The Siuslaw Bridge is one of 5 major bridges constructed in the 1930’s as part of the Works Progress Administration under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Workers were paid between 50 cents and $1.20 an hour. The Bridge opened for traffic March 31, 1936. The steel span in the middle separates and opens for large ships to come into port.

Florence was incorporated February 10, 1893 with B.F. Alley the first Mayor. He started the first newspaper, “The West”, in 1890.

On October 23, 1910, fire broke out behind the blacksmith shop on Front Street. Ten buildings along the river were destroyed at a cost of $60,000. Bay View Hotel (later the Florence Hotel) in background.

Funded by a Teaching American History Grant through Lane Education Service District. Created by Marsha Klosterman, Siuslaw Middle School, and Julie Rassmann.
Bills Auto Service #
1240 Bay Street
Built circa 1945
Bill Karmowsky’s Auto & Evinrude Outboard Motors garage, 1944-1995.

Edwin Kyle Home #
1155 Bay Street
Sears Craftsman built 1914. Moved from top of hill to present location in 1970.

Historic Walking Tour

1 School/Callison Building #*
278 Maple Street
Built 1905 as a school house. Fire destroyed top floor in 1953 shortly after it was sold to Callisons who ran a wholesale grocer.

2 Ponler Motor Co. #
294 Laurel Street, across from the museum.
Circa 1920.

3 David House #*
232 Maple Street
Built 1906 by Charles David, a local millwright. This residence is among the oldest remaining homes in Florence.

4 The Johnson House #*
216 Maple Street
Built 1892, enlarged to present size in 1907. It has been a doctor’s office, boarding house & private residence.

5 Laurel Street House #
196 Laurel Street
Circa 1900. Built by Johnny Morris, who ran the Morris Hotel on Bay St.

6 1910 House # (small house on left)
180 Laurel Street

7 Fountain #*
1458 First Street
Started generating electricity September 1912.

8 Masonic Lodge #*
184 Maple Street
Built 1913. The Lodge’s original building was destroyed in the 1910 fire. Florence’s Masonic temple chartered 1893.

9 Florence Boarding House #
168 Maple Street
Built 1910. It still has apartments upstairs with retail at street level.

10 Electric Building #*
129 Maple Street
Built by Oscar Funke for the local power company. It was moved from Front Street & refurbished in 1983.

11 Telephone Co. Building #*
128 Maple Street
Circa 1910. First telephone company office started operating 1912. Switchboards were downstairs and operator quarters were on 2nd floor.

12 Harbor Theater #
1377 Bay St.
1938 - 2003

13 Pastime #
1341 Bay St.
Circa 1930’s. Rainbow Ballroom above. Now divided into 4 business.

14 The Lockers #*
1304 Bay Street
Circa 1915
Served as a drugstore & later a butcher shop. Rear section was added in early 1940’s, housing meat lockers until 50’s.

15 Ferry Landing #
Run by the Coulter family. The last ferry crossing was March 31, 1936 when the Siuslaw bridge opened.

16 Kyle Building #*
1297 Bay Street
Built by William Kyle in 1901, served as a mercantile until 1961. The upstairs served as a social center.

17 Generator Plant #
278 Maple Street
Built 1912
So. Pacific Railroad depot from Mapleton. It was moved here in 1912.

18 Slim Brown’s Pool Hall #*
1255 Bay Street
Built late 40’s. Used as a pool hall & poker “parlor” till the 1960’s. Renovated & 2nd story added 1990.

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