

## What is the Spokane Register of Historic Places?

The *Spokane Register of Historic Places* is our local government's official list of properties that have been designated as significant contributors to the historical development of Spokane. The register was established by ordinance in the City of Spokane in 1981. The Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission is responsible for the stewardship of historic and architecturally significant properties by making sure that future changes to listed properties do not damage historic character or materials. Owners must give their permission before a house can be listed on the register.

2411 E 6th Ave



**The Spokane Historic Preservation Office**  
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2407 W Hartson, 1952, NW MAC L87-1.70679-52

### What do we hope to accomplish?

- Explore the story of the neighborhood through the experiences and residences of the people who lived there.
- Identify properties that are eligible to be listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places.
- Uncover contributions to Spokane's history by underrepresented communities who lived, worked and raised families in East Central.

*The East Central neighborhood was greatly impacted by the construction of Interstate 90 which basically split the community in half. Continuing the cycle, the north-south freeway plans have led to mass demolition of viable houses. Our goal is to understand how these policies have affected both residents and the community as a whole. This survey will view the historic homes and buildings in East Central as a way to tell the important stories of the neighborhood, regardless of their condition.*

# East Central

## Historic & Cultural Resource Survey

# Neighborhood



Above: 2404 E 4th in 1924 and in 2008 below



1924 image courtesy of the NW Museum of Arts and Culture JEF Research Archives L87-1.24925-24

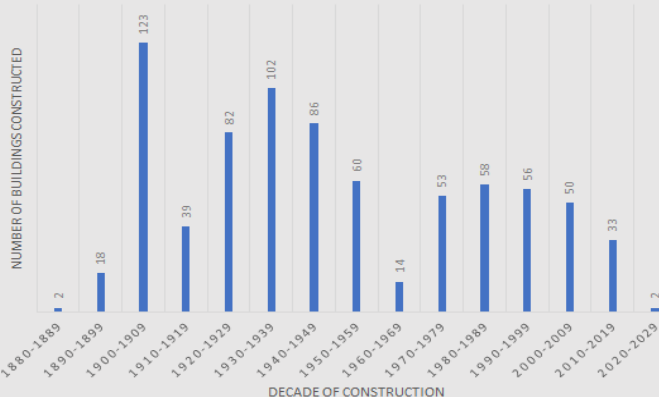


## What do we mean by a “historic and cultural survey?”

Survey work is the basic foundation of historic preservation. In the past, that has always meant going to the survey area and photographing each property followed up by a complete architectural description. It also meant that judgments were made on how “intact” or original a property was.

Our East Central Historic and Cultural Survey is taking a different and “out-of-the-box” approach to survey. We will still photograph every property but we aren’t going to get as hung up on changes that have happened to those properties over time. We are going to look at each house as more than just architecture - we’ll view them as treasure chests that hold stories within. A tremendous amount of research in newspapers, archives and other sources will be necessary as well as talking to long-time East Central residents. If you know of someone who we should talk to, drop us an email at [preservation@spokanecity.org](mailto:preservation@spokanecity.org).

**EAST CENTRAL HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY**  
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED PER DECADE



### Treasure Chests Holding Stories

Reverend John L. Vaughns and his wife Willie lived in the house at 2618 East Fifth Avenue from the 1970s into the 1980s (above). Rev. Vaughns moved to Spokane from Texas in the 1940s after serving in World War II. He worked as a shoe polisher and auto detailer until he landed a job at the Kaiser Aluminum Plant in Mead, Washington in 1955. Kaiser employed an all-white workforce since beginning operations at their Mead plant, and Vaughns was among the first Black workers at the site. Soon after he was hired, a white foreman fired him due to the color of his skin. Attorney Carl Maxey used the legal system to help Rev. Vaughns get his job back which he maintained for twenty years.

### Church to Feed Needy Families

The Salvation Inn Church for All Nations will serve a Christmas dinner for needy families

Vaughns found a mid-life calling to become a pastor. In 1960 he took over a congregation and renamed his church



### East Central Facts!

- There are **863 parcels** within the survey boundary, 67 are vacant lots and over **700** of the buildings are **single family homes**.
- **542** buildings were built between **1887 and 1972** - nearly 70% of the houses in the area are over 50 years old!
- The neighborhood includes substantial post-depression, pre-war, and post-war development.
- A lot of buildings remain from the decade of Spokane’s greatest growth (**1900-1909**) and there are a few homes remaining from the earliest phases of the city’s development.



One of the earliest residential properties we have identified is the home at 1903 E 6th (1893), demolished in 2022.

The Salvation Inn for All Nations (left). The Church was originally closer to downtown, but he relocated in 1968 to a house adapted into a church at 2627 East Fifth Avenue, just across the street from his home. Rev. Vaughns cared for the needy, he petitioned city leaders, and he brought well-known evangelical speakers from around the country to speak at the church. Vaughn’s church operated there until he passed away in 2000.