

Cass County, North Dakota, Historical Society - Bonanzaville, U.S.A.

1351 Main Avenue W, West Fargo, ND 58078

701-282-2822



Hours

May and September

Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm

Sunday 12 pm-5 pm

June through August

Monday-Friday 10:00 am-7:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 pm-5:00 pm

General Admission

Seniors (55+)/College: \$10.00

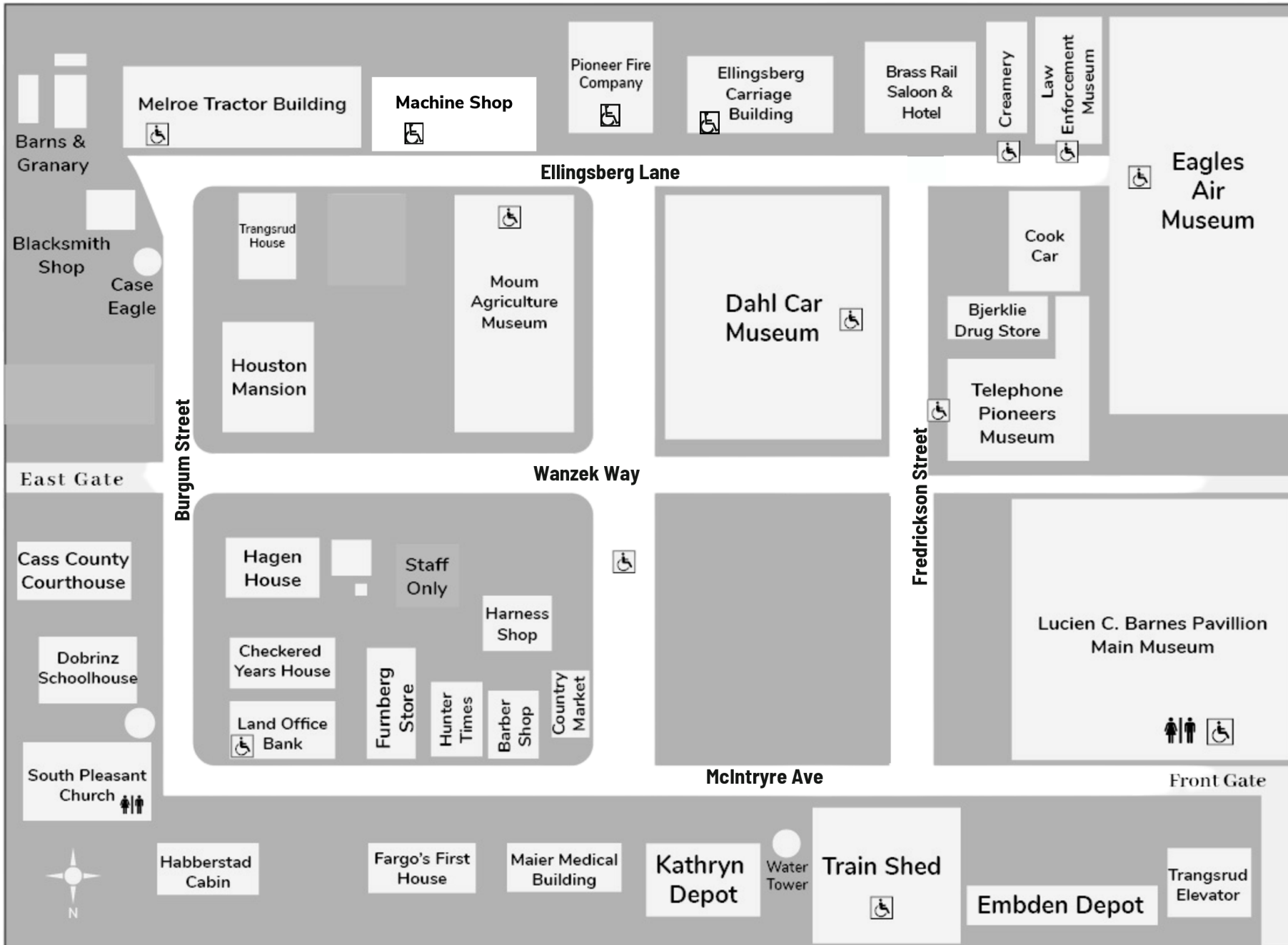
Adults: \$12.00

Children (ages 6-16): \$6.00

Military/Children (5 and under): FREE

Things to Know

- No smoking allowed anywhere in the village. Please smoke outside the village gates.
- Pets are allowed if curbed or leashed but not permitted in historic buildings.
- No food or drink is allowed inside historic buildings or exhibits.
- Photographs are encouraged, except where posted. Feel free to share them on our Facebook page



Arthur Town Hall: Closed- Built in the 1890s for \$1000, the city of Arthur, ND, held plays, meetings, graduations, and movies in this building. The stained glass windows are from the Little Theater Company at NDSU.

Blacksmith Shop: A Glimpse into the Past-Hailing from Tower City, ND, this shop is a living testament to the bygone era of craftsmanship. Step inside, and you'll find the original furnishings and tools, including the trip hammer and forge, that once echoed with the sounds of hard work and dedication.

Brass Rail Saloon and Hotel: This is a typical late 19th-century small-town hotel, café, and saloon from Page, ND. It is furnished as it was 100 years ago, without indoor plumbing.

Buffalo Bandstand: Bandstands, like this example from Buffalo, ND, were found in most towns in the 19th Century.

Case Eagle: This 1911 eagle, known as “Old Abe,” was initially found on the former J.I. Case building on NP Avenue in Fargo.

