Casa Malpais Ruins

Two miles north of downtown Springerville, lies the Casa Malpais National Historic Landmark Site. Situated within a series of basalt terraces at an elevation of 7,000 feet, this 16-acre pueblo complex has caught the attention of archaeologists worldwide for prehistoric qualities never before seen in this part of the world.

Casa Malpais represents one of the largest and most complex ancient communities in the United States. Casa Malpais was built about 1250 A.D. and was inhabited for perhaps the next 120 years, then abandoned. It consists of a large masonry pueblo, a Great Kiva, an enclosed wall, three masonry stairways, a prehistoric trail, numerous isolated rooms, sacred chambers, grinding areas and rock art panels.

The pueblo contains perhaps 100 plus rooms, some built to two stories. It has been the source of numerous unique artifacts, many of which are on display in the Casa Malpais Museum in Springerville. Northwest of the pueblo, the Great Kiva is one of the largest situated along the upper Little Colorado River.

The Casa Malpais Museum and Visitor Center is open daily during the summer. Tours of the site are offered every day, at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The museum is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 318 E. Main St., Springerville. Call (928)333-5375 for more information.

Trail of Many Tracks

Add your footsteps to the Trail of Many Tracks and journey through the last frontier of the American West. Take an audio tour from Lupton down to Springerville to Fort Apache to Holbrook and Winslow. Tapes or CDs are available at the Holbrook Visitors Center, or may be ordered by mail.

If you want to know more about Holbrook and the area, visit the History Research Center of the Navajo County Historical Society. Books about the area can be found in the Historic Navajo County Museum bookstore or at many of the fine gift shops in town.

Holbrook Chamber of Commerce
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Produced by the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce. Written by Matthew Barger

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The Mormon Pioneer Experience

Snowflake, located 30 miles south of Holbrook on Highway 77, is one of several communities settled by Mormon pioneers. Many of the original homes remain, and several are open to the public.

Snowflake was established on July 21, 1878, by Mormon pioneer William Jordan Flake, who left the United Order, a communal system near the present location of Joseph City, and purchased the townsite from James Stinson for $11,000, to be paid with Utah cattle. In six months, 20 families had joined him.

In September 1878, while taking a wagonload of wool to Utah, Flake and his wife met Erastus Snow, an apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Flake asked him to “give me a name we can use for our post office.” Erastus Snow chose the name “Snowflake” for the new town, naming it after himself and William J. Flake.

Visitors and residents alike may now take a walking tour of the 45 homes in Snowflake that are listed on the National Historic Register. The Heritage Foundation has five museums, including the Jesse N. Smith Home, located at 10 South Second West, the James M. Flake Home, located at Second North and First East, the Locy Rogers Log Cabin, located at First West and Center Street, the Stinson Museum, located at 103 North First East, and the recently refurbished John A. Freeman home, located at First North and Main Street. The Snowflake/Taylor Chamber of Commerce is located in the beautiful Freeman Home.

Rock Art Canyon Ranch

Perhaps the largest collection of petroglyphs in the Southwest, is located at the ranch, and the Baird family offers visitors a real western cowboy experience along with their tour of the canyon wall rock art. They are open Tuesdays through Saturdays, May through October. Call (928)288-3260 or (928)386-5047 for more information.

Canyon de Chelly National Monument

Take Highway 191 north from the Chambers exit off Interstate 40 and travel over some 80 miles of rolling hills spotted with juniper and pine. You will pass through Ganado near the Hubbell Trading Post and Chinle before arriving at Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

Brown Park Service signs guide you through Chinle to the monument visitor center. From there, you may choose between the north and south rim drives.

The north rim drive runs along Canyon del Muerto, and the south rim drive takes you along Canyon de Chelly. Both canyons branch off the Chinle Wash.

As you travel along the rim, you will see canyons sculpted by harsh winds, extreme temperatures and flash floods.

Wind-blown pillars stand as centurions for the former homes of people, who found the cliffs a safe haven centuries ago. Many places to pull off the road along the rim offer spectacular views of the canyon.

Besides looking at the scenery at these pullouts, you may encounter vendors who sell jewelry in the small parking lots.

The visitor center has many books for sale on the natural features and the cultural heritage of the area. The center also offers information on guided tours, and facilities at the monument and in the surrounding area.
66. When you reach the highway that passes several feet above you, you will be able to see the original roadbed layer.

