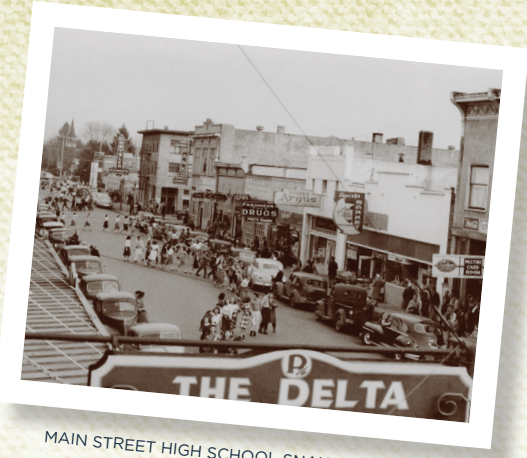


HISTORIC DOWNTOWN  
**HILLSBORO**  
WALKING MAP



COUNTY COURTHOUSE • 1895



MAIN STREET HIGH SCHOOL SNAKE DANCE • 1950s

**IN THE 21ST CENTURY,** downtown remains the cultural center of Hillsboro, now with a population of over 90,000. You're invited to explore its rich history by visiting the historic homes on this route. Information on these and other cultural resources downtown is available at

[WWW.HILLSBORO-OREGON.GOV/HISTORICLANDMARKS](http://WWW.HILLSBORO-OREGON.GOV/HISTORICLANDMARKS)

503.681.6153



[WWW.HILLSBORO-OREGON.GOV](http://WWW.HILLSBORO-OREGON.GOV)

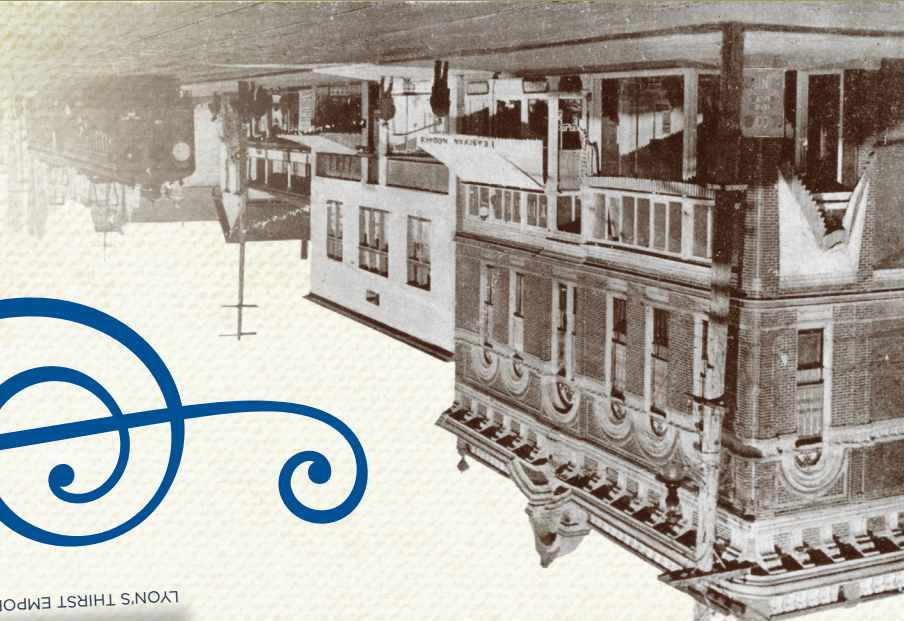
This brochure was produced by the City of Hillsboro pursuant to ORS 358.653, as partial mitigation for adverse impacts of new construction on the First National Bank Building at 350 East Main Street, a property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.



