Records Building to the left and the 1906 former Jail and Sheriff’s office on your right. Turn back to the south side of Main St., past the 1925 Pastime Cafe, a longtime Walla Walla restaurant specializing in Italian food. On the SW corner of Fourth Ave. and Main St. is the 1899 Daces Hotel 1, a Victorian Italianate style reconstruction of the 1873 Stone House. This building housed many celebrities performing at the nearby approximately 1000 seat 1905 Kelsey Grand Opera House, part of which is still standing adjacent to a pawn shop at Fourth Ave. and Alder St.

Cross Fourth Ave. at Main St. noting the renovation of the 1889 Washington Bank Building 1 for law offices at 129 W. Main.

Continue along Main St. to Third Ave. 10 to a pocket park. Note the fountain and statue titled “The Thinker” by artist Ralph Teeterhay. Look across Main at the building which was a department store from 1896-1980 (Schwabacher’s from 1861-1909 and Gardner and Co. from 1911-1980). American West Bank 11 has renovat-ed the building. On your right is the handsomely renovated Baumeister Building 12, built in 1889. Note the name and date below the cornice (evident on other buildings you will see, too). At 21 W Main is the 1869 Brechtel late Gothic dark, Wayne Earle’s “Farmers Market Bandstand Pavillon” was installed in 2003. Note the statue of a fireman “Dedicated to Our Firemen for their Service and Sacrifice.” This location is Valley Transit’s main bus stop and transfer station.

Continue on Main St. and cross Fourth Ave. The Italianate style commercial buildings 1 on your right were built in the 1890’s. The office building is a reminder of the “arched window”, the continued window groupings and the bracketed cornices. Some had brothels on the upper floors even as late as the 1950’s. Continue on to the corner of Fifth and Main, where the last building of Walla Walla’s once large Chinese community stood until 1962. Cross Main to the 1916 Walla Walla County Courthouse 13 in front of the courthouse is a 1911 statue of Christopher Columbus, provided by the Italian community in Walla Walla, who brought the sweet onion industry to the area. Notice the 1891 Hall of Contemporary columns, now Banner Bank, on the corner of Second and Alder. Return to the corner of Second and Main to the 1879 Paine Building 14 now housing Sterling Savings Bank. On the northwest corner of Second and Main is Squire Broel’s bronze “Lights of the Valley.”

Turn right on Main to the 1874 Reynolds Day Building 15. On the second floor is a room once known as Science Hall, where Washington’s first State Constitutional Convention was held in 1878. Notice the historic Falkenberg’s Clock, circa 1910 on the sidewalk. Note the cornices on the 1886 Seil Building on your right. Across the street is the 1876 building which houses Pioneer Title Co. Note the ornate cornices above on the 1882 Barrett Building 16 which houses Merchants Ltd., a local delicatessen, and on the 1879 Kennedy building. Note the street art just west of Merchants by Squire Broel entitled “Bloom in August”; you can get a better view from the north side of Main Street. Continue east on Main Street. Starbucks Coffee and Coffee Perk are located in the 1890 Sayer Building 17 which was the popular Bee Hive dry goods store from 1905-1987. Stop to admire the street art dog entitled “Thoughts Discovered” by artist Brad Rude. Cross First Ave. to the 1903 Die Brucke (bridge) Building 18 so named because it spans Mill Creek as it runs under it. At the corner of First and Main Streets, is the site of the first city bridge for foot and wagon traffic across Mill Creek. Looking across Main Street note the sculpture “Guard Pigeon” by artist Wayne Chadre.

The Bon 23 occupies the remainder of this block, having incorporated the former Liberty Theater* into their site in 1888. The statue of this theater was the American Theater, built in 1917. Visit the store to see what remains of the theater and take a good look at the fine exterior. Notice the plaque indicating that this was the site of Fort Walla Walla in 1856. Note the work titled “Holding it Together” by artist Bill Piper. Cross Colville St. and stop at Heritage Park 24. There are restrooms available (not open all year). The mural of “Olde Towne Walla Walla” was done by artist James Fritz in 1992. The facade of the former 1902 I0OF Hall on Alder Street was reassembled on the opposite wall.

Continue east on Main Street (once the Nez Perce Indian trail) to the corner of Palouse and Main. On your right is the Backstage Bistro 25 located in a 1904 building. Across the intersection (two street crossings are necessary) is a statue of Marcus Whitman 26, pioneer doctor, who with his wife Narcissa arrived here in 1836. They served as mis-sionaries to the Cayuse Indians. The Whitman Mission National Historical Site* is located on Highway 12, 7 miles west of Walla Walla.

