

The research, writing, illustrations, maps, and graphic design of the Pullman Walking Tour brochure was completed as part of the Spring 2014 Architecture 494/520 seminar in the School of Design and Construction at Washington State University (WSU), in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Pullman and the WSU Center for Civic Engagement. The class included third- and fourth-year undergraduate WSU Architecture students as well as graduate students in the Public History program.

The brochure was produced during an approximately six-week collaborative project that involved primary research and writing (Tyler Kinsella and Nyssa Runyan); graphic design and layout (Janessa Johnson and Josh Neumann); original sketches and maps (Ashley Kopetzky and Paige Perrault); marketing and publicity (Adam Louis and Savannah Lundahl); and two public presentations (Rachel Hall and Cody Jones). Advice, feedback, and support were provided by members of the Pullman Historic Preservation Commission and its principal client representative Matthew Root. The class was co-taught by Phil Gruen and Robert Franklin.

Comments or questions?

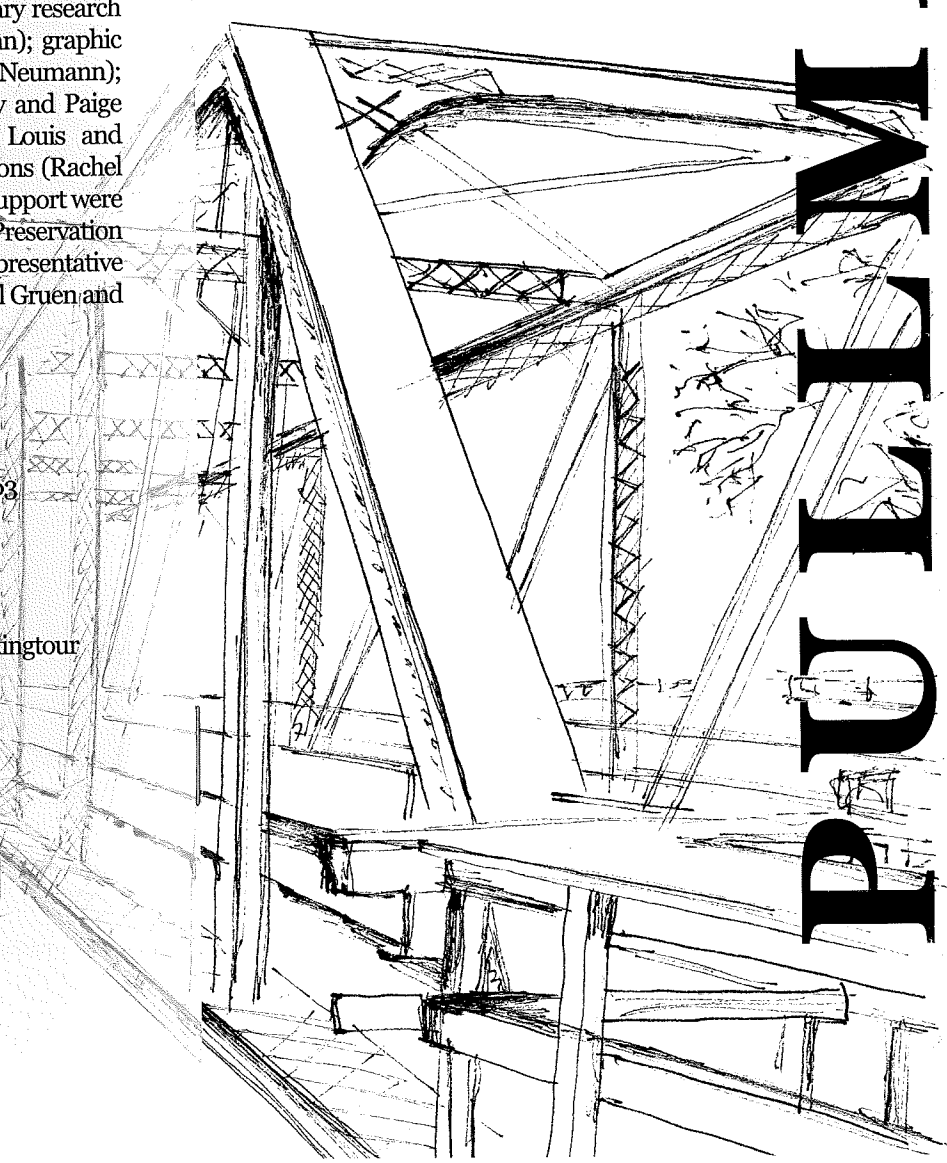
Pullman Chamber of Commerce  
415 N Grand Ave, Pullman WA 99163  
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pullmanchamber.com

