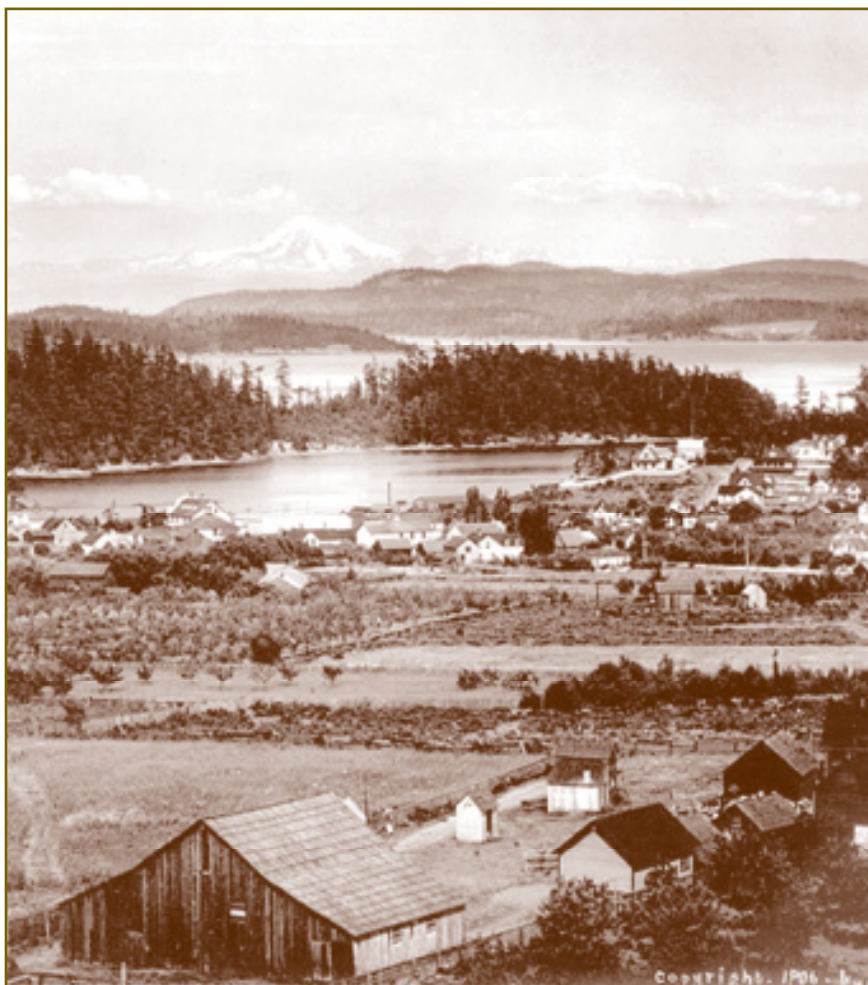


HISTORIC FRIDAY HARBOR ***ON FOOT***



TOUR ONE: HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

A self-guided walk through the historic downtown neighborhood
and landscape of Friday Harbor, Washington

Historic Friday Harbor On Foot

Friday Harbor, 1906. Photographer J.A. McCormick. Courtesy of the University of WA Libraries, Special Collections, WAS0395.

Tour One: Historic Downtown

A self-guided walk through the historic downtown neighborhood and landscape of Friday Harbor, Washington

Welcome to historic Friday Harbor, a coastal village rich with the history of the San Juan Islands and the Pacific Northwest. This tour tells the story of our heritage through the buildings, trees, gardens and people you will meet as you walk our downtown streets and neighborhoods.



Herding Sheep Down Spring Street, c 1906.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

For your convenience, public rest rooms are available in Sunshine Alley, located between Spring and Nichols streets, behind the Palace Theatre. Automobile parking in Friday Harbor's downtown district is limited to two hours. For longer parking, convenient eight-hour areas are located across from the San Juan County Courthouse between First and Second streets.

Along the way, please respect the privacy of those businesses and residential properties not open to the public, and take care not to block streets or sidewalks.

Enjoy the tour!



The Earliest Known Photograph of Friday Harbor, c 1895.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SAN JUAN ISLAND & FRIDAY HARBOR

The San Juan Islands were inhabited by the Coast Salish people for at least 5,000 years prior to European contact. The Coast Salish include the Lummi and Mitchell Bay Indians, who believe San Juan Island to be their place of origin. Other Coast Salish people inhabited the islands seasonally, preserving food in summer for winters spent elsewhere. All were drawn to the islands by the rich abundance of food and materials found here.

As with the orca, the Coast Salish followed the salmon from the ocean into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, toward San Juan Island, and beyond. So too, did the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) which by the mid-1800s was one of the world's first international business conglomerates trading in raw materials. The HBC established forts at what is now Vancouver, WA, as well as throughout Oregon and into northern Washington, Canada and Alaska. Their trade routes saw the export of

beaver pelts, salmon, timber, wheat and other products to far away places, including England, the Hawaiian Islands, Asia and Russia.



