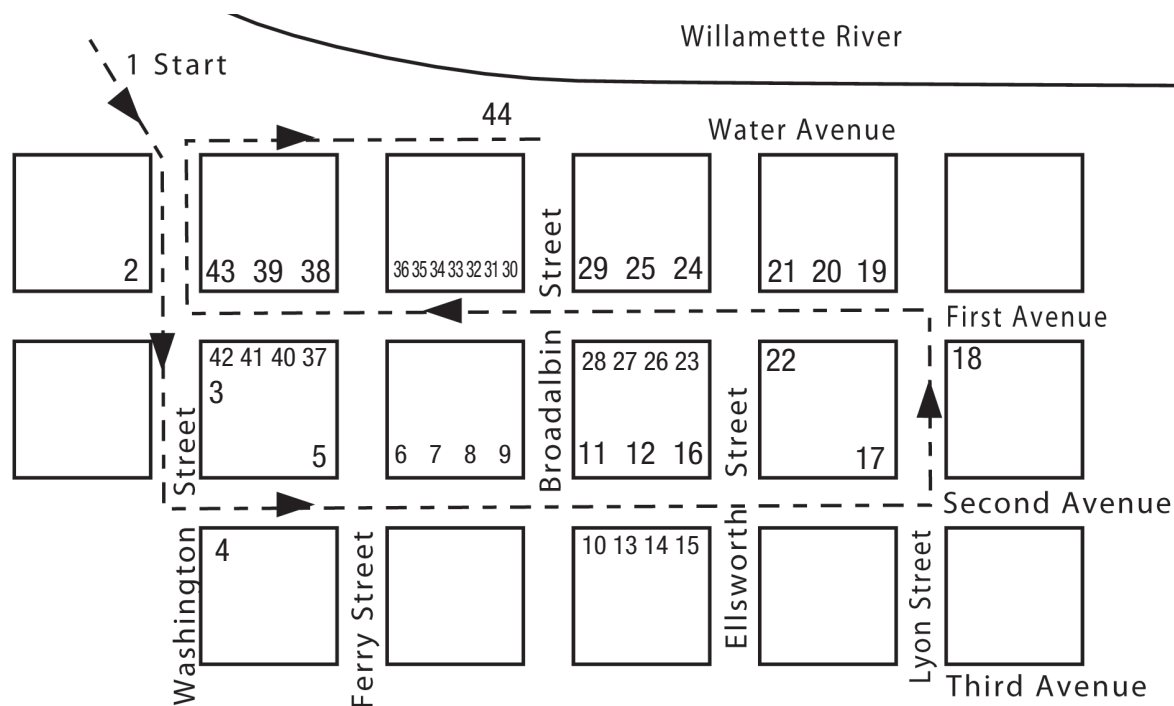


# DOWNTOWN DISTRICT TOUR



Begin the Downtown District Tour at the Montezith Riverfront Park (1) at the foot of Washington and Water. The confluence of the Calapooia and Willamette rivers has played a vital part in the history of Albany. For hundreds of years the local Indians made their summer camp across the Calapooia on Bryant Island. The first gristmill, Magnolia Flour Mill built by the Monteiths, was on the Albany side of the Calapooia. The Cameron Lumber Mill stood off to the east where the Senior Center stands today at 489 Water Ave Steamboats put in at docks along the Willamette and their passengers stayed at the St. Charles Hotel, which stood at the northwest corner of Washington and First. The building that now stands on the site was built in 2017 by the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum. (2). Ferries plied their way back and forth across the Willamette until the Steel Bridge was built in 1892, which increased the traffic and likewise the business to this end of town. The building at 442 First SW (3), on the southeast corner of First and Washington, mostly dates to the 1800s but may contain portions of older buildings. It has housed a variety of businesses, from groceries to auto shops, to the current restaurant. The vintage iron shutters at the rear of the building were a typical feature of the alley-scapes throughout the town. The building at 456 Second (4) c. 1897 was built as a one-story blacksmith shop, which it remained until 1942. Watching the shoeing of horses was a favorite past time for the young boys of Albany. James Dannals, was an early settler in Albany, arriving

