



Walking Tour of LaConner's Historic Landmarks

Sources:

The Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History,
HistoryLink.org, LaConner-Thumbnail History
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation,
Walking Tour of La Conner, 1997
Thomas Robinson



Gaches Store, LaConner, c. 1880, Courtesy Eva Gaches Collinson, HistoryLink.org

La Conner History



Insets:

Top - USGS map of Fidalgo Island and Swinomish Reservation

Bottom - Swinomish Potlatch House 1905

Native Peoples - the Swinomish

Native peoples have lived in Skagit County and its environs for nearly 10,000 years. Sometime around 1300, a new group migrated down from the interior, possibly using the Skagit River. They came to be known as the Coast Salish.

These tribal groups were largely extended families living in villages in cedar plank houses. They had active, viable communities that socialized and traded far beyond their villages and region. They fished for salmon, collected clams and mussels, and use fire to encourage bracken fern and camas to grow on natural prairies.

John Work, a trader with Hudson's Bay Company, traveled through the area in 1824 and noted several "Scaadchet" villages as he crossed Skagit Bay and went up a winding Swinomish Channel. In 1850 there were 11 different tribal groups in Skagit County. As Work did, Euro-American settlers called them all Skagit Indians not seeing the differences.

The Swinomish were closely related to the Lower Skagits but were a separate people and inhabited portions of northern Whidbey Island and all of the islands in Similk Bay and northern Skagit Bay including Hope, Skagit, Kiket, Goat, and Ika, as well as Smith Island at the mouth of the Snohomish River and Hat Island in Padilla Bay. The Swinomish spoke the northern Lushutseed dialect of Coastal Salish.

The Swinomish were a marine-oriented people collecting as much as 70% of their subsistence from salmon and other fish and marine life. They also gathered berries, and after contact with white fur traders, raised potatoes.

The Swinomish maintained permanent villages composed of longhouses built of cedar planks during winter months. During other seasons, they roamed to outlying fishing and camping sites of various degrees of permanency.

The more-or-less contiguous Swinomish villages were relatively independent of each other composed of several families under leaders whose positions were determined by material wealth and standing. None of the leaders had complete control over all of the villages. Potlatch and other ceremonies established social standing and helped maintain social contacts among the villages.



Inserts:

***Top - Canoe Journey artwork by Kevin Paul, Swinomish Shaman and Artist
Center - Canoes arriving at Sneeoosh in 2009 on way to Canoe Journey
Bottom - Swinomish Swadabs Park under construction for 2011 Canoe Journey landing at Sneeoosh***

Epidemics in the 1800s seriously reduced the Swinomish populations by as much as 80% in some areas. In 1855 territorial representatives estimated the Swinomish numbered between 150 and 200 people.

The Swinomish were among the tribes who located in the Sneeoosh village on the 7,449-acre Swinomish Reservation which was set aside near the mouth of the Skagit River on Fidalgo Island on the Swinomish Channel under the Point Elliott Treaty in 1855. Most members of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community on the Swinomish Reservation are descendents of the Swinomish proper, the Lower Skagits, and the Lower Samish.

The Swinomish Tribal Community is a federally recognized Indian Tribe and a sovereign nation. The enrolled membership is about 778 and the Indian population living on or near the reservation are approximately 1,000. The executive governing body is the 11-member Swinomish Indian Senate, whose members are elected to 5-year terms.

LaConner (Swinomish) settlement

The first non-native or Euro-Americans venturing into the region were Spanish, British, and Russian explorers and fur traders. A few occupied Fidalgo Island in the 1860s.

Swinomish (renamed later as LaConner) was one of the first settlements on the mainland north of Seattle, and had 28 people living here by the 1860s. The settlement was situated on a hill on the east side of the Swinomish Channel and was completely surrounded by marsh and wetlands - boats being the main mode of travel. The Swinomish Channel, which prior to being diked, naturally over-flowed east into the surrounding marsh lands and Skagit River delta surrounding the hill and settlement.

Michael Sullivan and Samuel Calhoun began diking the marshy flats near LaConner in 1863. At first ridiculed, they proved that with diking, agriculture was possible on what was thought to be useless wetland.

The first Euro-American settler to occupy the area of LaConner (also spelled La Conner) was Alonzo Lowe, who established the Swinomish Trading Post on the west side of the Swinomish Channel in now Sneeoosh village in 1867. Finding business unprofitable, Lowe abandoned the post after 14 months.

Shortly thereafter, trader Thomas Hayes took over the Swinomish trading post, which also became a



Inserts:

Top - LaConner in 1890 courtesy UW Special Collections with the George S Starr sternwheeler

Bottom - Sternwheeler Skagit Queen, Skagit Bay Navigation, Photo by Oliver S Van Olinda. Courtesy UW Special Collections

designated post office, and moved it across the Channel into the Swinomish settlement.

In 1869, John S Conner and his wife Louisa Ann purchased the trading post from Thomas Hayes and turned it into a General Merchandise Store. In 1870, Conner renamed the post office station, and thereby the town, from Swinomish after his wife Louisa Ann, by adding the initials of her first and middle names to the family name.

Conner's cousin James Conner platted the future town site in 1872, but John bought and eventually owned most of the settlement and surrounding farmland becoming the town's pre-eminent developer.

In 1873, Conner sold the General Merchandise Store business to James and George Gaches, who had migrated to LaConner from England. The business became known as Gaches Brothers and was operated by the Gaches along with a warehouse on the waterfront. The store eventually burned to the ground.

John Conner promoted the town as a steamboat hamlet, and as a result LaConner rapidly grew into a center for transportation, commerce, government, agriculture, and fishing. LaConner was the major port between Seattle and Bellingham, when steamboats played a vital role in connecting the communities on Puget Sound. Located adjacent to rich farmlands, LaConner became the key shipping and supply point for the nearby rural area.

Beginning at about the time of the founding of LaConner, settlers on the frequently flooded Swinomish or LaConner flats began diking and draining the wet marshlands and river delta. The dikes were built by hand using shovels and wheelbarrows to a height of 3 to 7 feet in places. A flood in 1874, however, destroyed the 3 miles of dikes that had initially been erected by Michael J Sullivan.

Reconstruction of dikes began anew; as John Conner diked his complete farmland holdings. Eventually, these pioneer reclamation projects and subsequent efforts resulted in the construction of 200 miles of dikes, the reclaiming of 25,000 acres of land, and the creation of a multimillion dollar hay, grain, and truck farming industry.

