HOWARD STREET

The original plat for the Plan of Tenino included only 5 street names: Central Street, which ran the length of the town from west to east; Hodgdon Street, named after Stephen Hodgdon, the original Donation Land Claim holder; Stage Street, assumed to be named as the street used by the local stagecoaches that used Hodgdon Station as a stop on their route; Olympia Street, named after the nearby capital of Washington Territory, and Howard Street.
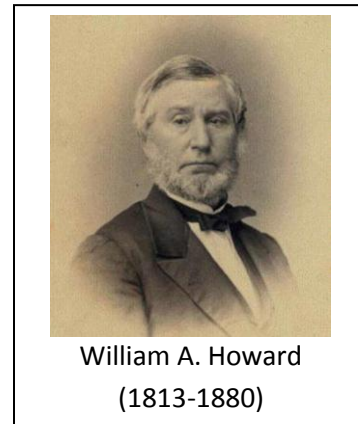
The plat was created by the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Company which was founded in 1870 as the real estate management company for the lands being acquired by the Northern Pacific Railway as part of their building the railway.

By October 1872 the Northern Pacific Railway track layers had reached Hodgdon's land. The railroad built a depot and turntable and named their station Tenino. Train service between Kalama and Tenino began on October 14, 1872.

On November 21, 1872, former congressional Representative from Michigan, William Alanson Howard, was appointed as land commissioner of the Northern Pacific Railway. He formally accepted the appointment on December 5th.

He had previously served as the land commissioner of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway before running unsuccessfully for the United States Senate. Mr. Howard was serving as land commissioner for the GR&IR, when in 1870 they extended their track from Cedar Springs to Morley, MI, and a depot town, named Howard City, Michigan was named after him.

The Plan for Tenino, including the named Howard Street, was signed June 10, 1873 by Thomas H. Canfield, President of the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Company. It seems likely that Howard Street was named at this time for the company's newly appointed land commissioner.

William A. Howard
(1813-1880)

Howard served as land commissioner for the Northern Pacific Railway until 1878 when he was appointed Governor of Dakota Territory by President Hayes, in which role he served until his death in 1880.

Plan of Tenino, 1873

By Richard A. Edwards, Historian, The South Thurston County Historical Society. October 2012.