Ellensburg was established in 1875 by John and Mary Ellen Shoudy with the original core of downtown Ellensburg being First Avenue to Sixth Avenue, Water Street to Ruby Street. The town quickly grew as people and businesses moved to the area. With the Northern Pacific Railroad entering the area in 1885, it enabled the community to grow even quicker.

On July 4, 1889, the young community of Ellensburg burned to the ground. While no lives were lost, property damage amounted to over $2 million (or valued at $50 million in 2017). Ten downtown city blocks and the homes of 200 were lost in an inferno that only took 4 hours to consume the community.

Within weeks of the fire, those in the community began to rebuild. Local timber, iron, and brick were used in the construction. Many building owners came together to purchase timbers and other building elements from locations like Chicago and San Francisco. It only took 4 months to rebuild downtown Ellensburg. Most of the buildings were either built in 1889 or during a second building phase between 1908 and 1912.

Many of the early building owners lost their properties and investments in the Panic of 1893, a financial depression that rocked the United States causing many banks to fail. New buyers acquired the buildings at a fraction of the original cost, and often held onto those properties for generations. While financially severe, the Great Depression did not have as bad of an impact locally.

The following is a self-guided walking tour of the historic buildings in downtown Ellensburg. The Kittitas County Historical Museum offers guided walking tours and more comprehensive information on the historic buildings. Please note, since some information is still elusive and incomplete, some buildings may be omitted in this walking tour map or list as still to be completed.

**Information still being compiled on the following buildings:**

- Joe Tyler
- Fondue Restaurant
- Fireman's Benevolent Hall
- Farmers Insurance Building
- Commercial Union Building
- Wapato Building
- Bank of Seattle

**Fourth Avenue**

34. Albra Auto Garage: 1910

William Taylor constructed Martha A. Dear to build a new brick garage for Albra Auto Co. which had outgrown its original location near the railroad. Soon after, the building and business were sold to a Mr. and Mrs. Ridge who occupied the location until 1926. Many businesses have used the various storefronts including veterinarians, machinists, agricultural implement dealers, cabinetmakers, and restaurateurs.


In 1889, Mr. R. J. Snipes built this four-story brick building as the location for his hometown bank. In 1922, the building was sold to the Trust Company of Washington who occupied the location until 1964. Many businesses have used the various storefronts including restaurateurs, barbershops, and restaurants.

36. Smithson Building: 1890/1906

John Smithson built this five-story brick building between 1890 and 1906 to house his bank. Mr. Smithson was a businessman who operated a real estate office out of the Davidson Building, and included cast iron ornamented, similar to the neighboring Commercial Building.

37. Bossong Building: 1889

Ernest Bossong built this structure to house his bakery, Bossong and Co., which opened the door in November 1889, after the Great Fire of 1889. A fireproof cast iron building with six stories, the building was extended to its current size, adding two more stories. The building has been continuously home to a hardware store along with a variety of businesses including agricultural implements, a grocery store, a photography studio, and a bar. The building was used for medical and professional services.

38. Kleinberg Building: 1889

Irene and Samuel Kleinberg constructed this three-story brick building with lions at the corners of Elmira and 4th Street and company store, and a second floor residence. Their store was originally called the Kleinberg store, but the building was extended after 1910, the building on the eastern block was built in 1888 and soon destroyed by the Great Fire of 1889. The building was restored between 1908 and 1912.

39. Elmira Block: 1889

In 1889, an eight-story brick building constructed, which was the first brick building completed after the fire. Designed specifically for his hometown of Elmira, New York, and housing everything from a bank to a saloon, it originally featured handcrafted arches, windows, a massive cornice, and pediment. Newly restored by the Elk’s Club and the IOOF, the building remains today, adorned with the New York Store, a meat market, a sporting goods store, and a bakery.

40. Fish Block: 1889

After the fire, a new building was built for W. W. Fish in the High Victorian style. Over time, the business became W. W. Fish & Co., including a sporting goods store, jewelry shops, and more. The building was removed in 1962. The first floor has been home to a variety of businesses, including a store, a bank, and a residence ever since.

