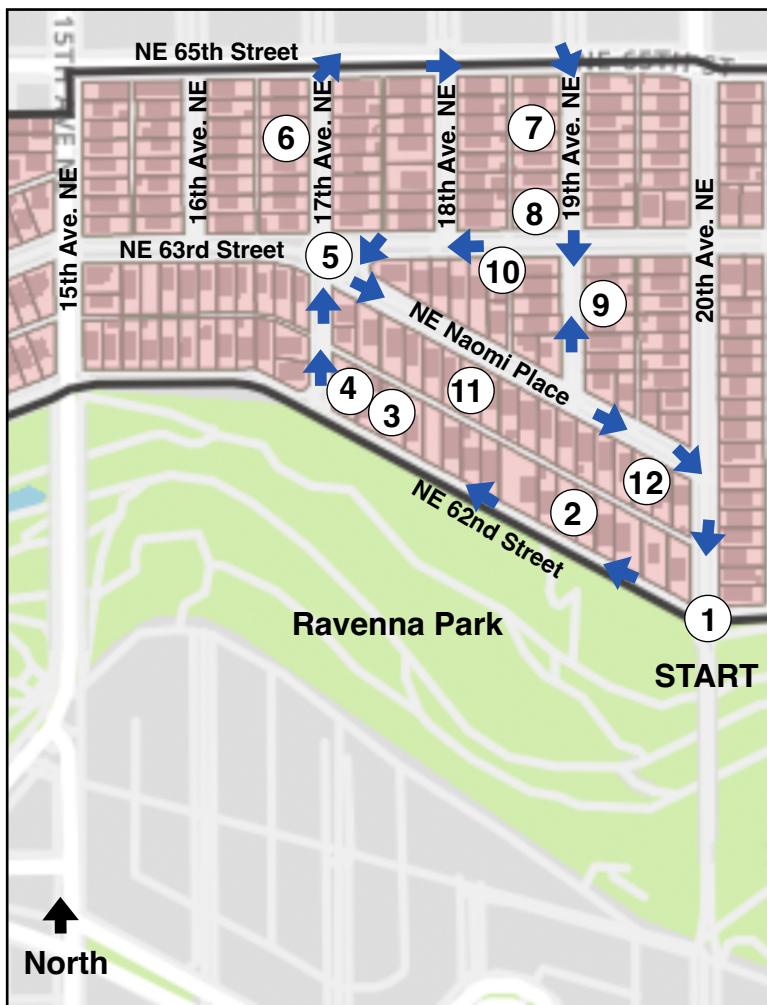


Walk 2

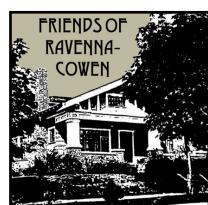
University Scenic Plat

Sponsored by the Friends of Ravenna-Cowen



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 central section comprising the University Scenic Plat. It is less than a mile of level walking and should take about 45 minutes.





1. 20th Street Bridge, National Historic Register.

20th Avenue NE also marks the boundary between University Scenic Addition on the west and the University Place Addition and College Addition plats to the east. The former plat containing nine blocks was platted by Naomi Althouse Young and her husband Samuel Ewing Young, of Albany, Oregon, in 1906. We are also viewing over Ravenna Park to the south. We'll leave the history of the park to a future tour, but we should note again that the park was originally private and was brought into the City's park system by condemnation in 1911. Our neighborhood shares a close relationship with the park and would be very different without this relationship.

Turn to your right and walk west on NE 62nd Street along the northern edge of Ravenna Park.

2 Former Swale. The photo at right was taken on October 26, 1910, a little west of where the northern end of the bridge is presently. Note that the houses along the eastern end of NE 62nd Street have yet to be built. The nearest house is 1738 NE 62nd Street. You will note as we walk by shortly that the house has been modified from its original Craftsman appearance with added trim detailing.

Also note that the wood retaining wall shown here supports fill that was installed for the future right-of-way and blocks a small swale. A seasonal creek that ran down into the ravine would have been present in the swale and would have been diverted into a culvert.

