

# Southeast Salem: Then and Now

Part One: West Side

*1.88 mile walk starting at the Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill St SE*

By the 1890s, the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and the Salem Southern Pacific Railway Station, two enterprises on the east side of 12<sup>th</sup> Street, had transformed this rural section of Salem. Except for the Mission Street overpass, Southeast remains essentially the same since the early 1900s and is the most historic residential neighborhood in the city.

Our research gave us limited information about the families who lived here in the past. We are using an Oregon database of structures possibly eligible for historic designation, plus a few of our own discovery. The 1934 Salem City Directory is the earliest record that lists street addresses with names of occupants and their occupations. For each historic structure, we have added the year built, name of resident in that year, and occupation, if known.

In 2022, Our walk begins near 12<sup>th</sup> Street on Mill Street. **I. The Willamette Heritage Center**, to the north, is site of the former Thomas Kay Woolen Mill.

This mill and the Southern Pacific Rail Station, one block south, brought employment to this newly plotted residential neighborhood.

Continuing to walk east on Mill Street, you see Tokyo University. It stands where the former Del Monte plant was part of Salem's growing canning industry.

To see the earliest homes in the Southeast neighborhood, we walk east to 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bush School is a new addition. The original 1935 location was where the Salem Hospital parking structure now stands. Due to the growth of the hospital campus, school was demolished and the new one built where you now see it. The earliest school had been Yew Park School on

Mission, between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. It was replaced by Bush School in its original location in the University Addition (now the hospital campus.)

2. We pass Pringle Creek and at **1394 Leslie Street** (1912), see a house almost hidden under the Mission Street overpass. In 1934, John L. Schofield, a laborer, was listed there with his wife Phyllis.

Passing under the Mission Street overpass, we are in area where 54 houses were demolished or removed for this construction in the 1980s. Four 1910 survivors are in the 1300 block of Tripp Street to your right. Continue to Lee Street.

3. **1396 Lee Street** (1901) is a two-story house of the rural vernacular style. An early owner of this house was E. C. Cross, prominent Salem businessman, but records indicate he did not reside here, nor did later owners Gideon and Margaret Stolz and W.T. Rigdon. For many years in the early part of the century it was the home of William M. Siegmund, a blacksmith and later part owner of his own business. By 1932 Mr. Siegmund was the owner of the property. Other residents were Eugenia and Wilda Siegmund, both listed as dressmakers.

4. **1548 Lee Street** (1901) is a Gothic Revival house owned by two pioneer Salem businessmen, J.H. Roork, who owned a sawmill, was an Indian Agent, and also served as pastor in the Methodist Church. This property and surrounding lots were sold to Roork in 1891; the same year this lot was sold to F. M. Rinehart, the first of many quick transactions over the next twenty years when the house had nine different owners. Jessie Martin bought the property in 1921 and continued to live here into the 1950s. Miss Martin was a teacher at the Park School.

5. **1590 Lee Street** (1901) Harris S Matthews, a Civil War veteran, lived here for 17 years, dying in 1934 at the age of 94.

From Lee Street at 16<sup>th</sup>, return to Tripp Street. Here the overpass structure is descending to ground level at 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn to the left.

**6 . 1570 Tripp Street** (1931) was the home of Gertrude and Lionel Tripp from 1942 until her death in 1994. In June 1987 - when traffic was rerouted with the construction of the 12th Street overpass - the Salem Planning Commission decided to name the new section in honor of Gertrude Tripp. Gertrude was a member of the Four Corners Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, worked at Salem Memorial Hospital at one point, and was active in the Kingwood Post of the America Legion auxiliary. Lionel Tripp operated a barbershop in downtown for more than 30 years.

Walk west to the end of Tripp Street and take the path leading to the pedestrian intersection of Mission and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Pedestrians cross at the protected traffic signal. For this tour, continue to Oak Street and turn east at 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

Turning north on 19<sup>th</sup> Street

**7. 573 19<sup>th</sup> Street** (1903) is a Queen Anne style house of W. H. Wild, an early settler and prominent pioneer businessman. The next owner was Ira Erb, a carpenter veteran of the union army in the Civil War. Erb died in Salem on May 25, 1915 and was buried in City View Cemetery. His wife, Hattie, remained in the house until her death on November 21, 1941. After several owners, it was sold to Lloyd Chapman in 1978. Mr. Chapman has compiled a complete history of the house.

**8.** Continue walking south on 19<sup>th</sup> to **1896 Lee Street** (1901), home of State Senator Jefferson Myers. He served as State Senator while practicing law in Salem.

Walk north on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and cross Mill Street. NOTE: both 396 and 308 are on the east side of 19<sup>th</sup> and so included in Part Two Tour.

**9. 396 19<sup>th</sup> Street** (1895) Research by Christy Van Heukelem indicates Lewis Rush was probably the first owner. From 1928 until the 1960s it was the home of Rosa and Fred Browning and the headquarters of their traveling Browning Amusement Company, founded

in 1911. After their deaths, the family continued to grow the business until it was sold in 1965 at the son's retirement.

**10. 397 19<sup>th</sup> Street (1900)** Robert D. Gray and his wife Lelia lived here for at least 10 years before his death in 1935. Mr. Gray was in the real estate and insurance business with an office in the historic Bush Breyman Building on Commercial Street. Today the house welcomes neighbors with a book exchange at its front gate.

**11. 308 19<sup>th</sup> Street (1910)** Arthur R. Bernard and his wife Edna lived here in the 1930s. He was an engineer at the Terminal Ice and Cold Storage Company. In the summer of 2022, as we walked along this corner, flowering plants decorated this handsome residence.

