

HISTORIC CHEHALIS

Downtown Walking Tour



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PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WEST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

1ST DOWNTOWN
 1870s

2ND DOWNTOWN
 1870s

3RD DOWNTOWN
 1890s



1ST

2ND

3RD

TOUR STOPS

- 01 Northern Pacific Railroad Depot
- 02 Frank Everett & Co.
- 03 Olympia Tavern
- 04 Security State Bank
- 05 Civic Auditorium
- 06 Grand Opera House/Brunswig Hotel
- 07 Garbe Building
- 08 Royal Bakery
- 09 Cohn & Mintzer Block
- 10 Lewis County Courthouse
- 11 Judge Seymour White House
- 12 US Post Office
- 13 Harry B. Quick Building
- 14 Fissell Funeral Home
- 15 Westminster Presbyterian Church
- 16 Ezra Meeker Marker
- 17 Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library
- 18 San Juan Arms Apartments
- 19 St. Helens Hotel
- 20 St. John's Garage
- 21 Bush Building
- 22 Ever Ready Shoe
- 23 Chehalis Electric Company
- 24 Improvement Block
- 25 Columbus Block
- 26 Hartman & Nathan Block
- 27 Smith's Millinery
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- 29 Chehalis Garage
- 30 Little Gem Lunch
- 31 Murphy & Johnson Saloon
- 32 Hotel Washington
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- 35 Claude Day Fruits/Howard's Meats
- 36 Northern Brewing Company
- 37 Buster Brown Shoe
- 38 Commercial Block
- 39 Rosenthal & Large Clothing-Dry Goods-Shoes
- 40 Elk's Building
- 41 Golden Rule Store
- 42 Judd Building

History

HIGHLIGHTS

ELIZA BARRETT



FORGOTTEN FOUNDER OF CHEHALIS

EXCERPT FROM
HISTORIC
DOWNTOWN
CHEHALIS - A
PUBLIC GUIDE,
OCTOBER 1992

Eliza Tynan Saunders Barrett (1824-1900) is unrecognized today for the pivotal role she played in shaping the urban form of modern Chehalis. The present site of Chehalis is largely located on land once owned by Eliza Barrett and her husband Schuyler Saunders. Following her divorce from Saunders in 1859, Eliza controlled over three hundred acres of land in Chehalis, and for almost forty years her decisions about land speculation and development guided urban growth.

Eliza Tynan was an Irish immigrant to the United States who was working as a waitress at Fort Vancouver, when she met and married Schuyler Saunders in 1851. Shortly thereafter, the couple moved to the Chehalis Valley and filed a claim under the Donation Land Claim Act, an early version of the Homestead Act unique to the Pacific Northwest. After nine years of marriage, in which Schuyler and Eliza had five children, she married three more times. Her second husband, Mr. McGuire, deserted both her and their daughter; a third marriage (in 1865) to H.F. Basye, produced two children and ended in divorce. A fourth marriage to John C. Barrett also ended in divorce when John attempted to have Eliza sign documents that she was unsure of. Eliza chose to keep this husband's last name until her death in 1900.

Continues

“ELIZA BARRETT CHOSE TO SELL AND DEVELOP HER PROPERTY CAUTIOUSLY.”

Because of her considerable real estate holdings, a number of men, including several husbands, attempted to take advantage of her. It is said that she could neither read nor write, but she must have been a quick learner. Whether out of trepidation after being cheated once too often, or out of well-placed shrewdness about the pattern of urban growth, Eliza Barrett chose to sell and develop her property cautiously. Chehalis promoter William West was one of her many critics. “The growth of Chehalis,” he asserted in his memoirs, “was greatly hindered by the reluctance of the owner of the land to lay off a townsite, or to sell any land to anyone else that would do so, only a few blocks being laid off at any one time, so that the population increased very slowly.”

Eliza Barrett was in no rush to join the men anxious to make a fast buck in real estate promotion, even as the village evolved around her. She subdivided (or platted) a small parcel in 1875 and five more between 1881 and 1883 -- actions that failed to satisfy local boosters -- but Barrett held her ground. Eventually, between 1888 and 1893, Eliza Barrett sold or platted a total of ten sizable parcels and even decided to develop a couple of lots herself. Significantly, her decisions about land use and civic progress emphasized priorities rather different from the materialistic calculations of city fathers. She chose to construct the first music hall in Chehalis, the Tynan Opera House (1889). She is also credited with building the first Catholic church (1889) and a Catholic boarding school for girls (1895), municipal contributions that reflected her cultural roots as an Irish-American living in a predominantly Protestant community. Her one purely commercial venture was the construction of the Barrett Block (1891), across Chehalis Avenue from the present county courthouse.

“ELIZA... WAS IN NO RUSH ... TO MAKE A FAST BUCK IN REAL ESTATE PROMOTION, EVEN AS THE VILLAGE EVOLVED AROUND HER.”

None of these structures survives today. Their absence is mute testimony to how Eliza Barrett’s contribution to urban growth has faded from public memory. While streets in the Alfred Street Addition (1890) carried the first names of Eliza’s children, including her four sons by Schuyler Saunders (James, Alfred, William, and



Joseph), the only architectural monument to Eliza Barrett’s life is her gravestone in Fern Hill Cemetery. In a final indignity, the marker misspells her last name.



EVOLUTION OF THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

Between 1850 and 1950, Chehalis developed from a rural hamlet with a handful of pioneer homesteads into an agricultural and wood processing center of over 5,600 residents. Within this century of growth, the city center has migrated twice. The location of the downtown district proved a source of local contention, illustrating how private boosterism played a powerful planning function in early community development.



