighborhoods.

There are many other deserving women whose stories have yet to be told and this tour is only a beginning. The **Bozeman Women's Heritage Trail** project hopes eventually to include other districts of this city, with their own distinct populations. The ongoing effort to reclaim the stories of American women and locate them within the broader context of our nation's history must now reach to the local level, where the past experiences, aspirations, and accomplishments of women still go largely unrecognized. The **Bozeman Women's Heritage Trail** is our attempt to do just that.

During the time you give to walking these streets we hope that the tangible evidence of each building, street sign, or city park—along with the background given in this booklet—will help you to reconstruct the lives of a few of Bozeman's once-prominent, if now forgotten, women and to gain a new appreciation of the contributions women have made to the life of this city. We hope you come away from this tour with a sense of the richness of some heretofore unsung lives and with a new perspective of our community's past.

Connie Staudohar, Project Director  
with Anne Banks, Linda Peavy,  
Ursula Smith and Derek Strahn



## BOZEMAN WOMEN'S HERITAGE TRAIL



MAP BY TERESA LARSON

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. The Housekeepers' Club<br>Cooper Park                         | 11. Home Management Center<br>119 West Cleveland               |
| 2. Ellen Trent Story<br>Story Street                             | 12. L.L. Brotherton<br>304 West Cleveland                      |
| 3. Frieda Bull House<br>411 West Story                           | 13. Chi Omega Sorority<br>405 West Cleveland                   |
| 4. Julia Martin House<br>419 South Grand                         | 14. Quadrangle<br>U. Campus & Cleveland                        |
| 5. Zada Sales Dickson<br>501 South Grand                         | 15. Hannon Hall<br>U. Campus & S. Seventh                      |
| 6. Kate Calvin House<br>609 South Grand                          | 16. Herrick Hall<br>U. Campus & S. Seventh                     |
| 7. Mrs. Thorpe's Boarding<br>613 South Grand                     | 17. Hapner Hall and Quonset<br>Museum<br>U. Campus & Cleveland |
| 8. Ella Clark Martin<br>Ella Clark Apartments<br>616 South Grand | 18. Site of Helen R. Brewer<br>Residence<br>827 Eighth Avenue  |
| 9. Frances Weatherby Alderson<br>Alderson Street                 | 19. Irving School<br>611 South Eighth Avenue                   |
| 10. Kate Ferris Story<br>800 South Grand                         |  |

## BOZEMAN WOMEN'S HERITAGE TRAIL

Time: 1 1/2 hours • Distance: 1.5 miles

### IN THE BEGINNING

The city of Bozeman nestles in the Gallatin Valley, or the Valley of the Flowers as it was known to the migratory bands of Native Americans. Tribes such as the Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Gros Ventre, Nez Perce, Shoshoni and Sioux long favored the valley as a temporary residence and a gateway to the herds of buffalo that once occupied the plains east of the Rocky Mountains, just beyond what is now called Bozeman Pass. Though the women of these Plains tribes left no enduring mark on the valley, they played a large part in tribal life, being basically responsible for the establishment of each camp; putting up the tipis; gathering the fuel, water, edible roots, berries, and medicinal herbs that supported the camp; dressing skins; making clothing; and caring for children.

The one woman who escapes the anonymity of her Native American sisters is **Sacagawea**, the Shoshone Indian who knew of the Valley of the Flowers and led the homeward-bound Lewis and Clark party through here in 1806, then on eastward through the pass in the mountains. A well-climbed peak in the nearby Bridger Mountain Range bears the name Sacagawea in honor of this legendary figure.

It was another half-century before Montana Territory was carved out of this vast expanse of the Louisiana Purchase. Then, in the same year in which Montana Territory was created—1864—the Valley of the Flowers sprouted a townsite. When John Bozeman, an early immigrant who came with dreams of striking gold in the gulches and streams of the nearby mining districts, saw the rich promise of the Gallatin Valley, he had no trouble convincing other disappointed gold-seekers to join him in town building. It was in this infant community that Bozeman's founding mothers settled themselves and their families. These women were unified by their work as nurturers, educators and organizers—roles that fell within acceptable boundaries—yet they pushed those very boundaries to their limits creating new paths for the future.

### WOMEN SETTLERS

As Mary Hunter Doane observed in the early years of this century, "The story of men's ventures in the West has been threshed and rethreshed, but very little attention has been paid to the disruption of women's lives by [their] removal from civilization to western wilderness." The wisdom



of her observation becomes apparent in the stories to be told on the first stop on the **Bozeman Women's Heritage Trail**. Pause here at **Cooper Park [1]**, bounded on the north by **Story Street [2]** and on the south by Koch, to reflect on the experiences of Bozeman's first generation of women settlers as they civilized this "western wilderness," both through their individual efforts and through their organizations.

In the mid-nineteenth century, gold fever spread like an epidemic from the camps of California to the gulches of western Montana, and it was the lure of gold that first brought Walter Cooper west. After his gold fever had cooled, Cooper became one of Bozeman's first and certainly one of its most energetic entrepreneurs and his wife, **Mariam Skeels Cooper**, matched her husband's interest in town development. Those interests—not to mention the town's sparse population—soon brought Mariam Cooper in contact with Ellen Trent Story.

