

Southeast Salem ~ Then and Now (script for SHINE Virtual Tour)

Charts show the route of the tour. Numbers identify historic sites noted on route chart.

in 2022, our tour begins near 12th Street on Mill Street. To the right is Salem's 1918 Southern Pacific Railway Station. The first station, built at this location in 1869, was considered “so far out in the country” that it would never be useful.

1. A few steps along Mill Street (to the left), is the Willamette Heritage Center, site of the former Thomas Kay Woolen Mill. When it was originally built in 1889, the population of this neighborhood was about 50 residents.

Tokyo University is to our right. It stands where the former Del Monte plant was located. This property had been owned by the rail company and traditionally used for canning plants as that became an important local industry.

The tour directs us east to 14th Street where we turn to the right.

Bush School, across the street at this corner, is a 2005 addition. Its 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 in 2005.

We continue south, passing Bellevue and Oak Streets.

Ahead is the Mission Street Overpass, an area where 54 houses were demolished or removed for this construction in the 1980s

2. Just beyond Pringle Creek is 1394 Leslie Street (1912), a house almost hidden under the Mission Street overpass. In 1934, John L. Schofield, a welder, was listed there with his wife Phyllis.

Just beyond the overpass, look to the right at the 1300 block of Tripp Street. Four 1910 surviving residences still remain having escaped the fate of so many others,

After one more block, we arrive at Lee Street.

3. 1396 Lee (1901) was home to William M. Siegmund, a blacksmith and later part owner of his own business. Other residents were Eugenia and Wilda Siegmund, both listed as dressmakers.

4. 1548 Lee (1901) In 1891 J.H. Roork bought this property and surrounding

lots. Over the next twenty years 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 (1901) Harris S Matthews, an Illinois Civil War veteran, lived here for 17 years, dying in 1934 at the age of 94. No surviving family lived in Salem.

From Lee Street at 16th, we return to Tripp Street. Here the overpass structure is descending to ground level at 17th 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. She had been active in civic affairs. Lionel Tripp operated a barbershop in downtown for more than 30 years.

Our direction is east again, to the end of Tripp Street and takes the path leading to the pedestrian intersection at 17th Street. We cross Mission Street at pedestrian protected traffic light.

We continue north to Oak Street and turn east, heading for 19th Street.

7. 573 19th Street (1903) was the home 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 who died in Salem in 1915. His wife, Hattie, remained in the house until her death in 1941. After several owners, it was sold to Lloyd Chapman in 1978. Mr. Chapman has compiled a complete history of the house.

The tour again goes south to Lee Street.

8. 1896 Lee Street (1901) was owned by State Senator Jefferson Myers. He was also a colonel in the National Guard and founded the Oregon Mutual Life Insurance Company. He served as state senator while practicing law in Salem. He moved to Portland in 1901 and served as chairman of the State Commission of the Lewis and Clark Exposition. Walking east on Lee Street, we pass through Lee Park, established in 1915.

We continue east on Lee Street, passing through Lee Park.

9. Look for 2330 Lee Street (1900) Otto Troxel, a railroad engineer, and his wife Thelma, a public school teacher, lived here.

Turn north on 23rd Street to Simpson Street. Its necessary to pass over a small green area to continue east on Simpson. Turn north at the intersection with Richmond Avenue.

10. We arrive at the historic 1912 Richmond School. Although the campus is much enlarged, it retains the original historic building. It has served the children of this neighborhood fr more than 100 years.

Richmond Avenue is typical of tree-lined Southeast residential streets,

11. North of Mill Street, 379 Richmond Avenue (1908) was the home of James M. Burgess and wife Doris G. He was the Assistant State Supt. for Public Instruction.

We continue east on Mill Street to 23rd and turn north. \

365 23rd Street (1926) was probably built by Henry A. Gille, the first owner. He died about 10 years later, but his widow, Rosa lived there until 1953. The house had two owners in the next few years, but in 1957 was purchased by “Augie” Koenig who lived there with his family for the next 45 years. His Rainbow Construction was active in the relocation of many historic Salem landmarks, including Piety Hill, where their neighbor, Luella Charlton, had grown up. During those years, the Koenig family had a close friendship with Luella, Even today, many favorite family stories recall events as the three Koenig daughters grew up next door to this vivacious lady of three centuries.

12. 345 23rd Street (1927) was the home of E. Carl Charlton and wife Luella. During her 109 years, Luella Charlton lived in only two houses. She was born in the three-storied, cupola-crowned mansion built in 1872 across the street from the Capitol by her great-grandfather, Edwin Cooke. Her second home was this one, built in 1927 by Luella and her husband, where she lived for 80 years. Luella was a great resource for local historians. She had shared more than a century of Salem memories when she died on December 23, 2007.

Back on Mill Street, we continue west to 22nd Street.

13. South of Mill Street is 420 22nd Street (1880), the home of Rosa Stockton. She was the daughter of David and Susan Waters, divorced wife of Lewis Stockton, and mother of Philip. 1930 census states her mother and son to be Indian (Pit River).

14 . 398 22nd Street (1895) was occupied by Clarence Van Patten, a carpenter who became a prominent building contractor. He constructed many of the historic

buildings in present-day downtown Salem, including the Elsinore Theatre..

How do we know the date and builder? It is listed on an 1980s Oregon database of structures possibly eligible for historic designation. This research was provided to us by our colleague, Dave McMillan.

The next important resource was emailed to us by Kyle Pine of the Willamette Heritage Center. She sent us South East Salem sections of the 1926-7 Sanborn Insurance Map. Piecing them together made a giant jig saw puzzle illustrating the neighborhood structures in those years.

