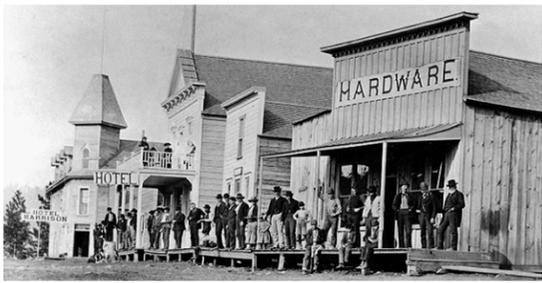


Frontier Town

Harrison, Idaho, was a typical Western frontier town with dirt streets, wooden sidewalks, and false front buildings. Its first home was built in 1891 and now serves as the Crane House Museum. The Village of Harrison was incorporated July 21, 1899 and grew to the largest city in Kootenai County during its heyday.



Gold Stampede Came Through

A few small gold mines were being worked in the area when gold in "paying quantities" was found on Pritchard Creek in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains. A stampede ensued during the winter of 1884 and part of it went past here, up the Coeur d'Alene River.

Timber Boom

The timber industry took root in the 1890s. Lumber and shingle mills and box factories were built along the waterfront at a frenzied pace. Harrison profitted from the discovery of a huge silver strike upriver near Kellogg, Idaho, because its mills were able to supply the demand for timbers used in the extensive underground mine workings.



Steamboat Stop

The water provided convenient transportation in this region, where the forests were so thick that wagons had difficulty passing through. Canoes and bateaus were the main watercraft before steamboats arrived. The paddle wheel steamers were practical for work and popular for pleasure. They moved freight, animals, and passengers between Coeur d'Alene, Harrison, Cataldo, St. Maries, and St. Joe City.

The Railroad

When the O. R. & N. Railway came through in 1890, trains and steamers met at the depot and Harrison became a busy transportation hub. Trains ran through town twice a day both ways, serving about 1,000 passengers daily during Harrison's most prosperous years in the early 1900s.



Historic Harrison is located 28 miles south of Interstate 90 on the Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway, (Hwy. 97). Population: 203

For full descriptions of buildings and historic waterfront, please visit harrisonidaho.org/history.html or scan the QR code.



The Historic Harrison Walking Tour is sponsored by the Harrison Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the North Idaho Tourism Alliance, the Idaho Travel Council, and Crane Historical Society. Content by South Lake Promotions Inc.



Historic Commercial District & Waterfront

Self-Guided Walking Tour

The tour includes twenty-nine buildings and fourteen waterfront mill and factory sites significant to Harrison's history. They were built between 1891 and 1965. Nine are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Harrison's Historic District was developed after the devastating fire of 1917. The district is an intact commercial streetscape from the late 1910s and represents architectural styles typical in small towns of that era. In addition to existing buildings, the tour includes sites where there are currently no structures, such as the city park, Hotel Harrison site, and former mills and factories that lined the lakeshore.



1 - GRANT MILL
250 W Harrison St.
Access: Business & Public.
Lakeside Bar and Grill at Gateway Marina, C-Store, HI Water Adventures, Public docks.



Site of the former Grant Lumber Co. A boat launch and small dock were here in the 1950s. The Gateway Marina was started in 1961 by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mault. They completed the restaurant in 1965.

2 - E.C. HAY & SONS GRAIN ELEVATOR*
107 N. Lake Ave.
Access: Private.



Harrison Elevator #775 was built by E.C. Hay and Sons of Tekoa, WA. in 1955 with the help of local laborers.

3 - THEATER/ARMSTRONG GARAGE*
107 N. Lake Ave.
Access: Private.
Harrison Heating, Residence upstairs.



The original opera house, called the Princess Theater, was owned by B. S. Laferty. It burned in 1917 and was rebuilt by John Nitkey in 1918 and called Liberty Theater. Silent films were played in both.

4 - 1st MASONIC LODGE*
100 N. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
The Company Store, Bird's Nest, Laundromat & Storage Units.



The original brick structure was built by the Masons in 1912. The temple was upstairs and groceries were sold at street level in the Davis N. Shuster Store. The Masons rebuilt after the 1917 fire and Export Lumber Co. store leased the downstairs. Russell and Pugh purchased the building in 1945. It later came into ownership of the Grant family.

