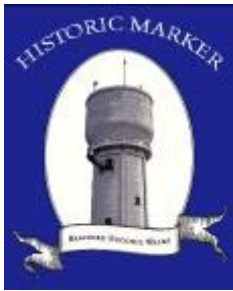


Brainerd Historic Markers:

Types: In 1971, 18 cast aluminum markers were produced for Brainerd's Centennial. None was erected by that time, but 8 were put up in 1976 for the nation's Bicentennial. In 2008, 8 more were found, and the Brainerd History Group was able to install 4 of these, so there are 4 yet to be installed. Two are missing, but we hope to someday recreate them and places could have been earmarked for designation back in 1971. But then, some of these locations we'd now like to mark were either hidden, or just now newly discovered.

Digitizing of maps and newspapers has made research easier for anyone with a computer and the internet. We thought that was the end of historic marking in Brainerd.



37 years passed with no historic markers being placed that I know of. But in 2008, for the state's sesquicentennial, the newly-formed Brainerd History Group created the Brainerd History Walk. This identified several locations of historical interest in about a 4-block area in downtown. A brochure was made, but no funding was available for markers. Then in 2011, the Brainerd Public Library was able to secure a grant for making a bound booklet for the Walk, which can now be checked out at the library. An audio version and even a printable version were also made, so just about anybody,

anywhere can enjoy the Walk. Part of the grant was for small plastic markers for these locations; they are a marker only, with no image or wording, but they work well for spotting the site as one walks. At some point a QR code could be made to link from a smart phone to each location's website and full description.



In 2009, The Brainerd History Group made a marker of stenciled aluminum after they excavated the Brainerd Brewing Company site. These run about \$45 apiece, bought locally at Action Graphics in Baxter. The pedestal is made of Brainerd-made Schwartz Milwaukee Cream bricks found on the site. Plexiglass had to be added because of vandalism in this rather remote location. UPDATE: 4/19/2017: These signs can still be made for

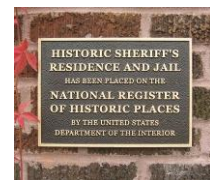


\$40, AND they can now include a photo! Granted, one will still need a 4 x 4" post, and maybe a piece of plywood as a backer-board, especially if the sign is done in portrait, but these will be under \$20 total.

Some other smaller markers are made simply and cheaply of 8-1/2 x 11" paper behind plexiglass, such as the one on Boom Lake for the Ski Jump. These can be made for under \$20.

In 2013, the first marker for a building on the National Register of Historic Places placed, by the Crow Wing County Historical Society, for their own 1917

There are MANY more buildings with this designation, so it is strange that more marked! These run about \$180. Also in 2013 Brainerd received a grant to make Buffalo Hills Trail. In addition, another grant was secured in 2014 by Mark



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Ostgarden, the City Planner, to make 4 easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic markers for along this trail. Local researchers went to work locating images and wording for these markers, and they were placed in the spring of 2014. The 4 are along East River Road, and around Kiwanis Park. These graphic markers are much larger, largely graffiti-proof, UV resistant, come with a double post mount, and provide enough room for large images and lots of wording. They are the ULTIMATE in signage! One more was added in this series with Legacy Grant funding for an Indian reconciliation ceremony for the 2014 Brainerd History Week. Yet another was added in 2014 by a private party to mark Depot Park, which was on the site of their current parking lot! Since the city secured the original grant, and they do the installations, their logo appears on each one. The locations marked are:

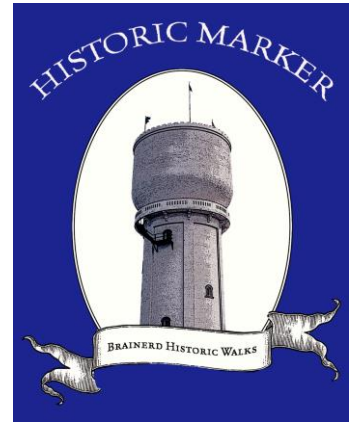
-Lyman P. White (Bottom of the High Rise hill on East River Rd., by city/school parking lot.) -2014

Moving forward!

We have identified more sites to be marked, and some of these are already marked with [Brainerd History Walk blue markers](#).

