

Gaiety Hill/Bush's Pasture Park **A Walkers' Guide**

2.8 miles

A virtual photographic tour of this historic district can be found at Shineonsalem.org in the Walking Tours topic.

Begin at the Pringle Creek Park near Liberty and Trade Streets. Walk through the park, following Pringle Creek and turn right at High Street. Walk up the hill after passing the Salmon Run building. Notice the first house to your right.

Steiner House 537 High Street (Arts and Crafts 1936-7)

The original house on this property was built in 1906 for Frank and Marian Derby who lived there until at least 1921. Dr. R.E. Lee Steiner, the Superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital, occupied the house for about ten years after 1936. His daughter Rita had (before 1921) married Dan Fry, Jr. who lived across High Street. Mr. Reese, the dean of the Willamette University Law School was a long time resident.

Jarman House 567 High Street (Spanish Colonial, 1929)

Originally on this site was the 1907 Italianate home of Emma Hughes, widow of John and mother of Lulu Hughes Bush. J. Frank Hughes, her son, lived there from 1909 until 1928. In 1929, Daniel B. Jarman, an executive with J. C. Penney, bought the property and demolished the Hughes home to build the present Spanish Colonial house, designed to resemble a residence he had seen in California. This stucco frame house with mission tile roof was completed from plans drawn by Beverly Hills architect Glen C. McAlister. Lord and Schryver designed the garden and the design remains intact.

In 1938 this became the home of former mayor, Louis Lachmund and his wife Margaret. Mrs. Lachmund, widowed in 1945, lived in the house until her own death in 1972. Both Mr. Lachmund and the Pearce sisters (below) moved to this neighborhood when more than four blocks of family homes in "Piety Hill" were demolished or relocated between 1937 and 1958 due to the construction of Oregon State Buildings of the North Capitol Mall. (The State House was destroyed by fire in 1935 and was rebuilt in the same location. The first four buildings of the North Capitol Mall gradually replaced the homes during that next twenty years.)

Smith-Fry House 606 High Street (Rural Gothic, 1859,1947)

Built by Joseph Showalter Smith, the home of Governor Lafayette Grover, George Edes and three generations of the Daniel Fry family, it is one of the oldest homes in Salem on its original site. The house was the center of social and political life in the earliest years of Salem's history. It was extensively remodeled in 1947.

Daniel Fry, who bought the house in 1906, was a successful pharmacist and wholesaler of medicines. In 1911 he added to his property by purchasing, for \$8000, Blocks 11 and 12 (Fry's Hill) stretching from Pringle Creek to Leslie Street and between High and Church Streets. By 1926 he had developed this property with the present houses on every lot in this block except 690 High Street that was built after 1937.

Pearce Sisters House 490 Oak Street (Colonial, 1924)

Built by Carl and Ethel Webb, Dr. Garnjobst acquired the home in 1928 and lived there for twenty years. From a date between 1954 and 1956 until her death in 1978, it was the home of Dr. Helen Pearce, a local scholar and historian and her sister Dorothy, a well-known musician. Helen was quoted as saying she hoped her late father would not have objected to their moving to such a large house!

Their family home on Winter Street had been demolished for the relocation of the Presbyterian Church due to the construction of the fourth North Capitol Mall building. In the private garden behind the house, is the "auto house", one of the first garages in Salem, brought to this location from the Winter Street house by Helen Pearce.

Back on High, continue south, turn right

Edith Patton House 420 Leslie Street (Cape Cod, 1939)

Probably another Clarence Smith design, this house was built for Mrs. Edith T. Patton, the widow of Hal Patton, a prominent, third-generation member of the Cooke-Patton family.

Their family mansion on Court Street, a center of social and political life from the 1880s through the 1920s, was demolished in 1938 when the State Library was built on a part of what had been "Piety Hill", a residential area of distinguished homes. Mrs. Patton brought with her many items of the older home: a marble fireplace, wrought iron decorative railings, stair banisters, the original bell ring and hardware for doors.

Turn back to High Street.

To your left, these houses represent **French Renaissance (755), English Cottage (745),** and **Colonial (725)** residential styles, popular in the 1930s.

To your right:

750 High Street c. 1921 was the home of Raymond and Jane (Jennie) Fry Walsh. She was the daughter of Daniel Fry who built the residence for her.

