



HISTORIC PRESERVATION: THE POWER OF PLACE



September 24, 2025
Chace Pedersen, Associate Planner

Certified Local Government (CLG)



- **What is a CLG?**

- Local historic preservation commission that has been "certified" by the National Park Service (NPS).
- In WA State, CLGs are administered by the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation.
- Benefits
 - Eligible for special grants from the State Historic Preservation Office
 - Recognition by State and Federal agencies
 - Training and assistance opportunities available from the State

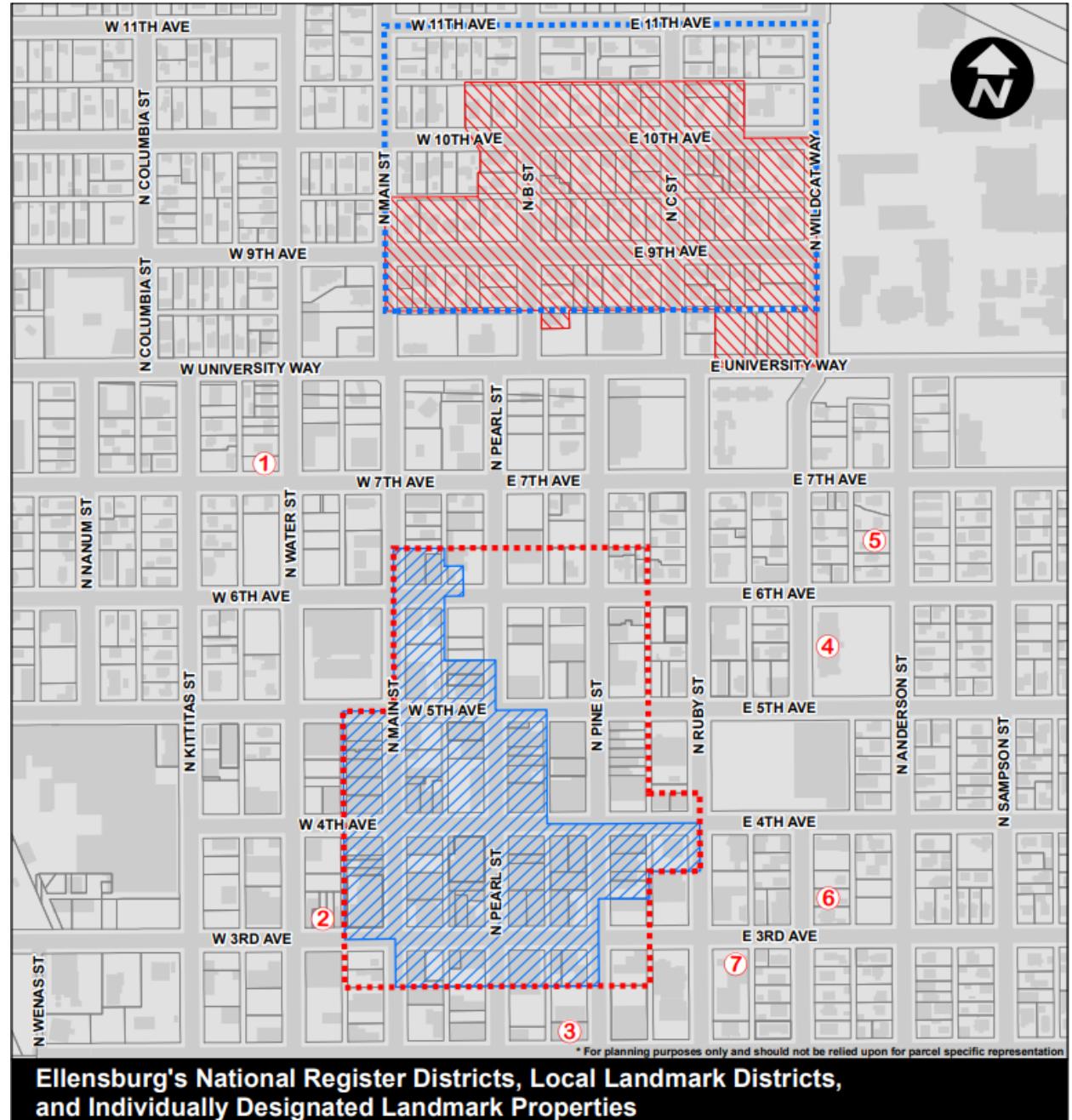
Certified Local Government (CLG)



- **Requirements for CLGs**
 - Enforce legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties
 - Maintain a qualified historic preservation commission
 - Survey and inventory local historic properties
 - Provide for public participation in preservation activities
 - Perform the responsibilities delegated by the State Historic Preservation Office

Historic Districts of Ellensburg

- First Railroad Addition Landmark District
- Downtown Historic Ellensburg



Historic Downtown

- Placed on National Register of Historic Places in 1977
- Local Landmarks District established in 2000
- Comprised of the commercial core of downtown Ellensburg

