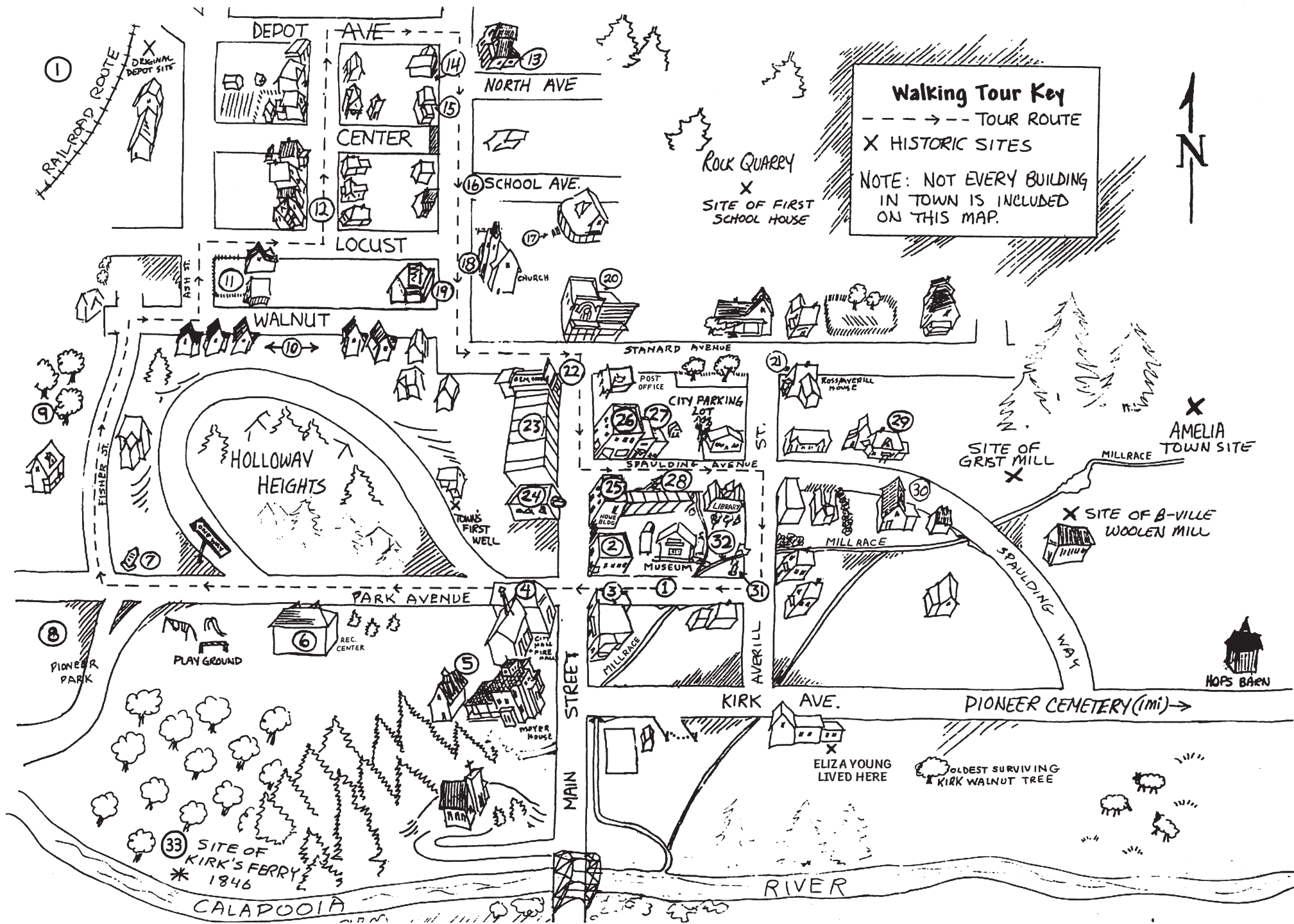




- ① **Brownsville's railway** was originally a narrow gauge line completed in December 1880. It came through town about a quarter mile to the northwest of the present Depot location. The track was soon widened to standard gauge and purchased by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. The Depot building was constructed around 1895 and served the town until passenger service was discontinued. The building was then sold for one dollar, moved from its original location at the end of Depot Street and reconstructed on this site. It became the new home of the Linn County Historical Museum in 1984.
- ② **The Big Fire of 1919** burned buildings from the south side of Spaulding Avenue to the Calapooia River. Cecil Howe's Ford Agency was one of them. When he rebuilt he used "cast stone", a process offered by Montgomery Ward. It was the latest thing in fireproof building materials.
- ③ **The Pioneer Picture Gallery** holds a rich collection of Brownsville and Linn County history in photos and is open Fridays and Saturdays May through Labor Day and by appointment. (Call 541-466-3446 or 541-367-8591) The building was originally a mortuary.
- ④ **City Hall** occupies a former Methodist Episcopal Church building. The original church, built about 1900, partially burned in the 1940s. It was rebuilt of fireproof materials.
- ⑤ **The Moyer House**, a Victorian residence built in 1881, is a furnished house museum, open to the public on weekends and by request. (Inquire at the Museum, 101 Park Avenue, or call 541-466-3390 to arrange for a tour. Adults \$5 each).
- ⑥ **The Recreation Center** was the North Brownsville High School gymnasium built in 1937.
- ⑦ **Monument to the Pioneers** was placed on this site by the Linn

County Pioneer Memorial Association. The LCPMA presents the Pioneer Picnic each June, an annual celebration since 1887 and the oldest continuing community celebration in Oregon.

⑧ **Pioneer Park:** site of the Pioneer Picnic. The Park is open for use all year and for camping from April through October. The blueberry pie eating contest scene in the 1986 movie, "Stand By Me" was filmed here.

⑨ **The Mary and E.E. Boyd House**, a Craftsman style bungalow built in 1910, played the part of Gordie's home in the movie "Stand By Me". Behind the house is a grove of Kirk Walnut trees. Riley Kirk propagated this unusual thin shelled, low-acid variety of English walnut in the 1880s. The Kirk Walnut soon attained commercial importance. By 1927 hundreds of Kirk Walnut trees were planted in the Brownsville area as well as in other parts of the country. Local tradition often credits the yearly crop from a resident's single tree with providing the cash to pay the property taxes.