712 High Street was the home of her brother, Daniel Fry, Jr. and wife Rita. This property was deeded to Jennie Walsh, the oldest daughter the next year, but was occupied by Dan Fry, Jr. for several more years. The younger Fry couple moved into the family home on the hill in 1947 when his widowed mother died.

Cross High Street. Walk on right sidewalk to pass historic bungalows.

Virgil Pringle House 883 High Street (Italianate, c. 1880)

The house is historically named for Virgil Pringle, a Salem pioneer whose donation land claim was near the creek that bears his name.

It has achieved significance as the home of Senator Mark Hatfield during his term as Governor of Oregon, 1959-67. Antoinette Hatfield, the First Lady of Oregon, was hostess for weekly open houses during the legislative sessions, welcoming many thousands of visitors over the years. The family's four children were born while the family was in residence there. Its interior high ceilings, paneled study and several features from the days when it was an important location for state business distinguish the house. In the basement phone lines connected to the Capitol, the State Penitentiary and other sites; a bomb shelter which was constructed during the "Cold War".

“Hurley” House 975 High Street (Italianate, c. 1880)

The original owners are unknown, but the resident in 1932 was Alton D. Hurley. This house was originally on the corner of High and Bush Street, but was moved to its present location in the 1920s when the Kirk family built the Norman Farmhouse on that site. The original entrance has been changed and the house extensively remodeled, however it retains much of the original interior hardware. Research on this house continues by the present owner.

Harding House 1043 High Street (Italianate, 1884)

W. F. Boothby, also known for his designs of downtown buildings, built this house for Senator Benjamin Harding, possibly. In more recent times, it is

remembered as the home of Jacob Amsler, his wife Louise and at least three daughters. He was a trusted employee of the Bush family, sometimes known as manager of the estate when it was the home of "Miss Sally". Stories of "Jacob" are woven into the history of the Bush House just across High Street.

Siegmund House 1099 High Street (Craftsman Bungalow - 1923)

The symmetry of the residence is maintained by 24-over-one casement windows on both sides of the entrance under a shed roof unobstructed by pillars. Louis Siegmund, early Salem councilman and mayor and later a county commissioner, and his wife Anne, were the first owners.

Franklin House 1373 High Street (Bungalow - 1927)

The general architecture of this house, including the windows and one bay entrance porch perfectly echoes the second home built by Orie F. and Maude Franklin on Portland Road just a few years after building this house. However, when the Franklins built their new residence, they added a full second story. In the 1930s the home was occupied by Anson L. Lindbeck.

Royal House 1395 High Street (Queen Anne, 1898)

In 1882 the Rev. James H. B. Royal bought the whole block across from Bush's pasture for \$900. Emma's brother, Holly Austin Cornell, built the house. It had to be large enough to accommodate boarders as Rev. Royal was blind and could not work. Most of the boarders were teachers at the Lincoln School, where St. Paul's Episcopal Church now stands. Dr. James Moore purchased the house in 1909 and a letter written in 1973 by his daughter contains memories of her childhood there. The letter was sent to Don and Verna Johnson, owners at that time who remodeled the house finding family records of previous tenants wedged in the bricks of the living room fireplace. The present owners have carefully preserved historical records of the house.

Continue to Cross Street, turn left and walk to the third block.

Ross House 787 Cross Street (Colonial, 1934)

Another Clarence L. Smith design with a Lord and Schryver garden, this house is unique in the neighborhood for its traditional Georgian architecture. (See photograph for this tour.) Custer Ross, an attorney in Salem, originally owned it. The second owners owned and occupied the residence for over fifty years.

Walk one more block and turn left at Summer Street to Lefelle Street. Turn right, passing:

Moore's House 920 Lefelle Street (Colonial, 1920)

A Colonial residence, transplanted with its neighbor next-door, this house was the retirement home of the Moores family on Chemeketa Street. It was moved by in 1951 when the state appropriated the four blocks of "Piety Hill" for the North Capitol Mall. The same family has owned the house since that date.

Thompson House 940 Lefelle Street (Craftsman, 1920)

The partner of the 1951 move is this house. This large house has retained the character of the original although it has been extensively remodeled. To visit it today is to understand why it was a center of hospitality when it was located on fashionable Summer Street, the home of Dr. Frederick Thompson. Its last owner at its original location was Judge Brand, a Justice at the Nuremberg trial after World War II. The present owner grew up in the house next door and was married in that garden.

