

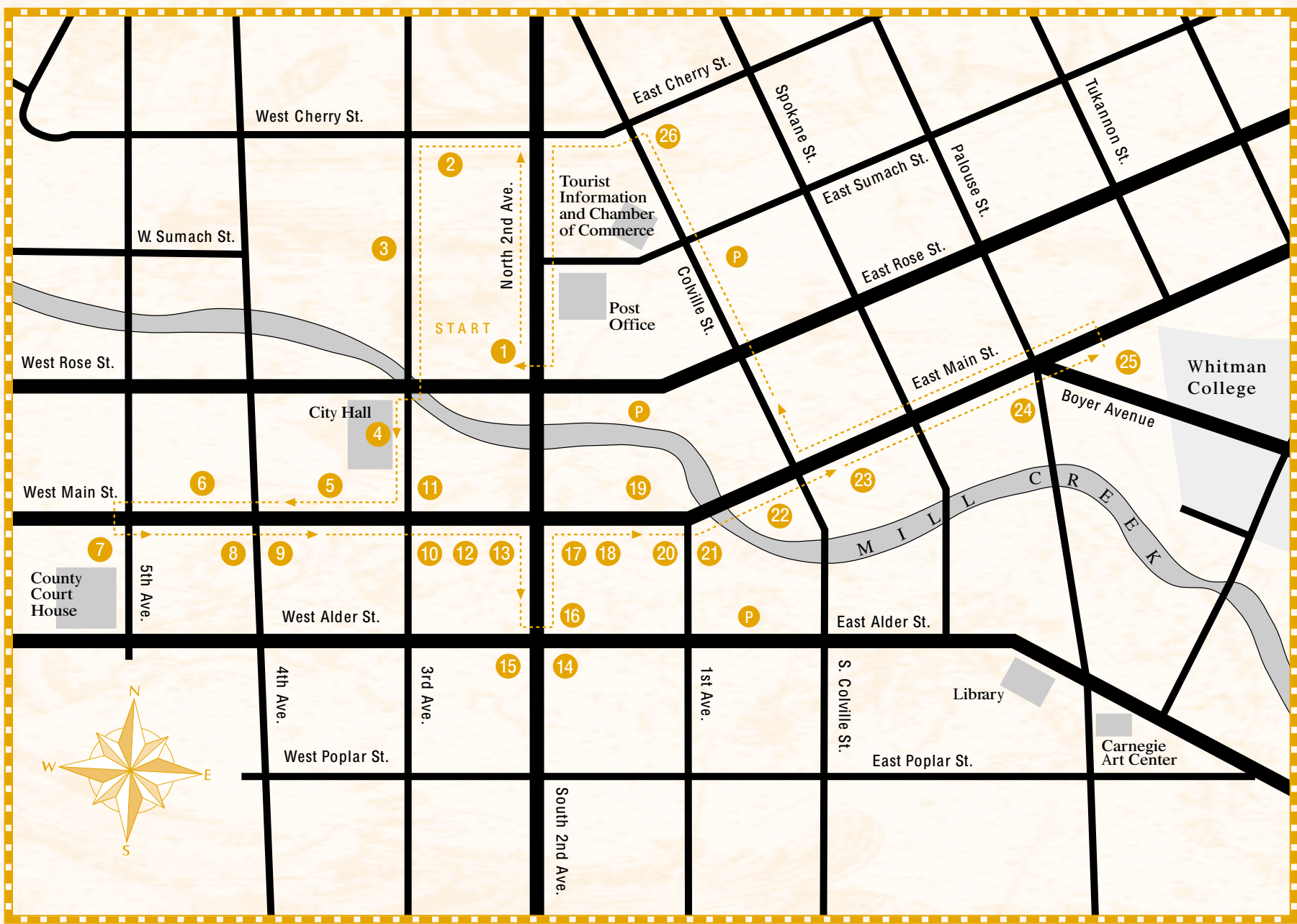
DOWNTOWN  
HISTORIC  
TRAIL GUIDE



WallaWalla  
HERITAGE



Reviewed by the Historic Resources  
Coordination Committee



## THE DOWNTOWN WALK

**T**his walk is intended to highlight the history, restoration and renovation of downtown Walla Walla. In 2002 the City of Walla Walla was awarded the Association of Washington Cities Municipal Achievement Award for the revitalization of downtown and Walla Walla was named by Sunset Magazine as having the Best Main Street in the West.

