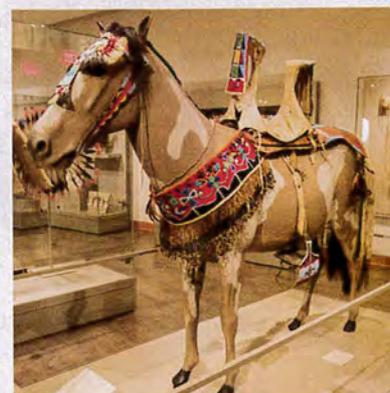


WESTERN
STOPS

The Brinton Museum

Story and photography by JENNIFER DENISON



The Rundown

LOCATION
Big Horn, Wyoming

TIME FACTOR
Allow at least 2 hours to tour the museum galleries and Brinton Ranch House.

DON'T MISS
Stroll through the gardens and outbuildings, which include a leather workshop, barns, milk house, foreman's and herdsman's quarters, and a log lodge. Guided tours are available every 30 minutes from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STAFF PICK
The Goelet and Edith Gallatin Collection of American Indian Art and Artifacts features items from Plains tribes, including beaded Crow horse regalia and a painted buffalo-hide war shirt belonging to Two Leggings, chief of the River Crow tribe, circa 1870s.

CURATOR'S CHOICE
Paintings Across the Big Divide, by Frank Tenney Johnson; and *When Ropes Go Wrong*, by Charles M. Russell

COMING UP
• An exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Fort Laramie, September 2-November 9
• "The Brinton 101," an invitational small works exhibition showcasing the artwork of 101 artists from across the United States, November 18-December 23

FUN FACT
Queen Elizabeth II of England visited the museum in 1984.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
thebrintonmuseum.org, The Brinton Museum Facebook Page and @TheBrinton on Instagram

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The Forrest E. Mars Building at The Brinton Museum is a state-of-the-art building that blends into the natural surroundings. Savor a meal or dessert on the bistro patio overlooking the Big Horn Mountains. The Goelet and Edith Gallatin Collection of American Indian Art and Artifacts features more than 90 rare relics from the Plains tribes.

THE ROLLING EMERALD HILLS at the base of the Big Horn Mountains in northern Wyoming are an idyllic backdrop for The Brinton Museum. It's no wonder that Bradford Brinton, a Midwestern farming equipment manufacturer, purchased the 620-acre Quarter Circle A Ranch from William Moncreiffe in 1923 as a vacation home.

An avid collector of art, American Indian artifacts, firearms, books and other ephemera, Brinton elegantly decorated his home with the things he loved, including the artwork of his friends Edward Borein, E. William Gollings and Hans Kleiber, as well as pieces by Frank Tenney Johnson, Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell and other iconic artists. He also raised cattle and had teams of workhorses. When he passed in 1936, his sister, Helen Brinton, inherited the ranch and put it in a trust that specified it become a museum and memorial to her brother upon her death, which was in 1960. For more than 50 years, the museum operated within the trust agreement as the Bradford Brinton Memorial & Museum.

In 2008, the museum board realized the funds in the trust were approaching their limit, so they reorganized the museum into a non-profit organization operating as The Brinton Museum. Forrest E. Mars Jr., heir to the Mars Inc. candy company and a local landowner and benefactor, donated \$15.8 million for the construction of a 24,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, climate-controlled exhibit building named the Forrest E. Mars Building at The Brinton Museum. Built into a hillside, the three-story, eco-conscious structure opened in June of 2015. Inside its earthen walls are five galleries showcasing a significant collection of Western art, American Indian artifacts and photographs

that trace the history of the Rocky Mountain region; a bistro with scenic patio dining and five-star, farm-to-table cuisine; and a museum store offering Western gifts and memorabilia, and the artistic and literary works of local artisans and authors.

A docent-guided tour through the Brinton Ranch House and its refurbished outbuildings offers insight into the life of a well-educated, cultured gentleman rancher of the early 20th century. The immaculate landscaping and blooming gardens, trickling Little Goose Creek, and vast open space with birds and wildlife provide a serene setting where nature, art and artifacts combine to form one of Wyoming's hidden cultural gems. **O**



ABOVE: The Brinton Museum houses an extensive Western art collection.

BELOW: The Brinton Ranch House remains as it was when Bradford Brinton lived there, complete with the home's original furnishings and art and book collections.

