

In 1917, Butte's population was about 100,000. It was a thriving mining city, the biggest between St. Louis and Seattle.

Miners came to the area as early as the 1860s. In 1867, the peak of the placer boom had the city's population at 500. It halved to 250 over the next two years. Then, quartz deposit were discovered on the "rich city on the hill." Mining barons shortly became the state's first millionaires.

In 1899, Marcus Daly merged with Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company to create the Amalgamated Copper Mining Co. It bought up smaller mining companies and by 1910 changed its name to the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, the largest power in Butte and Montana. It dominated local politics and business in the state. Until the 1950s, it owned every newspaper in the huge state.

Families came from all over the country to work in the mines (which were dangerously deep below the ground). The Irish came in droves and soon became the city's largest ethnic group. Today Butte is still known for its raucous St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

It wasn't until the 1950s that the Anaconda Copper Company moved away from labor-intensive underground mining. It began open pit mining, creating the largest landmark and legacy of Butte's mining days: the Berkeley Pit. To make room for open pit mining, the Company bought and leveled whole neighborhoods -- hundreds of homes and stores that once made up Butte's east-side.

In the 1982, mining ceased in the pit. Today the pit is over a mile long, nearly a mile wide and 1800 feet deep. It is filling up with acidic water. The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), which bought the Anaconda Copper Company's holdings in Butte in the 1970s, is responsible to ensure that the pit's polluted waters don't spill over into the nearby Clark Fork River. It is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies to figure out how best to handle the potential disaster.

Still, it celebrates its rich history and invites tourists to take a taste of it. The World Museum of Mining and 1899 Mining Camp, which sits on 12 acres, was built by local volunteers and has artifacts from mining. It is surrounded by an abandoned mine. The Copper King Mansion, which is also downtown, is on the national historic register. It was owned by a copper baron, William Clark, who was a self-made millionaire. It cost him over a quarter of a million dollars to build in the 1880s. Although it is still privately owned, it is open for tours and is also a bed and breakfast. The Berkeley Pit has a viewing stand for tourists. The Dumas, was built in 1890 as "parlor house" (read: brothel). It operated right up to 1982; today, it is open to tourists.

Schools, Parks, Venues and Driving Directions

HIGH SCHOOLS

- (1) **Butte Central High School**
9 South Idaho
Butte, MT 59701
782-6761
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 exit on 90 BUS RT (15 BUS RT), turn north on S Montana St (15 BUS RT) and go .5 miles, turn left on W Galena St, then right on S Idaho St. to school.
- (2) **Butte High School**
401 S Wyoming
533-2200
Directions: From I-15 +I-90, take 90 BUS RT Exit for 1.6 miles, turn north onto S Montana St. for .3 miles, turn right onto W Gold St for .3 miles, and turn left on Wyoming St to school.

MIDDLE/ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- (3) **Margaret Leary Elementary School**
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 take Harrison Ave exit and turn south on Harrison Ave, turn right on 4 Mile Rd to school.

- (4) **West Elementary**
Emmett and Steele St.
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 follow 90 BUS RT (15 BUS RT) and turn north on Excelsior, turn left on Platinum St, then Left on Emmett to school.
- (5) **East Middle School**
2600 Grand Ave
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 take Harrison Ave. exit (15 BUS RT) and turn north on Harrison Ave, go .2 miles and turn right on Amherst, go .4 miles and turn left on Thomas, go .8 miles and continue on Unnamed Road to Grand Ave, go .1 miles and turn right on Grand, and to school.

COLLEGES

- (6) **Montana Tech**
1300 W Park St.
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 take 90 BUS RT exit, go 1.2 miles and turn north on S Alabama St, go .2 miles and turn sharply left on W Platinum St, go .1 miles and turn right on Excelsior St, go .4 miles and turn left on W Park St and to school.

OTHER VENUES

- (7) **Butte Country Club**
3400 Elizabeth Warren St
494-2394
- (8) **Civic Center**
1340 Harrison
497-6400
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 take Harrison Ave exit (15 BUS RT), turn north on Harrison Ave and follow it as it turns left, .8 miles to Civic Center.
- (9) **St. James Healthcare**
400 S Clark
723-2500
Directions: From I-15 and I-90 go into 90 BUS RT (15 BUS RT), turn north on S Alabama St, then right on Unnamed Rd to S Clark St, turn left on Clark St and go .2 miles to hospital.
- (11) **Father Sheehan Park**
- (12) **Stodden Park**

