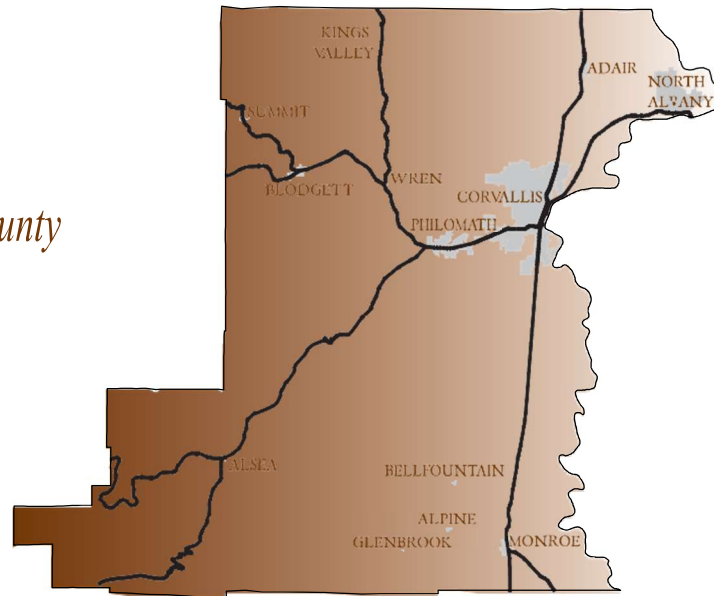


Benton County



Benton County Overview

The Provisional Oregon Legislature established Benton County in 1847 to honor Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri who was instrumental in promoting the development of the Oregon Country. Benton County originally stretched from the Polk County boundary south to the California border and from the Pacific Ocean east to the Willamette River. Today Benton County includes 679 square miles of the original area in the Mid-Willamette Valley, with the county seat located in Corvallis. The landscape features floodplains to the east and the Coast Range foothills on the west. Several waterways traverse the county, principally the Willamette and Marys Rivers. These rivers were important to the transportation, agriculture, and industrial development of the area. Silt deposits resulting from both the Ice Age Missoula Floods as well as annual stream flooding made the region excellent for farming, and the rich soils provide prime agricultural land today.

Long before exploration of the Pacific Northwest region by Euro-Americans, this land was home to tens of thousands of Native people comprising nearly 100 different bands and tribes. The Kalapuya occupied the central Willamette Valley. Each band usually had a permanent camp along a Willamette River tributary. The Chepenefa band of the Kalapuya people occupied the Marys River watershed. The Kalapuya were hunter-gatherers, who followed the cycles of the seasons gathering plant and animal resources that were abundant in the valley.

The seasonal cycle of hunting and gathering continued for thousands of years. Euro-American explorers and trappers arriving in the 18th century unknowingly brought diseases against which the Native people had no immunities. As early as the 1780s smallpox and malaria epidemics decimated the Kalapuya people. The catastrophic reduction of the Kalapuya population allowed some of the Klickitat, who normally lived in the Columbia River region, to migrate south. By the time early Euro-American settlers reached the current Benton County area, they found limited numbers of both Kalapuya and Klickitats. Their numbers and strength diminished, the Native people posed little resistance to newcomers.

The Kalapuya regularly burned the valley to limit the intrusion of local conifers and hardwoods, creating a productive landscape of oak savanna and upland prairie rich in acorns and camas root, staples of the Kalapuya diet. Consequently, when early Oregon Trail immigrants arrived, they found a managed landscape. To them, the cleared land was amenable to crops and livestock pastures, and together with a mild climate and abundant water, this was the Eden at the end of the Oregon Trail. The passage of the 1850 Oregon Donation Land Claim Act appropriated the territory for free home and farm sites for Euro-American settlers.

1. Union Depot/Southern Pacific Railroad Station

603 NW 2nd Street

The California Mission style depot was constructed in 1910 at 9th Street and Washington, and moved to 6th Street between Madison and Monroe in 1917, where it served as a passenger depot until the 1950s. The depot moved yet again to this location in 1982.

Proceed north 2.8 miles to Pilkington Ave; turn right (east) onto Pilkington Ave and continue 0.3 mile. (Note that 2nd Street becomes Hwy 20 outside the Corvallis City Limits.)

2. Woodcock House

2900 Pilkington Avenue

Private residence. Not open to the public.



M.S. Woodcock, a prominent Corvallis lawyer, founder of the First National Bank of Corvallis, and mayor of Corvallis from 1901-1903 built this grand Italianate style house around 1880 at 140 NW 5th Street. The Woodcock Family continued to own the house until 1975, when it was sold and moved to this location.

