

SOUTH GRANITE AVENUE

The Sno-Isle Library system is conducting a program to collect images from throughout the County to document local history. Granite Falls Historical Society provided 130+ photos, and we are pleased to share some of them here with our Mountain Loop exPress readers. You can browse pictures from Granite Falls and other communities at: <http://www.sno-isle.org/catalog/photos> .

South Granite Avenue has long been the central path through the business district of Granite Falls, and it's interesting to see what's still standing from the early days. Starting on the east side of the street, right at the intersection with Stanley St., one of the earliest photos shows a tavern that most old-



timers still refer to as the “Corner Tavern”. It changed names multiple times over the years, and during Prohibition was listed on the insurance maps as a place selling soft drinks and cigars, but it was the corner tavern through virtually the entire 20th Century. Changing then into a store, then an ice cream parlor, and then into a pet shop, it still stands proudly today, over 110 years old!

Note the barber shop next to it, on which the window sign proudly offers “BATHS”. And just to the right stood the Pilchuck Market.



Just on the south side of the Pilchuck Market stood Hotel Granite, which also included a popular restaurant. Next to it stood Dodge's Clothing and jewelry store.



The hotel was replaced by a lower building with a distinctive profile, which had two front doors. The northern (larger) portion of the building was the Palace of Sweets, while the southern portion ultimately became the Post Office for several decades. You'll recognize the building today as housing Windermere Realty (which occupies the entire building). The realty company did a great job remodeling the front of the building while still retaining the original profile and character.



Just a little further south was built the Granite Falls State Bank, which today is occupied by Key Bank. Once again, the current business did a great remodeling job by removing the false mansard roof that cover much of the original stone work, and restored the building to its original profile and character.

If you visit the Museum, you can see the original 1904 safe from the bank – a high-tech dual combination, dual time-lock contraption, of which any early bank would have been duly proud!



Directly across the street from the bank, a large brick building was built to house the Granite Falls Mercantile Company. It's easy to recognize after over a century as one portion of today's firehouse. Over the years it served as a store, a garage/gas station, a logging company maintenance shop, and finally a firehouse. Until the building was adopted by the fire department, all fire equipment shared City Hall space with the local City government.

North of the Mercantile Company (i.e. firehouse), there was a great fire in 1911 that destroyed almost the whole block. Replacing the original wood buildings was a trio of structures that served over the years as bakery, shoe store, drug store, and movie theatre (yes, Granite Falls had a movie theatre) that was used for many stage events, as well.



The Electric Theater operated for many years. Its distinctive arched front entrance lasted for a time even after the building was no longer used as a theater. You can see in the final picture some 156 ft poles (used as pilings) parked in front of the brick buildings built in 1912. Note the curved arch on the light-colored center building. Two of the buildings serve today as the hardware store (with apartments above) and a driver training school (where the shoe store and bakery once operated).

The building at the far end of the pilings was built after the original that stood there burned in 1920. Fielding's Market occupied the building then, but now most folks know it as Omega Pizza and Pasta.

Next time, we'll look a little further south along Granite Ave, then enjoy some views of early Stanley Street.

