



Start Your Tour Here...

1. City Hall – 10722 SE Main St (1938) : City Hall is a local landmark and listed in the City’s Historic Resources Inventory. Constructed in 1938 in the Half Modern style under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), City Hall originally housed the police and fire departments, the municipal court, and the public library. The Memorial Stone in front of City Hall records the names and accomplishments of the town founders. **The City Hall Sculpture Garden** features six pedestals for art. Half the pieces will be new every year, creating a rotating collection.

2. Trolley Trail: The electric interurban line was established in 1893 and ran between Portland and Oregon City until 1954. The interurban service led to a residential and commercial boom for the town of Milwaukie. Though the tracks have been removed, a pedestrian and bike pathway are being constructed in its right of way.

3. Riverfront: Milwaukie’s riverfront historically supported lumber mills, grist mills, shingle mills, and, until the late 1990s, a log dump. This was also the launching site of the *Sternwheeler Lot Whitcomb* on Christmas Day in 1850, and the terminus of the Harlow Ferry, which ran people and goods across the river from the 1870s to 1940s. The City purchased the property and removed the remaining buildings in 2000. City Council has adopted a plan for the park to be implemented when funding is available.

4. Murphy-Schindler Building – 10914 SE Main St (1926): The Mediterranean style Murphy-Schindler Building was built to house Joseph P. Murphy’s pharmacy, which remained a tenant for over 50 years. William Schindler was Milwaukie’s first mayor, and financed a number of commercial buildings downtown. The building originally had a corner entrance, which was remodeled sometime after 1988.

5. Schindler Building – 11008 SE Main St (1905): The Italianate style William Schindler Building was constructed in 1905 and is the oldest surviving commercial building in the City. It was financed by William Schindler and has been occupied by a number of tenants. The current owners have been at this location since 2007. Like the Murphy-Schindler Building, the original entrance was on the corner. This building is listed in the City’s Historic Resources Inventory.

6. Kellogg-Wetzler Building – 11073 SE Main St (1910): This building is the only cast stone commercial building in the city. This building material gained popularity in the early decades of the 20th century. The ground floor was originally two storefronts, but the entire building is now used as law offices.

7. Dogwood Park – Lake and Main St: This park is at the heart of the City’s South Downtown Concept Plan. To the west is Kellogg Lake (formerly called the Mill Pond), a creek which was dammed in 1850 to provide power for a saw mill, a shingle factory, and a grist mill in turn. It is currently the focus of a City-led restoration effort to remove the dam and improve salmon habitat.

8. Future Light Rail Station Site: The Portland-to-Milwaukie light rail station will be located here, on what is informally called the “triangle site.” The City Council has prioritized construction of a light rail station building on the site by 2015. This design is conceptual, but illustrates the qualities the community would like to see.

9. R. Derwey House – 2206 SE Washington St (1925): This Colonial Revival house was built by prominent local jeweler R. Derwey in 1925; his business was located in the Schindler Building for a number of years. The house features architectural elements from the Concord Grade School in Clackamas County--particularly the Doric columns that support the front porch and the fanlight on the west elevation.

10. Milwaukie High School – 11300 SE 23rd Ave (1925): Milwaukie High School was constructed in 1925 in the Half Modern style and listed in the City’s Historic Resources Inventory. The original architect is unknown; however, the 1938 addition was designed by F.M. Stokes, a prominent Portland architect who designed school buildings around the state.

Optional Extension:

11. Hager’s Pond - 2746 SE Washington (1888): Fritz Hager came to Milwaukie in 1888 and established a furniture-making business on this site. According to longtime residents, the water wheel on the site was built by Fritz and used to run a lathe. Fritz’s son inherited the property from and created a paradise in the city with hundreds of rainbow trout, ducks, chickens, and sheep. Many have fond memories of visiting Hager’s Pond to feed ducks, watch for trout, and pet the sheep.

12. St. John’s Catholic Church – 10955 SE 25th Ave (1966): The spire of this church can be seen for miles around and is a local landmark. The church was designed by Stearns, Mention, and Morris AIA. An earlier church stood across 25th Avenue, which is sometimes referred to as “Catholic Road”. The houses at the corner of 25th and Monroe were built in 1912 to house the nuns of the Catholic Church.

13. Site of the First City Water Works – 2715 SE Monroe St (1904): When the City was incorporated in 1903, it did not have street lights, sidewalks, or a municipal water service. Mayor Schindler and the City Council granted the first water franchise to Bernard M. Fisch and F.W. Birkmeier in 1904. They built water tanks, laid mains, and provided water through a well on this site, and a turbine mill to pump the water. Water was provided through wooden pipes. The existing house was built in 1940 on the foundation of an earlier building, possibly a building that housed the turbine mechanicals. The City established its own deep well system in 1934.

14. Spring Creek: Spring Creek meanders throughout the City, originating east of downtown. Although much of the stream has been piped, it emerges in pools and streams. The creek is most visible on the Portland Waldorf School site and Scott Park (site #19).

15. Streib’s Addition – Philip Streib, a Portland brewmeister and hotel owner, moved to Milwaukie in 1904 and became president of the First State Bank of Milwaukie and was the second mayor of the City from 1909-1913. He platted the Streib’s Addition subdivision in 1910. Many of the homes in this area were built during the 1920s. The area is now part of the Historic Milwaukie neighborhood.

16. Streib House – 10565 SE 23rd Ave (1923): This Arts and Crafts style house was constructed in 1923 for Philip Streib. It is one of the few houses in the city constructed in that style. His first house was located on the site of the Park Hamlin Apartments across the street.

17. Milwaukie Jr High/Waldorf School – 2300 SE Harrison St (1937): The Portland Waldorf School (formerly the Milwaukie Jr. High) was constructed in the Georgian Style in 1937, under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The numerous bridges and culverts are designed to capture the water of Spring Creek, which continues to flow under 21st Ave to the north end of downtown.

18. Ledding Library – 10660 SE 21st Ave (1965): Ledding Library is named for Florence and Herman Ledding, both attorneys. Upon Florence’s passing in 1963, the property and more than 3,000 of their personal library were bequeathed to the City for use as a library. The Ledding home was relocated and renovated, and opened as Ledding Library in 1965. You can see some part of the original house in the small paned windows on the second floor.

19. Scott Park – Behind Ledding Library (1965): Scott Park was named for Richard and Hannah Scott, who once owned property from Harrison St north to the Multnomah County boundary. The Scotts had cattle, goats, and an orchard of various fruit trees. In the summer, the park hosts a lunchtime concert series.

20. Masonic Lodge – 10636 SE Main St (1925): The Masonic Lodge was built at the SW corner of the Scott orchard in 1925 and is listed in the City’s Historic Resources Inventory. It incorporates a number of Moorish elements, including the recessed balcony above the Main Street entrance and arched windows. The Oregon Freemasons were established in 1851. The original Bing Cherry tree, bred by Seth Lewelling, once stood in the middle of Main Street in front of the Lodge.

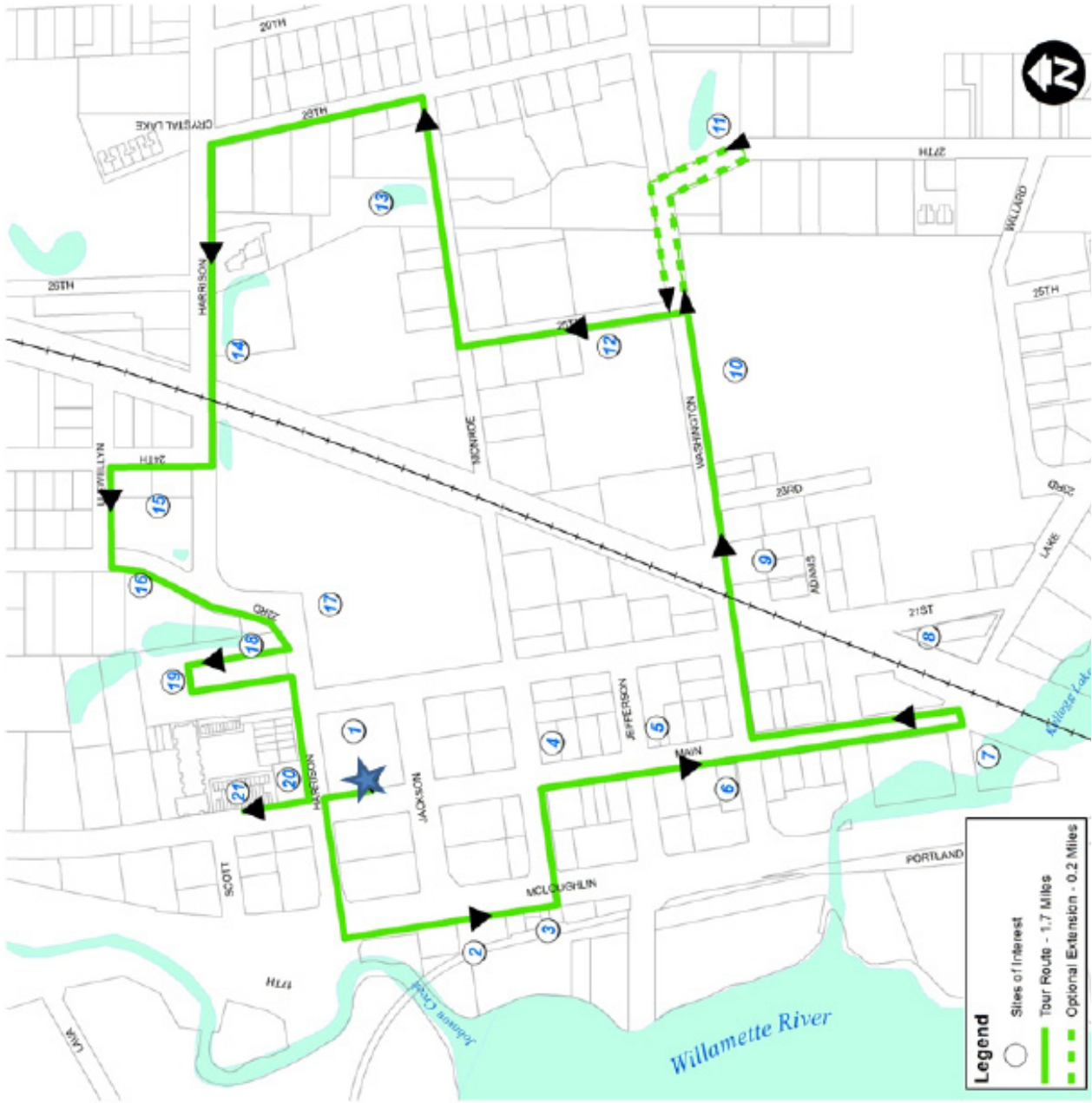
21. North Main Village – Corner of Main and Harrison (2005): North Main Village was the first new mixed use development in downtown Milwaukie. Its roofline references the adjacent Masonic temple. It is a combination of rental and home-ownership units, and many of the units have live/work spaces on the ground floor.

