

**6** 506 First Street SW  
Irving B. and Olivia Knickerbocker  
Constructed 1906

One of early Auburn's most notable "movers and shakers," Mr. Knickerbocker was a noted attorney, an astute businessman, and a land developer. The son of a prominent New York family, he passed his bar exams in 1889 and immediately came west to settle in Auburn. With an early partner, John Gordon, he soon represented and served on the boards of several of Auburn's major industries, including Northern Clay Company. He also formed a banking firm on Main Street with Oscar Christopher and Henry Howard. In 1908, he was appointed Assistant Attorney General of Washington by Governor John Atkinson and also served as a State Senator. His record of 44 years of service as Auburn City Attorney is particularly noteworthy. Knickerbocker was equally important as a shrewd land developer, having replatted a large portion of the town of Milner and annexing it to Auburn. There are also indications that his influence was instrumental in changing the town's name from Slaughter to Auburn, after his own hometown in New York.



Modeled on the popular American Four Square/Classic box house style, this two story structure has a distinctive low-pitched roof with wide eaves and matching north side dormer. The original shiplap siding has been stuccoed over. The two front doors appear to be the result of the house's conversion to apartments after World War II, a use which continues today.

**7** 25 "E" Street SW  
Arthur Meade Home  
Constructed 1908

Arthur Meade was part of the influential Meade family, who along with brothers Ernest and J.W., became important early civic and business leaders. Arthur served as Auburn's mayor and Ernest served several years as a councilman. Arthur Meade was also heavily involved in Slaughter's real estate market. He filed two plats, Meade's first and second additions in 1891, on land west of the old Puget Sound Railway tracks to "D" Street N.W. and from Main Street West to Third Street N.W. He was also a farmer/dairyman and operated the Auburn Creamery as a family business. His brother, Ernest, who operated a bicycle shop at the turn of the century became Auburn's first automobile dealer and garage owner (Meade's Motor Company). The Meade home is slightly altered, but a distinctive local example of the popular American Four Square house type.

**8** 424 Main Street West  
Frederick and Isabelle Berner Home  
Constructed 1909

Frederick Berner worked in the building trade and may have built this home. The gracefully sloping main roof with full width porch and the distinctive stonework are particularly noteworthy on this intact early 20th century cottage. Original clapboard siding, kneebraces and cottage windows also distinguish this house.

**9** 232 "C" Street NW  
Farmer's Warehouse  
Constructed ca. 1922

By 1875, Valley residents organized King County's first chapter of the Patrons of Husbandry, the White River Grange No. 9. Through the crop failures, floods and other hardships, the Grange movement experienced a revival, with the Auburn Grange No. 347 being organized on December 21, 1909. These efforts to consolidate political strength eventually led to the formation of cooperatives to augment grain, hay and seed purchases. Early examples included the Auburn Farmer's Cooperative from 1911-15 and the Farmer's Warehouse Company formed in 1917. Led by David Griffith for its first two decades, the Farmer's Warehouse grew to become one of the largest farmer-owned feed supply businesses in the area.



This prominent local landmark includes several distinctive features: a three-story grain elevator, an unusual curved form defined by the adjacent railroad tracks and clay tile exterior cladding which is indicative of another local institution, the Northern Clay Company.

**10** 325 "A" Street NE  
Elmer W. Murphy Home  
Constructed ca. 1925

This particularly distinctive Tudor Revival home is Auburn's best example of this popular 1920s design trend. Early ownership records show that the home was sold in 1926 by Joseph E. Nelson to Elmer W. & Elizabeth Murphy on a real estate contract. Nelson was an employee of the Northern Clay Company, which is undoubtedly why locally fabricated clay tile was chosen as a cladding material. The desire to use clay tile may have been a decisive factor in the choice of the Tudor Revival style as well. Murphy ran a small feed store on the corner of First and "B" SW for several years.



**11** 324 "B" Street NE  
Oscar & Ellen Blomeen Home  
Constructed 1912-1914

This unique house was designed by an owner/builder who combined popular late 19th and early 20th century features successfully to create a particularly distinctive residence. Of spe-

cial note are the corner turret with conical roof and ornate curved verandah derived from the Queen Anne style, and the low-pitched roof form with wide overhangs, exposed rafters, ornate kneebraces and shingle cladding derived from Craftsman stylistic influences.