SPORTS-EVENT MAP LEGEND • Numbers Correspond to Location on City Map

Basketball - Boys
(8) Civic Center

Basketball - Girls
(2) Butte High School
(4) West Elementary

Concerts, Theatre
(2) Butte High School

Football
(5) East Middle School - Bulldog Memorial Stadium

Golf
(7) Butte Country Club

Hospital
(9) St. James Healthcare

Soccer, Cross Country
(3) Margaret Leary Elementary School

Softball
(12) Stodden Park

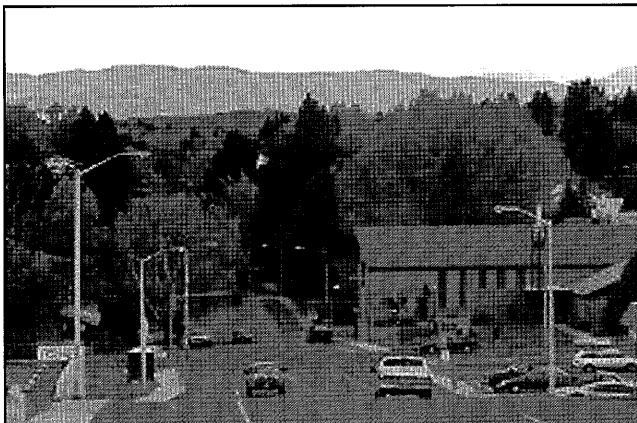
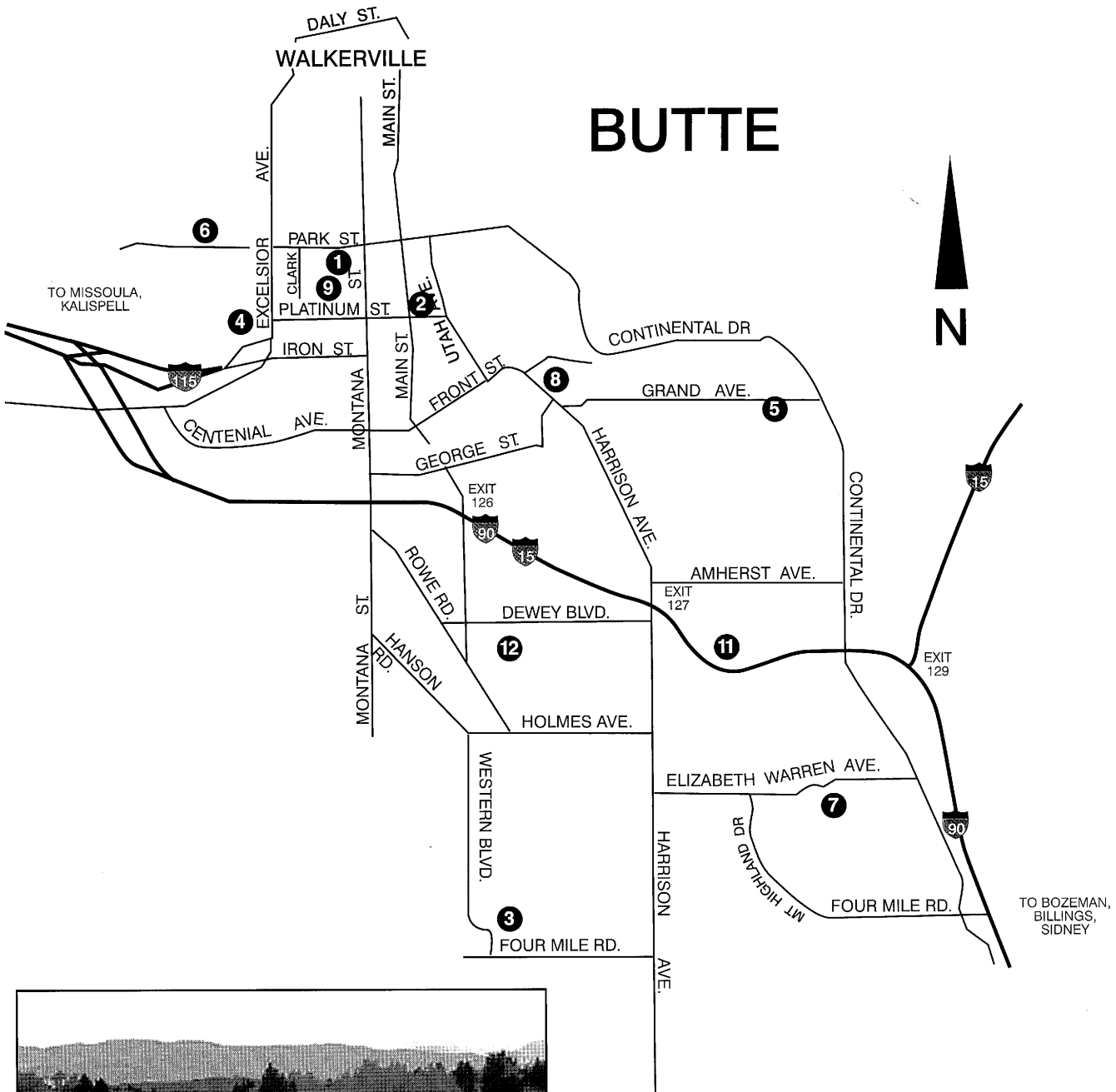
Swimming
(6) Montana Tech

Tennis
(11) Father Sheehan Park
(12) Stodden Park

Track
(5) East Middle School - Bulldog Memorial Stadium



Butte's Historic District



Butte School District No.1 is a public school district. The instructional staff numbers approximately 500 with support staff of about 150. The Butte school district owns and operates its own transportation fleet and operates food service for its students.

Like students in communities across the country, Butte students are tested to measure how well they are learning in the 4th, 8th, and 11th grades. Butte public school students consistently score proficient or advanced on these tests based on a national average in all areas.