Keep walking west to see the two houses that were built on the northern side of the road where the swale ran northward.

1 20th Avenue NE Bridge and Ravenna

Park. Start the tour at the northern end of the 20th Avenue NE Bridge.

Looking southward you see the historic 353-foot Ravenna Park Bridge that was constructed in 1912 to span the Ravenna Park ravine. When it was originally proposed in 1908, William and Louise Beck, then owners of what would become Ravenna Park, strongly objected to the proposal, but after the City acquired the park in 1911, the project proceeded. Although it originally carried vehicular traffic, it is now pedestrian only thanks to a dedicated group of neighbors who resisted its replacement.



2. NE 62nd Street viewing northwest, 1910.



3. 1754 NE 62nd Street, ca. 1937.

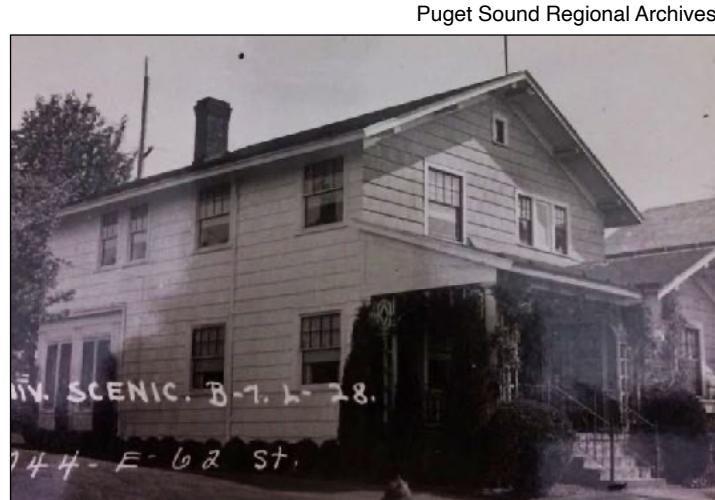


4. 1758 NE 62nd Street, ca. 1937.

The modest Tudor Revival house at 1754 NE 62nd Street and the Colonial Revival house located at 1758 NE 62nd Street to the east were built later than most of the houses on the street since the swale had to be filled before they could be constructed. If you look carefully you might note that both houses have settled slightly on their western and eastern sides respectively. A telltale depression in the street was only corrected recently.

Continue west on 62nd Avenue NE.

3 Boss House. 1744 NE 62nd Street. This two-story Craftsman house has interesting original fretwork framing the shed-roof entry. During the early 1930s it was owned by Judge George H. Revelle, Jr. (1913-1999), who was appointed to the State Board Against Discrimination in Employment by Governor Arthur B. Langlie in 1951. He was best known for presiding over the tax-evasion trial of Teamsters President Dave Beck. He had previously lived next door at 1738 NE 62nd Street with his father and mother. George and his wife Anna were later the parents of Randy Ravelle, former City of Seattle Councilman and later King County Executive.



5. 1744 NE 62nd Street, ca. 1937.

Continue walking down the street to the west enjoying views into the park to the south.

The one-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow addressed as 1718 NE 62nd Street has a forward-facing gable porch roof supported on square wood columns and canted brick supports. The entry porch has an unusual diagonal entry door wall.

Walk just a little further to the house next door.



6. 1714 NE 62nd Street, ca. 1905.



7. 1714 NE 62nd Street, ca. 1937.

3 House Moving. Houses were often built on land before the land was officially platted and were often moved to fit onto the new plats. The house now addressed as 1714 NE 62nd Street was originally built at the edge of the Ravenna Park ravine with its entry facing north. When the streets were laid out after the plat was filed in 1906 the house was picked up, rotated, and moved across the street to its present location. Since then, the original entrance trellis has been removed and a second floor deck has been added.

Around 1919 Nettie Chittenden (1856-1947) lived in the house. She was the widow of district engineer Hiram M. Chittenden (1858-1917) who also was one of the first three elected Port of Seattle commissioners. The government locks in Ballard were named after Chittenden. Nettie later moved to 6223 23rd Avenue NE.

