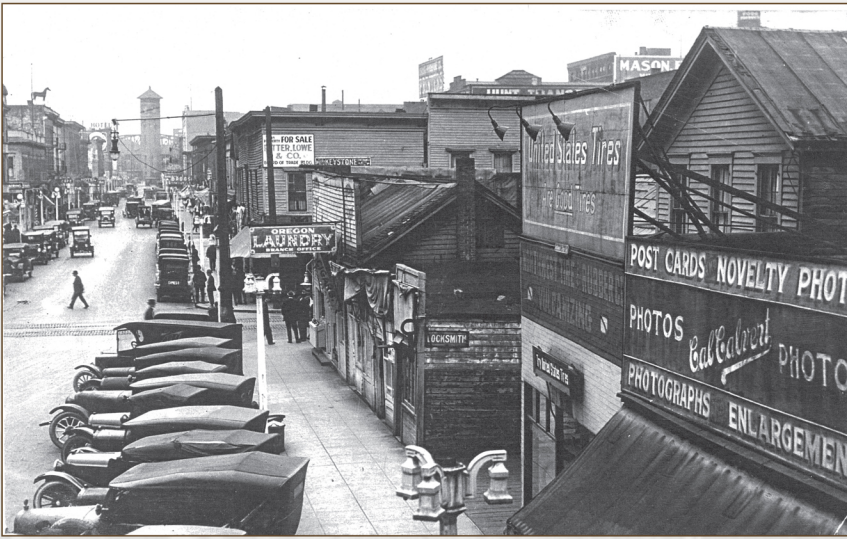


THE RAILROAD

Black Businesses in the North End



“The original location of the Black community in Portland was in close proximity to Union Station where much of the Black economic life and employment life was centered.”

Darrell Millner

NW Sixth Avenue, c. 1912. Following the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition of 1905-06, Portland's population skyrocketed. Along Broadway and Sixth Avenues, stretching from Union Station to Burnside, a new business and entertainment district sprang up serving tourists, traveling salesmen, and railroad workers. Residential hotels, as well as storefront restaurants, shoeshine parlors, barber shops, and pool rooms lined the busy streets.

Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society

A Sampler of Black Businesses, 1900-1930

- 1 Golden West Hotel, W.D. Allen
Waldo Bogle's Hotel Barbershop
Richardson's Café
A.G. Green's Ice Cream and Confectionary
- 2 Lucy B. Lejeune Boarding House. 1884-1907
- 3 Arcadia Saloon, Burr Williams & S. St. Clair, 1899
- 4 Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
- 5 Bethel AME Church
- 6 Charles Jackson Lunch, 1902
- 7 Julius Severe, Saloon, 1902
- 8 J. Willis and J. Hedspeth, Colored Cooks
Waiters, Porters, and Janitors Club, 1904
- 9 Chandler & Ballard, The Club Café, 1905
- 10 Mrs. Emma Moore, "The Castle,"
Rooming and Boarding House, 1902
- 11 Mrs. Emma Moore, Restaurant, 1902
- 12 Shepard Freeman, Restaurant, 1901
- 13 The Alpha, Furnished Rooms, 1906
- 14 J.C. Matthews Club for railroad men, 1919
- 15 Hyte & Rutherford's Barbershop, 1906
- 16 J. Hedspeth, Restaurant, 1913
- 17 Club Café Barbershop, Walter Becton,
and S.S. Walker, soft-drink parlor, 1919
- 18 Rutherford Bros. Haberdashery, 1919
- 19 Mack Oliver, Grocer, 1919
- 20 Frankie Baker Shoeshine, 1930
- 21 Rutherford Bros. Barbershop, 1931
- 22 Walter Becton Barbershop, 1931



“Dad used to have his barbershop on the Broadway side and confectionary and haberdashery on the Flanders Street side. Down on Glisan there was a grocery store right across from the Post Office, a very busy little store. And then across the street from the Post Office on the Broadway side there was a shoemaker and he had that business for a long time. These were all Black businesses. Then of course you had your billiard parlor here and there, one across from the Post Office and one over on Sixth Street. Then they had – before Prohibition they had one or two saloons, too.”

Otto Rutherford



Rutherford Brothers Haberdashery NW Sixth and Flanders, 1910. William and Edward Rutherford were partners in several successful businesses, including a barbershop and a haberdashery, which served the resident African American community, railroad workers and travelers. They first owned property at the corner of Broadway and Flanders, later selling it for a quarter block on Sixth Avenue between Glisan and Flanders, close by Union Station.

Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society