Belle Vue Sheep Farm, Hudson's Bay Company, 1859.
Courtesy of the Yale Collection of Western Americana,
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

In 1853, British Chief Factor, James Douglas (from Fort Victoria, BC), and HBC employees imported over 1,300 sheep to graze on an expanse of prairie on the southern tip of San Juan Island. While this area was ideal for agriculture and livestock, Douglas's primary purpose was political. The presence of British agricultural interests would solidify Great Britain's claim to the island, which had been in dispute with the United States since the two nations signed the Treaty of Oregon in 1846.

Soon thereafter, the Americans responded by dispatching a federal customs collector and a sheriff from the American mainland, for the purpose of collecting back taxes on the HBC sheep. Relations between the two nations became even more strained when a small number of Americans left the Fraser River Gold Rush to homestead on San Juan Island. But it was the shooting of a garden-marauding British pig by an American homesteader that escalated the dispute to the

verge of war. These competing claims, and the international standoff and negotiations that followed, are referred to as the infamous Pig War.

HBC employees came to the San Juans following the company's numerous international trade routes. One Hawaiian sheep herder and Hudson Bay employee, known as "Friday", settled in the area of what is now the town of Friday Harbor. This caused many to refer to the place as "Friday's Harbor". Friday Harbor (the 's' was dropped over time) was blessed with the right natural attributes—a protected harbor and good anchorage—prompting a handful of farsighted promoters to build the town's first general stores, hotels, and saloons. In 1873, Friday Harbor was named the county seat of the islands. (Another town naming story has a ship's captian shouting to shore "what bay is this?" and hearing the reply of "Friday" in response to the misheard "what day is this?")

By 1900 Friday Harbor boasted a population of three or four hundred residents. Road and telephone networks linked the town to the rest of the island. The community was growing, and by then had added a bank, US Customs, a weekly newspaper, drugstore, barber, a grade school, theatre, four large wharves and warehouses, a cannery, creamery, two churches, fraternal halls, and a number of handsome, substantial homes. What these buildings had in common was simplicity of design. They were attractive and functional, but without elaborate ornamentation or frills. Typically, both residential and commercial buildings were built with local timber. Money was not so plentiful that it could be used for the unnecessary, and so most buildings were painted white, more for functional protection against rot, than for decoration.

Sailing ships, and later, steamships came in and out of the harbor on a regular basis, hauling passengers, mail, and freight. They took the island's bounty: apple, pears, cherries,

strawberries, peas, cream, eggs, chickens, grain, lime, timber and salmon “down (the) Sound”.

The Lydia
Thompson,
c 1905.
Courtesy of the
University of
WA Libraries,
Special
Collections,
UW7905.



In 1909 Friday Harbor became incorporated, and to this day has the distinction of being the only incorporated town in the islands. After incorporation, Friday Harbor came into its own, prospering and riding economic ups and downs. The vagaries of the marketplace, the Great Depression, WWII, the pea weevil, and competition from Eastern Washington growers brought about the decline of traditional island industries. Friday Harbor's fortunes declined with them. The town wore a pinched look until the late 1960s, when tourism, retirement, real estate, construction, the arts and a variety of cottage industries began to take hold.

By 2006, Friday Harbor was home to some 2000 people, with another 4000 islanders living in the unincorporated areas of the Island. Today, the town is again busy and prosperous. Though the traditional industries have all but vanished, there are still many visible reminders of the pioneer era—stately trees and kitchen gardens, wooden buildings and companionable roof lines—all acquaint islander and visitor alike with Friday Harbor's spirited early days.

Historic Downtown

Start at Memorial Park, located at Spring and Front streets.



Memorial Park, c 1900.

Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.



1

Memorial Park, c 1890

Located at the intersection of
Spring and Front streets

This postage stamp-sized park has long been the meeting place for those arriving and departing San Juan Island. On November 11, 1921, a granite memorial—the first of its kind in the state of Washington—was erected to commemorate the

nine Island servicemen who were lost in World War I: George Dewey Allain, Walter E. Heidenreich, Fred Ellery Hackett, John Morris Jones, Budd Curtiss Larson, Charles Lawson, Voyle B. Martin, Fred Martin, and Harold Butterworth. Many of those lost were buried where they fell, in French battlefields. For their families and the tight-knit community, Memorial Park became sacred ground. Years later, in August 1945, islanders gathered at the park to celebrate the end of WWII.

On more than one occasion, the monument has been struck by run-away vehicles, but each time stood its ground. In 1972 and 2004 debates about the park's impact on traffic flow caused some to advocate for moving the park and monument to a more out-of-the-way location. In the end, the monument prevailed, and in 2006 the park was renovated and extended to the shoreline. Fittingly, the re-dedication took place on Memorial Day.

Dutch Elms, planted 1922

Ulmus x hollandica var.

In the spring of 1922, the Women's Study Club (site #21) planted two stately elms, commemorating the Army and Navy servicemen lost in WWI. Healthy elms can live well over 100 years. The Memorial Park trees are being monitored closely for signs of Dutch elm disease, a problem known in Western Washington.