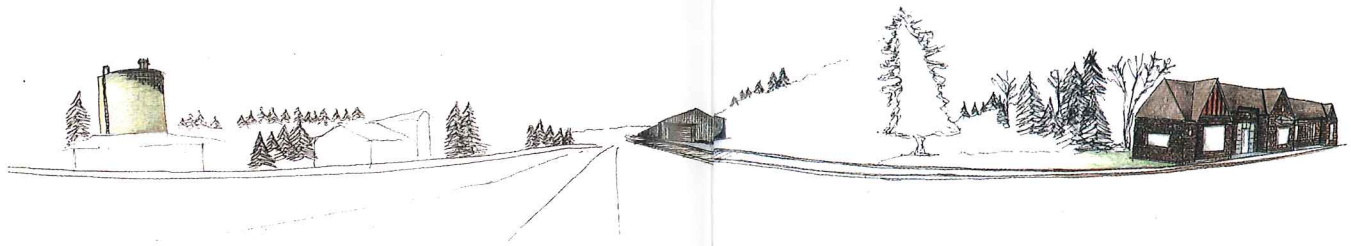
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A walking tour

PULLMAN



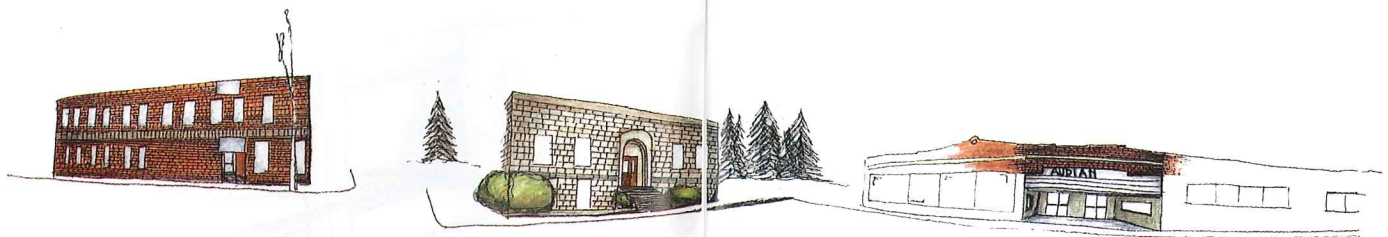


Welcome to Pullman, Washington! Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-term resident, we invite you to take a leisurely stroll through and around the downtown core of our city, exploring a handful of sites that offer an excellent cross-section of Pullman. In this approximately two-hour stroll, you will encounter buildings and landscapes that illustrate important moments in the history of the city and the region—from the commercial expansion of downtown in the early twentieth century, to agricultural symbols of the fertile surroundings of the Palouse, to the Pullman flood of 1910.

The walking tour follows a suggested path designed to maintain a relatively flat, accessible grade, bringing walkers past buildings and landscapes that highlight Pullman's history. By following the path, visitors can learn progressively about the city's efforts at open space development and environmental protection at Reaney Park, River Park, and Scout's Park (or their alteration); they will re-live the city's rail transportation growth at the O.R.&N.C. railroad bridge or the old depots for the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads; they can experience sites linked to regional agricultural production at the Dumas Seed Warehouse and the grain silo; and they can recapture Pullman's economic boomtown years at the Mason Building, Flatiron Building, Webb Block, and Russell Hotel. And much else besides.

Visitors wishing to concentrate on individual buildings or sites may enter the tour at any point, however. The twenty buildings and sites featured in this brochure are keyed to the map with icons that broadly indicate their meaning, and brief descriptions of significance—with important dates, notable individuals, and architectural styles accompanying heretofore little-known information—are linked with original hand-rendered sketches. Names of some buildings as they were known in 2014 are provided in parentheses next to the original names. More information about each site will be available online.

Yet the history of the built environment does not disclose itself with particular clarity. Places, especially cities, are complex entities; they encompass thousands of buildings and landscapes, each with many stories to tell. Pullman is no exception. This walking tour merely begins to unpack the complexity of the people, places, and things that have constituted our community over time. To that end, we hope this brochure will continue as a living document, engaging the public in a lively discussion about Pullman's history and its legacy in design and construction. With the assistance of online communication and social media, we hope it can be updated over time with relative ease. The creation and content of this walking tour brochure was the product of a Spring 2014 seminar in the WSU School of Design and Construction.



