

Mr. Utter came west as a superintendent of construction for the Union Pacific Railroad. As a civil engineer he oversaw the construction of the city's electric light and water plant, engineered irrigation districts and perfected a method of pumping water from the Snake River for irrigation. In 1908 he moved



to Boise when he was appointed United States surveyor general for Idaho. In this position he was instrumental in having Senator Heyburn introduce a bill that authorized the use of sunken, brass-capped, steel posts as United States government survey markers.

Col. Drake first became acquainted with Weiser in the early 1890s as a representative of eastern investors who had interests in the Seven Devils mines.

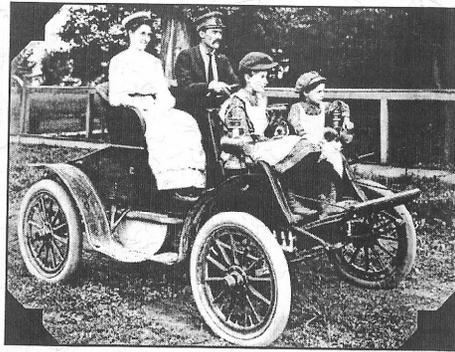
### #15 Archie Larsen House South of Weiser on Larsen Road

In Sunnyside, along the bank of the Snake River, sits the two-story brick residence designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel in 1910 for Archie Larsen. This western colonial house, with a modest stoop rather than a full porch, marks the beginning of a movement away from the front porch.

Mr. Larsen moved to Weiser from Willmar, Minnesota in 1909 to grow fruit. Like many other people on the Sunnyside tract, he had fine orchards surrounding his house, but excessively high railroad rates made this venture unprofitable, so this trained engineer entered the poultry business. He raised purebred white Leghorn chickens and kept a record for each bird as a part of a federal government program. By 1928 the Larsen farm had 800 hens and 1,300 chicks and shipped hatching eggs to all parts of the United States, Canada and Australia.

Brochure Produced by:  
City of Weiser Historical Preservation Commission.  
Printed by Weiser Signal American.  
Information for the tour is from the publication,  
Hibbard Don, *Weiser, a look at Idaho Architecture*,  
1978. Illustrations by Elizabeth Mowrey.

This program receives federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties from the U.S. Dept. of Interior, administered by the Idaho State Historic Society. Under Title VI of the Civil Right Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20204.



~ A TOUR ~

## HISTORIC WEISER

### RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

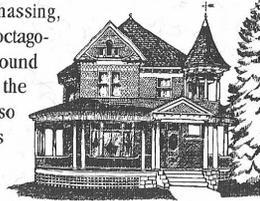


Weiser's residential district is graced with many unique architectural treasures from days gone by that convey the community's character through a unique art form that links the past to the present.

These homes have been preserved over the years through a pride in ownership that began from their design and construction in the early 1900s and continues today with their historic value recognized through their listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### #1 Herman Haas Residence 253 W. Idaho St.

This Queen Anne-style home was designed by Tourtellotte & Company in 1900 for Herman Haas and was touted as "one of the architectural triumphs of Idaho" by a local newspaper. The house's asymmetrical massing, round corner tower, and octagonal east-side bay with a round arched second story typify the Queen Anne style. It is also detailed by the porch's turned balustrade, the Palladian window in the front gable, and the turret's garlanded frieze.



Herman Haas immigrated from Germany to Portland, Ore., in 1853 at the age of 14. He preceded the railroad to Weiser, arriving in 1882 to establish the town's first store.

### #2 Mary Elizabeth Sommercamp House 411 W. 3rd St.

Situated on an elevated lot, this Colonial Revival, two-story home was built by Tourtellotte & Company for Mary Elizabeth Sommercamp in 1899. The front and rear porches have distinctive columns, and dentils ornately trim the house, porch and gables. The porch's pediment contains a sunburst design.

Mrs. Sommercamp was born in Ohio in 1839. She came west

as a young woman and married W. E. Sommercamp in California in 1857.

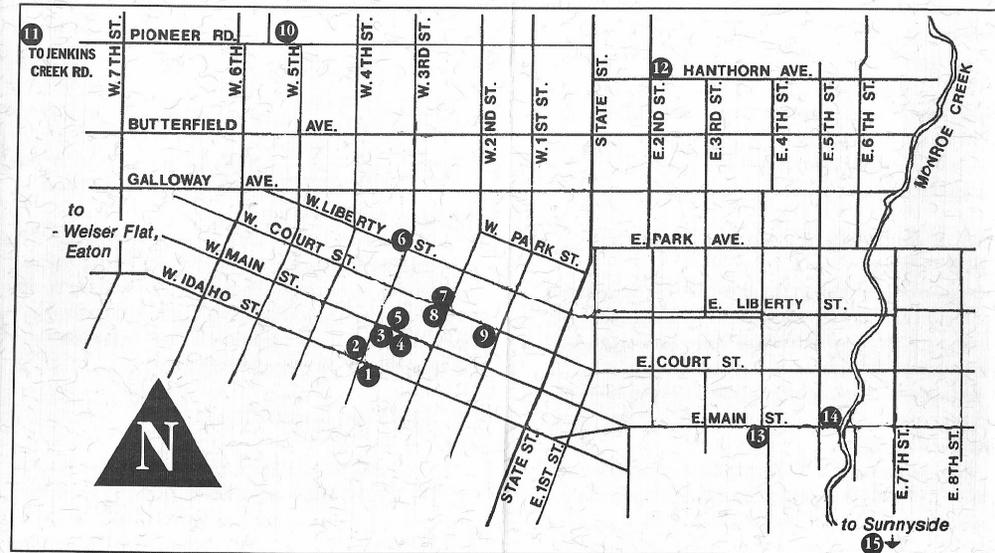
In 1865 they moved to Silver City, Idaho, and prospered by operating a mercantile establishment and investing in the mines. In 1890 Mr. Sommercamp plunged to his death down a mine shaft; the following year his widow moved to Weiser with her three sons and one daughter. Here the children opened several stores including one devoted to furniture.



### #3 W. B. Kurtz/E. A. Van Sicklin Residence 295 W. Main St.

The brick veneered home with traditional Victorian floor plan was built in 1899 for Mrs. W. B. Kurtz. In 1901 it was purchased by E. A. Van Sicklin who had it extensively remodeled by the original designer, Charles Hummel of Tourtellotte & Company. Except for the enclosure of the front porch, the house retains its original appearance. Its shape is very similar to that of the Herman Haas residence at W. 3rd and Idaho, and its shingled gables and elongated keystones are reminiscent of the Morris Sommer residence.

E. A. Van Sicklin was a prominent sheepman who came to the Weiser valley shortly after 1886.



**#4 B. S. Varian House  
241 W. Main St.**

This "Swiss chalet" home was built in 1909 for attorney B. S. Varian. Designed by Tourtellotte & Company, the extremely large, two-story bungalow features a front-facing gable, inset porch, roof with overhanging eaves and figure four brackets.



B. S. Varian came to Weiser from Salt Lake City in 1899 at the age of 27. He practiced law here until 1919 when he was made judge of the Seventh Judicial District Court. In 1929 he was appointed to the State Supreme Court.

**#5 Dr. J. R. Numbers  
240 W. Main St.**

Commissioned by Dr. Joseph R. Numbers and designed by Tourtellotte & Company in 1905, this home features solid stone porch columns. The house is in the Western Colonial Revival style, which is characterized by a box-like massing, a low profiled, hipped roof with a similarly designed central dormer, and a colonnaded front porch. With its stone trim, shingled second story, and fine beveled glass windows, this brick house is one of the more pretentious examples of the style in the state.



Dr. Numbers came to Weiser in 1888 at the age of 24. He was an 1885 graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati and had practiced in Kansas and Minnesota prior to locating in Weiser. In 1905 he established Weiser's first hospital, remodeling the former A. J. Hopkins residence at 505 E. Main. Due to economic difficulties with the hospital, Dr. Numbers sold his residence in 1910 for \$3,500 and moved to Boise.

**#6 G. V. Nesbit Residence  
308 W. Liberty**

Designed by Tourtellotte & Company in 1909 for George Nesbit, a prominent rancher who came to Weiser from Kansas in 1885, this two-story house once featured first- and second-story porches that ran around the front and sides of the residence.

Nesbit owned large tracts of land in the vicinity of Falk's store and to the south of Weiser, and was a director of the First National Bank of Weiser.

Across the street at 307 W. Liberty is the W. A. Fulkerson residence that architect H. W. Bond designed in the Western Colonial Revival style in 1908. Mr. Fulkerson served as president of the Weiser City Council and assumed the position of mayor in 1914.

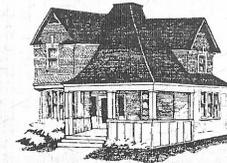
**#7 Benjamin Wallington House  
206 W. Court**

Described by a local newspaper as "one of the finest residences in the state," this home was one of the earliest houses erected on the west side of Weiser. B. W. Wallington, a prominent banker who hailed from the Caribbean, played a major role in determining the present site of Weiser by urging citizens, following the 1890 fire, to rebuild the town west of State Street near the Oregon Short Line depot, on property owned by his company. He commissioned architect James King, who was in Weiser to supervise the construction of the Washington County courthouse, to design this house. (King also designed the State penitentiary's administration building.)



People traveled many miles to stare at this wondrous house with stained glass windows. It surely was a sight to behold as it provided these spectators, many of whom still lived in crude dug-outs or log cabins, with tangible evidence that civilization was finding its way to this corner of Idaho. Progress was slow, however, and for a number of years this residence stood alone in the sagebrush. It was not until the end of the 19th century that comparable dwellings appeared in this neighborhood.

