

GET INVOLVED!

To learn more about the history of East Sprague, the greater East Central area; visit the Historic Preservation Office website:

www.historicspokane.org/east-central

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www.northwestmuseum.org/

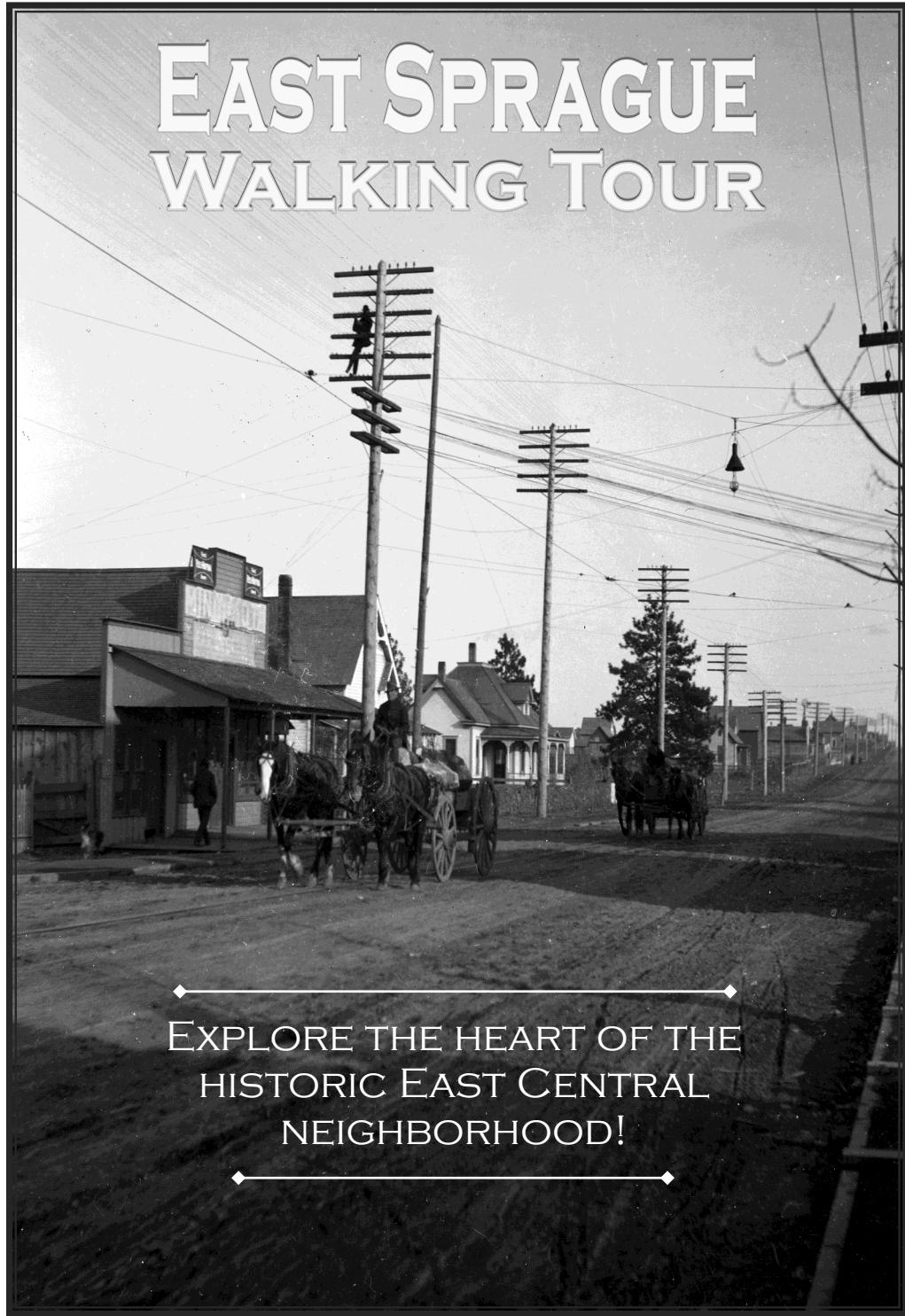
Tear out this ticket and enter to win the photo of your choice! Return this ticket to the Historic Preservation booth for your chance to win!