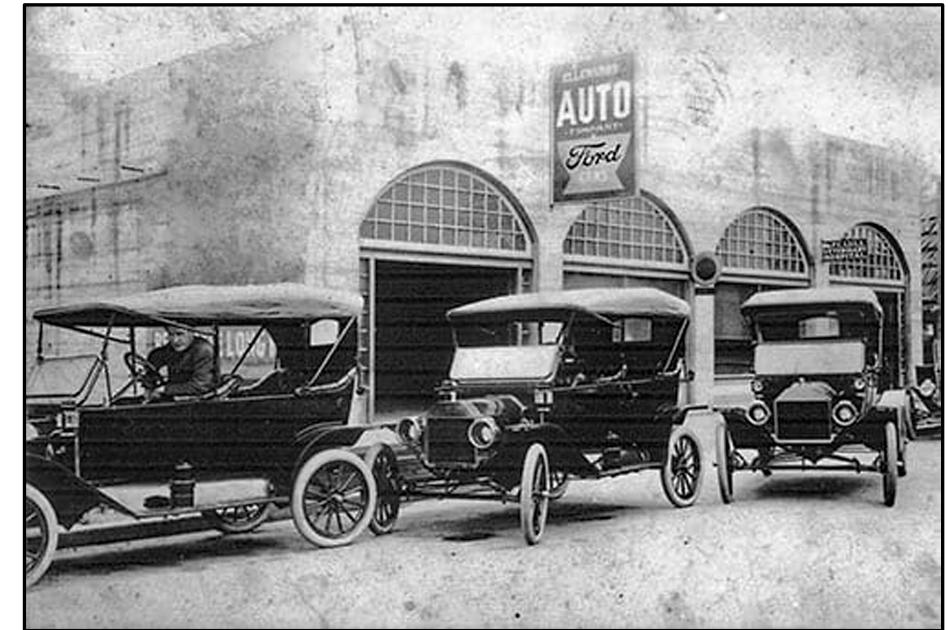


NAME! THAT! BUILDING!



Est. 2022

Then...



Now...

Reed Building



Then...

