

A mixture of Mexican and American ideals, Promesa's architecture is as diverse as its people. While the older buildings are classic adobe, build by the first Mexican settlers who came here in search of gold, the newer constructions are wooden, functional, and unadorned. The population consists of Dutch and German immigrants who still speak their mother tongue, along with a variety of English accents: from Boston, Ireland, and London, just to name a few.

Unnumbered buildings are populated as the GM desires; many of them are family homes of NPCs, including area farmers and ranch hands. Others might be awaiting purchase by an enterprising character looking to further his career, or they can become any type of business needed to add further color to the town.

1. Promesa's second-most popular drinking establishment is **Jose's Cantina**, operated by Jose's beautiful and shrewd niece, Melina, while Jose rots in a Texas jail. The cantina is made of adobe walls, painted white, adorned with a few crude metalwork roses.

2. The **train depot** is a Promesa landmark, the gateway to the world. The train station abuts the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe line that runs from St. Louis all the way to California. One westbound train stops here every day, while the eastbound line arrives every other day.

3. The water tower stands ready to deliver water to incoming trains, in order to keep their steam-powered engines on the move.

4. Aker Totterdam operates this **surveying and cartography** service. Anyone needing a map of the area—or looking to earn some coin for drawing a map of uncharted territory—should report to Mr. Totterdam, a man who is as crisp and unbending as the straight-edges he uses in his work.

5. The sign in front of his building reads **Mason Cooley - Daguerreotypes & Photographs**. Many folk are still unaware of the power of a portrait and have yet to sit for one, though Mr. Cooley and his assistant, Chavez, hope to change that and begin to turn a profit for the first time since setting up shop.

6. The **sheriff's office** also serves as the local jail, with an adjacent room used by a traveling judge during his bi-monthly visits.

7. The **telegraph office** shares a building with the **Wells Fargo Stage Line**. Both businesses are vital to the town's ongoing prosperity.

8. Masters Land Company occupies this well-appointed building, where **land sales** both large and small are conducted on a daily basis. Characters seeking to purchase plots in town will find themselves doing business here.

9. Those seeking entertainment might frequent the **Palace**, a combination of playhouse and burlesque show.

10. Situated prominently in the center of town is the **First Western Bank**.

11. Dr. Josiah Hentock serves as the only **doctor** in the county. His nurse is his spirited, twenty-two-year-old daughter, Jolene.
12. **Buckman's Hardware** occupies its second plot after its first building burned to the ground in 1864.
13. The town **icehouse** is manned by Paul "Lip-Hook" Logan. This oddly shaped building stores the ice that is cut in blocks from Six-Moon Pond during the winter, helping in the springtime to ease thirsty throats.
14. The **Trading Post** is owned by mountain-turned-merchant Tiberius Jones, dealing in furs, pelts, horn, and other items of barter. Tiberius is a large, laughing man who is a keen trader, a heavy drinker, and somewhat of a showman.
15. Like saloon-owner O'Doherty, Angus Aaron Flynn is an Irishman; he operates the town's **assaying office**, weighting and pricing all precious metals dug out of the nearby hills.
16. Hugh Danton & Sons provide **masonry and painting** services.
17. Red Patch Robinson operates a **gunsmithy** with his assistant, a Pueblo Indian whom everyone calls Buckshot.
18. **The White Tiger** calls itself a relaxation parlor but is more specifically a busy brothel, operated by a proud, middle-aged woman named Ms. Eldora Norton. While Eldora acts as the Peacock's public face, the day-to-day business operations are controlled by a stern-faced Asian woman known only as Mrs. O'Toole.
19. **O'Doherty's Den** is a gambling house and saloon, the largest and most popular in town.
20. The **Grand Duke**, a hotel, is the town's tallest building.
21. The only **barbershop** in Promesa is owned by Tucker Kultch.
22. The town **leather goods** shop is maintained by Francisco Soya-Rodriguez. A foul smell usually permeates the area, as the various chemical and biological processes involved in tanning hides do not fall easily on the nose.
23. Leonard H. Hart is **chemist** who sells many cures and remedies: laudanum, opium pills, and morphine, among other tonics and balms.
24. Lord Braithwaite's Haberdashery & Gown Shoppe provides **clothing and tailoring** services. It is operated by Cleel Danphry, who chose the name "Lord Braithwaite" simply because it sounded cultured and esteemed.
25. The man serving as both **attorney and dentist** is Garrel Rakers, a bespectled and uptight gentleman from Philadelphia.
26. The weekly **newspaper**, the *Promesa Herald*, is edited and published by the determined journalist Cyrus T. Arrington.

27. **Freitag's Emporium** sells all manners of dry goods, from cornmeal to lanterns, and lucifer matches to tobacco.

28. The **Hard Buck Saloon**, though not as popular as O'Doherty's and Jose's, nonetheless offers plenty of faro and whiskey for men in need of either—or both. The Hark Buck is not as boisterous as O'Doherty's, and the food is nowhere near as good as the tamales served by Melina at Jose's, but what it lacks in excitement and cuisine it makes up for in discretion; a man can drink and gamble here and not be stared at or questioned.

29. One of the best eateries around is **Belle's Restaurant**.

30. This building is currently occupied by one Stanwick Macleod, a Scotsman who sleeps on the floor until he can amass the capital to open his business . . . though he's yet to divulge just what that business might be.