Return to Hwy 20, turn right (north), and proceed 0.7 mile. Pull into the parking area directly in front of the school.

3. Children's Farm Home

4455 NE Hwy 20 This private non-profit facility, situated on nearly 300 acres, was started by The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in 1922 for orphaned or neglected children. Throughout the years the services have changed; and today Trillium Family Services provides children's mental and behavioral healthcare services here. The 1925 Farm Home School is an excellent example of Georgian Revival style architecture. It features a pedimented portico with Tuscan columns, an octagonal, louvered cupola with dome roof, exterior stucco, and brick laid using common bond and basket weave patterns. This National Register structure was recently restored and reopened in 2013. The upper floor is open to

Aerial view of Children's Farm Home



the public, and features a lunchroom café, shops, and meeting spaces available by reservation, (541) 758-5953.



Continue 0.4 mile north on Hwy 20. The Kiger-Reynolds House is on the west side of the highway.

4. Kiger-Reynolds House and Farmstead

4790 NE Hwy 20

Private residence. Not open to the public.

In 1847, Daniel Morgan, great-great grandfather of the current owner, established this farm on his donation land claim. The Kiger Family constructed this Gothic Vernacular house in 1895, and remodeled it during the 1930s with Colonial Revival elements.

Proceed 0.7 mile on Hwy 20. The highway bends slightly to the east at this point, a highway sign points to Garland Nursery.

5. Garland Nursery

5470 NE Highway 20

P.J. and Dorothea Schmidt established a farm here in 1903. In 1939, their daughter, Garland Powell, established the nursery. Today Garland's family continues to operate the nursery. In 2007, the state of Oregon designated Garland Nursery as a Century Farm. www.garlandnursery.com

Travel 0.6 mile east on Hwy 20 to Lewisburg-Granger Road and turn left (north). At Hyslop Road, immediately turn right (east) and proceed 0.4 mile to the end of the road.

6. KOAC Transmitter Building

In 1922, the Federal Communications Commission chartered KOAC, one of the earliest radio stations in Oregon, for Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University.) The station transmitted from campus until the college constructed the transmitter building in 1942 at Hyslop Farm, though the studios remained on campus. During the cold war, OSU constructed an emergency studio in this building. The studio remains today. The Transmitter Building is an excellent example of Modern style architecture, and today KOAC is part of the Oregon Public Broadcasting network at 550 AM. www.archives.library.oregonstate.edu/exhibits/koac/main.html

Return to the intersection of Lewisburg-Granger Road and Highway 20.

Directly across the highway stood the **Mid Way Drive-in Theatre**. Charles Whiteside opened the Mid Way in 1953. His brothers Samuel and George operated many theaters in downtown Corvallis in the early part of the 20th Century. The Mid Way was the only drive-in theatre operated by the family until the mid-1980s. Following demolition in the early 1990s, only the row of cedars that shielded the movie screen remains. The drive-in sign

stood for many years along Hwy 20 and in 2003 moved to downtown Corvallis, where it is mounted on the building at 134 SW 1st Street.

Turn left (east) on Hwy. 20 for 0.3 mile to Independence Hwy, turn left (north) and cross the railroad tracks. Continue 0.2 mile north from Hwy 20.

7. Henry Hector Farm

202 NE Independence Highway

Private residence. Not open to the public.

Henry Hector grew up in Pennsylvania and purchased this farm about 1883, where he grew grain and raised Morgan horses. Hector's wife, Josephine, admired a similar Eastlake and Stick style house, obtained the plans, and had this house constructed about 1902. Details in the apex of the gable show a sunburst design and spindles. Windows in the gable end display colored lights surrounding the top glass sash, while sawtooth molding trims the window below. The 1904 barn to the west features a gable roof and vertical board-and-batten siding. Outbuildings include a carriage house, machine shed, smokehouse and a gazebo, which is the former cupola of a barn on the OSU campus, salvaged by the Hectors. The farm remains in the Hector Family

Return to Hwy 20, turn left (east), and continue 1.1 miles to Hyak Park on the right (south) side of the road.

8. Adair Water Intake Park, now Hyak Park

Accessible restrooms are available.

Hyak Park is the former Adair Water Intake Park for Camp Adair, the World War II cantonment that was established in 1942 northwest of this location on approximately 50,000 acres in Benton and Polk Counties. In 1971 the Federal government transferred Hyak Park to Benton County. The water intake still operates, but today the park also offers river access with a boat ramp and seasonal moorage, picnic tables, and outstanding views of the river. The associated Camp Adair Water Plant is located on a bluff across Hwy 20 from the park. Built in 1942 the water plant purified Willamette River water supplying fresh water to Camp Adair. It continues to provide fresh water to the City of Adair Village and the surrounding community.

