

Resources:
 HistoryLink.Org
 WhitmanCountyHistoricalSociety.Org
 Historical Structures of Colfax: A Look at Architectural
 Impact on Historical Happenings by Caitlin Carroll
 Whitman County Rural Heritage Collection
 Colfax 100 Plus by Edith Erickson



Produced by the Rural Communities Design Initiative in the School of Design and Construction at Washington State University, under the direction of faculty Kathleen Ryan and Robert Krikac, with special thanks to Kristie Kirkpatrick and Patti Cammack of the Whitman County Library District, Washington Rural Heritage, and Ed Garretson of the Whitman County Historical Society.

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Colfax, WA
 HISTORIC WALKING TOUR
 For more information
 www.whitco.lib.wa.us

**Tour begins at
 Whitman County Library
 102 South Main Street**

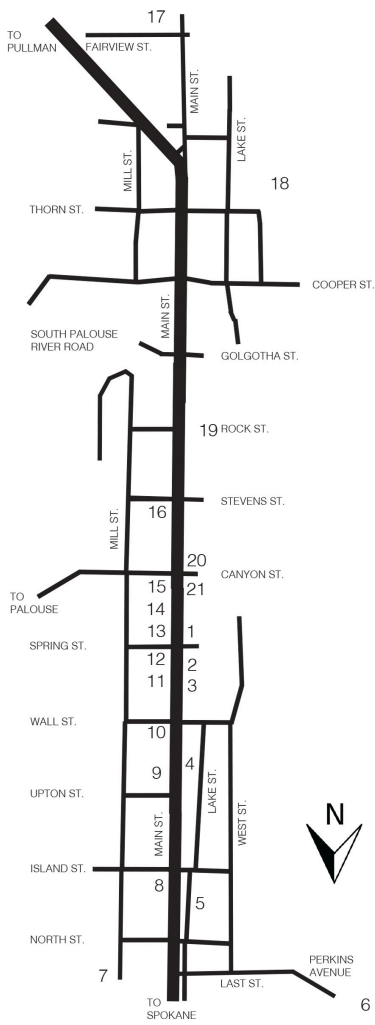


**1. COLFAX BRANCH, WHITMAN COUNTY LIBRARY
 102 South Main Street**

Built in 1960, the library was designed by renowned Spokane architect Warren C. Heylman, who was known for his unique, futuristic designs. During its construction, many Colfax residents complained about the library's aesthetics and outlandish cost of \$99,630. Today the library serves as a community hub. Praised as the Best Rural Library in Washington State, the library boasts a life-sized rainforest tree, expanded public computing and Wi-Fi access, comfortable seating and free coffee.



Prior to the library, the site housed the Lippett Brothers Department Store. Brothers Julius and William built the clothing store in 1869 on the corner of Spring and Main. Originally constructed of wood, it was replaced in 1905 with a brick building. After 1918 ownership changed many times with the building housing medical offices and other businesses.



**Colfax, Washington
 Historic Walking Tour**

**DOWNTOWN HISTORIC SITES
 & EXTENDED LANDMARKS**

THIS SELF GUIDED TOUR
 highlights many aspects of Colfax's history that shaped the town you see today. This brochure features sites selected for their prominence in history, their well-preserved architecture or their location.

BRIEF HISTORY OF COLFAX
 James Perkins and Thomas Smith were the first non-native settlers to the area that would become Colfax, claiming the land at the confluence of the north and south branches of the Palouse River on July 10, 1870. Visit stop #6 of this tour.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
 Visit the Colfax Library where you can access The Whitman County Heritage online collection, view the historic photo exhibit, explore the shelves of the library's history books or learn about other resources in the area.



**2. U. S. BANK (BARROLL BUILDING)
 101 North Main Street**

Built in 1905, the Barroll & Mahoney building housed Barroll Hardware. It was purchased by Farmer's National Bank in 1918 and remodeled to add marble floors and fixtures. There have been a series of banks in the building. Although built in 1905, the lower facade wasn't faced with terra cotta until 1920 and even after experiencing a renovation in 1985, the original windows have been retained.



**3. BINNARD BUILDING
 107 North Main Street**

In this empty lot just adjacent to U.S. Bank, was the Binnard building. Built in 1892, it was torn down in 1994.



**4. FRATERNITY BLOCK
 MASONIC LODGE
 207 North Main Street**

Designed by Walla Walla architect A. F. Perry, the structure was built in 1889 for the Hiram Masonic Lodge, which was the first Free Mason establishment north of the Snake River. When built, the structure cost \$12,000 to construct and included an 8 ft. tower. The building originally contained the offices of the Bank of Colfax, one of J. A. Perkins' business enterprises, and a millinery store. It's chief purpose however, was to house three fraternal lodges – the Masonic Hall, the Odd Fellows Hall, and the Knights of Pythius.



**5. ELLS PARK &
 LIPPETT
 FOUNTAIN
 400 North West St.**

A dedicated group of ladies formed the Park Association in 1911, one of them being Mrs. Julius Lippett. Upon completion of the park, she donated a fountain in honor of her daughter. Some people called this area Central Park or Lippett Park until 1933 when it was officially dedicated as the Cushing Ells Park in honor of the man who started the Congregational Church which was originally on this site.



