

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 urban-rural fringe.

That evolution was marked by milestone events that re-set 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 for 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.

For more information or to download, visit
www.ci.canby.or.us

Research by:
Tama Tochihara, SWCA Environmental
Consultants, Nora Clark, Carol Palmer

Writing By:
Carol Palmer

Photos Courtesy of:
The Canby Historical Society
The Sandsness Family (*Knight Building photo*)

EXPLORING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Downtown Canby Heritage Trail

A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



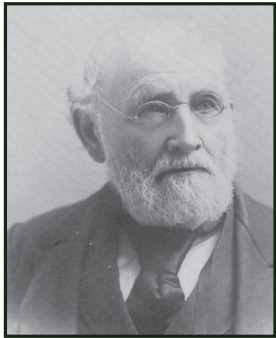
OREGON'S
**MT. HOOD
TERRITORY**
explorers welcome
mthoodterritory.com

The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

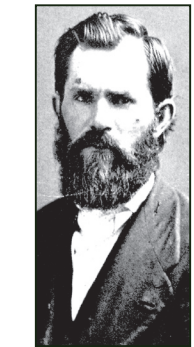
This publication has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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



Aaron E. Wait:
Oregon pioneer and
first State Supreme
Court Chief Justice



Philander Lee



The Oddfellows Building in 1913, the year it was completed.

4 William Knight Building

One of Canby's earliest commercial buildings, William Knight purchased the 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

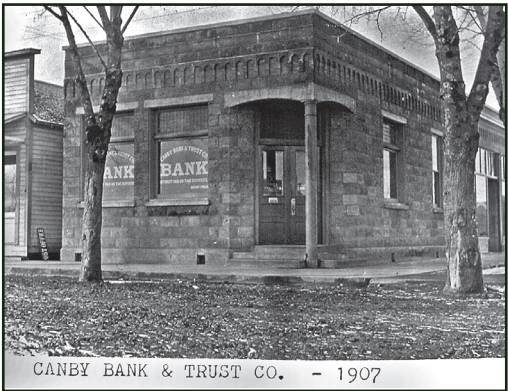
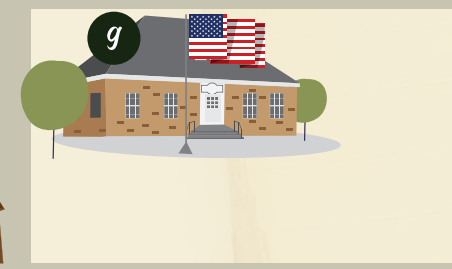
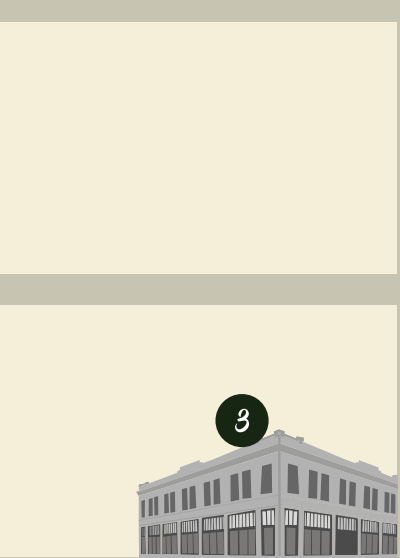
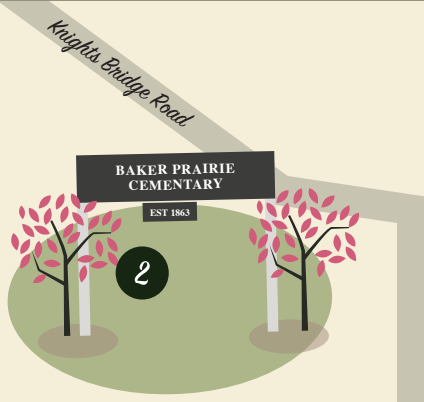


Masonic Lodge charity crab feed, upper level of the Knight Building, circa 1910.

1 Wait Park

This gathering spot was named for State Supreme Court Chief Justice, Aaron E. Wait. Arriving in Oregon in 1847, Wait purchased 600 acres in Canby in 1870. In 1939, his son Charles Wait donated 7 lots to the city. By 1943, the town owned all but one lot in the block. Evolving to meet community needs, the park hosted a Quonset hut that served as a youth center from 1948 until 1969; a baseball field occupied the northeast corner for several years. The city acquired the final lot in 1967, redeveloped the park, and re-dedicated it on July 7, 1972.

350 N Grant Street



The Canby Bank and Trust building one year after incorporation.

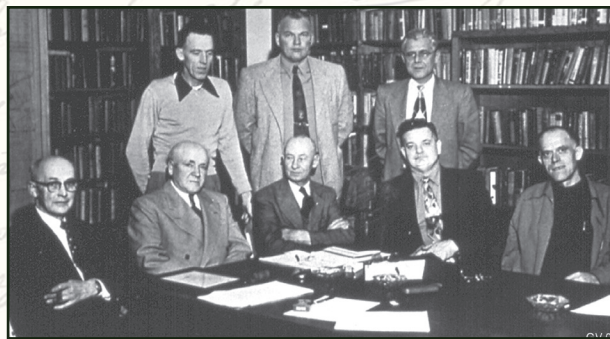
5 Canby Bank & Trust Building

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 Downtown Canby Heritage Trail Map

(map not to scale)



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

9 City Hall

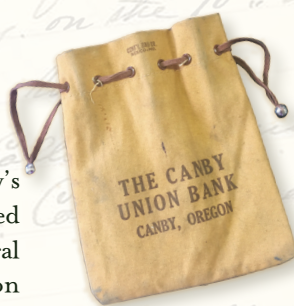
In the midst of the Great Depression, city leaders received a grant from the New Deal's Public Works Administration to construct a new city hall. Many residents, although supporting a new facility, opposed this site, insisting a civic center should not be "isolated from view" on a side street. At a city-wide election, the initiative passed by a slim 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 1961. 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



Canby Union Bank's Bag.

6 Masonic Lodge

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

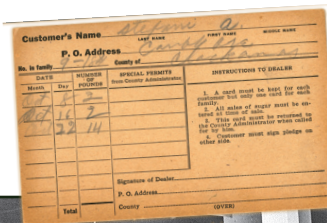


The Masonic Lodge, circa 1915.

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, City Council member 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