

# **SKAGWAY HISTORIC TOWN and LOWER REID FALLS**

**Please note:** The Online Start Box (OLSB) system does not deduct any walking fee from a walker's Event Bank until they have submitted walk completion information including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that walker is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fees are credited back to a walker's Event Bank when he/she submits the walk completion information as a paying for credit walker.)

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- 4. Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau Historic Tour Notes -- Items coincide with Walk Directions. But the type is small so you might read these ahead of time, perhaps with your reading glasses.**
- 5. Map of Broadway Street Historical Buildings**

# SKAGWAY WALK INFORMATION

Event Point of Contact (POC): Nancy Wittenberg, 253-208-1331 (cell)  
[newwittenberg@gmail.com](mailto:newwittenberg@gmail.com)

## PLEASE READ:

Skagway calls itself “Alaska’s Gateway City”. It has a historic and colorful past as the terminus of the Klondike Gold Rush. This walk encompasses the historic tour of the town with interesting sidenotes. In addition the 8K will take you to the Gold Rush Cemetery and up to Lower Reid Falls. At the other end of the town, the 10K goes to Yakutania Point for a view down the Lynn Canal toward the Chilkat Mountains. An additional 2K takes you through a mixed coastal forest to a grassy inlet named Smuggler’s Cove. Both of these places are excellent for picnic lunches.

If you are arriving by cruise ship, note on the map where your ship is docked in relation to the start at the NPS Visitors Center. There are several docks and several ships may be in port at the same time.

Although there may be many people around when you walk, do not forget that away from the town proper you are in bear country! Stay alert, make noise, do not approach or feed bears, keep food and smells away from bears. If you do encounter a bear, stay calm, talk calmly and firmly, back away slowly and never run.

Build fires only in designated fire pits and never leave a fire burning. Please pack out all garbage and leave nothing behind.

Three Washington State volkssporters: Helen Ross, Liz Morrison and Carolyn Warhol at the town’s welcome sign and at the base of Lower Reid Falls.





# SKAGWAY WALK TO LOWER REID FALLS Y2403 12K/10K/5K Rated 1B

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In case of Emergency: Dial 911

Event related assistance: Nancy Wittenberg:253-208-1331

These walk directions and marked route map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

## Historic tour (1–17): Get out your reading glasses and refer to the Skagway Convention/ Visitors Bureau Historical Notes.

1. Make your way to the walk start at the **Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park** Visitor Center in Centennial Park at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Spring Street. **(1). Restrooms** here and interesting displays. The museum here was once the depot for the White Pass and Yukon Railroad.
2. **Leaving** the Visitor Center, note **Jeff Smith's Saloon (2)** across Broadway on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
3. **Right** on Broadway two blocks to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. **Numbers (3) Red Onion Saloon, (4) Arctic Brotherhood Hall & (5) Golden North Hotel** on left. **(6) Mascot Block** on right at the corner with 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
4. **Right** on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave one block to Spring St. **(7) Pack Trail Building & (9) Skagway Customs Bldg.** on right, **(8) St. James Hotel** on left.
5. **Left** on Spring St one block to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.
6. **Left** on 5<sup>th</sup> back to Broadway. The **Moore Cabin (10)** is on right.
7. **Right** on Broadway one block to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. **Goldberg Cigar Store (11)** and the **Eagles Hall (12)** on the right. (Post Office between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.) (Skagway Brewery at 7<sup>th</sup> and Broadway)

8. **Right** on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave one block to **Molly Walsh Park (13) (Restrooms)** on left. **Pullen House (14)** across 6<sup>th</sup>.
  9. **Left** on dirt path one block to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. **Skagway Museum & City Hall (15)** across Spring at 7<sup>th</sup>. **(Restrooms)**
  10. **Left** on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave two blocks crossing Broadway to State St. **Red Light District (16)** between Boardway and State.
  11. **Right** on State one block to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  12. **Left** on 8<sup>th</sup> **(Restrooms on left)** one block to Main St. **White House (17)** on left.
  13. **Right** on Main seven blocks to 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- For the 5K walk: Right on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave one block to State St. and go to 24.**
- For the 8k/10k/12k, Continue to the Cemetery & Lower Reid Falls 50' elevation gain:**
14. **Left** on 15<sup>th</sup> one block to Alaska St.
  15. **Right** on Alaska six blocks to 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
  16. **Cross** 23<sup>rd</sup> and follow the gravel road around and behind the Railroad yards, across the railroad tracks to the parking area.
  17. **The Gold Rush Cemetery** is located in the woods just past the parking area. **(Pit Toilet in parking area.)**
  18. **Follow** the short forest trail behind the cemetery to spectacular **Lower Reid Falls.**
  19. **Return** to the cemetery and back along the gravel road you came on to 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

