

# The Newsletter



**BUXTON in BLOOM**

CULTIVATING OUR PAST  
TO SECURE OUR FUTURE  
THROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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## Contact Info

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www.buxtoninbloom.com

Buxton in Bloom is an  
Incorporated Non-profit  
501C3 organization  
EIN 26-0108241  
ND charitable solicitation #8120

# A most generous gift

## Buxton in Bloom receives \$40,000 donation from local couple

For those who know Adrian and Marian Knudsvig, the couple's recent philanthropic gift to Buxton in Bloom will come as no surprise.

The two graciously donated \$40,000 to the renovation of the original Buxton Bank building.

"We enjoyed many good years in Buxton thanks in part to that building, and we were happy to see that it would be saved," says Marian, while recalling the countless other historic landmarks now gone from the local landscape.

The Buxton Bank renovation project, currently in Phase 3, will transform the abandoned stone structure into a fully-functional space that will include a community meeting room and heritage wall showcasing Buxton's pioneer days.

"The Knudsvig donation was a major boost to the project," says Bobbi Hepper Olson, owner of Hepper Olson Architects and head of the bank renovation. "Their gift opened the door to even more funding for this important historic preservation project."

Because of the Knudsvig donation, Buxton in Bloom was able to obtain matching state historical grant funds that essentially doubled the size of their contribution.

Together these funds pushed the renovation through Phase 2 and on to Phase 3 which includes the installation of new electrical, heating, and plumbing.

"We are now in the process of adding interior walls and



A vintage photo of Adrian and Marian Knudsvig who generously donated \$40,000 to the Buxton In Bloom bank renovation project.

a new floor. The project had really taken a giant leap," Olson says.

The Knudsvigs made their generous contribution in part as a way of giving back to the community.

"We both decided what things were important to our life, and that bank was one of them," says Marian. "We saw this as a worthy cause and wanted to see it through."

And see it they will.

But for now they must wait. Currently a resident of the Alzheimer's care facility at Lutheran Memorial Home in Mayville, Adrian has been unable to tour the progress at the bank. Nor has Marian, who travels from her Buxton home to be with Adrian on a daily basis. But she knows he would be pleased. As a boy, Adrian won a declamation contest reciting a poem entitled *The Bridge Builder*.

(Continued on inside panel)

## The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim.  
The sullen stream held no fears for him;  
But he turned, when he reached the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting strength building in here.  
Your journey will end with the ending of your day;  
You never again must pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder tilted his old gray head.  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been naught to me;  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

— Author Unknown

# Buxton Bank Renova



Above: Larry Schornack and Marlin Lenior of Nelson Masonry, Grand Forks, set up scaffolding to repair the mortar joints between the stone, a process called tuckpointing. Below: Nelson Masonry's Dave Reuther (left) and Larry Schornack repair mortar joints on the north side of the bank.

The original stone exterior wall of the bank was in need of repair. In 2006, Bobbi Hepper Olson submitted a grant to the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

This grant made it financially possible to complete this part of the bank's restoration. "With a \$10,000 grant and \$10,000 in local contributions we were ready to start," says Hepper Olson.

In August 2007, Nelson Masonry of Grand Forks began repairing the mortar between stone pieces and placing additional mortar to structurally stabilize large cracks. This process is known as tuckpointing.

"Several test areas were done on the back side in order to best match the original mortar color and texture," she explains.



"Once we had a match, the north, south, and west sides were done where needed. The entire front side of the building was completely tuckpointed."

Another critical part of the exterior stone wall repair was to cap the top of the wall to stop moisture and water from entering the wall and causing deterioration.

Hepper Olson Architects detailed a poured in place concrete cap to best fit in with the stone and rustic building style.

"There were also several wide cracks and areas inside the building where additional mortar was placed to structurally stabilize the walls," Hepper Olson says.

The bank building is now water tight thanks to the exterior wall repair work, the newly installed wall cap, and the new roof project back in January 2007.