At the age of nineteen, **Ellen Trent Story** had accompanied her young husband, Nelson, to the gold camps at Bannack and Alder Gulch in 1863, where she sold her home-baked bread and pies to hungry miners while Nelson worked his claims. The Storys were among the fortunate few who actually struck it rich—their claim yielded \$30,000 worth of gold. But as the gold played out, the couple began to look for another home, and in 1866 they settled in Bozeman. Immediately thereafter, Ellen stayed in Bozeman when Nelson left for Texas to begin his legendary drive of 600 longhorns north to Montana.

Ellen welcomed other women settlers as they arrived and often lent a helping hand. We have evidence of this from a young woman's diary entry: "The first thing kind Mrs. Story taught me," this newcomer wrote, "was to roast coffee in the oven." Ellen Story retained her interest and skill in the household arts despite her family's growing wealth. When the Storys built their Main Street mansion in the 1880s, Ellen allowed her Jersey cows to graze on her lawn, and she herself churned the butter made from their rich milk. Though Ellen gave birth to seven children in all, only three sons and one daughter survived. The three daughters who died in childhood, including a baby named Alice Montana, are buried in the Sunset Hills cemetery, on the eastern limits of the city.



"Mother and her cows."  
Ellen Trent Story.  
Gallatin County  
Historical Society.

## EARLY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Just as Walter Cooper, Nelson Story and Peter Koch were the "movers and shakers" in this early period of Bozeman development, **Mariam Skeels Cooper, Ellen Trent Story and Laurentze (Nellie) Koch** became the community's "molders and shapers." This first generation of settlers, and in turn their daughters and granddaughters, not only took an active interest in civic affairs but also directed their ample energies toward organizing clubs to foster self-improvement and education. Thus it's appropriate here in Cooper Park to acknowledge one of Bozeman's historic women's organizations: the **Montana State Housekeeper's Society**.

Mary Long Alderson of Bozeman, a daughter-in-law of one of the town's pioneering couples—and a woman about whom you'll hear more later—attended the First International Women's Congress at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago (the fabled Chicago World's Fair) in 1893 and later recalled its effect: "We returned home," Alderson wrote, "and we organized—organized with the inspiration . . . the Women's Congress had given us." And organize she did: an art club, a "Rational Dress Club" and the Housekeeper's Society.

Founded in 1894, The Housekeeper's Society was initially intended "to encourage and stimulate interest in more scientific methods of housekeeping." However, the club's programs gradually came to reflect the broader guidelines of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. By 1896, the Federation was asking its membership, "Is there not room in the clubs to . . . investigate township affairs and . . . report on the provision of light which is the best protection for life and property?" And some seventy years later, in 1965, the **Housekeepers' Club of Bozeman**, which had evolved from Mary Alderson's earlier organization, won the national grand prize in the Crusade for Light project jointly sponsored by the General Federated Women's Clubs and the Reader's Digest Foundation for promoting the best lighting improvements in a city. Appropriately, their \$500 in prize money went toward the installation and maintenance of lights in **Cooper Park** and other areas of the city.

By the 1970s, the Bozeman Housekeepers' Club had begun to wane. As the membership aged, fewer women had the energy or inclination to tackle major projects, and as the city grew, more and more civic programs were being taken over by government agencies. In 1984, on its ninetieth birthday, the Housekeepers' Club of Bozeman disbanded. As a final civic gesture, the members donated their treasury of \$1,000 to the city to be used for additional lighting in Cooper Park. It was their way of participating in "Take Back the Night," a nationwide rape prevention program.



## BOZEMAN'S GROWTH

As you leave **Cooper Park** and head east on **Story Street**, consider how Bozeman grew in its first thirty years. By 1894, Bozeman was a thriving town of about 4,000 people, boasting seven churches, a public school system, a public library, three banks, and two newspapers. The Northern Pacific's southern line had reached town in 1883, telephones had been introduced in 1885, electric power came in 1887, and an imposing building that housed both City Hall and an opera house was completed in 1890. Most important to community growth, in February of 1893 the state legislature selected Bozeman as the site of the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts—soon to be Montana State College (MSC) and eventually Montana State University (MSU). Townspeople, who had been disappointed when Bozeman lost out to Helena in the bid for the state capital, rejoiced when they were awarded the college, for they knew the campus would bring in education and culture, so essential to any developing community.

## WOMEN IN EDUCATION

**The Frieda Bull House [3].** Your next stop on the **Women's Heritage Trail** is at **411 West Story**, long-time residence of **Frieda Bull**. Along with

**Kate Calvin, Lilla Harkins, Frederica Marshall, and Helen Brewer** (all of whom you'll meet later in the tour), Frieda Bull was among the first generation of academic women in Bozeman. After graduating from Gallatin County High School in 1903, she moved on to classes at the campus on the hill, graduating in 1907 with a degree in math and physics. Immediately thereafter, she was offered a position in the math department at her alma mater. At a time when few women received a college education, let alone held a faculty position, Frieda Bull was an anomaly, rising to full professorship in what many still consider a nontraditional



Frieda Mildred Bull,  
1910 Montanan. MSU Archives.

field for women. By her own estimate, she taught 14,000 students in her long career, the large majority of them males, and it was these young men who established the saying around campus that their professor's initials—FMB—stood for "flunking many boys." Frieda Bull's stature on campus paved the way for other women, both students and faculty, to advance in academe, and the town as well as the college recognized its loss upon her retirement in 1954.

