



Photographs by Greg Giesy

Courthouse Square Sequoias Hillsboro

These Heritage Sequoia Trees were planted in 1880 as three-year old seedlings at the entrance of the Washington County Courthouse by pioneer nurseryman John R. Porter. Porter and his family moved to Oregon from Ohio in 1847 and started a farm. Developing an interest in trees, he started a nursery on his farm.

Gold fever swept the country in 1849, and people from all over the world rushed to the California gold fields. Porter was no exception, and like most, didn't find his fortune. What he did find were magnificent trees in a Sequoia forest in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. On his return, his saddlebags weren't filled with gold nuggets, but with cones from those Sequoias.

After returning home to his nursery, he cultivated and planted the seeds from those cones. When he had Sequoia seedlings, he planted them at various sites, one of which was the Washington County Courthouse, where he planted eight seedlings. Five survive today.

Height: Approximately 150'
Circumference: 29.8' (largest of specimens)
Age: c. 130 years

The trees are located at 1st Avenue and Main Street in Hillsboro.

http://www.oregon.com/history/oregon_heritage_trees_portland.cfm