(NOTE: These are not descriptive markers, merely a logo for the program. A small marker placed inside the building or in the window would be easy as the copy is already done...in the booklet! Some of these are still awaiting installation! Listed items with this plaque are NOT shaded, meaning a more descriptive marker is needed.)

But now that we have a template and pricing structure, we are looking for more spots to mark with markers of ANY kind! Several have been identified, so the hunt for funding begins. These markers run around \$1260, are roughly 3' x 2', but it does not include installation which requires checking with the city for underground hazards, and some cement. Some markers might come from private sources for marking their own sites, in which case the City seal would not be included. However, if we can get the City to do the installation, this contribution "in kind" might be a good reason to include the City logo. Also, we need to look ahead in case there are more markers to follow. They should appear consistent as if they are in the same 'series'. For the 6 graphic markers, we saved by having Lakes Printing do the lay out work for free! Thank you, Kevin!!! Another \$200 could be saved by providing our own metal pedestal, or even a stone one! We won't be able to put a \$1260 marker on all the locations, but we might place the \$20 one, or even just a \$2 piece of paper marker in a window for now! Some on the list below are still standing and should be on the National Register of Historic Places!



Here are some sites we have identified. **Shaded items are already in place...so we can see how we are progressing:**

-Arlington Hotel: SW corner S. 6th & Washington Sts. [Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.](#)

-Armory, first, Laurel St.-1936: NW corner S. 5th & Laurel Sts. [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

-Bank of Brainerd: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

-Bly's Hall, Front St./Ransford Hotel: I have window sills from the Ransford to use as a sitting bench here.

-Boom Lake: (NE end of Kiwanis Park, N of playground equipment.) [This is an easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic marker.](#) See image above.

-Boom Lake Spur Line: (E of the last one, almost at the start of the trail around Boom Lake.) [This is an easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic marker.](#) See image above.

-Brainerd Brewing Co.: East side of Boom Lake.

-Brainerd Central Business District: This plaque was removed during the last downtown renovation.



-Brainerd-Cuyuna Mining Co.: South Brainerd on Wright St., c. 1913, opposite the Bethany Chapel.

-Brainerd Public Library: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

-Brainerd State Bank: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

-Carnegie Library-1904:



-City Jail, First-1874, N 5th St.: Need to pinpoint this location.

-City Hall: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

-City Jail, Original: (actually second, this one was mis-labeled as FIRST City Jail), previously installed. See image above. **UPDATE:** 12/31/2104: Sadly, at 8 PM that night some car ran in to it taking out the monument and a nearby street light. For some reason, nobody was able to locate the plaque! **UPDATE:** 11/13/215: A NEW one has been installed! **MISSING!!!** **UPDATE to the UPDATE:** 11/4/2014: It has been determined that the plaque that was hit was indeed destroyed in the crash and its crumbled pieces were thrown out. **This is an easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic marker.** See image above.

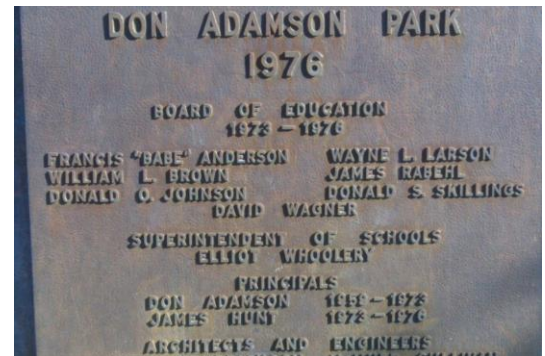
-Columbian Block, S 6th St.: (same location as the former Iron Exchange Building)

-County Jail/Sheriff's Residence-1917: National Register Historic Places plaque. This could use a more descriptive marker, such as a graphic panel. [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

-Crow Wing County Courthouse-1920: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)



-Cullen block: Needs a [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#).