⑩ **Five homes** of similar design with elements of both Victorian and Craftsman styles were constructed on Walnut Street between 1908 and 1910.

⑪ **The old-fashioned garden** surrounding this 1930s house combines annual and perennial flowers and plants in a delightfully random profusion.

⑫ **The arrival of the railroad in 1882 spurred speculation and growth** on the north side of Brownsville. These two blocks of Oak Street were platted at that time. Older homes were dragged in from the country and new ones were constructed. These homes display an interesting mix of styles popular from the 1850s through the 1920s.

⑬ **608 Oak:** It is said this house was moved in from the country so that the owner's wife could be near the doctor for the birth of a child. The

house was built in the Greek Revival style in the 1850s, moved here by 1884, and slightly remodeled (larger windows and front porch) about 1910.

⑭ **611 Oak:** The basic form of this house indicates it was built about 1875. Some of the windows were changed in 1983.

⑮ **619 Oak:** This was the 1900 residence of the pioneer Swank family. There were some minor changes made in 1981.

⑯ **620 Oak:** This house was built ca. 1870 and later moved to this location. The Italianate Victorian style porch and bay windows were added when it was moved here in 1888.

⑰ **627 Oak:** A very typical 1860s home of "box" construction: rough planks extending from the foundation to roof are clad on the exterior with siding; muslin cloth and wallpaper on the inside keep out the breezes. There is no other framing, and no room for insulation. These houses tended to be chilly!

⑱ **704 Oak:** The left portion dates from about 1875; the south addition later. The dormer window and front porch were added in 1915, the second-floor deck in 1982.

⑲ **713 Oak:** A lovely example of a 1908 Craftsman-style bungalow.

⑳ **721 Oak:** This four-square Italianate Cottage was built in 1887. It has unusual decorative details around the windows and doors. The etched-glass front door and large window to its left may have been changes made when F.M. Brown, local newspaper publisher, purchased the house in 1903.

㉑ **This charming Queen Anne Victorian home** was built for Kate Coshaw, youngest daughter of O.P. Coshaw, on land her father deeded to her in 1898. A huge black walnut marks the corner of the property. These trees, noted for their beautiful and valuable wood, were planted by the earliest settlers for future furniture-making material.

㉒ **The south portion of this house** is Greek Revival style, built by Enoch Thompson, a local furniture maker, about 1867. The north wing was added around 1910.

㉓ **711 Main Street** is notable for its intricate geometric "dentils" along the roof edges. This is simplified Italianate style circa 1890.