LaConner was incorporated on 20 November 1883, and 8 days later became the first seat in Skagit County. In 1884, however, the county seat was moved to Mount Vernon. As a result, the residents of LaConner passed a petition repealing



Inserts:

***Top - present day LaConner waterfront
Bottom - Rainbow Bridge from downtown
waterfront looking towards "Hole-in-the-
Wall" entrance to Swinomish Channel***

incorporation in 1886 feeling that they had been hasty in assuming cityhood. By 1888, however, LaConner was again incorporated.

By the 1900s, LaConner had a population of about 1,000 residents, and it became apparent that a much anticipated railroad connection was never going to materialize extending instead into nearby Anacortes. LaConner was destined to remain a "steamboat" town. However, this era was a high point of prosperity and most of the structures in the historic districts were constructed at this time.

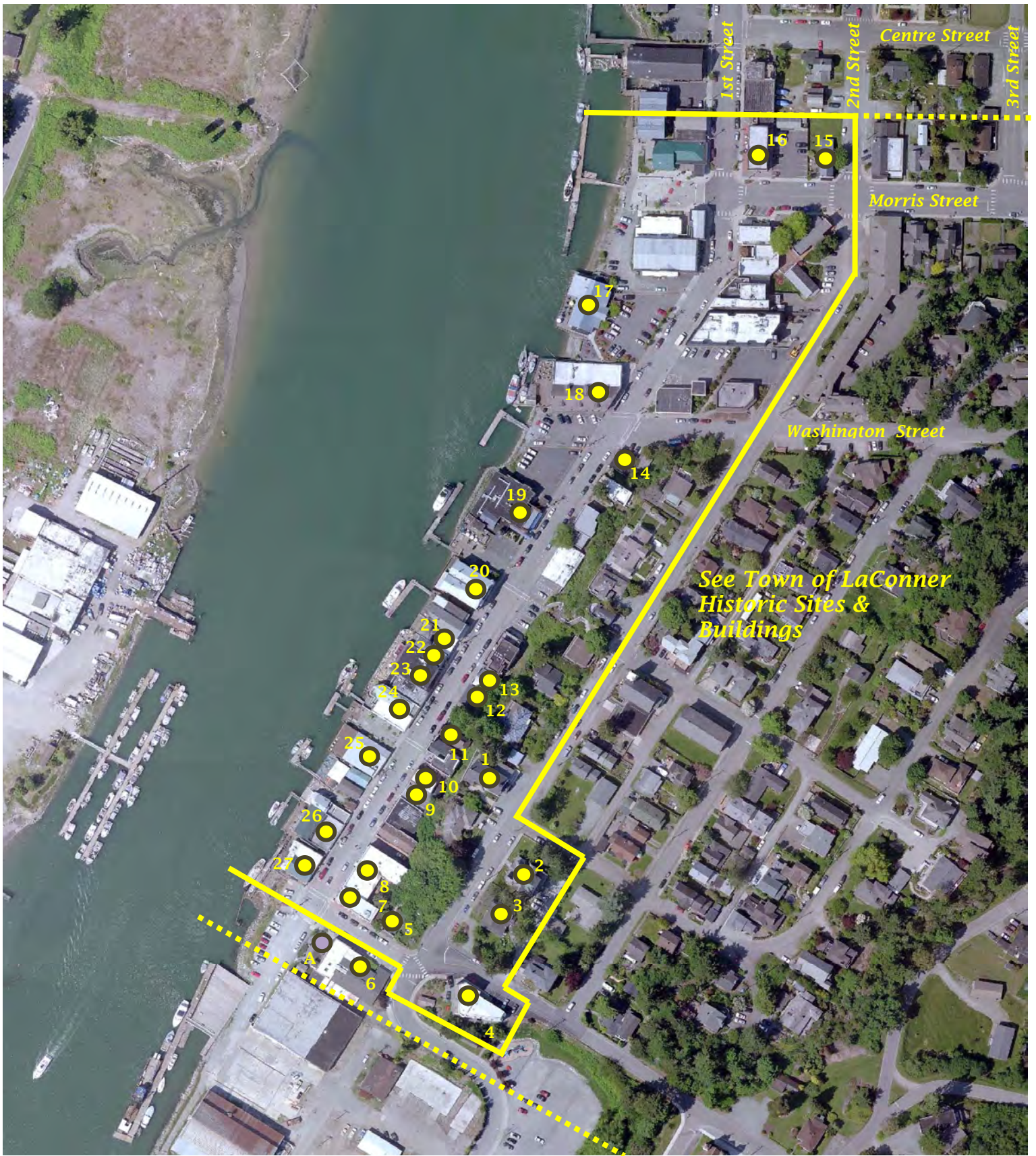
By 1960, however, LaConner downsized to 640 residents as the town's port functions declined. LaConner still remained a hub for commercial, agricultural, and fishing activities for the surrounding region, but tourism and pleasure boating became major pursuits.

Painters took an interest in LaConner and began moving into the area as early as 1937. Artists and writers followed establishing an artist colony in nearby Fish Town that was an offshoot of the Northwest School and eventually resulted in LaConner's Museum of Northwest Art (MoNA).

A majority of the historic buildings in LaConner remain unchanged, though a score have disappeared. Many of the structures on the waterfront extend on pilings over the slough and eventual channel, reflecting the town's early and important ties with water related industries.

The styles of the buildings are characteristic of the commercial architecture common of the turn-of-the-century. Few new structures have been built to replace the 20 or so historic buildings that are gone. As a consequence, there is considerable open space between structures at the north end of First Street. The south end of First Street, however, has few gaps and the buildings remain closely compacted as they were when they were originally developed.

Most of LaConner's buildings are wood false front design with 5 brick and masonry structures. The most common type of structure in the downtown district is the smaller false-front and square-faced wood frame buildings. The front facades usually have full length windows and a top portion capped by bracketed frieze bands and decorated cornices.