**The Julia Martin House [4].** Continue your walk east on Story street to the imposing brick home at **419 South Grand**. More of a "salon" that provided residential living than a typical boardinghouse, the **Julia Martin** house is an example of the comfortable intersection of town/gown women.

Built in 1892 by James and Sallie Martin, Gallatin Valley pioneers, this house was designed by George Hancock, who also designed the Bozeman Hotel, the imposing building at the corner of Rouse and Main Streets, just west of City Hall. Julia herself was not born in the house that has carried her name for decades, but moved here with her family when she was nine. For the next seventy-five years this would be her home.

Because her father was a prominent banker and rancher and her mother was active in Bozeman's cultural life, young Julia was witness to, and sometimes participant in, many social events in this house—from music recitals to tea parties. After her graduation from Gallatin County High School in 1902, she went east for two years to a finishing school in Massachusetts.

Though she never obtained a baccalaureate degree, Julia was very interested in education, and on her return from the East, she was quite naturally drawn into the educational, cultural, and social activities of the Montana State College. Her closest friends were single women engaged in academic life—teachers, artists, and home extension professionals drawn to Bozeman by the college.

Upon the death of her mother in 1925, Julia Martin fell heir to this house, and soon thereafter she opened wide its doors, taking in single women on the college faculty. At any one time there would be three or four women in residence here—two in rooms on the top floor and two on the second. The women only roomed here, taking their meals elsewhere—at the Bungalow Drug downtown, at nearby boardinghouses, or in dining facilities in the women's dorms in the campus Quadrangle.

In November of 1927, two years after she had taken possession of this home, Julia began a tradition that was to last for thirty-seven years: the legendary Thanksgiving celebrations she hosted for her roomers and their friends. There was one hard-and-fast rule for attendance at these affairs. The guest list was limited to what **Leora Hapner**, long-time head of the education department at the college, called "those loose women on campus." Neither married women—nor the single women who had families in the area—qualified for inclusion in the day's events. Thus



Hapner herself, who lived with her brother and his family, was never a Thanksgiving guest here, despite the fact she was a close friend of Julia's and of many of the women who lived in this house over the years.

The last of the Thanksgiving dinners was held in the fall of 1964. The following year, Julia's health failed considerably, and the women decided against having the celebration that November. Six months later, in May of 1966, at age 81, Julia Martin died. Her funeral took place in this home. The current owners, who obtained the house shortly after Julia's death, have retained virtually all of the original furnishings, including Julia's wood cookstove, which is still used to roast the Thanksgiving turkey.



*Julia Martin, ca. 1916. MSU Archives.*

**Julia Martin's Circle.** Some of Montana's most important artists, educators, and humanists were among the women who either roomed in the Julia Martin house, attended her Thanksgiving dinners, or were counted in Julia Martin's circle of friends. Reflect on the accomplishments of just a few of their number.

**Bertha Clow,** one of the earliest residents in Julia Martin's home, came to Bozeman in 1929 as a member of the Home Economics Department at MSC. A pioneer in world nutrition studies, Bertha traveled the globe, studying government food programs in other countries. In later years, she was called in to help in the training of Peace Corps personnel. In recognition of her work, Bertha was given the Blue and Gold Award, MSU's highest award for service.

**Geraldine Fenn** came to Bozeman in 1946 to head the Extension Service's 4-H program. Gerry started "self-determined projects" for 4-H, her favorite being that of a 4-H'er who studied a black-billed magpie called Jose. Gerry founded Montanans for Children, Youth, and Families and drafted the section in the 1972 state constitution that set forth the rights of children, a section that has since become a model for other state constitutions.



*Julia Martin's Circle:  
Bertha Clow, Geraldine Fenn,  
Harriette Cushman, Mildred Leigh,  
Jessie Wilber and Frances Senska.  
MSU Archives.*



**Harriette Cushman**, though a member of Julia Martin's circle, never lived in this house. Harriette's interests were broad—from Indian education to poetry—but her area of expertise was agriculture. One of the nation's few women professionals in agricultural education, she was a poultry specialist on the College of Agriculture faculty from 1922 to 1956.

**Mildred Leigh** was another early resident of this house. She came to Bozeman in the fall of 1930 as the housemother for Hamilton Hall, the women's dorm on the college campus, which you'll hear of again on this tour. In 1940, she was appointed the director of the new Student Union Building. At her retirement, Leigh Lounge, the large formal room in the SUB, was named in her honor.

**Frances Senska** took a room in the Julia Martin house when she came to Bozeman in 1946 as an "arts generalist" at Montana State College. As the school's art department matured and specialties were recognized, Frances concentrated more and more on her ceramics. Over time, she came to influence a generation of Montana artists and in recognition of her contributions to the state's cultural life, she was given the Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts in 1988.

