



# 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)

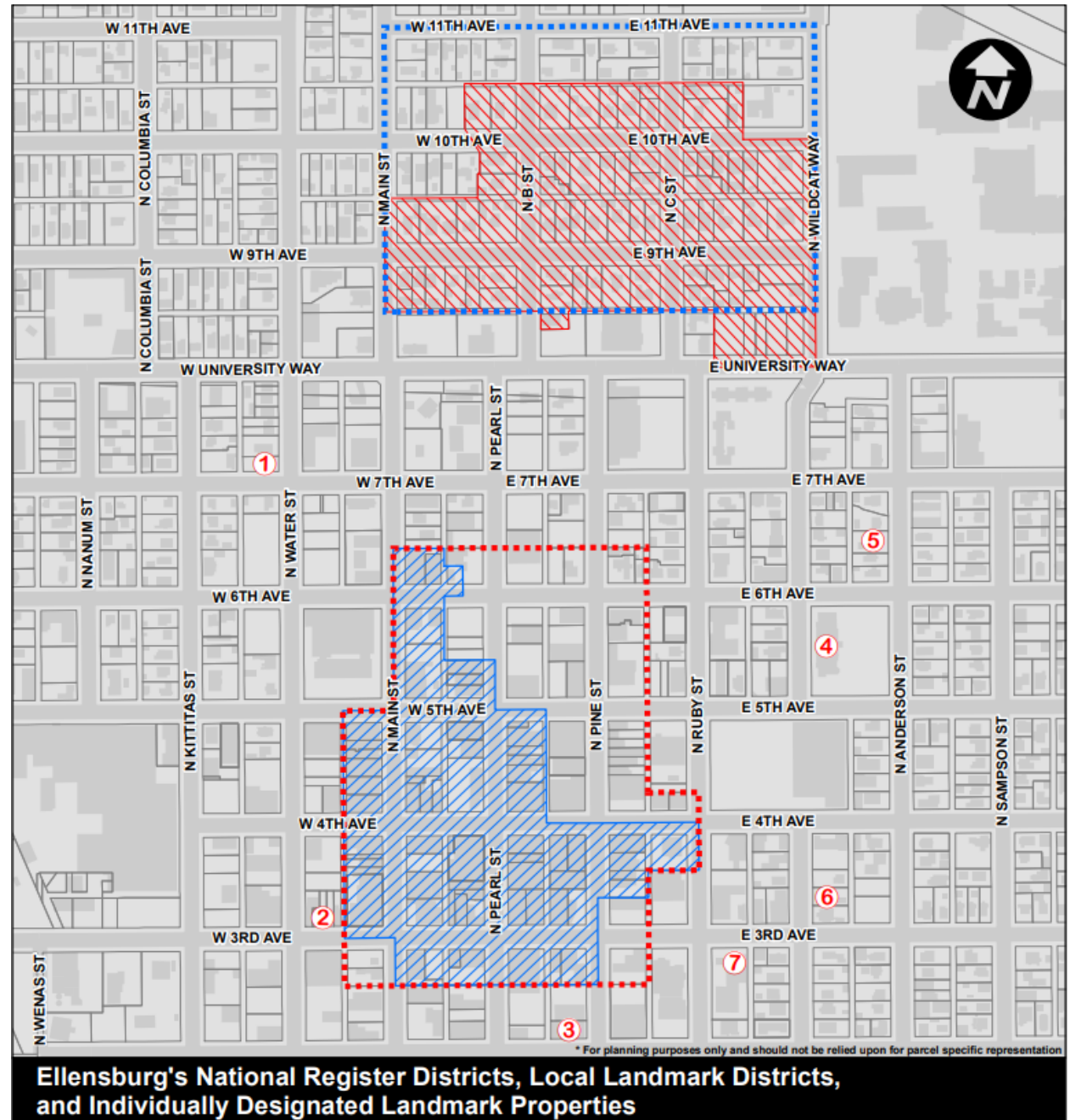


- **Requirements for CLGs**
  - Enforce legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties
  - Maintain a qualified historic preservation commission
  - Survey and inventory local historic properties
  - Provide for public participation in preservation activities
  - Perform the responsibilities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

