

This self-guided tour booklet is produced by the City of Colville
Historic Preservation Commission. You may download
this booklet from: www.colville.wa.us/history.

The HPC was established in 1996 to identify Colville's historic
resources, define historic districts, and fulfill the duties of
review for special tax valuation of historic properties
that have been renovated.

Our mission:

**“Safeguard our historic resources through
advocacy, education, and collaboration”.**

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170 South Oak Street Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-5096

Statewide TDD Relay Service 1-800-833-6388



**Pictured above: Colville City Hall
Built 1937**

*Disclaimer: The information contained in this tour guide
was obtained by members of the HPC through various
sources and is subject to change. Documentation is kept on
file at the City of Colville Building & Planning Department.
(October 2013)*

City of Colville Washington Incorporated: 1890



Local Historic Plaque Recipients Self-Guided Tour



**34. 407 E. Birch Avenue
J.U. Hofstetter House
1882**

Local Plaque Recipient
Considered the “Father of Colville”, this is the site of the first home of John & Mary Hofstetter known to be within the Colville city limits. Their original home was next to their regionally-known brewery on Main Street & Birch Avenue, where the Town Center and Sun Rentals are now located.



**35. 300 E. Birch Avenue
DuPuis House
1897**

Local Plaque Recipient

The DuPuis brothers owned the Colville Meat Market. This was the first brick residence in Colville; some of the original stained glass still remains, which can be easily seen from the Elm Street side.



**36. 369 S. Main Street
Smith Motel
1952**

Local Plaque Recipient
The motel was constructed by Mr. & Mrs. Howard Smith and originally known as “Smith Motel”. They chose a simple, modern style, which was common for post-WWII era. Although the name has changed a few times over the years, it has always been used as a motel. The current name is “The Selkirk Motel”.

Colville was the first community to develop a “Civic Center” in the state. Services represent Federal, County, and City governments.



**1. 215 S. Oak Street
Stevens County Courthouse
1938**

Local Plaque Recipient
This is the third documented location for the courthouse. The site contains a number of historical exhibits. It features garden-lined walkways and a water fountain that was restored to use in the summer of 2009, in conjunction with a renovation project at the courthouse.

**2. 195 S. Oak Street
Colville Public Library
1932**

Local Plaque Recipient

When the community started working towards building the library, William McKinley was quoted in the Colville Examiner in 1910: “There is no way in which a community can more benefit itself than in the establishment of a library that shall be free to all citizens.”



**3. 170 S. Oak Street
Colville City Hall
1937**

Local Plaque Recipient

The original building housed City Hall and the Fire Department. In 1979, the Police Department moved into the south half of the building when the Fire Department relocated to 1st Avenue. There is a small park located on the north side of the building.

**4. 204 S. Oak Street
United States Post Office
1938**

**National Historic Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient**

This is the second site for the local Post Office, being constructed as part of a Federal movement in the early 1930s to fund rural projects. Inside, there is original woodwork and Depression-era artwork on display.





**5. 230 S. Main Street
Ricky Block/Barman's
1892**

*National Historic Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient*

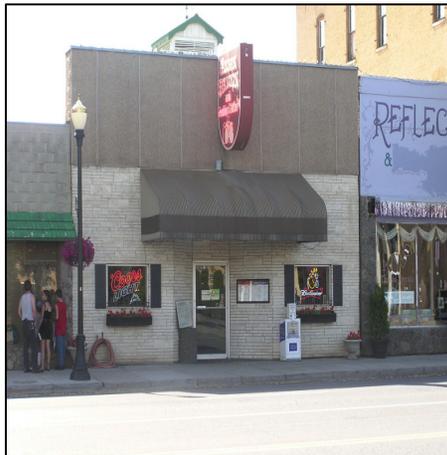
John Rickey was a local merchant and active in local politics. The original building was built in 1885 and blown up in 1892 to stop a fire next to it from spreading. It was replaced with the current building.



