

OREGON HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

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Dear Fellow Oregonians:

As we enter a new millennium, the protection and preservation of Oregon's unique historic and cultural resources takes on renewed importance. Because these resources are non-renewable, we must all assume the role of responsible stewards to pass them along to future generations. The *Oregon Historic Preservation Plan* serves as the comprehensive planning document for the State Historic Preservation Office as well as a guide to historic preservation planning for our state's citizens, organizations and governmental agencies.

The current *Oregon Historic Preservation Plan* evolved from several sources: input from concerned citizens through a series of statewide public meetings; comments from preservation professionals, organizations and governmental entities; new opportunities brought about by communication, technological and educational advancements; and finally, challenges resulting from changing economic and social patterns.

The success of this plan depends upon its acceptance by the preservation community as a whole. No single group can represent the varied interests that affect preservation statewide; however, by working together in partnership we can help chart the direction of preservation efforts in the coming four years. We hope that you will join us in that partnership.

Sincerely,

Michael Carrier, Director
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
and State Historic Preservation Officer

Oregon Historic Preservation Plan

BACKGROUND

Oregon is a land of great resources: hundreds of miles of coastline, rivers and streams; tens of thousands of acres of timber; and hundreds of millions of dollars in nursery and agricultural products. Yet, one of our state's most important resources, its cultural heritage, is threatened from pressures brought about by increased urbanization, a population influx, and economic development. The cultural resources that have come to symbolize our state's heritage are finite and non-renewable; once lost, they are gone forever. The revised Oregon Historic Preservation Plan is the result of an intense six-month effort to revise and update the state's comprehensive historic preservation plan. It presents a strategy for protecting and preserving our state's cultural resources.

In the summer of 2000, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) initiated a series of twelve public meetings around the state to provide input in the revision of SHPO's comprehensive plan for the next four years. Scores of Oregonians attended these meetings; and a number of participants' ideas and suggestions were incorporated into the initial revised draft of the Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Plan.

Upon completion of the initial revised draft, copies were sent out for review and comment to the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, historic landmark commissions, preservation professionals, educational institutions, Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, and private non-profit organizations. Comments and suggestions received from these groups and individuals were also evaluated for incorporation into the revised Plan.

In addition to the universal call for enhanced protection and preservation of Oregon's irreplaceable cultural resources, three predominant themes arose from the revision process: a call for increased communication, recognition of the importance of public education, and the need for access to technical information. Preservation advocates around the state stressed the importance of effective communication as a necessary ingredient for protecting and preserving Oregon's cultural heritage. Participants in public meetings called for the SHPO to work in partnership with groups and organizations statewide in developing appropriate forums for the exchange of information and ideas among preservation advocates.



Geiser Grand Hotel, Baker City, Baker County, 1889



*South view and some of west view
of Chavner House near Central
Point in Jackson County, 1892*

Participants also said that Oregonians need to learn more about their cultural heritage, and they challenged the SHPO to develop new approaches and formats to help disseminate that information. In this vein, there was much discussion of non-traditional educational venues outside the classroom and their potential for informing Oregonians of the importance of protecting and preserving our state's cultural resources.

Respondents also recognized the importance of access to the latest technical information. This is a particularly vexing problem for citizens in outlying areas of the state, where resources are limited. Recent technological innovations, coupled with improved access to the web, will provide even more opportunities to disseminate technical information statewide, and the SHPO is working with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to revise and update its website for increased access to technical information.



John D. Kennedy Elementary School, Portland, 1915

IMPLEMENTATION

The revised Oregon Historic Preservation Plan is an ongoing, strategic plan for the implementation of listed goals and objectives. The Plan is designed to be flexible, enabling it to accommodate to changing circumstances. The State Historic Preservation Office views the document as a framework for developing preservation-related activities not only on the state level, but on regional and local levels as well. The goals contained within the revised Plan are broad and may be used by all individuals, groups, organizations, and local, state and federal agencies with a stake in preserving Oregon's heritage.

