

Final Report: Historical Report and Historical Interviews & Methodology

Elyse Fujimoto

Muhammad Khdair

Mia Oscarsson

Colin Spencer

Haylee Vanderstelt

Jess Blanch and Jess Zimbabwe

CEP 460 A

12/11/2023

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	1
Purpose & Scope	2
Audience & Client	2
Methodology	3
Site Assessment	3
Historical Report	4
Historical Interviews & Methodology	5
Results & Conclusions	7
Recommendations & Next Steps	9
Appendix A: Historical Report Deliverable	12
Pre-Colonial Human Settlement Patterns	12
Place Names	12
Defined Boundaries & Location of the Place	13
Population Growth & Demographic Change Over Time	14
Types of Land Use	14
Styles of Architecture	15
Parks, Churches, Schools, and other Notable Institutions	16
Major Annual Events	17
Major Economic Drivers	18
Past Snohomish Planning Projects	19
Case Studies	20
Bibliography	22
Appendix B: Historical Interviews & Methodology Deliverable	25
Purpose	25
Research Questions	25
Recruiting Participants & Scheduling Interviews	25
Methodology	25
Designing Interview Approach	25
Interviewing	25
Transcribing	26
Analyzing	26
Verifying	26
Reporting Results	26
Interview Environment & Equipment	26
Environment	26
Equipment	26

Interviewing Roles	27
Appendix B1: Interview Script	28
Appendix B2: Interview Questions	29
Appendix B3: Note Taking Form	30

Executive Summary

This project was conducted by Community, Environment, and Planning (CEP) students in CEP 460: Planning in Practicum in collaboration with the City of Snohomish and Livable City Year.

This research is meant to address two questions: to what extent do potential hazards impact First Street? As well as what are the social and historical factors that contributed to the identified hazards? The scope of the project included asset mapping and hazard identification of Snohomish First Street. To achieve this, students conducted background historical research, identified potential hazards on First Street, created a hazard map, and administered semi-structured interviews with senior citizens of Snohomish. The following report will detail the methodology of the student's research as well as the results and recommendations for further investigation. This information can be used to inform future planning and hazard mitigation efforts on Snohomish's First Street.

Introduction

Snohomish, Washington is a city whose personality remains deeply entwined with the past. Once a center of commerce and county seat as far back as the mid-1800s, the city's character has held on to a moment in history even as that history continues to pass by at an ever-accelerating rate. Today largely a bedroom community for the larger cities in the area – namely Seattle, 29 miles to the South – Snohomish has sustained its identity and economy by leaning heavily into retro sensibilities, with no place exemplifying this more than the city's First Street.

Born from successful pushes to establish a Historical Business District and be added to the National Registry of Historic Places in the 1970s, First Street now operates as a rather touristy location whose draw is in its antiquity, lined with many buildings that have stood for over a

century. What were once grocery stores and theaters are now chock full of boutique shops, restaurants, and, most significantly, a huge number of antique stores, leading the city to market itself as “The Antique Capital of the Northwest.” Through this pull, First Street has become rather indispensable in maintaining that Snohomish has an economy of its own.

Because of this indispensability, preserving and improving First Street is a large focus for city officials and bureaucrats. While certainly successful in its aims and containing heavy doses of small-town charm, First Street is not without its issues. This project was focused those of infrastructure, which is of high importance for such an active street. As being cemented in the past is an integral part of its identity, First Street naturally faces problems stemming from outdated building practices, namely sidewalk deterioration and foundational structure concerns. For the city to continue to benefit from its historicity, these roadblocks must be addressed and overcome, with which this project aims to assist.

Purpose & Scope

This research was conducted to inform the City of Snohomish’s comprehensive plan, providing a basis of information and data necessary for upcoming city changes. Project goals included the following: identifying geographic locations of hazards and utilities along First Street; researching and synthesizing local history; and conducting interviews with local elders. This work produced three key deliverables, including a site assessment, a historical report, and interview documentation. To conduct a site assessment, information was gathered through site visits and data collection, where data was then used to produce an asset map. The historical report was created through researching the following topics: settlement patterns, place names, boundaries, population growth, demographics, past land uses, architectural styles, notable institutions, annual events, economic drivers, past planning projects, and case studies. To accompany this

information, interviews were conducted on-site with people from the senior center. These interviews were documented and put into a formal report detailed in Appendix B, including detailed information on the development of research questions, recruitment strategies, methodology, and results. However, like any project, there were constraints. The main constraint involved the timeline of work. This work had to be completed within roughly ten weeks, making it essential to establish project goals and deliverables before conducting research or collecting data. The final report and asset map will inform future planning endeavors, particularly relating to making changes based on hazards along First Street.

Audience & Client

The main point of contact with the city of Snohomish was Nova Heaton, the city's Director of Public Works, along with Siobhan Waltman, the Public Works Project Coordinator. Other city officials and bureaucrats involved included: Mayor Linda Redmon; City Administrator Heather Thomas; Planning and Development Director Brooke Eidem; Public Works Services Manager Tim Cross; City Engineer Yosh Monzaki; and Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives Director Shari Ireton, along with department's Economic Development and Outreach Coordinator Brady Begin. As suggested by the wide variety of city figures that connected with the project, the client was the city of Snohomish bureaucracy at large. Seeing as this is research to be used in service of future public works, the project serves the city of Snohomish and the people in it – namely business owners, landowners, and pedestrians of both the local and tourist varieties. Being background research, those populaces are not yet the audience nor the client; if and when the city moves forward in the development of concrete programs and policies that develop from this research, the audience and client then become public.

Methodology

Site Assessment

For our site assessment of hazards on First Street, our team first created a tool to tag the location of data points. This consisted of using a tool that is part of the ArcGIS suite, called Survey123. Through this tool, we were able to create a survey that collected the location of hazards, images, hazard type, severity of the hazard, and any additional notes we deemed important. Two of our members then downloaded the Survey123 app on their phones and conducted a site visit on October 20th. They started at the intersection of First Street and Avenue D, walking along First Street until they reached Lincoln Ave and then turned around to walk along the other side of the street. Throughout this walk, a team member would fill out the survey each time they encountered a visible hazard on the street, a water meter, or a light post.

