

Eagle Rock, USA – Self Guided Tour **Carnegie Building – Downstairs**

Welcome to Eagle Rock, USA! The Eagle Rock, USA exhibit was created as a lasting legacy project of the Bonneville County Historical Society to celebrate the centennial of Idaho's statehood in 1990 and to commemorate the 1991 centennial of Idaho Falls. The project was built by volunteers and named **Eagle Rock, USA** after the small community which later became the City of Idaho Falls. A majority of the artifacts and architectural items were donated by local area residents. The project began January 21, 1987 and opened on August 26, 1989. The exhibit is housed in the city owned Carnegie Library section of the museum which is on the National Register of Historic Places. *Enjoy your tour through our city's past.*

Tour starts at the base of the stairs from 1st floor of the Carnegie Building.

1. A town is born: Note all the names the community had before it became Idaho Falls. The painting on the wall above the building materials is from an early photo and shows the location of the wagon bridge and the railroad bridge. The original main street was Front Street (later named Eagle Rock Street) along the railroad tracks. The wagon bridge was at Market Street which no longer exists. For your reference, the current Broadway Street can be seen at the far left between the two white buildings.

Behind you, looking back towards the stairway, look up above the doorway.

2. The Eagle Block sign (above the doorway): Originally this sign was on top of one of the buildings on Eagle Rock Street. When the buildings were torn down to make way for the Library parking lot, this was all that was saved. You can see the old location of Eagle Rock Street at the Eagle Monument in the middle of the Library parking lot. It was carved from lava rock taken from the Snake River near the original Eagle Rock nest the town was named for.

Directly opposite the painting under the panoramic photo is the flip chart.

3. Flip Chart of Old Photos and Documents: You are encouraged to browse through these fascinating pages looking for recognizable Eagle Rock landmarks and see just how much things have both changed and stayed the same. **Now turn towards the street and businesses, stop here for a moment.**

4. Eagle Rock Businesses: All the names of the businesses in this exhibit are authentic. The name of each establishment was taken from actual ads in an 1880's newspaper. While it is not meant to be a replica of the original Eagle Rock town site, the architecture and furnishings are representative of the turn of the century. **Look closely at the street lamp next to the bench.**

5. Street Light: The street light you see here is one of twelve kerosene lamps installed in 1897. Each one had to be lit by hand each evening and blown out in the morning. In addition, they needed to be cleaned and filled daily. **Behind you and to the left of the Stage Station are the VIS Garbage Box and the board recognizing the original volunteers and sponsors of this exhibit.**

6. VIS Garbage Box: These boxes were built by order of the Ladies of the Village Improvement Society to stop residents from throwing garbage in the streets and alleys. The VIS was a group of prominent women in the community that worked at the turn of the century to improve both the quality and appearance of the town. We should note here that the sidewalks in Eagle Rock were originally made from railroad ties to keep ladies' skirts out of the mud and dust of the streets. **Move along to your right to the Stage Station.**

7. Stage Station: Means of transportation to and from Eagle Rock was by horseback, horse and buggy and train. Passengers and freight came and went from this station. The railroad first came to Eagle Rock in 1879. **Between here and the mercantile a doorway represents an early hotel.**

8. Rex Rooms: This was an early hotel situated on Eagle Rock Street. **Passed the hotel are the large open windows of the mercantile for viewing.**

9. Anderson Brothers: This general store also served as the Post Office and Bank for Eagle Rock. This is where prominent citizen and banker Minnie Hitt started her career. In the 1870's, this was the only store in town. As you spend some time looking around at the items you could buy here imagine what it would have been like to live without all the choices we have today. Yes, the candy is real! **Now step across the street to the Photography Shop.**

10. Haynes and White Photography Shop: Take a look at the large red and black camera in this shop. It took a long time to make the negative for a picture with this type of camera. To have a portrait taken you would have to sit perfectly still for several minutes. Some photographers even had little cradles to hold your head still and there was almost always a chair or some other prop to lean on. It was also hard to hold a smile for that long, which explains the serious expressions on the faces in the old photographs. Photographs were all developed in black and white. Can you see the color photographs that were colored by hand using little tiny dots of colored ink? Compare this with today when you can take a color picture with your phone and send it around the world in a matter of seconds! **Continue crisscrossing the street to visit the Lawyer's Office over on the other side.**

11. J. Ed Smith, Attorney at Law: Take a look around this attorney's office at all the machines that we now use computers for. The adding machine in the back corner has been replaced by calculators and computers. Stenotype machines are still used today, like in court rooms, but mostly we use voice recording devices and voice recognition software to go straight from spoken words to typewritten text. Of course, there is the typewriter that has been made all but obsolete by word processors. The phone on the desk is a far cry from the tiny computers we hold in our hands to make phone calls today! **Stroll back across the street to the County Sheriff's Office and Jail.**

12. Sheriff's Office: You probably know that Idaho Falls is in Bonneville County but the sign on the door says Bingham County because Bonneville County wasn't established until 1911. Check out the variety of weapons around the office, the handcuffs on the desk, and the phone on the wall. The sheriff's office would be where you would find the jail cell as well. **Visit the Dentist painlessly by turning around and looking across the street.**

13. Dentist Office: Dr. Bennett was a later arrival to Eagle Rock. What do you think of his claims of "Painless Dentistry" and "Teeth Skillfully Extracted" as you look around at the equipment he may have used? The X-ray machine on the left is circa 1920's. **Now back across the street to the Carpenter Shop.**

14. Carpenter's Shop: The carpenter was also the boot maker and did repairs as well. Look at all the different hand tools he would use in his woodworking, no power tools in this shop. Part of his work also included the crafting of "burial cases" or coffins, as you can see on the right. **Now that you have your boots head across to maybe see about a hat the Millinery.**

15. Misses Locke and Campbell: The Millinery and Dressmaking Shop is where ladies would go to find the latest fashions in handmade hats and clothing. The treadle sewing machine was operated by pumping the pedal at your feet which turned the sewing machine wheel. **Turn back around again. The last shop on the other side of the street is the shop of the Blacksmith.**

16. Blacksmith and Harness Shop: The forge with bellows was where the blacksmith would heat up the metal so that he could form it into whatever shape he needed by hammering it on the anvil. The blacksmith kept horses shod and made all kinds of metal products. This was a very important job back when the major mode of transportation was real horse power! Can you count all the bird's nests scattered around the shop? They must have liked the warmth generated by the forge. **We choose to leave it a mystery as to how many nests there really are here but look closely there are at least 5! Finish up across the street with the last shop on our tour- the Barber Shop.**

17. J. Oley's Barber Shop: Take a long look at the bathtub in the back of the shop and see if you agree with the barber's characterization of a "first class bath" advertised in the window. The roller towel would be used and just rolled around for the next time but regular customers had individual shaving mugs with their names on them. Also, note the sign with the prices for these services on the wall next to the cup rack.

We hope you enjoyed your journey through *Eagle Rock, USA* and invite you to come back again real soon... and bring a friend or two!