-Dolly Varden Saloon, Front St.-1873:

-Don Adamson Park-1979:

-Depot Park: AKA Hobo Park. (NW corner of S 6th St. & Front Sts., just S of the historic concrete water tower, on the Mills Corp. parking lot corner, former Brainerd Theater/Baehr Building location.) **This is an easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic marker.** See image above. **Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.**

-Drexler Blacksmith Shop: (present/2008 US Bank), previously installed on a stone pedestal, relocated to in-ground location after highway restructuring. Needs a pedestal. **UPDATE, July, 2010:** A re-landscaping on the site of the bank has resulted in a nice elevating of the slab that the plaque is affixed to, so at least it now is up out of the ground by a foot, and nicely slanted. Could still be elevated more. **1971 Centennial Marker** [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)



-Dry Milk Plant:

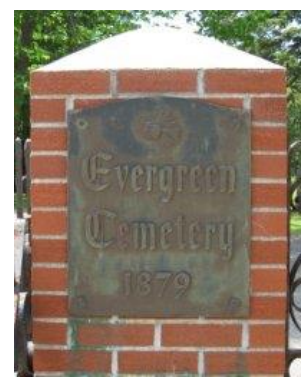
-Elk's Hotel, cornerstone: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)



-Evergreen Cemetery:

-Fire Hall, first: (Johnson Cigar building area) **NEWLY FOUND 2008! INSTALLED 2008.** **1971 Centennial Marker** **Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.**

-Fire Hall, second: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)



-First Church: (St. Paul's Episcopal, east of Gregory Park), previously installed.
1971 Centennial Marker



-First National Bank: (SE corner 6th & Front Sts.) **NEWLY FOUND 2008!**
INSTALLED 2008. 1971 Centennial Marker Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-First N P Depot: previously installed, or least photographed on its intended location on the Clock Tower Building, however taken down by at least 2008. One of the first 2 previously installed. 1971 Centennial Marker



-First School Site: (west end of Front St.), need to find exact location. **NEWLY FOUND 2009!** Awaiting the determination of just where this site was! **Awaiting installation.**



-Fitzsimons Building (State Guard): now Minnesota School of Diving

-Gregory Park arch: These are on each of the 2 stone arches on the S. side of the park.

-Gregory Square-1927: This is on a boulder just N. of the fountain.

-Gregory Park Band Stand:



-Greyhound Bus Depot: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Hallet Trading Post/Ferry Crossing: (by the Dairy Queen, previously installed. 1971 Centennial Marker Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.



-Indian Lynching Site & Last Turn Saloon: (first, not present, diagonal from old Nash Finch building), awaiting tribal approval. **NEWLY FOUND 2008!** **Awaiting installation.** (Update, 7/11/2014: A revised plaque facsimile was dedicated for Brainerd History Week, on Wed., June 18, 2014, and a plaque was ordered. It was erected in the fall of 2014. The 1971 version is at the CWCHS and will likely never be installed on the site due to its sensitive wording nature. It would be nice to have it on display, however, for historical reasons.) AKA: **-Reconciliation:** (SW corner of N 4th & Front Sts., diagonal from former Nash-Finch building, now First Impressions Printing.) This is an easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic marker. See image above.

-Iron Exchange Building: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Headquarters Hotel: Diagonal from Sawmill Inn, at CWCHS awaiting installation. Ask about the reasons this will be unlikely to be put up any time soon. **NEWLY FOUND** 1971 Centennial Marker Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.



-Hickerson Garment Factory:

-Iron Exchange Building: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Jerry Howe Mill: (Boom Lake/Kiwanis Park), previously installed.

-Kampmann Sash & Door:

-Lakeland Building: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Last Turn Saloon: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Laurel St. Bridge-1980:

-Lively Garage/Auto Company: Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker. ???

-Lum Park: This plaque is on a boulder a bit N. of the parks building. This park old use an info. Kiosk, as found at Gregory Park And Kiwanis Park!

-Lum Park arch:

-Lumberman's Hospital: (parking lot of NE Liquor) **NEWLY FOUND 2008,** installed 2009. 1971 Centennial Marker

-Lyman P. White: Bottom of the High Rise hill on East River Rd., by city/school parking lot. This marker needs a companion marker explaining how this plot of land was donated by his son, Almond E. **This is an easel-type "graphic panel"** Fossil brand historic marker. See image above. See Tourist Park.