4 Excellent Tudor. The north-eastern corner of 17th Avenue NE and NE 62nd Street is anchored by this beautiful 1926 brick masonry Tudor Revival house. At the property's northwestern corner is a large Deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) tree next to the alley.

The house was originally owned by Alfred A. Johnson, a successful Seattle clothing retailer.

The current owner (2023) won a Nobel Prize in Physiology in 2001.



8. 6206 17th Avenue NE, ca. 1937.



9. 6214 17th Avenue NE, ca. 1937.

Turn the corner and walk north (right) up 17th Avenue NE passing two other Tudor Revival houses on the east and a fine Colonial Revival House on the west. Note the whimsical aluminum handrail at the steps of 6214 17th Avenue NE and the cedar tree arched over the sidewalk.

Walk up to the five-way intersection.

5 Traffic Circle. This little traffic island's beautiful landscape was developed and is maintained by our neighbors. Some claim that this was a streetcar turnaround, but this is an urban myth. No streetcar tracks ever ran up this street, although the circle is a testament to neighborhood activism.

To the west (left) on the corner is another fine brick Tudor Revival house and the Colonial Revival house next door at 1615 NE 63rd Street was occupied from the mid-1930s to the early 1950s by Grace Denny, a distant relative to Seattle pioneer David Denny (1882-1903). The house was one of the homes featured in Lila Gault's book *The House Next Door: Seattle's Neighborhood Architecture*, published in 1981 by Pacific Search Press.

From here we can see to the north at the intersection of NE 17th Street and 63rd Avenue NE the 1908 one-and-a-half-story side-gable Craftsman bungalow built by Lucas Building Company at 6303, and the 1912 Craftsman bungalow at 6302 built by the Long Building Company.

Head north along 17th Avenue NE passing a nice Colonial Revival bungalow on your left at 6315 17th Avenue NE, a well-preserved Craftsman bungalow with a full-length entry porch on your right at 6318 17th Avenue NE, and a two-story cross-gable Craftsman house on your left.



10. 1615 NE 63rd Street, ca. 1937.

King County Assessor



11. 750 Belmont Avenue, Anhalt and Hardcastle developers.

6 Hardcastle house. The one-story gable-end bungalow addressed as 6321 17th Avenue NE has a full-width porch with a low-sloped roof supported on square columns sitting on river-rock piers. The house was built by Jerome B. Hardcastle, a former butcher, who partnered with developer Frederick Anhalt to build several bungalow courts, apartments, and commercial

Puget Sound Regional Archives



12. 6321 17th Avenue NE, ca. 1937.

buildings throughout Seattle during the mid-1920s. Their Tudor Revival inspired brick masonry apartments on Capitol Hill are widely admired. See figure 11.

Continue walking north on 17th Avenue NE, viewing the two-story half-timbered Craftsman house 6329 17th Avenue NE at the corner on the west. Turn to your left and walk along NE 65th Street two blocks and turn left onto 19th Avenue NE. Continue south, viewing a well-preserved modest one-and-a-half story stucco Tudor Revival house at 6327 19th Avenue NE.

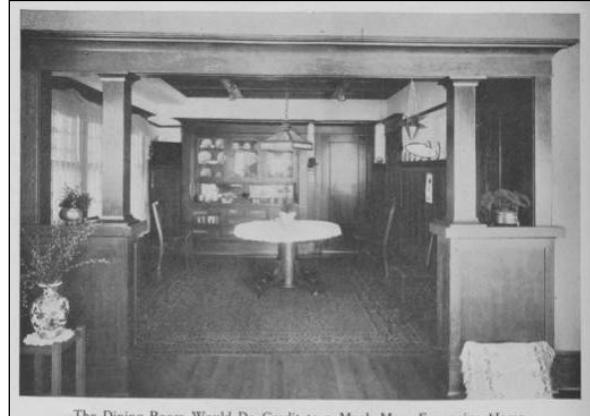
7 Ernst House. The one-and-a-half story front-gable bungalow at 6323 19th Avenue NE was featured in Jud Yoho's Craftsman Magazine in the June 1913 issue (pp. 30-33) as an "Attractive and Comfortable Home of Moderate Cost." <https://cdm16118.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16118coll22/id/5888/rec/6>. The magazine quoted the completed cost of the house at \$2,350, which wouldn't pay for the entrance door today.

