



# **Dryland Farming Heritage Trail**

## **Palouse Region**

Concept Plan | Fall 2018  
Steve Austin



Overview

DRYLAND FARMING HERITAGE TRAIL

This Heritage Trail Concept Plan outlines conceptual interpretive and design approaches for the possible historic resources of Whitman County, Washington and Latah County, Idaho.

As agricultural transportation on the Palouse changes, many of the once numerous railroad-side grain storage and associated buildings might begin to disappear. It is vital to conduct architectural history research as well as to plan for a way to interpret these structures.

These structures trace the history of the development of the flat lands of the Palouse along with the railroads themselves. Ironically too, they may point to a future where rail transportation is once again vital.

Ultimately, the Heritage Trail should link, via rail to trails and roadways, all significant structures in Whitman and Latah Counties.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

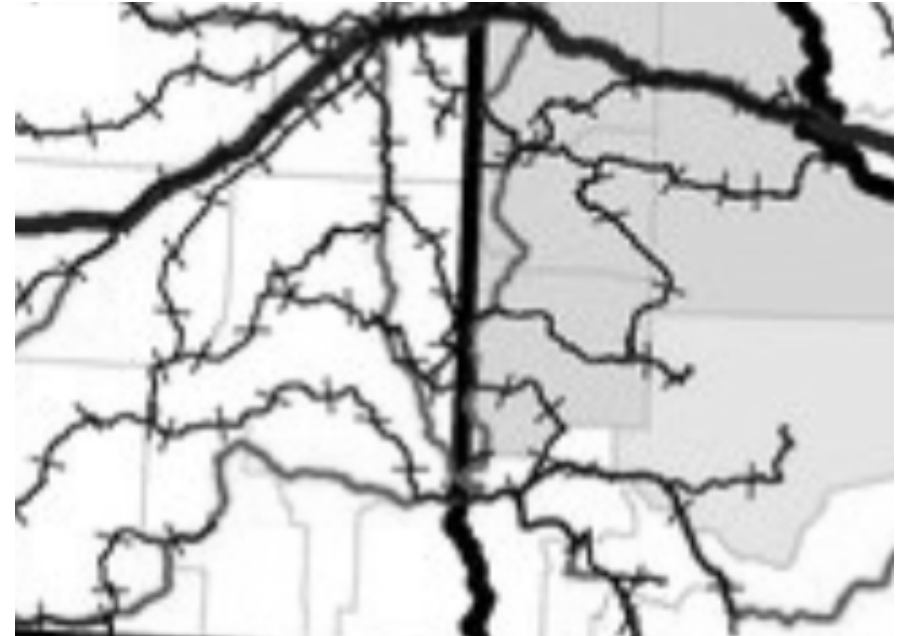
- Long-range vision for interpretive opportunities
  - Based on Research, scholarship, and community engagement
- Study Outline
  - Regional context
    - History
    - Landscape
  - Individual site contexts
    - Buildings
    - Neighborhoods
  - Interpretive approach development
    - Themes and structure
    - Content
  - Design approaches to interpretive sites
  - Design approaches to interpretive material
  - Implementation







