

A BRIEF LOOK AT SKAGWAY'S HISTORY

Skagway, one of America's great historical shrines, played a key role in the dramatic Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-1898. For several hectic months, uncounted thousands poured through these streets on their way north. They were headed for Dawson City, more than 500 miles inland. Conditions were so rigorous that fewer than half of those who arrived in Skagway reached the gold fields.

For the first year of its existence, Skagway was a rough-and-tumble frontier port. Skagway boasted more than 80 saloons; gun play was common; the town was controlled by a gang of organized criminals. Civilization arrived when the White Pass and Yukon Route began constructing its railroad in May 1898, and it advanced when the criminal element was purged two months later. The WPEYR was completed to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory in the summer of 1900; by this time, the gold rush was over.

Since 1898, Skagway has served as a port and railroad town. Life here since the gold rush has been relatively sedate, except for the hectic World War II years, when thousands of Army troops were stationed here in order to supply materials for the Alcan (Alaska) Highway and other war-time construction projects. The railroad was the main industry in Skagway for more than 80 years. It closed in 1982, but reopened in 1988 as a summer operation. Tourists first arrived in 1898. The visitor industry remained small until the 1920s; since then it has grown steadily into a major economic force. Regular ferry service came to Skagway in 1963; the Klondike Highway to the Yukon was completed in the fall of 1978.

While history dominates the Skagway landscape, life here resembles that of small towns throughout America. Our citizens are proud of our past, confident about our present, and optimistic about the future. We are glad you have chosen to visit us, and hope you can return some day.



The Camera Club spies on Skagway from a bluff above town in 1900. Case & Draper - Alaska Historical Library

SKAGWAY: A WORD ABOUT OUR NAME

Skagway is one of the oldest towns in Alaska. The stamperders called it Skaguay, but the post office insisted on a spelling change, so it's been known as Skagway since 1899. (Neither name was very satisfactory to Captain William Moore, the valley's pioneer; he thought Mooresville was appropriate. But Skagway stuck.) It's a Tlingit name, and has been spelled Cquque, Schkague, Shkagway, Sch-kawai and Skagwa.

The name has many definitions. One author says that "popularly, the word comes from "Skagua, home of the north wind. But it really comes from 'Sch-kawai,' meaning end of salt water."

Recent research from local Tlingit natives has revealed that the name comes from the word Shgagwéi meaning "bunched up or rough water."

Old travel guides give us more information, further confusing the issue. Old-timer Arthur Church claimed that Skagua means "rough water." And Frank Carpenter, a travel writer in the 1920s, stated that "Skag-waugh" meant "cruel wind."

John G. Brady, who was governor during the gold rush, knew a good story when he heard it. He described how the Skagway River got its name in this way:

"The Natives call this stream Skugua. This name has been in use since the crow made the earth and the Tlingits. A woman was drowned in this river and her name was Skugua. On the banks of the river lived a man named Ken-noo-goo, or North Wind. Skugua came to him and became his wife. No doubt those who remain there this winter will find out how close their relationship is to the cold north wind."

Maybe the best definition came out of a 1927 magazine article. The writer, perhaps after reading so many stories behind the name, could only conclude that Skagway was a "word of uncertain meaning."

Skagway Walking Tour brochure produced by Skagway Convention and Visitors Bureau • (907) 983-2854
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A WPEYR train pulls a load of passengers down Broadway to the depot. Case & Draper - Alaska Historical Library

SKAGWAY ALASKA

BROADWAY

SEVENTH AVENUE

- GOLD PAN THEATER • 1995
- SKAGWAY OLD TOWN BUILDING • 2007
- McGABE COLLEGE/ FEDERAL COURTHOUSE • 1899 Skagway Municipal Hall Skagway Museum
- Skagway Outlet Store • 2005
- Magee Building • 1997
- NOME SALOON • 1899, 1901

SIXTH AVENUE

- PULLEN HOUSE • 1899 (Ruin) Private
- MONDAMIN HOTEL/PACIFIC HOTEL EAGLE'S HALL • 1898, 1916, 1920 Days of '98 Show
- MISSION • 1900 (NPS)
- KELLY BLOCK BUILDING • 2003
- BOSS BAKERY • 1897, 1902 (NPS)
- MOORE CABIN • 1887 MOORE HOUSE • 1897 (NPS)
- SEATTLE KNOCK-DOWN • 1897
- KIRMSE JEWELRY STORE • 1899, 1904