Seattle Public Library



13. 6323 19th Avenue NE, ca. 1913.

Seattle Public Library



14. 6323 19th Avenue NE, Dining Room.

Continue your walk south viewing a cluster of well-preserved Craftsman bungalows, including 6310 and 6314 19th Avenue NE on your left and 6319, 6315 and 6311 19th Avenue NE on your right. Also on your right is a fine two-story Craftsman house at 6307 6311 19th Avenue NE.

On your left is another Craftsman bungalow at 6304 19th Avenue NE. This one-and-a-half-story front gable Craftsman Bungalow was owned by James N. Hone (1873-1955) who was Secretary Treasurer of Allied Amusements in 1930. In 1932, a stick of dynamite was exploded on the northern side of the house, set by an actress who had a grudge against Allied Amusements.

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15. 6303 19th Avenue NE, ca. 1937.

8 Berg House. Alfred B. Berg (1893-1971) was a builder and built this house at 6303 19th Avenue NE for himself and his wife Lulu. This unusual house has Colonial Revival and Prairie style detailing, while featuring an aeroplane bungalow second floor. The special characteristics of "aeroplane" bungalows are a single room on the second floor, surrounded by windows, said to resemble the cockpit of an airplane, and designed as a sleeping room in summer weather with all-around access to breezes.

Continue to the intersection and view to the southeast a fine one-and-a-half story front-gable bungalow on the corner and next door another half-timbered Craftsman house. You might want to walk a little further south to see the Streeter house on your left. *See next page.*

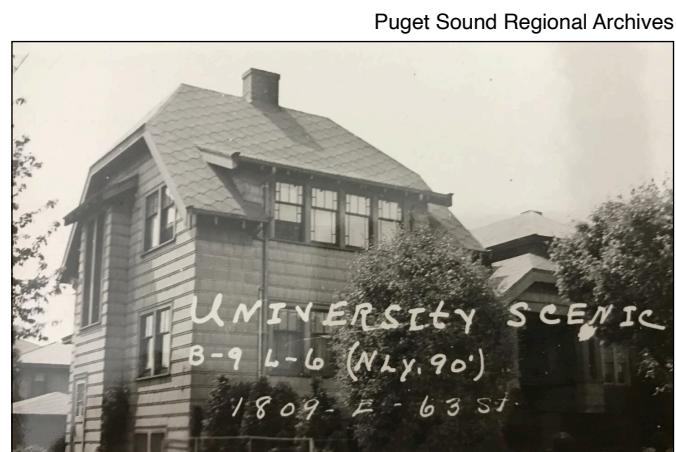
9 Streeter House. The nicely preserved Craftsman bungalow at 6266 19th Avenue NE was owned by Colonel Daniel Denison Streeter (1885-1982) between 1971 until his death in 1982. Streeter was an unusual, but distinguished character. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Columbia University in 1909, with post graduate work at George Washington University and a degree from the Columbia University School of Architecture. He went fossil hunting in Wyoming with the American Museum of Natural History, participated in a Bureau Ethnology expedition excavating Puye, New Mexico, in 1907, and a biological study of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska in 1911. He led an expedition for the National Museum to Algeria, Sumatra, and Borneo in 1912. He later led expeditions to Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Aruba in 1949; Canada's Great Slave Lake and Lake Athabaska in 1952, and the Antarctic between 1961 and 1962.

Streeter's Quaker background did not prevent him from serving in the United States Cavalry as a First Lieutenant during the Mexican-American border dispute under General Pershing between 1916 and 1917, and later served in France, England, Turkey, Greece Bulgaria, and Armenia. He returned to the army during World War II, serving under General Patton in North Africa and Italy, being discharged as a Colonel. After the war, Streeter practiced architecture in Flushing, New York, before retiring and moving to Seattle.

Turn around and turn to your left to NE 63rd Street and continue west.



16. 6266 19th Avenue NE, ca. 1937.