Oscar Blomeen and his future wife, Ellen Wennergren, were Swedish immigrants who came to America in 1901. They were married a few years after immigrating, had a son, Nels, born in 1909, and moved to a house on "E" Street SW. Oscar and his twin brother, Carl, opened a machine shop on Main Street. Oscar later went to work as a machinist for Borden's Condenser. Between 1911 and 1912, the Blomeens purchased two lots on what was then called Catalpa or Nevada Street (now known as "B" Street NE) and built a small house on the north lot. After the birth of two daughters, Elsie and Lela, plans were made to build a larger home. The story told by the Blomeen children is that disparaging comments made by neighbors regarding their small house amidst this street of "finer" homes led Oscar to retreat to his basement. After three days, he had drawn up the plans for this substantial home. He reportedly carried the lumber on his back from a Main Street lumber yard, and he finished building the home himself in two years.



During World War I, Oscar worked in the Bremerton Navy yard and rented out the "Big House" to a Mrs. Stone, who operated Auburn's first hospital here in order to deal with the 1917-19 influenza epidemic. She later used it as a maternity ward. The small operating room and tiny assistant's medicine room are still in place on the second floor.

**12** 325 "B" Street NE  
William B. & Carrie Mendenhall Home  
Constructed 1911

Another intact example of popular early twentieth century housing built in Auburn during an era of commercial and residential growth.

**13** 315 "B" Street NE  
C.V. Lockridge Home  
Constructed 1909

One of Slaughter's earliest pioneer families, dating back to the 1870s, was the J.T. Lockridge family. Clem Lockridge, their son, was the area's first teacher and also worked as a carpenter and farmer. He served on the City Council from 1891-1893 and later from 1919-1920, as well as on numerous civic boards and commissions. Clem and his wife, Pinckney, bought this house in 1918 and lived here for the following two decades.

**14** 307 "B" Street NE  
C.E. Beach Home  
Constructed 1914

This well-preserved home exhibits a variety of arts and crafts era architectural influences popularized in the early 20th century. Note the combination of clapboard shingle cladding, prominent porch supported by ornamented columns, kneebraces and second floor horizontal banding, ornate cottage style windows, and low-pitched roof with overhangs and exposed rafters.

**15** 305 "B" Street NE  
C.V. Lockridge Home  
Constructed 1916

This street includes several distinctive examples of the bungalow, a house type built locally from 1905 to 1925 and popularized via magazines and builder's catalogs. This house was originally built for C.V. Lockridge, an early pioneer teacher, farmer and civic leader. This house includes such popular features as patterned shingle and clapboard claddings, the prominent porch with tapered square brick columns, exposed beams with interlocking corners, wide eaves, and bungalow style windows.

**16** 306 Auburn Avenue  
Auburn Carnegie Public Library  
Constructed 1914

From two fortuitous occurrences, a \$9,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation in 1912 and the donation of two lots adjacent to his own home by Arthur Ballard, son of town founder Levi Ballard, the City of Auburn was able to build its first library. The building continued to serve local residents as such until 1962 when a new library was built. The building now houses the Auburn School of Dance and Music.

Carnegie libraries typically share common architectural features and design elements. Auburn's Carnegie Library was distinguished by a typical, massive foundation and daylight basement, hipped roof and prominent central entry. It is believed that the specific architectural design and features of this library were repeated in a library at Limerick, Ireland. The Auburn Carnegie Public Library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, due to its historic associations and architectural integrity.

**17** 326 Fourth Street NE  
Charles W. & Edith Ehrlich Home  
Constructed 1921

This modest side-gable bungalow includes a distinctively low pitched main and porch roof, patterned shingle cladding and prairie style mulioned windows. Small, carefully-designed residences, such as this, are indicative of this era of prosperity when home ownership became possible for many of the new citizens of Auburn.