**20. Cross 23<sup>rd</sup>** onto Alaska St. one block to 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

**21. Left** on 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave 1 block to Main St.

**22. Right** on Main six blocks to 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**23. Left** on 15<sup>th</sup> one block to State St.

**5K rejoins:**

**24. Right** on State six blocks to 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**25. Right** on 9<sup>th</sup> to Alaska St.

**26. Left** on Alaska to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
(Alaska Spirits Distillery on right at 941 Alaska)

**27. Left** on 8<sup>th</sup> to Main St.

**28. Right** on Main to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
**Rejoin Historic Tour (18 – 23):**

**29. Right** on 7<sup>th</sup> **Nye House (18)** and **Case-Mulvihill House (19)** on Right to Alaska St.

**30. Left** on Alaska one block to 6<sup>th</sup>.

**31. Left** on 6<sup>th</sup> passing the **Gault House (20)** and the site of the old **Blanchard Garden (21)** on right to Main St.

**32. Right** on Main passing the **First Presbyterian Church (22)** at 5<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**33. Left** on 4<sup>th</sup> one block to State St.

**34. Right** on State three blocks to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. The site of the **Reid-Smith Gun Battle (23)** on the SE corner at 1<sup>st</sup>.

**35.**

**To complete the approximate 5 mile (8K) route OR the 3.1 mile (5K) route:**

**36. Left** on 1<sup>st</sup> one block to Broadway

**37. Left** on Broadway one block to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave..

**38. Right** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and continue to Spring St at the Klondike Gold Rush Visitors Center **Finish.**

**To go on to Yakutania Point 20' elevation gain (add 2.6K for 10K total) and on to Smuggler's Cove 100' elevation gain (add 3.2K for 11K total) continue:**

**39. Continue** south on State St. on the sidewalk curving right (west) past the Airport Terminal **(Restrooms).**

**40. Cross** the footbridge over the Skagway River and **turn left** on the trail.

**41. Continue** past exercise station #3 and through the alder trees. At exercise station #4 the trail narrows and goes up rock steps.

**42. Continue** along past the **privy (RR)** and down three more sets of rock steps.

**43. Continue** past the picnic shelter where rock outcroppings provide a view looking down Lynn Canal toward the Chilkat Mountains. Eat your lunch here or continue to Smuggler's Cove.

**To finish the 10K walk, retrace your steps to State St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and go to 35.**

**For Smuggler's Cove 12K walk retrace your steps to the rock steps:**

**44. Left** on the **rough, rooted** trail at the base of the rock steps. The trail leads off through mixed coastal forest to a grassy tidal inlet. There is a picnic shelter and **privy (RR)** at this peaceful site. A good spot for your lunch.

**45. Retrace your steps back to State St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Go to 35 to finish.**

**Thank you for using the Online Start Box. We hope you enjoyed the Skagway walk.**

**Please email the Point of Contact (POC) with any suggestions or problems: [newittenberg@gmail.com](mailto:newittenberg@gmail.com).**



For those of you who wish to see even more of Skagway than the regular walking tour offers, the corner of 8th and State is a good place to turn upstream. To the right are the **WPEYR railroad yards**, the **Gold Rush Cemetery**, and 300-foot **High Red Falls**. The railroad yards are 15 blocks up State Street. To reach the cemetery, turn north at Alaska & 23rd and follow the designated signs. To reach Red Falls, continue through the cemetery for another quarter mile. The trail one-way distance from town to the cemetery is about 1.9 miles. Allow 30-45 minutes each way, plus 30 minutes at the cemetery and waterfall. The Skagway Trail Map is available at the Skagway Visitor Information Center and the National Park Service Visitor Center.