Memorial Park
Elms, 2006.
Town of Friday
Harbor Photo.



In 2005, the trees showed signs of declining health and underwent a major restorative pruning. The park renovation that followed included a more tree-friendly hardscape, one designed to protect and extend the lifespan of the trees.



Saloon Best, 1906. Courtesy of the University of WA Libraries, Special Collections, WAS0896.



Saloon Best, c 1870s 3 Front Street at Spring Street

This building began as a general store or mercantile, and is considered the second oldest building in town. By 1894, saloon proprietor, John “Jack” Douglas, was known for keeping foreign and domestic liquors and an excellent pool table—legendary throughout the region. In the 1930s it

became the Moose Lodge, the site of countless meetings, holiday parties and community dances. This was particularly true when the fishing fleet was in, and all-night festivities, known as “fishermen dances,” rocked the house until dawn.

Continue on Front Street toward the ferry vehicle landing.



Cannery House, c 1905
85 Front Street at East Street

Cannery House,
2006. Town of Friday
Harbor Photos.



If you look beyond the clutter of the ATM machine, pedestrian ramp and kiosk, you'll see a large, brightly painted, two-story farmhouse with a broad covered porch and Victorian embellishments. This house was built for William Schultz, the superintendent of the Pacific American Fisheries cannery (later, the Friday Harbor Packing Company) which was once located across the street on the waterfront. In the 1900s the cannery employed nearly a thousand workers, many of them Chinese laborers, who took their lodging in the rooming house that once stood behind the cannery.

In the late 1950s, after a transition to a new life processing frozen peas, the plant ceased operation due to the failure of this crop caused by the pea weevil. In 1978, the ferry holding lanes replaced the rooming house and cannery water tower. The cannery was demolished in the late 1970s and replaced with retail shops and condominiums. Today, though significantly modified and obscured by stairways and other structures, the Schultz House is the only reminder of a thriving plant and industry that operated in this area for more than fifty years.

Turn right onto A Street,
cross First and continue
walking to the second
building on the right.

Presbyterian Manse, c 2006.
Town of Friday Harbor Photo



Presbyterian Manse, 1892
223 A Street

This charming house was built by merchant-entrepreneur, M. R. Noftsgger, one of the owners of the San Juan Trading

Company (site #24 on the tour). In 1903 it was acquired by the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Ladies' Guild refurbished the home, paying for a large oil stove and other materials with the monies they raised. The Guild used the manse for social events and for welcoming visiting clergy and church officials. When the Guild outgrew it, the congregation acquired a roomier house closer to the church on Spring Street. Many island families occupied this hilltop home until Marie Collins acquired and partially restored it in the late 1960s. A succession of businesses have operated in it more recently.

Turn back down the hill, and left onto First Street heading toward Spring Street. Pause at the bench at Sunshine Alley.

How Spring Street Got Its Name

Spring Street is the oldest street in Friday harbor. It began in 1873 as a dirt trail with a few small shacks on either side. It got its name from a natural spring which bubbled from the ground in the middle of the street. When the water level dropped, a pump was installed at the spring with a watering trough for horses. Children were sent to the well to pump buckets of water for horses, cows, and chickens. The well was removed in the 1920s, after the town water system was installed. The well site was paved over, but water continued to seep from the ground, undermining the pavement. The problem was solved by diverting the water to a culvert. Today, the spring water flows into the harbor, just below Memorial Park.

Jerome K. Miller

Umbrella Guide to Friday Harbor and San Juan Island



San Juan County Bank, 1907
105 Spring Street

This building is remembered as San Juan County's first bank and continues to be one of the most significant structures in downtown Friday Harbor. San Juan County Bank was founded in 1893 when the economy on the island, and in the Northwest in general, was beginning to blossom.



San Juan County Bank (left), and the Journal Building (right center), c 1906. Courtesy of the San Juan Historical Museum.

The original wood-frame building was located across the street. The masonry structure, more substantial and ornate than any of the town's other commercial buildings, reflected the town's

growing prosperity. It took seven months to construct, and boasted a “burglar-proof vault with burglar-proof safe.” The bank’s first president was J. A. Gould of Seattle, whose son, Gene, was the bank’s first cashier. During his lifetime, Gene Gould was notable for being both the youngest cashier (at age 19), and later, the youngest bank president in the United States (at age 29). San Juan County Bank was central to the Island economy, at that time based upon farming, fishing, logging and the lime industry. When the Town of Friday Harbor was incorporated two years after the construction of the building, bank president Gene Gould became the Town’s first mayor. The bank continued to operate in this location until 1978.