FIFTH AVENUE

- 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

- 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

- MASCOT SALOON • 1898, 1905 (NPS)
- PACIFIC CLIPPER LINE OFFICE • 1898 (NPS)
- HERN LIQUOR STORE • 1937 (NPS)
- BOAS TAILOR & FURRIER SHOP • 1899 (NPS)
- CRIBS • 1902 (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

SECOND AVENUE

- CORRINGTON -BARGER BUILDING • 2002
- JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR • 1897, 1964
- MARTIN ITJEN RESIDENCE • 1901 (NPS)

SEVENTH AVENUE

- GUTFELD RESIDENCE • 1898, 1918 Historic Skagway Inn B&B
- U.S. POST OFFICE
- BANK OF ALASKA • 1916

SIXTH AVENUE

- SKAGWAY BAZAAR • 2004
- ARTISAN MARKETPLACE • 2006
- CORRINGTON BUILDINGS • 1975, 1977, 1986
- HOUSE OF RICH • 1906

FIFTH AVENUE

- SLETTEVOLD BUILDING • 1977
- MORELLI BUILDING • 1977
- PRINCIPAL BARBER SHOP • 1907
- GROSS BUILDING • 1940
- SEATTLE HOTEL • 1897

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

THIRD AVENUE

- 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

SECOND AVENUE

- CORRINGTON -BARGER BUILDING • 2002
- JEFF SMITH'S PARLOR • 1897, 1964
- MARTIN ITJEN RESIDENCE • 1901 (NPS)

Buildings referenced in **bold** are owned by the National Park Service (NPS)



Skagway's original City Hall was located in an 1897 cabin off Broadway on Fifth. H.C. Barley - Skagway Trail of '98 Museum



Harriet Pullen see number 14 on other side. Pullen Collection

GARDEN CITY OF ALASKA

Visitors have long remarked about the enormous vegetables produced on Alaska's farms. Although most farms are now located near Palmer or Delta Junction, Alaska's agriculture really took root here in Skagway.

The height of the gold rush had barely passed when local residents began exercising their green thumbs. One family grew potatoes in 1898, and the following year a visitor gushed that "all sorts of vegetables are grown in the gardens" here. Local farms were prominently mentioned in several early Agricultural Department publications, and the town was seriously considered as a site for an agricultural experiment station.

It was flower gardens, however, that soon overshadowed vegetable production. By 1905, a White Pass railroad brochure proclaimed the beauty of Skagway's "flowers, trim lawns and prolific gardens." Local jeweler Herman Kirmse sponsored a local garden contest, which became so successful that many people from outside Alaska were attracted to it. The local Order of the Eastern Star chapter continues this tradition every August in conjunction with Skagway's Gold Rush Garden Club contest.

In 1910, the Skagway Commercial Club declared the town "Garden City of Alaska." The name has been used for many years, but the title was not official until Governor Steve Cowper signed the garden city proclamation in 1988.

The Garden Club is responsible for the row of mountain ash trees on the road to the ferry terminal and many of the flower boxes you see in the Historic District. We hope you enjoy our gardens... they are part of a great Skagway heritage.



Ann Blanchard, one of Skagway's pioneer gardeners, grew record dahlias and other prize-winning flowers in the early part of the century. Dedman's Photo Studio



H.C. Barley - Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

SKAGWAY Walking Tour

1 A good place to start any tour of Skagway is the former **White Pass and Yukon Railroad Depot**. This massive, colorful structure, built in 1898, was a dominant part of Skagway life until 1969, when railroad operations moved to the WP&YR's new building two doors east. The old depot is now the **National Park Service Visitor Center**, where visitors can enjoy movies, walking tours and other activities during the summer. Although the tracks are now on the south side of the building, passenger trains used to chug down Broadway on their way into town from Whitehorse, 112 miles to the north. Note the second story bay window overlooking Broadway, once used by the railroad dispatcher. Also note the much fancier yellow-colored Administration Building. Built in 1900, today it houses the **NPS Gold Rush Museum**.

2 One of Skagway's best-known characters, for better or worse, was Jefferson Randolph “Soapy” Smith. Here is his saloon, **Jeff Smith's Parlor**, still looking much as it did during gold rush days. Smith, the last of the big-time western bad men, was a con man who took over Skagway during the winter of 1897-98. He landed here with only a few confederates, but through a combination of skill and guile he soon controlled an underworld of more than 200 gamblers, swindlers and thugs. His power seemed almost limitless until July 8, 1898. On that fateful day, he and surveyor Frank Reid shot it out on one of the town's docks. “Soapy” was killed instantly. A hundred wild stories have been attributed to Smith, most of them true. His saloon was originally located on 6th Avenue; it was moved here in 1964.

As you walk up Broadway, you'll find history all around you. The pioneer scene before you has not changed much since the time of the gold rush “stampedeers.” For the next two blocks, almost every building you see was constructed between 1897 and 1900.

3 One of Skagway's best-known watering holes, the **Red Onion Saloon**, has a provocative past. It was built in 1898 at the corner of 6th and State, as a saloon, dance hall and bordello. When it was moved here in 1914, the movers somehow installed it backwards, putting the rear of the structure on Broadway. The upstairs has changed little since the time when it was frequented by turn-of-the-century “working girls.” The mannequins leering down from the second story windows help preserve the old era.

4 The **Arctic Brotherhood Hall** is perhaps the most photographed building in Alaska. In times past, it was a fraternal hall; the local chapter of the Brotherhood first met here in August 1899. (Step across the street, and you'll notice the letters “A.B.” and the “1899” above the door, and “Camp Skagway No. 1” on the overhang. The organization's symbol, a gold pan and nuggets, is up near the roof line.. The facade, which dates from 1900, has been called a prime example of Victorian Rustic Architecture. Charley Walker and his fellow lodge members collected over 8,800 driftwood sticks on the shores of Skagway Bay and nailed them to the front wall. The Brotherhood, which remained active into the 1920s, once entertained President Warren G. Harding. The building is currently the home of the Visitor Information Center operated by the **Skagway Convention & Visitors Bureau**.

The outside façade of the Arctic Brotherhood Hall underwent a restoration during the winter of 2004-2005. All of the 8,883 pieces of driftwood on the front of the building were removed. Forty percent (3,533) had rotted and were replaced, while sixty percent (5,300) were still able to be preserved over one hundred years later.

5 The **Golden North Hotel**, now home to several retail stores, started operating during the Gold Rush.Built by the Klondike Trading Company in 1898 it was originally a two story building. George Dedman and a business partner purchased the building following the Gold Rush. It was moved to its present location in 1908. At this time the third story and dome were added and the building began operating as a hotel. The dome, which appears to be of Russian or Slavic origin, was constructed by a carpenter from Montana. The tower helped show visitors, some of whom were illiterate in early days, the building's location.

6 At the corner of 3rd and Broadway lies the **Mascot Block**, a row of three separate business buildings. The Mascot Saloon, on the corner, dates back to 1898. It was one of more that 80 saloons in a town once described as “the roughest place in the world.” The saloon operated until August 1916, when Prohibition closed it down; it later served as a drug store. Next door sits the old Pacific Clipper Line office. Skagway was an active port both during and after the gold rush, and many buildings in this block once served as ticket offices for steamship lines. The narrow building at the south end was Hern's Liquor Store. It opened in 1937, shortly after Prohibition was lifted. The entire building, along with several others in Skagway, is now owned by the National Park Service. Each has been repainted in its original colors. Some are leased back to private businesses. The Mascot houses an exhibit and restrooms.

7 The large, three-story **Pack Train Building** is the tallest historic building in Skagway. The three buildings that make up this block date from 1900, but like many others on Broadway, they were first located elsewhere. These were originally barracks that once comprised part of Camp Skagway, located two blocks up Broadway on 6th Ave. The military abandoned them when it moved to the Haines area in 1904, and four years later, they were moved here. The corner business, run by the mayor and his partner, was a saloon called The Trail. (On the 4th Avenue side of the building, there is a large sign, proclaiming “U-AU-TO-NO-THE-TRAIL,” which dates from this period.) Soon afterwards, the Lynch and Kennedy clothing store opened just south of the saloon. To appreciate how much a facade can improve a building, step back and note the intricate woodwork facing Broadway. Then turn down 4th Avenue and see how the barracks look from the back side.

8 The **St. James Hotel**, presently a hardware store warehouse, is famous as the birthplace of the White Pass and Yukon Route railroad. During the winter of 1897-98, it took tremendous effort for the stampedeers to haul the required “ton of goods” from Skagway to the Canadian lakes. To ease the strain, several tramways and railroads crossing White Pass were proposed, but the plans were long on

speculation and short on money. Into this atmosphere came Sir Thomas Tancrede, 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 Heney, here in the hotel's saloon. Heney was a railroad contractor who had also looked over the canyon north of town, but he 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. Tancrede's money and Heney'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.

