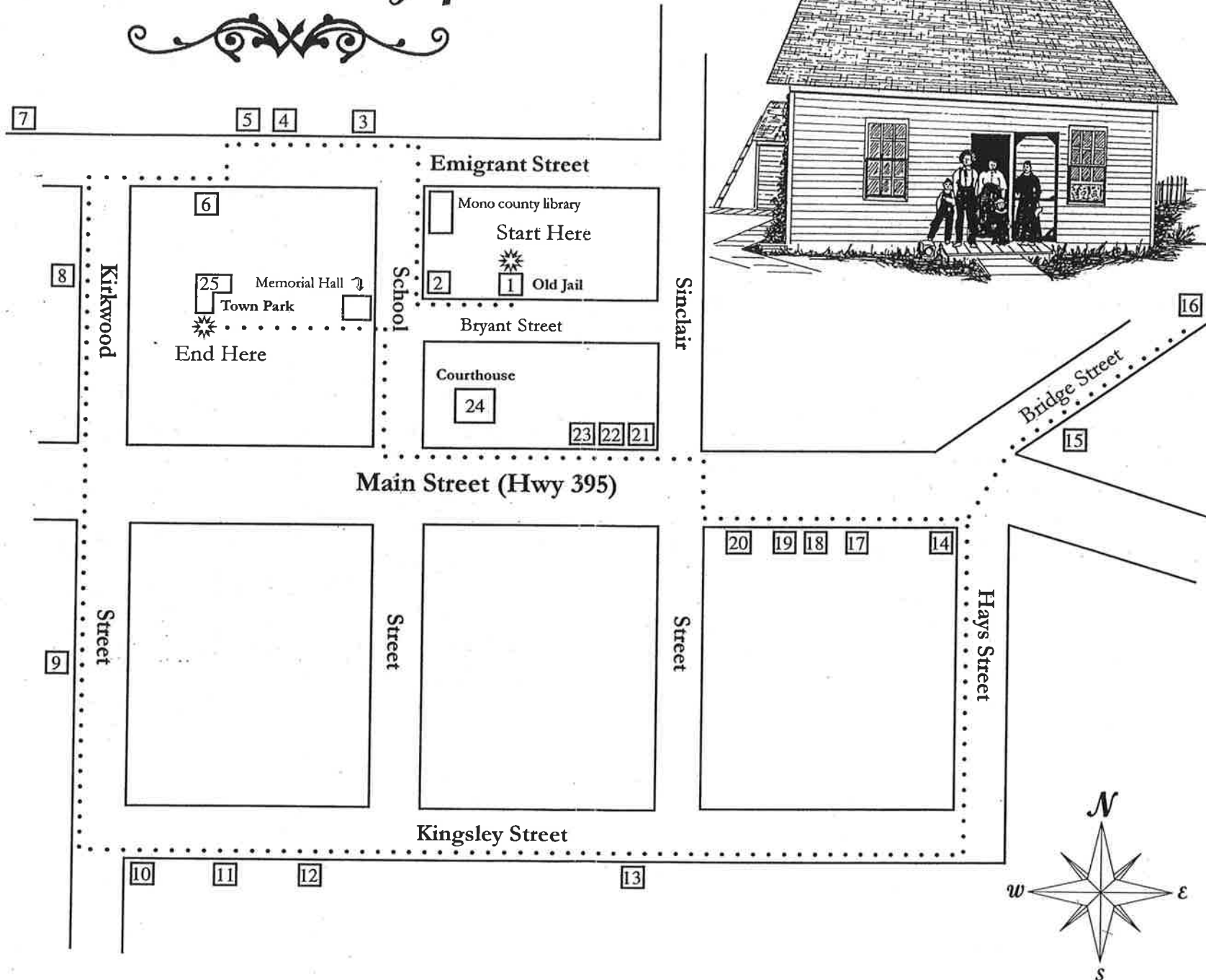


# Historic Bridgeport



**1. Old Bridgeport Jail** 49 Bryant Street  
 The old Bridgeport Jail, a well used facility, built in 1883 at a cost of \$5,750 in gold coin. The building was used continuously until 1964 when it was turned over to the Mono County Historical Society. In January 13, 1888, the following account was published in the *Bridgeport Chronicle-Union* from Andrew McGinty, a fellow well acquainted with the "County Bar Hotel," :  
 "...the Bridgeport jail I have found to be more like a home than a jail for the unfortunate. It is neat and clean in every respect, and our meals were well furnished..."