in 1875. He built a home and helped raise eight children, among whom was Oscar, a blacksmith who carried on the family business at this site. After plying the gold fields in California and settling in Albany, James Dannals started a furniture factory in 1877 that utilized the space at 401 - 415 Second SW (5). Inside the factory was a turbine powered by a flume from the Eighth Street Canal. In 1929 this space was developed into the Montezith Square. The corner building, housing 331-339 Second SW (6) was originally the site of Albany's first opera house. It was built in about 1890 with \$25 subscriptions from the townspeople. On July 7, 1897, it burned and the ruin was purchased by two local businessmen and rebuilt as two separate buildings. The space between was later filled in to make another store. The buildings have housed various businesses, including "The Democrat," Albany's first newspaper. The two-story building at 327 Second SW (7), c. 1900 housed the printing office of T.L. Alexander and C.K. Churchill. It was later a restaurant. The Queen Anne structure at 321-323 Second SW (8) was built in 1892. The Straney-Moore Livery Stable was in the basement, which had ramp access and grooved cement floors to keep the horses from slipping. Until recently the rings for securing horses were still visible. The ground floor was used for carriage and wagon sales and later as a grocery store, farm supply and storage. The date and original stained glass are visible on the front. Samuel Young built the structure at 124 Broadalbin SW (9) in 1912 as a clothing store. Mr. Young was a leading business man in Albany who had two stores prior to

this building, which at the time was the epitome of modern facilities. The interior stained glass ornamentation is still intact. Mr. Young traveled by train from Albany to Portland and San Francisco to buy the latest fashions. Later his store was bought by one of his employees, a Mr. Hamilton. Hamilton's sister traveled to New York by train to buy and carry on the tradition. Noted local architect Charles Burggraf designed the building. At 240 Second SW (10) is an American Renaissance style structure originally built as the U.S. Post Office in 1914 at a cost of \$59,000. The site was purchased by the city for offices in 1962 when the post office moved to Second and Washington. The northeast corner of Second and Broadalbin (11) was built in 1909 as the First Savings Bank with S.E. Young as president and C. Schmidt as vice-president. Retaining much of its Interior charm is the oldest building on the block at 211 Second SW (12). It is a one-story Italianate with very high ceilings and no basement. Pressed metal in classical patterns accent this c. 1899 structure that was used as a sample room for traveling salesmen to show their merchandise. (13) Originally known as Broders Meat Market 1898, this building was remodeled for use as Snow Peak Dairy c. 1949 and restored for Novak's Hungarian Restaurant in 2015. A unique structure in Albany at 206 Second SW (14) was built in 1913 as Stetter's Grocery. The family lived upstairs where the bay window afforded a good view of Second Avenue. The back stairway still exists. It has housed a variety of businesses. The upstairs boarding house is now a restored apartment. The earliest photographs of the handsome building, built c. 1893, at 202 Second SW (15) show it as a saloon. For many years it was the home of Tripp & Tripp Realty, established in Albany in 1904. The northwest corner of Second and Ellsworth (16) is one of the few Art Moderne buildings in Albany. Built c. 1925, it was modernized in the 1940s to achieve its current appearance. Note the colored glass siding material and the semicircular flared lip at the roof elevation on the corner. The 1929 telephone book indicates this was an Oldsmobile and Viking dealership which had facilities for 25 cars in its garage and salesroom. It has been a restaurant and was the location of Tenbrook's Jewelry for many years. A block up the street at Second and Lyon is the Albany Regional Museum, which occupies 136 Lyon (17) in one of Albany's most interesting buildings. It was constructed in 1887 in the Italianate style for \$12,000. It stood on the corner of First and Broadalbin and was called the S. E. Young Store. It was moved in 1912 by Peter Rittner and a team of horses. The site was part of Albany's old Chinatown, where many Chinese who worked on the railroad and canal lived. The building was later occupied

