# Auto-centric Astoria (1920-1960)



Presented by Eric Wheeler for

Lower columbia PRESERVATION Sooocoioeotoy





Learn all about Astoria's once auto-centric downtown!

#### WALKING TOUR of ASTORIA Auto Showrooms & Service Stations





#### Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup>

Meet at the LCPS office at 10am 389 12<sup>th</sup> Street

Hosted by LCPS volunteer and tour guide, Eric Wheeler

estimated walk time 2 hrs

# Themes:

# 1- Car ownership 2- Astoria Isolation 3- Adaptive Re-use

www.lcpsociety.org



# Astoria Automobile History Timeline 1902 - First Automobile in Astoria – Ferdinand Fisher 1913 – First Auto Dealership in Astoria - Lovell Auto 1916 – Highway 30 from Portland to Astoria completed 1921 – Regular car ferry service from Megler to Astoria 1921 – Old Youngs Bay Bridge built – Business Hwy 101 1922 – Great Fire destroys downtown – rebuilt in 3 years 1925 – Lewis and Clark Bridge replaces 1910 bridge 1941 – Fortune magazine article - Astoria auto sales 1946 – Three new dealerships designed by Eino Issacson 1964 – New Youngs Bay Bridge built – Highway 101 1966 – Astoria-Megler Bridge opens and replaces ferry



Fort George Building (1924) NE corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and Duane John Wicks - architect



# Fort George Building (c.1924)



# Fort George Building (1958)



Lovell Showroom (1920) NW corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Duane Charles Diamond - architect



# Lovell Auto Company (post Great Fire)



Heritage Square today Parking, Garden of Surging Waves, American Legion Hall



# SW corner of Heritage Square – 12<sup>th</sup> and Exchange



Heritage Square today Parking, Garden of Surging Waves, American Legion Hall

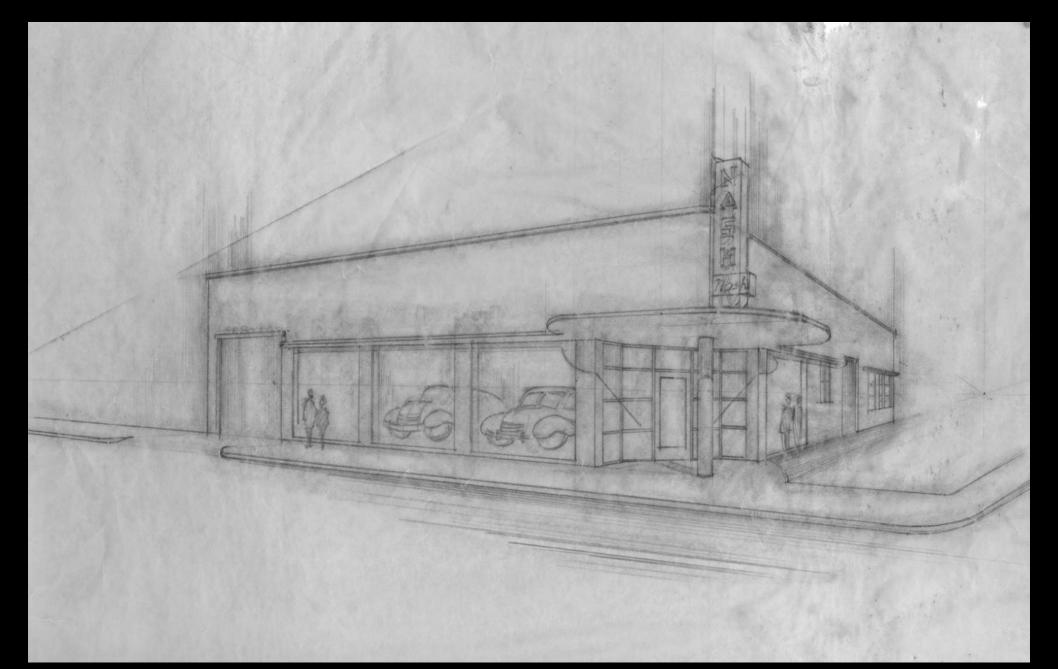


## Duane Street between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – Automobile Row



#### Astoria Senior Center - NE corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Exchange





## Nash Auto Dealership (1946) Eino Issacson- architect



Food Carts!



#### Mobil Gas/Service Station (c.1960) SE corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Duane Street





Duane Street between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – looking East – 1956



