

BEMIDJI HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

City Hall Conference Room
317 4th Street NW



4:30 PM

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome Guests**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 - a. October 21, 2025 Minutes
- 5. Old Business**
 - a. 100 Year Old Buildings
 - i. Review November 4 Presentations
 - b. Old New Bemidji Hotel Mural
 - c. SHPO Follow Up
 - d. Pumping Station 1909 (New Memorial from Salvage)
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Draft Letter to Patterson's (100 Year Old Building)
- 7. Next Meeting**

December meeting necessary?
- 8. Adjourn**

BEMIDJI HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 21. 4:30 pm*

City Hall Conference Room. 317 4th Street NW

1. **Call to Order:** by Linda Lemmer at 4:30 pm

2. **Welcome Guests:** Joseph Wolfer Jenkins

Members Present and signed in : Linda Lemmer, Chris Bell, Lois J. Jenkins, Jay Tody, Ashton Loeb, Absent: Andy Mack and Joan Dreyer

Also present: Josh Peterson, City Council representative and Michelle Miller Bemidji City Clerk.

3. **Approve Agenda:** Moved to approve, Chris Bell, second by Lois J Jenkins. Carried.

4. **Approve Minutes:** Moved to accept September 23, 2025 minutes, Chris Bell and Ashton Loeb, seconded. Carried.[with the attached 100 year building apps from Lois J Jenkins and Cecelia McKeig]

5. Old Business

a. 100 Year Old Buildings

1. NO new applications

- a. Reschedule Decal Presentation with Zion (Old Lincoln School). Ashton Loeb will meet 10/23 to set up date for decal

b: SHPO

No member talked with City Manager yet about membership

c: Old New Bemidji Hotel Mural

Waiting for bids

d.Pumping Station 1909

Still seeking for salvage and story board on old water tower site of four foundation blocks. Ashton volunteered to draw up an idea of the kiosk to give to Mark Jacobson to aid in a bid for salvage and reuse of blocks from Pumping station 1909.

New Business:

Letter from Erika Bailey Johnson, Sacred Bundle representative notifying BHPC of the impending purchase. Letter attached.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2025 at 4:30 pm City Hall. (Linda Lemmer will be absent)

Adjourn: Chris Bell moved to adjourn at 5:25 pm, second by Ashton Loeb, Carried

Recorded

Lois J Jenkins

Secretary

From: [LLL](#)
To: [Michelle Miller](#)
Subject: Fwd: Bemidji Hotel Ad/Mural
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 7:25:33 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Michelle,

Please add this to the packet for November for the Old Bemidji Hotel agenda item.

Thank you. LLL

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Re: Bemidji Hotel Ad/Mural
Date:Sat, 1 Nov 2025 14:13:36 -0500
From:Mike Meyer <mikemeyerchester@gmail.com>
To:LLL <llemmer@paulbunyan.net>

hello Linda

I have looked into this project and I figure \$7,500
to do it
Thank you
sincerely mike meyer

On Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 5:02 PM LLL <llemmer@paulbunyan.net> wrote:

Mike,

Early in October I sent you an email responding to your message to Tim Myers about being interested in redoing the very old ad painted on the end of a building in Bemidji.

I have not heard from you. Are you putting together a quote for this project?

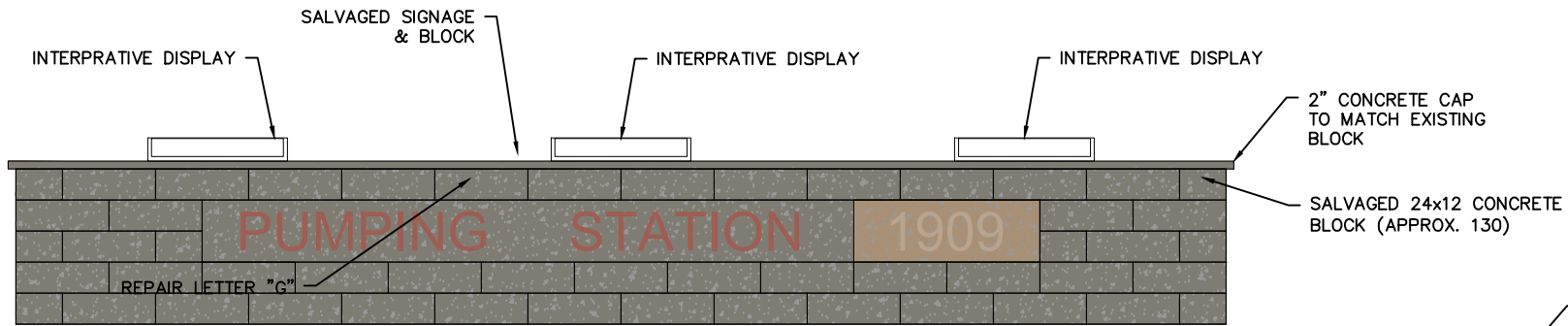
As I explained, we need the quote to know how big a grant request to make to get the project done.

