

# McBride Historical Walking Tour

**1. McBride Sidewalks**— learn how volunteers and an indomitable community spirit built McBride's first real sidewalks.

**2. McBride Public Library**—established in 1949, this building was McBride's first public library.

**3. McKale House**—constructed in 1922 as a private residence, the McKale House is well worth the visit.

**4. Country Road**— originally a gas station, and sometimes a dealership, a garage has been here for over 70 years.

**5. a) Legion**—formed by veterans returning from World War I, the McBride Legion is one of the oldest organizations in town.

**b) Bank of Nova Scotia**— the first bank in the valley, the Bank of Nova Scotia building was originally on the corner of Second Avenue and Main Street.

**6. Rainbow Theatre**—built in 1946, the Rainbow Theatre was McBride's second theatre and featured the first public "modern" washrooms in town.

**7. Balcaen's Clothiers**— stop in for lunch or coffee and learn more about the previous incarnations of this building as a clothing store.

**8. Semaphore Pool Hall, BC Café, Jamieson's Drug Store**—visit what was once

considered McBride's "main" street (Second Ave.)

**9. McBride Farmers' Institute**— formed in 1915, this organization is one of the oldest Farmers' Institutes in the province and was integral in the eventual installation of a proper highway to McBride.

**10. First Avenue and Queen Street**— unfortunately with buildings going up so fast, and built so close together, the risk of fire became a reality that McBride could not avoid.

**11. Liquor Store**—take a wander through the second home of McBride's government liquor store and learn how the provincial regulations surrounding liquor sales have changed through the years.

**12. Power Station**—learn how McBride acquired its own power station before the province was willing to hook them up to the provincial grid.

**13. Grand Trunk Pacific Station**—step back in time and explore this 1918 rebuild of the original 1914 train station.

**14. Cinder Path**—created with cinders and clinkers from the Roundhouse, McBride's cinder path is one of the oldest surviving sidewalks in Northern BC.

**15. GTP Garden and Park**— originally built as a place of leisure for train passengers, this park would have once contained a garden.

**16. Fraser Hotel**—the original Fraser Hotel was a beautiful three storey marvel built in 1914.

**17. Empress Theatre**—built in 1915, the Empress Theatre is the second oldest public building in town and was in use before Prince George had even built their first theatre.

**18. St. Patrick's Church**—although Catholic services have occurred in McBride since 1914, work on the St. Patrick's Church was not completed until 1937.

**19. Red Cross Hospital**— in 1938, the Red Cross Hospital opened in a converted house, offering services from there until 1954 when the hospital was taken over by the Village.

**20. Second Avenue**—see how Second Avenue has changed since the '20's.

**21. Law & Order**— this is the second location of the police barracks and stockade in McBride. The RCMP station is currently in its fourth location in town.

**22. The Yale Rooms**— in 1914, this lot was once the location of The Yale Rooms and was the "best and cheapest accommodation" in McBride. Take the time to explore what this store currently has to offer.

**23. a) Jimmy Stewart's**— originally the second home of the McBride Trading Company, this lot was once a busy hub for McBride's original "main" street.

**b) Post Office**—in early McBride, the arrival of the train, and more importantly, the mail on the train, was a huge event. The building that once housed the original Post Office is long since gone.

**24. McBride Trading Company**—built, owned and operated by W.A.E. (Bill) Wall, the Trading Company was a general store that covered the whole universe of general merchandise.

**25. Goodman's Supply Company**— carrying everything from clothing, to food, to building supplies, Jack Goodman ran his store with the belief in showing kindness to everyone.

**26. Armstrong & Ellis**—moving to the valley with the railway? In order to get land, you would have had to line up at Armstrong & Ellis in order to claim and buy your plot/section.

**27. Fraser School**—the first school in the valley, the Fraser School was built prior to the completion of the GTP station.

**28. Pentecostal Church**—originally built as a Church, the majority of this building's life has been spent as a craft and gift store.

**29. Anglican-United Church**— take a gander at the oldest surviving public building in town and learn how four distinct denominations (Methodist, Presbyterian, United, and Anglican) became one strong church.

**30. Log Tel Motel**—with an influx of motor vehicles, the Log Tel, McBride's first Motel, was opened in 1959.

**31. Ferry Crossing**— only in operation from 1920-1925, this government ferry crossing was once part of the provincial highway system.

**32. McBride Cemetery**— Explore the final resting place of many early settlers.

**33. Charlie Leake Airfield**— named after retired Colonel Charlie Leake, McBride's modern airfield was built in the 1960's.

