

Historic downtown Ellensburg offers numerous antique shops, wine shops, art galleries and museums.

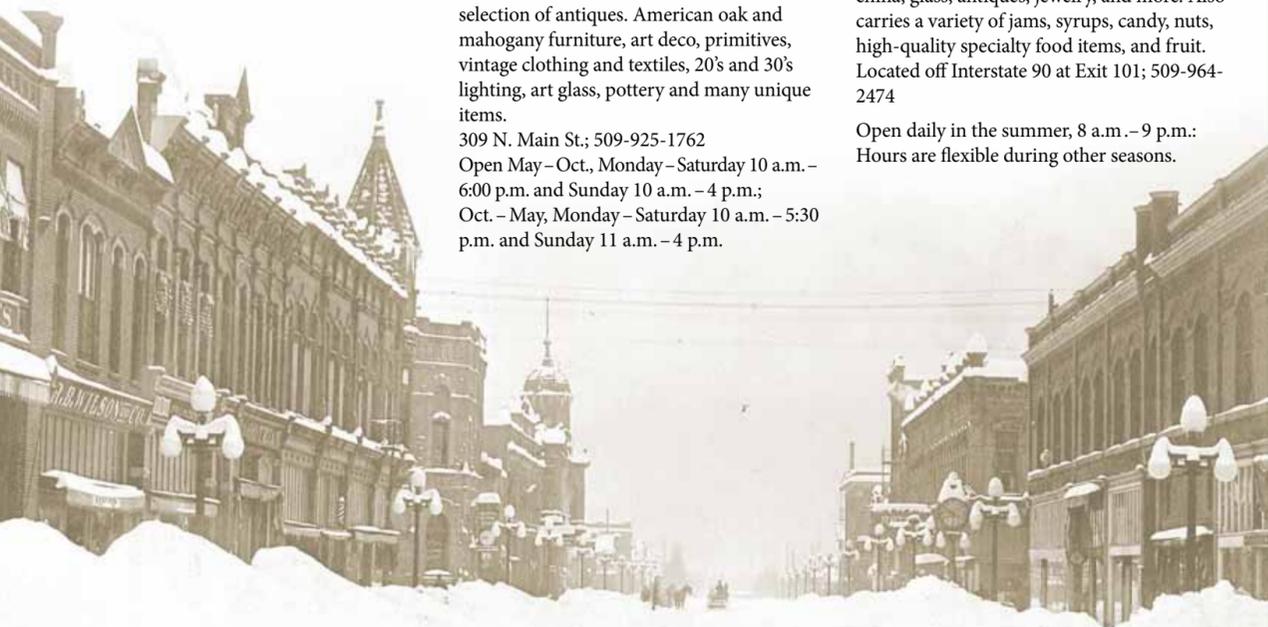


Photo courtesy of the Kittitas County Historical Museum

A. Clymer Museum of Art

John Clymer's work, which includes over 80 Saturday Evening Post covers as well as other magazines and western-themed illustrations and paintings, is on permanent display. Changing exhibits are on display in the gallery and museum gift shop. A non-profit gallery. 416 N. Pearl St.; 509-962-6416.

Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.;
First Friday Art Walk open until 7 p.m.
5/1 - 12/31
Sunday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.;

B. Gallery One is a community visual art center that offers rotating exhibits, innovative and interactive art events, and art classes for adults and children. A non-profit gallery. 408 N. Pearl St.; 509-925-2670

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

C. The Hub Antiques - Estates Glassware, china, collectibles, antique tools, and treasures from estates. 307 N. Pearl St.; 509-925-6072

Open Thursday - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

D. Kittitas County Historical Museum houses exceptional and diverse collections showcasing the history of the Kittitas Valley in 9,000 square feet of permanent and changing displays. Special events and hands-on programs are also offered throughout the year. 114 E. 3rd Ave.; 509-925-3778

Open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

E. Main Street Market Mall offers a diverse selection of antiques. American oak and mahogany furniture, art deco, primitives, vintage clothing and textiles, 20's and 30's lighting, art glass, pottery and many unique items.

309 N. Main St.; 509-925-1762
Open May - Oct., Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.;
Oct. - May, Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

F. Central City Comics & Collectibles

Specializing in comic books, and vintage collectibles circa 60's, 70's and 80's; 107 E. 3rd Ave.; 509-962-4376.

Open Tuesday - Thursday, Noon - 6 p.m.
Friday - Saturday, Noon - 8 p.m.

G. Gifts of the Vine Set in one of Ellensburg's lovely historic buildings, The Lynch Block, also known as the "1888 building", Gifts of the Vine is a specialty boutique featuring fine wines from the Pacific Northwest, and unique and stylish gifts.

421 N. Pearl St, Ste 100; 509-925-1020.

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.,
Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.
Wine Tasting Friday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

H. Ellensburg WineWorks is located in the downstairs portion of a beautifully restored Victorian home, originally built in 1887. The upstairs section of the house is home to GuestHouse Ellensburg with two guest suites available year-round. The wine bar and bottle shop features wines from Washington, the U.S. and all over the world. Their wine bar menu features a selection of wines by the glass, bottle or flight as well as a selection of craft brews. Artisan cheese plates, olives and other wine-friendly foods are available during regular business hours. 606 N. Main Street, 509-962-VINE (8463)

Open Tuesday - Thursday from 11am-6pm
Open Friday and Saturday from 11am-7pm

*** Thorp Fruit & Antique Mall** features 30 dealers selling collectibles, books, furniture, china, glass, antiques, jewelry, and more. Also carries a variety of jams, syrups, candy, nuts, high-quality specialty food items, and fruit. Located off Interstate 90 at Exit 101; 509-964-2474

Open daily in the summer, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.;
Hours are flexible during other seasons.



Historic Ellensburg's
Walkabout Guide

- Historic Buildings
- Antique Shops
- Wine Shops
- Museums
- Art Galleries



Photo: Zane Kinney



Photo: Zane Kinney



Photo: Molly Morrow



Photo: Zane Kinney



Photo: Rich Villacres

On July 4, 1889, the fledgling community of Ellensburg burned to the ground. Over two-hundred homes and ten city blocks were lost to the flames. News reports of the day valued the damaged property at over \$2 million. Within 10 days of the fire, Ellensburg citizens began work on 43 new downtown business blocks. In rebuilding the town, many owners worked together to coordinate the style of the new buildings, all constructed almost completely of fireproof brick. The following is a walking-tour of downtown Ellensburg's historic buildings. For a guided walking-tour of the downtown or for more information, please call the Kittitas County Historical Museum at (509) 925-3778 or visit them at 114 E. 3rd Ave.



Photo courtesy of the Kittitas County Historical Museum

1. Cadwell Building: 1889

Edward P. Cadwell, who had a hand in several other buildings and businesses in town, constructed this unique building with horseshoe shaped windows. In 1974, the Kittitas County Historical Society purchased the building. A record of occupation for the Cadwell Building's second floor remains elusive; however, it does offer an unsubstantiated rumor of an upper level house of ill repute.

2. Fogarty Building: 1889

Originally constructed by John B. Fogarty from Springfield, Illinois, this building was completed in October of 1889. The following spring Fogarty built an identical building right next door to this one. However, in the 1930s the twin was remodeled and became the old Art Deco theater we see today.

3. Kreidel Building: 1889

Built by Samuel Kreidel just after the fire, this building was among the most exuberant in Ellensburg. Before renovations in the 1940s, the center section at the corner of Third and Pearl towered above the street with an impressive cupola, dome, and finial. The Kreidel Building was built using the Germanic Empire style that Samuel Kreidel was familiar with from his home in Germany.

4. S.R.G. Building: 1889

As post-fire construction boomed, Sylvanus R. Geddis played a major role in the reconstruction of Ellensburg. Geddis built this building and a large building around the corner, on Pearl and Fourth, simultaneously. The architecture of this petite building disguises its actual size. This building is one of the few to have survived for over a century in original condition.

5. New York Café: 1911

Upper County resident, Peter Giovani, built this structure. Upstairs there are 27 individual rooms off corridors lit by five different skylights. This was once the busiest intersection in Ellensburg. If you look west from this building, the old train depot still stands at the end of Third Avenue.

6. Shoudy Cadwell Block: 1889

On this corner site stood the original Robber's Roost, a trading post for which locals originally named Ellensburg. John Shoudy purchased the original "roost" and gained the surrounding 160 acres, later naming the plot "Ellensburg" for his wife, Mary Ellen. John Shoudy and Edward Cadwell had this structure put up for use as a hotel with retail storefronts. The elegant upstairs hotel remains locked away with its former glory still intact.

7. Main Street Market Building: 1908

This building was at one time called the Arcade Building due to its unique arched windows. A saloon with the longest bar in the country became the original occupant. After the saloon, the building saw various incarnations, including an opera house and a meat locker. Today, the top floor is private apartments.

8. Geiger Woods Building: 1889

John Geiger, a tailor, and Alfred Woods, a barber, quickly constructed this building after the fire. Each occupied a suite upon completion. The building's attractive pediment crowns an impressive cornice typical of construction in town at the time.

9. Fitterer Building: 1908

The first Fitterers in Ellensburg, brothers Philip and Frank, founded Fitterer Brothers Furniture in 1896. This building, which still houses Fitterer's Furniture, was completed for them in September of 1908. The business has remained in the same family for multiple generations.

10. Pearson Building: 1908

Samuel Pearson built this important local landmark in 1908. In this building, the local Brotherhood of Elks commissioned the top floor to their own specifications. The Elks remained in residence until 1923, followed by the Bureau of Reclamation and, later, the Palace Restaurant.

11. Rehmkne Building: 1889

Rehmkne and Brother Jewelry Store first commissioned and occupied this building. In 1951 a fire gutted the whole upper story. The current occupant, The Tav, a local landmark in its own right, changed its name from The Tavern in the mid-1970s. The business has occupied this space since the mid 1930s.

12. Castle Building: 1889

Orin B. Castle constructed this building. Castle's business, the Keghouse, opened in 1889 and sold wines, liquors, and cigars. In 1910, the outside of the building received a face-lift, getting a concrete/plaster covering. The building's most memorable occupant was Mills Saddle and Togs, a western store.

13. BF Reed Building: 1910

Briggs F. Reed, a local dairyman, constructed this building for the Ellensburg Automobile Company. The structure was used as a sales garage for several years.

14. Masonic Temple: 1890

Built right after the big reconstruction rush, the local Masonic Lodge planned and carried out this project. The upstairs continues to house their elaborate secret meeting rooms.

15. Zwicker Building: 1912

This structure was built by Barthell Zwicker, a German immigrant who had homesteaded in the valley. Zwicker was a successful farmer and rancher who raised prized Durham cattle. The first ground floor business was H. F. Bledsoe's Grocery Store.

16. Farmer's Bank: 1911

This neo-classical bank structure opened for business in 1911. F. R. Spangler, a local architect, designed the building and guided the construction effort. In 1967, Kittitas Land Title Company bought the building, remodeled it, and renamed it the Land Title Building.

17. The Lynch Block: 1888

The "1888 Building" was one of the few buildings that was not destroyed by the fire. Local contractor John Nash constructed the building, which was paid for by Pat Lynch. A Rag Ball Social and Oyster Supper accompanied the opening of the building on January 10, 1889. In 1976, with Bicentennial grant money, the building received a much needed renovation.

18. Dickson Building: 1919

What was an old "billboard lot" and an "unsightly" gap between the Olympia and Lynch blocks became the Dickson Building on May 22, 1919 when W.O. Ames finished the ornamental hollow terra cotta building for Elizabeth Dickson. The first occupants of the building were C. E. Wheeler & Co. (mercantile) on the north side and J. N. O. Thompson (jewelry) on the south side. The building's most memorable occupant was Dean's Radio & Television 1968-2004. The building's interior was remodeled in 2004 for its current occupants.

19. Ramsay Building: 1901

Dick and James Ramsay, brothers from Scotland, had this building constructed to house their hardware company. Ramsay Hardware Company remained in business until 1962. The building now houses the Clymer Museum of Art. The upstairs previously housed doctor and professional offices, as well as a multi-purpose room which are still intact today.

20. Wilson Building: 1889

This building, like its neighbors, is made of brick manufactured in Chicago. The iron columns, however, were fabricated locally at the Ellensburg foundry. Thomas Wilson, owner of the Ellensburg and Waterville Stage Line, arranged the building's construction.

21. Stewart Building: 1889

The Stewart Building has much in common with its flashier neighbor, the Davidson Building. Both buildings were under construction at the time of the fire and were commissioned by John B. Davidson. Davidson, a prominent local attorney, and his partner, D. H. McFall, were the first to occupy the second story of this impressive structure.

22. Davidson Building: 1889

Local attorney John B. Davidson built this well-known landmark structure of Ellensburg. Davidson spent tens of thousands of dollars on the construction work of this block. Tin-work on the facade mimics more expensive stone work. The phoenix finial at the parapet symbolized Ellensburg's rise from the ashes of the recent fire. The Davidson Building underwent a major restoration in 1979.

23. Bank Saloon Building: 1889

This building is thought to have been built after the fire. The back wall houses an over-sized safe, used by the saloon's patrons to hold their spending cash. It has been rumored that ladies of the evening occupied the second floor of this establishment. The upstairs is now utilized as an apartment.

24. Elmira Block: 1889

Built by W. W. Fish, this was the first brick building completed after the famous fire. Fish named the building after his hometown Elmira, New York. What you cannot see of this building is the originally featured handsome arched windows, a massive

cornice, and pediment. The occupancy of this building has included the Elmira Hotel (upstairs floor), the New York Store (ground floor), operated by H. L. Stowell, and later became known as the Vanderbilt Block after the building was purchased by Mr. Vanderbilt.

25. I.O.O.F. Building: 1913

The Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodge was founded in Ellensburg in 1881. The Oddfellows first met in a two-story structure at the corner of Pearl and Third. In 1885, town founder John Shoudy donated space for a decent lodge. However, that building burned down four years later. In 1901, the Lodge finally raised enough money to purchase this site in the Maxey Block. The building was completed in 1913 and the Lodge has been in residence ever since.

26. Fish Block: 1889

Another building erected by W.W. Fish, this structure later became known as the Bath Block. The Capital newspaper occupied the space for more than 25 years. New owners remodeled the block in the 1930s in the Art Deco style. More recently, the owners recessed the storefront to accommodate a clothing store.

27. Ben Snipes Bank: 1889

Built on this site in 1888, the Ben E. Snipes Bank was said to be the most attractive building in Ellensburg. In rebuilding after the fire, Snipes said the new structure needed to be equally impressive and more substantial. The new bank had two towers built with red cement and finely carved stonework. Only four years later, however, the bank closed its doors in an economic collapse that affected the entire community. The building was radically redesigned with a modern look in the 1940's.

28. Geddis Building: 1889

Sylvanus Ray Geddis, a wealthy rancher, constructed the original building in 1886, but it was soon lost to the great fire. Geddis quickly rebuilt it in 1889, complete with iron columns and decorative cresting along the parapet. In 1964, the upper story was covered with aluminum sheathing and its fine architectural details were removed.

29. Smithson Building: 1906

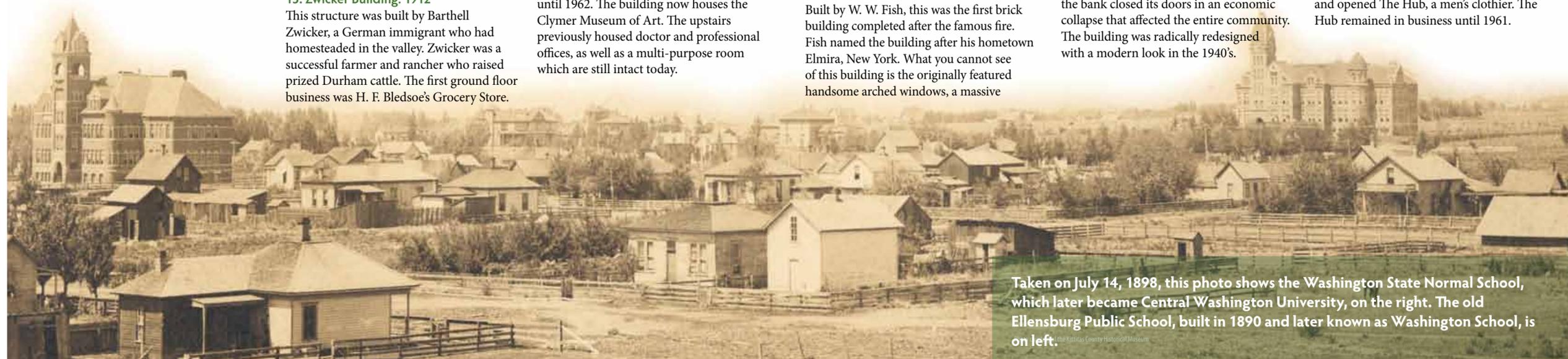
William O. Ames, a local builder, helped with both the design and construction of this building. John H. Smithson, mayor of Ellensburg and president of The Washington State Bank, arranged its construction. The Williams-Smithson Hardware Co. occupied the site for many years. The upstairs still has several intact office suites, occupied in the past by various town doctors.

30. Boss Bakery: 1889

Frank Bossong built this structure directly following the great fire. F. Bossong and Co. opened the bakery's doors in November, 1889. Remodeled in 1913, the bakery moved to the rear of the structure and finally upstairs. Several other businesses have since occupied all rooms of this building.

31. Kleinberg Building: 1889

One of the rare three story buildings in town, this building used to appear even taller, with a pediment similar to the Boss Bakery's. Also now missing is an elaborate cornice that complemented the decorative pilasters between the windows. Henry and Samuel Kleinberg constructed the building and moved in their clothing store in January of 1890. In 1908, J.B. Moser moved into town and opened The Hub, a men's clothier. The Hub remained in business until 1961.



Taken on July 14, 1898, this photo shows the Washington State Normal School, which later became Central Washington University, on the right. The old Ellensburg Public School, built in 1890 and later known as Washington School, is on left.

Photo courtesy of the Kittitas County Historical Museum