THE FIRST CITY CENTER

WESTERN MAIN STREET

Chehalis's first commercial district and civic center was located along Main Street, west of the tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad. There were two reasons for the early concentration of activity in this area. First was its proximity to the railroad, the transportation and communication link with distant markets and political capitals. Second was the availability of real estate. As early as 1875, Eliza Barrett platted three blocks of Main Street, west of the railroad tracks, and here the town began to grow. The first glimmering of an urban core was the collection of buildings and businesses that sprang up in the 1870s near the warehouse erected as the settlement's first railroad station. The small warehouse was followed by a general store established by a merchant from a neighboring community, and by the end of the decade the warehouse itself had been enlarged into a full-scale meat packing plant. Construction of two civic buildings in the mid-1870s confirmed the municipal significance of western Main Street. When Chehalis was designated the county seat, the courthouse was erected on an acre west of the tracks and a block north of Main Street. Two years later, in 1876, the first schoolhouse was built near the courthouse at State and Center streets.

THE SECOND CITY CENTER

MAIN STREET & CHEHALIS AVENUE

As the town developed, commercial activity spread east along Main Street toward its intersection with Chehalis

Avenue. This area became the second city center in the 1880s. Eliza Barrett played a crucial role as an urban planner by releasing five parcels for development between 1881 and 1883. One of her many critics, who believed she had not been sufficiently interested in schemes to develop her land, was pleased with the platting. "Parties holding property in the past with a death grip have been gradually letting go," he informed the readers of the Lewis County Bee in 1884. Toward the end of the decade, Eliza Barrett moved to solidify the increasing importance of the intersection of Main and Chehalis as the new city center. Her construction of two significant structures on diagonal corners -- the Tynan Opera House and the Barrett Block, a large brick building that came to house a bank and the Barrett Hotel -- seemed to confirm that Chehalis and Main would be the cultural and commercial heart of the growing city. But two fires in 1892 destroyed most of the wooden buildings in this part of town, as well as its prospects as the city center. The first fire in March consumed a block of business buildings. A second fire on May 22, 5 less than two months later, was even more devastating, leveling about thirty buildings in four blocks. The blaze spread so rapidly that "little was saved by the residents and businessmen in the entire district," according to The Chehalis Nugget, reporting on the day of the inferno. In the newspaper's opinion, both fires were set deliberately. After the March fire a number of citizens in the burnedout district apparently suspected arson, but the second fire, The Nugget stated

Continues

flatly, “was beyond doubt started by an incendiary.” Although redevelopment was considered for Main Street, the post-fire building boom occurred six blocks to the north on Market Boulevard, much resented by the merchants and residents of the former downtown. The two suspicious fires encouraged the development of a third city center and caused the value of Eliza Barrett’s real estate to decrease greatly in value.

THE THIRD CITY CENTER

MARKET AND BOISTFORT

The dramatic shift of the central business district from Main Street to Market Boulevard in the 1890s is often attributed to the two great fires of 1892. Actually, the fires did not inaugurate the migration of the city center so much as they coincided with it. Even before the fires, some of the city’s leading citizens were backing a competing business district centered at the intersection of Market and Boistfort Street. The First National Bank building, erected in 1889, was the first important commercial structure at the location, and other buildings quickly followed the example of the community’s leading bank. The Chehalis Improvement Company constructed two other buildings, the Improvement Block (1891) and the Columbus Block (1892), on opposite corners at Market and Boistfort. A first-class hotel went up next. Between 1890 and 1894, the Chehalis Land & Timber Company, with financing from the First National Bank, constructed the St. Helens

Hotel a block away from the newly pivotal intersection. In short, three years before the calamitous fires, banking and real estate interests were already embarked on a major development project outside the traditional business corridor of Main Street. The motives behind this effort to reshape the commercial geography of Chehalis seemed clear to the local journalist who characterized the activities of the Chehalis Improvement Company as an attempt by prominent citizens to insure “a solid appearance for the town as well as a profitable investment for themselves.” But the undertaking may have also represented an attempt by civic boosters to reduce Eliza Barrett’s future role in urban growth by establishing a downtown outside her control. New commercial buildings continued to be erected on both Chehalis Avenue and Main Street, but the civic prominence of Market Boulevard was unchallenged for sixty years after the 1890s. Not until the 1950s did the business district begin to shift another time, to the shopping mall complex (now Sunbird Shopping Center) on National Avenue. The 19th-century struggle over the location of the city center pitted the ambitious and selfinterested calculations of some of the community’s most prominent citizens against the somewhat less materialistic concerns of an early, and largely forgotten, female town planner. More generally, the evolution of the downtown district illustrated how the process of community development was shaped by competing private visions of its urban future.



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vice presidential nominee, Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1920, who would later become president.

Grievances with the railroad lay dormant for almost 60 years, until the railroad, then Burlington Northern, announced plans to close the Chehalis depot in 1972. When that generation of Chehalis citizens approached

railroad officials with a proposal to convert the building into a museum, the railroad was adamant in its determination to demolish the building. Frustrated citizens led by James Backman succeeded in placing the building on the National Register of Historic Places and waged a three-year war to preserve the depot with the help of U.S. Senators Warren Magnuson and Henry Jackson. Finally, in 1975, Burlington Northern agreed to lease the building to Lewis County. Community fundraising eventually brought the desired \$50,000 for renovations needed to convert the building to the Lewis County Historical Museum. It remains a proud statement to the heritage of the area.



NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT - 1912 599 NORTHWEST FRONT WAY



This Mission Revival style building was built in 1912 as the principal passenger and freight station for the Northern Pacific Railroad. The site on which the depot is located achieved historical significance long ago. In anticipation of a reception for President McKinley, a giant stump, cut from a tree logged near Pe Ell, Washington, was placed at the site, and was to serve as a speaker's platform for the President who ultimately did not make the visit. However, on May 23, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt delivered a speech from this now famous podium. In 1908, presidential nominee, Eugene Debs, a Socialist, spoke from the stump. Later, although not yet President, William Howard Taft also spoke from the stump, as did





FRANK EVERETT & CO. – 1916

547 NORTHWEST PACIFIC AVENUE

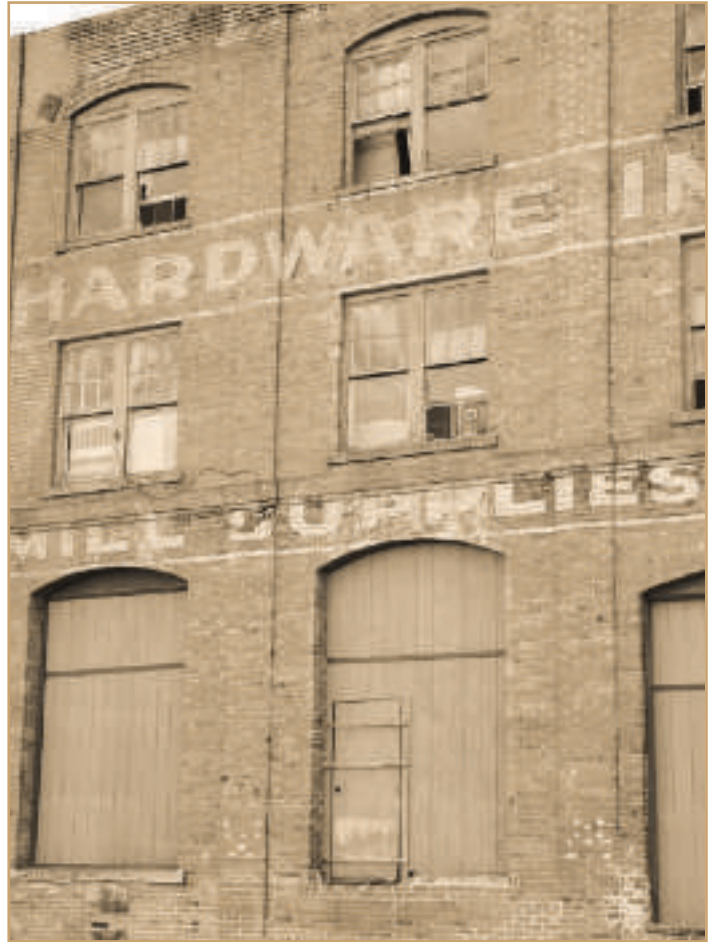


Specializing in farm machinery and implements, Frank Everett & Co. built this three-story trackside, brick building in 1916 to replace the 1906 wooden structure they were currently housed in.

The Chehalis Bee-Nugget noted the new structure was an imposing addition to Chehalis' business district. From 1920-1932, the building housed the Hansen-Scott Company. Burdett Implement took over the business in July 1932, operating until 1941. On August 1, 1941 the Sears Roebuck & Co. Farm Store opened for business, selling feed and farm supplies to local farmers. Painted advertising is still visible on the back wall.

“THE WALKING TOUR... OF CHEHALIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET A BIT OF EXERCISE WHILE LEARNING FIRSTHAND ABOUT CHEHALIS HISTORY.”

– JASON MATTSON



OLYMPIA TAVERN – 1920

465 NORTHWEST CHEHALIS AVENUE



The Olympia Tavern was founded around 1900 by Leopold Schmidt, the forefather of the Olympia Brewing Company. For decades, the Olympia was a satellite tavern that served to market Olympia beer products. Back then, as was the custom, the Olympia was a gentleman's club catering to the working class. The daily menu consisted of billiards, card games, and beer. Though the ownership has changed throughout the years, the name remained the same until the late 1980s, when a group of investors purchased the building and renamed it Guido's. View the words "The Olympia" in the tile as you cross the threshold into the present-day business. The Shire Bar & Grill was established in February 2003 and houses a bar that is one of the two remaining in Chehalis that were shipped around the horn, from Massachusetts, around South America, and up the West Coast.



SECURITY STATE BANK

- 1917

442 NORTHWEST CHEHALIS AVENUE



Security State Bank opened its doors on Northwest Chehalis Avenue in 1903. Their first office was in a building owned by C.W. Long before moving across the street to the current two-story brick building which was constructed in the early 1900s. Original incorporators of the bank were C.W. Long, W.D. Richardson, J.W. Reynolds, E.P.

Chuchill and Arthur S. Cory. Three of the key men who guided the growth of the bank through most of its history were John Alexander, Sr., J.T. Alexander, a brother, and William M. Luebke who was J.T. Alexander's son-in-law. Since 1910, only four individuals have served as president of Security State Bank, which speaks to the consistency and stability of the bank.

Security State Bank continues to operate today and is one of the oldest commercial banks in the state of Washington.



CIVIC AUDITORIUM - 1928

455 NORTHWEST PARK STREET



This building was built originally as the Civic Building then converted into the city's fire department headquarters, and at one time, also housed the police and public works departments. The auditorium hosted a myriad of events. It was used as a community center for entertainment, dances, conventions, meetings, and professional wrestling. Some of the well known wrestlers were Haystack Calhoun and Tony Born. During the war, the United Service Organization (USO) met in this building. For many years on Veterans Day, the cities of Chehalis and Centralia alternated hosting a "bean feed" on Armistice Day. The building was also where the Mr. McGoo Club met. This 1960's teen club was formed by civic leaders to provide a constructive, social opportunity for activities. Many famous entertainers



played at dances held in this building, including Paul Revere and the Raiders, Merrilee Rush, and The Wailers. The police department was located directly under the dance floor, and needless to say, when things really got moving, dust and sometimes parts of the ceiling came floating down. The noise was so loud it was hard to hear the police radio.