**Pine Street**

41. City of Ellensburg: 1889

This small-walled rectangular structure of Ellensburg was built by Judge John R. Geddis. Corners were decorated with corbels while local farmers donated sandstone for the stonework. The building was located on the north side of Pine Street along both floors. Charles in Stewart opened a new office on the first floor while Judge John R. Geddis held an office on the second floor. In 1894, Judge Geddis sold the building to the sheriff’s auction. The stonework was reinstalled, and the building underwent a full restoration, allowing access to the second floor.

42. Craig Building: 1889

Ben Snipes built this building as part of his business empire, having a grand city hall. As it was being built, the building was reduced to a smaller building than expected by not including the third floor. On December 14, 1935, the City of Ellensburg and while the city might not retain its status as the City of Ellensburg as its official offices and the City Hall, the southern portion of the building was used by the Ellensburg Fire Department to house the horses and horse-drawn fire equipment.

43. Collins Block: 1910

Charles O. Collins built this building in 1910 to house his clothing store. From 1910, the building was remodeled both internally and externally by the Collins Construction Company. Soon after, the building and business were sold to a Mr. Nice who owned a clothing store. If you are looking for a clothing store, the Collins Block has had a few of Ellensburg’s favorites including Outpost Diamond Co. and Meier’s Clothing Store.

**Visit Us! MON-SAT 10am-4PM**

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) lodge was founded in Ellensburg in 1862. The building was designed by R. W. Abbott and built in 1890 at the corner of 4th and Pine Street, the IOOF rented space in the Masonic Building on Pine Street which had been built in 1869 to 1870, the lodge finally raised enough money to purchase this site in the Mason Block and expanded the building in 1979. Today’s lodge has been in residence since 1984.

**Walkabout Guide**

**Kittitas County Historical Museum**

114 E. 3rd Ave., Ellensburg, WA
kchm@kchm.org • (509) 925-3778
1. Cadwell Building 1889
J.C. Lloyd and Edward F. Cadwell originally constructed the building in 1886, but owned it until 1889. In early 1889, Cadwell became the sole owner of the building, which was located in the heart of downtown Ellensburg. It was originally designed as a family residence, but later converted into a two-story lodging house. The building remained in use as a hotel for many decades.

2. Fogarty Building: 1889
Originally constructed by John B. Fogarty and later expanded by John W. and Fred Emerson, this building was located on the western half of the hotel block in 1886 and the eastern half by 1889. The theater was one of the earliest in Ellensburg built around 1890 as the Colored. In the 1900s, it was remodeled into the current structure and renamed the Auditorium Theater.

3. Kreidel Building: 1889
This building, originally owned by Samuel Hensley, is the oldest building built on 3rd Avenue. It was originally constructed as a hotel with 14 rooms and a saloon, and later converted into a combination saloon and rooming house. The building was originally operated as a hotel, and later as a saloon and rooming house.

Originally built as a bank, this building housed the First National Bank of Ellensburg. It was later converted into a variety of businesses including a political campaign office, and currently serves as office space for a restaurant.

5. Edison Hotel Building: 1911
Also known as the Security Building, it was built by S. B. Krodel, Ellensburg County resident, Peter Wilson, and L. J. Gillespie, a Chicago, for many decades it housed a variety of four prosperous businesses, featuring 27 rooms of all five delightful guest quarters. Further, it is one of the three concrete buildings in Ellensburg.

6. Shoulty Cadwell Building: 1890
John B. Cadwell and Edward F. Cadwell, along with several retail stores and a hotel, created a community hub for individuals both for chart and long stays who were part of the hotel.

7. Localizer Building: 1889
Built to house one of the five newspapers in Ellensburg, the localizer building's design was from the neighboring Cadwell Hotel, including housing rooms for the newspaper's desk. The building was owned between 1889 and 1869 before being purchased by John B. Kreidell.

8. Alonzo Camozzi Building: 1899
Originally known as The Hotel Camozzi, this building was built as a business house, the high and first floor rooms have a sign that was soft Ellensburg brick and was opened for a variety of purposes in the 1910s. After Prohibition and the loss of alcohol sales, the building was used for general businesses, clothing stores, and the Ellensburg localizer.

9. B. F. Reed Building: 1910
Boggs F. Reed constructed the Spanish Colonial Revival style building as a waterfront business, which was one of the first built in Ellensburg brick. It was opened for a variety of purposes in the 1910s. After Prohibition and the loss of alcohol sales, the building was used for general businesses, clothing stores, and the Ellensburg localizer.