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the Survey123 mobile application interface. The left screenshot shows the 'Initial Questions' screen, which includes a 'Description content for the survey' field, a 'Location*' section with a map showing a campus area with a blue location pin, and a 'Date*' section with a date picker. The right screenshot shows the 'Photo*' section with a '1 Drop image here or select image (minimum number of files required: 1)' field, a 'What type of hazard is this?*' dropdown menu, a 'How severe does the hazard appear?' section with a scale from 1 to 5, and a 'Notes' text area. A green 'Submit' button is visible at the bottom of the right screenshot.

Complete Survey123 used to collect hazard data on First Street.

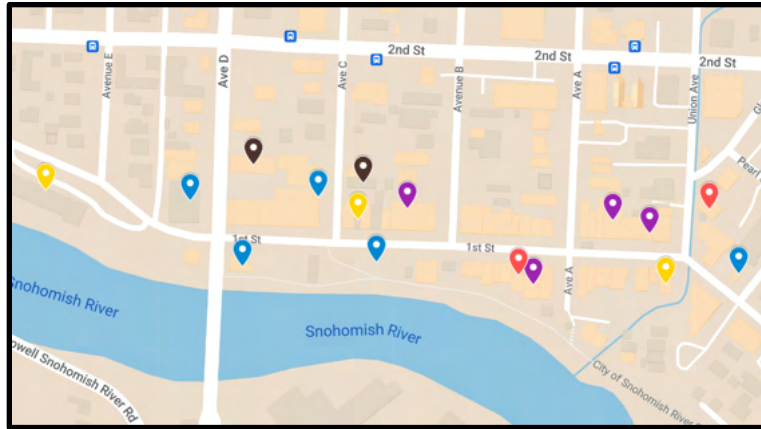
After data collection, the raw data was downloaded as a geodatabase. In ArcGIS, the survey data was cleaned in order to identify the photos that correlated with each hazard data point.

Historical Report

For our historical report, initial efforts to learn more about Snohomish and First Street were in relation to our class's history and context essay assignment. This included background research by synthesizing information from multiple sources such as the City of Snohomish itself, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The preliminary topics the team focused on were as follows:

- Place name(s)
- Defined boundaries and location of the place
- Population growth and demographic change over time
- Types of land use
- Architecture styles
- Parks, churches, schools, and other notable institutions
- Major annual events
- Major economic drivers
- Past Snohomish planning projects
- Case studies

After receiving feedback from Nova on this preliminary research, our team began to further focus on researching past Snohomish planning projects as well as summarizing former uses of buildings on First Street that could potentially contribute to undocumented, less visible hazards that our team would not have observed during our site assessment. While the past Snohomish planning project research was added to our historical report, the former building uses were turned into a Google Map which will be shared with our client in addition to the report.



Google Map identifying 16 parcels on or near First Street identified as having former uses that may particularly contribute to undocumented hazards.

Historical Interviews & Methodology

The methodology of our historical interviews is largely outlined in a section of the final deliverable and attached to this final report as [Appendix B](#). To summarize, our team first documented our initial purpose and research questions to guide our interview research. Our research questions were as follows:

- What are the most prominent memories of First Street that elderly community members have of Snohomish?
- How has First Street changed over time from the perspective of these individuals, and how has that impacted their perception of the street?

We designed 6 questions and potential follow-up questions to ask participants during the interview that would help us answer these two research questions.

For recruitment, we worked with the Snohomish Senior Center Executive Director Sharon Burlison to advertise our research to potential local elder participants who patron the senior

center. We arranged times to visit the senior center where interested participants could be interviewed and used the poster below to advertise our interviewing efforts.



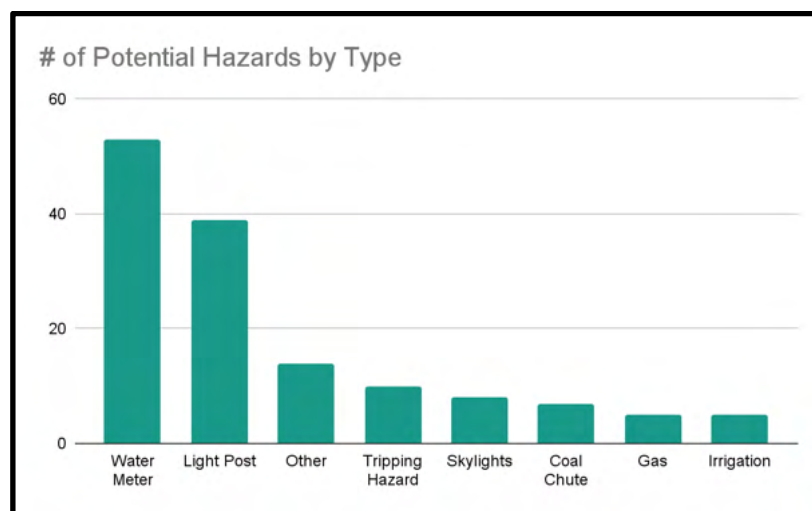
Poster used at the Snohomish Senior Center to recruit participants for interviews.

During the interviews, there were two team members present. One would ask the questions and any potential follow-up questions while the other would be taking notes and ensuring the audio recording was working smoothly. In preparation for these interviews, the team created materials such as a printed-out questionnaire for participants to reference, a script for team members to read from during the interview, and a note-taking form to ensure consistent records.

Due to the limitation of only being able to recruit and interview 2 participants, the team did not conduct any further qualitative data analysis to create findings that might contribute to the historical report. Methodology related to qualitative data analysis is touched upon in our final deliverable, but not discussed in detail due to the fact that this portion of the project was not feasible to complete.

Results & Conclusions

After research was completed, findings were compiled into final deliverables, providing conclusions and recommendations related to the hazards and history of First Street. In conducting the site assessment, 141 data points were identified. This data can be broken down as follows: 53 water meters, 39 light posts, 14 hazards in the “other” category, 10 tripping hazards, 8 skylights, 7 coal chutes, 5 gas covers, and 5 irrigation valves, with the “other” category referring to any unlabeled valves or covers along the street. Most light posts had the most visible damage, and images were recorded during the mapping process to highlight these hazards. Another notable finding is the visible disruption of tripping hazards to the sidewalk. Visual documentation was also recorded for these hazards, and comments from residents were also made about these hazards during the data collection process. Research, with great assistance from local historian Taylor Russell, also led to identifying 16 parcels with potentially hazardous former uses. These sites include auto, construction, electricity, paint, and manufacturing-related activities.



