

# THE VILLAGE OF HALFWAY and the Town of Walla Walla

In the fall of 1858 Harry Howard together with a Mr. Parkeson built a log saloon in this vicinity, which was halfway between the new Fort Walla Walla on the hill to the west, and the old Fort Walla Walla where Mill Creek crosses the Nez Perce Trail at First & Main. This saloon soon became known as the Halfway House, and others built around it thinking that a town would be founded here. The additional businesses located here were Michael Kenny, a saloon, William Terry, the Bank Exchange saloon, Mahan and Harcum, a store, James Buckley and Thomas Riley, a saloon, and a bakery operated by a Mr. Meyo. These entrepreneurs laid off a plaza for the village of Halfway and built facing it. In a competition that developed between the two villages, merchants near the old fort on Mill Creek had the advantage, and in the end everyone realized that packers were bound to go to Mill Creek to camp and while there would trade at the nearest store or saloon. As a result, those at Halfway moved to Mill Creek, where the town of Walla Walla was founded in November, 1859. —thanks to Historic Sketches of Walla Walla County, Frank T. Gilbert, 1882

The first building erected on Mill Creek other than at Fort Walla Walla was a log structure constructed in the summer of 1857 by William McWhirk on the north side of Main Street where Second now crosses it. The next was a store of poles and mud erected by Charles Belman in the spring of 1858 on the north side of Main between the creek and Second Street. The third building was made of slabs set endways in the ground and covered with shakes on the south side of Main at what is now Third, put up by Lewis McMorris for Neil McGlinchey in April 1858. Others soon followed, and on November 17, 1859 the town of Walla Walla was created by Walla Walla County Commissioners. The government survey of 1860, superimposed below on a current city map, shows the wagon road leading to the town from the new fort on the hill.