Downtown Milwaukie Historic Walking Tour

Milwaukie was founded in 1848 by Lot Whitcomb, an enterprising pioneer from Rutland, Vermont. Whitcomb named the city after Milwaukie, Wisconsin, due to its similar location at the meeting place of three waters—the Willamette River, Johnson Creek, and Kellogg Creek. Today, Milwaukie covers land that once belonged to early pioneers Lot Whitcomb, Joseph Kellogg, William Meek, Seth and Henderson Luelling, and others.

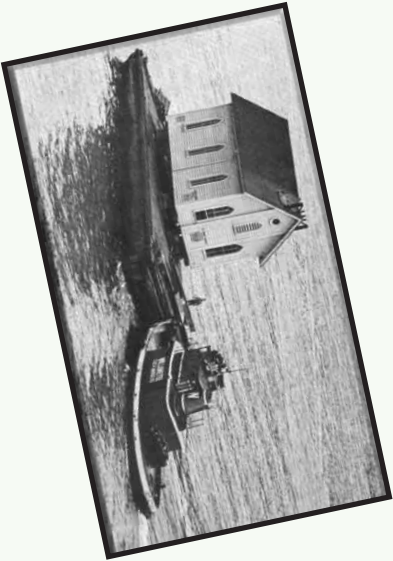
Lot Whitcomb thought that the city’s location on a bay near the rapids of Oregon City would establish it as a superior shipping site. However, the bay was not deep enough for more modern ships and by the early 1860s, Portland had taken the mantle of the largest city in the area.

Early Milwaukie was a dominant force in the lumber and flour industries, and a number of sawmills and gristmills were located on the banks of the Willamette River. A shipyard was also located there, and it was there that the ‘Lot Whitcomb of Oregon’ sternwheeler was completed and launched in 1850. The ship plied the waters between Milwaukie and Astoria until its sale to a California company in 1854.



In 1950 the population of Milwaukie was 5,000; today, it is more than 20,000. Milwaukie is no longer a village but a small town, and it retains the unique charms of both.

Prepared by City of Milwaukie



Milwaukie, Oregon Historic Downtown Walking Tour

Proudly Presented by:

City of Milwaukie

North Clackamas Chamber of

Commerce

Main Street Milwaukie

Milwaukie Museum

Historic Milwaukie NDA



Joseph Kellogg crossed the plains in 1848 and settled land claims south of Whitcomb’s property. He constructed a shipyard near Whitcomb’s saw mill site in order to construct a schooner to carry the lumber and flour being produced to the San Francisco market, which had an endless appetite due to the Gold Rush.

As the lumber and shipbuilding industries waned, agriculture waxed. Henderson Luelling transported nursery stock from Iowa in covered wagons and arrived in 1848. Soon after, William Meek arrived with nursery stock of his own, and they became partners. Milwaukie was soon established as a center of fruit cultivation.

Seth Lewelling arrived in Milwaukie in 1850 to join Luelling and Meek’s nursery business. The brothers (separated by religious beliefs, and therefore, the spellings of their names) developed a number of local fruit varieties including the Bing cherry, which was named for a Chinese supervisor at the nursery.

By 1850 Milwaukie had 500 residents; two hotels; a sheet iron and copper plate works; a boot maker; several general stores, saloons, and taverns; and a school. There was not yet a church; services were held in private residences. At the height of the lumber industry there had been four sawmills but they were swept away during a severe flood in 1849-1850 and only the Standard Mill remained.