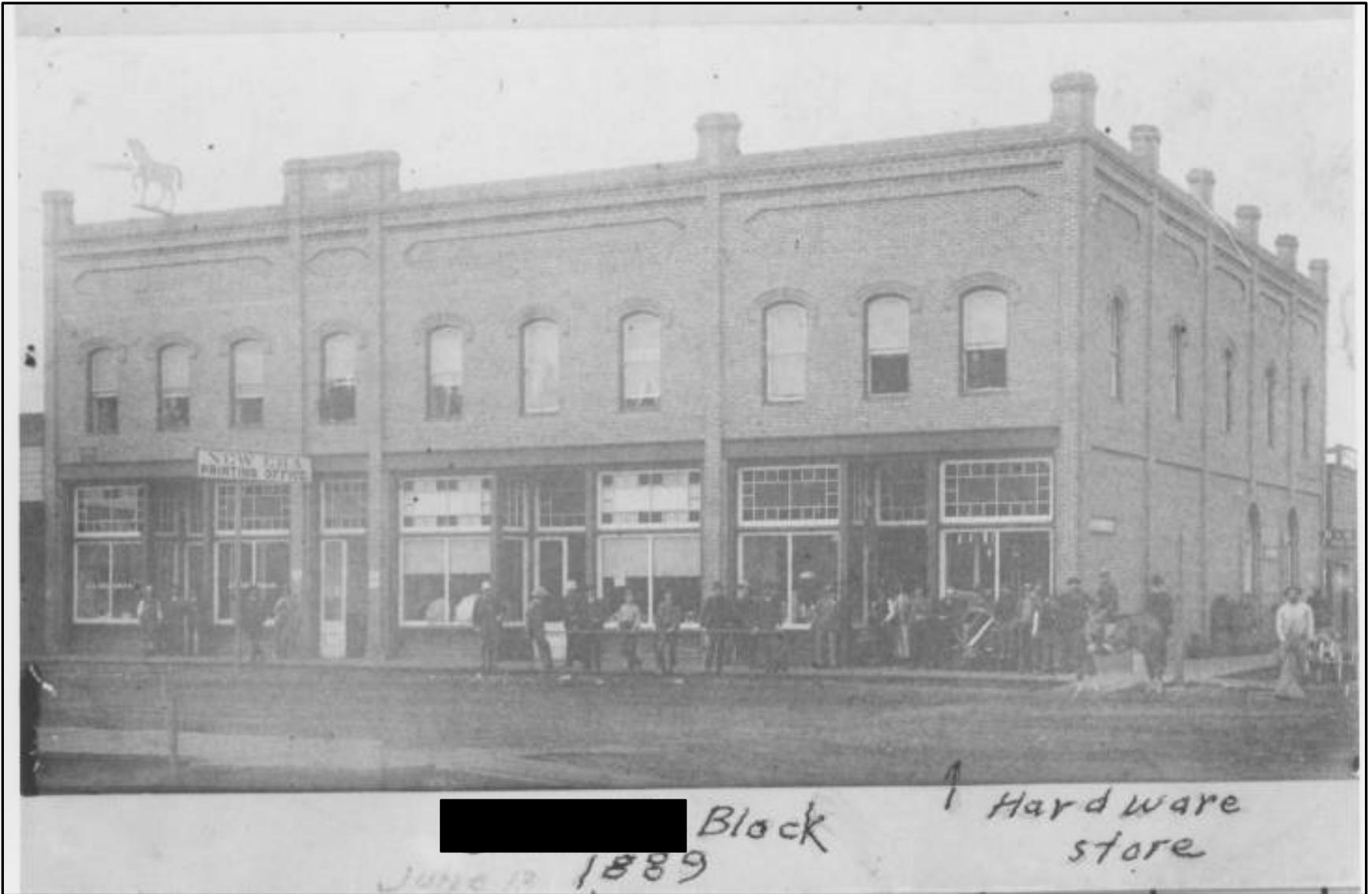


Now...

Fitterer Building



Then...



And Then...



Circa 1980s

Aaand Then...

Circa 2013



Geddis Building



Today!



Today!

Geddis Building



Then...



And Then...



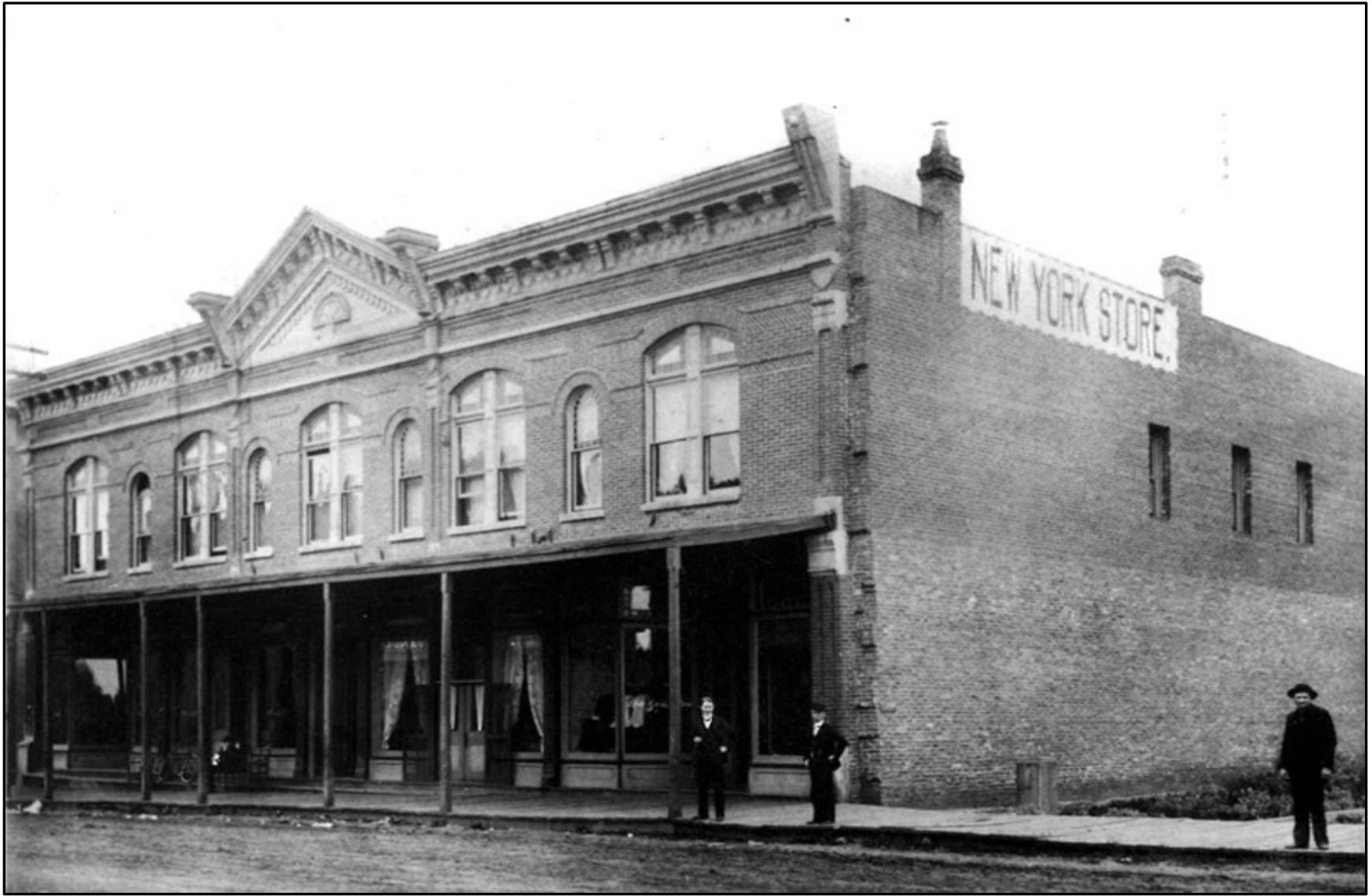
Circa 2013

Today!

