

OUR TOWN

Pick up the most colorful and complete source for contemporary and historical news of Ketchikan. More than 100 pages of full color cover industries, businesses, personalities; economy, lifestyles, statistics; and much more. **OUR TOWN** is a publication of Historic Ketchikan Inc.

AVAILABLE FREE AROUND TOWN AND AT THESE FINE KETCHIKAN BUSINESSES

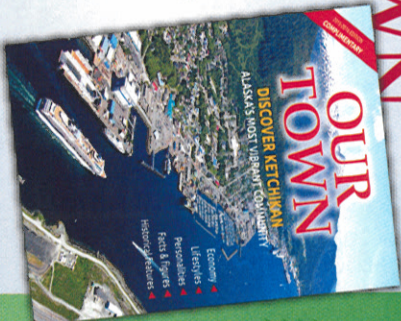
OT Standing Best Western Plus 3434 Tongass Ave.

OT The Point Gallery A2 / 25 Jefferson Way

OT McPherson Music 83 / 2400 Tongass Ave. ♦ Jerry's Books 82 / The Plaza

OT Canton Gallery N3 / 318 Mission St. ♦ Parnassus Books P4 / 105 Steadman St.

OT Discovery Center F3 / Mill & Main ♦ Tatsuda's IGA U4 / Steadman & Deemount



Historic Ketchikan Inc. NEWTOWN & WEST END WALKING TOUR

1 Newtown and West End Walking Tour points of interest. The two-mile tour, following points in order, can be walked in about 2.5 hours. Upper Water Street has a moderately steep grade.

1 Newtown and West End Walking Tour

..... Pedestrian ways: boardwalks, stairs, sidewalks, footpaths

--- Waterfront Boardwalk

Map is not to scale. Projection was altered to improve ease of use.

Rainbird Trail

An easy 45-minute walk in the rain forest. Views are striking. Slope is gentle, but stairway entrance at north is long. Section above Third Avenue Bypass links to older trail.

NEWTOWN & WEST END START HERE

Key to symbols

Historical information kiosk

Business location

Public restrooms

Photo viewpoint

Public facility

Visitor-oriented business

Auto or pedestrian bridge

Elevation above sea level

Ketchikan Walking Tours are programs of Historic Ketchikan Inc.,

a nonprofit organization that promotes economic development through historic preservation and heritage tourism.

www.historicketchikan.org 907-225-5515

TONGASS NARROWS

NOTE ON DISTANCES

Maps are distorted for ease of use.

Distances are not uniform in scale. The walking distance between blue dots at 63 and 14, using Water, Front, Mill and Steadman streets, is about one mile.

NEWTOWN & WEST END WALKING TOUR

4 Zimmerman House. Built in 1902 by pioneer merchant Nick Zimmerman, this house was one of the finest in Newtown. *2 minutes to next site.*

2 Bayview Avenue. Up the stairway is one of Ketchikan's last remaining wood plank streets. Houses here date from 1910. *1 minute.*

3 Hopkins Alley. Wood-plank Hopkins Alley was started in 1902 and widened in 1907. It's the only area of Ketchikan that approximates the appearance of the town in its early days. During Prohibition, it was nicknamed Home Brew Alley and featured several speakeasies. The wedge-shaped building at the entrance, dating to 1912, housed the Horse Shoe Saloon and later a hand laundry. *5 minutes.*

4 Warren Street, 6 Street, Harding Street. Many homes in this area date to the 1910s and 1920s. Street names commemorate the visit to Ketchikan of President Warren G. Harding in 1923. The president was on his way to the Interior to drive a spike completing the Alaska Railroad. Harding died in San Francisco on his way back to D.C. Legends variously ascribe his demise to inclement Alaska weather or to food poisoning. *5 minutes.*



President Warren G. Harding stopped in Ketchikan just days before his death. Street names in Newtown commemorate to his visit. KETCHIKAN MUSEUMS PHOTO

5 Young Store. (First City Saloon) The first commercial building in Newtown, this structure, built before 1905, was originally J.W. Young's store and has housed many businesses. *5 minutes.*

6 Schlothans Building. (49er Bar) This structure arose with others in the late 1910s to the early 1920s, when Newtown expanded rapidly to serve the burgeoning fishing industry centered around City Float and nearby canneries. *3 minutes.*

7 Dunton Street Trestle. The wood trestle on the hillside plainly shows how Ketchikan's civil engineering skirted difficult terrain to make more land accessible to a fast-growing population. The original street atop the trestle was wood planking, it's now concrete. *10 minutes uphill.*

8 Captains Hill neighborhood. Most houses here were built between 1904 and 1925 as the fishing fleet grew in size and prosperity. From stately homes along the hillside, fishermen looked out on their boats tied at City Float. *10 minutes.*

9 Upper Water Street overlook. See how Ketchikan snaked its way northward over the decades to the West End area, now a major commercial district. Expansion was rapid in the 1930s as canneries moved northward. A second growth spurt came in the early 1950s with the building of a world-class pulp mill at Ward Cove north of the city, many construction and operation workers settled here. *15 minutes.*

10 Hillside landscaping and salmonberry bushes. See how Ketchikan warrants its description: "10 miles long and three blocks wide." Up close to the rain forest, you see verdant undergrowth. Black bears and other forest critters sneak down to scavenge around hillside homes and eagles perch in trees to survey the waterfront. *15 minutes.*

11 White Cliff Elementary School. Built in 1927, it was the oldest operating school in Alaska at its closing in 2002. A developer renovated the school building, now home for most administrative offices of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. *15 minutes.*

12 Tongass Towers and Marine View. Two 10-story concrete buildings were built in the early 1950s to house hundreds of workers who built and operated the pulp mill north of town. The residences are now condominiums. *15 minutes to next site.*