**6. 262 S. Main Street
Hall Building
1903**

Local Plaque Recipient

Charles Hall first opened a confectionary store; since then, there has been a variety of businesses, including restaurants, a theater, and the headquarters for the Colville-Spokane stage line. John and Jean Acorn purchased the building in 1986, remodeled it, and opened the Acorn Saloon & Feeding Station.



**7. 226 S. Main Street
Douglas/Skidmore Building
1903**

Local Plaque Recipient

Samuel Douglas was the first attorney in Colville and later one of the county's first probate judges. He constructed an apartment in the rear of the business – which exists to this day. He incorporated marble from a local quarry in the design; however, it was later removed.



**31. 453 E. Astor Avenue
Warren B. Lane House
1914**

Local Plaque Recipient

Mr. Lane purchased the R.E. Lee building on 1st & Main in 1915. He also started the Williams Lake Lumber Co. and Lane & Bronson Lumber Co.



**32. 1861 E. Hawthorne Avenue
Dominion Meadows Golf Course
(at the 9th Tee)**

**Rusch Brothers Brick Yard
1893 - 1910**

Local Plaque Recipient

This brick yard marked the beginning of masonry construction in this region. Lorenz Rusch, Sr., named the yard "Brothers" after his boys, John, Theodore, Joseph, Michael, Lorenz, and George. The pad at the 9th Tee is made from Rusch Brothers bricks.



**33. 615 S. Cedar Street
W.H. Bronson House
1910**

Local Plaque Recipient

Mr. Bronson was the founder of a lumber company, hardware company, and Bronson Implement Company.



**28. 458 E. 2nd Avenue
Cobe W. Winslow House
1906**

*National Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient*

The Winslow family constructed and operated the largest lumber mill in northeast Washington (at that time). This American Foursquare home was considered the largest home in town at time of construction.



**29. 512 E. 2nd Avenue
Marian Boyd-Daley House
1900**

Local Plaque Recipient

Marian Boyd was a local homesteader and business owner. She later married Frank Daley. The current owners state that this house was a boarding house in basic box-frame style; it has been renovated to a single family home reflecting Victorian style.



**30. 416 E. 1st Avenue
James Stitzel House
1899**

Local Plaque Recipient

Stitzel was a local photographer that specialized in weddings. His studio was across the street from Hotel Colville, where many weddings took place, which made it easily accessible for newlyweds to have photos taken.



**8. 200 S. Main Street
1937**

Collins Building
*National Historic Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient*

John Collins designed the building to house retail space on the ground floor and office space on the second level; as it is still used today. The style and materials used represent Art Moderne (post Art Deco).



**9. 173 S. Main Street
Bank of Colville
1907**

Local Plaque Recipient

The south half of the building was the original Bank of Colville. A year later, the north half was added, using a similar design; housing the Disheimer Building. The buildings have been combined; with Happy's Hallmark on the ground level and apartments above.

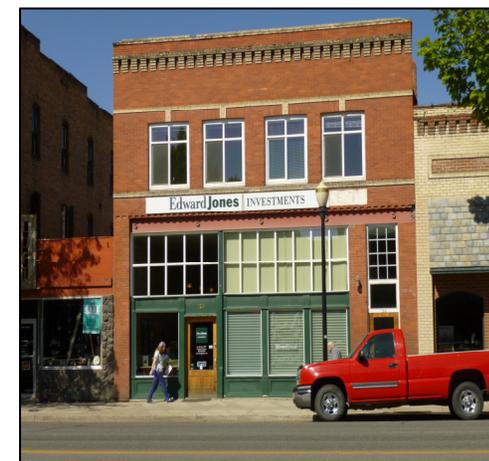


**10. 126 S. Main Street
Rickey Building / Wingham's Market**

1888 / 1913

Local Plaque Recipient

This site became well known as a city meat market. Charles Wingham bought the old city market in 1905; then in 1913 he tore it down and constructed an "up-to-date" facility that became known as "one of the best equipped and most modern meat markets in the northwest".