NY Cafe

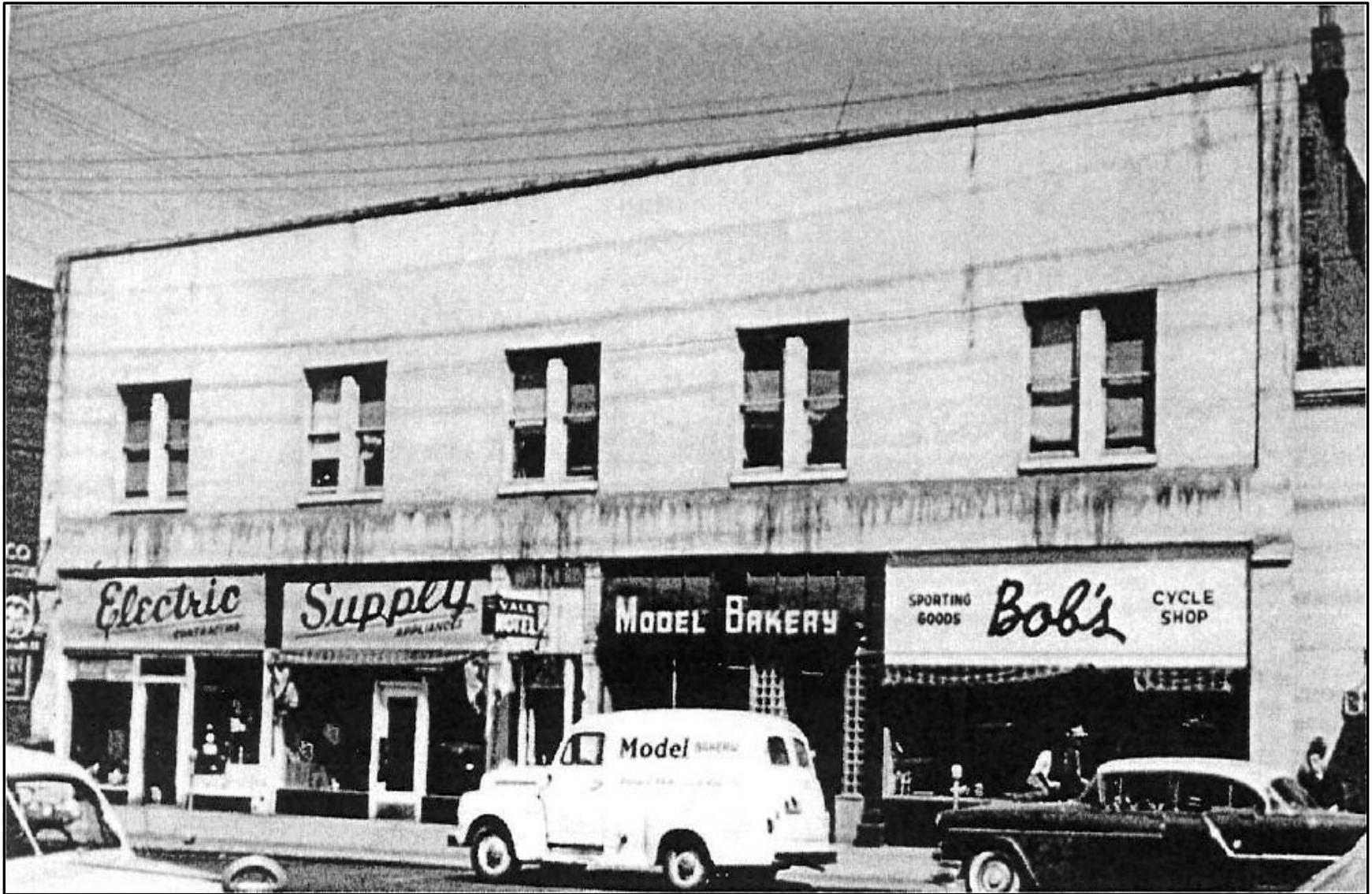


Then...



Circa 1910

And Then...



Aaand Then...

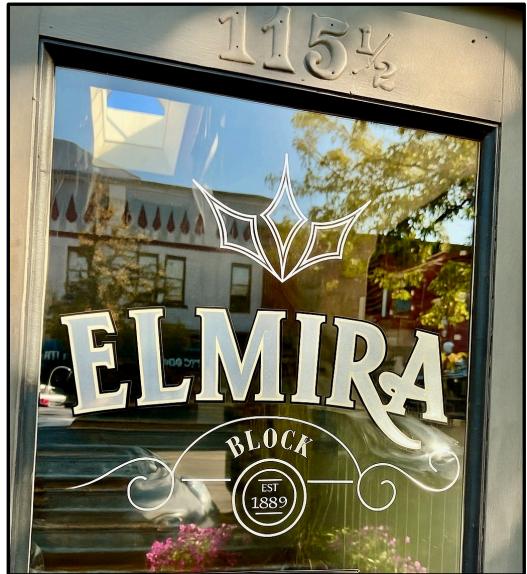


Aaaand Then...