5 - COMMERCIAL BLOCK*
Access: Public.
Harrison City Park.



The ten businesses in wood frame buildings on this block burned in the 1917 fire. None were ever rebuilt. The popular Mint saloon stood where the playground is now.

6 - I.O.O.F HALL #54*
200 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business & Private.
One Shot Charlie's and The Cafe on the lower level. Tin Cup Coffee Shop, The Gallery in Harrison, O'Susanna's Design Studio, Grubby Girls Soap, on the mid level. Residence upstairs.



The International Order of Odd Fellows building was the first substantial structure built after the 1917 fire. It has housed many businesses including Cope's mercantile, a meat locker, post office, barber shop, cafe, dentist office, restaurants, the Rex Theater, hardware, store, sewing machine manufacturer and One Shot Charlie's.

Oasis Tavern
Cigarettes -- Tobacco
Cigars -- Snacks
Candy -- Pop
Charlie & Mickey Jenicek
Proprietors
Phone OV 9-2531
HARRISON, IDAHO

7 - FISHER'S JEWELRY
202 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Private Property.
(Empty Lot)



Fisher's Jewelry stood here in the 1920s. It later became a real estate office. The building burned during the Old Time Picnic weekend in 2003.

8 - STAR LODGING
204 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business & Private.
The Landing, Residence upstairs.



Star Lodging was built in 1917. It changed hands in 1943 when the Rose Cafe moved here from the I.O.O.F. building. There were three gas pumps and a Phillips 66 sign out front, and an auto repair shop in the basement.

9 - FIRST BANK OF HARRISON
206 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
The Harrison Creamery & Fudge Factory.



The First Bank of Harrison was established here in 1902. The business moved to St. Maries in 1923. The Wilsons moved The Creamery ice cream shop here from the Marler Brass building in 2003.

President Theodore Roosevelt was here in 1903. The train stopped and he made a speech. A little boy handed him a string of trout and a little girl gave him a bouquet of roses.

10 - BUSBY HOUSE
307 S. Lakefront Dr.
Access: Private Property.
Baptist parsonage.



Dr. John Busby built this grand Victorian home in 1904. He sold it, presumably to finance the building of a floating hospital, with which he served railroad workers and other patients in the St. Joe River country. People short on cash could pay him with milk, eggs, home cured meats or chickens. This home became the Baptist parsonage in 1941.

11 - HOTEL HARRISON
401 S. Lakefront Dr.
Access: Private.
(Empty Lot).



Guests from around the world stayed at the Hotel Harrison, built by J.W. Jamison. It had three floors, 80 guest rooms, barber shop, baths, steam heat, a ballroom, bar, and two restaurants. A wooden boardwalk led from the hotel down to the train depot and steamboat stop.

12 - LAUNDRY BUILDING
413 S. Lakefront Dr.
Access: Private Property.



History of this building is uncertain. A large structure called the Acropolis stood to the north and served as a skating rink for a time.

13 - CRANE HOUSE* & JAIL
201 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Public.
Museum



Harrison's oldest building was erected by Silas W. Crane in 1891. It passed to son William, who lived here and ran his jewelry business from the house. The structure later served as the Wendt Funeral Home. Then it was owned by the Russell family, who later donated it for a museum.

The two-cell jail house was built in 1925 and once stood in the area of the grain elevator. John Procopio bought it and moved it to his ranch for a tack room. The Bunton's donated it for a museum.



Harrison still had several wooden sidewalks in 1946.

15 - BURLEIGH'S STORE*
103 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Organization.
Harrison Grange #422. Open to public during events.



Burleigh's store, store with its Rip Proof Overalls mural, survived the 1917 fire. Anna Sala used it to store salt and feed for livestock, and she sold groceries and meat in the adjoining building.

16 - MARLER & BRASS*
105 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
Country Fair.



This building housed the Paulsen Grocery Store and the meat market and sausage factory of F.E. Marler and Gustav Brass. Attorney offices and The Creamery ice cream shop have leased the space.

17 - CORSKIE BUILDING*
103 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Public.
US Post Office.



John A. Corskie, one of Idaho's first pharmacists, provided an array of services and products here, from first aid, remedies, and candy, to *Captain Billy's White Bang risque'* magazine. The post office relocated here from the I.O.O.F building in 1976.