Bar graph demonstrating frequency of hazard collection by the type of hazard.

Conducting interviews produced conclusions based on similarities between interviewees. While only two people were successfully interviewed, both residents identified the old hospital located across from the senior center, mentioning friends and family who had been born there. They also mentioned the constant changes of First Street, yet the consistent abundance of things to do. Both residents also had connections to business owners. Because there were only two interviews conducted, adequate conclusions cannot be drawn. However, findings can still be used going forward if interviews were to be pursued in the future. The one conclusion that can be drawn involves the reluctance of residents to participate in interviews. Most people were busy with other activities and didn't express willingness to participate.

Throughout on-site data collection, research was being conducted to inform the final historical report. This final report drew information from City websites, County websites, historical archives, journals, and current city officials. Findings relate to the following subjects: settlement patterns, place names, boundaries, population growth, demographics, past land uses, architectural styles, notable institutions, annual events, economic drivers, past planning projects, and case studies. The settlement patterns related to Snohomish involve the local coast Salish tribe, which remained within 75 miles of the original site by 2010. The movement was caused by oppressive government policies and overcrowding. In regards to names, Snohomish was previously called Cadyville, with Blackman, Harvey, and Bickford being significant names that have stuck around and been implemented into city streets and buildings. The boundaries of Snohomish are marked by highways and rivers, placing Snohomish 29 miles north of Seattle.

It was also important to note population growth and demographic change. The greatest change occurred between 1965 and 2015, with the most significant change occurring in the 1990's. This contributed to changes in employment, industry, and households. This occurred because of agricultural and logging purposes, the construction of the railroad, and increasing tourism. These changes accompanied changes in land uses, which are detailed in Appendix A. Today, First Street is zoned under the Historic Business District, with mostly commercial properties and some residential farther away from the main street. Most buildings are pedestrian-oriented and were constructed using materials and techniques reflecting the industrial beginnings of Snohomish. All results, including past planning projects and case studies, are described in greater detail in Appendix A.

Recommendations & Next Steps

Continuation of Hazard Research

The first recommendation would be to continue further research into potential unaccounted-for environmental and structural hazards, specifically less visible hazards that cannot be observed from the street view through tools such as ground-penetrating radar. The following is a list of potential research methods that could be incorporated into the continuation of this work:

- Further in-person investigation of identified hazards
- Ground-penetrating radar to find less visible, hidden, or underground hazards

Ultimately, by continuing this work the findings would be valuable in ensuring the safety of citizens, and the environment, and inform the feasibility of future planning projects.

Continuation of Interviews

To gain further insight into community stories and memory, the second recommendation is to

engage in and expand recruitment strategies for citizen interviews. The methodology listed in Appendix B details the steps taken to conduct interviews with the Snohomish Senior Center. Revisiting the senior center to gain more interviews to expand the availability of citizens may be valuable to gather more stories. Additionally, expanding recruitment strategies outside of the Senior Center may also be valuable. Expansion of the age range may also be valuable to gain insight across generations and their memories of First Street. Suggestions such as tabling at downtown events, the public library, the farmers market, in collaboration with school-aged clubs, the American Legion Post, the Snohomish Lions Club, and other community organizations.

StoryMap

The third recommendation to better incorporate future citizen interviews into the historical research previously completed is to create an ArcGIS StoryMap based on responses gathered. StoryMap is a tool feature within ArcGIS suite. This StoryMap interface could be stored on the City's website to function as a display of history through the eyes of Snohomish citizens. This idea is inspired by the Snohomish Walks interface which allows the user to "click" on certain buildings to learn the history, such as the year it was constructed, significance, and former owners. Similarly to this map, the ArcGIS StoryMap can pinpoint citizen stories in certain locations to display the valuable memories of Snohomish First Street history.

Appendix A: Historical Report Deliverable

Pre-Colonial Human Settlement Patterns

Before European colonization, the native local Coast Salish tribe called the *Sdohobsh*, or Snohomish lived along the span of the Snohomish River. Their land ranged from as north as present day's Marysville and as east as Monroe; this also included the southern tip of Camano Island and the east section of Whidbey Island. The Snohomish people had subdivisions spread across each of these locations. In 1844 the population of the Snohomish was 322, but has expanded since with a population of 700 in 1980 and a population of 1,200 in 2008. According to 2010 data, about 93% of Snohomish Tribe of Indians members live within 75 miles of their original lands¹.

After nine Snohomish headmen signed the Point Elliot Treaty of 1855 - this guaranteed hunting and fishing rights in exchange for their land, but was violated soon after - the Tulalip Reservation was established, which is located west of the city of Marysville². This reservation forced the Snohomish to occupy and share a portion of their lands with the Skykomish, the Snoqualmies, and the Stillaguamish. Many left the reservation because of this overcrowding, and more left in the 1970's due to the oppressive government policies on indigenous culture³. The Snohomish Tribe of Indians are members of descendants of the Snohomish who refused to move to the Tulalip Reservation. They are a federally recognized political entity but still not a federally recognized tribal entity⁴.

Place Names

The name Snohomish comes from the Snohomish tribe who lived on the lands before European colonization. Prior to its current name, the city was known as Cadyville, after settler Edson T. Cady named the town after himself in 1859. The Cady name remains in places in Snohomish like Cady Landing Park as well as around the area like Cady Pass or Cady Creek⁵. Emory C. Ferguson, a pioneer settler with a long list of held job titles – cofounder of the city alongside

¹ Ruby, Robert H., John A. Brown, Cary C. Collins, and Clifford E. Trafzer, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986), 303.

² "Treaty of Point Elliott," Duwamish Tribe of Indians, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.duwamishtribe.org/treaty-of-point-elliott#:~:text=The%20Treaty%20of%20Point%20Elliott%20guaranteed%20hunting%20and%20fishing%20rights.>

³ Ruby, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest*, 303-304.