2020

Today!

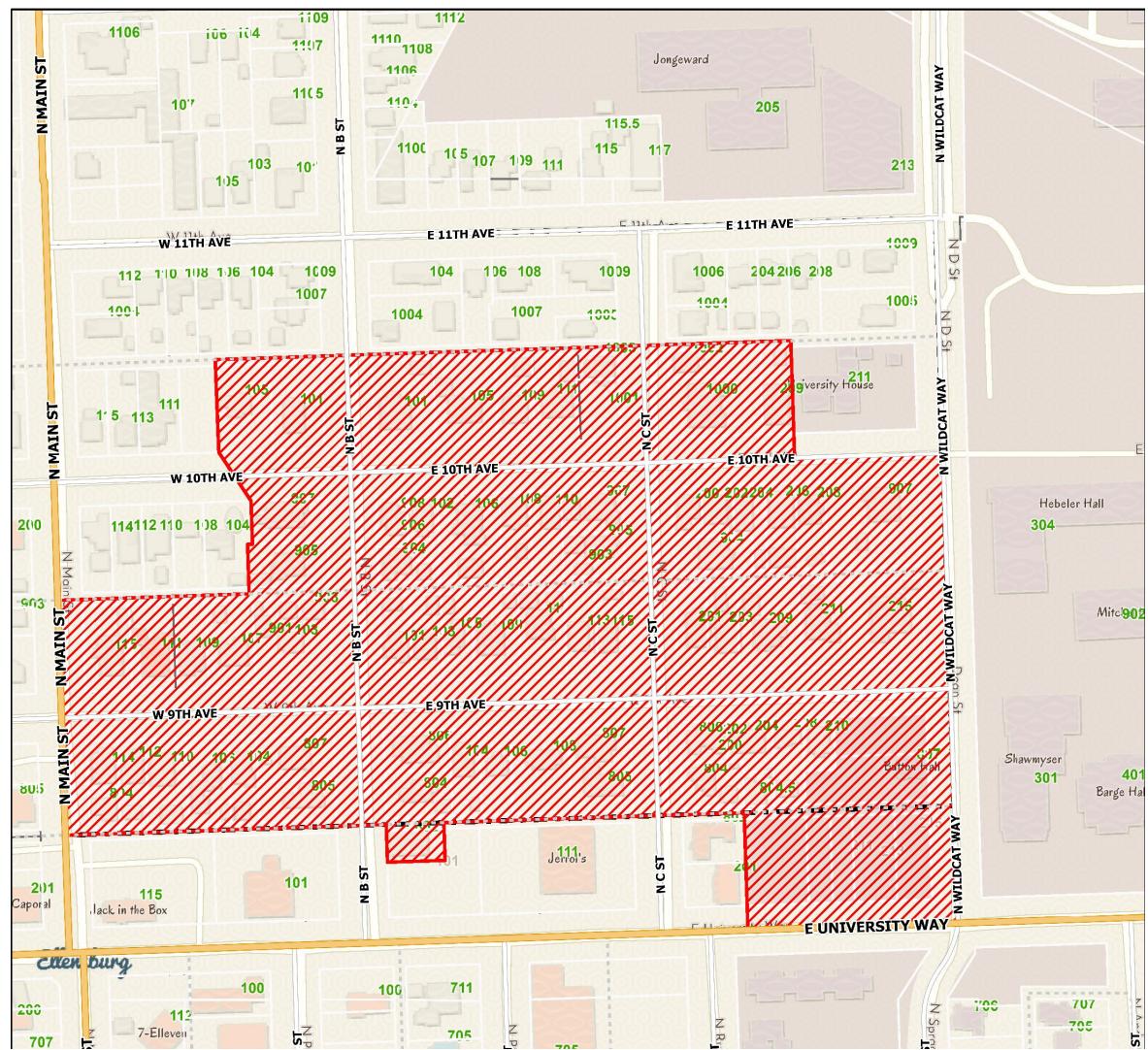


First Railroad Addition

- Placed on National Register of Historic Places in 1987
- Local Landmarks District established in 2000
- Platted in 1888