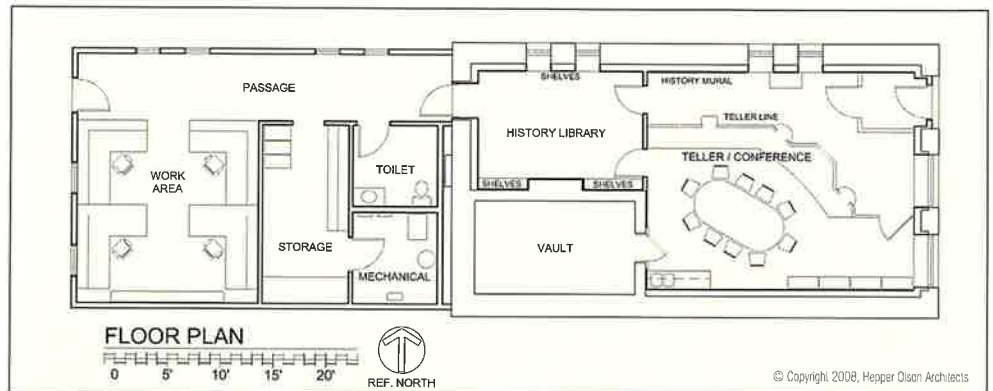
The next step is to install new windows and a front door.

## The New Addition

Yes, the big beautiful evergreen tree was removed, as an addition planned for the back side of the Bank is underway.

Bobbi Hepper Olson has purchased the back side of the lot from Buxton in Bloom and will construct an addition for a satellite office for Hepper Olson Architects, her architectural firm located in Grand Forks.

The addition will house plumbing facilities and mechanical/electrical room that will be accessible to the Bank, but will



be built by Bobbi Hepper Olson under separate contract and personal financing. The addition will also house a work room and four work stations for her satellite office. The floor plan above illustrates how

the Bank (owned by Buxton in Bloom) and the addition (owned by Kyle & Bobbi Olson) will be used. Construction of the addition began on August 20 and is scheduled for completion in January 2009.

# Construction Update

## The Bank Gets New Windows

Watch for a big change to the bank this fall. Bobbi Hepper Olson submitted a grant to the Cultural Heritage Grant Program. This program granted \$273,000 to 44 projects in North Dakota.

Buxton in Bloom received a \$10,000 grant and with \$10,000 of local match from the Knudsvig donation, the building will have new windows and entrance door this fall.

In February of 2008, GF Custom Woodwork removed what remained of the original windows to use as a template for new windows. The windows will best replicate the earlier 1900's photo the State Historical Society had on file as part of the National Register of Historic Places application done by Paul Marchell in 1976.



Louie Forseide (left) of GF Custom Woodwork, Inc. shows Greg West of Hepper Olson Architects a rebuilt part for the round windows for the front of the bank. Louie's company is working on replicating the windows and entrance which are scheduled for installation this fall.

## Schedule & Budget Update

Phase One.....\$40,000

- Dismantle and salvage bank teller line and historical woodwork.
- Removal of stain glass window over entrance door for repair.
- Asbestos and Mold Abatement.
- Selective demolition on interior.

**COMPLETED  
DEC.2005**

Phase Two.....\$35,000

- Removal and installation of roof joists.
- Installation of new insulated roofing system.
- Repair and tuckpointing of exterior masonry wall.

**COMPLETED  
JAN.2007**

Phase Three.....\$90,000

- New windows and entrance.
- Reinstall repaired stain glass window.
- New floor structure and wood flooring.
- Interior partitions walls.
- Electrical systems for power, data, and lighting.
- Heating and Cooling systems, under floor heat and high efficiency heat pump.
- Connect to city sewer for new toilet room.
- Reinstall refurbished bank teller line.

**Under  
Construction.  
To Be Completed  
DEC.2008**

Funds are being raised for the following:

Phase Four.....\$50,000

- Reinstall (and replicate where needed):
  - wood trim at wall base, windows, and doors
- Refurbish and reinstall 3 interior doors;
  - including door with bullet holes from 1934 robbery
- Refurbish and reinstall salvaged wood-and-glass entry vestibule walls
- Replace and refurbish teller line glass (11 glass panels)
- Painting of walls and ceiling
- Painting historical scrolling on walls to recreate original
- Install new historic light fixtures
- Refurbish fire place in community room
- Install shelving for archives in community room (8 3-foot sections)
- Interpretive wall panel(s) with collage of historic photos
- Conference room kitchenette
- Redo front sidewalk for handicap accessibility

Phase Five.....privately funded

- Construction of office addition.
- Shared toilet and mechanical facilities for Buxton in Bloom.
- Private office addition for rent.

**Under  
Construction.  
To Be Completed  
JAN.2009**

### FROM THE ARCHIVES: A MOMENT IN BUXTON HISTORY

## Buxton robbery never solved

By Darrel Koehler, Herald Staff Writer

BUXTON, ND – The First State Bank of Buxton building resembles a formidable fortress with its solid granite walls and narrow windows and door.