6. PERKINS HOUSE
623 North Perkins Avenue

Built by James Perkins, the founder of Colfax in 1886, the house is now fully restored and tours are available by contacting the Whitman County Historical Society. The cabin behind the house was built in 1870 and is the oldest standing building in Whitman County.



7. FLORENCE FERGUSON HOUSE
504 North Mill Street

This 1914 Arts and Crafts house was built for Florence H. Ferguson, wife of Dr. Talbert Ferguson by Nis Skow. It is a mix of Tudor, Craftsman and Colonial elements. The formal entry is flanked by a full width living room on one side and dining room on the other. The home features 4 bedrooms, oak floors, mahogany trim, and a period-authentic garden.



8. WHITMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
400 North Main Street

This elaborate original building was opened to the public in 1891. When the building came into disrepair, the current courthouse was constructed around the original building in 1957, then the old building was torn down. A photo of the two building can be viewed on the Whitman County Heritage website.



9. WAITE & ELLIS BLOCK
220 North Main Street

The Waite and the Ellis Block buildings were constructed in 1893 and remodeled in 1916. The Waite housed The Fair (a clothing and department store) and The Commoner (newspaper and printing). The Ellis block housed Long's Variety Store and had apartments upstairs. In 1920 Linville Brothers Furniture purchased both the Waite and Ellis buildings, opening a passage between the two on the ground floor.



10. HOTEL COLFAX
200 North Main Street

Current location of the Whitman County Growers. The photo shows the original structure which, prior to 1892 was known as the Palace Hotel and later, the Colfax Hotel. The building eventually burned.



11. WHEELER MOTTER BUILDING

112 North Main St.
Built in 1892, this building is today the home of Fonk's Coffee House. It was originally the Great Eastern department

store which sold clothing, shoes, millinery, carpets and eventually groceries. In 1928 Fonks Variety Store opened as part of a national five and dime store chain. This photo shows the downtown during the Great Flood of 1910. Another major flood followed in 1948. The problem of period flooding in Colfax was finally eliminated thanks to installation of a downtown channel in the 1960s.



12. FIRST SAVINGS AND TRUST

102 North Main Street
This corner has been occupied by banks since 1905, including the modernist structure seen today. Remnants of the bank's columns create a grand entrance to the cemetery, 1/2 mile east of town on Hwy. 272.

13. SIMON DRIEFUS BLOCK AND NIXON BUILDING

105 - 111 South Main Street

Built in 1912 by Simon Dreifus and shown in the photo below, the building had a hardware store on the main floor and a dance hall upstairs. Modern for its time, it had an elevator from the basement to the second floor. Dreifus later served as mayor from 1931 to 1938.

Built the same year, the Nixon building had businesses on the main floor with lodging above. It was occupied by Washington Water Power for many years. Today the two buildings are occupied by Tick Klock Drug.



14. ROSE THEATER
115 South Main Street

Built in 1912, the Walker Building became the Rose Theater in 1916. It showed silent movies and the projection machines were cranked by hand. A manual organ provided synchronized background music for the shows. Robert Osborne of Turner Classic Movies fame got his start in high school at the Rose Theater. The building was remodeled

in 1920 with Architect Gutav Pherson designing the Mission Revival style facade.



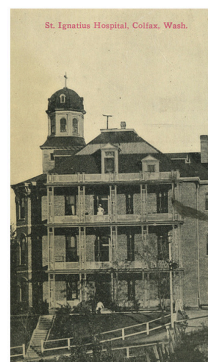
15. SCHMUCK BUILDING

121 South Main Street
Currently used for warehousing, the building was built in 1903. Former tenants include Lane's Food Store, O.V. Bryson Furniture, J. C. Penny, Phillip's Department Store, and Whitman Mall Antiques.



16. POST OFFICE
211 South Main Street

The first post office opened in 1872 and frequently changed locations, typically in local stores or small buildings. The first federally owned post office in the town of Colfax was built during the depression in 1932 and is shown above.



17. ST. IGNATIUS HOSPITAL

1009 South Mill St.

Completed in 1894, St. Ignatius Hospital was one of the best equipped institutions in the Pacific Northwest. The hospital saw many advancements and remodels until being replaced by Whitman Community Hospital in the 1960's. Today the building has fallen into disrepair and is rumored to be haunted.



18. HAMILTON SCHOOL
300 West Thorn Street

Built as Hamilton School in 1891, this 2 acre site is now home to Hamilton Park. During its 62 year lifespan the school served youth of all ages under a variety of names. Last known as Hamilton School in honor of a local pioneer, the building was demolished in 1953.

19. CODGER POLE
324 South Main Street

This 65 foot chainsaw sculpture commemorates high school football players from Colfax and St. John and their legendary game of 1938. The players returned 50 years later for a rematch that drew national attention and resulted in the pole's construction.



20. PASTIME THEATER

202 South Main Street

Originally built in 1903 the site became the Pastime Theater in 1912. The building has housed a variety of businesses in its lifetime, including Powell's Heating and Plumbing. It is now home to Greg's Electrical.



21. CITY HALL & FIRE STATION
400 North Mill Street

In 1913, Colfax City Hall and Fire Station anchored this Main Street corner. After a fire in 1915, the new building shown above became home to these city services. This building eventually burned as well.

Just north of City Hall was the site of the Elizabeth Miller building which served a number of functions and today is Hen House Chicks.