First Railroad Addition



103 W 9th Ave - Past



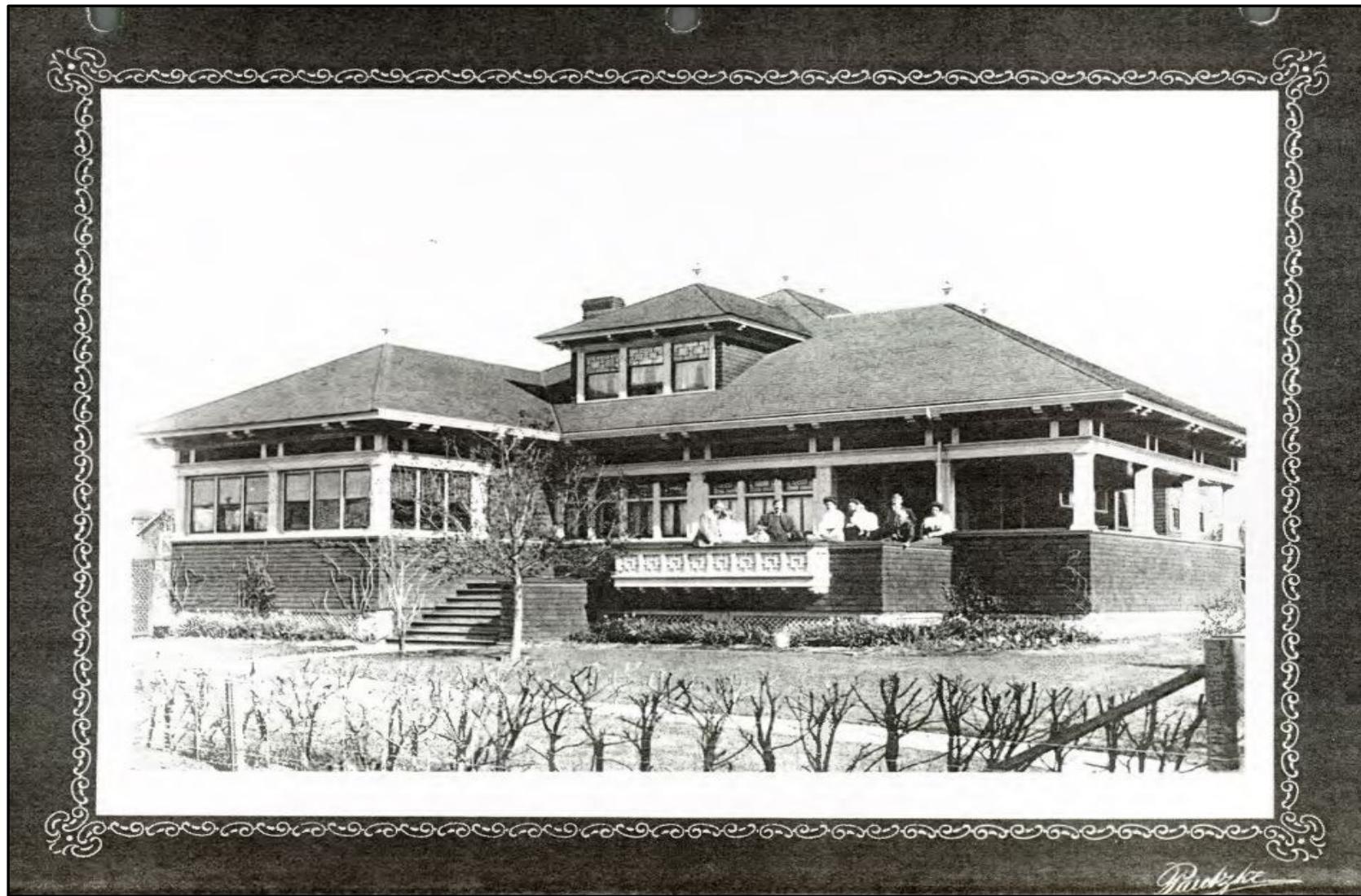
103 W 9th Ave - Present



108 E. 9th Ave



215 E. 9th Ave – Ramsay House - Past



215 E. 9th Ave- Ramsay House - Present



Then...



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And Then...



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Now...



Landmarks & Design Commission

- Primary Goals

- Encourage the preservation of Ellensburg historic landmarks
- Review proposed changes to Ellensburg landmark properties



Landmarks & Design Commission

- **Encouraging Preservation**

- Encourage conservation of historic resources through the register of landmarks and historic resources
- Raise community awareness of Ellensburg's history and built environment
- Serve as the city's primary resource in matters of heritage, historic planning, and preservation



Landmarks & Design Commission

- Review changes to landmark properties
 - ECC 15.280.100
 - *No person shall alter, repair, enlarge, newly construct, relocate, or demolish any registered landmark building, or any structure located on a property within a landmark district, nor install any exterior sign or mural pursuant to subsection (A)(2) of this section, without review by the commission and issuance of a COA or a demolition permit (ECC 15.280.110).*
 - *This review shall apply to all exterior features of the building visible from a public right-of-way. This review applies whether or not a permit from the city of Ellensburg is required.*



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Celebrating Ellensburg

- Historic Preservation Month
 - Historic Preservation Awards - Annual celebration of historic buildings, historic property owners, and preservation stewards.



Two side-by-side banners for the 2025 Ellensburg Historic Preservation Awards. The left banner, titled "CALL FOR NOMINATIONS", features a photo of a historic building and text about the nomination period for the Community Award. The right banner, titled "CAST YOUR VOTE!", features a photo of a historic building and text about the Community Selected Historic Preservation Award, including a list of finalists: 420 Building, IOOF Building, and Reed Building. Both banners include contact information and a "Contact Information" section at the bottom.



