

WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

This pamphlet launches our Uncover McMinnville History Program. It celebrates some of the historic sites and landmarks that define our City.

In August of 2021, we secured a grant from the National Park Service and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. With that support, we set out to educate our community and raise awareness about McMinnville's built environment - both above ground and below.

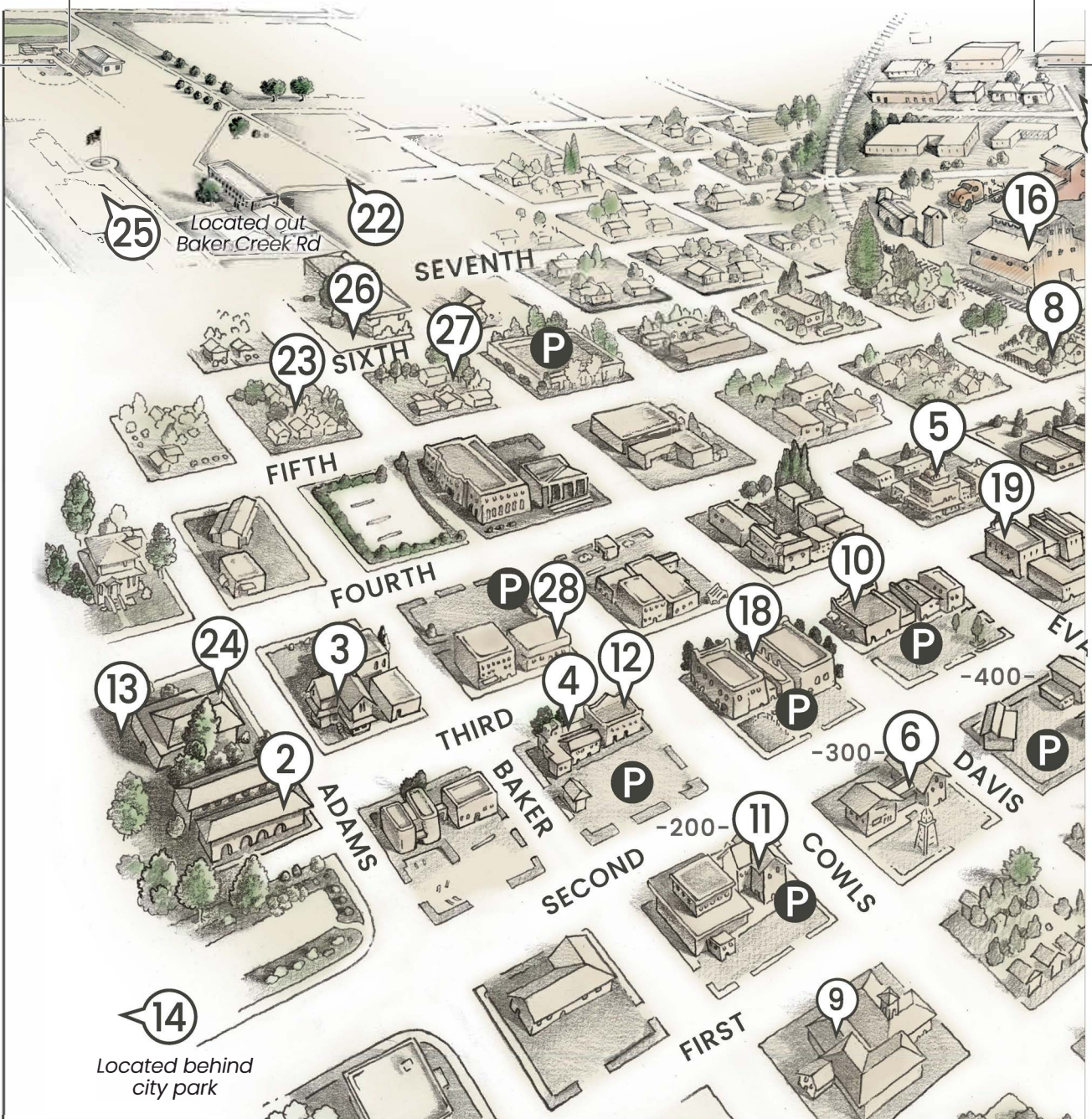
To celebrate McMinnville's 150th anniversary, we updated this pamphlet in 2026 with fresh information. It tells the story of our community, and demonstrates how the City of McMinnville partners with citizens and property owners. Together, we preserve and promote historic sites for current and future generations through an active historic preservation program.

Inside these pages, you will discover a carefully curated collection of landmarks that reveal McMinnville's dynamic story. You will explore vibrant buildings on Third Street that fuel local commerce and business vitality - the enduring heart of our community. You will also uncover early mills that generated lasting wealth, a pioneer cemetery, historic churches, the homes of prominent McMinnville residents, and much more.

We hope you enjoy reading this publication and exploring the McMinnville's rich history. While you're out sightseeing, keep an eye open for the posters of our Historic Landmark Series. You will see the same illustrations from this pamphlet displayed around town.

