

HISTORIC HOMES
TRAIL GUIDE



WallaWalla
HERITAGE



Reviewed by the Historic Resources
Coordination Committee



P Parking

HISTORIC HOMES WALK

This 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 1**. Head south on Palouse St., past an antique store on your left in a shop at **41 S. Palouse 2** built in 1905. The 1931 New England style **First Congregational Church 3** is on your left and on your right is the sandstone **Central Christian Church 4** built in 1906. Cross Alder St. to the **1905 Carnegie Art Center* 5**, once Walla Walla’s Public Library built with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. 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 6**, now 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 7** which was built by Dr. C. N. Suttner, 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 8**

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 9** are interesting on the 1909 house on your right. Two brick homes on the left side of the street are **361 S. Palouse 10** built in 1918 for the George Struthers family and **375 S. Palouse 11** 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 the oldest jewelry stores in Washington which was on Main St. where Washington Federal is currently located. They also co-designed 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 12**. 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* 13** has a carriage house in the back. It was built by John Boyer, a pioneer banker in this area, who came from San Francisco where this style was common. Looking diagonally across the street at **392 Catherine 14** 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 15** on the corner. The Gothic Carpenter style 1903 home at **205 Whitman 16** 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 17** was built in 1902. Turn south on Palouse toward the Victorian Queen Anne style house at **529 S. Palouse 18** built by the Dement family in 1885. This is one of the oldest buildings in Walla Walla. On your right at **610 S. Palouse 19** 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 20** is a Craftsman style house that was built in 1908. **808 S. Palouse 21** is a very large Craftsman style house built in 1910. Miss Emma Seil’s house at **824 S. Palouse 22** 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 23** 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 24** 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 home at **125 Newell* 25** built in 1904 with large porch areas. Eighty wagon-loads 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 26**. At the intersection of Birch and Catherine is **221 Birch Street, The Ben Grote House 27**. A Neoclassic style mansion built in 1916. 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 at the entrance to the Walla Walla Public Library.

Return to Palouse and cross Alder to **Volunteer Park 28**. 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:
Andres, Penny WALLA WALLA/Her Historic Homes, Volumes I (1991), II(1993), and III(1998)

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

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