Journal Building, 1906
125 Spring Street

This building was constructed by newspaper man, O. G. Wall to house his new venture, the Friday Harbor Journal. Wall aspired to outpace a rival newspaper, The Islander, which ran editorial positions not to the liking of some influential businessmen in the community. Later, a 24-year-old upstart named Virgil Frits succeeded Wall as publisher and editor. With cigar-in-mouth, Frits ran the presses, reported the news and wrote the popular column, Friday Harbor in a Nutshell, a feature still in print today. Fritz held this post for over 50 years, from 1907 until 1958. In 1973, the newspaper headquarters moved to Tucker Street and the National Park Service occupied the premises until 2004.

Continue up Spring Street.



Fribor Theatre, 1915 209 Spring Street

Fribor Theatre, c 1915.

Courtesy of the Jensen/Arhenius family.

The Fribor was built by contractor Frank Vining for Alfred Middleton, who is also remembered for the Middleton Grocery (site #25). It opened in 1915 during the silent movie era, with Mrs. Middleton playing the piano for dramatic effect.

The theater, (named by combining syllables from both "Friday" and "Harbor"), provided Island residents with motion pictures as well as local and traveling vaudeville shows. Upon opening, the theatre had 250 floor seats and two balcony boxes.



In 1959, Milt and Lee Bave bought and operated the theatre. They were known for their diligence in editing and censoring movies shown to young people, including Lee's technique of cupping her hand over the projector during scenes she considered "too racy". At one point, the theatre was the home of the professional repertory acting group, The Straights of Juan de Fuca, and a youth-oriented company called the Madhatters. The scrollwork on the front of the building was added by the Baves in 1959. Now called the Palace Theatre, it remains central to the Friday and Saturday nights of island residents and visitors alike.



Medical Building, c 1890s
245 Spring Street

Built by dentist Dr. Roger Loring, this building was considered a “medical” building by residents, serving as offices for a series of local doctors and the dentist. It was notable for being divided in half—with a dentist on one side and a doctor on the other, sharing a common waiting room—just like medical offices do today. The Loring family lived upstairs until the birth of their third child. Later, Dr. Loring’s mother, Lillian, resided there. For a time during the 1960s, while the ground floor of the building lay vacant, a tenant occupying the adjoining one-story building gained unauthorized access to the former medical building to hold clandestine church services. In the 1960s, the building was restored; and the Italianate brackets on the facade were added.



Medical Building, 2006. Town of Friday Harbor Photo.



Bowman House, c 1876-1878
265 Spring Street



Bowman
House, 2006.
Town of Friday
Harbor Photo.

The Bowman House is the oldest continual residence in Friday Harbor. It was built for Judge John Bowman in the late 1870s. Bowman, along with Edward D. Warbass, was one of Friday Harbor's first promoters. When Friday Harbor was chosen as the county seat in 1873, the town had a population of just three, one of them Bowman. Later, Idele Nichols and her family lived in the house for 40 years. The street behind the house was named after them. Most recently, Betty De Staffany lived in the upstairs apartment, renting the downstairs to various businesses. She is credited for planting the garden we see today.

Golden Weeping Willow, planted 1959
Salix x sepulcralis var. *chrysocoma*

Behind the Bowman House is a weeping willow planted in 1959 by Betty de Staffany. It is a hybrid of European garden origin, selected for its spectacular golden weeping branches that is best seen in winter when it is leafless.

Cross Argyle Road. Next cross Spring Street
using the crosswalk in front of the bank.



Camperdown Elm, planted c 1875
Ulmus glabra, 300 Spring Street

The Camperdown elm, also known as a 'weeping elm', is one of the most familiar trees on the island. It is believed to be over 130 years old, although there is no documentation available to tell us who planted it.

The origins of the Camperdown elm lead back to Dundee, Scotland, where in the mid-1800s, a forester employed by the Earl of Camperdown discovered a mutant contorted branch growing along the ground in the forest. He produced the first Camperdown elm by grafting it to the trunk of a Wych or Scotch elm, the only species that the Camperdown will accept as root stock. The weeping form is a natural characteristic of the grafted, or upper portion of the tree—not the product of training—and would not have been possible from the rootstock material alone. This tree is a mutant and cannot self-reproduce. Every Camperdown elm tree in the world is a part of the original that must be grafted to a Wych elm tree

Camperdown
Elm, 2006.
Town of Friday
Harbor Photo.



to get started. As the graft grows, the Wych elm branches are cut off leaving only the Camperdown branches. This magnificent tree depends upon man to survive as a species.

Camperdown elms satisfied a mid-Victorian taste for curiosities in the type of gardens then in vogue. Many examples were planted as rarities in Britain and America. Since it is a cultivar of the Wych elm, it is very susceptible to Dutch elm disease, and today, both the Camperdown and Wych elm are effectively extinct in Britain.



Wright House, c 1892
314 and 310 Spring Street

This structural assemblage was originally two separate and disconnected buildings. The simple one-story building behind the Camperdown elm was originally the creamery manager's home. It was re- built after a fire in the 1930s. The creamery manager worked at the San Juan County Dairymen's Association creamery plant located next door.

