

Walk 3

Eastern Section of District

Sponsored by the Friends of Ravenna-Cowen

START at Ravenna Eckstein Community Center at 6535 Ravenna Avenue NE south parking lot. See map on last page.



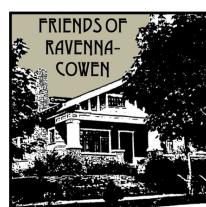
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North



Prepared by Friends of Ravenna-Cowen 2023

The Ravenna-Cowen North Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 2018. The district is situated to the north and west of Cowen and Ravenna parks and bordered on the north by NE 65th Street, on the west by 12th Avenue NE and on the west by the Ravine just west of 23rd Avenue NE. It can easily be divided into three sections separated by 15th Avenue NE and 20th Avenue NE that lead to the Cowen Park and 20th Avenue NE bridges respectively.

This walking tour is through the eastern section comprising the University Place and College plats and portions of the Wade, Alder Park and Ravenna Springs Park plats. It is less than a mile of mostly level walking, except as noted, and should take a little over 45 minutes.



If you are driving, park your vehicle near the Ravenna Eckstein Community Center. From the Center, walk south on Ravenna Avenue NE, cross NE 65th Street, turn west (left), and then turn south onto 22nd Avenue NE, and enter the historic district. You are now within the original 1907 University Place plat. Although some houses here were built after the initial plat, most were built between 1917 and 1923, with the vast majority built in 1919 by builder and developer Gardner J. Gwinn, probably linked to the announcement of the construction of Seattle's third high school, Roosevelt, which was completed in 1922.

As you walk south you will find that most of the houses along this street are Craftsman bungalows, small one or one-and-a-half-story residences built between 1900 and 1929 that exhibit influences of the American Arts and Craft Movement. You might also notice the transom (upper) windows on several houses, specifically 6322, 6319, and 6314. They all have leaded glass inserts in the shape of mushrooms. The present owner of the Dutch Colonial Revival house at 6315 22nd Avenue NE has done significant research into the house's history. Also notice the mature Douglas fir tree on the eastern side of the street. The neighborhood has many fine trees.

1 Aeroplane Bungalow. The house at 6311 22nd Avenue NE is a well-kept aeroplane bungalow. Bungalows of this type got their name by their spreading eaves like wings and the surmounting second floor as a "cockpit." Along the walk you will see a few more of this type.

Continue walking south to where 22nd Avenue NE intersects with NE 63rd Street.

Seattle Public Schools

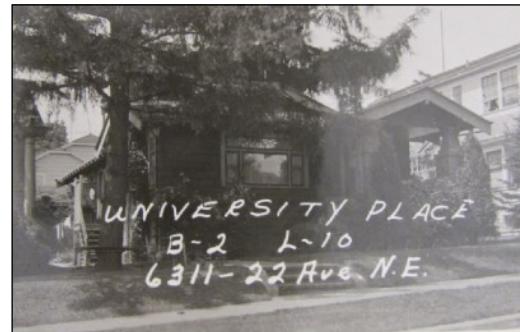


2. Ravenna School, 1919

enrollment grew nearly 500 students. The building was sold to the City in 1981, and converted to a popular community center.

3 Pagoda Bungalow. At the northwestern corner of the intersection, the house addressed as 6303 22nd Avenue NE is a exceptional aeroplane bungalow that was built by G.J. Gwinn, who built many houses within the neighborhood. It has a distinct Asian influence imparted by the rounding off of the large bargeboards and rafter tails, the stacked timber frontispiece, and the pecked gable ends. The front columns of the generous porch were originally stuccoed brick. Also note the circle motif of the transom window.

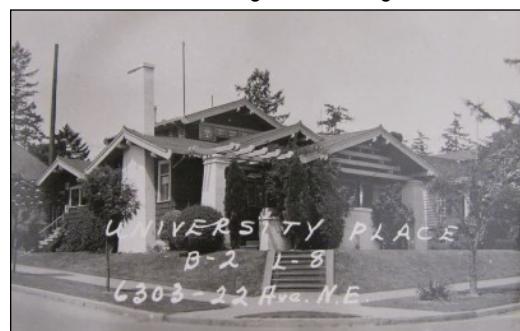
Puget Sound Regional Archives



1. 6311 22nd Avenue NE, ca. 1937

2 Original Ravenna School. Many years before this area was platted, a one room portable school house was built in the mid-1890s within a few feet where you are standing. Unfortunately, no photograph could be located of the school. Later another portable was added and, by 1908, nearly 50 children studied there under two young teachers. In 1909, a larger four-acre tract was purchased at NE 68th Street and 22nd Avenue NE, five blocks to the north (where our tour started), and two portables were erected there. The existing Ravenna Eckstein Community Center, originally the Ravenna Primary School, was completed in 1911, and by 1923,

Puget Sound Regional Archives



3. 6303 22nd Avenue NE, ca. 1937

Turning to your left, notice the nicely preserved California bungalow across the street at 2017 NE 63rd Street. Continue walking west up NE 63rd Street to 21st Avenue NE.

