



Bretton Hall Hotel, Banff, 1926, Glenbow NA-554-5

Main street of Banff, ca. 1890s, Glenbow NA-529-16

ities to politics, and served as Alberta's lieutenant-governor from 1915 to 1925.

In 1903, a landmark building was built in Banff that still stands on the edge of the park. The Banff Park Museum was built in what was called "Railroad Pagoda Style." Early architecture in the park tried to develop a style that reflected the mountain environment by using local materials such as logs and Rundlestone. Shingle ornamentation was typically used, as was the crossed-log motif. The Banff Park Museum, now a National Historic Site, houses the park's natural-history collection. The core of the displays came from the specimens collected by Professor John Macoun, who had been sent west in 1891 by the Geological Survey of Canada to assemble a collection from the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains Park.



Banff's zoo was located on the grounds behind the museum. It was started in 1904 when William Whyte, Vice President of the CPR, presented the town with 10 pheasants. An aviary grew from this, and then larger mammals were gradually added. At one point, the zoo even had a polar bear. It closed in 1937.

After Brett's sanatorium burned down, the federal government put up the Administration Building in 1935 as one of the relief projects during the Depression. This building still retains its original appearance, as designed by Harold Beckett.

The Town of Banff offers an interesting self-guided historical walking tour. The brochure "Walking Through Banff's History" is available at the information centre.



Banff Park Museum, National Historic Site

Banff Main Street, 2010

