Sherwood Old Town

Sherwood was platted out in 1889 around the rail depot. This walk explores Old Town Sherwood’s historic buildings and loops through the woods and wetlands of Stella Olsen Memorial Park before returning to Old Town with its many shops, restaurants and antique stores.

Begin at SW Pine and 2nd streets. In the northwest corner is one of the state’s largest Atlas cedars. Walk south on Pine. At the southwest corner of Pine and 1st is the site of the livery stable, origin of the great fire of 1911 that destroyed much of downtown.

From Pine, turn right onto Railroad Street. A visitor information center is at Pine and Railroad. The Old Sherwood Hotel, from the 1890s, sits at the northeast corner of Washington and Railroad. A vital element to any railroad town, the hotel also doubled as the town bank for a time. Across Railroad is the Graves Cannery, from 1918. It processed fruits picked by child laborers from nearby farms. It closed in 1971.

Where Washington crosses Railroad is the site of a civic protest. In the 1910s, homes had been built on the south side of Railroad. Residents needed to safely cross the tracks, but the Southern Pacific refused a request for a signaled crossing. Citizens then built a crossing during the middle of the night and spent the next 24 hours in a constant parade across it. The necessary signal was soon installed.

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On the left between Washington and Main is the site of the town’s train depot. After Park Street, the road jogs right and becomes SW Villa Road. Take Villa into Stella Olsen Memorial Park, centered on two islands created by the meandering Cedar Creek as it flows north to the Tualatin River. Turn right to walk along a boardwalk over wetlands. At the end, cross the creek. A covered picnic area is to the left. Continue through the park to the sidewalk on Washington Street.

Turn right on Washington past historic homes. At 2nd is the charming 150-square-foot Rudy Olsen Gas Pump Park. Turn left on 1st. At the corner is the 1911 Colfelt building, where a saloon has operated since 1896. At Pine, turn left and walk one block to the start.