

# Spokane's Downtown District

BELOVED ICONIC SIGNATURE STRUCTURES IN  
DOWNTOWN SPOKANE

(7 Americana Fine Artwork Titles Listed Alphabetically)



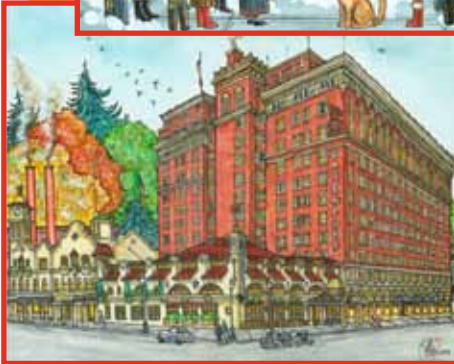
## *Breaking News at the Review Building ~ 5.2013*

This unique building in downtown Spokane was designed and built in 1890 after the Great Spokane Fire by Chauncey B. Seaton, although he left before the construction project was complete. Seaton designed it to fit the unusual shaped lot. It is one of the city's tallest buildings and houses the principal newspaper, the Spokesman Review. In 1883, Frank Dallam began the Review, which competed with the Spokesman, a newspaper owned by a group of local businessmen. In order to survive, the papers merged into one. Then the Panic of 1893 threatened to kill it, so W.H. Cowles came out from Chicago to salvage it and became the sole owner of the new Spokesman Review. Cowles was a very influential member of the community, helping to start the chamber of commerce and serving as director of the Associated Press for 33 years. When I painted this piece, his generous, civic-minded family still owned and operated the paper.



## *Dallying at the The Davenport ~ 10.2008*

I gave this artwork a late 1940s timeframe, painting Louis M. Davenport's legendary hotel in the heart of downtown Spokane as it looked decades ago. To the right is the Pennington Hotel and at the forefront, Davenport's luxurious restaurant. Designed by famed architect, Kirtland K. Cutter, the Davenport Hotel opened in 1914 to become an icon on Spokane's skyline for decades. With Davenport's death in 1951, the hotel was sold to the company that owned Seattle's grand Olympic Hotel, but it gradually declined and finally closed 1985. After years of neglect and possible demolition, Walt and Karen Worthy purchased it in 2000. After countless hours of renovation, restoration and careful attention to detail, they reopened the grand "lady" in 2002, giving Spokane and all of its visitors back this truly remarkable treasure.



## *Flying South Over Spokane Falls ~ 9.2004*

Not only did famed architect Kirtland K. Cutter create dozens of beautiful homes and handsome landmark buildings in Spokane, he also lent his design flair to other projects. This portrayed the majestic Monroe Street Bridge, which spanned the river at the west end of downtown Spokane. In 1910, John Ralston, Spokane's city engineer and designer of the grand bridge, invited Cutter to design its decorative handrails and lookout stations, which featured life-size reliefs of bison skulls. This photo here showed the bridge under renovation a few years ago. It was a remarkable project. In the background was another famous landmark, the Washington Water Power Post Street Substation. Cutter designed that massive brick and basaltic rock industrial building in 1909. *Highlight* - WWP's first president, F. Rockwood Moore, gave Cutter one of his first residential commissions.



## *Spokane's Historic Steam Plant ~ 10.2016*

Spokane's historic steam plant was designed and built by the renowned architectural firm of Cutter & Malmgren in 1916. Their handiwork and that of later visionaries inspired this art celebrating the setting's 100th birthday. The plant supplied steam heat to much of downtown Spokane's businesses for nearly 70 years. When providing this service ultimately became too expensive, Washington Water Power was forced to close it, shutting off the last boiler in 1986. After 10 years of vacancy and an uncertain future, WWP formed Steam Plant Square, LLC. Working with an enlightened team of historic-minded businesses including Wells & Co., life was breathed back into the structure along with two others that were folded into the project. Special care was taken to maintain the Steam Plant's unique original personality, infrastructure and equipment during the process of creating office, retail and dining space. The iconic stacks on the city skyline were saved for future generations. *Highlight* - The Steam Plant was the first Spokane building to receive the National Preservation Honor Award (2001) and went on to be listed on the National, Washington and Spokane Registers of Historic Places.

## *Sunday Brunch at the Spokane Club ~ 9.2004*

Famed architect Kirtland K. Cutter designed the Spokane Club in 1909, and it has always been a stunning jewel in his architectural crown. Facing north and perched on the cliff overlooking Spokane Falls, Cutter created this handsome building in the Georgian style, using red brick with terra-cotta embellishments. Although the entrance had a distinctly Baroque feel with its ornate facade and columns, until recently a large medallion of a Native American warrior hung over the entrance, reminding members and guests that they were "out West." The Spokane Club was designed with an elegant interior, featuring a classic formal dining room, ballroom, luxurious street-front bar and hospitable rooms above - making the club a wonderful destination for its guests. The later addition of its sports facility has been a huge draw for members who want to stay "in shape" or gear up in winter for the Inland Northwest ski season.



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## *Spokane County Courthouse ~ 8.2014*

Legendary Landmarks) 29-year-old W.A. Ritchie won the design competition sponsored by the Board of County Commissioner in 1893 for the Spokane County Courthouse. Construction in the French Renaissance style began in 1894 on property located just across the Spokane River from the heart of downtown. It was regarded as a masterpiece with its romantic statuesque towers, handsome masonry and intricate wrought-iron metalwork. The center tower and roof were freshened up in 2012. It has been an important part of Spokane's skyline for over a hundred years. A dubious honor, the courtyard held the county's first public hanging on its grounds in 1897, executing a man who had murdered a woman. *Highlight* - I dedicated this painting to my father, a successful Spokane attorney who spent a lot of time in this building.



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