

# Independence Historic District Walking Tour

## Explore the End of the Oregon Trail



**1** **Sperling Building**  
114 S. Main

Built by Albert Sperling in 1913 and named the Lerona Hotel after his daughters Leona and Rowena. The hotel was prominent, holding a bank, dining room, lobby, bakery and sample room on the first floor. In 1925 it became the Beaver Hotel with Moss Walker as Manager.



**2** **Main Street Antiques**  
144 S. Main

Built in 1880 by Belt and Whitaker as a furniture business until 1900 allowing the IOOF to use the upper floor for a number of years. A Chinese restaurant operated here in the early 1900's. The façade was restored by owner Dan Weaver in 2003. He has operated an antique shop in the building since 1976.



**3** **Ash Creek Animal Clinic**  
194 S. Main

Built around 1884, this Italianate building held a general store with the Masonic Hall on the 2nd floor. By 1902, the IOOF moved upstairs. The lower floor housed a dry goods store owned by Kenneth Williams until 1940.



**4** **Cooper Block**  
206 S. Main

Built in 1895 by prominent banker-turned hop grower J.S. Cooper in the Queen Anne style using local brick. In 1905, as a republican, he represented Polk and Lincoln counties in the legislature. Citizens would watch from the spire and ring a bell announcing the arrival of the Independence Ferry.



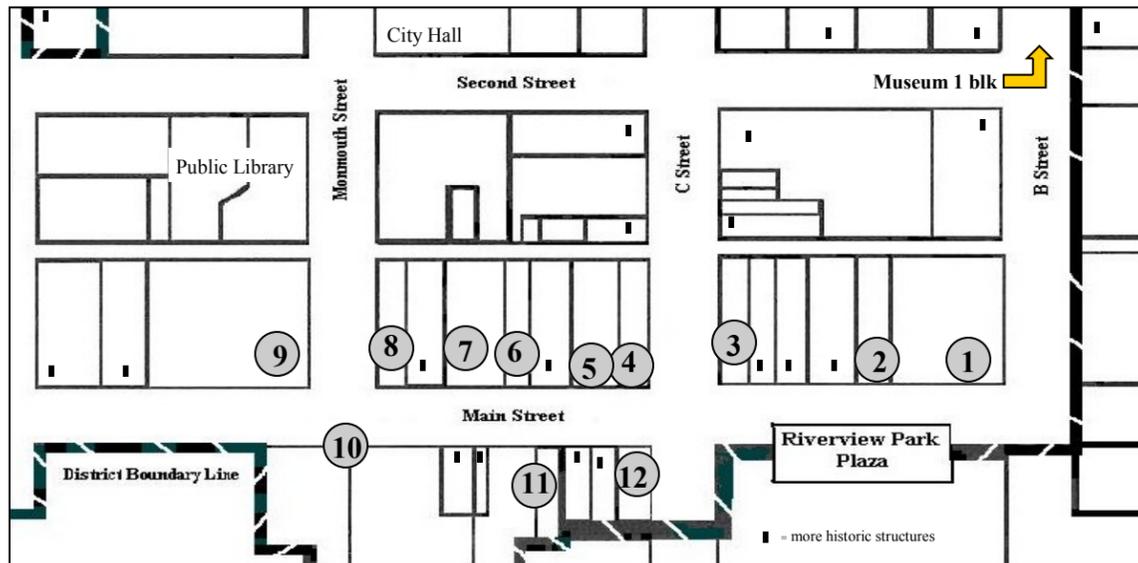
**5** **Little Mall on Main (Craven's)**  
226 S. Main

Built in 1888, as a single story, second floor was added 1913. Craven's operated a stationary store in 1888. In 1902, it was divided, with one half a millinery and shoe store. By 1913, former mayor, Wm Craven opened a soda fountain operating into the 1930's. It was used as a bowling alley in the 1940's.



**6** **250 Main St. Antiques**  
250 S. Main

This building was constructed in 1925 to house Farmer's State Bank, which went out of business in the Great Depression. It was subsequently occupied by Calbreath's grocery store until 1962. It was converted into a jewelry store and is now an antique shop.



This is Main Street looking south at the intersection of B Street, taken about 1920. To see more great historic photo's, come to the Heritage Museum at Third & B.



**7** **The Opera House**  
268 S. Main

Built in 1888, by L. W. Robertson for \$10,000, this Italianate style building was the center of many cultural events. In the 1890's the upper floor held 500 wooden seats used by schools and the public for plays, operas, boxing and wrestling matches. The first floor held various businesses including a hardware store and appliance store. It is currently being restored.



**8** **Taylor's Fountain**  
296 S. Main

Built in 1884, housing a hardware store by 1888., and a grocery in 1913. Sylvester Drug occupied the building in the 1930's. Ed and Leila Taylor purchased it in 1944. It was a gathering place for citizens, retaining the soda fountain until 2006 and housing one of the largest coca-cola collections in the country.



**9** **Sterling Savings Bank**  
302 S. Main

Built in 1892 at a cost of \$12,000 to house the Independence National Bank. H. Hirschberg was President of the bank until his death in 1925. He died one of the wealthiest men in Polk County. In the early 1900's the upper floor was rented to Dr. Otis Butler, the local physician.



**10** **Masonic Building**  
301-319 S. Main

Built (from right to left) in 1892, 1898, and 1914. The far right portion was built to host the Lyon's Lodge No.29, a Masons group that formed in 1859. In 1902, the first floor was home to an agricultural implements store and later a hardware store until 2004, around 1913 a theater is indicated on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, now the Elks.



**11** **Andy's Café**  
227 & 235 S. Main

These two buildings, the left was built in 1916, and was occupied by a number of restaurants including Nedrey's and Hazel's café. Clyde Wunder & Charles Wilson remodeled the building in the 1940's. Andy's Annex, on the right, was built in 1900, occupied by Holecheck Meat market from 1935 to 1950 and Nedrey's operated in this space, too.



**12** **2EZ**  
211 S. Main

Built in 1885 by J.S. Cooper as the First National Bank, the first bank in Independence. It purportedly held the best vault and safe in the valley. Cooper, a prominent member of the community, was active in banking, the hop industry, and politics. The building was later a tavern, Post Office (1901-1913) and a meat market and grocery store.