**Jessie Wilber** became a resident in this house when she arrived in Bozeman in 1941. From that year until her retirement in 1972, Jessie was an influential member of the art faculty at the college. With Frances Senska, she was a founding member of the Montana Institute of the Arts and of the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena. And with Frances, she received the Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts in 1988, a year before her death.



Julia Martin House. MSU Archives.

## BOZEMAN'S STREETCAR SYSTEM

Upon leaving the Julia Martin house, turn right and walk south on Grand, where streetcars once made their way, connecting Main Street and the busy downtown area, with Bozeman's South Side neighborhoods and, more importantly, with the college. By providing safe and socially acceptable transportation, streetcars increased women's mobility. **Beatrice Freeman Davis**, an MSC English professor who benefited from the streetcar system that linked the campus and the railroad station, had especially fond memories of the professional service rendered by one of the streetcar conductors. "Never was a street car conductor more obliging than Larry," she recalled, "if one wanted to take the street car to the depot, he would awaken her [with the car's clanging bell], wait until she was [ready to go] and stay at the depot with her until the train came in."

Streetcars served Bozeman from 1892 until 1922, by which time the popularity of the automobile and the high cost of maintaining the track system had made the town's streetcars impractical. Seventy years after it fell into disuse you can still find evidence of the city's streetcar system, for on rainy days puddles form all along the phantom tracks of the old Grand Street route.

## MORE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Your next stop is just south of Julia Martin's at **501 South Grand [5]**. Built in 1893, this impressive house is quite similar in size, form, and detailing to the Martin house and is very likely the work of the same architect. These two houses, and several other large masonry buildings in Bozeman, were built during the time the city was bidding to become the state capital. After many years as a single-family residence, this house became the Beta Epsilon fraternity house, but by 1940, the house had again changed hands and now offered rooms for rent. It was then that it became home, if only for a brief three years, to **Zada Sales Dickson**.

Born here in the valley in 1895, Zada was the daughter of a pioneer family who ranched near what is now Gallatin Gateway. As a young child, she displayed precocious musical talent. By the age of sixteen, she had earned a diploma in music from the college and had already carved out a statewide reputation for her solo performances as well as for accompanying other leading artists. In addition to performing, Zada gave private piano lessons to Bozeman children and taught on the music faculty at MSC from 1934 into the 1950s.

Zada Sales Dickson's standing as a Gallatin Valley native from a well-established pioneer family fostered her acceptance as a well-traveled performer and professor of music, roles generally not held by women of her era. Her accomplishments were one more means by which doors



were opened for young women following in her footsteps. Zada herself benefited from an even earlier role model, one of the college's first professors, **Kate Calvin**.

## THAT FIRST GENERATION OF ACADEMIC WOMEN

As early as the middle of the nineteenth century, the United States was boasting that it led the rest of the world in providing education, both public and private, to its women. By the early twentieth century, these educational opportunities sometimes afforded women admission to graduate schools. But such opportunities were rare and came only to the most determined, for even those institutions that educated women rarely hired them as faculty members. What made the local college's first generation of academic women extraordinary, therefore, is not only their level of education, but their level of employment.

**The Kate Calvin House [6].** In 1894, **Kate Calvin** came to the school to teach music from the College of Montana at Deer Lodge. While the two other Deer Lodge faculty members who came at the same time—Professors Frank W. Traphagen and Augustus M. Ryon—were given set salaries, Professor Calvin was to “obtain her compensation entirely from fees.” So successfully did Calvin obtain due compensation that by 1901, seven years after her arrival, she had secured a house pattern and authorized the building of a home at **609 South Grand**. In addition to this single-family residence, Kate Calvin had a larger house built next door at **613 South Grand**. This residence, termed “handsome and modern” by Bozeman's *Avant Courier* in June of 1901, would serve as a boardinghouse for many years to come. Kate Calvin, perhaps well enough rewarded by her real estate ventures, retired from the college faculty in 1904 after ten years of teaching. At a time when the school was primarily an institution for “agriculture and the mechanic arts,” Professor Calvin's music instruction introduced a layer of culture that broadened the education available to early-day students.

Kate Calvin, ca. 1900. MSU Archives.



**Mary Thorpe's Boardinghouse [7].** Men and women, townspeople and academics boarded here at **613 South Grand**, where **Mary Thorpe** provided lodgings in Kate Calvin's second house. Among Thorpe's boarders at one time or another were some of the town's—and the college's—acknowledged leaders.

James Hamilton, president of the college from 1904 to 1919, lived here from 1912 to 1916 after the death of his first wife, **Emma Hamilton**. Though invalided for many years, Emma was nevertheless “a prominent and favorite figure” around the college in the first decade of this century. Two years after her death in 1909, the first women's dormitory built on the campus—Hamilton Hall—was named in her honor. The naming had been instigated by the women faculty at MSC and sanctioned by the State Board of Education.