Unlike its predecessor, which listed partners under each of the objectives, the revised Plan contains no prearranged partnerships. A number of respondents who reviewed the 1996 Plan felt that listing partners under objectives gave an exclusionary appearance that precluded participation by others. The revised Oregon Historic Preservation Plan is inclusive rather than exclusive. The Plan's success depends upon the efforts of individuals, groups, organizations and agencies on all levels, from local to federal, working in partnership with SHPO to accomplish the goals and objectives. Oregon's revised Historic Preservation Plan will also serve as the foundation for comprehensive planning efforts, and the State Historic Preservation Office will be working with local governments over the next four years in the development of long-range historic preservation planning goals and associated objectives.

Like its predecessor, the revised Oregon Historic Preservation Plan is divided into four broad themes: Communication, Identification, Protection and Facilitation. Themes are further divided into fifteen challenges/opportunities, with associated goals and objectives designed to meet those challenges. The challenges and opportunities listed under each of the four themes are interdependent, as are many of the goals. While individual goals may not be fully achievable in the short term, individual objectives are; and as these objectives are met, they will be replaced by new ones.

After the revised Plan is reviewed and approved by the National Park Service, it will be presented to the Statewide Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation for adoption. Upon adoption by the SACHP, the Plan will be implemented. The Oregon Historic Preservation Plan will remain in effect until 2004, when it is again scheduled for revision and updating. The State Historic Preservation Office will provide general administrative and staff support for the Plan. Partner organizations will provide fiscal, technical and logistical support for those objectives in which they participate. Specific agreements will be developed in each instance.



Benson Hotel, Portland, 1913



Wolf Creek Tavern, Josephine County, 1883, 1925

Communication



First Presbyterian Church of Portland, 1886-1890

Effective communication is vital to all strategic planning activities. This section presents four goals for developing communication networks, along with strategies that will enable preservationists to achieve objectives listed under each of these goals. Efforts that underscore the importance of public participation, education, advocacy and technical solutions are key to understanding the significance of historic preservation in our contemporary society.

Historic preservationists serve a vital role in protecting and preserving Oregon's cultural heritage.

Today, preservation advocates stress the fact that historic preservation is everyone's concern, and that effective communication is a primary means of transforming passive recognition into active support. It follows, therefore, that support for historic preservation will result from enhanced educational efforts, the distribution of objective information, and the voices of organized preservation constituents.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Challenge and Opportunity: Send a clear message that historic preservation is the concern of all Oregonians.

Goal: To integrate the concerns of all Oregonians in planning for the state's cultural resources, support local preservation efforts, and increase public participation in preservation-related activities.

- Continue to identify and recruit individuals and organizations that may have a stake in the Oregon Historic Preservation Plan.
- Solicit and incorporate preservation-related comments and concerns in all levels of decision-making.
- Strengthen and expand preservation planning at the local level.
- Encourage participation of cultural and ethnic groups in cultural resource preservation activities.

EDUCATION

Challenge and Opportunity: Oregonians need to know more about their cultural heritage and its value within contemporary society.

Goal: To educate Oregonians, especially our children, in the importance of our cultural heritage and the value of preserving cultural resources.

- Establish and support a core group of preservation educators on the primary, secondary and college levels statewide.
- Develop heritage education programs in formats that meet the needs of diverse audiences.
- Develop support for cultural resource and historic preservation programs at Oregon colleges and universities through: scholarships, internships, employment referrals, recruitment of quality students, providing research and library materials, and by endowing a faculty chair in historic preservation.
- Incorporate heritage education into continuing education, vocational, and park and recreation programs statewide.
- Encourage, promote and fund tribal heritage education programs.
- Seek to establish a permanent Oregon heritage education program coordinator position in the State Department of Education.



Bybee-Howell House, Sauvie Island, Portland, 1856



Barlow Road National Register Historic District, Wasco County

S U C C E S S S T O R Y

SHPO's annual Certified Local Government and Historic Landmark Commission Training Workshop brings together staff and landmark commissioners from around the state to meet with historic preservation specialists. Topics covered during this one day training session include: design review, advocacy, legal issues, tax incentives and the roles and responsibilities of historic landmarks commissioners.

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

Challenge and Opportunity: Over the past several years, the type and amount of technical information available to the preservation community has increased. Oregon has developed greater expertise in addressing preservation-related issues, and we must be proactive in disseminating technical information. An outstanding opportunity exists for the state to assume a leadership role in this field.

