



Central Downtown, the heart of downtown Spokane. After the 1889 fire, in which much of downtown Spokane was destroyed, a number of architects relocated here and made names for themselves by designing enduring buildings of the then current, and now remarkable, styles of the day. These include the Arts and Crafts bungalows, Queen Anne houses, Tudoresque mansions, Romanesque churches, and Gothic commercial buildings, as well as Classic Revival office buildings and Art Deco theaters. The years between the fire and World War II were rich in regards to the development of a vibrant downtown and a city of national renown. As early as 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying in the Chamber of Commerce publication, *Spokane: A Modern City*, "I never saw two such cities anywhere as Spokane and Seattle. If my eldest boy was large enough to be choosing a place, I would advise him to locate in one or the other of those cities and it is a shake-up between them."

1 CLOCK TOWER (NR) Riverfront Park

The clock tower is all that remains of the Great Northern Train Station which was demolished in the early 1970s in preparation for Expo '74. The train depot itself was completed in 1902 and was considered the finest depot west of Chicago. Countless passengers embarked and disembarked at the depot, which served famous passenger trains like the "Empire Builder." The clock tower now stands as a city landmark in the heart of Riverfront Park, the centerpiece of the city.

2 EXPO '74 PLAQUE Riverfront Park

The idea for a world's fair in Spokane came in the late 1960s, when 17 acres of railroad land along the Spokane River was acquired as part of a plan to remove railroads from the riverfront and downtown area of the city. Construction on Expo '74 began in 1972 with the construction of the largest structure, the \$11,500,000 U.S. Pavilion, currently the IMAX theatre. Expo '74's theme was the first to focus on the environment, and Spokane was the smallest city to host an international exposition.

3 FLOUR MILL (NR & SR) 621 W. Mallon Avenue

The Spokane Flour Mill, built in 1895, was one in a series of mills built along the falls prior to 1900. It did not come into operation, however, until 1900 because the property became entangled in a complex international lawsuit that was one of the most explosive and long-fought battles in the city's legal history. The mill was renovated as a shopping center in conjunction with preparations for the World's Fair that Spokane hosted in 1974.

4 MONTGOMERY WARDS (City Hall) (NR & SR) 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard

Montgomery Ward, originator of the mail order business, opened in 1929 in this building designed by J.C. Douche and E.J. Kratt, from the Chicago offices. The City of Spokane renovated the building into City Hall in 1983. Read the plaque on the southeast corner of the building to learn more.

5 OLD CITY HALL (NR & SR) 221 N. Wall Street

In 1912, it was decided to construct a "temporary" City Hall to replace one that was demolished to make way for the railroads coming to Spokane. The brick and stone commercial building was completed in 1913 and housed City Hall and a fire station until 1983.

6 LOOFF CARROUSEL (NR) W. Spokane Falls Boulevard

Charles I.D. Looft of Rhode Island, who built Coney Island's carousel, built this carousel in 1904-07 as a wedding gift for his daughter, Emma. It was located in Natatorium Park, an amusement park on the bank of the Spokane River, until the park closed in 1968. The carousel was restored and placed in its new home in Riverfront Park after the close of Expo '74. Take a spin and try to catch the brass ring for a free ride.

7 COEUR D'ALENE HOTEL/THE MILNER 525 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard

Converted from a variety theater into a hotel in 1909 by self-made mining man "Dutch Jake" Goetz and his partner Harry Bauer, this is one of the oldest and best known structures in Spokane. At the gala opening of the hotel, more than 20,000 people passed through its doors, stopping to admire the huge mural on the bar wall that depicted the burro making its famous kick that legend says uncovered the wealth of the Coeur d'Alene mining region.

8 BENNETT BLOCK 206 N. Howard Street

Erected in 1890, the two top floors of the Bennett were an apartment/hotel and the main floor housed retail establishments. It was one of the first renovations of an historic building into retail space in the 1970s. The Star Hotel and Rima Block to the north completed the renovated complex.