Look up on the mountain before you! Depending on your point of view, the inscriptions on the cliff face are either historical resources, or they are graffiti. The pocket watch, which advertised Kirmse's jewelry store, dates from the 20th century. The other advertisements are more recent.

9 Across the street, the **Skagway Customs** building was built by the WP&YR railroad and leased to the government. It originally sat on the south side of 2nd Ave. adjacent to the railroad depot. In 1969, with the construction of the new depot, the building was moved across the street to the north side 2nd Ave. After the Klondike highway opened in the fall of 1978, the offices were moved to a location on the highway. For a time after the customs staff left, the building was used as the United Transportation Union Local 1787 meeting hall, and later as a retail store. It was moved to its present location on October 1, 2004.

***Attention Hikers!** The mountains above Skagway are well worth a visit. A network of trails begins just ahead. A popular short hike leads to Lower Dewey Lake, a beautiful, quiet sanctuary. Trails also lead to Upper Reid Falls, Sturgill's Landing and Upper Dewey Lake. Lower Dewey Lake is half a mile away; other points of interest are within four miles of town. To reach the trailhead from the corner of 4th and Spring, just go toward the mountain until you reach a foot bridge across Pullen Creek. The trail itself begins just beyond the railroad tracks. The Skagway Trail Map is available at the Skagway Visitor Information Center, the National Park Service Visitor Center and at the trailhead.*

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 65 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 Goldberg Cigar Store was the beginning of the White Pass Trail, the famous “Dead Horse Trail” used by so many stampedeers. This spot is half a mile from the bay today, but 100 years ago, occasional high tides reached here. The geological process of “glacial rebound” has caused Skagway to rise from the ocean about one inch each year.

11 The **Goldberg Cigar 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 stake lots in Sk&Y in August 1897, staked 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 the 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 it's 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

scenes and characters in the hall's gambling room. The hall is composed of two gold rush hotels: the Mondamin Hotel was moved here in 1916 and the Pacific Hotel was added to the rear in 1920. The fraternity first met here in 1899. Of the thousands of Eagles Aeries (chapters), this is Aerie No. 25. The wing on the south side dates from the 1960s; it once housed a bowling alley.

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 rarity 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 Trail. 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. Meanwhile, the Bartletts' marriage was turbulent at best, and 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 50 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.

***Note:** The chimney sits on private property. Please do not trespass. To reach City Hall, turn left and travel up the dirt pathway. Pullen Creek, which you will cross, is home to many varieties of fish. In early summer, look for Dolly Varden trout and young coho salmon; later, you may find pink and chum salmon in the creek.*

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 WP & YR railroad. The Methodist school, named for Bishop McCabe, was Alaska's first institution of higher education. Facing financial difficulties, private McCabe College closed after only three terms. From 1901 until 1956, 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 Gutfeld Residence (Historic Skagway Inn). Built using materials from an 1897-1898 building, Max Gutfeld 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 it was regulated, and finally it was outlawed. During the gold rush, rows of cribs (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 cribs 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.

*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 uptown. To the right are the **WP&YR railroad yards**, the **Gold Rush Cemetery**, and 300-foot high **Reid 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 Reid Falls, continue through the cemetery for another quarter mile. The total 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 small hospital during World War II. The building's name occasionally caused delightful confusion. One story about it dates back to 1956, when a Republican 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 hostelry 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 about 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 Draper. William J. “Mul” Mulvihill, the chief dispatcher for the WP&YR railroad moved in with his family about 10 years later. They lived here until his death in 1949. The house was restored in 1980.

20 The **Gault House** is another of Skagway's architectural treasures. Built in 1899, the house probably began as a saloon (6th Avenue was once Skagway's main business street). In later years, it became the long time home of Roy Gault, an engineer for the WP&YR, and his family.

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 graveled over. In recent years, a revival of gardening has taken place, spearheaded by the efforts of the local garden club.

