

Cross Blakeley, continue east until Lewis Street and pause before crossing the street. On this block you will pass by the Savoy Building and Monroe National Bank which is now the Hitching Post Café.

⑧ Crossroads

The corner of Lewis and Main Streets in 1910. As you look diagonally across the street you see the Dolloff Building.



Cross Lewis Street and continue two blocks back to the starting point, in front of the Monroe Historical Museum.

⑨ Monroe Fire Department

The Monroe Fire Department volunteers proudly pose in front of their new #2 1940 fire engine while #1, which was purchased in 1936, stands at the ready.

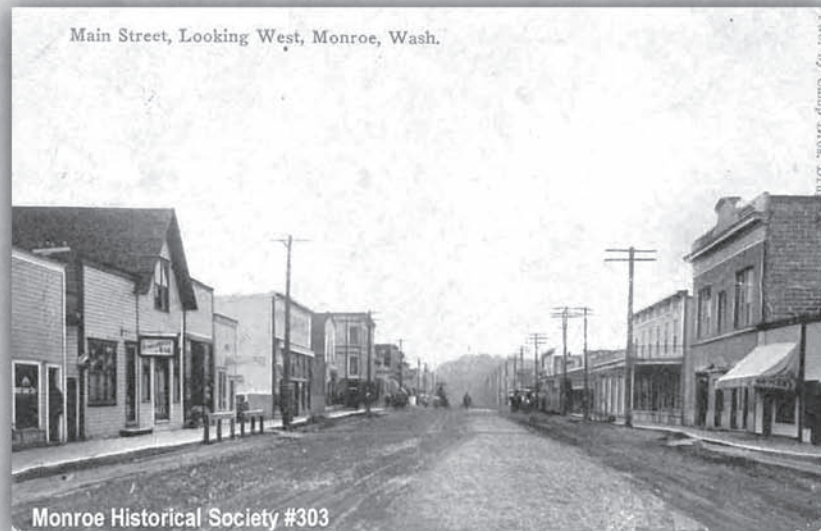


Thank You

That concludes your walk. We appreciate that you took the time to enjoy these historical photos of downtown Monroe.

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Welcome To Historic Downtown Monroe



Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour

This booklet is based on the walking tour notebook produced by the Monroe Historical Society. The full walking tour notebook is available for loan at the Monroe Historical Museum.

Monroe Historical Society

207 E. Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
www.monroehistoricalsociety.org
360-217-7223

Museum Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays 1 - 4 p.m.
Saturdays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Walking Tour

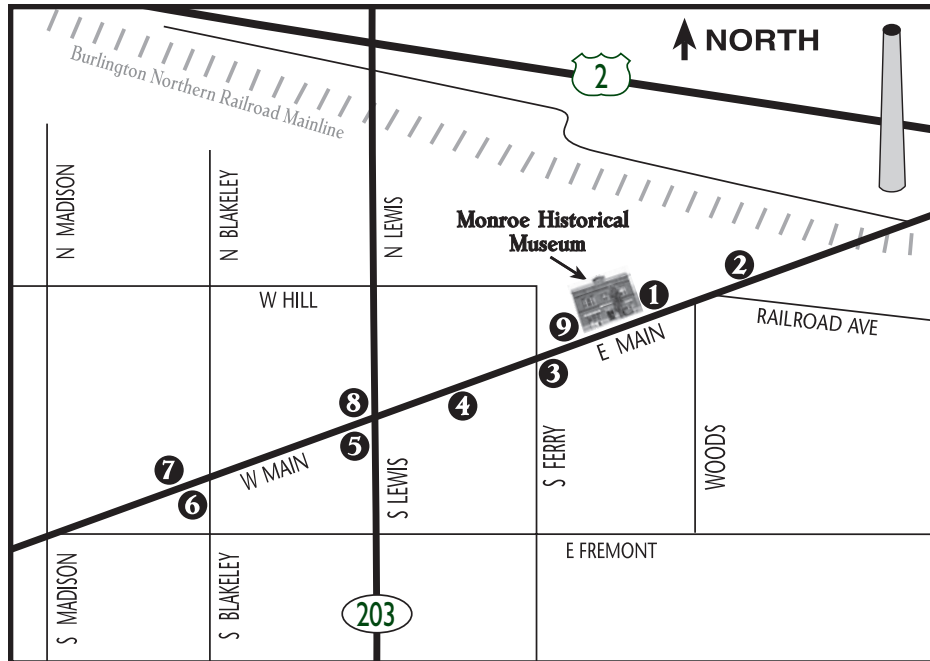
The map below outlines the route you will take, beginning and ending at the Monroe Historical Museum.

