

# HISTORY



The Multnomah neighborhood began as a land claim of Thomas and Polly-Anne Tyse, and through the 1800s the area remained a densely wooded area, unnamed and home to only a few residents. C. B. Woodward laid out the land around Multnomah in 1902, naming north-south streets after states and east-west streets after trees. Early resident Isaac Baird was a circus man who wintered his animals, including elephants, in a barn near his home. Larger development was spurred by the arrival of an electric street car line in 1907 and a station dubbed "Multnomah." In 1910, H.L. Gilbert consolidated the majority of the current village (including the existing Home Addition) into the Wildwood Subdivision. At this point, the site was bounded by the same physical streets, but their names were: Fulton Boulevard, Farewell Street and Gordon Avenue. The neighborhood continued to grow and was eventually annexed to Portland over an 8-year period beginning in 1954.

Multnomah Station: 7871 SW Capitol Hwy  
 Kelvin Raz built this structure in 1942 for the US Post Office. From 1920-1942 the Post Office was located at 7825 SW 35th. In the years between 1951-57 the Post Office was located at 3613 SW Troy and in 1957 moved into the present building at 3675 SW Troy. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission operated a liquor store at this site when the Post Office moved out in 1951. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission later moved to the present location on Barbur Blvd and Capitol Hwy. Residents of this building in later years have included Jeri's Fashion Warehouse, antique shops, stained glass craftsmen, the Multnomah Station Jewelry and currently Toby's Antiques.



Images (Clockwise):  
 Five Point Store Proprietor;  
 1907 Rail Station;  
 1947 Capitol Highway;  
 Five Point Store Patrons;  
 Multnomah Garage;  
 Ellis Pharmacy.



Images (Clockwise):  
 Telluride, Colorado Storefront;  
 Italian Market in New York City;  
 Street frontage in Philadelphia.



Cognitive Connections: When investigating both the history and contemporary culture of Multnomah Village, we were greatly struck by two primary precedents. The first being 'Wild West' architecture, which came directly from the pioneers whom first built the area. Secondly, we began to look even farther back to the European and eastern seaboard concepts of mixed and stratified uses in relation to pedestrians and building's access to light; a prototype of most contemporary Portland zoning code.