Milliner **Kate Bartlett**, another of Mary Thorpe's boarders, was a department manager of the Golden Rule, the large dry goods store on Main Street that sold everything from sheets to high-fashion hats. It was Kate Bartlett who designed, constructed, and sold those very hats. She also passed on her trade to several other women who were apprenticed under her.

**Lilla Harkins** came to Bozeman in 1898 with a master's degree from South Dakota Agricultural College in Brookings and boarded for a time in this house. She came to establish the **Home Science Department**, which she directed until her retirement in 1919.



Mary Thorpe's Boardinghouse, ca. 1914. MSU Archives.

Pictured left to right in doorway: Lilla Harkins, Mary Thorpe and Kate Bartlett; James Hamilton on far right.



## WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

At 616 South Grand [8], just across the street from Mary Thorpe's boardinghouse, stands the still-substantial apartment building financed by E. Broox Martin, prominent Bozeman businessman, banker, and developer. This unusual structure, one of only three buildings in Bozeman constructed completely of molded concrete blocks, was named for Martin's wife, **Ella T. Clark Martin**. The apartment building gives evidence of the demand for housing that characterized Bozeman in the early twentieth century. As a "five-family" residence, the **Clark Apartments** were once home to many of Bozeman's teachers. Over time Ella Clark Martin became known for her philanthropy, especially in support of women's causes. Among other things, she funded the beautiful stone building at Beall Park on Bozeman's North Side that honored **Rosa Beall**, reputed to be the first woman settler in the Gallatin Valley. Ella stipulated that the building be used as "a community center where young and old of Gallatin Valley may gather and enjoy themselves and indulge in wholesome recreation." Ella Clark Martin also underwrote the **Home Management Center** which you'll visit later in the tour.

## MORE ABOUT THE EARLY SETTLERS

Continue South on Grand Street and you'll cross **Alderson Street** [9], named for W. W. Alderson, who is credited with naming Bozeman. As you cross Alderson, reflect on the history of the Alderson women, for whom no street is named and yet who contributed in good measure to this town's development.

**Frances Weatherby Alderson**, like thousands of other nineteenth-century wives, became a "woman in waiting" when her husband left her and their four children back home in Wisconsin while he and his brother headed to the goldfields of Virginia City, Montana Territory. One look at the Gallatin Valley changed their interests from mining to farming, and settling in newly established Bozeman, they sent for their families. In 1866, Frances Alderson and her children arrived in town, where Frances was soon known for her cooking and gardening skills. So great was her reputation as a baker that local millers would provide her with samples of their flour, with which she was to bake loaves of bread and then offer the millers advice on how they might improve their product. Her horticulture skills were such that she was able to pin a boutonniere on her husband's suitcoat every day of the year. Frances Alderson gave herself to such activities even as she bore and raised five more children after she had settled in Montana.

One of the older Alderson children, who had come with her mother to Bozeman when she was six years old, **Elizabeth Lina Alderson Houston** was a member of the first class to graduate from Gallatin County High School. Lina then went on to attend Northwestern University. Widowed as a thirty-year-old, she stayed east to teach school in Chicago but in 1902 came home to Bozeman and took a job as a reporter with the **Avant Courier**. Staying on when the paper evolved into the **Bozeman Daily Chronicle**, she's said to have handed in her last copy just four hours before her death in 1933.

In addition to her newspaper work, Lina Alderson Houston was active in a host of organizations, including the Housekeepers' Club (mentioned earlier in connection with Cooper Park) and the Bozeman Woman's Club, serving as president of both organizations. A longtime member of the city Recreation Board, she used that position as well as her influence with the Housekeepers' Club to push for acquisition of the Beall Park property on the city's North Side and for the construction of a building, playground, and skating rink on the park grounds. Houston's **Early History of Gallatin County**, based in part on her father's diaries, is still an important source for local historians.

Sister-in-law to Lina Alderson Houston was **Mary Long Alderson**, who came to Bozeman from Massachusetts in 1888 as the wife of Matt W. Alderson, son of W. W. and Frances Alderson and publisher of the **Avant Courier**, Bozeman's leading newspaper of the day. Mary Alderson was quickly involved in life in Bozeman, becoming not only a founding member of the Housekeeper's Society, as noted earlier, but also working for her husband's paper, writing stories "about things women were doing and about educational and other worth-while public movements." Her articles advanced her strongly held views on the "rational dress" movement. "Until woman is allowed to have ankles, there is no hope for her brains," Mary Alderson wrote in quoting the leader of that movement. A highly visible and respected woman, Mary Alderson lent her support to the causes she saw as advancing woman's lot, no matter how controversial these causes were. Thus, in addition to giving much of her energy to the Housekeeper's Society, she was active in Montana's Women's Suffrage Society and in the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), holding state offices in the latter organization. Montana women gained the right to vote in 1914, a full six years before passage of the 19th Amendment.





SAE/Story House, ca. 1924. Gallatin County Historical Society.

