ORENCO, EST. 1906
This historic community was established by the Oregon Nursery Company from which the name “Orenco” was derived. The Oregon Nursery Company was the largest nursery on the west coast. President Malcolm McDonald and Secretary/Treasurer Archibald McGill moved the nursery from Salem to a 1,200-acre site here in 1906. The nursery company was one of the largest employers in the northwest, and was one of the first to create a profit-sharing plan for company employees. McDonald and McGill were very community-minded, and implemented a program of selling company land to employees for construction of homes.

The Oregon Nursery Company was one of the largest nursery companies in the U.S. At its peak, Orenco was referred to as the Garden Spot of Washington County. By 1924, however, the nursery and town closed. The Orenco Nursery Company developed a highly versatile dessert apple, the “Orenco apple.” The Orenco apple tree is still highly regarded for its resistance to disease, and is available from many heirloom fruit tree growers.

The nursery company successfully lobbied to have one million Orenco apples sold to Europe. Onset of World War I derailed that plan, however, and the Oregon Nursery Company planted one million apple trees in the 1910s with plans to export the apple trees to Europe. The nursery company was one of the largest employers in the northwest, with billiard tables, a drug store, a hotel, several boarding houses, hard-lumber yard, and numerous multi-paned windows. This style carried forward into many of the workers’ homes in Orenco, evident in the low-pitched roofs, wide eaves, exposed rafters and numerous multi-paned windows. This style carried forward into many of the workers’ homes in Orenco, evident in the low-pitched roofs, wide eaves, exposed rafters and numerous multi-paned windows. This style carried forward into many of the workers’ homes in Orenco, evident in the low-pitched roofs, wide eaves, exposed rafters and numerous multi-paned windows.

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This house was built circa 1912 and is an example of the late nineteenth/ early twentieth century American Movements style. Henry Culver purchased the lot for this house in 1910 from the Oregon Nursery Company for $150, then sold it to his brother John nine months later for $175. Both brothers immigrated to the United States from England in 1907. John had this house built for himself and his wife, Maud, who was also English. John Culver was a merchant and bookkeeper for the nursery company. The Culvers lived in the house until 1914. The house is now referred to as the Barclay House, honoring the family that has owned and cared for the house for many years.

**BARCLAY HOUSE**
1 • 22945 NW CHESTNUT

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**
7 • 22785 NW BIRCH

This church was built in 1908, reflecting the late nineteenth/early twentieth century American Movements style, with Italianate detailing visible in the decorative scrolled brackets on the front of the building. The church was built by the Oregon Nursery Company, and was owned and operated by several area residents over the years. The ground floor served as the town's mercantile, while the upper floor included a community hall used for many purposes, including a roller skating rink.

**WILSON HOUSE**
2 • 22920 NW CHESTNUT

**BUNGALOW HOME**
3 • 22930 NW BIRCH

This bungalow was constructed in 1914. James Wilson and Belle Holmes Wilson were early residents of the house. Belle Wilson owned farmland outside of Orenco on her own and together with her husband. This home retains original materials, notably the three 12-pane casement windows in the dormer above the front porch.

**ORENCO GROCERY/ MERCANTILE**
4 • 22930 NW ALDER

This building was constructed circa 1908, reflecting the late nineteenth/early twentieth century American Movements style, with Italianate detailing visible in the decorative scrolled brackets on the front of the building. The mercantile was built by the Oregon Nursery Company, and was owned and operated by several area residents over the years. The ground floor served as the town’s mercantile, with a butcher shop and confectionary in the annex, but also housed the town’s post office off and on from 1930 to 1955. The upper floor of the mercantile was a community hall used for many purposes, including a roller skating rink.

**ORENCO DRUG**
5 • 22870 NW ALDER

This was the original Orenco Drug Store, located on Alder Street (formerly known as Main Street) between the Orenco Mercantile and the Orenco Hotel. Constructed circa 1910, the building had a false front, which has since been removed to reveal the gabled end. The building’s first occupant was Dr. W.B. Cunningham, who lived and practiced medicine in a tent until the building was erected. In 1915, the property was purchased by Dr. Frederick K. Anderson, who advertised the “Orenco Drug Store, Dr. Anderson proprietor.”

**BERRY HOUSE**
6 • 1255 NW 228TH

Built circa 1909, this house is a 1 1/2 story bungalow in the vernacular style. The house was constructed by the Oregon Nursery Company for Mrs. Anna Berry, a long-time employee and bookkeeper for the nursery company. According to 1910 Census records, Mrs. Berry had two boarders, one of whom was Laura Cavers, age 23. Miss Cavers was a recent graduate of the University of Oregon Law School and was head of the collection of the University of Oregon Law Tree program.

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON LAW TREE PROGRAM**

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**CHURCH MANSE**
8 • 22735 NW BIRCH

**MCgree HOUSE**
9 • 22810 NW BIRCH

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