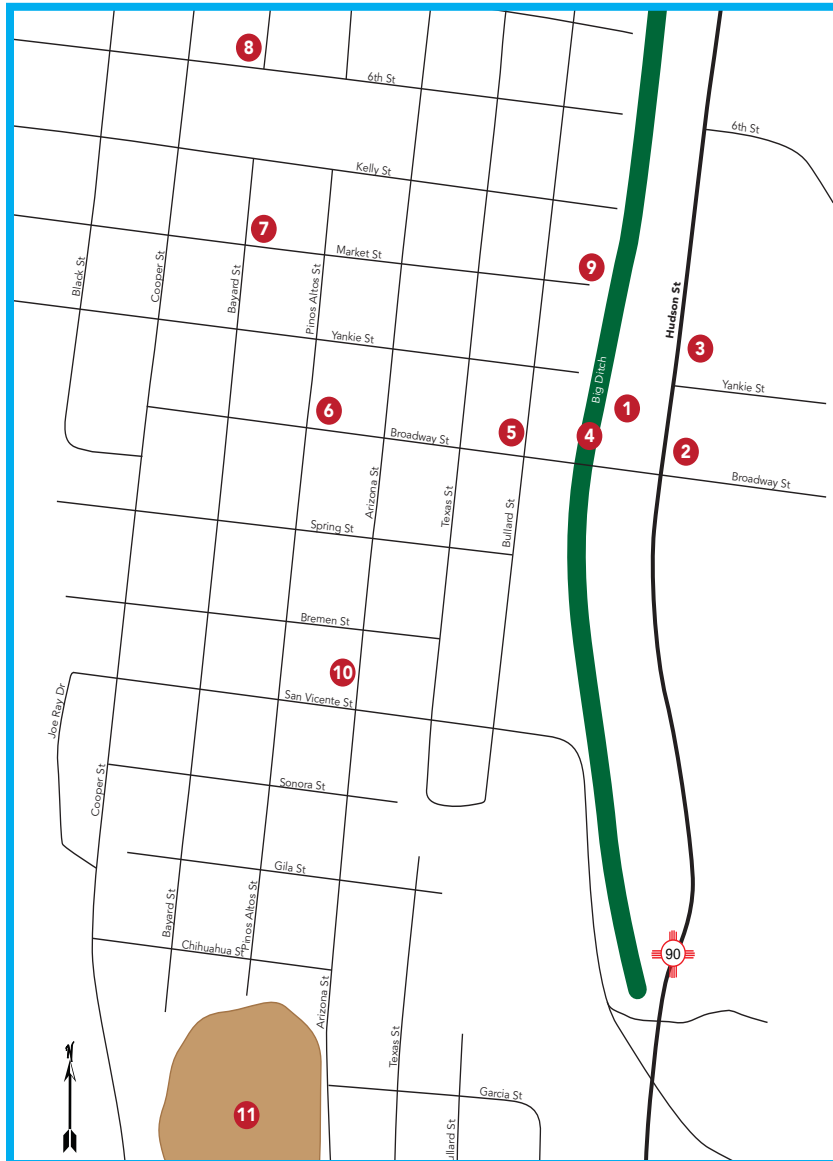


# DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY WALKING MAP



## 1. Former Site of Billy's Childhood Home (Currently the Murray Ryan Visitors' Center)

201 N. Hudson Street

After arriving in Silver City the Antrim family moved into a small cabin between Main Street (which is now the Big Dig—see #4) and Hudson Street. Childhood friends of Billy (né Henry) recall playing in the Antrim's home frequently because Mrs. Antrim always welcomed them with a smile and the cookie jar was never empty. Billy lived there until her death on September 16, 1874. The house was unfortunately torn down in 1894 but wouldn't have survived the floods regardless.



## 2. Former Site of Star Hotel (Renamed the Exchange Hotel)

Across Street from Visitors' Center

After his mother died, William Antrim sent Billy to live with the Truesdell family who owned the Star Hotel. Billy worked at the hotel for his room and board and was said by Del Truesdell to be the "only kid who ever worked there who never stole anything."