We were hoping to get the grant request in the works before the end of the year so, hopefully, the project will happen in 2026.

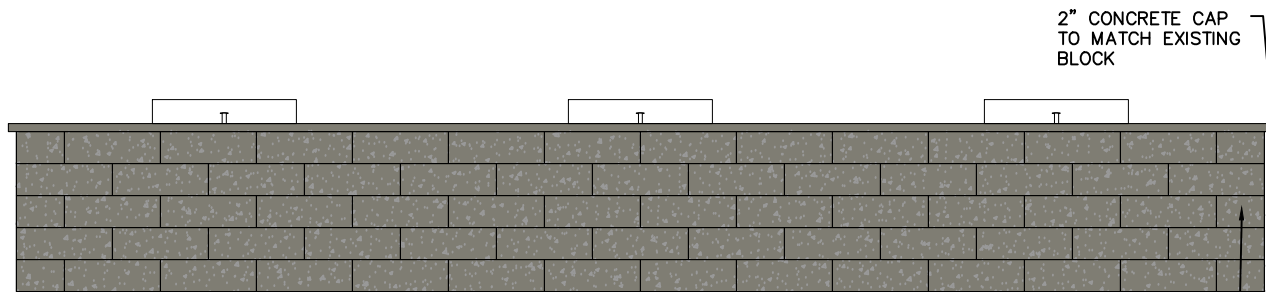
Please let me know if, or when we can expect to receive your quote.

Thank you.