# 1

## Reaney Park

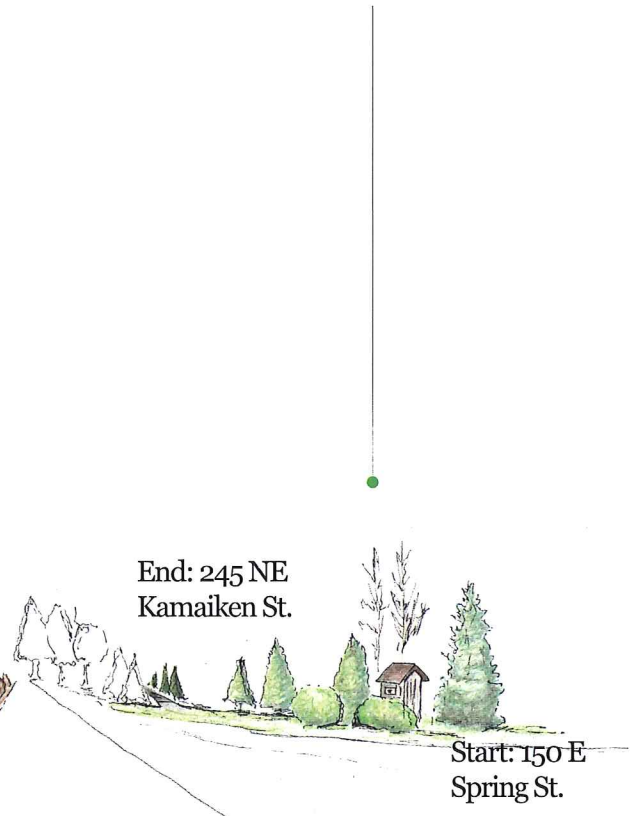
Pullman's oldest public park has served as an important community center and recreation spot for residents since 1914. Prior to purchase from Albert and Phoebe Reaney, the land was the site of a roller rink and livery stable for students at the fledgling college on the hill. Links between the park and the college grew in 1931, when the Kiwanis Club worked with architecture students to redesign the park with new paths, shrubs, trees, and a parking lot to accommodate the growing number of vehicles in Pullman. Today, Reaney Park is a popular summer gathering spot with its swimming pool, annual concert series, and the city's well-known National Lentil Festival.



# 2

## River Park

150 E Spring Street to 245 NE Kamaiken. The volunteer efforts of the Pullman Civic Trust transformed what had been a neglected riverfront site in 1983 into River Park. The park features a check dam, benches, and a storage shed designed by former WSU Architecture Professor Don Heil—structures designed to suggest the art and artwork of Pacific Northwest indigenous peoples. The River Park is now overseen by the City of Pullman, and an annual spring cleanup provides an opportunity for community involvement.

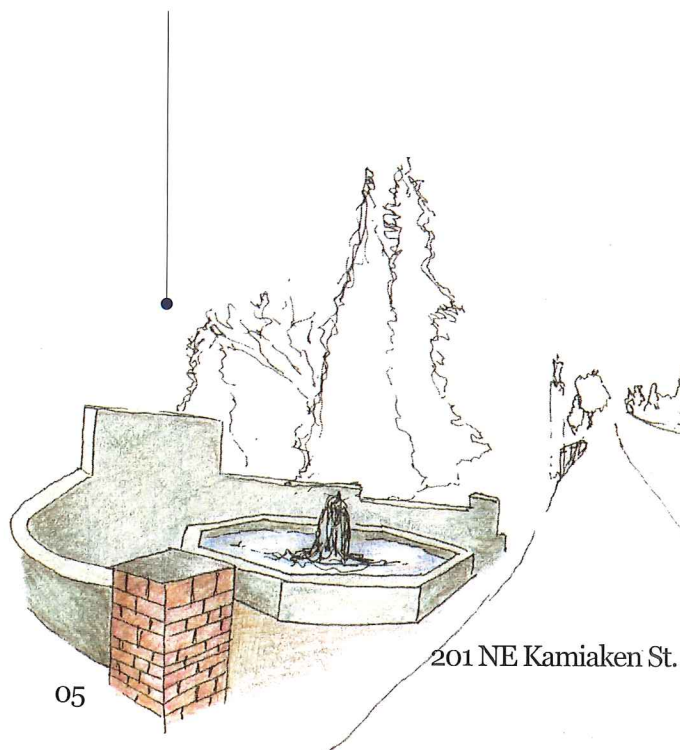




3

## Artesian Well

Near this site on May 24, 1889, contractors digging a downtown well discovered a confined natural aquifer beneath Pullman's rich soil. City officials quickly tapped into the pressurized groundwater, forcing several artesian wells to the surface and providing Pullman with a clean, reliable source of water. The presence of these wells convinced the Washington legislature in 1890 to locate the state land grant college in Pullman. The city relied upon these wells for several decades, until depleted groundwater eliminated their use by the 1970s. This fountain is a modern representation of Pullman's former legacy as "The Artesian City."

