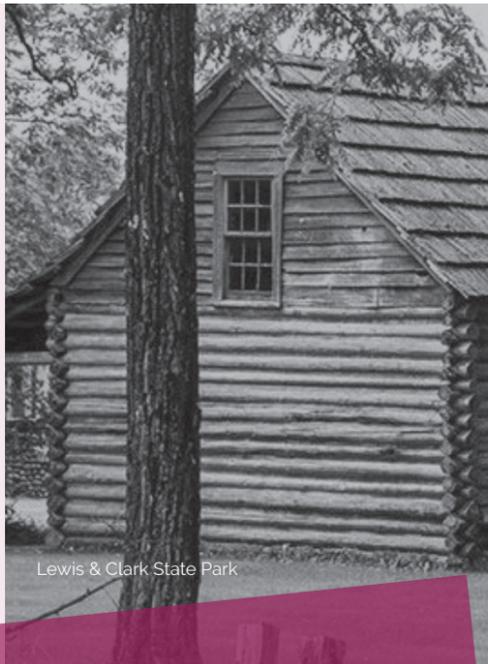


Area History

15,000 Years Ago...

Multiple floods of glacial Lake Missoula shape the geography of this region



Lewis & Clark State Park

1800s

■ **1805-1806:** Lewis & Clark Expedition first documents interactions with local Cayuse, Palouse, Walla Walla and Wanapum peoples

For more than 10,000 Years...

The Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes lived in the Columbia River region, moving in a large circle from the lowlands along the Columbia River to the highlands in the Blue Mountains to fish, hunt and gather food throughout the year.

■ **1818:** North West Company establishes the area's first fur trading post, Fort Nez Perce

■ **1821:** Fort Nez Perce becomes Fort Walla Walla under the Hudson's Bay Company

■ **1836:** Protestant missionaries Marcus and Narcissa Whitman arrive and establish the first European-American settlement in the Walla Walla Valley



Whitman Mission

■ **1853:** Congress creates the Washington Territory

■ **1855:** Treaty negotiated with the Cayuse, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Yakama peoples

■ **1858:** Permanent military Fort Walla Walla opens

■ **1859:** Washington Territorial Legislature grants charter to Whitman Seminary (which becomes Whitman College in 1883)

Sunset wheat
U-B photo by Greg Lehman

1860s: Wheat cultivation begins in the valley

■ **1862:** The Idaho gold rush boom makes Walla Walla the largest community in the territory

■ **1870s:** Italian immigrants plant the valley's first wine grapes

■ **1875:** Walla Walla & Columbia River Railroad connect Walla Walla to the Columbia River

■ **1880s:** Chinese immigrants arrive in Walla Walla for railroad work

■ **1887:** Washington Territorial Prison (later Washington State Penitentiary) opens

■ **1889:** Washington becomes the 42nd state in the Union

■ **1892:** Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) opens in College Place

1900s

■ **1907:** Walla Walla Symphony, the oldest west of the Mississippi, performs its first concert

■ **1928:** Marcus Whitman Hotel opens

■ **1931:** Excessive snowmelt causes Mill Creek to flood city

■ **1942:** Walla Walla Army Air Base opens as a training center for B-17 and B-24 Liberator bomb crews

■ **1943:** Bracero program brings in Mexican workers to save the agricultural industry during World War II

1960s

Walla Walla native Adam West stars in the TV series "Batman"



Adam West
Batman TV series star

■ **1974:** Leonetti Cellar plants grape vines – starting Walla Walla's modern winemaking presence

■ **1984:** Walla Walla Valley designated as an official American Viticultural Area (AVA)

2000s

■ **2010:** More than 100 wineries operate in the Walla Walla Valley

■ **2010:** Walla Walla Downtown Historic District added to National Register of Historic Places

■ **2024:** Walla Walla Valley AVA Celebrates 40th Anniversary