10. Castle Building: 1899
Built by James Paper for his business house, the high and first floor rooms have a sign that was soft Ellensburg brick. It was opened for a variety of purposes in the 1910s. After Prohibition and the loss of alcohol sales, the building was used for general businesses, clothing stores, and the Ellensburg localizer.

11. Masonic Temple: 1898
The Masonic Temple was built in the early 1890s when the organization occupied its second building, accommodating three floors. The building housed a number of businesses including funeral home and mortuary, and the Ellensburg telephone company offices in Ellensburg.

Originally named the Kellerer Motor Co., the business was founded in 1911, operated by J. W. Kellerer and later by his wife, Phyllis in 1980. The current business was then purchased by Steven Miller in 1984, and the building has been used for sales and service.

Owned by Howard F. Blessum, this building was built to house an automotive repair business, which grew to include parts and eventually a full-service repair shop. The building has housed a variety of uses over the years, including a bank, insurance agency, and currently serves as office space.

14. Ephrata Building: 1899
Built by W. W. Tumwater to house the Ephrata Telephone Co., the building opened in 1900, the telephone company's first year of operation.

15. Butterfield Chevrolet: 1922
Owned by Harry Butters, this building was originally constructed for the Reynolds Motor Car Co., which sold Studebaker vehicles and housed them for owners without painting. The building was later purchased by the Ellensburg City Council and renamed the Auditorium Theater.

16. Busby Blacksmith Shop: 1912
Built to house one of the five newspapers in Ellensburg, the building was remodeled into multiple business spaces, including a variety of businesses including a market and currently serves as office space.

17. Ellensburg Automobile Building: 1922
Built to house one of the five newspapers in Ellensburg, the building was remodeled into multiple business spaces, including a variety of businesses including a market and currently serves as office space.

18. Cadwell Building: 1912
Built by J. W. Cadwell and Edward F. Cadwell, this building housed the Pacifi City Telephone Co., the building got its name from the telephone company.

In 1958, the Kittitas County Courthouse was completed and opened for the government offices of Kittitas County. The building was designed to accommodate the needs of the courthouse and the legislative building, which was built next to the courthouse.

20. Camozzi & Williams
One STOP Station: 1929
Ernest W. Axel built this building for Val Mar Camozzi and George Williams to house a repair shop and tax department, and it remained in use as such until the late 1950s. It was later converted into a variety of uses, including apartments.

21. Farmers Bank Building: 1911
In 1911, the Farmers Bank of Ellensburg constructed it as a local bank. The building is made of dark-colored bricks and is one of the few surviving examples of a classical bank front, structure from Tucumcari Sandstone. The bank was built by Phillip Hargrove, a prominent Ellensburg Bank of Commerce, who later acquired the building and moved the offices in 1987, Kittitas Land Title Company purchased and remodeled the building for its current use.

22. Lynch Block: 1888
Also known as the "Bubba Building," this structure was built by Lynch for his logging interests. It was constructed between 1888 and 1889 and served as a temporary hotel and commercial building. The building was later purchased by the City of Ellensburg for its meeting rooms, and subsequently sold.

23. Dickenson Building: 1919
Edward C. Dickenson constructed the Dickenson Building, which opened for business in 1919. The building was later purchased by the Kittitas Land Title Company and remodeled for use as office space.

Known as the Brick Bank, the original structure was built in 1888 by Edward F. Cadwell and then purchased by the Kittitas County Bank of Ellensburg. The building was later used as a bank and then as a courthouse until 1930, when it was purchased by the Kittitas Land Title Company and remodeled for use as office space.

25. Barnhardt Building: 1913
The Barnhardt Building was constructed for the Blaine Motor Car Co., which sold Studebaker vehicles and housed them for owners without painting.

26. 6th Avenue Historic District
This district includes a number of buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated as a historic district in Ellensburg.

27. 5th Avenue Historic District
This district includes a number of buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated as a historic district in Ellensburg.

28. 4th Avenue Historic District
This district includes a number of buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated as a historic district in Ellensburg.

29. 3rd Avenue Historic District
This district includes a number of buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated as a historic district in Ellensburg.

30. 2nd Avenue Historic District
This district includes a number of buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated as a historic district in Ellensburg.