❶ Old City Hall

This two-story brick building was the original City Hall, built in 1908. At that time Monroe attracted the Washington State Reformatory and the Carnation Condensery.



As you face the building, please turn to the right (east) and stop a safe distance from the railroad tracks.



Disclaimer: While taking this self-guided tour, always exercise common sense and caution, especially when crossing the street. Those using this brochure on the walking tour assume all risks involved. The tour is for personal and non-commercial use only.

The Hallan Building

This photo, taken from higher ground, shows the view in 1925 of the Hallan Building where you are now standing. Note its unique triangular shape.



Please be careful as you now cross Main Street to the front of Union Bank and look southeast, back across Main Street.

❷ Stephens Hospital

This picture shows Main Street looking east and the original Stephens Hospital built in 1903. It served as a hospital until 1939 when it was converted to apartments by Dr. Allison. Today the building is known as the Allison Apartments.



Another View

Now look across the street at the northwest side of Main Street and compare it to this c1920 photo.

Monroe Historical Society #381



Now continue west along the south side of West Main Street until you cross Blakeley Street. Please pause here and look toward the west.

⑥ Independence Day 1918

A new 155-foot flag pole is being dedicated. Looking west you can see that Monroe proudly displays the flag over 90 years later.



② The Great Northern Railway

When the first train came through Monroe in 1893, the town was a sea of stumps with a few businesses scattered on both sides of the tracks. The coming of the railroad opened up the markets to the east for lumber, cedar shakes and agricultural products. This picture was taken in 1947 as the Great Northern Cascadian passenger train headed eastbound, and crossed Main Street at the same site where you are currently standing.



The Carnation Condensery

From 1908 to 1928 Carnation Condensed milk was produced here, handling the milk of over 5000 cows and shipping 26 train car loads of product monthly. When the United States entered World War II, flax was declared a strategic material. Farmers in the area planted flax and the idle plant was used to produce linen cloth from flax. On March 23, 1944, due to spontaneous combustion, the 600 tons of flax caught fire. All that remained is the concrete Monroe landmark smoke stack you can see to the east.



Turn around and walk west down the sidewalk past the Monroe Historical Museum to Ferry Street. Carefully cross Main Street here and pause at the southeast corner of Main and Ferry by the 7-11.

③ 1920 Main Street

In 1918 the 155 foot tall flag pole was erected at the west end of downtown Monroe in the center of Main Street. This 1920 photo was taken looking west down Main Street from where you are standing.



Devastation

In 1901 a devastating fire destroyed all of the buildings on the south side of the 100 block of East Main, including a furniture store, which was where you are now standing.

Cross Ferry Street and head west to the Barber Shop.

④ Dennis Barber Shop

This is the site of the original Dennis Barber Shop. It was destroyed in the 1901 fire, but quickly rebuilt. This picture shows Henry Dennis as a child, playing with a hose. The Dennis family still operates the barber shop today.



North Main

This photo shows a 1911 celebration and foot race on Main Street. You can see the Savoy Hotel, the three-story masonry building, in the distance.

Continue on the sidewalk along the south side of Main Street until you reach the Dolloff Building at the end of the block. Cross Lewis. Please pause here and look toward East Main Street.

⑤ Through The Years

The following three photos show a comparison of the same view over a period of 20 years.



1900 ~ Looking East

A year before the fire that destroyed all the buildings visible at the right side of the photo.

1910

The same viewpoint ten years later, with an IOOF Parade marching down the center of the street.



1921

Another eleven years have passed, and a new corner building has been added. Later the building on the left became a Safeway, then Coast-to-Coast, then burned down in the 1990s.