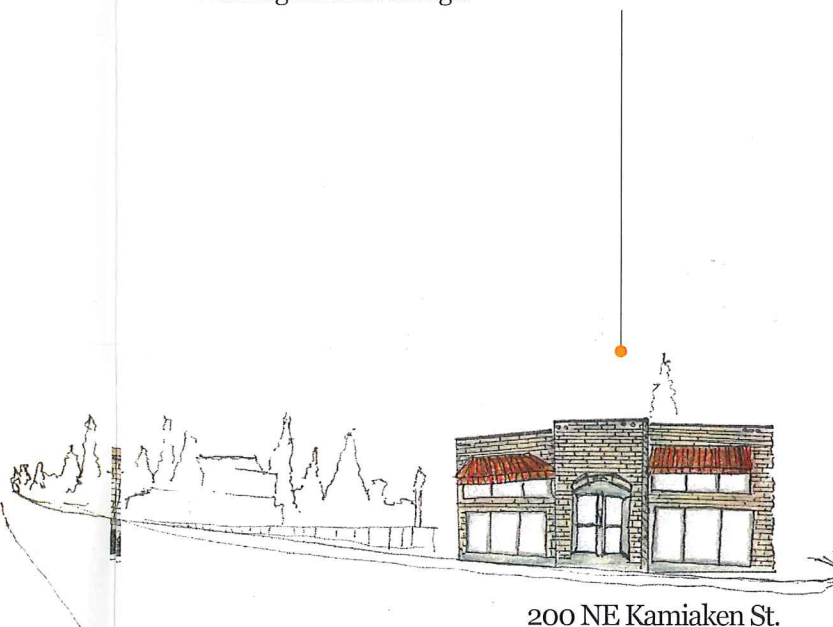


05

4

## Hutchison Studio (Porchlight Pizza)

Restaurants have occupied this space in recent years, but for much of the twentieth-century this building, with its Mission Revival features, housed a photography studio that documented the change and growth of Pullman. Built in 1926 by James Carson for the Artopho photography company, the building was best known as the Hutchison Studio following its 1927 purchase by Raymond Hutchison. The studio also was Pullman's principal location for portrait photography, and Hutchison himself once served as the official yearbook photographer of Washington State College.

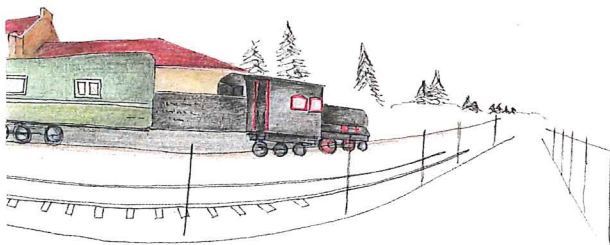


06

## 5 Northern Pacific Railroad Depot (Pufferbelly Depot)

In June 1916, the Northern Pacific Railroad replaced a smaller wooden structure with a distinguished passenger depot befitting the first transcontinental railroad to span the Pacific Northwest. The new station featured wrought iron grillwork, gabled parapets, brass fittings, oak furniture, and marble restrooms—some of which are still visible in the reconfigured lobby. During the first half of the twentieth century, the “Cougar Special” train departed from the depot and brought Washington State College students to and from Seattle.

330 N Grand Ave.



07

## Oregon Railway and Navigation Company Railroad Bridge

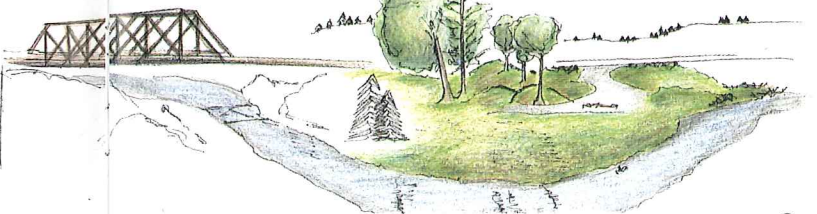
This steel Pratt through-truss bridge serves as a physical symbol of Pullman’s regional, national, and global reach. For many years, it has spanned the occasionally volatile South Fork of the Palouse River and has provided vital support for trains hauling agricultural products and passengers. The bridge suffered significant damage during the 1910 flood, but was reconfigured to ensure protection against future water events. It is still in use and located on private property.

## 7 Scout’s Park

This small, easily overlooked park hovers just above the intersection of Dry Creek and the South Fork of the Palouse River. It is widely believed that these waterways—along with Missouri Flat Creek that feeds into the South Fork of the Palouse River just to the north—inspired early European-American explorers to establish a townsite near this location. Years of sporadic flooding led city engineers, in 1990, to place much of Dry Creek in culverts underneath South Grand Avenue. Visitors to Scout’s Park can view several walking tour sites from the park benches.