**18** 337 Fourth Street NE  
W.A. & Nellie Miller Home  
Constructed 1922

This is a particularly noteworthy bungalow style home which exhibits several definitive features: multiple low pitched roofs with broad overhangs and kneebraces at the gable ends, exposed rafter ends, prominent entry porch, long

one-story form and bungalow style windows.

**19** City Park - Fourth Street NE and "E" Street NE  
Northern Pacific Locomotive #2152

Auburn's first park, City Park, opened in 1926. Its 15 acres included a "tourist" section with stoves, showers, and hot & cold running water. The park is now home to Northern Pacific Engine #2152, built by Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia in 1908. The engine is a reminder of the importance of the railroad in Auburn history.

**20** 422 Third Street NE  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
Constructed 1925-1927

As one of Auburn's oldest remaining churches, built in a modest English Gothic Revival style, it reflects the important role of organized religion in the social history and physical development of the community. Sadly, the great majority of early churches built during Auburn's first 30 years are now gone.

**21** 1031 Fourth Street NE  
W.O. & Estelle Roe Home  
Constructed 1922

A Northern Pacific engineer, W.O. Roe, and his wife bought this lot in 1918, and within a few years built this prominent bungalow style home. A number of similarly styled homes were built along East Main during this era. This particular home is noted for its gable-roofed porch with truss supports, graduated brick piers/railing with large overhangs and exposed rafters.

**22** 104 "L" Street NE  
Washington & Esther Taylor Home  
Constructed 1890

Tax records indicate that this home may be one of Auburn's oldest surviving residences. The historic character of the house, the main front gable and wing (with cut-away porch) vernacular house form is evident. This was a particularly popular late 19th century residential house type commonly built throughout the region.

**23** 1043 East Main Street  
William T. Behne Home  
Constructed 1915

Purchased in 1923 from F.T. Jenks, Behne began as a cashier at Auburn State Bank and ultimately rose to become president of First National Bank in Auburn. He continued living here for several decades.



This is one of Auburn's most distinctive residences and its most architecturally important bungalow style home. The design includes several unique features popularized by *Bungalow Magazine* during the era. Note the native river rock foundation, particularly low pitched roof forms which intersect at the wrap-around porch, deep kneebraces, wide roof overhangs, exposed rafter ends and patterned shingles.

**24** 905 East Main Street  
Dr. Irvin Finkenstein Home  
Constructed 1925

Dr. Finkenstein, a respected physician at the Taylor-Lacey (later known as the Suburban) Hospital, had this Spanish Eclectic style house built for himself and his wife, Audrey. This is Auburn's most noteworthy example of Spanish-inspired architecture and includes several distinctive features: red tile roof with a stepped parapet roofline, stucco wall finishes, several arched openings and a prominent chimney.



**25** 901 East Main Street  
Charles & Jane Cavanaugh Home  
Constructed 1930

This prominent residence exhibits features derived from popular 19th century architectural styles, although in a minimal fashion typical of the depression era.

**26** 840 East Main Street  
Marcus Manson Home  
Constructed 1924

Marcus and Capitola Manson had this elegant, yet somewhat eclectic, home built. Manson was the local druggist who ran the Auburn Drug Company, a business which still operates today as the Auburn Pharmacy, formerly Rexall Drug.

**27** 14 "I" Street SE  
Way Scarff Home  
Constructed 1924

Several residences with archetypal bungalow features are located along "I" Street SE. This house includes the prototypical full width porch with tapered columns resting on massive masonry piers, decorative railing, patterned windows, sidelights and door, exposed rafters with wide overhangs and low pitched roof.

The house appears to have been built for F.J. Francisco during an era of local prosperity and physical expansion. It was later owned by Auburn's well-known Ford automobile dealer, Way Scarff and his wife Della.

**28** 15 "I" Street SE  
Charles I. Peckenpaugh Home  
Constructed 1924

Although used initially as a rental, local druggist Charles Peckenpaugh and his wife, Lillian, moved in ca. 1927 and continued to reside here until the early 40's. This



house differs slightly from the adjacent Scarff Home due to its double dormers and series of square porch posts. This formality and symmetrical form are indicative of the strong Colonial Revival style influence during the 1920s.