Goal: Develop and maintain an effective statewide network to collect and organize information on the technical aspects of historic preservation. Identify those areas needing further research. Make the information available to the public and to professionals.

- Convene an assembly of preservation professionals from related fields as a component of the annual Oregon Heritage Conference to identify and prioritize technical historic preservation issues.
- Promote and support research into identified technical preservation problems.
- Develop a preservation technology clearinghouse to collect, organize, and distribute technical assistance materials in manageable bites and appropriate formats.
- Work with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to expand the SHPO website to include updated links to sources of technical information.
- Utilize the Geographic Inventory System (GIS) to provide technical information.

HERITAGE ADVOCACY

Challenge and Opportunity: Although protecting our cultural heritage is recognized as an important cultural value, it is not always given priority status. Political support results from education by inclusion, the distribution of objective information, and through the voices of preservation constituents.

Goal: Seek a better understanding and respect for Oregon's cultural heritage in the executive and legislative branches of our state and federal governments.

- Cultivate support for historic preservation among decision makers through the establishment of a non-partisan Heritage Caucus in both houses of the State Legislature.
- Provide preservation training and technical information for individuals in leadership positions in state agencies, organizations, and local communities.
- As a matter of policy, promote inclusion of cultural resource considerations in legislative and administrative actions on the state and local levels.
- Promote strong leadership for cultural resource advocacy at both the executive and legislative levels.



Peter French's Round Barn near Dry Lake, Harney County, 1883

Identification

All preservation activities ultimately are based on the identification, assessment and protection of cultural resources. These resources can be a single prehistoric site or historic property, or they may address a number of interrelated classes of resources that affect an entire community or region. While an individual study may focus on single object or structure, on the state level we must cover the full range of cultural resources. Regardless of the level of inclusion or complexity, all preservation procedures are based on prehistoric or historic context statements.

Preservation planning is resource-based; and objectives and priorities rest on a foundation of organized data and thinking about protecting cultural resources. The identification, assessment, and protection of historic and prehistoric properties are integral components of the historic preservation process, and constitute a primary focus of Oregon's historic preservation program. The following goals and objectives outline the steps involved in this process.



Canemah National Register Historic District, Clackamas County, 1900



*William Barlow House, Canby, Clackamas County, 1885;
Top photo: During the early years, Bottom photo: During restoration*

SOURCES OF PREHISTORIC AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Challenge and Opportunity: Documentation is of fundamental importance to preservation-related studies, for it serves as a basis for prehistoric and historic research. Oregon has a wealth of research materials relating to the state's prehistory and history; Some of this information is culturally sensitive and is therefore confidential. Access to available materials can also be difficult because the information is derived from a variety of sources and is housed in many repositories around the state.



*Judge Lintner Harlocker House,
Coquille, Coos County, 1891*

Goal: To promote the identification and registration of Oregon prehistoric, historic and cultural resources by improving knowledge of and access to sources of documentation statewide.

- Seek ways to facilitate access to materials housed in prehistoric/historic property research centers, such as the Oregon Historical Society and the Department of Anthropology at Oregon State University.
- Fund projects that provide training in the research and documentation of prehistoric and historic properties.
- Support publication of a heritage research guide for the documentation of material culture in Oregon in both paper and electronic formats.
- Use all available resources to retrieve data for developing effective reservation-related goals and objectives.

CONTEXTUAL DOCUMENTATION

Challenge and Opportunity: An historic context is a structured framework for organizing information about cultural resources based on a shared theme, period or geographical area. Historic contexts are those patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, site, or place is understood and its meaning made clear. Documentation of these historic patterns provides a valuable tool for identifying related historic properties and for developing long range planning goals and objectives.

Goal: To coordinate and expedite the documentation of Oregon's prehistoric and historic contexts, disseminate that information, and encourage its use in planning for the treatment of prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

- Revise and update Oregon's Handbook for Historic Preservation Planning for documenting Oregon's historic contexts, and in planning for historic and cultural properties.
- Publish and distribute a cross-referenced index of documented historic contexts to property research centers, local governments, and the public.
- Seek funding for historic context studies from private sources, such as industry and ethnic or religious groups, which were historically associated with particular contexts.
- Encourage the incorporation of community-based historic context studies as a component of local Comprehensive Plans.

SURVEY AND INVENTORY

Challenge and Opportunity: Identification and evaluation of prehistoric and historic properties creates a valuable planning tool. Federal law mandates that the inventory of prehistoric and historic cultural resources be a top priority for State Historic Preservation Offices; however, geographically much of the state remains unsurveyed.

Goal: To maintain and improve the survey record of Oregon's prehistoric and historic cultural resources for use in planning and education, and for the public's information.

- Develop priorities and timelines to identify, study, designate, interpret and protect the State's prehistoric and historic cultural resources.
- Seek to systematically integrate SHPO survey and inventory goals and standards into Comprehensive Plans for local jurisdictions.
- Develop strategies to focus survey, inventory and planning resources in understudied areas of the State, especially the implementation of college level courses and telecourses statewide on context-based planning for historic and prehistoric cultural resources.
- Map prehistoric and historic cultural inventory information on a Geographic Inventory System (GIS) to provide data for local governments, developers and individuals involved in planning activities.



Salem Pioneer Cemetery,
Marion County
Photo by Mirra Meyer

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Challenge and Opportunity: Listing of properties in the National Register of Historic Places is a prerequisite for many historic preservation programs and benefits. Wider public exposure to the information in National Register files can help stimulate interest in registration. Listing in the National Register can also afford a layer of protection to potentially threatened cultural resources.

Goal: To expand support of and involvement in the National Register of Historic Places, and to promote high priority National Register programs in Oregon.

- Continue updating the annotated catalog of Oregon's National Register listings on SHPO's web page. Use this information to produce a series of field guides, organized on a regional or thematic basis.
- Ensure that local jurisdictions protect National Register properties; list as many resources as possible.

S U C C E S S S T O R Y

A total of 216 individual properties and 10 historic districts have been added to the National Register of Historic Places in the last 5 years, bringing the total to 1,527 individual properties and 68 districts. There are also 5,978 contributing resources within the 68 National Register districts, which include both prehistoric and historic resources. Local governments view National Register properties as an asset for economic development and as a tool for promoting cultural tourism.

Protection



Downtown Main Street, Springfield, Oregon, late 1940s

Statewide Land use Planning Goal 5 calls for local governments to adopt programs that protect natural resources and conserve scenic, historic, and open space resources for present and future generations.

Cultivating an awareness of a community's cultural heritage and encouraging local support for its protection and preservation are two of the most important responsibilities preservationists can assume.

Federal and state government can supply technical assistance and funding through various programs;

however, historic preservation is primarily a local endeavor that is most successful on the grassroots level. Local preservation ordinances enable communities to preserve and protect cultural resources. Local governments that provide training, enforce those ordinances and educate property owners on the benefits of historic preservation help ensure the continued preservation of their community's cultural resources.

SUCCESS STORY

At the initiative of its Public Works Director, Mitch Mitchum, the City of Astoria has restored historic street lighting fixtures to the Astoria Downtown National Register Historic District. The restoration, based on a few remaining historic light standards, many historic photos, and public works records, is extraordinarily accurate. The city has also demonstrated that the restored lighting meets applicable illumination standards for those streets that constitute US Highway 30 through downtown. This will eventually allow them to remove the modern "cobra" lighting that now alternates with the restored lighting standards.

The following goals and objectives address the roles of local government, the state, tribes and the federal government respectively in the preservation and protection of Oregon's cultural resources.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Challenge and Opportunity: Under the revised Statewide Planning Goal 5, local governments are no longer required to identify historic resources; yet, we still need to preserve and protect them. State support and cooperation among local jurisdictions are crucial to completing this task.

Goal: To support local governments in the protection and preservation of cultural resources and encourage cooperation and information exchange among them.

