

Portland King Neighborhood

The King neighborhood, one of the city's most ethnically diverse, is home to the rapidly changing NE Alberta Street and its restaurants, galleries and stores. This walk takes you down some of the neighborhood's quieter residential streets, with their century-old homes and newer infill.

Begin at the southeast corner of NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street. In the 1930s, this neighborhood had the city's highest concentration of foreign-born residents outside downtown, many from Germany. In the 1940s, African Americans moved here, drawn to the Northwest to work in war-time shipyards; it was one of the few city neighborhoods where non-whites were allowed to settle.

From the intersection, walk east on Alberta. At 806 is the spectacularly beautiful St. Andrew's Catholic Church, founded by Irish immigrants in 1907. The sanctuary was built in 1929 in the French Gothic style.

From Alberta, turn right on 9th; walk two blocks and turn left on Wygant; walk five blocks and turn right on 14th. In one block turn left on Going. At 1455 NE Going is a Portland Heritage Tree, a horse chestnut. From Going, turn right on 16th. In one block, turn right on Prescott and then right on 14th Place. Walk one block and turn left on Going. Follow Going west to Grand Avenue; turn right on Grand and then left on Alberta to return to the start.

1.9 miles

4013 steps

difficulty

45.559, -122.661

PORTLAND: KING NEIGHBORHOOD

Street Name History

The first use of the name Alberta on a Portland street was in 1891. In that late Victorian era, the English royals were a popular discussion topic. Princess Alberta was Queen Victoria's fourth daughter; she married a nobleman who was Canada's Governor-General from 1878 to 1883. In 1882 the Province of Alberta was named for her.

Wygant Street is named for Theodore Wygant. In 1850, at 19 years of age, he was the youngest of a party of eleven that crossed the plains on a difficult trek to Oregon. On September 13, 1850, he wrote, "Killed a crow this morning; made our breakfast upon him and some coffee. Killed a few doves for dinner; ate rosebuds for dessert." Wygant settled in Oregon City and was a purser and then captain of riverboats. In 1858, he married a granddaughter of Dr. John McLoughlin.



St. Andrew's Catholic Church



