ALBINA HISTORY

EARLY YEARS

NE Alberta St. is located within the historic Albina district which has been a part of Portland since it was incorporated along with East Portland in 1891. Albina had a short history as one of several independent river towns competing with, and eventually annexed by, Portland.

Albina, incorporated in 1887, was located on land that was part of the Clackamas tribe and later was owned by J.L. Loring and Joseph Delay who obtained the land through the Oregon Donation Land Act. They sold to William Winter Page who gave the area its name after both his wife and daughter who were each named Albina (Al-bean-a). In 1872 Page sold to Edwin Russell and George Williams after whom two of the main arteries in Albina are named. The city grew up centered around railroad lines located along the Willamette river with ferry service to Portland.

STREETCAR YEARS

Portland is bound on the west side by tall hills which limited its westward growth. The city’s Westside business and banking interests knew that to keep Portland growing it had to expand eastward. The opening of the Morrison bridge in 1887 and the subsequent streetcar lines that crossed it into downtown created the spark that ignited eastside development. As electric streetcar lines proliferated throughout Albina and the rest of the eastside, growth boomed. Albina’s population