18 - BRIDGEMAN BLDG*
101 S. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
Harrison Trading Post.



The Bridgeman Hardware and House Furnishings Co. opened here as a general mercantile in 1893. Wayne Bridgeman rebuilt after the fire and carried furniture, logging, mill and camping supplies, crockery, and dishes. H. D. Brownawell bought the store in 1938.

19 - HARDWARE STORE
101 N. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
The Cycle Haus Bikes & Brews.



This building was originally a hardware store. In the 1040s, Jerry Chenoweth opened a blacksmith shop in back. He was the last blacksmith in town. In the 60s it was Lamb's Corral which sold collectibles. Then it became Little Tree General Store, a Native handicrafts boutique owned by the Limings. Keith and Cindy Shannon turned it into an antique shop. John Kolby opened Pedal Pushers here in 2001.

20 - TOM COLLIER'S BARBER SHOP
102 N. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
Sheppard Fruit Wines.



This shop was built by Tom Collier with materials salvaged from the old train depot and he ran a barber shop here. Date is uncertain. Beginning in 1966, it housed the popular Jewel Box gem shop owned by Al & Glenna Ross.

21 - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
100 Pine St.
Access: Public.
Harrison Community Baptist Church.



The First Baptist Church burned in the 1917 fire. It was rebuilt in 1921 with exceptionally good acoustics and natural cedar exterior. The piano downstairs was rescued from the fire. The original parsonage was to the north where the yard is now.

22 - ADDISON CRANE HOMESITE
110 N. Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
Lakeview Lodge



This is the site of Addison Crane's homesite. The old city hall and library occupied the spot for many years. Albert & Claris Mault built the Gateway Apartment Motel in the winter of 1961.

23 - CORSKIE HOUSE
114 Coeur d'Alene Ave.
Access: Business.
Corskie House B&B.



The Corskie House was built in 1918 for pharmacist John Corskie, after the 1917 fire destroyed his home. He served the community as pharmacist for more than 50 years.

24 - MILL BOARDING HOUSE
134 N. Frederick Ave.
Access: Business
Osprey Inn B&B.



The Export Lumber Co. built this house as a boarding home for lumberjacks in 1915. The ground floor briefly served as a hospital in the 1950s. Jim and Arleen Woodside turned it into a bed and breakfast.

The Harrison Commercial District of today rose from the ashes of the devastating fire of 1917. The blaze began at the Grant Lumber Co. and quickly spread to the wood frame buildings and wooden sidewalks around town. It took ninety minutes for the inferno to engulf most of the businesses and many residences. Businessmen with adequate insurance told the city council they intended to rebuild if the city would enforce fire laws that required brick construction. While some of the buildings have undergone renovation, most retain the original massing, fenestration, and building materials that were popular in the 1910s.

25 - HARRISON SCHOOL & GYM
Frederick Ave. and Park Ave.
Access: Private & Public
School - Private Property. Gym and parking lot are public.



Edwin Crane lived in a house here on his homesite. He sold the property to the school district in 1907. The brick school was built in 1909 for grades one through twelve. It served the community for more than forty years. The gym was added in the 1920s for basketball, boxing, drama events, and community activities.

26 - OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
Pine St. and Frederick Ave.
Access: Public.
Catholic Church.



The original Catholic Church burned in the 1917 fire. It was finally rebuilt in 1961, largely through the generosity of Joseph Kroetsch. Before that, mass was held in a residence converted to a chapel.

27 - SENIOR CENTER
Pine St.
Access: Organization.
Open to the public for certain events.



This building was originally uphill from the Crane House and served as the First Presbyterian Church, a school, and library. Later it was skidded downhill by teams to be a hall for the Odd Fellows. It became the Senior Citizens' Center in 1975.

28 - 2nd MASONIC TEMPLE
101 Garfield
Access: Private Property.



This was the home of the Methodist Church for 18 years. It was donated to the Masons in 1935 after they came upon hard times and lost their brick building. The Masons met here until 1985. It is now the private art studio of George Carlson. Closed to the public.

29 - BASTI MONTI CONFECTIONARY
Garfield St. behind Harrison Trading Post.
Access: Private.



This building started as a confectionary. The Emanuel Mission Church used it during the 1940s. The Jean Blancs had a welding shop here.

* National Register of Historic Places