National Historic District ————— State Historic District
Downtown LaConner National Historic District

Historic sites (no remaining structures) ●

● Historic buildings

Downtown La Conner National Historic District



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A LaConner Post Office/General Merchandise Store/Gaches Brothers - 1869

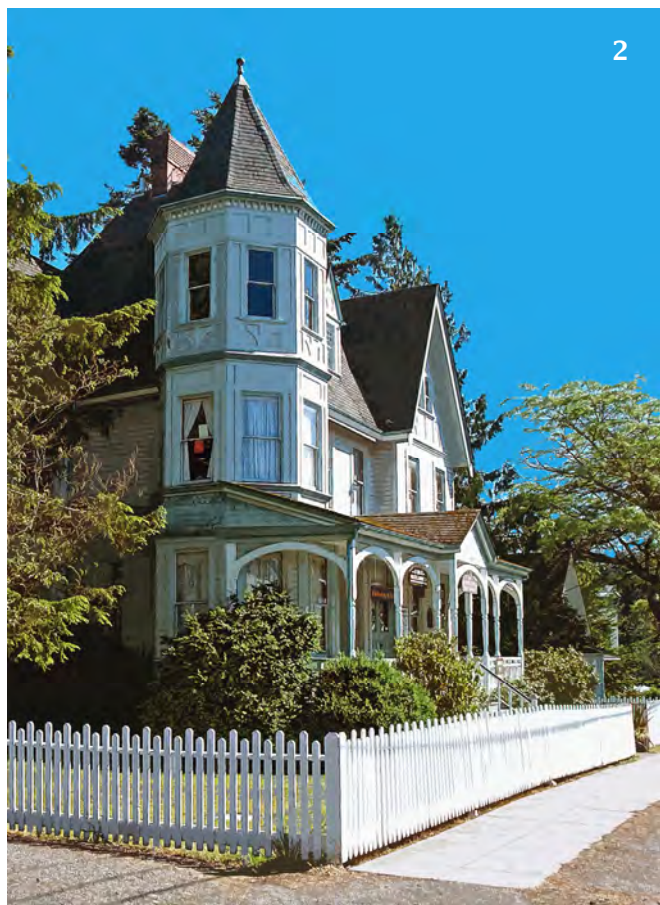
Originally located on Commercial Street where Maple Hall is currently sited after the business was moved from the west side of the Channel. The original building burned to the ground.

1 LaConner Grange Hall (Civic Garden Club) - 1877

622 2nd Street - this structure was built to be used as a general purpose town building - and initially by the LaConner Grange, one of the first formed in Washington State. The building was subsequently used as the first County Courthouse in Skagit County, and then a school house, church, social hall, manual training shop and domestic kitchen for the La Conner School District, dance hall, and library on the second floor. The building is listed in the Washington State Register of Historic Places.

Architecture - the building is a 2 ½ story structure with a gable roof and bell cupola on the ridge. Changes to the exterior include the addition of a garage and porch on the north side.





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2 Gaches Mansion (LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum) - 1891

703 South 2nd Street - George Gaches built this house for his family before moving to Seattle in 1902. The mansion was subsequently used as a hospital than apartments (Castle Apartments) before being acquired for the Quilt Museum.

Architecture - this large ornate 2 ½ story structure had the top floor destroyed by fire in 1973 when the building was being used as an apartment house that was rebuilt by the LaConner Landmark Committee. The building has an octagonal tower, faceted gable ends, a steeply pitched roof, and full length porch. The house is an excellent example of Victorian domestic architecture.

3 Doctor Calhoun House - 1878

709 South 2nd Street - this house was built to house Doctor Calhoun's office and residence. The building later housed a photograph gallery, lawyer's office, home bakery, and now a residence.

Architecture - the house is a traditional saltbox house with an addition to the north side. The extension has gabled roof and large bay windows. A front porch with heavy wood piers extends across front of original house. Shiplap siding, white paint, and shutters highlight this 1 ½ story house.

4 Bank Building (City Hall) - 1886

204 Douglas Avenue - William E Schricker built the building and was the first banker in Skagit County. The offices upstairs were occupied by Henry McBride, an attorney who was appointed governor of the State of Washington in the 1890s.

Architecture - this flat-iron style building has a front façade that is white stucco. A plain cornice divides the first and second floor. Windows on the front are high and narrow, capped by raised 3 pointed arches.

5 Fred Erye Grocery (Cyngus)

109 Commercial - the building was constructed to house a grocery originally located on 1st Street, but was later moved to this location and subsequently used for retail stores and now an art gallery.

Architecture - this false-front building has a central entranceway flanked by double bays of French windows.

6 Legion Hall/Goldsmith Department Store (Maple Hall) - 1900s

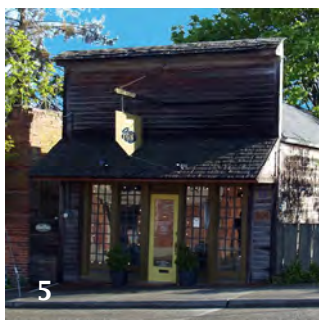
108 Commercial Street - the Goldsmith family operated a men's clothing and dry goods store in this building that also included a bowling alley operated by a Mr McGerk.



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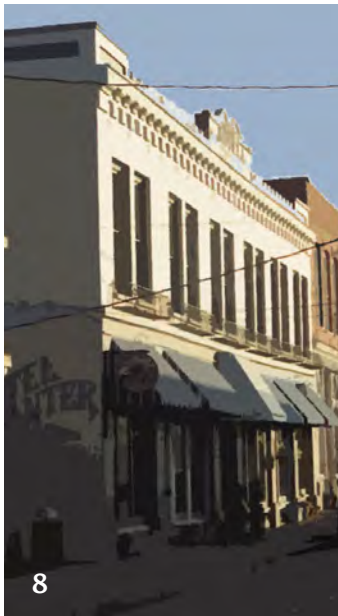


Architecture - the 2 story rectangular building is composed of stuccoed brick with flat roof that is undecorated.

7 Nevada Bar (Next Chapter Bookstore) - 1890

721 South 1st Street - this building was built on the site of a hotel constructed by John Conner. The site was acquired by Paul Polson who built this structure. The first floor housed the Nevada Bar, and later a pool hall, and later a post office. The upper floor housed doctor offices, lawyers, and rooms for rent.

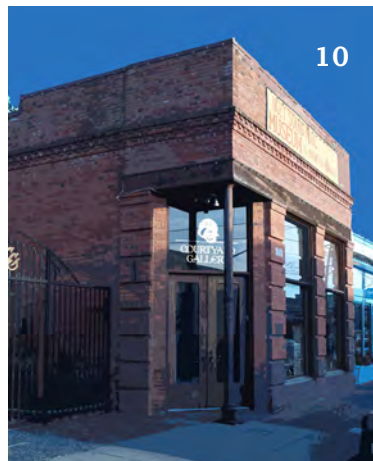
Architecture - the building is composed entirely of brick except for the first story front façade and a few decorated painted features. Two wooden piers capped by flat beam form a large front bay. Windows and doors on the front have fan lights which produce a palladian effect. The first floor is separated from the second by simple cornice with dentals. The front is capped by a wooden bracketed frieze and cornices. All of the remaining windows are topped with scrollwork arches and a decorative brick band extends the full length of the building on the Commercial Street side.



