

Take A Walk Back To Early 20th Century Anacortes

Anacortes Story Unfolds

This area has been home to the Samish and Swinomish tribes since time immemorial. Spain's Jose Narvaez explored the area in 1791, followed by Englishmen George Vancouver and Joseph Whidbey. Early American settlers William Munks and Enoch Compton arrived by boat in 1861. They filed claims on the fertile eastern shore of Fidalgo Bay. By 1865, a town began to grow on the northwest shore when Richard and Shadrack Wooten settled the current Anacortes area. Others settled Cap Sante, then called "Rocky Point," and along the Guemes Channel west to Ship Harbor. Amos Bowman and his wife arrived in 1876, and in 1879 he established a post office named "Anacortes" for his wife Anne Curtis Bowman.

Town founders had a big idea: to be the terminus of a transcontinental railroad! In 1890, population grew from 200 to 2,000 on speculation. Some streets and buildings you will visit on this tour were constructed during this time. Prices of land in downtown Anacortes rose from \$50 per acre up to \$3,000 for a corner lot. At least two sets of investors "gambled" on just which area of town would be "downtown at the railroad station."

But the railroad went bankrupt. The boom ended. Large brick buildings housing banks and hotels emptied. "Downtown" became the area you'll see today. Soon hundreds of people were employed in a dozen salmon canning and codfish curing plants. Lumber mills thrived on timber from Skagit County and surrounding islands. A brick factory, pulp mill, glass factory and plywood mill prospered. Many homes you see belonged to owners of these businesses. Since the 1950s another shift has occurred with the arrival of two oil refineries, marinas, technology and tourist-based industries, boat building, motels, retired folks and artists, all enjoying our location and our heritage.

Mitchell's Murals Celebrate Our Story

[M] Along your route today you will enjoy murals depicting citizens of distinction from every era. Locations where visible are noted here. We urge you to stop and enjoy each one. A complete list of murals is available in "Anacortes Visitors Map and Guide" at Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, 9th and Commercial. Murals are the work of Anacortes resident Bill Mitchell, who has immortalized civic leaders, musicians, athletes, judges and many other colorful characters to revive the spirit and flavor of times past.

[NR] Denotes buildings listed on National Register of Historic Places, January 2008.

The Anacortes Museum Foundation

Through memberships, Anacortes Museum Foundation supports and assists the educational and preservation goals of the Anacortes Museum.

Become a member today!

Benefits of Annual Membership:

- ✓ FREE admission on board the W.T. PRESTON
- ✓ 10% discount at the Museum store
- ✓ Invitation to exhibit openings and special events
- ✓ Quarterly Foundation newsletter

Annual Membership Categories:

Student & Senior (+65).....	\$20
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Business/Organization	\$75
Sponsor	\$100
Life.....	\$250
Donation.....	\$ _____

New Member Renewal

(Contributions tax-deductible to fullest extent of law.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please make checks payable to the Anacortes Museum Foundation.
Send to: 1305 8th St., Anacortes, WA 98221.

Anacortes

Historic Preservation Commission

Mission: "To encourage the preservation and appreciation of Anacortes' architectural history through education and technical assistance for private homeowners, business owners and keepers of historic or culturally significant landscapes."

For more information contact the Anacortes Museum at 293-1915, or at:

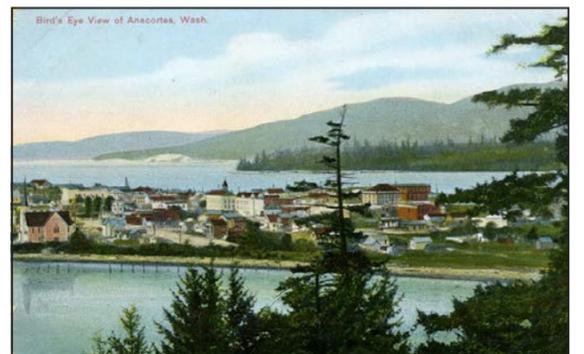
www.cityofanacortes.org/museum_department.php.

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The Anacortes Museum Foundation Presents...

Walking Tour Of Historic Downtown Anacortes



Bird's Eye View of Anacortes, Wash. published by Portland Post Card Co. Depicts downtown Anacortes, Guemes Channel and Guemes Island as viewed from Cap Sante.