-Lyman White House: (former location of LP White's house, SW corner 7th & Juniper Sts.) Awaiting permission from landowner. This may not be necessary as it is in a city boulevard. **NEWLY FOUND 2008! Awaiting installation.** 1971 Centennial Marker

-Mills Companies Corporate Headquarters:

-Milt Askew's Billiard Hall-1873:

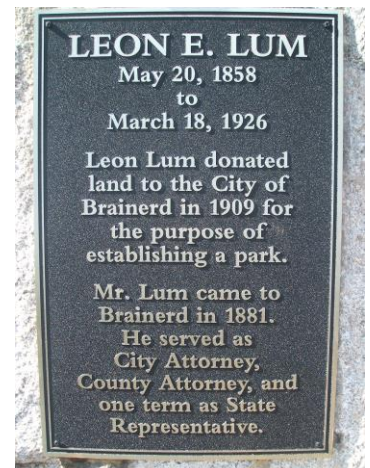
-Nash Finch Building: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Northern Pacific Depot, first: Brainerd History Walk blue marker

-Northern Pacific Depot, second: Needs a marker.

-Northern Pacific Foundry (Parker-Topping):

-Northern Pacific Railroad Freight Depot-1904: Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.



-Northern Pacific Headquarters (Repair Shops): (on the Clock Tower building) **NEWLY FOUND 2008!**
Installed 2008. **1971 Centennial Marker**

-Northern Pacific Hospital:

-Northern Pacific Hotel, Front St.: (oldest non-residential building?)

-Northern Pacific Tie Plant:

-Northern Pacific YMCA: **Brainerd History Walk blue marker**

-Northwestern Hospital:

-O'Brien Mercantile: **Brainerd History Walk blue marker**

-Original Courthouse: (according to a newspaper article, was to be installed by building owner) **MISSING!!!** **1971 Centennial Marker** is missing.

-Original Dam Site: (by the paper mill), **previously installed.**

-Parker Building: **Brainerd History Walk blue marker**

-Park Opera House: (former Paramount Theater) **MISSING!!!** **1971 Centennial Marker** **Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.**

-Post Office-1910: **Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.**

-Pump House: N 7th St., at the river

-Ransford Hotel: Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker. **Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.**

-Rosko Airport: Brainerd's first airport, the present Shipman Auto building. We are working on this one, 4/2017.

-Russell Creamery: **Brainerd History Walk blue marker**

-Schwartz Brainerd Steam Brickyards:

-Sixth Street School, S 6th & Oak Sts. -1873

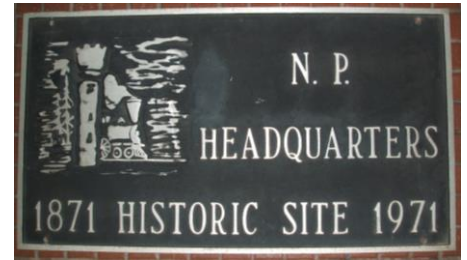
-Saint Francis Church-First-1871: N 5th St.

-Saint Francis Church-third-flagpole:

-Sleeper Opera House: S 8th St. **Needs a Brainerd History Walk blue marker.**

-Steamboat Landing: Farther S. across from Don Adamson/high school athletic field rest rooms. **This is an easel-type "graphic panel" Fossil brand historic marker.** See image above.

-Tourist Park, East River Road: This is the same site as where the Lyman P. White marker is, but it needs a companion marker for Tourist ark, and explaining how the land was donated to the city by his son, Almond.



This is not to be confused with the Write Park Cabins that were on the site of the Northstar Apartments a block north up on the hill. See Lyman P. White.

-Villard Hotel:

-Water Tower: (This one is/is also a MN Historical Landmark, apparently making it #18.) One of the first 2 installed. **Previously installed.** This one was not planned in 1971 for our Centennial, but in 1975 for the nation's Bi-Centennial. **1971 Centennial Marker**

NOTE: Although the entire water system was not completed until 1922, the water tower itself was filled with water and in operation in 1920, despite the wording on the plaque. [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)



-Werner Hemstead House: N 4th St.

-YMCA, NP: [Brainerd History Walk blue marker](#)

I am sure there are many more, but this is a start. I am working on a Brainerd Historic Mark Tour, so one could grab the list and hop in a car, or bike or on foot, and go see all of these “in the flesh”!

-CWF, 4/17/2013

UPDATED: 4/19/2017