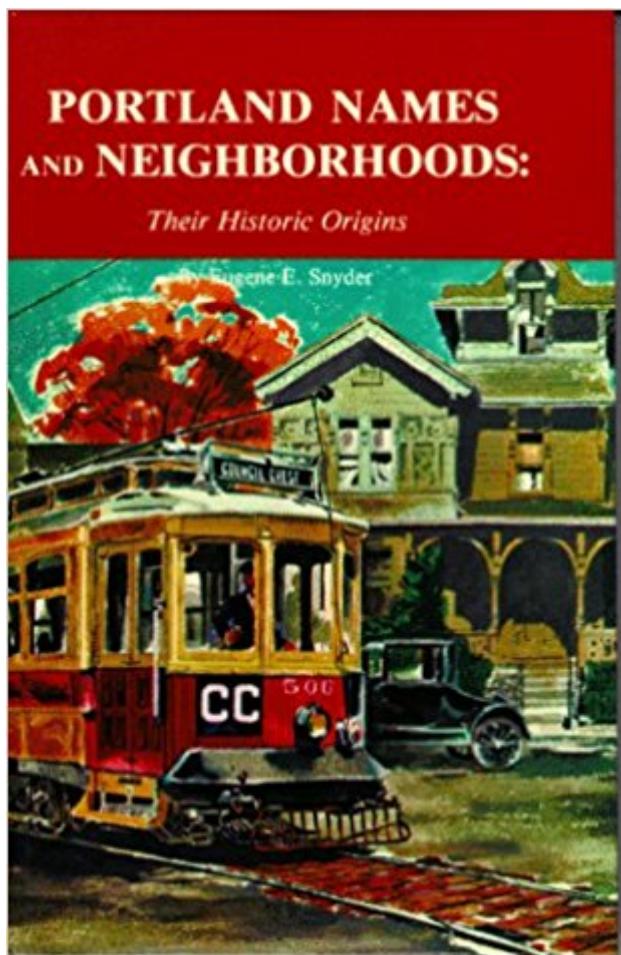


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# Portland Names And Neighborhoods: Their Historic Origins



## **Synopsis**

Hundreds of street, school, and park names are in daily use in the city, but most of them have become mere labels, their origins forgotten. Here are more than 950 such names -- alphabetically arranged- with biographical and historical information about what lies behind those names and what persons they honor. Maps, illustrations, index. 256 pages. Other books by Eugene Snyder: "Amanda's Friends: Prints and Drawings by Amanda Snyder American Artist 1894 - 1980" "Aurora, Their Last Utopia: Oregon's Christian Commune, 1856-1883" "Early Portland: Stumptown Triumphant" "Mexican Notebook" "Portland Potpourri: Art, Fountains & Old Friends" "Skidmore's Portland: His Fountain and Its Sculptor" "The Adventure of the Missing Brother:" "We Claimed This Land: Portland's Pioneer Settlers"

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Portland Names and Neighborhoods: Their Historic OriginsThis is a fascinating book, even with its somewhat dry reading, pedestrian writing, and useless index. Both long-time Portland residents and new Portland residents will learn something about Portland and its history that they didn't know before, as will visitors to Portland.The main sections of this book are as follows:1. Styles in Street Naming2. Plats and Growth3. Some Noteworthy Neighborhoods4. Names Changed, Lost, and Missing5. The Street Names6. School Names7. Park NamesSection 1, Styles in Street Naming, provides the background to understand how and why Portland streets are named as they are. These styles describe the patterns in Philadelphia, Boston, and New York and are the basis of most street patterns in the United States .The Philadelphia pattern moved westward with the frontier (and

Portland), finally reaching the Pacific Ocean. The streets running north-south were given numbers. The streets running east-west were given names: important personages, trees, local history, and so on. Occasionally, a numbered street was given a name. In Portland, for example, Broadway originally was named Seventh Street. It remained so until 1913 when the Broadway Bridge was completed, which brought a great flow of streetcar and vehicular traffic onto Seventh Street. City planners decided to widen Seventh street, making it a "broad way." In New England, it was customary to use names on every street, no matter which direction the street ran. Boston was the model for this arrangement. One would have expected Portland's street pattern to be modeled on Boston (or Portland, Maine); however, the irregular land forms of Boston and Portland, Maine made those cities unique and unsuitable for universal models. (California cities seem to follow this model.) New York City took the middle ground and numbered its streets in each direction. There were some aberrations: Fourth Avenue has been named Lexington Avenue, and an extra avenue, Park Avenue, has been inserted in the midst of the numbered sequence. One final note: The book was published in 1970, nearly forty years ago. As such, some of the information either is out of date or not up to date.

A great companion to our 1911 bungalow home - a book explaining where all of the Portland names came from, often with short stories or vignettes about a specific person or place. This is a great book to dip in and out of. You can read it all at one go fairly quickly, but it's nice to pick up and read about one specific part of town, the people who founded it and how far the city has come. It's not exhaustive by any means, but it's a fun book to have around to get you more excited about local history. I've recommended it to several friends already who own in the area.

This, published in the late 1970s, is a gem. Local historian Eugene Snyder, who ought to be justly renowned for his approachable, "historian-for-the-rest-of-us" approach to Portland Oregon history, produced a genius book that is a friendly, chatty rundown of Portland street names, address system history, and where all those names really came from. Among the things you'll know are:<sup>\*</sup> Why Ladd's Addition came about, and why it looks the way it does<sup>\*</sup> Why Downtown's Ankeny Street is so remarkably narrow<sup>\*</sup> Why Portland's address grid is the way it is (and why we needed a Great Renaming)<sup>\*</sup> Why those streets in NW Portland run alphabetically<sup>\*</sup> What game Lovejoy and Pettygrove played to choose the name of the new townThis is a book that is lovingly done, as thoroughly researched as can be and despite its dating (copyright was 1979) still essential. Published by a small Portland press which as since passed into history, it's hard to find, so get it

while you can!

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