

Wallula History Site

There has long been recognition of the need to create an interpretive site to honor the Wallula area's many-faceted history. In addition to the story of its formation by the 15,000-18,000 year old Missoula Floods, this area at the confluence of major rivers was the location of a traditional village and gathering site for Native Americans, a significant encounter between the Lewis & Clark expedition and area Indian people, the site of Fort Nez Perce established in 1818 as the first trading post in the inland region, a gold-rush era steamship port, the terminus of the northwest's first rail line, and the town of Wallula as well as the McNary Dam inundation.

Walla Walla 2020 has recently obtained permission from the Washington State Department of Transportation to construct an interpretive shelter at the eastern entrance to the Wallula Gap. This site is the closest point to many of the historical events that took place in the 1800's at the mouth of the Walla Walla River, which is now underwater.

The Wallula History Site is a major project we believe will significantly increase our region's pride of place and cultural understanding, for which we are currently seeking donations.

Mullan Road Historic Site

In March, 1858, US Army Lt. John Mullan was given the task of building a wagon road from the steamship docks at old Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River across the Rocky Mountains to the steamship docks at Fort Benton on the Missouri River, by way of the new fort at the town of Walla Walla.

Plans are currently underway for the development of a Mullan Road Historic Site at the corner of the original Fort Walla Walla military reservation on 13th Avenue at Abadie Street in Walla Walla. If you are interested in helping with the development of this site, please contact Daniel Clark, Walla Walla 2020, clarkdn@charter.net, 509-522-0399.

OTHER SITES

Along with the other signage listed, Walla Walla 2020 has plans for the marking of additional sites, including the Edgewater Park Dance Pavilion on Mill Creek in downtown Walla Walla, the Flathers Halfway House on the Mullan Road near Prescott, and the Second Walla Walla Treaty Council & Stevens Skirmish on Mill Creek, among others. Information on these sites is available online at www.ww2020.net/historic-sites.

PLEASE DONATE

Donations for this tax-deductible project are needed.

Yes, I'm willing to help!

I'm enclosing a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____ for the general marking of significant historic sites in the Walla Walla area or for the following planned project(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

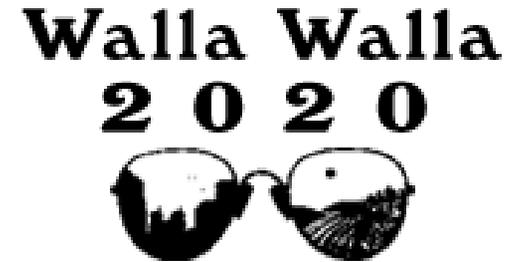
Please send me emails regarding additional historic presentations and projects.

Email: _____

Please mail to Walla Walla 2020, PO Box 1222,
Walla Walla WA 99362

Information on the Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research & Plaque Project for individual residences and buildings is available on the internet at www.ww2020.net/historic-building-research.

HISTORIC SITES AND MARKERS



*telling the stories
and marking the sites of
significant Walla Walla history*



PO Box 1222, Walla Walla WA 99362
509-522-0399
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www.ww2020.net

HISTORIC SITES AND MARKERS PROJECT

The goal of the Walla Walla 2020 Historic Sites & Markers Project is to honor unmarked Walla Walla area historic sites, most of which are unknown to the general public, by erecting interpretive signage and providing additional details about their significance through printed materials, public presentations and on our webpages.

Several sites have already been marked, and plans are underway for additional sites, dependent on available funding.

Walla Walla County Poor Farm



The Walla Walla County Poor Farm was established in 1891, and at one point included 200 acres extending from the present 12th Street in College Place south to Taumarson Road, and from just east of Myra Road to College Avenue. The farm was owned and run by Walla Walla County as a place where indigent residents could live and work.

Poor Farm residents lived in the large house at the corner of what is now SE Scenic View and Robin Drive. There were various outbuildings on the grounds, including a separate hospital and a tuberculosis sanitarium. Many of the residents of the farm were ultimately buried in the Poor Farm cemetery at the corner of Mockingbird and Sandpiper in College Place. You will find signage regarding the Poor Farm and the Poor Farm cemetery placed by Walla Walla 2020 at both sites.

The Village of Halfway & the Town of Walla Walla

In the fall of 1858 Harry Howard together with a Mr. Parkeson built a log saloon in the vicinity of what is

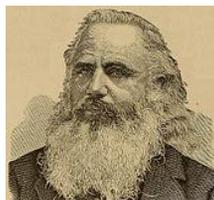
now 12th and Poplar in Walla Walla, halfway between the new Fort Walla Walla on the hill to the west, and the old Fort Walla Walla where Mill Creek crosses the Nez Perce Trail at First and Main. This saloon became known as the Halfway House. Others soon built around it thinking that a town would be founded there. These entrepreneurs laid off a plaza for the village of Halfway and built facing it.

In a competition that developed between the village of Halfway and a number of other merchants who had built near the old cantonment on Mill Creek, in the end everyone realized that packers were bound to go to Mill Creek to camp and while there tended to trade at the nearest store or saloon.



As a result, those on the creek had the advantage, and the merchants at Halfway moved their establishments to Mill Creek, where the town of Walla Walla was founded in November 1859. Walla Walla 2020 has erected an interpretive sign telling the story of these villages at the corner of 12th & Poplar on the grounds of the city's main fire station.

William Davies Community and the Walla Walla Jesus



William Davies was the leader of a Latter Day Saint schismatic group called the Kingdom of Heaven overlooking the Mill Creek canyon and the Walla Walla Valley from 1867 to 1881. Davies and forty of his followers moved here in 1866 and eventually established a communal society on 400 acres near the top of Scenic Loop Road at its intersection with what

is now known as Mormon Grade, where Walla Walla 2020 has erected an interpretive sign.

Davies taught his followers that he was the archangel Michael, who had previously lived lives as the biblical Adam, Abraham, and David. When his son Arthur was born on February 11, 1868, Davies declared that the infant was the reincarnated Jesus Christ, and the child came to be called "the Walla Walla Jesus."

When Davies' son David was born in 1869, he declared him to be God the Father, and it is said that he also declared himself to be the Holy Spirit, completing the Trinity. The Kingdom of Heaven began to collapse in 1879 when Davies' wife Sarah died of diphtheria, and in 1880, when both Arthur and David died of the same disease.

The McCool Catholic Cemetery

Because of overcrowding at Walla Walla's first Catholic cemetery, a plot of land known as the McCool Cemetery was acquired from Robert McCool in 1869 adjacent to what is now Village Way in the southern part of the city.

After overcrowding there as well, in October 1891 a new Catholic Cemetery was established adjacent to the Mountain View Cemetery on South Second.

On October 31, 1969, on the assumption that all burials at McCool had been removed to the new cemetery, the Catholic Bishop sold the McCool Cemetery ground to developers. Official records, however, list fewer than half of the several hundred Catholic burials at McCool as reinterred at Mt. View.

In the 1970's, during construction of Village Way, human remains were encountered in the street and on adjoining residential lots. Archaeological excavations have now documented the presence of additional burials both inside and outside the boundaries of the deeded cemetery.

Walla Walla 2020 is in the process of erecting an interpretive sign on Village Way adjacent to this unmarked cemetery listing those buried there who are not shown to have been moved to another cemetery. Burial records from 1872-1883 were not available and are not included.