Visible from the east side of Hyak Park, situated just above the river terrace and at the base of the hill across the highway, is the **Rainwater-Hilbert House** at 4829 Highway 20 NE. John Rainwater, a farmer, was the son of Alexander M. Rainwater, one of the earliest settlers in this area, arriving in Benton County in 1847. A.M. Rainwater filed a Donation Land Claim on this property and eventually owned 1,200 acres in what is now North Albany. He operated one of the first ferries across the Willamette River in the upper Willamette Valley, and also owned a large grain warehouse in this vicinity at what was known as "Rainwater's Landing." A.M. transferred title of this property to his son John in 1881, and it is believed that this Gothic Vernacular house was constructed at that time. The Hilberts purchased the one acre of property that includes this house in 1919, and continued to live here until 1942. This is a private residence and not open to the public.

Continue 2.2 miles east to North Albany Road, turn left (north) at the traffic signal onto North Albany Road and proceed 0.3 mile. The Fairmount Grange will be on the right. Park temporarily in the Fairmount Grange parking lot, as the next stop can be viewed most easily on foot.

9. Fairmount Grange Hall

835 North Albany Road NW

The original Fairmount Grange, built in 1892, burned on July 26, 1929. Grange members immediately planned for the construction of a new hall and purchased land from neighbor William Peacock. Grange members dedicated the new hall that featured double leaf entry doors and cornice-style window heads in May 1930. The Fairmount Grange Hall is one of six remaining in Benton County.

Walk north to the adjacent property, beyond the railroad tracks.

10. William H. Peacock House

915 North Albany Rd NW

Private residence. Not open to the public.



The 1909 William Henry and Lizzie Peacock House, hidden behind a dense laurel hedge, exhibits an eccentric blending of stylistic elements including Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Italianate architectural details. William Charles Peacock, the only child of William Henry and Lizzie Peacock, lived here until the 1990s.

Continue 0.2 miles north on North Albany Rd and see the elementary school on the right.

11. North Albany Elementary School

815 Thornton Lake Drive NW

The first North Albany Grade School, built 1906, was a one room school for eight grades. The children started school at 9:00 a.m. and went home at 4:00 p.m. for eight months of the year. A new school constructed in 1949 provided two classrooms, with numerous additions since.

Continue 0.2 mile north on North Albany Rd to the top of the hill. Turn left (west) around the traffic circle onto Gibson Hill Rd. Continue west on Gibson Hill Rd for 1.2 miles. Gibson Hill Rd meets Scenic Dr. at a T-intersection, and the Lewis Wentz House is straight ahead.

12. Lewis Wentz House

1610 Scenic Drive NW

Private residence. Not open to the public.

Lewis Wentz, a “practical and scientific farmer,” married Ann Johnston, a widow. He purchased a 20 acre farm in 1895 and built this Queen Anne style cottage. Its projecting slant window bay has a pedimented gable roof and the tympanum of the pediment is embellished with a sunburst design.

Turn right (north) on Scenic Drive, and then immediately turn left (west) on Oak Grove Drive, proceed for 0.2 mile.

13. Oak Grove Elementary

1500 Oak Grove Drive NW

The original Oak Grove School, constructed in 1860, was called the “Bummers” school house because of the “undesirable” class of people who lived near it. The second school house on the site was a late 1880s structure that hosted community events and club meetings for decades. In 1948, a three-room block building succeeded

earlier buildings and eight grades were taught here. A portion of that structure is still visible facing Oak Grove Drive. Numerous additions have occurred since.

Continue 0.2 mile on Oak Grove Drive. The Kroschel- Krueger House is on the left (west) side of the road, just after the road curves north.

14. Kroschel-Krueger House

1834 Oak Grove Drive NW

Private residence. Not open to the public.

Two 100 year old Douglas fir trees flank the concrete walkway leading to the 1889 Vernacular house constructed for August and Louisa Kroschel, natives of Prussia. Their granddaughter, Eda Krueger, inherited the house after the death of her parents. Eda, also known as the “bird lady,” raised exotic birds in the house. Known for her eccentricities, later in life she reportedly slept in her car while the birds took possession of the house. The house was renovated to its current condition in the 1980s. The red-painted East Barn sits on a stone foundation. The gable roof has overhanging eaves and the walls are clad with board-and-batten siding. A single-pane, diamond window is located at the peak of each gable end. Doors consist primarily of sliding doors on overhead tracks; one retains original iron hardware. The side-opening West Barn has an east-west axis and sits on a poured concrete foundation. The two-story rectangular plan is covered with a gambrel roof and features purlins and shaped rafter tails at the gable ends. The exterior is clad in board-and batten painted red, and includes cornerboards. Drive-throughs, with doors on their original rollers, flank the east and west ends of the barn.