Second St. Paul's Rectory 1510 Davidson Street (Arts and Crafts, c.1910) This second Rectory of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, originally a Craftsman Bungalow, was either built or moved onto the property at the time of construction of the second St. Paul's Church on the corner of Church and Chemeketa Streets in 1922-3. The occupants were the Reverend and Mrs. Henry Duncan Chambers and the Reverend and Mrs. George Herbert Swift and their four children. The rectory was sold when the parish prepared to move to its present location at Liberty and Myers in 1954.

Strang House 1565 Capitol Street (Rural Vernacular, c.1890)

This house also qualifies as historically significant for its age, but not on this site. It was moved from an unknown location on Front Street.

Retrace your steps on Lefelle, taking the path up the hill. Continue to Church Street and turn into Bush's Pasture Park here.

Walk through the park to the Bush Barn Art Center, housed in the original barn of the property. The exhibits and shop are worth a visit.

To the right is the Conservatory built for Eugenia Bush in 1882.

A few steps further is the carriage entrance to the Bush House Museum.

Continue your walk, strolling down the front lawn of Bush House Museum to the intersection of Mission and Church Streets. Walk to your left, glancing across the street to see two houses important in Salem history.

Elizabeth Lord House 545 Mission Street (Colonial, 1932)

In 1932, next to site of her father's former house, Elizabeth Lord built her home with the collaboration of Clarence Smith. Miss Lord and Edith Schryver, her companion and business partner, established the Northwest's first female landscape architectural firm. The gardens reflect the talents of the Lord-Schryver professional partnership and still contain much of the original plantings and design.

David Eyre House 505 Mission Street (French Renaissance, 1926)

The house originally stood on Summer Street and was moved to this location in 1950 as the North Capitol Mall construction continued. It was designed by the noted Salem architect, Clarence L. Smith for David and Beryl Eyre, the second generation of a well-known Salem family. The house was moved to this site by Harry Dorman.

This lot has an important local history as the site of Governor William Lord's home with a 796 High Street address. In 1921 Juliet, the widow of Gov. Lord lived here. From 1926 through 1929, Josephine, the widow of J.C. Davis lived here. Also listed was Ida, widow of J.E. Shade. 1931, Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver also lived here. The Lord home had burned some time after in the 1930s.

Turn right, into High Street and walk to Leslie Street. Turn right.

535 Leslie Street was built in 1915. In 1921 there was a record of Rawley and Evelyn Metcalf, a clerk at Fry's Drugs, living there. In 1924 a Mark and Bessie Baker lived there. In 1926-7, it was rented to Walt and Buena Foster (agent Metropolitan Life Insurance). It was sold to that company's District Superintendent J. G. Hunter and wife, Elfrida by Hattie, the widow of Daniel Fry, in 1932.

545 Leslie was rented in 1925 to George and Hallie Nelson who bought the property in 1930. He was president of Nelson and Hunt Druggists (Court and Liberty). They still lived there in 1987. While property was rented to

Nelson, there was another structure, 541, possibly a bakery on the front of this lot. Rose Kimball was listed at this address in 1926-7.

The south side of that block, between the present Leslie and Mission Street (formerly County Road and then Jackson Street), was farmland until at least 1928. By 1895, two farmhouses were located in that same area: the Needham family lived in the center of the block from at least 1905 to 1927. The neighboring farmers were the Melchers.

Turn left on Church Street, the eastern side of Fry's Hill.

Daniel Fry built houses there in the 1920s. Many of the first occupants were either employees of Mr. Fry at his drug store or members of the local medical profession.

651 Church Conde McCollough was a noted bridge consultant and engineer of the 1930s, credited with the arched bridges along the Oregon coast. Church Street Bridge, passing over Pringle Creek incorporates his decorative designs.

Beyond the bridge at Bellevue, you can turn left and follow a path along Pringle Creek to High Street with Salmon Run building ahead of you. Or continue on High to Trade Street and turn left. Either way takes you back to the beginning of the walk.

Our thanks to Ross Sutherland, Director of the Bush House Museum, for his editing of this walkers' guide and the suggestion that we include these additional sources of information about this historic district:

Already in this website is “The Ladies of Salem's Bush Family” in the topic Historic Marion. It profiles six ladies in four generations of the family.

Look for Mission Street Parks Conservancy at <https://www.missionstreetparks.org>

Learn more about the Lord and Schryver house and gardens at <http://www.lordschryver.org>