**Holbrook Cemetery**

The survey of the Holbrook Cemetery was not complete at the time this booklet was produced. We hope to have a historic tour of the cemetery ready by the next printing. Some of the historic figures laid to rest here include Andy Cooper (Blevins), Samuel Blevins, Mose Roberts, George Smiley, C.L. White and Sheriff Frank Wattron.

**Discover Northeastern Arizona**

There is still much more to see and do. Holbrook invites you to continue your explorations of Northeastern Arizona. Holbrook is a great place to stay as you take mini-adventures throughout the area.

**Petrified Forest National Park**

The area’s number one attraction is Petrified Forest National Park, which offers beautiful scenic views, dinosaurs, petroglyphs, Indian ruins and, of course, petrified logs. Every bend in the road reveals something new.

The park is located 22 miles east of Holbrook, just off Interstate 40. At the north entrance of the park is an oasis in the high country desert stands the visitor center. It features exhibits and a freestanding skeletal model of a Placerias. Visitors may also enter the park’s south entrance, about 25 miles from Holbrook, via U.S. 180. The Rainbow Museum, just inside the park, features additional skeletal models of animals from the Triassic Period.

The park is open every day except Christmas and New Year’s. During the winter months, the park may be closed due to icy roads. As the park hours vary with the season’s daylight hours, it is best to verify these times with the park, an Arizona Information Center or the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce.

Park facilities include the visitor center at the north end, which is open during park hours. A video is shown at the center that will acquaint visitors with the wonders they are about to see. The Painted Desert Oasis, next to the Painted Desert Visitor Center at the north end of the park, offers a restaurant, gas station and curios, and the Rainbow Forest Curio at the south entrance, near the Rainbow Forest Museum, has a snack bar and gift shop.

With features continuously being added at the park, previous visitors and newcomers alike will want to spend more time there to be sure to catch the entire experience offered, which spans millions of years of the area’s history.

**A Brief History**

Flood, fire, bullets and blood marked Holbrook’s early days, yet from these struggles Holbrook’s citizens would go on to make their mark in Arizona’s history. Commodore Perry Owens and the shootout at the Blevins’ home, Sheriff Frank Wattron and his infamous invitation to a hanging were only two of the many events that would place Holbrook on the map of history.

The topography of the Holbrook area made it a natural location for a railroad route and freight center. In 1853, Lieutenant A.W. Whipple’s party scouted the railroad route from the Mississippi River to the California coast, passing by on the north shore of the Rio Puerco and the Little Colorado River heading west. In 1857, Naval Lieutenant Edward F. Beale was ordered to open a wagon route from Fort Defiance to California. By his description of the journey, Beale crossed at what would later be called Holbrook near the confluence of the Rio Puerco and the Little Colorado River.

In the early 1860s, the famous Kit Carson established Camp Supply along the Little Colorado near Horsehead Crossing. It was a tent city used by Carson during his campaign to force the Native Americans onto reservations and as a relay station for supplies headed to area military posts.

During the 1870s, Fort Apache, Show Low, Snowflake, Taylor, Woodruff and other areas south of Horsehead Crossing were being settled. With the east and west, Wagon Road established on the north side of the river, the sandstone river bed at Horsehead Crossing became a natural place to cross.

Juan Padilla built his home, saloon and store in the early 1870s just east of the fork of the two rivers. Two miles down the river from Horsehead Crossing, Berado Frayre, John Walker and George Bryant located at Berado’s River Crossing. Both crossings appear on maps at different times with the name of Horsehead Crossing.

By 1881, more businesses would be taking advantage of these crossings as the railroad moved through the area. At Padilla’s Horsehead Crossing, a railroad car was set up as the station. It was here that John W. Young, a grading contractor for the railroad, named the station Holbrook, after Henry Randolph Holbrook, the senior engineer for the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad at the time.

The Arizona Cooperative Mercantile Institution, a Mormon run co-op, bought the land and a wood-framed store owned by Young at the Holbrook station in July 1881. Unfortunately for the ACMI, in February 1882, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad moved the railcar serving as the station and the name of Holbrook two miles west to Berado’s store, the present location of the town.

