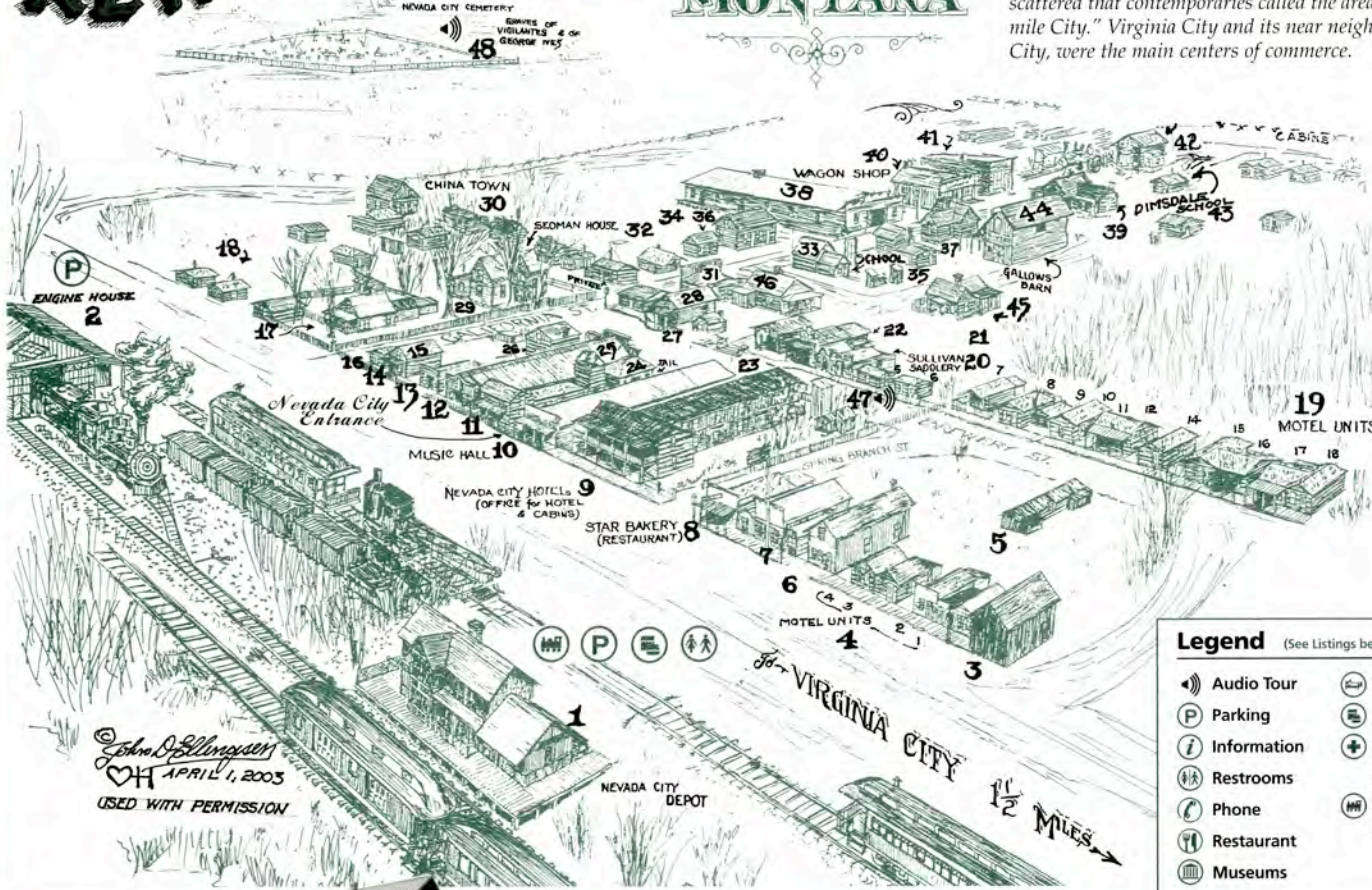


# Welcome To NEVADA CITY

# MONTANA



© John D. Hollingsworth  
 HT APRIL 1, 2003  
 USED WITH PERMISSION

Alder Gulch was the scene of Montana's greatest placer gold rush in the spring of 1863. By the fall of 1864, nearly ten thousand people crowded the surrounding hillsides. Small settlements were so numerous and so scattered that contemporaries called the area "Fourteen-mile City." Virginia City and its near neighbor, Nevada City, were the main centers of commerce.