⁴ Balta, Victor, "Snohomish Indians denied status as a tribe," *Herald Net*, Everett Herald, December 1, 2003, <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/snohomish-indians-denied-status-as-a-tribe/>.

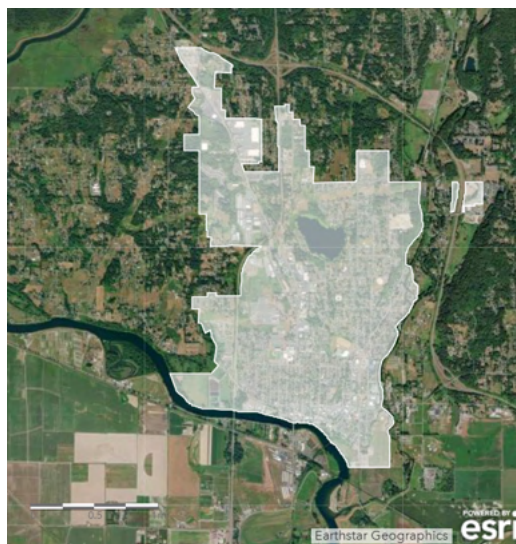
⁵ "History of Snohomish," City of Snohomish, October 27, 2016, <https://snohomishwa.gov/315/History-of-Snohomish>.

Edson Cady, mayor, county commissioner, state legislator, House Speaker, and more – is commemorated by Ferguson Park and the Emory Canda Ferguson House on 2nd street⁶.

The name Blackman also appears throughout the city, deriving from Hyrcanus Blackman who was a former mayor, police chief, and 1894 Snohomish High School graduate. Blackman migrated to Snohomish with his two brothers from Maine. Blackman Lake and the Blackman House Museum are instances of his name being applied to Snohomish places⁷. Bickford Avenue is named after local car dealer Lawrence Bickford, who moved his dealership to a bigger land plot in North Snohomish after becoming a franchise of Ford Motors in 1934⁸. Finally, the closest local airport - Harvey Field - is named after the Harvey family who have been involved in aviation in the area for six generations⁹.

Defined Boundaries & Location of the Place

The City of Snohomish is largely a bedroom community 29 miles north of Seattle. It sits in the river valley at the confluence of two tributaries: the Snohomish River on the south side and the Pilchuck River traveling to the north¹⁰. Snohomish has two major state highways: SR Highway 9 and US Highway 2. Major roads within the city are Bickford Avenue, Old Snohomish-Monroe RD, Avenue D, Second Street, and First Street. Municipal jurisdictions bordering the city include Lake Stevens to the north, Woodinville/Bothell to the south, Monroe to the east, and Everett/Mill Creek to the west. Neighborhoods include Bunk Foss to the northeast, Northwest Snohomish, Fobes Hill to the



12

⁶ Riddle, Margaret and Henry M. Jackson Foundation, "Ferguson, Emory C. (1833-1911)," HistoryLink, October 14, 2007, <https://www.historylink.org/File/8330>.

⁷ "Hyrcanus Blackman," Find a Grave, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37554432/hyrcanus-blackman#source>.

⁸ "About Bickford Ford in Snohomish, WA," Bickford Ford, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.bickford.net/about-bickford-ford-in-snohomish-wa>.

⁹ Walcott, John, "Field of Dreams: Bustling Snohomish airport is a major part of Harvey family's past and future," Way Back Machine, Snohomish County Business Journal, July 2006, <https://web.archive.org/web/20070927031128/http://www.snohomishcountybusinessjournal.com/archive/jul06/harveyfield-jul06.html>.

¹⁰ "Maps," City of Snohomish, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://snohomishwa.gov/177/Mapping>

¹² "Maps," City of Snohomish, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://snohomishwa.gov/177/Mapping>.

northwest, Machias to the east, and Cathcart to the south¹¹.

Population Growth & Demographic Change Over Time

The first recorded population count was in 1880 at 149 people¹³. Between 1880 and 1890, there was a 1,177.2% population increase with 1,903 people recorded during that year. Since then, there have only been two decades where a population decline occurred, one being in 1920 with a decline of 8%, and the other being in 1930 with a decline of 9.9%. Looking forward, between 1965 and 2015, the population of Snohomish County increased by over half a million people, growing from 212,700 residents to 757,000 residents¹⁴.

In the 1990's, Snohomish County experienced the largest population gain per decade with an increase of 140,000 people. However, population growth slowed in 2000 with an increase of 107,311 people during that decade. Even so, Snohomish County is consistently second to King County when it comes to population growth. The City of Snohomish saw a 0.2% annual average change in population. In 2000, the population was 9,060 people. In 2015, the population was estimated to be 9,385 people. Based on these trends, Snohomish City is projected to have a population of 12,289 people by 2035.

Snohomish has historically been a predominantly white community. In 2013, 88.4% of the population was white, totaling about 8,810 people¹⁵. In 2021, the total population was about 84% white, revealing only a 4.4% change in demographic makeup. In 2010, the median age of residents was 37.8 years, only slightly shifting in 2020 to 38 years. The U.S. Census also recorded 3,645 households in 2010 and 4,221 households in 2020, revealing an increase in the number of households and people.

Other changes in demographics have also occurred over time. When it comes to employment, the majority of employees in 2013 worked in office and administrative support occupations, making up 14% of the total workforce. In 2021, this majority shifted to working in management occupations, making up 12.5% of the total workforce. By industry, most people worked in retail trade in 2013 at 15.5%. In 2021, this shifted to most people working in manufacturing at 14.9%. Employment between 2022 and 2023 has increased by 2.75%.

¹¹ City of Snohomish, "City of Snohomish Comprehensive Plan," December 6, 2022, <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2353/City-of-Snohomish-Comprehensive-Plan>.

¹³ US Census Bureau, "City and Town Population Totals: 2010-2019." February 16, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-total-cities-and-towns.html>.

¹⁴ Snohomish County Planning and Development, "Snohomish County Tomorrow 2015 Growth Monitoring Report." December 2, 2015, <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29517/SCT-2015-Growth-Monitoring-Report-Complete?bidId=>.

¹⁵ "Snohomish, WA." Data USA, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/snohomish-wa#demographics>.

