



MERIDIAN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

TAKE A WALK THROUGH THE HEART OF MERIDIAN'S HISTORY



This tour winds through the City's early business district and shows you the shops that drove the economy forward. You will also get to see some of Meridian's most historic homes & learn about the people who lived there.

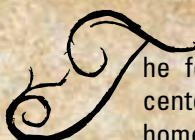


GRAB A MAP & TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME.



MERIDIAN

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he forty acres that became the center of Meridian was originally homesteaded by Eliza Zenger. Following the receipt of her ownership land patent, Eliza's husband, Christian Zenger filed the original town site plat under the name of "Meridian." Previous to this, the settlement had been known as "Hunter," named by the railroad in honor of one of its local superintendents. The postal drop was called "Hunter" from September 11, 1888 until April 3, 1894 when it was renamed "Meridian."

YEAR	MERIDIAN POPULATION
1920	1,000
1930	1,004
1940	1,465
1950	1,810
1960	2,082
1970	2,616
1980	6,686
1990	9,596
2000	34,919
2010	75,092

Meridian was incorporated as a village in 1903 after obtaining permission from the Ada County Commissioners. In 1910, the town boasted three general stores, a hardware store, a meat market, a drug store, a pharmacy, a barber shop, a tailor shop, a bank, a loan company, a land office, and a saloon; as well as schools, churches, and a creamery.

Thank you for taking this tour and we hope you enjoy your journey through Meridian's past!

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SCAN THE QR CODE ON EACH PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
GO TO WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/OURHISTORY

MERIDIAN CITY HALL

FORMER CREAMERY PROPERTY

33 E. Broadway Ave.



The Creamery began producing Challenge Butter in 1929. It ran 7 days a week for 40 years & finally ceased operation in 1970.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN IS IDAHO'S FASTEST GROWING CITY





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THE ANDERSON HOUSE

731 N. Meridian Rd.



A residence built for the daughter of J.M. Anderson who platted the subdivision. The home has a lava rock lined partial basement. J.M. Anderson was Mayor of Meridian in 1910. His home is at the south end of the block.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN WAS INCORPORATED AS A VILLAGE IN 1903

INTERURBAN DEPOT

18 E. Idaho Ave.



The west third of the building was originally a passenger & freight depot for the Interurban Electric Railway & also housed the generator. The building was sold to a local Women's Organization, the Occident Club in 1930 for \$1,205. The club started the City library & later added the eastern two thirds of the building as more space was needed.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE INTERURBAN RAN UNTIL 1928





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COMPTON HOUSE

807 N. Meridian Rd.



A residence originally built for town physician, A.B. Compton, this is the only gambrel roof in the area. Locally manufactured brick remains under the present stucco finish.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
FRUIT RAISING & DRYING WERE IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES IN MERIDIAN

NEAL HOUSE

101 W. Pine Ave.



This residence is a turreted Queen Anne-style home built for Dr. Halbert & Mrs. Grace Neal. Mrs. Neal was a pharmacist & operated Neal Pharmacy in Meridian. Dr. Neal served many years on the Meridian School Board. This property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
BEFORE MERIDIAN BECAME A VILLAGE, IT WAS KNOWN AS 'HUNTER'





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PINE STREET SCHOOL

915 NW 1st St.



Built in 1921 this building was originally used as an overflow classroom. It was patterned after a typical one-room schoolhouse & was restored to its full beauty in 1993 as part of Meridian's Centennial.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
FRUIT RAISING & DRYING WERE IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES IN MERIDIAN

THE HEDGES HOUSE

16 E. Pine Ave.



This is one of the earliest homes in Meridian with a build date on record as 1902. When an epidemic of typhoid fever struck Meridian in 1909, many shallow residential wells and school cisterns were pronounced dangerous. The Hedges' well was one of the few uncontaminated sources of drinking water in the area.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN'S POPULATION HAS INCREASED BY OVER
40,000 PEOPLE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS





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THE BAIRD HOUSE

36 E. Pine Ave.



Built in 1910 the Baird House was home to one of the first ladies' service clubs, The Meridian Business and Professional Women's Club, organized in 1928. Mrs. John Baird, wife of the editor of the Meridian Times, was its first president. This group provided opportunities for cooperation among employed women and gave them a means to collectively serve the community.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN'S FIRST TWO-STORY BUILDING WAS THE I.O.O.F. LODGE HALL

THE WAGGONER HOUSE

46 E. Pine Ave



This property was built in 1908 for the Waggoner family. The family's farm was located off of Chinden so Mr. Waggoner built this home in town so his children could attend school in the Village of Meridian.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE BOTTOM STORY OF THE I.O.O.F LODGE WAS STOKEBERRY'S
GENERAL MERCANTILE STORE