Name: _____

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1 ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Built in 1933, the store on the corner of Sprague and Crestline was originally a Pay'n Takit, a chain of grocery stores bought by Safeway in 1928. The store's parking lot was also built at the same time, anticipating the growing reliance on automobiles. The building was purchased in 2005 and renovated to become the Best Asian Market.

The exterior of this building features classic Art Deco stylings such as simple lines, geometric forms, and sunbursts. Many of the other structures on East Sprague fall into the commercial and vernacular styles, representing functionality for everyday life. The surrounding residential area contains a variety of styles such as the cozy and rustic Craftsman, stately Queen Anne and the modest vernacular homes common in the area.



2 THE EARLY YEARS

This commercial block was originally home to the Union Park Bank, from the time of construction in 1907 to 1917. In the 1920s, it was occupied by C.E. Marr Grocery. The East Central area was home to a diverse population from its early settlement in the 1880s. With its beginnings as a working class suburb, residents often made a living as miners, factory workers, or loggers. It also offered housing close to the heart of the city in a neighborhood that the working class could afford. After the end of WWI, East Central entered an economic decline. At this time, business activities in East Central focused on the commercial strip of buildings that line Sprague Avenue.

3 BREAKING NEWS!

Built in 1914, this building was home to Lundin Brothers Laundry until the 1930s. Owned by a family of Swedish immigrants, it was the first laundry in the city to offer home delivery service via a horse-drawn wagon. By 1939, Burkhart Motors called the building home. Turn around, and you will see a building with a chilling history. 1806 E. Sprague was the site of a grisly murder in January 1944. The owner of the shop, his wife and another victim were killed in the early morning hours by a man wielding a hatchet. The man, nicknamed the "Hatchet Slayer," was the biggest news story of the time and has become a part of Spokane folklore.



4 OLD & NEW

Built in 1907, this two-part masonry block is indicative of the commercial architecture springing up along Sprague in the early 20th Century. From 1927 to 1970, the building was home to Inland Hardware, a local hardware business. Early buildings such as the many local churches, the East Side Carnegie Library, the Sperry Flour Mill, and the McKinley School (visible looking north on Napa) all remained in use while the area developed around them. After the conclusion of WWII, a period of development throughout the 1940s resulted in a mix of building styles. Historic structures now stand next to modern construction, representing the periods of growth experienced by the Spokane area and the evolution of the East Central neighborhood.

5 LIFE ON EAST SPRAGUE

Behind the storefronts of East Sprague, a variety of businesses have operated such as the Electro-Mart (1718 E. Sprague) and Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni factory (2012 E. Sprague). To your left you will see the building that once housed Stone's Market, currently occupied by Bennedito's Pizza. In the 1930s, residents could make purchases such as a pound of bacon for 25 cents, sliced bread for 6 cents, and a gallon of gas for 23 cents. Evidence of these hidden histories can be seen in the ghost signs located high up on the facades of buildings. Be sure to look out for the ghost signs of the Barrett Furniture Co.! Original architecture and features of the former occupants, such as the base of the clock that used to stand in front of the Union Park Bank, continue to tell the story of the buildings and their tenants.

6 SUNSET HIGHWAY

You are currently walking along the Sunset Highway! Established in 1913, it guided travelers from Seattle to the Idaho Border, passing through East Central. Targeting these visitors; many motor courts, motels, gas stations and other service buildings sprang up along Sprague. As the reliance on automobiles increased nationally, the roadways of the country could not handle the burden. Construction of I-90 began in the 1950s, cutting the East Central neighborhood in half, displacing residents and forcing many of the local businesses to close their doors. Regardless of the problems the highway brought, East Central has persevered and possesses a robust community, rich history and unique historic resources.

