A Century of Connections

Connections among and between people, places, and events shape the development of a community. The sites on this trail provide insight into the connections embedded in the history of Canby as it evolved from a mid-nineteenth century pioneer farming community into a mid-twentieth century town on the urbanrural fringe.

That evolution was marked by milestone events that reset the course of the community's development. The arrival of the railroad and the platting of the original 24-block town site in 1870 laid the foundation for the emergence of a commercial and transportation hub that served the surrounding farms.

The resultant business opportunities, coupled with the incorporation of the city in 1893, prompted local entrepreneurs to establish retail, service, and financial businesses at the turn of century. In the 1930s, New Deal programs, the federal response to the Great Depression, provided Canby's civic leaders with opportunities to expand and modernize the townscape. Post-World War II growth spurred an expansion of the commercial footprint in the original town site.

On this trail, you will meet the people and see the places that defined Canby during each of these eras.



Hazel and Raymond Vinyard, 1914

A Man with Connections

The story of James R. "Ray" Vinyard, a civic and business leader, illustrates the ways in which people and places were intertwined in Canby's development. Over four decades, with direct connections to five sites on this trail, Vinyard played an important role in redefining Canby.

In 1891, at the age of four, Vinyard moved to Canby with his family from Marion Kansas. Living on a farm overlooking the Molalla River, Vinyard attended the one-room Riverside School. In 1904, he began clerking at Wang's General Store, a business established by Louis H. Wang in 1901. He became a partner in the enterprise in 1917 and took full ownership in 1919, operating the popular retail outlet until his death in 1948 (site 7).

In addition to running his business, Vinyard took an active role in the social and cultural life of the community. His many memberships included the **Masonic Lodge and the Oddfellows** (sites 3 and 6). Committed to the commercial prosperity of the community, Vinyard joined the Canby Chamber of Commerce and his family attended the United Methodist Church.

In 1933, Vinyard became a part of Canby's governing body when the city council appointed him mayor after the death of Mayor H.A. Dedman. During his tenure, Canby acquired a Public Works Administration grant for construction of the Holly Street City Hall (site 9) and initiated the early development of Wait Park (site 1).

A Connected Woman

Women also shaped the development of Canby. After their marriage in 1937, Elsie and Glenn Cutsforth managed the daily operations of the family's meat market and, a decade later, expanded the enterprise into a grocery store. Over the next two decades, as the business prospered, they increased the size of the store, moving to a larger building in 1963. Elsie's business success was recognized with multiple awards, including Oregon Business Leader of the Year in 1980 and Oregon Retailer of the Year in 1978-9.

Active in the community, Elsie's memberships included Order of the Eastern Star, Willamette Valley Country Club, Canby Chamber of Commerce, Canby Historical Society, and the Canby Business and Professional Women's Club. She also served on the City Planning Commission from 1957 to 1981. In 1960, she was named Canby Junior Chamber's Citizen of the Year and the following year she received a "good guy" award from Canby High School Students.



BUCHANAN CELLERS



Mack, Lee, and Knight descendants and others gathered to clean the cemetery in 1949.



Oregon pioneer and first State Supreme Court Chief Justice



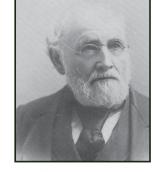
Philander Lee

2 Baker Prairie Cemetery

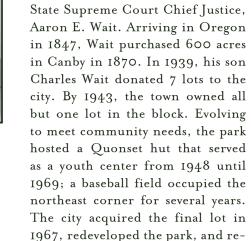
In 1863, J. Wesley Joslyn sold one-acre of his 1852 Donation Land Claim for \$1.00 to his community, then known as Baker Prairie, to establish a cemetery. Individuals who died before 1900 account for 86 of the 131 gravesites. Many are members of families who had important connections to the early development of the city. Philander Lee sold the land that became the majority of the original 24-block town site. The Macks, Knights, and Lees established businesses, constructed buildings, and provided civic leadership.

Knightsbridge Road





Aaron E. Wait:



dedicated it on July 7, 1972.

This gathering spot was named for

1 Wait Park

350 N Grant Street



The Oddfellows Building in 1913, the year it was completed

William Knight Building

William Knight purchased this property in 1887, completing construction around 1890. Carlton and Rosenkrans, a Canby institution for over 5 decades, operated on the first floor, moving to larger quarters in 1912. Thereafter, a series of businesses occupied the space, including Canby Plumbing. The second story served as a community gathering space, hosting the first city council meeting on May 13, 1893. Heman Lee presided as mayor and William Knight served as City Recorder. The City Council met here until 1901.