Types of Land Use

The main strip of First Street is zoned under the Historic Business District, consisting of commercial land. Towards the ends of the main strip, areas are zoned for High Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, and Commercial. A small section towards the middle is zoned for Parks, Open Space, and Public¹⁶. Because of the history of First Street, most of it has stayed zoned for commercial use to preserve historical character. There is a separate document under the city's main website specifically for the Historic District and its land use guidelines. About 85% of this designated area is zoned for Single Family and Historic Business uses. Most of First Street includes one or two-story buildings with night-oriented activities to attract visitors. Many are storefronts that also attract tourists through shopping.



Styles of Architecture

When it comes to the architectural style of First Street, most building styles reflect the industrial beginnings of the city. Buildings and streets support a pedestrian-oriented street. The buildings themselves are utilitarian and have wood detailing, yet still, place focus on the storefronts¹⁸. The commercial buildings on First Street are constructed of mostly wood, brick, masonry, and stucco. Most of the roofs are sloped and have defined cornices, further contributing to its historical nature. Most buildings also have canopies and awnings, with larger storefront windows facing

¹⁶ “Maps,” City of Snohomish.

¹⁷ City of Snohomish, “City Zoning Map,” accessed October 19, 2023, <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/177/Mapping>.

¹⁸ City of Snohomish, “Historic District Design Standards,” December 5, 2017, <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4492/Historic-District-Design-Standards-2017>.

the street. Landscaping along First Street includes flower pots and trees, revealing a lack of focus on implementing greenery.

Residential buildings at the ends of First Street also reveal the history of Snohomish through construction techniques and features. Most houses have wood lap siding or brick and stone; steep roofs allow for taller ceilings for upstairs bedrooms, and wider trim is also present on these properties¹⁹.

The city implements design standards to keep these buildings historically preserved. For example, neon is not allowed on any building; masonry that's unpainted cannot be painted; only traditional materials can be used; no building can have corrugated metal²⁰. The city's Historic District Design Standards document goes into detail about guidelines for building improvements and ornamentation. Overall, building design and structure should remain consistent and accurately reflect the historic aspects currently present.

Parks, Churches, Schools, and Other Notable Institutions

Focusing on First Street, there are a number of notable landmarks significant to the city and county of Snohomish. The American Legion Post 96 - located on First Street in the Wilbur Block - is the oldest standing brick building in Snohomish County. Lot Wilbur commissioned Snohomish architect J.S. White to build the Wilbur Block for his growing pharmaceutical business. In 1917, Wilbur moved his drugstore to a new building on First and Union. The building was then used as a depot for the Milwaukee Road Company from 1911 until the end of service in 1938. Since 1950, the American Legion has owned the building²¹.

Many notable landmarks and institutions align with prominent Snohomish place names. Parallel to the Snohomish River, running East to West, the Snohomish Riverfront trail traces the former route of the Milwaukee Road Company. The trail is less than a mile, starting in the West at Avenue D and First Street and ending to the East at Maple Street in Cady Landing Park. Notable landmarks along the trail include the K'la Ha Ya Park, a park built by volunteer labor in the 1960s when the foundations of buildings along a portion of First Street's south side were compromised by continued flooding. Further east on the trail is the Ferguson Cottage - it was originally owned by Emory C. Ferguson, a founder of Snohomish. It is considered the "oldest building constructed of milled lumber still standing in the country". The Snohomish Riverfront trail ends at Cady Landing Park. Edson Cady, another founder of Snohomish, named this park

¹⁹ City of Snohomish, "Historic District Design Standards."

²⁰ City of Snohomish, "Historic District Design Standards."

²¹ "American Legion Post 96/Wilbur Block," HistoryLink Tours. Tour: Downtown Snohomish, accessed October 17, 2023, <https://historylink.tours/stop/american-legion-post-96-wilbur-block/>.

after himself. A boat launch was built in the 1950s to access the river. Additionally, landmarks can be viewed on this trail, adjacent to the view of the Snohomish River²².

Located on Avenue B, Blackman House Museum was the home to Hyrcanus and Ella Blackman, built in 1878. Hyrcanus was active in city politics and listed as a trustee when the town was first incorporated in 1888. The house was donated to the Snohomish Historical Society in 1969 by family members²³.

On the corner of Cedar and First Street sits the Snohomish Carnegie building. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, Andrew Carnegie dedicated millions of dollars to the establishment of libraries around the United States. Designed by Frederick Thomas Bigger and James Smyth Warner, the construction was funded by the Carnegie Foundation. In 1968, the library expanded onto the southern end of the property. Now, only the original Carnegie Library stands surrounded by a grass landscape. The building serves as a community meeting space and venue for events²⁴.

Major Annual Events

Of the events held in Snohomish, the following are ones that involve partial or full street closures or impacts on the right-of-way according to permits available on the City of Snohomish's website calendar. Detailed descriptions and PDFs of the permits are available by going to the calendar and searching "permit" to bring up those events, or by going to this link.

- The Chamber of Commerce puts on a yearly Easter Parade, which has been running for 41 years.
- A local Harley-Davidson dealership puts on Snohomish Bike Nights on the second Tuesday of every month from April through September, which requires parking accommodations.
- The City holds an Earth Day celebration on the Carnegie grounds.
- Sky Valley ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) holds a Motorcycle Show in May, involving vendors and motorcycle competitions on First Street.
- Snohomish held its first pride parade this past June.
- Klah Ya Days is a festival that takes place every July and has been running for over 100 years. This involves a carnival, various contests and vendors, and other things typical of a smaller-town festival²⁵.

²² "Riverfront Trail," HistoryLink Tours. Tour: Downtown Snohomish, accessed October 17, 2023, <https://historylink.tours/stop/riverfront-trail/>.

²³ "Blackman House Museum," HistoryLink Tours. Tour: Downtown Snohomish, accessed October 17, 2023, <https://historylink.tours/stop/blackman-house-museum/>.

²⁴ "The Building's History," Snohomish Carnegie Educational Center, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.snohomishcarnegie.org/the-buildings-history.aspx>.

²⁵ "About," Klah Ya Days, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.klahayadays.com/about.html>.

- The Snohomish Art Showcase involves artist demonstrations and vendors as well as galleries. It appears to happen yearly in mid-August.
- The Chamber also puts on a car and hot rod show display near the end of September.
- During our initial visit to the city, the Mayor shared we could see the immediate aftermath of the annual Serpentine Parade, which ended fifteen minutes before we arrived. This parade is an annual event coinciding with Snohomish High School's homecoming, dating back to 1958. Students from the school parade through the city in a "display of unity and excitement" that the city takes great pride in²⁶.

Major Economic Drivers

From its founding, Snohomish inhabitants made use of the area's vast natural resources. Originally settled due to its land and soil being conducive to agriculture, logging became a major industry as railroad construction boomed. These two industries, alongside forays into milling, drove the local economy from the 1880s until around the middle of the 20th century²⁷. This economic state fostered a population growth of over 3,000 people in 1910²⁸, a number that would remain largely unchanged over the next 40 years²⁹. The largely agricultural nature of its economy protected the city from the economic ruin of the Great Depression³⁰.

Starting in the 1970s, these industries began to wane. A Boeing facility in nearby Everett attracted citizens to work outside the city³¹, and newly instated environmental regulations, as well as disastrous fires and floods³², were indicative of the end of those industries' dominance. The city became a bedroom community for the surrounding areas, and the school district was left as the largest employer in town³³.

As the broader world progressed around them, Snohomish shifted its economy towards one area that could keep it from being swept away by the tides – tourism. A Historic Business District that encompassed 36 downtown blocks was established in 1973 and placed on the National Registry

²⁶ "Permit approved - 2023 Snohomish High School Serpentine," City of Snohomish, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=2575&month=10&year=2023&day=13&calType=0>.

²⁷ "The Historical Development of Snohomish," Way Back Machine, City of Snohomish, accessed October 19, 2023. <https://web.archive.org/web/20070927081233/http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/HistoryDevelopment.html>, Early Snohomish River Valley Development.

²⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, "1910 Census: Volume 3, Population, Reports by States, with Statistics for Counties, Cities, and Other Civil Divisions: Nebraska-Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Pico," accessed October 19, 2023, <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1910/volume-3/volume-3-p10.pdf>.

²⁹ "The Historical Development of Snohomish," Industrial Development

³⁰ "The Historical Development of Snohomish," The Depression

³¹ Porter, Richard, "Main Street in Flux: The Changing Face of Snohomish," Anthrow Circus, February 1, 2021, <https://anthrowcircus.com/main-street-in-flux-the-changing-face-of-snohomish>.

³² "The Historical Development of Snohomish," Way Back Machine, City of Snohomish, In 1974-In 1975

³³ "The Historical Development of Snohomish," In 1980's

of Historic Places in 1974³⁴. Instead of trying to play catch-up, the city committed to the conservation of its past, making “preservation-based economic development ... the town’s whole thing”³⁵. Now self-marketing as “the Antique Capital of the Northwest”³⁶, its economy is firmly reliant on the celebration of the past³⁷.

Past Snohomish Planning Projects

Our project is centered around informing the City of Snohomish to aid them in updating the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Included in our work is research on local history and identifying potential hazards on First Street. The Snohomish Comprehensive Plan has touched on the historical context, preservation, and historic development patterns, informing our current project. The Land Use section plans for future uses incorporates and acknowledges the impact the historic development has, but does not have a section specifically dedicated to the topic³⁸. Another report, the Historic District Design Standards and Guidelines addresses the effort to preserve the historic nature of First Street and the general Historic District as a whole. This document also does a great job of detailing the history of Snohomish as well as the establishment of the Historic District. The document explains the design review process for potential new development in the area from demolition to new construction as well as landscaping and signage in the 99-acre Historic District. It includes typefaces that qualify for the sign program as well as requirements for alterations of existing historic buildings³⁹. While the community will continue to change naturally over time, the design guidelines for the Historic District can help to preserve the architectural and aesthetic nostalgia and memory of the past. Protecting and continuing the historic character of First Street and the designated Historic District in Snohomish allows for the memory of Snohomish to live on while adapting to necessary updates and changes.

The task of identifying hazards within the city has been addressed in past projects but not at the micro-scale we will be identifying on First Street. When considering the hazards of First Street, we are able to reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map for Snohomish County to help identify the natural hazards associated with the area⁴⁰. South of First Street, parallel to the river, the land has been marked as “Zone AE” risk, identifying it as an area where flood insurance is mandatory (Risk Factor, n.d.).

³⁴ “The Historical Development of Snohomish,” Historic Business District

³⁵ Porter, “Main Street in Flux: The Changing Face of Snohomish”.

³⁶ “Where to go antique shopping in Washington,” State of Washington Tourism, accessed October 19, 2023, <https://stateofwashington.com/washingtons-antique-shopping-friendly-towns/>.

³⁷ Porter, “Main Street in Flux: The Changing Face of Snohomish”.

³⁸ City of Snohomish, “City of Snohomish Comprehensive Plan.”

³⁹ City of Snohomish, “Historic District Design Standards.”

⁴⁰ Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA Flood Map Service Center. N.p.: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=Snohomish>.

The Snohomish County Hazard Mitigation Plan from 2015 also provides insight into past planning efforts specifically related to identifying hazards and proposing potential solutions⁴¹. While this document references all of Snohomish County, including multiple hazards, it specifically addresses flooding within the City of Snohomish. It begins with an assessment of past flooding situations and identifies flawed and aged construction. Then, a series of proposed solutions addressing these issues is explained. These solutions included elevating structures, replacing vulnerable roads and bridges, displacement of critical infrastructure, creating emergency access routes, developing finance mechanisms, and determining how these solutions might be prioritized.

Other past planning projects related to hazard mitigation include wastewater facilities and sewer plans. The City of Snohomish developed a General Sewage and Wastewater Facilities Plan in 2010 addressing concerns related to the current wastewater treatment system⁴². Methods included a site evaluation addressing current concerns, an assessment of feasibility, a closer look at alternatives, financial modeling, and recommended upgrades. Collection system improvements were developed and involved the addition of emergency generators, upgrades to the conveyance system, more consistent monitoring, and the separation of combined sewers.