- 7 **N.C. Emporium.** This early 1880's squared log building came from the Bishop Ranch near Dillon. The front was rebuilt to resemble the original Nevada City building on this site. (P)
- 8 **The Star Bakery.** One of the original NC buildings still standing, the Star Bakery's sign is prominent in the July 4, 1865 picture. It did a brisk business, but had closed by 1865 when the newly arrived Patrick McGovern family used it as their home. McGovern daughters Hannah and Mary long operated their famous Virginia City dry goods store, which remains today as it was when closed in the late 1930's. The McGovern ranch is visible northwest of Nevada City. (P) (H)
- 9 **Nevada City Hotel.** Originally the stage station south of Twin Bridges variously known as Bollinger, Gaffney, or Salisbur, this 1860's building was rebuilt on the site of the first Nevada City Hotel in 1959. The back portion was originally the employees dormitory at Canyon Hotel in Yellowstone Park. (P) (I) (I)
- 10 **Music Hall.** Originally built in 1912 as the Recreation Hall at Canyon Lodge in Yellowstone Park.
- 11 **Dry Goods Store.** The home of Reinhold Hippie, originally near the "Sun Ranch" in the Upper Madison, the house is furnished here to represent a frontier ladies Dry Goods store of the turn of the century. Much of the stock is from the Fair Department Store in Lewistown.



- 12 **Criterion Hall.** One of Alder Gulch's many notorious 1860's dance halls once occupied the site of this reconstruction. A news item in the *Montana Post* in December, 1864 reported three sisters with the last name of Canary, ages about 12, 10 and 1 year, begging in the streets of Virginia City while their father, a gambler, was conducting business in a place like this. Coinciding circumstances and dates make it likely that the oldest daughter was Martha Canary, later famous as Calamity Jane. By the 1870's dance halls had fallen from favor, and Criterion Hall was converted into a livery stable, while two in Virginia City remain as black smith shops.



- 13 **Cheap Cash Store.** Built in 1867 near Radersburg, Montana, this tiny store, furnished today as a crowded miner's store, was featured in the 1885 History of Montana.
- 14 **Site of Trial and Hanging of George Ives.** A 1920's marker pinpoints the reputed place where George Ives, first of the "road agents" to be hanged, met his death on December 21, 1863. The ridge log of an unfinished building was lowered at the rear end so the street end elevated over the front wall. "Near that point," Thomas Dimsdale described, "was tied the fatal cord with the open noose dangling fearfully at its lower end. A large (dr) goods box was the platform. The night had closed with a bright, full moon..." Fifty-eight minutes after Judge Byam pronounced sentence, Ives was led to the scaffold. People crowded every rooftop, and revolvers of men on both sides of the verdict flashed in the moon light. Upon the order, "Men, do your duty," guards aimed at the crowd, cocking their weapons to dissuade would-be rescuers. The sound had an eerie effect; complete silence fell upon the crowd as Ives swung into eternity.

- 15 **Molinari Organ Works.** Looking exactly like the original building on this site, this log house came from the Warberton Ranch near Cameron,



- 1 **The Depot.** Built in 1964 to Great Northern Railroad standard plans, this is a replica of the station in Hugo, Minnesota, which Charlie Bovey often visited as a child. (P)
- 2 **The Engine House.** Built by the Montana Heritage Commission in 1998-99 in the style of c. 1910 railroad structures, the Engine House was constructed to protect the fully restored Baldwin Steam Locomotive No. 12. The riveted steel trusses, made in 1910, are from the St. Lawrence Mine Engine Room (Hoist) in Butte. (P)



- 3 **Fenner Barn.** This mortise and tenon construction barn is an original Nevada City building. It was moved from across the highway in the early 1900's when the dredges came through.
- 4 **Motel units Nos. 1 - 4.** Rebuilt to represent buildings shown on the only photograph of Nevada City's main street, taken on July 4, 1865 these cabins were originally constructed in the 1870's near Alder, Montana.
- 5 **George Ives Jail.** George Ives, hanged here in Nevada City on December 21, 1863, was reputedly jailed in this original Nevada City building during his trial.