245 NE  
Kamiaken St.

330 N  
Grand Ave.



08

## Grain Silo

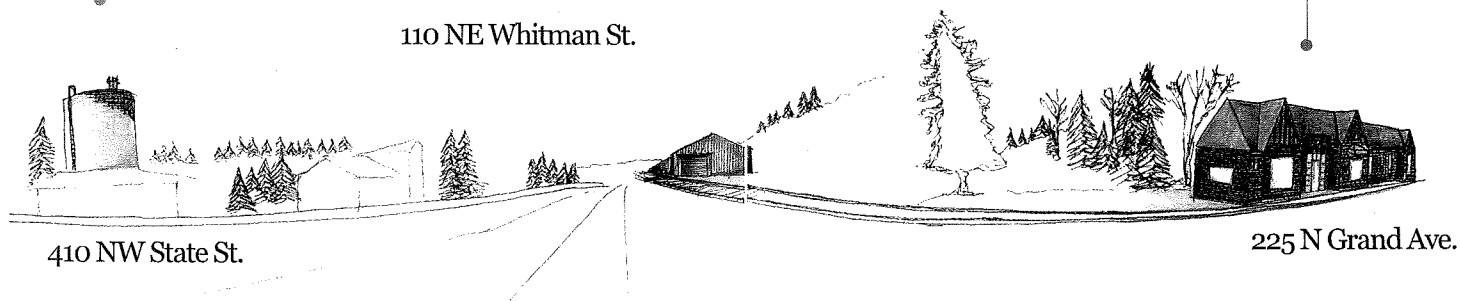
Downtown Pullman's tallest structure, this seventy-five foot concrete grain silo, built in 1954 for the Pullman Grain Growers, is a physical reminder of the principal crop for which the region is known: wheat. The ability to cultivate wheat on the rolling hills of the surrounding Palouse has been vital to the economic development of Pullman for more than a century. Since 1978, Whitman County has been the largest wheat-producing county in United States.

## Dumas Seed Warehouse

In the early 1960s, the visionary legume grower Edwin A. Dumas purchased a prefabricated building from the Butler Manufacturing Company in Galesburg, Illinois and had it shipped, by rail, to Pullman for the storage of locally-grown peas and lentils. Dumas earned international fame in the 1960s for initiating the sale of dry pea products from Pullman to Japan, and his pioneering work helped area farmers recognize that legumes could be used as rotation crops by restoring the nitrogen stripped from the soil by grains. The building's interior retains some of the machinery once employed in the pea-storing process.

## Union Pacific Depot (Umpqua Bank)

Passenger demand and a rising local population inspired the Union Pacific Railroad, in 1938, to rebuild an existing station to compete with the nearby Northern Pacific Railroad Depot. This new brick depot replaced an older nineteenth-century wooden structure, built originally for the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, and was in keeping with a variety of brick edifices that had risen both in downtown Pullman and at Washington State College earlier in the twentieth century. Now out of service as a depot, the Union Pacific logo still graces the north façade of the renovated structure. Original wooden beams are still clearly visible inside.