Continue south on Grand for another block and a half, and you'll see on your left the back of the imposing **Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE House)** originally built for Nelson and Ellen Trent Story's youngest son and his wife, T. Byron and **Kate Ferris Story [10]**. By the time Byron and Kate Story moved into this mansion in 1910, he was in charge of all the Story interests in the Gallatin Valley, including livestock operations, farming, flour milling, and banking, and their stately home seemed an appropriate dwelling for one of the community's most prestigious families. There was a large ballroom on the top floor and the home featured the latest in scientific housekeeping accouterments, including a central vacuuming system for which each room in the house had an outlet covered by molded brass clock valves. The carriage house that sits just southwest of the house serves as a reminder that the home was built in the era of horse-drawn vehicles, even though at the time Bozeman could boast of its streetcars and its railroad service.

It was by rail that **Kate Ferris** had first arrived in Bozeman, coming here with her mother, **Margaret Eastman Ferris**, another woman in waiting, and her sisters to be reunited with her Father, Eddy Franklin Ferris, who had preceded them west. This family of girls arrived in Bozeman on the first commercial passenger train over the Northern Pacific line in 1883, and six years later, upon the death of their mother, Kate and her sisters were sent east again to live with an aunt. But once she'd finished her schooling and had the financial means to return to Montana, Kate came right back to Bozeman, arriving in 1893. She taught in country schools for five years before marrying Byron Story in 1898. Building their mansion twelve years later, the Storys lived there until 1922, when they sold the house to the SAEs, who have occupied it ever since.

## WOMAN'S SCIENCE: THE HOME MANAGEMENT CENTER [11]

Your next stop is **119 West Cleveland**, the white house on the northeast corner of Grand and Cleveland Streets. Now a private residence, this house served for years as the **Home Management Center**, where the college's home economic students learned the essentials of managing and maintaining a home. The initial home management program started in 1918 with funds secured by the Smith-Hughes Act, a national program providing for vocational training. The campus program went by many names, including the "Ladies Course" and "Domestic Science," but whatever its name, its importance at a land-grant school like MSC was never questioned.

This practical, hands-on program floated between vacant faculty houses until 1931, when the dean of women, **Gladys Branegan**, convinced the college administration to provide a permanent location for instruction. With the substantial financial backing of **Ella Clark Martin**, the house on Cleveland became the Home Management Center and served the department for a forty-year period.

A curious footnote to the program involves the teaching of infant care. In 1925, a three-month-old baby became a member of the home management family. This "practice house baby" was obtained from the State Adoption Agency so that the students might get experience in the care of infants. A departmental report noted "a solicitous concern for



[the baby's] its future," questioning whether the child should be "returned to its parents, or adopted into a good family, or a real sorrow to everyone, be taken back to The Home." In subsequent years babies were also obtained from the Florence Crittenden home in Helena and later the babies were the children of married college students. The policy of having a baby in the Home Management House was discontinued in 1964.

Katherine Ferris Story and daughters. GCHS.



## PROGRESSIVE PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT: BOZEMAN'S WEST CLEVELAND STREET

West Cleveland is the location of several historic and architecturally significant early-twentieth-century residences. A fashionable neighborhood, it was easily the intellectual center of Bozeman and highly representative of the town's "progressive phase of development," a period lasting from 1913 to 1929 that was shaped by increasing economic diversification and a renewed sense of civic responsibility. The women of the prominent families residing on Cleveland were extremely active in a variety of social organizations, and there's little doubt that in 1935 they were instrumental in putting in the concrete lampposts that still adorn South Willson Avenue and West Cleveland Street.

The residence at **304 West Cleveland [12]**, is not only representative of building during the "progressive phase," it is also of particular significance to local women's history. This two-and-a-half story, single-family residence, designed by Fred F. Willson, a prominent local architect, once belonged to **L. L. Brotherton** who, as owner of the Brotherton/Kirk Seed House and the Bozeman Canning Company, was determined to make Bozeman "the sweet pea capital of the nation" and he employed hundreds of women from 1912 through the 1950s in this effort. Although strenuous, life in Brotherton's pea factory afforded local women the opportunity to meet new people and to get beyond the sometimes stifling restriction of home life. Employment in the industry also allowed women to help their families get through the depression years of the 1930s, when local seed houses intentionally hired more women than they needed, a policy that enabled women to support their families when their parents or husbands could not—and which ultimately, if indirectly, enhanced the overall status of these women and helped to foster a degree of gender equity in the Gallatin Valley. The dubious nature of this "equity" is emphasized in the underlying fact that no woman whose husband was employed could secure a job in the seed and canning industry.

Continue to walk west to **405 West Cleveland [13]**, another house designed by architect Fred Willson and one that's a good example of the status Cleveland Street held as "the choice residential neighborhood" of the 1920s and 1930s. Built in 1927, this large house was designed for Hubert Bath who, like Brotherton, was a major figure in the seed pea industry in Bozeman. However, the Baths did not occupy this house for long, for soon after it was built, it was rented as a practice house in Home Management. Then, in the 1930s, **Chi Omega**, a campus sorority took possession.

Sororities had been developed, both nationally and on the local level, to meet the demand for suitable housing for college women and to provide a place for "appropriate" social gatherings. This need was particularly pressing in Bozeman, since the only women's dorm on campus—Hamilton Hall—was habitually filled because of increased enrollment during the 1920s and 1930s.

Concerned parents wanted their daughters in supervised surroundings, and sororities filled this important niche until 1935, when new campus housing became available for women.

By 1940, Chi Omega itself had moved to the campus proper, and the house at 405 West Cleveland became once more a single-family residence. In the 1980s, when Delta Gamma sorority sought to buy the house, the city commission, with pressure from neighborhood residents, denied the group's request, bowing to what was obviously a change in local attitude toward students living in the neighborhood.



*The Quadrangle. MSU Archives.*

## THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AND ITS WOMEN

**The Quadrangle [14].** Continue west on Cleveland for another block and a half and you'll find yourself on the campus of Montana State University. Enter the **Quadrangle** that dominates the 600 block of West Cleveland. Consider that at the time of their construction in 1935, the **Quads** were located over a block away from the campus proper. At their dedication, these three separate Tudor-style buildings provided housing for a total of 120 women students who lived there both in sororities and in "cooperatives," which were intended as an alternative living arrangement for students who were either older or who had limited financing. The rooms on the main floor of each of the buildings could be converted from their day-to-day functions as dining, living, and library areas into open space conducive to large parties and dancing. Dinners of under one dollar were always available for guests—and liver was NEVER to be served when guests were scheduled. It's easy to see how the Quadrangle soon became the focal point for much of the campus's social life.



Ironically, this area is today officially called the Alfred Atkinson Quadrangle, even though President Atkinson initially opposed **Dean Gladys Branegan's** repeated requests to seek Public Works Administration monies to fund the sorely needed women's residence center in the early '30s. Because Branegan finally prevailed, the Quadrangle has the distinction of having the only campus buildings financed under the New Deal's public works program.

One further irony: The structures now labeled Quad A, Quad B, and Quad C in the Alfred Atkinson Quadrangle originally bore the names of three distinguished turn-of-the-century faculty women. That these women's names and their contributions have been all but forgotten in the interim only reminds us of the work left to be done in restoring women's lives to the historical record and honoring them in our public and private memories.

It seems fitting that the three housing units built for female students should have borne the names of faculty members who had paved the way for women at the college: Quad A was once named for **Lilla Harkins**, who directed the Home Science Department from 1898 to 1919; Quad B for **Kate Calvin**, who came in 1894 as the college's first music instructor; and Quad F for **Frederica Marshall**, who came to the campus as a widow in 1894 at the age of 68 to teach art.



The Montana State Flower  
by Frederica Marshall,  
ca. 1900. MSU Archives.

During her tenure Frederica Marshall was a one-woman department even though art instruction at the college included every aspect of the arts and crafts field, including furniture making and pottery. She not only encouraged the practical aspects of art but also fostered a "social atmosphere" through her weekly afternoon teas. Her lasting legacy to the school and the state was a series of watercolors of Montana wildflowers, a series that included the official drawing of the state flower, the Bitterroot.



Afternoon tea sponsored by Frederica Marshall, ca. 1900. MSU Archives.

**Hannon Hall [15].** Built as a women's dorm in the 1950's and located directly across from the Quads, Hannon Hall was named for another prominent art professor, **Olga Ross Hannon**. Coming to MSC in 1921 to head the Art Department, Hannon remained here as department head and teacher for the next twenty-five years. At one time she also served as acting dean of the Household and Industrial Arts Department, which embraced the home economics, applied art, and secretarial science curricula. Hannon's ultimate aim was to "prepare students for a *practical* realization of their talents," a credo that fit well in the context of a land-grant college. Despite her administrative duties, she continued to devote herself to her own art. "Hannon was a large woman who did large paintings with bold, brash strokes," a friend has said. If you enter Hannon Hall, you will see several of Hannon's watercolors displayed in the lobby of the building. Her portrait hangs there too, yet, sadly, it is not identified.



**Herrick Hall [16].** Directly west of Hannon Hall is **Herrick Hall**. Built in 1925 as a "women's building," this impressive structure represented the status women had achieved at MSC and honored **Una B. Herrick**, dean of women and residence director of Hamilton Hall, the college's first women's dorm. Called a "trail-blazer in a frontier college," and cited as the woman who had "made a place for women on this men's college campus," Dean Herrick was afforded the rare honor of having a building dedicated in her name while she was still actively involved in campus life.

Dedicated to economic independence for women, Dean Herrick organized a Girl's Vocational Congress on campus in 1913 to explore career opportunities for young women—from nursing to truck gardening. The Girl's Vocational Congress evolved over the years into High School Week, a coed program now attracting hundreds of students to Bozeman from all over the state.

But economic independence was not Dean Herrick's only aim. The larger ethic of "cultured womanhood" fueled and directed all her educational and organizational activities. If, as she wrote, "it is the business of the Dean to develop each girl to her highest economic value," then the means of doing so, she said, were through the blending of a "well-balanced mind, a strong and properly functioning body and high moral character." Herrick was also an instructor in English drama, organized the physical education department for women—and unintentionally precipitated a nationally publicized, campus wide student strike.