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WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM  
[WWW.WASHINGTONCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.WASHINGTONCOUNTYMUSEUM.ORG)

**THE FIRST AMERICANS**—ex-mountain men such as Joe Meek and Caleb Wilkins—arrived here in the 1830s. By the early 1840s, the arrival of David Hill and Isaiah Kelsey and other new settlers made it necessary to resolve whether Oregon would become an American or British land. In 1843, a provisional government was formed at Champoeg (near Newberg) and Oregon became American. The Oregon Country was divided into four districts, and since he was on the Legislative Committee, the Twality District seat was on Hill's property in the tiny settlement of Columbia. After Hill's death in 1850, his neighbors voted to rename the settlement as Hillsborough.

Hillsborough grew as storekeepers built shops to serve the needs of the surrounding farmers, and government and professional men settled legal and financial transactions at the courthouse. In 1872, Ben Holladay asked for a free railroad depot site in downtown but was rebuffed by the City Council, so the railroad was routed several blocks south. Rail passengers were brought to the Tualatin Hotel on Main Street by a horse-drawn taxi.



LYON'S THIRST EMPORIUM



popular event on Main Street.

As Hillsboro grew larger, conflicts arose. The concentration of saloons that had given it the nickname "Sin City" contrasted sharply with more refined influences: brass bands; literary societies; fraternal groups; and temperance societies. The town changed physically as well. By the 1890s, Main Street was planked and new buildings were built from brick rather than timber by order of the City Council. Agriculture remained the foundation of the city economy, and stallion fairs were a



BRASS BAND AND BANDSTAND ON COURTHOUSE LAWN



MAIN STREET STALLION PARADE 1895

Downtown changed dramatically in the early 1900s, with the arrival of the first and second "interurban electric" trains. The Oregon Electric arrived on Washington Street 90 years before MAX opened on the same alignment. Southern Pacific's "Red Electrics" ran on Main Street. Both trains shared the streets with the new "horseless carriages." The interurbans ran for 30 years before falling victim to the Great Depression.

By World War II, Hillsboro's population had grown to over 3800, but it jumped by over a third in the next decade, as war industry workers from Portland settled in the community. After the war, automobiles had replaced horses as the main mode of transportation, but downtown remained the center of the community.

## MORGAN & BAILEY BUILDING

1 • 203 E MAIN

John Morgan and Dr. F.A. Bailey had this building built circa 1892. It was occupied by a printing office, a pharmacy, and likely Wehrung and Son General Store. John Morgan was an early developer who operated a warehouse company with James Imbrie and platted one of the city's first subdivisions in 1891. F.A. Bailey was a doctor in the Confederate Army who moved to Hillsboro in 1872, opened Hillsboro Pharmacy, and was elected mayor three times. The building's arched windows, outlined in broken brick with stained glass transoms, are original, but the original ornate galvanized iron cornice at the top has been replaced by plain stucco.



## COURTHOUSE & SEQUOIAS

2 • 124 NE SECOND

This courthouse, with its Classic Greek-style entry facing Second Street, was built in 1927. Courts began meeting on this block in 1850, in a log building on David Hill's property. The log building was replaced in 1853 by a two-story wooden building, which was replaced in 1873 with a brick building. In 1891 a clock tower was added, but no money was left for the clock. Brass bands played in a gazebo near Second and Main, and community gatherings have been held on the landscaped grounds for over 140 years. The Courthouse Sequoias were planted in 1880 as seedlings brought from California by pioneer nurseryman John Porter.



## CARNEGIE LIBRARY

4 • 209 NE LINCOLN

Shortly after coming to America, Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie borrowed books from the owner of the telegraph company where he worked. After later making a fortune in the steel industry, Carnegie created a foundation that built over 2500 public libraries throughout the world, including this building in Hillsboro. Our library was completed in 1914. It was designed by Portland architect Ernest Kroner in a simple Italian Renaissance style. The steps to the main entrance, off NE Lincoln Street, are deeply worn after generations of use.