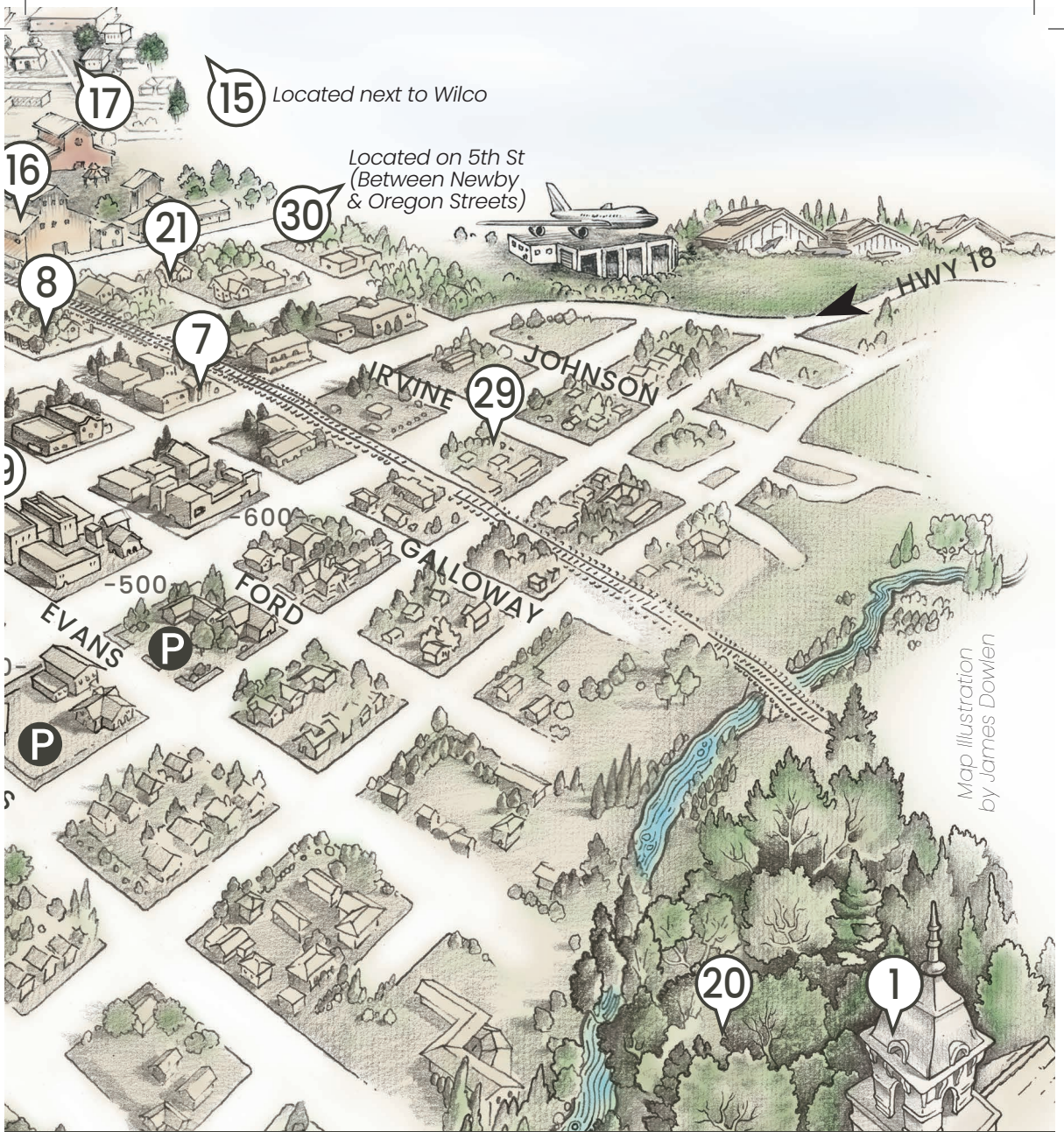


City of
McMinnville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



- 1. Pioneer Hall, Linfield University
- 2. McMinnville Public Library
- 3. Samuel-Cozine House
- 4. Schilling Building (*Boss Saloon*)
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15 Located next to Wilco

Located on 5th St
(Between Newby
& Oregon Streets)

16. Buchanan Cellars

17. Mac Market

18. Knights of Pythias Building

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20. Linfield Observatory

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29. 135 NE Irvine St

30. Newby-Cook House



Pioneer Hall Linfield University

Built 1883 • Campus Drive

When McMinnville College's Board of Trustees accepted a 20-acre donation from pioneers Samuel and Mahala Cozine, in 1881, they envisioned a bright future for the college. The Cozines' generous gift inspired additional donations and turned the dream of a spacious new campus into reality. Professor W. S. White designed the building in the form of a Greek cross and the Trustees laid its cornerstone on the new college campus, May 31, 1882.

McMinnville founder William T. Newby produced 300,000 red bricks for the new building in the kilns of his Ford Street plant. Bricklayers and local carpenters worked for more than a year to construct this beautiful Italianate-style structure. The building rose from a locally quarried basalt basement to four stories crowned by a cupola that once held the school's victory Bell. Today the historic bell rests on display in nearby Walker Hall.

Known as the main building for decades, the structure received the name Pioneer Hall in 1928 after the completion of Melrose Hall. In the mid-1940s, structural problems threatened the landmark with demolition. President Harry Dillin championed its preservation. In 1946, crews renovated the building by installing steel beams to strengthen the floors, updating interiors for safety, and adapting spaces for use by future generations.

A protected tree grove around Pioneer Hall features native Oregon species, most notably many large Oregon white oak trees that create a peaceful space for students and visitors to stroll and study. Over the years, Pioneer Hall has provided administration and faculty offices, classrooms, a residence hall, a theater, printing press, dining hall, music studio and radio station. Located at the center of the historic campus, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1978, it remains the oldest and most prominent building at Linfield University.



McMinnville Public Library

Built 1913 • 225 NW Adams Street

In 1910, members of the Ladies Civic Improvement Club operated McMinnville's public library on the second floor of the Wright Building at Third and Davis streets. These dedicated women kept books circulating for the growing community despite tight quarters and limited funds. The following year, the City Council passed an ordinance that created a library board and provided tax support for a permanent building. In 1912, the board chose the southeast corner of City Park as the site and secured a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie.

Portland architect Ernst Kroner designed the structure, and the firm Wineland & Co. won the construction bid of \$8,880. The Oregon Fire Relief Association (later Oregon Mutual Insurance) insured the new building for \$4,000. Completed in March 1913, the rectangular block, brick structure faces north toward the park beneath a low-pitched hipped roof. A stained-glass lunette above the original entry displays a design of fir trees, a lamp and the words, "Carnegie Library 1912". The year, 1912, refers to the Carnegie grant date.

McMinnville's Carnegie Library stands as one of 24 built in Oregon, and one of roughly 1,280 surviving Carnegie libraries in the United States. In 1982, workers added a 14,800-square-foot expansion and breezeway that greatly increased space while preserving the historic core. Longtime librarian Rose Marie Caughran, known affectionately as the Tree Lady, served more than 30 years and created a native plant garden on the east side in 1983. Mature trees still shade the grounds, including Douglas firs, a coast redwood, and the towering giant sequoia known as Big Mac, the city's Christmas Tree.



Samuel Cozine House

Home of The McMinnville Downtown Association

Built 1892 • 105 NE 3rd St.

Samuel and Mahala Cozine built this Queen Anne style Victorian structure as their home in 1892. The house features a cruciform plan with a cross-gabled roof and has a remarkable variety of beautifully textured and colored siding. The ornate design was rare for a rural, Queen Anne home in Oregon at the time of its construction. The windows, some of which are ringed with stained glass, compliment these design features.

The Cozines came to McMinnville after arriving in Oregon with the 1843 wagon train and claimed land south of Cozine Creek. Samuel operated a blacksmith shop on his property, and later, in 1881, donated 20 acres of his land claim to McMinnville College (now Linfield University). The educational institution completed construction of Pioneer Hall in 1883, near the site of Cozine's blacksmith shop. Purchasing the 3rd Street property in 1882 for \$800, the Cozines later constructed their new home, residing there until Samuel's death in 1897 and Mahala's passing in 1908.

Serving as an apartment house by the 1940s, the structure fell into disrepair in subsequent years and by the late 1980s needed major renovations. First Federal Savings & Loan had acquired the home and property and, in 1988, gifted the title to the City of McMinnville. Led by Friends of the Cozine House founder, Marilyn Worrix, restoration plans brought grants, fundraising and community donations totaling \$150,000 to the project. The McMinnville Downtown Association (MDA) took occupancy in 1991, and the restoration project, which took place in 1992-1993, saw completion the year of the home's centennial anniversary. MDA continues its work to promote and enhance McMinnville's historic downtown as the economic, social and cultural heart of the community. The Cozine House is a great example of community preservation efforts and repurposing of pioneer-era architecture.



Schilling Building / Boss Saloon

Built Prior 1894 • 238 NE 3rd St.

Pioneers erected the Schilling Building prior to 1884 as one of the earliest brick structures on Third Street. It appeared on the city's first Sanborn map that year as a saloon. In the 1880s it housed the lively Boss Saloon, and the building continued to host various saloons until around 1911. Farmers, merchants, and laborers gathered there to swap stories and quench their thirst after long days of work. Saloons served as important social hubs in the growing settlement of McMinnville.