**29** 116 "I" Street SE  
Constructed 1925

This distinctive residence was purchased in 1926 by a local millwright, J.M. Neilson, the son of pioneer and early mayor Robert Neilson. He lived here for the next 20+ years. This house exhibits a combination of clapboard and shingle cladding, in addition to other typical bungalow features such as a broad porch, low pitched roof forms and wide overhangs with brackets.

**30** 124 "I" Street SE  
Constructed 1931

This house appears to have been built by A.B. Joslyn, a local builder and contractor active during this era. The Bert Boyd family, local Dower Lumber Co. manager, lived here in the mid 1930s. The house exhibits the typical popular Bungalow style features including porch elements, bungalow windows and kneebraces. Although this was a dominant style for small houses built between 1905 and the early 1920s, few houses of this style were built after 1930.

**31** 126 "I" Street SE  
Glenn Nelson Home  
Constructed 1923

This house was also built by A.B. Joslyn and sold to Glenn Nelson the same year it was constructed. Its outstanding bungalow features include windows with transoms and prominent kneebraces. This small house type was popularized throughout the region and the nation by magazines and pattern book plans; part of its attraction was due to its efficiency and price.

**32** 201 "I" Street SE  
A.R. Ewing Home  
Constructed 1924

Purchased in 1924 by a local Northern Pacific engineer, A.R. Ewing, this home exemplifies the combining of popular bungalow and Colonial Revival features. Of particular note are the prominent gabled porch with arched entablature and gable end returns, the clipped gable roof form and bungalow windows.

**33** 204 "C" Street SE  
Miksell Home  
Constructed 1918

Among the distinctive features of this house is the variegated cladding which includes wide wood siding and narrow clapboard and butt shingles. It's 1-1/2 story front gable form with symmetrical window and porch placement and Craftsman features is a popular late 19th and early 20th C. house type.

**34** 214 "E" Street SE  
August & Grace Roehl Home  
Constructed 1924

August Roehl, town Marshall from 1905-1911, had this Colonial Revival influenced bungalow built. During the mid-1930s, E.A. Oakley, a local teacher, high school principal and Auburn school superintendent resided here. Of particular note are the Colonial inspired sunrise or fan pediment ornamentation in the porch gable end and sidelights at the entrance, now altered.

**35** 220 "D" Street SE  
Wm E. & Harryet Miller Home  
Constructed 1913

Most probably built for Mr. Miller, a Northern Pacific engineer, this house reflects the new economic prosperity and related building boom which Auburn experienced during this period. Craftsman style in character, the house exhibits popular features often associated with the bungalow house type: full width porch, kneebraces with wide overhangs and bargeboards, exposed rafter ends. This house includes other features borrowed from European (Swiss) models; small multi-pane sash and bracketed window balcony.

**36** 127 "E" Street SE  
Edgar Stuver Home  
Constructed 1907

This was undoubtedly one of the first houses built on this block and was transferred in December, 1919, from Edgar & Helen Stuver to Charles Vetreas, a local Northern Pacific fireman. The house is distinguished by the unique feature of a cross-gabled and bell cast roof form. Other distinctive features which date this residence are the polygonal bay on the south elevation and the porch columns.