1 Reaney Park

2 River Park

3 Hutchison Studio

4 Artesian Well

5 Oregon Railway and Navigation  
Company Railroad Bridge

6 Northern Pacific Depot

7 Scout's Park

8 Dumas Seed Warehouse

9 Grain Silo

10 Union Pacific Depot

11 Cordova Theater

12 Mason Building

13 Webb Block

14 Flatiron Building

15 U.S. Post Office

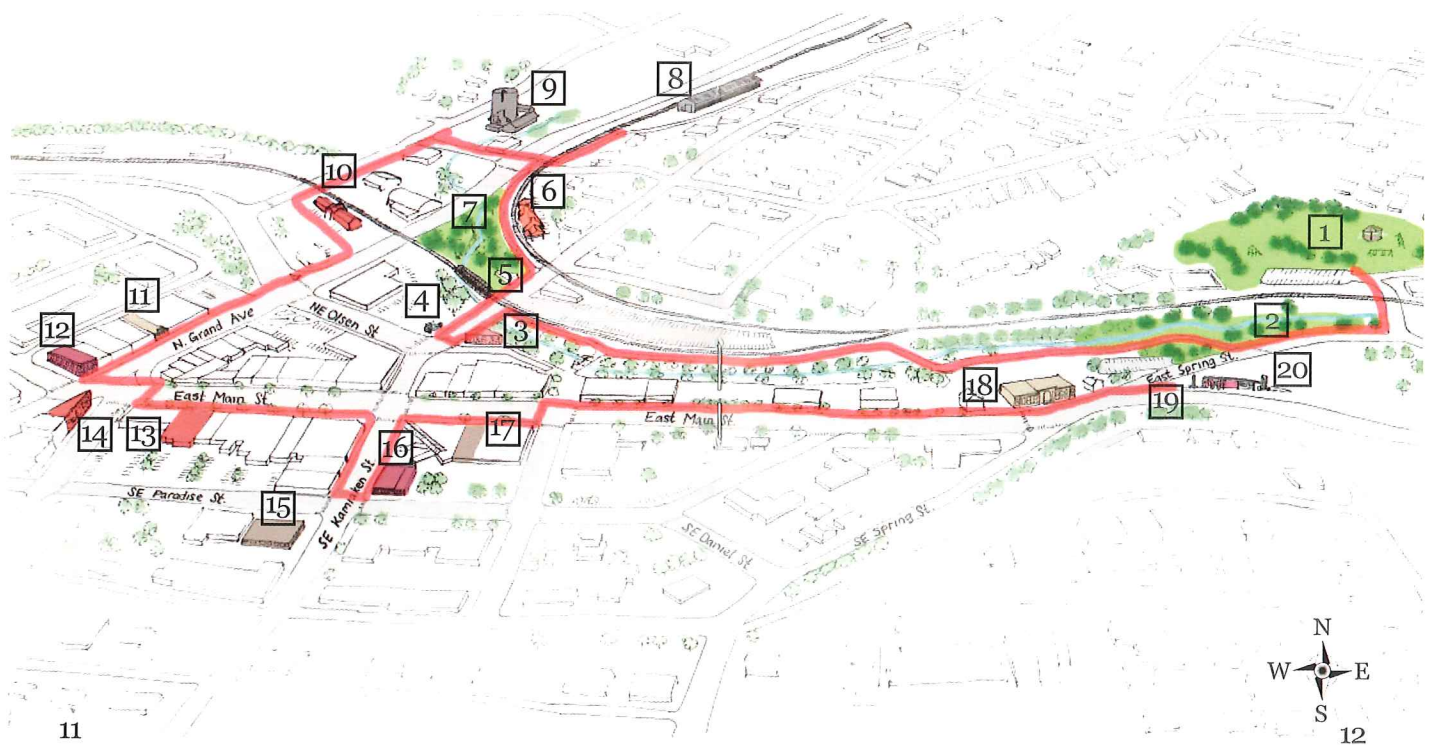
16 Russell Hotel

17 Grand Theater

18 Armory

19 Veterans' War Memorial

20 Brelsford WSU Visitor Center





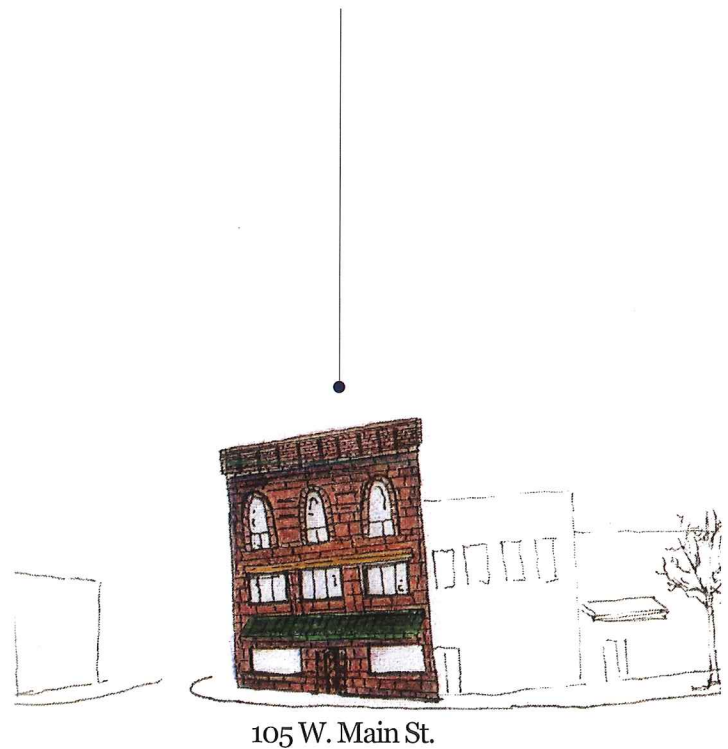
## 11 Cordova Theater (Pullman Foursquare Church)

Erected in 1928 as a theater showing silent films, by August 1929 the Cordova became the first venue in Pullman to show "talkies." Common to early movie theaters whose designs attempted to catapult theatergoers into worlds of fantasy, the Mission Revival exterior and the opulent interior with its decorative ticket booth linked Pullman to national design trends. In 1950, the current marquee was attached to the façade, obscuring the original design but concurrent with contemporary advertising methods. The marquee has been a fixture in downtown Pullman now for more than sixty years. Movies are still occasionally shown here.



## 12 Mason Building (Anawalt Building)

An excellent example of the buildings comprising the early brick-faced commercial core of downtown Pullman, this three-story brick building is one of a handful of structures that emerged in the wake of the 1890 Pullman fire. Erected in 1892, the building followed a new municipal ordinance requiring brick construction for all new downtown buildings. The detailed brickwork suggests pride in the late nineteenth-century rebuilding of Pullman's downtown core.