**11. 115 S. Main Street
Wolff / Bair Building
1885 / 1922
Local Plaque Recipient**

The first town marshal, Frances Wolff, constructed a two-story hotel on this site in 1885. Various uses followed until H.O. Bair converted it into a furniture store in 1911. In 1922, Bair replaced the original building with the current structure, as a furniture store.



**12. 151 W. 1st Avenue
IOOF Lodge/Opera House
1911**

*National Historic Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient*

This Renaissance Revival building was instituted by R.E. Lee (then Grand Master) in 1891 and constructed in 1911. The Oddfellows' private bar still exists inside the building. At one time, an Opera House operated there, which held community plays, concerts and dances.



**13. 466 W. 1st Avenue
Colville Flour Mills
1905
National Historic Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient**

Home of the first Log Cabin Flour and Pancake mix. Produced high-quality flour and grain products for 55 years. Much of the original machinery still remains in the upper floors.



**25. 404 N. Maple Street
M. A. Rodman House
1900
Local Plaque Recipient**

Mr. Rodman was the first publisher of "The Colville Examiner", now known as the Statesman Examiner, Colville's local newspaper. This is one of the earliest homes in the area and a fine example of early quality construction.



**26. 443 E. 4th Avenue
Earl & Bertha Strong House
1916**

Local Plaque Recipient

The Strongs were partners in a local bakery and later operated Strong's Variety Store on Main Street for 43 years. In his younger days, Earl Strong worked for the post office. Bertha was the daughter of Sheriff Bill Graham, who was known for his integrity and strong local support.



**27. 449 E. 4th Avenue
M. R. & Anna Strong House
1906
Local Plaque Recipient**

M. R. Strong was a pioneer blacksmith in the area, known for his ability to repair and rebuild trucks & trailers for timber hauling. He also handled horseshoeing. In later years, he worked for his son, Earl Strong, of Strong's Variety Store.



**22. 459 N. Maple Street
E.M. Heifner House
1890**

Local Plaque Recipient

E.M. Heifner started a hardware store in north section of the Hotel Colville, when it was in the Rickey Block building. Barman's now occupies the space where the hotel was located. This home has two "Widow's Walks" on the upper floor; derived from when wives would wait for their husbands' return from sea.



**14. 112 N. Main Street
Alpine Theater
1936**

Local Plaque Recipient

It still remains as an operational movie theater. Some remodeling has been done, but the original Art Deco architecture has been retained.



**23. 357 N. Elm Street
R.E. Lee House
1890**

Local Plaque Recipient

R.E. Lee was a local business man, politician, and community activist. Mr. Lee started a hardware store in 1890 in the building at Main Street & 1st Avenue, where the name is still being used for R. E. Lee's Shoes. The architecture is Queen Anne shingle, cross-gabled.



**15. 320 N. Main Street
Safeway Store
1941**

Local Plaque Recipient

Colville's first Safeway store opened at this location and was considered one of the most modern grocery stores in this part of the country at that time.



**24. 355 N. Maple Street
J. M. Stevens House
1890**

Local Plaque Recipient

Mr. Stevens was the local drayman at the transfer & storage in Colville who as "intimately associated with almost every business man in Colville" (Newspaper 1912). In 1915, Dr. Roy Wells bought it and used it as his home/medical office.



**16. 408 N. Main Street
Charles Mantz House
1899**

Local Plaque Recipient

Charles Mantz was very politically active; serving as a lawyer, prosecuting attorney, and a state senator. There was even a carriage house at one time, located where the garage is now, as seen from 4th Avenue.





**17. 700 N. Wynne Street
Keller House & Museum
1910**

*National Register
Washington Heritage Register
Local Plaque Recipient*

The house was built by J.H. Young of the Republic-Colville Stage Lines for his wife Anna Young-Keller. After widowed, Anna married Louis Keller, owner of Keller Hardware. The interior has some of the original furniture and some very unique and stylish decorations.