8 Marietta/Planter Hotel - 1907

715 South 1st Street - the original building was a smaller wooden hotel building built by John Conner as LaConner Hotel and later called the Marietta Hotel. The site was acquired by Paul Polson who built this structure to house the hotel, restaurant, bakery, rooms for doctor and dentist offices, a cigar maker, jewelry shop, insurance office, stage line, and Dunlap Towing office.

Architecture - the 2 story building exhibits the Chicago School influence. The first story is divided into bays, and the front façade is topped by a decorative cornice and central scrolled parapet with "Hotel" and "1907" inscribed in large letters. The building has an enclosed garden courtyard in the rear.



9 Meek's Barbershop (Fairy Godmother's Unlimited) - 1914

705 South 1st Street - the building was built to house a restaurant, and then a series of retail stores, then Meeks barbershop, and now a specialty retail shop.

Architecture - the 1 story wood building has a false-front and false projecting eave.

10 Fletcher's Saloon/Puget Sound Mail (Courtyard Gallery) - 1898

701 South 1st Street - the building was built to house a saloon called the Bohemian Bar, and later the Acme Saloon, and then Fletcher's Saloon. Later



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uses included a pool hall, card room and restaurant, a movie house, grocery store, and eventually the permanent home of the Puget Sound Mail newspaper (which operated out of 6 different locations in town until locating here). The building and the lot next door currently house Courtyard Gallery.

Architecture - the brick face is unchanged but the rear was destroyed by a rock slide in the 1950s. The damage was repaired and a wooden structure was added to the north side. The former entrance at the northwest corner has been enclosed and the main doorway is now on the west side.

11 People's Market/August Staude Cobbler Shop (La Crema Coffee) - 1890

621 South 1st Street - this building was constructed to house LaConner's first meat market, then a shoemaker's shop, and currently a coffee shop.

Architecture - the building is a typical false-front structure with a central door flanked by large picture windows. The front is topped by a simple frieze and cornice.

12 Palace Meat Market (Caravan Gallery) - 1915

619 South 1st Street - this is the second structure in the district to house the Palace Meat Market. The building was originally built as LaConner's first livery stable. The building was remodeled to serve as a telephone office, then a tavern, and finally as a imported antiques shop.

Architecture - a 2 story hip roofed structure of weathered wood has been added to the rear. The main entrance was once at the front, but was changed to the side when the building was remodeled.

, and then

13 Wainwright Livery Stables (LaConner Volunteer Fireman's Museum) - 1930s

517 South 1st Street - the original building was an early livery stable with living quarters upstairs. The building was torn down in the 1930s and the firemen built this building for a fire hall, and eventually remodeled it installing 3 large windows and antique fire trucks.

14 Unkharte Building (Country Lady & Liddell/Petersen Architects) - 1908

301 South 1st Street - this building served as George Unkharte's barber shop on the north end and as a restaurant operated by his wife on the south end. The building currently houses a women's dress shop and architects office.

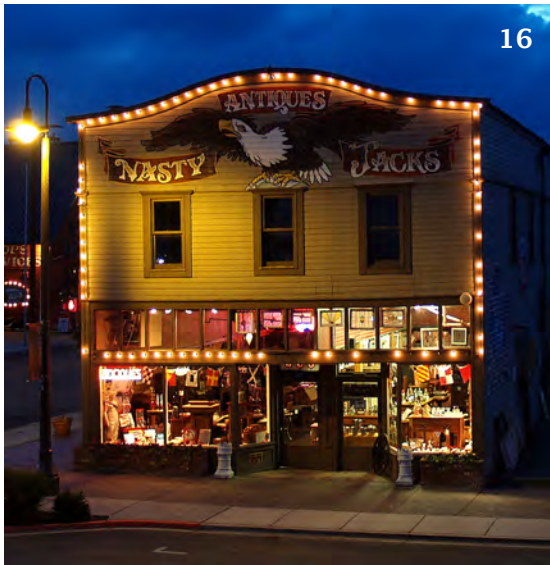
Architecture - the original building was constructed in 1902 but burned. This building was



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Walking Tour
Downtown La Conner National Historic District

constructed afterwards and has a projecting false eave, short parapet, and multi-paned windows.

15 Puget Sound Mail (Go Outside) - 1889

111 Morris Street - this building once housed the printing office of the Puget Sound Mail, one of the oldest weekly newspapers in Puget Sound and then a succession of retail stores.

Architecture - the 1 story false-front shiplap building has a single entry with large front window display.

16 The Brunswick Hotel and Fair Store (Nasty Jack's Antiques) - 1891

103 Morris Street - the building housed a department store, then a furniture repair shop and undertaking parlor, a carpenter shop, a grocery store, a meeting room for school classes, and currently an antique shop.

Architecture - originally 3 stories with a mansard roof though the top story was removed. The store retains full length front windows and the top of the front façade terminates in a decorative semi-arched cornice relieving the rectangularity of the building.

17 Acme Theater (LaConner Fruit & Produce Market) - 1910

106 South 1st Street - was built by WA King to house the Acme Theater, LaConner's first moving picture show house. The building was later adopted for a grocery store, then a restaurant, and now the LaConner Fruit & Produce Market.

18 Nelson-Pierson Grocery (Pier 7) - 1908

128 South 1st Street - the first Chinese laundry building was originally built on this property in 1875 by Quong Lung. The building had living quarters that were rumored to house Chinese who were smuggled into the country and hid here for a few days, before being sent to Seattle or Port Townsend. The present building was used as a seed company then later as a boat house and currently as Pier 7 housing a restaurant, art gallery, and glass blowing artist shop.

Architecture - the irregularly wedge shaped building has the end blunted for the front façade. The structure is covered with shiplap and capped with a hip roof. Large sliding doors are located on the sides for loading merchandise and freight. The street entrance has the decorated false-front and large full length windows common to the rest of LaConner's businesses.