Celebrating Ellensburg

- History Preservation Month
 - History Quest Scavenger Hunt
 - Scavenger hunt with clues leading participants through our historic downtown district.
 - Developed in partnership with the Kittitas County Historical Museum
 - Preservation swag awarded to the winners!



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THE ELLENSBURG HISTORY QUEST MAY 1-31 ST

In celebration of Historic Preservation Month, join us for our second annual Ellensburg Architectural Scavenger Hunt!

STEP 1

Use these 10 clues to guide your hunt! Each answer is a site of historic interest downtown, so note the building name or address as your answer for each clue.

STEP 2

Once you have all of your answers, input them into the online form! Participants who submit a complete form with correct answers will be entered for a chance to win some great local *Ellensburg Preservation Swag!*



Hint: You can expect to find the answers within these downtown boundaries!



HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit your answers by **MAY 31**, using the QR code, or by completing the online form located here:
www.ellensburgwa.gov/EllensburgHistoryQuest

Contact Information

509-962-7108 | pedersenc@ellensburgwa.gov

501 N. Anderson
Ellensburg, WA 98926

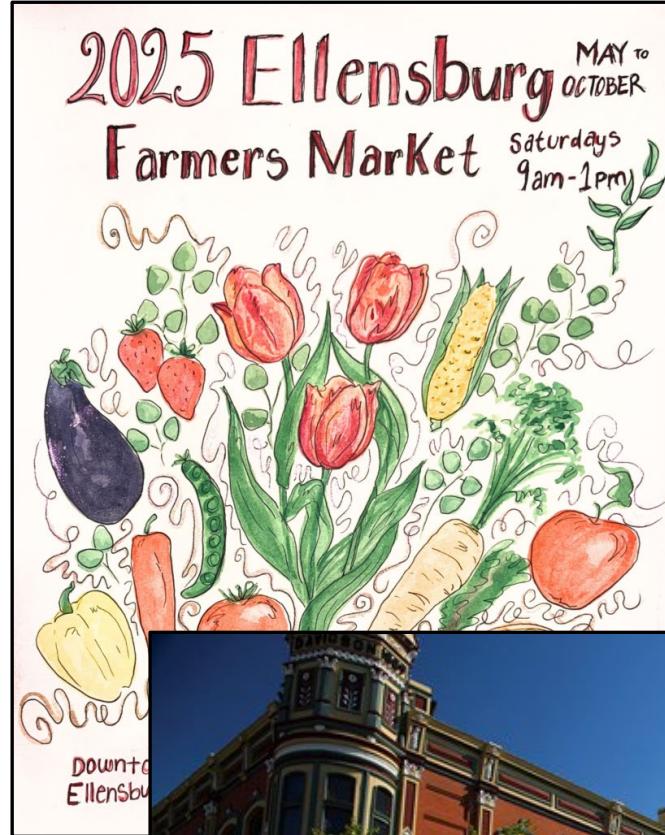


CLUES

1. Find this unique 1910 building that was built to house a clothing store, but over the years became known for its department store and drug store past. It also features a piece of Tenino Sandstone hiding in plain sight.
2. Find this 1909 "block" built by George A. Knox. While it looks like one solid concrete structure, and made of the same, it's actually 4 different buildings.
3. Find the 1889 Building that has been home to multiple businesses. Despite a dark past (tied to its saloon history) and a destructive fire, there is definitely a new creative space to be had here. It has some beautiful murals as well.
4. Find this 1912 neoclassical style building that offers a transom window in the art nouveau style. But between the name of contractor who constructed the building, and who it was built (and named) for, it is truly an A-to-Z building.
5. Find this 1889 Italianate style building that was the first building constructed after the Great Ellensburg Fire of July 4, 1889, reaching completion by late August 1889, and was named after the original owner's hometown.
6. Find the 1932 single-story building which was constructed and operated for a long-time coffee shop. In later years, it became home to a variety of businesses but is now back to serving food and drinks.
7. Find this 1889 two-part brick building that was built by B. E. Craig and once housed both Ellensburg's first City Hall and its first Fire Department and horse team.
8. Find the only building in historic downtown named for a woman. This terracotta block building was completed in 1919 and has housed jewelry stores, mercantile, TV and radio, and more recently, restaurants.
9. Find this building that was originally constructed in 1889. In 1947, the exterior was completely renovated, but its purpose – even to this day – has stayed the same.
10. Find your favorite building in historic downtown Ellensburg and let us know!