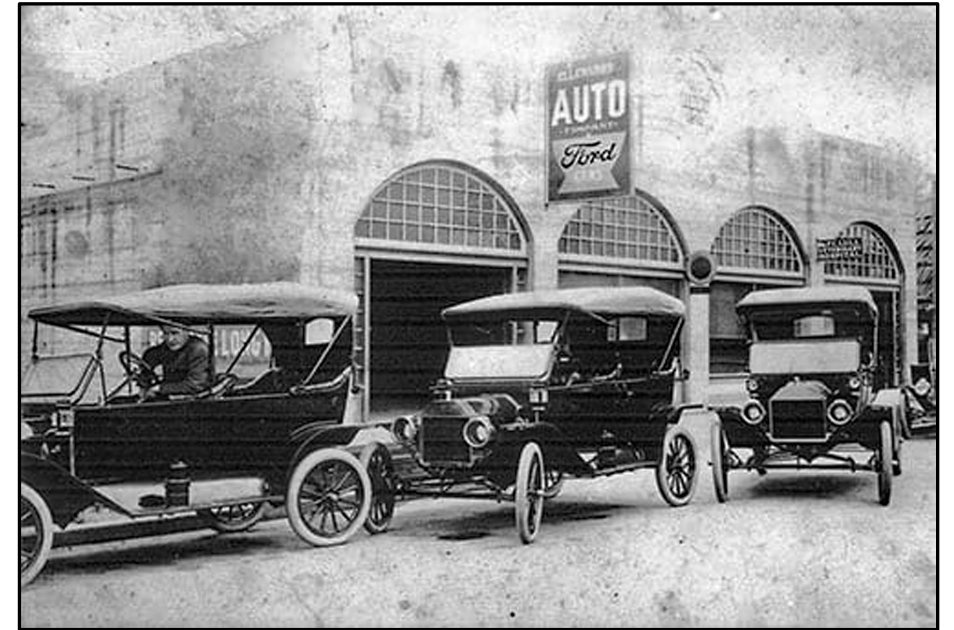
**THAT!**

**BUILDING!**





# Then...





Now...

# Reed Building





# Then...





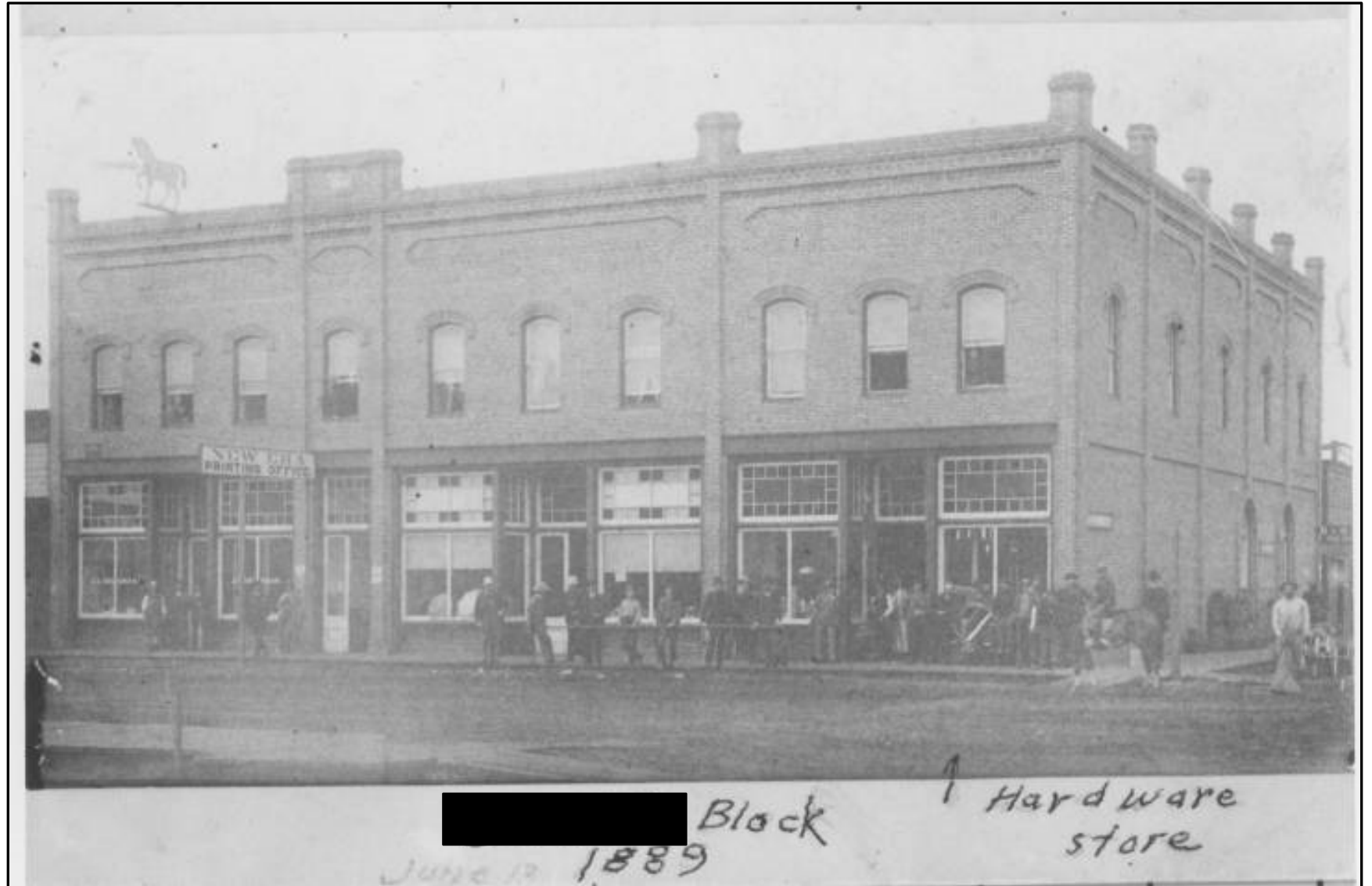
Now...

