

David Linn

Most of the wooden buildings in and around early-day Jacksonville were built by David Linn. He also did the interior carpentry and crafted the cabinetry for many of the town's brick edifices.

David came to Oregon in 1851 from Ohio, stopping briefly in Oregon City on his way to gold rush success at Humbug Creek near Yreka, California. He arrived in Jacksonville in the spring of 1852. A carpenter and cabinetmaker by trade, David initially made cradles and sluice boxes for the miners, then crude buildings and huts. He volunteered during the Indian Wars and later hauled his sawmill (the area's first) to Fort Klamath to help build the fort's barracks and other structures.

David built the first factory in southern Oregon where he and his crew turned out "spool" beds and coffins, as well as finished lumber for homes and cabinetry. His typical coffin, made of pine lined with black velvet or white linen, sold for \$20 for a child's size up to \$50 for an adult. To showcase his work, David built a store with a lower floor for display and an upper floor for storage.

A prominent local figure, David was a Jacksonville City Councilman, Mayor, and Mason. He served 15 years as Treasurer of Jackson County and was a representative to the state legislature.

In 1860, David married Anna Sophia Hoffman, daughter of a prosperous local merchant and government official. David built a home for Anna and their seven children at the corner of Oregon and E streets. Although the Linn house no longer stands, the historic Jacksonville Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of his work. Linn staircases can be seen in Jacksonville's "New City Hall" (formerly the Jackson County Courthouse) and the McCully House.

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