



MOUNT VERNON DOWNTOWN
ASSOCIATION

MOUNT VERNON PARKS &
RECREATION

BUG HUNT
GEO CHALLENGE



Thank You for Visiting
Mount Vernon
www.MountVernonWa.gov
www.MountVernonDowntown.org

About Downtown:

The City of Mount Vernon, the Mount Vernon Parks Department and the Mount Vernon Downtown Association have a long history of working together to revitalize Historic Downtown Mount Vernon. Many of the buildings here date back to turn of the century architecture. Many of the facades proudly display their construction date and original owner. The Riverwalk Project was completed last fall and is the city's show piece.

The Downtown District extends from just North of Division St, South to Broadway. From S 2nd West to Main St. All of the hidden Travel Bugs are within this area.

About the Challenge:

Safety First! This is a walking challenge that will take you through the various streets and alleys of the Downtown District. Watch for traffic! Some of the clues do not have coordinates. Googling is an accepted form of assistance. Looking up is commonly a good way to find things.

These Travel Bugs are not moveable, and can only be discovered. Each Travel Bug has a brief history on its web page about the building it represents. These are not meant to promote whatever business is currently in the building, but merely to demonstrate the history from its beginning to its current state.

This event is supported by the local merchants, the Downtown Association, and the Parks and Recreation Department. Your patronage is appreciated.

Historic Building #9

Built in 1900
Grand Central Hotel

Over the years, it was a long standing Bakery for nearly 4 decades, before becoming a haven for old and collectable books.

N 48 25.142

W 122 20.275

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #10

Built in 1893
The Louvre Hotel

The first all brick hotel in Mount Vernon. Luxury at it's finest. Over the years, a slow and steady decline began. After it's run as the finest establishment, it became a bordello, and then a 'room for rent' as a seedy apartment. It was rescued and was Cascade Sports, before being the home of Gretchens.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #7 The Lyric Theatre

N 48 25.149 W 122 20.341

And actually the second theatre in Mount Vernon to bear the name Lyric. Opened in 1923 in the Mission Style, it preceded the Lincoln Theatre featuring Vaudeville and Silent Movies. One of three movie houses in the relatively small downtown Mount Vernon core. The theatre changed 'format' over the years, spending its last years as an adult theatre, before closing in 1981. It now is an Antique Store, but still has all of the slanted floors, stage, and balcony.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #8 Mt Vernon Fire Dept.

N 48 25.136

W 122 20.337

In 1891, most of what was Downtown Mount Vernon burned to the ground. The town was reconstructed on 1st street with brick buildings. The Fire Department consisted of volunteers. This building held the horse drawn Hook and Ladder, as well as two hose carts. As you face the building, the stable was to the left, the carts and wagon in the middle, and the firehouse to the right. The building has housed a print shop, and several restaurants. It is now home to the Trumpeter Ale House.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #1 Tulip Stack

Originally 120' tall, the 'Tulip Stack' is a major landmark of Mount Vernon. Built in 1906 for the Pacific Coast Milk Company, and purchased in 1907 by Carnation, it remains as a reminder of what was once 'Milk City'. The building has been turned into office suites. The stack has been trimmed 30 feet, and even once housed a drive up Photo Mat.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #2 The Lincoln Theatre

Constructed in 1926 as a Vaudeville and Silent Movie House, the theatre has remained active with a few brief years in the 1980's when it closed. It is currently owned by the City, and managed by the Lincoln Theatre Center Foundation. It's current use includes serving as a venue for quality cinema, educational programs, live performing artists, and exhibitions of fine art.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #3 Erickson's Furniture Built Circa 1900.

Although not the original purpose for this building, it is what it is remembered for. Erickson's Furniture started in Everett in the 20's and expanded to Mount Vernon in the 40's. Here it remained until the Erickson family closed down all operations in 1984. Originally the building had rooms for rent on the second floor, and was a print shop on the main floor. It currently is home to Tri-Dee Art Supplies.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #4 Skagit County Court House Built 1892

Now known as the Matheson Building. This building housed the court, jail and county government offices. It originally had a third floor which was removed in 1922 when the building was sold to a private party when the current court house was built. The law office of Gilbert and Gilbert still has their practice in the same office they started in 1922. Now in their 3rd generation of attorneys. (second floor N/W corner).

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #5 I.O.O.F. Lodge 23

Built in 1908, the IOOF Lodge was essentially town center. Serving as the first town hall. The lower floors also held the first post office, as well as a grocery store. Over the years, the fantastic brick architecture was covered by 'modernized' rock covering. The original windows are still behind the façade. The 1882 Date is when Lodge 23 was formed.

Enter TB Code: _____

Historic Building #6 Original Print Shop.

N 48 25.172 W 122 20.311

Although not a lot is known about this building, it's origins in the 1912 'Inventory' of Mount Vernon buildings revealed it as a print shop. And in researching it, it remained one for many years. It has now joined with another building to form one of Downtowns popular pubs, the Porterhouse. Also a sponsor of this event.

Enter TB Code: _____