Continue north on Oak Grove Dr. for 2 miles. Turn right (east) onto Palestine Ave NW. Palestine Cemetery is on the left.

15. North Palestine Baptist Cemetery

5201 Palestine Ave NW

The North Palestine Cemetery, situated east of the church on an upper north facing slope of Kay Hill, commands a panoramic view to the north and west. Earliest burials date from the 1870s. Eighty-year old oaks and a madrone are located within the grounds. This was the original site of the Palestine Church, which was moved to Adair Village. See #20, below.

Proceed 1.1 miles west on Palestine Ave to Independence Hwy. Turn right (north) on Independence Hwy; continue 1 mile. Turn left (west) on Camp Adair Rd and continue 0.3 mile.

16. Ivers Family Barn

6718 Camp Adair Road

Private residence is not open to the public.

Red Barn Berry Farm is open seasonally: www.redbarnberryfarm.com/

The Ivers family purchased this farm in the 1920s, and in 1937 the community raised the barn in a few days. In 1942 the military bought this farm as part of Camp Adair, and trained World War II sentry dogs here for service worldwide. The barn stabled Camp Adair’s military horses, and 18 soldiers cared for the 36 horses that were used to patrol ammunition areas around the clock. In 1947 the military sold the farm back to the Ivers family, and it remained with the family until 2005.

Continue 0.4 mile west on Camp Adair Road. Several pull-outs for wildlife viewing line this road.

17. Camp Adair, Camp Adair Road



In February 1941 the U.S. War Department decided to locate a military training camp in Oregon. Months later, on December 12, five days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the military approved funds for Camp Adair; construction began January 1942. This World War II army cantonment with the necessary support personnel transformed 50,000 acres of family farms to an army post of 1,800 buildings within six months and encompassed much of the surrounding land. Accommodating 33,000 personnel, Camp Adair became Oregon's second largest city at the time. On the south (right) side of the road is the Ordnance Repair Depot, now used by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). On the north side of the road, just west of the depot, are concrete pillars, all that remains of the Field House built for Camp Adair. www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/visitors/ee_wilson_wildlife_area/

Continue another 0.6 mile. Parking is available at the Public Viewing Area.

Camp Adair Memorial Garden commemorates the four divisions that trained here in infantry, artillery, and engineering units for overseas duty. Now this portion of the former camp is owned by the ODFW which operates the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area and raises Chinese ring-necked pheasants, a species introduced to Oregon in 1882. They may be viewed in the wild bird pens.

In order to build Camp Adair, the military demolished the town of Wells, named for Red Wells who owned the Donation Land Claim on this property. Located here in what became the center of the cantonment, the town included a school, railroad depot, church, several businesses, and houses, all of which were removed in less than a week. An ODFW interpretive sign describes a lone Oregon white oak north of the bird pens as the only remnant of Wells. This is one example of the sacrifices made by local communities; families were uprooted, cemeteries relocated, railroad tracks rerouted, and schools consolidated.

Continue west 0.6 mile to the intersection of Camp Adair Rd and Hwy 99W.

18. Camp Adair Signage, intersection Camp Adair Rd and Hwy 99W

At the original entrance to Camp Adair on Hwy 99W, a sign commemorates the four infantry divisions that trained here during World War II for overseas duty. The area east of Hwy 99W included headquarters and barracks, while the area west of the highway provided space for training exercises. After the last training divisions left Camp Adair in July 1944, the facility served for a short time as a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian POWs.

Turn left (south) and continue 1.9 miles on Hwy 99W. Turn left (east) on Arnold Avenue and take an immediate right on Wm. R. Carr Avenue, park at the first available area on the right.

19. Camp Adair Hospital, now Adair Village



The camp hospital was located a short distance south of the main camp, east of your current location. After the last troops left Camp Adair, the hospital was expanded to accommodate 3,600 patients and used to provide medical treatment for returning Naval and Marine Corps personnel who needed both short-term and long-term care. Portions of Camp Adair proper housed some of the medical staff, as did nearby communities. Adair Village includes a few of the original hospital buildings.

In 2010, the City of Adair Village took possession of two of the few remaining structures from the World War II-era Camp Adair cantonment. The City moved the buildings; placed them on foundations; installed infrastructure; and replaced the siding, windows, and roofs. The buildings are now located adjacent your current location, adjacent to Adair's City Hall.