In 1905, John Schilling purchased the property and covered the original exposed brick façade with stucco. He added a raised ornamented parapet and a distinctive tin pediment inscribed "Schilling 1905" that still crowns the building today. McMinnville voters approved dry measures in 1909, bringing the prohibition of alcohol sales to the city. With the saloon era ended by 1911, a grocery store operated out of the ground floor briefly before Schilling opened a variety store. The space became the first home of Rutherford's Variety Store, which added aluminum-framed storefront windows and a painted metal marquee to the building in the mid-1920s. Families and shoppers flocked there for affordable treasures – candy, toys, fabric, and household goods priced at 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, and \$1.

The building later housed other retailers, including Sears Roebuck during the 1950s and 1960s. After purchasing the Schilling Building in 2001, Kathy Stoler removed the non-historically sensitive updates, and restored the building to its turn-of-the-century glory. La Rambla, a Spanish tapas restaurant, began serving meals here in 2002, and the building also houses a wonderful loft apartment on the second floor, which serves as a vacation rental.



McMenamins / Hotel Oregon

Established 1905 • 310 NE Evans St.

Local developers Frank Fenton and Walter Link financed the construction of Hotel Oregon for \$15,000. Completed in 1905 in the popular Richardsonian Romanesque style, the rectangular building rises with native stone and brick. Although originally planned as four stories, the initial structure stood only two stories tall. Thomas A. White opened it as the Elberton Hotel that same year. Guests enjoyed 26 comfortable rooms priced at 75 cents and \$1.00 per day, a formal dining room, barbershop, cigar store, and ladies' parlor. The hotel quickly became McMinnville's most elegant destination.

In 1910, the owners added the third and fourth floors in anticipation of Southern Pacific's Red Electric rail line. In the early 1920s the Elberton Grill, on the ground floor's south side, served fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables from the family farm. Students and professors from McMinnville College (now Linfield University) frequently gathered here for what many called "the best of eats."

A later owner renamed the building Hotel Oregon, added a prominent neon sign featuring the new name, and installed one of Yamhill County's first Otis passenger elevators. In 1945, Arnold "Nic" Nicolai, purchased Hotel Oregon and built a four-room apartment for his family in the southwest corner of the fourth floor. The Nicolais operated the Paragon Room lounge on the ground floor's northeast corner, famous for its Naugahyde and neon décor, juicy steaks, onion rings, and live performances by Heck Harper's western band.

The McMenamin brothers purchased and restored the hotel in 1998, finishing the fourth floor. Reopening in 1999 as McMenamins Hotel Oregon, the building featured 36 eclectic guest rooms, the Paragon Lounge in its original location, a scenic rooftop bar and restaurant, and a lively Cellar Bar in the basement. Hotel Oregon remains Yamhill County's largest historic hotel and a vibrant centerpiece of downtown life.



United / First Presbyterian Church

Built 1897 • 390 NE 2nd St.

A survivor of the famed Donner-Reed party of 1846, Reverend Josephus Adamson Cornwall established the Yamhill Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in July 1851, and served as its pastor. Early members worshiped in a barn on Jesse C. Henderson's farm northwest of McMinnville before the congregation settled at the present-day corner of 2nd and Davis streets. After fires destroyed the first two structures, the resilient members built a fire-resistant brick building and completed it in 1897.

Portland architect John V. Bennes designed a major update that began in 1908. Workers rotated the structure 90 degrees, excavated a basement, added a new sanctuary, installed beautiful stained-glass windows, and constructed a small bell tower. They laid the cornerstone in September 1909. Traditional First Presbyterian architecture of this era favored modest, practical designs that reflected Protestant values—simple brick forms, restrained detailing, and functional spaces that welcomed the community without ostentation.

In 1951, Pastor Dr. Charles Barnes marked the congregation's 100-year milestone with a special sermon titled "Heritage and Destiny." In 1968 the church added an education and fellowship hall with a stucco and brick exterior and an attractively landscaped courtyard that includes a sculptured metal waterfall. Cement covers the original brick foundation, and a modern metal roof tops the modest exterior favored by early Protestant churches. Today the Presbyterian Church remains a vibrant historic landmark that continues to support its congregation's long tradition of service to local programs for children and families.



McMinnville / Southern Pacific Train Depot

Built 1912 • 741 NE 3rd St.

In July 1879, the Western Oregon Railroad brought McMinnville its first rail connection — a narrow-gauge line from Portland. Residents watched smoke-belching 4-6-2 Pacific engines approach from miles away and listened as the steam whistle echoed through the valley. The railway boosted commerce and spurred growth. The original two-story wooden depot, built in 1880, served both freight and passengers and even included a hotel on its upper floor. Over time, the line passed from the Western Oregon Railroad to the Oregon & California Railroad and finally to Southern Pacific (SP). In 1912, SP launched an ambitious project to electrify parts of its network for faster passenger, mail, and light freight service. The company acquired and upgraded lines from the Portland, Eugene & Eastern Railway, creating the distinctive “Red Electric” interurban system. Bright red, all-steel Pullman cars glided quietly along the tracks with a smooth whir and the rhythmic click of wheels. Engineers sounded a melodic air whistle that residents described as a friendly “toot-toot.”

Workers completed the new Craftsman-style depot in 1913. This rectangular one-story brick building features a hipped roof, wood detailing, multi-paned windows, and a deep canopy that sheltered passengers on the cement platform. From January 1914 until October 1929, the depot served the popular Red Electric, which ran the 109-mile “Yamhill Loop” through 16 communities between Portland and Corvallis. At its peak in 1920, five trains passed through McMinnville each way daily, carrying families, students, and business travelers.

Rising automobile use eventually doomed passenger service by train; however, SP continued operating freight service from the 1880s train station through the 1940s. Switching to diesel-powered engines in 1953, it consolidated operations into the newer depot building and demolished the original station in 1964. The 1913 building survives as a key historic landmark and continues to support freight operations today.



Old City Powerplant

Established 1924 • 455 NE Irvine St.

McMinnville's first power plant stood on the banks of the South Yamhill River and generated electricity with a wood-fired steam boiler. On December 11, 1889, at dusk, electric lights brightened downtown for the first time, thrilling residents and merchants. In early 1910, the utility opened a second plant, located on Baker Creek, which used a waterwheel for hydroelectric power and a wood-fired boiler as backup during low water levels.

In 1924, McMinnville Water and Light built its third and final power plant at the corner of 1st and I streets (later 5th and Irvine). The rectangular brick building, known today as the Old City Power Plant, features a flat roof, plain common-bond brickwork, and windows on all sides. Power generation began on July 5, 1924 with two 600-HP diesel engines. To meet growing demand, workers installed a third 600-HP diesel engine in 1926 and a fourth in 1930. In 1937, the utility added a massive 1800 BHP Busch-Sulzer engine and a Marley Cooling Tower. They constructed a south-end addition to house the new equipment, completing it in 1938.