by a farm supply business operated by J. K. Weatherford and Charles Pfeiffer. Until it was purchased by the Albany Regional Museum it was still owned by the Weatherford family and Mary Bates, a descendant of the Pfeiffers. The architect, Warren H. Williams, came to Oregon in 1872 from San Francisco and helped rebuild Portland after two big fires in 1872 and 1873 had destroyed much of that city's business district. He was one of the first architects to design large commercial buildings and mansions in the High Victorian Italianate style. He was the designer of the famous Craigdarroch Castle in Victoria, B.C., and the Morris Marks House in Portland. The southeast corner of First and Lyon (18) was the site of Fire House No.2. In the early days firecarts were pulled by the firemen and most all the business and professional men were members of the volunteer fire department. The northwest corner of First and Lyon (19) is the site of one of the first log cabins built in Albany in 1847. It is now a memorial park called Burkhart Square, named as a memorial to Police Chief Robert Marshall Burkhart and his son Larry who both died while in public service to the City of Albany. The theatre at 111 First (20) was originally built for a restaurant and billiard hall, c. 1898, but is more commonly remembered as the Rialto Theater. Note the fleur-de-lis pattern in the upper front facade. (21) Charles Burggraf's last building in Albany c.1919 was the first poured concrete building in the State of Oregon. The corner at 140 First SW (22) initially was the location of Louis Veireck's barbershop. He advertised "six shaves for a dollar, including a clean towel with every shave." His barbershop featured individual shaving mugs with the customers' names on them and 10 or 12 baths. There was also a little old house on this site, and a shoe cobbler shop run by a bachelor who played the fiddle. The present building known as the Bikman Block was constructed for Woolworth's c. 1925. Notice the penthouse apartment at the top of the building. The owner's mother & father lived atop for many years! The building at 202-204 First (23) was the Revere House; Albany's finest hotel. It was built in 1877 by Charles Pfeiffer and was originally three stories high. The wood frame of the original structure still exists under the stucco of the current building. The hotel had trolleys that met potential customers at the train depot. The structure at 201-203 First (24) was built in 1908 as the Albany State Bank. William Bain was the president and P. D. Gilbert was the vice president. The Italianate commercial building at 209-211 First (25) was built in 1889. Note the second floor windows with round arch heads and keystones. It was built for a saloon but has housed an insurance office and a millinery shop, with offices on the second floor. The building at 208-210 First (26) is an impressive Queen Anne design. Note the cast iron pilaster at the east corner and the ornate decorative work at the second floor. The Conn and Huston Grocery Store and Western Union Telegraph

