As early as 1866, gold prospectors discovered rich coal deposits in the Rock Creek Valley. At that time, the area was part of the Crear Indian Reservation and mining wasn’t legal. When the land was opened to settlement in the 1880-1890s, prospectors from all over the state hurried to mine the Red Lodge Coalfield, considered “the richest in the West.” Coal mining from here was soon being harassed by the Bureau of Mines, and miners and men from the Mississippi River in the Pacific Ocean. It is known that when the Northern Pacific Railway’s first shipment of coal left Red Lodge on June 17, 1889, the town began. The town brought infrastructure as well as jobs to the small town, including electrification, a water works and an organized fire fighting force. By 1910, Red Lodge boasted a population of nearly 5,000, half of these immigrants from Scandinavia as well as Eastern and Western Europe. Red Lodge became a town with a great pride in its individual cultures, highlighted by the fact that many immigrants settled into their own, separate neighborhoods.

This walking tour has three components, all of which start from the Carbon County Historical Society and Museum. Take one, two, or all three, depending upon your interests and schedule. The Downtown tour covers seven blocks of Broadwater Ave., one side and down the other. It highlights some buildings of feature significance, but you may wish to slowly, observing some of the other buildings that make up the rich fabric of Red Lodge. The Hi Boy tour, in dark blue, takes you up and down two streets full of grand historic residences. The Town Tour, in green, covers one of the fascinating immigrant neighborhoods. Along the tours, you’ll see some buildings highlighted in pale blue on the maps. Enjoy learning more about these through their Historic Register Signs. Note: Some buildings are better viewed from across the street.

7. THEATREUM • 2 E. 11th Street
After World War II, Lajoie and his daughter, Lorraine, operated the Theatreum until 1972, when they sold the building to the local women’s club. A new owner will be announced.

8. REDLEGG STATE BANK • 24 S. Broadway
The grand, brick building was constructed in 1918. With the banks on the first floor and offices upstairs, it served as a center of the town’s social, cultural, and business activities. A 1942 addition to the structure included a restaurant. The main entrance was retained, but a large window in the center of the facade was added. The bank is still in operation.

9. ROMAN THEATER • 120 S. Broadwater Ave.
Stere Roman, Red Lodge’s “movie man,” is on one occasion owned movie theater in the town. In the family’s mammoth theater, four of the chairs were upholstered in the finest materials on the market, and were upholstered in the finest materials on the market, and were upholstered in the finest materials on the market.

10. NIETHAMMER MEAT MARKET • 201 S. Broadway
The Niethammer Meat Market, with its large, ornate entrance, is one of the most advanced meat equipment available at the time it was built. The building is still in operation.

11. FINNISH OPERA • 123 S. Broadway
Finnish immigrants built up a quart-
er of Red Lodge’s population in the turn of the century, and the building was one of the busiest centers of Finnish social life. The 1897 building housed a library - as
20. NORTHERN PACIFIC RR DEPOT • 11 W. 8th

This Depot, originally including a 2-story residential building and an 8-stall barn, was built in 1889 for the newly completed Rapid Ferry Extension of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The first passenger node in the corridor, with the train schedule lasting only 9 hours. Early travelers described the journey: “The train moved so slowly that a man could shoot from the window... get out, get his horse, and get back into the train without the usual trouble.”

21. DAVIS/BUDAS/ADAMS HOUSE • 301 N. Hauser

This elegant Queen Anne style home was built in 1890 by the original owner, a successful Northerner, for his son and his new bride. The home is two stories high and features a prominent porch that wraps around the front of the house.

22. LEHRKIND HOUSE • 612 N. Hauser

Built in 1925 by Paul Lehmkuhl, the architect of the Red Lodge High School (1918-1919), this house is an excellent example of the Craftsman style, with its simple lines and rich woodwork.

23. CHAPMAN HOUSE • 715 N. Hauser

Built in 1925 by Paul Lehmkuhl, this house is an excellent example of the Craftsman style, with its simple lines and rich woodwork.

24. NUTTING HOUSE • 301 N. Word

William Nutting, the first president of the Red Lodge State Bank, built this elegant Queen Anne style house in 1925. It features a wrap-around porch, a gabled roof, and ornate woodwork.

25. CROOUNISIT HOUSE • 521 N. Word

This Craftsman style house, built in 1922, is one of the finest examples of the style in the city. It features a gabled roof, large windows, and a wrap-around porch.

16. TALMAGE HARDWARE • 23 N. Broadway

Built in 1907, this building originally housed a hardware store and later a bakery. It features a tall, narrow window on the corner of the building.

17. MASONIC TEMPLE • 101 N. Broadway

Conceived in 1930, the Masonic Temple was a meeting place for the many different groups in the community. It features a large, ornate facade and a prominent tower.

18. SAVOY HOTEL • 201 N. Broadway

Built in 1905, this hotel was one of the first buildings in the area. It features a large, ornate facade and a prominent tower.

26. LITTLEFIELD HOUSE • 111 N. Platt

This house, built in 1925, is an excellent example of the Craftsman style. It features a gabled roof, large windows, and a wrap-around porch.

27. TUELL BOARDING HOUSE • 111 S. Platt

This house, built in 1910, is an excellent example of the Craftsman style. It features a gabled roof, large windows, and a wrap-around porch.

28. HERRANEN HOUSE • 224 S. Platt

This house, built in 1925, is an excellent example of the Craftsman style. It features a gabled roof, large windows, and a wrap-around porch.

Legend

PUBLIC BUILDING (check for hours)
PRIVATE RESIDENCE (photos only)
HISTORIC REGISTER SIGN
FEATURED SITES
OTHER REGISTERED SITES