GRAND OPERA HOUSE/ BRUNSWIG HOTEL – 1895

369-383 NORTHWEST CHEHALIS AVENUE



This structure was built by businessman William Brunswig. The upper floors were designed to house the Grand Opera House and a public auditorium until it was converted into the Brunswig Hotel. The lower floor was used for Mr. Brunswig’s retail business, The Racket Store. This is the oldest building on Chehalis Avenue, constructed three years after the catastrophic fires of 1892.



GARBE BUILDING – 1908

249-289 NORTHWEST
CHEHALIS AVENUE



The original white-brick building was built by John Garbe, the valley’s largest hops dealer, in 1908. Erected for a cost of \$19,000, it was constructed with four large entrances with an arch and stairway in the center. The upper floors were built for office and lodging house purposes and were home to the Garbe Hotel until 1923. From 1923-1939 it changed names from the Garbe Hotel to the Columbia Hotel, Olympia Hotel, then finally to the Crest Apartments. The first floor was leased to Saindon



Company – one of the largest furniture and home furnishing businesses in Southwest Washington at the time. Hitching rings for horses are still embedded in the concrete curbs outside the building.

**“THERE IS SO MUCH VALUE IN OUR
HISTORY HERE IN CHEHALIS.”**

– D. HARTZ



ROYAL BAKERY – 1910

242 NORTHWEST CHEHALIS AVENUE



Originally names as the Royal Bakery, the building is constructed of stone and retains integrity in its original design. It is representative of the commercial structures erected in the second downtown. The building has also been a barber shop, an apartment building, and a liquor store. In later years, it became the local Junior Chamber of Commerce, and was owned and operated by Lewis County.



COHN & MINTZER BLOCK – 1914

223 NORTHWEST CHEHALIS AVENUE



Built to house a furniture store, the building was subsequently used as a hardware store, a second-hand store, a warehouse, and an automobile storeroom.



LEWIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE – 1927

351 NORTHWEST NORTH STREET



Lewis County purchased property from the Methodist Church to build the courthouse, the second courthouse built in Chehalis. Architect for the project was Mr. J. deForrest Griffin, one of Washington’s early architects – as he held architect license 66. Mr. Griffin also designed R.E. Bennett School. The courthouse was dedicated on Friday, June 17, 1927, and was designed to be more practical than other courthouses built at the same time. Beaux Arts architecture was displayed in the hallways and courtrooms of this grand building, designed with rosettes and pilasters (square columns that are part of the wall). Corridors were finished with California stucco, while the interior wood finish was mahogany. The exterior of the courthouse was a blend of colors



and brick trim, with the main construction done in cut cast stone. Exterior doors were bronze. Jails were installed on a windowless third floor and were considered the most modern features in safety, convenience and sanitation. All of these features combined to make the courthouse one of the most modern in the Northwest at the time. The annex followed in 1977. This building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



JUDGE SEYMOUR WHITE HOUSE – 1904

120 NORTHWEST PACIFIC AVENUE



The three-story Victorian home was built in 1904 for Judge Seymour White who was the justice of the peace, city clerk and police judge for Chehalis. Ella Simmons purchased the home and lived there until the early 1970s (the house is often referred to as the Ella Simmons House or the “house of ill repute”). After being frightened by an intruder, Simmons moved from the home for over a decade and the vacated house deteriorated. In 1986, the house was declared a public nuisance and after going back and forth with the owner for three years about making the necessary repairs, city officials reluctantly authorized the demolition of the house. About the time the demolition crew had removed the attic and roof structure, friends of Ella Simmons contacted a local contractor, Frank Mason, who not only saved the home from the wrecking ball, but restored it to its original grandeur. In 1989, Ms. Simmons was able to reside in the house rent-free, and she occupied the home with her many cats until her health required nursing home care in 1996. The home was once again restored and stands proudly on Pacific Avenue.



US POST OFFICE – 1933 225 NORTHWEST CASCADE AVENUE

From the onset of The Great Depression in 1929, a new era of government buildings was initiated with the development of public works programs



designed to stimulate local economies. The Chehalis Post Office is a legacy of these programs and was the first federally constructed building in the community built by the Public Works Administration. The Post Office was opened in January 1934 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

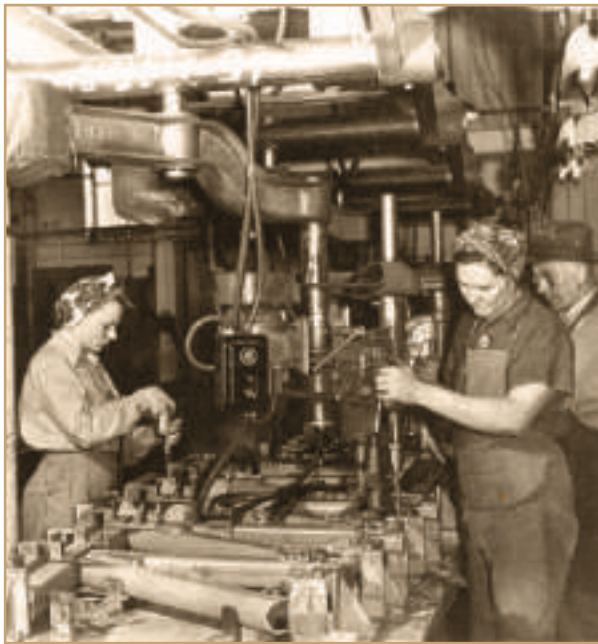


HARRY B. QUICK BUILDING – 1925 321 NORTHWEST PACIFIC AVENUE

In 1901, Eliza Barrett owned the property currently home to the Lewis County PUD. The original industrial structure was built in 1925. In 1932, during The Depression, it was repossessed. It was not until 1941 that the building was purchased by the PUD. In 1943, when America found itself heavily involved in World



War II many Chehalis and Lewis County residents had the chance to make a very special contribution to the war effort by building airplane parts. The Boeing Aircraft Company set up shop in this building, hiring close to 600 workers, including Rosie the Riveters, to help build the leading edges of the wing section of B17 bomber planes. The building was remodeled in the late 1960s and more recently in 2012 to resemble its original facade.