**19. 145 E. 6th Avenue
Dr. W. Diffenbacher House
1907**
Local Plaque Recipient

Dr. Diffenbacher was a local dentist. He was also the brother-in-law to Anna Young-Keller, of the Keller House. The Diffenbacher property and the Keller's 7-acre estate to the west used be adjoining, but the lots in between have been developed.

☀Leno Prestini Art Collection @ Museum

Leno was a well-known and admired individual in the Stevens County region. He was known for being eccentric (as seen in his signature, below) and for his unusual and controversial style of art. He produced paintings, sculptures, and inventions.

(Photos from HistoryLink.org and Clayton-Deer Park Historical Society website)



"Ghost Riders" 1954 ↑

← Diver Sculpture 1920s

Leno in his art studio in Clayton, WA 1940s →



**20. 510 N. Maple Street
Dr. O.F. Vinson House
1918**
Local Plaque Recipient

Dr. Vinson was a local dentist and property owner, and was active in many local organizations. This home is an excellent example of Craftsman style architecture.



**18. 103 E. 6th Avenue
American Legion
Frank Starr Post 47
1934**
Local Plaque Recipient

The interior has the original, cabin-like design with heavy timber rafters and a fireplace. Named after a local resident, Frank Starr, who was killed in action during WWI and buried in France.