Using similar methods to these past planning projects, our work this quarter involved the identification and synthesis of data related to potential hazards to the community along First Street.

Case Studies

City of Edmonds

- The City of Edmonds has a publicly available GIS map that illustrates both physical attributes like the sewer system, utility cables, and water system. Additionally, there are also layers illustrating critical areas like seismic hazard areas and landslide or erosion hazards.
- The operational layers are physical attributes, but the critical area layers require analysis to demonstrate which areas are hazards. It demonstrates the size of land this hazard affects, as well as how large the hazard buffer line is around the surrounding area of the hazard⁴³.

City of Everett

⁴¹ “Hazard Mitigation Plan,” Snohomish County, accessed November 28, 2023, <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2429/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>.

⁴² “2010 City of Snohomish General Sewer Plan and Wastewater Facilities Plan Update,” City of Snohomish, accessed November 28, 2023. https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5999/CityOfSnohomish_GSP-Final_022011.

⁴³ City of Edmonds, “City of Edmonds GIS,” accessed October 18, 2023, https://maps.edmondswa.gov/Html5Viewer/?viewer=Edmonds_SSL.HTML.

- The City of Everett has had efforts to map and document hazards by neighborhood, focusing largely on natural disasters like earthquakes.
- For each document relating to each neighborhood, more detailed records of what buildings or businesses/manufacturing occurring in the area might be potential hazards and why⁴⁴.

City of Monroe

- The City of Monroe has a robust historical society, museum, and digital archives that are publicly available online⁴⁵.
- The digital archives by the City of Monroe include yearbooks, historical photos, historical maps, newspapers, videos and audio recordings, and stories from local residents⁴⁶.

⁴⁴ City of Everett, “Everett Hazards,” accessed October 18, 2023. <https://www.everettwa.gov/1770/Everett-Hazards>

⁴⁵ City of Monroe, “About Monroe,” accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.monroewa.gov/662/About-Monroe#:~:text=About%20this%20time%20Snohomish%20County,Condensery%2C%20and%20the%20state%20reformatory.>

⁴⁶ “Connecting our past,” Monroe Historical Archives, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://monroehistoricalarchives.org/>.

Bibliography

- “About.” Klahay Days. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.klahayadays.com/about.html>.
- “American Legion Post 96/Wilbur Block.” HistoryLink Tours. Tour: Downtown Snohomish. Accessed October 17, 2023. <https://historylink.tours/stop/american-legion-post-96-wilbur-block/>.
- Balta, Victor. “Snohomish Indians denied status as a tribe.” *Herald Net*. Everett Herald, December 1, 2003. <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/snohomish-indians-denied-status-as-a-tribe/>.
- “Blackman House Museum.” HistoryLink Tours. Tour: Downtown Snohomish. Accessed October 17, 2023. <https://historylink.tours/stop/blackman-house-museum/>.
- “About Bickford Ford in Snohomish, WA.” Bickford Ford. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.bickford.net/about-bickford-ford-in-snohomish-wa>.
- City of Edmonds. “City of Edmonds GIS.” Accessed October 18, 2023. https://maps.edmondswa.gov/Html5Viewer/?viewer=Edmonds_SSL.HTML.
- City of Everett. “Everett Hazards.” Accessed October 18, 2023. <https://www.everettwa.gov/1770/Everett-Hazards>.
- City of Monroe. “About Monroe.” Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.monroewa.gov/662/About-Monroe#:~:text=About%20this%20time%20Snohomish%20County,Condensery%2C%20and%20the%20state%20reformatory>.
- City of Snohomish. “City of Snohomish Comprehensive Plan.” December 6, 2022. <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2353/City-of-Snohomish-Comprehensive-Plan>.
- City of Snohomish. “City Zoning Map.” Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/177/Mapping>.
- “2010 City of Snohomish General Sewer Plan and Wastewater Facilities Plan Update.” City of Snohomish. Accessed November 28, 2023. https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5999/CityOfSnohomish_GSP-Final_022011.

City of Snohomish. “Historic District Design Standards.” December 5, 2017. <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4492/Historic-District-Design-Standards-2017>.

“Connecting our past.” Monroe Historical Archives. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://monroehistoricalarchives.org/>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. *FEMA Flood Map Service Center*. N.p.: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=Snohomish>.

“Hazard Mitigation Plan.” Snohomish County. Accessed November 28, 2023. <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2429/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>.

“History of Snohomish.” City of Snohomish. October 27, 2016. <https://snohomishwa.gov/315/History-of-Snohomish>.

“Hyrceanus Blackman.” Find a Grave. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37554432/hyrceanus-blackman#source>.

“Maps.” City of Snohomish. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://snohomishwa.gov/177/Mapping>.

“Permit approved - 2023 Snohomish High School Serpentine.” City of Snohomish. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.snohomishwa.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=2575&month=10&year=2023&day=13&calType=0>.

Porter, Richard. “Main Street in Flux: The Changing Face of Snohomish.” Anthrow Circus, February 1, 2021. <https://anthrowcircus.com/main-street-in-flux-the-changing-face-of-snohomish>.

Riddle, Margaret and Henry M. Jackson Foundation. “Ferguson, Emory C. (1833-1911).” HistoryLink, October 14, 2007. <https://www.historylink.org/File/8330>.

Risk Factor. n.d. *Understand the differences between FEMA flood zones*. N.p.: Risk Factor. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://help.riskfactor.com/hc/en-us/articles/360048256493-Understand-the-differences-between-FEMA-flood-zones>.

“Riverfront Trail.” HistoryLink Tours. Tour: Downtown Snohomish. Accessed October 17, 2023. <https://historylink.tours/stop/riverfront-trail/>.

Ruby, Robert H., John A. Brown, Cary C. Collins, and Clifford E. Trafzer. *A Guide to the Indian*

Tribes of the Pacific Northwest. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986. ProQuest Ebook Central.

Snohomish County Planning and Development. "Snohomish County Tomorrow 2015 Growth Monitoring Report." December 2, 2015.

https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29517/SCT-2015-Growth-Monitoring-Report_Complete?bidId=.

"Snohomish, WA." Data USA. Accessed October 20, 2023.

<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/snohomish-wa#demographics>.

