

From: [Karin Morey](#)
To: [Kelly Reid](#)
Subject: Re: question about cobblestone in Oregon City
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 2:26:59 PM
Attachments: [Street history downtown and McLoughlin neighborhood.docx](#)

No cobblestones in Oregon City. Main Street was repaved with bricks in 1893. There a few old streets in the McLoughlin Neighborhood that show rounded stones but these are remnants of the old "asphaltic concrete" streets that were installed starting in 1915. As the concrete wore away the stones mixed in have been exposed.

I've attached a brief timeline of what the roads were like, both downtown and McLoughlin neighborhood, up to the first use of asphalt in 1915. Information is from the City Council minutes and a few other sources I've compiled.

K

On Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 10:56 AM Kelly Reid <kreid@orccity.org> wrote:

Hi Karin,

I was wondering if you would be able to speak to the prevalence of cobblestone historically in Oregon City, especially in the McLoughlin District. I don't know that it was or wasn't common in this area, except that it was used on Main Street at one point.

Thanks!

Kelly Reid, AICP, Planner

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Main Street – Dirt streets with wooden sidewalks and wooden crosswalks to 1860

1849 - Incorporation required maintenance of sewers, probably wooden.

1859 – Seventh Street planked with old sidewalk boards placed in the street.

1860 – Construction of wooden sewers to drain Main Street to the river was approved.

1860 – Main Street between Sixth and Eight Street was macadamized. (see note at bottom) The rest of the street and side streets were macadamized as funds were raised through assessing adjoining property owners and county road taxes were distributed.

1881 – New ordinance requires terra cotta sewers downtown. Still drain to the river.

1889 – New ordinance requires concrete sidewalks downtown. Took several years to replace the wooden sidewalks.

1893 – Main Street paved with brick bought from a Gresham company.

April 1915 – Resolution passed requiring Asphaltic Concrete for downtown streets. Main Street is paved first and the side streets paved over the next year. Some asphalt may have been laid as early as 1912 when the City Council first discussed using the more durable material.

McLoughlin Neighborhood – Dirt streets with wooden sidewalks and wooden crosswalks

1875 – Twelfth Street to the public school (now Barclay) was macadamized.

1891 – Washington Street was macadamized.

1909 – Extensive road improvements and macadamizing start and concrete sidewalks are required unless a homeowner is allowed to maintain a wooden sidewalk.

October 1915 – City Council orders John Adams Street between Fourth and Seventh Street be paved with Asphaltic Concrete and six-foot-wide concrete sidewalks be installed.

June 1918 – Asphalt is approved for Seventh Street, Washington Street from the Abernethy Bridge to Fourteenth Street and Fourteenth from Washington to Main Streets

1920 – see photo below. Washington at Twelfth Street – concrete sidewalks but Washington is still macadamized.

1923 – Asphalt approved for Center Street.

Macadamized – broken stones not bigger than 3 inches, 8 inches deep, topped with 2 inches of stone no bigger than 1 inch each. Stone dust could also be applied on top to create a smooth surface. Ditches dug at sides and the road slightly higher in the middle to encourage drainage. Some streets had wooden curbs to hold in the stone.

Asphaltic concrete is simply an array of aggregate (gravel) bound together with bitumen (or with a very different material known as "tar")