Built in the late 1800's and bearing a faint resemblance to the Northfield, Minn., bank which was robbed by the James and Younger brothers, this bank was also the site of a robbery that people here cannot forget.

Three armed men entered the bank on a bright May morning 43 years ago and took \$1,000 and fatally wounded Leonard Hanson, the bank cashier. The robbers were never captured and the robbery is still unsolved.

Mrs. Ethel Anderson, Buxton, was a witness to the robbery which occurred at 10 a.m. May 17, 1933. During the unsettled 1930s, bank robberies were common. Bonnie and Clyde, Baby Face Nelson,

Pretty Boy Floyd, Ma Barker and others were in the limelight as they held up banks across the country.

Mrs. Anderson, the former Ethel Crawford, was on her way home from the post office, located near the bank, when she was stopped in front of the bank by a robber bearing a machine gun.

Two armed and masked men were in the bank, gathering up the money. A third stopped Mrs. Anderson while the robbery was in progress.

Hanson had apparently tried to trip a tear gas device in the bank office which is located adjacent to the letter cage. The men apparently notice a suspicious move on Hanson's part and shot him.

The bank cashier was fatally wounded. Today the door to the office is still marred by live bullet holes, three of which are in direct line with the desk and chair now occupied by Paul Marshall, bank

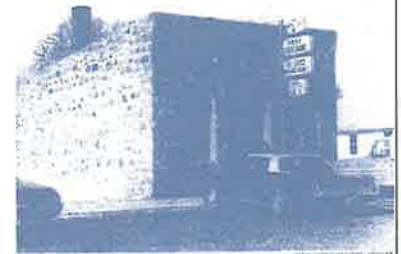
president.

Two other bank personnel were working when the robbery occurred—Jess Lerom, bookkeeper, and Joseph Olson, assistant cashier.

Mrs. Anderson had groceries in her arms when the machine gun was thrust in her face. She dropped the bags to the ground. Her daughter, Elaine, was running ahead of her and she wasn't stopping in the daring daylight robbery.

When the shots were first fired, Mrs. Anderson thought it sounded like someone rattling a garbage can. After the shots were fired, three armed men fled to a car parked on the north side of the bank which was occupied by an armed driver.

The robbers fled from the small Traill County community in haste. They sprinkled tacks and nails on the road leading out north of Buxton towards Grand Forks.



Who robbed this bank?

The terrible robbery of the First State Bank of Buxton, N.D., May 17, 1933, was the only one of its kind in the state. The robbers, who used on the robbery and later a machine gun, on the bank of the robbery, the bank was never solved.

And that was the last ever seen of the robbers.

Mrs. Anderson said she was thankful she wasn't taken as a hostage, common in bank robberies, but said she wouldn't have argued with a gun pointed at her.

Following the robbery, she ran to a grocery. She was questioned by the sheriff later and made trips to Minnesota and North Dakota communities to attempt to identify the robbers. However, she was never able to recognize the robbers from the suspects she saw. And Buxton's Bank robbery remains unsolved.

# Interior Reconstruction



The bank teller line undergoes repair at the GF Custom Woodworks millwork shop after being salvaged during Phase One of the project. Workers will repair, refinish, and restore the historic wooden teller line, which featured marble tops, brass cages, and etched glass. It was nearly ruined from water damage that collapsed the floor and ceilings. Upon completion, the teller line will be reinstalled in its original location. Buxton in Bloom is welcoming donations to help cover the cost of preserving this critical piece of the bank's interior.

Interior reconstruction of the Bank began this summer as scheduled, thanks to donations and matching state funds.

"With a State Historical Society 2007 grant award of \$25,000 and the \$25,000 local match from the Knudsvig donation we will almost finish the interior of the bank," says Bobbi Hepper Olson, head of the bank restoration project.

This interior project includes pouring a new concrete floor with floor heat, to replace the original floor and floor structure, both of which had caved in and deteriorated beyond repair.

Workers will install hardwood over the concrete to best replicate the original hardwood floor in the bank. New walls

will be constructed against the stone wall to be able to place insulation around the perimeter to create a more energy efficient building.

"Walls will be painted once we decide on appropriate colors. We have original plaster samples from the bank and will do some testing to see what colors would be most authentic," Hepper Olson says.

The salvaged historical trim and bank teller line will be refinished, repaired, and in some areas rebuilt as a result of too much water damage.