394 NW 1st Avenue

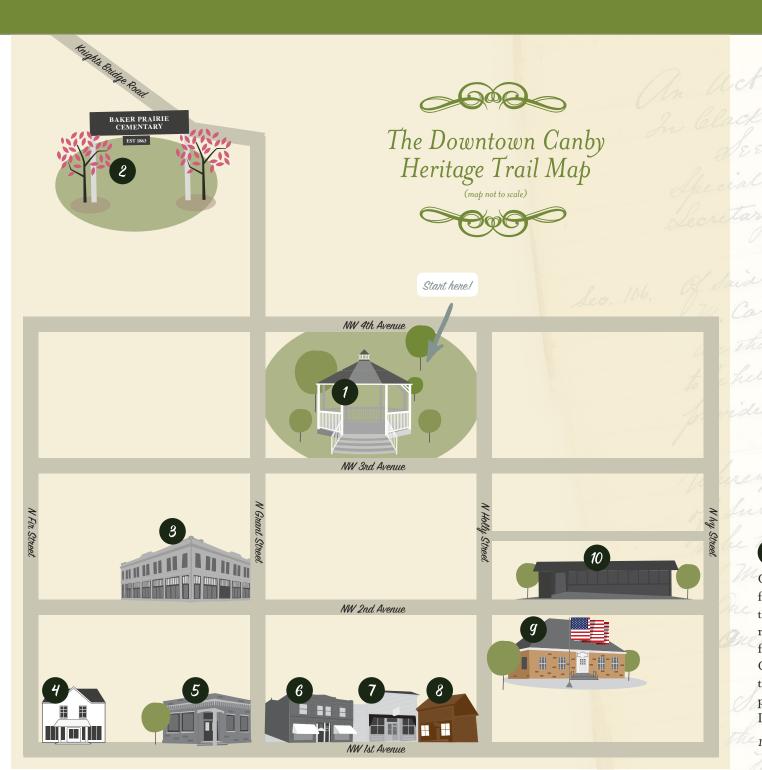


Masonic Lodge charity crab feed, upper level of the Knight Building, circa 1910.

3 Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodge

After the turn of the century, as Canby's commercial district developed, city leaders established fraternal and service organizations. Organized in 1901, Canby's 23 member Oddfellows held their first meeting in 1902. They built this structure in 1913, reserving the first floor for commercial use. For many years, Canby Hardware and Implement occupied that space. The upper story served as a meeting hall for the Oddfellows and other community groups.

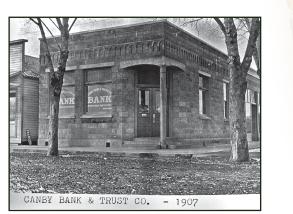
211 N Grant Street



5 Canby Bank & Trust Building

As befits Canby's first financial institution, this building sits on what was the most prominent intersection in Canby at the turn of the 20th century. Incorporated in April 1906, Canby Bank and Trust was founded by local businessmen, including Oramel Mack, Louis Wang, Fred Rosenkrans, and Elmer Carlton, They purchased this property and began construction in 1906. By 1913, the bank had outgrown the space and moved to a nearby location. In 1932, it became Canby Union Bank.

302 NW 1st Avenue



The Canby Bank and Trust building one year after incorporation.



The Masonic Lodge, circa 1915.



Mayor Rex Eversole and City Council in the Council Chambers/Canby Library, 1953.

Gity Hall

In the midst of the Great Depression, city leaders received a grant from the New Deal's Public Works Administration to construct a new city hall. Many residents, although supporting a new facility, opposed this site, insisting a civic center should not be "isolated from view" on a side street. In a 1936 election, Canby voters authorized building a new facility on this site by a margin of 19 votes; construction completed in 1937. That summer, library supporters convinced the City Council to adapt the council chamber to accommodate a public library. For the next 24 years, the library and the City Council shared the space.

182 N Holly Street

10 Canby Union Bank

Canby Union Bank, which evolved out of the community's first financial institution, Canby Bank and Trust, constructed this building in 1964. Under the scrutiny of federal regulators during the Great Depression, the institution faced the possibility of closure if it failed to increase its assets. Canby residents and local organizations rallied in support of their only bank, raising \$75,000 in deposits in a 24-hour period. In 1986, Canby Union Bank was purchased by First Interstate Bank which later merged with Wells Fargo Bank.

150 NW 2nd Avenue



In 1908, interested Canby residents received

authorization to establish a local Masonic

Lodge. They purchased this property in 1912

and began construction in that year at a cost

of \$12,500. The first floor became the site

of Mangus Variety Store, which featured a

soda fountain. In 1936, Canby's first movie

theater opened on the ground floor. The

Lodge occupied the upper story and in 1919

merged with its Champoeg counterpart,

becoming Champoeg Lodge #27.

280 NW 1st Avenue

6 Masonic Lodge

8 Wang's/Vinyards

Louis H. Wang opened a general store on this corner in 1901. Three years later, he hired Raymond Vinyard as a clerk. Vinyard became a partner in 1917, purchased the business in 1919, and changed the name to J.R. Vinyard General Merchandise. Serving customers until 1950, the store featured a pot-bellied stove, oiled wooden floors, and a variety of goods, including groceries, apparel,

and hardware. Shoppers gave their lists to the clerks who pulled items from shelves. The building was destroyed by fire in 1991.

200 & 210 NW 1st



The interior of J.R. Vinyard General Merchandise (originally C. Wang & Co.), 1939.



The interior of Cutsforth's Market, circa 1950s.

7 Cutsforth's Store

In 1928, Frank T. Cutsforth opened a meat market in a wood frame building on this site. In 1936, the property owner, Canby developer George Koehler, replaced the structure with a brick building: a decade later the Cutsforth's expanded their offerings, becoming a grocery store. They expanded again in 1953 and moved to a larger building in 1963. The Cutsforths embraced community involvement, supporting schools, non-profit organizations, and charitable causes.

225 NE 2nd Avenue