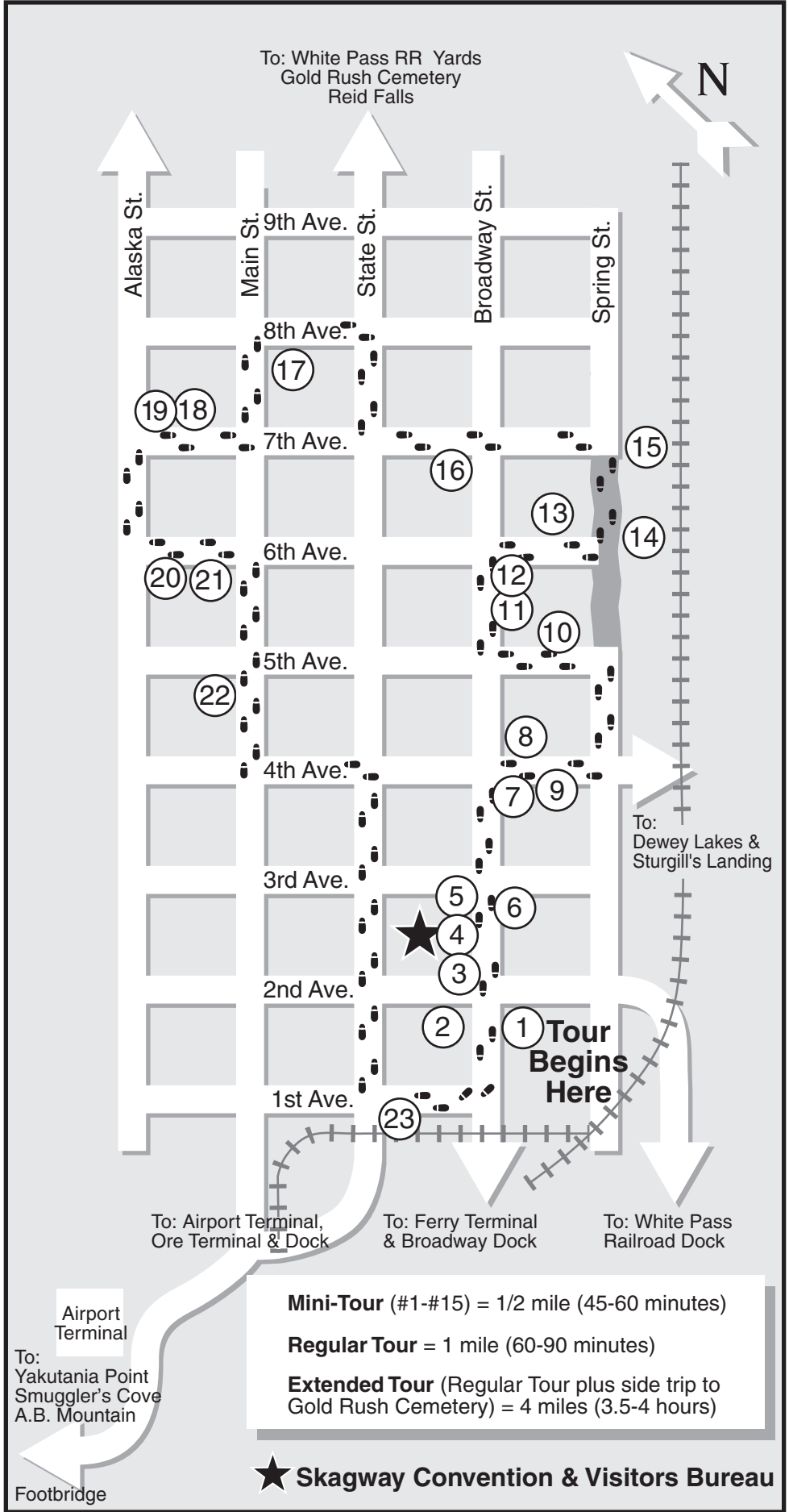
22 The **First Presbyterian Church**, located at 5th and Main, is Skagway's only remaining gold rush church. It was built in 1901 by the Methodists, but in a denominational realignment, that church body vacated Skagway in 1917. The Presbyterians, who had lost their church building to a fire the previous 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 R. “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 stamperder 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 jolted into action, and decided to hold a mass meeting on the Juneau Co. wharf to organize against Smith. That wharf began near this street corner, and headed in the direction of the present ferry 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.

***Attention Hikers!** Another system of inviting trails begin just south of the Airport Terminal. These trails go to several points. **Yakutania Point** is a picnic area overlooking Skagway's harbor, **Smuggler's Cove** is a secluded nearby hideaway, and **A.B. Mountain** (elevation 4,900 feet) towers over the entire local area. The first two points are less than a mile away. Continue south on State Street around to the airport terminal, cross the footbridge and turn left. Anyone interested in exercise can take advantage of the “Fitness Cluster” in the area. The Skagway Trail Map is available at the Skagway Visitor Information Center and the National Park Service Visitor Center.*

To return to the railroad depot, where you began your tour, continue along 1st Ave. to Broadway, then turn left.

We hope that you enjoyed your tour!



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