# Dryland Farming Region



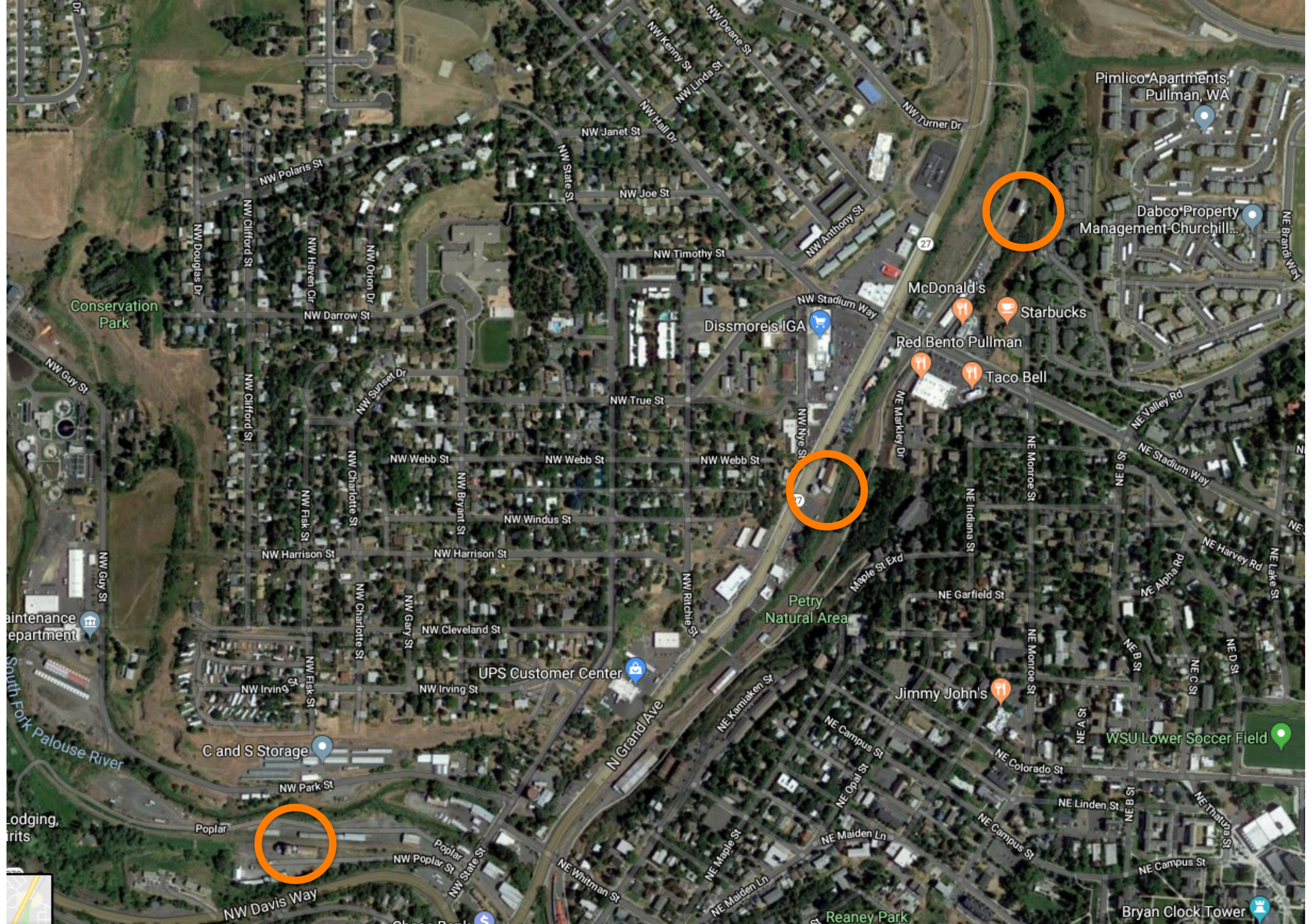
Rail Roads in the Region (Need better map)

## regional context

There are over 1 million acres in the dryland farming region. An extensive study will be needed to identify the key cultural and landscape artifacts that should be included in the Heritage Trail.

The following pages focus only on the core area of Pullman.





# Dryland Farming Heritage Trail

Pullman Core





These existing buildings in Pullman's core should be studied and preserved.





## proposal: interpretive center

The Heritage Trail needs an focus, and these buildings along the South Fork of the Palouse River just west of downtown Pullman offer a great opportunity. The site is easily accessible by car, and could be a key point on the proposed Pullman to Colfax Recreational Trail.



## current

There is much attraction in this particular location as the buildings create a pleasant space. For interpretation purposes, these buildings could be kept in their current condition, or they could be refurbished to allow indoor access.



## future

The rail right-of-way is now a multi-use trail. In this portion of the trail, the existing rails will be a key feature to show scale and connect to history. An historic grain railroad car could be added. Education signage informs visitors. A brand identity is established. If the buildings can be kept in their current condition, this site could be similar in concept to Seattle's Gasworks Park.



# Dryland Farming Heritage Trail Interpretive Center “Pullman’s Gasworks Park”