"The Building's History." Snohomish Carnegie Educational Center. Accessed October 20, 2023. <https://www.snohomishcarnegie.org/the-buildings-history.aspx>.

"The Historical Development of Snohomish." Way Back Machine, City of Snohomish. Accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20070927081233/http://www.ci.snohomish.wa.us/HistoryDevelopment.htm>

"Treaty of Point Elliott." Duwamish Tribe of Indians. Accessed October 20, 2023.

<https://www.duwamishtribe.org/treaty-of-point-elliott#:~:text=The%20Treaty%20of%20Point%20Elliott%20guaranteed%20hunting%20and%20fishing%20rights>.

U.S. Census Bureau. "1910 Census: Volume 3. Population, Reports by States, with Statistics for Counties, Cities, and Other Civil Divisions: Nebraska-Wyoming, Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Pico." Accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1910/volume-3/volume-3-p10.pdf>.

U.S. Census Bureau. "City and Town Population Totals: 2010-2019." February 16, 2022.

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-total-cities-and-towns.html>.

Walcott, John. "Field of Dreams: Bustling Snohomish airport is a major part of Harvery family's past and future." Way Back Machine, Snohomish County Business Journal. July 2006.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20070927031128/http://www.snohomishcountybusinessjournal.com/archive/jul06/harveyfield-jul06.html>.

“Where to go antique shopping in Washington.” State of Washington Tourism. Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://stateofwatourism.com/washingtons-antique-shopping-friendly-towns/>.

Appendix B: Historical Interviews & Methodology Deliverable

Purpose

We are conducting semi-structured interviews with elderly citizens of Snohomish to hear their memories and narratives of First Street. We would like to learn how the street has changed, any memories they have, and how they felt the change has impacted the city and their personal lives.

Research Questions

1. What are the most prominent memories of First Street that elderly community members have of Snohomish?
2. How has First Street changed over time from the perspective of these individuals, and how has that impacted their perception of the street?

Recruiting Participants & Scheduling Interviews

Sharon Burlison, the Director of the Snohomish Senior Center, is the point of contact for conducting interviews at the Snohomish Senior Center.

Through email correspondence, we have scheduled 2 dates and times to interview senior citizens of Snohomish. A poster was shared to advertise the event at the Senior Center.

Interview Schedule:

11/10 at 12 pm

11/17 at 12:30 pm

Methodology

Designing Interview Approach

We will be using a semi-structured interview approach where there is a set list of questions that prompt discussion. The interviewer is able to ask the interviewee for more context around certain answers.

Obtain a tape recorder or clear capacity on my phone to record interviews for future transcription. Reach out to women that I would like to interview. Explain the project, the scope of work, and how interviewees fit into it. The interviews were conducted on a variety of different age groups and other types of demographics of people.

Interviewing

Sit down with each interviewee and introduce yourself. Re-explain the project and how their interview input will fit into it. Set up interview supplies (recorder, paper, and pen, anything else)

and have questions at the ready. This methodology includes a semi-structured interview. Make them feel comfortable and answer any questions they may have about the project. Reiterate that the interview will be audio recorded.

Transcribing

After conducting the interview, utilize Microsoft Word speech-to-text function to transcribe the interviews the same day. Listen back to the recording and edit text for accuracy.

Analyzing

Did they answer all of the questions? Were there stories or anecdotes that stood out? Summarize what was shared by topic for future reference. Write down any patterns or similarities interviewees may have with each other.

Verifying

Everything is factual to the people who share. If things need to be fact-checked, make sure it is.

Reporting Results

Create a report on findings. Adapt to the GIS map if possible (adding in stories based on locations on First Street). Share methodology in the report so Snohomish can repeat the study again.

Interview Environment & Equipment

Environment

A quiet, semi-private area is needed for interviews. Request tables and chairs enough for the interviewers and at least 2 guests. If tables are unavailable, opt for chairs or a sitting room for interviewers and at least 2 guests. The interviews were conducted in the senior center library.

Equipment

The following are materials that were required to be brought by interview facilitators:

- Facilitator:
 - Computer
 - Recording device (backup)
 - Interview script and questions
 - Scripture
- Notetaker
 - Computer
 - Pen and paper
 - Recording device

Interviewing Roles

Facilitator is responsible for:

- Introducing interview team
- Asking questions
- Asking follow-up questions to gain more details
- Being on time

Notetaker is responsible for:

- Bringing recording device
- Writing down answers to questions
- Writing Utensils
- Set of Questions
- Set of Answers

Appendix B1: Interview Script

Ask about their day.

“Can we record this interview?”

Thank you for taking the time to sit and talk with us! My name is _____ and I am an undergraduate urban planning student at the University of Washington. Me and my group are working to learn more about the history of First Street, specifically through personal interviews with people. Our project is in collaboration with the City of Snohomish, helping to gather data about First Street.

Today I will be asking questions, while ____ is taking notes on their computer. Please let us know if you have any questions!

Interview Questions:

1. How long have you lived in Snohomish?
2. Do you have any special memories of First Street?
3. What places do you enjoy visiting on First Street?
 - a. Has this changed over time?
4. What is your favorite part of First Street?
5. What is the worst thing about First Street?
6. Have you noticed any changes on First Street?
 - a. What has changed
 - b. How do you feel about it?

Those are all of our questions. Thank you for your time!

Appendix B2: Interview Questions

1. How long have you lived in Snohomish?
2. Do you have any special memories of First Street?
3. What places do you enjoy visiting on First Street?
 - a. Has this changed over time?
4. What is your favorite part of First Street?
5. What is the worst thing about First Street?
6. Have you noticed any changes on First Street?
 - a. What has changed
 - b. How do you feel about it?

Appendix B3: Note Taking Form

Date of interview:

Time of interview:

Interviewer's Name:

Interviewees Names:

ASK TO AUDIO RECORD ON PHONE!!

1. How long have you lived in Snohomish?
2. Do you have any special memories of First Street?
3. What places do you enjoy visiting on First Street?
 - a. Has this changed over time?
4. What is your favorite part of First Street?
5. What is the worst thing about First Street?
6. Have you noticed any changes on First Street?
 - a. What has changed
 - b. How do you feel about it?

Additional questions:

Comments:

