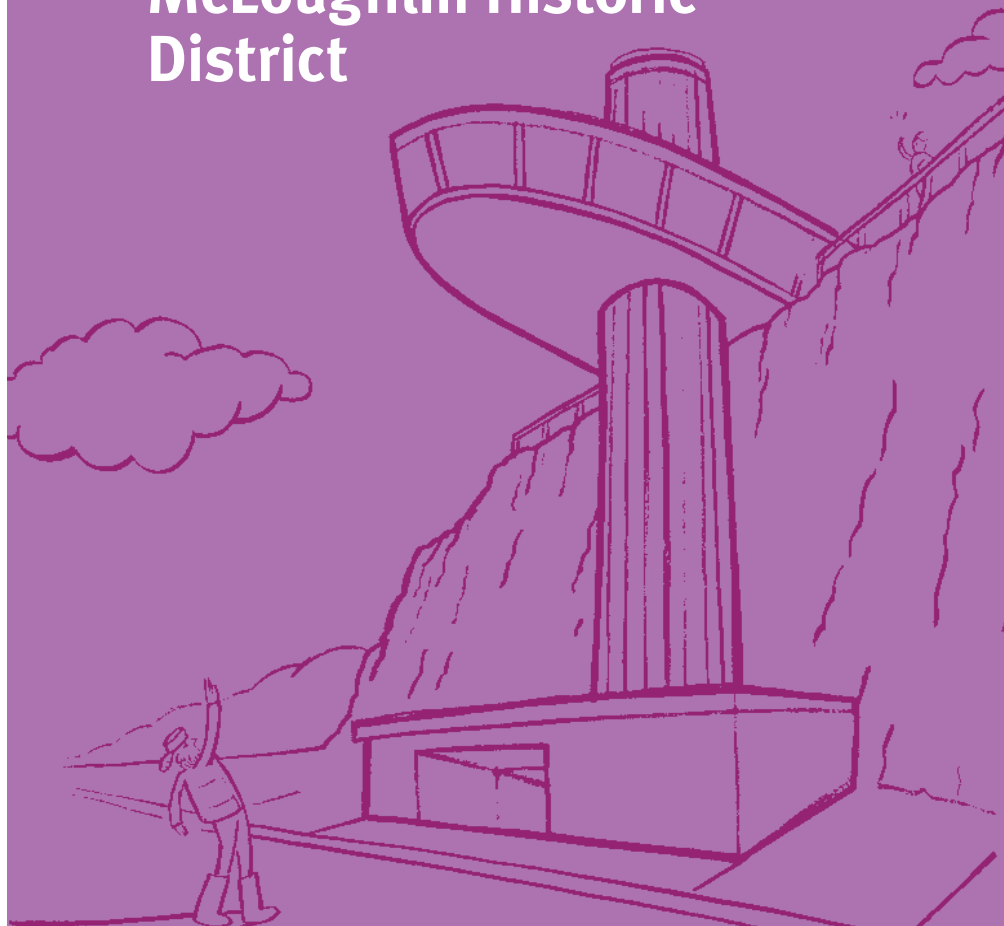


Oregon City McLoughlin Historic District



1.5 miles

3168 steps

difficulty

45.355, -122.604

OREGON CITY: MCLOUGHLIN HISTORIC DISTRICT

In this 1.5-mile Oregon City walk, you'll ride one of the nation's only municipal elevators, stroll a blufftop promenade overlooking thundering Willamette Falls and pass some of the state's oldest homes, including the 1846 John McLoughlin House, final home of the "Father of Oregon." Several of the homes passed are open as museums.

Begin at 606 John Adams Street at the Carnegie Center, built in 1913 as the Oregon City Library. It sits on a block donated to the city by McLoughlin in 1850. From the center's front steps, walk across John Adams for a look at the 1923 Fire Station and City Hall, at 7th Street, before walking south on John Adams to the oldest home in Oregon, the 1845 Francis Ermatinger House, at 619 6th Street. In 1845, a coin flip inside determined Portland's name. The home sat originally on the lower level of Oregon City, next to the river.



Carnegie Center

Turn right on 6th and pass the Stevens-Crawford House, a 1908 Foursquare, now a museum, full of the ephemera and furnishings of early to mid twentieth century life. Continue on 6th, turn left at Center and right at 5th, following it to the McLoughlin Promenade. From here enjoy views of Willamette Falls and the industries that since the 1840s have harnessed its power. The promenade's rockwork was constructed in the 1930s as a work relief project. Turn right onto the promenade and pass the 1882 Queen Anne home of C.D. Latourette,

OREGON CITY: MCLOUGHLIN HISTORIC DISTRICT



at 503 High St.; and the home of M. D. Latourette, a Foursquare from 1914, at 509. The Latourettes are one of the city's most prominent families.

Follow the promenade to the Oregon City Municipal Elevator; it connects the town's river and bluff levels. Rides are free. (If you want, add about 0.25 mile and a stair climb by taking the elevator down, then turning right and ascending a beautiful staircase that climbs the hill next to a stream and ends at the McLoughlin House.) From the elevator, walk north on the walkway, cross High Street, walk east (uphill) on 7th and turn left at Center to pass the McLoughlin House. It also was originally located on the lower level but moved to this site in 1909.

From Center turn right on 8th. At 812 John Adams is the 1930 Elizabeth Clark house, the first in the county to have colored plumbing fixtures. Then turn left onto Jefferson to see the Morris Holman Residence (810 Jefferson), a one-of-a-kind English cottage. From Jefferson, turn right on 10th and right on Madison. At 910 is the Dr. Ross and Ruth Latourette Eaton Residence from 1928. He was a physician; she was an osteopath. Continue on Madison to 4th and turn right and right again on Jefferson. At 415 Jefferson is an 1874 home built by F. O. McCown, who co-founded the Oregon City Electric Company and also worked to improve the Barlow Road. At Jefferson and 5th (715 5th) is the 1895 Judge Thomas Ryan House, with the city's only intact carriage house.

Turn left at 6th and walk one block to John Adams. At the corner is the Atkinson Memorial Church, with windows by Portland's famed Povey Brothers. Across the street is the Carnegie Center.

OREGON CITY: MCLOUGHLIN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Oregon's First City

In 1829 John McLoughlin, who was then head of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver, claimed land at Willamette Falls for England. It was a time when ownership of the Oregon Territory (an area that included parts of British Columbia south to today's Oregon and east to parts of Montana and Wyoming) was in dispute. With American settlers moving into the region, English claims were increasingly tenuous. In 1842, McLoughlin named the site at Willamette Falls "Oregon City" and platted it for England. But by 1845, settlers from the United States voted the town the seat of the Oregon Territory's first provisional government. McLoughlin retired from his work and joined the settlers, building his home here in 1845. In 1846, the international boundary between English Canada and the United States was set at its current location.



Willamette Falls