19 Lighthouse Inn (Palmer's Restaurant)

512 South 1st Street - the waterfront portion of the building used for the Lighthouse Inn, now



Palmer's Restaurant, was brought by barge from Bellingham. The frontage structure on 1st Street was built to house a grocery and general merchandise store, then later a telephone office, then a home and dressmaking shop before housing Palmer's Restaurant and Scott's Art Gallery.

20 Wiggins' Store (Ginger Grater & Olive Shoppe) - 1890s

604 South 1st Street - the building originally housed a grocery and general merchandise store, an upstairs brothel, then a jewelry store, then furniture and hardware store, then an art school, and currently the Ginger Grater and Olive Shoppe kitchen goods. **Architecture** - has the most ornate exterior woodwork of the large mercantile buildings. The false-front building has 2 square oriel windows on the second floor, and 2 false gable-dormer projections on the top cornice. A unique feature is the double repetition of the stylistic elements, causing the structure to have a double-building appearance.

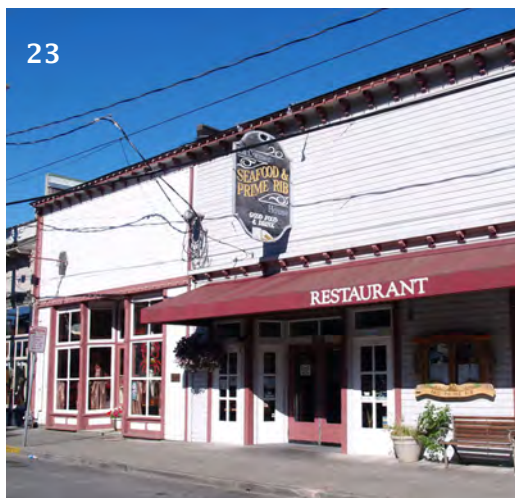


21 LaConner Drug Store (Washington Sips, Skagit Valley Styles, Cattails & Dragonflies) - 1890s

608 South 1st Street - the original building was operated as a drug store by a succession of local LaConner doctors, then as retail stores, and currently with a wine shop, retail store, and garden artifacts. **Architecture** - tile material covers the false front, with a flat roof addition to the north. A flat-roofed rectangular addition on the north side was built on later as was a 2 story addition on the waterfront that houses a rental condo on the upper floor.

22 Harry Rock's Harness Shop (Waters Edge) - 1900

612 South 1st Street - the building originally housed a paint store, then a shoe store and men's goods, then a harness shop and later a grocery store with men's furnishings, and currently an art gallery. **Architecture** - the building was covered with composition materials and a few openings were covered. The building was remodeled in 1903.



23 Vahn's Store (LaConner Seafood & Prime Rib House) - 1890s

614 South 1st Street - the south section of the building housed a bowling alley, the middle section a grocery store, and the north section a men's clothing store. The sections were combined later to house a grocery store, and then currently the LaConner Seafood & Prime Rib House.



Architecture - the building is a fine example of a false front structure. The building has the equivalent of 3 store fronts, each with separate inset entrances.

24 Colman Queen's Saloon - Palace Meat Market (Skagit River Boutique and Two Moons) - 1890

622 South 1st Street - the building housed the Palace Meat Market, which has been located in other locations in the downtown, and is currently occupied by a dress shop and art gallery.

Architecture - this 1 story false-front wooden building still retains the hand painted wall sign over the windows. This building was built after a fire destroyed the original structure which housed the saloon.



25 Iverson Building - Brewster Cigar Store & Mrs Cook's Restaurant (LaConner Tavern) - 1890s

702 South 1st Street - this building was built after a fire destroyed the original 2 story structure that housed a cigar store and pool hall on the lower floor and rooms to let on the upper floor.

Architecture - the building is connected with continuous frieze band and medallioned cornice. The cigar store originally had a second floor used for hotel rooms. The parapet on the restaurant is lower than on the cigar store segment.



26 Kastner Department Store & Hooke's Restaurant (Cottons and The Stall) - 1890s

710-712 South 1st Street - the current building was built after fire destroyed the original. The building contains 2 retail units that are currently occupied by women's clothing stores.

Architecture - the building contains two units attached with each unit having central entranceways, flanked by windows, false eaves, and short parapets. Kastner's has a projecting marquee over the sidewalk.



27 Coast Guard Building (Calico Cupboard) - 1900s

720 South 1st Street - fire destroyed the earlier building which housed the United Coast Guard and the workmen who built Fort Whitman on Goat Island located south of the Swinomish Channel entrance.

Architecture - this building, which houses Calico Cupboard, has a stucco front and an inset entrance flanked on each side by large windows.

Photos courtesy of Rosebud Graphics



National Historic District ————— **State Historic District**
Town of LaConner Historic Sites & Buildings

Historic sites (no remaining structures) ●

● Historic buildings

Town of LaConner Historic Sites & Buildings

Historic sites (no remaining structures)

Historic buildings



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The LaConner Historic District was adopted by Town Council in September 1972, the State and National Historic Districts in 1973. All of LaConner has been proposed to be added to the State and National Historic Register.

In the National Historic District there are:

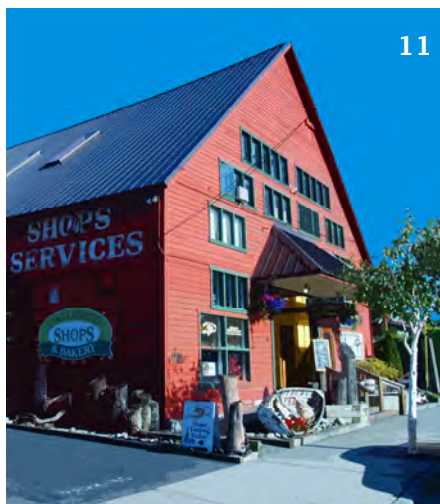
65 total sites
57 are registered on the National Registry
28 historic buildings are still standing
20 non-historic buildings

In the Town of LaConner there are:

270 total historic sites
161 historic buildings and sites
109 non-historic buildings



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A Alonzo Lowe Trading Post 1867 - located west of the Swinomish Tribal office and fish cannery

B Swinomish Catholic Church 1868 - built through efforts of Father Blanchet and Father Chirouse to replace the "brush church". The Indian Agents home and the Government Indian School were built in 1894 south of the church site (no longer remaining).

C Swinomish Indian Cemetery

D Swinomish Channel Swing Bridge 1916 - at the end of Morris Street was removed when the Rainbow Bridge was completed in 1957.