The southeast corner boasts three distinctive one-and-a-half-story arched brick windows with fanlights above double-hung doors. Three equally placed wood doors with entablature above them line the north side. When the expanded plant opened, it ranked among the largest diesel power plants in the United States and dramatically increased output while cutting fuel costs.

The city dedicated the facility on October 22, 1938. It supplied primary power until 1948, when McMinnville Water and Light began purchasing electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration. The plant then served as standby power for peak loads and emergencies until operations fully ceased in 1978. After a major interior renovation in the early 2000s, the historic building became a popular event venue that continues to welcome visitors today.



First Baptist Church

Established 1926 • 125 SE Cows St.

A wooden L-shaped building once stood on the southeast corner of Cows Street, serving as McMinnville's original secondary school and the first home of the college that became Linfield University. Built in 1857 for \$3,600, the structure also hosted the town's earliest Baptist activities. Pioneers Samuel and Mahala Cozine, along with Sebastian and Sarah Adams, stood among the first members. Informal Sunday school and prayer meetings began here around 1858–1859. The congregation formally organized as the First Baptist Church on May 11, 1867, and continued worshipping in the school building until the college moved to its new campus in 1883.

Shortly thereafter, the congregation replaced the old school with a simple 34-by-54-foot wood-frame church topped by a 65-foot tower. They painted the building yellow and brown and, on December 2, 1883, Reverend W. J. Crawford oversaw its dedication. In 1898, under Reverend R. W. King, the congregation built a new Queen Anne-style wood church with a steeple on the same site for \$5,800.

In 1926, under Reverend W. E. Henry, the church issued \$500 gold bonds to members and the wider community at six percent interest. The successful campaign raised \$80,000 to construct the present Spanish Colonial Revival building. This architectural style, very popular in California and the South, remains rare in Oregon, making First Baptist a distinctive landmark among the surrounding Victorian, Queen Anne, and Italianate structures. The building features elegant carvings on arches, columns, portals, and door surrounds, along with a bell tower that displays iron balconets and round-arched windows with iron grills. The congregation added an education wing with glass double doors in 1964. The church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2017 and continues to serve the community actively, as it has for more than 150 years.



Wright Building

Built 1893 • 410 NE 3rd St.

Constructed in 1893 for \$12,500, the Wright Building is a Queen Anne-style commercial structure that features scallops, sun patterns, and intricate brickwork in the frieze. A central pediment reads E. Wright, 1893, honoring its original owner and builder. A fancy brickwork belt course runs above and below the second story windows. The ground floor has a recessed central entrance and an open entrance to the second floor located at the east end of the building. A two-story addition to the west elevation at the south end, which likely took place somewhere between 1912 and 1928, lacks the metal cornice but contains second story windows identical to the original windows.

A steam generation plant, known as the 'Central Heating Plant', operated out of the basement of the Wright Building. The plant offered heat service for sale to an approximate 11-block area of McMinnville's downtown merchants until the early 1960s. The Wright Building was also home to McMinnville's second largest full-service department store, Millers, for nearly 70 years from 1903 through the 1960s. The Ladies Civic Improvement Club and the City of McMinnville operated a public library on the second floor in the northwest corner of the Wright Building from 1910-1912, when it moved into the new Carnegie Library building at the southeast corner of City Park.

The Wright Building's owner and builder was Elsie Wright, who came to Oregon from Illinois in 1871. Wright had a harness business and began constructing commercial buildings in McMinnville in 1892. As a member of the McMinnville Building and Improvement Company, Wright invested in the Union Block property in 1890. A notable citizen, he served on the Water Committee, a precursor to McMinnville Water and Light, in 1889, the McMinnville City Council in the 1890s and as a Water and Light Commissioner from 1908-1912.



McMinnville City Hall

Established Circa 1930 • 230 NE 2nd St.

McMinnville City Hall occupies a site that once held the home of local shoe merchant Arnold Dielschneider. Built prior to 1900 as a square vernacular structure, the Dielschneider house stood on this location until the 1930s. At that time, L. A. Courtemanche relocated the house to 102 SE 1st Street so he could construct a new residence for himself, his wife Lucinda, and their son Louis Courtemanche Jr.

L. A. Courtemanche operated many businesses in McMinnville, including distributorships for Firestone Tires, International Harvester, and McCormick Farm Equipment; a G.E. Store; and a hardware business on Third Street from 1915 until the late 1950s. In 1958, Louis Courtemanche Jr. sold the beautiful home his father built to the First Baptist Church of McMinnville for use as a parsonage. The home housed the church's senior pastor, Reverend Harold B. Bjornson, his wife Miriam, and their family until the City of McMinnville acquired the property.

This historic two-story building has served as McMinnville's beloved City Hall since 1965. It features white beveled horizontal wood siding and a heavy wooden-shingled gable roof. Its varied windows include six-over-six double-hung sash, glass block sections, and bay windows with metal hoods. Square pillars with sidelights support the prominent conical-roofed front entrance. The structure also includes a double-car garage and well-maintained grounds with brick walls and walkways. Huge sliding glass doors at the rear open onto an enclosed patio, while a brick-enclosed side yard on the west side features an iron gate entry. In many ways, City Hall and the neighboring Civic Hall form the heart of the McMinnville community.



McMinnville Bank

Built 1885 • 250 NE 3rd St.

J.C. Braly built the McMinnville National Bank Building in 1885. This narrow, two-story Italianate-style structure spanned six bays along C Street (today's Cows) and presented a slender stucco-covered façade to Third Street. Two upper-story windows faced Third Street, while a distinctive clipped corner held the entrance and a window topped with a pediment inscribed "1885." The second story retains much of its original character, including one-over-one double-hung sash windows, piers scored to simulate stone, continuous segmental arched labels above the windows, and an elaborate cornice with corbelled brickwork and brackets. In 1890, this building became one of the first in McMinnville fitted throughout with indoor water pipes.

The Yamhill County Bank opened here on October 18, 1886. It became the McMinnville National Bank in 1888 and operated from this location until 1905, when it moved to the Jacobson Block. The Oregon Fire Relief Association (OFRA, later Oregon Mutual Insurance) purchased the building and renovated the ground floor adding a matching two-story extension on the Cows Street side that increased the bays from four to six. OFRA occupied the building until 1922, when it moved to new quarters at 4th and Davis streets. In late 1924, after remodeling the ground floor, McMinnville Water & Light established its headquarters here.

Over the decades the building also housed a meat market, physicians' offices, a boot and shoe repair shop, and law offices. In the early 1990s, owner Alex Clemens renovated the long-unused second floor into four unique apartments, which became Third Street Flats around 2013. The Bitter Monk, a popular craft beer taproom, opened on the ground floor in 2014. The McMinnville Bank Building reflects the city's early commercial boom. While the ground floor has seen modernization, the upper floors preserve fine Italianate details typical of late-19th-century commercial architecture.



McMinnville City Park

Established 1908 • 140 NW Park Dr.

In 1906, visionary residents raised \$2,400 to create McMinnville's first public park. The following year, the city sold park bonds and purchased 8.5 acres at the west end of Third Street on land that once belonged to McMinnville's founder William T. Newby. Contractor and landscaper J. A. Gilbertson designed the layout. Early plans called for a grandstand, playground, lake with sprinkling system and water tower for irrigation, pavilion, and tennis courts.

