BLUMAUER HILL

Blumauer Hill (Section 29-30, Township 16 N, Range 1 W, elevation 997 feet) was named after members of the Blumauer family, who as J. Blumauer & sons, and then as the Blumauer Brothers, owned several businesses in the area from the 1880s into the 1920s.

Born in Sulzberg, Germany (1827), Joseph Blumauer and his three brothers came to America, where his children were born in New York. Joseph went to California for the Gold Rush and eventually ended up in Portland, Oregon engaged in the mercantile business, erecting the first brick building in that city.

In 1882 Joseph Blumauer purchased Fred Brown's general merchandise store in Tenino, WA, and moved his family of three sons and three daughters into the Brown house in the small community of about 75 people. As Blumauer & Sons, he established several business ventures in Thurston County, including logging and real estate. Their Bucoda store was one of the largest north of Portland on the rail line. During the 1890s, Joseph moved back to Portland with his daughters, leaving his sons to continue the family businesses in the area as the Blumauer Brothers.





Sol Blumauer became Tenino Postmaster in 1882 and his brother Isaac "Ike" Blumauer took over in 1884 while brother Sol began expanding the family businesses in nearby Seatco (Bucoda), becoming Postmaster there in 1888 with brother Ike following as Postmaster in 1897-1912.



By the early 1900s they also had a large lumber mill on the western side of the hill, as well as the Blumauer Hotel on Crowder Road. In 1913 the hill was

subdivided into lots for sale as the "Blumauer Acre Tracts".

Ike Blumauer was President of the State Bank of Tenino when it folded in 1914. He was accused of larceny, but was acquitted. The bank's failure was his last business in Tenino. Isaac and Sol would eventually return to Portland. The family is buried at the Beth Israel Cemetery in Portland.



Blumauer Lumber Company about 1910 at the western foot of Blumauer Hill. It was taken over by the Skookum Lumber Company in 1916.

By Richard A. Edwards, Tenino City Historian, September 2019.