1 Site LaConner Shingle Mill

2 Site House 1892 - Jordon Johnson home

3 House - Jordon Johnson home moved and occupied by Esther Johnson

4 Site Port Stanly Lumber Mill - later owned by WW Market, then sold to the Swinomish Indians and moved across the Swinomish Channel just west of present Tribal cannery

5 Site - where Robert Ginnett built several large boats in the open

6 Site John Conner Warehouse

7 Site House 1905 - Matt O Brevick waterfront home, a houseboat

8 Site Charles Gaches Warehouse

9 Site James Hulbert Warehouse

10 Site William Downey Warehouse

11 Perry Polson Warehouse (Lime Dock) 1890

12 Site Perry Polson Warehouse



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13 Site NG Turner Lumber Company 204 North 1st - later Premo Lumber Company, then Premo-Allen Lumber Company, then Allen Lumber Company, then Nelson Lumber Company

14 House 1890s - 117 North 2nd Street built by Jenson then owned by Jerry Grant

15 (Ruby Sue's Tea Shop) 1893 - 201 Morris Street built by Will Wells for grocery store has also been a tin shop, furniture shop, undertaking parlor, theater, boat shop, a pizza parlor, and a tea house

16 House 1894 - 217 Morris Street built by Harris Peck, Matilda Anderson's father gave it to her, later owned by Norval Anderson, then Ralph and Meriam Nelson

17 House 1892 - 209 Morris Street occupied by Fred LeRoy Carter

18 House 1893 - 118 North 2nd Street built by Will Wells, two later owners were George Undkardt and Ned Russell

19 House 1910 - 203 Center Street built by George Brooks who owned the Planter Hotel until about 1920

20 Site 1890 - NE corner of 3rd and Morris Streets (now vacant) location of Tom Roseland's Blacksmith shop - sold to Carl Blade in 1908 - sold to Carl Hultman in 1912

21 Carl Blade (LaConner Station) 1912 - gas station and Ford Agency

22 LaConner Station 1890s - 315 Morris Street was early location of Woodman of the World building and then Chevron Sales & Service

23 House @1895 - 303 Center Street sold to Harry Eagle then to Francis Jenson

24 House 1890s - 317 Center Street home of Dr AR Bailey

25 House 1890s - 220 3rd Street built by John H Chilberg

26 House 1890s - 310 3rd Street built by BL Martin, later owned by Francis Jensen

27 House (Morris Street Antiques) 1895 - 403 Morris Street built by William Dunlay

28 House 1902 - SE Corner 4th & Center built and later owned by Archie Misner

29 House 1895 - NE corner of 4th and Center occupied by Robert Richardson who also owned a livery stable and barn on NW corner of 5th and Center

30 House 1905 - SE corner 4th and State Streets occupied by Frank Sanford

31 House (Morris Street Antiques) 1898 - SE



corner 4th and State Streets occupied by Frank Sanford

32 House 1898 - SE corner 5th and Center owned by Elwood Johnson

33 House 1910 - NE corner 5th and Center occupied by Fred Hedbom

34 House 1888 - SE corner of 5th and State occupied by Harry Rock

35 House 1890s - North side State Street occupied by William Siegfried

36 House 1892 - NW corner 6th and State Street occupied by the parents of William and Scott and Guy Armstrong - who later lived in the old house on the present Phillip Bell home at Chilberg and Dodge Valley Roads

37 House 1890 - built by Mr White who was the long time owner of La Conner Water Works

38 House (Childhood Bliss) 1890s - 516 Morris Street built by Archie Seigfried

39 House (LaConner Investments) 1902 - 603 Morris Street built by Fred L Bailey who was the brother-in-law to AG Tillinghast

40 House 1895 - 206 North 6th built by Mr Pherson who was a monument make and had a large shed and yard full of stone in back of house

41 LaConner Union High School (Elementary School) 1920

42 La Conner Union High School Manual Training Shop (Elementary School) 1920 - with basket ball court and auditorium combined

43 Site of John Richardson Dairy 1910 - redeveloped for LaConner High School

44 House (Bunnies by the Bay) 1898 - 613 Morris Street built by AG Tillinghast, had a small house located just to the NE of the porch of this house

45 Tillinghast Feed & Seed (Seeds Bistro & Bar and Salon Rouge) 1884 - built and operated by the family until 2008 when the complex was retrofit to house retail shops and a restaurant

46 House 1911 - 713 Morris Street built by Francis Tillinghast, son of AG Tillinghast

47 Site 1890s - Ole Wingren Stationery Store and Photography Studio now occupied by LaConner Country Inn

48 House 1893 - 212 Morris Street occupied by Ole Wingren, later owned by Francis Dunlap

49 House (Heidinger's Antiques) 1890s - 220 Morris Street built by Gust Pearson



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- 50 House 1892 - 308 Morris Street built by Ed Wells on edge of hill
- 51 House 1921 - 318 Morris Street built by Percy White
- 52 White-Post Garage (Mary Davis Lighting) 1918 - later was Grange, then Dales Market, then a fire hall
- 53 House (LaConner Thai Garden) 1890s - 504 Morris Street built as livery stable by Harris Peck (2 horses were used for drawing the hearse) was remodeled for home later sold to Mrs Holttum 1917
- 54 House 1900 - 512 Morris Street built by Benjiman F Loveland
- 55 House (Egg & Dart and LaConner Chamber of Commerce 1898 - 606 Morris Street built by William Handke, sold to Carl Blade in 1905, later Doctor Brooks had medical office here
- 56 Site 1880s - 706 Morris Street built Frank Anderson first monument maker in Skagit County (redeveloped for LaConner Drug)
- 57 Site of Monument Shop and Yard - owned by Gene Thien (redeveloped for Key Bank)
- 58 House 1890s - 203 Maple Avenue built by Nels Hendrickson
- 59 House 1920 - 204 Maple Avenue built by Ernst Alexander
- 60 House 1897 - 512 Road Street built by Thomas Hurd and later owned by Ivan Alexander
- 61 House 1890s - 510 Road Street built by Mr Halstead and owned by Harry Miller
- 62 House 1880s - 205 Whatcom Street built for Baptist parsonage
- 63 House 1897 - 211 Washington Street was original house built by Thomas Hurd for John F Anderson and sold to son, Eric R Anderson in 1903, sold in 1945 to John Demorest who rebuilt the house
- 64 Site 1880s - Corner of Washington and Maple Avenue built by Mr Fish - new house built in 1940s
- 65 Site @1885 - Corner of Washington and Maple Avenue built by Mr Fish - new house was built in 1940s
- 66 House 1890s - 301 Maple Avenue built by Sam Foote
- 67 House 1905 - 307 Maple Avenue built by Ed Lovell
- 68 House 1905 - built by Rasmus Koudal, recently owned by his daughter Elizabeth Hedlin