Adair Living History, Inc. (ALH) is a non-profit organization, whose mission it is to help preserve and share the unique and nearly forgotten history of the Adair area. ALH plans to finish the interiors of the buildings and make them ready for use, with one building slated to become an interpretive center open to the public.

www.adairlivinghistory.org/

Return to Arnold Avenue, turn right (east). Proceed past the right-angle turn the Officers' Club and pull over near the white church building on the right.

20. North Palestine Baptist Church

This structure, the oldest extant church building in Benton County, features architectural elements from the Classical Revival style blended with the Gothic Revival style. Members of the North Palestine Baptist Church organized in 1856 as a division of the Corvallis Baptist Church. In 1882 the congregation built this church on the location of the former Drum (later Gingles) school house, now the North Palestine Baptist Cemetery (see #15 above). The church remained active until the end of World War II, when the remaining members deeded the property to the Palestine Cemetery Association. From the cemetery it was moved in 2010 to this location, on Benton County park land. Planning is underway to further stabilize and adapt the church to provide for public access and use by the community.

Retrace your route along Arnold Ave. back to its intersection with Hwy 99W. Continue south on Hwy 99W 0.2 miles. Turn right (west) on Peavy Rd and proceed 0.7 mile to Peavy Arboretum. The arboretum entrance is on the right (west) side of the road.

21. Peavy Arboretum

8692 NW Peavy Arboretum Road

Dedicated in January 1926, Peavy Arboretum honors George W. Peavy, first Dean of the School of Forestry and later President of Oregon State College (now OSU). The arboretum continues to serve as an outdoor teaching laboratory for today's OSU College of Forestry, and has a rich history including ancient Native American sites and the home of the original Oregon State Forest Nursery, where seedlings were raised for reforestation after the

disastrous Tillamook Burn, a series of fires that devastated the northern Coast Range beginning in 1933. The arboretum was also the site of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Arboretum that operated from 1933 to 1942, and at one time included 38 permanent buildings. Today Peavy Arboretum serves as a gateway to recreational opportunities in McDonald Research Forest. www.cf.forestry.oregonstate.edu/peavy-arboretum

Continue south on Peavy Rd 0.8 mile to Hwy 99W. Turn right (south) on the highway and proceed 0.7 mile. Lake Park Roller Rink is on the right (west) side of Hwy 99W and set back approximately 0.1 mile.

22. Lake Park Roller Rink

6400 Hwy 99W

Constructed in 1924, Lake Park Roller Rink is believed to be the third oldest roller rink in the Pacific Northwest. Reportedly, the Alva Grovier mill near Soap Creek provided lumber for construction. The rink was popular with the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and with the Camp Adair troops in the 1940s. The original organ was removed from the rink, and the floor was replaced at least twice. A later owner, Harry King, excavated the area south of the rink and constructed retaining walls to form a shallow lake where he first raised bullfrogs and later muskrats.

Return to Hwy 99W, turn right (south) for 0.4 mile to the intersection of Hwy 99W and Lewisburg Rd. Turn left (east) on Lewisburg Rd and then immediately turn left (north) on NE Elliott Circle. Proceed to the end of the road.

23. Mountain View Grange, now Lewisburg Hall

6000 NW Elliott Circle

Built in 1911, the Colonial Revival style Mountain View Grange No. 429 was later renamed Lewisburg Grange. Early Benton County farmers experienced challenges in transportation, high freight costs, and fluctuating prices. In response, the Oregon State Grange organized in 1893 to help farmers collectively address these common issues. Advancements in transportation provided expanded markets for farmers and improved their ability to export goods, resulting in increased farm production. Grange halls continue to serve as community centers for educational events, social activities, political rallies, and community meetings. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this restored structure serves as the home of St. Anne Orthodox Church, and the Hall and grounds are available to the public for events. www.staoc.com/

Return to Hwy 99W; turn left (south). Continue 1.3 miles to a row of mailboxes at Owens Farm Open Space Park; turn right (west). Drive west to the parking area on your right (north).

24. William Knotts Farm, now Owens Farm

3525 Highway 99W

Not open to the public.



The Knotts Farm, an Oregon Century Farm, has been in the same family and farmed for more than 100 years. Today the Gothic Revival style farmhouse, as well as the barn, outbuildings, and grounds are under the ownership of the City of Corvallis, managed as open space. Future plans include restoring the structures and opening this site to the public. The Greenbelt Land Trust, a local nonprofit land conservation organization, is restoring the adjacent oak savanna and upland prairie property.