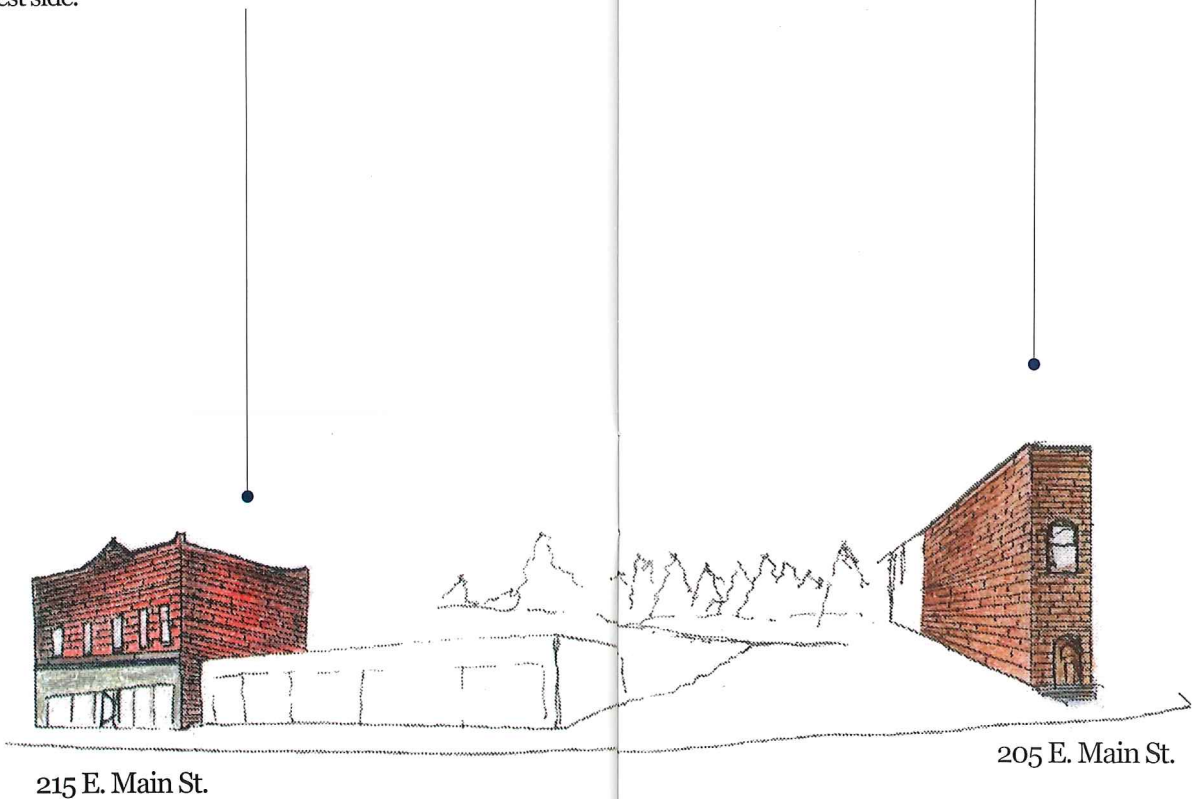




13

### Webb Block

This building was constructed in 1891 for Dr. Thomas Webb following the fire of 1890 and—similar to the Mason Building and Flatiron Building in the vicinity—represents the historic brick core of an established downtown in the late nineteenth century. The Webb Block once housed the offices of the Pullman Herald and was a fixture in the early establishment of Pullman. In the last decades of the twentieth century, the building was rechristened as the Combine Mall, the source of the still-visible advertising on the structure's west side.

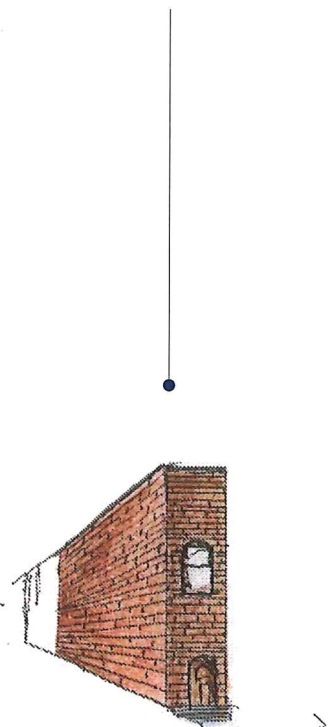


215 E. Main St.

14

### Flatiron Building

The triangular shape of this 1905 brick building resembles the Flatiron Building in New York City. Pullman's version, a load-bearing masonry structure designed by the local architect William Swain, fans out to meet two street grids overlapping in the city center. The prow of the building, on the southeast corner of Main Street and Grand Avenue, has provided a notable gateway to downtown Pullman for more than a century.



