

# HISTORIC KETCHUM

WALKING TOUR AND MAP



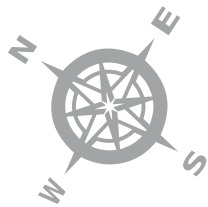
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## THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY



The Community Library brings information, ideas, and individuals together to enhance the cultural life of the community. The Community Library Jeanne Rodger Lane Center for Regional History and Regional History Museum promotes a deep community conversation about history and cultural heritage.

# CITY OF KETCHUM



SUN VALLEY ↑



Start at the Regional History Museum at the corner of Washington Ave. and 1st Street to view exhibits on Wood River Valley history, ski history, mining, sheep ranching, and Ernest Hemingway's life in Idaho.

Admission is free. After visiting the museum, the walking tour takes approximately one hour and covers a distance of about 18 city blocks before returning to the museum.

The Community Library Jeanne Rodger Lane Center for Regional History is a great source for even more information about Central Idaho.

HAILEY →

BALD MOUNTAIN ↓

# WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC KETCHUM

- 1

Ketchum Ranger District Complex – Sawtooth National Forest

Washington Ave. and First St.

1929-33

Ranger Arthur Berry oversaw the construction of the center warehouse building in 1929. Civilian Conservation Corps workers built the two large warehouses and residences in 1933. This block remains unchanged except for the concrete paver walkways. Through a 1980 bond, the city of Ketchum acquired the block as a public park. The Community Library Regional History Museum is housed in the three former warehouse buildings.
- 2

Isaac Lewis First National Bank of Ketchum

160 North Main St. (Rocky Mountain Hardware)

circa 1884

Isaac Lewis left his banking position in Butte, Montana, and traveled to Ketchum by wagon to prospect for silver and lead ore. He pitched his tent in Ketchum on May 3, 1880, and purchased four lots at \$2 each from the town recorder. Lewis is known as Ketchum’s founder. He invested in real estate which included a ranch where the Sun Valley Lodge now stands. He opened the town’s first drug store in 1881 then built this bank building in 1884 and established the First National Bank of Ketchum.
- 3

Ketchum Kamp Hotel

220 North Main St. (Casino)

1925

This entire block was vacant for many years after the 1904 Williams Hotel fire, which destroyed all neighboring buildings. Elmer Ebbe bought the land from Nellie Williams, cut the timber, and built the hotel by himself. Slavey & Dora Werry purchased the property the same year that Sun Valley Resort opened (1936), changed the name, and operated it as a gambling casino, which thrived until Idaho began enforcing its anti-gambling laws in 1947.
- 4

Sidney Venable Home

260 Leadville Ave. (The Kneadery)

circa 1912

Sidney Venable operated the Venable Livery Stable on Main St. and built this house for his wife, Frances. Frances outlived her husband by many years and operated her home as a boarding house until after World War II. The front of the building is virtually unchanged, except the former screened-in porch has become the restaurant’s main entrance and interior partitions have been removed to create a large dining space.
- 5

Horace Lewis Home

280 East Ave. (Elephant’s Perch)

circa 1882

Horace Lewis, son of Isaac Lewis, established the Ketchum Fast Freight Line and graded the first wagon road over Trail Creek Summit called the Ketchum to Challis Toll Road. He built this home in the early 1880s—the first residence in town to have indoor plumbing and a modern bathroom. He married Katherine Barry, and when the mining boom ended in the 1890s, they moved to Seattle. After Horace died in 1911, Kate returned to spend the remainder of her life in this home. Members of the Lewis family occupied this home until 1967 when it was sold and converted to commercial use.
- 6

Ketchum Fast Freight Wagons

Corner of East Ave. and Fifth St.

1884

A caravan of six huge wagons drawn by mules transported supplies and galena ore between area mines. The 160 mile round trip took two weeks, and the wagon masters stopped overnight in camps established by Horace Lewis. Using 14-20 mules, these wagons traveled an average of 12-16 miles per day and carried as much as 18,000 pounds of ore. Palmer Lewis, the nephew of Horace Lewis, gave these wagons and the Lewis coach to Ketchum and they are the highlight of Ketchum’s Wagon Days Parade held on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend. This building, designed to house the ore wagons was constructed by the city of Ketchum in 1985.
- 7

E.B. Williams Home

520 East Ave. (Ketchum Grill)

1884

When Nellie Easley married one-time postmaster and merchant E.B. Williams, this home was a wedding gift from her father. In 1896, E.B.’s merchandise store on Main St. burned to the ground when a fire broke out in the Palace Hotel next door. As his next venture, Williams purchased a former brothel, towed it several blocks to the site of their store, and turned it into the fashionable Williams Hotel. In 1904, it was destroyed by fire, and years later an arsonist in Mackay alleged he was paid \$100 by a rival hotelier to torch the hotel.
- 8