Completed on the park's east side in 1908, the pavilion served as a National Guard armory and early community center. A pond offered a popular swimming hole with a slide and Lady Liberty statue, and a small zoo housed bears, deer, and other animals. Later improvements included a concrete driveway, a gazebo-style bandstand, and public restrooms.

In 1912, banker and McMinnville Water and Light Commissioner Walter S. Link planted a sapling near the new Carnegie Library, which grew into the towering giant sequoia known today as the "Big Mac", Christmas tree. In 1927, park bonds enabled the purchase of the old Star Mill property, including water rights and the millpond. The city drained the pond soon thereafter, expanding the lower park and building tennis courts. In 1928, the city installed the iconic Soper Fountain, commissioned by local farmer Fred T. Soper in memory of his brother George. In 1957, workers moved the fountain to the entry plaza, making way for a new municipal swimming pool.

In 1986, the city replaced the old pool with an Aquatic Center. The Greater Yamhill Watershed Council led a restoration project along Cozine Creek, in 2026, to improve riparian habitat and water quality. For more than a century, City Park has served McMinnville as a community gathering place, offering shady lawns, play areas, swimming, and peaceful spots to read.



Star Mill Way

Established 1882 • In City Park, 140 NW Park Dr.

In the early 1850s, William T. Newby hired 300 Chinese laborers to dig a four-mile ditch that diverted water from Baker Creek. The water powered the gristmill he built near Cozine Creek at the west end of today's Third Street. It flowed into a flume that fed a classic overshot water wheel. The weight of the falling water turned the wheel; the water then emptied into Cozine Creek and flowed onward to the Yamhill River.

Newby obtained two heavy millstones quarried and cut in Oregon City and transported them by boat and ox team to the site. These two millstones formed the heart of the operation: a stationary bed stone and a rotating runner stone. The water wheel connected through gears and belts to rotate the runner stone. As grain moved between the runner stone and the stationary stone, it turned into flour. This reliable hydraulic system allowed local farmers to process grain on-site instead of hauling it to distant mills. Completed in 1853, Newby's gristmill became McMinnville's economic foundation, leading to Sebastian Adams' surveying and Newby creating the plat for the town established in 1856.

The mill later operated as Kinney Mill and then Star Mill after moving slightly westward around 1882. Operators created a millpond for water storage and continued using the flume to power the overshot wheel. Today, two original millstones stand mounted as a landmark at the site of Star Mill on Star Mill Way. The stone footings of Newby's original gristmill sit approximately 200 feet east of the millstones. Across from 345 NW Star Mill Way, near the western edge of City Park, visitors can see the remains of the old flume — a 24-foot-long brick wall with an arched opening. Lined with large black-grey stones, the flume runs downhill about 150 feet, though often covered by blackberry vines.



Malone Cemetery

Circa 1850 • 2741 OR-99W

Members of the 1843 wagon train that also brought the Newby and Cozine families to the McMinnville area, Madison Malone and his wife Virginia settled on land to the north of the community. Virginia died a short time later and, after her burial in an oak grove on his property, Malone dedicated the site as a perpetual cemetery – the first between the North and South Yamhill Rivers. Early burials followed frontier practices: settlers nailed together simple board coffins for interment, with formal funeral services often delayed until a circuit-riding preacher arrived. The cemetery served the local community for many years before larger public grounds developed.

The 5,000-square-foot plot contains as many as 25 graves, including Madison Malone, who died in 1880 and likely his second wife (Margaret Eaton Malone) and several children. The last known burial occurred in 1938 (Virginia Malone). Early markers were mostly wooden or temporary; the elements, time, and occasional vandalism destroyed many. Today, only a few markers remain; the most legible is a white marble headstone with the inscription “Britannia Hallstead, d 1860, age 29” and a clasped hands motif and horseshoe decorations. A historic plaque at the site describes the simple burial customs of the era.

Located at the northeast corner of NE Highway 99W and Grandhaven Street, in front of the Wilco Farm Store, a brick block wall with a gate provided by Ralph and Frank Wortman in 1967 protects the Malone Cemetery. Unannexed by the City of McMinnville, the small cemetery remains under Yamhill County jurisdiction. Surrounded by commercial development, busy highway traffic, stores and a restaurant, it hides in plain sight, virtually unnoticed by daily passersby. It remains a quiet, reflective pioneer landmark, symbolizing the early immigration and settlement of the McMinnville area.



Buchanan Cellers

Established 1888 • 855 NE 5th St.

Flour milling once flourished in McMinnville, and Buchanan Cellers stands as one of the few tangible reminders of the city's agricultural heritage. This five-and-a-half-story heavy-timber-framed building ranks among McMinnville's tallest and oldest industrial structures.

Barnekoff and Allyn constructed the original four-story flouring mill, in 1888, next to the railroad. They equipped it with modern roller milling technology powered by mechanical drives rather than water wheels. This innovation produced finer, more consistent flour at greater volume and lower cost, helping local farmers shift from small-scale stone grinding to a commercial economy. The mill later became Houck's Flouring Mill, famous for its "Pride of the Valley" brand. In the mid-1920s, Charles Buchanan and Alec Cellers took ownership and operated it as Buchanan-Cellers Grain Company. For decades, farmers delivered wagonloads of wheat while workers operated chutes, pulleys, and belts inside the humming mill to turn raw grain into flour that fed local families and supported the growing city of McMinnville.

In 1945, owners expanded the fifth floor and constructed a three-story west side addition with a loading dock. A warehouse expansion to the east followed in 1949, raising it 16 feet using salvaged 20-by-36-inch beams from Tillamook Burn old-growth Douglas-fir, and adding the four-story cribbed bins on the building's north side. Over time, the mill evolved into a family-run feed, pet supply, and garden store known as Valley Feed & Supply. Margaret and Jerry Legard purchased the business, including the historic building and remaining mill equipment and, in 2007, revived the

Buchanan-Cellers name to honor its long-time owners. In 2012, they successfully listed the building in the National Register of Historic Places. Buchanan Cellers anchors the original industrial district with the gateway to the Granary District. Its creaking timber beams and worn wooden floors illustrate the story of McMinnville's last intact flour mill.



Mac Market (for adaptive reuse)

Built 1929 • 1140 NE Alpine Ave.

Located at the edge of McMinnville's evolving Granary District, this sturdy 10,000-square-foot, brick-and-timber structure first rose in 1929 as a cherry-packing cannery. Each summer, wagons and early trucks delivered red and golden, cherries, harvested from local family orchards. Inside, seasonal workers (mostly women and teens) fed the fruit onto clattering belt conveyors that carried it past sorting stations. Mechanical machinery punched pits from the cherries, while the sticky-sweet scent of juice filled the air. Skilled hands worked quickly, filling crates with canned product destined for markets across the region.

Also in 1929, bootmaker J.W. Huberd incorporated Huberd Shoe Grease in McMinnville. He perfected a rugged beeswax-and-pine-tar formula, in 1921, to keep lumberjacks' boots dry and supple in the wet Pacific Northwest woods. By the 1950s, production moved into this warehouse. Employees stirred batches of the formula in large vats and filled signature tins with the promise to keep feet "dry in the woods." A warm, aroma of pine tar lingered as crates shipped to loggers, farmers, and outdoorsmen across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. After Huberd sold the business, the old warehouse served as a sorting facility for recycling (1970s) before it became vacant.