You can conclude your walk here by returning to the Marcus Whitman Hotel via the 1880 Kirkman House Museum* and Weaver’s Cottage 27. Retrace your route on Main St. to Colville St. Take right and walk three blocks to the corner of Cherry and Colville. The Kirkman House is open to visitors at specific times. Turn left on Cherry St. to return to the Marcus Whitman Hotel or you could continue north on Colville St. to the renovat-ed 1914 Northern Pacific Railway Depot* where you will find a restaurant.

*Denotes properties on the National Register of Historic Places

If you wish to see more of Walla Walla on foot, see The Historic Homes Walk, Up Boyer to and Pioneer Park Walk, Fort Walla Walla which are described in separate brochures.

Katherine Weingart
Walla Walla Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June, 2003
historical homes walk

T his walk begins in Downtown Walla Walla and takes you past a few historic buildings on the way to some of Walla Walla’s grand historic homes on Palouse, First, Newell, Catherine and Birch streets. It begins and ends at Palouse and Main. Don’t limit yourselves to the homes that are listed below. These suggestions come from books written by Penny Andres on historic homes in Walla Walla and historic research done by the 2020 Historic Building Research Service. Many other homes in these neighborhoods are also worthy of a good look. More information about other Walla Walla historic homes may be obtained at the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce at 29 E. Sumach.

Distance: Approximately 2 miles

Begin at Palouse and Main

Begin this walk at the corner of Palouse and Main at the Mill Creek Brewpub and restaurant. Walla Walla’s microbrewery, Head south on Palouse St. past an antique store on your left in a shop at 41 S. Palouse. built in 1905. The 1931 New England style First Congregational Church is on your left and on your right is the sandstone Central Christian Church built in 1906. Cross Alder St. to the 1905 Carnegie Art Center, once Walla Walla’s Public Library built with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie (there is a gallery and gift shop inside). On the front lawn is Tom Emmerson’s bronze “Mother and Child.”

Cross Poplar St. On your right is the 1893 Queen Anne Victorian Sharpstein Manor, a home and an apartment house. It is a showplace in its own right but at Christmas it is decorated with multitudes of lights and figures. The wing on the left was added in 1938. Next to it is a law firm in a 1910 mansion at 216 S. Palouse which was built by Dr. C. N. Sutter, who used it as his residence as well as his office. The house was purchased by William Struthers, a wheat rancher, in 1917. Notice the leaded glass and columns of this Neoclassical home. Across Birch St. on your right is the Neoclassical Rees Mansion built in 1896 by Augusta and Raymond Rees. Rees was the co-owner of Walla Walla’s first newspaper, the Walla Walla Statesman. Imagine the lifestyle in these houses.

Continue south on Palouse. The gables on the roof and windows of 336 S. Palouse are interesting on the 1909 house on your right. Two brick homes on the left side of the street are 361 S. Palouse built in 1918 for the George Struthers family and 375 S. Palouse built in 1928 for the Ludwig family. The Ludwig house is 6,000 square feet and sits on one acre. In 1880 the Ludwigs established one of oldest jewelry stores in Washington which was on Main St. where the Bank of America is currently located. They also codeigned the Washington State seal.

Turn right on Newell St. Three houses in this area have been beautifully restored. Notice the circa 1895 Queen Anne style house at 220 Newell. The large Fitzgerald family from Iowa purchased it in 1909. One daughter, a school principal, lived there until 1976. The 1883 Victorian Stick Style house at 204 Newell has a carriage house in the back. It was built by John Beyer, a pioneer banker in this area, who came from San Francisco where this style was common. Looking diagonally across the street at 392 Catherine is the Sheets-Johnson Elliott house built in 1871. When it was built it sat in the middle of an alfalfa field and over the years it was the home of several prominent Walla Wallans.

Turn left (south) on Catherine and left on Whitman St. crossing to the south side of Whitman. Notice the handsomely restored 1909 house at 504 Catherine on the corner. The Gothic Carpenter style 1903 home at 205 Whitman has interesting pointed gables. Inside is a circular staircase that goes from the first to the third floor.

Continue east on Whitman and return to Palouse St. 302 Whitman was built in 1902. Turn south on Palouse toward the Victorian Queen Anne style house at 529 S. Palouse built by the Dement family in 1885. This is one of the oldest buildings in Walla Walla. On your right at 610 S. Palouse is a Tudor style house built in 1910. As in several of the large historic houses, there was a ballroom on the third floor. 712 S. Palouse is a Craftsman style house that was built in 1908. 808 S. Palouse is a very large Craftsman style house built in 1910. Miss Emma Seil’s house at 824 S. Palouse is on your right on the corner of Locust and Palouse. Built in 1929, it is based on Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home in Virginia.