Thornton Home

560 East Ave. (Picket Fence)

circa 1912

Mr. Thornton immigrated to America from France hoping to make his fortune in mining. He purchased this residence and lived here until the outbreak of World War I when he returned to fight alongside his countrymen. He asked his friend, Albert Griffith, one of Ketchum’s pioneers, to watch over his house while he was away and dispose of it if he didn’t return. He never came back and whether he died in the War or simply decided to live elsewhere is not known. Although the back portion is an addition, the original house remains largely unaltered.
- 9

Congregational Church

560 East Ave. (The Picket Fence)

circa 1884

The Rev. George Ritchie became pastor of this Congregational Church in 1884. It has also been used as an espresso coffee house and as an Italian restaurant known as Louie’s. The structure was given to the Ketchum/Sun Valley Historical Society and moved off site. Faced with overwhelming costs to restore the building, it was sold to the current owner who moved it to its present site, completely renovated the building, preserved the original spire, and constructed an addition to the rear.
- 10

The Comstock-Clark Mercantile

300 North Main St. (Enoteca Restaurant)

1887

A.W. Comstock built this structure of local brick at the urging of Isaac Lewis and went into business with Walter Clark selling dry goods to area miners. When the building was sold to Jack Lane, it became The Lane Mercantile, catering to sheep men and the Basque community. Signs were displayed in English and Basque. Since the 1970s, this building has been a bank, retail store, office space, a coffee shop, and now a restaurant.
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The Dynamite Shed

271 East Sun Valley Road

circa 1880

This building was constructed of thick stone to store explosives sold by the Gillette and Evans hardware store on Main St. After the silver crash of 1894, this building passed through numerous hands. Glenn and Esther Mueller bought it in 1950 and added the second story as a living area. The building is now a contractor’s office.
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Jethro Womack Home

200 East Sun Valley Road (Smoky Mountain Pizza)

circa 1895

Jethro Womack worked in the mines and his wife ran a restaurant on Main St. In 1949, Ed Scott purchased the home, moved it to this location, and turned it into a ski repair shop. Scott then developed a light-weight aluminum ski pole which revolutionized the ski pole industry, and this building became the first Scott factory and distribution center. Although there have been some interior remodels and additions, the original home retains its basic structure.
- 13

Lewis/Lemon General Store

211 North Main St.

circa 1884

A.W. Comstock started the first store in Ketchum in a tent on this site in 1880. Isaac Lewis encouraged the building of this structure by Robert Leonard and Joe Pinkham. Locally-made brick was used and three layers were constructed on the roof for fire protection. Leonard left after a year and Isaac Lewis became Pinkham’s partner, but Pinkham was more interested in card games than groceries. Lewis said the partnership “was the worst move I ever made.” Lewis’s son-in-law, William Lemon, became the store’s manager after Pinkham left, and it became the Lewis/Lemon General Store. It sold groceries, clothing, hardware, and construction items. Jennie Griffith, wife of Albert Griffith who was one of Ketchum’s founders, bought the building in 1925 for their sons, Albert and Oscar. The Griffith brothers sold the business and building in the late 1930s, but portions of their sign on the south wall are still visible today.
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Site of Bald Mountain Hot Springs

Corner of Main St. and First St. (Limelight Hotel)

1929

Ketchum’s first settlers discovered mineral hot springs two miles west of town near Warm Springs Creek. In 1881, Guyer Hot Springs was developed by a partnership that included Isaac Lewis and Civil War Veteran Captain Henry Guyer, Jr. Construction of a bar, restaurant, bath house, and dance hall began in the spring of 1882 and opened to host Ketchum’s July 4th celebration. In the 1920s, Carl Brandt purchased the resort, and in 1929 he moved the operation into town, built a pool surrounded by log cabins, and transported the mineral water to the site in six inch wooden pipes from its source in Warm Springs. In 1988, the combination of wooden and steel pipes continually failed, so the pool was shut down, and years later the log cabins were moved from the site.
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The Community Library Jeanne Rodger Lane Center for Regional History

415 Spruce Avenue North

The Center for Regional History was established in 1982 as a research and resource center, for the purposes of preservation and providing access to an archive & special collections about central Idaho. These materials include books, oral histories, manuscripts, letters, government documents, photographs, ephemera, manuscripts, newspapers, video, and other related materials. The purpose of the center is to engage the public’s interest in the history of central Idaho.

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