4 Bretz House. The rustic Craftsman bungalow addressed as 6303 21st Avenue NE was built in 1914 from the plans of well-respected architect Charles L. Haynes (1876-1947) who designed in a variety of eclectic styles ranging from Spanish Eclectic, Neo-Classical, Flemish and Tudor. Several of Haynes designs were published in *Bungalow Magazine* and his well-published Prairie style home for the Margaret Calvert (1913) brought him much attention and other commissions. This home is also reminiscent of some of Bernard Maybeck's residential work in Berkeley, California, and Haynes would have been aware of Maybeck's work as he practiced in San Francisco before relocating to Seattle in 1907. Also note the large sequoia tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in the back garden.

The interior of the house is largely original with dark-stained Douglas fir wainscoting and the living room features a raised inglenook and an unusual beamed ceiling rising to a bedroom gallery.

The house was built for J. Harland Bretz, Ph.D (1812-1981), who became a geology professor at the University of Washington the same year the house was built, although the following year he accepted a faculty offer at the University of Chicago. Bretz became internationally famous for his theory of glacial flooding in Eastern Washington from prehistoric Lake Missoula.

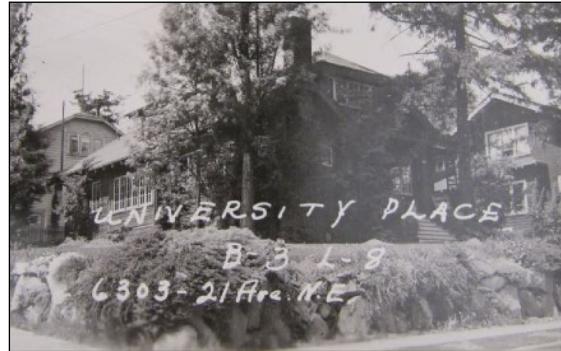
Turn around and note the house on the southwestern corner of the intersection, 2017 NE 63rd Street. Now walk a little north on NE 21st Street to 6314 NE 21st Street. Notice they are mirror images of the same house. Many builders reused stock house plans even within the same block, often reversing the floor plan or changing exterior details to add variety.

Turn around and walk south on 21st Avenue NE crossing NE 63rd Street. The house at the southeastern corner of the intersection has a wonderful craft installation.



5. 6292 21st Avenue NE, Menorah

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4. 6303 NE 62nd Street, ca. 1937

5 Menorah. The house is currently owned by an amateur ceramicist who created this house lantern menorah at his wood-fired kiln on Lopez Island. It was first fired around 2011 and is a treasured feature of the neighborhood. Also note the row of mature katsura trees (*Cercidiphyllum*).

Walk back to 21st Avenue NE and you will see a large London Plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) within the front garden. It was probably planted shortly after the house was built in 1919. The house was remodeled in the mid-1990, but retains its original character.

Continue walking south on 21st Avenue NE noting the nicely preserved houses on the street. When you pass the modest 1922 Colonial revival house at 6210 21st Avenue NE is likely the oldest house in the plat. You have entered the 1917 College Addition plat, that extends southward to Ravenna, westward to 20th Avenue NE, and eastward to Ravenna Avenue NE. This plat was established ten years later than the University Place plat at the beginning of the United States' entry into World War I in a time of changing economic conditions. Houses in the College Addition were built over a wider time period and street improvements such as curbs and sidewalks were not necessarily installed.

Please note the three exceptional neighboring Colonial Revival houses addressed as 6118, 6114, and 6106 21st Avenue NE. The end of the block is anchored by a fine stucco Tudor Revival house addressed as 6100 21st Avenue NE. As you reach NE 61st Street, turn left and walk down the path to the bridge. Alternatively, you may choose to turn back to NE 21st Street and head north turning right on NE 62nd Street and head east until you reach Ravenna Avenue turning left until you reach #7).