## ZULA LINKLATER HOUSE

5 • 230 NE SECOND

Dr. Samuel Linklater had donated the land for the Carnegie Library, but was shortly thereafter killed in a train accident. His widow Zula Warren Linklater raised her six children, managed her husband's estate, and had a house built in 1923 on Second Avenue next to the library. Zula's daughter had asked her mother to build "a house that would last forever" and perhaps in response, the Linklater home was constructed of concrete—the only residential example of that material in Hillsboro for many years. **The Mediterranean-style home is on the National Register of Historic Places.**



## CT RICHARDSON HOUSE

7 • 244 NE THIRD

Dairy farming was a major industry around Hillsboro in the late 1800s, practiced by German and Swiss immigrants. Several local companies consolidated in the early 1900s to form the Carnation Company, that built a milk condenser plant in south Hillsboro near Jackson Bottom in 1907. The plant was expanded in 1914, and in 1917 Cornelius T. Richardson was transferred there. This house, a simple but rich rectangular bungalow style, was built for him and his family circa 1925. The Hillsboro plant continued making condensed milk until it was converted to a dog food plant in 1948, manufacturing a new product called "Friskies."



## HILL THEATER

9 • 137 NE THIRD

Local entertainment magnate Orange Phelps opened his fifth theater here in 1937. It is the only known example of Art Deco architecture in Hillsboro. Features include a stepped parapet and a three-sided marquee with the letters "HILL" spelled out in neon facing north and south. Under the marquee, the façade is surfaced with ceramic tiles. Inside, the original Art Deco railings to the mezzanine remain. Orange Phelps oversaw construction of the Shute Park Pavilion, was a catcher for Hillsboro's first semi-professional baseball team, and served three terms as mayor. The Venetian Theater on Main Street is also an Orange Phelps theater, built in 1925 and renovated in 2008.



## AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

10 • 276 E MAIN

John Shute came to Oregon via Panama in 1858 and incorporated the First National Bank in Hillsboro in 1888. The bank reorganized in 1897 as two institutions: the American National Bank and the Shute Savings Bank. John Shute built this new building in 1911 and promptly retired. The building's architecture may have been influenced by the "Chicago School" style, which featured bigger windows, less ornamentation, and terra cotta detailing. Larger retail windows have replaced the original windows on Main Street, but the marble slabs around the door and the terra cotta lion heads at the bottom of the cornice are original.



## LYONS HOUSE

12 • 421 SE WASHINGTON

E.J. Lyons had this house built around 1905. Lyons, the proprietor of a saloon and a stable downtown, was a lifelong bachelor. Lyon's Thirst Emporium was one of four saloons downtown in the late 1880s, a concentration that led to Hillsboro's early nickname, "Sin City." The Lyons House is one of the best examples in Hillsboro of the Queen Anne (aka Victorian) architectural style. Ornate detailing on the house includes the radiating stick work and fish-scale shingles in the gable ends, the detailing in the entablature above the port columns, and the angled corners of both the ground floor and the second floor projection above the porch.



## BARRETT HOUSE

14 • 183 SE SIXTH

This American Foursquare-style house was built circa 1912 for W.W. Barrett. Barrett was a district attorney and state representative, but his son "Diamond Bill" eclipsed his father's fame. Bill eloped twice with daughters of wealthy men, spending their money and leaving them. His most notorious episode involved deception of the new wife of John Spreckles, the sugar magnate. At Bill's behest, Sydia Spreckles bought a \$100,000 necklace that she "loaned" to Bill to have appraised. Bill and the necklace disappeared. Scotland Yard traced Bill to Hollywood and arrested him, but by charm and smooth talking he persuaded them to let him go.



## EDWARD SCHULMERICH HOUSE

16 • 614 E MAIN

Conrad Schulmerich made his fortune mining gold, moved to Oregon in 1875, and built a general store that still stands at the southwest corner of Second and Main. His son Edward was president of the Hillsboro Commercial Bank and Hillsboro Livery Company and served as a legislator. Built circa 1915, Edward's house is an example of "airplane" bungalow architecture, with its low mass, cockpit-like gables, and projecting wings. The house also features klinker-brick porch foundation and piers, milled rafter ends, and leaded glass windows. **The home is on the National Register of Historic Places.**