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THE HUNT HOUSE

49 E. State Ave.



Built in 1913 by a Meridian businessman, the Ernest F. Hunt House is architecturally significant as the most handsome example of the residential bungalow style developed by the firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel of Boise. This property was added to the National Register of Historic Places around 1980



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN IS THE THIRD LARGEST CITY IN THE STATE OF IDAHO

THE CLARA HILL HOUSE

1123 N. Main St.



This early craftsman style home was built in 1920 and was purchased by Clara Hill in 1938. The craftsman design was popular in the United States from 1905 to 1930. This property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN'S ORIGINAL 40 ACRES WERE OWNED BY ONE WOMAN, ELIZA ZENGER





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MERIDIAN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

200 E. Carlton Ave.



This building was built in 1912 for \$32,000.00 and was the first building west of Denver to have poured cement to the level of the first floor. It served as a high school and graduated an estimated 3,000 early Meridian students.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE PRIMARY COMMERCIAL STREET, ORIGINALLY CALLED FRONT STREET,
WAS LOCATED ON WHAT IS NOW E. BROADWAY AVENUE

THE TOLLETH HOUSE

134 E. State Ave.



This home was built in 1907 as a belated wedding present from Harry Tolleth to his wife Della. It was a Sears, Roebuck, and Company plan ordered from a catalog and one of the first homes in town that could boast electricity and central heating. This property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
IRRIGATION WAS VITAL TO EARLY SETTLERS HOLDING ON
TO THEIR LAND ACT CLAIMS





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THE NOURSE HOUSE

211 E. State Ave.



Built in 1898 for Frank C. Nourse an early land developer. There are three subdivisions in Meridian named after Mr. Nourse. His descendant still lives in the home.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
HERITAGE PAVILION, LOCATED IN CITY HALL'S PLAZA WAS BUILT
FROM BRICKS FROM THE ORIGINAL CREAMERY

THE POWERS HOUSE

134 E. Pine Ave.



Built as the primary residence for Reverend Harvey Powers who is credited as being the organizing Mayor for the village government in Meridian in 1903. Reverend Powers was responsible for all of the “marryin’ and buryin’” in the early years.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MERIDIAN'S FIRST LICENSED PHYSICIAN, DR. S.M.C. REYNOLDS, ARRIVED IN 1897



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THE BELL HOUSE

137 E. Pine Ave.



Built in 1920 the property was purchased by Jack Bell, the manager of Meridian Lumber. The lawn was used to host garden parties during early years for Meridian's more important residents.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
FROM 1895 -1948 FRUIT RAISING AND DRYING WERE IMPORTANT
LOCAL INDUSTRIES

BANK OF MERIDIAN

140 E. Idaho Ave.



Merged with the Meridian Exchange Bank in 1912, the building was used to house the Meridian Post Office. In 1938, Elite Cleaners moved into the location until recent years. The building was renovated in 2016 to closely resemble the original façade. The façade is an example of a classic Tourtelotte & Hummel building.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
DAIRY PRODUCTS WERE PRODUCED LOCALLY FOR YEARS, STARTING WITH THE
MERIDIAN CREAMERY IN 1897 AND ENDING IN 1970





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THE HOYNE BUILDING

139 E. Idaho Ave.



Originally an embossed iron building, the street facade was later stuccoed. The building first housed a furniture, mercantile, & variety store. A glimpse of the original metal siding is visible at the rear.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE MERIDIAN SPEEDWAY OPENED IN 1951

THE IDAHO BUILDING

136 E. Idaho Ave.



The location was originally built for Harrell & Pfaffle Co. in 1913 with commercial space on the first floor & apartments above. At one time, it housed public bathrooms on the second floor where hot baths were available. Early retail tenants were Struve's & Garrett's succeeded by the Cash Bazaar in 1933.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE HUNGRY ONION WAS BUILT IN 1962





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RICE PHARMACY

124 E. Idaho Ave.



Prior to 1916 the building was occupied by Sharp's Harness Co. In that year Sharp's moved to a new location on Broadway & this building became the long-time home of the Rice Pharmacy. The original owner's apartment is in the rear of the building.



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
MODERN PRINTERS STAFF STILL USE A PAPER CUTTER FROM 1909

MOUNTAIN STATES TELEPHONE

815 N. Main St.



This building is Meridian's latest addition to the National Register of Historic Places as it was added in 2008. It has previously housed the local telephone company, insurance company, real estate office, bakery, art gallery, newspaper, and popcorn store.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE VILLAGE IS THE FIRST LIFESTYLE CENTER IN ADA COUNTY





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MODERN WOODMAN OF AMERICA

77 E. Idaho Ave.



Lodge meetings were originally held on the upper floor of the building. A lodge social hall in the basement was entered by way of a stairway from Idaho Ave. The Vickers & Sims Hardware Co. occupied the main floor for many years, followed by Louderbough Hardware. More recently the building was remodeled & renamed the "Heritage Building."