Years later, Diana Riggs and her husband Todd Severson carefully and thoughtfully renovated the structure. In October 2019, they opened Mac Market as a warm, eclectic community hub that features restaurants, bakeries, local vendors and office spaces. The Lafayette Avenue side of the building still features the original Huberd Shoe Grease sign. Inside, exposed beams and soaring high ceilings frame laughter, the sizzle of pizza ovens, and the rich aroma of fresh coffee and baked goods. Mac Market honors every layer of its past and serves as a great example of adaptive reuse of a historic warehouse in McMinnville.



Knights of Pythias Building

Built 1886 • 334 NE 3rd St.

Stand on the NE Third Street sidewalk in front of the Knights of Pythias Building in downtown McMinnville and look up at one of the city's oldest surviving structures. Constructed in 1886 during the town's energetic early growth, this square brick building features a five-bayed façade with graceful Italianate touches. One-over-one double-hung sash windows on the second-floor rise in segmental arches beneath continuous labels. Stucco now covers much of the front, yet original brick remains exposed on the west elevation. Modern storefronts line the ground floor, blending seamlessly with neighboring buildings.

In its earliest years, shoppers stepped inside to the rich scent of coffee beans and spices, the creak of wooden floors underfoot, and the friendly banter of clerks helping families stock their pantries or hunt for practical treasures. In an era when every nickel counted, locals relied on the store's dependable shelves and secondhand offerings.

In October 1894, the Knights of Pythias formed Diana Lodge No. 63 in McMinnville. They gathered in the spirit of Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence, recording their earliest meetings in leather-bound minutes books, which survive today. The lodge made the upper floor of this building its permanent home around 1912. Diana Lodge No. 63 still occupies the upstairs hall today, continuing more than 130 years of fraternal tradition. Over the decades the ground floor has featured a colorful parade of local businesses, including a meat market, physicians' offices, a boot repair shop, the beloved Third Street Books, and the McMinnville Antiques Mall, which once again provides shoppers with secondhand offerings like those sold in this very space during the building's early years. As you pause before its brick façade, the Knights of Pythias Building quietly reminds passersby of the generations who built McMinnville.



Mack Theater / Cook's Hotel

Established 1886 • 510 NE 3rd St.

Erected in 1886 by L. H. Cook, this stuccoed three-story Italianate structure features bricks fired locally at Saylor's brickyard and windows, sashes, doors, and lumber supplied by the Jones and Company Sash and Door Factory, then located at Third and Davis streets. Local tinsmith O. O. Hodson, working from his shop at Third and Cowls streets, created the decorative pressed-metal-bracketed cornice and lintels over the doors and windows and installed the plumbing. The hotel offered twenty-seven guest rooms, a billiard hall, a large dining room where meals cost twenty-five to fifty cents, a bridal chamber, and a stylish second-floor parlor illuminated by a beautiful chandelier.

The building became the Westside Hotel in 1890 and the Hotel Yamhill in 1892. Joe Dubois and his father Nathaniel took over operations in 1896, purchasing the hotel in 1899. A 1909 expansion transformed the original square building into a rectangle, adding four bays along Evans Street and twelve more rooms. Joe proved a dynamic businessman, while Nathaniel entertained guests with his constant companions: Pie, a talkative white cockatoo, and Whizzer, a massive St. Bernard. Pie often startled guests by squawking "Fire, fire, run boys run!" – mimicking the fire fighters who once hauled their water cart from the station across Evans Street. Whizzer barked enthusiastically to emphasize Pie's calls, while ambling through the lobby, delighting children and charming adults.

In 1941 the Mattechek brothers carved a sleek 500-seat movie theater into the northwest corner, blending Moderne styling with the older hotel. The Mack Theater quickly became a beloved downtown gathering place where families enjoyed the latest films amid the buttery scent of popcorn.

Standing near the theater and hotel today, one can almost hear Pie's mischievous warnings, Whizzer's deep barks, and the chatter of moviegoers. This landmark honors generations of hospitality, enterprise, and community joy.



Linfield Observatory

Built 1894 • 45 SE Brumback St.

In 1894, a generous bequest from the estate of former McMinnville College Trustee A.W. Kinney funded the construction of an observatory along with a six-inch refracting telescope. Made by Queen & Co. of Philadelphia in 1888, at the time, the instrument ranked among the finest north of California's Lick Observatory and served as one of the earliest professional-grade telescopes in the Pacific Northwest. The total cost: \$1,500 for the two-story wooden-frame building and \$1,000 for the telescope.

When first built, the observatory stood alone in an open field southeast of Pioneer Hall. Over the decades, as the college grew and became Linfield, dormitories, a gymnasium, and a music conservatory gradually surrounded it. A spreading maple tree nearly blocked views of the stars. The college faculty and its students cherished the little building – the second-oldest structure on campus.

In 1963, when trustees planned a new science building and set the observatory on a retrogressive course toward demolition, students rose up and reversed its fate. Work crews disassembled the structure, stored the telescope and dome, and jacked up the building onto logs. Students rolled it south of Dillon Hall (today's Withnell Commons) using a relay of short logs. Later, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Nicoll, both college alumni, funded bricks to clad the exterior, while Professor Win Dolan expertly remounted the telescope with perfect alignment. In 1964, the telescope's value was \$10,000.

The observatory remained operational until 2001. Today, its original and a later telescope reside in the Carlton Observatory collection at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum's Titan Pavilion. The modest building remains at Linfield University and serves the athletic department for small classes and meetings. This cherished landmark reminds us of the curiosity, preservation efforts, and community spirit that have defined Linfield and McMinnville for generations.



Grissen House

Established 1889 • 1004 NE 5th St.

Standing at the corner of NE 5th and Johnson streets, the distinctive Grissen House gracefully bookends the eastern edge of downtown McMinnville. Charles Grissen, a prominent local businessman, mayor, city councilman, and civic leader, built this elegant two-story Queen Anne home in 1889. Grissen served on the city council and on the Water Committee that helped establish McMinnville Water and Light the same year.

Grissen also became a founding member and first secretary of the Oregon Fire Relief Association (OFRA) in 1894. Created as a mutual fire insurance association, OFRA aimed to protect local farmers and businesses when distant companies charged high premiums. It later evolved into Oregon Mutual Insurance Company. The Grissen House proudly became the very first home insured by the new company - a fitting symbol of the protection and community spirit Grissen championed.

Grissen's home features a hip roof that runs the length of the house and shelters an extended formal porch supported by eight graceful Tuscan columns, complete with a built-in bench seat. Original doors welcome visitors at both entrances. All the landscaping remains original, including a low hedge bordering three sides, a graceful birch, and a sturdy walnut tree that still shade the property today. Inside, the house retains many original treasures: a large multi-paneled sliding parlor door that glides open with a satisfying rumble, bell-shaped chandeliers in the parlor and living room, built-in tongue-and-groove pine cabinets, a China closet in the kitchen, and original porcelain door handles paired with ornate cast-iron hinges.