- Establish a Historic Landmark Commission network to bring together local governments for the preservation of cultural resources and for mutual support, cooperation and information exchange. Provide support for training of commissioners and staff.
- Co-sponsor an annual conference on local cultural resource planning, with workshops addressing specific issues. Provide training and networking opportunities for local planning staff, interns, elected officials, landmark commissioners, and tribal representatives.
- Provide model ordinances, design guidelines and case studies for updating existing local ordinances and to promote sound land use planning decisions.
- Emphasize the importance of historic preservation to economic development, distressed communities, enhanced livability, and heritage tourism activities. Integrate historic preservation priorities with corresponding executive and legislative initiatives.



Heryford Building, Lakeview, Lake County, 1913

STATE AGENCIES

Challenge and Opportunity: The existing state interagency cooperation statute has not been fully exploited with regard to the identification and protection of state-owned or controlled cultural resources.

Goal: To promote cooperation among state agencies with cultural resource management responsibilities, and improve communications with other concerned entities.

- Encourage state agencies to assume a stewardship role in the protection and preservation of Oregon's cultural resources.
- Implement procedures within state agencies and political subdivisions responsible for properties of historic significance to conserve these properties, as per ORS 358.653.
- Produce a single, consistent interagency cultural resource preservation plan that ensures protection of cultural resources.
- Work with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to survey, inventory and develop strategies for the protection of cultural resources within the State Parks system.

S U C C E S S S T O R Y

In the last five years, partnerships and intergovernmental agreements have blossomed on several fronts: the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the State Historic Preservation Office established a Cooperative Agreement for mutual education and development of preservation projects through the University of Oregon's Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School Program; and a Regional CRM Partnership included the National Park Service, OPRD, ORSHPO, The University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Washington State Parks and the Washington State Historic Preservation Office.

TRIBES

Challenge and Opportunity: Oregon's Indian tribes have a unique perspective on cultural resources, and tribal participation in cultural resource management issues continues to grow. Greater respect for tribal sovereignty and better coordination among Oregon tribes can help maximize the value of these changes.

Goal: Support tribal preservation programs and help integrate tribal preservation interests into both public and private consciousness.



Warm Springs tribal dancers at signing ceremony at State Capitol
Photo courtesy of Legislative Commission on Indian Services

- Support the ongoing efforts of the Cultural Resource Protection Cluster associated with the Governor's Executive Order 96-30 relating to government-to-government relations between state agencies and the tribes, including open communication between tribes and state agencies concerning cultural resource protection and efforts to develop public educational programs that focus on the importance of cultural resource protection.
- Support the efforts of tribes who choose to establish Tribal Historic Preservation Offices under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Support efforts to develop additional and improved funding and resources for tribes and state agencies to protect cultural resources.

S U C C E S S S T O R Y

The Oregon SHPO has been working actively with the federally recognized tribes in Oregon to ensure that cultural resources are afforded protection under both state and federal law. Tribal concerns are considered in SHPO policies, regulations and programs that affect them, and the agency seeks and promotes tribal participation in carrying out SHPO's policies, programs and activities. Two of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, have appointed Tribal Historic Preservation Officers through the National Park Service's Tribal Preservation Program.



Heceta Head Lighthouse, Yachats, Lincoln City, 1892

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Challenge and Opportunity: Management of federally owned lands in Oregon is shared among many agencies; however, no effective framework exists for coordinating the cultural resource management policies and programs of these agencies.

Goal: To further communication within and among federal agencies concerning Cultural Resource Management, and improve the agencies' relationships to other governments and organizations with historic and prehistoric preservation concerns.

- Build partnerships with Federal agencies responsible for Cultural Resource Management (CRM) to integrate preservation of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources into daily decision-making.
- Support the Oregon Statewide Cultural Database Advisory Group (OSCDAG) Geographical Information System (GIS) process to share SHPO database systems (maps, site forms, and reports) with other State and Federal agencies, tribal and local governments and interested organizations.
- Support Federal interagency groups responsible for cultural resource management, such as the Westside Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service Ecozone Group and the Central Oregon Heritage Group.