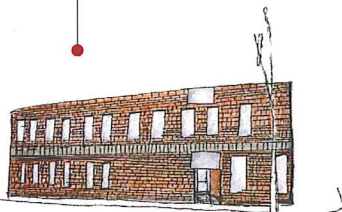
205 E. Main St.

## Russell Hotel (Moose Lodge)

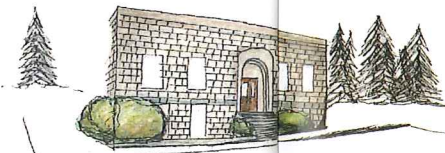
In 1915, Dr. Charles H. Russell decided to enlarge his medical office at this site. To meet the needs of an expanding practice, Russell's project grew to two stories by 1916 and was converted to a place of lodging in 1919. While not as grandiose as the nearby Hotel Pullman (built 1893, dismantled 1918); Artesian Hotel (built 1893, burned 1922) or the Washington Hotel (built 1927, demolished 1972), the Russell Hotel is nonetheless the oldest surviving reminder of Pullman's long-standing tradition in visitor accommodations. The building offered lodging until 1953, when it became the Moose Lodge.

## United States Post Office (Paradise Creek Brewery)

This stately building began construction in 1930 to serve the needs of the expanding city. Details were not spared: a sandstone and terracotta exterior in the Renaissance tradition and a marble and polished wood interior created a distinguished edifice for the city. The old post office has been re-purposed several times (it has housed, for example, a printing press, movie theater, and bakery) but much of the original design is intact, including postal wickets and the cast-iron vaults that once secured stamps and money orders.



150 SE Kamiaken St.



245 SE  
Paradise St.



315 E. Main St.

## Grand Theater (Audian Theater)

In late 1915, Pullman's fifth silent movie house, the Grand Theater, opened in the newly constructed Jackson Block and entertained residents until closing in 1928. Remodeled as the Audian Theater in October of 1930 and expanded again in 1936 following the demolition of an adjoining garage, the several-hundred-seat single-screen theater featured the latest movie technology and, together with the Cordova Theater, served as one of Pullman's principal movie houses into the early twenty-first century. Original light fixtures and a balcony distinguish the still extant auditorium.

# 18

## Armory

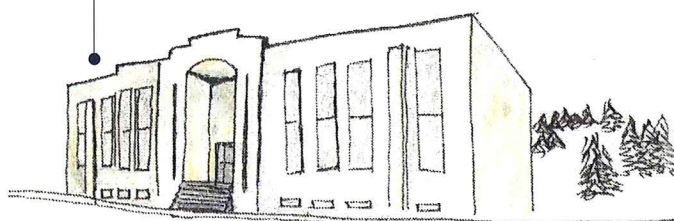
Built in 1938, this three-story concrete and masonry structure provided a training space for local units of the Washington State National Guard, many of which served overseas.

The Armory also has served as a center for community activities in Pullman, featuring everything from music performances, comedy acts, athletic events, and yoga. Its austere, stripped-down symmetrical façade includes an arched, recessed entryway in the manner of a Romanesque church.

# 19

## Veterans' War Memorial

Designed as an obelisk, this monument is dedicated to Pullman residents who lost their lives during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Officially dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1950, the obelisk both honors veterans and community pride, as residents provided labor and \$1,000 towards construction, while local businesses donated materials. Long obscured by vegetation, construction of the Brelsford WSU Visitor Center in 2013 re-introduced the obelisk to its prominent location at the edge of downtown and the western entrance to the university.

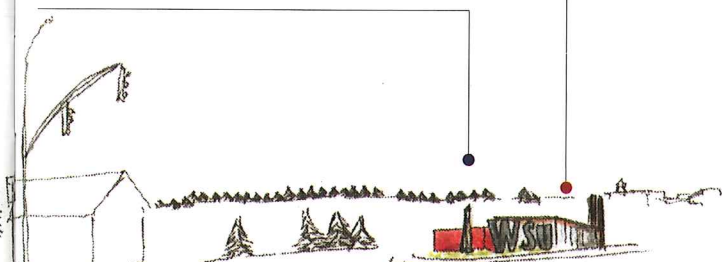


533 E Main St.

# 20

## Brelsford WSU Visitor Center

Fifteen-foot-tall concrete letters denoting WSU and a steel-plate tower establish the western entrance to the university and serve as highly-visible icons to drivers traveling along State Route 270. Designed by Seattle-based Olson Kundig Architects, visitors will discover a light-filled, modular space that showcases materials developed at the WSU Composite Materials and Engineering Center and interactive displays that celebrate the research accomplishments and entrepreneurial spirit of faculty, students, staff, and alumni. The center's design-build team featured graduates from the WSU School of Design and Construction.



150 E. Spring St.