**Distance:** Approximately 1.5 miles

Begin at the 1928 Marcus Whitman Hotel\* **1** at Second Ave. and Rose St. Spend some time wandering through the newly refurbished public areas of the hotel before exiting through the north entrance, by the Explorer Ballroom. Walk north (toward the freeway) along Second Ave., and turn left on Cherry St. The Whitehouse-Crawford Restaurant is at the corner on Third Ave., next to the Seven Hills Winery. These two attractive businesses are located in what was once the 1904 Whitehouse Crawford Co. Planing Mill\* **2**. Turn left on Third Ave., past the Walla Walla District Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters **3** on your right. Cross Rose St. and cross Third Ave. to the front of Walla Walla's 1908 City Hall **4**. Continue south to Main Street. Take a right on Main St. past the Farmers Market Pavilion **5** (open Saturday mornings mid-May to late October) in Crawford Park. Wayne Chabre's "Farmers Market Bandstand Pavilion" 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 Italiante style commercial buildings **6** on your right were built in the 1880's. Notice the crowned "hooded" arched windows, 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 **7**. 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

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 Dacres Hotel\* **8**, a Victorian Italianate style reconstruction of the 1873 Stine House. This building housed many celebrities performing at the nearby approximately 1000 seat 1905 Keylor-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 **9** 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 Trethewey. Look across Main at the building which was a department store from 1861-1980 (Schwabacher's from 1861-1909 and Gardner and Co. from 1911-1980). AmericanWest Bank **11** has renovated 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 Building, one of the oldest downtown buildings where the Brechtel family ran their bakery. Next door, Green and Jackson was one of the oldest pharmacies in the state. H.E. Holmes, a druggist, built this building in 1878. On the corner of Main and Second is Walla Walla's earliest "Sky Scraper," the 1911 Baker Building **13**. In 1869 Dorsey Syng Baker and John F. Boyer began the Baker-Boyer Bank on this site forming what is today the oldest independent bank in the state of Washington.

Turn right on Second to see the restored 1906 Denny Building **14** at Second and Alder, badly damaged by a fire in 2001. Across Alder St. on the SW corner is the restored 1904 Drumheller Building **15**, which housed the Drumheller hardware store. On the second floor of the adjacent building was a bordello run by the notorious Josephine Wolfe. Cross Second Ave. On your way back to Second Ave. and Main St., you will see the 1921 First National Bank Building **16** with its ornate

Corinthian columns, now Banner Bank, on the corner of Second and Alder. Return to the corner of Second and Main to the 1879 Paine Building **17** 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\* **18**. 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 **19** 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 "Blooms 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 **20** which was the popular Bee Hive dry goods store from 1905-1977. Stop to admire the street art dog entitled "Thoughts Discovered" by artist Brad Rude. Cross First Ave. to the 1903 Die Brucke (bridge) Building\* **21** so named because it spans Mill Creek which 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 Chabre.

The Bon **22** occupies the remainder of this block, having incorporated the former Liberty Theater\* into their store. The original name 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 **23**. 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 IOOF 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 **24** located in a 1904 building. Across the intersection (two street crossings are necessary) is a statue of Marcus Whitman **25**, pioneer doctor, who with his wife Narcissa arrived here in 1836. They served as missionaries 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 **26**. Retrace your route on Main St. to Colville St. Take a 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 renovated 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](#) and to [Pioneer Park Walk](#), [Fort Walla Walla Walk](#) which are described in separate brochures.

Katherine Weingart  
*Walla Walla Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Advisory Committee*

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Affiliated with the Walla Walla Valley  
Chamber of Commerce