

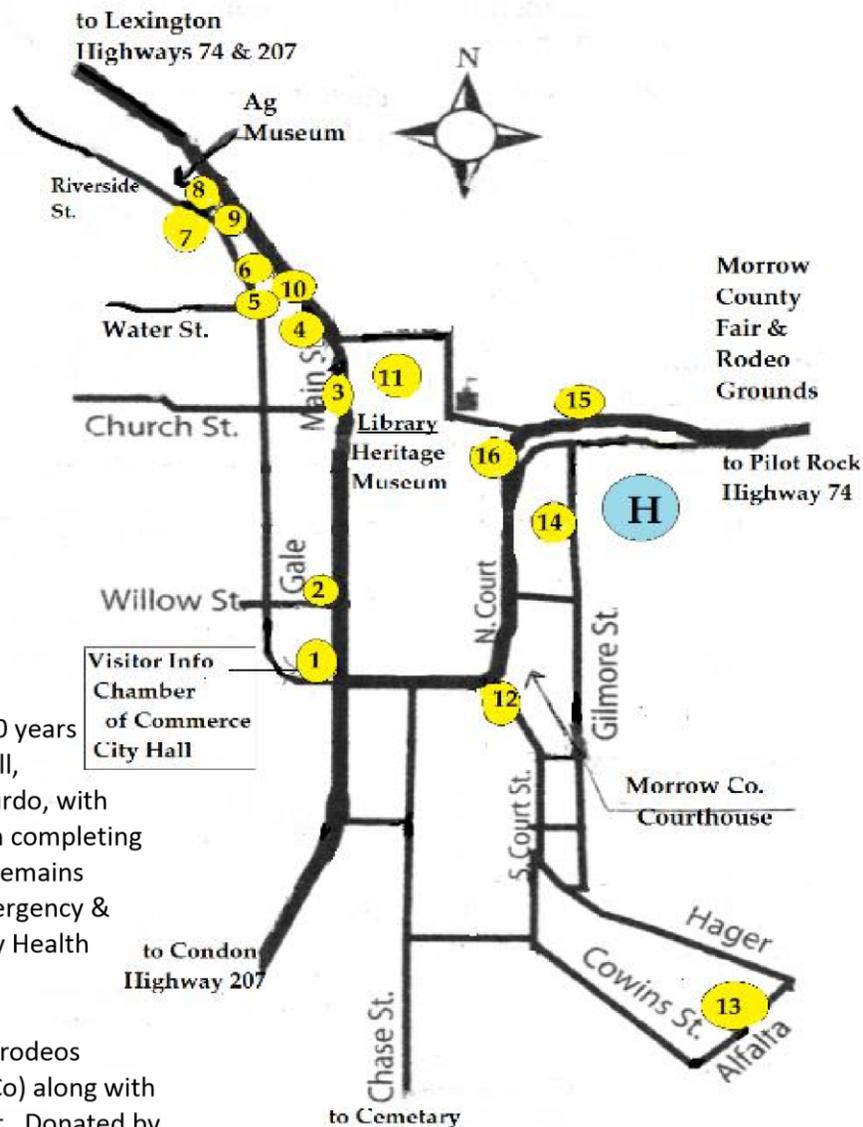
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14. Pioneer Memorial Hospital - After 80 years of only in-a-house-hospitals or none at all, Judge Garnet Barratt & Dr. Archie McMurdo, with the help of the community, succeeded in completing this much needed facility in 1950. PMH remains vital to a large geographical area for emergency & health care. Donated by Morrow County Health District

15. Rodeo –Volunteers have put on real rodeos since 1922; Morrow County Rodeo (MoCo) along with the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo every August. Donated by the Beamer family in memory of Ralph and Mary Beamer and their love of fine horses

16. Schools – The first elementary school in Heppner was founded in 1873 and the high school in 1888. In 1925, there were 45 school districts in Morrow County. Today, there are two. Schools and their activities have always been the heart of small towns. Donated by Chris and Kathy Rauch in memory of Irvine and Mildred Rauch



Visit our acclaimed local museums
Morrow County Heritage Museum
 444 N. Main
Morrow County Agricultural Museum
with historical murals
 Highway 207 & Riverside St.

- <https://www.facebook.com/talkingrocks>
- <http://www.heppnerchamber.com>
- <http://www.cityofheppner.com>

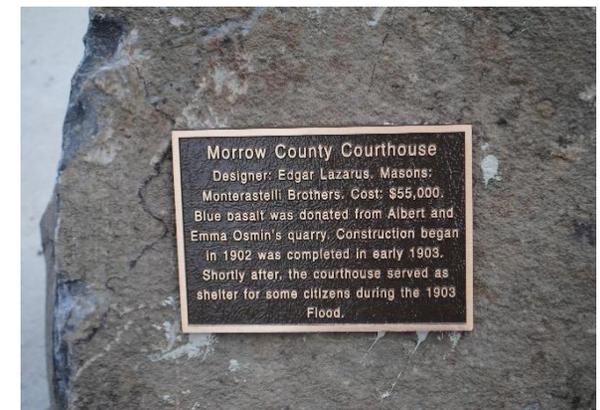
The Talking Rocks of Heppner



Morrow County Courthouse - Heppner, Oregon

Discover Heppner's eventful history by following the route of

“The Talking Rocks”