FISSELL FUNERAL HOME – 1923 299 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD

The Fissell Funeral Home began in 1910 and moved to this location in 1924. The business was eventually sold to Willard and Anne Brown, and partner Arny Maddison in 1952, and the business name was subsequently changed to Brown Mortuary. This building, when it was built, was considered to be the finest and most pretentious of its kind in the Northwest.





“THE FIRST BUSINESS OWNERS OF CHEHALIS LAID THE STURDY FOUNDATION UPON WHICH OUR STRONG COMMUNITY NOW STANDS.”

– David James



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 1908

349 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The building houses the oldest religious congregation in the Chehalis Valley, organized in 1855 in nearby Claquato. The first permanent Presbyterian Church in Chehalis was constructed in the 1880s on State Street

“CHEHALIS BELIEVES IN PRESERVING ITS HISTORY WHILE CULTIVATING A VIBRANT FUTURE.”

– Jenny Collins



EZRA MEEKER MARKER – 2006

350 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



In 2006, a promise was fulfilled by the city of Chehalis and community volunteers to pioneer Ezra Meeker. Meeker was a well-known pioneer who came west across the Oregon Trail in 1852. He became dismayed over the loss of the trail and its stories, so in 1906, he took a covered wagon and an ox team back across the trail to preserve its location and the stories of the pioneers who traveled it. Along the way, he asked 42 towns to put up stone markers delineating the Oregon Trail. Chehalis was one of three towns that failed to place the marker. In honor of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Meeker’s journey, the marker was placed at the spot where Meeker camped in 1852.



VERNETTA SMITH CHEHALIS TIMBERLAND LIBRARY – 2008

400 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The Chehalis City Hall and the Carnegie Public Library were constructed in the triangle bound by Market Boulevard, Cascade Avenue, Washington Avenue, and Park Street in 1910 to anchor the downtown.

Both buildings were damaged by the earthquake in 1949 but were rebuilt shortly thereafter. Both structures were demolished on September 10, 2007 due to age and seismic problems and replaced with the classic Carnegie inspired Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library in 2008. The library features a drive-through window - the first in the state. The beautiful fountain is a replica of the fountain that stood near the intersection of Chehalis and Pacific Avenues.



**DOWNTOWN CHEHALIS
HISTORY IS A TREASURE THAT
CONNECTS OUR COMMUNITY
AND SHAPES OUR IDENTITY.**

– Joanne Schwartz



SAN JUAN ARMS APARTMENTS – 1920

75 NORTHEAST CASCADE AVENUE



This triangular building was constructed for Arthur St. John of St. John's Garage. The building has an underground tunnel for a common heating plant connecting the building to the old St. John's Garage on Market Boulevard (see number 20).





ST. HELENS HOTEL – 1917-1920

440-448 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The original hotel opened on this site on May 12, 1891, as part of the general strategy of civic promotion to shift the downtown from Main Street to Market Boulevard. The first remodeling occurred in 1914, when the first section was removed and moved to the corner of Washington Avenue and Division Street to become the Sticklin Apartments. The apartments were destroyed by fire in the late 1970s and is now a city parking lot. Many elegant people stayed at the hotel, but the most famous was former President, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who was a guest at the hotel on May 23, 1914. The present hotel was constructed by William Francis West, son of pioneer booster William West in 1917-1920. William F. West was a local philanthropist. He is most remembered for



donating the land where W.F. West High School is located. The hotel is listed on The National Register of Historic Places.



ST. JOHN'S GARAGE – 1914

452-456 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The building was originally built, owned, and operated by the St. John Motors Co. as a Ford dealership. Markings denoting the stalls for each car on display can be seen on the exposed walls on the first floor. The San Juan Arms Apartment Building behind the building was the



original shop – note the enormous concrete headers over the windows in the alley. The St. Helen's Theater opened for business on May 12, 1924 with this stunning brick façade and tile roof – one of many to adorn the structure. Its tagline was, "House of Hits." The theater housed a mammoth Kimball pipe organ costing \$15,000. In addition to motion picture screenings, the venue was designed to accommodate touring theatrical productions on a stage 22 feet wide and 40 feet deep. The theater closed in 1954. The building was purchased in 2006 restored to its heyday now named City Farm Chehalis. The theater itself had been concealed by walls over the years, but hidden treasures were found underneath those walls. A brilliant Italian-style fresco of alternating pairs of phoenix and ornate vases in turquoise and cinnabar circles most of the perimeter of the tall ceilings. A beautiful chandelier was also uncovered in its original location more than 50 years after use as a theater.



TOUR
21
STOP

BUSH BUILDING – 1910 460-466 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD

Newspaperman Dan Bush, who constructed the building, had merged The Lewis County Nugget and The Lewis County Bee in 1898 to form The Chehalis-Bee Nugget. Bush sold The Bee-Nugget in 1916 to Clarence Ellington. Chapin Foster bought the newspaper in 1925, and published it from the building until 1937, when it was purchased by Advocate Publishing, publisher of The Lewis County Advocate. The company combined the newspaper into

The Chehalis Advocate, which ceased publication in 1962. During the 1920s, offices were occupied by Thomas E. Polley who fitted and repaired glasses, the Chehalis Post Office, and a dental practice operated by Dr. A.C. Nicholson. The building housed the Washington Art Project Extension gallery in the Lewis County Art Center in the 1940s.



TOUR
22
STOP

EVER READY SHOE STORE – 1919 470 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This two-story building was constructed to house Ever-Ready Shoe Company from the mid-1920s through the early 1930s, replacing an early turn-of-the-century wooden structure. From the 1950s through the 1970s, the Chehalis Music Store and Live With Music operated from the building. The structure became home to Chuck & Wilma's Children's Apparel Shop in the late 1970s.