**37** 115 "E" Street SE  
Chrisman J. & Jessie Kantzer Home  
Constructed 1920

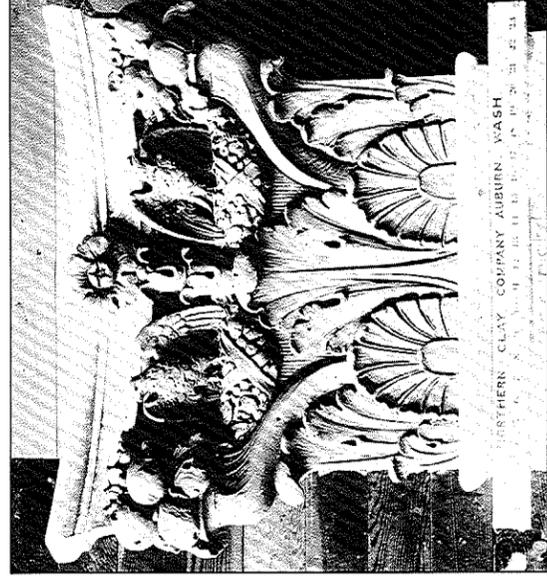
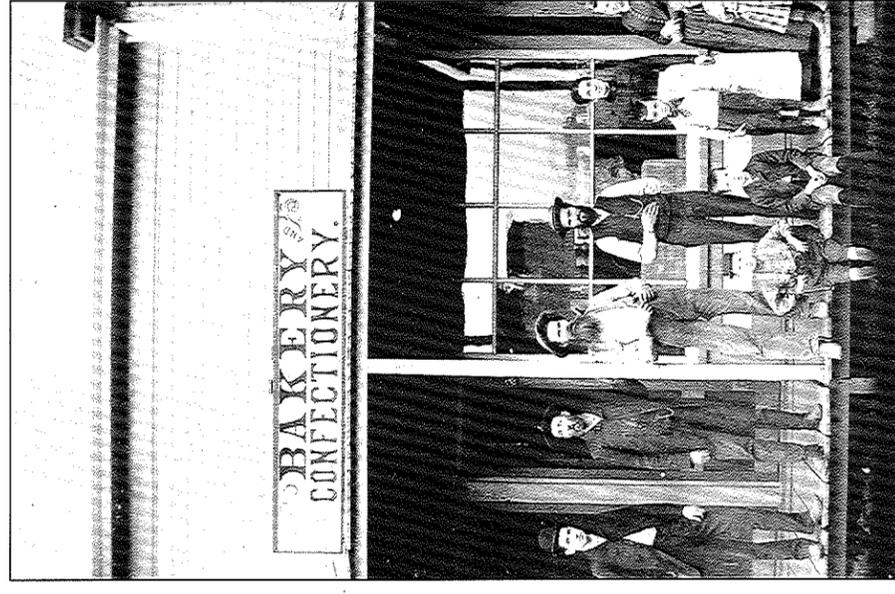
This Craftsman inspired bungalow features particularly distinctive porch columns in addition to the highly stylized river rock outcroppings placed in the brick masonry chimney, porch foundation and columns. Due to these noteworthy details this house is one of Auburn's most important examples of popular early 20th C. house types.

**38** 510-514 East Main Street  
Lucart Apartment & Grocery Building  
Constructed 1924

When first built, this two-story brick and clay tile building housed Robert Lucart's grocery store and four second floor apartments. Relatively unaltered, it exhibits a distinctive stepped parapet and wooden cornice. Note the use of clay tile on the west elevation, a commonly utilized building material due to the proximity to the Northern Clay Company's local plant.

# Auburn Historic Sites Tour

A tour of historical and architectural sites in Auburn, Washington.



This brochure was produced by the City of Auburn Planning & Community Development Department. Original research and writing by Jim Gorman. Tour and descriptions compiled by Kate Krafft of Krafft & Krafft, Seattle, WA. We would also like to thank the White River Valley Historical Museum, Cavanaugh's Ace Hardware, and the Washington State Archives for their assistance.



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Council Members  
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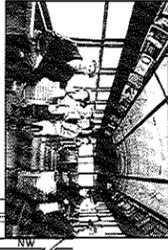
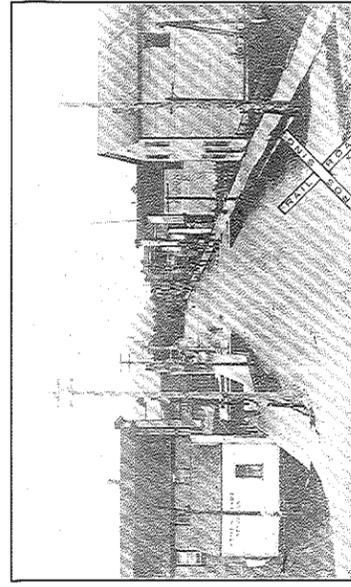