As you pause before its welcoming facade, imagine Charles Grissen sitting on the porch bench pondering our young city's future. The Grissen House stands as a proud landmark of McMinnville's early growth - a home, a first insured property, and a testament to a vision for a safer, better-connected community.



Frank E Rodgers House

Built 1896 • 206 NE 10th St.

Tall and ornate, the Frank E. Rogers House is one of McMinnville's most beautiful early homes. Rogers and his wife, Nellie, built this richly textured two-story Queen Anne home around 1896. The house displays the style at its most elaborate, with intricate lattice work, graceful balconies, and glowing stained-glass windows.

Frank had two brothers: Lewis and Tom. In 1883, Lewis partnered with local druggist J. W. Todd to form Rogers and Todd Druggists. Todd retired in 1886 and Frank joined his brother, creating Rogers Brothers Druggists. Sometimes shown as Rodgers in official documents, the store's name had transitioned to Rogers Brothers Pharmacy by 1902, when Tom joined the partnership. Advertisements and other records show it as one of McMinnville's earliest drugstores. Serving the community through 1961, it merged with Peery's Drugstore in 1962, and became Peery-Rogers Thrifty Drug.

Frank invested care in both his profession and his family's home. He and Nellie paid \$2,500 to construct the house at the southwest corner of Buckeye and C streets (today's 6th and Cows). Their daughter, Arnola Zonweiss Zon Rogers (later Mead), was born in the house on December 20, 1897. In 1912, the Rogers retained the corner lot but sold the house. Its new owner moved it to its current location at 10th and Baker streets.

The Frank E. Rogers House features a complex roofline, delicate turned posts, and an inviting porch that evokes gracious living at the turn of the 20th century. In recent years, owners meticulously restored the home for use as a bed and breakfast known as The Victorian on 10th. Today, this lovely structure endures as a symbol of McMinnville's pioneer enterprise and beautiful architecture—a home built by a family that helped keep the community healthy for generations through their pharmacy.



Rogers-Mead House

Built 1912 • 535 NE Cows St

Frank E. Rogers and his wife Nellie built this handsome residence in 1912. Designed by architect Everett Nicholas Larry, it sits on the site of their original home, which they sold the same year. The buyer relocated the older structure to Spruce and B streets (now 10th and Baker), allowing the Rogers to retain the valuable corner lot at Buckeye and C streets (now 6th and Cows) and construct this newer residence.

The house features a stucco facade with classic Craftsman details and subtle Tudor Revival influences, including decorative half-timbering at the half-story level and dormers. Its large porch extends partially along the north side. Clean lines, exposed rafters, and thoughtful proportions reflect an early 20th century shift toward simpler, more practical designs.

Frank and his brothers Lewis and Tom ran Rogers Brothers Pharmacy, established in 1883. After his death in 1917, Nellie continued living in the Cows Street residence. Their daughter, Zon, married Pierre DuBois Mead in 1921. The couple owned the home next door at 220 NE 6th Street and switched houses with Nellie around 1930, moving into the larger Cows Street home with their two children. Zon and Pierre later managed the family pharmacy during its final decades, overseeing its 1962 merger with Peery's Drugstore.

As the neighborhood transitioned from residential to a mixed-use edge of the expanding commercial area, the house proved the area could adapt without losing character. Keith and Terese Blanding purchased it from the Meads in 1988 and remodeled it as the Lavender's Blue tea room in the 1990s. This transition began the zoning change for neighborhood areas near the commercial district, demonstrating that residential structures could support small businesses while resisting broader urban renewal pressures. Today, at over a century old, the Rodgers-Mead House stands as a testament to McMinnville's steady growth.



Chinese Laundries

**Dates Unknown • Exact Location Unknown,
near the edge of City Park**

Located near the site of present-day aquatic center, two Chinese Laundries operated adjacent to City Park for several decades in the late 1800s and early 1900s. For many Chinese immigrants, hand-wash laundries provided one of the few accessible paths to economic opportunity. Though forced to operate on the margins of the city, these businesses met an essential community need, and at one time, nearly every town in Yamhill County had a Chinese laundry. Among the most notable local proprietors was Sam Yick, who became a well-known local figure and a central member of McMinnville's Chinese community, which was especially vibrant in the 1880s and 1890s.

The site is known by its inclusion in the early 20th century Sanborn maps. Sanborn maps were the first detailed surveys of American cities so that downtown homes and businesses could procure fire insurance—a vital survival tool for businesses around the turn of the 20th Century.

Several local historians are working to uncover more information about the site and the Chinese residents who worked here.



Shadden House

Established 1859 • 11105 Baker Creek Rd.

One of the earliest homes in McMinnville, the Shadden House dates to 1859 - the same year Oregon achieved statehood - and the first days of non-native settlement in the area.

Thomas Jefferson Shadden arrived in Oregon in 1842 as part of a small overland emigration. He left his wife, Martha Sumner Shadden, and their young children behind to serve as a mounted rifleman under John C. Fremont during the Mexican-American War. He later joined the Gold Rush before returning home in 1850. On his donation land claim along Baker Creek, Shadden built this sturdy two-story residence between 1856 and 1859. The house is a rare early example of Classical Revival style in the Yamhill Valley, with its simple yet symmetrical form, balanced proportions, and subtle classical detailing adapted to pioneer life. Thomas and Martha raised their family here while he contributed to the young community, later serving as one of the first town trustees after McMinnville's incorporation in 1876.

The remarkably well-preserved house sits on the edge of town, past the traffic circle on Baker Creek Road. Its solid form reflects the practical needs of early farming families carving out a life in the Yamhill Valley. The property remained in the Shadden family for nearly eight decades until its sale in 1937. Judge Lester Grenfell and his wife Roberta, prominent McMinnville residents, purchased the property. Their daughter Mary Ann Grenfell married Norwood Draper, and the house eventually became part of Draper Farms, a cherished operation that has provided fresh produce locally for five generations.

The Shadden House endures as a quiet witness to McMinnville's pioneer beginnings - a link between the earliest settlers and the farms and families that still define the valley today.



William Dielschneider House

Built 1900 • 610 NE Cows Street

William Dielschneider built this attractive American Foursquare residence in 1900 on the northeast corner of Buckeye and C streets (now 6th and Cows). The house features a simple yet attractive design with a hipped roof, dormers, and substantial massing that makes it a visual landmark in the neighborhood just north of downtown. Its clean lines and generous proportions reflect the practical elegance favored by successful early 20th-century business families.

Prominent local merchant Arnold Dielschneider arrived in McMinnville with his wife Elizabeth during the 1870s. Arnold established Dielschneider's Boots and Shoes in 1876, which became a well-known and respected enterprise. Arnold and Elizabeth's sons Franz and William were born in McMinnville. Eventually, Franz would operate the shoe store, offering new footwear and expert repairs. After his apprenticeship with William Holl, young William Dielschneider purchased the existing Holl Jewelers in 1892, and renamed it Dielschneider Brothers Jewelry. Both businesses operated out of McMinnville's Campbell Building, on the north side of Third Street between Cows and Davis.