Welcome to Anacortes! This walking tour map/guide identifies 30 of the many historic buildings in our downtown core. The tour is organized so that it can be enjoyed as one long walk (1-1/2 hours) or in two 45 minute loops (listings 1-19 and 20-30).

Please, admire private home sites from public sidewalks only. Businesses along the route welcome your visit and any questions you may have about their historic premises.

Anacortes Museum Foundation

Supports our Anacortes Museum
Become a member!
Inquire at the Anacortes Museum
1305 8th St. • Anacortes, WA 98221
Phone: 360-293-1915

Olson Building
220 Commercial Ave.
Built 1891
Early two-story brick structure built by Alfred Olson who operated the Skagit Saloon here (on south side). See prominent bracketed cornice and rusticated stone belt course. Original hardware still serves transomed double-doors. Only major modification is early 1900's brick in corner entrance. Site now houses businesses on first level; apartments above. [M] [NR]



Marine Supply & Hardware
202 Commercial Ave.
In 1900, this building housed Grab Whimsett's Delmonico Cafe. In 1907 it contained a grocery, two shooting galleries, a meat market, cigar and fruit shop. Note bracketed cornice and Italianate style. Building appears undated. (Shed added between 1900-1925.) Marine Supply & Hardware established by E. Mike Demopoulos in 1920. The store, now a popular tourist attraction, was operated by the Demopoulos family for many years. [M] [NR]



Anacortes Junk Co. SW side of 2nd St.
Built around 1890.
One of the oldest wooden frame, false-front buildings in town. It served as a livery stable in 1907. Greek immigrant E. Mike Demopoulos established Anacortes Junk Co. here in 1913. As you walk east toward Commercial Avenue, note mural of company truck on north end of Marine Supply & Hardware building. This old Mack truck still runs and has been fully restored by local resident Dave Millholland. [M] [NR]



Platt Building
402 Commercial Ave.
Built 1890
This ornate brick building, the first of its kind in Skagit County, was constructed by Lewis & Dryden Engineers of Portland, Oregon. It was originally chartered as the Bank of Anacortes. Two vaults and other bank-related features have survived alterations. Bank closed during the depression of 1893. This building and the Goodwin-Havkost Building (508 Commercial) were purchased by W.Y. Wells and E.L. McClean upon their return from the Klondike in 1900. The Wells family still owns the property at 508 Commercial, which underwent extensive renovation in 2003. [M]



4th Street Apartments
910 4th Street
Built 1900-1905
Largely intact as originally constructed. Note porches and braces at roof and polygonal bays. Post-and-pier foundation partially replaced with concrete. Building immediately west of the apartments (317 Commercial Ave.) was constructed in 1912 for a grocery and hardware store. It later housed the E.A. Phillips Furniture Co. Features pressed brick veneer. Building was recently remodeled to comply with today's building codes. [M]



"Smokey's" Grocery or California Fruit Store
909 3rd Street
Built around 1900
Structure was originally located on Commercial Avenue between 3rd and 4th streets. It was moved to this site in 1929. Over the years, it served as grocery store, tavern, wine house and apartments. [M] [NR]



Presbyterian Church
501 5th Street
Built 1891
Significant for being among the oldest surviving churches in Anacortes. The Queen Anne-style Little Church is intact as built except for the loss of its large corner tower. Recently renovated, it is now the Croton Cultural Center.



McNaught Building
419 Commercial Ave.
Built 1890
This multi-story wooden structure was constructed by James McNaught, counsel for Northern Pacific Railroad. Its original location at 8th Avenue and I Street was where he had expected to establish the town's business center. In 1904, the building was rolled eleven blocks to its current location. Original storefront windows and other features have been replaced. Building was damaged by fire and received extensive renovation during 2003-2005.