Lani v.d.L. Johnson



6. West Trestle Bridge

6 Ravenna Park and Sewer Bridges. You are now crossing over the first of two bridges that cross a major wooded ravine that merges into Ravenna Park to the south and extends northward to NE 65th Street. The ravine also serves as the eastern boundary of the historic district. The bridges are supported by a wooden trestle that also supports a 30-inch sewer line that eventually connects to the trunk line running the length of the Burke Gilman trail.

Cross the bridge and turn left onto Ravenna Avenue NE.

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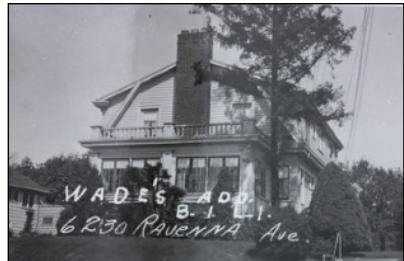
7. Original cottage.

7 Easton house. The one-story Northwest Contemporary house addressed as 6101 Ravenna Avenue NE is the youngest Historic contributing resource within the historic district. It was designed by architect Robert Durham, one of his few residential projects, for Erving and Maude Easton, and completed in 1969. It replaced a modest Craftsman cottage. Erving was an industrial arts teacher at Roosevelt High School. In Seattle's established neighborhoods, you tend to find these later houses on lots that were considered hard to develop.

Continue north on Ravenna Avenue NE. Looking around you should notice that many of the houses in this southern area were constructed after World War II. Some of the streets lack sidewalks and curbs since the Great Depression of the 1930s abruptly put a stop to further residential development. Note that many houses here have been remodeled over the years.

8 Three Corner Houses. The house addressed as 6230 Ravenna Avenue NE is a well-preserved side-gable two-story Dutch Colonial Revival house that was built in 1924 in the 1889 Wade Addition. The house on the northwestern corner of the intersection, 2206 NE 63rd Street, is another fine aeroplane bungalow completed in 1919 within the University Place plat. 2207 NE 63rd Street is a Colonial Revival with an interesting history. It was owned in the 1950s by Samuel and Mary Grenell. Sam was a supervisor for the National Coast and Geodetic Survey and was once attacked by an 800 pound grizzly bear while working on Montague Island in the Gulf of Alaska.

Puget Sound Regional Archives



8. 6230 Ravenna Ave. NE, ca. 1937

Puget Sound Regional Archives



9. 2206 NE 63rd Street, ca. 1937

Puget Sound Regional Archives



10. 2207 NE 63rd Street, ca. 1937

9 Nettie Chittenden House. The house addressed as 6223 23rd Avenue NE is a large aeroplane bungalow. The house's first owner was Nettie Chittenden (1856-1947), the widow of General Hiram M. Chittenden (1858-1917), the engineer for whom the Government Locks in Seattle are named. The house passed on to her oldest son, Hiram M. Chittenden, Jr. (1894-1971), a professor at the University of Washington, in 1941.

From the mid-1960s until 2001, the house was owned by Ralph and Lorraine Hayes. Early in the morning of June 29, 1969, a box of ashes left on the front started a fire that damaged the porch, kitchen and dining room. Ralph and Lorraine and their four children escaped from the second floor bedrooms, the three boys sliding down a 35-foot long pole that had been handily left there by carpenters working on the house.

Turn left and walk north along 23rd Avenue NE until you reach NE 65th Street. Turn to your right, viewing toward the Ida Culver House.

10 Farm. The 1887 Ravenna Springs Park plat shows a small farm with an orchard at the southwestern corner of what is now NE 65th Street (then Dilbert Avenue) and NE 25th Street. The farm house was on the corner and the orchard stretched out to the south. A bridge spanned the ravine providing access to a barn where now the Ida Culver House is now located.

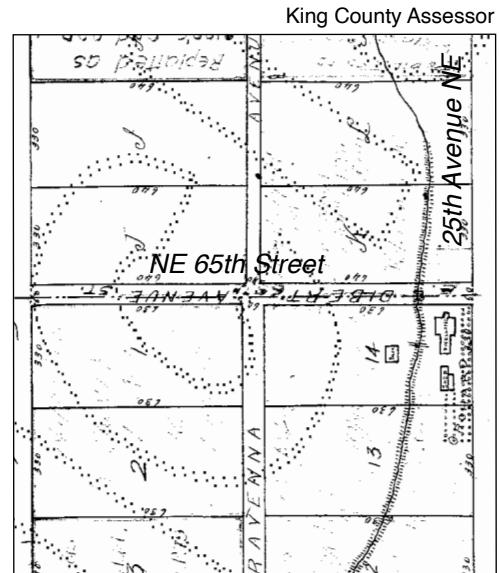
Although the Ida Culver has several facilities, the Ravenna site, developed in 1950, was their first larger location after the original Ida Culver house on Queen Anne Hill became too small. Ida Culver was a Seattle school teacher and a shrewd investor. She was active in forming the Seattle Teacher's Credit Union. Recognizing the need for housing for retired and convalescent housing for teachers, Culver became a founding member of the Seattle Education Auxiliary that was created to solve this need. She helped write the by-laws of the organization and was elected to the position of Temporary Chairman on May 10, 1929. She held the office of Membership Secretary until her death in 1936.