Sponsored by the City of Heppner Beautification/Parks Commission

1. Jackson Lee Morrow - With business partner, Henry Heppner, Morrow built the first store on the NE corner of Main & May Streets and encouraged the naming of town after Heppner. Morrow served as Heppner's first Wells Fargo agent & contributed financially to the start of the first local newspaper. A well-loved man, he was known to many as "Uncle Jack". While serving as a state legislator, he was instrumental in separating a new county from Umatilla County. His fellow representatives voted to name the new county after the popular Morrow. Donated by Joe & JoAnne Burleson

2. Irish - The first Irish who came to Heppner loyally sent for others from their homeland. The men often worked as shepherders. So many Irish immigrants arrived from the 1890s to the 1920s that Heppner became known as the Irish Capital of Oregon. Descendants of the Irish families grandly celebrate their patron saint, Patrick, every March. Shamrocks, symbol of St. Pat's and Ireland, are seen around town including the large one imprinted on the entire intersection of Main & Willow Streets. Donated by Robert Kilkenny in memory of John Francis Kilkenny

3. Henry Heppner - With Jackson Morrow, Heppner built a general store in Stansbury Flat in August, 1872. Under Heppner's objections, the citizens voted to rename the town after him as he had never married & had no namesake. After the 1903 flood, he was the first to begin rebuilding to show faith in the town. He was known as a hard worker who was respected in business, generous to those in need, and farsighted in the community. He is buried at the Beth Israel Cemetery in Portland. Donated by the Heppner Garden Club

4. 1903 Flood Survivors and Heroes - Heppner lost almost 25% of its population in the June 14th, 1903 flood (the deadliest natural disaster in Oregon history), but continued through the "pain of surviving" with help of others and by courage and determination. Descendants still live in Morrow Co. & remember the strength shown during those

"Days of Sorrow". Donated by Susan Lindstrom Weiper, honoring her relatives, August Lundell, his wife and two children, all flood survivors

5. Chinese - In the 1880's, a small number of Chinese arrived from the gold mines of interior Oregon and with the building of the railroad. Many lived in closely packed homes on Willow Creek off South Court St. Sadly, some of the Chinese victims of the 1903 Flood were never identified. Donated by the City of Heppner

6. Swedish Settlers - After the 1870's, a large number of Swedish immigrants came to the Pacific NW, where there were ample opportunities to use their native skills of logging, fishing and farming. Many Swedes lived in the 8 Mile/Gooseberry area of Morrow County. Donated by Shanny Farley Miller in memory of our Swedish Immigrants

7. Livestock - Stock of early ranchers benefited from the area's abundant native bunchgrass. As sheep numbers declined, cattle numbers increased. Cattle drives to and from summer pastures in the Blue Mountains by horseback were full of adventure and good camaraderie. Stockyards near Riverside St. were used as holding pens before shipping stock to market by rail. Donated by Pam and Mark Wunderlich in honor of Dick and Virginia Wilkinson

8. The Railroad - In 1887, area citizens subscribed \$100,000 to the Oregon Rail & Navigation RR for construction of a track from the Columbia River. Completed in November, 1888, the 6 day/week runs brought in supplies, mail, & passengers and railed out livestock, wheat, & lumber. Nicknamed the "Galloping Goose" or "Sagebrush Annie", Union Pacific RR ran the last train June 30th, 1994. Only a ¾ mile section used for storage at the railhead and a short stretch of "end of the line" rails are left. Donated by Kay Proctor in memory of Walter Kostechka, UPRR engineer

9. Oregon Settlers - After early Oregon Trail immigrants settled western Oregon, later

pioneers searched the state for available land. Native grasslands, nearby mountains for summer grazing, year round water, and tillable soil brought ranchers & farmers to south Morrow County in the early 1860s. Donated by Dianna Wright Hoeft in honor of Albert Wright, early settler on Rhea Creek (whose ranch is still family owned)

10. Native Americans - When weather warmed, Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes followed local waterways to mountain meadows. Early blooming plants, such as camas, were dug by women, ground and stored. Later, fruits & berries were harvested. Men fished & hunted. With food and other supplies replenished, they returned to lower elevations before the start of winter. Donated by Carolyn M. Willey

11. George Washington Memorial tree - Two American Elms were planted in 1932 honoring our first President's 200th birthday. Lost to Elm disease, they were replaced by a hardy Scarlet Oak in 2001. All trees were donated by the Heppner Garden Club

12. Morrow County Courthouse - Designed by Edgar Lazarus who also designed Crown Point Vista in the Columbia River Gorge. Construction began in 1902. The Monterastelli Brothers, originally from Italy, did the stone masonry. The unique blue basalt stone was donated by Albert W. & Emma Brundage Osmin from their Balm Fork Quarry (Osmin Ranch is still family owned & operated). Three months after completion, the courthouse witnessed the tragic 1903 flood which also destroyed the Osmin's family home on Balm Fork. Donated by Frank & Cara Osmin & Family

13. Willow Creek Dam - The Army Corps of Engineers constructed this world's first roller compacted dam of this size, which was completed in 1983, on time & under budget. The dam won an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) award in 1985. Donated by The Lighthouse

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