The 1934 edition of the Polk Salem City Directory, the earliest one that lists street addresses with names of occupants and their occupations, helped us match locations with owners of the year. Where possible, we note the year built and known occupants up to the 1930s.

Christy Van Heukelem, a local author and historical researcher, offered biographic information on this family and is a continuing resource in our learning more about historic structures in Salem. Through her, we learned that the Patton Company, among other downtown structures, built the Elsinore Theatre.

The tour continues on Mill Street to the intersection with 21st Street.

15. 396 21st Street (1905) was home to Alba J. Barham and his wife Laura M. His occupation in various census records indicate he had been a farmer, carpenter and real estate agent. Various members of the family, at different addresses, work at Olson Florist.

16. 2093 Mill Street (1893) was acquired by Mrs. Martha J. Atwood and the house was built for her in 1893. Mrs. Atwood's daughter, Linnie, married A. A. Lee in the new house in 1894. The residence was sold to George and Ida Eyre in 1904. It remained in the Eyre family until sold by the daughter, Mary Eyre, in 1996. Mary was a well-known Salem teacher whose long life was documented in a video now at Willamette Heritage Center.

We continue to 20th Street.

17 420 20th Street is first referenced in the 1909 City Directory. Alexander Potter, at this address, identifies him as a carpenter. His widow, Helen remained in the house until at least 1931. In 2006, the house underwent extensive restoration. With its recent enhanced landscaping and towering trees, it is a residential apartment site.

Turn right at 19th Street

396 19th Street (1895) Research by Christy Van Heukelem indicates Lewis Rush was probable first owner, but from 1928 until the 1960s it was the headquarters of the traveling Browning Amusement Company, founded in 1911 by Rosa and her husband Fred. After their deaths, the family continued, and grew, the business until it was sold in 1965.

397 19th Street is just across the street. (1900) It was home to Robert D. Gray and his wife Lelia for at least 10 years before his death in 1935. He was in the real estate and insurance business with an office in the historic Bush-Breyman Building on Commercial Street,

The tour goes north to Trade Street

18. 308 19th Street (1910) Arthur R Bernard and his wife Edna C. lived here. He65. was a Engineer at Terminal Ice and Cold Storage Company.

There follows, walking east, five blocks of attractive homes, none researched for this tour. You are returning to Richmond Avenue.

19. 280 Richmond Avenue (1905) was home of Robert M. Gatke and wife Estelle S. In 1934 he was Associate Professor, WU. He became President of the university and author of *Chronicles of Willamette*.

This tour returns to Trade Street and at 22nd Street turns right for three historic houses:

20. 295 22nd street: (1901) Thomas Maplethorpe, a cousin of George Eyre, for 60 years a shoemaker on State Street, lived here. His wife, Sophia Widner, died in 1936 after celebrating the Golden Anniversary of their marriage. He died in 1940.

21 239 22nd Street (1900) Ruth Youngblood died here in 1928. Leaving her husband Alfred, a railway worker, and two young children. By 1934 he is living here with wife Gladys M. and is foreman at Bonesteele Motor Company.

22. 200 22nd street (1885) Jesse Hays may have been the original owner. By 1934 it was home to Patrick Harrington, wife Elsie and Patrick Jr., Grace, Mariam.

Turn left on Trade Street and walk one block

23 212 21st (1901) Bert Zelinski , son of Charles Zelinski, pioneer farmer of Hazel Green, lived here. It is a prime example of master carpenter craftsmanship for even the most modest homes built in this neighborhood.

Across 21st Street.

24. 2090 Ferry (1910) Charles Vick may have been the first owner. He also constructed the historic Vick Building downtown on Trade Street. He is noted for being the first motorist to cross the Center Street bridge in 1918, driving a Ford tractor, to the applause of hundreds of bystanders.

We continue west toward the Mill Race.

25. Mill Race Park Because water power of Mill Creek was important to the early development of Salem, the early pioneers built a dam at this site in 1864 to divert this energy to practical uses. This created a new watercourse, south of the original stream. Today this Mill Race flows through Mission Mill Museum, Willamette University and so on to join Pringle Creek and the Willamette River.

One more block west, crossing the creek, we see another historic house.

26. 185 19th street (1915) was home of Stela Culver, bailiff of the Circuit Court. A 1968 obituary for Richard Stillwell shows him at this address. He had served as the manager of the Salem office of Social Security Administration.

On the south side of 19th Street is a church.

27. 219 19th Knight Memorial Church (1926) On February 17, 1926 a Congregational church meeting discussed constructing the present building on the corner of 19th and Ferry Street to replace an older structure. The congregation voted to name the new church Knight Memorial in honor of an outstanding citizen of Salem who served this church, city and state. In 2005 the church membership had dwindled to the point that the church structures could no longer be supported financially. The buildings were sold to the Korean Church of Salem.

This tour proceeds south on 19th for two blocks to Trade Street. Turning west to 17th Street.

28. 292 17th Street 292 17th Street (1912) Percy Kelly (1870-1949) made his home here when he was Chief Justice of Oregon Supreme Court 1930-1949. Also served in both Houses of the State Legislature. He married Margaret Dawson Gillette of Portland in 1910. She was an accomplished musician, performing at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Carefully crossing 17th street, the tour proceeds south to Mill Street

Note: At 382 17th Street and Mill Streets, are the Court Apt (1950). These are out *of* date, but added as they represent a style of apartment buildings popular in that

era.

We continue east on Mill Street, returning to Willamette Heritage Center.

Farewell to Salem's most historic residential neighborhood.

Virginia and Tom Green