The earliest known photo of Holbrook is one of Santiago Baca Co. Baca ran a general merchandise store and saloon. It was located on Bucket of Blood Street about three miles east of the depot. Baca, Pedro Montano, F.W. Smith and H.H. Scorse were at the right place at the right time. These men owned the land around the depot. They organized themselves and filed a plat map in 1883 laying out the streets that are essentially unchanged today.
In March 1884, Francis M. Zuck purchased Baca’s and Montano’s interest in the town site. Zuck’s timing was excellent. The Aztec Land and Cattle Company was about to send tens of thousands of cattle to the area. Thanks to the fever ticks in the cattle and letters sent by many midwestern states to Texas newspapers asking the Texas cowboys not to return with their cattle the next season, the ranchers headed to Northern Arizona. Sites such as Dodge City, Kansas, lost the Texas cattle to New Mexico and Arizona. The Hashknife cowboys and their cattle were going to make their mark in Holbrook’s history and give the infant community of Holbrook an economic shot in the arm.

Though Holbrook welcomed the Hashknife cowboys and their money, they were in for a rough time. The cowboys worked hard and played hard. All the vices found in any cowtown were bountiful in Holbrook, as well. On many occasions the self-indulgences of the cowboys lead to gunplay. In 1886, the whiskeyed-up men were involved in twenty-six shootings in a town of only 250 souls.

Through the fire of 1888, which nearly destroyed every building in town, to the drought, flood and the men themselves, Holbrook continued to grow. With the growth came power, and in 1895, Navajo County was split from Apache County and Holbrook became the county seat.

The first building on your tour is the county courthouse. It was built three blocks from the train depot. For many years it stood alone against a desert backdrop.

**Historic Self-Guided Tour**

**The Map**

Total length of the tour is 2.5 miles. The buildings marked in solid black are the original buildings described in this guide. The buildings marked in white no longer exist, or were replaced with new structures.

1. **Historic Navajo County Courthouse**

Will C. Barnes, area rancher, author, Congressional Medal of Honor winner and legislator, was successful in introducing a bill to the Territorial Legislature, which was signed on March 22, 1895, creating Navajo County from Apache County. Built three years later in 1898 at a cost of $15,000, the courthouse included a $3,000 jail. Frank Wattron was the first sheriff to use the jail facility.

Within a year the courthouse would play host to an event that would gain national attention. A less than solemn invitation to the hanging of George Smiley, a murderer, was copied in an Albuquerque, N.M., newspaper. The story made its way to Washington and to President McKinley, who sent a message to Territorial Governor Murphy of Arizona to stop the execution. The hanging was rescheduled and an invitation that followed the correct format was sent out just one day before the execution. On January 5, 1900, George Smiley was

**103. Holbrook Head Start.**

Central School (Sheldon) was the second school in Holbrook, and was built in 1910. It replaced the one-room adobe school located on the riverbank, one block west of Arizona Rancho Hotel.

**104. LDS Church**

This interesting structure was completed in the beginning of 1916 at a cost of $7,200. General authorities of the church, from Salt Lake City arrived on May 16 for the dedication, which attracted the largest crowd ever assembled for religious purposes in Holbrook. It is a mission-style, 36’x52’ press brick building.

**106. St. George’s Episcopal Church**

The original home of the Holbrook Episcopal Church was built in 1918 or ’19 with money raised by the Girls Friendly Society. The building was so small it held only 15 people. The community called it the Bandbox Church.

In 1934, the mission in Holbrook became a church. Bishop Mitchell dedicated St. George’s on January 21, 1934. The Winslow Children’s Choir came to sing for the occasion. Eventually, the old box was enlarged and transformed into the church rectory.

**107. United Methodist Church**

Judge Sapp built it, the first church in Holbrook, in 1912. His bride refused to live in a town without a church. For the first years, it served as the community church.

**108. The Shoe Box**

In 1943, Gilbert Scorse moved the Green Lantern to this location. Originally the route 66 ran down Navajo Blvd., then turned west of Joy Nevin Avenue at the corner where the Green Lantern stood. When the road was moved one block north to Hopi Drive, business dropped. Scorse then sued the state and won a settlement. He then moved the restaurant. They continued to serve the Route 66 travelers for many years. It is now Little Cesar’s Pizza.

**Other Historic Places To See In Holbrook**

One of Holbrook’s most famous places is the Wigwam Motel, located on West Hopi Drive at Eighth Avenue. It is a true piece of Route 66 Americana.

Glen Heward built the Heward House on the mesa overlooking Holbrook in 1934. It was not finished until after World War II. There are tunnels under the house which are used to draw cool air up into the house on hot summer days. It is now a bed and breakfast.