**34. Koeneman House**—visit Koeneman Regional Park and see how homes were built in 1938.

**35. Stag Ranch**—built in the 1920's, this is one of the oldest surviving log buildings in the valley.

*While exploring, check out the various murals around town and use the QR code posted to learn more about the story behind the art.*

This is by no means an exhaustive list of our historic signs, but rather contains the majority of signs located within town. For a more complete list, visit the museum's website at:  
[www.valleymuseumarchives.ca/historytour](http://www.valleymuseumarchives.ca/historytour)

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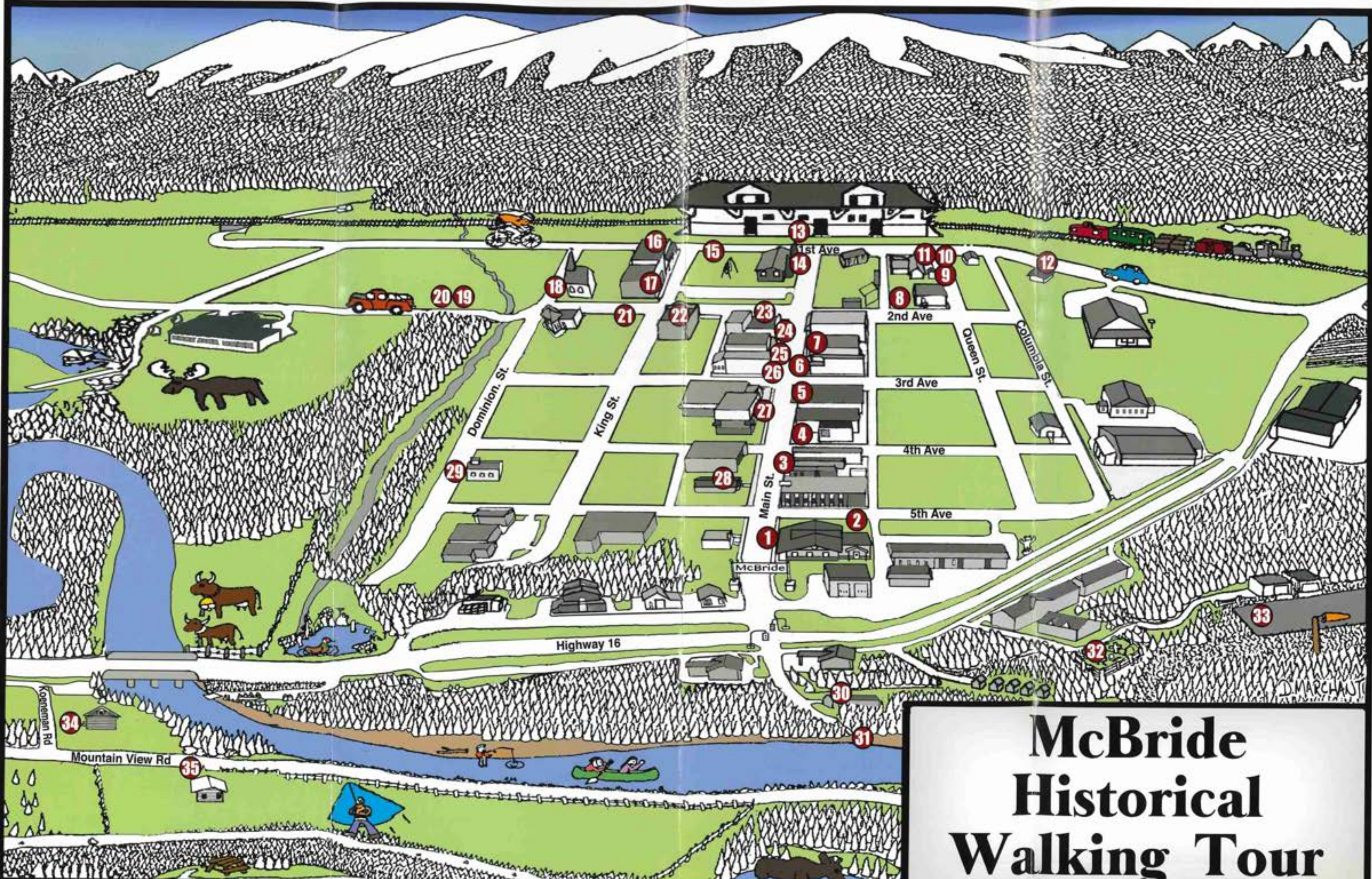


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