74



75



77

69 House 1880s - 511 Talbot Street built and recently owned by C Aqueres

70 House 1880s - 507 Talbot Street built then later sold to Joseph Eagle around 1912

71 House 1885 - Built by Joseph Kimball, a renowned Civil War Veteran

72 Site - 503 Talbot Street original house of William Ench, long time La Conner butcher, house removed and rebuilt by Dan Hoover

73 Old shed - first mortuary north of Seattle owed by Robert Whitney

74 House (Katy's Inn) @1882 - 503 South 3rd Street built by Captain John Peck, a sea captain who came from Nova Scotia, recently owned by Robert Whitney, now Katy's Inn, established in 1985

75 House 1880s - 303 South 2nd Street built by Mr Breslech

76 House 1890 - 306 South 3rd Street built and later owned by Thomas Rawlins

77 House 1885 - 511 South 3rd Street built and later owned by Archie Siegfried

78 House 1911 - 504 Talbot Street built by Carl Hultman

79 House 1880s - 404 Maple Avenue

80 House @1920 - 416 Maple Avenue

81 House 1890 - 517 Maple Avenue occupied by Charley Peck home with a large barn

82 House @1895 - 603 Maple Avenue occupied by DW Allen

83 House 1895 - 510 Rainier Street built and later owned in the 1930s by Quentin Anderson

84 House 1890 - 405 South 4th Street owned for long time by Mrs Beggs

85 House 1895 - 411 South 4th Street owned by Al "Tide" Dunlap

86 House 1880s - 417 South 4th Street original house built for Henry McBride who was La Conner lawyer who later was appointed the third governor of State of Washington, later owned by son-in-law Louis A Silcox

87 Site 1876 - location of house that later belonged to Hymen Skerskugle

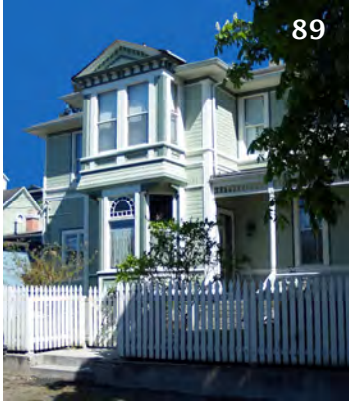
88 House (Methodist Parsonage) 1872 - 414 South 4th Street occupied by Doctor JS Church, present location of Methodist parsonage

89 House 1890 - 313 South 3rd Street built for Perry Polson, founder of Polson Implement and Hardware Company. Polson moved to Seattle and sold house to his sister Paulina

18

Walking Tour

Town of LaConner Historic Sites & Structures



(Polson) Nelson whose husband was Nels A Nelson, later owned by Pat O'Leary, publisher of Puget Sound Mail

90 House 1880s - to north was built for Olaf Poulson

91 House 1880s - 309 South 3rd Street

92 House 1885 - 310 South 3rd Street built and later owned by Charles Valentine

93 House 1870 - 312 South 3rd Street had 2 houses built on this property - the house on the north was remodeled in early 1920s by Ray Wallace (it was probably built by his father), the house on the south was used as first public school in La Conner and was remodeled into a garage which is presently on the property

94 House 1884 - 316 South 3rd Street built by Joseph Dwelley, a Civil War Veteran who lived in the house more than 50 years

95 House 1890 - 309 South 2nd Street later owned by Charley Valentine

96 House 1895 - 311 South 2nd Street built and later owned by Charley Wester

97 House 1890 - 315 South 2nd Street

98 House 1872 - 317 South 2nd Street used in 1870s by BLN Davis, itinerant Baptist minister of Skagit Valley. Several families lived there including Sargent Eastwood's family when he was located at Fort Whitman - currently owned by the author Tom Robbins

99 House 1920 - 319 South 2nd Street was also site of first Catholic Sacred Heart Church built in 1872.

100 Bethesda Baptist Church 1882 - burned in 1927, rebuilt and later sold to Methodists

101 Fraternal Hall 1890 - for lodges, stage plays, and social hall - bBurned in 1927 and rebuilt

102 Site 1890 - of WE Schrickler, early banker - house was removed

103 House 1890 - 615 Whatcom Street built and later owned by Frank Savage then by Leland Jensen

104 House 1890s - 618 Maple Street built and later owned by John Dale

105 House 1895 - 705 Maple Avenue 1895 built and owned by Joe Otis

106 House 1902 - 707 Whatcom Street built and later owned by Allen Taylor, later by Mrs Mudget

107 House 1883 - 509 South 4th Street built by Thomas Easry and occupied by Bryon and Ida Calling for a long time

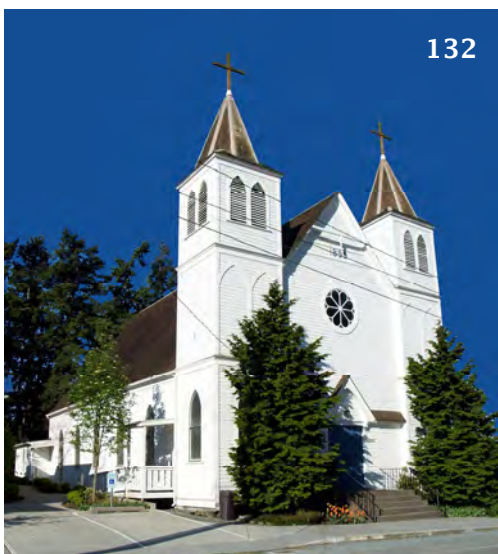


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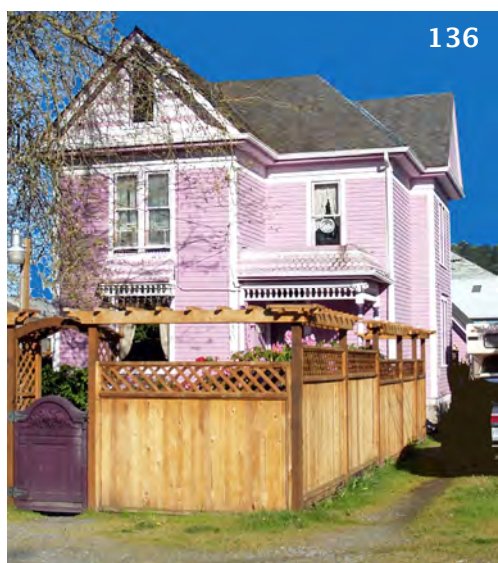