TOUR
23
STOP

CHEHALIS ELECTRIC CO. – 1920 476 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



In the 1920s and early 1930s, the Chehalis Electric Company sold Westinghouse lamps, electric heaters, and other modern appliances from the two-story building. In 1937, the Price Studio, which developed and printed photographs, operated from the building and touted itself as "Chehalis' only downstairs studio." In the late 1940s, beauticians trimmed hair from the Smith Beauty Shoppe, which became Robert's Hair Styling Salon in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The late 1960s and 1970s saw the building as home to real estate companies – Ernie Waller Action Realty and Acta Realty (Acts for Action).



IMPROVEMENT BLOCK – 1891

486-492 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



When the Chehalis Improvement Company sought to shift the downtown to Market Boulevard from Main Street, this building was their first venture – called the Improvement Block when completed in 1891 in the Romanesque Revival style. The larger side (486) housed Proffitt’s Department Store, a People’s store, and then Coast-to-Coast Hardware. The smaller side (492) housed Gem Drug Store, Doane’s Drug Store, and then Dugaw’s Jewelry. It survives today as the oldest commercial structure in Chehalis.



COLUMBUS BLOCK – 1892

506-514 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This was the second structure erected by the Chehalis Improvement Company in 1892 and named the Columbus Block to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the explorer’s voyage. The building originally housed Carr Variety Store and later H.C. Coffman & Company, a realty, rental, and insurance agency. Up until the 1960s, the second floor was occupied by doctor and dental offices. In 1984, it was updated and used for retail for a decade. On Columbus Day in 1992, a 100th birthday celebration was held in



OFFICE OF H. C. COFFMAN & CO. —D&J, 1904

the building for the public by the present day owners. The local newspaper covered the historic event.



HARTMAN & NATHAN BLOCK – 1904

518 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



At the turn of the century, this building and #25 housed Hartman & Nathan from 1904-1956, the largest department store between Tacoma and Portland, selling cloth, ready-made clothing, and groceries. The advertisement for Levi Strauss overalls is still visible on the north side of the building. D&J Meats occupied the building from 1978-2001. Today the second floor houses five apartments.



SMITH'S MILLINERY – 1904

534 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This one-story building was constructed in 1904 as a retail outlet next to the Rush Building – a two-story building with Italianate influences. The Rush Building was torn down for a parking lot, but an iron pier remains on the shared wall between the two buildings. The building was home to Alice T. Smith's Millinery from 1910-1911 and Fred Downs operated Downs' Tire Shop from 1922-23. From 1927 through the 1950s, the building served as home to The Smart Shoppe, a women's clothing store operated by the Boyntons. In 1935, Mary M. Boynton started the Orchid Beauty Shop there. In 1937, a newspaper ad referred to the building as housing Boynton's Shops, which operated another store on Tower Ave. in Centralia. In 1951, Harriet Goff's Corset Shop began operating from The Smart Shoppe. In the early 1970s, the building served as home to the Lewis County Senior Citizens Center.



ZOPOLOS BLOCK – 1910

550 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



A colony of Greeks settled in Chehalis near the dawn of the 20th century, among them Nicholas Zopolos, who immigrated to the United States in 1897 from his hometown of Limni in the Evias province of Greece. His brothers, Andrew and John, soon followed in 1907, and the brothers operated a Greek restaurant known as Zopolos Brothers, where Nick served as proprietor, Andrew as a waiter, and John as a cook. By the early 1920s, the Zopolos Brothers relocated their restaurant to this one-story Beau Arts building sided with gray granite to complement the Chehalis Theater to its north. By the late 1920s,

the eatery was called the San Francisco Café, catering to local residents and people stopping at the Greyhound bus station. During the Depression, with fewer people traveling and eating out, the business floundered, and eventually closed. In the summer of 1936, the building and its assets were sold at the courthouse to pay an outstanding debt of \$32,449.46. John Zopolos moved to San Francisco with his family, but Andrew and Nick remained in Chehalis.



CHEHALIS GARAGE – 1923

558 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This two-story Beau Arts building was constructed by George Gabel in 1923 for an auto dealership. Arthur St. John purchased the building and sold used vehicles out of it for his Ford dealership – St. John's Garage (see number 20). The building was reconstructed and opened as the Pix Theater with seating for 653 people on December 7, 1938 and ran until 1954 when the name was changed to Chehalis Theater. The theater remained open until the mid-1980s before it was converted into a video store called Video Time. In 1994, the theater was purchased by a local businessman who rented the building out for a flea market for a period of time. It was later leased and opened back up as a theater after being restored to its full glory as the Chehalis Theater. Original Art Deco light fixtures were found in the attic, restored, and re-installed in the auditorium. It closed in 1998 and was reopened by the owner to show second run movies, but was soon changed to offer first run movies until its doors closed in December 2008. The Chehalis Theater reopened in 2016 and currently shows movies and offers live entertainment, and fine dining.



LITTLE GEM LUNCH – 1915

553-555 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This one-story 19th century commercial style building represents typical retail buildings from the era and was originally platted as part of the 640 acre Donation Land Claim by Schuyler &

Eliza Saunders in 1856. The first tenants of the building were Clovis I. and Hattie Belknap who operated the Little Gem Lunch until 1918. In 1919, the building was reconstructed to create two storefronts. Nathan Tailoring Company occupied the 553 half of the building from 1925-1934, and for the next 35 years, Tom Massalas, a Greek immigrant, operated the Chehalis Shoe Hospital. From 1974 to 2008, the building housed a beauty salon, team sport clothing store, computer store, and a catering business before the current occupant began business. The first business to occupy the 555 address was C.J. Griffith's Confections & Cigars, operating from 1920 to 1926 when the name changed to Wentzel & Osborne Confectionary. During national Prohibition (1920-1933) taverns and saloons often changed their names to "confections" and sold soft drinks instead of liquor. Once the 18th Amendment was repealed by the 21st Amendment, alcohol returned to the confectionary. In 1939, Fred's Tavern, renamed Office Tavern in 1961, opened and operated for 67 years.



