

## THE START OF THE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF PRESTON

**1. Historic Elevator** Standing in the parking lot of the Root River Bike Trail imagine this area as part of Preston's rail center. All that is left is the 1902 Historic Milwaukee Grain Elevator, listed on the **National Register of Historic Buildings**. Crib and dovetail constructed, the inside has individual cribs for holding grain. The Preston Historical Society has restored the building and added an authentic Milwaukee Road boxcar and caboose on rails to the site.



**2. Historic Preston School Building** The large brick building on the hill overlooking the trailhead is the Preston School Building built in 1923 and housed both elementary and high school. In 1922 the original school building burned down. Today it is apartments and lodging. Can be viewed at 112 Pleasant Street NW.



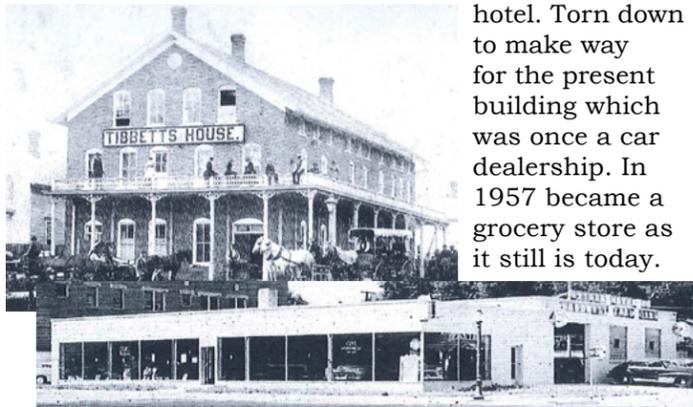
### FILLMORE STREET

*As you start your walking tour of Historic downtown Preston you are on the corner of Fillmore Street and St. Anthony you will be walking around the Courthouse Square.*

**3. 101 Fillmore Street W** The Fillmore County Courthouse stands in the middle of Preston's public square. The original building was constructed in 1863 with additions added over the years. Torn down in 1956, the present building was built with an extensive update in 2008.



**4. 105 Fillmore Street W** Looking across the street on this corner stood the Tibbetts House from 1885 until the mid 1940's, which was Preston's most exclusive hotel. Torn down to make way for the present building which was once a car dealership. In 1957 became a grocery store as it still is today.



**5. 129 Fillmore Street W "Grand Opera House"** (circa 1903) the upstairs with its wide stairs, was the center of cultural activities, traveling movies, political meetings, dances and indoor athletic events. The Preston Tigers baseball was the second best ball team in the United States in the early 1900's. The first level has always housed businesses as it does today. In 1903 First National Bank and Gartner Grocery Store were located here. Gartner built this series of brick buildings.



**6. 141 Fillmore Street W** is the oldest building on the block as shown in an 1894 picture, when a fire destroyed all the wood buildings. This building always served as a business building with the American Legion on the top floor at one time.



**7. 157 Fillmore Street W** The corner brick building (circa 1890) was always a funeral home and furniture store through the years, today it is still a funeral home.

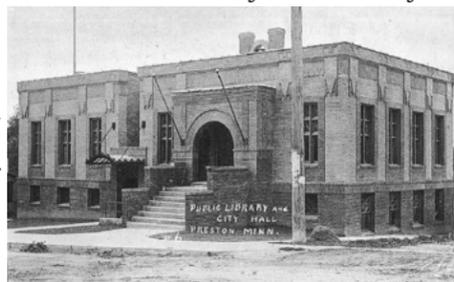
### HOUSTON STREET



**8. 109 Houston Street** The Fillmore County Jail, built in 1864, is constructed of local materials (brick, stone and wood) in the Italianate style. It is now a Bed & Breakfast and is on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

### ST. PAUL STREET

**9. 101 St. Paul Street NW** The Preston Carnegie Library was completed in 1912. Originally the Town Hall was on the South side of the library with the city jail on the lower level. Today the library occupies the upper level and the city offices are located on the lower level. The firehall once occupied this lower space.



**10. 121 St. Paul Street** As you walk South from the library this next building was once known as Keehn's Meat Market.



**10. 125 S St. Paul Street** At one time this was a confectionery shop and later a popular restaurant.

**11. 192 St. Paul Street** is now one business. Once it was the Victory Café on the North end and later the post office and later yet a doctor's office. On the N.W. corner of St. Paul and Main Street was the 1st National Bank, one of the three banks in Preston. It was closed after finding funds had been misappropriated.



**12. 200 St. Paul Street** Built in 1907, this building once housed a hardware store with the central office for NW Bell Telephone Co. upstairs. The upstairs has now been remodeled into apartments.



**13. 209 St. Paul Street** Here was a thriving men's clothing store. The first owner's names are still on the cornice of each building.

**14. 212 St. Paul Street** A pool hall with a nine pin bowling alley was once in this building. Later it became the post office with the Servicemen's Club located upstairs. When the post office built a new building the Servicemen's Club moved downstairs in it's present location.

**15. 235 St. Paul Street** Was once the Preston Republican Newspaper office.



**16. 220 St. Paul Street** Originally there were four businesses in this building before being torn down. On the corner was Creamery Produce which purchased eggs and sold feed; Schibursky's shoe repair shop; a dry cleaner; and a dentist office.



**17. 200 St. Paul Street SW** was Andy's Candy Store. Eventually it was remodeled in 1933 to become Andy's Cafe after prohibition ended. It later became a tavern and is now a pizza place/restaurant.

**18. 208 St. Paul Street** The Preston Bakery was located here until 1970's.

**19. 206 St. Paul Street SW** is probably the narrowest storefront in downtown. Many small businesses have existed in this building. In the early 40's it was a café; in 1948-1960 it was an optometrist office before becoming a reality business and now a beauty shop.

### MAIN STREET

*From St. Paul Street turn right onto the Main Street, with the Court House to the left.*

**20. 152 W Main Street** was known as the Syndicate Building circa 1881. **136 W Main** was called "Old Reliable" Mercantile Store of Hard and Kuethe. At one time there were eight sewing machine operators on the second floor. The beautiful brick work was covered in a modernization upgrade.