The more ornate, two-story house that now makes up the center portion of the building complex was built by Dr. George S. Wright in 1892 for his family home and doctor's office. The house was originally located next to what is now Friday Harbor Drug (site #11). In the 1920s or 1930s, a subsequent owner, Harry King, moved his mortuary business into the building. In 1972, the mortuary building was moved up the street to make room for Jeri's Mall, and was physically attached to the creamery manager's house as it is today. Both the Wright and the Creamery Manager's houses were damaged by fire.

Only a few of the original historic features of the Wright home remain—the most distinctive being the bay window.



Wright House, c 1910.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

Start walking towards the harbor.



Friday Harbor Drug Company
c 1889 & 1929
210 & 220 Spring Street

As seen today, Friday Harbor Drug is an amalgamation of two historic structures.

The two-story building at 220 Spring Street was built by Dr. George Wright in the late 1890s and housed the pharmacy

managed by his cousin, a licensed pharmacist, Leon Little.

Between 1908 and 1912, Wright purchased the newly built corner building next door and the pharmacy moved there. The empty two-story building then became home to a series of other enterprises, including the influential Friday Harbor Commercial Club, a kindergarten and the U.S. Post Office.



Friday Harbor Drug Company, c 1910.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

In 1922, the Hackett-Larson Post of the American Legion voted to create the town's first public library on the ground floor. On its inaugural day, the library's entire 28-volume collection was checked out. On the second floor, the Friday Harbor Commercial Club wielded significant economic and political power. By the 1960s the building had returned to retail businesses. Ruth Williams, a tenant and proprietress of a popular clothing and gift store (the Treasure House), added

the two pillars and the railing, salvaged from the demolished Friday Harbor School (1912-1961).

The one-story corner building was originally home to the town's first U.S. Customs Office and later, The Islander newspaper, until it folded in 1907. In 1912, Wright and Little relocated the drug company here. Four years later, Little bought a half interest in the drugstore and became Wright's partner.

In 1917 Little joined the war effort to fight in WWI, leaving Wright to manage both his practice and the drugstore. During the war, Wright's wife Laura ran the pharmacy assisted by several local boys who clerked. One of these clerks was J. A. McCormick, whose interest in photography resulted in many of the historic photographs used in this guide.

After the war ended, Little returned to run the business with his new partner, Albert Nash Sr. In 1929, Nash and Little replaced the original 1890 corner building with the Mission Revival-style stucco building seen today, the only one in Friday Harbor. In the mid-1970s when Albert Nash Jr., by then the sole owner of the pharmacy, bought the neighboring two-story building and joined the two together. The Nash family owned and operated the business from 1920 to 1996, and still retains title to the property.

At the corner of Spring and Second, turn left onto Second.



Kirgy Carter House, circa late 1880s
135 Second Street

This was the home of pioneer Cornelius Lycurgus "Kirgy" Carter, who arrived in Friday Harbor in 1884. Carter promptly established himself as a prosperous entrepreneur.



Kirgy Carter House, 2006. Town of Friday Harbor Photo.

He built the house himself in 1886 after marrying Mary Dightman. With business partner E. E. Wilson, he opened the town's only meat market in 1899. A stalwart Republican, Carter was active in the Friday Harbor Commercial Club. His son, Cecil, joined the San Juan County Bank as a young man and became the bank's president. From her upstairs bedroom window, Betty Carter Rodeen remembers hearing fisherman laughing and talking as they made their way uphill to dances at the Masonic Hall. The Kirgy Carter House was restored in 1974, a second story wing (right) was added in 1974, and a third added to that (right front) in 2004.

Look across the street.