MURPHY & JOHNSON SALOON – 1894

551 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This building was constructed after its neighbor, Washington Hotel. The beams to the second floor were built into the north wall of the Hotel which meant that the two buildings shared a common wall. After the 1998 fire that destroyed the building, it was gutted and rebuilt with its own walls so the second floor and

roof no longer would depend on the Hotel wall for support. When the north wall was torn down, ground floor windows were discovered facing northwest toward the west side of Chehalis. In other words, when the building was constructed, there were no other buildings located north. Vincent Paniczko (Polish spelling later changed to Panesko) purchased the building in 1912 and the Panesko family owned it until 1998. From 1895 until 1956, the upstairs contained one-room apartments that could be rented by the night. There were two bathrooms upstairs. One was for common use by the renters and only contained a sink and toilet. The up front apartment facing Market Street was a luxury suite with a bathtub, sink and toilet. Vince Panesko, grandson of Vincent, remembers spending the summer of 1956 tearing out the inner walls to open up the upstairs into one big room. The room was used for storage by Leo Waldo's hardware store which occupied the building in the late 1940s into the 1960s until the hardware store was moved to the Elks Club Building further south on Market Street (see #40) The elder Panesko recalled the building during the 1895-1912 time frame. Mr. Panesko lived on a homestead in central Lewis County and sustained himself by farming. Like all homesteaders in central Lewis County, he would make a couple trips a year to Chehalis to purchase sacks of sugar and flour, and other basic provisions for cooking. He would also sell honey and other products he raised on his farm. Because the only mode of



transportation was horses, and travel was on puncheon (plank) roads, a trip from central Lewis County to Chehalis took one day. Homesteaders would make the trip to Chehalis on their horses or with a horse and buggy, rent a room in the upstairs of the building, purchase supplies and return home the following day. Mr. Panesko moved to Chehalis in 1912, and purchased the building. At some point, he opened the Busy Bee Variety Store and operated it into the late 1930s. In the 1930s and 1940s, Mr. Panesko rented the upstairs to a madam who operated a bordello. The madam and ladies occupied the front apartment with the bathtub. At the time, there were three bordellos in Chehalis. During World War 2, troops from Fort Lewis would stop at the Chehalis train depot to load up with water and fuel - the trains were steam engines which needed to stop periodically to reload with water. The Chehalis stop lasted about an hour. At the age of five or six., young Vince remembers observing a line of soldiers on the back stairs of the building. At the time he never thought anything about it, but eventually came to understand that most likely, all three bordellos thrived on the business that troop trains provided to the Chehalis economy. It is believed those bordellos ceased operations in the early 1950s. The bordello in this building closed in the late 1940s and the upstairs has been used for storage since that time.



HOTEL WASHINGTON

– 1889



545 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD

The four-story Hotel Washington was constructed in 1889, the year Washington became a state, with fronting building facades on Market Boulevard and Pacific Avenue. The hotel was touted as a prime location to stay in Lewis County because of its proximity to the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot – now the Lewis County Historical Museum. In 1911, John D. Rice, owner of the building, opened the Dream Theatre, converting the spacious ground floor from a too much idle dining room space into a vaudeville house and moving picture theatre. Another part of the ground floor became Rice’s Millinery Shop. The upstairs remained a hostelry for roomers. Years later, the



building housed Ben Franklin’s Five & Dime Store, and Phyl’s Furniture. In the summer of 1997, a tragic fire destroyed the furniture store and the entire third and fourth floors of the Hotel. The building was purchased by Frank and Barbara Mason who were able to save the building from demolition for a parking lot, and restore two of the former four stories, and add a rooftop patio on the third floor. The 1999 Washington State Preservation Award was presented to the Masons by Governor Gary Locke, for the restoration of the historic building. During restoration, the word “theatre” from the Dream Theater was uncovered and is visible on the brick. It was left as a reminder of the past. Painted advertisements are still visible on the north side of the building.



FOSTER BAKERY – 1920

539 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



In 1920, J.D. and Myrtle Foster opened the Foster Bakery Company. The Fosters resided in the front portion of the second story. Today the apartment still retains the beautiful woodwork from the 1920s. The large freight elevator used for transporting heavy sacks of flour to the second floor is still intact. Several businesses have been in the building, namely, Mode O’Day women’s clothing, Affairs of the Heart bridal shop, and the Vintage Motorcycle Museum, featuring pre-1916 American motorcycles.



FECHTNER’S JEWELRY – 1918

535 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The one-story building was constructed to complement the building next door (see #33). This fourth generation jewelry business operated in Chehalis from 1903 to 2010. Robert Fechtner owned Fechtner’s Jewelry in Chicago, Illinois, but after hearing stories of how beautiful Lewis County was, he moved his family and opened his store in Chehalis. Robert, Jr. joined his father in the jewelry business, while his twin brother, Martin, ran a bicycle repair shop in the back of the store. Ron Fechtner, son of Robert, Jr. began working at the store to help his father after his grandfather passed away. Jim Fechtner joined his father, Ron in 1968, and ran the store until it closed upon Jim’s retirement in December 2010. Fechtner’s Jewelry served generations of families, for 107 years.



CLAUDE DAY FRUITS/HOWARD'S MEATS – 1918

531 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD

This one-story building was constructed at the same time as #34, Fechtner's Jewlery to complement the other retail buildings on the block.