**2. Site of Bridgeport Chronicle Union Building** Adjacent to 50 North School Street  
 A historical plaque marks the site of a building that housed a series of local newspapers dating back to 1880. The paper began as the *Bodie Chronicle Union* which later became the *Chronicle Union*, then the *Bridgeport Chronicle Union*, and finally the *Review-Herald*, which is still published today by Chalfant Press.

**3. Community Church** 80 Emigrant Street  
 The Community Church building was formerly a store owned by L. E. Wedertz. The building was moved by teams of horses to its present site at the corner of Emigrant and School Streets in 1901. The building has been remodeled and services are still held each Sunday.

**4. Mary McCulloch House** 106 Emigrant Street  
 Grace Crocker and later the Denton family lived in this house.

**5. Harvey Ladd House** 122 Emigrant Street  
 This home was moved from the Hunewill Ranch.

**6. Welfare Building** 137 Emigrant Street  
 This structure was the original hospital built in the 1930s.

**7. "By" Day House** 260 Emigrant Street  
 George Byron "By" Day arrived in the Bridgeport area in the early 1860s. He hauled hay and lumber from Big Meadows to provide goods to the miners at Aurora. The Day home is the last house on Emigrant Street before it connects to Highway 395 just west of town.

**8. Kirkwood House** 85 Kirkwood Street  
 Thomas Kirkwood was an early rancher in Big Meadows. The Thomas Kirkwood home was originally on the main street of town until the construction of Highway 395 in the 1920s changed the route.

**9. Kirkwood Barns** West side of Kirkwood Street  
 The tall poplar trees of the Hunewill Ranch can be seen behind the barns when looking across the meadow to the southwest. This famous ranch has remained in the same family since its start in 1863.

**10. DeChambeau House** 339 Kingsley Street

# Walking Tour of Historic Bridgeport

**11. The "Other" Ghost House** 287 Kingsley Street  
The ghost is said to be that of a young woman who was killed when her beau threw her out of the upstairs window. She still wanders the second story bedrooms.

**12. Parker House** 245 Kingsley Street

**13. Nolan House** 135 Kingsley Street

**14. Dave Hays Warehouse** 1 Hays Street  
In the early 1890s, Dave Hays built this structure to serve as a warehouse next to his store and residence. The other two buildings are gone, but the warehouse survived. The upper floor was used for Masons and Odd Fellows.

**15. Towle House** 1 Bridge Street  
The Towle House was constructed in 1875 from lumber sawed by owner Joshua W. Towle. Built in the fashionable New England style, the house still reflects the expertise of the builders. The house was subsequently purchased by the Gilbert Wedertz family. A Wedertz granddaughter, Jan Huggans and family, still occupy the home.

**16. Bridgeport Indian Colony**  
Bridgeport's Indian people have lived in this valley for thousands of years. The original settlement was here at the townsite of Bridgeport and on the other side of the Walker River at Old Camp. Old Camp could be reached by crossing the footbridge at the end of Bridge Street. In November 1980, the community moved up the hill and further east to its current location on the Bridgeport Indian Reservation.

**17. Ghost House** 157 Main Street  
In 1894, Andre Harper Allen reportedly committed suicide in this house where it is believed his ghost still remains. The Brandon family who purchased the property have said that "the ghost" pulls the covers off the upstairs bed and drops them in the middle of the room. Members of the family also report hearing footsteps in the upstairs room when no one is in the room.

**18. P. G. Hughes Residence** 175 Main Street  
Patrick G. Hughes owned a blacksmith shop as well as this two-story New England style home. The home has been purchased and renovated by the Bryant family to reflect its original appearance. Period furniture reflects the lives of those living in Bridgeport in the 1880s.

**19. Dr. Clark Sinclair's Home** 185 Main Street  
Once home of Bridgeport's well-known pioneer doctor.

**20. Bridgeport Inn** 205 Main Street  
The Leavitt House, now known as the Bridgeport Inn, was built in 1877. Hiram Leavitt hired Sam Hawkins to build and supervise the construction. Leavitt was a native of New Hampshire who sailed from Boston to San Francisco, then settled in Sonora in 1865. Later, he and his family crossed the Sierra and settled in Indian Valley, now known as Leavitt Meadows. Here they ranched and managed a stage stop on the Sonora-Mono Road until the hotel was completed in Bridgeport. Mark Twain supposedly stayed in the hotel during his visit to Monoville.