shared the building. The Flinn Block at 222 First (27) is one of the most notable French Second Empire commercial buildings in the state. Note the cast iron work manufactured by "Cherry & Parks" in Albany. It was built as the First National Bank in 1887 for Judge L. Flinn. The first president was George Chamberlain, later governor of Oregon, and U.S. Senator. It is also remembered as the L. E. Blain Clothing Company, which moved into the east half of the building in 1892 and did business until 1976. Blain's was a popular downtown gathering spot for the gentlemen of the town. Mr. Blain kept chairs in the front of the store for his daily visitors. A daily morning ritual was to sweep the sidewalk and exchange gossip and news with the other business people on the street. At the time of its closure in 1976 Blain's was the oldest continuously operating clothing store West of the Mississippi. The structure at 236-244 First SW (28) was built as the J. C. Cusick and Co. Bank. It was designed in the Queen Anne style with a tower. Later, a drug store owned by Fred Dawson moved into 238. The theater at 231-239 First (29) was built c. 1914 as the T. G. Bligh Theater and later became the Globe Theater. A cigar factory was in the storefront at the southwest corner. The building, designed by Charles Burggraf, was remodeled in the 1930s, a stucco finish was added and the original recessed arched entry was enclosed. In 1998 the building was purchased and reconstructed with attention to historic integrity. The project was the recipient of a state award and the building has once again become one of the treasures of Albany's Downtown District. The c.1880 building at 301-305 First (30) was one of the earliest brick commercial buildings in town. In 1895 it housed a hardware store and in 1900 a clothing store. In 1908 the Empire Theater occupied half of the structure. A livery stable was for many years located behind these buildings. People came from the surrounding towns with children and lunches to spend the day shopping while they left their horses and buggies to be cared for. 309 First (31) was a general merchandise store and later the Western Union Office from 1925-1950. Note the cast iron pilasters and the segmental arch, windows with keystone on the second floor. The J.C. Penney building at 317 First (32) was built c. 1915 to replace the Foster Block, which burned in 1914. It was designed by Charles Burggraf. The building at 325 First (33) was a jewelry store in 1890 and by 1895 it housed an agricultural equipment and bicycle store. The building at 327 First (34) was built about 1888 as the Linn County Bank, which failed during the panic of 1893. It was later used for the Post Office then the stationers and office supply of Holt Duedall and Bob Potts. The 1875 building at 333 First (35) is one of two original wood frame commercial buildings left standing in the downtown area. From 1905 to 1980 it was a photography studio - C.A. Harnish 1905, D.C. Burkhart 1909-15, C.E. Clifford 1916-42, and

Frank Fisher 1942-1980. At 343 First (36) is an 1873 building, which originally housed a jewelry store and later a restaurant run by M.J. Monteith. It eventually became Murphy's Feed and Seed, which was taken over by the Mullens, whose name still exists on the west side of the brick structure. The building across the street at 406 First (37) was designed in 1912 as the St. Francis Hotel by Charles Burggraf. In addition to supplying accommodations for visitors, the St. Francis was a social center for locals. Dinner in the dining room at the corner of First and Ferry was a Sunday ritual for many Albany residents. Many of the structure's original features exist today. Connected to the St. Francis is the E.H. Rhodes Block, built in 1907. Back on the north side of the street at 401-405 First (38) is the old Parish Brick Block, built in 1876. Fire was such a serious hazard in the early days that brick buildings were a great asset in attracting commercial tenants. Only one of the building's original seven ground floor arches remains. Stewart and Sox sold agricultural equipment and buggies in this store in 1895. The structure at 415-423 First (39) was built c. 1866 and is one of the oldest surviving brick commercial buildings in Albany. It was constructed near the end of the Civil War for Kohn and Co. and housed a photographers office upstairs and a barbershop, insurance office and funeral parlor in the main floor. Take note of the 409 First Ave. building. The owner received an award for the removal of the 1970's Aluminum Facade. Arched windows are still intact under the remaining section. Back across the street at 420-422 First (40) was built about 1915 and was the newspaper office and printing plant of the Albany "Evening Herald" until about 1925. The building at 434 First (41) was the "Wonderland" and later "Dreamland" theater. Shows cost children 5¢ in 1908. The building at 436 First (42) was built as early as 1866 as part of the Monteith Fireproof Block and is one of the oldest business buildings in Albany. It was constructed by Walter Monteith and the Beach Brothers and has housed various businesses, including a Japanese store and a body and fender shop. The Masonic Temple at 421-431 First (43) was built about 1890 and remodeled in 1915 by Charles Burggraf. It originally had a clock tower. The upstairs is the lodge hall and the ground floor originally housed Fortmiller Furniture and Mortuary. The last stop on the tour is the old Avery Mill at 213 Water Ave (44) the oldest surviving building along the waterfront. Constructed 1866 by Raphael Cheadle as a warehouse, it was enlarged in 1877 and machinery was installed to turn it into Albany's third flour mill. One small room was used as a ticket office for the sternwheelers that traveled the Willamette River between Eugene and Portland. After the railroad arrived in Albany in 1871, the steamboat ticket office was also used for passengers wishing to travel by rail to Yaquina Bay and Newport.