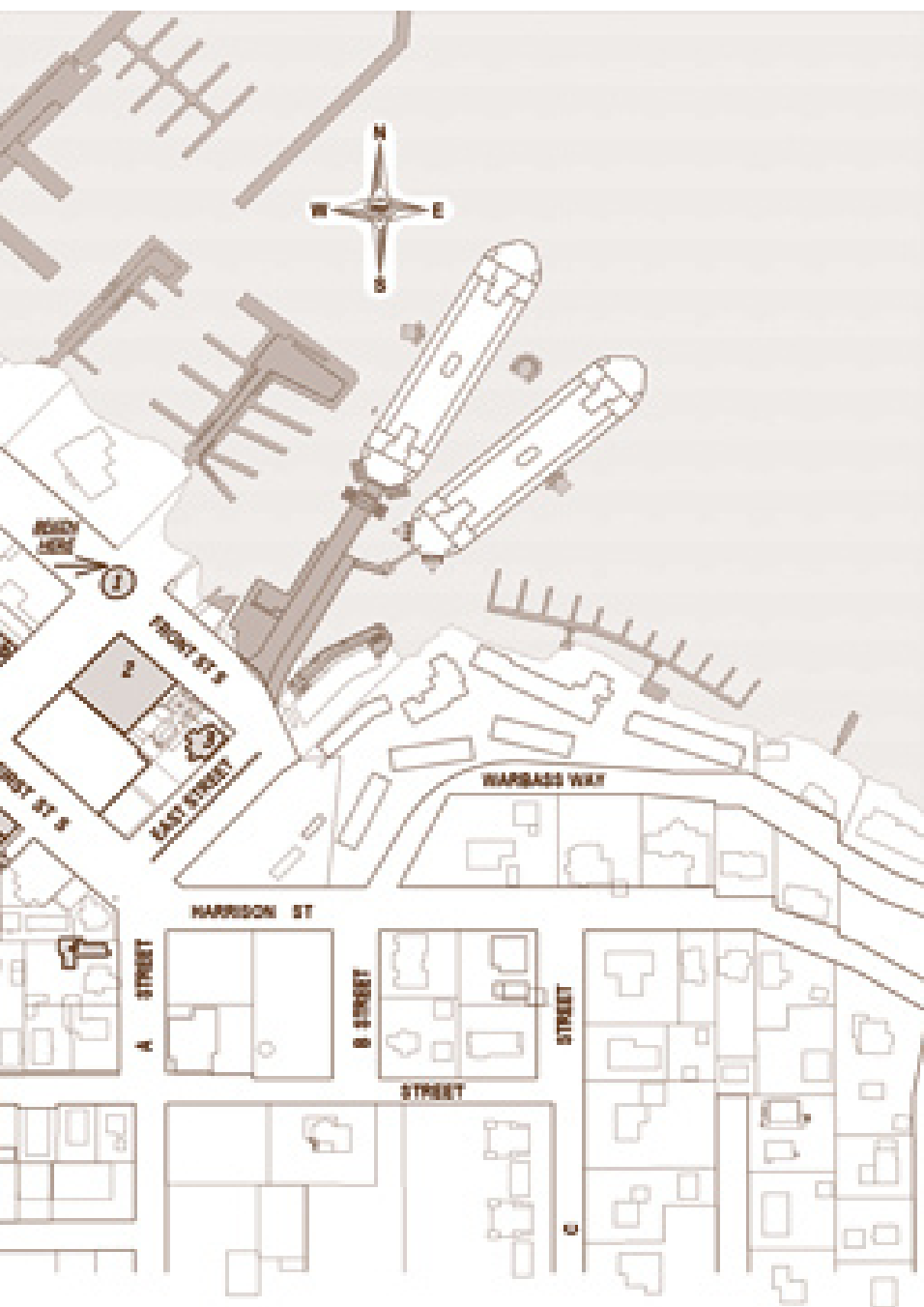
Friday Harbor Town Hall and Legion Library
c 1936
60 Second Street

The Legion Public Library, founded in 1922, was first located on Spring Street (see site #12). In 1936, town librarian Mrs. Leon Little and attorney Elmon Geneste worked out the details for the construction of a new concrete building to house the public library and government offices. Funding for the building came from the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA). The library was located here until 1983 when a new library was completed on Guard Street. The Town Council chambers and offices now occupy the former library rooms.

Established in 1915, the newly formed Town of Friday Harbor Volunteer Fire Department purchased two fire-fighting hose carts for \$230. Unlike fire departments in large mainland



Friday Harbor Town Hall and Legion Library, 2006.
Town of Friday Harbor Photo.



cities, in rural areas hose carts were pulled by volunteer firefighters themselves, not with horses. This essential fire-fighting equipment was originally housed in the unfinished basement below the main entrance of Town Hall. Today this area houses the Town's business office.

In 1982 Friday Harbor voters passed a bond to build a fire station addition. It was completed in 1984.



Masonic Hall, 1914
15 Second Street

Masonic Hall, c 1915.

Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.



There are no known records of the plans, specifications or costs that led to the construction of the County's only Masonic Hall, though the archived minutes of Masonic Lodge #175 refer to labor, materials, teams and wagons—all supplied by members. The Lodge has held its meetings upstairs in the northwest corner room continuously since 1914. In 1928 the

building was enlarged on the southeastern facade, (note the seam visible to the right of the entrance.) Over the years, the hall has housed an interesting assortment of ground floor tenants, including a roller-skating rink during WWII, a dance hall, and an automotive parts store. Behind the hall are two heritage apple trees, the scattered remains of the orchards that once occupied this area.

Masonic
Hall Apple
Trees, 2006.
Town of
Friday Harbor
Photo.



Apple Trees, planting date unknown
Planted behind the Masonic Hall

Throughout the town sporadic stands of fruit trees remind us that between 1890 and 1910 the young town was encircled with productive orchards, farms and kitchen gardens. Fruit from these early orchards was shipped to both domestic and foreign markets. This was the beginning of Washington's apple industry and was the agricultural mainstay on San Juan Island at the turn of the 20th century. Old pear and apple trees line streets and occupy odd corners of lots within the town boundaries still today.

Cross Reed Street



Busby House, c 1910
55 Second Street

Busby/Landahl House, 2006. Town of Friday Harbor Photo.



One of the first residents of this house, Carrie M. Busby, was San Juan County superintendent of schools. Never married, her position required frequent travel between islands, administrating the affairs of rural teachers and students in the county's many one-room school houses.