31. **Miss Lemmie's Laundry** sees that all customers have freshly boiled shirts.

32. Johnson's Clean House is where town-folk can enjoy hot baths and purchase cleaners such as **lye soap and solvents**.

33. The resident **undertaker** is an oddly tall gentleman named Calvert Mondoan. Usually seen in a stovepipe pipe in honor of the late President Lincoln, Mr. Mondoan oversees the grim business of coffin-making, gravedigging, and embalming. Sometimes dead outlaws are propped outside his shop

as a warning to others who might be tempted to turn to the life of a reprobate.

34. Various businessmen around town use this building to store all manner of excess goods and supplies. The door is usually locked, and at least six different men have a key.

35. The George Washington Inn is actually a **flophouse** that rents cots to those without the coin to afford the Grand Duke. It is known for its spartan offerings, with curtains used to divide the room into small sleeping areas. A cot can be had here for as little as a nickel a night.

36. Raul Montego is the town **blacksmith**, one of the busiest men in Ciudad Promesa.

37. Thunderbolt Mining Supplies sells all manners of **mining tools** to prospectors.

38. The **Silver Gulch Eatery** is a rival to the more popular Belle's Restaurant.

39. **Lo San's Textiles** is operated by one of several Chinamen in town, Lo San.

40. A dwarf named Asher Bancroft manages the **livery stable** for Hank Lee Masters, owner of Masters Land Company. Stunted from birth, Mr. Bancroft is nonetheless optimistic about life and a good listener for those in need. He isn't much of a rider, though he can nonetheless tame and soothe the most cantankerous mustang.

41. This is the home and office of Ms. Helena Fawsham, a woman from Britain who is determined to write a novel about her travels and experiences with the colorful folk of the West.

42. This one-room **schoolhouse** is administered by Miss Dorothy Lackerson, formerly of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Miss Lackerson is unattached and not presently looking for gentleman companionship, for she is intent on the education of her pupils. She is particularly fond of the English writer, Mr. Charles Dickens.

43. The Lopez brothers are the town **chandlers**, otherwise known as candle-makers. They keep beehives behind their property, enabling them to sell honey and beeswax products. Roaming around the hives without the proper protection is a dangerous pursuit, especially if a stranger doesn't know how to conduct himself among the bees.

44. This dirty collection of shacks, lean-tos, and tents is known as Low End. The folks who live here are down on their luck: dispirited prospectors, former slaves, and ignorant laborers desperate for work.

45. Ferdinand Tunny and his adopted son operate this **bootblack and cobbler** service.

46. **The Mission** is the oldest structure in town, a Spanish-style church tended by its padre, the aging but mischievous Father Eduardo. The Mission is formally known as the Church of Saint Marina of Aguas Santas. It's church bells ring to summon the faithful to

Mass, but also to warn the town when trouble is afoot.

47. This covered wooden bridge was named **Sybil Ludington Bridge** by one of the town's prominent citizens from back East. A wealthy railroad shareholder traveling from his home in Kent, New York, originally paid to build the bridge and so owned the right to name it. Apparently young Sybil was a hero of the Revolutionary War, performing the same patriotic duty as the much more famous Paul Revere, but riding twice as far as Revere and doing it all while only 16 years of age. Sybil also hailed from the city of Kent, and now she is immortalized in Promesa . . . though few of the citizens know her story or why the bridge bears her name.

48. **Six-Moon Pond** was named by the Apaches, though no one knows exactly why it bears this name.

49. The eccentric **Milton Santillo** lives, works, and horse-trades from this poorly roofed structure. Having lost both legs in the War, Sergeant Santillo is usually found in a heavily padded chair of his own construction, bartering with passing traders and brokering various deals with locals in need of work. Infamous for his shrewd business arrangements and elaborate plans to strike it rich, Santillo is always looking for a deal, whether he's selling used saddles, buying maps of potential silver sites, or serving as middle-man in a subcontracted labor job. With a formidable beard and a cap-and-ball pistol always close at hand, Sergeant Santillo provides lively and unusual conversation for any who pass by his porch.

50. The famous **Leaning M Ranch** is the estate of the most powerful man in the region, Mr. Hank Lee Masters. Holding considerable

political and social might, Mr. Masters is the de facto governor of the immediate area. Though his public persona is one of the fair and benevolent patriarch, he is known to be a ruthless businessman, one who is not above using force to protect his agenda.

**Bleeder's Creek** takes its name from a gunfight that happened here in the winter of '57. An itinerant gun hand named Corbin Shale came to collect a bounty on Mad Moses Veracruz and his lover, the notorious Isabella Domingo. Witnesses say that Veracruz drew first, but Shale proved quicker; Mad Moses fell dead into the water. Though Señorita Domingo was last to bring her weapon to bear, her shotgun separated Shale's head from the rest of his body, which also dropped into the creek, turning it briefly red. Though both bodies were eventually pulled from the water, their revolvers were not recovered and rest to this day somewhere in the mud of the creek bed.

**Boot Hill** is the local graveyard, where sinners and quitters are buried, along with the ordinary, innocent folk who die of causes both natural and otherwise. Some of the graves are marked; some are anonymous and shallow. Ghosts seem to hover over all of them.