## From Wilderness to Urban Community\*

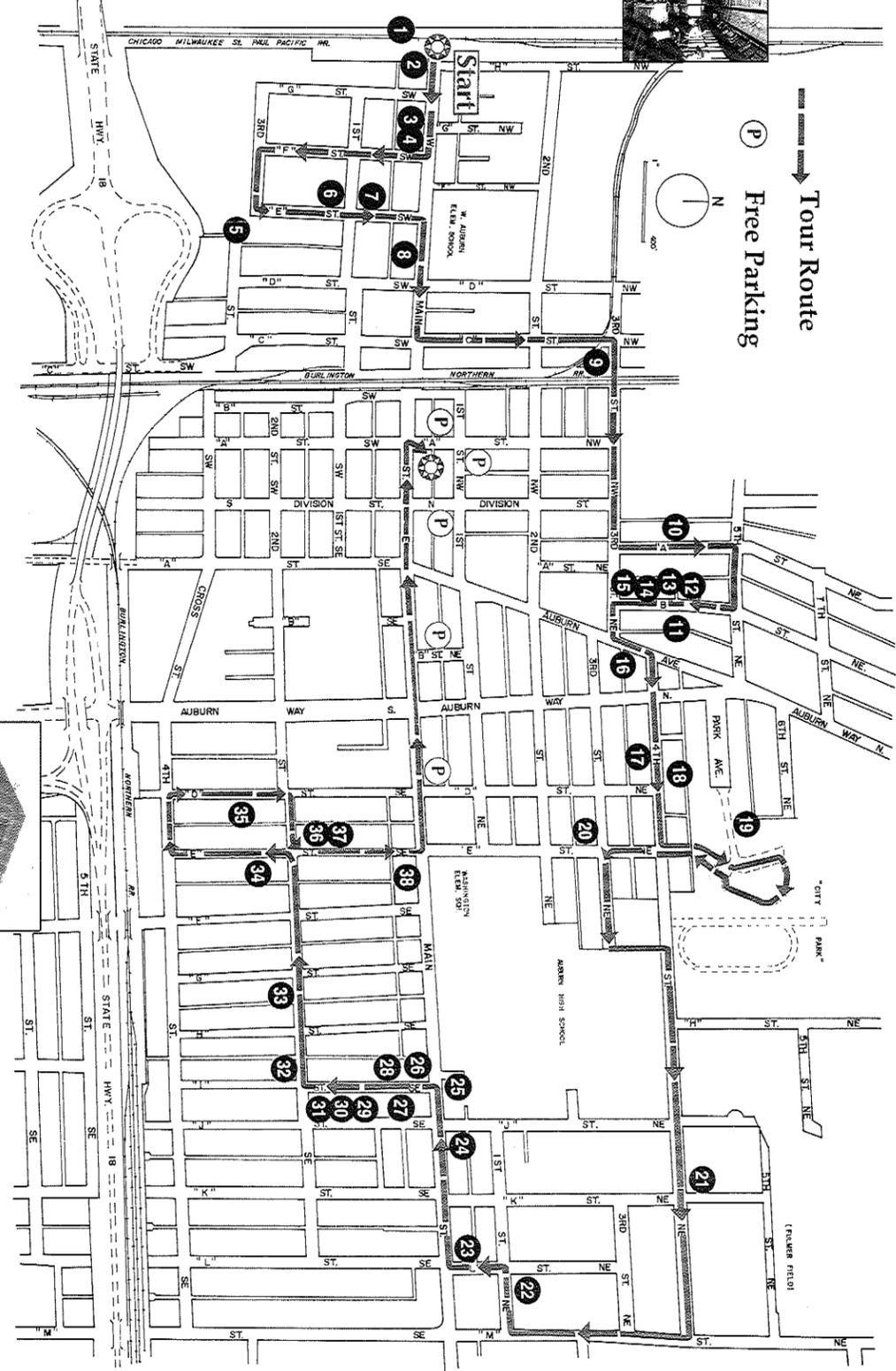
One hundred years ago, the White River Valley was covered with rich vegetation, swamps, and dense forests. It was a place where peoples' lives were continually challenged by unpredictable floods, and where native Americans fished and held potlaches at the convergence of the Green and White Rivers. The story of the White River Valley, the people who settled there, and the development of a little town called Slaughter, which today is known as Auburn, Washington, is reflected in the historic buildings and sites included in this walking/driving tour.

