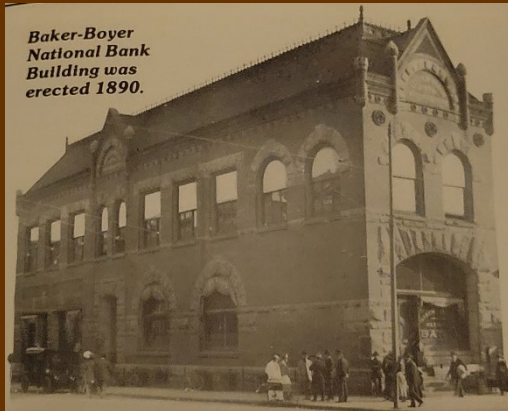


HERITAGE PARK HISTORIC BUILDING MURALS

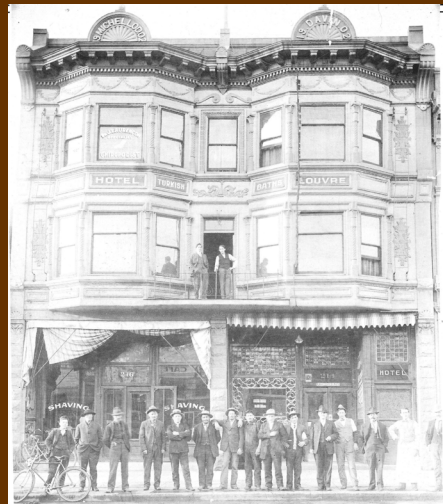
Baker Boyer National Bank, 1890



Dr. Dorsey S. Baker, who looms as the undoubted financial genius and development pioneer of Walla Walla, founded the little bank which ultimately became the Baker-Boyer National Bank of today. Dr. Baker was born October 18, 1823 in Wabash County, Illinois. After surveying possible vocations, the young man chose medicine for his profession and graduated from Philadelphia's Jefferson Medical College in 1845. Settling in Iowa, it was not long before he heard the call of the West and in 1848 he started for the land of opportunity – Oregon where he settled in Portland and began his career as a physician. Unable to resist the gold rush to California, the young doctor spent a year there before coming back to Portland in 1850 to open a mercantile business and then stock raising, milling and general merchandising.

Dr. Baker's career in Walla Walla began in October, 1859 when he opened a store with William Stephens in charge. In 1860 he came here to run the store. John F. Boyer, Baker's brother-in-law, joined him as a partner in 1862, and they established the firm of Baker and Boyer. This was the time of the gold rush to the Idaho mines, and Walla Walla was a major supply point before reaching them. Consequently, Baker and Boyer's small business flourished. Hundreds of miners deposited their buckskin pouches of gold dust at the store for the winter, because they came to respect the honest treatment and fair dealing they received from Baker and Boyer. The trade with the miners and their habit of depositing their gold dust really suggested the founding of the bank. It was formed officially in 1869.

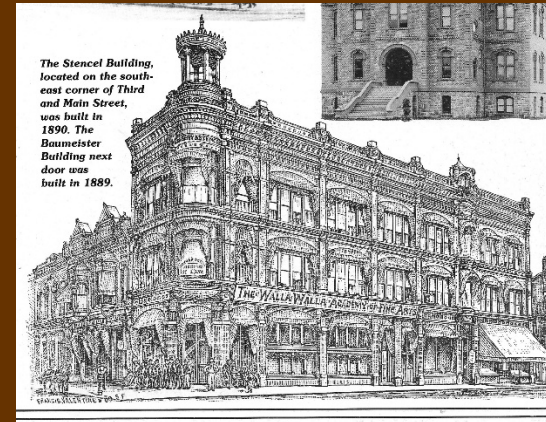
Michellodo-Davin Building, 1902



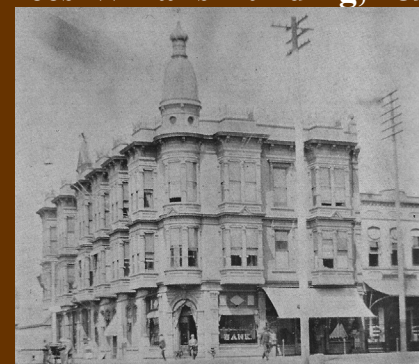
S. V. "Frank" Davin was a twelve year old youth when his parents emigrated to California in 1873. There young Davin completed his education. After his schooling he joined a traveling circus, being the catch man for a trapeze team. Billing himself as "the great Leon", Davin toured the West. When the circus came to Walla Walla he was able to visit his brother Joseph who had come here in 1883, and now owned his own sheep ranch. Joe offered his brother a job in 1888, and Frank accepted. Three years later Frank opened the Louvre Saloon which was owned by the Davin brothers.

This saloon was one of the meeting places of French and Basque herders who worked in the area. Frank billed the saloon as the "Bureau of Information for Sheep and Stockmen". The Louvre prospered as the town grew, and Davin joined with X. Michellod to build a new saloon and hotel in 1902.

Stencil Building, 1890

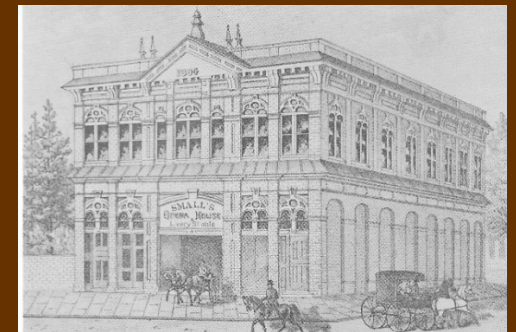


Rees-Winans Building, 1890



Rees-Winans building (remodeled and now called the Jones Building) built on the northeast corner of Second and Main Streets in 1890. The Farmers' Saving Bank, W.P. Winans, President, was on the ground floor.

Small's Opera House, 1884



Small's Opera House opened June 16, 1884, on the corner of Second and Alder Streets (the site of the present Denny Building). In December of that year the roof collapsed, killing one person. The accident was blamed on faulty construction. The building was rebuilt and served as Walla Walla's entertainment center for a number of years.

Muralist & Sponsor

This mural was created by James Fritz, formerly of Walla Walla and now a professor of art at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay.

The murals are a project of the Walla Walla 2020 Historic Sites and Markers Project, ww2020.net/history-websites.