**17** The plantation-style **White House** was built in 1902, and was originally the home of Lee Guthrie, saloon keeper and civic official. After Guthrie left town, the house was converted into a small hotel. The Army used it for a mail hospital during World War II. The building's name occasionally caused delightful confusion. One story about it dates back to 1936, when a local newspaper campaign worker stopped by to visit. No one responded to the knock, but because the door was ajar, the worker called out, "Would you be interested in keeping Eisenhower in the White House?" The owner's response was, "No! Let him stay downtown!" The hostility operated through the 1977 season; a fire that year damaged the facility. The new owners have restored it as a bed & breakfast.

**18** The **Nye House** dates from the gold rush. Like many of Skagway's old homes, it originated as a log cabin. A series of refinements and additions between 1898 and 1901 brought out its present appearance. A long time resident here was Charley Nye, a local power company executive and promoter. The house was once reputed to be a gambling casino, a common enough activity in early Skagway.

**19** The **Case-Mulvihill House** is a graceful Victorian residence. It dates from 1904, and was built for W.H. Case, a partner in the well-known photographic firm of Case and Dreper. William J. "Mac" Mulvihill, the chief dispatcher for the WPEYR railroad, moved in with his family about 10 years later. They lived here until his death in 1949. The house was restored in 1980.

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**21** The site of the old **Blanchard Garden** is just two lots east of the Gault House. During its time, perhaps the most famous garden in Alaska grew here. In gold rush days, people had little time to care for flowers or vegetables. But just a decade later, Skagway had become well-known as the "Garden City of Alaska." The slogan remained, until World War II. Many gardens thrived. Blanchard's being the best known among them. Visitors to Skagway were amazed to find large and beautiful dahlias, sweet peas, begonias, geraniums, pansies and nasturtiums. That era ended, however, with the coming of World War II. With the Army occupying much of Skagway, many gardens were abandoned or trampled over. In recent years, a revival of gardening has taken place, spearheaded by the efforts of the local garden club.

**22** The **First Presbyterian Church**, located at 5th and Main, is Skagway's only remaining gold rush church. It was built in 1901 by the Methodists, but in a denominational realignment, that church body vacated Skagway in 1917. The Presbyterians, who had lost their church building to a fire the previous year, moved in and have remained ever since. During the gold rush, Skagway had but one house of worship, the Union Church. But by 1900, several other religious groups were in evidence.

**23** As a nearby marker testifies, this corner marks the scene of the **Reid-Smith Gun Battle**. Near here, criminal Kingpin Jefferson S. "Soapy" Smith and surveyor Frank Reid shot it out on the evening of July 8, 1898, just four days earlier. Smith was the undisputed leader of Skagway. He had been chosen as the grand marshal for the July 4th parade, and was cheered by his fellow citizens. On the 8th, however, a stamper just back from the Klondike had his \$2,800 poke of gold stolen in Soapy's saloon, and the angry victim told one and all about the robbery. Respectable townspeople were lured into action, and decided to hold a mass meeting on the Lugeau-Cau, wharf to organize against Smith. That wharf began near this street corner, and headed in the direction of the present Terry terminal. Reid and several others were chosen to guard the entrance to the wharf against outsiders. They expected trouble, and soon got it. Smith heard about the meeting, left his saloon and stalked down State Street to the wharf. Shortly after reaching it, however, Reid stopped him. A wild blaze of gunfire ensued, and both men collapsed to the dock. Smith was killed instantly, a bullet through his heart. Reid sustained an agonizing groin injury. He rallied bravely, but died 12 days after the shooting. Smith's gang was rounded up and sent off to jail. Skagway has enjoyed peace and quiet ever since.

