



Riverside Avenue, between Monroe and Cedar, is undoubtedly Spokane's most beautiful avenue, flanked on both sides with attractive buildings. Since 1901, this small district, listed on the National Register in 1976, has increasingly developed a striking individual character in architecture, usage and atmosphere. With the erection of Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral in 1902, the trend towards stately dignity continued until 1931 with the completion of the Civic Building. The character of the district has been firmly established through the developmental role of each structure in the district.

1 MONROE STREET BRIDGE (NR & SR) N. Monroe Street

Spanning the Spokane River gorge just below the Spokane Falls, the Monroe Street Bridge is a city landmark. When the structure was completed in 1911, the 281-foot concrete central span was the largest in the United States. City engineers designed the structure while Spokane's most celebrated firm of architects, Cutter and Malmgren, designed some of the bridge's most famous motifs. Reflecting the city's pride in its pioneer heritage, western decorative motifs include chain-shaped concrete ornamentation on the railings, and four "covered wagon"-shaped pavilions adorned with cast-concrete bison skulls. All but the central span of the bridge was demolished and completely reconstructed starting in 2003. Walk across the bridge for a scenic view of the falls.

2 SPOKANE RIVER PLAQUES W. Spokane Falls Boulevard

Read the plaques to follow the story of the development of Spokane Falls and the Spokane River.

3 LINCOLN STATUE Monroe Street and W. Main Avenue

The Lincoln Statue was created by Seattle sculptor Victor Lewis. Lewis' concept was of Lincoln reviewing his troops in battle, a portrayal of Lincoln that at the time had never been done. Lewis considered this statue to be one of "the most powerful statues to have been made." The granite base upon which Lincoln stands was reportedly designed by architect Kirtland Cutter.

4 UNITED STATES POST OFFICE (NR) 904 W. Riverside Avenue

Conforming to the Classical style adopted by the Federal Government for all federal buildings, this building was constructed in 1908-09 and designed by Treasury staff architect James Knox Taylor. Bedford limestone and granite were specified in the construction because they could be easily cleaned with water and a brush.

5 EMPIRE STATE/GREAT WESTERN BUILDING (NR) 1023 W. Riverside Avenue

Civil War veteran, Charles Sweeny and F. Lewis Clark constructed this building in 1900. The name Empire State was derived from their joint venture in a company. Walk inside the main entrance off Riverside to view the elegant interior stairways.

6 CLEMMER/STATE/BING CROSBY THEATER (NR & SR) 901 W. Sprague Ave.

August Paulsen, who had made a fortune in the Idaho silver mines, built the theater as one of the first-full time motion picture theaters in 1915. The theater was host to many celebrated performers, including Bing Crosby. The theater was renovated in 1991 as the Met and in 2006 it was renamed for Crosby.

7 CHRONICLE BUILDING 926 W. Sprague Avenue

Built to house the Spokane Chronicle newspaper in 1927-28, it is now an office building. Notice the gargoyles designed as printer's devils that guard the roofline.

8 REVIEW BUILDING (NR) 999 W. Riverside Avenue

Commanding this intersection is the 1891 Review Building. The contemporary red brick building to the east was designed in 1983 to replace the original Crescent Store building that took its name from the shape of the structure. Under different names, The Spokesman-Review has been a major newspaper in Spokane since 1883.

9 MONAGHAN STATUE
N. Monroe Street and Riverside Avenue

In the fall of 1906, a crowd of 10,000 gathered to witness the unveiling of the Monaghan Statue at Riverside and Monroe in Spokane. John Robert Monaghan, a U.S. Navy officer and the first person in Washington State to graduate from the Naval Academy, was commemorated for his unswerving devotion to duty. Monaghan was killed in action in the Samoan Islands in 1899 while protecting a fellow officer. The bronze statue was created by sculptor Sigvald H. Asbjornsen. Read the bronze plaques on the base of the statue to learn the story of Monaghan's heroic death.

10 OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHEDRAL
(NR) 1115 W. Riverside Avenue

Completed in 1907, this magnificent Romanesque Revival Cathedral has a seating capacity of 1,200.

11 CHANCERY BUILDING (NR) 1023 W. Riverside Avenue

Constructed in 1924, this handsome Italian Renaissance Revival building was owned by the Catholic Diocese of Spokane.

12 SAN MARCO APARTMENTS (NR)
1228 W. Sprague Avenue

The San Marco is a complex of four of the oldest apartments in Spokane. Designed by Albert Held, the four elegant buildings were constructed between 1904 and 1911.

13 CARNEGIE SQUARE (NR)
W. First Avenue and S. Cedar Street

Carnegie Square, a collection of restored buildings, includes: Buena Vista Apartments, Carnegie Library (Integrus Architecture), Upton Hotel (Grand Coulee Apartments) and the Eldridge Building.

14 SPOKANE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
(NR & SR) 1116 W. Broadway Avenue

The Spokane County Courthouse is one of the more prominent features on the Spokane skyline. It was built in 1894-1895 by David Fotheringham. Architect Willis Ritchie's award-winning design was chosen through a design competition in 1893. The dry-pressed brick used for the building was the first to be produced in the area; previously such brick had to be shipped from the East Coast. The building has housed Spokane County government since 1895 and is one of the finest examples of French Renaissance architecture in the West.

15 FOX THEATER
(NR & SR) 1007-1017 W. Sprague Avenue

Although movies had been shown in downtown theaters for some time, the construction of the Fox in 1930-31 marked the first time that a motion picture company had its own theater in Spokane to showcase its own movies. The theater's Art Deco styling is an excellent example of the work of noted architect Robert Chambers Reamer. The interior of the theater is also significant as the work of a master interior decorator, Los Angeles designer Anthony Heinsbergen. An extensive renovation of the theater began in 2006.

HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
S. MONROE STREET AND W. FIRST AVENUE

This intersection is the focal point of the city's West Downtown Historic Transportation Corridor, historically significant for its association with the expansion of railroads, the advent of the automobile and the rise of Spokane as a regional distribution center. The district has a high concentration of building types that represent railroad-dependent businesses, primarily warehouses, Single Room Occupancy hotels, or SROs, related to the traveling and transient population that came to Spokane as a direct result of its growth, and the sales and service enterprises associated with the rise of the automobile. This National Register Historic District was designated in 1999.

16 MONTVALE HOTEL (NR & SR) 1001 W. First Avenue

Built in 1899 for business and civic leader Judge John W. Binkley, the Montvale Block is historically and architecturally significant as one of the oldest and best preserved examples of a Single Room Occupancy hotel. SROs, as they were called, were a type of working-class housing popular in the decades around the turn of the twentieth century, when Spokane experienced a tremendous building and population boom. Having remained empty and unused for 25 years, the Montvale Hotel was rehabilitated and reopened in 2005.

17 SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY HOTELS
(SRO) (NR) 1001-1129 W. First Avenue

The detailed facades of these buildings lining the south side of First Avenue are reminders of the turn of the century building boom. The main floors were storefronts and the upper floors were rooms for the large numbers of workers who came to Spokane seeking work.

18 ODD FELLOWS HALL (NR) 1015 W. First Avenue

The IOOF Lodge (International Order of Odd Fellows) moved into this building, designed by Albert Held, in 1909. In 1944, the lodge's service club opened a popular dance place for teens that continued into the 1950s. Lodge rooms remain intact on the upper floor.

(NR) Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

(SR) Listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places