"And of course we will reinstall the door riddled with bullet holes during the 1930's shooting where Leonard Hanson was killed," she says.

## Knudsvig (continued from Page 1)

Marian recalled the story fondly while leafing through a collection of family photos and other precious heirlooms, including a copy of the unknown author's poem.

"It's theme is about doing good. Building for the future—for the benefit of those yet to come," she points out. In a sense that is exactly what the Knudsvigs have done through their donation.

"People don't make buildings like this anymore," says Olson standing outside the facade of the little gray stone bank. "The Knudsvigs have helped preserve a part of Buxton history for our children and our children's children to appreciate. You can't put a price on that."

The nonprofit group Buxton in Bloom



Buxton in Bloom project leader Bobbi Hepper Olson shares a smile with Marian Knudsvig during a personal visit to thank her and husband Adrian for their generous gift.

continues to welcome donations of any size for the Buxton Bank restoration project. For more information, contact Bobbi Hepper Olson at (701) 746-6820 or (701) 847-2241.

Make a donation.

## Please help!

**Yes!** I want to become a part of Saving Buxton Bank.

Full Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

### Donor Levels

**\$20 Bronze Contributor**

**\$40 Silver Contributor**

- Receives a set of 8 Buxton Bank commemorative note cards

**\$100 Gold Contributor**

- Receives Exclusive Buxton 125th Anniversary Poster

**\$250 Platinum Contributor**

- Donors of \$250 or more receive the items listed above plus our yearly newsletter keeping you up to date on the Buxton Bank progress.

**\$500 Supporter**

**\$1,000 Patron**

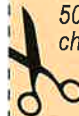
**\$5,000 Benefactor**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other**

Simply complete this form and mail it with your **tax-deductible contribution** to:

Buxton in Bloom  
16659 13th Street NE  
Buxton, ND 58218

Buxton in Bloom is an incorporated, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, EIN 26-0108241, ND charitable solicitation #8120



# Buxton in Bloom: 2006-2008 Contributor's List

## \$40,000+

Adrian & Marian  
Knudsvig  
Buxton, ND

## \$25,000+

State Historical  
Society of  
North Dakota  
(Historic Preservation  
Grant Funds 2007)

## \$10,000+

First State Bank of  
Buxton, Thompson,  
and Grand Forks

State Historical  
Society of  
North Dakota  
(Historic Preservation  
Grant Funds 2006)

State Historical  
Society of  
North Dakota  
(Cultural Heritage  
Grant 2007-09)

Kyle & Bobbi  
Olson  
Buxton, ND

## \$5,000+

State Historical  
Society of  
North Dakota  
(Cultural Heritage  
Grant 2005-07)

Traill County  
Historical Society

## \$2,500+

Pauline Molvig  
Buxton, ND

Lake Agassiz  
RC&D  
Fargo, ND

Hepper Olson  
Architects  
Grand Forks, ND

## \$1,000+

Buxton  
Improvement  
Association

City of Buxton

J&N Enterprises  
Grand Forks, ND

North Dakota  
Community  
Foundation

Traill County  
Economic  
Development  
Comm.

National Trust  
for Historic  
Preservation  
(Charles Evan Hughes  
Memorial Preservation  
Fund)