㉔ **The stairs** lead to School Street which once was the access road to a one-room school perched at the top of this hill.

㉕ **Dr. J.B. Kelly's home**, built in 1867, burned to the ground in 2010. This reconstruction incorporates the 1910 stone stairway, which survived the fire, and looks much like the original house. A small hospital/clinic was once located in the northwest corner of the lot.

㉖ **The Brownsville Baptist Church**, built in 1906, is one of the best-preserved examples of a "pattern" church in Oregon. Its design is an adaptation of plans from a mail-order book of church designs. The congregation did much of the work themselves, under a professional architect/builder's guidance. They utilized the frame of their previous church building (ca. 1865) for the sanctuary portion. The total cost, including seats, furnaces and carpets, was \$4,400. The Baptist Church building is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is now a private residence.

㉗ **Dr. I.W. Starr's home** was built in 1910 in the spacious and comfortable Craftsman style.

㉘ **Brownsville's first brick building** was built in 1903 by the Woodmen of the World (WOW) Lodge brothers and White and Knapp Hardware. Locally made brick was used. The wooden decorative elements were added in the 1960s to protect the deteriorating brick and give a more "Victorian" look to the building. The lower floor has always been a hardware store. The upper floor

housed both the WOW and the Masonic Lodge and is now a private residence.

㉙ **The houses clustered about this corner** are fine examples of early Brownsville homes. The black wooden plaques on each house give the dates and original owners. The smallest house, built in 1865, is on the National Register of Historic Places. H.J.C. Averill, Linn County's first surveyor and Brownsville's Justice of the Peace and City Recorder, raised his family here. His name is scratched on the kitchen window panes.

㉚ **This is Brownsville's oldest surviving commercial building**, dating to 1874. It housed a drugstore until 1922; later uses include confectionery, tavern, general store and restaurant. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

㉛ **In about the year 1935** a woman who had poisoned her husband with arsenic set fire to the local drugstore in a effort to destroy records of her purchases of the poison. The resulting fire destroyed half a block. This group of brick, block and concrete buildings replaced the wooden ones that burned.

㉜ **This small brick building** was the Bank of Brownsville, built in 1903. The Coca Cola sign on its south wall was painted for the movie "Stand By Me" in 1985.

㉝ **The Howe Building** was constructed in 1908 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The brick building is credited with stopping the westward spread of a disastrous 1919 fire that burned everything else between Averill and Main Streets from Spaulding Avenue to the Calapooia River.

㉞ **The Odd Fellows Building** was made of local bricks in 1908. Damage caused by an 1949 earthquake required the restructuring of the roof and plastering of the brick surface.

㉟ **This brick and block building**, constructed in 1912, was originally a drugstore, then housed The Times newspaper until 1999. The interior ceiling is of decorative pressed tin.

㊱ **This block of buildings** replaced those destroyed in the 1919 fire. All are constructed of "fireproof" brick, tile and concrete.

㊲ **The 1865 Blakely/Simons House** is visible in the central photo below. It is the next to last house on the left.

㊳ **The Venner House** was built in 1895. J.F. Venner was a local photographer and druggist. The barn behind the house dates to about 1900, and is a rare surviving urban barn, once very common in Brownsville.

㊴ **Monument to the Soldiers of the Civil War** erected in 1903 by the Women's Relief Corps #15.

㊵ **The Millrace** originated at a wooden dam three miles up the Calapooia River. Dug in 1858, a year before Oregon became a state, it provided water power for a grist mill, woolen mill, lumber mill and tannery. This reliable energy source and the job opportunities it provided were key factors in the growth and stability of the twin towns of South Brownsville and North Brownsville. In 1903 a turbine in the millrace brought electricity to the downtown area. The dam was removed in 2007 to enhance the steelhead passage on the Calapooia. Now water is pumped into the millrace in summer, in winter the millrace carries rainwater back to the river.

㊶ **Site of Kirk's Ferry.** Visit Alexander and Sarah Kirk's 1840 hand hewn log cabin across the river at Kirk's Ferry Trading Post, 217 W. Bishop Way (Hwy 228).

Note: Look for painted wood plaques on homes and buildings identifying construction date and original owner.

Photos Courtesy: Linn County Historical Museum



Averill Family Corner of Averill & Stanard, Circa 1880. Photo: W.F. Ross.



Looking East on Spaulding, Circa 1915.



Corner of Stanard and Main St. Old Times office in background, Circa 1920.