- 6 **Dr. Byam House.** Dr. Don L. Byam was the judge at the trial of George Ives. The Byam house was newly finished when the trial took place in December, 1863. Until the end of the Civil War in 1865, the anti-Confederate Union League met upstairs, reportedly in secrecy. Later, it was the home of Lawrence Fenner. Also a Union League activist, Fenner was a mining engineer who received the U.S. Mineral Patent on the Nevada City ground in 1878, and sold parcels to the few remaining residents. Along with the Finneys, he remained in Nevada City until his death in 1915, long after nearly everyone else had moved away.



**Legend** (See Listings below)

(Speaker icon) Audio Tour	(House icon) Hotels
(P icon) Parking	(Gift icon) Gifts
(I icon) Information	(Medical icon) Medical call 911 or go to INFORMATION
(Restroom icon) Restrooms	(Alder Gulch Railroad icon) Alder Gulch Railroad
(Phone icon) Phone	(Restaurant icon) Restaurant
(Museum icon) Museums	



Montana. It houses rare tools and spare organ parts from the Molinari Organ Works of Brooklyn, N.Y., obtained with the purchase of the Gavioli and other big organs in the Music Hall.

**16 Richards Cabin.** Legendary lawman X. Beidler reputedly viewed the lves hanging from the roof of this original cabin. Its pole roof predates the availability of boards.

**17 Finney Homestead.** The Frank Finney family occupied this original house from 1864 until 1958. The oldest part of their house, the low kitchen, was built in 1863, and in 1864 the front room with "second floor" was added. The original fireplace was closed when the Finneys could afford the luxury of a wood stove: the replaced logs can still be seen on the south side of the cabin. Clapboards, a porch, fancy trim and a fence were added as the years passed. As Nevada City buildings became abandoned, Finneys took them over as outbuildings, including the "summer kitchen." Water for laundry was drawn from an open well near the back door, but drinking water was carried from a spring a quarter-mile away. Rare examples of muslin-lined interior walls, the popular method of decorating on the western frontier, remain in tact. Daughter Cora Finney who lived here all her life died in 1958, the last "old-time" resident of Nevada City.

**18 Brooks Cabin.** Typical of a homestead cabin where logs could be obtained, this tiny c. 1870 home was originally on the Duncan Ranch near Twin Bridges. It is furnished with artifacts used by the Brooks Family in the 2002 PBS TV series Frontier House.

**19 Motel Units 5 - 18.** These are all real pioneer cabins, built c. 1863-1900, now fitted to be modern motel units. Cabins 15 and 16 were original to this site; others were moved from various places.

**20 Sullivan's Saddlery.** Gad Upson was appointed the first Blackfoot agent in Fort Benton in 1863, and this building housed the Indian agency. In 1865, Acting Governor Thomas Meagher, Upson, and 40 Blackfeet and other tribal representatives signed an important treaty in the building. Later known as the "Council House," the structure was a "flop-on-the-floor" hotel and saloon. In 1881, Sullivan & Goss set up their saddlery in the building, and supplied saddles to many famous Montana ranchmen until 1926, when the Saddlery closed and became the County Shop. Artist Charlie Russell was a frequent visitor. Complete with its original inventory intact, this was Charlie Bovey's first building acquisition, and started his display of real, complete buildings in the Great Falls Fair Grounds called "Old Town." The "Old Town" buildings were moved to Nevada City in 1959; most are located on this street.

**21 Elkhorn Barber Shop.** In its heyday in the 1870's and 80's, Elkhorn, south of Helena, was a booming silver town, producing 14 million dollars in precious metal. It is now one of the most photogenic ghost towns in the West. This shop, which stood almost across the street from the famous Fraternity Hall, was moved to "Old Town" with most of its original furnishing intact in 1941.

**22 Fire Station, Fire Bell.** Reconstructed from parts of the Basin Fire Station, this building houses a variety of vintage fire equipment. The Basin fire bell hangs on a tower fashioned from the earthquake-damaged chimney of the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone Park.

**23 Blacksmith Shop.** Before automobiles, every small town had at least one blacksmith shop like this one, which was operated by Smoky Eberl in Augusta, Montana. Eberl made branding irons and tried them out on the doors and walls of his shop

**24 Sun River Jail.** Built of wood, the 1870's jail was likely built as a place for soldiers from nearby Fort Shaw to sleep off the effects of a night on the town.

**25 Criterion Hall.** This end of Criterion Hall was modified by Hollywood for the movie Missouri Breaks filmed here in 1975, and has appeared in many other movies including *Thousand Pieces of Gold* (1989) and *Return to Lonesome Dove* (1993).