The Navajo County Fairgrounds was built in 1923. The grandstands were uncovered until 1938, when 18 giant Ponderosa Pine Logs were used as beams to support the ceiling. The fairgrounds are located at the east end of Hopi Drive.

Route 66 ran the entire length of Navajo Blvd. and Hopi Drive. At the West End Park turn south and follow the road to the right. This is original roadbed of Route 66.
by the dozens.

As you cross the street continuing to the right you’ll find the home of H.H. Scorse. His family members have been a part of the community for over one hundred years.

Next is the Livery Stable, then Loui Sam Kee’s English Kitchen Restaurant, followed by the infamous Bucket of Blood Saloon, which was originally named the Cottage until the shooting. Next is the drugstore of Sheriff Frank Wattron, followed by the Pioneer Saloon owned by H.H. Scorse, then Scorse’s Mercantile store.

The open lot was for freight delivery to A&B Schuster’s Mercantile. A pioneer family has come to town to load up with supplies at the Arizona Cooperative Mercantile at the end of the block.

Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens stands out front. Owens and his deputy and the second sheriff of Navajo County, Frank Wattron, are credited with cleaning up one of the toughest towns in the West.

At center stage is Holbrook’s Hashknife Posse Pony Express Riders. They are a living part of the area’s history. Sheriff L. Ben Pearson and Ray Downing began the posse as a search and rescue group. The Hashknife Posse is the only pony express ride authorized in the United States to carry the U.S. Mail.

101. JC Penney Store

Originally built by the Whiting’s in 1929, the JC Penney store served customers until 1980. During the winter, the manager would come in at 7 a.m. to start up the coal-fired boiler. Each morning an oil mop would be used on the wood floors and sheets would be removed from the merchandise. Because the offices were on the second floor, money from the registers would be sent to the second floor in money cups. New clerks needed practice pulling on the string to get the cup all the way up to the office; too soft and it would not make it, too hard and the money would end up all over the desk.

102. ‘Pay ‘n Take It’

Built in 1917, this was the first store in town to offer fresh fruit. Children would stop by on their way to school for fruit, and were amazed by their first experience with bananas. Later it housed a grocery store, a hardware store and then Beck Bros. Furniture.

swung into eternity. He was buried in the Holbrook Cemetery.

There is more information on the historic marker located on the wall at the corner of Navajo Blvd. and Arizona.

2. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

Father Thomas Connely, one of the first priests, rode in each week to the Holbrook Mission from Winslow. He was continuing the work started throughout Northeastern Arizona as early as 1629 by Franciscan monks, who started the first mission in Arizona with the Hopi Indians. The early attempts with the Hopi people resulted in the deaths of several monks.

Father Connely’s congregation was much kinder. Mass was held in the home of “Grandma Garcia” until 1915, when the first resident priest, Father G.O. Max, built a small adobe shack which he lived in, and a church building.

Route 66

When the first buildings began sprouting up between the courthouse and the train station, travel was primarily east and west along Central, the old Beale Wagon Road and by rail. Navajo Boulevard was one of two secondary roads used to get from downtown to the courthouse.

By 1926, Navajo Blvd. would be destined to become more than just a way to the courthouse. Route 66 was established and would run through town. In 1929, the city paid to have the route paved. Many auto courts began to appear all along the road, and businesses packed in along the new downtown Navajo Blvd. and Hopi Drive corridor.

Most of the buildings along this tour pre-date Route 66 in their construction, but Route 66 and the automobiles it brought would change the function many of them served.

3. Wells Fargo Bank

Herb Lore’s Trading Post sat on what now is the back half of the Wells Fargo Bank. Facing East Arizona Street, the building was built by Herb Lore prior to 1920. It served the nearby Navajo Reservation for many years. Lore owned one of the first radios in town. Residents would come by for their turn to place the headset on and listen to the crackle of distant voices. Mr. Lore was also instrumental in the building of the museum at Petrified Forest National Park.

The Café on the corner featured meals for only 40 cents. Next to The Café was a barbershop. Mr Estes opened Estes Barber-shop in about 1926. About 1927, Charlie Cooley opened Cooley’s Newsstand in the place of the barbershop. Cooley’s sold newspapers, magazines and fine cigars. If you wanted to know what was happening in the world, you would make several trips a week to Charlie’s.
On February 17, 1951, the First National Bank outgrew its facilities on Bucket of Blood Street and moved to the corner. Herb Lore’s Trading Post, The Café and Cooley’s Newsstand were all removed to make way for the bank.

