HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
KLAMATH FALLS SELF-GUIDED TOUR

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

1. Discover Klamath Welcome Center, 205 Riverside Dr, Local, regional and state visitor information available. Adapted from a barber pattern book. The house is of Moorish confection with distinctive Victorian attributes and lots of gingerbread.

2. Gooller House, 234 Riverside Dr, built in 1905. Adapted from a barber pattern book. The house is of Moorish confection with distinctive Victorian attributes and lots of gingerbread.

3. Winthrow House, 204 Riverside Dr, Colonial revival style 2-story home has gambrel roof and front facing gabled dormers.

4. Baldwin Hotel Museum, 31 Main St, c. 1915. West end of building. Abandoned by the Elks in 1967. Interior was remodeled for apartments and offices above and then converted into a hotel in 1911. Burns manufactured locally.

5. Moore House, 128 Riverside Dr, built by an early pioneer family. The Moore family built the very first sawmill in town.

6. Baldwin Hotel Museum, 31 Main St, c. 1906. Foundation carved “stair step” from solid rock. First a hardware store with carved “stair step” from solid rock. First a hardware store with hand-cut oak and Philippine mahogany woodwork. Art Deco style. Built originally as an armory, features include vaulted roof, figures of WWI soldiers, lamps built from shell casings, an American Eagle adorns the entrance.

7. Veteran’s Memorial, 10 George Nurse Way, Serves as a testament to the sacrifice of our American military.

8. Willard Hotel, 203 Main St, 1926-1927. The red tile roof dominated Klamath Falls photographs as it was known as our “first skyscraper” for a number of years. Period Mission style.


10. Klamath County Courthouse, 316 Main St, c. 1918-1919. Due to the 1910-1922 Courthouse controversy, the building was not used as a courthouse until 1922. It was first used as a hospital and an underground parking garage. The interior features hand-cut oak and Philippine mahogany woodwork. Art Deco pewter light fixtures. Elevator is still operated by an attendant.


12. IOOF Building, 436 Main St, c. 1910. Architectural flourishes on roof line have been removed. Excellent old brick manufactured locally. The first floor has been altered with plate glass and currently houses two ballrooms and offices upstairs.


14. Klamath Falls City Hall, 226 S 5th St, 1914. American Renaissance Beaux Arts. Entry is flanked by a pair of pilastered brick columns. Doorway has sidelight windows and a transom light above.

15. City Library, 500 Klamath Ave, built in 1926. Colonial Revival style. Features entry flanked by Ionic column pilasters, stone railing at the roof with balustrades.

16. The Collins BuildingEarley Hotel, 501 Main St, built in 1919, architect Collins & Stilts. Italian Renaissance design featuring brick, composition marble, and vertical brick trim. At time of its construction, it was one of the largest buildings in town.

17. First Interstate Bank Building, 601 Main St, c. 1930. An excellent and unusual example of eclectic American architecture in unglazed terra cotta. The façade features Art Deco style scenes of logging and landscapes above the second story window bays.

18. Esquire Theater Building, 218 N 7th St, built in 1940. The Art Deco design is typical of theater designs employed from 1935-45. Now the Ross Ragland Theater, a performing arts and cultural center. The Esquire Theater is a large concrete building with a tall metal tower, which is the highest structure in the business section of the city.

19. Williams Building, 724 Main St, c. 1927. Built by cattlemaster D.O. Williams, the glaze terra cotta edifice combines western flair with Italian Renaissance (“Klamath Classical”) flavor architecture to create a unique building.


22. Arcade Hotel, 1032 Main St, built in 1919. Chicago style. Examples of straightforward, unflourished architecture that evolved across the U.S. in that era. Brickwork stacked in a row rather than interlocking in an alternating pattern.

23. Winema Hotel, 1111 Main St, built in 1930. Art Deco style featuring terra cotta paneling and parapet cresting at top.

24. Klamath County Museum, 1451 Main St, built in 1935. Art Deco elements in style. Built originally as an armory, features include vaulted roof, figures of WWI soldiers, lamps built from shell casings, an American Eagle adorns the entrance.

MURALS

M1. Applegate Trail: Klamath Ave between 4th & 5th Streets, Artist Royce Van. Known as the southern route of the Oregon Trail, it is the only known emigrant trail blazed from West to East. Its primary purpose was to be an escape route for American citizens in Oregon territory if war broke out with Great Britain and provided an alternative for settlers who wanted to avoid the perils of the Columbia River. Blazed in 1846, the trail traverses Klamath County along Hwy. 66.

M2. Kingsley Field: 5 Sth St side of FVW, 515 Klamath Ave, Artist Chris Young. Originally a Navy complex. In 1954 the Air Force selected the site for an all-weather fighter squadron. The first F-101 “Voodoo” fighter arrived in 1959. The field was named for Second Lieutenant David R. Kingsley who was killed in action June 23, 1944 while participating in a bombardment mission to Ploesti, Romania.

M3. Crater Lake National Park: 5 Sth St & Klamath Ave, Artist Chris Young. Klamath County is the home of Crater Lake National Park, the nation’s deepest and clearest lake, formed when Mt. Mazama blew it’s top.

M4. Transportation-Train: 11th & Main St, Artist Chris Young. This mural commemorates the arrival of the first train in Klamath Falls, May 20, 1909. Trains transported people, timber and other resources from the local area to larger towns. Train traffic was the single most significant factor in opening the Klamath area to the world. More than 100 people rode the train to Klamath Falls the first day.

M5. Ewauna Fishing Village: 8th & Main St. Depicts early cultural activities along Lake Ewauna. Local Native Americans and settlers alike depended on the resources of the river and lakes to make their living.

M7. Klamath Basin Farming, 1873: Walnut Ave & S 6th St, Artist Michael Jennings. After the Modoc War of 1873, farming was a main economic pursuit along with logging and ranching. Federal incentives such as the Preemptive Act, 1862 Homestead Act, and the Swamp Land Act encouraged settlements in the West. Low precipitation in the basin and the availability of irrigation water for agriculture eventually led to the formation of the Klamath Project in 1906.

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Goeller House
Winthrow House
Baldwin House
Moore House
Baldwin Hotel Museum
Veteran’s Memorial Park
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Klamath Falls City Hall
City Library
The Collins Building-Earley Hotel
First Interstate Bank Building
Esquire Theater Building
Williams Building
Golden Rule/JC Penney Building
Oregon Bank Building
Arcade Hotel
Winema Hotel
Klamath County Museum
Applegate Trail
Kingsley Field
Crater Lake National Park
Transportation-Train
Ewauna Fishing Village
Klamath Basin Farming, 1873

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF KLAMATH FALLS**

The City of Klamath Falls was incorporated in 1905 from the city originally named Linkville, which was located between the Link River and what is now Main Street. In that time, the access to the Klamath Basin was by horse and wagon, or stagecoach.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1909, Klamath Falls experienced its first building boom. Wooden buildings were replaced with brick and stone structures, the town expanded onto the hills above Linkville towards the railroad tracks, and a horse-drawn street railroad was built along California Avenue and Main Street.

During the 1920s, Klamath Falls was the fastest growing city in Oregon and was the largest shipping point between Portland and San Francisco. As Klamath Falls experiences a period of urban renewal, many historic structures are being upgraded and rehabilitated, historic facades are being uncovered and store-fronts are being returned to their former glory.