17. 6266 19th Avenue NE, ca. 1937.

10 House Designed by Andrew Willatzen. The house at 1809 NE 63rd Street was custom designed in 1917 for this small lot. It is a shingled side clipped-gable house with a projecting gable entry porch on the western side. The porch roof is a clipped-gable and is supported on square cluster columns with a crucifix detail, a trademark of architect Andrew P. Willatzen. He had worked for Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago and teamed up with contractor Carl Hedeen to build many Seattle houses around 1920.

Further along NE 63rd Street are a number of other Willatzen/Hedeen collaborations including 1721, 1717, and 1711 NE 63rd Street, ranging from Colonial Revival to Prairie style.

Turn left after reaching the Traffic Circle and head east along NE Naomi Place named after Naomi Althouse Young, the wife of the couple that created the University Scenic plat. This tree-lined street contains many beautiful and well-preserved Craftsman houses.

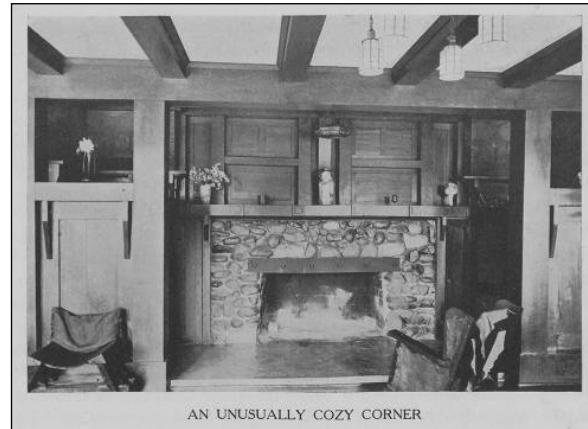
11 Pratt House. This unique one-story front-gable Craftsman bungalow at 1731 NE Naomi Place was designed for general contractor Frank Hawley Pratt. It was featured in Jud Yoho's September 1912 Bungalow Magazine (pp. 25-30). <https://cdm16118.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16118coll22/id/0/rec/62>. Another urban legend is that this house was originally a clubhouse for a private tennis court, but actually it was always a family home that retained its beautiful Craftsman interior including a unique fireplace nook.

Seattle Public Library



18. 1731 NE Naomi Place, ca. 1912.

Seattle Public Library



19. 1731 NE Naomi Place, Interior.

Continue walking east Along NE Naomi Place. You'll see a number of Craftsman bungalows and two-story Craftsman houses on your right. The house at 1751 NE Naomi Place with the exposed heavy-timber truss, originally had a deeper porch that created an outdoor living room, a concept more at home in Berkeley, California than rainy Seattle.

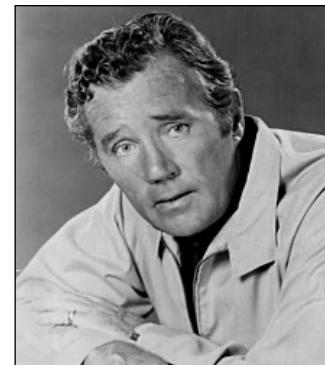
When you reach 19th Avenue NE, you will see two very nice Tudor Revival houses, the most eastern one, 1908 NE Naomi Place, was owned by famous Pacific Northwest boat builder, Norman J. Blanchard in the early 1930s.

12 Duff House. Carlton E. Duff (1880-1947), a grocer, and his wife Hazel G. (1884-1981) lived in the Craftsman bungalow at 1919 NE Naomi Place for many years, raising two boys, both graduating from Roosevelt High School. Their oldest son, Howard (1913-1990), began acting in school plays after he was cut from the basketball team. He went on to star as Dashiell Hammett's private eye, Sam Spade, on radio between 1945 and 1950. He married Ida Lupino in 1951. He moved on to movies acting in 23 feature films, and later guest starred in many television programs.

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20. Duff House, ca. 1937. (Note: this is essentially the same as the Ernst house with different trim.)



21. Howard Duff.

Continue to NE 20th Street to return to the starting point. Thanks for joining us today.