Walk 2 blocks west to 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

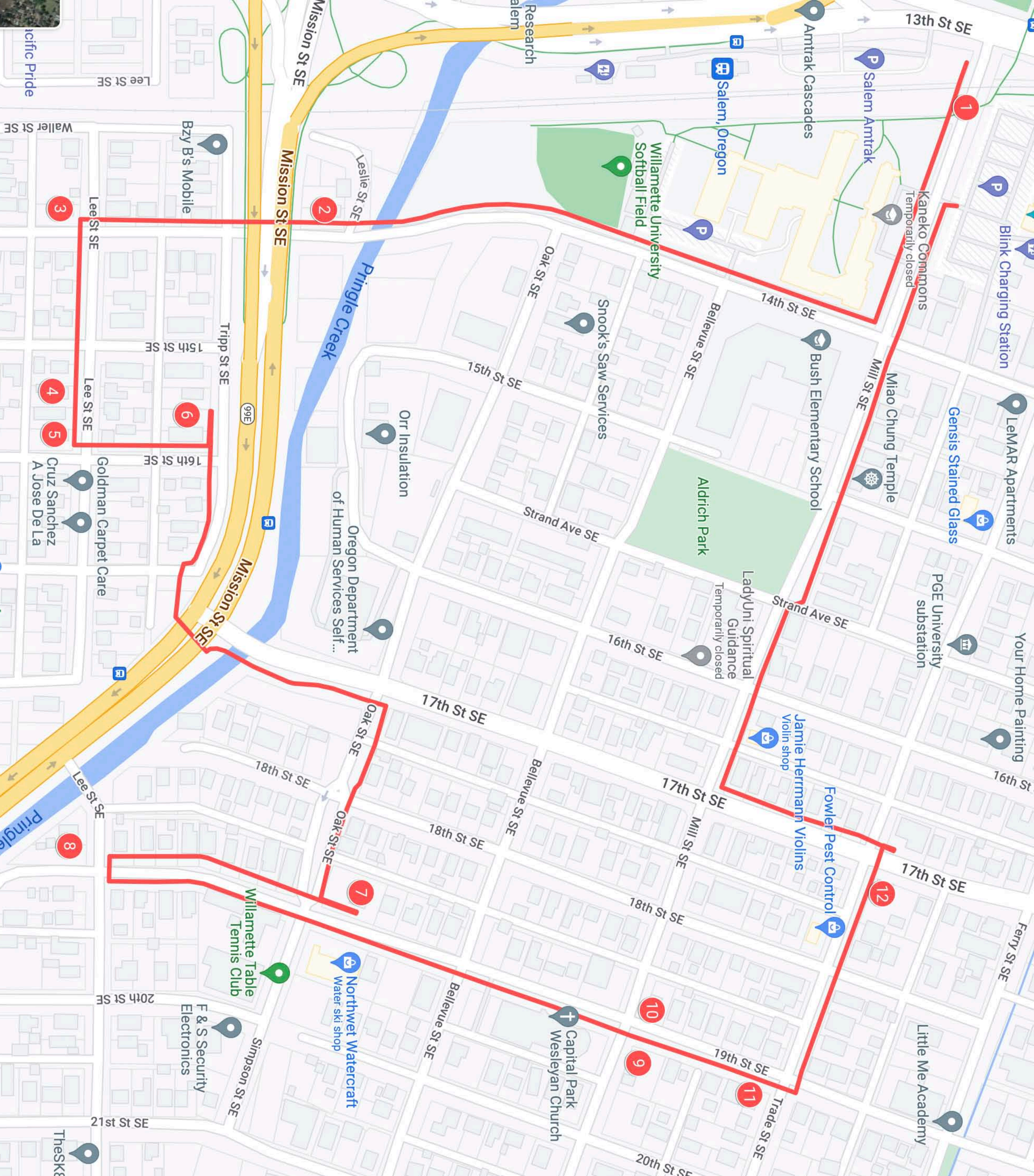
**12. 292 17<sup>th</sup> Street (1912)** Percy Kelly (1870-1949) Began his career in Albany. He moved to Salem in 1930. He served in both Houses of the State Legislature, as a Justice of Oregon Supreme Court and Chief Justice. He married Margaret Dawson Gillette of Portland in 1910. She was an accomplished musician and sang at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Cross 17<sup>th</sup> and walk west to Mill Street.

Note: At 382 17<sup>th</sup> Street are the Court Apartments built in 1950. These are out of date with other structures, but are added because they represent a style of apartment buildings popular in that era.

Continue east on Mill Street, returning to the Willamette Heritage Center.





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3

4

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8

7

10

9

11

12

13th St SE

Leslie St SE

Lee St SE

15th St SE

16th St SE

15th St SE

Strand Ave SE

16th St SE

17th St SE

18th St SE

18th St SE

17th St SE

18th St SE

19th St SE

17th St SE

21st St SE

Simpson St SE

Bellevue St SE

20th St SE

Trade St SE

Mission St SE

Mission St SE

Tripp St SE

Mission St SE

Lee St SE

Oak St SE

Oak St SE

Bellevue St SE

Mill St SE

Ferry St SE

Amtrak Cascades

Salem, Oregon

Williamette University Softball Field

Snook's Saw Services

Orr Insulation

Oregon Department of Human Services Self...

Bush Elementary School

Aldrich Park

LadyUni Spiritual Guidance Temporarily closed

Jamie Herrmann Violins Violin shop

Capital Park Wesleyan Church

Northwet Watercraft Water ski shop

Williamette Table Tennis Club

F & S Security Electronics

Kaneko Commons Temporarily closed

Blink Charging Station

LeMAR Apartments

Gensis Stained Glass

PGE University substation

Your Home Painting

Miao Chung Temple

Little Me Academy

Bzy B's Mobile

Goldman Carpet Care

Cruz Sanchez A Jose De La

TheSK3

Pacific Pride