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DID YOU KNOW THAT...
THE FIRST TRAFFIC SIGNAL WAS INSTALLED ON MAIN STREET IN 1967

WECHBAUGH/ZAMZOWS ELEVATOR

611 E. Main St.



Built on the site of the 1897 creamery, several additions were made to the original structure by subsequent owners – Nampa Milling & Elevator Co. & Davidson Warehouse. August Zamzow later purchased the business.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...
OUR TRADEMARK YELLOW WATER TOWER WAS BUILT IN 1977





CARLTON

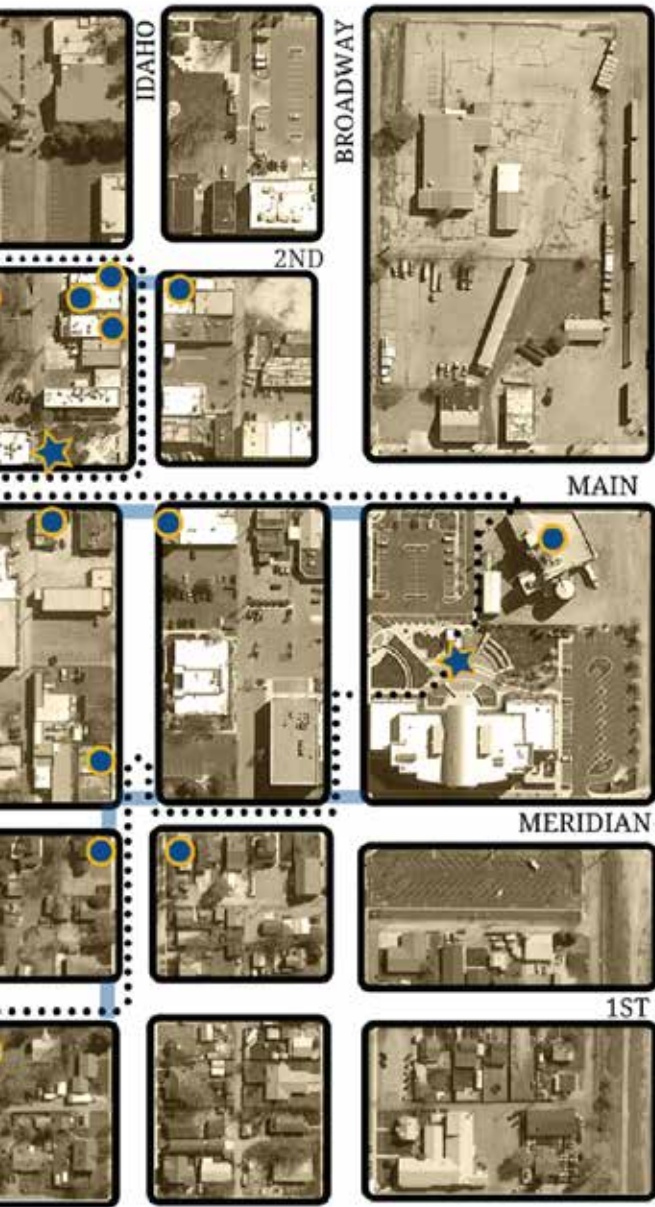




STATE



PINE





Booklet Stands 
Historic Locations 

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE MERIDIAN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

THIS BROCHURE & WALKING TOUR WAS CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF MERIDIAN & THE MERIDIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE VALUE PLACED ON MERIDIAN'S HISTORY & FOR THE INTERAGENCY COOPERATION THAT ALLOWED THIS TOUR TO COME TO FRUITION. OUR THANKS GO OUT TO HISTORIAN LILA HILL, THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE MERIDIAN HISTORY CENTER, ARTIST SCOTT PENTZER, PHOTOGRAPHER JASON MURPHY, THE IDAHO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, AND MODERN PRINTERS. YOUR TIME AND TALENTS THAT WERE VOLUNTEERED TO PRODUCE THIS TOUR AND YOUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.



MERIDIAN
IDAHO



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MANY OF THE PHOTOS IN THIS BROCHURE ARE FROM THE HISTORY CENTER'S COLLECTION. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT THE MERIDIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HISTORY CENTER TO SEE MORE OF THEIR COLLECTION.