Patrick Peterson  
Springfield, VA

Jerry & Luella  
Wolfer  
Mesa, AZ

Ad Monkeys Inc.  
Grand Forks, ND

## \$500+

Adelaide Maier  
Denver, CO

Charles & Mari  
Duke  
Grinnel, IA

Eileen Gunderson  
Reynolds, ND

Roland & Mattie  
Olson  
Chevy Chase, MD

Norkota Packers  
Buxton, ND

Jim & Janel Wahl  
Eden Prairie, MN

Greg West  
Grand Forks, ND

Paula Rogenes  
Stewart  
Chapel Hills, NC

## \$250+

Advance Electric  
Grand Forks, ND

Karen Brannon  
Casper, WY

Central Valley Bean  
Cooperative  
Buxton, ND

Central Valley  
Aviation  
Buxton, ND

Cris & Andrea  
Breidenbach  
Jamestown, ND

Keith Danks, Jr.  
Grand Forks, ND

Jan Deremer  
The Woman's  
Law Office  
Buxton, ND

Diversified  
Contractors, Inc.  
Fargo, ND

Keith Finney  
Dickinson, ND

Gary & Deb  
Fuglesten  
Buxton, ND

Henry &  
Mary Ann Gans  
Palm City, FL

Grue Lutheran  
Church WELCA  
Buxton, ND

Stan & Kathy  
Hepper  
Mandan, ND

Hepper's Sport  
Center  
Aberdeen, SD

Intermountain  
Technical Services  
Mayville, ND

George & Shirley  
Lerom  
Austin, TX

Paul & Penny  
Marchell  
Buxton, ND

Orland & Carol  
Niemeier  
Buxton, ND

Stuart & Marilyn  
Ringham  
St. Benedict, MN

Gaylord & Gayle  
Olson  
Grand Forks, ND

Solien & Larson  
Engineering  
Grand Forks, ND

## \$100+

Bernell & Marilyn  
Asheim  
Buxton, ND

Andrea  
Breidenbach  
Jamestown, ND

Naomi Borke  
Hillsboro, ND

Harlis Brend  
Canoga Park, CA

Ted & Madelyn  
Camrud  
Grand Forks, ND

Authur & Violet  
Grove  
Grand Forks, ND

Brian & Karin  
Gunderson  
Elko, MN

George & Eileen  
Gunderson  
Buxton, ND

Richard Gunderson  
Grand Forks, ND

Dennis & Deborah  
Haugen  
Portland, ND

Authur & Barbara  
Herman  
Stevens Point, WI

Stan & Dorothy  
Hoistad  
Grand Forks, ND

Doug & Jeanie  
Lenz  
Buxton, ND

Loretta Riveland  
Lincoln, NE

Lena Sorlie  
Fergus Falls, MN

Al & Sharon  
Watson  
Buxton, ND

Marlis Wigestrang  
Fullerton, CA

## \$40+

Bachmeier  
Architecture  
Fargo, ND

Buxton Historical  
Society

Frank & Teresa  
Corley  
St. Louis, MO

Leonard & Merle  
Grimm  
Ellendale, ND

Orville & Mary Ann  
Gunderson  
Grand Forks, ND

Ronald & Lois  
Lerom  
Richfield, MN

Kay Martin  
Buxton, ND

James & Laurie  
Moss  
Hailey, ID

Herman Novak  
Fargo, ND

Gary & Rita  
Odegard  
Buxton, ND

Lt. Col. Kathryn  
Rogenes  
San Antonio, TX

Ardell & Sandra  
Knudsvig  
Crookston, MN

Jeff & Pam Siewert  
Buxton, ND

O.J. & Laurel  
Sorlie  
Fergus Falls, MN

Robert & Connie  
Scott  
Sioux Falls, SD

## \$20+

Robert & Tracey  
Anderson  
Fargo, ND

Curt & Rhea Bjerke  
Buxton, ND

Ruthie Breiland  
Grand Forks, ND

Dallas & Mary Ann  
Boeddeker  
Hillsboro, ND

Josh & Tammy  
Ensign  
Buxton, ND

Jim & Joan  
Fakhoury  
Canyon Lake, CA

Dan Fuglesten  
Buxton, ND

Eric & Krista  
Gunderson  
Buxton, ND

Russel & Helen  
Gunderson  
Grand Forks, ND

Marsha Gunderson  
Grand Forks, ND

Richard & Judy  
James  
St. Cloud, MN

Randy & Tracey  
Kingsley  
Fargo, ND

Verna Larson  
Climax, MN

Dean & Dawn  
Lommen  
East Grand Forks, MN

Bruce & Marilu  
Person  
Hillsboro, ND

Douglas Norquist  
Buxton, ND

John & Pimpan  
Shinnick  
Vancouver, WA

Gerry & Alma  
Sondreal  
Los Alamos, NM

Marlo & Eunice  
Sondrol  
Buxton, ND

Willis & Ethel  
Sondrol  
Reynolds, ND

Terry & Harriet  
Thoreson  
Buxton, ND

Darren & Lisa  
Tronson  
Buxton, ND

Greg & Pam  
Troftgruben  
Buxton, ND

Mahlon & Vivian  
Thompson  
Buxton, ND

## Persons

### Donating Time

Marilyn Asheim  
Buxton, ND

Todd & Linette  
Hagel  
Mandan, ND

Hepper Olson  
Architects  
Grand Forks, ND

Adrian & Marian  
Knudsvig  
Buxton, ND

Kile Martin  
Grand Forks, ND

John Marchell  
Buxton, ND

Paul & Penny  
Marchell  
Buxton, ND

Gayle Olson  
Grand Forks, ND

Kyle & Bobbi  
Olson  
Buxton, ND

Janel Wahl  
Eden Prairie, MN

Waslien Electric  
Buxton, ND

Sharon Watson  
Buxton, ND

Greg West  
Grand Forks, ND

## Memorials

Amy Lilleboe  
(from Stuart &  
Marilyn Ringham)