116

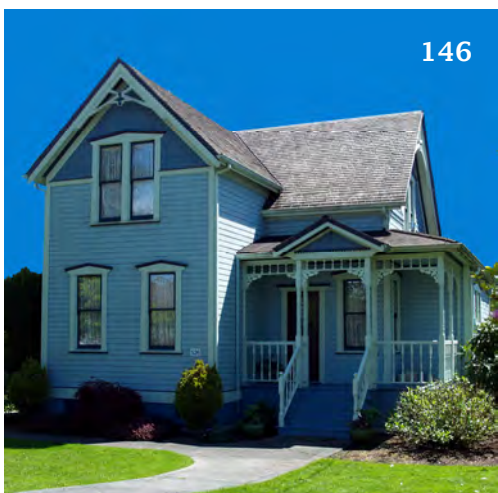
- 108 House 1885 - 407 South 3rd Street occupied by several families including George Hannah and Glen A Cornwall
- 109 House 1880 - 406 South 3rd Street occupied by George Hannah
- 110 House 1880s - 411 South 2nd Street built by James power, who lived in this house and rented out the next house, who was owner and founder of the Puget Sound Mail
- 111 House 1880 - 413 South 2nd Street owned by James Powers
- 112 House @1910 - 412 South 3rd Street built by Frank Brown, his daughter Ethel Byrn lived there a long time
- 113 House @1815 - 217 Calhoun Street built for Elmer Hendrickson
- 114 House @1882 - 411 South 3rd Street built and owned by RO Welts, early La Conner lawyer, then owned by Samuel Valentine, recently owned by RO Welts relative
- 115 House @1888 - 412 South 3rd Street built for Methodist parsonage
- 116 House @1882 - 417 South 3rd Street built and later owned by Warren S Packard
- 117 House @1905 - 512 South 4th Street built later owned by Jake Vaughn
- 118 Site 1884 - 519 South 4th Street first built as Methodist Church, presently the Jacobson Apartments
- 119 House - 216 Calhoun Street home of LL Andrews, later owned by George Andrews his son. Thomas Easry owned an early livery stable between the house and the east side of the lot.
- 120 House 1895 - Corner of SE Calhoun and 3rd Streets (701 Calhoun) built for George Alverson
- 121 House 1884 - 217 Douglas built by Joseph Dwelley and sold to James Gaches and later owned by Ole Anderson
- 122 House 1880s - 509 South 3rd Street built by the Conner family, William and Martha Conner lived here, later owned by James Hurley
- 123 House 1880 - 517 South 3rd Street built as livery stable and owned by Frank Wainwright, and later by 3 or 4 men including Charley Peck
- 124 House 1890 - 415 Douglas Street owned by Hack Heffernan then Frank Dunlap
- 125 House 1880s - 415 Douglas Street owned by Hack Heffernan then Frank Dunlap



- 126 House 1906 - 801 Maple Avenue was owned by Elmer Baalrud
- 127 House 1890s - 912 Maple Avenue
- 128 House 1890s - 811 Whatcom Street built by Barrett family and later owned by Axel Swanson
- 129 House 1880s - 901 Whatcom 1880s built by the Morres family
- 130 House 1890 - 919 Whatcom Street owned by Mitch Clauson an early La Conner tailor
- 131 Catholic Church Rectory 1910
- 132 Sacred Heart Catholic Church 1899 - 404 Douglas Avenue



- 133 Site - across the street from Catholic Church was location of first Town Hall and Jail
- 134 Site - SW 3rd and Douglas was location of Joe Brewster's early La Conner Roller Skating Rink
- 135 Site 1908 - Albers Brothers Warehouse
- 136 House 1890s - 716 South 4th Street owned by Eva Jenne
- 137 Site 1890 - NE 4th and Calhoun was location of La Conner High School, first high school north of Seattle



- 138 House - 915 Maple Avenue built by Olson and left to his daughter Hannah Olson
- 139 House 1894 - 920 Maple Avenue owned by Harry Garrett
- 140 House 1901 - 515 Caldonia Street built by NG Turner and later owned by Coy Kern
- 141 Site 1890s - early La Conner Race Track
- 142 House 1905 - 1013 Maple Avenue occupied by Cook family
- 143 House 1880s - 814 Park Street owned by William Lamphere
- 144 House 1890s - 420 Caldonia Street owned by Thomas Kane
- 145 House 1890s - 404 Caldonia Street was proposed in 1882 for a grist mill and later owned by Mr Hill
- 146 House 1900 - 1015 South 4th Street occupied by Mrs Kilbane, mother of Tom and Mike, later by Mrs Roy Suit, and later owned by Elmer Crumrine
- 147 House 1900s - 1107 South 4th Street occupied by Granville Herrin
- 148 House 1905 - 1114 South 4th Street owned by Roy Suit
- 149 House 1890s - 315 Sherman Avenue later owned by DW Gladwin



- 150 House 1915 - 303 Sherman Street occupied by Ed Nelson
- 151 House 1912 - 103 Sherman Street occupied by Thomas Kilbane
- 152 Site - location of Chilberg than later JC Foster Lumber Mill
- 153 Site - location of La Conner Power & Light owned by JC Foster and operated by DW Gladwin
- 154 House 1908 - 715 South 3rd Street
- 155 House 1912 - 713 South 3rd Street owned by Fred Kolb
- 156 House 1895 - 709 South 3rd Street later owned by Mike Kilbane
- 157 Pioneer Park - donated to the town by Mrs Louisa Ann Conner
- 158 Site - US Coast Guard warehouse on the Swinomish Channel built while the Coast Guard had headquarters on the second floor. Coast Guard also built Fort Whitman that was located on Goat Island south of the Channel entrance.
- 159 Site Robert Ginnett Boat Shop 1880s - later owned by Harry Garrett
- 160 Site NG Turner Retail Lumber Yard
- 161 Site McMillan Fish Cannery 1912 - later San Juan Pea & Vegetable Cannery

Photos courtesy of Rosebud Graphics