9 THE CRESCENT (CRESCENT COURT) (SR) 707 W. Main Avenue

L.L. Rand designed this steel-reinforced concrete addition with its cream terra cotta cladding for the ever-expanding Crescent department store in 1917-18. The Crescent opened its doors the morning after the 1889 fire in a crescent-shaped building on West Riverside Avenue, next to the Review Building. Over the years, business grew and the store moved locations until the store on Riverside was built in 1898. In 1993 it was renovated as the Crescent Court, a complex of office and retail space.

10 PEYTON BUILDING (SR & NR) 722 W. Sprague Avenue

The Peyton is actually two buildings. The front portion facing Riverside, designed by Herman Preusse, was one of the largest buildings constructed after the 1889 fire. The original building burned in 1898, causing the deaths of eight people living in the upper-floor apartments. Colonel Issac N. Peyton bought the site and rebuilt using the remaining walls. In 1908, Peyton financed the addition of two stories and built the second building to the south, connecting all floors and linking the two with a common entry on Post Street.

11 WHITTEN BLOCK (FUGAZZI RESTAURANT) (NR & SR) 1 N. Post Street

One of the buildings constructed in 1890, after the fire, the Whitten Block was designed by L.M. Boardman for I.B. Whitten, real estate and investments, who owned four office buildings and a hotel. His wife, Georgia Ballou Whitten, a graduate of Women's Medical College of Philadelphia, was one of the first female physicians in the area.

12 MILLER BUILDING (HOTEL LUSSO) (NR & SR) 806 & 810 W. Sprague Avenue

W.J. Carpenter designed this four-story building with its elaborate sandstone detailing in 1890 for Stanley Miller, co-owner of the Spokane Ice Company. For many years, the Sherman-Clary Company's extensive piano and music business was located here. Tour the lobby of the building which was rehabilitated as a hotel in the 1990s.

13 THE DAVENPORT HOTEL (NR & SR) 807 W. Sprague Avenue

The Davenport was once considered the most famous and elegant hotel in the West; the service was the finest that could be offered. Designed by Kirtland Cutter, the hotel opened in 1914 and was the center for Spokane's social life. The Davenport was completely renovated and reopened in 2002. Go to the second floor grand ballroom to admire the Hall of Doges, which was completely restored as part of the hotel's renovation.

14 FIRE OF 1889 PLAQUE N. Lincoln Street & Railroad Alley

The year 1889 imprinted itself on Spokane forever and jump-started a change in building trends throughout the city's downtown core. Spokane had grown from a small settlement in the early 1870s to a center for mining, lumber, agriculture and rail transport by the late 1880s. Then on August 4, 1889 a huge fire consumed the town, destroying 32 city blocks. The tragedy gave rise to a frenetic and unparalleled period of building, and embarked the city on a 30-year cycle of growth and prosperity. This plaque commemorates the location where the fire is theorized to have started when a kitchen fire grew out of control.

15 STEAM PLANT (STEAM PLANT SQUARE) (NR & SR) 815 W. Railroad Avenue

This central steam heat plant, built in 1916, provided heat for many of Spokane's downtown buildings and remained operational until 1986. The Steam Plant was rehabilitated in 1999 and reopened as office/retail space and a restaurant. Walk inside to stand at the bottom of one of the massive smoke stacks.

16 THE DAVENPORT TOWER 713 W. First Avenue

There has been a hotel at this location for most of the last 125 years, dating to the Pacific Hotel, which opened in 1883. The Desert Hotel succeeded it in 1890. That was replaced by the Desert Sahara Motor Hotel in 1962. Developer Walt Worthy completed the current structure as a companion to his nearby Davenport Hotel in the fall of 2006.

17 SYMONS BUILDING (SR) 525 W. Sprague Avenue

T.W. Symons Jr., a World War I veteran and pioneer in aviation, built the red brick and terra cotta Symons Block in 1917. It took 12 railroad cars to bring the steel for the construction of this building to Spokane from Minneapolis.

18 SHERWOOD BUILDING 510 W. Riverside Avenue

Designed by architects Cutter and Malmgren and built in 1916-17, this Gothic design reinforced-concrete building has extensive terra cotta detailing.

(NR) Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
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