

Georgetown

PART
1
OF 2



North Side

City of Seattle

Public Art & Culture Walking Tour Map

Welcome to Georgetown, Seattle's Oldest Neighborhood!

The Duwamish tribe were the first inhabitants of the area, in a community they called Tu-kweltid-tid ("by the river bank"). European settlers started arriving in 1850, and Luther Collins filed the first claim in 1851. In 1871, Annie and Julius Horton platted their land into a town, and named it for their son George, to honor his graduation from medical school.

Repeated flooding of the river had created immensely fertile soil, and immigrant farmers had great success in this valley, selling their crops at Pike Place Market. Hops grew particularly well, and in 1883 the five-acre Seattle Malting and Brewing Company opened, to become the sixth largest brewery in the world.

These were boom years for Georgetown, and in 1904 the town incorporated and elected its first

mayor. The downtown area was a buzz with activity--markets, liverys, pharmacies, hotels, boxing rings, bakeries, saloons, a theater, and a mortuary (whose undertaker sang tenor).

Georgetown's autonomy was short-lived, however, and in 1910 it was annexed to Seattle. Shortly thereafter the Duwamish River was straightened in order to create cheap, accessible factory sites, and the valley became the focus of Seattle's industrial expansion. In the ensuing years the city tried repeatedly to rezone residential and commercial area as industrial land, but met with outraged opposition. The city relented on the rezoning, but dealt equally injurious blows to the neighborhood by cutting through its heart with I-5's entrance and exit ramps, and by allowing the airport to expand its operations.

Today, due to the ongoing efforts of this close-knit community, Georgetown is recognized by city government as a neighborhood anchor. Georgetowners are flourishing in their unique neighborhood, and the area is once again a buzz with activity. Citizens enjoy prize-winning gardens and regularly plant and tend street trees. Artists' studios and workshops hum. Years of meetings and residents' volunteerism will soon find fruition in a restored city hall, a new park (which will feature a refurbished Hat 'n' Boots), and an outdoor market.

So enjoy your visit to this special, hardworking neighborhood.



North Georgetown

1 Georgetown Sign

Installed in the fall of 2002 on the southern facade of the Horton Building by Georgetown resident artist Kathryn Rathke. This project was developed with help from the Georgetown community and the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs' ArtsUp program.
6004 12th Avenue S.

2 Wolf's Door/Jules Maes Saloon

This building has long been an integral part of Georgetown culture. The "Citizens' Club," in the back of the original first-floor saloon, regularly held boxing matches called "smokers," while the upstairs housed pigeon races and the offices of the original Georgetown Gazette.

5919 Airport Way

3 Rainier Cold Storage/Old Brewery

Built in 1893 as the Seattle Malting and Brewing Company this five-acre brewery became the sixth largest in the world. Its bricks are made of locally mined Duwamish clay. It now houses artist studios and small businesses. The range of skills represented include cabinet and furniture makers, printers, designers, jewelers, photographers, painters, and sculptors.

4 Argo Crossing

At one time, the Interurban Railway freight trains, trolley, and automobile traffic all converged at this one point. Constant collisions earned it the nickname "Bloody Argo" until a bridge was built in 1929. It is not recommended to actually walk to this site.

5 Corson Building

Built in 1910. Now a private residence, this was once the site of Italian Architectural Art Company, manufacturer of ornamental cast stone work. Remodeling in the 1920s reflects the Spanish Eclectic style popular throughout the West in the early 20th century.
5609 Corson Avenue S.

6 Bertholdi Hall

Built in 1903, this building has housed 100 years of lively fun. Originally this building contained a beer parlor downstairs, while the ballroom upstairs held dances, smokers, and meetings of "The Crown Circle of Women for Woodcraft #326." Today Stellar Pizza is a hub of Georgetown culture.

5511 Airport Way S.

7 Champion almond tree

The 80-year-old almond tree in the back yard of this property is the biggest of its kind in the state, which earns it "Champion Tree" status.

503 S. Brandon Street

8 Hoffeditz Maertens House

Built in 1891, this modest structure is the oldest house in Georgetown. The privet hedge which surrounds it is also extremely old. Both have been immaculately tended through the years as this house has passed to successive family members.

5403 Maynard Avenue S.

9 Seattle Design Center

Established in the early 1970s, the Seattle Design Center houses more than 60 showrooms in its 360,000 square feet of showroom space and represents more than 1,500 manufacturers from around the world, as well as artisans from the Northwest.

5511 Airport Way

10 Georgetown Playfields historic trees

Thirty-three hybrid London Plane trees dominate the site. There are also five English Maples (the one just east of the restrooms is the largest in Seattle). Other trees of interest include a Windmill Palm at 763 Homer; four American Elms near 614 Homer; and two large native Red Cedars and a native Douglas Fir at 718 Orcas.

11 Scott Boone House

Mr. Boone's Grandfather, Dr. Scott Woodin, built this striking house in 1904, while he was chief surgeon at the nearby King County Hospital. Dr. Woodin introduced the first X-ray machine to King County, but enthusiastic overuse of this new technology--and the radiation poisoning that went with it--felled the good doctor. Mrs. Woodin frequently traded with the Duwamish, and her grandson still has the many bowls and woven mats she obtained.

ALSO: Old King County Hospital 1894-1931

Western side of Corson. Built of local brick and stone, the hospital was situated on the bank of the Duwamish. During the 1940s there were many TB patients camped along the bank, where conditions it was then thought would be salutary.

5801 Corson S.

12 Filbert Tree

7th and Fidalgo. Probably part of an original homestead from the 1800s. The main trunk--probably more than 130 years old--reflects a dramatic pruning 40 years ago, which produced many smaller trunks.

13 JonDove's garden

Mr. Dove is a lifelong resident, and his garden is one of the jewels of Georgetown. Its Edwardian mixed borders complement the 1905 house, and won him the Grand Prize in the Pacific Gardens Northwest Competition 2000. These grounds once abutted King County Hospital, and Mr. Dove used excavated stones from that venerable old structure as garden steps.

823 S. Orcas