NORTHERN BREWERY COMPANY

525 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This one-story building was constructed around the turn of the century with the Northern Brewery Company being the first known tenant in 1906. Other businesses to occupy the building were Maloney Saloon (1910-1911), Home Plate Cigar Stand (1913-1914), Kuehner & Leonard Saloon (1915-1916), Jones Piggly Wiggly (1927-1932), Terrill Produce (1934), and Steelman Radio Company/Chytil's Shop for Women (1937). Local businessman Norman Brunswig relocated his shoe store to the building in 1937 from his Chehalis Avenue location (See #6) and it became known as Self-Service Shoe Co. in 1937 and remains there today as Brunswig's Shoe Store. This fourth generation family owned business has been fitting shoes for customers for over 100 years and is one of the last of its kind in Southwest Washington.



“BY PRESERVING DOWNTOWN CHEHALIS WE ARE SAFEGUARDING OUR HISTORY, AND CONTINUING OUR STRONG COMMUNITY PRIDE.”

– Tony Ketchum



BUSTER BROWN SHOE STORE – 1918

523 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This one-story building was constructed to house the Buster Brown Shoe Store and an adjoining Model Shoe Repair Shop. It then housed the Snaza Brothers Smoke Shop from 1920 - 1937. The building was eventually converted into a tavern and houses a bar that is one of two remaining in Chehalis that were shipped around the horn, from Massachusetts around South America, then up the west coast.



COMMERCIAL BLOCK – 1898

505-515 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The Chehalis Improvement Company built this building as part of the Commercial Block in 1898 to complete the transformation of the intersection on all four corners as the heart of the new third downtown. The building originally housed three businesses – the First National Bank, Marr’s Drug Store (then Garrison Drug Store), and Henry Mandle’s Men’s Clothing Store from 1920-1929. The building was bought by Schwartz Men’s Wear in 1934, one of the oldest continuously operating clothing stores in the Pacific Northwest until its closing in 1995.

“THE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR IS A GREAT WAY TO EXPLORE CHEHALIS’S FASCINATING PAST FIRSTHAND.”

– Daryl Lund



ROSENTHAL & LARGE CLOTHING – DRY GOODS-SHOES – 1907

465 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



This building was originally built for Rosenthal & Large Clothing-Dry Goods-Shoes in 1907. A 1908 advertisement in the Chehalis Bee-Nugget announced their first annual clearance sale offering men’s and boys \$10 suits for just \$7.95. Women could take advantage of “greatly reduced” prices on dress goods, hosiery and corsets. The building was later home to Moore’s Men’s Store until the early 1990s and JJ’s Bridal & Formal/JC Penney Catalog until 2003 when the current business, Smith’s Mercantile opened. The building has storefront facades on Market Boulevard and Pacific Avenue.



ELK’S BUILDING – 1920

455-463 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



The four-story building was constructed in 1920 in the Renaissance Revival style for the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Initially, the social clubs and fraternal groups of Chehalis met in rooms in commercial buildings or homes. The building has facades on Market Boulevard and NW Pacific Avenue. The building was home to Puget Sound Power and Light, Berryhill’s Variety Store, Waldock’s Ace Hardware and Southwest Washington Dance Center.



GOLDEN RULE STORE – 1925

437 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD

This two-story building originally housed the JC Penney merchandise store – one of the earliest franchise outlets in the region.

“OUR PAST HAS PROVIDED A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE PROUD COMMUNITY WE ENJOY TODAY.”

– Bob Spahr



JUDD BUILDING – 1926

433-429 NORTH MARKET BOULEVARD



A.E. Judd, owner, completed construction of the two-story building in 1926 and Advocate Printing, established in 1895, moved its office into the larger portion of the street level space. For years, the Singer Sewing Machine Company leased the remaining street level portion. During the early years, the upstairs was occupied by the Washington State Liquor Control Board and attorney offices. Advocate Printing is still in business. The building fronts on Market Boulevard and Pacific Avenue.





OTHER CHEHALIS SITES ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



CHEHALIS SCOUT LODGE

278 Southeast Adams Avenue

The Scout Lodge was built in 1935 as a Works Progress Administration project.



HILLSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Located in the eastern part of town encompassing the majority of Washington and Adams Avenues, one street east from the historic downtown area.

OBADIAH B. MCFADDEN HOUSE

475 Southwest Chehalis Avenue

O.B. McFadden and his wife, Margaret (Mary), purchased the property in 1859. The land, originally part of the Saunders family's settlement claim, was situated in a wilderness area. As part of the agreement, the Saunders, founders of present-day Chehalis, built a home for the McFadden family.

The home once served as the local post office for the town of Saundersville (also known as Saunder's Bottom), before it became known as Chehalis. Mary McFadden was the postmaster from 1867 to 1870, with John McFadden serving until 1874.



In 1911, a homeowner undertook repairs on the dwelling, which had fallen into a dilapidated state. Howard Miller, a city council representative, owned the home for several decades and conducted a restoration in 1982.



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - WEST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Pennsylvania Avenue is a street rich in history, reflecting the development and growth of the town since its early days. The avenue is home to several historic homes that highlight the architectural styles and community spirit of the past. Many of the structures along Pennsylvania Avenue date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, showcasing a range of architectural styles.

OSMER K. PALMER HOUSE

673 Northwest Pennsylvania Avenue

This home was built in 1910 and is historically significant for its association with the pioneer manufacturer whose large lumber firm made significant contributions to the local economy through the first half of the 20th century.



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The mission of Experience Chehalis is to cultivate relationships and celebrate community to deliver a more vibrant Chehalis. Experience Chehalis is an active member of the Washington Main Street Program.

Experience Chehalis
536 Pacific Avenue
PO Box 191, Chehalis, WA 98532
360-345-1738 | info@experiencechehalis.com
www.experiencechehalis.com





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