A large nursery with greenhouses, Saxe Floral, was located directly across NE 65th Street from Iva Culver from 1917 to 2003. Turn around and walk west along NE 65th Street to the tour starting point passing along the small commercial strip that developed here in the teens and 1920s. You might want to stop in for breakfast or a early lunch at the Varsity Inn; although in a new location, it has been a feature of the neighborhood for many years. Stop and have a coffee at the Muddy Waters Coffee stand, the Sod House Bakery, or Bagel Oasis. Zeeks Pizza is a neighborhood favorite. Next door you can get Japanese takeout at Muto Sushi & Bowl. For dinner you can enjoy the Kricket Club for East Indian cuisine, Isarn Thai Soul Kitchen, JuneBaby southern cooking, Harrisa Mediterranean cuisine. Further west on NE 65th Street is the Third Place bookstore, Cafe Arta & Pub. Please see map on the following page.

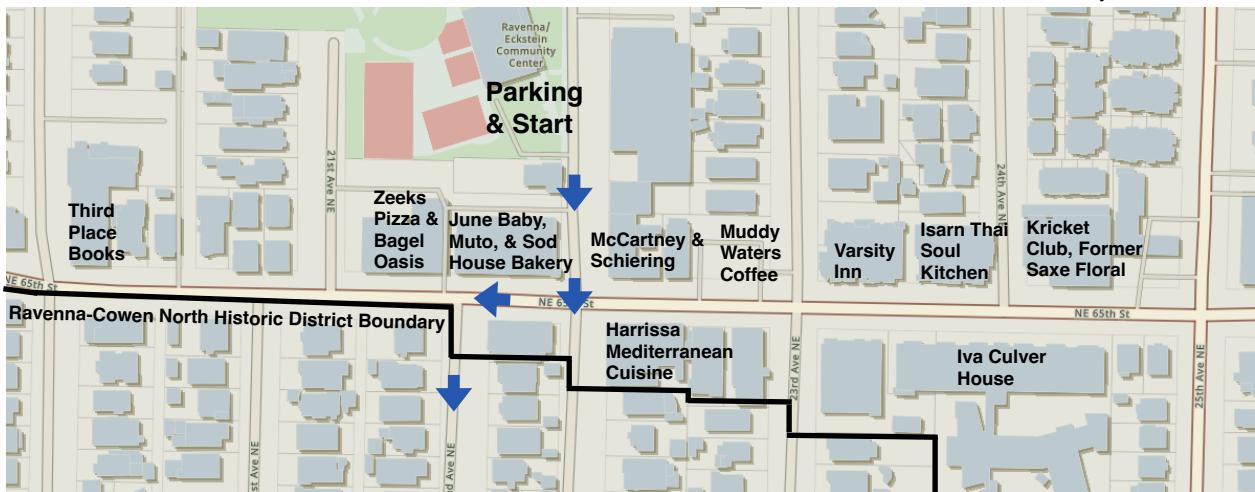
Thank you for taking a walk through our neighborhood. We hope you enjoyed the tour.



11. Mark Hayes demonstrates how he slid down the pole to escape the fire.



12. Small Farm on Corner



Ravenna Commercial District

↑
North

Courtesy Peter Blecha



13. Taxi driver on the corner of NE 65th Street and Ravenna Avenue, ca. 1921. A pharmacy was housed where the current McCarthy and Schiering Wine Merchants is now located.

City of Seattle Municipal Archives



14. Ravenna Commercial District, 1955. Frank's Tavern would become Earl's Tavern in the 1970s where any guy coming in with long hair might be immediately offered a haircut.

Seattle Public Library



15. Schumacher's Bakery was a neighborhood institution for several years. People would bring their Thanksgiving turkeys into the bakery and the owners would roast them in their large oven.

Courtesy PCC Community Markets



16. Puget Consumer Cooperative's second and first successful storefront location opened at 2261 NE 65th Street in 1969. In 1976 the Co-op moved the an old grocery store where Third Place Books is now located.