## 3. Former Site of Silver City Jail (Currently the Forest Service Warehouse)

302 Hudson Street

Until a proper brick jail was built, the people of Silver City used a four-office adobe building to house their prisoners. It had heavy oak doors instead of iron bars and was heated by an old fashioned chimney. In the fall of 1875 Billy the Kid was held in the makeshift jail for the crime of stealing shirts. He talked the jailer into letting him into the corridor for exercise and once he was alone, climbed up the chimney and ran. It was the first of many jails the Kid would eventually escape from. (The current building is not the original jail.)

## 4. Big Ditch Park

Once part of Main Street, the Big Ditch was created by uncontrolled grazing, deforestation, and flooding in 1895 and the early 1900s (on July 21, 1895 a 50-foot wall of water rushed through the streets leaving destruction in its wake). Replaced by the 55-foot ditch, many of the buildings along Main Street collapsed and were lost. Businesses in the buildings that survived started using their back doors as their main entrances on Bullard Street—causing them to have the incorrect odd/even addresses which are still used today.



**5. Palace Hotel (Formerly the Meredith and Ailman Bank)**

**102-110 W. Broadway Street**

The Meredith and Ailman Bank was built between 1881-1886 by Hartford Meredith and H.B. Ailman. The cast iron and plate glass was probably brought in by oxen as the railroad hadn't extended to Silver City yet. The bank failed and in 1900 the upper floor was made into the Palace Hotel.



**6. Silver City Museum (Formerly the H.B. Ailman House)**

**312 W. Broadway Street**

This house was one of a pair of houses built by Ailman and Meredith. The two men made their fortunes from the Naiad Queen silver mine in Georgetown and built a mercantile store and bank in Silver City (see #5). After they were forced to sell the houses due to financial problems, the Ailman House was used as a boarding house, Town Hall, fire station, and is now the Silver City Museum.



**7. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**

**412 Market Street**

Construction on the adobe church started in 1874 and it was consecrated in 1876 even though the walls and roof had not yet been completed. The original bell tower was replaced with the current brick and stucco towers and a Mission-arched façade in 1907-1908. The stained glass windows were installed in 1890 and the addition on the east side (originally the rectory) dates from 1881. This is one of the few surviving structures that existed when Billy was still living in Silver City.



**8. Edmond Stine House**

**603 N. Bayard Street**

Built by Judge Edmond Stine in 1883, this 14-room house was used as a refuge for women and children during occasional Indian raids. In 1891 the house was bought by Col. John Fleming. Fleming served in the campaigns to capture Apaches Geronimo and Victorio and later worked to negotiate peace with Indian tribes. He served as mayor from 1888 to 1906 and helped establish Western New Mexico University.

**6. The O.S. Warren House**

**105 E. Market Street**

O.S. Warren died in 1885, the year the house was built, leaving his widow with three children and an insurance and real estate business to run. During the flood of 1902, Mrs. Warren and her friends sewed gunnysacks to use as sandbags to keep the water from destroying her home. The flood eroded the land on either side of the house but the Warren House survived; it was the only building on Main Street to survive the floods at the turn of the century.



**10. Edward Perrault House**

**212 S. Arizona Street**

Built in 1915, Edward and Jesusita only lived in the house for 10 years before Edward died. After his death in 1926, Jesusita moved to northern New Mexico where she was elected as Secretary of State in 1928, translated the State's Spanish Archives in Santa Fe in 1934, and wrote a New Mexico history book in 1936.

**11. La Capilla**

**520 La Capilla**

In the late 1880s two sisters funded the construction of La Capilla to house the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Built by local Hispanics, this "little chapel" was the centerpiece for community pilgrimages and festivals including the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Eventually the chapel fell into decline but in 2000 a small group of residents rebuilt the chapel and restored it to its original design.



**References:**

*Antrim is My Stepfather's Name: The Boyhood of Billy the Kid* – Jerry Weddle  
*Six-Guns and Single-Jacks: A History of Silver City and Southern New Mexico*

– Bob Alexander

Silver City Walking Tour of Chihuahua Hill

Silver City Walking Tour of Gospel Hill

Silver City Walking Tour of the Historic Business District

[www.silvercity.org](http://www.silvercity.org)

