

WALLA WALLA COUNTY POOR FARM

The County Poor Farm was established here in 1891. Originally covering 160 acres, it was later expanded to 200 acres, extending from 12th Street in College Place south to Taumarson Road. Walla Walla County residents who were indigent lived in the large, ten bedroom home still standing on this private property. The photos below show various additions, including a large attached kitchen and a separate hospital and tuberculosis sanitarium, which were later removed. The Poor Farm barn, constructed with wooden pegs in place of nails, is still in use nearby on Robin Drive.

Deceased Poor Farm residents along with unclaimed remains from the Walla Walla County Coroner's office were buried in the Poor Farm Cemetery just southeast of here at the corner of Mockingbird and Mallard Lane, which still contains approximately six hundred burials. The County Poor Farm was closed in the 1930s when the federal Social Security system was created and counties were no longer primarily responsible for indigent welfare. Additional Poor Farm information is available at the cemetery, and at www.ww2020.net.



Sign placed by Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research & Plaque Service