Empire Block
420 Commercial Ave.
Built 1905
This brick two-story was built by attorney W.Y. Wells, Judge Joiner and E.L. McClean. It first housed a department store and later, medical offices. What was, perhaps, the first elevator in town is now a steep staircase. In 1905, an elegant statue/drinking fountain was erected here, honoring Carrie White, local president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Statue/fountain was restored and now stands on the Anacortes Museum grounds (1305 8th Street). [M]



Discover Historic Downtown Anacortes, Washington

Municipal Building 904 6th Street Built 1915

This large concrete building was originally constructed by the Anacortes Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks. It was occupied by Elks until the early 1930's. Eventually it became home to Anacortes' city government. Visitors are welcome to drop by weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. [M]



Anacortes American 901 6th Street Built by 1913

Anacortes American Publisher J.M. Post bought three lots at 6th and Q in 1910

to build a specially designed "fireproof" building with concrete press beds. The newspaper, founded in 1890, has operated from the site since 1913.

Miller Building 1013 5th Street Built 1899

Rare surviving sample of turn-of-the-century wood commercial building. Built by William Miller, its original tenant was a grocery. Later apartments were added and the storefront was modified. Otherwise, it is virtually unaltered.



Clyde Rogers House 1115 5th Street Built around 1902

Built in the "Colonial Revival" style on property purchased by Clyde and Norah Rogers for the princely sum of \$400.

W.M. Rodgers House 1119 5th Street Built around 1902

Note steeply pitched, pyramidal roof, eve brackets, pendants and multi-gable projections, and polygonal bay on west side beneath cantilevered second story. Once owned by Greek restaurateur Della Marinakos.



J.A. Matheson House 1201 5th Street Built around 1890

Bought from original owners John and Patience McDonald in 1899 for \$877. Matheson came to Anacortes in 1890 to establish first codfish

processing plant on Puget Sound. Plant was located on the waterfront at the foot of K Avenue.

Mae Temple House 1211 5th Street Built 1900-1903

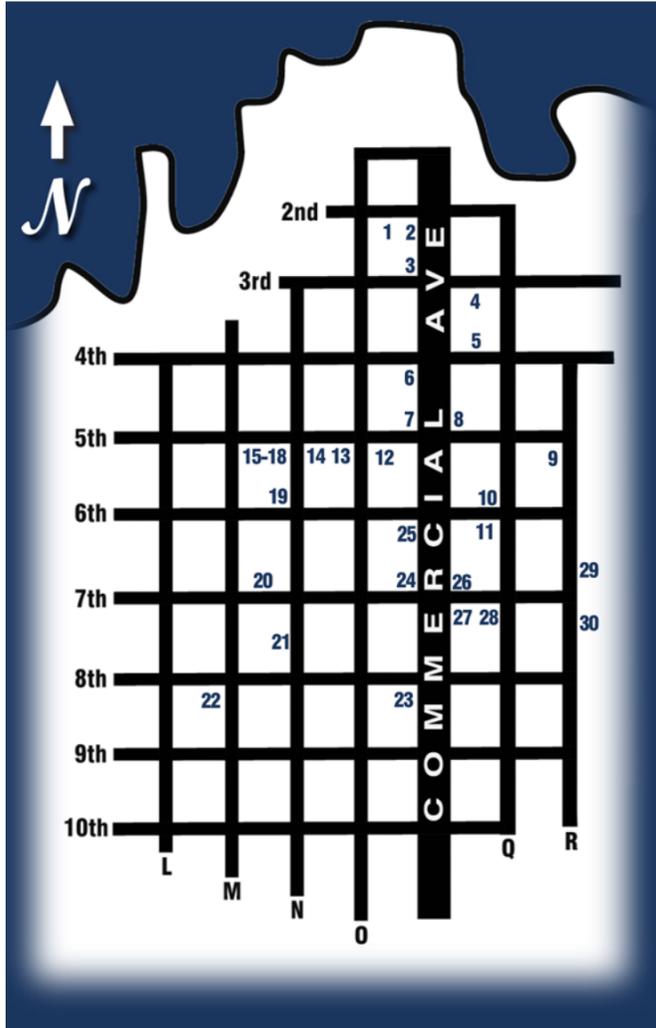
One-and-one-half stories. Note the two original polygonal bay windows on the east side. The third bay was added later.



Katherine Flynn House 1215 5th Street Built around 1902

Built in the Queen Anne style. Original owner was widow of E.W. Flynn, who bought the property in 1901 from Seattle &

Northern Railroad. Note truncated hip roof with gables. Home appears to have survived century without much alteration.



James Cavanaugh House 1219 5th Street Built around 1902

Original owners, William and Fairy Farrell, bought the lot in 1901 for \$180 from Seattle & Northern Railroad.



