

UP BOYER AND
TO PIONEER PARK
TRAIL GUIDE



WallaWalla
HERITAGE



Reviewed by the Historic Resources
Coordination Committee



UP BOYER AND TO PIONEER PARK WALK

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, Sharpstein School, the 1855 Treaty Council site and back to Main Street.

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 **1**. The Bookstore and Café are worth a visit. On your left, across Boyer is Cordiner Hall **2** a 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 **3** 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 **4** 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 **5**. Enter the library and notice the Allen 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. Squire Broel 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 **6**.

Come back to Boyer. On your right is the 1926 Prentiss Hall **7** 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 **8** 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 Maxey Hall **9** 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 **10**.

Providing a change age-wise from Whitman, is the 1925 Washington State Odd Fellows Home **11**, with its 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 Brookside Drive. 100 Brookside Drive **12** is an 1886 Queen Anne style home built by H. P. Isaacs, an early settler who thought Walla Walla would be a good wheat growing area, established flour mills 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 **13** 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 **14**, 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 **15**. 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 Sasayama 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 **16**. 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 Street for three blocks to Howard St. Here you will find the recently renovated Sharpstein School **17**, 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 design business. 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 Sharpstein School.

Turn right on Grove St. and follow it two blocks to Crescent 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 **19**.

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 Blalock. On the left is the 1903 Bly home at 244 Marcus.

Cross the footbridge over Mill Creek noting flood control structures and continue up Marcus to Boyer Ave. Whitman College's Bratton 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*

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Affiliated with the Walla Walla Valley
Chamber of Commerce