# Astoria Bistro/Cargo – NE corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Marine Drive



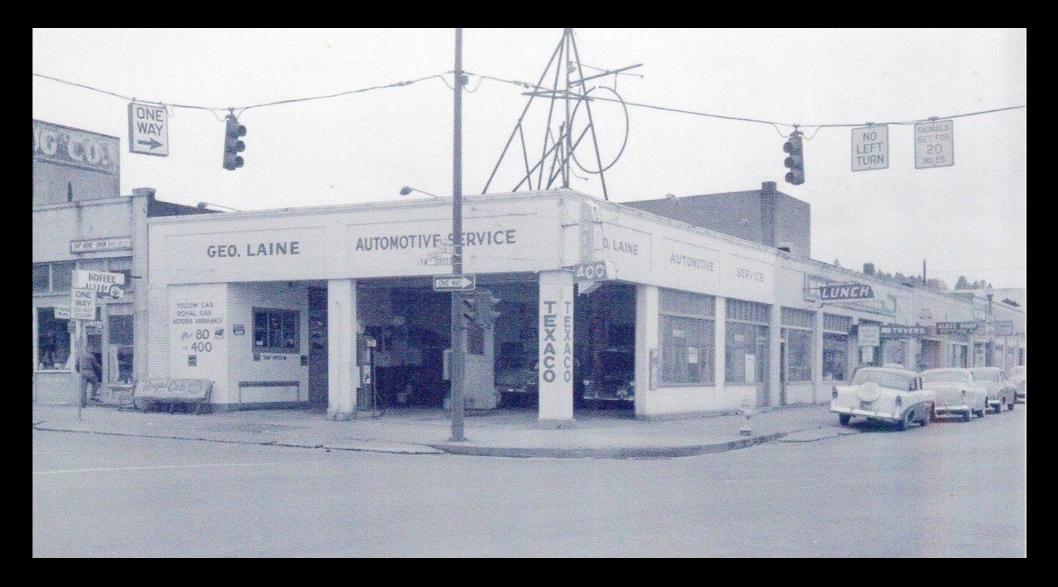
#### Late 1930s



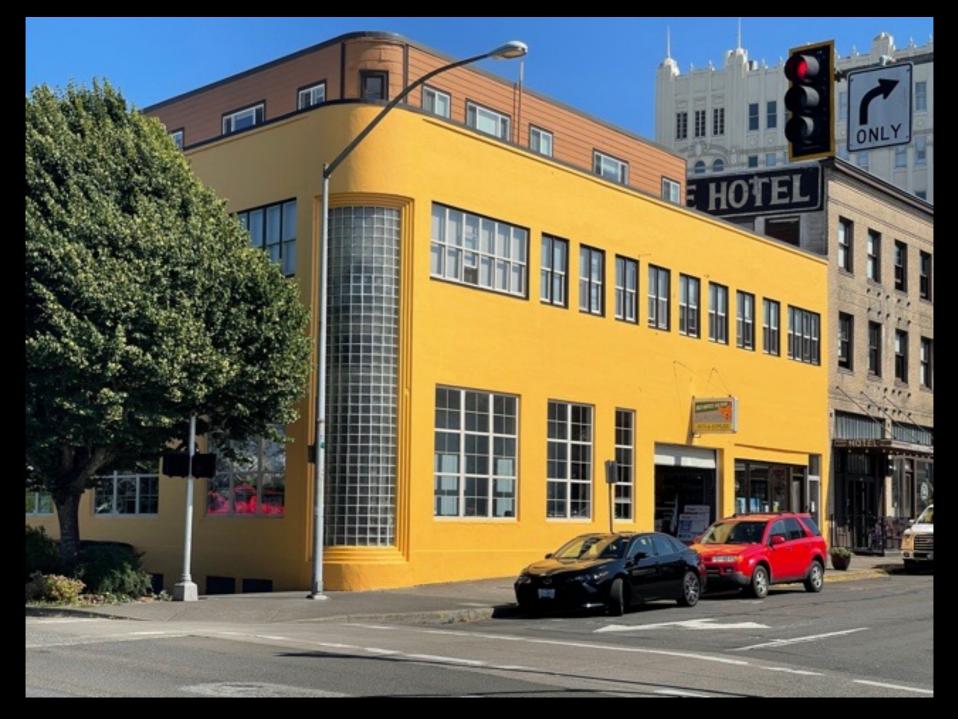
Maki Building (1946) Marine Drive between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14th Eino Issacson - Architect



### Hurricane Ron's seafood restaurant



#### NE corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Marine Dr (mid-1950s)



#### Pet Works – NW corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Marine Drive





# Chrysler-Plymouth Dealership (1946)





Commodore Hotel/Street Fourteen Café SW corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Commercial



# Pop-up auto showroom (c.1941)







Bob Lovell Used Cars (c.1955) 13<sup>th</sup> Street between Duane and Exchange Streets



Gymnastics Studio – NW corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Exchange



McCroskey Building (1923) Johnson Motor Company (1931-1979) and later Lum's Auto



Rambeau Motors (1946) Eino Issacson – architect Lower Columbia Bowl since mid-1950s



# Sovey Motor Company (1923) Duane between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>



Clatsop Motor Company (1926) SE corner of Duane and 16th John Wicks - architect



## 14<sup>th</sup> Street – Looking south – December 1922



# Commercial Street – looking east



# Commercial Street – looking west

Thanks!

Special Thanks to:

Lower Columbia Preservation Society staff Rachel Jensen and Jaime Lump

Photo Credits:

Sara's Old Photos - Astoria Oregon Historical Society Peace First Lutheran Archive – Astoria Clatsop County Historical Society

Upcoming LCPS programs: TOPICS IN PRESERVATION – 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday