

# Georgetown Inn

## 6100 Corson Ave S.

### Georgetown Area History Background

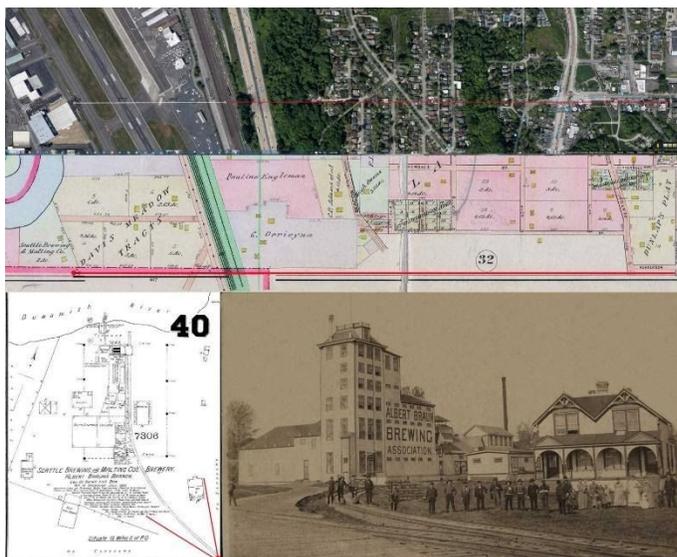
Georgetown deserves credit as the birthplace of King County. On September 14, 1851, Luther Collins (1813-1860) explored the Duwamish river meandering through the fertile valley. Two days later, he claimed 640 acres granted him under the Donation Land Claims Act. Developer Julius Horton, brother of Seattle banker Dexter Horton, purchased a portion of the Collins homestead in 1871 and began to plat the lots that would become the community of Georgetown.

In 1855, some of the tribes resisted encroachment by white settlers and war broke out. Local volunteers constructed a blockhouse on Luther Collins's claim. The two-story structure was of unfinished logs and was 22 feet square. It was dubbed Fort Duwamish. It was located in today's Georgetown district at Corson Avenue S and S Shelton (about 3 minutes from the Georgetown Inn by the current Maple Play field). The day after the volunteers demobilized in January 1856, warriors killed 13-year old Milton Holgate, younger brother of settler John Holgate. The warriors went on to attack Seattle but were driven off by gunfire from the U.S.S. Decatur.

The residential and commercial building boom in Georgetown occurred between 1890 and 1916. Fueled by the construction of the Seattle Brewing and Malting Company's new brewing facility after the turn of the century and the arrival of foreign immigrants, especially German and Italian, Georgetown came to rely more on its commercial and industrial bases rather than agricultural. With the increase of industry and business, Georgetown had grown in population from 1,913 in 1900 to approximately 7,000 by 1910 as families located themselves near its factories and other places of employment.

### Plats 25 and 26

While the Plats for Julius Horton are referenced in the [King County property listing for the Georgetown Inn](#), these plats were quite large and encompassed many acres. The portion of the tracts that the Inn takes up is about 1/300<sup>th</sup> of the original plats. The same plats were also referenced as a location for the Seattle Malting and Brewing Company [started in 1878 by Andrew Hemrich](#), a German immigrant. Georgetown became the sixth-largest beer producing district in the world. A Georgetown brewing company began operations in 1882 and in 1888 acquired the Seattle Brewery with its Rainier brand.

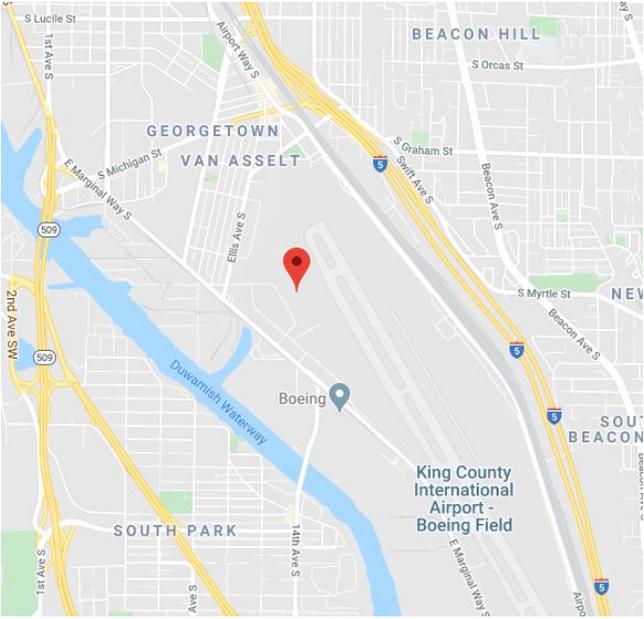


A detail of the 1893 Sanborn map is printed in the bottom-left corner. Running left-right through the middle of the montage is a detail from the 1912 Baist Real Estate Map, and on the top is a detail from the current GoogleEarth space shot of the old brewery site **which stands at what is now Airport Way**. From [Seattle Now and Then](#).

For six years this tidy Braun brewery beside the Duwamish River stood like a museum to brewing, but without tours. Practically all the machinery was intact, from its kettles to its ice plant, until the early morning of Sept 30, 1899, it burned to the ground.



The image above is [Black and white glass plate negative](#) taken in 1908 of Seattle Brewing and Malting Company's brewery along what is now Airport Way, in Georgetown, Seattle, WA.





Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle

Map Pin shows actual coordinates and location of old Meadows Racetrack that was across from the old Brewery.

6100 Corson was occupied by a Shell Gas Station beginning in 1922.

The address listed below is on the corner of Corson and South Bailey. The image below and parcel numbers are from [King County Governments Brownfields Inventory](#). It was a Shell Station from 1922 – 1959, then a A1 Radiator beginning in 1959. This is not be confused with the current Shell station on 6200 Corson Avenue South, the which was built in 1964.

We know in 1982, the parcel is land with no building and 1992 tax records indicate the Georgetown Inn building is now on the parcel. We have additional research to do between 1959 and 1982 and to discover what the house is shown behind the original Shell station in the image below.

#### Site 19

**900 South Bailey Street**  
**Parcel Number 6920700025**

George Poussler operated a Shell gas station at northeast corner of the intersection of South Bailey Street and Corson Avenue South from the 1940s until 1957. The station was operated by Time Oil for a few years before becoming A-1 Radiator Service in 1959. Today, it is the Georgetown Inn, built in 1992.



Shell gas station built in 1922 at the corner of Corson Avenue South and South Bailey Street.



The Site is now the Georgetown Inn built in 1992.

Further research needs to be done on 900 South Bailey Street, but what we found across the street may have an impact on the reported happenings at the Georgetown Inn.

## Morningside Tuberculosis Sanatorium (formerly operating as a King County Hospital from 1928-1947)

6001 Corson Ave. South

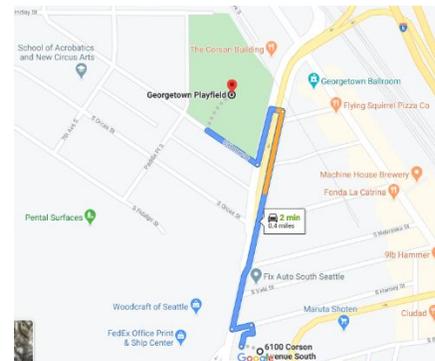
Thanks to a doctor from Morningside who wrote a book on mountaineering, we were able to verify that the Shell Station above, was directly across the street from the Sanatorium. From his book, [The Making of a Rescuer: The Inspiring Life of Otto T. Trott, Md, Rescue Doctor and Mountaineer](#)

MOUNTAINEERING & MEDICINE IN WASHINGTON STATE: 1939-1940  
Teaching Proper Crampon Use to the Locals  
& First Ascent of the Mt. Shuksan Hanging Glacier

I settled into my new job as the sole Resident Physician at the King County Tuberculosis Hospital, which then was known as Morningside Hospital. There were still no specific drugs to treat TB at that time, and certain forms of the disease, specifically what was called Military Tuberculosis, were invariably fatal in a relatively short period of time. But this is a story of its own—back to the lovely Cascades and high mountains of Washington.

At Morningside I was very lucky to have a highly competent intern, Dr. Waldemar Kirchheimer, who had also been a practicing physician in Germany before immigrating to the US, and like me must also go through a new internship and residency before being licensed to practice in the United States. Since Waldemar was neither a mountain climber nor a skier I was able to arrange with him the coverage of weekends so that I could go up into these intriguing mountains. He would always go fishing with the French gas station owner, a Monsieur Pousset, who owned the Shell station on the corner by the hospital, or with Smitty, the orderly, on the weekdays when I filled in for him.

Also from his book is a picture of nurses Dr. Trott worked with at Morningside. Morningside was also known as the King County Tuberculosis Hospital (not to be confused with the King County Hospital closer to the current Georgetown Playfield shown in map below).



Further confirmation that the Morningside TB Sanatorium address was 6100 Corson Ave S. (Directly across the street from the Georgetown Inn), can be found in this 1943 Seattle Municipal News article discussing the recruitment for much needed nurses after some controversy over the working and treatment conditions there.



The horrible conditions there were discussed repeatedly through the years, and in a June 21, 1943 Spokesman Review article, we learn that what would become Morningside Sanatorium was started as one of many King County “small pest houses” in 1909. Pest houses would have housed people with highly contagious diseases such as small-pox and diphtheria.



In 1909, an organization called the Anti-Tuberculosis League of King County began its fight against the disease, employing nurses to survey the community. Firland opened in 1914 but quickly became overrun, and the King County Hospital up the street on Corson only had 40 beds for TB patients. In 1928, the County turned the old Pest House into the King County Tuberculosis Hospital (Morningside) in Georgetown.

## Further Research and Initial Potential Investigation paths

Much of what is written in newspapers of the time is about Morningside’s more famous Washington TB facility, Firland, in the Shoreline area. We know the King County Archives has records available for King County Tuberculosis Hospital including the site plan from 1933 and audit reports.

Until King County Archives opens up in Phase 3, and we have more time to unearth additional history on the Georgetown Inn land between 1959-1982, we recommend investigation of the Georgetown Inn includes include some queries about TB patients (and possibly small-pox or diphtheria patients as well).

We also recommend tapping into the immigrants language of the time, with the French representing our gas station owner (Monsieur Pouset), and the large number of German and Italian immigrants who lived in the area working in the Beer and other Industrial jobs of the area.

Also interesting to note, that Morningside was hitting it’s peak in the 20s and 30s which happens to be known for ragtime music.