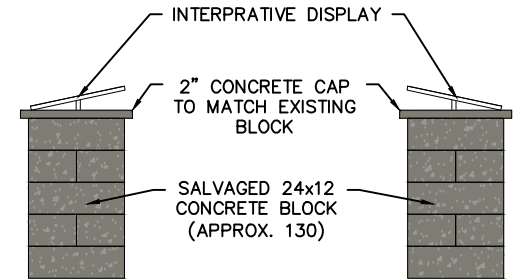
Linda L. Lemmer, Chair



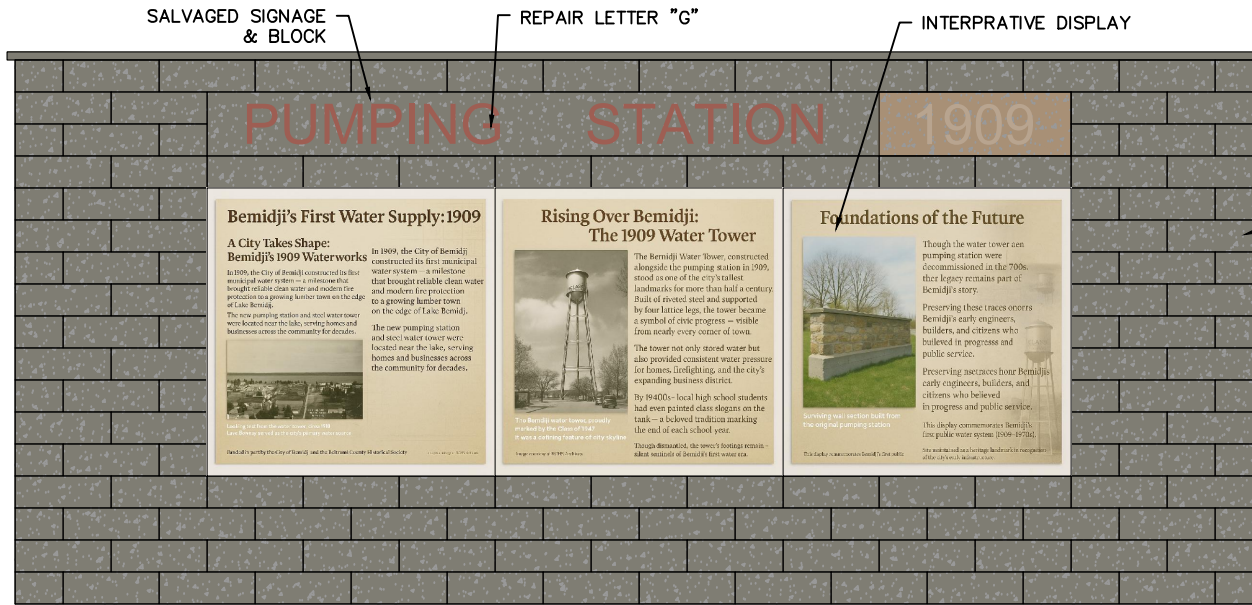
FRONT ELEVATION



BACK ELEVATION

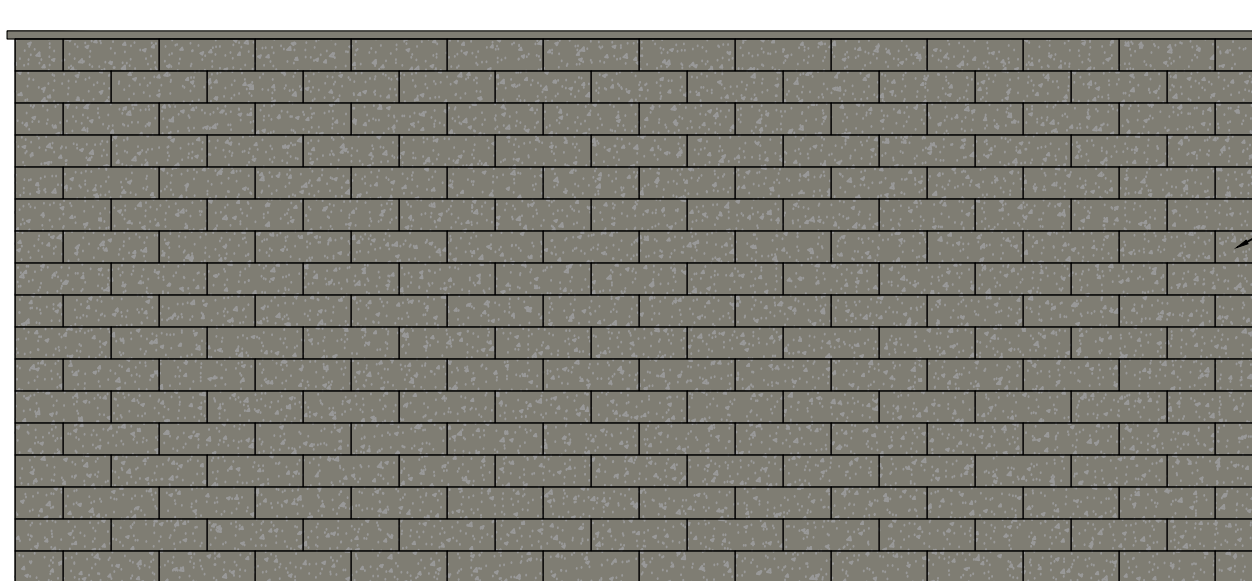


SIDE ELEVATIONS

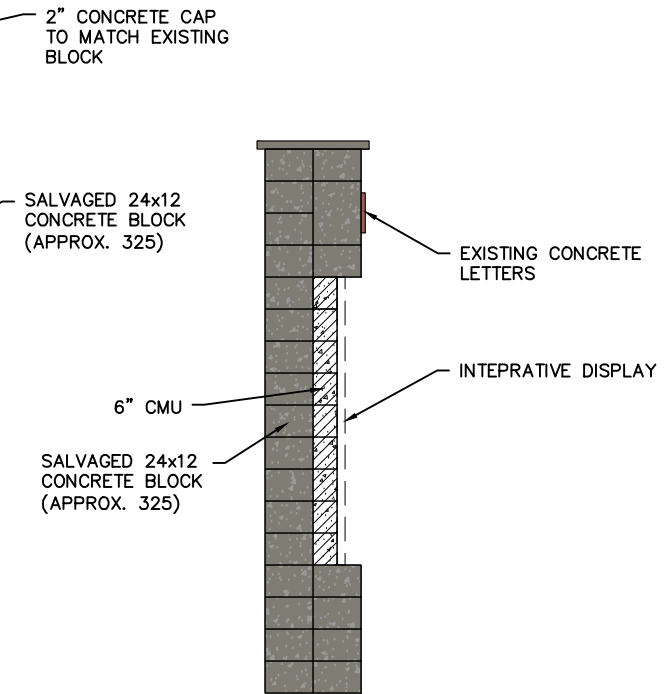


FRONT ELEVATION

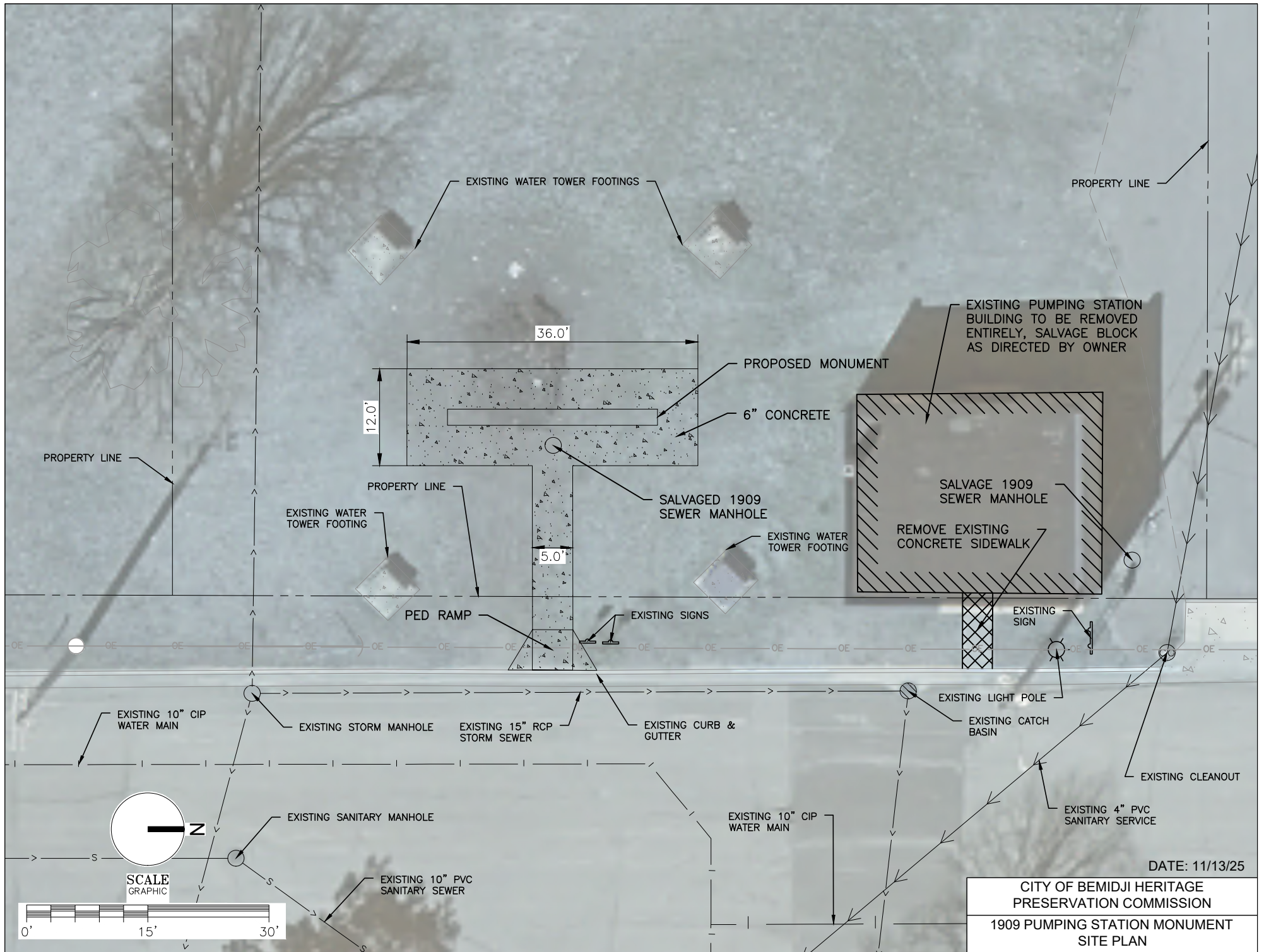
NOTE: DISPLAY BOARD DESIGNS ARE A.I. GENERATED MOCK-UPS AND ARE NOT FINAL



BACK ELEVATION

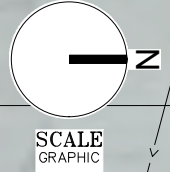
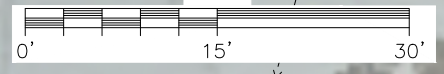


SECTION



DATE: 11/13/25

CITY OF BEMIDJI HERITAGE
 PRESERVATION COMMISSION
 1909 PUMPING STATION MONUMENT
 SITE PLAN



Molly and Jeff Miller
Patterson's Clothing
200 Third Steet NW
Bemidji MN 56601
218-751-4743

Dear Molly and Jeff:

I am a member of the Bemidji Heritage Preservation Commission.

We are inviting business owners in Bemidji who have businesses that own or occupy buildings of historical significance to apply for the 100 year old Building Certificate.

Your building at 300 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji is eligible for this designation as the Dalton Building was built in 1918. This designation does not place any restrictions on how you use the building; it is not a national registry program.