**26 Dupuis House.** "Built in 1871 by E.S. Dupuis" is penciled on a log under the front porch of this little house from near Laurin, Montana. Torn down for firewood, it was rescued and put back together here in 1976. It was used for training the families for the PBS TV series *Frontier House* in 2001, and is furnished today with the items used by the Clune family in that show.

**27 Assay Office.** Owners of hard rock mines depended on an "assay" to know if their ore was valuable enough to warrant the expenditure needed for mining.

**28 Applebroad & Crabb Store.** Stocked with c. 1914 era goods, this log building came from the Burt Maynard Ranch near Ennis. It was featured as a general store in the movies *Little Big Man* (1970 - Dustin Hoffman was "Crabb") and *Return to Lonesome Dove* (1993).

**29 Sedman House.** A focal point among NC buildings, this charming home originally stood at Junction City, a mile and a half north of here, where it was built in 1873 as the fine "in town" residence of rancher, gold miner, and legislator Oscar Sedman. Later the Junction Hotel and then a stable, it was moved by Boveys to "Old Town" and back to Nevada City.

**30 China Town.** The seven buildings of China Town, moved from various locations, represent an often forgotten element of Montana mining camps. In 1870, 10% of the territorial population was Chinese. Nearly all were male, and 1870 census-takers recorded each individual only as "China man," an indication of the anonymity forced on this ethnic group. Territorial laws prohibited Chinese from owning placer claims, so they mined the leavings of others or turned to other employment, such as laundries or domestic service, which was always in great demand. Buildings here represent a temple, grocery, store, laundry, opium den, bachelor cabin, and smoke house, the largest of which is modeled after the Chinese temple which once stood in Virginia City. These buildings house an unusual collection, mostly from the c. 1890 Wah Chong Tai Co. and Mai Wah Noodle Parlor, for decades the center of Chinese settlement in Butte. C.A. Bovey purchased the companies' inventories in 1946. Most of Butte's China Town was torn down soon afterward, but the Mai Wah building still stands, now the only remnant of a large Chinese population.

**31 Diamond City Building.** Hydraulic mining washed away most traces of Diamond City, an early placer camp east of Townsend. This 1864 building later had an addition and served as a 12-room boarding house. It was featured as such in the 1989 movie *Thousand Pieces of Gold* and as a sheriff's office in *Return to Lonesome Dove* (1993).

**32 Callaway Cabin.** Attorney James E. Callaway came to Montana by stagecoach in 1871 as Territorial Secretary, appointed by President U.S. Grant. Callaway later served as U.S. District Attorney and helped write the new state's constitution in 1889. This was his first law office. Later, he moved the building from the nearly abandoned Nevada City to serve as a bunkhouse on his ranch in the Upper Ruby. When the ranch was to be sold in 1976, the family gave the building back to NC. It is currently furnished with the items the Glenn family used in their "year 2001 family in 1885" homestead experience, filmed in the PBS series *Frontier House*.

**33 School.** Reputed to be Montana's oldest standing public school, this tiny cabin served Twin Bridges from 1867 until 1873. The teacher made \$40.00 per month, and classroom resources were sparse. One teacher is said to have used a potato as a globe, peeling areas to represent oceans and leaving the continents unpeeled. The students shared in the cleaning, fetching water and firewood, etc. This tiny school with its "teacherage" is typical of many rural schools even into the late 1940's.

**34 Boots and Shoes.** A shoemaker found plenty of work in most mining towns. This post-1900 log building, from near Alder, is built in the "modern" easy way (but unstable when compared to more laborious notching) with the logs only nailed to the vertical corners.

**35 Iron Rod House.** The town of Iron Rod, about seven miles north of Twin Bridges, is said to have been named for the red-painted rods on the nearby bridge that spanned the Jefferson River. It flourished in the 1860's and 70's. This 1860's house has beautifully crafted dovetail notched corners, and originally stood next to the Iron Rod Post Office (No. 46).

**36 Switzer House.** Andrew Switzer followed the gold rush to Alder Gulch in 1863, but soon realized agriculture would be a better way to make a living. He built this large house of hevn logs, one of the first permanent homes in the area, in 1864 on his homestead near Jeffers (east of Ennis). He brought the first herd of purebred Jersey cattle to the valley, and his wife Lizzie made many pounds of butter and cheese to sell. The profit allowed his two older daughters to attend school in Virginia City. In addition to other carpenter work, Andrew made coffins when necessary. His granddaughter recalled watching him carefully line a baby's coffin with white cheesecloth. Salvaged by C.A. Bovey after the house was knocked down in 1964, it was rebuilt here twice, the first time with the log notches the wrong side up.