Turn right on Locust and turn right again on Catherine St. On the left at 704 Catherine is a restored 1886 Italianate style house built by a lumber dealer. On the same side of the street, note the 1894 house at 636 Catherine with the wrap-around porch. Recent owners have carefully restored this house and added the porte-cochere.

Turn left onto Thorne St. Thorne St has houses with streams in the front yard, not uncommon in Walla Walla, which means “many waters.” Walk down this pleasant street which intersects with First Ave.

Turn right on First Ave. This is another tree-lined area with many fine old homes and a treasured tree canopy.

Turn right on Newell. Note the house at 125 Newell built in 1904 with large porch areas. Eighty wagonloads of rock from Mill Creek were used in its construction.

Turn left at Catherine (you’ve been here before) Head north past the 1902 Gothic style St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. At the intersection of Birch and Catherine is The Ben Grote House. a Neoclassic style mansion built in 1916 at 221 Birch Street. Ben Grote, successful in his farming ventures, started one of the large bulk grain elevators in the area.

Turn right on Birch and continue back to Palouse. Turn left on Palouse to Alder. Turn left on Alder Street heading west. The Nano Lopez sculpture “Matilde On Her Way to the Market” is west of the entrance to the Walla Walla Public Library.

Return to Palouse and cross Alder to Volunteer Park. The park was established in 1904 to honor Walla Walla men who fought in the 1898-99 Spanish American War in the Philippines. Also note the memorial to the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger. Continue north on Palouse and return to Main and Palouse where this walk began.

*Indicates properties on the National Register of Historic Places

If you are interested in additional information, consult the following:


If you wish to see more of Walla Walla on foot, see The Downtown Walk, Up Boyer and to Pioneer Park Walk, and the Fort Walla Walla Walla which are described in separate brochures.

Katherine Weingart
Walla Walla Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June, 2003

Wallawalla Wallawalla

Reviewed by the Historic Resources Coordination Committee
Affiliated with the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce
This walk takes you along Boyer Avenue to Whitman College, several historic homes, Pioneer Park with some of the State Record Trees of Walla Walla, Sharpestein School, the 1855 Treaty Council site back to Main Street.

**UP BOYER AND TO PIONEER PARK WALK**

Distance: Approximately 3 miles

Begin this walk at the intersection of Palouse and Main. This is the beginning of Boyer Avenue. Walk along Boyer Ave. toward Whitman College which received its original charter as Whitman Seminary in 1859 and became a college in 1883. Feel free to visit any of the college buildings mentioned, with the exception of student living quarters. On your right at the corner of Boyer and Park is the Reid Campus Center. The Bookstore and Café are worth a visit. On your left, across Boyer Center is the 1400 seat auditorium with outstanding acoustics which is the location of performances by the Walla Walla Symphony and many other events.

Across Park St. from Cordiner Hall is Sherwood Center. The college indoor athletic facility. Note the "rappelling wall" on the Boyer side of the building for budding mountain climbers. Across Boyer from Sherwood Center is the 1910 Hunter Conservatory, a beautiful restoration of the former Music Building, which contains college offices and Kimball Auditorium which is used for smaller campus events. Take a detour into the center of the campus by turning left just past Sherwood Center toward the remodeled and enlarged Penrose Library. Enter the library and notice the silent Reading room on your left. When you leave the library, notice the outdoor sculptures on the campus. The horse just beyond the library by sculptor Deborah Butterfield is made of driftwood that was cast in bronze. Squeo Brode created the whimsical fish sculpture and Ed Humphreys did the large metal piece. Memorial Hall (1899)*, with its clock tower, houses most college administration offices and is the oldest building on campus.

Come back to Boyer. On your right is the 1926 Prentiss Hall. Prentiss Hall is named for Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, wife of Marcus Whitman, pioneer missionary and physician. She was one of the first two white women to cross the continent. Notice the colorful sculpture by Jim Dine entitled “Carnival.” On your right at Otis and Boyer is the 1904 Baker Faculty Center. built by Louis F. Anderson, a classical languages professor at Whitman for 50 years and his wife Mabel Baker Anderson, daughter of banker Dorsey S. Baker.

On your left is Lakum Duckum, appropriately named for its residents. On your right on Boyer Ave. is a series of marked 'interest houses' that are residential choices for students wanting to live in smaller quarters with those who have similar interests. The "Out House" is for students interested in environmental issues and the Outing Club. Once, these houses were family residences. On the left is Maney Hall, one of the three major classroom and faculty office buildings. Cross Merriam Street continuing along Boyer.

The Admissions Office on your left is located in what was originally the 1921 President’s Residence and is now called Penrose House.

Providing a change age-wise from Whitman, is the 1925 Washington State Odd Fellows Home*. It has many residential options for senior citizens. It fills almost an entire city block. Across from the Odd Fellows, take a short detour on your left up Broodside Drive. 100 Broodside Drive is an 1868 Queen Anne style home built by P. Isacs, an early settler who thought Walla Walla would be a good wheat growing area, established flour mill and the local wheat trade with Asia. He and his son also established Walla Walla’s water system and several of the residential areas which you are walking through.

Return to Boyer and turn left. 571 Boyer is a Neoclassical style house built in 1909. The size of the small lot that it sits on is not unusual for homes owned by wheat ranchers who didn’t feel a need for more land in town. Continue on Boyer to Division St. Take a left on Division to see two lovely brick homes built by wheat ranchers. 110 N. Division was built in 1929 and resembles an English stately home. 104 N. Division, built in 1926 and resembles an English country house. Return to Boyer and continue south on Division past Wildwood Park. the site of an auto tourist facility in the 1920’s.

Continue south on Division and cross Alder St. to 100 year old Pioneer Park. This park was established in 1901 and developed using a plan suggested in 1906 by John C. Olmstead, brother of Frederick Law Olmstead, who designed Central Park in New York City. Turn left on Alder to Sasamama Drive, the road through the park. Notice the 1909 Bandstand. Near the Garden Center is the charming Ladies Relief Society’s iron fountain surrounded by a ring of trees. The majority of Walla Walla’s State Record Trees, some of which have markers to identify them, can be found mainly in the center of the park.

None of the trees in the park are native to the Walla Walla area but have thrived here. At the south end of the park is a series of spring fed ponds, with lots of resident ducks and geese. Spend a few minutes touring the Aviary*. It’s worth a visit if you have time.

Leaving the park on the south side, turn right on Whitman St. Continue west on Whitman St. noting the 1904 house with a tower across from the rose garden. Continue west on Whitman to three blocks to Howard St. Here you will find the recently renovated Sharpestein School*. built in 1898, making it the oldest continuously operating elementary school in Washington State.

Turn right on Howard St. to Lincoln St. and turn left. On your left is a 1916 home at 520 Lincoln 18 , recently restored as a graphic. When you leave the library, notice the landscaping of the creek in the front. Next door at 508 Lincoln is the home of Henry Osterman, architect of many of Walla Walla’s public buildings, including Sharpestein School.

Turn right on Grove St. and follow it two blocks to Cate St., then left to Park St. Look for the YMCA straight ahead of you. Turn right on Park. On your right is the 1903 Colonial Revival Jesse Drumheller home at 233 Park.

On your left is the 1906 Cox House at 345 East Birch 20 . Cross Alder and turn left crossing Park St. On the corner of Alder and Park is the 1927 Fire Station 21 , now the Red Cross office. Heading west on Alder behind the Carnegie Art Center*, on your left is a marker commemorating the Treaty Council of 1855 22 when members of the Yakama, Nez Perce, Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla tribes met near this site with Governor Isaac Stevens and reluctantly signed treaties creating reservations. Coming right up is Marcus Street. Turn north on Marcus St., behind the 1931 First Congregational Church. Notice the circa 1900 Queen Anne home at 253 Marcus 23 which was the home of early physician, orchardist and mayor Nelson Blaeb. On the left is the 1903 Blx home at 244 Marcus.

Cross the footbridge over Mill Creek noting flood control structures and continue up Marcus to Boyer Ave. Whitman College’s Brattton Tennis Center is directly across Boyer. Turn left on Boyer and return one block to Palouse and Main where your tour began.

*Indicates properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you wish to see more of Walla Walla on foot, see The Downtown Walk, Historic Homes Walk, and the Fort Walla Walla Walk which are described in separate brochures.

Katherine Weingart
Walla Walla Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June, 2003
The fort was occupied by the Public Health Service in 1920, and were transferred to the Veterans Bureau in 1921 when that agency was established to coordinate the services provided veterans by a collection of independent government agencies. The fort was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 16, 1974. In 1996 the VA renamed the facility the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, in recognition of the birth of that famous WWI general, born at the fort August 23, 1883 during his father’s assignment there.

