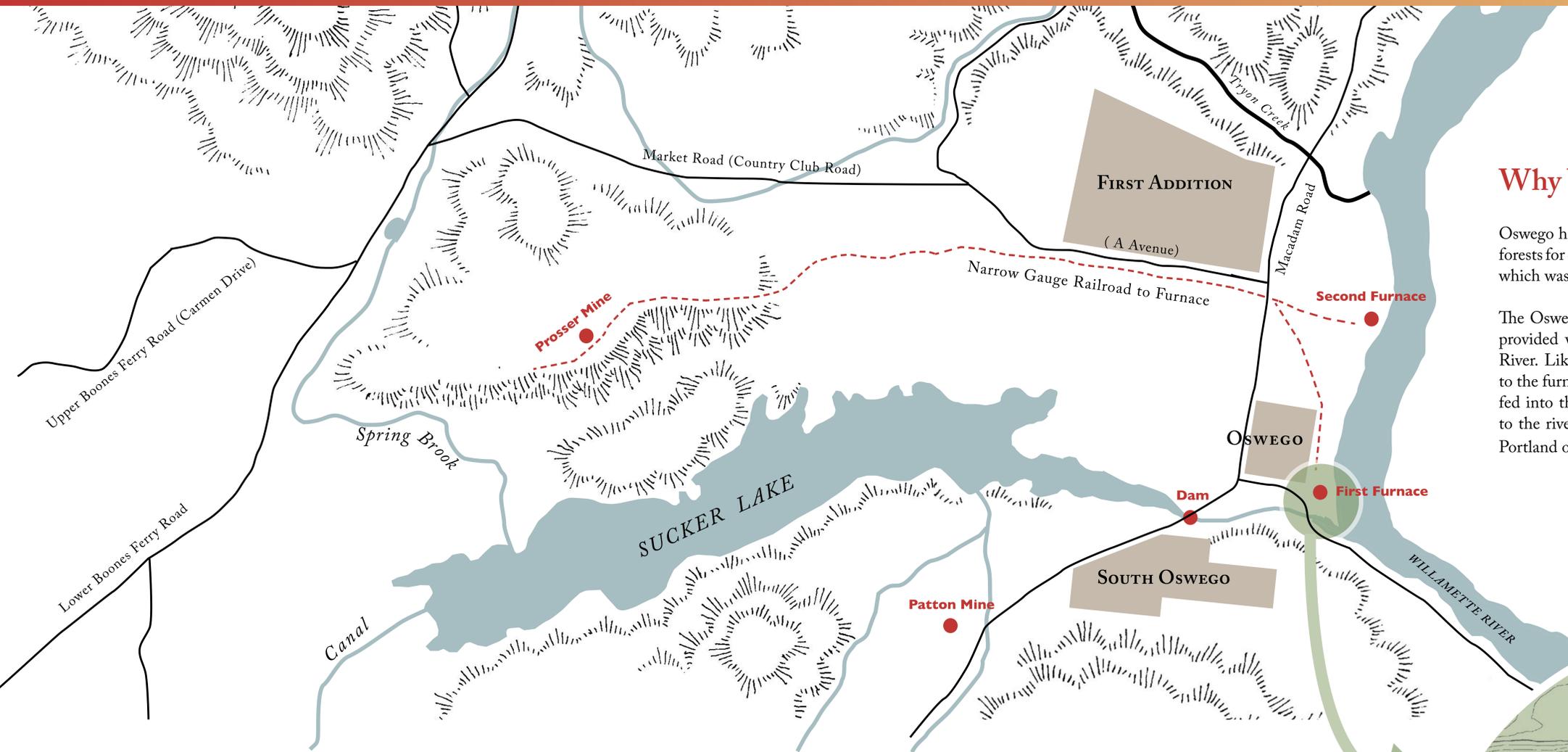


A Perfect Site for an Iron Furnace



Why Was the Furnace Built Here?

Oswego had almost everything the furnace needed: iron deposits in the hills, forests for charcoal fuel, and water power. The only thing lacking was limestone, which was imported from the San Juan Islands in British Columbia.

The Oswego Furnace was built at the mouth of Oswego Creek, a spot that provided waterpower from the lake and transportation on the Willamette River. Like all early stone furnaces, it was built next to a hill, which was linked to the furnace by a bridge. Raw materials were wheeled across the bridge and fed into the top of the furnace. From the casting house it was a few yards to the river landing where bars of pig iron were loaded on ships bound for Portland or San Francisco.

Gravity and Geography Helped the Work

