



11. Odd Fellows Hall

723 6th Street

Constructed in 1903, this building has housed businesses offering dry goods, furniture, art and jewelry. The large room covering most of the second floor was used for vaudeville performances, town hall gatherings and, of course, meetings of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). The Independent Order of Odd Fellows began in 18th Century England as a fraternal organization devoted to giving aid to those in need without recognition. The Odd Fellows' distinctive "Three Link Emblem" can be seen near street level on the building's facade. The links represent friendship, love and truth and symbolize the common values of Odd Fellows throughout the world.



12. Benton County Courthouse

620 Market Street

Prosser was selected as the Benton County seat in 1905, an honor that strengthened the economy and political power of the community in its early days. The courthouse was housed in a variety of locations until the current building was completed in 1926. The Benton County Courthouse was deemed a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

Downtown Prosser in the Early 1900s



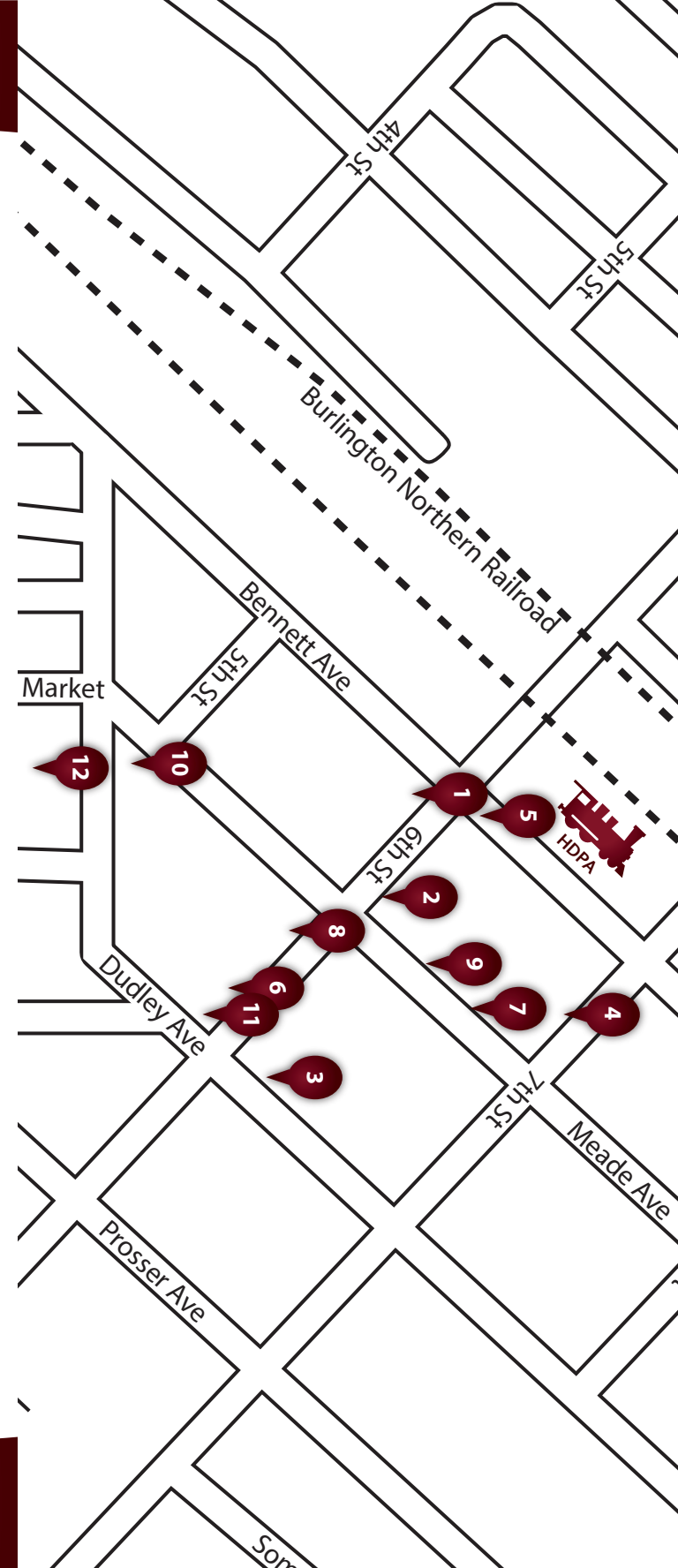
Parade at 6th Street & Meade Avenue



Lynn "Sipes" Seibert delivering for Brockhausen & Hoch



Meade Avenue Saloon



Prosser

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1. The Ward Building 601-611 6th Street

The current Ward Building replaced an earlier Ward Building (pictured) that served as the Corner Saloon until 1900. The Corner Saloon was a popular watering hole for thirsty cowboys, ranchers and downtown businessmen (no women allowed) and was the site of an occasional gunfight and numerous fisticuffs. The second version of the Ward Building was completed circa 1905 and housed the Prosser State Bank. The building is constructed of Leauthier Stone - a pressed sandstone block formed from Yakima River sand and cement. Today, as in years past, it features living quarters on the second floor and commercial businesses on the first.