Theodore Camrud  
(from Stuart &  
Marilyn Ringham)

## Want to be part of Saving Buxton Bank?

Now's your chance to be part of history. Have your name, family name, business logo, memorial, (or whatever you would like) engraved at Buxton Bank. We are working on a piece of art that will be

on permanent display at the bank as a lasting reminder of all who helped save the Buxton Bank. Don't miss your chance to be part of this historic effort. Simply contact Buxton in Bloom.

CULTIVATING OUR PAST

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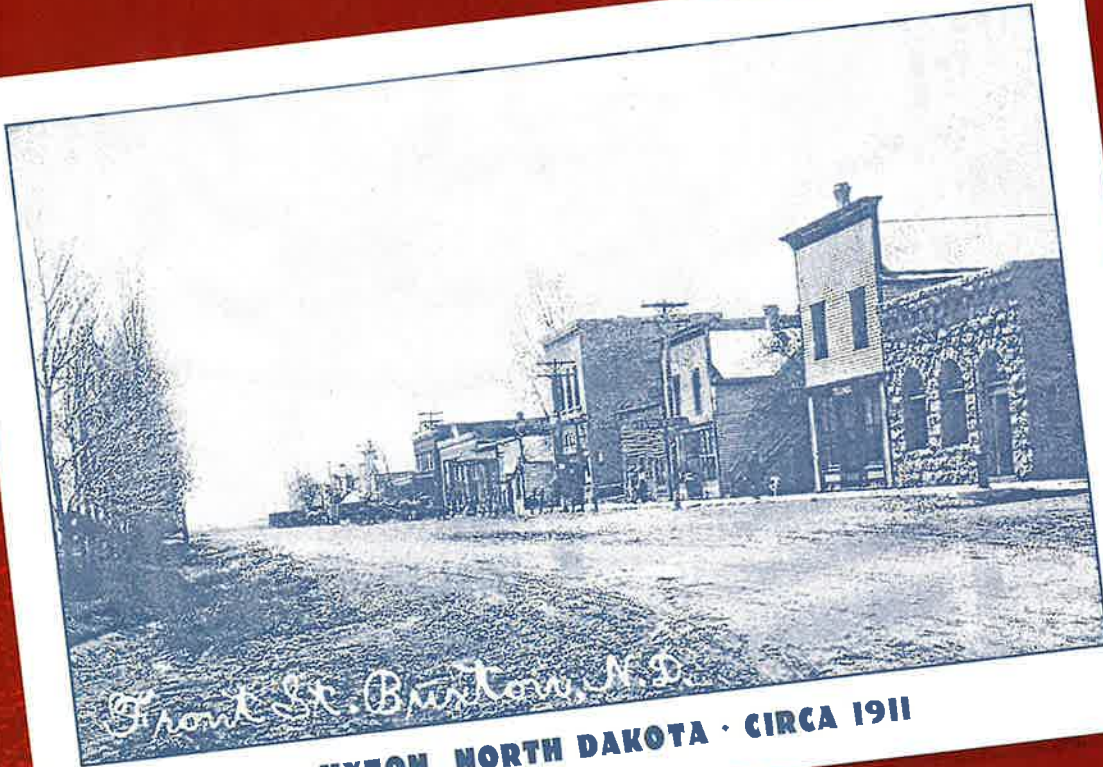


## BUXTON *in* BLOOM

CULTIVATING OUR PAST  
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16659 13th St NE  
Buxton, ND 58218

POSTAL CUSTOMER



*Front St. Buxton, N.D.*  
**BUXTON, NORTH DAKOTA · CIRCA 1911**

## SAVING BUXTON'S HISTORY

Please contact us if you have historic photos, newspaper clippings, maps, postcards, books, family history or other items that you would like to donate to the Buxton Archive.

- **Bobbi Hepper Olson**  
bobbi@hepperolson.com  
(701) 746-6820  
(701) 847-2241
- **Sharon Watson**  
(701) 847-2013
- **Marilyn Asheim**  
(701) 847-2199

# BUXTON *in* BLOOM

