

## **MILTON BECOMES A TOWN**

In 1872, W. S. Frazier laid off a town site on part of the Frazier property, gave a man by the name of Woodward 1-1/2 acres on the west side of Main Street as a site for a hotel, and sold John Miller 15 acres and a water right for \$125 to build a grist mill. The mill machinery contained 3 runs of stone burrs. The hotel was operated in succession by U. Garred, D. W. Quinn and S. P. Whitely. In 1873 M.V. Wormington built the first residence on the platted area. By general community consent the town name of Milton was selected in an application for a post office. In 1886 the town Board of Trustees incorporated under the name of Milton City.

By 1874 Riley Koontz had opened a store and blacksmith shop. More residences were added, and a temporary schoolhouse was built where the old telephone building now stands.

A new two-story schoolhouse was built in 1879, on the site of the present Central School. The cost was \$6,000.

The Seventh Day Adventist's built a church in 1880, and other denominations holding meetings were Christians, Methodist, Southern Methodists, Baptists and United Brethren.

In 1882 Milton consisted of two general stores, two drug stores, one variety store, one millinery store, three saloons, one hotel, one restaurant, three livery and feed stables, one meat market, one shoe shop, one barber shop, four blacksmith shops, one undertaker's shop, a picture gallery, a flour mill, a planer, chop, and shingle mill, a hall, a flume, a railroad station, school house, two churches, post office, express office and a population of 400.

Stages passed through the place each way daily between Pendleton and Walla Walla. Milton was growing and needed a town government; a need supplied in 1886 when a Board of Trustees established a city government.

**Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area**

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