



The East Downtown Historic District is a collection of historically significant commercial, mixed-use and warehouse buildings anchored by the Northern Pacific Railway Depot. The district is on the eastern edge of Spokane's central business district. Since the 1890s, this area has been an important part of the downtown's industrial and commercial heritage by providing housing and business establishments that met the needs of those who came to Spokane to work and live either temporarily or permanently. Two predominant property types have historically characterized the district—warehouses and Single Room Occupancy hotels. This historic district, listed on the National Register in 2003, comprises of approximately 27 square blocks with a total of 107 resources.

**4 REALTY BUILDING/THE DELANEY**  
(NR) 242 W. Riverside Avenue

Albert Held designed this structure for the Spokane Realty Company in 1910. In later years it was used as an annex of City Hall and once housed the Spokane Police Department. KREM television station started here in 1947.

**5 DESSERT BLOCK/HOTEL ST. REGIS (THE ONION)** (NR) 302 W. Riverside Avenue

The Dessert Block was built for hotel magnet Victor Dessert in 1904. Dessert owned the Pacific Hotel, the Cliff House and the Victor Block, as well as this saloon facing Bernard, with a drug store in the corner and a clothing store. The upper floors were hotel rooms. In later years, it was known as the St. Regis Hotel. In 1970, Larry Brown opened his popular Onion Bar on the main floor.

**6 SONS OF NORWAY BUILDING**  
(NR) 305 & 307 W. Riverside Avenue

Actually two buildings, 307 was once a separate building and housed a chili parlor, a saloon and eventually a barber shop. 305, the Robertson Building, was designed by Cutter & Malmgren for stores on the ground level and with the Scandinavian lodge above.

**7 AMERICAN LEGION/METALS BANK BUILDING**  
(NR & SR) 108 N. Washington Street

This building has had several different names. When it opened in 1901, it housed the headquarters of the Spokane Club, a private club for men. Subsequently, it was known as the Chamber of Commerce Building, the Metals Bank and Trust Company and American Legion Post #9. The original mansard roof, destroyed by a fire in 1939, was reconstructed as part of a renovation project which began in 2003.

**1 RITZ THEATER (ROCKY ROCOCO'S)**  
520 W. Main Avenue

This Italian Renaissance-style building was opened in 1924 as the Ritz motion picture theater. It had a seating capacity of 550 on the main floor and balcony.

**2 BODIE/1889 BUILDING**  
124 N. Stevens Street

Built after the fire, this building was renovated in 1973.

**3 KEMP & HEBERT/THE LIBERTY (AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE)** (NR) 404 W. Main Avenue

In 1908, Alfred Jones designed this building for Kemp & Hebert retail dry goods store. The Liberty Furniture store occupied the building from the 1940s until 1987.

**8 PAULSEN BUILDINGS (NR)**  
407 & 417 W. Riverside Avenue

The oldest of the two buildings is the 11-story western-most portion completed in 1908 for August Paulsen, who made his money in the Hercules Mine in northern Idaho. The second of Paulsen's buildings was the Paulsen Medical and Dental Building designed by G.A. Pehrson and completed in 1929.

**9 OLD NATIONAL BANK BUILDING**  
422 W. Riverside Avenue

This glazed terra cotta building was the last building constructed during Spokane's great building boom of the early twentieth century. Daniel H. Burnham, considered one of the master architects of the United States, was given the contract after a nationwide competition was held. An example of pure Chicago School-style architecture, it is of national significance and is considered one of the finest structures in Spokane.

**10 THE FERNWELL BUILDING**  
(SR) 505 W. Riverside Avenue

Designed by Herman Preusse in 1890 for Rollin C. Hyde, a member of a remarkable family of Spokane pioneers. His brother Samuel was a U.S. representative; his brother, Eugene, was the first town marshal; and his sister, Mattie, was one of the town's first school teachers.

**11 CITY RAMP GARAGE (NR)**  
429 W. Sprague Avenue

Built in 1928, City Ramp was the first parking garage in Spokane and is one of the finest Art Deco designs in the city.

**12 FIRE STATION #1 (NR)**  
418 W. First Avenue

This station was built in 1890, immediately after the disastrous fire of 1889, and was used until 1938. The design is typical of that used for fire stations in the last half of the nineteenth century.

**13 COLUMBIA BUILDING (JAMES S. BLACK BUILDING)** 107 S. Howard Street

Judge George Turner, Supreme Court Justice and U.S. Senator, had this building constructed in 1906. Turner was the chairman of the judiciary committee that drafted the Washington State constitution for Washington's statehood in 1889.

**14 CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH**  
221 S. Howard Street

Inspired during a sermon at this church on Mother's Day in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd set out to pay homage to her father who became a single parent after her mother died during the birth of their sixth child. The following year, Spokane celebrated the first Father's Day in June, the birth month of Dodd's father. Within a few years, several other cities followed suit and by 1924, President Calvin Coolidge threw in his support.

**15 HUTTON BUILDING (NR)**  
9 S. Washington Street

Levi and May Arkwright Hutton, whose wealth came from the Hercules Mine in north Idaho, had this building constructed in 1907, and had their apartment on the fourth floor. An ardent suffragette, May Hutton was the state's first woman delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1912.

**16 WHITEHEAD'S AMUSEMENT PALACE**  
(NR) 333 W. Sprague Avenue

This two-story red brick building with its terra cotta decorations was designed by E.E. Westcott and built in 1919 for Chuck Whitehead, whose jazz band played the dance palace. The dance hall closed in 1941.

**17 NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT**  
(NR) 221 W. First Avenue

Following the 1889 fire, the Northern Pacific Railway Company planned to rebuild their depot on its original site, but after much debate, announced plans for this new building, off Sprague Avenue, which opened in 1891.

**18 WETZEL WAREHOUSE**  
(NR & SR) 114 W. Pacific Avenue

Built in 1906 and designed as a functional industrial warehouse with little exterior embellishment, the Wetzel Warehouse is part of a unique contiguous façade of mostly two-story commercial vernacular industrial buildings that were built in the early 1900s. Constructed for Spokane jeweler Henry Wetzel, the warehouse was occupied by a series of wholesale companies before being rehabilitated in 2004.

**19 GREEN-HUGHES PRINTING COMPANY BUILDING (NR & SR)** 19 W. PACIFIC AVENUE

Constructed in 1911, the building was owned by Robert Green and Harley Hughes, who owned and operated the Green-Hughes Printing Company, located in the building from 1936 to 1951. Green and Hughes produced thousands of issues of *Labor World*, the most widely read weekly newspaper reporting business at that time for all organized labor unions located in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana.

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