Begin the Walking Tour
The original fifteen fort-era buildings which remain on the VA grounds are located in two general areas; the upper plateau containing the officers’ quarters and troop barracks, and the lower level with outbuildings associated with maintenance and storage. The fort-era buildings each have a bronze plaque identifying its date of construction; those built by the VA do not. To visit the fort, enter the compound by traveling west on Chestnut Street until it becomes Wainwright Avenue, the VA’s drive. Continue up the drive and crest the low hill, where you will see the parade grounds with a statue of General Wainwright at the flagpole. The officers’ quarters are on the left, and two-story brick bar-

R

The regular troops were transferred to other stations in 1861, and the post was occupied at various times by California and Oregon Militia, and Washington Territorial Volunteers until 1867, when troops were withdrawn and the post placed in the care of a Quartermaster’s Agent. The fort was re-garrisoned in August 1873 by troops returning from the Modoc War, and was continuously in service until permanent lly decommissioned September 28, 1910. The military briefly occupied the fort during WWI, when the 146th and 147th Field Artillery Brigades received part of their early training under the command of General Paul Weyrauch, who had been a Second Lieutenant stationed at the fort when it was decommissioned.

The fort buildings were occupied briefly by the Public

The next historic building in Officers’ Row is Building 5, the first of four stories officers’ quarters built in 1858, the year the fort was established. This, and Buildings 2, 3, 4, and 7 are probably the oldest build-
ings in Walla Walla. Building 5 is 1 & 1/2 stories, and was modified over the years of occupation by the mili-
tary with box-like, single-story rooms added to both the east and west ends. Continuing past Building 5, the next three buildings, 4, 3, and 2 are all 1858 duplex officers’ quarters. Each of these buildings originally sported adobe walls, which were later covered with board & batten siding, then recovered with the present ship-lap. An adobe brick removed during a construction project in building 3 is displayed in the medical center’s library. The 1 & 1/2 story roofs of 2, 3 & 4 were raised to 2 & 1/2 stories, chimneys extended, and dormers added to both front and rear stories, all during the fort era. Each has a front porch, with that on 2 extending around the east side.

Passing Building 2, the last and largest in Officers’ Row is Quarters 1, built in 1877 as the Commanding Officer’s residence. This features a grand, central staircase, and a room large enough to entertain the fort’s cadre of junior officers. Proceeded around the perimeter of the Parade Grounds and now heading west, Buildings 68 and 69 are the two identical U-shaped brick structures facing officers’ row. These were built in 1906, at a cost of $60,955 each, as Infantry barracks. They have been used over the years by the VA as patient wards and administrative offices. Both buildings have been modified by enclosing the upper and lower porches and remodeling the chimneys, and modifying their front entries.

The remaining fort-era buildings are located to the north of the parade grounds and below the knoll on which the officers’ quarters and barracks sit. The easi-
est way to see these is to return to your vehicle and drive down the street behind Building 86 and past the Chapel. Beside the Church, a few north sites a small brick Building 40 constructed in 1883 as the fort magazine. Notable is the fact this once stood in the parking lot behind Building 86, and was relocated to its present site without disintegrating!

At the bottom of the hill, adjacent to the Little League ball field Quarters Buildings 63 and 65. Building 65 was built in 1904 and served the fort as the oil house, where 10,000 gallons of mineral oil used for illumina-
tion was stored. The building now serves as the VA’s carpenter and paint shops. Building 63, originally the fort’s ordinance storehouse, is now the VA’s plumb-
ing shop. Both Buildings 63 and 65 were relocated to their present sites sometime after 1920, and Building 65 has been added to over the years. Use the adjacent parking lot to turn around.

Backtracking to the intersection and turning right towards the Poplar Street exit (north), the remain-
ing two fort-era buildings can be seen. To the left (west), adjacent to GESA Credit Union, is Building 31, built in 1859 as a Quartermaster’s stable, where animals were taken for care rather than billeted. A wing which contained 12 stalls has been removed, and the building is now used to garage tractors and lawn care equipment. A hand-hewn ceiling beam, joined to its upright support with wooden pegs, is visible within.

The last building is to the right (east) of the drive. This is Building 41, built in 1888 as the fort’s gra-
nary. As a cavalry post, there were numerous mounts and draft animals at the fort, and the gra-
nary was capable of storing 500,000 lbs of grain. The building sits on 168 pilings, and has four cupo-

If you wish to see more of Walla Walla on foot, see The Downtown Walk, Up Boyer and to Pioneer Park Walk, and the Historic Homes Walk which are described in separate brochures.

Robert L. Stevenson Richard J. Bernave
Fort Walla Walla Museum Walla Walla Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June, 2003

Reviewed by the Historic Resources Coordination Committee
Affiliated with the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce