

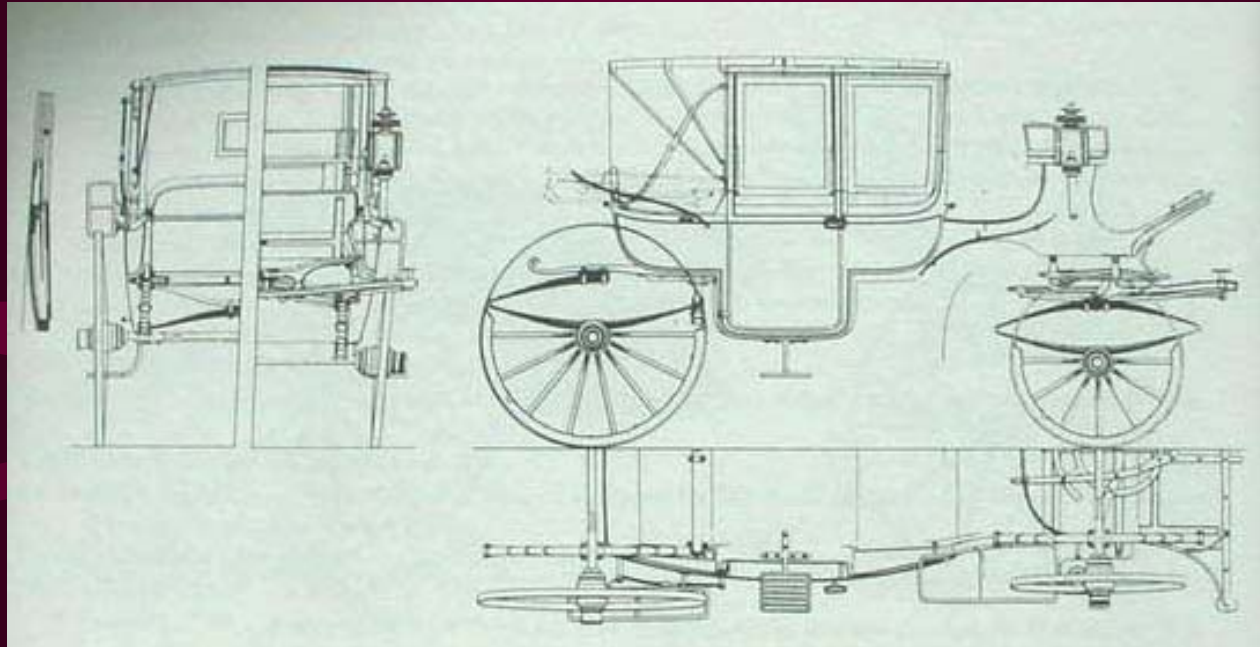
# The Bozeman Cab



The Bozeman Cab Number 6 is a Landau coach, one of the most important objects in the State of Montana's Virginia City historic collections.



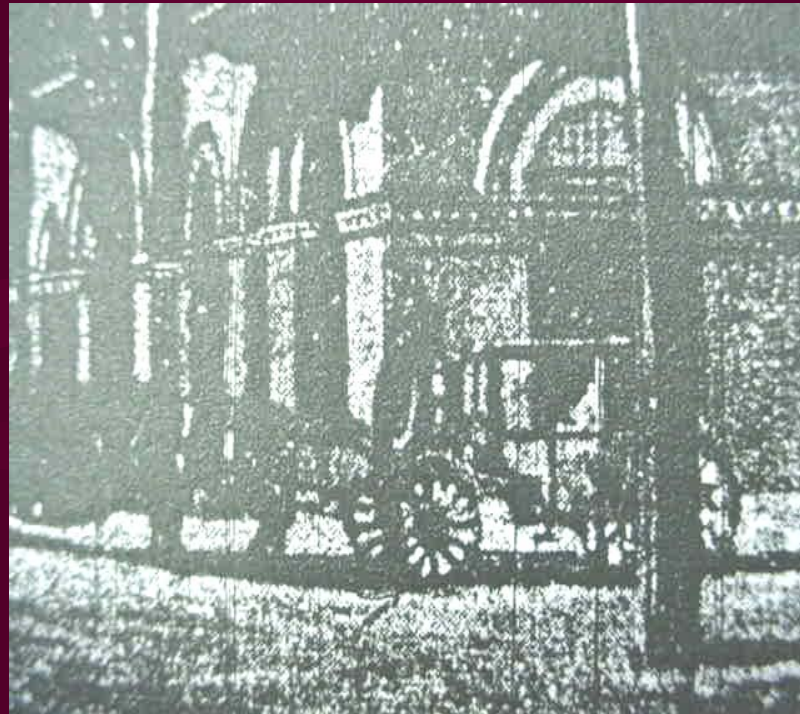
The Landau coach was a heavy-bodied, elegant vehicle used throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It seated four passengers and was drawn by a team of two or four horses.



From *Carriage Terminology: An Historical Reference* by Don H. Berkebile, p. 187

The Landau coach is significant to the history of animal-powered vehicles. The Bozeman Cab Number 6 provides a meaningful link to the history of our region.

The Bozeman Cab No. 6 is a 5-glass Landau, having 2 windows on each side and one in the front. The rear quarter, or upper back of the cab, folds down for open air driving.



*A detail of a photograph published in the Bozeman Chronicle, December 30, 1891, showing a 5-glass Landau coach next to the new Hotel Bozeman. While we cannot be sure that the coach in this picture is the Bozeman Cab Number 6, it does indicate that such coaches were used in Bozeman in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

Like all Landau coaches, the Bozeman Cab Number 6 is finely appointed with details such as ivory door handles and custom striping.



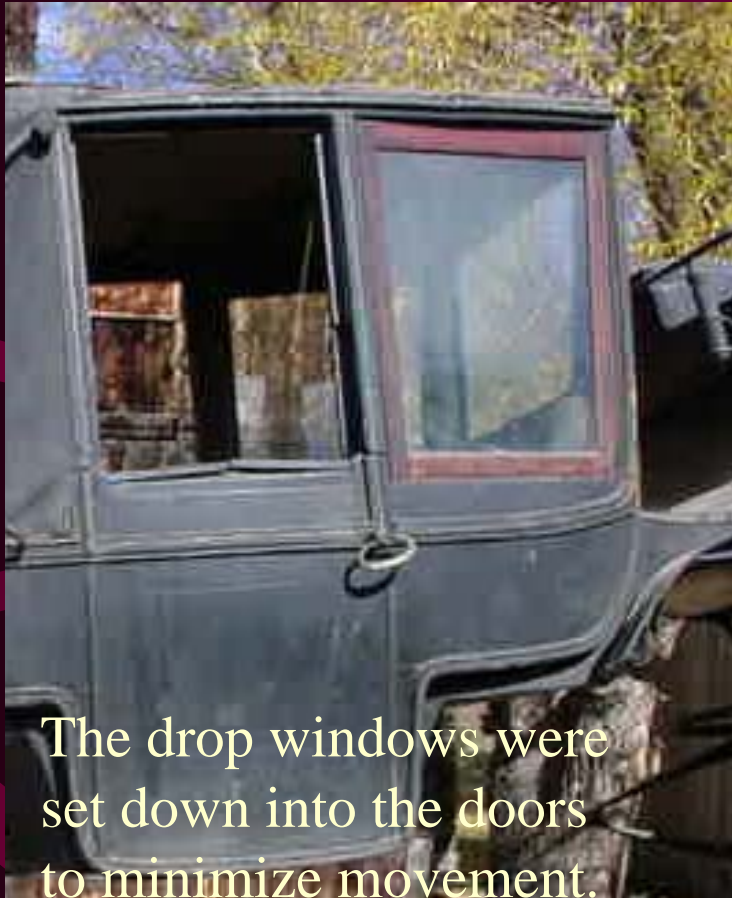
Since the early 1960s, the Bozeman Cab had languished in the back of Eberle Blacksmith Shop in Nevada City. This area was dark and damp, and the coach was difficult for visitors to see. The Bozeman Cab No. 6 became a favorite nest site for pack rats.



In the fall of 2004, Montana Heritage Commission staff moved the coach from Nevada City to the Kiskadden Barn in Virginia City. Moving the coach required meeting a number of challenges:

- The coach is quite heavy, much more so than the animal powered vehicles recently moved by staff.
- The overall integrity of the coach was in question, due to its poor storage conditions.
- Because the coach had not been moved for years, the strength of its wheels could not be ensured.
- The coach was taller than the Eberle door frame by several inches.
- The boardwalks and gravel roads in Nevada City create uneven and soft surfaces, making use of equipment difficult.

The coach was inspected by curatorial staff,  
and was deemed strong enough to move.



The drop windows were  
set down into the doors  
to minimize movement.



The doubletree, to which the horse  
harness would be attached, was  
secured.

Other moving parts were removed or secured.

The wheels were removed for their protection.  
This also allowed the coach to be lowered  
enough to pass through the doorway.

Specially adapted hydraulic lift  
tables were used to move the coach.



Plywood planks created a smoother,  
more solid moving surface.



The Bozeman Cab emerges into the sunlight for the first time in more than 30 years.





Moving the coach onto the trailer required  
step-by-step evaluation—  
and a bit of muscle.





On the trailer, the wheels were repositioned to enhance stability.

Once strapped down, the coach slowly made its way down the 1 ½ mile road to Virginia City.



Because Kiskadden's doorway is higher than Eberle's, it was not necessary to remove the wheels again. The lift tables raised the coach enough to prevent rolling the coach on its own wheels.



The coach now rests in Kiskadden Barn, drier and more visible than in Eberle Blacksmith Shop.

*Now the hard work begins...*



## Like all of our historic vehicles, the Bozeman Cab needs:

- Axle jacks to keep the weight off of the wheels, thereby preserving their integrity.
- A clean, climate-controlled place for off-season storage.
- Funding for conservation treatment—cleaning, repair and reproduction of lost or damaged parts will cost thousands of dollars.

# Though structurally sound, the Bozeman Cab is in need of all levels of conservation treatment.

Leathers have shrunk and torn.



Finishes are stained, cracked, or missing.

Curatorial staff spent several hours removing rats' nests and other debris...



...but interior surfaces and upholstery have been severely damaged by rodents.



*Floor*



*Seat*

## Other conservation problems include:

- One of the drop windows has been replaced with an ill-fitting glass.
- The patented mechanism that held the windows up is broken.
- The original foot warmers and lap robe, found in the coach, are damaged, with significant losses of fabric.
- The remaining original lantern is dented and bent, with some loss of lettering, one missing side plate, and the glass cracked.
- One exterior step is missing.
- Soiling and unstudied repairs exist throughout.

The Bozeman Cab Number 6 makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the history of our region. Conservation treatment will help preserve this important object for generations to come.



# *You can help!*

To contribute to the care and conservation of the Bozeman Cab or other historic objects in the Virginia City Collections, contact:

Janna Norby, Curator of Collections  
McFarland Curatorial Center  
Montana Heritage Commission  
PO Box 338, Virginia City, MT 59755  
406-843-5441, [jnorby@mt.gov](mailto:jnorby@mt.gov)

# *Thank you!*