Fremont Powerhouse before and after restoration, Grant County, 1908

S U C C E S S S T O R Y

In March of 1993 the roof of the Fremont Powerhouse, a National Register property in the Umatilla National Forest (UNF), collapsed under the weight of a severe snow load. After initial stabilization, restoration was put off for many years due to high costs. In the fall of 1998, Joe Batty, a former UNF employee who had summered with his family at the powerhouse in the 1970s, initiated a push to get the powerhouse put back together using Oregon National Guard units to do the work. Joe, a retired high school teacher and sergeant major in the Guard, overcame initial skepticism and managed to move the project up on priority lists at both agencies. The powerhouse project, completed in the summer of 1999, was so successful that a second project, rehabilitation of the caretaker's house, was undertaken and successfully completed in the summer of 2000.

Facilitation



Portland City Hall, 1895
Photo courtesy of SERA Architects, Portland

Strategic use of existing resources provides a means to preserve Oregon's cultural heritage. An understanding of state statutes and local ordinances can help facilitate changes necessary for enhanced protection of historic resources, as in the adoption of flexible or "smart" building codes and the streamlining of approval processes. State and federal financial incentives, coupled with the availability of funds from private sources, can help preserve cultural resources and revitalize historic communities. Authentic heritage tourism projects are an effective economic development

strategy that should be better utilized by communities throughout Oregon. As the following goals illustrate, development of new strategies to capitalize on existing assets and potential revenue sources enhances our ability to preserve and protect Oregon's cultural resources.

BUILDING CODES

Challenge and Opportunity: Although alternatives for historic structures exist in many Oregon codes, they are often overlooked. Many historic buildings also remain seismically vulnerable and inaccessible to people with disabilities.

Goal: To promote compliance with building codes which minimize adverse impacts on the integrity of historic structures in Oregon.

SUCCESS STORY

The 1998 renovation of Portland's City Hall is an example of where an historic structure benefited from code accommodations. The historic at-grade entrance was little used, and the former garden surrounding it had been paved and was used for parking. The rehabilitated building re-emphasized the at-grade entrance and made the interior more welcoming by moving the information desk to that floor. The ADA access was also automated.

- Provide accredited training on historic preservation code issues for local building officials, design professionals, organizations representing people with disabilities, representatives of the building trades, contractors, and developers. Arrange for it to carry continuing education credit.
- Support adoption of legislation that contains language that exempts historic buildings and structures from certain state and municipal building code requirements.
- Work with various interest groups, state commissions and task forces to promote code accommodation that protects historic buildings.

TOURISM / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge and Opportunity: Tourism is evolving as a powerful preservation tool in Oregon. Interest in the reuse of historic properties as an economic strategy is increasing.

Goal: To encourage historically authentic heritage tourism in Oregon, and to promote the preservation of cultural resources as an economic development tool.

- Work with the Oregon Tourism Commission and a wide range of public and private sector partners to develop heritage tourism potential in communities across the state.
- Work with appropriate State and Federal agencies and tribes to secure funding for economic development programs that include cultural resources in their strategies.
- Support efforts by State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector to develop promotional materials focusing on the value of heritage tourism and the economic impact of historic preservation in Oregon and the region.
- Working in cooperation with State and local governments and the private sector, support the expansion of downtown redevelopment programs into more communities around the state.



Grave Creek Covered Bridge, Josephine County, 1920

SUCCESS STORY

Baker City, Ashland, Astoria and other communities around the state have recognized the economic value of historic preservation and used it to their advantage.

PUBLIC INCENTIVES

Challenge and Opportunity: Oregon has a long history of providing public incentives to preserve cultural resources, and a tradition of innovation in the field. However, recent ballot measures and shifting priorities in state spending have diminished available resources.

Goal: To develop a range of monetary, regulatory and other public incentives for the preservation of cultural resources in Oregon, and to enhance the value of existing programs.

- Support state and federal legislation to provide incentives and tax relief for Oregonians who rehabilitate historic properties.
- Advocate for a sustainable source of funding at the state level for capital construction preservation projects.
- Support the introduction of incentive legislation that would preserve archaeological resources at the state and local levels. Support the establishment of a trust fund to support excavation and site protection.



Sumpter Gold Dredge, Baker County, 1935

Appendices

Historic Preservation Directory

State Historic Preservation Office
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(503) 378-4168
FAX: (503) 378-6447
www.shpo.state.or.us

The State Historic Preservation Office administers all official Federal and State preservation activities in Oregon.

