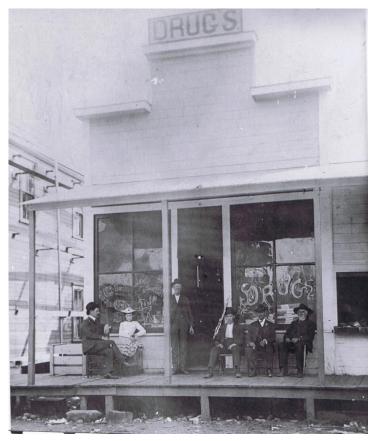# McClellan Street

McClellan Street, which runs north-south on the west side of Tenino, was originally platted as "E Street" in the Synder and Stevens plat of 1890. The street was renamed in honor of Thomas J. McClellan (1840-1926), Tenino businessman and developer.

Tom McClellan was born in Athens, Ohio on February 6, 1840. He served in the 75th Ohio Infantry during the Civil War, where he participated in many armed encounters including fighting in the battle of Gettysburg in 1863. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic after the war. As a young man he moved to Kansas, and married Mary M. Fay at Wakeeny on April 21, 1870. They had ten children.

In the early 1890s, McClellan arrived in Tenino, Washington. His first work was in a general merchandise store, but before long he opened the first drug store in Tenino. Among other firsts, he created Tenino's first telephone company (1905), first electrical power company (1906), and first movie theater. He also served as a local Postmaster (1894-98), a Justice of the Peace, and he was a charter member of Tenino's Masonic Lodge (1892).

Tenino's first drug store. T.J.McClellan in doorway.
The first phone company wasstarted in the back of store.

Tenino's first phone company building about 1909.
It was located on Sussex, east of the Miller Building.

Other McClellan businesses included a creamery, a lumber mill, and a shingle mill.

He died in 1926 at the age of 86. His obituary in the *Tenino Independent* praised his contributions to Tenino by stating: "A history of his many activities and business activities here would almost suffice as a history of Tenino itself."

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