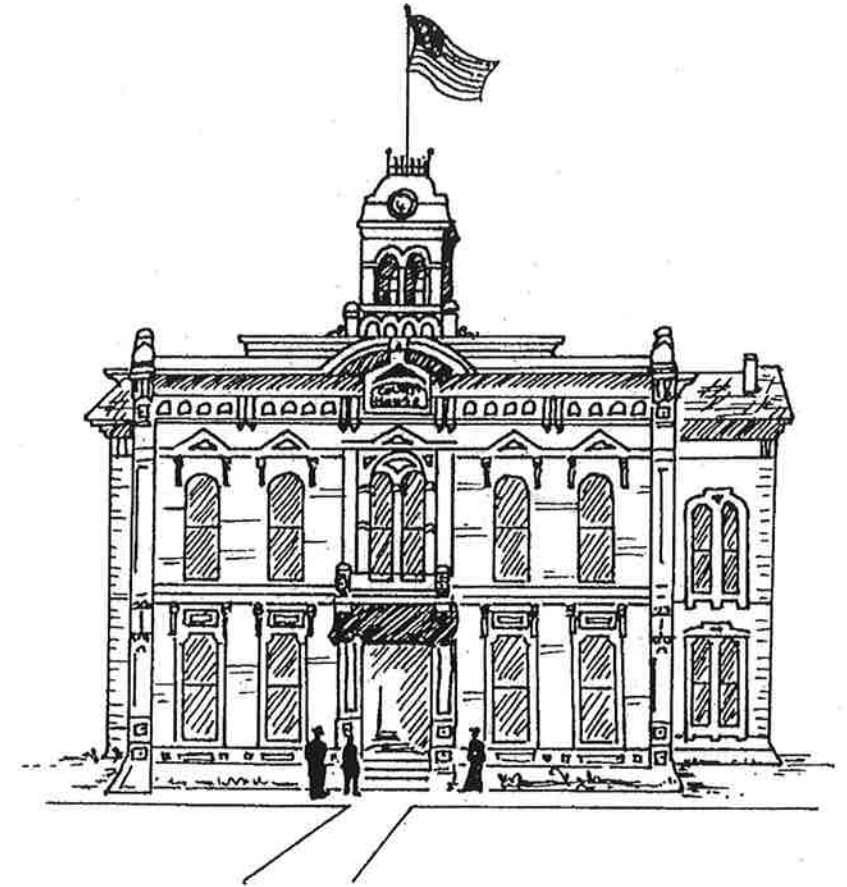
**21. Bridgeport General Store** 242 Main Street  
Bridgeport General Store was created by assembling two buildings constructed prior to the end of the 19th century. One was the Gurney building which later housed the F. L. Wedertz butcher shop and a saloon. The other was originally the medical office of "the lovable old peg-leg" Doctor Clark Sinclair, then a saloon, and finally part of the current store. For a number of years the store was operated by the Cain family from Bodie. Local historian Ella Cain worked there during a time when the native Paiute people often exchanged baskets for merchandise. In this way, she acquired much of the magnificent basketry collection now displayed in the Mono County Historical Society Museum.

**22. Brick Saloon** \* Main Street  
Originally the Brick Saloon built by A. J. Severe.

**23. Ken's Sporting Goods** 258 Main Street  
This ornate building, built in 1883, was the old Court House Corner Saloon.

**24. Mono County Courthouse** 278 Main Street  
Dating from 1880, the present Mono County Courthouse is the second oldest continuously-used county courthouse in the state of California. Despite the building's antiquity, it is the county's *third* courthouse. The first courthouse was a two story brick building located in the mining boomtown of Aurora. Aurora was the county seat until a resurveying of the California-Nevada stateline revealed the mining town to be in Nevada. The Mono County records were hastily moved to Bodie, then Bridgeport where the existing American Hotel was purchased to become the second county courthouse. When this building proved too small, the large, permanent courthouse was constructed in the New England style.

**25. Mono County Historical Society Museum** 129 Emigrant Street  
The building housing the Mono County Historical Society museum was originally the Big Meadows School House, constructed in 1880. The doors opened to 118 children between the ages of five and seventeen. Prior to this, formal education was provided at private residences. The building was moved to the present location in 1964. Exhibits include a beautiful display of Native American basketry, a barbed wire collection, historic artifacts and photographs, and an outdoor exhibit of farming and mining equipment.



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