4. Masonic Lodge
The first Masonic Lodge chartered in Arizona, the Chalcedony Lodge No. 6, was chartered in 1887. The lodge still holds its meetings here. The original two-story structure was built in 1917. Lloyd C. Henning donated the construction of the addition in 1959.
In 1917, Lloyd C. Henning opened Henning Insurance in the front of the Masonic Lodge building. Henning owned the insurance business until his death in 1968.

5. Z92 Radio
Holbrook Drug has moved several times over its history. Originally T.P. Robinson and Company, the rest of the company being Frank Wattron, was located next to the Cottage Saloon (Bucket of Blood Saloon) and was later sold to Jim Scorse. Mr. Scorse changed the name to Holbrook Drug Co. It was moved to the corner of South Central (Bucket of Blood Street) and South Navajo Blvd. Then in the 1940s, it was moved to the present site of the radio station.

6. Pat’s House of Originals
This building was first built for Babbitt Bros., which served Holbrook as a grocery store where you could buy just about anything you wanted. Advertising in the 1918 Holbrook Tribune for Babbitt Bros. beckoned the residents to stop by and pick a watermelon and building lumber.

The Babbitt brothers opened the first mercantile in Holbrook in 1915. Though they were late in arriving in Holbrook, they would make up for it by opening several businesses in the community over the years. In 1957, they opened the new Babbitt’s Thriftway Supermarket, which was located on Hopi Drive at Fifth Avenue.

7. Painted Desert Quilt Shop
This was the second location for always a better location, so the station moved to the southwest corner of Navajo Blvd. and Hopi Drive. It was used for the Holbrook Light & Power, Holbrook Water Dept. and Holbrook Fire Dept.
For many years this building served as a bakery until the Romos reopened it as a Mexican restaurant.

90. The Clinic Building
This building, was first a garage owned by Lucian Owens. Later the town physician, Dr. Donald DeMarse, purchased it and transformed it into a clinic. It was operated as such for many years.

93. Sydney Sapp House
Sydney Sapp, Navajo County’s first Superior Court judge and founder of the Holbrook News, built this home in 1911. The house was a local interpretation of the Queen Anne style, and was occupied by the judge’s family for forty years.

95. Holbrook Hospital
Holbrook’s first doctor was Dr. Whiting. At this time, not much is known about the doctor, other than he had a lot of practice removing .44 slugs from drunk cowboys.
Early doctors lived and worked from their hotel rooms even through the late 1920s. Dr. Park originally worked out of their rooms at the Arizona Rancho Hotel. Dr. Park moved to a house in the middle of the block next to an apartment house. In 1930, Dr. Park bought the apartments and added on to the front, connecting the apartments to his house, and opened Holbrook’s first hospital.

96. Joe & Aggie’s Café
This spot is truly a historic Route 66 landmark. It’s one of the few buildings still used for its original purpose. The original owner was Tom Smithson. The café has served tired travelers since Route 66 was established. Though it has had several owners over the years, Joe and Aggie’s Café has been its name for several decades.

98. Mural - Heart of the Old West
Born from hearts that love Holbrook and its Old West history, this community project painted by Liz Nichols was dedicated on January 18, 2002. Each element of the mural accurately depicts moments in the history of Holbrook.
Sam Brown’s Livery Stable can be seen at the far left, behind the train. This was where Commodore Perry Owens left his horse as he headed to the Blevins House and into Holbrook history. The Blevins House is 100 yards east of the livery, out of view behind the train station. The train and the station were the chief means of area residents’ livelihood, as well as transportation to Holbrook.
The lady and gentleman standing in front of the depot came to Holbrook from back east to deal with the property of their son, James Stott, who had been hung by a lynch party.
During the 1880s and ‘90s, enormous amounts of wool, sheep and cattle were shipped from Holbrook. The wagons, as depicted in front of the station, came and went.
water and fresh flowers from California awaited the guests. About 1900, the boxcars were moved to Winslow, where La Posada was built in 1930 and would continue to serve the train traveling public.

77. Green Lantern
In 1928, the Scorse family opened two new businesses in town. Built on the property their home sat on, Gilbert Scorse opened a service station, and Henry and Annabelle Scorse opened the Green Lantern Café and Tea Room. In 1942, Gilbert bought the Green Lantern and moved it to a new location. His mother opened a gift shop in the building. Part of the original house still stands as part of the gift shop today.