13 West End commercial district. Where the sea once splashed close to today's Tongass Avenue, innumerable cubic yards of rock fill trucked from local quarries in the 1960s and 1970s provided a foundation for today's business area. The Plaza mall and a supermarket, condominiums, a motel, retail, office and residential buildings, and acres of commercial land. *1 minute.*

14 E.C. Phillips and Sons. One of Ketchikan's two remaining cold storage plants is still processing salmon and other seafood for export. Phillips flash-freezes and packages fish mostly for groceries and restaurants in the Lower 48. The company also markets smoked and canned seafood. *2 minutes.*



Newtown's commercial buildings look much the same today as they did in the 1920s when volunteer firefighters took a fire truck for a spin. KETCHIKAN MUSEUMS PHOTO

15 Cannery cottages. These single-story cottages with one or two bedrooms apiece were built in the early 1920s to provide year-round housing for cannery workers who didn't bring families. *2 minutes.*

16 Elliot Street. All the public streets in Ketchikan were originally wood planking or stairways. Elliot Street connects Tongass Avenue and upper Water Street. There was a small mine in this area in pioneer days. Elliot provides a good vantage to see the Water Street trestle, Ketchikan's longest. *5 minutes.*

17 Webber Air. (Promech) Originally an early cannery site, this area has been a hub for air taxi operations since the 1960s. Although flightseeing keeps air carriers busy in summer, transport of local passengers, supplies and mail sustains some operators in the off-season. *3 minutes.*

18 Ellis Hangar. (Southeast Stevedoring) Ellis Air Transport was founded in 1936 by Bob Ellis, a Vermonter whose one-plane local operation grew into a major regional carrier, re-named Ellis Air Lines. Ellis merged with Alaska Coastal Airlines in the 1960s and Alaska Airlines acquired them thereafter. Ellis was posthumously inducted into the Alaska Aviation Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2004. Southeast Stevedoring is one of Alaska's biggest providers of shoreside and loading services to the merchant marine industry and cruise industry. *2 minutes.*

19 Alaska Outboard. Props and politics have mixed here for decades. The business was founded by Oral Freeman, who was elected to the first Alaska State House of Representatives in 1959 and to five more terms 1972-82. He was among founders of the Alaska Permanent Fund and had a hand in creating the dividend program that spins off oil revenues to Alaskans. Aspirants for local and state offices have always been welcome to put campaign posters in the shops' windows; Freeman's sons Jim and Charlie (the latter a longtime City Councilman) hold onto decades' worth of posters for the losing candidates, keeping them in the back of the shop. *1 minute.*



Ellis Air Lines' logo dressed Gummam Goose amphibious aircraft flying all over the region for decades. COURTESY BOB ELLIS AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

20 Amphibian Room. (Shogun Restaurant) The Amphibian Room was a pop restaurant for three decades. Its name referred to Gummam Goose amphibious planes used by Ellis Air Lines, whose waiting room was next door. Ellis flew past around the Panhandle and to nearby Annette Island, where passengers caught and jet planes for flights out of state. (Ketchikan's airport wasn't built until 1971. *1 minute.*

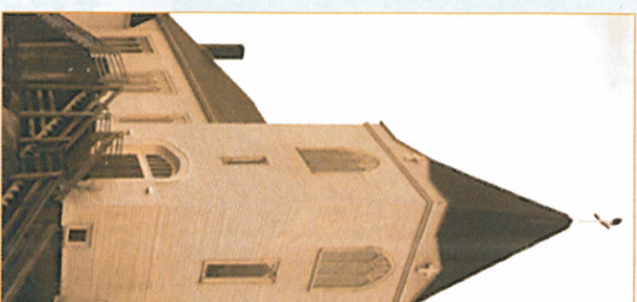
21 Ellis Airlines Hangar. (Carlin Air) In 1924, Tongass Trading Co. built this warehouse for its rapidly expanding business. American Can Co. later put in a shed and shop associated with its sale and service of equipment for salmon cannery 1950s, the building was purchased by the expanding Ellis Air Lines. *1 minute.*

22 View of lower Captains Hill. Looking up at houses perched on the cliffs you're standing on a section of Tongass Avenue once called Cliff Avenue; it was a plank street built in 1915 as Ketchikan grew northward. Along the water or on high above, the town's builders stubbornly and ingeniously challenged natural obstacles. A number of fine craftsman-style homes remain in this historic area. *1 minute.*

23 The Exchange. Henry Henn was a clerk at the Talbot's store when he opened his own shop across the street in 1920. It was originally a second-hand store featuring items he found on his rubbish-hauling route. The Exchange evolved into a hardware store that operated into the late 1950s. *2 minutes.*

24 First Lutheran Church. The fishing industry boomed across Southeast Alaska in the 1910s-1920s and Scandinavians flooded in, Norwegians most numerous of these newcomers. They were principal founders of First Lutheran Church in 1925. This grand church on a rock promontory was finished in 1930 and anchored Newtown. *1 minute.*

25 Talbot's. This former building supply store sits on dock frontage originally built early in the 1900s and used by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Three generations of the Talbot family operated the business after World War I. The company's huge sign painted on the warehouse to advertise its wares was a landmark for decades and is still seen faintly underneath an overlay of paint.



Built on a rock, First Lutheran Church's landmark steeple and steeple have stood prominently in Newtown for more than 80 years. HISTORIC KETCHIKAN PHOTO

26 Harbor View Park. This wooden waterside park offers benches, tables, an up look at fishing, commercial and pleasure vessels—and sometimes seafood! **27 Casey Moran Harbor / City Float.** Used by commercial fishers, visitors at the local recreational fleet. In the 1920s and '30s, this harbor was home for what believed to be the world's largest fleet of halibut boats.