# Fitterer Building





# Then...



# And Then...



Circa 1980s





# Aaand Then...

Circa 2013



Circa 2019





Today!

# Geddis Building





Today!

# Geddis Building





# Then...





# And Then...



Circa 2013





# Today!

# NY Cafe





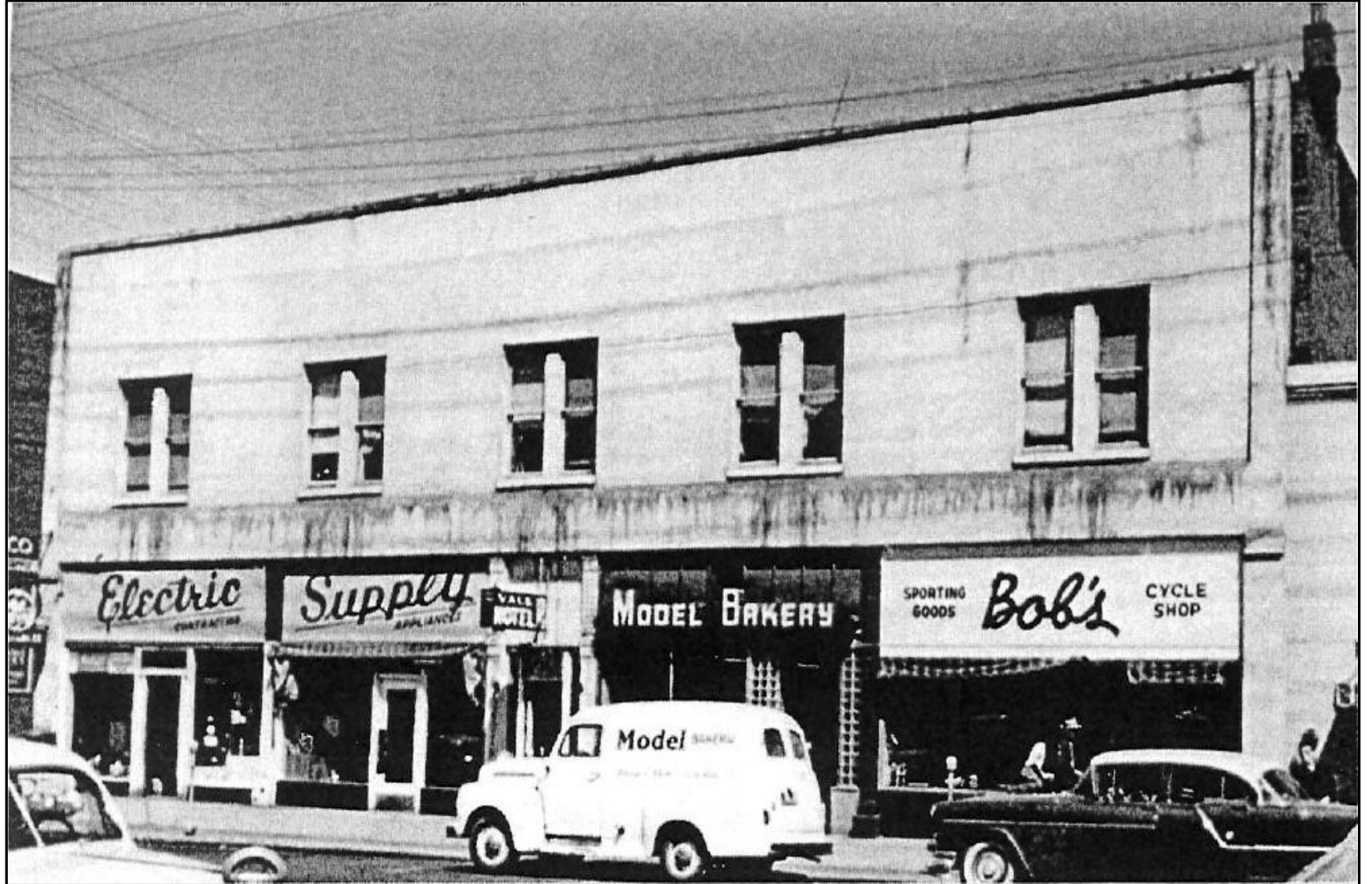
# Then...



Circa 1910



# And Then...





# Aaand Then...





# Aaaand Then...



2020





# Today!



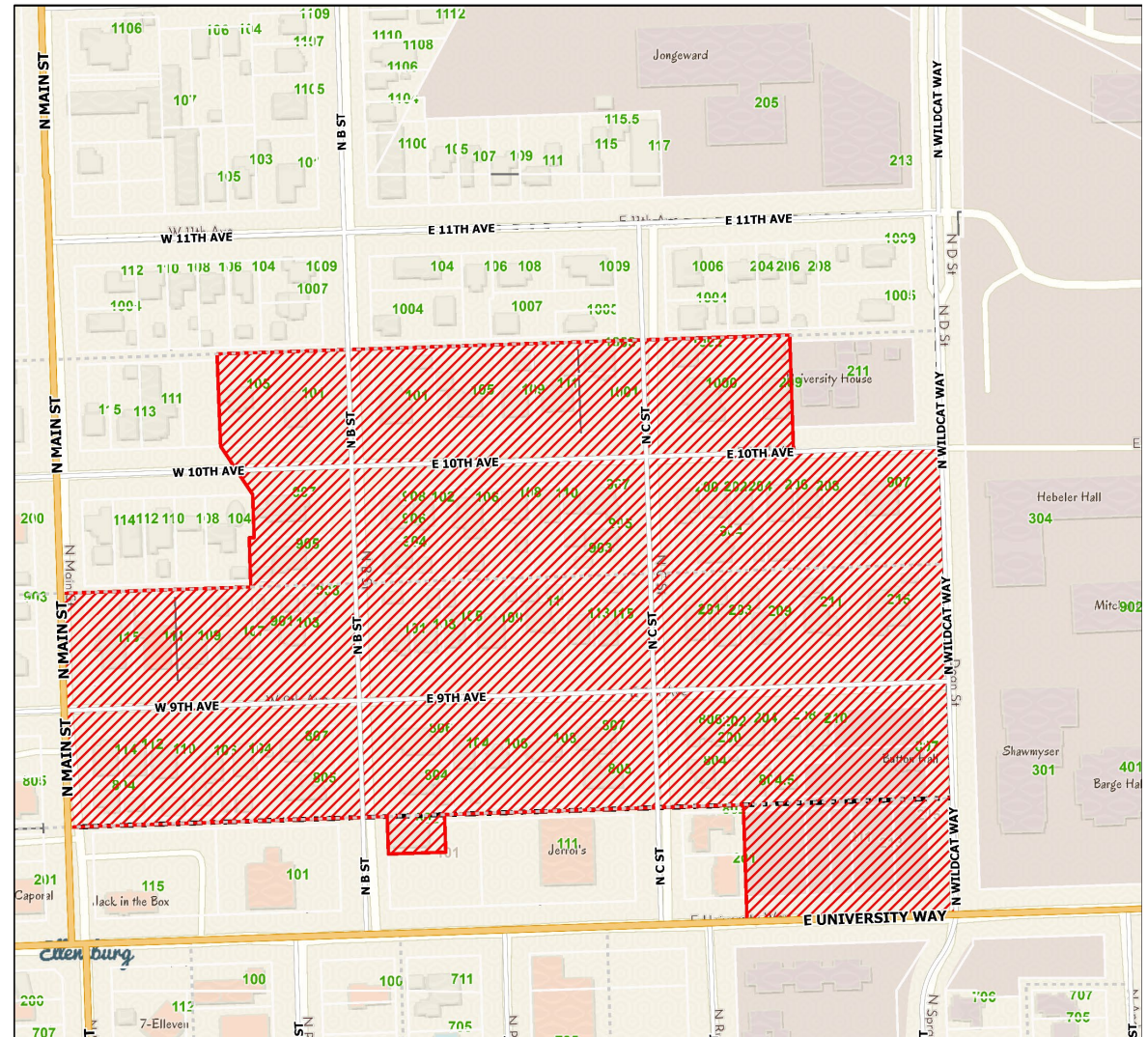


# First Railroad Addition

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



First Railroad Addition





# 103 W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave - Past





# 103 W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave - Present





# 108 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave



# 215 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave – Ramsay House - Past





# 215 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave- Ramsay House - Present





# Then...





# And Then...





# 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.*





# Celebrating Ellensburg

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



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**2025  
ELLENSBURG HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION AWARDS  
COMMUNITY AWARD**

### CAST YOUR VOTE!

COMMUNITY SELECTED HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

**420 Building**

**FINALISTS**

**IOOF Building**

**Reed Building**

**Community Nominated Award**

Three historic buildings have been nominated by the public and now it's up to YOU to select which one will receive the 2025 Community Selected Historic Preservation Award!

**How to Cast Your Vote**

Each an excellent candidate for this award, but only one can win! To learn more on each nomination, go to the Landmarks and Design Commission page at: <https://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/71/Landmarks-Design-Commission>

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**Preservation Award Celebration**

The 3rd annual Historic Preservation Awards will be held at the Kittitas County Historical Museum on May 3, 2025, from 4-6 pm. This celebration kicks off Historic Preservation Month, and is intended to celebrate Ellensburg's beautiful historic character, cultural heritage, and the buildings, projects, and people that help preserve local history for future generations to enjoy.

**Contact Information**  
509-962-7108 | [pedersenc@ellensburgwa.gov](mailto:pedersenc@ellensburgwa.gov) | 501 N. Ellensburg

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# 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!



## 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](http://www.ellensburgwa.gov/EllensburgHistoryQuest)

#### Contact Information

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### CLUES

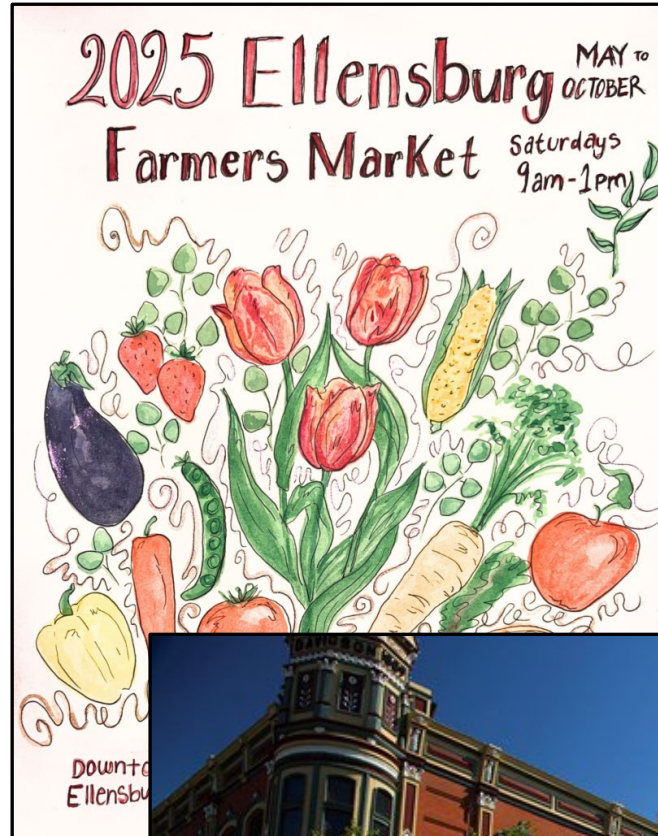
1. Find this unique 1910 building that was built to house a clothing store, but over the years became known for its department store and drug store past. It also features a piece of Tenino Sandstone hiding in plain sight.
2. Find this 1909 "block" built by George A. Knox. While it looks like one solid 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**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

*email- pedersenc@ellensburgwa.gov*

*phone- (509) 962-7108*

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

