SUFFRAGE TRAIL in OLYMPIA





1: Emma Page Fountain in Sylvester Park Installed 1912, Refurbished 2000



Emma Page (1852-1910), a prominent WCTU member, was blinded at an early age, but was a lobbyist for women's suffrage in the legislative session of 1897. WSHS.

2: Sylvester House site



Clara Pottle Sylvester (1832-1917) lobbied the legislature and hosted Oregon suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway at her fine home in the 1880s. WSHS C2010.101.1.

3: Old Capitol--Built 1892 and enlarged as the State Capitol 1905-1928

The women's suffrage state constitutional amendment passed the legislature in February, 1909--successfuly ratified by male voters in 1910. Campaign leaders included Emma Smith DeVoe (1848-1927) and May Arkwright Hutton (1860-1915). Legislators later unanimously ratified the federal 19th Suffrage Amendment in 1920.



Emma Smith DeVoe was a seasoned and adept strategist for suffrage. WSHS C2009.18.8.



Rep. Frances Haskell (1871-1947), from Pierce County, introduced the ratification of the 19th Amendment in March, 1920. Washington State Archives.

4: Stuart House- Site



Abbie Howard Hunt Stuart (1840-1902) was a founder and first president of the Woman's Club of Olympia in 1883 and President of the State Suffrage Association in the early 1890s. WSHS C2010.0.1.

5: Olympic Hall/Good Templars Hall—Site

In 1871, the building hosted presentations by suffragists Laura DeForce Gordon (1838-1907), Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) and Abigail Scott Duniway (1834-1915). The Washington Territory Woman's Suffrage Association held their first convention here in November 1871. The hall was Washington Suffrage Association headquarters during 1889 Constitutional Convention.



Section of Olympia panorama ca. 1869, Hall is at right foreground. Oregon Historical Society, OrHi 44700.



Susan B. Anthony ca. 1871, Nebraska State Historical Society.

6. Sawyer and Filley Drug Store in the Chambers Block--Built 1887

Although not able to vote generally, women voted for the state flower here in 1892. The winner was the rhododendron, which remains the state flower.



Chambers Block WSHS C2017.0.33.

7. Pacific House - Site



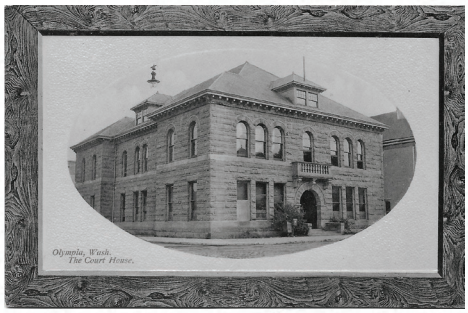
African American Margaret Howard (1856-1945) daughter-in-law of hotelier Rebecca Howard, was on the voter registration rolls in 1885. The Howards operated the Pacific House at this site. Howard Family.

8. First Territorial Legislature Meeting Location—Site

In 1854, a mere six years after the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, the first Washington Territorial Legislature considered, but failed to enact, women's suffrage.

9. First All-Women Jury After Suffrage in 1910--Site

The first all-woman jury in the state convened at the courthouse here on December 13, 1910. Jurors were Ada Sprague Mowell, Jean McLeod (later Holloway) (1876-1966), Bernice Sapp, Sadie Bower Blakeslee (1863-1946) and Reverend Genevra (Mrs. H. S.) Lake.



Thurston County Courthouse (1902-1930). Private Collection.

10. 1883 Women's Suffrage Victory Celebration Columbia Hall--Site

The celebration of 1883 suffrage victory was held at Columbia Hall and the Woman Suffrage Association for Thurston County met here in the 1870s.

11. Hale Block--Built 1891

Women's Christian Temperance Union Headquarters were located here during suffrage legislative campaign in 1909.



An entrepreneur and activist, building owner Pamela Hale (1833-1917) was the first elected woman in Thurston County as County Superintendent of Schools in 1882. WSHS C1961.1185.11.

12. Barnes House—Site



Mary Ann Kandle Barnes (1821-1896) was a delegate to the Territorial Suffrage Convention in 1871 and a suffrage association met at her home. WSHS C2009.0.1043.

13. Methodist Church Suffrage Jubilee 1910—Site

The celebration for the November 8, 1910 suffrage victory was held at the church and the Olympia Political Equality Club organized here in 1907.

14. Mary Mars Residence and Our Place Restaurant-- Site

African American Mary Thomas Mars (1849?-1892) was a voter in Olympia in 1886. She and her husband James operated a restaurant called "Our Place."

15. Central Baptist Church Debate—Site

Suffragists Reverend Genevra (Mrs. H. S.) Lake (1845-1921) and Bernice Sapp (1881-1965) debated women's right to vote with local attorney H. L. Parr and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Fielding Nalder at the Central Baptist Church in October, 1910.



Bernice Sapp (1881-1965) who worked for the Supreme Court was an active suffragist and helped preserve the records of the suffrage movement. WSHS C1961.18.29.



Reverend Genevra (Mrs. H. S.) Lake (1845-1921) was a nationally known spiritualist, minister and poet. First Spiritual Temple.

16. Woman's Club of Olympia--Built 1908

The Woman's Club of Olympia, established in 1883, the year women first gained the right to vote in Washington, boasted several suffragists among its founding members including Abbie Howard Hunt Stuart, Pamela Hale, Phebe Moore, Janet Moore, Mehitable Elder and Ella Stork.



An activist during the 1870s, Mehitable Haskell Lord Elder (1815-1912) was one of the "Mercer Girls" who came west in the 1860s, and lived to vote in Washington after permanent suffrage in 1910. WSHS C2018.0.86.



Ella Smith Stork (1847-1925) was a suffrage advocate in the 1880s. Woman's Club of Olympia.

17. Mowell House--Built ca. 1907



A prominent clubwoman and president of the Woman's Club of Olympia, Ada Sprague Mowell was a member of the first all-woman jury in the state in 1910. WSHS C1950.1117.1.23.3.

18. Thurston County Courthouse 1870—Site

In June of 1870 Mary Olney Brown, Jane Wiley and Jane Pattison proffered votes here but were turned away by election judges. The same day, 15 women voted in Grand Mound and Littlerock.



Jane Wyllie Pattison (1829-1923) was an activist who attended the 1871 suffrage convention. Lacey Museum, Pattison Collection.



Mary Olney Brown (1821-1886) was an accomplished writer and advocate who also served as Territorial Suffrage Association president in the 1870s. WSHS C1954.469.2.

19. 1870 Thurston County Courthouse--Current Site (see Site 18)

The courthouse, later Central School, was moved to this location in 1892 and the two parts were separated.

20. Libbie Lord House—Site



Elizabeth C. "Libbie" Lord was a prominent suffragist, Grange member, Trustee and Vice-President of the Washington Equal Suffrage Association during the 1909-1910 campaign. Elizabeth Haines.

21. Horr House—Site

Elizabeth and J. C. Horr's large residence was the headquarters for suffragists during the successful 1909 legislative suffrage amendment campaign.

22. Territorial and State Capitol --Site

Both the Territorial and State legislatures met in this building from 1856 to 1903.

Here women's suffrage was debated, enacted and nullified by the Territorial Supreme Court and debated at the Constitutional Convention in 1889.



State Constitutional Convention at the Territorial Capitol. State Archives.







This map was developed by Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum with support from the Washington State Women's Commission and the Washington State Historical Society through the Votes for Women Centennial Grant Program. https://www.suffrage100wa.com/



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