2. Finn Building

620 6th Street-1206 Meade Avenue

Constructed in 1910 by Prosser pioneer and rancher George Finn, this imposing brick building was home to the Benton County National Bank as well as Pat's Cigar Store, Brockhausen & Hoch Grocers, Arends Bakery and more. Operating as the Strand Hotel on the second floor during World War II, it served the DuPont Corporation as a dormitory for its female workers employed during the ultra secret plutonium extraction project at nearby Hanford.



3. Stanberry Building

718 6th Street

This distinctive industrial building was completed in 1925 by Harvey Fox as a home for his blacksmith and welding business. From 1945 to 1994 it was owned and operated by blacksmith and welder Millard Stanberry. The building-constructed of bricks manufactured in nearby Granger, Washington-retains almost all of its original appearance. It was converted for use as a professional office in 1994.

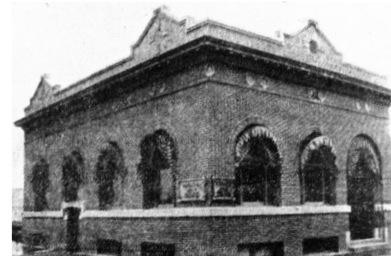


4. Prosser Record-Bulletin

613 7th Street

The original Leauthier Stone exterior of the 1906 Prosser Record-Bulletin building is today hidden behind modern updates, but the structure

houses Prosser's oldest continuously operating business. The weekly Prosser Record-Bulletin was created through the merger of several early newspapers and has served the community for more than a century. The curb in front of the Prosser Record-Bulletin retains metal rings once used for tethering horses. The building served as the Prosser Post Office in the early 1900s.



5. 602 6th Street

Built in 1906, this building housed the Prosser State Bank until 1923 and the Old National Bank from 1923 through the 1960s. Since that time the upstairs has functioned as a restaurant, and a bar and lounge has often occupied the lower level. Although its trim has been painted, this building looks much as it did in 1906.



6. Mercer Building

713-719 6th Street

This 18,000-square-foot brick building was built in 1909 by pioneer sheep rancher Willis Mercer as a place to clean and prepare wool for rail shipment. Throughout the years it has housed numerous businesses, including grocery and hardware stores. Upstairs are two ballrooms that were once used for dances and civic programs. The second floor was used by American Red Cross volunteers (among others) to provide troop support during World Wars I and II. Today the Mercer Building is home to commercial businesses, small apartments and two fully-appointed guest suites. Generations of the Mercer Family have resided on the second story.



7. Princess Theatre

1228 Meade Avenue

The Princess Theatre was completed in 1920 to showcase vaudeville performances. Nearly destroyed by fire in 1946, the Princess was soon repaired and converted to a movie house. Motion pictures continued to be played here through the 1980s. For the next twenty years the Princess sat unused until, through an extensive renovation made possible by the Mercer Family and others in the community, it reopened in 2007. Today the theater continues to delight audiences in downtown Prosser. Owned and operated by Valley Theater Company, it serves as a venue for stage plays, meetings, weddings, concerts, movies and other community events.

8. 701 6th Street

This building was constructed by Prosser Flour Mill owner E.W.R. Taylor in 1907 and housed the popular Golden Rule Store from 1927 through the 1990s. The Golden Rule purveyed Western wear, family clothing, fabric, shoes and sundries. The store's

interior was decorated with Native American artifacts, Western Frontier art and commercial antiques such as a nickel-plated cash register, Victorian tri-fold mirror, notion racks and display cases. The second floor of the building once housed the community's central telephone switchboard, which was staffed by young female operators. The upper floor remained as a telephone office until 1952. High atop the building, a small light extends towards the street intersection. Before the advent of police radios and hand-held phones, the Prosser Police Department called the telephone switchboard in the event of trouble. The operators would then activate the light - a signal to any policemen downtown to report immediately to the main station. A community history mural, painted in 1976, appears on the building wall facing Meade Avenue.



story housed professionals such as attorneys, doctors and dentists.

9. 1211 Meade Avenue

Ezra Kemp, who co-owned the Prosser Flour Mill with E.W.R. Taylor, built this fine brick commercial building in 1910. The ground floor featured Prosser's first pharmacy while the upper

10. U.S. Post Office

1103 Meade Avenue

The United States Post Office at Prosser was completed in 1935 as a project of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Program. It features a striking interior mural, by Ernest Norling, depicting the arrival of a mail train. The mural was created through the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Federal Arts Project. The appearance of the Prosser Post Office is unchanged except for an ADA access ramp added to the north side. Each spring a profusion of lilacs bloom at the base of the building's facade.