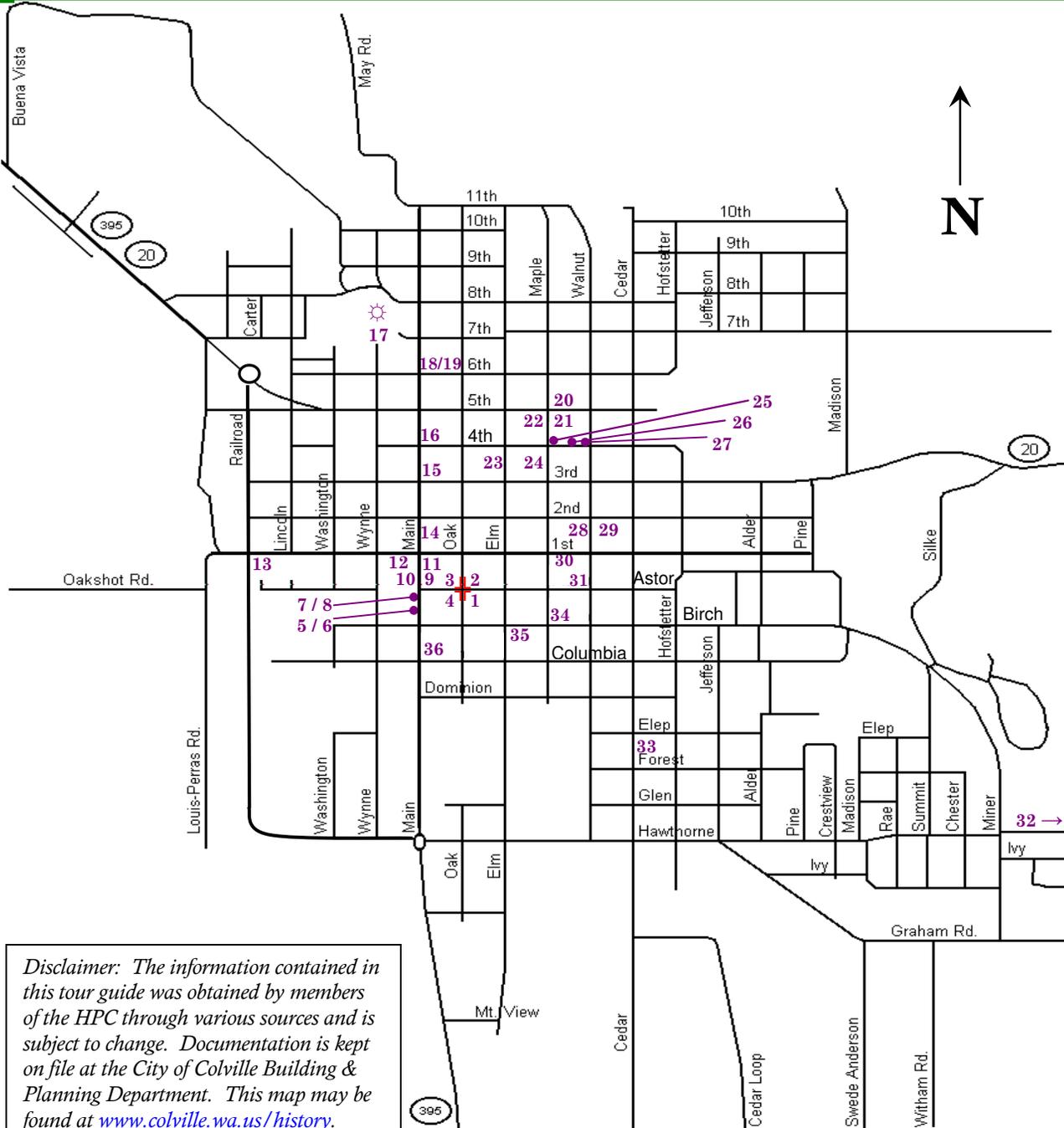


**21. 462 N. Maple Street
W. Lon Johnson House
1928**

Local Plaque Recipient
Lon Johnson contributed to the region in many capacities which included teaching, county clerk, local attorney, state senator, Lt. Governor and local judge. The grist mill stones displayed at the courthouse were donated by Judge & Mrs. Johnson.

**City of Colville
Washington
Incorporated in 1890**

**Local Historic Plaque Recipients
Self-Guided Tour Booklet**



- ‡ **Civic Center at Astor Ave & Oak Street**
1. Stevens County Courthouse ◊ 1938
 2. Colville Public Library ◊ 1932
 3. Colville City Hall/Police Dept ◊ 1937
 4. United States Post Office ◊ 1938
 5. J. Rickey Block/Barman's ◊ 1892
 6. C. Hall Bldg/Acorn Saloon ◊ 1903
 7. S. Douglas/Skidmore Building ◊ 1903
 8. John Collins Building ◊ 1937
 9. Bank of Colville/Hallmark ◊ 1907
 10. Rickey Bldg/Wingham's Mkt ◊ 1888/1913
 11. F. Wolff/H.O. Bair Building ◊ 1885/1922
 12. IOOF Lodge/Opera House ◊ 1911
 13. Colville Flour Mill ◊ 1905
 14. Alpine Theater ◊ 1936
 15. Former Safeway Store ◊ 1941
 16. Charles Mantz House ◊ 1899
 17. Keller House & Museum ◊ 1910
 - ☀ Leno Prestini Art Collection
 18. American Legion ◊ 1934
 19. Dr. W. Diffenbacher House ◊ 1907
 20. Dr. O.F. Vinson House ◊ 1918
 21. Judge Lon Johnson House ◊ 1928
 22. E.M. Heifner House ◊ 1890
 23. R.E. Lee House ◊ 1890
 24. J.M. Stevens House ◊ 1890 (also Dr. R. Wells)
 25. M.A. Rodman House ◊ 1900
 26. Earl & Bertha Strong House ◊ 1916
 27. M.R. Strong House ◊ 1906
 28. Cobe W. Winslow House ◊ 1906
 29. Marian Boyd-Daley House ◊ 1900
 30. James Stitzel House ◊ 1899
 31. Warren B. Lane House ◊ 1914
 32. Rusch Brothers Brick Yard
(Golf Course – 9th Tee) ◊ 1893-1910
 33. W.H. Bronson House ◊ 1910
 34. J.U. Hofstetter House ◊ 1882
 35. DuPuis House ◊ 1897
 36. Smith Motel ◊ 1952

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