

**1** **Bowlus Feed & Grain**  
A grain elevator has been located near the rail line since at least 1912. Elevator burned in 1925, rebuilt at this site in 1926. Area to the south had a potato warehouse, and stockyard, among other industries.

**2** **Reis Lumber & Construction**  
The site of a lumberyard since at least the 1930s. To the west was Biniek's Saloon.

**3** **Pine Country Bank**  
Former site of post office, grocery, and bar. A livery barn, which became Surma's Garage, and Hanson's Blacksmith Shop were situated to the north of this building. The blacksmith shop was run by Donald Sather.

**4** **Old Village Hall & Jail**  
The stone part of this building is an example of 1930s Works Progress Administration construction. The first house in town, that of Martin Czech, is southeast of the Old Village Hall.

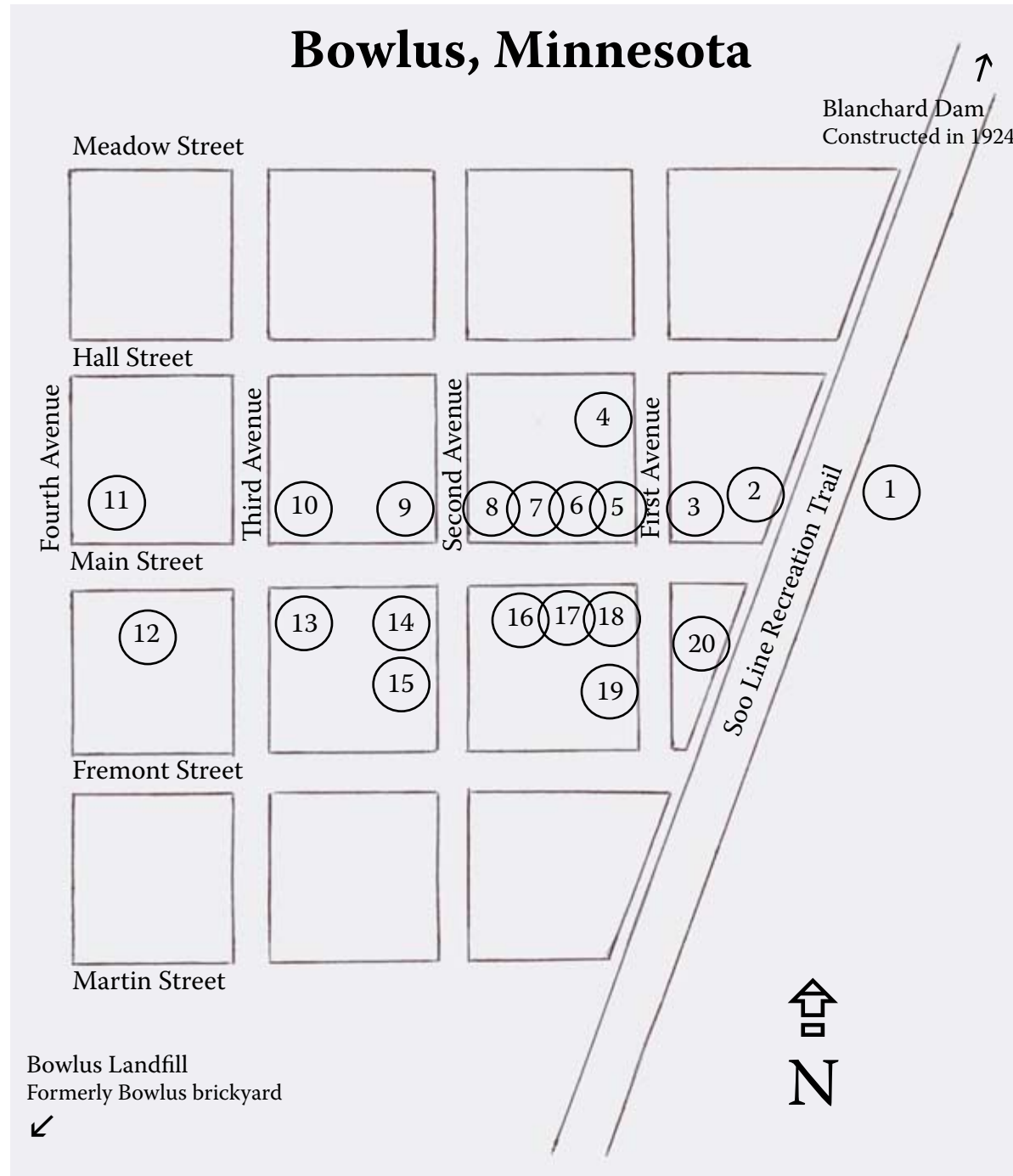
**5** **Bowlus Liquor**  
Former site of the first bank in Bowlus, a place for buying chickens, butter and eggs, and an implement dealer. Had the first phone in 1918. Next door was Ostrowski's Saloon, later Cihac's restaurant & living quarters.

**6** **Western Tack & Saddlery**  
Former site of a grocery store, saloon, Bowlus Coffee Shop, Benusa's Broom Factory, and Hanke's Shoe Repair Shop.

**7** **Bowlus Post Office**  
Former site of a bank, implement shop, grocery store, New Idea Minnesota Dealership, and Waletzki's Hardware Store. Smejia's Barber Shop was next door, to the west.

**8** **American Legion**  
Former site of the first post office, a grocery store, Fedor's puffed wheat factory, Psyck's Meat Market and Pollock's Meat Market.

**9** **Bowlus City Hall & Fire Hall**  
Former site of a doctor's office, dentist's office, drug store, funeral home, and butcher shop.



**10** **Bowlus Gas & Grocery**  
Formerly Czeck's City Service Station, built 1931.

**11** **St. Stanislas Catholic Church**  
Built in 1909, dedicated May 8, 1910. The rectory was built next door (to the east) in 1913.

**12** **Church Parking Lot**  
Former site of school (built in 1910) & hayseed grounds.

**13** **Empty Lot**  
Former site of Stillski's Produce. To the east was a laundromat.

**14** **Terri's Hair Salon**  
Former site of Gedney Pickle Factory and machine shop.

**15** **Trettel Residence**  
Former site of a post office and the restaurant "Someplace Else."

**16** **Studio T. Reis Photo Shop**  
Formerly a pool hall and barbershop. A hotel was located to the east of this building.

**17** **Psyck's Supermarket**  
Former site of a saloon, creamery, hotel and restaurant.

**18** **Bowlus Auto Center**  
Former site of an implement shop, garage, and creamery. To the east (on the corner) was Shell's Gas Station.

**19** **Jordie's Trail Side Cafe & Catering**  
Formerly a saloon and opera house, built by a Schwientek. The black building behind the cafe, on which outdoor movies are now shown, used to be a hotel.

**20** **Bowlus Community Center**  
Built to mimic the former Bowlus Depot, which was located just east of this site. The depot was built in 1907. The Community Center was dedicated in 2007 and allows residents and visitors to take advantage of the Soo Line Recreational Trail.



# Bowlus Minnesota



Bowlus arose in 1907, after the Tri-State Land Company platted the town out of land purchased from Martin Czech. The land company was part of the Soo Line Railroad (officially the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railroad), which was putting a line through Morrison County. Tracks and a depot made Bowlus an industrious town, sporting a wide variety of businesses through time. This walking tour guide will give you a taste of the types of businesses that have existed during Bowlus's history.



## Walking Tour

Created by the  
Morrison County Historical Society  
for the City of Bowlus  
2010

Photos courtesy Louis Titel, 2010