**37 Parmeter House.** Sheridan's first mayor O.F. Parmeter lived in this 1880's house, which stood just north of the Ruby Hotel, the hotel is still a Sheridan landmark.

**38 Wagon Shop.** Guests at Yellowstone Park's Canyon Lodge dined in this enormous 1911 building until the Park Service replaced the log structures with modern buildings in 1959. The blacksmith shop, equipment, and inventory of the Butte Carriage Works as well as vehicles from various time periods now fill the huge interior.

**39 Edmiston House.** From near Laurin, Montana, this c. 1870's log house was moved whole to illustrate how many log houses were covered over with siding to hide their log construction. Until they became fashionable after the Old Faithful Inn was built in 1904, "no one wanted to live in a log house."

**40 Lumber Yard Office.** This was the back portion of the Iron Rod Post Office (No. 46).

**41 Linderman Building.** Acclaimed Montana Author Frank Bird Linderman ran a store, assay office, and newspaper. The Sheridan Chinook, in this building from 1898 to 1905. Linderman bought the building and businesses for a down payment of \$5.00, all he had at the time. Moved from Sheridan in 1978, this was the last building moved to Nevada City by the Boveys.

**42 East Helena House.** Charles and Rebecca Cutler lived in this 1880's home, reportedly the first in the smelter town of East Helena. The oldest part, seen here, was later greatly expanded by a board and batten addition. First covered with wood siding to hide the logs, the house was later covered with brick veneer.

**43 Dimsdale School.** Dug into the hillside on Cover St. in Virginia City, this 1863 small cabin served as the town's first school, operated privately by Thomas Dimsdale. Mary Ronan, one of his students, remembered Dimsdale: "He was an Englishman, small delicate-looking and gentle. In his school, all was harmonious and pleasant. While his few pupils buzzed and whispered over their readers, ... the professor sat at his makeshift desk near the window of the log school house, writing... always writing. When ... his *Vigilantes of Montana* was being published in the (Montana) Post I thought it must have been the composition of those articles which had so engrossed him."

Dimsdale charged a weekly tuition of \$1.75 to attend his school. Dimsdale became editor of the *Montana Post* in 1864, and his *Vigilantes*, first published in 1865 in serial form in the newspaper, became, in 1866, the first book published in Montana. Dimsdale was named Montana Territory's first Superintendent of Public Instruction. Never in good health, he died at age 35, shortly after his book was published.

**44 Gallows Barn.** A triple legal hanging by the State of Montana took place in 1917 in this White Sulphur Springs gallows barn, built circa 1895 for the Meagher County Sheriff's Department. The three men hanged were convicted of killing a man during an attempted train robbery. The White Sulphur Springs Historical Society donated the building in 1975, and it has been a popular background for several movies, including *Missouri Breaks* (1975), which helped pay for its move to Nevada City.

**45 John Ellingsen House.** Curator John Ellingsen rebuilt this c. 1895 dwelling, which originally stood on a ranch south of Alder, as his private residence in 1975.

**46 Iron Rod Post Office.** In 1873, a federal postal inspector stopped at the Iron Rod Post Office and was aghast to find the local mail facilities sandwiched between a saloon and a faro bank. The mail was brought in and dumped on the floor, and everyone took what they wanted. The agent, inquiring for the postmaster, was told by the bartender that the postmaster was out hunting gold. The official then demanded the keys to the post office, and the bartender took a candle box, containing what mail was left over, kicked it out the door, and told the agent in no uncertain terms, "There's your post office, Now get!" He "got", but Iron Rod lost its post office until 1876. Built in 1869, the building was a post office until 1882, but continued as a small store until the 1930's, and later as a residence. The porch, added about 1900, updated the log structure to the look of the 20th century.

**47 Two Story Outhouse**

**48 Nevada City Cemetery**

INFORMATION FOR THIS BROCHURE COMPILED BY

Ellen Baunler - Montana Historical Society

John Ellingsen - Montana Heritage Commission

MAP OF NEVADA CITY by John Ellingsen



Montana Heritage Commission  
P.O. Box 338  
Virginia City, Montana 59755  
(406) 843-5247

www.montanaheritagecommission.com  
www.virginicitymt.com