McTaggart House 1204 6th Street Built 1890

Sold to Valentine Funk in 1903 for \$2,500. Bathroom added (west side) when plumbing came indoors. Porch added in the 1920s. Garage added later.

Christ Episcopal Church 1216 7th Street Built 1891

Built for a booming town, its first minister was Rev. W.A. Platt. Outstanding interior furnishings are virtually as built. Altar was shipped around the horn from New York City. Original shiplap siding now covered with wood shingles. Call church office to arrange a peek inside.



Causland Park M to N at 8th Street Built 1920-1926

Community members built this park to honor Harry Leon Causland, Distinguished Service Cross recipient, plus 13 other local men who perished in World War I. Architect Jean LePage selected

thousands of native rocks in varied hues from Fidalgo and neighboring islands. Sandstone seats and steps are from nearby Cypress Island. The park has been the scene of community events ever since. [NR]

Anacortes Museum Historic Carnegie Library 1305 8th Street Built 1910

A 1908 community appeal to the Carnegie Foundation produced a \$10,000 grant, if the City pledged \$1,000 plus \$1,000 per year for maintenance and a librarian. Library opened in Dec. 1910 as a reading room; first book checked out in 1911. As quoted at the time: "In a town like ours, unless a young man goes to the reading room to pass away his spare time, he is almost necessitated to go to a bar for want of acquaintanceship." Building has housed museum since 1968. Drop in! [NR]



New Wilson Hotel 808 Commercial Ave. Built 1890

Designed in the "Romanesque Revival" style by architects Long & Merritt. Hotel was built by David Hall of Tacoma, using bricks from local See's Brickyard. Sold to Valentine Funk in 1897. A fine hotel for a promising boom town! West side addition constructed in the 1930's. Note rusticated stone bases, round-headed window openings, Roman arches between rooms on first floor, and cast-iron columns. Upper floors, vacant for decades, recently converted to apartments. [M]



Empire Theater 620 Commercial Ave. Built in 1913

Made of reinforced concrete, was one of city's earliest movie theaters. Note stage left to west. The jewelry business was bought by current owner

Doug Burton's father from H.L. Dodge in 1930. Note Burton Street Clock on south side, which was originally located at Dodge's Jewelry & Optometry a block away. Clock runs by mechanical movement powered by 97 lb. lead weight that is rewound once a week. Ask inside to see photos of original theater. [M]

Shannon Hardware 602 Commercial Ave. Built 1891

One of the oldest, surviving wood commercial buildings in Anacortes. Recent remodeling altered storefront, but original Italianate style remains obvious. Note parapets. [M]



Keystone Hotel/ Moyer Building 619 Commercial Ave. Built 1910

Builder E.W. Moyer raised this building after fire destroyed his wooden hotel in 1893. Plans called for two floors, but Elks Club convinced

Moyer to house new headquarters on 3rd floor with ballroom. Except for alterations to street-level retail space and a first-floor balcony, building is basically intact as built.

Citizens Bank of Anacortes 701 Commercial Ave. Built 1906

Scene of bank robbery at 3 p.m. on April 14, 1924. Four bandits stole \$18,539.40 after firing four shots and knocking bank Manager, W.T. Odlin, senseless. The robbers made their successful getaway in a motor boat. [M]



Eagle's Hall 901 7th Street Built 1920

Brick Beaux-Arts/Neoclassical design built by current owners, Fraternal Order of Eagles. Note modillioned cornice and frieze, plus round-arched entrance. Visitors, especially

Eagles, ask to see the ballroom. [M]

Great Northern Railroad Depot 611 R Ave. Built 1911

Constructed by 30 men paid about \$3.50 per day. Gothic architecture. Originally fitted with a slate roof, marble floor, steam heat! 1980 renovations by Anacortes Arts Foundation have preserved depot as a cultural center. Visit gallery. Imagine the din of train whistles and hustle/bustle of six regularly-scheduled passenger trains operating before autos took over. [M][NR]



W.T. Preston, Steam-Powered Snagboat 713 R Avenue Built 1914 (house) 1929 (hull)

This retired snagboat kept Puget Sound waterways clear for 50 years. Tour the ship and

the Maritime Heritage Center, astern. Imagine life under steam power! [NR]