81. Holbrook Hotel
The home owned by Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Zuck was originally called the Holbrook House. Built in 1884, it was described as a house with large airy rooms and a table supplied with all the market afforded. A stage left the house each day for Fort Apache.

It was one of the first buildings to burn in the fire of 1888. From the ashes arose a two story stone hotel. An early advertisement boasted a pleasant parlor and lobby. It was a stone fire-proof building with a barber shop, and ladies’ and gents’ baths.

83. Julien’s Roadrunner
This long row of buildings was built over several years beginning in the late 1920s. Originally, log cabins were built here as housekeeping apartments for the Holbrook Hotel.

Western Union was located in the first building. The Sitgreaves National Forest Service was located in Julien’s Roadrunner. Later, a jewelry store, which had several owners over the years, was here. There was a restaurant owned by Bill Stovall called Bick Burger and latter it was owned by Lillian Newman.

Snyder’s Music, later Lowe’s Music, occupied the west buildings.

86. Romo’s Restaurant
Standard Oil’s Chevron Station was built in 1931. Ted Gerwitz was the manager. The growth of Route 66 created a need for many other stations. Like so many businesses in Holbrook, there was Campbell’s Coffeehouse. Built by Chester B. Campbell in 1928, this building was a famous coffee house in its day. This was the home of the original Son-of-a-B%!#! Stew, even Barry Goldwater had to try a bowl. Later Dick and Gladys Mester bought the business and moved it down the street to the southeast corner of Navajo Blvd. and Hopi Drive.

8. Holbrook Mercantile
This was the original location of Campbell’s Coffeehouse. The left side of this building housed Babbitt’s Clothing and Department Store. The Babbitt brothers had several businesses in Holbrook over the years, and ran them from their regional office on the second floor.

Caldwell Drug occupied the corner after an extensive rebuilt of the corner building.

9. Vintage Auto’s
Originally Safeway was called Pay and Take It, and was located on the southwest corner of Navajo Blvd. and West Arizona. It moved to this location in the 1940s. When Safeway moved to its current location, Western Auto moved in.

Now used as a private garage, the large windows allow visitors a glimpse of several vintage automobiles and automobile memorabilia.

10. Antique Shop
The publishers of the Tombstone Epitaph, Columbus and Carmel Giragi moved to Northern Arizona and became publishers of four newspapers, including the Holbrook Tribune-News, which was built on this site in 1930. Thanks to modern technology, the newspaper has been able to operate from the same building for more than 70 years.
11. The McAllistor House
A.F. McAllistor served as Navajo County’s recorder for nearly ten years, from January 1, 1899, until September 3, 1909. His family home stood alone on the street for many years, as can be seen in an early photo of the area. It was taken down in 2019.

12. Greyhound Bus Line/Campbell’s Coffeehouse
Land was plentiful in the early days, and C.A. Daniels saw the opportunity as a land locator in turn of the century Holbrook. His business was located in a wood-framed house. He touted free government lands, delightful climate, shallow water and a home market for all farm products.

In 1947, Campbell’s Coffeehouse moved to the southeast corner of Navajo Blvd. and Hopi Drive. Dick and Gladys Mester, the new owners, continued to serve their special stew to a growing number of Greyhound Bus Line travelers.

16. Roxy Theatre
After a fire destroyed the Liberty Theatre, the Roxy opened. The first movie played was “Mr. Deeds Goes To Town” starring Gary Cooper and Jean Arthur. The following week’s movie was, coincidentally, “The Petrified Forest,” starring Leslie Howard and Bette Davis.

Built in 1922, the structure, until recently, served as a typical trading post. It was originally the H.H. Scorse building. This was the second location of Henry’s store. Residents have commented on the excellent store that he ran. The decor was as fine as any store back East.

This building housed many businesses over the years, including the Blue Bird Theatre (# 20) in the 1920s, which became the Liberty Theatre in 1925. The Blue Bird’s first movie opened December 29, 1922. The title was “What No Man Knows,” starring Clara Kimball-Young. They were open four days a week. The Liberty opened in 1925 and showed its first “talkie” movie with sound in December 1929.