Services provided by SHPO include:

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places, which documents and honors properties significant in the nation's history and prehistory, is at the heart of historic preservation as envisioned by the National Historic Preservation Act. State Historic Preservation Offices accept, review, and submit nominations to the National Register. In Oregon, the SHPO is assisted by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, a nine-member Governor-appointed group with expertise in history, architecture, archaeology, architectural history, and historic preservation. The National Register Coordinator can answer questions about what Oregon properties are already listed, and whether particular properties are eligible for listing. The Coordinator works closely with applicants to make sure that nominations are complete, accurate, and demonstrate that the property in question meets the designation criteria. The Coordinator also serves as executive secretary to the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation.

Grants

State Historic Preservation Offices may make grants from their annual federal Historic Preservation Fund apportionments, or through state legislative appropriations. Grantees may use the federal funds to inventory historic properties, support local preservation programs, educate the public, prepare nominations to the National Register, and preserve National Register properties. State funds are usually earmarked for "bricks and mortar" grants to significant classes of properties such as covered bridges, lighthouses, or those related to the Oregon Trail.

The Grants Manager can answer questions about availability of funds, eligibility of proposals, matching requirements, and current and past SHPO funded projects. The Manager also assists grantees throughout the grant process.

Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

The Tax Reform Act of 1986, as amended, provides a 20% income tax credit for the qualified rehabilitation of depreciable, income-producing, certified historic properties. The program is administered through State Historic Preservation Offices.

The Tax Incentives Coordinator can answer questions about the eligibility of properties for the program and the requirements for participation. The Coordinator has special expertise in historic building technologies and solutions to preservation problems, and works with property owners, developers, design professionals, and local officials to facilitate applications to the National Park Service.

Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program

The Certified Local Government program extends aspects of the federal/state preservation partnership to the local level. In return for taking on certain responsibilities, such as designating local landmarks and reviewing proposed alterations of historic properties, Certified Local Governments become eligible for non-competitive, basic participation grants, and for other competitive grants from a dedicated amount of the state's federal apportionment.

The Preservation Planner assists the officials, staff and landmark commissioners of the CLGs and acts as a liaison to all local governments in Oregon. The Planner has special expertise regarding ordinances, plans, and preservation programs, and can answer questions about the eligibility of local programs for certification and about which local governments are certified.

Review and Compliance, Archaeological and Above-Ground

In cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), a federal agency, the SHPO has a role in reviewing the impacts of federal undertakings on resources that are either listed or eligible for listing in the National Register. The SHPO Archaeologist and the Review and Compliance Specialist can answer questions about current and proposed federal projects affecting underground and above-ground resources respectively.

Survey and Inventory, Historic and Prehistoric

State Historic Preservation Offices develop and maintain inventories of historic and prehistoric properties. In Oregon this process has relied mainly on information provided by

local governments and federal agencies. The information is stored in both electronic and paper formats.

The Survey Coordinator can assist individuals wishing to search the Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties. Simple queries can be handled at the staff level, but complex ones may require a visit to the SHPO or acquiring a copy of the database. Information on archaeological sites is not available to the general public. Qualified researchers may make an appointment to search the archaeological files with the SHPO Archaeologist.

Comprehensive Planning

Each SHPO develops, implements, and periodically revises a Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. This plan must cover all types of prehistoric and historic cultural resources, and must include input from the widest possible public.

The Preservation Planner can take input for the next revision of the plan or answer questions about implementation of the current one. For a copy of the current Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan, contact the Preservation Planner.

Special Assessment for Historic Properties

In return for significant investments in historic rehabilitation on a National Register property, the Special Assessment of Historic Properties program offers a fifteen year “freeze” of its assessed value. Applications are accepted each year between January 1 and April 1, and are reviewed and approved by the Historic Assessment Review Committee. Dating from 1973, the program is the oldest of its kind in the country. Because the Special Assessment is scheduled for sunset in 2002, the SHPO is currently joining with other stakeholders to examine its efficacy and possible alternatives. The Tax Incentives Assistant can send you information about the program, application packets for eligible properties, and information on when participating properties are holding their required annual open house days.