Cass-Clay Creamery: Replica of a common 1920s small-town creamery. Many of the furnishings are initially from the Kenmare, ND, creamery – the last of its kind.

Cass County District Courthouse: The furniture displayed is from the original Cass County Courthouse, and the interior is arranged as it appeared in 1904. However, this building originally served as the Hagemester School in Berlin Township from 1930-1956.

Checkered Years Home: This home is from a bonanza farm in Mapleton Township. Mary Dodge Woodward was the first resident of the house. After her death, her granddaughter compiled her diaries into the book The Checkered Years, which is for sale in the museum store.

Dahl Car Museum: A collection of vintage automobiles that spans from a 1904 Holzman Car to more modern examples. Many of these vehicles are still working and used in parades.

Dobrinz School: Built in 1895, this school served Mapleton Township well into the 20th Century. It was named for John Dobrinz, a farmer who lived near it and the father of thirteen of its students.

Bjerklie Drug Store: Step into the past as you explore the interior of this building, which meticulously preserves the furnishings of the former Bjerklie Drug Store in Gilby, ND.

Eagles Air Museum: Immerse yourself in aviation history with over twenty aircraft, spanning from 1911 to 1975, on display. Among them are “The Governor’s Plane,” a C-47 that played a crucial role in the D-Day invasion, and a US Army “Huey” helicopter. The museum also proudly exhibits many planes restored by Charles Klessig.

Ellingsberg Carriage House holds an extensive collection of horse-drawn vehicles of every shape and size. Showcased are a replica “Wells Fargo” stagecoach, a horse-drawn school bus from Oak Mound School District 78, and an oil tank wagon for Standard Oil Company.

Embden Depot and Train Shed: The Northern Pacific Railroad built the depot in 1900. The train shed houses an 1883 Northern Pacific steam locomotive, caboose, Russell snow plow, and a 1930 eighty-passenger coach. The Northern States Power Plant in downtown Fargo used the water tower and column.

Fargo’s First House: The first permanent house in the Fargo area was built by immigrants in 1869 near Fourth Street and Second Avenue South. It also has served as a jail, hotel, and home to the Martin Hector Family.

Furnberg Store: This building was built in the late 1800s by Christian Furnberg near the train stop at Osgood, ND. The store provided settlers with necessary supplies and also served as a post office. The store closed in 1953 after nearly 75 years in business. Closed for renovations

Habberstad Cabin: Built by a group of Finnish settlers in 1874, it was initially located northeast of Kindred, ND, on the Sheyenne River.

Hagen House: Built by Martin Hagen in 1897 near Horace, ND. Four generations lived here without electricity or indoor plumbing. There is a summer kitchen located behind the house.

Houston Mansion: This beautiful bonanza farmhouse was built in 1881 by David Houston south of Hunter, ND, for \$7000. Houston was a Scottish immigrant, farmer, poet, and inventor of the roll film camera patent.

Hunter Times: Originally from Hunter, ND, the newspaper flourished until the 1940s. Among the machinery on display are a strip casting machine, hand-operated press, flatbed press, and linotype machine.

Kathryn Depot: This building is home to the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club, which operates a model railroad inside.

Harness Shop: This building, originally from Addison, ND, was used for harness repair, oiling, and horseshoe repair.

Land Office Bank: This is a replica of a building in Cogswell, ND. The land office was where hopeful new land seekers would file their plots and, after proving their land, receive titles to their property.

Law Enforcement Museum: The Fargo Auxiliary Police Association joined with other law enforcement agencies to furnish and maintain the exhibits in this building.

Main Museum: Built in 1972, the main museum is the headquarters of the Cass County Historical Society. It contains permanent, temporary, and traveling exhibits on Cass County and the Red River Valley. The main museum also houses an event center. This venue can accommodate up to 350 people and has a fully equipped kitchen.

Martinson Cabin: Former home of the North Dakota poet and labor organizer Henry D. Martinson. Closed for repairs.

Maier Medical Building: This building displays a collection of medical and dental equipment from the Nineteenth Century. The Maier family donated the house.

Melroe Tractor Building: This museum is named after Les Melroe, founder of Melroe Manufacturing, which became Bobcat. It features many manufacturers, including Case, John Deere, and McCormick.

Moum Agricultural Building: This building houses tractors, farm machinery, the world’s largest bulldozer, and the first Steiger tractors ever built. It is named for Donald Moum.

Pioneer Fire Company: Built by area firefighters as a replica of an 1890s station, this building contains several hand-pulled carts, one of the original horse-drawn wagons of the Fargo Fire Department, and replicated living quarters upstairs.

The South Pleasant Lutheran Church, a historical gem, was established in 1890 and served as a place of worship until 2013. Originally from Christine, ND, it was relocated to Bonanzaville in 2015. This charming church, with a capacity of 200 people, offers a unique event space in its basement, making it an ideal venue for weddings and social gatherings throughout the year.

Telephone Museum: This museum is housed in Tower City, ND’s former hardware store building. The Telephone Pioneers of America Museum houses historic telephone equipment and provides Bonanzaville with its telephone connections.

Trangsrud Elevator: Built in the 1920s, this building started as a granary until the scale and elevator system were added. Grain storage includes three 1200-bushel bins on one side, three 600-bushel bins on the other, and four hopper bins for temporary storage.

Trangsrud House: Built-in 1882, this house was located in rural Kindred near the village of Norman. The Ellefsrud Family originally built it until the Trangsruds bought the farm in 1887. They raised a family and lived in the house for many generations. All the furnishings are original to the Trangsrud family.

U-R Next Barber Shop: Built-in 1900 in Buffalo, ND, many of the objects on display are original to the shop.