From the time the first frontier residents created a settlement out of a wilderness, their hopes and dreams, combined with self-reliance and hard work, created a lasting legacy of a strong and united community. The metamorphosis of a small frontier outpost into a well developed industrial center is an interesting story. While Auburn's physical appearance and character has greatly changed over the past one hundred years, many important historic and cultural resources associated with its development remain as part of our present, as the town embraces the challenges of the next century and beyond.

\* Paraphrased from the book, Auburn: A Look Down Main Street, (C) 1990, City of Auburn.



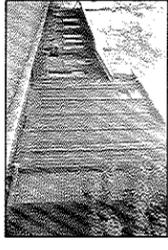
**1 West Main Street**  
**Interurban Railway**  
This right-of-way marks the site of the Seattle-Tacoma Interurban Railway, which was officially opened to traffic on Sept. 25, 1902. The fare was 60 cents for a one-way ticket or \$1.00 for a round trip. The line connected Auburn to both Seattle and Tacoma; local trains could reach Seattle in 52 minutes or Tacoma in 36 minutes. On the level track between Auburn and Renton the Interurban's electric trains could reach speeds of 60 miles per hour, which seemed amazing at the time. The Interurban helped initiate a period of unprecedented economic growth in the valley, helping connect local farms and industry to larger markets.



**2 702 West Main Street**  
**Auburn Dairy Products**  
Constructed ca. 1938

Auburn Dairy Products was established by James J. Rice in the mid-1920s. Members of the Rice family had been farming in the Slaughter/Auburn area since the 1880s. In 1903, the Borden Company of New York opened a condensed milk processing plant in Auburn due to accessible rail transportation and the abundance of local dairy products. The Borden plant, a particularly important industrial employer in Auburn, was destroyed by fire in 1933. This local dairy products company continues to be operated today as a tangible link with Auburn's early historical associations with farming and the dairy industry.

**3 622 West Main Street**  
**Natsuhara's Store**  
Constructed 1914

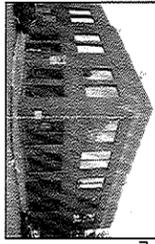


Chiyokichi (Charles) Natsuhara came to the United States from Japan in 1899 to work on the railroad. He began farming in Auburn in 1901 and was joined by his wife in 1905. In 1916, the family opened C. Natsuhara and Sons, a store which sold farm supplies and oriental foods. Natsuhara's had customers located throughout the state and Northwest. His fresh berry shipping business took the

Natsuhara name to Eastern Washington and into Montana. During World War II, a close family friend took care of the property while the entire family was interned by the U.S. Government. Upon the family's return, Frank Natsuhara, Charles' son, rebuilt the business based on the same traditions of his father. Natsuhara's continues to offer specialty and imported merchandise to Valley residents.

Until ca. 1960, this wood-frame commercial building had a modest false front facade with traditional wooden storefront display windows. Of additional interest and located to the rear (south) of the store are old family living quarters and rental units originally constructed to house immigrant Japanese farm workers.

**4 602 West Main Street**  
**Old Legion Memorial Hall**



Now extensively remodeled and used as a facility for community services, this structure was originally built for the National Guard and used as a stable, storerooms, and drill and officers facilities. It was subsequently remodeled and on October 14, 1921, dedicated as Auburn Post 78 of the American Legion. The Legionnaires were one of numerous fraternal/social organizations who utilized this building and played an important role in the development of the community.

**5 224 "E" Street SW**  
**James Andrew McHugh Home**  
Constructed 1919-1920

Born in County Sligo, Ireland, in 1863 to John and Bridget McHugh, James came to this county in 1881 at the age of 18. He worked in New York iron mines, did some blacksmithing, and then moved west. After an unsuccessful land claim effort in Bellingham, he settled on 40 acres next to the Green River and started farming. Although sidetracked during the Yukon Gold Rush, he returned to farm another 70-acre plot on the Green River and started a dairy business. With the aid of self-devised fertilizer-manure collectors and crop rotation, he developed one of the most productive farms in the Valley. This home was built for his wife, Barbara, and their children on a separate 8-acre development.