H.H. Scorse’s building also played host to a furniture store, Reece Café and the Greyhound Bus Depot ran by Frank Reece. The Hudson Jewelry Store replaced The Café, then Tom Burns Cleaners was located there for a short time until a fire in the early 60s, before moving across the street. The Holbrook Pool & Billiards run by Senator Watson and later Bill Sutherland was part of the early days of this building. A barber-

150. Dusty River Antiques
The First National Bank was founded in 1922, and this building housed Holbrook’s fourth bank. Before 1913, Navapache Bank served Holbrook, along with the Merchants and Stockgrowers Bank. The First National Bank was able to print its own money for a time. It was one of the few banks to last through the Depression, and the original vault is still used. This building was later used for the gas company’s offices.

70. Arizona Rancho Hotel
Built in 1888 and originally named the Brunswick Hotel, the structure was used for Masonic services before the present hall was built. The Hash Knife Cattle Company and the Argus also used the hotel for a short time.

73. Babbitt Bros.
The brothers also had a wholesale outlet in Holbrook on Southwest Central Avenue, next to the railroad. They offered a full line of retail products like Schusters. Babbitt’s and Schusters received most of their products from railroad freight. They had outside salesmen, who took orders from all over Northern Arizona, then used trucks to deliver orders.

75. First Permanent Train Station
The first permanent train depot stood just to the west of the present depot. It burned to the ground in the fire of 1888.

76. Harvey House
As early as 1884, Fred Harvey located a restaurant in five old boxcars along side the first depot. The outsides of the cars were less than inviting. Peeling green, sun-baked paint hid the splendor of the interiors. The inside was clean and freshly painted in Native American designs. The tables were set like the tables of the Waldorf Astoria. Irish linen, English silver, crystal and imported crockery adorned the tables. Pitchers of ice...
22. Brown Livery Stable
Sheriff Owens used this stable just before he served the warrant on Andy Cooper (Blevins) on September 4, 1887. Sam Brown, the owner of the stable, told Owens that Cooper’s horse was in the stable’s yard. The sheriff, knowing that Cooper was home, headed out and placed himself in the history of the Old West.

It appears that the following year the livery burned with the rest of the town in the 1888 fire. In an 1897 article in the Argus, only one livery was in town and it was located on the other side of the tracks. The livery was rebuilt by owner B.B. Crosby. By 1910 it had been sold again. In keeping up with the times, the new owner of the Pioneer Livery, S. D. Smith, used the building just east as a garage (# 23) to handle the needs of owners of the new fangled automobiles that were beginning to make tracks across the country.

24. White Saloon
Like many saloons in the Wild West, Holbrook’s White Saloon saw its share of fights, some with the fist and some by the six-shooter. When the Hashknife cowboys rode into town, saloons filled up fast with thirsty cowboys. The saloon is now the headquarters for the Hashknife Sheriff’s Posse.

26. Blevins House
This was the site of the famous bloody shoot-out between Apache County Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens and the Blevins gang in 1887. The basic structure of the original cottage is the same, although additions have been made to the back.

On Sunday, September 4, 1887, Owens rode up to the Pioneer Livery Stable, left his horse and armed himself. With a warrant in his pocket for the arrest of Andy Cooper for horse stealing, Owens headed to the house. In the house was Cooper, the son of Mrs. Blevins by a previous marriage, John and Samuel Blevins, Mose Roberts, a son-in-law, shop and the Arizona Public Service office also occupied this building.

23. Blevins House
Coffeyville, Kansas, he was shot and killed with three other members of the Dalton Gang after a bungled bank robbery.

42. Watron Drug
The drugstore has had several owners over the decades. Its second, and most well known owner was Sheriff Frank J. Watron. In the 1880s, the store was named after Watron and was located between the Bucket of Blood Saloon and H.H. Scorse’s store. Jim Scorse bought the business and changed the name to Holbrook Drug. The drugstore moved into Loui Ghuey’s building several doors to the west, then next to the Masonic Lodge in the early 1940s.

George Koury and Fred Aman opened a mercantile store at this location in 1916. Later Lloyd Henning bought all four of the buildings and used them as part of several ventures.

43. Pioneer Saloon
The Pioneer Saloon did not reach the western lore status as the Bucket of Blood Saloon did, but it had its share of trouble when the Hash Knife cowboys came to town.

44. H.H. Scorse Mercantile
Henry H. Scorse, a native of England, was a rancher, saloon owner and merchant. Scorse was one of the original settlers of Holbrook and one of its leading businessmen. Besides the 10,000 head of cattle he worked on his ranch, he owned the Pioneer Saloon and the H.H. Scorse Mercantile.