The Tax Incentives Coordinator can answer questions about the eligibility of properties for the program and the requirements for participation. The Coordinator has special expertise in historic building technologies and solutions to preservation problems, and works with property owners, developers, design professionals, and local officials to achieve results meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Archaeology

State law places responsibility for issuance of permits to excavate archaeological sites with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, of which the State Historic Preservation Office is a unit. The permit process involves consultation with Indian Tribes, property owners, the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology, and local planning authorities.

The State Archaeologist processes archaeological permit applications, issues permits, and makes recommendations about archaeological conservation and mitigation. The State Archaeologist is also SHPO’s representative to the Oregon Archaeology Week steering committee, and can link you to educational opportunities about Oregon prehistory.

PUBLIC MEETING SITES

The direction taken in the revised Statewide Comprehensive Plan for Prehistoric and Historic Preservation is derived in part from information gathered during a series of public meetings held in various parts of the state during the summer of 2000. The State Historic Preservation Office wishes to express its appreciation to the scores of Oregonians who participated in the forums, as well as to the communities, local governments, and organizations that hosted these meetings:

August 8, 2000

Site: Astoria, Oregon

Sponsor: City of Astoria, Historic Landmarks Commission, Beth LaFleur, Planner

August 9, 2000

Site: Albany, Oregon

Sponsor: City of Albany, Landmarks Advisory Commission, Anne Giffen, Planner

August 10, 2000

Site: Clackamas, Oregon

Sponsor: Clackamas County Government, Historic Review Board, Linda Preisz, Planner

August 14, 2000

Site: Portland, Oregon

Sponsor: City of Portland, Historic Landmarks Commission, Cielo Lutino, Planner

August 16, 2000

Site: Salem, Oregon

Sponsor: City of Salem, Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, Alicia Blalock, Planner

August 17, 2000

Site: Weston, Oregon
Sponsor: City of Weston, Weston Community Development
Committee, Patricia Neal

August 23, 2000

Site: Hood River, Oregon
Sponsor: City of Hood River, Landmarks Review Board,
Cindy Walbridge, Planner

August 23, 2000

Site: The Dalles
Sponsor: City of The Dalles, Historic Landmarks
Commission, Bob Paul, Senior Planner

August 24, 2000

Site: Bend, Oregon
Sponsor: Deschutes County Historical Landmarks
Commission, Michael Houser, Planner

August 30, 2000

Site: Eugene, Oregon
Sponsors: City of Eugene, Historic Review Board, Ken
Guzowski, Planner City of Springfield, Historic
Commission, Lauren Lezell, Planner

September 6, 2000

Site: Ashland, Oregon
Sponsors: City of Ashland, Historic Landmarks
Commission, Mark Knox, Planner

City of Jacksonville, Historical and Architectural Review
Commission, Paul Wyntergreen, Planning Director

September 7, 2000

Site: Roseburg, Oregon
Sponsors: City of Roseburg, Historic Resource Review
Committee, Ed Gundy, Planner

Douglas County, Historic Resource Review Committee, Jeff
Lehrbach, Planner

***NATIONAL PRESERVATION
ORGANIZATIONS***

National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
800-944-6847

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Western Regional Office
One Sutter Street, Suite 707
San Francisco, CA 94104
415-956-0610

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 2004
202-606-8503

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

PO Box 1605
Athens, GA 30603
706-542-4731

**National Conference of
State Historic Preservation Officers**

444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-1512
202-624-5465

Preservation Action

1350 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 401
Washington, DC 20036
202-659-0915

National Park Service

Pacific Northwest Regional Office
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1060
206-553-5565

***STATE AND REGIONAL
PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS****

Historic Preservation League of Oregon

322 NW Fifth Street
Portland, OR 97209
503-243-1923

Bosco-Milligan Foundation

PO Box 14157
Portland, OR 97293
503-231-7264

Southern Oregon Historical Society

106 N Central Avenue
Medford, OR 97501-5926
541-773-6536

*In Oregon, much historic preservation activity takes place
on the local level. For a current list of historic landmark
commissions, including certified local governments, contact
SHPO's Certified Local Government Coordinator.

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