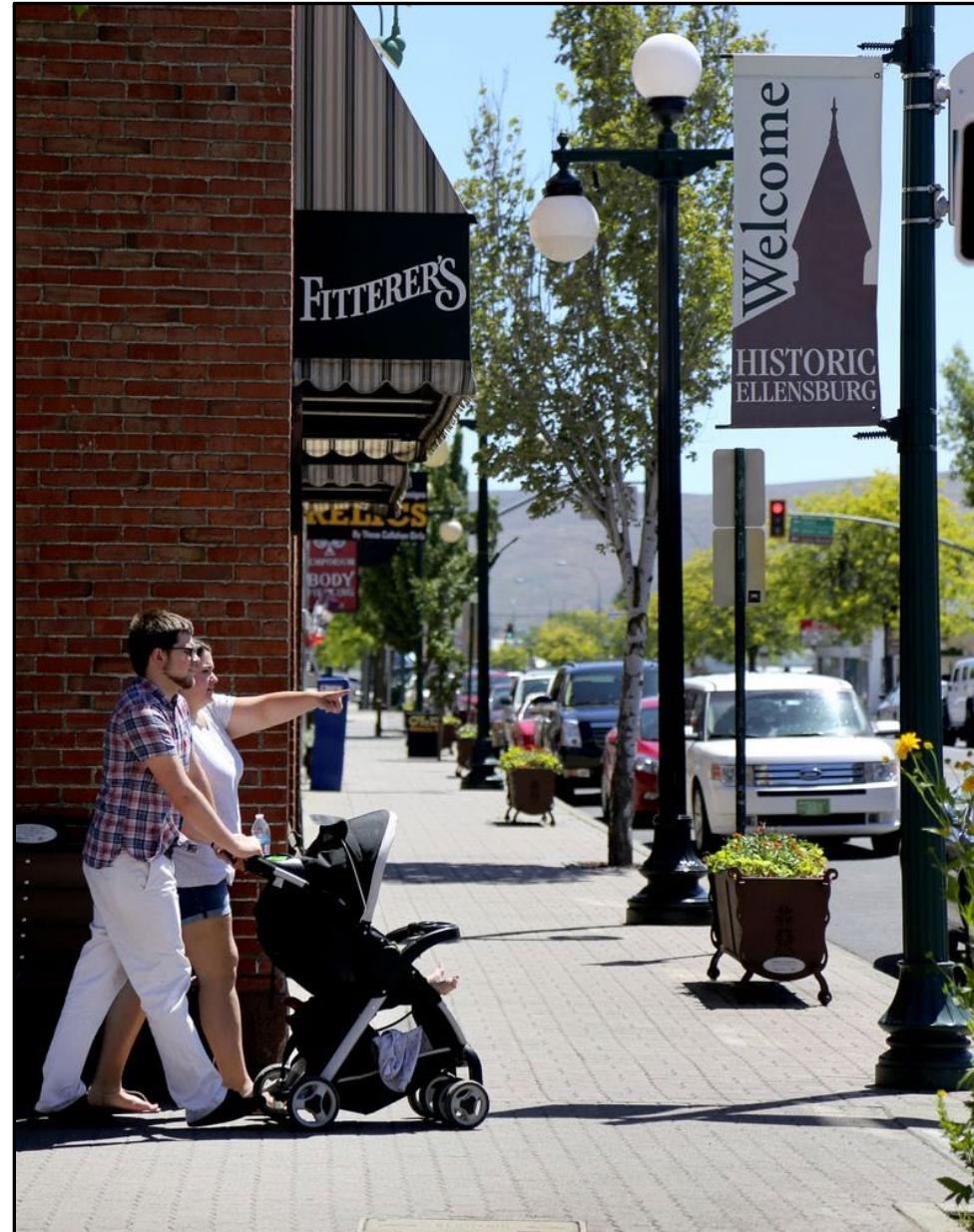
Why Historic Preservation Matters

- Celebration of local traditions & culture
- Preserving Ellensburg's shared story
- Economic Benefits
 - Stabilize and improve vitality of buildings, neighborhoods, and communities
 - Strengthen city tourism

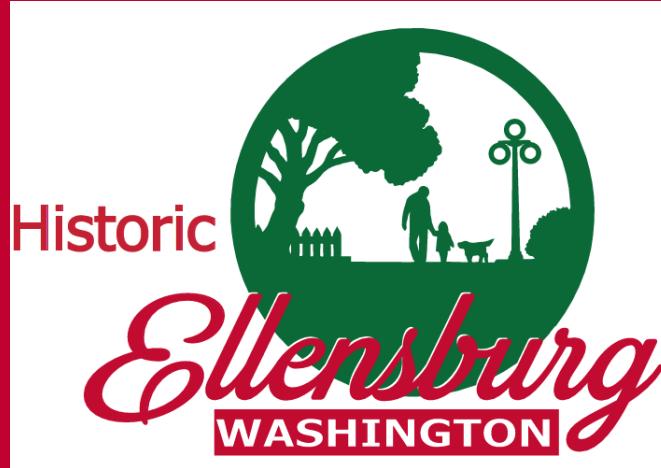


How to Get Involved

- **Landmarks & Design Commission Meetings**
 - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month
- **Historic Preservation Month Activities**
 - May of each year
- **Ellensburg Downtown Association**
 - Main Street Program
- **Kittitas County Historical Museum**



Thank you!



Landmarks & Design Commission Staff Liaison

Chace Pedersen – Associate Planner

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phone- **(509) 962-7108**

Slides will be posted on the City website and a link emailed to all registrants.