In 1930, as a "precautionary measure," Herrick instituted an eleven p.m. weekend curfew for women residents at the college, an act that so upset the undergraduates, male and female, that they shut down the campus for four days. *Time Magazine* picked up the story and reported that the "gateways to the campus of MSC were picketed . . . and from the women's dormitory came the wail of 'The Prisoner's Song.'" Dean Herrick was stunned by the students' reaction: "It never occurred to me they would question the wisdom of my request," she wrote to President Atkinson. After serving MSC for over twenty years, Herrick retired in 1935.

**Hapner Hall and the Quonset Museum [17].** Just west of the Quads lies **Hapner Hall**, a women's dormitory honoring **Leora Hapner**, head of the Education and Psychology Department at MSC from 1932 to 1947. Hapner's life spanned an early childhood spent in a dugout in Nebraska,



Una B. Herrick. MSU Archives.

immigration west in 1898 in a covered wagon—because her family had heard that "sweet peas grew in the [Gallatin] canyon into October"—and, over forty years spent teaching in the Gallatin Valley.

Before Hapner Hall was built in 1959, this site was occupied by the **Quonset Museum**. **Dr. Caroline McGill** founded the museum in 1957 to house the large number of Montana artifacts she had collected as a hobby during her forty-two-year medical practice in Butte. Upon her retirement—and to the surprise of many—Dr. McGill moved into the quonset huts along with her artifacts, despite the lack of a bathroom and running water in the quonsets. During the coldest weather she took refuge with Leora Hapner who lived just down the street, but otherwise she worked tediously day in and day out determined to sort and catalog her collection. But Caroline McGill was single minded and she knew her time was short. Eventually, the Quonset Museum moved, changed its name, moved again, and changed its name again. Dr. McGill did not live to see the formal dedication of her work as the **Museum of the Rockies** but her role as founder of this large regional museum is recognized by a stately bronze plaque in the facility's main lobby.



Caroline McGill with her antiques. Museum of the Rockies.



To reach the final stop on the MSU campus, walk farther west on Cleveland to Eighth Street and head north one block to Harrison. Like the Quonset Museum, the object of interest here no longer exists, but it once stood where Johnstone Center, the dorm just across the street, now stands. This 800 block of South Eighth once supported a number of gracious, if smaller, homes, including the residence of **Helen Richards Brewer [18]**, who was another one of the relatively few women who held an academic position in this country at the turn of the century. Few of these women achieved their position without the advocacy of an influential male and in the case of Helen Brewer, it was her brother William who was "brash enough" to ask that his sister replace him on the faculty during his sabbatical year. Thus Helen arrived in Bozeman in 1898 to teach history. When her brother returned to campus the following year, she stayed on "in charge of the work of history." Upon her retirement, thirty-four years later, President Atkinson noted that surely "Miss Brewer" was one of the few women serving as head of the History Department in any institution of higher education in the United States.



Group of YWCA girls with Helen Brewer, second from right. Butte Train Depot, ca. 1908. MSU Archives.

## OFF CAMPUS, FULL CIRCLE

Continue north on Eighth until you reach **Irving Elementary School [19]** at 611 South Eighth, a structure built by Works Progress Administration (WPA) monies on a site that had previously been an onion patch. The original Irving School, called West Side School, was located just off Main Street and was supposedly the first brick school building in the county. When it opened in 1877, two of its three teachers were women whose salaries—at seventy dollars a month—were ten dollars a month less than that of their male colleague. The history of the women schoolteachers and principals here at Irving School, as well as throughout the city, reflects the commitment to excellence shown in all "women's work" in this community.

To return to Cooper Park, where you began the **Bozeman Women's Heritage Trail**, walk north for one block, taking with you memories of some of Bozeman's most influential women—educational and civic pioneers, courageous molders and shapers—whose work has left a mark on this community and on the lives of its populace.



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Cover Photo: *Florence Ballinger and friends.* MSU Archives.

Printing: *INSTY-PRINTS*

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# BOZEMAN, **W**OMEN'S HERITAGE TRAIL

*"As I had never been trained in the culinary art, many unpredicted mistakes occurred, but with the help of kind Mrs. Story, I soon learned to keep our table quite well supplied. The first thing Mrs. Story taught me was to roast coffee in the oven. The only coffee we could buy then was the green coffee beans."*

Sarah Bessey Tracy, 1869

*"Until woman is allowed to have ankles, there is no hope for her brains."*

Mary Alderson quoting Celia Whitehead, 1893

*"I was imbued with an idea of economic independence of women. I can hardly remember a woman who was employed as teacher, clerk or Librarian that did not financially support or assist dependents in their own families. We did not talk much about that sort of thing in those days. Each individual woman breadwinner seemed to think she was an unusual and a remote example and that it was not exactly ethical as a topic for discussion. It was put down on the same plane as discussing the price of articles of clothing."*

Lina B. Herrick, 1911

*"The story of men's ventures in the West has been threshed and rethreshed, but very little attention has been paid to the disruption of women's lives by the removal from civilization to western wilderness."*

Mary Hunter Doane, 1933

*"We feel that this should be a community, not just a college, or town, or county effort...we hope to make this a living museum, with constant change of exhibits."*

Caroline McGill, 1956