45. A&B Schuster Company
Schuster was one of those general stores where you could buy anything. The store had groceries, meats, liquor, hardware departments, wholesale, propane, hay and grain, windmills, horseshoes, rifles, Levis, Stetson hats…just about anything you could ask for. The old wholesale warehouse was located on Southeast Central Avenue by the railroad tracks, and was later used by a beer distributor.

46. ACMI
The Arizona Cooperative Mercantile Institution, a Mormon run co-op, bought the land and a wood-framed store owned by Young at the Holbrook station in July 1881. When the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad moved the railcar serving as the station and the name of Holbrook two miles west to Berado’s store, the location was abandoned by ACMI.

Erastus Snow, Jesse N. Smith, Joseph Fish and others, organized the co-op. After
Mrs. Blevins, Eva Blevins, John’s wife and Amanda Gladden, a family friend.

The event was witnessed by many of the town folk. Cooper came to the door, words were exchanged, Cooper raised his six-shooter, but Owens got his shot off first, hitting Cooper in the stomach. Owens stepped back as the front door to his left opened a crack and John Blevins took a shot not four feet from Owens. The bullet missed, striking the horse tied up to a nearby tree. Owens shot through a door, sending Mrs. Blevins to the floor.

Owens heard a noise at the front window. Andy Cooper had moved to the front room window, preparing to take another shot at Owens. Owens’ third shot tore through the house wall, entering Cooper’s hip.

Picking up Cooper’s gun, young Samuel Blevins ran out the door ready to shoot, but the alert Owens was ready and dropped Samuel on the porch.

Hearing a window rise on the east side of the house, Owens moved into view to see Mose Roberts coming out the window with a six-shooter in his hand. Owens’ fifth and last shot hit Roberts in the chest, dropping him almost in his tracks.

When the smoke cleared, Samuel Blevins, Andy Cooper and Mose Roberts were dead. John Blevins survived. Owens went on to serve Navajo County as its first sheriff.

27. Historic Beale’s Wagon Trail Marker

In front of the Blevins’ house is a historic marker, which tells the story of the early trails that passed along what is now known as Joy Nevin Avenue.

28. Blacksmith and Wheelright

In an advertisement placed in the January 2, 1900, issue of the Holbrook Argus, William Armbruster described his business as, “a practical blacksmith and wheelright. All out of town work will receive prompt attention. If you have a wheel to fill or a tire to set, bring it to me and get good service for your money. Work is guaranteed to suit you.”

Armbruster was one of Holbrook’s early settlers, and ran his business for many years.

29. Santa Fe Depot

This was the third and last site for the depot. It was first located in a rail car two miles east of its present location. The first permanent structure was a wooden two-story building built about fifty yards to the east of this building. The 1888 fire, which destroyed most of the town, also destroyed the depot. This depot was the major shipping point this side of Albuquerque. Holbrook was the shipping point for the vast Navajo Reservation to the north, Ft. Apache and all the small Latter-day Saints settlements to the south. Delivering the freight after it arrived in Holbrook was done by mule wagons. Sheep, wool and cattle came and went by the thousands during the latter 19th century.

40. English Kitchen Restaurant

Loui Sam Kee and Loy Yuck Kee were enterprising businessmen, running a bakery, restaurant and laundromat. Loui Kee had been a cook for both Henry Huning and the Hash Knife Outfit before opening the restaurant in the late 1800s next to the Cottage Saloon (Bucket of Blood). The Kees’ building was a lean-to structure only seven feet wide. Both the restaurant and bakery were very popular with the locals.

41. Bucket of Blood Saloon

Terrill’s Cottage Saloon was one of several saloons in Holbrook, but an event changed its status and placed it in the mythology of the Wild West. Poker, a drunken brawl and shots from a .45 would change the name of the saloon to the Bucket of Blood.

Two men, Grat Dalton, a member of the Dalton Gang who was going under the name of Joe Crawford, and George Bell, a gambler, were playing poker with two other men. A dispute over a deal of the cards ended with Dalton shooting and killing the two other men, who lay side by side on the saloon floor. After Dalton and Bell fled the saloon and the commotion died down, the bodies were removed. It was remarked that the floor where the men laid looked like a bucket of blood had been spilled. From then on the Cottage would be called by the locals as the Bucket of Blood.

Dalton would not be arrested for the shooting, but about six months later back in