A later resident, Lilian Landahl, was thirteen when her family bought the house in 1943. She remembers her first glance at "an old house with a jungle of blackberry vines". But her mother saw promise in it, enough to pay \$15 a month with zero down to buy it. Soon after, the Landahls added the rounded front porch and stair. The Landahl family is connected to the pioneer Christopher Rosler family. Rosler was stationed at American

Camp during the joint occupation. In 1991 the considerable commercial addition was constructed and connected to the back of the house.

Yews, planting date unknown

Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata'

Two columnar yew trees flank the original entrance to the Busby house. They are cultivars of the English yew—*Taxus baccata*. Yews are conifers, but their cones are reduced to a single seed-bearing scale. The bright red fleshy appendage on the seed attracts birds and animals. The toxic nature of the yew seed found literary purpose in author Agatha Christie's book, *A Pocket Full of Rye*. *Taxus* is also known as the source of the drug Taxol, an anti-cancer drug.



Ridley/Wilson House, built c 1900
175 Second Street

Ridley/Wilson House, 2006.
Town of Friday Harbor Photo.

This house is first associated with the family of Jack Ridley and his grandson, the local dairyman, Ed Ridley. The house was already standing by the time the San Juan County Courthouse was built in 1906.



In later years the house was sold to the Howard Wilson family. The Wilsons are closely tied to the early history of both Lopez and San Juan Islands.

Apple Trees, planting date unknown

Remnants of an old apple orchard are visible in the side yard and scattered across nearby properties. While it is unknown who planted the trees and whether they belonged to one or more neighboring properties, some of the trees are still producing red and yellow apples.

Cross Second Street and proceed downhill.
Turn left onto Court Street.



San Juan County Courthouse, 1906
350 Court Street
(view between Second and First streets)

In 1873, the WA Territorial Legislature established San Juan County with Friday Harbor as the county seat. For the next thirty-three years, the courthouse occupied several temporary wooden buildings in various locations on Spring Street.

In 1906 construction on the simple but stately red-brick courthouse was completed. The building was designed by Seattle architect W. P. White who also designed the San Juan County Bank building (site #5). Built in the Second Renaissance style at a cost of \$14,000, the brick building was touted to be the utmost in modern construction, though structural problems would surface later. In 1983, its foundation was deemed unsafe and the building vacated.

The courthouse has been the center of legal and political functions in the county, including petitions and protests by citizens upset with national, state, and local politics. In 1984,

the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Straights of Juan de Fuca, a local drama group hoping to make the empty courthouse a community theater. In 1989, after considerable debate, the building was saved when San Juan County voters passed a special advisory ballot to restore the building.



San Juan County Courthouse, c 1907.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

Until the 1980s, the county jail sat in what is now the Courthouse parking lot. The jail was a small one-story hipped-roof building with a steeple in the center. According to local historian, the late F. H. Van Cleve, the jail had a yellow light above the outside doorway, that when lit, indicated the presence of a miscreant. Naturally, this created quite a buzz whenever the bulb was lit.

Today, a modern jail facility is part of the courthouse annex, while the historic former jail building enjoys retirement as a

historical exhibit on the grounds of the San Juan Historical Museum, just a few blocks away.

Black Walnut, planted circa 1910

Juglans nigra, located at the southwest entrance of the courthouse.

The large and distinctive black walnut tree in the front of the historic courthouse is native to the eastern United States. The fruits are highly sought after as a source of a rich brown textile dye, and for their edible nuts. The wood is highly prized by fine woodworkers. Black walnuts produce chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants under or near them.



Continue north on Court Street. At First Street turn left,
Proceed up hill until the paved street ends. Cross here.



Nourdine Jensen House, c 1905-1910
260 First Street



Nourdine Jensen House, c 1906.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

Located on the bluffs overlooking the harbor, this modest hipped-roof home was built by Friday Harbor carpenter and house builder Van Sargent.

It is an excellent example of the vernacular architecture that characterized Friday Harbor's origins as an agricultural and fishing village.

It is most closely associated with the Jensen family, longtime shipbuilders on the island. The Albert Jensen and Son

Shipyard became known throughout Puget Sound for the beautiful, sturdy, seaworthy ships and boats built there. The Jensen shipyard is still in operation just east of town.

If it is a clear day, take a moment to enjoy the view of Mt. Constitution (left, on Orcas Island), and Mt. Baker (right). Then proceed downhill on First Street, just past the old barn and newer one-story building.



Eucalyptus, planted c 1970
On First Street, across from the
Court House lawn

These three Eucalyptus trees were planted in the 1970s. Despite cold weather, coastal exposure and benign neglect, one of the trees has grown to be a wonderful example of the species. Eucalyptus is native to Australia, though common in California, is not as familiar this far north. On San Juan Island only a handful of local gardening enthusiasts have attempted to cultivate them—one island gardener succeeding with 15 species in his somewhat sheltered garden out of town.



Methodist Church, 1890
153 First Street

This building is one of the island's earliest church buildings. It was constructed in 1890 by a circuit-riding Methodist minister, the Reverend Andrew J. McNamee, and a small group of church volunteers. McNamee was a zealous proponent of the Temperance Movement, frequently preaching against alcohol and the many saloons in Friday Harbor. Constructed in just over four months, it served the Methodist congregation for thirty-five years. Later, from 1925 until 1975, the Women's

Study Club owned the building. The Study Club offered civic and cultural programs, including the planning and fund raising for Memorial Park (site #1). In 1975 the Grange purchased the building with a provision granting the Study Club rent-free meeting space in perpetuity. Today the building continues to be a center for community events.



Methodist Church, 2006. Town of Friday Harbor Photo.

Yews, planting date unknown

Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata'

Note the yew trees flanking the entrance. Yews planted at the building entrance were intended to lend a Victorian formality to this important and much loved building.



Odd Fellows Hall, 1892
62 First Street

Originally the Odd Fellows Hall, this building was the hub of the community's social life until the 1940s. Built by members of the Mount Dallas Lodge #95 of the I.O.O. F., the building

accommodated Lodge meetings upstairs, and community events downstairs. Many older island residents remember attending graduations, plays, Christmas celebrations, basketball games, and dances there.

The building also served as the courtroom for some of the county's most infamous early trials. In 1895, Richard Straub was tried in the Odd Fellows Hall for the murder of Leon Lauterman. The case drew so much attention the courthouse was too small to hold the crowd. Straub was convicted and became the only person to be hanged in San Juan County. Years later, on May 9, 1910, Billy Sunday used the hall to thunder against "demon rum". The next day voters declared the town dry. Today, the building is the Whale Museum and is listed on the Washington State Heritage Register.

Odd
Fellows
Hall,
2006.
Town of
Friday
Harbor
Photo.



Continue down First Street; stop at the intersection of
West and First streets.



Ford Dealership & Garage, 1916
10 First Street

The Ford Dealership & Garage building (also known as the Schuman Building), was built by A. J. Paxon to house his

Overland and Studebaker automobile showroom, and a garage owned by Calvin Lightheart and George Franck.



Ford Dealership & Garage, c 1917.
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum.

The bricks used in its construction were made at the Boede Cement Company, a barn-like building on Nichol Street that is still in use today.

Franck later opened a Ford dealership here with John L. Murray, carrying the latest model cars and tractors. Murray was elected to public office many times, first serving as San Juan County Auditor and then Treasurer; and later (1910-1912), as the mayor of Friday Harbor. Not content with a career in local politics, he went on to serve two terms in the state legislature. Later still, as Assistant Land Commissioner for the State of Washington, he was named in a number of lawsuits concerning a land grabbing scheme. Controversy often surrounded his political and commercial activities.

Look at the multi-story wood building across First Street



Tourist Hotel, 1891
35 First Street

Also known as the Elite Hotel, the Tourist Hotel has been operated as a hotel continuously since 1893. Owned by Patrick Welsh and known throughout Puget Sound, it boasted first class cuisine and a popular saloon and pool room.

A ladies' reception room and verandah were on the second floor. It was the place to be in its heyday and later included an annex on Spring Street (site #26). It was a popular rest-over for drummers (traveling salesmen) carrying big suitcases stuffed with the newest goods.



Tourist Hotel, 1906. Courtesy of the University of WA
Libraries, Special Collections, WAS1159.

Continue to the corner of First and Spring streets



Churchill's Store, 1892
80 First Street

This building began its life as the San Juan Trading Company, a local enterprise that later included a wharf and warehouses that were part of a thriving import-export business. The owner N. E. Churchill was influential in the town's economic, political and social affairs. In the 1930s it was sold and was known as the Bell Middleton Grocery. In the late 1940s it was known as the Bay View Tavern, a popular place for locals including University of Washington students and faculty who would row over from the labs just north of town. One of the regulars from the lab was a professor named Dixie Lee Ray, who later became Governor of Washington from 1977-1981.

Turn left onto Spring Street and walk toward the harbor.



Churchill's General Store (on corner) c 1890
San Juan Inn (2 story white mid-block) c 1890
Courtesy of the San Juan Island Historical Museum



San Juan Inn, c 1880
50 Spring Street

The San Juan Inn was originally built by William Douglas, brother of the owner and barkeeper of Saloon Best fame (site #2). Over the years, it was run as a hotel under various names by a succession of colorful and strong-willed local women.

For a brief period it housed the United Wireless Telephone Company which advertised "commercial messages to all inland points and ships at sea". Later, it returned to its original role as a convenient haven for travelers, providing lodging to island visitors continuously until 2005.

**This is the end of our tour.
Historic Friday Harbor On Foot
is just a sampling of the many
historic homes and farmsteads on
San Juan Island.**

FOR MORE ABOUT FRIDAY HARBOR'S COLORFUL PAST

For more information about historic Friday Harbor and San Juan Island, please contact the San Juan Historical Museum for hours and days of operation.



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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

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