**#8 Morris Sommer House  
548 W. 2nd St.**



In 1899 Morris Sommer had a residence built adjacent to the Wallington house. It was designed by Tourtellotte & Company and features a steep sloping, flowing roof that dominates the house. It is a unique contribution to Idaho's domestic architecture.

In 1884 at the age of 13, Morris Sommer came to Weiser with his family from Germany. He was raised in a mercantile environment as both his brother and father operated stores in the old city. In 1891 he went into partnership with his father and four years later became sole proprietor of their department store, whose motto was "The Store for Everybody."

**#9 Anderson-Elwell House  
547 W. 1st St.**

In 1899-1900 A. B. Anderson erected two residences at 535 and 547 W. 1st. Mr. Anderson lived in the stucco house, while his son-in-law, Billy Elwell, lived next door. Designed by Charles Hummel of Tourtellotte & Company, these two Queen Anne houses

were both originally brick. The Anderson house has been extensively remodeled on the exterior, and only its fine stained glass remains to remind the passersby of its former dignity.



Billy Elwell's six-room, one-and-one-half-story house on the corner retains its 1900 appearance. Its asymmetrical massing, shingled gables and flared roof are typical features of Queen Anne cottages. A beautiful stained-glass window graces the stairway's first-floor landing.

At the age of 23, A. B. Anderson came to Idaho in 1869 to engage in mining and later in cattle. He served as president of the Weiser Bank for many years and as the town's first mayor from 1900-1901.

Billy Elwell managed the Mountain States Telephone Company and played second base for the 1907 Weiser Kids baseball team, which featured 19-year-old pitcher Walter Johnson.

**#10 James M. Fisher House  
598 Pioneer Rd.**

Gracing Pioneer Road for nearly 100 years are three large, brick homes that rival each other in grandeur. The center of the three was the first constructed by James M. Fisher in 1908. H. W. Bond designed the ten-room residence that features a stained-glass window on its west side.



The second of the three was built west of Fisher's by Isaac Leighton the following year. In 1915 August Broderson commissioned architect Bond to design the 11-room residence on the opposite side of Fisher's. All three neighbors were sheep ranchers. Originally, the Butterfield Livestock Company's "town ranch" was located in this area until they outgrew it and relocated on 440 acres to the west.

**#11 Butterfield Livestock Company House  
737 Jenkins Creek Rd.**

North of Pioneer Road, on Jenkins Creek Road, is the two-story brick and stucco residence designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel for A. G. Butterfield in 1918. It is the only residence in Weiser to employ the half timber and stucco second story which is so often associated with the Elizabethan Tudor style. The box-like massing, however, marks the house as a product of the Western Colonial Revival tradition.

Behind the house stands the barns of the Butterfield Livestock Company that, in the early 1900s, was the largest sheep firm in

the United States with ranges in Oregon, Idaho, and Wyoming. The company's shearing plant was the biggest in the nation and during the 30-day shearing season the company hired 40 men, 24 shearers and 16 packers to run its plant.

**#12 Thomas C. Galloway House  
1120 E. 2nd St.**

A long-time Weiser landmark is the imposing two-story brick home built by Weiser pioneer Thomas C. Galloway. This 12-room, late Queen Anne-style house was the most expensive residence in Weiser, costing \$5,000 to build in 1900. Its octagonal tower, fine beveled-glass windows and large grounds make it one of the showplaces of the town. The entry hall's open staircase features a second-floor balustrade, which is found only in the most exclusive Idaho residences of the period.



Thomas Galloway was a large, stock rancher, four-time member of the Idaho legislature, and one of the pioneer settlers of Weiser. Prior to moving to Idaho he earned a living as an outfitter, carrying provisions from Oregon to the Cariboo gold mines in British Columbia in 1859 and 1861, and to the Boise Basin in 1863. In 1863 he built a cabin of willow logs in the vicinity of Weiser that served as a pony express station, and in 1865 erected the first frame house in the infant town. He greatly assisted in the development and promotion of Weiser, the Galloway ditch being one of his major undertakings. His name was well respected throughout the area and the family was one of Weiser's most prominent.

**#13 Bernard Haas Residence  
377 E. Main St.**

Built in 1903 for Bernard Haas, this Colonial Revival home was designed by Tourtellotte & Company. The home is now covered with aluminum siding.

Mr. Haas was a pioneer merchant in Salubria who located in Weiser in the early 1890s. He entered into partnership with his brother, Herrman, to form the Haas Hardware Company in 1895, later quitting this firm to form a grocery business.

**#14 Col. C. F. Drake House  
516 E. Main St.**

Built for \$1,800 in 1902 for Darwin Utter, Colonel C. F. Drake purchased this home in 1907 for \$3,000. Utter designed this quaint Queen Anne cottage with its central octagonal tower, second-story porch and wrap-around, first-story porch.