William married Winnifred Lenoir Norwood in 1897 and they raised three daughters in their home on Cows Street: Audrey, Frances and Aileen. All three girls received their education locally, and attended McMinnville College (today's Linfield University).

In 1983 the house appeared as the Maida family home in the TV movie *Quarterback Princess*. In recent decades, the home belonged to Scott and Mary Sue Macy, of the well-known Macy & Son Funeral Directors family (established in 1903). After a fire in 2015, they carefully restored the structure, preserving its historic character and use as a residence. Like the Rogers-Mead House, the William Dielschneider House illustrates McMinnville's growth and related family-run businesses. Built by a merchant family that helped shape the city's commercial life, it links McMinnville's downtown commercial district to the residential neighborhoods beyond.



Hodson House

Built 1895 • 533 NE Davis St.

The arrival of the railroad and success of McMinnville's business district led to expanding residential areas. The Hodson House stands among other early homes built during this rapid neighborhood growth. In 1895, Orlando Orville Hodson, a skilled tinsmith and hardware merchant, constructed his new home in Saylor's Addition at the southwest corner of D and Buckeye streets (now NE Davis and NE 6th).

Emigrating from Indiana, Orville arrived in Oregon in 1878. His father, Henry H. Hodson, arrived in McMinnville in 1879 and purchased an existing hardware business. Orville joined him in 1880 and eventually took over the business as sole owner in 1888 at age 30. Orville built a reputation for crafting decorative cornices and other metal work on many downtown commercial buildings. He produced the pieces in his shop, first housed in a wood-framed structure at the southeast corner of 3rd and C streets (3rd and Cows) and later from a brick structure aptly named the O. O. Hodson Building in the same location. Hodson also served on the McMinnville Library Board that planned the Carnegie Library and on the McMinnville Water and Light Commission.

Home to Hodson, his wife Martha, and their children, this house is a heavily ornamented example of the Queen Anne style with Stick Style influences. The property remained in the Hodson family for many decades after Orville's death in 1935 and later became apartments.

As you pause before its ornamented facade, picture Orville Hodson shaping tin and hardware by day and returning home to his family in this growing residential area with the Rogers and Dielschneider families as neighbors close by. The Hodson House survives as a testament to the skilled craftsmen and merchants who helped build McMinnville's commercial and residential fabric in the late 19th century.



Masonic Building

Established 1914 • 251 NE 3rd St.

The Masons constructed this square three-story building of native Willamina clay brick in 1914 on the southwest corner of 3rd and C streets (now 3rd and Cowls). The cornerstone reads: "Union Lodge No. 43 A. F. & A. M. laid by M. W. Grand Master October 18, 1913." It replaced a brick two-story Masonic building, constructed in 1882, which featured Bishop Clothiers on its ground floor.

David M. Nayberger operated a mercantile store from the spacious ground floor of the new structure until 1930. Pay and Take It occupied the space in the early 1930s, followed by Columbia Grocery from the late 1930s through the early 1950s. Rutherford's Variety Store relocated here from the Schilling Building in the mid-1950s, featuring a lunch counter, fabrics, toys, and other items. Harvest Fresh opened its doors here in 2015, offering natural foods and a popular lunch spot for locals. The second floor features offices, and the Masonic Lodge hall continues to occupy the third floor.

The Masons have long served the community through charity work, fellowship, and support for local causes. In 1876 the Lodge established the Masonic Cemetery, one of McMinnville's early pioneer burial grounds. Over the years the lodge sponsored DeMolay for young men and Rainbow Girls for young women. In 1990, Lafayette Union Lodge No. 3 consolidated with Union Lodge No. 43, changing its recognized name to McMinnville Masonic Lodge Union No. 3 A. F. & A. M.

As you pause before its solid brick facade, imagine the buttery scent of popcorn drifting from the ground floor of Rutherford's or the steady stream of foot traffic here, spanning over a century. The Masonic Building endures as a landmark and testament to McMinnville's fraternal and commercial life, and continues to serve a role at the heart of the historic downtown district.



Henry Schenk House

Built 1902 • 135 NE Irvine St

Rowland's addition, platted in 1865, saw significant development after the Western Oregon Railroad arrived in 1879. The Henry Schenk House stands as a well-kept example of a simple Victorian home in Rowland's Addition. This modest yet comfortable residence reflects the kind of housing built for working and middle-class families during this period.

The house features cross gables on all four sides and several inviting porches. A charming picket fence surrounds a spacious yard with beautiful landscaping typical of generous corner lots in the Victorian era. These elements give the home a great sense of charm and help preserve the look and feel of McMinnville at the turn of the 20th century.

German immigrant Henry Schenk met and married Kate Bertram in Ohio before the couple emigrated to Oregon in 1878. Kate's father, Henry Bertram Sr., also from Germany, followed them in 1883 with his wife Annamaria and four sons, including Henry Bertram Jr. The family settled in Dayton, where the two Henrys Bertram Jr. and Schenk gained a reputation for building lovely Queen Anne-style homes. They collaborated on many projects, including Pioneer Hall at McMinnville College (Linfield) in 1883 and the Henry Bertram Sr. House in Dayton in 1892, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1902 they built the Henry Schenk House at the corner of 5th and I streets (now NE Irvine and 2nd). Minnie Schenk, daughter of Henry and Kate, lived in the home for many years after her parents died.

This restored Victorian home represents the everyday lives and contributions of McMinnville emigrants who helped shape the town during its transition from pioneer settlement to thriving community. It is also a reminder of the simple elegance and neighborhood character that still define many of McMinnville's historic residential streets.



Newby-Cook House

Built 1879 • 1420 NE 5th St.

In 1843, William T. Newby and his wife Sarah emigrated to Oregon from McMinnville, Tennessee. They built a simple cabin and secured 640 acres through the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. The large rectangular land claim – roughly one mile by one mile – encompassed much of the historic downtown and central residential areas of modern McMinnville. In 1856, Newby platted five acres of his land claim and registered it with Yamhill County as McMinnville, Oregon.

Fellow Tennessee pioneer John F. Cook came to Oregon in 1852 and settled as a farmer in Yamhill County. In 1856 he married Esther Prosser and the couple started a family before acquiring a portion of Newby's land at the far eastern edge of early McMinnville in 1877. Cook immediately donated a portion of his new property for McMinnville's first public school. Named Cook School, the original four-room, two story structure, gave way to a larger wood schoolhouse in 1890, and transitioned to a brick building in 1929. Appropriately, it became the McMinnville School District's offices in 2017.

In 1879, Cook constructed this Classical Revival home for his wife and their seven children. Built during the same year the railroad arrived in McMinnville, the house reflects the lifestyle of a successful pioneer farmer. With its high ceilings, wood floors and large windows for natural light, it was a comfortable and practical family residence with a large front porch. A prominent staircase led to the second floor and a balcony that overlooked the surrounding farmland.

The home and surrounding property remained in the Cook family for nearly 100 years, while the farm's acreage gradually became a surrounding neighborhood as McMinnville expanded eastward. The Newby-Cook House represents the tangible link between two Tennessee pioneers and the settlement that grew into the thriving McMinnville community of today.