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**10** The **Moore Cabin** is the oldest structure in Skagway. It was built by Captain William Moore and his son in 1887-88. Moore was 60 years old when he arrived. He had followed gold rushes all his life, and settled here to pursue one more chance at a fortune. When the big rush came, his land was overrun by a flood of gold seekers. But he prospered because he owned a dock, a warehouse and a sawmill. He stayed here until 1906, long enough to see his homestead blossom into a major port and railroad terminal. Captain Moore's son, Ben, built the main house to the right of the old cabin. **National Park Service archaeologists have discovered that the large lawn between the Moore Cabin and the Gold Rush Clear Store was the site of the original White Pass & Yukon Route. The ruins of the building are still visible.**

**15** The **McCabe College** building, currently occupied by the **Skagway Museum and City Hall**, was built in 1899 of native granite brought from Clifton on the W.P. & Y.R. railroad. The Methodist school, named for Bishop McCabe, was Alaska's first institution of higher education. Facing financial difficulties after private McCabe College closed after only three terms. From 1901 until 1926, the building served as the U.S. Court House with the U.S. Marshal's office and jail on the first floor. District Court was held on the second floor. In the former chapel of McCabe College, in 2000, the City of Skagway completed a new addition to the venerable McCabe building. The Skagway Museum, open daily in the summer, is a fascinating storehouse of Skagway history from the gold rush to present.

**16** Along 7th Avenue between Broadway and State Street, is the Gutfield Residence (Historic Skagway Inn). Built using materials from an 1897-1898 building, Max Gutfield built this residence in 1918. In the 1920's the rear wing was added by moving the vacant Ross-Higgins warehouse (1901) from 4th Avenue and Main Street to the present site. This street is the site of Skagway's once thriving **Red Light District**. As was true in most frontier towns, prostitution was first a common practice here, then was regulated, and finally it was outlawed. During the gold rush, rows of cabs (two-room huts where the "soiled doves" plied their trade) occupied the alleys between 4th and 7th, but after the rush, they were moved onto 7th. Some cabs were moved again before they closed, about 1910; others simply closed where they were. A local brothel included the red, two-story structure, at 8th and Broadway, known as the Cottage during the gold rush.

**11** The **Goldberg Clear Store** was built sometime during the hurried days of the Klondike stampede but the exact date of construction is unknown. A November 1897 photograph shows the completed building on the south side of Fifth Avenue. Annie Leonard, a Skagway madam and the first woman to state lots in Skagway in August 1897, stated that lot and probably had the building constructed shortly thereafter and then rented it out rather than using it as a brothel or crib. D. Goldberg operated his shop from the fall of 1897 through the fall of 1898 and possibly into the spring of 1899. An advertisement in Skagway News (September 16, 1898) lists his stock of goods - "Everything Fresh, Fruits, Confectionery, Cigars, Tobacco, Nuts, Cakes, Candies, and Dried Fruits. Fifth Ave. above Broadway, next door to 'The Office' (a saloon). D. Goldberg." The building was moved to its present location in 2014.

**12** In the **Eagles Hall** each summer, the curtain rises on the popular days of '98 Show, Alaska's longest running theater production. The show dates back to 1923. Those interested in the history of the show can view photographs of early

speculation and short on money. Into this atmosphere came Sir Thomas Finckere, who sailed from London to Skagway in the spring of 1898. Representing a well-heeled investment firm, he wanted to see if a railroad could be built over White Pass. After traveling up the rugged White Pass Canyon, he was skeptical at first. That evening, however, he stumbled across Mike Henry, here in the hotel's saloon. Henry was a railroad contractor who had also looked over the canyon north of town, but it was convinced that a route over the pass was entirely feasible. Legend has it that the two met in the early evening, talked all night long, and wound up their discussion just as dawn broke. Tancred's money and Henry's construction knowledge proved an unbeatable combination. Construction of the line began in late May 1898. Two years, two months and two days later, the line was completed to Whitehorse, the present capital of Canada's Yukon Territory.

**13** A small bust, just west of the public rest rooms, in the corner of **Mollie Walsh Park**, proclaims the memory of a remarkable woman. Mollie Walsh came to Skagway unaccompanied. In the fall of 1897, a party in her day, she was young, unmarried and at least somewhat respectable. She remained in Skagway for a few months, then headed north to open a restaurant in Log Cabin, a tent town located along the White Pass rail. She soon received the attentions of many packers along the trail. One who was particularly fond of her was Jack Newman. He professed his love for her and even killed a rival to earn her affections; but alas, she soon married Mike Bartlett and left the area. Crestfallen, Newman soon married Hannah Barry instead, but he never stopped thinking about Mollie. Mean while they were living in Seattle in October 1902, an argument erupted which resulted in Mollie's murder. Newman read about the slaying and was heartbroken. He revered the memory of the "Angel of the White Pass," and in 1930, he had this bust built and installed in Skagway. The bust, as you may notice, was donated in the name of both Newman and his wife. To calm down Hannah's understandable jealousy, he also installed a plaque in downtown Seattle in honor of Mrs. Newman.

**14** The stone chimney seen on your left is all that remains of the **Pullen House**, once Alaska's most famous hotel. It was a popular stopping place for interior residents and tourists for more than 30 years. Harriet "Ma" Pullen ran it most of that time. This indomitable spirit arrived in Skagway in September 1897. In a story she later told to thousands of tourists, she first baked pies in a tent restaurant on the beach. Later, she rented out the majority of her three-story residence as a rooming house. She soon bought the building, and brought several other buildings onto the property. She operated them until her death in 1947. The hotel operated for another decade before being abandoned.

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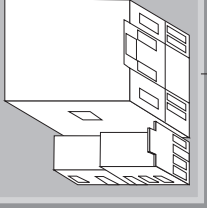
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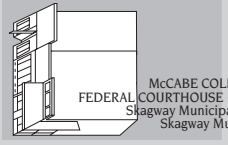
# SKAGWAY ALASKA

## BROADWAY



GOLD PAN THEATER • 1995

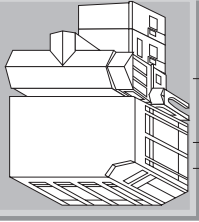
SKAGWAY OLD TOWN BUILDING • 2007



McCABE COLLEGE/  
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE • 1899  
Skagway Municipal Hall  
Skagway Museum

### SEVENTH AVENUE

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GUTFELD RESIDENCE • 1898, 1918  
Historic Skagway Inn B&B

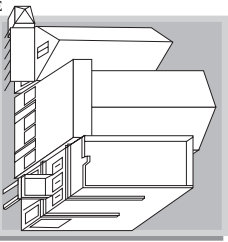
U.S. POST OFFICE

BANK OF ALASKA • 1916

Skagway Outlet Store • 2005

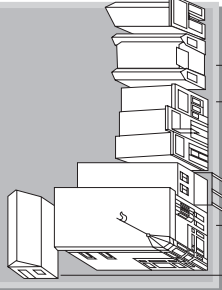
Magee Building • 1997

NOME SALOON • 1899, 1901



### SIXTH AVENUE

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SKAGWAY BAZAAR • 2004

ARTISAN MARKETPLACE • 2006

CORRINGTON BUILDINGS • 1975, 1977, 1986

HOUSE OF RICH • 1906

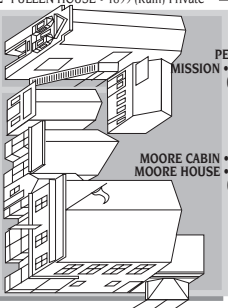
MONDAMIN HOTEL/PACIFIC HOTEL  
EAGLE'S HALL • 1898, 1916, 1920  
Days of '98 Show

KELLY BLOCK BUILDING • 2003

**BOSS BAKERY** • 1897, 1902  
(NPS)

SEATTLE KNOCK-DOWN • 1897

KIRMSE JEWELRY STORE • 1899, 1904

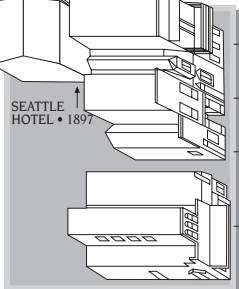


PULLEN HOUSE • 1899 (Ruin) Private →  
PENIEL MISSION • 1900  
(NPS)

MOORE CABIN • 1887  
MOORE HOUSE • 1897  
(NPS)

### FIFTH AVENUE

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SLETTEVOLD BUILDING • 1977

MORELLI BUILDING • 1977

PRINCIPAL BARBER SHOP • 1907

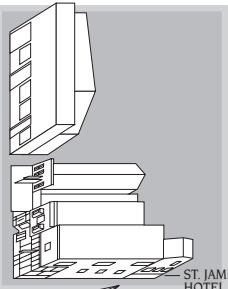
GROSS BUILDING • 1940

KNORR BUILDING • 2005

BOWMAN BARBER SHOP • 1897, 1903

KEELAR THE MONEY KING STORE • 1900

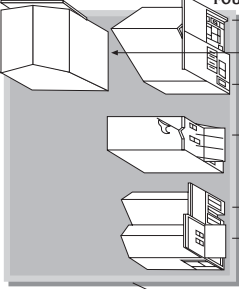
PETERSON & CO.  
GENERAL MERCHANTILE • 1900



ST. JAMES HOTEL • 1897

### FOURTH AVENUE

### FOURTH AVENUE



PANTHEON SALOON • 1897, 1903

CAPT. JAMES CARROLL & CO. MERCANTILE/MASONIC BUILDING • 1899

**A.C. FASEL'S PIONEER PAINT AND WALLPAPER CO./  
RED FRONT STORE** • 1898 Replica, 2000

E.A. HEGG PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO • 1897, 1980  
Dedman's Photo

D. LUCCI GROCERY • 1898

IDAHO SALOON • 1899

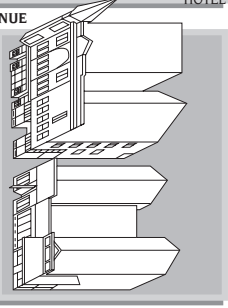
THE TRAIL • 1904, 1908

**LYNCH & KENNEDY DRY GOODS  
AND HABBERDASHERY** • 1900, 1908  
(NPS)

Bonanza Bar & Grill • 1983

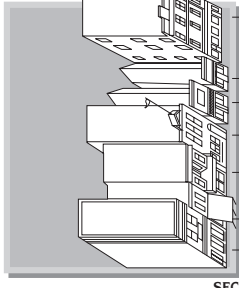
B.A. WHALEN CURIO SHOP • 1899, 1912

KELLER'S DRUG  
AND CURIO SHOP • 1898



### THIRD AVENUE

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GOLDEN NORTH HOTEL • 1898, 1908

GOLDEN NORTH HOTEL ANNEX • 1999

ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. OFFICE • 1900

ARCTIC BROTHERHOOD HALL • 1899  
Skagway Visitor Center

WASHINGTON &  
ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. • 1900

WASHINGTON FRUIT STORE • 1899

RED ONION SALOON • 1898, 1914

**MASCOT SALOON** • 1898, 1905, (NPS)  
**PACIFIC CLIPPER LINE OFFICE** • 1898  
(NPS)

**HERN LIQUOR STORE** • 1937  
(NPS)

**BOAS TAILOR & FURRIER SHOP** • 1899  
(NPS)

**VERBAUWEDE CIGAR STORE  
& CONFECTIONERY** • 1899  
(NPS)

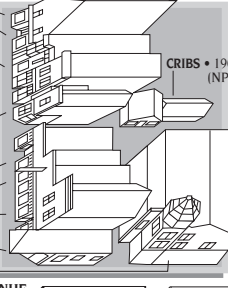
RICHTER'S ANNEX • 1972

RICHTER'S JEWELRY & CURIO SHOP • 1929

JOHN IRVING BUILDING • 1899

HOT SCOTCH SALOON • 1898

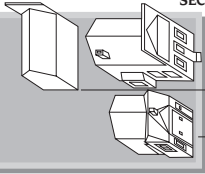
SKAGWAY MERCANTILE CO. • 1996



CRIBS • 1902  
(NPS)

### SECOND AVENUE

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CORRINGTON -BARGER BUILDING • 2002

JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR • 1897, 1964

**MARTIN ITJEN RESIDENCE** • 1901  
(NPS)

**WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE  
BROADWAY DEPOT** • 1898  
Klondike Gold Rush National  
Historical Park Visitor Center (NPS)

**WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE  
GENERAL OFFICES** • 1900  
Klondike Gold Rush National  
Historical Park Headquarters (NPS)

