



Puyallup Bike Tour of Historic Sites

Come ride your bike and explore Puyallup's historic sites!



The numbered markers indicate the location of structures, trees, or places important to the community's history, and the second page includes a description of each stop. All sites are located in approximately 1.2 mile radius on the valley floor. Grab your bike and explore Puyallup's history!

***Please do not disturb private residences on the tour.**



1. **Meeker Vine; Pioneer Park (330 S Meridian):** Find the Baltic Ivy originally planted by Eliza Jane Meeker at the side of the Meeker Cabin in 1862.

2. **Pillar at Souder Station (131 W Main Ave):** Bands on a pillar at the station show the source, date and depth of soil deposited in the valley over geologic time.

3. **Christ Episcopal Church (210 5th St SW):** This building is listed on both the National and State Historic Registers. The Christ Episcopal Church held its first service on December 26, 1926. It was later enlarged in 1957, and a new bell tower was added in 1960.

4. **Camp Harmony/WA State Fair (S Meridian at 10th Ave SE; near blue gate):** This site is listed on the State Historic Register. Camp Harmony, the local name for the Puyallup Assembly Center, U.S. Wartime Civil Control Administration, was occupied for a few months in 1942 following the outbreak of WWII. In all 7,548 persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from their homes to the Center before being transported to Relocation Centers outside the U.S. West Coast. This was done as a wartime security measure and included all persons of Japanese ancestry, citizen and non-citizen alike. No marker or monument recalls this incident in American history but it is important to remember the police powers of the state during national emergencies and the demonstrations of loyalty by this racial minority.

5. **Puyallup Fish Hatchery (1416 14th St NW):** The Puyallup Fish Hatchery was constructed by the Washington State Department of Game in 1949 and was used for rearing rainbow and cutthroat trout. Fish from the hatchery were planted in the lakes and streams of Pierce, Thurston, King and Lewis Counties. The facility remains active today thanks to the Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation. This property is listed on both the National and State Historic Registers.

6. **Maplewood Elementary (1110 W Pioneer Ave):** Sign in front yard of the school indicates that this was where the Byrds Mill Road (from Fern Hill in South Tacoma) entered town from the southwest. This was the road to the Territorial Capital of Steilacoom, used by settlers leaving the valley for safety during the Indian Wars.

7. **J. H. Lotz House (1004 2nd Ave NW):** This property is listed on both the National and State Historic Registers. This early Puyallup residence was built by John H. Lotz in 1891. Lotz was a local builder who started the first Carpenters Union in Tacoma.

8. **Pihl Walnut Tree (near the southeast corner of 7th St NW & 8th Ave NW next to sidewalk):** This tree was planted in 1889, the year of statehood, by one of the Pihl brothers (five German merchants in the city).

9. **Stewart-Brew House (219 5th Ave NW):** This property is listed on the State Historic Register. It is a Queen Anne style house built in 1889 for William & Elisabeth 'Laddie' Stewart. Thomas & Sarah Brew purchased the house in 1906. (*see the "extra stop" section to the right for a potential extra stop before stop 10)



Ezra Meeker
Photo from UW Library

10. **Memorial Community Center; WWI Memorial trees (601 N Meridian):** Grayland Park is the bottom of the large bend in the Puyallup River which flooded often. In 1883, Chinese immigrants were hired by landowners to dig through the top of the oxbow and reroute the river. In the 1920s this park was a tourist camp (see mural on back of building). At the end of WWI two Norway Spruce trees were planted in memory of those who didn't return from WWII. Officially the Memorial Community Center, but called the Living War Memorial, it was to replace the youth center in the then-city hall, damaged by the 1949 earthquake.

11. **Karshner Memorial Museum (309 4th St NE):** This building is listed on the City's local Historic Register. Dr. and Mrs. Warner Karshner founded Paul Karshner Memorial Museum in 1930 in honor of their son who died of polio in 1924. It is a curriculum-based teaching museum, one-story brick school building, managed by the Puyallup School District.

12. **Puget Sound Electric Railway Puyallup Substation; Powerhouse Restaurant (454 E Main):** The Puget Sound Electric Railway (PSER) built its mainline between Seattle and Tacoma around 1903, with a branch line to Puyallup. The Powerhouse building was constructed in 1907 as a substation for the Puget Sound Power and Light Company; it was also used to provide power to the southern end of the line until PSER pulled the plug on its rail operations in December, 1928. The substation continued to provide power to the local community well into the 1950's. This building is listed on the Local Historic Register.

13. **Peace Lutheran Church (214 E Pioneer Ave):** The building was constructed in 1892 as a Unitarian Church, and in 1900 was transferred to the Peace congregation trustees and became the Peace Lutheran Church. This building is the oldest church facility in Puyallup and home to one of the oldest, continuously worshipping religious bodies in the community. The building is listed on the State Historic Register.

14. **Meeker Mansion; Centennial Park (321 E Pioneer):** Can you find the hops growing at the Pioneer entrance to the mansion? Completed in 1889, this building was constructed as the residence of pioneer Ezra Meeker and his family. The 17 room Victorian mansion was designed by Ferrell and Darmer, Architects, of Tacoma. The building is listed on the Local, State and National Historic Registers, and now houses the Puyallup Historical Society at Meeker Mansion.

***EXTRA STOP:** Are you a confident rider? Check out the monument on the north side of the N Meridian Bridge! Take the bridge over the Puyallup River heading north, take your first right on North Levee Rd E and go under the bridge and turn right again on North Levee Rd. The monument will be on your right. Here's some facts about this spot:

- The Military Road from Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham crossed the river here. During the Indian Wars (1855-56) the Military built a blockhouse (Fort Maloney) to guard the crossing. The blockhouse was staffed by volunteers paid by John Carson.
- Abraham Salatat, a friendly Indian, warned settlers not to be in the valley when the natives came through.
- John Carson had a contract to operate a ferry or bridge across the river at about this point. The Carson Chestnut is a little north, at the Y in the road. The Carson's did not prove up their claim. Emma, his wife, was an early schoolteacher in the Valley, teaching in the blockhouse.
- House with a tree in it. Around the 1940s, near the intersection of N Meridian and Valley Ave, was a house with a tree growing through it (often called a barn with a tree in it). Lee LaBrash lived in that house as a child.