

An Enterprising Town

“It ought to be an enterprising little town anyway” was the phrase that named the town. Since its founding, Enterprise has been the business center for Wallowa County. However, after each World War, young people began migrating to urban areas.

Timber, agriculture and livestock have been the economic mainstay for the area but those industries are in transition. These downtown historical buildings are a look back and, possibly, a vision of the future. What will be next for downtown Enterprise?

Discover more about downtown history—stroll down Main Street two blocks east to the County Courthouse to view another interpretive sign that tells our stories.

Take a Time
Travel Tour!



Buckskin Bucks During the Depression in the 1930s, many people could not afford to purchase basic goods and services. Script money (IOUs), made with materials native to the area, was created in many Northwest communities. In the Wallowa Valley, Buckskin Bucks, made from deer hide, were accepted by stores and businesses in Enterprise.



Image courtesy of The Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE GARAGE & AUTO CO. BUILDING
Many buildings in the past were designed for specific functions. As the town's first auto garage in 1910, the building across the intersection had been the place over the years to fill your gas tank, get your auto repaired and buy your vehicle.



HOTEL GOTTER Originally built as a hotel, this Art-Deco style building is now rent-subsidized apartments. Note the decorative brick work along its roofline.

OK THEATRE Completed in 1918 as the last new building on the block, the OK Theatre has been a continuous source for movies and other entertainment since its opening.



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WALLOWA COUNTY CULTURAL TRUST COALITION