This is a local historic recognition program to draw attention to the historic character of Bemidji.

Even though Abe Patterson purchased it in 1932, it is the date the building was built that determines its age. There are other buildings on Third Street that are also eligible and some have already received their decals. Your business history provides most of the information that will provide excellent historical documentation.

There is a small expense of \$10 for the cost of the decal, which adheres to the glass on the outside. The decals are available through the City of Bemidji, City Hall. We would like to include you in our presentation in the next round of Certificate presentations that will take place in November.

An application is enclosed to guide you through the process.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 651-270-4120. My email is joandreyer48@gmail.com.

Joan Dreyer

Bemidji Heritage Preservation Commission

HISTORY

In the midst of WW1, a Polish shoemaker immigrated to North America through Ellis Island. Without much more than the clothes on his back and some change in his pocket (Just enough to buy a pie, which he did!) he began his journey west, eventually finding himself in Grafton, North Dakota, where he learned English from a young farm girl.

Through the immigration process Abe Pearlstien became Abe Patterson, thought to be a more “American” name at the time. Abe earned his citizenship by serving in the United States Army during the Great War as a mule driver in the 116th Trench Mortar Battery. While in service, a friend suggested that Bemidji, Minnesota would be a nice place to settle, which is exactly what Abe decided to do.

Abe started in Bemidji as a shoemaker between 3rd and 2nd street before helping to open several stores including The Hub and The Toggery. In 1929 Abe bought the Dalton building on the corner of 3rd Street and Beltrami Avenue, and Patterson’s was born.

Abe became very active in the American Legion and helped found Bemidji’s Post 14. Veterans returning from WW1 wanted to support Abe and became loyal customers. Lumberjacks, who were known for spending Saturday nights shopping and drinking, were also great for business. Abe would keep the store open all night on the Fourth of July to sell partying lumbermen suits.

The Gill Brothers, who dominated the men’s clothing business in Bemidji, were Abe’s main rivals, competing for lines and customers. It wasn’t until Abe started winning lines from the Gill Brothers, like Botany 500, that the store really started to grow. Botany 500 suits sold for \$65 and were a must-have for every lumberjack and man in service. While Abe was not formally educated, he was a naturally aggressive businessman with an eye for quality products.

There were tough times too. During the Great Depression not a single customer would stop in for days on end, and Abe would sit outside in the car to save electricity until customers came. Inside, he would keep empty boxes on the shelves to make the store look full of inventory when he could not afford to replace his stock. During WWII merchandise availability diminished, so Abe would secretly stockpile white Arrow shirts so that returning servicemen could buy them with a new suit.

In the early 1950s, Abe and his wife Annette started to transition into retirement, spending much of their time in Palm Springs, CA. Ron, Abe and Annette’s only child, went to the University of Minnesota where he met his wife Ralyhe. Ron served in the Korean War before taking over Patterson’s in 1952. They were extremely motivated when they took over, driving to markets in Minneapolis frequently and completely remodeling the store in the 1960s (and the store’s decorating hasn’t changed much since!).

Another change Ron and Ralyhe made in the 1960s was bringing in young men’s attire. They transformed the basement of Patterson’s into “The Dungeon”, which became a hot spot for Levi jeans and colored corduroys. The Dungeon even started bringing ladies into Patterson’s for the first time!

Young men’s clothes became such a success that a lease was signed at Bemidji’s Paul Bunyan Mall in 1980 and a second Patterson’s location was born. The mall store had a much younger demographic carrying lines

like Fox Racing, Echo Unlimited, DC Shoes, Quicksilver, Silver Tab Jeans, and young women's apparel. Patterson's at the mall was open for 30 years before closing in 2011 to focus on the downtown location.

Ron and Ralyhe's son, Steve entered the business in 1974 with his wife Sally, whom he met in Bemidji. It was during Steve and Sally's time that men's fashion saw a market shift from formal wear to casual. Lumberjacks, college professors, and local professionals alike used to spend their money on suits and ties, but in the 2000's people's interests have shifted to more casual sportswear.

Steve brought in lines like Patagonia, Kuhl, Smartwool, and The North Face. He also expanded Patterson's apparel assortment to include women's sportswear.

In April 2018, Steve and Sally's daughter, Molly, and her husband Jeff Miller decided to try their hand at retail, becoming 4th generation business owners. Steve and Sally, like the generations before them, eased into retirement, knowing their family business was still in good hands.

Through financial prosperity and weak economic times, Patterson's has stood as a landmark in downtown Bemidji.

Bringing style to the Northland since 1930.