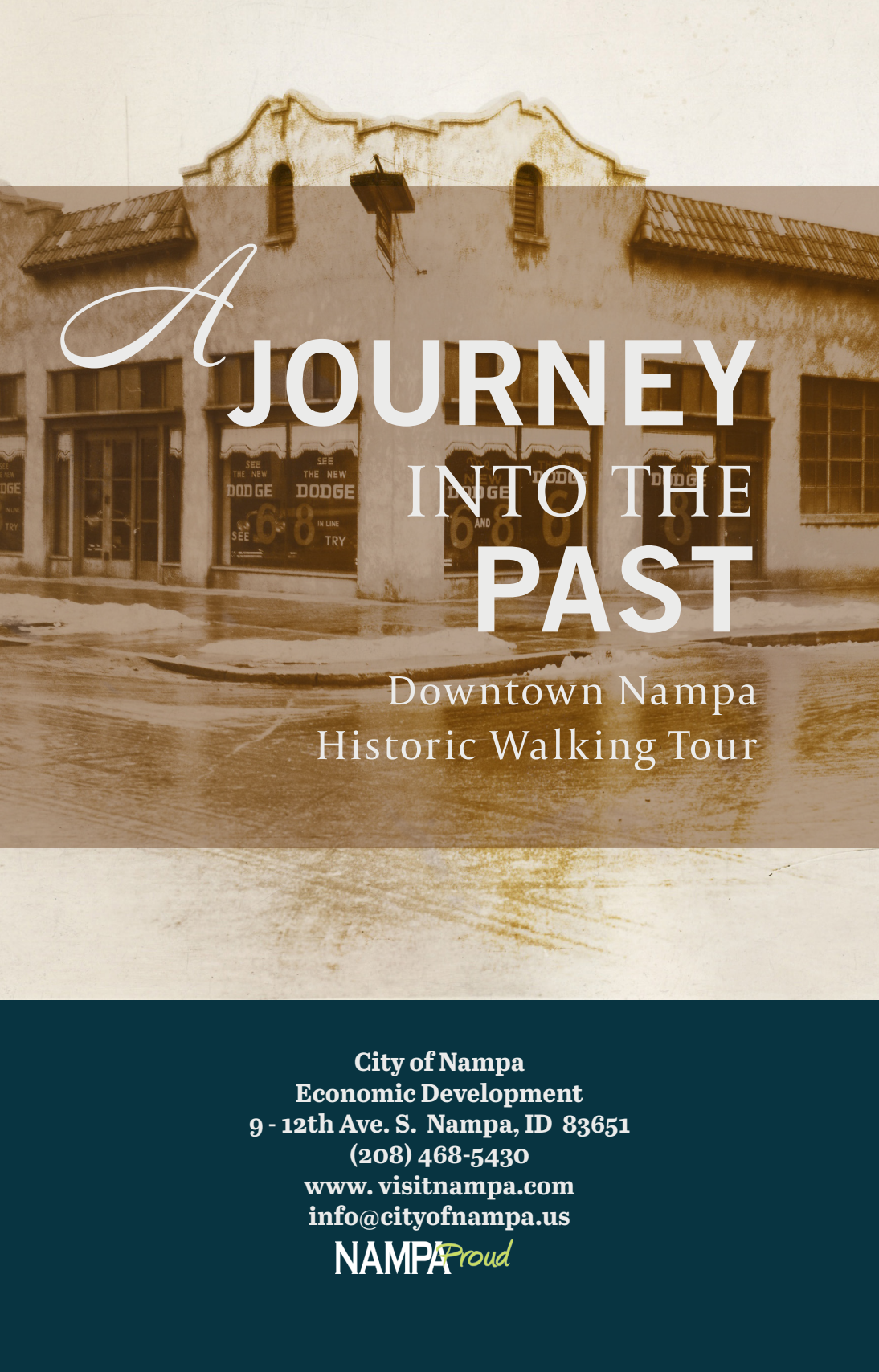




A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

Downtown Nampa
Historic Walking Tour

City of Nampa
Economic Development
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NAMPA *Proud*

Nampa's Historical Roots

WELCOME TO HISTORIC DOWNTOWN NAMPA!

Nampa's early roots, like those of many southwest Idaho towns, are tied to the advent of the railroad and the development of large-scale irrigation projects. In October 1883, the Oregon Short Line Railroad, a subsidiary of Union Pacific, laid track from Granger, Wyoming to Huntington, Oregon. By 1900, 10 passenger trains a day were coming through Nampa.

Unlike most towns in that historic era with streets running true north and south, Nampa's historic roads run perpendicular to the railroad tracks that travel northwest to southeast through the town.

Colonel William H. Dewey, a man who made a fortune mining in Silver City, saw the advantage of four railroad lines, opened the elegant Dewey Palace Hotel in December 1902 for a quarter of a million dollars. Colonel Dewey died in his hotel in 1903, leaving his son a million dollars.

The hotel survived the great fire of 1909, which burned several blocks of Downtown Nampa, but was razed in 1963 because no one wanted to invest in renovating the grand structure. Relics from the hotel, such as the chandelier and the hotel safe, can be found at the Canyon County Historical Museum, which is housed in the old train depot on Front Street and Nampa City Hall.



The district is historically significant for its association with Nampa's commercial development that occurred between 1905 through 1920, which was seen as a major growth period. During this time, Nampa's main street, First Street South, gained a full complement of two-story brick buildings. It includes the 1200 and 1300 blocks of South First Street in Nampa, and it includes work by architects Tourtellotte & Hummel.



(1) Nampa Train Depot - 1200 Front St. (1903)



The walking tour starts at the Nampa Train Depot built in 1903 by the Oregon Short Line Railroad, a subsidiary of Union Pacific. The depot was scheduled for demolition in 1972, but concerned citizens organized the Canyon County Historical Society and eventually convinced Union Pacific to donate the building for a museum which opened in 1976.

(2) Tiny's Cocktails - 10 12th Ave. S. (1909)



This building is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It has the original windows and doors. Note the use of the multi-colored brick and details in the facade.

(3) J.M. Bray Longbranch - 16 12th Ave. S. (1903)



J.M. Bray constructed the building in 1909. Bray led the movement to pave downtown streets. The Longbranch Station was a group of several buildings between 12th Avenue and "Wall Street." Former businesses include cigar stores, a hotel and rooming house (upstairs), Waldorf Billiards, Nampa Bowling Center, and its namesake, the Longbranch Pool Hall and Saloon.

(4) Burns Fox Bldg. - 1124 1st St. S. (1903)



Built in 1903, this building was originally a general merchandise store owned by William and Samuel Burns and John Fox. Other businesses included Robb's Men's Clothing Store, Falk's Mercantile, V.T. Elvers & Co. Men's Clothing, and the New York Store, owned by Saul Spear, a Jewish

haberdasher, known for his great sense of humor, and more recently Kalbus Office Supply until 1997.

(5) Dewey Palace Hotel - 1st St. S. between 11th and 12th Ave. S. (1903)



This block was the site of the Dewey Palace Hotel, one of the finest hotels west of Omaha, Neb. Colonel William H. Dewey, a miner and speculator from Silver City, started building the hotel in 1900 and opened it to the public New Year's Day 1903.

The 43,000- square-foot structure cost approximately a quarter million dollars to construct, including furnishings. It was demolished in 1963.

(6) First National Bank of Nampa - 101 11th Ave. S.



Prominent southern Idaho architects, Tourtellotte and Hummel, designed the building in the Classical Revival architectural style in 1919 at a cost of \$73,300. The sandstone is from Table Rock quarries east of Boise. View its distinguishing stained glass skylight and architectural detail from inside. The building later became the Nampa Public Library before moving to its current location.

(7) U.S. Post Office - 123 11th Ave. S. (1929)



Through the years, Nampa's Post Office was located in various buildings in the downtown area. In 1929, a new building in the Classical Revival style was built. The building was originally heated by a hand-stoked coal furnace in the basement.

**(8) Washington Federal Savings and Loan
223 11th Ave. S. - (1962)**



Built in 1962 for Provident Federal. Architect William F. Cann designed this two-story building that begins with a grid of dark tinted windows rising up to a flat, round, deeply cantilevered roof. The roof is supported by thin, concrete support arms in an upside-down L shape that stand at a slight separation from the building.

(9) Masonic Temple - 320 11th Ave. S. - (1923)



The Masonic Temple (Lodge) was started in May 1922 and completed in July 1923. Built by Joe Swiggart, it was considered one of the finest lodge buildings in the Northwest. The first floor featured a ballroom and the lodge meeting room was on the second floor. Recently the building underwent an elegant remodel and now includes a restaurant, Brick 29, bakery and event center.

(10) Nampa City Hall - 203 12th Ave. S. (1910)



This is the site of the original Nampa City Hall. In 1979, the building was featured in the movie "Bronco Billy" starring Clint Eastwood. Although listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was torn down in 1991. It was dedicated in May 1995 as Fountain Plaza, where the Nampa Public Library fountain is currently located.

**(11) Firestone Store & The Cheeseborough Cafe
111-117 12th Ave. S. (1920)**

These buildings housed many businesses throughout the years. Part of the old Dewey Hotel steam laundry roof line with dormer windows can be seen behind the buildings. During the 1940's- 50's the Firestone Store occupied the corner. The Cheesebrough Cafe was on the main floor of the two story building (on the left) from the mid 1930's to the mid 1940's and was replaced by the Harmony Cafe which remained open to the early 1970's. It was a popular dining establishment and the meeting place of many community organizations in the '60's. The Hong Kong Cafe moved here in the early '70's and later expanded to the corner.

**(12) Bon Ton Bakery, Kandy Kitchen
122-122 1/2 12th Ave. S. (1927)**



During 1930-31, the Bon Ton Bakery and Kandy Kitchen, owned by Oscar Bauman, was located to the left and H.H. Hostetler Cash Grocery was to the right on the corner. In the 1940's, Moad Real Estate, Insurance and Loans was here with the Dodge Drug Store on the corner. KGEM Radio was also here in the 60's-70's.

(13) IOOF Hall - 200 12th Ave. S. (1916)

The Odd Fellows building was built in 1906. The second story was used by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #40 for meetings. The first floor housed various grocery stores for many years. Shumate Grocery was located here from 1908 to 1920, then Skagg's Grocery, Buy-Rite Grocery in the late 1930's and then Western Auto Supply. In 1946, following World War II, Ralph Hasbrouck located Hazy's Book and Supply in this building until the late 1990's. The business got its name because school chums of the Hasbrouck boys gave them "Hazy" as a nickname.

(14) The Quick Lunch - 1211 2nd St. S. (1930)



The Honker Cafe was originally located at 120 11th Ave. S. (across from the Post Office) and moved to its present location in 1967. Before that, the Quick Lunch was a popular cafe here in the 1940-50's. Honker's recent remodel includes removing a curved awning opening the upper windows (similar to what is shown here) and restoring the back bar.

(15) Edmark Auto Company - 1224 2nd St. S. (1927)



The Mission style building was built in 1927 for the first Dodge/Plymouth dealer in Nampa. A new car at that time sold for \$400 - \$500. Later, in the 1940's, W & R (Wall & Rawlings) Food Store was located here.

(16) Christenson Implement - 120 13th Ave. S. (1930)

In 1930 the Christenson Implement Company relocated here from 1315 1st Street, and was here until the late 1940's when it became the B.F. Goodrich Store. From the early 1950's to 1989 it housed the Coast to Coast Store. Recently the front of the building was renovated as part of the Historic Facade Restoration Project.

(17) American Bakery, Terry Electric and Terry Furniture & Appliances - 112-116 13th Ave. S. (1925)

This location has recently undergone a renovation. In 1945, American Bakery occupied 112 & Terry Electric (at 116) which eventually evolved into Terry Furniture and Appliances in the 1950's.

(18) Nampa Department Store - 1307 1st St. S. (1910)



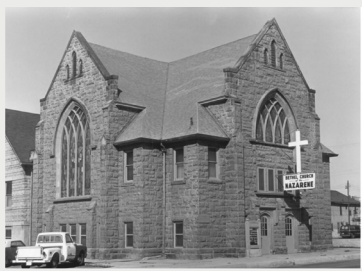
The building was designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel in 1910. The Nampa Department Store was financed by the Falk Mercantile Company of Boise with E.H. Dewey and other Nampa business men as stock holders.

(19) Commercial Bldg. - 1309 1st St. S. (1907)



This building was owned by H.C. Hickey. When it was first constructed part of it housed the Nampa Post Office and the club rooms of the Chamber of Commerce. Nampa "D" Grocery with a meat market in the front corner occupied the other half. Nafziger's Men's Store opened its doors after World War II in September of 1946.

(20) Presbyterian Church - 205 15th Ave. S. (1918)



The Nampa Presbyterian Church was designed in the Gothic Revival Style by Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture. There is a large gothic window that faces 15th Avenue.

(21) American Legion Hall - 1504 2nd St. S. (1903)



The American Legion Hall building was constructed in 1931 and designed by Frederick Hummel. According to the National Register nomination form, it is significant as one of the examples of the work the firm did in designing American Legion Halls in Idaho.

(22) Nampa Meridian Irrig. Dist. - 1503 1st St. S. (1909)



The Nampa Meridian Irrigation Office, part of the Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho is an important symbol of irrigation, one of the major reasons that the Treasure Valley grew.

Photos Property of:
Canyon County Historical Society
and
Nampa Public Library

(23) Dewey Bldg. - 1221 1st St. St. (1909)



This building was constructed in 1909. The original windows have been replaced but retain the original stone sills and keystone flat arches. Above the windows is a molded pressed-iron cornice with scrolled medallions.

(24) Smallwood Bldg. - 1211 1st St. S. (1905)



The C.C. Anderson Department Store was opened in 1917 by J.C. Wengert. Later the building was known as the Corwen Building, the combined names of its owners C. Maynard Corlett and J.C. Wengert. C.C. Anderson's eventually expanded into the store across the alley.

(25) Blue Eye Bldg. - 1226 thru 1228 1st St. S. (1909)



The Blue Eye Building was originally built in 1907, and rebuilt after the 1909 fire by Fred Mock, a prominent Nampa business man and author. He named it after the title of a book he had written in 1905, about a blue-eyed young woman who was kidnapped by Indians after her family had been killed. The second story of the building featured an opera house and later a dance hall.

(26) C. Meister Bldg. - 1224 1st St. S. (1909)

(26) W. Hardiman Bldg. - 1224 1st St. S. (1909)

(26) E.R. Brace Bldg. - 1224 1st St. S. (1909)



Rebuilt after the 1909 fire. The building was built by Charles Meister who sold retail hardware. The building has stone sills, molded pressed iron window heads with fleurs-de-lis and other floral motifs.



This is a two-story, flat-roofed brick two part commercial building. It has one over one double hung windows on the second story. Note the keystones above the windows. It features a dentilated cornice. Above the cornice is Hardiman's name on the concrete block. The storefront has been altered. The lower floor originally housed a drugstore and the second story was designed as a photograph studio for local photographer Lee Jellum.

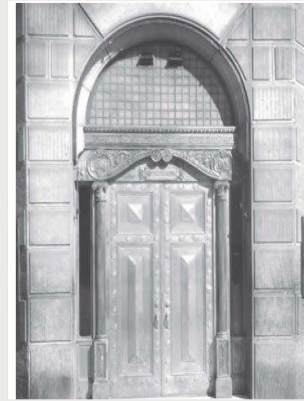


E.R. Brace was an insurance agent and businessman. This building housed his business on the first floor and offices on the second. The cornice of the building was formed of outset brick with denticulations and keystone flat arches of stone.

(27) "Wall Street" Alley Way

During the 1906-1910 era, Wall Street was called "Oriental Alley" because both Chinese and Japanese lived and owned businesses here. In the early 1900's the Chinese men would gather here and cook a big pot of vegetables and meat, right on the sidewalk. They would dip into the pot and sit along the curb eating with chopsticks, visiting back and forth in their melodious language.

(28) Bank of Nampa Building - 1200 1st St. S. (1909)



The Bank of Nampa building was rebuilt after the 1909 fire. It was built by the Hickey family and has been known by that name. The bank, behind the powerful bronze doors shown here, closed in 1913. The building has undergone restoration. Special glazed tiles replace the tiny window panes above the long-gone bronze double doors.

Unsolved Mystery: Where are the bronze doors?

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First Street
Looking West

Twelfth Street
Looking North

First Street
Looking East

Revitalization Begins

Downtown Nampa is blessed with many beautiful historic buildings that reflect the City of Nampa's heritage. Unfortunately, many of these buildings experienced unsympathetic facade renovations that compromised the original historic beauty of the buildings. As part of Economic Development's efforts to revitalize downtown Nampa, the City of Nampa, in 2006 initiated a program to partially fund the renovation and rehabilitation of historic buildings in the downtown core. This program, called "The Facade Improvement Program," was financed by a grant from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The program offered technical and financial assistance to property owners and tenants seeking to renovate or restore their commercial building facades in the Downtown Historic District. It consisted of two parts: 1) Design assistance; and 2) A 5-year forgivable loan that provided reimbursement for up to 50 percent (\$40,000 max.) of the cost of renovation. The Facade Improvement Program has been tremendously successful in helping to revitalize our downtown. The program will continue to be offered as long as funding is available.



The economic benefits of a facade improvement program are vastly recognized. It helps the strengthening of locally owned businesses, which helps keep dollars in the local economy; the improvements attract new businesses and shoppers to the target area; owner/tenants of properties and businesses in surrounding areas are motivated to make improvements; and it assists in preserving our stock of historic buildings and their legacy.



DOWNTOWN NAMPA
A Main Street America Community

Fun Facts



DID YOU KNOW?

Nampa was once known as New Jerusalem, and later was re-named for a Shoshone Indian Chief, Nampuh, which means big foot, according to local legend.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1896, Colonel William Dewey bought 2,000 lots upon which he built a majestic hotel called the Dewey Palace at a cost of \$243,000.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Nampa Train Depot Museum is considered one of the finest examples of Baroque revival architecture.

DID YOU KNOW?

In early days, Downtown Nampa had wooden benches on the sidewalks and electric lights suspended at the street corners.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nampa's historic roads run perpendicular to the railroad tracks that travel northwest to southeast through town, instead of running true north and south. Thus, the northside is really the northeast side of the tracks, and the southside is really the southwest side of the railroad tracks. Founder Alexander Duffes laid out Nampa's streets this way to prevent an accident like one that occurred earlier in a town he had platted near Toronto, Canada.

DID YOU KNOW?

Relics from the Dewey Palace Hotel, such as the chandelier and the hotel safe, can be found at the Canyon County Historical Museum, which is housed in the Train Depot on Front Street.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nampa held an annual harvest festival and farmer's market from about 1908, a time of celebration and community fun. From this festival emerged the Snake River Stampede Rodeo in 1937, which continues to this day. The Snake River Stampede Festival is held in Downtown Nampa.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Downtown Nampa historic building motifs generally are drawn from the Romanesque, Renaissance and Neo-classical revival styles. Original storefronts are designed of plate glass set even with the facade and slanting back to recessed doorways.



Getting Here

Directions from I-84:

1. Take Exit 36 going south onto North Franklin Boulevard.
2. Turn right onto 11th Avenue North.
3. Just after the railroad underpass, turn left onto First Street South.
4. Continue one block, then turn left on 12th Avenue South to the end of the block.

You are now at the **Nampa Train Depot Museum**, the first stop on the Downtown Nampa Walking Tour.

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